

Children's Worlds National Report

FINLAND



Leena Haanpää

University of Turku

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population¹

Population

5 519 586 (May 2019).

Size of the country

338,424 km²; Finland divided into 18 provinces/regions and five major regions (including Åland)

Children

N=882,234; 15.98 % (0-14 age, in the end of 2018)

Religion

Evangelical-Lutheran 69.7 %; Orthodox Church 1.1 %; Others 1.6%; 1.45 M of those not belonging to any religion 26 % (Men 30 %, Women 23%) (2015).

Ethnicity

249,452 population in Finland with foreign background (in the end of 2017). Altogether more than 170 different ethnic groups, 1. Estonians (n=83,675); 2. Russians (n=52,424); 3. Swedish (n=42 210); 4. Somalis (n=19,807); 5. Chinese (n=11,814); 6. Thais (n=11,553); 7. Iraqis (n=32,778); 8. Turkish (n=8,930); 9. Indians (n=7,010); 10. British (n=7,055), and others.

Economic context

GDP=45,703.33 USD / capita (2017).

Education system

0-6-years-olds: early childhood education and care (ECEC, duration in years 0-6); 6-years-olds: pre-primary education (duration in years 1); 7-16-years-olds: basic education (comprehensive school, duration in years 9); (voluntary additional year 16-17-olds, duration in years 1); 17-19-years-olds general upper secondary schools (matriculation examination, duration in years 3) or vocational institutions (vocational qualifications, duration in years 3); 19-years-olds on- bachelor's degrees (universities, duration in years 3) or bachelor's degrees (universities of applied sciences, duration in years 3,5-4); master's degree (universities, duration in years 2), master's degree, (universities of applied sciences, duration in years 1-1,5), doctoral degrees, licentiate degrees (universities)

Children's rights

Finland has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991. Children have a right to participate in decision making that promotes development of the society.

Their right to influence decision making that concerns themselves is emphasized in several legal instruments. According to the Constitution of Finland (731/1999) the public authorities shall promote the opportunities for the individual to participate in societal activity and to influence the decisions that concerns him or her. This obligation applies to children and youngsters as well.

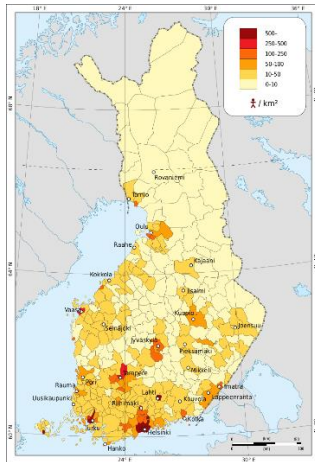


Figure 1. Population density

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

The sampling procedure was carried out according to the recommended procedure (by Gwyther). The sampling was done using the idea of stratified sampling, where Finland was divided according to existing five major regions, however leaving out Åland, so four major regions in the final plan. Thereafter, a random selection of towns/municipalities was done according to the proportional number of pupils in that region. Thereafter the participating school was selected from the town's/municipalities' web pages in alphabetic order or by randomly choosing. Thereafter the head of the educational department of the town was contacted, in order to get the research permission to school.

The target sample size in each school was 40 pupils / grade. After getting the permission, we contacted the principal to start the data collection. If the school refused, next one was chosen. The instructions for the data collection and the permissions for parents were either sent to the principal or to the teachers, depending on the schools' own procedure. The internet-based questionnaires (Webropol) were open for answering during from January 31st 2018 to January 31st 2019.

Planned

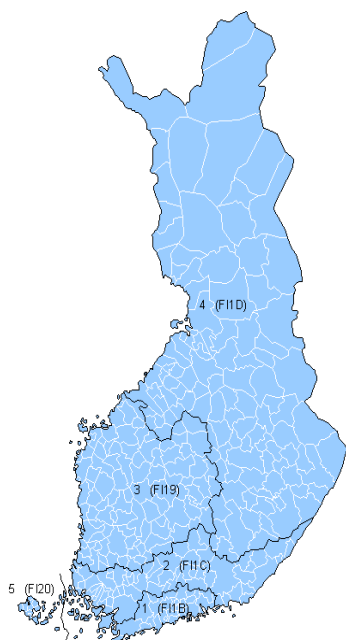
	Schools	Pupils 1-6 gr.	% of the whole country	Number of schools	N of respondents (2, 4 ja 6.gr.)
1. Uusimaa	566	106765	29.7	9	1069
2. Southern Finland	467	64220	17.87	6	720
3. Western Finland	770	65695	18.28	8	912
4. Northern and Eastern Finland	691	87773	24.42	7	879
Total				30	3580

Final

	Schools	Pupils 1-6 gr.	% of the whole country	Number of schools	N of respondents (2, 4 ja 6.gr.)
1. Uusimaa	566	106765	29.7	8	1475
2. Southern Finland	467	64220	17.87	7	920
3. Western Finland	770	65695	18.28	7	716
4. Northern and Eastern Finland	691	87773	24.42	7	975
Total				29	4086

Figure 1. Major regions

1. Helsinki-Uusimaa
2. Southern Finland
3. Western Finland
4. Northern and Eastern Finland
5. Åland



2. Results

2.1 The participants¹

Table 1. Age by gender (Numbers, (%))

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Boy	571(49.6)	528(48.6)	5739(52.9)	1672(50.3)
Girl	581(50.4)	559(51.4)	511(47.1)	1651(49.7)
Total	1152(34.7)	1087(32.7)	1084(32.6)	3323(100)

2.2 The home and the people children live with: ²

Table 2. Home type (%)

I live with my family	97.9
I live in a foster home	0.7
I live in a children's home	0.4
I live in another type of home	1.0
Total	100.0

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






Satisfaction with ...					
The people you live with	0.4	0.5	6.2	28.1	64.8

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.7	1.8	4.1	11.4	22.9	56.6

¹ Missing N=0² N=5; 1159 (8y)³ N=37⁴ N=6

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

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
8 year-old	3.56	3.37	3.54	3.62	3.32	3.28
10 year-old	3.64	3.47	3.57	3.73	3.43	3.32
12 year-old	3.66	3.48	3.47	3.73	3.45	3.25
Total	3.62	3.44	3.53	3.69	3.40	3.28

2.3 The home where children live:

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






Satisfaction with ...					
the house or flat where you live	0.7	0.7	3.5	20.8	74.3

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






Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
the house or flat where you live	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.6	1.2	1.5	3.2	9.0	23.7	59.7

Table 8. Things you have (%)⁸

Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room	73.0
Place to study	89.7

2.4 Friends:

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

Satisfaction with ...					
Your friends	0.3	1.2	5.9	30.4	62.2

⁵ N=130; N=136;;N=97;N=127;N=205;N=262

⁶ N=48

⁷ N=14

⁸ N=18

⁹ N=177

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.9	2.1	4.5	11.7	31.8	46.2

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

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends	3.2	2.7	8.4	21.6	64.1
My friends are usually nice to me	1.8	3.3	12.2	33.7	49.0
Me and my friends get along well together	1.3	3.1	8.4	29.6	57.6
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me	3.3	5.0	12.7	29.8	49.2

2.5 School

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






Satisfaction with ...					
Life as a student	1.4	1.4	9.5	40.3	47.4
Things you have learned	0.8	1.6	5.6	31.6	60.4
Other children in your class	1.4	1.7	12.0	41.5	43.4

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	3.6	3.0	9.4	22.4	32.6	22.4
Things you have learned	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.9	2.8	2.2	5.7	13.3	32.1	41.0
Other children in your class	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.7	3.6	3.6	9.0	17.9	30.5	30.2

¹⁰ N=7¹¹ N=33; N=47;N=55; N=53¹² N=21;N=29;N=24¹³ N=11;N=13;N=13

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

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
My teachers care about me	5.0	5.5	15.5	32.0	42.0
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me	2.9	3.8	10.5	28.7	54.1
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me	5.4	7.5	21.6	35.0	30.5
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class	33.3	25.7	19.9	10.7	10.4
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account	3.8	6.2	15.8	32.1	42.1
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me	3.6	5.6	16.2	31.3	43.3
I feel safe at school	2.3	2.8	9.2	25.0	60.7

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

How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school	71.1	14.5	7.1	7.3
Called unkind names by other children in your school	55.7	19.2	11.4	13.7
Left out by other children in your class	64.2	17.9	9.4	8.5

2.6 The area where children live

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






Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live	1.1	1.5	6.5	24.9	66

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.2	2.6	2.7	5.5	13.5	27.1	45.0

¹⁴ N=58;N=67;N=87;N=103;N=86;N=106;N=114¹⁵ N=69;N=86;N=94¹⁶ N=44¹⁷ N=14

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

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	1.6	2.4	7.6	24.5	63.9
There are enough places to play or to have a good time	4.5	5.7	11.6	23.6	54.6
If I have a problem there are people who will help me	Not asked in Finland				
Adults are kind to children	2.1	3.2	10.5	25.9	58.3

2.7 Money and the things children have

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

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	57.6	53.1	46.7	52.2
Sometimes	27.7	37.9	42.6	36.4
Often	8.8	6.3	8.5	7.8
Always	5.9	2.7	2.2	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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






Satisfaction with ...					
all the things you have	0.6	0.7	5.9	27.8	64.9

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
all the things you have	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4	1.1	1.4	3.8	11.0	28.4	53.3

¹⁸ N=59;N=73;N=86¹⁹ N=111²⁰ N=71²¹ N=15

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

	8 year-old	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6
Sometimes	4.1	2.0	1.2	2.4
Often	9.0	9.6	8.8	9.1
Always	86.3	87.9	89.4	87.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 23. The things children have (%) ²³

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	3.5	96.5	2.3	97.7	1.7	98.3	2.5	97.5
Enough money for school trips and activities	12.5	87.5	5.7	94.3	3.9	96.1	7.4	92.6
Access to the Internet at home	12.5	87.5	2.6	97.4	1.2	98.8	5.5	94.5
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	10.5	89.5	6.5	93.5	6.8	93.2	7.9	92.1
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself	21.2	78.8	12.1	87.9	10.4	89.6	14.6	85.4
Two pairs of shoes	5.7	94.3	3.9	96.1	4.7	95.3	4.8	95.2
A mobile phone	4.7	95.3	1.5	98.5	1.0	99.0	2.4	97.6
The equipment/things you need for school	2.8	97.2	1.2	98.8	1.0	99.0	1.7	98.3






²² N=181²³ N=96;N=112;N=103;N=112;N=166;N=104;N=103;N=109

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

How many bathrooms are in your home?	
None	0.8
One	69.8
Two	24.9
More than two	4.5
Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room?	
I sleep in a room on my own	73
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	27
Does your family own a car, van or truck?	
No	5.4
One	26.1
Two	50.7
Three or more	17.7
In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?	
Not at all	15.2
Once	24.2
Twice	25.8
More than twice	34.8
How many computers do your family own?	
None	1.4
One	8.0
Two	18.1
More than two	72.5
Does your home have a washing machine?	
No	1.1
Yes	98.9
Total	100

2.8 Time use

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

Satisfaction with ...					
How you use your time	0.6	1.3	7.0	29.4	61.6
How much free time you have to do what you want	0.7	1.3	11.0	33.6	53.4

²⁴ N=6;N=4;N=8;N=7;N=11;N=6

²⁵ N=65;N=45

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7	2.2	2.5	5.0	11.4	26.9	50.1
How much free time you have to do what you want	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	2.0	1.8	4.2	11.0	26.8	51.7

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

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

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





Satisfaction with ...					
Your life as a whole	1.3	0.7	4.6	18.4	75.0

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole	1.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.6	3.1	4.0	9.1	21.8	56.1

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

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

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.7	1.2	2.5	2.0	6.7	13.3	27.3	44.4
My life is going well	1.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	1.7	1.9	3.0	5.9	15.3	26.6	42.5
I have a good life	1.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.2	2.1	2.3	5.0	11.6	21.1	53.5
The things that happen in my life are excellent	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.5	1.2	2.9	3.7	7.7	16.2	25.5	38.0
I like my life	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	2.1	2.7	5.9	10.9	21.9	51.7
I am happy with my life	1.5	0.7	0.7	1.1	1.8	2.1	3.5	6.4	12.5	24.8	44.8

²⁶ N=26;N=28²⁷ N=45²⁸ N=21²⁹ N=7;N=8;N=9;N=7;N=8;N=8

CW-DBSWBS (Children's Worlds Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale), 2003)Table 30. CW- DBSWBS items (10&12 year-old) (%)³⁰

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	1.7	1.8	4.1	11.3	22.9	56.6
Your friends	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	1.9	2.1	4.5	11.7	31.8	46.2
Your life as a student	1.0	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.3	3.2	3.8	10.2	27.6	32.1	19.5
The area where you live	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.7	1.2	2.6	2.7	5.5	13.5	27.1	45.0
The way that you look	2.7	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.9	3.6	4.6	8.5	17.7	24.6	33.9

CW-PNAS (Children's Worlds Positive and Negative Affects Scale)Table 31. CW-PNAS items (10&12 year-old) (%)³¹

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.6	4.3	3.6	7.4	21.3	30.0	28.7
Calm	2.4	1.5	2.5	2.8	3.7	8.0	8.3	11.9	19.1	21.5	18.1
Full of energy	1.6	1.3	0.9	2.1	2.5	5.5	5.7	10.4	17.3	21.8	30.9
Sad	15.9	20.1	13.0	8.8	7.9	9.1	5.9	6.1	6.1	4.4	2.9
Stressed	24.5	13.3	9.2	7.6	6.3	8.4	5.7	6.6	6.9	6.6	5.0
Bored	14.5	10.7	9.8	8.4	8.1	10.7	7.7	9.2	8.4	5.8	6.7

CW-PSWBS (Children's Worlds Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)-Table 32. CW- PSWBS items (10&12 year-old) (%)³²

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am	2.6	1.1	0.8	1.3	1.7	3.6	4.0	8.5	19.2	25.2	32.0
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.3	2.5	3.0	7.3	19.5	27.8	35.9
People are generally pretty friendly towards me	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.9	1.6	3.1	2.4	7.0	19.7	30.5	33.3
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	2.2	3.0	7.0	16.0	28.0	40.0
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	2.3	0.9	1.0	1.3	3.3	4.2	4.4	12.4	19.1	25.1	25.9
I feel positive about my future	1.2	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	3.2	2.6	5.2	19.1	28.5	36.5

³⁰ N=6;N=7;N=3;N=14;N=30³¹ N=25;N=33;N=33;N=40;N=34;N=35³² N=20;N=24;N=20;N=25;N=24;N=33

2.10 Children perceptions about their country:Table 33. Children's rights (%)³³

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have	No	6.0	2.9	1.1	3.4
	Not sure	43.4	31.6	22.5	32.6
	Yes	50.6	65.5	76.4	64.0
	Total	100	100	100	100
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	No	29.9	12.5	8.7	17.1
	Not sure	48.8	49.0	46.1	48.0
	Yes	21.3	38.5	45.2	34.9
	Total	100	100	100	100

3. Notes

We experienced some challenges during data collection. The main problem was the internet, i.e. network connections that didn't work properly always. Since we collected the whole data via the web questionnaire that caused quite often problems. It happened quite often that the program (Webropol) 'threw the pupils away' during they responded. Some pupils started from the beginning if they had time.

Teachers themselves have sometimes attitudinal problems in conducting the survey. They thought it was too demanding and it happened that some classes had stopped filling the questionnaire in the middle of the process.

Some problems related to understanding the questions were discovered. The problematic questions for all the age groups were: Money compared to friends, satisfaction with the people you live.

³³ N=131;N=149