Lithuania

Total number of children in alternative care

- All children in alternative care covered
- Children in formal family-based care: 4,835
- Children in residential care: 3,438
- Children in other care: 2,035
- Children in alternative care: 10,308

Headline statistics

- The rate of children aged 0-17 in alternative care at a specific point in time (per 100,000): 2,091
- The rate of children aged 0-17 in residential care at a specific point in time (per 100,000): 697
- The rate of children aged 0-17 in formal family-based care at a specific point in time (per 100,000): 981
- 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: 33.4%

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 care
- Data collected per individual child
- Personal identification numbers used
- More than one agency mandated to collect data
- Data collected on quality of care and outcomes
Variables collected on

- Age
- Reason for entry into care
- Sex
- Placement decision maker
- Unaccompanied minor status
- Reintegrated with family
- Statelessness
- Adopted
- Disability status
- Leaving care due to death
- Parental status
- Age on leaving care

Residential care

- Official maximum number of places in a small group home: 6-8
- Official maximum number of places in largest type of residential care facilities
- Data collected separately for small group homes and large institutions
- Data collected on length of stay
- Data collected on number of staff and their qualifications
- All forms of residential child care are recognised as alternative care

Helpful examples

The Social Family Support Information System (Socialinės paramos šeimai informacinė Sistema, or SPIS) is not only a statistical database, it is also a working tool for certain institutions. The purpose of SPIS is to register and collect information on social support provided in municipalities in the same way (social benefits and compensations, social support for students, social services, activities in the field of protection of children's rights, etc.) and to enable the analysis of this information by municipalities, types of support and beneficiaries, as well as preventing the receipt of support in several municipalities simultaneously. SPIS as a centralised counting of children in care and persons willing to care for a child was introduced only in 2018, therefore the system is still in the process of continuous improvement in this area.

There is a review of care, including communication with children. Their opinion about the quality of care is heard.

Room for improvement

Not all data are currently disaggregated by age group, gender, rural or urban area, socio-economic status and by groups of children in need of special protection, and for some information (e.g. on ethnic origin) there is no data collection at all.

Source: The DataCare project, 2021.

Endnotes
1 Contains ‘other’ alternative care provisions that cannot be definitely said to be residential care or family-based care, or that are not considered alternative care in all countries. Source: https://osp.stat.gov.lt/statistiniu-rodikliu-analize?hash=8123456789-abcdefg (accessed August 2021).
2 Does not include data on temporary supervision, and may include young people over 18 among the 78 in homes for independent living.
3 Calculated by the DataCare project team using, where relevant, country-specific population statistics from the UNICEF DataWarehouse. Source: https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer/unicef_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=DM&ver=1.0&dq=.DM_POP_U18...&startPeriod=2010&endDate=2020.