



Children's Voice 2026 Survey Results

Children's Voice is an annual survey that Save the Children Finland has been conducted since 2001. The aim of the survey is to raise the experiences of children and young people in public debate and decision-making. This year's survey focused on children's and young people's experiences on well-being, everyday life, and their families' livelihood.

Data collection was conducted in two parts. Between 7 and 28 May 2026, responses were collected from 1,058 children and young people aged 9–17 living in mainland Finland through Verian's nationally representative online panel. In addition, responses were collected between 27 April and 17 May 2026 through Save the Children's own online survey for 12–17-year-olds.

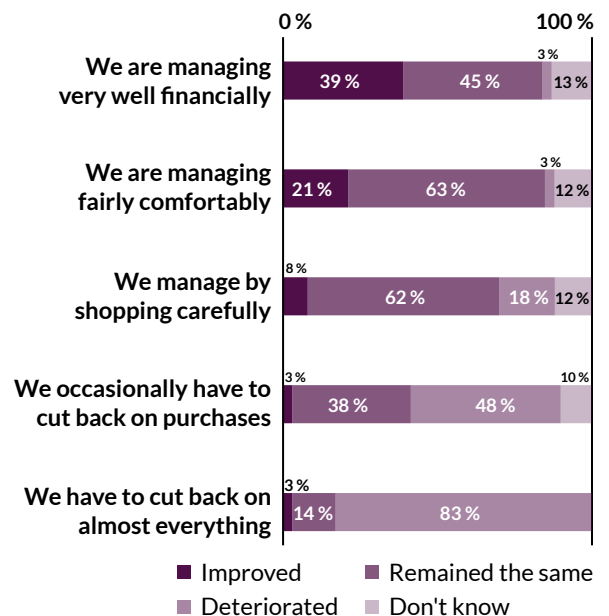
There is some variation between the surveys in how respondents described their financial situation. Half of the Verian respondents (50%) and 65% of the online respondents considered their family to be financially well-off. Meanwhile, 21% of Verian respondents and 12% of online respondents described their family as struggling financially.

Of the children who responded to the online survey, 17 percent said that social security cuts had affected their own lives or their families. Among children from low-income families, 51 percent said this, compared with 8 percent of children from high-income families.

Life can be frightening at times when you don't know how long the food at home will last. Prices just keep going up and up, and we don't have enough money.

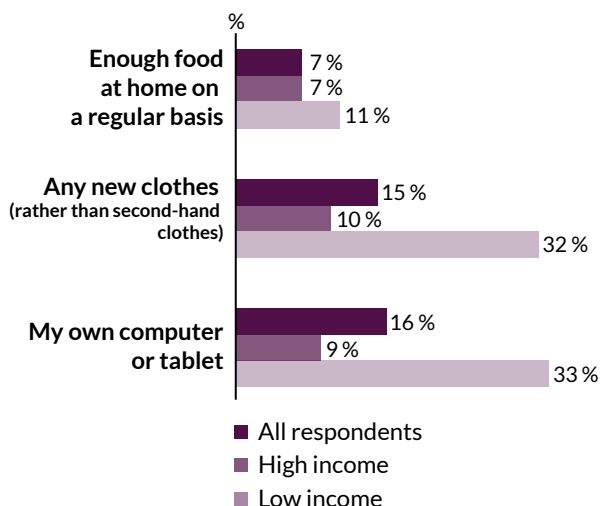
The financial situation has deteriorated significantly among the families with the lowest incomes.

Changes in the financial situation over the past year



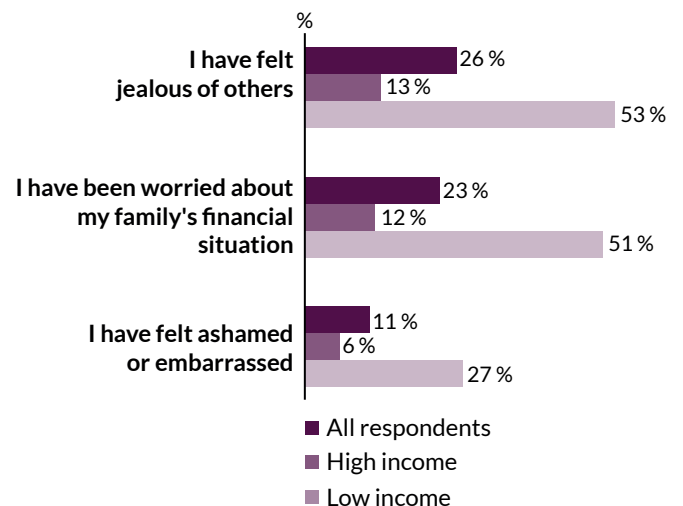
Many children from low-income family's experience unmet basic needs in their everyday lives.

Because my family cannot afford it, I do not have:



Poor financial circumstances cause children to experience emotions such as sadness, anxiety, and shame.

Due to my family's financial situation...



Financial hardship limits children's opportunities for leisure activities.

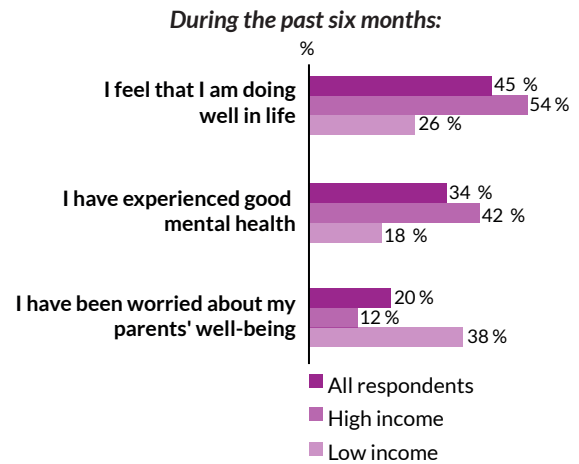
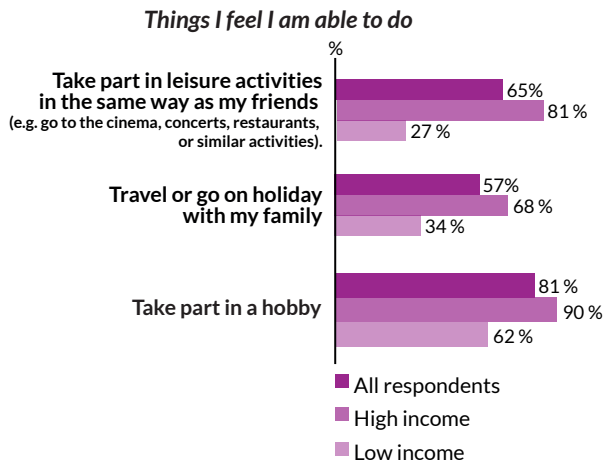
Hobbies and extracurricular activities are too expensive for many children from families with limited financial resources.

Restricted leisure opportunities can lead to frustration and increase feelings of social exclusion.

A survey found that mental health problems are common among children and young people.

Many are concerned about their own wellbeing as well as their parents' ability to cope and manage everyday life.

Children from financially disadvantaged families reported more negative experiences related to their wellbeing than their peers.



We can't afford any hobbies. Not even a visit to the swimming pool.

Save the Children Finland's 3+1 Recommendations for Preventing Child Poverty

- » Abolish the reduction of social assistance based on child benefit payments.
- » Increase the single-parent supplement to the child benefit.
- » Extend child benefit coverage to 17-year-olds and restore index-linking of child benefits.
- » Improve housing allowance for families with children.

For more recommendations, see the **Children's Voice 2026** report by Save the Children.



Children's Voice 2026

(In Finnish)

pelastakaalapsset.fi/lapsen-aani

