Children's Well-Being in the Mediterranean – Toward a Human Development Index for Children

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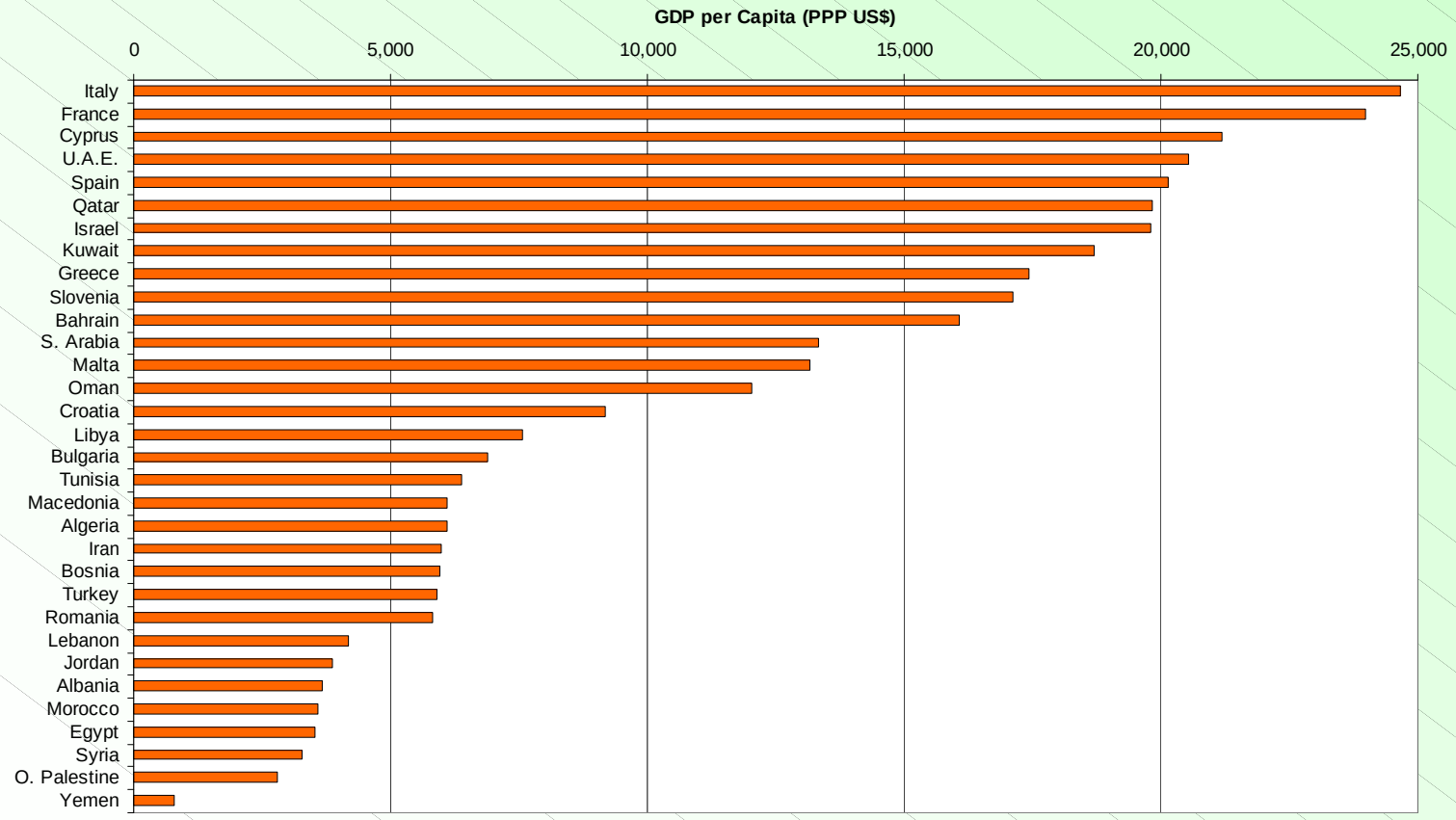
Outline

1. Measures of (Child) Well-Being
2. Alternative Indices
3. Conclusions

1. Measures of (Child) Well-Being

- GDP per capita:
  - Most widely used indicator of the average level of well-being of a population in a country but, does it represent the average level of well-being of a population in a country?

Mediterranean Countries and GDP per capita

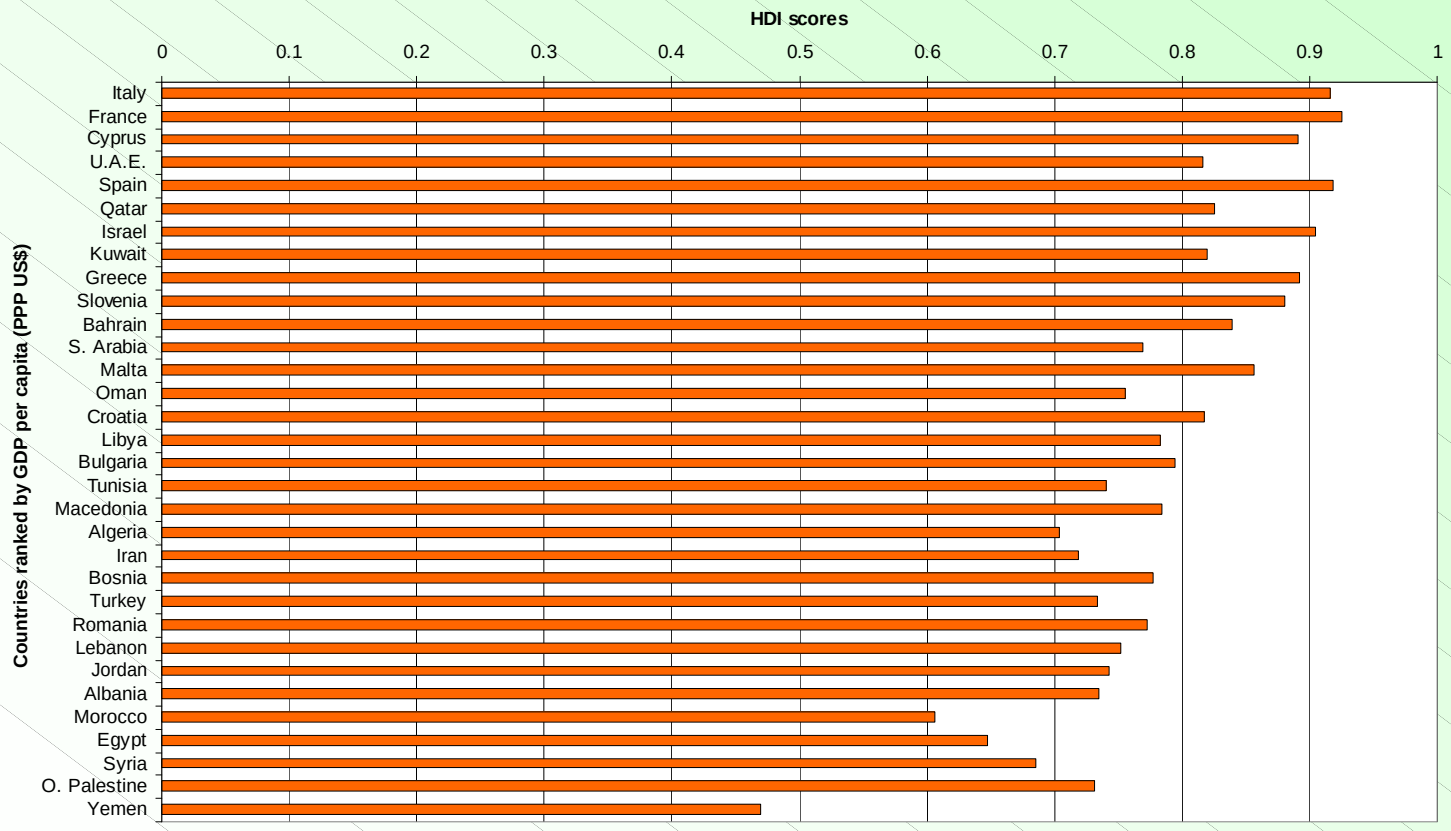


Human Development Index

(UNHDP, 1990)

- 3 Dimensions:
  - life expectancy (“health”)
  - literacy (“education”)
  - GDP per capita (“income”)

Mediterranean Countries and Human Development Index



Derivates of the HDI

- Human Poverty Index
- The Gender-Related Development Index

Human Poverty Index

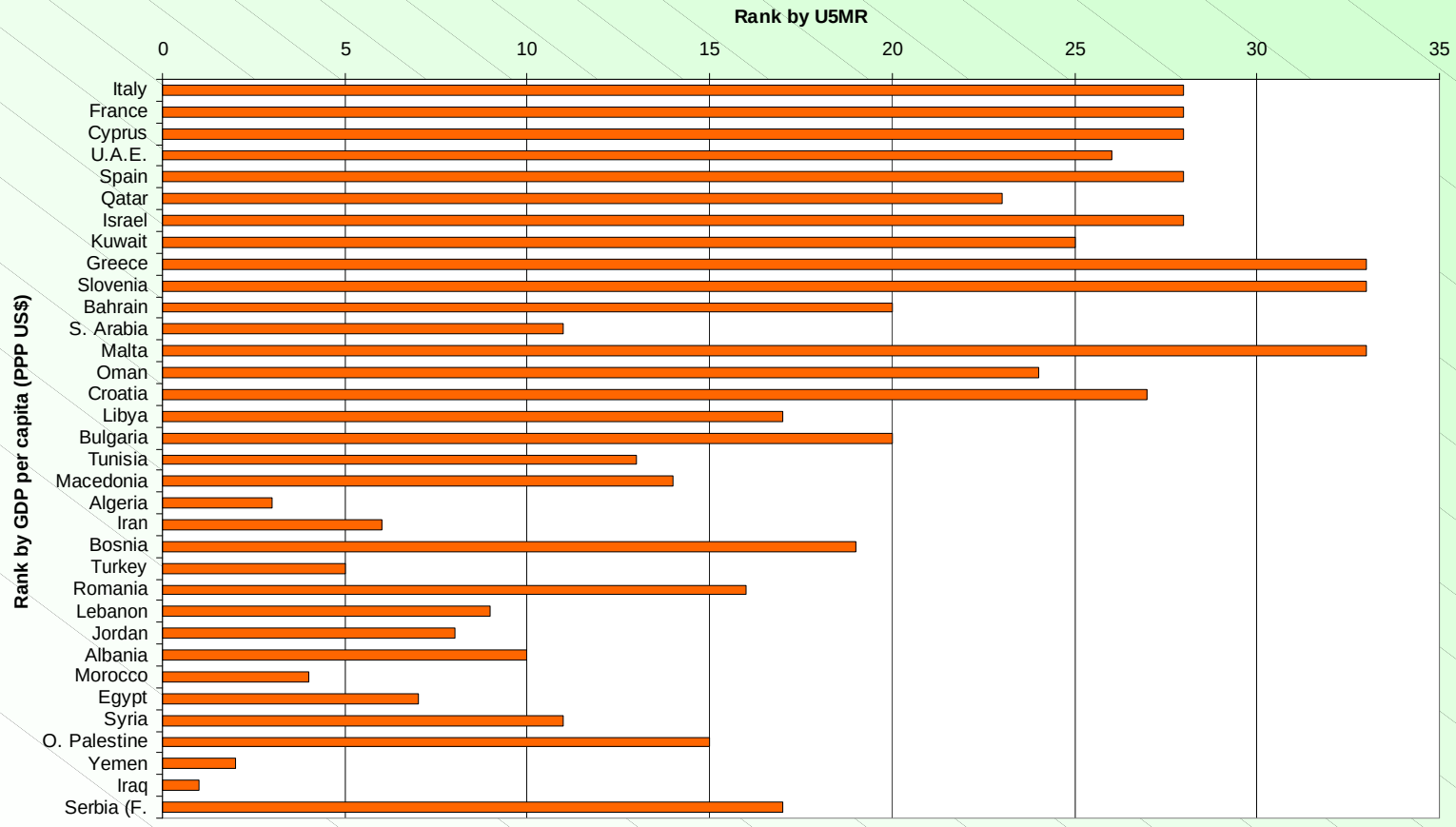
Dimension:	**A long and healthy life (“health”)**	**Knowledge (“education”)**	**A decent standard of living (“income”)**
Indicator:	**Survive till 60**	**Adult literacy**	**% below poverty line**

Human Poverty Index

Can we construct a Human Development (Poverty) Index especially for Children ?

- Health dimension
- Education dimension
- Income (poverty) dimension

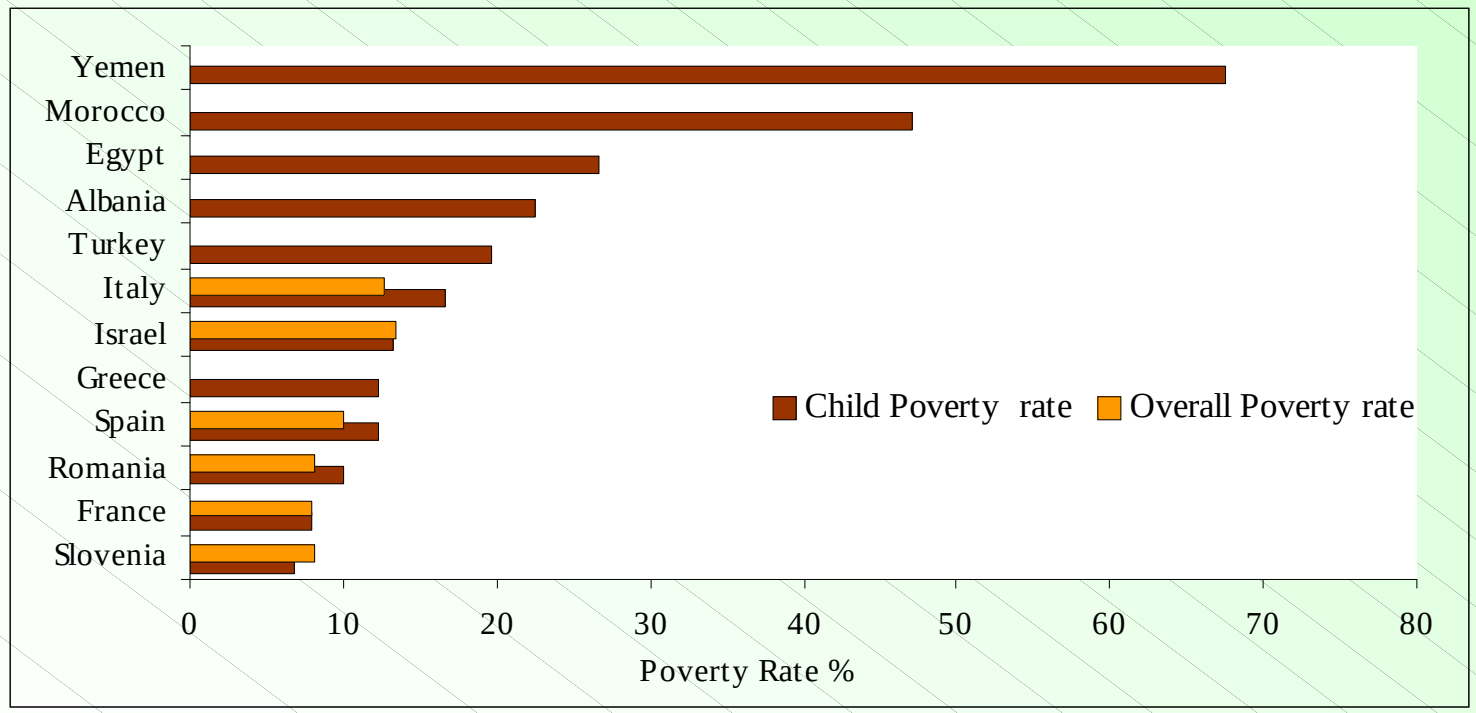
In the Developing World - The State of the World's Children (UNICEF)



Child Poverty

- Poverty severly reduces child life chances
- Children are more likely to be poorer and experience persistent poverty than adults and elderly
- Long term consequences of child poverty

Child Poverty in the MR-countries



Dimensions of Well-Being

- Most common dimensions of well-being include:

Dimension
Economic
Health
Nutrition
Social
Education
Social Exclusion

Sample of Indicators used

- For. e.g. the health dimension focuses on the following indicators:

Dimension	Common Indicator	Less Common Indicator
Health	▪ Low birth weight ▪ Infant mortality rate ▪ Child mortality rate ▪ Prenatal and antenatal care ▪ Access to health care ▪ Incidence of disease ▪ Life expectancy ▪ HIV/AIDS incidence ▪ Crude birth rate and death rate	▪ Overweight ▪ Disability ▪ Chronic condition ▪ Eating disorders ▪ Sexually transmitted diseases in adolescents ▪ Age-specific mortality ▪ Cause-specific mortality ▪ Child examined by doctor in past year

Intermediate Conclusions

1. Overall abundance of child welfare indicators
2. Evolution in the type of indicators/dimensions used
3. Few examples of composite measures of child welfare
4. Different purposes of composite measures

2. Alternative Child Welfare Indices

- The Child Welfare Index
- The Child Gender Index
- The Child Deprivation Index
- The Child Developmental Welfare Index

Alternative Child Welfare Indices

General Characteristics:

- Measure countries performance in promoting child welfare
- Cover the age period 0 to 14 yrs old
- Constructed using the 3 basic dimensions of human well-being in the HDI
- Each dimension represented by one or more indicators
- Dataset World Bank internal database

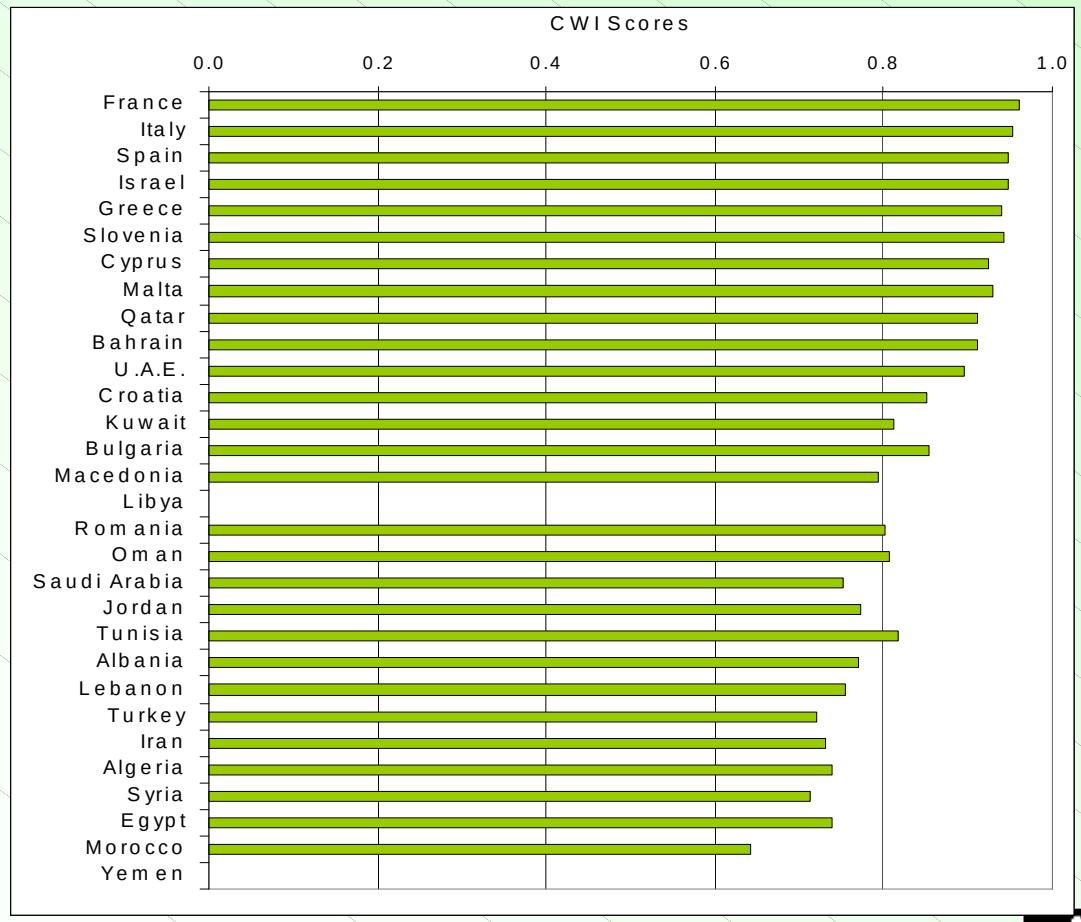
Example 1.

The Child Welfare Index

- We developed a Child Welfare Index

Index	A Long and Healthy Life	Knowledge	Decent Standard of Living
HDI	Life expectancy at birth	Adult illiteracy rate Gross enrolment rate	GDP per capita (PPP US$)
CWI	Under-five mortality rate	Gross primary and secondary enrolment rate	GDP per capita (PPP US$)

The Child Welfare Index - results



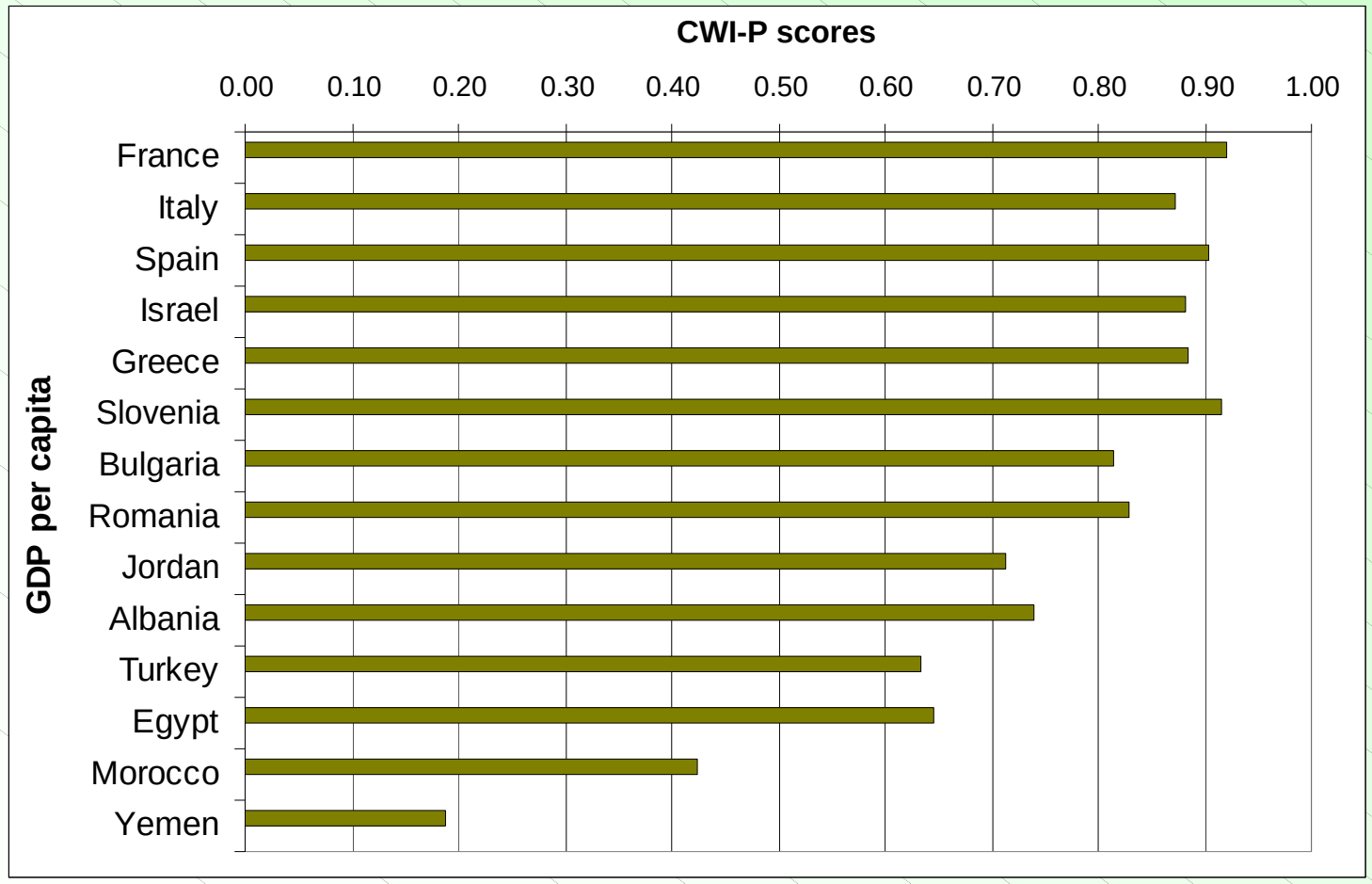
Example 2.

CWI with child poverty as an indicator

- We replaced GDP per capita by Child Poverty

Index	A Long and Healthy Life	Knowledge	Decent Standard of Living
HDI	Life expectancy at birth	Adult illiteracy rate Gross enrolment rate	GDP per capita (PPP US$)
CWI	Under-five mortality rate	Gross primary and secondary enrolment rate	GDP per capita (PPP US$)
CWI	Under-five mortality rate	Gross primary/secondary enrolment	Child Poverty Rate

CWI with child poverty as an indicator



Example 3.

The Child Developmental Welfare Index

- Two sub-indices:

  (1) The Early Child Welfare Index

  (2) The School-aged Child Welfare Index

(1) The Early Child Welfare Index (age 0 – 5)

- The Early Child Welfare Index

  Three dimensions

  - Long and healthy life
  - Knowledge
  - Decent standard of living

  Four indicators

  - Adequate nutrition and malnutrition
  - Survival by age 5
  - Enrollment in ECD
  - GDP per capita

(2) The School-aged Child Welfare Index (age 6 – 14)

- The School-aged Child Welfare Index

  Three dimensions

  - Long and healthy life
  - Knowledge
  - Decent standard of living

  Three indicators

  - Survival by age 14
  - Enrollment in secondary education
  - GDP per capita

The Child Developmental Welfare Index

Why do we need to look at Child Poverty in the Med. Region?

- Rationale: children who are deprived as they grow up will have serious problems as adults "Poverty reduction begins with children";
- No child specific economic measure of well-being available;
- Comparative study: (1) put children in the forefront (2) inform policymakers on effectiveness of different income and family policies/packages;
- A basic baseline for monitoring children's well-being.

3. Conclusions

- **Very possible to design a Child Welfare Index**

  (o.a. Human Development Index with focus on children)

- **Three dimensions**: "health"

  "education"

  "income"

- **Relevant age groups**: 0 - 5

  6 – 14

  15 – 20 (?)

- **Most basic information: % children in poverty !**

AIID

Child Development from a Community Perspective

The Early Child Development Mapping Project

Clyde Hertzman, Director

Human Early Learning Partnership

ECD Mapping Project

- Community mapping shows:
- Where children and families live.
- Socio-demographic characteristics of neighbourhoods.
- Availability of programs and resources for families and children.
- In which neighbourhoods children are healthy and ready-to-learn when they start school, and in which neighbourhoods they are having problems.

ECD MAPPING PROJECT
What is Mapped?

SCHOOL READINESS
-
Early Development Instrument- EDI (completed by kindergarten teachers)

CENSUS /HEALTH DATA
-
SES
(income, education, single-parent families)
-
Child Health Variables
Risk/Outcome Data
etc.

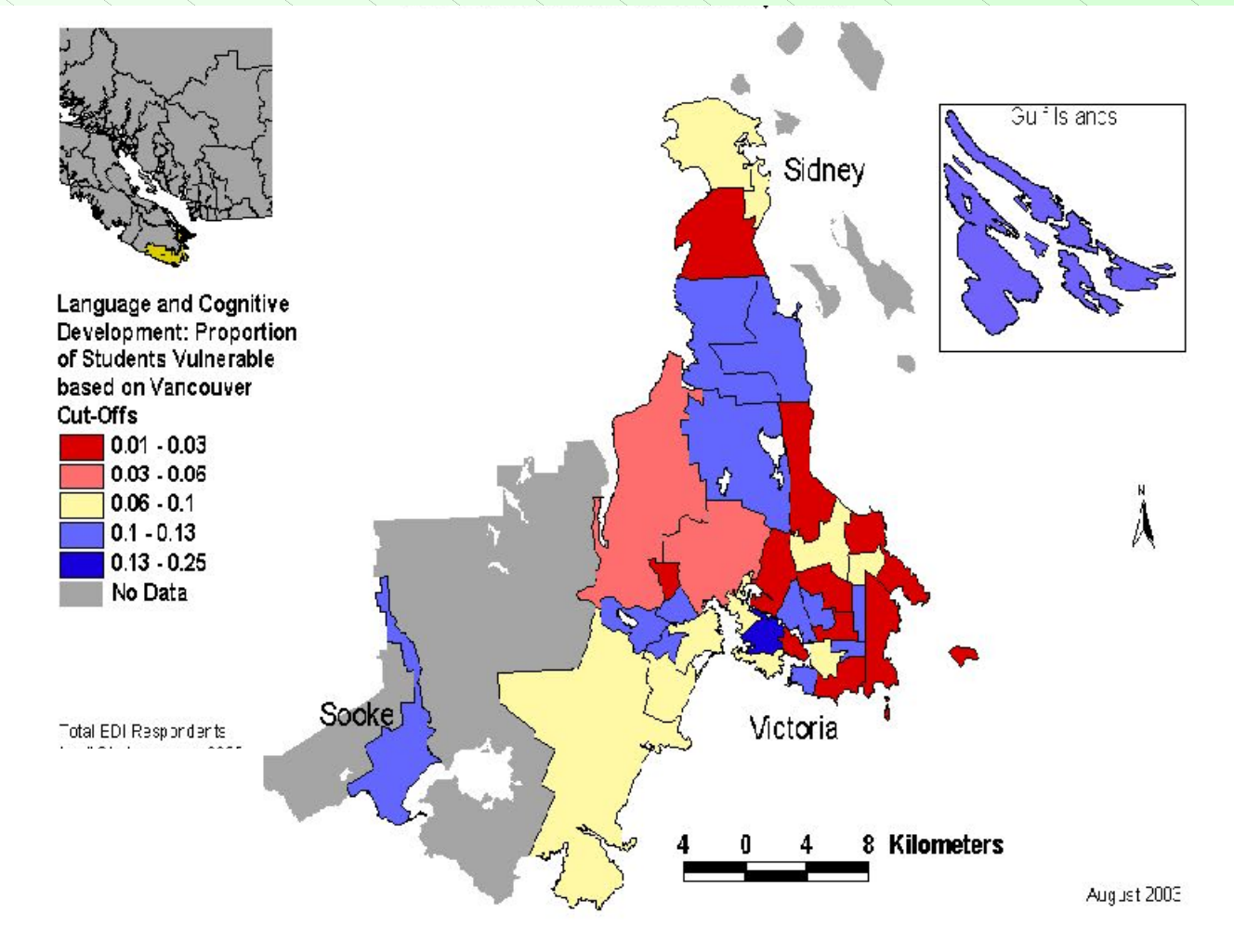
COMMUNITY RESOURCES
-
Libraries
Literacy Programs
Child Care
Prenatal Programs
Parenting Support
etc.

AIID

Early Development Instrument (EDI)

- <u>Kindergarten-Teacher Completed Checklist</u>
- Physical Health & Well-being
  - ✓Child is healthy, independent, ready for school…
- Social Competence
  - ✓Child plays, gets along with others, shares, is self-confident…
- Emotional Maturity
  - ✓Child is able to concentrate, helps others, is patient, not aggressive or angry….
- Language & Cognitive Development
  - ✓Child is interested in reading and writing, can count and recognize numbers, shapes….
- Communication Skills and General Knowledge
  - ✓Child can tell a story, communicates with adults and children

Proportion of Students vulnerable on the Language and Cognitive Development Subscale of the EDI based on Vancouver cut-offs, 2003



Licensed Child Care Spaces by Neighbourhood

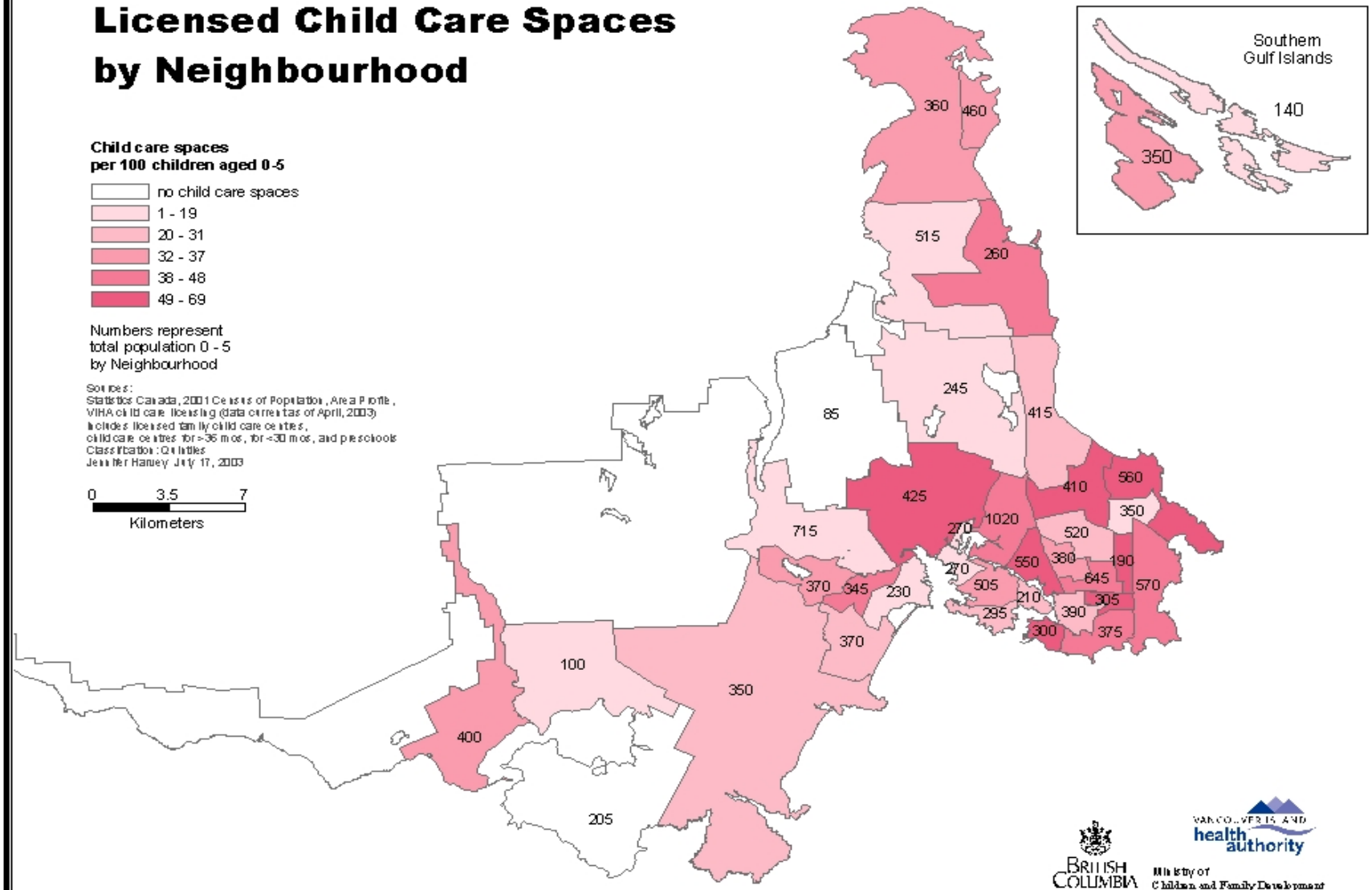
Child care spaces per 100 children aged 0-5

- no child care spaces
- 1 - 19
- 20 - 31
- 32 - 37
- 38 - 48
- 49 - 69

Numbers represent total population 0 - 5 by Neighbourhood

Sources:
Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Population, Area Profile,
VIHA child care licensing (data current as of April, 2003)
Includes licensed family child care centres,
child care centres for >36 mos, for <30 mos, and preschools
Classification: Quintiles
Jennifer Hanley July 17, 2003

0 3.5 7
Kilometers



British Columbia
Ministry of Children and Family Development
Vancouver Island health authority