SF1.5: Living conditions of children

Definitions and methodology

This indicator presents information on the living conditions of children (0-17) and the quality of the environment in which they live through three main measures:

i. *Average rooms per person in households with children*, that is, the number of rooms in the household divided by the number of people recorded as living in the household, averaged across households with children. For most countries the number of rooms is measured as the total number of rooms in the household excluding kitchens, bathrooms and corridors, although in some countries information is available only on the number of bedrooms. Data for these countries are presented separately.

ii. *Children living in households without basic facilities*, measured as the proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households that lack an indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of the household. This measure is used to reflect the state of the household and its amenities.

iii. *Children living in poor environmental conditions*, measured as the proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households with self-reported poor environmental conditions. For most countries, the measurement of poor environmental conditions is based on whether households report experiencing: (i) too much noise in the dwelling from neighbours or from outside (traffic, business, factory, etc.); or (ii), pollution, grime or other environmental problems in the local area such as: smoke, dust, unpleasant smells or polluted water. For Australia, however, poor environmental conditions are measured by households reporting that they experienced (i) traffic noise, (ii) rubbish and litter lying around, or (iii) vandalism and deliberate damage to property in their neighbourhood. Again, this data is presented separately.

To highlight differences across socio-economic groups in the proportion of children with poor living conditions, each of these three measures are presented both for all children and for children by family type, by migration background and by household income level. More specifically, each of the three measures is presented for:

a. Children in two-parent households (or two-parent households with children) and children in 'other' household types (or 'other' types of household with children), where 'other' household types include sole-parent households but also children with other parenting arrangements, such as not living with any parent.

b. Children with a 'native' background (or households with children and a 'native' background) and children with a 'migrant' background (or households with children and a 'migrant' background). Children with a 'native' background are defined as those where both they and at least one parent were born in the country of residence. Children with a 'migrant' background are defined as those who were born in a different country and those who were born in the country of residence but with two parents born in a different country.

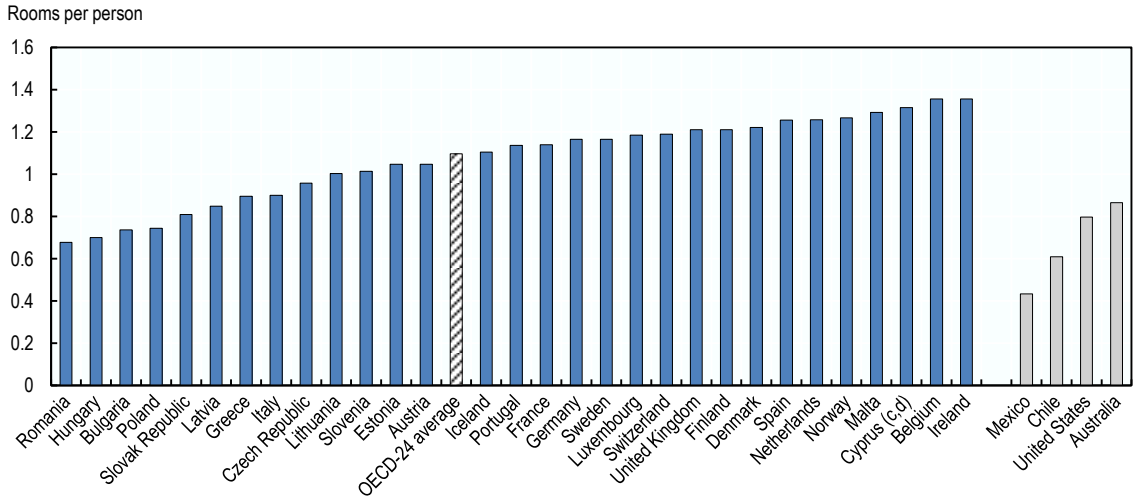
c. Children living in 'low', 'middle' or 'high' income households (or household with children and 'low', 'middle' or 'high' income'). Income is measured using equivalised disposable (post-tax-and-transfer) household income, with 'low', 'medium' and 'high' income households those placed in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd tertiles for equivalised disposable household income, respectively.

Other relevant indicators: Typology of childcare and early education services (PF4.1), CO1.8 Regular smokers among 15 year olds (CO1.8), Participation in voluntary work (CO4.1), and Substance abuse by young people (CO4.3)

Key findings

On average across OECD countries with comparable data, households with children contain an average of just over one room per person, although this varies considerably between countries (Chart SF1.5.A). Households with children tend to be largest in Ireland and Belgium – in both, households with children contain on average about 1.36 rooms per person. In Hungary and Poland, by contrast, households with children contain, on average, less than 0.74 rooms per person.

Chart SF1.5.A Average rooms per person in households with children, 2012[a]
Average number of rooms (excluding kitchens, bathrooms and corridors)[b] per person



a) Data for Chile refer to 2011
b) for Australia, Chile, Mexico and the United States: number of bedrooms per person
c) Footnote by Turkey: The information in this document with reference to « Cyprus » relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognizes the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the "Cyprus issue";
d) Footnote by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Commission: The Republic of Cyprus is recognized by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this document relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, HILDA 2012 (Australia), ENIGH 2012 (Mexico), CASEN 2011 (Chile), ACS 2012 (United States). HILDA is the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey carried out by the University of Melbourne. ENIGH is the Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares carried out by the Mexican National Statistical Office. CASEN is the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional, carried out by the Ministry of Social Development. ACS is the American Community Survey carried out by the US Census Bureau.

The average number of rooms per person in households with children tends in most countries to decrease when the household has a 'migrant' background, and in many (although not all) OECD countries to increase when the household is a 'high' income household (Table SF1.5.A). In Austria, for instance, the average number of rooms per person in 'native' households with children is 1.12, but this is 0.77 for households with a 'migrant' background. Similarly, the average number of rooms per person in low-income households in Austria stands at 0.92, with this increasing to 1.09 for middle-income households and 1.21 for high-income households. Notably, across all OECD countries the average number of rooms per person is significantly *lower* in two-parent households than in 'other' (mostly, sole-parent) households. This likely reflects the absence of a second parent in many of these 'other' household types.

Table SF1.5.A Average rooms per person in households with children by socio-economic group, 2012[a]
Average number of rooms (excluding kitchens, bathrooms and corridors)[b] per person by family type, migratory background and household income level

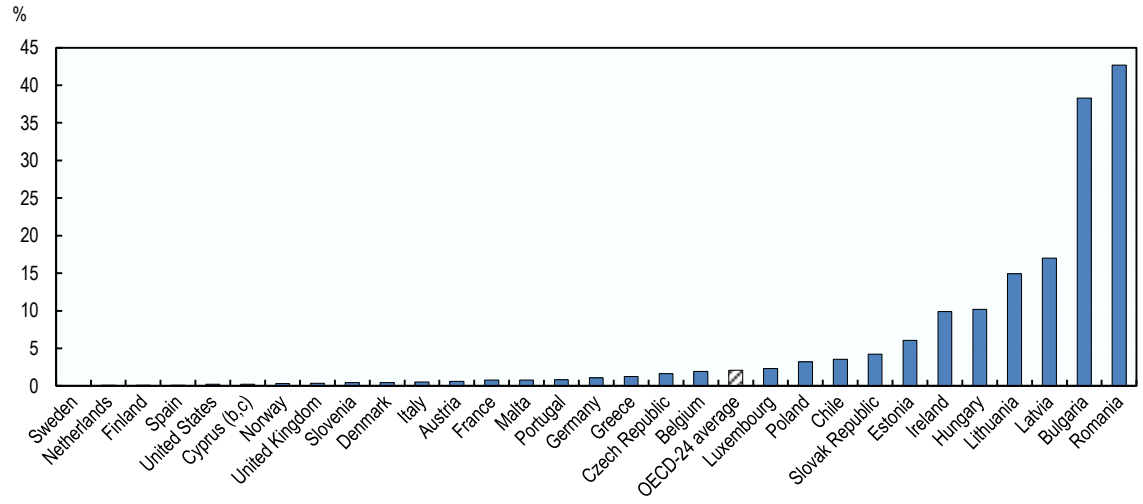
		Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
	Total	Two parent	Other	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Romania	0.68	**0.67**	**0.77**	..	..	..	..	..
Hungary	0.70	**0.69**	**0.77**	0.70	0.76	**0.72**	**0.72**	**0.68**
Bulgaria	0.74	**0.71**	**0.83**	0.74	0.70	0.74	0.72	0.72
Poland	0.74	**0.74**	**0.78**	**0.74**	**0.63**	**0.66**	**0.72**	**0.86**
Slovak Republic	0.81	**0.80**	**0.87**	0.81	0.73	**0.75**	**0.85**	**0.86**
Latvia	0.85	**0.81**	**0.95**	..	..	..	..	..
Greece	0.90	**0.89**	**1.02**	**0.92**	**0.72**	**0.91**	**0.86**	**0.92**
Italy	0.90	**0.87**	**1.13**	**0.92**	**0.74**	**0.84**	**0.90**	**1.02**
Czech Republic	0.96	**0.93**	**1.11**	0.96	0.91	**0.89**	**0.96**	**1.05**
Lithuania	1.00	**0.97**	**1.12**	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	1.01	**0.99**	**1.22**	..	..	**0.98**	**1.00**	**1.10**
Estonia	1.05	**1.00**	**1.26**	1.05	1.07	1.08	1.03	1.06
Austria	1.05	**1.02**	**1.23**	**1.12**	**0.77**	**0.92**	**1.09**	**1.21**
OECD-24 average	1.10	1.06	1.29	1.13	0.98	1.05	1.07	1.12
Iceland	1.10	**1.05**	**1.30**	..	..	1.11	1.09	1.14
Portugal	1.14	**1.09**	**1.33**	1.14	1.10	**1.07**	**1.12**	**1.25**
France	1.14	**1.09**	**1.35**	**1.16**	**0.90**	**1.08**	**1.15**	**1.22**
Germany	1.16	**1.13**	**1.36**	**1.17**	**0.98**	**1.18**	**1.15**	**1.14**
Sweden	1.16	**1.14**	**1.27**	**1.21**	**1.01**	1.18	1.15	1.15
Luxembourg	1.18	**1.15**	**1.44**	**1.32**	**1.06**	1.18	1.15	1.17
Switzerland	1.19	**1.15**	**1.50**	**1.24**	**1.09**	1.18	1.20	1.20
United Kingdom	1.21	**1.17**	**1.35**	**1.24**	**0.97**	1.20	1.23	1.20
Finland	1.21	**1.18**	**1.44**	**1.22**	**1.10**	**1.13**	**1.21**	**1.35**
Denmark	1.22	**1.15**	**1.42**	**1.23**	**1.10**	1.20	1.20	1.25
Spain	1.26	**1.22**	**1.47**	**1.29**	**1.08**	**1.29**	**1.23**	**1.26**
Netherlands	1.26	**1.21**	**1.60**	**1.27**	**1.18**	**1.23**	**1.26**	**1.32**
Norway	1.27	**1.21**	**1.52**	**1.31**	**1.15**	1.26	1.28	1.26
Malta	1.29	**1.26**	**1.44**	..	..	..	..	..
Cyprus (c,d)	1.32	**1.27**	**1.69**	..	..	..	..	..
Belgium	1.36	**1.27**	**1.70**	**1.40**	**1.14**	..	..	..
Ireland	1.36	**1.28**	**1.62**	**1.38**	**1.26**	..	..	..
Mexico	0.43	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	0.61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United States	0.80	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	0.87	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Note: values in **bold** represent statistically significant differences across groups at $p < 0.05$.
a) Data for Chile refer to 2011
b) for Australia, Chile, Mexico and the United States: number of bedrooms per person
c) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
d) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, HILDA 2012 (Australia), ENIGH 2012 (Mexico), CASEN 2011 (Chile), ACS 2012 (United States). HILDA is the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey carried out by the University of Melbourne. ENIGH is the Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares carried out by the Mexican National Statistical Office. CASEN is the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional, carried out by the Ministry of Social Development. ACS is the American Community Survey carried out by the US Census Bureau.

In most OECD countries, very few children live in households that lack a private flushing indoor toilet (Chart SF1.5.B). On average across OECD countries only about 2.1% of children live in households that lack such basic facilities, and it is as low as 0.1% or less in Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. However, in Hungary and Ireland around 10.0% of children live in households that lack a private flushing indoor toilet.

Chart SF1.5.B Children living in households without basic facilities, 2012[a]

Proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households that lack a private flushing indoor toilet



a) Data for Chile refer to 2011
b) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
c) see note d) in Chart SF1.5.A
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, CASEN 2011 (Chile), ACS 2012 (United States). CASEN is the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional, carried out by the Ministry of Social Development. ACS is the American Community Survey carried out by the US Census Bureau.

Variations between socio-economic groups in the proportion of children that do not have a private flushing indoor toilet are not always statistically significant and are at times inconsistent across countries, but some small differences remain nonetheless (Table SF1.5.B). For instance, in some OECD countries children are significantly more likely to live in households that lack a private flushing indoor toilet when they do not live with two parents. This is particularly the case in Hungary, Poland, and especially the Slovak Republic, where about 3.6% of children living with two parents and 8.8% of children not living with two parents live in households without a private flushing indoor toilet. Similar differences are also apparent in Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Luxembourg, and Norway. In some OECD countries children are also significantly more likely to live in a household without a private flushing indoor toilet when they live in low-income household, as for example in Poland and the Slovak Republic.

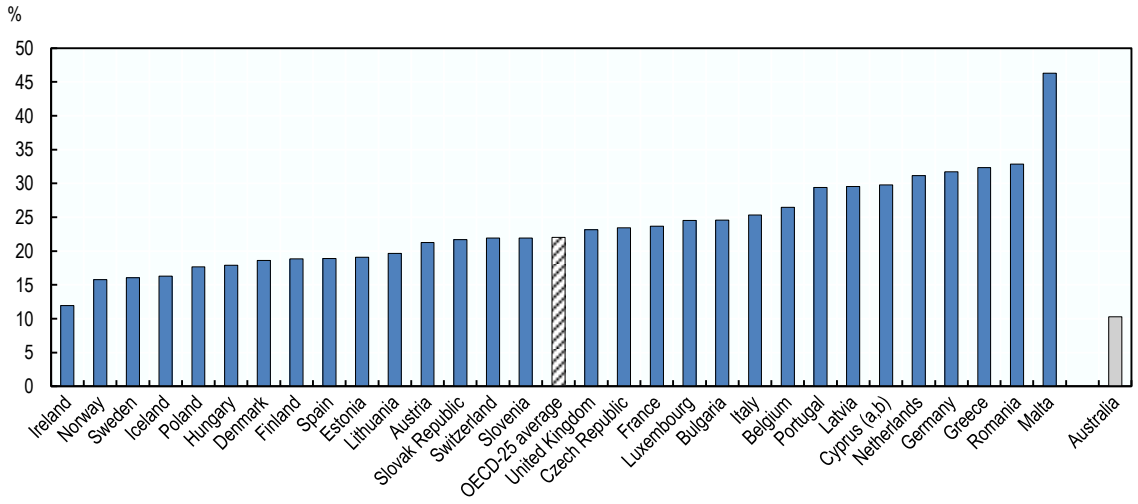
Table SF1.5.B Children living in households without basic facilities by socio-economic group, 2012a
Proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households that lack a private flushing indoor toilet by family type, migratory background and household income level

	Total	Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
		Two parent	Other	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Sweden	0.07	0.02	0.32	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	0.09	0.07	0.22	0.07	0.31	0.06	0.21	0.00
Finland	0.10	0.11	0.04	**0.10**	**0.00**	0.07	0.05	0.23
Spain	0.11	0.09	0.24	0.04	0.46	0.00	0.13	0.00
United States	0.21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cyprus (b,c)	0.21	0.16	0.70	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	0.29	**0.00**	**1.64**	0.27	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
United Kingdom	0.34	0.39	0.19	0.29	0.73	**0.20**	**0.00**	**0.41**
Slovenia	0.44	0.35	1.12	..	..	0.50	0.39	0.42
Denmark	0.45	0.03	1.63	0.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Italy	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.56	0.27	**0.40**	**0.24**	**1.26**
Austria	0.61	0.60	0.70	**0.34**	**1.60**	**1.11**	**0.44**	**0.00**
France	0.77	0.80	0.64	0.68	1.96	1.09	0.62	0.41
Malta	0.79	0.84	0.55	..	..	..	..	..
Portugal	0.80	0.86	0.58	0.78	1.02	**1.01**	**1.21**	**0.00**
Germany	1.07	1.01	1.41	1.06	1.26	0.78	1.35	0.66
Greece	1.23	**1.28**	**0.39**	1.26	1.02	**2.10**	**0.44**	**0.97**
Czech Republic	1.63	1.52	2.29	**1.67**	**0.00**	2.15	1.33	1.28
Belgium	1.94	**1.16**	**4.99**	**1.59**	**3.66**	..	..	..
OECD-24 average	2.09	1.94	2.97	2.13	1.29	2.33	1.31	1.32
Luxembourg	2.31	**2.47**	**1.03**	2.19	2.41	2.19	2.18	3.93
Poland	3.21	**2.70**	**7.21**	**3.21**	**0.00**	**6.53**	**2.15**	**0.58**
Chile	3.54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovak Republic	4.23	**3.61**	**8.81**	**4.24**	**0.00**	**9.03**	**0.52**	**0.41**
Estonia	6.07	**5.40**	**8.98**	**6.26**	**0.00**	**7.94**	**6.06**	**4.52**
Ireland	9.91	10.23	8.77	9.40	12.08	..	..	..
Hungary	10.20	**9.55**	**13.59**	**10.25**	**0.00**	11.36	8.97	11.16
Lithuania	14.93	**13.58**	**19.78**	..	..	..	..	..
Latvia	17.02	16.97	17.17	..	..	..	..	..
Bulgaria	38.29	**35.81**	**49.52**	38.39	20.35	36.16	43.75	38.41
Romania	42.67	42.22	46.25	..	..	..	..	..

Note: values in **bold** represent statistically significant differences across groups at $p < 0.05$.
a) Data for Chile refer to 2011
b) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
c) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, CASEN 2011 (Chile), ACS 2012 (United States). CASEN is the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional, carried out by the Ministry of Social Development. ACS is the American Community Survey carried out by the US Census Bureau.

On average across OECD countries, about 22% of children live in households that self-report poor environmental conditions in terms of noise, pollution, or both (Chart SF1.5.C). Of those countries with comparable data, Ireland has the lowest proportion (12%) of children living in poor environmental conditions, followed by the Nordic countries, Hungary and Poland. At the other end of the scale, Greece, Germany, and the Netherlands have the largest proportion of children living in households that report poor environmental conditions. In each of these three countries, 30% or more of children live in households that report too much noise in the area and/or pollution or other environmental problems.

Chart SF1.5.C Children living in poor environmental conditions, 2012
Proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households with self-reported poor environmental conditions



a) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
b) see note d) in Chart SF1.5.A
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, HILDA 2012 (Australia). HILDA is the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey carried out by the University of Melbourne.

The likelihood of a child living in a household that self-reports poor environmental conditions tends in several OECD countries to increase when the child does not live with two parents (Table SF1.5.C). In the United Kingdom, for example, about 20% of children who live with two parents also live in households that report poor environmental conditions, with this rising to 33% for children with 'other' parenting arrangements. In the Netherlands, the incidence of poor environmental conditions increases from 29% for children living with two parents to 47% for those with 'other' arrangements. However, variations in poor environmental conditions by migratory background and household income are less clear, and in most OECD countries any differences across both are not statistically significant.

Table SF1.5.C Children living in poor environmental conditions by socio-economic group, 2012
Proportion (%) of children (0-17) living in households with self-reported poor environmental conditions by family type, migratory background and household income level

		Family type		Migratory background		Household income		
	Total	Two parent	Other	Native background	Migrant background	Low	Medium	High
Ireland	11.95	**10.44**	**17.33**	12.60	9.15	..	..	..
Norway	15.78	**14.26**	**22.79**	**14.47**	**18.93**	14.78	12.99	16.95
Sweden	16.06	**14.35**	**24.11**	**15.27**	**18.97**	13.67	18.59	16.77
Iceland	16.30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poland	17.68	**17.03**	**22.83**	..	..	**18.53**	**15.55**	**18.95**
Hungary	17.91	**16.96**	**22.87**	**17.96**	**7.97**	18.37	17.62	19.02
Denmark	18.60	**14.38**	**30.73**	18.73	17.06	24.58	21.55	15.51
Finland	18.84	**17.57**	**26.89**	**18.52**	**25.39**	**23.37**	**17.38**	**13.59**
Spain	18.90	18.78	19.63	18.66	20.03	18.44	17.29	18.28
Estonia	19.11	19.27	18.40	**18.65**	**33.81**	20.63	18.51	20.04
Lithuania	19.66	19.18	21.38	..	..	..	..	..
Austria	21.24	**19.82**	**29.56**	20.74	23.04	**22.84**	**22.78**	**15.73**
Slovak Republic	21.68	21.35	24.07	..	..	23.58	19.64	21.12
Switzerland	21.90	**20.68**	**31.77**	20.95	23.64	21.90	18.63	23.75
Slovenia	21.92	**20.81**	**30.16**	..	..	23.33	21.77	19.64
OECD-25 average	22.05	21.06	28.65	22.04	24.56	24.26	22.26	20.81
United Kingdom	23.16	**20.06**	**33.16**	22.77	25.99	24.92	22.53	21.20
Czech Republic	23.44	23.10	25.45	**23.82**	**5.72**	24.36	23.45	22.13
France	23.67	**22.29**	**29.61**	**22.57**	**38.51**	**30.28**	**18.90**	**18.89**
Luxembourg	24.55	24.14	27.88	**21.08**	**27.74**	28.05	24.47	21.48
Bulgaria	24.57	**22.93**	**31.98**	24.59	20.35	23.00	24.25	28.50
Italy	25.35	24.98	28.05	24.87	28.75	**27.07**	**24.97**	**22.03**
Belgium	26.46	**24.85**	**32.78**	26.45	26.56	..	..	..
Portugal	29.40	28.81	31.81	29.20	31.39	29.21	30.31	28.45
Latvia	29.52	29.82	28.72	..	..	..	..	..
Cyprus (a,b)	29.76	29.68	30.49	..	..	..	..	..
Netherlands	31.14	**28.70**	**47.40**	30.31	37.50	**37.13**	**26.91**	**23.36**
Germany	31.73	**29.90**	**41.22**	31.88	29.17	32.74	32.46	31.07
Greece	32.33	31.91	40.41	**31.22**	**41.94**	**31.77**	**41.16**	**29.09**
Romania	32.85	**31.80**	**41.31**	..	..	..	..	..
Malta	46.30	**44.84**	**53.12**	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	10.30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Note: values in **bold** represent statistically significant differences across groups at $p < 0.05$.
a) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
b) see note c) in Chart SF1.5.A
Sources: EU-SILC 2012, HILDA 2012 (Australia). HILDA is the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) survey carried out by the University of Melbourne.

Comparability and data issues

Data for this indicator come from various households surveys – the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (HILDA) 2012 survey for Australia, the Encuesta de Caracterización Socioeconómica Nacional (CASEN) 2011 for Chile, the European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) 2012 survey for European countries, the Encuesta Nacional de Ingresos y Gastos de los Hogares (ENIGH) 2012 for Mexico, and the American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 for the United States. While efforts

have been made to ensure that the questions and variables used are as comparable as possible across the various surveys, full comparability is not possible. It is for this reason that data are sometimes presented separately when information has been drawn from different surveys.

The measures on poor environmental conditions show in Chart SF1.5.C and Table SF1.5.C are based on the subjective perception of the main respondent to the survey. As such the responses are likely to be relative to the individual's experiences and may not reflect issues with actual levels of noise or pollution across countries.

Sources and further reading: European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/microdata/eu_silc; Health Behaviour in School-aged Children http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Life-stages/child-and-adolescent-health/publications/2012/social-determinants-of-health-and-well-being-among-young-people.-health-behaviour-in-school-aged-children-hbsc-study