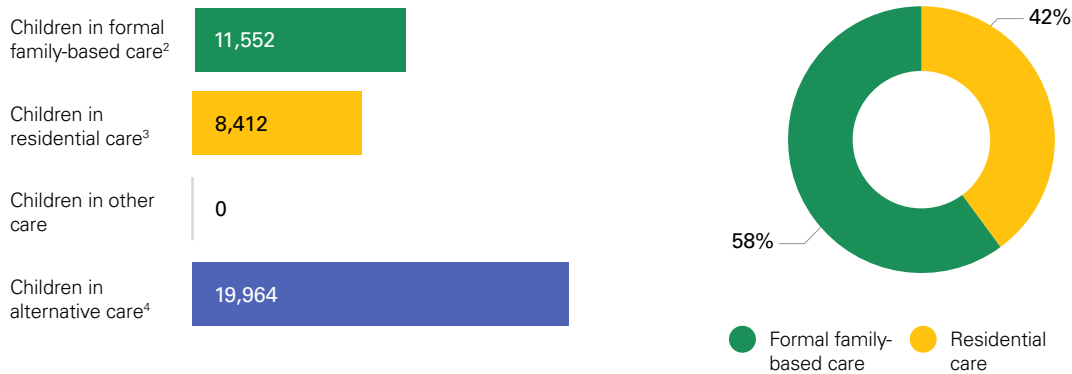


Belgium

<p>● No</p> <p>● Yes</p>	<p>Red indicates that the variable is not collected or the statement not true, green that it is. If no information was found about any of the points in the overview for the particular country, the points are removed on the page for that country.</p>	<p>● Children in formal family-based care</p> <p>● Children in residential care</p> <p>● Children in other care</p> <p>● Children in alternative care</p>
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Total number of children in alternative care¹

<p>● All children in alternative care covered</p>	<p>● Groups of children excluded: Children with disabilities in residential care</p>
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Headline statistics⁵

The rate of children aged 0-17 in alternative care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	863
The rate of children aged 0-17 in residential care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	364
The rate of children aged 0-17 in formal family-based care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	500
The percentage of children aged 0-17 in residential care (of the total number of children in alternative care) at a specific point in time	42.1 %

Country system

- Decentralised alternative care and data system
- Data on alternative care published
- Is the data system on children in alternative care covered in legislation?
- Is the overarching term, in line with 'alternative care', used in legislation?
- Formal kinship care is a subdivision of foster care

Data system

- Recent or current reform of data system on children in alternative care⁶
- Data collected per individual child⁷
- Personal identification numbers used
- More than one agency mandated to collect data⁸
- Data collected on quality of care and outcomes⁹

Variables collected on

<input type="radio"/> Age	<input type="radio"/> Reason for entry into care ¹⁰
<input type="radio"/> Sex	<input type="radio"/> Placement decision maker
<input type="radio"/> Unaccompanied minor status ¹¹	<input type="radio"/> Reintegrated with family ¹²
<input type="radio"/> Statelessness ¹³	<input type="radio"/> Adopted
<input type="radio"/> Disability status ¹⁴	<input type="radio"/> Leaving care due to death ¹⁵
<input type="radio"/> Parental status ¹⁶	<input type="radio"/> Age on leaving care ¹⁷

Residential care

<input type="radio"/> Official maximum number of places in a small group home
<input type="radio"/> Official maximum number of places in largest type of residential care facilities
<input type="radio"/> Data collected separately for small group homes and large institutions
<input type="radio"/> Data collected on length of stay ¹⁸
<input type="radio"/> Data collected on number of staff and their qualifications

Helpful examples

The National Commission on Child Rights published a report in 2016 on the existence of nationally comparable data on indicators connected to child rights, in response to the 2010 recommendations from the CRC (Nationale Kinderrechten Indicatoren, Make Them Count). Although children in alternative care are only mentioned in one section of the report, the recommendations and the intention behind the report could form a good starting point for advocacy for nationally comparable data in Belgium, including data on children in alternative care.

Room for improvement

The different systems of the three federal regions do not align and are not fully comparable.

The impression exists that data are collected, but are either not made publicly available or are difficult to find or access.

Source: The DataCare project, 2021.

Endnotes

- 1 Data for Flanders are from 2020, provided on request by the Agentschap Opgroeien. Data from the German speaking community are from 2019, source: Fachbereich Jugendhilfe. Tätigkeitsbericht 2019 by the Ministerium der Deutschsprachigen Gemeinschaft Belgiens. Data from Wallonia-Brussels are from 2019, provided on request by the Administration Générale de l'Aide à la Jeunesse.
- 2 The data are for 2019 for the German-speaking community and Wallonia-Brussels.
- 3 As above for the German-speaking community and Wallonia-Brussels. Data for Flanders do not include children with disabilities in residential care, children in boarding schools and 'stay for youngsters'.
- 4 As above.
- 5 Calculated by the DataCare project team using, where relevant, country-specific population statistics from the UNICEF Data Warehouse. Source: https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer/ unicef_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=DM&ver=1.0&dq=.DM_POP_U18...&startPeriod=2010&endPeriod=2020.
- 6 Except German-speaking community.
- 7 Only Flanders.
- 8 Except Wallonia Brussels.
- 9 Except Wallonia Brussels.
- 10 Except German-speaking community and Wallonia Brussels.
- 11 Except German-speaking community.
- 12 Except Wallonia Brussels.
- 13 Except German-speaking community and Wallonia Brussels.
- 14 Except Wallonia Brussels.
- 15 Except German-speaking community and Wallonia Brussels.
- 16 Except Wallonia Brussels.
- 17 Except German-speaking community and Wallonia Brussels.
- 18 Except German-speaking community and Wallonia Brussels.