

Examination of subjective well-being in children and adolescents living in adverse conditions and receiving support from the child and adolescent protection system in Chile

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In Chile, the study of subjective well-being in childhood is ephemeral and is closely associated with the collection of indicators through the application of the International Survey of Child Well-Being (ISCWeB). Although these data have revealed important predictors and areas of childhood subjective well-being in Chile, research on children and adolescents living in contexts of social risk is scarce, as in much of the world. The few studies available internationally tend to indicate that children and adolescents who live in adverse conditions and receive support from child protection social services have a lower degree of subjective well-being compared to the general population, an aspect that supports the need to deepen research with this specific group (Llosada-Gistau et al., 2017; Viñas et al., 2017). In this direction, this paper aims to present preliminary results of the subjective well-being of children and adolescents between 10 and 17 years old who receive professional support from outpatient programs of the National Service for the Specialized Protection of Children and Adolescents of Chile. By means of a non-experimental, cross-sectional and comparative design; and the use of a stratified random sampling with proportional allocation, an adapted version of the ISCWeB questionnaire was applied to 900 children and adolescents admitted in three modalities of programs of the Chilean child protection system, differentiated among them by the level of severity of the violation of rights (low, medium and high). The results corroborate the hypotheses of the study, in the sense that differentiated measures of well-being are observed according to the level of severity of the rights violation that motivates the admission of children and adolescents to the programs, i.e., the higher the level of severity of the rights violation, the lower the level of subjective well-being. On the other hand, the results indicate the first report on the level of well-being of children and adolescents admitted to outpatient programs, not included in previous research conducted in Chile. The findings of the study contribute to the development of childhood policies in Chile that promote well-being from a promotional and preventive point of view.