

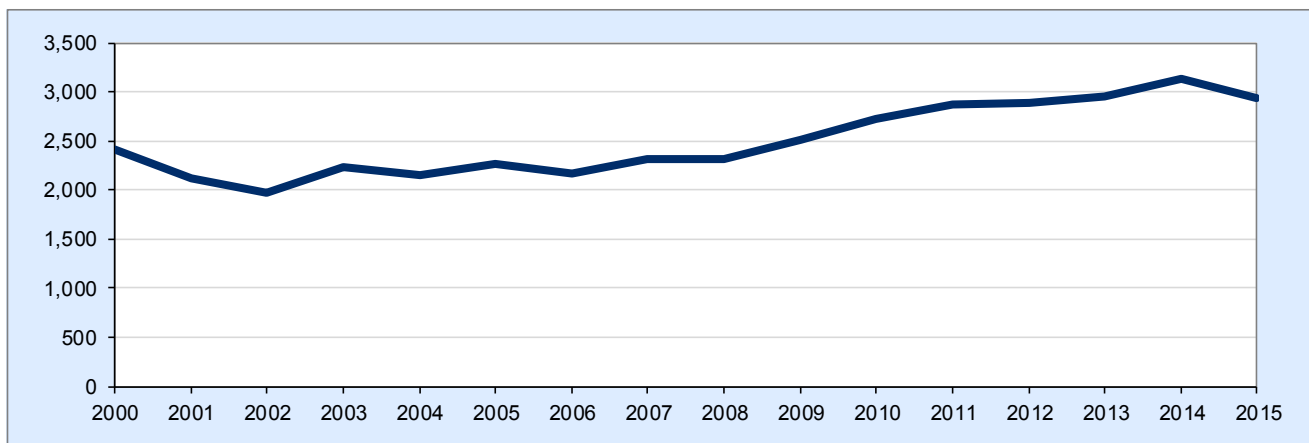
Local authority child protection registers in Wales, 2015

This bulletin presents figures about children on child protection registers in Wales. This is a more detailed analysis of data previously released on 3 September 2014 in [Referrals, Assessments and Social Care for children, 2014-15](#) (SDR 143/2015). All information is based on the financial year 2014-15, or the position at 31 March 2015, unless otherwise stated. There are no scheduled revisions planned to this bulletin. Further information and full details for individual local authorities were published on 2 September 2015 on [StatsWales](#).

Key results for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015:

- There were 2,936 children (including unborn children) on child protection registers at 31 March 2015. This is a decrease of 6 per cent compared with 31 March 2014 and represents a rate of 47 children per 10,000 population aged under 18. The decrease on last year ends the trend of the last decade which had seen a steady long-term increase. (Table 1)
- There were 1,460 boys, 1,460 girls and 15 unborn children on the registers at 31 March 2015. 41 per cent of children on child protection registers were aged under 5. (Table 3)
- The highest number of registrations was shown in categories involving neglect (43 per cent) and the lowest in categories of sexual abuse (8 per cent) (note that registrations may state more than one category of abuse). (Table 4)
- There were 4,435 children added to registers during the year ending 31 March 2015, an increase of 6 per cent on the previous year. The number of children removed from the registers during the year increased by 16 per cent to 4,635. (Table 5)

Chart 1: Number of children on child protection registers, at 31 March



Statistician: Robin Jones **Tel:** 029 2082 3625

E-mail: stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Next update: November 2016 (provisional)

Twitter: www.twitter.com/statisticswales | www.twitter.com/ystadegaucymru

Cyhoeddwyd gan Y Gwasanaethau Gwybodaeth a Dadansoddi
 Llywodraeth Cymru, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NQ
 Ffôn – Swyddfa'r Wasg **029 2089 8099**, Ymholiadau Cyhoeddus **029 2082 3332**
www.llyw.cymru/ystadegau

Issued by Knowledge and Analytical Services
 Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ
 Telephone – Press Office **029 2089 8099**, Public Enquiries **029 2082 5050**
www.gov.wales/statistics



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Table of Contents

Number and rate of children on child protection registers.....	3
Children on child protection registers, by category of abuse, age and gender.....	6
Registrations of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse	9
Additions, removals, re-referrals and length of time of children on child protection registers.....	11
Glossary.....	13
Notes.....	14
Key Quality Information	16

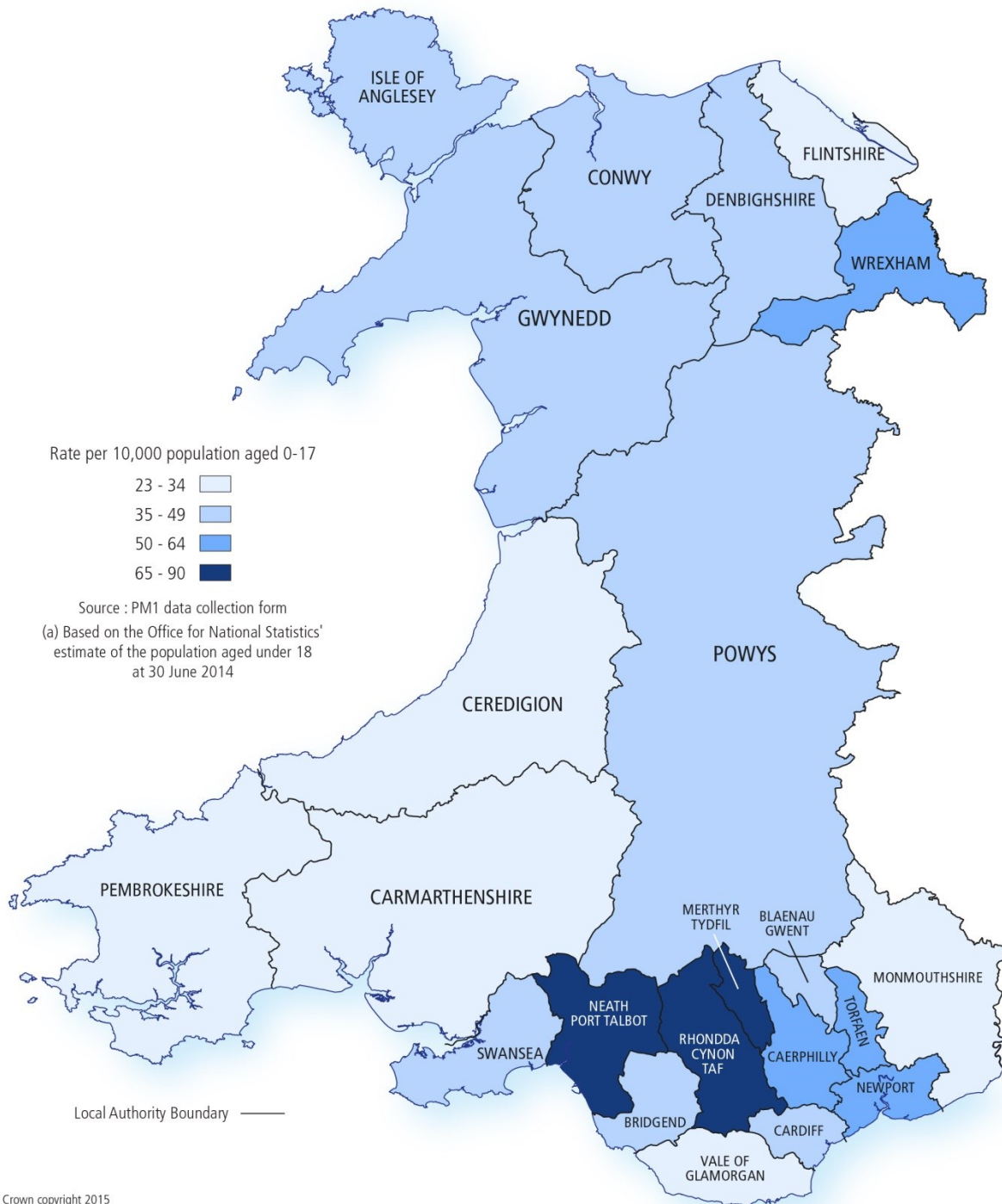
Tables and Charts

Chart 1: Number of children on child protection registers, at 31 March.....	1
Map 1: Rate of children on child protection registers per 10,000 population aged under 18, at 31 March 2015.....	3
Table 1: Number of children on child protection registers, at 31 March.....	4
Chart 2: Changes in the rate of children on child protection registers per 10,000 population aged under 18, between 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2015	5
Chart 3: Children on child protection registers, as a percentage of all open cases of children in need (including looked after children), at 31 March 2015.....	5
Table 2: Number of children on child protection registers and rate per 10,000 population, by category of abuse, at 31 March	6
Chart 4: Percentage of children on child protection registers, at 31 March 2015, by category of abuse....	6
Chart 5: Number of children on child protection registers, by age group and gender, at 31 March 2015 ..	7
Table 3: Number of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse and age, at 31 March 2015.....	8
Table 4: Percentage of registrations to child protection registers, by category of abuse, at 31 March 2015	9
Chart 6: Percentage of registrations of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse, at 31 March.....	10
Table 5: Number of additions and removals from child protection registers, year ending 31 March.....	11
Chart 7: Percentage of children added to child protection registers, who had previously been on the register, year ending 31 March 2015	12
Chart 8: Length of time of children on child protection registers, at 31 March 2015.....	12

Number and rate of children on child protection registers

Map 1

Rate of children on child protection registers per 10,000 population aged under 18, at 31 March 2015 (a)



© Crown copyright 2015
 Cartographics • Welsh Government • ML/108/15.16
 October 2015



Table 1: Number of children on child protection registers, at 31 March

	Number of children on the register at: ^(a)			Rate per 10,000 population aged under 18 ^(b)		Number of households with children on registers at 31 March 2015 ^(a)	Average number of children per household at 31 March 2015
	31 March 2014	31 March 2015	% change	31 March 2014	31 March 2015		
Isle of Anglesey	70	60	-15.5	52	44	25	2.2
Gwynedd	85	85	-1.2	36	35	45	1.8
Conwy	80	100	22.5	37	45	50	1.9
Denbighshire	85	80	-8.2	44	40	40	2.1
Flintshire	135	75	-43.6	41	23	40	2.0
Wrexham	130	170	30.3	45	58	100	1.7
Powys	60	105	67.7	24	41	55	2.0
Ceredigion	45	45	-8.5	37	34	30	1.5
Pembrokeshire	70	65	-7.2	28	26	25	2.4
Carmarthenshire	85	105	20.9	23	28	50	2.0
Swansea	230	205	-10.5	49	44	110	1.8
Neath Port Talbot	220	220	-1.4	80	78	135	1.6
Bridgend	180	125	-30.2	62	43	75	1.7
Vale of Glamorgan	85	90	4.7	32	33	50	1.8
Cardiff	315	255	-18.8	43	35	130	2.0
Rhondda Cynon Taf	470	450	-4.7	94	90	240	1.9
Merthyr Tydfil	135	105	-21.6	107	84	45	2.2
Caerphilly	215	205	-5.6	55	53	95	2.2
Blaenau Gwent	70	65	-4.3	50	48	40	1.8
Torfaen	135	100	-25.9	69	52	55	1.8
Monmouthshire	35	50	37.8	20	28	30	1.8
Newport	190	185	-4.2	58	55	90	2.0
Wales	3,135	2,935	-6.3	50	47	1,550	1.9

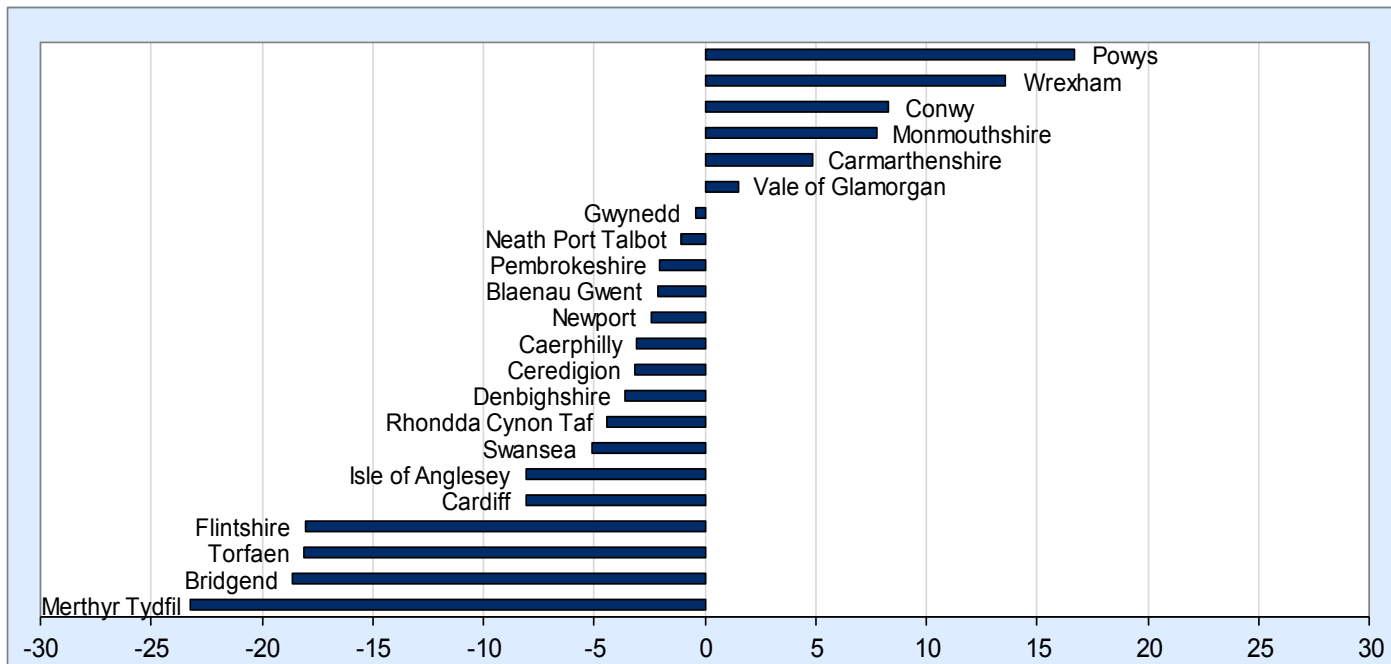
(a) Data rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure reasons. The sum of the component parts may not add up to the totals shown.

(b) Based on the Office for National Statistics' mid year estimates (MYEs) of the population aged under 18 at 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014

There were 2,936 children (including unborn children) on child protection registers at 31 March 2015. This is a decrease of 6 per cent compared with 31 March 2014 and represents a rate of 47 children per 10,000 population aged under 18.

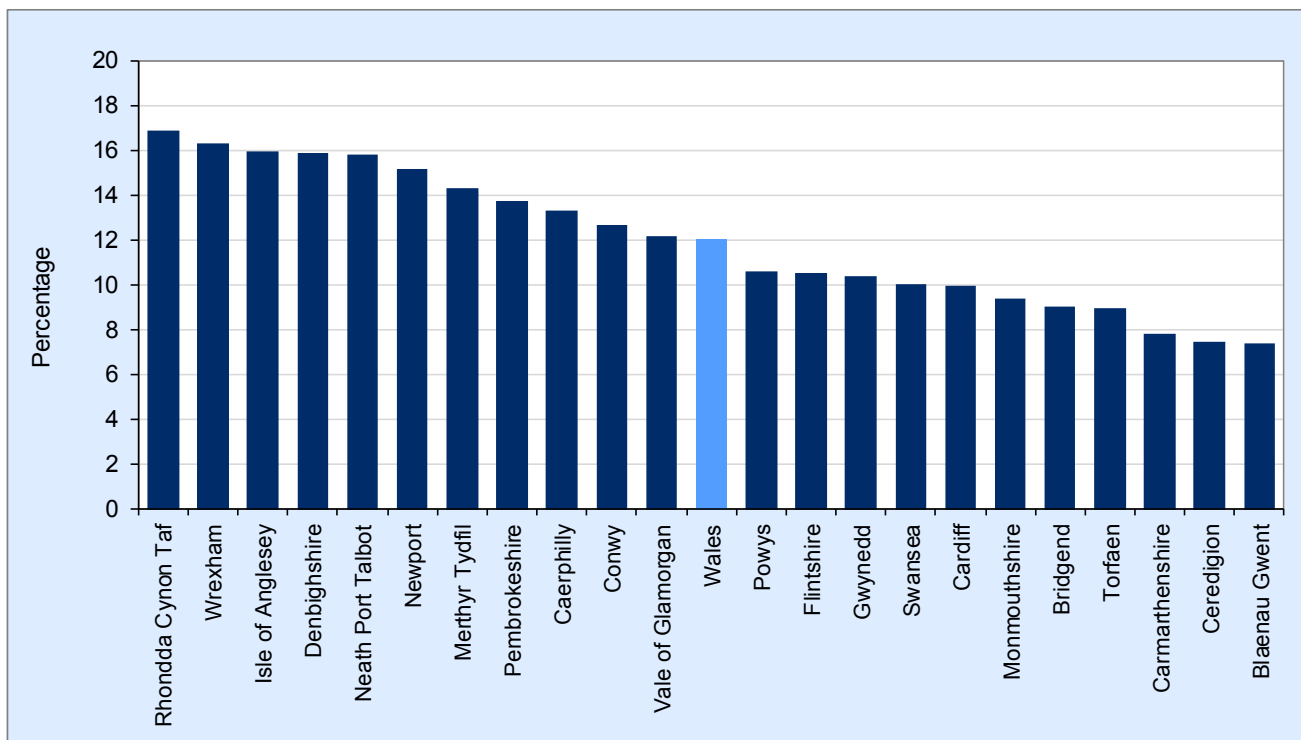
At 31 March 2015 Rhondda Cynon Taff recorded the highest rate of 90 children on the register per 10,000 population aged under 18 and Flintshire recorded the lowest at 23. There were, on average, 1.9 children in each of the households with a child on the register. There is a high turnover of children on the register and the numbers added and removed in the year are both greater than the number on the register at the end of the year (Table 5). As a result the relative positions of local authorities based only on the end year figures can change markedly from year to year.

Chart 2: Changes in the rate of children on child protection registers per 10,000 population aged under 18, between 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2015



Changes in the rate of children per 10,000 population aged under 18 on child protection registers between 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2015 varied from the greatest increase of 17 in Powys, to the greatest decrease of 23 in Merthyr Tydfil.

Chart 3: Children on child protection registers, as a percentage of all open cases of children in need (including looked after children), at 31 March 2015



In Wales, children on child protection registers made up 12 per cent of all open cases of children in need, varying from 7 per cent of children in need in Blaenau Gwent to 17 per cent in Rhondda Cynon Taff.

See Glossary for definitions of children in need and looked after children.

Children on child protection registers, by category of abuse, age and gender

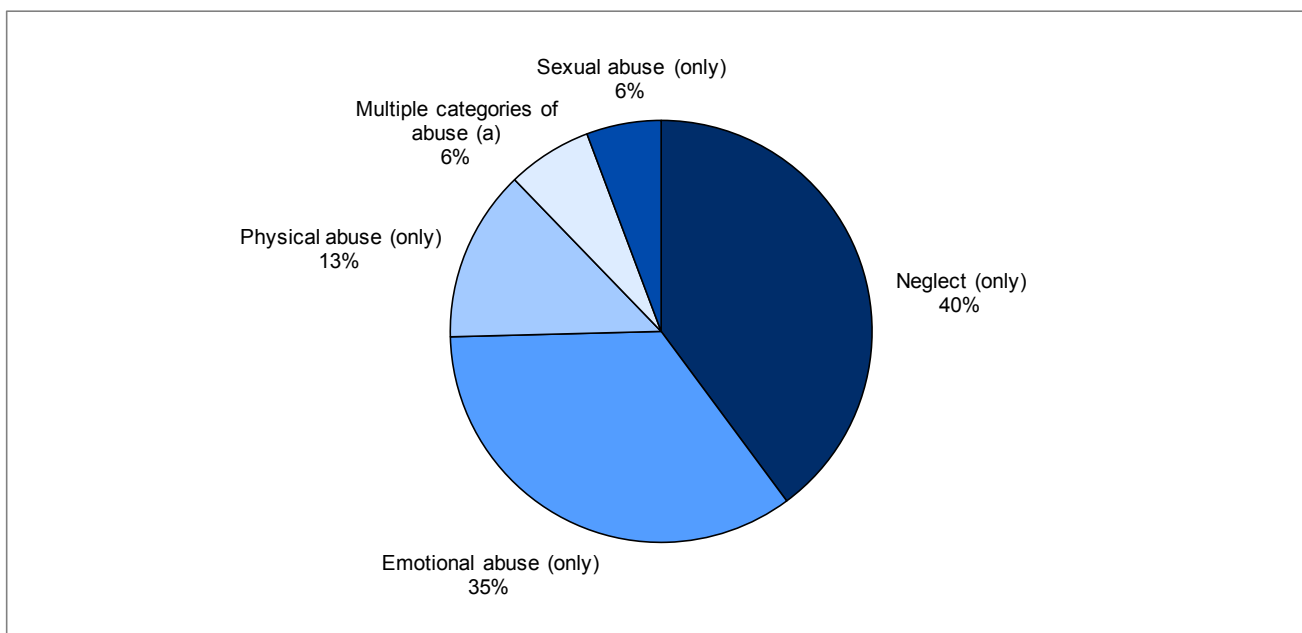
Table 2: Number of children on child protection registers and rate per 10,000 population, by category of abuse, at 31 March

	Neglect (only)	Physical abuse (only)	Sexual abuse (only)	Emotional abuse (only)	Neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse	Neglect and physical abuse	Neglect and sexual abuse	Physical abuse and sexual abuse	Total
Number ^(a)									
2002	790	410	190	405	15	115	30	15	1,970
2003	935	440	180	425	10	155	60	35	2,235
2004	930	385	185	430	15	130	40	40	2,155
2005	975	425	175	470	15	120	65	25	2,270
2006	1,055	345	145	410	10	140	40	20	2,165
2007	1,125	350	160	470	10	170	25	20	2,325
2008	1,095	315	160	580	*	125	30	15	2,320
2009	1,115	385	175	645	5	130	45	10	2,510
2010	1,180	415	205	735	*	130	45	15	2,730
2011	1,265	375	155	890	10	125	50	10	2,880
2012	1,245	375	150	935	*	125	25	20	2,885
2013	1,195	400	160	1,065	*	95	30	*	2,955
2014	1,225	350	160	1,200	15	130	40	15	3,135
2015	1,170	385	170	1,020	15	115	50	15	2,935
Rate ^(b)									
2002	11.9	6.2	2.9	6.1	0.2	1.7	0.4	0.2	29.8
2003	14.2	6.7	2.7	6.5	0.1	2.3	0.9	0.5	33.9
2004	14.2	5.9	2.8	6.5	0.2	2.0	0.6	0.6	33.0
2005	14.9	6.5	2.7	7.2	0.2	1.9	1.0	0.4	34.8
2006	16.3	5.3	2.3	6.3	0.1	2.1	0.6	0.3	33.4
2007	17.5	5.5	2.5	7.3	0.2	2.6	0.4	0.3	36.1
2008	17.1	4.9	2.5	9.0	*	2.0	0.4	0.2	36.2
2009	17.5	6.0	2.7	10.1	0.1	2.0	0.7	0.1	39.2
2010	18.6	6.5	3.3	11.6	*	2.0	0.7	0.2	42.9
2011	19.9	5.9	2.5	14.1	0.1	1.9	0.8	0.2	45.5
2012	19.7	5.9	2.4	14.8	*	2.0	0.4	0.3	45.6
2013	19.0	6.4	2.6	16.9	*	1.5	0.4	*	46.8
2014	19.4	5.6	2.6	19.0	0.2	2.1	0.6	0.2	49.7
2015	18.6	6.1	2.7	16.2	0.2	1.8	0.8	0.3	46.6

(a) Data rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure reasons. The sum of the component parts may not add up to the totals shown.

(b) Based on the Office for National Statistics' mid year estimates (MYEs) of the population aged under 18 at 30 June 2001-2014.

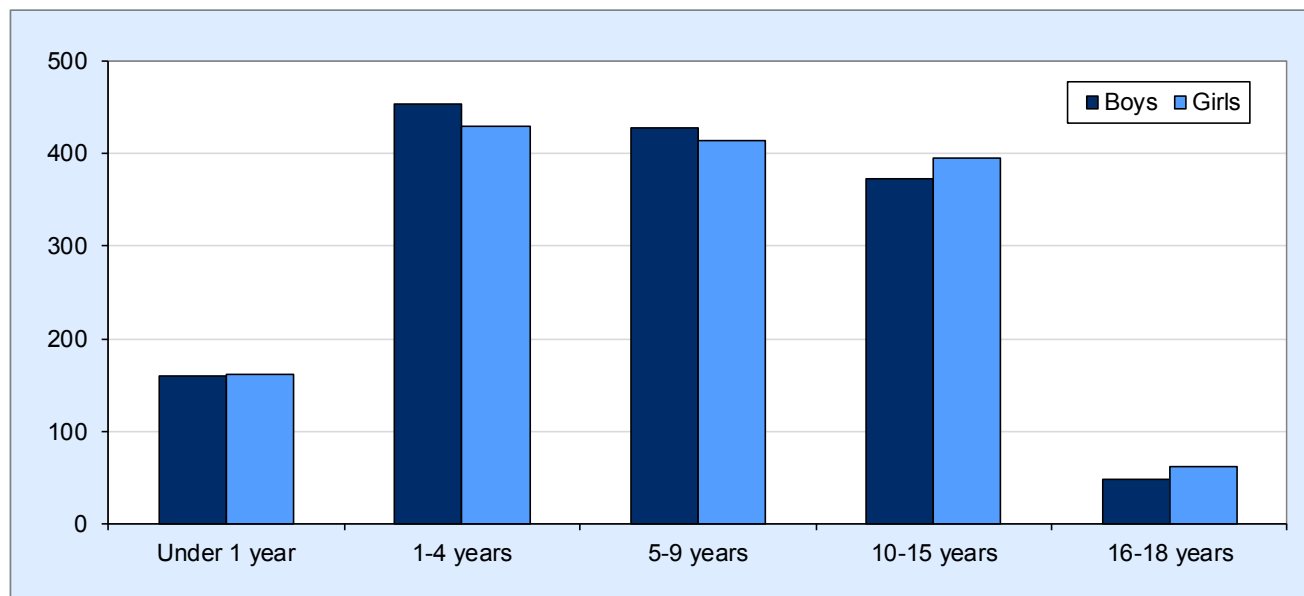
Chart 4: Percentage of children on child protection registers, at 31 March 2015, by category of abuse



(a) See [notes](#) for description of multiple categories of abuse

Neglect (only) is the largest category of abuse, followed by emotional abuse (only). The increase in the total number of children on child protection registers since 2002 is mainly due to increases in these categories. The fall in the number on register between 2014 and 2015 was mainly due to a fall in the number in the category 'emotional abuse (only)'.

Chart 5: Number of children on child protection registers, by age group and gender, at 31 March 2015



There were 1,460 boys and 1,460 girls on the registers at 31 March 2015. However, the number of girls aged 10 and over on the registers was slightly higher than the number of boys aged 10 and over.

41 per cent of children on child protection registers were aged under 5.

Table 3: Number of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse and age, at 31 March 2015 ^(a)

	Neglect (only)	Physical abuse (only)	Sexual abuse (only)	Emotional abuse (only)	Neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse	Neglect and physical abuse	Neglect and sexual abuse	Physical abuse and sexual abuse	Total	Rate per 10,000 children ^(b)
Boys										
Under 1	75	30	5	35	*	10	*	*	160	92
1-4	220	55	15	145	*	10	5	*	455	62
5-9	170	50	20	155	*	25	*	*	430	47
10-15	145	55	15	130	*	10	10	*	370	36
16-18	20	10	*	15	*	*	*	*	45	12
Total boys	625	195	60	485	5	60	20	5	1,460	45
Girls										
Under 1	65	30	10	45	*	10	*	*	160	99
1-4	155	70	15	160	*	20	*	*	430	61
5-9	160	45	25	165	*	10	5	*	415	48
10-15	130	35	45	150	*	15	15	*	395	40
16-18	20	5	10	20	*	*	*	*	60	17
Total girls	535	190	105	535	5	55	25	10	1,460	48
Unborn children	10	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	15	.
Total	1,170	385	170	1,020	15	115	50	15	2,935	47

(a) Data for all columns except 'rate per 10,000 children' rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure reasons. The sum of the component parts may not add up to the totals shown.

(b) Based on the Office for National Statistics' mid year estimates (MYEs) of the population aged under 18 at 30 June 2014.

The highest rates of children on child protection registers per 10,000 population are in the under 1 age group for both boys and girls.

Neglect (only), followed by emotional abuse (only) are the largest categories of abuse for boys and the same categories are the largest for girls. There were 10 per cent of girls and 7 per cent of boys on child protection registers recorded in categories involving sexual abuse.

Registrations of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse

Table 4: Percentage of registrations to child protection registers, by category of abuse, at 31 March 2015 ^(a)

	Percentage					Total number of registrations (b) (c)
	Neglect	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Emotional abuse	Total	
Isle of Anglesey	39	38	8	15	100	65
Gwynedd	14	18	24	45	100	85
Conwy	35	30	8	26	100	100
Denbighshire	42	17	14	27	100	80
Flintshire	40	27	6	26	100	75
Wrexham	34	3	7	56	100	170
Powys	34	16	9	41	100	110
Ceredigion	54	15	15	17	100	50
Pembrokeshire	42	26	10	22	100	70
Carmarthenshire	27	2	6	65	100	105
Swansea	53	28	10	9	100	245
Neath Port Talbot	50	12	9	29	100	250
Bridgend	35	29	14	21	100	140
Vale of Glamorgan	41	12	7	41	100	90
Cardiff	47	25	4	24	100	280
Rhondda Cynon Taf	37	19	9	36	100	490
Merthyr Tydfil	30	6	2	62	100	105
Caerphilly	71	6	4	19	100	205
Blaenau Gwent	42	14	0	43	100	70
Torfaen	44	4	4	48	100	100
Monmouthshire	19	21	12	47	100	55
Newport	57	8	4	31	100	185
Wales	43	17	8	32	100	3,140

(a) Registrations are counted according to each recorded category of abuse

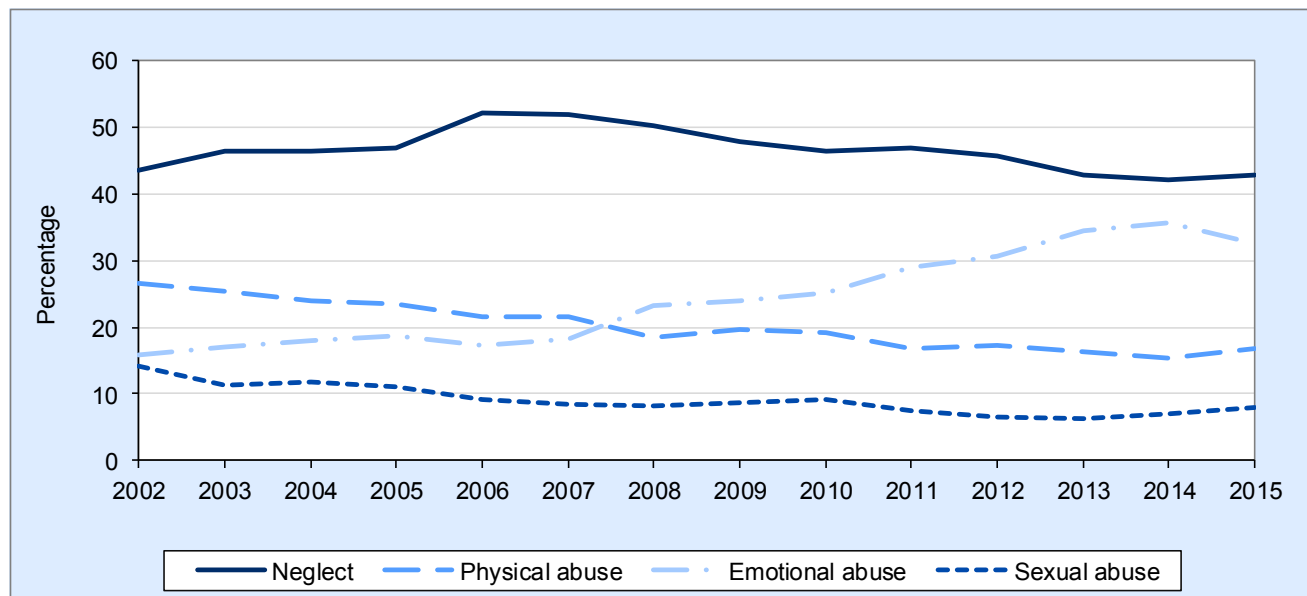
(b) The total number of registrations is greater than the number of children on child protection registers because of the use of multiple categories. Some authorities make use of multiple categories while others use a main category only

(c) Data rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure reasons. The sum of the component parts may not add up to the totals shown.

The highest number of registrations of children on the registers at 31 March 2015 was shown in categories involving neglect (43 per cent) and the lowest in categories of sexual abuse (8 per cent)

Emotional abuse was the largest category in 8 local authorities, neglect was the largest category in 13 local authorities. They were joint largest in 1 local authority.

Chart 6: Percentage of registrations of children on child protection registers, by category of abuse, at 31 March



Since 2002, the percentage of registrations under categories involving sexual abuse has fallen from 14 per cent to 8 per cent. For the same period, categories involving neglect increased from 44 per cent in 2002 to a peak of 52 per cent in 2006 and have since fallen to 43 per cent in 2015. Emotional abuse has increased to 32 per cent, around double the rate in 2006. At 31 March 2015, 17 per cent of registrations were due to physical abuse.

Note that the percentages reported here include cases where abuses highlighted are in isolation as well as one of a number of abuses.

Additions, removals, re-referrals and length of time of children on child protection registers

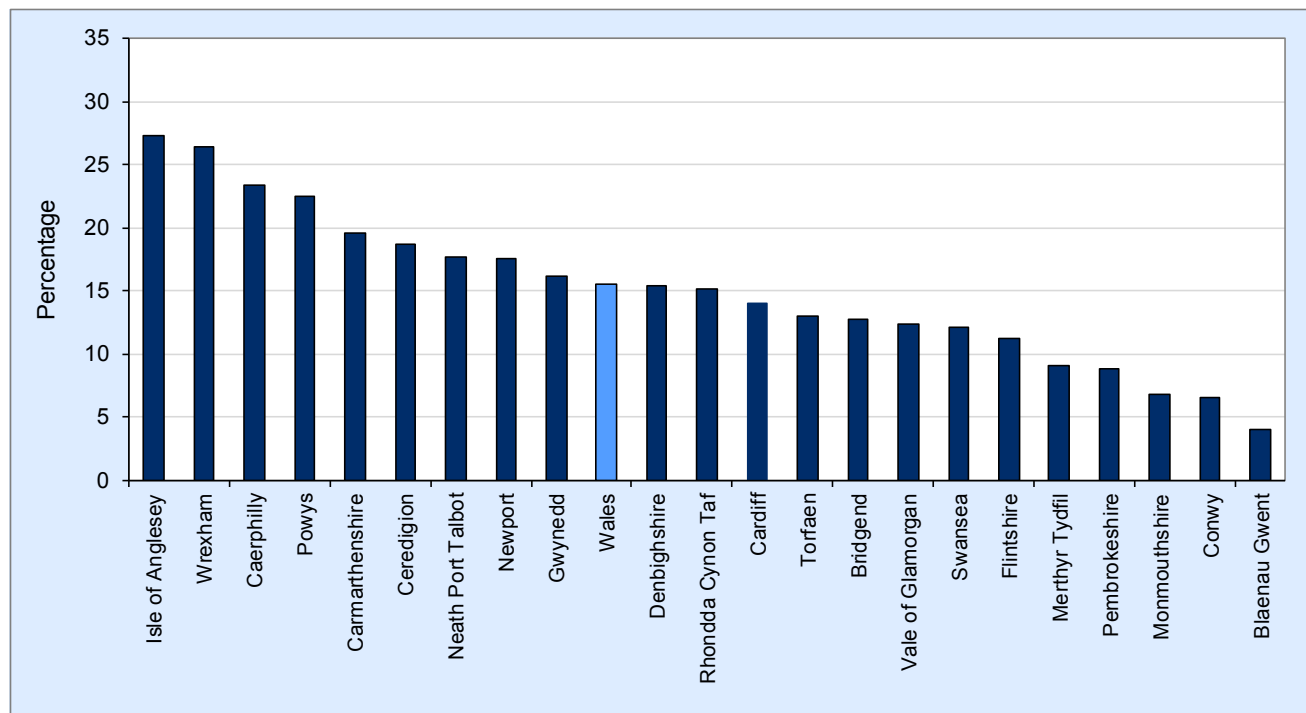
Table 5: Number of additions and removals from child protection registers, year ending 31 March ^(a)

	Number of children on the register at 31 March 2014	Additions during the year ending 31 March 2015	Removals during the year ending 31 March 2015	Number of children on the register at 31 March 2015	Net change
Isle of Anglesey	70	75	90	60	-10
Gwynedd	85	130	130	85	0
Conwy	80	135	120	100	20
Denbighshire	85	125	130	80	-5
Flintshire	135	125	185	75	-60
Wrexham	130	180	140	170	40
Powys	60	170	125	105	45
Ceredigion	45	90	95	45	0
Pembrokeshire	70	125	130	65	-5
Carmarthenshire	85	150	130	105	20
Swansea	230	340	360	205	-25
Neath Port Talbot	220	310	315	220	0
Bridgend	180	220	275	125	-55
Vale of Glamorgan	85	135	135	90	5
Cardiff	315	480	540	255	-60
Rhondda Cynon Taf	470	720	740	450	-20
Merthyr Tydfil	135	110	140	105	-30
Caerphilly	215	230	245	205	-10
Blaenau Gwent	70	125	130	65	-5
Torfaen	135	170	205	100	-35
Monmouthshire	35	75	60	50	15
Newport	190	215	225	185	-5
Wales	3,135	4,435	4,635	2,935	-200

(a) Data rounded to the nearest 5 for disclosure reasons. The sum of the component parts may not add up to the totals shown.

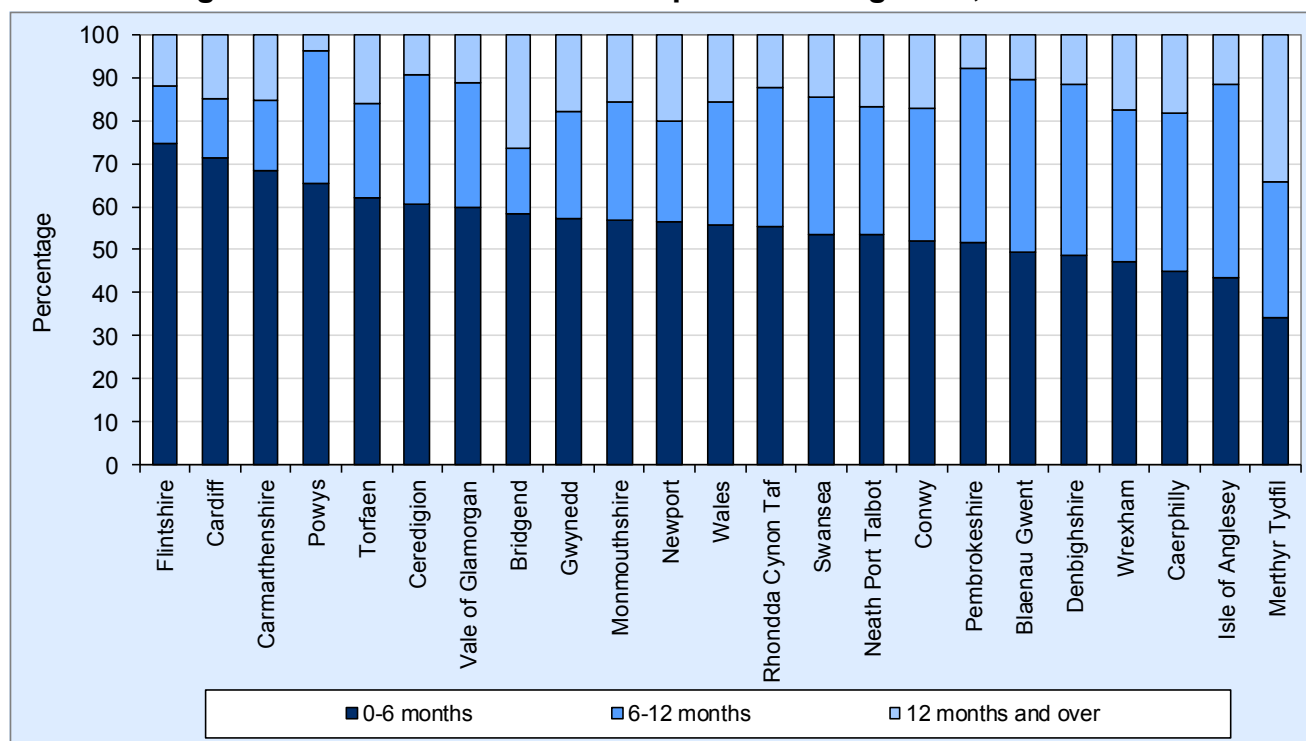
There were more removals from the register than additions in 16 of the 22 local authorities. Changes in the number of children on child protection registers between 31 March 2014 and 31 March 2015 varied from the greatest increase of 45 children in Powys, to the greatest decrease of 60 children in Flintshire and Cardiff.

Chart 7: Percentage of children added to child protection registers, who had previously been on the register, year ending 31 March 2015



The percentage of re-referrals in Wales is 15 per cent, ranging from 4 per cent in Blaenau Gwent to 27 per cent in Isle of Anglesey.

Chart 8: Length of time of children on child protection registers, at 31 March 2015



In terms of length of time children had been on the child protection register since the most recent referral, Merthyr Tydfil had the lowest percentage of children who had been on the register for 0-6 months (34 per cent). Powys had the lowest percentage of children who had been on the register for 12 months and over (4 per cent).

Around 56 per cent of children across Wales as a whole have been on the register for less than six months, and a further 29 per cent for between six months and one year. Only 16 per cent have been on the register for more than a year.

Glossary

Children in need: the term 'child in need' has a specific meaning defined by the Children Act 1989, which placed a statutory duty on local authorities to 'safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need'. The Act defines a child in need as a child that is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a local authority.

Children looked after: is the term used to describe any child who is in the care of the local authority or who is provided with accommodation by the local authority social services department for a continuous period of more than 24 hours. This covers children in respect of whom a compulsory care order or other court order has been made. It also refers to children accommodated voluntarily, including under an agreed series of short-term placements which may be called short breaks, family link placements or respite care.

Notes

Care should be taken in interpreting these statistics. They are not estimates of the number of children subject to, or at risk of, significant harm, as not every case is reported and many child protection referrals are resolved without having to enter the child on the register. Also, some cases will be on a register because it was considered that the child is at continuing risk of significant harm and therefore safeguarding the child requires inter-agency help and intervention delivered through a formal child protection plan.

The numbers of unborn children included in these statistics refer to children for whom the local authority has held a pre-birth child protection conference at which it was agreed that the child should be registered at birth.

Child protection statistics are collected annually on the PM1 data collection form. Details are collected regarding:

- the number of children on child protection registers at 31 March;
- the reasons for addition to the register; and
- the numbers of children added or removed during the preceding 12 months.

The PM1 return also collects details of:

- looked after children;
- other children in need; and
- social worker allocation.

The purpose of the register is:

- to provide a record of all children in the area with unresolved child protection issues and who are currently the subject of an inter-agency protection plan; and
- to ensure that the plans are formally reviewed every six months.

The register provides a central point of speedy enquiry for professional staff who are worried about a child and want to know whether the child is the subject of an inter-agency protection plan.

The register also provides useful information for the individual child protection agencies and for the Local Safeguarding Children Board in its policy development work and strategic planning. A decision to add a child's name to the register will only happen following a child protection conference, or when a child on another register moves into the area. It should be recognised that the registers do not reflect the full extent of child abuse because:

- not every case of child abuse is reported; and
- many child abuse referrals to Social Services Departments are resolved without the need to enter the child on the register, for example, where the abuse is unsubstantiated, if the child is removed from home, or if the abuser leaves the household.

The flow of children on to and off the registers does not therefore reflect the full workload of the social workers involved in child protection.

It should also be noted that not all children listed on the register have been abused. Some will have been registered because of the continuing risk of significant harm and therefore safeguarding the child requires inter-agency help and intervention delivered through a formal child protection plan.

Two further cautionary points should be kept in mind when interpreting data collected from child protection registers:

1. The registers are used by Social Services Departments and Local Safeguarding Children boards in managing child protection work and are not designed specifically to collect statistical information.
2. Recording and management practices may vary between Social Services Departments.

For the purposes of the statistical return, local authorities are asked to count each child in one, or a combination, of the specified categories of abuse. The category of abuse that a child is registered under is a matter of professional judgment and will normally have been decided upon at the child protection conference, when it was agreed that registration was necessary. The categories of abuse for the statistical return are:

1. Neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse;
2. Neglect and physical abuse;
3. Neglect and sexual abuse;
4. Physical abuse and sexual abuse;
5. Neglect (only);
6. Physical abuse (only);
7. Sexual abuse (only);
8. Emotional abuse (only).

The **definitions** of physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect are provided in ['Safeguarding Children - Working Together under the Children Act 2004'](#) published October 2006, see pages 5-7 **Key definitions and concepts** and chapter 6 paragraphs 6.6, 6.7, 6.9 and 6.11:

Physical abuse - this may involve: hitting; shaking; throwing; poisoning; burning or scalding; drowning; suffocating; or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child who they are looking after. This situation is commonly described using terms such as factitious illness by proxy or Munchausen's syndrome by proxy.

Emotional abuse - is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill-treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape or buggery) or non-penetrative acts. They may include: non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities; or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect - is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve: a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing; failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Key Quality Information

1. Context

1.1 Policy/operational context

The data were supplied to the Data Collection team within the Welsh Government by the 22 local authorities in Wales on form PM1 except when otherwise noted. The form applies an extensive series of validation checks to ensure that the information provided is accurate and consistent. Further information on quality and methods can be found in the Quality Report at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/referrals-assessments-social-services-children/?lang=en>

In these statistics, the Office for National Statistics' mid year estimates (MYEs) of population are used to calculate rates and percentages. Where these are used for financial year data the mid year estimate relating to the first part of the financial year is used, for example, for activity relating to 2014-15 the mid year estimate for mid-2014 is used. Where rates have been calculated for the age band 16-18 years, the population aged 16-17 years has been used as only very few children of age 18 are included in the numbers on the register aged 16-18.

1.2 Symbols and rounding conventions

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- . the data item is not applicable
- .. the data item is not available
- * the data item is disclosive
- (r) data revised since previous publication

Some figures in this bulletin have been rounded to the nearest 5 in order to avoid the possibility of disclosing information about individuals.

2. Quality

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity, and Comparability.

2.1 Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor child protection trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users are:

Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;

- Local authorities;
- The third sector (e.g. charities);
- The Department for Health and Social Services in the Welsh Government;
- Other areas of the Welsh Government;
- The research community;
- Students, academics and universities;
- Individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- The Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
- The Scottish Government, Analytical Services Division
- The Department for Education in England.

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;

- local authority comparisons and benchmarks;
- to inform the social services policy decision-making process in Wales;
- to inform the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales;
- to model the financial consequences of changes in the population or the care system
- to assist in research on children receiving social services.

2.2 Accuracy

Every year the data are collected from the same source, PM1, and adhere to the national standard; they will also be coherent within and across organisations.

2.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected Performance Management in Children's Services data for the financial year 2014-15 between March and May 2015. Data in this bulletin refers to final 2014-15 data. This is a more detailed analysis of data previously released on 2 September 2014 in [Referrals, Assessments and Social Care for children, 2014-15](#) (SDR 143/2015). This bulletin was published in November 2015, meeting the planned date.

2.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on StatsWales, a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Service-Provision>

2.5 Comparability

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

Further information on comparability is available at the web page [UK Comparability of Children's Social Services Statistics](#). When comparing figures for different local authorities, relevant factors such as the

size of the local authority population should be taken into account. Local authority population estimates by age can be found on StatsWales at <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority>

3. A National Statistics publication

National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

4. Revisions

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to the next release.

5. Further information

Further information is available for other Personal Social Services statistical releases on the Welsh Government web site:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?topic=Health+and+social+care&lang=en#/statistics-and-research/?topics=Health+and+social+care&subtopics=Social+services&view=Search+results&types=Statistics&lang=en>

6. Related publications

Recent relevant Personal Social Services statistical releases include:

[Referrals, Assessments and Social Services for Children, 2014-15](#)

[Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: Year Ending 31 March 2015](#)

A similar statistical release for England can be accessed on the Department for Education website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-child-protection>

Child protection statistics for Scotland can be accessed on the Scottish Government website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/TrendChildProtection>

Child protection statistics for Northern Ireland can be accessed on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety website:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics/stats-cib-children_order.htm

7. Contact information

If you have any comments about this Statistical Bulletin, please contact:

Robin Jones

Welsh Government

Cathays Park,

Cardiff,

CF10 3NQ

Telephone: 029 2082 3625

E-mail: stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk

8. User Feedback

We want to engage with users of our statistics and we invite you to send your comments on the publication to stats.pss@wales.gsi.gov.uk



All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>