Italy

60,627
Population (thousands)

—%
Population below international poverty line

83 YEARS
Average life expectancy at birth

3
Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)

$2,083,864
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

Forms of acceptable punishment Q11

- Hitting a child on the buttocks with an open hand

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
- Abuse by another child
- Child labor – under age 12
- 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

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
- 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 — No

Country or most states/provinces have a law mandating reporting of suspected CM Q26 — Yes

Year law too take effect Q27 — Before 1990

Law applies to Q28

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse

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

- Forensic doctor

There is a specific protocol Q41 — Don't know

My country has child death/fatality review teams Q42 — No

An official annual count of deaths due to child abuse or neglect is maintained by a government agency Q46 — No

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 — No

Primary investigations are conducted by Q52

- Social services

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	Before 1980
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)	No
Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	No
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	No
Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	No
Requires the development of specific prevention services	No
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	Yes
Provide a specific budget for preventing CM	No
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 extent to which these laws or policies are being enforced Q57	
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children	Widely
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for specific groups of professionals or individuals	Widely
Mandated reporting of suspected CM for all adults	Almost never
Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual	Almost never
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	Inconsistently
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	Inconsistently
Requirement that the development of specific prevention services	Widely
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Widely
Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM	Widely
Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith	Widely
Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Widely
The adequacy of government resources for implementing these laws or policies Q58	
Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter	Very inadequate
Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)	Very inadequate
Requirement that an investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response	Very inadequate
Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed	Very inadequate
Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety	Adequate
Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home	Somewhat inadequate
Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention	Very inadequate
Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention	Very inadequate
Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests	Somewhat inadequate
Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM	Very inadequate

Services

Child abuse and neglect services available and to what extent Q59	
Therapy for those who neglect a child	Occasionally
Therapy for neglected children	Occasionally
Therapy for those who physically abuse a child	Occasionally
Therapy for physically abused children	Occasionally
Therapy for those who sexually abuse a child	Occasionally
Therapy for sexually abused children	Occasionally
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	Occasionally
Group homes for maltreated children	Moderately
Public shelters for maltreated children	Moderately
Public shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children	Moderately
Financial and other material support	Moderately
Hospitalization for mental illness for adults	Occasionally
Hospitalization for mental illness for children	Occasionally
Substance abuse treatment for parents	Usually

Substance abuse treatment for children	Usually
Centers for parents to share experiences/concerns	Moderately
Universal home visits for all new parents	None
Targeted home visits for new parents at-risk	Occasionally
Free/highly subsidized child care	None
Universal health screening for children	None
Universal, mostly free medical care for children	None
Universal, mostly free medical care for all citizens	None

Prevention

The involvement of the following sectors in providing CM prevention services before CM has occurred Q60	
Hospitals/medical centers	None
Mental health agencies	None
Businesses/factories	None
Schools	Moderate
Public social service agencies	Moderate
Community-based NGOs	Very
Religious institutions	None
Voluntary civic organizations	Moderate
Courts/law enforcement	None
Universities	Don't know
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	None
Public social service agencies	Moderate
Community-based NGOs	Very
Religious institutions	None
Voluntary civic organizations	None
Courts/law enforcement	Very
Universities	None
The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM prevention services Q62	
Government	Minimal
Non-government	Moderate
The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM treatment services Q63	
Government	None
Non-government	Moderate
The effectiveness of these strategies in preventing CM Q64	
Nurse Family Partnership	Not used
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	Not used
Prosecution of child abuse offenders	Not effective
Universal home visitation for new parents	Not used
Improving/increasing local services	Not used
A system of universal health care and access to preventive medical care	Not effective
Professional training	Seems effective
University programs for students	Not used
Advocacy for children's rights	Seems effective
Improving the basic living conditions of families (e.g., housing, access to clean water).	Seems effective
Mental health services	Seems effective
Substance abuse services	Seems effective
Services for victims of domestic violence	Seems effective
Child death review teams	Not Used
Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	Seems effective
Multi-Systemic Therapy	Not Used
Triple P Positive Parenting Program	Not Used
Safe Care parenting program	Not Used
The importance of the following barriers in limiting efforts to prevent CM Q65	
Limited resources for improving the government's response to CM	Very
Lack of specific laws related to CM	None
Lack of system to investigate reports of CM	Quite
Lack of trained professionals	Quite
Public resistance to supporting prevention efforts	Somewhat
Extreme poverty	Somewhat
Decline in family life and informal support systems for parents	Quite
Country's dependency on foreign investment to sustain its local economy	None
Strong sense of family privacy and parental rights to raise children as they choose	Quite
General support for the use of corporal punishment/physical discipline of children	None
Lack of commitment or support for children's rights	None
Overwhelming number of children living on their own	None
Generally inadequate and poorly developed systems of basic health care or social services	None
Political or religious conflict and instability	None
Lack of access to mental health services	Somewhat
Lack of substance abuse treatment	Somewhat
Lack of laws allowing sharing of information among professionals	None

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 has programs to combat CSE Q67	Somewhat
The extent to which agencies collaborate to stop CSE Q68	Not really
The extent to which clear policies exist for reporting CSE to a public agency or NGO Q69	Not really
My country keeps official records on CSE Q70	No
Commercial sex work is legal in my country Q71	No
The extent to which CSE victims receive mental health care Q73	Rarely

The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE Q74	Mostly
The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE abroad Q75	Rarely
The extent to which my country prosecutes foreigners who engage in CSE within my country Q76	Don't know
The extent to which my country arrests children who are exploited sexually Q77	Rarely
There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons who sexually exploit children Q78	Yes
There have been arrests in my country in the past year of persons for the possession or production of child pornography Q79	Yes

Resources

The extent to which the UNCRC has helped improve CM policies and programs Q80	Somewhat

Major developments in child abuse and neglect in my country in the past year Q83

- In Italy we had a very serious negative development due to the "scandal" involving one social service who was supposed to give children to foster families for money, this fact has been reported by media and strumentalised by politics, so now there are some national investigation on all the removal of children from their families and there is a general believing that child abuse do not exists and that all the protection system is somehow corrupted

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

Istituto degli Innocenti
Address: Piazza SS. Annunziata 12, Florence, Italy 50122
Email: info@istitutodeglinnocenti.it
Website: istitutodeglinnocenti.it
Resources: Research, bibliography, monitoring