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Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2009

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides information about looked after children in England for the year ending 31 March 2009. The figures are based on data from the SSDA903 return collected from all local authorities.

This release reports progress on seven National Indicators (NI), two of which also contribute to PSA 16 "To increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and employment, education or training".

KEY POINTS

Children looked after at 31 March 2009 - Tables A1 to A5

- There were 60,900 looked after children at 31 March 2009, 2 per cent more than last year's figure of 59,400 and relatively unchanged compared to 2005 (61,000).
- Overall, the main reason why social services first engaged with these looked after children was because of abuse or neglect (61 per cent). This percentage has changed little over the past 5 years.
- Most looked after children at 31 March 2009 were of White British origin (73 per cent). Their numbers have decreased since 2005, falling from 45,900 (75 per cent) to 43,800 in 2008 (74 per cent), followed by a slight increase to 44,500 in 2009. The breakdown by the different ethnic groups has remained similar since 2005.
- At 31 March 2009, 36,200 children were looked after under a care order which represents 59 per cent of all legal statuses. This is a decrease of 2 per cent from last year's figure of 36,900 and a decrease of 10 per cent from 2005 (39,800). The percentage of children looked after under a voluntary agreement increased from 29 per cent to 32 per cent since last year.
- 44,200 children were looked after at 31 March 2009 in a foster placement (73 per cent). This is an increase of 5 per cent on the previous year's figure of 42,000 and an increase of 7 per cent from 2005 (41,400). 2,500 children were placed for adoption at 31 March 2009. This is a decrease of 13 per cent from last year and a decrease of 28 per cent from the 2005 figure (3,400).

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – Table A4

- There were 3,700 UASC who were looked after at 31 March 2009, this is an increase of around 200 children compared to the figure for 2008. The number of male UASC has continued to increase each

year rising from 69 per cent in 2005 to 87 per cent in 2009. Whereas the number of female UASC has continued to decrease each year during this period.

- In 2009 the percentage of UASC of Black African origin decreased by 7 percentage points to 17 per cent, whilst the percentage of UASC of any other Asian background increased by 3 percentage points to 33 per cent.

Mothers aged 12 and over – Table A5

- There were 320 mothers aged 12 and over who were looked after at 31 March 2009, the same as the previous year and an increase of 7 per cent from the 2005 figure of 290.

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables C1 to C3

- There were 25,400 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009, an increase of 9 per cent from the previous year's figure of 23,300 and an increase of 2 per cent from the 2004-05 figure of 25,000. The percentage of children that started to be looked after due to police protection has risen from 8 per cent in 2005 to 12 per cent in 2009
- During the year ending 31 March 2009, 36 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 from 40 per cent in 2005. Whereas the number of children aged 16 and over continue to increase (7 per cent in 2005 to 11 per cent in 2009)

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables D1 to D3

- There were 24,700 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009, an increase of 1 per cent from the previous year's figure of 24,400 and a decrease of 5 per cent from the 2004-05 figure of 26,000.
- The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged between 5 and 9 years old has decreased over the last 5 years from 16 per cent in 2004-05 to 13 per cent in 2008-09. There was a similar drop in the 10 to 15 age category where the percentage dropped from 28 per cent in 2004-05 to 23 per cent in 2008-09. However, the percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 and over increased over the past 5 years from 29 per cent in 2004-05 to 35 per cent in 2008-09.

Looked after children who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables E1 and E2

- 3,300 looked after children were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2009. This represents a 3 per cent increase from the previous year's figure of 3,200 and a 13 per cent decrease from the 2004-05 figure of 3,800.
- The number of children looked after who were under 1 year old at adoption decreased over the last 5 years from 210 in 2004-05 to 80 in 2008-09. However, the percentage of children adopted that were aged 1 to 4 has increased from 62 per cent in 2004-05 to 72 per cent in 2008-09.
- The percentage of children looked after who were adopted that were of white ethnic origin has decreased over the past 5 years from 86 per cent in 2004-05 to 82 per cent in 2008-09,

whereas the percentage of mixed ethnic origin children looked after who were adopted increased over the same period from 9 per cent in 2004-05 to 12 per cent in 2008-09.

Adopters of looked after children who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2009 – Table E2

- 92 per cent of children looked after who were adopted in 2008-09 were adopted by two people (3,000). This is an increase from 91 per cent in the previous 2 years. Most adopters were married (82 per cent), however, this is a decrease from 84 per cent in the previous 2 years. In 2009, 6 per cent of adopters were an unmarried couple (different gender), 1 per cent were an unmarried couple (same gender) and 2 per cent were civil partners.
- 8 per cent of looked after children who were adopted in 2008-09 were adopted by a single adopter. Of these single adopters, 95 per cent were female.

Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2009 – 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 7,600 in 2004-05 to 8,700 in 2008-09.
- 61 per cent of these children ceased to be looked after on their 18th birthday, an increase from 52 per cent in 2005. 21 per cent ceased to be looked after aged 16 years, a decrease from 29 per cent in 2005.
- In 2008-09, 44 per cent of these children had at least 1 GSCE or GNVQ (3,800) compared to 46 per cent in the previous year. 7 per cent of the 8,700 children obtained at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* to C, a figure which has remained the same over the last few years.

Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years – Table G1

- The number of children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2006 then aged 16 years increased from 5,200 in 2005 to 6,100 in 2009.
- Over the past 5 years, the percentage of children now aged 19 years who were in education other than higher education increased from 19 per cent to 26 per cent. The percentage of children who were in training or employment decreased from 34 per cent to 30 per cent between 2005 and 2009. The percentage of children who were not in touch with the local authorities decreased from 11 per cent to 6 per cent over the last 5 years.
- Most children now aged 19 years who were looked after at 16 years are accommodated in independent living (43 per cent). This percentage has remained fairly stable over the last 5 years.

National Indicator Set

In April 2008 the National Indicator Set was introduced. These are a set of performance indicators for Local Authorities. Further information on the National Indicator Set is available on the Communications and Local Government website via the following link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/nationalindicator>

There are seven National Indicators which are monitored by this data:

- **NI 58: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children**

This is the first year that data on the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children has been collected and some issues with the quality of the data submitted have been identified (see paragraph 16 of the Technical Notes for further details). The average score on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) for children aged 4 to 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at the 31 March was 13.8. This indicator is calculated as the average score for children with a completed SDQ, however these were completed for just 59 per cent of the eligible cohort and within this there was a higher than expected proportion of zero scores.

- **NI 61: Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption**

In 2009, 75.8 per cent of children who were adopted during the year were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption. This was about 4 percentage points less than in 2005.

- **NI 62: Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements**

10.7 per cent of children had three or more placements during 2009. This figure has decreased steadily from 13.7 per cent since 2005.

- **NI 63: Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement**

67.0 per cent of children who had been looked after for two-and-a-half years or more had, in the past two years to 31 March 2009, lived in the same placement or their combined adoptive placement and preceding placement. This percentage has increased gradually since 2005 when the percentage was 62.9 per cent.

- **NI 66: Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales**

90.9 per cent of children had their cases reviewed within the required timescales during 2009. This percentage has increased from 78.9 per cent in 2006 but there has been little change compared to last year (90.0 per cent).

- **NI 147 (PSA 16): Care leavers in suitable accommodation**

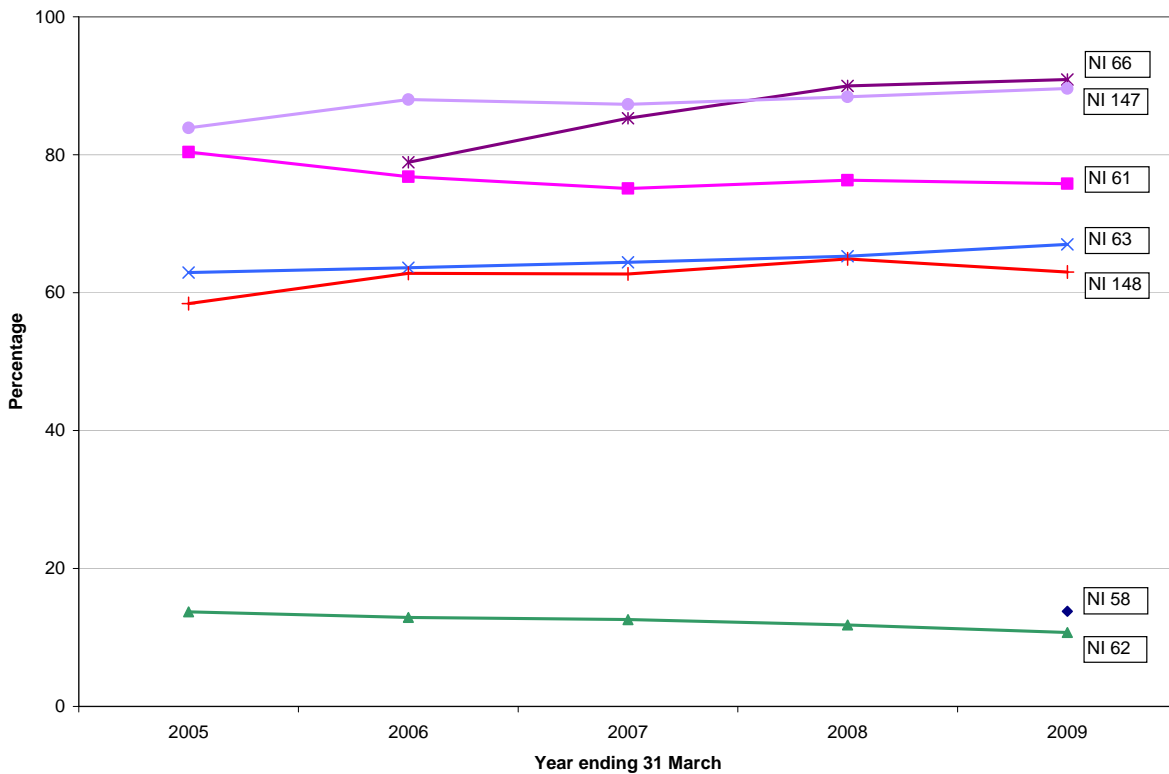
89.6 per cent of former care leavers, with whom the local authorities were in touch during 2009, were considered to be in suitable accommodation around the time of their 19th birthday. This compares with 83.9 per cent during 2005 and 88.4 per cent last year.

- **NI 148 (PSA 16): Care leavers in education, employment or training**

In the past 5 years the percentage of former care leavers, with whom the local authorities were in touch and who were in education, employment or training around the time of their 19th birthday, had increased from 58.4 per cent in 2005 to 64.9 per cent in 2008. However, in 2009 the percentage dropped to 63.0 per cent.

The chart below shows the progress that has been made for each National Indicator in recent years.

Chart 1: Performance in the seven National Indicators between 2005 and 2009, England



Tables

Children looked after at 31 March 2009 - Tables A1 to A5

- Table A1: Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin, 2005-2009, England.
- Table A2: Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 2005-2009, England.
- Table A3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2005-2009, England.
- Table A4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need and ethnic origin, 2005-2009, England.
- Table A5: Mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March by age at 31 March, age at birth of first child, category of need, ethnic origin and placement, 2005-2009, England.

Children looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 - Table B1

- Table B1: Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements, by gender, by age at the end of the latest period of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement, by placement, and by category of need for the years ending 31 March 2005-2009, England.

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables C1 to C3

- Table C1: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin, 2005-2009, England.
- Table C2: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by legal status on starting, 2005-2009, England.
- Table C3: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on starting, 2005-2009, England.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables D1 to D3

- Table D1: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin, 2005-2009, England.
- Table D2: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on ceasing, 2005-2009, England.

Table D3: Mothers aged 12 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by age on ceasing, age at birth of first child, category of need and ethnic origin, 2006-2009, England.

Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Tables E1 and E2

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, 2005 to 2009, England.

Table E2: Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March by number of adopters and by legal status of adopters and gender of adopters, 2007 to 2009, England.

Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2009 – Table F1

Table F1: Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, ethnic origin, final placement and qualifications, 2005-2009, England.

Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years – Table G1

Table G1: Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2001 to 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation, 2005-2009, England.

National indicator set

Table NI 58: Emotional and behavioural health of looked after children
Average score for children looked after at 31 March for whom a Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) was completed, 2009, Local Authority

Table NI 61: The percentage of children looked after adopted during the year who were placed for adoption within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption, and who remained in that placement on adoption, 2005-2009, Local Authority

Table NI 62: The percentage of children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year ending 31 March, 2005-2009, Local Authority

Table NI 63: The percentage of children looked after aged under 16 at 31 March who had been looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement, last for at least 2 years, 2005-2009, Local Authority

Table NI 66: The percentage of children looked after cases which should have been reviewed during the year ending 31 March that were reviewed on time during the year, 2006-2009, Local Authority

Table NI 147: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in suitable accommodation, 2005-2009, Local Authority

Table NI 148: The percentage of former care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April in their 17th year, who were in education, employment or training, 2005-2009, Local Authority

Additional Information

Detailed local authority data on looked after children will be released between November and December 2009 in a series of three 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>

TECHNICAL NOTES

Data Collection

1. The 2008-09 figures for looked after children 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 looked after children 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 National Indicator Set.
2. All references made to “year” relate to the standard financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March (for example 2009 should be understood as 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009).
3. The figures presented for the year ending 31 March 2009 are based on data reported by all 150 local authorities in England, with the exception of Isles of Scilly who are not required to submit a return as they do not have any looked after children within their authority.
4. 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 year’s figures have also been amended where there have been changes (see footnotes on historical changes in the relevant tables).
5. 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.
6. Guidance notes and other documents useful for the completion of the SSDA903 return can be found on the DCSF children’s statistical returns website at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/datastats1/guidelines/children/returns.shtml#clad>

Rounding Conventions

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 (with the exception of figures for National Indicators which are shown to 1 decimal place) but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, 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.

Data Changes

10. New data items collected in 2008-09 were placement provider, placement location and adoption plan information for all looked after children and information on the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) of children looked after continuously for 12 months at 31 March.
11. Placement provider information gives details on the party providing each placement. Placement location provides information on whether the placement is inside or outside the local authority responsible for providing the child's care. We will publish information on placement provider and placement location within our additional set of tables.
12. The SDQ score, as recorded by a main carer, is an indicator of the emotional and behavioural health of looked after children. Knowledge of the mental health of looked after children is important in order to improve both their outcomes and life chances. SDQ scores are published in Table NI 58 and further details around the quality of this data are included in paragraph 16 below.
13. Tables including ethnicity breakdown now include new ethnic classifications (Traveller of Irish Heritage, Gypsy/Roma, Refused, and Information not yet available) which were collected for the first time in the 2008-09 collection. They were introduced in order to bring the ethnic classification in the SSSDA903 in line with those in the Children in Need (CIN) return.
14. Some of the information previously collected via the Outcome Indicators (OC2) return for children looked after continuously for at least 12 months at 31 March was added to the SSSDA903 for the first time in 2008-09. The information collected included data on offending, health promotion checks, immunisations, dental checks, health assessments, substance misuse problem identification and intervention, and position and activity after year 11. The data collected on the SSSDA903 will be compared with the data that was collected via the OC2 return for 2007-08. Depending on the results of the comparison, we will publish the OC2 data obtained from the SSSDA903 within our additional set of tables. We are continuing to work on the project matching data collected from the SSSDA903 with the National Pupil Database, which would allow us to calculate the attainment indicators currently collected via the OC2 return. The report into this evaluation was delivered in January 2009 and raised some concerns about the matching in particular groups. We have been working through a number of recommendations made in this report and shall be evaluating the quality of the matching with the 2008-09 data once it has been received. Once this data has been analysed we shall be making a decision about whether the quality of the new matched data source is sufficient to replace the OC2 data collection for these data items. We are expecting to make a decision about the status of the 2009-10 OC2 collection by the end of 2009.

Data quality

15. Data quality issues have been identified with the new adoption plan data items, in particular lower volumes of data were submitted than expected. This data cannot be published until improvements are made to the system. We have revised the appropriate section in our guidance notes so that local authorities are clearer about the cohort of children for whom this

section should be completed. We will include stricter validation rules to ensure that more accurate data is captured in the 2009-10 data collection.

16. SDQ scores were collected for the first time in 2008-09 for children aged between 4 and 16 who had been looked after continuously for at least twelve months at the 31 March 2009. SDQ scores were only submitted for 59% of eligible children. Of the scores submitted there was a higher than expected proportion of zero scores, with 11 local authorities submitting a zero score for 10 per cent or more of their eligible cohort. The guidance notes and communications circulated to local authorities will clarify that the SDQ score and reason for no score are both compulsory in the 2009-10 collection. Stricter validation rules will also be included to identify those children for whom we expect to receive a score and any unexpected scores to ensure more accurate data is collected.
17. The 2009 data shows that there are still children subject to freeing orders even though applications for freeing orders could not be made on or after 30 December 2005 as they were replaced by placement orders. Such high numbers of children subject to freeing orders four years after they have come to an end are not expected. Further guidance on the use of freeing orders has been included in our guidance notes. Stricter validation rules for the 2009-10 collection will also be included to make sure that these figures are not as a result of data quality issues.
18. This release has reported that there were 59,400 children looked after at 31 March 2008, a slight reduction of 0.2 per cent compared with the figure of 59,500 reported in last year's publication. Such revisions to previously published data are as a result of amendments and corrections made by Local Authorities to their historical data. Records from the year ending 31 March 2005 can be amended directly by Local Authorities. Common amendments include correcting episode information and including missing records. Changes required to records prior to 2005 and corrections to dates of birth, sex or ethnicity for all historical records can only be made by DCSF.
19. We encountered problems with the calculation of NI 66 with our 2008 Statistical First Release and, as a result, were unable to publish that indicator within last year's release. We have now made a decision about how to proceed with the methodology for calculating this indicator and have included a four year time series of this indication within this Statistical First Release.

Related Publications

20. Details of statistics on looked after children published by other countries in the UK can be found below.

Scotland

Children Looked After Statistics are produced annually by the Scottish Government. The most recent data published on 26th November 2008 can be found at the following link:

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

Wales

Statistics on Children Looked After in Wales are produced annually by the Local Government Data Unit and the Welsh Assembly Government. Data for the period up to the end of March 2009 were released on 26th August 2009 and can be found at the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2009/hdw200908262/?lang=en>

Northern Ireland:

The Children Order Statistical Bulletin and Children Order Statistical Tables are produced annually by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and include information on looked after children in Northern Ireland. The most recent data published in 2nd March 2009 can be found at the following link:

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs/stats-cib-children_order_bulletin.htm

A National Statistics publication

21. 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. We want to engage with users of our statistics and we invite you to send your comments on the publication to:

Martin Hill email: martin.hill@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 0207 340 7933

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries about the figures contained in this press release should be addressed to:

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Press Office
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Statistical First Release 2008-2009

ENGLAND SUMMARY TABLES

Trends - Children looked after at 31 March

[Table A1:](#) Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table A2:](#) Children looked after at 31 March by legal status.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table A3:](#) Children looked after at 31 March by placement.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table A4:](#) Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need and ethnic origin.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table A5:](#) Mothers aged 12 years and over looked after at 31 March by age at 31 March, age at birth of first child, category of need, ethnic origin and placement.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Children looked after during the year ending 31 March

[Table B1:](#) Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements by gender, by age at the end of the latest period of care or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement, by placement, and by category of need for years ending 31 March.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Children who started to be looked after in the years ending 31 March

[Table C1:](#) Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table C2:](#) Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by legal status on starting.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table C3:](#) Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on starting.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Children who ceased to be looked after in the years ending 31 March

[Table D1:](#) Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased, category of need and ethnic origin.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table D2:](#) Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on ceasing.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table D3:](#) Mothers aged 12 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by age on ceasing, age at birth of first child, category of need and ethnic origin.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Looked after children adopted in the years ending 31 March

[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.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

[Table E2:](#) Children looked after who were adopted during the years ending 31 March by number of adopters, legal status of adopters and gender of adopters.

Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Care leavers - Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 and over during the years ending 31 March

[Table F1:](#) Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, ethnic origin, final placement and qualifications.

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

Trends - Former care leavers - 19 years old former care leavers in the year ending 31 March

[Table G1:](#) Children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2001 to April 2005 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage England

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

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage: England

rates per 10,000 children under 18 years

| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| All children looked after at 31 March¹ | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | | | | | |
| Rates per 10,000 children under 18 years | 55 | 55 | 55 | 54 | 55 | | | | | |
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children looked after at 31 March¹ | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 33,800 | 33,400 | 33,400 | 33,400 | 34,600 | 55 | 55 | 56 | 56 | 57 |
| Female | 27,300 | 26,900 | 26,600 | 26,000 | 26,300 | 45 | 45 | 44 | 44 | 43 |
| Age at 31 March (years) | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 3,200 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 1 to 4 | 8,600 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 9,000 | 9,500 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| 5 to 9 | 12,100 | 11,500 | 10,900 | 10,400 | 10,500 | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| 10 to 15 | 26,600 | 26,200 | 25,500 | 24,900 | 24,800 | 44 | 43 | 43 | 42 | 41 |
| 16 and over | 10,800 | 11,300 | 11,800 | 12,200 | 12,900 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 21 |
| Category of need³ | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 38,200 | 37,600 | 37,200 | 36,700 | 37,100 | 63 | 62 | 62 | 62 | 61 |
| Child's disability | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,200 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Parents illness or disability | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,000 | 2,800 | 2,700 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Family in acute stress | 4,400 | 4,500 | 4,800 | 4,900 | 5,300 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Family dysfunction | 6,100 | 6,100 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,800 | 10 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Low income | 110 | 110 | 110 | 130 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 5,000 | 5,100 | 5,000 | 5,100 | 5,400 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Ethnic origin | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | 45,900 | 45,000 | 44,600 | 43,800 | 44,500 | 75 | 75 | 74 | 74 | 73 |
| White Irish | 500 | 450 | 410 | 420 | 410 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other White background | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,400 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 10 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Gypsy/Roma ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 20 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| White and Black African | 450 | 450 | 470 | 480 | 480 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| White and Asian | 740 | 760 | 800 | 760 | 740 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other mixed background | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 280 | 300 | 290 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Pakistani | 570 | 610 | 650 | 670 | 670 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bangladeshi | 270 | 280 | 280 | 300 | 350 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 680 | 930 | 1,100 | 1,400 | 1,700 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Black or Black British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| African | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,300 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Any other Black background | 860 | 840 | 800 | 770 | 790 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other ethnic groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 120 | 120 | 130 | 130 | 140 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Any other ethnic group | 890 | 1,000 | 1,100 | 1,300 | 1,700 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Refused ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 30 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Information not yet available ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 180 | x | x | x | x | 0 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
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" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
4. Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009.

Table A2: Children looked after at 31 March by legal status^{1,2}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| Legal Status at 31 March | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children looked after at 31 March¹ | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Care Orders | 39,800 | 39,600 | 38,500 | 36,900 | 36,200 | 65 | 66 | 64 | 62 | 59 |
| Interim care orders | 9,000 | 9,100 | 9,300 | 8,900 | 9,800 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| Full care orders | 30,800 | 30,500 | 29,200 | 28,000 | 26,400 | 51 | 51 | 49 | 47 | 43 |
| Freed for adoption³ | 2,600 | 2,200 | 940 | 610 | 450 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Placement Order granted⁴ | x | 530 | 3,100 | 4,300 | 4,200 | x | 1 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements) | 18,400 | 17,800 | 17,300 | 17,400 | 19,800 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 32 |
| Detained for child protection | 50 | 80 | 30 | 30 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Police protection | 10 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Emergency protection orders | 40 | 50 | 20 | 10 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Under Child Assessment Order | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Youth Justice legal statuses | 180 | 170 | 200 | 180 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| On remand or committed for trial | 170 | 150 | 180 | 170 | 180 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Detained under PACE ⁵ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Supervision order | 10 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: SSDA903

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
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. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
4. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
5. 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^{1,2}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| Placement at 31 March | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children looked after at 31 March¹ | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 41,400 | 41,700 | 42,100 | 42,000 | 44,200 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 73 |
| Foster placement inside Council boundary | | | | | | | | | | |
| With relative or friend | 5,600 | 5,300 | 5,100 | 5,000 | 4,900 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| With other foster carer provided by Council | 20,300 | 19,900 | 20,000 | 19,700 | 20,400 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 |
| arranged through agency | 1,600 | 2,000 | 2,400 | 2,800 | 3,200 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Foster placement outside Council boundary | | | | | | | | | | |
| With relative or friend | 2,000 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| With other foster carer provided by Council | 5,200 | 5,400 | 5,300 | 5,200 | 6,100 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| arranged through agency ³ | 6,600 | 7,000 | 7,400 | 7,500 | 7,700 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 13 | 13 |
| Placed for adoption⁴ | 3,400 | 3,000 | 2,700 | 2,800 | 2,500 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002) | 330 | 330 | 130 | 120 | 110 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002) | | | 160 | 180 | 170 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002) | 3,100 | 2,700 | 750 | 640 | 440 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002) | | | 1,600 | 1,900 | 1,700 | | | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Placement with parents | 5,800 | 5,400 | 5,100 | 4,600 | 4,100 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| Other placement in the community | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Living independently | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Residential employment | 10 | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Secure units, children's homes and hostels | 7,000 | 6,600 | 6,500 | 6,200 | 6,200 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| Secure unit inside Council boundary | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Secure unit outside Council boundary ⁵ | 220 | 170 | 170 | 160 | 200 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations inside Council boundary | 3,100 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 2,800 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| outside Council boundary | 2,600 | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,100 | 2,200 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Homes and hostels <i>not</i> subject to Children's Homes regulations | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other residential settings | 560 | 570 | 590 | 570 | 720 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Residential care homes | 210 | 240 | 230 | 250 | 320 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care | 90 | 80 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Family centre or mother and baby unit | 150 | 120 | 140 | 100 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Young offenders institution or prison | 110 | 140 | 150 | 140 | 140 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential schools | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | 140 | 140 | 150 | 130 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| In refuge (section 51 of Children Act, 1989) | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| Whereabouts known (not in refuge) | 20 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whereabouts unknown | 120 | 120 | 120 | 90 | 90 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other placement | 110 | 120 | 90 | 80 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: SSDA903

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
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. This category includes new placement provider codes "Other Local Authority provision", "private provision" and "voluntary/third sector provision" for 2009 only.
4. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. Since 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.
5. There are currently only 18 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^{1,2}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March¹ | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 2,200 | 2,400 | 2,600 | 2,800 | 3,200 | 69 | 70 | 76 | 81 | 87 |
| Female | 990 | 1,000 | 820 | 670 | 490 | 31 | 30 | 24 | 19 | 13 |
| Age at 31 March (years) | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 16 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 38 | 34 | 34 | 33 | 33 |
| 16 and over | 2,000 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,300 | 2,500 | 62 | 66 | 66 | 67 | 67 |
| Category of need³ | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 90 | 80 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Child's disability | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Parents illness or disability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Family in acute stress | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Family dysfunction | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 10 | 10 | - | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | - | - | 0 |
| Low income | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 3,000 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 3,400 | 3,600 | 96 | 96 | 97 | 97 | 97 |
| Ethnic origin | 3,200 | 3,400 | 3,400 | 3,500 | 3,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | - | 10 | 10 | 10 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| White Irish | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Any other White background | 690 | 540 | 500 | 490 | 370 | 22 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 10 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 0 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Gypsy/Roma ⁴ | x | x | x | x | - | x | x | x | x | - |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| White and Black African | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| White and Asian | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Any other mixed background | 40 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani | 50 | 60 | 90 | 90 | 80 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Bangladeshi | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 470 | 660 | 800 | 1,000 | 1,200 | 15 | 19 | 24 | 30 | 33 |
| Black or Black British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 10 | 10 | 10 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| African | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,000 | 840 | 630 | 37 | 35 | 31 | 24 | 17 |
| Any other Black background | 100 | 120 | 90 | 80 | 80 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Other Ethnic groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 80 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Any other ethnic group | 500 | 630 | 690 | 780 | 1,100 | 16 | 19 | 20 | 22 | 30 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Refused ⁴ | x | x | x | x | - | x | x | x | x | - |
| Information not yet available ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 40 | x | x | x | x | 1 |

Source SSDA903

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
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" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
4. Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009.

Table A5: Mothers aged 12 years old and over looked after at 31 March by age at 31 March, age at birth of first child category of need, ethnic origin and placement^{1,2}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All females looked after at 31 March¹ | 27,300 | 26,900 | 26,600 | 26,000 | 26,300 | | | | | |
| All females aged 12 years old and over looked after at 31 March¹ | 13,500 | 13,600 | 13,300 | 13,000 | 13,000 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| All mothers aged 12 years old and over looked after at 31 March¹ | 290 | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Age at 31 March (years) | 290 | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 12 to 14 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 15 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 15 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 8 |
| 16 | 80 | 100 | 110 | 90 | 90 | 28 | 32 | 30 | 28 | 29 |
| 17 | 160 | 160 | 200 | 190 | 190 | 55 | 54 | 55 | 58 | 58 |
| 18 and over | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Age at birth of first child (years)³ | x | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | x | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 12 to 14 | x | 50 | 50 | 40 | 40 | x | 17 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| 15 | x | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | x | 31 | 26 | 28 | 27 |
| 16 | x | 100 | 110 | 120 | 120 | x | 33 | 30 | 39 | 36 |
| 17 | x | 60 | 60 | 60 | 70 | x | 19 | 16 | 19 | 22 |
| 18 and over | x | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | x | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Birth date not reported | x | - | 50 | 0 | - | x | - | 14 | 0 | - |
| Category of need⁴ | 290 | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 140 | 150 | 180 | 170 | 160 | 48 | 52 | 51 | 53 | 52 |
| Child's disability | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 |
| Parents illness or disability | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| Family in acute stress | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 8 |
| Family dysfunction | 50 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 60 | 17 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 18 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Low income | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | - | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 50 | 50 | 60 | 40 | 50 | 16 | 15 | 18 | 13 | 15 |
| Ethnic origin | 290 | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | 190 | 180 | 220 | 190 | 210 | 63 | 61 | 61 | 60 | 65 |
| Mixed | 20 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| Asian or Asian British | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Black or Black British | 70 | 80 | 90 | 70 | 60 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 23 | 19 |
| Other Ethnic groups | 10 | - | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2 | - | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Placement | 290 | 300 | 360 | 320 | 320 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 110 | 130 | 140 | 140 | 160 | 37 | 45 | 39 | 45 | 51 |
| Placed for adoption | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placed with parents | 20 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| Placed in the community | 80 | 80 | 120 | 80 | 80 | 27 | 27 | 32 | 26 | 26 |
| Secure units, children's homes and hostels | 60 | 40 | 60 | 50 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 12 |
| Other residential settings | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Residential schools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | - | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Other placement | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Source: SSDA903

1. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
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. Data on the first child's date of birth started to be collected in 2005-06.
4. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.

Table B1: Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements by gender, by age at the end of the latest period of care or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement, by placement, and by category of need for years ending 31 March^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements^{1,2,3} | 11,800 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 11,000 | 10,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 11,800 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 11,000 | 10,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 7,600 | 7,400 | 7,300 | 7,200 | 6,800 | 64 | 65 | 64 | 65 | 65 |
| Female | 4,200 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 3,800 | 3,600 | 36 | 35 | 36 | 35 | 35 |
| Age (years)⁴ | 11,800 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 11,000 | 10,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 80 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 50 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 to 4 | 410 | 350 | 320 | 270 | 230 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 5 to 9 | 2,200 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 19 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| 10 to 15 | 6,500 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,100 | 5,700 | 55 | 56 | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| 16 and over | 2,600 | 2,700 | 2,800 | 2,900 | 2,900 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 28 |
| Average age (yrs : months) | 12:8 | 12:11 | 13:1 | 13:2 | 13:4 | | | | | |
| Placement⁵ | 11,800 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 11,000 | 10,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 5,000 | 4,600 | 4,300 | 4,000 | 3,600 | 42 | 40 | 38 | 36 | 34 |
| Placed for adoption | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Placement with parents | 80 | 100 | 80 | 100 | 90 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other placement in the community | - | 10 | 0 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Secure units, children's homes and hostels | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,000 | 5,800 | 5,700 | 49 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 55 |
| Other residential settings | 620 | 580 | 730 | 840 | 780 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| Residential schools | 160 | 170 | 190 | 220 | 250 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other placement | 110 | 120 | 100 | 20 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Category of need^{5,6} | 11,800 | 11,400 | 11,400 | 11,000 | 10,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 610 | 550 | 580 | 550 | 550 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Child's disability | 9,300 | 9,100 | 9,100 | 8,900 | 8,600 | 79 | 80 | 80 | 81 | 82 |
| Parents illness or disability | 370 | 340 | 290 | 230 | 200 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Family in acute stress | 850 | 800 | 740 | 760 | 640 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Family dysfunction | 480 | 450 | 450 | 410 | 390 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 100 | 110 | 90 | 50 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Low income | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 60 | 70 | 60 | 70 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Source: SSDA903

1. Children looked after at any time during the year.
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. Children looked after under one or more agreed series of short term placements at any time during the years ending 31 March. Some will also have been looked after under other legal statuses during the year, and will therefore be included in other tables.
4. Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement.
5. Placement and category of need relate to child's latest episode of care during the year.
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 C1: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on starting, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children who started to be looked after^{1,2} | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 13,300 | 13,300 | 13,200 | 12,800 | 14,300 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 55 | 56 |
| Female | 11,600 | 11,300 | 10,800 | 10,500 | 11,100 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 45 | 44 |
| Age on starting (years) | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,700 | 17 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| 1 to 4 | 4,500 | 4,300 | 4,400 | 4,300 | 4,800 | 18 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| 5 to 9 | 4,300 | 4,100 | 3,900 | 3,500 | 4,000 | 17 | 16 | 16 | 15 | 16 |
| 10 to 15 | 10,100 | 9,800 | 9,300 | 8,700 | 9,100 | 40 | 40 | 39 | 38 | 36 |
| 16 and over | 1,700 | 2,100 | 2,000 | 2,300 | 2,700 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| Category of need⁴ | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 12,100 | 11,500 | 11,400 | 11,300 | 12,500 | 48 | 47 | 48 | 48 | 49 |
| Child's disability | 790 | 830 | 740 | 690 | 660 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Parents illness or disability | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Family in acute stress | 2,900 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,800 | 12 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| Family dysfunction | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 3,100 | 3,600 | 13 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 14 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Low income | 80 | 70 | 80 | 60 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 3,000 | 3,400 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,500 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 14 |
| Ethnic origin | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | 17,400 | 16,500 | 16,100 | 15,300 | 16,100 | 70 | 67 | 67 | 66 | 64 |
| White Irish | 160 | 150 | 140 | 130 | 130 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other White background | 840 | 800 | 860 | 890 | 720 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage ⁵ | x | x | x | x | 10 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Gypsy/Roma ⁵ | x | x | x | x | 20 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | 690 | 690 | 620 | 590 | 590 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| White and Black African | 200 | 200 | 190 | 190 | 210 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| White and Asian | 270 | 280 | 310 | 250 | 310 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other mixed background | 770 | 770 | 730 | 750 | 790 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 120 | 160 | 140 | 170 | 170 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani | 350 | 300 | 340 | 320 | 400 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bangladeshi | 170 | 160 | 170 | 200 | 240 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 560 | 820 | 820 | 1,000 | 1,300 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Black or Black British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 700 | 720 | 630 | 620 | 640 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| African | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Any other Black background | 440 | 450 | 430 | 440 | 440 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other ethnic groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 70 | 120 | 160 | 140 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other ethnic group | 680 | 790 | 880 | 960 | 1,400 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Refused ⁵ | x | x | x | x | 40 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Information not yet available ⁵ | x | x | x | x | 280 | x | x | x | x | 1 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. It is the most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
5. Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009.

Table C2: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by legal status on starting^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| Legal Status on starting | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children who started to be looked after^{1,2} | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Care Order | 4,200 | 4,300 | 4,800 | 4,400 | 4,300 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 19 | 17 |
| Interim care order | 4,100 | 4,200 | 4,700 | 4,300 | 4,200 | 16 | 17 | 19 | 18 | 17 |
| Full care order | 180 | 130 | 150 | 150 | 130 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Freed for adoption⁴ | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placement Order granted⁵ | 0 | - | 10 | 10 | 20 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements) | 16,600 | 16,200 | 15,600 | 15,100 | 16,700 | 67 | 66 | 65 | 65 | 66 |
| Detained for child protection | 3,500 | 3,400 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,800 | 14 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 15 |
| Police protection | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,400 | 3,000 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 |
| Emergency protection order | 1,400 | 1,200 | 710 | 580 | 740 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Under child assessment order | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Youth Justice legal statuses | 560 | 660 | 690 | 690 | 540 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| On remand or committed for trial | 520 | 610 | 660 | 640 | 510 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Detained under PACE ⁶ | 30 | 30 | 20 | 30 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Supervision order | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. 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. 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 by placement^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Placement on starting | | | | | | | | | | |
| All Children who started to be looked after^{1,2,3} | 25,000 | 24,600 | 24,000 | 23,300 | 25,400 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 18,900 | 18,200 | 17,800 | 17,500 | 19,300 | 76 | 74 | 74 | 75 | 76 |
| Foster placement inside LA boundary | | | | | | | | | | |
| With relative or friend | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| With other foster carer provided by LA | 12,500 | 11,900 | 11,500 | 11,000 | 11,400 | 50 | 48 | 48 | 47 | 45 |
| arranged through agency | 630 | 770 | 940 | 1,100 | 1,200 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Foster placements outside LA boundary | | | | | | | | | | |
| With relative or friend | 380 | 360 | 290 | 350 | 400 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| With other foster carer provided by LA | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,600 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 10 |
| arranged through agency ⁴ | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 2,100 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| Placed for adoption⁵ | 10 | 10 | 10 | - | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002) | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - | - | 0 | - |
| 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) | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Placement with parents | 1,500 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| Other placements in the community | 480 | 730 | 740 | 730 | 910 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Living independently | 480 | 730 | 740 | 730 | 910 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Residential employment | - | 0 | - | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | 0 | - |
| Secure units, homes and hostels | 3,100 | 3,200 | 3,000 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| Secure unit inside LA boundary | 40 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Secure unit outside LA boundary ⁶ | 110 | 170 | 200 | 180 | 140 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations | | | | | | | | | | |
| inside LA boundary | 2,000 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| outside LA boundary | 530 | 490 | 420 | 410 | 480 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations | 410 | 480 | 440 | 530 | 580 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other residential settings | 640 | 650 | 650 | 680 | 720 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Residential care homes | 80 | 80 | 70 | 100 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care | 410 | 440 | 420 | 430 | 420 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Family centre or mother and baby unit | 130 | 110 | 130 | 110 | 150 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Youth Treatment Centres | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Young offenders institution or prison | 10 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Residential Schools | 220 | 200 | 160 | 190 | 170 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | 30 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| In refuge (S51 CA 1989) | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whereabouts known (not in refuge) | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - |
| Whereabouts unknown | 30 | 20 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other placement | 110 | 170 | 120 | 110 | 120 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. This category includes new placement provider codes "Other Local Authority provision", "private provision" and "voluntary/third sector provision" for 2009 only.
5. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. Since 2006-07 placement also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.
6. There are currently only 18 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 by gender, age on ceasing, reason episode ceased category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All looked after children who ceased to be looked after^{1,2} | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 13,900 | 14,000 | 13,600 | 13,100 | 13,500 | 54 | 54 | 54 | 54 | 55 |
| Female | 12,100 | 12,000 | 11,400 | 11,300 | 11,200 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 45 |
| Age on ceasing (years) | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 1 to 4 | 5,600 | 5,500 | 5,400 | 5,500 | 5,900 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 22 | 24 |
| 5 to 9 | 4,100 | 3,800 | 3,600 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 13 |
| 10 to 15 | 7,300 | 6,900 | 6,500 | 5,900 | 5,600 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 23 |
| 16 and over | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 29 | 32 | 33 | 35 | 35 |
| Reason episode ceased | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Adopted - application unopposed ⁴ | 3,800 | 3,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 20 | 14 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Adopted - consent dispensed with ⁴ | | | 1,600 | 1,400 | 1,500 | | | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Died | 70 | 60 | 70 | 50 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Care taken by another LA | 230 | 240 | 240 | 190 | 170 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Returned home to live with parents or relatives | 12,100 | 11,000 | 10,200 | 9,500 | 9,400 | 47 | 42 | 41 | 39 | 38 |
| Residence order granted | x | 930 | 1,000 | 910 | 920 | x | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Special guardianship order made to former foster carers ⁵ | | | 500 | 770 | 800 | | | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Special guardianship order made to carers other than former foster carers ⁵ | x | 70 | 260 | 360 | 420 | x | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Moved into independent living (with supportive accommodation) | 2,200 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Moved into independent living (with no formalised support) | 900 | 960 | 930 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Transferred to residential care funded by adult social services | 460 | 470 | 500 | 480 | 530 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Sentenced to custody ⁶ | x | x | 250 | 360 | 350 | x | x | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Care ceased for any other reason | 6,200 | 6,100 | 5,300 | 5,200 | 5,700 | 24 | 24 | 21 | 21 | 23 |
| Category of need⁷ | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 12,500 | 12,400 | 12,000 | 12,100 | 12,500 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 50 | 51 |
| Child's disability | 790 | 850 | 800 | 710 | 760 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Parents illness or disability | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,400 | 1,300 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |
| Family in acute stress | 2,900 | 2,800 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Family dysfunction | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,200 | 1,100 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Low income | 80 | 70 | 80 | 50 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Absent parenting | 3,000 | 3,300 | 3,300 | 3,100 | 3,200 | 11 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Ethnic origin | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | 18,400 | 17,900 | 17,000 | 16,500 | 16,100 | 71 | 69 | 68 | 67 | 65 |
| White Irish | 200 | 200 | 180 | 130 | 150 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other White background | 1,000 | 980 | 940 | 850 | 820 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Traveller of Irish Heritage ⁸ | x | x | x | x | 10 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Gypsy/Roma ⁸ | x | x | x | x | 10 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | 730 | 730 | 620 | 660 | 680 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| White and Black African | 190 | 200 | 180 | 190 | 230 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| White and Asian | 280 | 270 | 290 | 290 | 340 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other mixed background | 730 | 810 | 760 | 810 | 740 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 150 | 150 | 150 | 160 | 170 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani | 290 | 270 | 310 | 310 | 410 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Bangladeshi | 130 | 150 | 170 | 180 | 210 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 360 | 580 | 680 | 760 | 1,000 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Black or Black British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 760 | 720 | 670 | 700 | 700 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| African | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Any other Black background | 440 | 480 | 480 | 480 | 430 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Other Ethnic groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 70 | 120 | 160 | 130 | 120 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Any other ethnic group | 650 | 670 | 810 | 810 | 1,000 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Refused ⁸ | x | x | x | x | 10 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Information not yet available ⁸ | x | x | x | x | 120 | x | x | x | x | 0 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. Prior to 2006-07, the number of children looked after who were adopted could not be disaggregated.
5. 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.
6. 'Sentenced to custody' was first collected in 2007.
7. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
8. Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009.

Table D2: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on ceasing^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| Placement on ceasing | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All looked after children who ceased to be looked after^{1,2} | 26,000 | 25,900 | 25,000 | 24,400 | 24,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 13,600 | 13,000 | 12,800 | 12,700 | 12,900 | 52 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 |
| Foster placement inside Council boundary | | | | | | | | | | |
| With relative or friend | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| With other foster carer provided by Council arranged through agency | 8,400 | 7,800 | 7,300 | 7,000 | 6,800 | 32 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 28 |
| Foster placements outside LA boundary | 430 | 490 | 630 | 750 | 770 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| With relative or friend | 480 | 550 | 580 | 550 | 580 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| With other foster carer provided by Council arranged through agency ⁴ | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Foster placements outside LA boundary | 1,200 | 1,100 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Placed for adoption⁵ | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,100 | 3,300 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002) | | | 220 | 160 | 150 | | | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002) | 310 | 410 | 210 | 250 | 280 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002) | | | 1,200 | 740 | 680 | | | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002) | 3,500 | 3,300 | 1,700 | 2,000 | 2,200 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 8 | 9 |
| Placement with parents | 2,500 | 2,600 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Other placements in the community | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2,200 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Living independently | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2,200 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Residential employment | - | 10 | - | - | - | - | 0 | - | - | - |
| Secure units, children's homes and hostels | 3,700 | 4,000 | 3,600 | 3,400 | 3,300 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| Secure unit inside Council boundary | 50 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Secure unit outside Council boundary ⁶ | 160 | 220 | 230 | 210 | 180 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations | | | | | | | | | | |
| inside Council boundary | 1,800 | 2,000 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 |
| outside Council boundary | 730 | 650 | 630 | 620 | 600 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations | 900 | 1,100 | 1,000 | 980 | 940 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Other residential settings | 320 | 310 | 310 | 340 | 340 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Residential care homes | 80 | 80 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care | 50 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Family centre or mother and baby unit | 70 | 70 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Young offenders institution or prison | 110 | 90 | 120 | 130 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Residential schools | 270 | 230 | 270 | 220 | 250 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | 170 | 210 | 180 | 200 | 170 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| In refuge (S51 CA 1989) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Whereabouts known (not in refuge) | 50 | 30 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whereabouts unknown | 120 | 180 | 150 | 160 | 120 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Other placement | 120 | 140 | 90 | 90 | 80 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Source: SSSA 903

1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. This category includes new placement provider codes "Other Local Authority provision", "private provision" and "voluntary/third sector provision" for 2009 only.
5. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. Since 2006-07 placements were also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.
6. There are currently only 18 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

Table D3: Mothers aged 12 years old and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by age on ceasing, age at birth of first child, category of need and ethnic origin^{1,2,3,4}
Years ending 31 March 2006 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | percentages | | | |
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All females who ceased to be looked after^{1,2} | 12,000 | 11,400 | 11,300 | 11,200 | | | | |
| All mothers aged 12 and over who ceased to be looked after^{1,2} | 400 | 380 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Age on ceasing (years) | 400 | 380 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 12 to 14 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 16 | 60 | 60 | 50 | 50 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 15 |
| 17 | 70 | 60 | 50 | 60 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 17 |
| 18 and over | 230 | 220 | 220 | 210 | 59 | 58 | 62 | 62 |
| Age at birth of first child (years) | 400 | 380 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 12 to 14 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 30 | 12 | 9 | 11 | 10 |
| 15 | 70 | 80 | 80 | 70 | 18 | 20 | 23 | 21 |
| 16 | 120 | 110 | 120 | 100 | 29 | 28 | 33 | 31 |
| 17 | 130 | 130 | 110 | 120 | 33 | 34 | 32 | 37 |
| 18 and over | 30 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Birth date not reported | 0 | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Category of need⁵ | 400 | 380 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 170 | 170 | 160 | 170 | 42 | 46 | 45 | 50 |
| Child's disability | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Parents illness or disability | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Family in acute stress | 50 | 50 | 30 | 40 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 11 |
| Family dysfunction | 70 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 16 | 16 | 18 | 18 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 20 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Low income | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Absent parenting | 80 | 70 | 70 | 50 | 20 | 18 | 20 | 14 |
| Ethnic origin | 400 | 380 | 350 | 330 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | 260 | 240 | 230 | 210 | 65 | 64 | 66 | 63 |
| Mixed | 30 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 10 |
| Asian or Asian British | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Black or Black British | 100 | 90 | 70 | 70 | 24 | 23 | 19 | 20 |
| Other Ethnic groups | 10 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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 mothers aged 12 years old and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March started to be collected in 2005-06.
5. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire 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
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All looked after children | 61,000 | 60,300 | 60,000 | 59,400 | 60,900 | | | | | |
| All Children looked after adopted | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,700 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 51 | 51 | 50 | 51 | 51 |
| Female | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 49 | 49 | 50 | 49 | 49 |
| Age at adoption (years) | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 210 | 200 | 150 | 110 | 80 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 to 4 | 2,300 | 2,400 | 2,100 | 2,200 | 2,300 | 62 | 64 | 64 | 70 | 72 |
| 5 to 9 | 1,100 | 950 | 880 | 690 | 760 | 28 | 26 | 26 | 22 | 23 |
| 10 to 15 | 160 | 180 | 150 | 120 | 80 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 16 and over | 20 | 20 | 10 | 20 | - | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | - |
| Average age (yrs : months) | 4:2 | 4:1 | 4:2 | 3:11 | 3:9 | | | | | |
| Ethnic origin | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | 3,300 | 3,200 | 2,800 | 2,600 | 2,700 | 86 | 85 | 85 | 83 | 82 |
| Mixed | 350 | 380 | 340 | 330 | 410 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 12 |
| Asian or Asian British | 50 | 50 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Black or Black British | 80 | 90 | 90 | 110 | 90 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other ethnic groups | 40 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Category of need² | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Abuse or neglect | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,500 | 2,300 | 2,400 | 74 | 74 | 74 | 73 | 73 |
| Child's disability | 30 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Parents illness or disability | 190 | 180 | 160 | 170 | 130 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Family in acute stress | 220 | 230 | 170 | 220 | 250 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 8 |
| Family dysfunction | 340 | 310 | 310 | 310 | 350 | 9 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour | 10 | 10 | 10 | - | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| Low income | - | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | - | - |
| Absent parenting | 190 | 190 | 190 | 130 | 130 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| Final legal status | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Freed for adoption ³ | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,200 | 290 | 100 | 49 | 51 | 37 | 9 | 3 |
| Placement Order ⁴ | x | 20 | 650 | 2,000 | 2,600 | x | 0 | 19 | 63 | 80 |
| Care order | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,200 | 670 | 340 | 42 | 41 | 36 | 21 | 10 |
| Voluntary agreement (S20) | 340 | 280 | 230 | 220 | 200 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Duration of final period of care⁵ | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 year | 260 | 240 | 170 | 130 | 100 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 1 year to under 2 years | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 36 | 38 | 36 | 39 | 37 |
| 2 years to under 3 years | 1,100 | 1,100 | 980 | 1,100 | 1,200 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 34 | 36 |
| 3 years and over | 1,000 | 950 | 960 | 740 | 790 | 27 | 26 | 29 | 23 | 24 |
| Average duration (yrs : mths) | 2:7 | 2:7 | 2:8 | 2:7 | 2:6 | | | | | |
| Age on starting final period of care (years)⁵ | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Under 1 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 61 | 62 |
| 1 | 470 | 470 | 370 | 380 | 400 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 12 | 12 |
| 2 | 400 | 340 | 360 | 300 | 320 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 9 | 10 |
| 3 | 300 | 270 | 260 | 200 | 220 | 8 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 |
| 4 and over | 500 | 510 | 420 | 340 | 300 | 13 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 9 |
| Average age (yrs : mths) | 1:7 | 1:7 | 1:6 | 1:4 | 1:3 | | | | | |

Source: SSDA 903

1. 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.
2. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
3. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
4. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
5. "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 years ending 31 March by number of adopters, legal status of adopters and by gender of adopters¹
Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | percentages | | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Number of adopters | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 1 person | 290 | 270 | 270 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 persons | 3,000 | 2,900 | 3,000 | 91 | 91 | 92 |
| Legal status and gender of adopters | 3,300 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Single adopter | 290 | 270 | 270 | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| Single male adopter | 20 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Single female adopter | 280 | 260 | 260 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Same sex couple not in civil partnership | 70 | 50 | 50 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Adopting couple are both male | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Adopting couple are both female | 60 | 30 | 30 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Different sex unmarried couple | 150 | 140 | 190 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Civil partnership couple | 20 | 30 | 80 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Adopting couple are both male | 10 | - | 40 | 0 | - | 1 |
| Adopting couple are both female | 10 | 20 | 40 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Married couple | 2,800 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 84 | 84 | 82 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. 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.

Table F1: Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by gender, age on ceasing, ethnic origin, final placement and qualifications^{1,2,3}
Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009
Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| All Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after^{1,2,3} | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Gender | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 4,300 | 4,800 | 4,700 | 4,800 | 5,200 | 57 | 58 | 58 | 57 | 61 |
| Female | 3,300 | 3,500 | 3,500 | 3,600 | 3,400 | 43 | 42 | 42 | 43 | 39 |
| Age on ceasing (years) | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 16 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,100 | 2,000 | 1,800 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 21 |
| 17 | 1,400 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,500 | 18 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 17 |
| 18th birthday | 4,000 | 4,400 | 4,700 | 5,000 | 5,300 | 52 | 54 | 57 | 60 | 61 |
| Older than 18th birthday | 50 | 80 | 40 | 60 | 60 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Ethnic origin | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| White | | | | | | | | | | |
| White British | 4,800 | 5,000 | 4,900 | 5,200 | 5,000 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 61 | 58 |
| White Irish | 60 | 70 | 50 | 40 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Any other White background | 560 | 490 | 420 | 360 | 350 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Traveller of Irish heritage ⁴ | x | x | x | x | - | x | x | x | x | - |
| Gypsy/Roma ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 0 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Mixed | | | | | | | | | | |
| White and Black Caribbean | 140 | 170 | 150 | 200 | 200 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| White and Black African | 60 | 50 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| White and Asian | 50 | 50 | 50 | 70 | 80 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other mixed background | 180 | 200 | 200 | 180 | 180 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Asian or Asian British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indian | 40 | 50 | 50 | 70 | 60 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pakistani | 50 | 60 | 90 | 80 | 120 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Bangladeshi | 30 | 40 | 30 | 30 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Any other Asian background | 170 | 350 | 420 | 490 | 690 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Black or Black British | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribbean | 240 | 240 | 200 | 210 | 220 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| African | 730 | 820 | 830 | 760 | 730 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 9 | 8 |
| Any other Black background | 120 | 160 | 170 | 150 | 130 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Other Ethnic groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chinese | 50 | 90 | 120 | 100 | 90 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Any other ethnic group | 290 | 370 | 460 | 480 | 670 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 8 |
| Refused ⁴ | x | x | x | x | - | x | x | x | x | - |
| Information not yet available ⁴ | x | x | x | x | 20 | x | x | x | x | 0 |
| Final placement | 7,600 | 8,200 | 8,200 | 8,400 | 8,700 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Foster placements | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3,300 | 3,200 | 39 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 37 |
| Placed for adoption | 20 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Placed with parents | 460 | 540 | 480 | 500 | 540 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Other placements in the community | 1,500 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 2,200 | 20 | 21 | 23 | 23 | 25 |
| Secure units, children's homes and hostels | 2,100 | 2,400 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 25 |
| Other residential settings | 190 | 180 | 180 | 200 | 200 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Residential schools | 190 | 150 | 190 | 170 | 190 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement | 90 | 130 | 110 | 130 | 100 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other placement | 70 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Qualifications | | | | | | | | | | |
| At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ | 3,200 | 3,500 | 3,600 | 3,900 | 3,800 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 46 | 44 |
| At least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C | 460 | 530 | 540 | 610 | 620 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 |

Source: SSDA 903

1. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. 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. Ethnic origin classification collected for the first time in 2009

Table G1: Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2002, 1 April 2003, 1 April 2004, 1 April 2005 and 1 April 2006 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation^{1,2}

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2009

Coverage: England

| | numbers and percentages | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | numbers | | | | | percentages | | | | |
| | 2005 ³ | 2006 ⁴ | 2007 ⁵ | 2008 ⁶ | 2009 ⁷ | 2005 ³ | 2006 ⁴ | 2007 ⁵ | 2008 ⁶ | 2009 ⁷ |
| All children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2002 to 2006 then aged 16 years old¹ | 5,200 | 5,300 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Unaccompanied asylum seeking children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2002 to 2006 then aged 16 years old | 180 | 140 | 220 | 270 | 370 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Gender | 5,200 | 5,300 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Male | 2,900 | 3,000 | 3,200 | 3,300 | 3,400 | 56 | 57 | 56 | 57 | 56 |
| Female | 2,300 | 2,300 | 2,600 | 2,500 | 2,700 | 44 | 43 | 44 | 43 | 44 |
| Activity⁸ | 5,200 | 5,300 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| In higher education i.e. studies beyond A level | 310 | 340 | 350 | 390 | 420 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Full time | x | x | 340 | 370 | 400 | x | x | 6 | 6 | 7 |
| Part time | x | x | 10 | 20 | 20 | x | x | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| In education other than higher education | 960 | 1,200 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 19 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 26 |
| Full time | x | x | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,400 | x | x | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| Part time | x | x | 180 | 180 | 190 | x | x | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| In training or employment | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 34 | 34 | 31 | 29 | 30 |
| Full time | x | x | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | x | x | 22 | 21 | 21 |
| Part time | x | x | 470 | 510 | 540 | x | x | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Not in education, training or employment owing to illness or disability | 260 | 240 | 290 | 270 | 300 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| Not in education, training or employment owing to other reasons | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,400 | 1,400 | 1,600 | 26 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 26 |
| Not in touch | 560 | 380 | 450 | 380 | 340 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 |
| Accommodation⁹ | 5,200 | 5,300 | 5,800 | 5,800 | 6,100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| With parents or relatives | 690 | 700 | 720 | 700 | 780 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| Community home | 230 | 260 | 250 | 280 | 260 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Semi-independent, transitional accommodation | 420 | 420 | 540 | 550 | 550 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Supported lodgings | 360 | 410 | 450 | 520 | 570 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Ordinary lodgings | 190 | 250 | 270 | 280 | 260 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Foyers | 80 | 90 | 60 | 90 | 80 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Independent living | 2,200 | 2,300 | 2,500 | 2,400 | 2,600 | 42 | 43 | 43 | 42 | 43 |
| Emergency accommodation | 30 | 30 | 40 | 40 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bed and breakfast | 50 | 40 | 40 | 50 | 50 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| In custody | 150 | 160 | 180 | 180 | 160 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Other accommodation | 240 | 270 | 270 | 340 | 370 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Not in touch | 560 | 380 | 450 | 380 | 340 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 |

Source: SSSA 903

1. Figures exclude children who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.
2. 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. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2002 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
4. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
5. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
6. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
7. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2006 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
8. Full and part time activity was collected separately from 2006-07.
9. This includes accommodation judged both suitable and unsuitable.