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Reporting year 2022

# Children accommodated in secure children's homes

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**Published** 26 May 2022

**Release type** [Accredited official statistics](#)

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This release contains statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes, including:

- numbers of approved and available places
- availability and occupancy rates

## Releases in this series

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## Methodologies

- children accommodated by gender, age, ethnicity, and length of stay.

[Children accommodated in secure children's homes](#)

The data in this release is used to support monitoring and assessment of capacity within the system. The data is reported for England and Wales and is collected directly from secure children's homes.

Figures relate to a snapshot of the position on 31 March each year, except for 2020 when the reference date was changed to 29 February to reflect the position in secure children's homes before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the national lockdown.

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# Headline facts and figures - 2022

Number of children  
accommodated

**165**

Up from 142 last year

► What is this?

Percentage of approved  
places occupied  
(occupancy rate)

**66%**

Up from 56% last year

► What is this?

Number of children placed  
by YCS

**62**

Up from 55 last year

► What is this?

Figures relate to 31 March 2022, for England and Wales, comparisons are to 31 March 2021 unless otherwise stated.

- Children accommodated in secure children's homes increased by 16% (23 more children) to 165. Since 2010, there has been a gradual decline in children accommodated in secure children's homes. The increase this year is likely to be due to lower figures last year due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Occupancy rates have increased and now stand at 66% - up from 56%.
- 62 children were placed by the Youth Custody Service (YCS), up from 55. Since 2010, there has been a longer-term trend of fewer children being placed by the YCS. Again, the small increase this year is likely due to fewer children being placed in 2021 due to the pandemic.
- Since 2015, the number of places in secure children's homes that were approved for use has remained fairly stable around 250.

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## Background

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**Secure children's homes** provide a safe place where very vulnerable children and young people can receive the care, support and education they need. Children can be placed in secure children's homes either by local authorities or the Youth Custody Service (YCS). The YCS place vulnerable children when they are remanded to custody by the courts or are serving a custodial sentence. Local authorities place children when no other type of placement can keep them safe as they are a significant risk to themselves or others.

There are two other types of secure accommodation - [young offender institutions](#) and [secure training centres](#) . Data on children placed in these are not included in this release, but are published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

### **Places contracted to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)**

Some places within secure children's homes are contracted out for use to the MoJ and children are placed in them by the YCS.

From September 2017, the overall responsibility for commissioning of youth custody transferred to the MoJ from the Youth Justice Board. At the same time the Youth Custody Service (YCS) took over responsibility for individual placements of children and young people into youth custody and day-to-day management of youth custody.

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## Places approved and available

[Hide](#)

There are currently 14 secure children's homes in England and Wales, carrying 249 approved places. This is down 4 places on last year but has remained broadly stable in recent years.

The availability of approved places has remained at 88%. An approved place may not be available for use for a number of reasons, for example if the home is undergoing development work or if staffing ratios mean a reduced number of places can be filled. The availability rate remained consistently above 90% between 2010 and 2016 but has been very slightly lower in the last six years.

**Availability rates**

These are based on the number of places that were in use or available for use at 31 March, excluding any approved places that are out of service.

<a href="#">Chart</a>	<a href="#">Table</a>
-----------------------	-----------------------

► Export options

## Number of places approved for use and available for use have fallen slightly in 2022 in England and Wales

	Number of places approved	Number of places available
2010	311	291
2011	312	291
2012	300	288
2013	296	286
2014	298	283
2015	254	245
2016	254	245
2017	254	227
2018	255	220
2019	259	228
2020	254	227
2021	253	223
2022	249	220

[Data symbols](#) ?

Source: SA1

### Explore and edit this data online

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The number of approved places contracted to the MoJ has reduced by 2 places to 105. More longer-term, figures published by the [Her Majesty's Prison Service \(opens in a new tab\)](#) show that the overall population of the youth secure estate has declined in the last decade, influenced by a move by courts towards sentencing

children being a last resort. This is reflected in the secure children’s homes data for MoJ contracted places and Youth Custody Service (YCS) placements.

The number of children placed in secure homes by the YCS has increased this year to 62, up from 55 last year.

<a href="#">Chart</a>	<a href="#">Table</a>
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► Export options

**Places in England and Wales contracted to the MoJ have fallen very slightly in 2022 whilst children placed by the YCS have risen.**

	Number of children placed by YCS	Number of places contracted to the MoJ
2010	131	191
2011	146	190
2012	146	183
2013	102	166
2014	111	166
2015	97	138
2016	89	138
2017	93	117
2018	98	120
2019	66	106
2020	80	107
2021	55	107
2022	62	105

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# Children accommodated and occupancy rate

[Hide](#)

Within the 14 secure children’s homes, there were 165 children accommodated, up 16%, representing 23 more children. However, this is still below the pre-pandemic levels in 2020, and is in line with a longer term gradual decrease in the number of children placed in secure children's homes.

The occupancy rate was 66%, this has not returned to pre-pandemic levels but is up from 56% last year (which was the lowest occupancy rate recorded in the time-period from 2010).

## Occupancy rates

These are based on the number of children accommodated in relation to the number of places approved by the Secretary of State.

[Chart](#)

[Table](#)

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The number of children accommodated in England and Wales has increased in 2022

	Number of children accommodated
2010	258
2011	221
2012	239
2013	206
2014	229
2015	205
2016	210
2017	203
2018	204
2019	172
2020	184
2021	142
2022	165

[Data symbols](#) ?

Source: SA1

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**Occupancy rate has increased in secure children's homes in England and Wales in 2022, whilst availability rate has remained the same.**

	Percentage of approved places available (availability rate)	Percentage of approved places occupied (occupancy rate)
2010	94%	83%
2011	93%	71%
2012	96%	80%
2013	97%	70%
2014	95%	77%
2015	96%	81%
2016	96%	83%
2017	89%	80%
2018	86%	80%
2019	88%	66%
2020	89%	72%
2021	88%	56%
2022	88%	66%

[Data symbols](#) ?

## Footnotes

1. Percentages in charts and tables are rounded to the nearest whole number. Where percentages apply to a group of categories they may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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The increase in occupancy is due to an increase in placements for criminal justice reasons. mainly from children placed by the local authority in a criminal justice context.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the [MoJ \(opens in a new tab\)](#) reported fewer young people in custody following the initial impact of the pandemic on [court proceedings \(opens in a new tab\)](#). Local authorities have reported that on occasion throughout the year, staff availability has impacted on the number of available places in some of their residential settings.

Half of children accommodated in secure children's homes are placed by the local authority on welfare grounds.

Chart

Table

► Export options

**The increase in children placed in secure children's homes in 2022, were largely due to criminal justice reasons**

	Number of children accommodated			Percentage of children accommodated		
	Placement type			Placement type		
	Child detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Custody Service	Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds	Child detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Custody Service	Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds
<b>2010</b>	131	31	96	51%	12%	37%
<b>2011</b>	146	13	62	66%	6%	28%
<b>2012</b>	146	17	76	61%	7%	32%
<b>2013</b>	102	15	89	50%	7%	43%
<b>2014</b>	111	14	104	48%	6%	45%
<b>2015</b>	97	20	88	47%	10%	43%
<b>2016</b>	89	16	105	42%	8%	50%
<b>2017</b>	93	7	103	46%	3%	51%
<b>2018</b>	98	10	96	48%	5%	47%
<b>2019</b>	66	9	97	38%	5%	56%
<b>2020</b>	80	15	89	43%	8%	48%
<b>2021</b>	55	7	80	39%	5%	56%
<b>2022</b>	62	21	82	38%	13%	50%

[Data symbols](#) 

## Footnotes

1. Percentages in charts and tables are rounded to the nearest whole number. Where percentages apply to a group of categories they may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: SA1

## Explore and edit this data online

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**Children detained or sentenced and placed by the YCS** include children detained for, or convicted of, a serious offence under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 or the Criminal Justice Act 2003; or subject to a Supervision Order with a residence requirement or a Detention and Training Order under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

**Children placed by the local authority in a criminal justice context** include children remanded by a court under section 102 (Remand to youth detention accommodation) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012; or accommodated pursuant to section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

**Children placed by the local authority on welfare grounds** include children who are placed into the homes by their local authority under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 for the protection of themselves and/or others.

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## Gender, age, and ethnicity

[Hide](#)

### Gender

There are more males than females accommodated in secure children's homes. The proportion of children accommodated who are male has increased to 69% (114 children), from 62%, an increase of 26 children. The number of female children accommodated fell slightly by 3 children to 51.

Information on the gender split by type of placement is not collected but it is highly likely this increase in number of males relates to the increase in children placed due to criminal justice reasons, as males account for over 95% of the youth custody population.

Chart

Table

► Export options

**More than twice as many males than females are accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales**

	Number of children accommodated			Percentage of children accommodated		
	Gender			Gender		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>2010</b>	258	165	93	100%	64%	36%
<b>2011</b>	221	152	69	100%	69%	31%
<b>2012</b>	239	157	82	100%	66%	34%
<b>2013</b>	206	133	73	100%	65%	35%
<b>2014</b>	229	136	93	100%	59%	41%
<b>2015</b>	205	133	72	100%	65%	35%
<b>2016</b>	210	121	89	100%	58%	42%
<b>2017</b>	203	120	83	100%	59%	41%
<b>2018</b>	204	137	67	100%	67%	33%
<b>2019</b>	172	105	67	100%	61%	39%
<b>2020</b>	184	128	56	100%	70%	30%
<b>2021</b>	142	88	54	100%	62%	38%
<b>2022</b>	165	114	51	100%	69%	31%

[Data symbols](#) ?

## Footnotes

1. Percentages in charts and tables are rounded to the nearest whole number. Where percentages apply to a group of categories they may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Source: SA1

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## Age

Around three quarters of children accommodated are aged 15 years or over. The largest increase this year has been in the number of 15 year olds, up 48%, however, the numbers in each age group are small and do fluctuate over time. Children accommodated by age in 2022:

- 9 were aged 13 years (5%)
- 22 were aged 14 years old (13%)
- 59 were aged 15 years old (36%)
- 47 were aged 16 years old (28%)
- 17 were aged 17 years old (10%)
- the remaining 7% were either aged under 13, or 18 years and over.

## Ethnicity

Last year was the first year that information on the ethnicity of children accommodated in secure homes was reported. The numbers and proportions of children accommodated by ethnicity are in the table. It is not possible to determine whether the changes seen since 2021 are down to natural variation due to the relatively small size of the cohort, or other factors.



► Export options

## Children accommodated in secure children's home, by ethnicity, in England and Wales, 2021 and 2022

		Number of children accommodated			Percentage of children accommodated		
		2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022
Ethnicity of child	Total	x	142	165	x	100%	100%
	White	x	103	107	x	73%	65%
	Black or Black British	x	13	9	x	9%	5%
	Asian or Asian British	x	11	10	x	8%	6%
	Mixed	x	c	30	x	c	18%
	Other Ethnic groups	x	c	c	x	c	c
	Unknown	x	0	c	x	0%	c

[Data symbols](#) ?

### Footnotes

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2. 'c' denotes figures suppressed to preserve confidentiality.

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## Length of stay

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Length of stay of children accommodated at 31 March 2022:

- 36 children had been accommodated for less than 1 month (22%)
- 42 had been accommodated for 1 month but less than 3 months (25%)
- 42 had been accommodated for 3 months but less than 6 months (25%)
- 24 had been accommodated for 6 months but less than 1 year (15%)
- Remaining 21 children (13%) were accommodated for a year or more.

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# Help and support

## Methodology

Find out how and why we collect, process and publish these statistics.

[Children accommodated in secure children's homes](#)

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## Contact us

If you have a specific enquiry about Children accommodated in secure children's homes statistics and data:

### Children looked after statistics team

Email: [cla.stats@education.gov.uk](mailto:cla.stats@education.gov.uk)

Contact name: Justin Ushie

### Press office

If you have a media enquiry:

Telephone: 020 7783 8300

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