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## **Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008**

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides information about children looked after in England for the year ending 31 March 2008. The figures are based on returns collected from all 150 local authorities.

The tables show national totals for:

- children looked after at 31 March 2008
- children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008
- children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008
- children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008
- children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2008
- children now aged 19 years who were looked after on 1 April 2005, then aged 16 years
- children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years (Public Service Agreement target 5 of Spending Review 2004)

### **KEY POINTS**

#### **Children looked after at 31 March 2008 - Tables A1 to A5**

- There were 59,500 children looked after at 31 March 2008, 1 per cent fewer than last year's figure of 60,000 and a decrease of 3 per cent compared to 2004 (61,200).
- Overall, the main reason why social services first engaged with these children looked after was because of abuse or neglect (62 per cent). This percentage has changed little over the past 5 years.
- Most children looked after at 31 March 2008 were of White British origin (74 per cent). Their number and percentage has decreased over the last 5 years from 46,300 (76 per cent) in 2004 to 43,900 (74 per cent) in 2008. The breakdown by the different ethnic groups has remained similar since 2004.
- At 31 March 2008, 37,200 children were looked after under a care order which represents 63 per cent of all legal statuses. This is a decrease of 4 per cent from last year's figure of 38,600 and a decrease of 6 per cent from 2004 (39,700). 6 per cent of children were looked after under a placement order.
- 42,300 children looked after at 31 March 2008 were in a foster placement (71 per cent). This is an increase of 1 per cent on the previous year's figure of 42,100 and an increase of 3 per cent from 2004 (41,200).

#### *Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) – Table A4*

- There were 3,500 UASC who were looked after at 31 March 2008, this is an increase of around 100 children compared to the figure for 2007.
- In 2008 the percentage of UASC children of Black African origin decreased by 7 percentage points to 24 per cent, whilst the percentage of UASC children of any other Asian background increased by 7 percentage points to 31 per cent.

#### *Mothers aged 12 and over – Table A5*

- There were 280 mothers aged 12 and over who were looked after at 31 March 2008, a decrease of 20 per cent from the previous year's figure of 360 and a decrease of 5 per cent from the 2005 figure.

#### **Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 – Tables C1 to C3**

- There were 23,000 children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008, a decrease of 4 per cent from the previous year's figure of 24,000 and a decrease of 8 per cent from the 2003-04 figure of 25,000.
- During the year ending 31 March 2008, 38 per cent of children who started to be looked after were aged between 10 and 15 years old. This figure has decreased over the past 5 years.
- The percentage of children who started to be looked after in the year ending 31 March 2008 who were white British has decreased over the last 5 years from 71 per cent in 2003-04 to 66 per cent in 2007-08.

#### **Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 – Tables D1 to D3**

- There were 24,100 children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008, a decrease of 3 per cent from the previous year's figure of 25,000 and a decrease of 6 per cent from the 2003-04 figure of 25,700.
- The percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged between 5 and 9 years old decreased over the last 4 years from 17 per cent in 2003-04 to 13 per cent in 2007-08. There was a similar drop in the 10 to 15 age category where the percentage dropped from 30 per cent in 2003-04 to 24 per cent in 2007-08. However, the percentage of children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 and over increased over the past 5 years from 27 per cent in 2003-04 to 34 per cent in 2007-08.
- The proportion of children of white British ethnic origin who ceased to be looked after decreased from 74 per cent in 2004 to 68 per cent in 2007-08 whereas the proportions of children from other Asian backgrounds and of African ethnic origin have increased from 1 per cent in 2003-04 to 3 per cent in 2007-08 and from 4 per cent in 2003-04 to 6 per cent in 2007-08 respectively.
- In the year ending 31 March 2008, most children who ceased to be looked after had a foster placement as their final placement (12,600). This represents 52 per cent of all final placements.

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

- There were 340 mothers aged 12 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008, an increase of 3 per cent from the previous year's figure of 330.

**Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008 – Tables E1 and E2**

- 3,200 children looked after were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008. This represents a 5 per cent decrease from the previous year's figure of 3,300 and a 16 per cent decrease from the 2003-04 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 220 in 2003-04 to 120 in 2007-08.
- The percentage of children looked after who were adopted that were of white ethnic origin decreased over the past 5 years from 86 per cent in 2003-04 to 83 per cent in 2007-08, whereas the percentage of mixed ethnic origin children looked after who were adopted increased over the same period from 9 per cent in 2003-04 to 11 per cent in 2007-08.
- Before being adopted in 2007-08, 9 per cent of children were looked after under a freed for adoption final legal status, 23 per cent were looked after under a care order and 61 per cent were looked after under a placement order.
- The average duration of the final period of care that children looked after had before being adopted in 2007-08 was 2 years and 7 months. This has changed little over the past 5 years.

*Adopters of children looked after who were adopted in the year ending 31 March 2008 – Table E2*

- 91 per cent of children looked after who were adopted in 2007-08 were adopted by two people (2,900). Most adopters were married (84 per cent), 5 per cent of adopters were an unmarried couple (different gender), 2 per cent of adopters were an unmarried couple (same gender) and 1 per cent of adopters were civil partners.
- 9 per cent of children looked after who were adopted in 2007-08 were adopted by a single adopter. Of these single adopters, 99 per cent were female.
- This is the second year this information has been collected. The percentage of children looked after who were adopted by two people have remained the same at 91% as have the percentage of adopters who were married at 84%.

**Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2008 – Table F1**

- The number of children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March increased from 6,900 in 2003-04 to 8,300 in 2007-08.
- 61 per cent of these children ceased to be looked after on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, 24 per cent ceased to be looked after aged 16 years.
- The percentage of children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March of white British ethnic origin decreased from 71 per cent to 62 per cent over the last 5 years whereas the percentage of those from other Asian backgrounds and of African ethnic origin increased respectively from 1 per cent in 2003-04 to 5 per cent in 2007-08 and from 6 per cent in

2003-04 to 9 per cent in 2007-08, although the percentage of African origin dropped by 1 percentage point from last year's figures.

- Before ceasing to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008, 3,200 children aged 16 and over were in a foster placement (39 per cent), 2,100 in secure units, children's homes and hostels (25 per cent) and 1,900 were placed in the community (23 per cent).
- In 2007-08, 47 per cent of these children had at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ (3,900) and 7 per cent of the 8,300 children obtained at least 5 GCSEs at grade A\* to C.

#### **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 2005 then aged 16 years increased from 5,100 in 2004 to 5,800 in 2008.
- Over the past 5 years, the percentage of children now aged 19 years who were in education other than higher education increased from 18 per cent to 28 per cent. The number for those who were in training or employment increased from 1,600 to 1,800 between 2004 and 2008. The number for those who were not in touch with the local authorities decreased from 15 per cent to 6 per cent over the last 5 year's.
- Most children now aged 19 years who were looked after at 16 years were accommodated in independent living. This percentage has remained fairly stable over the last 5 year's.

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

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

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

This is the last year of this PSA target. In April 2008 National Indicator sets were introduced. These are a set of performance indicators for Local Authorities. Progress against National Indicator 63 (Stability of placement of looked after children: length of placement) will be shown in the first set of additional tables due for release in mid October 2008. 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>

## Tables

### Children looked after at 31 March 2008 - Tables A1 to A5

- Table A1: Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin, 2004-2008, England.
- Table A2: Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 2004-2008, England.
- Table A3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 2004-2008, England.
- Table A4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need and ethnic origin, 2004-2008, 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, 2005-2008, England.

### Children looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 - 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. 2004-2008, England.

### Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 – 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, 2004-2008, England.
- Table C2: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by legal status on starting, 2004-2008, England.
- Table C3: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on starting, 2004-2008, England.

### Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2008 – 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, 2004-2008, England.
- Table D2: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on ceasing, 2004-2008, 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, 2006-2008, England.

## **Children looked after who were adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008 – 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, 2004 to 2008, 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 2008, England.

## **Children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 years and over during the year ending 31 March 2008 – 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, 2004-2008, 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, 2004-2008, England.

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

Table H1: Children aged under 16 years who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years, and of those the number and percentage who had been in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption, at 31 March broken down by age at 31 March, gender and legal status at 31 March, 2004-2008, England.

## **Additional Information**

Detailed local authority data on children looked after will be released between October 2008 and December 2008 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>

## Notes to editors

### Data Collection

1. The 2007-08 figures for children looked after are the latest in a regular series. Data are collected on the SSDA903 return, which provides the Department for Children, Schools and Families with data on children looked after in England. It also covers adoptions of looked after children, educational qualifications of care leavers, the activity of former care leavers aged 19, and the Public Service Agreement target 5 of the Spending Review 2004.
2. All references made to "year" relate to the standard financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March (for example 2008 should be understood as 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008).
3. The figures presented for the year ending 31 March 2008 are based on data reported by all 150 local authorities in England.
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).

### Rounding Conventions

5. 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.
6. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers unless the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, in which case they have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-). Note that percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
7. 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.

### Related Publications

8. This publication is one of two children's social services publications being released at the same time. The other covers children on the Child Protection Register and is entitled **Referrals, Assessments and Children and Young People who are the subject of Child Protection Plans (on the Child Protection Register), England - Year ending 31 March 2008**. This can be downloaded from the Department's website at:  
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml>

## **A National Statistics publication**

9. 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.

## **ENQUIRIES**

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**Table A1: Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need, and ethnic origin.**

Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Coverage: England

rates per 10,000 children under 18 years

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008					
						numbers and percentages				
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All children looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>					
<b>Rates per 10,000 children under 18 years</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>54</b>					
<b>All children looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	34,000	33,700	33,400	33,400	33,500	55	55	55	56	56
Female	27,300	27,200	26,900	26,600	26,000	45	45	45	44	44
<b>Age at 31 March (years)</b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	2,700	2,800	2,900	3,000	2,900	4	5	5	5	5
1 to 4	8,900	8,600	8,400	8,700	9,000	15	14	14	15	15
5 to 9	12,700	12,100	11,500	10,900	10,400	21	20	19	18	17
10 to 15	26,600	26,600	26,200	25,500	24,900	43	44	43	43	42
16 and over	10,400	10,900	11,300	11,800	12,300	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Category of need<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	38,200	38,200	37,600	37,200	36,700	62	63	62	62	62
Child's disability	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,300	4	4	4	4	4
Parents illness or disability	3,400	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,800	6	5	5	5	5
Family in acute distress	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,700	4,900	7	7	7	8	8
Family dysfunction	6,100	6,100	6,100	6,300	6,300	10	10	10	11	11
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,700	1,500	1,300	1,300	1,200	3	2	2	2	2
Low income	110	110	110	110	130	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	5,000	5,000	5,100	5,000	5,200	8	8	8	8	9
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White										
White British	46,300	45,800	44,900	44,600	43,900	76	75	75	74	74
White Irish	520	500	450	420	420	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	1,900	1,800	1,600	1,500	1,600	3	3	3	3	3
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	2,100	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
White and Black African	420	450	450	460	460	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	730	730	760	790	740	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	310	290	310	300	320	1	0	1	0	1
Pakistani	520	580	610	640	670	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	230	270	280	280	310	0	0	0	0	1
Any other Asian background	470	670	930	1,100	1,500	1	1	2	2	2
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	3	3	3	3	3
African	2,300	2,400	2,400	2,300	2,100	4	4	4	4	4
Any other Black background	860	880	860	820	800	1	1	1	1	1
Other ethnic groups										
Chinese	120	120	120	130	140	0	0	0	0	0
Any other ethnic group	820	880	1,000	1,100	1,200	1	1	2	2	2

Source: SSSA 903

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
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 A2: Children looked after at 31 March by legal status.**

Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Coverage: England

Legal Status at 31 March	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All children looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Care Orders</b>	<b>39,700</b>	<b>39,800</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>38,600</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>
Interim care orders	8,700	8,900	9,100	9,400	9,400	14	15	15	16	16
Full care orders	31,000	31,000	30,600	29,200	27,800	51	51	51	49	47
<b>Freed for adoption<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Placement Order granted<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>17,700</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Detained for child protection</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Police protection	20	10	30	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency protection orders	40	40	50	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
On remand or committed for trial	190	170	150	180	180	0	0	0	0	0
Detained under PACE <sup>7</sup>	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-
Supervision order	10	10	20	20	20	0	0	0	0	0

Source: SSDA903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
5. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
6. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
7. Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

**Table A3: Children looked after at 31 March by placement.**

Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

Coverage: England

Placement at 31 March	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All children looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>41,200</b>	<b>41,300</b>	<b>41,600</b>	<b>42,100</b>	<b>42,300</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>71</b>
Foster placement inside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	5,800	5,600	5,300	5,100	5,000	9	9	9	9	8
With other foster carer provided by Council	20,900	20,300	19,900	20,000	19,900	34	33	33	33	33
arranged through agency	1,400	1,600	2,000	2,400	2,800	2	3	3	4	5
Foster placement outside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	3	3	3	3	3
With other foster carer provided by Council	5,100	5,200	5,400	5,300	5,300	8	9	9	9	9
arranged through agency	6,100	6,500	7,000	7,400	7,500	10	11	12	12	13
<b>Placed for adoption<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)				120	100				0	0
Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)		360	320	180	180		1	1	0	0
Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)				670	450				1	1
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)		3,100	2,700	1,700	1,900		5	4	3	3
<b>Placement with parents</b>	<b>5,900</b>	<b>5,700</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Other placement in the community</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Living independently	1,500	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,700	2	2	3	3	3
Residential employment	10	10	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-
<b>Secure units, children's homes and hostels</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Secure unit inside Council boundary	30	30	20	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside Council boundary <sup>6</sup>	210	220	170	180	160	0	0	0	0	0
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations										
inside Council boundary	3,200	3,000	3,000	2,900	3,100	5	5	5	5	5
outside Council boundary	2,600	2,600	2,300	2,300	2,100	4	4	4	4	4
Homes and hostels <i>not</i> subject to Children's Homes regulations	920	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,000	1	2	2	2	2
<b>Other residential settings</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Residential care homes	200	210	230	230	250	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	80	90	80	70	80	0	0	0	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	130	150	120	140	110	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	140	110	140	150	130	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Residential schools</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
In refuge (section 51 of Children Act, 1989)	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	40	20	20	30	40	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	90	120	120	120	120	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other placement</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: SSDA903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
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 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

**Table A4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, age at 31 March, category of need and ethnic origin.**  
**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	2,100	2,200	2,400	2,500	2,900	70	69	70	76	81
Female	900	980	1,000	810	660	30	31	30	24	19
<b>Age at 31 March (years)</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 16	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,200	42	37	34	34	34
16 and over	1,700	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,300	58	63	66	66	66
<b>Category of need<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	70	90	80	70	60	2	3	2	2	2
Child's disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Family in acute stress	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Family dysfunction	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	10	10	-	10	0	0	0	-	0
Low income	20	10	10	10	20	1	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,200	3,400	96	96	96	97	97
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>White</b>										
White British	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	0	0	-
White Irish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Any other White background	910	690	540	520	520	30	22	16	15	15
<b>Mixed</b>										
White and Black Caribbean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
White and Black African	20	10	10	10	10	1	0	0	0	0
White and Asian	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Any other mixed background	30	40	30	10	10	1	1	1	0	0
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>										
Indian	10	20	20	20	40	0	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	20	50	60	90	90	1	1	2	3	3
Bangladeshi	10	20	20	20	20	0	1	1	1	1
Any other Asian background	270	470	660	800	1,100	9	15	20	24	31
<b>Black or Black British</b>										
Caribbean	10	10	10	10	-	0	0	0	0	-
African	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,000	830	39	38	36	31	24
Any other Black background	80	100	120	90	80	3	3	4	3	2
<b>Other Ethnic groups</b>										
Chinese	60	60	70	80	90	2	2	2	2	3
Any other ethnic group	400	500	620	670	710	13	16	18	20	20

Source SSSA903

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
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 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.**

Years ending 31 March 2005 to 2008<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Coverage: England

	numbers and percentages							
	numbers				percentages			
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All females looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>26,900</b>	<b>26,600</b>	<b>26,000</b>				
<b>All mothers aged 12 years old and over looked after at 31 March<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age at 31 March (years)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
12 to 14	10	10	10	-	3	3	3	-
15	40	40	40	30	14	12	11	12
16	90	100	110	70	29	33	30	25
17	160	160	200	170	54	53	56	61
18 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Age at birth of first child (years)<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>x</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
12 to 14	x	40	50	40	x	12	13	14
15	x	60	80	80	x	21	23	29
16	x	80	100	110	x	26	29	38
17	x	40	60	50	x	12	16	19
18 and over	x	0	0	0	x	0	0	0
Birth date not reported	x	90	70	0	x	30	19	0
<b>Category of need<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	140	150	180	150	48	50	50	52
Child's disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability	10	10	10	10	4	3	2	5
Family in acute stress	30	30	30	30	10	10	8	9
Family dysfunction	50	50	60	50	16	17	18	17
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	10	10	10	5	4	3	4
Low income	-	0	-	-	-	0	-	-
Absent parenting	50	50	60	40	17	16	18	13
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White	190	180	220	160	63	60	61	57
Mixed	20	30	30	30	8	9	8	12
Asian or Asian British	10	10	10	10	2	2	2	4
Black or Black British	80	80	90	70	25	28	26	24
Other Ethnic groups	10	-	10	10	2	-	3	3
<b>Placement</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Foster placements	110	140	140	130	37	45	39	46
Placed for adoption	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	-
Placed with parents	30	20	20	20	8	6	5	7
Placed in the community	80	80	120	80	26	27	33	27
Secure units, children's homes and hostel:	60	50	60	40	20	15	15	15
Other residential settings	20	20	20	10	7	5	6	3
Residential schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed	-	-	10	-	-	-	1	-
Other placement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: SSDA903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Data on the first child's date of birth 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 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 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	7,400	7,600	7,300	7,300	7,100	63	64	64	64	65
Female	4,300	4,200	4,000	4,000	3,800	37	36	36	36	35
<b>Age (years)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	70	80	40	40	60	1	1	0	0	1
1 to 4	450	410	340	320	360	4	3	3	3	3
5 to 9	2,400	2,200	2,000	1,900	2,300	20	19	17	16	21
10 to 15	6,300	6,500	6,300	6,300	6,300	54	55	56	55	58
16 and over	2,500	2,600	2,700	2,800	1,900	21	22	24	25	17
Average age (yrs : months)	12:6	12:8	12:11	13:1	12:4					
<b>Placement<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Foster placements	5,200	5,000	4,600	4,300	4,000	44	43	40	38	37
Placed for adoption	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
Placement with parents	60	80	100	90	100	1	1	1	1	1
Other placement in the community	10	-	10	0	-	0	-	0	0	-
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	5,600	5,800	5,800	5,900	5,700	48	49	51	52	52
Other residential settings	630	630	590	740	820	5	5	5	7	8
Residential schools	170	160	160	180	220	1	1	1	2	2
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
Other placement	110	110	120	100	30	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Category of need<sup>7,8</sup></b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	570	610	550	580	560	5	5	5	5	5
Child's disability	9,200	9,300	9,000	9,100	8,800	79	79	79	80	81
Parents illness or disability	400	370	340	290	230	3	3	3	3	2
Family in acute distress	770	850	800	740	760	7	7	7	7	7
Family dysfunction	560	480	450	450	410	5	4	4	4	4
Socially unacceptable behaviour	110	100	110	90	50	1	1	1	1	0
Low income	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	60	60	70	70	80	0	1	1	1	1

Source: SSDA903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Children looked after at any time during the year.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Children 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.
5. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement.
7. Placement and category of need relate to child's latest episode of care during the year.
8. 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.**

**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**

**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All children who started to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	13,400	13,300	13,300	13,200	12,700	53	53	54	55	55
Female	11,600	11,600	11,300	10,800	10,400	47	47	46	45	45
<b>Age on starting (years)</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	4,100	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,300	16	17	18	19	19
1 to 4	4,600	4,500	4,300	4,400	4,300	18	18	17	18	19
5 to 9	4,400	4,300	4,000	3,900	3,500	18	17	16	16	15
10 to 15	10,500	10,100	9,800	9,200	8,700	42	40	40	39	38
16 and over	1,400	1,700	2,100	2,000	2,300	6	7	9	8	10
<b>Category of need<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	12,000	12,100	11,500	11,400	11,200	48	48	47	48	48
Child's disability	730	780	830	730	680	3	3	3	3	3
Parents illness or disability	1,900	1,600	1,500	1,300	1,200	7	7	6	5	5
Family in acute stress	2,700	2,900	2,800	2,800	2,600	11	12	11	12	11
Family dysfunction	3,400	3,100	3,200	3,300	3,100	13	13	13	14	13
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,600	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,100	6	5	5	5	5
Low income	70	80	70	80	70	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	2,700	3,000	3,400	3,100	3,100	11	12	14	13	14
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White										
White British	17,700	17,300	16,500	16,100	15,100	71	70	67	67	66
White Irish	150	160	160	140	130	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	870	850	810	880	890	3	3	3	4	4
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	730	680	670	620	560	3	3	3	3	2
White and Black African	210	200	190	190	190	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	290	270	280	300	240	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	760	760	770	720	740	3	3	3	3	3
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	160	130	160	140	170	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	290	350	290	340	320	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	150	170	160	170	200	1	1	1	1	1
Any other Asian background	320	560	820	830	1,100	1	2	3	3	5
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	780	690	720	630	610	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,500	1,600	1,700	1,500	1,300	6	6	7	6	6
Any other Black background	420	450	450	440	450	2	2	2	2	2
Other ethnic groups										
Chinese	90	70	120	170	140	0	0	0	1	1
Any other ethnic group	610	680	780	870	940	2	3	3	4	4

Source: SSSA 903

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. 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.

**Table C2: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by legal status on starting.**  
**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

Legal Status on starting	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All children who started to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Care Order</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>
Interim care order	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,600	4,200	16	16	17	19	18
Full care order	230	180	120	140	140	1	1	0	1	1
<b>Freed for adoption<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Placement Order granted<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>16,800</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Detained for child protection</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>3,400</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
Police protection	2,000	2,100	2,200	2,200	2,400	8	8	9	9	10
Emergency protection order	1,300	1,400	1,200	720	570	5	6	5	3	2
Under child assessment order	10	-	10	10	10	0	-	0	0	0
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
On remand or committed for trial	620	520	610	660	630	2	2	2	3	3
Detained under PACE <sup>8</sup>	40	30	30	20	30	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	10	10	20	10	20	0	0	0	0	0

Source: SSSA 903

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
7. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
8. Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

**Table C3: Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement.**  
**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008**<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Placement on starting</b>										
<b>All Children who started to be looked after</b> <sup>1,2,3</sup>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,900</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>24,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>17,800</b>	<b>17,300</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>75</b>
Foster placement inside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,400	1,400	7	6	6	6	6
With other foster carer provided by LA	12,700	12,500	11,900	11,400	10,900	51	50	48	48	47
arranged through agency	580	630	770	940	1,000	2	3	3	4	5
Foster placements outside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	360	380	350	290	330	1	2	1	1	1
With other foster carer provided by LA	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	9	8	9	9	9
arranged through agency	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,500	7	7	6	7	7
<b>Placed for adoption</b> <sup>6</sup>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)	20	10	10	-	0	0	0	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)				-	-				-	-
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)				-	0				-	0
<b>Placement with parents</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Other placements in the community</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Living independently	370	480	730	740	710	1	2	3	3	3
Residential employment	0	-	0	-	0	0	-	0	-	0
<b>Secure units, homes and hostels</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
Secure unit inside LA boundary	50	40	40	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside LA boundary <sup>7</sup>	130	110	170	200	180	1	0	1	1	1
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations										
inside LA boundary	2,000	2,000	2,100	1,900	1,700	8	8	8	8	8
outside LA boundary	570	520	490	420	410	2	2	2	2	2
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	300	410	480	440	520	1	2	2	2	2
<b>Other residential settings</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Residential care homes	80	80	80	70	100	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	340	410	440	430	420	1	2	2	2	2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	110	130	110	130	110	0	1	0	1	0
Youth Treatment Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	20	10	20	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Residential Schools</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
In refuge (S51 CA 1989)	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	10	-	10	-	-	0	-	0	-	-
Whereabouts unknown	30	30	20	40	40	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other placement</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: SSDA 903

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

**Table 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 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All looked after children who ceased to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	13,800	13,900	13,900	13,500	12,900	54	54	54	54	54
Female	11,900	12,000	11,900	11,400	11,200	46	46	46	46	46
<b>Age on ceasing (years)</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,300	1,300	5	5	5	5	6
1 to 4	5,600	5,600	5,500	5,400	5,500	22	22	21	21	23
5 to 9	4,300	4,100	3,800	3,600	3,200	17	16	15	14	13
10 to 15	7,600	7,300	6,900	6,500	5,800	30	28	27	26	24
16 and over	6,900	7,600	8,200	8,200	8,300	27	29	32	33	34
<b>Reason episode ceased</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Adopted - application unopposed <sup>6</sup>	3,800	3,800	3,700	1,700	1,700	20	15	14	7	7
Adopted - consent dispensed with <sup>6</sup>				1,600	1,500				6	6
Died	70	70	60	70	50	0	0	0	0	0
Care taken by another LA	220	230	240	240	180	1	1	1	1	1
Returned home to live with parents or relatives	12,700	12,100	11,000	10,100	9,500	49	47	42	41	39
Residence order granted	x	x	930	1,000	880	x	x	4	4	4
Special guardianship order made to former foster carers <sup>7</sup>				500	750				2	3
Special guardianship order made to carers other than former foster carers <sup>7</sup>	x	x	70	260	370	x	x	0	1	2
Moved into independent living (with supportive accommodation)	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,400	8	8	9	10	10
Moved into independent living (with no formalised support)	880	910	960	930	1,000	3	3	4	4	4
Transferred to residential care funded by adult social services	410	460	470	500	470	2	2	2	2	2
Sentenced to custody	x	x	x	250	350	x	x	x	1	1
Care ceased for any other reason	5,700	6,200	6,100	5,300	5,000	22	24	24	21	21
<b>Category of need<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	12,500	12,500	12,400	12,000	12,000	49	48	48	48	50
Child's disability	750	790	850	800	710	3	3	3	3	3
Parents illness or disability	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,400	8	7	6	6	6
Family in acute stress	2,800	2,900	2,800	2,600	2,600	11	11	11	11	11
Family dysfunction	3,500	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	14	13	13	13	13
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,800	1,600	1,500	1,300	1,200	7	6	6	5	5
Low income	60	80	70	80	50	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	2,300	3,000	3,300	3,300	3,000	9	11	13	13	12
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>White</b>										
White British	19,000	18,400	17,900	17,000	16,300	74	71	69	68	68
White Irish	210	200	200	180	130	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	960	1,100	990	940	840	4	4	4	4	3
<b>Mixed</b>										
White and Black Caribbean	670	730	730	630	650	3	3	3	3	3
White and Black African	200	190	200	180	190	1	1	1	1	1
White and Asian	310	280	270	280	290	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	710	730	810	760	800	3	3	3	3	3
<b>Asian or Asian British</b>										
Indian	170	150	150	140	150	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	260	290	270	310	300	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	140	130	150	170	170	1	0	1	1	1
Any other Asian background	240	350	580	690	690	1	1	2	3	3
<b>Black or Black British</b>										
Caribbean	730	760	720	670	700	3	3	3	3	3
African	1,000	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,500	4	6	6	6	6
Any other Black background	410	440	470	480	480	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Other Ethnic groups</b>										
Chinese	50	70	120	160	130	0	0	0	1	1
Any other ethnic group	600	640	670	800	800	2	2	3	3	3

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. Prior to 2006-07, the number of children looked after who were adopted could not be disaggregated.
7. 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.
8. 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 D2: Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March by placement on ceasing.**  
**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008**<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Placement on ceasing</b>										
<b>All looked after children who ceased to be looked after</b> <sup>1,2,3</sup>	<b>25,700</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,900</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Foster placements</b>	<b>13,700</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>12,900</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>12,600</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>52</b>
Foster placement inside Council boundary										
With relative or friend	1,600	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,600	6	6	6	6	6
With other foster carer provided by Council	8,600	8,400	7,800	7,300	6,900	33	32	30	29	29
arranged through agency	390	430	490	630	740	2	2	2	3	3
Foster placements outside LA boundary										
With relative or friend	430	480	550	570	540	2	2	2	2	2
With other foster carer provided by Council	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,500	6	5	5	6	6
arranged through agency	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,300	1,400	5	5	4	5	6
<b>Placed for adoption</b> <sup>6</sup>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
Placed for adoption with consent with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)				220	160				1	1
Placed for adoption with placement order with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)			320	220	260			0	2	1
Placed for adoption with consent not with current foster carer (under S19 AA 2002)				1,200	700					5
Placed for adoption with placement order not with current foster carer (under S21 AA 2002)				1,700	2,000					7
			3,800	3,500	3,300			0	13	8
<b>Placement with parents</b>	<b>2,800</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Other placements in the community</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
Living independently	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,900	1,900	5	6	7	8	8
Residential employment	10	-	10	-	-	0	-	0	-	-
<b>Secure units, children's homes and hostels</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>
Secure unit inside Council boundary	60	50	50	30	40	0	0	0	0	0
Secure unit outside Council boundary <sup>7</sup>	160	160	220	230	200	1	1	1	1	1
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations										
inside Council boundary	1,900	1,800	2,000	1,700	1,400	7	7	8	7	6
outside Council boundary	740	730	650	620	600	3	3	3	2	3
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	500	900	1,100	1,000	950	2	3	4	4	4
<b>Other residential settings</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Residential care homes	100	80	80	80	100	0	0	0	0	0
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	50	50	60	50	50	0	0	0	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	80	70	70	60	60	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	110	110	90	120	130	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Residential schools</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
In refuge (S51 CA 1989)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts known (not in refuge)	30	50	30	30	40	0	0	0	0	0
Whereabouts unknown	90	120	180	150	160	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Other placement</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Source: SSSA 903

1. Source: SSSA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.
6. Since 2004-05 placed for adoption has been disaggregated by whether the placement is or is not with current foster carer. Since 2006-07 placements were also disaggregated according to whether consent was given or a placement order sought.
7. There are currently only 19 secure units operating in England therefore most placements will inevitably be outside the council boundary.

**Table 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.**  
**Years ending 31 March 2006 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages					
	numbers			percentages		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
<b>All females who ceased to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>11,900</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,200</b>			
<b>All mothers aged 12 and over who ceased to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Age on ceasing (years)</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
12 to 14	40	20	10	11	5	3
15	30	30	20	10	8	7
16	60	70	50	16	21	15
17	50	50	50	13	16	14
18 and over	180	170	220	50	51	65
<b>Age at birth of first child (years)</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
12 to 14	40	30	40	11	8	11
15	50	60	80	15	19	23
16	70	80	120	21	23	35
17	90	80	110	25	25	34
18 and over	20	20	0	24	18	0
Birth date not reported	80	60	-	0	0	-
<b>Category of need<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	140	140	150	40	42	46
Child's disability	-	-	-	-	-	-
Parents illness or disability	10	10	10	3	3	2
Family in acute stress	50	50	30	13	15	10
Family dysfunction	60	60	60	18	18	19
Socially unacceptable behaviour	20	10	10	6	3	4
Low income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Absent parenting	60	60	70	18	17	21
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White	230	220	230	66	65	68
Mixed	30	20	30	7	7	10
Asian or Asian British	10	10	10	2	3	2
Black or Black British	80	70	70	22	22	20
Other Ethnic groups	10	10	10	3	4	3

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Data on mothers aged 12 years old and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March started to be collected in 2005-06.
6. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" 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 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All looked after children<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>61,200</b>	<b>61,000</b>	<b>60,300</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>59,500</b>					
<b>All Children looked after adopted</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,700	1,600	51	51	51	50	51
Female	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,700	1,500	49	49	49	50	49
<b>Age at adoption (years)</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	220	210	200	150	120	6	6	5	4	4
1 to 4	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,100	2,200	58	62	64	64	70
5 to 9	1,100	1,100	950	880	690	30	28	26	27	22
10 to 15	210	160	180	160	120	6	4	5	5	4
16 and over	20	20	20	10	20	0	0	0	0	1
Average age (yrs : months)	4:5	4:2	4:1	4:2	3:11					
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White	3,200	3,200	3,200	2,800	2,600	86	86	85	85	83
Mixed	330	350	380	340	330	9	9	10	10	11
Asian or Asian British	50	50	50	60	60	1	1	1	2	2
Black or Black British	100	80	90	90	110	3	2	2	3	4
Other ethnic groups	50	40	30	30	30	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Category of need<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Abuse or neglect	2,800	2,800	2,700	2,500	2,300	74	74	74	74	73
Child's disability	30	30	20	20	20	1	1	1	1	1
Parents illness or disability	160	190	180	160	170	4	5	5	5	5
Family in acute distress	230	220	230	170	220	6	6	6	5	7
Family dysfunction	290	340	310	310	300	8	9	8	9	10
Socially unacceptable behaviour	10	-	10	10	-	0	-	0	0	-
Low income	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	0	0	-
Absent parenting	260	200	190	190	140	7	5	5	6	4
<b>Final legal status</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Freed for adoption <sup>4</sup>	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,200	290	44	49	51	37	9
Placement Order <sup>5</sup>	x	x	20	640	1,900	x	x	0	19	61
Care order	1,700	1,600	1,500	1,200	730	46	42	41	36	23
Voluntary agreement (S20)	370	340	280	230	230	10	9	8	7	7
<b>Duration of final period of care<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1 year	260	260	240	170	140	7	7	6	5	4
1 year to under 2 years	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,200	33	36	38	36	38
2 years to under 3 years	1,100	1,100	1,100	980	1,100	28	30	30	29	34
3 years and over	1,200	1,000	960	970	750	32	27	26	29	24
Average duration (yrs : mths)	2:8	2:7	2:7	2:8	2:7					
<b>Age on starting final period of care (years)<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Under 1	2,000	2,100	2,100	1,900	1,900	53	56	57	58	61
1	470	470	470	370	380	12	13	13	11	12
2	400	400	340	360	300	11	11	9	11	9
3	310	300	270	250	200	8	8	7	8	6
4 and over	580	500	510	420	340	15	13	14	13	11
Average age (yrs : mths)	1:8	1:7	1:7	1:6	1:4					

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
3. The most applicable category of the eight "Need Codes" at the time the child was taken into care rather than necessarily the entire reason they are looked after.
4. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
5. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
6. "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

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

Years ending 31 March 2007 to 2008<sup>1</sup>

Coverage: England

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

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

**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 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All Children aged 16 years and over who ceased to be looked after<sup>1,2,3</sup></b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	3,900	4,300	4,800	4,700	4,700	57	57	58	58	57
Female	3,000	3,300	3,500	3,500	3,500	43	43	42	42	43
<b>Age on ceasing (years)</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
16	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,100	2,000	30	28	27	26	24
17	1,200	1,400	1,500	1,300	1,200	18	18	18	17	15
18th birthday	3,600	4,000	4,500	4,700	5,100	52	53	55	58	61
Older than 18th birthday	-	10	10	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ethnic origin</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
White										
White British	4,900	4,800	5,000	4,900	5,100	71	64	61	60	62
White Irish	60	60	80	50	40	1	1	1	1	1
Any other White background	400	560	500	420	360	6	7	6	5	4
Mixed										
White and Black Caribbean	130	140	170	150	190	2	2	2	2	2
White and Black African	40	60	50	40	30	1	1	1	0	0
White and Asian	60	50	50	50	70	1	1	1	1	1
Any other mixed background	160	180	200	200	170	2	2	2	2	2
Asian or Asian British										
Indian	40	40	50	40	50	1	1	1	1	1
Pakistani	50	50	60	80	80	1	1	1	1	1
Bangladeshi	20	30	40	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Any other Asian background	80	170	350	420	430	1	2	4	5	5
Black or Black British										
Caribbean	190	240	240	200	210	3	3	3	2	3
African	410	740	820	820	740	6	10	10	10	9
Any other Black background	100	120	160	170	150	1	2	2	2	2
Other Ethnic groups										
Chinese	30	50	90	120	100	0	1	1	1	1
Any other ethnic group	240	280	370	450	470	3	4	4	6	6
<b>Final placement</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,200</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Foster placements	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,200	42	39	37	38	39
Placed for adoption	30	20	20	10	20	0	0	0	0	0
Placed with parents	530	460	540	480	500	8	6	7	6	6
Other placements in the community	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,800	1,900	19	20	21	23	23
Secure units, children's homes and hostels	1,700	2,100	2,400	2,200	2,100	24	28	29	27	25
Other residential settings	200	190	180	180	200	3	2	2	2	2
Residential schools	180	190	160	190	170	3	2	2	2	2
Missing - Absent for more than 24 hours from agreed placement	50	90	130	110	120	1	1	2	1	1
Other placement	60	70	70	50	50	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Qualifications</b>										
At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	2,900	3,200	3,500	3,600	3,900	43	42	43	44	47
At least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C	400	460	530	540	610	6	6	6	7	7

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
3. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
4. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
5. Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which, since 2003-04 has covered all children looked after.

**Table G1: Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2001, 1 April 2002, 1 April 2003, 1 April 2004 and 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation.**

Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Coverage: England

	numbers and percentages									
	numbers					percentages				
	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2005 <sup>5</sup>	2006 <sup>6</sup>	2007 <sup>7</sup>	2008 <sup>8</sup>	2004 <sup>4</sup>	2005 <sup>5</sup>	2006 <sup>6</sup>	2007 <sup>7</sup>	2008 <sup>8</sup>
<b>All children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2001 to 2005 then aged 16 years old<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Unaccompanied asylum seeking children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2001 to 2005 then aged 16 years old	110	180	140	220	270	2	3	3	4	5
<b>Gender</b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Male	2,800	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,300	55	56	57	56	57
Female	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,600	2,500	45	44	43	44	43
<b>Activity<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>In higher education i.e. studies beyond A level</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Full time	x	x	x	340	380	x	x	x	6	6
Part time	x	x	x	10	20	x	x	x	0	0
<b>In education other than higher education</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>
Full time	x	x	x	1,300	1,400	x	x	x	22	24
Part time	x	x	x	180	180	x	x	x	3	3
<b>In training or employment</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>
Full time	x	x	x	1,300	1,300	x	x	x	22	22
Part time	x	x	x	480	510	x	x	x	8	9
Not in education, training or employment owing to illness or disability	300	260	240	290	270	6	5	5	5	5
Not in education, training or employment owing to other reasons	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,400	1,400	24	25	25	24	24
Not in touch	750	560	380	450	380	15	11	7	8	6
<b>Accommodation<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>5,100</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>5,300</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
With parents or relatives	570	690	700	720	700	11	13	13	12	12
Community home	230	230	260	250	280	4	4	5	4	5
Semi-independent, transitional accommodation	390	420	420	540	550	8	8	8	9	9
Supported lodgings	350	360	410	450	520	7	7	8	8	9
Ordinary lodgings	250	190	250	270	280	5	4	5	5	5
Foyers	60	80	90	60	90	1	2	2	1	2
Independent living	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,500	2,400	41	42	43	43	42
Emergency accommodation	30	30	30	40	40	1	1	1	1	1
Bed and breakfast	50	50	40	40	50	1	1	1	1	1
In custody	120	150	170	180	180	2	3	3	3	3
Other accommodation	240	240	270	270	340	5	5	5	5	6
Not in touch	750	560	380	450	380	15	11	7	8	6

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2001 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
5. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2002 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
6. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2003 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
7. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2004 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
8. Children now aged 19 years old who were looked after on 1 April 2005 then aged 16 years old (in their 17th year)
9. Full and part time activity was collected separately from 2006-07.
10. This includes accommodation judged both suitable and unsuitable.

**Table H1: Children aged under 16 years old who have been looked after continuously for at least two and a half years, and of those the number and percentage who had been in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption, at 31 March broken down by age at 31 March, gender and legal status at 31 March**  
**Years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008<sup>1,2,3</sup>**  
**Coverage: England**

	numbers and percentages														
	All children looked after for at least two and a half years					Of the Children looked after for at least two and a half years, the number of children in the same placement for at least two years, or placed for adoption					Of the number of Children looked after for at least two and a half years, the percentage of children in the same placement for at least two years or placed for adoption <sup>4</sup>				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>All ages (under 16 years old)</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Age at 31 March (years)</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>
Under 5	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,000	950	900	890	920	73	74	72	72	70
5 to 9	6,100	5,900	5,700	5,300	5,100	4,300	4,100	4,000	3,600	3,500	70	70	70	69	70
10 to 15	15,500	16,000	16,000	15,900	15,700	9,600	9,700	9,900	10,100	10,200	62	61	62	64	65
<b>Gender</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>
Male	12,900	13,000	13,000	12,700	12,500	8,200	8,200	8,400	8,300	8,300	64	63	64	65	66
Female	10,100	10,100	9,900	9,700	9,500	6,700	6,600	6,400	6,300	6,400	66	65	65	66	67
<b>Legal status at 31 March</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>23,100</b>	<b>22,900</b>	<b>22,400</b>	<b>22,000</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>14,700</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Care Orders</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>18,700</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>12,200</b>	<b>12,300</b>	<b>12,100</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
Interim care orders	340	300	330	400	510	190	160	190	220	290	54	55	57	55	57
Full care orders	18,900	19,100	19,000	18,300	17,600	12,200	12,100	12,100	11,800	11,500	64	63	64	65	66
<b>Freed for adoption<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>870</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Placement Order granted<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Detained for child protection</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Police protection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Emergency protection orders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Youth Justice legal statuses</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
On remand or committed for trial	10	-	-	10	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detained under PACE <sup>7</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	0	10	-	-	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	0	0

Source: SSDA 903

1. Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
2. Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3. Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4. Percentages represent the stability aspect of PSAs of Spending Review 2004.
5. No new applications for freeing orders may be made on or after 30 December 2005.
6. Placement orders came into force on 30 December 2005.
7. Children detained in local authority accommodation under section 38(6) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.