

Estonia


1,323

Population (thousands)


5%

Population below international poverty line


79 YEARS

Average life expectancy at birth


3

Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)


\$30,732

Gross national product (millions)


100%

Literacy rate for male youth (15-24)

100%

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

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
- Slavery
- Internet solicitation for sex
- Child marriage
- Torture for political reasons
- Making a child responsible for an adult crime to lessen risk of prosecution

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
- All places according to the Child Protection Act

Involving a parent or caregiver ^{Q14}

- Physical discipline with bruising
- Physical discipline without bruising or other injury
- 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
- Abandonment
- Emotional (psychological) abuse (e.g., repeated belittling or insulting of a child)
- Emotional (psychological) neglect (e.g., failure to provide emotional support/attention)
- Failure to seek medical care for child based on religious beliefs
- Child is exposed to (witnesses) intimate partner (or domestic) violence
- Child exposed to parent's substance use

Official Documentation on Child Maltreatment

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

Yes

Neglect

No

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

No

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

Yes

Agencies that maintain these records ^{Q16}

- Social services
- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Medical records - Health system

The level at which records are maintained ^{Q17}

- National
- Regional/State
- Local

Physical abuse

More cases

Sexual abuse

More cases

Neglect

Don't know

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Don't know

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

More cases

Multiple agencies have interconnected recordkeeping systems ^{Q18}

Yes

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

No

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

10+ years

Subgroups of children are included in this reporting system ^{Q24/25}

Yes

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

Physical abuse

Yes

All subgroups of children are treated similarly and included, but no special account is kept of different subgroups of children.

Sexual abuse

Yes

Country or most states/provinces have a law mandating reporting of suspected CM ^{Q26}	Yes	Exposure to IPV	16-30%
Year law took effect ^{Q27}	1990-2000	Percent of substantiated reports that result in ^{Q37}	
Law applies to ^{Q28}		Result in the perpetrator being removed from the home	Don't know
• Physical abuse		Lead to prosecution of the alleged perpetrator	Don't know
• Sexual abuse		Result in the child being removed from the home	0-15%
• Neglect		Number of children removed from home living in: ^{Q38}	
• Emotional (psychological) maltreatment		Kinship care (with a family member)?	Don't know
• Exposure to/witnessing IPV		Non-relative family foster care	Don't know
• Any situation threatening child's well-being or violating their rights		Residential care/orphanages	Don't know
National Statistics		Child Fatalities	
The rate of reported CM nationwide per 1,000 children per year ^{Q29}	10	An autopsy is required by law when a child's death ^{Q39}	
Percentage of reports of suspected CM that are responded to/investigated by social services ^{Q30}	76-90%	Is unexpected	Yes
Percentage of all reports investigated that are substantiated or "proven" ^{Q31}	Don't know	Has an unclear cause	Yes
The rate of proven CM per 1,000 children ^{Q32}	Don't know	The autopsy is conducted by ^{Q40}	
Year and period this rate applies to ^{Q33}	N/A	• Forensic doctor	Yes
Official count represents number of children or number of responses ^{Q34}	Child	There is a specific protocol ^{Q41}	Yes
One child or household can be counted more than once ^{Q35}	Yes	My country has child death/fatality review teams ^{Q42}	No
Percentage of responses/investigations for each of the following types of CM ^{Q36}		An official annual count of deaths due to child abuse or neglect is maintained by a government agency ^{Q46}	Yes
Physical abuse	16-30%	The annual rate of child deaths attributed to CM ^{Q47}	1-2 in 100,000
Sexual abuse	16-30%	Time period that this annual rate applies to ^{Q48}	2018
Neglect	16-30%	Percentage of child deaths that involves ^{Q49}	
Emotional (psychological) maltreatment	Don't know	Physical abuse	Don't know
Street children	0-15%	Neglect	Don't know
Abandoned children	0-15%	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}	Decreased

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	Primary investigations are conducted by ^{Q52}	
		• Social services	
		• Law enforcement	

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	Specific criminal penalties for maltreating a child	Yes
These laws were established ^{Q54}	After 2000	Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Yes
The following elements are specified in laws or policies ^{Q55}		Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	No
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children	Yes	Requires the development of specific prevention services	Yes
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals	Yes	Requires that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Yes
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults	Yes	Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM	Yes
Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual	No	Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith	Yes
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Yes	Provide a specific budget for preventing CM	Yes
Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Yes	Clear definition of child neglect	Yes
Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Yes	Clear definition of child physical abuse	Yes
Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Yes	Clear definition of child sexual abuse	Yes
Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Yes	Clear definition of child emotional/psychological abuse	Yes
Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, day care workers, etc.)	Yes	Clear definition of exposure to IPV	No
		The sectors that are required to be included in the response ^{Q56}	
		• Child protection	
		• Law enforcement (police)	
		• Health (e.g., forensic doctor or pediatrician),	
		• Legal (e.g., prosecutor or court appointed advocate)	
		• Education (teachers)	

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	Widely
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults	Widely
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Inconsistently
Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Inconsistently
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.)	Widely
Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Widely
Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	Almost never
Requirement that the development of specific prevention services	Inconsistently
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Inconsistently

Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM	Almost never
Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith	Widely
Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Inconsistently
The adequacy of government resources for implementing these laws or policies ^{Q58}	
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that an investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Somewhat inadequate
Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/ caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Somewhat inadequate
Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Very inadequate
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Adequate
Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Somewhat inadequate

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

Therapy for those who neglect a child	Moderately
Therapy for neglected children	Moderately
Therapy for those who physically abuse a child	Moderately
Therapy for physically abused children	Moderately
Therapy for those who sexually abuse a child	Moderately
Therapy for sexually abused children	Usually
Case management support services to meet a family's basic needs	Usually
Home-based services to support parents and family	Occasionally
Foster care with official foster parents	Moderately
Group homes for maltreated children	Occasionally
Public shelters for maltreated children	Moderately

Public shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children	Usually
Financial and other material support	Usually
Hospitalization for mental illness for adults	Usually
Hospitalization for mental illness for children	Usually
Substance abuse treatment for parents	Moderately
Substance abuse treatment for children	Moderately
Centers for parents to share experiences/concerns	Moderately
Universal home visits for all new parents	Occasionally
Targeted home visits for new parents at-risk	Occasionally
Free/highly subsidized child care	Usually
Universal health screening for children	Usually
Universal, mostly free medical care for children	Usually
Universal, mostly free medical care for all citizens	Usually

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

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

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

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

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

Government	Moderate
Non-government	Minimal

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

Government	Major	The importance of the following barriers in limiting efforts to prevent CM ^{Q65}	
Non-government	Minimal		
The effectiveness of these strategies in preventing CM ^{Q64}		Limited resources for improving the government's response to CM	Somewhat
Home-based services and support for parents at risk	None	Lack of specific laws related to CM	None
Media campaigns to raise public awareness	Not effective	Lack of system to investigate reports of CM	None
Risk assessment methods	Seems effective	Lack of trained professionals	Somewhat
Increasing individual responsibility for child protection	Seems effective	Public resistance to supporting prevention efforts	None
Prosecution of child abuse offenders	Seems effective	Extreme poverty	None
A system of universal health care and access to preventive medical care	Seems effective	Decline in family life and informal support systems for parents	Quite
Professional training	Seems effective	Country's dependency on foreign investment to sustain its local economy	Somewhat
University programs for students	Not effective	Strong sense of family privacy and parental rights to raise children as they choose	Quite
Advocacy for children's rights	Seems effective	General support for the use of corporal punishment/physical discipline of children	Somewhat
Improving the basic living conditions of families (e.g., housing, access to clean water).	Seems effective	Lack of commitment or support for children's rights	Somewhat
Mental health services	Seems effective	Overwhelming number of children living on their own	None
Substance abuse services	Seems effective	Generally inadequate and poorly developed systems of basic health care or social services	None
Services for victims of domestic violence	Seems effective	Political or religious conflict and instability	None
Child death review teams	Not Used	Lack of access to mental health services	Quite
Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Seems effective	Lack of substance abuse treatment	Quite
Multi-Systemic Therapy	Not Used	Lack of laws allowing sharing of information among professionals	Somewhat
Triple P Positive Parenting Program	Not Used		
Safe Care parenting program	Not Used		

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}	Most of the time
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}	Rarely
The extent to which agencies collaborate to stop CSE ^{Q68}	Somewhat	The extent to which my country prosecutes foreigners who engage in CSE within my country ^{Q76}	Most of the time
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}	Most of the time		

Resources

The extent to which the UNCRC has helped improve CM policies and programs ^{Q80}

Significantly

Example(s)

- Significant support for renewal of the Child Protection Act (2016)
- Creating guidelines for local CPSs
- CRC recommendations help to set priorities for policy and funding

Major developments in child abuse and neglect in my country in the past year

- Expansion to the entire country of a regional pilot project for protection of victims of domestic violence, which includes the police removing the potential offender from the home, providing immediate consultation and systematic follow-up support to the victim and speeding up criminal proceedings in such cases. This serves to help also the children living in these households: in 30% of domestic violence cases children are victims or witnesses of violence.
- The development and expansion of the Estonian children's house (Barnahus) service for sexually abused children, which has gained government's strong support and received additional funding for next years.

Reputable agencies or organizations in my country able to provide reliable information, with contact information, especially websites. ^{Q84-Q87}

Police and Border Guard Board

Address: Pärnu mnt 139, Tallinn, Estonia 15060

Email: ppa@politsei.ee

Website: politsei.ee

Resources: Materials regarding prevention of all forms of abuse, regional child protection teams working on investigations of child abuse

Social Insurance Board

Address: Paldiski mnt 80, Tallinn, Estonia 10617

Email: info@sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee

Website: sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee

Resources: Children's house service, child helpline service (116 111), regional child protection teams