

## How does the UNITED KINGDOM compare on child well-being?

In comparison to other OECD countries, the United Kingdom's performance on child well-being is mixed at best. Material conditions for children, for example, are fairly average. **Average disposable income** for children is close to the OECD mean, while the **child income poverty rate** and the share of children living in **overcrowded households** are both moderate. However, children are comparatively likely to live in **jobless households** – just over 15% of 0-14 year olds in the UK live in a household where no adult works, compared to an average of roughly 10% across OECD countries.

Health behaviours and outcomes are moderate too. Infant health indicators like the **infant mortality rate** and the **low birth weight rate** are

close to the OECD average, while measures of adolescent health behaviours point towards lifestyles that are less healthy than in some other OECD countries. For example, a relatively high share of 15-year-olds in the UK say they **skipped either breakfast or dinner** on the last day they went to school (30%, versus an OECD average of 25%), and a relatively low share report engaging in **regular intense physical activity** outside of school (42%, compared to an OECD average of 52%).

The performance of 15-year-olds in the UK on the OECD's **PISA tests** is roughly average for an OECD country, but not all children seem happy at school. For example, 15-year-olds in the UK are less likely than their peers in some other

countries to say they feel like they **belong at school**, and are among some of the likeliest in the OECD to report being the **victim of bullying** – 24% of 15-year-olds in the UK report being the victim of bullying at least a few times a month, compared to 19% on average across OECD countries.

Adolescent outcomes are relatively poor. For example, a comparatively high share of 15-19 year-olds are **'NEET'** (not in employment, education or training), and levels of self-reported life satisfaction among 15-year-olds are relatively low – about 28% report **high levels life satisfaction** (compared to an OECD average of 34%), and 16% report **low life satisfaction** (higher than the OECD average of 12%).

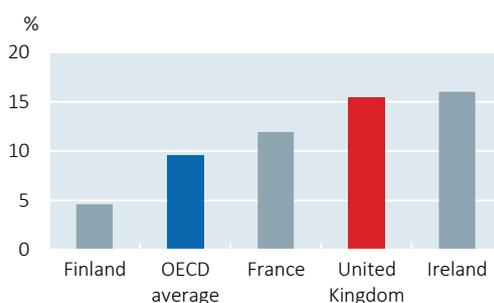
### How the United Kingdom compares to other OECD countries on 23 key measures

● Top third      ◆ Middle third      ■ Bottom third

Category	Measure	Performance	
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 health	Infant mortality	◆
		Low-weight births	◆
	Child and adolescent health	Adolescents skipping either breakfast or dinner	■
		Adolescents regularly engaging in vigorous exercise	■
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	Subjective well-being	Adolescents reporting high life satisfaction	■
		Adolescents reporting low life satisfaction	■
	Other adolescent activities and outcomes	Adolescents not in education or employment	■
		Adolescent fertility	■

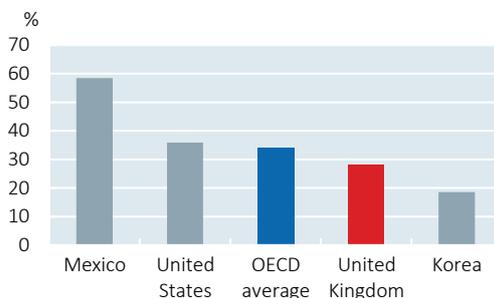
Note: Placement in top/middle/bottom third of OECD countries with available data on each measure. 'Top third' (green circle) always represents good relative performance with respect to child well-being, and 'bottom third' (red square) poor relative performance. For measures where a larger value is generally '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.

### Children (0-14) in jobless households, 2014



Note: % 0-14 year-olds in households where no adult works  
Source: OECD Child Well-Being Portal based on the OECD Family Database

### 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.