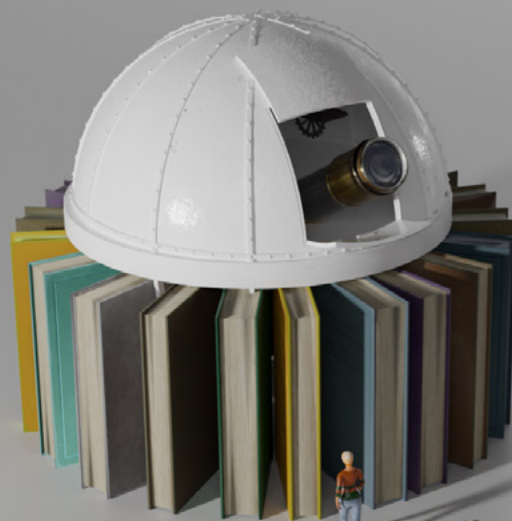


What have we learned this year?

Social science research



TheSocialObservatory

Credits

**Social Observatory
of the "la Caixa" Foundation**

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Table of contents

- 5 Technocratic attitudes in Spain during the pandemic**
Francesc Amat and Marco Pastor Mayo, Universitat de Barcelona
- 6 The impact of Dual Vocational Education and Training on labour market insertion in Catalonia**
Samuel Bentolila, CEMFI; Caterina Calsamiglia, IPEG; Marcel Jansen, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
- 7 What do young people need in order to feel well?**
Marta Díez, Águeda Parra, Inmaculada Sánchez-Queija, Mari Carmen García Mendoza, Virginia Paloma and Carmen Paniagua, Universidad de Sevilla; Rocío de la Fuente, Escuela Universitaria de Osuna
- 8 Carbon emission inequality in Spain by income and age**
Stefan Drews, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Théo Konc, Technical University of Berlin, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- 9 Perceptions among young people of carbon footprint inequalities and support for progressive climate change mitigation policies**
Stefan Drews, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Málaga; Théo Konc, Technical University of Berlin, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- 10 Young people with specific educational support needs suffer twice the amount of cyberbullying**
Àngels Esteller-Cano, Albert Flexas, Eva Aguilar-Mediavilla and Daniel Adrover-Roig, Institute for Educational Research and Innovation, Universitat de les Illes Balears
- 11 Car-sharing in cities: a double-edged strategy**
Natalia Fabra, Catarina Pintassilgo and Mateus Souza, EnergyEcoLab, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
- 12 Gender inequality in paid and unpaid work after the pandemic**
Lídia Farré, Universitat de Barcelona; Libertad González, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and BSE
- 13 Telework after the pandemic: an analysis from the worker perspective**
Marta Curull and Laia Maynou, Universitat de Barcelona; Lídia Farré, Universitat de Barcelona and IAE-CSIC
- 14 Young people's social interactions: face-to-face, with friends and family members, and little use of mobile phones**
Aurelio Fernández, Universidad de Navarra and Ghent University; Charo Sádaba and Javier García-Manglano, Universidad de Navarra; Marieke Vanden Abeele, Ghent University
- 15 Do Spanish and Portuguese young people use their mobile phones differently?**
Gonzalo Fernández-Duval and Javier García-Manglano, Universidad de Navarra; Charo Sádaba, Universidad de Navarra; Tiago Lapa and Gustavo Cardoso, Sociology Research and Studies Centre, University Institute of Lisbon
- 16 Where and how do young people seek help when they experience emotional distress?**
David Fraguas, Institute of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, IdISSC, CIBERSAM, UCM, Fundación Manantial; Antonio Perdigón, Octavio Finol, Diana Torres, Vanesa López and Sara Toledano, Fundación Manantial
- 17 Mental health in Catalonia one year into the covid-19 pandemic**
Ximena Goldberg, Gemma Castaño-Vinyals and Manolis Kogevinas, Barcelona Institute for Global Health; Rafael de Cid, Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute
- 18 The pandemic's impact on personal well-being and income was not the same for everyone**
Gemma Castaño-Vinyals, Ximena Goldberg, Manolis Kogevinas, Iris Lopes-Rafegas and Elisa Sicuri, Barcelona Institute for Global Health; Rafael de Cid, Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute
- 19 Detection of workplace bullying and its negative impact on psychological well-being**
José María León Pérez, Francisco Javier Cantero Sánchez, Míriam Benítez González and José María León Rubio, Cármides Research Group, Universidad de Sevilla; Alejandro Orgambidez Ramos, Cármides Research Group, Universidad de Málaga
- 20 How do people's acquaintances shape their support for economic redistribution and social protection?**
Miranda J. Lubbers, COALESCE Lab, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Michał Bojanowski, COALESCE Lab, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Kozminski University
- 21 What has become of the urban exodus since the pandemic?**
Antonio López-Gay, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Centre for Demographic Studies

Table of contents

- 22 A sense of precariousness affects young people's mental health**
Lara Maestríperí, Matilde Cittadini, Adriana Offredi and Roger Soler i Martí, IGOP/Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Miriam Acebillo Baqué, INGENIO, CSIC-Universitat Politècnica de València; Karen van Hedel, Utrecht University; Alba Lanau, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
- 23 How did calls to 112 related with the suicide of minors evolve before and after the pandemic?**
Miriam Marco, Antonio López-Quílez, Marisol Lila, Enrique Gracia, Pablo Escobar-Hernández and María Montagud-Andrés, Universitat de València
- 24 What factors influence suicide-related calls to 112?**
Miriam Marco, Antonio López-Quílez, Marisol Lila, Enrique Gracia, Pablo Escobar-Hernández and María Montagud-Andrés, Universitat de València
- 25 Professionals improve their empathy towards older people after experiencing limitations associated with ageing**
Rosa M.ª Martínez Piédrola, Marta Pérez de Heredia Torres, Sergio Serrada Tejeda and Rebeca Montes Montes, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos; Fernando Martínez Cuervo, Department of Social Rights and Welfare, Principality of Asturias; Stefan Walter, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos
- 26 What role should educational centres play in detecting gender violence suffered by pupils at home?**
Carme Montserrat, Marta Garcia-Molsosa, Pere Soler, Anna Planas, Edgar Iglesias and Paula Boned, Liberi Research Group, Universitat de Girona
- 27 Household food shop and unconditional food assistance: can we talk of healthy eating?**
Toni Mora, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya; Blanca Raidó Quintana, Catalan Red Cross
- 28 Private tuition and economic inequality**
Juan Manuel Moreno, UNED; Ángel Martínez, EsadeEcPol
- 29 Teen dating violence**
Noemí Pereda, Marta Codina and Diego A. Díaz-Faes, Universitat de Barcelona
- 30 Do attitudes towards climate change vary with age in Spain?**
Toni Rodon, Universitat Pompeu Fabra; Marc Guinjoan, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
- 31 Do we have a sufficient climate culture? Levels of knowledge, concern and sustainable climate habits**
Ana Ruiz-Frau, Silvia de Juan and Andrés Ospina-Álvarez, Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (CSIC-UIB); Sarai Pouso and Maria C. Uyerra, AZTI, Marine Research
- 32 A programme to prevent sexual harassment in teenagers through virtual reality**
Virginia Sánchez-Jiménez, Estrella Durán-Guerrero, María Luisa Rodríguez de Arriba, Noelia Muñoz-Fernández and Javier Ortega-Rivera, Universidad de Sevilla
- 33 Multidimensional poverty dynamics in Spain and other European countries**
Nicolai Suppa, Centre for Demographic Studies – CERCA, EQUALITAS and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- 34 Internet usage, education and health inequalities in the Spanish population aged 50-79**
Sergi Trias-Llimós, Centre for Demographic Studies, UAB
- 35 Uses, skills and attitude in terms of digital technology. Does a gender gap exist among Spanish secondary-school pupils?**
Mireia Usart, Carme Grimalt and Luz Mayra Niño, Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- 36 Beyond 'empty Spain': climate change, depopulation and globalisation in rural areas**
Sergio Villamayor-Tomas, Daniel Gaitán Cremaschi, Beatriz Pierri-Daunt and Leticia Santos de Lima, Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (ICTA-UAB); Esteve Corbera, ICTA-UAB and Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA)

Technocratic attitudes in Spain during the pandemic

Economic crises and natural disasters tend to reduce citizen support for politicians or parties in government. Furthermore, this phenomenon can be even more accentuated among people who, ideologically and politically, identify themselves as being against the government in office. This article examines the effects of the covid-19 pandemic – with its cost in lives and in healthcare, as well as the consequent lockdowns and restrictions – on the predisposition among Spaniards to favour technocracy, a model of government that rejects management by politicians in favour of experts with technical knowledge. In January 2020, on a scale of 7 points, the average for technocratic attitudes stood at 4.7 points. By March of that same year, the results obtained based on a survey show an increase of 0.5 points among survey respondents in general.

Francesc Amat and Marco Pastor Mayo, Universitat de Barcelona

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Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

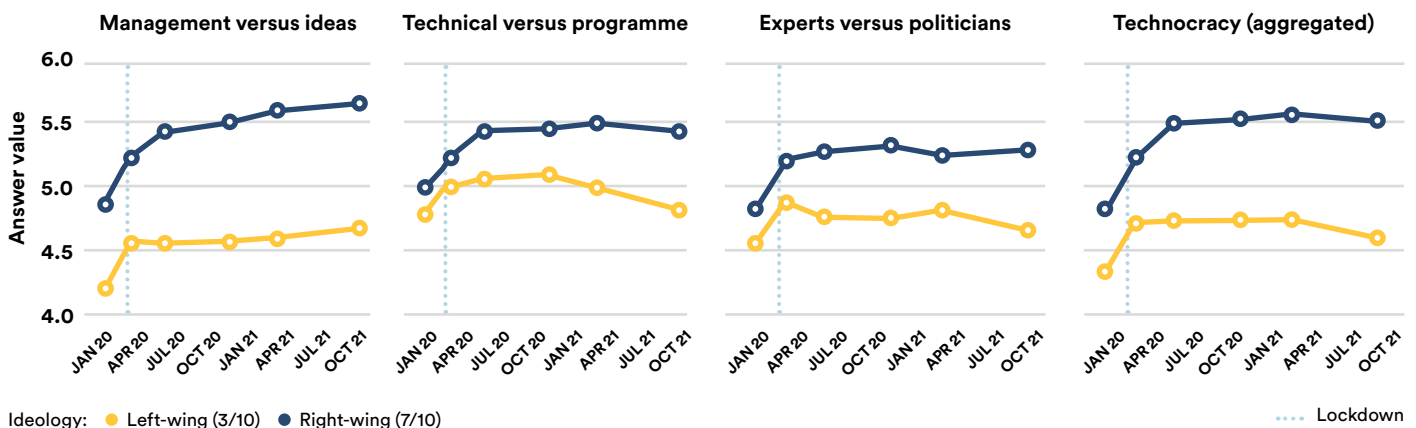
- 1** Technocratic attitudes among Spaniards increased during the pandemic. Furthermore, half of Spanish people were already favourable to technocracy before the pandemic.
- 2** Right-wing Spaniards, with an average of 5.8 points, were more favourable to technocracy than left-wing Spaniards, with an average of 4.4 points.
- 3** During the pandemic, right-wing Spaniards became more technocratic than their left-wing counterparts, with an average of 0.56 and 0.22 points, respectively.
- 4** The technocratic divide grew more in autonomous communities governed by the PP, with an average of 0.62 points, than those governed by the PSOE, with an average of -0.15 points.

The pandemic opened up a technocratic divide in Spanish politics

Right-wing Spaniards became more technocratic during the pandemic and were already more technocratic before it started

The figure shows the answers to the following items contained in the survey ‘The Effects of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Democracy’ (COVIDEMO):

- **Management versus ideas:** I would always vote for the party that has managed well, even if it does not share my ideas.
- **Technical versus programme:** Politicians should leave their political programme aside and tackle public problems from a technical angle.
- **Experts versus politicians:** It is better to have technical experts, and not politicians, deciding which policies are best for the country.
- **Technocracy (aggregated):** Standardised average of the values corresponding to the three items.



Ideology: ● Left-wing (3/10) ● Right-wing (7/10)

... Lockdown

Note: the scale of ideological position used runs from 0 (maximum left-wing) to 10 (maximum right-wing).

Source: compiled by the authors based on the results of the COVIDEMO survey.

The impact of Dual Vocational Education and Training on labour market insertion in Catalonia

Based on administrative data, this article analyses the impact that the introduction of Tertiary Dual Vocational Education and Training has had on the labour market insertion of young people in Catalonia during the period 2018-2020. Dual VET is an educational model that allows students to spend more time as apprentices at companies rather than in School-based VET, with the companies themselves taking charge of part of the training. After studying various dimensions of the labour performance of these young people during the twelve months following their graduation, the findings show that Dual VET graduates work more days per year than School-based VET graduates, enjoy a higher labour income, work part-time less frequently and sign a permanent employment contract more often. These differences do not occur evenly across all fields but, even so, it is confirmed that the better labour market insertion of Dual VET graduates remains after taking into account the main individual characteristics.

Samuel Bentolila, CEMFI; Caterina Calsamiglia, IPEG;
Marcel Jansen, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

1

Dual VET has experienced very slow growth since its introduction in Spain in 2012. During the 2020-2021 academic year, it represented no more than 5.5% of enrolled students. Catalonia, with 10% of enrolled students in Tertiary VET, is well above the national average.

2

Dual VET graduates and those of School-based VET are very similar, but in Dual VET there is a lower proportion of women and a slightly higher fraction of students born outside of Spain. In addition, they also have more job experience at the start of their studies. Dual VET is taught with greater frequency at public schools.

3

Tertiary VET graduates (which includes both pathways) only work 168 days equivalent to full-time work per year. Dual VET graduates work 27 days more per year than School-based VET students and 41 full-time equivalent days. They also work part-time less frequently and more often with a permanent contract.

4

The average labour income for VET graduates is low (8,354 euros per year). The average daily wage of Dual VET and School-based VET graduates is very similar, but Dual VET graduates earn 28% more because they work more days.

5

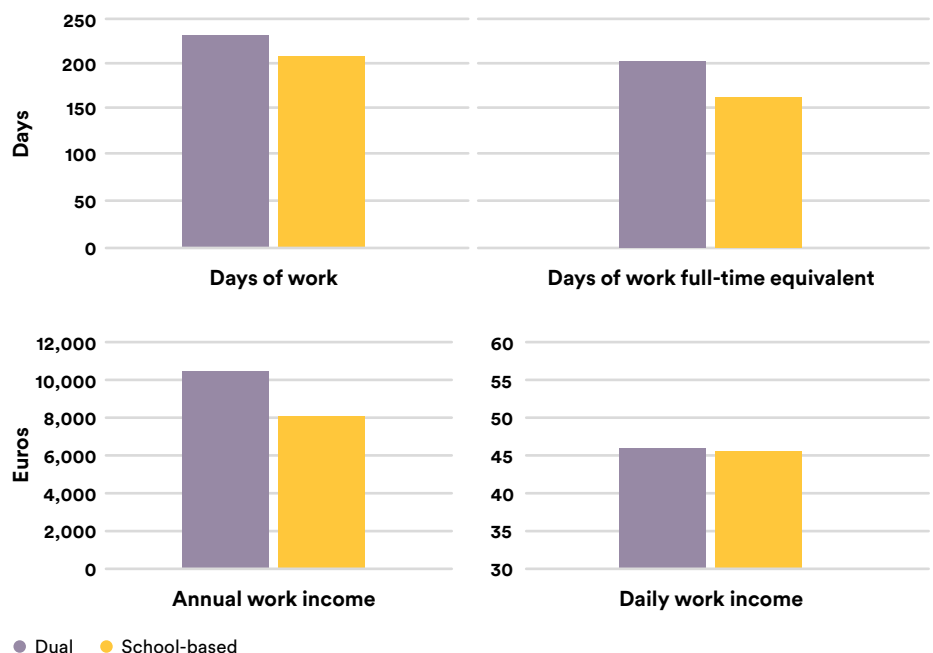
In some fields, Dual VET graduates work on average up to 70 days more than School-based VET graduates.

6

After considering a set of individual characteristics, the differences in work performance between pathways remain, but these are smaller.

Dual VET graduates work more days and earn a higher income during the first year

Labour outcomes of Tertiary VET graduates by Dual and School-based pathways



Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the Government of Catalonia's Education Department and the Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migrations.

What do young people need in order to feel well?

This study explores the levels of well-being and psychological distress among young people in Spain aged between 16 and 29 years. Psychological distress is measured through levels of depression, anxiety and stress; well-being, through the level of flourishing (a combination of feeling well and functioning effectively), optimism (tendency to see and judge the future positively) and perceived competence (level of capability that the individual considers they possess in various spheres). It also examines the needs with which today's young people identify for improving their well-being and how they think society can contribute towards this. The data reveal that the level of flourishing depends on the age and the economic situation in which these young people find themselves, that the feeling of perceived competence in different spheres depends largely on gender, and that women present higher levels of psychological distress than men. Moreover, young people are more optimistic when they think about their personal future than when they think about that of their generation. Finally, the main needs identified by young people to feel well are their mental health, their economic situation and social relations. To achieve an improvement in their well-being, young people are asking for a society with more social values, employment and a stable economy that responds to their real possibilities.

Marta Díez, Águeda Parra, Inmaculada Sánchez-Queija, Mari Carmen García Mendoza, Virginia Paloma and Carmen Paniagua, Universidad de Sevilla; Rocío de la Fuente, Escuela Universitaria de Osuna

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call for research on the social reality of young people

1 People aged 25 to 29 years present higher levels of flourishing than those aged 16 to 24 years. Similarly, those who find themselves in a favourable economic situation feel better and more effective than their peers in more vulnerable situations.

2 Young people present a moderate level of optimism and are less optimistic when they think about the future of their generation than when they think about their own future, with one point of difference – on a scale of 0 to 10 – between the two types of optimism. Furthermore, men are more optimistic than women about their own future.

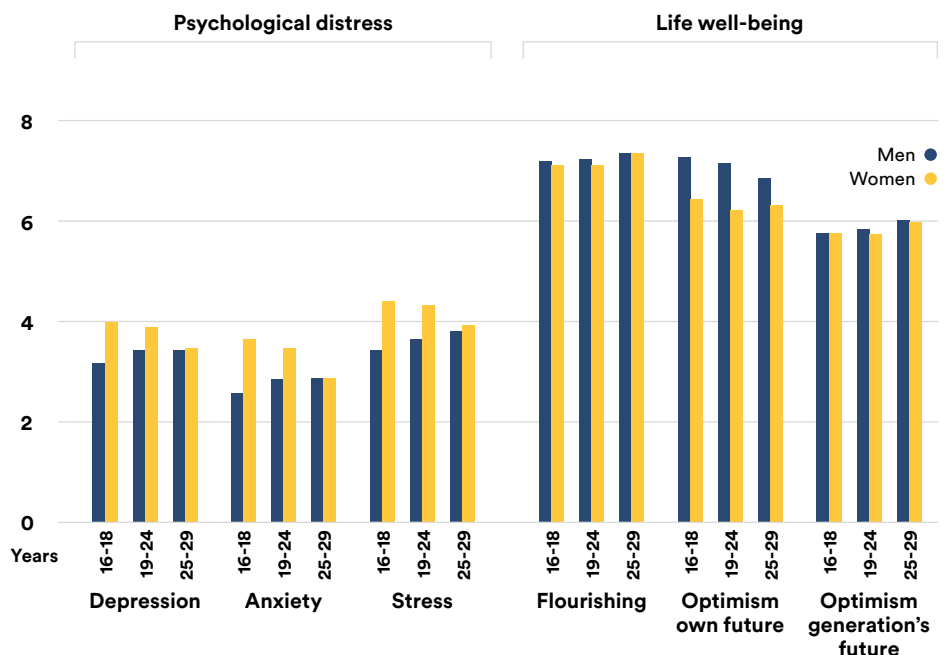
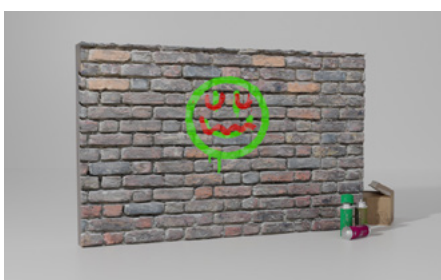
3 Women feel more competent than men in partner relationships, while men feel more competent in the professional sphere, in physical appearance and in sports.

4 A high percentage of young people present serious levels of depression (22.2%), anxiety (44.1%) and stress (22.1%), these being higher among women than among men. However, with age, levels of distress for women decrease, while those for men increase.

5 The main needs identified by young people to feel well include: mental health, economic situation and social relations. They ask society for more social values, employment and a stable economy that responds to the possibilities of citizens, although 28.9% believe that society cannot do anything to improve their well-being.

Levels of well-being are higher than those of distress among young people in Spain

Levels of psychological distress (depression, anxiety and stress) and well-being (flourishing, optimism regarding their own future and that of their generation) by age and gender, on a single scale from 0 (zero) to 10 (high)



Source: compiled by the authors based on the data collected in the WAEA survey.

Carbon emission inequality in Spain by income and age

Climate change is associated with other problems such as economic inequality. This article explores two types of inequalities in the shift towards a low-carbon society. It first provides data showing that the top 1% of carbon emitters in Spain have an annual carbon footprint that is approximately 7 times higher than that of the average person and 27 times higher than that of the 10% of people with the lowest carbon footprint. The main causes of carbon footprint inequality are income and wealth differences. It then demonstrates how older people tend to have a slightly higher carbon footprint than younger adults. Over time, demographic changes and persistent economic inequalities between generations will mean that the total emissions of the older age group will be even higher in absolute terms.

Stefan Drews, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Théo Konc, Technical University of Berlin, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research projects on the social reality of young people

1

The carbon footprint varies greatly from one individual to another.

2

The top 1% of carbon emitters have a carbon footprint that is 7 times higher than the average emitter.

3

Income and wealth are the main drivers of carbon footprint differences.

4

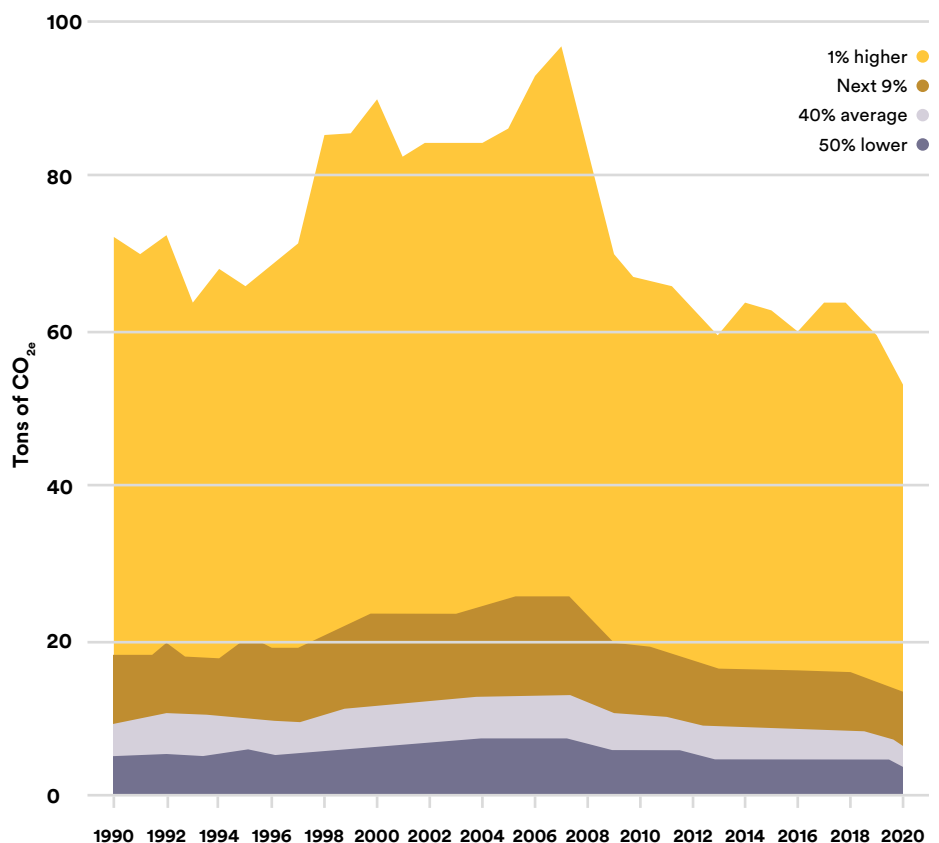
Income tax could play an important role in green tax reform.

5

Climate change policies should take into account an ageing population.

The top 1% of carbon emitters in Spain have a footprint that is 7 times higher than the average footprint

Average personal carbon footprint according to various groups of emitters, measured in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e})



Source: World Inequality Database.

Perceptions among young people of carbon footprint inequalities and support for progressive climate change mitigation policies

Climate change and economic inequality are both interconnected and associated with intergenerational justice. Wealthy high-income earners tend to leave larger carbon footprints than the rest of the population, and income and wealth tend to increase with age. Nonetheless, it is the youth of today who will suffer the most severe climate damage.

A survey was conducted of 1,547 people aged 16-32 living in Spain to explore how young people perceive different relationships between economic inequality and climate change. Overall, the research findings suggest that a high percentage of young people perceive moderate to significant differences in carbon footprints. Comparing their perceptions with academic research data shows that young people tend to overestimate the magnitude of these differences, although in all cases they are aware that these are more associated with income differences than with age. In the shift towards a low-carbon economy, the results indicate that most young people believe that policy makers should take into account inequalities in carbon footprints. They also agree that specific public policies should be implemented, such as taxing dirty assets, which are likely to reduce such inequalities.

Stefan Drews, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad de Málaga; Théo Konc, Technical University of Berlin, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

TheSocialObservatory

Research selected in the call to support research projects on the social reality of young people

1

Many young people in Spain believe that carbon footprint differences are moderate (31%), significant (33%) or very large (24%). Comparing perceived carbon footprint values with data from academic publications shows that many young people's perceptions are inaccurate, as they tend to overestimate rather than underestimate the emissions generated by the biggest polluters.

2

78% of respondents think that high-income earners have greater carbon footprints than the average footprint of the population. In contrast, the perceived differences in the emissions generated by different age groups are fairly even, although the percentage of respondents who believe that older people have higher carbon footprints slightly exceeds those who believe that younger people have higher footprints (32% and 26%, respectively).

3

The percentage of respondents who think that people on high incomes, compared to those on low incomes, have an easier time reducing their carbon footprint significantly exceeds those who disagree (54% and 11%, respectively). Perceived opportunities to reduce carbon emissions are roughly the same for younger and older people.

4

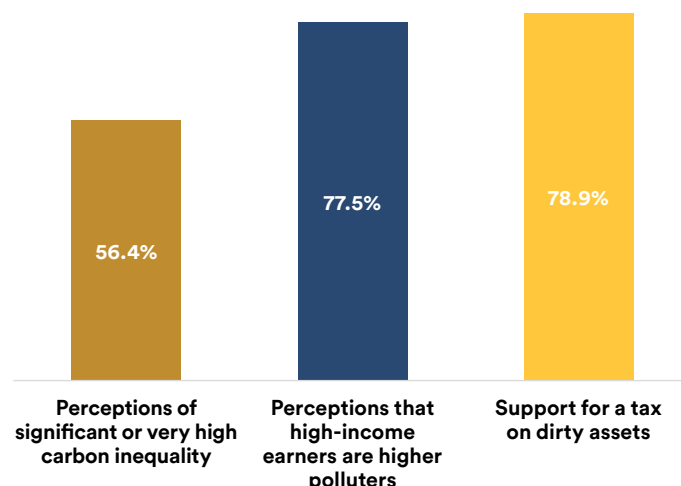
A high proportion of young people (74%) think that carbon footprint inequalities should play a significant role in shaping policies to mitigate climate change.

5

Taxing dirty assets is one of the policies likely to reduce carbon footprint inequalities, and most young people, regardless of whether they are on the left or the right, agree with this point. Nonetheless, only 40% of respondents are in favour of a tax on frequent flyers.

Most young people perceive significant inequalities in carbon footprints. They think that the footprints of high-income earners exceed the average footprint of the population as a whole and are in favour of policy interventions

% of respondents



Young people with specific educational support needs suffer twice the amount of cyberbullying

Technological advances and the growing mastery of the virtual environment by the population have led to a notable increase in cyberbullying in recent years. This study shows that nearly half of Spanish young people have suffered some form of aggression through cybernetic means and that one out of every ten suffers cyberbullying.

The victims of cyberbullying experience a reduced quality of life: they show more symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress, and less satisfaction with life. This research shows that teenagers with special educational needs (SEN) support are twice as likely to be victims of cyberbullying and likewise demonstrate worse results on indicators of psychosocial well-being. However, the two strategies identified that could reduce the negative impact of cyberbullying on victims are seeking social support and problem-solving skills.

Àngels Esteller-Cano, Albert Flexas, Eva Aguilar-Mediavilla and Daniel Adrover-Roig, Institute for Educational Research and Innovation, Universitat de les Illes Balears

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research projects on technology and society

1 Nearly half of Spanish young respondents aged between 12 and 17 have suffered some type of cyberaggression in the last two months, while 9.5% have moreover suffered cyberbullying.

2 Four out of every five victims are not aware that they are suffering cyberbullying.

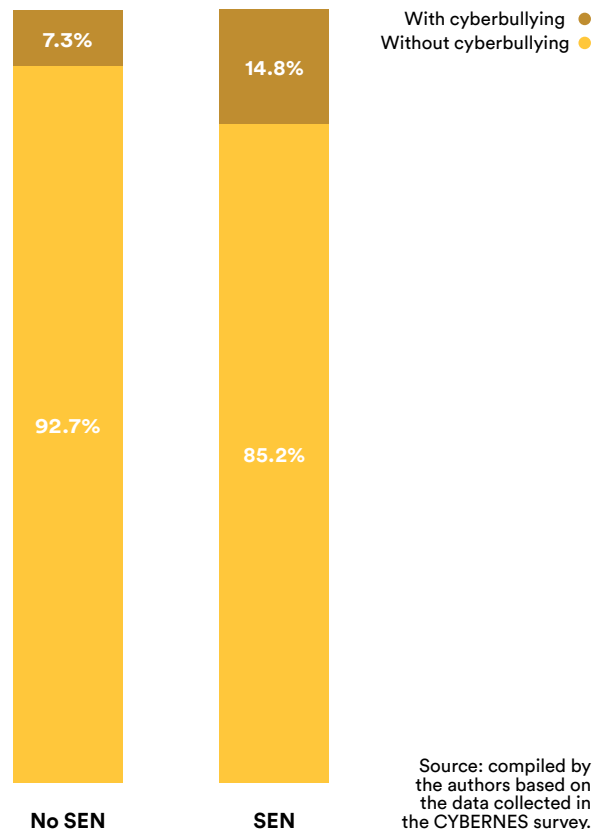
3 Young people who have been the target of some type of aggressive conduct through cybernetic means, such as social media, email or text messages, show greater symptomatology associated with depression, anxiety and stress, as well as less satisfaction with life.

4 Young people with SEN are particularly vulnerable when it comes to cyberbullying. They are specifically twice as likely to be cyberbullied. Victims with SEN also suffer greater emotional distress.

5 The two strategies that could reduce the depression, anxiety, stress and lower life satisfaction associated with cyberbullying are seeking social support and problem-solving skills.

Pupils with special educational needs support are twice as likely to experience cyberbullying

Percentage of pupils that suffer cyberbullying, for pupils without special educational needs support and those with it



Car-sharing in cities: a double-edged strategy

Congestion and air pollution are pressing problems in many cities worldwide. To alleviate them, policymakers are considering various options, from congestion pricing to low-emissions zones and recently the introduction of free-floating car-sharing (FFCS). This is usually an electric car-sharing service that allows users to rent vehicles by the minute, with the added advantage of being able to pick them up and drop them off at any point within a given area, as the parking of these vehicles is not subject to a fixed location

This article analyses FFCS usage patterns based on trips made in Madrid during 2019. The findings show that there are complementarities between FFCS and public transport in middle-income areas with limited public transport options.

Natalia Fabra, Catarina Pintassilgo and Mateus Souza,
EnergyEcoLab, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in Social Research Call, 2020

1

FFCS in Madrid tends to be provided in high- and middle-income neighbourhoods. This means that low-income individuals are less likely to use the service and also that income and other factors play an important role in analysing the effects arising from this service.

2

Public transport is often scarce in middle-income neighbourhoods. It can therefore be assumed that most loyal FFCS customers use this service as a complement when they have few travel alternatives.

3

Middle-income neighbourhoods register the highest rates of car ownership (number of cars per household). It has been found that many of the most loyal FFCS members use the service as a substitute for private vehicles to complement the existing public transport network.

4

Analysis of the frequency of journeys made using car-sharing reveals that those who use FFCS most frequently do so for leisure purposes, rather than for commuting to work. Thus, even if they do not use it on a daily basis, this type of service is still extremely valid in the absence of public transport alternatives, especially at night.

5

FFCS usage peaks earlier than overall traffic and decreases significantly during the morning rush hour traffic. It is also a very popular option in summer, when conventional traffic decreases. This suggests that FFCS contributes to smoothing road traffic and thus reducing congestion in the city.

6

However, achieving these outcomes will depend on how FFCS is used and whether it is accompanied by a reduction in the number of private cars. Unless certain conditions are met, there is a possibility that this strategy will have the opposite effects to those desired.

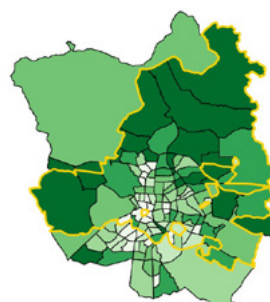
FFCS usage is higher in middle-income areas, even though they have a higher number of cars per household

FFCS usage intensity, car ownership and income by neighbourhood

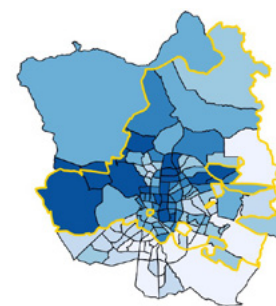
Average number of days that users utilise the FFCS service



Average number of cars per household



Net income per capita (average)



Days:

- 56 - 110
- 51 - 56
- 46 - 51
- 43 - 46
- 40 - 43
- 20 - 40
- Not covered

Cars:

- 1.22 - 1.91
- 1.03 - 1.22
- 0.87 - 1.03
- 0.79 - 0.87
- 0.69 - 0.79
- 0.42 - 0.69

Euros:

- 24,045 - 32,242
- 20,302 - 24,045
- 16,109 - 20,302
- 13,107 - 16,109
- 10,928 - 13,107
- 6,712 - 10,928

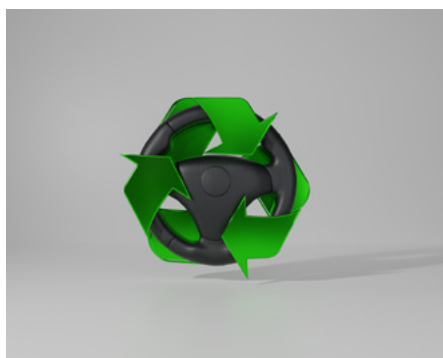
} High income

} Average Income

} Low income

Note: the yellow line delimits the neighbourhoods in which the FFCS firm already operates.

Source: Fabra, Pintassilgo and Souza (2023).



Gender inequality in paid and unpaid work after the pandemic

This study examines the changes in men and women’s time dedication to paid and unpaid work two years after the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic. Two representative samples of people aged between 25 and 50 years have been used, with information relating to the period prior to the first lockdown (13 March 2020), to the period during the first lockdown (May 2020), and to the period following the pandemic (May 2022). Analysis of the data suggests that in the aftermath of the pandemic, there have been some changes in the organisation of family and working life that could favour gender equality inside and outside the home.

Lidia Farré, Universitat de Barcelona; Libertad González, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and BSE

TheSocialObservatory

Commissioned research

1 Two years after the outbreak of the pandemic, the gender gap in the total of weekly working hours, including paid and unpaid work, has been reduced due to the higher participation of men in non-paid work.

2 After the pandemic, men spend on average 3 hours more a week on childcare and women 3 hours less. Increased exposure to family responsibilities during lockdown and the promotion of more flexible working practices could be responsible for men’s greater involvement in domestic care tasks.

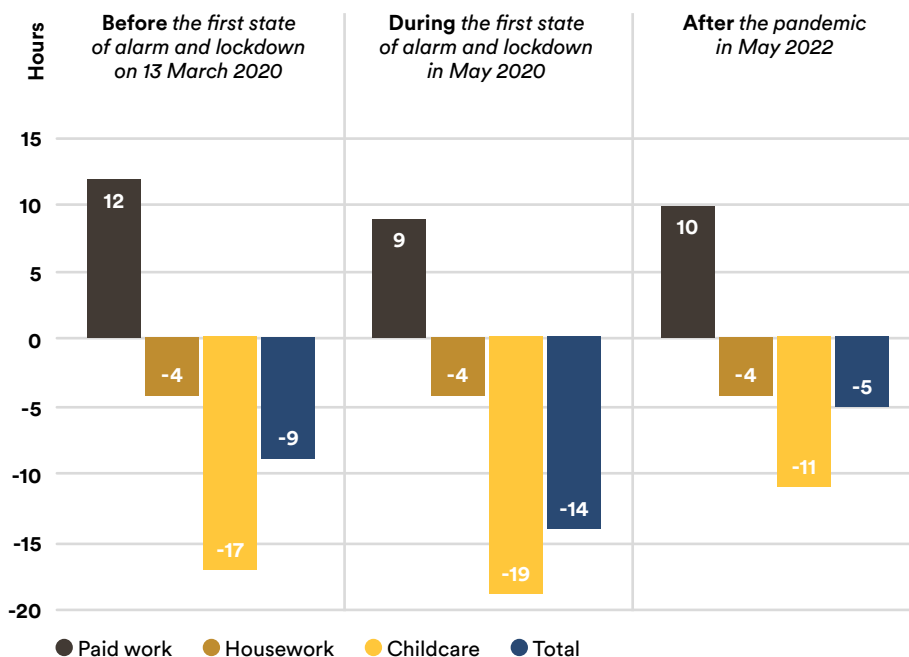
3 In May 2022, some 30% of men and 33% of women with children aged under 17 were working from home at least one day per week. Among workers without children, this figure stands at 26% for men and women alike. In both cases, they agree that the biggest benefit of working from home is that it enables a better balance between family and working life.

4 Working days seem to have been shortened. While men and women have recovered the level of hours dedicated to paid work of before the pandemic, the percentage of men who work after 5 pm has fallen by 9% (from 71% to 62% among those with children and from 73% to 64% among those without) and that of women by 6% among those with children (from 61% to 55%) and by 9% among those without (from 73% to 64%).

5 The results of this study suggest that reducing the importance of presence at the workplace and promoting working hours compatible with family responsibilities could favour gender equality both inside and outside the home.

Two years after the outbreak of the pandemic, the gender gap in both paid and unpaid total weekly working hours has narrowed because of the increased involvement of men in childcare

Gender gap in the number of hours per week that men and women dedicate to different types of work. The sample includes men and women with children aged under 17 in their care



Source: compiled by the authors.

Telework after the pandemic: an analysis from the worker perspective

The adoption of teleworking represents one of the most important changes (and challenges) in the organisation of the daily routines of many workers since the outbreak of the pandemic. Three years after the first lockdown in March 2020, teleworking is still a common practice for a significant part of the workforce in Spain. The aim of this article is to summarise some findings on workers' perceptions regarding this alternative organisational mode of work. To this end, in May 2022, we conducted a survey on a sample of individuals aged 25 to 50 representative of the Spanish population. The survey allows us to report on workers' experiences regarding the possibility of working from home.

Marta Curull and Laia Maynou, Universitat de Barcelona;
Lidia Farré, Universitat de Barcelona and IAE-CSIC

TheSocialObservatory

Commissioned research

1 In May 2022, 36% of the workers in our sample teleworked at least one day per week. Telework has a higher incidence among high-skilled workers (54%), those living with a partner (38%) and with dependent children (38%).

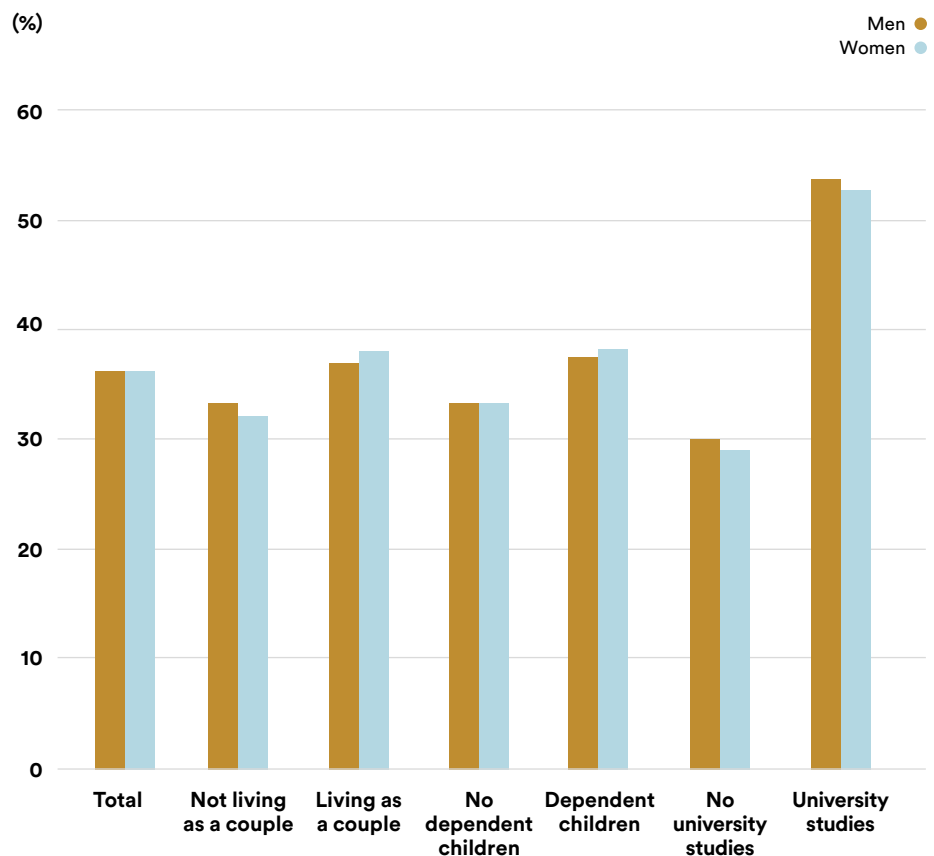
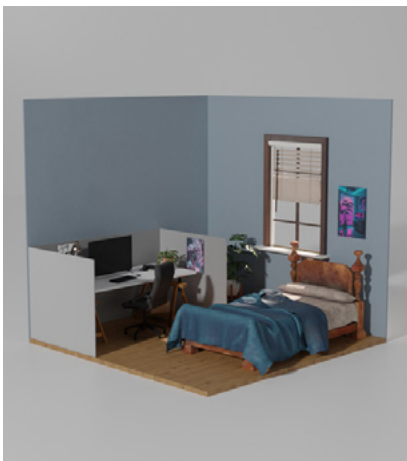
2 Both men and women agree that an improvement in their personal and family life is the most valuable attribute of teleworking (88% of women and 86% of men).

3 The results of a discrete choice experiment suggest that workers are willing to forgo part of their wage (11% on average) to have the option to work from home.

4 While telework does not affect women's participation in domestic work, men who telework are more engaged in domestic and childrearing activities than those who do not work from home.

54% of high-skilled workers telework at least one day a week compared to 29% among all workers

Employed respondents at the time of the survey (N=3,101)



The graph shows the distribution of telework according to socioeconomic factors. Telework is defined as a variable with a value of 1 if the respondent works from home at least one day a week and 0 if otherwise.

Young people’s social interactions: face-to-face, with friends and family members, and little use of mobile phones

As human beings, we have a basic need to belong to a group, which leads us to establish interpersonal relationships. These are generated and strengthened through social interactions in everyday life, all of which vary because we interact with different people through a range of channels and for diverse purposes. There is also variation in the effort required for each interaction and the degree to which interactions satisfy that need to belong to a group, commonly studied through the perception of closeness with other people. In this article, we analyse 12,421 social interactions of 257 young adults (aged 18 to 25) in Spain to understand how they interact: with whom, through which medium, how much effort is required, and to what extent each interaction is associated with the perception of high levels of closeness. These data were collected over a four-week period through an innovative methodology that enables phenomena that vary from minute to minute to be analysed via the use of a mobile app.

Aurelio Fernández, Universidad de Navarra and Ghent University;
 Charo Sádaba and Javier García-Manglano, Universidad de Navarra;
 Marieke Vanden Abeele, Ghent University

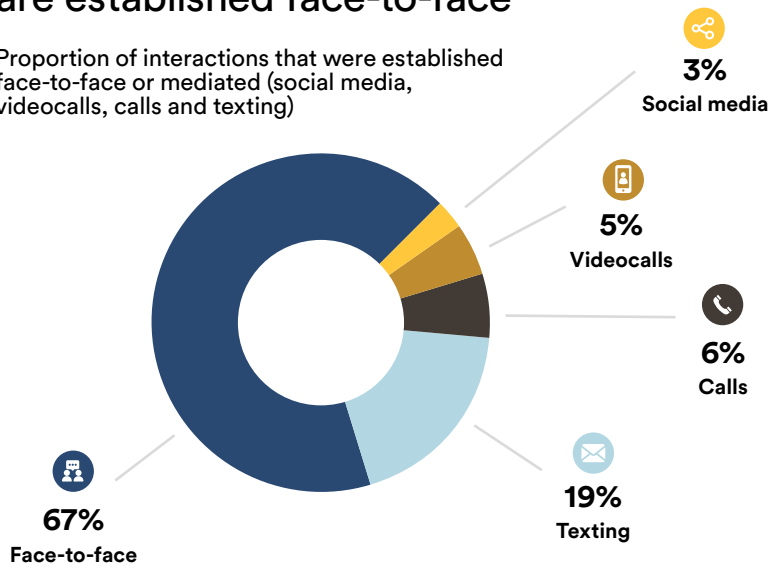
TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research projects on technology and society

- 1** There are different types of interactions: the most frequent are those that seek to maintain relationships (54%), followed by those that pursue a practical purpose (34%). Less frequently, there are interactions for strengthening relationships (9%) and, finally, there are negative interactions, which seek to manage difficulties in a relationship (3%).
- 2** 67% of the social interactions of Spanish young adults are established face-to-face. Among those technologically mediated, 19% are via texting, 11% via call or videocall and only 3% via social media.
- 3** 81% of social interactions are conducted with friends or family members (higher degrees of familiarity), while 16% are with simple acquaintances and only 3% with total strangers.
- 4** Social interactions for managing difficulties in a relationship require significantly more effort than other types of interactions.
- 5** Showing affection is the interaction that leads to the greatest levels of closeness and that requires the least effort, being the most efficient in the ratio between closeness and effort required.
- 6** In 70% of the 8,289 face-to-face interactions recorded, young adults did not use their mobile phone at all, while in the case of interactions of higher quality, this percentage rises to 80%.

Two thirds of interactions are established face-to-face

Proportion of interactions that were established face-to-face or mediated (social media, videocalls, calls and texting)



Do Spanish and Portuguese young people use their mobile phones differently?

Members of the so-called 'Generation Z', born around the year 2000, have grown up in a hypertechnological context in which smartphone use has become part of everyday life. Although many studies have investigated the impact of screens on young people's well-being and relationships, there are still few that have explored differences in smartphone use between countries. This study explores six smartphone user profiles and their consequences for users' satisfaction and well-being, in young people aged 20 to 24 in Spain and Portugal. Although differences are found between countries (for example, Portuguese young people are slightly more satisfied with their personal relationships; Spanish with work and leisure), the factors most strongly associated with young people's well-being or distress are their reasons for using their smartphone, rather than their country of origin.

Gonzalo Fernández-Duval and Javier García-Manglano, Universidad de Navarra; Charo Sádaba, Universidad de Navarra; Tiago Lapa and Gustavo Cardoso, Sociology Research and Studies Centre, University Institute of Lisbon

TheSocialObservatory

Commissioned research

1 Spain and Portugal have similar user profiles: moderate, hyperconnected, organised, social, impulsive and escapist.

2 The largest group is that of moderate users: almost half of young people (42% in Spain and 43% in Portugal) correspond to this profile.

3 Escapist and hyperconnected users are more prone to problematic smartphone use, while organised and moderate users show a lower risk of problematic use.

4 Relational satisfaction is slightly greater in Portugal than in Spain, regardless of the smartphone user profile. In both countries, the social profile contains the largest number of young people who are satisfied with their family and friends.

5 Spanish young people are slightly more satisfied than their Portuguese counterparts with their job or studies and their leisure time; satisfaction with leisure, for all profiles and in both countries, scores lower than satisfaction with work.

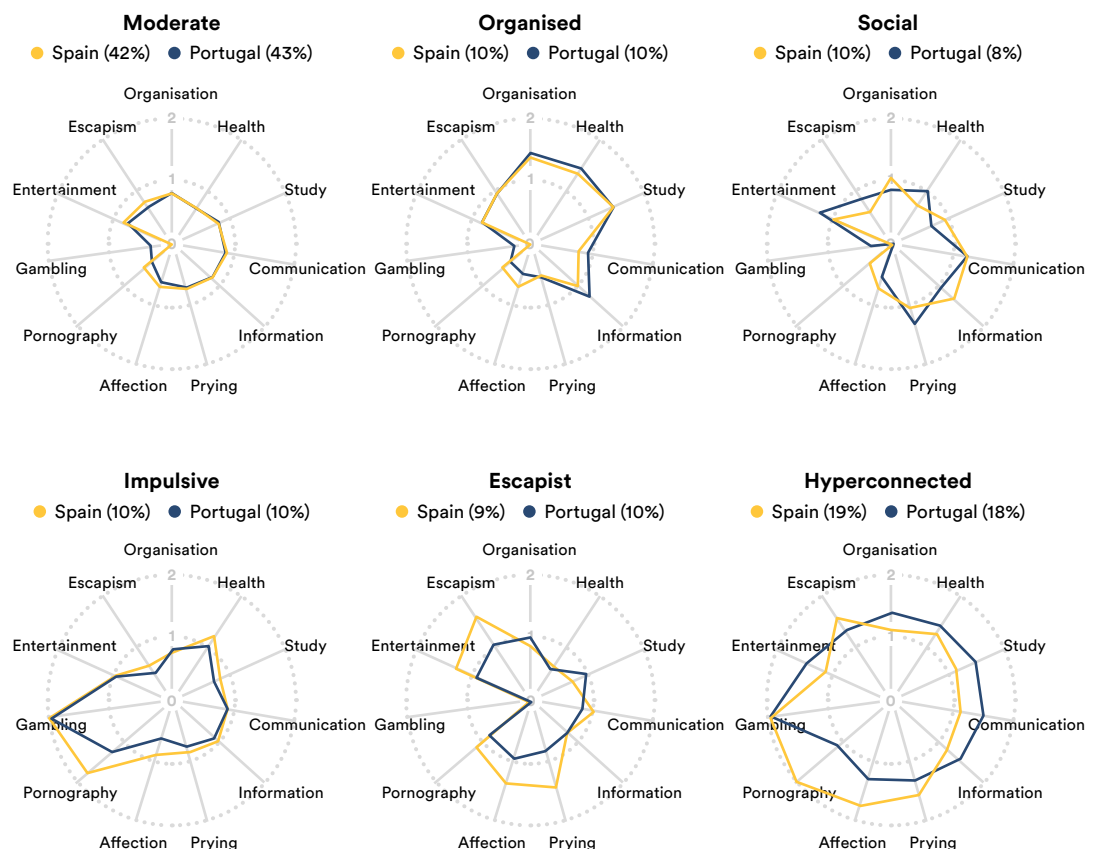
Distribution by profiles, according to their relationship with smartphones, is similar among Portuguese and Spanish young people

Six profiles of young people according to 11 different reasons for smartphone use in Spain and Portugal (%)



Note: the circle with value 1 in each graph indicates the average frequency with which that reason is given among all the young people surveyed. Value 2 therefore indicates that that reason is twice as frequent in that profile as in the respondents taken as a whole, and value 0 indicates that that reason is not given in that user profile.

Source: compiled by the authors.



Where and how do young people seek help when they experience emotional distress?

One in three young people in Europe suffer from emotional distress, and this figure has been increasing in recent years. However, less than 35% of young people with emotional distress seek help from health or social services. This research examined how and where young people seek help when in emotional distress. An observational study was conducted using an online survey involving 4,008 people representative of the Spanish population (2,013 people aged 16-32 years and 1,995 people aged 33-48 years). Almost half of the young people displayed emotional distress, compared to one in three of the 33-48 year olds, and the majority reported that they 'isolate themselves' or 'seek help from family, friends or professionals' when faced with emotional distress. The preferred form of help was face-to-face, regardless of age group. The variables related to asking for help in case of emotional distress were: young age, female gender, residing in large cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants and having regular contact with friends or relatives. Severity of emotional distress and level of education were not significantly associated with asking for help.

David Fraguas, Institute of Psychiatry and Mental Health, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, IdISSC, CIBERSAM, UCM, Fundación Manantial; Antonio Perdigón, Octavio Finol, Diana Torres, Vanesa López and Sara Toledano, Fundación Manantial

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call for proposals to support research on the social reality of young people

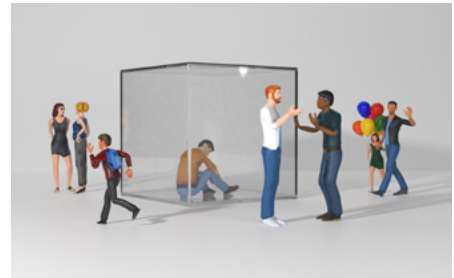
1
46% of young people aged 16-32 and 35% of people aged 33-48 displayed emotional distress.

2
Young people attributed emotional distress to specific causes more often than 33-48 year olds, especially to everyday worries, problems related to work or studies, arguments, feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction with self-image.

3
The majority of young people reported that they isolate themselves or seek face-to-face help from family, friends or professionals in case of emotional distress (non-exclusive answers). A smaller percentage of young people, although a higher percentage than 33-48 year olds, stated that they seek help online or through phone messages.

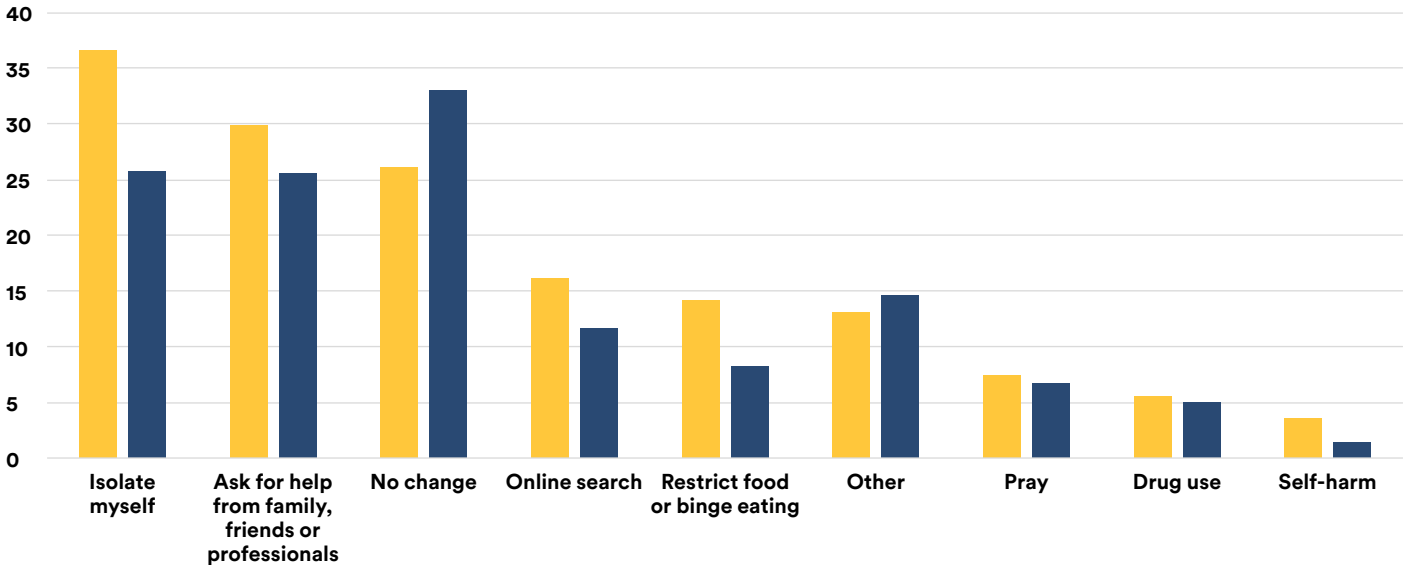
4
The preferred form of help was face-to-face, regardless of age group, 16-32 or 33-48.

5
The variables related to asking for help in case of emotional distress were age (more frequent in young people), female gender, residing in cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants and having regular contact with friends or relatives.



What did you do when you suffered from emotional distress?

Most frequent responses in case of emotional distress in each age group (in % of responses; non-exclusive responses)



Source: compiled by the authors based on the results of the MEBAJO survey.

Mental health in Catalonia one year into the covid-19 pandemic

This study analysed how the covid-19 pandemic affected the mental health of more than seven thousand people in Catalonia. The results led to the conclusion that a large part of the population was still suffering from depression and anxiety in 2021. A significant number of people had also experienced traumatic events related to the pandemic, which in many cases led to symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Following the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020, many people recognised that they needed help for their mental health, but did not know where to find it. The study's findings suggest that more effective responses are needed to address the mental health challenges that future health emergencies may bring.

Ximena Goldberg, Gemma Castaño-Vinyals and Manolis Kogevinas, Barcelona Institute for Global Health; Rafael de Cid, Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute

TheSocialObservatory

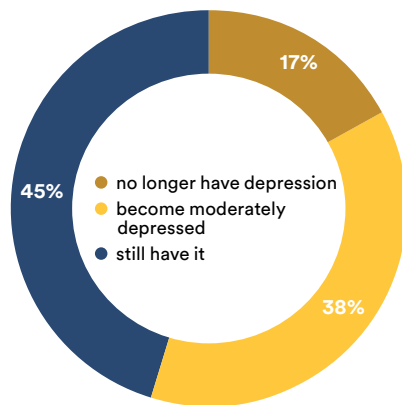
Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

- 1** Over 25% of participants showed symptoms of moderate or severe depression in 2021.
- 2** Over 35% of participants showed symptoms of moderate or severe anxiety in that same year.
- 3** Half of those who were severely depressed or severely anxious in 2020 continued to report severe symptoms one year later.
- 4** Post-traumatic stress disorder was highly prevalent after the first outbreak of the pandemic.
- 5** Preparedness and response strategies for possible emergencies must include a long-term perspective of the consequences that these may have on mental health.

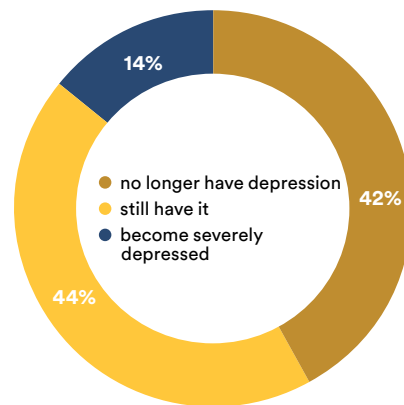
Many people who had suffered from depression as a result of the lockdown were still experiencing its symptoms in 2021

Participants classified as having no depression symptoms, moderate symptoms, or severe symptoms in 2020, and evolution of symptoms in 2021

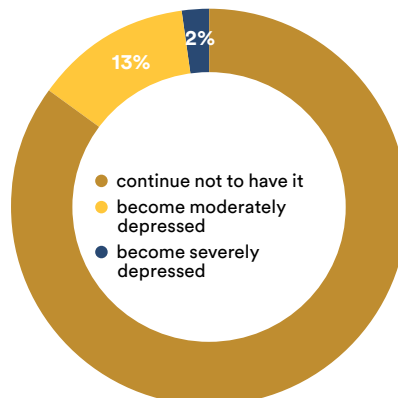
Of the participants who in 2020 had severe depression, in 2021...



Of the participants who in 2020 had moderate depression, in 2021...



Of the participants who in 2020 did not have depression, in 2021...



The pandemic's impact on personal well-being and income was not the same for everyone

The pandemic has had not only an impact on excess morbidity and mortality among the Spanish population, but also a significant impact on well-being and household income. The study on which this article is based analysed whether the difficulties experienced during the pandemic years differed across the four aspects analysed: age, gender, educational level and income. These adversities have not affected all sectors of the population evenly, but have manifested themselves in various ways according to the different variables addressed, be they demographic or socioeconomic.

Gemma Castaño-Vinyals, Ximena Goldberg, Manolis Kogevinas, Iris Lopes-Rafegas and Elisa Sicuri, Barcelona Institute for Global Health; Rafael de Cid, Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute

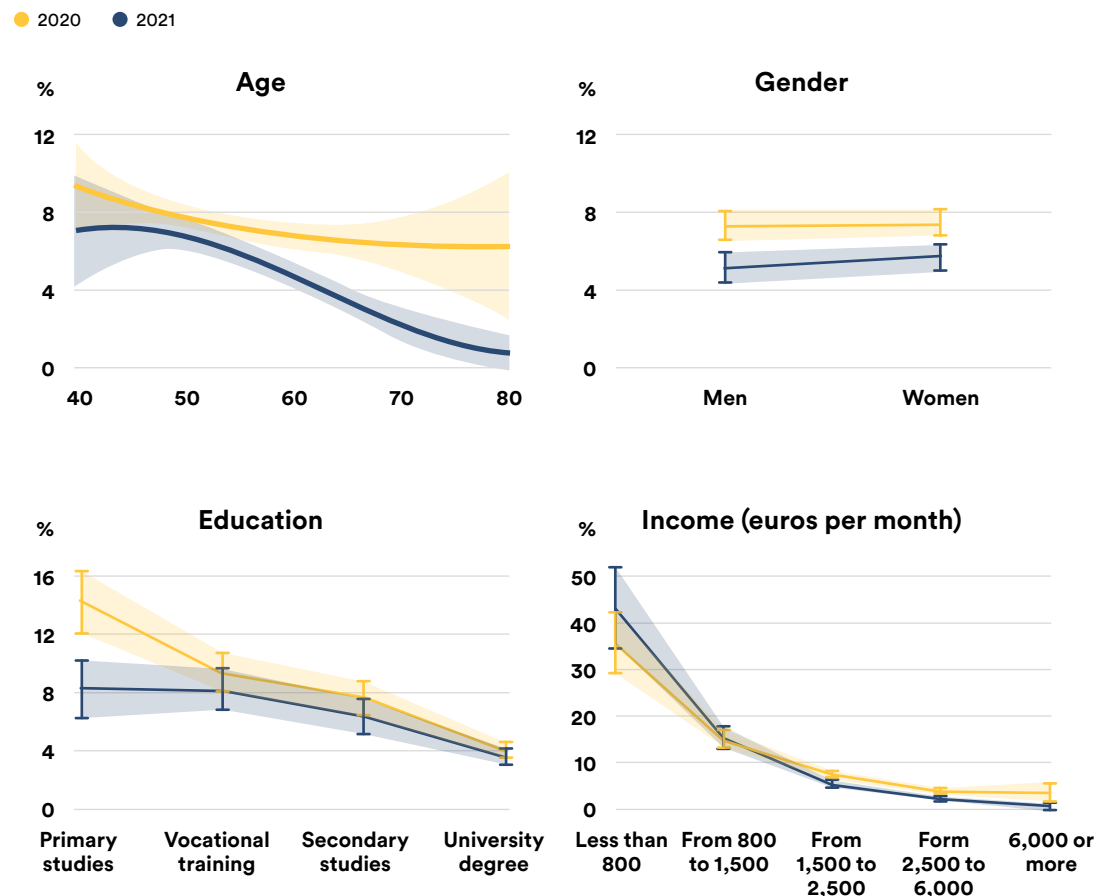
TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

- 1** Individuals with higher levels of education and income reported more difficulties arising from government restrictions and lockdowns, especially from both the inability to socialise and increased family conflict. However, they perceived greater levels of social support.
- 2** Perceived social support was significantly lower in May-December 2021 compared to April-August 2020. This may be because when the strict lockdown ended in May 2020, people made a special effort to connect with others in their social circles.
- 3** The pandemic had a greater economic impact on people with lower levels of education and income. Financial problems increased for those at the lowest level of income in 2021, which may be a result of cumulative debt and unemployment spells.
- 4** The 40-50 age group showed less capacity to recover from the financial difficulties faced in 2020. One year later, this group was still struggling financially compared to other older age groups.

The financial situation of people with the lowest incomes worsened in 2021 compared to the previous year

People experiencing difficulties in making payments in 2020 and 2021, by age, gender, education and income (%)



Source: compiled by the authors based on data contained in the COVICAT/CONTENT study.

Detection of workplace bullying and its negative impact on psychological well-being

Psychological bullying is one of the main psychosocial risks for workers' health. However, the methods used for its detection are cast into doubt because they use subjective criteria that may involuntarily offer a false depiction of reality. For this reason, researchers and experts in the field have made numerous efforts to offer more objective criteria that permit more precise discernment of whether a person is being exposed to a situation of workplace bullying. This article describes a detection method that, based on classification through a series of responses revolving around a generalised anxiety scale, enables the establishment with rigour of the probability or risk of suffering a situation of psychological bullying and determination of its negative impact on psychological well-being. The data, from a study conducted by the Cármenes Research Group, reveal that the risk of suffering bullying in the workplace is high for 11.2% of the population, and that the distress that it causes is significant for both the person bullied and the organisation for which they work.

José María León Pérez, Francisco Javier Cantero Sánchez, Míriam Benítez González and José María León Rubio, Cármenes Research Group, Universidad de Sevilla; Alejandro Orgambidez Ramos, Cármenes Research Group, Universidad de Málaga

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

1

This study provides solutions to the controversy that exists over how to detect possible cases of psychological bullying in the workplace and how to determine the prevalence of this phenomenon.

2

The method employed enables the establishment of three groups of probability of suffering bullying within the workplace context, or three groups of different risk: high, medium or low.

3

Of a sample made up of 5,000 workers from the Spanish territory, 11.2% present a high probability of suffering a situation of bullying in the workplace.

4

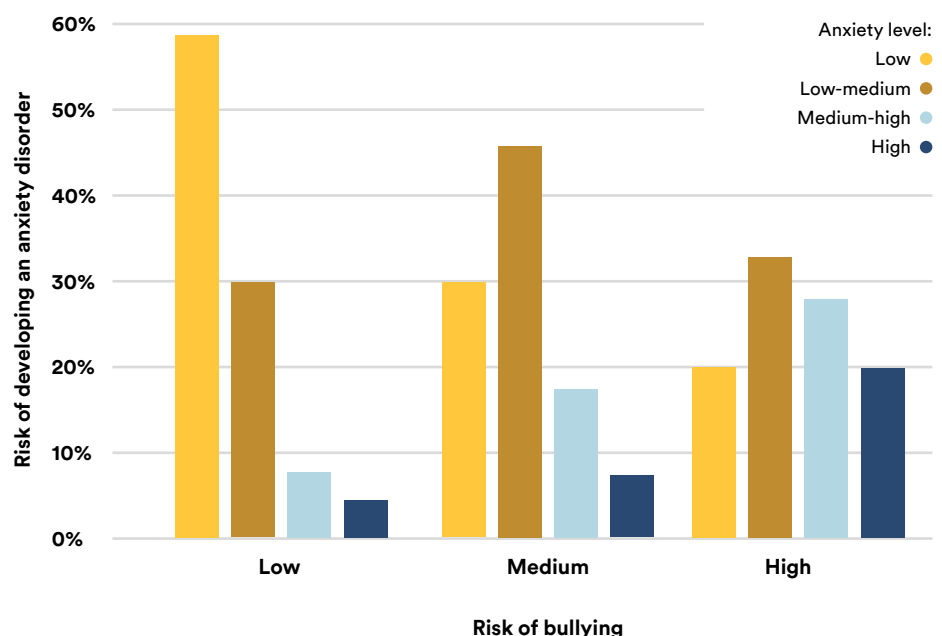
People who suffer this situation have nearly five times more possibilities of developing a generalised anxiety disorder.

To establish the risk of bullying, cut-off points were applied from the short-version of the Negative Acts Questionnaire (S-NAQ), calculated previously through ROC (Receiver Operating Characteristic) curve analysis, in a representative sample of workers from all Spanish provinces, made up of 5,000 individuals (42.8% men, 56.6% women and 0.7% not identifying with binary gender). From said sample, 2,095 workers participated, four months later, in a screening test via a generalised anxiety disorder scale (GAD-7), which includes normative scores for establishing anxiety levels. A high anxiety level implies that the person is experiencing a broad anxious symptomatology that indicates a possible generalised anxiety disorder.



A greater probability of suffering bullying in the workplace is correlated with a higher risk of developing a generalised anxiety disorder

Around 20% of the study sample participants, with a high risk of suffering bullying in the workplace, show increased levels of anxiety



How do people’s acquaintances shape their support for economic redistribution and social protection?

While people’s intimate relationships are vital for their well-being, our understanding of their influence on our lives is relatively limited. According to a hypothesis proposed by social researchers, exposing individuals to the living conditions of other social groups could increase their empathy and solidarity with those groups and thus affect their political opinions. This research aims to test this hypothesis by focusing on individuals’ support for economic redistribution and social protection schemes in a survey carried out in Spain in 2021. Contrary to expectations, respondents whose acquaintances had, on average, low-paid jobs or were more often unemployed favoured redistribution and social protection less than those whose acquaintances had high-paid jobs, irrespective of their own household incomes. Thus, rather than creating empathy, acquaintances can strengthen beliefs that others do not deserve protection.

Miranda J. Lubbers, COALESCE Lab, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona;
Michał Bojanowski, COALESCE Lab, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Kozminski University

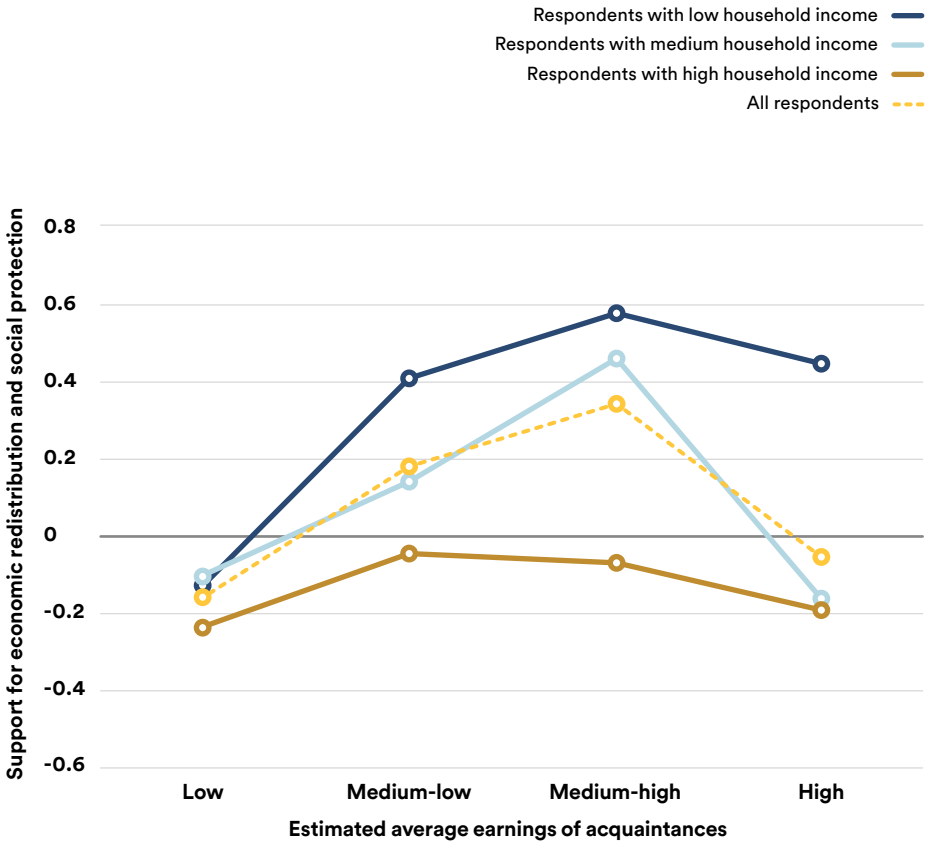
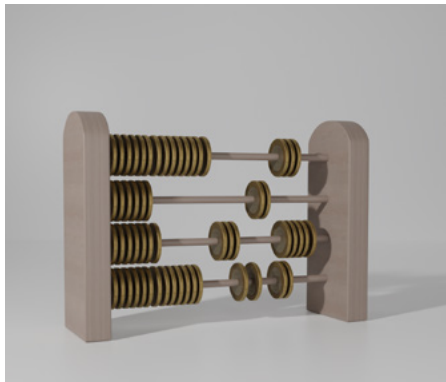
TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2019

- 1** Each individual has a unique interpersonal environment, as well as a diverse number of acquaintances who, in turn, have different occupations and occupational statuses.
- 2** People with high household incomes tend to have acquaintances who hold higher-income jobs.
- 3** No differences are observed in the level of support for redistribution and social protection among respondents with high household incomes, regardless of whether they have more acquaintances with low-earnings jobs or more acquaintances with high-income jobs.
- 4** Respondents with low household incomes, whose acquaintances have low-earnings jobs, are also less supportive of social protection schemes than respondents with low household incomes whose acquaintances have middle-income jobs.

Support for economic redistribution and social protection is lowest among people whose acquaintances have low-income jobs

Respondents’ support for economic redistribution and social protection by their own household income and their acquaintances’ estimated average earnings



Source: compiled by the authors based on the survey within the framework of the project ‘BRIDGES: A network science approach to social cohesion’, 2021.

What has become of the urban exodus since the pandemic?

More than three years after the outbreak of the pandemic, we have sufficient empirical evidence to analyse what effect it had on the residential behaviour of the Spanish urban population. Specifically, these dynamics are analysed for the two-year period 2020-2021 in the six Spanish municipalities with a population of over 500,000: Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Zaragoza and Málaga.

The first months of the pandemic prompted a drift towards rural areas, especially those located at a medium distance from large cities, but its intensity was limited. This trend involved the more advantaged socioeconomic groups. In the second year of the pandemic, there was a clear recovery of the intensity of the drift from the core cities to metropolitan municipalities, together with a drop in moves to rural ones in comparison with 2020, although levels continued to be higher than those recorded in 2019. Despite the changes brought by the pandemic, no profound modification has been identified in the residential patterns that predominated previously. The major cities will continue to constitute poles of attraction and retention of population.

Antonio López-Gay, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and Centre for Demographic Studies

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2021

1 The pandemic caused specific changes in the residential behaviour of the urban population in 2020 and 2021.

2 In 2020, there was an increase in the drift towards municipalities with a small population, especially those at an intermediate distance from the big cities. In general, second homes, previous links with the area and the environmental setting all played a key role.

3 In 2021, there was a recovery of the intensity of the drift from the major core cities to metropolitan municipalities and, in comparison with 2020, a drop in moves to rural municipalities. The intensification of suburban drift may persist in coming years, but this will not affect the appeal of the city centres.

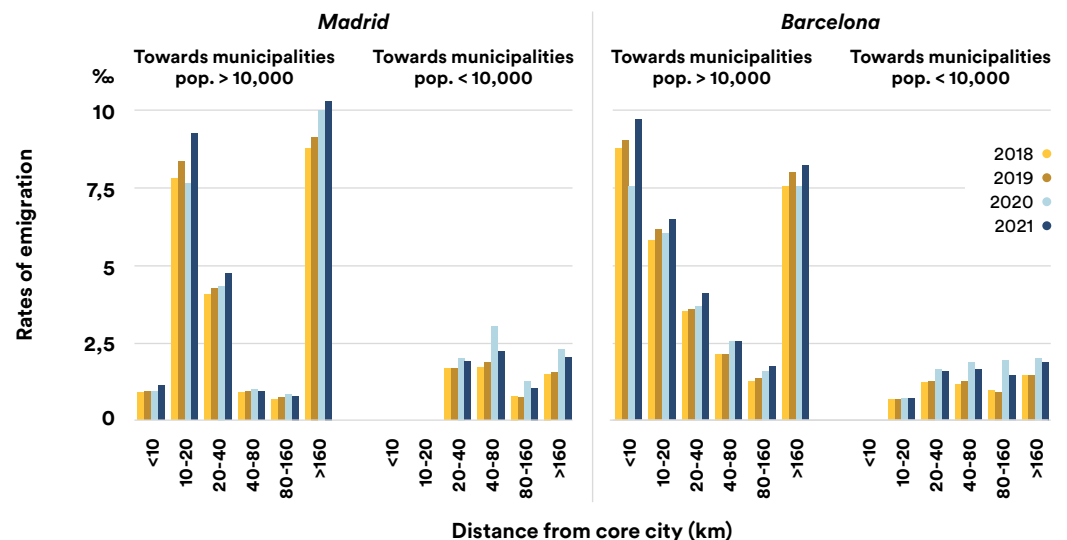
4 As a consequence of the spread of teleworking and other hybrid forms of employment, moves to less densely populated municipalities involved the more advantaged socioeconomic groups. It is important to follow up the implications of this trend on the socio-spatial make-up of the metropolitan regions.

5 Despite the changes brought by the pandemic, one cannot talk of an urban exodus, as no profound modification has been found in the residential mobility patterns that predominated in previous decades.



No profound change is seen in residential mobility patterns before and after the pandemic

Rates of emigration (%) from Madrid and Barcelona, 2018-2021



Note: municipality of origin and type of destination are shown by size of municipality and distance (in a straight line) from the core city.

Source: compiled by the author based on data from Residential Variation Statistics, INE.

A sense of precariousness affects young people’s mental health

Precariousness is a much more complex concept than first thought, for it also includes meanings that go beyond working conditions and are more associated with the inability to secure a decent standard of living. This article shows that what affects young people’s mental health is not so much the lack of a stable job, but the perception that they are in a precarious situation. The results also show that precarious jobs and economic insecurity are unevenly distributed across social groups, but the feeling of precariousness is common to all young people in Spain.

Lara Maestriperi, Matilde Cittadini, Adriana Offredi and Roger Soler i Martí, IGOP/Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Miriam Acebillo Baqué, INGENIO, CSIC-Universitat Politècnica de València; Karen van Hedel, Utrecht University; Alba Lanau, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research on the social reality of young people

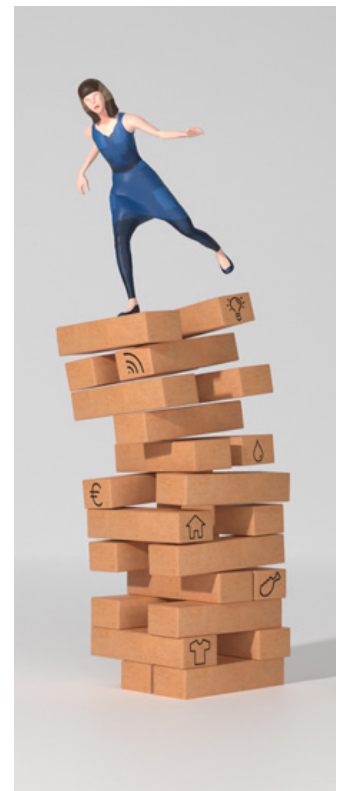
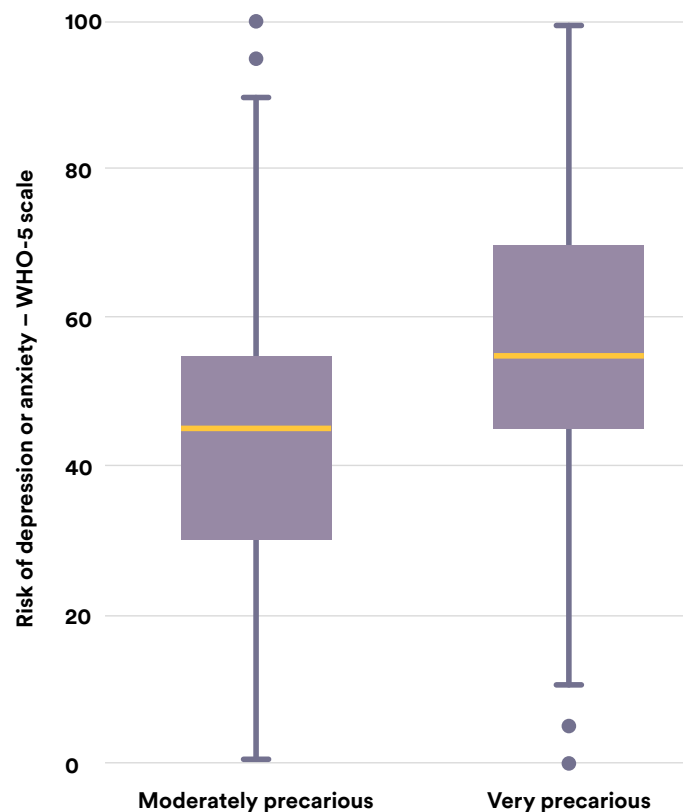
- 1** Job insecurity is not equally distributed among young people, although the feeling of insecurity affects them all, regardless of gender, age or origin.
- 2** 31% of young people interviewed were at risk of depression or anxiety. A sense of precariousness – and not the fact of having a precarious job – is the crucial explanatory factor.

- 3** A sense of precariousness goes beyond having a poor quality job; respondents think that it also includes the impossibility of satisfying basic needs or accessing a decent standard of living.
- 4** 40.6% of the sample stated that they suffer at least one physical or mental health problem because of economic insecurity. Being part of a household is the best protection against economic insecurity.

- 5** The economic security of households has been challenged in the aftermath of the pandemic, especially because of inflation and rising energy prices. Two out of three young people who claim that they feel extremely precarious point to these two factors as a source of financial insecurity in their household.

A sense of precariousness, and not the fact of having a precarious job, is what counts when it comes to the risk of mental health problems

The WHO-5 scale allows us to measure the risk of depression and anxiety in the population. People scoring 50 points or more are potentially at risk. The graph shows how those feeling most precarious are also those most at risk of manifesting symptoms of depression or anxiety. The centre line of each rectangle is the group mean, and the lower and upper limits represent 25% and 75% of the distribution, respectively.



How did calls to 112 related with the suicide of minors evolve before and after the pandemic?

Covid-19 had a major impact on all spheres of society. Since the health emergency was declared over, great concern has emerged regarding problems relating to mental health issues and the possible increase in suicidal behaviours, especially among young people.

With the aim of analysing this problem, an examination was conducted on the evolution of suicide-related calls made to the 112 emergency service regarding minors in the Valencian Community between 2018 and 2022. The results indicate that during the pandemic, a considerable increase in these calls took place, specifically calls made by girls, although they also indicate a slowing of this increase at the start of 2023.

There was also particularly an increase among girls in cases mentioning a problem of depression or anxiety, as well as an increase in calls communicating suicidal ideation and self-harming, with or without suicidal intention. The results underline the importance of taking gender into account, given that it provides us with relevant information when proposing more specific prevention strategies.

Miriam Marco, Antonio López-Quílez, Marisol Lila, Enrique Gracia, Pablo Escobar-Hernández and María Montagud-Andrés, Universitat de València

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2021

1 Since lockdown, calls made to the 112 emergency service relating to suicide by minors have increased drastically in the Valencian Community, especially in the case of girls. Although this increase started to slow down in mid-2022, these figures remain much higher than those from prior to the pandemic.

2 Calls made by girls doubled during the covid-19 crisis with respect to the previous period, reaching an average of 42 calls per month. In the case of boys, they increased from an average of 12 calls per month to 19. The maximum peaks in calls coincided with the fifth and sixth waves, which mainly affected young people.

3 The distribution of calls according to age remained constant over both periods, in boys and girls alike, although there was a higher rate of suicide-related calls in young people aged between 15 and 17 years.

4 During the pandemic, references to problems of depression and anxiety increased in girls, while in boys there was an increase in mentions of other psychiatric disorders, and it was reported with a higher frequency that the minors in question were in treatment at the time of the suicidal behaviour.

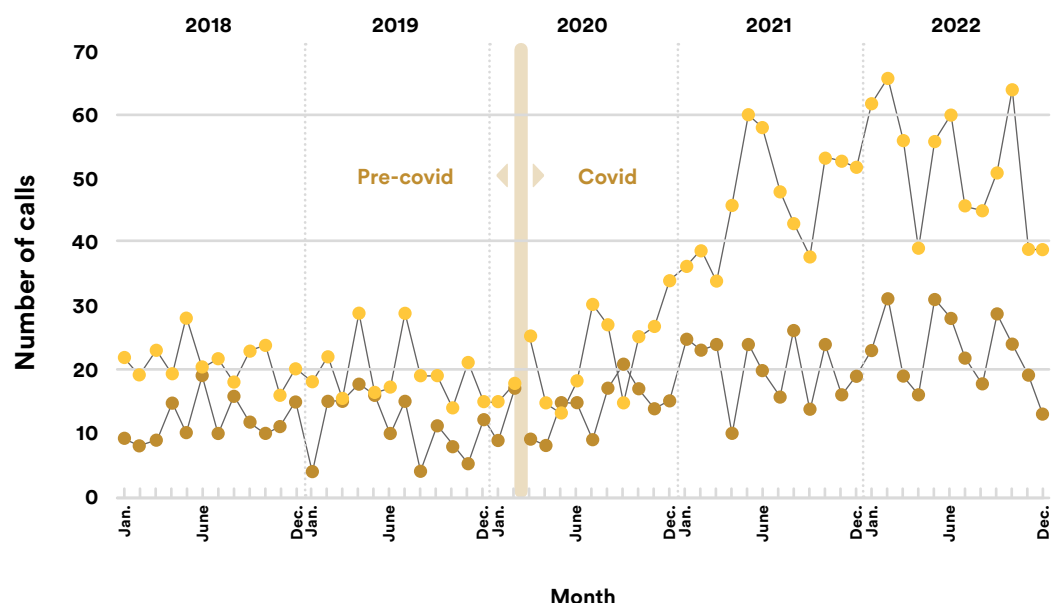
5 During covid-19, mentions of self-harming and suicidal ideation experienced a strong increase in both sexes, but there was a slight decrease in threats and attempts at suicide. Furthermore, calls that informed that it was not the first time that the minor involved had attempted suicide doubled.



Suicide-related emergency service calls increased during the pandemic

Evolution of 112 calls related with the suicide of young minors in the Valencian Community

● Girls
● Boys



Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the Valencian Community 112 service.

What factors influence suicide-related calls to 112?

Suicide-related emergency calls can be an indicator of mental health problems; analysing them on a community scale is essential for planning public strategies aimed at the management and prevention of suicide attempts. This study analyses suicide-related calls to the 112 emergency service in the city of Valencia during the period comprised between 2017 and 2022.

Miriam Marco, Antonio López-Quílez, Marisol Lila, Enrique Gracia, Pablo Escobar-Hernández and María Montagud-Andrés, Universitat de València

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2021

1

During the period 2017-2022, a total of 10,030 suicide-related calls were made to 112 in the city of Valencia. In 60% of cases, the person in crisis was a woman. Over the course of this period, the calls experienced an upward trend.

2

During the first two years of the study, the most frequent calls came from the middle-aged group. However, from 2019 onwards, there was a significant increase in calls from persons in crisis aged 15 to 20 years, this becoming the group with the most calls during this whole period.

3

With regard to gender, there was an increase in calls made by women in crisis aged 15 to 20 years, coinciding with the general trends. On the other hand, the same pattern is not observed among men. Although calls in the 15-20 age group have increased, the middle-aged group is still registering a higher volume, particularly among 50-55-year-olds.

4

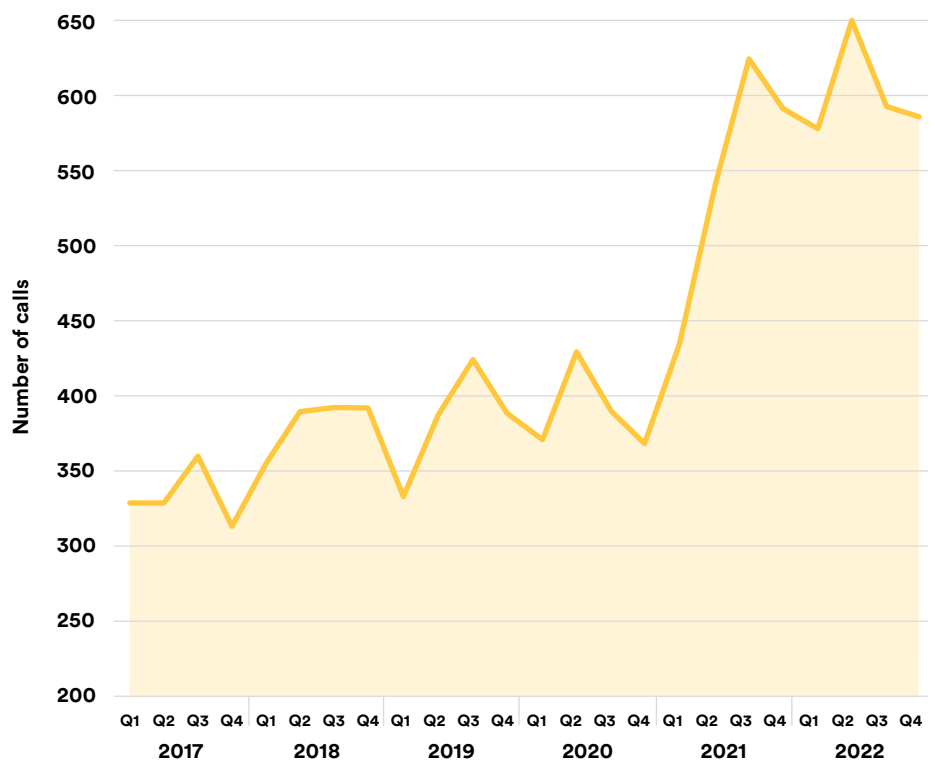
Neighbourhoods characterised by lower levels of educational attainment and population density, as well as greater residential mobility, ageing of the population, and concentration of immigrants, presented higher levels of suicide-related calls.

5

Significant gender differences were observed, where social deprivation and single-person households influenced calls from men in crisis, while concentration of immigrants was associated with calls from women in crisis. A seasonal effect was also detected, with a spike in calls made by women during the spring and by men during the summer.

Suicide-related calls saw a sharp increase in 2021

Quarterly time trends



Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the Valencian Community 112 service.

Professionals improve their empathy towards older people after experiencing limitations associated with ageing

The old age simulation suit as a means for promoting an empathic attitude among social and healthcare professionals

An empathic relationship between the care professional and the person in their care is a determining factor in the quality of that care for implementing person-centred practice and, therefore, achieving more humanised treatment. The results suggest that an intervention using an old age simulation suit has potential for improving the cognitive and emotional aspects of empathy among health and care professionals who work with older people at care homes.

Rosa M.ª Martínez Piédrola, Marta Pérez de Heredia Torres, Sergio Serrada Tejada and Rebeca Montes Montes, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos; Fernando Martínez Cuervo, Department of Social Rights and Welfare, Principality of Asturias; Stefan Walter, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

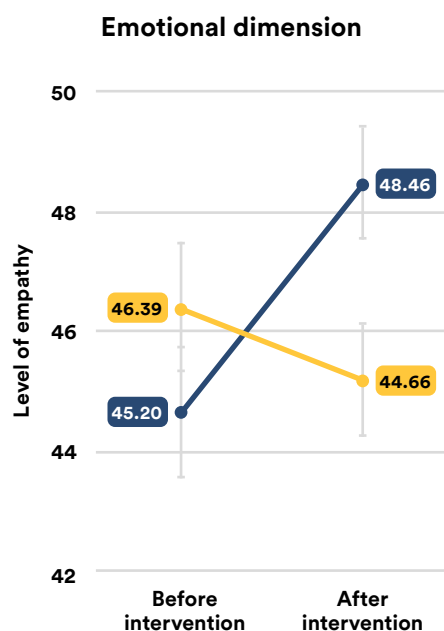
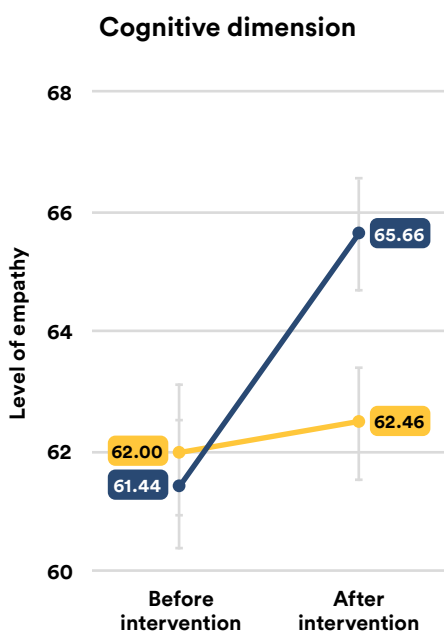
TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call for experimental research projects in the social sciences

- 1 Empathy is a skill that requires, among others, understanding, respect and active listening, which must be correctly transmitted through verbal and non-verbal communication. It has cognitive and emotional dimensions.
- 2 Participants who experienced the old age simulation suit improved their global empathic skills by 14.5%.
- 3 After use of the simulation suit, empathic cognitive abilities that take the older person's perspective into account increased by 5%.
- 4 The emotional aspects linked with empathy, related with the identification of the emotions of older people, increased by 15% in professionals who used the old age simulation suit.

Improved cognitive and emotional empathic skills after using the old age simulation suit

● Control ● Experimental



Participants in the experimental group undertook various daily life activities and experienced, though the use of the suit's different devices, limitations in their functional mobility, as well as in their visual, tactile and auditory perception. This enabled them to experience the deterioration and ageing process suffered by older people. The results following the intervention showed that professionals who made use of the old age simulation suit improved their empathy skills.



What role should educational centres play in detecting gender violence suffered by pupils at home?

The WeAreHere! research project tackles the problem of male violence from the perspective of pupils in order to contribute to an early detection of this type of violence in school settings. This study involved recording the evaluations of the directors and teaching staff at 106 educational centres. A total of 322 responses were collected from 86 schools, which enabled valuable testimony to be gathered so that an agreed model of early detection applicable to school settings could be drawn up in the future.

Carme Montserrat, Marta Garcia-Molsosa, Pere Soler, Anna Planas, Edgar Iglesias and Paula Boned, Liberi Research Group, Universitat de Girona

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

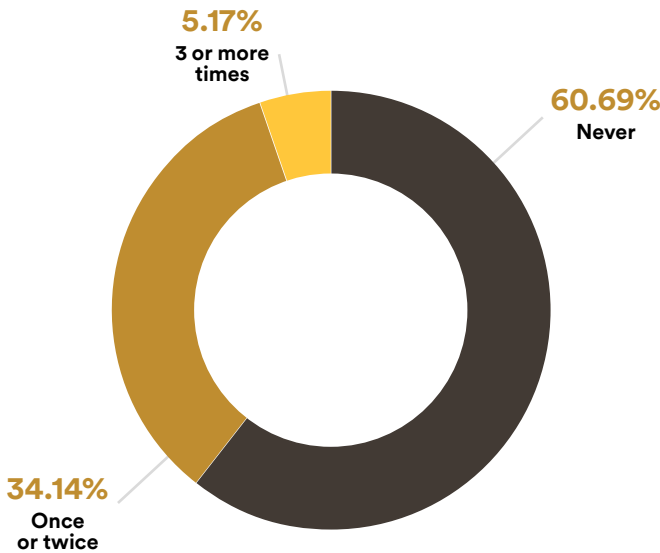
1
In general, the treatment of gender violence by schools is poorly systematised. Normally, when they do approach the subject, they usually talk about physical violence (90%), sexual violence (78%) and psychological violence (76%), and they mainly do this by using graphic information (posters, leaflets, etc.), on an occasional basis on special days and depending, above all, on the teaching staff and the education stage. Only 22% of teaching staff claims that the subject is integrated into the school's education project.

2
According to teaching staff, pupils do not generally report these types of situations to them: usually they say nothing (68%) and avoid the subject or defend their parents (45%). The school finds out when there are evident signs making it manifest or through other professionals. It is considered that school organisational questions, but also training and mistaken beliefs among teachers, are the main obstacles to approaching this issue.

3
Teaching staff members believe that they should get involved in the problem and that it is important to refer cases detected by schools (60%). To do this, they need a calm and safe space, improved coordination between different services in the territory, and the establishment of a specific programme within the school's education project. In general, they think that they need support, more training and knowledge of the protocols.

Application of protocols for situations of gender violence

Frequency with which teaching staff members have had to activate violence-related protocols in the last three years



Source: compiled by the authors based on the results of the WeAreHere! survey.

Household food shop and unconditional food assistance: can we talk of healthy eating?

The aim of this study is to find out about and evaluate household food shops made by Catalan Red Cross users who received a prepaid card to use at BonÀrea establishments over a seven-year period (from 2016 to 2022). Only the nutritional aspect of the food products purchased with this assistance is analysed, and not that of the total foods consumed by the households. Specifically, there is information available relating to 18,449 cards and to 450 establishments all over Catalonia, as well as a total of 4,742,146 food products purchased and aggregated in monthly periods.

In order to be able to evaluate from different viewpoints both the quality of the food and that of the purchases made, five complementary indexes have been used. Since all indexes have some comparability, they have been re-scaled to between 0 and 100. Values closer to 100 imply healthier purchases.

Toni Mora, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya;
Blanca Raidó Quintana, Catalan Red Cross

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2019

- 1**

The monitoring of the Mediterranean diet of the whole sample of beneficiaries of the Red Cross assistance is situated below the empirical evidence for the Spanish population: 42.4 vs. 53. The Healthy Eating Index is also lower (50.5 vs. 71.3).
- 2**

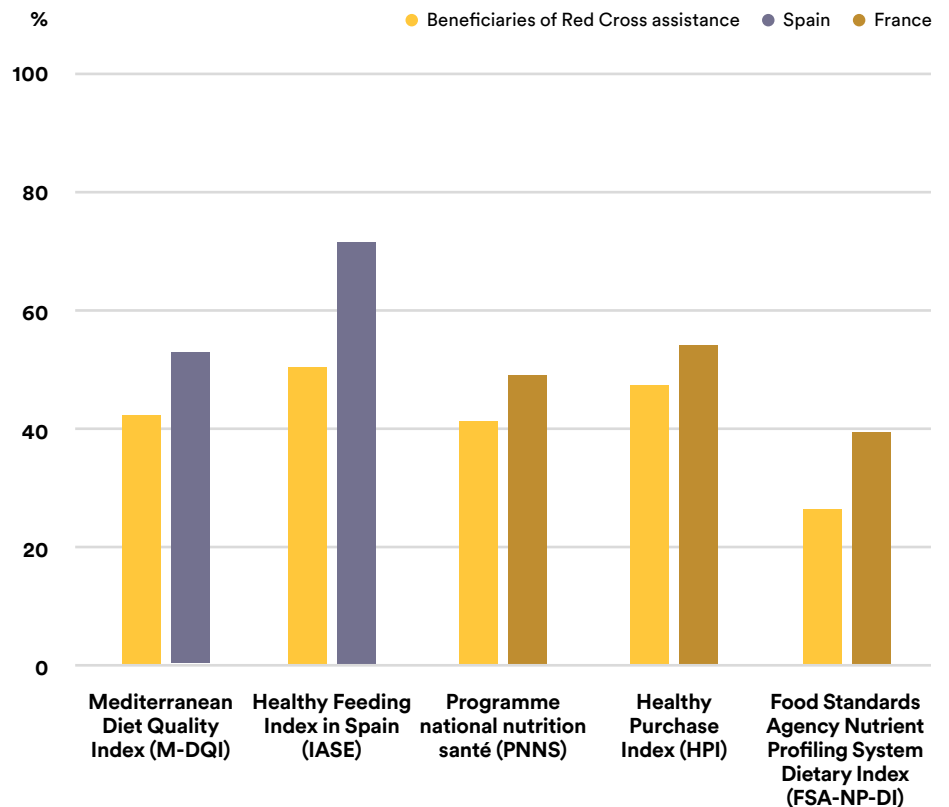
As regards the three benchmark indexes for France (PNNS, HPI and FSA-NPS-DI), a country with a diet similar to that of Spain, the sample of beneficiaries also registers values below those recorded for the French population.
- 3**

By characteristics, there are no differences in the type of consumption by gender or age of the card beneficiary. However, considerable heterogeneity can be seen by nationality: the healthiest purchases correspond to individuals from the Maghreb region, from Asia and from the rest of Africa, with 13.5%, 12.0% and 8.2%, respectively, above the value of the Spaniards.
- 4**

Although the data only allow us to analyse purchases made thanks to the assistance, the results indicate that adherence to a healthy eating pattern by this population is lower than the overall value for Spain. This suggests that interventions are needed to improve food purchasing patterns among the most economically disadvantaged segments of the population.

The household food shop made by using the received assistance is less healthy than that estimated for the population as a whole

Quality of purchases made according to different indexes in relation to the values available in Spain and France



Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the Red Cross.

Private tuition and economic inequality

The market for private tuition in Spain satisfies very different demands that vary between educational stages and households according to their economic capacity. As school pupils advance through the different stages of the education system, it is increasingly more likely that they will receive private tuition and that the composition of that tuition will change. Specifically, the weight of private tuition in core curriculum subjects as a percentage of the total increases between Early Childhood education (20%) and Baccalaureate (44%), in the same way that the weight of language tuition increases as household economic capacity grows. In turn, it is found that pupils from households with more resources are more likely to receive more than one type of private tuition, and in a higher volume, which accounts for the greater intensity of spending among these households.

Juan Manuel Moreno, UNED; Ángel Martínez, EsadeEcPol

TheSocialObservatory

Commissioned research

1

The Survey on Household Spending on Education (Encuesta del Gasto de los Hogares en Educación, EGHE) offers the most realistic image possible of the dimensions of the private tuition market in Spain. Some 47% of Spanish pupils receive private tuition and their families spent close to €1.7 billion on it in the 2019-2020 academic year.

2

Pupils' education stage is a determining factor in the amount of spending on private tuition. The average spend per pupil in the 2nd cycle of Early Childhood amounts to €117 against over €400 by Baccalaureate (general upper secondary education). This is explained both by an increase in the percentage of pupil users and an increase in the quantity and volume of private tuition received per pupil.

3

33% of more vulnerable pupils take private tuition, in contrast with 57% of pupils from higher-income households.

4

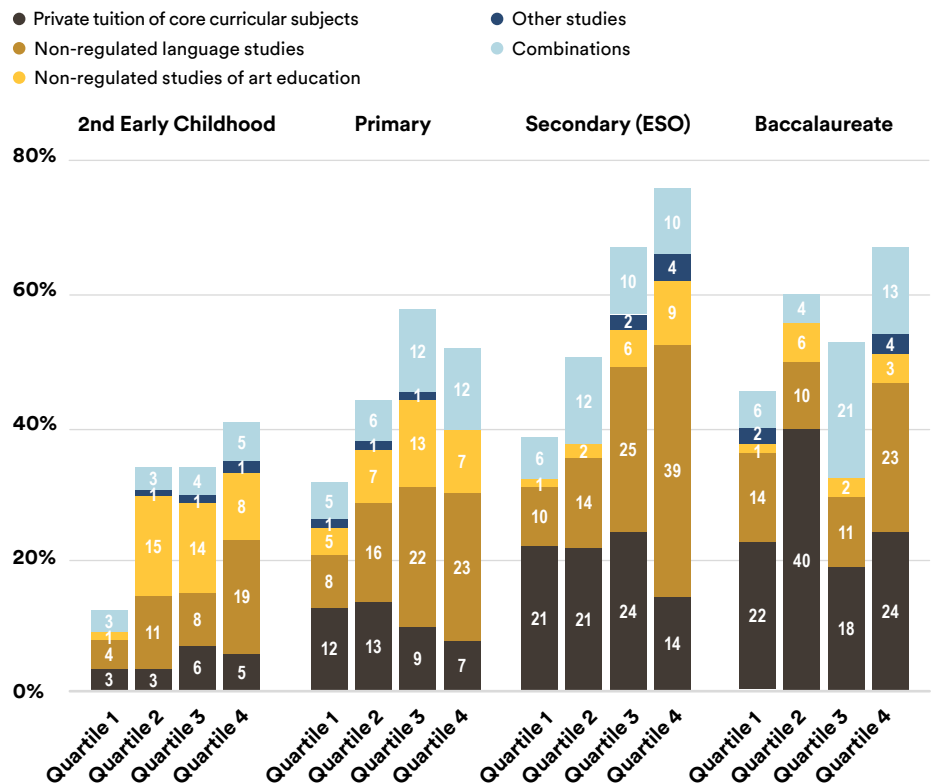
The household's economic capacity influences the demand for private tuition. Only 22% of the spending by the most affluent classes is devoted to core curriculum subjects against 56% among poorer households. The wealthiest households devote their resources to learning languages and, to a lesser extent, artistic tuition.

5

Differences in participation in private tuition according to economic capacity are greater during Compulsory Secondary Education (ESO) than in the early education stages (2nd cycle of Early Childhood and Primary).

The differences in participation in private tuition between quartiles grow considerably in the transition between Primary and Compulsory Secondary Education

Percentage of pupils receiving private tuition by type of tuition, equivalent spending quartile and educational stage



Source: compiled by the authors based on the Survey on Household Spending on Education (EGHE).

Teen dating violence

Teen dating violence is exerted via three main channels: a) control, limiting a partner’s contact with other people by monitoring his or her phone, for example; b) physical assault, including hitting, kicking and other kinds of aggression, and c) sexual assault, forcing unwanted sex. This violence can seriously affect teenagers’ mental and physical health, and also their personal development and social integration.

With the aim of assessing the prevalence of self-reported violence, from the perspective of both victimisation and perpetration, a representative sample of 4,004 Spanish adolescents aged between 14 and 17 was employed.

Noemí Pereda, Marta Codina and Diego A. Díaz-Faes, Universitat de Barcelona

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2021

1

In Spain, the overall results for the past year show that the prevalence rate of violence victimisation within relationships among teenagers stands at 13.6% (girls: 16.9%; boys: 10.5%). In contrast, the rate of perpetration is 4.8% (girls: 6.6%; boys: 3.1%).

2

By type of violence, 10.1% report that they are victims of controlling behaviours (girls: 13.3%; boys: 7.1%). In turn, 4.1% see themselves as victims of physical assault (girls: 3.6%; boys: 4.5%) and 4.3% of sexual assault (girls: 6.6%; boys: 2.1%).

3

Regarding the prevalence of perpetration, controlling behaviours are observed in 3.0% of teenagers (girls: 4.2%; boys: 1.9%); physical assault in 2.2% (girls: 3.3%; boys: 1.1%), and sexual assault in 0.6% (girls: 0.3%; boys: 0.9%).

4

The percentage of teenagers who report having been both victims and perpetrators in an intimate relationship during the past year is 2.9% (girls: 4.0%; boys: 1.8%).

5

Ultimately, the results suggest that girls suffer more victimisation through control and sexual assault than boys. As regards the types of violence perpetrated, girls report more control and physical assault on their partners than boys. It is also observed that girls are more likely than boys to play the overlapping role of victim and perpetrator in their intimate relationships. These results show the complexity of a problem that calls for an in-depth analysis of violence in teen relationships.

6

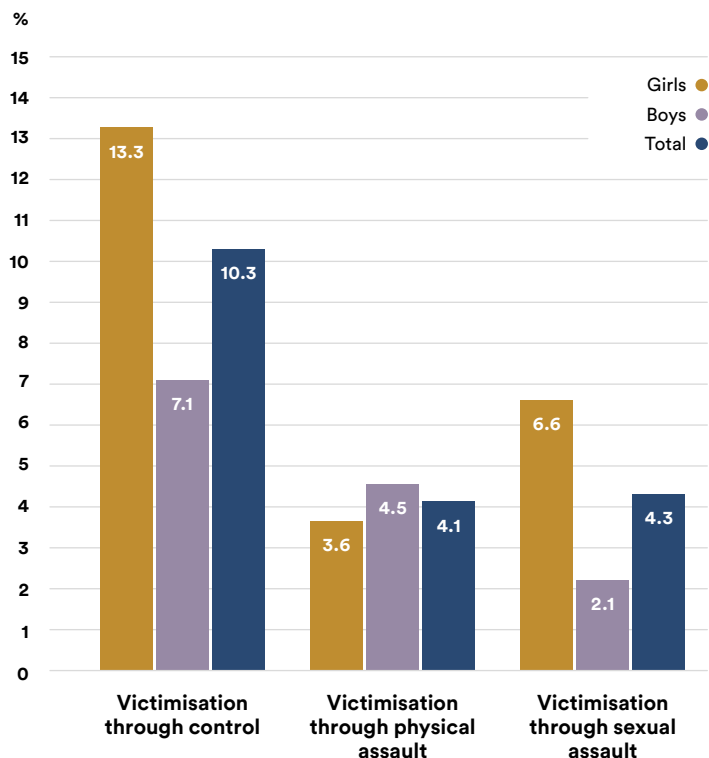
This snapshot of teen dating violence is crucial for designing effective prevention policies. For this reason, research is also being conducted on the situation of the most vulnerable adolescents, i.e., those who belong to risk groups, have some disability, or suffer from mental health problems.

Girls report more victimisation through controlling violence and sexual assault than boys

Victimisation rate by type of violence



Source: compiled by the authors.



Do attitudes towards climate change vary with age in Spain?

This research has focused on understanding the attitudes of Spanish citizens towards climate change, laying special emphasis on the differences that exist between young people as a group and the rest of the population. The results, based on a survey of 5,000 people representative of the Spanish population, show that a large part of the population considers that climate change is above all or solely the result of human activity, a position that is stronger among younger people. The survey also reveals that young people tend to be more concerned about climate change, and that they usually attach greater importance to climate change than to the economic situation. Finally, most young people consider that both they and older people have to make a similar effort to fight climate change, a position that contrasts with that of people aged over 32 years, who consider that it is precisely young people who must commit to making greater efforts.

Toni Rodon, Universitat Pompeu Fabra; Marc Guinjoan, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research projects on the social reality of young people

1

More than 7 out of every 10 young people consider that climate change is above all or solely the result of human activity. The rest think that climate change is the result of natural processes as much as of human activity.

2

41% of people aged between 16 and 25 years and 35% of those aged between 26 and 32 years consider that climate change is among the three greatest problems today. The prioritisation of the environment is much lower among people aged over 32 years.

3

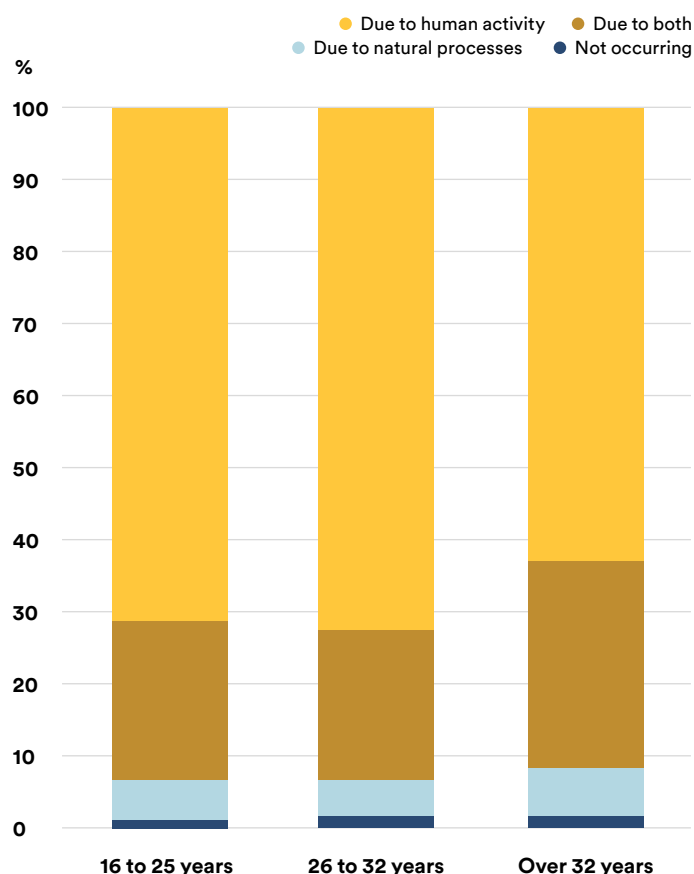
All age groups tend to slightly prioritise climate change over the economic situation, a tendency a little more marked among young people aged up to 25 years.

4

The majority of young people think that both they and older people have to make a similar effort to fight climate change. In contrast, respondents aged over 32 years consider that the effort made by young people should be greater.

Climate change: more the result of human activity than of natural processes

Perception of climate change as a consequence of human activity (only or mainly), equally as a result of human activity and natural processes, as a natural process (solely or mainly), or as something that is not occurring (% of respondents)



Do we have a sufficient climate culture? Levels of knowledge, concern and sustainable climate habits

This study assesses the levels of knowledge about climate change among young people and adults in Spain, as well as their level of concern and habits that may have an impact on climate change. The findings show that the level of climate knowledge in Spain is moderate, suggesting that current channels are not sufficient or effective in transmitting sound information on climate change. In fact, the vast majority of the population, some 80%, believe that they need more information to understand the causes and consequences of climate change and possible solutions. There is also a high level of concern about the consequences of climate change. This level of concern is closely linked to the degree of knowledge and the fact of having personally experienced the consequences of climate change. The level of sustainable habits of Spaniards can be considered moderate and is largely determined by their level of concern and income.

Ana Ruiz-Frau, Silvia de Juan and Andrés Ospina-Álvarez,
Mediterranean Institute for Advanced Studies (CSIC-UIB); Sarai
Pouso and María C. Uyarra, AZTI, Marine Research

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research on education and society

1

Spain's population has an average level of knowledge about climate change (a rate of 0.6 on a scale of 0 to 1), and adults with higher income levels, university education and no children have a slightly higher level of knowledge. In contrast, young people living in sparsely populated areas have a lower level of knowledge than the rest of the young population surveyed.

2

Half of the population is very concerned about climate change and its consequences (40% are moderately concerned, only 10% are unconcerned). Levels of concern appear to be regardless of age, but not of gender, with women being significantly more concerned.

3

It is once again women, but also childless adults, who have the most responsible climate habits. Climate habit levels are similar among young people and adults and can be considered as medium (value of 0.6 out of 1).

4

There is a clear relationship between levels of knowledge and concern and the incidence of sustainable habits. People with a greater knowledge who claim to be more concerned about climate change are more responsible in their habits from a climate perspective.

5

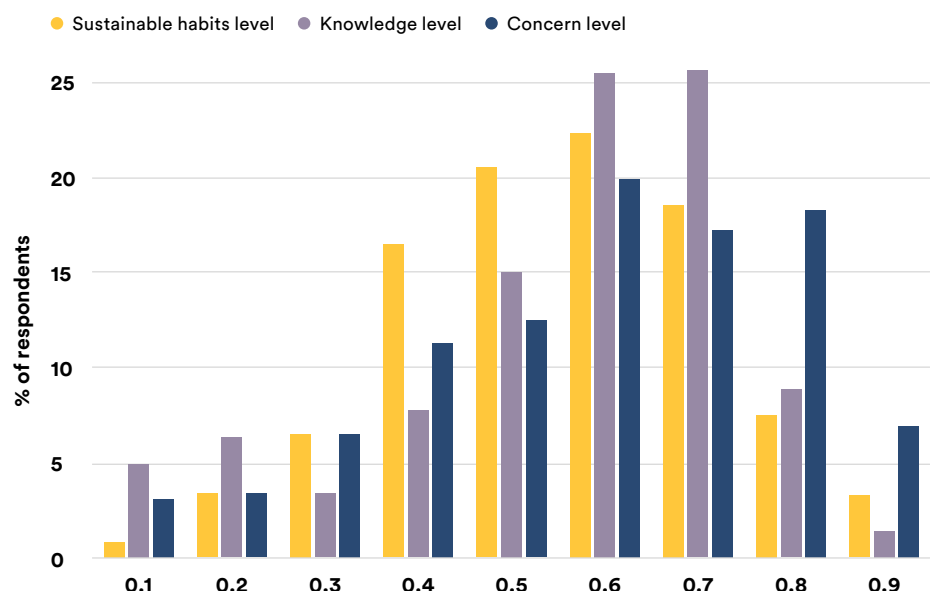
The majority of the population (some 80%), both young people and adults, think that they need more information to understand the causes and consequences of climate change, as well as possible solutions. In turn, young people and adults show clear support for government climate awareness programmes and climate education in schools.

6

Young people and adults use various sources of information to understand climate change and its consequences, and these sources differ between the two groups. Young people obtain information primarily through the schools they attend (60%) and online (55%), while adults obtain information primarily through documentaries and films (47%) and online (46%).

Levels of knowledge, concern and climate-sustainable habits are closely interrelated

Distribution of the population according to indices of knowledge, concern and habits in young people and adults. The rates can take values between 0 (minimum value) and 1 (maximum value)



Source: compiled by the authors based on the data collected in the CLIMED survey.

A programme to prevent sexual harassment in teenagers through virtual reality

Sexual harassment in teenagers is a public health problem that requires the implementation of effective prevention programmes. This research presents the evaluation results of the effectiveness of Virtual-PRO, a psychoeducational programme to prevent sexual harassment in adolescence that includes virtual reality as a tool to optimise its effectiveness. The programme was designed to impact the behaviour of peer groups, as well as those involved in the phenomenon. The programme lasts six hours and includes three virtual reality experiences. A total of 579 Spanish teenagers aged between 12 and 17 participated. A total of 286 randomly selected teens received the Virtual-PRO intervention (experimental group) while the others did not (control group). Participants were assessed before the intervention as well as one week and three months after it had concluded. Virtual-PRO participants were more likely to intervene when witnessing sexual harassment, less likely to receive visual/verbal and online sexual assaults, and less likely to justify violence. Virtual-PRO displays promising results, becoming the first sexual harassment prevention programme to successfully incorporate virtual reality in Spain.

Virginia Sánchez-Jiménez, Estrella Durán-Guerrero, María Luisa Rodríguez de Arriba, Noelia Muñoz-Fernández and Javier Ortega-Rivera, Universidad de Sevilla

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2019

1 Teenagers who participated in Virtual-PRO were more likely to intervene in situations of sexual harassment among their peers, while those in the control group were less likely to intervene.

2 Visual/verbal and online sexual victimisation decreased in adolescents who participated in Virtual-PRO, especially in girls, compared to the control group.

3 Justification strategies for violence decreased among teenagers who participated in Virtual-PRO.

4 Satisfaction with the programme was very high, with a mean score of 4.36 out of 5.

5 Virtual-PRO is the first Spanish programme to use virtual reality as a tool to prevent sexual harassment in teenagers. The three virtual reality scenarios were viewed as very realistic by the participants.

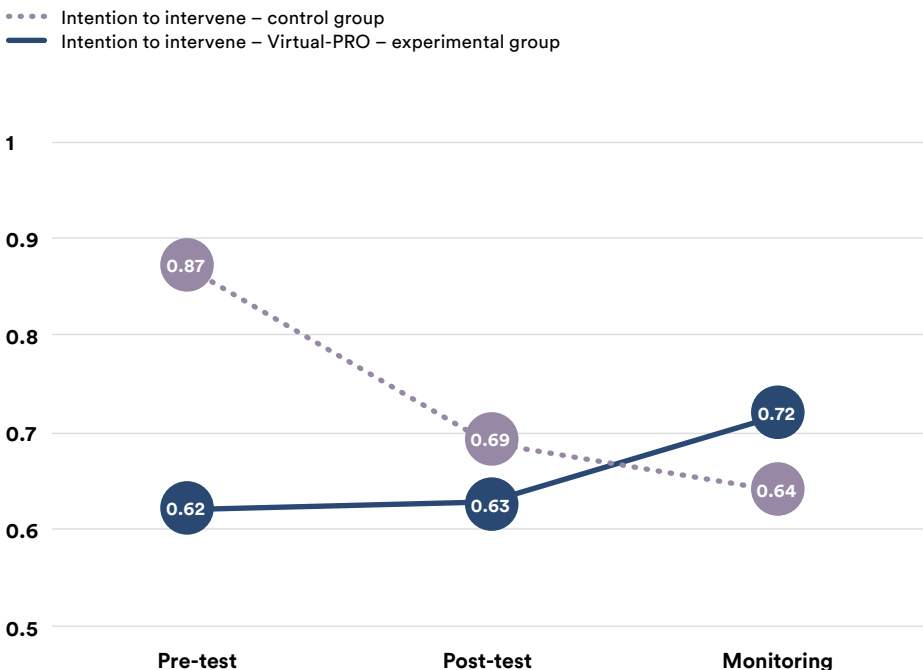
The teenagers who participated in the virtual reality programme were more likely to intervene in situations of harassment

Trajectories of intention to intervene when witnessing sexual assault

Longitudinal scores of intention to intervene in control group and Virtual-PRO teenagers



Source: compiled by the authors.



Multidimensional poverty dynamics in Spain and other European countries

The experience of poverty is much broader than lack of income. How have Spain and other European countries performed in terms of multidimensional poverty in recent years? To what extent do already experienced forms of deprivation beget further deprivation, and how countries vary in this respect? While the first question may be answered using a descriptive analysis, for addressing the second question, one may estimate whether poor people are more likely to enter an additional form of deprivation and less likely to leave an existing form of deprivation. Advantages of this approach include that such estimates may be reported annually and that they reflect numerous factors and mechanisms.

Analysing more than 20 European countries over 2016-2020 allows us to see that, unlike other European countries, Spain did not experience a reduction in the poverty incidence over this period. Moreover, no single form of deprivation is experienced by all poor people. The data suggest that well-orchestrated policy programmes may help to overcome overlapping forms of deprivation.

Nicolai Suppa, Centre for Demographic Studies – CERCA, EQUALITAS and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2020

1
The incidence of multidimensional poverty in Spain amounts to 15% and barely changed over the period of observation 2016-2020.

2
Poor people suffer from various combinations of deprivation at the same time, and only 2-10% of the population is both deprived in a particular indicator and poor. This means that there is no single form of deprivation shared by all poor people.

3
People who are multidimensionally poor are often about 10 percentage points more likely to enter an additional form of deprivation and up to 20 percentage points less likely to leave an existing form of deprivation than comparable non-poor people in similar situations. These data suggest that deprivation tends to couple over time.

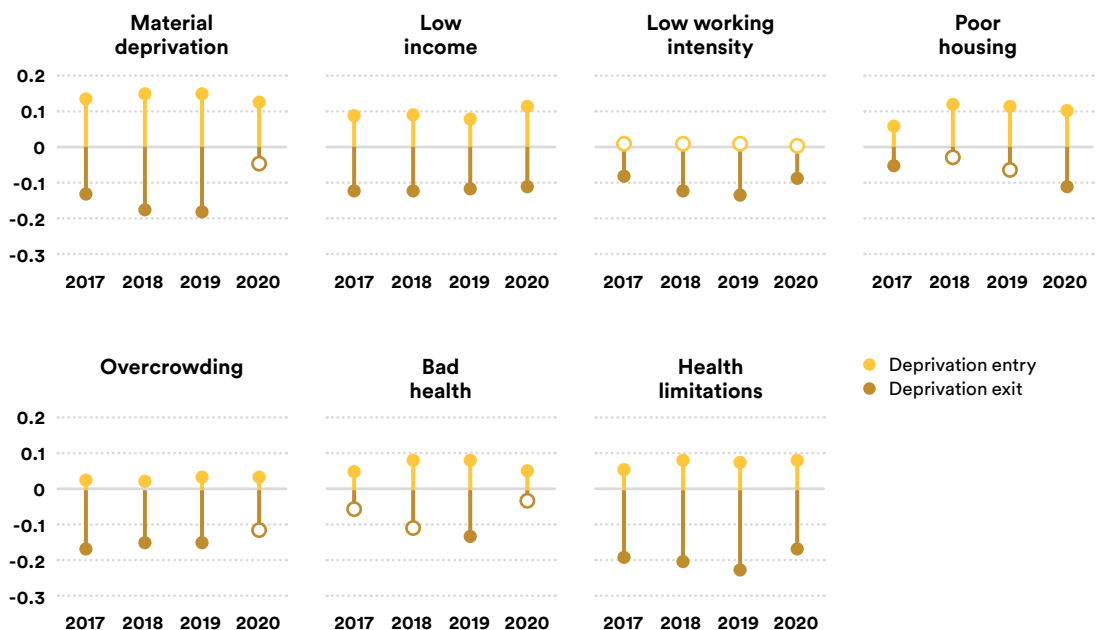
4
Similar evidence on the coupling of deprivation is also observed in most other European countries, although there is variation across countries.

5
To overcome the coupling of deprivation, well-coordinated policy programmes may play a critical role.



Poor people in Spain are more likely to enter an additional form of deprivation and less likely to leave an existing form of deprivation than non-poor people

Differences in deprivation entry and exit probabilities between poor and non-poor people in Spain over time by deprivation indicator



Note: hollow markers indicate insignificant difference at the 5% level. Source: compiled by the author based on data from EU-SILC.

Internet usage, education and health inequalities in the Spanish population aged 50-79

Socioeconomic inequalities in health persist in Spain. This can partly be explained by the interaction of multiple variables, including education and gender. The covid-19 pandemic intensified the potential impact of two critical factors on health inequalities: health literacy and the socioeconomic digital divide. This article explores these factors within the relationship between education and individual health status among a representative sample of the Spanish population aged 50-79. The main findings suggest that women report worse health than men, and that low-educated groups report worse health than their high-educated counterparts. Internet usage and having 'adequate' levels of health literacy are associated with better health among the low-educated groups.

Sergi Trias-Llimós, Centre for Demographic Studies, UAB

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the call to support research projects on technology and society

1

In Spain, high-educated groups tend to report better health (66% of women and 75% of men report good health) than their low-educated counterparts (50% of women and 62% of men report good health).

2

Health literacy refers to the ability of individuals to meet and understand complex demands for promoting and maintaining health. It is related positively to health outcomes in women, but not in men.

3

The group reporting worse health was that of women with low education and 'inadequate' levels of health literacy.

4

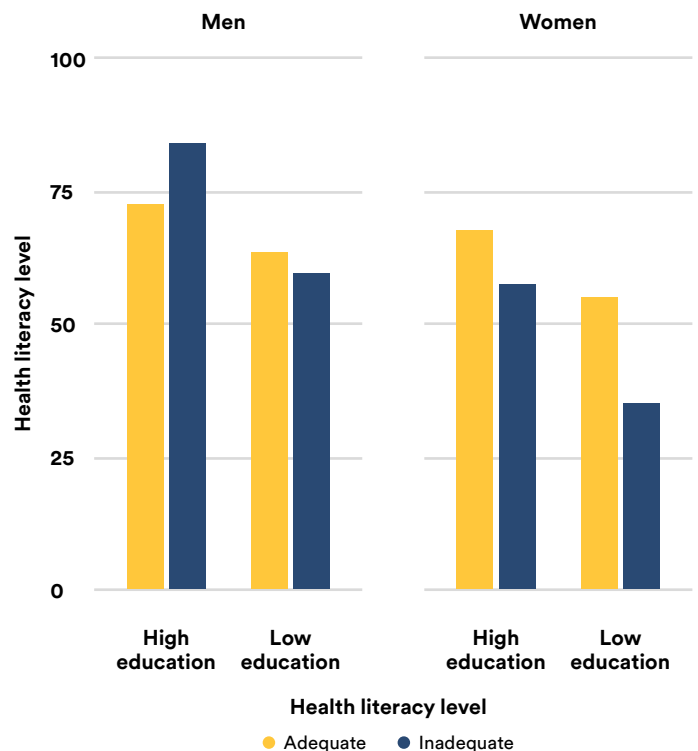
Internet usage was found to be positively associated with good health in both men and women, but the association seems stronger among the low-educated groups.

5

Internet usage and health literacy are associated with educational differences in health. Improving the population's health literacy, educating all social groups and providing them with access to the Internet could contribute to reducing health inequalities.

Health literacy levels significantly impact health only in the case of low-educated women

Estimated percentage of respondents with good health, by gender, health literacy and education level



Source: compiled by the author based on the DDHealth survey.

Uses, skills and attitude in terms of digital technology. Does a gender gap exist among Spanish secondary-school pupils?

The digital gender divide goes beyond mere differences in the use of digital technology. It is also measured with respect to differing perceptions and attitudes regarding the use of technology between men and women. This study shows that girls recognise their dependency on technology to a larger degree than boys, but they are more aware of aspects related with cybersecurity, whereas boys consider themselves much more skilled than girls in technical and communication aspects, and they hold a slightly more positive attitude towards technology. These differences increase as secondary education stages advance, being more significant in the Baccalaureate stage. The results highlight the need to improve the personalisation of learning with a view to reducing the gender differences observed: on the one hand, accompanying boys in the development of their technoethical competences; on the other, working specifically with girls on aspects of dependency and technology and communication skills, as well as helping them to positivise their attitude with regard to digital technology.

Mireia Usart, Carme Grimalt and Luz Mayra Niño, Universitat Rovira i Virgili

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2019

1 Although a digital gender gap exists in Spain, this is not measured in terms of differences in the use of digital technology, but differences in digital skills – technoethical, information, technology, multimedia and communication skills – and in attitude towards them.

2 In the two genders, both the perceived use of technology and perceived digital competence are situated at a medium-high level and increase significantly as pupils progress through the key stages of secondary education. However, technoethical aspects worsen with each key stage. With respect to attitude, on average it is positive (3.89/5), although it worsens in the Baccalaureate stage.

3 As for gender differences, girls recognise their dependence on mobile devices and the Internet to a larger extent than boys, as well as a higher real use in both, in the personal and the academic sphere alike. All in all, the differences are only significant in the Baccalaureate stage and with respect to dependency, not to perceived use.

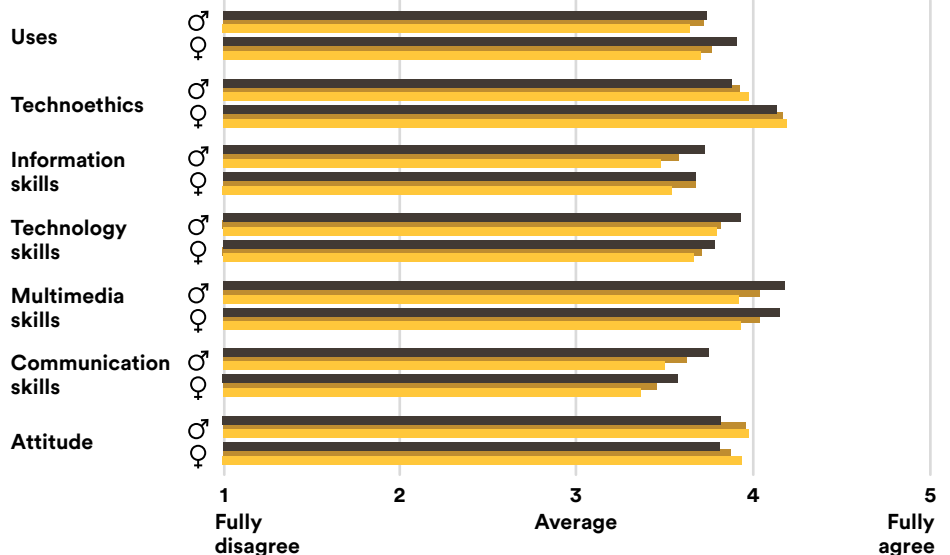
4 On analysing in detail the diverse skills that make up digital competence, the existence is confirmed of a significant advantage in favour of girls with respect to technoethical skills; specifically, in aspects related to cybersecurity. This gap gradually increases, until it reaches 6 percentage points in the Baccalaureate stage.

5 In the gap observed in digital competence, the development of boys is situated above that of their female peers in technology and communication skills, exceeding 4 percentage points among boys (high level) and girls (medium level) by the end of the Baccalaureate stage.

6 Boys display a more positive attitude to technology than girls: they consider that it is easy to use and that it facilitates learning. Despite this, the differences between the genders do not exceed 3 percentage points. Attitude worsens by key stage in a significant way for girls only, being more negative in the Baccalaureate stage.

Evolution in level of use, competence and attitude in terms of digital technology, by gender, during secondary education in Spain

- Baccalaureate
- Second cycle of ESO
- First cycle of ESO



Source: compiled by the authors based on data from the MindGAP project.

Beyond ‘empty Spain’: climate change, depopulation and globalisation in rural areas

According to climate change projections, Spain is very likely to experience a reduction in average rainfall and an increase in both average temperatures and the frequency of heatwaves. Many rural areas in the country are losing population, while small producers and family farms continue to lose bargaining power in global agricultural trade.

A mapping of the manifestations of these three threats in the more than 8,000 municipalities and 344 counties that make up rural Spain reveals important patterns. The counties in which all or some of these threats are most clearly manifested can be found in Castilla y León, Navarra and Castilla-La Mancha. Nonetheless, not all municipalities in these counties are affected in the same way. A detailed examination of how the manifestations of climate change, depopulation and globalisation combine with each other reveals four clusters of territories.

Rural development policy needs to address each of these disparate realities in order to promote social welfare and environmental sustainability.

Sergio Villamayor-Tomas, Daniel Gaitán Cremaschi, Beatriz Pierri-Daunt and Leticia Santos de Lima, Institute of Environmental Sciences and Technology (ICTA-UAB); Esteve Corbera, ICTA-UAB and Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA)

TheSocialObservatory

Project selected in the Social Research Call, 2019

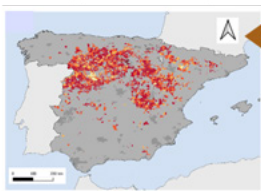
- 1** Climate change, depopulation and the globalisation of agricultural trade lead to vulnerability, which is understood as the degree to which an area is susceptible to and unable to cope with adverse socioeconomic and environmental effects.
- 2** Vulnerability in Spain’s rural areas is not evenly distributed. The most vulnerable counties are located in the so-called ‘vulnerability belt’, which includes Castilla y León (77% of its counties are vulnerable), Navarra (43%) and Castilla-La Mancha (34%).
- 3** A detailed analysis of how the manifestations of climate change, depopulation and globalisation combine reveals four clusters of territories: economically marginalised and hollowed-out Spain, economically surviving yet drought-prone Spain, erosion-prone Spain and exporting Spain.
- 4** Rural development must address the vulnerability of rural municipalities by taking into account its many social and environmental manifestations, although without forgetting that addressing the totality of these manifestations may entail some undesirable effects.

Spain can be divided into four clusters of vulnerable areas due to climate change, depopulation and/or globalisation



Source: compiled by the authors.

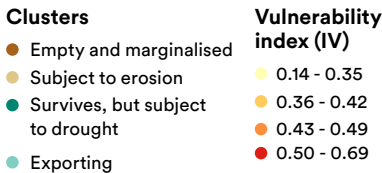
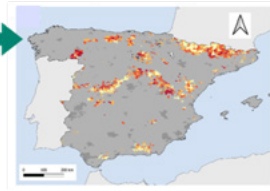
Empty and economically marginalised. Seriously affected by depopulation and also by globalisation. (IV = 0.51)



Subject to erosion. Mainly affected by climate change. (IV = 0.37)



Economically surviving but subject to drought. Significantly affected by depopulation and, in addition, by climate change. (IV = 0.42)



Exporting. Affected by globalisation. (IV = 0.35)





"la Caixa" Foundation