



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA
L-Università ta' Malta

CHILDREN'S
WORLDS



INTERNATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING (ISCWeB)

Maltese children's wellbeing

CARMEL CEFAL & NATALIE GALEA

WITH GWYTHYR REES

CENTRE FOR RESILIENCE & SOCIO-EMOTIONAL HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA


A solid blue horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

Number of participants


Representative in terms of school sector, region, gender (weighted)

	8 yr old	10 yr old	12 yr old	Total
Males	442	444	434	1320
Females	347	395	507	1249
Total	789	839	941	2569


Instrument

- * questionnaires for 8, 10, 12 year olds
 - * translated in Maltese
 - * collected information on demographic details, home and family, money and possessions, friends, locality/community, school, use of time, subjective wellbeing
 - * group administered at school following parental consent
- 

Data analysis

- * Preliminary analysis (work still in progress)
 - * statistical descriptive data
 - * comparative analysis
- 

Data

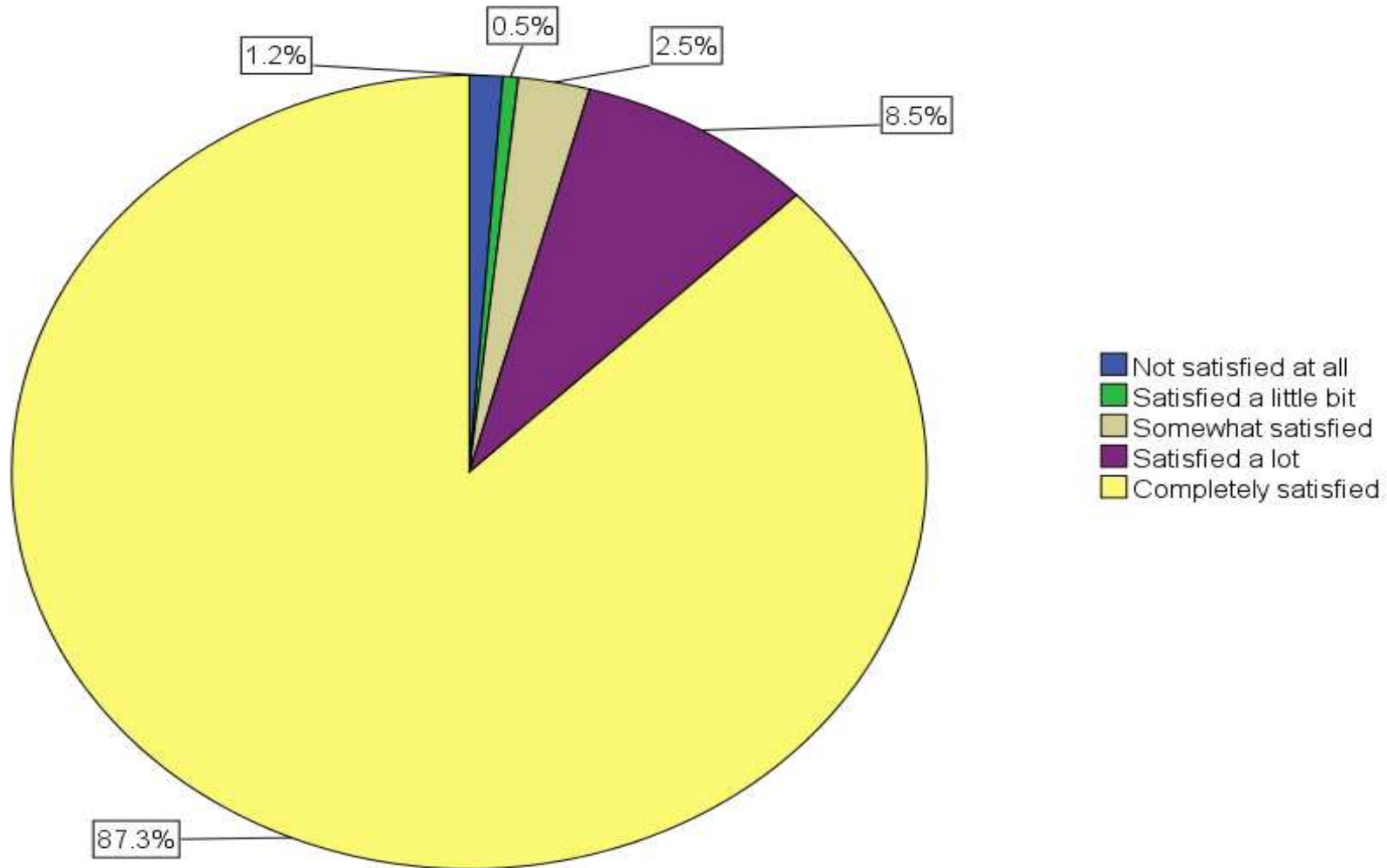
- * economic situation (money and possessions)
 - * life satisfaction and satisfaction with self
 - * home and family life
 - * friends
 - * school, including bullying
 - * children's rights
- 

Economic situation

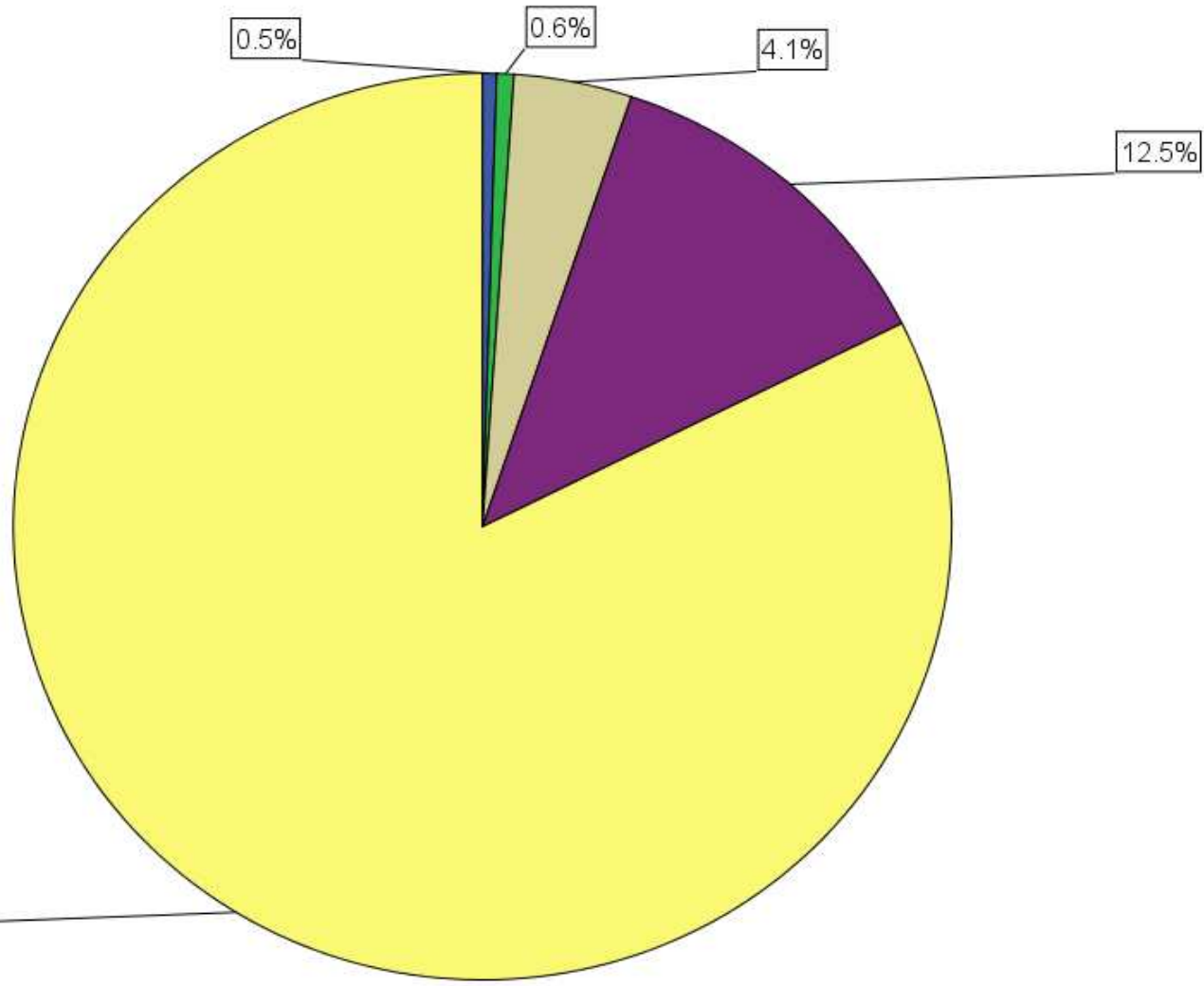
Things you have

	8 years old	10 years old	12 years old
Mobile phone		57.9%	81.6%
Own room		76.3%	83.7%
Books to read for fun		93.1%	94.8%
Own stuff to listen to music		83.1%	87.1%
Clothes in good condition	98.3%	98.2%	99.6%
Access to a computer at home	90.4%	94.7%	97.8%
Access to internet	92.7%	96.2%	98.7%
Family car for transportation	92.4%	92.0%	96.1%
Television that can use	98.0%	97.0%	97.9%

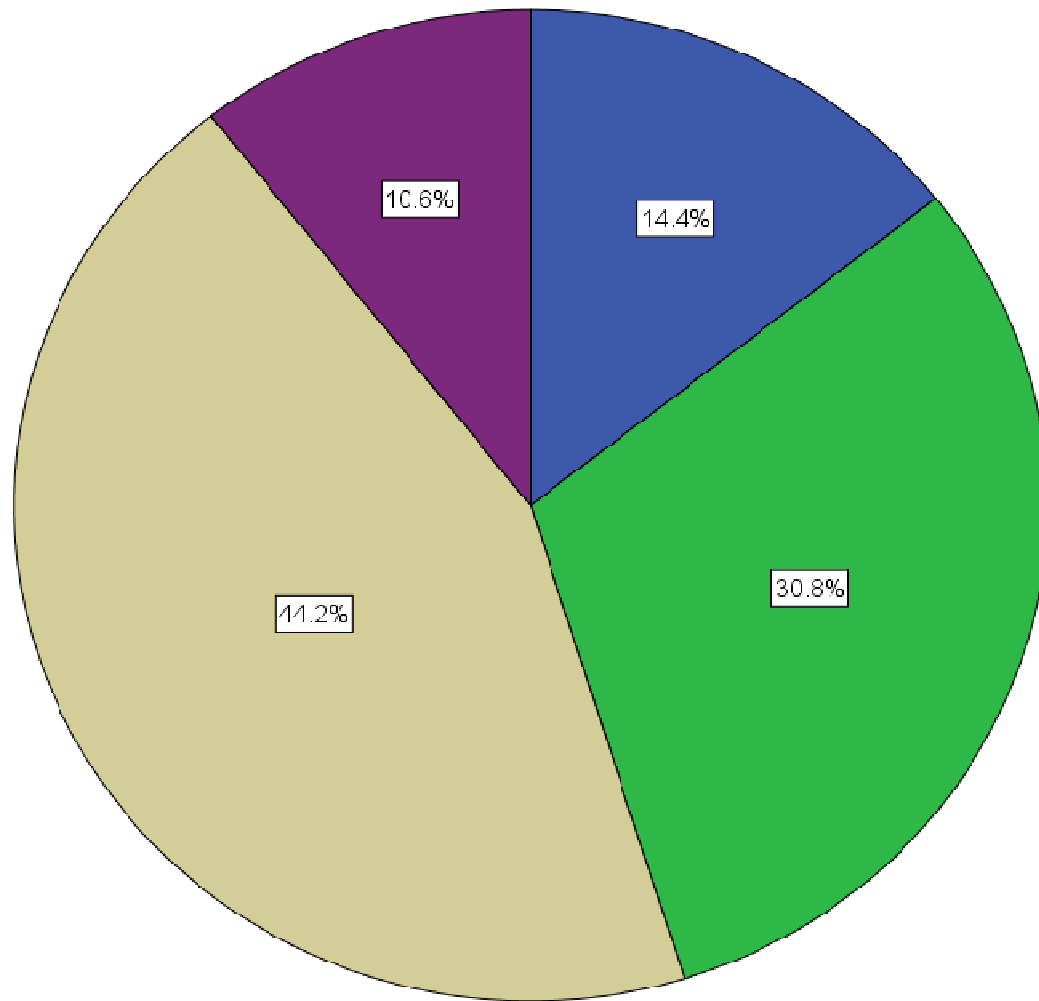
How happy do you feel with the things you have (8 year olds) (%)



How happy do you feel with the things you have (10 & 12 year olds) (%)



Pocket money (12 year olds) (%)



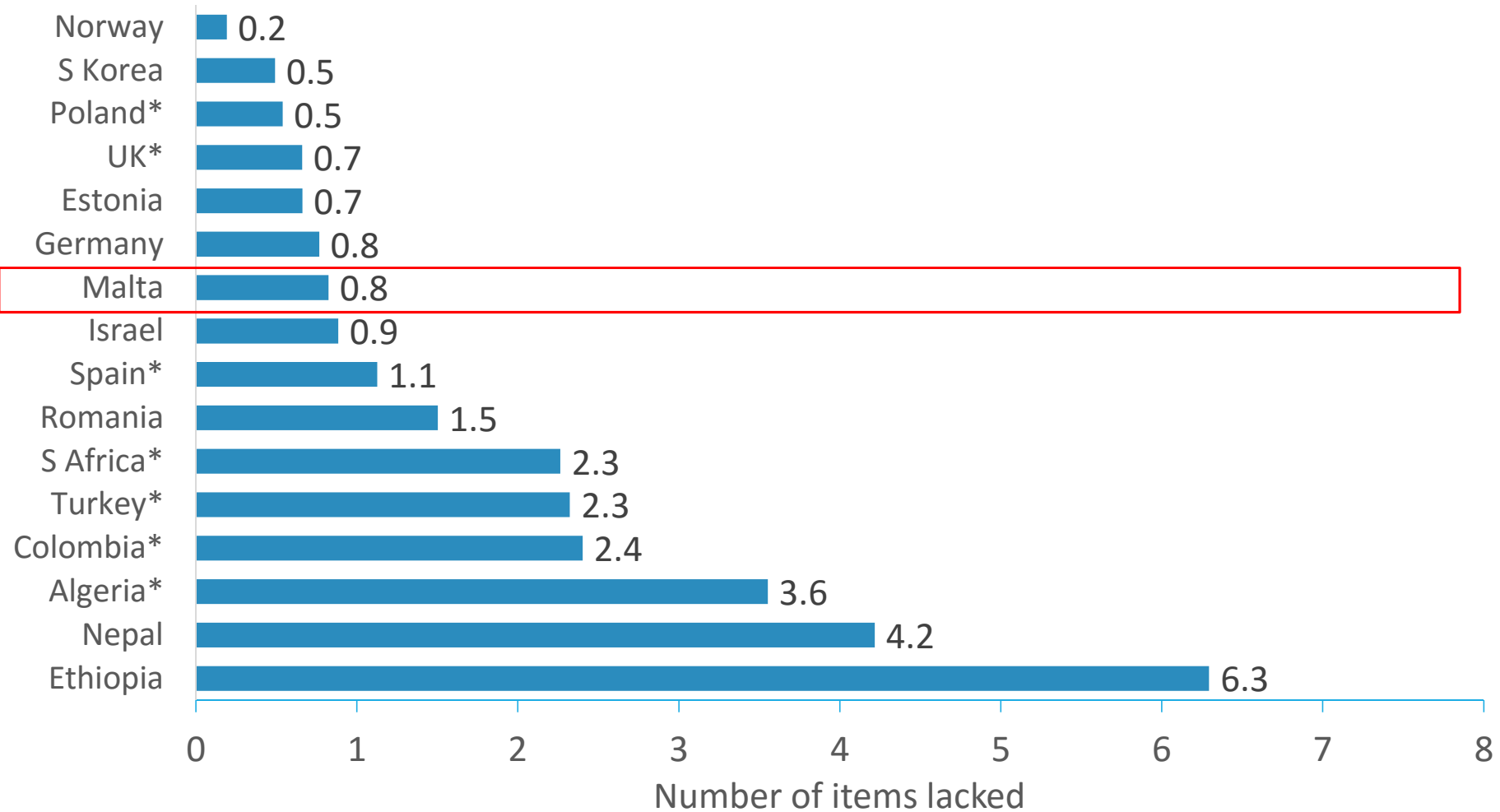
How often do you get pocket money?

- I don't get pocket money
- I get pocket money but not regularly
- I get pocket money every week
- I get pocket money every month

% of children lacking access to material items

	Good clothes	Computer	Internet	Mobile phone	Own room	Books	Family car	Music player	TV
Algeria*	3%	47%	56%	61%	62%	28%	42%	55%	24%
Colombia*	1%	22%	25%	23%	39%	29%	64%	42%	4%
UK*	<0.5%	6%	3%	16%	17%	10%	11%	5%	1%
Estonia	1%	3%	2%	4%	28%	4%	14%	12%	n/a
Ethiopia	18%	97%	98%	86%	86%	64%	98%	83%	73%
Germany	2%	16%	9%	8%	11%	21%	7%	5%	n/a
Israel	1%	6%	6%	20%	30%	7%	8%	19%	3%
Malta	1%	4%	3%	30%	20%	6%	6%	15%	3%
Nepal	3%	87%	93%	24%	41%	30%	93%	46%	31%
Norway	<0.5%	2%	1%	3%	7%	3%	3%	1%	<0.5%
Poland*	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	14%	11%	10%	n/a
Romania	1%	14%	20%	18%	36%	12%	41%	13%	3%
S Africa*	3%	38%	40%	27%	42%	18%	28%	29%	4%
S Korea	1%	4%	3%	10%	11%	4%	7%	10%	4%
Spain*	2%	6%	7%	45%	19%	10%	13%	14%	2%
Turkey*	5%	18%	23%	60%	33%	10%	43%	43%	3%

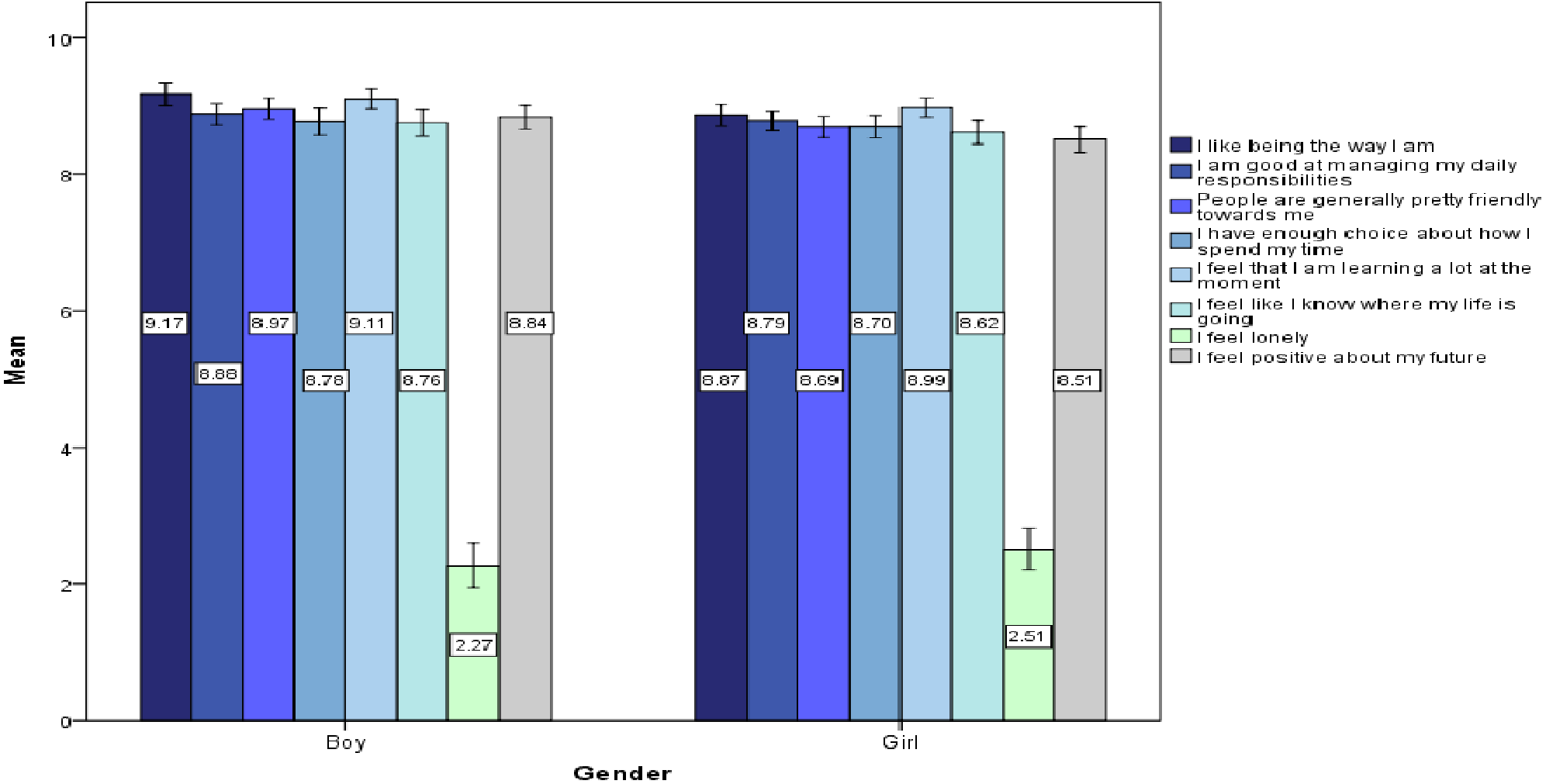
Number of items lacked (out of 8)



Life and self satisfaction




Satisfaction with life (12 year olds)

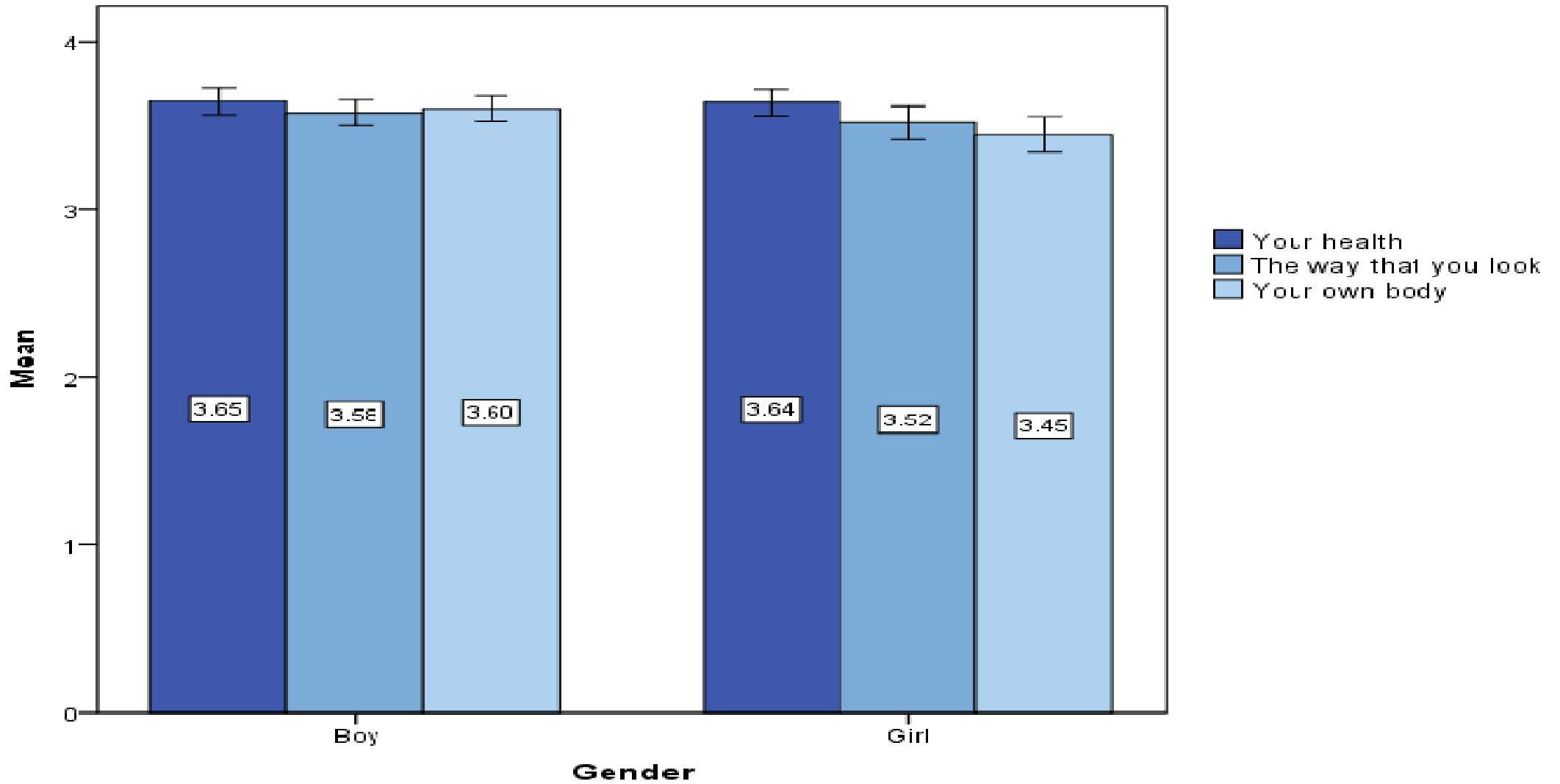


Satisfaction with life: boys more positive

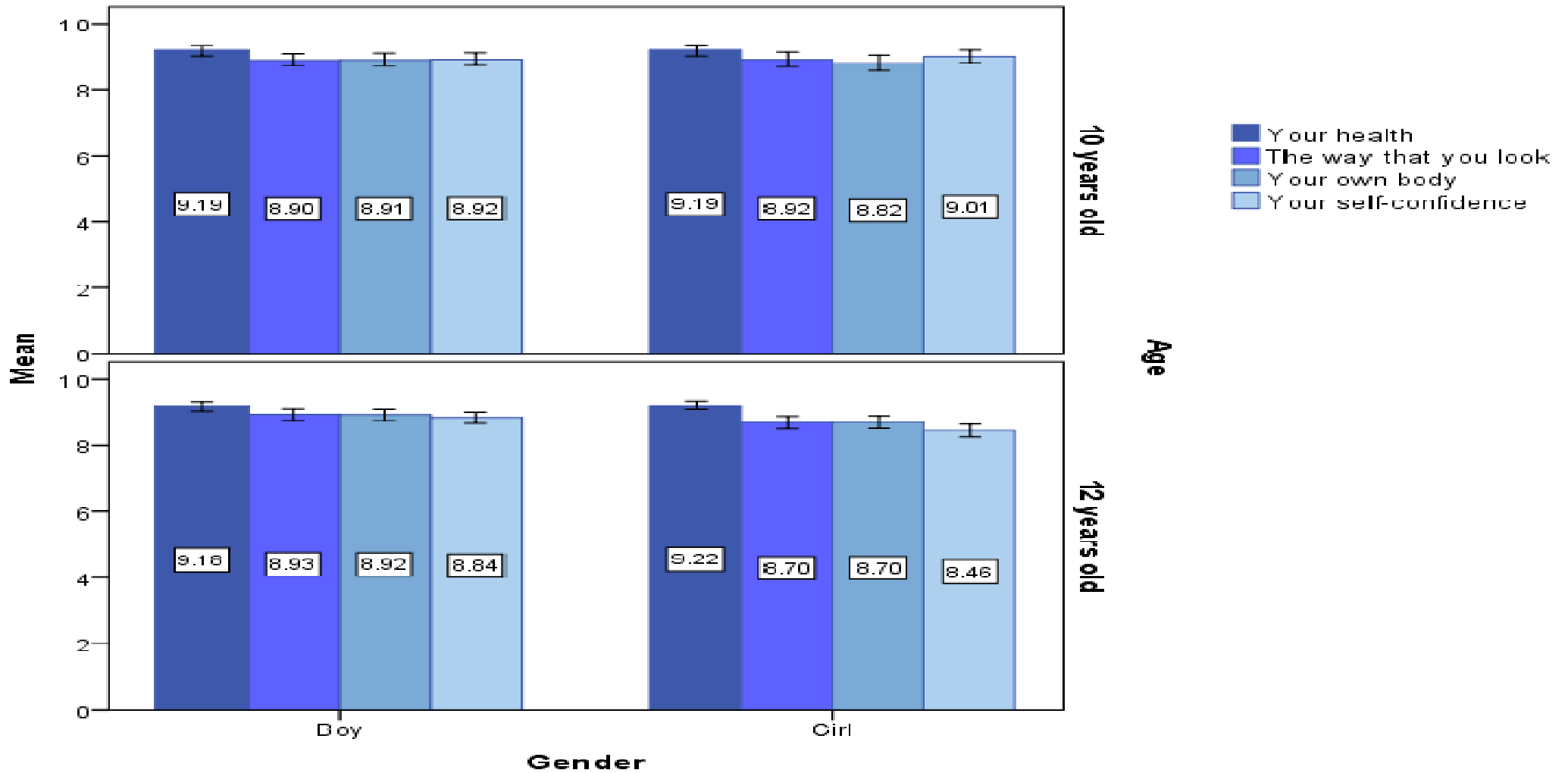
* **BOYS**

- like the way they are more than girls
 - believe that people are friendly with them more than girls
 - feel they have more choice about how they spend their time than girls
 - feel they know more where their life is going than girls
 - feel more positive about their future than girls
- 


Satisfaction with self (8 year olds)



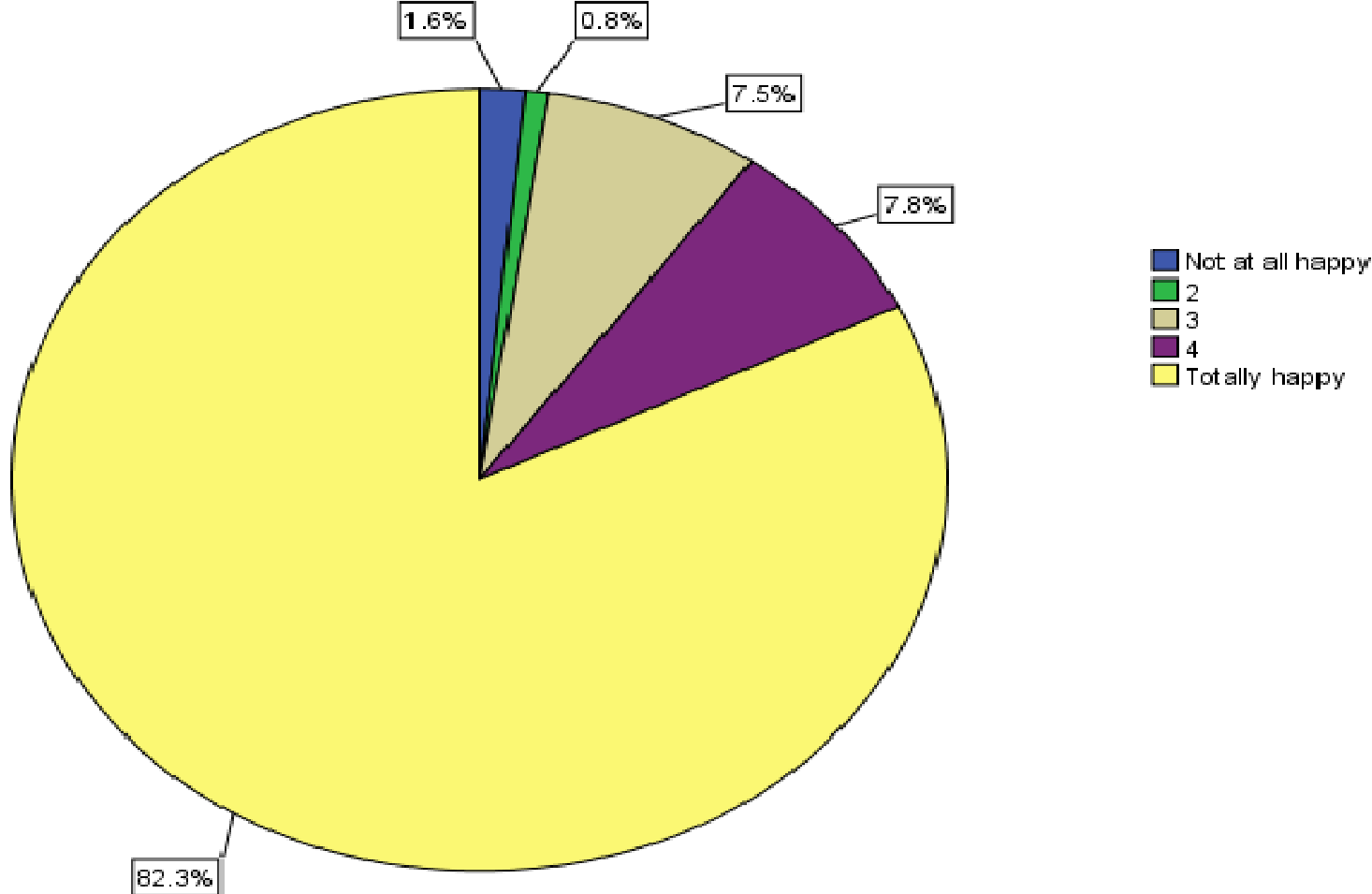
Satisfaction with self (10 7 12 year olds)



Satisfaction with self

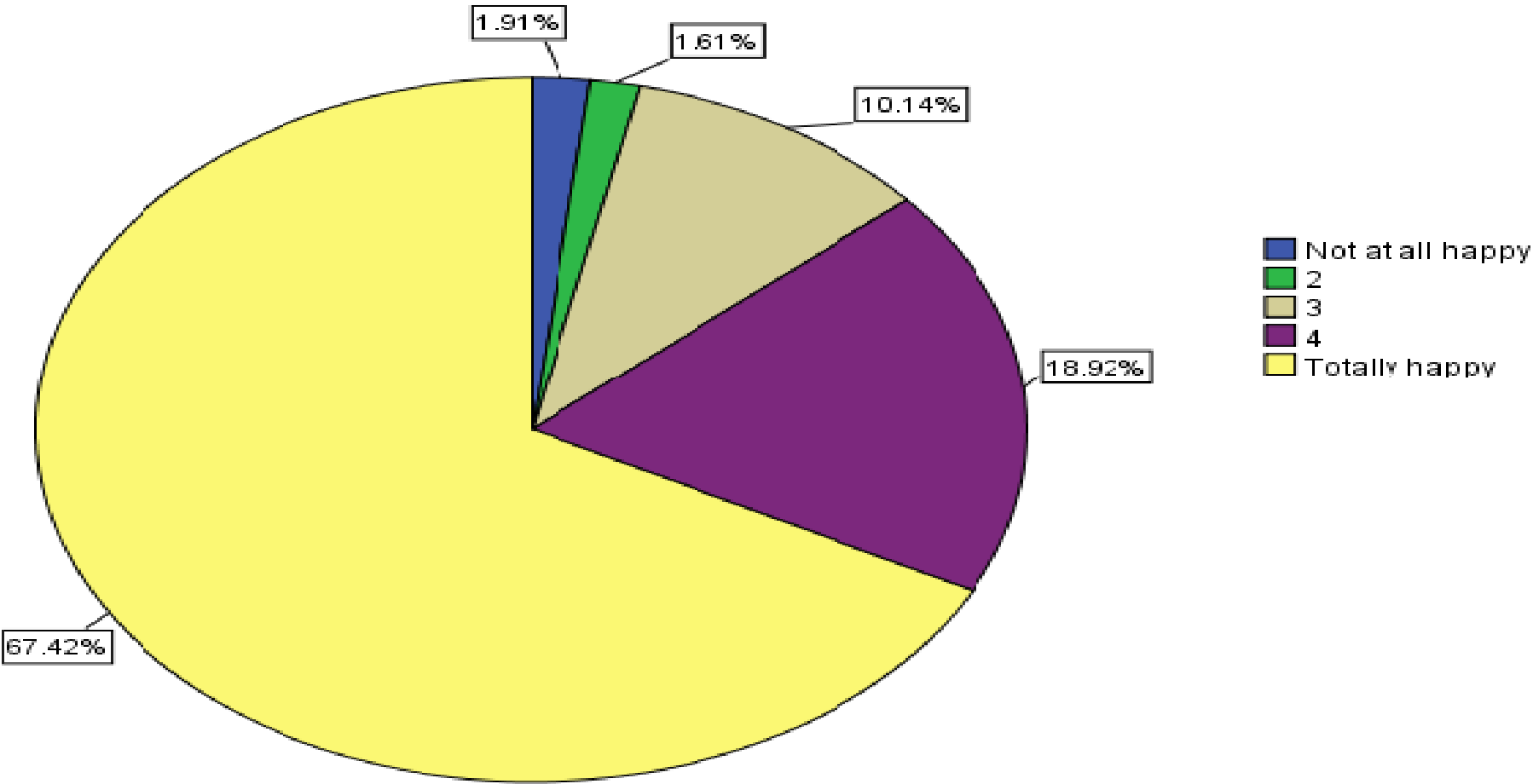
- * 8 year old boys more satisfied with their bodies than girls
 - * 10 year old girls more satisfied with their self confidence than boys
 - * 12 year olds more satisfied with their health, they way they look, their own body and their self confidence, than 10 year olds
- 

Up to now, are you happy with your overall life (8 year olds) (%)



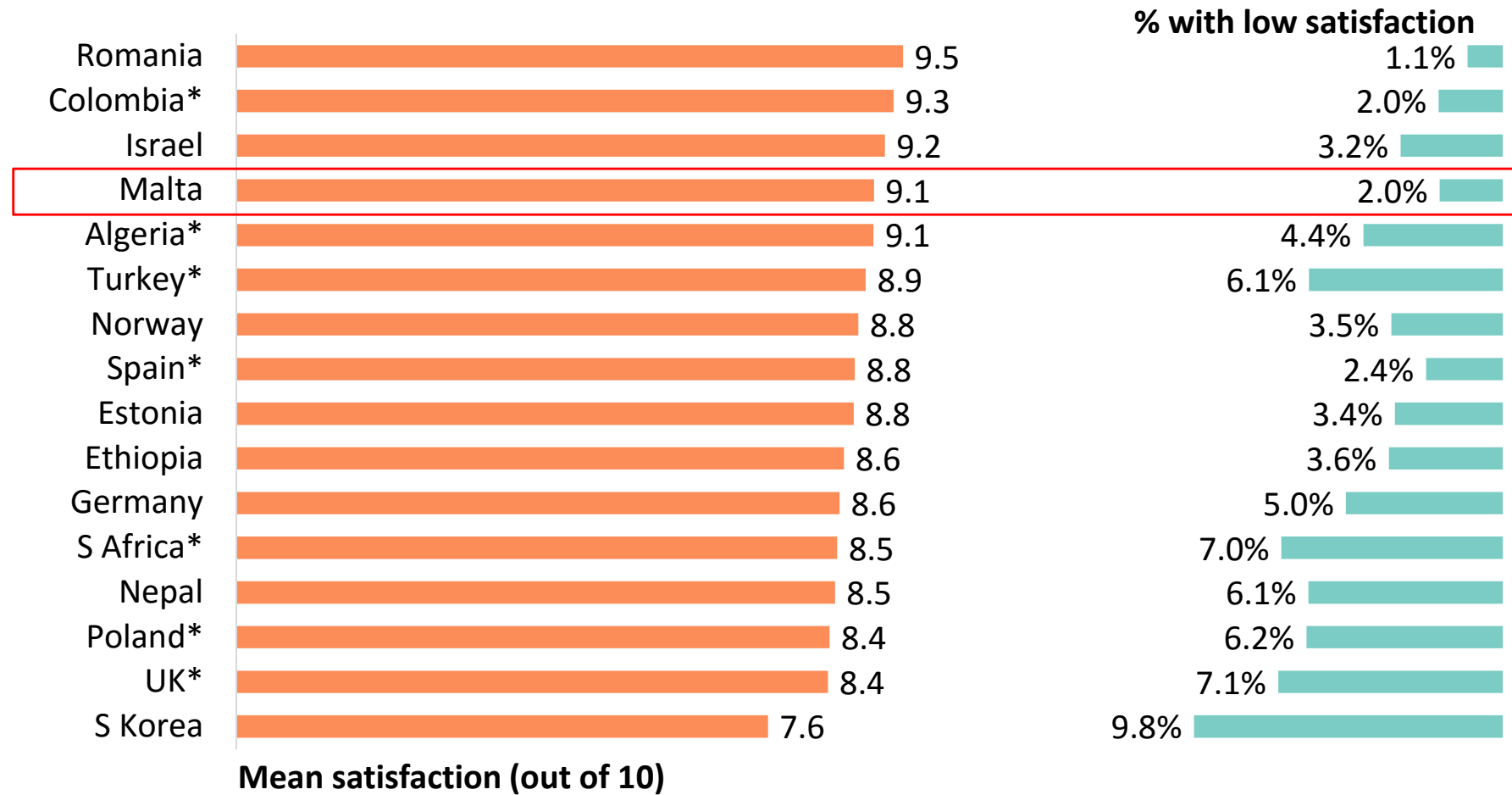
* no gender differences

**How happy have you been feeling during the last two weeks
(10 and 12 year olds) (%)**

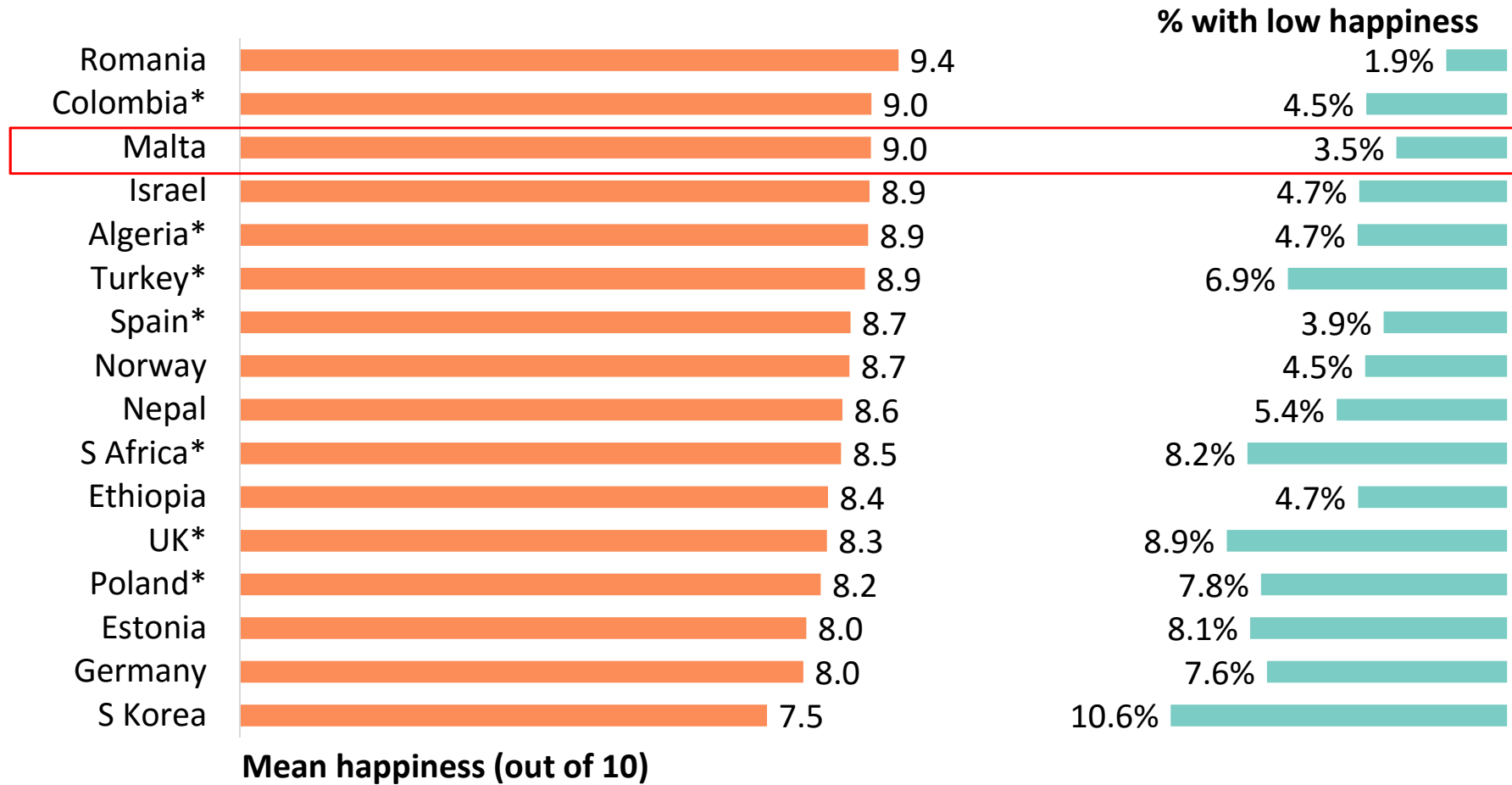


* no age or gender differences

Satisfied with life as a whole



Feeling happy in the last two weeks (10-12 yrs)




Home and family life



Home and Family (All age groups)

	I do not agree	Agree a little bit	Agree somewhat	Agree a lot	Totally agree
I feel safe at home	1.4%	3.5%	4.7%	20.4%	70%
I have a quiet place to study at home	9.3%	11%	13.9%	26.3%	39.5%
My parents/carers listen to me and take what I say into account	4.9%	5.8%	9.7%	20.9%	58.7%
We have a good time together in my family	1.4%	2.6%	5.6%	18.5%	72.0%

Home and family variation by age group and gender

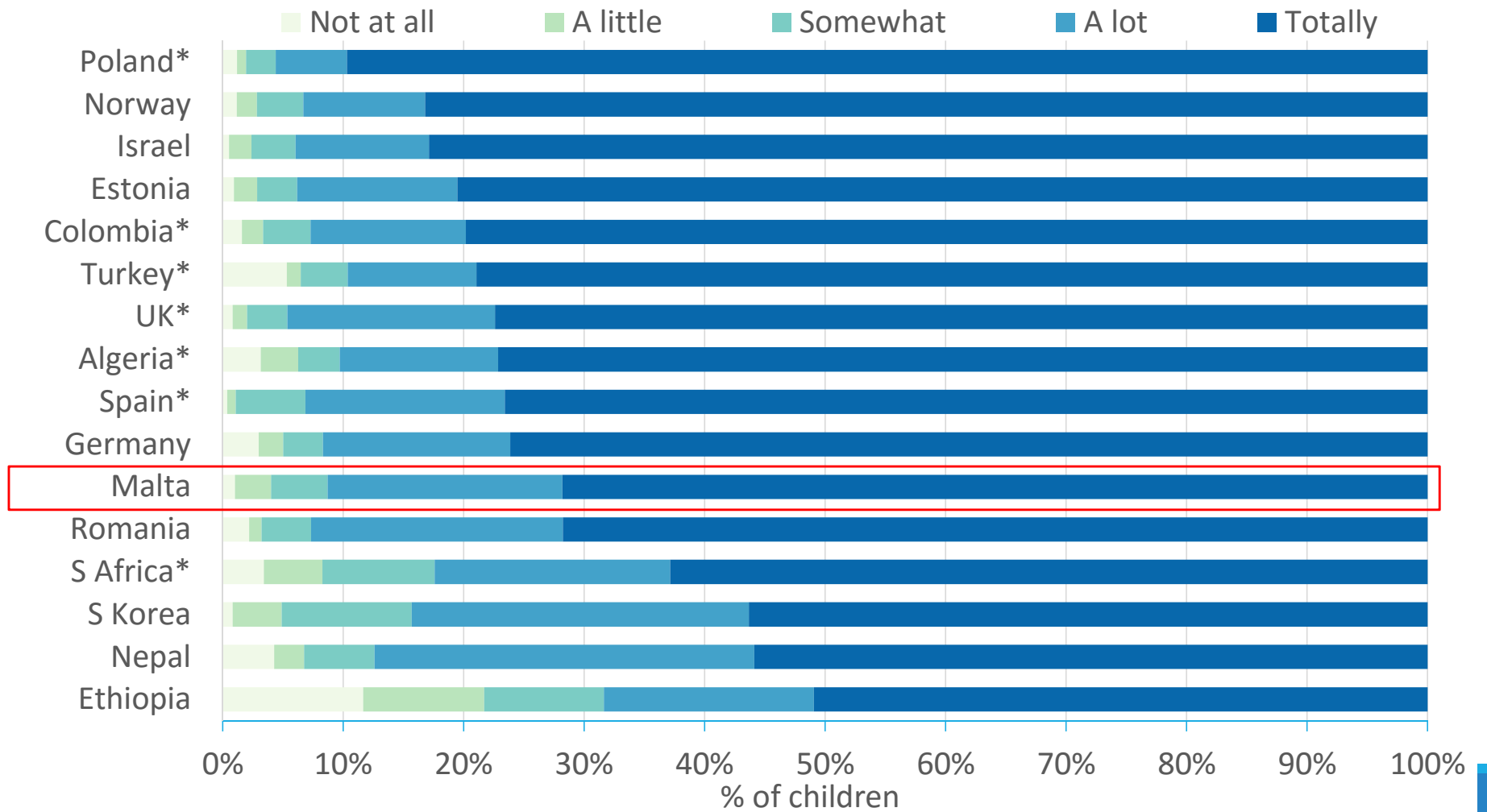
- * Girls appear to have a better family life than boys: more quiet place to study, parents/carers listen more, spend more good time together, than boys
 - * older children appear to have a better family life than younger ones: feel safer, have more quiet spaces where to study, their parents/carers listen more, and are treated better by parents.
- 

Time spent with family (All age groups): past week

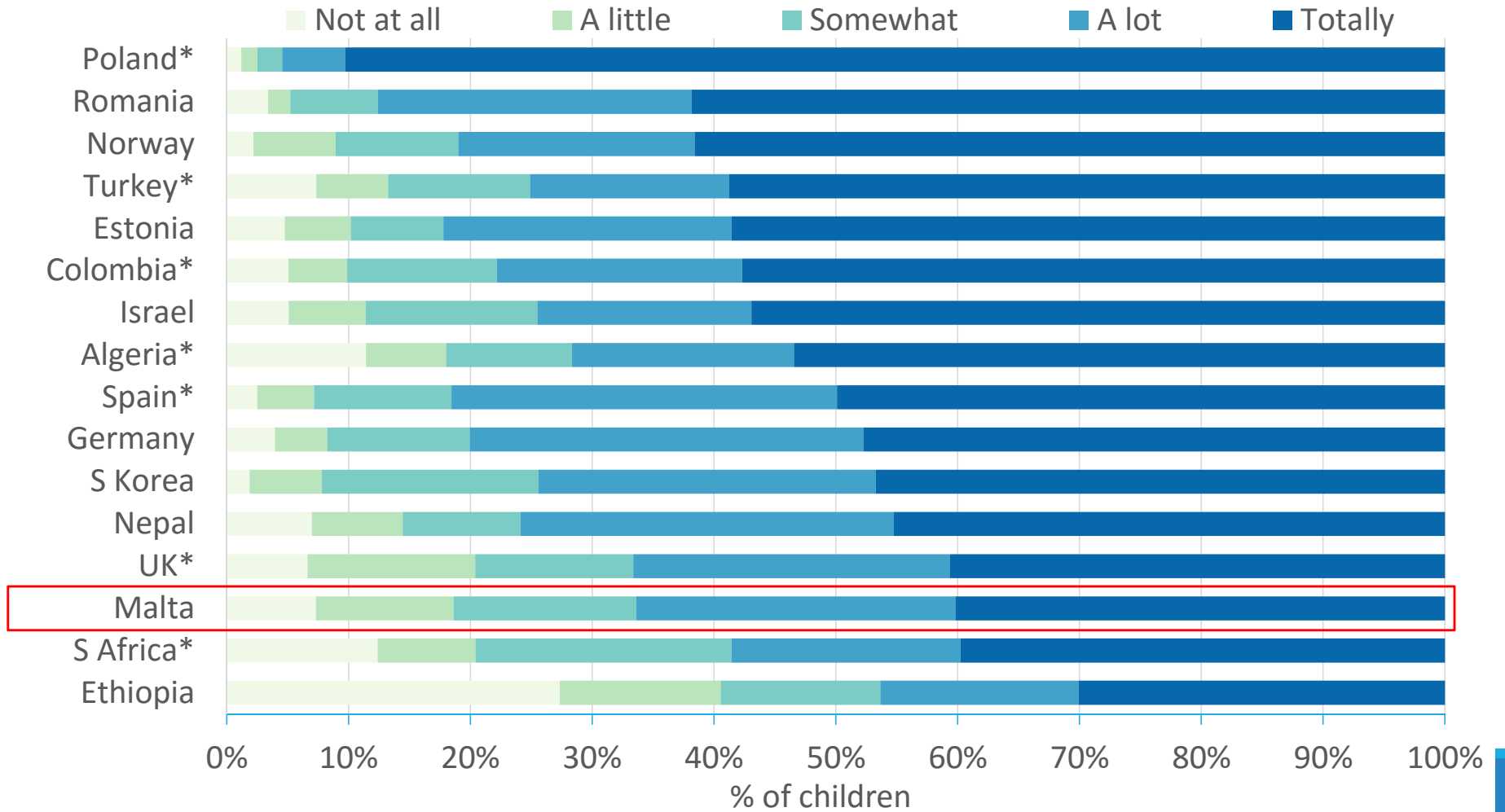
	Not at all	Once or twice	Most days	Every day
Talking together	1.8%	7.5%	24.4%	66.3%
Having fun together	2.5%	9.8%	30.9%	56.8%
Learning together	6.5%	14.9%	32.2%	46.4%

* 8 year olds spend more time having fun and learning together

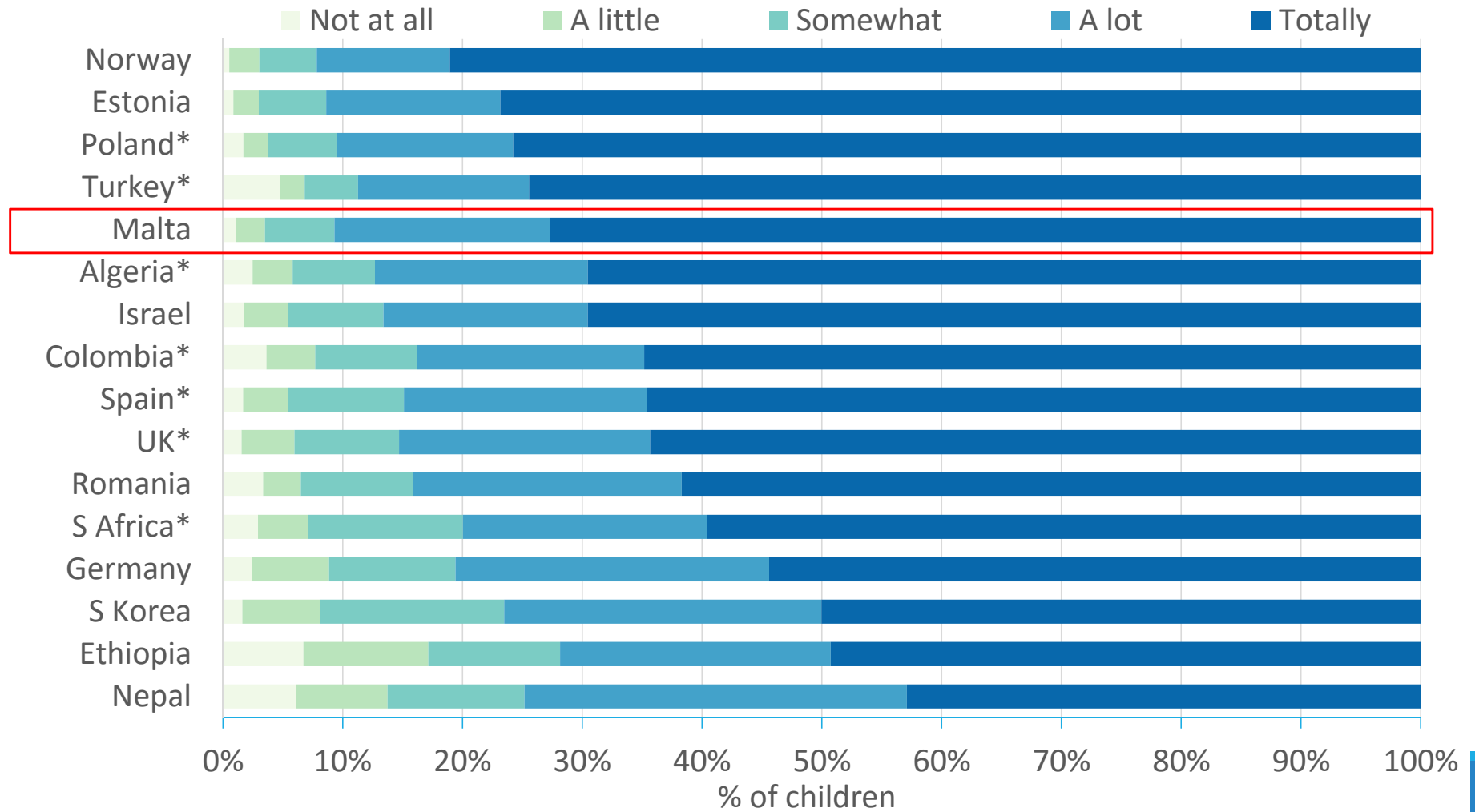
'I feel safe at home'



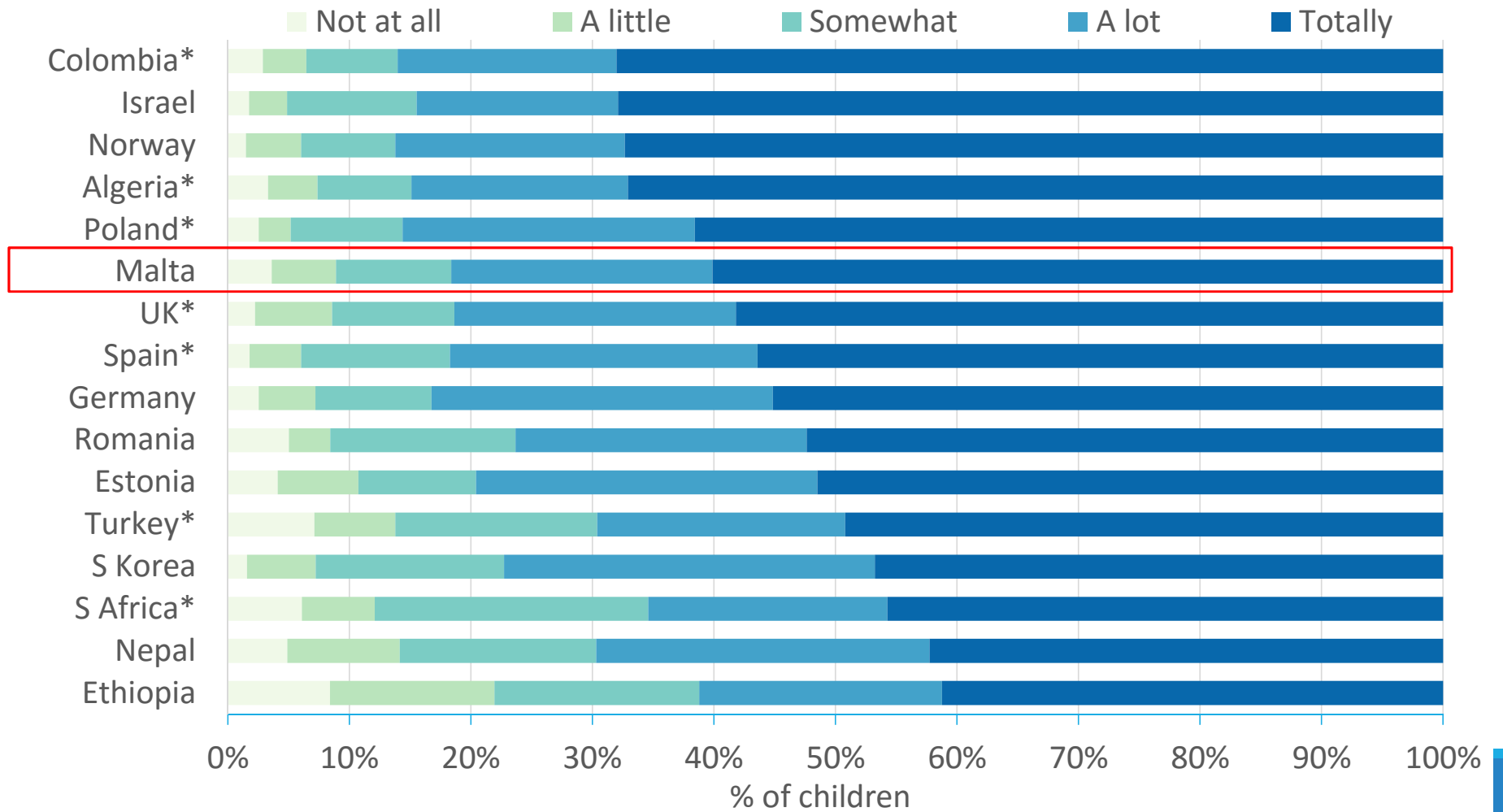
'I have a quiet place to study at home'



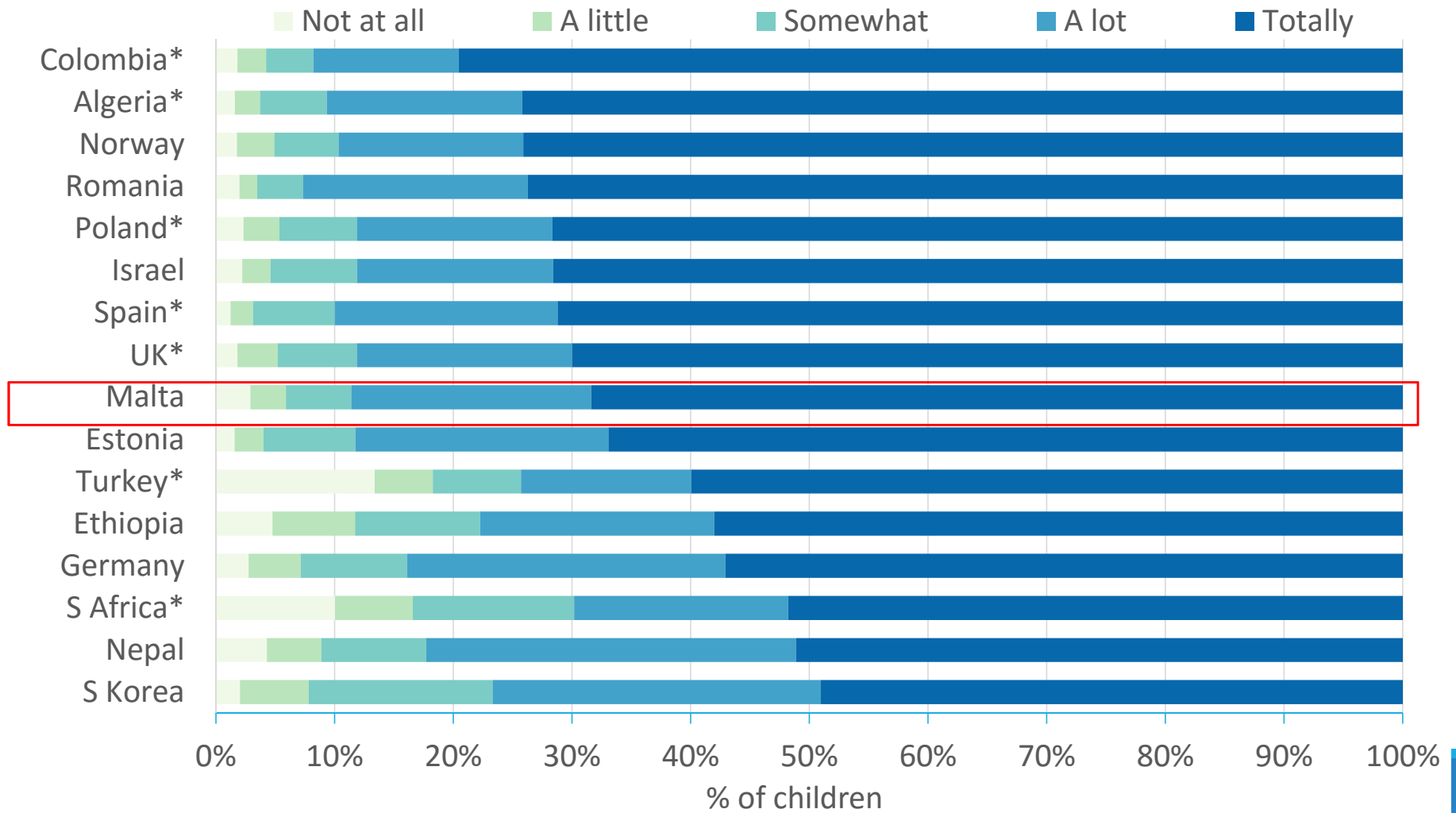
‘We have a good time together in my family’



‘My parents listen to me and take me seriously’

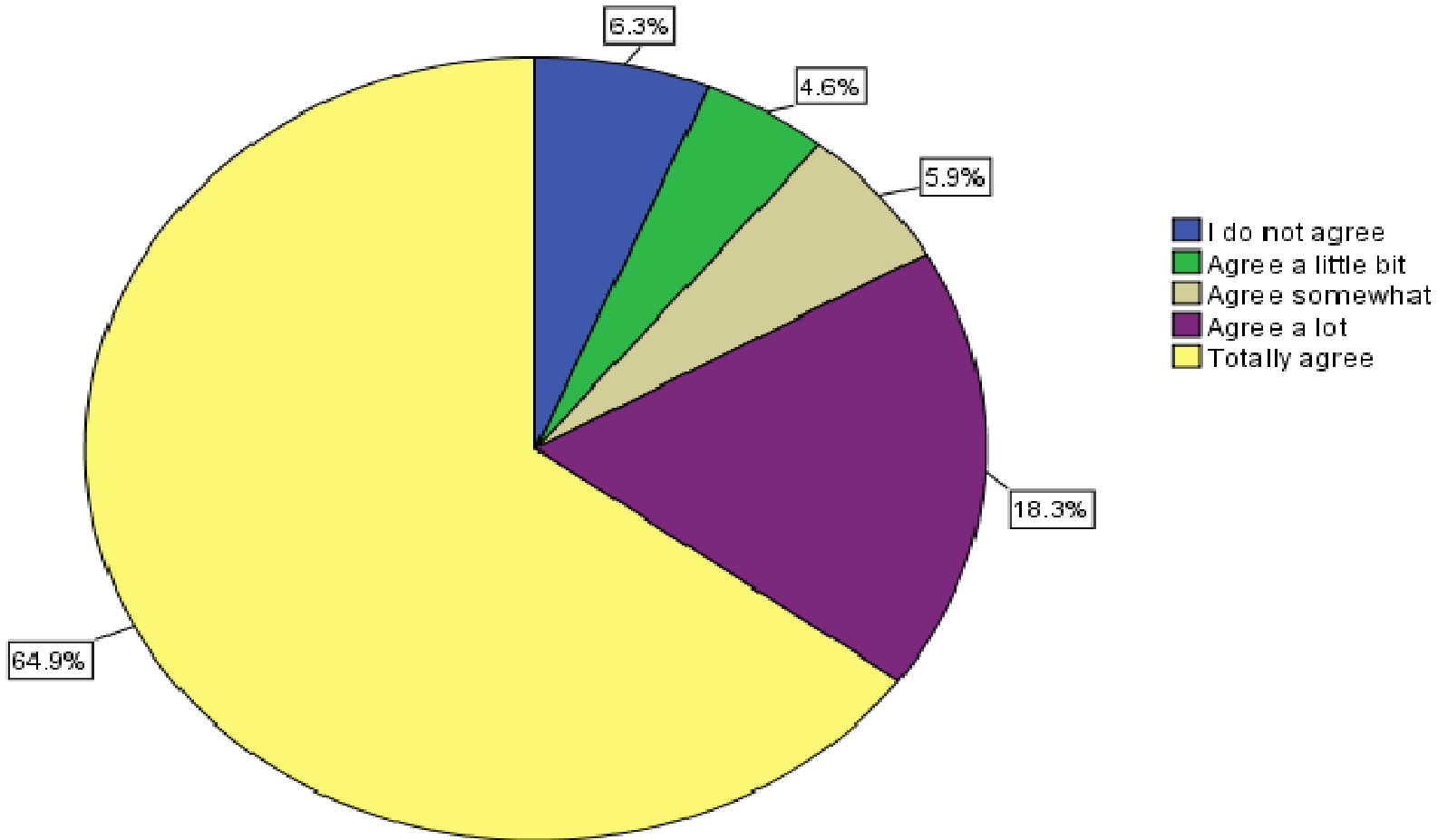


'My parents treat me fairly'

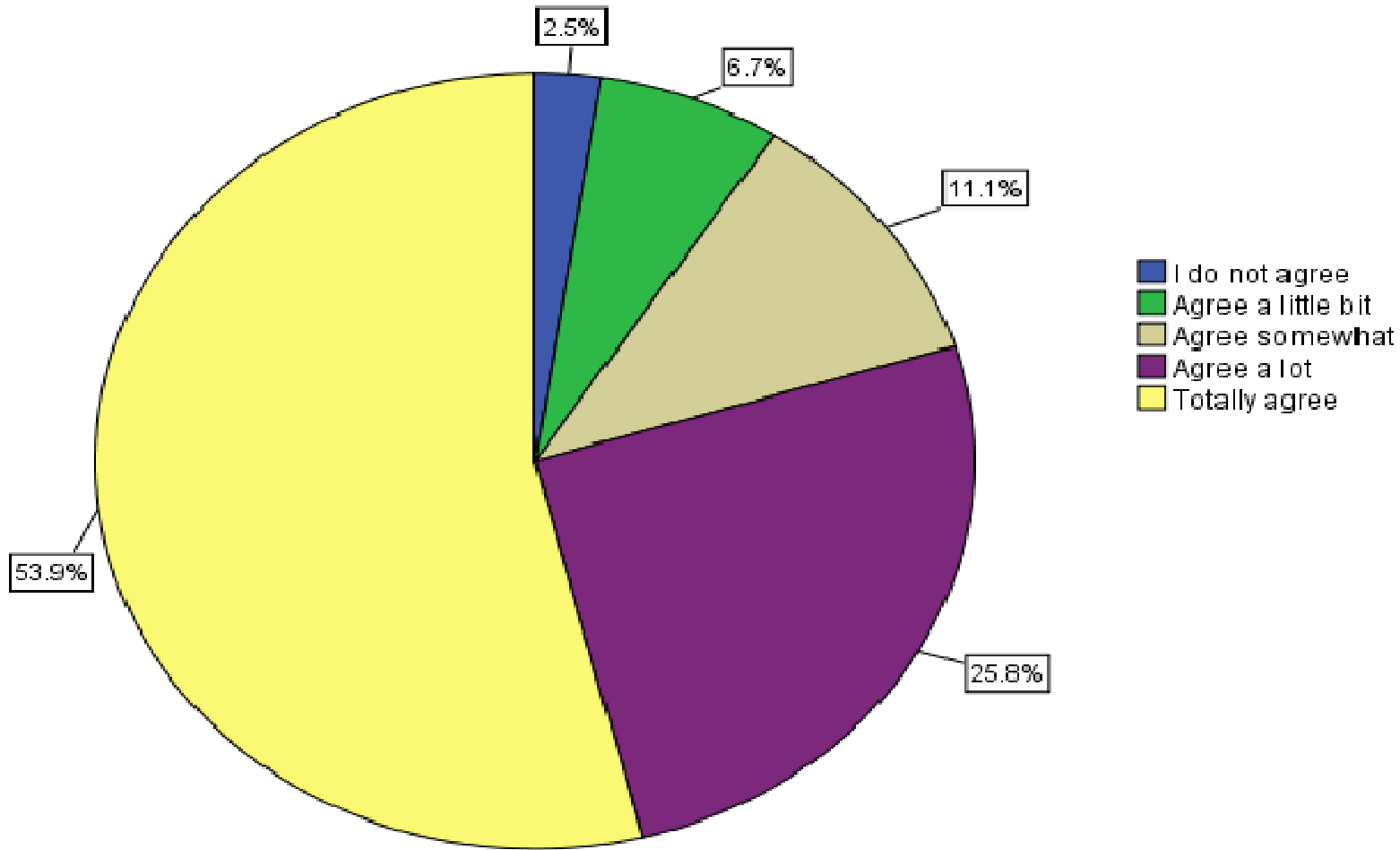


Friends

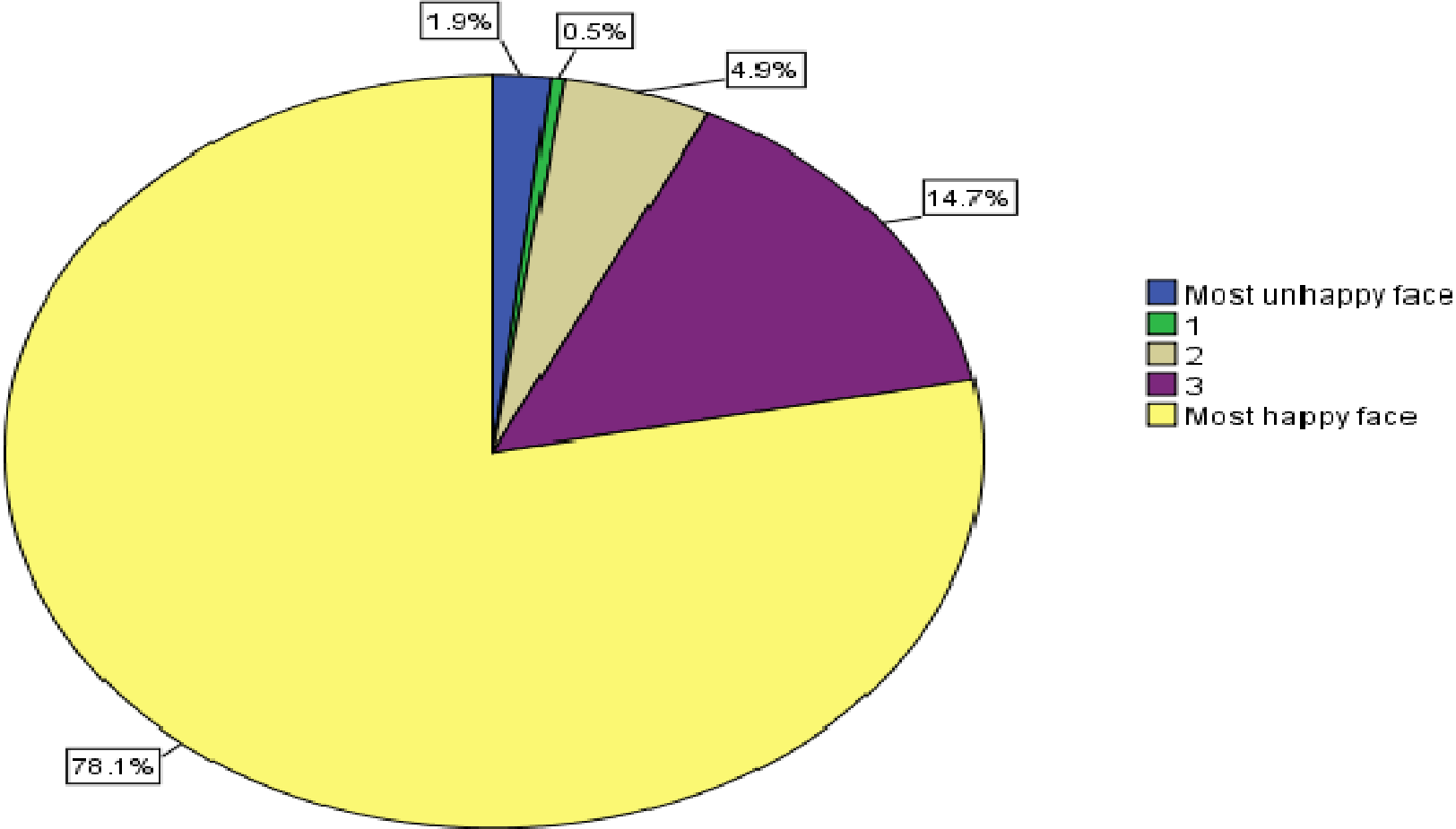
I have enough friends (All age groups) (%)



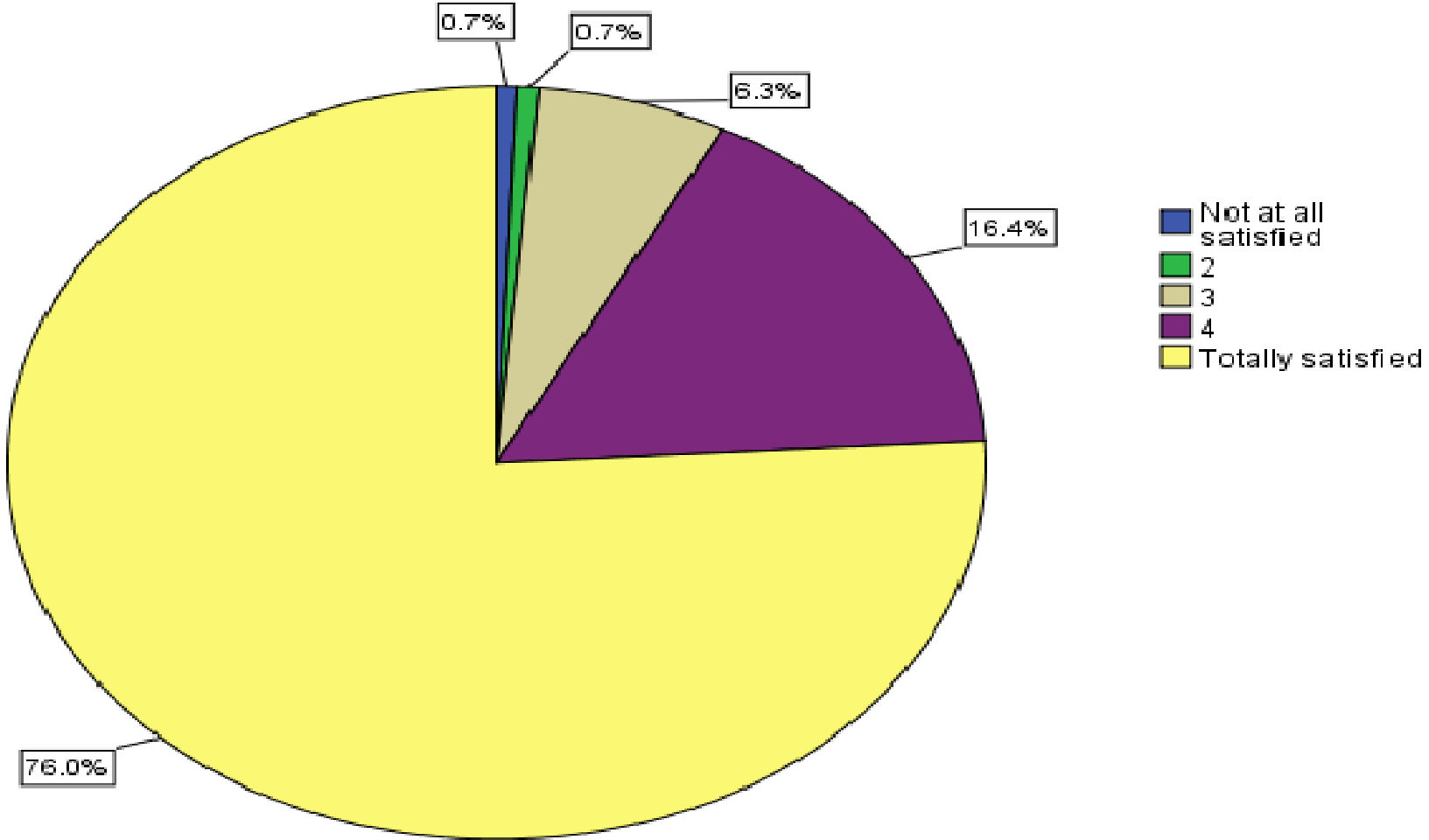
My friends are usually nice to me (All age groups) (%)



Happy with your friends (8 year olds) (%)



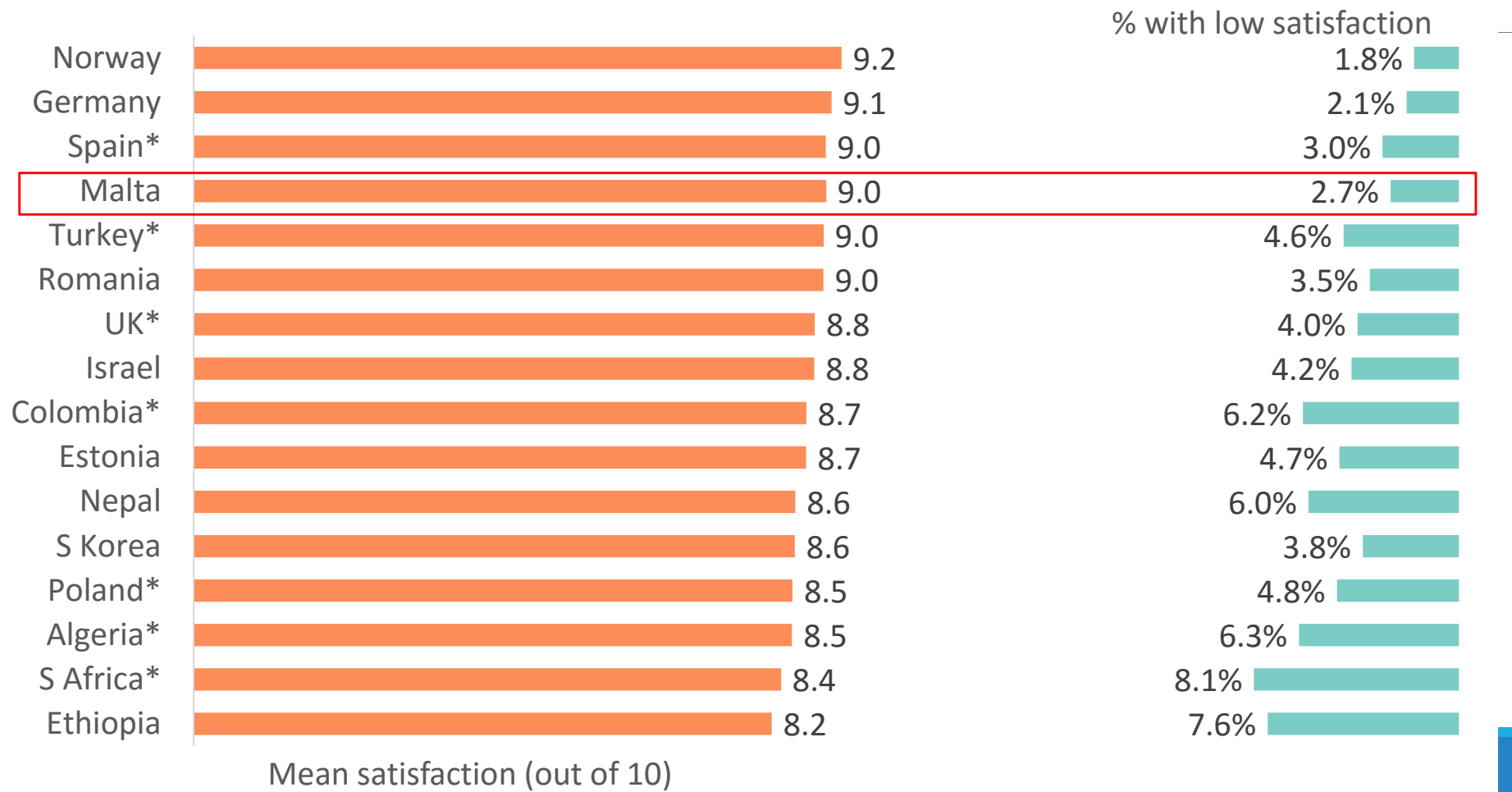
Satisfaction with your friends (10 and 12 year olds) (%)



Friends

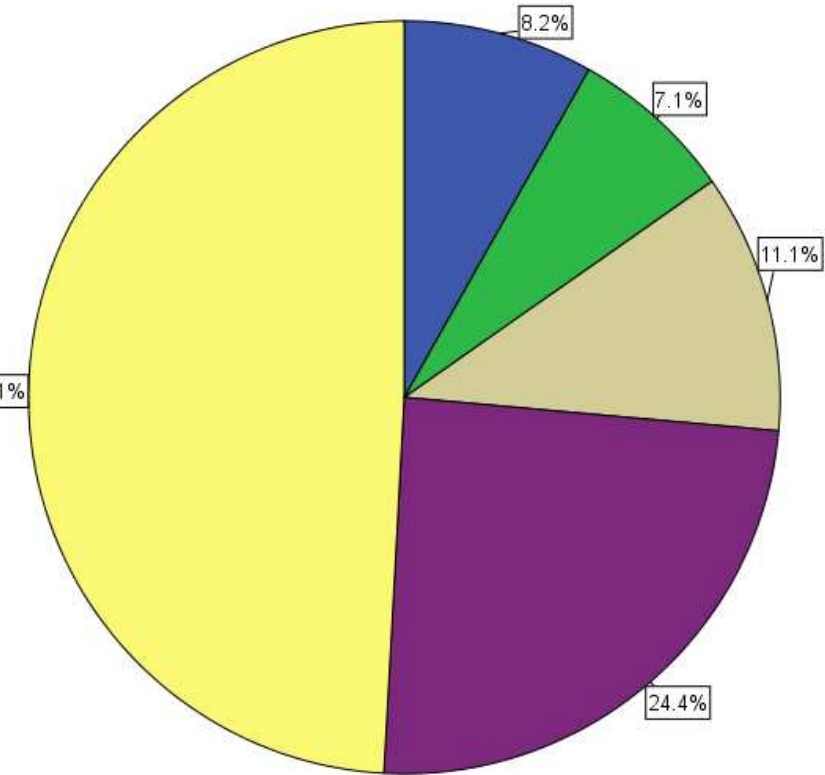
* 12 year olds more happier with their friendships than younger ones: having enough friends, friends being nice to them; no significant gender differences

Satisfaction with friends

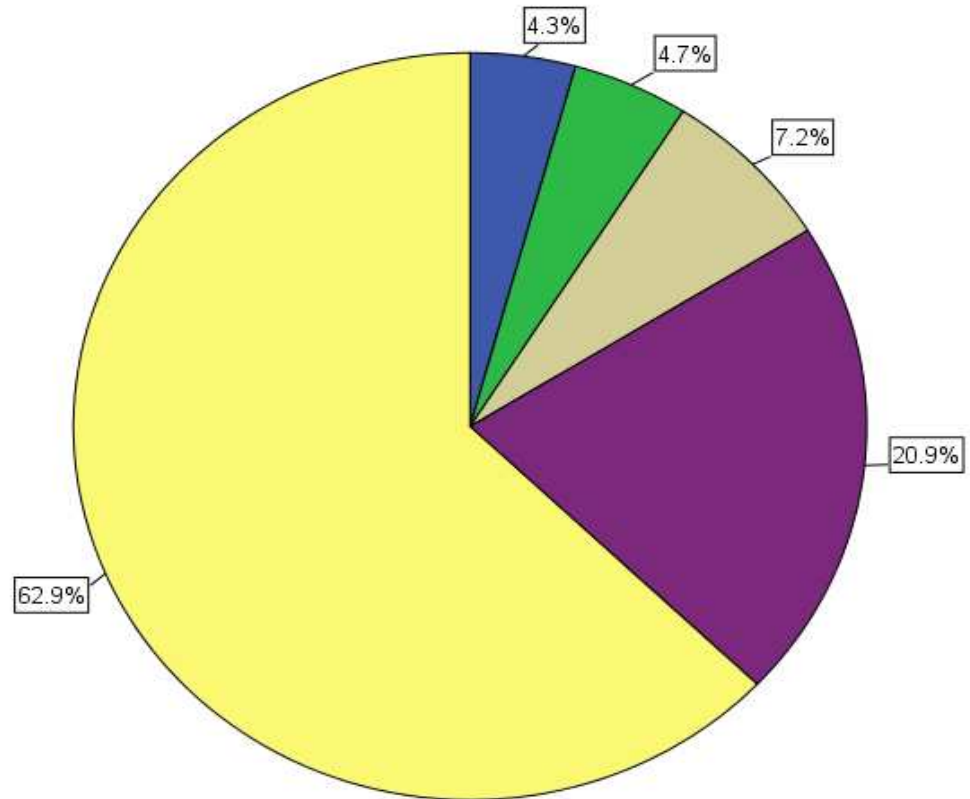


School

I like going to school (All age groups) (%)

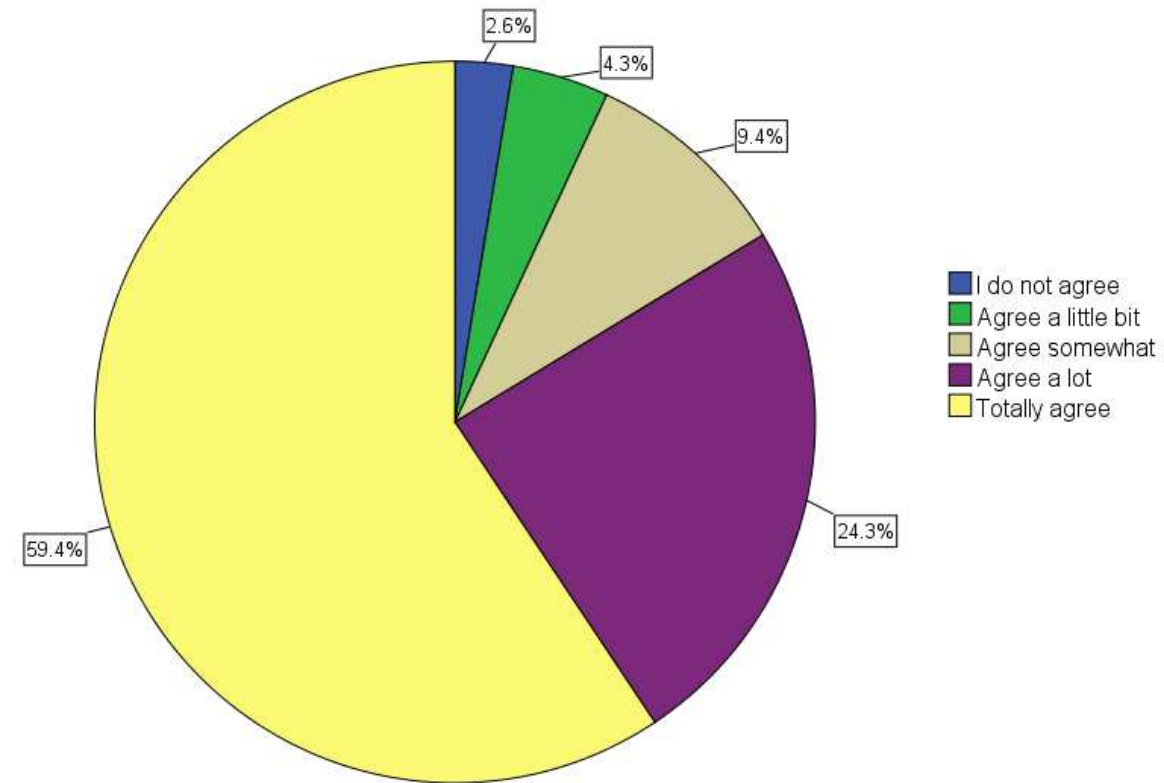


I feel safe at school (All age groups) %

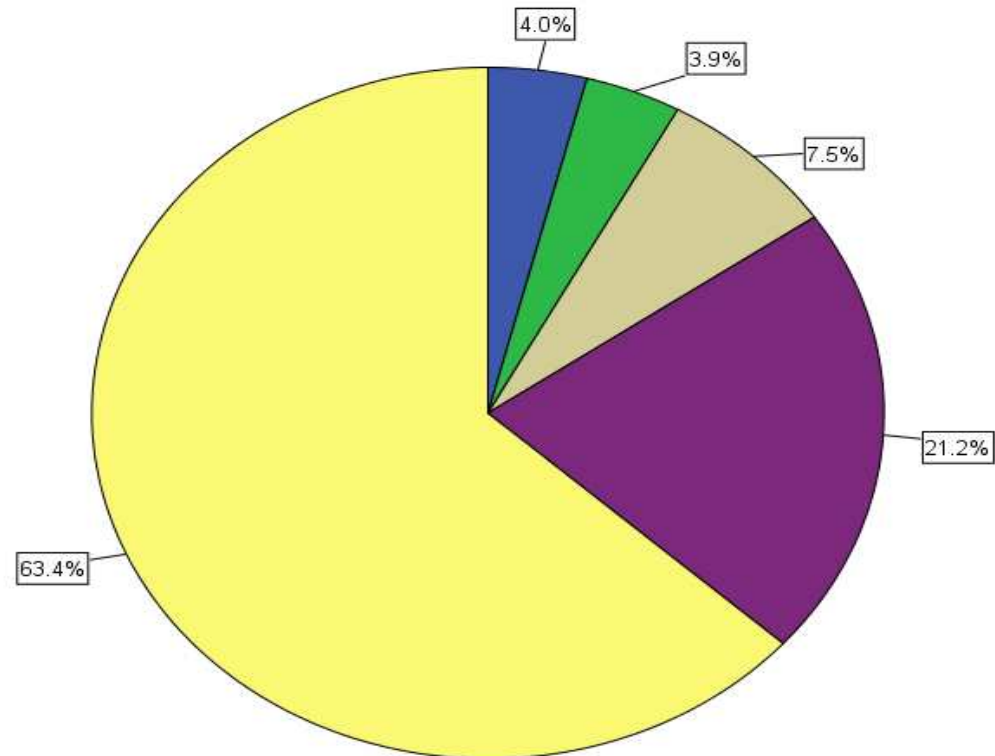


- I do not agree
- Agree a little bit
- Agree somewhat
- Agree a lot
- Totally agree


My teachers listen to me and take what I say into account (All age groups) (%)



My teachers treat me fairly (All age groups) (%)



Girls and younger students more positive experience of school

- * Girls appear to have a more positive experience than boys, feeling safer at school and liking to go to school more than boys
 - * Primary school students have more positive views of their teachers than Form 1 students, believing more that their teachers listen and care for them and treat them fairly
- 

Satisfaction with school (8 year-olds)

	0	1	2	3	4
Other children in your class	2.2%	2.2%	7.8%	21.4%	66.4%
Your school marks	2.7%	2.2%	12.5%	18.7%	63.9%
Your school experience	2.8%	2.4%	7.9%	19.0%	67.9%
Your relationship with teachers	2.6%	2.2%	5.9%	12.4%	77.0%

Satisfaction with school (10 & 12 year-olds)

	0-2	3-5	6-8	9-10
Other children in your class	1.4%	8.3%	29.1%	61.3%
Your school marks	1.9%	7.5%	24.8%	65.7%
Your school experience	2.0 %	5.9%	18.6%	73.7%
Things you have learned	.9%	3.0%	13.0%	83.2%
Your life as a student	2.3%	4.2%	10.1%	74.2%
Your relationship with teachers	2.0%	5.4%	16.9%	75.7%

Variations by age & gender

* **8 year olds:**

- girls are more satisfied than boys with their school experience and their relationship with the teachers

* **10/12 year olds:**

- girls more satisfied with their school experience and relationship with the teachers (as 8 year olds), but boys more satisfied than girls with other children in their class

- older students less satisfied with the other children in their class, the things they have learned, and relationships with teachers

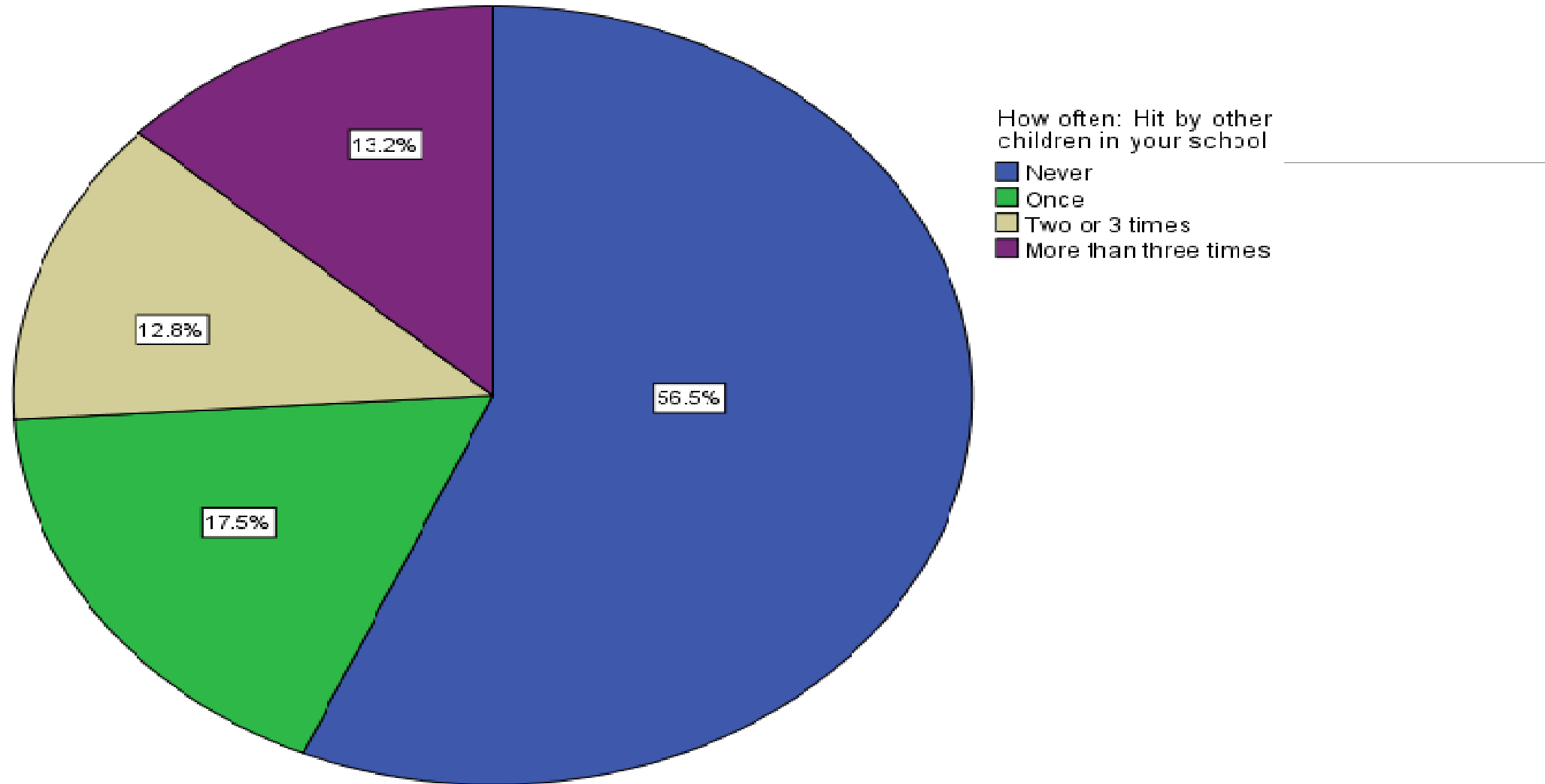
Views about school: RANKINGS

	Agreement questions				Satisfaction questions					
	Teachers listen	Teachers fair	Safe	Like	Peers	Teachers	Learned	Marks	School exp.	Life as student
Algeria*	1	1	1	2	9	1	2	5	2	1
Colombia*	14	5	4	5	8	8	3	8	4	3
Estonia	15	13	13	16	15	13	13	14	14	13
Ethiopia	4	6	14	1	6	7	10	6	11	5
Germany	16	16	16	15	14	14	14	15	16	16
Israel	13	11	12	12	10	12	8	4	9	10
Malta	3	2	5	9	3	6	5	7	7	7
Nepal	7	3	11	3	5	4	6	1	6	6
Norway	6	9	2	10	1	5	9	3	5	9
Poland*	11	10	10	13	11	16	15	12	12	14
Romania	10	4	6	6	2	2	1	2	1	2
S Africa*	8	14	9	7	16	10	7	9	8	8
S Korea	9	12	15	8	12	11	16	16	15	15
Spain*	5	7	7	11	4	9	11	13	10	12
Turkey*	2	8	3	4	7	3	4	10	3	4

Bullying at school



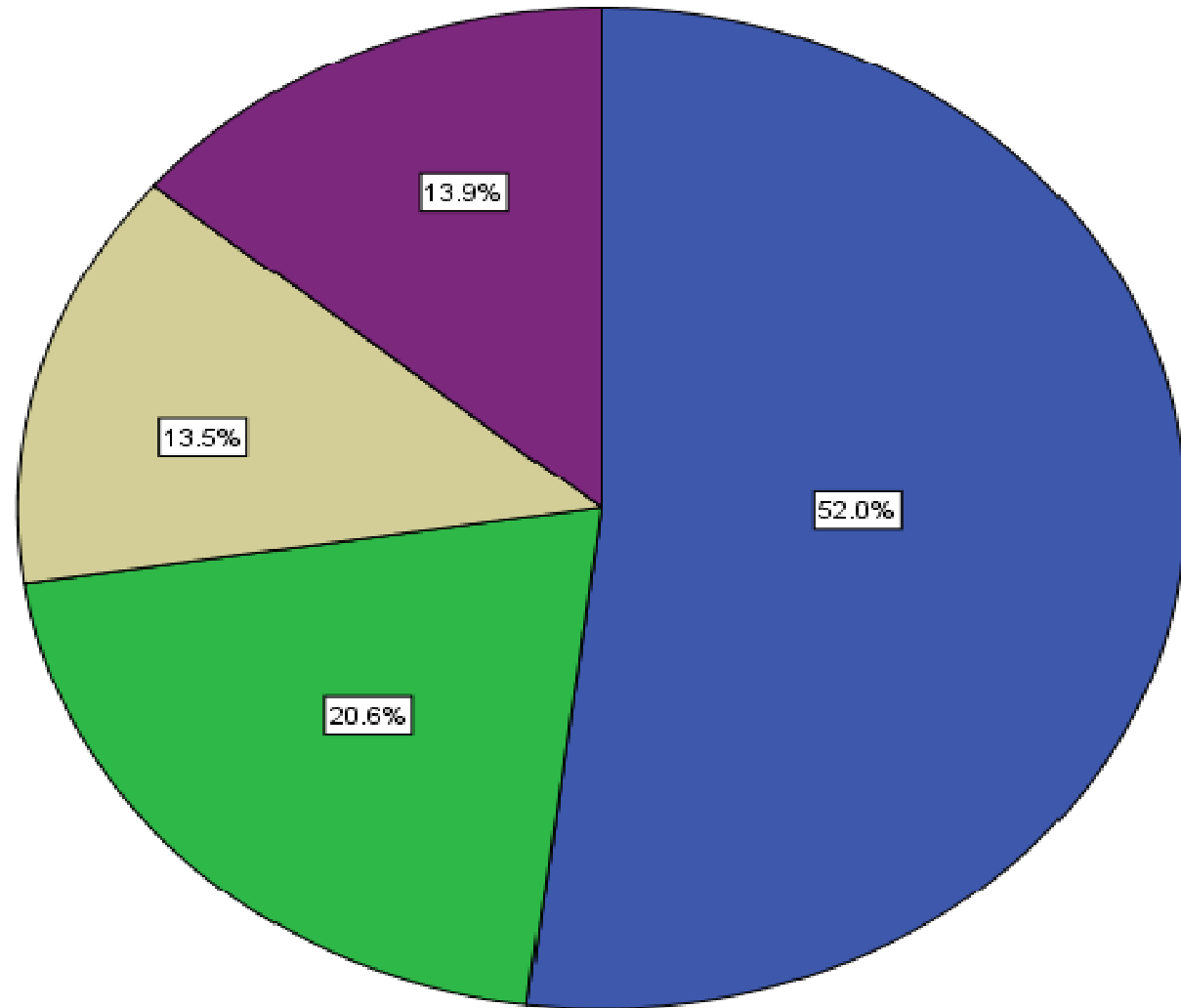
Bullying in last month (All age groups) (%)




Bullying in last Month (All age groups) (%)

How often: Left out by other children in your class

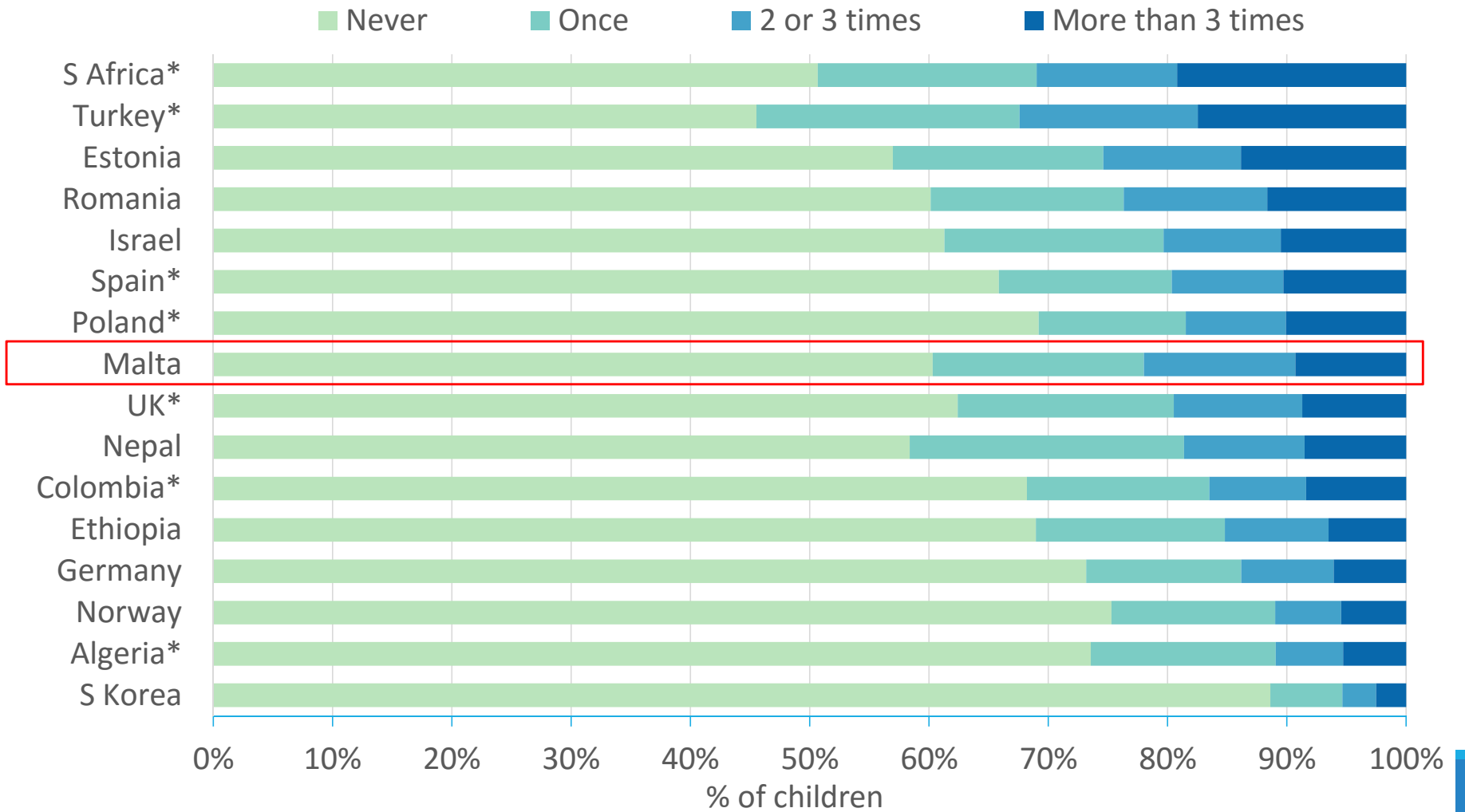
- Never
- Once
- Two or 3 times
- More than three times



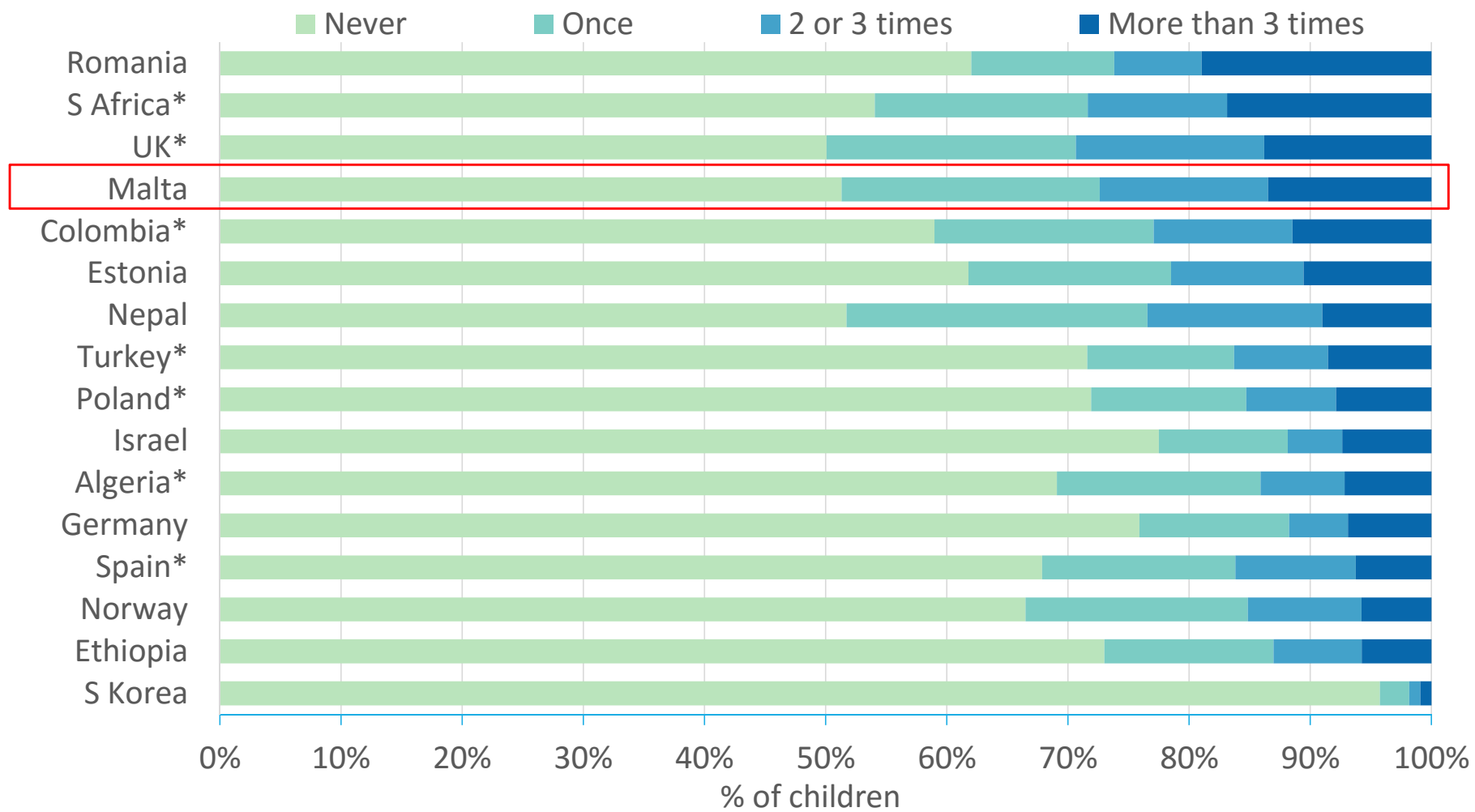
Bullying by age and gender

- * Boys experience higher levels of physical bullying victimisation than girls, while girls report higher levels of relational bullying than boys
 - * Primary school students experience more bullying victimisation, both physical and relational than middle school students.
- 

Hit by other children in school (past 2wks)



Left out by other children in class (past 2 weeks)



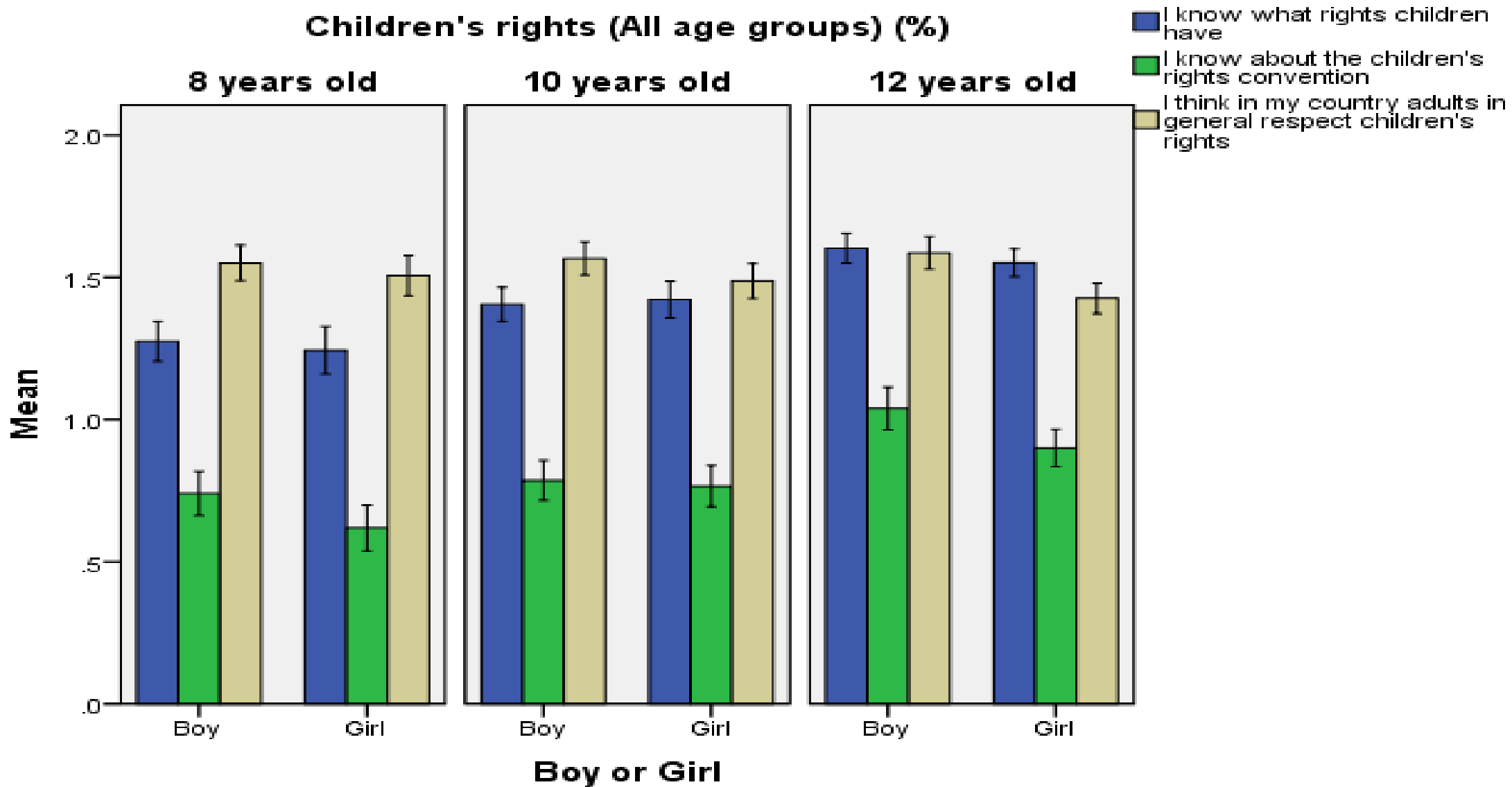
Children's rights



Children's rights (All age groups)

	No	Not sure	Yes
I know what rights children have	9.9%	37.9%	52.1%
I know about the children's rights convention	40.6%	36.9%	22.5%
I think in my country adults in general respect children's rights	7.4%	33.4%	59.2%

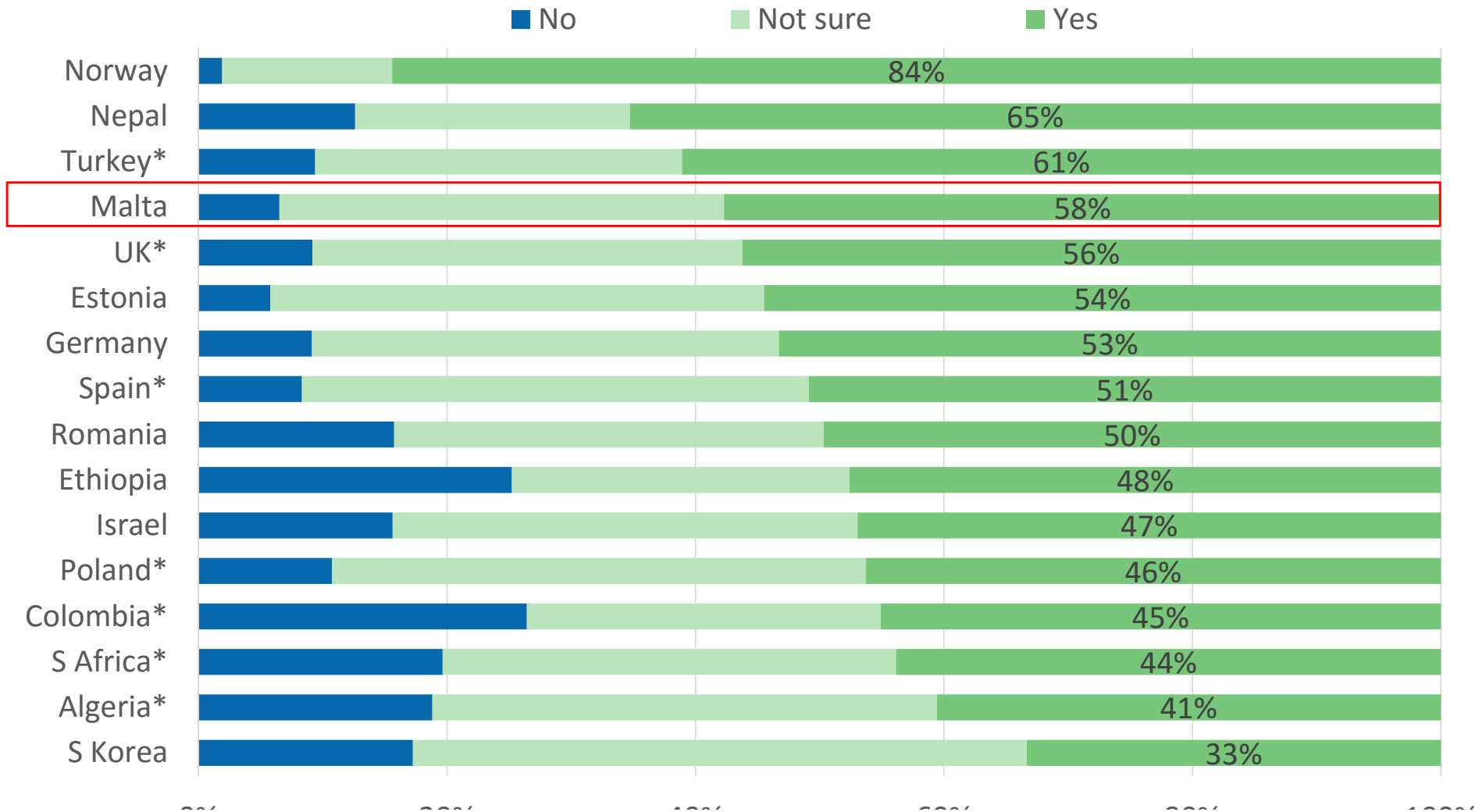
Children's rights (All age groups) (%)



* Boys and older students more aware of children's rights

Cases weighted by Weight

'I think .. adults .. respect children's rights'



Malta's ranking* for different aspects of life

Aspect of life	Ranking	Aspect of life	Ranking
The house or flat where you live	8	The people in your area	13
The people you live with	5	The local police in your area	7
All the other people in your family	7	How you are dealt with at the doctors	8
Your family life	10	The outdoor areas for children in your area	11
All the things you have	5	The area you live in general	8
Your friends	4	Your health	6
Your relationships with people in general	8	The way that you look	6
Other children in your class	3	Your own body	6
Your school marks	7	Your self-confidence	7
Your school experience	7	The freedom you have	8
Your life as a student	7	The amount of opportunities you have	6
Things you have learned	5	How you are listened to by adults in general	6
Your relationship with teachers	6	How safe you feel	5
How you use your time	4	The things you want to be good at	6
What you do in your free time	5	Doing things away from your home	11
* Ranking out of 16 countries			


Preliminary conclusions

- * On the whole both the local findings and the comparative analysis suggest a positive picture of the wellbeing of Maltese children. The great majority:
 - feel well cared for economically and happy with their possessions
 - feel good about themselves, satisfied with their own health and appearance, happy with their lives, and positive about the future
 - have stable and happy family life, feel safe, and happy and satisfied with their friends
 - are happy about their school life and satisfied with their academic and social aspects of their education, including close relationships with peers and teachers
 - are happy with their free time

Preliminary conclusions

- * Maltese children also rank high, when compared with the other 15 countries, on areas like satisfaction, happiness, relationships with friends, peers and teachers, free time, use of time
- * However, we have to be careful about being complacent
 - although our children feel satisfied with their health, we have one of the highest rates of obesity in childhood
 - our children rank quite low on satisfaction with people in their area and the outdoor areas for children in their area, and also family life
 - a substantial minority of children are not happy and satisfied with their lives:

Preliminary conclusions

- * 20% of 10-12 year olds do not have own room, while 30% no use of mobile
 - * 20% may not have a quiet space to study at home; 10% would like more attention from parents, 5% do not feel safe at home
 - * 15% do not like going to school; 9% do not feel safe at school; 8% do not feel teachers treat them fairly – risk for early school leaving
 - * 26% are frequently or occasionally physically bullied, 27% victims of relational bullying
- 

Conclusion

- * Work in progress: report to be published by the end of this year, publicly available
- * Qualitative study going into more detail into children's own experiences, concerns, recommendations: 2015-2016
- * Further details and information:

carmel.cefai@um.edu.mt

natalie.galea@um.edu.mt

www.um.edu.mt/cres

