

**Statistics of Education:**

**Children looked after  
by Local Authorities  
Year Ending 31 March 2004  
Volume 1: Commentary and  
National Tables**





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## Volume 2: Local Authority Tables

Volume 2 can be downloaded from the Department for Education and Skills' web site at [www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000569/index.shtml](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000569/index.shtml). These tables are not available in hard copy.

## Summary

The main findings for children looked after in England in 2003–04 are as follows:

### Children looked after at 31 March 2004

- estimated number – 61,100 children, 1% higher than at 31 March 2003 (60,800) and 24% higher than in 1993–94 (49,500)
- legal status – 64% under care orders, 31% under single voluntary agreements
- placement – 68% in foster placements, 13% in children's homes and residential schools, 10% placed with parents
- stability – 13% had experienced 3 or more placements during the year (indicator A1 of the Performance Assessment Framework)

### Children looked after at any time during the year ending 31 March 2004

- estimated total number – 94,900 (86 per 10,000 children aged under 18)
- stability – of these 11,300 (12%) were looked after under one or more series of short term placements

### Days of care provided during the year ending 31 March 2004

- social service departments in England provided a total of 22.3 million days of care to looked after children, 7% more than during 1999–00

### Children adopted from care during the year ending 31 March 2004

- of those placements for adoption that ceased during 2003–04, 93% ended in adoption
- number adopted – 3,700 (compared with 3,500 in 2002–03) or 6% of children looked after at 31 March 2004. This is a 37% increase on 1999–00
- 79% of looked after children who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2004 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the best interest decision

### Care leavers aged 16 or over during the year ending 31 March 2004

- the number of care leavers aged 16 or over – 6,700 (compared with 6,600 in 2002–03); the number of which leaving care on their 18th birthday – 3,500 (compared with 3,200 in 2002–03)
- 2,900 (43%) of care leavers aged 16 or over gained at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ
- 400 (6%) of care leavers aged 16 or over gained 5 or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C
- councils were in touch with 4,400 (85%) of care leavers on or near their 19th birthdays and 2,800 (55%) were either in education, training or employment

## FOUR WAYS OF PRESENTING DATA ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The SSDA903 return provides a continuous picture of the population of looked after children. This publication uses four different approaches to viewing this population:

The number of children who have been looked after **at any time in the year** (regardless of whether they were still looked after on 31 March);

– *this forms the basis of National Tables N, O and P (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 2 and 3 (Volume 2).*

A “snapshot” count of the number of children who were looked after **on 31 March**;

– *this forms the basis of National Tables A–M (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 1 and 5–12 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **started** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the first start is counted);

– *this forms the basis of National Tables Q–W (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 4, 13 and 14 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **ceased** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the latest time that a period of care ceased counted);

– *this forms the basis of National Tables X–AQ (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 4 and 15–19 (Volume 2).*

These categories are not mutually exclusive, so it is possible for a child who had separate periods of care in the year to be counted in each of the tables.

For further details of how the “started” and “ceased” figures are calculated, and for an explanation of “numbers”, “rates” and “percentages” please refer to the Technical Notes and Appendix A.

All references to “year” in this publication refer to the standard financial year, which runs from 1 April to 31 March.

## COMMENTARY

### 1 Introduction

**1.1** The figures presented in this publication are derived from the SSDA903 return, submitted by all 150 local authorities in England with Social Services responsibilities. The SSDA903 return provides anonymous profiles of the care histories of children who have been looked after since the implementation of the Children Act.

**1.2** The SSDA903 collection for 2003–04 was completed for the first time via the internet and contained the former OC1, OC3 and AD1 returns for care leavers aged 16 or over, 19 year old former care leavers, and adoptions respectively.

**1.3** The SSDA903 return for 2003–04 covered all looked after children for the first time since the year ending 31 March 1997. Between 1998 and 2003 the SSDA903 was a one-in-three sample survey which was supplemented by the CLA100 return, an aggregate return for children looked after at 31 March.

### 2 Children looked after at 31 March (Tables A–M, 1, 5–12)

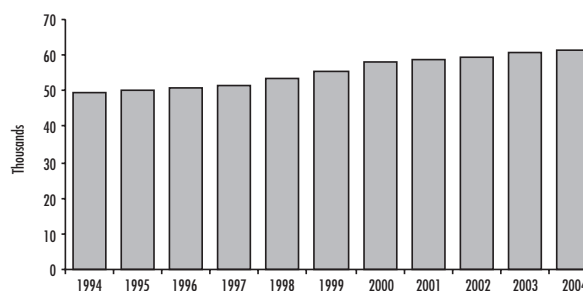
**2.1** The latest figures show that the total number of children looked after in England at 31 March 2004 was 61,100, excluding those accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements. This was a 1% increase on the number of children looked after at 31 March 2003 (60,800). 55 out of every 10,000 children of the resident population of England were looked after at the end of 2003–04.

**2.2** The numbers of children looked after by local councils in England were in long term decline over the period 1973–74 (when the numbers were in excess of 90,000) to 1993–94 (when the numbers began to increase). This downward trend was the result of many factors, notably changes in social practice and legislation – the latter culminating in October 1991 with the implementation of the Children Act 1989, which radically altered the legislative framework for the provision of services to children.

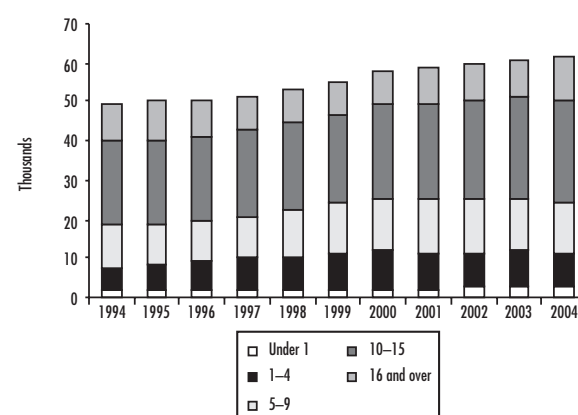
**2.3** At 31 March 1994, the number of looked after children was 49,500. Since then there has been a 24% rise in the actual number, and a 22% rise in the rate per 10,000 children (see tables A and B and figure 2.1). This rise has been driven by an increase in the length of time each child is looked after (see section 3 below). However, the rate of increase over the last 4 years has slowed to a year on year increase of around 1%.

**2.4** Table B shows that 55% of children looked after at 31 March 2004 were boys, having grown slowly from 52% in 1994. The proportion of children looked after by age has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years, as shown in figure 2.2.

**FIGURE 2.1:**  
Number of children looked after at 31 March, 1994 to 2004



**FIGURE 2.2:**  
Number of children looked after at 31 March by age, 1994 to 2004



**2.5** At 31 March 2004, 39,400 children were looked after under care orders, 64% of all looked after children (49% of all children looked after were looked after under full care orders). The number of children looked after under care orders has increased by 34% since the year ending 31 March 1994. The proportion of all looked after children looked after under care orders has remained at around 64% over the last five years having increased from 59% in 1994.

**2.6** In contrast, the proportion of children looked after under voluntary agreements (Section 20 of the Children Act 1989) has fallen since 1994. At 31 March 1994 38% (18,900) of all children looked after were looked after under voluntary agreements (involving continuous care) compared to 31% (19,200) at 31 March 2004.

**2.7** 68% of children looked after at 31 March 2004 were in foster placements (41,600). The number looked after in foster placements has increased by 32% since 1994, when foster placements accounted for 64% (31,500) of children looked after (49,500). The proportion of children looked after in children's homes and hostels and residential schools has fallen from 16% (8,100) at 31 March 1994 to 13% (8,100) at 31 March 2004.

**2.8** Table G shows that at 31 March the proportion of children looked after by primary need for care has remained stable since 2001, the first year in which it was collected. At 31 March 2004, 38,200 (62%) of children were looked after with a primary need for care due to abuse or neglect. Figure 2.4 shows abuse or neglect was by far the largest category of need; the second largest was family dysfunction with 6,100 children (10%).

**2.9** The ethnicity of children looked after was also collected for the first time in the year ending 31 March 2001 and is shown in table H. Figure 2.5 below shows that 80% of children looked after at 31 March 2004 were white; the second highest groups were mixed origin and black or black British, both with 8%.

**2.10** Table I shows that there were 2,800 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) looked after at 31 March 2004. The overwhelming majority (2,000 or 71%) were looked after by London local authorities with a further 460 (16%) being located

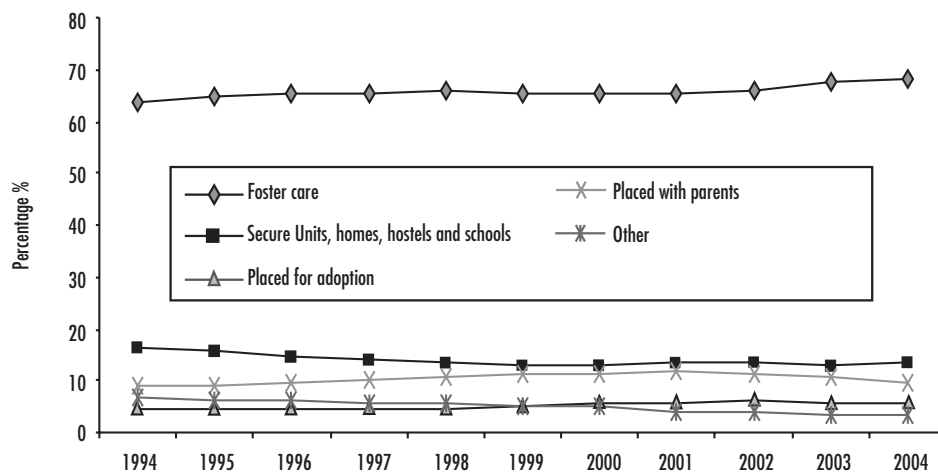
elsewhere in the South East. 70% of all UASC were boys; this proportion has fallen from 78% in 2002.

**2.11** UASC are increasingly treated as looked after children following an important judicial review in August 2003 and guidance given by the Department of Health in the summer of 2003. However, it is not yet possible to say with confidence that all local authorities have made their returns on this basis.

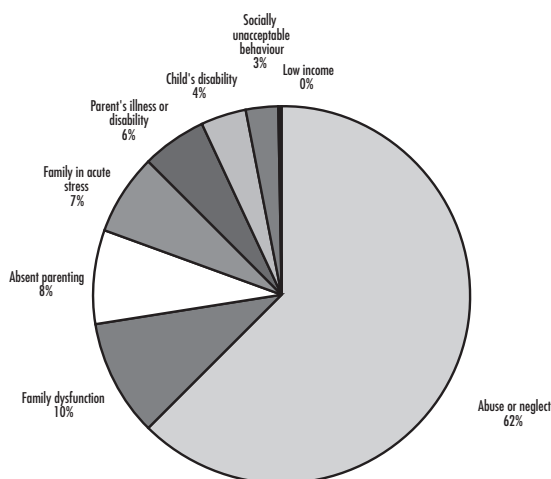
**Local level data  
(Tables 1, 5–12)**

**2.12** Local authorities vary considerably in the use they make of different types of placement for the children they look after. PAF B7 measures the percentage of looked after children at 31 March 2004, excluding those placed with parents, who were in foster placements or placed for adoption. The national figure was 81% and has remained the same over the past 3 years, as seen in table 10A. Figure 2.6 shows the variation between the

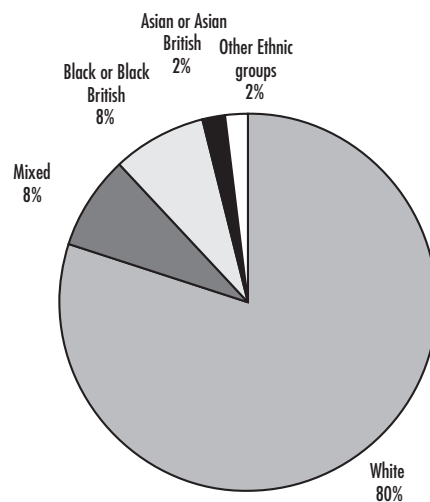
**FIGURE 2.3:**  
Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 1994 to 2004



**FIGURE 2.4:**  
Children looked after at 31 March 2004 by category of need

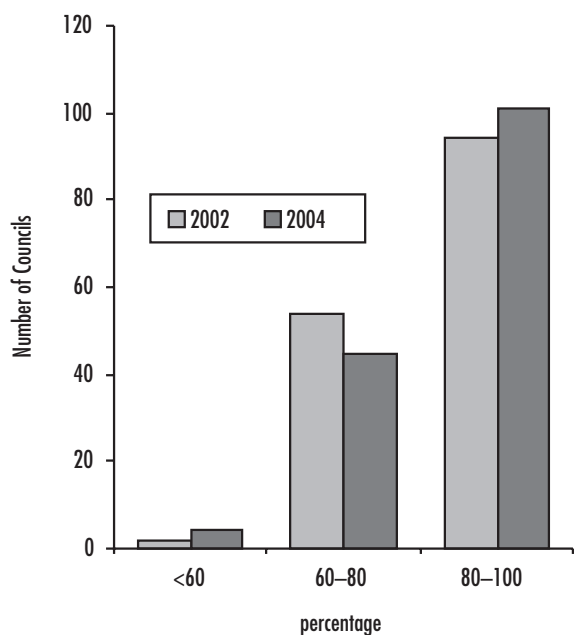


**FIGURE 2.5:**  
Children looked after at 31 March 2004 by ethnic origin





**FIGURE 2.6:**  
Percentage of looked after children in a foster placement or placed for adoption at 31 March, excluding those placed with parents, 2002 and 2004



local authorities in the percentage of looked after children at 31 March 2004 in these placements, and how the distribution has changed since 31 March 2002.

**2.13** PAF C22 measures the percentage of looked after children at 31 March 2004, excluding those placed with parents, who were under the age of 10 and in a foster placement or placed for adoption. Again, while the national figure was 98%, table 10B shows this ranged from 80% to 100%.

**2.14** PAF A1 measures short term stability. At 31 March 2004 13% of all children looked after in England had experienced 3 or more placements during the year. Table 11 shows that this compares to 20% in both 2000 and 15% in 2003. Again this varies between local authorities with a maximum of 21% for Wokingham and Northamptonshire. Table 2.1 shows that the percentage of local authorities with 16% of children or less receiving 3 or more placements in the year has increased from 32%

in 1999–00 to 89% in 2003–04, although note that any inconsistencies between councils in reporting placements will distort the figures.

**TABLE 2.1:**  
Percentage of local authorities with 16% of children or less receiving 3 or more placements during the year ending 31 March, 2000 to 2004

	Year ending 31 March				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Percentage of authorities	32	54	60	68	89

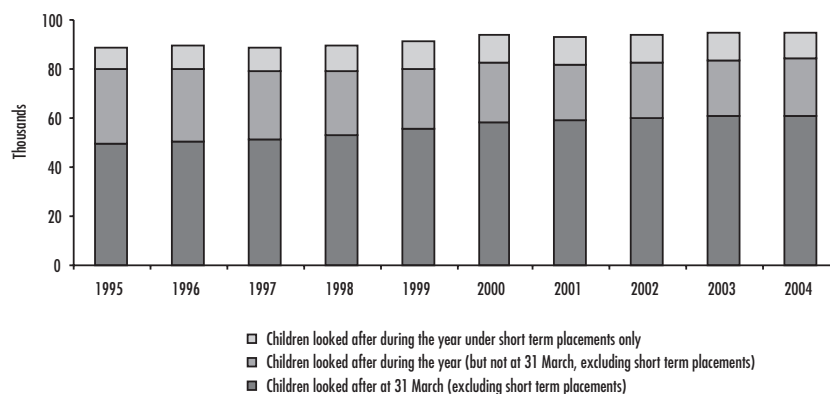
**2.15** PAF D35 measures long term stability. As shown in table 12, in 2003–04 49% of children who had been looked after continuously for at least four years were currently in a foster placement where they had spent at least two years. This is a slight increase from 46% in 2001–02 and 47% in 2002–03.

### 3. Children looked after during the year (Tables N-AG, 2-4)

**3.1** The number of children revealed by a snapshot, such as the number looked after at 31 March, is in many ways little more than a reflection of the volume of care provided at that time. This is because the chances of capturing any particular child in a snapshot view depends on the length of time that child is in care. If children are on average being looked after for longer, then more will be seen on any given day. A better measure, therefore, of assessing the growth in the number of children in the care system is to look at the number of children looked after at any time during the year.

**3.2** The total number of children looked after during the year 2003–04, including children looked after at some time during the year under a series of short term placements, is 94,900. This is 1% higher than the estimate for the previous year, and represents 86 out of every 10,000 children under 18 years (see table 3). Since 1994–95 the number of children looked after during the year has increased by 7% (compared with an increase of 22% in the numbers looked after at 31 March – see figure 3.1).

**FIGURE 3.1:**  
Number of children looked after during the years ending 31 March 1995 to 2004



**3.3** Table 3 and figure 3.1 also show figures for the numbers looked after during the year excluding children who during that time were looked after only under a series of short term placements. On this basis 84,500 children were looked after at some time during 2003–04, an increase of 1% on the previous year (83,400) and 6% up on 1994–95. Children looked after under a series of short term placements only have risen by 6% over the same period, having dropped by 7% (800) from 2002–03.

**Children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements (Tables N and 2)**

**3.4** Some looked after children are accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements (often called ‘family link placements’ or ‘short breaks’) as provided for in Regulation 13 of the Arrangement for Placement of Children (General) Regulations, 1991. As explained in Appendix A (Background), local councils can record these either in terms of the period covered by an agreement, or as individual placements. For this reason it is not possible to include the data for children covered by these agreements in most of the tables in this publication. Instead, data for children who are looked after under these arrangements are presented separately at a national level in table N and by local councils in table 2.

**3.5** A total of 11,300 children received at least one agreed series of short term placements during 2003–04, 7% less than in 2002–03 (12,100). Of these 10,400 were looked after exclusively under short term placements, with the remaining 950 having also been looked after during the year in placements that were not part of an agreed series.

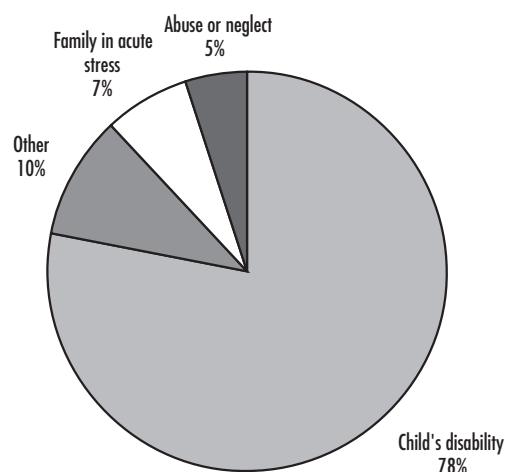
**3.6** In 2003–04 63% of the children receiving at least one agreed series of short term placements were male (see table N), a higher proportion than for other looked after children. Also, unlike other looked after children, their average age has risen steadily over the past five years, from 11 years 5 months in 1999–00 to 12 years 7 months in 2003–04. 45% were accommodated in foster placements and 47% in residential accommodation.

**3.7** A series of short term placements are generally used to provide relief to parents and families. Although sometimes thought of as being solely a means of supporting families caring for disabled children, it can be seen from figure 3.2 and table N that 22% of the children under short term placements are recorded as being looked after for reasons other than disability

**Number of care days provided (Table O)**

**3.8** The best way of analysing changing patterns in the volume of care is to consider the total number of days of care provided during the year to looked after children. This involves, for each year ending 31 March, counting every day of care provided within the year.

**FIGURE 3.2:** Children who were looked after under at least one series of short term placements during year ending 31 March 2004, by need code (reason for being looked after)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Need code relates to the latest period of care.

**3.9** Table O shows that the total number of days of care provided for all children (other than those looked after under a series of short term placements) during 2003–04 was 22.3 million, an increase of around 2% from 2002–03, and up 7% since 1999–00. The latter figure compares with an increase over the same period of 5% in the number of children looked after at any time during the year (see Table 3.1 below) and as a result, there has been a steady increase in the average number of care days provided per child within the year.

**TABLE 3.1:** Number of children looked after at any time during the year and the number of care days provided during the year (excluding children looked after under a series of short term placements)

	Year ending 31 March				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Children looked after in year (thousands)	82.4	81.8	82.8	83.4	84.5
Care days provided in year (millions)	20.8	21.2	21.6	21.9	22.3
Average care days per child in the year (days)	252	259	261	263	264

**3.10** Between the years ending 31 March 2000 and 2004 the number of care days provided during the year and the number of children looked after at 31 March have both increased (see table 3.2 and Table P). This is to be expected as the longer children remain in care, the greater chance they have of being captured in a snapshot picture of one day; hence the 31 March figure provides a measure of the volume of care. However, while the total number looked after at any time during the year has also increased, it has done so at a considerably slower rate.

This is a further indication that children are staying in care for longer periods.

**TABLE 3.2:**

Indices (31 March 2000 = 100) of the numbers of children in care at end of year, care days provided and total numbers looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004<sup>1</sup>

Year ending 31 March	Number at 31 March	Care days provided	Children looked after during the year
2000	100.0	100.0	100.0
2001	101.4	102.0	99.3
2002	102.8	103.9	100.5
2003	104.7	105.4	101.2
2004	105.2	107.2	102.6

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

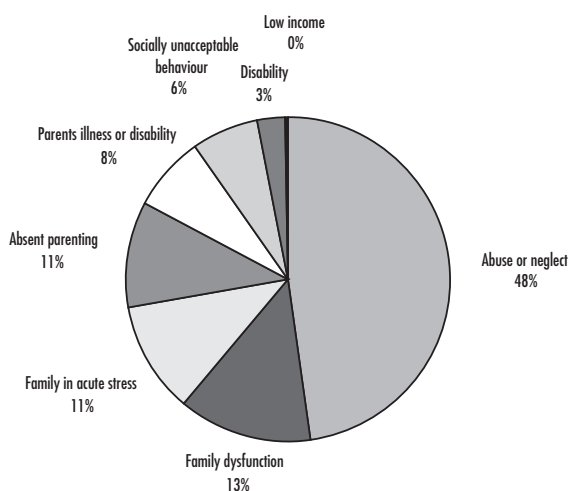
**Started to be looked after (Tables Q–W, 4)**

**3.11** The total number of children who started to be looked after during the 2003–04 year, excluding those starting an agreed series of short term placements, was 24,600 (compared with a figure of 24,800 a year earlier). The number of children who started to be looked after during the year has fallen by 24% from 32,600 in 1994–95.

**3.12** Table V provides details of the Need codes for children who started to be looked after during 2003–04. As can be seen in Figure 3.3, the most common need code recorded for children who started to be looked after during 2003–04 was Abuse or neglect (48%). The other commonly cited codes were Family Dysfunction (13%), Family in acute stress (11%) and Absent parenting (11%). Table W shows there is a marked difference in these figures between children of different ethnic origin. For instance, of all children who started to be looked after for the reason of Absent parenting, 36% were white and 34% were of black origin. This compares with 75% white and 11% black for all reasons.

**FIGURE 3.3:**

Children who started to be looked after during year ending 31 March 2004, by need code (reason) for being looked after.



**3.13** Disability accounted for only 3% of all children starting to be looked after, which contrasts sharply with those children looked after during the year under a series of short term placements, where Disability was the recorded need code for 78% of the cases (see figure 3.2).

**Ceased to be looked after (Tables X–AG, 4)**

**3.14** The total number of children who ceased to be looked after during 2003–04 was 25,300, a rise of 4% from 2002–03 (24,300). The number ceasing to be looked after in 1994–95 was 33,200, since when, following a similar trend to the numbers starting, the figure has fallen by 24%.

**Length of time being looked after (Tables AA–AC)**

**3.15** By “length of time being looked after” we refer to the total length of time that a child has been continuously looked after by a local council; this is also referred to in this publication as a “period of care”.

**3.16** The children who ceased to be looked after during 2003–04 had on average been looked after for 778 days, a 1% increase over the previous year. This average has steadily increased from 1999–00 to 2003–04, as shown in table 3.3 below.

**3.17** This increase in the average duration of the latest period of care is the result of a number of different factors:

- the decline in the number of children looked after for very short periods i.e. two weeks or less (see table AA)
- the increasing use of care orders, and the decline in the use of voluntary agreements – children under a care order remain looked after for much longer on average than children voluntarily accommodated (see table AB)
- the increase in the number of children remaining in care until their 18th birthday (see table AK)

**TABLE 3.3:**

Average length of last period of care (POC), average number of placements in last POC and average duration of placements in last POC of children who ceased to be looked after during years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 (excluding those who ceased to be looked after under an agreed series of short term placements)

Year ending 31 March	Average length of final period of care (days)	Average number of placements in final period of care	Average duration of placements (days)
2000	628	2.47	255
2001	711	2.79	255
2002	755	2.70	279
2003	770	2.83	272
2004	778	2.78	280

**3.18** Of the children ceasing to be looked after during the 2003–04 year, 60% had been looked after for more than 6 months, and 29% had been looked after for 8 weeks or less (see table AA and figure 3.4 below). Figure 3.4 in particular demonstrates that the long durations of stay (10 years and more) experienced by those at the top end of the distribution produce an overall average duration of 778 days (111 weeks), even though the majority of children are looked after for less than one year.

#### Deaths in care

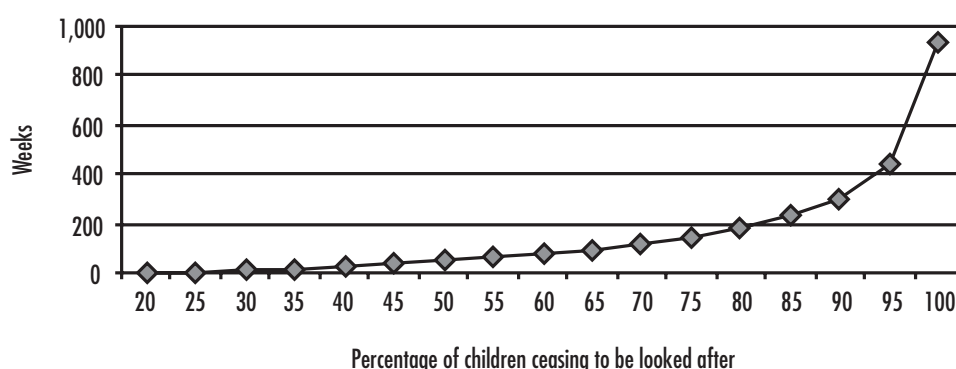
**3.19** Information on the cause of deaths of looked after children has been obtained for the first time in 2004 by

matching child records from the SSDA903 episode data to death certificates. This exercise indicated that the most common causes of death for Children Looked After are cerebral palsy, congenital conditions and external causes.

**3.20** Table 3.4 below should be interpreted with caution. A special exercise was carried out for the 2002–03 data and although a good matching rate was achieved, the SSDA903 for this year only covered a third of children looked after. The routine data collection was used in 2003–04 to match with death records, and it was not possible to uniquely match one third of the records.

**FIGURE 3.4:**

Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, by duration of the last period of care(weeks)



**TABLE 3.4:**

Causes of deaths of children looked after in the year ending 31 March, 2003 and 2004<sup>1</sup>

Cause of death	Number of deaths		Percentages	
	2002–03	2003–04	2002–03	2003–04
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	-	10	-	8
Diseases of the nervous system	30	25	26	26
of which:				
<i>Episodic and paroxysmal disorders (epilepsy)</i>	5	5	6	7
<i>Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes</i>	20	10	18	13
Diseases of the respiratory system	10	-	9	-
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	20	5	18	6
External causes of morbidity and mortality	20	10	21	10
Other	30	15	26	15
Not known	-	30	-	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>95</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Figures include children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

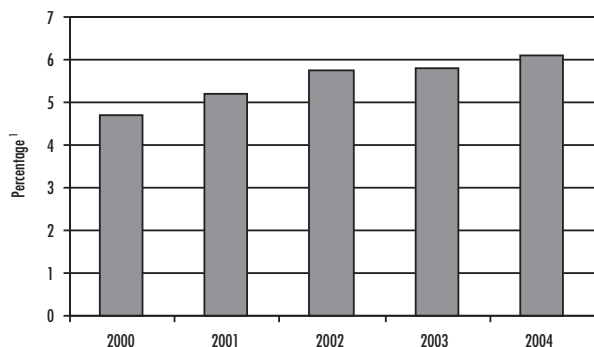
<sup>2</sup> Underlying cause of death code derived by the automatic cause coding system using the codes for all the causes mentioned on the death certificate. The definition of the code is identified using the International Classification of Deaths, 10th Revision (ICD10) manual. More information on the ICD 10 codes can be found from <http://www3.who.int/icd/vol1html2003/navi.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> See Technical Note for methodological details.

#### 4 Children looked after adopted during the year (Tables AH–AJ, 18)

**4.1** 3,700 children were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2004; an increase of 6% from the previous year. As a percentage of all children looked after at 31 March, 6% of children looked after were adopted in 2003–04. The percentage of looked after children adopted has increased slightly over the last few years, as figure 4.1 below illustrates.

**FIGURE 4.1:**  
Percentage of looked after children adopted in the years ending 31 March, 2000 to 2004



1 Percentage of children looked after at 31 March

**4.2** In 2003–04 1,000 more children were adopted than in 1999–00. This represents an increase of 37%. The Government’s target for adoptions, included in the Priorities and Planning Framework 2003–06, is to increase the number of looked after children who are adopted by 40% by 2005 and to exceed this by achieving, if possible, a 50% increase by 2006, from 1999–00.

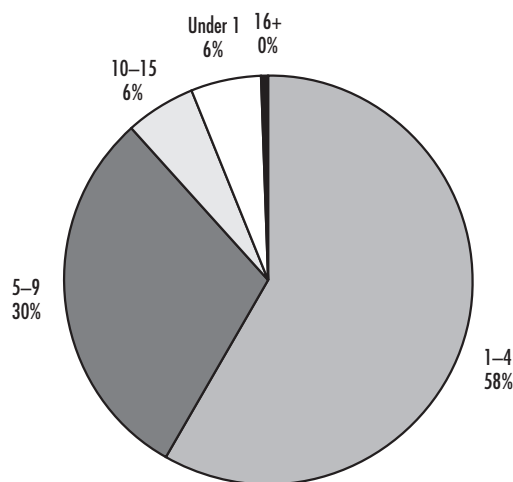
**4.3** Table AH shows that the majority of looked after children adopted in 2003–04 were aged between 1 and 4 (2,200 or 58% of the total). While there was an increase in the number of children in this age group adopted (from 2,100 in 2002–03), the proportion of the total number of looked after children adopted in this age group, and all the other age groups, has remained relatively constant over the last five years. Figure 4.2 shows the age profile of children looked after adoptions in 2003–04.

**4.4** Figure 4.3 shows that in most age groups the number of boys and girls adopted was similar.

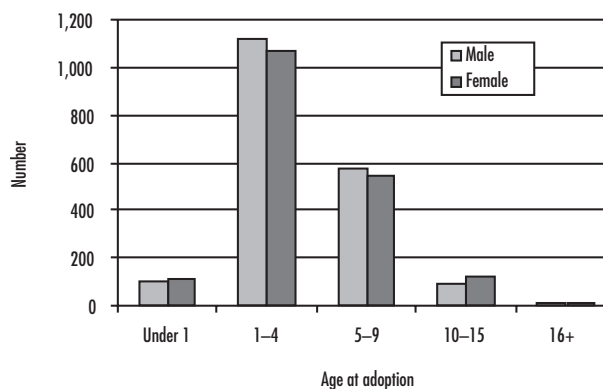
**4.5** For children looked after adopted in 2003–04, the average duration of their final period of care was 2 years 8 months, one month less than for 2002–03. The number of looked after children adopted with a final period of care of less than 2 years was 40% in 2003–04 compared to 35% in 1999–2000.

**4.6** Before looked after children can be adopted they must first be placed for adoption with their prospective

**FIGURE 4.2:**  
Children adopted in the year ending 31 March 2004 by age



**FIGURE 4.3:**  
Number of children looked after adopted in 2003–04 by age and sex.



adopters. This must be for a period of at least 13 weeks (except for children adopted by their former foster carers), although in practice it is usually much longer. However, not all placements for adoption result in an adoption. Of those placements for adoption ceasing In the year ending 31 March 2004, 93% ended in adoption. 6% of adoptive placements were followed by another placement (mostly foster care), and less than 1% ended with child ceasing to be looked after but not recorded as having been adopted.

**TABLE 4.1:**  
Percentage of adoptive placements ending with an adoption

	Year ending of 31 March			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
Percentage	91	93	94	93

**4.7** Once a local authority has decided that adoption is in the child’s best interest, the child begins the process of becoming adopted. Table 4.2 shows 79% of children

looked after adopted in the year ending 31 March 2004 were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that adoption is in the child's best interests. From 2000–01 this figures has remained stable at around 80%. The Government's target, contained in the Priorities and Planning Framework 2003–06, is to increase the proportion to 95% by 2004–05.

**TABLE 4.2:**  
Time taken between best interest decision and placed for adoption during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004
All children	3,100	3,400	3,500	3,700
Placed within 12 months of best interest decision	2,500	2,700	2,900	2,900
Percentage	80	80	81	79
Placed over 12 months of best interest decision	600	700	690	800
Percentage	20	20	19	21

**4.8** Table AJ shows the average length of time between stages of the adoption process. The shortest stage is between matching the child with prospective adopters and the child being placed for adoption: this took on average one month. The longest stages were between

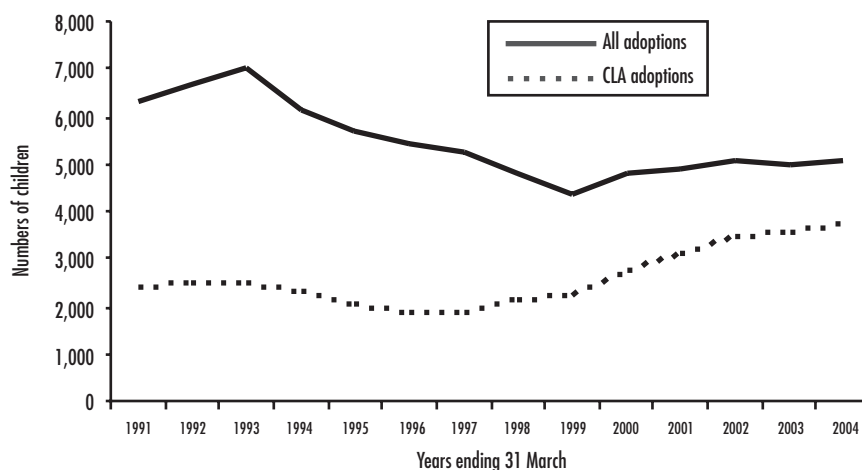
'entry into care' and the 'best interest decision', and between being 'placed for adoption' and the adoption, both stages taking approximately a year.

**4.9** Table AJ also shows that the average length of time between entry into care and adoption was 2 years 8 months. The average time generally increases with the age at which the child started to be looked after: in 2003–04 those aged under 1 at the start of the period of care were looked after on average for 2 years 2 months prior to being adopted while for those aged 6 or over the process took 3 years 11 months on average.

**4.10** Since 1998–99 more than half of all children looked after in England have been looked after prior to adoption. The total number of looked after children adopted has risen from 2,200 in 1998–99 to 3,700 in 2003–04, which as a proportion of all adoptions represents a rise from 51% to 73%. This indicates that the upturn in the total number of adoptions in recent years is a direct result of the increase in the number of adoptions from care.

**4.11** As shown in figure 4.4 the number of children looked after adoptions was around 2,000 a year between 1991 to 1999, with a marked increase in the last 5 years. In contrast, the total number of adoptions fell by 31% between 1991 and 1999, and while the numbers have since been increasing, the rate of increase is slower than that of children looked after adoptions.

**FIGURE 4.4:**  
Children looked after adoptions, and all adoptions<sup>1</sup> in England during the year ending 31 March, 1991 to 2004



<sup>1</sup> Source: Office for National Statistics



## 5 Educational attainment of care leavers aged 16 or over during the year (Tables AK–AQ, 19)

**5.1** The educational attainment of care leavers, formerly collected via the OC1 return, covers all young people (except those looked after under an agreed series of short term placements) leaving care aged 16 or over. The data may therefore include some young people who were only looked after for a short period of time, with no previous care history, and some young people who left care before they had the opportunity to sit any examinations.

**5.2** In 2003–04, 6,700 children left care aged 16 or over; of these 3,800 (56%) were male. The gender balance of care leavers aged 16 or over has changed little in the last 5 years.

**5.3** One of the objectives of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 was to prevent young people being discharged from care before they were ready. Table AK shows the proportion of care leavers aged 16 and 17 of those aged 16 or over has fallen from 57% in 1999–00 compared to 43% in 2003–04. Correspondingly the proportion of care leavers who left care on their 18th birthday has risen from 40% in 1999–00 to 52% in 2003–04.

**5.4** 43% of care leavers aged 16 or over in 2003–04 had at least one GCSE or GNVQ on leaving care, the same as last year. When Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after for less than 2 years at the time of leaving care are excluded, along with children who would not have usually sat their exams at the time of leaving care, the equivalent figure is 49% (PAF indicator A2).

**5.5** In 2003–04 2,900 (43%) young people left care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE or GNVQ. Female care leavers outperformed male care leavers: in 2003–04 1,500 (51%) of female care leavers held at least one GCSE or GNVQ compared to 1,400 (38%) of male care. 6% of care leavers aged 16 or over left care with at least 5 GCSEs at grades A\*–C in 2003–04.

**5.6** The duration of the last period of care of care leavers aged 16 or over who ceased to be looked after in 2003–04 varies markedly with age. Table 5.1 shows that whilst 51% of care leavers aged 16 were looked after for periods less than a year, the comparable figure for those aged 18 years and over was only 4%.

**TABLE 5.1:**  
Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after aged 16 or over in the year ending 31 March 2004 by age and duration.

	16yr	17yr	18 & over
less than 6 Months	33	19	2
6 months to under 1 yr	17	6	2
1yr to under 2yrs	22	19	5
2 yr to under 4 yrs	16	31	27
4 yrs to under 6 yrs	6	13	16
6 yrs to under 8 yrs	2	6	14
8 yrs and over	3	7	33

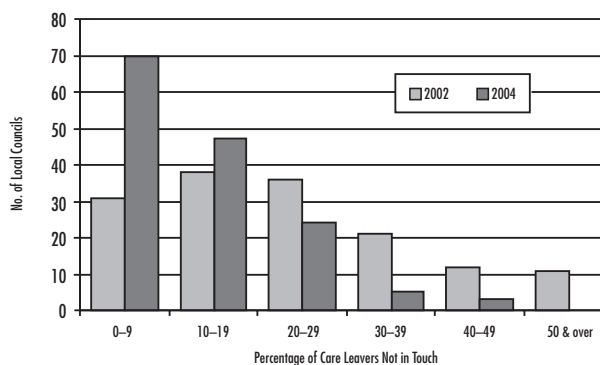
## 6 Former care leavers aged 19 during the year (Tables AR–AW, 20)

**6.1** The activity and accommodation of former 19 year old care leavers, collected in previous years via the OC3 return, covers all young people looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year) (except those looked after under an agreed series of short term placements). Please note that this definition does not take into account the length of time a young person was looked after and so this cohort differs from the definition of eligible children under the Care Leavers Act.

**6.2** In 2003–04 5,100 former looked after children were 19 and had been looked after on 1 April 2001 (in their 17th year). Of these, councils were in touch with 85%. This compares to an in touch rate of 75% in 2001–02.

**6.3** There were wide differences at local council level with 29 councils reporting to be in touch with all their 19 year old former looked after children and a further 41 in touch with over 90%. On the other hand, 20 were in touch with less than 75%. The chart below shows how in touch rates have improved over the last 3 years.

**FIGURE 6.1:**  
Percentage of care leavers at age 19 not in touch with local council, 2002 and 2004

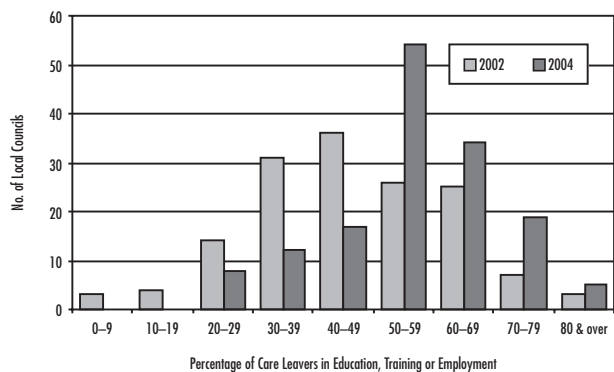


**6.4** 55% (2,800) of former care leavers were in education, employment or training on their 19th birthday (PAF indicator A4). This compares to 46% in 2001–02.

**6.5** Again there are wide differences at local council level. The proportion of young people in education, training and employment ranged from 20% to 86%, the distribution being shown in the chart below.

**6.6** 28% of councils reported that the level of employment, training and education amongst former care leavers at 19 was at least 75% of the level amongst all young people of the same age. The Government has set a Public Service Agreement Target to improve the life chances of children by improving the level of education, employment and training outcomes for care leavers aged 19 so that levels for this group are at least 75% of those achieved by all young people in the same area by 2004.

**FIGURE 6.2:**  
Percentage of care leavers at age 19 in education, training or employment for the years ending 31 March 2002 and 2004



**6.7** The largest category of accommodation for 19 year old former care leavers is independent living, which accounts for 41% of the cohort. The increase in the proportion of former care leavers in independent living

over the last few years is largely the result of the improved in touch rate.

**6.8** In addition to recording the accommodation of the young person, councils were asked to make a subjective assessment as to its suitability. Of those young people who were in touch with their local council only 300 (7%) were in accommodation judged to be unsuitable. Most of these were either in 'other' accommodation, or in custody.

**6.9** Table 6.1 below shows a breakdown of the cohort of former care leavers captured in the OC3 by the number of qualifications the young person had obtained at the time of leaving care as recorded on the OC1. (Qualifications gained after leaving care have therefore not been included). 44% of those in the OC3 cohort who left care aged 16 or over without at least one GCSE or GNVQ were in employment, education or training compared to 67% of those who had obtained at least one GCSE or GNVQ.

**TABLE 6.1:**  
Percentage of care leavers at age 19 by activity and qualifications, year ending 31 March 2004

	In education, employment or training	Not in education, employment or training	Not in touch	In custody
No qualifications	44	35	18	4
With qualifications	67	21	11	1

<sup>1</sup> 'With qualifications' is taken to be at least 1 GCSE A\*-G or GNVQ



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# A

## Children looked after at 31 March by age and sex, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and rate per 10,000 children under 18 years

Age at 31 March	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>49,900</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>55,500</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>59,700</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>61,100</b>
<b>Rates per 10,000</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Male</b>	26,400	26,800	27,600	28,200	29,200	30,200	31,900	32,600	33,200	33,600	33,900
Under 1	790	830	890	900	940	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,400
1–4	3,400	3,600	3,900	4,300	4,600	4,900	5,100	4,900	5,000	4,900	4,800
5–9	5,700	5,700	6,000	6,100	6,500	6,800	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,200	7,100
10–15	11,600	11,800	12,000	12,200	12,400	12,700	13,500	14,100	14,500	14,800	14,900
16 and over	4,900	4,800	4,800	4,700	4,800	4,700	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,400	5,800
<b>Female</b>	23,100	23,200	23,200	23,300	24,200	25,300	26,200	26,300	26,500	27,200	27,200
Under 1	660	770	750	830	870	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,300	1,200
1–4	3,100	3,200	3,400	3,800	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,300	4,300	4,200
5–9	4,700	4,600	4,800	4,900	5,300	5,900	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,600
10–15	9,800	10,000	9,800	9,500	9,600	9,800	10,400	10,600	10,800	11,300	11,600
16 and over	4,900	4,600	4,500	4,300	4,200	4,100	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,600

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

# B

## Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by age and sex, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

percentages

Age at 31 March	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>											
Under 1	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
1–4	13	14	14	16	16	17	17	16	15	15	15
5–9	21	21	21	21	22	23	23	23	22	22	21
10–15	43	44	43	42	41	41	41	42	42	43	43
16 and over	20	19	18	17	17	16	16	16	16	16	17
<b>Male</b>	52	52	53	54	55	54	55	55	56	55	55
<b>Female</b>	47	47	46	47	45	46	45	45	44	45	45

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

## C

Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers

Age at 31 March	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>49,900</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>55,500</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>59,700</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>61,100</b>
Care orders <sup>4</sup>	29,400	29,100	29,400	30,700	32,100	34,400	36,400	37,600	38,400	39,600	39,400
S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements)	18,900	19,500	19,800	19,200	19,100	18,800	19,300	19,100	19,000	18,900	19,200
On remand or committed for trial or detained <sup>5</sup>	440	450	510	500	650	530	620	320	310	240	240
Other legal status <sup>6</sup>	800	910	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,300

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Includes both full and interim care orders.

5 For the years ending ending 31 March 1998 to 2000, includes children who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90–92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

6 Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table K for a breakdown of the figure for 2004.

## D

Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

percentages

Age at 31 March	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Care orders <sup>4</sup>	59	58	58	60	60	62	63	64	64	65	64
S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements)	38	39	39	37	36	34	33	32	32	31	31
On remand or committed for trial or detained <sup>5</sup>	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Other legal status <sup>6</sup>	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Includes both full and interim care orders.

5 For the years ending ending 31 March 1998 to 2000, includes children who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90–92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

6 Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table K for a breakdown of the figure for 2004.

# E

## Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers

Placement	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>49,900</b>	<b>50,800</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>53,300</b>	<b>55,500</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>59,700</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>61,100</b>
Foster placements	31,500	32,300	33,200	33,700	35,000	36,200	37,900	38,300	39,200	41,100	41,600
Living independently or in residential employment	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,400
<b>Secure Units, homes, hostels and schools</b>	<b>8,100</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,400</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>8,100</b>
Secure Units <sup>4,5</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	} 6,400	} 6,100	} 6,100	} 6,300	} 190	} 220	} 210	} 260
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A								
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	160	110	180	310	520	540	560	840
Residential Schools <sup>3</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A	800	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Placed for adoption <sup>6</sup>	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,900	3,100	3,400	3,600	3,400	3,300
Placement with parents	4,500	4,400	4,700	5,200	5,700	6,300	6,500	6,900	6,700	6,400	5,900
Other accommodation	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,900	1,600	1,700	1,200	1,100	990	830

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Prior to 2001, secure units were classified under children's homes.

5 Estimates of numbers of children re-calculated for 1997 to 2000 in line with the new coding structure which came into force on 1 April 2000.

6 Increase since 1996 is, in part, a result of improved recording of this type of placement.

# F

## Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by placement, 1994–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

percentages

Placement	1994 <sup>2</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>	1996 <sup>2</sup>	1997 <sup>2</sup>	1998 <sup>3</sup>	1999 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Foster placements	64	65	65	66	66	65	65	65	66	68	68
Children's homes <sup>4</sup>	16	16	15	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13
Placed for adoption	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5
Placement with parents	9	9	9	10	11	11	11	12	11	10	10
Other accommodation <sup>5</sup>	7	6	6	5	6	5	5	4	4	4	4

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Includes secure units, homes and hostels and residential schools.

5 Includes lodgings and other residential settings.

# G

## Children looked after at 31 March by Category of Need, 2001–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers				percentages			
	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>59,700</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	36,200	37,100	37,900	38,200	62	62	62	62
Disability	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,400	4	4	4	4
Parents illness or disability	3,800	3,600	3,500	3,500	6	6	6	6
Family in acute stress	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,200	7	7	7	7
Family dysfunction	6,100	6,200	6,400	6,100	10	10	11	10
Socially unacceptable behaviour	2,400	2,000	1,800	1,700	4	3	3	3
Low income	120	80	130	110	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	4,100	4,300	4,400	4,900	7	7	7	8

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# H

## Children looked after at 31 March by Ethnicity, 2001–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers				percentages			
	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>58,900</b>	<b>59,700</b>	<b>60,800</b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White	48,200	48,700	49,200	48,800	82	82	81	80
Mixed	3,900	4,400	4,700	4,800	7	7	8	8
Asian or Asian British	1,100	1,400	1,400	1,500	2	2	2	2
Black or Black British	3,900	3,900	4,200	4,900	7	7	7	8
Other Ethnic Groups	1,800	1,400	1,300	1,200	3	2	2	2

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# I

## Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by sex, region and age, 2002–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

		numbers			percentages		
		2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>2,200</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Sex	Male	1,700	1,900	2,000	78	76	70
	Female	490	580	840	22	24	30
Age	Under 16	1,100	1,200	1,100	52	51	40
	16 and over	1,100	1,200	1,700	48	49	60
Region	North <sup>4</sup>	50	100	130	2	4	5
	Midlands <sup>5</sup>	160	230	230	7	9	8
	London	1,600	1,700	2,000	72	71	71
	South East	410	390	460	19	16	16

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Includes North East, North West, Merseyside and Yorks & Humber.

5 Includes East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and Eastern.

# J

## Children looked after at 31 March 2004 by placement and age<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers

Placement	All Children	Age at 31 March 2004				
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16 & over
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>41,600</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>5,200</b>
Foster placement inside Council boundary						
With relative or friend	5,800	150	990	1,700	2,300	670
With other foster carer						
provided by Council	21,900	1,500	3,500	4,700	9,600	2,600
arranged through agency	1,300	40	140	330	660	160
Foster placements outside LA boundary						
With relative or friend	1,800	50	300	520	710	210
With other foster carer						
provided by Council	4,800	240	570	920	2,300	730
arranged through agency	6,000	150	570	1,400	3,100	790
<b>Placed for adoption</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Placement with parents</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>760</b>
<b>Other placements in the community</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1,300</b>
Living independently	1,400	0	0	0	50	1,300
Residential employment	-	-	0	0	0	-
<b>Secure units, homes and hostels</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>2,400</b>
Secure unit inside Council boundary	40	0	0	0	30	10
Secure unit outside Council boundary	230	0	-	-	170	60
Homes and hostels subject to						
Children's Homes regulations						
inside Council boundary	3,300	-	-	120	2,200	960
outside Council boundary	2,600	-	-	150	1,800	640
Homes and hostels not subject to	840	0	0	0	70	770
Children's Homes regulations						
<b>Other residential settings</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>240</b>
Residential care homes	230	-	-	20	140	70
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	80	-	0	-	30	30
Family centre or mother and baby unit	140	60	40	10	10	30
Young offenders institution or prison	140	0	0	0	20	110
<b>Residential Schools</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Absent from agreed placement</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Other accommodation</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

<sup>2</sup> Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.



Legal Status	All Children	Age at 31 March 2004				
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>
<b>Care Orders</b>	<b>39,400</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>6,300</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Interim care orders	9,600	1,500	3,200	2,600	2,100	170
Full care orders	29,800	170	3,100	7,200	14,500	4,800
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>90</b>
On remand or committed for trial	220	0	0	0	130	90
Detained under PACE <sup>3</sup>	-	-	0	0	-	0
Supervision order	20	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Detained for child protection</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
Police protection	20	-	-	10	10	0
Emergency Protection Orders	50	20	10	20	10	0
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Freed for adoption</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>5,300</b>
<b>Wardship</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

3 Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.



Number of children looked after at 31 March 2004 by category of need<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers

Need Code	All Children	Age at 31 March					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & 17	18 & over
<b>All Children</b> <sup>1,2</sup>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>40</b>
Abuse or neglect	38,200	1,900	6,900	9,400	15,400	4,600	10
Disability	2,400	10	80	300	1,300	650	20
Parents illness or disability	3,500	-	530	790	1,500	460	-
Family in acute stress	4,200	-	460	780	2,100	740	-
Family dysfunction	6,100	-	750	1,000	3,000	1,100	-
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,700	-	20	60	1,000	600	-
Low income	110	10	20	20	40	20	0
Absent parenting	4,900	170	230	330	2,000	2,200	10

1 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

Ethnic Origin	All Children <sup>1</sup>	Age at 31 March					
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16 & 17	18 & over
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>48,800</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>30</b>
White British	46,300	2,000	7,000	10,000	20,600	6,800	30
White Irish	500	10	60	130	220	90	0
Any other White background	1,900	-	140	200	800	720	-
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>-</b>
White and Black Caribbean	1,900	-	350	430	780	220	-
White and Black African	420	30	100	80	140	70	0
White and Asian	660	50	150	140	240	80	0
Any other mixed background	1,800	130	370	420	700	230	0
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>-</b>
Indian	320	-	40	70	130	60	-
Pakistani	530	30	90	130	200	70	0
Bangladeshi	220	10	30	60	90	30	0
Any other Asian Background	440	10	40	50	200	150	0
<b>Black or Black British</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>-</b>
Caribbean	1,600	60	230	340	670	340	0
African	2,300	-	150	240	900	950	-
Any other Black background	950	-	140	200	370	190	-
<b>Other Ethnic groups</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>-</b>
Chinese	120	10	10	-	50	60	-
Any other ethnic group	1,100	-	130	140	410	360	-

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

<sup>2</sup> Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# N

## Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements, years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>2</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>	2000 <sup>2</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>										
Male	7,800	7,700	7,900	7,600	7,200	61	62	62	62	63
Female	5,100	4,800	4,900	4,600	4,200	39	38	38	38	37
<b>Age<sup>4</sup></b>										
Under 1	120	120	90	70	70	1	1	1	1	1
1 to 4	970	810	680	530	430	8	6	5	4	4
5 to 9	3,500	3,100	3,000	2,600	2,200	27	25	23	21	20
10 to 15	6,300	6,300	6,600	6,400	6,100	49	50	52	53	54
16 and over	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,500	2,500	16	18	19	21	22
Average age (yrs : months)	11:5	11:8	12:0	12:4	12:7					
<b>Placement<sup>5</sup></b>										
Foster placement	6,500	6,200	6,000	5,600	5,100	50	49	47	46	45
Residential <sup>6</sup>	5,400	5,400	5,700	5,600	5,300	42	43	45	46	47
Other	980	960	1,000	900	920	8	8	8	7	8
<b>Child in need code<sup>5</sup></b>										
Disability of child	..	9,100	9,500	9,400	8,800	..	73	75	77	78
Family in acute stress	..	1,100	910	800	780	..	9	7	7	7
Abuse or neglect	..	780	790	660	570	..	6	6	5	5
Other	..	1,500	1,500	1,300	1,200	..	12	12	11	10

1 All children looked after under one or more agreed series of short term placements at any time during the year ending 31 March. Some will also have been looked after under other legal statuses during the year, and will therefore be included in other tables in this publication.

2 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

4 Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement.

5 Placement and need code relate to child's latest episode of care during the year.

6 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

# O

## Number of days of care provided by legal status and placement during years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004<sup>1</sup>

England

Thousands of days

	Year ending 31 March				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>All Children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>21,200</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>21,900</b>	<b>22,300</b>
<b>Legal Status</b>					
Care Orders	13,300	13,800	14,100	14,400	14,600
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	6,800	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,800
Other Legal Status <sup>2</sup>	720	750	810	850	920
<b>Placement</b>					
Foster care	13,500	13,600	14,000	14,400	15,000
Residential <sup>3</sup>	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Placed for Adoption	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,300
Placed with Parents	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,300
Other Placements	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

<sup>2</sup> Includes children who are subject to a compulsory care order under Section 90–92 of the Powers of Criminal Courts (sentencing) Act 2000 for the year ending 31 March 2000.

<sup>3</sup> Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

# P

## Number of days of care provided, number of children looked after during the year, and the number of children looked after at 31 March for years ending 31 March 2000 and 2004, by region<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	1999–00				2003–04				Percentage increase			
	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March
<b>England</b>	<b>20,800</b>	<b>82,400</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>84,500</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
North East	1,200	4,900	246	3,400	1,200	4,700	257	3,300	0	-4	5	-1
North West	3,500	13,600	259	9,900	3,700	13,400	274	10,100	4	-1	6	2
Yorks & Humber	2,400	9,200	259	6,600	2,400	8,900	273	6,600	2	-3	5	0
East Midlands	1,500	5,900	250	4,100	1,500	5,700	256	3,900	-1	-4	3	-4
West Midlands	2,300	9,100	256	6,400	2,600	9,600	266	6,900	10	6	4	7
East of England	1,800	7,500	246	5,100	2,100	7,800	266	5,800	13	4	8	13
Inner London	1,800	7,100	261	5,200	2,000	7,600	256	5,500	6	8	-2	7
Outer London	1,900	7,800	239	5,200	2,400	9,300	255	6,700	28	20	7	27
South East	2,700	10,300	257	7,400	2,800	10,300	270	7,500	5	0	5	1
South West	1,800	7,200	244	4,800	1,800	7,200	248	4,900	2	0	2	3

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

# Q

## Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by sex and age on starting<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	3,700	3,700	4,000	3,900	4,100	13	15	16	16	16
1-4	5,200	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,500	18	18	18	19	18
5-9	5,300	4,700	4,400	4,700	4,400	19	19	18	19	18
10-15	12,200	10,800	10,900	10,400	10,300	43	43	43	42	42
16 and over	2,000	1,300	1,300	1,000	1,400	7	5	5	4	6
<b>Male</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	2,000	1,900	2,100	2,100	2,100	12	14	15	15	16
1-4	2,800	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,400	17	17	18	19	18
5-9	3,000	2,600	2,400	2,700	2,500	19	19	18	20	19
10-15	7,100	6,100	5,900	5,500	5,300	44	44	43	41	41
16 and over	1,300	730	740	600	810	8	5	5	4	6
<b>Female</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,900	1,900	14	15	16	17	17
1-4	2,400	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,100	20	20	19	19	18
5-9	2,300	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,900	19	18	17	18	17
10-15	5,100	4,700	4,900	4,800	4,900	42	42	43	43	43
16 and over	700	560	550	440	600	6	5	5	4	5

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003-04 covered all children looked after.

## R

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by legal status on starting<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Care Order</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>
Interim care order	3,800	3,900	4,000	4,700	4,000	13	15	16	19	16
Full care order	590	440	330	240	240	2	2	1	1	1
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
On remand or committed for trial	1,200	750	680	650	610	4	3	3	3	2
Detained under PACE <sup>5</sup>	140	60	30	30	40	1	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	20	20	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Detained for child protection</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
Police protection	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,900	2,000	6	6	6	8	8
Emergency protection order	1,700	1,200	1,400	1,300	1,300	6	5	6	5	5
Under child assessment order	0	10	20	-	10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Freed for adoption</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>17,000</b>	<b>15,900</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Wardship</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

## S

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by placement on starting<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Placement	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>24,800</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>20,600</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>77</b>
Children's homes and hostels <sup>5</sup>	4,100	3,200	3,200	2,800	3,000	14	13	13	11	12
Placed for adoption	40	30	10	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
Living Independently	550	300	190	180	350	2	1	1	1	1
Other	3,200	2,800	2,500	2,700	2,200	11	11	10	11	9

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

# T

## Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004 by legal status and age on starting<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Legal Status	All Children	Age on starting to be looked after				
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Care Order</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>40</b>
Interim care order	4,000	1,200	1,100	920	710	20
Full care order	240	40	50	60	70	20
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>170</b>
On remand or committed for trial	610	0	0	0	450	170
Detained <sup>4</sup>	40	0	0	0	30	10
Supervision order	10	0	0	0	-	-
<b>Emergency order or Police protection</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>30</b>
Police protection	2,000	280	540	500	630	20
Emergency Protection Order	1,300	430	350	280	-	-
Under child assessment order	10	-	-	-	-	0
<b>Child freed for adoption</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placement)</b>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements

3 Figures taken from the SSDA903 return

4 Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984



# U

## Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004 by placement and age on starting <sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Placement	All Children	Age on starting to be looked after				
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16 & over
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>19,000</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>3,900</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>510</b>
Foster placement inside LA boundary						
With relative or friend	1,700	200	480	420	510	30
With other foster carer						
provided by LA	12,600	2,400	2,700	2,500	4,600	320
arranged through agency	560	60	80	130	260	20
Foster placements outside LA boundary						
With relative or friend	330	60	100	80	90	10
With other foster carer						
provided by LA	2,100	360	390	370	880	70
arranged through agency	1,800	220	330	390	790	60
<b>Placed for adoption</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Placement with parents</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Other placements in the community</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>280</b>
Living independently						
Residential employment						
<b>Secure units, homes and hostels</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>500</b>
Secure unit inside LA boundary	50	0	0	0	-	-
Secure unit outside LA boundary	120	0	0	-	100	-
Homes and hostels subject to	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Homes regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0
inside LA boundary	2,000	-	-	70	1,700	190
outside LA boundary	550	-	-	30	460	50
Homes and hostels not subject to						
Children's Homes regulations	290	0	0	0	60	230
<b>Other residential settings</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>30</b>
Residential care homes	80	-	-	10	60	20
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	340	300	20	10	20	10
Family centre or mother and baby unit	110	90	10	-	10	-
Youth Treatment Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	10	0	0	0	10	10
<b>Residential Schools</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Absent from agreed placement</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other accommodation</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>30</b>

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# V

## Number of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, by age on starting and need code<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Need code	All Children	Age on starting to be looked after				
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Abuse or neglect	11,800	2,800	2,900	2,600	3,300	190
Disability	700	30	50	150	370	110
Parents illness or disability	1,900	290	530	500	510	20
Family in acute stress	2,700	300	370	440	1,500	80
Family dysfunction	3,300	380	420	430	1,900	140
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,600	10	20	50	1,300	240
Low income	70	-	20	10	20	-
Absent parenting	2,600	270	180	250	1,300	630

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# W

## Number of children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, by ethnicity and need code<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Need code	All Children	Ethnic Origin				
		White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>820</b>
Abuse or neglect	11,800	9,300	920	400	910	230
Disability	700	570	30	30	50	20
Parents illness or disability	1,900	1,300	190	60	220	40
Family in acute stress	2,700	2,300	180	60	130	50
Family dysfunction	3,300	2,700	210	50	250	70
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,600	1,300	110	30	130	30
Low income	70	40	-	0	20	-
Absent parenting	2,600	960	150	270	890	370

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

# X

## Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by sex and age on ceasing<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,300	5	5	5	5	5
1-4	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,200	5,500	19	20	20	21	22
5-9	4,300	4,000	4,200	4,000	4,300	16	16	16	17	17
10-15	8,900	8,000	8,000	7,300	7,500	33	32	31	30	30
16 and over	7,200	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,800	27	27	26	27	27
<b>Male</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,800</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	670	690	710	650	650	5	5	5	5	5
1-4	2,600	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,900	18	19	20	21	21
5-9	2,400	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,300	16	16	16	16	17
10-15	5,200	4,500	4,300	3,900	4,000	35	33	31	30	29
16 and over	3,900	3,800	3,800	3,600	3,800	26	27	28	28	28
<b>Female</b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	630	570	590	540	630	5	5	5	5	5
1-4	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,600	19	22	21	22	22
5-9	2,000	1,800	2,000	1,900	2,000	17	16	17	17	17
10-15	3,700	3,400	3,700	3,400	3,600	31	30	32	30	30
16 and over	3,300	3,000	2,900	3,000	2,900	28	27	25	26	25

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003-04 covered all children looked after.

**Y**

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by legal status on ceasing<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Legal Status	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Care Order</b>										
Interim care order	1,900	1,900	2,200	2,500	2,900	7	7	9	10	11
Full care order	4,300	4,700	5,100	4,900	5,100	16	19	20	20	20
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>										
On remand or committed for trial	1,200	850	690	720	600	4	3	3	3	2
Detained under PACE <sup>5</sup>	80	40	20	10	20	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	30	50	30	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Detained for child protection</b>										
Police protection	390	480	400	390	530	1	2	2	2	2
Emergency protection order	230	170	160	160	180	1	1	1	1	1
Under child assessment order	0	0	10	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Freed for adoption</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>15,700</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>13,900</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Wardship</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

## Z

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by placement on ceasing<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>26,700</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Foster placements	15,600	14,100	13,900	13,000	13,500	58	56	55	53	53
Children's homes and hostels <sup>5</sup>	4,000	3,500	3,400	3,200	3,300	15	14	13	13	13
Placed for adoption	2,400	2,900	3,500	3,700	3,800	9	12	14	15	15
Living independently	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,300	5	5	4	5	5
Placed with parents	2,100	2,300	2,600	2,500	2,700	8	9	10	10	11
Other	1,300	1,000	860	770	810	5	4	3	3	3

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSSA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

AA

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2000 to 2004 by duration of latest period of care<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers of children and average duration of stay

	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>					
Number of children	<b>26,700</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,400</b>	<b>24,300</b>	<b>25,300</b>
Average duration of stay (days)	628	711	755	770	778
<b>Duration</b>					
Under 2 weeks	5,600	4,900	4,800	4,300	4,700
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	3,900	2,900	2,900	2,500	2,600
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	4,100	3,400	3,200	3,100	2,800
From 6 months to under 1 year	3,100	3,000	2,900	2,800	2,900
From 1 year to under 2 years	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,700	3,800
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,200	2,100	2,400	2,500	2,500
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,400	2,200	2,500	2,400	2,700
From 5 years to under 10 years	1,600	1,800	2,100	2,000	2,300
10 years and over	880	1,100	1,000	1,000	950

England

percentages

	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>					
Number of children	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Duration</b>					
Under 2 weeks	21	20	19	18	18
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	14	12	11	10	10
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	15	14	13	13	11
From 6 months to under 1 year	11	12	12	12	12
From 1 year to under 2 years	11	14	14	15	15
From 2 years to under 3 years	8	9	10	10	10
From 3 years to under 5 years	9	9	10	10	11
From 5 years to under 10 years	6	7	8	8	9
10 years and over	3	4	4	4	4

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004 by legal status on ceasing and duration of latest period of care<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

England

numbers of children and average duration of stay

	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>					
Number of children	25,300	5,100	2,900	14,200	3,000
Average duration of stay (days)	778	2,198	400	396	522
<b>Duration</b>					
Under 2 weeks	4,700	10	30	3,800	860
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,600	10	100	2,200	230
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	2,800	20	340	2,300	190
From 6 months to under 1 year	2,900	50	1,100	1,700	140
From 1 year to under 2 years	3,800	400	1,100	1,600	740
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,500	740	170	1,100	480
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,700	1,400	70	980	290
From 5 years to under 10 years	2,300	1,700	20	530	70
10 years and over	950	830	-	90	-

England

percentages

	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>					
Number of children	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Duration</b>					
Under 2 weeks	18	0	1	26	28
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	10	0	3	16	8
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	11	0	12	16	6
From 6 months to under 1 year	12	1	38	12	5
From 1 year to under 2 years	15	8	37	11	24
From 2 years to under 3 years	10	14	6	8	16
From 3 years to under 5 years	11	27	2	7	10
From 5 years to under 10 years	9	33	1	4	2
10 years and over	4	16	-	1	-

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

## England

## numbers of children and average duration of stay

	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 and over
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>						
Number of children	<b>25,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>6,800</b>
Average duration of stay (days)	778	128	458	653	388	1,674
<b>Duration</b>						
Under 2 weeks	4,700	330	880	930	2,300	260
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,600	200	400	400	1,300	280
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	2,800	310	440	350	1,300	390
From 6 months to under 1 year	2,900	450	650	490	870	480
From 1 year to under 2 years	3,800	0	1,800	520	640	820
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,500	0	850	440	240	970
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,700	0	410	770	390	1,200
From 5 years to under 10 years	2,300	0	0	370	430	1,500
10 years and over	950	0	0	0	70	880

## England

## percentages

	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 and over
<b>All Children<sup>1,2</sup></b>						
Number of children	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Duration</b>						
Under 2 weeks	18	26	16	22	30	4
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	10	16	7	9	17	4
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	11	24	8	8	18	6
From 6 months to under 1 year	12	35	12	12	12	7
From 1 year to under 2 years	15	0	34	12	9	12
From 2 years to under 3 years	10	0	15	10	3	14
From 3 years to under 5 years	11	0	7	18	5	17
From 5 years to under 10 years	9	0	0	9	6	22
10 years and over	4	0	0	0	1	13

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.



AD

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004 by number of placements in care history, and age on ceasing<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Number of placements	All Children	Age on ceasing					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over <sup>4</sup>
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,600</b>
1	8,400	670	1,700	1,500	3,000	770	640
2	5,800	370	1,700	980	1,600	590	470
3	3,600	100	1,000	740	880	400	440
4	2,100	40	410	420	560	310	330
5	1,400	10	250	260	390	240	300
6	910	0	100	140	280	180	210
7	660	0	50	70	190	130	220
8	450	0	20	60	120	100	150
9	370	-	-	50	110	80	100
10 or more	1,700	0	20	80	420	410	750

England

percentages

Number of placements	All Children	Age on ceasing					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over <sup>4</sup>
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
1	33	56	32	35	40	24	18
2	23	31	32	23	21	18	13
3	14	9	19	17	12	12	12
4	8	3	8	10	7	10	9
5	6	1	5	6	5	7	8
6	4	0	2	3	4	6	6
7	3	0	1	2	3	4	6
8	2	0	0	1	2	3	4
9	1	-	-	1	1	2	3
10 or more	7	0	0	2	6	13	21

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are based on the SSSA903 one-third sample (see technical notes).

4 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table AK).

**AE**

# Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004 by number of periods of care in care history, and age on ceasing<sup>1,2,3</sup>

England

numbers

Number of periods of care	All Children	Age on ceasing					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over <sup>4</sup>
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,600</b>
1	19,000	1,100	4,700	3,400	5,000	2,000	2,800 <sup>4</sup>
2	3,800	50	480	580	1,500	670	510
3	1,200	10	100	170	540	250	150
4	600	0	40	70	290	110	90
5	290	0	10	20	130	70	50
6	130	0	10	10	60	20	30
7	90	0	0	-	50	20	-
8	60	0	-	20	20	20	-
9	30	0	0	0	20	-	-
10 or more	140	0	0	10	60	50	10

England

percentages

Number of periods of care	All Children	Age on ceasing					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over <sup>4</sup>
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
1	75	95	88	79	65	62	76
2	15	4	9	13	19	21	14
3	5	1	2	4	7	8	4
4	2	0	1	2	4	4	2
5	1	0	0	0	2	2	1
6	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
7	0	0	0	-	1	1	-
8	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
9	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
10 or more	1	0	0	0	1	2	0

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are based on the SSDA903 one-third sample (see technical notes).

4 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table AK).

**AF**Duration of placements ceasing during the year ending 31 March 2004<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers of placements and average duration

	Number of placements									Average duration (days)
	All placements	1 to 7 days	8 days under 1 month	1 month under 3 months	3 months under 6 months	6 months under 1 year	1 yr under 2 yrs	2 yrs under 5 yrs	5 yrs and over	
<b>All placements<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>269</b>
Foster placements	44,000	9,500	7,100	6,400	5,500	6,600	4,700	3,000	1,200	274
Children's homes <sup>2</sup>	11,800	2,100	1,800	2,600	1,900	1,600	1,200	630	80	197
Schools	660	80	60	90	50	60	120	140	60	643
Placed with parents	5,300	440	530	760	820	970	730	820	220	434
Placed for adoption	4,000	10	30	100	770	1,600	1,200	310	20	371
In lodgings, living independently or in residential employment	3,000	340	530	670	520	490	350	50	0	158
Other placements	3,200	1,100	720	640	400	210	100	60	10	92

1 Figures exclude placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Includes secure units, homes and hostels.

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after.

**AG**Average duration (in days) of placements ceasing during the years ending 31 March 2000–2004<sup>1</sup>

England

average duration (days)

Year	Average duration							
	All placements	Foster placements	Children's homes <sup>2</sup>	Schools	Placed with parents	Placed for adoption	In lodgings, living independently or in residential employment	Other placements
<b>2000</b>	<b>206</b>	203	160	324	313	401	139	125
<b>2001</b>	<b>232</b>	234	194	328	332	375	150	95
<b>2002</b>	<b>246</b>	242	195	562	390	381	166	97
<b>2003</b>	<b>254</b>	253	209	588	381	365	147	91
<b>2004</b>	<b>269</b>	274	197	643	434	371	158	92

1 Figures exclude placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Includes secure units, homes and hostels.

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after.

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2001 <sup>2</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>2</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>										
Boys	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,900	1,900	50	52	50	53	50
Girls	1,400	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,900	50	48	50	47	50
<b>Age at adoption</b>										
Under 1	200	200	190	230	210	7	7	5	7	6
1 to 4	1,600	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,200	58	60	60	59	58
5 to 9	790	850	1,000	1,000	1,100	29	28	29	29	30
10 to 15	140	140	190	180	210	5	5	5	5	6
16 and over	10	20	10	10	20	0	1	0	0	0
Average age (yrs.: months)	4:4	4:3	4:5	4:4	4:5					
<b>Final legal status<sup>3</sup></b>										
Freed for adoption	1,100	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,700	41	39	39	42	44
Care order	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,700	43	49	49	48	46
Voluntary agreement (S20)	430	370	440	360	370	16	12	13	10	10
<b>Duration of final period of care<sup>4</sup></b>										
Under 1 year	240	260	230	270	260	9	8	7	8	7
1 year to under 2 years	710	950	1,100	1,200	1,200	26	31	31	33	33
2 years to under 3 years	810	860	970	970	1,000	30	28	28	27	28
3 years and over	970	1,000	1,200	1,100	1,200	36	33	34	32	32
Average duration (yrs:mths)	2:9	2:9	2:10	2:9	2:8					
<b>Age on starting final period of care<sup>4</sup></b>										
Under 1	1,500	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,000	55	56	54	55	53
1	370	430	480	470	470	14	14	14	13	12
2	310	330	400	370	400	11	11	12	10	11
3	210	250	260	270	310	8	8	7	7	8
4 and over	340	350	440	470	570	13	12	13	13	15
Average age (yrs: mths)	1:7	1:6	1:7	1:7	1:8					

1 Figures are taken from the KSI return.

2 Figures are taken from the AD1 return.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 return.

4 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

AI

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2004: Age of children at start of period of care and the length of time until adoption<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers

	All children	Time between start of care and granting of adoption order							
		Under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years to under 3 years	3 years to under 4 years	4 years to under 5 years	5 years to under 6 years	6 years to under 7 years	7 years and over
<b>All Children</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>90</b>
Percentages	100	7	33	28	16	8	4	2	3
Age at start of final period of care <sup>2</sup>									
Under 1	2,000	240	930	480	190	70	40	20	30
1	470	-	120	170	90	40	20	10	-
2	400	10	70	130	90	50	20	10	20
3	310	-	50	100	80	40	20	-	10
4	220	-	30	70	60	30	20	-	10
5	160	-	20	50	50	30	10	-	10
6	100	0	-	30	20	20	10	-	10
7 and over	90	0	10	20	20	20	-	-	10

<sup>1</sup> Figures taken from the AD1 return.

<sup>2</sup> "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

AJ

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2004: Average time between the different stages of the adoption process by age at start of period of care<sup>1</sup>

England

years:months

Age at start of period of care	Average time between entry into care and date of best interest decision	Average time between date of best interest decision and matching of child and adopters	Average time between date of matching and date placed for adoption	Average time between date placed for adoption and the date child adopted	Total average time between entry into care and adoption
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1:0</b>	<b>0:7</b>	<b>0:1</b>	<b>1:0</b>	<b>2:8</b>
Under 1	0:9	0:5	0:1	0:10	2:2
1	1:1	0:8	0:1	1:1	2:11
2	1:3	0:9	0:1	1:3	3:5
3	1:3	0:9	0:1	1:3	3:4
4	1:4	0:11	0:1	1:3	3:7
5	1:3	0:10	0:2	1:3	3:6
6	1:6	0:10	0:1	1:5	3:11
7 and over	1:11	0:8	0:2	1:2	3:11

<sup>1</sup> Figures are taken from the AD1 return.

	numbers					percentages				
	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2000 <sup>3</sup>	2001 <sup>3</sup>	2002 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All Children<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>6,400</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex</b>										
Boys	3,500	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,800	54	55	56	55	56
Girls	2,900	3,000	2,900	3,000	2,900	46	45	44	45	44
<b>Age on ceasing</b>										
16	2,600	2,300	2,100	2,000	1,900	40	35	32	30	29
17	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,100	940	17	15	16	16	14
18th birthday	2,600	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,500	40	46	48	49	52
Older than 18th birthday	160	250	280	320	360	3	4	4	5	5
<b>Final placement</b>										
Foster placement	2,800	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,800	44	46	46	44	42
Children's homes <sup>5</sup>	1,400	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,600	22	23	23	24	24
Living independently <sup>6</sup>	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,300	18	17	16	17	19
Placed with parents	390	460	520	520	530	6	7	8	8	8
Other	590	510	500	470	500	9	8	8	7	7
<b>Duration of final period of care<sup>7</sup></b>										
Under 6 months	1,600	1,200	1,100	1,000	930	25	17	17	16	14
6 months to under 1 year	630	610	580	490	480	10	9	9	7	7
1 year to under 2 years	830	1,100	900	870	820	13	16	14	13	12
2 years and over	3,300	3,800	4,000	4,200	4,500	52	57	61	64	67
<b>Duration of care history since 14th birthday</b>										
Under 3 months	740	490	560	450	570	12	7	9	7	8
3 months to under 6 months	420	350	280	280	240	7	5	4	4	4
6 months to under 1 year	610	560	520	490	490	10	8	8	7	7
1 year to under 2 years	1,000	1,100	970	940	830	16	17	15	14	12
2 year to under 4 years	1,900	2,000	2,200	2,300	2,300	30	30	34	35	34
4 years	1,600	2,100	2,000	2,100	2,100	26	31	31	32	31
4 years and over	30	40	10	50	200	1	1	0	1	3

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.

2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 covered all children looked after.

5 Includes secure units, homes and hostels but excludes residential schools.

6 Includes living in lodgings, living independently, and in residential employment.

7 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

**AL**

## Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, aged 16 or over by level of qualification achieved and duration of latest period of care<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Duration of latest period of care	All care leavers aged 16 & over				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
<b>All durations</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>
Up to 6 months	920	160	20	17	2
6 months to 1 yr	480	130	10	27	2
1 yr to under 2 yrs	820	300	40	36	4
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	950	400	50	42	6
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	680	350	50	51	7
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	470	240	30	51	7
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	380	200	30	54	7
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	340	180	30	54	9
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	310	180	20	57	7
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	280	160	20	58	9
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	230	130	20	55	9
10 yrs and over	900	510	80	56	9

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after during the year aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the OC1 return and therefore may not agree with table AK which is taken from the SSDA903 return.

**AM**

## Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, aged 16 or over with an opportunity of sitting examinations before leaving, by level of qualification achieved and duration of latest period of care<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Duration of latest period of care	Care leavers aged 16 & over with opportunity of sitting exams <sup>2</sup>				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
<b>All durations</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>
Up to 6 months	600	130	10	21	2
6 months to 1 yr	320	110	10	34	3
1 yr to under 2 yrs	670	270	30	39	5
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	900	390	50	44	6
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	640	330	50	52	8
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	450	230	30	52	7
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	360	200	30	54	7
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	330	180	30	54	9
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	310	180	20	57	7
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	270	160	20	59	9
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	220	120	20	55	8
10 yrs and over	890	510	80	57	9

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after during the year aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Children whose date of birth is later than 31 August 1987, and children whose date of birth is between 1 September 1986 and 31 August 1987 and who left care on or before 30 June 2003, have been excluded.

AN

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, aged 16 or over by level of qualification achieved and number of placements in last period of care<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Number of placements in last period of care	All care leavers aged 16 & over				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>6,700</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>6</b>
1	2,100	830	140	39	7
2	2,200	1,000	130	45	6
3	830	400	60	48	7
4	380	170	20	45	6
5	300	160	10	52	5
6	190	90	10	47	7
7	160	70	-	46	-
8	110	50	10	41	7
9	70	30	-	49	-
10 or more	360	130	10	36	2

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the OC1 return, and therefore may not agree with table AK which is taken from the SSDA903 return.

AO

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, aged 16 or over with an opportunity of sitting examinations before leaving, by level of qualification achieved and number of placements in last period of care<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Number of placements in last period of care	Care leavers aged 16 & over with opportunity of sitting exams <sup>2</sup>				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
<b>All children ceasing</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>
1	1,800	770	140	44	8
2	2,000	950	120	48	6
3	760	390	60	51	7
4	350	170	20	48	6
5	280	150	10	54	5
6	180	90	10	49	7
7	160	70	-	47	3
8	110	50	10	42	8
9	70	30	-	50	8
10 or more	350	130	10	38	3

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Children whose date of birth is later than 31 August 1987, and children whose date of birth is between 1 September 1986 and 31 August 1987 and who left care on or before 30 June 2003 have been excluded.



Duration of last period of care	Boys					Girls				
	All boys	Age on leaving care				All girls	Age on leaving care			
		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday
<b>Number of care leavers<sup>1,2</sup></b>										
<b>All durations</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>170</b>
less than 6 months	550	370	120	50	-	370	270	60	30	-
6 months to under 1 year	250	170	40	50	-	230	170	20	20	10
1 year to under 2 years	430	220	100	90	20	390	200	80	80	20
2 years to under 4 years	940	190	170	550	40	700	120	120	400	50
4 years to under 6 years	470	70	70	310	30	380	50	50	250	30
6 years to under 8 years	380	30	40	280	40	270	20	10	220	10
8 years and over										
<b>Number of care leavers with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ</b>										
<b>All durations</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>90</b>
less than 6 months	70	40	20	-	0	90	70	20	10	0
6 months to under 1 year	50	30	10	10	-	80	50	10	10	-
1 year to under 2 years	120	70	30	20	-	170	90	50	30	10
2 years to under 4 years	370	70	80	200	20	380	60	80	220	30
4 years to under 6 years	230	30	40	140	10	220	30	30	140	20
6 years to under 8 years	200	10	20	150	20	160	10	10	140	10
8 years and over	410	20	20	340	40	380	10	30	320	20
<b>Percentage of care leavers with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ</b>										
<b>All durations</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>
less than 6 months	13	12	18	-	0	24	24	23	27	0
6 months to under 1 year	20	16	34	22	-	34	32	46	38	-
1 year to under 2 years	29	30	34	24	-	45	45	59	33	32
2 years to under 4 years	39	38	50	36	38	55	47	63	55	59
4 years to under 6 years	48	47	55	47	38	57	53	63	57	57
6 years to under 8 years	52	37	59	53	46	61	44	86	61	50
8 years and over	52	56	63	51	55	63	56	78	62	60

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are taken from the OC1 return.

**AQ**

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2004, by the time the child would normally sit exams and the level of qualifications achieved<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

	All Years	Time child would normally sit exams <sup>2</sup>				
		Jun 00	Jun 01	Jun 02	Jun 03	Jun 04
<b>Number of care leavers<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>6,700</b>	-	<b>1,700</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>320</b>
<b>Number with:</b>						
at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	2,900	-	830	1440	650	10
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*–G	1,900	-	560	980	390	-
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*–C	400	0	110	220	70	-
<b>Percentage with:</b>						
at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	43	-	50	48	38	-
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*–G	29	-	34	33	23	-
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*–C	6	-	7	7	-	-

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Based on date of birth.

**AR**

Care leavers at age 19 who were looked after on 1 April 1999, 1 April 2000 and 1 April 2001 aged 16 (in their 17th year) by sex, activity and accommodation<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

		2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2002 <sup>2</sup>	2003 <sup>3</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>
<b>All young people<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>4,700</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Sex	Male	2,600	2,700	2,800	55	55	55
	Female	2,100	2,200	2,300	45	45	45
Activity	In education, training or employment	2,200	2,400	2,800	46	49	55
	Not in education, training or employment	1,400	1,600	1,500	29	32	30
	Not in touch	1,200	970	750	25	20	15
Accommodation	With parents or relatives	470	540	560	10	11	11
	Community home	200	200	230	4	4	4
	Supported accommodation <sup>5</sup>	580	710	800	12	14	16
	Lodgings	310	270	250	6	6	5
	Independent living	1,600	1,800	2,100	35	37	41
	In custody	110	120	120	2	2	2
	Other <sup>6</sup>	270	300	320	6	6	6
	Not in touch	1,200	970	750	25	20	15

1 Figures exclude children who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Looked after on 1 April 1999.

3 Looked after on 1 April 2000.

4 Looked after on 1 April 2001.

5 Includes supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

6 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

**AS**

Activity on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) by gender, activity and region<sup>1,2</sup>

England

numbers

	All young people	Council in touch with young person		Not in Touch
		In Education, training or employment	Not In Education, training or employment	
<b>England</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Males</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>780</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>Region</b>				
North East	130	70	40	20
North West	400	220	130	50
Yorkshire & Humberside	260	120	90	50
East Midlands	170	100	50	20
West Midlands	280	140	90	40
East of England	220	140	50	30
London	770	420	180	170
South East	370	220	90	60
South West	240	130	60	60
<b>Females</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Region</b>				
North East	130	70	50	10
North West	310	180	110	20
Yorkshire & Humberside	230	120	80	30
East Midlands	160	90	60	10
West Midlands	270	150	80	40
East of England	190	110	60	20
London	540	310	160	70
South East	290	160	100	30
South West	200	100	70	30

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures taken from the OC3 return.

**AT**

Accommodation on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (in their 17th year) by gender, accommodation and region<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers

	All young people	Council in touch with young person							Not in Touch
		With Parents or Relatives	Community Home	Supported Accommodation <sup>3</sup>	Lodgings	Independent Living	Other <sup>4</sup>	In Custody	
<b>England</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>750</b>
<b>Males</b>									
<b>Region</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>490</b>
North East	130	20	-	10	-	50	10	10	20
North West	400	80	20	50	30	120	30	20	50
Yorkshire & Humberside	260	30	10	40	10	90	20	10	50
East Midlands	170	20	10	30	10	60	10	10	20
West Midlands	280	50	10	40	10	90	20	10	40
East of England	220	30	20	30	10	70	20	10	30
London	770	40	30	150	10	300	50	20	170
South East	370	50	30	70	30	90	30	10	60
South West	240	20	10	40	20	80	10	10	60
<b>Females</b>									
<b>Region</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>260</b>
North East	130	20	-	10	-	70	10	0	10
North West	310	50	-	40	20	150	20	-	20
Yorkshire & Humberside	230	20	-	30	10	130	10	-	30
East Midlands	160	10	10	20	-	90	10	-	10
West Midlands	270	40	-	30	20	120	10	-	40
East of England	190	20	10	20	10	90	10	0	20
London	540	40	10	100	-	280	30	-	70
South East	290	30	20	50	20	130	20	0	30
South West	200	10	10	30	10	100	10	0	30

<sup>1</sup> Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

<sup>2</sup> Figures are taken from the OC3 return.

<sup>3</sup> Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

<sup>4</sup> Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

**AU**

Care leavers in touch with local councils at age 19 who were looked after on 1 April 2000 or 1 April 2001 aged 16 (in their 17th year) by accommodation<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Accommodation	Numbers of young people in touch		Percentage of young people in touch	
	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>	2003 <sup>2</sup>	2004 <sup>3</sup>
<b>All young people</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
With parents or relatives	540	560	14	13
Community home	200	230	5	5
Supported accommodation <sup>4</sup>	710	800	18	18
Lodgings	270	250	7	6
Independent living	1,800	2,100	46	48
Other <sup>5</sup>	300	320	8	7
In Custody	120	120	3	3

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Looked after on 1 April 2000.

3 Looked after on 1 April 2001.

4 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

5 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

**AV**

Comparison between activity and accommodation on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 or over<sup>1</sup>

England

numbers and percentages

Accommodation	All young people	Council in touch with young person					Not in touch
		In Higher Education (above A level)	In Education other than Higher Education	In Training or Employment	Not in Education Training or Employment owing to illness/disability	Education, Training or Employment for other reasons	
<b>All young people</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>750</b>
Percentages	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>
Not in touch	750	.	.	.	.	.	750
With parents or relatives	560	20	100	230	50	160	.
Supported accommodation <sup>2</sup>	800	50	260	290	50	160	.
Lodgings	250	20	80	110	10	20	.
Independent living	2,100	150	330	850	90	680	.
Other <sup>3</sup>	670	20	170	160	100	230	.

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

3 Includes community homes, bed & breakfast, emergency accommodation and in custody.

	All young people	With qualifications <sup>2</sup>	No qualifications
<b>All young people</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>2,700</b>
Not in touch	750	260	490
In custody	120	20	100
<b>In Education, Training or Employment</b>			
<b>All accommodation</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,200</b>
With parents or relatives	360	220	130
Community home	150	20	140
Lodgings	220	160	60
Independent living	1,300	800	520
Supported accommodation <sup>3</sup>	600	350	250
Other <sup>4</sup>	170	80	80
<b>Not In Education, Training or Employment</b>			
<b>All accommodation</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>940</b>
With parents or relatives	210	60	150
Community home	70	10	70
Lodgings	30	10	20
Independent living	770	300	480
Supported accommodation <sup>3</sup>	210	80	130
Other <sup>4</sup>	160	60	100

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2001 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ.

3 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

4 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Data source

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from the SSDA903 statistical returns submitted by local councils in England.

The SSDA903 is a statistical return completed by local authorities covering children looked after. Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2003 authorities were only required to provide data for a sample of their children (children born on a day of the month divisible by three). Prior to 1 April 1997 and from 1 April 2003 the SSDA903 covered all children looked after.

The information collected contains details normally available when the child starts to be looked after (sex, date of birth, category of need, legal status under which looked after and type of placement). When a change in legal status or placement (or both) occurs a new episode of care is started and the date and reason for the change are recorded. Information is supplied to the Department for Education and Skills annually, and these records are then linked (by a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local council in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).

An individual child may start and cease to be looked after more than once in a particular year, or a single period of care may span over several years. The analyses presented relate to children rather than individual episodes of care.

Between 1998 and 2003 the CLA100 return was completed in addition to the SSDA903. The CLA100 return collected aggregate data from local authorities regarding children looked after at 31 March. This return has now been discontinued as a result of the SSDA903 collection covering all children looked after.

The SSDA903 was generally considered to be more accurate than the CLA100 for the following reasons:

- All SSDA903 records are subject to vigorous validation to ensure that all reported episodes are fully consistent with one another. Failure to pass any validation test renders the entire care-history of the child invalid, and these records are excluded from all analyses
- Efforts are made to ensure that for every child who is looked after at 31 March a further episode is submitted for that child in the following year. No child can simply go 'missing' from the database without this being checked with the appropriate local authority

However, between 1998 and 2003 the SSDA903 only covered a third of children looked after. Estimates produced from small sample numbers may be unreliable and should be used with caution.

In 2003–04 the SSDA903 return was completed for the first time via the internet and contained the former OC1, OC3 and AD1 returns.

The AD1 return collects child level figures for children looked after by local authorities who were adopted during the year ending 31 March. It was first collected for the year ending 31 March 2001 and in the 2003–04 data collection formed part of the SSDA903 return.

The OC1 return collects the educational qualifications held by young people leaving care aged 16 or over in the year ending 31 March, regardless of how long they had been looked after, at the point of leaving care. Any examinations taken after the end of the latest period of care are excluded. The OC1 was first collected in the year ending 31 March 2000.

The OC3 return collects the activity and accommodation on their 19th birthday of former care leavers who are 19 in the year ending 31 March. The return covers all young people who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year). The OC3 was collected for the first time in the year ending 31 March 2002.

### Estimation methodology

Figures presented for 2003–04 and for years prior to 1997–98 are based entirely on the detailed SSDA903, which for these years covered all looked after children. Between 1997–98 and 2002–03 data from the SSDA903 return and the CLA100 return have been combined to give the best estimates available of the figures at both national and local levels.

For the years 1997–98 and 1998–99 three multiplying factors have been used. These are calculated based on comparing the CLA100 totals for the numbers of children who started to be looked after during the year, ceased to be looked after during the year and those looked after at 31 March with corresponding counts of valid SSDA903 records. The number of children who started to be looked after in the year was not included in the 1999–00 CLA100 collection, and the number of children who ceased to be looked after in the year was not included in the 2000–01. These changes resulted in a revision to the grossing methodology, and it was decided that, for the years 1999–00 and 2000–01 (and onwards) only one multiplying factor, based on the number of children looked after at 31 March, would be prepared for each local authority. By using one factor the results obtained will follow the patterns revealed in the SSDA903 sample, which is considered more accurate, rather than the CLA100.

The AD1, OC1, and OC3 returns have been used to prepare tables AH to AW and tables 17 to 20. These returns have always been completed for all children looked after and so the breakdowns of figures from these returns differ slightly from results derived by grossing sample numbers from the SSDA903 prior to 2003–04.

Where possible tables that present data being looked after on 31 March 1998 to 2003 are based entirely on the aggregate data from the CLA100 return. These include tables A to I and tables 1, 5, 6, and 7.

Tables including figures from both the SSDA903 and CLA100 returns are presented so that, wherever possible, the sum of figures from the sample equals the aggregate data. However in some cases this isn't possible and footnotes have been added to explain any inconsistency. Sampling reduces the reliability of some of the breakdowns presented and so local authority figures, particularly where the figures for individual categories are relatively small, should be used with caution.

Tables AD and AE present figures on the number of placements and number of periods of care children who ceased to be looked after in the year have experienced in their care history respectively. Although the figures are for 2003–04, when the SSDA903 return covered all looked after children, the tables are based on only those children in 2003–04 who would have fallen within the one-third sample in previous years (i.e. were born on a day in the month divisible by three). While some of the children who ceased to be looked after in 2003–04 may have only been looked after in 2003–04, the majority will have been looked after prior to 2003–04 and so we only have the entire care histories of those who would have been captured in the sample.

Figures on the causes of death of children looked after for 2002–03 were obtained with a special matching exercise. Where the SSDA903 return for 2002–03, based on the one-third sample, indicated that a child left care due to death (from the 'reason episode ceased' codes), DfES contacted the appropriate local authority and asked for them to send the child's name to the Office of National Statistics (ONS). ONS used the name to link the SSDA903 information and the death registration records to obtain cause of death. In 2003–04 ONS obtained cause of death information solely by using the SSDA903 return, which covered all children looked after, and did not repeat the special matching exercise: as a consequence only two thirds of those who died while in care could be uniquely matched to ONS records.

### **Missing data**

All local authorities in England submitted data for 2003–04 in time for inclusion in this publication. There are however a few gaps in coverage for earlier years – where this is the case the national figures include estimates for any missing data.

### **Data Quality**

All returns were subject to a number of validation checks including comparisons with other returns where possible. Inconsistencies are raised with local authorities for checking and correction.

For the years prior to 1997–98, and for 2003–04, compensating adjustments were made to the figures for authorities where records had been excluded due to unresolved discrepancies. In 2003–04 only 5 local authorities had outstanding discrepancies: the national multiplying factor for 2003–04 is less than 1.01.

Table E2 in Appendix E gives a comparison of the CLA100 and SSDA903 returns for 2000 to 2003, including the multiplying factors. Taking into account leap years, the expected value of all ratios is 3.07, although this figure is unlikely to be achieved very often because of the chance effects of sampling. Ratios which indicate a significant difference between the CLA100 and the SSDA903 submission have been underscored, and any estimate that depends on an underscored ratio should be treated with caution.

### **Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000**

For the years 1997–98 to 1999–00 local councils were asked to include children under Sections 90–92 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 2000, (formally Section 53 of the Criminal & Young Persons Act 1933) in their CLA100 figures, even though these are generally not looked after. This requirement was however dropped from 2000–01. This means that estimates for the number of children looked after at 31 March 1998 to 2000 are inflated by about 100 children compared with figures for other years.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Local councils affected by reorganisation at the end of March 1998 supplied the Department with information indicating which successor council took over responsibility for which looked after child. This information covered all children looked after by these authorities since the implementation of the Children Act. It has therefore enabled us to present estimated data in this publication for the new authorities for years before they came into existence.

### **Rounding and suppression**

To ensure that no individual child can be identified from statistical tables we have used the following conventions throughout this publication:

- National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise
- Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10
- Local authority figures have been rounded to the nearest 5
- Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-). Zero (0) is shown only when the number submitted was zero.



- Percentages, where the numerator is 5 or less or the denominator is 10 or less, have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-).

It has on occasion been necessary to suppress other data whenever it would be possible to calculate missing data by means of simple arithmetic. In these circumstances the second smallest number is suppressed. In addition, in local authority tables presenting figures used in the Performance Assessment Framework indicators (such as tables 10A and 10B), it may have been necessary to suppress the third smallest number or a zero in order to avoid the suppression of a figure used in the indicator. For further details on rounding and suppression see appendix C.

Note that as a consequence of our rounding and suppression figures may not sum to the total.

### **Rates and percentages**

Rates per 10,000 of the population have been calculated using the appropriate mid-year estimates of the number of children in England aged under 18 years supplied by the Office for National Statistics. A small number of young people aged 18 and over are included in the figures, but this is not thought to seriously distort the

rate. The mid-year population estimates for 2001 to 2003 are presented in Appendix E. These have been used to derive estimates of rates for the years 2002–02 to 2003–04 respectively.

Percentages are shown as whole numbers, and as a result may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

### **Figures on the internet**

The Department of Education and Skill's web site contains a copy of this publication, with all the tables in a suitable format for downloading into Microsoft Excel. It can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/index.shtm>

### **Symbols used**

The following conventions have been used in the tables:

- .. not available
- data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality. Normally this will refer to numbers of five or less, or percentages where either the numerator is five or less or the denominator is ten or less

## APPENDIX A

### BACKGROUND

#### Why does the Department collect statistics on children's services?

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from the SSDA903 statistical returns submitted by local councils in England.

This data is a substantial information resource that is used for:

- the evaluation of the outcome of policy initiatives and the monitoring of trends by the Department and the Social Services Inspectorate;
- the evaluation of the quality of data provided by authorities for the Performance Assessment Framework and for the Quality Protects Management Action Plans;
- the provision of statistics and analyses to inform discussions on government expenditure;
- the provision of information to Ministers and Parliamentary Committees;
- the provision of statistical information in response to parliamentary questions;
- the provision of information for research;
- the publication of information about children looked after in England, including figures for individual local authorities, which can be used by those authorities and by others to assist with the monitoring of trends and the planning of services.

#### What is a 'looked after' child?

Social services for children are provided under the Children Act 1989, which was implemented on 14 October 1991. Under this Act a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is placed in their care by a court (under a care order) or provided with accommodation by the authority's Social Services Department for more than 24 hours. Please see 'Supplementary Notes on Children Act' at the end of this appendix for further details on the Children Act.

#### Scope of the "Looked After" statistical collection

It should be borne in mind that the statistics presented in this publication only refer to the 'looked after' population, as defined above. There will be many other children and young people who receive a service from a local authority, for example Section 17 of the Children Act provides that it is the duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need. Such children do not appear in these statistics, unless at some stage they become looked after. Similarly, on reaching their 18th birthday, the vast majority of children who are still looked after at that age cease to fall within the definition of a looked after child as given in the Children Act. As such, they are recorded as ceasing to be looked after in these statistics (see table

AK), even though many of these young people will continue to receive support from a local authority beyond their 18th birthday under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Although these statistics are confined to England, a similar collection based on the SSDA 903 form is made in Wales. Figures for Wales can be obtained from the National Assembly for Wales, whose address is given at the end of this appendix.

#### The 'Children in Need' statistical collection

The Department undertakes a wider data collection to cover all children in contact with the Children's and Family Services of local authorities, including those who are looked after. This survey, conducted during a sample week, is designed to give a more comprehensive picture of the work of Social Services Departments with children in their area. The first survey was conducted in February 2000, the second during September/October 2001 and the third during February 2003. The fourth survey took place during February 2005. The results of the first surveys are available from the following websites:

Results of first survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000504/index.shtml>

Results of second survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000505/index.shtml>

Results of third survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000451/index.shtml>

#### The SSDA 903 collection

The SSDA 903 is a child level statistical return submitted by local councils for all children looked after at any time in the statistical year. A list of the codes that local councils can use is reproduced in Appendix B. All SSDA 903 data received by the Department is subjected to a rigorous validation procedure, and any records that fail validation are returned to the local council for correction. For the first time since 31 March 1997, authorities in 2003-04 were required to provide data for all children looked after (between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2003 this information was only required on a sample)

The information collected via the SSDA 903 contains details such as sex, date of birth, category of need, legal status under which looked after and the type of placement, plus all subsequent changes to the legal status or placement occurring in the year (including ceasing to be looked after). On each occasion that there is a change, the date and reason for the change are recorded on the form. Information for each child is

supplied to the Department for Education and Skills annually and these records are linked (by means of a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local council in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).

It should be emphasised that an individual child may start and cease to be looked after more than once in a particular year, or a single period of being looked after may span several years. As far as possible, the analyses presented relate to children rather than individual episodes of care. (For the purposes of collecting data on form SSDA 903, the care history of each looked after child is recorded in “episodes”. In general, when a child’s placement, or legal status changes, a new “episode” is generated).

Until 31 March 1991, statistics were collected on children in care under the legislation that preceded the Children Act. Children looked after by local councils include a number who would not previously have been counted as children in care, for example those for whom a series of short term breaks was provided. For this reason the number of children looked after is not directly comparable with the number of children in care under old legislation.

#### **The CLA100 collection**

This publication also includes aggregate data from the CLA100 collection. This return was required between 1998 and 2003 to enable the Department to publish summary statistics in advance of the more detailed data presented here. The approach used to combine CLA100 and SSDA903 data in this publication is described in the Technical Notes.

#### **Performance Assessment Framework**

In November 2004 the Commission for Social Care Inspectoration (CSCI) published the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) data for 2003–04. For those indicators relating to looked after children the PAF figures were extracted from SSDA903 returns. Historically PAF figures were taken from the CLA100 return. In this publication, data have been based on the SSDA903 returns rather than the PAF data.

#### **Agreed series of short term placements**

The statistical collection covers all children accommodated under an agreed series of short term breaks (under Regulation 13 of the Arrangements for Placement of Children Regulations 1991). Since April 1992 authorities have been given a choice of either recording every short term placement as a separate episode or recording, as one episode, the continuous period spent under an agreement. When this information was first collected, in 1991–92, authorities were only offered the first of these options. The difficulties experienced by many authorities in gathering this level of detail made it necessary to

provide a second option. Because of this alternative approach to recording these placements, figures on children accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements are not included in the main national and local authority analyses. The information available about these short term placements is summarised at national level in Table N and at local authority level in Table 2.

#### **Children looked after at 31 March**

Figures on children looked after at 31 March 2004 relate to all children looked after by a local authority at 31 March, excluding children who were the subject of an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

#### **Children starting to be looked after**

Figures on children who started to be looked after relate to those who began a period of care during the year. The legal status, placement and age details represent the position when they started to be looked after. If they started to be looked after more than once during the year the figures relate to the first occasion. Where a period of care was initiated by an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, this episode is ignored in producing the tables in this volume. Consequently, children with periods of accommodation initiated by and consisting only of these short-term placements are completely excluded. However, where an agreed series is followed by the child being looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20), it is the start of this second period which is treated as the point at which the child “started to be looked after” for tabulation purposes.

#### **Children ceasing to be looked after**

Figures for children who ceased to be looked after are based on those who had a period of care that ceased during the year to 31 March. Where a child ceased to be looked after more than once during a year the figures relate to the last occasion. Where a child was the subject of an agreement for a series of short-term placements when he or she ceased being looked after, this period of accommodation has been ignored in producing the tables. Consequently, children who were only looked after for agreed series of short-term placements during the year are completely excluded from these tables. Conversely children are included if a period under such an agreement was preceded by a separate period which ended while the child was looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20).

#### **Revisions to the figures for previous years**

Revised estimates for the years ending 31 March 1994 to 31 March 2003 have been included in this publication; these revised figures replace those previously published for these years.

### **Supplementary Notes on the Children Act 1989**

The Children Act begins from the standpoint that when a local council has to arrange for a child to live away from home because the parents are unable to care for him or her properly, or need respite, this should preferably be under voluntary arrangements with the parents. Administrative measures to exercise compulsion when the child is looked after were abolished by the Act, which now provides for a range of court orders for those situations where the child either needs protection from his or her parents, or a secure substitute family.

Even when a child is under a care order the Act provides for the parents to retain parental responsibility (although the local council may limit its operation), to be involved in local council decision-making, and for them to have reasonable contact with the child unless the court provides otherwise.

To ensure that interventions are positive, the Act prohibits a court from making any order unless it is satisfied that the order will positively contribute to the child's welfare. This is intended to discourage court orders being made in all private proceedings, such as divorce, simply as part of a package and to ensure that the court, when considering whether to make a care or supervision order, considers whether the order will positively improve the child's welfare. Under the Act, a local council looks after a child if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours. Looked after children fall into three main groups:

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (under Section 20);
- children who are the subject of a care order;

- children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children on remand and those subject to short-term emergency orders for the protection of the child.

### **Further enquiries and analyses**

Copies of the tables in this publication have been placed on the Department's web site. Further analyses of the data can also be provided, although large requests may incur a charge to cover the costs involved. Please write to:

Julie Tillman,  
DSG S1, Department for Education and Skills,  
6P, Sanctuary Buildings  
Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT  
Telephone: 020 7925 3803  
E-mail: Julie.Tillman@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

The Department for Education and Skills web site contains all the tables from this publication, which may be downloaded. They can be found at:  
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/index.shtm>

### **Welsh Data**

Enquiries on published information for Wales should be made to:

The National Assembly for Wales  
Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ  
Telephone: 029 2082 3625  
E-mail: stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk

*Statistics Division  
Department for Education and Skills,  
March 2005*

## APPENDIX B

### LIST OF CODES USED ON THE SSDA 903 FORM, 2003–2004

#### The record header: coding items 1–6

This part of the record records the child's identity details and should not change from year to year. Any change in items 1–5 causes a validation error.

#### Item 1 – local authority

The designated local authority code.

#### Item 1a – area office

This is an optional item for local use. If Item 1A is not used it must be left blank.

#### Item 2 – child identifier

An anonymous unique identifier (no longer than 10 characters). For each child it must be retained from year to year. It can include alphabetic and numeric characters. This item is the sole means of DfES computer identification of each child record, and the same ID is used on OC1, OC3 and AD1 returns.

#### Item 3 – sex of child

Code 1 for boys, code 2 for girls.

#### Item 4 – date of birth

Enter day, month and year as two digit numbers.

##### Examples:

Born 24 January 1990: enter as 240190

Born 15 November 1994: enter as 151194

#### Item 5 – UASC

Code 1 if the child was an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker at any point in the year, code 0 if the child was not an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker at any point in the year.

#### Item 5a – UASC cease date

Enter day, month and year of date the UASC status ended if the child ceased to be an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker in the year.

#### Item 6 – ethnic origin

There are no prescriptive instructions as to who should decide on a child's ethnic identity for the purpose of completing the 903 record. This recognises the many current variations in LA practice in this area.

This item should not be left blank.

The following list of categories reflects those which were used in the 2001 Census.

### Ethnic Origin Code List

#### White

White British	A1
White Irish	A2
Any other White background	A3

#### Mixed

White and Black Caribbean	B1
White and Black African	B2
White and Asian	B3
Any other mixed background	B4

#### Asian, or Asian British

Indian	C1
Pakistani	C2
Bangladeshi	C3
Any other Asian background	C4

#### Black or Black British

Caribbean	D1
African	D2
Any other Black background	D3

#### Other ethnic groups

Chinese	E1
Any other ethnic group	E2

### EPISODE DETAILS

#### Item 7: Date episode commenced

This item records the date that each episode began. Where episodes are consecutive, the new episode must start on the same day that the previous episode finished.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

#### Item 8: Reason for new episode

This item records the reason why a new episode is being shown on the 903.

As an episode basically consists of the combination of placement and legal status, a change in either or both of these triggers a new episode and the reason in item 7 reflects this.

## Code List

Reason for new SSDA 903 episode	Code
Started to be looked after	S
Change of legal status only	L
Change of placement only	P
Change of both legal status and placement	B

### Notes

Code **S** is used where a child starts to be looked after for the first time, or had previously ceased to be looked after and is now starting to be looked after again. Code **S** is also used where recording individual short breaks using legal status **V3**. For more information on short breaks see the section on Legal status codes.

Code **B** is used where both legal status and placement change on the same day.

### Item 9: Legal status which underlies being 'looked after'

The legal status code on the 903 records the legal status underlying the reason the child is being 'looked after'.

A renewal of an existing legal status does not generate a new episode. If the legal status code does not change, a new episode is not required, (unless there happens to be a change of placement at the same time).

In certain circumstances a child being looked after can have more than one 'looked after' legal status. In general this happens when a child who is already 'looked after' under a Children Act care order comes into contact with the youth justice system, and as a result is detained in local authority accommodation under a second legal status which would also make him or her 'looked after'. In such cases a new episode commences, which records *the latest legal status*.

## Legal Status Code list

### Care orders

Interim care order	C1
Full care order	C2

### Freed for adoption

Freeing order granted	D1
-----------------------	----

### Voluntary accommodation

Single period of accommodation under section 20	V2
Accommodation under an agreed series of short-term breaks, when individual episodes of care are recorded	V3
Accommodation under an agreed series of short-term breaks, when individual episodes of care are recorded	V4

### Detained on child protection grounds, in LA accommodation

Under police protection and in local authority accommodation	L1
Emergency protection order	L2
Under child assessment order and in local authority accommodation	L3

### Youth justice legal statuses

On remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA	J1
Detained in LA accommodation under PACE	J2
Sentenced to CYP A 1969 supervision order with residence requirement	J3



**Item 10: CiN codes (Category of Need)**  
**Children in Need Code list**

Need category at start of current period of being looked after	Definition	Code
Abuse or neglect	Children in need as a result of, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.	N1
Disability	Children and their families whose main need for services arises out of the children's disabilities or intrinsic condition.	N2
Parental illness or disability	Children whose main need for services arises because the capacity of their parents or carers to care for them is impaired by disability, illness, mental illness, or addictions.	N3
Family in acute stress	Children whose needs arise from living in a family going through a crisis such that parenting capacity is diminished and some of the children's needs are not being adequately met.	N4
Family dysfunction	Children whose needs arise mainly out of their living with families where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate.	N5
Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	Children and families whose need for services arise primarily out of their children's behaviour impacting detrimentally on the community.	N6
Low income	Children, living in families or independently, whose needs arise mainly from being dependent on an income below the standard state entitlements.	N7
Absent Parenting	Children whose need for services arises mainly from having no parents available to provide for them.	N8

**Item 11: Placement**  
**Placement Code list**

1) Family placements

Foster placements :

Carer lives inside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F1
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F2
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F3

Foster placements :

Carer lives outside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F4
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F5
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F6

Placed for adoption

Placed for adoption	A1
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Placed with own parents

Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	P1
--	----

2) Other placements in the community

Independent living , e.g. in flat or lodgings <u>without</u> formal support staff, or in bedsit, B&B or with friends	P2
Residential employment	P3

3) Placements in residential settings

Looked after, and placed in secure unit

Secure unit inside LA boundary	H1
Secure unit outside LA boundary	H2

Placements in homes and hostels subject to *Children's Homes Regulations*

Homes and hostels inside LA boundary	H3
Homes and hostels outside LA boundary	H4

Placements in other hostels & supportive residential settings

Residential accommodation not subject to <i>Children's homes regulations</i>	H5
--	----

Placements in other residential settings

Residential care home	R1
NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	R2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	R3
Young Offender Institution or prison	R5

Schools

All Residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and children's home.	S1
--	----

4) Temporary placements

Temporary placements

All types of temporary move	T0
Temporary periods in hospital	T1
Temporary absences of the child on holiday	T2
Temporary accommodation whilst normal foster carer is on holiday	T3
Temporary accommodation of seven days or less, for any reason not covered by codes T1 to T3	T4

5) Other placements

Absent more than 24 hours from agreed placement

In Refuge (section 51 of Children Act)	M1
Whereabouts known (not in Refuge)	M2
Whereabouts unknown	M3

Other placements not listed above

Other placements (must be listed on a schedule sent to DfES with annual submission)	Z1
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**Item 12: Date episode ceased**

The date the episode ceased, if applicable. An episode cannot start and end on the same day.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

**Item 13 : Reason episode ceased/end of care**

A single code, **X1**, is used in Item 13 to signify that an episode has ended and that a further episode has started on the same day.

All other codes in Item 13 record the circumstances when a child ceases to be looked after.

**Reason Episode Ceased Codes**

1) New episode follows, remains looked after

Episode ceases, and new episode begins on same day, for any reason	X1
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2) Care ends, no longer looked after

Adopted (adoption order granted by court on date episode ceased)	E1
Died	E2
Care taken over by another LA in the UK	E3
Returned home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility	E4
Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : <u>supportive</u> accommodation providing formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. most hostels, YMCAs, foyers, and care leavers projects)	E5
Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : accommodation providing <u>no</u> formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. B&B, bedsit, own flat, living with friends)	E6
Transferred to care of adult social services	E7
Period of being looked after ceased for any other reason	E8



## DATA ITEMS RELATING TO KEY MILESTONES

### LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ADOPTED

#### Item 1: Date of approval of adopters

This item records the date the prospective adoptive parents were formally approved as being suitable for this role.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

#### Item 2: Date of best interest decision

This is the date on which the local authority (in its capacity as the adoption agency) formally decides that adoption would be in the best interest of the child.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

#### Item 3: Date of matching child and adopters

This is the date on which the local authority (in its capacity as the adoption agency) decides that the child will be placed for adoption with its prospective adoptive parent(s).

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

#### Item 4: Child adopted by former foster carer

Code 1 for yes, code 0 for no.

### EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF CARE LEAVERS

#### Item 1: Number of GCSE passes obtained, A\*–G

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

#### Item 2: Number of GCSE passes obtained, A\*–C

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

#### Item 3: Number of GNVQ passes

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

#### Item 4: Number of other educational or vocational qualifications

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

#### Item 5: Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing

Reason for no qualification code list

Description	Code
Not applicable (i.e. has at least one qualification)	0
Young person due to sit exams later in the school year having ceased to be looked after	1
Young person sat at least one exam but obtained no qualifications	2
Health condition or disability prevented young person sitting exams	3
Young person did not sit exams, or was not due to sit exams later in the school year, and was not prevented from doing so by a health condition or disability	4

### ACTIVITY OF FORMER LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ON THEIR 19TH BIRTHDAY

#### Item 1: In touch on 19th birthday

This item most accurately answers the question – was the local council in touch with this young person on, or near, his/her 19th birthday?

In touch code list

Description	Code
Yes, resident in the UK	1
No, resident in the UK	2
Yes, gone abroad	3
No, gone abroad	4
No, residence not known	5
Died after leaving care but prior to 19th birthday	6

**Item 2: Main activity on 19th birthday**

This item records the code that most accurately reflects the young person's main activity status on or around their 19th birthday

## Main activity list

Description	Code
Young person engaged in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	G1
Young person in education other than higher education	G2
Young person in training or employment	G3
Young person not in education, training or employment because of illness or disability	G4
Young person not in education, training or employment: other circumstances	G5

**Item 3: Accommodation on 19th birthday**

## Accommodation list

Description	Code
With parents or relatives	B
Community home or other form of residential care	C
Semi-independent, transitional accommodation	D
Supported lodgings	E
Ordinary lodgings	K
Foyers	T
Independent living	U
Emergency accommodation	V
Bed and breakfast	W
In custody	X
Other accommodation	Y

**Item 4: Suitability of accommodation**

Code 1 if accommodation is considered suitable, code 2 if accommodation is considered unsuitable.

## APPENDIX C

### NOTE ON THE ROUNDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY CONVENTION USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in the national summary tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a hyphen (-). Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers unless the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, in which case they have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen.

At local council level the England totals have been rounded either to the nearest 10, or 100 following the rule outlined above. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a hyphen. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers, but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen. Where a percentage is zero because the number from which that percentage has been calculated is a zero, the percentage is shown as zero.

The rounding convention has not been applied to the figures provided in tables E1 and E2.

In tables which include time series, this rounding convention has been applied to data for previous years for the sake of consistency, even though unrounded data for these years may have been published in previous publications.

It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item. The only exception to this rule is to avoid the suppression of a figure used in Performance Assessment Framework Indicator calculations (such as table 10A and 10B). In this circumstance, which is indicated by a footnote, the third smallest data item or a zero may have been suppressed.

The following table gives some examples of the rounding convention used:

Actual Number	Numbers at England level, as shown in tables	Numbers at local council level, as shown in tables
0	0	0
1	-	-
2	-	-
3	-	-
4	-	-
5	-	-
6	10	5
7	10	5
8	10	10
9	10	10
10	10	10
11	10	10
12	10	10
13	10	15
14	10	15
15	20	15
16	20	15
17	20	15
18	20	20
19	20	20
20	20	20
120	120	120
124	120	125
125	130	125
126	130	125
994	990	995
995	1,000	995
999	1,000	1,000
1,949	1,900	1,950
1,950	2,000	1,950
1,955	2,000	1,955
1,956	2,000	1,955
1,957	2,000	1,955
1,958	2,000	1,960

## APPENDIX D

### CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

**Statistical First Release: Children Looked After in England (including adoptions and care leavers), 2003–04**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000533/index.shtml>

**Statistical Bulletin: Children Looked After in England (including adoptions and care leavers), 2003–04**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SBU/b000552/index.shtml>

**Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers: Year Ending 31 March 2004**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000553/index.shtml>

**Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes (formerly Secure Units), year ending 31 March 2003: England and Wales**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000490/index.shtml>

**Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2003: England**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000468/index.shtml>

**Children in Need in England: Results of a survey of activity and expenditure as reported by Local Authority Social Services' Children and Families Teams for a survey week in February 2003: Local Authority tables and further national analysis**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000451/index.shtml>

**Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Indicators 2003–2004**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000541/index.shtml>

**The Children Act 2004**

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrenactreport/>

APPENDIX E

**E1**

Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2001 to 2003, by local authority<sup>1,2</sup>

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2001	2002	2003
<b>England</b>	<b>11,145.8</b>	<b>11,117.9</b>	<b>11,082.2</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>567.3</b>	<b>561.1</b>	<b>554.6</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Durham	106.5	105.3	104.5
Northumberland	65.8	65.2	64.5
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Darlington	22.2	22.2	22.1
Hartlepool	22.3	22.0	21.8
Middlesbrough	35.4	34.6	33.7
Redcar & Cleveland	32.4	32.0	31.6
Stockton On Tees	44.8	44.5	43.9
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>			
Gateshead	41.7	41.4	41.1
Newcastle Upon Tyne	55.6	55.1	54.5
North Tyneside	41.4	41.1	40.6
South Tyneside	34.9	34.4	33.8
Sunderland	64.3	63.3	62.4
<b>North West</b>	<b>1,574.3</b>	<b>1,562.4</b>	<b>1,548.8</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Cheshire	149.4	148.4	147.7
Cumbria	103.9	103.3	102.8
Lancashire	261.9	260.0	258.5
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Blackburn & Darwen	38.7	39.2	39.2
Blackpool	30.1	30.1	30.1
Halton	29.2	28.9	28.4
Warrington	44.7	44.5	44.3
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>			
Bolton	63.9	63.6	63.4
Bury	43.7	43.6	43.4
Knowsley	39.3	38.5	37.7
Liverpool	100.4	98.8	96.7
Manchester	97.1	97.0	96.2
Oldham	56.2	55.9	55.6
Rochdale	52.7	52.2	51.7
Salford	49.6	48.8	48.2
Sefton	64.9	63.8	62.7
St Helens	41.3	40.9	40.4
Stockport	64.9	64.2	63.3
Tameside	51.1	50.9	50.4
Trafford	48.0	47.7	47.7
Wigan	69.5	69.0	68.6
Wirral	73.9	72.9	71.9

**E1****CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority<sup>1,2</sup>

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2001	2002	2003
<b>Yorkshire &amp; The Humber</b>	<b>1,142.6</b>	<b>1,138.1</b>	<b>1,131.7</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
North Yorkshire	124.6	124.8	124.6
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
East Riding Yorkshire	67.0	67.3	67.2
Kingston Upon Hull	59.6	58.6	57.7
N E Lincolnshire	39.2	38.6	38.2
North Lincolnshire	34.9	34.8	34.9
York	35.9	35.5	35.2
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>			
Barnsley	49.8	49.6	49.5
Bradford	123.0	123.2	123.4
Calderdale	46.0	45.8	45.6
Doncaster	67.5	67.2	66.5
Kirklees	94.2	94.4	94.2
Leeds	160.2	158.8	156.7
Rotherham	58.7	58.5	58.3
Sheffield	109.3	108.7	107.8
Wakefield	72.8	72.4	71.9
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>942.7</b>	<b>943.3</b>	<b>941.5</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Derbyshire	162.3	162.0	161.6
Leicestershire	134.1	134.5	134.4
Lincolnshire	139.9	140.2	140.6
Northamptonshire	149.6	150.6	151.2
Nottinghamshire	165.8	165.5	164.8
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Derby	54.1	54.0	53.7
Leicester	70.0	69.6	68.7
Nottingham	59.0	58.6	57.9
Rutland	7.8	8.4	8.6

**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority<sup>1,2</sup>

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2001	2002	2003
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>1,231.8</b>	<b>1,228.7</b>	<b>1,222.8</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Shropshire	61.5	61.7	61.6
Staffordshire	179.5	178.2	177.4
Warwickshire	110.8	111.7	112.0
Worcestershire	119.1	119.2	119.1
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Herefordshire	38.1	38.0	37.9
Stoke-On-Trent	53.9	53.2	52.5
Telford & Wrekin	39.6	39.7	39.4
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>			
Birmingham	256.0	255.3	254.1
Coventry	71.5	71.0	70.1
Dudley	68.3	68.3	67.8
Sandwell	69.0	68.8	68.4
Solihull	47.1	46.9	46.7
Walsall	61.8	61.5	61.0
Wolverhampton	55.6	55.3	54.9
<b>East of England</b>	<b>1,214.9</b>	<b>1,214.4</b>	<b>1,215.7</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Bedfordshire	90.7	90.8	90.8
Cambridgeshire	120.5	121.1	122.8
Essex	293.9	293.7	293.7
Hertfordshire	240.0	239.6	239.9
Norfolk	163.0	162.9	162.8
Suffolk	149.0	148.8	148.6
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Luton	48.6	48.2	48.0
Peterborough	38.4	38.3	38.3
Southend	36.0	35.9	35.6
Thurrock	34.9	35.0	35.1

**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority<sup>1,2</sup>

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2001	2002	2003
<b>London</b>	<b>1,621.5</b>	<b>1,621.0</b>	<b>1,618.7</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>533.1</b>	<b>535.1</b>	<b>535.8</b>
Camden	37.0	37.6	38.0
City Of London	0.7	0.8	0.8
Greenwich	52.1	52.2	52.2
Hackney	52.7	52.9	52.6
Hammersmith & Fulham	30.3	30.8	31.2
Islington	35.9	35.6	35.2
Kensington & Chelsea	27.2	28.2	29.3
Lambeth	56.6	55.9	55.5
Lewisham	58.6	57.7	56.6
Southwark	56.1	56.0	55.5
Tower Hamlets	50.2	50.3	50.3
Wandsworth	45.6	45.7	46.0
Westminster	30.0	31.4	32.6
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>1,088.4</b>	<b>1,086.0</b>	<b>1,082.9</b>
Barking & Dagenham	42.8	42.8	42.8
Barnet	71.5	71.9	72.3
Bexley	51.4	51.3	51.0
Brent	59.0	58.5	58.1
Bromley	65.6	65.7	66.0
Croydon	81.2	80.6	80.2
Ealing	67.1	66.5	65.8
Enfield	65.0	65.4	65.3
Haringey	49.8	50.1	50.0
Harrow	47.5	47.8	47.7
Havering	50.1	49.9	49.7
Hillingdon	57.4	57.3	57.3
Hounslow	49.2	48.6	47.9
Kingston Upon Thames	31.1	31.3	31.1
Merton	40.6	40.5	40.1
Newham	71.7	71.2	69.7
Redbridge	57.3	57.3	58.1
Richmond Upon Thames	35.7	36.1	36.7
Sutton	41.9	41.5	41.3
Waltham Forest	52.2	51.9	51.7



**CONTINUED**Mid-year population estimates of children aged under 18, 2000 to 2002, by local authority<sup>1,2</sup>

ENGLAND

thousands of children

	2001	2002	2003
<b>South East</b>	<b>1,792.4</b>	<b>1,790.7</b>	<b>1,789.3</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Buckinghamshire	112.5	112.4	112.2
East Sussex	104.6	104.9	104.9
Hampshire	280.8	279.9	278.8
Kent	306.0	307.1	307.7
Oxfordshire	132.8	132.8	133.5
Surrey	230.8	231.2	232.4
West Sussex	161.9	161.7	161.7
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Bracknell Forest	27.3	27.2	27.2
Brighton & Hove	46.1	46.3	46.5
Isle Of Wight	27.4	27.6	27.5
Medway Towns	63.0	62.5	61.9
Milton Keynes	54.0	53.7	53.5
Portsmouth	40.6	40.2	39.5
Reading	30.6	30.2	29.7
Slough	29.7	29.5	28.9
Southampton	44.8	44.4	43.7
West Berkshire	34.1	34.0	34.2
Windsor & Maidenhead	29.9	30.2	30.8
Wokingham	35.3	35.0	34.7
<b>South West</b>	<b>1,058.3</b>	<b>1,058.2</b>	<b>1,059.0</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>			
Cornwall	104.7	105.1	105.4
Devon	144.1	144.3	144.5
Dorset	79.3	79.9	80.6
Gloucestershire	125.0	124.8	125.0
Isles Of Scilly	0.4	0.4	0.4
Somerset	110.1	110.7	111.3
Wiltshire	99.1	99.8	100.5
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>			
Bath & N E Somerset	34.8	34.7	34.9
Bournemouth	30.5	30.3	30.2
Bristol	82.4	81.6	80.5
North Somerset	40.3	40.4	40.7
Plymouth	53.0	52.6	52.0
Poole	29.0	28.7	28.4
South Gloucestershire	57.0	56.8	56.6
Swindon	42.1	41.9	41.7
Torbay	26.4	26.4	26.4

1 Figures are displayed for boundaries as at 1 April 1998. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 children and therefore may not sum to the total for England.

2 The mid year population estimates for 2001, 2002 and 2003 have been used to derive estimates of rates for 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04 respectively

Source: Office for National Statistics

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

## England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903 CLA 100		SSDA 903 valid records	SSDA 903 CLA 100		SSDA 903 valid records	SSDA 903 CLA 100		SSDA 903 valid records	SSDA 903 CLA 100		SSDA 903 valid records
			Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>			Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>			Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>			Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>
<b>England</b>	<b>58,097</b>	<b>19,038</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>58,888</b>	<b>19,328</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>59,712</b>	<b>19,581</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>60,815</b>	<b>20,022</b>	<b>3.04</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>1,104</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>3,304</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>3.03</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Durham	524	177	2.96	443	154	2.88	427	136	3.14	446	140	3.19
Northumberland	298	93	3.20	287	88	3.26	320	90	<u>3.56</u>	328	101	3.25
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Darlington	117	34	3.44	117	41	2.85	130	45	2.89	157	59	2.66
Hartlepool	116	39	2.97	120	40	3.00	125	48	2.60	107	39	2.74
Middlesbrough	186	68	2.74	236	89	<u>2.65</u>	255	95	<u>2.68</u>	265	90	2.94
Redcar & Cleveland	164	68	<u>2.41</u>	185	69	2.68	187	69	2.71	152	58	2.62
Stockton On Tees	204	59	3.46	198	63	3.14	212	68	3.12	207	69	3.00
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>												
Gateshead	259	78	3.32	273	76	<u>3.59</u>	255	78	3.27	251	77	3.26
Newcastle Upon Tyne	446	140	3.19	441	147	3.00	404	136	2.97	381	121	3.15
North Tyneside	280	84	3.33	328	95	3.45	316	88	<u>3.59</u>	273	87	3.14
South Tyneside	293	91	3.22	293	101	2.90	266	88	3.02	272	93	2.92
Sunderland	465	167	2.78	498	174	2.86	490	163	3.01	465	157	2.96
<b>North West</b>	<b>9,873</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>9,682</b>	<b>3,193</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>9,807</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>9,932</b>	<b>3,325</b>	<b>2.99</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Cheshire	476	173	<u>2.75</u>	458	153	2.99	483	168	2.88	482	177	<u>2.72</u>
Cumbria	515	162	3.18	521	159	3.28	586	183	3.20	620	194	3.20
Lancashire	1,447	466	3.11	1,285	396	3.24	1,288	396	3.25	1,300	410	3.17
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Blackburn & Darwen	277	89	3.11	275	92	2.99	292	106	2.75	290	95	3.05
Blackpool	283	91	3.11	296	106	2.79	274	90	3.04	244	77	3.17
Halton	174	68	<u>2.56</u>	169	63	2.68	173	59	2.93	188	66	2.85
Warrington	166	50	3.32	157	48	3.27	166	53	3.13	188	63	2.98
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>												
Bolton	315	92	3.42	275	78	3.53	287	83	3.46	306	96	3.19
Bury	197	69	2.86	214	84	<u>2.55</u>	265	94	2.82	264	90	2.93
Knowsley	248	79	3.14	256	95	2.69	246	94	<u>2.62</u>	237	87	2.72
Liverpool	1,217	373	3.26	1,179	375	3.14	1,097	344	3.19	1,016	320	3.18
Manchester	1,237	423	2.92	1,232	427	2.89	1,247	440	<u>2.83</u>	1,239	431	<u>2.87</u>
Oldham	300	94	3.19	305	98	3.11	286	94	3.04	297	100	2.97
Rochdale	256	89	2.88	239	83	2.88	268	91	2.95	291	103	2.83
Salford	569	209	<u>2.72</u>	601	208	2.89	580	192	3.02	586	196	2.99
Sefton	301	89	3.38	306	97	3.15	319	102	3.13	370	125	2.96
St Helens	271	100	2.71	272	106	<u>2.57</u>	258	102	<u>2.53</u>	231	91	<u>2.54</u>
Stockport	351	117	3.00	393	117	3.36	384	113	3.40	378	114	3.32
Tameside	264	87	3.03	246	87	2.83	258	89	2.90	294	101	2.91
Trafford	151	40	<u>3.78</u>	165	51	3.24	179	56	3.20	200	65	3.08
Wigan	465	132	<u>3.52</u>	426	127	3.35	392	121	3.24	413	132	3.13
Wirral	393	124	3.17	412	143	2.88	479	158	3.03	498	192	<u>2.59</u>

**CONTINUED**

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

## England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>
<b>Yorkshire &amp; The Humber</b>	<b>6,630</b>	<b>2,164</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>6,502</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>2,187</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>6,681</b>	<b>2,224</b>	<b>3.00</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
North Yorkshire	340	107	3.18	378	114	3.32	369	123	3.00	380	130	2.92
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
East Riding Yorkshire	241	81	2.98	204	68	3.00	238	76	3.13	246	89	2.76
Kingston Upon Hull	645	217	2.97	573	199	2.88	584	178	3.28	616	186	3.31
N E Lincolnshire	275	87	3.16	277	92	3.01	272	92	2.96	241	81	2.98
North Lincolnshire	188	79	<u>2.38</u>	174	71	<u>2.45</u>	182	74	<u>2.46</u>	180	63	2.86
York	140	38	3.68	140	46	3.04	134	47	2.85	150	59	<u>2.54</u>
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>												
Barnsley	337	102	3.30	318	105	3.03	279	93	3.00	251	86	2.92
Bradford	687	220	3.12	697	229	3.04	764	241	3.17	816	262	3.11
Calderdale	219	61	3.59	201	52	<u>3.87</u>	194	58	3.34	185	52	3.56
Doncaster	435	152	2.86	439	140	3.14	425	147	2.89	408	144	2.83
Kirklees	329	98	3.36	293	99	2.96	286	105	2.72	297	97	3.06
Leeds	1,273	443	<u>2.87</u>	1,278	442	2.89	1,324	442	3.00	1,349	461	2.93
Rotherham	371	116	3.20	411	127	3.24	396	126	3.14	412	128	3.22
Sheffield	695	209	3.33	673	210	3.20	697	223	3.13	716	237	3.02
Wakefield	455	154	2.95	446	154	2.90	454	162	2.80	434	149	2.91
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>4,098</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>4,143</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>4,107</b>	<b>1,358</b>	<b>3.02</b>	<b>4,030</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>3.04</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Derbyshire	646	203	3.18	642	201	3.19	637	203	3.14	582	193	3.02
Leicestershire	274	85	3.22	285	84	3.39	318	96	3.31	359	102	<u>3.52</u>
Lincolnshire	518	175	2.96	531	189	2.81	547	194	2.82	560	190	2.95
Northamptonshire	611	198	3.09	616	200	3.08	627	214	2.93	600	200	3.00
Nottinghamshire	530	163	3.25	516	155	3.33	506	149	3.40	529	165	3.21
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Derby	443	140	3.16	412	131	3.15	391	123	3.18	386	124	3.11
Leicester	464	180	<u>2.58</u>	518	185	2.80	515	184	2.80	477	176	<u>2.71</u>
Nottingham	603	193	3.12	611	199	3.07	559	194	2.88	527	172	3.06
Rutland	9	..	12	4	3.00	7	1	7.00	10	2	5.00	

**CONTINUED**

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

## England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>6,428</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>6,449</b>	<b>2,068</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>6,737</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>2,314</b>	<b>3.08</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Shropshire	189	66	2.86	169	49	3.45	199	56	3.55	202	67	3.01
Staffordshire	571	170	3.36	535	154	<u>3.47</u>	514	159	3.23	619	170	<u>3.64</u>
Warwickshire	349	116	3.01	325	106	3.07	405	128	3.16	400	132	3.03
Worcestershire	640	182	<u>3.52</u>	596	178	3.35	537	162	3.31	537	160	3.36
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Herefordshire	197	60	3.28	194	61	3.18	187	54	3.46	189	51	<u>3.71</u>
Stoke-On-Trent	332	104	3.19	367	121	3.03	391	127	3.08	425	146	2.91
Telford & Wrekin	157	66	<u>2.38</u>	179	70	<u>2.56</u>	188	65	2.89	201	71	2.83
<b>Metropolitan Districts</b>												
Birmingham	1,758	548	<u>3.21</u>	1,779	582	3.06	1,984	652	3.04	2,054	682	3.01
Coventry	489	165	2.96	497	175	2.84	485	172	2.82	512	180	2.84
Dudley	382	125	3.06	377	120	3.14	403	116	<u>3.47</u>	408	128	3.19
Sandwell	438	142	3.08	458	142	3.23	478	172	<u>2.78</u>	524	186	2.82
Solihull	178	70	<u>2.54</u>	176	67	2.63	177	60	2.95	199	63	3.16
Walsall	367	116	3.16	406	129	3.15	418	138	3.03	464	149	3.11
Wolverhampton	381	113	3.37	391	114	3.43	371	119	3.12	385	129	2.98
<b>East of England</b>	<b>5,115</b>	<b>1,679</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>5,402</b>	<b>1,793</b>	<b>3.01</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>3.05</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Bedfordshire	357	110	3.25	341	116	2.94	393	115	3.42	407	117	<u>3.48</u>
Cambridgeshire	396	126	3.14	375	131	2.86	345	123	2.80	344	134	<u>2.57</u>
Essex	1,207	404	2.99	1,197	427	<u>2.80</u>	1,183	411	<u>2.88</u>	1,248	419	2.98
Hertfordshire	810	284	<u>2.85</u>	798	280	2.85	891	293	3.04	959	322	2.98
Norfolk	679	213	3.19	707	225	3.14	761	250	3.04	728	226	3.22
Suffolk	533	174	3.06	643	204	3.15	665	210	3.17	677	227	2.98
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Luton	306	100	3.06	328	107	3.07	351	121	2.90	398	127	3.13
Peterborough	391	130	3.01	353	115	3.07	337	109	3.09	323	96	3.36
Southend	252	77	3.27	250	80	3.13	249	85	2.93	265	92	2.88
Thurrock	184	61	<u>3.02</u>	192	66	2.91	227	76	2.99	224	70	3.20

**CONTINUED**

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>
<b>London</b>	<b>10,395</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3.06</b>	<b>10,910</b>	<b>3,553</b>	<b>3.07</b>	<b>11,388</b>	<b>3,645</b>	<b>3.12</b>	<b>11,738</b>	<b>3,759</b>	<b>3.12</b>
<b>Inner London</b>	<b>5,153</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>2.96</b>	<b>5,369</b>	<b>1,796</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>5,416</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>5,350</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>3.13</b>
Camden	328	103	3.18	314	105	2.99	353	113	3.12	343	113	3.04
City Of London	6	2	3.00	3	1	3.00	6	2	3.00	6	2	3.00
Greenwich	465	144	3.23	508	147	<u>3.46</u>	542	157	<u>3.45</u>	553	156	<u>3.54</u>
Hackney	488	173	<u>2.82</u>	497	177	<u>2.81</u>	461	161	<u>2.86</u>	457	156	2.93
Hammersmith & Fulham	366	114	3.21	397	160	<u>2.48</u>	434	154	2.82	388	138	2.81
Islington	546	194	<u>2.81</u>	531	184	<u>2.89</u>	485	160	3.03	479	143	3.35
Kensington & Chelsea	215	66	<u>3.26</u>	234	76	3.08	239	83	2.88	238	81	2.94
Lambeth	734	255	2.88	777	273	2.85	710	227	3.13	643	201	3.20
Lewisham	494	186	2.66	547	198	<u>2.76</u>	551	194	2.84	564	198	2.85
Southwark	599	223	<u>2.69</u>	657	208	3.16	657	209	3.14	679	220	3.09
Tower Hamlets	278	91	3.05	271	84	3.23	329	107	3.07	331	109	3.04
Wandsworth	346	99	3.49	366	107	3.42	366	102	<u>3.59</u>	365	104	<u>3.51</u>
Westminster	288	91	3.16	267	76	3.51	283	85	3.33	304	91	3.34
<b>Outer London</b>	<b>5,242</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>5,541</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>5,972</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>6,388</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>3.12</b>
Barking & Dagenham	236	74	3.19	283	86	3.29	351	106	3.31	387	133	2.91
Barnet	264	82	3.22	285	97	2.94	331	117	2.83	381	136	2.80
Bexley	198	69	2.87	207	70	2.96	227	74	3.07	230	80	2.88
Brent	294	95	3.09	320	104	3.08	359	113	3.18	354	111	3.19
Bromley	250	93	2.69	296	95	3.12	327	103	3.17	311	98	3.17
Croydon	397	116	<u>3.42</u>	478	150	3.19	577	177	3.26	679	204	3.33
Ealing	431	132	3.27	409	137	2.99	378	134	2.82	408	140	2.91
Enfield	252	72	3.50	273	78	3.50	300	83	<u>3.61</u>	311	90	3.46
Haringey	434	126	3.44	460	134	3.43	463	133	<u>3.48</u>	519	163	3.18
Harrow	177	62	2.85	181	63	2.87	164	59	2.78	158	62	<u>2.55</u>
Havering	167	51	<u>3.27</u>	150	48	3.13	158	50	3.16	167	56	2.98
Hillingdon	384	120	<u>3.20</u>	419	117	<u>3.58</u>	418	128	3.27	461	139	3.32
Hounslow	257	93	2.76	322	119	<u>2.71</u>	339	118	2.87	321	113	2.84
Kingston Upon Thames	106	32	3.31	97	24	<u>4.04</u>	80	25	3.20	83	26	3.19
Merton	185	54	3.43	179	53	3.38	198	52	<u>3.81</u>	173	43	<u>4.02</u>
Newham	486	152	3.20	478	154	3.10	552	173	3.19	674	208	3.24
Redbridge	143	47	3.04	139	48	2.90	177	58	3.05	151	51	2.96
Richmond Upon Thames	111	39	2.85	112	35	3.20	125	39	3.21	117	36	3.25
Sutton	146	59	2.47	157	59	2.66	148	58	<u>2.55</u>	163	64	<u>2.55</u>
Waltham Forest	324	91	3.56	296	86	3.44	300	91	3.30	340	94	<u>3.62</u>

**CONTINUED**

Comparison of CLA100 return with SSDA903 ("one-third" submission) for year ending 31 March 2000 to 2003 (Underlined factors are outside expected tolerance range)

## England

numbers of children and ratio

	Looked after at 31 March 2000			Looked after at 31 March 2001			Looked after at 31 March 2002			Looked after at 31 March 2003		
	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903	SSDA 903		SSDA 903
	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>	CLA 100	valid records	Multiplying factor <sup>1</sup>
<b>South East</b>	<b>7,424</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>2.98</b>	<b>7,691</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>7,436</b>	<b>2,486</b>	<b>2.99</b>	<b>7,551</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>2.94</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Buckinghamshire	253	81	3.12	270	76	3.55	251	73	3.44	272	88	3.09
East Sussex	463	145	3.19	468	156	3.00	484	154	3.14	474	170	2.79
Hampshire	905	306	2.96	893	306	2.92	922	318	2.90	1,043	366	<u>2.85</u>
Kent	1,498	471	<u>3.18</u>	1,771	522	<u>3.39</u>	1,634	503	3.25	1,517	479	3.17
Oxfordshire	471	170	<u>2.77</u>	462	175	<u>2.64</u>	457	159	2.87	507	174	2.91
Surrey	671	228	2.94	681	239	2.85	700	243	2.88	709	252	<u>2.81</u>
West Sussex	750	252	2.98	763	278	<u>2.74</u>	723	269	<u>2.69</u>	702	234	3.00
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Bracknell Forest	65	21	3.10	72	27	2.67	59	30	<u>1.97</u>	67	33	<u>2.03</u>
Brighton & Hove	344	124	2.77	360	118	3.05	347	116	2.99	384	133	2.89
Isle Of Wight	177	55	3.22	166	47	3.53	163	54	3.02	157	45	3.49
Medway Towns	344	125	2.75	324	118	2.75	320	113	2.83	357	122	2.93
Milton Keynes	324	97	..	236	71	3.32	220	60	<u>3.67</u>	223	58	<u>3.84</u>
Portsmouth	221	81	<u>2.73</u>	251	81	3.10	243	83	2.93	256	91	2.81
Reading	132	53	<u>2.49</u>	139	46	3.02	153	51	3.00	170	62	2.74
Slough	136	50	2.72	146	49	2.98	147	48	3.06	142	51	2.78
Southampton	365	126	2.90	413	135	3.06	372	130	2.86	341	126	<u>2.71</u>
West Berkshire	131	41	3.20	119	38	3.13	114	32	3.56	109	36	3.03
Windsor & Maidenhead	89	30	2.97	72	24	3.00	64	22	2.91	59	23	2.57
Wokingham	85	34	2.50	85	31	2.74	63	28	<u>2.25</u>	62	27	<u>2.30</u>
<b>South West</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>2.97</b>	<b>4,908</b>	<b>1,593</b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>4,850</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>4,887</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>3.08</b>
<b>Shire Counties</b>												
Cornwall	567	185	3.06	591	173	<u>3.42</u>	543	171	3.18	555	165	3.36
Devon	702	240	2.93	710	248	2.86	691	240	2.88	695	228	3.05
Dorset	271	99	2.74	255	98	<u>2.60</u>	280	101	2.77	278	100	2.78
Gloucestershire	507	182	<u>2.79</u>	544	174	3.13	522	168	3.11	464	160	2.90
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0				
Somerset	336	100	3.36	338	92	<u>3.67</u>	333	92	<u>3.62</u>	366	102	<u>3.59</u>
Wiltshire	258	91	2.84	256	89	2.88	282	98	2.88	287	89	3.22
<b>Unitary Authorities</b>												
Bath & N E Somerset	147	48	3.06	141	43	3.28	147	50	2.94	139	49	2.84
Bournemouth	203	62	3.27	205	66	3.11	210	64	3.28	205	68	3.01
Bristol	556	188	2.96	561	180	3.12	516	176	2.93	535	187	2.86
North Somerset	152	47	3.23	166	58	2.86	152	50	3.04	161	46	3.50
Plymouth	405	141	2.87	463	151	3.07	479	155	3.09	505	165	3.06
Poole	144	46	3.13	136	47	2.89	154	52	2.96	138	46	3.00
South Gloucestershire	139	39	3.56	139	41	3.39	138	39	3.54	125	36	3.47
Swindon	179	57	3.14	162	55	2.95	195	64	3.05	218	64	3.41
Torbay	216	86	<u>2.51</u>	238	78	3.05	205	80	<u>2.56</u>	213	80	2.66

<sup>1</sup> The multiplying factor is the ratio of the total number from the CLA100 return divided by the number found in the SSDA 903 sample. With all records valid this ratio would be expected to be 3.07 but will depart from this by chance. The underlined figures are significantly different from the expected and indicate an inconsistency between the two returns.