

How does CANADA compare on child well-being?

Information on the well-being of children in Canada is not as comprehensive as it is in, for example, European countries. However, the data that are available show a mixed picture.

At home, children in Canada enjoy higher **average disposable incomes** than their peers in many other OECD countries, but income inequality across households means that the **child income poverty rate** is also higher than average (15%, compared 13.4% on average).

Parent-child relationships seem comparatively good, with only 3.5% of 15-year-olds in Canada report **not talking to their parents before or after school** on the last day they went to school – much lower than in some other countries like

Mexico or Turkey, for example, where around 10-11% of 15-year-olds are in this situation.

Child health outcomes are varied. **Infant mortality** remains comparatively high (4.8 deaths per 1,000 births, compared to 3.9 on average), but the **low-weight birth rate** is comparable to the OECD average (6.3%, compared to an OECD average of 6.5%). The proportion of 15-year-olds engaging in **intense physical activity** is comparatively high (almost 59%, versus an OECD average of 52.3%), but **overweight and obesity rates** are also relatively high – almost 28% of 11-15 year-olds in Canada are overweight or obese, compared to an OECD average of 19%.

Not all children benefit from optimal conditions for

studying: about 18% of 15-year-olds in Canada do not have a **desk and quiet place to study at home**, 26% do not have **books to help with school work**, and 36% feel **anxious about school tests** even if well-prepared. Nevertheless, Canadian teenagers perform very well on the **OECD's PISA reading and mathematics tests**, and the proportion of 15-year-olds who plan to **pursue higher education** is comparatively high.

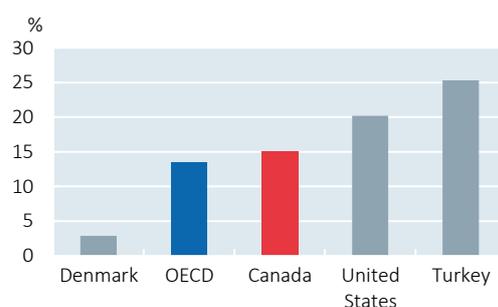
About 6.3% of 15-19 year olds in Canada are **not in employment, education or training**, higher than in many other OECD countries and slightly above the OECD average (6.0%). The **adolescent (15-19 year old) fertility rate** is also relatively high compared to OECD countries.

How Canada compares to other OECD countries on 19 key measures

	● Top third	◆ Middle third	■ Bottom third
Home and family environment	Jobs and income	Average disposable household income for children	●
	Parent-child relationships	Children in relative income poverty	■
		Adolescents talking to their parents before or after school	●
Health and safety	Infant health	Infant mortality	■
	Child and adolescent health	Low-weight births	◆
		Adolescents skipping either breakfast or dinner	◆
		Adolescents regularly engaging in vigorous exercise	●
	Risk behaviours	Children who are overweight or obese	■
		Children who are regular smokers	●
Education and school life	Educational resources at home	Adolescents with a desk and a quiet place to study at home	■
		Adolescents with books for school work at home	■
	Educational attitudes and expectations	Adolescents who feel anxious about school tests	■
		Adolescents who expect to complete a university degree	●
	Quality of school life	Adolescents who feel like they belong in school	◆
		Adolescents who report being the victims of bullying	■
	Educational performance	Reading performance at age 15 (PISA)	●
Mathematics performance at age 15 (PISA)		●	
Activities and life satisfaction	Adolescent activities and outcomes	Adolescents not in education or employment	■
	Adolescent fertility	Adolescent fertility	■

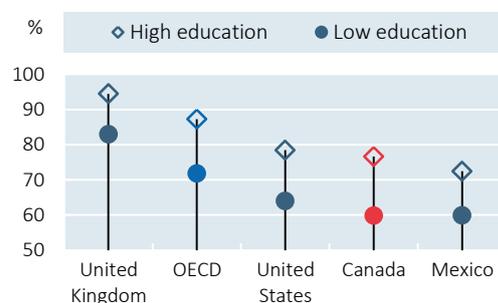
Note: Placement in top/middle/bottom third of OECD countries with available data on each measure. 'Top third' (green circle) always represents good relative performance with respect to child well-being, and 'bottom third' (red square) poor relative performance. For measures where a larger value is generally 'better' (e.g. 'average disposable household income for children'), '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. 'children in relative income poverty'), '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 Data Portal based on the Income Distribution Database

15-year-olds with books for school work at home, by parents' education, 2015



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.