



**Convention on the
Rights of the Child**

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COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
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**WRITTEN REPLIES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA
TO THE LIST OF ISSUES (CRC/C/BGR/Q/2) PREPARED
BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD IN
CONNECTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND
PERIODIC REPORT OF BULGARIA (CRC/C/BGR/2)***

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* In accordance with the information transmitted to States parties regarding the processing of their reports, the present document was not formally edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

PART I

A. Data and statistics, if available ¹

Question 1. *Please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age, ethnic group, urban and rural area) covering the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on the number and proportion of children under 18 living in the State party, as well as belonging to minority groups, including the Roma children.*

Children at residential-type special schools

1. **Special schools:** for children with sensory disabilities (hearing disability, sight disability), with mental disabilities, with communication disorders, suffering from chronic diseases, with physical disabilities, and with deviant behaviour.

2. The curricula at these schools are proposed by the Minister of Education and Science and are adapted to the pupils' health or social status. Children are referred and admitted to such schools at the request of a parent or guardian and after a comprehensive psychological and educational evaluation.

(The data on the number and profile of children apply to 31 December of the calendar year)

3. **Rehabilitation schools.** They are attended by pupils with mental disabilities who do not meet the state general educational requirements applicable to the instruction's content after an integral psychological and educational evaluation.

SCHOOLS	2005		2006	
	Number Of Schools	Total Number Of Children	Number Of Schools	Total Number Of Children
Rehabilitation schools - total	72	7956	62	6508
Of them: Boarding schools	26	2852	24	2595
<i>Percentage of boarding schools compared to the total of rehabilitation schools</i>	36%	36%	39%	40%

¹ Since the data were submitted before the end of March and the data on 2007 are consolidated by the end of the first quarter, data on last year is not available for all categories.

**Children attending residential-type rehabilitation schools, disaggregated by sex
(2005-2006)**

Children disaggregated by sex				
Sex	Number of children	%	Number of children	%
	2005		2006	
Girls	1073	37,6%	968	37,3%
Boys	1779	62,4%	1627	62,7%
Total	2852		2595	

**Ethnic background of the children attending residential-type rehabilitation schools
(2005-2006)**

Ethnic Background of children	Total children	%	Total children	%
	2005		2006	
Bulgarian	1229	43,1%	997	38,4%
Roma	1218	42,7%	1152	44,4%
Turkish	343	12%	393	15,1%
Other	21	0,7%	33	1,3%
Indeterminate	41	1,4%	20	0,8%
Total	2852		2595	

4. **Convalescence schools:** for treatment of chronically ill children, suffering from various diseases: pulmonary, cardio-vascular, digestive, endocrine, kidney, neurological and motorical. The schooling of these children follows the state educational requirements applicable to the instruction's content.

	2005		2006	
Convalescence schools	23	2848	22	2601

Children attending convalescence schools, disaggregated by sex (2005-2006)

Children attending convalescence schools, disaggregated by sex				
Sex	Total children	%	Total children	%
	2005		2006	
Girls	1301	46%	1416	54%
Boys	1547	54%	1185	46%
Total	2848		2601	

Ethnic background of children attending convalescence schools (2005-2006)

Ethnic Background of Children	2005		2006	
	Total Children	%	Total Children	%
Bulgarian	1718	60,3%	59	2,3%
Roma	616	21,6%	316	12,2%
Turkish	360	12,6%	937	36%
Other	154	5,4%	1028	39,5%
Indeterminate	0	0	261	10%
Total	2848		2601	

5. **Hospital schools:** they are attended by pupils from first to twelfth grade, who are treated at specialized hospitals or at clinical rehabilitation wards of specialized hospitals under a relaxed educational regime. The pupils enter the educational process in accordance with a decision of the attending physician.

	2005		2006	
Hospital schools	5	289	4	230

Children attending hospital schools, disaggregated by sex (2005-2006)

Children attending hospital schools, disaggregated by sex				
Sex	2005		2006	
	Number Children	%	Number Children	%
Girls	115	40%	108	47%
Boys	174	60%	122	53%
Total	289		230	

Ethnic background of children attending hospital schools (2005-2006)

Ethnic Background of Children	2005		2006	
	Number of Children	%	Number of Children	%
Bulgarian	103	35,6%	81	35,2%
Roma	37	12,8%	16	7%
Turkish	37	12,8%	24	10,4%
Other	1	0,4%	0	-
Indeterminate	111	38,4%	109	47,4%
Total	289		230	

6. **Social educational boarding schools and correctional boarding schools** - placement in schools for pupils with deviant behaviour: correctional boarding schools and social educational boarding schools, follows the procedure established by the Control of Juvenile Anti-social Behaviour Act: after a judgment of court.

Kind	Number of Schools	Number Of Children 2005	Number of Schools	Number Of Children 2006
Social Educational Boarding Schools	17	730	9	344
Correctional Boarding Schools	6	306	5	256

Children placed in social educational boarding schools and correctional boarding schools, disaggregated by sex (2005-2006)

School	correctional boarding schools		social educational boarding schools	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Sex				
Boys	226	256	521	249
Girls	80	0	209	95
Total	306	256	730	344

Children placed in social educational boarding schools and correctional boarding schools, disaggregated by age (2005-2006)

School	correctional boarding schools		social educational boarding schools	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Age				
8-14 years old	54	48	371	139
15-18 years old	237	198	341	196
Up to 18 years old	15	10	18	9
Total	306	256	730	344

Ethnocultural background of children placed in social educational boarding schools and correctional boarding schools (2005-2006)

School	correctional boarding schools		social educational boarding schools	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Ethnocultural groups of children				
Bulgarian	122	75	263	147
Roma	147	138	388	170
Turkish	37	32	61	21
Other	0	11	18	2
Indeterminate	0	0	0	4
Total	306	256	730	344

Question 2. *In the light of article 4 of the Convention, please provide disaggregated data for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 on budget allocations and trends (in absolute figures and in percentages of the national budget or gross domestic product) allocated to the implementation of the Convention, evaluating also the priorities for budgetary expenditures given to the following:*

- (a) *Education (different types of education, i.e. pre-primary, primary and secondary and non-formal or complementary education for children out of school);*
- (b) *Health care (different types of health services, i.e. primary health care, immunization programmes, HIV/AIDS programmes, adolescent health care, including mental health care, and other health care services for children);*
- (c) *Programmes and services for children with disabilities;*
- (d) *Support programmes for families including families from minority groups;*
- (e) *Support for children living below the poverty line;*
- (f) *Protection of children who are in need of alternative care including the support of care institutions;*
- (g) *Programmes and activities for the prevention of and protection from sexual violence against children, child abuse and economic exploitation, including child labour;*

- (h) *Programmes and services for orphans, abandoned children and street children;*
- (i) *Juvenile justice, juvenile crime prevention and social reintegration.*

Please also indicate the estimated expenses of the private sector, in particular for health and education.

7. **Programme “Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS”**, financed by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: budget under Component 7 of the Programme “Prevention of HIV among Young People inside and outside School”.

2006: USD 272,798

2007: USD 237,560

8. **Project “Improvement of the Situation and Inclusion of the Minorities with a Special Focus on Roma”** – Phase 1: EUR 11.118 million under the Phare National Programme, including EUR 2.118 million allocated in national co-financing; Phase 2: EUR 12.234 million, including EUR 2.234 million allocated in national co-financing.

9. **Project “Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma”**, with a budget of EUR 4.853 million, of which EUR 3.870 million under the Phare National Programme and EUR 983,000 in national co-financing.

10. The Family Allowances Act, Social Assistance Act, Integration of People with Disabilities Act, Child Protection Act and Social Insurance Code provide for a number of allowances and benefits at an amount determined according to health, social and other criteria. The amount of the family allowances for children is fixed annually. These allowances are thus adjusted in accordance with the key macroeconomic indicators.

11. For 2006, BGN 1,000,000 were allocated under a particularized plan for the Programme “Child Protection through Transition from Institutional Care to Alternative Care in a Family Environment”.

For 2007, BGN 6,000,000 were allocated under a particularized plan for the Programme “Child Protection through Transition from Institutional Care to Alternative Care in a Family Environment”.

For 2008, BGN 6,000,000 were allocated under a particularized plan for the Programme “Child Protection through Transition from Institutional Care to Alternative Care in a Family Environment”.

12. While it is impossible to state exact amounts allocated by **activities for the prevention of violence** and all forms of child abuse and exploitation, **the priorities of the state policy** can be subsumed under several areas:

- Establishment and maintenance of a National Hotline for Children; **BGN 655,000 have been budgeted for development of the National Hotline for 2008.**
- introduction of measures for “early warning” of the child protection system and upgrading the qualifications of experts working with children victims of violence or exploitation;
- development of high-quality services for support, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of violence or exploitation;

- elaboration of programmes targeting prevention at school and at the specialized child care institutions;
- prevention of violence on the Internet and ensuring conditions of work in a safe Internet environment for children.

Programmes and projects for the prevention of violence

13. The State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) is involved in the implementation of a Project **“Internet and Children’s Rights,”** related to the prevention of violence, containment and prevention of child abuse and crimes against children on the Web, as well as the creation of a secure and safe environment for use of the Internet. Information and educational materials intended for teachers and parents were published in order to protect children against risks while using an Internet environment. Rules for safe work of students in school computer network and in Internet were disseminated as well.

In 2005, the SACP, jointly with the Ronald McDonlads Charities, developed a project for the creation of **non-violent computer games**. More than 160 children aged between 7 and 18 from across the country took part in the competition entitled “Game Using Your Idea”. As a result, ten new computer games not containing elements of aggression were developed and have been published on the Agency's Internet site, at www.sacp.government.bg A Project entitled **“The Child in the Web”** was launched in January 2006. It seeks to protect children against possible threats related to Internet use: risk contacts with strangers, disclosure of personal information etc. The project is implemented in partnership with the British Embassy in Bulgaria, the “Partners-Bulgaria” Foundation and with the active involvement of the media.

14. With the support of the State Agency for Child Protection, in 2005, the Applied Research and Communications Fund won a project for the establishment of a **Bulgarian Safer Internet Hotline – SafeNet BG (web112.net)**, to fight the dissemination of online content that is illegal and harmful to children and teenagers. The project is member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), under the Safer Internet Programme of the European Commission. An automatic online mechanism for the submission of alerts has been developed and implemented under the project, and these alerts are processed, summarized and traced.

15. A Public Council on the Fight Against the Illicit Content in Internet Space in Bulgaria was instituted on 14 April 2006, to promote, coordinate and provide methodological guidance for the hotline. The Council is based on public-private partnership principles and pools the efforts of all government institutions concerned with these problems (SACP, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education and Science, the State Agency for Information Technology and Communications), as well as of members of the business community and civil society.

16. A **Teenager Club** and a **Parent Club** operate as an **online counselling service**, accessible from the Agency's Internet site, through which children, children's parents and friends, teachers and experts working with children ask their questions, submit alerts about violence, or seek support and assistance. Since the beginning of 2003, more than 800 letters have been answered. The SACP has developed a project for the establishment of a **National Hotline for Children**, which is already in operation. The pilot project was financed by UNICEF. It is intended, basically, to implement an early prevention of violence and to take effective measures for assistance and support to children, including crisis intervention by a multidisciplinary team of social workers, psychologists and lawyers.

Child labour

17. In accordance with the March 2005 Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Bulgaria and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the Elimination of Child Labour, which provides for the establishment of a National Steering Committee (NSC), including representatives of the competent government institutions, the nationally representative social partners and non-governmental organizations, the National Police Service with the Ministry of Interior has its own representative on the NSC who has been working actively since its establishment on the problems laid before NSC for discussion.

18. Police officers took part in the first consultative working meeting under a project piloting a Child Labour Monitoring System, presented by CARE International-Bulgaria and financed under the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour. The principal objectives of the project were to create an institutional framework for a model child labour monitoring system (structures, powers, monitoring process), strengthening the capacity of all structures concerned with child labour monitoring, testing of the model in four pilot municipalities and, more specifically, the performance of work by street children and documenting good practices. The project was launched on a pilot basis at three boroughs of Sofia. Police officers of the four pilot municipalities acted as part of the multidisciplinary teams for work on the ground, as well as in the training of the teams. All activities performed by the multidisciplinary teams are implemented in accordance with a Manual for Child Labour Monitoring, prepared with the participation of police officers.

19. More than 40 rounds of facilities in the central part of Sofia were arranged and conducted with the participation of police officers in 2006 under a project approved by the Social Assistance Fund of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

20. In all large regional capitals, police officers work jointly with the child protection authorities, the local boards for control of juvenile anti-social behaviour and non-government organizations for protection of the rights of street children. Multidisciplinary teams have been formed and are working under the municipalities' plans for begging children and periodically make rounds of the places frequented by persons who beg.

Street children

21. A small but strongly vulnerable group of children has come to the public's attention in recent years. Protection and special care for children's rights are a priority of the state policy.

22. The policy of protection measures the creation of local networks of social services providing children with adequate living standards, access to education, health care, vocational training, and protection against all forms of abuse and violence.

23. **A National Strategy for the Protection of the Rights of Street Children** and a special **Action Plan for Begging Children** have been adopted to improve the effectiveness of work with street children. They set out clear objectives and concrete responsibilities for all institutions and partners of the non-governmental sector.

24. The efforts in the field of street children protection seek to ensure social and psychological support to parents and children, strengthening and increasing the capacity of the day care centres for work with street children, emergence of various kinds of services for support and assistance to the children and their families. Over the last two years, the SACP President has licensed 14 day care centres and shelters for neglected children within the national territory, and Centres for Public Support, Centres for Work with Street Children and Centres for Urgent Placement also went into operation in 2006.

25. The Centres for Work with Street Children provide services aimed at the social integration of street children including: provision of accommodation, food, apparel and footwear, hygiene care etc.; medical services; entertainment, hobbies; individual social work for the child's social integration; social work with the family; work in the street; education; vocational training; referral to various vocational courses; development of children's creative capabilities; informing children of their rights and advocacy.

Question 3. *With reference to children deprived of a family environment and separated from parents, please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age group, urban and rural area) for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on the number of children;*

- (a) *Separated from their parents;*
- (b) *Placed in institutions, and the number of institutions in the country;*
- (c) *Placed with foster families;*
- (d) *Adopted domestically or through intercountry adoptions.*

Placement with the biological or larger family

26. The evolution of the child protection system and the practical application of the secondary legislation under the Child Protection Act opened up new opportunities and alternatives, making possible for a child who cannot be raised by his or her parents to be raised in a family environment. Placement with biological or larger family is one of the measures that are successfully applied by the Child Protection Departments.

27. A total of **1,699** children were placed with biological or larger family during the year. By **30 December 2007**, **a total of 5,829 children** countrywide had been placed with and are **placed with biological or larger family**.

28. The number of children placed with biological or larger family increased from **878** in **2002** to **1,996** in **2004**, **4,026** in **2005**, and **5,536** in **2006**.

Number of children placed with the biological or larger family during the year

Year	2005	2006	2007
Number of children placed with biological or larger Family	1755	1955	1699

29. Item 5 of § 1 of the Supplementary Provision of the Child Protection Act of 18 April 2003 defines specialized institutions as “residential-type homes for raising and upbringing children where they are permanently separated from their family environment.” They are placed there according to the procedure established by the Child Protection Act by a judgment of court and, until the court pronounces, by a temporary order of the Director of the Social Assistance Directorate, after all possibilities to provide a family environment to the child have been exhausted.

Institutions	Number of Institutions	Number of Children	Number of Institutions	Number of Children	Number of Institutions	Number of Children
	2005		2006		2007	
Homes for children with disabilities Total	28	1 310	27	1 193	26	1 115
Homes for Children and Adolescents with Mental disabilities (HCAMR/HCMD)	27	1 251	26	1 138	25	1 053
Homes for Children and Adolescents with Physical Disabilities and preserved Intelligence (HCAPDPI)	1	59	1	55	1	62
Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care (HCDPC)	101	5 506	86	4 717	86	4 189
Institutions by Ministry of Health Homes for Medico-Social Care for Children	32	2 960	32	2 743	32	2 715
Total for all institutions	161	9 776	145	8 653	144	8 019

Specialized institutions disaggregated by location

Year	2005			2006			2007		
	N-r of Ins-s.	Town	Village	N-r of Ins-s.	Town	Village	N-r of Ins-s.	Town	Village
Type of Institutions									
Homes for children with disabilities	28	7	21	27	7	20	26	6	20
Total									
Homes for Children and Adolescents with Mental Retardation (HCAMR/HCMR)	27	6	21	26	6	20	25	5	20
Home for Children and Adolescents with Physical Disabilities and Preserved Intelligence (HCAPDPI)	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care (HCDPC)	101		40	86	59	27	86	59	27
Institutions by Ministry of Health	32		2	32	30	2	32	30	2
Homes for Medico-Social Care for Children (HMSSC)									
Total for all institutions	161	98	63	145	96	49	144	95	49

30. The analysis of data in the period 2001 - 2007 ascertains the downward trend in the number of children placed in specialized institutions.

31. Compared to 2001, the number of institutionalized children has decreased by 4,590 or 36.4 per cent.

The downward trend of the number of children in specialized institutions persisted in the 2005-2007 period. Compared to 2005, the number of institutionalized children decreased by 1,757 or 17.9 per cent.

The number of children in the **Homes for Medico-Social Care**, where children aged up to 3 are raised (both healthy and with disabilities; some children with disabilities remain there until the age of 7) totalled 2,715 by 31 December 2007.

32. The number of children placed in **Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care**, where children aged between 3 and 18 are raised, totalled 4,189 by 31 December 2007.

33. The total number of children placed in **Homes for Children and Adolescents with Mental disabilities** and **Home for Children and Adolescents with Physical Disabilities and Preserved Intelligence**, where children aged between 4 and 18 are raised, totalled 1,115 by 31 December 2007. Compared to 2001, the number of children placed in these institutions decreased by 786 or 41.3 per cent.

Children in Homes for Medico-Social Care, disaggregated by age and sex (2005-2007)

Age	Total number of children			Boys			Girls		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
0 – 1	1115	1046	1176	593	558	648	522	488	528
1 - 3	1357	1204	985	744	664	524	613	540	461
4 - 7	437	432	465	246	229	259	191	203	206
Over 7 years	51	61	89	20	28	43	31	33	46

Children in care Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care, disaggregated by age and sex (2005-2007)

Age	Total number of children			Boys			Girls		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
3 – 7 years	1245	1269	1313	695	726	722	550	543	591
8 – 11 years	1086	884	815	619	492	478	467	392	337
12 – 16	1859	1710	1367	1044	963	785	815	747	582
17 – 18	948	611	503	548	357	278	400	254	225
Over 18 years	368	243	191	222	147	122	146	96	69

Children in institutions homes for children with disabilities, disaggregated by age and sex (2005-2007)

Age	Total number of children			Boys			Girls		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
3 – 7 years	192	180	157	103	96	89	89	84	68
8 – 11 years	382	312	280	219	176	149	163	136	131
12 – 16 years	529	533	517	283	294	294	246	239	223
17 – 18 years	207	168	161	118	90	80	89	78	81
Over 18 year	455	408	446	263	257	255	192	151	191

*The number of young persons aged over 18, placed in care home for mentally retarded children and young persons, is not included in the total number of children

Ethnic groups of children raised in the three types of specialized child care institutions (2005-2007)

	HMSSC			HCDPC			HCAMR/HCMR			Total		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Bulgarian	727	653	550	2144	1689	1398	746	704	591	3617	3046	2539
Roma	1380	1446	1410	2429	2272	2006	403	368	355	4212	4086	3771
Turkish	199	127	117	417	341	311	80	78	66	696	546	494
Other	29	39	57	84	89	45	9	9	5	122	137	107
Indetermined	625	478	581	432	326	429	72	34	98	1129	838	1108

Placement with a foster family

34. Placement with a foster family is one of the measures that are applied to ensure the right of the child to live in a family environment, when the child's own parents are not in a position to exercise care.

A total of 82 children were placed with foster families in 2007: 39 children with professional foster families and 43 children with volunteer foster families.

35. Foster families were raising 135 children by 31 December 2007.

Number of children placed with foster families during the year

Year	2005	2006	2007
Number of children placed with foster families	48	75	82

(d) Adopted domestically or through international adoptions;

Prospective adoptive parents entered in the register of adopters for full adoption

Year	2005	2006	2007
Prospective adoptive parents entered in the register of adopters for full adoption	3220	2308	2328

Number of children entered in the register for full adoption

Year	2005	2006	2007
Number of children entered in the register for full adoption	2260	2512	2552

Number of children adopted

	2005	2006	2007
Number of children adopted in Bulgaria	642	634	708
Number of notifications to the Council for International Adoptions	642	462	400
Number of children with explicit consent for adoption abroad	108	103	85

Source: Ministry of Justice:

36. In 2005, the Minister of Justice gave 101 consents to the international adoption of 108 children. In respect of two of these children, the prospective adopted parents withdrew their consents to the adoption after the Minister gave his consent.

Of the remaining 106 children, 39 were girls and 67 were boys. Five children were from a rural area and 101 children from an urban area.

37. In 2006, the Minister of Justice gave 98 consents to the international adoption of 103 children. Of these, five children were adopted by a parent's spouse, for which the Minister's consent has to be obtained as well.

Of the remaining 98 children, 36 were girls and 62 were boys. Eleven children were from a rural area and 87 children were from an urban area.

38. In 2007, the Minister of Justice gave 81 consents to the international adoption of 85 children. Of these, one child was adopted by a parent's spouse, for which the Minister's consent has to be obtained as well.

Of the remaining 84 children, 40 were girls and 44 were boys. Fifteen children were from a rural area and 69 children were from an urban area.

Question 4. *Please specify the number of children with disabilities, up to the age of 18, disaggregated by sex, geographical location and age covering the years 2005, 2006 and 2007:*

- (a) *Living with their families;*
- (b) *Living in institutions;*
- (c) *Placed in foster care;*

(d) *Attending regular schools;*

(e) *Attending special schools;*

(f) *Not attending school.*

39. The disabled children registered with the Social Assistance Directorates numbered 20,538 in 2005, 20,100 in 2006, and 21,895 in 2007. A total of 1,310 children were living in care homes for children and young persons with mental disabilities in 2005, 1,193 children in 2006, and 1,115 children in 2007.

40. A total of 5,530 children with disabilities are attending regular schools (Source: Ministry of Education and Science)

Children placed in Homes for Children Deprived of Parental Care

Total number of children in compulsory school age visiting school	2891
From them:	
• Number of children, visiting auxiliary school	425
• Number of children, visiting public school in the location	2121
• Number of children, visiting public school out of the location	292
• other (<i>please, specify the type of school and number of children</i>)	53
Kindergarten and pre-school group	237
Total number of children in school age, not visiting school	115

Question 5. *Please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age group, and - if possible - urban and rural area) covering the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on the following:*

(a) *Rates of neonatal, infant and child mortality as well as rates of maternal mortality;*

(b) *Rates of immunization;*

(c) *Rates of malnutrition.*

Source: Ministry of Health

Early neonatal mortality (day 0 to day 6)

Late neonatal mortality (day 7 to day 27)

Postneonatal mortality (day 28 to 1 year)

Early neonatal infant mortality (from 0 to 6th day)

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005	4,1	4,8	3,5	3,8	5,5
2006	3,8	3,6	3,9	3,5	4,1

Late neonatal infant mortality (from 7th to 27th day)

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	In towns	In villages
2005	2,1	2,3	1,8	1,7	3,0
2006	1,6	1,7	1,6	1,4	2,3

Post-neonatal infant mortality (from 28th day to 1 year)

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005	4,2	4,7	3,7	3,4	6,3
2006	4,4	4,5	4,3	3,6	6,7

Indicator	2005			2006		
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Child mortality (number of deceased children to 1 year of age by 1000 life births)	10,4	8,9	14,6	9,7	8,6	13,1

Indicator	2004	2006
Child mortality from 0 to 5 years of age (number of deceased children from 0 to 5 years of age by 1 000 life births)	13,3	11,8

Source: National Statistical Institute

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE BY RESIDENCE

	Number			Child mortality- by 1 000 life births		
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
	981	657	324	13,3	12,4	15,5
	982	625	357	14,4	12,9	18,2
	887	571	316	13,3	12,0	16,9
	831	522	309	12,3	10,7	16,5
	814	516	298	11,6	10,2	15,3
	739	464	275	10,4	8,9	14,6
	720	472	248	9,7	8,6	13,1

Number of cases of maternal death by causes classified as “Complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium” x 100,000

Number of life births

Definition of World Health Organisation - ICD 10, vol. 2, p. 161

2005	2006
11,26	6,8

Source: National Centre of Health Information

Immunizations 1)

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Children immunized against:							
Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus - Combined vaccine for children aged 1-2	%	93.3	93.6	92.8	95.8	94.8	95.6
Poliomyelitis	%	94.4	94.3	93.6	96.0	94.1	96.6
Measles/Mumps/Rubella – combined vaccine	%	82.7	85.5	79.2	95.5	94.7	96.2
Tuberculosis	%	98.4	97.8	98.0	97.9	97.8	97.9

Question 6. *In the area of adolescent health please provide data (by sex, age group, and – if possible - urban and rural area) on the rates of early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infectionSj drug, alcohol, tobacco, and other substance abuse, suicides and other mental health problems.*

41. Over the last ten years, a number of nationally representative surveys and statistics have established exceedingly alarming trends in respect of adolescents' health-related behaviour such as:

- Promiscuous sex, high rates of teenage pregnancy and increased number of abortions for the same age group;
- Widespread use and abuse of psychoactive substances (cigarettes, alcohol, narcotic drugs, medicinal products);
- Prevalence of aggression and violence;
- Increased incidence and raised mortality caused by cardio-vascular diseases.

42. In the number of teenage (15-19) childbirths and abortions, Bulgaria ranks among the first in Europe (per 1,000 women: 36.1 per thousand - births by girls aged under 19 and 35.8 per thousand -abortions in the same age group. The number of officially recorded cases of syphilis infection of adolescents under 17 increased from 4.4 per 100,000 in 1990 to 36.7 per 10,000 in

2001. Just as alarmingly, a growing number of young people get infected by HIV. Eight per cent of the HIV-positive persons in Bulgaria are aged between 15 and 19, and 46 per cent are aged between 20 and 29.

Question 7. *With reference to child abuse, please provide disaggregated data (by age, sex, and types of violation reported) for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on the following:*

- (a) *Number of reported cases of child abuse;*
- (b) *Number and percentage of reports that resulted in either a court decision or other types of follow-up, including prosecution;*
- (c) *Number and proportion of child victims who received counseling and assistance in recovery.*

	2005		2006		2007	
Total Number of Cases	1429		1742		1593	
	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>%</i>
Psychological	257	18%	288	17%	298	18.7%
Physical	486	34%	587	34%	568	35.7%
Sexual	100	7%	147	8%	145	9.1%
Neglected	586	41%	720	41%	582	36.5%
Total	1429		1742		1593	

Children victims of violence, disaggregated by age (2006-2007)

Age	2006		2007	
	Number of Children	%	Number of Children	%
0	61	3,5	62	3,9
1	57	3,3	64	4,0
2	61	3,5	86	5,4
3	63	3,6	76	4,8
4	71	4,1	70	4,4
5	81	4,6	73	4,6
6	98	5,6	67	4,2
7	100	5,7	92	5,8
8	87	5,0	72	4,5
9	83	4,8	80	5,0
10	134	7,7	85	5,3
11	100	5,7	93	5,8
12	126	7,2	107	6,7
13	132	7,6	135	8,5
14	154	8,8	135	8,5
15	110	6,3	103	6,5
16	116	6,7	93	5,8
17	100	5,7	97	6,1
18	8	0,5	3	0,2
Total	1742		1593	

Children victims of violence, disaggregated by sex (2006-2007)

Sex	2006		2007	
	Number of Children	%	Number of Children	%
Girls	801	46%	805	50,5%
Boys	941	54%	788	49,5%
Total	1742		1593	

Children victims of violence handled by the Complexes for Social Services to Children and Families and non-governmental organizations

(A) Complexes for social services to children and families: children victims of violence (processing of data on the calendar year 2007 is still in progress).

43. Within the framework of the Bulgaria-Child Welfare Reform Project, complexes for social services to children and families were established in ten pilot municipalities: Varna, Shoumen, Bourgas, Sliven, Rousse, Turgovishte, Stara Zagora, Plovdiv, Pazardjik and Sofia. After the project was completed, activities in nine of the complexes were taken over by non-governmental organizations licensed by SACP as providers of social services for children. The complex in Plovdiv is managed by the municipality. In 2006 the complexes were financed by the executive budget according to the established standards for maintenance of State-delegated activities.

44. The social services provided to children victims of violence involve: social and psychological counselling of children and families; therapy for children and their families; consulting and information, inter-institutional mediation, escorting, legal advice. Half of the complexes have a centre for emergency reception of children victims of violence: Pazardjik, Shoumen, Turgovishte, Sliven and Rousse.

In the calendar year 2006, the complexes for social services to children and families handled **254 children** victims of violence. A substantial part of them (200 children or 79 per cent of the total) resorted to the services of the complexes on a referral from the Child Protection Departments.

Children victims of violence, disaggregated by sex and by age

Age	Total Number of Children	Boys	Girls
0 – 3 years old	32	19	13
4 – 7 years old	58	25	33
8 – 11 years old	69	34	35
12 – 16 years old	87	45	42
17 – 18 years old	8	7	1

Children disaggregated by type of violence

Violation	Total Number Of Children	%
- Physical violence (abuse)	94	(37 %)
- Sexual violence (abuse)	18	(7 %)
- Psychical violence (abuse)	55	(22 %)
- Neglect	87	(34 %)

45. Day care of children with disabilities: the children can spend the day at the centre which is intended to provide support and assistance to parents of children with disabilities. The services at the day centre involve rehabilitation, psychological counselling and support for children with disabilities and their families, psychological, social, medical and legal advice. Apart from the centre, services for children with disabilities will also be provided at the home of the child.

(B) Non-governmental organizations handling children victims of violence in 2006

46. In the calendar year 2006, eleven NGOs cited work with children victims of violence. During the calendar year, they handled **130 children** victims of violence. A substantial part of them (100 children or 77 per cent of the total) were referred by the Child Protection Departments.

Children victims of violence, disaggregated by sex and by age

Age	Total Number of Children	Boys	Girls
0 – 3 years old	15	5	10
4 – 7 years old	27	14	13
8 – 11 years old	28	13	15
12 – 16 years old	43	19	24
17 – 18 years old	17	5	12

Children disaggregated by type of violence

Violation	Total Number Of Children	%
- Physical violence (abuse)	38	(29%)
- Sexual violence (abuse)	16	(1%)
- Psychological violence n (abuse)	48	(37%)
- Neglect	28	(22%)

47. Three **Crisis Centres** supporting children victims of trafficking in Bulgaria have been opened and function in the Village of Balvan, the Town of Pazardjik, and the Town of Dragoman. Each Crisis Centre provides a complex of social services intended to meet the daily needs and prepare child victims of violence or trafficking for social integration. An inter-agency working group has drafted *Regulations for the Functioning of a Crisis Centre for Children Victims of Trafficking and Child Victims of Violence*. As from 1 January 2007, the Crisis Centres perform a State-delegated activity, i.e. they are financed from the state budget through the budgets of the municipalities.

48. The basic services provided at Crisis Centres are accommodation and food, health services, psychological support and advice, acquisition of life skills and social skills, enrolment of the child in a school form of education, preparation for family reintegration or, if this is impossible, taking an adequate protection measure in respect of the child. Each Crisis Centre works on a 24/7 basis and has a one-time capacity for ten children. Children are placed in the Centre by the Child Protection Department, according to the provisions of the statutory framework, for a period of up to six months, depending on the child's individual needs.

49. A multi-disciplinary team works at the Crisis Centre, consisting of social workers, psychologists, social pedagogues, medical specialists, technical support staff, external consultants and volunteers, who help in the rehabilitation and reintegration of child victims.

Question 8. *Please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age group, and urban and rural area) on the number of children who are:*

- (a) *Infected by HTWAIDS;*
- (b) *Affected by HIV/AIDS.*

50. By 31 December 2007, a total of 815 persons were on record at the Ministry of Health as HIV-positive. One hundred and twenty-six HIV-positive persons were recorded in 2007 alone: 105 men (83 per cent) and 21 women (17 per cent). By comparison, until 2006 67 per cent of the infected persons were men and 33 per cent were women. The number of HIV-positive men has therefore considerably increased.

According to data provided by the Ministry of Health, of the 126 persons recorded in 2007, 9 per cent were in the 15-19 age group. In aggregate, 5.5 per cent of the persons recorded between 1986 and 2007 were in the 15-19 age group.

51. Sixty per cent of the HIV-positive persons recorded in 2007 were detected in the anonymous and free HIV/AIDS consulting and testing facilities.

52. The persons recorded as HIV-positive are aged between 16 and 76, and the average age is 37 for men and 35 for women. All age groups are affected, and ever younger persons tend to get the infection. Nine per cent of the persons recorded in 2007 were in the 15-19 age group and 38 per cent in the 25-29 age group.

53. In terms of modes of transmission, two groups emerge as particularly vulnerable: 33 per cent of the persons recorded in 2007 were intravenous drug users, and 18 per cent were men who said they had sex with men. In 45 per cent the principal mode of transmission was heterosexual, including 17 per cent found in hospital patients. In an alarming trend, new HIV-positive intravenous drug addicts continue to be detected, and their total reached 109 by 31 December 2007.

54. By 31 December 2007, only three children were recorded as HIV-positive.

Question 9. Please specify the criteria for determining the "poverty line" and indicate the number of children living below that line. In particular, please provide such information relating to minority groups, especially Roma and people living in remote areas.

55. In 2006 15.1 per cent of the children aged under 15 were living in poverty, compared to an average of 12.3 per cent for the 16-64 age group. Children with a single parent and children in large households face the greatest poverty risk. Nearly one of three children with a single parent (31.1 per cent) lives in a poor household. The poverty risk is particularly strong in large households as well: 28.6 per cent of the households with three children and more live in poverty, and the risk is even greater for children belonging to vulnerable minority ethnic groups, in particular Roma and Turks. The risk of poverty is the worst in households in which none of the members work but there are dependent children. Access to the labour market is crucial, judging from the fact that the an insignificant 1.1 per cent of the households without children and 1.2 per cent of the households with children, where all adult members work, live below the poverty line (Report on the Implementation of the Joint Memorandum on Social Inclusion of the Republic of Bulgaria).

56. Child poverty also results in a violation of children's rights and deprivation of equal opportunities for future development. On the other hand, the violation of fundamental children's

rights for various reasons (various forms of discrimination) is a prerequisite for poverty. Poverty also indirectly limits the socialization process.

57. The dimensions of child poverty presuppose the application of an approach based on the rights of the child and reflecting the status of children in several spheres: health care, education and personal development, social inclusion and participation, as well as newly emerging needs. The progress on non-income-contingent indicators of child welfare varies by region and settlement, with child poverty predominating mostly in rural areas.

58. Reduction of the risk of poverty and social exclusion is one of the key long-term priorities of the Bulgarian Government. The poverty rate among the population is tending down, but the poverty risk is still greater for some of the identified risk groups (ethnic minority groups, elderly women, single parents, children at risk, long-term unemployed and others).

Question 10. *With reference to the right to education, please provide disaggregated data (by sex, age group, urban and rural area, children belonging to minority groups) for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, in percentage of the relevant age group, on:*

- (a) *Rates of literacy under and over 18 years;*
- (b) *Rate of enrolment in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools and in non-formal or complementary education programmes;*
- (c) *Percentage of children completing primary and secondary education;*
- (d) *Number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions;*
- (e) *Teacher/children ratio and number of children per class.*

59. More than 4,400 children and pupils have been integrated for the 2007/2008 school year (compared to 3,865 at the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year, and 1,593 for the 2005/2006 school year).

60. At the same time, as a result of the integration effort, the number of pupils attending special schools has dwindled substantially. At present the enrolment of rehabilitation schools comprises 7,070 children with mental disabilities, 301 sight-impaired children and 599 hearing-impaired children. In the 2006/2007 school year, the enrolment of these schools totalled 6,800.

61. A total of 917,066 pupils were enrolled in the schools at the beginning of the 2006/2007 school year. By education level and stage, they were disaggregated as follows: 276,836 were in first to fourth grade, 307,251 in fifth to eighth grade, 317,766 in ninth to twelfth grade, and 15,213 in thirteenth grade.

62. The dropouts from school at the end of the school year totalled 19,639. By education level and stage, they were disaggregated as follows: 5,361 in first to fourth grade, 8,733 in fifth to eighth grade, 4,286 in ninth to twelfth grade, and 1,259 in thirteenth grade.

Net enrolment ratio of the population by education level in the 2005/2006 school year

	Percentage		
	Total	Boys	Girls
		Total	
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	73,7		73,5
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	99,5	4,0	99,0
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	84,9	9,9	83,1
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A, 3C)	78,0	6,7	77,6
		8,3	
		Urban areas	
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	78,5	78,7	78,2
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	105,2	105,7	104,7
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	90,0	91,9	88,0
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A, 3C)	103,8	104,6	102,9
		Rural areas	
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	62,3	62,5	62,0
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	86,3	86,6	86,0
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	73,4	74,9	71,9
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A, 3C)	9,5	9,9	9,1

Net enrolment ratio of the population by education level in the 2006/2007 school year.

	Percentage			
	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
		Total		
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	73,9	74,3	73,6	
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	98,5	98,8	98,3	
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	85,1	86,8	83,3	
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A,	78,0	78,3	77,7	
		Urban areas		
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	78,0	78,3	77,7	
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	106,8	107,0	106,5	
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	91,9	93,7	89,9	
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A,	104,9	105,7	104,1	
		Rural areas		
Pre-primary education (ISCED - 0)	63,7	64,1	63,2	
Primary education (I - IV gr., ISCED - 1)	79,2	79,5	78,9	
Secondary education (V - VIII gr., ISCED - 2A)	69,5	70,9	68,0	
High School education (IX - XIII gr., ISCED - 3A,	8,4	8,8	8,0	

1. Estimates based on the population by 31 December 2005 and 31 December 2006.
2. The net ratios show the number of pupils in the 3-6, 7-10, 11-14 and 15-18 age groups as a proportion of the population in the same age groups.

Percentage of children reached V grade

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005/2006			
Total	95,1	98,3	87,5
Boys	96,0	99,1	88,8
Girls	94,1	97,4	86,3
2006/2007			
Total	93,0	97,8	81,5
Boys	93,3	97,8	82,5
Girls	92,6	97,8	80,3

Percentage of children finished secondary education

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005			
Total	86,4	86,6	78,5
Boys	84,2	84,4	78,0
Girls	88,6	89,0	79,0
2006			
Total	86,5	87,0	72,3
Boys	83,5	83,8	73,5
Girls	89,8	90,4	71,1

Percentage of children who have reached the fifth grade

Pupils and dropouts in the 2005/2006 school year

Pupils and dropouts in the 2005/2006 school year

In all types of schools

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Pupils	938365	769314	169051
Boys	488965	399797	89168
Girls	449400	369517	79883
Dropouts	27255	19680	7575
Boys	15433	11334	4099
Girls	11822	8346	3476
% of dropouts-total	2,9	2,6	4,5
% of dropouts-boys	3,2	2,8	4,6
% of dropouts-girls	2,6	2,3	4,4

Data for dropouts for 2006/07 school year will be available after 31.03.2008

Pupils and children, repeating school year 2005/06 by sex

In all types of schools

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Pupils	938365	769314	169051
Boys	488965	399797	89168
Girls	449400	369517	79883
children, repeating school year	16294	8969	7325
Boys	10256	5750	4506
Girls	6038	3219	2819
% of children, repeating school year from the total number of pupils	1,7	1,2	4,3
Boys	2,1	1,4	5,1
Girls	1,3	0,9	3,5

Pupils and children, repeating school year 2005/06 by sex

In all types of schools

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Pupils	904911	754769	150142
Boys	471860	392685	79175
Girls	433051	362084	70967
children, repeating school year	15536	8723	6813
Boys	9888	5578	4310
Girls	5648	3145	2503
% of children, repeating school year from the total number of pupils	1,7	1,2	4,5
Boys	2,1	1,4	5,4
Girls	1,3	0,9	3,5

Average number of pupils per teacher by education level in the 2005/2006 school year¹

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005/06			
Pre-primary education	11,5	11,9	10,2
Primary education (I - IV gr.)	15,8	16,8	13,7
Secondary education (V - VIII)	12,3	13,2	10,4
High School education (IX - XIII)	11,7	11,8	10,7
2006/2007			
Pre-primary education	11,4	11,9	10,3
Primary education (I - IV gr.)	16,0	17,0	13,6
Secondary education (V - VIII)	12,1	13,0	10,1
High School education (IX - XIII)	11,6	11,6	10,6

Average number by separate class by level of education and type of school

	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2005/06			
Primary education (I - IV gr.)	19,8	20,1	19,0
Secondary education (V - VIII)			
Total	21,2	22,0	19,4
Professional	18,8	19,6	10,5
High school (IX - XIII gr.)			
Total	23,4	23,6	20,3
Professional	22,3	22,4	19,3
2006/2007			
Primary education (I - IV gr.)	19,9	20,3	18,9
Secondary education (V - VIII)			
Total	21,3	22,0	19,5
Professional	18,0	18,9	10,4
High school (IX - XIII gr.)			
Total	23,4	23,5	20,6
Professional	22,2	22,3	18,7

Question 11. . . *Please provide disaggregated data (including by sex, age and type of crime) for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007, in particular on the number of:*

- (a) Persons under 18 who allegedly committed a crime and were reported to the police;*
- (b) Persons under 18 who were charged with a crime and those who were sentenced, and the type of punishment or sanctions related to offences, including length of deprivation of liberty;*
- (c) Detention facilities for persons under 18, and the capacity of these facilities;*
- (d) Persons under 18 detained in these facilities and in adult facilities;*
- (e) Persons under 18 kept in pre-trial detention and the average length of their detention;*
- (f) Reported cases of abuse and maltreatment of persons under 18 that occurred during their arrest and detention;*
- (g) Persons under 18 who were tried and sentenced as adults.*

63. A total of 3,845 contra-legal acts, which have the same constituent elements as criminal offences, were perpetrated by persons under 14 (the age of criminal responsibility) in 2005 (a decrease of 543 or 14.12 per cent from 2006). This number decreased further down in 2006, to 2,766, which was the lowest level in six years (down 1,079 or 28.06 per cent from 2006, and down 1,622 or 42.18 per cent from 2004).

64. According to the Ministry of Interior, a total of 4,201 juveniles had a police record in 2005, of whom: 3,172 in connection with the commission of a criminal offence, 966 in connection with anti-social behaviour, and 63 on other grounds. The 9,901 criminal offences committed by children which were detected in 2005 were 8.5 per cent less than in the previous year.

Adolescents and minors victims of crimes by sex and age

Type of crime	2005				2006			
	Total	Incl. girls	Age		Total	Incl. girls	Age	
			Minors 8-13 years	Adolescents 14-17 years			Minors 8-13 years	Adolescents 14-17 years
Total	3146	1163	1155	1991	3209	1128	1042	2167
Including:								
Murder (committed and attempted)	9	5	4	5	7	3	2	5
Deliberately physical injury	196	38	60	136	257	52	77	180
Rape (committed and attempted)	85	82	19	66	69	60	18	51
Debauchery	162	113	116	46	162	104	109	53
Theft	1191	421	329	862	1283	426	344	939
Robbery	459	116	143	316	409	107	112	297
Kidnapping	27	20	9	18	24	14	4	20
Incl. for debauchery purposes	1	1	-	1	10	7	1	9
Fraud or blackmail	94	9	46	48	75	8	25	50
Forced begging	49	26	42	7	49	21	25	24
Forced and compelled prostitution	31	25	9	22	24	23	5	19
Forced homosexual activities	6	-	4	2	9	-	6	3
Family abuse	153	65	94	59	126	60	79	47
Abuse outside the family	250	93	111	139	178	66	61	117
Trafficking in human beings	12	12	8	4	12	12	3	9
Child pornography	1	1	-	1	3	2	2	1

Temporary placement facilities

65. Within the meaning given by the Regulations for Application of the Social Assistance Act, the temporary placement facilities are specialized institutions for the provision of social services. By 31 December 2006 there were four temporary placement facilities in Bulgaria: two in the

City of Sofia, one in the City of Plovdiv, and one in the City of Varna (this does not include the five Temporary Juvenile Placement Facilities with the Ministry of Interior).

Number of children placed in shelters for neglected and street children (2005-2006)

<i>Year</i>	2006
<i>Number HTPM</i>	4
<i>Number of children in HTPM</i>	95

Disaggregation of children, placed in HTPM by sex (2006)

Sex	2006	
	Number	%
- boys	61	64%
- girls	34	36%
Total	95	

Disaggregation of children, placed in HTPM by age (2006)

Age	2006	
	Number	%
- to 7 years of age	29	30,5%
- from 8 to 14 years of age	46	48,4%
- from 15 to 18 years of age	20	21%
Total	95	

Neglected children shelters

66. According to information submitted to SACP, six neglected children shelters were in operation in Bulgaria in 2006.

67. The period of placement varies by shelter from three to six months, and the duration during which the service is provided is determined by the Child Protection Department/Social Assistance Directorate depending on the measures that have to be taken in each particular case.

Number of children placed in shelters for neglected children (2005-2006)

<i>Year</i>	2005	2006
<i>Number of shelters</i>	6	6
<i>Number of children in shelters</i>	314	280

Children placed in shelters for neglected children, disaggregated by sex (2005-2006)

Sex	2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%
- boys	179	57%	151	54%
- girls	135	43%	129	46%
Total	314		280	

Children placed in shelters for neglected children, disaggregated by age (2005-2006)

Age	2005		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%
- to 7 years of age	60	19%	53	19%
- from 8 to 14 years of age	160	51%	90	32%
- from 15 to 18 years of age	87	28%	123	44%
- over 18 years of age r.	7	2%	14	5%
Total	314		280	

Question 12. *Please provide disaggregated data (including by sex, age, minority and ethnic group) on the number of refugee children living in Bulgaria.*

	Number of children with parents, seeking protection	Countries of origin	Number of children seeking protection	Countries of origin
2007	99	Iraq, Armenia, no citizenship, Afghanistan, Turkey, China, Ethiopia, Egypt	23	Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Iran, No citizenship, Nigeria
2006	29	Armenia, Russia, Turkey	76	Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Iraq, Georgia
2005	42	Armenia, Lebanon, Russia	159	Afghanistan, India, Iran, Bangladesh, Somalia, Pakistan

Question 13. *With reference to special protection measures, please provide disaggregated data (including by sex, age, urban and rural area) for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 on the number of children who are:*

(a) *Victims of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, pornography and trafficking (including children hi transit), and the number of them who received recovery and/or reintegration support;*

(b) *Involved in substance abuse, and the number who received treatment, recovery and reintegration assistance;*

(c) *Involved in child labour, formal and informal sectors (indicating the type of work);*

(d) *Living and/or working in the street.*

68. In 2005, 521 persons aged under 18 passed through the Educational centres for children with antisocial behaviour in connection with prostitution, and ten children were victims of human trafficking: one aged under 14 and nine aged between 14 and 18, all girls.

69. In 2006, 358 persons aged under 18 passed through the Educational centres for children with antisocial behaviour in connection with prostitution, and 14 children were victims of human trafficking: three aged under 14 and eleven aged between 14 and 18, all girls.

70. In 2007, 521 persons aged under 18 passed through the Educational centres for children with antisocial behaviour in connection with prostitution, and five children were victims of human trafficking: all five were girls aged between 14 and 18.

71. According to the Educational centres for children with antisocial behaviour inspectorates, the drug-using children who passed through the Educational centres for children with antisocial behaviour numbered 750 in 2005, 589 in 2006, and 530 in 2007.

72. In 2005, ten criminal offences were recorded and eight were detected with 12 persons aged between 14 and 18 as victims.

73. In 2006, 30 criminal offences were recorded and 24 were detected with a total of 33 persons aged between 14 and 18 and one person aged under 14 as victims.

74. In 2007, 17 criminal offences were recorded, of which 13 were detected, with 17 persons aged between 14 and 18 as victims.

75. According to police statistics, 348 aged under 18 were placed in the five Temporary Juvenile Placement Facilities in the country in 2005 in connection with vagrancy and begging. The number was 360 in 2006 and 255 in 2007.

76. According to information of SACP, a total of 688 children begging and working in the street were recorded countrywide in October 2007. The largest number of such children were found in the cities: Sofia (129), Plovdiv (83), Stara Zagora (53), Sliven (46), Pazardjik (45), and Haskovo (41). 109 new cases were recorded in 2007.

77. Since November 2006, mobile teams of non-governmental organizations have started to operate urgently within the framework of a project entitled "Mobile Terrain Work with Street Children". The mobile teams work daily on the ground with children who beg, work or live in the street in the City of Sofia. Three mobile teams for daily work on the ground have been created.

B. General measures of implementation

Question 14. *The Committee would appreciate information on action taken in response to recommendations made in its previous concluding observations on the initial report of*

Bulgaria (CRC/C/15/Add.66) which have not yet been fully implemented, in particular in relation to; independent body to monitor the observance of the rights of the child, abandonment of children, children belonging to minority groups - especially Roma, working and/or living in the streets, ill treatment of children in institutions and the lack of psycho-social recovery and juvenile justice.

15. Please provide information on cases, if any, where the Convention has been directly invoked in domestic courts, and provide examples of such cases.

16. Does the State party envisage establishing a specific governmental body coordinating the activities and evaluating the implementation of the Convention?

78. A National Integrated Plan for Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child for the 2006-2009 Period has been elaborated, under which the partners are: the SACP; the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the Ministry of Education and Science; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Culture; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works; the Ministry of Interior; the Ministry of Justice; the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministry; the State Agency for Youth and Sports; the Social Assistance Agency; the National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; the Central Board for Control of Juvenile Anti-Social Behaviour; the local boards for control of juvenile anti-social behaviour; the municipalities; the courts; the bar associations; the National Institute of Justice; the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria; the universities; the regional health centres; the regional public health protection and control inspectorates; the National Health Insurance Fund; the hospitals; the municipal councils on narcotic substances; the Agency for People with Disabilities; the National Statistical Institute; the non-government organizations; the business community; the UNHCR; the UNDP; UNICEF; media; branch organizations.

Question 17. Please provide information on the National Strategy for Children recently adopted by the Government

79. The National Strategy for Children 2008-2018 is a document which seeks to effectively coordinate child policies in the Republic of Bulgaria. The Strategy has been developed in implementation of Article 1 (3) of the Child Protection Act and is based on the fundamental principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The European Union has also recommended to the Member States to elaborate a long-term strategy for children.

80. The Bulgarian National Strategy for Children 2008-2018 is entirely elaborated in the spirit of the need to regulate the rights of the child as requiring specific action on the part of the responsible institutions and their partners. This Strategy is intended to cover the broadest possible range of children of all target groups, laying the foundations of policies to improve their welfare in line with European standards through a new approach.

81. The Strategy is entirely based on the rights of the child and on the concept of partnership and coordination in the development of integrated child policies, and it is important to emphasize that

this Strategy has been developed after a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the status of children in Bulgaria.

82. The draft of a Strategy for Children was the subject of a broad public discussion with the participation of representatives of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, municipalities, media, including children of the Children's Council with the SACP and from across the country, with a large part of the suggestions and recommendations made having been included in the National Strategy.

83. The National Strategy for Children 2008-2018 was elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Protection Act in respect of the place of the child in society, the right of the child to life in a family environment, ensuring conditions for the effective exercise of the children's rights, improvement of children's health and reduction of the risk of child poverty. The Strategy is a categorical expression of the commitment of the executive and the legislature to improvement of the quality of life of Bulgarian children and their families. The Strategy therefore covers all spheres of public life relevant to child welfare, *viz.* family environment, health services, education, rest and leisure, alternative care, living standards and social assistance, elimination of child exploitation and child abuse, special protection measures, children's opinion and right to identity and protection against discrimination.

84. The analysis of the National Strategy for Children 2008-2018 leads to the conclusion that parents' low social standing is one of the principal factors determining the relatively large number of institutionalized children. To address this problem, the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria has provided for a complex of measures which are implemented on a long-term basis.

85. Actions and measures are formulated for attainment of the operational objectives of the Strategy, along with mechanisms for financing these actions and measures, and integration of child policies. The Strategy is structured into three parts. Part One presents the status of children in Bulgaria. Part Two formulates the principal objective and the operational objectives of the Strategy, allocating actions and implementing measures by priority area. Part Three presents the resources for implementation of the Strategy, the expected results, and the mechanisms for monitoring of compliance.

Question 18. Please provide information on any measures taken to improve the system for collecting specific statistical data which allows for disaggregation, including on children belonging to minority groups such as the Roma.

86. The SACP receives, at definite intervals, statistical information from various sources: the specialized child care institutions countrywide, special schools, social vocational-educational establishments, the Child Protection/Social Protection departments, day care centres, shelters and facilities for temporary placement of neglected children, day care centres for children with disabilities, licensed providers of social services for children. All general education schools in the country annually provide information on gifted children.

87. Surveys are conducted periodically (over three months, six months, one year) according to set indicators, using a stable methodology, taking account of the changes. This makes it possible

to trace processes as they develop and to outline the guidelines of the child care and child protection policy in Bulgaria.

88. Specially designed questionnaires are an essential tool for collection of information at the SACP. The items in the questionnaires allow for disaggregation of data at different levels: territory, sex, age, ethnic group, educational attainment, family, health and social status etc. The questionnaires also contain with instructions on the manner of reporting and completion. The tools used are adjusted for changes in the regulatory framework, which allows for comparability of the data. If the source (the primary unit) has the appropriate equipment, the questionnaires are sent and received electronically.

Question 19. Please provide information on efforts to carry out training programmes or awareness-raising campaigns on the Convention and other related issues for children, parents, minority communities, and the general public including awareness campaigns to overcome negative stereotypes in society regarding the Roma community and other minority groups.

89. The National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues participates as a partner in a two-year transnational “European Equality” Project, with the Spanish Ministry of Labour as leader. A number of awareness-raising events, national round tables involving all stakeholders: representatives of the legislative and governmental executive, institutions concerned with anti-discrimination legislation, non-governmental organizations etc., have been organized within the framework of the project.

90. In 2006 the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues, as a coordinating authority under the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination, designed and presented before the European Commission a one-year project entitled “Respect for the Different: National Awareness Campaign for Anti-Discrimination Legislation.” The initiatives under the project were intended to raise public awareness of Community and national legislation on protection against discrimination through distribution of printed materials, CDs, conferences and discussions involving experts in the sphere of EU and national legislation.

91. In early 2007, the Council of Ministers approved a National Action Plan for Protection against Discrimination for 2007. The results of the implementation of that Action Plan show that the responsible institutions are determined to work actively in order to attain the principal objective of the plan: laying the foundations of an effective policy to turn into a common practice equal opportunities and equal treatment of all citizens of the Republic of Bulgaria, including children.

92. The National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues, with the support of experts of the Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorate of the Council of Ministers, prepared and implemented a “Diverse Society” Project with the Ministry of Labour and Social policy, the National Implementing Body for the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All in Bulgaria. Five animation clips, directly targeting the youth audience, deal with the subject of tolerance and seek to overcome stereotypes and prejudice against the following groups: HIV/AIDS carriers; people with physical and mental disabilities; people of Roma origin, people with different sexual orientation, refugees/immigrants. The predicament of children refugees and

immigrants was also the subject of an exhibition entitled “The Roots of the Future: Refugees Today and Tomorrow,” organized with the support of the Bulgarian Refugee Council.

Question 20. *Please indicate the issues affecting children that the State party considers to be priorities requiring the most urgent attention with regard to the implementation of the Convention.*

93. An urgent revision is needed of the laws related to an improvement of the life of children deprived of parental care. An inter-agency working group is now drafting proposals for amendments *en bloc* of the codes, laws and secondary legislation in the sphere of child protection, as well as well plans for closure of the child care institutions which do not conform with the quality of care standards, as well as proposals in order to reform and all other child care homes in Bulgaria.

94. The state policy of child protection sets itself the following key priorities:

1. Reducing the number of children in institutions and prevention of abandonment

- developing a network of alternative social services for children and families;
- closing child care institutions which do not conform with the quality of care standards;
- reforming and restructuring specialized institutions so as to increase their capacity for provision of community-based services and introducing standards for improvement of the quality of care;
- increasing the capacity of local departments to develop community-based services, as well as to plan, develop and manage community-based social services for children and families, including through introduction of inter-municipality cooperation and regional-level planning;
- upgrading the qualifications of professionals dealing with children and families.

2. Building and maintaining a National Information System on Child Protection

- Implementing the Computer Information System at all Child Protection Departments countrywide;
- building modules to the National Information System, in accordance with the Child Protection Act.

3. Developing the children's rights monitoring system so as to guarantee the compliance with the obligations of the Republic of Bulgaria under article 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

- adopting an integrated approach during the inspections for observance of the rights of the child so as to ensure the state guarantees for children to exercise their rights;
- control over the quality of care and services provided to children at specialized institutions through updating the quality of care standards and the system for control over compliance with the criteria and standards of social services.

4. Elaborating and implementing in practice early child development standards

- creating a solid foundation and a set of indicators to detect changes in child development;
- designing adequate health, educational and social standards for child service providers, addressing the needs of every child at the respective age.

5. Preventing violence and all forms of child abuse or exploitation

- maintaining a National Hotline for Children;
- introducing measures for early warning of the child protection system and upgrading the qualifications of the experts dealing with child victims of violence or exploitation;
- developing high-quality services for support, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of violence or exploitation;
- elaborating programmes targeting prevention at school and at the specialized child care institutions.

PART II

Please provide the Committee with copies of the text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the official language of the State party, as well as in any other languages or dialects, if available. If possible, please submit these texts in electronic form.

PART III

The State party should briefly (three pages maximum) update the information provided in its report with regard to:

- *New bills or enacted legislation;*
- *New institutions;*
- *Newly implemented policies;*
- *Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.*

95. In 2006-2007, a working group chaired by a Deputy Minister of Justice was formed at the Ministry of Justice to elaborate a draft of a new Family Code.

96. Provisions amending and supplementing Ordinance No. 3 of 2003 laying down the conditions and procedure for giving consent to the adoption of a person of Bulgarian nationality by a foreigner entered into force on 26 February 2008.

97. Amendments of the Child Protection Act were made in 2006.

98. Instruction No. I 3 – 207 dated 15 February 2006 on Application of the Measures under Article 76a of the Bulgarian Identity Documents Act, issued by the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Agency for Child Protection.

99. SACP proposed amendments to the Criminal Code in connection with the ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child

pornography. New constituent elements were adopted and severer penal sanctions were introduced in the Section “Debauchery”, and the creating, exhibiting, presenting, broadcasting, offering, selling, renting and providing in any other form of works of pornographic content was criminalized.

100. Revisions of the Regulations for Application of the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act were adopted in 2006, intended to improve the mechanism for application of the Integration of Persons with Disabilities Act with a view to more effectively guaranteeing the rights of this social group.

- Newly implemented programmes and projects and their scope.

101. Implementation of Project **BG 2003/004-937.01.04 “Improving the quality of life of people with mental disabilities”** continues. The project seeks to support the development and improvement of alternative medical, social and educational services for children and adults with mental disabilities. Programmes for rehabilitation and resocialization, as well as various training programmes, are launched through this project. Provision of alternative social services for children and adults with mental disabilities, as well as public-awareness campaigns in respect of this risk group, began under the grant scheme of the project contracted in 2005.

102. A Phare Programme Project entitled **“Deinstitutionalisation through Provision of Community Based Social Services for Risk Groups”** was launched in 2005. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the system for improvement of child welfare and deinstitutionalization of children, persons with disabilities and elderly people placed in specialized institutions, through provision of community-based services. The immediate objective of the project is to improve the quality of life for people with mental problems with regard to their human rights. Creation and development of a network of community-based social and mental-health services.

103. In March 2006, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy signed an Agreement of Understanding supporting a pilot project entitled **“Deinstitutionalization of Services for Children,”** implemented by the ARC Foundation. The project targets development and encouragement of services in Stara Zagora Municipality for reintegration of children raised at specialized institutions into their biological families or with relatives, development and encouragement of foster care, including the modelling of new practices related to this type of service; creation and implementation of a model of family-type homes as an alternative to the specialized institutions and servicing the children who cannot be reintegrated, adopted or placed with foster families, etc.

104. In implementation of the National Action Plan against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children 2003-2005, the Ministry of Interior made a survey on **“Criminal Offences Related to Sexual Exploitation of Children and Activity of the Police Services for their Restriction.”** The survey was completed in 2007 with the publication of a collection of papers on the problem.

105. The National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues with the Council of Ministers is a beneficiary of the following projects under the Phare National Programme: Project **“Urbanization and Social Development of Areas with Prevailing Minority Populations.”** Under that project, engineering and social infrastructure facilities have been built

in six target municipalities, including an integrated kindergarten in the village of Poroino, Doulovo Municipality.

106. Project “**Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma.**” Within the framework of the project, construction work and repairs were performed at nine schools and three kindergartens. Conditions were created for real integration into the educational system of children of vulnerable minority communities with a focus on Roma through institutional building in the sphere of education.

107. Project “**Improvement of the Situation and Inclusion of the Disadvantaged Minorities with a Special Focus on Roma**”. In the sphere of education, measures are provided for improvement of the access of children and young persons of Roma origin to high-quality education at all education levels: pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary, as well as for improvement of the quality of education and enhancement of the attractiveness of the school environment. In the sphere of health care, an emphasis is laid on the development of measures related to improvement of health care for children and mothers.

108. **Within the framework of the National Programme for Prevention and Counteraction of Trafficking in Human Beings and Protection of Victims**, adopted in implementation of the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act, activities are planned for building the administrative structures provided for in the Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Act at the national and local level, raising public awareness of the problem of human trafficking and fostering public intolerance of this phenomenon, extension of the scope of instruction on the rights of the child and human rights at all types of educational establishments (schools, kindergartens, care homes for children deprived of parental care, correctional boarding schools, social educational boarding schools and reformatories), dissemination of information materials intended for children, teachers and parents at all types of educational establishments etc.

109. The SACP has elaborated a “**Practical Guide for Social Work with Children Victims of Violence**” and “**Methodology for Domestic Violence Risk Assessment**”, intended for the social workers at the Child Protection Departments and Social Protection Departments at the Social Assistance Directorates who handle alerts and cases of violence against children and prevention of violence. To popularize good practices in the prevention of violence, the SACP has opened a new Good Practices page on its Internet site, showing the experience of municipalities with maximum enrolment of children in the educational system: return to and retention at school.

110. Work on the subject of **Internet and the Rights of the Child** continues for ensuring a safe Internet space for children. The cooperation between government institutions, the non-governmental sector and the business community continued successfully in 2007. The rules for safe use of the Internet for both children and their parents were reprinted and distributed.

111. A Project for a **Bulgarian Safer Internet Hotline – SafeNet BG (web112.net)**, to fight the dissemination of online content that is illegal and harmful to children and teenagers, was implemented in cooperation with the Public Council. The project is member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE). The SafeNet BG hotline is intended to call the attention of Bulgarian Internet users to the problem, as well as to maintain an automated online mechanism for submission of alerts, processing, summing up and tracing of alerts.

112. The establishment of a **National Hotline for Children** is an important element of the system of measures for child protection against violence, abuse and exploitation and helps harmonize practices with the established international standards in the sphere of child protection and child care. The pilot project *National Hotline for Children – 0800 19 100* is a joint initiative of the SACP and the UNICEF Representation Office in Bulgaria. The project is implemented by the Nadja Centre Foundation.

Partnership under Project **“The Child in the Web”** with the Partners Bulgaria Foundation and the British Embassy in Bulgaria continued in 2007. In this connection, a campaign mottoed “You Never Know Who Is at the Other Side” was implemented in 2006. The elaboration of a teachers' manual in connection with the safe use of the Internet has been launched.

113. The first phase of the Project of Technical Assistance against Labour and Sexual Exploitation of Children, including Trafficking, in Countries of Central and Eastern Europe (PROTECT-CEE) of the International Labour Organization was completed in 2007. Five large programmes and ten small projects were implemented with the participation of the following partner institutions and organizations: SACP, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Social Assistance Agency, the General Labour Inspectorate, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, the Podkrepa Confederation of Labour, the United Nations Association of Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Animus Association, CARE Bulgaria, and the ProMedia Foundation. A *Child Labour Monitoring Manual* was published and distributed.

114. In respect of the **application of actions and measures for protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of children victims of violence, sexual and labour exploitation at an inter-institutional level**, one of the leading activities is the application of the *Coordination Referral Mechanism for Unaccompanied Bulgarian Children and Children Victims of Trafficking Returning to Bulgaria*. The effective application of this mechanism, which is a good practice of inter-institutional and interdisciplinary approach has led to an increase of the referred cases.

115. The **Project “Improving Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young People in Bulgaria,”** financed by the **United Nations Population Fund** and implemented jointly by the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Science and the UN Population Fund, is implemented within the territory of eight Bulgarian municipalities.

116. The four Reproductive Health Information and Education Centres, opened within the framework of the project at the Regional Public Health Protection and Control Inspectorates continued their operation in 2007.

117. To improve the access of young people to comprehensive services in the sphere of sexual and reproductive health, seminars have been held jointly with general practitioners, obstetricians and gynaecologists and other specialists on questions of modern contraception, the sexual and reproductive health of young people, and sexually transmitted infections. Contraceptives (condoms, intrauterine devices and hormonal pills) have been provided, and information and educational materials on questions concerning sexual health are distributed through the system of Regional Public Health Protection and Control Inspectorates.

118. Work on finalization of the report on a nationally representative survey of the quality of services for sexual and reproductive health of young people was in progress in 2007.

119. The Sofia University and New Bulgarian University continue the implementation of the e-Friends Project, for on-line sexual and reproductive health counselling of young people, launched in November 2006.

120. A number of activities are performed for the provision of topical information on responsible and safe sexual conduct among young people, as well as for provision of high-quality, modern sexual and reproductive health education, and special attention is paid to the active involvement of young people. Training according to the “peer education” method and classes in “training based on life skills” are conducted in four pilot municipalities under the project in the 2006/2007 school year.

121. The **Programme “Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS” with the Ministry of Health**, financed by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. During the first quarter of 2007, the school projects for sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention among young people inside and outside school reached a total of 39,457 young people (including 10,925 reached for the first time), and a total of 29,923 young people (including 17,220 for the first time) were reached within the framework of the municipal projects for health education outside school. In the second quarter, school projects under the “HIV Prevention among Young People Inside and Outside School” Component reached 20,212 young people (including 6,833 reached for the first time), and a total of 38,309 young people (including 23,877 for the first time) were reached within the framework of the municipal projects for health education outside school.

122. Under a Ministry of Education and Science Project **“Development of Tools for Educational Integration of Minority Children”**, 230 administrative and teaching staff members were trained in six sessions in March in the application of Bulgarian and Community legislation in the sphere of educational integration of children belonging to ethnic minorities.

123. Under Phare Project BG 2003/004-937.01.03 “Educational and Medical Integration of Vulnerable Minority Groups with a Special Focus on Roma”, implemented jointly with the Ethnic and Demographic Issues Directorate of the Council of Ministers, 35 teachers and school principals are trained in a Master’s Degree Course of Multi-cultural Education at the Neofit Rilski South-West University. Training has also been provided to 80 experts of the municipalities and of the regional education inspectorates, who work on questions concerning educational integration, as well as to 60 teachers of schools with ethnically mixed enrolment under the modules “Education without Prejudice,” “Family Inclusion”, “Organization of a Child-Centred Positive Multicultural Environment”. An inter-university meeting on inclusion of multi-cultural education as an element on the curricula of the teacher training departments at seven universities has been held as well.

124. Under the Project **“Folklore of Ethnic Groups in Bulgaria: Roma Folklore”**, according to information of the Regional Education Inspectorates, 3,800 pupils in 159 schools in 24 administrative regions countrywide studied “Folklore of Ethnic Groups: Roma Folklore” as an optional subject during the 2006/2007 school year.
