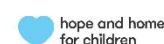


International Conference Deinstitutionalisation of Childcare: Investing in Change

5-8 *2019* *November* **Sofia, Bulgaria**

Interventions by the Vienna child and youth welfare
office to prevent the placement of children in
alternative care

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Interventions to prevent the placement of children in alternative care

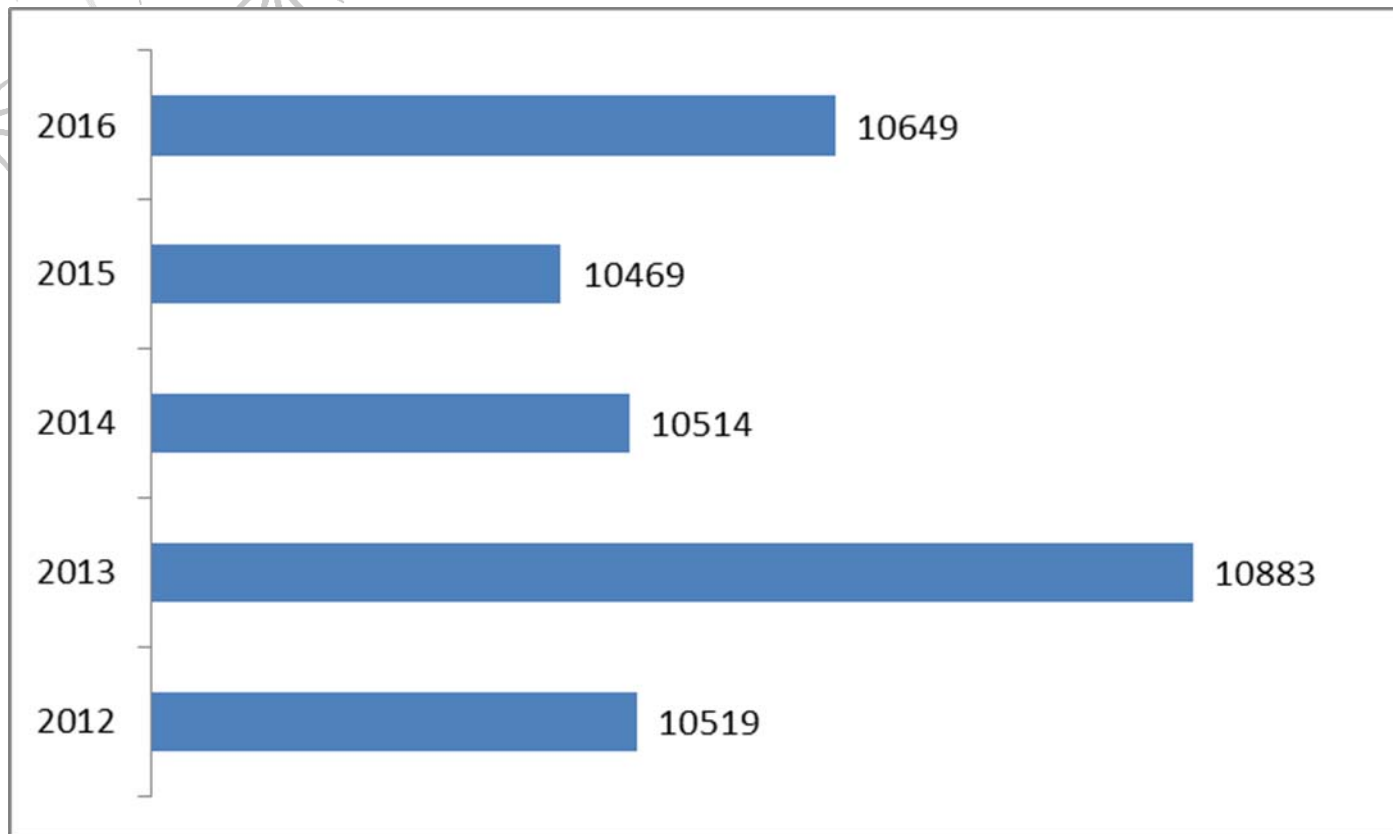
1. Counselling services in Family Centres after **self-signaling** by parents, family members, children
2. **Assessment if child is in danger - Home visits** after **signaling by others** (kindergarten, school teachers, medical services, police, neighbours)
3. **Supported upbringing**: Different forms of support for primary care givers to prevent separation
4. **Crisis placement** in crisis centers or foster families



Counselling services after self-signaling – provided in Family Centres

- a) Development of an “assistance plan”
- b) Counselling regarding birth, upbringing and education, financial problems, in the context of separation and visitation rights
- c) Provision of resources (crisis money, intensive support, referral to other professionals)

Number of enquiries into risk reports, signaling by other persons (kindergarten, school teachers, medical services, police, neighbours)



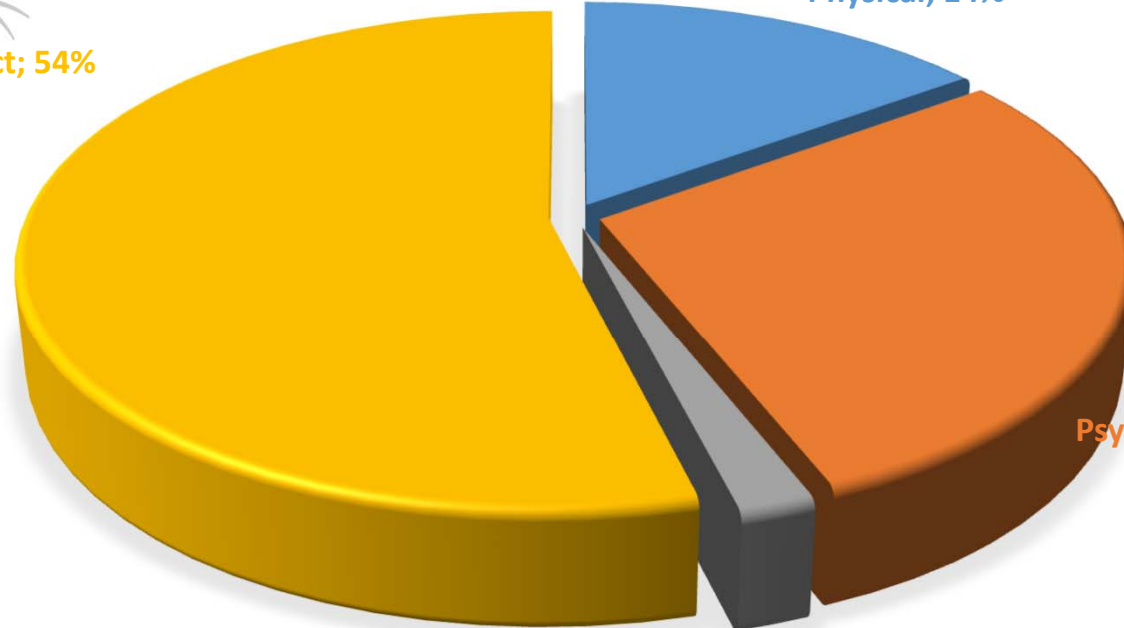
Forms of violence

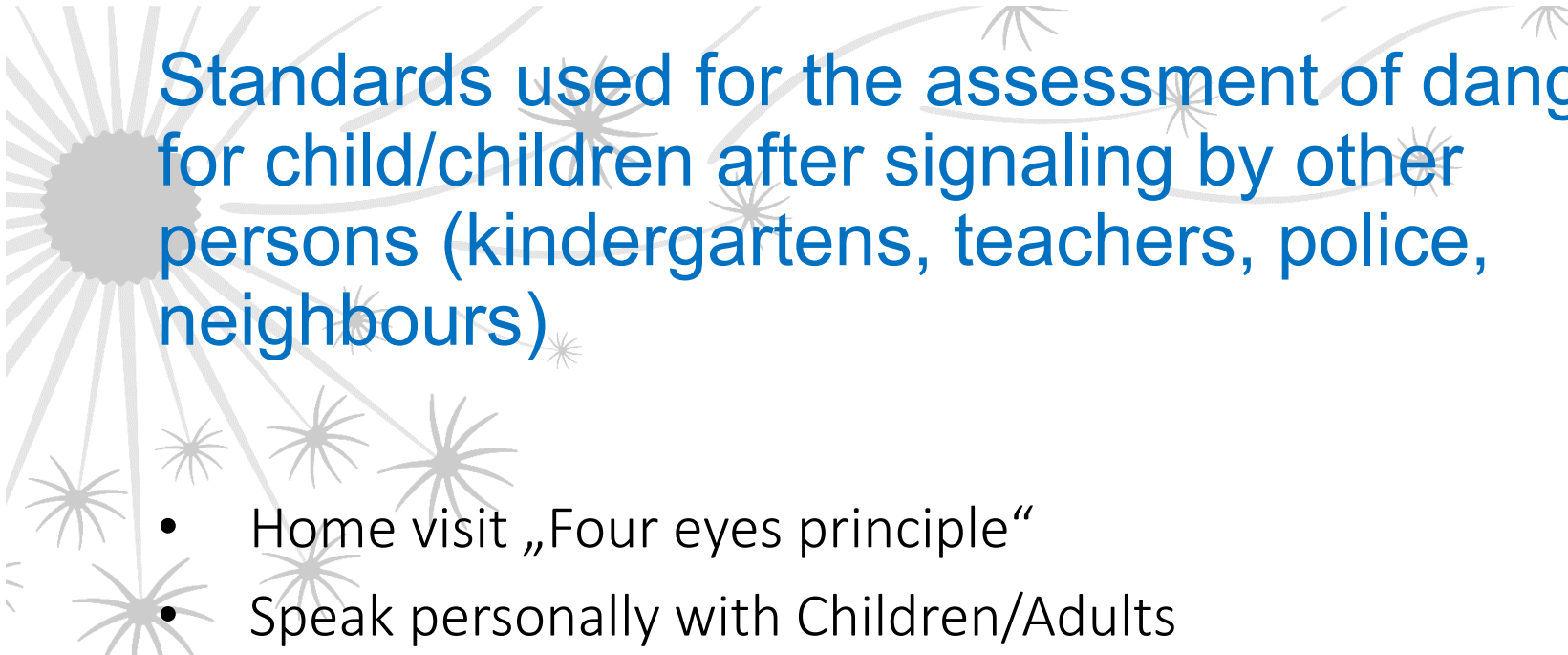
Neglect; 54%

Physical; 14%

Psychological;
30%

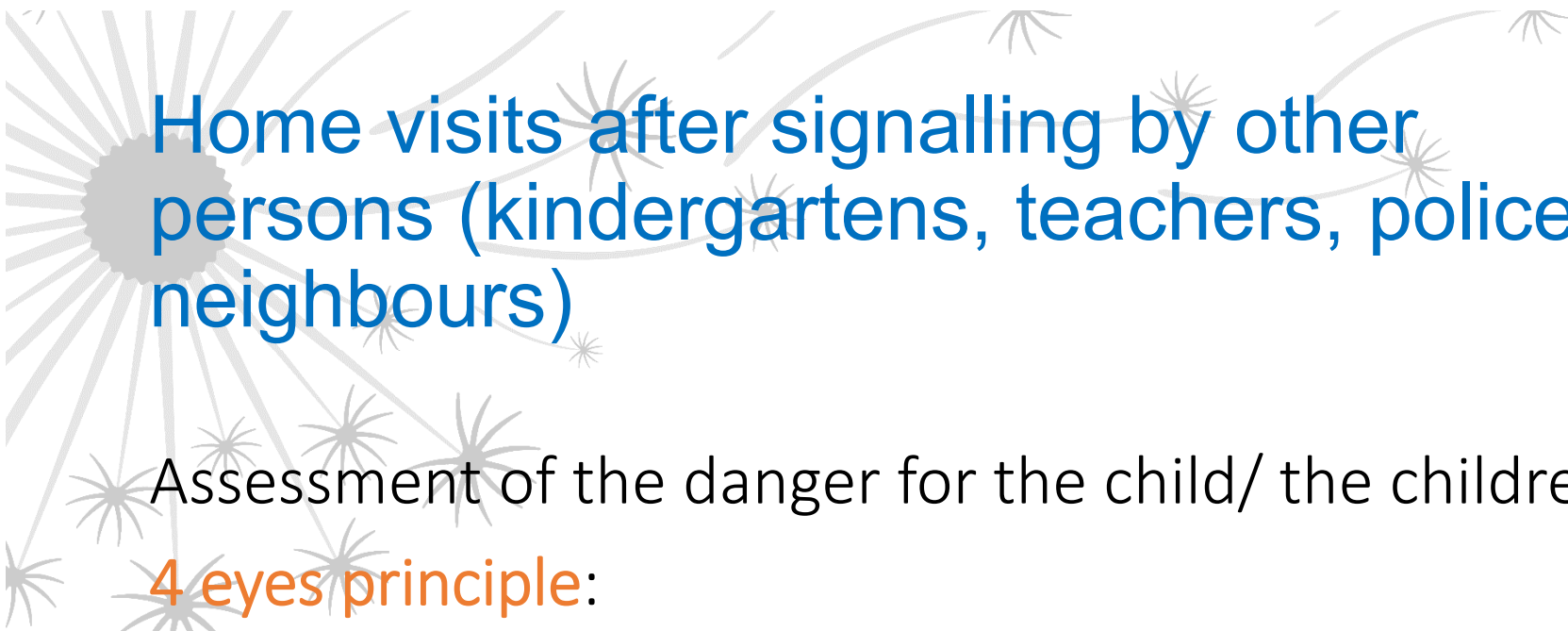
Sexual; 2%





Standards used for the assessment of danger for child/children after signaling by other persons (kindergartens, teachers, police, neighbours)

- Home visit „Four eyes principle“
- Speak personally with Children/Adults
- Medical Check by a doctor if child/children aged 0-3
- Case discussion with Teamleader
- Always use the **mildest** measure
- Every step on the way is well documented



Home visits after signalling by other persons (kindergartens, teachers, police, neighbours)

Assessment of the danger for the child/ the children –

4 eyes principle:

- a) Conclusion that there is no danger
- b) Conclusion that there is a certain danger – developing of an “help plan”
- c) Conclusion that there is a high danger – Placement in a crisis center after consultation with a leading social worker



Supported upbringing – „staying at home as priority“

Help Plan with objectives, time frame and involvement of all concerned persons

- Assistance by social worker
- Intensive assistance by mobile unit working with families (“Mobile Arbeit mit Familien”)
- Assistance by “Familienhilfe Plus” service
- Conversations with psychologists
- Family coaching
- Assistance by cooperating partners (e.g. by NGOs)



Temporary placement in crisis centers or with crisis foster families

- Goal: development of an “help plan” and return of the child to the family of origin
- Placement up to six weeks
- During this time intensive consultation between parents, social workers and social pedagogues
- If this is not possible: longer term placement of the child in small group homes or foster families with a strategy for the future

Thank you for your attention
The floor is open for discussion