

# Children's Worlds National Report

## Taiwan



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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Context and population

### Geography and Population

Taiwan is an island country in East Asia. It is in the southeast of China and the southwest of Japan. The area size of Taiwan is 36,197 km<sup>2</sup>; over 60.7% of the terrain is forest-covered mountains. The total population was 23.3 million, and the sex ratio is 98.15, which means the population of women was slightly more than men. The population density was 646 ppl/km<sup>2</sup>, which is considered one of the highest in the world. Children under age 18 were 3.98 million, about 17% of the total population. The number of children at ages 10 to 12 were 558,923, which was about 2.4% of the total population, and accounted for 14% of the total population of minors under age 18.

### Ethnicity

More than 96% of the population is Han Chinese, including Hoklo, Hakka, and other ethnic groups originating in mainland China. The indigenous population was 580,758, approximately 2.48% of the total population. The government officially recognized sixteen ethnic groups of indigenous people. Amis was the largest group of the indigenous population.

### Religion

Diverse religious beliefs and practices characterize the religion in Taiwan. According to the national social survey conducted by the Academia Sinica in 2018, 49.3% of the respondents (N=1,842) considered themselves as traditional believers who show respect and pray to their ancestors on special occasions; 14 % were Buddhists, 12% were Taoists, and 5.5% were Christians. Thirteen percent of respondents considered themselves as atheists.

### Economic Context

The economy of Taiwan is a developed capitalist economy that is included in the advanced economies group by the International Monetary Fund and evaluated as the high-income group by the World Bank. The economy is primarily driven by industrial manufacturing, especially exports of electronics, machinery, and petrochemicals. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was USD\$36,050, and the unemployment rate was 3.6%.

## **1.2 Context of COVID-19 in Taiwan**

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world in 2020, Taiwan was once considered a country with a high risk of infection due to its close geographical location and frequent traffic with China (Gardner, 2020). However, as soon as the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China at the end of 2019, the Taiwan government began to implement border quarantine, requiring entrants to undergo self-isolation and inspection. On January 21, 2020, the first case of COVID-19 in Taiwan was confirmed. Right after that, the government implemented many control and preventive measures, such as: maintaining social distance, wearing masks, measuring body temperature regularly, and setting up a contact tracing system, etc. As of April 2021, most Taiwanese people could live their daily lives as usual, and most of the confirmed cases of COVID-19 received needed treatments.

In May 2021, the number of people infected of COVID-19 was facing a surge in Taiwan, community-based infections broke out in many areas. Meanwhile, the Taiwan government announced that a tertiary alert level was in effect, which meant mandatory of wearing masks when going out, prohibition from dine-in, and closure of recreational and religious places. Many people also began to work from home, schools were closed during that period, so children had to take online learning. Though cities were not under lockdown, many children were restricted from going out by their parents, and their leisure activities were reduced significantly. Parents and children spent much more time together at home, which might lead to more conflicts between them. In addition, economically disadvantaged children experienced the lack of digital

devices and the access to the internet during the period of online learning, as well as their parents' unemployment resulting in a worse economic situation for the families. Fortunately, the epidemic had been gradually under control after the aforementioned actions, the level 3 alert lifted on July 26, 2021. In September 2021, most children were able to return to schools. However, students are still required to wear masks all day, frequently wash hands, and monitor their body temperature regularly.

As of April 30, 2022, there were 115,883 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Taiwan, including 862 deaths. The population coverage rate of the second dose of the vaccine had reached 80%, and 59% of the population had completed the booster dose. However, in early May, 2022, there has been a rapid increase in infections of the new variant of SARS-CoV-2, the Omicron variant in Taiwan. It exceeded 10,000 confirmed cases every single day, though more than 90% of them have been mild cases. The government has announced that the next epidemic prevention policy will be towards "coexistence with the virus," schools did not have to take a complete closure, but as children in Taiwan under the age of 12 have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, classes will be suspended for three days if someone in the class tests positive for COVID-19. According to Ministry of Education data, up to May 26, 2002, 136,997 students under age 18 were confirmed with COVID-19 infections in Taiwan, many students had to take online learning due to infection of selves or classmates. It was fortunate that children under age 12 started getting their first vaccine at the end of May, the school can resume to open in early June, depending on the regulations of local governments.

### **1.3 Sampling: Strategy and outcome**

The online self-administered survey had been conducted between July and September, 2021, and it had been taken by 1,171 children aged from 10 to 12. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, schools in Taiwan were closed from May to August 2021, so we used an online survey to collect data by using the convenient sampling method to reach the target population. In addition, we also collected data of economically-disadvantaged and indigenous children receiving services from the World Vision Taiwan. In order to follow the code of ethics, we provided the link of our online

questionnaire to parents first. If parents agreed to let their children participate in the survey, they could sign the consent and pass the link to their children.

## 2. Result

The survey had been taken online by 1,171 children in Taiwan. Data cleaning had been done by an international core team, and systemic responses were found in 16 cases. Consequently, we decided to exclude these cases in the final data. 1,155 of Taiwanese children aged 10 to 12 were included for analysis in this report.

### 2.1 About you

#### 2.1.1 Ages and Genders

Tables 1 and 2 show the age and gender distributions of the participants from this study respectively. In terms of age distribution, the proportions of the three age groups of 10, 11 and 12 years old were roughly equal; as to gender distribution, 9% more girls participated in this survey than boys.

**Table 1:** 1. How old are you? (%)

Item	
10 years old	34.0
11 years old	34.3
12 years old	31.7

**Table 2:** 2. Are you? (%)

Item	
Girl	54.4
Boy	45.4
I do not think of myself as a boy or a girl	0.2

### 2.1.2 Families and Household Members

It can be seen from Table 3 that among the children participating in this survey, only 1.7% did not live with their families, and 6.7% did not live with their parents. The impact of COVID-19 epidemic on children and their family members can be seen in Tables 4 and 5. Only 0.2% of the children said that they or their family members in the same household were infected with COVID-19, but 18.0% of children said that their family members who were not living with them contracted COVID-19. Since the infection rate of COVID-19 in Taiwan when we were doing the survey was under 1%, we had further explored this issue through the Focus Groups and found that one reason might be that children had misunderstood the meaning of the question as "My family who lives with me were not infected with COVID-19." Another possible reason is that children might have heard that their family members living abroad were infected with COVID-19.

29.8% of the children said that they were unable to attend classes for several days during the period of online learning when schools were closed. In addition, 81.0% of children reported that they had to stay at home all day sometimes and 68.0% of children said that they had to stay at home for several days and could not go out at all. The pandemic had also hit the financial situation of many children's families. 18.1% of children reported that at least one of their parents was forced to stop working during the pandemic without receiving money from the government.

**Table 3:** 5. At present, with whom do you live? (%)

Item	
With my family, in our home	82.7
With my family, but at a different place (not at our regular home)	6.5
With my family, but in more than one home, because my parents live in different homes	6.7
With my family, but in more than one home, because my family has more than one home	2.4
In residential care	1.0

**Table 4:** 6. Please describe what your situation was (or still is) during the Coronavirus pandemic. (%)

Item	Yes	No	Not Sure
Me or somebody in my home got infected with Coronavirus	0.2	99.2	0.6
Somebody in my family (not living with me) got infected with Coronavirus	18.0	78.0	4.0
Somebody I know got infected with Coronavirus (e.g.: from my neighborhood or in a friend's family)	3.5	91.9	4.5
At home we had to be very careful because somebody was considered at high risk of getting very ill if they got infected with the Coronavirus	52.1	42.9	5.0
I had to stay at home for many days	68.0	29.1	2.9
I could not attend school for many days	29.8	68.1	2.1

**Table 5:** 7. Do the following statements describe your situation during the Coronavirus? (%)

Item	Yes	No	Not Sure
At least one of my parents was forced/had to stop working and receive money from the government	21.6	67.7	10.7
At least one of my parents was forced to stop working and did not receive money from the government	18.1	69.5	12.4
There were times where I had to be in my home all day (including the garden, yard or balcony, if you have) because of the Coronavirus	81.0	16.4	2.6
There were times where I was only allowed to leave my home for a few hours during the day because of the Coronavirus	54.6	40.1	5.3

### 2.1.3 How Safe They Feel During the Pandemic

Table 6 shows that more than 75% of children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that they felt safe at home, compared to only 26.2% and 36.7% who “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that being at school and in the community made them feel safe. The

results also show that only 52.1% of children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that they were protected from COVID-19. What we can see is that the epidemic had a negative impact on children’s feelings of safety in their daily lives, such as feeling unsafe to go out and not being fully protected from Coronavirus.

**Table 6: 8.** How much do you agree with each of the following sentences? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe at home	3.0	9.5	11.3	26.3	49.8
I feel safe at school	14.2	20.4	39.1	11.7	14.5
I feel safe when I walk around in the area I live in	8.7	20.2	34.5	18	18.7
I feel safe with my friends	14.5	21.9	35.9	12.8	14.9
I feel alone	47.7	20.5	22.1	4.6	5.7
I feel protected from the Coronavirus	8.7	16.2	22.9	22.7	29.4

#### 2.1.4 Substances Possessed by Children

Table 7 shows what children owned at home. Most of the children in Taiwan could have the items they needed for school (98%), clothes in good condition (97.8%), and access to the internet at home (94%). However, 23.5% of children reported that they could not get a computer or tablet when needed. Therefore, when schools conducted online classes during the pandemic, some children might be affected by the lack of digital devices.

**Table 7: 9.** Which of the following do you have at home? (%)

Item	Yes	No
Own room	52.1	47.9
Clothes in good condition	97.8	2.2



Enough money for school trips and activities	85.1	14.9
Access to the internet at home	94.0	6.0
The equipment/things you need for sports and hobbies	77.5	22.5
Pocket money / money to spend on yourself	66.7	33.3
Two pairs of shoes in good condition	87.3	12.7
A mobile phone	66.8	33.2
The equipment/things you need for school	98.0	2.0
Access to computer or a tablet when needed	76.5	23.5
A place in your home where you can study	82.9	17.1

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## 2.2 Your life during the Coronavirus

### 2.2.1 About the Information of COVID-19 Epidemic

Table 8 shows how children received the information about COVID-19 and discussed the epidemic with others. More than 60% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that their information about the Coronavirus came from their family members and caregivers (62.3%). In addition, 67.0% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that they received a lot of information about the Coronavirus through the news. However, 22.1% of children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that a lot of the news about the Coronavirus were unreliable.

30.8% of the children “totally agreed” that they had enough information about the Coronavirus, while only 26.2% of the children “totally agreed” that they would speak together about the Coronavirus in their home. Furthermore, only 21.6% of the children “totally agreed” that their opinions about the Coronavirus were taken seriously in their home. From the results above, we can find that children’s rights to express their opinions on issues like COVID-19 are in great need for improvement in Taiwan.

**Table 8:** 11. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I have enough information about the Coronavirus	3.0	13.9	24.9	27.4	30.8
We speak together about the Coronavirus in my home	4.9	15.2	29.1	24.5	26.2
My opinions about the Coronavirus are taken seriously in my home	5.8	16.1	32.2	24.3	21.6
I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus from my family members or caregivers	2.8	12.6	22.3	32.2	30.1
I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus from other children	18.4	25.6	32.3	12.6	11.1
I received a lot of information about Coronavirus from teachers	3.4	13.4	24.9	31.0	27.3
I received a lot of information about Coronavirus through social media (Instagram, WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.)	10.4	14.8	25.5	23.7	25.6
We watch news about the Coronavirus at my home	4.6	10.6	20.6	28.9	35.3
I received a lot of information about the Coronavirus through the news	2.5	10.3	20.2	30.0	37.0
I think that a lot of the news about the Coronavirus are unreliable	10.9	24.4	42.6	12.5	9.6

### 2.2.2 Satisfactions in Various Aspects of Life Before and During the Coronavirus

Tables 9 and 10 show the satisfaction levels of the children “before” and “during” the pandemic in four aspects: how they normally spent their time, the things they used to learn at school, the relationships they had with their friends, and the relationships they had with people they live with. The results indicated that after the outbreak of the epidemic, the satisfaction of children in the above four aspects of life declined, among which the relationships they had with friends declined the most (1.1

point), which means that COVID-19 epidemic had a great impact on children’s social life. Not only were children unable to attend school, they also had less opportunities to go out and play with their friends. Through Focus Groups, we also found that since children stayed at home for a longer time, the conflicts with their families became increased, which might be a potential reason for the decline in children's satisfaction of the relationships they had with those they live with.

**Table 9:** 12. How satisfied were you with each of the following things in your life BEFORE the Coronavirus? M(SD)

Item	Total
With how I normally spend my time	7.5(2.1)
With the things I learn at school	7.7(2.0)
With the relationships I have with my friends	8.0(2.1)
With the relationships I have with people I live with	8.4(1.9)

**Table 10:** 13. How satisfied are you with each of the following things in your life now DURING the Coronavirus? M(SD)

Item	Total
With how I normally spend my time	7.0(2.5)
With the things I learn at school	6.8(2.4)
With the relationships I have with my friends	6.9(2.7)
With the relationships I have with people I live with	7.9(2.6)

### 2.2.3 Worries About the Pandemic

Table 11 shows the level of children’s worries due to the pandemic. The results indicated what the Taiwanese children worried most was the overall development of the COVID-19 pandemic, with an average score of 6.9 points; secondly was that their

school life might be changed because of the Coronavirus, with an average score of 6.8; their third concern was the family’s financial situation during the pandemic, with an average score of 6.1. Although there was no large-scale outbreak of COVID-19 in Taiwan during the period of our data collection, the uncertainty of the development of the epidemic and the substantial life changes caused by the pandemic, including online classes and the impact on their parents’ work, have made Taiwanese children worry about their lives to a certain extent.

**Table 11:** 14. During the last month, how worried have you been about the following things in your life? M(SD)

Item	Total
By the Coronavirus situation	6.9(2.8)
That I may get infected by the Coronavirus	5.6(3.3)
That people I know may get infected by the Coronavirus	5.9(3.3)
That I may infect other people with the Coronavirus	4.8(3.6)
That I may get bad school marks because of the Coronavirus situation	5.5(3.3)
The money my family has during the Coronavirus period	6.1(3.4)
The changes in my life as a student because of the Coronavirus situation	6.8(2.9)

#### 2.2.4 Time Use During the Pandemic

Table 12 shows how Taiwanese children spent their time during the pandemic. The results indicated that 59.7% of the children watched movies or series on the TV, computer or another device every day during the pandemic; 48.1% of the children used social media on the computer, mobile phone or other devices every day; and 32.4% of the children played games on the computer, mobile phone or devices every day. On the other hand, only 21.6% of the children exercised every day, 10.8% of the children played or hung out outside every day, and 5.3% of the children were spending time on

their own on a daily basis during the pandemic. The use of 3C products has become a part of contemporary children's life, and the COVID-19 epidemic has further increased the use of 3C products by children at home and reduced their time to exercise, play outdoors, and even to be alone at home.

**Table 12:** 18. Please, answer the following questions. During Coronavirus... (%)

Item	Never	Less than once a week	Once or twice a week	Three or four days a week	Five or six days a week	Every day
Helping out in the house (household chores)	3.2	9.8	24.8	20.5	8.4	33.2
Taking care of siblings (brothers/sisters) or other family members	19.2	12.3	15.0	10.8	5.6	37.1
Learning and doing homework	5.0	6.2	17.6	22.9	17.1	31.1
Watching movies or series on the TV, computer or another device	1.2	3.4	8.2	13.9	13.6	59.7
Using social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.) on the computer, mobile phone or other devices	10.7	5.6	11.2	13.0	11.3	48.1
Speaking with people on the phone or any other way (such as using WhatsApp)	14.9	14.0	19.6	15.4	8.5	27.6
Meeting with your friends online (e.g. on the computer, zoom or any other way)	27.1	17.7	17.6	13.5	8.9	15.2

Doing things I did not do for a long time (such as hobbies, games etc.)	15.4	15.3	22.3	18.1	8.7	20.2
Playing games on the computer, mobile phone or devices (such as PlayStation, Xbox, Nintendo, etc.)	17.1	8.7	14.3	17.1	10.5	32.4
Spending time on my own	60.5	15.8	9.6	4.8	4.0	5.3
Playing or hanging out inside the house	20.5	12.1	13.9	12.3	7.2	33.9
Playing or hanging out outside	35.7	25.7	15.2	9.2	3.4	10.8
Reading	10.0	14.7	22.7	19.1	11.5	22.0
Playing sports or doing exercise	7.7	16.7	24.6	19.5	9.9	21.6

## 2.3 School and Relationships

### 2.3.1 Learning Experiences During the Pandemic

Tables 13 to 15 show children’s learning experiences when schools were closed due to the pandemic. The results indicated that during the pandemic, 90.0% of the children continued to learn with teachers through online classes and 25.1% continued to learn by searching the Internet. In addition, 53.1% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that they managed to keep themselves learning even when schools were closed. During the period of COVID-19 epidemic, whether children could access the Internet and devices like a computer or tablet was important to their learning experiences. However, still more than 40% of the children reported that they could not access the Internet for an entire day and more than 70% of the children reported that they had problems with the Internet connection while having a class over the web.

When schools were closed, 32.2% of the children reported that they “often” missed their classmates and 31.9% “always” had such thoughts; in addition, 30.7% of the children “always” wished that they could go back to school. The results also indicated that 21.8% of the children didn’t have a parent(s) or a sister/brother help

them with schoolwork during the pandemic, which shows that some children were lacking learning resources when schools were closed.

**Table 13:** 16. During the Coronavirus, when schools were closed, how did you learn at home? (you can choose more than one answer) (%)

Item	
Online classes with teachers	90.0
Learning by searching the Internet	25.1
Learning with parents or people that are looking after you	22.8
Other ways	1.6
I did not study at home	1.8

**Table 14:** 17. How much do you agree with the following sentence? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
During the Coronavirus, when schools were closed, I managed to continue with my learning from home	4.8	14.3	27.9	24.6	28.5

**Table 15:** 18. Please, answer the following questions. During Coronavirus... (%)

Item	Never	Sometimes	Often	Always
How often did you have access to the Internet?	1.0	17.7	37.4	44.0
How often did it happen that you could not access the Internet for an entire day?	51.2	42.3	3.6	2.9
How often did you have problems with the Internet connection while having a class over web?	23.7	59.0	13.9	3.4
How often did you miss your teacher's advice?	12.7	45.0	26.3	15.9

How often did you miss your classmates?	5.8	30.1	32.2	31.9
How often did you wish that you could go back to school?	7.5	31.9	29.9	30.7
How often did your parent or a sister/brother help you with schoolwork?	21.8	45.8	20.7	11.7

### 2.3.2 Interpersonal Relationships During the Pandemic

Table 16 shows that during the pandemic, children received support from their family members most: 36.1% of the children “totally agreed” and 33.5% of the children “agreed a lot” that they felt supported by the people they live with, followed by their teachers and their friends. We have also learned from Focus Groups that for economically disadvantaged children, teachers played an important role during the pandemic, who provided the children with information of epidemic prevention, and discussed with them about the Coronavirus situation.

**Table 16:** 22. How much do you agree with the following sentences?

During the Coronavirus, I felt well-supported by... (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
some of my friends	6.7	20.8	35.2	22.0	15.3
some of my teachers	4.6	16.9	29.7	28.8	20.0
some people I live with	3.2	8.7	18.4	33.5	36.1

Table 17 shows children's perception of the changes in their interpersonal relationships during the pandemic. 54.4% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that they became closer to some members of their family and 29.4% “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that their relationships with their friends were affected. On the other hand, more than 40% of the children reported that they made new friends online



during the Coronavirus, which once again indicates the importance of the Internet to children’s lives.

**Table 17: 23.** How much do you agree with each of the following sentences? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
During the coronavirus, I became closer to some members of my family	5.8	11.6	28.2	27.7	26.7
My relationships with my friends was affected during the Coronavirus	17.9	20.7	32.0	16.2	13.2
I made new friends with other children online during the Coronavirus	51.1	17.7	18.2	6.8	6.2

## 2.4 How Do You Feel About Life

The questions in this part are aimed at understanding children's "subjective well-being", mainly through the survey of four scales designed by Children's Worlds, which are CW-SWBS, CW-PSWBS, CW-PNAS and CW-DBSWBS. In addition, other questions are designed to understand how children felt about life under the pandemic.

CW-SWBS and CW-PSWBS had high internal consistency reliability, with Cronbach's  $\alpha$  values of 0.95 and 0.89 respectively. The reliability of CW-DBSWBS was also good, with Cronbach's  $\alpha$  value of 0.94. As to CW-PNAS, the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  value fell between 0.60 and 0.64.

### 2.4.1 Overall Subjective Well-Being

Children aged 10 to 12 had an average score of 7.9 (SD=2.0) for their overall life satisfaction in Taiwan (Table 18).

**Table 18:** 27. How satisfied are you with each of the following things in your life? M(SD)

Item	Total
Your life as a whole	7.9(2.0)

### 2.4.2 CW-SWBS (Children's World -Subjective Well-Being Scale)

The items with the highest average scores in this scale were "I am happy with my life" and "I have a good life", with an average score of 7.2 for both items, followed by "I enjoy my life" (M=7.1, SD=2.3). The average scores for each item can be found in Table 19.

**Table 19:** 24. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences about your life as a whole? M(SD)

Item	Total
I enjoy my life	7.1(2.3)
My life is going well	6.7(2.4)
I have a good life	7.2(2.3)
The things that happen in my life are excellent	6.9(2.4)
I am happy with my life	7.2(2.3)

#### 2.4.3 CW-PSWBS (Children’s World - Psychological Subjective Well-Being Scale)

The average scores of each item are shown in Table 20. The item with the highest average score was "People are generally friendly towards me" (M=7.6, SD=2.1), followed by "I have enough choice about how I spend my time" (M=7.0, SD=2.3). The item with the lowest average score was "I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment" (M=6.4, SD=2.5).

**Table 20:** 24. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences about your life as a whole? M(SD)

Item	Total
I like being the way I am	6.8(2.5)
I am good at managing my daily responsibilities	6.9(2.3)
People are generally friendly towards me	7.6(2.1)
I have enough choice about how I spend my time	7.0(2.3)
I feel that I am learning a lot at the moment	6.4(2.5)
I feel positive about my future	6.8(2.6)

#### 2.4.4 CW-PNAS (Children's World - Positive and Negative Affects Scale)

For Taiwanese children aged 10-12, the most frequently reported feelings were "Happy" (M=6.9, SD=2.4) and "Full of energy" (M=6.7, SD=2.6). The most common negative feelings of the children were "Bored" (M=5.7, SD=3.1) and "Stressed" (M=3.9, SD=2.9). Detailed results can be found in Table 21.

**Table 21:** 25. Below is a list of words that describe different feelings. Please read each word and then tick a box to say how much you have felt this way during the last two weeks. M(SD)

Item	Total
Happy	6.9(2.4)
Sad	3.1(2.6)
Calm	5.7(2.6)
Stressed	3.9(2.9)
Full of energy	6.7(2.6)
Bored	5.7(3.1)

#### 2.4.5 CW-DBSWBS (Children's World-Domain Based Subjective Well-Being Scale)

As can be seen from Table 22, the most satisfying aspect of life for children is "Safety" (M=8.2, SD=1.9); the second is "Health" (M=8.1, SD=2.1) and "The people you live with" (M=8.0, SD=2.2). On the contrary, the least satisfying life aspect of children is "What may happen later in your life" (M=6.7, SD=2.3).

**Table 22:** 27. How satisfied are you with each of the following things in your life? M(SD)

Item	Total
The people you live with	8.0(2.2)
The house you live in	7.7(2.3)
The area where you live	7.8(2.2)

About how safe you feel	8.2(1.9)
Your friends	7.8(2.2)
How you use your time	7.3(2.2)
The way you look	7.1(2.4)
The things you have	7.7(2.2)
The freedom you have	7.5(2.3)
What may happen later in your life	6.7(2.3)
How you are listened to by adults in general	7.1(2.4)
Your health	8.1(2.1)

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#### 2.4.6 Children's Physical and Psychological Situation During the Pandemic

Table 23 shows the children's physical and psychological situation during the pandemic. 28.7% of the children "totally agreed" that they were very afraid of the Coronavirus, and 24.4% "totally agreed" that they were afraid of losing their lives because of the Coronavirus. In addition, 19.3% of the children felt uncomfortable when thinking about the Coronavirus.

**Table 23:** 23. How much do you agree with each of the following sentences? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I am very afraid of the Coronavirus	9.2	17.4	26.0	18.8	28.7
It makes me uncomfortable to think about the Coronavirus	17.3	20.1	24.7	18.6	19.3
My hands become sweaty when I think about the Coronavirus	60.1	15.3	16.0	4.4	4.2
I am afraid of losing my life because of the Coronavirus	20.2	20.6	20.5	14.3	24.4
When I watch news and stories about the Coronavirus on the TV and	29.0	27.0	25.5	10.6	8.0

social media, I become nervous or anxious					
I cannot sleep because I'm worrying about getting the Coronavirus	62.3	16.2	13.2	4.7	3.7
My heart races (beats very fast) when I think about getting the Coronavirus	61.1	17.6	15.2	3.3	3.1

#### 2.4.7 Children's Happiness with Their Lives Before and During the Pandemic

Table 24 shows that after the outbreak of the Coronavirus, the average scores of how happy the children felt with their lives as a whole dropped from 7.9 (SD=2.0) to 6.4 (SD=2.4).

**Table 24:** 28. Please, answer the following questions. M(SD)

Item	Total
Thinking about how your life was <u>before</u> the Coronavirus, how happy were you with your life as whole?	7.9(2.0)
Thinking about how your life <u>now during</u> the Coronavirus, how happy are you with your life as whole?	6.4(2.4)

## 2.5 OPTIONAL ITEMS

### 2.5.1 Children's Family Support

As we can see in Table 25, the results showed that 88.3% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that someone in the family cared about them; 86.7% of the children “agreed a lot” or “totally agreed” that family members would help them if they had a problem. Overall, children aged 10 to 12 in Taiwan had positive family support.

**Table 25:** 35. How much do you agree with the following sentence? (%)

Item	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
There are people in my family who care about me	1.5	3.4	6.8	23.0	65.3
If I have a problem, people in my family will help me	1.3	4.1	8.0	24.1	62.6
We have a good time together in my family	1.6	4.9	14.3	26.6	52.6
My parent(s) listen to me and take what I say into account	1.8	5.0	14.7	28.7	49.8
My parents and I make decisions about my life together	1.6	7.4	16.3	27.4	47.4

### 3. Conclusion

In conclusion, the impact of COVID-19 epidemic on children aged 10 to 12 in Taiwan was quite significant. Although the scale of the epidemic in Taiwan might be relatively smaller than that of other countries when we were doing the survey, children in Taiwan had experienced school closures and took online classes for almost two months. Some of them were asked to stay at home all day, and others witnessed their families either worked from home or lost their jobs due to the pandemic. The changes of life due to what mentioned above caused by the pandemic may have brought the children different feelings and thoughts toward their lives.

First of all, the spread of the coronavirus had restricted children from going out and made them feel unsafe outside their homes. Some even felt that they were not fully protected to prevent contracting the coronavirus. In terms of children's time use during the pandemic, compared with only nearly 20% of the children exercising every day, a relatively high proportion of the children used 3C products every day, and some of them made new friends on the Internet. What needs to be concerned is the development of children's physical and psychological well-being during the pandemic. Adults should pay attention to how children use the 3C products and discuss with them

about what they have watched on the Internet or other media. Furthermore, developing appropriate physical activities during the pandemic is helpful to promote children's health.

The closures of schools during the pandemic changed children's school life as well as their relationships with others. Most of the children reported their relationship with friends was affected during the pandemic. They not only missed their friends, but also wanted to go back to school as soon as possible. While children reported that they became closer with their family members during the pandemic, the conflicts within the family also increased, which in turn affected children's satisfaction with their family relationships. Overall speaking, most of Taiwanese children reported positive interaction with their family members. What needs to be concerned is the lack of resources for online learning for economically disadvantaged children in Taiwan. Many of them didn't have digital devices for online classes and could not access the Internet; in addition, their family members might not provide assistance when they had a problem learning at home. From the results, we can see that the pandemic has magnified the learning difficulty caused by the gap of resources for children. This situation urgently requires the intervention of relevant services and policies in order to protect children's right to education.

The results indicate that the COVID-19 epidemic had a negative impact on the subjective well-being of Taiwanese children. Children were not only less happy during the pandemic, but also became worried about the present and the future. Some of them even had negative emotions and physical symptoms when thinking about the coronavirus. The uncertainty of the development of the pandemic might also be a significant factor of making children least satisfied with "What may happen later in your life". Adults need to listen more actively to and understand the unease that children feel during the pandemic, and provide the support they need to eliminate children's negative feelings and promote children's physical and mental health.