

**ODSA**

Observatorio  
de la Deuda  
Social Argentina

BARÓMETRO DE  
LA DEUDA SOCIAL  
DE LA INFANCIA



**UCA**

# PARTICULAR CHALLENGES FACED BY CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

CHILDHOOD AND INCARCERATION

Special report

MARCH 2021

EDSA Serie Agenda para la Equidad

ISSN 1853-6204



Originally published as:

Cadoni, L., Sánchez, M.E., y Tuñón, I. (2021). Las múltiples vulnerabilidades que afectan especialmente a NNAPES.

Documento de investigación. 1ª ed. Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires: Educa, 2021.

27 p.; 27 x 21 cm.

Libro digital, PDF.

Archivo Digital: descarga y online.

Edición para Fundación Universidad Católica Argentina

ISBN 978-987-620-499-6

1. COVID-19. 2. Infancias. 3. Salud. 4. Alimentación. 5. Educación.

CDD305.23

“The authors of this publication cede their rights to the University, in a non-exclusive manner, to incorporate the digital version in the Institutional Repository of the Universidad Católica Argentina as well as other databases that it considers of academic relevance. Likewise, the Universidad Católica Argentina authorizes Church World Service (CWS-LAC) to disseminate them.”

The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Universidad Católica Argentina or Church World Service.

© 2021 *Fundación Universidad Católica Argentina.*

“Los autores de la presente publicación ceden sus derechos a la Universidad, en forma no exclusiva, para que incorpore la versión digital de los mismos al Repositorio Institucional de la Universidad Católica Argentina como así también a otras bases de datos que considere de relevancia académica. Asimismo, la Universidad Católica Argentina autoriza a Church World Service (CWS-LAC) a la difusión de los mismos.”

Lo publicado en esta obra es responsabilidad de los autores y no compromete la opinión de la Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina y Church World Service (CWS-LAC).

© 2021, *Derechos reservados por Fundación Universidad Católica Argentina.*

---

**Graphic Design of the original version in Spanish and for this English version:**

María Nazarena Gómez Aréchaga / Carolina Saharian

**For this English version produced by CWS after the Spanish version was published:  
Translation**

Laura Curkendall / Luciano Cadoni (CWS)

# Index

<b>04</b>	Particular challenges faced by Children with Incarcerated Parents (CIP)
<b>05</b>	Who are CIP?
<b>12</b>	CIP and social protection systems
<b>15</b>	CIP and education
<b>18</b>	CIP and child labor
<b>22</b>	The methodology applied
<b>23</b>	Annexes

## **OBSERVATORIO DE LA DEUDA SOCIAL ARGENTINA (ARGENTINA SOCIAL DEBT OBSERVATORY)**

---

### **Director**

Agustín Salvia

### **Study Coordinator**

Ianina Tuñón

### **Analysis and preparation of the report**

María Emilia Sánchez (CONICET-UCA)

## **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS-LAC)**

OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN

---

### **Regional Director**

J. Martín Coria

### **Program Officer for the Protection of the Rights of the Child**

Luciano Cadoni

## » Particular challenges faced by Children with Incarcerated Parents

This special report aims to update information on a particularly vulnerable and invisible population of children and youth: children and adolescents with incarcerated parents or guardians. From now on, this group will be referred to as CIP for “children with incarcerated parents.” The Church World Service Office for Latin America and the Caribbean joins the Argentina Social Debt Observatory’s Program of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA) in carrying out this initiative.

Unlike the document published in 2019 (“Infancias y Encarcelamiento. Condiciones de vida de niñas, niños y adolescentes cuyos padres o familiares están privados de la libertad en la Argentina” ISBN 978-987-620- 381-4), this document focuses on several different groups of children. We examine the experiences of children living in households with one or more members currently incarcerated; children who have never experienced familial incarceration but live in poor households; and children who have never experienced familial incarceration and whose families are not poor. This comparative analysis allows us to identify and examine the social inequalities that children face as their vulnerabilities accumulate.



## » Who are CIP?

- CIP are estimated to make up 1.3-1.7% of the total population of Argentinean children up to 17 years old. This percentage is similar for the periods 2014-2016 and 2017-2019.
- Thus, we can estimate that there are about 700,000 children and adolescents currently living in homes where there is or has been an incarcerated family member. Of these, there are approximately 217,000 children and adolescents living in households that currently have an incarcerated member.



*There are about **700,000 children and adolescents** currently living in homes where there is or has been an incarcerated family member.*

- Of the CIP currently in this situation, 70.1% live below the monetary poverty line. This socio-economic vulnerability is confirmed since 85.5% of these children and adolescents reside in households where heads of households are marginal workers and/or integrated<sup>1</sup> workers, therefore, very low social sectors.

1. The socio-occupational stratum measures household positions through an algorithm that takes into account the occupational rating, sources of income, rank and level of social protection of the family group's main financial provider. The resulting categories are: professional medium class worker, non-professional medium class worker, integrated worker and informal worker.



*Of the **CIP** currently in this situation, **70.1% live below the monetary poverty line.***

- Most CIP are school-age children and adolescents. The rest are in early childhood.
- Compared to families who have never had or do not currently have an incarcerated member, CIP families tend to be more single-parent households (usually mothers) and are often extended families (with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other family members). This is the most common type of family configuration in the most vulnerable social sectors but is most common in this case by the absence of a parent or other adult referent in the household.



*In general, **CIP** live in a household where the head of household is a woman (her/his mother) and in which they reside with other family members such as grandparents.*

### CIP and former CIP incidence trend – confidence intervals of estimates

		2014-2016	2014-2016 E	2017-2019
Current CIP	Upper Limit	1.3%	1.5%	2.2%
	<b>Statistical</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
	Lower Limit	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%
Children who have been in this situation in the past	Upper Limit	4.5%	5.4%	4.2%
	<b>Statistical</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
	Lower Limit	3.0%	3.6%	2.9%

### Comparison of CIP groups according to socio-demographic variables

2017-2019. In percentage of population.

#### % BY SEX

48.3



51.5



MALE

**51.4**



FEMALE

**48.6**



51.7

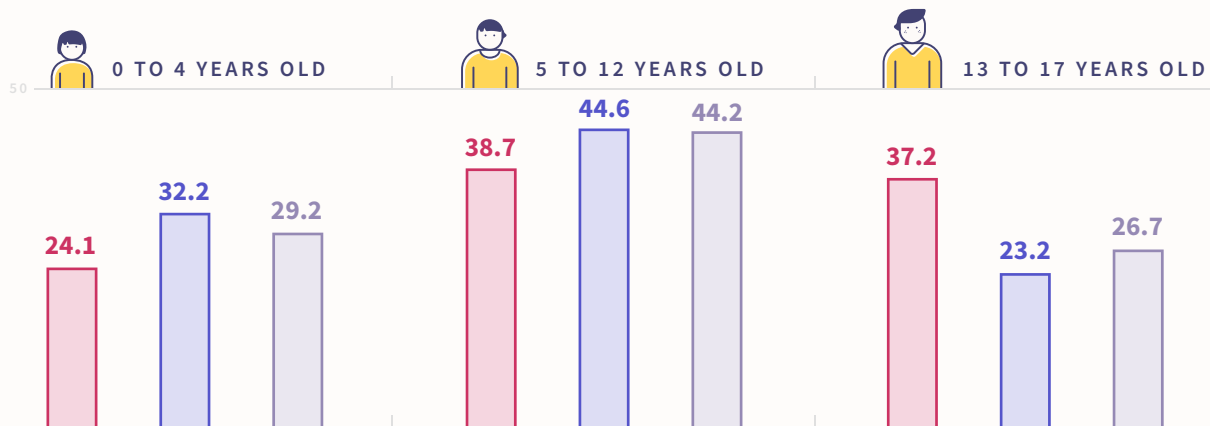


48.5



Current CIP

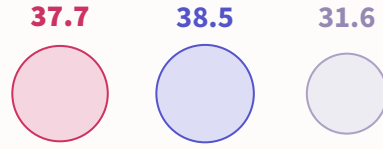
#### % BY AGE



● Current CIP   
 ● Former CIP   
 ● Never CIP

**% BY TYPE OF LOCATION**

OTHER GREAT METROPOLITAN AREAS



GREATER BUENOS AIRES



OTHER URBAN AREAS



**% BY TYPE OF HOME**

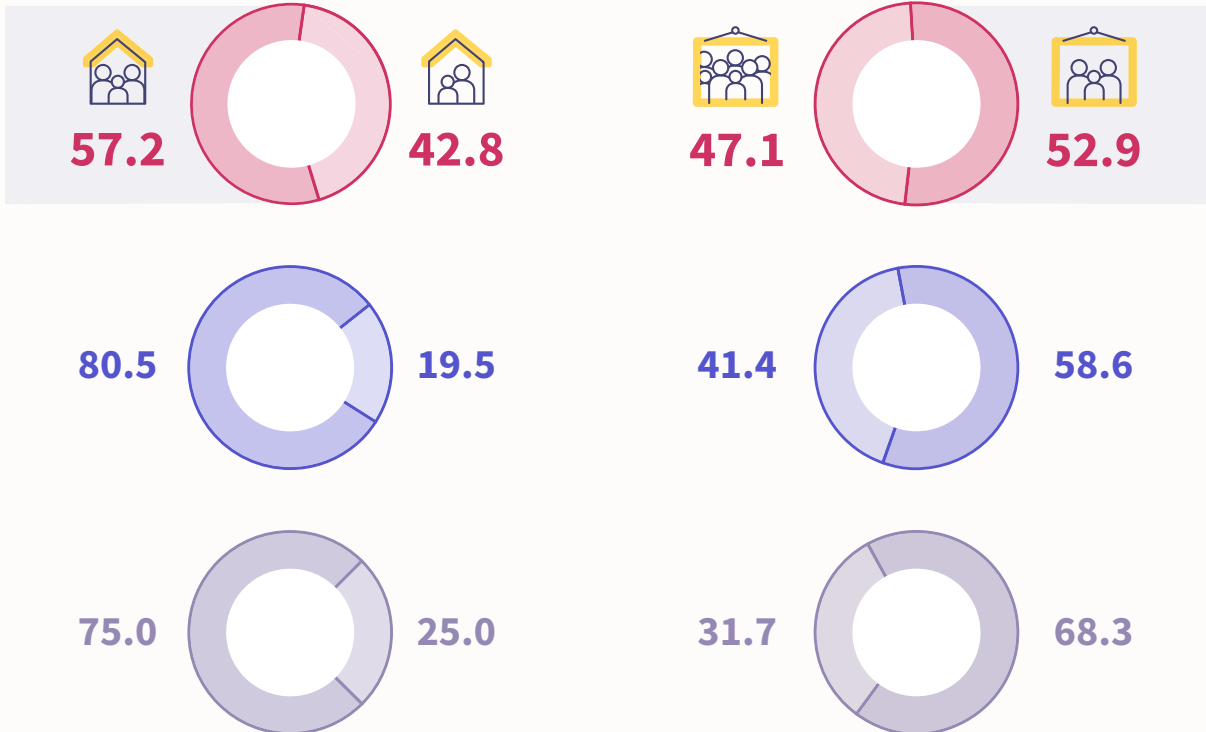
**% BY TYPE OF FAMILY**

TWO-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

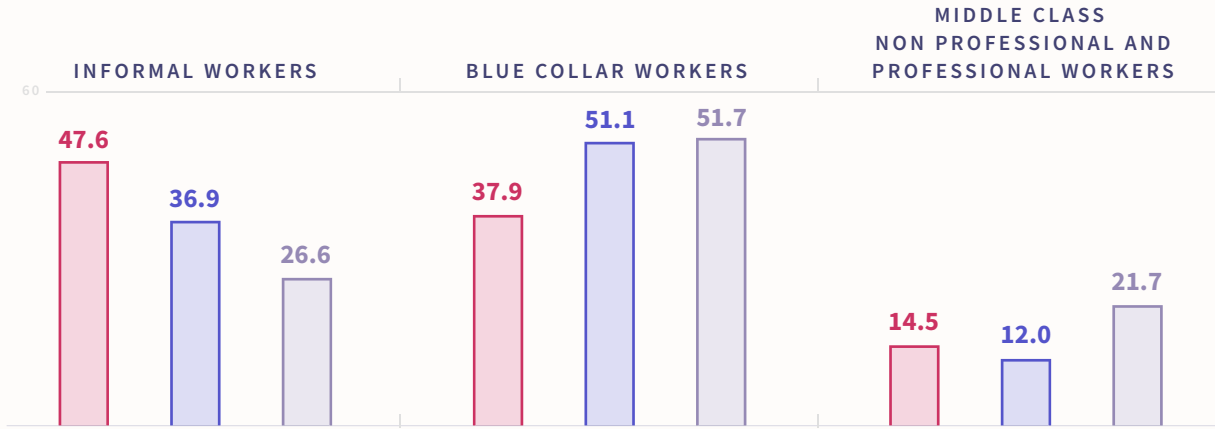
EXTENDED

NO EXTENDED



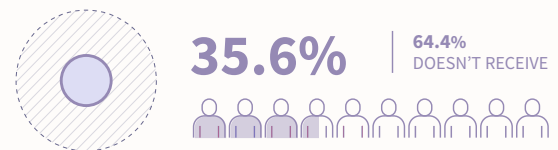
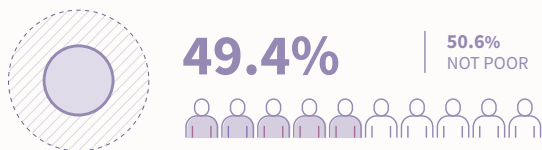
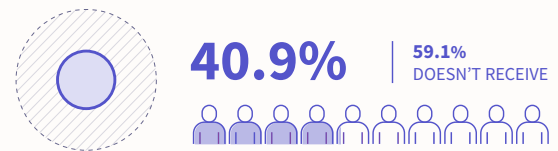
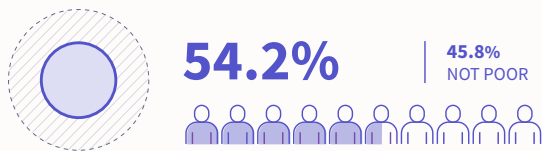
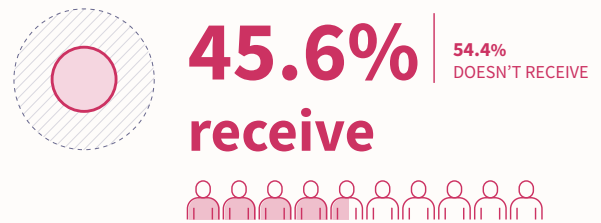


**% BY SOCIO OCCUPATIONAL STRATUM**



**% BY POVERTY LEVEL**

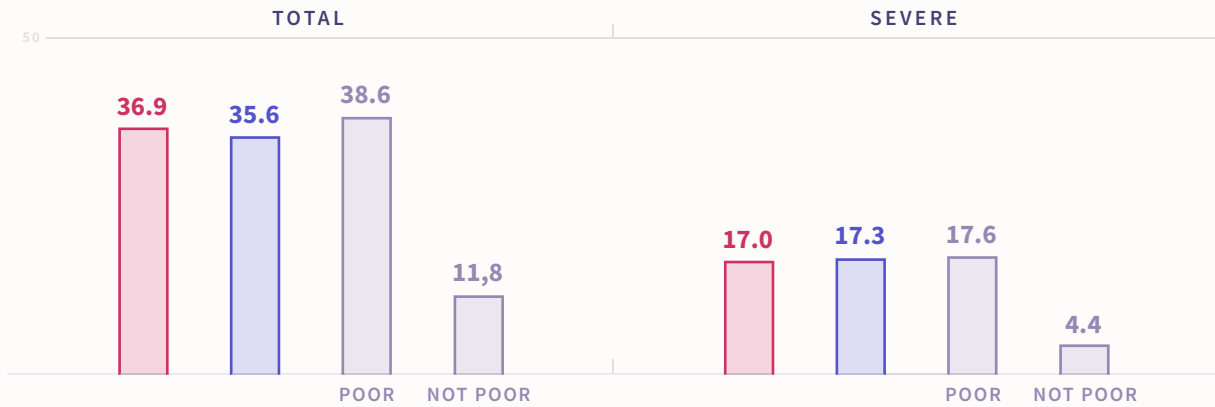
**% RECEIVE DIRECT FOOD ASSISTANCE**



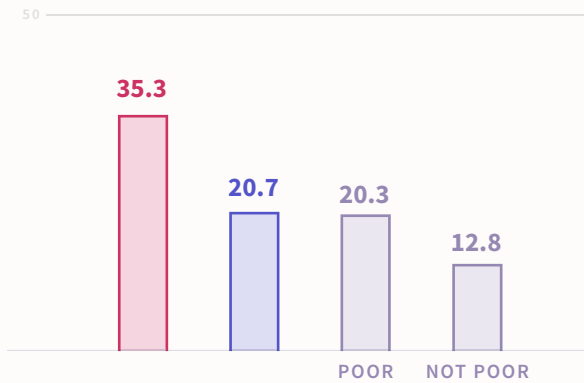
### Comparison of CIP groups according to their current situation

2017-2019. Percentage in children from 0 to 17 years old, from 1 to 17 (birthday deprivation), and from 5 to 17 years (labor index).

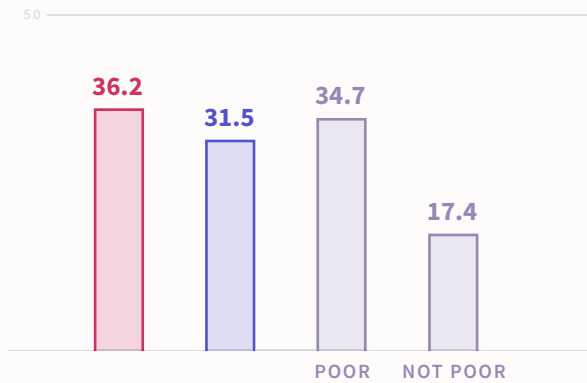
#### % FOOD INSECURITY



#### % LIKELIHOOD OF FALLING BEHIND IN SCHOOL



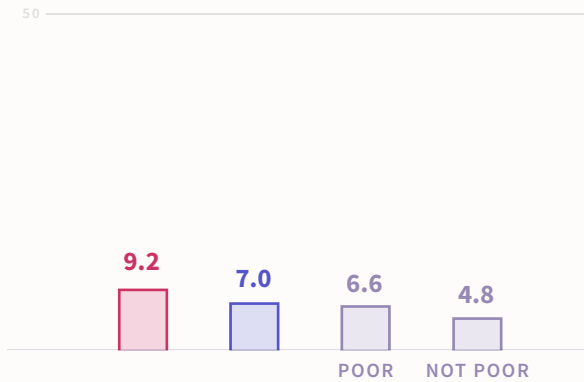
#### % DIDN'T CELEBRATE LAST BIRTHDAY



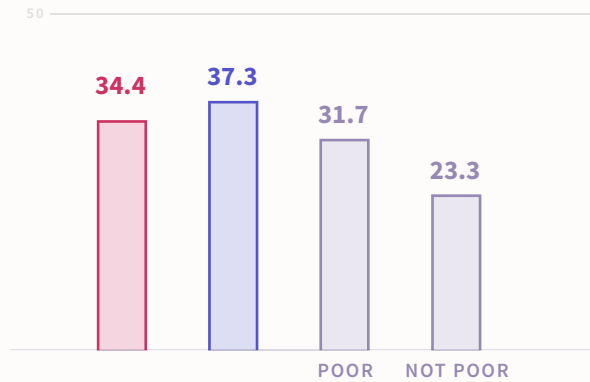
10

Special report

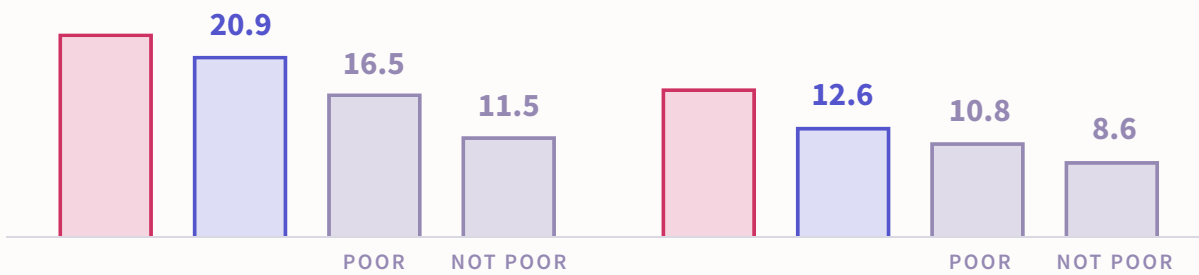
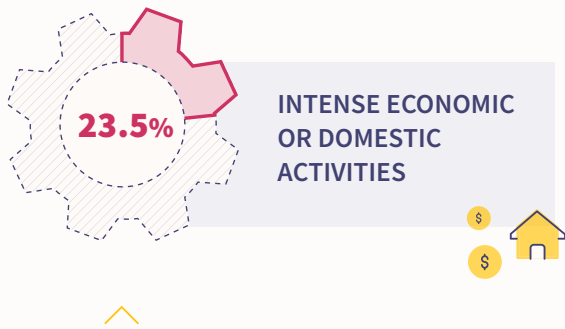
**% VERBAL AGGRESSION**



**% VERBAL AND/OR PHYSICAL AGGRESSION**



**% LIKELIHOOD OF CARRYING OUT ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**





## » CIP AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

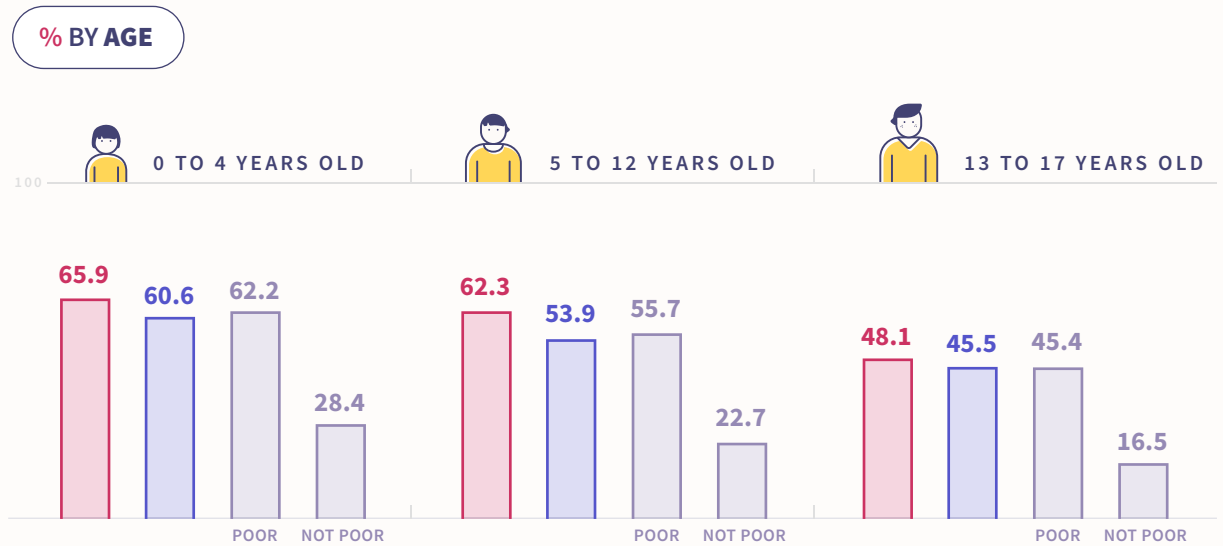
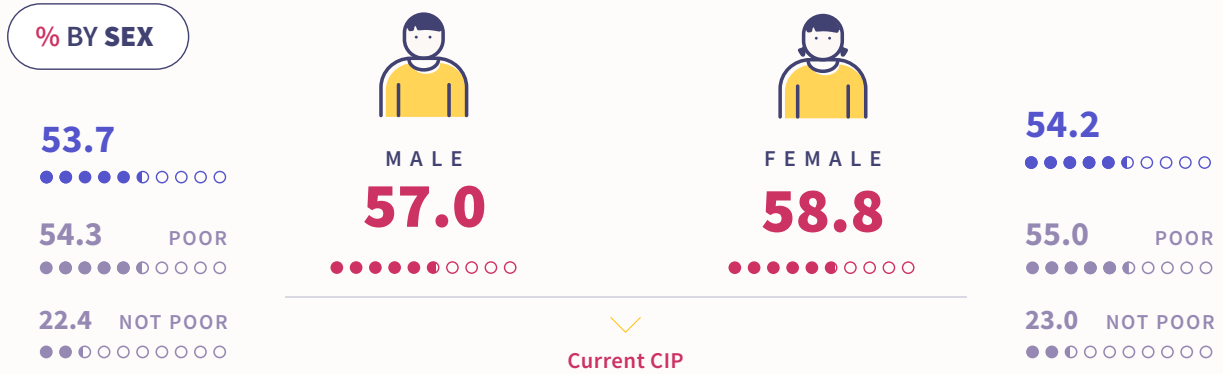
- Social protection systems, through conditional cash-transfer programs and other direct aids, achieve high levels of coverage within the CIP population. Indeed, CIP are estimated to be more likely to receive some form of aid from the government, for all age groups, socio-occupational strata and for all geographical areas than their former CIP peers or that those that have experienced this situation, whether poor or not. This can be an indicator of the proper focus of social programs such as Universal Child Assignment on the most vulnerable social strata.



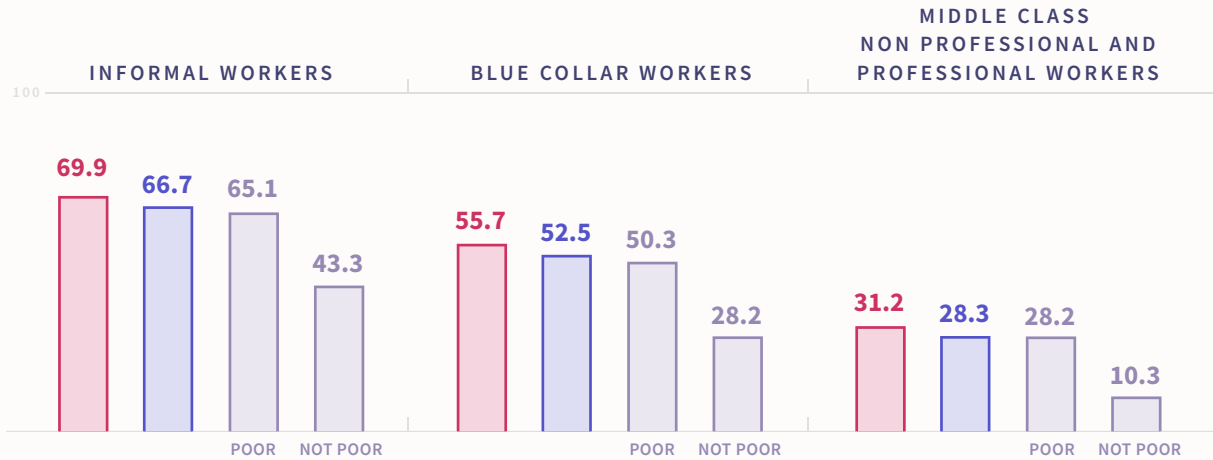
***CIP are more likely to receive some kind of cash transfer or monetary aid from the Government.***

## Likelihood of receiving social welfare assistance through cash transfer programs

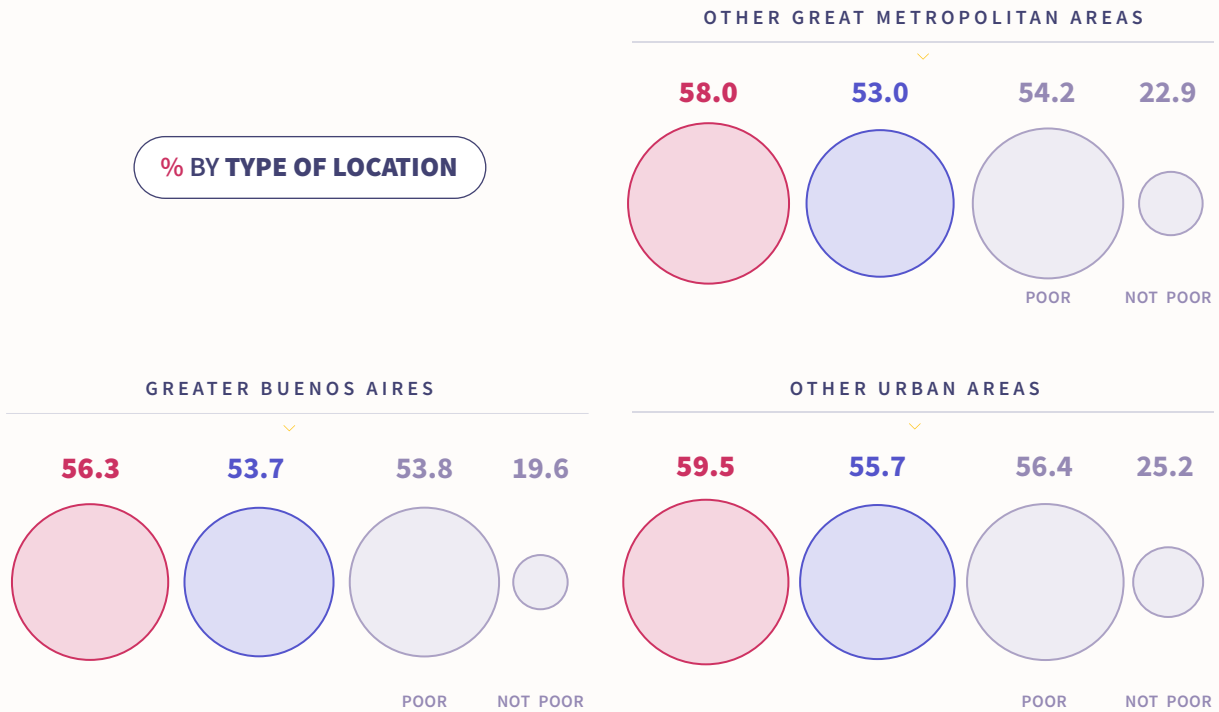
Children between 5 and 17 years old. Information compiled from ESDA 2017-2019.



**% BY SOCIO OCCUPATIONAL STRATUM**



**% BY TYPE OF LOCATION**





## » CIP AND EDUCATION

- CIP—especially those in early primary school or adolescents—are more likely to have educational deficits than those children who experienced this situation before or than those who have never experienced it.
- While a general trend of educational deficits is identified in Argentinean toddlers and adolescents, the social inequality gap is clearly regressive for CIP compared to other groups, and it is clear that poverty plays a very relevant role when combined with other vulnerabilities.



*The population of **CIP**, especially **those in the early childhood and adolescence (in kindergarten and secondary/high school education)**, are more likely to have educational deficits than those children who experienced this situation before or than those who have never experienced it.*

## Likelihood of falling behind in school

Children between 5 and 17 years old. Information compiled from ESDA 2017-2019.

### % BY SEX

23.3



22.6 POOR



14.1 NOT POOR



MALE

37.1



FEMALE

29.7



19.3



17.6 POOR



11.8 NOT POOR



Current CIP

### % BY AGE



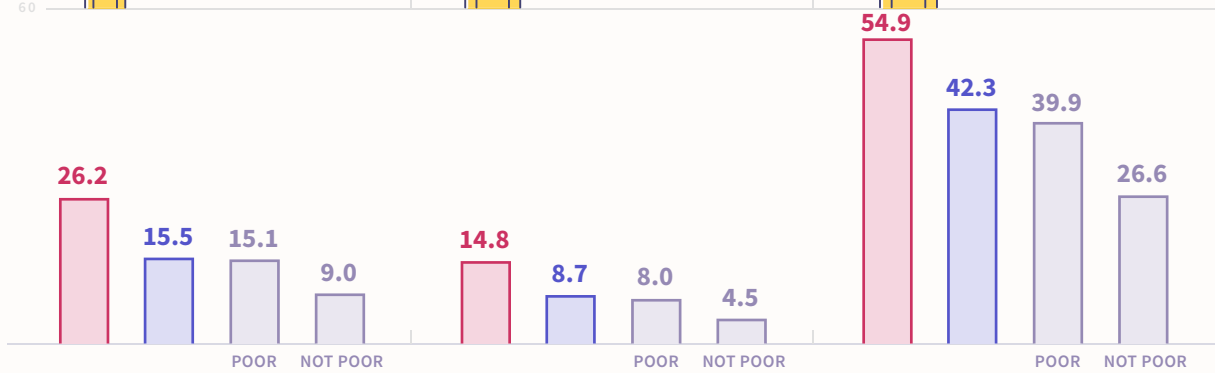
5 YEARS OLD



6 TO 12 YEARS OLD



13 TO 17 YEARS OLD

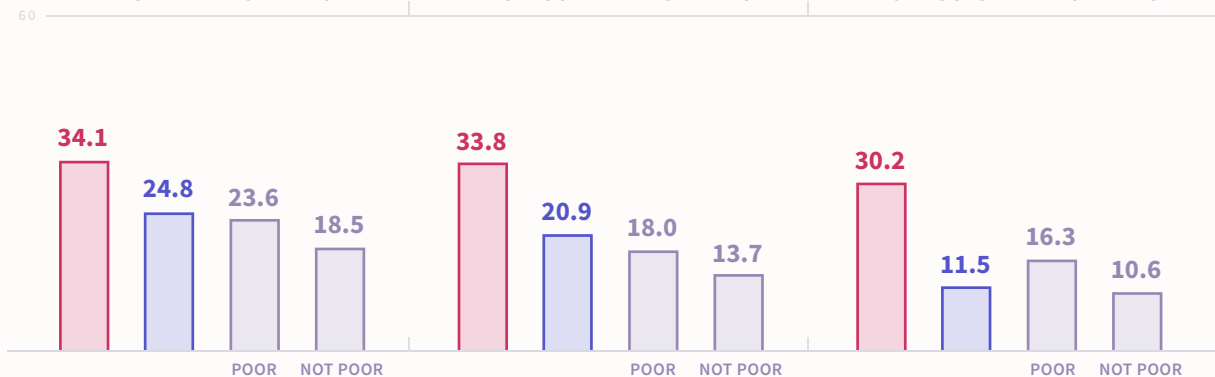


### % BY SOCIO OCCUPATIONAL STRATUM

INFORMAL WORKERS

BLUE COLLAR WORKERS

MIDDLE CLASS  
NON PROFESSIONAL AND  
PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

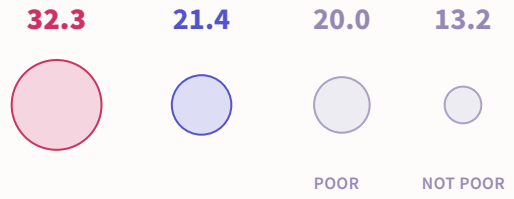




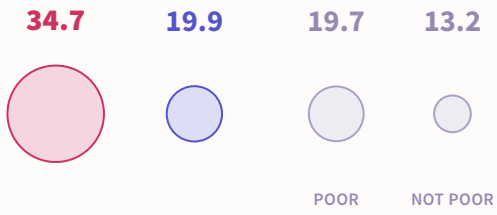
● Current CIP   
 ● Former CIP   
 ● Never CIP

**% BY TYPE OF LOCATION**

OTHER GREAT METROPOLITAN AREAS

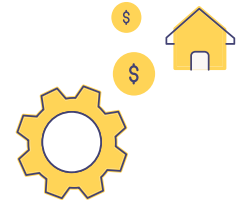


GREATER BUENOS AIRES



OTHER URBAN AREAS





## » CIP AND CHILD LABOR

- CIP are more likely than other children to engage in income generating activities for their families. This gap is large, even in comparison to former CIP, who are the second most vulnerable group in this regard. These gaps appear across all ages, income levels and geographic areas. The greatest vulnerabilities, however, appear for boys that live in the interior part of the country. The CIP of families whose heads of household are in the middle professional and non-professional stratum have more propensity to carry out economic activities in the market than their peers belonging to other types of households.

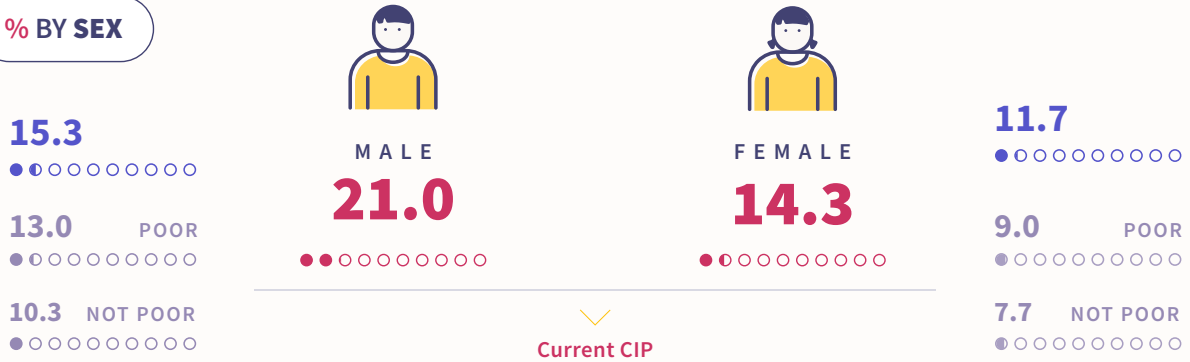


*The **CIP** of families whose heads of household are in the middle professional and non-professional stratum, have more propensity to carry out economic activities in the market than their peers belonging to other types of households.*

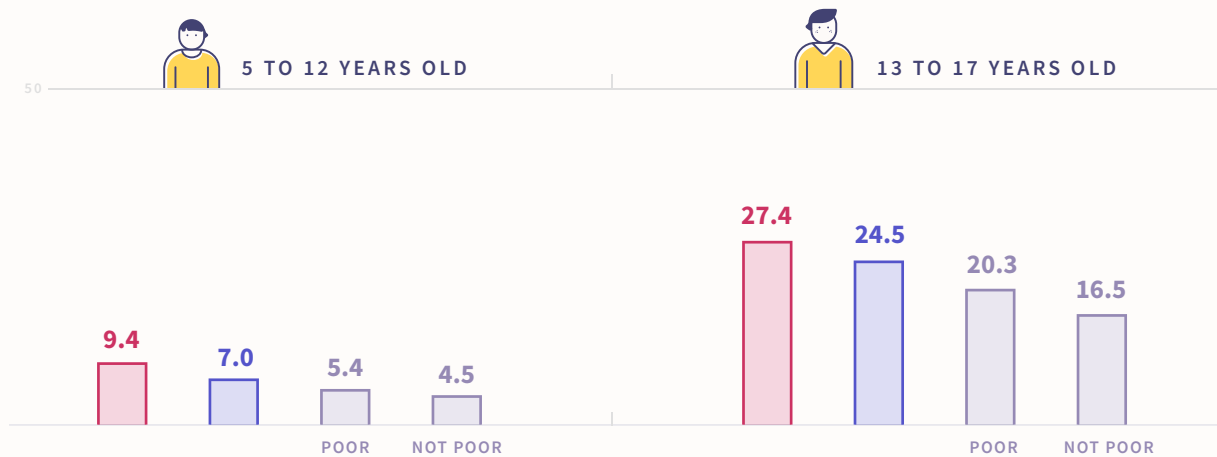
## Likelihood of carrying out economic activities

Children between 5 and 17 years old. Information compiled from ESDA 2017-2019.

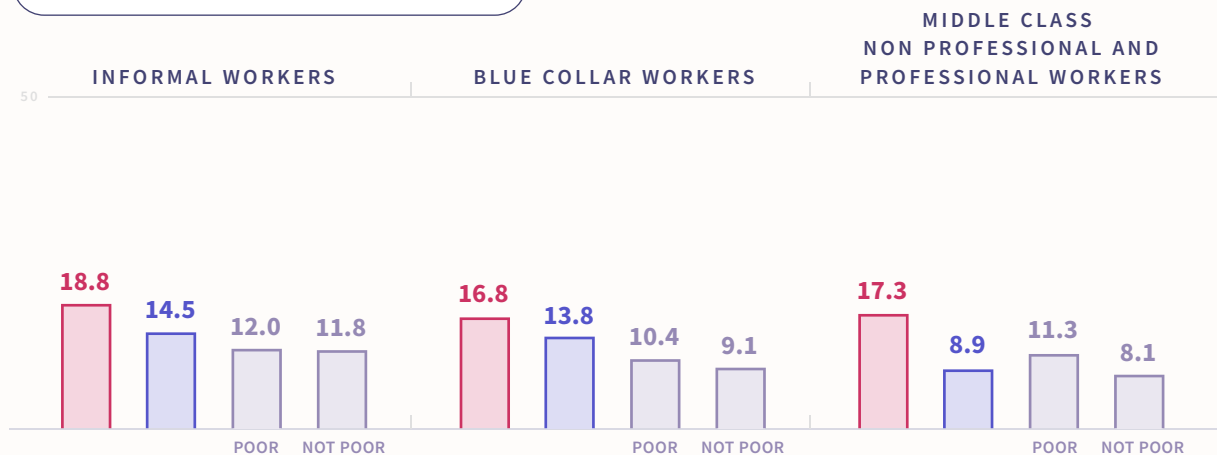
### % BY SEX



### % BY AGE



### % BY SOCIO OCCUPATIONAL STRATUM



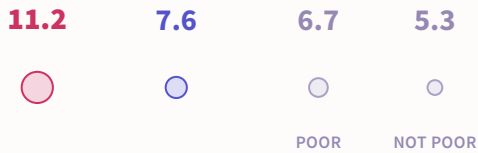
● Current CIP   
 ● Former CIP   
 ● Never CIP

**% BY TYPE OF LOCATION**

OTHER GREAT METROPOLITAN AREAS



GREATER BUENOS AIRES



OTHER URBAN AREAS



**Likelihood of carrying out economic and/or domestic activities**

Children between 5 and 17 years old. Information compiled from ESDA 2017-2019.

**% BY SEX**

21.3



16.2 POOR



10.9 NOT POOR



MALE

24.7



FEMALE

20.6



19.1



14.4 POOR



10.7 NOT POOR



Current CIP

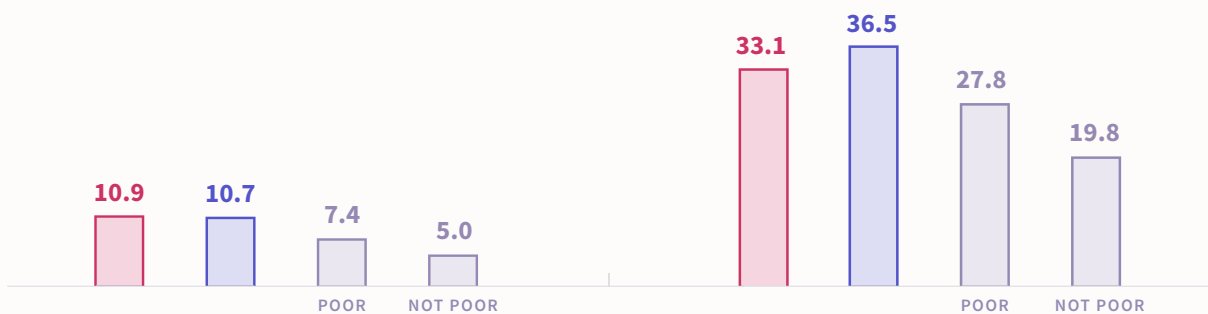
**% BY AGE**



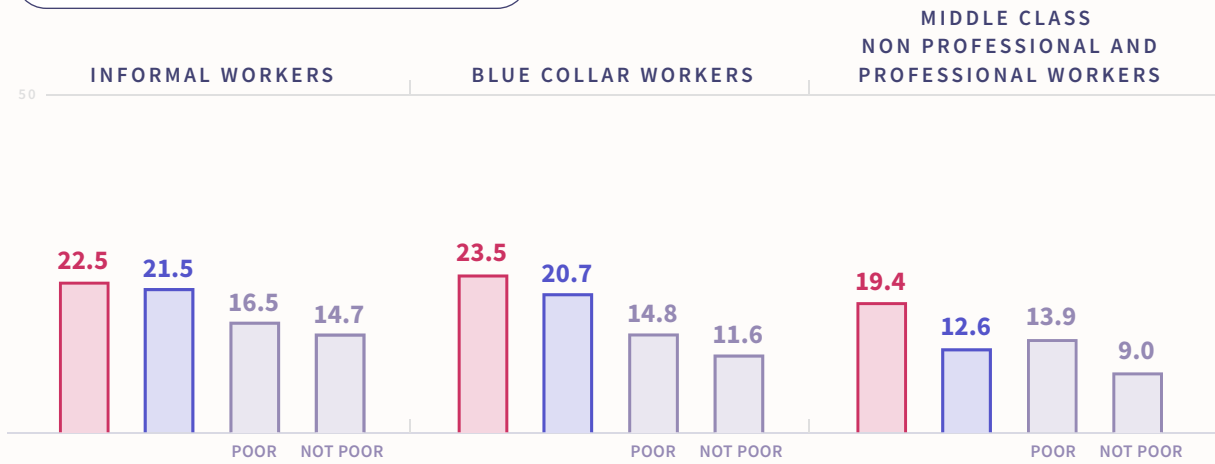
5 TO 12 YEARS OLD



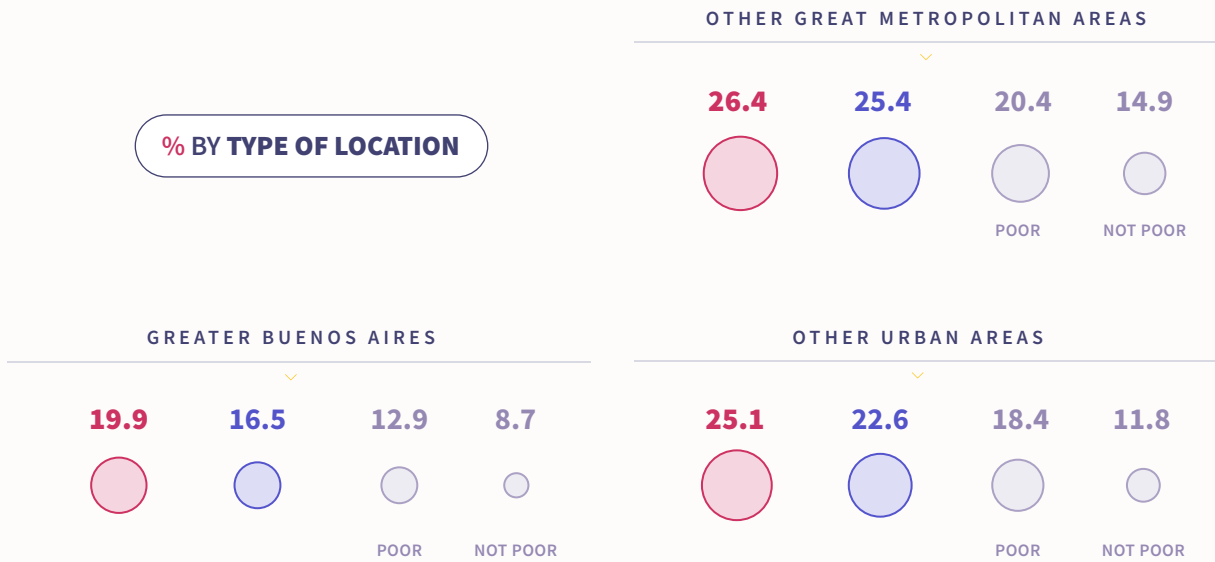
13 TO 17 YEARS OLD



**% BY SOCIO OCCUPATIONAL STRATUM**



**% BY TYPE OF LOCATION**



## » THE METHODOLOGY APPLIED

- In order to make comparisons among populations and identify the specific vulnerabilities of CIP, the researchers used a series of logistic regression models. These models were used for different aspects associated with each group's experiences and incorporated multiple sociodemographic, economic and geographical factors with the aim of estimating the probability of suffering from such vulnerability.
- The important thing about this procedure is that **the variable "CIP"** (children living in a household where there is an imprisoned member) was incorporated into the analysis, which allowed the researchers to understand how much this factor influences each deprivation or deficit analyzed, but also managing to incorporate the effect of the **predictor variables in the models**.
- In this way, and with "robust" logistic regression models - which have overall percentages greater than 75% in all cases - the estimated different probabilities of each of the deficits were plotted according to different sociodemographic variables and by CIP condition.
- In this way, you can see how the probabilities increase **for CIP**, even when considering the different sociodemographic categories incorporated into the analysis.

## » Reference

Cadoni, Rival and Tuñón (2019). Childhood and incarceration. Living conditions of children and adolescents whose parents or family members are deprived of liberty in Argentina. CWS and ODSA-UCA.

<http://wadmin.uca.edu.ar/public/ckeditor/Observatorio%20Deuda%20Social/Presentaciones/2019/2019-BDSI-Informe-Especial-Infancias-y-Encarcelamiento.pdf>

## » Annexes

Argentina social debt survey data sheet		
	SERIES FOR EQUITY AGENDA (2017-2025)	BICENTENARY SERIES (2010-2016)
<b>Domain</b>	Urban agglomerations with 80,000 inhabitants or more from Argentina	Urban agglomerations with 80,000 inhabitants or more from the Argentine Republic.
<b>Universe</b>	Representative of the universe composed of private homes in urban centers of the country with a population greater than 80.000 people.	Representative of the universe composed of private homes in urban centers of the country with a population greater than 80.000 people.
<b>Sample size</b>	Home sample: approximately 5,860 cases per year. The total number of children included in 2019 was 5,350 children and adolescents aged 0 to 17.	Home Sample: approximately 5,712 cases per year. The total number of children included in 2014, 2015, and 2016 was 4,929, 4,634, and 5,325 children and adolescents aged 0 to 17, respectively.
<b>Type of survey</b>	Longitudinal multipurpose.	Longitudinal multipurpose.
<b>Case assignment</b>	Non-proportional post-calibrated.	Non-proportional post-calibrated.
<b>Sampling points</b>	Total 960 census radios (National Census 2010), 836 spokes through simple stratified sampling and 124 over-sample radios representative of the richest and poorest strata of the lofted urban areas.	952 census radios.

<b>Sample domain</b>	Urban agglomerates grouped into 3 large conglomerates according to their size: 1) Gran Buenos Aires: Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and Conurbano Bonaerense (Conurbano Zona Norte, Conurbano Zona Oeste and Conurbano Zona Sur) <sup>1</sup> ; 2) Other Metropolitan Areas: Gran Rosario, Gran Córdoba, San Miguel de Tucumán and Tafí Viejo, and Gran Mendoza; and 3) Urban rest: Mar del Plata, Gran Salta, Gran Paraná, Gran Resistencia, Gran San Juan, Neuquén-Plottier-Cipolletti, Zárate, La Rioja, Goya, San Rafael, Comodoro Rivadavia and Ushuaia-Río Grande.	Urban agglomerates grouped into 3 large conglomerates according to their size: 1) Gran Buenos Aires: Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and Conurbano Bonaerense (Conurbano Zona Norte, Conurbano Zona Oeste and Conurbano Zona Sur) <sup>1</sup> ; 2) Other Metropolitan Areas: Gran Rosario, Gran Córdoba, San Miguel de Tucumán and Tafí Viejo, and Gran Mendoza; and 3) Urban rest: Mar del Plata, Gran Salta, Gran Paraná, Gran Resistencia, Gran San Juan, Neuquén-Plottier-Cipolletti, Zárate, La Rioja, Goya, San Rafael, Comodoro Rivadavia and Ushuaia-Río Grande.
<b>Sampling procedure</b>	Polyepic, with a first stage of conglomeration and a second stratification. The selection of sample radii within each agglomerate and stratum is random and weighted by the number of households in each radius. The apples inside each sample point and the households of each apple are randomly selected through a systematic sample, while the indicators of the children inside each home are relieved for the total of the members from 0 to 17 years through the report of their mother, parent or adult reference.	Polyepic, with a first stage of conglomeration and a second stratification. The selection of sample radii within each agglomerate and stratum is random and weighted by the number of households in each radius. The apples inside each sample point and the households of each apple are randomly selected through a systematic sample, while the indicators of the children inside each home are relieved for the total of the members from 0 to 17 years through the report of their mother, parent or adult reference.
<b>Stratification criterion</b>	A first stratification criterion defines information analysis domains according to the region membership and population size of agglomerates. A second criterion refers to a socio-economic criterion of households. This criterion is established for the purpose of optimizing the final distribution of survey points.	Socioeconomic stratification carried out by classification and management of census radii, according to the average educational level of the head of household in each census radius. Calibration by age, sex, activity condition and population in informal villas and neighborhoods.
<b>Date of completion</b>	Third quarter 2019.	Fourth quarter 2014-2015, Q3 2016.
<b>Sample error</b>	+/- 1.3%, with an estimate of a population ratio of 50% and a confidence level of 95%.	+/- 1.3%, with an estimate of a population ratio of 50% and a confidence level of 95%.

1. Conurbano Norte is composed of the matches of Vicente López, San Isidro, San Fernando, Tigre, San Martín, San Miguel, Malvinas Argentinas, José C. Paz and Pilar. Conurbano Oeste is composed of the matches of La Matanza, Merlo, Moreno, Morón, Hurlingham, Ituzaingó, Tres de Febrero, Cañuelas, General Rodríguez and Marcos Paz. The Southern Conurbano is composed of the parties of Avellaneda, Quilmes, Berazategui, Florencio Varela, Lanús, Lomas de Zamora, Almirante Brown, Esteban Echeverría, Ezeiza, Presidente Perón and San Vicente.

1. The AMBA consists of the 15 communes of the CABA and 30 matches of Conurbano Bonaerense, 24 belonging to the Conurbano in its classic definition and 6 matches of the third urban cordón: El Conurbano Norte is composed of the matches of Vicente López, San Isidro, San Fernando, Tigre, San Martín, San Miguel, Malvinas Argentinas, José C Paz and Pilar. Conurbano Oeste is composed of the matches of La Matanza, Merlo, Moreno, Morón, Hurlingham, Ituzaingó, Tres de Febrero, Cañuelas, General Rodríguez and Marcos Paz. The Southern Conurbano is composed of the parties of Avellaneda, Quilmes, Berazategui, Florencio Varela, Lanús, Lomas de Zamora, Almirante Brown, Esteban Echeverría, Ezeiza, Presidente Perón and San Vicente.



## Glossary of abbreviations

<p><b>CIP</b></p>	<p>CIP refers to girls, adolescent boys with some adult reference deprived of their freedom. (CIP (or NNAPes in Spanish) are terms created by civil society organizations defending their rights for the purpose of making this group visible from the implementation of actions to incidence, promotion and protection of their rights). The CIP variable included in the study analyses the situation of children and adolescents in relation to the presence of a currently imprisoned household member, who has been deprived of their liberty in the past, or that no member has been or is deprived of their liberty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIP at the time of the survey</li> <li>• CIP sometime before the survey</li> <li>• Never CIP</li> </ul>
<p><b>Age group</b></p>	<p>The differences between the following age groups representing different life cycles are analyzed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early childhood (0 to 4 years)</li> <li>• Schoolchildren (5 to 12 years)</li> <li>• Adolescence (13 to 17 years)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sex</b></p>	<p>The differences between males and women are analyzed in the main dimensions that make integral development in the childhood and adolescent stage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male</li> <li>• Woman</li> </ul>
<p><b>Socio-occupational stratum</b></p>	<p>It expresses the class position of households through the condition, type and occupational qualification, source of income and level of social protection achieved by the main economic support of the domestic group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marginal working class</li> <li>• Integrated working class</li> <li>• Professional and non-professional middle class</li> </ul>
<p><b>Income poverty</b></p>	<p>A child residing in a household whose total household income does not exceed the threshold of the monetary income needed to acquire the value of a basket of basic goods and services (CBT: Total Basic Basket) is considered poor.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor</li> <li>• Not poor</li> </ul>
<p><b>Urban agglomerate</b></p>	<p>It ranks in large regions the agglomeration-two taken in the sample according to their spatial distribution, geopolitical importance and degree of socioeconomic consolidation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMBA</li> <li>• Other metropolitan areas</li> <li>• Urban rest of the interior</li> </ul>

<p><b>Social plans</b></p>	<p>Percentage of children and adolescents in households with different types of social coverage and without it (They are considered: Family Salary, Tax Credit, Universal Child Allowance, They receive another social plan).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive</li> <li>• Doesn't Receive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Core Type</b></p>	<p>It refers to the type of nuclearity. This indicator distinguishes nuclear homes and large households. The first are those where there is only one partner (or one spouse) with their children, while in the latter there is a presence of other relatives (for example, there are grandchildren or nephews of the boss).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Extensive</li> <li>• Extensive</li> </ul>
<p><b>Type of Home</b></p>	<p>Cohabitation with mother and/or father as part of an incomplete marital nucleus household, or with another family member or non-family member, but in an incomplete marital nucleus household (e.g. with a single grandparent). Cohabitation with mother and father as part of a complete marital nucleus; with one of them, but in a reconstituted marital nucleus; or with other family members in a full marital nucleus home (e.g. with both grandparents).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biparental Home</li> <li>• Single-parent home</li> </ul>

The logo for ODSA (Observatorio de la Deuda Social Argentina) consists of a white square with a grey arrow pointing downwards from the bottom-left corner. Inside the square, the letters "ODSA" are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

**ODSA**

Observatorio  
de la Deuda  
Social Argentina

BARÓMETRO DE  
LA DEUDA SOCIAL  
DE LA INFANCIA



**UCA**

Av. Alicia M. de Justo 1500, cuarto piso, oficina 462  
(C1107AFD) Ciudad de Buenos Aires - Argentina  
Tel/Fax: (+54-11)-7078-0615  
E-Mail: [observatorio\\_deudasocial@uca.edu.ar](mailto:observatorio_deudasocial@uca.edu.ar)  
[www.uca.edu.ar/observatorio](http://www.uca.edu.ar/observatorio)