



FACT SHEETS

STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

This selection of statistics gives a quick insight into Romania's children in care. These figures are primarily from the National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights (NAPCR), the Romanian institution responsible for children in care. The new law on the "Protection and Promotion of the Rights of the Child", which came into effect in 2005, makes possible fundamental reform of the child protection system and this will effect future statistics (e.g. it is no longer possible to put children under two in residential care). *For more details please contact Rupert Wolfe Murray, Educational Campaign on Family Advisory Issues (Phare) Email: contact@productive.ro . Telephone 0040 745 801 896*

GENERAL POPULATION STATISTICS:

From the 2002 Census:

Total population: 21,680,000
Children under 18: 4.8 million
Children under 5: 1.1 million
Children under 1: 230,000

STATISTICS ABOUT CHILDREN IN STATE CARE

In December 2004, the total number of children who were in the care of the state was 82,918. This total figure is divided as follows:

- 50,239 are with families (including 15,834 with Maternal Assistants and 27,036 with extended families);
- 32,679 are in residential centres (including 5,460 in privately run centres).

In the mid 1990s there were over 100,000 children in residential centres (institutions)

Breakdown of children in state care, by age (at 31 December .2004):

- 0-3 years old:	1,368 (4.18%)
- 3-6 years old:	2,407 (7.36%)
- 7-9 years old:	3,514 (10.75%)
- 10-13 years old:	7,262 (22.22%)
- 14-17 years old:	12,435 (38.05%)
- 18+ years old:	5,693 (17.42%)

Percentage of children in residential care (2004) aged between 10-18 years old: 77.7%

Total number of residential centres for children in care: 1,369
(including 386 privately run units).

Types of residential centres for children:

- Serviced apartments: 345
 - Small family-type homes: 274
 - Modular units (refurbished/modern apartments within old style institution): 125
 - Classic (old fashioned) residential institutions: 238
- (out of all these residential units described above, only 68 have more than 100 children)

Number of large residential institutions closed down during 1999-2004 : 183
(out of which 65 centres were closed through the EU Phare *Children First* project.¹)

New services for children at risk:

Centres for street children in 2000: 0
Centres for street children in 2004: 15

Mother and child centres in 2000: 24
Mother and child centres in 2004: 57

Day centres in 2000: 16
Day centres in 2004: 125

Support services for youth over 18 in 2000: 6
Support services for youth over 18 in 2004: 50

Counselling centres for parents, in 2000: 13
Counselling centres for parents, in 2004: 50

Monitoring and support services for pregnant women who are at risk of abandoning their child, in 2000: 8

Monitoring and support services for pregnant women who are at risk of abandoning their child, in 2004: 23

Centres to support reintegration into the natural families, in 2000: 10
Centres to support reintegration into the natural families, in 2004: 46

BABIES LEFT (ABANDONED) IN HOSPITALS² (at end of 2004):

Number of babies temporarily abandoned in hospitals (2004): 4,614

Out of which:

- babies re-united with their natural mothers: 2,389
- sent to residential centres³: 768
- placed with substitute families (including foster families and relatives): 947

¹ The EU Phare "Children First" Projects started in 2001 and will continue to the end of 2006. By mid 2005 it had closed down 52 institutions; by the end of 2006 it will have closed down 91 in total.

² These figures on abandonment were taken from NAPCR who get monthly updates from the county offices for child protection (DGASPs) as well as the county health authorities.

³ According to the new law of child protection (272/2004) it is no longer possible to send children under two into residential centres. They must be placed with natural or substitute families.

- Babies which remained in hospitals for medical treatment or were otherwise “unresolved” (by 31st December 2004): 505
- Number of beneficiaries of prevention (of abandonment) services (2004): 24,412 (the number of beneficiaries in 2002 was 9,663)

CHILDREN ADOPTED (between January and December 2004)

Children adopted by Romanian families: 1,422

Children adopted internationally: 251 ⁴

OTHER CHILDREN AT RISK

Children doing “worst forms” of labour: 70,690 (ILO, 2003)

Street children: 1,500 (2003, NAPCR)

Children in conflict with the law (in 2003): 19,167 (UNICEF)

Children in prison (2003): 800 (UNICEF)

Trafficking: 1,034 children were repatriated to Romania in 2003 (Ministry of Interior)

Percentage of parents referring to violence as means of punishment: 47% (UNICEF)

Number of disabled children in Romania: 68,805

Number of children with HIV and AIDS: 6,710 (National Institute for Statistics)

STATISTICS FROM THE *CHILD PROTECTION FREE PHONE LINE* (0800 8 200 200)

Between the period 22nd November 2001 and 30th June 2005, a total of 13,188 calls were received. These calls were about the following issues:

- Requests for support in order not to abandon their child: 42%
- Requests to adopt children: 20%
- People interested in becoming foster parents: 18%
- Families wishing to take children from residential care: 6%
- Reports of child abuse: 5%
- Requests to place their own children in residential care: 3%
- Other cases: 6%

⁴ According to the new law on child rights (272/2004) international adoption is only permitted for grandparents.