

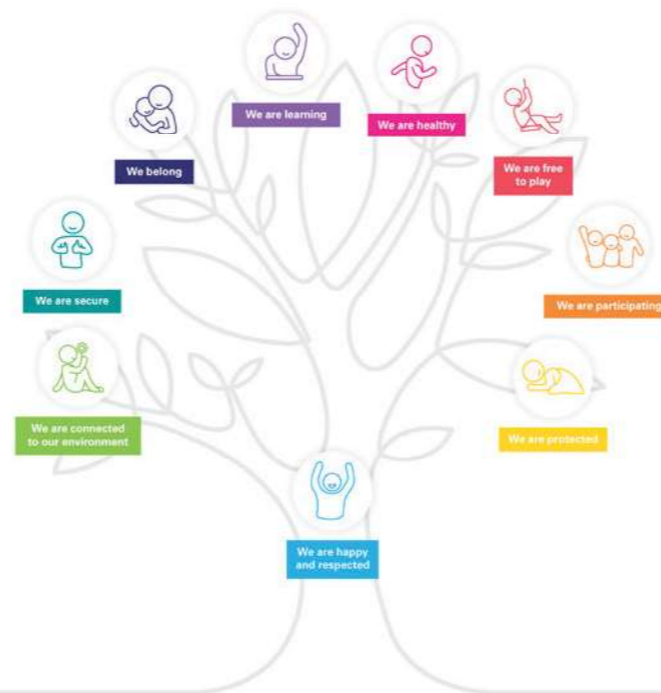
UNICEF CANADA Child & Youth Well-being Survey

In spring 2021, OCYI was one of four partners across Canada to collaborate with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), UNICEF Canada, and the Ontario Trillium Foundation to launch the UNICEF Child & Youth Well-being Survey. Between April to June 2021, Children and youth ages nine to 18 were invited to complete the survey. OCYI was grateful to hear directly from children and youth about their well-being, noticeably during a large wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey was available in English or French and there were just over 600 children and youth who responded. We were pleased to receive so many responses and although the sample cannot be considered representative of all children and youth in Ottawa, the findings are important conversation starters for how to better support the well-being of kids and youth in our city.

The OCYI Steering Committee reviewed a summary report of the survey findings, and the Research and Evaluation Task Group will be leveraging their expertise to dig deeper into the results. OCYI's next steps will be identifying the concerns the survey respondents shared about their well-being, and how OCYI's task groups can support narrowing the gaps through their work.

Where does Canada stand?



The Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being

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A series of data briefs have been prepared which provide a snapshot of the responses with respect to the UNICEF Canadian Index of Child and Youth Well-being. **Check out the OCYI website to view the data briefs** and learn more about what Ottawa's younger residents had to say.

SURVEY RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- **We belong:** 78% of French language respondents felt a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging, while only 56.7% of English language respondents did.
- **We are healthy-mental and emotional health:** Just 28.3% of respondents reported their mental health as very good or excellent.
- **We are healthy-physical health:** Half (50.7%) of survey respondents self-reported their physical health as very good or excellent.
- **We are learning:** Most respondents (64.3%) reported that they like school a bit or a lot.
- **We are participating:** The majority of respondents felt able to express themselves with friends (71.9%) and family (62.7%).
- **We are free to play:** About eight in ten (79.6%) of respondents reported that because of COVID-19 and social distancing their participation had gone down a little or a lot.
- **We are connected to our environment:** "Plant. More. Trees." – one respondent's comment.
- **We are protected:** 91.8% of respondents felt reasonably safe or very safe.
- **We are secure:** Nearly one in ten (9.3%) of respondents reported having experienced housing insecurity. Similarly, 8.0% reported going to school or bed hungry due to not enough food at home.
- **We are happy and respected:** When asked to rate their life satisfaction in general, over half (55.8%) rated at least a moderate level of satisfaction, while 64.4% at least moderately agreed that they are living their best possible life right now.