

Annexe 17 – Statistical Information and Data from St Maarten

III. Statistical Information and Data

A. General measures of implementation

B. Definition of the child

Question 37. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, on the number and proportion of children under 18 years of age living in the State party.

In 2017, St Maarten had 13,329 minors, which is equal to 34% of the population. It is estimated that approximately 20% of the country's 40,614 inhabitants are undocumented. The same percentage of children are thought to be undocumented.

E. Violence against children

Question 40. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, on:

- (a) The number of cases of violence against children, including corporal punishment, abuse, neglect, domestic violence and sexual violence in and outside the home, reported to the authorities, investigated and prosecuted, and the sanctions issued to perpetrators, disaggregated by type of offence;
- (b) The number and type of protective measures and multidisciplinary remedies provided to child victims of violence.

a)

| Type of abuse | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Neglect | 14 | 61 | 67 | 25 | 29 | 39 |
| Physical | 14 | 13 | 22 | 15 | 3 | 4 |
| Physical and Emotional Abuse | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 2 |
| Sexual Abuse | 19 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Total | 49 | 91 | 100 | 49 | 43 | 49 |

Table 1: Type of abuse 2014-2019

The majority of reported cases of child abuse relate to neglect. The second largest category is physical abuse. The number of cases of emotional abuse was relatively lower, while the number of cases of sexual abuse declined strongest. The total reported cases of abuse (49 in 2019) has also declined significantly since 2016 (100 reports). These figures relate to reported cases only and do not reflect the number of children who actually suffer abuse. In addition, it is well-established that negligence has repercussions on physical health. In many cases, multiple forms of child abuse occur simultaneously.

| Type of Interventions | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Provisional family supervision order (VOTS) | 3 | 16 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| Family supervision order (OTS) | 24 | 40 | 90 | 120 | 92 |
| Guardianship | 16 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 19 |
| Paternity | 2 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Adoption | 3 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 2 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| b) | Other interventions (child support and visitation) | 29 | 35 | 31 | 58 | 40 |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|

Table 2: Type of intervention 2015-2019

The number of guardianship cases increased between 2018 and 2019. This increase should be seen in the context of the aftermath of hurricane Irma. Many parents left their children with relatives and/or friends. It was necessary for these individuals to have guardianship of the child in order to make certain arrangements such as applying for a residence permit for the child. Another trend is the increase in the number of foreign guardianship cases in 2019. When children are adopted or entrusted to a guardian in a foreign country, such as the Dominican Republic, and subsequently brought to St Maarten, the decision by the foreign court must be acknowledged by a court in St Maarten in order for a residence permit to be arranged. There has been a drop in the number of child protection orders imposed in the past last year, due to stricter adherence to frameworks and protocols, and investment in voluntary support. This means that the CoG investigates which children really belong in the care system, and places a greater focus on safety and voluntary support.

With regard to protective measures, supervision orders or provisional supervision orders were issued for 56 children in 2016, 99 children in 2017, 127 children in 2018 and 100 children in 2019. Guardians were appointed to 11 families in 2016, eight families in 2017, nine families in 2018 and 19 families in 2019. Adoption was granted in very few cases, for between two and ten children per year over the last four years.

F. Family environment and alternative care

Question 42. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, on:

- (a) The number of children in institutional care, including mental health care institutions, and average days of stay, disaggregated by reason for placement;
- (b) The number of children placed in “close” institutions with either full deprivation of liberty or very limited freedom of movement; and

(a)

| Type of alternative care | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (May) |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| I Can Foundation | 13 | 14 | 9 | - |
| New Start Foundation | 21 | 21 | 18 | 15 |
| Ujima Foundation | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Foster Families | 20 | 20 | 11 | 16 |
| Total | 58 | 57 | 40 | 33 |

Table 3: Overview of placements in alternative care 2017-2020

A decrease can be noted in 2019 and 2020 compared to previous years.

- (b) Since the reopening of the Youth Rehabilitation and Correctional Facility, only four young people have been placed there.

G. Children with Disabilities

Question 43. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, and by type of disability, on:

(c) The number of children with disabilities in inclusive education and in separate schools; and

| Special needs school | 2015- 2016 | 2016-2017 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Primary school: Prins Willem Alexander | 52 | 47 | 45 | 58 |
| Secondary school: St Maarten Vocational Training School, labour-market activities | 119 | 137 | 109 | 123 |

Table 4: Number of pupils enrolled in special primary and secondary education¹

A total of 4,474 pupils were enrolled in primary education in the 2017-2018 school year. Just over 1% of pupils (47) were enrolled in a special school for children with learning disabilities. The numbers for the previous two school years were 52 in 2015-2016 and 47 in 2016-2017. The total number of pupils in secondary education in the 2017-2018 school year was 2,476, of whom 123 followed a labour-market activities pathway.

44. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, on:

(e) The number of paediatric and mental health services and professionals specialized in young children and adolescents.

| Specialist | Total number |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Medical practitioners | 23 |
| Midwives | 4 |
| Physical therapists | 23 |
| Occupational therapists | 2 |
| Speech-language pathologists | 4 |
| Nutritionists | 4 |
| Social workers | 40 |
| Paediatricians | 2 |
| Psychiatrists | 7 |
| Education specialists | 2 |
| Obstetricians/Gynaecologists | 4 |
| Urologist | 2 |

Table 5: number of paediatric and mental health services and sexual and reproductive health services, and professionals specialised in young children and adolescents.

I. Education, leisure and cultural activities

Question 48. Please provide data, disaggregated as described in paragraph 34 above, in respect of:

¹ Note that no data can be provided for the year 2017-2018, due to problems caused by Hurricane Irma.

- (a) The number and proportion of children aged between 16 and 18 years not attending school;
- (b) The number and proportion of children, including children with disabilities, dropping out of school;
- (c) The number of children with learning and behavioural difficulties in school and highly gifted and high-achieving children who are exempt from compulsory education on physical or psychological grounds;
- (d) The number of children who are being home-schooled;
- (f) The number and proportion of children attending early childhood education and the average years of attendance.

(b)

| Pupils | Academic year 2015-2016 | Academic year 2016-2017 | Academic year 2017-2018 |
|----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dropouts | 85 | 19 | 17 |

Table 6: Number of secondary school dropouts in the school years 2015-2016 to 2017-2018

The figures for the 2017-2018 school year also include pupils who are no longer subject to compulsory education because they have reach the age of 18 (7 out of 17). In 2017-2018 three secondary schools reported that pupils had dropped out. Compared to the previous school year there was a slight fall in the number of dropouts. The figures for both years is significantly lower than in 2015-2016 when 85 pupils dropped out.

- (d) The Inspectorate for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport is responsible for reviewing and approving requests for homeschooling. Very few requests for homeschooling were submitted between 2014 and 2018. Between 2014 and 2016 only three requests were made, two of which were granted. In the 2016-2017 school year, seven homeschooling requests were submitted, five of which were granted. In the 2017-2018 school year five requests were submitted, one for a child of primary school age and four for children of secondary school age; four requests were granted.
- (f) According to the 2017 St Maarten statistical yearbook, the number of children aged 0 to 4 was 2,748 in 2017 (average of 50 live births per 1,000 women in 2016). Of this cohort, 909 children (30%) were enrolled in one of the 29 daycare centres.