

ple, and the persistence of social inequalities. Overall decline in mental well-being with increasing age is found and adolescents at age 15 have lower levels of life satisfaction, are less likely to report excellent health and the prevalence of health complaints is the highest. Across all participating countries/regions in the last study wave 2017/18 girls at age 15 report poorer mental well-being than boys and so they demonstrate the lowest level of psychological wellbeing.

International publications (United Nations Children's Fund, 2011; WHO, 2014) have pointed to the importance of the second decade of life: young people aged between 11 and 15 years face many pressures and challenges, including increasing academic demands and expectations, changing social relationships with family and peers, and increasing exposure to online interactions. Adolescence is a period of rapid physical, social and mental growth, and that is why it is so important to elaborate and apply appropriate health practices that will improve and equalize the observed inequalities. Data from the present study could be used to identify key challenges at different life stages and highlight priority areas for action.

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