



THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES  
2009



# ENGLAND

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**7 May 2015**

# Background

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- ◆ In England a lot of research already done on child subjective well-being
  - ◆ Surveys for the Children's Society *Good Childhood Reports*
  - ◆ Index in British Household Youth Panel since 1994
  - ◆ Now also in Millennium Cohort Survey at 11
  - ◆ Now Office of National Statistics publishing child well-being index
- ◆ Know from HBSC surveys that UK subjective well-being comparatively low
- ◆ But evidence of an improvement until crisis.

# Methods

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- ◆ School based survey on line.
- ◆ Schools got £5 per Q. Still difficult to recruit.
- ◆ Sample of schools stratified by % receiving free school meals and size. Weights applied post hoc.
- ◆ England 84% population of the UK.
- ◆ Achieved sample 1134 8 year olds; 979 10 year olds; 1317 12 year olds Total=3430.
- ◆ Plus survey of 1000 14 year olds funded by The Children's Society with a different Q.

# Findings 1

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- ◆ A third of children in England not living with both parents
- ◆ 30% moved house in the last year
- ◆ Only 27% knew about the UN CRC
- ◆ Generally high levels of satisfaction
- ◆ 5% in the tail of special interest
- ◆ Highest satisfaction with things you have, family, friends, housing, health, safety.
- ◆ Lowest satisfaction with teachers, own body, self-confidence, environment

# Satisfaction with different aspects of life (12 year-olds) (Mean and SD)

	Mean	Std. Deviation	% below mid-point
All the things you have	9.08	1.508	2.3%
The people you live with	9.08	1.784	3.5%
Your family life	8.91	1.858	4.2%
All the other people in your family	8.88	1.890	4.1%
The house or flat where you live	8.83	1.877	3.9%
Your friends	8.79	1.857	4.5%
Your health	8.63	2.105	6.1%
How safe you feel	8.56	1.987	5.0%
What you do in your free time	8.54	2.153	6.5%
How you are dealt with at the doctors	8.52	2.054	5.6%
Your relationships with people in general	8.52	2.026	5.8%
The amount of choice you have in life	8.45	2.126	6.2%
The things you want to be good at	8.45	1.974	5.3%
The freedom you have	8.34	2.403	8.7%
Doing things away from your home	8.33	2.212	7.3%
Things you have learned	8.30	2.047	5.6%
How you use your time	8.27	2.079	5.7%
The area you live in general	8.26	2.258	7.4%
How you are listened to by adults in general	8.17	2.342	8.7%
What may happen to you later in your life	8.17	2.187	6.5%
Your school marks	8.01	2.085	7.0%
Your school experience	8.00	2.174	7.4%
Your life as a student	7.92	2.278	8.4%
The people in your area	7.82	2.595	12.0%
Other children in your class	7.66	2.340	9.5%
The outdoor areas children can use in your area	7.53	2.785	14.4%
Your self-confidence	7.39	2.851	16.0%
The way that you look	7.33	2.993	17.2%

# Findings 2

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- ◆ Satisfaction with most things falls as children get older especially school and appearance
- ◆ Girls less happy with appearance
- ◆ Boys less happy with school
- ◆ Children in couples happier but associated with deprivation and stability
- ◆ Children with higher levels of material deprivation were less satisfied with their local area and with all aspects of their school life, were more likely to have been bullied and had lower levels of overall subjective well-being across all six measures.

# Variation in subjective well-being scores

	OLS	SLSS	BMSLS	PWI7	PWI9	Positive affect
<b>Gender</b>						
Boy	8.82	86.0	86.3	87.4	86.7	84.6
Girl	8.48	84.8	83.5	85.7	85.2	81.6
<b>Age group</b>						
10 year-olds	8.92	87.6	87.4	87.8	87.3	85.7
12 year-olds	8.41	83.2	82.5	85.4	84.6	80.5
<b>Family structure</b>						
Mother and father	8.85	87.4	86.9	87.9	87.3	84.6
Parent and stepparent	8.14	80.5	78.9	82.5	82.1	79.9
Lone parent	8.32	81.9	81.4	84.7	84.1	80.1
Other	8.18	77.7	82.2	80.9	80.5	78.7
<b>Material deprivation (Items lacked)</b>						
None	8.98	88.6	87.3	89.3	88.9	86.0
One	8.69	85.8	84.9	86.7	86.1	83.6
Two or more	8.09	79.1	80.3	80.5	80.0	76.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.66</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>86.6</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>83.1</b>

# Comparative results interesting

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- ◆ Confirm comparatively low SWB
- ◆ Low on body, the way you look, self confidence
- ◆ Low on local area
- ◆ Low on relationships with teachers ?school switching
- ◆ Low on quiet space to work ?space standards
- ◆ Less time spent on home work ?long school day
- ◆ High satisfaction with things and friends
- ◆ High satisfaction with police ?unarmed
- ◆ But this is depressing



# Contribution of bullying to SWB

