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Internet[http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/
rsgateway/DB/SFR/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/)**Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides information about children looked after in England for the year ending 31 March 2007. The data is based on returns collected from all 150 local authorities.

The tables show national totals for:

- children looked after at 31 March 2007
- children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007
- children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007
- children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007
- children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2007
- children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2004, then aged 16 years
- children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years (Public Service Agreement target 5 of Spending Review 2004)

New information is presented on the number, the legal status, and the gender of the adopter(s) of children looked after who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2007.

KEY POINTS**Children looked after at 31 March 2007 - Tables A1 to A5**

- 60,000 children were looked after at 31 March 2007 which is broadly the same as the previous year's figure of 60,300 and a decrease of 2 per cent from 2003 (61,200).
- Overall, the main reason why social services first engaged with these children looked after was because of abuse or neglect (62 per cent). This percentage has changed little over the past 5 years.
- Most children looked after at 31 March 2007 were of White British origin. Their number and percentage has decreased over the last 5 years from 47,300 (77 per cent) in 2003 to 44,700 (74 per cent) in 2007.
- At 31 March 2007, 38,600 children were looked after under a care order which represents 64 per cent of all legal statuses. This is a decrease of 2 per cent from last year's figure of 39,500 and a decrease of 5 per cent from 2003 (40,500). 4 per cent of children were looked after under a placement order.
- 42,300 children looked after at 31 March 2007 were in a foster placement (71 per cent). This is an increase of 2 per cent on the previous year's figure of 41,700 and an increase of 3 per cent from 2003 (41,000).



Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – Table A4

- 3,300 UASC were looked after at 31 March 2007. This figure has changed little over the last four years however it represents an increase of 49 per cent from the 2003 figure of 2,200.
- Except at 31 March 2003, most UASC were aged 16 years and over.
- At 31 March 2007, 31 per cent of UASC were of African origin. This represents a decrease of 4 percentage points from the 2003 figure of 35 per cent. 22 per cent were from other Asian backgrounds which represents an increase of 16 percentage points from the 2003 figure of 6 per cent. 21 per cent were from other ethnic groups which represents a 5 percentage point increase on the 2003 figure of 16 per cent.

Mothers aged 12 and over – Table A5

- There were 360 mothers aged 12 and over who were looked after at 31 March 2007, an increase of 15 per cent from the previous year's figure of 310 and an increase of 20 per cent from the 2005 figure of 300.

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007 – Tables C1 to C3

- There were 23,700 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007, a decrease of 3 per cent from the previous year's figure of 24,600 and a decrease of 5 per cent from the 2003 figure of 24,900.
- During the year ending 31 March 2007, 39 per cent of children who started to be looked after were aged between 10 and 15 years old. This figure has decreased over the past 5 years.
- The percentage of children who started to be looked after in the year ending 31 March 2007 who were white British has decreased over the last 5 years from 73 per cent in 2003 to 67 per cent in 2007.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007 – Tables D1 to D3

- There were 24,700 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007, a decrease of 5 per cent from the previous year's figure and the figure for 2003 was broadly the same as the 2007 figure.
- The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged between 5 and 9 years old as well as aged between 10 and 15 years old decreased over the last 5 years from 17 per cent in 2003 to 14 per cent in 2007 and from 30 per cent in 2003 to 26 per cent in 2007 respectively. However, the percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 and over increased over the past 5 years from 27 per cent in 2003 to 33 per cent in 2007.
- The proportion of children of white British ethnic origin who ceased to be looked after decreased from 76 per cent in 2003 to 68 per cent in 2007 whereas the proportions of children from other Asian backgrounds and of African ethnic origin have increased from 1 per cent in 2003 to 3 per cent in 2007 and from 4 per cent in 2003 to 6 per cent in 2007 respectively.
- In the year ending 31 March 2007, most children who ceased to be looked after had a foster placement as their final placement (12,600). This represents 51 per cent of all final placements.

Mothers aged 12 and over who ceased to be looked after – Table D3

- There were 370 mothers aged 12 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007, an increase of 24 per cent from the previous year's figure of 300.

Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007 – Tables E1 and E2

- 3,300 children looked after were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007. This represents a 11 per cent decrease from the previous year's figure of 3,700 and a 7 per cent decrease from the 2003 figure of 3,500.
- The number of children looked after who were under 1 year old at adoption decreased over the last 5 years from 220 in 2003 to 150 in 2007.
- The percentage of children looked after who were adopted that were of white ethnic origin decreased over the past 5 years from 87 per cent in 2003 to 85 per cent in 2007, whereas the percentage of mixed ethnic origin children looked after who were adopted increased over the same period from 8 per cent in 2003 to 10 per cent in 2007.
- Before being adopted in 2007, 38 per cent of these children were looked after under a freed for adoption final legal status, 36 per cent were looked after under a care order and 19 per cent were looked after under a placement order.
- The average duration of the final period of care that children looked after had before being adopted in 2007 was 2 years and 8 months. This has changed little over the past 5 years.

New information collected this year's data collection: Adopters of children looked after who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2007 – Table E2

- 91 per cent of children looked after who were adopted in 2007 were adopted by two people (3,000). Most adopters were married (84 per cent), 4 per cent of adopters were an unmarried couple (different gender), 2 per cent of adopters were an unmarried couple (same gender) and 1 per cent of adopters were civil partners.
- 9 per cent of children looked after who were adopted in 2007 were adopted by a single adopter. 94 per cent of single adopters were female.

Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2007 – Table F1

- The number of children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March increased from 6,700 in 2003 to 8,200 in 2006 and decreased to 8,000 in 2007.
- 58 per cent of these children ceased to be looked after on their 18th birthday, 25 per cent ceased to be looked after aged 16 years.
- The percentage of children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March of white British ethnic origin decreased from 73 per cent to 60 per cent over the last 5 years whereas the percentage of those from other Asian backgrounds and of African ethnic origin

increased respectively from 1 per cent in 2003 to 5 per cent in 2007 and from 6 per cent in 2003 to 10 per cent in 2007.

- Before ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2007, 3,100 children aged 16 and over were in a foster placement (38 per cent), 2,100 in secure units, children's homes and hostels (27 per cent) and 1,800 were placed in the community (23 per cent).
- In 2006-07, 44 per cent of these children had at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ (3,500) and 7 per cent of the 8,000 children obtained at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C.

Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years – Tables G1 and G2

- The number of children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years increased from 4,900 in 2003 to 5,800 in 2007.
- Over the past 5 years, the percentage of children now aged 19 years who were in education other than higher education increased from 15 per cent to 26 per cent. The number for those who were in training or employment increased from 1,400 to 1,800 between 2003 and 2007. Finally, the number for those who were not in touch with the local authorities decreased from 20 per cent to 8 per cent.
- Most children now aged 19 years who were looked after at 16 years were accommodated in independent living. This percentage increased from 37 per cent in 2003 to 43 per cent in 2007.

Updated Historical data on Mothers aged 19 years during the year ending 31 March 2006 who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years – Table G2

- There were 400 mothers aged 19 years during the year ending 31 March 2006 who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years.

Children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years – Table H1

- 66 per cent of children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years were in the same placement for at least two years, or were placed for adoption.

This relates to the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target which is to narrow the gap in educational achievement between looked after children and that of their peers, and improve their educational support and the stability of their lives so that by 2008, 80 per cent of children under 16 who have been looked after for two and a half years or more will have been living in the same placement for at least two years, or are placed for adoption.

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Table H1: Children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years, and of those the number and percentage who had been in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption, at 31 March 2004-2007 broken down by age at 31 March, gender and legal status at 31 March

Notes to editors

1. The 2006-07 figures for children looked after are the latest in a regular series. Data are collected on the SSDA903 return, which provides the Department for Children, Schools and Families with data on children looked after in England. It also covers adoptions of looked after children, educational qualifications of care leavers, the activity of former care leavers aged 19, and the Public Service Agreement target 5 of the Spending Review 2004.
2. All references made to "year" relate to the standard financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March (for example 2007 should be understood as 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007).
3. New data were collected on the number, gender, and legal status of the adopters of children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007.
4. The figures presented for the year ending 31 March 2007 are based on data reported by all 150 local authorities in England.
5. The database used to collect this information is longitudinal with one record for every child. As local authorities are continually updating the database every year, previous years figures have also been amended where there have been changes (see footnotes on historical changes in the relevant tables).
6. Between 1997-98 and 2002-03 local authorities were required to submit a CLA100 return along with the SSDA903 return. The CLA100 was an aggregate return completed for all children looked after at 31 March while the SSDA903 was a one-in-three sample survey. From year ending 31 March 2004, the SSDA903 covered all children looked after and so the CLA100 was not required.

Between 1997-98 and 2002-03, the AD1 return was completed for all children looked after who were adopted during the year; the OC1 return collected data on the qualifications achieved at the point of leaving care for young people leaving care in the year aged 16 and over; and the OC3 return collected data on the activity and accommodation of former care leavers at age 19 who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 years old (in their 17th year). From year ending 31 March 2004, these returns were collected as part of the SSDA903 data collection and so are not referred to as such anymore.

7. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise, with the exception of numbers from one to five inclusive which for confidentiality purposes have been replaced in the published tables by a hyphen (-). Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero (0). The following convention has been used: "X" means not applicable.
8. 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 (-). Note that percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
9. 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 provided its value is strictly less than 20.
10. This publication is one of two children's social services publications being released at the same time. The other covers children on the Child Protection Register and is entitled **Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of Child Protection Plans (on the Child Protection Register), England - Year ending 31 March 2007.**

This can be downloaded from the Department's website at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000742/index.shtml>

11. Detailed local authority data on children looked after will be released between November 2007 and February 2008 in a series of up to five batches of additional tables. Their publication will be announced two weeks in advance in the "Coming soon" section of the DCSF website at:
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/whatsnew.shtml>

Table A1 Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin, 2003-2007^{1,2,3}

England						rates per 10,000 children under 18 years				
	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵					
All children looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000					
Rates per 10,000 children under 18 years	55	55	55	55	55					
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵
All children looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Male	33,800	33,900	33,700	33,400	33,400	55	55	55	55	56
Female	27,400	27,200	27,200	26,900	26,600	45	45	45	45	44
Age at 31 March (years)	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	2,700	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	4	4	5	5	5
1 to 4	9,100	8,900	8,600	8,400	8,800	15	15	14	14	15
5 to 9	13,300	12,700	12,100	11,500	10,900	22	21	20	19	18
10 to 15	26,700	26,600	26,600	26,200	25,500	44	43	44	43	42
16 and over	9,500	10,400	10,800	11,300	11,800	16	17	18	19	20
Category of need⁶	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	38,800	38,200	38,200	37,600	37,200	63	62	63	62	62
Child's disability	2,500	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	4	4	4	4	4
Parents illness or disability	3,500	3,400	3,300	3,200	3,000	6	6	5	5	5
Family in acute distress	4,200	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,800	7	7	7	7	8
Family dysfunction	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,400	10	10	10	10	11
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,800	1,700	1,500	1,300	1,300	3	3	2	2	2
Low income	90	110	110	110	120	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	4,200	4,900	5,000	5,100	5,000	7	8	8	8	8
Ethnic origin	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
White										
White British	47,300	46,300	45,900	45,000	44,700	77	76	75	75	74
White Irish	580	520	500	440	400	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,500	3	3	3	3	3
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
White and Black African	400	410	440	430	440	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	750	720	720	750	770	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	300	300	280	300	290	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistani	510	520	580	610	660	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	200	230	270	280	280	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	320	460	650	880	1,000	1	1	1	1	2
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,800	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	3	4	4	4	4
Any other Black background	870	880	900	900	880	1	1	1	1	1
Other ethnic groups										
Chinese	80	120	120	120	130	0	0	0	0	0
Any other ethnic group	750	840	900	1,000	1,200	1	1	1	2	2

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Figures are derived from the SSSA903 one third sample survey.

5. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

6. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table A2 Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 2003-2007^{1,2,3}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵
Legal Status at 31 March										
All children looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Care Orders	40,500	39,700	39,800	39,500	38,600	66	65	65	66	64
Interim care orders	9,500	8,700	9,000	9,200	9,800	15	14	15	15	16
Full care orders	31,000	31,000	30,800	30,300	28,800	51	51	51	50	48
Freed for adoption⁶	2,100	2,500	2,600	2,200	950	4	4	4	4	2
Placement Order granted⁷	x	x	x	500	2,400	x	x	x	1	4
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	18,400	18,800	18,400	17,800	17,800	30	31	30	30	30
Detained for child protection	80	60	50	80	50	0	0	0	0	0
Police protection	10	20	10	30	20	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency protection orders	70	40	40	50	30	0	0	0	0	0
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Youth Justice legal statuses	190	200	180	180	220	0	0	0	0	0
On remand or committed for trial	180	190	170	160	190	0	0	0	0	0
Detained under PACE ⁸	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	10	10	10	20	20	0	0	0	0	0

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

5. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

6. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.

7. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

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

Table A3 Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2003-2007^{1,2,3}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵
Placement at 31 March										
All children looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	41,000	41,200	41,300	41,700	42,300	67	67	68	69	71
Foster placement inside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	5,800	5,800	5,600	5,300	5,100	9	9	9	9	8
With other foster carer provided by Council	21,900	21,000	20,400	20,000	20,200	36	34	33	33	34
arranged through agency	1,100	1,400	1,600	2,000	2,400	2	2	3	3	4
Foster placement outside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
With other foster carer provided by Council	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,400	5,300	8	8	9	9	9
arranged through agency	5,300	6,100	6,500	7,000	7,400	9	10	11	12	12
Placed for adoption⁶	3,800	3,600	3,400	3,000	2,500	6	6	6	5	4
Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)					130					0
Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)			360	330	150			1	1	0
Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)	3,800	3,600			640	6	6			1
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)			3,100	2,700	1,600			5	4	3
Placement with parents	6,300	5,900	5,800	5,400	5,100	10	10	9	9	9
Other placement in the community	1,300	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	2	2	3	3	3
Living independently	1,200	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	2	2	2	3	3
Residential employment	-	10	10	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	6,800	7,000	7,000	6,600	6,500	11	11	11	11	11
Secure unit inside Council boundary	40	30	30	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside Council boundary ⁷	210	210	220	170	170	0	0	0	0	0
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations inside Council boundary	3,300	3,200	3,000	3,000	2,900	5	5	5	5	5
outside Council boundary	2,700	2,600	2,600	2,300	2,300	4	4	4	4	4
Homes and hostels <i>not</i> subject to Children's Homes regulations	530	910	1,100	1,100	1,100	1	1	2	2	2
Other residential settings	600	560	560	570	610	1	1	1	1	1
Residential care homes	220	200	210	230	230	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	90	80	90	80	70	0	0	0	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	170	130	150	120	150	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	110	140	110	140	160	0	0	0	0	0
Residential schools	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	2	2	2	2	2
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	120	120	140	140	160	0	0	0	0	0
In refuge (section 51 of Children Act, 1989)	-	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	-	-
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	40	40	20	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	80	90	120	120	120	0	0	0	0	0
Other placement	100	110	100	120	120	0	0	0	0	0

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.
5. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. In 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.
7. There are currently only 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

Table A4 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need and ethnic origin, 2003-2007^{1,2,3}

England		numbers and percentages									
		numbers					percentages				
		2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2006 ⁵	2007 ⁵
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March^{1,2}		2,200	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Gender		2,200	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Male		1,700	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,500	75	70	69	70	75
Female		550	900	980	1,000	810	25	30	31	30	25
Age at 31 March (years)		2,200	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Under 16		1,100	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,200	52	42	38	34	35
16 and over		1,100	1,700	2,000	2,200	2,100	48	58	62	66	65
Category of need⁶		2,200	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect		50	70	90	80	70	2	2	3	2	2
Child's disability		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family in acute stress		20	10	10	10	10	1	0	0	0	0
Family dysfunction		20	20	10	10	10	1	1	0	0	0
Socially unacceptable behaviour		0	10	10	10	-	0	0	0	0	-
Low income		10	20	10	10	-	0	1	0	0	-
Absent parenting		2,100	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,200	95	96	96	96	97
Ethnic origin		2,200	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
White											
White British		-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	0
White Irish		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any other White background		830	910	690	550	530	38	30	22	16	16
Mixed											
White and Black Caribbean		0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
White and Black African		10	20	10	10	10	1	1	0	0	0
White and Asian		0	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Any other mixed background		10	30	40	30	20	1	1	1	1	0
Asian or Asian British											
Indian		0	10	20	20	20	0	0	1	1	1
Pakistani		-	20	50	60	90	-	1	1	2	3
Bangladeshi		-	10	20	20	20	-	0	1	0	1
Any other Asian background		140	260	440	610	720	6	9	14	18	22
Black or Black British											
Caribbean		0	10	10	10	-	0	0	0	0	-
African		760	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,000	35	39	38	36	31
Any other Black background		60	80	100	120	100	3	3	3	4	3
Other Ethnic groups											
Chinese		40	60	60	70	90	2	2	2	2	3
Any other ethnic group		340	410	510	630	680	16	14	16	19	21

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Figures are derived from the SSSA903 one third sample survey.

5. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

6. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table A5 Mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March 2005 to 2007 by age at 31 March, age at birth of first child, category of need, ethnic origin and placement^{1,2,3}

England	numbers and percentages					
	numbers			percentages		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
All females looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	27,200	26,900	26,600			
All mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March^{1,2}	300	310	360	100	100	100
Age at 31 March (years)	300	310	360	100	100	100
12 to 14	10	20	30	3	6	8
15	40	40	40	14	12	12
16	90	100	100	29	31	29
17	160	160	190	54	51	52
18 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Age at birth of first child (years)⁴	x	310	360	x	100	100
12 to 14	x	40	40	x	11	11
15	x	60	70	x	19	19
16	x	70	80	x	23	21
17	x	40	50	x	11	14
18 and over	x	0	-	x	0	-
Birth date not reported	x	110	130	x	35	35
Category of need⁵	300	310	360	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	140	160	180	48	50	51
Child's disability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability	10	-	10	4	-	2
Family in acute stress	30	30	30	10	11	9
Family dysfunction	50	50	70	16	17	19
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	10	10	5	4	3
Low income	-	0	-	-	0	-
Absent parenting	50	50	60	17	15	16
Ethnic origin	300	310	360	100	100	100
White	190	190	230	63	61	63
Mixed	20	30	30	8	9	8
Asian or Asian British	-	-	10	-	-	2
Black or Black British	80	80	90	25	26	24
Other Ethnic groups	-	-	10	-	-	3
Placement	300	310	360	100	100	100
Foster placements	110	150	150	37	46	42
Placed for adoption	0	0	0	0	0	0
Placed with parents	20	20	20	8	6	5
Placed in the community	80	80	100	26	26	28
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	60	50	60	20	15	17
Other residential settings	20	20	20	7	5	5
Residential schools	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other placement	-	-	-	-	-	-

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Data on the first child's date of birth was first collected in 2005-06.

5. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table C1 Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3,4}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
All children who started to be looked after^{1,2,3}	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Male	13,500	13,400	13,300	13,300	13,100	54	53	53	54	55
Female	11,500	11,600	11,600	11,300	10,700	46	47	47	46	45
Age on starting (years)	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	3,900	4,100	4,300	4,300	4,400	16	16	17	18	19
1 to 4	4,700	4,600	4,500	4,300	4,300	19	18	18	17	18
5 to 9	4,800	4,400	4,300	4,100	3,900	19	18	17	17	16
10 to 15	10,500	10,500	10,100	9,800	9,200	42	42	40	40	39
16 and over	1,000	1,400	1,700	2,100	1,900	4	6	7	9	8
Category of need⁷	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	12,200	12,000	12,100	11,500	11,300	49	48	48	47	48
Child's disability	800	730	780	820	710	3	3	3	3	3
Parents illness or disability	1,900	1,900	1,600	1,500	1,300	8	7	7	6	5
Family in acute stress	2,700	2,700	2,900	2,800	2,800	11	11	12	11	12
Family dysfunction	3,200	3,400	3,100	3,200	3,300	13	13	13	13	14
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,700	1,600	1,400	1,300	1,200	7	6	5	5	5
Low income	80	70	80	70	80	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	2,400	2,700	2,900	3,400	3,100	10	11	12	14	13
Ethnic origin	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
White										
White British	18,300	17,700	17,400	16,600	16,000	73	71	70	67	67
White Irish	240	140	160	150	130	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	880	870	850	820	860	4	3	3	3	4
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	670	710	680	650	580	3	3	3	3	2
White and Black African	190	210	200	190	180	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	320	290	260	280	290	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	680	760	760	760	700	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	160	160	130	160	130	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	270	280	350	290	340	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	140	150	170	160	170	1	1	1	1	1
Any other Asian background	170	320	540	800	790	1	1	2	3	3
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	760	780	690	710	610	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,100	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,400	5	6	6	7	6
Any other Black background	390	420	450	460	450	2	2	2	2	2
Other ethnic groups										
Chinese	60	90	80	120	170	0	0	0	0	1
Any other ethnic group	580	620	690	800	920	2	2	3	3	4

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Figures are derived from the SSSA903 one third sample survey.

6. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

7. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table C2 Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by legal status on starting^{1,2,3,4}

England						numbers and percentages				
Legal Status on starting	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
All children who started to be looked after^{1,2,3}	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Care Order	4,900	4,300	4,200	4,300	4,700	20	17	17	17	20
Interim care order	4,700	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,600	19	16	16	17	19
Full care order	250	230	170	120	150	1	1	1	0	1
Freed for adoption⁷	-	10	-	-	0	-	0	-	-	0
Placement Order granted⁸	x	x	x	-	10	x	x	x	-	0
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	16,000	16,800	16,600	16,200	15,400	64	67	67	66	65
Detained for child protection	3,300	3,300	3,500	3,400	2,900	13	13	14	14	12
Police protection	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	8	8	8	9	9
Emergency protection order	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,200	710	5	5	6	5	3
Under child assessment order	-	10	-	10	10	-	0	-	0	0
Youth Justice legal statuses	700	670	560	660	680	3	3	2	3	3
On remand or committed for trial	660	620	520	610	650	3	2	2	3	3
Detained under PACE ⁹	30	40	30	30	20	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	10	10	10	20	10	0	0	0	0	0

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Figures are derived from the SSSA903 one third sample survey.

6. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

7. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.

8. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

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

Table C3 Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by placement on starting^{1,2,3,4}

England						numbers and percentages				
Placement on starting	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
All Children who started to be looked after^{1,2,3}	24,900	25,000	24,900	24,600	23,700	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	19,100	19,200	18,800	18,200	17,700	77	77	76	74	75
Foster placement inside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,300	7	7	6	6	6
With other foster carer										
provided by LA	13,100	12,700	12,500	11,900	11,400	53	51	50	48	48
arranged through agency	540	580	620	770	950	2	2	3	3	4
Foster placements outside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	300	360	380	350	280	1	1	2	1	1
With other foster carer										
provided by LA	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	8	9	8	9	9
arranged through agency	1,400	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,700	6	7	7	6	7
Placed for adoption⁷	-	-	10	10	10	-	-	0	0	0
Placed for adoption with consent										
with current foster carer										
(under S19 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with placement order										
with current foster carer										
(under S21 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with consent										
not with current foster carer										
(under S19 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with placement order										
not with current foster carer										
(under S21 AA 2002)										
Placement with parents	1,700	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400	7	6	6	6	6
Other placements in the community	190	370	480	720	730	1	1	2	3	3
Living independently	190	370	480	720	730	1	1	2	3	3
Residential employment	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	-
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	2,800	3,100	3,100	3,200	2,900	11	12	13	13	12
Secure unit inside LA boundary	60	50	40	40	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside LA boundary ⁸	120	130	110	170	200	0	1	0	1	1
Homes and hostels subject to										
Children's Homes regulations										
inside LA boundary	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	1,900	8	8	8	9	8
outside LA boundary	650	570	520	490	410	3	2	2	2	2
Homes and hostels not subject to										
Children's Homes regulations	110	300	410	480	430	0	1	2	2	2
Other residential settings	640	540	630	650	650	3	2	3	3	3
Residential care homes	100	80	80	80	70	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	350	340	410	440	430	1	1	2	2	2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	160	110	130	110	130	1	0	1	0	1
Young offenders institution or prison	20	20	10	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Residential Schools	250	210	220	190	140	1	1	1	1	1
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours	40	30	30	40	40	0	0	0	0	0
from agreed placement										
In refuge (S51 CA 1989)	-	0	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	0
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	0	-	-	10	-	0	-	-	0	-
Whereabouts unknown	40	30	30	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Other placement	100	130	110	170	130	0	1	0	1	1

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

6. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

7. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. In 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.

8. There are currently only 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

Table D1 Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3,4}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
All looked after children who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3}	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Male	13,200	13,800	13,900	13,900	13,400	54	54	54	54	54
Female	11,200	11,900	12,000	11,900	11,300	46	46	46	46	46
Age on ceasing (years)	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,300	5	5	5	5	5
1 to 4	5,200	5,600	5,600	5,500	5,300	21	22	22	21	21
5 to 9	4,100	4,400	4,100	3,800	3,600	17	17	16	15	14
10 to 15	7,300	7,600	7,300	6,900	6,400	30	30	28	27	26
16 and over	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	27	27	29	32	33
Reason episode ceased	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Adopted - application unopposed ⁷	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,700	1,700 1,600	15	15	15	14	7 7
Adopted - consent dispensed with ⁷										
Died	60	70	70	60	70	0	0	0	0	0
Care taken by another LA	210	220	230	240	230	1	1	1	1	1
Returned home to live with parents or relatives	11,800	12,700	12,100	11,000	10,000	48	49	47	42	41
Residence order granted	x	x	x	920	1,000	x	x	x	4	4
Special guardianship order made to former foster carers ⁸	x	x	x	60	490 250	x	x	x	0	2 1
Special guardianship order made to carers other than former foster carers ⁸										
Moved into independent living (with supportive accommodation)	2,200	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,400	9	8	8	9	10
Moved into independent living (with no formalised support)	860	880	910	960	930	4	3	3	4	4
Transferred to residential care funded by adult social services	450	410	460	470	490	2	2	2	2	2
Sentenced to custody	x	x	x	x	240	x	x	x	x	1
Care ceased for any other reason	5,200	5,700	6,200	6,100	5,200	21	22	24	24	21
Category of need⁹	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	11,300	12,500	12,500	12,400	11,900	46	49	48	48	48
Child's disability	800	750	790	850	800	3	3	3	3	3
Parents illness or disability	2,000	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,600	8	8	7	6	6
Family in acute stress	2,700	2,800	2,900	2,800	2,600	11	11	11	11	11
Family dysfunction	3,400	3,500	3,300	3,300	3,200	14	14	13	13	13
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,500	1,300	8	7	6	6	5
Low income	60	60	80	70	80	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	2,300	2,300	3,000	3,300	3,200	9	9	11	13	13
Ethnic origin	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
White										
White British	18,500	19,000	18,400	17,900	16,800	76	74	71	69	68
White Irish	180	210	200	200	180	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	860	970	1,100	990	930	4	4	4	4	4
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	580	670	720	730	620	2	3	3	3	3
White and Black African	130	200	190	200	180	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	250	310	280	260	280	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	620	710	730	810	730	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	160	170	150	150	140	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	230	260	290	270	300	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	120	140	130	150	170	1	1	0	1	1
Any other Asian background	140	240	350	570	670	1	1	1	2	3
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	720	730	760	720	660	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,600	1,600	4	4	6	6	6
Any other Black background	340	410	440	470	470	1	2	2	2	2
Other Ethnic groups										
Chinese	60	50	70	120	160	0	0	0	0	1
Any other ethnic group	520	600	640	670	790	2	2	2	3	3

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey and adoption data may differ from that shown in table E1 where figures for adoption were collected on a 100 per cent basis.
6. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
7. Breakdown as of 2006-07, prior to this the number of children looked after who were adopted could not be disaggregated.
8. Breakdown as of 2006-07, in 2005-06 the number of children who ceased to be looked after due to the granting of a special guardianship order could not be disaggregated.
9. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table D2 Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by placement on ceasing^{1,2,3,4}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
Placement on ceasing										
All looked after children who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3}	24,400	25,700	25,900	25,900	24,700	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	13,000	13,700	13,600	13,000	12,600	53	53	52	50	51
Foster placement inside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	1,300	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,500	5	6	6	6	6
With other foster carer										
provided by Council	8,500	8,600	8,400	7,800	7,300	35	33	32	30	29
arranged through agency	320	390	430	490	610	1	2	2	2	2
Foster placements outside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	440	430	480	550	570	2	2	2	2	2
With other foster carer										
provided by Council	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	6	6	5	6	6
arranged through agency	910	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,300	4	5	5	4	5
Placed for adoption⁷	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	15	15	15	14	13
Placed for adoption with consent										
with current foster carer					220					1
(under S19 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with placement order			320	430	220			1	2	1
with current foster carer					220					
(under S21 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with consent	3,700	3,800				15	15			
not with current foster carer					1,200					5
(under S19 AA 2002)										
Placed for adoption with placement order			3,500	3,300	1,700			13	13	7
not with current foster carer										
(under S21 AA 2002)										
Placement with parents	2,500	2,800	2,500	2,600	2,500	10	11	10	10	10
Other placements in the community	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,900	5	5	6	7	8
Living independently	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,900	5	5	6	7	8
Residential employment	-	10	-	10	-	-	0	-	0	-
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	3,200	3,300	3,700	4,000	3,500	13	13	14	15	14
Secure unit inside Council boundary	60	60	50	50	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside Council boundary ⁸	170	160	160	220	230	1	1	1	1	1
Homes and hostels subject to										
Children's Homes regulations										
inside Council boundary	1,700	1,900	1,800	2,000	1,600	7	7	7	8	7
outside Council boundary	790	750	730	650	610	3	3	3	2	2
Homes and hostels not subject to										
Children's Homes regulations	480	500	900	1,100	1,000	2	2	3	4	4
Other residential settings	320	340	320	310	310	1	1	1	1	1
Residential care homes	90	100	80	80	80	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	60	50	50	70	50	0	0	0	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	60	80	70	70	60	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	100	110	110	90	120	0	0	0	0	0
Residential schools	240	260	270	230	260	1	1	1	1	1
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	140	110	170	210	170	1	0	1	1	1
In refuge (S51 CA 1989)	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	40	30	50	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	100	90	120	180	150	0	0	0	1	1
Other placement	100	120	120	140	90	0	0	0	1	0

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

6. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

7. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. In 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.

8. There are currently only 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

Table D3 Mothers aged 12 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2006 and 2007 by age on ceasing, age at birth of first child, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3,4,5}

England	numbers and percentages			
	numbers		percentages	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
All females who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3}	11,900	11,300		
All mothers aged 12 years and over who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3}	300	370	100	100
Age on ceasing (years)	300	370	100	100
12 to 14	10	10	4	2
15	20	20	8	6
16	60	60	20	15
17	50	60	17	16
18 and over	150	220	52	60
Age at birth of first child (years)	300	370	100	100
12 to 14	40	30	13	8
15	60	80	20	21
16	90	110	31	30
17	90	130	31	34
18 and over	20	20	5	6
Category of need⁶	300	370	100	100
Abuse or neglect	110	170	38	45
Child's disability	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability	10	10	3	2
Family in acute stress	40	50	12	13
Family dysfunction	50	60	18	16
Socially unacceptable behaviour	20	20	5	4
Low income	-	-	-	-
Absent parenting	70	70	22	18
Ethnic origin	300	370	100	100
White	190	240	64	65
Mixed	20	20	6	5
Asian or Asian British	10	10	2	3
Black or Black British	70	90	25	23
Other Ethnic groups	10	10	3	3

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Data on mothers aged 12 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March started to be collected in 2005-06.

6. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table E1 Looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March by gender, age at adoption, ethnic origin, category of need, final legal status, duration of final period of care and age on starting final period of care, 2003 to 2007^{1,2}

England						numbers and percentages				
	numbers					percentages				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All looked after children¹	61,200	61,200	61,000	60,300	60,000					
All Children looked after adopted¹	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Male	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,700	53	51	51	51	50
Female	1,700	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,600	47	49	49	49	50
Age at adoption (years)	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	220	220	210	200	150	6	6	6	5	5
1 to 4	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,100	62	58	62	64	64
5 to 9	960	1,100	1,100	950	880	27	30	28	26	27
10 to 15	180	210	160	180	160	5	6	4	5	5
16 and over	10	20	20	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Average age (yrs : months)	4:4	4:5	4:2	4:1	4:2					
Ethnic origin	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
White	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,200	2,800	87	86	86	85	85
Mixed	290	330	350	380	340	8	9	9	10	10
Asian or Asian British	40	50	50	50	60	1	1	1	1	2
Black or Black British	90	100	80	90	90	2	3	2	2	3
Other ethnic groups	40	50	40	30	30	1	1	1	1	1
Category of need³	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	2,600	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,400	75	74	74	74	74
Child's disability	30	30	30	20	20	1	1	1	1	1
Parents illness or disability	200	160	190	180	160	6	4	5	5	5
Family in acute distress	170	230	220	230	160	5	6	6	6	5
Family dysfunction	290	290	340	310	310	8	8	9	8	9
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	-	-	10	-	0	-	-	0	-
Low income	0	-	-	10	-	0	-	-	0	-
Absent parenting	210	260	200	190	190	6	7	5	5	6
Final legal status	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Freed for adoption ⁴	1,500	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,200	42	44	49	51	38
Placement Order ⁵	x	x	x	20	630	x	x	x	0	19
Care order	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,200	48	46	42	41	36
Voluntary agreement (S20)	350	370	340	280	230	10	10	9	8	7
Duration of final period of care⁶	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1 year	250	260	260	240	170	7	7	7	6	5
1 year to under 2 years	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,200	35	33	36	38	36
2 years to under 3 years	960	1,100	1,100	1,100	980	27	28	30	30	30
3 years and over	1,100	1,200	1,000	950	970	31	32	27	26	29
Average duration (yrs : mths)	2:9	2:8	2:7	2:7	2:8					
Age on starting final period of care (years)⁶	3,500	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,300	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	2,000	2,000	2,100	2,100	1,900	56	53	56	57	58
1	440	470	470	470	370	13	12	13	13	11
2	380	400	400	340	360	11	11	11	9	11
3	280	310	300	270	250	8	8	8	7	8
4 and over	450	580	500	510	420	13	15	13	14	13
Average age (yrs : mths)	1:7	1:8	1:7	1:7	1:6					

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

2. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

3. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

4. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.

5. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

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

Table E2 Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007 by number of adopters and by legal status of adopters and gender of adopters^{1,2}

	England					
	numbers			percentages		
	Gender of children looked after who were adopted					
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
All children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2007^{1,2}	3,300	1,700	1,600	100	100	100
Number of adopters	3,300	1,700	1,600	100	100	100
1 person	290	130	170	9	8	10
2 persons	3,000	1,500	1,500	91	92	90
Legal status and gender of adopters	3,300	1,700	1,600	100	100	100
Single adopter	290	130	170	9	8	10
Single male adopter	20	10	10	1	1	0
Single female adopter	270	110	160	8	7	10
Same sex couple not in civil partnership	70	40	30	2	2	2
Adopting couple are both male	20	-	-	0	-	-
Adopting couple are both female	60	30	30	2	2	2
Different sex unmarried couple	140	80	60	4	5	4
Civil partnership couple	20	10	10	1	1	0
Adopting couple are both male	10	-	-	0	-	-
Adopting couple are both female	10	10	10	0	0	0
Married couple	2,800	1,400	1,400	84	84	84

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

2. Data on the numbers, the legal status, and the gender of adopters started to be collected in 2006-07.

Table F1 Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007 by gender, age on ceasing, ethnic origin, final placement and qualifications^{1,2,3,4}

England										
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁶	2007 ⁶
	All Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3}	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	100	100	100	100
Gender	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	100	100	100	100	100
Male	3,700	3,900	4,300	4,800	4,600	55	57	57	58	58
Female	3,000	3,000	3,300	3,500	3,400	45	43	43	42	42
Age on ceasing (years)	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	100	100	100	100	100
16	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,000	31	30	28	27	25
17	1,300	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,300	20	18	18	18	16
18th birthday	3,200	3,500	4,000	4,400	4,700	48	51	52	54	58
Older than 18th birthday	80	50	50	80	40	1	1	1	1	1
Ethnic origin	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	100	100	100	100	100
White										
White British	4,900	4,900	4,800	5,000	4,800	73	71	64	61	60
White Irish	40	60	60	70	50	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	420	400	560	500	420	6	6	7	6	5
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	100	130	140	170	150	1	2	2	2	2
White and Black African	20	40	60	40	40	0	1	1	1	0
White and Asian	40	60	50	50	50	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	130	160	180	200	200	2	2	2	2	2
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	50	40	40	50	40	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	30	50	50	60	80	0	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	20	20	30	40	30	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	60	80	170	340	400	1	1	2	4	5
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	220	190	240	230	190	3	3	3	3	2
African	430	410	740	820	820	6	6	10	10	10
Any other Black background	110	100	120	160	160	2	1	2	2	2
Other Ethnic groups										
Chinese	20	30	50	90	110	0	0	1	1	1
Any other ethnic group	170	240	280	370	440	3	3	4	4	5
Final placement	6,700	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,000	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	44	42	39	37	38
Placed for adoption	10	30	20	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Placed with parents	530	530	460	540	480	8	8	6	7	6
Placed in the community	1,100	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,800	17	19	20	21	23
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	1,600	1,700	2,100	2,400	2,100	24	24	28	29	27
Other residential settings	190	200	190	180	180	3	3	2	2	2
Residential schools	150	180	190	160	190	2	3	2	2	2
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	90	50	90	130	100	1	1	1	2	1
Other placement	40	60	70	70	50	1	1	1	1	1
Qualifications										
At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	2,900	2,900	3,200	3,500	3,500	43	43	42	43	44
At least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C	390	400	460	530	540	6	6	6	6	7

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

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

4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

5. Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one third sample survey.

6. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

Table G1 Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2000 to April 2004 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation^{1,2,3}

England	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁷	2007 ⁸	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁶	2006 ⁷	2007 ⁸
All children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2000 to 2004 then aged 16 years^{1,2}	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,800	100	100	100	100	100
Gender	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,800	100	100	100	100	100
Male	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,200	55	55	56	57	56
Female	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,600	45	45	44	43	44
Activity⁹	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,800	100	100	100	100	100
In higher education i.e. studies beyond A level	280	260	310	340	350	6	5	6	6	6
Full time	x	x	x	x	340	x	x	x	x	6
Part time	x	x	x	x	10	x	x	x	x	0
In education other than higher education	730	940	970	1,200	1,500	15	18	19	23	26
Full time	x	x	x	x	1,300	x	x	x	x	23
Part time	x	x	x	x	180	x	x	x	x	3
In training or employment	1,400	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,800	28	32	34	34	31
Full time	x	x	x	x	1,300	x	x	x	x	23
Part time	x	x	x	x	480	x	x	x	x	8
Not in education, training or employment owing to illness or disability	280	300	260	240	290	6	6	5	5	5
Not in education, training or employment owing to other reasons	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,400	26	24	25	25	24
Not in touch	970	750	560	380	450	20	15	11	7	8
Accommodation¹⁰	4,900	5,100	5,200	5,300	5,800	100	100	100	100	100
With parents or relatives	540	570	690	700	720	11	11	13	13	12
Community home	200	230	230	260	250	4	4	4	5	4
Semi-independent, transitional accommodation	320	390	420	420	540	7	8	8	8	9
Supported lodgings	330	350	360	410	450	7	7	7	8	8
Ordinary lodgings	270	250	190	250	270	6	5	4	5	5
Foyers	70	60	80	90	60	1	1	2	2	1
Independent living	1,800	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,500	37	41	42	43	43
Emergency accommodation	30	30	30	30	40	1	1	1	1	1
Bed and breakfast	50	50	50	40	40	1	1	1	1	1
In custody	120	120	150	170	180	2	2	3	3	3
Other accommodation	220	240	240	270	270	4	5	5	5	5
Not in touch	970	750	560	380	450	20	15	11	7	8

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2000 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

5. Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2001 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

6. Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2002 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

7. Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

8. Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

9. Full and part time activity was collected separately in 2006-07.

10. This includes accommodation judged both suitable and unsuitable.

Table G2 Updated historical data - Mothers aged 19 years during the year ending 31 March 2006 who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by age at birth of first child, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3}

England	numbers and percentages	
	numbers	percentages
	2006 ³	2006 ³
All mothers aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years^{1,2}	400	100
Age at birth of first child (years)⁴	400	100
12 to 14	20	5
15	30	7
16	50	12
17	120	31
18 and over	180	45
Category of need⁵	400	100
Abuse or neglect	210	53
Child's disability	-	-
Parents illness or disability	-	-
Family in acute stress	30	9
Family dysfunction	70	17
Socially unacceptable behaviour	30	8
Low income	0	0
Absent parenting	40	9
Ethnic origin	400	100
White	300	75
Mixed	40	9
Asian or Asian British	-	-
Black or Black British	60	14
Other Ethnic groups	-	-

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

2. Figures exclude mothers now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

3. Mothers now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year)

4. Data on mothers aged 19 years who were looked after aged 16 years (in their 17th year) were only collected in 2005-06.

5. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" (i.e. the reason why the child is receiving social services) at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the reason they are looked after.

Table H1 Children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years, and of those the number and percentage who had been in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption, at 31 March 2004-2007 broken down by age at 31 March, gender and legal status at 31 March^{1,2,3}

	numbers and percentages											
	All children looked after for at least two and a half years				Number of children in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption				Percentage of children in the same placement for at least two years or placed for adoption ⁴			
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007
All ages (under 16 years)^{1,2}	23,000	23,100	22,900	22,400	14,900	14,800	14,900	14,800	65	64	65	66
Age at 31 March (years)	23,000	23,100	22,900	22,400	14,900	14,800	14,900	14,800				
Under 5	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,000	940	900	900				
5 to 9	6,100	5,900	5,700	5,300	4,300	4,100	4,000	3,700				
10 to 15	15,500	16,000	16,000	15,900	9,600	9,800	9,900	10,200				
Gender	23,000	23,100	22,900	22,400	14,900	14,800	14,900	14,800				
Male	12,900	13,000	13,000	12,700	8,200	8,200	8,400	8,400				
Female	10,100	10,100	9,900	9,700	6,700	6,600	6,500	6,400				
Legal status at 31 March	23,000	23,100	22,900	22,400	14,900	14,800	14,900	14,800				
Care Orders	19,200	19,400	19,300	18,700	12,300	12,200	12,300	12,200				
Interim care orders	360	330	400	550	200	180	230	320				
Full care orders	18,900	19,100	18,900	18,100	12,100	12,000	12,100	11,800				
Freed for adoption⁵	870	950	940	730	620	680	680	500				
Placement Order granted⁶	x	x	60	380	x	x	50	300				
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	2,900	2,800	2,600	2,600	2,000	1,900	1,800	1,800				
Detained for child protection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Police protection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Emergency protection orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Youth Justice legal statuses	-	10	-	10	0	-	-	0				
On remand or committed for trial	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0				
Detained under PACE ⁷	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Supervision order	0	-	-	-	0	-	-	0				

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.

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

3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

4. Percentages represent the stability aspect of PSA5 of Spending Review 2004.

5. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.

6. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.

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