



8-YEAR-OLD CHILDREN

A comparative view of young children's well-being

Prof. Asher Ben-Arieh
Prof. Sabine Andresen

Childhood Studies and younger Children

8 year old children as
subjects of their own
rights.

8 year old children as
competent actors.

8 year old children as
vulnerable subjects.

Lack of Knowledge

Andresen, S., Bradshaw, J. & Kosher, H. Young Children's Perceptions of their Lives and Well-Being. *Child Ind Res* 12, 1–7 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-018-9551-6>

Final sample by country/region and age group after data cleaning

Country (region)	8yo	10yo	12yo	Total
Albania	0	1,176	1,163	2,339
Algeria (Western)	1,185	1,137	1,054	3,376
Bangladesh (Cities)	790	946	1,012	2,748
Belgium (Flanders)	1,134	1,112	1,076	3,322
Brazil (Cities)	887	886	901	2,674
Chile (Cities)	916	913	1,016	2,845
Croatia	1,117	1,240	1,155	3,512
Estonia	1,058	1,013	1,079	3,150
Finland	1,112	1,067	1,075	3,254
France (Cities)	0	2,184	0	2,184
Germany	945	829	1,524	3,298
Greece (Epirus)	0	822	0	822
Hong Kong SAR	0	709	816	1,525
Hungary	1,016	1,035	994	3,045
India (City - Kolkata)	994	946	977	2,917
Indonesia (West Java)	7,684	7,680	8,038	23,402
Israel	1,487	1,637	1,465	4,589
Italy (Liguria)	1,044	1,074	1,181	3,299

Country (region)	8yo	10yo	12yo	Total
Malaysia	967	992	0	1,959
Malta	567	630	824	2,021
Namibia (Khomas)	0	1,065	1,099	2,164
Nepal (Selected)	0	1,005	1,041	2,046
Norway	0	801	817	2,222
Poland	964	1,192	1,156	3,312
Romania	1,082	1,241	1,145	3,468
Russia (Tyumen)	0	953	951	1,904
S Africa	0	3,415	3,699	7,114
S Korea	3,170	3,174	3,395	9,739
Spain (Catalonia)	2,329	2,209	2,088	6,626
Sri Lanka (Central)	0	1,156	1,221	2,377
Switzerland	0	1,229	0	1,229
Taiwan	1,230	1,337	1,511	4,078
UK (England)	0	717	0	717
UK (Wales)	0	959	1,668	2,627
Vietnam (North)	930	946	1,080	2,956
Total	32,608	49,427	46,149	128,184

Age related key-findings

Kim, S., Ahn, J. & Lee, B.J. **Why Do Children Become Unhappier as They Get Older?** Comparing Key Dimensions of Children's Subjective Well-Being Between 8- and 12-Year-Old Groups in South Korea. *Child Ind Res* **12**, 9–27 (2019).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-017-9513-4>

Younger children and access to resources

Andresen, S., Möller, R. & Wilmes, J. (2020). *Children's Worlds+*. A study on the needs of children and adolescents in Germany. Unter Mitarbeit von Dilan Cinar und Pia Nolting. Gütersloh: Bertelsmann. <https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/de/unsere-projekte/familie-und-bildung-politik-vom-kind-aus-denken>

Conceptual aspects on the basis of Children's Worlds

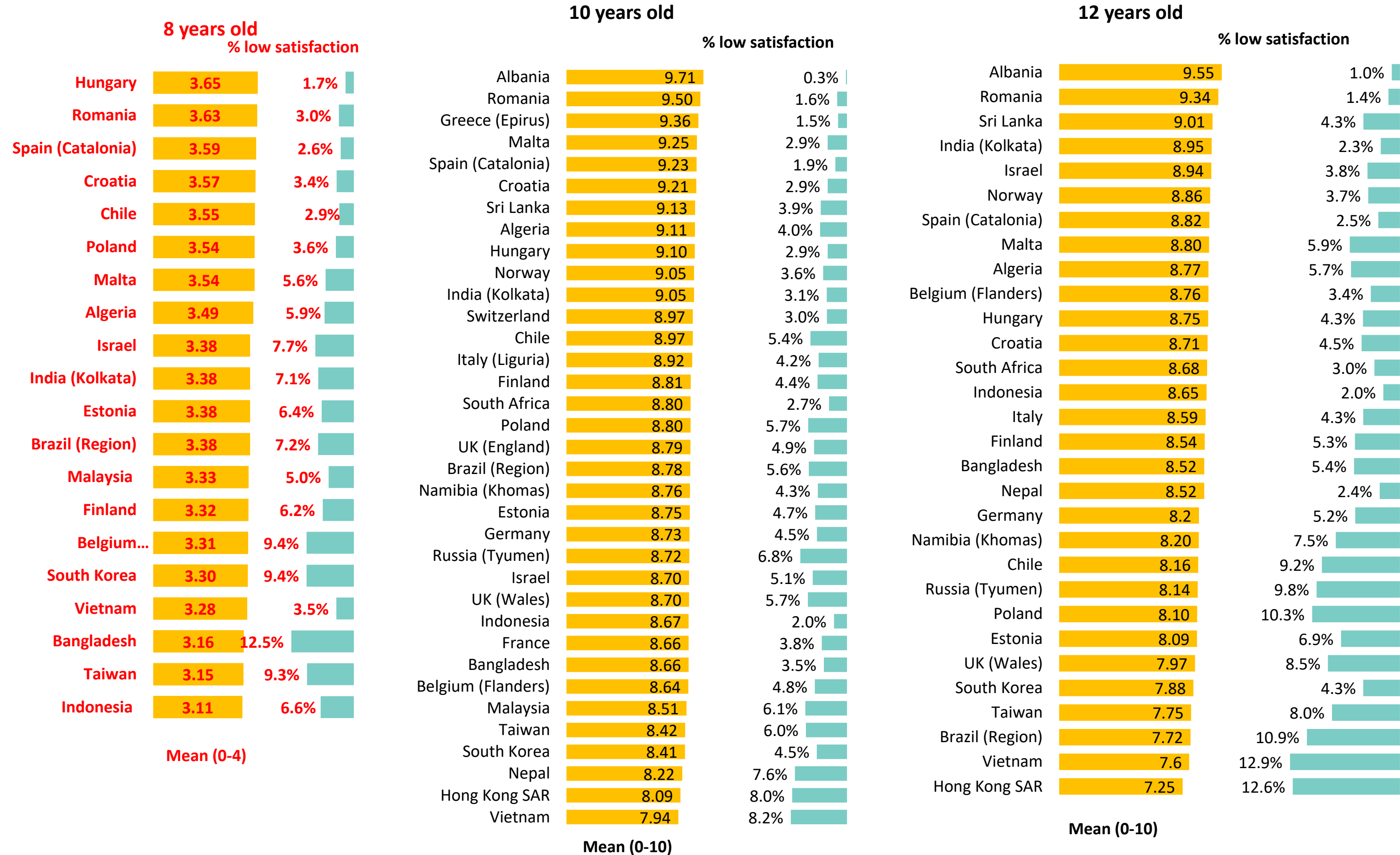
Steckermeier, L.C. Better Safe than Sorry. Does Agency Moderate the Relevance of Safety Perceptions for the Subjective Well-Being of Young Children?. *Child Ind Res* **12**, 29–48 (2019).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12187-017-9519-y>

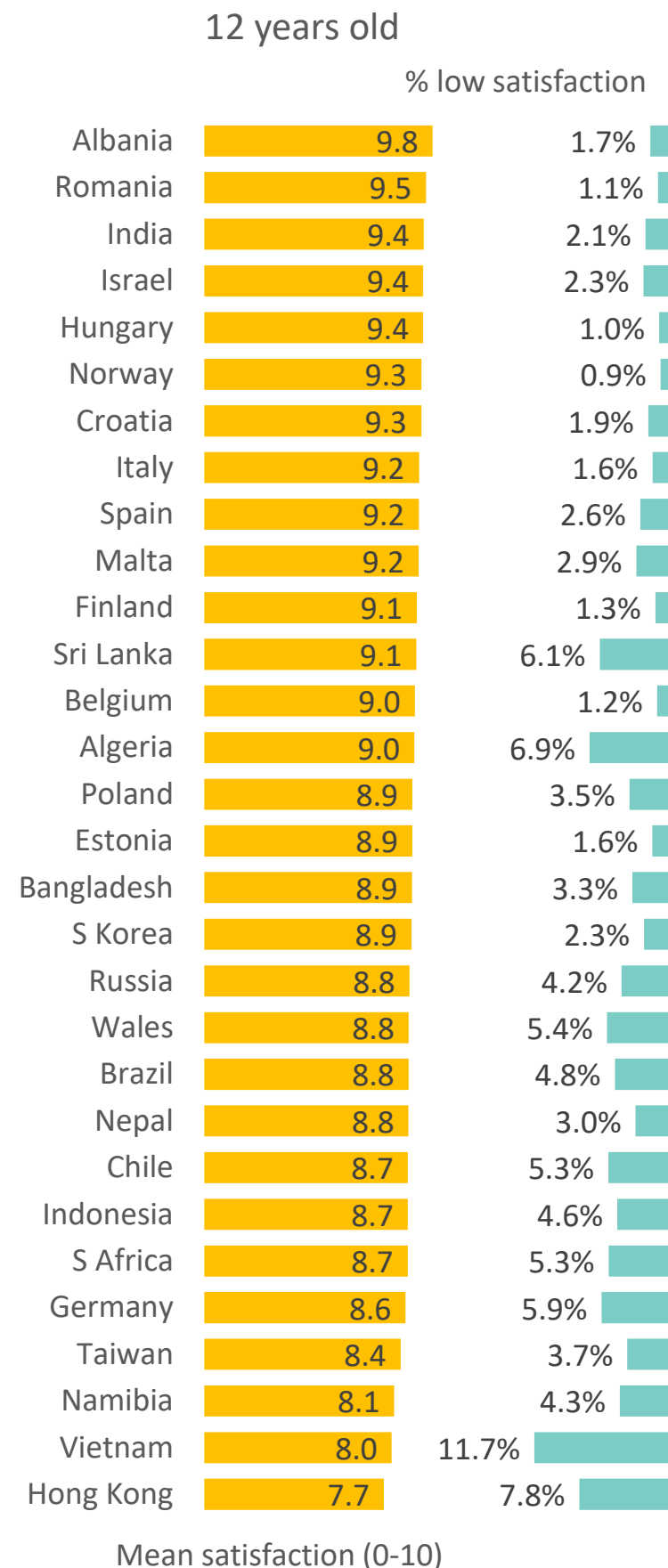
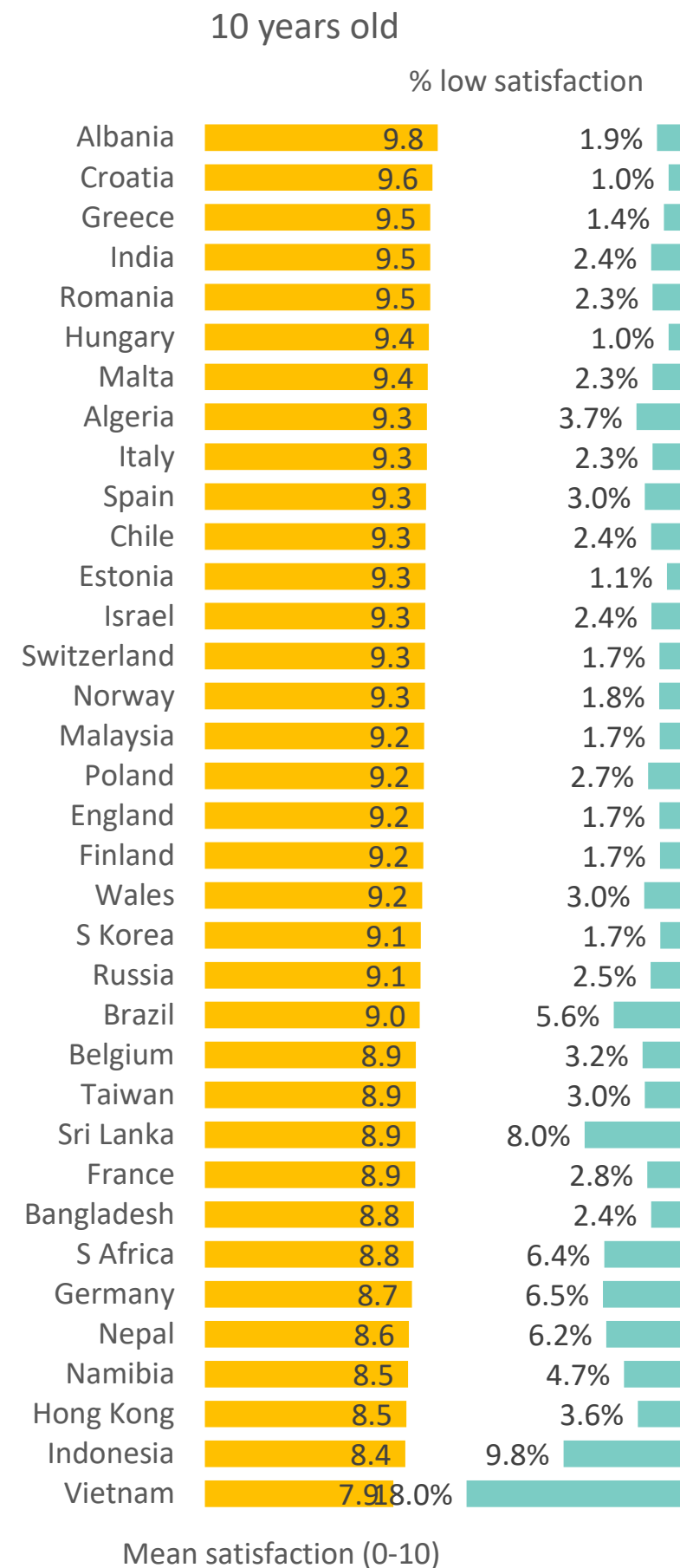
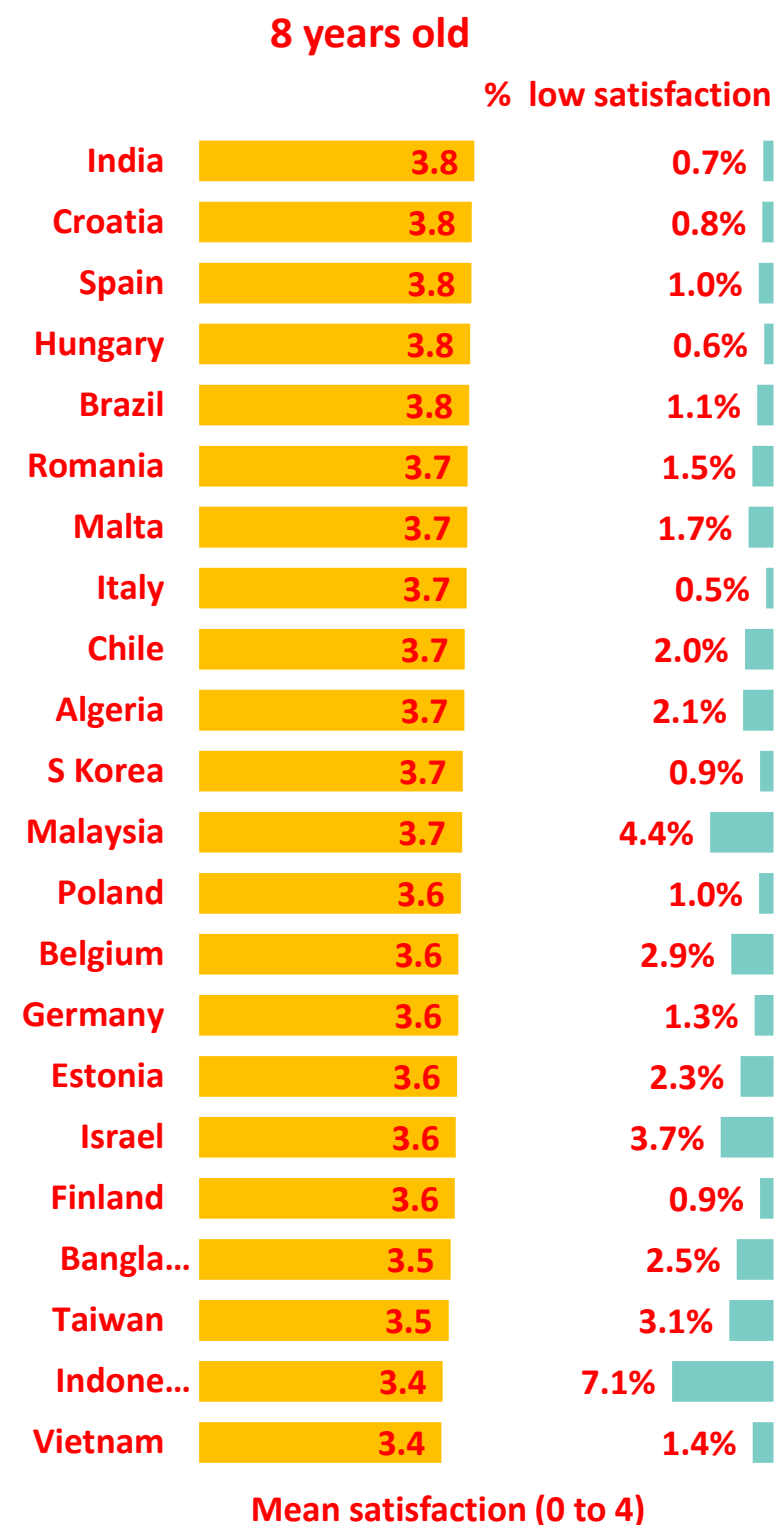
Asher

Are younger children happier?

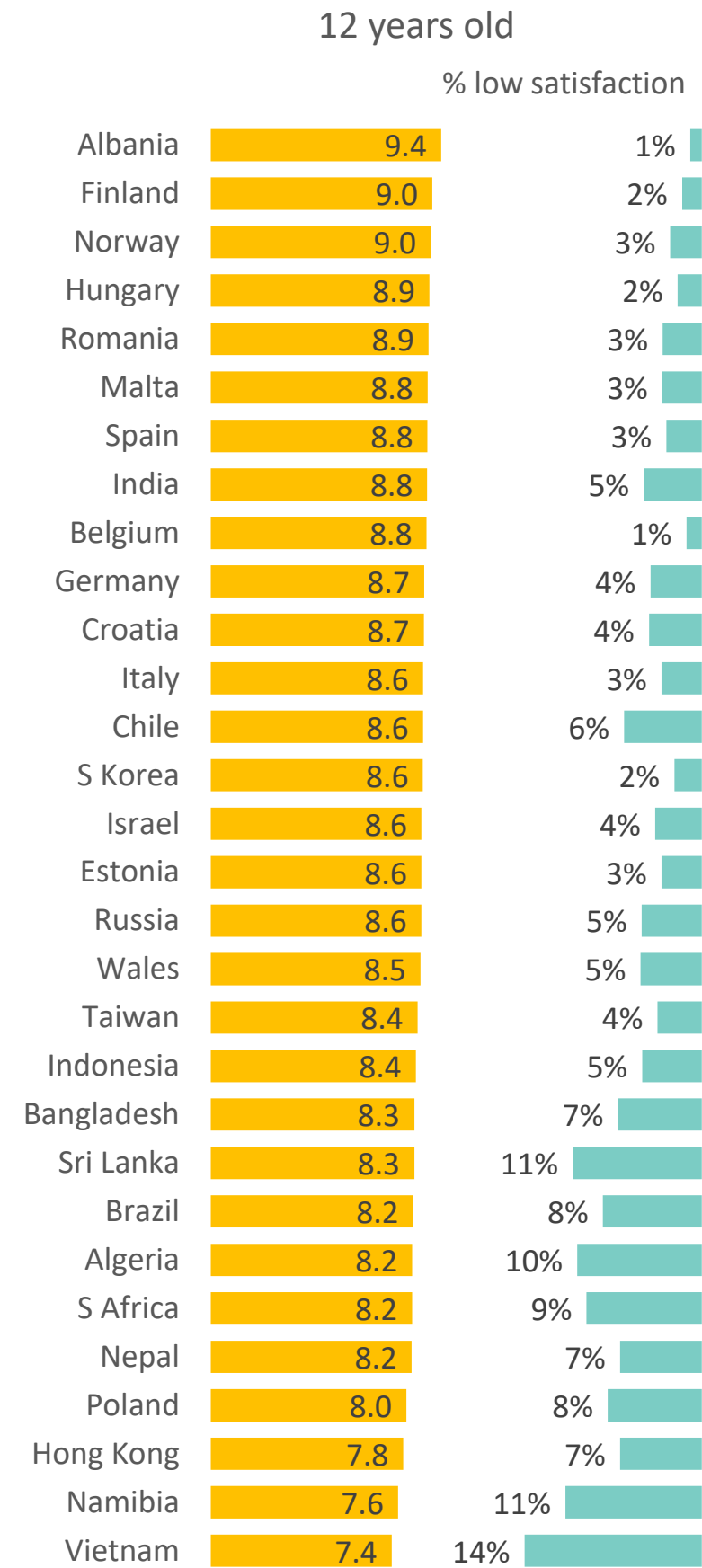
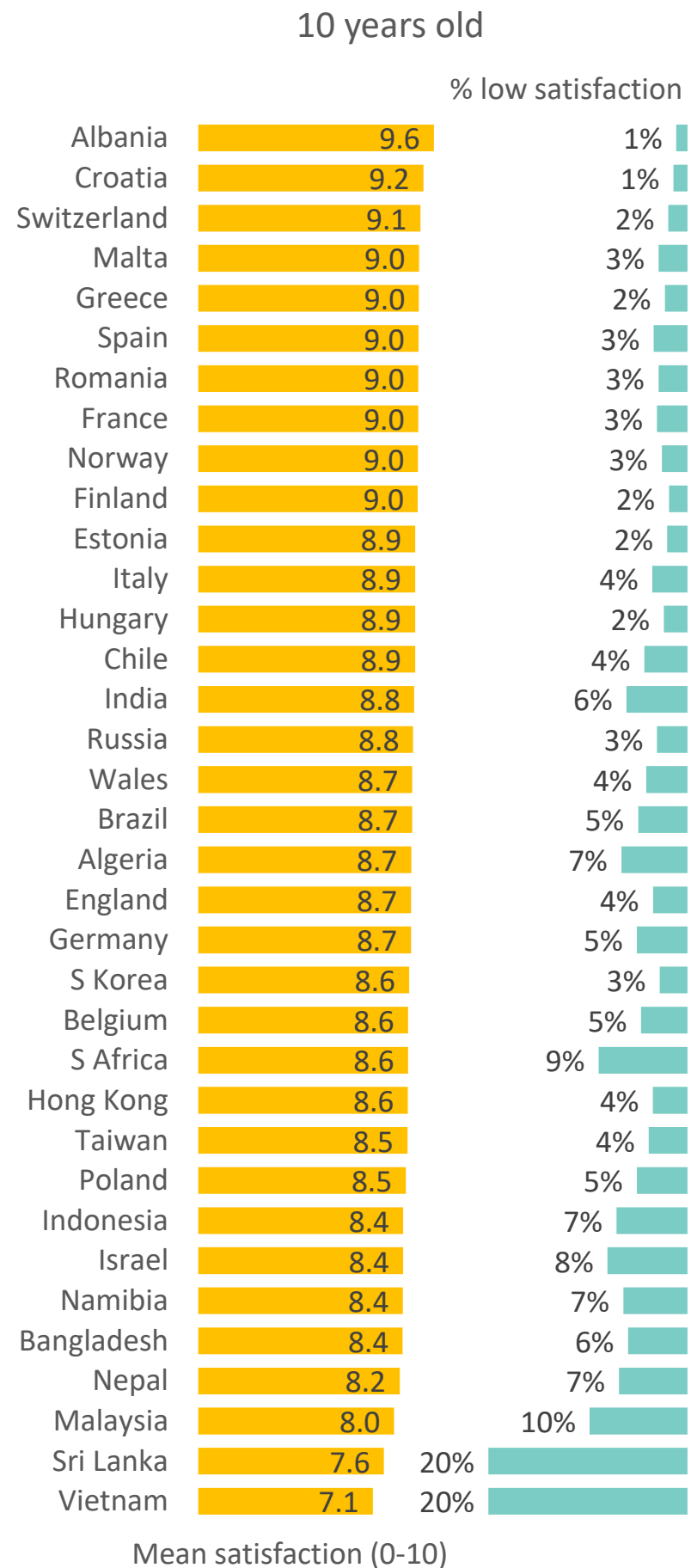
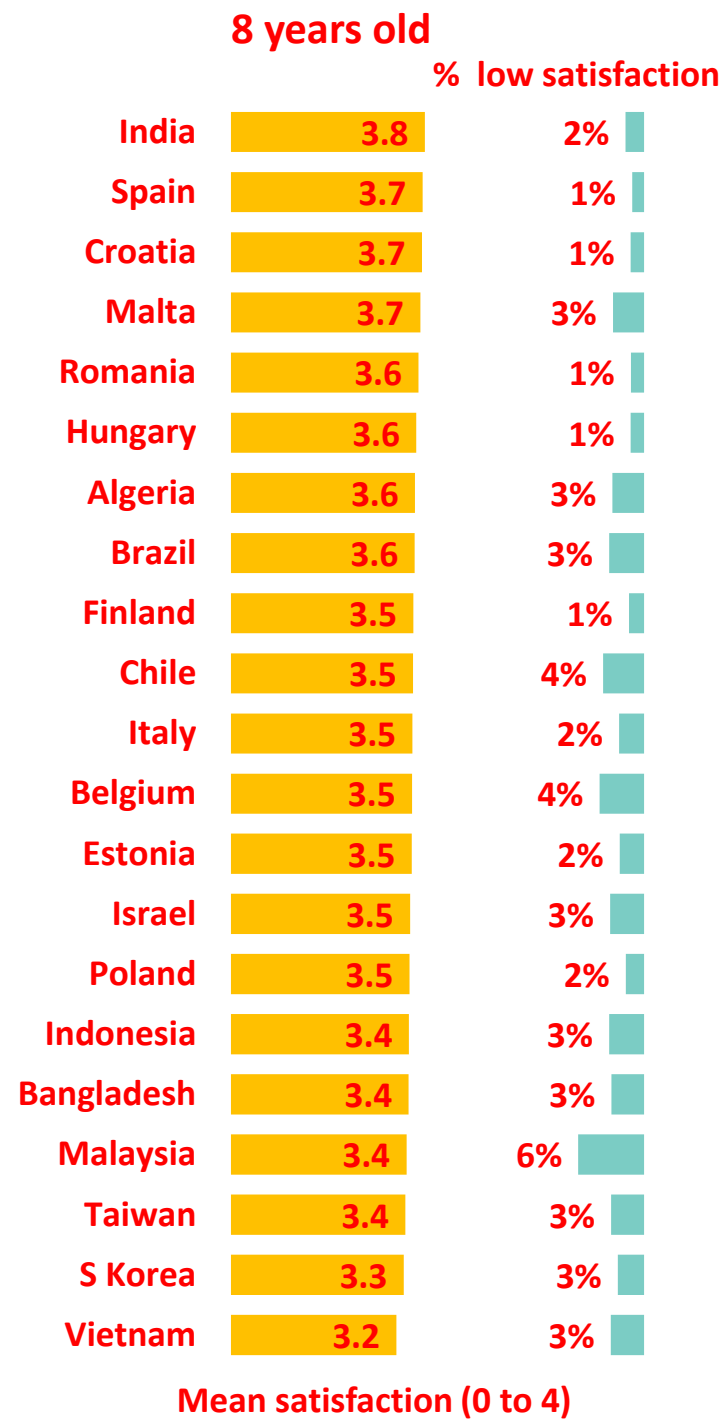
Subjective well-being mean and low satisfaction percentage



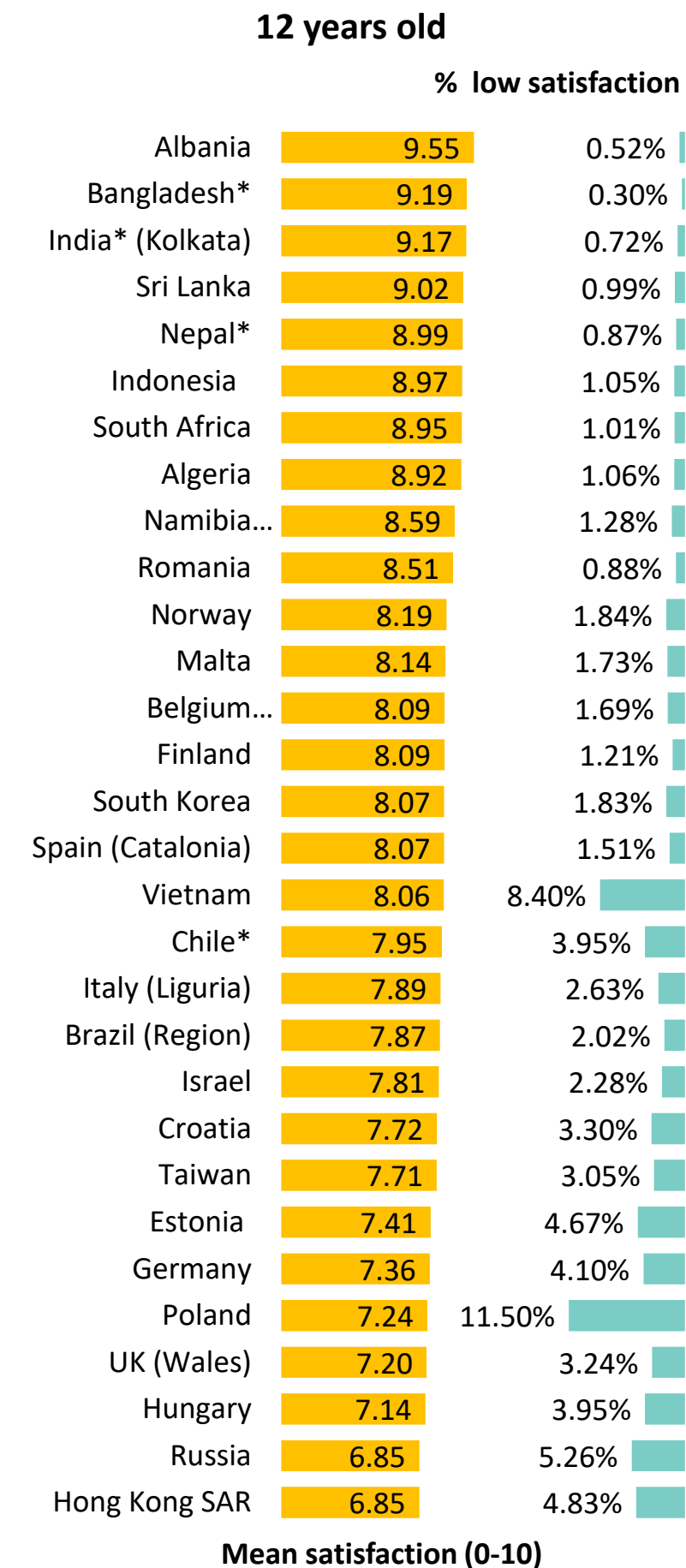
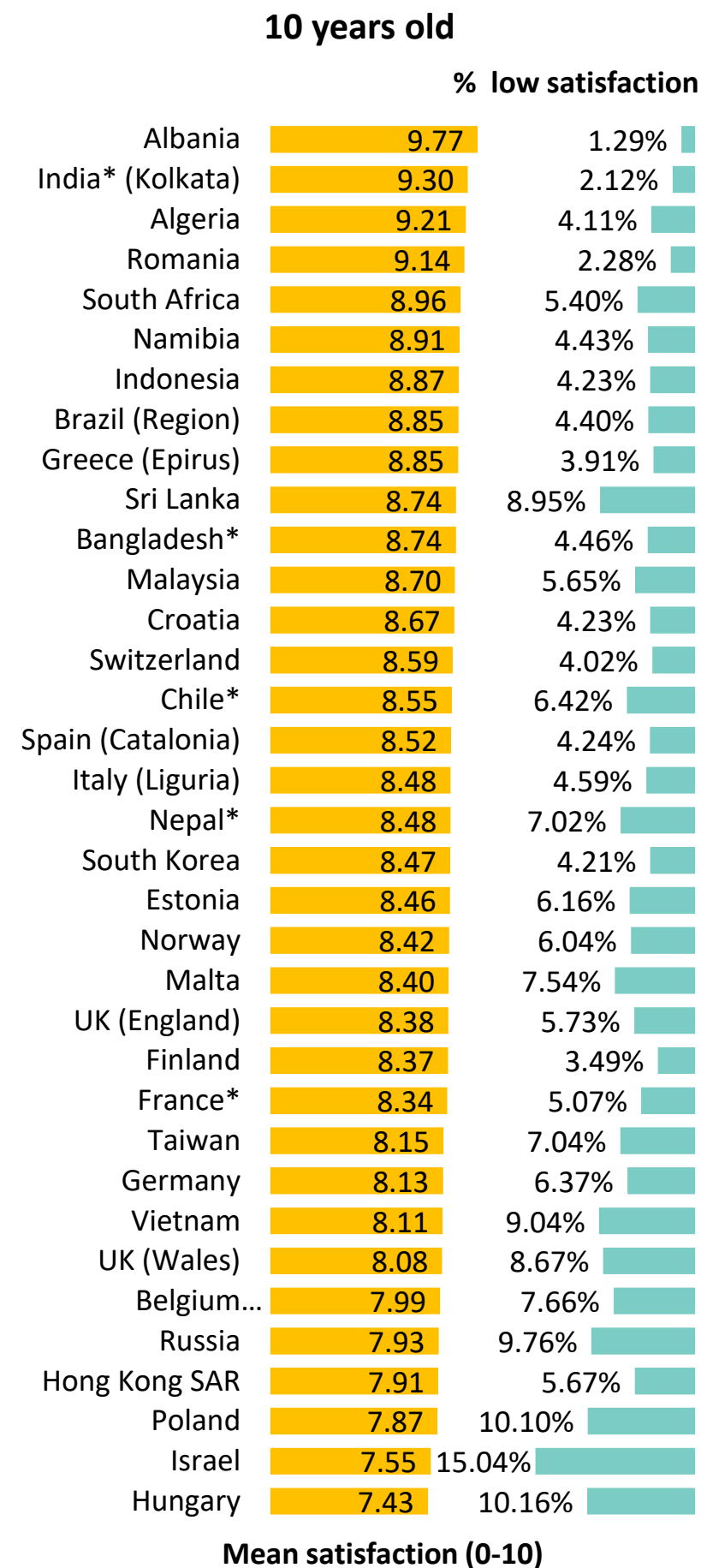
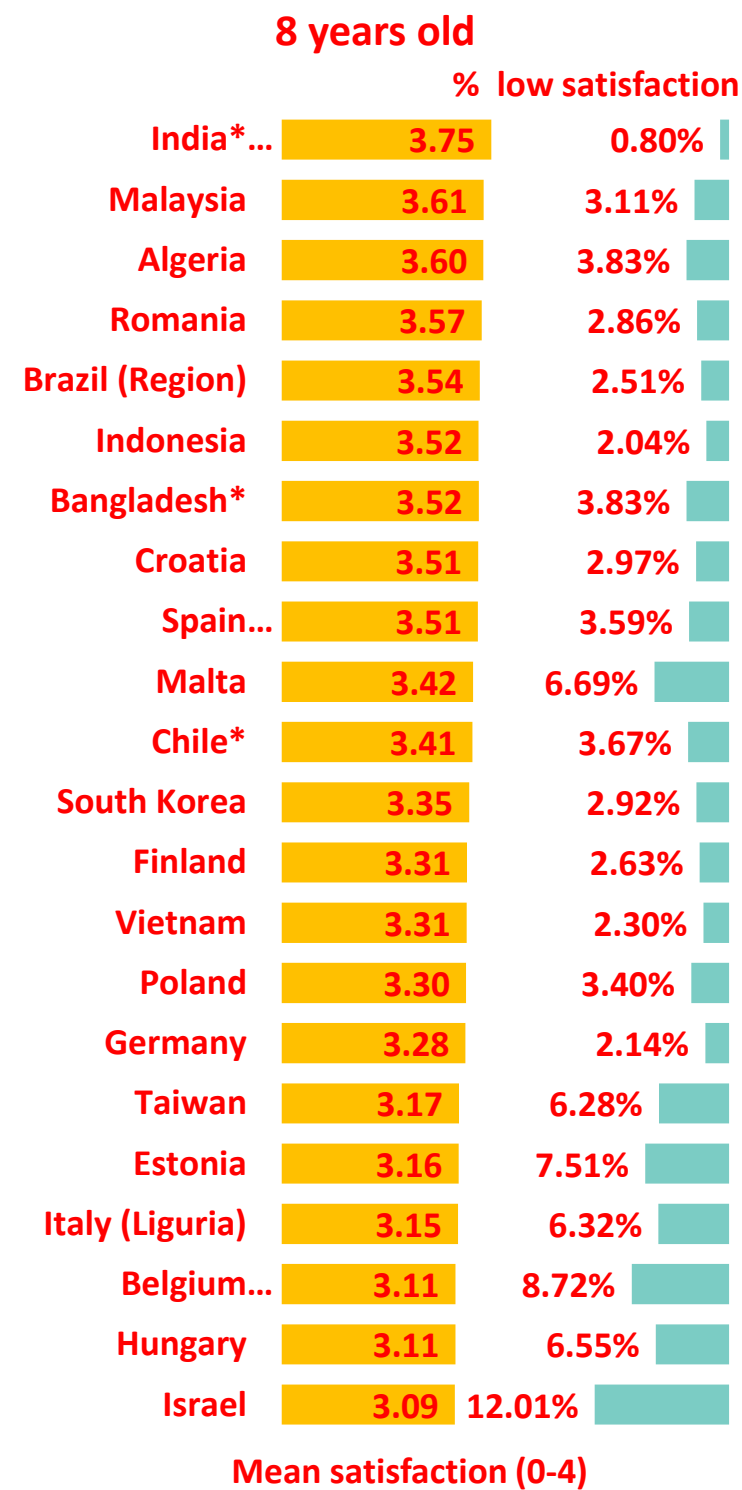
Satisfaction with 'people you live with' mean and percentage low satisfaction



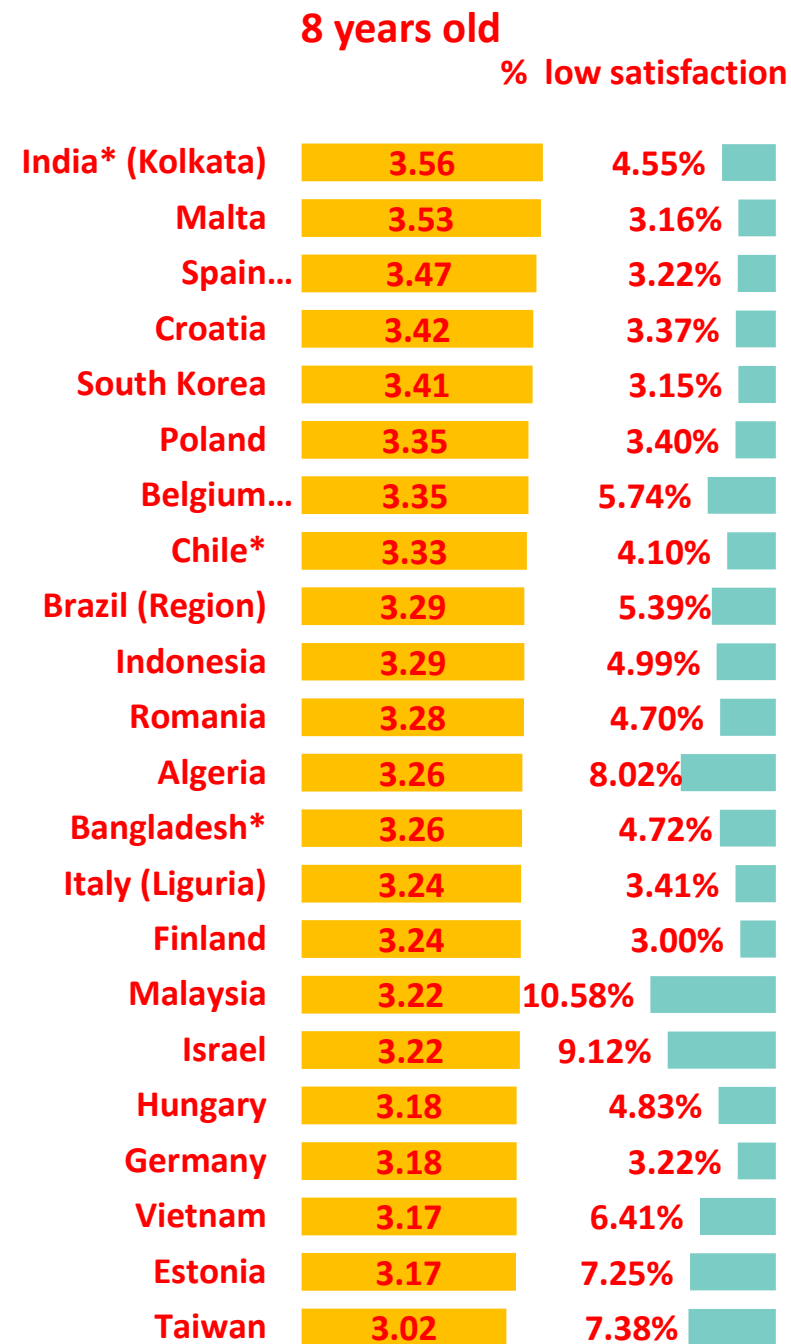
Satisfaction with friends mean and percentage low satisfaction



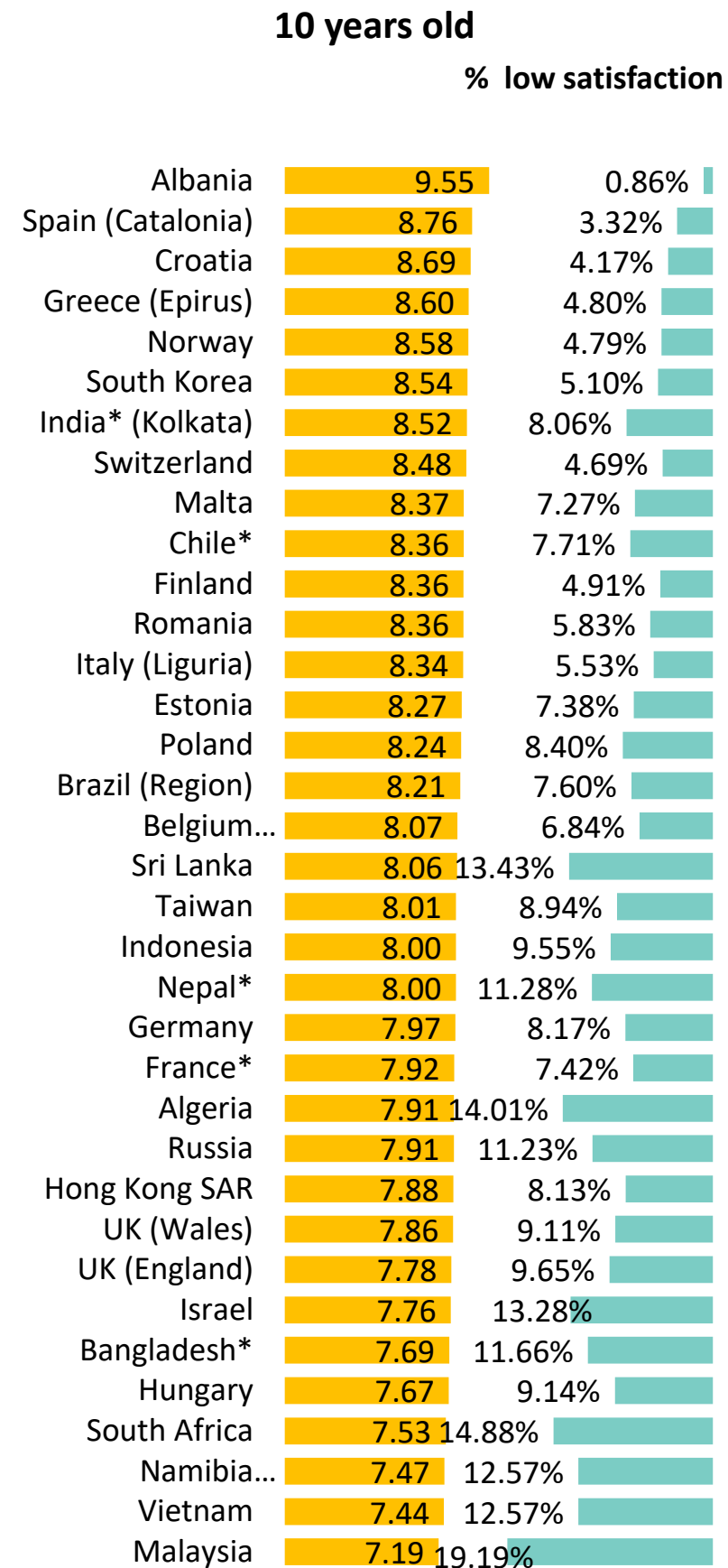
Satisfaction with life as a student mean and percentage low satisfaction



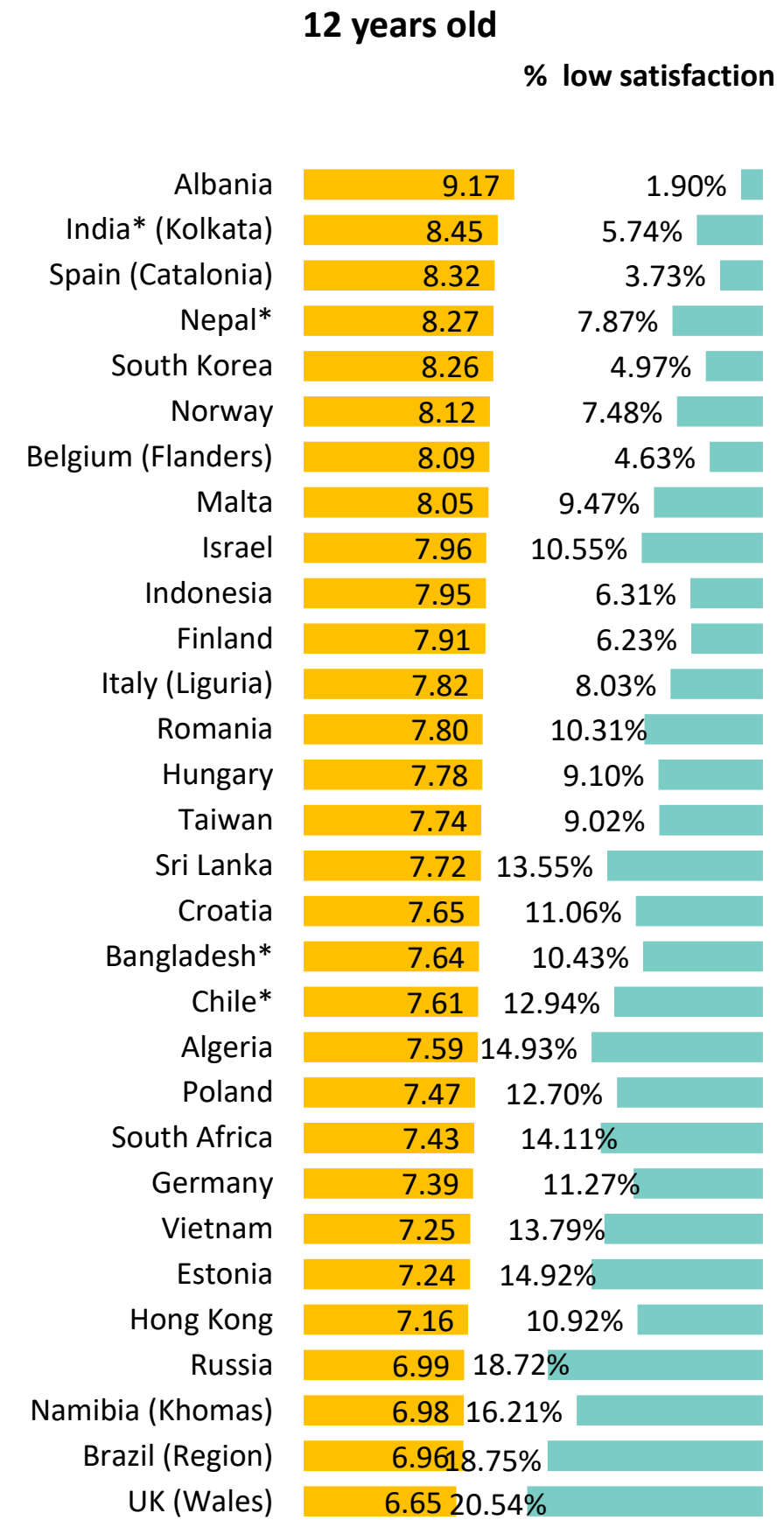
Satisfaction with other children in class mean and percentage low satisfaction



Mean (0-4)

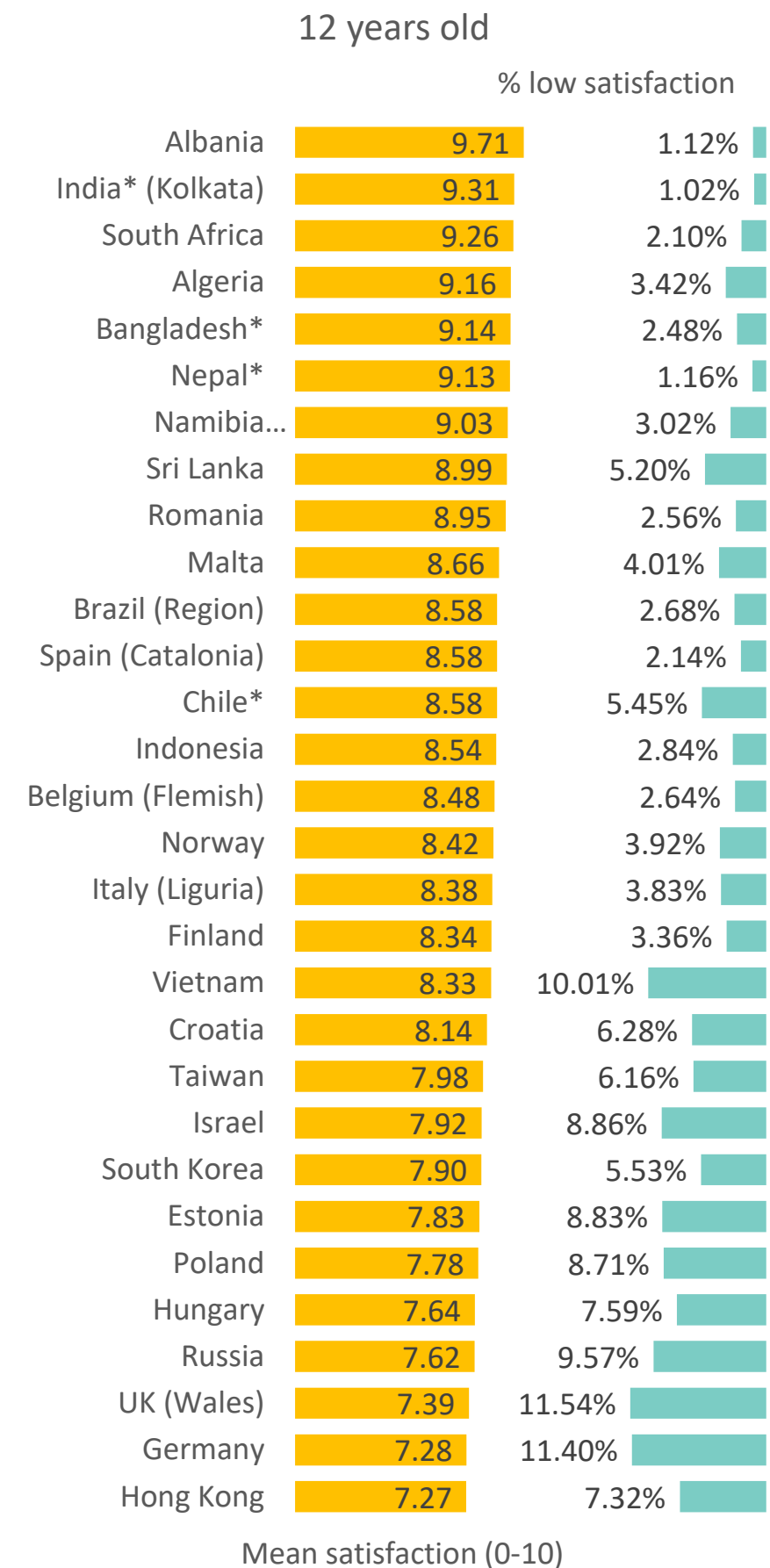
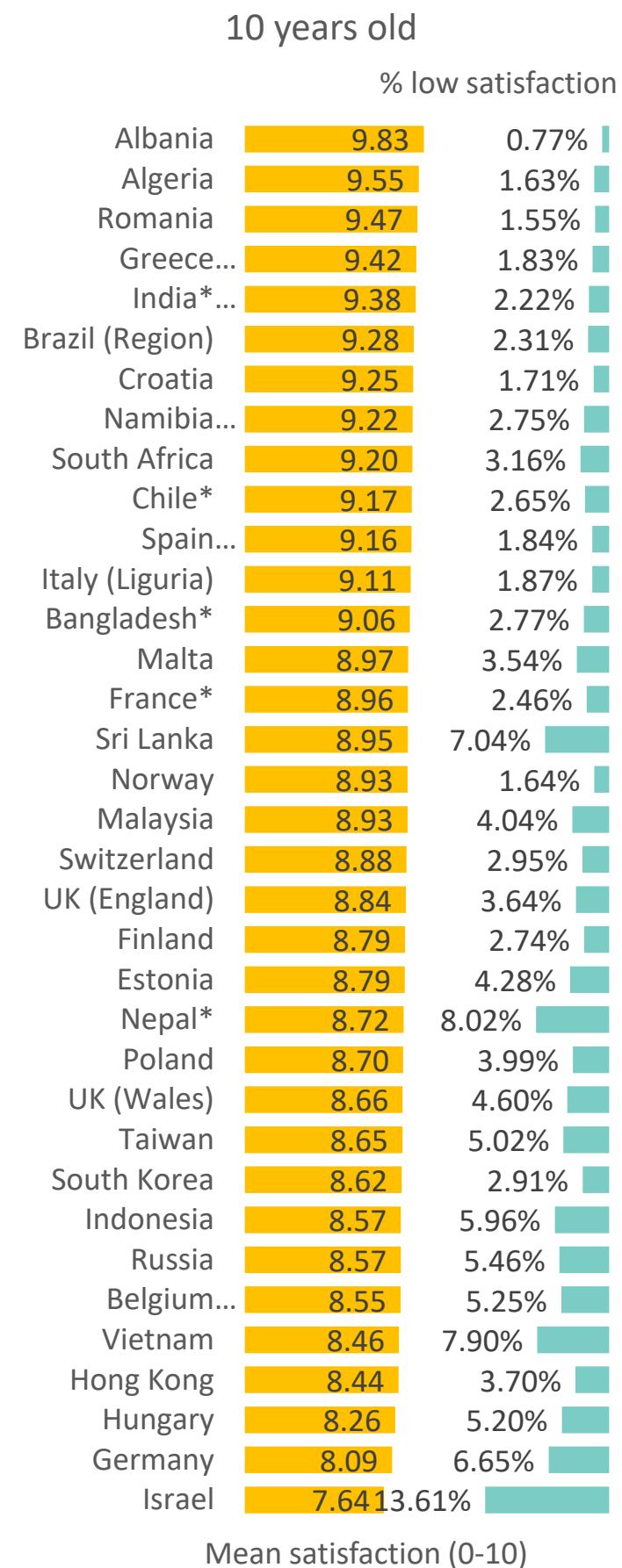
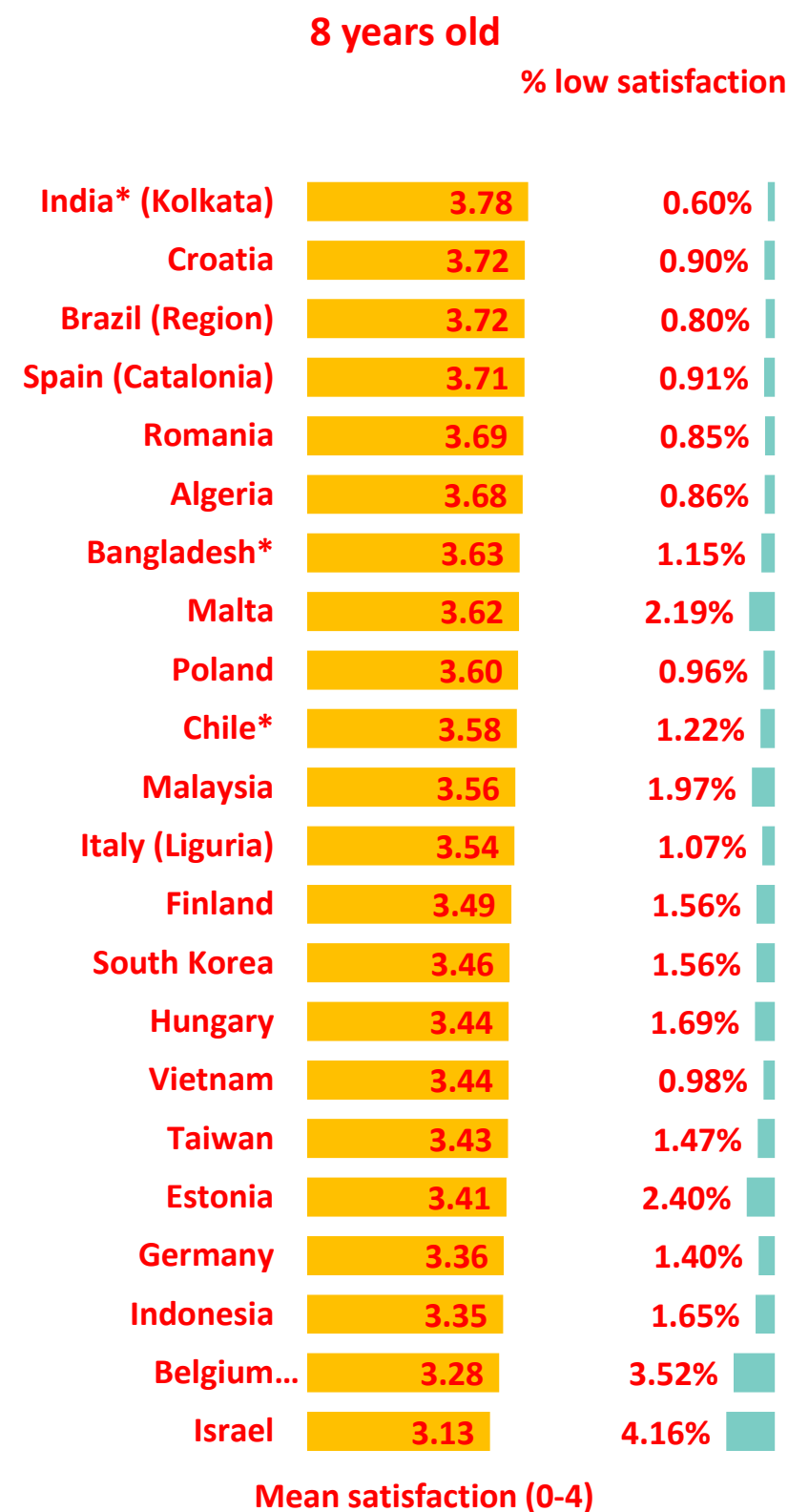


Mean (0-10)

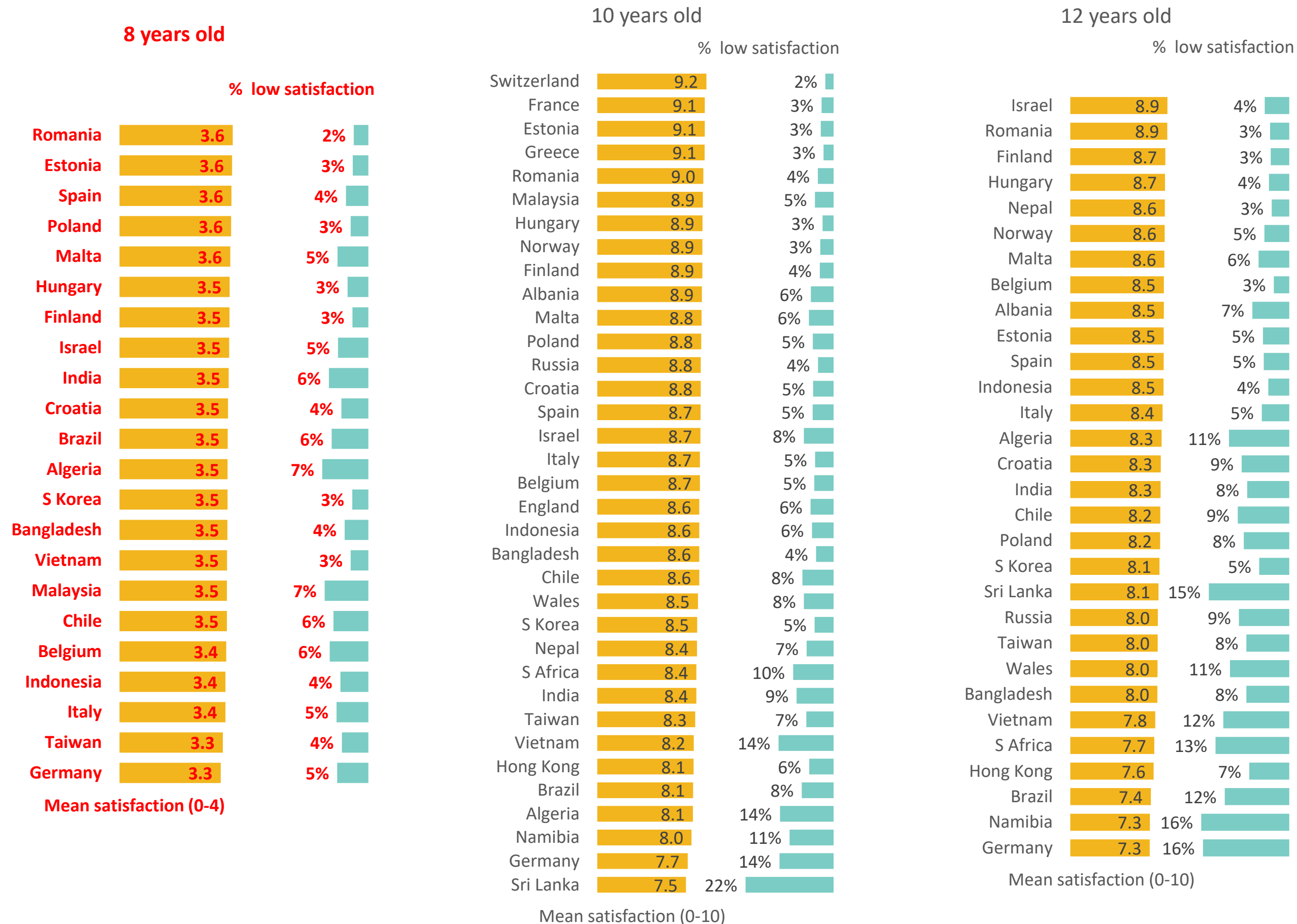


Mean (0-10)

Satisfaction with things learned at school mean and percentage low satisfaction



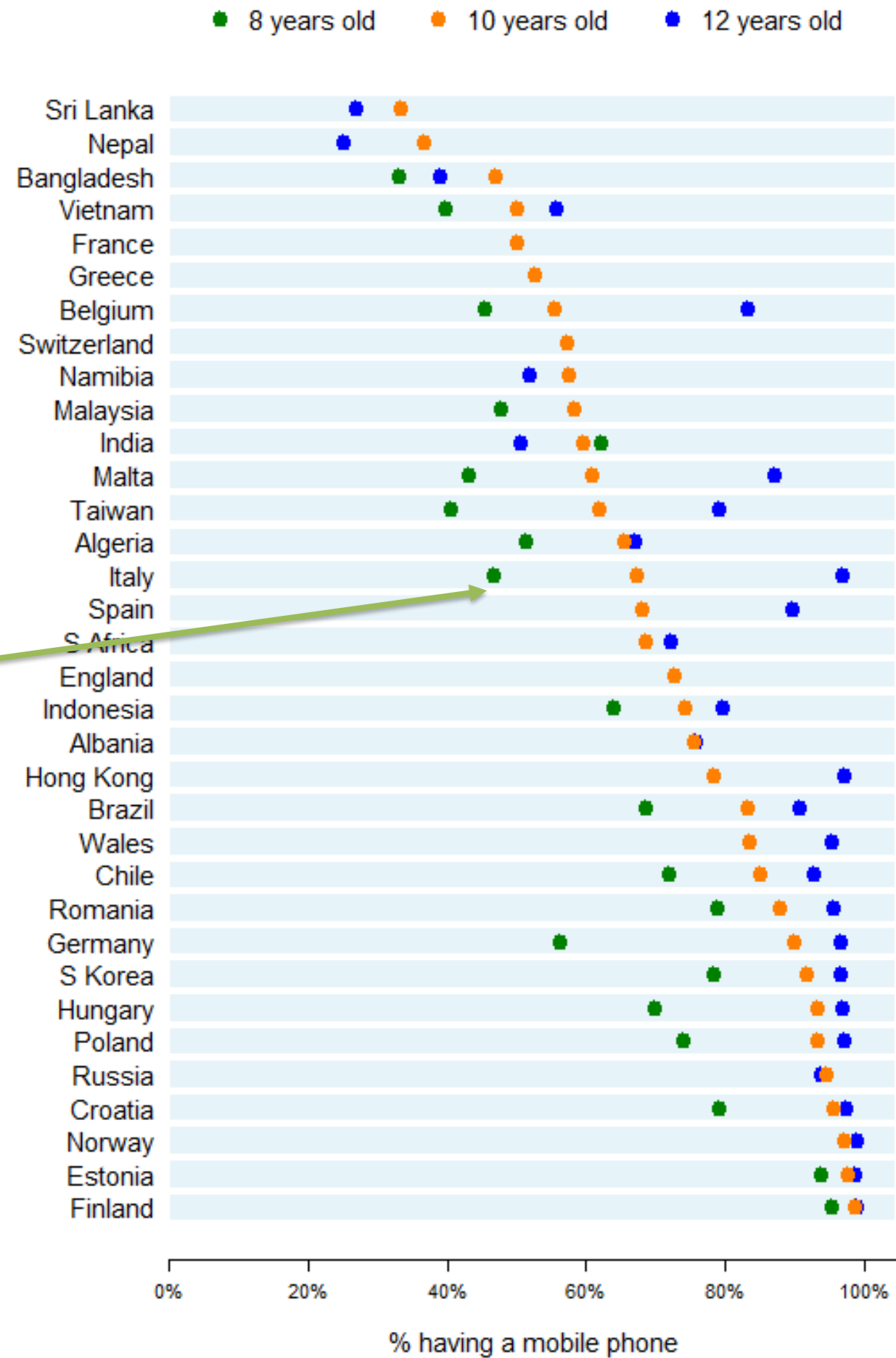
Satisfaction with 'area where you live' mean and percentage low satisfaction



**Do younger children
experience a
lack of resources?**

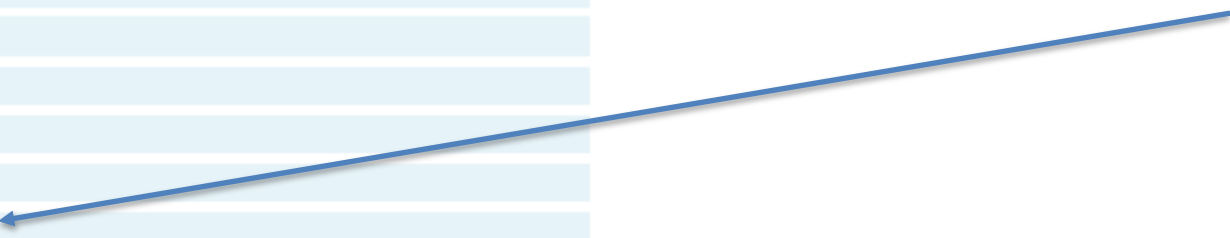
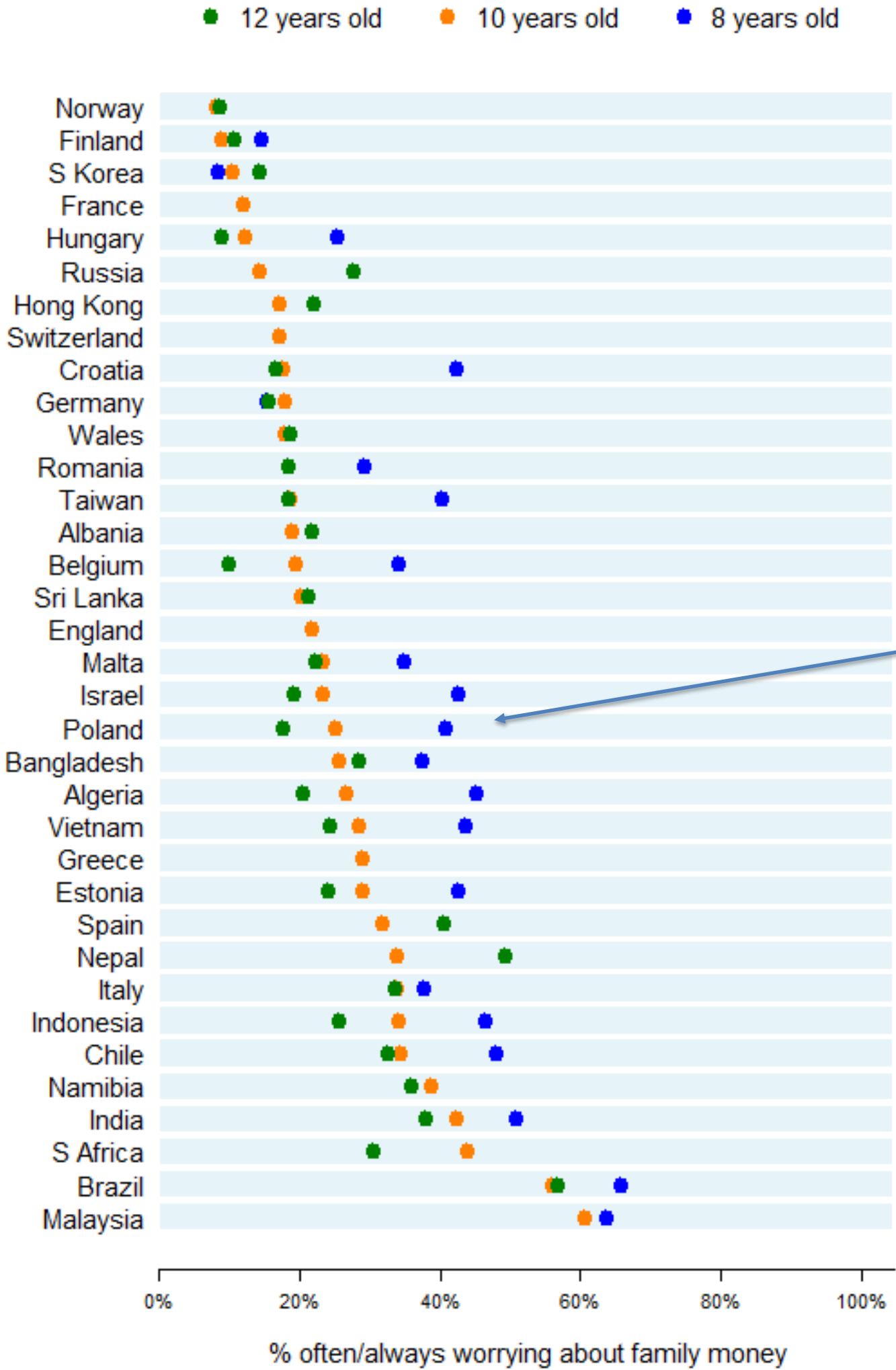
Children having a mobile phone by age group

Very important because of COVID-19

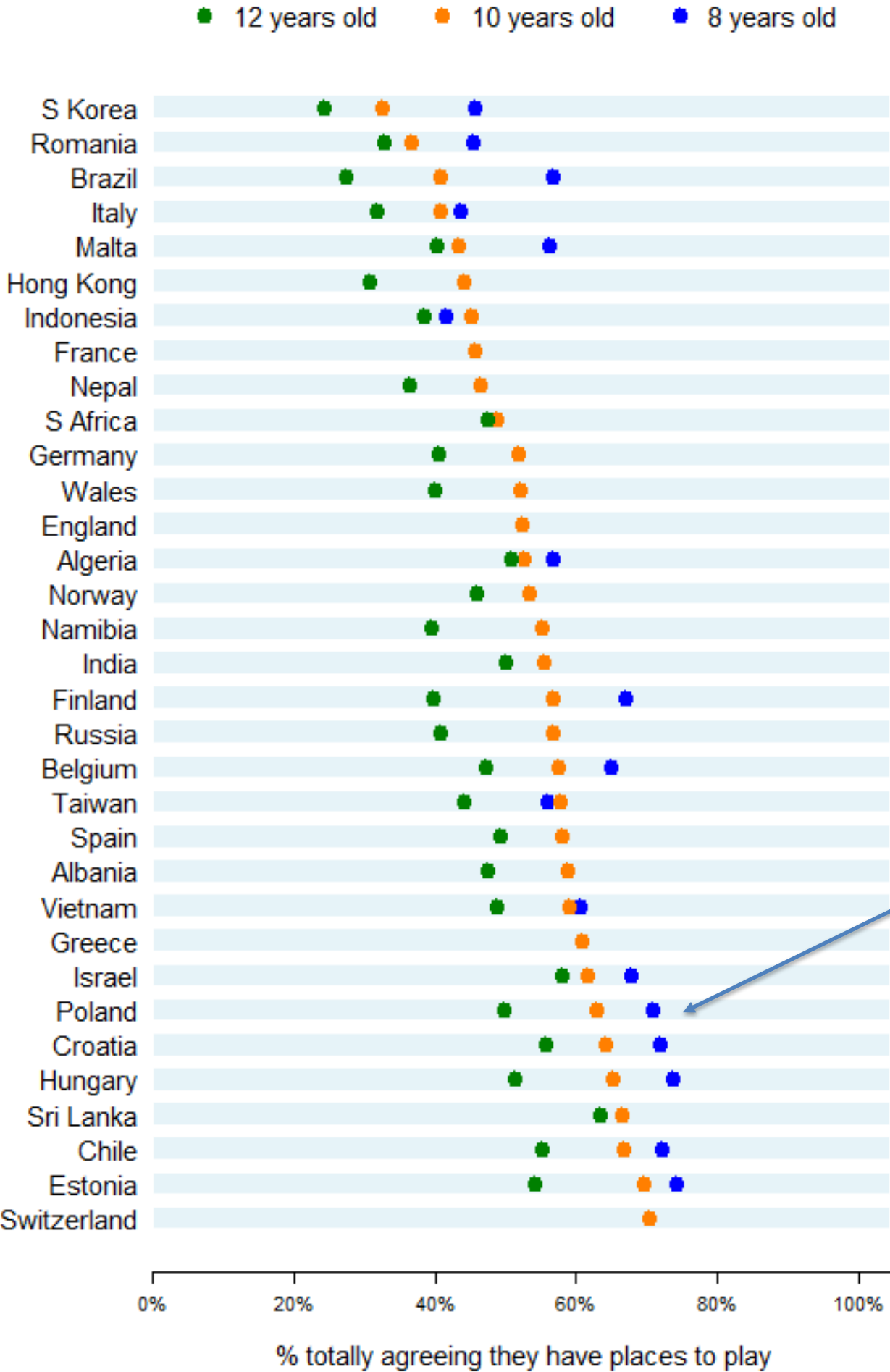


Countries ordered by proportion of 10-year-old children having a mobile phone. Israel excluded as question was not asked in all schools

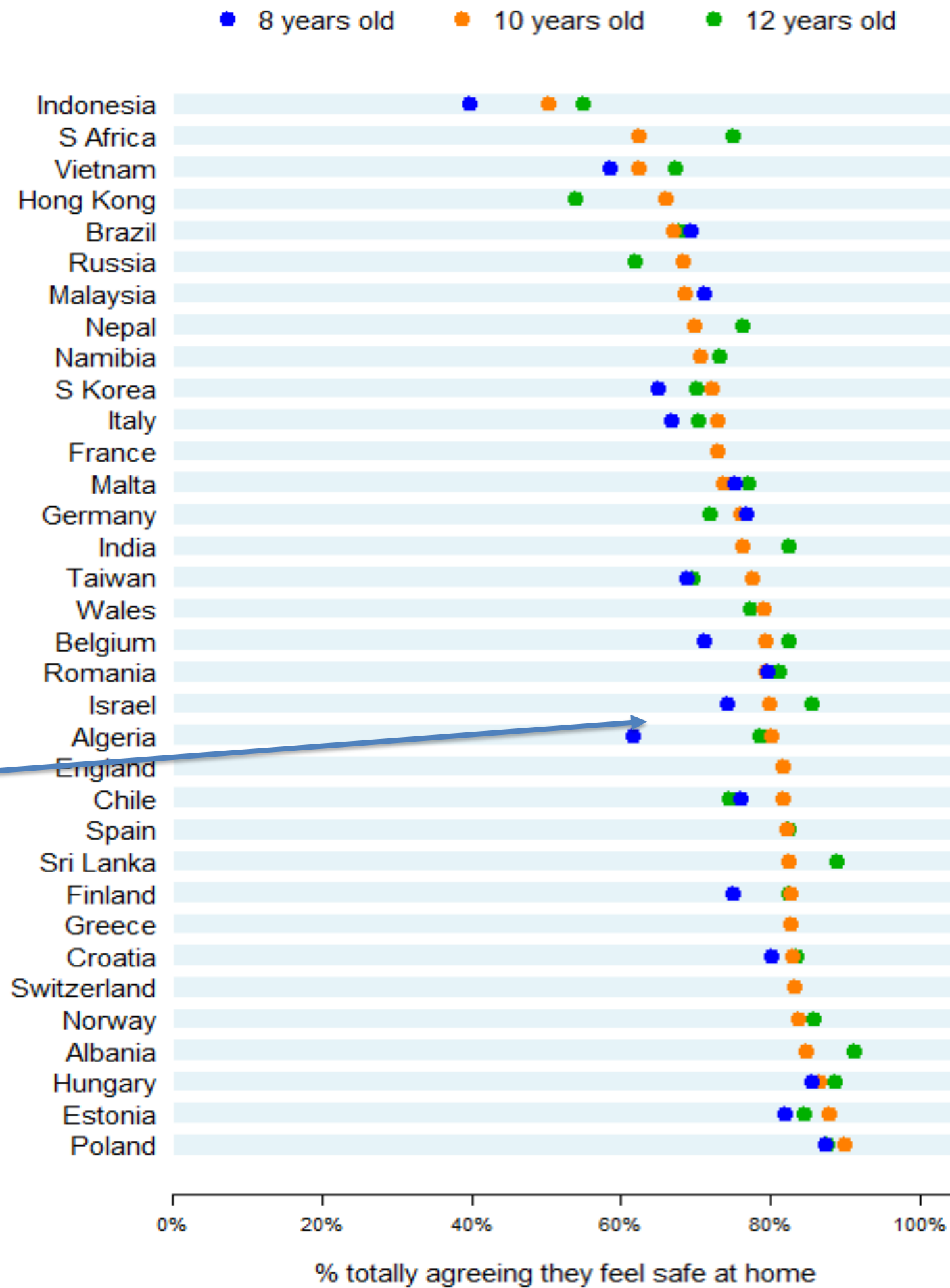
Children **worrying** often or always about how much money their family has



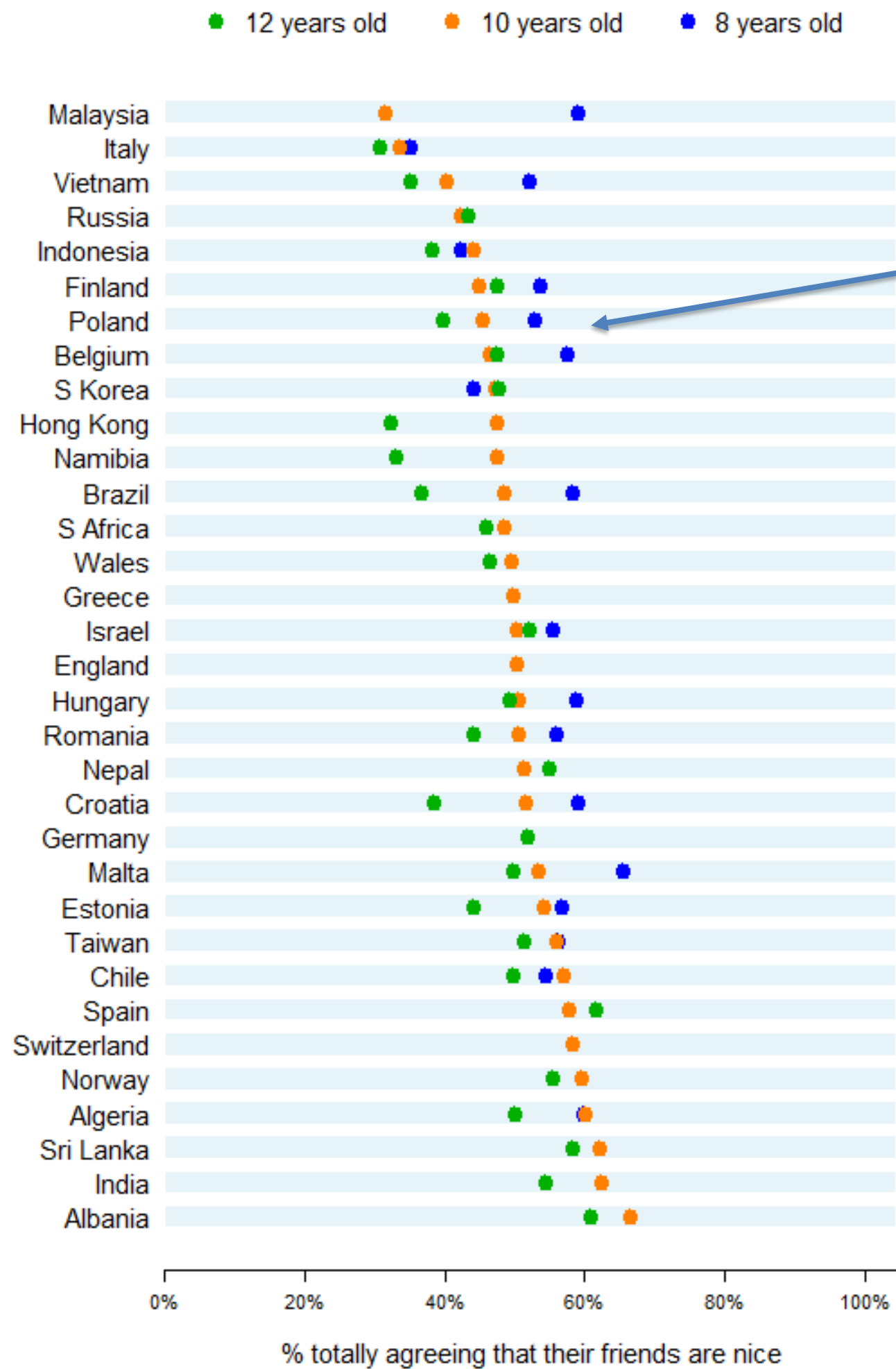
Children totally agreeing there are enough places to play in the neighbourhood by age



What can we learn from 8-year olds about concepts?



Children totally agreeing they 'feel safe at home' by age



Children totally agreeing
 friends are nice by age



Future Perspectives:

- Integration of children younger than 8 years (Andresen/Neumann 2018)
- Longitudinal Studies (Rees 2019)
- Qualitative Research (Navarro, Lee, Jiménez 2019)





Thank you for your attention!