

Project BGLD-3.001

Novel Approaches to Generating Data on hard-to-reach populations at risk of violation of their rights

Thematic report on the situation of children
Sofia, 13 September 2022



<https://noveleea.bg/>

- **Target group:** every human being below the age of 18 years (based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- **National policy framework:** no effective policy document on children's rights since the expiry of the National Child Strategy 2008–2018
- **EU policy framework:** EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child, European Child Guarantee
- **Key public stakeholders:** State Agency for Child Protection, Social Assistance Directorates, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Science, municipalities
- **Thematic areas:** health, education, care and development, living conditions, poverty and family environment

- **Age groups:**
 - 0-2/4 years: between the child's birth and the start of pre-school education; children highly dependent on the well-being of parents or carers
 - 5-14 years: accessibility of the learning process, supportive development and early drop-out prevention; school and the social environment forming the child's personality
 - 15-17 years: transition from childhood to adulthood; development factors very much similar to those of adults
- **Limitations:** children in institutional households, children left behind
- **Life cycle of children:** early childhood (0-6/7 years) – childhood and early adolescence (7-13 years) – adolescence (14/15-18 years)

Share of children aged 0–4 years attending kindergartens or crèches

Share of children aged from 3 years up to the age of starting compulsory primary education (7 years) who attend early childhood education and care

Early childhood development of children aged 3 and 4 years

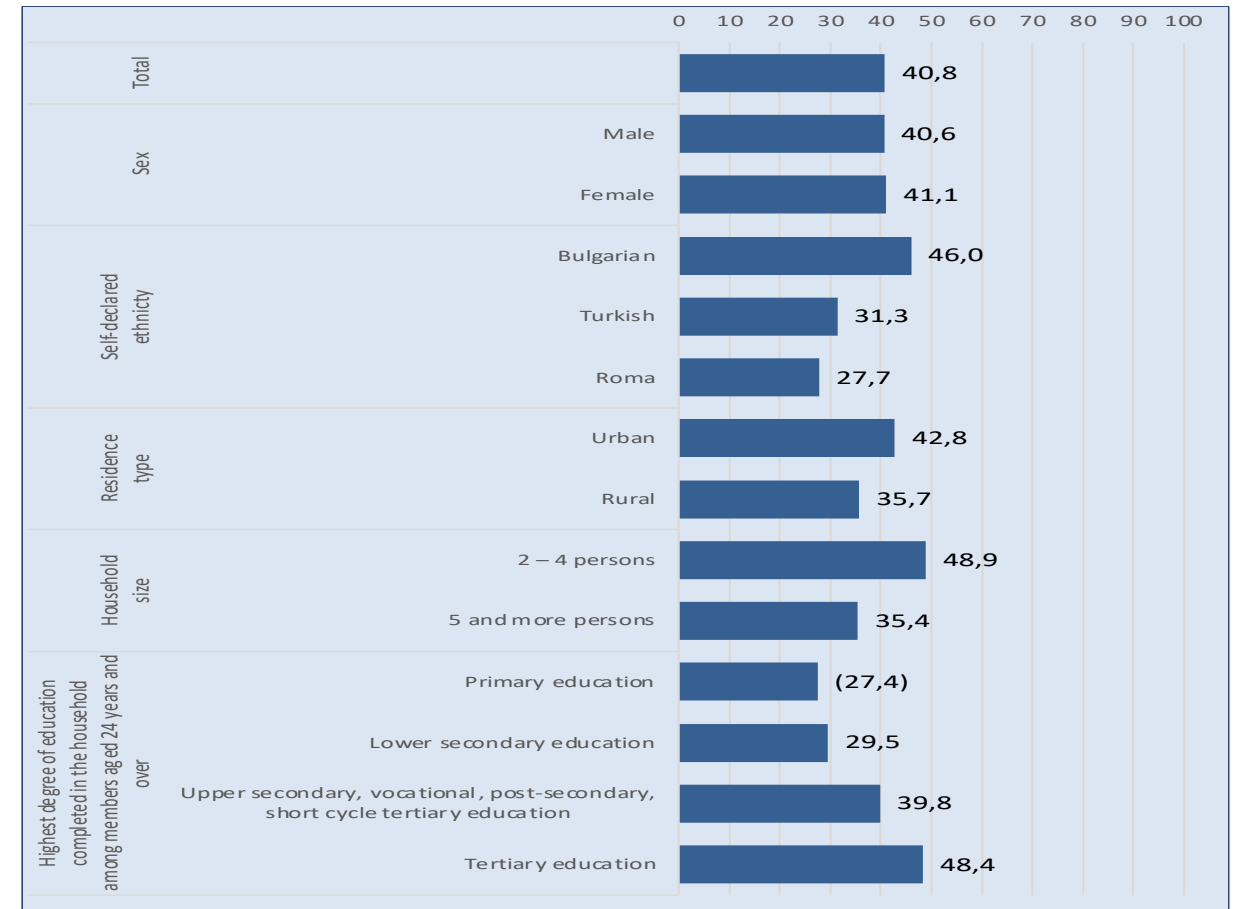
Share of children aged 0–4 years living in housing deprivation / in households that do not have the minimum number of rooms

Share of children aged 0–4 years living in households that live in areas with insufficient schools or kindergartens

Share of children aged 0–4 years living in jobless households

Share of children aged 0–4 years living in households in which at least one member has been abroad for more than three months during the past two years

Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey



Share of children aged 5–14 years who attend school or early childhood education and care

Share of children aged 5–14 years with long-standing (chronic) illnesses or health problems / health self-assessment of children aged 5–14 years

Share of children of compulsory school age (7–15 years) attending education

Share of children aged 5–14 years living in housing deprivation / in households that do not have the minimum number of rooms

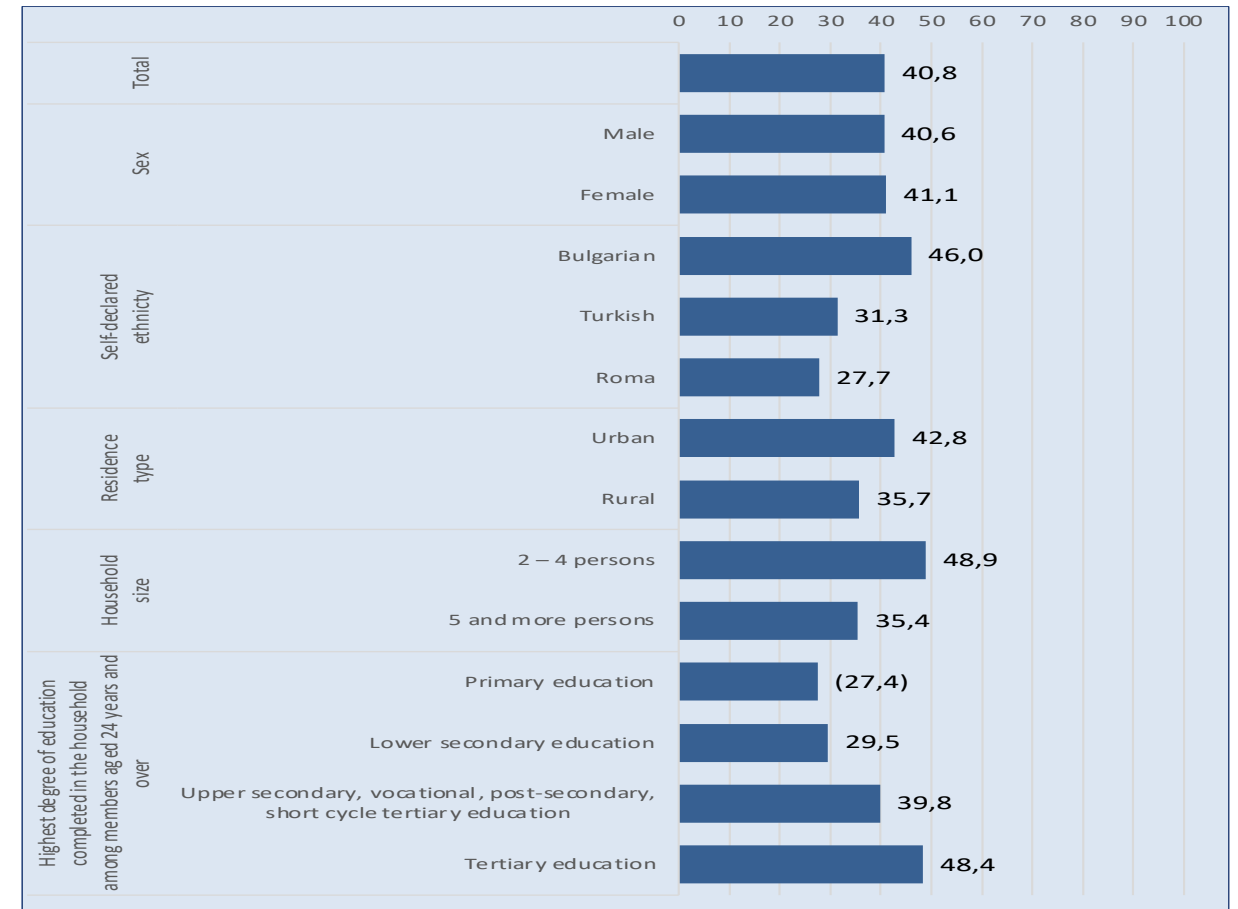
Share of children aged 5–14 years living in households with no fixed or mobile internet access

Share of children aged 5–14 years engaged in household/labour activities

Share of children aged 5–14 years living in jobless households

Share of children aged 5–14 years living in households in which at least one member has been abroad for more than three months during the past two years

Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey



Time elapsed since last visit to a general practitioner: share of children aged 15–17 years with last consultation with a general practitioner in the last 12 months

Time elapsed since last visit to a dentist: share of children aged 15–17 years with last visit to a dentist or orthodontist in the last 12 months

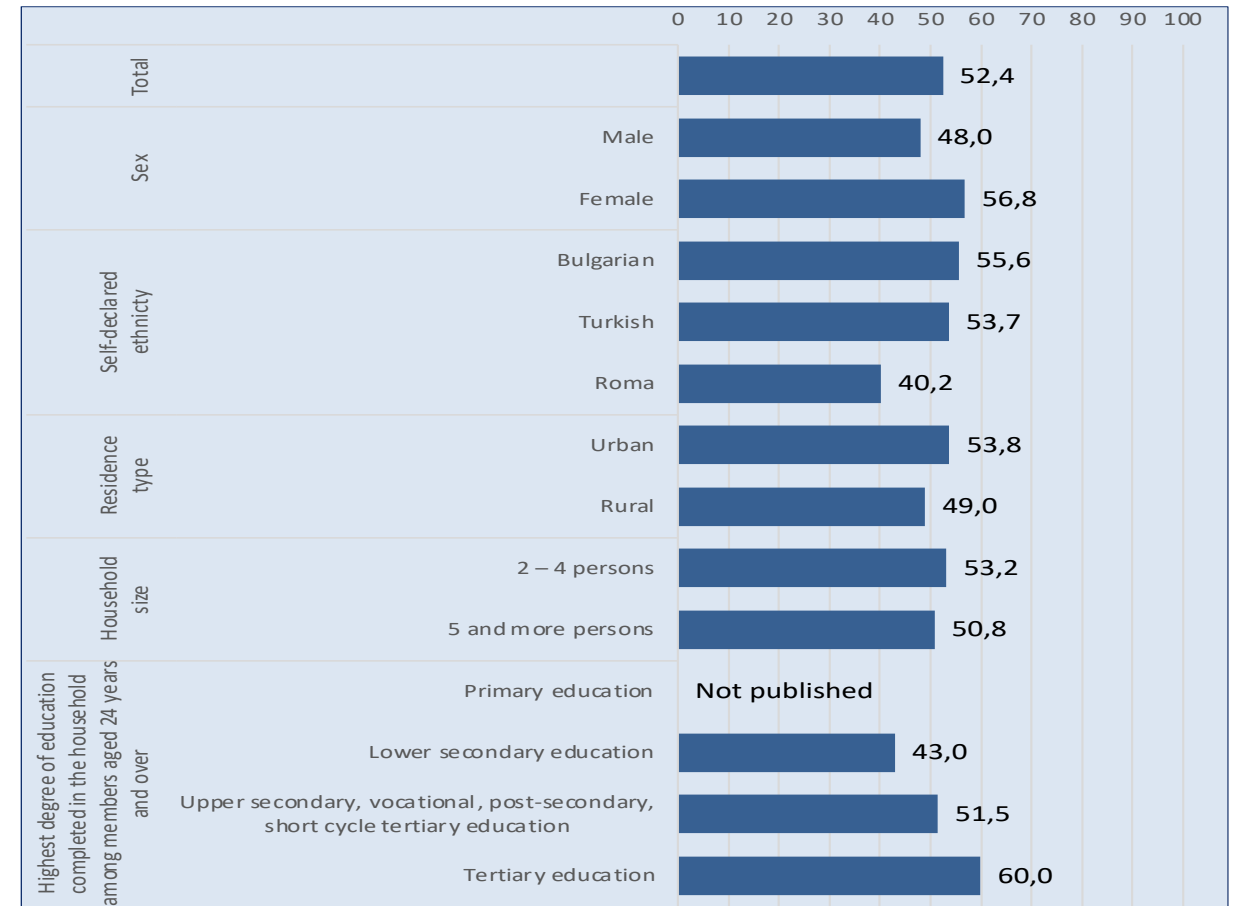
Share of children aged 15–17 years with current main activity NEET

Share of children aged 15–17 years living in housing deprivation / in households that do not have the minimum number of rooms

Share of children aged 15–17 years living in jobless households

Share of children aged 15–17 years living in households in which at least one member has been abroad for more than three months during the past two years

Source: BNSI/FRA 2020 survey



- Additional efforts are needed in relation to the promotion of **disease prevention**, particularly prophylactic activities, vaccination coverage and a healthy lifestyle
- Measures are needed to improve the **accessibility of primary and specialised healthcare services** for children in remote (rural) areas as well as for Roma children
- Further efforts are needed to improve the **availability and accessibility of early childhood education and care and pre-school education**, including by addressing problems related to the uneven distribution of kindergartens and crèches (especially in big cities) and by facilitating access to kindergartens and crèches in remote (mostly rural) areas
- Further measures are needed **to improve the living conditions of families with children**, including by addressing the problems related to the availability and affordability of housing

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