

# Finland


**5,523**

Population (thousands)


**—%**

Population below international poverty line


**82 YEARS**

Average life expectancy at birth


**2**

Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)


**\$276,743**

Gross national product (millions)


**—%**

Literacy rate for male youth (15-24)

**—%**

Literacy rate for female youth (15-24)

## Behaviors and Conditions Generally Viewed as Child Maltreatment

### Age an individual is legally considered an adult <sup>Q9</sup>

- 18

### Actions considered forms of child maltreatment:

#### Affecting children's safety, health, or development <sup>Q12</sup>

- 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
- Abuse by another child
- Child serving as soldier
- 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 <sup>Q13</sup>

- 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 <sup>Q14</sup>

- 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 <sup>Q15</sup>

Yes

### Agencies that maintain these records <sup>Q16</sup>

- Social services
- Law Enforcement
- Courts

### The level at which records are maintained <sup>Q17</sup>

- National

### Multiple agencies have interconnected recordkeeping systems <sup>Q18</sup>

No

### How long this counting system has been in place <sup>Q19</sup>

10+ years

### Types of CM and intimate partner violence used to classify reports <sup>Q20</sup>

Physical abuse

Yes

Sexual abuse

Yes

Neglect

Yes

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Yes

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

Yes

### Change in the past 4 years in the number of reports for the following types of CM <sup>Q21</sup>

Physical abuse

More cases

Sexual abuse

More cases

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

Fewer cases

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

More cases

### Subgroups of children are systematically excluded from the reporting system <sup>Q22</sup>

No

### Subgroups of children are included in this reporting system <sup>Q24</sup>

No

### Country or most states/provinces have a law mandating reporting of suspected CM <sup>Q26</sup>

Yes

### Year law took effect <sup>Q27</sup>

After 2005

**Law applies to** <sup>Q28</sup>

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Emotional (psychological) maltreatment
- Exposure to/witnessing IPV

**National Statistics**

|                                                                                                                   |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>Percentage of reports of suspected CM that are responded to/investigated by social services</b> <sup>Q30</sup> | 0-15%  |
| <b>Percentage of all reports investigated that are substantiated or "proven"</b> <sup>Q31</sup>                   | 16-30% |
| <b>One child or household can be counted more than once</b> <sup>Q35</sup>                                        | No     |
| <b>Percentage of responses/investigations for each of the following types of CM</b> <sup>Q36</sup>                |        |
| Physical abuse                                                                                                    | 31-45% |
| Sexual abuse                                                                                                      | 76-90% |
| Emotional (psychological) maltreatment                                                                            | 0-15%  |
| Street children                                                                                                   | 16-30% |
| Abandoned children                                                                                                | 76-90% |
| Exposure to IPV                                                                                                   | 61-75% |
| <b>Percent of substantiated reports that result in</b> <sup>Q37</sup>                                             |        |
| Result in the perpetrator being removed from the home                                                             | 61-75% |
| Lead to prosecution of the alleged perpetrator                                                                    | 61-75% |

|                                                                       |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Result in the child being removed from the home                       | 46-60% |
| <b>Number of children removed from home living in:</b> <sup>Q38</sup> |        |
| Kinship care (with a family member)?                                  | 61-75% |
| Non-relative family foster care                                       | 46-60% |
| Residential care/orphanages                                           | 46-60% |

**Child Fatalities**

|                                                                                                                             |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>An autopsy is required by law when a child's death</b> <sup>Q39</sup>                                                    |            |
| Is unexpected                                                                                                               | Yes        |
| Has an unclear cause                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| <b>The autopsy is conducted by</b> <sup>Q40</sup>                                                                           |            |
| • Forensic doctor                                                                                                           |            |
| <b>There is a specific protocol</b> <sup>Q41</sup>                                                                          | Yes        |
| <b>My country has child death/fatality review teams</b> <sup>Q42</sup>                                                      | Yes        |
| <b>These teams are trained in recognizing child abuse and neglect</b> <sup>Q43</sup>                                        | No         |
| <b>These teams are</b> <sup>Q45</sup>                                                                                       |            |
| • National                                                                                                                  |            |
| <b>An official annual count of deaths due to child abuse or neglect is maintained by a government agency</b> <sup>Q46</sup> | Yes        |
| <b>The annual rate of child deaths attributed to CM</b> <sup>Q47</sup>                                                      | Don't know |
| <b>In the past 10 years, the number of reported deaths due to CM</b> <sup>Q50</sup>                                         | Don't know |

**Responses to Child Maltreatment**

|                                                                                                                                                                         |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <b>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</b> <sup>Q51</sup> | Yes |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

|                                                               |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Primary investigations are conducted by</b> <sup>Q52</sup> |  |
| • Social services                                             |  |
| • Law enforcement                                             |  |
| • Court system                                                |  |

**Laws and Policies Responding to Child Maltreatment**

|                                                                                                                                   |            |                                                                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>My country has national laws or policies implemented at the state/provincial/territorial level regarding CM</b> <sup>Q53</sup> | Yes        | Requires the development of specific prevention services                                      | Yes        |
| <b>These laws were established</b> <sup>Q54</sup>                                                                                 | After 2000 | Requires that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests  | Yes        |
| <b>The following elements are specified in laws or policies</b> <sup>Q55</sup>                                                    |            | Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM                                             | Yes        |
| Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children                                                | Yes        | Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith                      | No         |
| Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals                                            | Yes        | Provide a specific budget for preventing CM                                                   | No         |
| Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults                                                                                 | Yes        | Clear definition of child neglect                                                             | Yes        |
| Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual                                   | No         | Clear definition of child physical abuse                                                      | Yes        |
| Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)                                           | Yes        | Clear definition of child sexual abuse                                                        | Yes        |
| Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response                                                        | Yes        | Clear definition of child emotional/psychological abuse                                       | No         |
| Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed                                                                  | Yes        | Clear definition of exposure to IPV                                                           | Yes        |
| Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety                                     | Yes        | <b>The extent to which these laws or policies are being enforced</b> <sup>Q57</sup>           |            |
| Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home                                                                     | Yes        | Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children            | Don't know |
| Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, day care workers, etc.)     | No         | Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals        | Don't know |
| Specific criminal penalties for maltreating a child                                                                               | Yes        | Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults                                             | Don't know |
| Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention                                                         | Yes        | Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)       | Don't know |
| Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention                                                    | No         | Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response                    | Don't know |
|                                                                                                                                   |            | Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed                              | Don't know |
|                                                                                                                                   |            | Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety | Don't know |
|                                                                                                                                   |            | Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home                                 | Don't know |

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

## Services

|                                                                                     |         |                                                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Child abuse and neglect services available and to what extent</b> <sup>Q59</sup> |         | Public shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children | Usually      |
| Therapy for those who neglect a child                                               | Usually | Financial and other material support                                | Usually      |
| Therapy for neglected children                                                      | Usually | Hospitalization for mental illness for adults                       | Usually      |
| Therapy for those who physically abuse a child                                      | Usually | Hospitalization for mental illness for children                     | Usually      |
| Therapy for physically abused children                                              | Usually | Substance abuse treatment for parents                               | Usually      |
| Therapy for those who sexually abuse a child                                        | Usually | Substance abuse treatment for children                              | Usually      |
| Therapy for sexually abused children                                                | Usually | Centers for parents to share experiences/concerns                   | Usually      |
| Case management support services to meet a family's basic needs                     | Usually | Universal home visits for all new parents                           | Moderately   |
| Home-based services to support parents and family                                   | Usually | Targeted home visits for new parents at-risk                        | Usually      |
| Foster care with official foster parents                                            | Usually | Free/highly subsidized child care                                   | Usually      |
| Group homes for maltreated children                                                 | Usually | Universal health screening for children                             | Usually      |
| Public shelters for maltreated children                                             | Usually | Universal, mostly free medical care for children                    | Usually      |
|                                                                                     |         | Universal, mostly free medical care for all citizens                | Occasionally |

## Prevention

|                                                                                                                                   |            |                                                                                                                |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>The involvement of the following sectors in providing CM prevention services before CM has occurred</b> <sup>Q60</sup>         |            | Businesses/factories                                                                                           | Moderate |
| Hospitals/medical centers                                                                                                         | Minimal    | Schools                                                                                                        | None     |
| Mental health agencies                                                                                                            | Minimal    | Public social service agencies                                                                                 | Very     |
| Businesses/factories                                                                                                              | None       | Community-based NGOs                                                                                           | Moderate |
| Schools                                                                                                                           | Moderate   | Religious institutions                                                                                         | None     |
| Public social service agencies                                                                                                    | Minimal    | Voluntary civic organizations                                                                                  | None     |
| Community-based NGOs                                                                                                              | Don't know | Courts/law enforcement                                                                                         | None     |
| Religious institutions                                                                                                            | Moderate   | Universities                                                                                                   | Minimal  |
| Voluntary civic organizations                                                                                                     | Don't know | <b>The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM prevention services</b> <sup>Q62</sup> |          |
| Courts/law enforcement                                                                                                            | None       | Government                                                                                                     | Moderate |
| Universities                                                                                                                      | Minimal    | Non-government                                                                                                 | Minimal  |
| <b>The level of involvement for the following sectors in providing CM treatment services after CM has occurred</b> <sup>Q61</sup> |            | <b>The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM treatment services</b> <sup>Q63</sup>  |          |
| Hospitals/medical centers                                                                                                         | Very       | Government                                                                                                     | Major    |
| Mental health agencies                                                                                                            | Very       | Non-government                                                                                                 | Minimal  |

## 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.

|                                                                                                            |            |                                                                                                                                               |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>The extent to which my country has laws concerning CSE</b> <sup>Q66</sup>                               | Greatly    | <b>The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE</b> <sup>Q74</sup>                                                    | Don't know |
| <b>The extent to which my country has programs to combat CSE</b> <sup>Q67</sup>                            | Somewhat   | <b>The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE abroad</b> <sup>Q75</sup>                                             | Rarely     |
| <b>The extent to which agencies collaborate to stop CSE</b> <sup>Q68</sup>                                 | Somewhat   | <b>The extent to which my country prosecutes foreigners who engage in CSE within my country</b> <sup>Q76</sup>                                | Mostly     |
| <b>The extent to which clear policies exist for reporting CSE to a public agency or NGO</b> <sup>Q69</sup> | Greatly    | <b>The extent to which my country arrests children who are exploited sexually</b> <sup>Q77</sup>                                              | Rarely     |
| <b>My country keeps official records on CSE</b> <sup>Q70</sup>                                             | No         | <b>There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons who sexually exploit children</b> <sup>Q78</sup>                         | Yes        |
| <b>Commercial sex work is legal in my country</b> <sup>Q71</sup>                                           | Yes        | <b>There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons for the possession or production of child pornography</b> <sup>Q79</sup> | Yes        |
| <b>At age what is it legal to be a sex worker</b> <sup>Q72</sup>                                           | 18         |                                                                                                                                               |            |
| <b>The extent to which CSE victims receive mental health care</b> <sup>Q73</sup>                           | Don't know |                                                                                                                                               |            |

## Resources

**The extent to which the UNCRC has helped improve CM policies and programs** <sup>Q80</sup> Somewhat

**Major developments in child abuse and neglect in my country in the past year** <sup>Q83</sup>

- Several action plans have been published: Non-Violent Childhoods - Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence against Children 2020-2025 Part II <http://julkaisut.valtionneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/161899> (in Finnish with English summary, English version will be published later)
- Action plan for the prevention of female genital mutilation (FGM) link: <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-00-4065-9>
- Barnahus-project has been initiated: <https://thl.fi/en/web/thlfi-en/research-and-expertwork/projects-and-programmes/barnahus-project>

**Reputable agencies or organizations in my country able to provide reliable information, with contact information, especially websites.** <sup>Q84/85</sup>

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**Resources:** Development and research of child protection system.