

Children's Worlds National Report

NORWAY



Mette Løvgren¹

1. Introduction

1.1 Context and population¹

In 2018, the population of Norway was 5,295,619 people. Of those, 32,701 and 31,939 were boys aged respectively 10 and 12 years. 31,099 (10 years) and 30,618 (12 years) were girls (Statistics Norway, 2020).

Norway is divided in five regions, North, South, East, West and Mid. These regions cover rural areas as well as more densely populated cities.

Ethnically, the population of Norway is more homogenous than that of many other countries. Approximately 18 percent of the population consists of immigrants or Norwegian-born children of immigrants.

The largest religion in Norway is Christianity.

Politically, Norway is a social democracy with a large welfare state, providing its citizens with education, child-care, health care and other services.

Living conditions are generally very good. While about one tenth of the population is rated as living in low income households, basic needs are covered. Poverty in Norway is, in most cases, relative poverty, i.e. children living in household that lack resources their peers enjoy.

1.2 Sampling: Strategy and outcome

We recruited children through schools. The invited schools represent all regions except Mid-Norway, and we selected schools to ensure representation across the following dimensions: rural/urban, ethnic majority and minority, high and low socio-economic status, small and large schools.

Of the invited children (all in grades 3, 5 and 7) at the schools that agreed to conduct the survey, only a minority partook in the study. This might skew the results; the sample might consist of those who are faring best, e.g. in terms of home resources or well-being.

Two main factors explain the low participation rate. Survey fatigue is common, with schools, children and parents being asked to participate in a large number of surveys. In addition, we were required to collect signed consent from the parent of each child (the distribution and collection of the information and consent were administered by the schools). While some parent(s) might object to their child participating, we know from experience that many neglect to submit their consent.

2. Results

2.1 The participants

Age by gender (Numbers, (%))

	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Boy	418 (23,7)	395 (22,4)	813 (46,1)
Girl	459 (26)	491 (27,9)	950 (53,9)
Total	877 (49,7)	886 (50,3)	1763 (100)

2.2 The home and the people children live with

Home type (%)

First home %

I live with my family	98,0
I live in a foster home	0,9
I live in a children's home	0,1
I live in another type of home	1,0
Total	100.0

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 with	0,1	0	0,1	0,6	0,6	1,8	1,8	4,2	8,3	17,7	64,8

Variations in questions about home and family (All age groups; means)

	Family care	Family help problem	Good time together	Feel safe	Parents listen	Make joint decision
10 year-old	3,7	3,65	3,61	3,73	3,44	3,33
12 year-old	3,74	3,68	3,58	3,73	3,46	3,37
Total	3,72	3,67	3,59	3,73	3,45	3,35

2.3 The home where children live

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	0,4	0,1	0,3	0,5	0,8	2,3	1,7	4,1	9,6	17,2	63,1

Things you have (%)

Whether you have ...	10 & 12 year-old
Own room	91,1
Place to study	96,5

2.4 Friends

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

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your friends	0,3	0,1	0,4	0,6	1,2	2,7	3,0	5,9	10,4	21,1	54,4

Friends (%)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough friends	3,6	4,9	9,7	16,6	65,2
My friends are usually nice to me	2	5,3	10,8	24,4	57,5
Me and my friends get along well together	2,3	4,7	9,8	21,0	62,2
If I have a problem, I have a friend who will support me	3,6	5,2	8,1	17,6	65,5

2.5 School

Satisfaction with school life (%) 10 & 12 year old

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Life as a student	0,8	0,5	1,0	1,6	1,7	5,0	5,1	11,0	15,1	20,3	38,0
Things you have learned	0,2	0,4	0,3	0,6	1,4	3,4	3,2	9,0	16,2	23,0	42,3
Other children in your class	0,4	0,3	0,9	1,6	2,8	4,2	6,0	9,1	13,2	24,1	37,3

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	2,0	4,6	13,6	25,5	54,3
If I have a problem at school, my teachers will help me	1,9	5,6	13,3	22,9	56,2
If I have a problem at school, other children will help me	2,9	8,2	12,5	28,0	48,4
There are a lot of arguments between children in my class	21,8	36,8	14,4	12,9	14,0
My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account	2,7	6,6	15,5	23,1	52,1
At school I have opportunities to make decisions about things that are important to me	6,1	10,4	19,2	27,3	36,9
I feel safe at school	1,6	4,7	9,6	18,3	65,9






Bullying (All age groups) (%)

How often:	Never	Once	Two or 3 times	More than three times
Hit by other children in your school	78,1	14,1	4,9	3
Called unkind names by other children in your school	59,0	18,6	11,7	10,7
Left out by other children in your class	67,9	17,3	8,2	6,6

2.6 The area where children live

Satisfaction with local area (%)

8 year old

Satisfaction with ...					
The area where you live	-	-	-	-	-

10 & 12 year old

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The area where you live	0,8	0,4	0,5	0,9	1,5	2,8	4,0	6,5	12,8	19,0	50,8

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	1,92	3,71	10,27	22,94	61,16
There are enough places to play or to have a good time	6,46	12,42	13,80	17,50	49,81

2.7 Money and the things children have:

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

	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	61,3	62,2	61,7
Sometimes	30,3	29,2	29,7
Often	5,6	5,6	5,6
Always	2,8	3,1	2,9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

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	0,1	0,1	0,6	1,2	1,2	3,9	9,5	19,8	63,7	0,1	0,1

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

	10 year-old	12 year-old	Total
Never	0,2	0,4	0,3
Sometimes	0,5	0,6	0,6
Often	5,6	5,3	5,4
Always	93,6	93,7	93,7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

The things children have (%)

Which of the following do you have	10 year-old		12 year-old		Total	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Clothes in good condition	1,1	98,9	0,7	99,3	0,9	99,1
Enough money for school trips and activities	2,8	97,2	1,6	98,4	2,2	97,8
Access to the Internet at home	1,2	98,8	0,7	99,3	1	99
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	1,7	98,3	2,3	97,7	2	98
Pocket money/ money to spend on yourself	7,1	92,9	4,9	95,1	6	94
Two pairs of shoes	1,2	98,8	1,8	98,2	1,5	98,5
A mobile phone	2,9	97,1	1,3	98,7	2,1	97,9
The equipment/things you need for school	1,1	98,9	1,7	98,3	1,4	98,6

material and economic circumstances SCALES

Scale B:

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

How many bathrooms are in your home?

None	0,2
One	27,9
Two	58,1
More than two	13,9

Do you sleep in your own room or do you share a room?

I sleep in a room on my own	91,1
I sleep in a room that I share with other people	8,9

Does your family own a car, van or truck?

No	3,4
One	29
Two	52,9
Three or more	14,7

In the last 12 months, how many times did you travel away on holiday with your family?

Not at all	4,6
Once	16
Twice	25,3
More than twice	54,1

How many computers do your family own?

None	0,3
One	2,2

Two	7,4
More than two	90,1
Does your home have a washing machine?	
No	0,8
Yes	99,2
Total	100

2.8 Time use

Satisfaction with time use (%) 10 & 12 year old

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
How you use your time	0,2	0,2	0,4	0,7	1,5	3,8	6,0	11,0	19,8	21,0	35,3
How much free time you have to do what you want	0,7	0,3	0,6	0,9	2,9	5,9	4,8	9,3	13,2	16,4	44,9

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

OLS (Overall Subjective Well-Being)

Satisfaction with life as a whole (%) 10 & 12 year old

Satisfaction with ...	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Your life as a whole	0,5	0,3	0,5	0,5	1,0	2,1	1,4	3,9	8,6	16,8	64,5

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

CW-SWBS items (%)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I enjoy my life	0,8	0,6	0,3	1,2	1,1	3,5	2,9	5,9	10,0	14,4	59,2
My life is going well	0,3	0,2	0,6	0,9	0,9	3,3	3,1	6,3	8,2	14,6	61,6
I have a good life	0,5	0,3	0,3	1,0	0,6	2,6	2,0	4,4	7,1	13,5	67,7
The things that happen in my life are excellent	0,7	0,7	0,9	1,5	2,4	4,5	3,9	7,1	10,7	23,1	44,6
I like my life	0,5	0,9	0,5	0,8	1,1	2,9	2,3	4,4	8,0	13,4	65,3
I am happy with my life	0,6	0,9	0,5	0,9	1,0	2,7	2,5	3,4	7,7	13,9	66,1

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

CW- DBSWBS items (%)

Satisfaction with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The people you live with	0,1	-	0,1	0,6	0,6	1,8	1,8	4,2	8,3	17,7	64,8
Your friends	0,3	0,1	0,4	0,6	1,2	2,7	3,0	5,9	10,4	21,1	54,4
Your life as a student	0,8	0,5	1,0	1,6	1,7	5,0	5,1	11,0	15,1	20,3	38,0
The area where you live	0,8	0,4	0,5	0,9	1,5	2,8	4,0	6,5	12,8	19,0	50,8
The way that you look	1,9	0,6	0,9	1,4	2,6	5,0	3,9	7,7	10,6	14,6	50,9

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

CW-PNAS items (%)

Last two weeks: How often feeling	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Happy	0,3	0,1	0,2	1,1	1,4	4,1	3,7	10,5	21,2	25,1	32,3
Calm	2,0	3,2	4,3	5,2	6,2	13,3	9,4	12,8	15,2	11,2	17,2
Full of energy	1,9	1,8	1,5	2,1	4,9	9,2	8,1	10,6	14,4	14,9	30,6
Sad	16,7	22,7	19,5	12,9	6,7	6,9	3,6	3,5	3,5	2,5	1,4
Stressed	15,0	16,3	13,6	10,1	7,6	9,5	6,7	5,6	6,4	5,1	4,1
Bored	9,9	15,0	13,5	11,7	10,2	11,3	6,8	6,4	4,9	5,8	4,5

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

CW- PSWBS items (%)

How much you agree with	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I like being the way I am	1,0	0,1	1,2	0,5	1,7	3,1	3,8	6,2	10,4	13,0	59,0
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	0,4	0,1	0,5	1,3	2,2	4,6	6,1	10,8	16,5	18,4	39,0
People are generally pretty friendly towards me	0,4	0,3	0,4	0,9	1,2	3,8	4,1	5,8	10,5	20,0	52,7
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	0,1	0,7	0,8	0,8	1,4	3,5	3,9	6,6	14,1	17,3	50,7
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	1,0	1,0	1,8	2,6	3,1	5,7	6,4	9,1	17,5	17,7	34,0
I feel positive about my future	0,9	0,5	0,9	1,2	2,1	2,6	3,0	7,8	10,9	18,9	51,2

2.10 Children perceptions about their country:

Children's rights (%)

		8-year-olds	10-year-olds	12-year-olds	Total
I know what rights children have	No	-	2,2	0,9	1,5
	Not sure	-	23,3	19,1	21,2
	Yes	-	74,5	80	77,3
	Total	-	100	100	100
I know about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	No	-	13	5,5	9,2
	Not sure	-	33,7	29,7	31,7
	Yes	-	53,3	64,8	59,1
	Total	-	100	100	100