UK-England

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.

### Total number of children in alternative care

All children in alternative care covered

- Children in formal family-based care: 57,380
- Children in residential care: 11,800
- Children in other care: 6,220
- Children in alternative care: 75,400

### Headline statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistic</th>
<th>Rate (per 100,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The rate of children aged 0-17 in alternative care at a specific point in time</td>
<td>623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rate of children aged 0-17 in residential care at a specific point in time</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rate of children aged 0-17 in formal family-based care at a specific point in time</td>
<td>474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
Better data for better child protection systems in Europe

Variables collected on

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

Residential care

- Official maximum number of places in a small group home
- 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

Helpful examples

The ability to observe the placement stability experienced by children in alternative care. Data record a reason for placement change, allowing for planned changes of placements to be identifiable. Repeat re-entries to care are also possible to identify.

Source: The DataCare project, 2021.

Endnotes
1 The reference point is 31/03/2020. The data contain ‘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://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After/ (accessed August 2021).
2 Does not include pre-adoptive foster care.
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/?tag=UNICEF&df=DM&ver=1.0&dq=.DM_POP_U18...&startPeriod=2010&endPeriod=2020.