

How does JAPAN compare on child well-being?

Relative to other OECD countries, Japan's performance on child well-being is mixed. **Average disposable incomes** for children in Japan are close to the OECD average, but the **child income poverty rate** is slightly higher than in some other OECD countries – about 16.3% of children in Japan live in relative income poverty, compared to an OECD average of 13.4%.

On health, **infant mortality rates** are well below the OECD average (2.1 deaths per 1000 live births, compared to an OECD average of 3.9), but **low-weight births** are more frequent than on average across the OECD (9.5% of live births, compared to an average of 6.5%). A below-

average share of 15-year-olds report **regularly engaging in intense exercise** outside of school (47%, compared to an OECD average of 52%), but healthy eating behaviours are good – in fact, among OECD countries, Japan has the lowest share of 15-year-olds reporting **skipping either breakfast or dinner** (8%).

At school, the shares of 15-year-olds reporting feeling **anxious about school tests** even if well-prepared (62%) or being **the victims of a bullying** (22%) are both slightly higher the respective OECD averages (55% and 19%). However, 15-year-olds in Japan are more likely than their peers in many other OECD countries to

report **feeling like they belong at school** (82%, compared to an OECD average of 73%) and to **expect to complete a university degree** (59%, compared to an average of 44%), and also tend to perform very well on the OECD's **PISA reading and mathematics** tests.

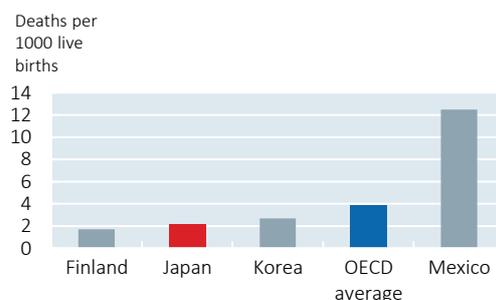
Overall levels of self-reported life satisfaction among teenagers are fairly low in Japan compared to some other OECD countries. About 24% of 15-year-olds in Japan report being **very satisfied** with their lives as a whole (compared to an OECD average of 34%), while roughly 16% report being **not satisfied** with their lives (compared to an average of 12%).

How Japan compares to other OECD countries on 19 key measures

		● Top third	◆ Middle third	■ Bottom third
Home and family environment	Jobs and income		◆	
	Parent-child relationships		◆	
	Adolescents talking to their parents before or after school		◆	
Health and safety	Infant health	●		
	Low-weight births			■
	Adolescents skipping either breakfast or dinner	●		
	Adolescents regularly engaging in vigorous exercise			■
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	●		
	Adolescents who feel like they belong in school	●		
	Adolescents who report being the victims of bullying			■
	Reading performance at age 15 (PISA)	●		
Activities and life satisfaction	Mathematics performance at age 15 (PISA)	●		
	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.

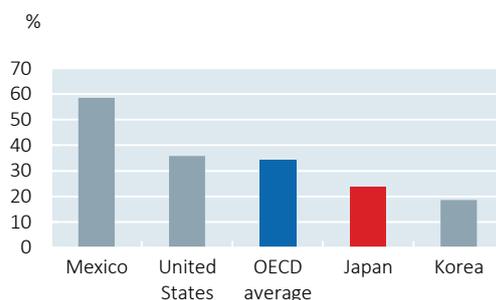
Infant mortality rates, 2014/15



Note: Data for Japan refer to 2014, and for all other countries to 2015

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on OECD Health Statistics

15-year-olds reporting high life satisfaction, 2015



Note: % who reported being very satisfied with their life as a whole

Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on 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.