Alternative Care Thailand

Not less than 135,000 children in residential care in Thailand

679 homes counted could be as many as 1,330

390 unregistered homes

Average number of children is 58 in each home

No. of children
Max. 77,000
Min. 39,382

Mostly led By Chistians

2 out of 76 provinces account for 47.7% of all private children's homes

10 provinces account for 72.66% of all private children's homes

The north region accounts for 53% of all private children's homes, but only 16.4% of children in Thailand

In 5 southern provinces 15,927 children in institutional care

Pondok	Hafiz	Rajaprachanukroh	Private shelters & orphanages	Others
9,094	4,986	1,572	173	102

1 MSDHS Ministry of Social Development and Human Security

- 32 Children's Homes with 4,000+ children
- 2,000 children in Special Needs facilities

4 MOJ Ministry of Justice

99 residential facilities--how many of the children are in Alternative Care is yet to be determined

2 MOC Ministry of Culture

- Responsible for 42,461 temples and 33,510 child monks
- Some temples provide accommodation for over 2,000 children

3 MOE Ministry of Education

- 48 residential schools for 12,517 children with special needs
- 52 government special schools housing 30,513 children

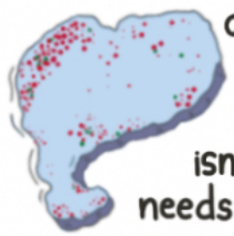
"Many poor families are known to use school dormitories as Alternative Care..."

At least 4 ministries involved in the provision of residential care settings

3 million children in kinship care, this could be a lot less if there was more support for parents.

When alternative care is necessary, family-based care like kinship & foster care is more desirable than institutional care.

But, Government support is only available for 5,400 children in kinship care & less than 300 children are in foster care.



In some places there's a lot of help & in others not much but this difference isn't based on the needs of the children.

Less than 300 children in foster care

Ladaphongphattha,K., Lillicrap,A., Thanapanyaworakun,W. (2025). *Statement Update: No less than 135,000 children in institutional care in Thailand. Alternative Care Thailand.* https://alternativecarethailand.com/resources/