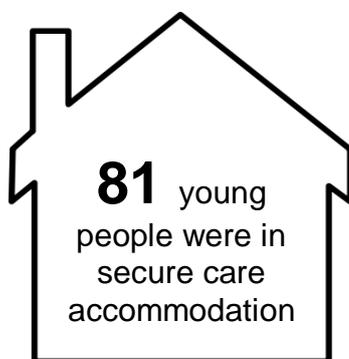
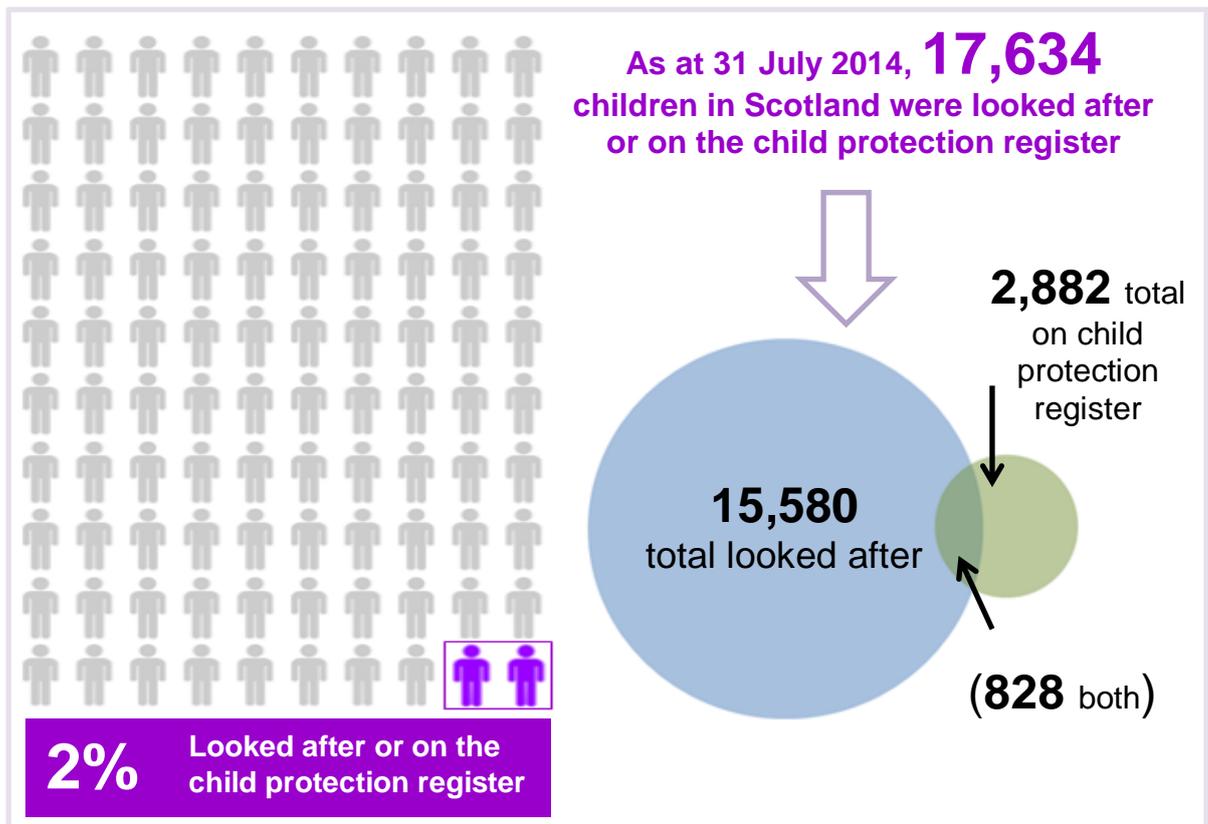


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## Children's Social Work Statistics Scotland, 2013-14



### Comparisons with 2013:

- 3%** decrease in number of children looked after
- 9%** increase in number of children on child protection register
- 3** fewer residents, on average, during the year in secure care accommodation

## What are the general trends?

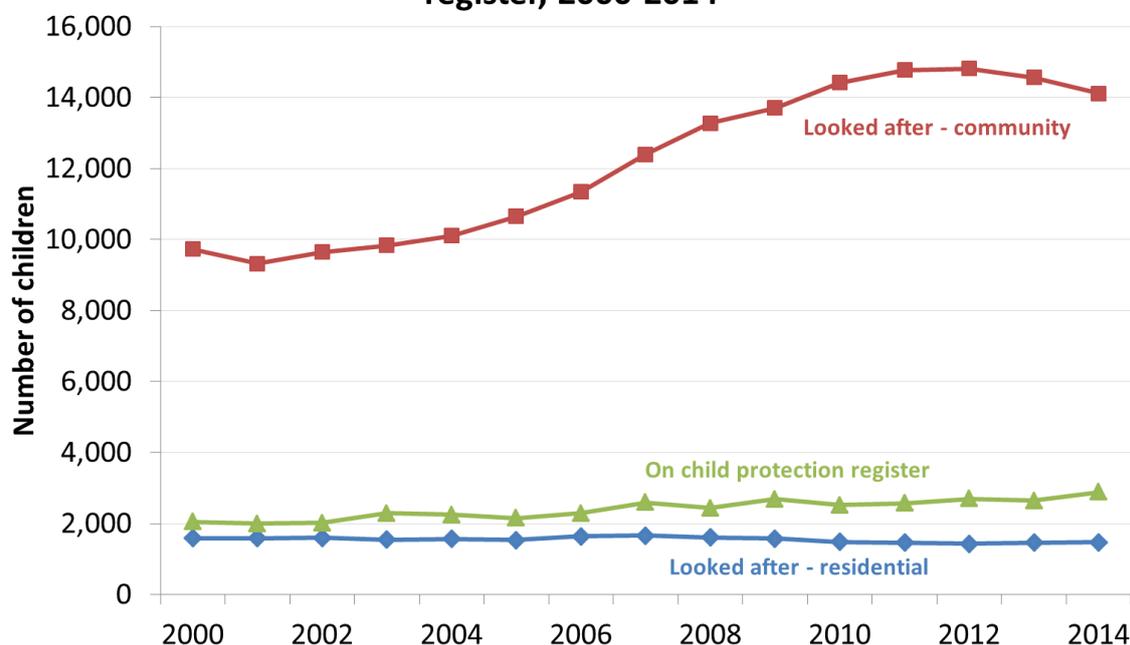
### Children looked after trend

There was a 49 per cent rise in the number of children looked after between 2001 (the year of the lowest number of being looked after this century) and 2012 to a peak of 16,248, with numbers declining in the last two years to 15,580 in 2014. The trend is mostly driven by changes in children looked after in community placements (Chart 1). Children who are looked after by local authorities can be accommodated in a community placement (e.g. at home with parents, with family/friends or foster carers/prospective adopters) or a residential placement (e.g. in a local authority or voluntary home, in a residential school or secure care accommodation).

### Child protection trend

Since 2000 there has also been a less steep but steady 41 per cent increase in the number of children on the child protection register, with 2014 seeing the largest year-on-year increase since 2009. Of the 2,882 children who were on the child protection register at 31 July 2014, almost one in three (29 per cent) were also looked after at that point, similar to last year.

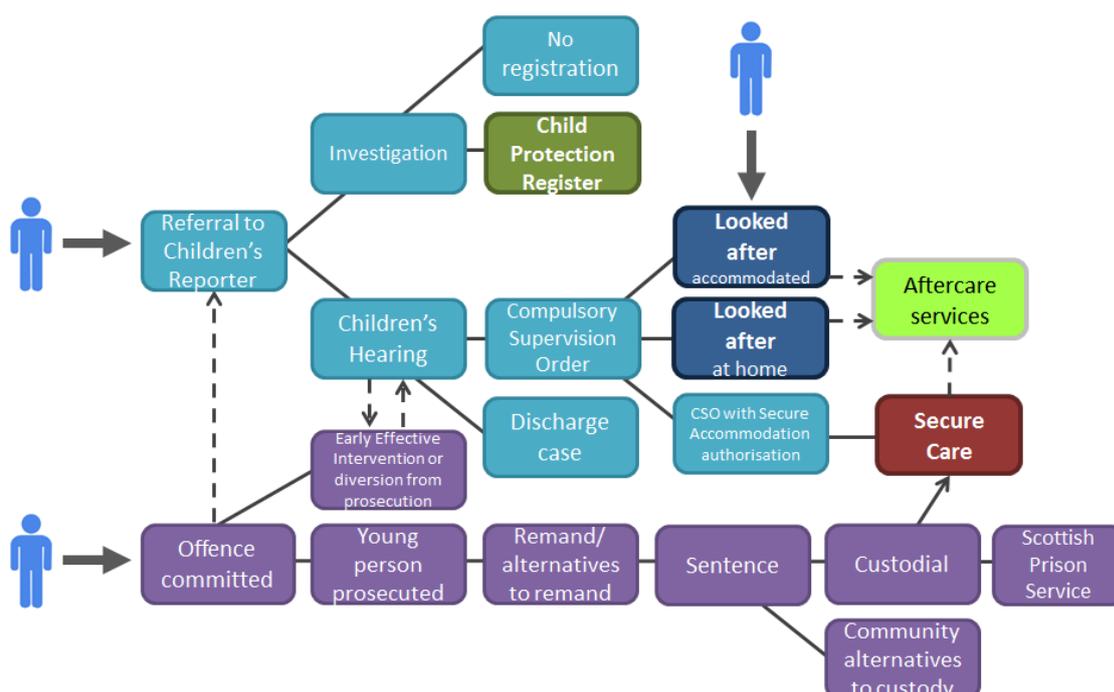
**Chart 1: Children looked after or on the child protection register, 2000-2014**



Across Scotland, 17.8 per thousand under 18s are looked after or on the child protection register, but there is variation across local authorities. The rate is highest in Glasgow (with 36.6 children per 1,000 under 18s) and lowest in Aberdeenshire, (with 8.7 per children per 1,000 under 18s). In general rates are higher in the West of Scotland and urban areas.

## How do children come to be counted in these figures?

There are a number of routes by which a child may come to be looked after, on the child protection register or in secure care. Children may be referred to the Children’s Reporter, become voluntarily looked after or come in through the criminal justice system. The diagram below gives a high-level illustration of the main routes by which a child can become looked after, on the child protection register or in secure care. See background note 1.1 for more information.

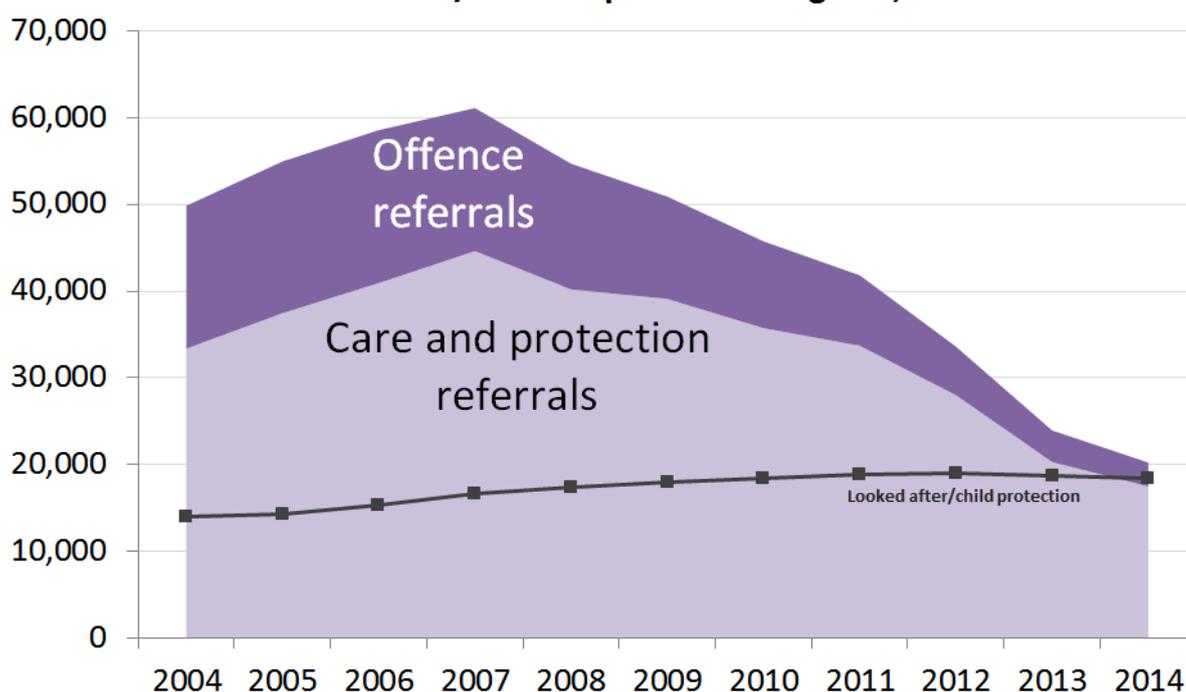


## What are the trends in other children’s social work data?

Between 2004 to 2014 – a period in which the number of children who are looked after or on the child protection register has *increased* by 36 per cent – the number of children and young people referred to the Reporter *decreased* by close to 60 per cent<sup>1</sup>. The decrease is the result of falls in both the number of offence and non-offence referrals. Offence referrals now only account for 14 per cent all referrals, down from 33 per cent in 2003/04. As with the looked after and child protection Hearing statistics, younger children make up an increasing proportion of referrals.

<sup>1</sup> SCRA Official Statistics  
[http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/SCRA%20Online%20Statistics%202013-14.pdf](http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms_resources/SCRA%20Online%20Statistics%202013-14.pdf)

**Chart 2: Children Referred to the Children's Reporter and numbers looked after/on child protection register, 2004-2014**



### **How do the SCRA figures compare with the findings in this publication?**

The fall in referrals to the Reporter is likely due to pre-referral screening across many areas of the country leading to a reduction in referrals received by the Reporter where compulsory measures are not deemed necessary and a proportionate increase in referrals where they are deemed necessary.

The historic increase in the number of children who are looked after or on the child protection register at a time when referrals are falling means that the smaller number of referrals being received by the Reporter are potentially of a more complex nature and are more likely to end up being looked after or on the child protection register than in previous years. The continuing decline in numbers of children who are both looked after and on the child protection register seen since 2012 is likely to be linked to the fall in referrals now starting to feed through to the later stages of the social work system.

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## Further information

The information in this publication plus **additional tables** on looked after children, child protection and secure care accommodation are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Children Looked After

	The total number of looked after children has fallen for the second year in a row
	More children continue to be looked after in <b>foster care</b> than any other individual placement type
	Children continue to start and cease to be looked after at younger ages

This section presents data on children looked after during the period from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. This will be referred to as 2014 for ease of reporting (with 2012-13 referred to as 2013 etc.). Local authorities have a responsibility to provide support to certain vulnerable young people, known as 'looked after children'. A young person may become looked after for a number of reasons, including neglect, abuse, complex disabilities which require specialist care, or involvement in the youth justice system.

At 31 July 2014, there were 15,580 looked after children – a decrease of 452 (or 3 per cent) from 2013. This is the second consecutive year the numbers have decreased following a peak of 16,248 in 2012, although this is still higher than any year in the last 30 years. The decrease in numbers of looked after children is due to a reduction in numbers of children starting to be looked after, which have also seen a decrease for the second year in a row.

There are several types of placements that looked after children or young people could be placed in, including at home (where a child is subject to a Supervision Requirement and continues to live in their normal place of residence), foster care, residential unit or school, a secure unit or a kinship placement (where they are placed with friends or relatives).

**Chart 3: Children looked after per 1,000 children under 18 by type of accommodation, 1987-2014**

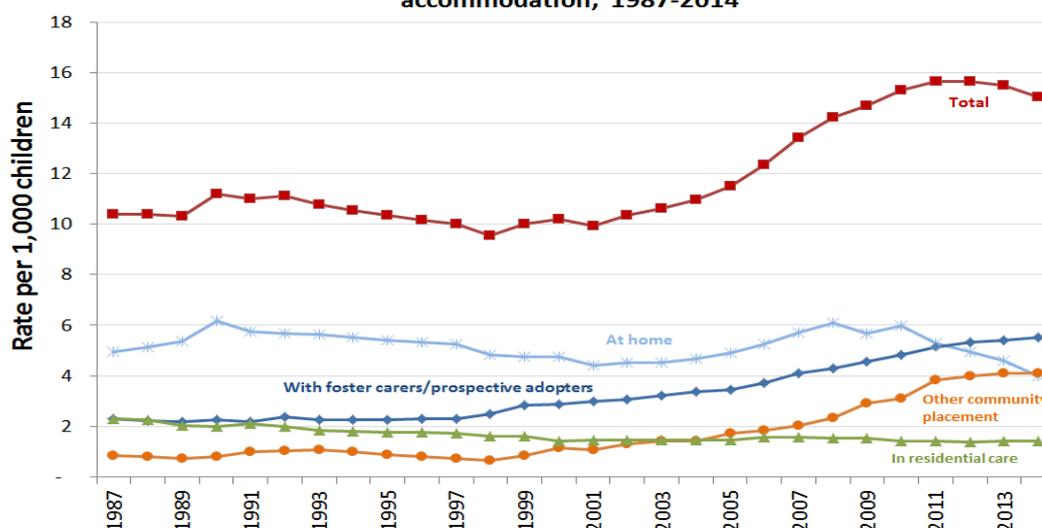


Chart 3 shows there is a continued decreasing trend in children being looked after at home with this group accounting for only 27 per cent of the total in 2014 compared to 39 per cent in 2010. Conversely, more children are being looked after away from home in community settings, in particular with foster carers (36 per cent) and friends/relatives (27 per cent). 2014 was the third year running that there were more children looked after by foster carers/prospective adopters than looked after at home. Numbers of children looked after in residential care settings have been fairly static over recent years, but have seen a slight downward trend since 2007. Detailed information is shown in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1: Number of children looked after by type of accommodation, 2010-2014 <sup>(1)</sup>**

Type of Accommodation	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>In the community:-</b>	<b>14,412</b>	<b>14,770</b>	<b>14,815</b>	<b>14,566</b>	<b>14,110</b>
At home with parents	6,193	5,476	5,153	4,762	4,144
With friends/relatives	3,172	3,910	4,076	4,183	4,181
With Foster Carers provided by LA	3,651	3,871	3,946	3,906	4,011
With Foster Carers purchased by LA	1,046	1,197	1,333	1,427	1,522
With prospective adopters	299	267	262	243	201
In other community	51	49	45	45	51
<b>Residential Accommodation:-</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>1,461</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>1,470</b>
In local authority home	620	615	564	575	580
In voluntary home	82	88	90	112	117
In residential school	471	460	451	439	393
In secure accommodation	82	86	95	65	82
Crisis care	17	13	14	12	16
In other residential	208	199	219	263	182
<b>Total looked after children</b>	<b>15,892</b>	<b>16,231</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>16,032</b>	<b>15,580</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15. Information on the number of children looked after by accommodation type is available back to 1971 in Table 1.1a of the excel version of the publication tables: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

When children become looked after, a care plan should be produced. The care plan should include detailed information about the child's care, education and health needs, as well as the responsibilities of the local authority, the parents and the child. A care plan is considered 'current' if it has been produced or reviewed in the past 12 months.

**Table 1.2: Children looked after with and without a current care plan, at 31 July 2014 <sup>(1)</sup>**

	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total
<i>Number</i>			
With a current care plan	4,129	11,264	<b>15,393</b>
Without a current care plan	15	172	<b>187</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>11,436</b>	<b>15,580</b>
<i>Percentage</i>			
With a current care plan	99.6	98.5	<b>98.8</b>
Without a current care plan	0.4	1.5	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15.

Table 1.2 shows that 99 per cent of the 15,580 children who were looked after at the end of July 2014 had a current care plan, a slight increase on 2013. There was little difference between children looked after at home and away from home – 99.6 per cent of those at home and 98.5 per cent of those away from home had a current care plan.

## Children starting and ceasing to be looked after

The reduction in total numbers being looked after is reflected by decreases in the numbers of children starting and ceasing to be looked after. A child will be counted more than once in each set of figures if they have started being looked after and/or ceased being looked after more than once during the reporting year.

There were 4,292 children who started to be looked after during 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014 – the lowest figure in the time series. Table 1.3 shows a four per cent decrease from 2013 (4,470) and a 17 per cent decrease from 2009 (5,201).

**Table 1.3: Number of children starting to be looked after by age 2004, 2009, 2011-2014 <sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year Ending 31 March		Year Ending 31 July				Percentage of totals <sup>(2)</sup>		
	2004	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2004	2013	2014
Under 1	366	641	701	753	700	700	8	16	16
1-4	900	1,138	1,127	1,098	1,037	1,041	20	23	24
5-11	1,357	1,563	1,485	1,509	1,378	1,301	30	31	30
12-15	1,699	1,800	1,389	1,410	1,299	1,198	37	29	28
16-17	242	55	44	40	56	52	5	1	1
18-21 <sup>(3)</sup>	-	4	0	1	0	0	-	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,564</b>	<b>5,201</b>	<b>4,746</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>4,470</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Table excludes planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2013-14 are provisional and may be revised. The number of looked after children aged 18+ was not asked for prior to 2006. A child may start to be looked after more than once in a year and so may be counted more than once.

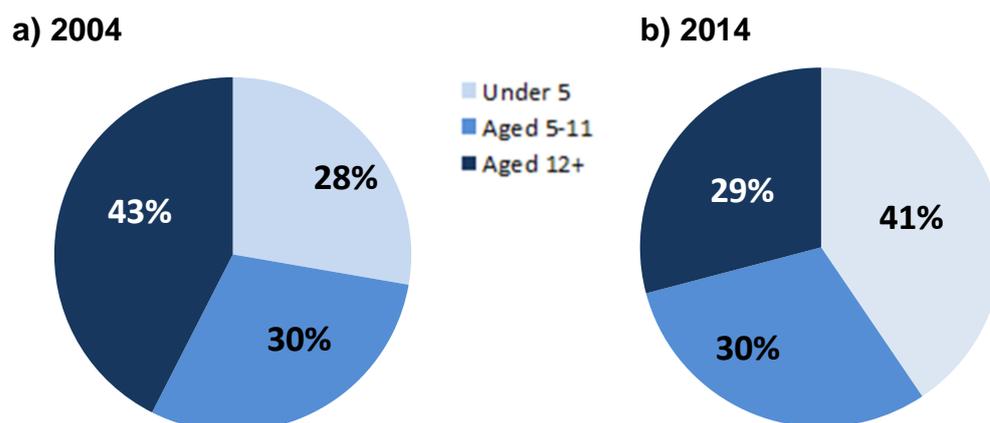
Full data by gender and age group for 2000-2014 is available in Table 2.1 of the excel version of the publication tables <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) Due to rounding, the percentage totals may not equal the sum of their parts.

(3) The 18-21 category in this table may include a small number of looked after young people who were over 21 years.

Over the last 10 years children have started to be looked after at younger ages. In 2004, 28 per cent of children starting to be looked after were aged under five. By 2014 this had risen to 41 per cent, a two percentage point increase from last year. There was a corresponding decrease in the proportion of children aged 12+ being looked after (those aged 5-11 remained static) (Chart 4).

**Chart 4: Percentage of children starting to be looked after by age**



There were slightly more boys starting to be looked after in 2014 – 53 per cent compared to 47 per cent of girls; generally there is a fairly balanced gender split with children starting to be looked after.

Table 1.4 shows the number of children who ceased being looked after between 2004 and 2014. There were 4,676 children who ceased being looked after between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014, a decrease of one per cent from the 2013 figure (4,731) and an overall increase of 31 per cent since 2005, the year in which figures reached a low point of 3,566.

**Table 1.4: Number of children ceasing to be looked after, by length of time looked after, 2004, 2009, 2012-2014<sup>(1),(2)</sup>**

Total	2004	2009	2012	2013	2014	2004	2013	2014
						%	%	%
Under 6 weeks	640	409	309	376	364	16	8	8
6 weeks to under 6 months	583	333	407	407	397	14	9	8
6 months to under 1 year	713	767	774	769	646	18	16	14
1 year to under 3 years	1,317	1,718	1,850	1,760	1,736	33	37	37
3 years to under 5 years	543	652	754	772	794	14	16	17
5 years and over	225	515	674	647	739	6	14	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,021</b>	<b>4,394</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>4,676</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Excludes children who are on a planned series of short term placements. Figures for 2013-14 are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15. If a child ceases to be looked after more than once during the year they will be counted more than once.

(2) Some totals do not exactly equal the sum of their component parts due to the effects of rounding.

The length of time children had been looked after at the point they stopped being looked after remained similar between 2013 and 2014, although the numbers of children looked after for more than three years has doubled since 2004.

Just as children are starting to be looked after at a younger age, children are also ceasing to be looked after at younger ages. The number of children ceasing to be looked after who were under the age of 12 increased by 43 per cent between 2004 and 2014. Fuller information can be found in the published Excel tables which accompany this release – see Annex B for details.

Upon leaving care, children are allocated to a destination category (Table 1.5). Around two-thirds of children (66.0 per cent in 2013-14) go home to their biological parents and 14.4 per cent go to live with friends or relatives. These categories, along with adoption have seen sizeable increases since 2007-08, however, as the number of 'not known' destinations has substantially decreased over the same period, it is difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions. Percentage differences between these years are shown in Chart 5 for reference.

**Table 1.5: Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after by destination, 2008-2014<sup>(1),(2)</sup>**

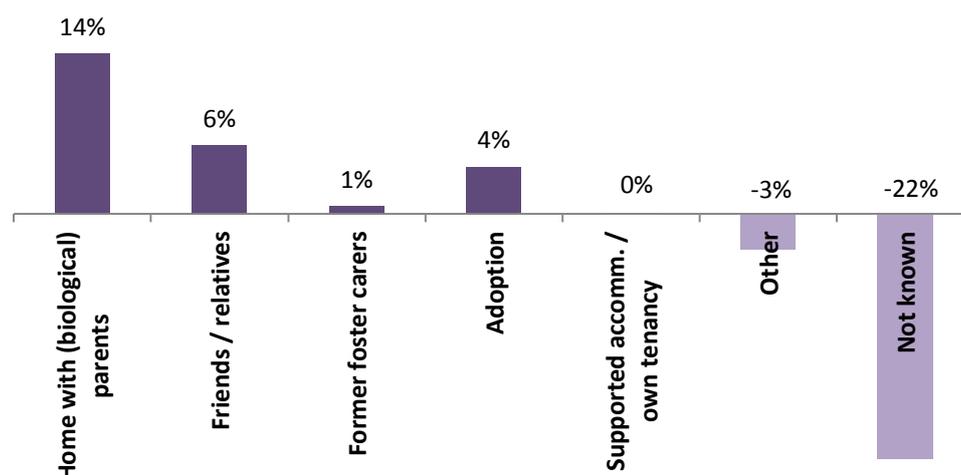
Destination after leaving care	Percentage of children ceasing to be looked after in year ending						
	31 March		31 July				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Home with (biological) parents	51.8	63.7	62.0	60.0	68.2	67.5	66.0
Friends/relatives	8.4	11.4	11.8	13.1	12.1	13.8	14.4
Former foster carers	1.0	1.6	1.9	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.7
Adoption	3.0	4.6	4.8	5.7	5.7	6.3	7.2
Supported accommodation/own tenancy	6.2	5.1	5.7	6.2	5.5	5.7	6.2
Other <sup>(3)</sup>	7.0	6.3	6.7	4.9	5.8	4.5	3.9
Not known	22.5	7.3	7.0	9.0	1.4	1.0	0.7
	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(1) Table excludes planned series of short term placements. A child may cease to be looked after more than once during the year and will be counted once for each episode of care ending. Some totals do not exactly equal the sum of their component parts due to the effects of rounding.

(2) Figures for 2013-14 are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15.

Prior to 2008, table includes some estimates and some "not known"s where local authorities were not able to provide information.

(3) "Other" includes residential care, homeless, in custody and other destination.

**Chart 5: Percentage difference by destination between 2008 and 2014**

Local authorities are required to carry out a pathway assessment for aftercare services on young people who are over school leaving age but are still looked after within three months of the young person becoming compulsorily supported. These young people should be provided with a pathway co-ordinator who assesses their needs and a pathway plan which outlines how the local authority plans to meet the needs of the young person.

Of those young people who had reached their minimum school leaving age at the time they ceased to be looked after during 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014, 80 per cent had a pathway plan and 77 per cent had a pathway co-ordinator. Where a young person's final placement type was 'at home' they were less

likely to have a pathway plan or a pathway co-ordinator than if the final placement type was 'away from home'. Table 1.6 shows that, of children whose last placement was at home, 70 per cent had a pathway plan and 65 per cent a pathway coordinator, compared with 87 and 86 per cent (respectively) of those whose final placement type was 'away from home'.

**Table 1.6: Pathway plans and nominated pathway co-ordinators of young people who were beyond minimum school-leaving age on the date they ceased to be looked after during 2013-14<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total
			Number
With a pathway plan	383	636	<b>1,019</b>
Without a pathway plan	164	95	<b>259</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	358	630	<b>988</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	189	101	<b>290</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>1,278</b>
			Percentage
With a pathway plan	70	87	<b>80</b>
Without a pathway plan	30	13	<b>20</b>
With a nominated pathway co-ordinator	65	86	<b>77</b>
Without a nominated pathway co-ordinator	35	14	<b>23</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15. Figures include all episodes of ceasing to be looked after beyond minimum school leaving age (i.e. a child may be counted more than once).

## Aftercare services

Local authorities have a duty to provide advice, guidance and assistance for young people who – at the point they leave care – have reached minimum school leaving age, referred to as 'aftercare services'. Table 1.7 shows the number of young people eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2014 by age and their economic activity. 'Economic activity' refers to whether a young person was in education, employment or training.

There were 3,767 young people reported to be eligible for aftercare services on 31 July 2014, of whom 70 per cent were receiving aftercare, broadly similar to 2013. Forty-six per cent of those receiving aftercare and who had a known economic activity were in education, training or employment. This is a three percentage point increase on 2013, although direct comparisons should be treated with caution as numbers are susceptible to fluctuation.

For young people receiving aftercare with known education/employment status, there is little variation by age with those aged 15-17 only slightly more likely to be in education, training or employment than those aged 18-21.

**Table 1.7: Young people eligible for aftercare services by age and economic activity, at 31 July 2014** <sup>(1)(2)</sup>

Economic activity on 31 July 2014	Age				Total	% of young people	
	15-16	17	18	19-21 <sup>(3)</sup>		eligible for aftercare	receiving aftercare with known economic activity
<b>In education, training or employment</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>1,000</b>		
In higher education	12	29	49	66	156	4	7
In education other than HE	41	88	74	131	334	9	15
In training or employment	41	103	126	240	510	14	23
<b>Not in education, training or employment</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>1,172</b>		
- due to short term illness	*	*	15	12	32	1	1
- due to long term illness or disability	*	*	15	37	57	2	3
- due to looking after family	9	12	19	54	94	2	4
- due to other circumstances	84	209	258	438	989	26	46
<b>Not known</b>	58	96	115	187	456	12	
<b>Not receiving aftercare</b>	153	265	398	323	1,139	30	
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>3,767</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Percentage in employment, education or training</b>							
<i>As percentage of all young people eligible for aftercare ("Total")</i>	24	27	23	29	27		
<i>As percentage of young people receiving aftercare with known economic activity ("Total" excluding "Not Known" and "Not receiving aftercare")</i>	50	49	45	45	46		

(1) Figures are provisional and may be revised in 2014-15.

(2) Cells containing \* represent numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality. Due to rounding, the totals for percentages may not equal the sum of their parts.

(3) The 19-21 category in this table includes a small number of young people over the age of 21 who were receiving aftercare.

## Short-term placements

Until 2012-13, data was collected on planned short-term placements, where a child, for the purposes of respite, stays away from home for more than 24 hours continuously. The statistics ceased to be collected in 2013-14.

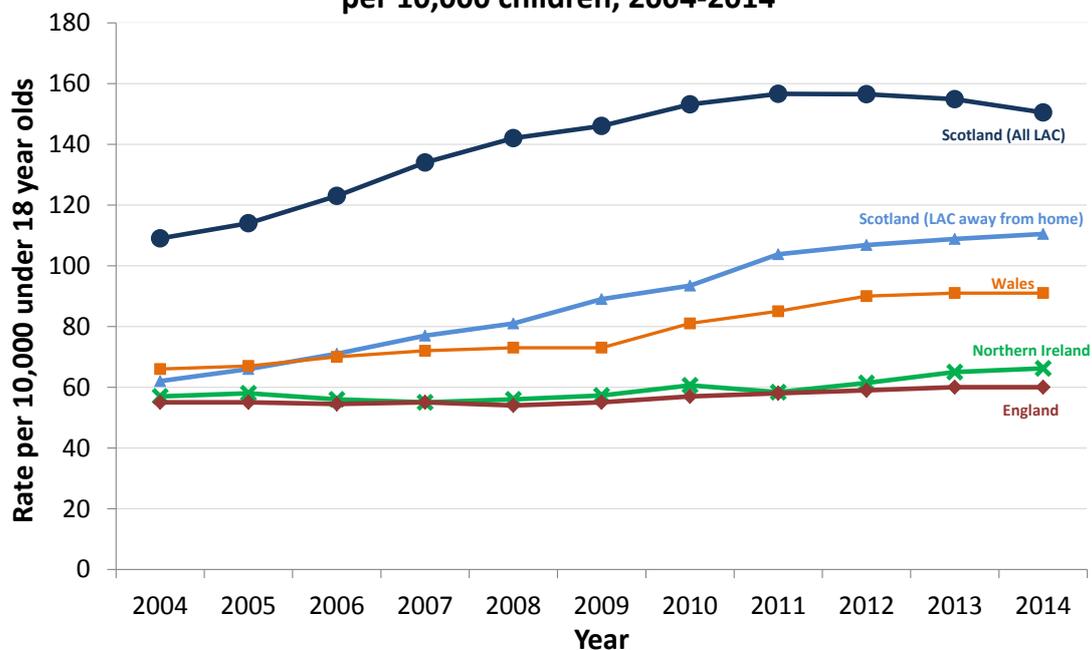
At 31 July 2013, the last date for which data is held, there were 1,914 children being looked after on a planned series of short-term placements. Sixty-one per cent of these children were looked after in residential establishments, whilst 25 per cent were looked after in foster placements. More details are available in previous years' publications.

## Cross-UK looked after comparisons

The definition of “looked after children” varies across the countries within the UK. In Scotland children looked after at home are included in the definition and in the statistics whereas, they are usually excluded in the England and Wales statistics. As a result, it is not meaningful to simply compare rates in Scotland with the rest of the UK. The published Scottish figure is at 31 July 2014 where other UK nations are at 31 March. To improve comparability, the Scotland figure at 31 March has been used in the comparison chart below.

Chart 6 gives Scottish figures both including and excluding children looked after at home. This shows that, even when children looked after at home are excluded, in the last three years, the rate is still increasing more quickly than in England and Wales, but more slowly than in Northern Ireland. The rates in Wales and England have barely increased in the last two years, although Wales is noticeably higher than in 2009. This sharp increase in numbers in Scotland over the past 10 years, coincides with a focus on intervening earlier in the lives of vulnerable children and may explain the higher rate in Scotland. This is reflected in the data which shows looked after children tend to be younger in Scotland than the rest of the UK – 12 per cent of looked after children in Scotland are aged 16 or over, compared to 21 per cent in England (19 per cent in Northern Ireland and 17 per cent in Wales).

**Chart 6: Cross-UK comparison of rate of looked after children per 10,000 children, 2004-2014**



Links to the cross-UK data underlying Chart 6 can be found in Background Note 1.7. There is more information on the comparability of looked after children data across the UK:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

There are **additional tables** on looked after children available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Child Protection

	9 per cent increase from the previous year in <b>total number</b> on the child protection register
	Continuing decrease in <b>length of time</b> children tend to spend on the child protection register
	Children continue to be placed on the child protection register at <b>younger ages</b>

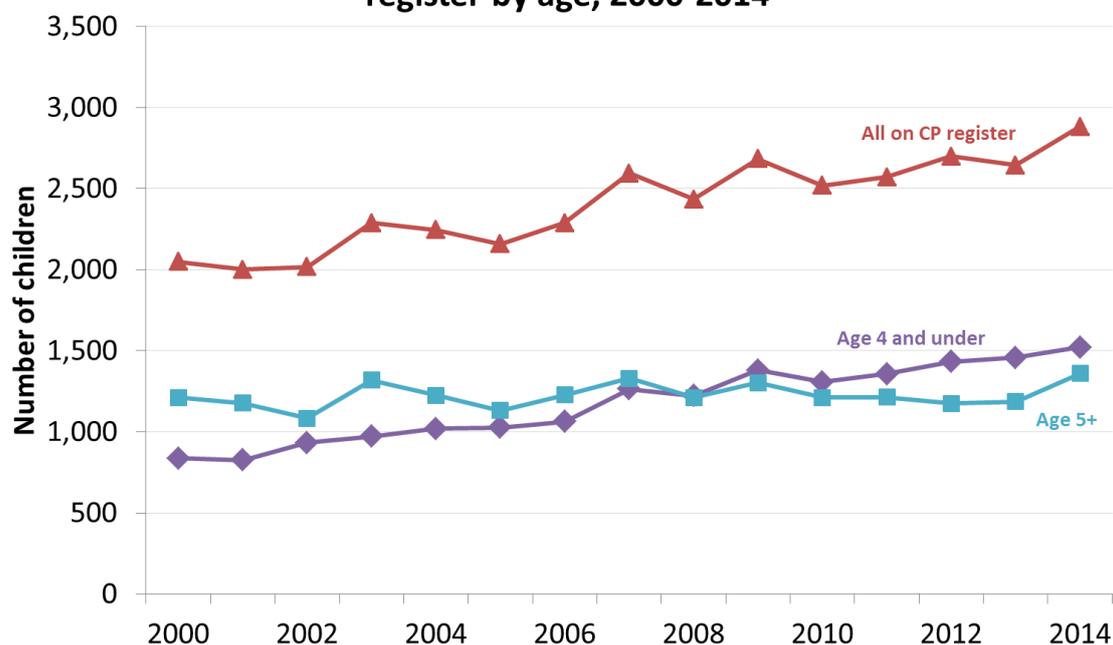
This section presents data on children on the child protection register from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. This will be referred to as 2014 for ease of reporting (with 2012-13 referred to as 2013 etc.). Child protection means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. This can either be in cases where abuse or neglect has taken place, or in cases where a likelihood of significant harm or neglect has been identified. The risk of harm or neglect will be considered at a Child Protection Case Conference. Where a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm, their name will be added to the child protection register (a child protection registration).

2013-14 was only the second year that child protection data has been collected entirely at individual level. With two years of individual data, this now allows the robustness of the more detailed information to be assessed and will enable much more sophisticated analyses. Until this developmental work has been completed, this publication will continue to present high-level figures only. In future years, additional breakdowns and analysis should be available. Some of the 2012-13 figures have been revised as part of the 2013-14 validation process.

### Children on the child protection register

As Chart 7 shows, the number of children on the child protection register has fluctuated but overall increased by 41 per cent between 2000 and 2014 (from 2,050 to 2,882). Following updated information from local authorities the 2013 data has been revised down slightly from the initial published figure from 2,681 to 2,645. The number of children registered in 2014 is the highest in the time series and a 9 per cent rise from 2013 – the largest year-on-year increase since 2009. It should be noted that large year-on-year changes are experienced at local authority level (see Table 2.2 for local authority level breakdowns).

**Chart 7: Number of children on the child protection register by age, 2000-2014**



In 2014, 53 per cent of children on the child protection register were aged under five. Since 2008 there have been more children aged under 5 than over five on the child protection register. However, in 2014, there was a much larger increase in the number of those aged 5 and over than has been seen in recent years – a 15 per cent increase from 2013.

**Table 2.1: Number of children on the child protection register by gender, 2000, 2005, 2011-2014<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2000	2005	2011	2012 <sup>(2)</sup>	2013 <sup>(2)</sup>	2014	% of total 2014	Rate per 1,000 under 16s 2014 <sup>(3)</sup>
Boys	1,080	1,098	1,282	1,335	1,299	1,406	49%	3.0
Girls	970	1,059	1,209	1,268	1,220	1,356	47%	3.3
Unborns	-	-	80	93	125	120	4%	-
Unknown	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
<b>All children</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(1) Until 2010-11 data was collected at 31 March. From 2011 data has been collected at 31 July. Full data by gender and age group for 2000-2014 is available in Table 2.1 of the excel version of the publication tables <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) Revised since original publication. See background note 4.10 for more information.

(3) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2013 mid-year population estimates.

There is no strong gender pattern among children on the child protection register – 49 per cent were boys, 47 per cent were girls and the remaining four per cent were unborn children. Because of a change in how unborn children were recorded by local authorities in 2010, figures for unborn children are only comparable from 2011 onwards.

From Table 2.2 it can be seen that, in Scotland in 2014, 3.2 children in every 1,000 children under 16 were on the child protection register. This is the highest level in the time series. At local authority level the rate varied from 0.8 per 1,000 children in Scottish Borders to 5.9 per 1,000 children in Angus.

**Table 2.2: Number of children on the child protection register and rate<sup>(1)</sup> per 1,000 population aged 0-15 by local authority, 2012-2014<sup>(2)</sup>,**

	2012 <sup>(3)</sup>		2013 <sup>(3)</sup>		2014	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Aberdeen City	87	2.5	92	2.9	73	2.2
Aberdeenshire	73	1.6	52	1.1	68	1.4
Angus	59	3.0	94	4.7	116	5.9
Argyll & Bute	48	3.4	16	1.1	21	1.5
Clackmannanshire	55	5.8	32	3.4	42	4.6
Dumfries & Galloway	94	3.9	78	3.1	111	4.6
Dundee City	82	3.4	46	1.9	67	2.8
East Ayrshire	73	3.5	61	2.8	49	2.3
East Dunbartonshire	23	1.2	43	2.3	43	2.3
East Lothian	62	3.3	49	2.6	73	3.9
East Renfrewshire	36	1.9	26	1.5	32	1.8
Edinburgh, City of	223	3.1	262	3.6	313	4.2
Eilean Siar	8	2.5	14	3.0	7	1.6
Falkirk	73	2.8	70	2.5	85	3.0
Fife	205	3.2	213	3.3	230	3.6
Glasgow City	436	4.4	431	4.5	487	5.0
Highland	116	3.0	80	1.9	106	2.6
Inverclyde	33	2.4	24	1.8	27	2.0
Midlothian	117	7.5	59	3.8	54	3.4
Moray	45	3.0	64	3.8	45	2.7
North Ayrshire	74	3.1	92	3.8	108	4.6
North Lanarkshire	80	1.3	96	1.5	79	1.2
Orkney Isles	3	0.9	10	2.8	6	1.7
Perth & Kinross	41	1.5	49	2.0	61	2.5
Renfrewshire	86	2.8	109	3.6	78	2.6
Scottish Borders	37	1.9	25	1.3	16	0.8
Shetland	7	1.6	3	0.7	20	4.6
South Ayrshire	64	3.5	49	2.7	91	5.0
South Lanarkshire	165	2.9	198	3.6	174	3.2
Stirling	40	2.5	57	3.6	62	4.0
West Dunbartonshire	35	2.2	32	2.0	41	2.6
West Lothian	118	3.4	119	3.4	97	2.8
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,698</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2,645</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2,882</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(1) Source: National Records of Scotland, 2011-2013 mid-year population estimates.

(2) Information for all years from 2007 is included in the publication tables:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(3) Revised since original publication. See background note 4.10 for more information.

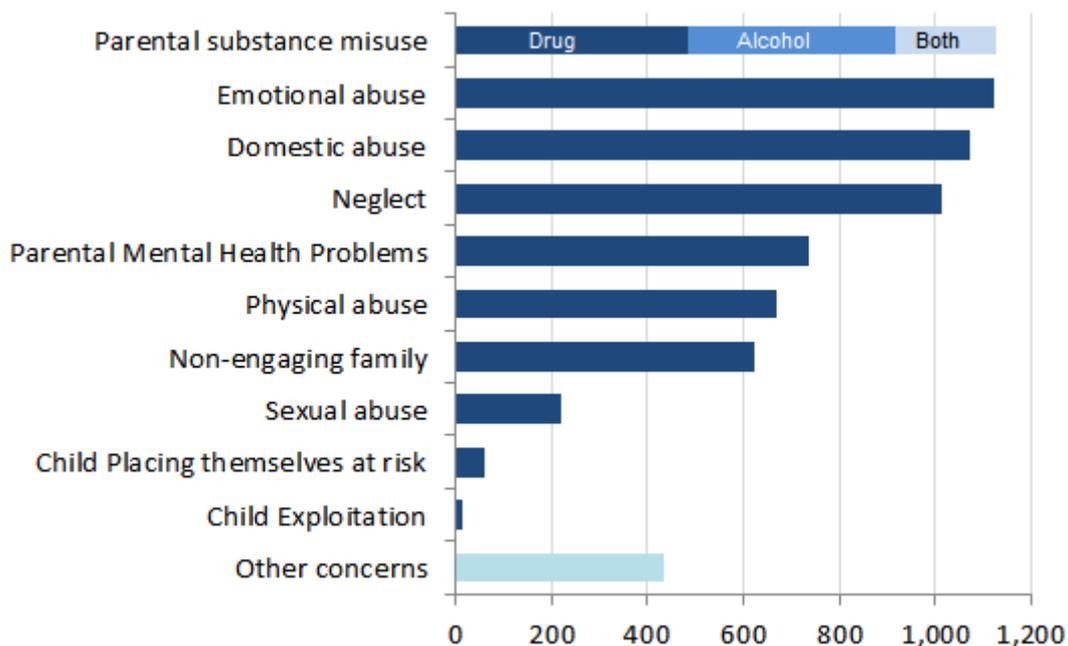
In 2011 a combination of factors in Midlothian (such as an increase in public and professional awareness of child protection and a focus on early intervention and prevention) contributed to a substantial increase in the number of children on the child protection register (from 96 in 2010 to 158 in

2011) which was carried through to 2012. This resulted in a much higher rate than the Scotland average. Midlothian have reported that following the increased focus on early intervention the number of referrals that reach child protection registration have fallen leading to the drop in the number of children on the child protection register in both the last two years to 54 in 2014.

Since 2012 multiple concerns can be recorded at each case conference (rather than just the main category of abuse). This means that the total number of concerns is larger than the total number of registrations and that figures on concerns identified from 2012 onwards are not comparable to previous data on category of abuse/risk.

For the 2,882 children on the child protection register at 31 July 2014 there were 7,288 concerns at the case conferences at which they were registered – an average of 2.6 concerns per conference. Chart 8 shows the most common concerns identified were parental substance misuse (39 per cent), emotional abuse (39 per cent) and domestic abuse (37 per cent).

**Chart 8: Concerns identified at the case conferences of children who were on the child protection register, 2014**



### Child protection registrations and deregistrations

The number of registrations to and deregistrations from the child protection register have both increased over the last five years. Table 2.3 shows that 17 per cent of children who were placed on the child protection register during 2013-14 had been on a child protection register before. This figure has

fluctuated slightly over the past five years, but has consistently been around 16 per cent.

**Table 2.3: Number of registrations following an initial, pre-birth or transfer-in case conference by length of time since previous deregistration, 2008, 2010, 2013-2014<sup>(1)</sup>**

Time since last deregistration	Year to 31 March		Year to 31 July		% of total 2014 <sup>(2)</sup>
	2008	2010	2013	2014	
Never been registered before	2,355	2,971	3,574	3,814	83%
Registered before but time unknown	5	0	1	1	0%
Less than 6 months	95	81	114	108	2%
6 months - < 1 year	68	98	88	101	2%
1 year - < 18 months	48	67	73	94	2%
18 months - < 2 years	53	60	54	98	2%
2 years or more	181	269	318	361	8%
Not known if been registered before	9	5	29	27	
Proportion of registrations to children who had been registered before <sup>(2)</sup>	16%	16%	15%	17%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>3,551</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>4,606</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) Information back to 2007 is included in the excel version of the publication tables:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) Excludes cases where it is not known if a child had been registered before.

As Chart 9 shows that, while there is an increase in number of children registered, the length of time for which children are registered has been decreasing since 2008. In 2014, 89 per cent of deregistrations were for children who had been registered for less than a year, compared to 75 per cent in 2008. In combination with the fall in the age of children on the child protection register, this suggests that children are being registered at earlier ages for shorter periods of time.

**Chart 9: Percentage of deregistrations by length of time on the child protection register, 2007-2014**

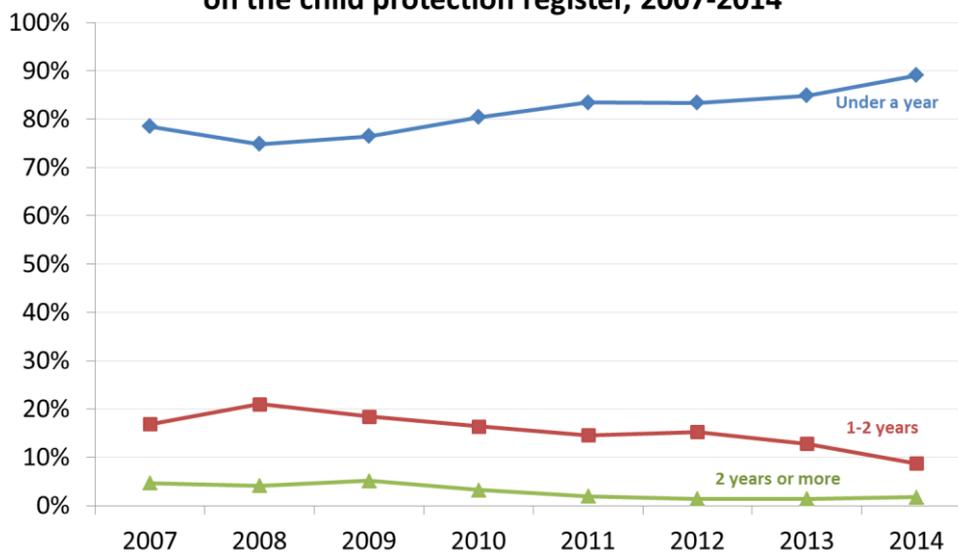


Table 2.4 shows the ongoing increase in deregistrations. There were 4,327 deregistrations from the child protection in the year to 31 July 2014, a two per cent increase on 2013 and a 35 per cent increase on 2008. The most common reason for deregistration in 2013-14 (in 50 per cent of cases) was an improved home situation.

**Table 2.4: Number of deregistrations from the child protection register by length of time on register and reason for deregistration, 2008, 2010, 2013-2014<sup>(1)</sup>**

	Year to 31 March		Year to 31 July		% of total 2014	% change 2013-2014
	2008	2010	2013	2014		
<b>Length of time registered</b>						
Less than 6 months	1,245	1,592	2,012	2,445	56%	22%
6 months to under 1 year	1,148	1,483	1,576	1,412	33%	-10%
1 year to under 18 months	470	460	409	248	6%	-39%
18 months to under 2 years	202	168	132	131	3%	-1%
2 years or more	132	123	58	76	2%	31%
No date of registration			41	21	1%	
<b>Reason for deregistration</b>						
Child taken into care & risk	411	538	617	664	15%	8%
Child with other carers	218	275	322	327	8%	2%
Child died	4	4	8	5	0%	-38%
Removal of perpetrator	112	81	123	106	2%	-14%
Improved home situation	830	1,220	2,136	2,179	50%	2%
Child automatically de-registered due to age	12	8	7	15	0%	114%
Child moved away - no continued risk	24	26	21	48	1%	129%
Other reason <sup>(2)</sup>	1,586	1,674	993	988	23%	-1%
Reason not known	-	-	1	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>4,228</b>	<b>4,333</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>

(1) Information for all years back to 2007 is included in the excel version of the publication tables:

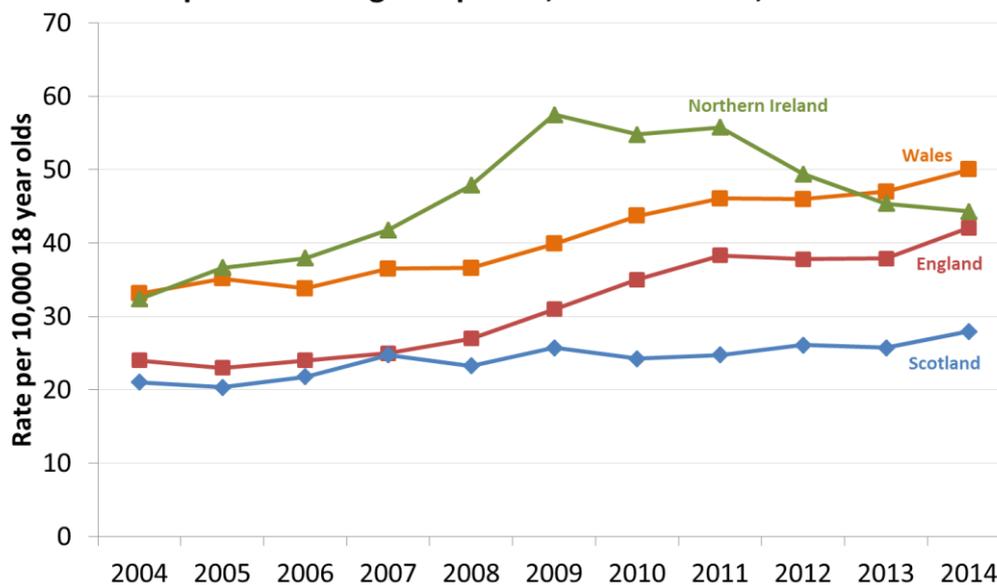
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

(2) This category was called reduced risk (other) prior to 2012.

## Cross-UK child protection comparisons

Child protection systems across the United Kingdom vary but are generally comparable. Scotland's collection year runs from 1 August to 31 July, so end-year figures are reported at 31 July, while the collection year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland runs from 1 April to 31 March (so end-year figures are at 31 March). In future years, when the individual level child protection collection is more established, it will be possible to provide a 31 March figure for Scotland as well. The cross-UK figures are given as a proportion of under 18s in each country, while the other child protection rates in this chapter are given as a proportion of under 16s.

**Chart 10: Cross-UK comparison of rate of children on the child protection register per 10,000 under 18s, 2004-2014**



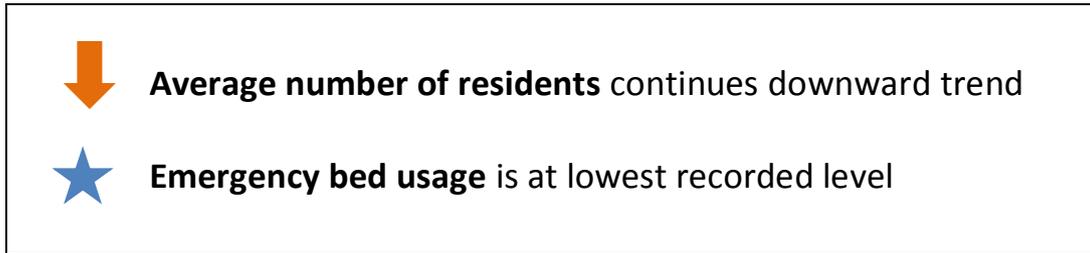
While Scotland has seen an increase in the rate of registrations to the child protection register over the last decade, it is not as steep as the increase in England and Wales over the same period and remains at the lowest rates across the UK. Scotland, England and Wales all experienced a larger increase in rate of registrations in 2014 than in the previous few years. Northern Ireland has seen a different pattern to the other three UK countries, with a very sharp decrease in the rates of children on the child protection register which peaked in 2009 and has declined since then.

There are links to the cross-UK data underlying Chart 10 in Background Note 1.8 and more information on the comparability of child protection data across the UK here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

**Additional tables** on child protection are available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Secure Care Accommodation



This section presents 2013-14 data on secure care accommodation.

Secure care normally refers to accommodation for vulnerable young people who are likely to abscond and they are at risk of harm to themselves or others. They are usually placed in secure care on welfare grounds by the Children's Hearing System. Children can also be placed on offence grounds by the Hearings System or the Criminal Justice System.

As secure care accommodation is in place for a very specific group of individuals, numbers will be much smaller than for those who are looked after or on the child protection register. There is no apparent connection between trends – while increases have been seen for children on the child protection register over the last year, decreases have been experienced by those who are looked after or in secure care accommodation. The average number of young people in secure care has been decreasing since 2010.

### Bed complement

**Table 3.1: Secure care unit bed complement at 31 July 2014**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Secure Care Bed Complement</b>
Edinburgh Secure Services	12
Good Shepherd	18
Kibble	18
Rossie School	18
St. Mary's Kenmure	24
<b>ALL UNITS</b>	<b>90</b>

There were 90 secure places available in five secure units excluding emergency beds on 31 July 2014 (Table 3.1). There were an additional 6 beds available across these units for emergency and respite use – these would only be used if required and on a very short-term basis. The average cost per week of a secure bed during 2013-14 was £5,328.

## Capacity and usage

There was an average of 74 residents in secure care accommodation throughout 2013-14, a decrease of four per cent from 77 residents in the previous year and continuing the downward trend (Table 3.2). The number of young people in secure care accommodation throughout the year ranged from 60 to 84.

**Table 3.2: Secure care accommodation capacity<sup>(1)</sup> and usage, 2011-2014<sup>(3)</sup>**

	2011	2012	2013 <sup>(4)</sup>	2014	% change 2013-14
<b>Secure Accommodation</b>					
Places at year end	112	94	90	90	0%
Admissions during the year	276	237	215	232	8%
Discharges during the year	268	243	228	226	-1%
Average number of residents during the year	87	85	77	74	-4%
Minimum number of residents during the year	78	74	66	60	-9%
Maximum number of residents during the year <sup>(1)</sup>	95	93	90	84	-7%
Number of nights emergency bed used during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	11	70	48	5	-90%
Number of residents emergency bed used for during the year <sup>(2)</sup>	2	16	15	3	-80%

(1) Capacity: Young people can be admitted and discharged more than once during the year.

During 2010/11, St. Mary's Kenmure reported overcapacity for 9 periods which was due to using their 'mothballed' unit.

During 2010/11, St. Philip's reported overcapacity for 9 periods which was most likely due to using their 'mothballed' unit. St. Philip's 'wound down' from 1 July 2011 and closed on 5 August 2011.

From 2011/12, St. Mary's Kenmure provide a care services to 24 children and young people in secure accommodation. In addition the service had 3 short term / respite beds which could be used when the service is at capacity.

The Elms Secure Unit closed on 20 December 2012.

During 2012/13, Rossie School reported 2 periods of overcapacity which was due to use of the emergency bed because of internal reorganisation rather than a new person coming into the unit. If excluded, the maximum number of residents during the year would be 89.

(2) Three units reported having an emergency bed: Rossie School, Good Shepherd & Kibble (see background notes for definition of an emergency bed).

(3) Change in reporting period from 2010/11 (from August to July). Previous years were from April to March.

(4) Data revised for 2012/13.

There were 232 admissions in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014. This was an increase of eight per cent compared with 2012-13, although similar to the 2011-12 figure. There were 226 discharges over the same period (a decrease of only two from 2012-13) – this is the fourth consecutive year these have fallen. Use of emergency beds decreased significantly (by 90 per cent) from the previous year as did the number of young people the emergency bed was used for (down by 80 per cent). This may be partly because the secure estate was never at full capacity during 2013-14.

Chart 11 shows that total occupancy reached its highest capacity of 84 residents in secure care accommodation during one date in May. Total occupancy was at its lowest during a period of three days in November. Timings of these high and low points are not consistent with last year, suggesting the time of year does not have an impact on the demand for secure care accommodation.

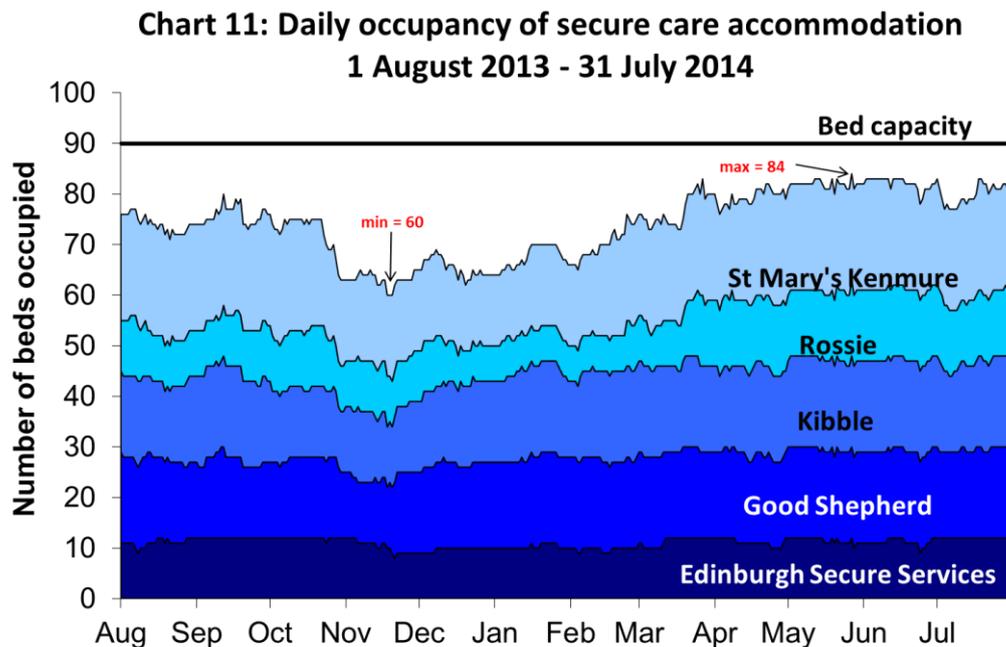


Table 3.3 shows that the number of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2014 was 81. Following a three year decrease from 2009-10, this has increased by nine per cent since 2012-13.

Sixty-four per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2014 were male and just over 40 per cent were aged 16 years and over. Young people in secure care accommodation tend to be older than those looked after and on the child protection registers. Due to the specialist nature of secure accommodation, it is only appropriate for older children. The data shows the vast majority (79 per cent) of young people in secure care accommodation are 15 years or older. This is a very different pattern from what is seen in the child protection and looked after children data where the majority of children are under five and 11 respectively.

Ninety-four per cent of young people in secure care accommodation on 31 July 2014 had at least one additional support need and by far the most common category of additional support need was "other social, emotional and behavioural difficulties" (79 per cent). This is much higher than the proportions reported for children who are looked after or on the child protection register.

**Table 3.3: Young people in secure care accommodation by gender, age, additional support needs and length of stay, 2011-2014<sup>(1)</sup>**

	2011	2012	2013 <sup>(3)</sup>	2014	% of 2014 total
<b>Gender of residents</b>					
Males	59	57	47	52	64%
Females	30	27	27	29	36%
<b>Age of Residents</b>					
13 years old or under	9	8	10	5	6%
14 years	17	16	9	12	15%
15 years	25	25	16	31	38%
16 years or over	38	35	39	33	41%
<b>Residents with additional support needs<sup>(2)</sup></b>					
Any known additional support needs	87	78	73	76	94%
<b>Additional support needs, where known</b>					
Medically diagnosed social, emotional & behavioural difficulties	35	31	42	32	40%
Other social, emotional & behavioural difficulties	80	76	68	64	79%
Specific learning difficulties	11	12	11	5	6%
Mental health problems	13	23	26	31	38%
Language and communication disorder	9	12	6	10	12%
Physical or motor impairment	*	*	*	*	*
Visual impairment	12	*	13	13	16%
Combined sight and hearing loss	*	0	*	0	0%
Other	20	32	31	32	40%
<b>Length of stay of residents at year end</b>					
Less than 1 month	34	11	18	13	16%
1 month to under 2 months	14	15	8	14	17%
2 months to under 3 months	10	16	12	14	17%
3 months to under 6 months	12	22	18	23	28%
6 months to under 1 year	11	10	10	9	11%
1 year or more	8	10	8	8	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100%</b>

(1) As at 31 July of each year. From 2011, centres have opened and closed and total capacity has changed. Please refer to footnote 1 in Table 3.2 for more information on this.

(2) Since 2012 the disability category has been renamed additional support needs because the information collected does not meet the definition of 'disability' outlined in the Equality Act 2010.

Due to small numbers, some additional support needs categories have been included in the 'Other' category. These include 'autistic spectrum disorder', 'hearing impairment', 'learning disability' and 'other chronic illness/disability'. Note that a young person can have multiple additional support needs.

Cells containing \* represent numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

(3) Data revised for 2012/13.

## Information no longer collected

Information on close support was collected from 2010 to 2013. The statistics ceased to be collected in 2013-14. For information on close support, please see previous publications. In addition, information on staffing is no longer collected as this is available from other sources. Please see Background Notes 2.5 to 2.8 for further details on these.

## **Cross-UK secure care accommodation comparisons**

The additional tables on secure care accommodation include a table on secure children's homes/secure care accommodation units, places approved and children accommodated across the United Kingdom. This shows a downward trend in places approved and children accommodated in Scotland and England since 2007. However, in Wales, there is a light upward trend, although numbers are smaller and so even more susceptible to fluctuation. These are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

## Background notes

### 1. Context and related publications

1.1 This publication includes data on children and young people who were looked after, on the child protection register or in secure care accommodation between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014. Children most commonly become looked after or placed on the child protection register following a referral to the Children's Reporter. The majority of referrals to the Children's Reporter are on care and protection grounds, although a small proportion are on offence grounds. Young people are placed in secure care either as an outcome of the criminal justice system or through a referral to the Children's Reporter.

Figures on referrals to the Children's Reporter are published by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA):

[http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms\\_resources/Online%20annual%20dashboard%202013-14.swf](http://www.scra.gov.uk/cms_resources/Online%20annual%20dashboard%202013-14.swf)

1.2 This publication collates demographic data on children who were looked after during 2013-14. In June 2015 Education Outcomes for Looked After Children statistics 2013-14 will be published on a subset of these children – those looked after continuously for year from August 2013 to July 2014. The education outcomes publication will be available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/EducOutcomesLAC>

1.3 The annual Civil Law Statistics published by the Scottish Government includes a table which gives the number of petitions for adoption made through the courts. These figures include looked after children who are adopted from care as well as children who are outwith the care system. The Civil Law Statistics in Scotland 2012-13 are available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/civil-judicial-statistics/>

#### **Cross-UK comparability**

1.4 It is possible to draw comparisons between the looked after children, child protection and secure care accommodation statistics of the four UK countries. However it should be borne in mind that there are differences in legislation, the children's social work systems and the definitions of categories that will affect these figures.

1.5 Work has been undertaken between the Scottish Government and administrations from England, Wales and Northern Ireland to document

clearly the differences between each administration's **looked after children** statistics and to scope out the feasibility and need for a comparable dataset. Further developments from this work have been published on the Scottish Government children's statistics web site at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

1.6 Work was commissioned by the Department for Education to document clearly the differences between each administration's **child protection** statistics. Further developments from this work have been published on the Scottish Government Children's Statistics web site at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/socialservicestats>

## Equivalent data across the UK

### 1.7 Looked after statistics:

England	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption--2</a>
Wales	<a href="https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After">https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare/lookedafterchildren.htm">http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare/lookedafterchildren.htm</a>

### 1.8 Child protection statistics:

England	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2013-to-2014">https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/characteristics-of-children-in-need-2013-to-2014</a>
Wales	<a href="http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/1211282/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2012/1211282/?lang=en</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare/child-protection-register.htm">http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/statistics/socialcare/child-protection-register.htm</a>

1.9 Official/national statistics are not produced on **secure accommodation** in Northern Ireland. However, there is one secure unit which when at full capacity can house sixteen 11 to 18 year olds. The latest national statistics on children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales were released on 5 June 2014 and can be found at:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-accommodated-in-secure-childrens-homes-31-march-2014>

## 2. Data sources and coverage

2.1 The **looked after children** data in this publication were collected at an individual level from local authorities. Data were collected on all

children/young people who were looked after between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014, on every episode of being looked after which occurred at some point in the reporting period, every placement that took place during these episodes and every legal reason for which a child was looked after. Statistics were also collected at an individual-level for eligible for aftercare. We have now ceased the collection of information regarding planned series of short-term placements. Therefore, from 2013-14, this information has not been collected. Please refer to the previous [‘Children’s Social Work Statistics’](#) publications for statistics on planned series of short-term placements.

2.2 All **child protection** information in this publication were collected at an individual level from local authorities for the second consecutive year. Information is submitted for each investigation and case conference held as well as demographic information for each child. In 2011-12 individual-level information was collected on the children on the child protection register at 31 July 2012 only and prior to this data was collected in full or in part as aggregate summarised data.

2.3 The child protection statistics survey covered the period 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. If a member of the public or professional report concern about a child, a referral will be made to an agency such as the local authority social work team. If they decide that the child is at risk of significant harm, an investigation will be undertaken. In 2010-11 and previous years, aggregate information was collected on the referrals that were initiated during the period (so numbers starting). From 2011-12 information has been collected on child protection investigations which ended during the collection period. Information on child protection referrals has not been collected since 2010-11.

2.4 The **secure care** statistics in this publication were collected from five secure care units which were open at 1 August 2013.

2.5 The secure care accommodation census covered 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. The data collected at the unit level covers the number of places and average cost per week per bed. Individual-level information was collected on the characteristics of the young person, medical care, admissions and discharges in secure care accommodation. Information on dedicated close support is no longer collected. Please refer to Background Notes 2.6 and 2.7 for further information.

2.6 During 2014, the questions/sections that were asked in the secure care and close support accommodation census were reviewed. This was to reduce the burden for the data providers, given that some data was either available from other sources or there was no identifiable need. The following information has subsequently been dropped:

## Unit level:-

- Number of close support places (see Background Note 2.7).
- Emergency bed usage (as this information could be calculated from the individual level section)
- Staffing (as this information is available from the Scottish Social Services Council). See Background Note 2.8 for further information.

## Individual level:-

- Close support (see Background Note 2.7).

2.7 Information on close support was collected from 2010 to 2013. Close support previously included in this publication were those that were in the same building as the secure unit i.e. that were related directly to the secure unit. The reason for only including close support in the same physical location as the secure unit was because capital and overhead costs were thought to be inherently linked. However, for 2012-13, data was revised to remove Edinburgh's information, as they did not meet the criteria for inclusion. This meant that for the remaining two units that had a dedicated close support unit (Good Shepherd and Rossie) there were limitations to what information could be published on close support due to small numbers. These two units confirmed that they were also able to separate out secure care and close support costs. Therefore, from 2013-14, this information has not been collected. Please refer to the previous '[Children's Social Work Statistics](#)' publications for statistics on close support information.

2.8 The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) can provide information on staffing and vacancies of secure accommodation services, where a secure unit has provided that information to the Care Inspectorate, although this is not necessarily published. Please note that vacancy information would be at an aggregate level, not at post level. This means staff type would not be available, nor would it be possible to tell if the post was full time or part time. The data is an annual snapshot of the workforce on 31 December each year and includes a range of variables in addition to vacancy information. If you require further information on staffing and vacancies on the other data held for secure accommodation services, please contact James Arnold (james.arnold@sssc.uk.com) at the SSSC. Alternatively, you can visit the SSSC's workforce data site at: <http://data.sssc.uk.com>

### 3. Definitions and notation

3.1 The survey forms, data specifications and guidance notes for the statistics presented in this publication (and previous years publications) are all

available online. The data specifications include the standard validation checks undertaken to quality assure these data.

	Online documentation
Looked after	<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildrenLookedAfter</a>
Child protection	<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection</a>
Secure care accomodation	<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveySecureAccommodation">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveySecureAccommodation</a>

### Children Looked After

3.2 *Looked after child* – The definition of a looked after child is in section 17(6) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, as amended by Schedule 2, para 9(4) of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007. Information on this definition is available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/03/10110037/2>

3.3 *Supervision Requirement/Compulsory Supervision Order* – A children's hearing is a lay tribunal which considers and makes decisions on the welfare of the child or young person before them, taking into account the circumstances including any offending behaviour. The hearing decides on the measures of supervision which are in the best interests of the child or young person. If the hearing concludes compulsory measures of supervision are needed, it will make a Supervision Requirement or a Compulsory Supervision Order which will determine the type of placement for the child. In most cases the child will continue to live at home but will be under the supervision of a social worker. In some cases the hearing will decide that the child should live away from home with relatives or other carers.

3.5 *Permanence order* – This is an order that the sheriff court can make for the protection and supervision of children. By default, parents have a right for their child to live with them and control where the child lives. A Permanence order, which can only be applied for by the local authority, transfers this right to the local authority. Other parental rights and responsibilities can be shared between the local authority, birth parents and carers of the child (e.g. foster or kinship carers).

### 3.6 *Types of placement*

- At home with parent(s): at home with parent(s) or 'relevant person(s)' as defined in Section 200 of the Children's Hearings Act 2011

- With friends/relatives: placed with friends or relatives who are not approved foster carers. Also referred to as 'kinship care'.
- With foster carers provided by the local authority
- With foster carers purchased by the local authority
- With prospective adopters
- Other community: such as supported accommodation, hospital (e.g. at birth)
- Local authority home: in local authority children's home/hostel, local authority home/hostel for children with learning disabilities, local authority home/hostel for physically disabled children
- Voluntary home: in voluntary children's home/hostel which may be specifically for children with learning disabilities or for physically disabled children
- Residential school: in local authority or voluntary residential school (home/hostel), private school or independent school
- Secure accommodation
- Crisis care: in women's refuge, local authority/voluntary hostel for offenders or for drug/alcohol abusers
- Other residential: a known residential setting but does not fit with one of the above

3.7 There is information on the process by which children come to be looked after and legislation governing this on the Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/protecting/lac>

## Child Protection

3.8 *Child Protection Case Conference* (CPCC) – a meeting where the risk of harm or neglect of a child is addressed. There are four types of CPCC:

Type	Who it is for	Potential outcome
Initial	a child not currently on the child protection register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child is not registered</li> </ul>
Pre-birth	an unborn child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child is not registered</li> </ul>
Review	a child already on the child protection register or where there are significant changes in the child or family situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child remains on register or</li> <li>– Child is <b>de-registered</b></li> </ul>
Transfer	a child already on the child protection register moving between local authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Child is <b>de-registered</b> or</li> <li>– Child remains on register</li> </ul>

3.9 *Registrations* - The children who were the subject of a child protection case conference and were subsequently added to the child protection register between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014.

3.10 *Deregistrations* - Children who were subject to a transfer or review conference and subsequently removed from the child protection register between 1 August 2013 and 31 July 2014.

3.11 The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland, published in 2010 and refreshed in 2014, is available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2014/05/3052>

### **Secure care accommodation**

3.12 *Secure accommodation legal framework* – The children’s hearings system has responsibility for dealing with most children and young people under 16 who commit offences or who are in need of care and protection. In some cases children’s hearings have responsibility for young people under 18 where the young person is under the supervision of the hearing when he or she reaches 16 and the supervision requirement is extended.

3.13 For children who commit very grave crimes (the circumstances are set out in the relevant Lord Advocate’s guidelines), the option remains for them to be jointly reported to the children’s reporter and the procurator fiscal and together, they will decide whether prosecution through the court is appropriate. The court may then sentence, or return the young person to the hearing to be dealt with.

3.14 A young person who appears in court accused of an offence, where bail is not considered appropriate, can be remanded to the care of the local authority responsible for them under section 51 of the Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1995. Local authorities are then responsible for placing that young person in secure care.

3.15 A young person convicted of an offence in court can be sentenced to detention in secure accommodation under section 205 or 208 of the Criminal Procedures (Scotland) Act 1995. In these cases, it is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers to place the sentenced young person in suitable accommodation.

3.16 Before a child or young person can be placed in secure accommodation through the children’s hearings system, the children’s panel must consider that the young person meets the legal criteria set out in The Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011. The conditions are -

- (a) that the child has previously absconded and is likely to abscond again and, if the child were to abscond, it is likely that the child's physical, mental, or moral welfare would be at risk;
- (b) the child is likely to engage in self harming conduct;
- (c) the child is likely to cause injury to another person.

3.17 *Average number* – The average number of young people in secure care accommodation over the year is calculated using the dates of admission and discharge for every child. Ages on admission, discharge during 2013-14 and age at 31 July 2014 are the actual ages for all young people.

3.18 *Ethnicity and Religion* – Data was collected on ethnicity and religion of young people in secure care and close support accommodation, but we are unable to publish this due to small numbers and data confidentiality issues.

3.19 *Additional support needs* – Additional support needs categories were based on ISD Health and Social Care Data Dictionary codes when the survey form was finalised in December 2007. Information was collected on types of additional support needs for young people in close support, but we are unable to publish a detailed breakdown of additional support needs due to small numbers and data confidentiality issues.

3.20 *Emergency beds* – these can be used at short notice, for example, when a young person is admitted during the night as it is less disruptive for the other young people. The young person is usually admitted to the main facility the following day. Three units operated such a place.

3.21 *Mothballed* – The term mothballed was used when recommendation 6 from the Securing our Future Initiative report recommended the targeted closure of 12 beds to bring the capacity of each of the independent secure units down to 18 beds. Beds were mothballed for the first year with on-going review meaning provision was reduced although a group of key core staff were retained to provide emergency cover if there was ever a short term need to increase capacity.

### **Additional support needs**

3.22 The information that was previously labelled as 'disability' does not meet the definition of disability outlined in the Equality Act 2010 and is more accurately described as additional support needs. For this reason the equivalent data that was labelled as 'disability' prior to 2011-12 will, from 2011-12 until 2014-15, be presented as 'additional support needs'. The statistics themselves have not changed in any way – the content of the data and categories remain the same, so are still comparable over time. From

2015-16, a new disability question will be introduced for our child protection, children looked after and secure care accommodation data collections.

Further information is available at:-

- Children looked after – [data specifications and guidance notes](#)
- Child protection – [data specification and guidance notes](#)
- Secure care accommodation – [data specification and guidance notes](#)

## Notation and rounding

3.23 The following notation is used in this publication

- zero

\* In cases where information is presented on a small number of children and is potentially disclosive, indicates that data have been suppressed.

3.24 The sum of the breakdowns in the tables may not sum to the total displayed due to rounding.

## 4. Data Quality and revisions

4.1 The data for all three parts of this publication – looked after children, child protection and secure care – come from administrative data held by local authorities and secure units. As this information is used to monitor and manage these sectors it should be robust and accurate.

4.2 Automated validation checks are undertaken at the point the data is submitted. These validations are outlined in the relevant data specifications (see Background note 3.1 for links).

4.3 The Children and Families statistics team undertake a range of validation checks on administrative data as part of the quality assurance process of preparing this national statistics publication. These procedures include; trend analysis, comparing against other available sources, and checking outliers with data providers. The data providers are then asked to confirm their data – for looked after children and child protection data this confirmation comes from local authorities, for secure care accommodation this confirmation comes from secure units. In cases where concerns about data quality outweigh the value of have an estimated figure publically available, we would not publish particular information (e.g. legal reason data from the looked after children collection).

4.4 There is more information on the data quality of the administrative sources underlying this publication here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/sourcesandsuitability/StatementAdminSources>

### **Looked after – comparability over time**

4.5 Looked after children statistics for years prior to 2008-09 used data supplied by local authorities aggregated at a local authority level. Since 2008-09, local authorities are reporting significant improvements in the quality of their data reporting as a result of the new individualised collection methodology. This should be borne in mind when performing cross-year comparisons.

4.6 Data collected on children in a current planned series of short-term placements was not collected in 2013/14 – in consultation with local authorities and data users, it was seen to be little-used, and could therefore be dropped from the collection. Historical figures are still available from previous years' publications.

4.7 This publication presents revised 2012-13 for looked after children, although the changes were extremely minimal (0.06%).

### **Looked after – data quality of specific variables**

4.8 From 2011-12, local authorities were requested to supply information on all legal reasons for a child being looked after (i.e. a child may have more than one legal reason at any time). While the quality of this information is improving it is still not being consistently recorded across local authorities. Only information on the legal reasons in place at the 31<sup>st</sup> July has been published (Table 1.5 in the additional tables).

4.9 The only looked after field for which data is collected but not published is religion. This is due to data quality concerns as each year around 75 per cent of children are recorded with religion as 'unknown'.

### **Child protection**

4.10 For the first time in 2012-13 the child protection data was collected entirely at individual-level. As there was much more detail and complexity to the 2012-13 data than in previous years there was much more scope for small errors. As a result, the accuracy of the 2012-13 data may be lower than in previous years. During the 2013-14 collection process, it was possible for local authorities to revise their 2012-13 data. This, coupled with the possibility of comparing data across two different years, had helped improve on the quality of individual data and the confidence in the accuracy of this.

4.11 Prior to 2011-12, some local authorities did not place 'unborn' children on the child protection register until the child was actually born. The revised National Guidance now states that 'unborn' children should be placed on the child protection register if this is required and not wait until the child is born.

4.12 This publication presents revised 2012-13 for child protection which has resulted in a less than one per cent change in the national figure.

### **Secure care accommodation**

4.13 As the number of young people using secure care is very small, relative changes over time will show greater percentage changes than for data relating to children looked after child protection.

4.14 Information was collected in 2011-12 to help monitor outcomes for the National Contract for Secure Care on whether a full medical assessment was received, an individualised Care/sentenced/remand plan completed, an individualised learning plan based on educational assessment completed and a transition/pathway plan in place. As the contract for secure care continues to develop, this information has become less relevant to the annual collection. To reduce burden on units, we have not collected the information listed above or on information on secure authorisations turned down from 2012-13.

4.15 This publication presents revised 2012-13 for secure care accommodation, with most changes being less than two per cent compared with the original data.

## **5. Enquiries**

Please send any **media enquiries** to:

- Children Looked After/Child Protection: Donna Rafferty, 0131 244 2672
- Secure Care Accommodation: Holly Gilfether, 0131 244 2718

These data and **additional tables** on looked after children, child protection and secure care and close support accommodation are available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

Email any requests for **further analysis** to [childrens.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Children and Families Statistics  
31 March 2015

## Children's Social Work Statistics 2013-14

### Publication tables

Excel versions of these tables are available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

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### Additional tables

Excel versions of these tables will be made available here:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/PubChildrenSocialWork>

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## A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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

Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

### Correspondence and enquiries

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Office of the Chief Statistician, Telephone: 0131 244 0442,

e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### How to access background or source data

The data collected for this publication:

are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

are available via an alternative route

may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [childrens.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.statistics@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) for further information

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### Complaints and suggestions

If you are not satisfied with our service, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

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