

Table 2. Wellbeing and Resilience of US Children Compared with 18 Comparator OECD Nations.

Indicator, Age Group	Year	US	OECD18	Relative Difference	Thriving Contrast (US v OECD)
Wellbeing Indicators					
Adolescent birth rate (births per 1000 women), 15-19y ¹	2021	13.6%	4.9%	177.6%	Worse
Alcohol use in past 30 days, 15y ^{2,3}	2022	14.0%	41.0%	-65.9%	Better
Bullying others, 11-17y ^{3,8}	2022	16.3%	4.0%	307.5%	Worse
E-cigarette use in past 30 days, 15y ^{3,6}	2022	14.1%	19.4%	-27.3%	Better
Food insecurity, 0-17y ⁴	2022	13.0%	8.6%	51.2%	Worse
High school completion rate, within 3-5 years of expected completion age ¹²	2021	87.0%	85.0%	2.4%	Same
Housing insecurity, 0-17y ⁷	2018	4.9%	3.8%	28.9%	Worse
Income inequality (Gini coefficient) ⁷	2021	0.38	0.32	18.8%	Worse
Life satisfaction, self-reported high satisfaction overall, 15y ⁷	2018	28.5%	27.4%	4.0%	Same
Life meaning/purpose, self-reported belief life has meaning/purpose, 15y ⁷	2018	71.3%	63.9%	11.6%	Better
Mathematics proficiency mean PISA score, 15y ⁴	2022	465	491	-5.3%	Same
Science proficiency mean PISA score, 15y ⁴	2022	499	503	-0.8%	Same
Poverty ¹¹	2021	14.0%	12.6%	11.1%	Worse
Public expenditure on childcare and early education (as % of GDP) ⁵	2019	0.34%	0.76%	-55.3%	Worse

Indicator, Age Group	Year	US	OECD18	Relative Difference	Thriving Contrast (US v OECD)
Public expenditure on maternity and paternity leaves per live birth (in USD PPP) ⁵	2019	\$0	\$11k	-100.0%	Worse
Public expenditure on educational institutions per student (in USD PPP) ⁴	2019	\$143k	\$113k	26.5%	Better
Reading proficiency mean PISA score, 15y ⁴	2022	504	490	2.9%	Same
Relational wellbeing, feeling lonely at school, 15y ⁴	2022	22.2%	13.9%	59.7%	Worse
Sexual intercourse before age 16, 15y ^{3,13}	2021/22	22.6%	18.3%	23.5%	Worse
Suicide mortality rate per 100,000, 10-19y ¹	2021	6.9%	3.9%	76.9%	Worse
Tobacco use in past 30 days, 15y ^{3,13}	2021/22	3.8%	14.5%	-73.8%	Better
Resilience Indicator					
COVID-19 mortality rate, per 100,000 children, 0-17y ^{9,10}	2020-2024	2.62	0.44	495.5%	Worse

Data Sources: ¹WHO Mortality Database; ²Monitoring the Future; ³Health Behaviour in School-aged Children; ⁴PISA 2022 Database; ⁵OECD Social Expenditure Database; ⁶National Youth Tobacco Survey; ⁷OECD Child Well-being; ⁸NHIS-Teen Survey; ⁹CDC Covid Data Tracker; ¹⁰Global Demographic Database of COVID-19; ¹¹OECD Income Distribution Database; ¹²Our World in Data; ¹³Youth Risk Behavior Survey.