

Bulgaria


7,052

Population (thousands)


1.5%

Population below international poverty line


75 YEARS

Average life expectancy at birth


7

Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)


\$65,133

Gross national product (millions)


98%

Literacy rate for male youth (15-24)

98%

Literacy rate for female youth (15-24)

Behaviors and Conditions Generally Viewed as Child Maltreatment

Age an individual is legally considered an adult ^{Q9}

- 18

Forms of acceptable punishment ^{Q11}

- Hitting a child on the buttocks with an open hand
- Making a child stand or kneel in one place for more than 5 minutes

Actions considered forms of child maltreatment:

Affecting children's safety, health, or development ^{Q12}

- Physical beating of a child by any adult
- Child living on the street
- Prostituting a child
- Infanticide
- Female circumcision/female genital mutilation
- Forcing a child to beg
- Child labor – under age 12
- Internet solicitation for sex
- Child marriage

In the following places ^{Q13}

- Foster care, group home or orphanage

- Day care center
- School or educational training center
- Psychiatric institution
- Detention facility
- Religious institution
- Sporting organization
- Work place
- Law enforcement facility
- Refugee camp

Involving a parent or caregiver ^{Q14}

- Physical discipline with bruising
- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing, medical care, education, or shelter (neglect)
- Failure to seek medical care for any reason
- Sexual abuse (e.g., incest, sexual touching)
- Exposing child to pornography
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Emotional (psychological) abuse (e.g., repeated belittling or insulting of a child)
- Failure to seek medical care for child based on religious beliefs

Official Documentation on Child Maltreatment

Government agency maintains official record/count of all suspected CM reported to authorities ^{Q15}

Yes

Physical abuse

Don't know

Sexual abuse

Don't know

Agencies that maintain these records ^{Q16}

- Social services
- Courts

Neglect

Don't know

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Don't know

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

N/A

The level at which records are maintained ^{Q17}

- National
- Regional/State

Subgroups of children are systematically excluded from the reporting system ^{Q22}

No

Multiple agencies have interconnected recordkeeping systems ^{Q18}

No

Country or most states/provinces have a law mandating reporting of suspected CM ^{Q26}

No

How long this counting system has been in place ^{Q19}

10+ years

Year law took effect ^{Q27}

2001-2005

Types of CM and intimate partner violence used to classify reports ^{Q20}

Physical abuse

Yes

 Law applies to ^{Q28}

- Physical abuse

Sexual abuse

Yes

- Sexual abuse

Neglect

Yes

- Neglect

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Yes

- Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

No

- Exposure to/witnessing IPV

Change in the past 4 years in the number of reports for the following types of CM ^{Q21}

National Statistics

 Percentage of reports of suspected CM that are responded to/investigated by social services ^{Q30}

76-90%

Percentage of all reports investigated that are substantiated or “proven” ^{Q31}	31-45%
One child or household can be counted more than once ^{Q35}	Yes
Percent of substantiated reports that result in ^{Q37}	
Result in the perpetrator being removed from the home	Don't know
Lead to prosecution of the alleged perpetrator	Don't know
Result in the child being removed from the home	Don't know
Number of children removed from home living in: ^{Q38}	
Kinship care (with a family member)?	Don't know
Non-relative family foster care	Don't know
Residential care/orphanages	Don't know

Child Fatalities

An autopsy is required by law when a child's death ^{Q39}	
Is unexpected	Yes
Has an unclear cause	Yes
The autopsy is conducted by ^{Q40}	
• Hospital	

There is a specific protocol ^{Q41}	Yes
My country has child death/fatality review teams ^{Q42}	Yes
These teams are trained in recognizing child abuse and neglect ^{Q43}	Yes
These teams are required by law ^{Q44}	Yes
These teams are ^{Q45}	Local
An official annual count of deaths due to child abuse or neglect is maintained by a government agency ^{Q46}	Yes
The annual rate of child deaths attributed to CM ^{Q47}	Don't know
Percentage of child deaths that involves ^{Q49}	
Physical abuse	Don't know
Neglect	Don't know
Sexual Abuse	Don't know
Emotional Abuse	Don't know
Intimate Partner Violence	Don't know
In the past 10 years, the number of reported deaths due to CM ^{Q50}	Remained the same

Responses to Child Maltreatment

My country has an identified government agency (or agencies) at the national, state, or local levels that is mandated to respond to reports of CM ^{Q51}	Yes
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Primary investigations are conducted by ^{Q52}	
• Social services	
• Law enforcement	
• Court system	

Laws and Policies Responding to Child Maltreatment

My country has national laws or policies implemented at the state/provincial/territorial level regarding CM ^{Q53}	Yes
These laws were established ^{Q54}	After 2000
The following elements are specified in laws or policies ^{Q55}	
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children	No
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals	Yes
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults	No
Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual	Yes
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Yes
Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Yes
Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Yes
Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Yes
Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Yes
Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, day care workers, etc.)	Yes
Specific criminal penalties for maltreating a child	Yes
Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Yes
Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	No
Requires the development of specific prevention services	Yes
Requires that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Yes
Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM	Yes
Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith	Don't know

Provide a specific budget for preventing CM	Yes
Clear definition of child neglect	Yes
Clear definition of child physical abuse	Yes
Clear definition of child sexual abuse	Yes
Clear definition of child emotional/psychological abuse	Yes
Clear definition of exposure to IPV	Yes
The sectors that are required to be included in the response ^{Q56}	
• Child protection	
• Law enforcement (police)	
• Legal (e.g., prosecutor or court appointed advocate)	
• Local municipality; additionally if needed	
• Any other specialist	
The extent to which these laws or policies are being enforced ^{Q57}	
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children	Inconsistently
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals	Inconsistently
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults	Inconsistently
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Widely
Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Widely
Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Widely
Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Widely
Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Widely
Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, daycare workers, etc.)	Inconsistently
Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Widely

Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	Don't know	Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Adequate
Requirement that the development of specific prevention services	Widely	Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/ caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Adequate
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Widely	Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Adequate
Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM	Widely	Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Adequate
Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith	Don't know	Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	Somewhat inadequate
Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Inconsistently	Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Adequate
The adequacy of government resources for implementing these laws or policies ^{Q58}		Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Adequate
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter	Adequate	Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Adequate		
Requirement that an investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Adequate		

Services

Child abuse and neglect services available and to what extent ^{Q59}

Therapy for those who neglect a child	Occasionally	Public shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children	Usually
Therapy for neglected children	Occasionally	Financial and other material support	Usually
Therapy for those who physically abuse a child	Occasionally	Hospitalization for mental illness for adults	Occasionally
Therapy for physically abused children	Usually	Hospitalization for mental illness for children	Occasionally
Therapy for those who sexually abuse a child	Occasionally	Substance abuse treatment for parents	Usually
Therapy for sexually abused children	Occasionally	Substance abuse treatment for children	Usually
Case management support services to meet a family's basic needs	Usually	Centers for parents to share experiences/concerns	Usually
Home-based services to support parents and family	Usually	Universal home visits for all new parents	Usually
Foster care with official foster parents	Usually	Targeted home visits for new parents at-risk	Moderately
Group homes for maltreated children	Usually	Free/highly subsidized child care	Usually
Public shelters for maltreated children	Usually	Universal health screening for children	Usually
		Universal, mostly free medical care for children	Usually
		Universal, mostly free medical care for all citizens	Moderately

Prevention

The involvement of the following sectors in providing CM prevention services before CM has occurred ^{Q60}

Hospitals/medical centers	Minimal
Mental health agencies	Don't know
Businesses/factories	Minimal
Schools	Very
Public social service agencies	Very
Community-based NGOs	Very
Religious institutions	None
Voluntary civic organizations	Very
Courts/law enforcement	Very
Universities	Moderate

The level of involvement for the following sectors in providing CM treatment services after CM has occurred ^{Q61}

Hospitals/medical centers	Moderate
Mental health agencies	Moderate
Businesses/factories	None
Schools	Very
Public social service agencies	Very
Community-based NGOs	Very
Religious institutions	None
Voluntary civic organizations	Very
Courts/law enforcement	Very
Universities	None

The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM prevention services ^{Q62}

Government	Moderate
Non-government	Moderate

The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM treatment services ^{Q63}

Government	Major
Non-government	Major

The effectiveness of these strategies in preventing CM ^{Q64}

Home-based services and support for parents at risk	Seems effective
Media campaigns to raise public awareness	Seems effective
Risk assessment methods	Seems effective
Increasing individual responsibility for child protection	Seems effective
Prosecution of child abuse offenders	Seems effective
A system of universal health care and access to preventive medical care	Not effective
Professional training	Seems effective
University programs for students	Seems effective
Improving the basic living conditions of families (e.g., housing, access to clean water).	Seems effective
Mental health services	Not effective
Substance abuse services	Not effective

Services for victims of domestic violence	Seems effective	Strong sense of family privacy and parental rights to raise children as they choose	Very
Child death review teams	Not Used		
Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Seems effective	General support for the use of corporal punishment/physical discipline of children	Very
Multi-Systemic Therapy	Seems effective	Lack of commitment or support for children's rights	Very
Triple P Positive Parenting Program	Seems effective	Overwhelming number of children living on their own	Quite
Safe Care parenting program	Seems effective	Generally inadequate and poorly developed systems of basic health care or social services	Very
The importance of the following barriers in limiting efforts to prevent CM ^{Q65}		Political or religious conflict and instability	Very
Limited resources for improving the government's response to CM	Very	Lack of access to mental health services	Very
Lack of specific laws related to CM	Very	Lack of substance abuse treatment	Very
Lack of system to investigate reports of CM	Very	Lack of laws allowing sharing of information among professionals	Very
Lack of trained professionals	Very		
Public resistance to supporting prevention efforts	Very		
Extreme poverty	Quite		
Decline in family life and informal support systems for parents	Very		

Child Sexual Exploitation

The following questions pertain to child sex exploitation (CSE), defined as: the recruitment, harboring, transportation, trafficking, provision, or obtaining of a person under 18 for the purpose of a commercial sex act -- by force, fraud, or coercion.

The extent to which my country has laws concerning CSE ^{Q66}	Greatly	The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE ^{Q74}	Mostly
The extent to which my country has programs to combat CSE ^{Q67}	Somewhat	The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE abroad ^{Q75}	Mostly
The extent to which agencies collaborate to stop CSE ^{Q68}	Greatly	The extent to which my country prosecutes foreigners who engage in CSE within my country ^{Q76}	Mostly
The extent to which clear policies exist for reporting CSE to a public agency or NGO ^{Q69}	Greatly	The extent to which my country arrests children who are exploited sexually ^{Q77}	Rarely
My country keeps official records on CSE ^{Q70}	Yes	There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons who sexually exploit children ^{Q78}	Yes
Commercial sex work is legal in my country ^{Q71}	No	There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons for the possession or production of child pornography ^{Q79}	Yes
The extent to which CSE victims receive mental health care ^{Q73}	Rarely		

Resources

The extent to which the UNCRC has helped improve CM policies and programs ^{Q80}	Significantly	Reputable agencies or organizations in my country able to provide reliable information, with contact information, especially websites. ^{Q84}
Example(s) ^{Q81}		State Agency for Child Protection
The national policies are synchronized with the UN CRC		Email: sacp@sacp.government.bg
Major developments in child abuse and neglect in my country in the past year ^{Q83}		
- Recently, very strong conservative and religious movements were very active and raised their voice in favor of corporal punishment as the child "should be raised and educated in accordance with parents' beliefs and understandings and the state should not intervene in the family". All that guarnished with some citations from the Bible promoting the punishment (One who keeps the stick does not love his child). - Although not majority, they are very vocal and succeeded in shaping national policy.		