

Korean Children's Subjective Well-being: Major findings

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South Korea

- ▶ Population: about 50 million with 11.2 million 0-19 years old (23.4%).
- ▶ Religion: 21% Buddhist, 17% Protestants, and 10% Catholics
- ▶ Ethnicity: Koreans (only about 3% are foreign-born)
- ▶ GDP per capita: \$30,613 in 2013
- ▶ Education: compulsory education until age 14, very low drop out rate, 70% of high school students enter colleges
- ▶ Contexts
 - ▶ Strong emphasis on 'well-becoming': PISA academic achievement ranked at the 5th among OECD
 - ▶ Very low fertility rate at 1.23
 - ▶ Private tutoring for college entrance, very competitive

Data

- ▶ A nationally representative sample of children in the 3rd grade (aged 8), 5th grade (aged 10), and the 7th grade (aged 12).
- ▶ Primary sampling unit: schools
- ▶ A stratified cluster sample
- ▶ The survey was administered by homeroom teachers
- ▶ The survey period: late 2013 - Feb. 2014

Table 2: Weighted sample (Numbers)

	Stratum																
	All	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8 years	2,432	415	139	117	137	83	82	58	653	72	78	108	91	85	117	165	33
10 years	2,438	410	142	121	137	85	82	58	638	76	79	106	95	90	119	167	34
12 years	2,597	437	157	134	144	94	86	65	668	78	82	111	102	97	129	178	35
Total	7,467	1,262	438	372	418	262	250	181	1,959	226	239	325	288	272	365	510	102

Various Subjective Well-being Measures

▶ Happiness

- ▶ How happy have you been during last 2 weeks (1 item, 0 to 10 point)

▶ Life Satisfaction

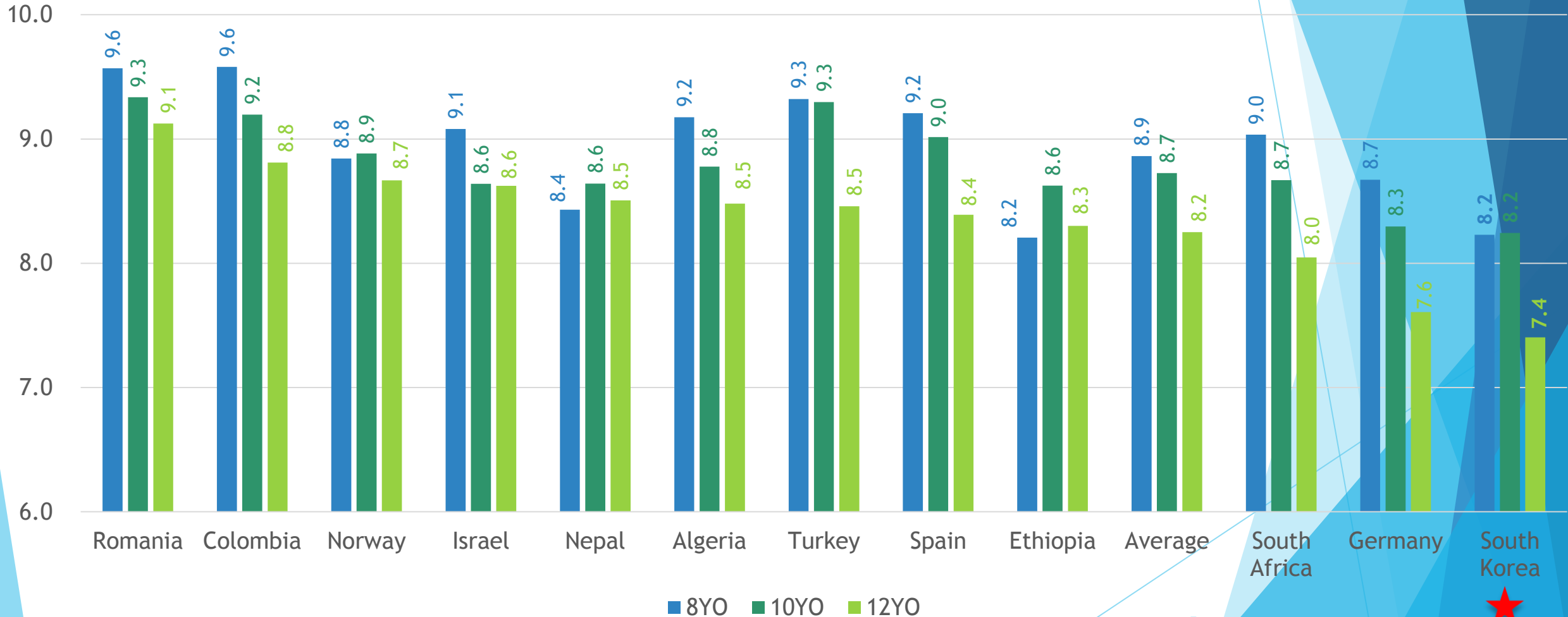
- ▶ Student Life Satisfaction Scale (SLSS, 5 items, 0 to 10 point)
- ▶ Personal Well-being Index School Children (PWI, 9 items, 0 to 10 point)

▶ Positive Affect

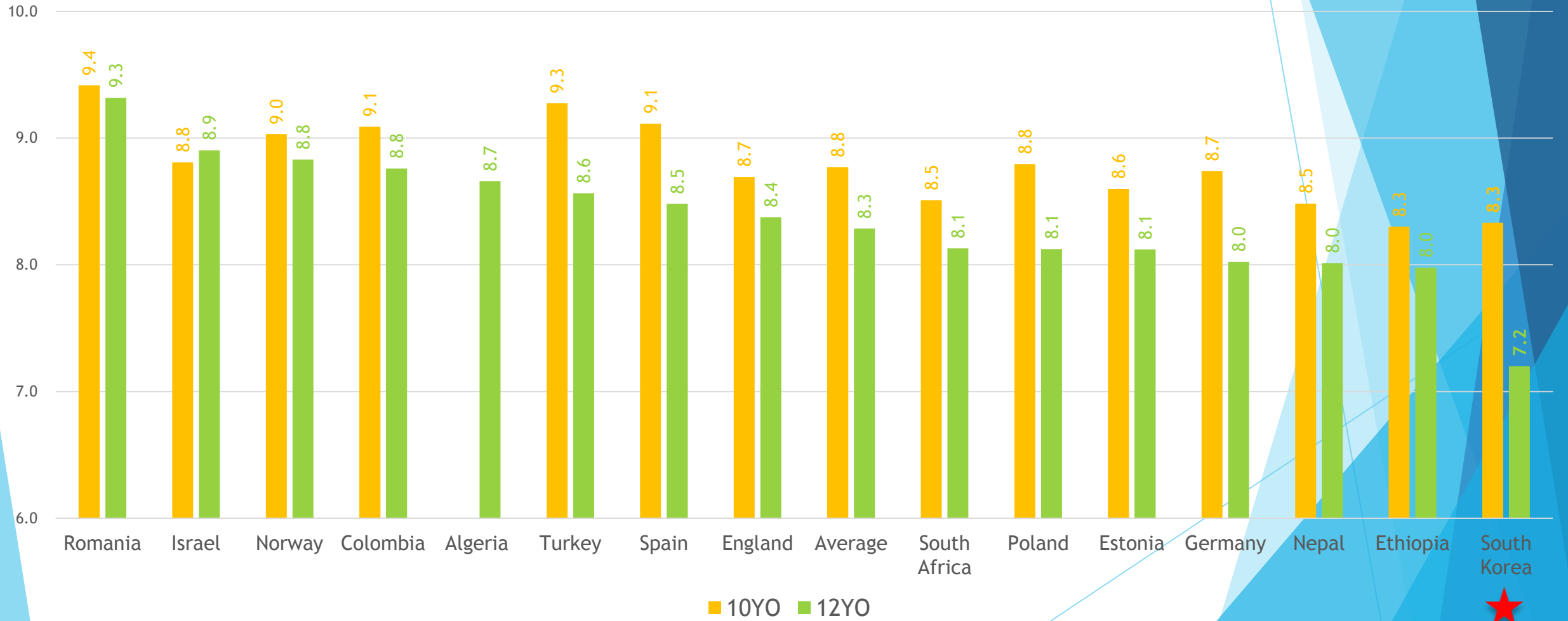
- ▶ Russel's Core Affect (short-version, 6 items, 0 to 10 point)

Happiness: (1 item, 0-10, 11point scale)

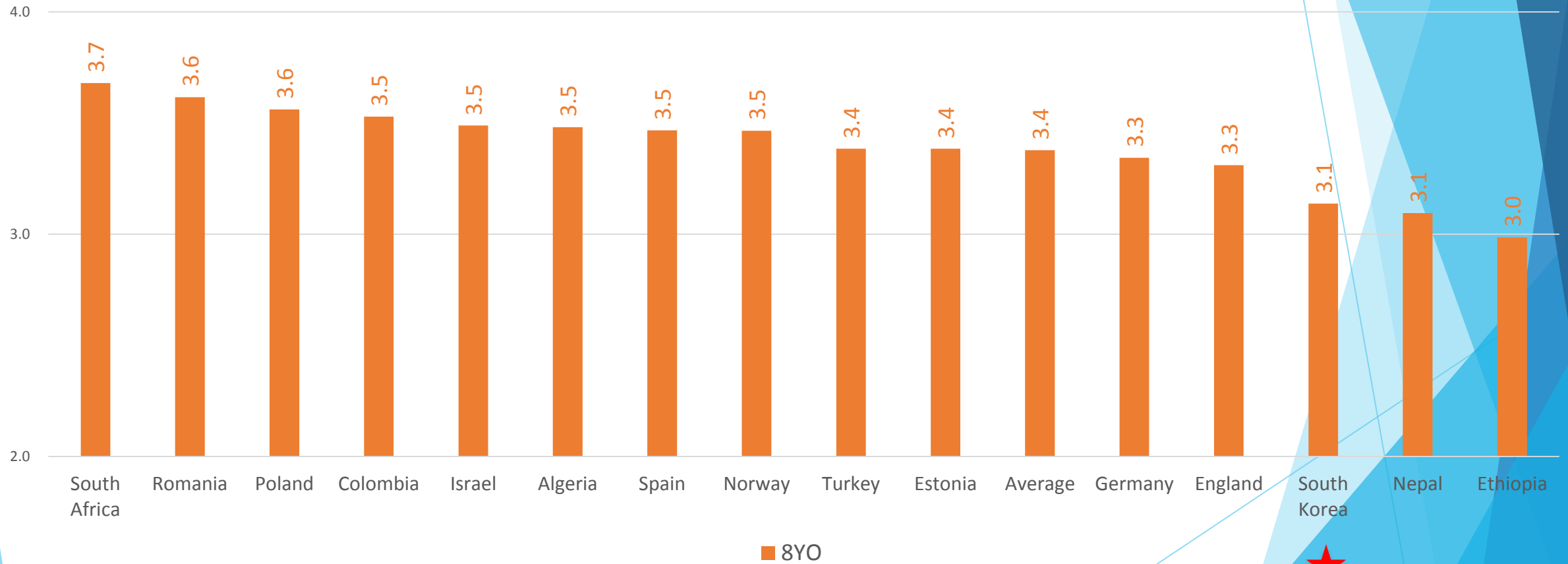
(Overall, how happy have you been feeling during the last two weeks?)



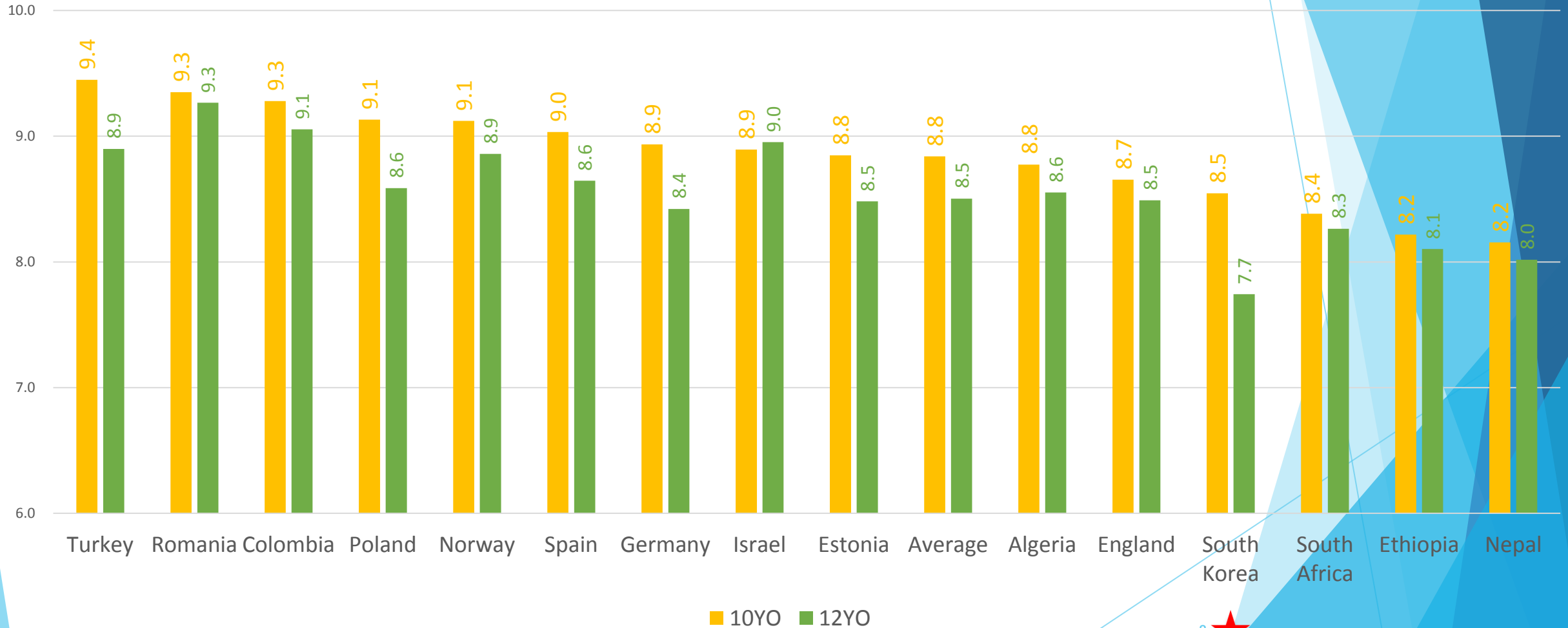
Life Satisfaction: SLSS (5 items, 0-10, 11point scale)



Life Satisfaction: SLSS (5 items, 0-4, 5point scale)

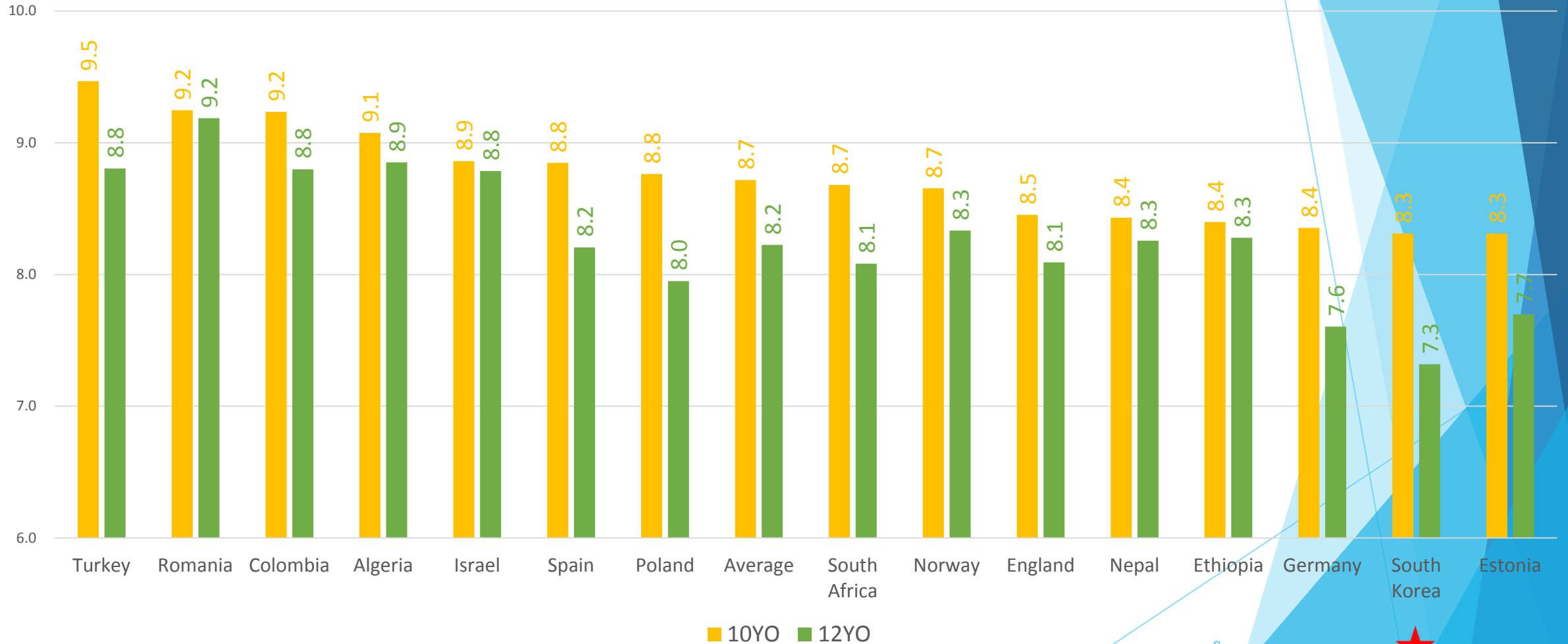


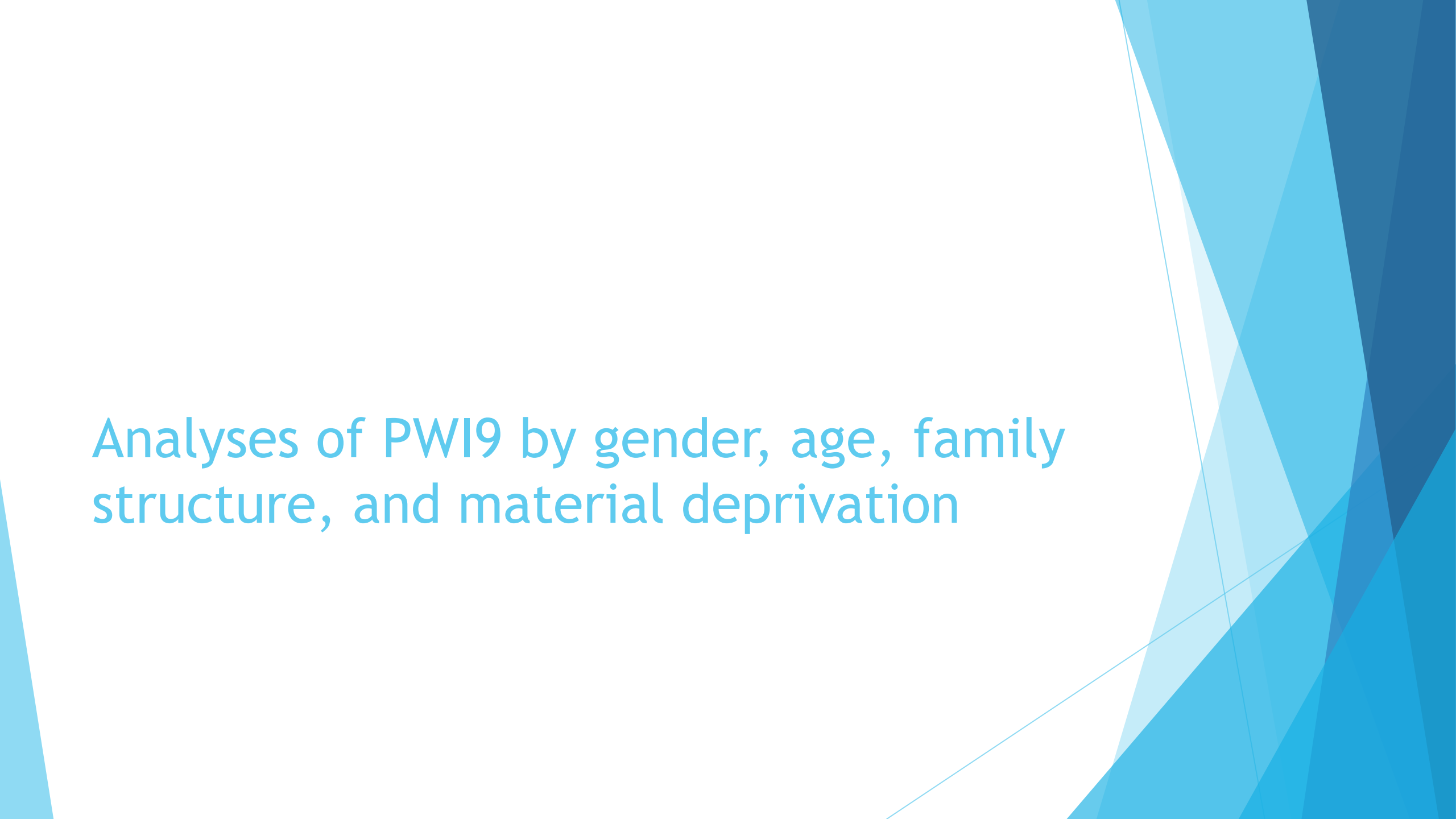
Life Satisfaction: PWI (9 items, 0-10, 11point scale)



8 ★

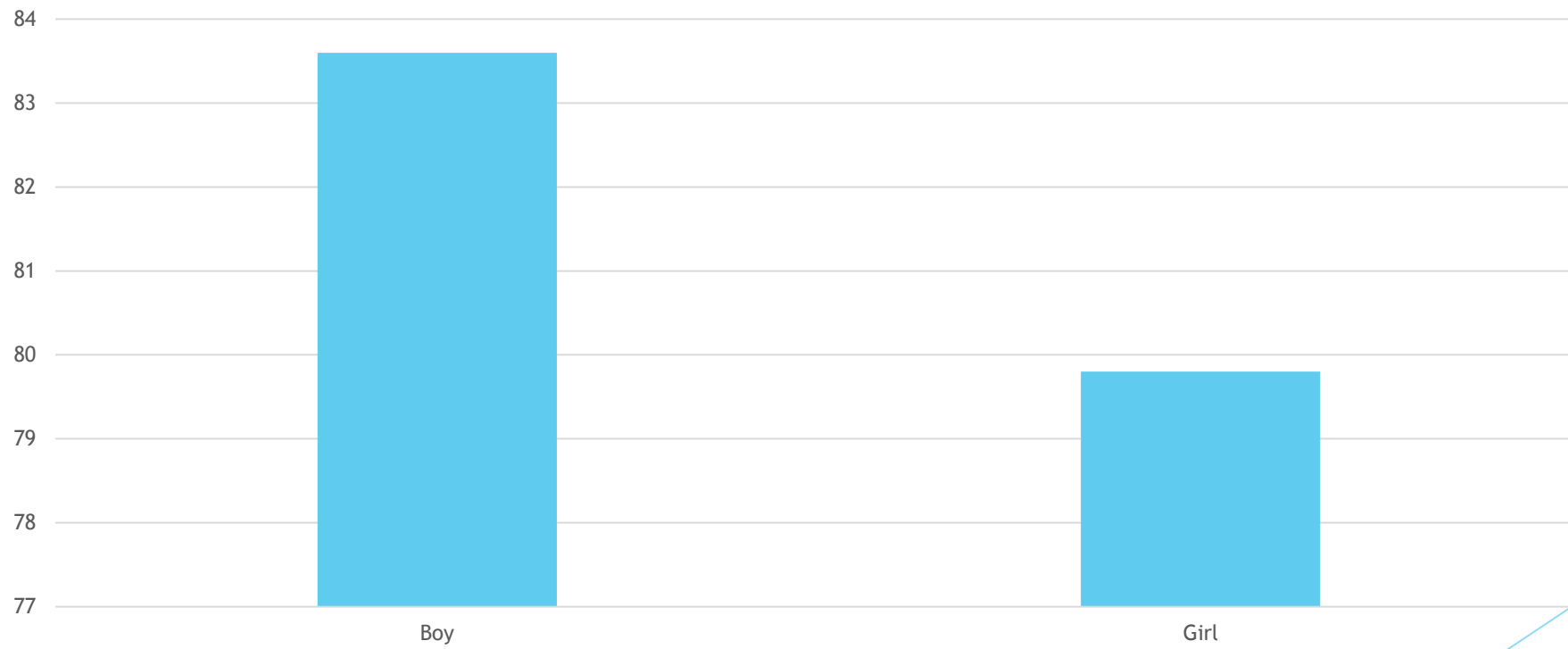
Emotion: Positive Affect (6 items, 0-10, 11point scale)



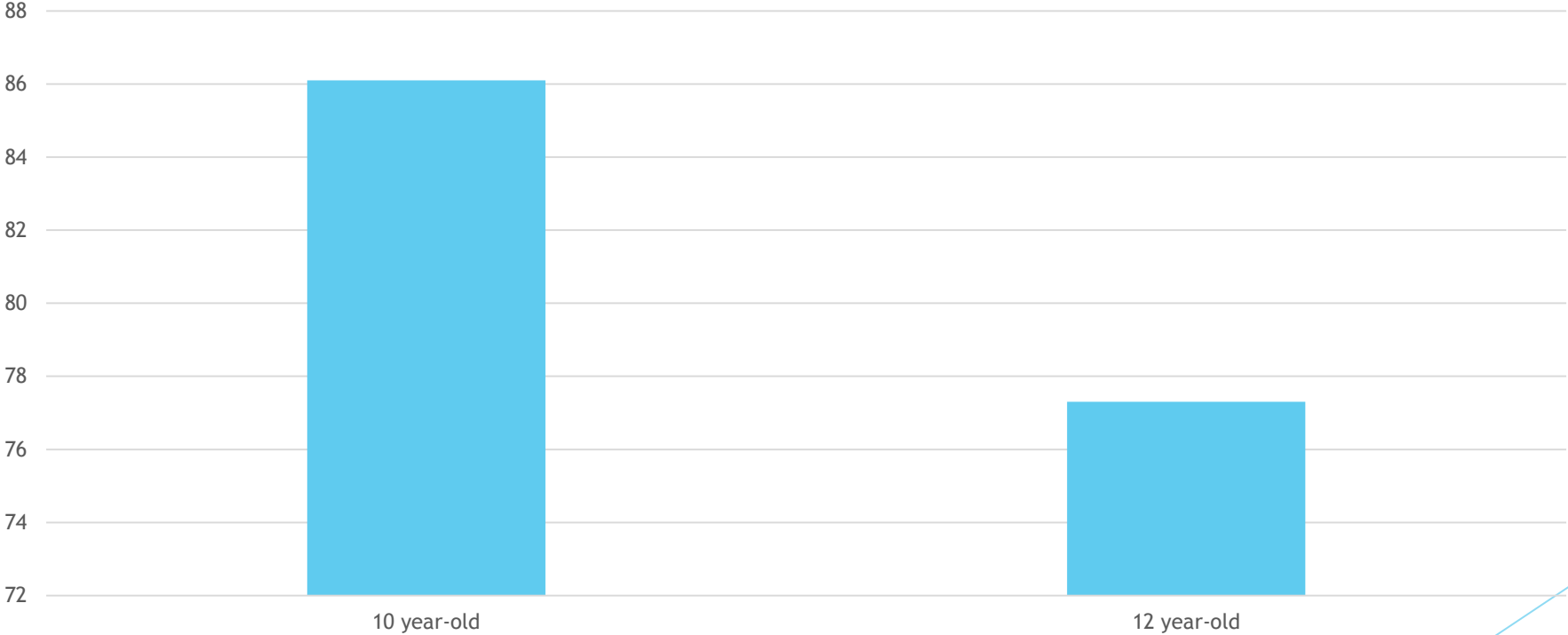
The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the slide, creating a modern, layered effect.

Analyses of PWI9 by gender, age, family structure, and material deprivation

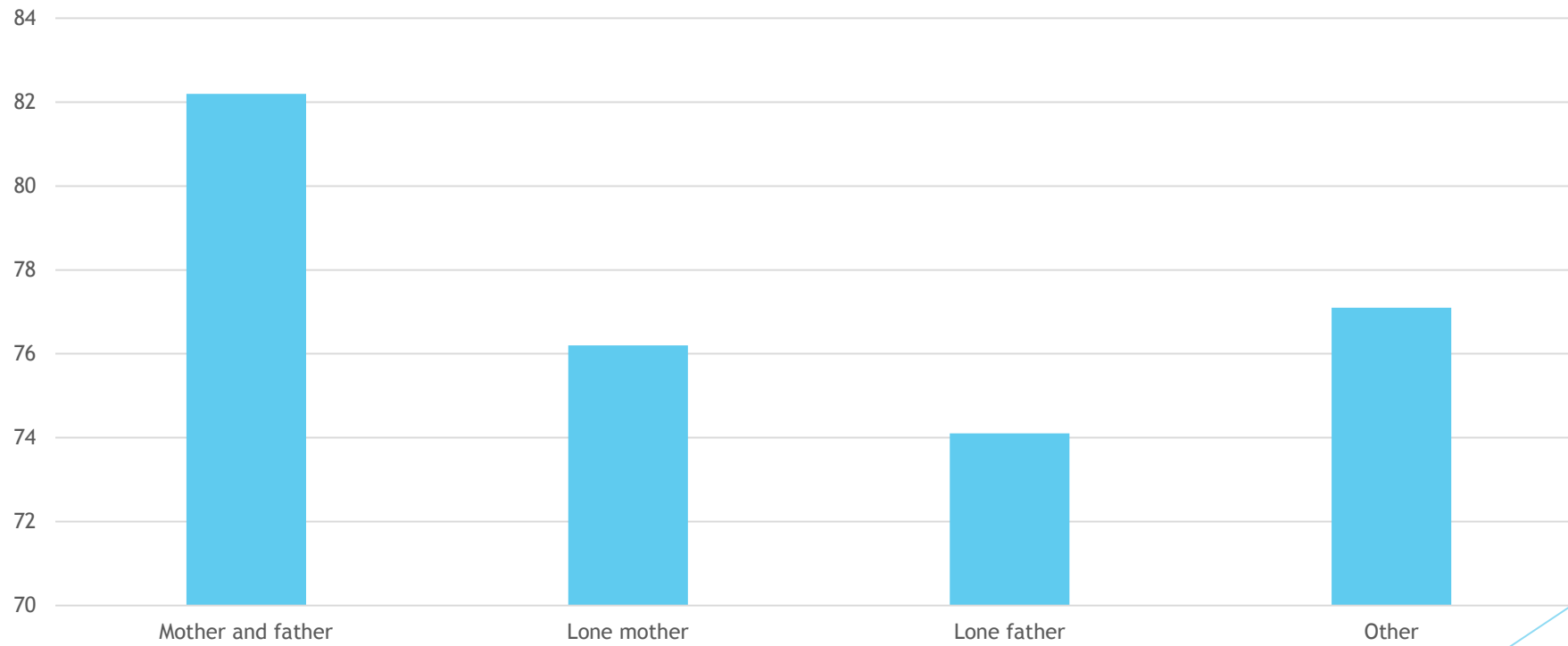
PWI9 by gender: 10 and 12 years old



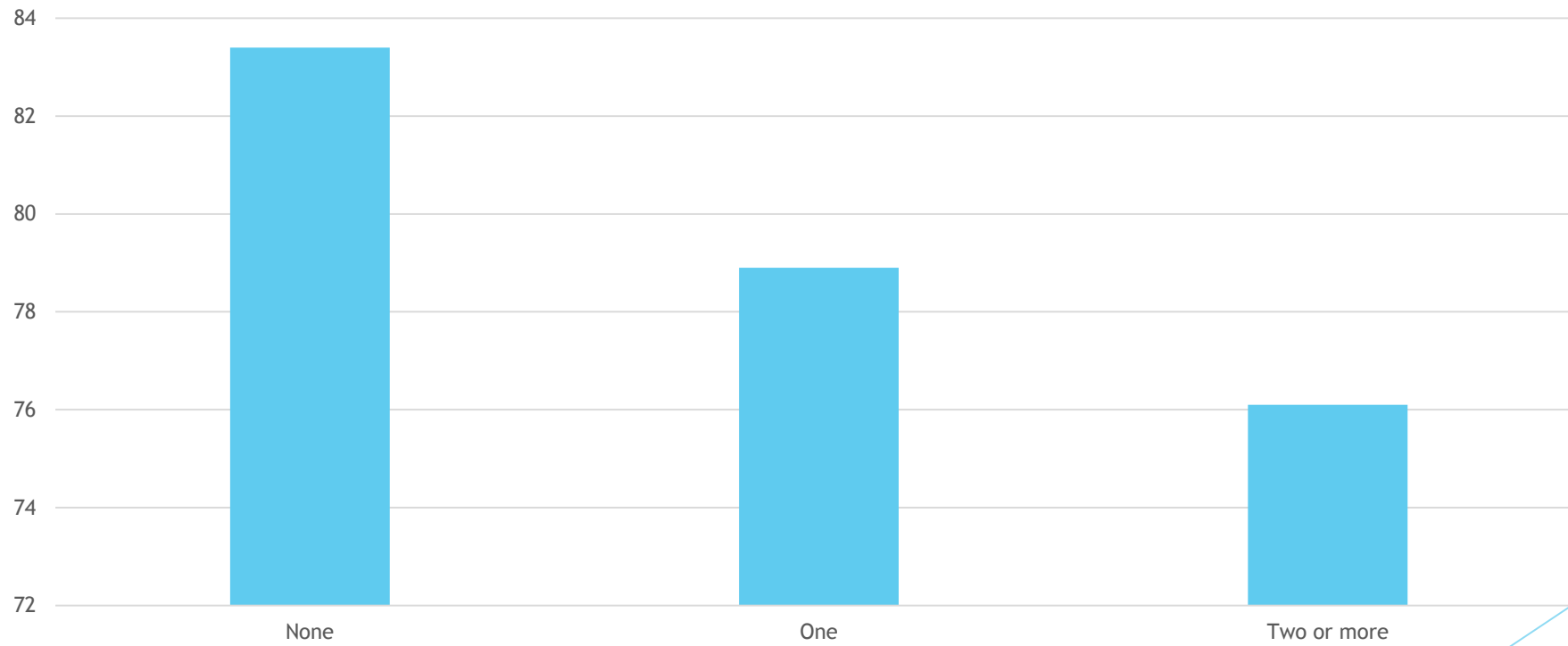
PWI9 by age groups



PWI9 by family structure



PWI9 by material deprivation



Results

- ▶ Boys report higher LS than girls
- ▶ As children grow older, they become less satisfied with their lives
- ▶ Children with two parents report higher LS than those with lone parents
- ▶ As material deprivation goes up, LS goes down

Correlations among the domains:

- Relationships, flourishing (positive development), and risk/safety matter for children' subjective well-being in Korea
- Material situations, education, and housing/environment are not related to SWB.

	Health	Subjective Well-Being	Relationships	Materials	Risk and Safety	Education	Housing and Environment	Flourishing	CWBI
Health	1								
Subjective Well-Being	0.426	1							
Relationships	.510*	.871**	1						
Materials	0.348	0.336	.606*	1					
Risk and Safety	0.401	.582*	.705**	.584*	1				
Education	0.302	0.271	.606*	.634**	0.47	1			
Housing and Environment	0.039	0.222	0.245	0.066	-0.038	0.355	1		
Flourishing	.564*	.748**	.944**	.639**	.707**	.745**	0.267	1	
CWBI	.585*	.780**	.953**	.721**	.772**	.743**	0.319	.968**	1

CWBI: Child Well-being Composite Index