



# The impact of child poverty on children's rights to safety

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**From Rhetoric to Action: *Tackling Child Poverty and Promoting Children's Health and Well-being in the EU***

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The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child from birth until 18 years of age has the right to the highest attainable level of health and the right to a safe environment.

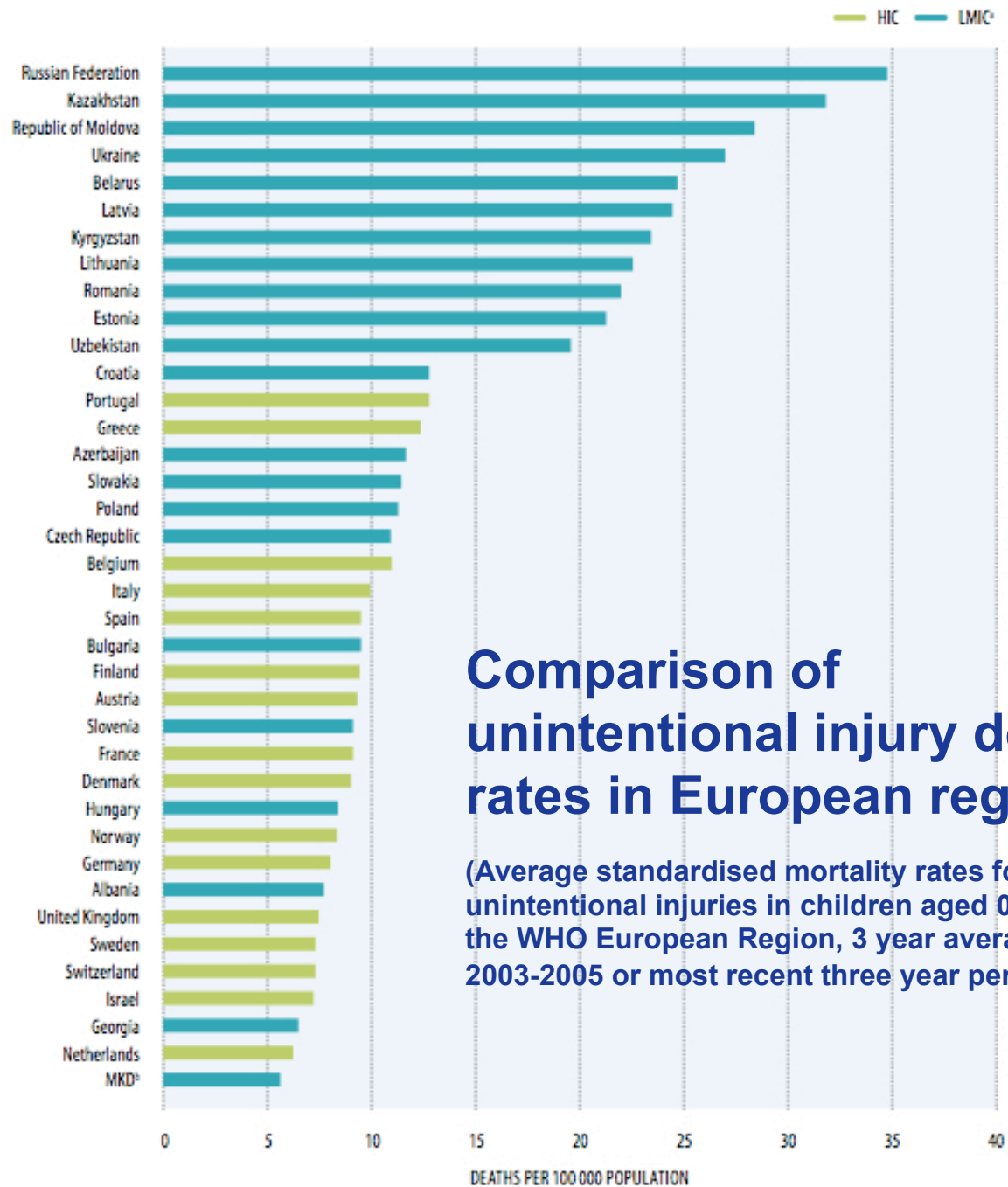
Therefore, we have a duty to ensure children's rights to safety.



## Top causes of death in male children 0-19 years in the EU27<sup>1</sup>

< 1 year	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-19 years
Perinatal conditions 51%	<b>Injuries</b> 28%	<b>Injuries</b> 31%	<b>Injuries</b> 40%	<b>Injuries</b> 69%
Congenital malformations 26%	Congenital malformations 15%	Cancer 25%	Cancer 19%	Cancer 8%
Respiratory disease 3%	Cancer 13%	Nervous system disease 9%	Congenital malformations 6%	Nervous system disease 6%
Nervous system disease 3%	Nervous system disease 10%	Congenital malformations 9%	Circulatory disorders 5%	Circulatory disorders 4%
<b>Injuries</b> 3%	Infectious disease 7%	Respiratory disease 5%	Endocrine disorders 5%	Respiratory disease 3%
Infectious disease 2%	Respiratory disease 7%	Endocrine disorders 5%	Respiratory disease 4%	Congenital malformations 3%
Endocrine disorders 1%	Endocrine disorders 4%	Circulatory disorders 4%	Nervous system disease 3%	Endocrine disorders 2%
Circulatory disorders 1%	Circulatory disorders 4%	Infectious disease 2%	Infectious disease 2%	Infectious disease 1%
Digestive disorders 1%	Digestive disorders 3%	Blood disorders 2%	Blood disorders 1%	Digestive disorders 1%
Cancer 1%	Blood disorders 3%	Digestive disorders 1%	Digestive disorders 1%	Mental disorders 1%

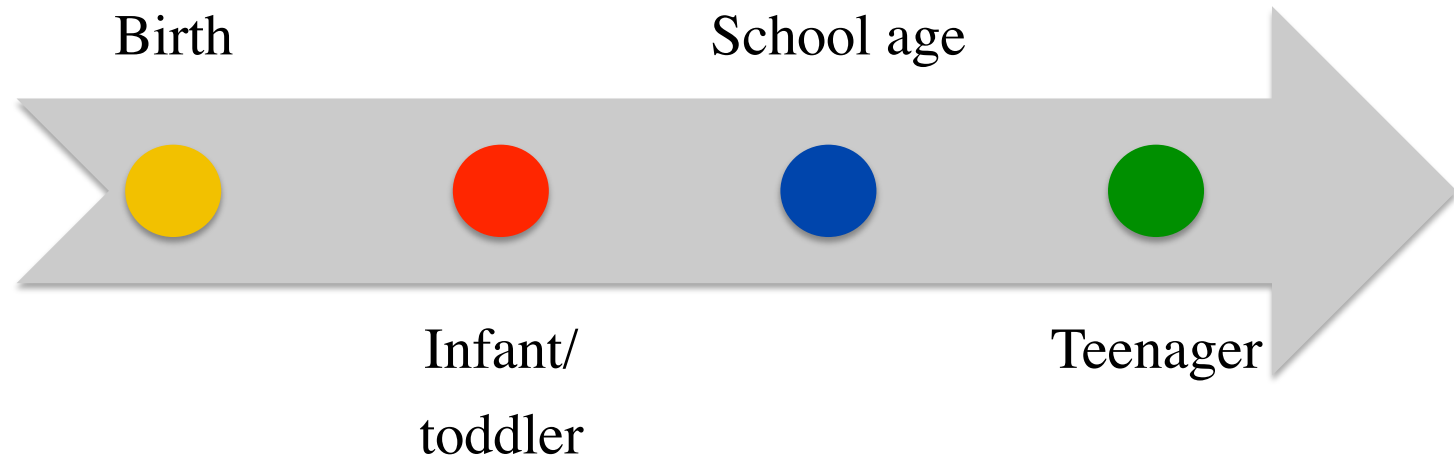
<sup>1</sup> Data source: WHO European Detailed Mortality Database – percentages based on 2008-2010 or the 3 most recent years of data available using ICD10; ICD10 Chapter 18 [symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified] excluded from table and EU27 data does not include Greece as only ICD9 coding available.



## Comparison of unintentional injury death rates in European region

(Average standardised mortality rates for all unintentional injuries in children aged 0-19 years in the WHO European Region, 3 year average for 2003-2005 or most recent three year period)

# Impact of poverty in childhood



## Birth

- Living in a single parent household
- Parent unemployment
- Excessive alcohol and drug use
- Smoking
- Inadequate housing





## Infant/toddler

- Lack of essential childcare products and their proper use
- Reduced supervision
- Increased risk of child abuse and neglect
- Lack of safe indoor and outdoor play spaces
- Increased risk of house fires







## School age

- Increased risk of pedestrian, motor vehicle transport and cycling injuries
- Latch key kids
- Increased risk of bullying
- Less safe outdoor spaces to play



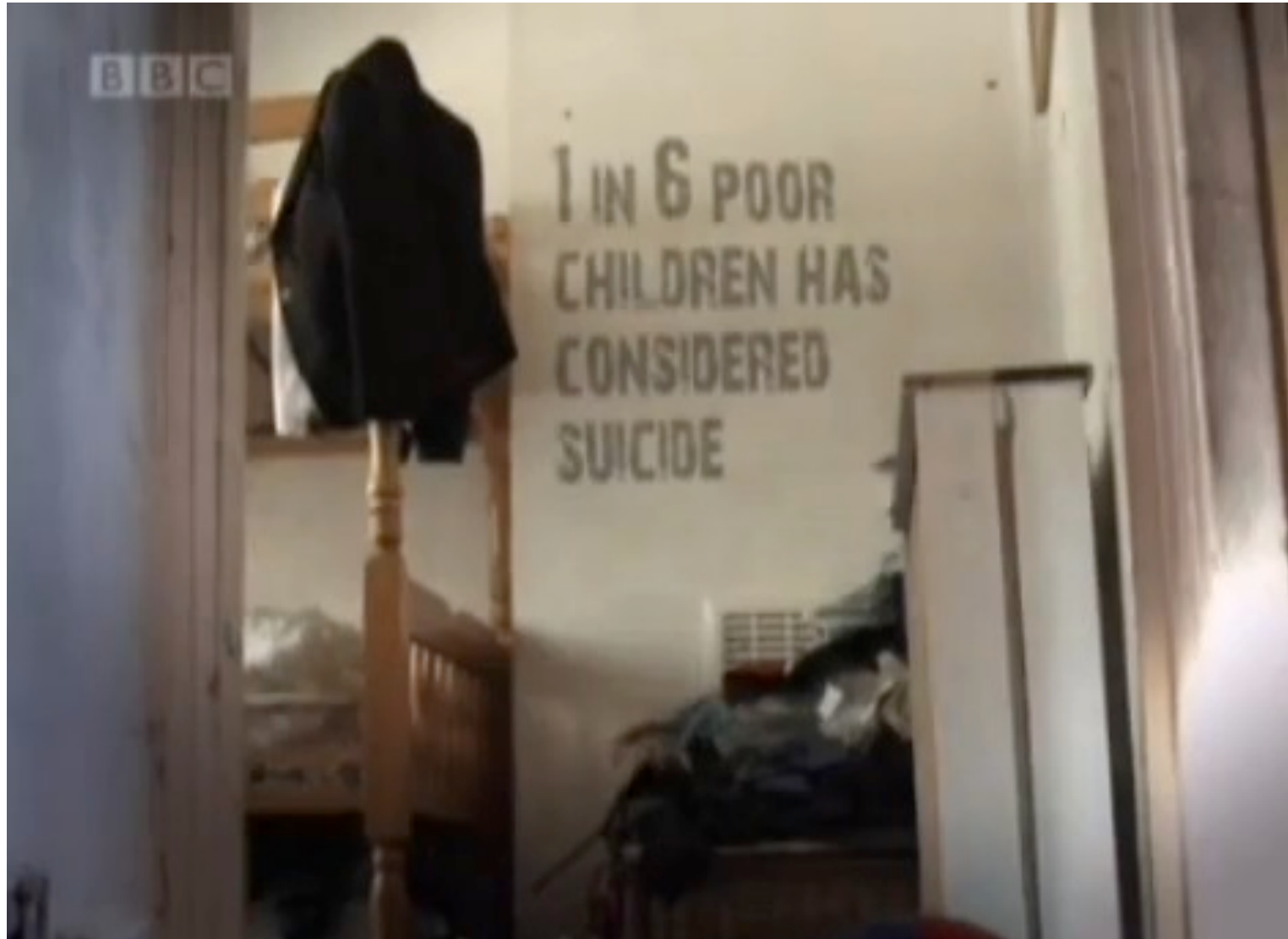


## Teenager

- Cannot afford to be part of activities
- Begin to hang out and take up smoking, drinking and drugs
- Suffer depression/ consider suicide/ attempt suicide/
- Males increase risk taking of harm and violence behaviours
- Females increase risk taking of self harm and harm to others

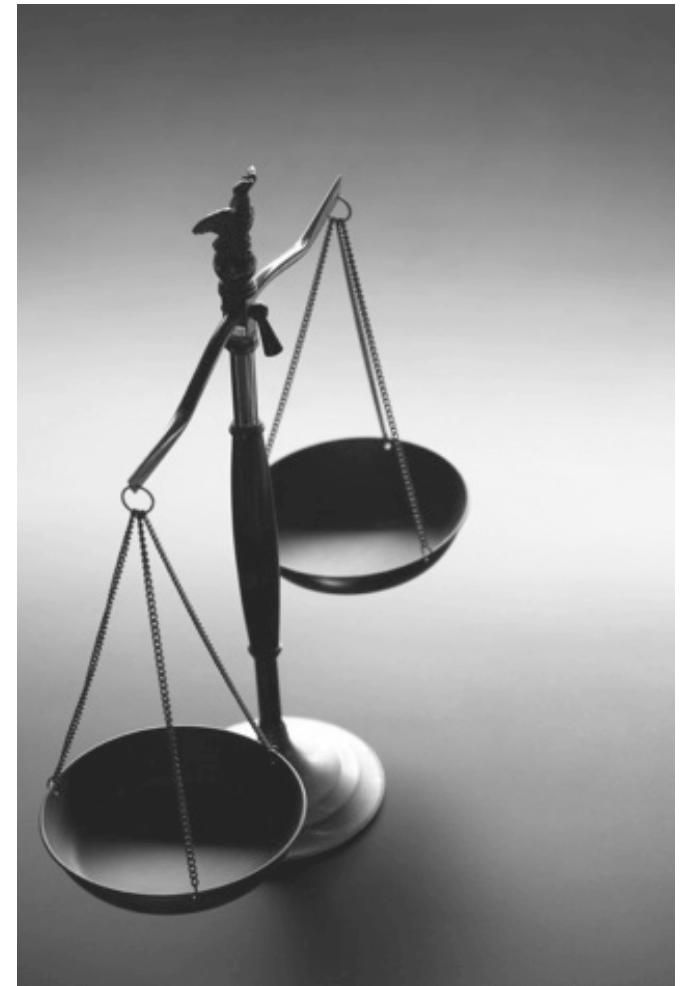






# Child injury and inequity

The inequalities that exist for child injury are for the most part unnecessary and avoidable – as such they are unjust and unfair and lead to inequity.



# Next steps to enhance children's right to safety

- ❖ Commitment to put children first
- ❖ Investment in human capital
- ❖ Create and implement a plan of action
- ❖ Take up what has proven to work
- ❖ Build capacity







**Thank you!**

[www.childsafetyeurope.org](http://www.childsafetyeurope.org)