



Measuring Child Well-being: Different Cross-national Approaches

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Children's well-being in Early Childhood Education and Care in
France and elsewhere

CAS/DREES, October 10th, 2011

Objectives of the presentation

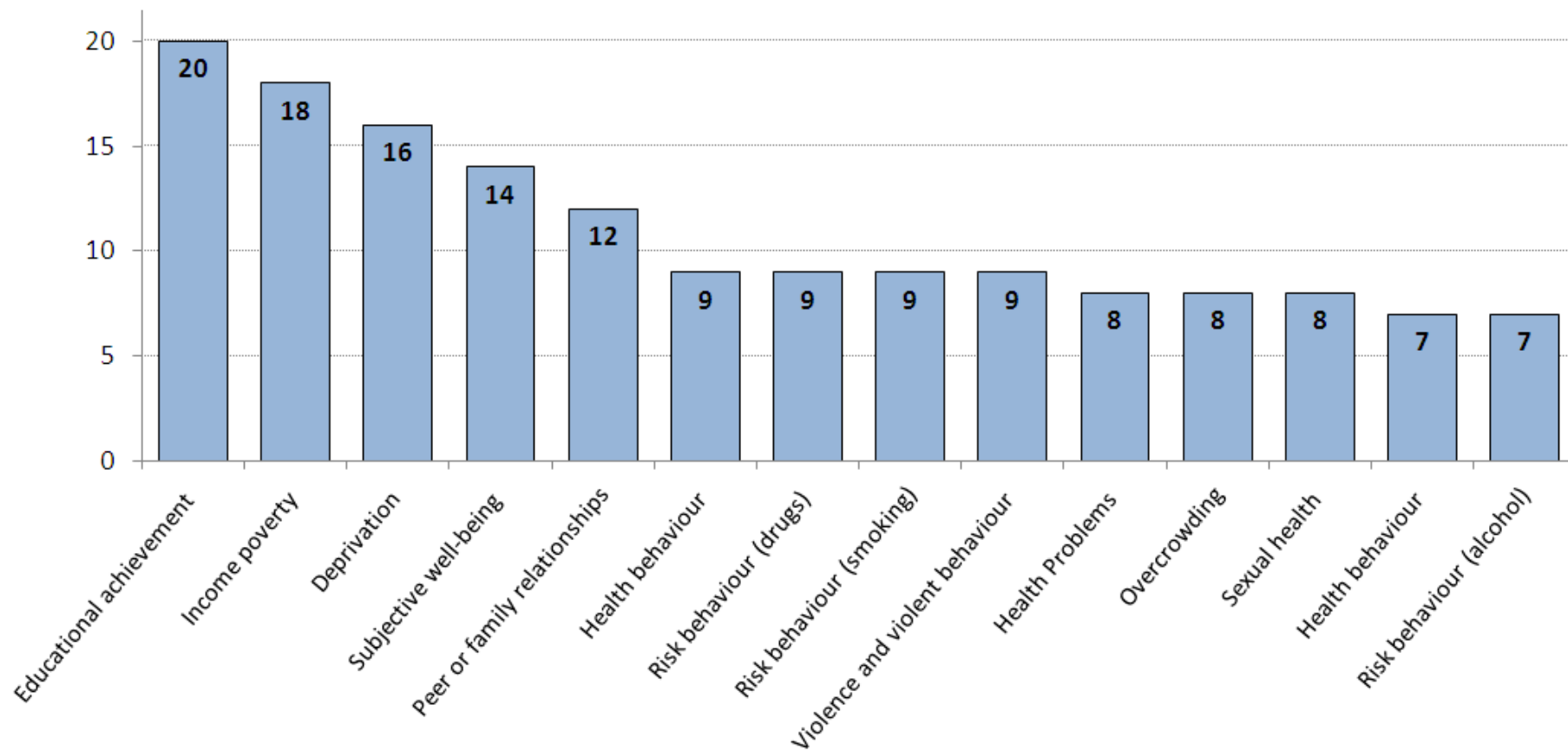
- What indicators and frameworks are used to measure child well-being cross-nationally (OECD etc.)
- Which dimensions of children's well-being are taken into account, and why?
- Which are not taken into consideration, what can we do to improve the data in France?

Past comparisons of child well-being

	US Dept. of Commerce (Hobbs and Lippman, 1990) ³	OECD Family Database (since 2007) ⁴	European indices (Bradshaw et al 2007 and 2009) ¹	Unicef Report Cards 7 (2007) and 9 (2010) ¹	CEE CIS index (Richardson et al, 2008)	European Commission Child poverty and Well-being (2008) ²	Save the children (2008 and 2011) ¹	Doing Better for Children (OECD, 2009)	TARKI (2011)
Health and safety	7	9	11	13	16	19	2	9	7
Behaviour and risks	4	2	11	7	13	14		4	6
Material well-being and economic security	5	2	5	6	4	17		3	5
Educational Well-being	3	3	5	8	5	7	1	2	2
Housing and the local environment			4	1	3	8		2	
Social, economic and civic participation	5	2	3	1	1	2		1	
Subjective well-being			5	5		3			1
Family forms and care	4			2	6	1			
Personal family and peer relationships			3	3	4	2			
Quality of school life			2	1		6		1	

Commonly used survey indicators

PISA and HBSC surveys have made important contributions



Doing Better for Children

- Overview of child well-being
- Comparing child well-being outcomes
- Public spending for children of different ages
- Policies for the under 3's
- Effects of sole-parenthood on child outcomes
- Intergenerational inequality
- Recommendations to enhance child well-being

Dimensions of child well-being

	Material well-being	Housing and environment	Educational well-being	Health and safety	Risky behaviours	Quality of school life
Belgium	11	11	20	25	13	19
Denmark	2	6	7	4	21	8
Finland	4	7	1	7	26	18
Germany	16	18	15	9	18	9
Iceland	8	4	14	1	8	1
Luxembourg	3	8	17	5	14	23
Netherlands	9	17	4	8	9	3
Norway	1	1	16	17	4	2
Sweden	6	3	9	3	1	5
United Kingdom	12	15	22	21	28	4

Indicator selection criteria

- Child-centred
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Policy amenable
- Country coverage and up-to-date data
- Conceptually Complementary
 - Rights vs. Development
 - Equity and Efficiency
 - Age coverage

Doing Better for Families

- Trends in child and family indicators
- Child spending and tax / benefit analysis
- Fertility trends and drivers
- Barriers to parental employment
- Promoting child development and well-being
- Policies for sole parents and their children
- Child maltreatment: causes and consequences

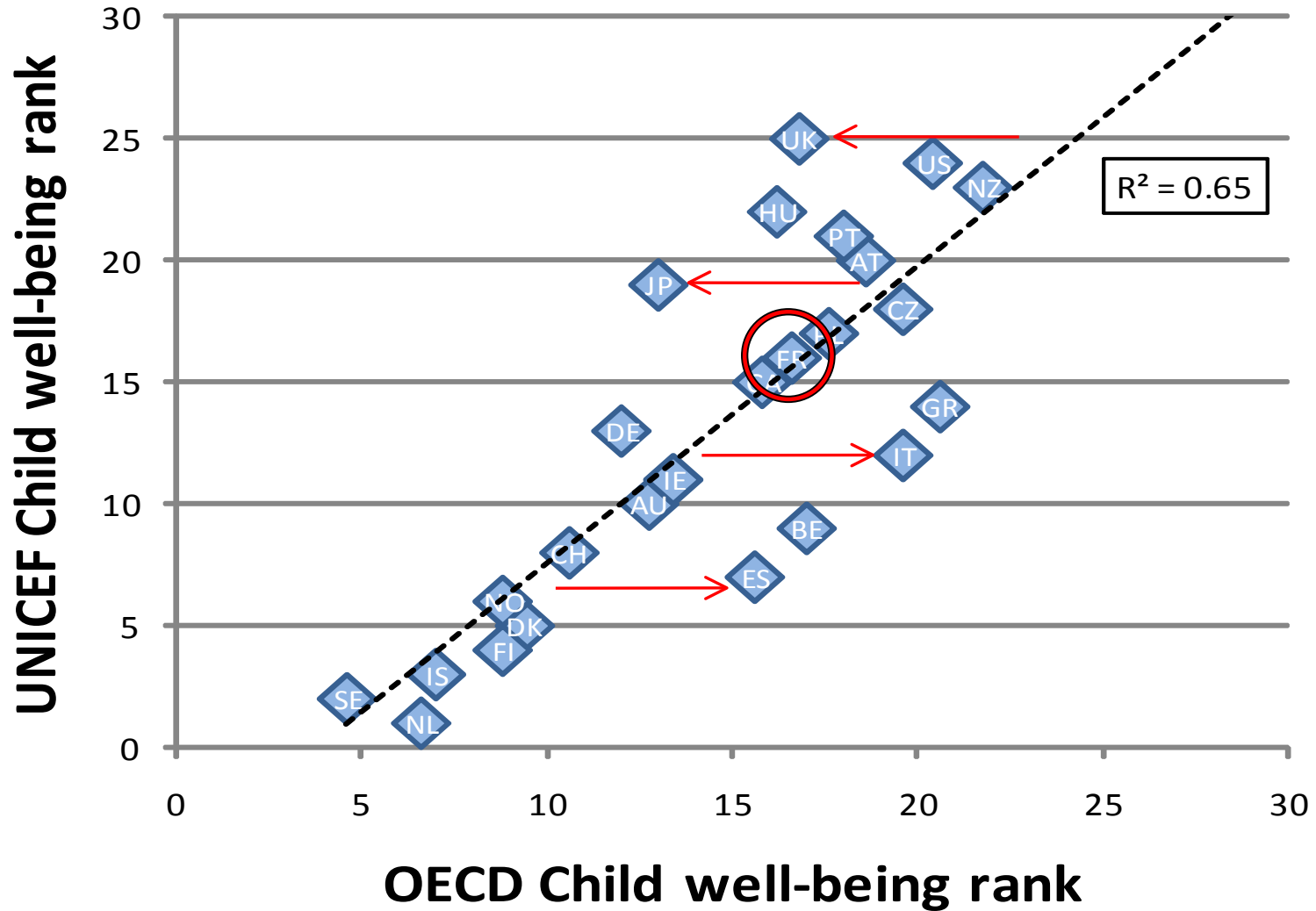
How OECD and UNICEF frameworks differ

- Selects policy amenable indicators
- Compares all 30 OECD countries
- Includes housing and environment data
- No final ranking
- More up-to-date

but...

- Still too adolescent focussed
- Not disaggregated by age, sex, ethnicity, etc.
- Missing info, e.g.
 - Child protection and neglect/ Mental health
- Retains the methods (equal weights / causal approach)

Indicator choice can explain different results



Shared methodological considerations

- **Cause versus effect approach**
 - Do we expect internal reliability?
- **Equal Weights (implicit weights in z scores?)**
 - Problems of consensus?
- **Neither penalise variation**
 - Do we value consistency?
- **Different numbers of indicators in each dimension**
- **To composite or not to composite**

Statistical coverage

	Age coverage								
	Early (0-5 years)			Mid (6 to 11 years)			Late (12 to 17 years)		
	Age	Sex	Migrant	Age	Sex	Migrant	Age	Sex	Migrant
Material well-being									
Housing and environment									
Educational well-being									
Health and safety									
Risky behaviours									
Quality of school life									

Statistical coverage

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Quality of school life									

Statistical coverage

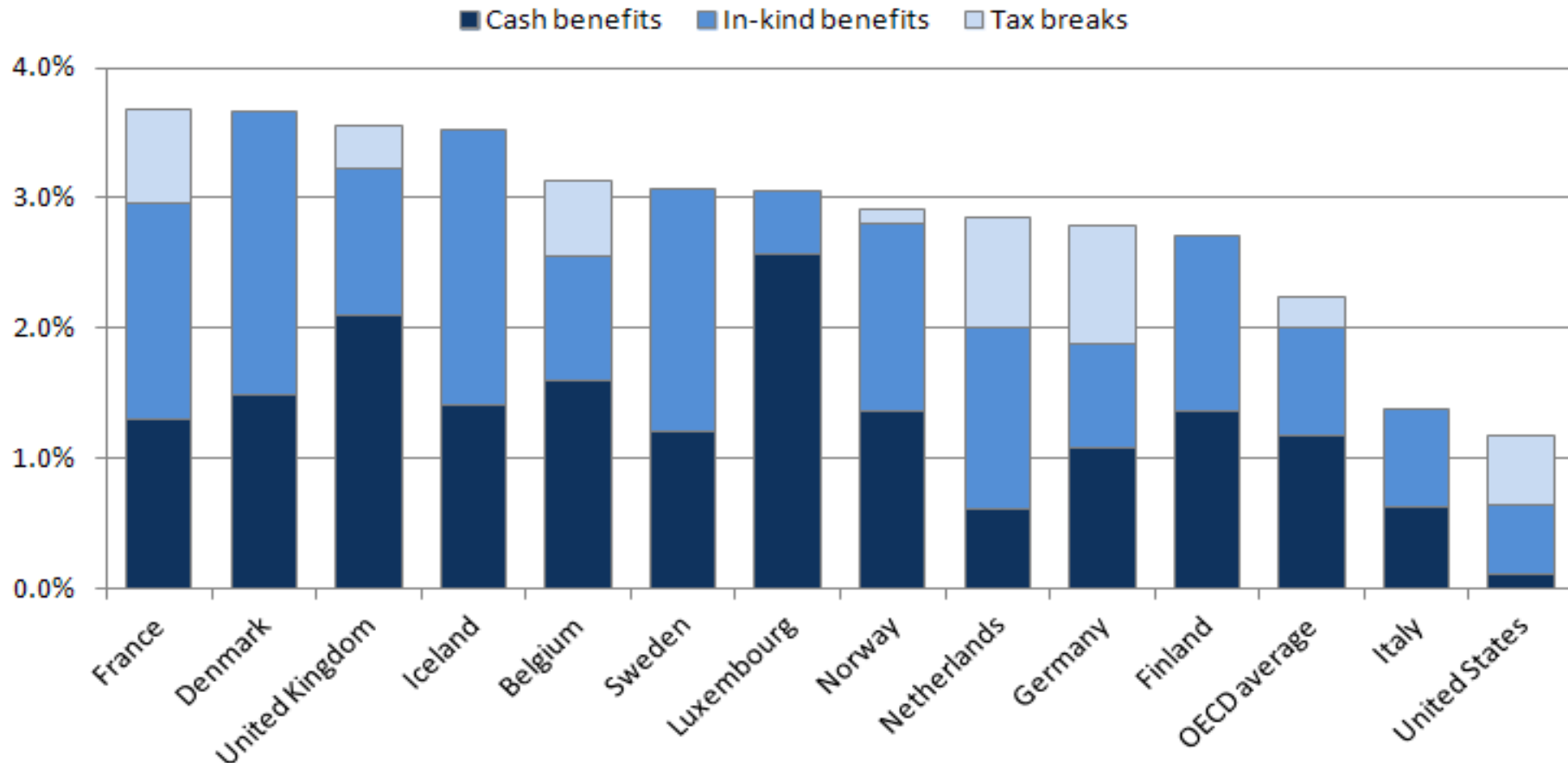
	Age coverage								
	Early (0-5 years)			Mid (6 to 11 years)			Late (12 to 17 years)		
	Age	Sex	Migrant	Age	Sex	Migrant	Age	Sex	Migrant
Material well-being	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
Housing and environment	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x
Educational well-being							x	✓	✓
Health and safety	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x
Risky behaviours							✓	✓	x
Quality of school life				✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x

All well and good, but...

- In most cases these indices are blunt tools without info on...
- How spending and policy contribute to well-being...
- How behaviours, contexts and time use contribute...
- ... and what it means when we interact the inputs and contexts...

The policy mix varies across countries...

Public social spending as % of GDP, 2007



Data on tax breaks towards families are not available for Chile, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Israel and Slovenia.



Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris.

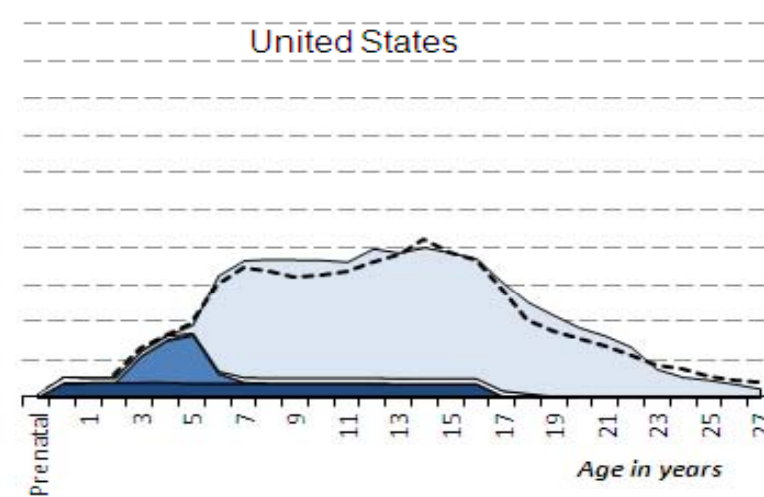
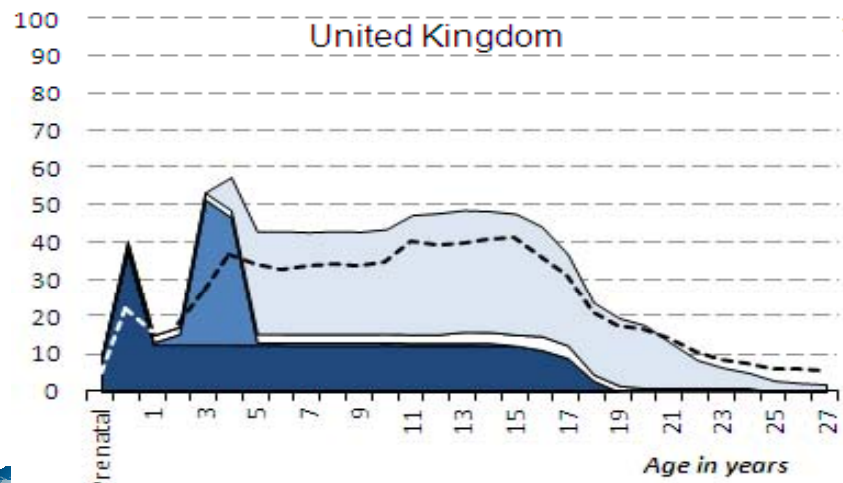
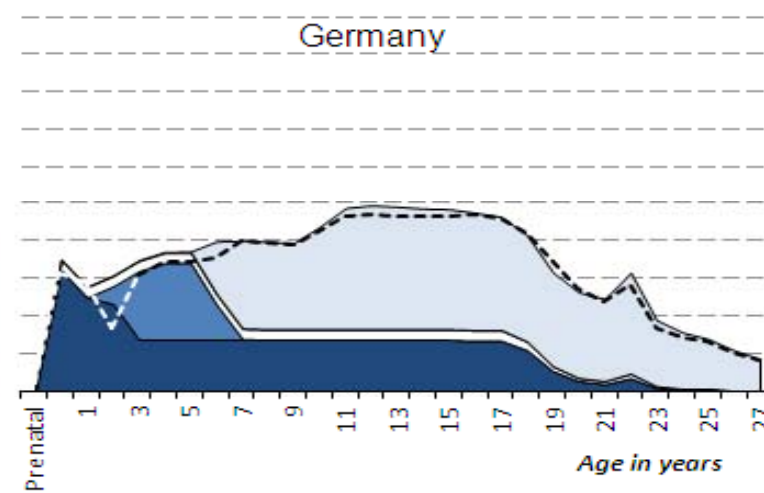
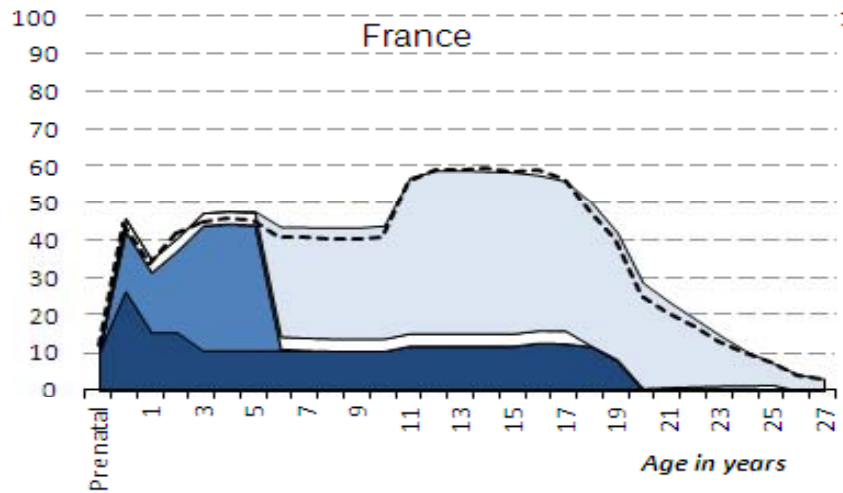
Patterns of public spending on children

- What is spent on children and when
- Timing matters for child well-being
- Testing a Heckman proposition

- Social expenditure data and education data
- Allotted by types from prenatal to age 27 using benefit rules
 - Cash and tax / In kind / Child care / Education

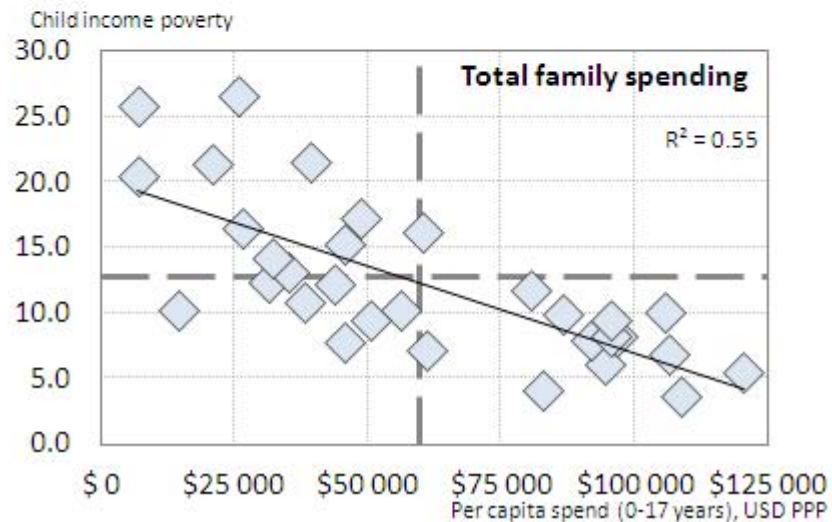
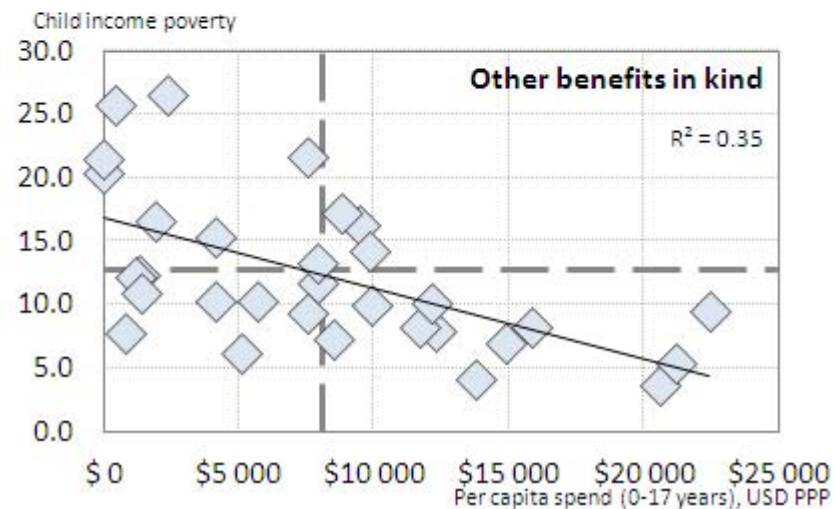
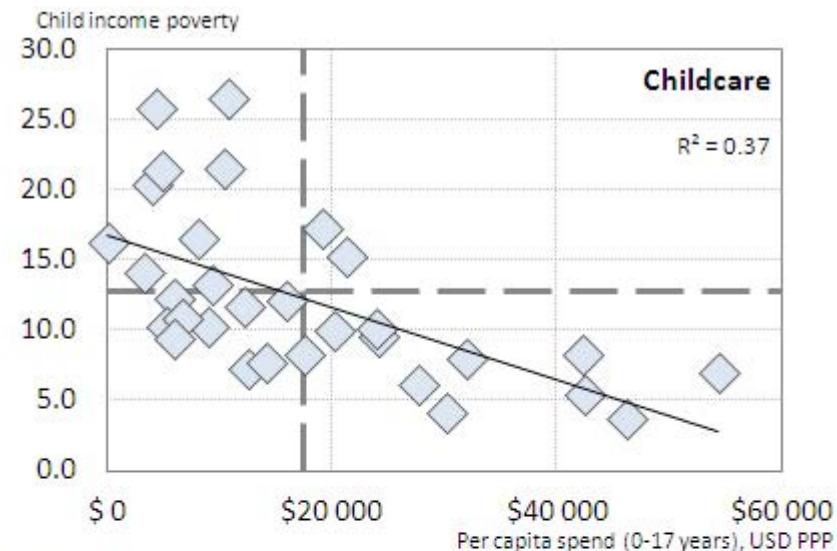
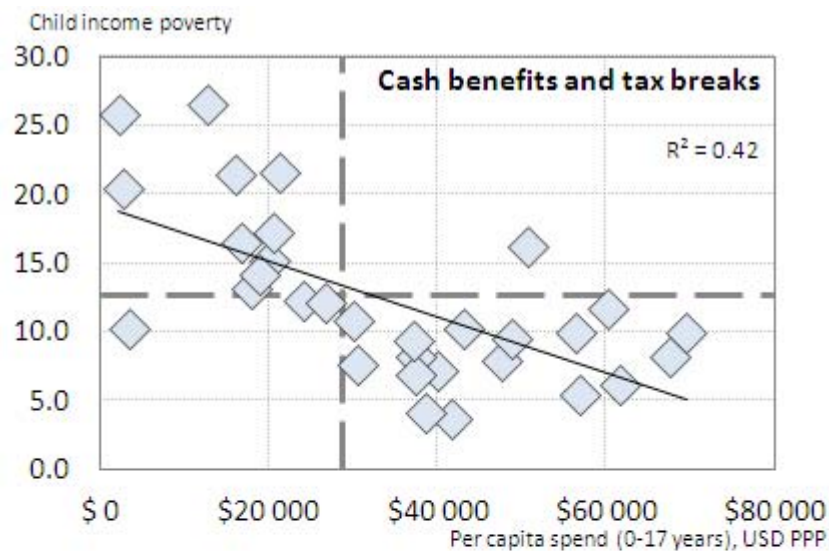
Spending patterns changed little since '03

■ Cash benefits ■ Childcare □ In-kind benefits □ Education - - - 2003 profile



Source: OECD forthcoming (preliminary data)

Overall welfare effort matters



Early years interventions matter

Correlations between spending relative to family income and children's outcomes circa 2007

		PISA reading literacy, students aged 15, 2009	Children aged 11 to 15 years, with higher life satisfaction, 2005-2006	Low birth weight babies, 2007	Child Poverty (most recent data)	Infant mortality rate 2007
Cash and tax breaks	0 to 5	0.00	-0.47	0.03	-0.46	-0.06
Childcare		-0.01	0.26	-0.40	-0.47	-0.11
Benefits in kind		0.42	0.39	-0.09	-0.61	-0.35
Cash and tax breaks	6 to 11	0.05	-0.24	0.11	-0.36	-0.15
Childcare		0.08	0.07	-0.34	-0.42	-0.10
Benefits in kind		0.26	0.38	-0.09	-0.57	-0.35
Education		-0.35	-0.35	0.22	0.13	0.37
Cash and tax breaks	12 to 17	0.01	-0.24	0.14	-0.34	-0.12
Benefits in kind		0.31	0.29	-0.12	-0.53	-0.40
Education		0.22	0.06	0.03	-0.39	-0.15

Limitations of the age spending analysis

- Average spending by age, but what about differences by:
 - Family type
 - Family size
 - Income
- Only public spending, not private
- Health spending and take-up has been tested (though not variation in take-up)
- Does not address the how!

Policy choices mediate CWB outcomes

	Main child benefit is age related (under 18) 2003		Main child benefit is family size related (under 18) 2003		Main child benefit payment has a lone parent supplement, 2003		Main child benefits payment is means-tested, 2003	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Material well-being	16.6	13.5	18.6	13.4	16.3	12.9	9.9	19.8
Housing environment	13.6	13.4	18.0	11.5	14.8	11.4	9.9	17.7

	Maternity pay is paid to unemployed or uninsured, 2003		Childcare payment or supplement exists, 2003		Tax breaks for families with children, 2003		Advance on maintenance payments, 2003	
	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Material well-being	17.8	8.0	15.6	14.8	9.3	16.8	20.5	9.1
Housing environment	15.8	7.1	15.3	12.7	7.6	15.7	16.8	9.7

Evaluating international child surveys

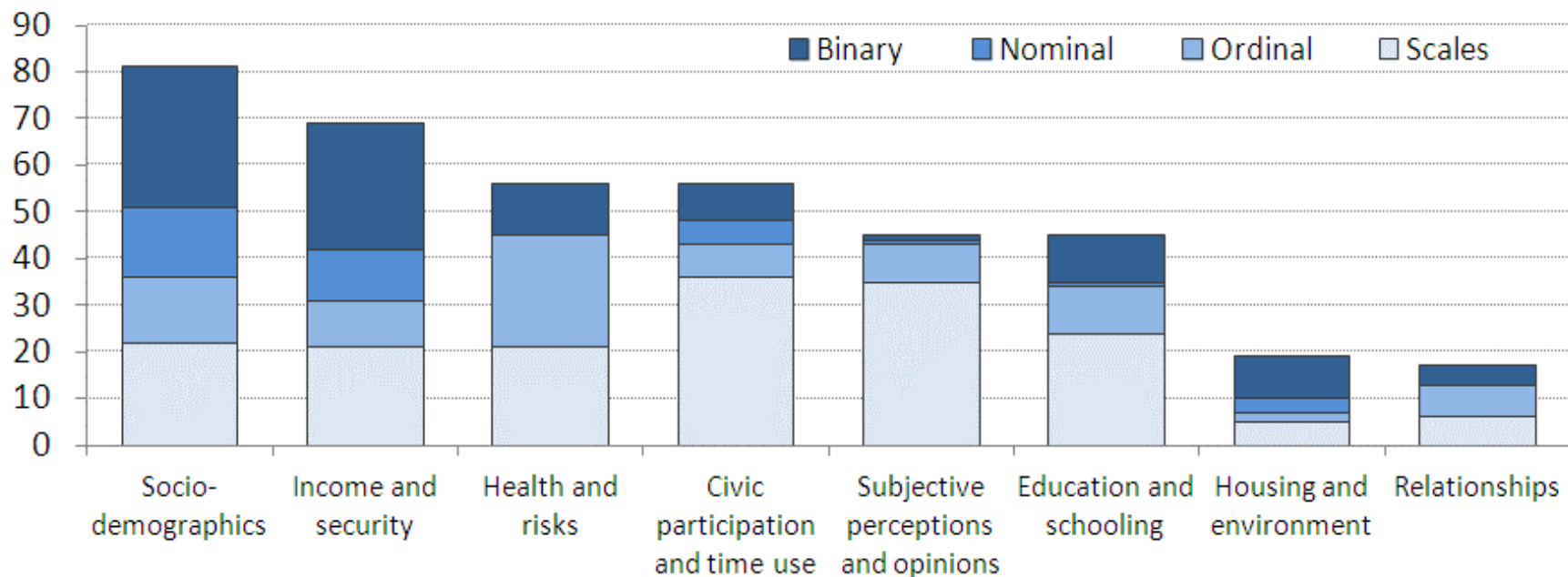
- **6 child surveys and 3 household surveys**
 - Education (PIRLS, TIMSS, PISA), health (HBSC), risk behaviours (ESPAD) and civic participation (ICCS)
- **Systematic review involving data providers**
- **Forms of bias in the survey results**
- **Provide recommendation for use and improvement**
- **Identify available data and gaps**

Taking stock of available data

The majority indicators for children and youth in the OECD and EU regions are material indicators

Child data by domains of well-being and by measurement type

Number of questionnaire items

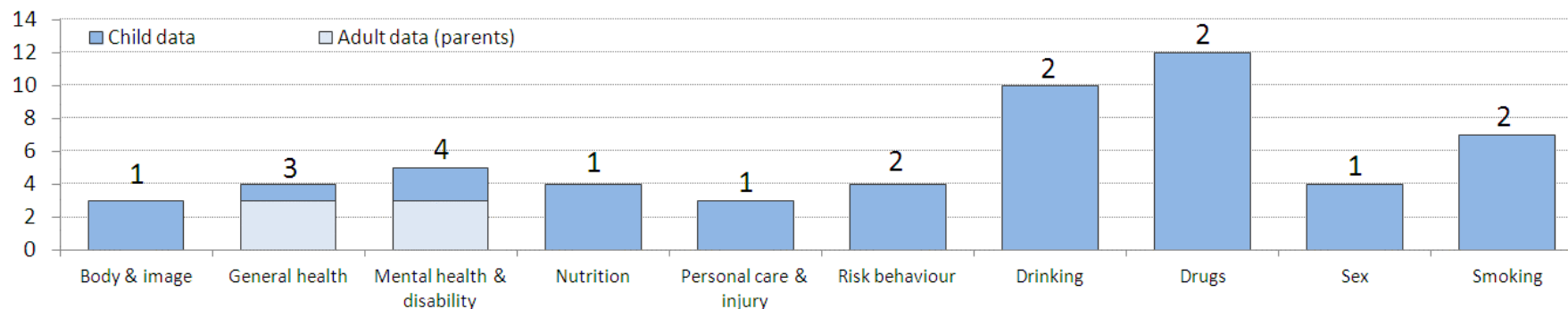


A focus on health and risks

	Body & image	General health	Mental health & disability	Nutrition	Personal care & injury	Risk behaviour: general	Risk behaviour: drinking	Risk behaviour: drugs	Risk behaviour: sex	Risk behaviour: smoking
Number of indicators	3	4	5	4	3	4	10	12	4	7
Number of sources	1	3	4	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
Adult data (parents)	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child data	3	1	2	4	3	4	10	12	4	7
Child ages	11 / 13 / 15	11 / 13 / 15	15 / 16	11 / 13 / 15	11 / 13 / 15	11 / 13 / 15 / 16	11 / 13 / 15 / 16	15 / 16	15	11 / 13 / 15 / 16
Migrant	0/3	1/4	5/5	0/4	0/3	3/4	8/10	11/12	0/4	5/7
Scales	3	1	0	4	3	1	2	3	1	3
Ordinal	0	2	2	0	0	2	7	8	0	3
Nominal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Binary	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	3	1

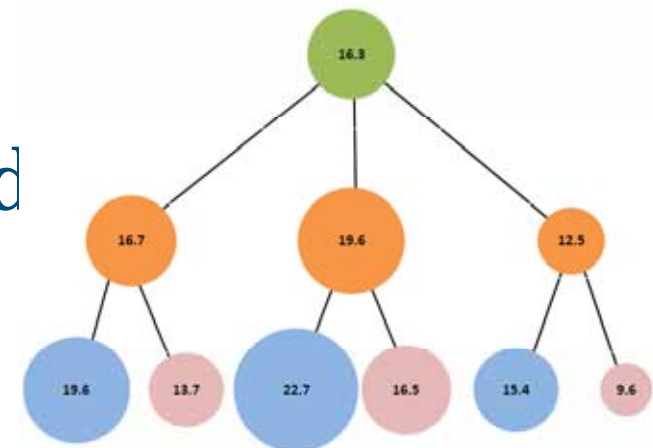
Who provides the data, and to which surveys?

Number of questionnaire items



Child Well-being module

- **Three comparative sections**
 - Child policies (spending and structures)
 - Contextual indicators (family and community)
 - Child well-being outcome indicators
- **Country specific sections**
 - Governance issues, policy changes, yet incomparable information
 - National specific data
- **All data will be quality tested**



Format of the comparative section

		Indicators by age		
		Early childhood (0-5)	Middle childhood (6-11)	Late childhood (12-17)
Indicators by policy process	Inputs - spending and policies	Availability of paid parental leave (OECD Family Database, MISSOC and others)	Public spending on primary education (OECD Education database)	Policies for youth (OECD Jobs for Youth, Doing Better for Families)
	Contexts - delivery, family and environment	Parental and community involvement (OECD ETP ECEC network)	Labour force participation by household type in middle childhood (Labour Force Surveys)	Migrant children / Disabled children / Sole parent families (children aged 12-17) (Household Panel Surveys / HBSC / PISA)
	Outcomes - Education, Social, Economic etc.	Low birth weight (OECD Health Database) / Breastfeeding rates (OECD Family Database)	Physical activity (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Study)	Child poverty rate in late childhood (Household Panel Surveys) / Educational Achievement (PISA)

Some lessons for indicator work

- Age related outcomes indicators
- More equality indicators
- Spending patterns, on who and how?
- Age related interventions
- More family contexts and relationships
- Evolving and interacting indicators
- Develop trends analysis
- Depreciation at different rates (lags)

Some relevant links

www.oecd.org/els/social

www.oecd.org/els/social/expenditure

www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database

www.oecd.org/els/social/childwellbeing

www.oecd.org/els/social/family/doingbetter

Stable leaders and laggards

	B_1	A	$(\bar{x})^a$	OWA/a	$(g)^b$	OWA/g	$(\alpha = -1)$	$(\alpha \leq 1)$	Range
Austria	17	17	17	16	16	17	16	16	14–19
Belgium	9	9	8	10	9	11	9	9	6–11
Canada	13	13	13	14	14	15	13	14	10–17
Czech R.	16	14	16	15	15	13	14	15	12–18
Denmark	6	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	3–8
Finland	3	3	3	4	3	5	5	5	3–6
Germany	11	11	11	8	8	8	7	8	7–16
Greece	12	12	12	13	13	14	12	12	8–16
Hungary	19	19	19	19	19	19	18	19	17–19
Ireland	10	10	9	9	10	9	11	10	5–14
Italy	8	8	10	11	11	10	15	13	7–15
Norway	7	6	5	3	4	3	3	3	3–10
Poland	15	16	15	18	18	16	19	18	5–19
Portugal	18	18	18	17	17	18	17	17	12–18
Spain	4	5	6	7	7	7	8	7	4–8
Switzerland	5	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	5–10
USA	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20–21

^aThis corresponds to $\alpha = 1$.

^bThis corresponds to $\alpha = 0$.