How’s Life in Chile?

Additional information, including the data used in this country note, can be found here: www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx
The **OECD Better Life Initiative**, launched in 2011, focuses on the aspects of life that matter to people and that shape their quality of life. The Initiative comprises a set of regularly updated well-being indicators and an analysis, published in the *How’s Life?* report as well as an interactive web application, the **Better Life Index**. It also includes a number of methodological and research projects to improve the information base towards a better understanding of well-being trends and their drivers.

The OECD Better Life Initiative:

- Helps to inform policy making to improve quality of life.
- Connects policies to people’s lives.
- Generates support for needed policy measures.
- Improves civic engagement by encouraging the public to create their own *Better Life Index* and share their preferences about what matters most for well-being.
- Empowers the public by improving their understanding of policy-making.

This brochure presents **selected findings for Chile from the OECD Better Life Index 2016** (page 3), the *How’s Life?* report (pages 4-6) and shows what **Chilean users of the Better Life Index** are telling us about their **well-being priorities** (page 7). A supporting Excel file with the data underlying the graphs shown in this note and further information is available here: [www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx](http://www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx).

**HOW’S LIFE?**

*How’s Life?*, published every two years, provides a comprehensive picture of well-being in OECD countries and other major economies by bringing together an internationally comparable set of well-being indicators that the OECD considers as essential to a good life. It looks at people’s material conditions and quality of life across the population in eleven dimensions including: income and wealth; jobs and earnings; housing; health status; work-life balance; education and skills; social connections; civic engagement and governance; environmental quality; personal security; and subjective well-being.

The *How’s Life? 2015* report includes for the first time a set of indicators to measure the stocks of resources that help to support **well-being over time**. The report also contains three special chapters focusing on **child well-being**, **volunteering** and **regional well-being**.
**HOW’S LIFE IN CHILE IN 2016?**

Chile faces several challenges to the well-being of its citizens. Although Chile performs well in terms of housing affordability, 9.4% of Chileans still live in housing without basic sanitation, a much higher rate than the OECD average of 2.1%. Only 71% of Chileans are satisfied with their local water quality, one of the lowest shares in the OECD, and air quality in Chile is also among the lowest in the OECD.

In terms of social network support, 82% of Chileans report having friends or relatives that they can count on in times of trouble compared to the OECD average of 88%. Chile dropped compulsory voting in 2012, and saw a sharp decline in voter turnout: in the national parliamentary elections in 2013, 49.3% of those registered to vote cast a ballot, the second lowest voter turnout rate in the OECD. Chile performs towards the bottom of the OECD in terms of personal safety: the homicides rate is among the highest in the OECD and only 50% of Chileans feel safe walking alone at night, one of the lowest percentages in the OECD. However, the life satisfaction of Chileans is close to the OECD average level.

*Current well-being in Chile*

This chart shows areas of well-being strengths and weaknesses in Chile, based on a ranking of all OECD countries. Longer lines show areas of relative strength, while shorter lines show areas of relative weakness. For more details, see www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx.


### Resources for future well-being in Chile

Beyond measuring well-being today, *How’s Life? 2015* looks at some of the resources (or “capital stocks”) that will shape people’s well-being in the future. These include aspects of natural capital, human capital, social capital and economic capital.

For example, human capital refers to the skills, competencies and health status of individuals. The educational attainment of young adults is an important indicator for the skills that are carried forward to the future. The share of Chileans aged 25-34 attaining at least upper secondary education is 76.6%. The share lies below the OECD average of 83.6%.
**HOW’S LIFE FOR CHILDREN IN CHILE?**

Giving children a good start in life is important both for well-being today, and in the future.

Compared to children in other OECD countries, the average Chilean child experiences poor material living conditions. Chile has one of the highest child income poverty rates in the OECD: 23.5% of Chilean children live in a household with a disposable income of less than half of the Chilean median income.

Since 2007, Chile has seen improvements in the rate of infant mortality, yet it remains among the highest in the OECD. The Chilean rate of low birth weight, however, is lower than in the OECD on average. Chile’s adolescent suicide rate lies above the OECD average. Chile’s teenage birth rate decreased between 2007 and 2012, but is still the second highest rate in the OECD.

The reading and creative problem-solving skills of Chilean students are among the lowest in the OECD. However, Chile performs well in terms of civic participation: 50.4% of 14-year-olds report that they have participated in organisation, groups or clubs in the last 12 months, the highest shares in the OECD. Chilean children also feel a relatively high sense of belonging in school.

In terms of personal security, Chile’s child homicide rate lies above the OECD average.

### Inequalities in child well-being

Across all OECD countries there are large inequalities in child well-being. Children from wealthier households enjoy much better material living conditions, but they also have a higher quality of life, on average. In Chile, there are very wide differences in educational deprivation between children from high and low socio-economic backgrounds. By contrast, there is a relatively narrow difference in intentions to vote among 14 year olds.

**Inequalities in educational deprivation**

- **Number of 15-year olds (per 1000) reporting having less than four of seven educational items**
  - Chile: 25.2
  - OECD: 9.5

**Inequalities in voting intentions**

- **Percentage of 14-year olds intending to vote in national elections when they are adults**
  - Chile: 79.2
  - OECD: 75.5

* For more information (including definitions) see: [www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx](http://www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx)
THE VALUE OF GIVING: VOLUNTEERING AND WELL-BEING

Volunteering makes an important “hidden contribution” to well-being, producing goods and services that are not captured by conventional economic statistics. When you add up the value of the time people spend on volunteering in OECD countries, it amounts to roughly 2% of GDP per year.

Volunteering in Chile and the OECD

Chilean people (aged 15 and above) who volunteer through an organisation (termed “formal volunteering”) are mostly active in the education and culture sector, followed by social and health services.

Students in Chile are much more likely to engage in organisation-based volunteering than the average student in the OECD: 40.7% of Chilean students aged around 14 volunteered at least once in the 12 preceding months compared to the OECD average of 29.7%.

Who volunteers? Across the OECD area, people with a university degree are more likely to participate in formal volunteering than those with lower levels of education. Similarly, people who are in employment are more likely to volunteer than those who are unemployed. Participation in formal volunteering also increases with people’s level of household income.

Volunteering appears to bring benefits for volunteers themselves, as well as for the people and communities they help. For example, people who engage in volunteering are more likely to have higher literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills and receive higher wages, on average, relative to non-volunteers.

In OECD countries, older people who volunteer formally are more likely to report a better health status than non-volunteers. Furthermore, formal volunteers in the OECD, on average, also report higher life satisfaction than non-volunteers.
GOING LOCAL: MEASURING WELL-BEING IN REGIONS

Where people live has an important impact on their opportunities to live well. There can be large differences in average levels of well-being in different regions within the same country. How’s Life in your Region? and the OECD regional well-being web-tool assess performance across 9 dimensions of well-being in the 362 OECD large regions – 15 of which are in Chile. Drawing on this work, How’s Life? 2015 includes a special focus on measuring well-being in regions.

Regional well-being in Chile
Performance of Chilean regions across selected well-being indicators relative to the other OECD regions

Regional gaps in material living conditions

Compared to other OECD countries regional inequalities in income and jobs tend to be rather large in Chile. Household adjusted disposable income is 1.7 times higher in Santiago Metropolitan than in Maule. Regarding income poverty, while 6.8% of people in Antofagasta have an income of less than half of the Chilean median income, the share is 33.9% in Araucanía. Unemployment rates range from 3% in Los Lagos to 7.6% in Bío-Bío. This gap (4.6 percentage points) is slightly smaller than the regional differences observed in Mexico or the United States.

Regional differences in people’s quality of life

Regarding educational attainment, 87.3% of the labour force has at least a secondary education in Antofagasta, while this share is only 60.5% in Maule. This gap (26.8 percentage points) is one of the largest regional differences in educational attainment in the OECD area.

Equally, the regional variation in air quality is larger in Chile than in most other OECD countries.

The share of households with a broadband connection ranges from 54% in Antofagasta to only 16% in Maule.

Regional disparities in air pollution
Regions with the lowest and highest average exposure to PM 2.5 levels

* For more information (including data for other regions) see: www.oecd.org/statistics/Better-Life-Initiative-2016-country-notes-data.xlsx.
The Better Life Index is an interactive web application that invites citizens to compare well-being across OECD countries and beyond on the basis of the set of well-being indicators explored in How’s Life?. Users chose what weight to give to each of the eleven dimensions shown below and then see how countries’ perform, based on their own personal priorities in life.

Users can also share their index with other people in their networks, as well as with the OECD. This allows the OECD to gather valuable information on the importance that users attach to various life dimensions, on how these preferences differ across countries, and on the demographic characteristics of users.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO PEOPLE IN CHILE?

Since its launch in May 2011, the Better Life Index has attracted over eight million visits from just about every country on the planet and has received over 17 million page views. To date, over 97,000 people in Chile have visited the website making Chile the 20th country overall in traffic to the website. The top cities are Santiago (70% of visits), Concepcion and Valparaiso.

The following country findings reflect the ratings voluntarily shared by 830 website visitors in Chile. Findings are only indicative and are not representative of the population at large. For Chilean users of the Better Life Index, education, life satisfaction and health are the three most important topics (shown below). User information for Chile is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and May 2016.

1 User information for Chile is based on shared indexes submitted between May 2011 and May 2016.
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