

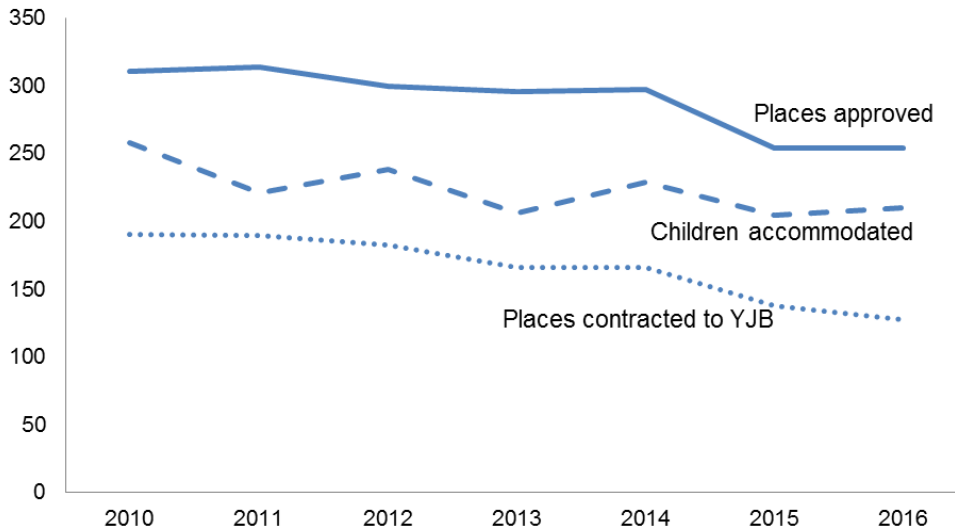


Children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2016: England and Wales



SFR 09/2016, 9 June 2016

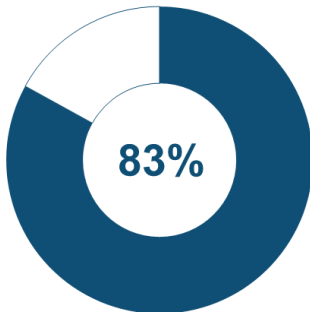
The number of children accommodated has increased slightly since last year



There were 210 children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales at 31 March 2016, a slight increase from 205 last year.

The number of places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) has continued to decrease, from 138 places at 31 March 2015 to 128 places at 31 March 2016.

Occupancy rates fluctuate over time



At 31 March 2016, 83% of approved places in England and Wales were occupied.

The occupancy rate at the 31 March has fluctuated between 70% and 83% in the period 2010 to 2016.

Proportion placed on welfare grounds has increased since 2015

Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context

8%

42%
Child detained or sentenced and placed by the YJB

50%
Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds

The proportion of children placed on welfare grounds has increased to 50% from 43% in the previous year, continuing the overall trend since 2011 when it was 28%.

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About this release

This statistical first release provides data on secure children's homes (SCHs) in England and Wales. It includes the number of places approved and number of children accommodated as well as characteristics of those children accommodated: gender, age, length of stay and type of placement. This publication gives an annual snapshot of the status of SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March.

In this publication

The following tables are included in the SFR:

- Main tables (Excel .xls)

The accompanying quality and methodology information document, provides information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data.

Feedback

We are changing how our releases look and welcome feedback on any aspect of this document at cin.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk.

1. Places approved and children accommodated (Table 1)

Secure children's homes (SCHs) are children's homes which provide a locked environment and restrict a young person's liberty. They provide care and accommodation to children and young people who have been detained or sentenced by the criminal courts and those who have been remanded to secure local authority accommodation. They also accommodate and care for children and young people who have been placed there on welfare grounds by local authorities and the courts. Secure children's homes provide children and young people with support tailored to their individual needs; to achieve this they have a high ratio of staff to young people and are generally small facilities.

There were 254 approved places in the 15 SCHs open in England and Wales at 31 March 2016, this is the same number as at 31 March 2015. This is a decrease of 57 places (18%) from 31 March 2010.

There were 210 children accommodated in SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March 2016; 192 in England and 18 in Wales. The total for England and Wales represents an increase of 2% from 31 March 2015 and a decrease of 19% from 31 March 2010.

At 31 March 2016, 128 approved places were contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB), compared with 138 places at 31 March 2015 – a decrease of 10 places (7%). This represents a decrease of 63 places (33%) from 31 March 2010.

Table 1: Number of places approved, children accommodated and places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) at 31 March
England and Wales, 2010-2016

	Places approved	Children accommodated	Places contracted to YJB
2016	254	210	128
2015	254	205	138
2014	298	229	166
2013	296	206	166
2012	300	239	183
2011	314	221	190
2010	311	258	191

Source: DfE SA1 survey

2. Occupancy rates (Table 1)

At 31 March 2016, 83% of approved places in England and Wales were occupied, an increase of 2 percentage points from 2015. The occupancy rate at 31 March has fluctuated between 70% and 83% in the period 2010 to 2016. The occupancy rates also fluctuate by type of placement as shown in table 2 below.

Table 2: Occupancy rates in secure children’s homes by type of placement at 31 March
England and Wales, 2010 to 2016

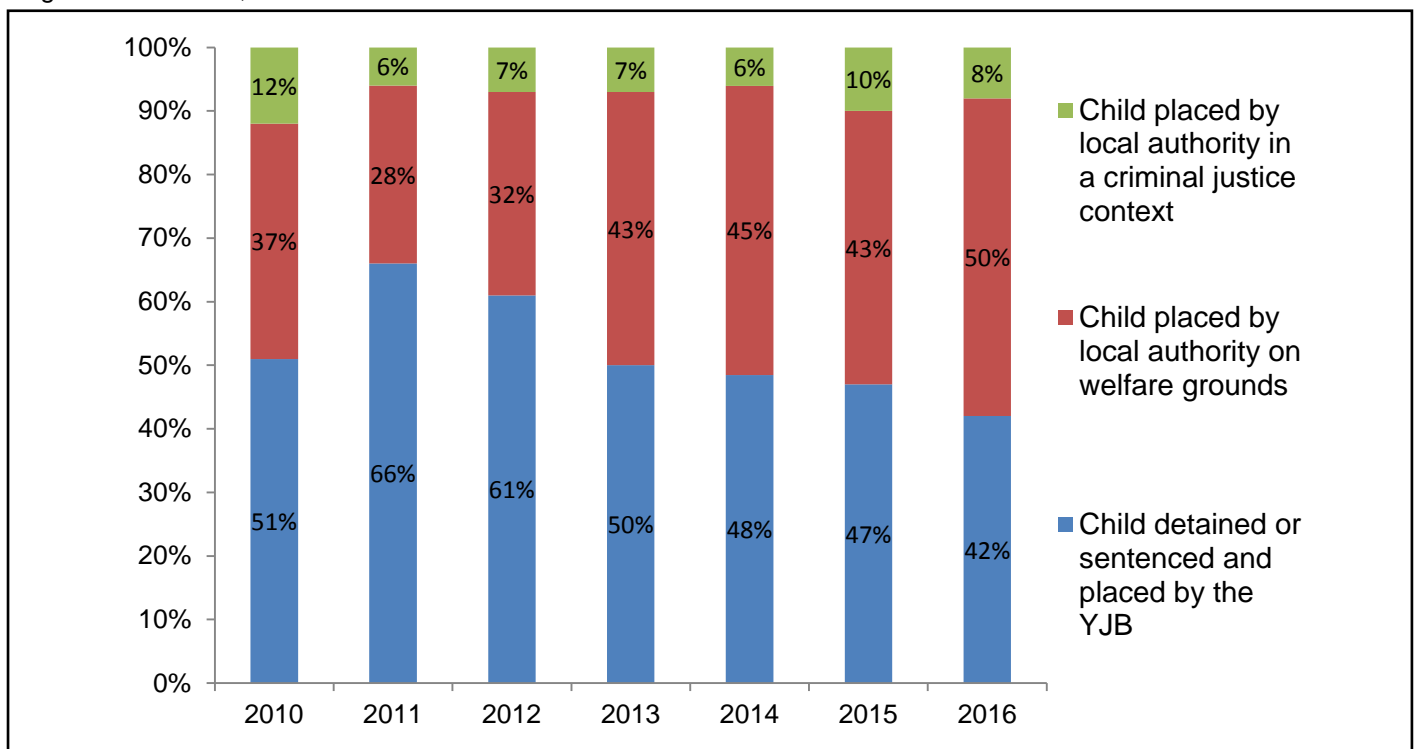
	Occupancy rates (%)			Overall
	Child detained or sentenced and placed by the YJB	Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds	
2016	35	6	41	83
2015	38	8	35	81
2014	37	5	35	77
2013	34	5	30	70
2012	49	6	25	80
2011	46	4	20	70
2010	42	10	31	83

Source: DfE SA1 survey

3. Type of placement (Table 1)

Of the children accommodated at 31 March 2016 in England and Wales, 50% were placed by the local authority on welfare grounds compared with 43% at 31 March 2015 and 37% at 31 March 2010.

Figure A: Type of placement percentages for children accommodated in secure children’s homes at 31 March
England and Wales, 2010 to 2016

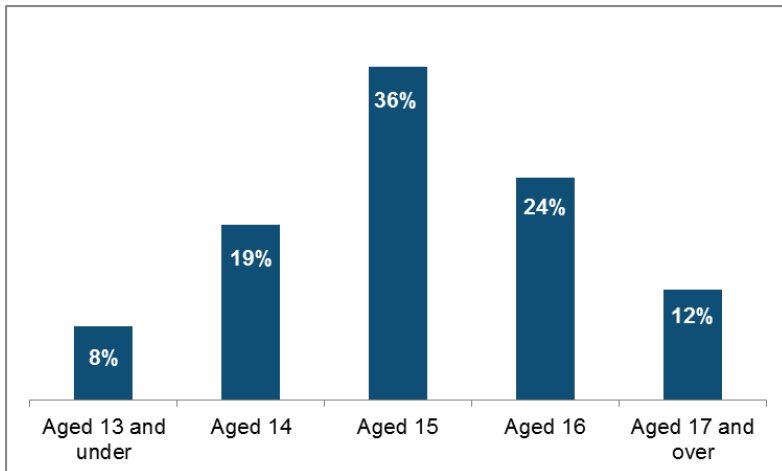


Source: DfE SA1 survey

4. Gender and age (Table 1)

Of the 210 children accommodated in England and Wales at 31 March 2016, 42% were female and 58% were male. At 31 March 2015, 35% were female and 65% were male. Percentages for the gender split this year are similar to as at March 2014, where 41% were female and 59% were male. Information showing the gender split by type of placement is not collected.

Figure B: Age of children accommodated
England and Wales, 31 March 2016



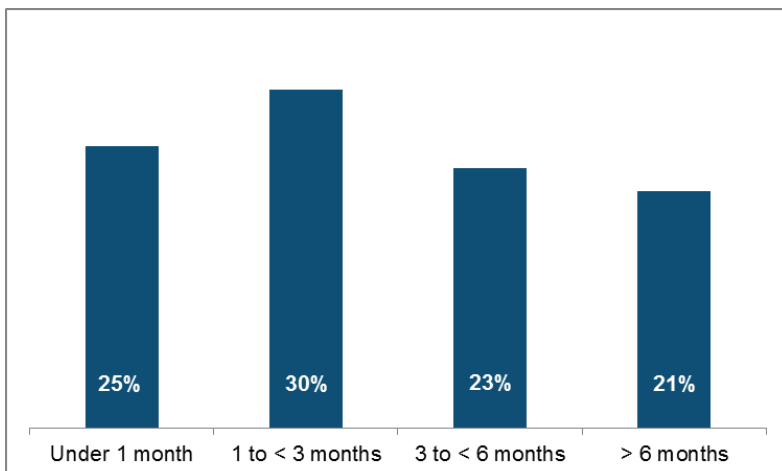
Source: DfE SA1 survey

Note: Due to rounding it is possible that the sum of the category percentages may not always total 100%.

5. Length of stay (Table 1)

Of the 210 children accommodated in England and Wales at 31 March 2016, 117 (56%) had been accommodated for less than 3 months, a similar proportion to the previous year.

Figure C: Length of stay of children accommodated
England and Wales, 31 March 2016



Source: DfE SA1 survey

Note: Due to rounding it is possible that the sum of the category percentages may not always total 100%.

6. Accompanying tables

The following tables are available in Excel format on the department's statistics website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-secure-children-s-homes>

- 1 Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages), England and Wales, 2010 to 2016
- 2 Places approved and available, and children accommodated at 31 March by individual secure children's homes (numbers and percentages), England and Wales, 2010 to 2016
- 3 Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages), England, 2010 to 2016

Further information on the tables can be found in the accompanying methodology document.

7. National Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The Department has a set of [statistical policies](#) in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

8. Technical information

A quality and methodology information document accompanies this SFR. This provides further information on the data sources, their coverage and quality and explains the methodology used in producing the data, including how it is validated and processed.

9. Get in touch

Media enquiries

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