

Transforming services for children without parents:

A decade of EU Daphne projects in collaboration
with the WHO Regional Office for Europe

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Definition of an institution or residential care home for children ('Children's Home')

- Group living for more than 10 children, without parents or surrogate parents (for more than 3 months – ie: not a boarding school, hospital or emergency care).
- Care is provided by a small number of paid adult carers (European average is **1 day staff to 6 children** of a similar age).
- Organised, routine and impersonal structure to living arrangements
- professional relationship, rather than parental relationship, between the adults and children.

European survey on young children in institutional care resulted in national surveys

Browne, K.D., Hamilton-Giacritsis, C.E., Johnson, R., Ostergren, Leth, I., M Agathonos, H., Anaut, M., Herczog, M., Keller-Hamela, M., Klimakova, A., Stan, V., Zeytinoglu, S. (2005). *Adoption and Fostering*, 29 (4): 1-12.



Mapping the number and characteristics
of children under three in institutions
across Europe at risk of harm



EUROPEAN COMMISSION DAPHNE PROGRAMME
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

In collaboration with

WHO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE &
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM, UK



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BIRMINGHAM



EUROPE

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

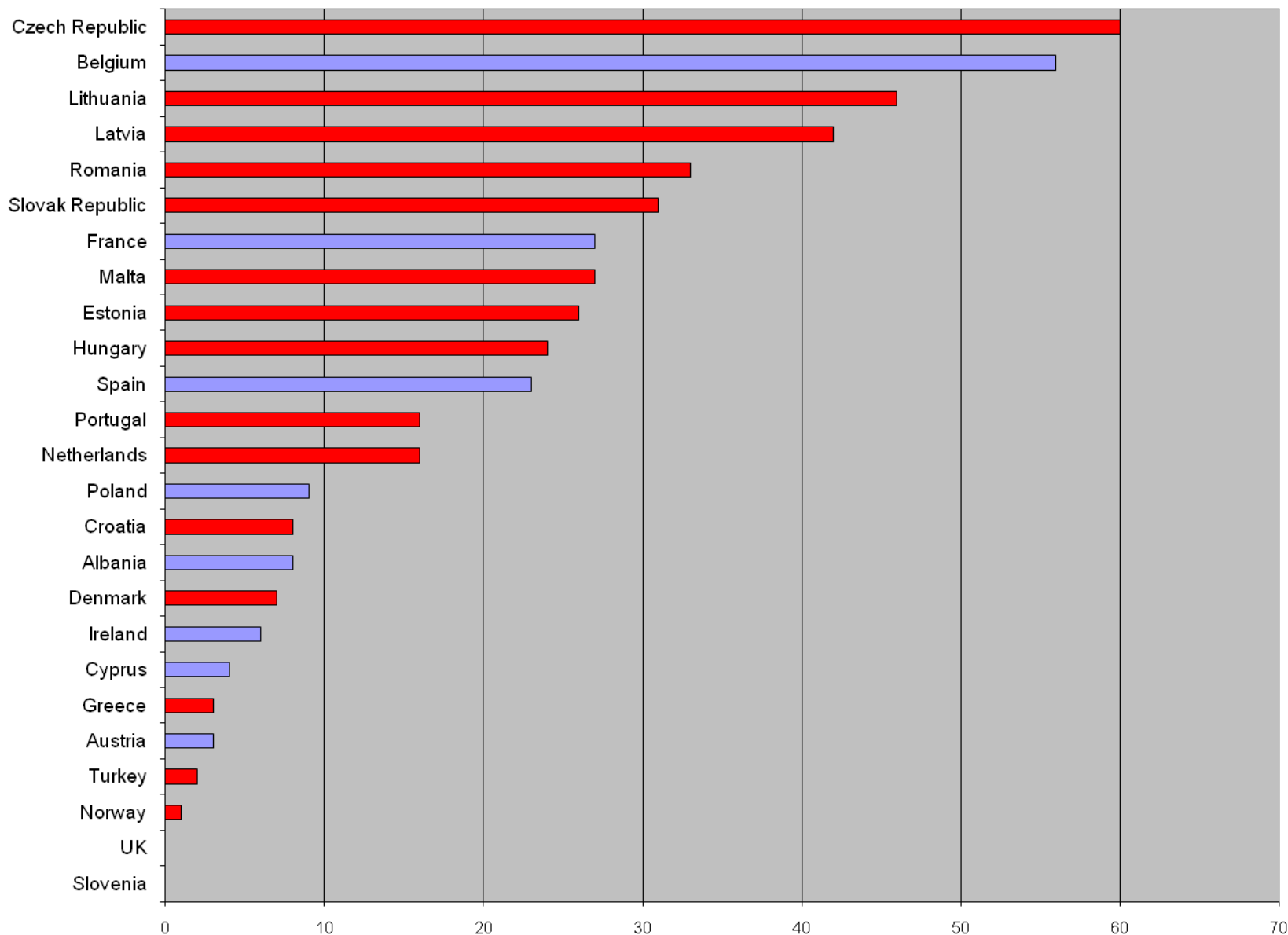
EVERY CHILD COUNTS



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA



Proportion of all children under 3 years who are in institutional care per 10,000 (blue lines are estimates).

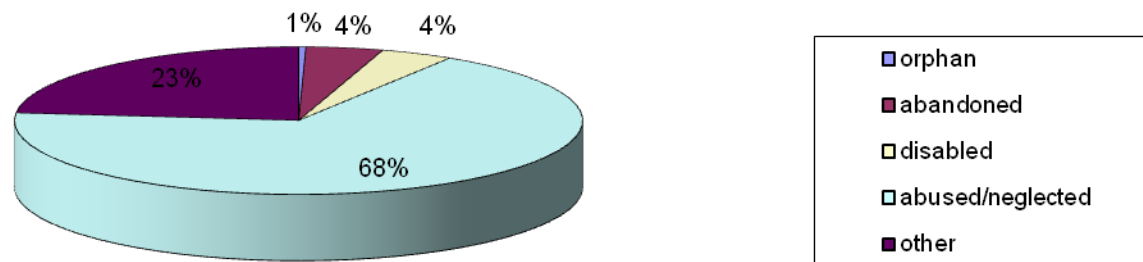


Extent of Institutional Care of Infants and toddlers and the 'orphanage' myth

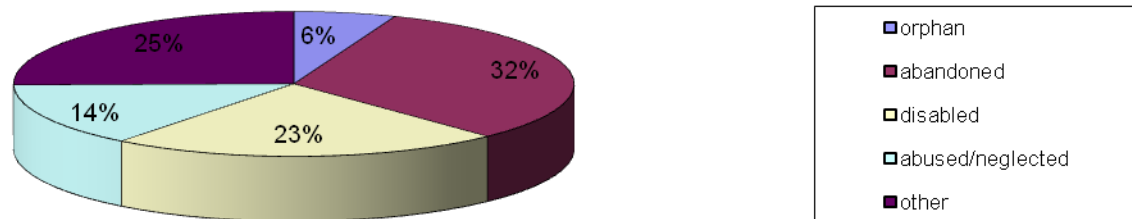
- UNICEF estimate 44,000 young children under 3 in Eastern Europe and Central Asian 'Children's Homes'.
- Our EU survey of member states and accession countries showed 23,000 young children under 3 without a parent in institutional care (for more than 3 months).
- '*infant homes*' often provide a non stimulating clinical environment for toddlers and young children up to 4 years of age.
- Vast majority (94 to 96%) of children in '*orphanages*' have at least one living parent, often known to the authorities

Reasons for institutionalisation in 2003

Reasons For Institutionalisation Of Children Under The Age Of Three - EU Member States



Reasons For Institutionalisation Of Children Under The Age Of Three - other surveyed Countries*

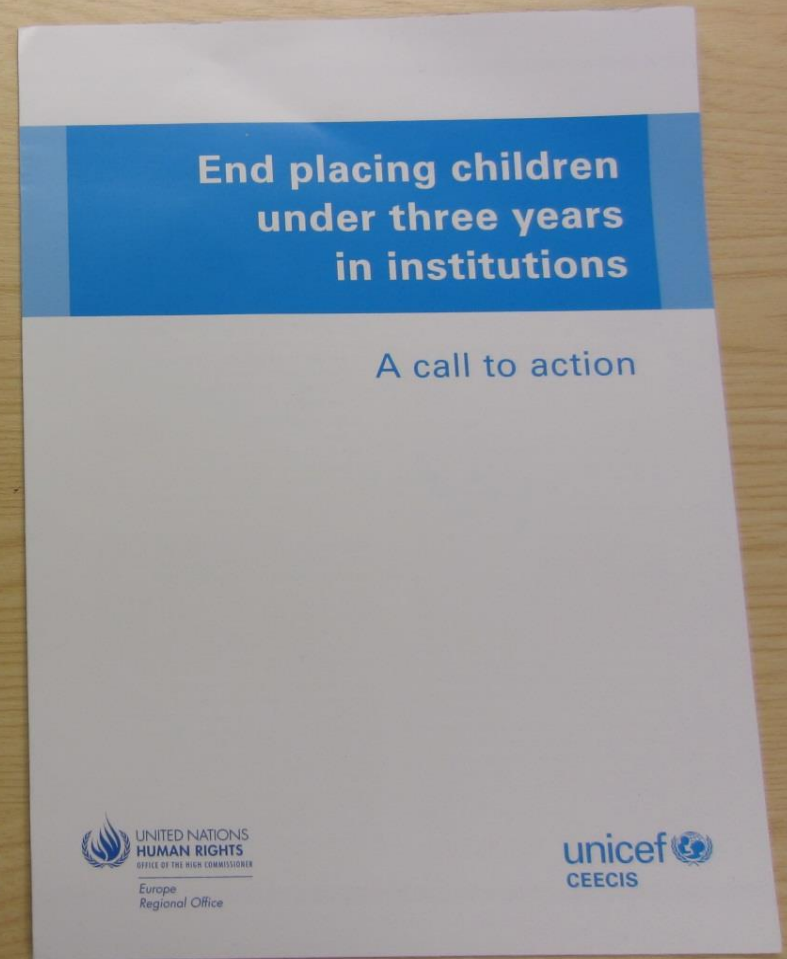
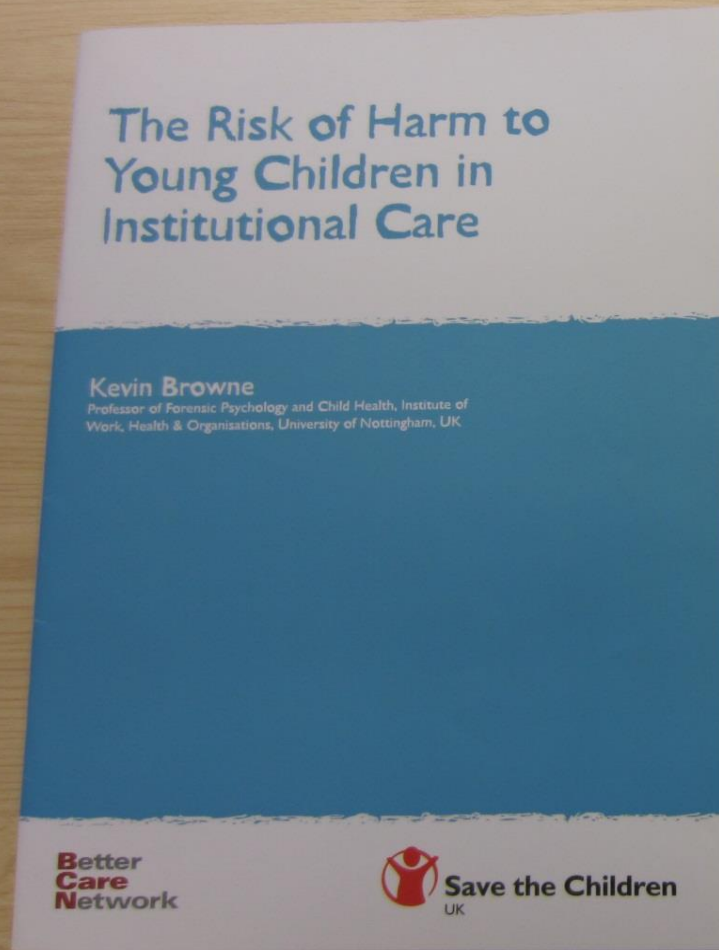


Placement decisions often occur without family work or support



Keep balance
between
child protection
and
family
preservation

The UN guidelines are taken in part from the work of the team from 2002 to 2009, supported by the European Union Daphne Programme and World Health Organisation (see Reports to the UN General Assembly below):



Infants may be imprisoned behind their cot bars
for up to 18 hours a day

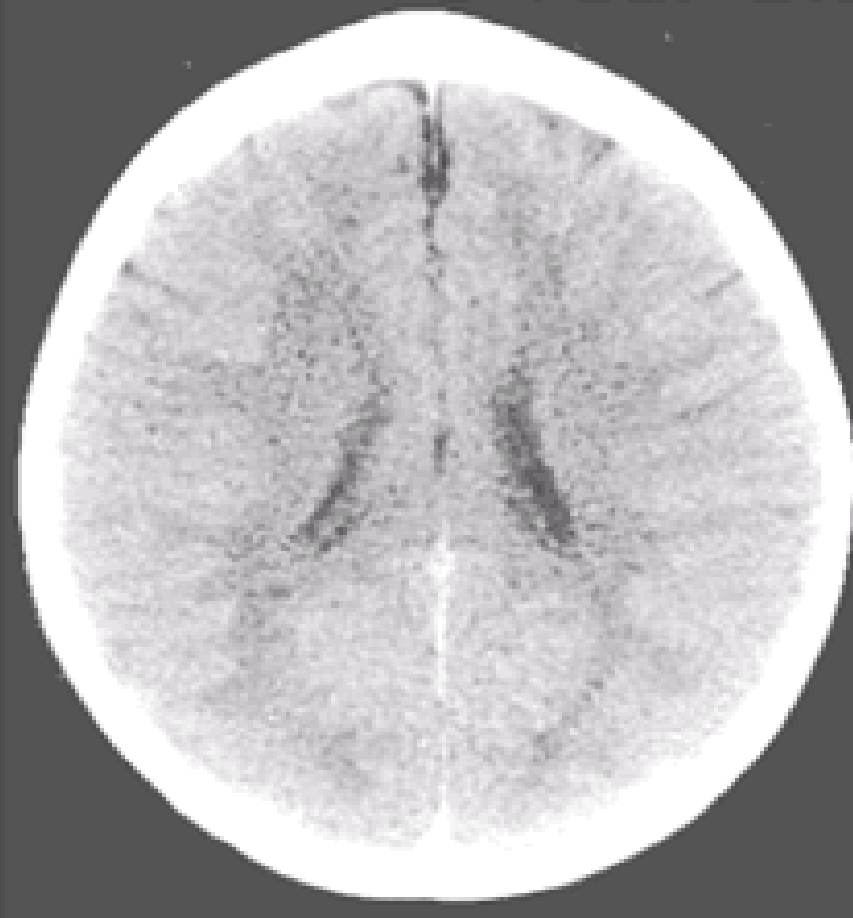


Nurses/care workers are preoccupied with meeting the physical/health needs of the child and have little time for social interaction



Effect of Institutional Care on the Infant Brain Growth

3-Year-Old Children



Normal



Extreme Neglect

Child Trauma Academy

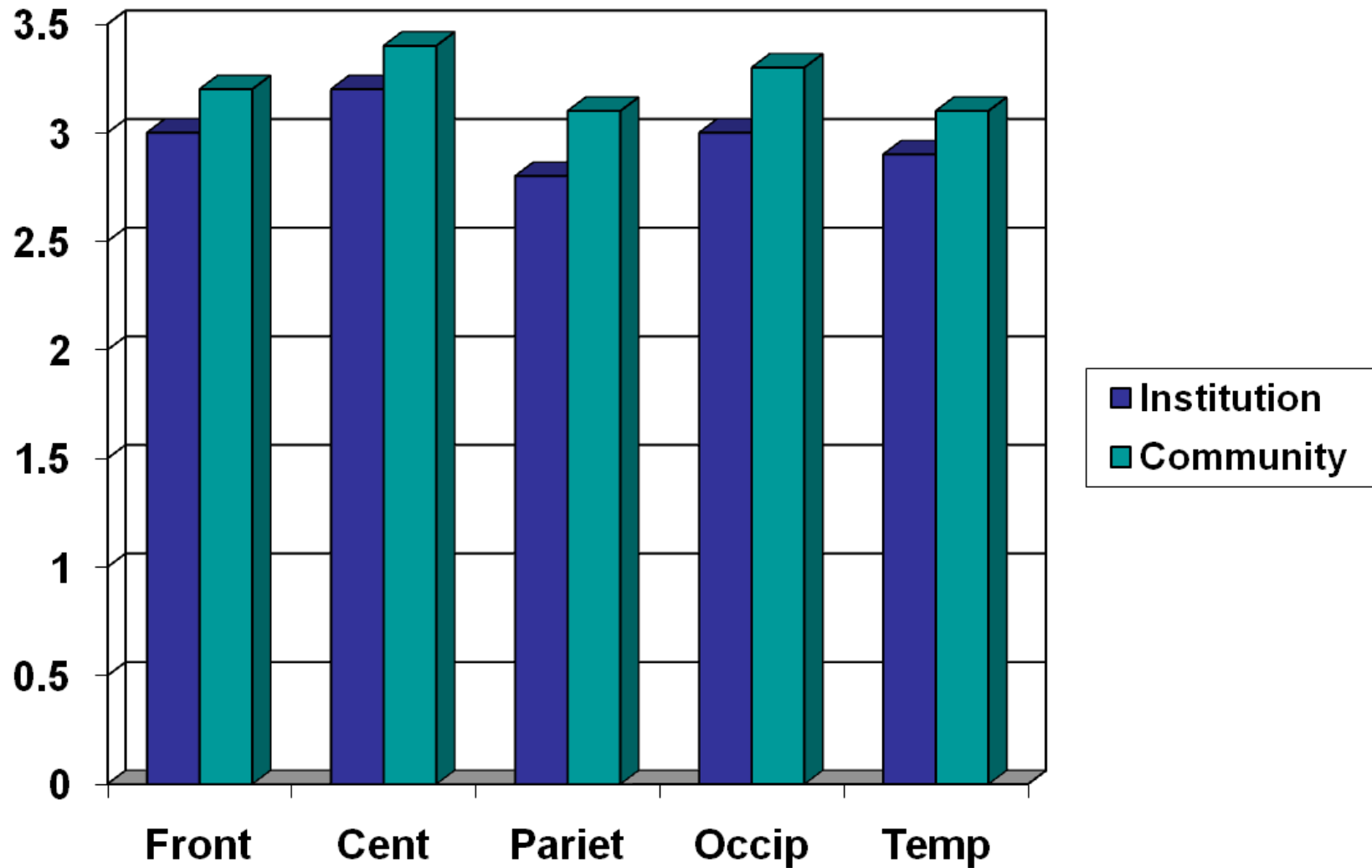
1997 Bruce D. Perry, M.D., Ph.D.

EEG Recordings from a Young Child in a Romanian Institution (Nelson et al 2005)

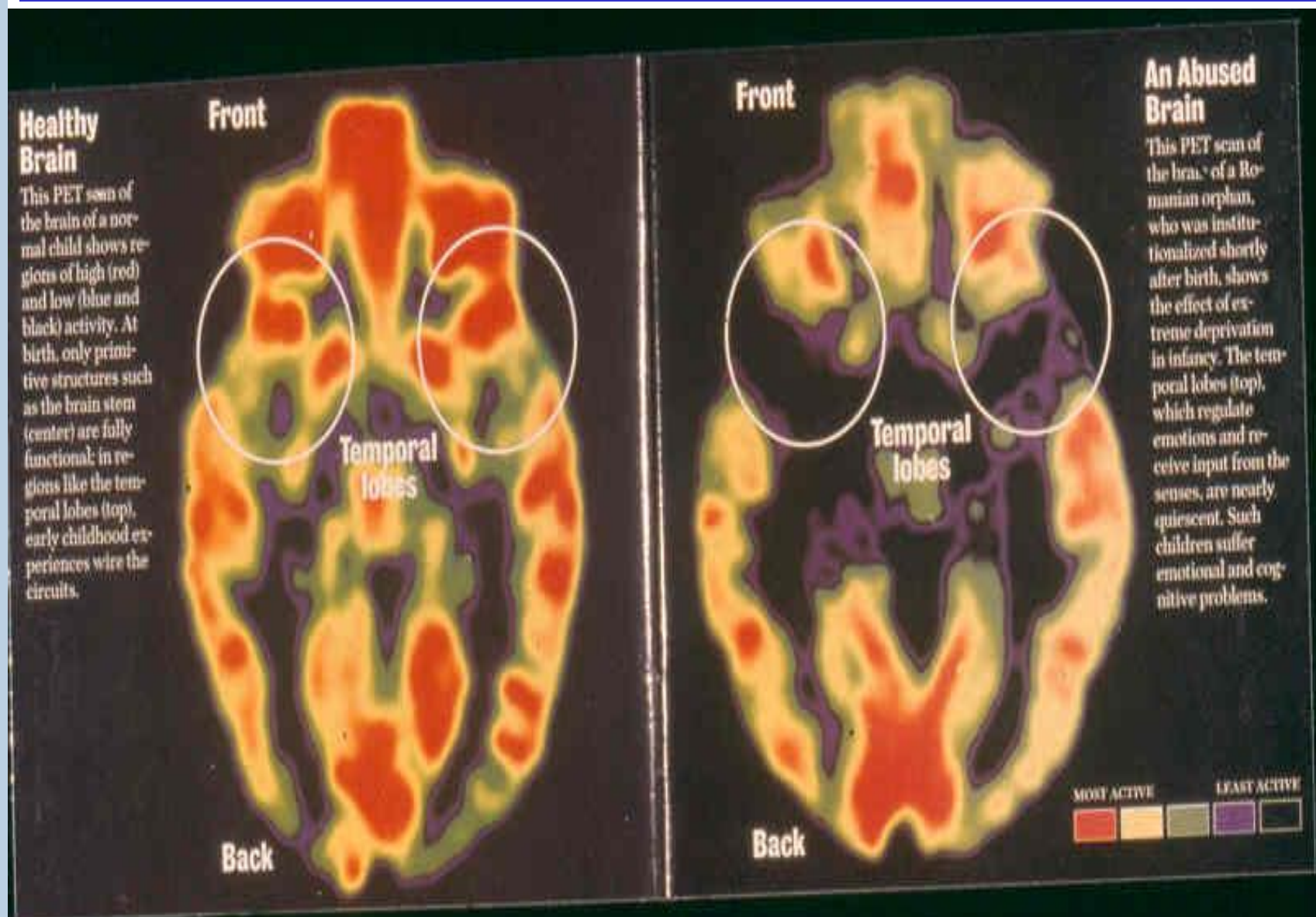


EEG Activity Across Regions of the Child's Brain

(Bucharest Early Intervention Project - Nelson and Koga, 2004)



Evidence from Brain Scans 2



The dangers of institutional care

Johnson, R., Browne, K., Hamilton-Giachritsis, C. (2006). Young Children in Institutional Care at Risk of Harm: A Review. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 7 (1):34-60. Sage.

- Young children who are institutionalised before 6 months suffer long term developmental delay.
- Those who are placed in a caring family environment by the age of 6 months catch up on their physical and cognitive development (average length of stay ranges betw. 11 and 15 months).
- Improvements are seen in cognitive ability when children are removed from institutional care at an any age and placed in a family.
- Difficulties with social behaviour and attachments may persist, leading to a greater chance of antisocial behaviour, delinquency and mental health problems.
- it is recommended that children less than 3 years, with or without disability, should not be placed in residential care without a parent or primary caregiver

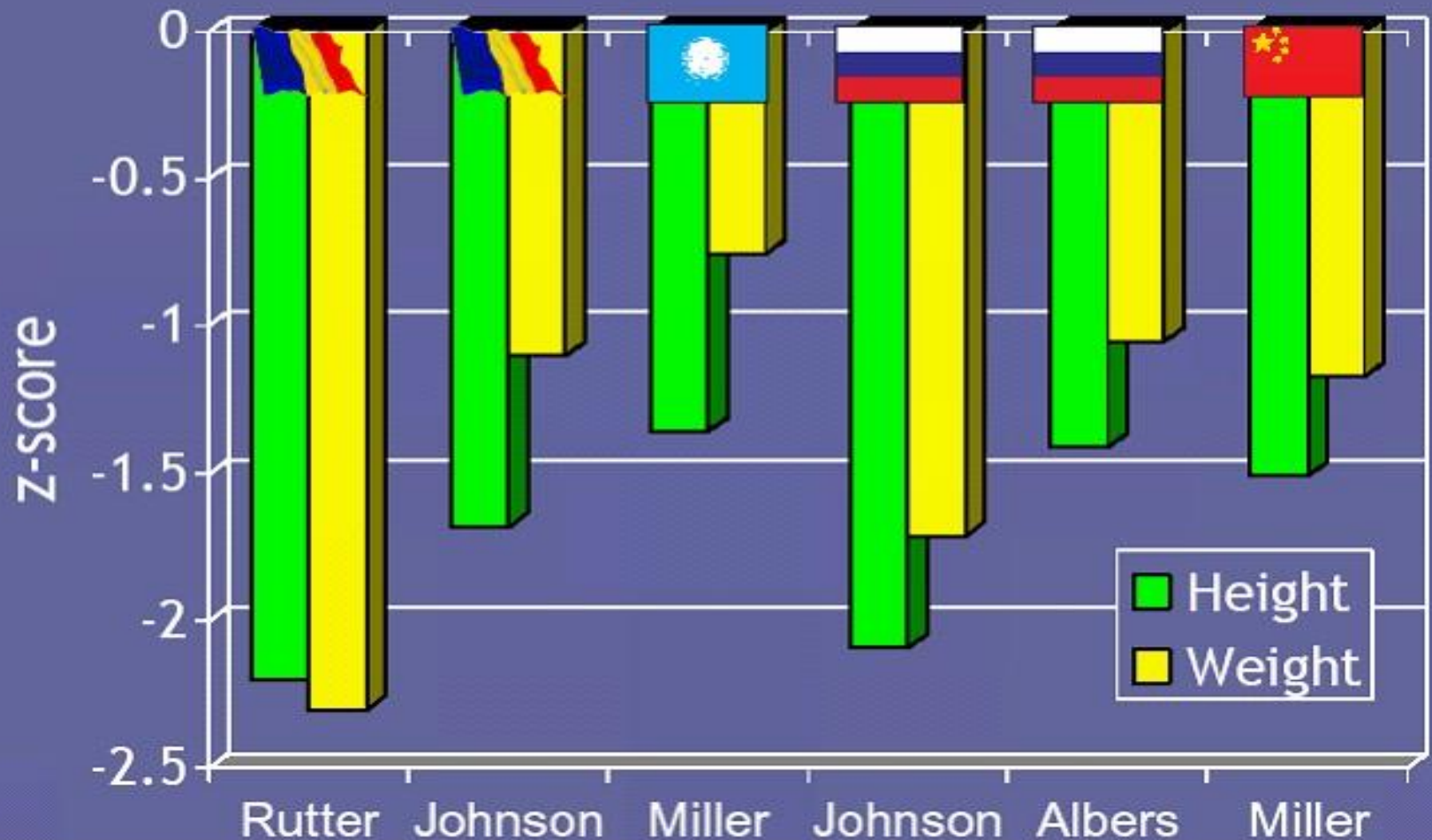
The danger of institutions for young children has been known for 50 years

Both Bowlby (UK) and Vygotsky (Russia) have emphasised the following:

- (a) infants need one to one interaction with sensitive and caring parent figure to which they develop a secure attachment.
- (b) the negative consequences of children growing up in an institution with attachment disorders and later antisocial acts

Effects on physical development

Growth Failure in Institutionalized Children



Parental responses to attachment behaviour determine the security of attachment and the child's willingness to explore and learn.
(Bowlby, 1969; Ainsworth, 1978).



The biological mother is not essential just a caring & sensitive adult (one to one) Rutter, 1972



Parents consistent comfort responses to crying promotes trust and security (Maccoby, 1990)

Sensitivity
Acceptance
Co-operation
Availability



Children in institutional care receive inconsistent or little response to crying and attachment behaviour



Children learn not to cry and that other children (usually of the same age) are rivals for attention



Ludzie

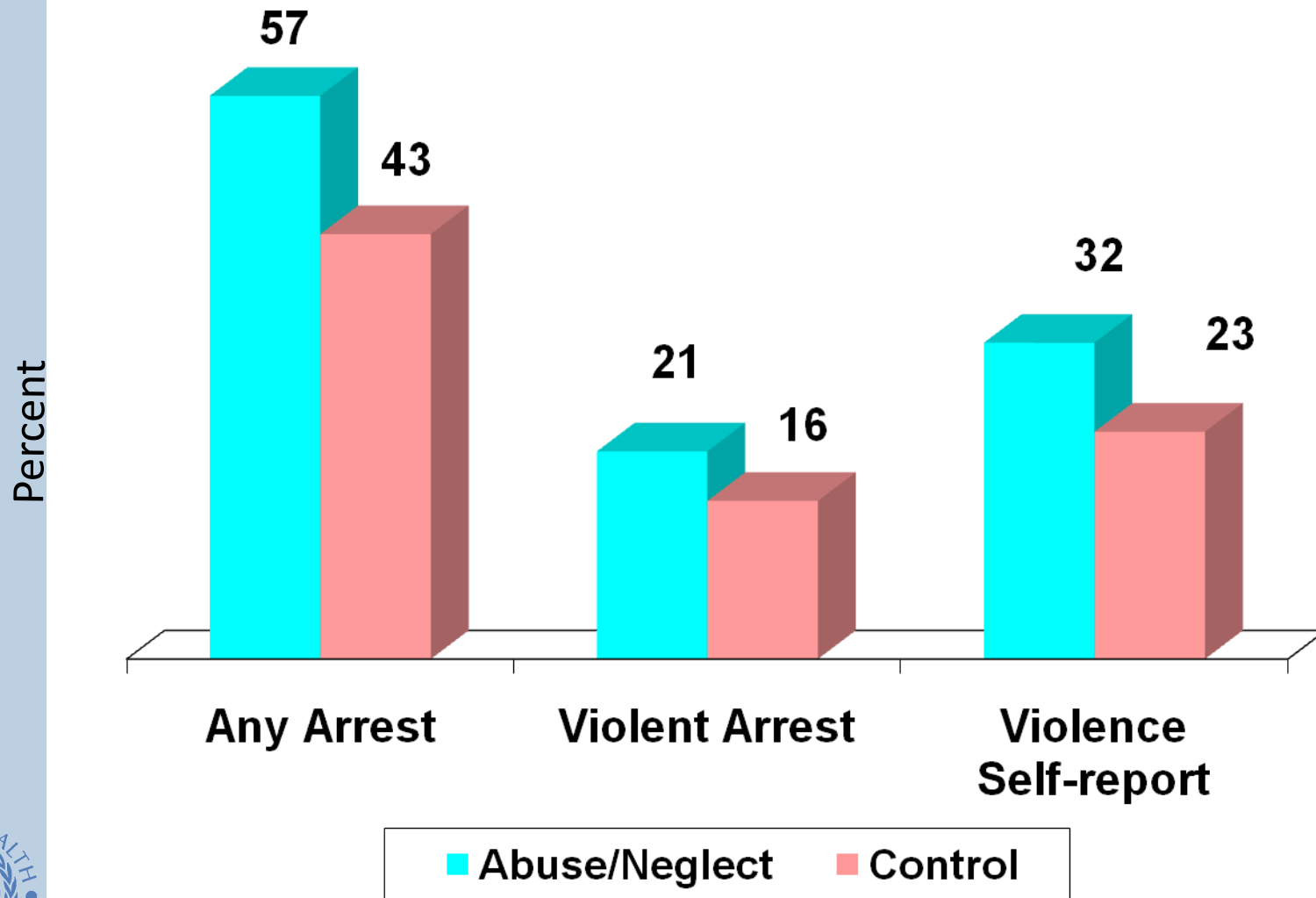
Institutionalised children give up on social behaviour and withdraw into themselves (pseudo-autism)





A child in residential care bound up to prevent self harm (Serbia, 2007)

Long term consequences of anti-social & violent behaviour



Source: Widom, C.S. (1998) Childhood Victimization: Early adversity and subsequent psychopathology. In Dohrenwend, B.P. (Ed.) Adversity, stress, and psychopathology. (Pp. 81-95) NY: Oxford Univ. Press.

Protection/Out of Home Placements

Care in Community

- **Family Support with Day care/therapeutic interventions**
- **Care by Non-offending parent (in the absence of the offender)**
- **Kinship Care (grandparent/other relative)**
- **Foster / therapeutic foster home**
- **National Adoption**
 - *Only 4% are true orphans!*

Institutional Care

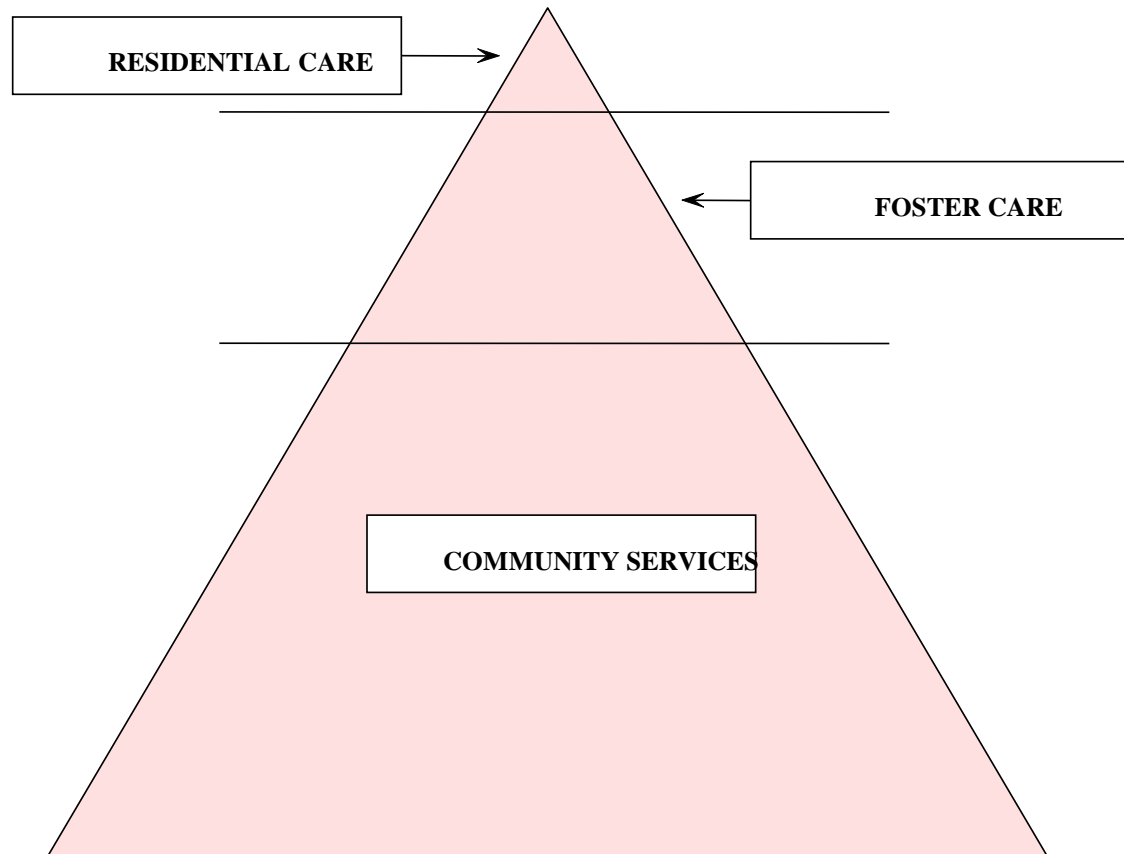
∞ Institution ??

No child under 3 should be in institutional care

∞ International Adoption

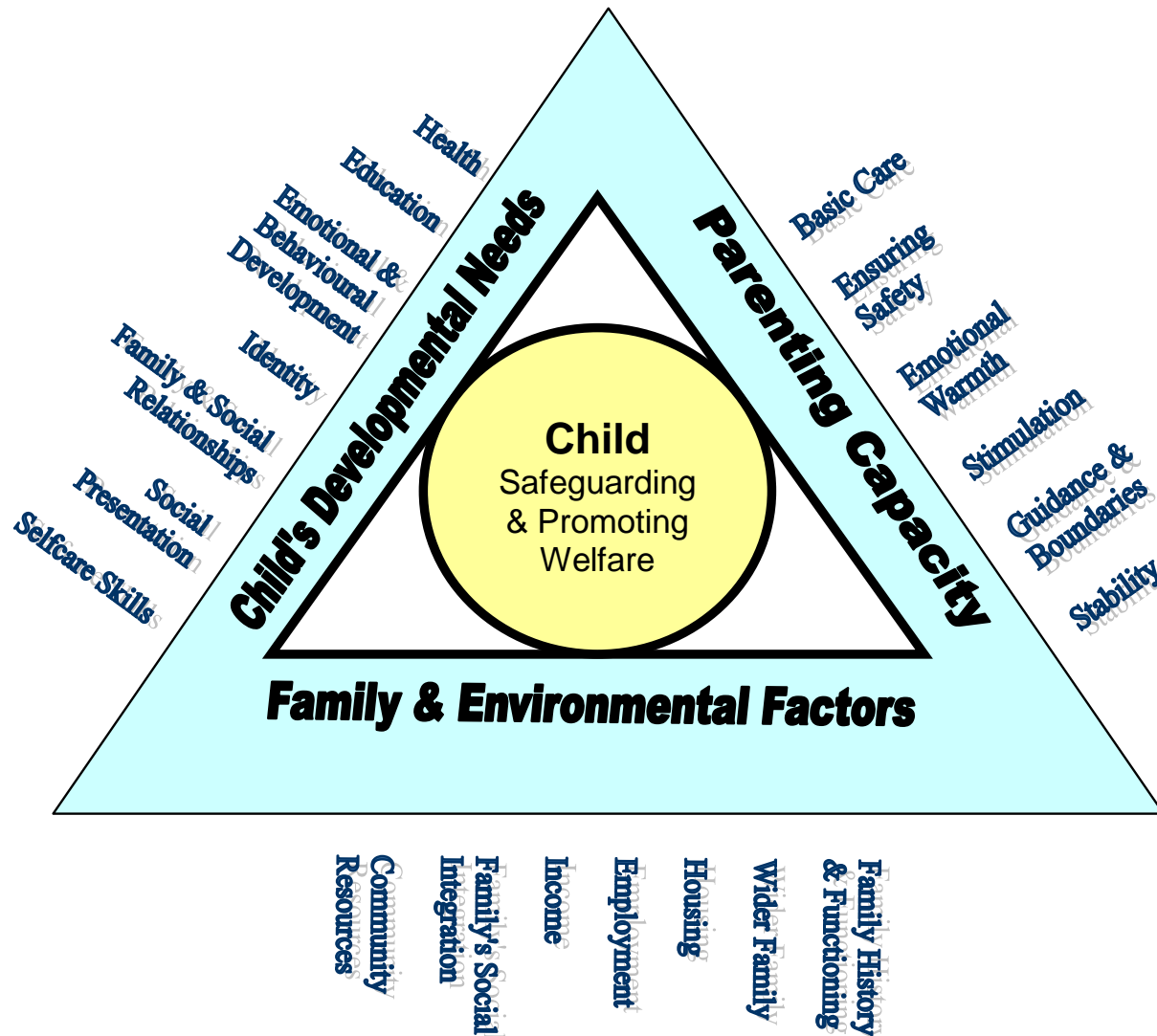
*Last resort
Only in the best interests of the child*

Transforming of children's services

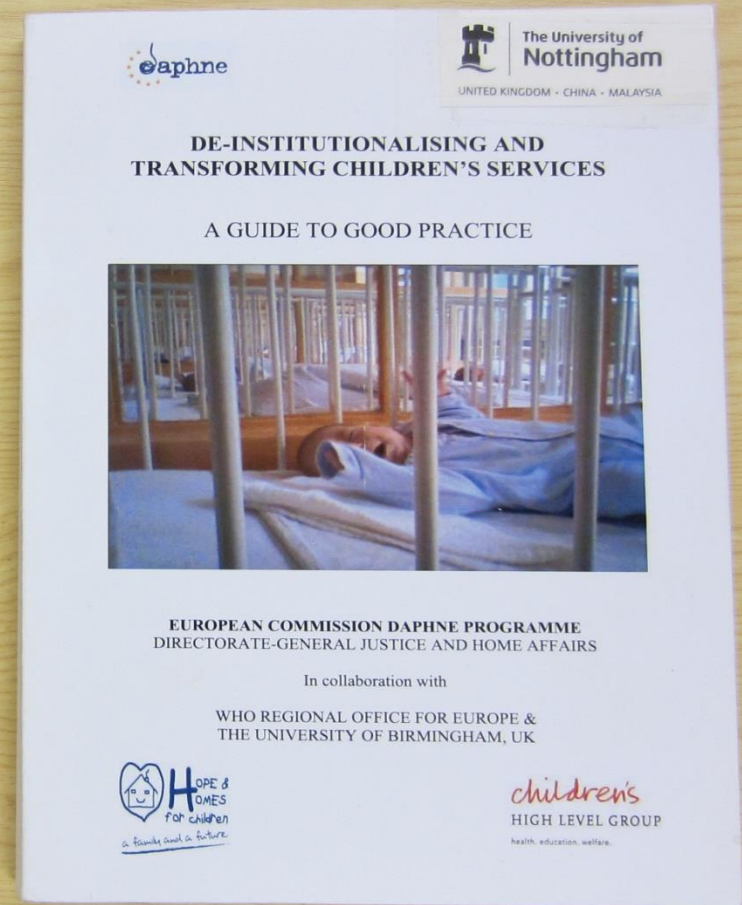


Pyramid of services to children and families: There are pitfalls in attempting to reduce residential care

Framework for the assessment of children and families (Department of Health, 2000)



Manual on the Better Care Network: Mulheir, G., Browne, K. and Associates (2007). *De-Institutionalising And Transforming Children's Services: A Guide To Good Practice.*

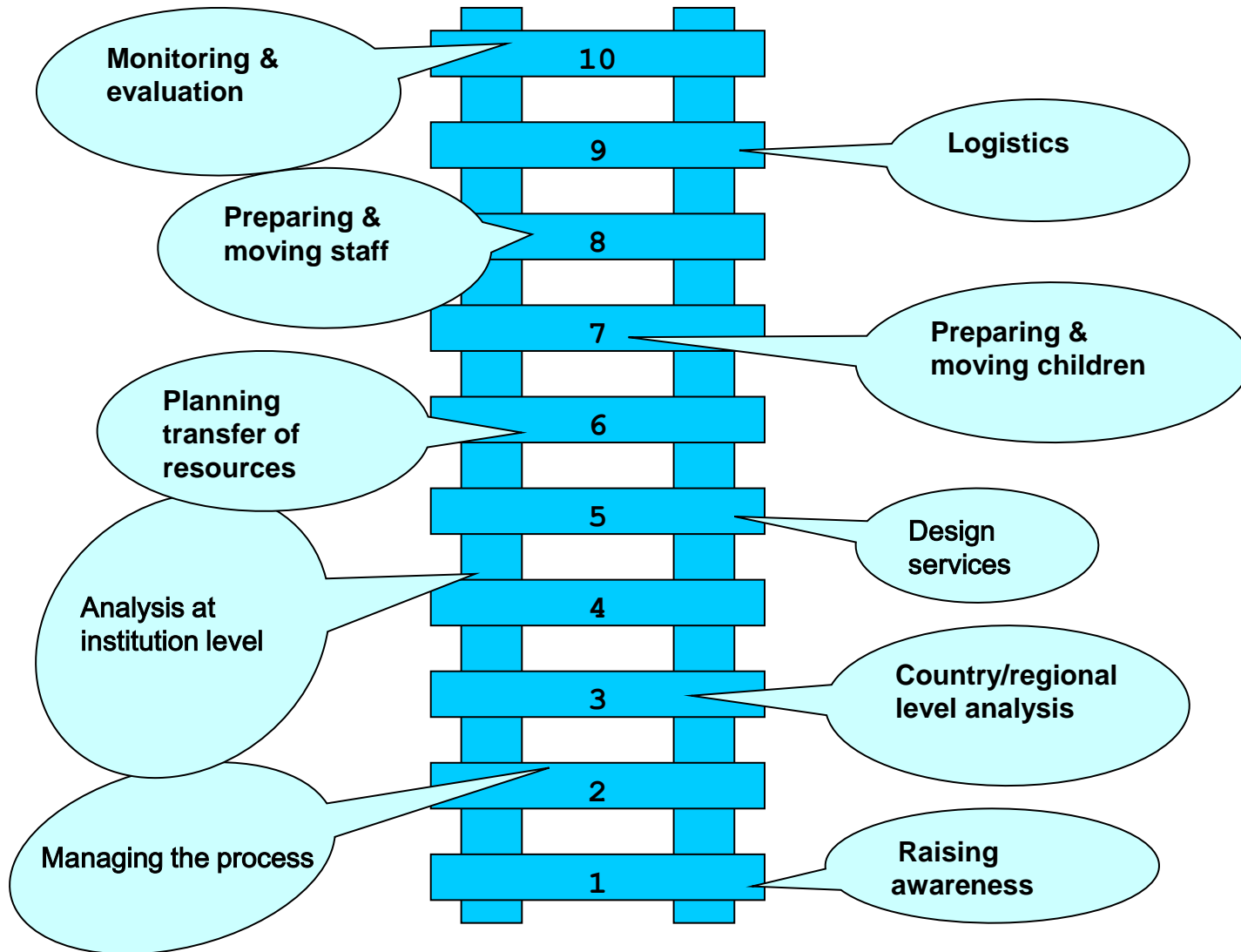


Relative costs of institutional care

- Analyses of institutional care in Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia by Browne et al. (2005) and Carter (2005)
 - 6 times more expensive than social services for vulnerable families or voluntary kinship care,
 - 3 times more expensive than foster care,
 - 2 times more expensive than small group homes
- 33% to 50% of paid institutional staff have NO direct contact with children
- Savings for children with disabilities is 66% of savings for children without disabilities.

STEPS TO DE-INSTITUTIONALISATION

(Mulheir and Browne, 2007)



Croatia Campaign for Foster care and Adption

SVAKO
DIJETE
TREBA
OBITELJ

Sanjini su roditelji bolesnu Toni je
žrtva nasilja, Milan je iznevjeren,
Lana je izgubila roditelje, Tamara je
napuštena...

Sudbine ovih malih bića različite su,
ali u svakom od njih živi nada da
negdje na svijetu postoji obitelj baš
za njih. Uostalom, život u obitelji je
i njihovo zakonsko pravo.
U međuvremenu, za njih se skrbi
država smještajući ih u domove za
nezbrinutu djecu.

Ako želite ovoj djeci pružiti toplinu,
ljubav i pažnju kakvu zaslužuju, javite
se Centru za podršku udomiteljstvu
pozivom na besplatni telefon
0800-1009. Niste li u mogućnosti
djeci bez roditeljske skrbi ponuditi
svoj dom, možete podržati njihovo
udomljavanje novčanim priložima:
telefonskim pozivom na broj

060 9001

(cijena poziva je 6,10 kn), a platom
iznosa po zlatu sa žiro-račun 2360000-
1500065944 (Zagrebačka banka) ili
kreditnim karticama putem
web-stranice www.unicef.hr
Vaša pomoć ovoj je djeci prilika
za bolju i sretniju budućnost.

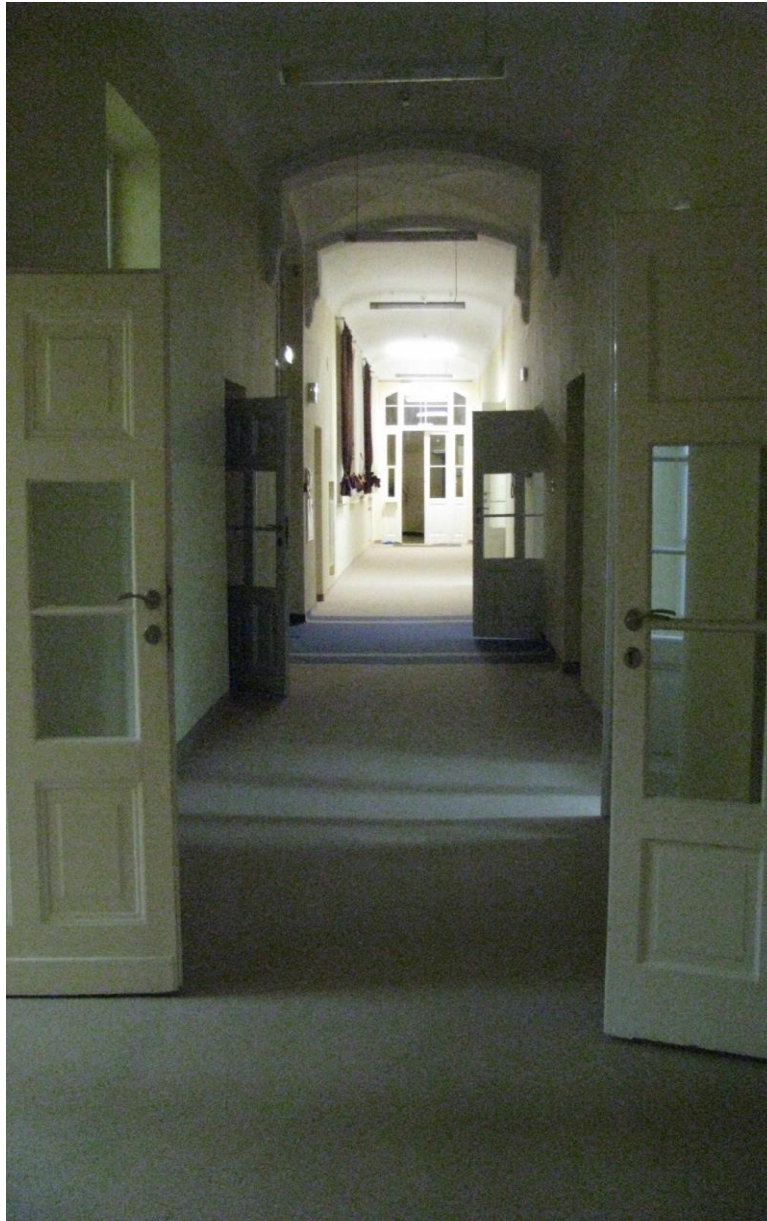
www.unicef.hr

Nositelji projekta:
Ministarstvo zdravstva
i socijalne skrbi Republike Hrvatske
HRT
Hrvatski Telekom
europa
DMS
DODJETE
POSREDOVANJE
SERVISI
premisa

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
EUROPE

unicef

Institutions transformed into polyclinics of non residential services for children and mother & baby units



Child Abandonment and its Prevention in Europe

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, UK

in collaboration with

For Our Children Foundation (Bulgaria), Life Together Association (Czech Republic), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Lyon (France), Family Child Youth Association (Hungary), Paramos Vaikams Centras (Lithuania), Nobody's Children Foundation (Poland), Children's High Level Group (Romania), and SOCIA (Slovakia)

with financial support from

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S DAPHNE PROGRAMME
(Directorate-General Justice)

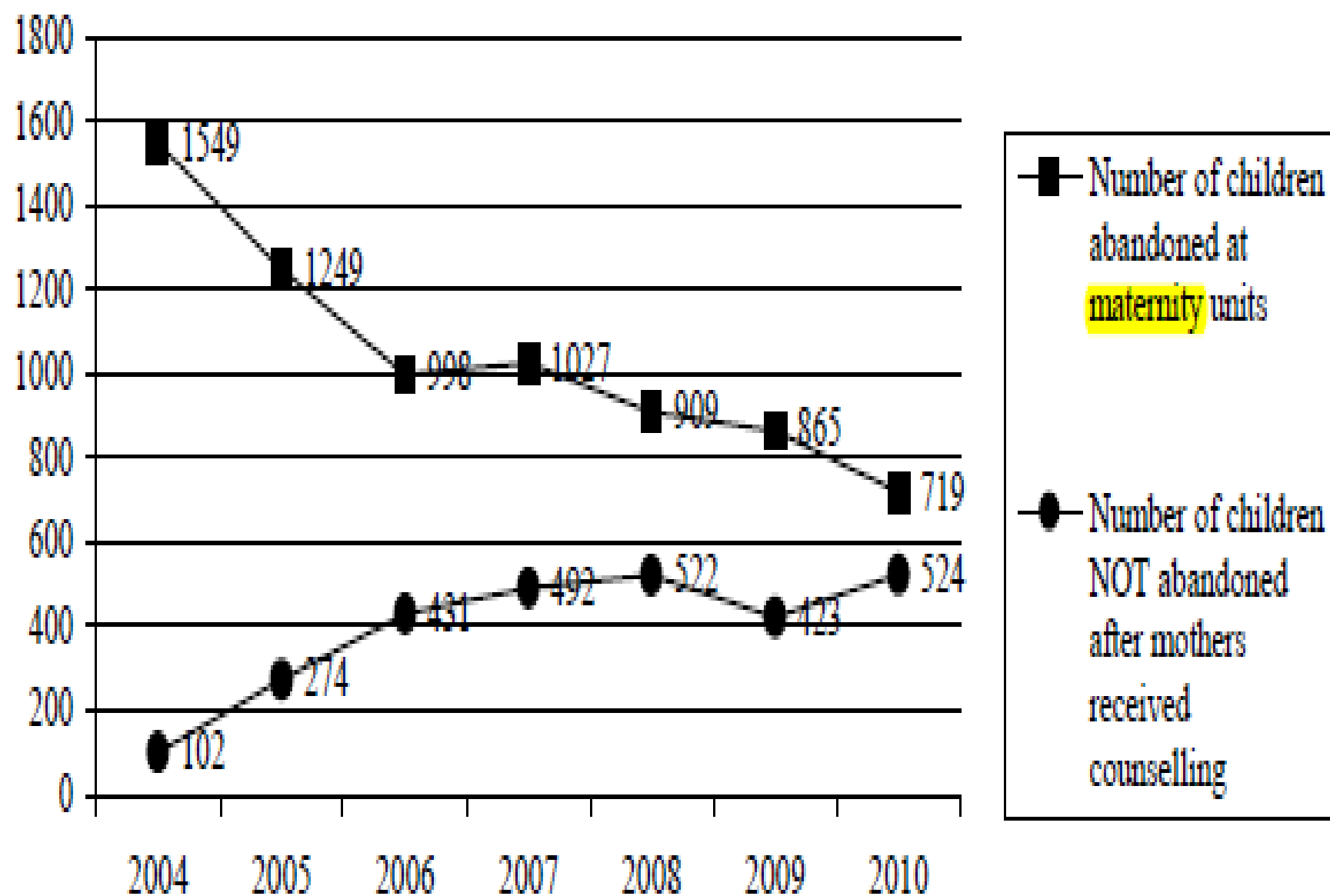


Causes of child abandonment*

- ◉ Teenage parenting & mother's lack of formal education
- ◉ Social or cultural stigma of single parenthood
- ◉ Psychiatric disorders, alcohol or drug abuse
- ◉ Poverty or financial hardship
- ◉ Poor housing & homelessness
- ◉ Not ready to have a child & being too late to have an abortion. Also, restricted access to abortion
- ◉ Few family planning & specialist services in local communities (e.g., to visit pregnant mothers)
- ◉ Poor preparation for birth & traditional practices of perinatal care that interfere with mother to child attachment
- ◉ Children with disabilities & lack of support services (e.g., day care while parents are at work)

*Latest EU Daphne project 2010 to 2012

Figure 1. Government figures from the Ukraine that illustrate the importance of counselling





Изоставянето на деца и неговото предотвратяване в Европа

Въведение

Член 7 от Конвенцията на ООН за Правата на децата ясно заявява, че всяко дете има "право да познава своите родители и да бъде обгрижвано от тях". Когато детето е изоставено, това право се нарушава. Бебетата и малките деца са в най-голям риск от изоставяне. Това е тревожно, тъй като дете, лишено от сигурно отглеждане в ранните години от живота си, може да изпита трудности в своето емоционално и поведенческо развитие. Макар разбирането за мащаба, причините и последствията от изоставянето на деца да е важно, изследванията по темата са оскъдни. Те са от съществено значение за разработването на ефективни програми за предотвратяване и стратегии, които целят да защитят най-уязвимите членове на обществото ни.

Определение на изоставянето на деца

В разглежданите 10 държави от ЕС (Дания, Франция, Обединеното кралство, България, Румъния, Чехия, Унгария, Словакия, Литва и Полша) няма ясна правна дефиниция за изоставянето на дете. Липсата на такава и неопределеността на това какво включва изоставянето на дете поставя известни предизвикателства пред изследването и практиката, свързана с този феномен. За целите на настоящия проект, финансиран от програма "Дафне" на ЕС, се използват две дефиниции на изоставянето на дете, а именно открито изоставяне и тайно изоставяне. Открито изоставяне се определя като съзнателно оставяне на детето от неговия родител, който може да бъде идентифициран и чието намерение е да не се връща, а доброволно да се откаже от родителските си отговорности. В допълнение на това, няма други членове на семейството, които да са способни или да искат да поемат отговорност като родители и да се грижат за детето. Тайното изоставяне се определя като тайно оставяне на дете от неговия родител, който не може да бъде идентифициран и чието намерение е да не се връща, а доброволно и анонимно се отказва от родителската отговорност.

Мащаба на изоставянето на деца в Европа

Изследванията показват, че изоставянето на деца е една от ключовите причини децата на възраст до 3 години да бъдат настанявани в институции. Сравнение на децата в институции показва, че в Западна Европа само 4% са изоставени, за разлика от 32% деца в институции в Централна и Източна Европа. Румъния, Унгария и Латвия имат

Abandonul copilului și prevenirea sa



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Introducere

Articolul 7 al Convenției ONU cu privire la Drepturile Copilului (UNCRC) stabilește în mod clar că fiecare copil are "dreptul de a-și cunoaște părinții și a fi îngrijit de părinții săi". Atunci când un copil este abandonat, acest drept îi este încălcat. Copiii nou născuți și copiii mici sunt cei care prezintă riscul cel mai mare de a fi abandonați. Acest lucru este îngrijorător deoarece un copil lipsit de o creștere stabilă în primii ani de viață poate prezenta dificultăți din punct de vedere al dezvoltării emoționale și comportamentale. În ciuda importanței înțelegerii dimensiunii, cauzelor și consecințelor abandonului copilului, există o lipsă distinctă de cercetare în acest domeniu. Astfel de studii de cercetare sunt esențiale pentru a dezvolta efectiv programele de prevenire și strategiile a căror țintă este aceea de a proteja pe cei mai vulnerabili din societatea noastră.

Definirea abandonului copilului

Într-un eșantion de 10 țări membre UE (Danemarca, Franța, Marea Britanie, Bulgaria, România, Republica Cehă, Ungaria, Slovacia, Lituania și Polonia), nu există o definiție legală clară a termenului de abandon al copilului. Lipsa unei definiții clare și ambiguitatea privind aspectele care constituie abandonul copilului, ridică provocări pentru studierea și practica referitoare la acest fenomen. În scopul prezentului proiect Daphe finanțat de UE, s-au folosit două definiții ale abandonului copilului și anume, abandonul deschis și abandonul secret. *Abandonul deschis* este definit ca părăsirea cu bună știință a unui copil de părintele său, care poate fi identificat și a cărui intenție nu este de a se întoarce ci de a respinge voit răspunderea părintească. Mai mult, niciun alt membru al familiei nu poate sau nu vrea să-și asume răspunderea de părinte și să aibă grijă de copil. *Abandonul secret* este definit ca părăsirea în secret a copilului de către părintele său, care *nu poate* fi identificat și a cărui

Mother-Baby Units to replace Baby Homes

No child under three in residential care without a mother



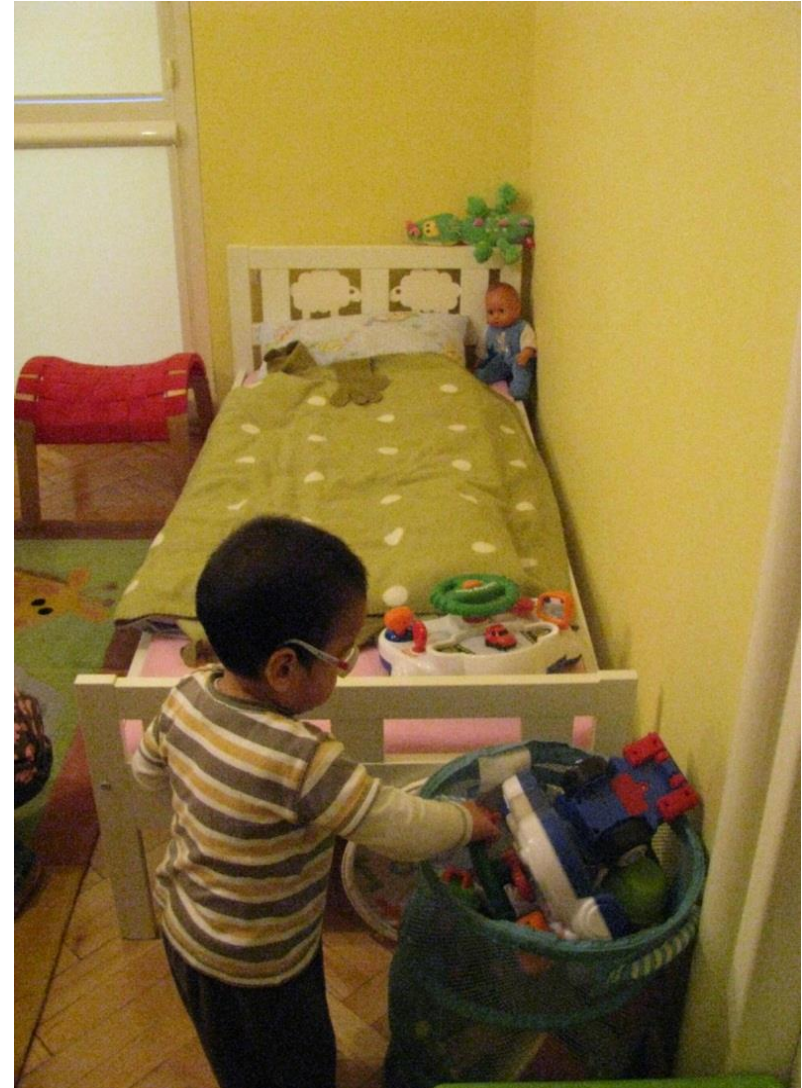
Day care facilities for children with and without disabilities



Ethnic minority foster care – a way forward that reduces unemployment in this group



Children without parents placed in small surrogate family units in the community



Continuity of care staff acting in pairs as parents/relatives on regular shifts (eg: day/night)



Care staff trained in one to one interaction and promoting attachment



Maximum 5 or 6 children per foster/surrogate family
up to 2 with disabilities



Figure 2. Number of abandonment and infanticide cases in Poland that required police intervention

