



DANISH NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF SHELTERS  
FOR BATTERED WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN

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# LOKK Statistics on Children 2007



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DANISH CENTRE FOR RESEARCH  
ON SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

# LOKK Statistics on Children 2007

## Children in shelters

Eva Børjesson

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The National Board of Specialist Consultancy  
and Social Services  
Unit on Social Vulnerability, Copenhagen  
Åbenrå 5  
DK-1124 Copenhagen K  
Tel: +45 33 17 09 00  
Fax: +45 33 17 09 01  
[udsatte@servicestyrelsen.dk](mailto:udsatte@servicestyrelsen.dk)  
[www.servicestyrelsen.dk](http://www.servicestyrelsen.dk)

LOKK  
c/o 3F  
Kampmannsgade 4  
DK-1790 København V  
Tel: +45 32 95 90 19  
Fax: +45 32 95 90 69  
[sekretariat@lokk.dk](mailto:sekretariat@lokk.dk)  
[www.lokk.dk](http://www.lokk.dk)

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## 1. Introduction

In Denmark, some 45 shelters for battered women offer counselling and accommodation for women who have been subjected to abuse. Forty of the centres are organised under the Danish National Organisation of Shelters for Battered Women and their Children (LOKK) and they have total accommodation capacity for nearly 270 women and 325 children<sup>1</sup>.

LOKK's Statistics on Children 2007 is based on information about 1679 children collated from 37 shelters in the period January 1, 2007, thru December 31, 2007. One third of these children spent a week or less in the shelter, and only little information has been gathered about these children. With few exceptions, the data upon which calculations and analyses in this statistics are based, refers to the 1120 children who stayed in a shelter for a week or longer. Chapter 10, however, specifically describes the children who stayed for a week or less in a shelter.

LOKK has ordered the study, and the Unit on Social Vulnerability under the National Board of Specialist Consultancy and Social Services has gathered, processed and produced the statistics. The Minister for Gender Equality has financed the study and the report.

It is the fourth year that LOKK issues national statistics on children in the shelter sector. The annual statistical surveys are a continuation and further development of the study of children in shelters that has been carried out since the Ministry of Social Affairs established the so-called Krib Pool in 1996.

To the extent possible, the 2007 version of the statistics has the same design and sequence in the presentation of the data as the previous statistics. The idea is to enable a comparison of the figures year by year and to see development trends in various areas. In addition to a number of general questions, the intention each year is to highlight one or several specially selected areas. In 2004, emphasis was placed on getting a picture of the impacts that are part of the growth and living conditions of children in battered families, in 2005, special focus was put on the visiting rights of a violent father, and the 2006 version inquired in more detail about the abuse the children were subjected to. The 2007 version goes more into detail about the violence in the family. How long has the domestic violence been part of the child's life, has the child told anybody outside the household about the domestic violence, if so, whom did the child tell about the violence, and was there any follow-up to the child's story? As a new feature the report looks into whether the municipal caseworker initiated a so-called Section 50 evaluation pursuant to the Danish Act on Social Services (*"Where it must be assumed that a child or young person is in need of special support, ..... the municipal authority shall ensure that the conditions of the child or young person are investigated."*) and whether the local authorities provided support to the child *prior* to the shelter stay.

It appears from earlier reports that nearly half of the children in the shelters belong to an ethnic minority. Similar to 2006, the questionnaires once again provided for a more nuanced picture of the minority children. The objective is to see whether these children have significantly different conditions than Danish children, and in the light of this to create a basis for evaluating whether there is a need for a special effort for this group of children.

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<sup>1</sup> Helweg-Larsen, K. & M. L. Frederiksen 2007.

Finally, again this year it has been possible to integrate information about the child with information about the mother. In addition to the Statistics on Children, LOKK publishes the LOKK Annual Statistics, which records a range of facts on the women – the mothers of the children – who benefited from the shelters. Since 2006 background information about the mother has contributed to throwing more light on the background and conditions of the child.

Gitte Tilia has prepared the questionnaire and manual, and Eva Børjeson has been in charge of analysis and composition of the report. In addition, Eva Børjeson has been responsible for the statistical runs and table and figure layout in co-operation with student assistant Morten Fenger Wiese. Again this year we benefited greatly from discussions with LOKK's statistics group on children.

A special thanks to the children and women who took part, and the social educators and other shelter employees who carried out extensive and qualified work by filling in the questionnaires. The following shelters took part in the survey:

**Table 1. Distribution of children in the shelters**

	Number	Percentage				
Boligfondens	23	1		Lyngby	68	4
Dannerhuset	50	3		Nakskov	47	3
Egmontgården	29	2		Nykøbing F.	3	0
Esbjerg	17	1		Næstved	53	3
Fredericia	38	2		Nørresundby	44	3
Frederiksberg	14	1		Odense	127	8
Frederikshavn	36	2		Randers	99	6
Frederiksværk	51	3		Ringsted	48	3
Haderslev	19	1		Roskilde	34	2
Herning	65	4		Rønne	25	1
Hillerød	31	2		Røntofte	39	2
Hjørring	27	2		Silkeborg	56	3
Hobro	33	2		Sønderborg	46	3
Holstebro	49	3		Thisted	29	2
Horsens	53	3		Vejle	51	3
Jagtvej, Kbh.	35	2		Viborg	38	2
Kalundborg	49	3		Aabenraa	43	3
Kolding	50	3		Århus	113	7
Køge	47	3		Total	1679	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up and down of the individual percentages.)*

A total of 281 women did not want to participate in the survey and their children are not included either.

The last part of the report is a series of enclosures showing how the answers to some of the core questions were distributed across the individual shelters.

Source references appear in the relevant chapters, and a complete list of literature is found on page 82.

Copenhagen, April 23, 2008  
Eva Børjeson

## 2. Summary

The following pages contain a brief summary of the results of the study and an indication of perspectives based on the results. Readers can find more elaborate descriptions in the subsequent chapters.

### 2.1 Summary

Chapter 3 briefly describes the *method* of collecting and processing the data.

Chapter 4 describes *the background of the children* including age, gender and nationality. It also describes where children who are not with their mother in the shelter are staying while their mother is in the shelter.

The majority of children in the shelters are young, between 0 and 6. In 2007, 53% of the children in the shelters were in the age group 0-6 years, 35% were between 7 and 12 and 13% were in the age group 13-17. There is an even distribution of boys and girls in the overall material, but a small overweight of boys among the youngest and more girls among the oldest children.

Eighty-five per cent of the children were born in Denmark, and 73% of the children have Danish nationality. Forty-eight per cent of the mothers were born in Denmark, and 62% of these have Danish nationality. Forty-seven per cent of the children's fathers were born in Denmark, and 59% of the fathers have Danish nationality. The parents who were not born in Denmark came from about 75 different nations. The majority came from refugee-producing countries and the old immigrant country Turkey. Half of the mothers with another birth country than Denmark came from one of the following countries: Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Somalia and Pakistan.

It is important to have a division into Danish/non-Danish in order to identify special types of problems and conditions that are connected to the situation in which someone has to cope in another culture than the one they traditionally belong to, or their families belong to. In order to capture these problems, a distinction is used between the children who grow up in a traditional Danish family, understood as a family who has been, and regards itself as Danish through generations, and those who grow up in a family with a different or mixed background. According to this definition, 50% of the children came from traditionally Danish families and 49% from families with another or a mixed national/cultural background. For 1% of the children it is uncertain whether they grew up in a Danish or non-Danish family.

In order to get a more nuanced picture of the conditions of the non-Danish children, shelter employees were asked to evaluate the family's degree of integration according to defined criteria (read more about these criteria on page 28). Forty-nine per cent, corresponding to 486 children, grew up in non-Danish families. The employees assessed that 16% of these families were highly integrated, 45% were somewhat integrated, and 32% were characterised as being poorly integrated. There was no clear systematic in the distribution of different nationality groups according to the assessed degree of integration.

There is a group of primarily older children who were not with their mother in the shelter. This applies to 23% of the children whose mother stayed in a shelter for a week or more, corresponding to 342 children distributed on 243 mothers<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 21% - corresponding to 73 children – remained with the violent partner, 31% stayed with their non-violent father, 24% were in foster care or in an institution, 12% stayed with other relatives and 2% with friends. The shelters have no or very little information about these children and it is not known whether the local authorities are aware of the special conditions of these children. There is special cause for concern for the 73 children who remained with the violent partner.

Chapter 5 illustrates the length of *stay in the* shelter and the attachment of the children to their day care or school while they are in the shelter.

Due to the quality of data, children who stay a week or less in a shelter were not included in the material. This applies to 32%, or 542 of all the children in the study. These children are, however, included in the following account of length of stay. The average length of stay in a shelter is 47 days. Most stays, however, are shorter. Forty-six per cent of the children were in the shelter for two weeks or less and 62% for a month or less. The remaining 38% had longer stays including 16% who stayed for over three months, corresponding to 262 children. There was an increase in the share of children who stayed in the shelter for more than three months.

When the children who have stayed in a shelter for more than 90 days are compared with all children, there are no pronounced differences when looking at the length of time the children have lived with domestic violence, the social impact, whether a § 50 assessment has been made etc. It has only been possible to find pronounced differences in two significant areas between children with shelter stays over 90 days and all children. The differences are found when looking at whether the shelter informs the social authorities about the situation of the child. Only in 5% of the cases where a child stayed for more than 90 days did the shelter not inform the authorities while this was the case for 17% of all children. Similarly, pronounced differences are found when looking at where children who stayed in the shelter for more than 90 days moved immediately after the stay compared with all children. The children who stayed more than three months in the shelter less frequently moved back to the perpetrator and often moved into a new residence than children who had shorter stays in the shelter.

Children who did not grow up in traditional Danish families generally stay longer in shelters than Danish children. The average length of stay for all children, who stayed for a week or more in a shelter, was 68 days. The Danish children had an average length of stay of 62 days while non-Danish children had an average length of stay of 69 days. Twenty-three per cent of the Danish children and 24% of the non-Danish children stayed in the shelter for over 90 days.

For many of the children, the stay in a shelter means that they stopped going to their day care or school. Eighty-eight per cent of the 0-6 year-olds quitted their day care, and 74% of the 7-12 year-olds dropped out of their schools. For the teenagers, the figure was 80%<sup>3</sup>. The fact

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<sup>2</sup> 1120 children were with their mother in a shelter, and 342 children were not with their mother in the shelter. This means that 23% of the cases where the mother was in a shelter, the children were not with her. (The figures are based on cases in which the mother and possibly the child stayed in the shelter for at least one week.)

<sup>3</sup> These figures are not directly comparable with those of the previous years since the 2007 statistics had more in-depth questions as to whether the child during the shelter stay started in the old day care/school, and how long was the break from the old day care /school. This allowed for more nuanced responses, and it is therefore presumed that some of those who would previously reply “no” to the question whether the child stopped in its day care /school because it was only a short break, in the 2007 answered “yes” because they could explain that it was a short break.

that the child stopped going to day care or school when moving into the shelter does not mean it did not go to school or day care during the whole stay. Eleven per cent of the 0-6 year-olds who quit their day care started in a new day care, and 59% started again in the old institution. Twenty-five per cent of the 7-12 year-old children who stopped school started in a new school and 69% went back to the old school. Thirteen per cent of the 13-17 year-olds who stopped school started in a new school and 69% went back to the old school<sup>4</sup>.

As many as 206 children, corresponding to 18% of all children who stayed in a shelter for more than a week, stopped in the day care or school at moving into the shelter and started in neither the old nor a new institution during the day. Sixty-five per cent – or 132 children were in the age group 0-6, 24%, corresponding to 49 children, were between 7 and 12, and 10% - or 21 were teenagers.

The local councils have a duty to provide schooling for children of compulsory school age after three weeks. Among the 7-12 year-olds there are 35 children, corresponding to 10% of all children of this age group, who were in a shelter for more than 21 days without being attached to a school, and the same applies to 12 teenagers, or 9% of all children in that age group.

The most frequently stated reason for the child quitting was the distance to the former institution, and the second most frequently stated reason was danger. Danger means, for instance, threats from the violent person or the risk of disclosing the mother's place of stay. More non-Danish children (47%) than Danish children (28%) mentioned danger as the reason for quitting and more Danish children (47%) than non-Danish children (36%) mentioned distance as the reason for quitting school or day care.

Chapter 6 is about the children's *experience with domestic violence*.

The main reason why a child is in a shelter with its mother is that the mother was abused by her partner, but the child is also often the victim of abuse by family members. Fifty-two per cent of the children in this study had been subjected to domestic violence directed against them. Last year, 55% of the children had been abused and it appears that there is a small decline in the share of children in shelters who were abused. However, this year there are more "Don't know's" to the question whether the child was abused so it is uncertain whether this (however small) decline is real.

The study distinguishes between different forms of abuse (read more about the various types of abuse on pages 42-43). Of the 52%, or 527 children, who were abused, 59% were subjected to physical violence, 94% were subjected to mental abuse, 4% corresponding to 20 children were victims of sexual abuse, and 17% were subjected to material abuse. Sixty-two per cent of the children who were abused were subjected to more than one of the above-mentioned types of abuse.

There are only very small differences as to the nature of the abuse girls and boys are subjected to, and the difference is greatest when it comes to sexual molesting. Of the 20 children who were sexually molested, 14 were girls and 6 boys. The abuse affected all age groups. The older children, however, were somewhat more subjected to abuse than the younger children. There were no significant differences between Danish and non-Danish children when it came

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<sup>4</sup> Four per cent of the 0-6 year-olds, 11% of the 7-12 year-olds and 3% of the teenagers both started against in the old school/day care and started in a new place while they stayed in the shelter.

to being abused: 53% of the Danish and 51% of the non-Danish children were abused. However, there is a difference in the nature of the abuse. More non-Danish children than Danish children were victims of physical abuse since 44% of the Danish and 74% of the non-Danish children who were subjected to abuse were physically abused. Danish children, on the other hand, were slightly more often subjected to mental, sexual and material abuse.

The biological father was responsible for the abuse in two-thirds of the cases of physical, mental and sexual abuse. For 14% of the children who were abused physically, 19% of those abused mentally and 6% of those mentally abused more than one family member committed the abuse. Thirty-five percent of the children in the survey were subjected to one or several forms of abuse by their biological father.

The study looks more closely at the various forms of physical violence. With the 1997 abolition of the parental right to administer corporal punishment in Denmark, it became a criminal offence to subject children to corporal punishment. But there are still many of the children in this study who were subjected to various forms of physical violence.

Sixty-five per cent of the children who were physically abused were subjected to so-called parental disciplining, for instance slaps in the face, shaking or spanking. Thirty-four per cent of the children experienced more serious physical violence such as beating, beating with an object, kicking, pushing or throwing around. Eight percent of the children, corresponding to 24 children, experienced distinct maltreatment with repeated kicking, violent beating, biting, burning etc. Fourteen per cent had been sitting on their mother's arm while she was being beaten, 12% had been denied basic needs such as water, food and rest, 8% had been restrained or strapped and 7% had been threatened with a weapon. Forty-four per cent of those who were physically abused had been subjected to more than one of the forms of violence mentioned above. The oldest children were most at risk of being subjected to the most serious abuse – such as distinct maltreatment.

It can be a major strain on a child to have been subjected to abuse once since the child continues to live with a latent fear that it will happen again and possibly let itself be controlled by this fear. For 7% of the children, who were physically abused, the physical violence was a once-off phenomenon while 22% had experienced violence a couple of times in the past year; 17% experienced violence now and again, 17% experienced it regularly, and for 21%, it happened very often.

The most vulnerable children are those who experience both frequent violence and serious violence. Nineteen children regularly or very frequently experienced distinct maltreatment, 65 children experienced serious forms of violence such as beating, beating with objects and pushing. 29 children were regularly or very frequently denied the fulfilment of basic needs, 19 children were regularly or very frequently restrained or strapped, and 13 children were regularly or very frequently threatened with a weapon.

In itself it is a psychological strain to be a child in a family with violence. In addition to this, some children experience physical violence directed at their own person. The mental abuse also takes many forms. Fifty-five percent of the children who were mentally abused felt that they were being spoken to or mentioned in a degrading and humiliating way, 34% experienced threats against themselves and 49% against their mother or siblings with the purpose of threatening, frightening or forcing the children. Fourteen percent had been locked up, 29% felt they were ignored and 15% found that they were being treated unfairly compared with others.

As many as 68% of the children, who were subjected to mental abuse, experienced more than one of the above-mentioned forms of abuse. As in the case of physical violence, the oldest children had the greatest risk of experiencing the various types of mental abuse.

Studies have shown that it is as stressful for children to witness inter-parental violence as to being personally subjected to abuse<sup>5</sup>. In 2007, 80% of children in shelters had seen or heard violence against their mother. Children mainly witnessed mental or physical abuse of their mother. Seventy-one percent of the children who had witnessed abuse of their mother had seen their mother being hit and 95% had witnessed mental abuse, 4% children had witnessed sexual assault on their mother, and 19% had witnessed material abuse of their mother. In 2007, 33% of the children had also heard or witnessed abuse of their siblings. Of these 62% had witnessed that their siblings had been hit, 93% had experienced mental abuse of their siblings and 13% had witnessed material abuse. None of the children in the survey had experienced sexual abuse of siblings.

In 2007, the questionnaire asked what the child's main reactions were when their mother was being abused. Of the children who experienced this abuse, 28% hid, 18% tried to go in between to prevent the abuse, 5% fetched help, and 27% did something else. Something else covered cried, were passive, protected siblings, sought comfort from siblings or ran away from home. The older children more frequently tried to prevent the abuse and fetch help than the younger children. There was no major difference between the age groups when it comes to the share of children who hid while their mother was being abused.

As another new feature in 2007, it was also asked how long domestic violence had been part of the child's life. Seven percent of the children had lived with abuse for less than six months, and 8% corresponding to 75 children had experienced domestic violence for more than ten years. More than half of the children, or 59%, had lived with domestic violence for three years or longer.

Twenty-four percent, or 235 children, had told somebody outside the household about the domestic violence. The older the children were, the greater was the likelihood they had told about the violence. Sixteen percent of the 0-6 year-olds, 29% of the 7-12 year-olds and 55% of the 13-17 year-olds had told somebody outside the household about the violence. Of the 235 children who had told about it, 42% had told day care staff or teachers, 26% had told friends, 25% had told other family members, 8% had told neighbours and 31% had told others about the violence. Others cover employees at this or previous shelters, psychologists, police and grandparents<sup>6</sup>. In 56% of the cases, there was a follow-up to the child's story about violence, in 35% it appears that there was no action taken and in 9% of the cases it is not known whether there was any kind of follow-up to the child's story about abuse.

Chapter 7 presents a professional evaluation of the *degree of impact on the children*.

The children were evaluated on the basis of four categories (see more about the various categories on page 65-66). Shelter employees estimated that 24% of the children could be characterised as children with ordinary needs and 41% were evaluated as having special needs. Twenty-two percent were assessed as being under threat with comprehensive development and adjustment problems and needing special support in order to change this development.

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<sup>5</sup> Kitzmann, K.M. et al. 2003.

<sup>6</sup> In 26 questionnaires it says that the child had told an employee of this or a previous shelter about the violence. However, it is probable that far more children had told shelter employees about the domestic violence.

Seven per cent, corresponding to 70 children, were assessed as being problem children with a direct need of therapy. This means that 29% of the children were in the two most heavily impacted categories. The older children were generally more heavily impacted than the younger children.

When children who were subjected to abuse are compared with children who were not subjected to abuse, there were pronounced differences in the degree of impact. It clearly appears from the survey that the children who were being abused personally were also those who were generally assessed as being most heavily impacted. Twenty-eight percent of those who were assessed as having ordinary needs had been abused, 59% of those with special needs had been abused, 80% of those assessed as being under threat and 88% of the problem children had been abused personally.

The length of the period the domestic violence had been part of the child's life was also significant for the degree of impact. In general, the longer the domestic violence has been part of the child's life, the heavier the social impact is assessed to be. It is assessed, for example, that 3% of the children who lived with abuse for less than six months were problem children compared with 23% of those who had lived with it for 10 years or longer.

These figures once again demonstrate how strong the social impact is for children to be personally abused and to grow up with domestic violence. Accordingly, they clearly point to the necessity of early action.

Chapter 8 is about *support from the social services*. The chapter also touches on where the children moved to after the shelter stay, and which forms of the support were offered to them by the shelter after the move.

Once again, 2007 saw a marked increase in the submission of reports from the shelters to the social services. The shelters now submitted reports for 79% of the children compared with 67% in 2006, 52% in 2005 and 47% in 2004. The increase means that the shelters believe there is need for stronger action in order to make the local authorities react to these children under threat.

Reports were more frequently submitted for non-Danish than for Danish children, and for all children the case was that the more troubled they were assessed to be, the more likely it was that the shelters had informed the social services.

When it seems likely that a child is in need of special support, the municipal authority is required by law to investigate the conditions of the child using a so-called Section 50 evaluation. The intention is to provide a basis for an assessment of whether the child and its family need social provisions that may relieve the problems and help create continuity in the child's life. An Section 50 evaluation is thus the basis of a social relief effort. In 2007, the survey asked for the first time whether the municipal caseworker had initiated an Section 50 evaluation. For 26% of the children such evaluation had either been initiated, it had already been made, or agreement had been reached to initiate one. For 48% of the children no Section 50 evaluation had been initiated, and for the remaining 26% it was not known whether the evaluation had been initiated. The more troubled the children were assessed to be, the greater the likelihood that an evaluation had been implemented. Still, there were many children who were seen as being under threat or problem children, for whom no evaluation had been initiated. For 23% of the children assessed to be under threat and 19% of those who definitely needed treatment

no Section 50 evaluation had been initiated. For 32% of the children under threat and 29% of the most heavily impacted children it was uncertain whether the evaluation had been made.

Seventeen percent of the children received support from the social services before their stay in a shelter, 20% received support during the stay and for 26% agreement was reached regarding support after they moved out of the shelter. For 15% of the children, an application for support after moving out had been submitted to the local authorities, but no decision had been made yet. For support before, during and after the stay it appears that the more troubled the children were assessed to be, the greater was the likelihood that they received support. The most common forms of support were assistance from a psychologist, exemption from payment in the day care institution and family therapy. A transportation scheme was also a frequently used type of support during the stay.

In general, there has been a small decline in the share of children who received support from the social services compared with 2006. In 2006, for example, 65% of the children assessed to be problem children received support when moving out from the shelter compared with 46% in 2007. Although the answer was affirmative as to whether support for the child had been agreed upon moving out, not all support had been initiated at the time the child moved out. Thirty-eight percent of the support had been initiated in 2007 at the time of moving out and this is also a decline compared with 2006 when this percentage was 44%. Considering that the shelters had improved their procedures for reporting to and informing the social services, the data material does not provide any explanation for the fact that the children in 2007 received slightly less support from the social services than in 2006.

A total of 47% corresponding to 525 children neither received support before nor during the stay and no agreement or application for support from the social services had been organised in connection with their moving out. Thirty-two percent of these were assessed to be children with normal needs, 41% as children with special needs, 12%, or 64 children, as children under threat and 4%, corresponding to 23 children, were assessed to be problem children. This means that there were 87 children who were assessed to be in pronounced need of support, who did not receive any support, neither at moving in, during the stay nor at moving out of the shelter.

Local councils have a duty to monitor children in shelters. Thirty-five shelters have reported whether the children were monitored, and the statistics show that 19 councils monitored the children in the shelter in the local area and that 16 councils did not monitor the children. In 2006, 13 shelters indicated that there had been no monitoring of any children. (See which municipalities did not monitor the children in 2006 and 2007 on page 81.) It is conspicuous that many local councils neglect their duty particularly considering that 22% of all children who stayed in a shelter in 2007 were assessed as children under threat and 7% as being definite problem children.

In 2007 15% of the children – compared with 14% in 2006 - moved back to the person who committed violence against them or their mother, 39% (43% in 2006) moved to a new dwelling and 17% (18% in 2006) moved to their former home, but without the violent man. This means that 56% (61% in 2006) of the children moved to a permanent residence without the perpetrator. A total of 17% of the children moved to another temporary address, either another shelter, a family treatment institution or with relatives or friends. In 2006, it was 14%.

Considering only the children who were subjected to abuse personally it turns out that 15% of those moved back to the person who committed violence against them or their mother. In comparison, in 2006, 12% of those who were subjected to abuse moved back to the person who committed violence against them or their mother. This means that many children moved back to the person who abused them.

More non-Danish children moved back to the perpetrator - 19% compared with 11% of the Danish children. More Danish children moved to a new dwelling – 49% compared with 34% of the non-Danish children. In total, 62% of the Danish children moved back to a permanent dwelling without the perpetrator compared with 50% of the non-Danish children.

In some cases, the shelters can provide support to children after moving out of the shelter although funding for this is rather limited. Children were given support in the form of participation in activities, outings, holidays and Christmas parties organised by the shelters. Some children had follow-up consultations, and some children had a visit in their home, school or day care by a shelter employee.

Chapter 9 describes *the mothers of the children*. Data for this chapter was produced by pooling data from the women's moving-in forms which are used as the basis of the LOKK Annual Statistics and data from the child statistics.

At the time of moving in, the mothers of 18% of the children had a job, for 34% of the children, the mother was on cash benefits or in job activation, 9% had a mother on sickness allowance, and 6% a mother on incapacity benefit. Three percent of the mothers were on introductory benefits (for refugees) and 2% of the mothers were in rehabilitation.

The level of education was lower than in the general population. Twelve percent of the children's mothers had unfinished basic schooling and 32% had basic schooling as their highest education. Eighteen percent had completed higher secondary school or had a vocation, and 22% had completed continuing education. Of these, more than half had completed short continuing education.

Thirty-nine percent of the mothers had been to a shelter more than once: 23% of the mothers had been to a shelter once before, 11% 2-3 times before, 3% 4-5 times, and 2% of the mothers had been to a shelter more than 5 times. This shows that some of the children have a childhood marked by many break-ups.

Many of the mothers had been subjected to abuse for several years. There is correlation between the period the mother had been abused and the assessed degree of impact on the child. The longer the mother had been subjected to abuse, the more heavily impacted the child was. This clearly points to the need for an early effort.

Chapter 10 describes *the children who stayed in a shelter for a week or less* and their mothers.

Thirty-two percent of all the children who stayed in a shelter in 2007, corresponding to 542 children, were in the shelter for a week or less, and they are only included in few parts of the report. Of the children who stayed a week or less 30% moved back to the perpetrator. In comparison, the percentage is 15 for those who stayed longer than a week. Four percent of the children who stayed in a shelter for a week or less moved into a new dwelling compared with 39% of those who stayed longer. A total of 27% of the children who stayed a week or less in a

shelter moved to a permanent dwelling without the perpetrator. In comparison it was 56% of the children who stayed longer than a week.

In 2007, information about the children who stayed a week or less in a shelter has been pooled with information on the mothers since significantly more data is available on the mothers. Of the mothers 34% had been in a shelter more than once: 21% had been in a shelter once before this time, 9% had been in a shelter 2-3 times before, 3% 4-5 times previously and 1% of the mothers had been to a shelter more than 5 times previously. This is similar to the data about mothers whose children stayed longer than a week in a shelter.

Of the children who stayed for a week or less in a shelter, 55% had a mother who belonged to an ethnic minority. In comparison this figure was 49% for the children who stayed longer than a week. This means that slightly more children with an ethnic minority mother stayed for a week or less in a shelter.

For 22% of the children, support from the social services for the mother was agreed after the shelter stay. Family therapy and psychologist consultations were the most frequent types of support for the mothers.

Of the children's mothers – and undoubtedly also of the children – 11% moved to another municipality after the shelter stay, while 72% remained in the same area. For 17% it is not known whether they moved to another municipality after the shelter stay.

## ***2.2 Perspectives***

Over the past four years, LOKK has been able to document that more than half of the children who stayed in a shelter were personally subjected to abuse by family members, and that between 75% and 85% had witnessed or overheard violence committed against their mother. Studies have shown that it is a terrible strain on children to be abused personally and to witness abuse of the mother. Children, who experience or witness violence, are at risk of developing massive social problems<sup>7</sup>, and in some cases such traumas can affect the development of children's brains<sup>8</sup>. Children who are subjected to abuse often show signs of mental disturbance in the shape of insecurity, fear, low self-esteem, aggression and depression that, in turn, can result in somatic disorders such as sleeping problems, stomach ache, concentration trouble etc.<sup>9</sup>

The study documents that it is highly stressful for children to be subjected to or witness abuse. It clearly appears that the children who are subjected to abuse personally are also assessed to be most troubled. Similarly, the study confirms that the longer children have lived with domestic violence, the more likely it is that the children are assessed to be highly impacted. This information clearly points to the necessity for early action in relation to children in families with domestic violence.

There has been a pronounced increase in shelters reporting to the social services regarding the situation of children. However, a corresponding increase in the support from the social ser-

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<sup>7</sup> Christensen, E. 2006

<sup>8</sup> Perry, B.D. 2000

<sup>9</sup> Dyregrov, A. 1998

vices to these children has still not occurred. It is a municipal duty to monitor children in shelters but 16 local councils have *not* monitored the children. Nearly half of the children who stayed in a shelter for more than a week in 2007 neither received support from the social services before nor during the stay and not either in connection with their moving out, and for 74% of the children an Section 50 evaluation was either not implemented or it is unknown whether it was implemented. A share of the children who did not receive any support were assessed to be very troubled and consequently urgently needed support from the social services. If the work for these battered children is to be improved it is essential that the social services intensify their support.

### 3. Method

The data material for LOKK's Statistics on Children is collected through a questionnaire. The questionnaire was prepared jointly by the Unit on Social Vulnerability under the National Board of Specialist Consultancy and Social Services and the LOKK statistics team. In order to create a reasonably homogenous understanding of the questions, the questionnaires were accompanied by a manual which was also submitted to the shelters. The manual contains explanations to the questions and definitions of central concepts.

All residents in the shelters were handed a folder regarding consent to take part in the survey. The mothers could refuse to do so and in that case their children did not participate either. In 2007, a total of 281 women did not want to participate.

The first part of the questionnaire is completed on the basis of an interview with the mother and child conducted by a child care worker or another shelter employee with contact to the child. The shelter employee fills in the questionnaire. The second part of the form is completed after the child has moved out of the shelter.

An important factor for the reliability and validity of the data is good contact between the mother/child and shelter employee. This contact must have been established before the interview. Some of the questions in the form are of a highly personal and sensitive nature. They are about violence against the child and about witnessing violence against the mother, about addiction and mental illness in the family etc. Accordingly, it is a prerequisite that there is a trusting relationship between the interviewer and the interviewee. It is also necessary that the interviewer has made her ethical considerations with regard to the reactions that the questions might initiate in the child, and how the child can be supported.

In 2006, LOKK's child statistics team decided that only a limited part of the questionnaire was completed for children with a stay of a week or less in the shelter. The idea was to ensure greater reliability in the completion and avoid too many "don't know" or unspecified answers in the questionnaires. In 2007, a total of 542 children, corresponding to 32% of all children in the survey, stayed for a week or less in a shelter. The only information recorded on these children was age and gender, date of moving out, the number of days in the shelter and where they moved to after the stay. Apart from Chapter 10 and a table showing the children's length of stay in the shelter, the analyses in the study are based on the remaining 1120 children who stayed for longer than a week in the shelter.

After the child and the mother have moved out of the shelter, the shelter records information about the duration of the stay, where the woman moves with the child immediately after the stay, agreements on support after the stay, and any reports to the social services on the child's situation.

The questionnaires primarily consist of questions with closed response categories. For questions for which it is impossible to formulate exhaustive categories, the shelter employees can add response categories in the "other" field. This means that, in the later analysis, response categories can be added for use in the report as well as for improvements to future questionnaires. Some questions encourage elaboration in text or examples which may illustrate the problems in a more nuanced way.

The forms are collected quarterly by the Unit on Social Vulnerability, scanned and processed in SPSS. The Unit on Social Vulnerability keeps and processes the data material in accordance with current protection rules from the Danish Data Protection Agency. The data material is filed with The Danish Data Archives.

## 4. The background of the children

### 4.1 The gender and age distribution of the children

As it appears from Table 2, there was an even distribution of boys and girls in the Danish shelters in 2007.

**Table 2. The children by gender**

	Number	Percentage
Girls	551	50
Boys	561	50
Total	1112	100

As in previous years, there was an overweight of young children between 0 and 6 in the shelters (see Table 3). In 2007 there were 53% in that age group, while the group of 7-12 year-olds constituted 35% and 13% were between 13 and 17. One child was over 18, but was registered as a child who came with an adult woman.

**Table 3. The children by age**

	Number	Percentage
0-6 years	538	53
7-12 years	355	35
13-17 years	129	13
18 years and above	1	0
Total	1023	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

There was a slight overweight of boys among the youngest and most girls among the older children (see Table 4).

**Table 4. The children by gender and age. In percent**

	Girls	Boys	Total	N
0-6 years	48	52	100	534
7-12 years	51	49	100	354
13-17 years	64	36	100	128
18 years and above	0	100	100	1
Total	50	50	100	935

The boys made up 52% of the 0-6 year-olds and the girls 48%, while for the 7-12-year-old the girls outnumbered the boys with 51% against 49%. For the teenagers the overweight of girls was larger at 64% compared with 36% boys. The distribution on age and gender correspond to the findings for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

## ***4.2 The nationality of the children***

In the shelters, ethnic minority women are strongly overrepresented<sup>10</sup> compared with their share of the population, and it is important to document whether ethnic minority children have other conditions and are subjected to other types of impacts than Danish children, and accordingly have other needs in terms of support.

According to the 2004 Yearbook of the Danish Ministry of Refugees, Immigration and Integration Affairs, a person is defined as being Danish if at least one of the parents has Danish nationality and was born in Denmark. This means that a child is classified as Danish if one of the parents was born in Denmark and is a Danish citizen. Accordingly, it makes no difference whether the child itself was born in Denmark or has Danish nationality.

The questionnaires for the 2004 and 2005 child statistics registered the country of birth and nationality of the child, its mother and its father. Two categories were developed on the basis of this information: Danish and non-Danish<sup>11</sup>. In the 2006 questionnaires, the categories Danish and non-Danish were slightly different. Country of birth and nationality of the child, mother and father were still registered, but the information was supplemented by answers to the question whether the child grew up in a traditional Danish family, understood as a family which has considered itself as being Danish for generations, or in another type of family. If the latter is the case, the designation non-Danish is graduated on an integration scale enabling the designation to be more nuanced, less categorical and less static<sup>12</sup>.

The integration scale has three levels: highly integrated, somewhat integrated and poorly integrated. The social educator/shelter employee assesses at which level the child and its family are integrated in Danish society. The factors used as the basis of the assessment include the mother/father's knowledge of and participation in Danish society, their understanding of various institutions and authorities and their function, attachment to the labour market, membership of associations, child institutions, command of the Danish language and attachment to Danish networks (see also page 28). Since the shelter employee's knowledge of the family is based on the contact to the mother, she will be the primary representative of the family's integration.

In this report, the designations Danish and non-Danish are used on the basis of the distinction between traditionally Danish and non-Danish, unless otherwise stated.

The children's country of birth and nationality appears from Figure 1 and Figure 2. As it appears from Figure 1, 85% of the children in the 2007 Statistics on Children were born in Denmark. The corresponding number for 2006 was 87%.

Seventy-three percent of the children had Danish nationality (including 1% with a Greenland background) and 19% had another nationality than Danish. For 8% the answer was 'don't know'.

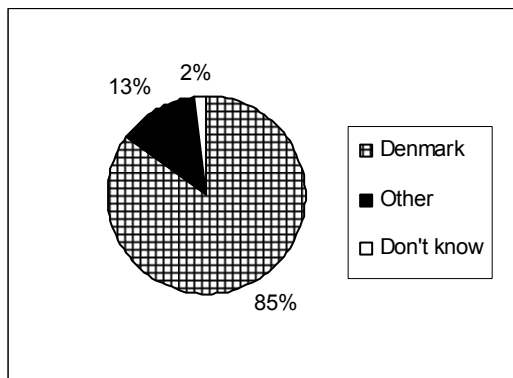
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<sup>10</sup> See for instance LOKK Annual Statistics 2006

<sup>11</sup> See LOKK Statistics on Children 2005: 17-18

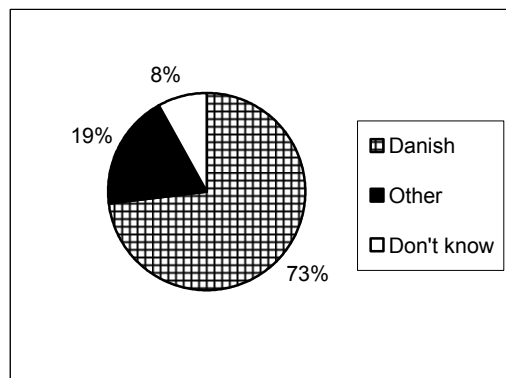
<sup>12</sup> See LOKK Statistics on Children 2005: 25

**Figure 1. The children's country of birth**



*N* = 1045

**Figure 2. The children's nationality**

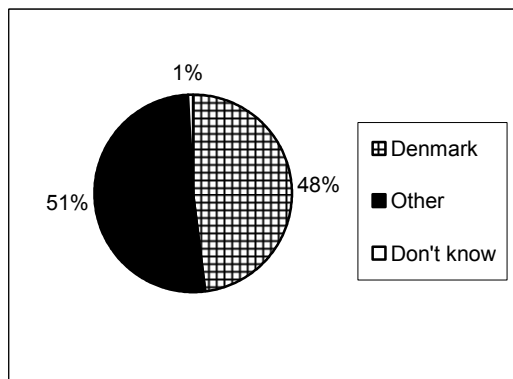


*N* = 1057

The mother's country of birth and nationality appear from Figures 3 and 4 below. Forty-eight percent of the mothers were born in Denmark compared with 53% in 2006. Fifty-one percent of the mothers were born outside Denmark, and for 1% the country of birth is unknown.

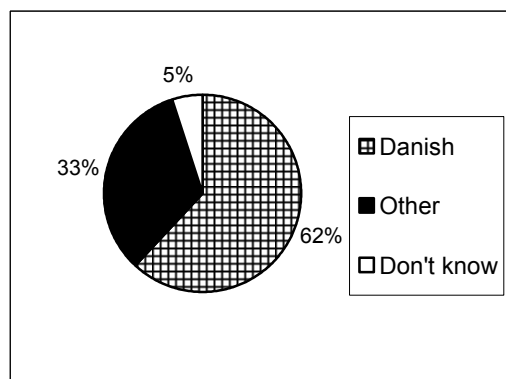
Sixty-two percent of the mothers had Danish nationality (including 2% with Greenland background), 33% had another nationality, and for 5% the answer is not known.

**Figure 3. The mother's country of birth**



*N* = 1032

**Figure 4. The mother's nationality**

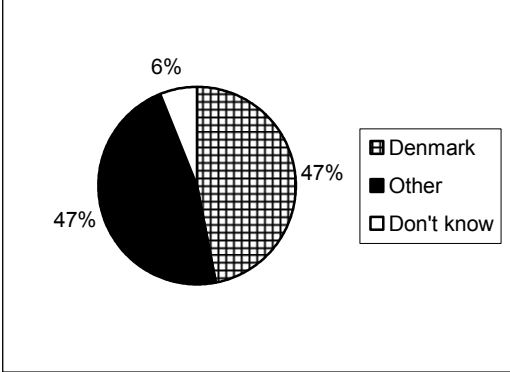


*N* = 1044

The fathers' distribution regarding birth country and nationality appears from Figures 5 and 6. Forty-seven percent of the children's fathers were born in Denmark compared with 52% in 2006, 47% were born outside Denmark and for 6% the country of birth was not specified.

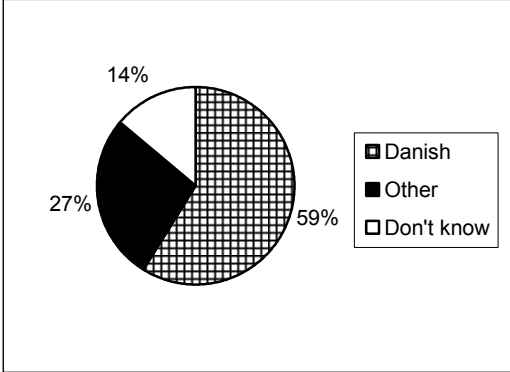
Fifty-nine percent of the fathers had Danish nationality (including 2% with Greenland background), 27% had another nationality. For 14% the answer is 'don't know'.

**Figure 5. The father’s country of birth**



N = 1028

**Figure 6. The father’s nationality**



N = 1049

Slightly more children were born outside Denmark in 2007 than in 2006. The same applies to their parents. In contrast, the figures for whether the children, mothers and fathers have Danish nationality were relatively stable compared with last year.

The parents who were not born in Denmark or did not have Danish nationality came from about 75 different nations. This means a major spread in cultural and language background, and the shelters met women with widely different backgrounds.

Looking at the 15 most frequently occurring countries, they accounted for 74% of the mothers born outside of Denmark. Mothers born in Iraq, Lebanon and Turkey made up one fourth of all women born outside Denmark.

The 15 most frequently occurring countries for the mothers born outside of Denmark appear from Table 5. For comparison, Table 6 shows the 15 most frequently occurring nationalities.

<b>Table 5. Mothers by birth country. The 15 most frequent if not Danish. In percentage of 15 most frequent and of all</b>				<b>Table 6. Mothers' nationality. The 15 most frequent if not Danish. In percentage of 15 most frequent and of all</b>			
	Amount	Percent 15	Percent all		Amount	Percent 15	Percent all
Iraq	50	13	10	Afghan	29	12	9
Lebanon	43	11	8	Iraqi	26	11	8
Turkey	42	11	8	Somali	23	10	7
Sri Lanka	39	10	7	Turkish	22	9	7
Afghanistan	33	9	6	Pakistani	20	9	6
Somalia	29	7	6	Lebanese	15	6	5
Pakistan	24	6	5	Malaysian	15	6	5
Bosnia	20	5	4	Polish	14	6	4
Iran	20	5	4	Bosnian	13	6	4
Malaysia	20	5	4	Sri Lankan	12	5	4
Poland	16	4	3	Serbian	11	5	3
Greenland	16	4	3	Iranian	11	5	3
Kosovo	15	4	3	Russian	8	3	2
Morocco	11	3	2	Kosovo Albanian	8	3	2
Russia	10	3	2	Moroccan	8	3	2
Total	388 (N all 525)	100	74	Total	235 (N all 329)	100	71

Corresponding information for the fathers appears from Tables 7 and 8<sup>13</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Not all categories regarding the fathers' birth country are clear or consistent. Note that the categories Kosovo and Yugoslavia appear as does the category Greenland.

<b>Table 7. Fathers by birth country. The 15 most frequent if not Danish. In percentage of 15 most frequent and of all</b>				<b>Table 8. Fathers' nationality. The 15 most frequent if not Danish. In percentage of 15 most frequent and of all</b>			
	Amount	Percent 15	Percent all		Amount	Percent 15	Percent all
Turkey	51	13	11	Iraqi	32	15	12
Iraq	50	13	11	Pakistani	29	14	11
Iran	41	11	9	Turkish	29	14	11
Lebanon	40	11	8	Afghan	21	10	8
Sri Lanka	37	10	8	Somali	21	10	8
Pakistan	32	8	7	Iranian	13	6	5
Somalia	26	7	5	Sri Lankan	12	6	4
Afghanistan	25	7	5	Bosnian	8	4	3
Bosnia	17	4	4	Lebanese	8	4	3
Greenland	14	4	3	Yugoslavian	8	4	3
Kosovo	12	3	3	Palestinian	6	3	2
Yugoslavia	11	3	2	Vietnamese	6	3	2
Vietnam	9	2	2	Kosovo Albanian	6	3	2
Serbia	7	2	1	Serb	4	2	1
Sweden	7	2	1	Burundian	4	2	1
Total	379 (N all 473)	100	80	Total	207 (N all 269)	100	77

For fathers the most frequently occurring countries of birth – if not Denmark – were Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

As in previous years, an overweight of refugee-producing countries and the old immigrant countries was seen among the most frequently occurring countries of birth for both mother and fathers.

In order to identify special types of problems and conditions that are connected with having to cope and act in a culture other than the culture one or one's family belongs to, it is important with a division into Danish/non-Danish. So as to capture these problems, it is more appropriate to use the distinction between the children who grow up in a traditional Danish family, understood as a family which has been, and considers itself as being Danish for generations, and the children who grow up in a family with another or a mixed background. A distribution of the children according to these criteria provides the following picture (see Table 9):

**Table 9. Danish/non-Danish according to the criterion whether the child grew up in a traditional Danish family**

	Number	Percent
Danish	494	50
Non-Danish	486	49
Don't know	13	1
Total	993	100

As it appears from Table 9, 50% of the children grew up in a traditional Danish family, while for 49% - compared with 44% last year - life in a Danish context was mixed with experiences, values and reference frames from one or several other cultures.

In order to further nuance the understanding of the non-Danish children, the shelter employees were asked to assess to which degree the families were integrated in Danish society according to the following criteria:

*Highly integrated:* The mother/the child's family have a fundamental understanding of Danish society. They know the most important institutions in Danish society and have knowledge of the child care system, the structure of the educational system and the organisation of the labour market. They have no problems opening a bank account and they speak and understand Danish so well that they can have a meeting with a public authority. They follow the Danish news to a certain extent; the child watches Danish children's TV and/or reads Danish children's books. The family have Danish friends.

*Somewhat integrated:* The mother/the child's family have reasonable knowledge of Danish society. They know for instance how to vote at an election, they have a fundamental understanding of how to contact the authorities to ask for assistance. They know the Danish labour market and are interested in the Danish news. The family know Danes.

*Poorly integrated:* The mother/the child's family lack fundamental understanding of Danish society, including Danish culture and the labour market. The family only has sporadic contact to Danes. They are unable to explain what is going on at a parent's meeting or what they do at the school board. The family are not interested in the Danish news, and the children do not watch Danish children's TV.

*Don't know:* Applies to cases in which the woman/child only stayed briefly in the shelter, or in which the general knowledge of the woman/child is limited for other reasons.

The distribution on degree of integration can be seen in Table 10:

**Table 10. The degree of integration of non-Danish families**

	Number	Percent
Highly integrated	79	16
Somewhat integrated	216	45
Poorly integrated	153	32
Cannot assess the degree of integration	35	7
Total	483	100

In the group of non-Danes, the children’s families were assessed to be highly integrated in 16% of the cases, 45% were somewhat integrated and 32% were poorly integrated.

The various nationalities did not seem to be systematically distributed on degrees of integration. The large groups, for instance the Iraqis and Turks, were represented in all three degrees of integration. There was, however, a tendency that the refugee-producing countries and the old immigrant countries were strongly represented in the “somewhat” and “poor” categories. In Table 11 below the 15 largest nationality groups are distributed according to degree of integration. The calculation is based on the mother’s country of birth.

**Table 11. The 15 largest nationality groups based on the mother’s country of birth distributed on degree of integration. Number<sup>14</sup>**

	Highly integrated	Somewhat integrated	Poorly integrated	Total
Iraq	5	20	20	45
Lebanon	3	8	24	35
Turkey	10	18	10	38
Sri Lanka	0	12	14	26
Afghanistan	1	15	8	24
Somalia	0	8	18	26
Pakistan	2	14	5	21
Bosnia	1	12	8	21
Iran	2	7	4	13
Malaysia	3	15	0	18
Poland	11	0	0	11
Greenland	1	4	0	5
Kosovo	0	14	1	15
Morocco	1	4	1	6
Russia	2	1	1	4
N total	42	152	114	308

### ***4.3 Children who did not come along to the shelter***

A group of primarily older children did not stay with their mother in the shelter. How many there were, and where they were while the mother stayed in the shelter, appears from Table 12 below.

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<sup>14</sup> Since the number of responses in the various categories is small, the figures are stated in number rather than percentage.

**Table 12. Where did the child stay if it was not in the shelter?**

	Number	Percent
With the perpetrator	73	21
With their non-violent father	107	31
With other relatives	31	9
With friends	6	2
In institution/foster home	83	24
Other	42	12
Total	342	99

*(The percentages do not sum up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

A total of 342 children under the age of 18 distributed across 243 mothers did not join their mother in the shelter<sup>15</sup>. The largest group of these – 107 children or 31% - stayed with their non-violent father. Twenty-one percent, corresponding to 73 children, remained with the person who had committed violence against their mother, 9%, or 31 children, stayed with other relatives, and 2%, or 6 children, with friends while 24%, or 83 children, were in foster care or in an institution. In cases where the children were fostered or in an institution the mother had most often been to a shelter previously: 75% of the children who were in foster care or an institution were children whose mother had been to a shelter at least once before.

The shelters have very little or no information on the children who did not come along to the shelter. It is not known whether the public social services were aware of the special situation of these children. There is particular reason for concern for the 73 children who remained with the perpetrator.

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<sup>15</sup> According to the 2007 LOKK Statistics on Adults 568 children were not with their mother in a shelter. The explanation for this difference is the this study only included the women who stayed in a shelter for over a week while the adult statistics includes all women in the shelters.

## 5. Stay in shelter

This chapter considers the length of stay in the shelter, and the child's contact to its school or day care during the shelter stay. Similar to last year, the survey asked whether the child started a new day care or school during its stay in the shelter. As a new feature, we asked whether the child started again in his/her old day care or school and how long the break was, if any. It is significant to be able to document whether there is a group of children who are not attending a day care or school over a longer period due to the stay in the shelter.

In most cases, lengthy periods of abuse or threats of violence against the mother and often-times also against the child have preceded the child's stay in the shelter. This condition is naturally highly stressful for the child. The mother's decision to move into the shelter gives instantaneous protection against the perpetrator, but for the child the move also constitutes a break with a well-known life, with its home and often also with the institutions that the child is used to. Moving to a shelter often means a break of a temporary or more permanent nature in the children's life, not only in relation to their school or day care but also in relation to their social environment - both friends and adults. Such breaks are nearly always difficult for children, but may not necessarily be deeply problematic. If, on the other hand, there is a lack of continuity over a longer period with frequent break-ups, there is reason to assume that the situation is stressful for the child and has an impact on its development in a range of areas including learning and social skills<sup>16</sup>.

### 5.1 Length of stay in the shelter

For reasons of the quality of the data, the children with stays in a shelter of a week or less are not included in major parts of the material<sup>17</sup>. In 2007 these were 542 children or about a third of all children. These children are, however, included in the table below.

The length of stay varies greatly. In 2007 the average length of stay was 47 days compared with 37 days in 2006. This means that the average length increased by ten days in a year.

As it appears from Table 13, most stays were relatively short. Nearly half of the registered children, 46%, stayed in the shelter for two weeks or less and 62% for less than a month. The last third had lengthier stays and, of these 16%, corresponding to 262 children, stayed for more than three months.

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<sup>16</sup> Dyregrov, A 1998

<sup>17</sup> Chapter 10 describes children who stayed a week or less in a shelter.

**Table 13. Number of days the child stayed in the shelter**

	Number	Percentage	Accumulated percent
0-2 days	260	16	16
3-7 days	282	17	33
8-14 days	215	13	46
15-30 days	281	17	62
31-60 days	221	13	76
61-90 days	141	8	84
91 days and above	262	16	100
Total	1662	100	

It appears from the LOKK Statistics for Adults that many of the women, and accordingly also the children, had stayed in shelters several times before (see also Tables 70 and 74). This means that some children stay in shelters for many months with limited possibilities of development and a social life.

Previous studies<sup>18</sup> have found that children of ethnic minority groups generally stayed longer in shelters than Danish children. The previous statistics on children confirmed this tendency. In 2007, the average length of stay for children with a stay of a week or longer was 68 days. The distribution of Danish and non-Danish children in 2006 and 2007 appears from Table 14.

**Table 14. Average length of stay distributed across Danish/non-Danish for stays of longer than a week in 2006 and 2007**

	Average length of stay in days 2006	Average length of stay in days 2007
All children	59	68
Danish children	57	62
Non-Danish children	61	69

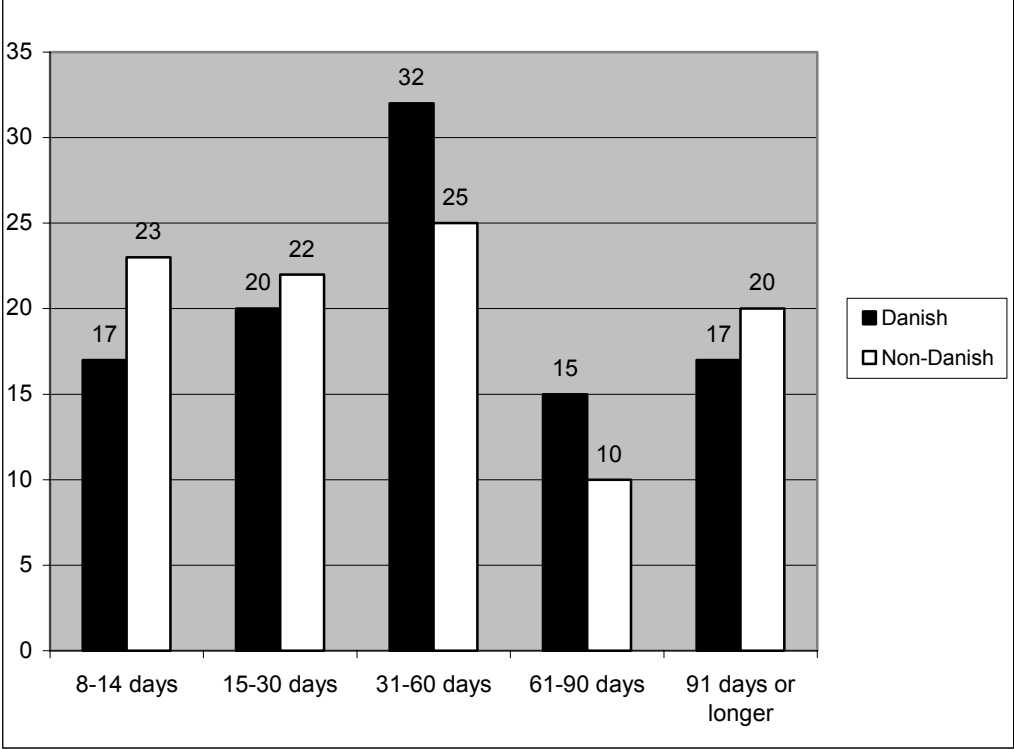
It appears that, generally, the length for stays longer than a week increased from 59 days in 2006 to 68 days in 2007. Non-Danish children still stayed longer than children from traditional Danish families, and the difference was more pronounced than in 2006. In 2006, on average, non-Danish families stayed four days longer in the shelter than Danish families. In 2007, this difference had increased to seven days.

The time of stay distributed across time intervals and the nationality of the child for 2006 and 2007 appears from the figures below (again computed on the basis of stays longer than a week). The difference from 2006 to 2007 between the length of stay of Danish children and non-Danish children is relatively stable when it comes to the shorter stays. The differences on the 15-30-day stays, however, have become more pronounced. In 2006 20% of the Danish children stayed between 15 and 30 days in a shelter while the corresponding figure for 2007 was 28%. For the non-Danish children this percentage was 22 in 2006 and 23 in 2007. Similar to the 2005-2006 periods there was an equalisation of the differences between Danish and non-Danish children on the long stays. In 2006, 17% of the Danish children stayed longer than 90 days in a shelter while the corresponding percentage for 2007 was 23. The percentage for non-Danish children was 20 in 2006 and 24 in 2007. This means that from 2006 to 2007

<sup>18</sup> For example Behrens, H.L. 2002

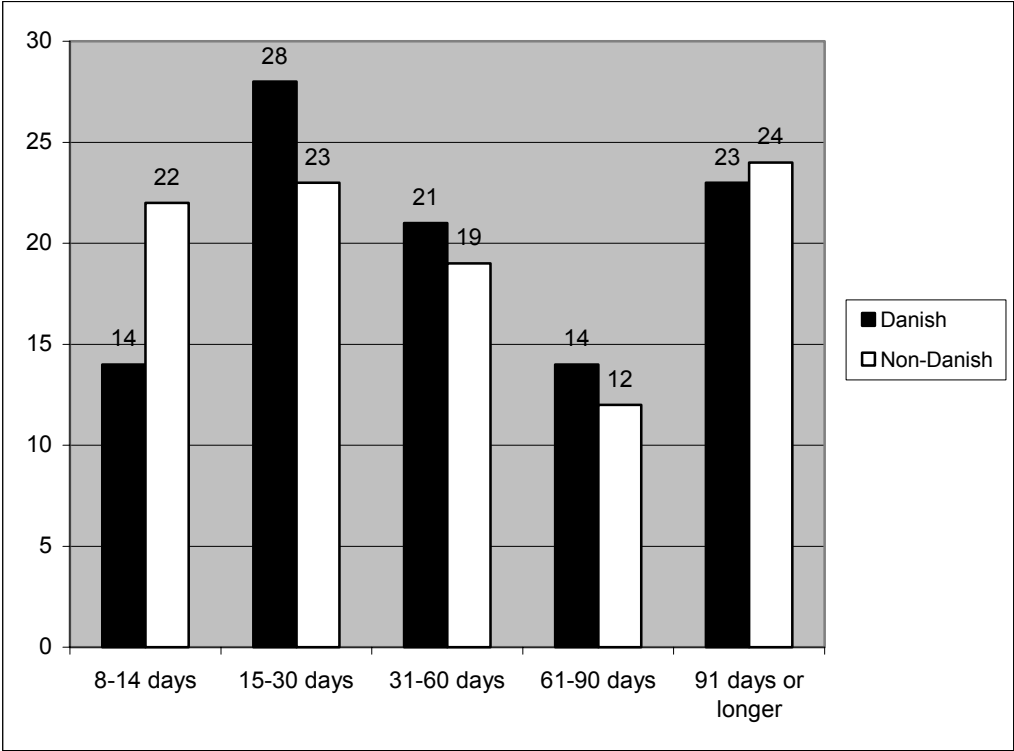
there was a pronounced increase in the number of Danish and non-Danish children who stayed longer than 90 days in the shelters. The increase, however, was most pronounced for the Danish children.

**Figure 7. Children’s length of stay in shelter in 2006 by Danish/non-Danish. In percent**



*Danish N = 51, Non-Danish N = 396*

**Figure 8. Children’s length of stay in shelter in 2007 by Danish/non-Danish. In percent**



*Danish N = 494, Non-Danish N = 496*

When children who stayed longer than 90 days in the shelter were compared with all other children, there were no pronounced differences as to how long the children had lived with domestic violence, their degree of impact, or whether an Section 50 evaluation had been implemented. Only two parameters showed significant differences between the children who had stayed more than 90 days in the shelter and all other children. The differences were found in the fact that the shelter more often reported the situation of the child to the social services. The shelters did not file a report in 5% of the stays over 90 days while this was the case for 17% of all cases (see also Table 50).

There was also a marked difference as to where to children who had stayed in the shelter for over 90 days moved immediately after the stay compared with all other children (see Table 15).

**Table 15. Where did the child move, distributed on all children and children with shelter stays of more than 90 days. In percent.**

	All children	Stay > 90 days
Back to the perpetrator	15	5
Back to former residence but without the perpetrator	17	8
New dwelling	39	64
Other shelter	10	5
Family treatment institution or suchlike	2	2
Relatives/friends	5	3
Other	9	11
Don't know	2	2
Total	99	100
N	1071	255

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

It appears from Table 15 that the children who stayed longer than 90 days less frequently moved back to the perpetrator, to another shelter or to relatives and friends. Instead they more often moved to a new dwelling than children who stayed in the shelter for a shorter period. This could indicate that some women and children stay longer in the shelter primarily because they are waiting for a permanent address to move to.

A stay in a shelter is a break with the child's normal life in relation to networks, day care, school, hobbies etc. For this reason it is not desirable that children have to spend long periods in shelters – even if the shelters have worked hard to improve their activities for children.

**5.2 Cessation of school and day care**

For many children in shelters, the stay means that they have to quit their nursery, kindergarten or school.

Eighty-nine percent of all the children attended school or day care before the shelter stay. There is no significant difference between nationality and the number of children who went to school or day care before the shelter stay.

**Table 16. Did the child have to quit day care/school at moving into the shelter, by nationality. In percent**

	Yes	No	Total	N
All children	80	20	100	899
Danish children	76	24	100	438
Non-Danish children	84	14	98	429

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

It appears from Table 16 that 80% of the children who attended school or day care before the shelter stay quit their institution or school on moving into the shelter.

Relatively more non-Danish children than Danish children stopped – that is 84% against 76% of the Danish children.

**Table 17. Did the child attend school/day care prior to shelter stay, by age groups. In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
0-6 years	91	7	2	100	482
7-12 years	98	2	0	100	330
13-17 years	92	8	0	100	122
18 years or older	100	0	0	100	1
Total	94	5	1	100	935

It appears from Table 17 that 91% of the 0-6 year-olds went to a nursery, private day care, kindergarten or pre-school class before the stay in the shelter. This means an increase of 11 percentage points compared with 2006 and an increase of 16 percentage points compared with 2005. Of these 91%, 88% ceased going to their institution (see Table 18) when they moved into the shelter.

The 7-12 year-olds are subject to compulsory school attendance. Before the stay in the shelter, 98% said they attended school (see Table 17). Of these 98%, 74% dropped school at moving into the shelter (see Table 18).

Ninety-two percent of the teenagers said they went to school before the stay (see Table 17), and 80% of them stopped going to school during the stay (see Table 18).

**Table 18. Did the child have to stop school/day care when moving into shelter, by age groups. In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
0-6 years	88	12	0	100	437
7-12 years	74	25	1	100	322
13-17 years	80	20	0	100	112
18 years or older	100	0	0	100	1
Total	82	18	0	100	872

That the child quit day care or school at moving into the shelter, however, does not mean that the child did not attend school or day care during its whole stay. In the 2007 statistics it was asked whether the child, during the shelter stay, started in a new day care or school, whether the child started in its old day care/school, and how long a break the child had from its old day care or school.

**Table 19. Did the child start in a new school/day care during the shelter stay, by age groups. In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total
0-6 years	11	89	100	378
7-12 years	25	74	99	237
13-17 years	13	87	100	89
18 years or older	0	100	100	1
Total	16	84	100	705

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

It appears from Table 19 that 11% of the 0-6 year olds who stopped day care or school started in a new institution. On average the children of this age group who started in their old institution again had been away for 29 days. On average the Danish children were absent for 26 days while the non-Danish children stayed away for 33 days on average.

Twenty-five percent of the 7-12 year olds who stopped school started in a new school (see Table 19) and 69% started in their old school again (see Table 20). The children in this age group who started in their old school again had been away for 21 days on average. The average absence of Danish children and non-Danish children was similar: The Danish children stayed away for 20 days and the non-Danish children for 21 days.

Thirteen percent of the 13-17 year olds who stopped school started in a new school (see Table 19), and 69% started in their old school (see Table 20). On average the teenagers who started in the old school had been away for 12 days. The average absence of Danish teenagers and non-Danish teenagers was relatively similar: The Danish teenagers stayed away for 11 days and the non-Danish teenagers for 13 days.

**Table 20. Did the child start in an old school/day care during the shelter stay, by age groups. In percent**

	Yes	No	Total	N
0-6 years	59	41	100	372
7-12 years	69	31	100	234
13-17 years	69	31	100	89
18 or older	100	0	100	1
Total	64	36	100	696

A group of 206 children, corresponding to 18% of all the children who stayed for a week or longer in a shelter, quit their day care or school at moving in and did not start in a new or old institution. As it can be seen from Table 21, 65% of these children were between 0 and 6, 24% between 7 and 12, and 10% were teenagers.

**Table 21. Did the child stop attending school/day care without starting again, by age groups? In percent**

	Number	Percent	Accumulated percent
0-6 years	132	65	65
7-12 years	49	24	90
13-17 years	21	10	100
Total	202	99	

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Table 22 shows how these children, who stopped school or day care at moving in to the shelter and did not start again during the stay, are distributed in relation to age and length of stay. In the age group 0-6 year olds, 74 children stayed in the shelter for 30 days or longer without being in a day care – 30 of them for over 90 days. In the age group 7-12 a total of 23 children spent more than 30 days in a shelter without going to school – nine for more than 90 days. In the age group 13-17, seven stayed in the shelter for 30 days or longer without going to school – five of them for over 90 days.

**Table 22. Children who stopped attending school/day care without starting again, by age groups and length of stay. Number<sup>19</sup>**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years	Total	N
8-14 days	22	5	6	33	33
15-30 days	36	21	8	65	65
31-60 days	24	10	0	34	34
61-90 days	20	4	2	26	26
91 days or longer	30	9	5	44	44
N	132	49	21	202	202

The local councils have a duty to provide schooling for children of compulsory school age after three weeks. When looking further into the figures it becomes evident that among the 7-12 year-olds there were 35 children who were in a shelter for more than 21 days without attending school, and the same applies to 12 teenagers.

**5.3 Reasons for cessation**

There may be many reasons why a child has to stop its school/day care when moving into a shelter. One evident reason is the fact that the distance from the shelter to the school/day care becomes too great. Another reason could be that it is dangerous for the child to move outside the shelter in relation to the violent father or mother’s partner. The mental condition of the mother and child in the acute situation could also be a contributing reason why it is impossible to send the child outside the walls of the shelter. If it is the immediate perception that the stay will be brief, it does not always seem relevant to let the child start in a new school or day

<sup>19</sup> Since the number of responses in the various categories is small, the figures are stated in numbers instead of percent.

care institution if it is believed that the child would soon have to change to a more permanent solution.

The questionnaire asked for the reasons for the cessation and the response options were threat, distance, unresolved custody, the child needs peace, the resident authorities won't pay, the new authorities will not provide a place in a day care and other. The questionnaire only asked for the most important reason. The responses are distributed as indicated in Table 11.

**Table 23. Reasons for school/day care cessation at time of moving into shelter**

	Number	Percent
Threat	217	38
Distance	240	42
Unresolved custody	68	12
The child needs peace	29	5
The resident authorities won't pay	5	1
Other	12	2
Don't know	1	0
Total	572	100

The most frequent reason for school/day care cessation was distance. This reason was given for 42% of the children. For 38% of the children who stopped in their school/day care the reason was threat. This could be a threat to the child or a threat if the mother's residence was disclosed. For 12%, unresolved parental custody was stated as the reason. For 5% it was stated that they child needed peace and quiet, while for 1% the stated reason was that the resident authorities wouldn't pay. Two percent gave other reasons for cessation, including "cannot afford the transportation" and "risk that the father would look up the child".

Table 24 shows the stated reasons for school/day care cessation distributed on Danish/non-Danish.

**Table 24. Reasons for school/day care cessation distributed across Danish/non-Danish. In percent**

	Danish	Non-Danish
Threat	28	47
Distance	47	36
Unresolved custody	15	9
The child needs peace	8	3
Resident authorities won't pay	0	1
Other	2	3
Don't know	0	0
Total	100	99
N	252	300

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

There are dissimilar reasons why Danish and non-Danish children stop attending their day care or school. Several of the mothers of non-Danish children found that it was unsafe for

their children to continue in their day care or school and therefore chose to let the child stop. This is 47% compared with 28% for the Danish children. Cessation reasoned by distance was stated by 47% of the Danish children and 36% of the non-Danish children.

## 6. Children's experiences with domestic violence

In the Beijing declaration from 1995 the United Nations defines “violence against women” as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”.

This report, however, is about *children*. Children are protected by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child from 1989 which Denmark ratified in June 1991. This convention determines that children have the right to be protected against war, violence, maltreatment and exploitation. Article 19 of the convention is about abuse and determines that the state has a duty to protect the child against all forms of abuse committed by parents or others, and to prevent all forms of abuse and remedy its effects when it happens. This means that society has a clear obligation to intervene and support children who are being subjected to violence and maltreatment.

In Denmark, the parental right to administer corporal punishment was abolished in 1997. This means that abuse for disciplinary purposes, such as a slap in the face or a spanking, is also against the law. Instead, the Act on Parental Custody of Children and Visiting Rights has formulated it in the following way (Section 2(2)): “The child is entitled to care and protection. The child must be treated with respect for his or her body and the child must not be subjected to corporal punishment or any other offensive treatment.”

According to this Act, the holder of the parental custody must see to it that the child is not subjected to abuse: “Parental custody involves a duty to protect the child against physical and psychological abuse or any other offensive treatment”.

For the vast majority of the children in the shelters, domestic violence has been part of their childhood life for a shorter or longer period. The stay in the shelter is mainly caused by violence directed at their mother. Violence against a person who is as close to the child as the mother is also violence against the child and can have serious consequences for the child's psychosocial development (read more in chapter 6.6). In families where violence among the parents is common, there is also an increased risk that the violence is aimed directly at the children.

The 2007 study has also tried to distinguish between the violence against the mother/siblings and the violence against the child, and we have asked in detail about the abuse of the child. Furthermore, the survey has asked about the child's main reaction when the mother was abused, how long the domestic violence has been part of the child's life, whether the child has told anybody outside the household about the domestic violence and whether there has been any follow-up to the child's story.

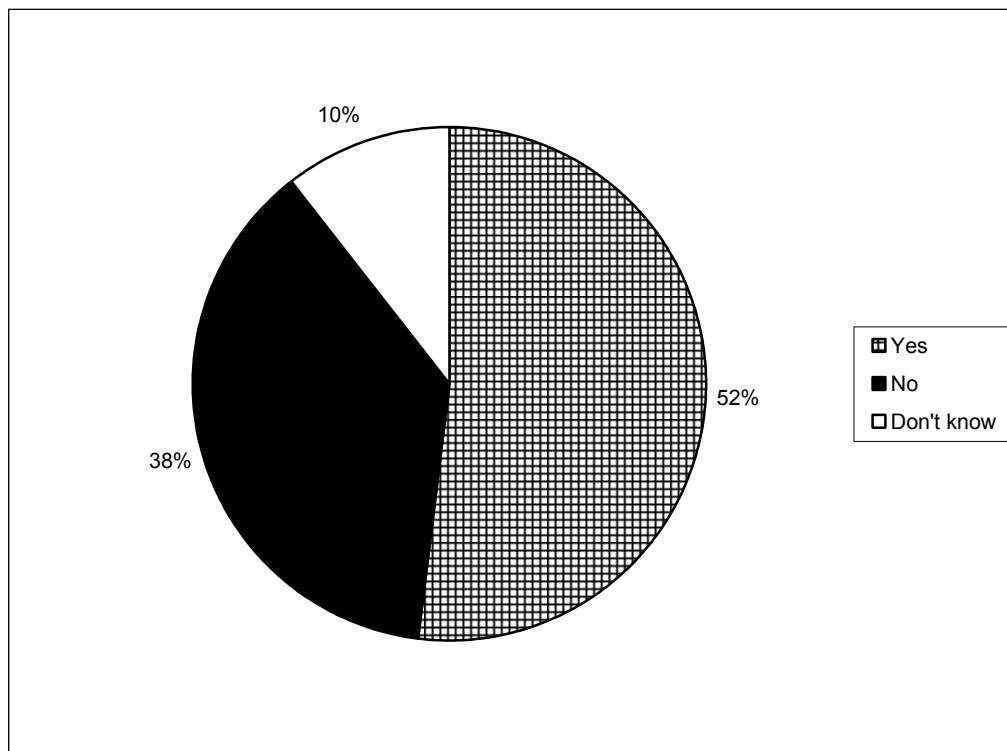
### 6.1 Abuse of the child

During the last few years, brain researchers have increasingly found scientific evidence that childhood traumas – such as repeatedly being subjected to violence by a care person – can affect the development of the brain. In some cases a CT scanning of the child's brain can show whether the child had been subjected to trauma since the brain of a traumatised child

will often be smaller than the brain of a normally developed child<sup>20</sup>. It appears that the earlier in life a person was subjected to traumas the greater the impact on the person's brain function and personality. Children mirror the world they grow up in. If that world is characterised by violence, threats and unpredictability the brain will adjust to the stressful situation and be in a form of constant emergency preparedness. This means that children who are repeatedly subjected to violence by a care person are more likely to develop hyperactive behaviour, anxiety, disquiet, concentration problems, sleeplessness and hypertension<sup>21</sup>.

Fifty-two percent of the children had personally been subjected to abuse by one or several family members. Thirty-eight percent had not been subjected to abuse and for 10% the answer is not known. The responses appear from the figure below.

**Figure 9. Has the child been subjected to abuse by family members? In percent**



*N* = 1015

This means that more than half of the children who arrived in shelters due to domestic violence had also been victims of abuse directed at their own person. There are different types of abuse.

<sup>20</sup> Perry, B.D. & R. Polland, 1997.

<sup>21</sup> Perry, B.D. 2000. See also Browne, C & C. Winkelman 2007, Linning M. & C.A. Kearney 2004, and Duckworth et al. 2000

## 6.2 The form of abuse

The abuse can have various forms, and the 2007 statistics distinguish between physical abuse, mental abuse, sexual assault and material abuse. In the manual for the statistics the various forms of abuse are defined as follows: *Physical abuse* is any type of physical power such as slapping, kicking, pushing and strangulation. *Mental abuse* involves actions that frighten, humiliate or neglect the child for instance by being locked up, being threatened with spanking or hitting, or witnessing violence against others. *Sexual abuse/assault* is violations directed at the child's sexuality. *Material abuse* means destruction of the child's belongings or that the child is denied access to its belongings. This category appeared for the first time in 2006. The same child can appear several times in the table (Table 25) since the categories do not exclude each other. One child can have experienced several of these different forms of abuse. Abuse of the child is distributed in the following way in the four categories:

**Table 25. The type of child abuse 2006**

	Number	Percentage of all children*	Percentage of children subjected to abuse**
Physical abuse	311	28	59
Mental abuse	497	44	94
Sexual abuse/assault	20	2	4
Material abuse	86	8	16
Don't know	4	0	1

\*N = 1120, \*\*N = 527 (It was possible to tick more categories so the figures do not add up to 100)

Physical violence against the child was experienced by well over a quarter, or 28%, of the children in the survey and by more than half, 59%, of those who were subjected to abuse. Nearly all children subjected to domestic violence were mentally abused. This was 94% corresponding to 44% of all children in the survey. Four per cent of the children who were subjected to abuse were victims of sexual abuse. This is 20 children or 2% of all children in the survey. Sixteen percent of the children who were abused were materially abused.

Sixty-two percent of the children who were abused experienced more than one form of abuse: 49% had been subjected to two forms of abuse, 12% to three and 1% of the children had been subjected to all forms of abuse.

## 6.3 The perpetrator

Family members are defined in this study as comprising the biological father, the mother's spouse/live-in partner or boyfriend, the mother and the mother's former spouse/live-in partner or boyfriend. Since it is known that other family members also abuse children, the category "other family members" was included. The perpetrator distributed on form of abuse appears from the table below.

**Table 26. Form of abuse distributed on perpetrator. In percent**

	Physical abuse	Mental abuse	Sexual abuse/assault	Material abuse
Biological father	70	65	65	60
Mother's spouse/live-in partner/boyfriend	9	14	10	26
Mother	15	14	0	6
Mother's former spouse/live-in partner/boyfriend	1	2	15	6
Other family members	5	3	5	2
Don't know	1	1	5	0
Total	101	98	100	100
N	348	575	20	95

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Table 26 shows that in all categories of abuse, the biological father was responsible for the majority of the abuse. The biological father was responsible for about two thirds of the physical, mental, sexual and material abuse. The mother's live-in partner or boyfriend was the perpetrator in 9-14% of all forms of abuse while the mother committed the abuse in 15% of the cases but in none of the cases of sexual abuse. Twenty children had been violated sexually. Of these 13 children were violated by their biological father, two children by the mother's live-in partner or boyfriend, three children by the mother's former live-in partner, spouse or boyfriend, and one child was violated by another family member. The questionnaire does not show who this other person was. For one child the answer was "don't know".

When Table 25 and 26 are compared it is evident that the number of perpetrators is higher than the number of children subjected to abuse for all forms of abuse except for sexual assault (see Table 27).

**Table 27. Number of children subjected to abuse and number of perpetrators**

	Number of children subjected to abuse	Number of perpetrators
Physical abuse	311	348
Mental abuse	497	575
Sexual abuse/assault	20	20
Material abuse	86	95
Don't know	4	0
Total	918	1038

This means that a group of children subjected to physical, mental or material abuse were in contact with more than one perpetrator. For 14% of the children who were physically abused, 19% of those subjected to mental abuse and 6% of those children subjected to material abuse, more than one family member committed the abuse.

## 6.4 Abuse of the child in relation to gender, age and nationality

Nearly the same share of boys and girls who stayed in a shelter had been abused by family members. The percentages were 51 for boys and 52 for girls.

There were only small differences when it comes to the form of abuse the girls and boys were subjected to although there was a greater difference when it came to sexual abuse. Of the 20 children in the survey who were sexually assaulted 14 were girls and six were boys.

Older children were more abused than younger children (see Table 28). Sixty-seven percent of the teenagers and 59% of the children over the age of 7 were subjected to abuse directed at their person while for children between 0 and 6, the percentage was 48. This means, however, that nearly half of the youngest children were abused by members of their immediate family. The reason why the older children were more subjected to abuse could be that they had lived longer in a family marked by domestic violence. Studies show that battered women are frequently subjected to abuse in major parts of their adult life<sup>22</sup>. This means that for some of the children violence and abuse were permanent and accumulating stress factors during their entire childhood.

**Table 28. Has the child been abused by family members? By age groups. In percent**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years	18 years or older	Total
Yes	48	59	67	100	54
No	42	30	19	0	35
Don't know	10	11	14	0	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100
N	509	325	102	1	936

As it appears from Table 29 there were just very small differences in the nature of the abuse that children in the various age groups were subjected to. For all types of abuse, however, the risk of being a victim was greatest for children in the 13-17 age group.

**Table 29. The form of abuse by age groups. In percent**

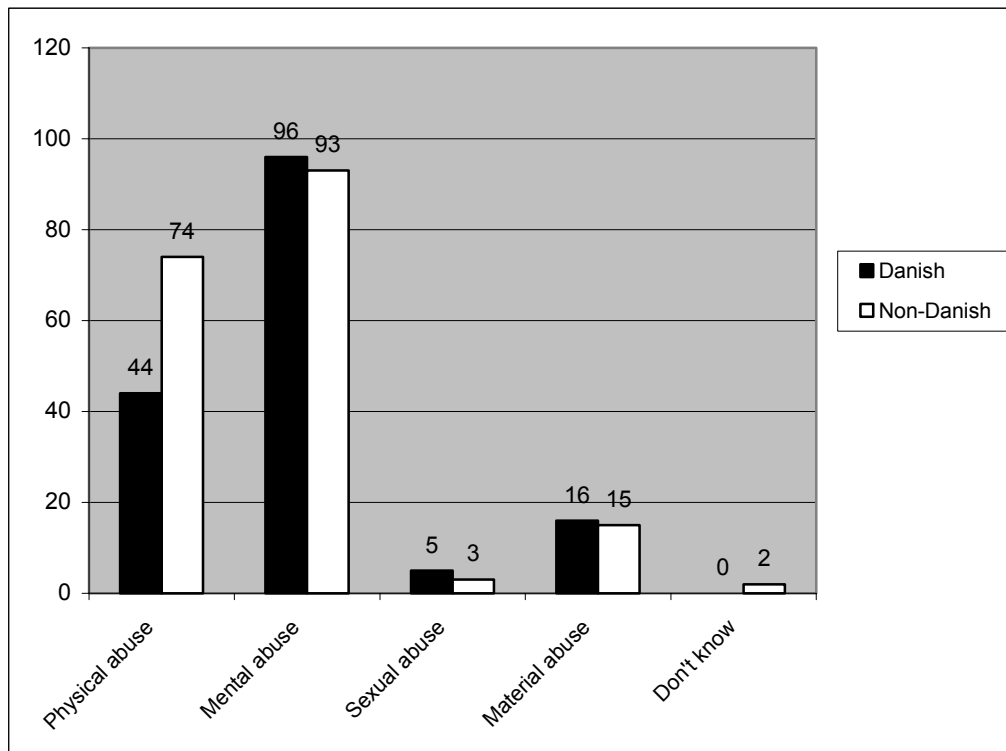
	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years
Physical abuse	59	54	76
Mental abuse	93	95	98
Sexual abuse	4	4	5
Material abuse	15	17	20
Don't know	2	0	0
N	229	196	83

It seems relevant to study whether there is a difference in the abuse of children in Danish and non-Danish families. If the various forms of abuse are considered together there is no significant difference. 53% of the Danish children and 51% of the non-Danish children were abused. But looking at the distribution on the nature of the abuse there was a difference between Danish and non-Danish children. The non-Danish children were more subjected to physical abuse than the Danish children, see Figure 10. Among the children who were abused, 44% of the

<sup>22</sup> See Lybecker Jensen, V. and Sissel Nielsen, 2005.

Danish children were physically abused compared with 74% of the non-Danish children. Danish children, however, were more often subjected to mental, sexual and material abuse.

**Figure 10. Perceived forms of abuse against the child by Danish/non-Danish. In percent**



*Danish N = 270, Non-Danish = 224*

### **6.5 The frequency and severity of the abuse**

The concept of violence does not have an unambiguous content but is, to a major degree, a historically, geographically and culturally changing construction. With the 1997 abolition of the parental right to administer corporal punishment in Denmark, it became illegal to subject children to corporal punishment. What was previously a legal element in the upbringing – although it was far from accepted in all circles – became a criminal offence. Since then the attitude to physical punishment of children has changed so that there is now general consensus in Danish society to denounce this type of punishment. There are, however, still groups in society for whom the phenomenon, which in some contexts is called parental disciplining such as shaking by the arm, slaps across the fingers or in the face or spanking, is practiced as part of the upbringing. This is either because it is considered legitimate in the family or sub-culture or is an expression of parents' powerlessness in relation to the behaviour of their children.

But some of the violence committed against children differs from parental disciplining. In these cases, the violence against the child is released randomly as a result of the acute mood of the perpetrator, or the abuse of the child becomes a consequence of the violence between the adults. The graveness, the length, the frequency and the degree of predictability are vital

factors when it comes to the severity of the consequences for the child in the shorter and longer run<sup>23</sup>.

### Forms of physical abuse

The questionnaires asked about the nature of the physical and mental abuse that the children were subjected to and the frequency of the physical violence.

The table below describes the physical violence in different degrees of severity. It includes fixation or locking up, which is also a form of physical violence, and such abuse as being denied the fulfilment of basic needs such as food, the right to go to bed, being shut out of the home, or being exposed to cold or heat without protection. The distribution on these categories appears from Table 30. The same child can appear repeated times in the table since the categories do not exclude each other. Accordingly, one child can have experienced several of these different forms of physical violence

**Table 30. Forms of physical abuse of the child**

	Number	Percent
Slaps in the face, shaking, spanking etc.	202	65
The child sat on mother's arm while she was being beaten	43	14
Beating, beating with objects, kicking, pushing or thrown around	107	34
Physical threats with a weapon for instance a knife	23	7
Mistreatment in the form of repeated kicking, severe punches, bites, burns	24	8
Fixation	26	8
Denied water, food, rest/bed, access to the home/bed or protection against heat/cold	38	12
Other	52	17
Don't know	18	6

*N = 311 (It was possible to tick several options so percentages do not add up to 100.)*

Parental disciplining such as slaps in the face, shaking, spanking etc. was the most common form of physical abuse, and 65% of the children who were physically abused were subjected to this – often in combination with other forms of violence. Of the children who were physically abused 14% had been abused because the mother was subjected to violence while she was carrying the child on her arm. Thirty-four percent of the children had been beaten, kicked, pushed or thrown around, 7% had been physically threatened with a weapon. Eight percent of the children had experienced distinct maltreatment with repeated kicking, severe punching or bites or burns. Eight percent of the children had tried to be fixated, while 12% had been denied the fulfilment of basic needs. Seventeen percent of the children had experienced other forms of physical abuse such as attempt of strangulation and being pulled by the ear.

Forty-four percent of the children who had been subjected to physical violence experienced more than one form of physical abuse. Twenty-two percent had been subjected to two forms, 14% to three forms 4% of the children for four forms and 4% of the children had been subjected to five forms of physical abuse. One child had been subjected to six forms of violence.

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<sup>23</sup> Dyregrov, A. 1998

The questionnaire had an option to give examples of the specific violence the children had experienced. Quotes from the questionnaires are listed below.

Some children had been subjected to what can be characterised as parental disciplining, for instance being shaken:

- *When he was a small baby, the father shook him violently and punched his ears when he cried.*
- *A few times the child was pulled by the hair and shaken by the father when she wouldn't sleep.*
- *She expresses it herself as being "shaken by the cheek".*

Some of the physical abuse that children were subjected to was committed using objects of various types. This type of abuse is more violent and more targeted than the parental disciplining.

- *The child was burnt with hot wax from a lit candle.*
  - *The child was beaten with a fly swat.*
  - *Beaten with slippers or a wooden spoon. Beaten under the feet.*
  - *Beaten on the temple with a clenched fist. Strangled, had a toothbrush pushed down the throat.*

In other instances the perpetrator fixated the child with tools:

- *The father pulled the boy by the arm, tied him with a cord and fastened him to a chair.*
- *Several times tied the girl to a chair with stockings and gaffa tape.*

Much of the violence directed at the children occurred near the mother. Either when the mother was carrying the child or when the child tried to intervene between the perpetrator and the mother during quarrels and fights:

- *When mummy was being hit, the child intervened and was thrown away.*
- *When the father was committing physical violence against the mother, the son often tried to protect his mother. In those cases the son was also hit by the father.*

In some cases the abuse of the child took place while the perpetrator was drunk or stoned - sometimes he dropped the child under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- *Drunk father who took the child away from the mother dropped him on the floor.*
- *The man several times dropped the baby because he was strongly influenced by cannabis.*

There was no pronounced difference in the nature and severity of the physical violence against boys and girls. It was not possible either to make firm conclusions regarding the difference in nature and severity of the physical violence in relation to age. However, there is a slight indication that the oldest children were in the greatest risk of being subjected to the most violent forms of physical abuse such as definite maltreatment. Table 31 shows, for instance, that 14% of the teenagers subjected to physical abuse were maltreated. The percentage is eight for the 7-12 year-olds and six for the 0-6 year-olds. Similarly 62% of the teenagers who were physically abused were subjected to beating, beating with objects, kicking, pushing or throwing around compared with 34% of the 7-12 year-olds and 25% of the 0-6 year-olds.

**Table 31. Forms of physical abuse of the child by age. In percent**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years
Slaps in the face, shaking, spanking etc.	69	64	66
The child sat on mother's arm while she was being beaten	23	3	7
Beating, beating with objects, kicking, pushing or thrown around	25	34	62
Physical threats with a weapon for instance a knife	7	5	14
Mistreatment in the form of repeated kicking, severe punches, bites, burns	6	8	14
Fixation	9	8	9
Denied water, food, rest/bed, access to the home/bed or protection against heat/cold	12	7	24
Other	16	14	21
Don't know	9	17	7
N	138	105	58

*It was possible to tick several options so percentages do not add up to 100.*

More non-Danish than Danish children were physically abused. This may be connected to the fact that many parents of these children came from areas in which the parental right to corporal punishment still exists and where, unlike Denmark, it is not unacceptable to physically discipline one's children. As it appeared from Figure 10, 74% of the non-Danish children who were abused were abused physically compared with 44% of the Danish children. The distribution of the various forms of physical violence is, however, not markedly different for Danish and non-Danish children (see Table 32). There were slightly more instances of parental disciplining and of the more serious abuse of non-Danish children.

**Table 32. Forms of physical abuse of the child by nationality. In percent**

	Danish	Non-Danish
Slaps in the face, shaking, spanking etc.	61	69
The child sat on mother's arm while she was being beaten	13	16
Beating, beating with objects, kicking, pushing or thrown around	33	37
Physical threats with a weapon for instance a knife	6	8
Mistreatment in the form of repeated kicking, severe punches, bites, burns	5	16
Fixation	11	7
Denied water, food, rest/bed, access to the home/bed or protection against heat/cold	11	13
Other	14	17
Don't know	11	11
N	109	183

*It was possible to tick several options so percentages do not add up to 100.*

**Frequency of the physical abuse**

It can be a major strain on a child to have been subjected to abuse once since the child may continue to live with a latent fear that it will happen again and possible let itself be controlled by this fear. There is, however, a difference whether the abuse of the child is an isolated event or whether the violence is a recurring and more dominant part of its life. An isolated event does not require the same degree of change in the mental apparatus as repetitive occurrences, and children who are frequently subjected to violence are more likely to develop symptoms such as hyperactive behaviour, anxiety, disquiet, concentration problems and insomnia<sup>2425</sup>.

The frequency of the violence is shown in Table 33.

**Table 33. Frequency of physical abuse**

	Number	Percent
It happened once	19	7
It happened a few times in the past year	63	22
It happens sometimes	50	17
It happens regularly	49	17
It happens very frequently	61	21
Don't know	50	17
Total	292	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

For 7% of the children the physical abuse was a once-off phenomenon, 22% had experienced violence a few times in the past year, 17% experienced violence sometimes, 17% experienced violence regularly, and 21% of the children experienced violence against them very frequently. This means that a relatively large part of the children who were physically abused lived with the risk of violence as a recurring factor in their life.

Naturally, the most vulnerable children are those who were subjected to both frequent and serious violence. Table 34 shows the distribution of form and severity of the physical abuse on frequency. Note that figures are numerical.

<sup>24</sup> Christensen, E. 2006, Terr, L.C. 1991

<sup>25</sup> Perry, B.D. 2000

**Table 34. The nature of the physical abuse by frequency. Number<sup>26</sup>**

	It happened once	It happened a few times in the past year	It happens sometimes	It happens regularly	It happens very frequently	Don't know	N
Slaps in the face, shaking, spanking etc.	8	42	48	35	52	15	200
The child sat on mother's arm while she was being beaten	2	11	3	7	15	2	40
Beating, beating with objects, kicking etc.	6	13	15	22	43	8	107
Physical threats with a weapon for instance a knife	0	3	6	4	9	1	23
Mistreatment in the form of repeated kicking, severe punches, bites etc.	0	1	4	4	15	0	24
Fixation	1	1	4	6	13	1	26
Denied water, food etc.	0	1	6	13	16	2	38
Other	3	10	10	7	12	10	52
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	17	17
N	19	63	50	49	61	50	527

The table shows that 19 children regularly or very frequently experienced distinct maltreatment, 65 children regularly or very frequently experienced more serious forms of violence such as beating with objects and pushing, 29 children were regularly or very frequently denied the fulfilment of basic needs, 19 children were regularly or very frequently fixated, and 13 children were regularly or very frequently threatened with a weapon.

### **Mental abuse**

Mental abuse also takes many forms. It may be threats against the child, against its mother or siblings with the purpose of threatening, frightening or forcing the child. The child may be subjected to degrading speech, verbal assaults, be ignored or systematically unfairly treated in relation to siblings or others. The same child can appear several times in the table since the categories do not exclude each other. This means that one child can have experienced many different forms of mental abuse. The mental abuse of the children was distributed as follows:

<sup>26</sup> Since the number of responses in the various categories is small, the figures are counted in numbers rather than percent.

**Table 35. Forms of mental abuse the child has been subjected to**

	Number	Percent
Degrading/humiliating speech to or about the child	275	55
Threats against the child	171	34
Threats against its mother or siblings	246	49
Locked up	68	14
Ignored	146	29
Unfairly treated	77	15
Other	100	20
Don't know	26	5

*N = 497. (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

It appears from Table 35 that one third of the children, who were mentally abused, were subjected to threats against themselves and half of them to threats against their mother or brothers and sisters. More than half of the children felt that they were being spoken to in a degrading and humiliating way. Fourteen percent had been locked up, 29% had been ignored and 15% found that they were being treated unfairly compared with others. One fifth of the children experienced some form of mental abuse that was not included in the fixed categories. It could be spitting in the face and being threatened with being abandoned.

Sixty-nine percent of the children who had been mentally abused experienced more than one form of mental abuse. Twenty-nine percent had been subjected to two forms, 18% to three forms, 13% to four forms, 7% to five forms and 2% had been subjected to all six forms of mental abuse.

**Table 36. Forms of mental abuse the child has been subjected to, by age. In percent**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years
Degrading/humiliating speech	46	58	80
Threats against the child	33	28	57
Threats against its mother or siblings	52	43	63
Locked up	16	8	23
Ignored	31	26	35
Treated unfairly	13	17	19
Other	21	22	10
Don't know	3	9	4
N	213	187	81

*(Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

As can be seen from Table 36, older children experienced all the specific forms of mental abuse slightly oftener than younger children. This means that the 13-17 year-olds were at a greater risk of being threatened, experiencing threats against their mother and siblings, being locked up, ignored or treated unfairly than the younger children although the younger children also often experienced different forms of mental abuse.

There is no systematic difference in the form of mental abuse in relation to gender and there is no pronounced difference in the mental abuse of the children in Danish and non-Danish families.

Examples of mental abuse were given in the questionnaires. A large part of the mental abuse of the children were threats of violence, maltreatment and, in the worst case, murder:

- *The child is being yelled at and humiliated in front of the other children. Threatened to beat the child and mother if they do a specified thing.*
- *Daddy threatens to kill mummy.*
- *When the child wets his pants, the father threatens to cut off his willy.*
- *Often threatened with being killed, cut into pieces, or denied sleep.*
- *Threats of being sent to orphanage and told that none of the parents want the child.*
- *Threats of being sent to the parents' home country to be properly disciplined.*

Another major mental strain the children were subjected to was to witness violence against their mother – many times at very close range:

- *Has seen daddy hit mummy so violently that she was unconscious.*
- *Has often seen the mother being subjected to various forms of abuse.*
- *Seen the father strangle the mother and bang her head against the table.*
- *Mummy was hit while she breastfed the boys.*

Other forms of mental strain involve severe parental neglect and humiliating behaviour by the perpetrators. It can both be in the shape of neglect of the child and more directly degrading behaviour:

- *If the child for instance is sick and cries a lot, the crying is ignored and the child is left crying in his bed.*
- *The child is given little attention compared with the three siblings.*
- *The child was not allowed to react with crying or suchlike when she saw her mother being mentally and physically abused.*
- *The father tells the child how stupid she is compared with her sister regarding marks at school.*
- *Constant degrading.*
- *Talked about as "stupid", "weird", and "be like your sister".*

### **Material abuse**

This type of abuse takes place when the perpetrator either destroys the child's things in order to get its attention or teach it a lesson. Another expression of material abuse is when the perpetrator is angry or drunk and smashes up the home in general:

- *Daddy has destroyed some of her toys when she did not want to tidy them up.*
- *If he was cross, he would throw their things around regardless of whether they were the mother's or children's things.*
- *Throws around with the family's things when he is drunk.*
- *Destroys the child's games and toys.*

### **Sexual abuse**

A total of 20 out of 1120 children had been violated sexually. Some of the violations were directly aimed at the child, while others were directed at the mother while the child was present and forced to look. Examples from the questionnaire show different forms of sexual offence – from kisses to rape:

- *Unacceptable behaviour. Gropes at the child's thighs and breast. Does not stop when the child tells him to.*
- *Has stuck a finger into her vagina and anus.*
- *To the question of activity with the father, the girl says: "We kiss".*
- *Forced to see mummy being raped. Pictures of nude women were hanging all over the home. Porn films he couldn't avoid seeing and hearing.*

## 6.6 Domestic violence

In a meta-analysis four American scientists combined the findings of a total of 118 different studies. All these studies described the consequences for children of growing up in a family with violence. The analysis shows clear correlation between growing up in a home with domestic violence and developing various psychosocial problems. The study also found that witnessing inter-parental violence was as stressful for the child – measured by the after-effects it had for the child – as being abused physically in person<sup>2728</sup>.

According to the LOKK Statics for Adults 2007, 99% of women in shelters in 2007 indicated domestic violence as the reason for their shelter stay. A majority of the children of these women had witnessed or overheard the abuse of the mother. In the same way as it is strongly stressful for a child to be the victim of abuse, it is also strongly stressful to witness one's mother being abused physically or mentally, or being threatened with violence. Child witnesses of abuse often also show signs of problems in the form of insecurity, anxiety, low self-esteem, aggression, and depressions, which also cause somatic disorders such as insomnia, stomach aches and concentration problems<sup>29</sup>.

In 2007, 80% of the children in shelters had overheard or witnessed the abuse of their mother (see Table 37). Last year 84% of the children in shelters had overheard or witnessed the abuse of their mother, and it could seem that there is a small decline in the share of children who witnessed or overheard the abuse of their mother. However, this year more children answered "don't know" to the question whether the child had witnessed or overheard abuse of its mother, so it is actually uncertain whether it was a real decline.

**Table 37. Did the child witness/overhear abuse of the mother? In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
Witnessed/overheard abuse of mother	80	9	11	100	1005

Children also witness abuse of their siblings, but not to the same extent. The reason is that the abuse of the children in families with domestic violence is less comprehensive than the abuse of the mother. Still, this form of abuse is highly stressful on children since they often identify with their siblings. In 2007 33% of the children in shelters had overheard or witnessed abuse of their siblings (see Table 38).

<sup>27</sup> Kitzmann, K.M. et al., 2003. See also Quas, J.A. et al 2000.

<sup>28</sup> The present study, however, shows that the children who were abused personally were also assessed to be most heavily impacted.

<sup>29</sup> Dyregrov, A. 1998

**Table 38. Did the child witness/overhear abuse of their siblings? In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
Witnessed/overheard abuse of siblings	33	49	17	99	982

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Children most often witness mental and physical abuse of their mother and siblings. Of the children who witnessed abuse of the mother, 71% witnessed physical abuse, 95% had witnessed mental abuse, 4% witnessed sexual abuse, while 19% witnessed material abuse. Of the children who witnessed abuse of siblings, 62% witnessed physical abuse, 93% mental abuse and 13% material abuse (see Table 39).

**Table 39. Forms of abuse of mother and siblings that the children witnessed. In percent**

	Physical abuse	Mental abuse	Sexual abuse/assault	Material abuse	Don't know	N
Abuse of mother	71	95	4	19	1	801
Abuse of siblings	62	93	0	13	1	326

*(Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

As a new feature, the 2007 study asked how the child most frequently reacted to the abuse of the mother. It appears that 801 children had witnessed or overheard the abuse of the mother. The main reactions appear from table 40.

**Table 40. The child's main reaction when the mother is being abused**

	Number	Percent
The child hides	226	28
The child intervenes to prevent the violence	146	18
The child fetches help	38	5
Other	213	27
Don't know	269	34

*N= 801. (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

The most frequent reaction of children who witnessed or overheard abuse of the mother was hiding. Of the children who experienced abuse of the mother, 28% hid, 18% tried to go in between to prevent the abuse, 5% fetched help, and 27% did something else. Something else covered cried, were passive, protected siblings, sought comfort from siblings or ran away from home.

**Table 41. The child's main reactions when the mother is being abused, by age. In percent**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years
The child hides	31	28	29
The child intervenes to prevent the violence	12	22	42
The child fetches help	2	6	15
Other	28	25	16
Don't know	36	32	27
N	389	265	98

*(Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

It appears from table 41 that the older children more frequently tried to intervene to prevent the abuse and more often fetch help than the younger children. There was no major difference between the age groups when it comes to the share of children who hid while their mother was being abused.

There is no pronounced difference when looking at the child's main reaction in relation to gender, and similarly, there is no systematic difference when looking at the child's main reaction in relation to whether the child grew up in a Danish or non-Danish family.

The questionnaire invited examples of the main reactions of the child when the abuse of the mother took place. Quotes from the questionnaires are listed below.

When the child had witnessed violence and other abuse of its mother a common reaction was that the child tried to stop the assault- either by getting the mother away from the perpetrator and keeping them apart or by intervening between them:

- *The child says stop, embraces the mother's leg and cries. Wants the mother to get away.*
- *The child takes mummy's hand, goes into a room and the child locks the door.*
- *Fled the house with mummy. Sometimes hid in the house with mummy.*
- *Tries to distract the father.*
- *He has yelled to daddy several times: "Don't hit my mummy". Gets very sad when it doesn't help.*
- *He hits the father or stands in between the parents.*
- *She stood in front of the father physically to protect her mother. Shouted very loudly – tried to threaten the father that she would hit him if he didn't stop.*
- *She tried to say to her father that he shouldn't do it, but he got very angry with her, and she went into her room.*
- *Makes noises so that daddy hits the child instead of the mother.*
- *The last time he wanted to defend mummy with a pair of scissors.*

Some children/teenagers showed self-destructive behaviour after having witnessed assault of their mother.

- *Has cut her arms in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade due to inner pain.*
- *Once he hit his head against the wall.*

Some children try to get away from the unpleasant situation, either physically or mentally. They either leave the room, try to sleep away from the problem or they close off mentally while the abuse is taking place:

- *Snuggles in bed, gets her teddy, lies down to sleep.*
- *He makes himself as quiet (invisible) as possible.*
- *Goes into his room and pretends to be asleep.*
- *Stayed in the room but closed off mentally.*

In 2007 in a new line of questions the survey asked how long domestic violence had been part of the child’s life. This can be seen from Table 42. Seven percent of the children had lived with domestic violence for less than 6 months while 8% of the children had lived with domestic violence for more than 10 years. The accumulated percentage shows that 41% lived with domestic violence for two years or less and, oppositely, that 59% of the children had lived with it for more than two years.

**Table 42. How long has domestic violence been part of the child’s life?**

	Number	Percent	Accumulated percent
Less than 6 months	72	7	8
Between 6 months and 1 year	94	10	20
1-2 years	165	17	41
3-4 years	181	19	63
5-6 years	129	13	79
7-8 years	64	7	87
9-10 years	33	3	91
More than 10 years	75	8	100
Don’t know	156	16	
Total	969	100	

Naturally, the older children had lived with domestic violence for the longest time. The figures marked in bold in Table 43 indicate the percentage of the children who had potentially lived with domestic violence for their entire life. (‘Don’t know’ is not included although the children who appeared in this category in reality may have lived with domestic violence for their whole life.)

**Table 43. How long has domestic violence been part of the child's life, by age groups? In percent**

	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years	Total
Less than 6 months	<b>5</b>	5	8	7
Between 6 months and 1 year	<b>9</b>	7	4	10
1-2 years	<b>27</b>	8	8	17
3-4 years	<b>27</b>	14	8	19
5-6 years	<b>16</b>	14	8	13
7-8 years	0	<b>16</b>	3	7
9-10 years	0	<b>8</b>	3	3
More than 10 years	0	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	8
Don't know	16	19	21	16
Total	100	100	99	100
N	459	318	119	896

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

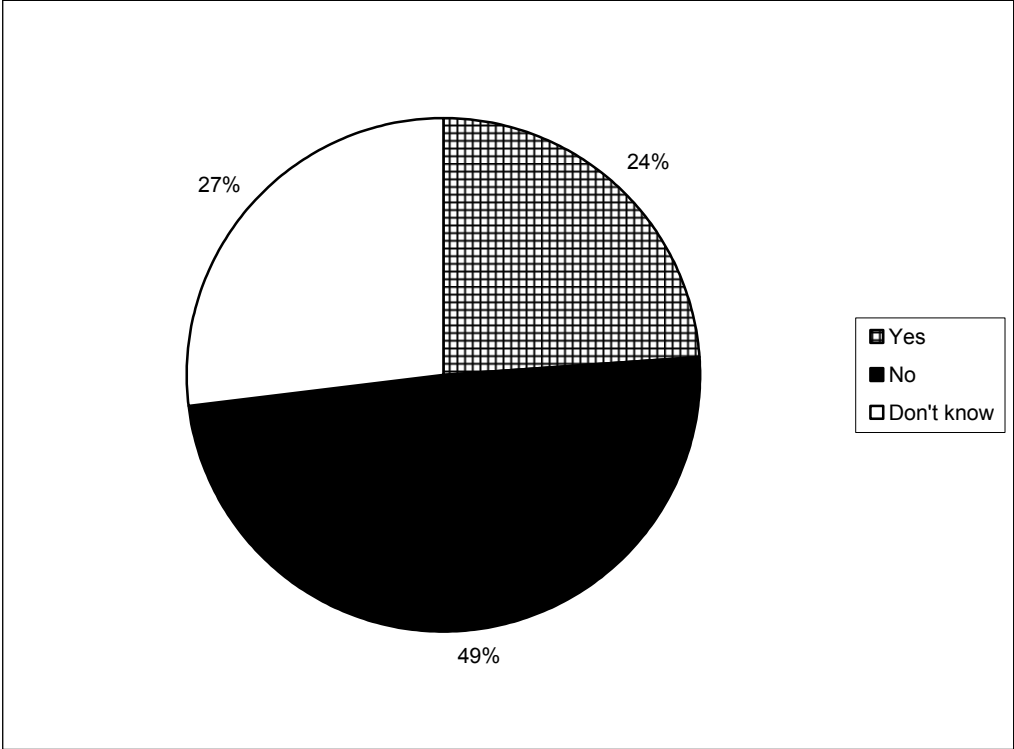
There is no marked difference in the length of domestic violence and gender and similarly no systematic difference in the length of domestic violence and whether the child grew up in a Danish or non-Danish family.

Research shows that local authorities most often become aware of abuse of children through reporting from the child's day care, school, health visitor, hospital or neighbours. More rarely the social workers initiate an evaluation based on suspicion of abuse against the children during an ongoing child procedure. The main reason is that the social workers do not regularly meet the children<sup>30</sup>. Instead, the local authorities are dependent on external reports. In 2007 it was asked whether the child had told anybody outside the household of the abuse. The responses appear from Figure 11.

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<sup>30</sup> Christensen, E. & D.A. Pedersen 2004

**Figure 11. Has the child ever told anyone outside the household of the domestic violence? In percent**



N= 960

Twenty-four percent, or 235 children, had told somebody outside the household about the domestic violence. Girls were more likely than boys to tell about the violence – the figures are 29% for girls and 20% for boys. Age has major significance. As it appears from Table 44, 16% of the 0-6 year-olds, 29% of the 7-12 year-olds and 55% of the 13-17 year-olds had told somebody outside the household about the violence. This means there is a tendency that the older the children were, the greater the likelihood they had told about the violence.

**Table 44. Did the child tell anybody outside the household of the domestic violence, by age groups? In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
0-6 years	16	56	28	100	453
7-12 years	29	40	30	99	320
13-17 years	55	19	26	100	117
Total	26	45	29	100	890

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Table 45 shows who the 235 children who had told about it, had told it to. Fifty-eight children had told family members outside the household, 99 children had told day care staff or teachers, 19 had told neighbours, and 62 had told friends. Seventy-three had told others about the vio-

lence. Others cover employees at this or previous shelters, psychologists, police and grandparents<sup>31</sup>.

**Table 45. Who outside the household did the child tell about the domestic violence?**

	Number	Percent
Other family members	58	25
Day care staff/teachers	99	42
Neighbours	19	8
Friends	62	26
Others	73	31
Don't know	2	1

*N=235. (Several options can be ticked so the percentages do not add up to 100.)*

Of the 235 children who told about the domestic violence, there were 222 answers as to whether the child's story about violence had been followed up. In 124 cases there was a follow-up to the child's story about violence, in 77 cases no action was taken and in 21 cases it is not known whether there was any form of follow-up to the child's story about abuse (see Table 46).

**Table 46. Was there a follow-up to the child's story of domestic violence?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	124	56
No	77	35
Dont know	21	9
Total	222	100

Table 47 shows who followed up on the child's story about domestic violence. As an example, 71% of teachers and day care teachers followed up on the child's story about violence, 18% of these did not follow up (despite a special duty to report), and in 11% of the cases it is not known whether teachers and day care staff followed up on the child's story about domestic violence.

**Table 47. Was there a follow-up to the child's story of domestic violence? In relation to who outside the household the child told about the domestic violence. In percent**

	Yes	No	Don't know	Total	N
Other family members	54	30	16	100	56
Day care staff/teachers	71	18	11	100	96
Neighbours	79	11	11	101	19
Friends	56	33	11	100	57
Others	71	23	6	100	70
Don't know	0	100	0	100	1
Total	56	35	10	101	299

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

<sup>31</sup> 26 questionnaires said that the child had told an employee of this or a previous shelter about the violence. However, it is probable that far more children had told shelter employees about the domestic violence.

In the questionnaire there was an option to describe reactions and consequences of the fact that the child told somebody outside the household about the domestic violence. Quotes from the questionnaire are reproduced below.

When the children had told about the domestic violence, the person they told it to, sometimes wrote a report to the social services or helped the mother and children get to a shelter:

- *The staff at the after-school centre submitted a report to the social authorities.*
- *The school led the social authorities to implement an Section 50 evaluation.*
- *A Section 50 evaluation was initiated on the basis of reporting from the school which said that the child had been beaten at home.*
- *The day care centre wrote a report.*
- *The day care centre reported on violence etc.*
- *The girl confided in the deputy headmaster whom she trusted. The school contacted the social authorities – the school helped the family get to a shelter.*
- *The teacher believed the girl and in this way it became apparent, and the family received help which meant that they were moved into a shelter.*
- *A neighbour took the family to the shelter.*
- *Neighbours contacted the police.*

After the child had told about the abuse that took place in the home, he or she was frequently still highly affected by the ordeal – both physically and mentally. Some children have a hard time when they are reminded of their experiences but they still have a need to talk about them:

- *The child is afraid it will hurt to talk about it, but is filled up and often talks about the abuse.*
- *The child is reluctant to talk about it but has many things to tell. Knows that it reopens old wounds to talk. Still often starts talking about it.*
- *The child has a lot to tell. He has dreams/nightmares – has major conflicts within him. Is afraid of being killed and that mummy is going to die. Has received and will receive help again from a psychologist.*

There were, however, some children who could not or would not open up about their experiences. The reason may be that the perpetrator had told the child not to tell other people about the abuse.

- *The girl says that she has always been told that nobody was to know about what was going on at home. She must keep it a secret.*
- *The child does not want to talk.*

Many of the children who told about the abuse and who had gotten away from the perpetrator did not want to see this person again:

- *Is angry and sad. Does not want to go home, does not miss the father.*
- *She is often angry with daddy – doesn't want to see him again. Is afraid she will be sent to the father's country of origin.*
- *He is afraid of his stepfather and is uncomfortable about meeting him again.*
- *Is very sensitive, very quiet about it, but clearly gives the expression that he does not want to come home.*

Studies show that both being victims of abuse and witnessing assaults on their mother have a profound effect on children. They also show that many of these children perform worse in several parameters than children who were not victims or witnesses of abuse. The reactions differ, but the harmful effects involve psychological, emotional, behavioural, social and cognitive problems<sup>32</sup>. This report makes it evident that 52% of the children who stayed in shelters were subjected to abuse personally and that 80% witnessed abuse of their mother. It also appears from the chapter that many of the children were frequently abused, that they lived with abuse as part of their lives and that they often lived with domestic violence for several years. As a result, many of these children have a strongly increased risk of performing more poorly in a range of areas compared with other children.

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<sup>32</sup> Kitzmann, K.M. et al. 2003

## 7. Psychosocial impact

Children living with repeated assaults of a physical or mental nature are at risk of developing traumas. Witnessing violence against one's closest relatives, for instance one's mother, also strongly increases the risk of developing psychosocial problems. These risks are most pronounced if the violence is repetitive and the threat of violence is always present, although more or less latently. But not all children develop traumas. If the child is well-functioning and lives under reasonable conditions in a caring and supportive environment, it might develop healthily and normally without major, long-lasting psychological injuries. If, on the other hand, living with violence has become a condition, and if the immediate environment cannot offer reasonable security and human resources to care for and support the child, then it is in danger of developing longer-lasting damage<sup>33</sup>. The following describes how the social educators in the shelters evaluated the psychosocial impact on the children.

### 7.1 Evaluating the psychosocial impact on the child

The social educator or other shelter employee who filled in the questionnaire was asked to evaluate the overall psychosocial impact on the child based on the following categories which were designed in 1993 by Schultz Jørgensen et al.<sup>34</sup>:

*Category 1: A child with normal needs* is capable of reacting appropriately to temporary psychosocial impacts (such as dissolution of the family, disease etc.) and shows resistance to temporary psychosocial strains. A child with normal needs will need grown-up support in the close network if it is subjected to temporary psychosocial strains.

*Category 2: A child with special needs* has been subjected to psychosocial impacts without being able to react appropriately at the time. However, the child will display signs that it is capable of developing sufficient resistance to overcome the crisis/impact. The child is impacted by the temporary crisis/stress of the family, but qualified grown-up support in the immediate network and light support, for instance in the form of consultations with a childcare worker, would help the child develop an appropriate resistance.

*Category 3: A child is threatened* when it displays bad social and cultural integration. It is or has been subjected to one or several serious psychosocial impacts where these impacts have not yet turned into permanent damage, but are clearly affecting the child's behaviour. The child has started to develop in a wrong direction. This child will show adjustment and development problems and will need special support in order to change its direction of development and build up resistance.

*Category 4: A problem child* has early and massively been subjected to a series of stressful events during childhood for instance in the immediate family environment and in the early contact with the care persons. The problems and psychosocial impact have left permanent marks on the personality of the child and it displays constant symptoms. This massive impact has affected the development of the child so strongly that in order to arrive at a positive development the child will distinctly need treatment.

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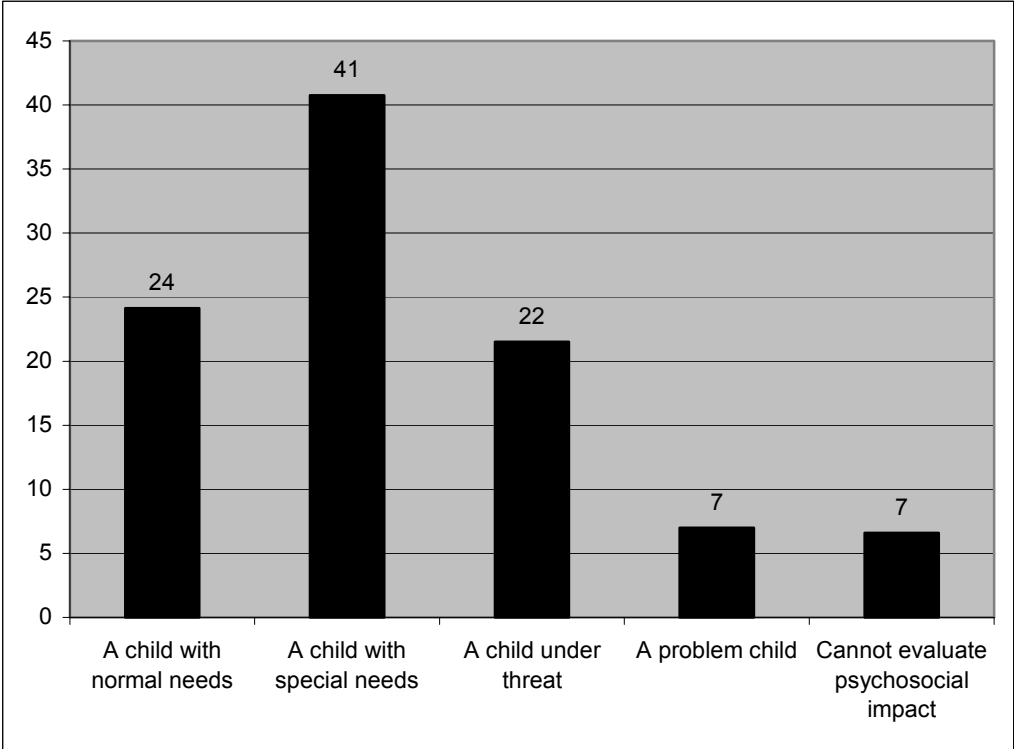
<sup>33</sup> See for instance Christensen, E. 2006, Dyregrov, A. 1998, Schultz Jørgensen, P. et al. 1993.

<sup>34</sup> Schultz Jørgensen et al. 1993.

The category: *Cannot evaluate the psychosocial impact* is relevant if the child has only stayed in the shelter for a short period or, for other reasons, the general knowledge of the child is limited.

Figure 12 shows how the children who stayed in shelters in 2007 were distributed on the various categories.

**Figure 12. The child by evaluated degree of psychosocial impact. In percent**



*N*=999

The social workers estimated that 24% were children with ordinary needs and 41% had special needs. This means that 65% of the children were placed in the first two categories in which the psychosocial impact was not yet so comprehensive and the measures needed to help the child were therefore not so wide-ranging. Still, they were children who needed care and support in order to deal with their experiences. Twenty-two per cent were evaluated as being in danger of developing major developmental and adjustment problems, and having poor social integration and need of special support to change the development. Seven per cent fell into the heaviest category as problem children displaying very serious effects of their childhood and in need of proper treatment. As many as 29% of the children were in the two heaviest categories. For 7% of the children the psychosocial impact could not be assessed by the shelter employee.

## 7.2 Psychosocial impact in relation to age, exposure to abuse and length of domestic violence

There were no pronounced differences in the degree of psychosocial impact in relation to gender or Danish or non-Danish ethnicity.

Age, on the other hand, had certain significance. Twenty-three percent of the youngest children were evaluated to have normal needs compared with 13% of the oldest children. On the other hand, 16% of the oldest children were assessed as being problem children in contrast to 5% of the youngest. While 28% of 0-6 year olds were assessed as being children under threat or problem children, the percentage was 32 for the 7-12 year olds and 35 of the teenagers. This means that the oldest children generally were assessed as being most heavily impacted (Table 48).

**Table 48. Evaluated degree of psychosocial impact, by age. In percent.**

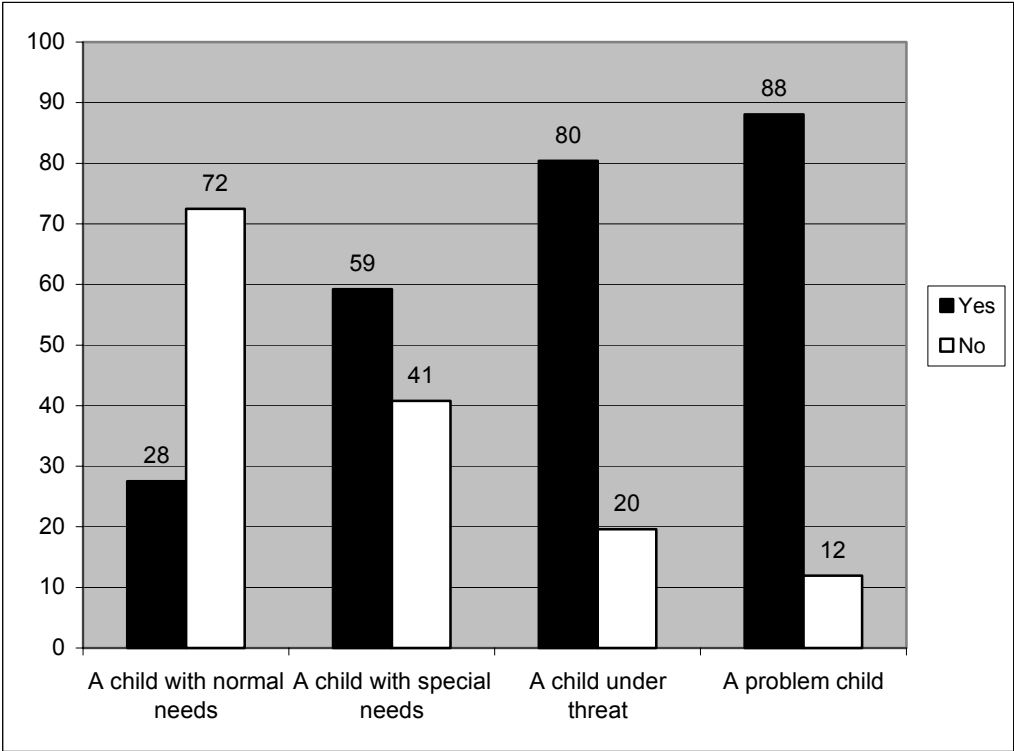
	0-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years	Total
A child with normal needs	23	20	13	21
A child with special need	42	42	43	42
A child under threat	23	24	19	23
A problem child	5	8	16	8
Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact	6	7	8	7
Total	99	101	99	101
N	475	324	120	919

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

As it appears from Chapter 6, the oldest children were also most often subjected to abuse, and this might also influence the degree of psychosocial impact.

When children who were directly subjected to abuse are compared with children who were not, there are pronounced differences in relation to degree of impact (see Figure 13).

**Figure 13. Evaluated degree of impact in relation to whether the child was abused. In percent**



*Yes N = 515, No N = 375*

It appears from Figure 13 that there was clear correlation between being subjected to abuse and the assessed degree of psychosocial impact. The children who were abused personally were also assessed as being most heavily impacted. Twenty-eight percent of the children assessed to have normal needs were subjected to abuse, 59% of those with special needs had been abused, 80% of children under threat had been abused and as many as 88% of those assessed to be problem children had been subjected to abuse.

The length of the period with domestic violence also had significance for the psychosocial impacts (see Table 49).

**Table 49. Evaluated degree of impact by length of domestic violence as part of the child’s life. In percent**

	A child with normal needs	A child with special need	A child under threat	A problem child	Total	N
Less than 6 months	49	42	6	3	100	69
Between 6 months and 1 year	42	40	18	1	101	91
1-2 years	28	47	21	4	100	154
3-4 years	17	54	22	6	99	171
5-6 years	12	42	37	9	100	122
7-8 years	15	38	30	17	100	60
9-10 years	6	47	34	13	100	32
Over 10 years	10	38	29	23	100	73
Total	23	45	24	8	100	772

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

It appears from Table 49 that 49% of the children for whom domestic violence had occurred for less than 6 months were assessed to have normal needs, and that 3% of the children for whom domestic violence had occurred for less than 6 months were assessed to be problem children. Looking, on the other hand, at the children whose life had been characterised by domestic violence for more than 10 years, 10% were assessed to be children with normal needs while 23% were assessed to be problem children. There are indications (although it is not unambiguous) that the longer domestic violence has occurred in the child’s life, the higher the degree of psychosocial impact.

From this chapter once again it becomes clear that both being abused personally and living in a family with domestic violence is a major strain on children.

## 8. Support from the social services

From the preceding chapters it is clear that children who come to the shelters are subjected to a wide range of impacts. From various studies we know that children who grow up with domestic violence are at special risk of developing psychosocial problems<sup>35</sup>. When an individual is subjected to psychosocial impact above a certain limit, it reacts with stress – first an alarm phase, then a resistance phase and finally an exhaustion phase. In the first phase, the child might be able to overcome or master the situation, but at long-lasting impacts, it might become a more permanent exhaustion leading to serious problem reactions<sup>36</sup>. Therefore, it is vital that the children get the help and support they need, and that they get it as fast as possible.

The following chapter discusses the scope of the support that the social services gave to the child and the mother.

### *8.1 Reporting to the social service*

Many of the women who stayed in a shelter already had contact with the social services before coming to the shelter. Pursuant to Article 153 of the Danish Social Services Act, a particularly stringent reporting duty applies to shelters. Article 153 orders people in public service to report to the local authorities if, during exercise of their job, they come across circumstances that cause them to assume that a child or a young person under the age of 18 need special support. In the same way, the social services in one municipality have a responsibility to pass on information about a child needing special support to another municipality if the child stays in the other place. Similarly, various departments within the municipal administration must convey information about specially exposed children to the department(s) that must act on basis of the report.

The questionnaire asked if the shelters passed on information to the social services regarding the situation of a child, and in case they did, in which way. It appears from Table 50 that the shelters did not report to the local authorities in 17% of the cases, and in 4% it is unknown whether the local authorities were informed about the conditions of the child. Oppositely, it means that the local authorities were informed in at least 79% of the cases. In 2006, there were reports on 67% of the children, in 2005 on 52% of the children, and 2004, there were reports on 47%. This means that number of reports by the shelters to the social services has been steadily growing in the past four years. This can be seen as an intensified effort on the part of the shelters to activate the local authorities in relation to the vulnerable children.

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<sup>35</sup> Christensen, E. 2006.

<sup>36</sup> Schultz Jørgensen, P. et al. 1993.

**Table 50. Has the shelter informed the social services about the circumstances of the child?**

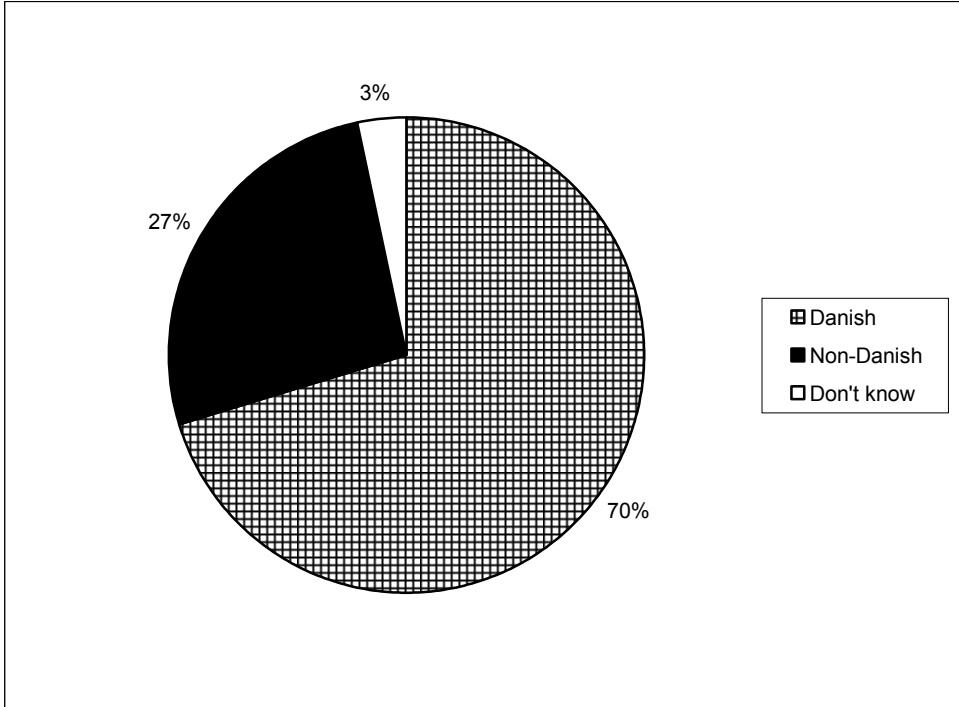
	Number	Percent
No, there has been no contact	188	17
Contact per telephone	556	50
Meetings	359	32
Written report	219	20
Information pursuant stringent reporting duty	228	20
Other	47	4
Don't know	42	4

N=1120. (Several options can be ticked so the percentages do not add up to 100.)

Reporting can be done in several ways. As Table 50 shows, information was given by telephone from the shelter to the social services in 556 cases, there were 359 meetings, 210 written reports and in 228 cases the information was given pursuant to the stringent reporting duty.

Looking exclusively at the 188 cases in which the shelter did not file a report to the authorities, it appears that Danish children were at higher risk that no report was filed than non-Danish children. Of the children for whom no report was filed, 70% were Danish and 27% were non-Danish. In 3% their nationality was not known (see Figure 14). Conversely, it means that reporting was more frequent if the child was of non-Danish origin.

**Figure 14. Lack of reporting to the authorities by Danish/non-Danish ethnicity. In percent**



N= 188

For the 188 children for whom there was no reporting, clear correlation is also seen between assessed psychosocial impact and whether the shelter informed the social authorities about the child's situation. The less troubled the child was assessed to be, the greater the probability that the shelter did not file a report (see Table 51).

**Table 51. Lack of reporting to the authorities by assessed degree of psychosocial impact**

	Number	Percent
A child with normal needs	84	45
A child with special need	66	35
A child under threat	10	5
A problem child	5	3
Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact	21	11
Total	186	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Forty-five percent of the children for whom no report was filed were assessed to have normal needs, 35% to have special needs, 5% to be a child under threat and 3% to be a problem child. This means there were 15 children who were assessed to be under threat or problem children for whom the shelter did not file a report on the situation of the child. It appears from the data material, however, that a major part of these children were already in contact with the authorities since a Section 50 evaluation had been implemented and/or support had been given to the child before, during and/or after the stay. This could be an explanation why the shelters had not reported on these children to the authorities.

## 8.2. Section 50 evaluations

When it seems likely that a child or a young person is in need of special support, the municipal authority is required by law to investigate the situation of the child using a so-called Section 50 evaluation. The intention is to provide a basis for an assessment of whether the child and its family need social provisions, and if so which provisions would be deemed appropriate. A Section 50 evaluation is thus the basis of a social relief effort<sup>37</sup>. In 2007, as a new feature the survey asked whether the municipal caseworker had initiated a Section 50 evaluation. The responses appear from Table 52.

**Table 52. Has a Section 50 evaluation been initiated?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	162	17
No	473	48
A Section 50 evaluation exists	48	5
Decision to conduct Section 50	38	4
Don't know	258	26
Total	979	100

<sup>37</sup> Hestbæk, A.D. et al. 2006.

For 26% of the children such evaluation had either been initiated, had already been carried out, or a decision had been reached to initiate one. For 48% of the children no Section 50 evaluation had been initiated, and for the remaining 26% it was not known whether the evaluation had been initiated.

There was clear correlation between psychosocial impact and whether a Section 50 evaluation had been initiated. How the Section 50 evaluations were distributed in relation to the assessed impact on the child appears from the following table:

**Table 53. Has a Section 50 evaluation been initiated? By assessed psychosocial impact. In percent**

	A child with normal needs	A child with special needs	A child under threat	A problem child	Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact	Total
Yes	5	16	30	32	3	17
No	71	53	23	19	56	49
A Section 50 evaluation exists	2	3	10	16	2	5
Decision to conduct Section 50	2	5	4	4	2	4
Don't know	19	23	32	29	38	25
Total	97	100	99	100	101	100
N	223	393	206	69	64	955

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

The more troubled the children were assessed to be, the greater the likelihood that an evaluation had been implemented. For 9% of the children with normal needs a Section 50 evaluation had been initiated or implemented or decision had been made to conduct one. For children with special needs the share was 24%, for children under threat it was 44% and for problem children it was 52%. This, however, also means that for 55% of the children assessed to be under threat and 48% of those who definitely needed treatment *no* Section 50 evaluation had been initiated or it was uncertain whether the evaluation had been conducted.

### ***8.3 Support to the child from the social services before the stay***

As a new feature, the 2007 questionnaire asked whether support had been established for the child prior to the stay. Seventeen percent of the children, corresponding to 166, received some form of support from the social services before their stay in a shelter. For 77% no support had been established, and for 7% it was uncertain whether support had been established for the child prior to the stay (see Table 54).

**Table 54. Had support been established to the child from the social services before the stay?**

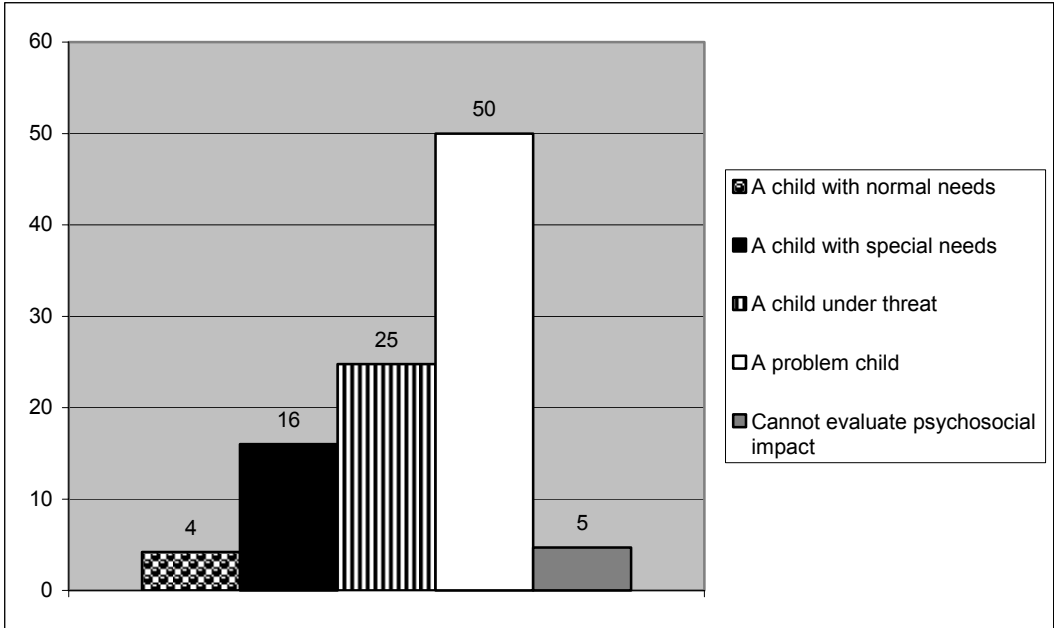
	Number	Percent
Yes	166	17
No	764	77
Don't know	65	7
Total	995	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Comparing the children who did not received support from the social services before the stay with information about their mothers, it appears that many of their mothers were known to the social services as 54% of them received some form of public transfer income. This means that many of the mothers – but not their children – were known to the public system.

There is clear correlation between the psychosocial impact of the children and whether they had received support from the social services before the shelter stay. The distribution of the support by the child's assessed degree of psychosocial impact appears from the following figure:

**Figure 15. Support before the stay, by assessed psychosocial impact. In percent**



*A child with normal needs N = 222, A child with special needs N = 312, A child under threat N = 147, A problem child N = 35, Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact N = 42*

Of the most heavily impacted children 50% received support before the stay. Of children under threat 25% received such support. But children assessed to be less heavily impacted also received support before the stay. This applies to 16% of the children with special needs and 4% of those with normal needs. The conclusion is that the heavier the psychosocial impact the

greater the likelihood that the child received support before the shelter stay. However, still only half of the children who were assessed to be very heavily troubled and definitely needed treatment received support from the social services before the stay. Among children under threat who also had a pronounced need of support, only a quarter received such support.

For the 166 children who received support before the shelter stay the support was distributed across a range of provisions (See Table 55).

**Table 55. Forms of support to the child from the social services before the stay**

	Number	Percent
Psychologist	33	20
Support teacher	28	17
Family therapy	31	19
Foster care	1	1
24 hour care centre	1	1
Day care (free place)	37	22
Respite care	12	7
Other	65	39

*N = 166. (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

It appears from Table 55 that 33 children received treatment by a psychologist before the stay in the shelter, 28 children had a support teacher, 31 had family therapy, 37 had a free place in a day care and 12 children had respite care. Other forms of support were received by 65 children covering such provisions as special class, health visitor, and speech therapist.

**8.4 Support to the child from the social services during the stay**

Slightly more children, 20% - corresponding to 190 children - received support during the stay (see Table 56) compared with the percentage of children who received support before the stay (see Table 54). Seventy-eight percent corresponding to 754 children did not receive support during the stay and for 2% of the children it is unknown whether they received any support from the local authorities.

**Table 56. Had support been established to the child from the social services during the stay?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	190	20
No	754	78
Don't know	22	2
Total	966	100

Similar to the children who had received support before the stay (see Figure 15) there was clear correlation between the psychosocial impact to the children and whether they have received support from the social services during the shelter stay. The children assessed by the

shelters to be most troubled were also those who received most support from the social services.

The 190 children who received support during their shelter stay received the following types of provisions (See Table 57).

**Table 57. Forms of support to the child from the social services during the stay**

	Number	Percent
Psychologist	45	24
Support teacher	12	6
Family therapy	26	14
Foster care	1	1
24 hour care centre	4	2
Day care (free place)	30	16
Respite care	10	5
Transportation scheme	53	28
Other	63	33

*N = 166. (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

It appears from Table 57 that transportation was the most frequently used form of support from the social services to the children during the shelter stay and that 63 children received other forms of support covering such provisions as special class, therapy group and “home with” scheme.

**8.5 Support to the child from the social services at moving out**

Once the woman and child leave the shelter they are in a highly vulnerable situation and it is extremely important that they receive support from the social services after the shelter stay. As shown in Table 58, for 26% of the children agreement was reached regarding support after they moved out of the shelter. This is a drop compared with 2006 when support had been established for 31% of the children at moving out. Considering that the shelters had improved their procedures for reporting to and informing the social services (see Section 8.1), the data material does not provide any explanation for this decline.

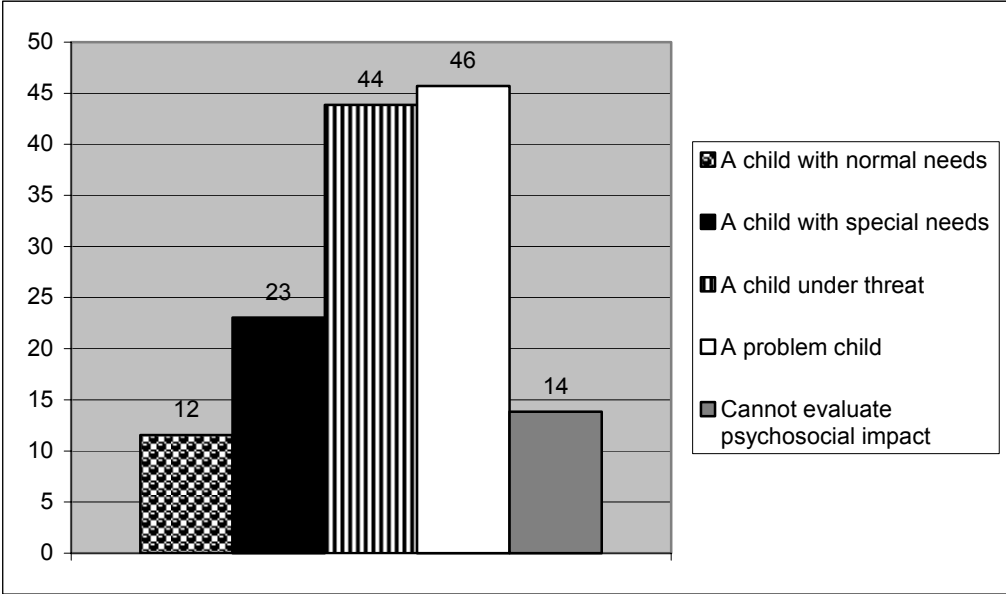
**Table 58. Had support for the child been agreed with the social services at moving out?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	258	26
No	647	64
Don't know	100	10
Total	1005	100

Similar to the situation with support from the social services to the child before and during the stay, the situation at moving out was also that the children assessed to have the greatest need also received most help. Forty-six percent of the children assessed as problem children received support at moving out. This is a significant drop since 2006 when 65% of these children received support. Forty-four percent of the children under threat, 23% of those with spe-

cial needs and 12% of the children with normal needs received support from the social services at moving out (see Figure 16).

**Figure 16. Support at moving out, by assessed psychosocial impact. In percent**



*A child with normal needs N = 234, A child with special needs N = 399, A child under threat N = 212, A problem child N = 70, Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact N = 65*

The support for the 258 children who received support at moving out of the shelter was distributed as follows:

**Table 59. Forms of support to the child from the social services agreed at moving out**

	Number	Percent
Psychologist	46	18
Support teacher	14	5
Family therapy	63	24
Foster care	10	4
24 hour care centre	5	2
Day care (free place)	27	10
Respite care	15	6
Other	66	26

*N = 258. (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)*

Similar to the support before and during the stay, the largest group answered “other” when asked about what form of support had been agreed. Other covers health visitor, taxi scheme, and alarm to the children.

Although the answer was affirmative as to whether support for the child had been agreed upon moving out, not all support had been initiated at the time the child moved out. Thirty-eight percent of the support had been initiated in 2007 at the time of moving out (see Table 60) and this is also a decline compared with 2006 when this percentage was 44%.

**Table 60. Has support for the child been initiated at present time?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	94	38
No	129	52
Don't know	24	10
Total	247	100

There was a group of children for whom the issue of support had not yet been decided at the time of moving out from the shelter, and this means that there could be children that might receive support at a later stage. As a new feature in 2007, the questionnaire asked whether, at the time of moving out, support for the child had been applied for at the social services, but for whom no decision had been made yet. The answers appear from Table 61.

**Table 61. Has support been applied for – but no decision made yet?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	148	15
No	689	72
Don't know	119	12
Total	956	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

This means 148 children were waiting for a decision from the social services as to whether they could have support or not. Table 62 shows which types of provisions were awaiting a decision.

**Table 62. Forms of support to the child from the social services awaiting decision**

	Number	Percent
Psychologist	43	29
Support teacher	8	5
Family therapy	50	34
Foster care	4	3
24 hour care centre	1	1
Day care (free place)	14	9
Respite care	21	14
Other	48	32

*N = 258. (Several options can be ticked so the percentages do not add up to 100.)*

A major share of answers was “other”. This category covered “home with”, boarding school and observation of mother and child.

## 8.6 Children who get no support from the social services

As it appears from the preceding sections in this chapter, for a major group of children the answers were “no” or “don’t know” to the questions whether they received support from the social services before, during or after the shelter stay. A total of 47% corresponding to 525 children neither received support before nor during the stay and no agreement or application for support from the social services had been organised in connection with their moving out.

It can be seen from Table 63 that 32% of these were assessed to be children with normal needs, 41% as children with special needs, 12% as children under threat and 4% were assessed to be problem children. This means that 16% of the children who were assessed to be in pronounced need of support, did not receive any support, neither at moving in, during the stay nor at moving out of the shelter.

**Table 63. Children who received no support from the social services, by assessed degree of psychosocial impact**

	Number	Percent
A child with normal needs	169	32
A child with special needs	212	41
A child under threat	64	12
A problem child	23	4
Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact	53	10
Total	521	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

## 8.7 Municipal supervision

Local governments have a duty to supervise children in shelters. It appears from Section 146 of the Social Services Act that municipalities have an obligation to monitor the conditions under which children and young people under the age of 18 live. The purpose is that the local authorities acquire knowledge of children and teenagers needing special support as early as possible. With the psychosocial impacts that children in shelters live with, it is beyond doubt that they are children with a special need of support, but far from all local governments fulfil their supervision obligation.

The 2007 LOKK Statistics on Adults calculates to which extent the local authority, in which the shelter was located, supervised the children in the shelter. Thirty-five shelters answered the question and the calculation shows that 19 local authorities supervised children in the shelter in the municipality in question while 16 local authorities did not supervise the children in the shelters. In 2006 it was possible to indicate whether all, some or no children had been supervised while in 2007 it was only possible to tick “yes” or “no”. In 2006, eight local governments supervised *all* children in the shelter, while 10 local governments supervised some of children and two local governments had contact with the shelter on a need basis. Thirteen shelters indicated that the local government did not supervise any of the children in 2006. This means that there was an increase from 13 in 2006 to 16 in 2007 in the number of shelters

that did not supervise any children in shelters. It appears from Table 64 which shelters did not supervise the children in 2007 and 2006.

**Table 64. Shelters that were not supervised in 2007 and 2006**

2007		2006
Fredericia		Frederiksværk
Frederiksværk <sup>38</sup>		Haderslev
Hillerød		Hillerød
Hjørring		Horsens
Hobro <sup>39</sup>		Kalundborg
Horsens		Køge
Jagtvej, Kbh.		Nakskov
Nakskov <sup>40</sup>		Nykøbing F.
Nykøbing F. <sup>41</sup>		Randers
Næstved		Roskilde
Odense		Rønne
Ringsted		Sønderborg
Silkeborg		Thisted
Thisted		
Vejle		
Viborg		

Seven shelters were not supervised by the local authorities in 2006 but were supervised in 2007. These were Haderslev, Kalundborg, Køge, Randers, Roskilde, Rønne and Sønderborg shelters. Similarly, it can be seen that in ten shelters the children were supervised in 2006 but not in 2007. These were Fredericia, Hjørring, Hobro, Jagtvej in Copenhagen, Næstved, Odense, Ringsted, Silkeborg, Vejle and Viborg shelters. Finally it appears from the table that in six shelters the local authorities did neither supervise the children in 2006 or 2007. These were Frederiksværk, Hillerød, Horsens, Nakskov, Nykøbing Falster and Thisted shelters.

### ***8.8 Where did the children move after the shelter stay?***

Fifteen percent, corresponding to 166, of the children in shelters in 2007 moved back to the person who abused them or their mother. Thirty-nine percent moved into a new residence and 17% moved back to their old residence, but without the person who abused them. This means that 56% of the children moved to a permanent residence without the perpetrator. A total of 17% of the children moved to another temporary address, either to another shelter, a family treatment institution or moved in with relatives or friends (see Table 65). This means that these families had not yet found a permanent solution to their problems. Looking exclusively at the children who were personally subjected to abuse it becomes evident that 15% of these children also moved back to the person who abused them or their mother.

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<sup>38</sup> Frederiksværk Shelter is located in what is now called Halsnæs Kommune.

<sup>39</sup> Hobro Shelter is located in what is now called Mariagerfjord Kommune.

<sup>40</sup> Nakskov Shelter is located in what is now called Lolland Kommune.

<sup>41</sup> Nykøbing Falster Shelter is located in what is now called Guldborgsund Kommune.

**Table 65. Where did the child move immediately after shelter stay? 2007**

	Number	Percent
Back to the person who abused the child or mother	166	15
Back to former residence without the perpetrator	181	17
New residence	421	39
Other shelter	106	10
Family treatment institution or suchlike	17	2
Family/friends	58	5
Other	98	9
Don't know	24	2
Total	1071	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

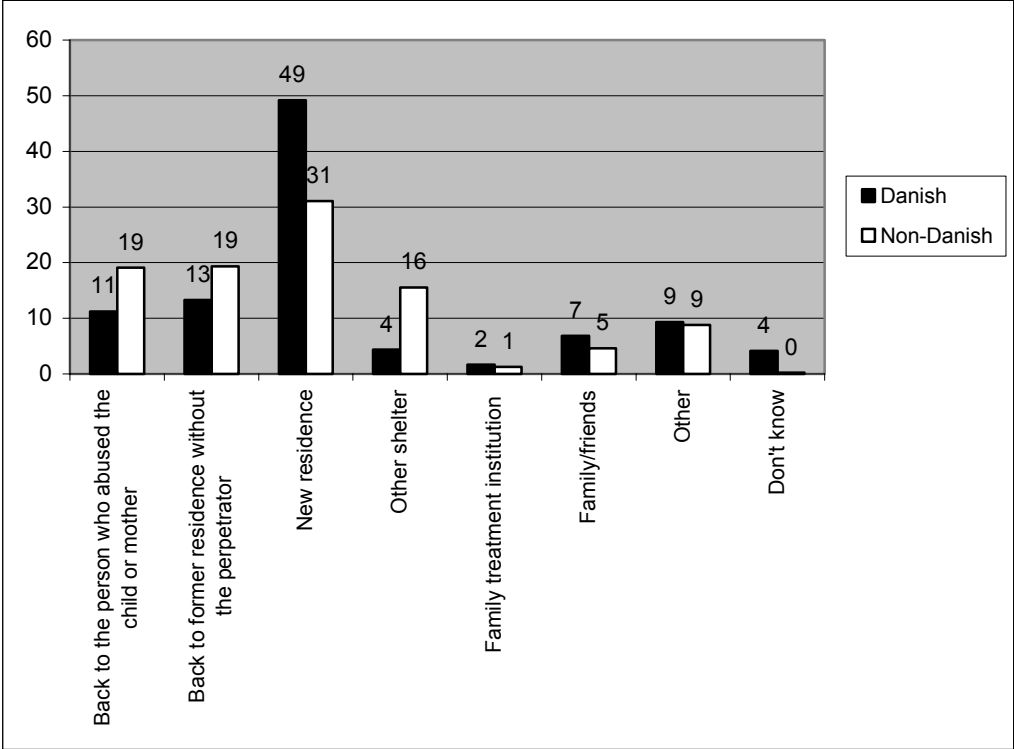
The corresponding figures for 2006 appear from the table below. There appears to be major agreement between the two years when looking at the place the child moved to immediately after the shelter stay. Fewer, however, moved to a new residence in 2007 – 39% compared with 43% in 2006 – and more moved to another shelter – 10% in 2007 compared with 7% in 2006.

**Table 66. Where did the child move immediately after shelter stay? 2006**

	Number	Percent
Back to the person who abused the child or mother	125	14
Back to former residence without the perpetrator	162	18
New residence	397	43
Other shelter	66	7
Family treatment institution or suchlike	13	1
Family/friends	53	6
Other	83	9
Don't know	15	2
Total	914	100

There is a difference as to where the Danish and non-Danish children moved after the shelter stay. As it appears from Figure 17, more non-Danish children moved back to the perpetrator, namely 19% compared with 11% of the Danish children. More Danish children moved to a new residence - 49% of the Danish children compared with 31% of the non-Danish children. In all, 62% of the Danish children and 50% of the non-Danish children moved back to the former residence but without the perpetrator (see Figure 17).

**Figure 17. Where did the child move after the shelter stay distributed on nationality? In percent**



Danish N = 482, non-Danish N = 476

**8.9 Support from the shelter after the stay**

In some cases, the shelters can provide support for the child after it has moved out. The funds for this purpose, however, are relatively limited.

Twenty-one percent, corresponding to 209 children, received support from the shelter after moving out. Many of these children received several forms of support. Of the children who received support, 43% had home visits from shelter employees, 43% took part in activities in the shelter, and 38% took part in holiday activities, excursions, Christmas parties etc., 37% had follow-up consultations and in 10% of the cases the child’s day care or school had a visit from a social educator or another shelter employee.

When the majority of children were not offered support after the stay, the main stated reasons were lack of resources on the part of the shelter (28%), that other voluntary organisations offered help (26%), that other public services offered help (25%), that the woman moved far away (23%), or that the woman did not want support (14%).

In 2007, as a new feature, the questionnaire asked whether at moving out the shelter informed others/other authorities of the circumstances of the child. In 96 cases, the shelter informed the school, in 65 cases the day care, in 21 cases the after school facility, in 32 cases the health visitor and in 31 case the family doctor.

## 9. The children’s mothers

As mentioned in the introduction, in 2007 it was once again possible to link the children’s data to that of the mothers. The data on the mothers came from the LOKK Statistics on Adults that collates and analyses information about the women in the shelters. An in-depth representation of the circumstances of the women is found in this report. This chapter will only present some information about the mother that can contribute to a broader understanding of the situation of the children.

In 142 cases the registration number of the mother was missing on the child’s questionnaires or on her own questionnaires. For the remaining 978 children, there were 520 registered mothers. This means that many of the children had one or several brothers or sisters with them in the shelter, or in other words that some of the children had the same mother. The basis of the tables is the children. This means that the total number of responses exceeds the number of mothers.

The ages of mothers were distributed as can be seen in Table 67. Twenty-nine percent of the mothers were between 18 and 29, 51% between 30 and 39 and 20% of the mothers were between 40 and 49 years old.

**Table 67. Age distribution of the mothers**

	Number	Percent
18-29 years	234	29
30-39 years	420	51
40-49 years	160	20
50-59 years	3	0
60 years or older	2	0
Total	819	100

Slightly less than a quarter of the children had mothers who had a job of the time of moving in, namely 22%. The majority had a mother who was on some kind of transfer income: for 34% of the children the mother was on cash benefits or in job activation, 9% had a mother on sickness pay and 6% had a mother who received incapacity benefit pension, 3% had a mother on government introduction support (for refugees) and 2% had a mother on rehabilitation support.

**Table 68. The mothers' source of income/support at the time of moving in**

	Number	Percent
Earned income	199	22
Supported by spouse/partner	38	4
Unemployment benefits	37	4
Sickness pay	79	9
Cash benefits/activation job	302	34
Rehabilitation	20	2
Government introduction support (refugees)	29	3
SU (education grant)	34	4
Incapacity benefit	51	6
State pension	2	0
Other	88	10
Don't know	11	1
Total	890	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Own source of income is less frequent among mothers in shelters than in the general population. The general level of education is also lower. Twelve percent of the children's mothers had incomplete basic schooling and 32% had basic schooling as their highest level of education. Eighteen percent had high school or vocational training, and 22% had completed higher education. Of these, half had completed short further education.

**Table 69. The women's highest level of education**

	Number	Percent
Incomplete basic schooling	99	12
Basic schooling	254	32
High school (gymnasium)	51	6
Vocational training	93	12
Short further education (under 3 years)	98	12
Medium further education (3-4 years)	61	8
Long further education (5 years or longer)	12	2
Other - which	27	3
Don't know	111	14
Total	806	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

This means that the majority of children grew up in families in which the mother was generally worse off in relation to own source of income and education than the general population. This has consequences in relation to the social and material resources available to the children during their childhood.

Many of the mothers had been to a shelter more than once. For slightly more than half of the children, it was the first time the mother was in a shelter, but for many, the shelter stay was a recurring event. Twenty-three percent of the children had a mother who had been to a shelter once before, 11% had a mother who had been to a shelter 2-3 times previously, 3%, corresponding to 19 children, had experienced this 4-5 times and for 2% or 13 children it was more than 5 times. This shows that some children have a childhood marked by many and dramatic break-ups.

**Table 70. Have the mothers previously stayed in a shelter?**

	Number	Percent
No	393	54
Yes, once	166	23
Yes, 2-3 times	81	11
Yes, 4-5 times	19	3
Yes, more than 5 times	13	2
Don't know	60	8
Total	732	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

The number of shelter stays is closely related to the incidence of domestic violence. Many of the children's mothers had been abused for several years and some for many years. For the children, this means that they have been witnesses of violence for the same number of years, or during their whole childhood.

**Table 71. How long has the child's mother been abused in the most recent relationship?**

	Number	Percent
Under 1 year	94	12
1-2 years	114	15
3-4 years	148	19
5-10 years	201	26
Over 10 years	142	18
Don't know	83	11
Total	782	101

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

There is a high level of correlation between the degree of psychosocial impact of the child and the duration of the abuse of the mother. The longer the mother has been subjected to abuse, the greater is the likelihood that the child is seriously affected. The degree of correlation appears from the table below.

**Table 72. How long has the mother been abused? By degree of psychosocial impact on the child**

	A child with normal needs	A child with special needs	A child under threat	A problem child	Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact	Total	N
Under 1 year	27	39	25	5	4	100	104
1-4 years	30	43	16	4	8	101	290
5-10 years	22	45	24	4	5	100	188
Over 10 years	22	43	20	8	8	101	188
Total	18	41	27	11	4	101	82
Under 1 year	23	42	21	7	6	99	664

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

In cases where violence against the mother was part of the child’s circumstances for less than a year, 27% of the children were assessed as having normal needs compared with 5% who were assessed as being problem children. If the abuse had been part of the mother’s life for more than 10 years, 18% were assessed as children with normal needs while 11% of the children were assessed to be problem children.

This correlation points (if not unambiguously) to the fact that the longer the child’s mother is abused the more troubled the child is assessed to be. Once again this stresses the necessity of early intervention in families with domestic violence.

## 10. Children who stayed in a shelter for a week or shorter

The 542 children who stayed in the shelter for a week or less are not included in the preceding part of the report. The only information recorded about these children is age and gender, time of moving out, number of days in the shelter and where they moved to after the shelter stay. The age and gender distribution of the children with stays of less than a week is similar to that of children who stayed longer than a week (see Chapter 4). The children with short stays, however, were much more likely to move back with the perpetrator than the children who stayed for a longer period (see Table 73).

**Table 73. Where did the children, with shelter stays of a week or shorter, move after shelter stay?**

	Number	Percent
Back to the person who abused the child or mother	148	30
Back to former residence without the perpetrator	112	23
New residence	22	4
Other shelter	72	15
Family treatment institution or suchlike	5	1
Family/friends	61	12
Other	20	4
Don't know	49	10
Total	489	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

It appears from Table 73 that 30% of the children who stayed a week or less in the shelter moved back to the perpetrator. In comparison this applied to 15% of the children who stayed longer than a week. Four percent of the children with stays of less than eight days moved to a new residence compared with 39% of those who had longer stays. A total of 27% of the children with stays of a week or shorter moved to a permanent dwelling without the perpetrator. The percentage was 56 for the children with longer stays.

As a new feature, information on the children with short stays has been linked with information about the mothers since significantly more information is recorded on the mothers. In 26 cases the registration number of the mother was missing on the child's questionnaires or on her own questionnaires. For the remaining 533 children, 306 mothers were registered. This means that many of the children had siblings. The basis of the tables is the children. This means that the total number of responses in some cases exceeds the number of mothers. Many of the mothers did not, however, answer all the questions. An explanation could be that they stayed in the shelter so briefly and that there was not enough time to complete whole questionnaires.

It appears from Table 74 that for 47% of the mothers of children who stayed a week or less in the shelter it was their first shelter stay. Twenty-one percent of the mothers had been to a shelter once before, 9% two or three times before, 3% four-five times before and 1% of the mothers had been to a shelter more than five times previously. This data is similar to that of mothers whose children stayed longer than a week in the shelter (see Table 70).

**Table 74. Have the mothers previously stayed in a shelter?**

	Number	Percent
No	145	47
Yes, once	65	21
Yes, 2-3 times	28	9
Yes, 4-5 times	9	3
Yes, more than 5 times	2	1
Don't know	60	19
Total	309	100

It appears from Table 75 that 55% of the children with brief shelter stays had an ethnic minority mother. The manual for the moving-in form for the mother says that “the woman belongs to an ethnic minority if the family has not perceived itself as being Danish for generations”. This can be compared with the question in the child form where it is asked whether the child grew up in a traditional Danish family. Forty-nine percent of the children who stayed in a shelter for longer than a week did not grow up in Danish families. This means that slightly more children who stayed for a week or shorter in the shelter came from non-Danish families than children who had longer stays.

**Table 75. Does the mother belong to an ethnic minority?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	155	55
No	119	43
Don't know	6	2
Total	280	100

Table 76 shows that for 22% of the children support from the social services had been agreed with their mothers for after the stay. For 4% of the mothers support had been applied for, but it had not yet been decided whether they would receive such support. Fifty-nine percent of the mothers did not receive any support and for 14% of the mothers it was not known whether they would receive support from the local authorities after moving out.

**Table 76. Agreed support for the mother at moving out**

	Number	Percent
Yes	71	22
Support applied for – but no decision yet	12	4
No	188	59
Don't know	45	14
Total	316	99

*(The percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding up/down of the individual percentages.)*

Table 77 shows which forms of support to the mother were agreed with the local authorities. From the 71 mothers who had agreed on support from the social services at moving out, 11 mothers received psychological treatment, 28 received family therapy, 28 would join the “home with” scheme, 9 would get financial support and 27 would receive others forms of support. Other forms of support covered support groups, couple treatment and assault alarms.

**Table 77. Forms of support to the mother from the social services at moving out of the shelter**

	Number	Percent
Psychologist	11	15
Family therapy	28	39
“Home with”	9	13
Financial support	9	13
Other	27	38
Don’t know	17	24

N = 71 (Several options can be ticked so the figures do not add up to 100.)

Eleven percent of the children’s mothers (and thus the children) moved to another municipality after the shelter stay, 72% remained in the same municipality and for 17% it was not known whether they moved to another municipality (see Table 78).

**Table 78. Does the mother move to another municipality after the shelter stay?**

	Number	Percent
Yes	35	11
No	233	72
Don’t know	54	17
Total	322	100

It appears from this chapter that the information on the children who stayed in the shelter for a week or shorter in many ways is similar to that of children with longer stays. The most pronounced difference is found in the question as to where the children move after the stay. Far more children who stayed a week or less in the shelter moved back to the person who abused them and/or their mother.

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## Enclosure 1. The children by gender

	Boy		Girl		N/A		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	57	12	43	9	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	53	16	47	14	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	41	11	56	15	4	1	100	27
Esbjerg	38	3	63	5	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	48	15	52	16	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	38	3	63	5	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	31	4	69	9	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	48	20	52	22	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	18	2	82	9	0	0	100	11
Herning	41	16	56	22	3	1	100	39
Hillerød	46	11	54	13	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	45	5	55	6	0	0	100	11
Hobro	52	12	48	11	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	68	19	32	9	0	0	100	28
Horsens	47	8	47	8	6	1	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	48	11	52	12	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	57	20	43	15	0	0	100	35
Kolding	43	13	57	17	0	0	100	30
Køge	35	6	65	11	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	60	31	40	21	0	0	100	52
Nakskov	63	17	37	10	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	67	2	33	1	0	0	100	3
Næstved	60	21	40	14	0	0	100	35
Nørresundby	42	14	55	18	3	1	100	33
Odense	58	55	42	40	0	0	100	95
Randers	46	32	52	36	1	1	100	69
Ringsted	43	17	58	23	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	79	15	21	4	0	0	100	19
Rønne	25	5	75	15	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	43	15	54	19	3	1	100	35
Silkeborg	62	16	38	10	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	61	19	39	12	0	0	100	31
Thisted	33	4	67	8	0	0	100	12
Vejle	25	10	73	29	3	1	100	40
Viborg	50	12	50	12	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	48	14	48	14	3	1	100	29
Århus	49	45	51	47	0	0	100	92
Total	49	551	50	561	1	8	100	1120

## Enclosure 2. The children by age

	0-6 years		7-12 years		13-17 years		18 år years or above		Uoplyst		Total	
	Procent	Antal	Procent	Antal	Procent	Antal	Procent	Antal	Procent	Antal	Procent	Antal
Boligfondens	71	15	14	3	10	2	0	0	5	1	100	21
Dannerhuset	50	15	40	12	7	2	0	0	3	1	100	30
Egmontgården	52	14	11	3	4	1	0	0	33	9	100	27
Esbjerg	50	4	25	2	13	1	0	0	13	1	100	8
Fredericia	65	20	23	7	10	3	0	0	3	1	100	31
Frederiksberg	50	4	38	3	13	1	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	31	4	38	5	8	1	0	0	23	3	100	13
Frederiksværk	60	25	24	10	10	4	0	0	7	3	100	42
Haderslev	36	4	27	3	18	2	0	0	18	2	100	11
Herning	41	16	33	13	18	7	0	0	8	3	100	39
Hillerød	54	13	38	9	4	1	0	0	4	1	100	24
Hjørring	73	8	18	2	0	0	0	0	9	1	100	11
Hobro	52	12	26	6	17	4	0	0	4	1	100	23
Holstebro	43	12	36	10	14	4	4	1	4	1	100	28
Horsens	53	9	35	6	12	2	0	0	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	43	10	26	6	9	2	0	0	22	5	100	23
Kalundborg	43	15	31	11	14	5	0	0	11	4	100	35
Kolding	37	11	37	11	20	6	0	0	7	2	100	30
Køge	41	7	53	9	6	1	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	60	31	19	10	8	4	0	0	13	7	100	52
Nakskov	52	14	41	11	4	1	0	0	4	1	100	27
Nykøbing F.	67	2	33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	37	13	31	11	14	5	0	0	17	6	100	35
Nørresundby	39	13	27	9	30	10	0	0	3	1	100	33
Odense	48	46	31	29	12	11	0	0	9	9	100	95
Randers	35	24	38	26	19	13	0	0	9	6	100	69
Ringsted	48	19	28	11	10	4	0	0	15	6	100	40
Roskilde	58	11	21	4	11	2	0	0	11	2	100	19
Rønne	35	7	65	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	57	20	26	9	11	4	0	0	6	2	100	35
Silkeborg	42	11	35	9	15	4	0	0	8	2	100	26
Sønderborg	13	4	65	20	19	6	0	0	3	1	100	31
Thisted	33	4	17	2	33	4	0	0	17	2	100	12
Vejle	48	19	40	16	5	2	0	0	8	3	100	40
Viborg	63	15	33	8	0	0	0	0	4	1	100	24
Aabenraa	34	10	38	11	21	6	0	0	7	2	100	29
Århus	62	57	26	24	4	4	0	0	8	7	100	92
Total	48	538	32	355	12	129	0	1	9	97	100	1120

### Enclosure 3. The children's nationality (Danish/non-Danish)

	Danish		Non-Danish		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	38	8	62	13	0	0	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	43	13	53	16	3	1	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	11	3	0	0	78	21	11	3	100	27
Esbjerg	25	2	75	6	0	0	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	52	16	48	15	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	25	2	75	6	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	77	10	0	0	23	3	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	40	17	57	24	2	1	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	82	9	18	2	0	0	0	0	100	11
Herning	44	17	36	14	15	6	5	2	100	39
Hillerød	21	5	67	16	8	2	4	1	100	24
Hjørring	64	7	36	4	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	57	13	35	8	9	2	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	68	19	25	7	0	0	7	2	100	28
Horsens	65	11	24	4	12	2	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	17	4	78	18	4	1	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	46	16	49	17	0	0	6	2	100	35
Kolding	53	16	33	10	10	3	3	1	100	30
Køge	41	7	59	10	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	37	19	60	31	2	1	2	1	100	52
Nakskov	81	22	19	5	0	0	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	51	18	14	5	34	12	0	0	100	35
Nørresundby	36	12	58	19	6	2	0	0	100	33
Odense	23	22	17	16	60	57	0	0	100	95
Randers	48	33	45	31	6	4	1	1	100	69
Ringsted	53	21	48	19	0	0	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	47	9	47	9	5	1	0	0	100	19
Rønne	70	14	30	6	0	0	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	29	10	60	21	11	4	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	50	13	50	13	0	0	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	42	13	55	17	3	1	0	0	100	31
Thisted	42	5	58	7	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	60	24	40	16	0	0	0	0	100	40
Viborg	29	7	71	17	0	0	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	62	18	38	11	0	0	0	0	100	29
Århus	42	39	54	50	3	3	0	0	100	92
Total	44	494	43	486	11	127	1	13	100	1120

#### Enclosure 4. Did the child have to quit day care/school at moving into the shelter

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	81	17	10	2	10	2	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	30	9	60	18	10	3	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	75	6	13	1	13	1	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	68	21	19	6	13	4	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	63	5	25	2	13	1	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	31	4	46	6	23	3	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	64	27	10	4	26	11	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	55	6	36	4	9	1	0	0	100	11
Herning	62	24	13	5	26	10	0	0	100	39
Hillerød	75	18	4	1	21	5	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	82	9	9	1	9	1	0	0	100	11
Hobro	70	16	13	3	17	4	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	96	27	0	0	4	1	0	0	100	28
Horsens	82	14	0	0	18	3	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	43	10	35	8	22	5	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	69	24	11	4	20	7	0	0	100	35
Kolding	67	20	7	2	27	8	0	0	100	30
Køge	76	13	6	1	18	3	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	62	32	19	10	19	10	0	0	100	52
Nakskov	74	20	22	6	4	1	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	100	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	57	20	29	10	14	5	0	0	100	35
Nørresundby	76	25	21	7	3	1	0	0	100	33
Odense	35	33	3	3	62	59	0	0	100	95
Randers	84	58	7	5	7	5	1	1	100	69
Ringsted	60	24	28	11	13	5	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	68	13	11	2	21	4	0	0	100	19
Rønne	55	11	35	7	10	2	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	77	27	6	2	17	6	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	77	20	19	5	4	1	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	81	25	10	3	3	1	6	2	100	31
Thisted	58	7	25	3	17	2	0	0	100	12
Vejle	65	26	30	12	3	1	3	1	100	40
Viborg	58	14	33	8	8	2	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	90	26	0	0	10	3	0	0	100	29
Århus	74	68	12	11	14	13	0	0	100	92
Total	64	722	15	173	20	221	0	4	100	1120

## Enclosure 5. Reasons for school/day care cessation

	Threat		Distance		Unresolved custody		The child needs peace		The resident authorities won't pay		Other		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	14	3	19	4	5	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	57	12	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	17	5	10	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	21	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	63	5	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	2	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	10	3	48	15	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	10	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	38	3	25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	3	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	8	1	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	69	9	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	17	7	38	16	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	40	17	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	0	0	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	7	0	0	100	11
Herning	13	5	36	14	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	46	18	0	0	100	39
Hillerød	46	11	13	3	13	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	7	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	9	1	27	3	0	0	18	2	0	0	0	0	45	5	0	0	100	11
Hobro	17	4	35	8	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	10	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	0	0	39	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	61	17	0	0	100	28
Horsens	18	3	12	2	29	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	7	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	26	6	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	9	2	61	14	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	20	7	34	12	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	12	0	0	100	35
Kolding	13	4	33	10	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	12	0	0	100	30
Køge	59	10	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	4	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	13	7	12	6	25	13	2	1	0	0	6	3	40	21	2	1	100	52
Nakskov	26	7	22	6	7	2	11	3	0	0	0	0	33	9	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	100	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	11	4	20	7	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	21	0	0	100	35
Nørresundby	24	8	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	21	0	0	100	33
Odense	16	15	7	7	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	0	74	70	0	0	100	95
Randers	36	25	26	18	6	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	28	19	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	8	3	18	7	10	4	5	2	10	4	0	0	50	20	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	47	9	16	3	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	6	0	0	100	19
Rønne	20	4	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	14	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	11	4	29	10	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	20	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	12	3	27	7	12	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	46	12	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	35	11	19	6	0	0	6	2	0	0	6	2	32	10	0	0	100	31
Thisted	0	0	33	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67	8	0	0	100	12
Vejle	28	11	18	7	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	19	0	0	100	40
Viborg	0	0	29	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	4	54	13	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	21	6	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	72	21	0	0	100	29
Århus	21	19	28	26	13	12	10	9	0	0	0	0	28	26	0	0	100	92
Total	19	217	22	242	6	69	3	29	0	5	1	13	49	544	0	1	100	1120

## Enclosure 6. Has the child started in a new day care/school during the shelter stay

	Started in a new day care/school during stay		Did not start in a new day care/school during stay		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	5	1	81	17	14	3	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	13	4	73	22	13	4	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	0	0	88	7	13	1	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	13	4	74	23	13	4	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	25	2	50	4	25	2	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	23	3	54	7	23	3	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	19	8	52	22	29	12	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	0	0	91	10	9	1	0	0	100	11
Herning	21	8	54	21	26	10	0	0	100	39
Hillerød	42	10	33	8	25	6	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	0	0	91	10	9	1	0	0	100	11
Hobro	13	3	70	16	17	4	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	14	4	82	23	4	1	0	0	100	28
Horsens	0	0	82	14	18	3	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	22	5	57	13	22	5	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	20	7	57	20	20	7	3	1	100	35
Kolding	23	7	50	15	27	8	0	0	100	30
Køge	18	3	65	11	18	3	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	10	5	69	36	19	10	2	1	100	52
Nakskov	11	3	85	23	4	1	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	23	8	54	19	20	7	3	1	100	35
Nørresundby	6	2	91	30	3	1	0	0	100	33
Odense	1	1	37	35	62	59	0	0	100	95
Randers	7	5	86	59	7	5	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	0	0	88	35	13	5	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	5	1	68	13	26	5	0	0	100	19
Rønne	30	6	50	10	20	4	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	3	1	77	27	20	7	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	4	1	92	24	4	1	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	13	4	84	26	3	1	0	0	100	31
Thisted	17	2	67	8	17	2	0	0	100	12
Vejle	25	10	65	26	8	3	3	1	100	40
Viborg	13	3	79	19	8	2	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	0	0	90	26	10	3	0	0	100	29
Århus	9	8	74	68	17	16	0	0	100	92
Total	12	129	67	750	21	237	0	4	100	1120

## Enclosure 7. Did the child start in it sold day care/school

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	48	10	24	5	29	6	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	13	4	50	15	37	11	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	25	2	50	4	25	2	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	13	4	68	21	19	6	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	63	5	13	1	25	2	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	15	2	31	4	54	7	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	24	10	36	15	40	17	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	27	3	27	3	45	5	0	0	100	11
Herning	41	16	26	10	33	13	0	0	100	39
Hillerød	29	7	46	11	25	6	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	55	6	36	4	9	1	0	0	100	11
Hobro	26	6	48	11	26	6	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	68	19	29	8	4	1	0	0	100	28
Horsens	76	13	6	1	18	3	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	43	10	4	1	52	12	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	17	6	54	19	29	10	0	0	100	35
Kolding	40	12	23	7	37	11	0	0	100	30
Køge	76	13	0	0	24	4	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	35	18	31	16	31	16	4	2	100	52
Nakskov	41	11	37	10	22	6	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	29	10	31	11	37	13	3	1	100	35
Nørresundby	67	22	12	4	21	7	0	0	100	33
Odense	15	14	23	22	62	59	0	0	100	95
Randers	65	45	25	17	10	7	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	33	13	48	19	20	8	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	53	10	16	3	32	6	0	0	100	19
Rønne	50	10	0	0	50	10	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	37	13	43	15	20	7	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	54	14	27	7	19	5	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	65	20	19	6	16	5	0	0	100	31
Thisted	25	3	50	6	25	3	0	0	100	12
Vejle	40	16	33	13	28	11	0	0	100	40
Viborg	38	9	25	6	38	9	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	72	21	17	5	10	3	0	0	100	29
Århus	55	51	14	13	30	28	0	0	100	92
Total	40	448	28	316	32	353	0	3	100	1120

## Enclosure 8. The child by evaluated degree of psychosocial impact

	A child with normal needs		A child with special needs		A child under threat		A problem child		Cannot evaluate psychosocial impact		N/A		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	29	6	62	13	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	21
Danerhuset	3	1	33	10	17	5	20	6	23	7	3	1	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	27	100	27
Esbjerg	25	2	13	1	50	4	0	0	13	1	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	26	8	45	14	23	7	6	2	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	0	0	13	1	75	6	0	0	13	1	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	8	1	62	8	15	2	0	0	15	2	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	19	8	38	16	17	7	12	5	7	3	7	3	100	42
Haderslev	64	7	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	11
Herring	23	9	31	12	5	2	5	2	26	10	10	4	100	39
Hillerød	13	3	50	12	13	3	13	3	0	0	13	3	100	24
Hjørring	55	6	18	2	27	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	9	2	13	3	48	11	13	3	17	4	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	43	12	29	8	0	0	0	0	25	7	4	1	100	28
Horsens	0	0	65	11	24	4	0	0	0	0	12	2	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	13	3	65	15	17	4	0	0	0	0	4	1	100	23
Kalundborg	9	3	71	25	9	3	0	0	6	2	6	2	100	35
Kolding	10	3	53	16	17	5	3	1	0	0	17	5	100	30
Køge	29	5	41	7	12	2	18	3	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lynby	29	15	19	10	37	19	2	1	13	7	0	0	100	52
Nakskov	15	4	15	4	63	17	4	1	4	1	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	33	1	33	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	1	100	3
Næstved	60	21	23	8	6	2	0	0	6	2	6	2	100	35
Nørresundby	12	4	52	17	18	6	15	5	3	1	0	0	100	33
Odense	20	19	12	11	3	3	1	1	5	5	59	56	100	95
Randers	10	7	35	24	33	23	12	8	10	7	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	43	17	35	14	15	6	8	3	0	0	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	16	3	16	3	47	9	21	4	0	0	0	0	100	19
Rønne	50	10	30	6	10	2	0	0	5	1	5	1	100	20
Rønfølde	14	5	60	21	11	4	0	0	0	0	14	5	100	35
Silkeborg	8	2	54	14	31	8	4	1	0	0	4	1	100	26
Sønderborg	3	1	26	8	58	18	13	4	0	0	0	0	100	31
Thisted	0	0	25	3	17	2	58	7	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	35	14	33	13	20	8	0	0	0	0	13	5	100	40
Viborg	8	2	50	12	17	4	25	6	0	0	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	31	9	45	13	14	4	10	3	0	0	0	0	100	29
Århus	30	28	51	47	11	10	1	1	5	5	1	1	100	92
Total	22	241	36	407	19	215	6	70	6	66	11	121	100	1120

## Enclosure 9. Number of days the child stayed in the shelter

	0-2 days		3-7 days		8-14 days		15-30 days		31-60 days		61-90 days		91 days and above		N/A		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	0	0	9	2	26	6	0	0	4	1	0	0	61	14	0	0	100	23
Dannemuset	24	12	14	7	18	9	16	8	8	4	2	1	16	8	2	1	100	50
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	4	14	4	66	19	7	2	100	29
Esbjerg	29	5	24	4	6	1	0	0	24	4	0	0	18	3	0	0	100	17
Fredericia	8	3	11	4	13	5	26	10	18	7	3	1	21	8	0	0	100	38
Frederiksberg	14	2	29	4	7	1	21	3	0	0	0	29	4	4	0	0	100	14
Frederikshavn	25	9	36	13	0	0	6	2	17	6	6	2	8	3	3	1	100	36
Frederiksværk	4	2	14	7	12	6	20	10	10	5	24	12	18	9	0	0	100	51
Haderslev	26	5	16	3	0	0	37	7	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	19
Herrng	22	14	18	12	15	10	23	15	12	8	8	5	2	1	0	0	100	65
Hillrød	10	3	10	3	16	5	13	4	3	1	10	3	35	11	3	1	100	31
Hjerting	56	15	4	1	0	0	22	6	0	0	15	4	4	1	0	0	100	27
Hobro	15	5	15	5	21	7	24	8	9	3	9	3	6	2	0	0	100	33
Holstebro	29	14	10	5	22	11	18	9	14	7	2	1	0	0	4	2	100	49
Horsens	25	13	40	21	13	7	17	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	2	100	53
Jagtvej, Koh.	23	8	11	4	6	2	9	3	11	4	3	1	37	13	0	0	100	35
Kalundborg	4	2	22	11	18	9	6	3	12	6	8	4	27	13	2	1	100	49
Kolding	12	6	28	14	10	5	12	6	22	11	4	2	12	6	0	0	100	50
Køge	30	14	28	13	0	0	6	3	15	7	0	0	15	7	6	3	100	47
Lyngby	12	8	12	8	9	6	26	18	10	7	6	4	25	17	0	0	100	68
Nakskov	11	5	32	15	15	7	15	7	21	10	4	2	2	1	0	0	100	47
Nykøbing F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	11	6	21	11	8	4	21	11	15	8	4	2	19	10	2	1	100	53
Nørresundby	18	8	7	3	23	10	23	10	18	8	2	1	9	4	0	0	100	44
Odense	8	10	17	22	11	14	17	15	16	20	16	20	15	19	0	0	100	127
Randers	16	16	14	14	15	15	15	15	19	19	11	11	9	9	0	0	100	99
Ringsled	0	0	17	8	15	7	25	12	6	3	8	4	29	14	0	0	100	48
Roskilde	29	10	15	5	12	4	12	4	12	4	3	1	18	6	0	0	100	34
Rønne	12	3	0	0	16	4	24	6	16	4	8	2	16	4	8	2	100	25
Røntoft	0	0	10	4	15	6	13	5	28	11	3	1	31	12	0	0	100	39
Silkeborg	23	13	30	17	5	3	27	15	9	5	4	2	2	1	0	0	100	56
Sønderborg	15	7	17	8	22	10	22	10	4	2	0	0	20	9	0	0	100	46
Thisted	38	11	21	6	14	4	24	7	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	100	29
Vejle	14	7	8	4	12	6	25	13	12	6	27	14	2	1	0	0	100	51
Viborg	13	5	24	9	11	4	0	0	13	5	34	13	5	2	0	0	100	38
Aabenraa	23	10	9	4	5	2	19	8	16	7	14	6	14	6	0	0	100	43
Aarhus	8	9	10	11	22	25	11	12	14	16	13	15	21	24	1	1	100	113
Total	15	260	17	282	13	215	17	281	13	221	8	141	16	262	1	17	100	1679

## Enclosure 10. Where did the child move immediately after shelter stay

	Back to the person who abused the child or mother		Back to former residence without the perpetrator		New residence		Other shelter		Family treatment institution or suchlike		Family/friends		Other		N/A		Don't know		Total		
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Boligfondens	5	24	0	0	0	62	13	10	2	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	1	3	10	3	3	17	5	8	8	0	0	0	40	12	0	0	3	1	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	19	5	5	78	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	0	0	0	0	4	88	7	0	0	0	0	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	5	16	13	4	23	7	29	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	2	25	50	4	13	1	13	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	2	15	15	2	23	3	31	4	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	8	19	5	2	60	25	0	0	0	0	2	1	10	4	5	2	0	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	0	0	0	0	0	82	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	0	0	0	100	11
Hemming	3	8	18	7	31	12	28	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	0	0	0	100	39
Hilleroed	3	13	17	4	25	6	13	3	0	0	0	25	6	6	8	2	0	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	1	9	36	4	27	3	0	0	0	0	18	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	5	22	22	5	30	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	6	0	100	23
Hojstebro	9	32	14	4	29	8	0	0	0	0	18	5	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	100	28
Horsens	0	0	12	2	59	10	18	3	0	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	1	4	13	3	48	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	30	7	0	0	0	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	6	17	6	2	54	19	6	2	0	0	11	4	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	100	35
Kolding	0	0	27	8	53	16	10	3	0	0	7	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	30
Køge	4	24	29	5	29	5	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	21	40	6	3	19	10	17	9	0	0	13	7	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	100	52
Nakskov	1	4	15	4	22	6	11	3	0	0	22	6	22	6	0	0	4	1	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	2	6	14	5	63	22	3	1	0	0	3	1	6	2	3	1	3	1	0	100	35
Nørresundby	7	21	33	11	21	7	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	100	33
Odense	9	9	12	11	27	26	6	6	3	3	2	2	15	14	23	22	2	2	2	100	95
Randers	9	13	23	16	49	34	4	3	0	0	7	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	0	0	43	17	25	10	5	2	5	2	0	0	18	7	0	0	5	2	0	100	40
Roskilde	6	32	16	3	5	1	5	1	0	0	21	4	16	3	5	1	0	0	0	100	19
Rønne	1	5	15	3	45	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	3	20	4	0	0	0	100	20
Røntoft	8	23	11	4	46	16	14	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	10	38	19	5	23	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	8	26	26	8	32	10	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1	3	1	6	2	0	100	31
Thisted	6	50	0	0	42	5	0	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	4	10	13	5	28	11	15	6	3	1	10	4	13	5	10	4	0	0	0	100	40
Viborg	5	21	8	2	33	8	13	3	0	0	0	8	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	0	0	10	3	62	18	17	5	3	1	3	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	100	29
Århus	14	15	18	17	34	31	7	6	4	4	8	7	10	9	2	2	2	2	0	100	92
Total	166	15	16	181	38	421	9	106	2	17	5	58	9	98	4	49	2	24	100	1120	

**Enclosure 11. Has a Section 50 examination been initiated**

	Yes		No		A Section 50 evaluation exists		Decision to conduct Section 50		Don't know		N/A		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	14	3	81	17	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	43	13	40	12	3	1	0	0	13	4	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	27	100	27
Esbjerg	13	1	25	2	38	3	25	2	0	0	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	13	4	61	19	3	1	0	0	23	7	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	8	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	15	2	69	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	8	1	100	13
Frederiksværk	10	4	40	17	2	1	0	0	31	13	17	7	100	42
Haderslev	27	3	36	4	0	0	0	0	18	2	18	2	100	11
Hemming	8	3	10	4	0	0	0	0	64	25	18	7	100	39
Hillerød	4	1	58	14	0	0	13	3	8	2	17	4	100	24
Hjørring	9	1	73	8	0	0	0	0	18	2	0	0	100	11
Hobro	22	5	30	7	30	7	0	0	17	4	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	11	3	64	18	0	0	0	0	25	7	0	0	100	28
Horsens	0	0	88	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	2	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	22	5	52	12	0	0	0	0	17	4	9	2	100	23
Kalundborg	9	3	66	23	0	0	11	4	14	5	0	0	100	35
Kolding	3	1	23	7	0	0	0	0	60	18	13	4	100	30
Køge	82	14	18	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lynghy	29	15	54	28	0	0	8	4	10	5	0	0	100	52
Nakskov	0	0	48	13	11	3	0	0	41	11	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	3	0	0	100	3
Næstved	3	1	51	18	11	4	6	2	9	3	20	7	100	35
Nørresundby	21	7	33	11	12	4	0	0	24	8	9	3	100	33
Odense	2	2	8	8	0	0	3	3	40	38	46	44	100	95
Randers	26	18	30	21	12	8	6	4	19	13	7	5	100	69
Ringsled	18	7	43	17	10	4	10	4	20	8	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	5	1	84	16	5	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	100	19
Rønne	0	0	25	5	0	0	0	0	35	7	40	8	100	20
Røntoft	20	7	69	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	4	100	35
Silkeborg	0	0	69	18	4	1	0	0	23	6	4	1	100	26
Sønderborg	16	5	19	6	10	3	19	6	23	7	13	4	100	31
Thisted	0	0	17	2	0	0	0	0	83	10	0	0	100	12
Vejle	33	13	45	18	0	0	8	3	5	2	10	4	100	40
Viborg	21	5	42	10	0	0	0	0	33	8	4	1	100	24
Aaberraa	38	11	14	4	0	0	10	3	38	11	0	0	100	29
Arhus	4	4	68	63	7	6	0	0	16	15	4	4	100	92
Total	14	162	42	473	4	48	3	38	23	258	13	141	100	1120

**Enclosure 12. Had support been established to the child from the social services before the stay?**

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	10	2	90	19	0	0	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	7	2	83	25	3	1	7	2	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	63	5	38	3	0	0	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	19	6	81	25	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	0	0	100	8	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	15	2	85	11	0	0	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	24	10	71	30	5	2	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	9	1	73	8	0	0	18	2	100	11
Herning	18	7	41	16	5	2	36	14	100	39
Hillerød	13	3	75	18	13	3	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	9	1	91	10	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	35	8	57	13	0	0	9	2	100	23
Holstebro	7	2	68	19	0	0	25	7	100	28
Horsens	0	0	88	15	12	2	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	9	2	87	20	4	1	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	0	0	80	28	6	2	14	5	100	35
Kolding	17	5	63	19	20	6	0	0	100	30
Køge	12	2	88	15	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	4	2	88	46	2	1	6	3	100	52
Nakskov	26	7	63	17	0	0	11	3	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	67	2	33	1	0	0	100	3
Næstved	17	6	69	24	6	2	9	3	100	35
Nørresundby	24	8	48	16	0	0	27	9	100	33
Odense	8	8	28	27	61	58	2	2	100	95
Randers	14	10	64	44	6	4	16	11	100	69
Ringsted	8	3	93	37	0	0	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	32	6	68	13	0	0	0	0	100	19
Rønne	30	6	65	13	5	1	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	26	9	60	21	14	5	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	15	4	85	22	0	0	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	23	7	77	24	0	0	0	0	100	31
Thisted	42	5	58	7	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	23	9	65	26	13	5	0	0	100	40
Viborg	13	3	83	20	4	1	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	14	4	79	23	0	0	7	2	100	29
Århus	12	11	87	80	1	1	0	0	100	92
Total	15	166	68	764	11	125	6	65	100	1120

**Enclosure 13. Had support to the child been established from the social services before the stay?**

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Boligfondens	10	2	76	16	14	3	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	10	3	90	27	0	0	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	13	1	75	6	13	1	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	23	7	77	24	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	75	6	25	2	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	31	4	69	9	0	0	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	12	5	71	30	17	7	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	27	3	55	6	0	0	18	2	100	11
Herning	26	10	44	17	13	5	18	7	100	39
Hillerød	21	5	63	15	17	4	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	0	0	100	11	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	26	6	74	17	0	0	0	0	100	23
Holstebro	25	7	61	17	4	1	11	3	100	28
Horsens	12	2	76	13	12	2	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	13	3	83	19	4	1	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	3	1	91	32	6	2	0	0	100	35
Kolding	13	4	57	17	30	9	0	0	100	30
Køge	6	1	94	16	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	10	5	83	43	6	3	2	1	100	52
Nakskov	7	2	93	25	0	0	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	33	1	67	2	0	0	100	3
Næstved	26	9	60	21	6	2	9	3	100	35
Nørresundby	24	8	67	22	0	0	9	3	100	33
Odense	1	1	36	34	61	58	2	2	100	95
Randers	13	9	80	55	7	5	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	13	5	85	34	3	1	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	37	7	58	11	5	1	0	0	100	19
Rønne	5	1	60	12	35	7	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	20	7	69	24	11	4	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	4	1	96	25	0	0	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	61	19	39	12	0	0	0	0	100	31
Thisted	25	3	75	9	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	10	4	75	30	13	5	3	1	100	40
Viborg	21	5	71	17	8	2	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	10	3	86	25	3	1	0	0	100	29
Århus	34	31	65	60	1	1	0	0	100	92
Total	17	190	67	754	14	154	2	22	100	1120

## Enclosure 14. Had support for the child been agreed with the social services at moving out?

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	24	5	71	15	0	0	5	1	100	21
Dannerhuset	20	6	77	23	0	0	3	1	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	63	5	25	2	13	1	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	3	1	97	30	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	63	5	13	1	0	0	25	2	100	8
Frederikshavn	38	5	62	8	0	0	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	40	17	48	20	12	5	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	27	3	55	6	18	2	0	0	100	11
Herning	36	14	36	14	13	5	15	6	100	39
Hillerød	33	8	50	12	17	4	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	0	0	100	11	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	39	9	57	13	0	0	4	1	100	23
Holstebro	21	6	68	19	0	0	11	3	100	28
Horsens	6	1	76	13	12	2	6	1	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	17	4	74	17	4	1	4	1	100	23
Kalundborg	3	1	94	33	0	0	3	1	100	35
Kolding	23	7	57	17	10	3	10	3	100	30
Køge	6	1	94	16	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	27	14	65	34	2	1	6	3	100	52
Nakskov	37	10	63	17	0	0	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	67	2	0	0	33	1	100	3
Næstved	29	10	63	22	6	2	3	1	100	35
Nørresundby	36	12	24	8	3	1	36	12	100	33
Odense	8	8	8	8	45	43	38	36	100	95
Randers	29	20	55	38	4	3	12	8	100	69
Ringsted	20	8	80	32	0	0	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	26	5	58	11	0	0	16	3	100	19
Rønne	25	5	40	8	15	3	20	4	100	20
Røntofte	11	4	71	25	11	4	6	2	100	35
Silkeborg	15	4	69	18	0	0	15	4	100	26
Sønderborg	65	20	35	11	0	0	0	0	100	31
Thisted	0	0	100	12	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	45	18	40	16	10	4	5	2	100	40
Viborg	33	8	50	12	4	1	13	3	100	24
Aabenraa	21	6	76	22	0	0	3	1	100	29
Århus	9	8	88	81	3	3	0	0	100	92
Total	23	258	58	647	10	115	9	100	100	1120

### Enclosure 15. Had support for the child been agreed with the shelter at moving out?

	Yes		No		N/A		Don't know		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	48	10	52	11	0	0	0	0	100	21
Dannerhuset	27	8	73	22	0	0	0	0	100	30
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	100	27	0	0	100	27
Esbjerg	63	5	38	3	0	0	0	0	100	8
Fredericia	68	21	32	10	0	0	0	0	100	31
Frederiksberg	0	0	100	8	0	0	0	0	100	8
Frederikshavn	15	2	85	11	0	0	0	0	100	13
Frederiksværk	19	8	76	32	5	2	0	0	100	42
Haderslev	45	5	36	4	18	2	0	0	100	11
Herning	15	6	74	29	10	4	0	0	100	39
Hillerød	0	0	83	20	17	4	0	0	100	24
Hjørring	55	6	45	5	0	0	0	0	100	11
Hobro	0	0	91	21	0	0	9	2	100	23
Holstebro	0	0	100	28	0	0	0	0	100	28
Horsens	0	0	88	15	12	2	0	0	100	17
Jagtvej, Kbh.	78	18	17	4	4	1	0	0	100	23
Kalundborg	0	0	94	33	0	0	6	2	100	35
Kolding	7	2	83	25	10	3	0	0	100	30
Køge	24	4	76	13	0	0	0	0	100	17
Lyngby	6	3	94	49	0	0	0	0	100	52
Nakskov	33	9	67	18	0	0	0	0	100	27
Nykøbing F.	0	0	100	3	0	0	0	0	100	3
Næstved	26	9	69	24	6	2	0	0	100	35
Nørresundby	30	10	70	23	0	0	0	0	100	33
Odense	12	11	13	12	45	43	31	29	100	95
Randers	19	13	81	56	0	0	0	0	100	69
Ringsted	10	4	90	36	0	0	0	0	100	40
Roskilde	0	0	84	16	5	1	11	2	100	19
Rønne	55	11	40	8	5	1	0	0	100	20
Røntofte	0	0	89	31	11	4	0	0	100	35
Silkeborg	27	7	73	19	0	0	0	0	100	26
Sønderborg	32	10	68	21	0	0	0	0	100	31
Thisted	0	0	100	12	0	0	0	0	100	12
Vejle	23	9	63	25	13	5	3	1	100	40
Viborg	38	9	63	15	0	0	0	0	100	24
Aabenraa	17	5	83	24	0	0	0	0	100	29
Århus	4	4	95	87	1	1	0	0	100	92
Total	19	209	69	773	9	102	3	36	100	1120

## Enclosure 16. Reasons why the child did not receive support from the shelter at moving out

	Lack of resources		The mother did not want support		The mother moved far away		Other public services offered help		Other voluntary organisations offered help		Other		Don't know	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	18	2	27	3	0	0	27	3	0	0	27	3	0	0
Dannerhuset	50	11	0	0	9	2	18	4	0	0	32	7	0	0
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esbjerg	0	0	67	2	67	2	0	0	0	0	33	1	0	0
Fredericia	0	0	30	3	30	3	10	1	0	0	40	4	0	0
Frederiksberg	25	2	0	0	13	1	63	5	0	0	25	2	0	0
Frederikshavn	45	5	36	4	18	2	9	1	0	0	18	2	0	0
Frederiksværk	3	1	28	9	31	10	0	0	0	0	31	10	0	0
Haderslev	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	3	0	0	25	1	0	0
Herrng	31	9	17	5	34	10	3	1	0	0	21	6	3	1
Hillærød	30	6	0	0	15	3	55	11	0	0	15	3	0	0
Hjærring	0	0	40	2	40	2	40	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hobro	24	5	43	9	5	1	38	8	0	0	14	3	5	1
Hoistebro	61	17	4	1	11	3	4	1	0	0	21	6	4	1
Horsens	13	2	0	0	67	10	7	1	0	0	67	10	0	0
Jagtvej, Kbh.	0	0	50	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	2	0	0
Kalundborg	76	25	39	13	64	21	39	13	0	0	9	3	0	0
Kolding	0	0	0	0	8	2	32	8	0	0	36	9	16	4
Køge	0	0	31	4	38	5	31	4	0	0	31	4	0	0
Lyngby	18	9	4	2	2	1	6	3	0	0	53	26	14	7
Nakskov	17	3	0	0	50	9	61	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nykøbing F.	0	0	0	0	100	3	67	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Næstved	13	3	0	0	17	4	17	4	0	0	71	17	0	0
Nørresundby	4	1	17	4	26	6	61	14	0	0	4	1	9	2
Odense	0	0	0	0	33	4	50	6	0	0	8	1	42	5
Randers	25	14	7	4	29	16	18	10	0	0	46	26	5	3
Ringsted	3	1	50	18	28	10	36	13	0	0	25	9	0	0
Roskilde	25	4	31	5	13	2	13	2	0	0	50	8	6	1
Rønne	0	0	63	5	13	1	0	0	0	0	25	2	0	0
Rønøfte	52	16	0	0	35	11	71	22	16	5	3	1	0	0
Silkeborg	11	2	16	3	21	4	21	4	0	0	53	10	0	0
Sønderborg	0	0	0	0	38	8	71	15	0	0	5	1	0	0
Thisted	25	3	92	11	50	6	0	0	0	0	50	6	0	0
Vejle	0	0	16	4	24	6	20	5	0	0	20	5	0	0
Viborg	0	0	7	1	53	8	53	8	0	0	47	7	7	1
Aabenraa	0	0	13	3	29	7	54	13	0	0	33	8	0	0
Århus	99	86	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	8	7	0	0
Total	29	227	15	117	24	183	26	202	1	5	27	211	3	26

## Enclosure 17. Forms of support from the shelter to the child at moving out

	Home visits from shelter employees		Visit from a social educator or another shelter employee		Follow-up consultations		Activities in the shelter		Holiday activities/excursions/Christmas parties etc.		Other	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Boligfondens	90	9	0	0	10	1	50	5	0	0	0	0
Dannerhuset	50	4	25	2	50	4	50	4	75	6	13	1
Egmontgården	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Esbjerg	0	0	0	0	60	3	80	4	80	4	0	0
Fredericia	5	1	0	0	43	9	10	2	0	0	48	10
Frederiksberg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Frederikshavn	50	1	50	1	0	0	50	1	100	2	0	0
Frederiksværk	0	0	0	0	38	3	25	2	0	0	75	6
Haderslev	100	5	0	0	80	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herrng	0	0	0	0	17	1	100	6	33	2	0	0
Hillørd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hjørring	83	5	0	0	33	2	0	0	67	4	0	0
Hobro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Holstebro	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horsens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jagtvej, Kbh.	17	3	6	1	50	9	61	11	100	18	17	3
Kalundborg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kolding	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	2	0	0	0	0
Køge	50	2	0	0	50	2	100	4	100	4	0	0
Lynby	33	1	0	0	67	2	100	3	67	2	0	0
Nakskov	22	2	0	0	0	0	44	4	100	9	0	0
Nykøbing F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Næstved	22	2	33	3	33	3	0	0	33	3	0	0
Nørresundby	100	10	0	0	50	5	80	8	0	0	0	0
Odense	100	11	0	0	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Randers	0	0	0	0	54	7	0	0	31	4	62	8
Ringsted	50	2	0	0	0	0	75	3	75	3	0	0
Roskilde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rønne	64	7	64	7	91	10	82	9	55	6	45	5
Røntoft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silkeborg	100	7	29	2	71	5	71	5	43	3	0	0
Sønderborg	20	2	10	1	0	0	70	7	70	7	30	3
Thisted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vejle	33	3	0	0	11	1	33	3	0	0	22	2
Viborg	78	7	33	3	33	3	78	7	33	3	56	5
Aabenraa	100	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Århus	0	0	0	0	75	3	0	0	0	0	25	1
Total	43	89	10	20	37	78	43	90	38	80	21	44