

# Regional Patterns of the Child's Welfare under the Social Policy Reform in Russia

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# A Child's Right to a Family: Deinstitutionalization of Child Welfare in Putin's Russia (<https://blogs.helsinki.fi/childwelfare/>)

## Talk outline:

1. Deinstitutionalization as a part of the reform of social provision in Russia: two-way road
2. Factors which explain deinstitutionalization of orphanage system
3. Regional patterns and its predictions:
  - Regional patterns of the reform of the public orphanage system
  - Regional patterns and types of nonprofits involved in service provision for foster families and children without family

# Deinstitutionalisation as a two-way road

- The reform of the **public residential care for children** (Decree RF #481), family-like treatment, foster family placement etc.
- The involvement of **NGOs in service provision** for children without parents (FZ-442), from alternative to integrated providers

*What regional patterns of the deinstitutionalization of residential care exist?*

# Dynamic in numbers of orphans (Rosstat) and children's homes

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
297 329	321 866	348 396	343 334	360 826	463 986	481 083

2015

**1 646 children's'  
homes**

(Galina Semya)

2016

**1 055 residential care  
institutions**

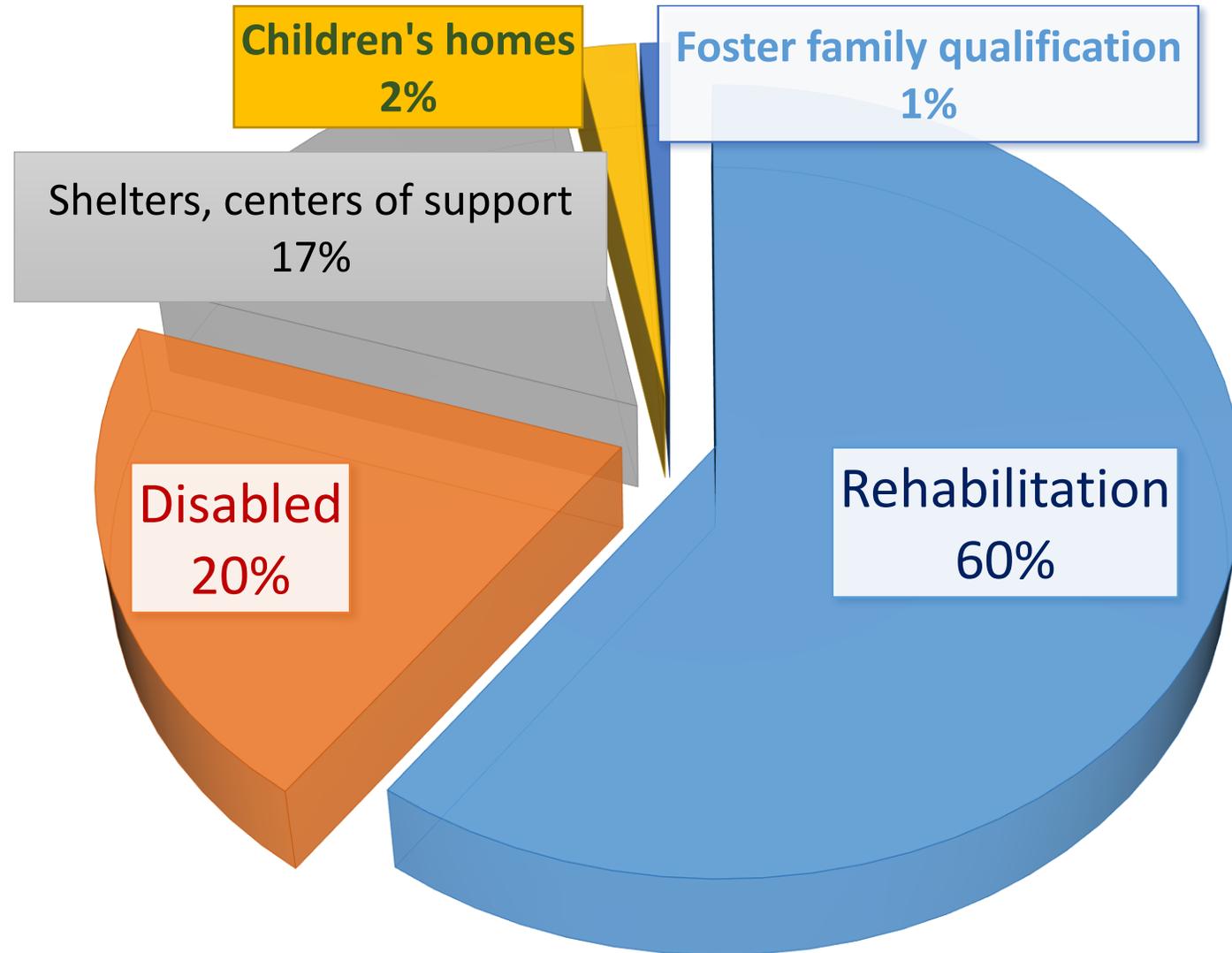
(Rosstat)

2017

**1 193 public providers  
for orphans**

(Analysis of public providers)

# Public organisations for children left without parental care (2017)



Factors of deinstitutionalization and reforms  
in general:

# Factors of deinstitutionalization

(Courtney M., Dolev T., Gilligan R. (2009))

Social and *economic development*



- **Wealthier countries** tend to invest in family-like children's care (UK, Sweden, Ireland) – problem treatment
- **Economic crises** (Russia) – problem appearance

Activity of *religious organisations*



- **Religious charity** "hiding undesirable population: "unworthy" poor, disabled and orphaned children (USA)
- **Russian Orthodox Church** (children should stay in family) and North Caucasus traditions

The role of the dominant *paradigm* in the expert community



- **Socialist ideology** (collective values) and **paternalism** (state better cares than family)
- **Attachment theory**
- **Society's responsibility** for children left without family (neoliberal discourse)

# Additional factors of deinstitutionalization:

1. **Learning public diffusion network**, USA (Vanessa Bouché and Craig Volden, 2011)

- “Social workers as agents of change” (Yarskaya-Smirnova, Sorokina, Romanov, 2012): competition procedures for public providers
- Experts as “political entrepreneurs” (Kulmala, Bindman, Bogdanova)

2. The role of the **welfare bureaucracy** as an interest group resisting social policy reforms (Linda Cook 2007)

‘Public service providers depend on state administrators’ encouraging patron-client exchange’ (H. Hale, 2003). The established machine politics (the political loyalty of ‘bjudzhetniki’) would resist the retrenchment

# Sample and dependent variable

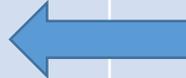
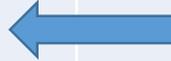
## 1) **Sample – 70 Russian regions in 2017**

11 outliers and 8 regions without official lists of providers out of 85 Russian regions

2) **Quantitative data** gathered from official lists of social service providers and measured as a percentage / number of NGOs and private companies (**official statistics** (Rosstat))

3) **Interviews** done within the research project

	Number of childrens' homes (2017)	Percentage of orphans per population (2017)	Regional Gross Domestic Product per capita, RUB (2015)	The number of socially oriented NGOs in the region (2017)
Ulyanovskaya oblast'	7	0,5%	239 209	1 418
Kurganskaya oblast'	6	0,6%	207 554	9 681
Amurskaya oblast'	4	0,5%	342 762	852
Kaluzhskaya oblast'	2	0,4%	331 468	44 036
Voronezhskaya oblast'	2	0,2%	352 926	2 725
Altaiskii krai	1	0,5%	206 712	23 720
Sakhalinskaya oblast'	2	0,6%	2 047 998	896



# Ulyanovskaya oblast'

- The role of the welfare bureaucracy: the government restriction on of the reform of public providers + separate ministry
- BUT there must be smth else because welfare bureaucracy (separate ministry also exist in other regions - examples)

# Children's home in Amurskaia oblast'

gaudetskidom3.ucoz.ru/index/otdelenie\_po\_podgotovke\_i\_soprovozhdeniju\_zameshhajushhikh\_semej/0-5

Новая вкладка

Четверг, 19.10.2017, 14:29

Версия для слабовидящих

## Свободненский специальный (коррекционный) детский ДОМ

Меню сайта

- Главная страница
- Информация о сайте
- Каталог статей
- Форум

Отделение по подготовке и сопровождению замещающих семей

Отделение по подготовке и сопровождению замещающих семей

- Open information about the status of children's home
- Department on training and guiding for foster parents
- Family placement for children ("visiting", "weekend" settlement)

# “Children’s home №4” in Tomsk registered as “Center for assistance to children left without parents”

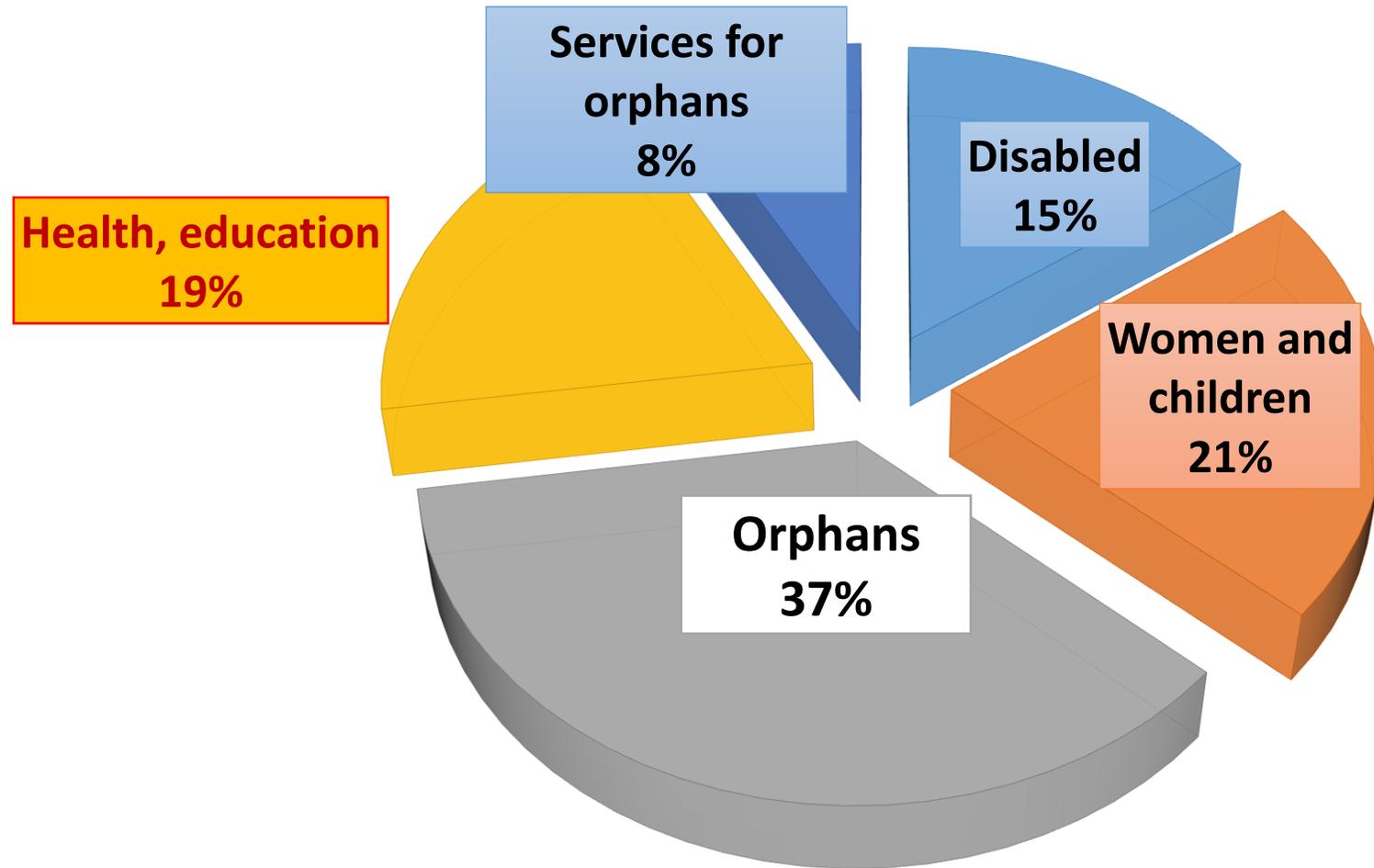


**1961** – “boarding school” (internat)

**1988** – children’s home

**2015** – center for assistance

# NGOs assisting children (72 organisations)



Учредители фонда:



Co-founders of the charity  
foundation “Joy of Life”  
(official provider of services)  
  
(Sakhalinskaia oblast’)

Директором Фонда является Толкачева Ольга  
Борисовна.

С января 2014 г. Фонд реализует проект «Подари мне жизнь». Проект реализуется совместно с Министерством здравоохранения Сахалинской области и направлен на подготовку специалистов по противоабортному консультированию.

# NGOs delivering services for orphans

1. Charity foundation 'Primirenje' (Kostromskaia oblast') affiliated with **Russian Orthodox Church** introduced a program for imprisoned mothers taking care for their children (social orphans)
2. Four **SOS villages** registered in Orlovskaja oblast', Vologodskaja oblast', Murmanskaja oblast' and Pskovskaja oblast' (SOS village in Leningradskaja oblast' and Moskovskaja oblast' are missing).
3. An NGO 'Ostrov Detstva' (Kaliningradskaja oblast') arrange **schools for foster families and parents**
4. Charity foundation on social support and protection of children's right and upbringing/breeding in a family "A cradle of hope" (Kolybel' nadezhdy) in **Perm' krai** (*baby-boxes* + private companies working for orphans and foster families)

# Concluding remarks

1. Though the public orphanage system has been “closed” for a long time, the majority of organisations (the types and ideology of the nonprofits)
2. Rapid “deinstitutionalization” (formal reaction without much change in the content of the performance)
3. Variation in regional patterns is not limited to the dichotomy “implementation/resistance” but appears in other forms (the reduction of childrens’ homes due to more children kept by family or mother)