

# How happy are children in Japan?

**1** On May 14<sup>th</sup>, UNICEF shared a report about children’s well-being in 43 countries. It looked at three areas: mental health, physical health, and skills like reading and problem-solving.

2 Japan was 14<sup>th</sup> overall, better than 20<sup>th</sup> five years ago. Japan was 1<sup>st</sup> in physical health. Japanese children are usually healthy and have low rates of obesity and death. But many are too thin.

Japan was 12<sup>th</sup> in skills. This shows students are doing better at school and in social life.

3] However, Japan was 32<sup>nd</sup> in mental health. This is still low. The report said Japan has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest suicide rate among teenagers.

4 The report said children today live in a hard world. They face problems like COVID-19, war, and climate change. Children need more support from family, school, and community.

5 The happiest children were in the Netherlands, then Denmark and France. Chile was the lowest. Australia, Belgium, Israel, Norway, and the U.S. were not fully ranked because some data, like life satisfaction, were missing.

well-being 幸福      area 分野      (                      )精神の      (                      )身体の      problem-solving 問題解決  
overall 全体で      rate 率      obesity 肥満      death 死亡      thin やせている      social life 社会生活  
low 低い      suicide rate 自殺率      professor 教授      climate change 気候の変動      community 地域社会  
life satisfaction 人生満足度      ★今日覚えた言葉を書きましょう:(                      )

Q1 5月14日、ユニセフはどんな報告書を発表しましたか。 ※この報告書は5年に一度発表されています。

Q2 What are the three areas the report looked at?

Q3 日本のランキングは5年前からどのように変化しましたか。

Q4 Why was Japan ranked 1st in physical health?

Q5 日本の子供たちは、一般的には健康なものの、どのような問題点がありますか。

Q6 日本の子供たちの「スキル」は、世界 12 位で健闘していました。これはどんな事実を示していますか。

**Q7** 日本の子供たちの「心の健康」について、どんな問題点が報告されていますか。

Q8 According to the report, what kinds of problems do children face in the world today?

**Q9** What kind of support do children need?

Q10 Name the top three countries that have the happiest children.

Q11 Which country was at the bottom of the ranking?

Q12 このランキングにオーストラリアやアメリカが登場しない理由は何ですか。

Q13 Why do you think some children in Japan are too thin, even if they are healthy?

Q14 Do you think social media affects children's mental health? Why?

※social media: 日本語で言う SNS のこと(SNS は和製英語です)

Q15 [E-mail Writing] アメリカ人の友人 Sam からの E メールに返信して下さい。

Hi, how are you?

I read a UNICEF report about children's well-being in many countries.

Japan was 14<sup>th</sup> overall — that's pretty good!

In the report, my country wasn't fully ranked because of missing data.

But we have a lot of problems here. Many children are overweight, and there is a lot of racism.

I think American children's physical and mental health rankings are low.

I want to ask you two questions:

① What kind of stress do Japanese junior high school students have?

② What do you do every day to take care of your mental health?

I'm really interested in your answers. Let's keep in touch!

Sam

Hi, Sam! Thank you for your e-mail.

Best wishes,

★次の文を 3 回以上読んで、暗唱しましょう。

☐ Japan is the healthiest country in the world.

☐ Children in the Netherlands are the happiest in the world.

☐ Chili was the lowest in the ranking.

## 今日の文法：比較級と最上級

原級	A is as ~ as B.	(A は B と同じくらい～です)
	A is not as ~ as B.	(A は B ほど～ではありません)
比較級	A is ~er than B.	(A は B より～です)
	A is more ~ than B.	
最上級	A is the ~est.	(A は最も～です)
	A is the most ~.	

### 1 [原級] Fill in the blanks.

- 1) 心の健康は、体の健康と同じくらい大切です。

Mental health is (     )(     )(     ) physical health.

- 2) 現代の世界は、コロナの時期と同じくらい大変 (= 困難) です。

Today's world is (     )(     )(     ) it was during COVID-19.

- 3) 日本の生徒は、デンマークの生徒と同じくらい賢いです。

Japanese students are (     )(     )(     ) students in Denmark.

- 4) 読書は、問題解決と同じくらい子どもたちにとって役立ちます。

Reading is (     )(     )(     ) problem-solving for children.

### 2 [比較級] Fill in the blanks.

- 1) 日本の子どもたちは、多くの国の子どもたちよりも健康です。

Japanese children are (     )(     ) children in many countries.

- 2) 日本は5年前より良くなっています。

Japan is doing (     )(     ) five years ago.

- 3) 報告では、デンマークの子供達は日本の子供達より幸せを感じています。

Children in Denmark are feeling (     )(     ) Japanese children in the report.

- 4) 韓国の自殺率は日本より高い。

The suicide rate in South Korea is (     )(     ) in Japan.

### 3 [最上級] Fill in the blanks.

- 1) 日本は身体の健康で最も健康な国でした。

Japan was (     )(     ) country in physical health.

- 2) オランダの子どもたちが最も幸せでした。

The Netherlands had (     )(     ) children.

- 3) 日本は10代の自殺率で4番目に高いです。

Japan has (     )(     )(     ) suicide rate among teenagers.

- 4) チリが報告で最も低いスコアでした。

Chile had (     )(     ) score in the report.

- 5) 世界中でどの国が最もお金持ちですか？

Which country is (     )(     ) in the world?