

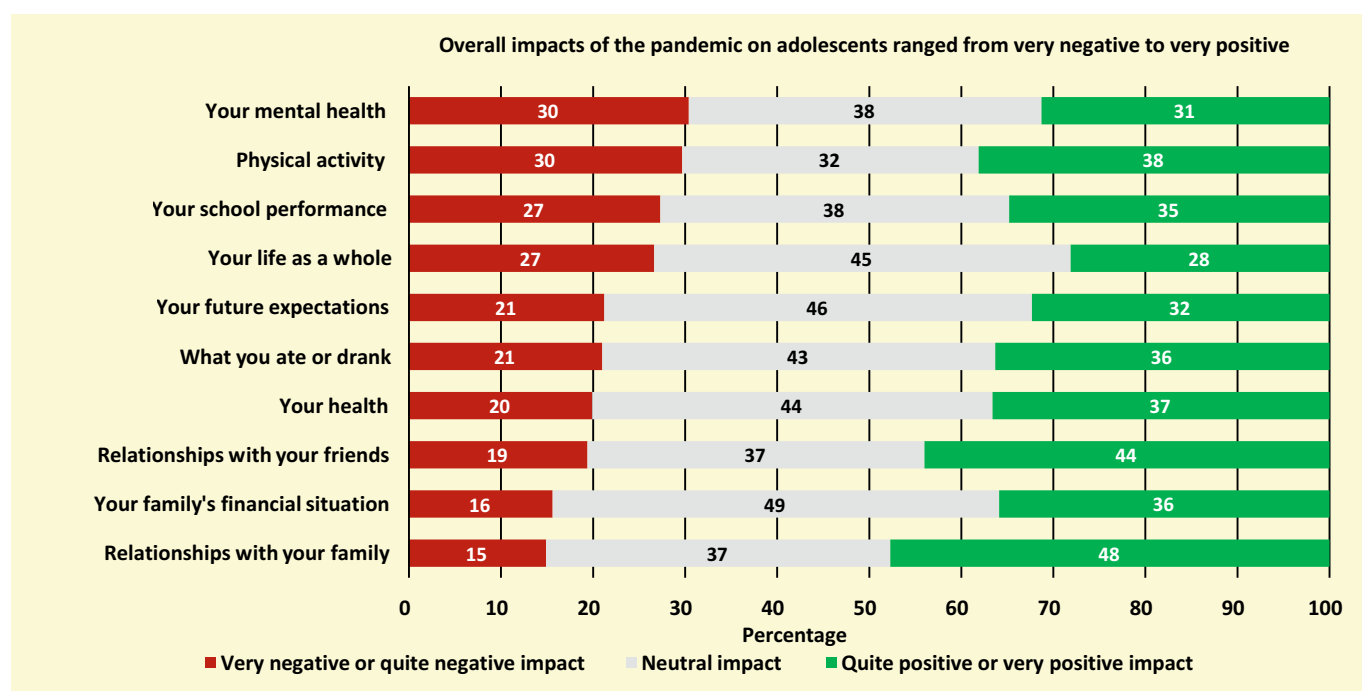
Age, gender and class: how the COVID-19 pandemic affected school-aged children in the WHO European Region

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people's health and well-being from the findings of the HBSC survey round 2021/2022

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Key findings

- Overall, 15–30% of adolescents reported that the COVID-19 pandemic had had negative impacts on different areas of their lives, 32–49% reported neutral and 28–48% positive impacts.
- Negative impacts most commonly were related to mental health, physical activity and school performance, and positive impacts to relationships with family and friends.
- Thirteen per cent reported negative and 31% positive impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 6–10 (most) areas of their lives.
- Adolescents experiencing negative or positive impacts in 6–10 (most) areas of their lives across countries and regions ranged from 6–28% for negative and 9–53% for positive.
- Girls more often reported negative impacts in most areas of their lives and boys more often reported positive impacts.
- Younger adolescents reported positive impacts in most areas of their lives more often than those who were older, but there was no clear pattern across age groups for negative impacts.
- Adolescents from well-off families were more likely to report positive impacts in most areas of their lives.
- Adolescents from families that were not well-off were more likely to report negative impacts in two thirds of the countries and regions.
- The negative impacts of the pandemic on the mental health of adolescents clearly need to be addressed fully. This may require extra funding and the development of services to target adolescents of main concern.
- Policy-makers should consider allocating resources specifically to develop responses for girls and older adolescents and reflect their needs in response plans for any future pandemics.



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