

From one upheaval to the next :

The impact of social crises on the well-being of Quebec families

Leaders

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Fédération des comités de parents du Québec (FCPQ)

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Aim: To provide a summary portrait of the well-being of children and their parents in the midst of social crises, based on a large-scale survey conducted in Quebec.

Objectives:

1. To explore the experiences of Quebec families during the education strike in the fall of 2023.
2. Examine parents' concerns about the well-being of their children when they return to school in January 2024.
3. Assess the current level of well-being of children and their parents and its recent evolution
4. Compare experiences during the strike, concerns about returning to school, and levels of well-being of children and their parents according to specific vulnerability factors.

Methodology:

- Short questionnaire (approx. 10 minutes) administered online via the secure platform Limesurvey © upon return to school (mid-January), in French and English
- Voluntary; anonymous and confidential
- Target population: All parents of primary and secondary school children (grades 1 to secondary 5) in public or private schools in Quebec
- Only one parent in the household can respond (generally the parent who is most aware of the circumstances of their child).
- The parent should respond for the child with the closest birthday in the household. However, if they wish, parents may complete a separate survey for each child eligible for the survey.

Recruitment methods: social media (on the FCPQ and EPCA Facebook page and various partners), e-mail to all parent committees in Quebec, FCPQ and EPCA newsletters, press release.

- Expected sample size: 2,000 to 40,000 respondents

The survey was developed in two phases:

1. Overview of the scientific and grey literature (including expert positions in the media) on the psychosocial effects of school closures and other recent social crises (including the pandemic, inflation) on school-age children and their parents.
2. Identifying questions to be included in the questionnaire that should:
 - be addressed to parents;
 - be simple and short ;
 - properly measure the targeted theme;
 - complement each other;
 - ideally have already been used in other studies and demonstrate good psychometric properties;
 - be available in French or English (otherwise: translation).

Topics covered in the survey :

- Well-being of children and their parents (Kidscreen-10 scale measuring children's quality of life, perceived health status, screen time, etc.)
 - Experiences during the strike in the fall of 2023 (reduced activities, loss of services, loss of income, family conflicts, lack of support, etc.)
 - Well-being concerns upon returning to school (motivation, academic success, screen time, finances, food security, etc.)

Other topics covered in the survey:

- Personal characteristics of parents (household composition, occupation, gender, education, income)
- Child attributes (area, sex, age, class, public or private, special requirements, length of strike)