

**CHILDREN'S
WORLDS**



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THE SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The first findings from the Children's Worlds study in Poland

**Investing In Children Conference
In Search for Innovative Solutions to Improve Children's Well-Being**

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**POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS**

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The International Survey of Children's Well-being

Introduction

- **Children's Worlds** is a world-wide research survey on children's subjective well-being.
- The main aim of the study is **to collect** solid and representative **data on children's lives** and **daily activities**, their **time use** and in particular on their own **perceptions** and **evaluations** of their **well-being**.
- The purpose is **to improve children's well-being** by creating awareness among children, their parents and their communities, but also among opinion leaders, decision makers, professionals and the general public.
- By studying children's worlds in as many countries as possible, we hope **to raise awareness of children's well-being and their life situations** and to influence government policies and services.



The International Survey of Children's Well-being

Introduction

- The project recognizes that **children's rights** are fundamental to children having a good childhood and good future life chances.
- Children require an atmosphere, in which they feel 'good' with their lives, can follow their own predispositions and are prompted to bring out the best of themselves.
- One of the most important factors in assessing whether a particular environment is conducive to children attaining their best potential is the perception of their own subjective sense of well-being. This is best done by asking children directly and by allowing them to give an assessment of their own well-being.



The International Survey of Children's Well-being

History

2009 – the beginning of the project,

2010 – the first draw version of the survey was piloted,
(Brasil, England, Germany, Honduras, Israel, Palestine, Spain)

2011 – a second draw version of the survey was piloted,
(Germany, Palestine, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Turey)

2012 – WAVE 1 – large-scale pilot of the survey of **over 30 000** children (aged 8 to 13),
(Algeria, Brasil, Canada, Chile, England, Ethiopia, Israel, Nepal, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Uganda, USA)

2013 – WAVE 2 – the survey of **over 45 000** children (aged 8 to 12) from 15 countries,
(Algeria, Colombia, England, Estonia, Ethiopia, Germany, Israel, Nepal, Norway, **Poland**, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Turkey)



The International Survey of Children's Well-being

The Questionnaires

- **You** (*age, gender, place of living, country born*)
- **Your home and the people you live with** (*sleeping place, the home you live in, the people you live with, **parents' working abroad**, agreement, satisfaction, activities*)
- **Money and things you have** (*pocket money, things you have, worry, satisfaction, adults with paid job*)
- **Your friends and other people** (*agreement, satisfaction, activities*)
- **The area where you live** (*agreement, satisfaction*)
- **School** (*agreement, bullying, satisfaction*)
- **Using your free time** (*Bob's list*)
- **More about you and your life** (*satisfaction, happiness, changes, Huebner SLSS, values aspired to, children's rights*)



The International Survey of Children's Well-being

Psychometric Scales

- **OLS – The Overall Life Satisfaction**
- **SLSS – The Student's Life Satisfaction Scale** (Huebner, 1991)
- **BMSLSS – The Brief Multidimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale** (Huebner, Seligson, Valois & Suldo, 2006)
- **PWI-SC – Personal Well-being Index – School Children** (Cummins & Lau, 2005)
- **Russell's Core Affect** (Russell, 2003)



The International Survey of Children's Well-being

Psychometric Scales

Instruments	Response scales	Items included
OLS - The Overall Life Satisfaction	5-point emoticons scale 11-point scale, from <i>Not at all satisfied</i> (0) to <i>Totally satisfied</i> (10)	How satisfied are you with your life as a whole?
SLSS – The Student's Life Satisfaction Scale	5-point scale, from <i>I don't agree</i> to <i>Totally agree</i> 11-point scale, from <i>Not at all agree</i> (0) to <i>Totally agree</i> (10)	My life is going well My life is just right The things in my life are excellent I have a good life I have what I want in life
BMSLSS – The Brief Multidimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale	5-point emoticons scale 11-point scale, from <i>Not at all satisfied</i> (0) to <i>Totally satisfied</i> (10)	Satisfaction with your family life Satisfaction with your friends Satisfaction with your school experience Satisfaction with your own body Satisfaction with the area where you live

The scales were modified to produce a total life satisfaction score in the range from 0 to 100.



The ISCWeB survey in Poland

The sample

- The survey was conducted in **Wielkopolska** region from March to June 2014 among school children **aged from 8 to 12**.
- The representative sample of **65** schools was selected using a **multistage stratified random sampling** method,
- The schools were stratified by **three factors**:
 - ***school type*** (*public and non public schools*).
 - ***territorial unit*** (*six **NTS3** subregions*),
 - ***area type*** (*urban and rural area*).
- Within each selected school, **one class for each children's age group** (from 2nd, 4th and 6th grade) was randomly selected.



The ISCWeB survey in Poland

The sample

Stratum	Age group		
	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old
200 non public schools	30	35	24
100 public schools	991	1084	993
111 koniński subreg. (U)	97	114	83
112 koniński subreg. (R)	106	68	45
121 kaliski subreg. (U)	99	103	97
122 kaliski subreg. (R)	123	141	136
131 pilski subreg. (U)	68	85	56
132 pilski subreg. (R)	42	47	59
141 leszczyński subreg. (U)	101	84	99
142 leszczyński subreg. (R)	75	114	105
151 poznański subreg. (U)	73	93	95
152 poznański subreg. (R)	79	107	87
161 Poznań City (U)	128	128	131
TOTAL	1021	1119	1017



The ISCWeB survey in Poland

The sample

- N=**3157** children aged from 8 to 13
- 48.1% girls, 51.9% boys
- 57.7% from urban schools, 42.3% from rural schools
- 96.7% from public schools, 3.3% from non-public schools
- 99.5% were born in Poland
- over 99% were living in a household with their own family
- 84.5% were living with both parents



RESULTS

Reliability analysis for different well being measures

The Student's Life Satisfaction Scale (5 items)

Age group	Cronbach's alpha
8 year-old	0.891
10 year-old	0.934
12 year-old	0.950

The Brief Multidimensional Student Life Satisfaction Scale (5 items)

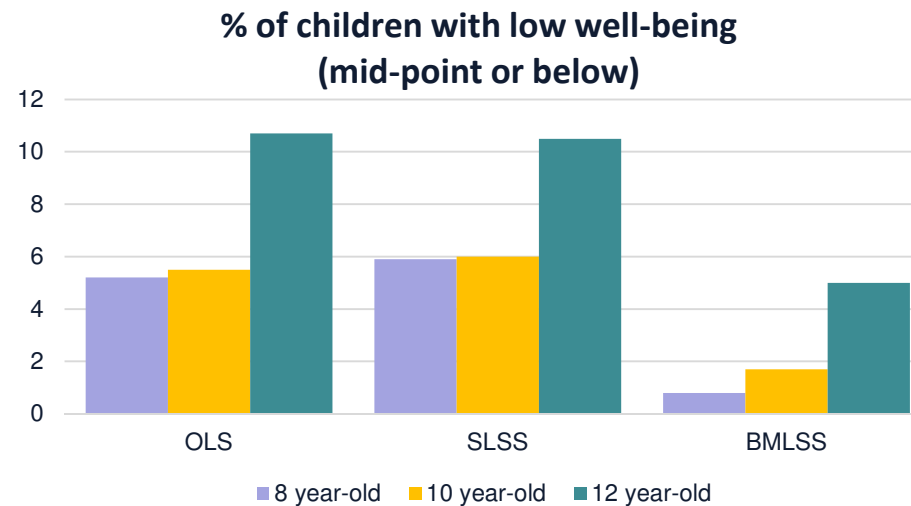
Age group	Cronbach's alpha
8 year-old	0.640
10 year-old	0.737
12 year-old	0.757



RESULTS

Mean scores for SWB indicators according to age group

Scale	Total	Age group		
		8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old
OLS	89.9	93.5	91.9	84.3
SLSS	86.5	90.0	88.1	81.4
BMSLSS	88.1	91.1	89.8	83.3



RESULTS

Mean scores for SWB indicators according to sex

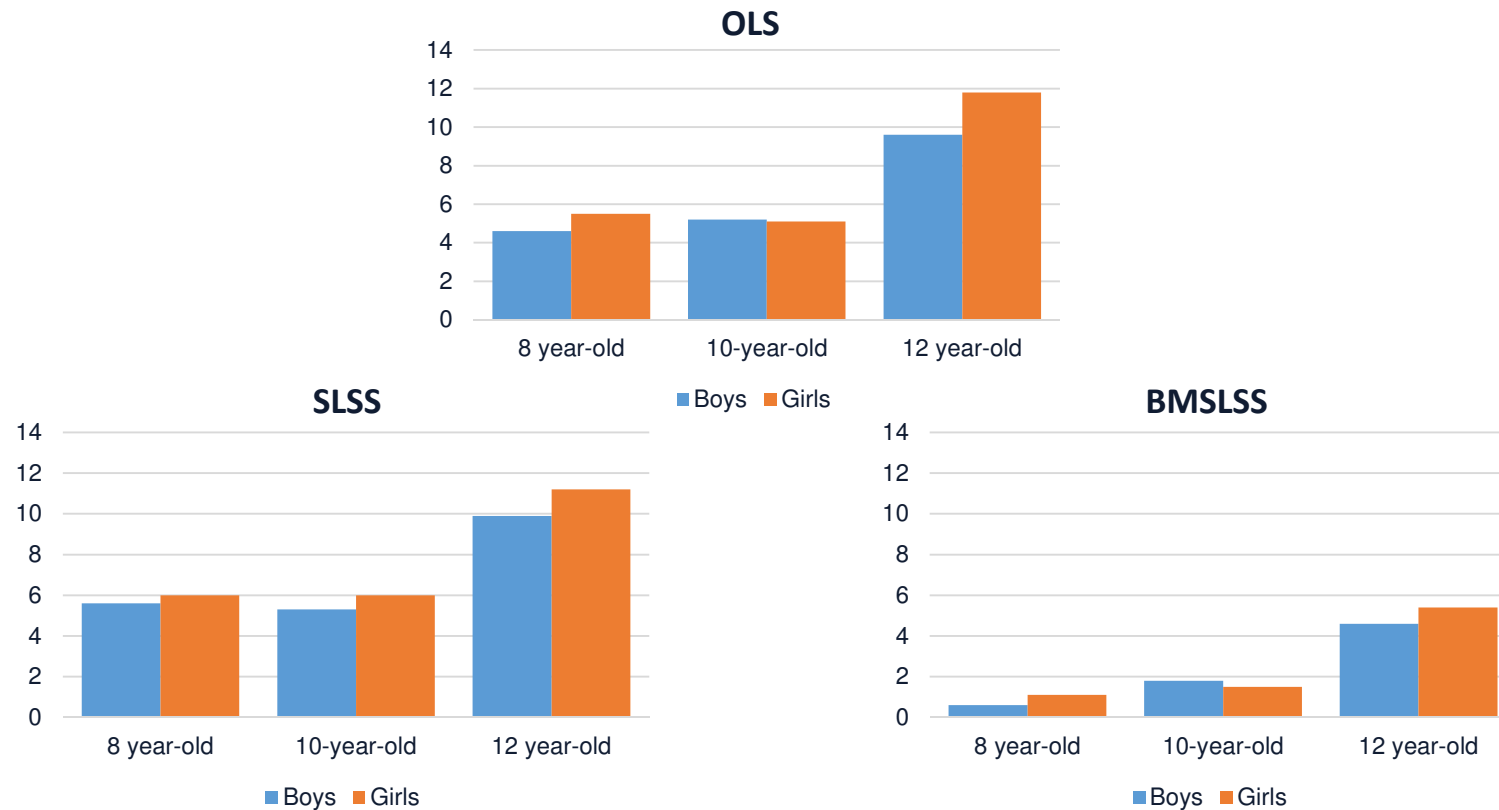
Sex	Age group		
	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old
OLS			
Boys	93.5	91.9	86.3*
Girls	93.5	92.5	82.2*
SLSS			
Boys	89.7	88.1	82.4
Girls	90.5	88.7	80.5
BMSLSS			
Boys	90.4**	89.9	83.9
Girls	91.9**	89.8	82.6

T-tests: * $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$



RESULTS

% of children with low well-being according to sex



RESULTS

Mean scores for SWB indicators according to school area type

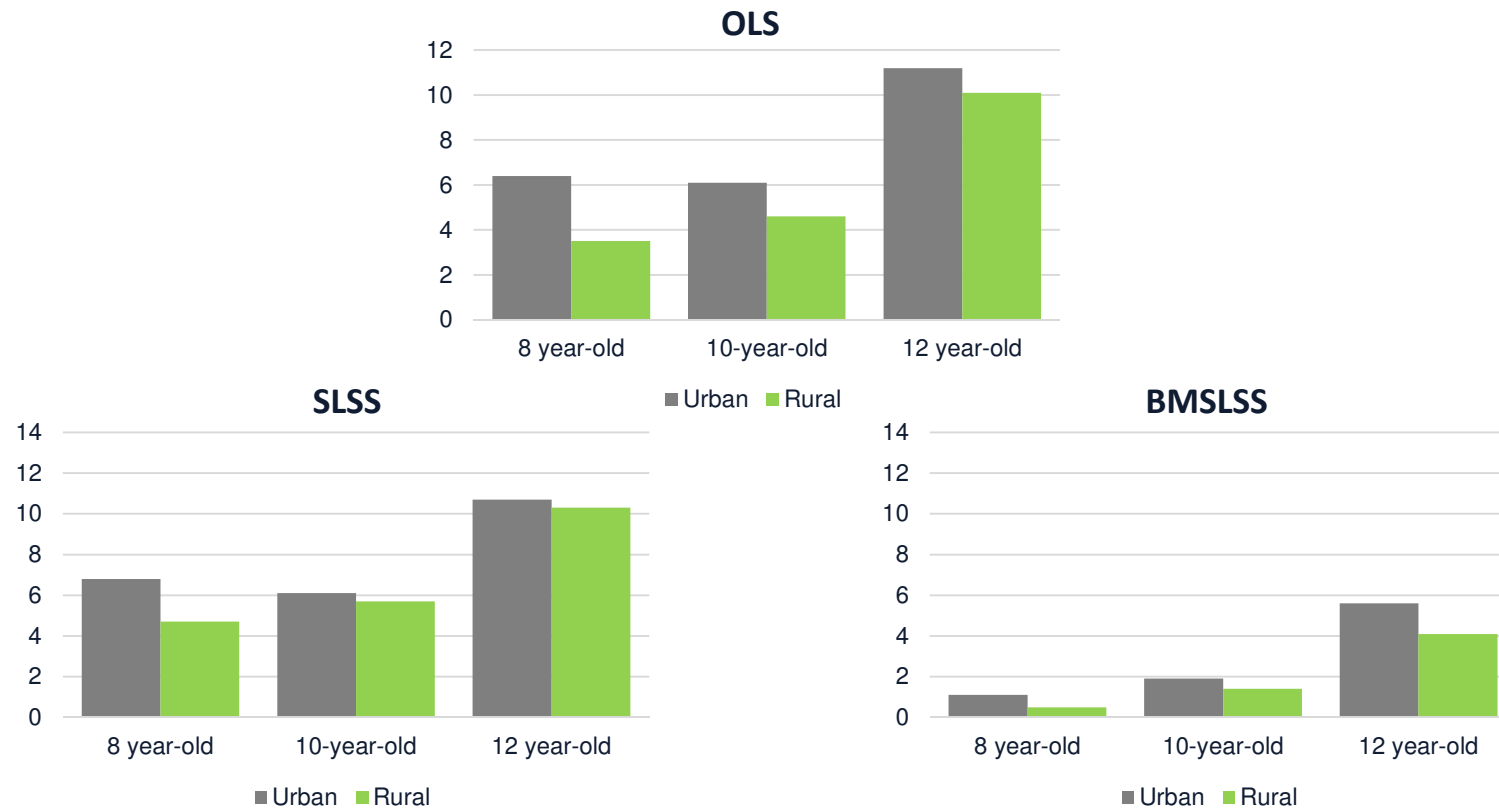
Area type	Age group		
	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old
OLS			
Urban	92.7	91.1	83.9
Rural	94.5	93.0	84.9
SLSS			
Urban	89.5	87.5	81.1
Rural	90.7	89.0	81.8
BMSLSS			
Urban	90.0*	89.0*	83.0
Rural	92.5*	91.0*	83.6

T-tests: *p<0.01



RESULTS

% of children with low well-being according to school area type



RESULTS

Mean scores for BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type – 8-year-olds (0-4 scale)

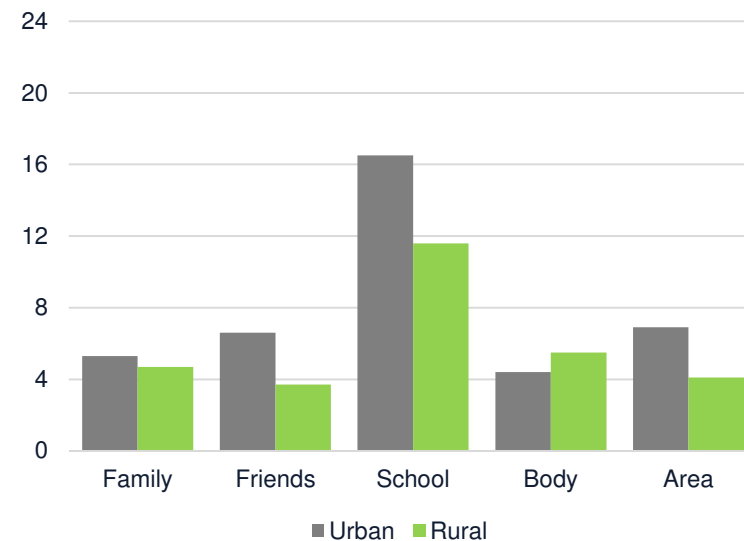
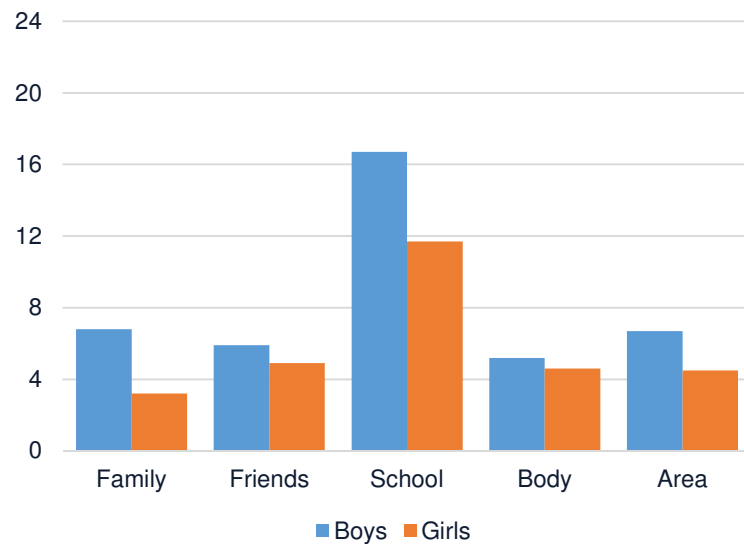
Satisfaction with:	Total	Boys	Girls	Urban	Rural
Your family life	3.7	3.7**	3.8**	3.7	3.8
Your friends	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6*	3.7*
Your school experience	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4*	3.5*
Your own body	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
The area where you live	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.6*	3.8*

T-tests: * $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$



RESULTS

% of 8-year-olds with low satisfaction with BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type



RESULTS

Mean scores for BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type – 10-year-olds (0-10 scale)

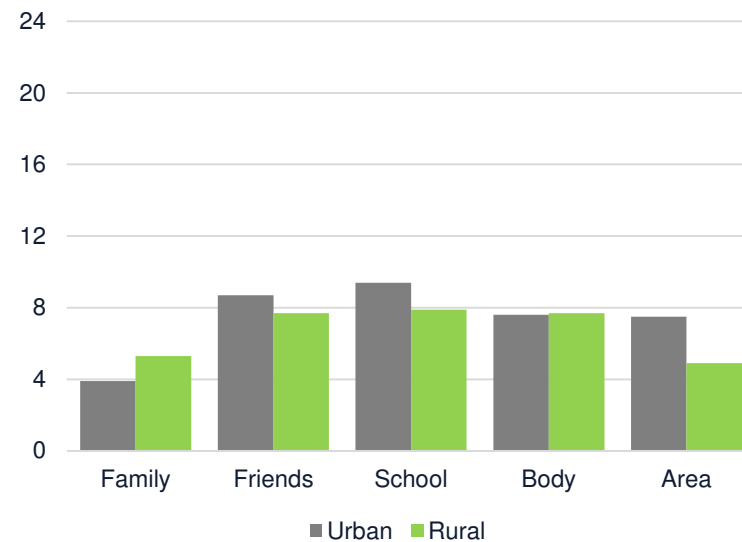
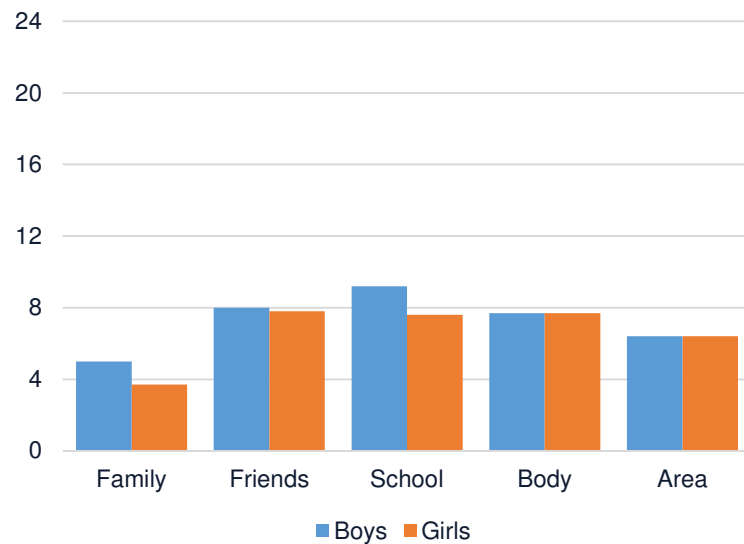
Satisfaction with:	Total	Boys	Girls	Urban	Rural
Your family life	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4
Your friends	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.6**	8.9**
Your school experience	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.5	8.7
Your own body	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.9	9.1
The area where you live	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.0**	9.2**

T-tests: * $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$



RESULTS

% of 10-year-olds with low satisfaction with BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type



RESULTS

Mean scores for BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type – 12-year-olds (0-10 scale)

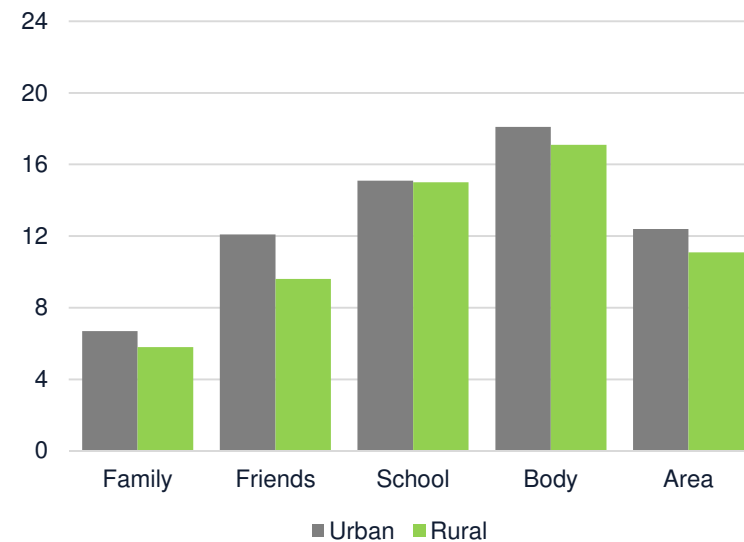
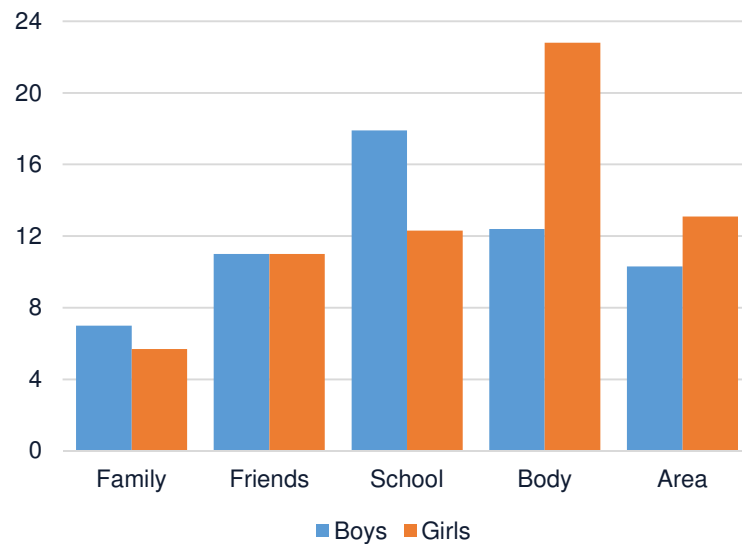
Satisfaction with:	Total	Boys	Girls	Urban	Rural
Your family life	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Your friends	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.4
Your school experience	8.0	7.8**	8.3**	8.0	8.1
Your own body	7.8	8.3*	7.3*	7.8	7.9
The area where you live	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.3

T-tests: * $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$



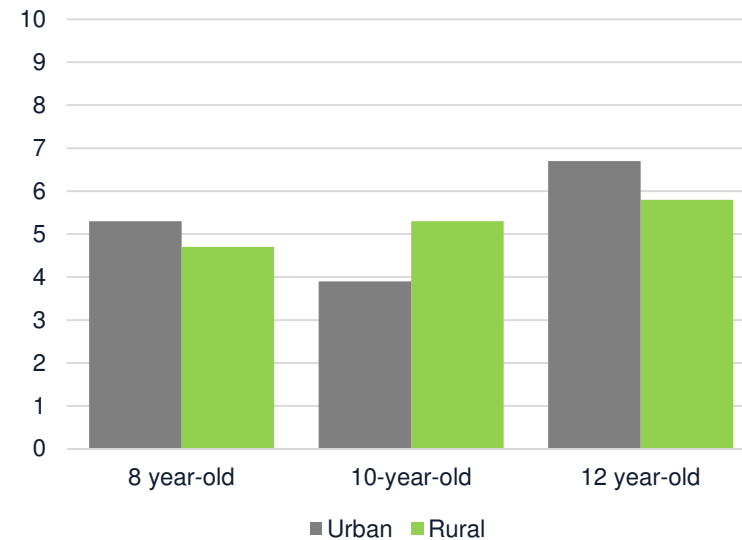
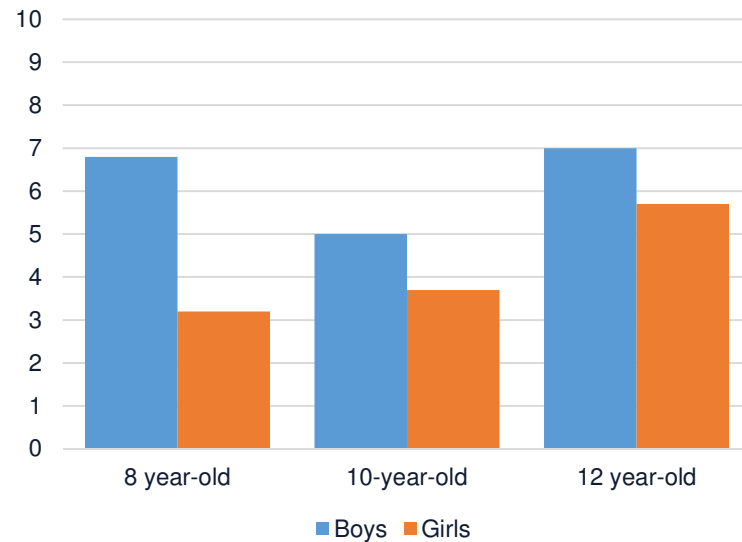
RESULTS

% of 12-year-olds with low satisfaction with BMSLSS items according to sex and school area type



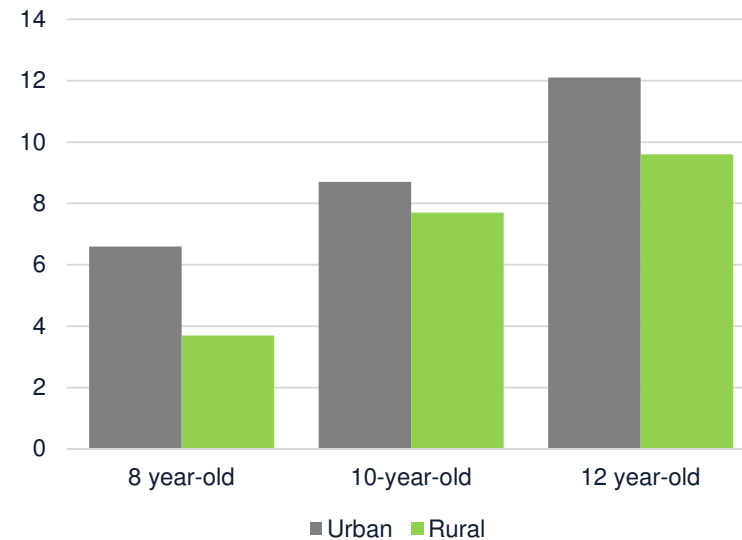
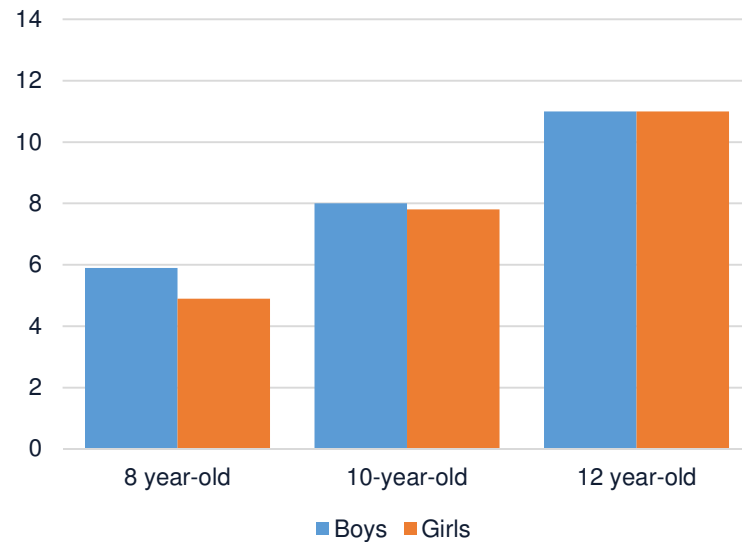
RESULTS

**% of children with low satisfaction with family life
according to sex and school area type**



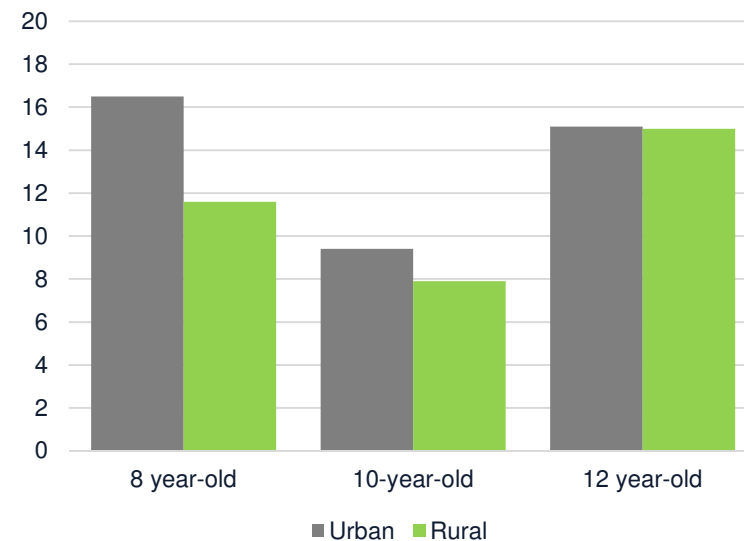
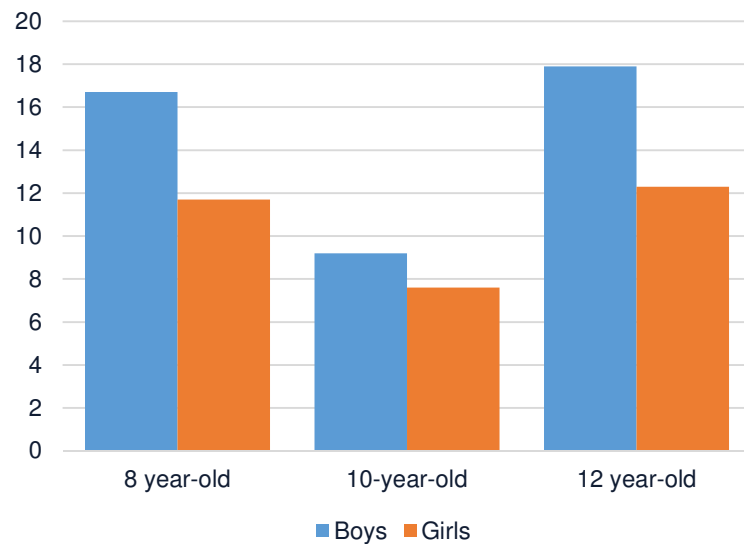
RESULTS

**% of children with low satisfaction with friends
according to sex and school area type**



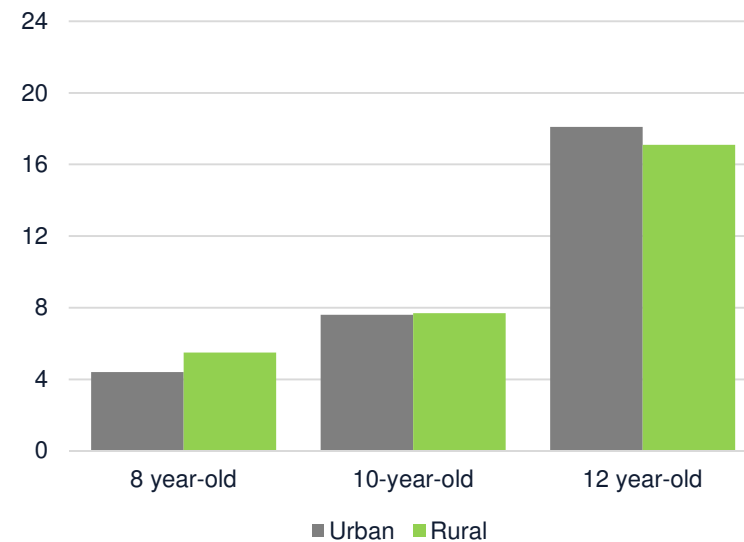
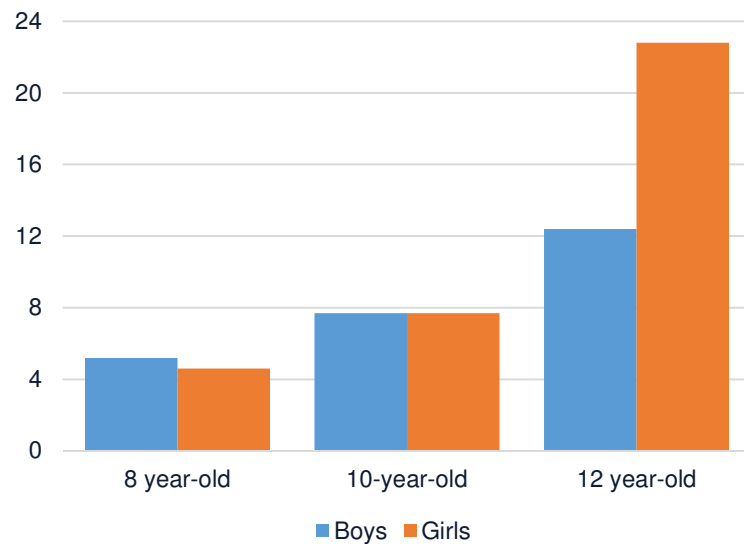
RESULTS

**% of children with low satisfaction with school experience
according to sex and school area type**



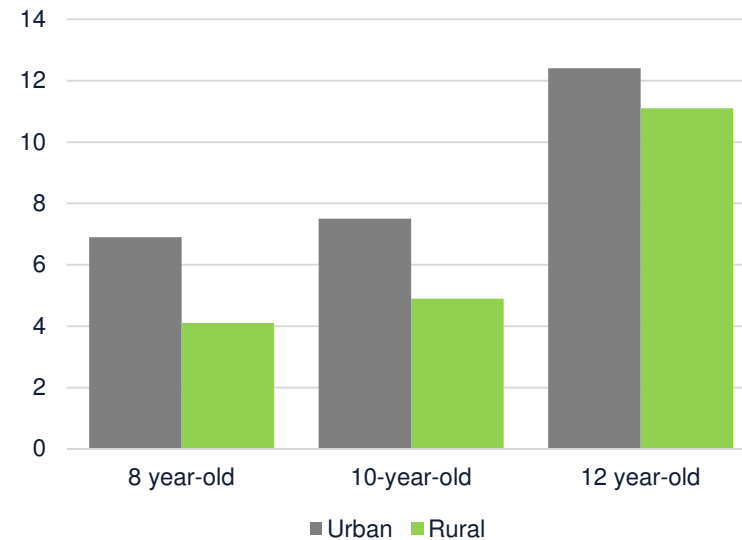
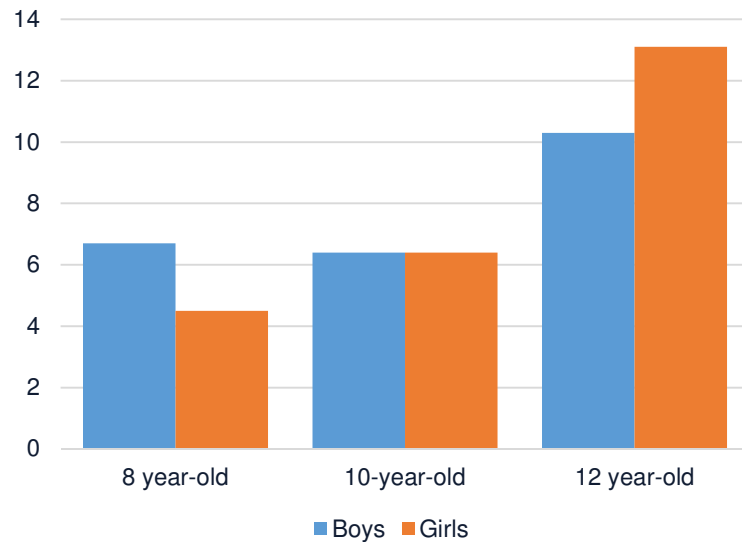
RESULTS

**% of children with low satisfaction with own body
according to sex and school area type**



RESULTS

**% of children with low satisfaction with the area where they live
according to sex and school area type**



RESULTS

Correlation among three psychometric scales and five BMSLSS items – 8-year-olds

	OLS	SLSS	BMSLSS
SLSS	0.4696		
BMSLSS	0.5255	0.4945	
Your family life	0.3537	0.3853	0.6187
Your friends	0.3146	0.2767	0.6402
Your school experience	0.3132	0.4024	0.7375
Your own body	0.4326	0.3198	0.5738
The area where you live	0.3045	0.2705	0.6269

All correlation values are significant ($p < 0.05$)



RESULTS

Regression of five BMSLSS items on the OLS and the SLSS – 8-year-olds

BMSLSS Items	OLS		SLSS	
	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value
Your family life	0.160	0.0000	0.221	0.0000
Your friends	0.136	0.0000	0.052	0.1154
Your school experience	0.111	0.0000	0.258	0.0000
Your own body	0.300	0.0000	0.148	0.0000
The area where you live	0.136	0.0000	0.079	0.0144
Adjusted R ²	0.300		0.255	



RESULTS

Correlation among three psychometric scales and five BMSLSS items – 10-year-olds

	OLS	SLSS	BMSLSS
SLSS	0.7252		
BMSLSS	0.6875	0.7280	
Your family life	0.4703	0.5650	0.6769
Your friends	0.4606	0.5151	0.7010
Your school experience	0.4840	0.4891	0.7018
Your own body	0.5850	0.5359	0.7343
The area where you live	0.4256	0.4666	0.6797

All correlation values are significant ($p < 0.05$)



RESULTS

Regression of five BMSLSS items on the OLS and the SLSS – 10-year-olds

BMSLSS Items	OLS		SLSS	
	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value
Your family life	0.238	0.0000	0.320	0.0000
Your friends	0.100	0.0000	0.165	0.0000
Your school experience	0.164	0.0000	0.159	0.0000
Your own body	0.367	0.0000	0.242	0.0000
The area where you live	0.106	0.0000	0.153	0.0000
Adjusted R ²	0.501		0.547	



RESULTS

Correlation among three psychometric scales and five BMSLSS items – 12-year-olds

	OLS	SLSS	BMSLSS
SLSS	0.7184		
BMSLSS	0.7084	0.7740	
Your family life	0.4805	0.6339	0.6777
Your friends	0.4893	0.5371	0.7094
Your school experience	0.4859	0.5413	0.7547
Your own body	0.5854	0.5767	0.7287
The area where you live	0.4449	0.4943	0.7141

All correlation values are significant ($p < 0.05$)



RESULTS

Regression of five BMSLSS items on the OLS and the SLSS – 12-year-olds

BMSLSS Items	OLS		SLSS	
	Beta	p-value	Beta	p-value
Your family life	0.184	0.0000	0.338	0.0000
Your friends	0.178	0.0000	0.175	0.0000
Your school experience	0.131	0.0000	0.141	0.0000
Your own body	0.349	0.0000	0.286	0.0000
The area where you live	0.148	0.0000	0.148	0.0000
Adjusted R ²	0.512		0.622	



CONCLUSIONS

- The study on subjective well-being of the children aged 8-12 years from Wielkopolskie voivodship shows that the children's **satisfaction** with their lives was fairly **high**.
- The level of overall **life satisfaction** was decreasing along with **age** of the children.
- The share of children whose assessment of their life was low reached the level of 0.8% (BMSLSS for 8-year-olds) to even 10.7% (OLS for 12-year-olds).
- There was a **mixed** pattern of **gender differences** in overall SWB.
- Children from **rural** area schools had slightly **higher** levels of subjective well-being whichever measure was used.



CONCLUSIONS

- The findings on children's feelings about five different aspects of their lives show some important **variations**.
- The level of **satisfaction** with various BMSLSS **items** was **decreasing** along with **age** of the children.
- The aspect of life with which the children were **most satisfied** (regardless of age and sex) was **family life**.
- The **worst marks** were given by the children (regardless of age) to the aspect connected with their **school life**.
- There was a relatively **low level of satisfaction** among the 12-year-olds (especially among girls) with their **own bodies**.



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