



# CHILDREN IN PRETRIAL DETENTION:

PROMOTING STRONGER  
INTERNATIONAL TIME LIMITS

## FACT SHEET No. 2

### Global Survey of Pretrial Detention Time Limits

In order to develop good practices and recommendations to reduce the period of pretrial detention, it is necessary to understand existing state practices. This global survey examines legal time limits for children in pretrial detention in 118 countries. The survey attempts to represent a cross-section of different regions by including over half of the countries from each UN Regional Group.

#### Summary of Findings:

- 26% of countries have no child pretrial detention limit.
- 43% of countries have a child-specific pretrial detention limit.
- 31% of countries have a generally-applicable pretrial detention limit which applies to adults and children.
- Countries with a child-specific time limit on average allow 93 days of pretrial detention and 50% have a limit of 60 days or less.
- 40% of countries allow indefinite pretrial detention, in many cases where exception or extension can be requested but have no absolute time limit.

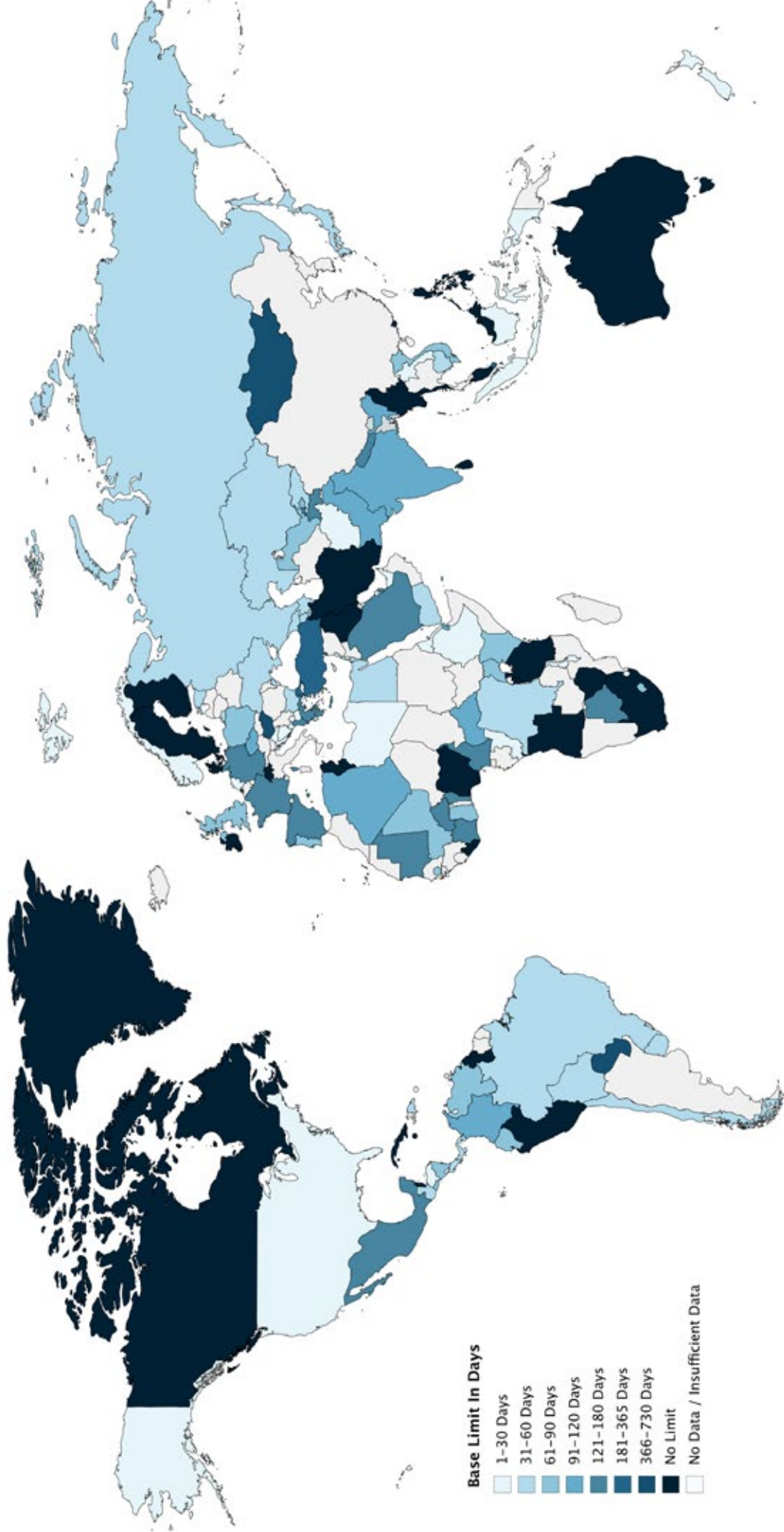
#### Key Conclusions:

- The problem of excessive length of child pretrial detention is not confined to one region or to less economically developed countries.
- Countries with child-specific statutory limits have stronger protections than countries with generally applicable limits.
- Allowing limited and well-defined exceptions can provide a balance between due process concerns and strong pretrial detention time limits.
- Many countries do not have an absolute time limit if exceptions or time extensions are requested.

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## Countries by child pretrial detention base time limit (without exceptions or extensions)



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