

## Innocenti Report Card 14

### Building the Future – Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries

#### Facts and figures:

- One child in five in high-income countries lives in relative income poverty – meaning they live in households with incomes of less than 60 per cent of the national median. There is wide variation, from one in 10 in Denmark, Iceland and Norway to one in three in Israel and Romania.
- In two-thirds of high-income countries, the bottom 40 per cent of households with children have less income than the top 10 per cent. Iceland has seen a marked narrowing of the gap since the financial crash of 2008, while the gap has widened significantly in Australia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Slovakia and Spain.
- In most high-income countries, the gap between incomes of the poorest 10 per cent of the population and those at the median has widened since 2008.
- Around one child in 10 in high-income countries lives in a household where no adult is employed: this rises to around one child in seven in Bulgaria, Hungary, New Zealand, Spain and the United Kingdom, and almost one in five in Ireland.
- One in eight children in high-income countries is food insecure, meaning they do not have secure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Rates of food insecurity vary widely, from one in 70 in Japan to one in three in Mexico and Turkey. Obesity is also a form of malnutrition, and rates are increasing in all but a handful of countries.
- Newborn deaths are falling and all high income countries have already reduced their neonatal mortality rates to below the global target of 12 deaths per 1,000 live births. Slovenia more than halved its neonatal death rate between 2005 and 2015.
- In 2012, suicide was the leading cause of death among young people aged between 15 and 19 of both sexes in high income countries, accounting for 17.6 per cent of all deaths. Boys are three times more likely to die by suicide than girls, although girls attempt suicide twice as often as boys.
- Rates of child homicide are far higher in the Americas than in Europe – in Mexico the rate is nine times the average for the countries examined, while in the US it is four times the average.
- One 15-year-old in three in high income countries does not achieve the level of basic competency in reading, mathematics and science literacy. Even in the best performing countries, the proportion of 15-year-olds not achieving minimum proficiency is one in five.
- Undocumented migrant children are excluded from schooling in Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania.
- On average, 14 per cent of adults in sample countries felt that higher education was more important for boys than for girls, though there was a wide range of opinion – from 3 per cent supporting that idea in Sweden to 32 per cent in Turkey.

- As of 2013 in OECD countries, 55 per cent of graduates from secondary education were girls and 58 per cent of graduates with a bachelor's degree were women. Yet women earn 15.5 per cent less than men, and hold only 27.9 per cent of seats in national parliaments.
- Adolescent drunkenness is becoming less common in high income countries: In Bulgaria and Denmark in 2014, 13 per cent of children age 11-15 had been drunk within the last month – seven times the figure for the country with the lowest incidence, Iceland. Nine of the 11 countries with the highest rates are in Central and Eastern Europe. Southern European nations generally have rates of adolescent drunkenness that are below average.
- The teenage birth rate is falling in all high-income countries. Progress has been particularly marked in Iceland, which reduced its rate by 63.5 per cent between 2005 and 2015, but 10 other countries reduced their rates by over 40 per cent
- Among young people aged 15-19 in high income countries, around 1 in 13 is not in school or work, with the highest rates in southern Europe and Latin America, and the lowest in northern and central Europe.
- 6 per cent of European women aged 18-29 report having experienced sexual violence by adults before the age of 15; Denmark, France, UK and Luxembourg all reported above average rates.
- At least one child in 10 in countries surveyed regularly experiences bullying, with the incidence particularly high in the Baltic States.
- Nearly half of all high-income countries studied fail to meet the safe levels for urban air quality established by the World Health Organization; children are especially vulnerable to such pollution.
- Young people are largely aware of today's environmental challenges: an average of 62 per cent of 15-year-olds are at least familiar with five or more of a set of seven key environmental issues. Air pollution had the highest level of recognition and the use of genetically modified organisms the lowest.
- Indigenous children perform poorly on many health and well-being indicators. Data collected in 2014 showed that adolescent birth rates among the Sami people of Norway were more than double the national average. Aboriginal children in Canada experience higher rates of injury, suicide, obesity, infant mortality and health conditions, such as tuberculosis.

##end