

How does ITALY compare on child well-being?

On many measures, and compared to other OECD countries, Italy could do more to promote child well-being. Children in Italy enjoy **average disposable income** levels that are not far from the OECD average, but the **child relative income poverty rate** is comparatively high (19.3%, compared to an OECD average of 13.4%), and a very high share of children live in **overcrowded households** (41%, compared to an OECD average of 22%).

On health, Italy compares well on **infant mortality** – at 2.9 deaths per 1000 live births, the current infant mortality rate in Italy is well below the OECD average (3.9) – but slightly less well on other measures. Italy performs below average for

the frequency of **low-weight births**, for 15-year-olds **skipping breakfast or dinner**, for the share of 11-15 years that are **overweight or obese**, and especially for the share of 11-15 year-olds that are **regular smokers**. Roughly 9% of 11-15 year-olds in Italy report smoking at least once a week, almost twice the OECD average (5%), and this increases to 21% when looking at 15-year-olds only.

15-year-olds in Italy are more likely than their peers in some other OECD countries to live in homes with **books to help with school work**, and the share with access to a **desk and quiet place to study** is a little above average. However, the share of 15-year-olds who **feel**

like they 'belong' at school (67%) is lower than the OECD average (73%), and the share who say they feel **anxious about school tests** even if well-prepared (70%) is among the highest in the OECD. Average performance on the **OECD's PISA reading and mathematics tests** is also around or just below the average for OECD countries.

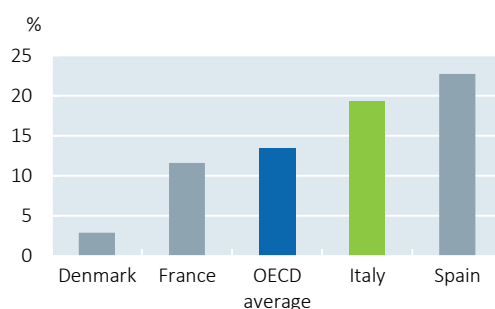
Overall, self-reported life satisfaction among teenagers in Italy is below average. About 24% of 15-year-olds in Italy report feeling **very satisfied** with their life as whole (compared to an OECD average of 34%), while roughly 15% report that they are **not satisfied** with life as a whole (compared to an OECD average of 12%)

How Italy compares to other OECD countries on 23 key measures

	● Top third	◆ Middle third	■ Bottom third
Home and family environment	Jobs and income		
		◆	
	Average disposable household income for children		
			■
	Children in relative income poverty		
		◆	
Children in jobless households			
Housing conditions and neighbourhood and environmental quality			■
	Children in overcrowded households		
		◆	
	Children in households that lack basic facilities		
		■	
Children in areas with problems with crime or violence			
Parent-child relationships	●		
	Adolescents talking to their parents before or after school		
Health and safety	●		
	Infant mortality		
			■
	Low-weight births		
		■	
Adolescents skipping either breakfast or dinner			
Child and adolescent health			■
	Children who are overweight or obese		
Risk behaviours			■
	Children who are regular smokers		
Education and school life	◆		
	Adolescents with a desk and a quiet place to study at home		
	●		
	Adolescents with books for school work at home		
			■
	Adolescents who feel anxious about school tests		
	◆		
Adolescents who expect to complete a university degree			
Educational attitudes and expectations			■
	Adolescents who feel like they belong in school		
Quality of school life			■
	Reading performance at age 15 (PISA)		
Educational performance			■
	Mathematics performance at age 15 (PISA)		
	◆		
Activities and life satisfaction			■
	Adolescents reporting high life satisfaction		
			■
	Adolescents reporting low life satisfaction		
			■
Adolescents not in education or employment			
	●		
Adolescent fertility			

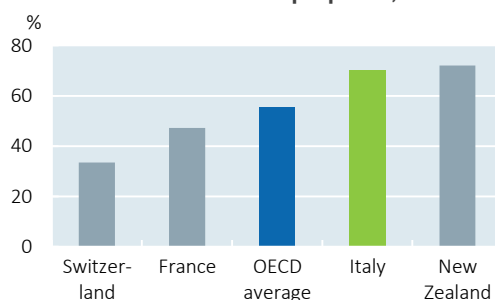
Note: Placement in top/middle/bottom third of OECD countries with available data on each measure. 'Top third' (green circle) always represents good relative performance with respect to child well-being, and 'bottom third' (red square) poor relative performance. For measures where a larger value is generally 'better' (e.g. 'adolescents reporting high life satisfaction'), 'top third' means the country is in the top third when countries are ranked largest to smallest value down. For measures where a smaller value is better (e.g. 'adolescents reporting low life satisfaction'), 'top third' means the country is in the top third when ranked smallest to largest.

Child relative income poverty rates, 2014



Note: Poverty threshold at 50% of the median disposable income
Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on the OECD Income Distribution Database

15-year-olds who feel anxious about school tests even when well-prepared, 2015



Note: % who "agree" or "strongly agree" with the statement "even if I am well prepared for a test, I feel very anxious"
Source: OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal based on the PISA 2015 Database

The **Child Well-Being Data Portal (CWBDP)** gathers data on child well-being and the settings in which children grow up. It provides information on children's home and family environment, their health and safety, their education and school life, their activities and their life satisfaction, and also links to information on public policies for children. Information covers children from 0 to 17 years of age, although some information is available only for specific ages. Where possible, information is provided for different age groups, from early childhood to adolescence. The data portal also provides a unique source of information on disparities in child well-being by gender, family status, household income level, and parental background.