



**A family environment at risk of poverty:
the economic, social and health
consequences for well-being of children**

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A family environment at risk of poverty: the economic, social and health consequences for well-being of children



korak po korak

UDRUGA RODITELJA

Parents' Association Step by step is an NGO which advocates development of a society oriented to the best interests of children and youth as well as protection and respect of the rights and interests of children, youth and families

Open Space - Overview

Poverty and
social exclusion

Croatian reality

Child poverty in
Croatia

Child well-being
and
consequences of
living in poverty

Social support
for vulnerable
families

Poverty

- Poverty can be defined in a number of different ways: at an aggregated level these different measures can be categorized as either relative poverty or absolute/extreme poverty.
- Poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information (World Summit on Social Development)
- **Material and social deprivation**

Social exclusion

- Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process which involves the lack of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society.
- Wide-ranging factors for social exclusion as unemployment, access to education, childcare and healthcare facilities, living conditions, as well as social participation.

At risk of poverty rate, 2010 – 2018, Croatia

	Total	Men	Women
2010.	20.6	19.7	21.4
2011.	21.0	19.7	22.0
2012.	20.4	19.4	21.3
2013.	19.5	18.8	20.3
2014.	19.4	18.7	20.1
2015.	20.0	19.3	20.6
2016.	19.5	18.6	20.4
2017.	20.0	18.9	20.9
2018.	19.3	18.1	20.4

At risk of poverty rate by households type – 2018, Croatia

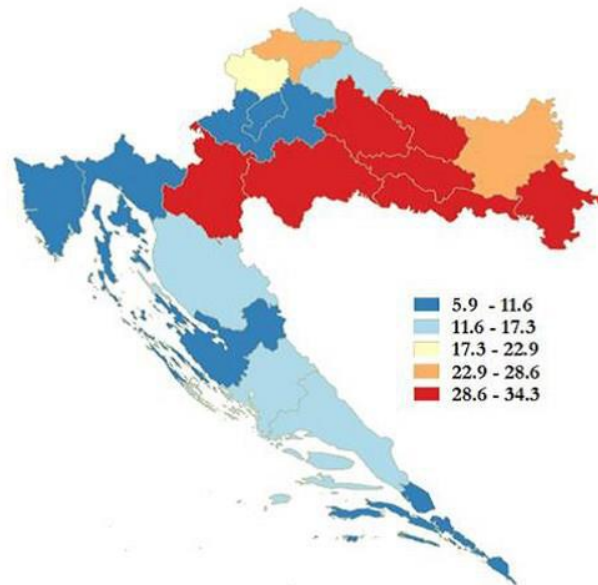
Households with dependent children	
Single parent with one or more dependent children	37,2
Two adults with one dependent children	15,7
Two adults with two dependent children	10,7
Two adults with three or more dependent children	31,3

At risk of poverty or social exclusion 2010 – 2018, Croatia

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<i>Total</i>	31.1	32.6	32.6	29.9	29.3	29.1	27.9	26.4	24.8
0 - 17	29.4	31.1	34.8	29.3	29.0	28.2	26.6	25.8	23.7
18 - 24	34.5	34.7	31.6	32.9	31.3	27.9	28.3	25.4	22.1
25 - 54	27.9	30.2	31.0	28.1	27.7	27.0	25.0	22.8	20.5
55 - 64	33.2	36.1	34.4	32.1	33.0	33.3	31.4	29.1	29.7
65+	37.5	36.4	33.1	31.9	29.7	31.9	32.8	32.7	32.0

Poverty in Croatia – regional differences

Karta siromaštva za Hrvatsku (stopa siromaštva na razini NUTS3)



Material and social deprivation

- The inability to afford basic resources and services such as sufficient food and heating, but also social activities
- Indicators for household deprivations (7) and personal deprivations (6)

Material deprivation indicators, 2010 – 2018, Croatia

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Percentage of persons living in household that suffers from:									
Inability to keep home adequately warm during the coldest months	8.3	9.8	10.2	9.9	9.7	9.9	9.3	7.4	7.7
Inability to afford a one-week annual holiday away from home	67.3	68.9	71.4	70.5	70.1	65.8	61.2	58.2	51.3
Inability to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish or vegetarian equivalent every second day	15.7	17.4	16.7	14.0	12.7	14.4	12.5	10.5	10.1
Inability to face unexpected financial expenses	62.3	64.4	67.4	65.1	63.7	59.8	57.7	56.2	52.9
Being in arrears with utility bills	28.0	27.5	28.9	30.4	29.1	28.7	25.3	21.0	17.5

Poverty and social exclusion – consequences for families

- Material, educational, cultural and social deprivation
- It can lead to inequality, unemployment and involuntary migration
- It can lead to social stigmatization and marginalization
- It can develop fear complex among the excluded
- It puts various restrictions on the excluded about their free and full participation in the society
- On the whole, it puts an intense negative impact on the quality of life and well-being

Sustainable Development Goal 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Well-being of children?
- Indicators of well-being of children

Indicators of well-being of children

(State of the World's Children, UNICEF)

- ✓ Economic situation of the family (income)
- ✓ Housing and the local community
- ✓ Children's health
- ✓ Child safety
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Emotional well-being
- ✓ Risky behaviors
- ✓ The quality of relationships with friends and family
- ✓ Active participation in society
- ✓ Free activities
- ✓ Subjective perceptions of well-being

Child poverty and material deprivation for preschool children in Croatia, UNICEF 2015

- Research from 2015, UNICEF Office for Croatia
- Overview of key findings
- Quantitative and qualitative methodology
- Official national statistical data
- Focus groups with parents from vulnerable groups (beneficiaries from social transfers)

Child poverty and material deprivation – key findings

- Poverty in Croatia – rural phenomenon (65%)
- 33% of preschool children living in poverty live in a family with no employees or with parents exclusively engaged in agriculture
- Employment of both parents – key factor for reducing child poverty (<5%)
- High levels of deprivation in areas of basic and everyday needs
- Material deprivation of children is lower than material deprivation of parents
- Social transfers are key (mostly only, 86%) source of income for families living in poverty

Families at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion

Single parent families

Families with 3 or more children

Roma families

Families living in rural areas

Families with children with disabilities

Multiple risks – the most vulnerable families!

Child poverty – basic and everyday needs

Children living in poverty mostly have insufficient and inadequate nutrition

80% of preschool children living in poverty will live in poverty as an adults

25% of poor children – still in poverty after social transfer

42% families living in poverty can't afford 3 meals per day for children

45% families living in poverty can't afford meat (or equivalent) meal every day for children

30% families living in poverty can't afford fresh fruit or vegetables every day for children

Child poverty – health

- Almost all children have health insurance and vaccinated regularly
- Parents living in poverty can't afford medicines or cures for children to be paid extra (vitamines, immunity cure, special skin care products etc.)
- Health services for children are inaccessible to poor families living in rural areas (pediatrician, speech therapist, special educator, psychologist)
- Children living in poverty have lower dental care
- Children living in poverty have more health problems (nutrition!)
- Parents of children living in poverty have more health problems

Child poverty – basic developmental needs

35% children living in poverty don't have their own bed

27% don't have their own books, picture books, coloring books or crayons

16% don't have toys

29% don't have folding toys (puzzles, cubes, legos..)

29% don't have bicycle, romobile (new or old)

Child poverty – access to educational services

60% of families can't afford kindergarten or preschool services

Only 23% of poor children were attending kindergarten

14% of poor children were not include in (mandatory) preschool education

73% of poor children don't have access to theatre, cinema or museum

37% children living in poverty don't have access to library (rural areas!)

35% of poor children don't use any sports, recreation programs or playgrounds

Child poverty – multiple consequences

- Poverty and material deprivation are correlated with numerous **social risks and lower opportunities** for children
- Children living in poverty are **socially deprived** in all areas for optimal development
- Poor parents, who are also in lower education, are less likely to be involved in activities that foster the **cognitive, emotional and social development of children**
- Children living in poverty are significantly less exposed to activities and interactions that foster the **development of cognitive skills**

Child poverty – multiple consequences

- For children living in poverty **early education services are physically and financially unavailable**
- Lower accessibility to social services medical care are correlated with inherent **health and social issues** for children living in poverty
- Children living in poverty are more likely to live in poverty as an adults

Child poverty – multiple consequences

- Poverty permeates every facet of children's lives, from economic and material disadvantages, through social and relational constraints and exclusions, to the personal and more hidden aspects of poverty associated with shame, sadness and the fear of difference and stigma

Child poverty – Overview of Croatian reality

- Total social expenditures for children and families are **significantly lower than the EU average**
- Various strategic documents and legislation have been adopted to promote the well-being of children, but there are numerous **difficulties in their implementation**
- Parents with three or more children and those from the rural areas receive less support from different institutions and organizations
- **Social support** contributes to the emotional well-being of the child, facilitates coping with stress and social roles



Social support for vulnerable families

- Parents Association Step by Step – NGO, Zagreb, Croatia
- Overall psycho-social support to vulnerable families (in risk of soc. exclusion)
- Work with marginalized families, (non)voluntary beneficiaries
- Continuous cross-sectoral cooperation
- Exchange of information with other professionals (ethical dilemmas)
- Single parent families, Teenage parent families, Ex-prisoners parent families

Teenage parents families #MomIsMom

- Teenage pregnancy – mostly unplanned and unwanted, related to risky sexual behavior (lack of systematic sexual education in Croatia)
- Psychological, social and health risks related to teenage pregnancies
- Social risks: Early school drop-out, Unemployment, Poverty and social exclusion, Stigmatization, Single-parents risks
- Multiplying risks for children of teenage parents

Teenage parents families #MomIsMom

- Individual psychological and legal counseling
- Group work (small educational groups, support groups)
- Involvement of other professionals (social workers, lawyers, gynecologists)
- Counseling focused on accepting a new situation, dealing with stress and fears, normalizing broken family relationships, working on partnerships, assuming a responsible parental role
- „Children with children” – UN Convention, Rights of a child

Teenage parents families #MomIsMom

- Online counseling through the web-site MALOLJETNI-RODITELJI.NET
- Educational and vocational skills programs
- Cultural and educational activities – workshops, going to the cinema, theatres
- Theatre show „Two blue lines”
- Sports and recreational activities #ActiveMOM
- #CheapAndHealthy – cooking workshops

Web Portal **maloljetni-roditelji.net**

MAMA JE MAMA
PORTAL ZA MALOLJETNE TRUDNICE I RODITELJE

Naslovnica Savjetovalište MAMA JE MAMA Pitaj stručnjaka Info kutak Stručni tim Kontakt

Traži... Traži

Dobrodošli na portal za maloljetne trudnice i roditelje!

Ovaj portal pokrenut je kako bismo maloljetnim roditeljima i trudnicama pružili mjesto na kojem mogu potražiti odgovore na svoja brojna pitanja te im tako pomogli da se suoče sa situacijom u kojoj su se zatekli. U Info kutku objavljujemo tekstove o raznim temama koje se tiču **maloljetnih** trudnica i roditelja, a također je moguće postaviti pitanja našim stručnjacima – psiholozima, pravnicima, socijalnim radnicima i ginekolozima. Pitanja se postavljaju anonimno, a odgovori su javno objavljeni kako bi pomogli svima koji se susreću sa sličnim poteškoćama. Nedavno smo osvježili i unaprijedili staru verziju portala kako bi bio interaktivniji i pristupačniji korisnicima. Nadamo se da će vam naši sadržaji biti korisni i zanimljivi.

Zauzmi se za sebe

Zauzmi se za sebe, video o samopoštovanju i postavljanju granica.
Video obrađuje temu samopoštovanja i postavljanja granica te upućuje djecu na moguće izvore pomoći. Namijenjen je učenicima osnovnih škola, ali može biti vrlo zanimljiv i mnogo starijima. [Pročitaj više](#)

MAMA JE MAMA
Savjetovalište za maloljetne trudnice i roditelje
01/2442-061
DNEVNIK

PREDSTAVA ZA MLADE

Dvije crte plavo

Rosie Kugli

REZIJA I DRAMATURGIJA Frana
Marija Vranković
IGRAJU Sara Moser i Svetlana
Patafta

KOPRODUKCIJA Teatar Puna
kuća, Teatar Exit i Gradsko
kazalište Sisak



Publications



Ex-prisoners parent families #FurtherBetter

- Activities for parents after serving their sentence
- Well-being of ex-prisoners children? *„It is not my crime but it is my sentence”*
- In cooperation with the Probation Office and Lepoglava, Bjelovar and Pozega prisons
- Counseling work aimed at adapting to the social environment after leaving prison, reducing marginalization, working to normalize partnerships, establishing contact with children, facing the challenges of a life after prison



Thank you 😊

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- Well-being of children and vulnerable families – what can we do more?
 - Comments..
 - Questions..

