

CHILD RIGHTS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Developments since the 3rd cycle

- Steps taken towards de-institutionalization of children under 3 years of age
- Steps taken towards prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings (including at home)
- Recognized priority to establish the institute of Children Ombudsperson

➤ Committee on the Rights of the Child: Concluding observations on the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of Czechia (2021)

➤ Young Voices poll 2022 (Czech Committee for UNICEF)

Identification of children’s attitudes and opinions on their environments, school, family, safety, mental health, awareness of child rights, society, future prospects. Time series since 2001.



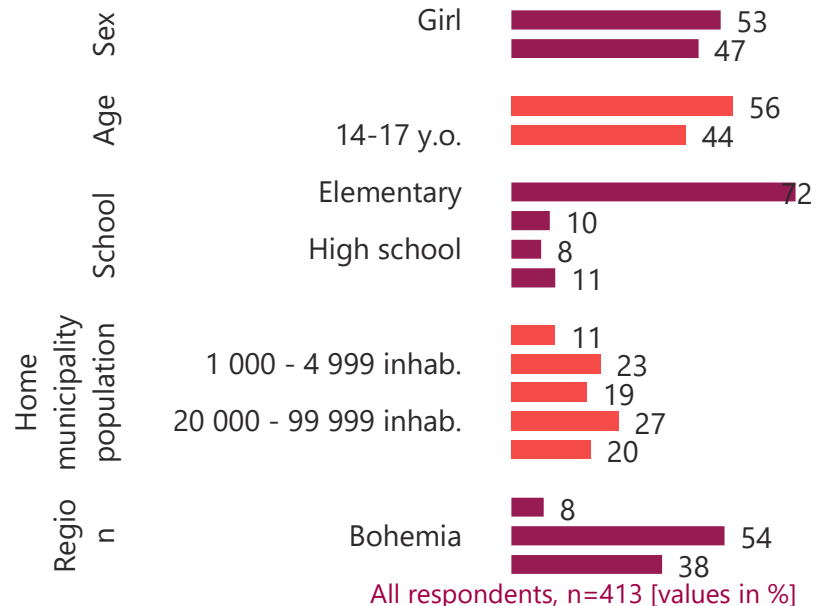
Target group

Czechia, children of 9 – 17 years of age
 Representative sample based on gender and age of children, family income, region of residence, size of residence municipality and education of parents.



Field research details

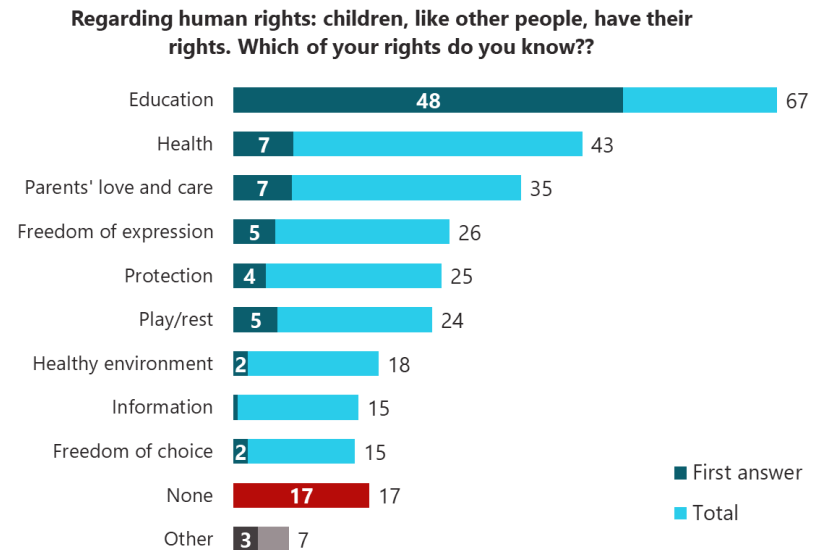
Method: PAPI questioning
 Number of conducted interviews: 413
 Data collection period: 20. 8. – 21. 9. 2022
 Sampling method: quota
 Data: unweighted



Situation in Czechia – Awareness

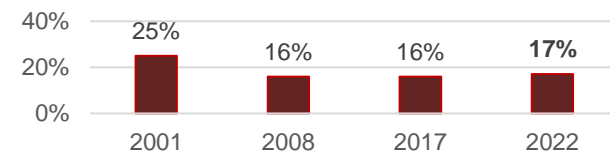
- Recommendations of the **Committee on the Rights of the Child**: (a) Integrate children's rights into school curricula; (b) Provide systematic training, and individual education plans, on children's rights and child-friendly procedures for all professionals working with and for children, including, but not limited to, teachers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and police officers; (c) Raise awareness of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure and provide capacity-building activities aimed at training relevant actors, including children and/or children's human rights defenders, on the Optional Protocol.

- Concerns identified by the **Young Voices poll**: currently 17% of children do not know any right at all



Q52. Regarding human rights: children, like other people, have their rights. Which of your rights do you know? *Multiple answers possible.*
All respondents, n=412 [data in %]

"I don't know any child right"



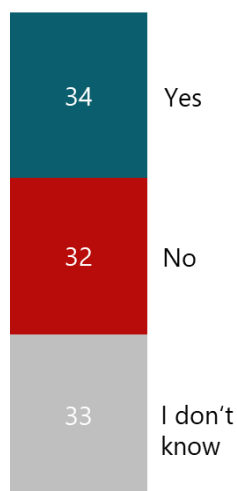
Recommendations – Awareness

- Strengthen efforts to increase awareness about child rights among children, as well as all professionals working with and for children, and introduce mechanisms for systematic monitoring of progress in this regard.

Situation in Czechia – Poverty

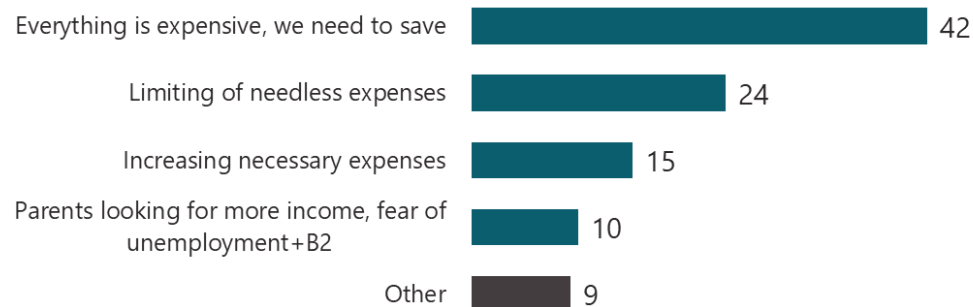
- **One in nine Czech children live in poverty** (EUROSTAT), however certain groups of children are much **more vulnerable**. For example, 1 in 3 children in **sole-parent households** live in poverty compared to 1 in 13 children living with two parents. This relative difference is bigger than almost anywhere else in Europe. The socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are further exacerbated by the impacts of the Ukraine war and current costs of living crisis.
- Recommendations of the **Committee on the Rights of the Child**: Review the amounts of child allowances and ensure that children benefit directly from them.
- Concerns identified by the **Young Voices poll**

Has the financial situation of your family changed?



Q83. Has the financial situation of your family changed this year?
All respondents, n=413 [data in %]

Could you give an example of how the change in financial situation of your family manifested?



Q84. Could you give an example of how the change in financial situation of your family manifested?
Open question, coded. Respondents, who have perceived a change, n=140 [data in %]

Recommendations – Issue 2

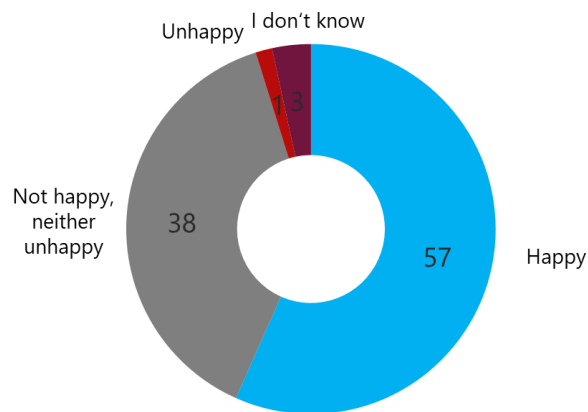


- Take effective measures to tackle child poverty and support vulnerable families, including with measures specifically targeting single-parent households.

Situation in Czechia – Mental Health

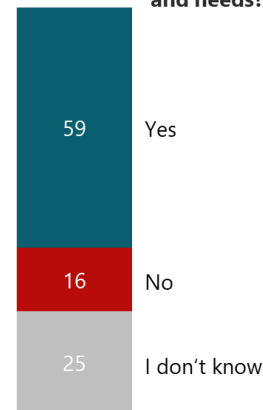
- The Czech National Institute of Mental Health: **one in five children** aged between 3 and 17 years suffers from a mental disorder. During the Covid-19 pandemic, mental health problems in the Czech Republic has increased threefold and anxieties twofold.
- Recommendations of the **Committee on the Rights of the Child**: Take advantage of the mental health care reform and the development of the mental health action plan to establish measurable and time-bound indicators and a mechanism to... including for early intervention and for the provision of continuous support to children with severe mental health problems, **encourage children to seek mental health services** and ensure that they can do so without stigma.
- Concerns identified by the **Young Voices poll**

Would you say you mostly feel...



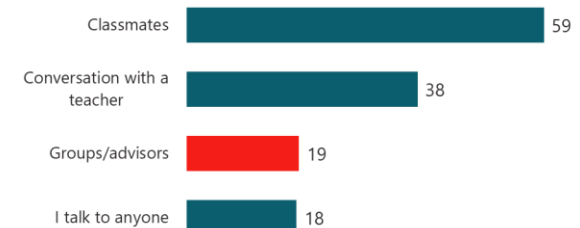
Q1. Let's talk about life. Would you say you mostly feel...
All respondents, n=413 [data in %]

Do you have the option of talking to someone at school about your problems and needs?



Q11. Do you have the option of talking to someone at school about your problems and needs?
All respondents, n=412 [data in %]

Have you ever used this opportunity? How?



Q12. Have you ever used this opportunity? How? *Multiple answers possible.*
Respondents who have the option, n=240 [data in %]

Recommendations – Issue 3



- Establish a regional network of children's mental health teams as a systematic tool to support children, increase mental health literacy among teachers and children, and prevent mental disorders.



Thank you.



Pavla Gomba, Executive Director of the Czech Committee for UNICEF, www.unicef.cz
pgomba@unicef.cz