

# STUCK IN THE MIDDLE



## Did you know?

Canada was the first country to introduce a survey of early childhood development indicators.

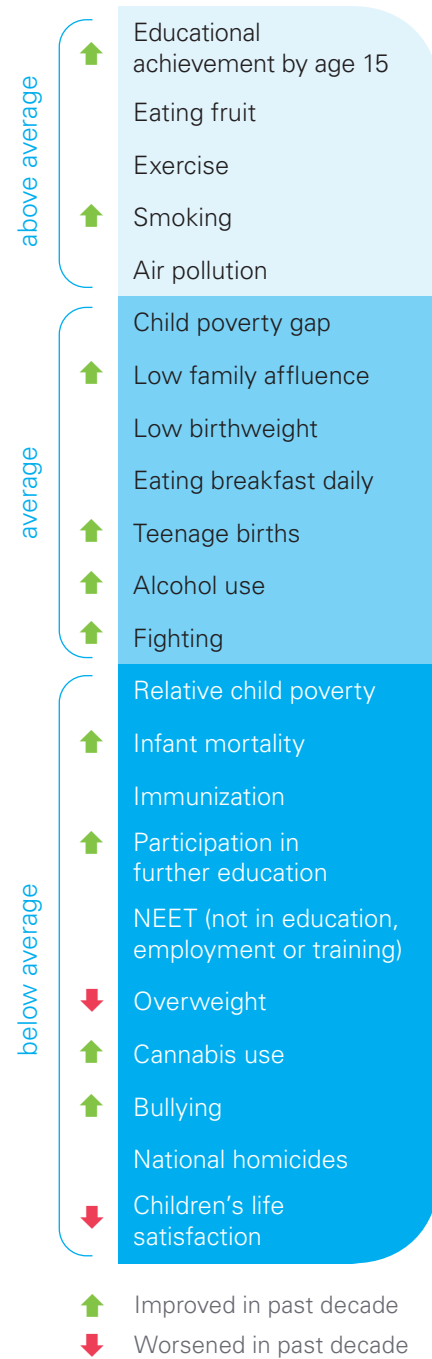
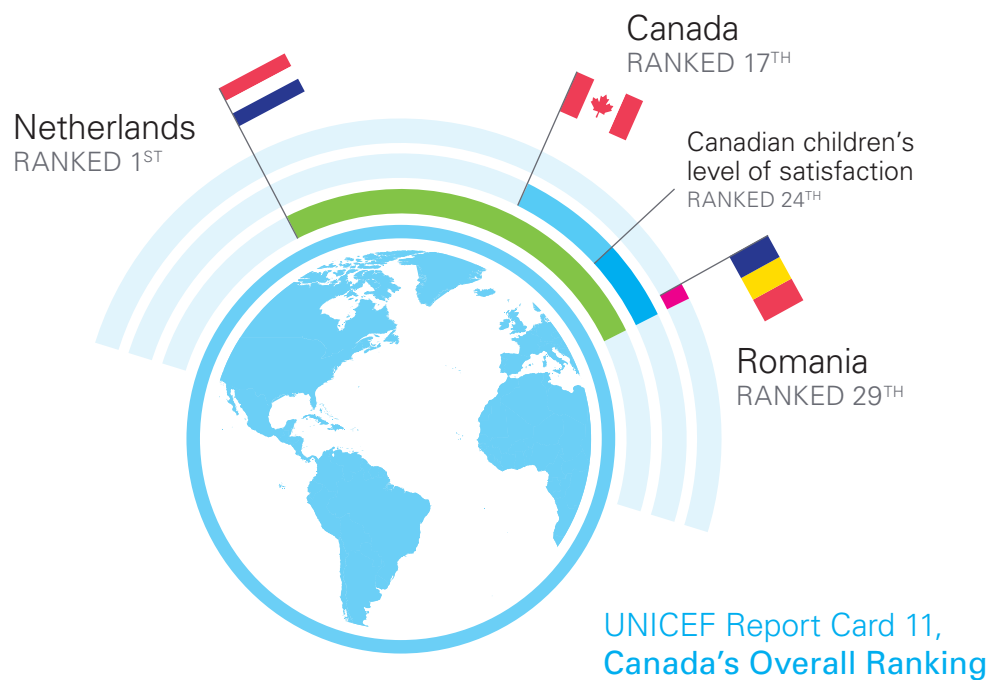
## The story of Canada in Report Card 11 is one of a country stuck in the middle.

The League Table of Child Well-being ranks 29 affluent nations on an average of 26 indicators across five dimensions: Material Well-being, Health and Safety, Education, Behaviours and Risks, and Housing and Environment. Canada has a middle rank in the League Table of Child Well-being, and **this position has not budged since we last measured it a decade ago.**

## What are children saying?

Canada's ranking drops by seven places (**to number 24**) when children's views of their life satisfaction are taken into account. It is also a concern that this level has fallen over the past decade.

## So how does Canada stack up?



### Educational achievement by age 15

ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> of 29

A source of pride, Canada's children score at the very top in the average of international reading, math and science literacy test scores.



### Smoking

ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 29

Canada is one of only five countries where the smoking rate for young people is below five per cent.



### Participation in further education

ranked 24<sup>th</sup> of 29

This indicator is associated with the opportunities young people have at the beginning of their adult lives. Every young person left out is lost potential.



### Overweight

ranked 27<sup>th</sup> of 29

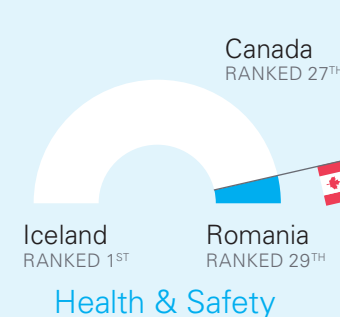
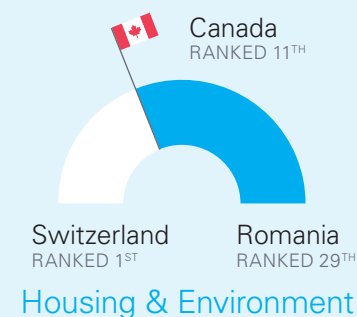
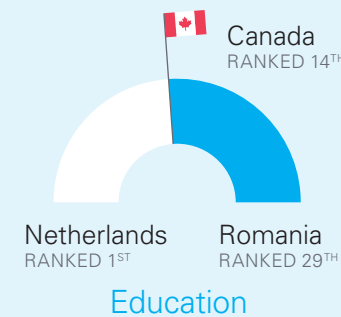
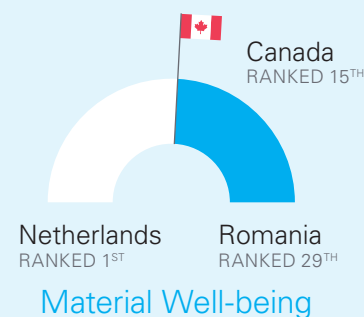
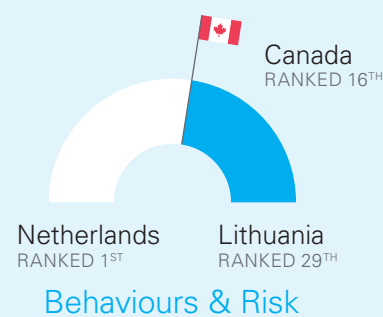
This is a serious concern for children today given the contribution of unhealthy weight to disease including diabetes.



### Bullying

ranked 21<sup>st</sup> of 29

Canada's rate of bullying is slightly higher than the average among industrialized countries.



## Put children first!

Child well-being can be influenced by policy choices, and in order to do that, the Canadian government needs to:

- Provide information on how much money is being spent on children
- Publish regular state-of-children reports to identify progress and emerging concerns
- Ensure the rights of children are prioritized in policy decisions
- Establish a National Children's Commissioner



Join UNICEF Canada to improve the well-being of Canadian children. Learn about the issues by reading **UNICEF Report Card 11: Child Well-Being in Rich Countries** and ask your MP to put children first.