

# Sweden


**9,972**

Population (thousands)


**—%**

Population below international poverty line


**83 YEARS**

Average life expectancy at birth


**3**

Under 5 mortality rate (per 1,000 births)


**\$556,086**

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>

No

### 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 | No change  |
| Sexual abuse   | No change  |
| Neglect        | More cases |

Emotional (psychological) maltreatment

More cases

Exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV)

No change

### 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>

Before 1990

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

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

## National Statistics

|                                                                                                            |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Percentage of reports of suspected CM that are responded to/investigated by social services <sup>Q30</sup> | 0-15%        |
| Percentage of all reports investigated that are substantiated or "proven" <sup>Q31</sup>                   | 0-15%        |
| The rate of proven CM per 1,000 children <sup>Q32</sup>                                                    | Less than 15 |
| Year and period this rate applies to <sup>Q33</sup>                                                        | 2018         |
| Official count represents number of children or number of responses <sup>Q34</sup>                         | Child count  |
| One child or household can be counted more than once <sup>Q35</sup>                                        | Yes          |
| Percentage of responses/investigations for each of the following types of CM <sup>Q36</sup>                |              |
| Physical abuse                                                                                             | 16-30%       |
| Sexual abuse                                                                                               | 16-30%       |
| Neglect                                                                                                    | 16-30%       |
| Emotional (psychological) maltreatment                                                                     | 16-30%       |
| Street children                                                                                            | 0-15%        |
| Abandoned children                                                                                         | 0-15%        |
| Exposure to IPV                                                                                            | 0-15%        |
| Percent of substantiated reports that result in <sup>Q37</sup>                                             |              |
| Result in the perpetrator being removed from the home                                                      | 0-15%        |
| Lead to prosecution of the alleged perpetrator                                                             | 0-15%        |
| Result in the child being removed from the home                                                            | 0-15%        |

Number of children removed from home living in: <sup>Q38</sup>

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Kinship care (with a family member) | 0-15%  |
| Non-relative family foster care     | 76-90% |
| Residential care/orphanages         | 0-15%  |

## Child Fatalities

|                                                                                                                      |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| An autopsy is required by law when a child's death is unexpected <sup>Q39</sup>                                      | Yes                    |
| The autopsy is conducted by <sup>Q40</sup>                                                                           | • Forensic doctor      |
| There is a specific protocol <sup>Q41</sup>                                                                          | Yes                    |
| My country has child death/fatality review teams <sup>Q42</sup>                                                      | No                     |
| An official annual count of deaths due to child abuse or neglect is maintained by a government agency <sup>Q46</sup> | Yes                    |
| The annual rate of child deaths attributed to CM <sup>Q47</sup>                                                      | Less than 1 in 100,000 |
| Time period that this annual rate applies to <sup>Q48</sup>                                                          | 2018                   |
| Percentage of child deaths that involves <sup>Q49</sup>                                                              |                        |
| Physical abuse                                                                                                       | 76-90%                 |
| Neglect                                                                                                              | 0-15%                  |
| Sexual Abuse                                                                                                         | 0-15%                  |
| Emotional Abuse                                                                                                      | 0-15%                  |
| Intimate Partner Violence                                                                                            | 0-15%                  |
| In the past 10 years, the number of reported deaths due to CM <sup>Q50</sup>                                         | About 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 <sup>Q51</sup> | Yes |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

|                                                        |                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Primary investigations are conducted by <sup>Q52</sup> | • 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 <sup>Q53</sup>    | Yes         | Requires the development of specific prevention services                                        | Don't know     |
| These laws were established <sup>Q54</sup>                                                                                    | Before 1980 | Requires that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests    | Yes            |
| The following elements are specified in laws or policies <sup>Q55</sup>                                                       |             | Penalties for professionals who fail to report CM                                               | Yes            |
| Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter maltreated children                                            | No          | Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith                        | Yes            |
| 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                                                                             | No          | Clear definition of child neglect                                                               | No             |
| Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual                               | Yes         | 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         | The sectors that are required to be included in the response <sup>Q56</sup>                     |                |
| Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home                                                                 | Yes         | • Child protection                                                                              |                |
| Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, day care workers, etc.) | Yes         | • Law enforcement (police)                                                                      |                |
| Specific criminal penalties for maltreating a child                                                                           | No          | • Health (e.g., forensic doctor or pediatrician),                                               |                |
| Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention                                                     | Yes         | • Legal (e.g., prosecutor or court appointed advocate)                                          |                |
| Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention                                                | No          | The extent to which these laws or policies are being enforced <sup>Q57</sup>                    |                |
|                                                                                                                               |             | 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 |
|                                                                                                                               |             | Provisions that allow for voluntary reporting of suspected CM by any professional or individual | Inconsistently |
|                                                                                                                               |             | Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)         | Inconsistently |

|                                                                                                                              |                |                                                                                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Requirement that the investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response                                                   | Widely         | <b>The adequacy of government resources for implementing these laws or policies</b> <sup>Q58</sup> |                     |
| Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed                                                             | Widely         | Mandated periodic training for professionals who may encounter                                     | Somewhat inadequate |
| Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety                                | Widely         | Requirement that reports be investigated within a specific time period (e.g., 24 hours)            | Somewhat inadequate |
| Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home                                                                | Inconsistently | Requirement that an investigation be a coordinated intersectoral response                          | Somewhat inadequate |
| Requirement that background checks be conducted for employees who work with children (e.g., teachers, daycare workers, etc.) | Widely         | Requirement that the child(ren)'s and family's needs be assessed                                   | Somewhat inadequate |
| Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention                                                    | Inconsistently | Provisions for removing child from his or her parents/caretakers to ensure the child's safety      | Adequate            |
| Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention                                               | Inconsistently | Provisions for removing the alleged perpetrator from the home                                      | Somewhat inadequate |
| Requirement that the development of specific prevention services                                                             | Widely         | Requirement that all victims receive some form of service or intervention                          | Somewhat inadequate |
| Requirement that a separate attorney or advocate be assigned to represent the child's interests                              | Widely         | Requirement that all perpetrators receive some form of service or intervention                     | Somewhat inadequate |
| 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    | Adequate            |
| Provision of immunity from liability when reports are made in good faith                                                     | Widely         | Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM                                                   | Very inadequate     |
| Provision of a specific budget for preventing CM                                                                             | Almost never   |                                                                                                    |                     |

## Services

### Child abuse and neglect services available and to what extent <sup>Q59</sup>

|                                                                     |              |                                                      |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Therapy for those who neglect a child                               | Moderately   | Institutional care for maltreated children           | None         |
| Therapy for neglected children                                      | Moderately   | Financial and other material support                 | Moderately   |
| Therapy for those who physically abuse a child                      | Occasionally | Hospitalization for mental illness for adults        | Usually      |
| Therapy for physically abused children                              | Moderately   | Hospitalization for mental illness for children      | Usually      |
| Therapy for those who sexually abuse a child                        | Occasionally | Substance abuse treatment for parents                | Usually      |
| Therapy for sexually abused children                                | Usually      | Substance abuse treatment for children               | Usually      |
| Case management support services to meet a family's basic needs     | Occasionally | Centers for parents to share experiences/concerns    | Occasionally |
| Home-based services to support parents and family                   | Moderately   | Universal home visits for all new parents            | Moderately   |
| Foster care with official foster parents                            | Moderately   | Targeted home visits for new parents at-risk         | Usually      |
| Group homes for maltreated children                                 | None         | Free/highly subsidized child care                    | Usually      |
| Public shelters for maltreated children                             | None         | Universal health screening for children              | Usually      |
| Public shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children | None         | 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 <sup>Q60</sup>

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Hospitals/medical centers      | Moderate |
| Mental health agencies         | Moderate |
| Schools                        | Minimal  |
| Public social service agencies | Moderate |
| Community-based NGOs           | Very     |
| Religious institutions         | Minimal  |
| Voluntary civic organizations  | Moderate |
| Courts/law enforcement         | Moderate |
| Universities                   | Very     |

### The level of involvement for the following sectors in providing CM treatment services after CM has occurred <sup>Q61</sup>

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Hospitals/medical centers      | Very     |
| Mental health agencies         | Moderate |
| Schools                        | Minimal  |
| Public social service agencies | Very     |

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Community-based NGOs          | Very     |
| Religious institutions        | Minimal  |
| Voluntary civic organizations | Moderate |
| Courts/law enforcement        | Very     |
| Universities                  | Minimal  |

### The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM prevention services <sup>Q62</sup>

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Government | Major |
|------------|-------|

### The extent to which government and non-governmental agencies fund CM treatment services <sup>Q63</sup>

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Government | Major |
|------------|-------|

### The effectiveness of these strategies in preventing CM <sup>Q64</sup>

|                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Nurse Family Partnership                            | Seems effective |
| 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 effective   | Lack of specific laws related to CM                                                       | None     |
| Prosecution of child abuse offenders                                                             | Seems effective | Lack of system to investigate reports of CM                                               | Quite    |
| Universal home visitation for new parents                                                        | Seems effective | Lack of trained professionals                                                             | Somewhat |
| Improving/increasing local services                                                              | Seems effective | Public resistance to supporting prevention efforts                                        | None     |
| A system of universal health care and access to preventive medical care                          | Seems effective | Extreme poverty                                                                           | Somewhat |
| Professional training                                                                            | Seems effective | Decline in family life and informal support systems for parents                           | Somewhat |
| University programs for students                                                                 | Seems effective | Country's dependency on foreign investment to sustain its local economy                   | None     |
| Advocacy for children's rights                                                                   | Seems effective | Strong sense of family privacy and parental rights to raise children as they choose       | Somewhat |
| Improving the basic living conditions of families (e.g., housing, access to clean water).        | Seems effective | General support for the use of corporal punishment/physical discipline of children        | Very     |
| Mental health services                                                                           | Seems effective | Lack of commitment or support for children's rights                                       | Quite    |
| Substance abuse services                                                                         | Seems effective | Overwhelming number of children living on their own                                       | None     |
| Services for victims of domestic violence                                                        | Seems effective | Generally inadequate and poorly developed systems of basic health care or social services | None     |
| Child death review teams                                                                         | Not used        | Political or religious conflict and instability                                           | None     |
| Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy                                                      | Not effective   | Lack of access to mental health services                                                  | Somewhat |
| Multi-Systemic Therapy                                                                           | Not effective   | Lack of substance abuse treatment                                                         | Somewhat |
| Triple P Positive Parenting Program                                                              | Not effective   | Lack of laws allowing sharing of information among professionals                          | Somewhat |
| Safe Care parenting program                                                                      | Not effective   |                                                                                           |          |
| <b>The importance of the following barriers in limiting efforts to prevent CM</b> <sup>Q65</sup> |                 |                                                                                           |          |
| Limited resources for improving the government's response to CM                                  | 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.

|                                                                                                            |                  |                                                                                                                                               |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <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>                                                    | Most of the time |
| <b>The extent to which my country has programs to combat CSE</b> <sup>Q67</sup>                            | Greatly          | <b>The extent to which my country prosecutes citizens who engage in CSE abroad</b> <sup>Q75</sup>                                             | Most of the time |
| <b>The extent to which agencies collaborate to stop CSE</b> <sup>Q68</sup>                                 | Greatly          | <b>The extent to which my country prosecutes foreigners who engage in CSE within my country</b> <sup>Q76</sup>                                | Most of the time |
| <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>                                             | Yes              | <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>                                           | No               | <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>The extent to which CSE victims receive mental health care</b> <sup>Q73</sup>                           | Most of the time |                                                                                                                                               |                  |

## Resources

|                                                                                                                                                      |          |                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>The extent to which the UNCRC has helped improve CM policies and programs</b> <sup>Q80</sup>                                                      | Somewhat | <b>Reputable agencies or organizations in my country able to provide reliable information, with contact information, especially websites.</b> <sup>Q84</sup> |
| <b>Major developments in child abuse and neglect in my country in the past year</b> <sup>Q83</sup>                                                   |          | <b>The Swedish Ombudsman for Children</b>                                                                                                                    |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Endorsing the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as official law in Sweden from Jan 1, 2020.</li> </ul> |          | <b>Address:</b> Box 22106, Stockholm, Sweden SE 10422                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                      |          | <b>Website:</b> barnombudsmannen.se                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                      |          | <b>Email:</b> info@barnombudsmannen.se                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                                      |          | <b>Resources:</b> Official Swedish organ to control the rights of the child in Sweden and educate about children's rights.                                   |