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Beyond child poverty

Child well-being at national level and international level (in the EU, OECD, UNICEF) has mainly been observed using poverty rates based on relative income measures. There are problems with the reliability and validity of such measures. The EU, OECD and UNICEF have begun to recognise this and we have contributed by developing multi dimensional indices of child well-being for the EU, OECD and CEE/CIS countries based on existing survey and administrative data.

This paper will review what the lessons of that work are. In particular it will explore 1. The relationship between relative child poverty and other domains of well-being. 2. Whether there is another single indicator which might represent international variations in child well-being better than child poverty. 3. Whether there is a simple limited set of indicators that could represent child well-being and make it easier to compare countries and monitor change in child well-being over time.

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