

CO3.4: Satisfaction with school life among children aged 11, 13 and 15 years

Definitions and methodology

Satisfaction with school life is measured based on self-reported data on whether child aged 11, 13 and 15 like school, as part of the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children survey. A child is measured as liking school if they answer "I like it a lot"/"I like it a bit" to the question "How do you feel about school at present?", while those children answering "I don't like it at all"/"I don't like it at all" are measured as not liking school and not being satisfied with school life. The data are presented for 2009/2010.

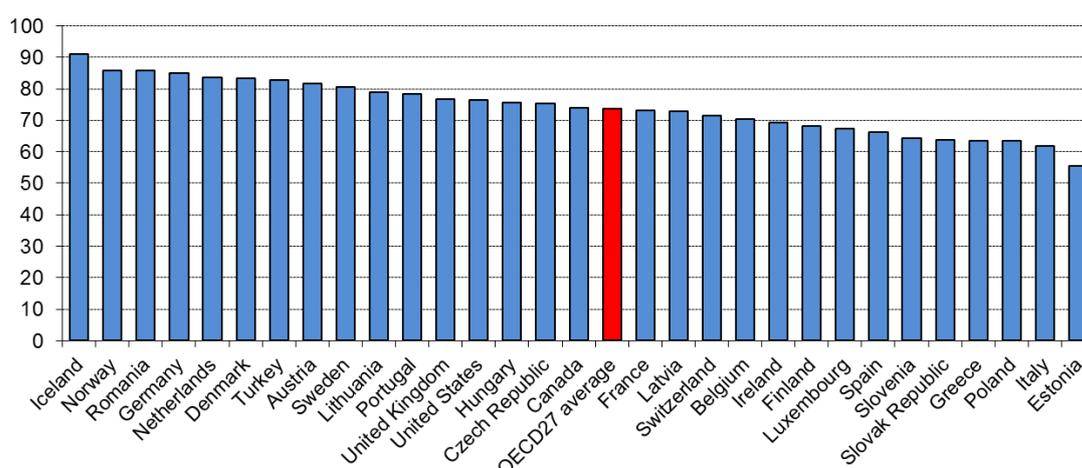
The HBSC survey collects information on many socio-economic factors that affect health behaviour among children. This indicator also presents information on the satisfaction with school life among children by family structure and family affluence. Family structure is defined by whether the child lives with both or just one parent, while family affluence is defined by the Family Affluence Scale (FAS) calculated based on responses to the survey. The FAS scale is based on a composite measure calculated for each surveyed student based on their response to questions about household possessions. A three point ordinal scale is used, where FAS low (score=0,1,2) indicates low affluence, FAS medium (score=3,4,5) indicates middle affluence, and FAS high (score=6,7,8,9) indicates high affluence. For more information please see Currie *et al.* (2012).

Key findings

In all countries for which data are available, more than half the children aged 11, 13 and 15 like their school life (Chart CO3.4.A). On average, across the OECD, 74% of children aged 11-15 years like school, But there is considerable variation across countries: more than 85% of children in Iceland and Norway like school, while less than 65% of children do so in Estonia, Greece, Italy, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

Chart CO3.4.B shows that in all OECD countries girls are more likely to enjoy school than boys; there is strong correlated between girls and boys enjoying school in a country. The difference in the percentage of girls and boys liking school is large (more than 10 percentage points) Estonia, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Spain.

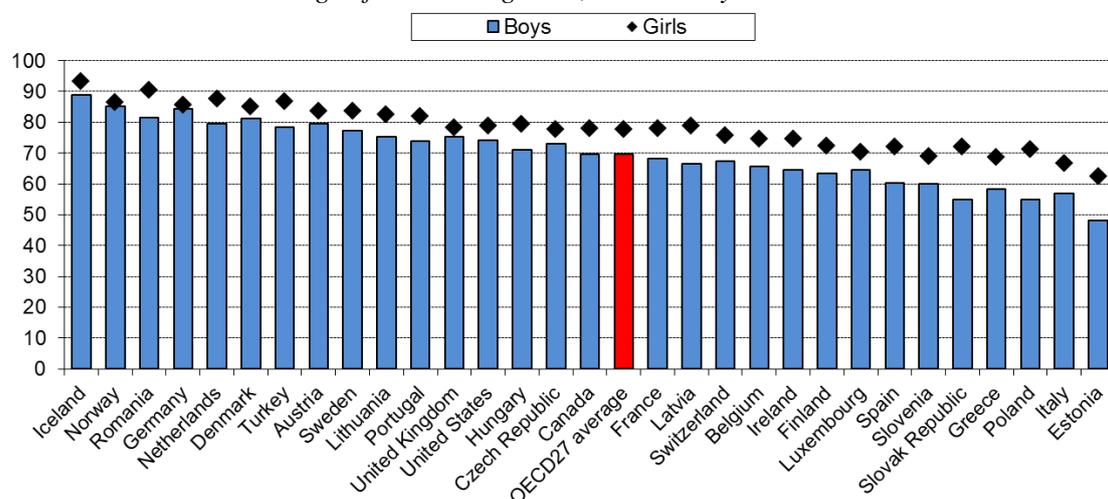
Chart CO3.4.A Satisfaction with school life among children aged 11 to 15, 2009/10
 Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 years who like school



Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 2009/2010.

Other relevant indicators: CO3.1: Literacy scores at 10; CO3.2: Literacy scores at age 15; CO3.3: Educational deprivation at age 15

Chart CO3.4.B Satisfaction with school life among children aged 11 to 15, by gender, 2009/10
 Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 years who like school



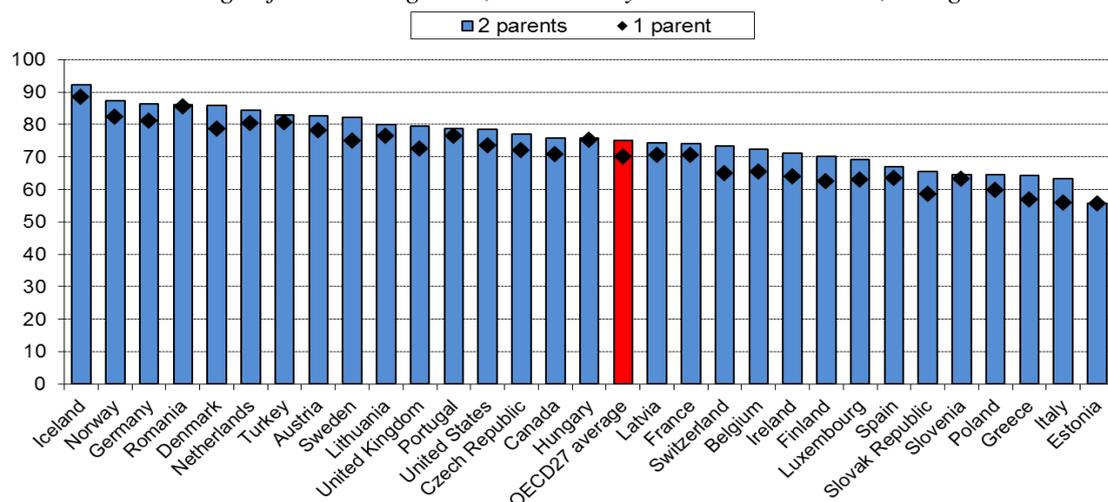
Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 2009/2010.

Satisfaction with school life by socio-economic characteristics

Chart CO3.4.C presents the proportion of children who like school by family structure based on whether the child lives with both parents or just one parent. The data show that in all countries children living with two parents are more satisfied with school life than children living with just one parent. Among OECD countries, the difference is particularly big, at more than 7 percentage points, in Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Italy, Ireland and Switzerland. While the difference is small in Estonia, Hungary and Slovenia, at less than 2 percentage points.

Chart CO3.4.C Satisfaction with school life among children aged 11 to 15, by family structure, 2009/10

Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 years who like school, living with ... ¹

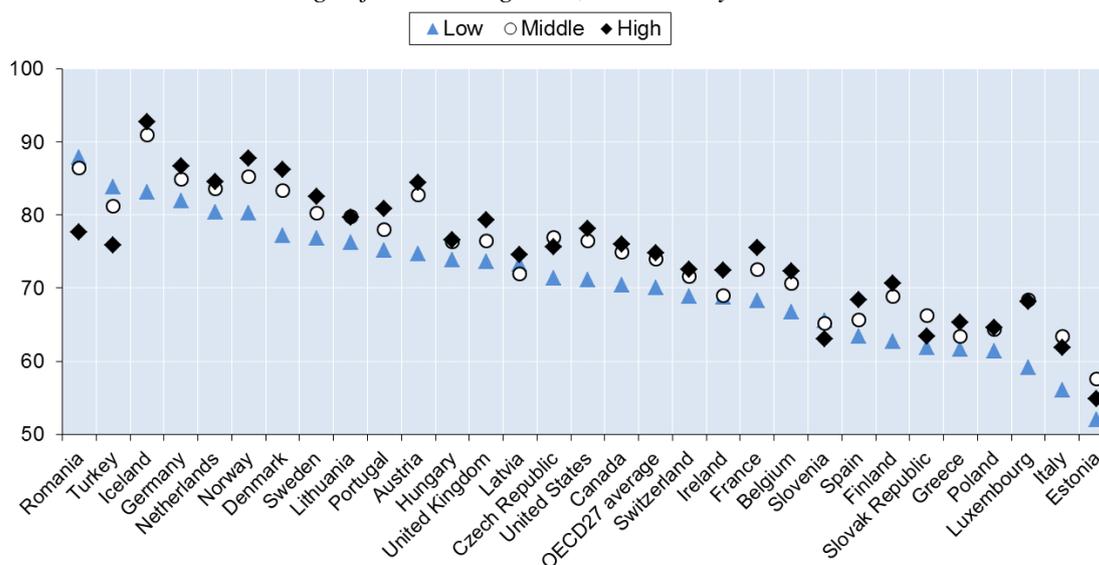


1) Data is not available for children who do not live with either parent, often under foster care.
 Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 2009/2010.

Chart CO3.4.D presents the proportion of children who report liking school based on level of affluence using the HSBC FAS scale. The data show that in all OECD countries, except Slovenia and Turkey, children from high affluence households are more likely to like school than children from low affluence school. The difference in the proportion of children liking school between those from high and low affluence children is particularly large in Austria, Denmark, Iceland and Luxembourg, at more than 9 percentage points.

Chart CO3.4.D Satisfaction with school life among children aged 11 to 15, by family affluence, 2009/10

Percentage of children aged 11, 13 and 15 years who like school



Source: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children 2009/2010.

Comparability and data issues

Self-reported data on life satisfaction have been taken from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children survey (HBSC) 2009/10. The last data collection included all OECD countries except Australia, Japan, Korea, Mexico and New Zealand.

These data come from confidential surveys of young people, and may be subject to response bias. Sample selection methods differ across countries. The sample sizes are similar for each country, while the population sizes differ markedly, so that the potential for error in sample-representativeness is much larger for the United States than for the Netherlands.

HBSC data were collected separately for Flemish- and French-speaking communities in Belgium while data for the United Kingdom reflect results for England, Scotland and Wales (data for Northern Ireland is not included). This indicator presents one value for Belgium and the United Kingdom on basis of a population-weighted average.

Satisfaction with school life (whether a child likes school) by socio-economic groups are descriptive and are not regressed with control factors, thus the differences may not be directly and exclusively related to characteristics of the socio-economic groups defined here, but could also be due to other related factors. While the HBSC survey includes information on many factors, only the major socio-economic factors are

presented where the difference in the prevalence of smoking is statistically significant across most countries.

Sources and further reading: Currie et al. (2012). "Social determinants of health and well-being among young people. Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study: international report from the 2009/2010 survey", (www.hsbc.org).