

Rights of Chilean children in Covid-19 pandemic from their own perspective

Themes:

- **Children's rights indicators**

Subthemes

- Rights of children and adolescents

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Thematic importance

The study of children's rights in the context of the pandemic is particularly important from two perspectives: on the one hand, the participation of adolescents is highlighted, and on the other hand, it is observed how they are socially incorporated as subjects of rights in contexts of emergency and disaster risk such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The fundamental framework of this study is the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognizes children and adolescents as subjects of rights, and which was ratified by Chile in 1990.

Introduction and objectives

This study is the first study to include the active participation of adolescents in the Bio Bio Region (Chile), both in the incorporation of issues of interest to them in relation to their rights in the context of the pandemic, as well as in the design of the study instrument itself. Taking the perspective of children and adolescents is particularly relevant since it is the result of a joint and systematic work, which began in 2020 with the creation of the Regional Plan for Children and which will be materialized in a study in 2021. Thus, the objective of this study was to know the perception of children's rights during the pandemic period.

Method

The study corresponds to a survey design with a non-probabilistic sample. The survey was answered by a total of 7073 adolescents (54% female) between 12 and 18 years old ($M=14.4$, $SD=1.9$), from different provinces of the Bio-Bio region, Chile. The survey covers different aspects of adolescents' knowledge of their rights, their general state during the pandemic including how they have been in their families or school, as well as their perception of how the different rights were affected during the pandemic.

Result

The results show that a significant percentage of adolescents do not know who should protect their rights or what to do in case they are violated, most of them have felt good during the pandemic, both in their families and at school, although a significant percentage have felt good about themselves, or have been bored or lonely, in turn, they indicate that their most violated rights during the pandemic were their right to education and health, while the most respected during this period is related to the right to live with their family.

Conclusions and implications

From the results, as expected, it is possible to conclude that the pandemic has significantly affected several of the rights of children both in the context of life in their families and at school.

As the first study of its kind to use an adolescent participation perspective in survey design and development, it allows us to make important inroads into the goals of child participation, as well as to focus on issues that are important to children. Hopefully, future studies will delve more deeply into the various aspects in which children's well-being is affected.