

The National Child Strategy and child data in Finland

Marjut Pietiläinen, 6 March, 2024
UNECE Expert meeting on statistics on children
TransMonEE network session

This presentation is based on the report “Knowledge about Children” prepared by Anna Pärnänen and Johanna Lahtela, Statistics Finland.
https://www.lapsenoikeudet.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Knowledge-about-children_measure24.pdf

The 1st Finnish National Child Strategy

- The goal is a society that respects the rights of children.
- Is based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has been in force at the level of an act since 1991 in Finland.
- Promotes the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Records the current state of the wellbeing and rights of children and young people as well as the key objectives and measures to promote them.
- The implementation plan for the Child Strategy set out 30 measures. The measure 24 concerned producing a comprehensive knowledge base for monitoring the wellbeing of children and young people.
- <https://stm.fi/en/child-strategy>



Statistics Finland's task on child strategy



- The work was carried out between March 2022 and February 2023.
- Created a framework to help categorize the indicators
- Collected all indicators on children's well-being into one road map (excel) to help plan the web page
- Made a proposal for a web page on indicators on children, its content, the place and execution
- Mapped information gaps
- Took a closer look at the needs of information on vulnerable groups
- Made conclusions on the state of the child data in Finland & suggested how to develop it in the future

Co-operation methods



Project team

Steering group

Strong commitment

Workshops

Synergies with other measures of the National Child Strategy

Presentations and sharing the information



The indicator framework

Demographic indicators

Children in the population
Children and immigration

Health & Wellbeing

Physical & mental health
Lifestyle
Functional capacity

Hobbies & Leisure

Hobbies
Leisure
Housework

Social relationships

Family and relatives
Friends
Social community

Inclusion and participation

Political & organizational activity
Participation at school
Societal trust

School & Early childhood education and care (ECEC)

Participation in education & ECEC
Enjoying school or ECEC
Learning

Housing & Living conditions

Housing
Income level
Employment
Material standard of living

Safety

Violence and crime
Sexual violence and harassment
Safety in intimate relationships and at home
Bullying
Accidents

Services, benefits and other support of society

Social services
Healthcare services
Social benefits
Other social support



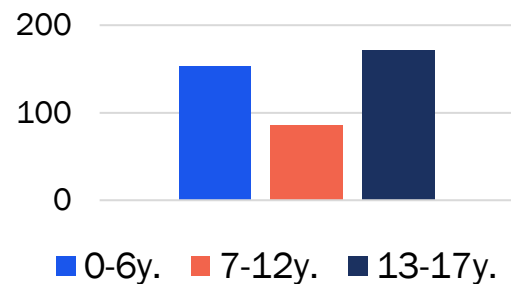
The indicators

- Nationally produced indicators with time series
- Total ~ 2 400 indicators
 - ~ 850 are produced by The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare
 - 800 by Statistics Finland
 - ~ 200 by the Social Insurance Institution of Finland
- Some indicators fall on more than one sector in the framework
- Indicators that were left out
 - Indicators which don't directly measure the wellbeing of the child (e.g. costs of services)
 - Are one-time-only indicators

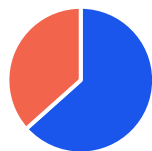


Education & Early childhood education and care

347 indicators



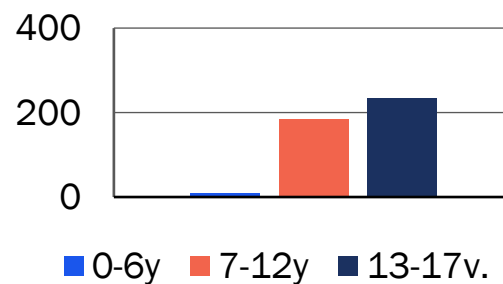
Source of data



■ Survey ■ Register

Hobbies & Leisure

244 indicators



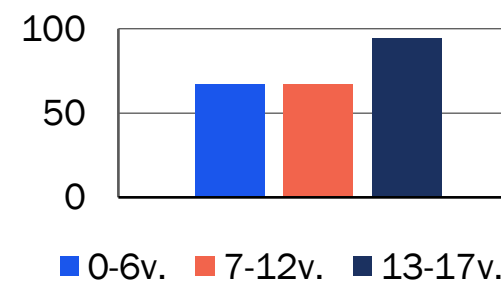
Source of data



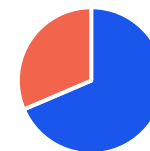
■ Survey ■ Register

Housing & Living conditions

154 indicators



Source of data

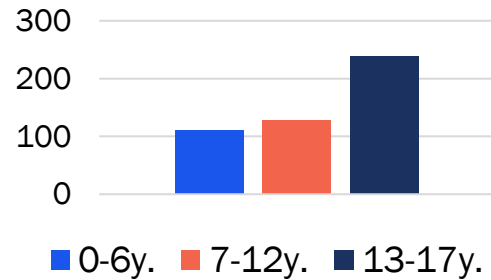


■ Survey ■ Register



Health and Wellbeing

336 indicators



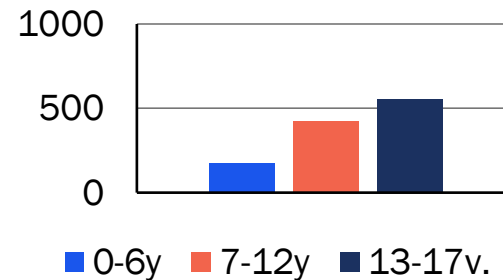
Source of data



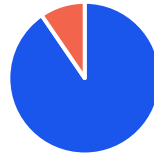
■ Survey ■ Register

Safety

608 indicators



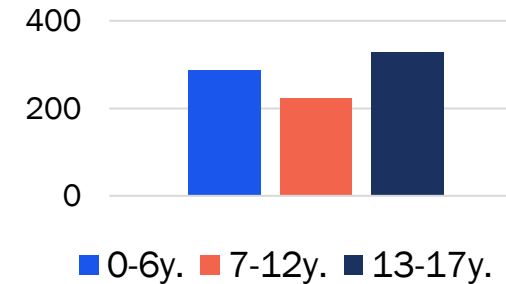
Source of data



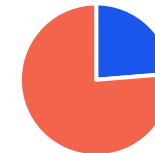
■ Survey ■ Register

Services, benefits and other support of society

467 indicators



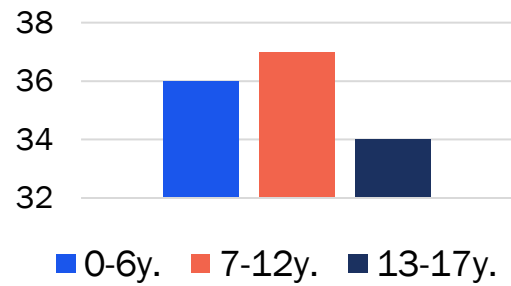
Source of data



■ Survey ■ Register

Social connections

70 indicators

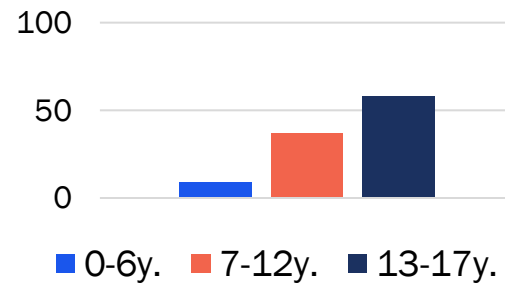


Source of data



Participation

72 indicators



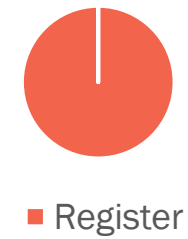
Source of data



Population statistics

168 indicators

Source of data



Conclusions about the state of the child data in Finland

- There is an enormous amount of data on children, but it is dispersed in different places.
- There are a great number of data producers, but data production is not coordinated by anyone.
- Lack of coordination causes both overlaps and gaps of information (e.g. small children and vulnerable groups).
- Dispersed information leads to weak combinability of the data.
- There is limited collaboration among data producers and in some cases competition for the same informant resources.
- Data continuity is only seldomly ensured.
- There is a lot of untapped information collected in child health care centers and in school health care.
- Needs for data on a region level are not always met & there is a lack of region level follow-up indicators.





Proposals to develop the child data base

- Production of child data needs a coordinator & co-operation group.
- The possibilities for co-operation in survey data production should be investigated.
- The possibilities and restrictions to use untapped data should be investigated.
- For register data, the most important indicators for regional use should be selected in co-operation with the data users & common practices agreed on.
- All data should be gathered in the same data base to create a common data source.
- The child data portal could be built on the child data base.

Thank you!



More information:

[marjut.pietilainen\(at\)stat.fi](mailto:marjut.pietilainen@stat.fi)

[anna.parnanen\(at\)stat.fi](mailto:anna.parnanen@stat.fi)

<https://childstrategy.fi/publications/researches-and-reports/>