



**XI ISQOLS Conference**

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**Discovering New Frontiers  
in Quality-of-Life Research**

# **Subjective well-being: A comparative analysis between children born and not born in Spain**

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**CHILDREN'S  
WORLDS**



**INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING (ISCWeB)**



**Universitat de Girona**

**Institut de Recerca  
sobre Qualitat de Vida**

**ERIDIQV**

<http://www.udg.edu/eridiqv>



A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, with a focus on a young girl in the center. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

## Spanish survey

- Representative sample of students in the first form of Compulsory Secondary Education in Spain (Educación Secundaria Obligatoria = ESO)
- Strata:
  - Autonomous Communities and Cities (17+2)
  - Public/publically funded / private centres
  - Centres in urban/semi urban /rural environments (< 2,000 / 2,000-20,000 / > 20,000 inhabitants)
- N = 5,934 children between 11 and 14 year-olds (19,4% 13 & 14 y.o., mostly repeating scholar course)
- Administered in 4 languages, depending on the region (Castilian-Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Bask).
- 11,2% are not born in Spain
- 2,7% say NOT to live in a household with the own family
- 78,2% say to live in a household with the two parents living in it
- 14,1% say to live in more than one household, regularly or occasionally



A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, with a red banner at the top containing the title.

## Using 4 well-being general indicators

The questionnaire included 3 frequently used psychometric scales in the international arena. A fourth scale has been added, based on a list of 18 additional life domains or aspects of life, plus the 8 domains in the PWI8adp.

- A single-item scale on ***Overall Life Satisfaction (OLS)***
- The ***Students' Life Satisfaction Scale (SLSS5)*** (Huebner, 1991), with only 5 items.
- An adapted version of the ***Personal Well-Being Index*** de Cummins, Eckersley, van Pallant, Vugt y Misajon (2003) with 8 items (PWI8adp)
- The new **General Index on Domain Satisfactions (GIDS)**, including satisfaction with 26 aspects or domains of own life

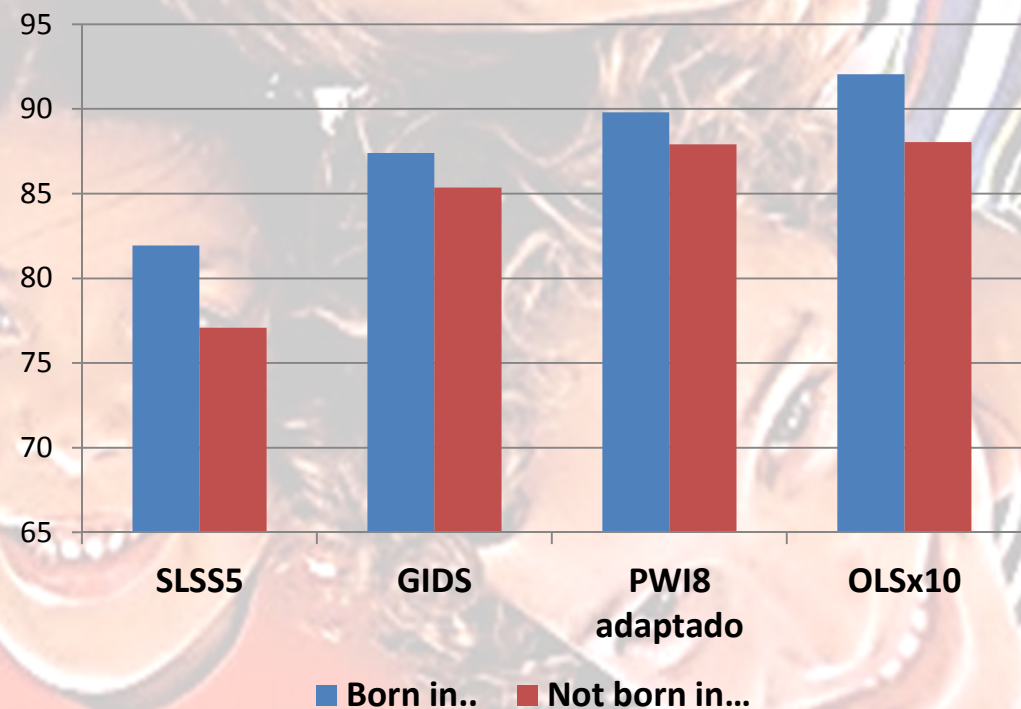
Scores were from 0 to 10, excepting in SLSS5, that used a Likert 1 to 5 scale.

Index	Life domain satisfaction	Item
Index 1	Household	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The house or flat where you live</li> <li>➤ The people who live with you</li> <li>➤ All the other people in your family</li> </ul>
Index 2	Material belongings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All the things you have</li> <li>➤ The pocket money you get</li> <li>➤ The personal space you have for yourself at home</li> </ul>
Index 3	Interpersonal relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Your friends</li> <li>➤ The people who live in your area</li> <li>➤ Your relationships with people in general</li> </ul>
Index 4	Area living in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The local police in your area</li> <li>➤ The area where you live, in general</li> <li>➤ The libraries in your area</li> <li>➤ The public transport in your area</li> </ul>
Index 5	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How you are dealt with when you go to the doctors</li> <li>➤ Your health in general</li> </ul>
Index 6	Time organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How you use your time</li> <li>➤ What you do in your free time</li> </ul>
Index 7	School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The school you go to</li> <li>➤ Your schoolmates</li> <li>➤ Your school marks</li> </ul>
Index 8	Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The freedom you have</li> <li>➤ The way that you look</li> <li>➤ Yourself</li> <li>➤ How you are listened to</li> <li>➤ Your self confidence</li> <li>➤ The amount of choice you have in life</li> </ul>

## Results using the 4 well-being general indicators

- Children not born in Spain show lower scores in all subjective well-being indicators
- The biggest difference is recorded in SLSS5 and SGVx10

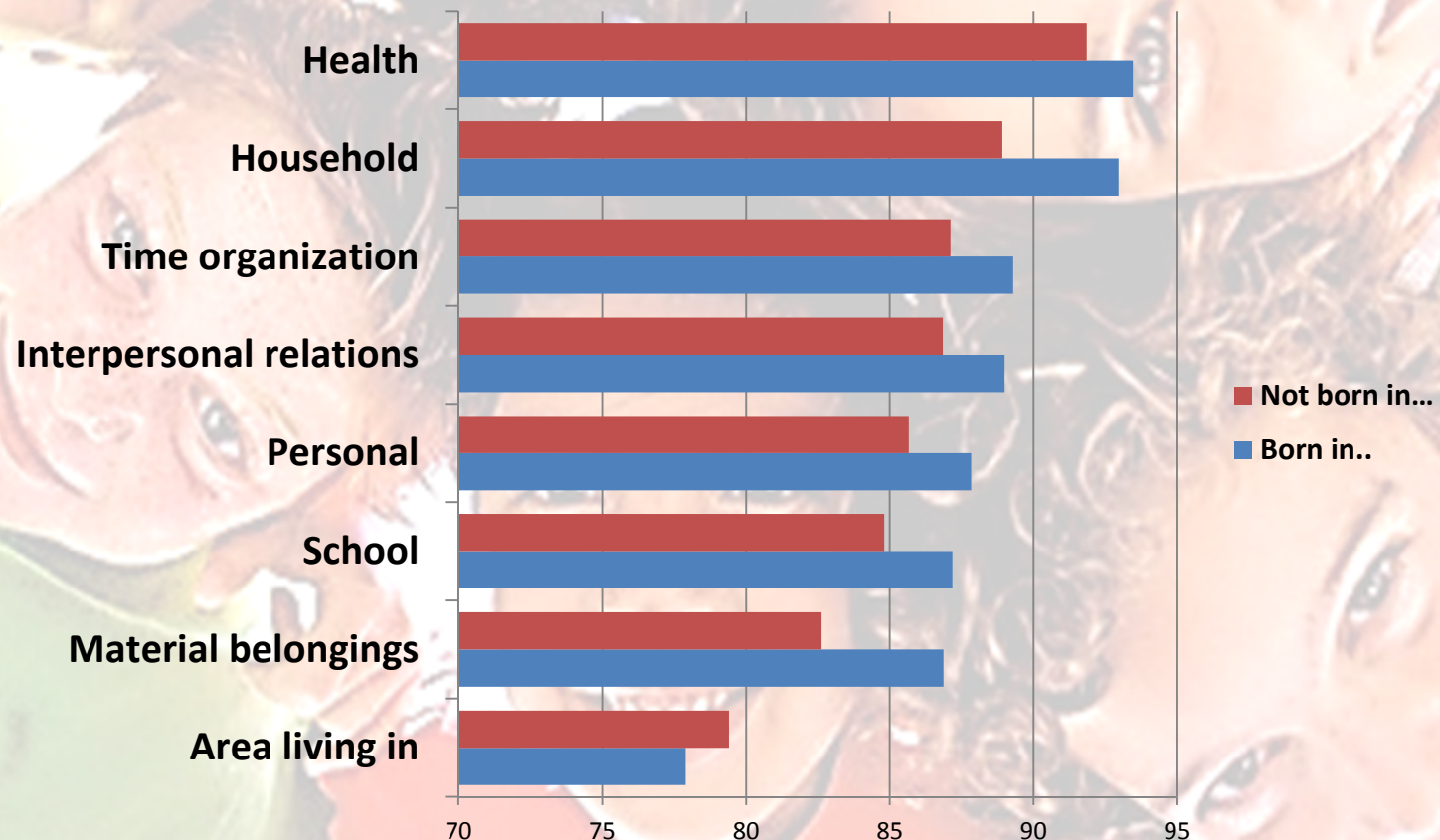
	OLSx10	SLSS5	PWI8	GIDS
Born in Spain	92,04	81,94	89,79	87,39
Not born in Spain	88,05	77,09	87,91	85,35





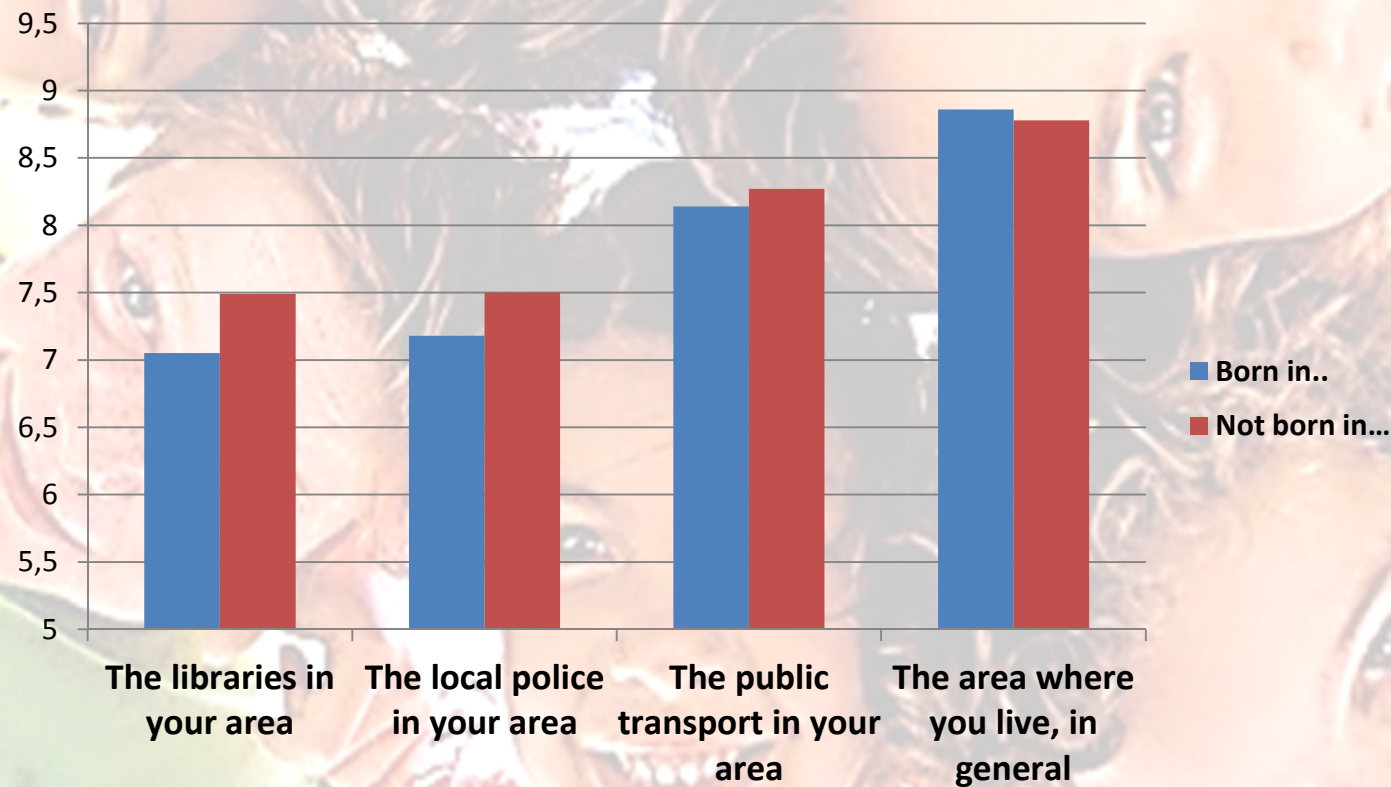
## Results using 8 life domain satisfaction indexes

Children not born in Spain show lower scores in subjective well-being in all life domains but one, the *area you live in*. With this domain they show little more satisfaction



## Results of the items about the *area you live in*

Higher scores in the *area you live in* is mainly due to the fact they are more satisfied with libraries and with the local police



A background image showing the faces of several smiling children, with a focus on their joyful expressions. The image is slightly blurred and serves as a backdrop for the text and table.

## Results using 8 life domain satisfaction indexes

*Material belongings* and *satisfaction with house* are the life domain indexes that show the largest differences

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
Material belongings	86,87	82,63	- 4,24
House	92,96	88,91	- 4,05
School	87,18	84,81	- 2,37
Time organization	89,29	87,11	- 2,18
Personal satisfaction	87,83	85,66	- 2,17
Interpersonal relations	88,99	86,85	- 2,14
Health	93,45	91,85	- 1,6
Area you live in	77,9	79,4	+1,5



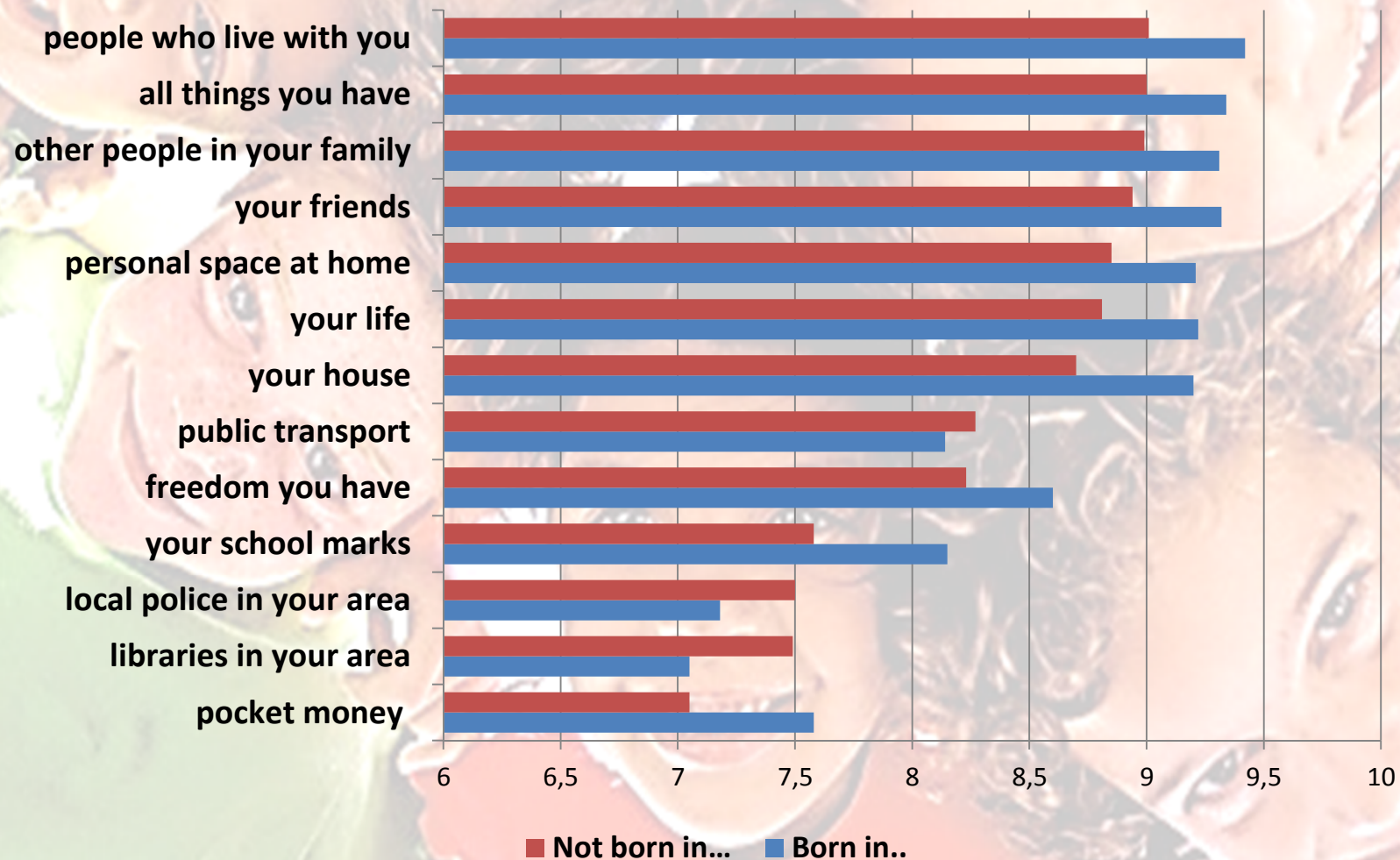
## Results using some items

- Children not born in Spain show lower satisfaction in 24 of 26 items. Their satisfaction is higher only in the 3 items of the *area you live in*: libraries, police and public transport
- Satisfaction with school marks, pocket money and home shown the largest difference

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
The libraries in your area	7,05	7,49	+ 0,44
The local police in your area	7,18	7,5	+ 0,32
The public transport in your area	8,14	8,27	+ 0,13
All the other people in your family	9,31	8,99	- 0,32
All the things you have	9,34	9	- 0,34
The personal space at home	9,21	8,85	- 0,36
The freedom you have	8,6	8,23	- 0,37
Your friends	9,32	8,94	- 0,38
Your life	9,22	8,81	- 0,41
The people who live with you	9,42	9,01	- 0,41
Your house	9,2	8,7	- 0,50
The pocket money you get	7,58	7,05	- 0,53
Your school marks	8,15	7,58	- 0,57

## Results using some items

However, items satisfaction ranking is similar between the two groups, with some exceptions in the bottom of the table



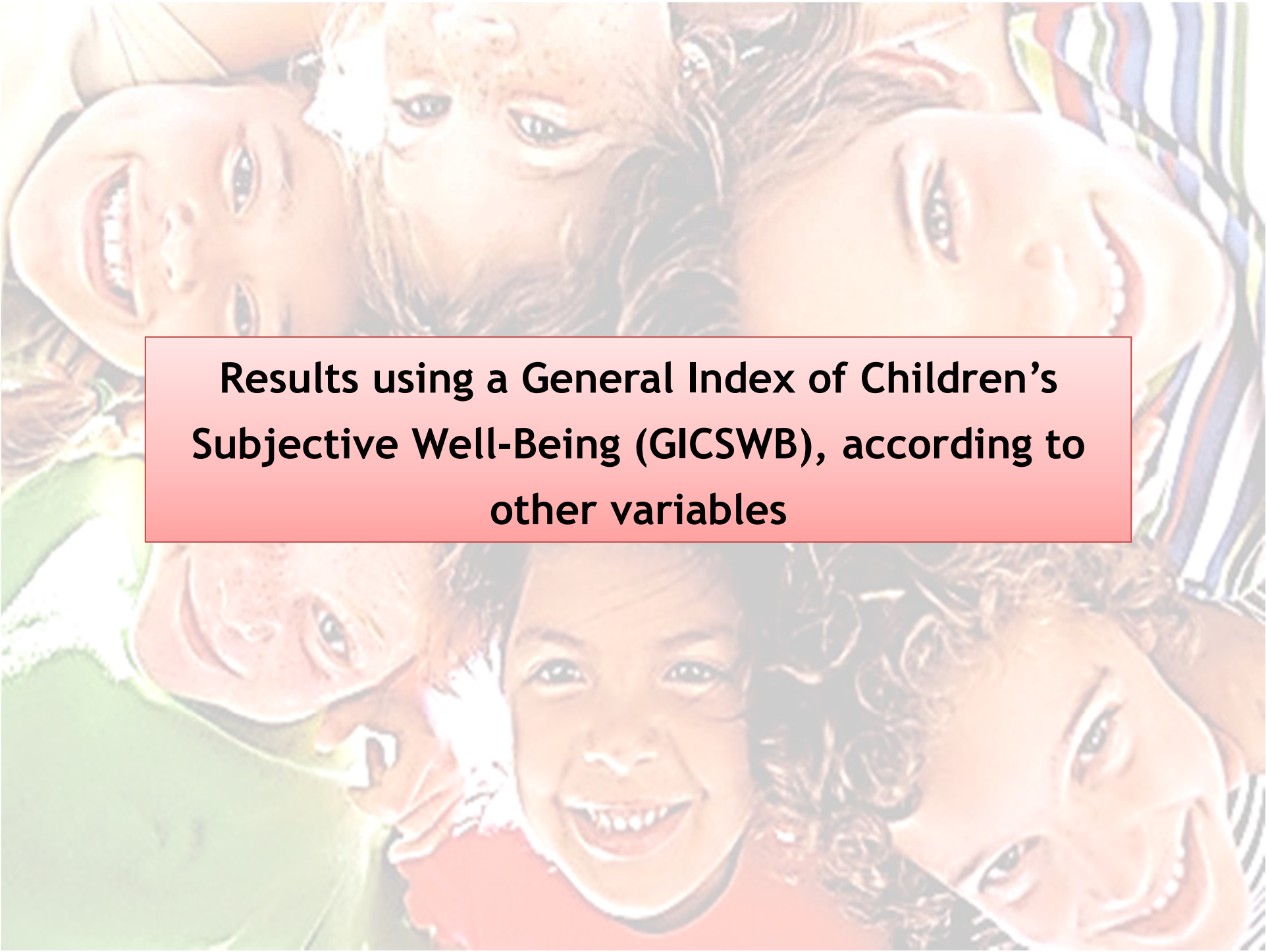


A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, tilted at various angles, creating a warm and positive atmosphere.

## Results using a General Index of Children's Subjective Well-Being (GICSWB)

**Not being born in Spain shows significant and negative impact on children subjective well-being**

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
GICSWB	87,35	83,65

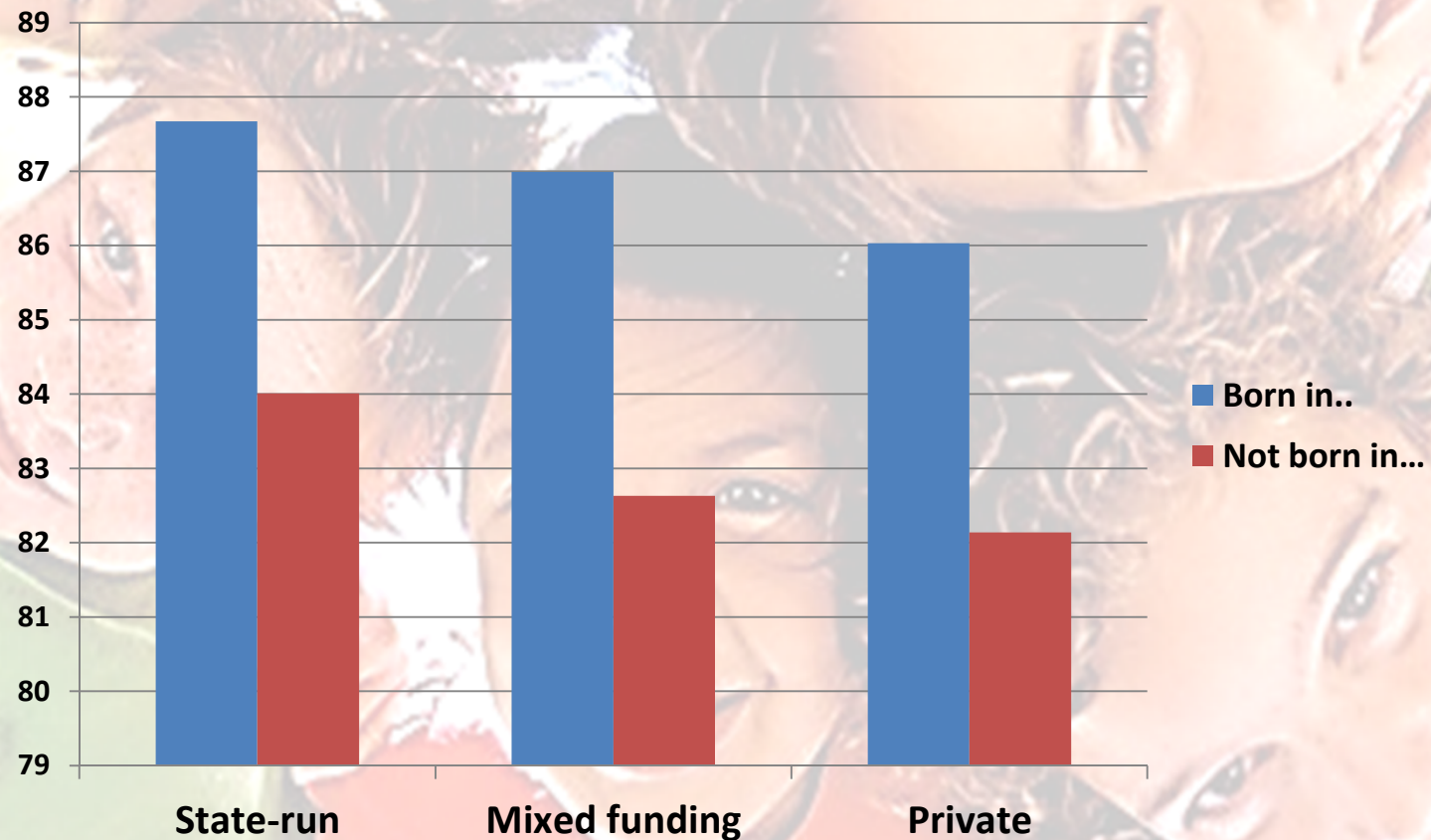
A collage of five smiling children's faces, representing diversity and happiness. The children are of various ethnicities and are all looking towards the camera with joyful expressions. The background is a soft, out-of-focus mix of colors, including green, blue, and white.

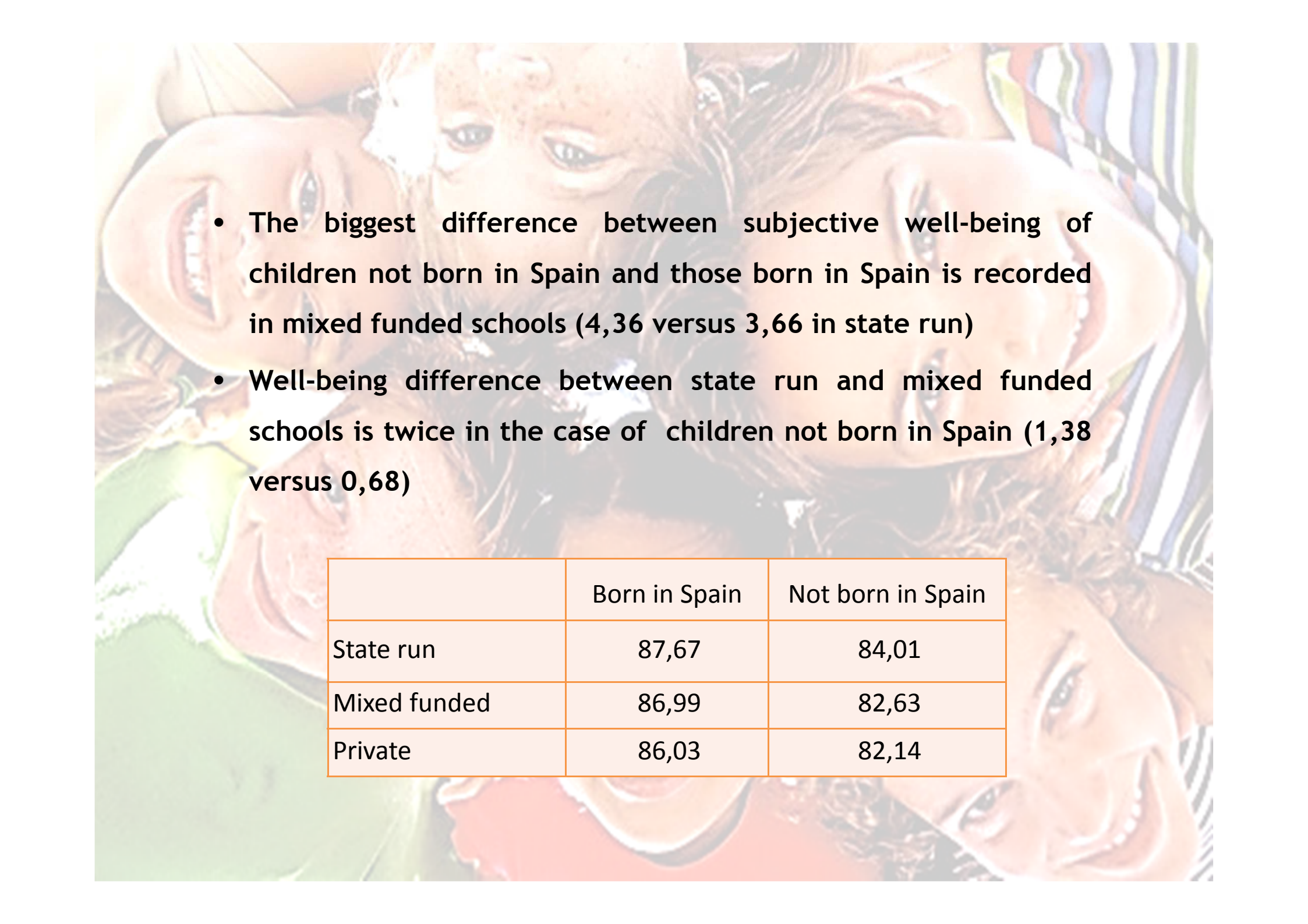
**Results using a General Index of Children's  
Subjective Well-Being (GICSWB), according to  
other variables**



## Subjective well-being according tipe of school

Results confirm that children in private and mixed funded schools show lower scores than children in public schools



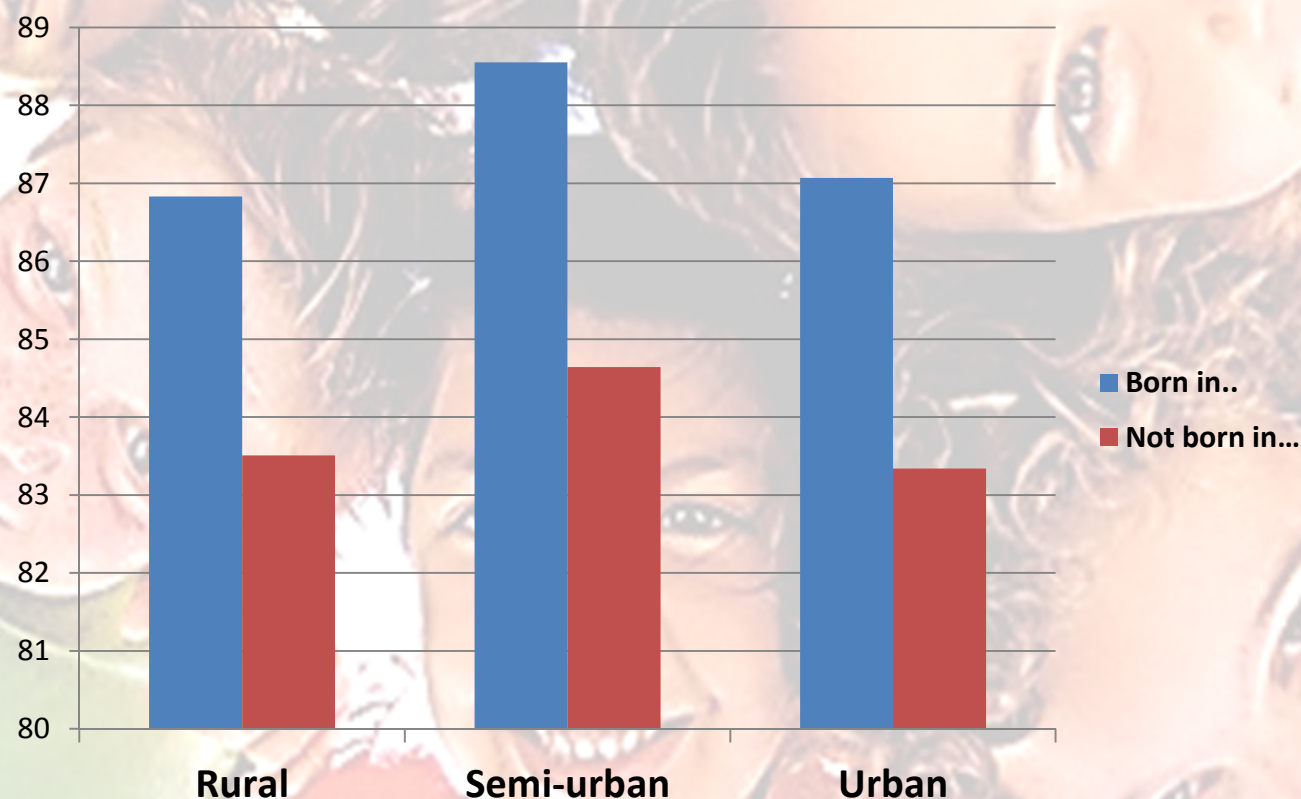
- 
- The biggest difference between subjective well-being of children not born in Spain and those born in Spain is recorded in mixed funded schools (4,36 versus 3,66 in state run)
  - Well-being difference between state run and mixed funded schools is twice in the case of children not born in Spain (1,38 versus 0,68)

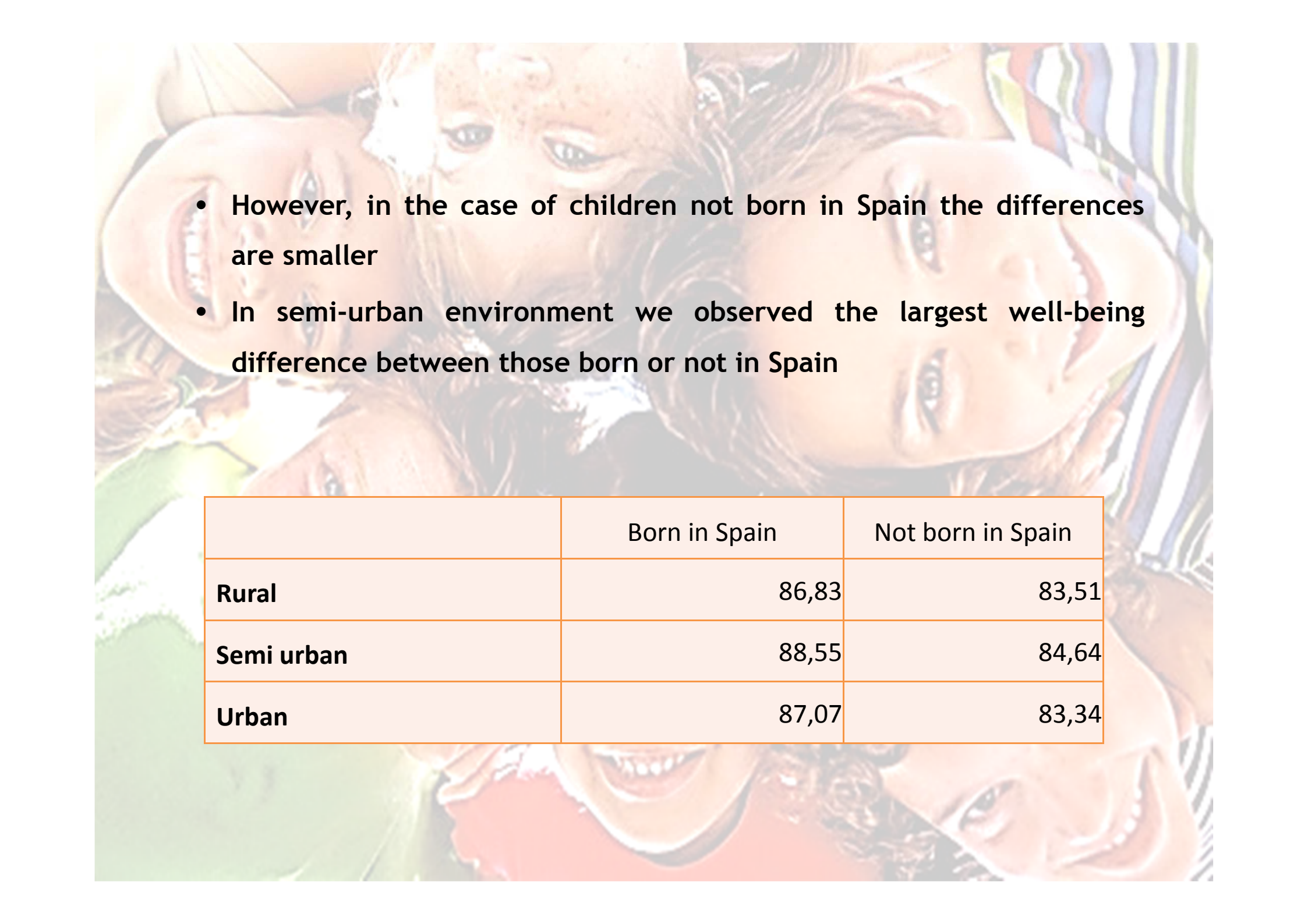
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
State run	87,67	84,01
Mixed funded	86,99	82,63
Private	86,03	82,14



## Subjective well-being according tipe of environmets

Results confirm that children attending school in rural or urban environments show lower scores than children at schools in semi-urban environments



- 
- However, in the case of children not born in Spain the differences are smaller
  - In semi-urban environment we observed the largest well-being difference between those born or not in Spain

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
<b>Rural</b>	86,83	83,51
<b>Semi urban</b>	88,55	84,64
<b>Urban</b>	87,07	83,34



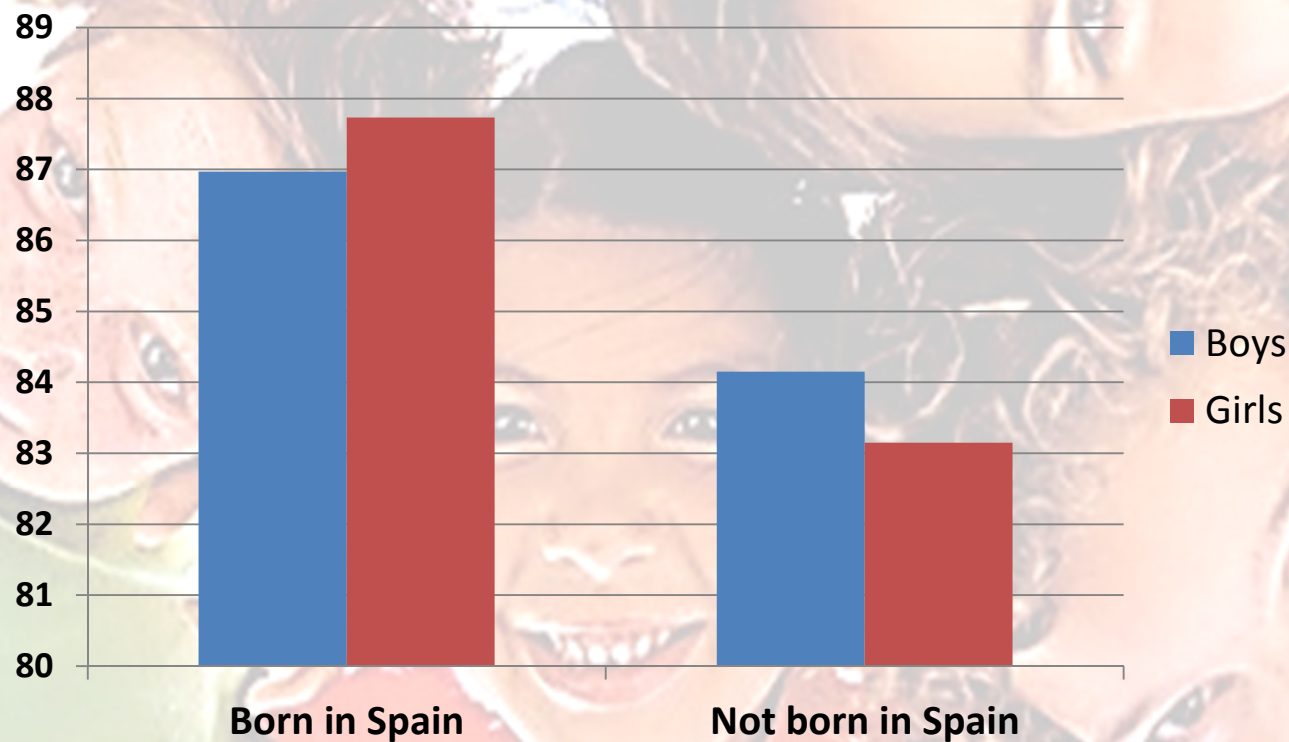
A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, primarily of Hispanic descent, looking upwards. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be read over it.

## Subjective well-being according sex

The reduction in subjective well-being of the children not born in Spain is much more evident among girls (-4,58 points versus -2,82 in the case of boys).

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
<b>Boys</b>	86,97	84,15	- 2,82
<b>Girls</b>	87,73	83,15	- 4,58

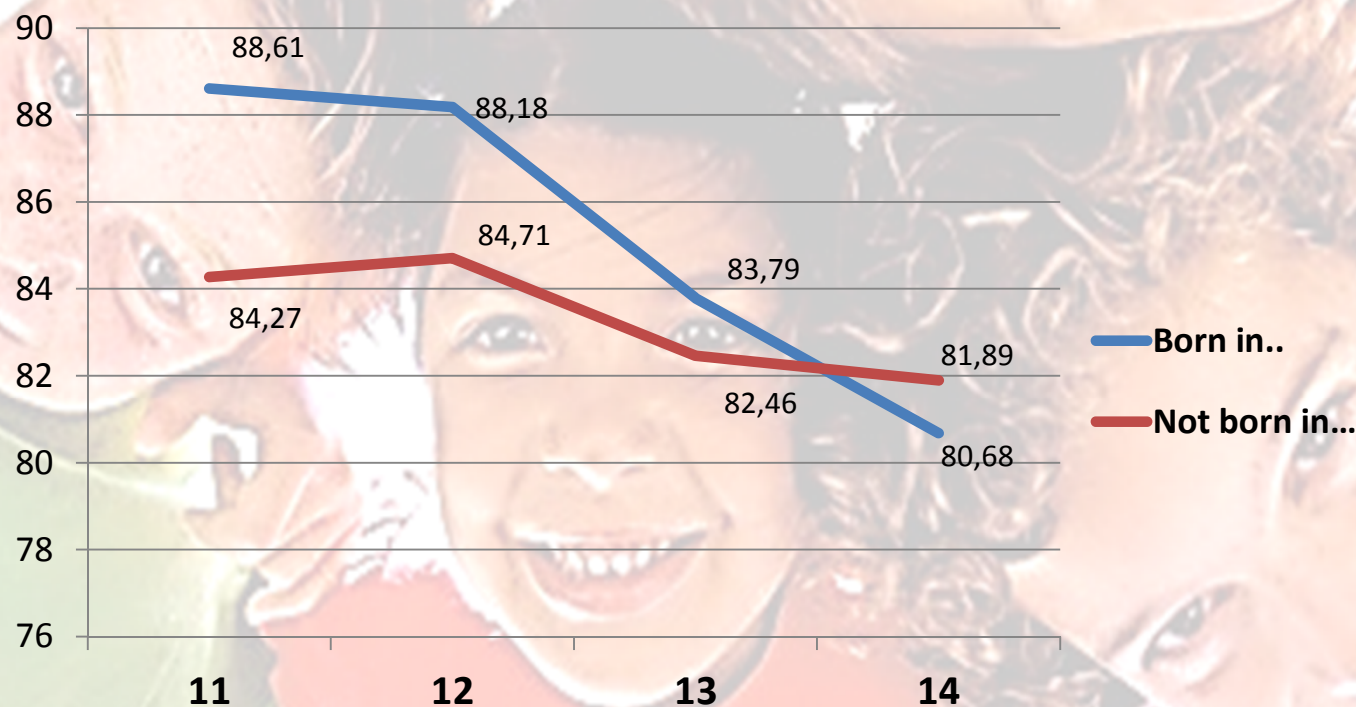
- That makes the trend to reverse. For those born outside, boys have higher levels of well-being than girls
- Furthermore the difference between the sexes is somewhat higher (though still low) between children not born in Spain





## Subjective well-being according age

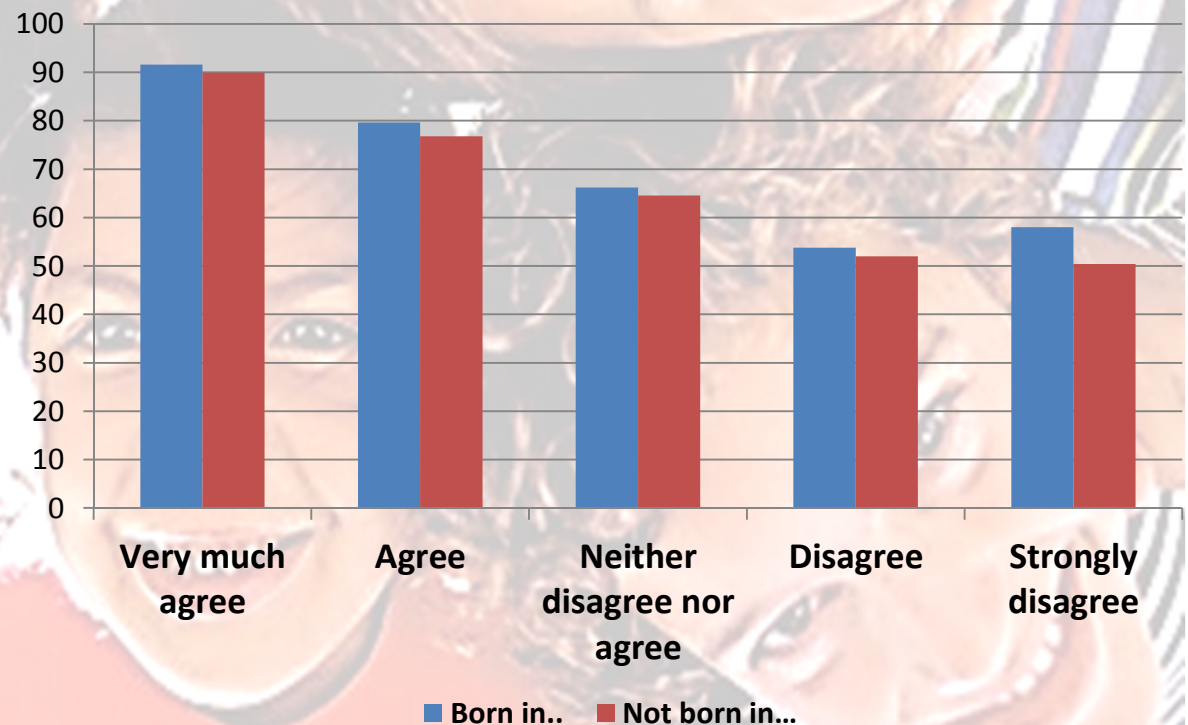
- The subjective well-being of those not born in Spain declines with age less than those born in Spain
- The difference between the two groups get smaller with increasing age
- When the children are 14 years old (mostly repeating scholar course) those not born in Spain score higher than those born in the country, reversing the trend



## Subjective well-being according feeling happy

- Subjective well-being is in direct proportion to happiness, substantially the same way for those born in Spain and those born outside
- The only difference is between those who are "strongly disagree" with the expression *I feel happy*.

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Very much agree	91,6	89,96
Agree	79,59	76,8
Neither disagree nor agree	66,19	64,53
Disagree	53,76	51,98
Strongly disagree	57,98	50,42

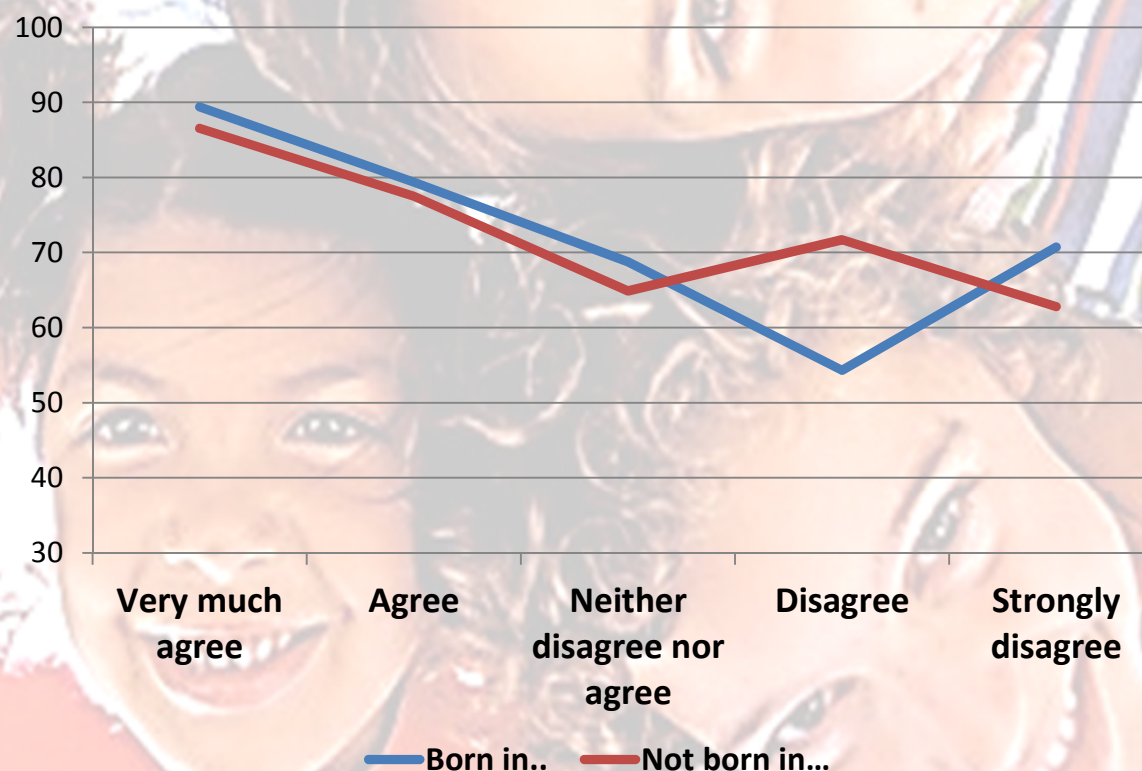




## Subjective well-being according feelings of security at home

Although the results and trends are very similar among those who "agree" or "strongly agree", there is much difference among those who "disagree" or "strongly disagree"

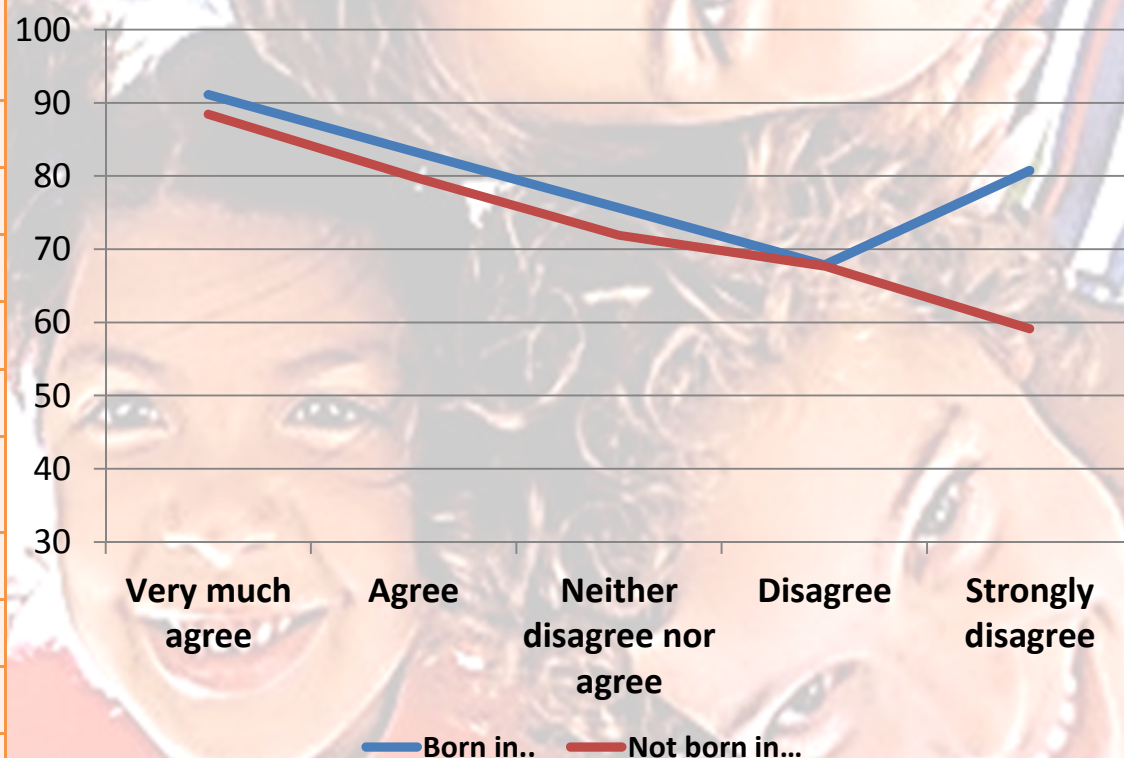
		I feel safe at home
Very much agree	Born in Spain	89,4
	Not born in	86,52
Agree	Born in Spain	79,39
	Not born in	77,49
Neither disagree nor agree	Born in Spain	68,78
	Not born in	64,87
Disagree	Born in Spain	54,32
	Not born in	71,69
Strongly disagree	Born in Spain	70,73
	Not born in	62,78



## Subjective well-being according *We have a good time together in my family*

The results show a significant difference among those “strongly disagree” with the statement *we use to have fun all together in my family*

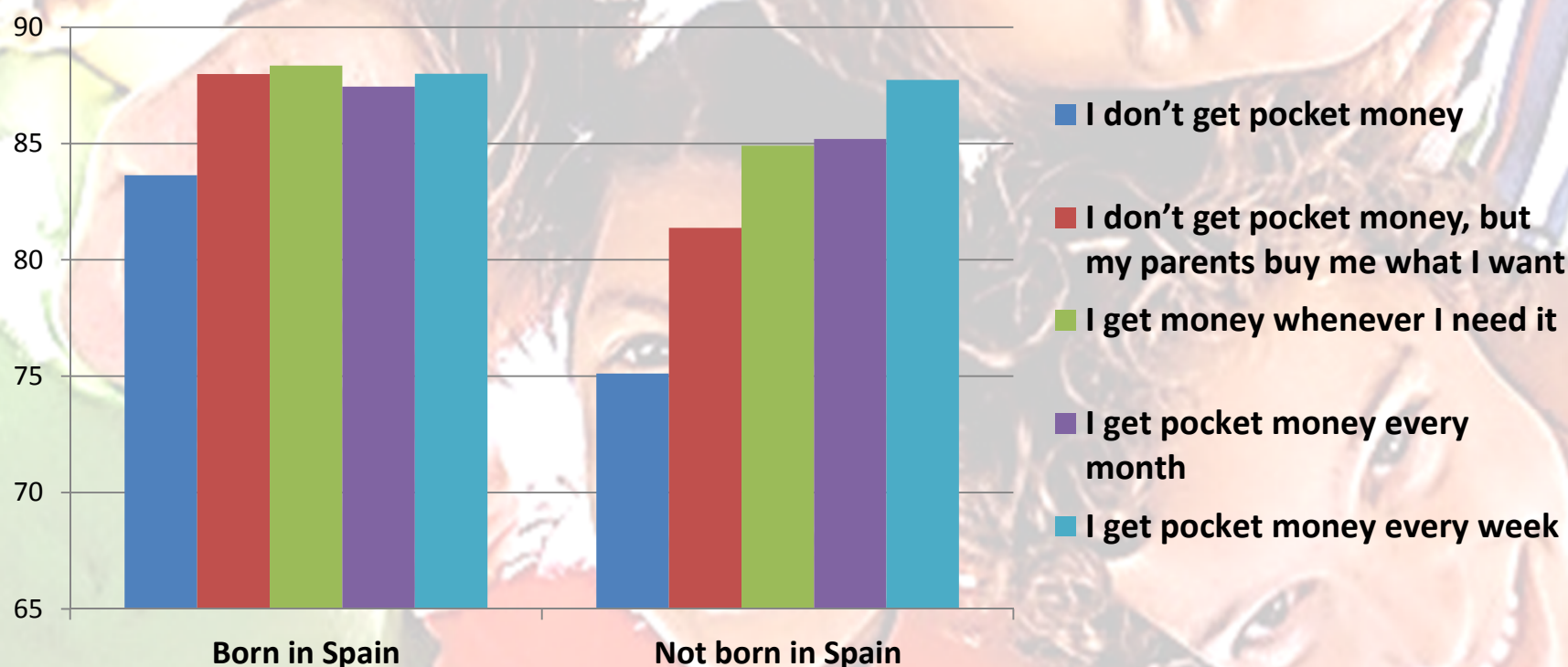
		I feel safe at home
Very much agree	Born in Spain	91,09
	Not born in	88,41
Agree	Born in Spain	83,32
	Not born in	79,88
Neither disagree nor agree	Born in Spain	75,62
	Not born in	71,89
Disagree	Born in Spain	67,83
	Not born in	67,72
Strongly disagree	Born in Spain	80,75
	Not born in	59,13

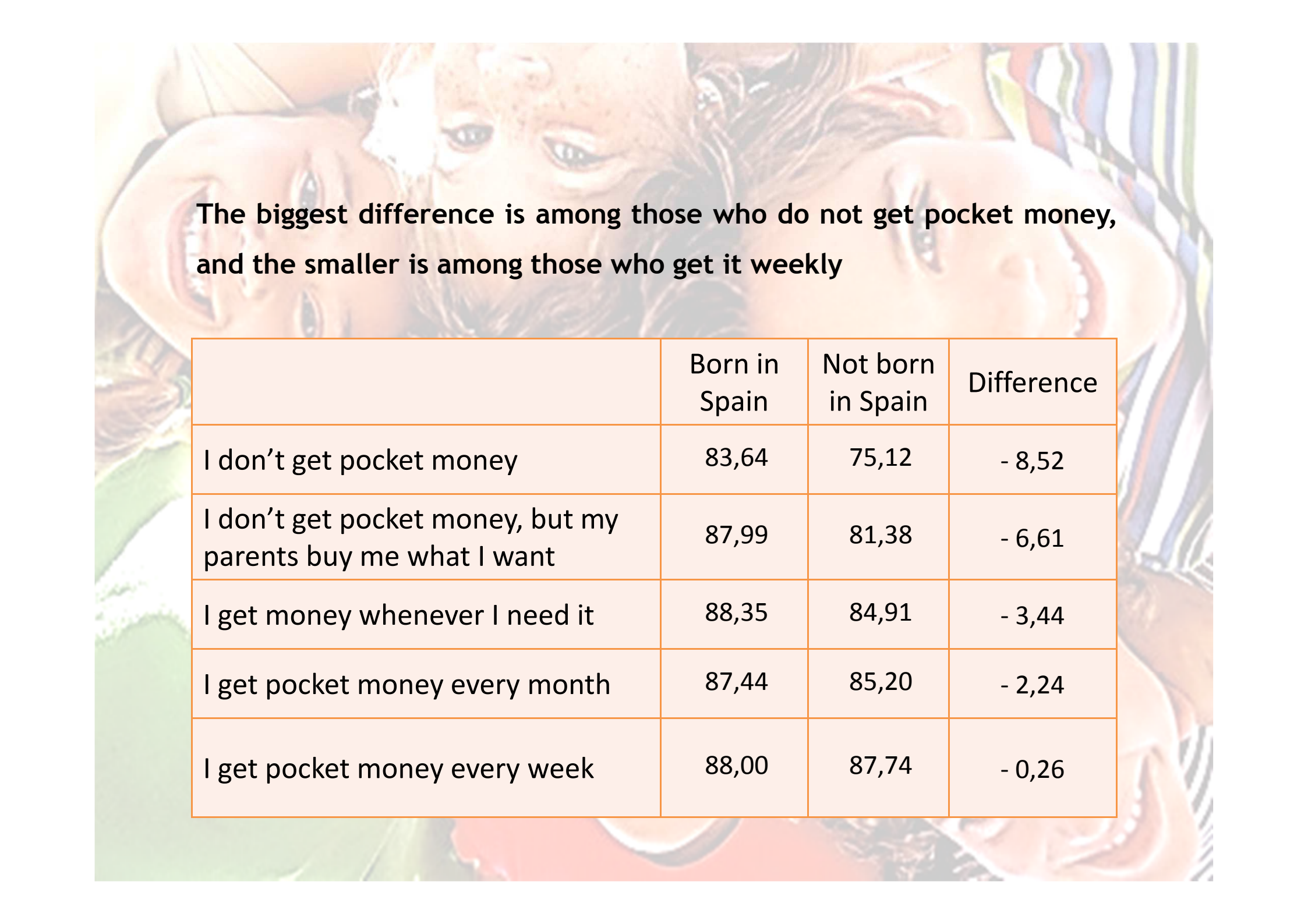




## Subjective well-being according having/not having regular pocket money

- Results confirm that children with no regular pocket money show significant lower scores in subjective well-being.
- Moreover, the relationship between pocket money and subjective well-being is even more evident and pronounced in those born outside Spain





**The biggest difference is among those who do not get pocket money, and the smaller is among those who get it weekly**

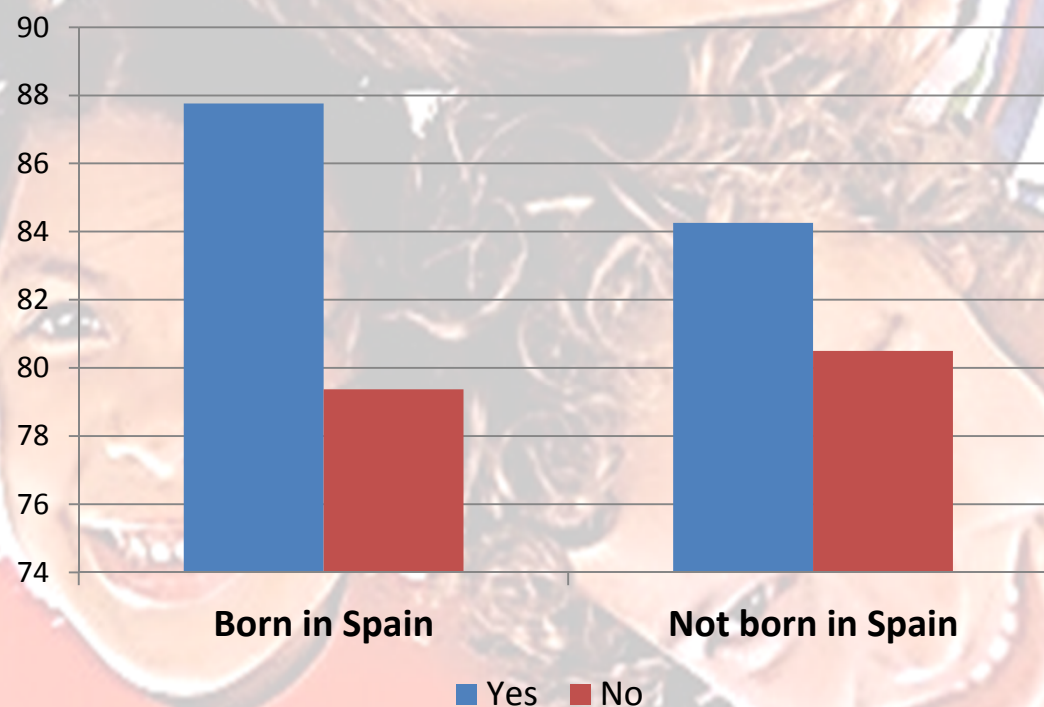
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
I don't get pocket money	83,64	75,12	- 8,52
I don't get pocket money, but my parents buy me what I want	87,99	81,38	- 6,61
I get money whenever I need it	88,35	84,91	- 3,44
I get pocket money every month	87,44	85,20	- 2,24
I get pocket money every week	88,00	87,74	- 0,26



## Subjective well-being according having a computer that can be used when needed

- In general, children who have no access to a computer when they need it, show lower scores in subjective well-being. In the case of those not born in Spain this relationship is weaker
- If we see at those who have no access to a computer, the children not born in Spain show higher scores in subjective well-being

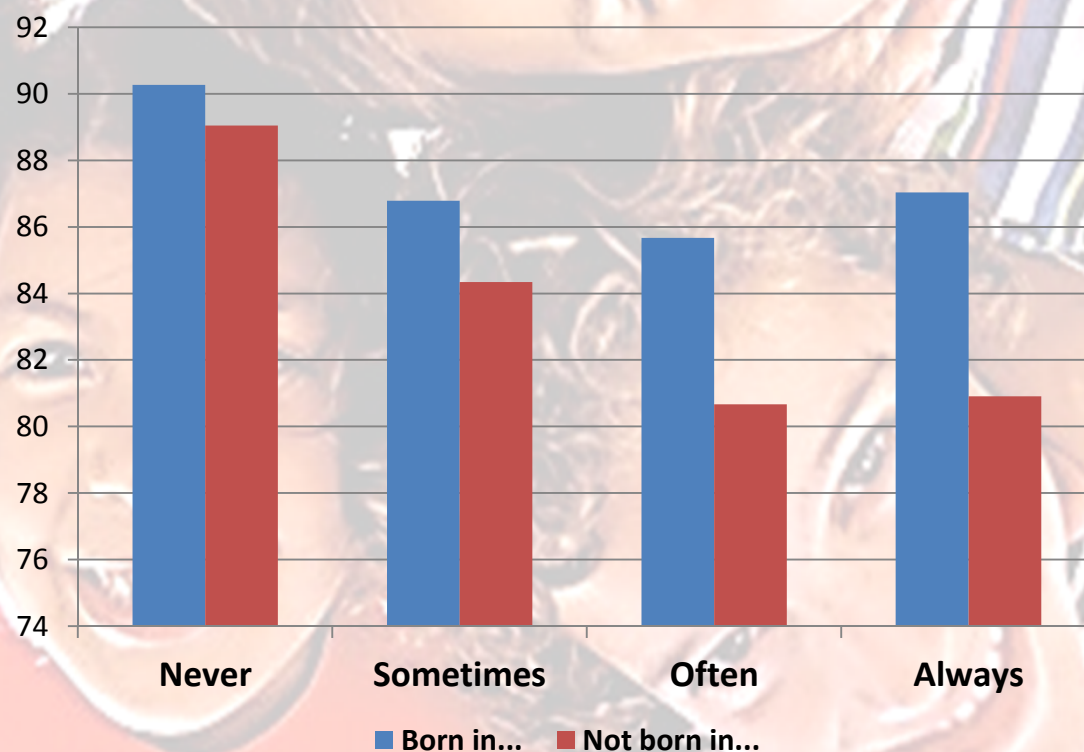
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
Yes	87,76	84,26	-3,5
No	79,37	80,50	1,13



## Subjective well-being according the frequency of being worried by the money of the family

- In general, the concern for the family money reduces children subjective well-being. The results show that this is more evident for those not born in Spain
- Children who “always” worry about the family money show the largest difference between those born or not in Spain (6,12)

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Never	90,27	89,04
Sometimes	86,78	84,34
Often	85,67	80,67
Always	87,03	80,91

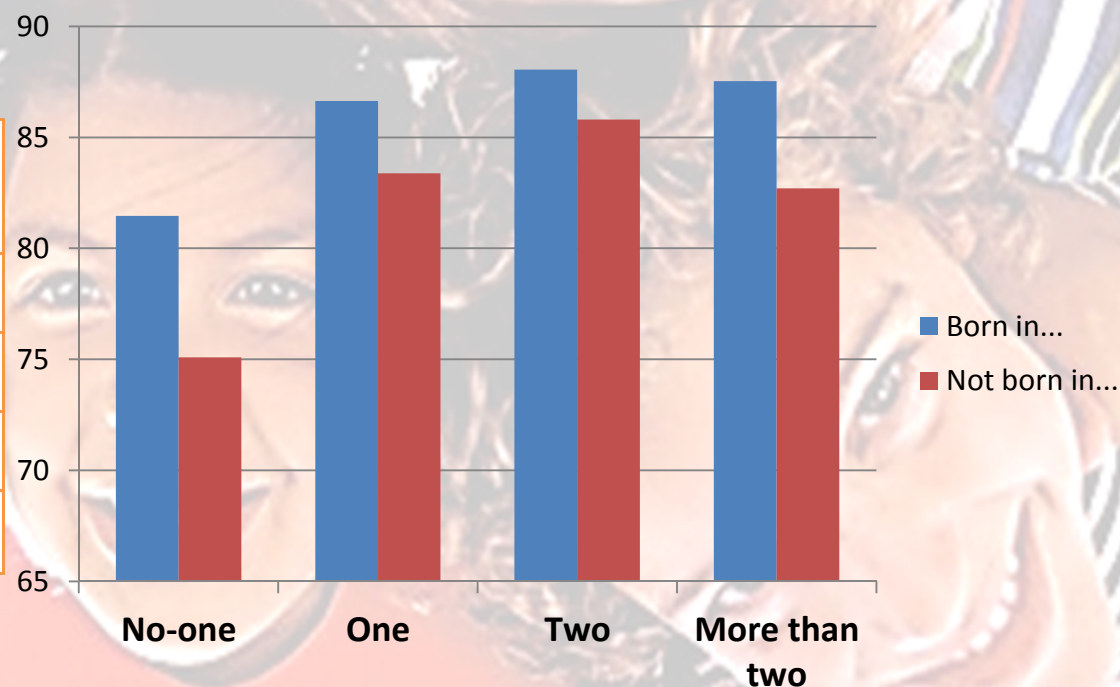




## Subjective well-being according adults in the household working for a salary

- Children not born in Spain and living in households with no adults working for a salary show especially lower scores in subjective well-being (6,37 point less than those born in Spain)
- The results confirm that subjective well-being backs down a bit when there are more than two adults working, especially in the case of children not born in Spain (-3.1 points respects households with two adults working)

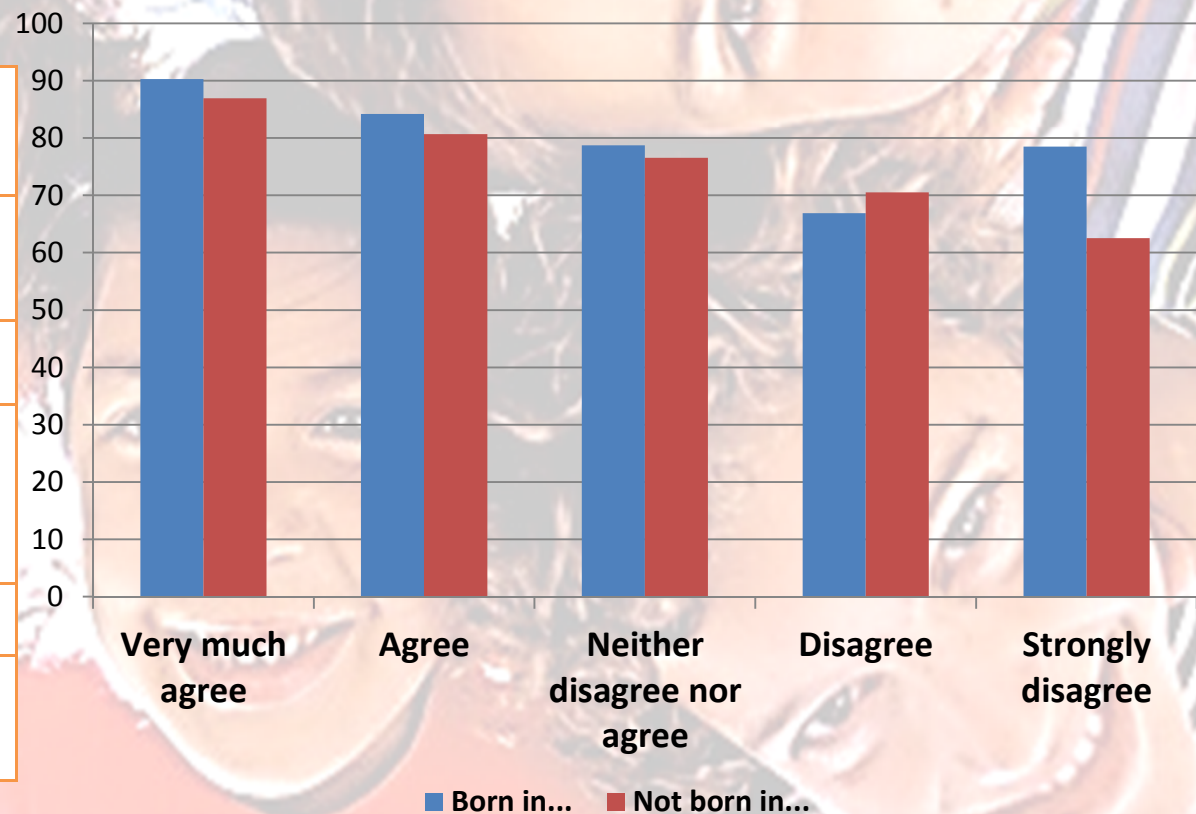
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
No-one	81,46	75,09
One	86,64	83,38
Two	88,05	85,80
More than two	87,53	82,70



## Subjective well-being according degree of agreement to the question *my friends are nice to me*

- The trend is similar in all cases except among those "strongly disagree"
- In this case the well-being level of those born outside of Spain continues to fall, while those born in Spain show a rebound in their well-being, generating an important difference between the two groups

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Very much agree	90,27	86,92
Agree	84,19	80,70
Neither disagree nor agree	78,72	76,54
Disagree	66,89	70,50
Strongly disagree	78,50	62,55

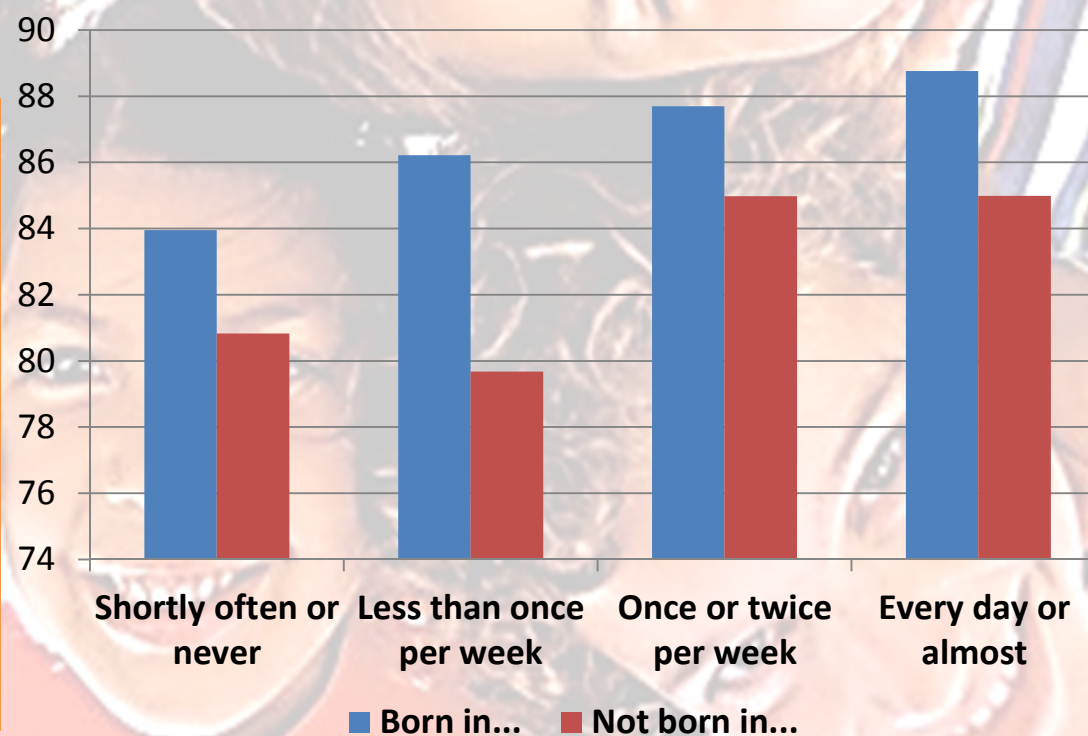




## Subjective well-being according frequency of going out with friends

- Children not born in Spain show especially low scores in subjective well-being when declare going out with friends “less than once a week”
- In addition their welfare remains almost the same if they go out with friends “one / twice a week” or “every day”

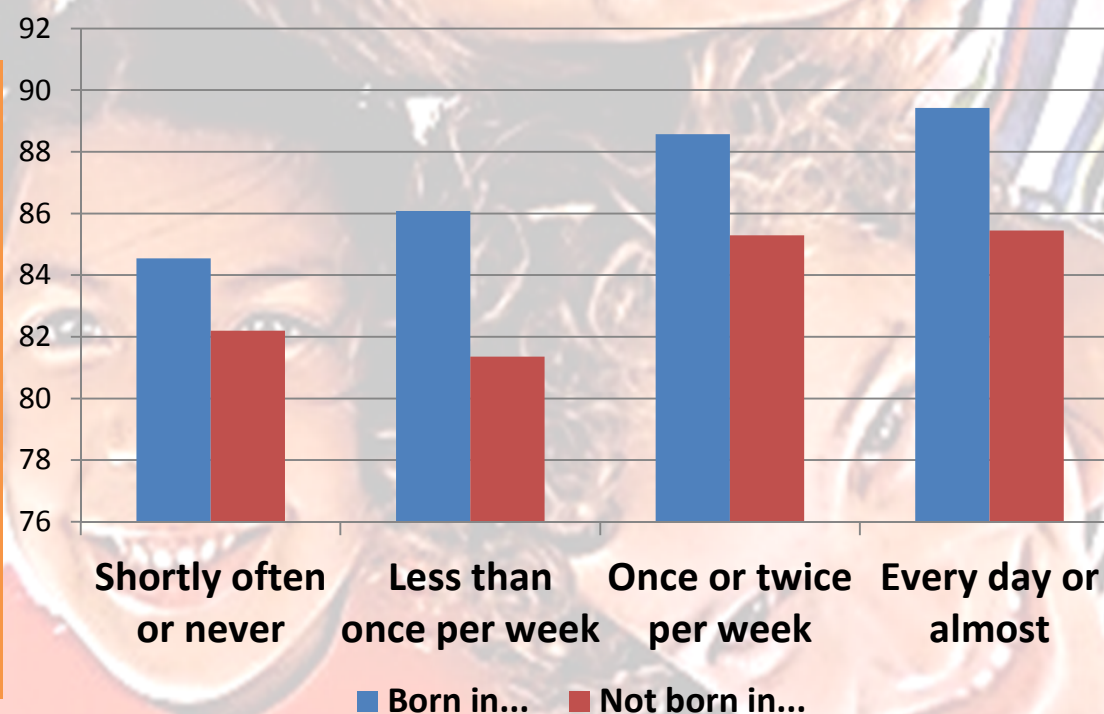
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Shortly often or never	83,95	80,83
Less than once per week	86,22	79,68
Once or twice per week	87,70	84,98
Every day or almost	88,76	84,99



## Subjective well-being according frequency of reading for fun

- The positive relationship between frequency of reading for fun and well-being does not apply in the same way to children not born in Spain than to those born in Spain
- The biggest difference between the two groups is recorded among those who read for fun less than once a week

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Shortly often or never	84,54	82,20
Less than once per week	86,08	81,36
Once or twice per week	88,57	85,29
Every day or almost	89,42	85,45

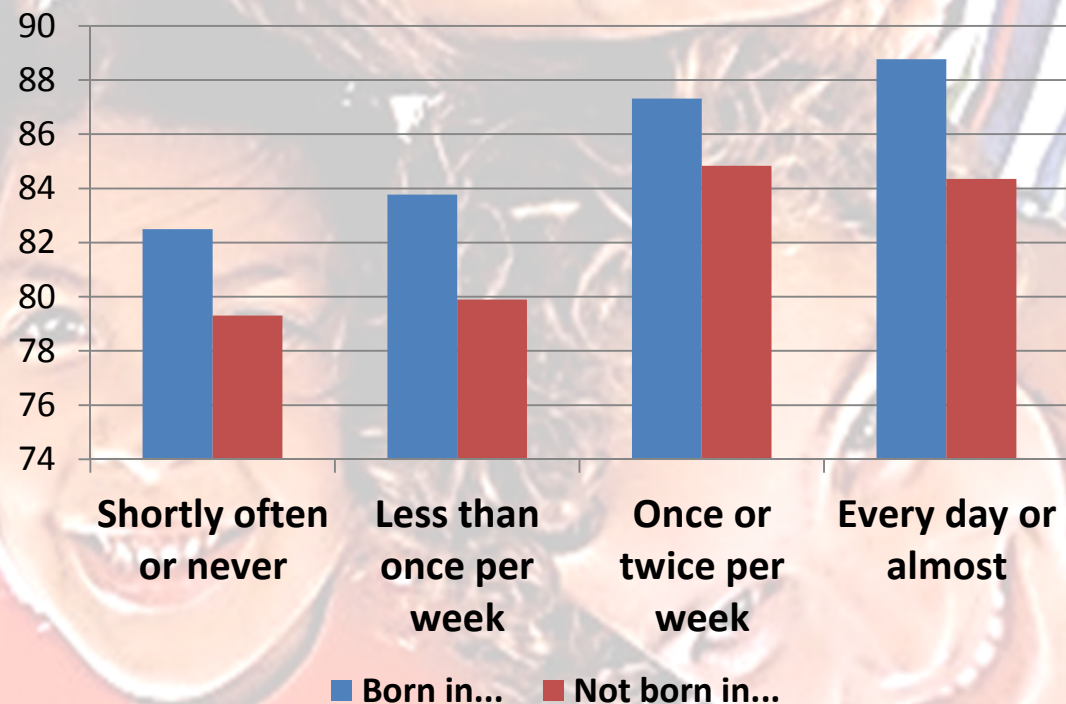




## Subjective well-being according frequency of helping with home tasks

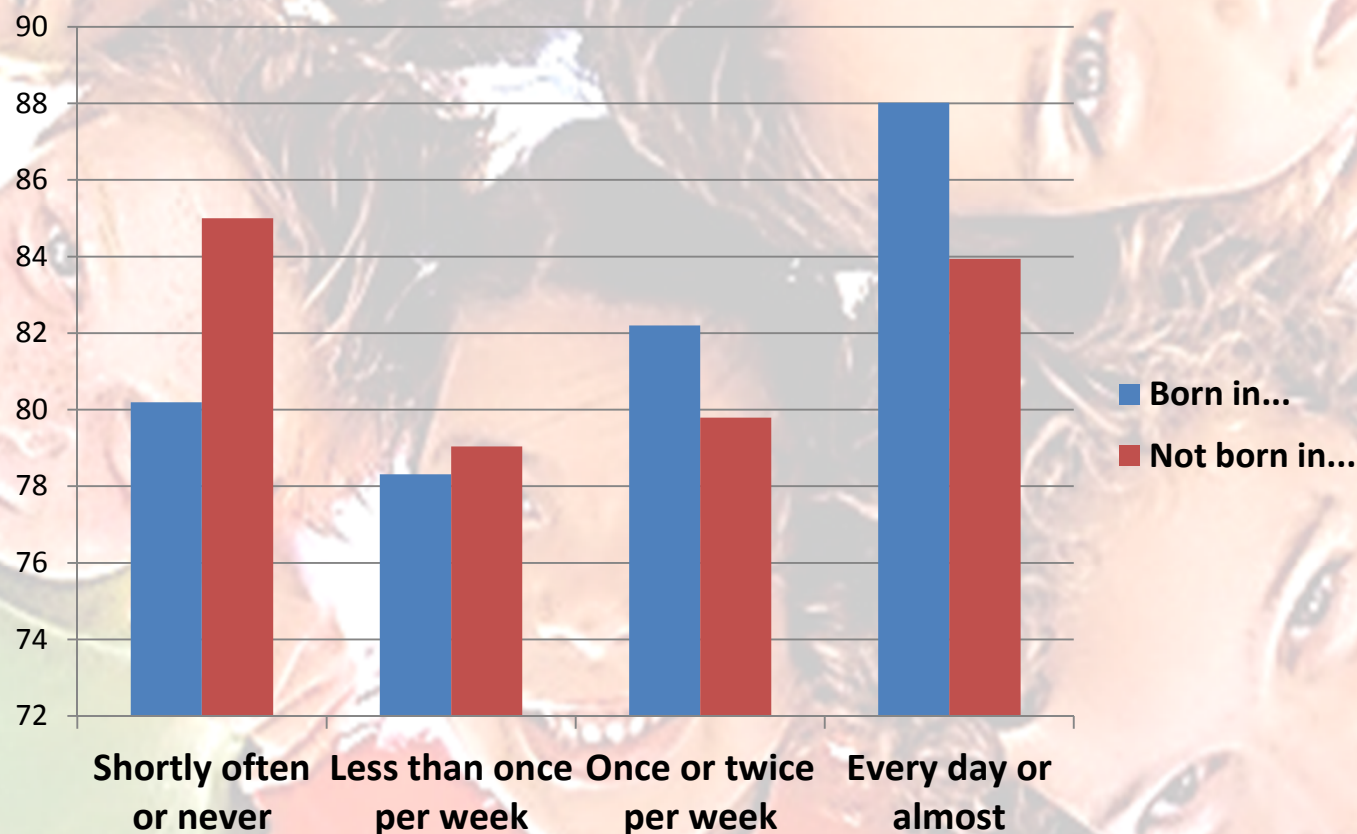
- In general the results confirm a positive relationship between subjective well-being and frequency of helping with home tasks
- Nevertheless a significant difference was recorded between those who "every day or almost every day" help in home tasks. In this case children not born in Spain show a reduction in their subjective well-being

	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain
Shortly often or never	82,49	79,30
Less than once per week	83,77	79,90
Once or twice per week	87,32	84,83
Every day or almost	88,77	84,35



## Subjective well-being according frequency of doing homework

Among children born in Spain those who do homework more frequently show the highest scores in subjective well-being, while among those not born in Spain opposite happens





A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, with a focus on their joyful expressions. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be read clearly.

## Subjective well-being according frequency of doing homework

- When focusing on those who do homework less frequently, children not born in Spain show higher subjective well-being than those born in Spain
- On the contrary, between those who do homework more frequently, children not born in Spain show lower levels of well-being

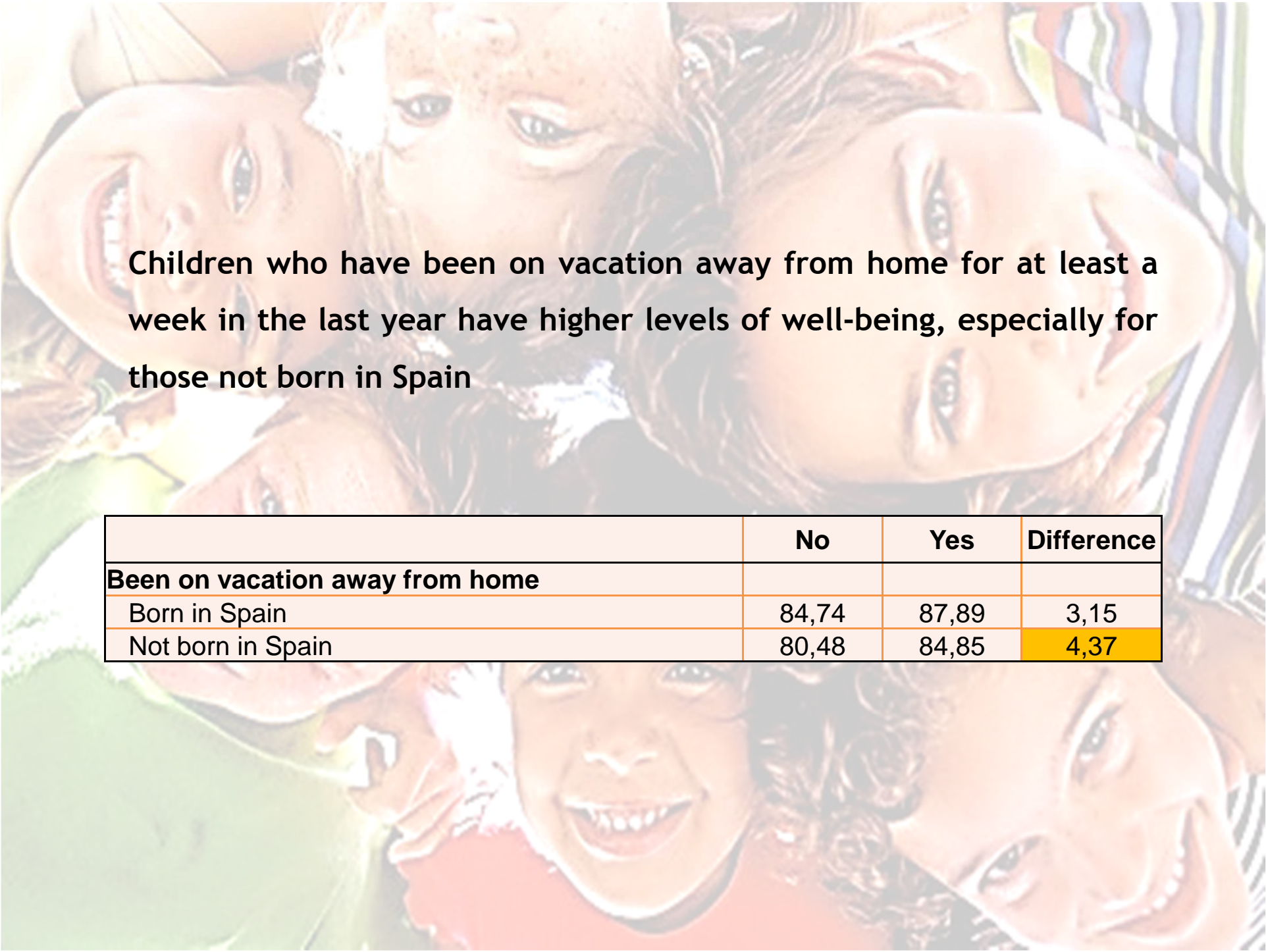
	Born in Spain	Not born in Spain	Difference
Shortly often or never	80,19	85,00	4,81
Less than once per week	78,31	79,04	0,73
Once or twice per week	82,20	79,79	-2,41
Every day or almost	88,02	83,94	-4,08

## Subjective well-being according having experienced important recent changes in their lives

- In general, having experienced important recent changes in their lives (home, town, country) has a much more negative effect for children born in Spain than for those born abroad
- The only exception is in the case of “changes in parent/person you live with”, when the negative effect on those not born in Spain is similar to the rest

	No	Yes	Difference
<b>Changes in floor/house you live in</b>			
Born in Spain	87,91	83,66	-4,25
Not born in Spain	84,02	83,19	-0,83
<b>Changes in town/city you live in</b>			
Born in Spain	87,59	83,88	-3,71
Not born in Spain	83,83	83,03	-0,8
<b>Live in other country during more than one month</b>			
Born in Spain	87,55	83,23	-4,32
Not born in Spain	83,77	83,56	-0,21
<b>Changes in parents or person you live with</b>			
Born in Spain	87,74	79,86	-7,88
Not born in Spain	84,39	78,04	-6,35





Children who have been on vacation away from home for at least a week in the last year have higher levels of well-being, especially for those not born in Spain

	No	Yes	Difference
<b>Been on vacation away from home</b>			
Born in Spain	84,74	87,89	3,15
Not born in Spain	80,48	84,85	4,37



# DISCUSSION



A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, with a semi-transparent red banner at the top containing the word 'DISCUSSION'.

## DISCUSSION

a) Children not born in Spain, attending the first form of Compulsory Secondary Education, show considerably lower scores in subjective well-being, regardless of the instrument we use to measure it

b) The intensity of this difference varies depending on the life domain, but almost never his sign does. There is only one life domain, the *area where you live in*, where children not born in Spain show higher subjective well-being

A collage of several smiling children's faces, creating a warm and positive background for the text.

## DISCUSSION

c) The relationship between subjective well-being and personal or contextual characteristics of the interviewees, on occasions varies between children born in Spain and those born abroad.

1. In some cases results show the same trend in those born in Spain and those born abroad. This means that some personal or contextual characteristics have the same effect amplifying or reducing subjective well-being (e.g. type of school, environments)



A background image showing a collage of smiling children's faces, with a red banner at the top containing the word 'DISCUSSION'.

## DISCUSSION

2. There are also personal and contextual characteristics that have totally or partially different effects on the subjective well-being of the two groups analyzed (e.g. sex, doing homework, worrying about the family money)
3. Finally, in other cases, although the trend is the same, the effect is much more evident in those born abroad (e.g. not getting pocket money; living in households with low work intensity) or vice versa (e.g. no access to a computer; moving house or city)



**Full study report (spanish):**

<http://www.unicef.es/actualidad-documentacion/publicaciones/calidad-de-vida-y-bienestar-infantil-subjetivo-en-espana>

**Executive summary (spanish)**

<http://www.unicef.es/actualidad-documentacion/publicaciones/el-bienestar-infantil-desde-el-punto-de-vista-de-los-ninos>

**Executive summary (english)**

Coming soon...





**XI ISQOLS Conference**

**Ca' Foscari University  
Venice, November 1-4, 2012**



**Discovering New Frontiers  
in Quality-of-Life Research**

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**CHILDREN'S  
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