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DI PALERMO

Children for children wellbeing:  
strengthening National Child Care System to guarantee equal rights for all children  
European Union's Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)  
Agreement number: 785676 – REC-RCHI-PROF-AG-2017  
Capacity-building in the area of rights of the child<sup>1</sup>

## Demographic Data Sheet

An initial summary of the results on the data collected about population  
hosted by the communities

### Introduction

All the qualitative surveys on care leavers or on minors hosted in residential communities contain a database on the main personal characteristics of the minors hosted.

In the context of this work, but also in order to have a defined picture of the population residing in the communities, a form was created to collect the main information. All the communities that host minors between 14 and 17 years of age in Palermo received a form in Excel with the request to fill in the individual fields according to the number of minors present in their facility on the date of 31/12/2018<sup>1</sup>.

For each field was provided to the communities, where necessary, a list of response modalities in order to standardize the information to make easier the classification and analysis of responses. Specifically, these are the information collected and the response modalities:

1. Age of the minor: the actual age of the minor on 31/12/2018 is entered in the cell;
2. Age of the minor in the institution: the number of years actually celebrated by the minor when he/she entered the institution is entered in the cell;
3. Age of admission to the care system: the number of years actually spent by the minor at the time of his/her first admission to a care structure, prior to the current one, is entered in the cell;
4. Type of occupation of the parent (Father): the occupational status of the Father is entered by choosing one of these modes: EMPLOYEE; FREELANCE; UNEMPLOYED; UNEMPLOYABLE; HOMEMAKER
5. Type of occupation of the parent (Mother): the occupational status of the Mother is entered, choosing from one of these modes: EMPLOYED; SELF-EMPLOYED; UNEMPLOYED; UNEMPLOYED; HOMEMAKER
6. Marital status of parents: choose from one of the following: SEPARATED/DIVORCED, DECEASED, COUPLE, SINGLE
7. Minors present in the Residential Communities according to parental authority: One of the following options is inserted: PARENTAL AUTHORITY OF BOTH, ONLY FATHER, ONLY MOTHER, NO PARENTS
8. Reason for community placement choose from one of the following: 1. Parental educational inability; 2. Relational problems with the family; 3. Domestic violence problems in the family; 4. Material and emotional neglect of the child; 5. Dependency problems of one of the parents; 6. Behavioral problems of the child; 7. Housing problems of the family; 8. Child sexual abuse/exploitation; 9. Physical abuse; 10. Health problems of one or both parents; 11. Alternative measure to detention; 12. Family financial problems; 13. Problems with the foster family; 14. Judicial problems of one or both parents; 15. Presumed abandonment of the child; problems with

<sup>1</sup> La scelta della data del 31/12/2018 è stata fatta per allineare temporalmente le informazioni raccolte in comunità con quelle fornite dall'anagrafe sulla popolazione residente a Palermo alla stessa data.



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the adoptive family; 16. Health problems of the child; 17. Psychological maltreatment of the child; 18. Serious deviant behavior; 19. Death of one or both parents; 20. Work problems of one or both parents; 21. Work problems of one or both parents; 22. School problems of the minor; 23. Addiction problems of the minor; 24. Witnessing violence; 25. Non-recognition at birth; 26. Gestating mother/girlfriend if minor; 27. Anorexia and bulimia; 28. Other

Country of origin: insert the nationality of origin of the child;

1. Is the minor involved in a process that promotes his/her autonomy? Enter a mode between yes or no;
2. If you answered "yes" to the previous question, please briefly describe the pathway in which the minor is placed: describe the main aspects of the pathway in which the minor is included
3. In the future, will the minor be able to take advantage of other services provided by the institution, which will help or reinforce the pathway to autonomy? a yes or no answer is given
4. If you answered yes to the previous question, please briefly describe the services provided: describe the main aspects of the pathway in which the minor has been included.

## Contact methods and surveys administration procedures

Once the communities had been identified, we proceeded, in conjunction with the Office of the Guarantor of Childhood and Adolescence of the Municipality of Palermo, to initial contact with the structures through a letter, signed by both the Guarantor of Childhood and Adolescence of the Municipality of Palermo and the President of the Unione degli Assessorati, which explained: the context and purpose of the project, the procedures for collecting information, the purpose of data analysis and the methods for returning all the information collected. At the same time, the excel file intended to receive the data and a guide to the compilation of the fields and the modalities of response were sent. The indication of the modalities of response stems from the need to homogenize the information to allow its transposition in quantitative terms.

All communities that participated in the survey returned the file via email. A merge of the individual files into a single summary file was then performed.

Despite this procedural aspect, it was necessary to intervene on the data matrix in order to trace the responses back to the indicated modes, and in some cases, we had to interface again with the responding community in order to obtain clarifications on the data entered.

In fact, the answers to the questions, especially the first three, were either incomplete, for example, the age of the minor was not entered in years, but the date of birth of the minor was entered, or when comparing the data related to the age of entry into the current community and the age of entry for the first time into the care system, the two values were not consistent with each other.

This required, therefore, careful filtering of the information that was the subject of a "second-level control" aimed at identifying errors, even simple ones, of field filling, or cross-references of information, and in general to align the data to the subsequent descriptive static analysis.

## First evidences



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Based on the data collected from the communities that participated in the interviews and returned the completed file, the following information emerges:

1. The average age of the population at the hosting communities in the municipality of Palermo that work with minors 14-17 is 17.5 years old. 53% of them are between the ages of 18-20;
2. Nearly 82% of the population in Palermo's housing communities that operate with minors 14-17 entered the facility that houses them between the ages of 14 and 18. Specifically, 30% between the ages of 14 and 15, 52% between the ages of 16 and 18
3. More than 71% of the population of the housing communities in the City of Palermo that work with minors 14-17 entered the care system for the first time between the ages of 15 and 17. In particular, the highest percentage, 34%, entered the community at the age of 16. And it is precisely the 15-16 age group that, with 57%, is the most frequent period of entry into the community in relation to the population under analysis.
4. The children hosted in the residential communities 14-17 of the municipality of Palermo have fathers who are deceased or, if still alive, have a dependent occupation. In particular, net of the 21% for whom information is not available, 26% have fathers who are deceased and 21% have fathers who are employed. There is a quota of fathers, equal to 19%, who work on an occasional basis or, in any case, do not have stable employment. Only 10% of fathers are unemployed or unemployable.
5. The youths hosted in the residential communities 14-17 of the city of Palermo have a deceased mother or, if still alive, is a housewife. Net of the 12% for whom the information is not available, 33% state that their mother's main activity is linked to the management of the home, while 22% state that she is deceased. Only 10% are employed as dependents or do small occasional jobs.
6. Normally, if the parents are still alive, they are couples or single mothers. 28% of the sample belong to the first category. The incidence of single women or those left alone after a bereavement is 17%, while the percentage of single men, that is, left alone or following the death of their partner/wife, mother of the minor hosted in the community, is minimal, amounting to 8% of the sample. When both parents are still alive, in 12% of cases they are divorced, and only in 9% of cases they are separated. 13% of the children in the community have both parents deceased.
7. Only 8% of minors in the community are under the parental authority of both parents. Otherwise, the information is very inconsistent. In fact, for 29% the information is not available, but it is to be assumed that these individuals are already of age, a figure assigned in 6% of cases. In 41% of cases, parental authority has been withdrawn from both parents.
8. Statistically speaking, the most frequent reason for hosting in the community is because the minor is in the condition of MSNA, in 49% of cases, or because the family has serious economic difficulties, 11% of the sample, or because of problems of violence, 7% of the sample.
9. 55% come from another housing community, while 14% come from Cpa.
10. Only 22% of the minors of the residential communities in Palermo, that host minors between 14-17 years of age, are Italian nationals, the rest are predominantly from Africa and only a small number come from Eastern countries.



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11. All the communities state that the minors present in their facilities are, for the most part, on a path to autonomy and, in the future, they will be able to count on services that allow them to receive help or reinforce their path to autonomy. In reality, we know from the questionnaire administered at the facilities, regarding good practices, that this is not the case due to administrative and financial difficulties.



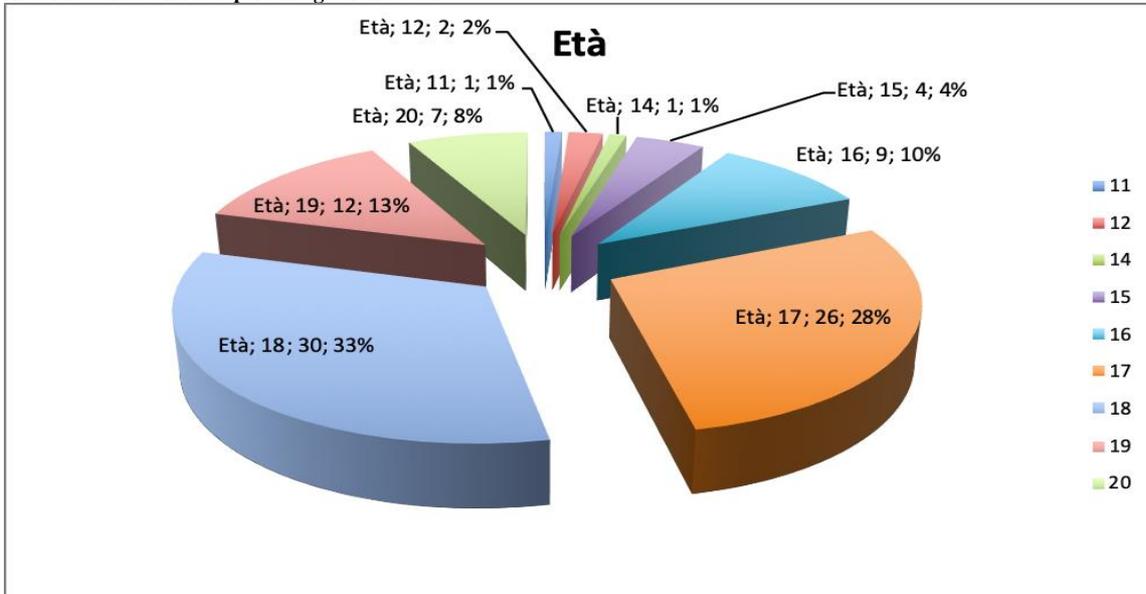
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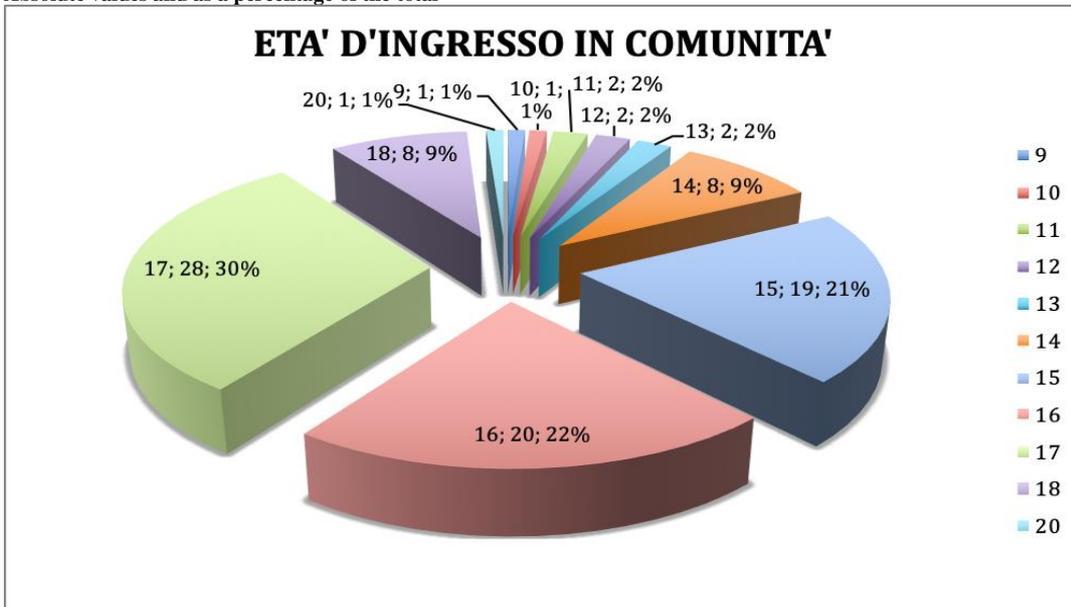
**Graph 1 - Distribution of the population present as of 31/12/2018 at the communities 14-17 in the city of Palermo. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total**



**Q: Age**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

**Graph 2 - Distribution of the population present as of 31/12/2018 at the communities 14-17 in the city of Palermo according to the age of entry at the community currently hosting them. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total**



**Q: Age when entered into the community**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



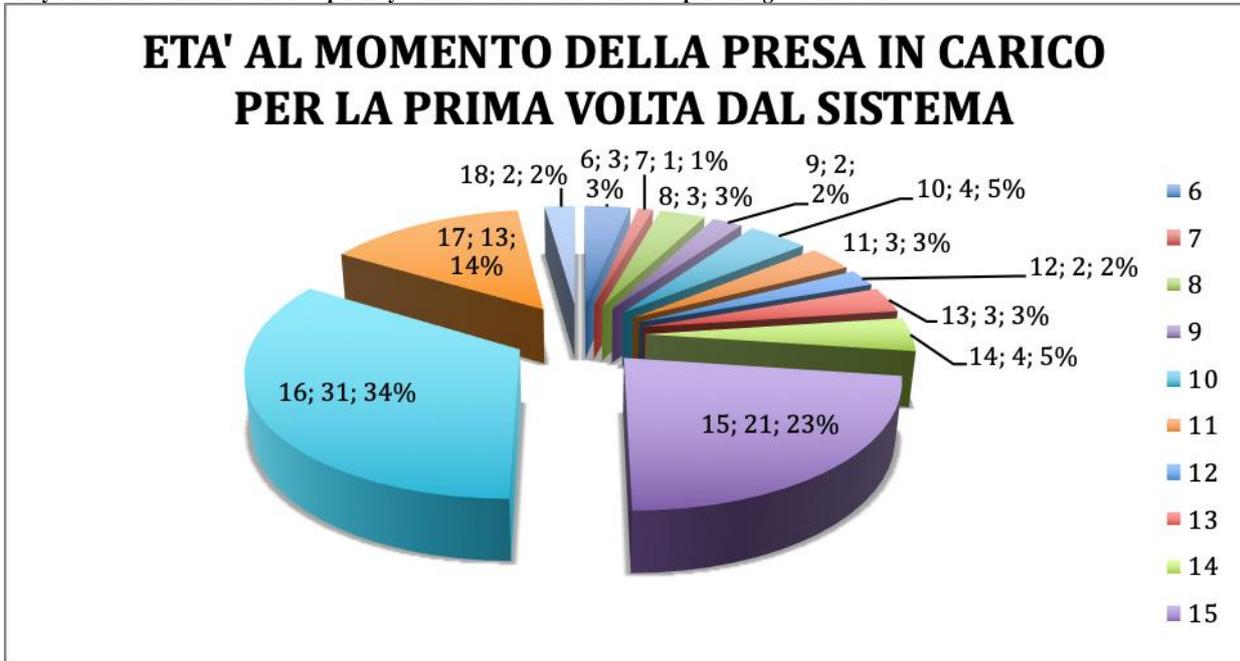
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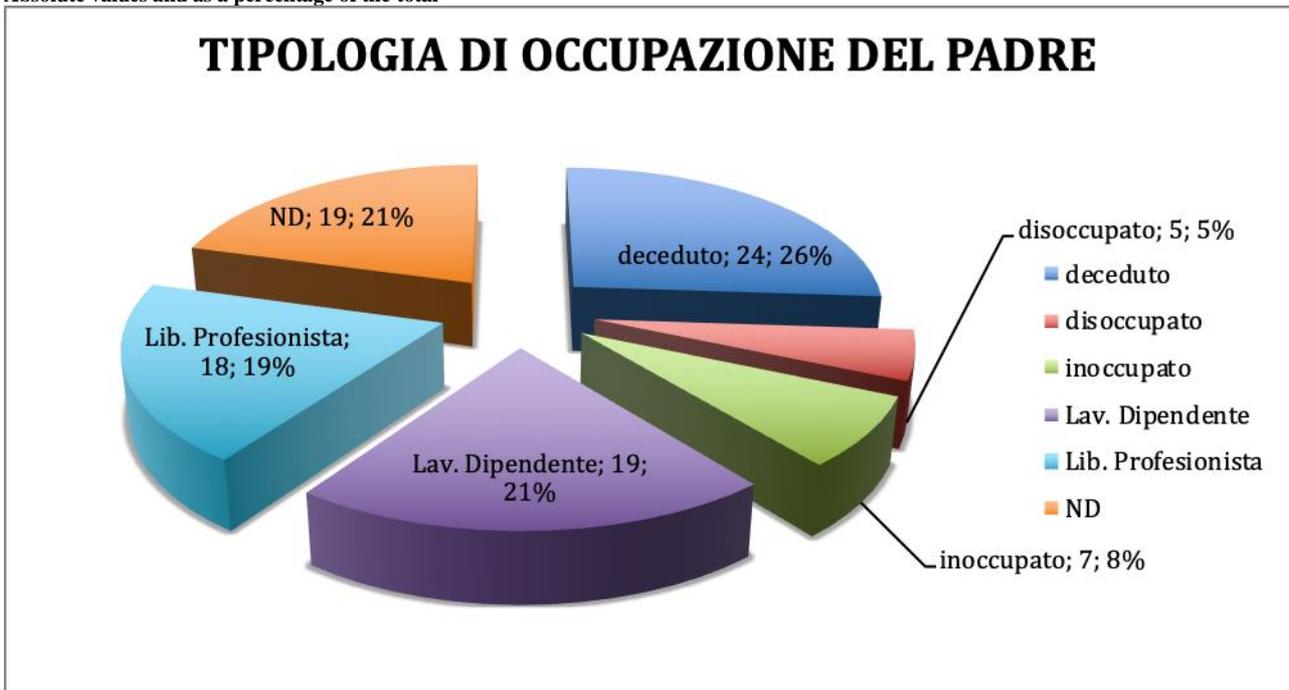
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Graph 3 - Distribution of the population present as of 31/12/2018 in the 14-17 communities in the city of Palermo according to the age of entry for the first time into the reception system. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Q: Age at the time of first intake by the system  
Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

Graph 4 - Distribution of Father's type of employment of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Q: type of occupation of the father  
Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



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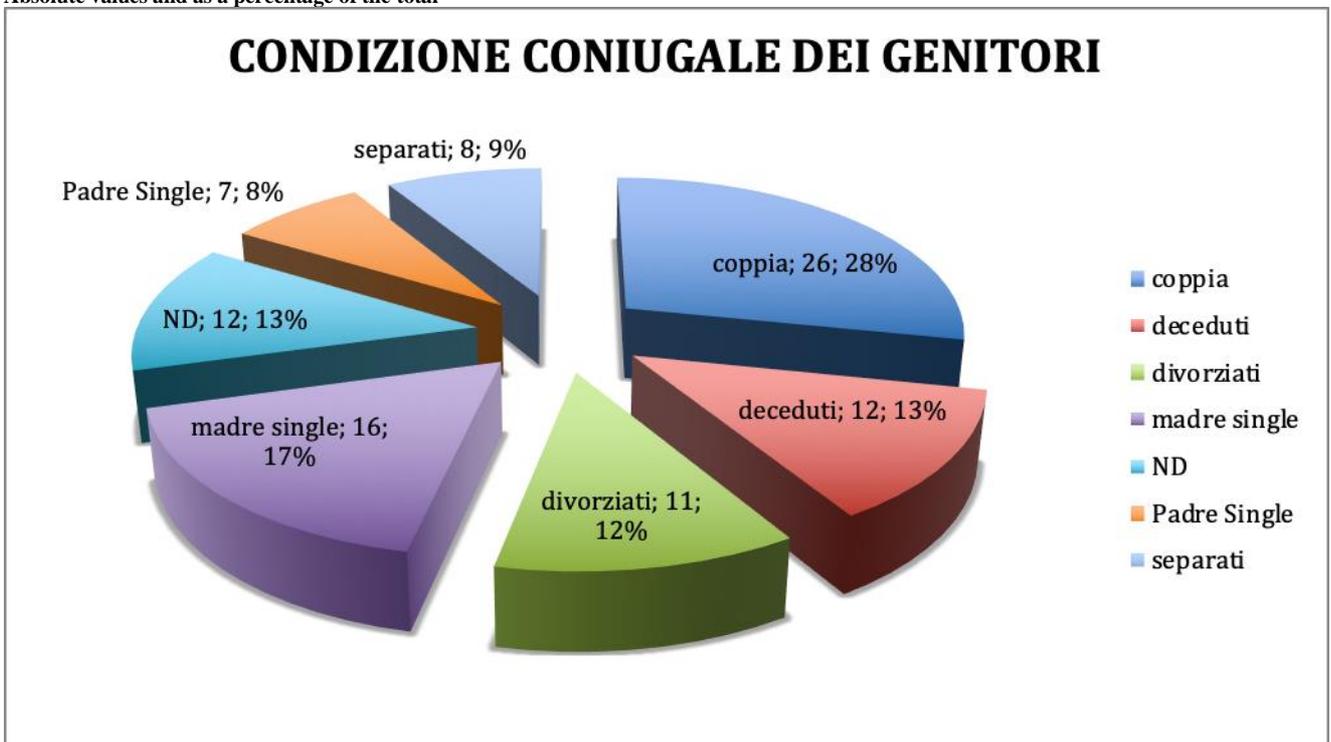
Graph 5 - Distribution of the type of employment of the Mother of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Q: Type of employment of the Mother

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

Graph 6 - Distribution of the marital status of the parents of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Q: conjugal status of parents

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



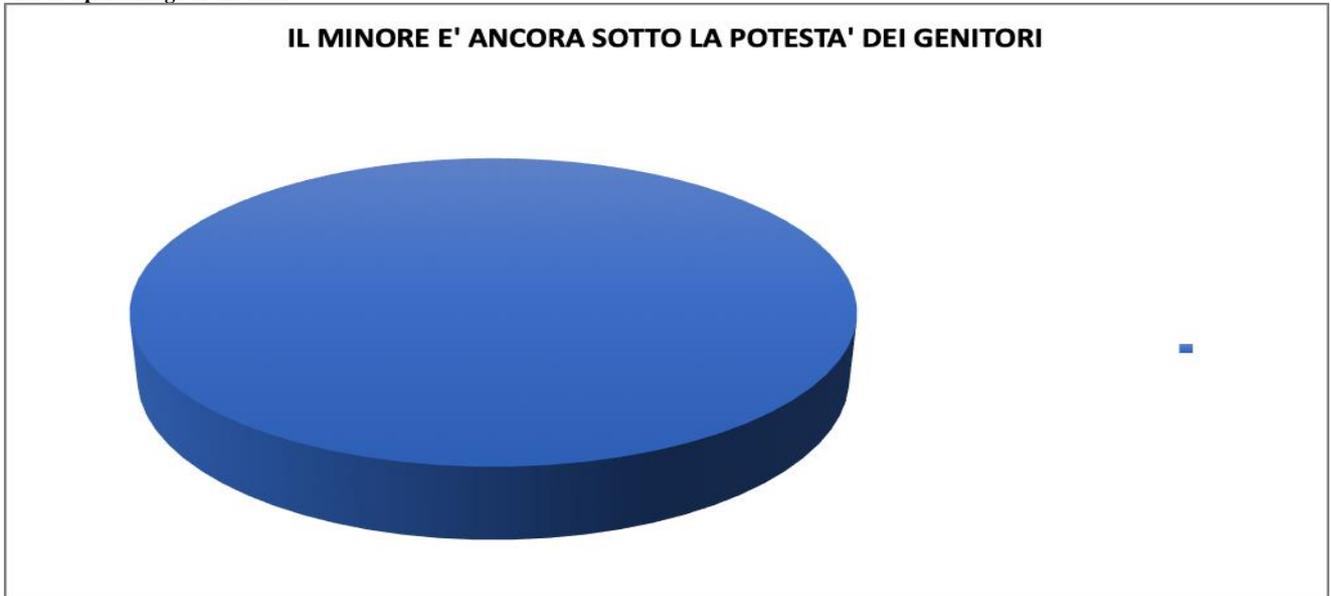
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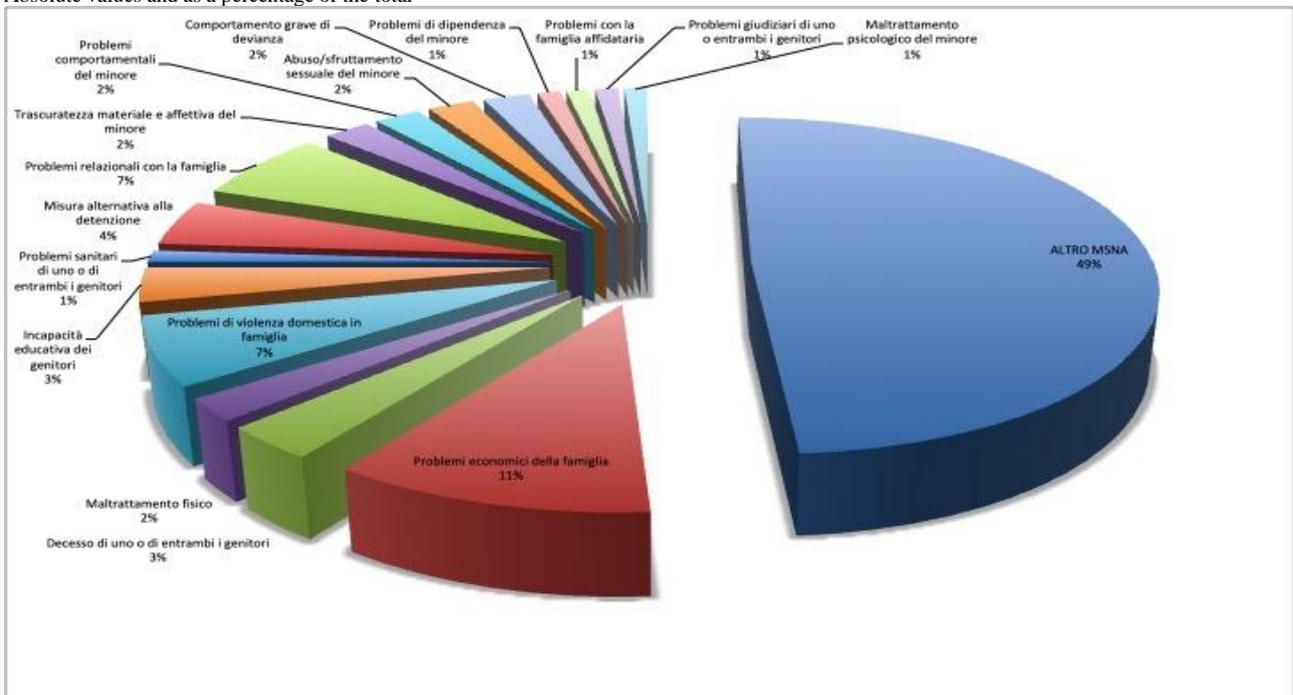
Graph 7 - Distribution of parental authority of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



**Q: the minor is still under parental authority**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

Graph 8 - Distribution of the motivation for community placement of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



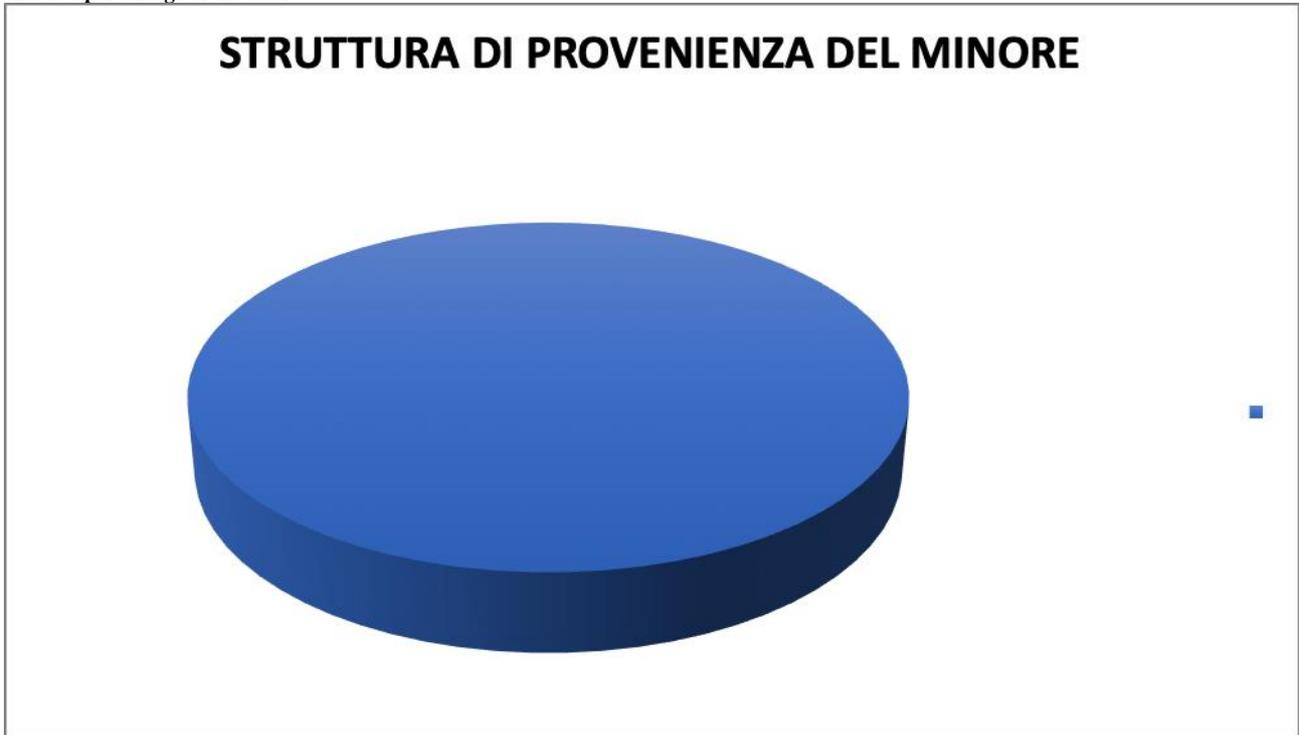
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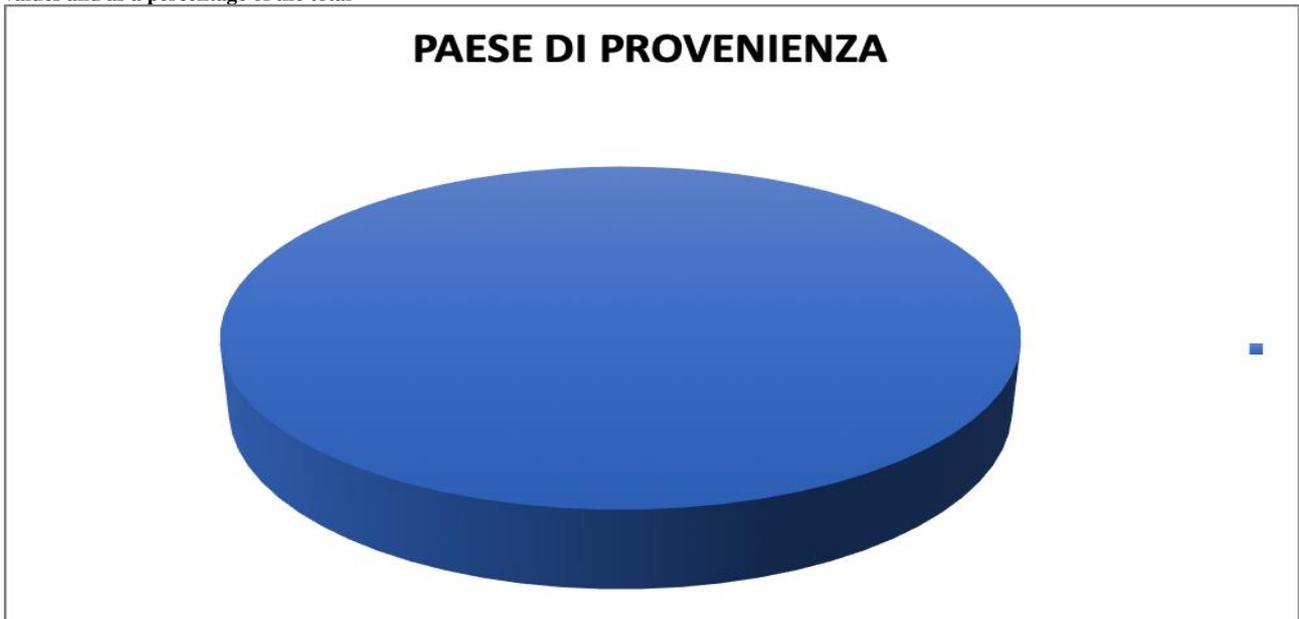
**Graph 9 - Distribution of the structure of origin of the minors hosted in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total**



**Q: Structure of origin of the minor**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

**Graph 10 - Distribution of the country of origin of the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total**



**Q: country of origin**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



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Graph 11- Distribution of the indication of whether the minor is included in a path of autonomy promotion based on the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



Q: Is the minor involved in a process that promotes autonomy?

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet

Graph 13 - Distribution of the indication of whether the minor will be able to enjoy services provided by the community that help or reinforce the path to autonomy according to the population housed in the communities 14-17 of Palermo as of 31/12/2018. Absolute values and as a percentage of the total



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**Q: in the future, will the minor be able to take advantage of other services provided by the community that help or strengthen the path to autonomy?**

Source: Elaborations on data from the personal datasheet



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