

Children's Worlds National Report

CROATIA



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1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population

Geographically, the Republic of Croatia has 56,594m² land area and is divided in 21 counties (including the City of Zagreb), 127 towns, 429 municipalities and 6,756 settlements. According to Croatian Bureau of Statistics (2013) and the last census of population, households and dwellings in 2011, the Republic of Croatia has 4,284,889 inhabitants, more specifically 2,066,335 men (48.2%) and 2,218,554 women (51.8%). The age-sex structure shows a disproportion in the number of men and women in certain age groups, where the proportion of men was higher in younger age groups and the proportion of women in older age groups. There is a trend of population ageing as a long-term process. In 2011, the population of the Republic of Croatia was 41.7 years old in average (men 39.9, women 43.4), which places it among the oldest nations in Europe (Croatian Bureau of Statistics, 2013). During the past 50 years, the average age increased by almost 10 years (from 32.5 in 1961 to 41.7 in 2011), which was caused by a long-term fertility decrease on one side and the life expectancy increase on the other. In 2011 there was 896,605 children in Croatia (0 to 19 years of age), with 204,317 children in the age group 5 – 9 (4.7% of the whole population) and 235,402 in age group 10 – 14 (5.5%).

Regarding ethnicity, 90.42% (4,096,305) of population are Croats, 4.36% are Serbs and other nations are represented by less than 1% (Bosnians, Roma, Italians, Albanians...). As for religion, 86.28% (3,697,143) of residents are Catholics, 4.44% are Orthodox, 3.81% are atheists, 2.17% did not declare, 1.47% are Muslims and other religions are present by less than 1%.

According to Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Croatia (2018) GDP in EUR per capita for 2017 was 11,880 and is the largest in the last ten years. Growth rates in GDP are positive since 2015 (when the economic crisis ended) and in 2017 the growth was 2.9%.

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

Sampling was planned as a two-stage cluster sample. The sampling strategy covered all schools in Croatia, except for the schools with special education programs (children with autism, intellectual disabilities, etc.). The reason for this was that these children would have had trouble understanding the questions and instructions for filling out the questionnaire, so we concluded that the application of self-administered questionnaires would not be suitable for them. In total, 24 schools were excluded (1.16% of primary schools in Croatia), which is a total of 312 children (99 8-year-olds, 117 10-year-olds and 96 12-year-olds) from the appropriate age groups (0.26% of children that age who attend primary school in Croatia).

In the first stage of the sampling PSS cumulative size method was used to select schools that would participate in the study, using a probability cluster sample of schools $n = 40$. Schools were ordered by county to have adequate representation of different regions. Some schools

decided not to participate in the study because of too many active projects that their pupils and staff are included in. In such cases we chose the next school from the same county on the list. After the schools were selected, in the second stage simple random cluster sample method was used to select two classes per school, with dislocated subsidiaries having the same probability of being included in the sample, so that children from rural areas would have the same chance to be included in the study.

The final sample consisted of children from 41 schools and 237 classes. In total, 3541 children participated in the study, 1,134 8-year-olds, 1,247 10-year-olds and 1,160 12-year-olds. Several questionnaires had to be excluded from the data bases due to a large number of missing data (9) and non-systematic responding (25). The final data set used to present the results included 1,112 8-year-olds, 1,240 10-year-olds and 1,155 12-year-olds, that is 3,512 children in total.

2. Results

2.1 The participants

The sample included in the study is presented in Table 1. Genders were evenly represented in the sample and there was a bit more 10-year-olds than pupils from two other age groups.

Table 1. Age by gender distribution of the survey participants (Numbers, (%))

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Boy	554(48.9)	610(49.4)	578(50.5)	1732(49.6)
Girl	568(51.1)	624(50.6)	567(49.5)	1759(50.4)
Total	1117	1240	1155	3512 ⁷

2.2 The home and the people children live with

Data about the home and the people children live with are presented in Tables 2-5. The majority of children live with their families (Table 2) and they are very satisfied with the people they live with (Tables 3 and 4).

⁷ 21 missing answers

Table 2. Home type (%)

I live with my family	98.5
I live in a foster home	0.5
I live in a children's home	0.1
I live in another type of home	0.9
Total	100.0⁸

Table 3. Satisfaction with the people you live with (8 year-old) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with⁹	0.3	0.5	2.0	14.0	83.2

Table 4. Satisfaction with the people you live with (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with¹⁰	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.9	2.6	6.2	13.7	74.0

Table 5. Questions about home and family (All age groups; means)

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
8 year-old	3.66	3.69	3.65	3.70	3.13	-
10 year-old	3.69	3.71	3.66	3.78	3.27	3.26
12 year-old	3.75	3.67	3.53	3.78	3.31	3.14
Total	3.70¹¹	3.69¹²	3.61¹³	3.76¹⁴	3.24¹⁵	3.20¹⁶

In Table 5 we can see how children perceive different aspects of family life. All age groups rate their perception of feeling safe in the family the highest. On the other side, the youngest group is the least satisfied with the how much their parents listen to them, while the older children are the least satisfied both how much they are listened to by parents and

⁸ 16 missing answers

⁹ 16 missing answers

¹⁰ 54 missing answers

¹¹ 34 missing answers; 77 don't know

¹² 25 missing answers; 38 don't know

¹³ 29 missing answers; 19 don't know

¹⁴ 28 missing answers; 24 don't know

¹⁵ 45 missing answers; 158 don't know

¹⁶ 22 missing answers; 88 don't know

with lack of making joint decisions. Nevertheless, assessments are quite positive for all aspects of family life (all means are above 3 and the maximum is 4).

2.3 The home where children live

In Tables 6-7 we can see the data about the homes children live in and the things they have. They are very satisfied with their homes and the majority of older children have their own bed and a place to study, while only half of them have their own room.

Table 6. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (8 year-old) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
the house or flat where you live ¹⁷	0.3	0.5	2.9	12.9	83.5

Table 7. Satisfaction with the house or flat where you live (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
the house or flat where you live ¹⁸	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	1.3	1.7	2.7	6.2	13.1	73.7






Table 8. Things you have (%)

Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room ¹⁹	50.7
Own bed ²⁰	91.3
Place to study ²¹	95.9

2.4 Friends

Data about children's friends are shown in Tables 9-11.

Table 9. Satisfaction with your friends (8 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends ²²	0.5	0.9	4.0	17.8	76.8

¹⁷ 11 missing answers

¹⁸ 18 missing answers

¹⁹ 9 missing answers

²⁰ 5 missing answers

²¹ 5 missing answers

²² 10 missing answers

Table 10. Satisfaction with your friends (10 & 12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends ²³	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	3.2	2.7	5.5	10.2	19.1	56.6

Table 11. Friends (All age groups) (%)






	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends ²⁴	2.0	2.1	4.4	23.2	68.3
My friends are usually nice to me ²⁵	2.4	3.4	12.5	32.5	49.2
Me and my friends get along well together ²⁶	1.1	2.1	7.6	27.8	61.3
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me ²⁷	2.7	3.1	6.7	21.3	66.3

Though participants are very satisfied with their friends, these assessments are somewhat lower than those regarding family. The worst assessments are for the item *My friends are usually nice to me*, and the best are for the item *I have enough friends*.

2.5 School

Tables 12-15 show data regarding children's school life.

Table 12. Satisfaction with school life (8 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student ²⁸	0.9	2.1	7.0	27.3	62.7
Things you have learned ²⁹	0.6	0.9	2.8	18.1	77.6
Other children in your class ³⁰	1.3	2.1	10.0	28.5	58.1

²³ 21 missing answers

²⁴ 18 missing answers; 51 don't know

²⁵ 23 missing answers; 33 don't know

²⁶ 23 missing answers; 24 don't know

²⁷ 24 missing answers; 133 don't know

²⁸ 7 missing answers

²⁹ 12 missing answers

³⁰ 20 missing answers

Table 13. Satisfaction with school life (10 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student ³¹	1.8	0.4	0.9	0.8	2.0	6.0	5.4	9.0	13.5	23.2	37.0
Things you have learned ³²	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.9	1.3	3.4	3.8	6.2	11.2	19.0	52.5
Other children in your class ³³	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.6	3.0	5.4	4.8	8.7	11.6	22.4	39.6

Regarding different aspects of school life, all children are the most satisfied with the things they have learned in school, while the youngest group is the least satisfied with other children in their class and older children with they life as a student in general (Tables 12 and 13).

Table 14. Views about school (All age groups) (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me ³⁴	4.6	5.8	13.2	32.3	44.1
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me ³⁵	2.0	3.5	7.8	25.2	61.5
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me ³⁶	4.1	6.1	12.5	33.3	44.0
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class ³⁷	22.2	21.7	19.0	16.0	21.1
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account ³⁸	7.4	5.8	13.3	28.8	44.8
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me ³⁹	5.0	5.7	15.0	30.9	43.3
I feel safe at school ⁴⁰	2.8	3.1	7.5	22.7	63.9

Most children feel safe in school (86.6%), but there are still 6% of those who don't. More than 70% of children believe that they teachers care about them, that they will help them in case of a problem and that they take children's opinions into account. On the other hand, though more than 70% of children believe that other children in school would help them in case of a problem, almost 40% of participants say that there are a lot of arguments between children in their class. Also, 15.6% of children were called unkind names more than three

³¹ 17 missing answers

³² 18 missing answers

³³ 24 missing answers

³⁴ 37 missing answers; 419 don't know

³⁵ 29 missing answers; 95 don't know

³⁶ 42 missing answers; 131 don't know

³⁷ 52 missing answers; 122 don't know

³⁸ 42 missing answers; 250 don't know

³⁹ 37 missing answers; 145 don't know

⁴⁰ 38 missing answers; 68 don't know

times and almost 10% of them experienced being hit and/or left out by other children in their class (Table 15).

Table 15. Bullying (All age groups) (%)

How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school ⁴¹	60.9	20.3	10.2	8.7
Called unkind names by other children in your school ⁴²	55.1	18.2	11.0	15.6
Left out by other children in your class ⁴³	66.6	16.1	8.1	9.2

2.6 The area where children live

Children's satisfaction with the area they live in is presented in Tables 16-18. As can be seen, most of them (more than 65%) are very satisfied with it (Tables 16 and 17), especially with the number of places to play or to have a good time. Still, although 80% perceive that adults in the area are kind to children, almost 20% said that they are not sure if someone would help them in case of a problem.

Table 16. Satisfaction with local area (8-year-old) (%)




Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live ⁴⁴	1.9	2.2	6.5	24.0	65.5

Table 17. Satisfaction with local area (10 & 12-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live ⁴⁵	1.7	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.1	3.6	3.4	6.2	11.5	19.1	49.3

⁴¹ 22 missing answers; 220 don't know

⁴² 25 missing answers; 153 don't know

⁴³ 24 missing answers; 210 don't know

⁴⁴ 11 missing answers

⁴⁵ 172 missing answers

Table 18. Views about local area (All age group) (%)

In my area, I live in...	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe when I walk ⁴⁶	3.6	4.2	9.5	28.3	54.5
There are enough places to play or to have a good time ⁴⁷	5.9	4.8	7.8	17.7	63.9
If I have a problem there are people who will help me ⁴⁸	9.5	7.8	10.1	22.6	50.0
Adults are kind to children ⁴⁹	2.5	3.5	9.0	22.0	63.1






2.7 Money and the things children have:

Socioeconomic and material aspects of children's lives are shown in Tables 19-24.

Table 19. How often do you worry about how much money your family has? (%)

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	32.1	43.5	47.0	41.2
Sometimes	26.6	37.9	36.9	34.2
Often	11.8	9.0	10.7	10.4
Always	29.6	9.6	5.4	14.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0 ⁵⁰

Table 20. Satisfaction with all the things you have (8 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...					
all the things you have ⁵¹	2.0	0.1	1.0	9.3	87.5

⁴⁶ 20 missing answers; 98 don't know

⁴⁷ 22 missing answers; 61 don't know

⁴⁸ 19 missing answers; 214 don't know

⁴⁹ 21 missing answers; 139 don't know

⁵⁰ 51 missing answers; 328 don't know

⁵¹ 26 missing answers

Table 21. Satisfaction with all the things you have (10&12 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
all the things you have ⁵²	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.9	1.1	2.2	5.7	13.5	75.6

As can be seen in the Tables above, although almost 90% of children are satisfied with all the things they have, there are many of them who are often worried about how much money their family has – 41.4% in the youngest group, 18.6% of 10-year-olds and 16.1% of 12-year-olds.

Table 22. Do you have enough food to eat each day? (%)

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	0.9	0.5	0.3	0.6
Sometimes	1.8	0.7	0.3	0.9
Often	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.0
Always	93.6	94.8	95.1	94.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0⁵³

⁵² 32 missing answers⁵³ 31 missing answers; 28 don't know

Table 23. The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	8 year-old		10 year-old		12 year-old		Total	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clothes in good condition ⁵⁴	0.7	99.3	0.5	99.5	0.2	99.8	0.5	99.5
Enough money for school trips and activities ⁵⁵	4.5	95.5	1.5	98.5	1.0	99.0	2.3	97.7
Access to the Internet at home ⁵⁶	6.1	93.9	2.7	97.3	2.6	97.4	3.7	96.3
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies ⁵⁷	7.2	92.8	6.5	93.5	5.1	94.9	6.3	93.8
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself ⁵⁸	31.0	69.0	22.8	77.2	17.0	83.0	23.5	76.5
Two pairs of shoes ⁵⁹	8.8	91.2	4.6	95.4	2.3	97.7	5.2	94.8
A mobile phone ⁶⁰	22.1	77.9	4.8	95.2	2.9	97.1	9.6	90.4
The equipment/things you need for school ⁶¹	1.3	98.7	0.7	99.3	0.3	99.7	0.7	99.3

About 4% of children don't have enough food to eat on a regular basis, 5% do not have two pairs of shoes and 6% don't have adequate equipment for their sports and hobbies. The youngest group of children is again at the greatest risk.

Older groups of children were asked some more question regarding material possessions. In Table 24 we can see that half of the children have one bathroom, have their own room, more than two computers and have traveled away on holiday with their family more than twice. Also, more than 40% of families have two vehicles.

⁵⁴ 26 missing answers

⁵⁵ 29 missing answers

⁵⁶ 32 missing answers

⁵⁷ 40 missing answers

⁵⁸ 66 missing answers

⁵⁹ 36 missing answers

⁶⁰ 41 missing answers

⁶¹ 33 missing answers

Table 24. Descriptive statistics on material possessions (10 & 12 years-old) (%)

How many bathrooms are in your home?⁶²	
None	0.7
One	56.1
Two	35.5
More than two	7.7
Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room?⁶³	
I sleep in a room on my own	50.7
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	49.3
Does your family own a car, van or truck?⁶⁴	
No	3.6
One	37.7
Two	40.8
Three or more	18.0
In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?⁶⁵	
Not at all	8.3
Once	18.1
Twice	21.1
More than twice	52.5
How many computers do your family own?⁶⁶	
None	2.5
One	18.1
Two	26.7
More than two	52.6
Does your home have a washing machine?⁶⁷	
No	1.7
Yes	98.3
Total	100.0

⁶² 6 missing answers⁶³ 9 missing answers⁶⁴ 8 missing answers⁶⁵ 17 missing answers⁶⁶ 17 missing answers⁶⁷ 13 missing answers

2.8 Time use

Tables 25 and 26 present data regarding children's satisfaction with their use of time. As can be seen, 81.5% of the youngest students and 73.8% of the older groups are very satisfied with it.

Table 25. Satisfaction with time use (8 year-old) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time ⁶⁸	0.6	0.3	2.0	15.6	81.5

Table 26. Satisfaction with time use (10 year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time ⁶⁹	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.9	3.1	5.8	12.8	20.0	53.8

2.9 Subjective well-being: how children feel about their lives

This part of the report summarizes all data regarding children subjective well-being in general.

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

Table 27. Satisfaction with life as a whole (8-year-olds) (%)






Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole ⁷⁰	1.0	1.1	3.0	14.1	80.8

Table 28. Satisfaction with life as a whole (10 & 12-year-olds) (%)

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole ⁷¹	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.0	3.0	5.9	13.1	73.1

As presented in Tables 27 and 28, more than 80% of children are very satisfied with their life as a whole, they perceive that they have a good life (Table 29).

⁶⁸ 16 missing answers

⁶⁹ 47 missing answers

⁷⁰ 19 missing answers

⁷¹ 30 missing answers

CW-SWBS (Children's Worlds Subjective Well-Being Scale)

Table 29. CW-SWBS items (10 & 12-year-old) (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life ⁷²	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	1.1	2.7	3.0	4.2	8.6	16.8	62.0
My life is going well ⁷³	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.9	1.1	1.9	2.6	3.3	7.0	14.5	67.8
I have a good life ⁷⁴	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.3	1.8	2.1	2.9	5.6	14.1	70.4
The things that happen in my life are excellent ⁷⁵	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.6	2.1	5.0	3.8	8.1	13.8	26.2	36.5
I like my life ⁷⁶	0.9	0.3	0.8	0.9	1.1	2.1	3.0	3.5	6.2	14.2	67.0
I am happy with my life ⁷⁷	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	1.1	2.1	2.0	2.6	4.9	13.2	71.7

CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale), 2003)

Table 30. CW- DBSWBS items (10 & 12-year-old) (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with ⁷⁸	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.9	2.6	6.2	13.7	74.0
Your friends ⁷⁹	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.5	1.1	3.2	2.7	5.5	10.2	19.1	56.6
Your life as a student ⁸⁰	1.8	0.4	0.9	0.8	2.0	6.0	5.4	9.0	13.5	23.2	37.0
The area where you live ⁸¹	1.7	0.8	0.9	1.6	2.1	3.6	3.4	6.2	11.5	19.1	49.3
The way that you look ⁸²	1.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.0	3.8	3.6	6.9	10.4	17.2	51.8

Older children are satisfied with the people they live with the most, followed by their friends, the way they look and the area where they live, while they are the least satisfied with their life as a student.

⁷² 24 missing answers⁷³ 18 missing answers⁷⁴ 65 missing answers⁷⁵ 25 missing answers⁷⁶ 27 missing answers⁷⁷ 18 missing answers⁷⁸ 54 missing answers⁷⁹ 21 missing answers⁸⁰ 17 missing answers⁸¹ 172 missing answers⁸² 112 missing answers

CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

Table 31. CW-PNAS items (10 & 12-year-olds) (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy ⁸³	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.8	2.5	2.6	5.4	8.0	16.4	62.6
Calm ⁸⁴	3.0	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.3	7.8	6.1	8.7	12.2	16.0	38.7
Full of energy ⁸⁵	1.6	0.8	1.2	1.5	1.8	3.0	3.6	6.2	7.6	12.4	60.3
Sad ⁸⁶	28.3	17.2	14.0	10.5	6.0	7.1	3.2	3.2	3.4	3.1	4.0
Stressed ⁸⁷	35.2	12.5	9.3	7.5	5.6	5.6	3.1	4.7	5.6	3.9	6.9
Bored ⁸⁸	26.2	11.2	9.1	7.9	6.6	7.6	4.4	4.5	5.1	4.8	12.5

Of the positive affect, being happy is the most common, and the most common negative affect is being bored.

CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)-

Table 32. CW- PSWBS items (12-year-olds) (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am ⁸⁹	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	1.7	2.0	1.9	3.5	8.8	13.5	66.3
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities ⁹⁰	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.7	4.1	4.5	8.0	13.2	22.1	42.2
People are generally pretty friendly towards me ⁹¹	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.8	1.1	3.1	3.6	5.5	11.0	22.2	50.9
I have enough choice about how I spend my time ⁹²	0.9	0.6	1.2	1.1	1.8	3.2	3.9	6.6	11.1	20.8	48.6
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment ⁹³	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.7	2.3	4.5	4.4	7.3	9.1	17.9	48.6
I feel positive about my future ⁹⁴	1.1	0.3	0.8	1.3	1.0	2.4	3.0	7.5	9.5	20.2	53.1

⁸³ 39 missing answers⁸⁴ 101 missing answers⁸⁵ 65 missing answers⁸⁶ 76 missing answers⁸⁷ 90 missing answers⁸⁸ 56 missing answers⁸⁹ 9 missing answers⁹⁰ 11 missing answers⁹¹ 12 missing answers⁹² 12 missing answers⁹³ 12 missing answers⁹⁴ 13 missing answers

Finally, 80% of the oldest children like being the way they are and more than 70% feel very positive about their future. The aspect which could be improved is managing their daily responsibilities.

2.10 Children's perceptions about their country

The last two questions in the questionnaire for all children were regarding children's rights. As can be seen in the Table below, the youngest group is the least informed about them, but still 84% of all children know what rights children have. Only half of the children in the whole sample are familiar with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Table 33. Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have ⁹⁵	No	3.6	0.7	1.7	1.9
	Not sure	18.2	8.5	15.6	13.9
	Yes	78.2	90.7	82.7	84.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ⁹⁶	No	27.9	13.9	12.6	17.9
	Not sure	33.3	32.2	30.4	32.0
	Yes	38.8	53.8	57.1	50.1
	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

3. Conclusions

In Croatia, the sample consists of 3,512 children (50.4% girls), with 1,117 8-year-olds, 1,240 10-year-olds and 1,155 12-year-olds.

The majority of children live with their family, while less than 3% live in a foster home, children's home or in another type of home. 83.2% of 8-year-olds and 87.7% of 10 and 12-year-olds are very satisfied with the people they live with. There are no age differences in the perception of specific aspects of family life (mean of all questions is around 3.5). The feeling of safety in the family is the best rated aspect, and the worse rated ones are listening by parents and making joint decisions (older participants). More than 80% of children are very satisfied with the house or flat they live in, but only 50.7% of 10 and 12-year-olds have

⁹⁵ 53 missing answers

⁹⁶ 68 missing answers

their own room. Still, more than 90% have their own bed (91.3%) and the place to study (95.9%).

Regarding friends and school, more than 70% of children are very satisfied with their friends and with things they have learned in school. On the other hand, 18.3% mostly do not agree that their friends are usually nice to them. Furthermore, 15.6% were called unkind names by other children more than three times and around 18% have experienced being hit or left out by other children on multiple occasions. When children evaluated different aspects of school life, results showed that the best rated aspect is feeling safe at school and teachers' help in case of a problem. The worse rated aspect again referred to other children, more specifically the number of arguments between them.

As for the local area, 65.5% of 8-year-olds and 68.4% of 10 and 12-year-olds are very satisfied with the area they live in and more than 80% feel safe in the area, think that adults are kind to children and perceive that there are enough places to play or to have a good time in their local area. Still, around 20% are not sure if people in their area would help them in case of a problem.

When asked about material aspects of their life, 25% of children are often or always worried about how much money their family has, with youngest children being the most worried (in that age group 7.2% do not have equipment/things they need for sports and hobbies and 8.8% said that they do not have two pairs of shoes). At the same time, almost 90% of children are very satisfied with all the things they have. Having a mobile phone and pocket money differs a lot between age groups, with more than 80% of 12-year-olds having pocket money and 97% having a mobile phone. Although younger children do not have pocket money and mobile phones as often, still in the youngest age group almost 80% of them have a mobile phone. Interestingly, more than 50% of Croatian children (10 and 12-year-olds) said that their family owns two or more vehicles (car, van or truck), that they traveled away on holidays more than twice in the last 12 months and that they have more than two computers. On the other hand, 8.3% of children did not travel away on holiday with their family at all.

Regarding children's subjective well-being in general, 80.8% of 8-year-olds and 86.2% of 10 and 12-year-olds are very satisfied with their life as a whole. They are satisfied with the people they live with the most and with their life as a student the least. The most common positive affect is being happy, and the most prevalent negative affect is being bored. Around 80% of older children like being the way they are and 73% feel positive about their future. In addition, more than 80% of 10 and 12-year-olds said that they like their life, which are all very optimistic data for our country.

Finally, considering children's rights, only half of Croatian children is familiar with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, but 84.1% said that they know what rights children have.