



Denmark



Total number of children in alternative care¹



Headline statistics²

The rate of children aged 0-17 in alternative care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	982
The rate of children aged 0-17 in residential care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	319
The rate of children aged 0-17 in formal family-based care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	650
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	32.4%

Country system	Data system
Decentralised alternative care and data system	 Recent or current reform of data system on children in alternative care
Data on alternative care published	Data collected per individual child
Is the data system on children in alternative care covered in legislation?	Personal identification numbers used
Is the overarching term, in line with 'alternative care', used in legislation?	More than one agency mandated to collect data
Formal kinship care is a subdivision of foster care	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
 Official maximum number of places in largest type of residential care facilities
 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 strength of the current system is that it is based on data at individual level. The personal ID-number gives the possibility to link the information on alternative care with all other databases.

Very detailed legislation on what data have to be collected on children in alternative care.

Room for improvement

The data do not provide insight into exactly where the children are in care, or only in broad terms. Lack of data on the quality of the specific units of care.

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://www.dst.dk/da/Statistik/nyt/NytHtml?cid=30567 (accessed August 2021).
- 2 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.