

KEY FACTS

- There were around 7,400 children in care in Serbia in 2010 – 500 more than in 2007.
- The number of children and youth (up to 26) in residential care dropped by around 30% between 2007 and 2010, from around 2,600 to 1,800.
- Despite a 20% fall in the number of children and youth with disabilities living in residential care, they still account for most of those institutionalized – over 1,000.
- Around 5,600 children are in foster care.
- Of the 150 children transferred from institutions to foster families in 2007, only three had disabilities.
- Only 7% of children without parental care and 3% of children with disabilities stay in institutional care for less than six months. Most stay for years and some for life.
- Only 17% of children in institutional care have regular contact with their families.
- Only 60 children without parental care and around 600 children with disabilities had access to locally-funded day care services in 2007.

(All data drawn from “Transforming Residential Institutions for Children and Developing Sustainable Alternatives” an initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, UNICEF and the European Union, 2008-2010)