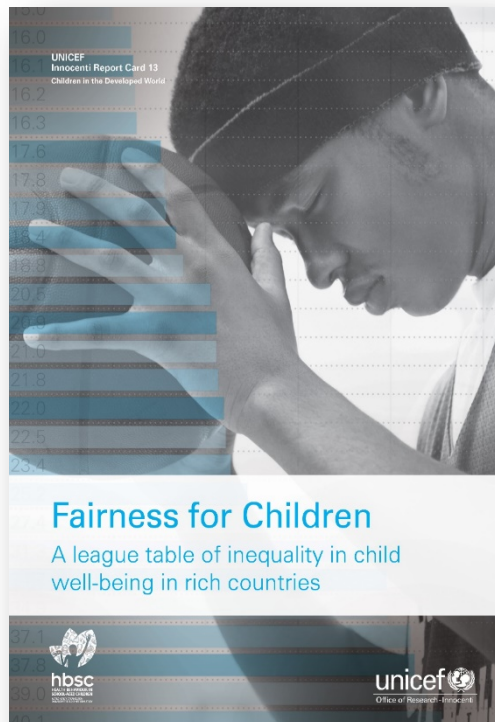


Inequality of Child Well-being in Rich Countries: Income, Education, Health and Life Satisfaction. *Report Card 13 results*

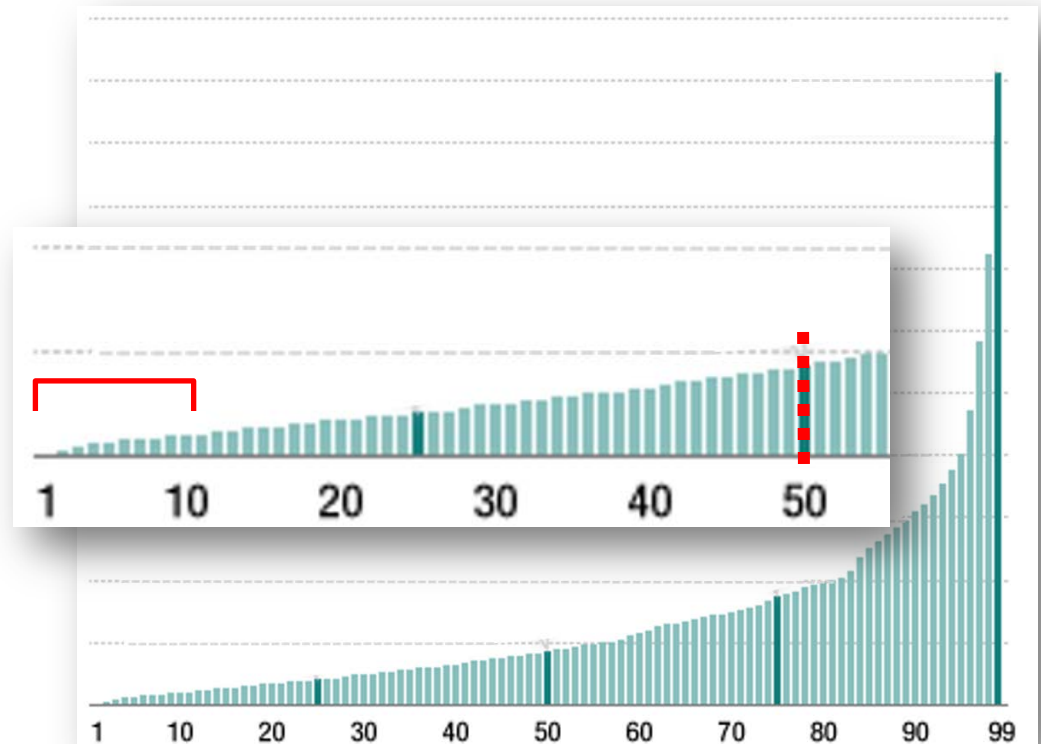
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What is bottom-end inequality? Why is it important?

- **Rising income inequality in rich countries — *but how do children fare?***
- **Bottom-end inequality**
How far are children in the worst performing group (10th percentile) falling behind those in the middle of the distribution (the median)
- **Falling far behind their peers affects children's well-being today and their future opportunities**



Four domains of child well-being

• Income

- Relative income gap based on disposable household income (age 0-17)
- EU Statistics on income and living conditions and national household surveys (2008-2013)



• Education

- Achievement gap (test scores) in reading, mathematics and science literacy (age 15)
- PISA (2000-2012)



• Health

- Relative health gap (mean below the median): Self-reported psychosomatic symptoms, physical activity, consumption of fruit and vegetables, consumption of sweets and sugary drinks (age 11, 13, 15)
- Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (2002-2014)



• Life satisfaction

- Self-reported ratings (age 11, 13, 15)
- Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (2002-2014)



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Fairness for Children

League Table 5 Average rank across all dimensions of inequality

| Rank | Country | Income | Education | Health | Life satisfaction |
|------|----------------|--------|-----------|--------|-------------------|
| 1 | Denmark | 4 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 2= | Finland | 3 | 16 | 6 | 11 |
| 2= | Norway | 1 | 23 | 4 | 8 |
| 2= | Switzerland | 6 | 20 | 3 | 7 |
| 5 | Austria | 11 | 21 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | Netherlands | 8 | 30 | 8 | 1 |
| 7 | Ireland | 10 | 9 | 20 | 13 |
| 8 | Estonia | 28 | 3 | 13 | 10 |
| 9 | Slovenia | 19 | 11 | 16 | 12 |
| 10 | Latvia | 32 | 4 | 17 | 6 |
| 11 | Czech Republic | 5 | 13 | 9 | 34 |
| 12 | Croatia | 26 | 5 | 12 | 23 |
| 13 | Australia | 14 | 24 | 27 | 2 |
| 14= | Germany | 12 | 28 | 2 | 29 |
| 14= | Greece | 38 | 18 | 11 | 4 |
| 14= | Hungary | 21 | 17 | 18 | 15 |
| 14= | United Kingdom | 7 | 25 | 19 | 20 |
| 18 | United States | 30 | 10 | 14 | 21 |
| 19 | Portugal | 33 | 19 | 7 | 18 |
| 20 | Iceland | 2 | 26 | 31 | 19 |
| 21 | Romania | 41 | 2 | 32 | 5 |
| 22 | Spain | 36 | 12 | 10 | 24 |
| 23 | Sweden | 16 | 29 | 22 | 17 |
| 24 | Malta | 20 | | 30 | 14 |
| 25 | Lithuania | 27 | 7 | 25 | 27 |
| 26 | Canada | 24 | 14 | 24 | 25 |
| 27 | Poland | 23 | 6 | 33 | 33 |
| 28 | France | 13 | 35 | 23 | 28 |
| 29= | Belgium | 22 | 36 | 15 | 30 |
| 29= | Luxembourg | 9 | 33 | 29 | 32 |
| 31 | Slovakia | 25 | 34 | 21 | 26 |
| 32 | Italy | 35 | 22 | 28 | 22 |
| 33 | Bulgaria | 40 | 32 | 26 | 16 |
| 34 | Turkey | 29 | | 34 | 35 |
| 35 | Israel | 37 | 37 | 35 | 31 |

- Scandinavian countries (except Iceland and Sweden) top the league table.
- Bulgaria, Israel and Turkey are at the bottom of the league table.
- Countries at the top of the league table tend to do well in $\frac{3}{4}$ indicators.
- Countries at the bottom of the league table tend to do badly in $\frac{3}{4}$ indicators.

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| Country | Income gap 2008 | Income gap 2013 | Change in income gap 2008-2013 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Countries in which the 10th percentile increased faster than the median | | | |
| Switzerland | 42.4 | 39.6 | -2.8 |
| Czech Republic | 42.1 | 39.6 | -2.5 |
| Finland | 40.5 | 38.3 | -2.2 |
| Countries in which the 10th percentile decreased more slowly than the median | | | |
| United Kingdom | 48.1 | 39.9 | -8.2 |
| Ireland | 46.7 | 41.5 | -5.2 |
| Luxembourg | 45.5 | 41.2 | -4.3 |
| Lithuania | 56.9 | 54.8 | -2.1 |
| Countries in which the relative gap remained stable (+/-2pp) | | | |
| Iceland | 39.2 | 37.8 | -1.4 |
| Latvia | 60.9 | 59.7 | -1.2 |
| Austria | 42.7 | 41.9 | -0.8 |
| Norway | 36.6 | 37.0 | 0.4 |
| Belgium | 47.9 | 48.4 | 0.5 |
| Germany | 42.6 | 43.1 | 0.5 |
| Denmark | 38.5 | 39.5 | 1.0 |
| Poland | 50.7 | 51.8 | 1.1 |
| Netherlands | 40.6 | 39.4 | 1.2 |
| Bulgaria | 65.7 | 67.0 | 1.3 |
| Romania | 65.6 | 67.1 | 1.5 |
| Malta | 46.5 | 48.2 | 1.7 |
| Countries in which the 10th percentile increased more slowly than the median | | | |
| France | 41.4 | 43.9 | 2.5 |
| Sweden | 41.4 | 46.2 | 4.8 |
| Slovakia | 46.2 | 54.2 | 8.0 |
| Countries in which the 10th percentile and the median decreased and the p10 declined faster | | | |
| Estonia | 52.7 | 55.5 | 2.8 |
| Cyprus | 42.4 | 47.2 | 4.8 |
| Portugal | 54.8 | 60.2 | 5.4 |
| Hungary | 42.6 | 48.3 | 5.7 |
| Slovenia | 40.7 | 47.3 | 6.6 |
| Spain | 55.9 | 62.6 | 6.7 |
| Italy | 52.6 | 60.6 | 8.0 |
| Greece | 55.6 | 64.7 | 9.1 |

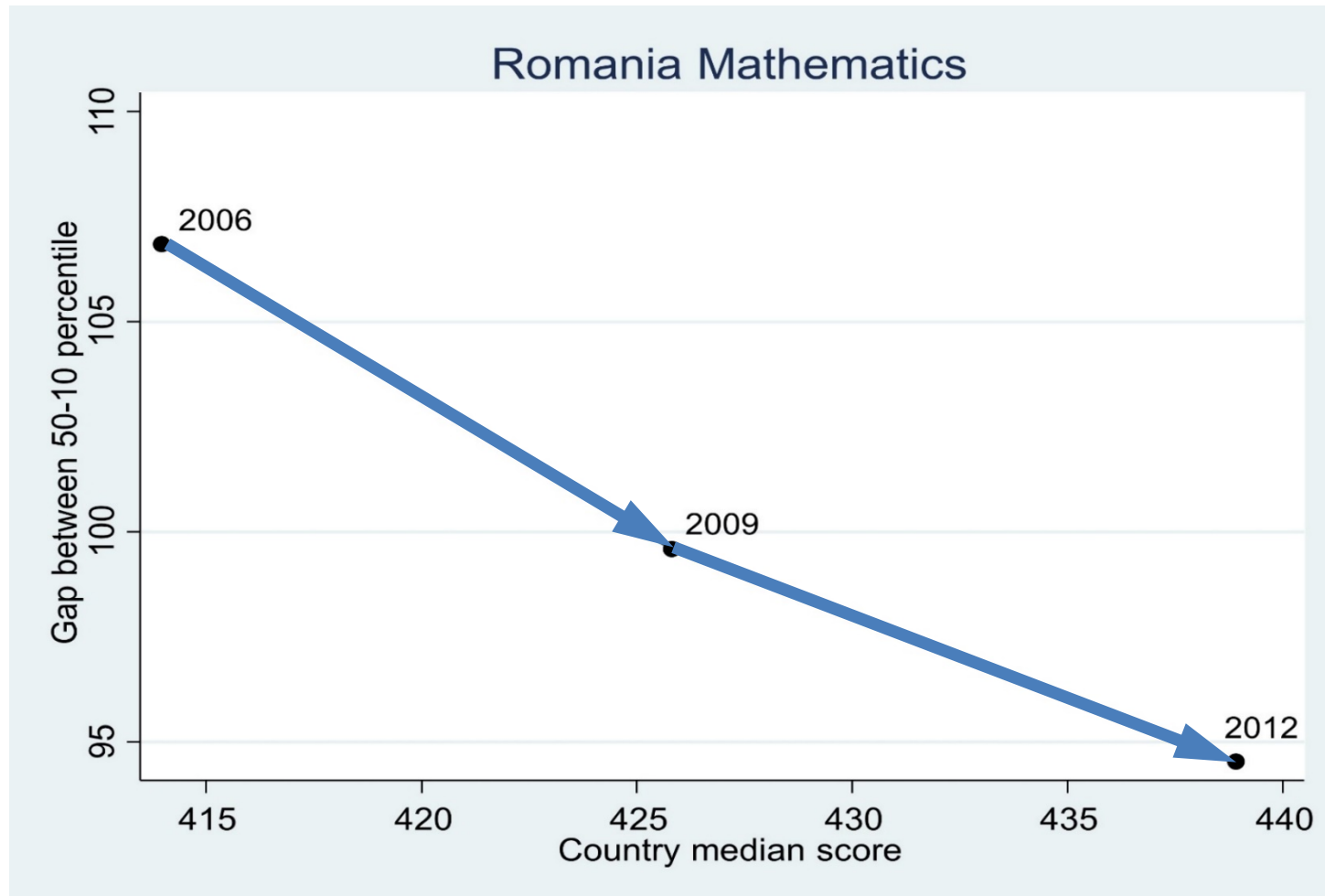
Trends in bottom-end inequality: Income

- **Relative bottom-end income gap increased in 19 of 37 countries (2008 – 2013)**
 - Largest increases in income inequality took place in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain as well as in Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia, driven by larger decreases or slower increases (i.e. Slovakia) in the 10th percentile than at the median

Trends in bottom – end inequality: Education (2000-2012)

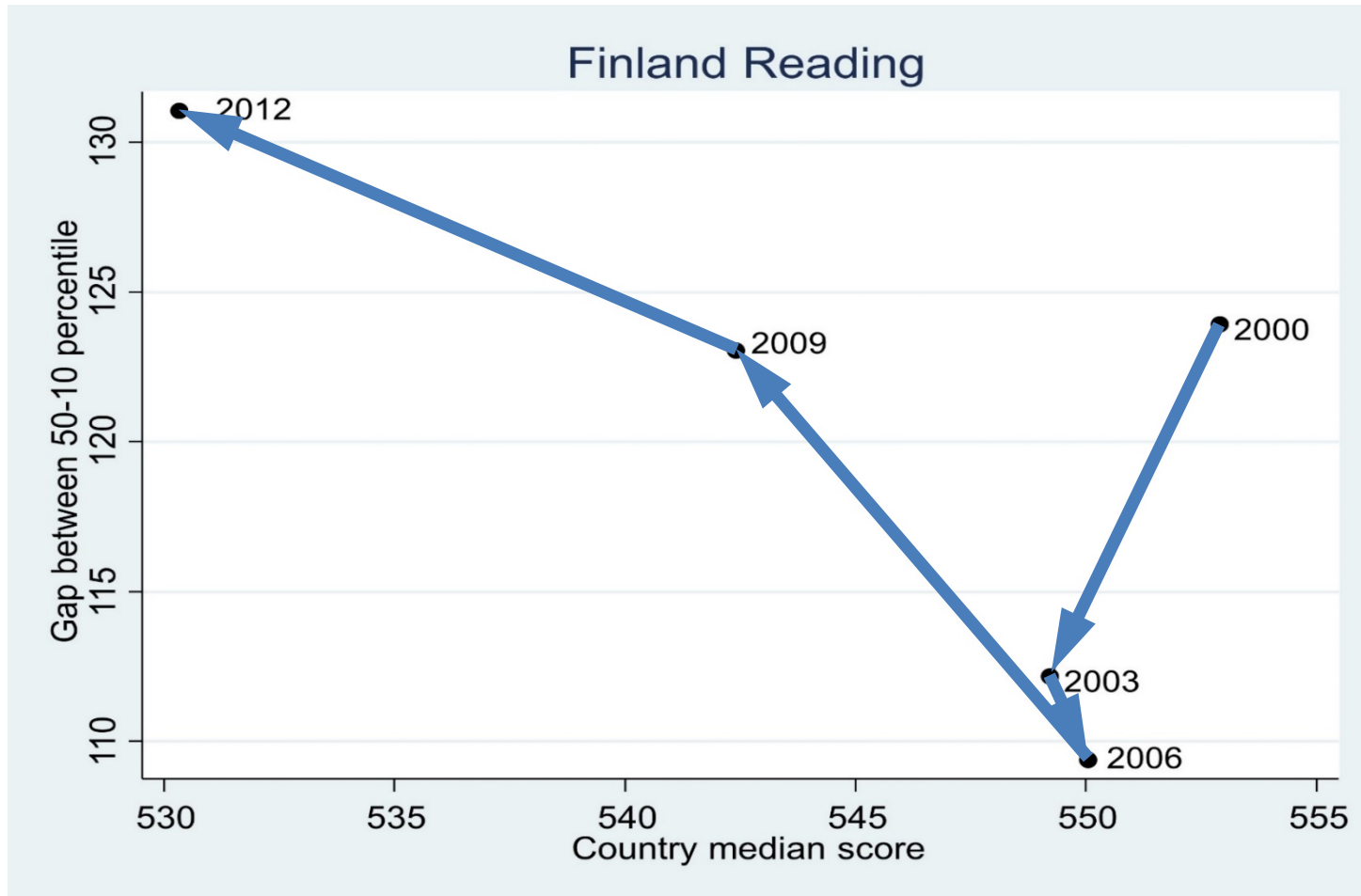
| Path | Description | Gap | Median |
|-----------|---|-----|--------|
| PATH I: | Academic progress with the focus on low-achievers | ▲ | ▲ |
| PATH II: | Increased relative disadvantage and slipped performance | ▼ | ▼ |
| PATH III: | ‘Double contraction’ - reduced relative disadvantage but deteriorating median performance | ▲ | ▼ |
| PATH IV: | Leaving low-achievers behind | ▼ | ▲ |

PATH I: Academic progress with the focus on low-achievers



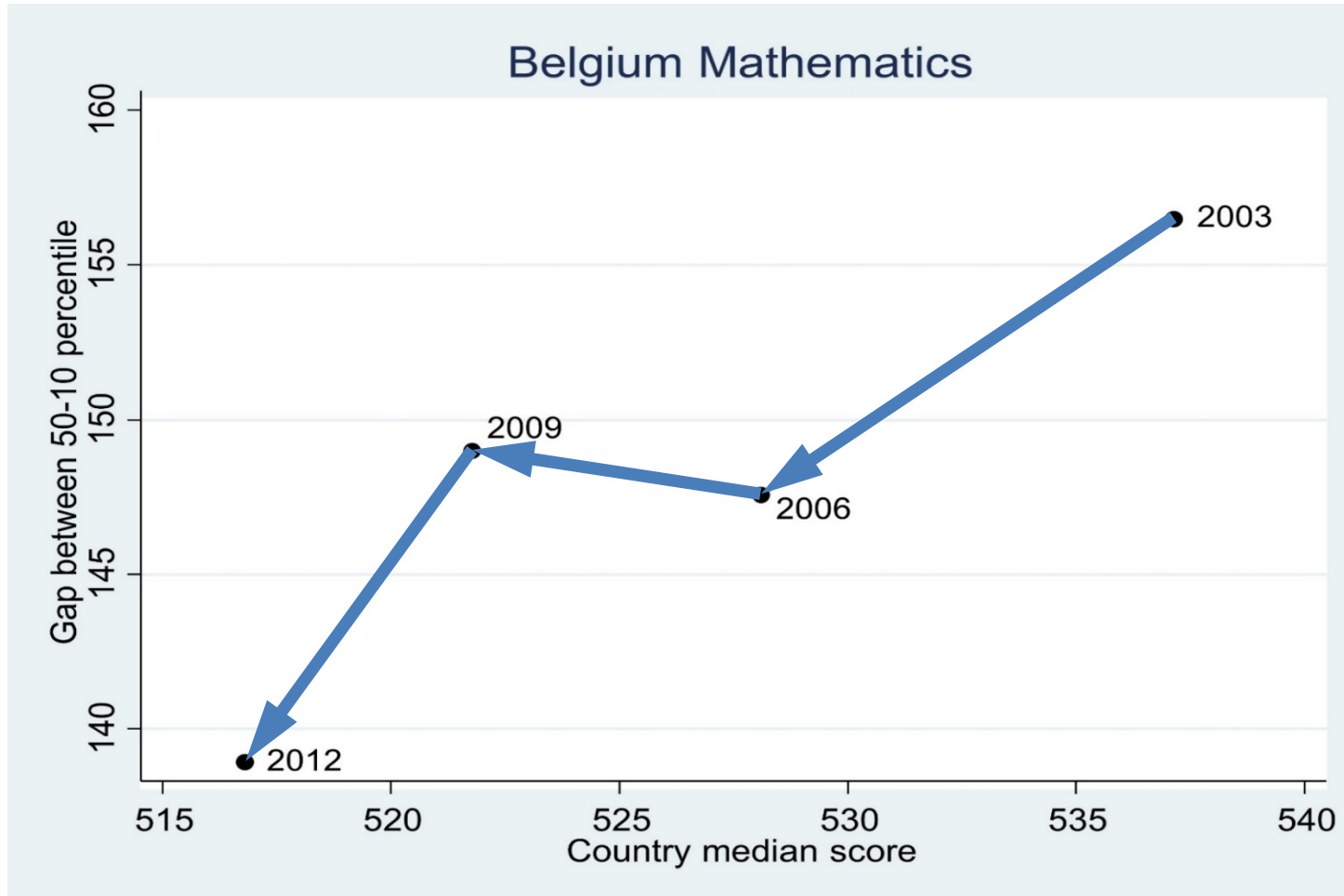
Source: PISA 2006, 2009, 2012.

PATH II: Increased relative disadvantage and slipped performance



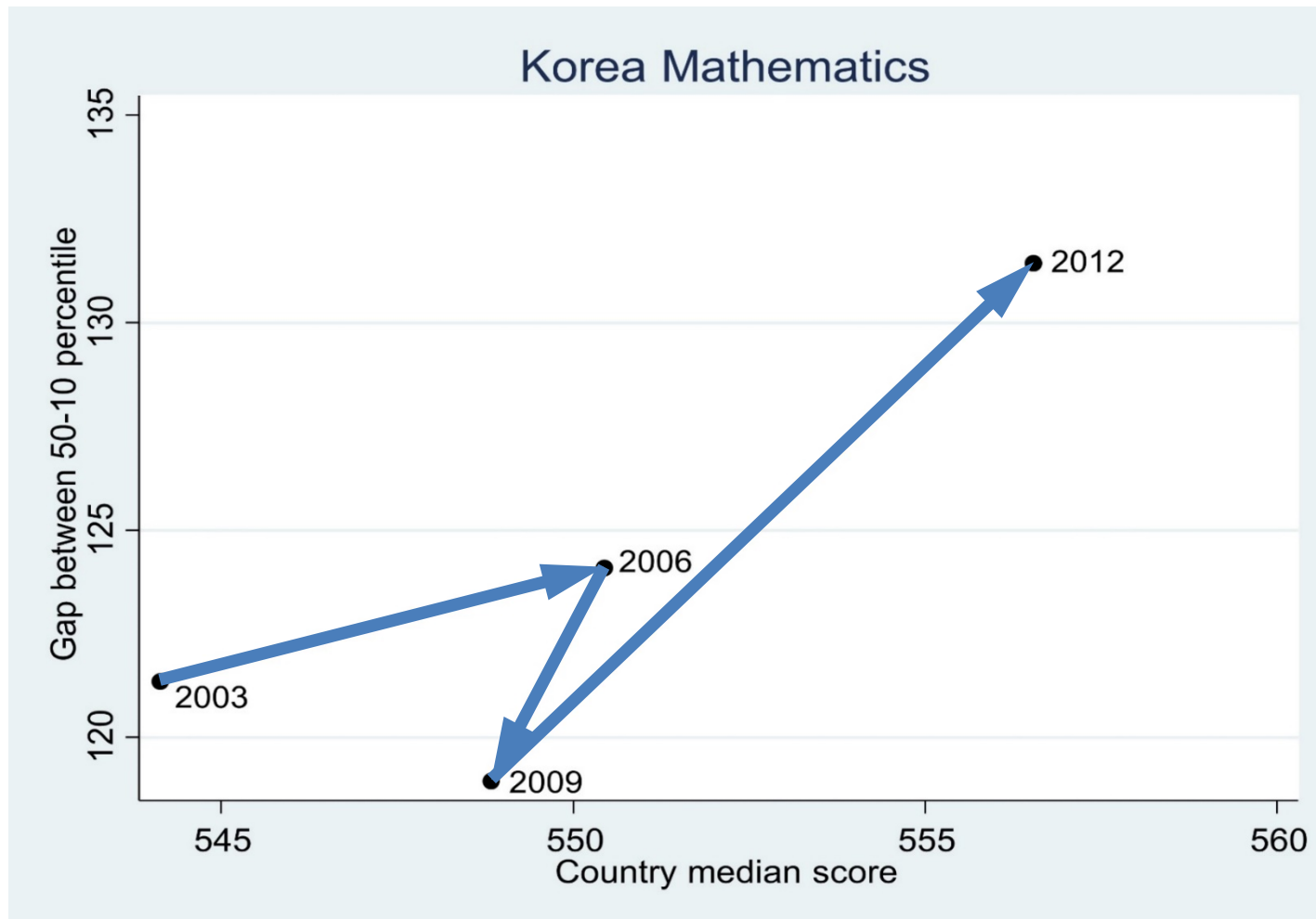
Source: PISA 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012.

PATH III: 'Double contraction' - reduced relative disadvantage but deteriorating median performance



Source: PISA 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012.

PATH IV: Leaving low-achievers behind



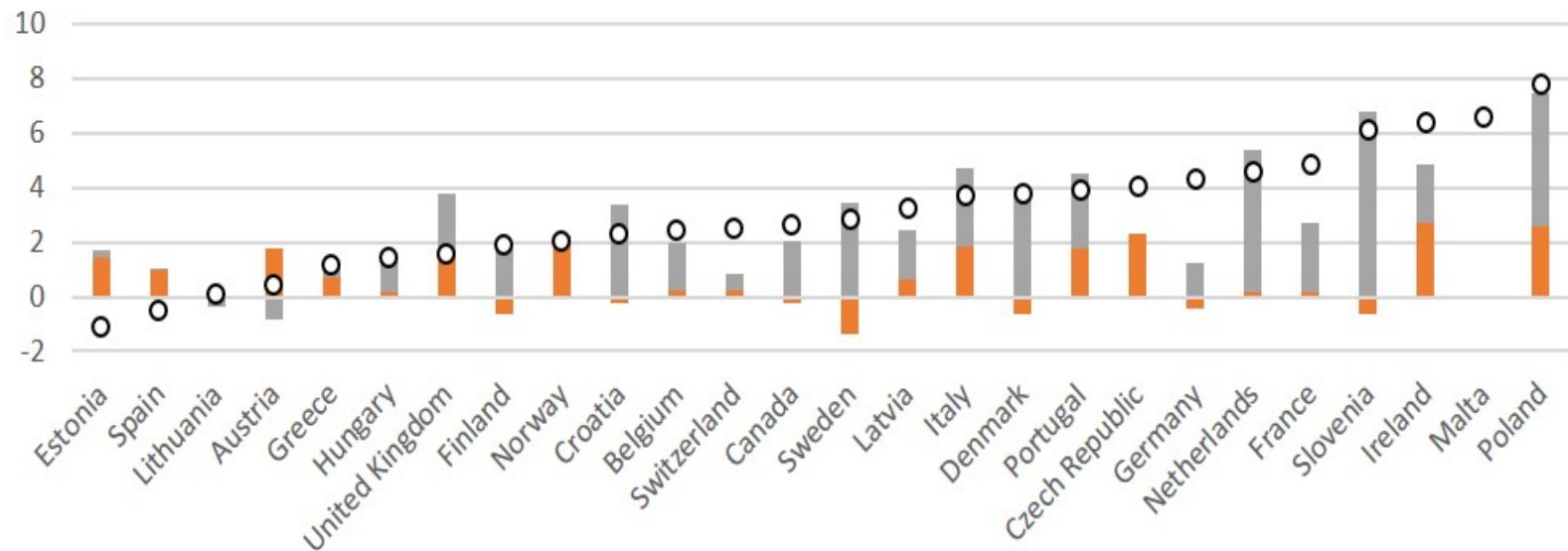
Source: PISA 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012.

Trends: Health (1)

Change in the relative gap in health symptoms (ppt)

2002-2014: Relative health inequality increased in 25 of 34 countries.

2010-2014: Increase in 12 countries (the largest in Malta, Slovenia, and the Netherlands).



■ Change in the relative gap between 2006 and 2010 ■ Change in the relative gap between 2010 and 2014

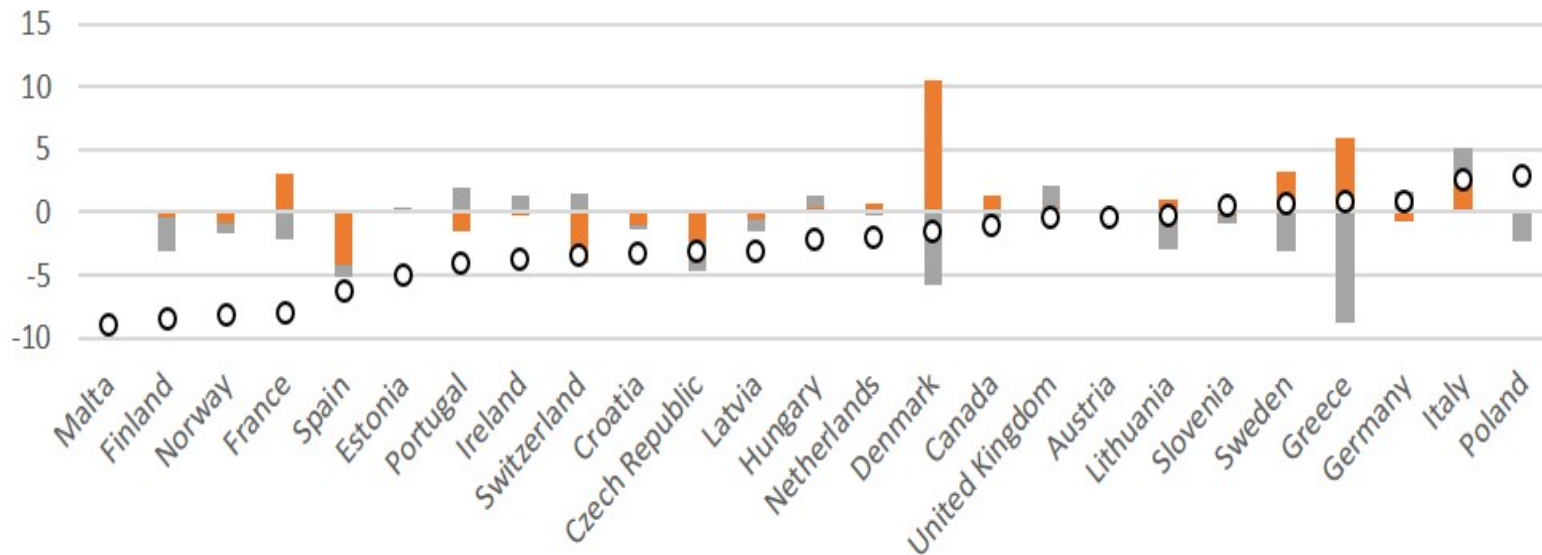
○ Change in the relative gap between 2002 and 2014

Trends: Health (2)

Change in the relative gap in physical activity (ppt)

2002-2014: Relative gaps decreased in 18 of 34 countries but increased in Italy, Poland, Romania, Turkey.

2010-2014: Narrowed in seven countries (Greece, Iceland, Denmark) and marginally increase only in Italy.



■ Change in the relative gap between 2006 and 2010 ■ Change in the relative gap between 2010 and 2014

○ Change in the relative gap between 2002 and 2014

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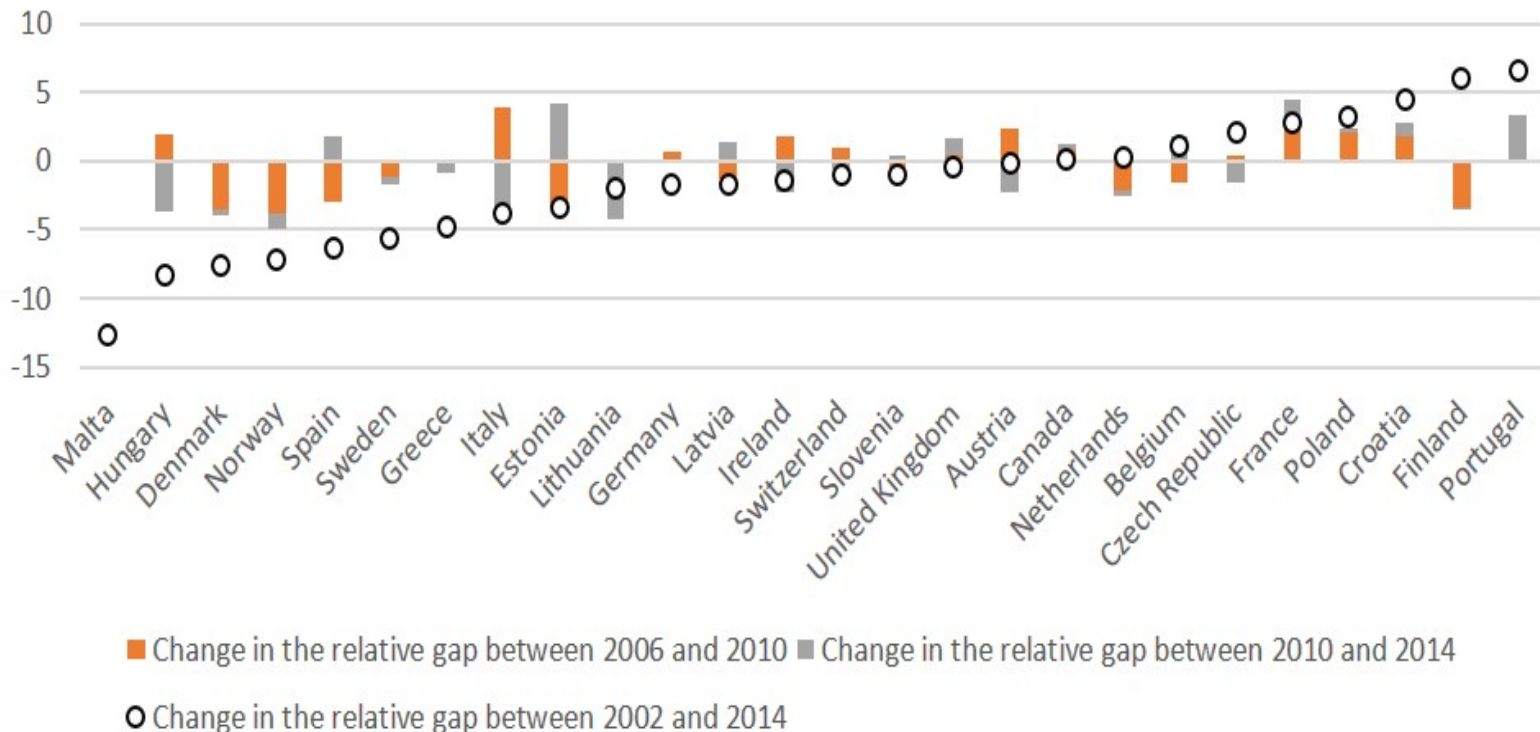
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Trends: Health (3)

Change in the relative gap in healthy eating (ppt)

2002-2014: Gaps narrowed in 12 countries and widened in 6 countries.

2010-2014: Gaps narrowed in four countries (Lithuania, Hungary, Italy and Italy) and widened in two (Portugal and Estonia).



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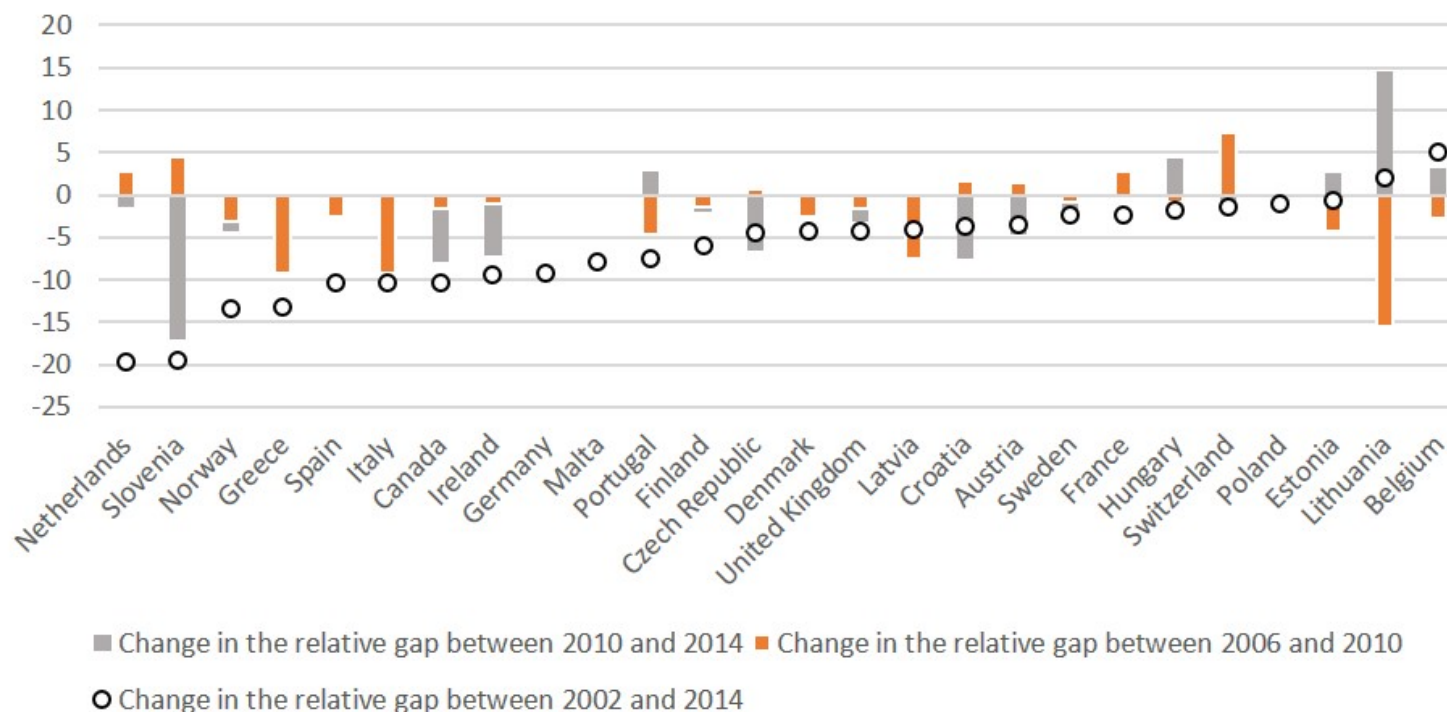
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Trends: Health (4)

Change in the relative gap in unhealthy eating (ppt)

2002 - 2014: Gaps in **unhealthy eating** decreased in 25 of 34
But increased in Belgium, Romania, Turkey Slovakia

2010 - 2014: gaps narrowed in 13 countries (Slovenia, Iceland –largest), increased in 6
countries (Lithuania the largest)



Source: HBSC data

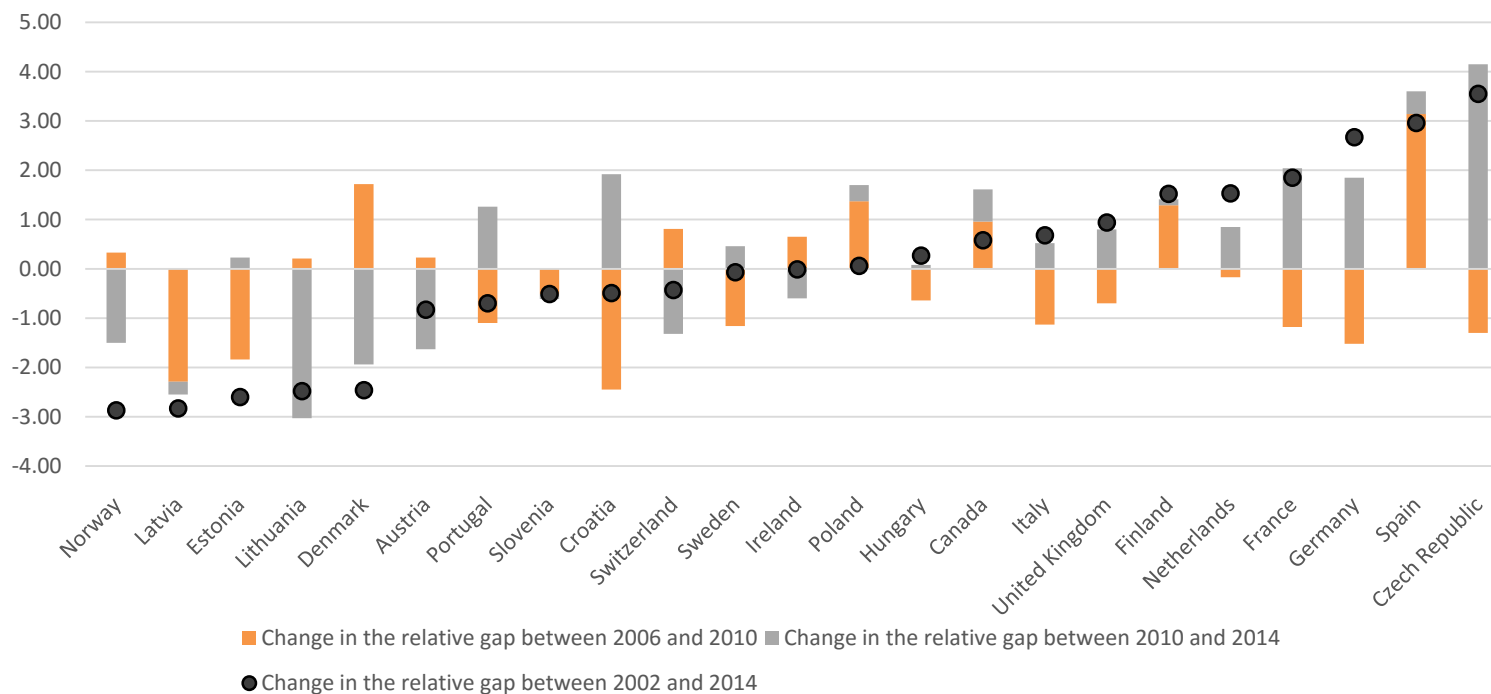
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Trends: Life satisfaction

Change in the relative gap in life satisfaction

- **2002 - 2014** Life satisfaction gaps remained stable in majority of countries: Narrowed in 6 of 32; widened in 7.
- **2010 – 2014:** In Lithuania – narrowed more than 2 ppt. In France, Belgium and the Czech Republic – increased by 2 ppt or above.



Source: HBSC data

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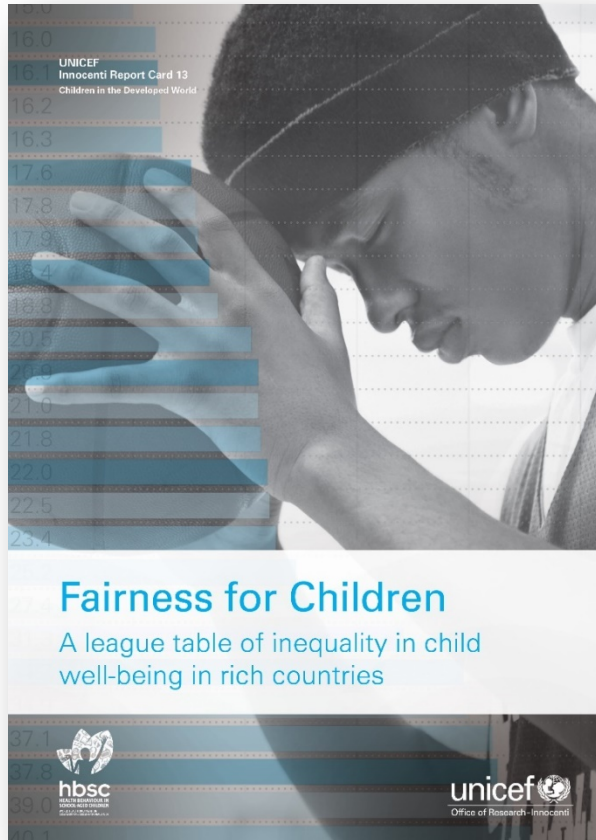
- Children from families with lower socio-economic status tend to fall further behind in
 - Life satisfaction
 - Physical activity
 - Healthy eating
 - Educational achievement
- Girls are more likely than boys to fall behind in health and in life satisfaction
- Boys are more likely than girls to fall behind in educational achievement

Conclusions/Key messages

- Inequality in child well-being is persistent and often widening over time
- There is no necessary trade-off between equality and overall well-being
- Children from families with lower socio-economic status are over-represented among those falling furthest behind
- Girls are more likely to fall behind in health and life satisfaction; boys are more likely to fall behind in educational achievement.

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Thank you!

<https://www.unicef-irc.org/research/268/>

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