

Statistics of Education:

**Children looked after
by Local Authorities
Year Ending 31 March 2005
Volume 1: National Tables**



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Volume 2 can be downloaded from the Department for Education and Skills' web site at www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000646/index.shtml. These tables are not available in hard copy.

FOUR WAYS OF PRESENTING DATA ON LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The SSDA903 return provides a continuous picture of the population of looked after children. This publication uses four different approaches to viewing this population:

The number of children who have been looked after **at any time in the year** (regardless of whether they were still looked after on 31 March);

- *this forms the basis of National Tables R, S and T (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 11 and 12 (Volume 2).*

A “snapshot” count of the number of children who were looked after **on 31 March;**

- *this forms the basis of National Tables A–Q (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 1 to 10 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **started** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the first start is counted);

- *this forms the basis of National Tables U to AA (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 13 to 15 (Volume 2).*

The number of children who **ceased** to be looked after at any time in the year. (Where a child had separate periods of care, only the latest time that a period of care ceased counted);

- *this forms the basis of National Tables X to AV (Volume 1), Local Authority Tables 3 and 16 to 20 (Volume 2).*

Also include the number of young people aged 19 who left care and who were looked after on 1 April 2002 which forms the basis of National Tables AW to BB (Volume 1), Local Authority Table 21 (Volume 2).

These categories are not mutually exclusive, so it is possible for a child who had separate periods of care in the year to be counted in each of the tables.

For further details of how the “started” and “ceased” figures are calculated, and for an explanation of “numbers”, “rates” and “percentages” please refer to the Technical Notes and Appendix A.

All references to “year” in this publication refer to the standard financial year, which runs from 1 April to 31 March.

TECHNICAL NOTES FOR VOLUME 1: NATIONAL TABLES AND VOLUME 2: LOCAL AUTHORITY TABLES

Data source

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from the SSDA903 statistical returns submitted by local councils in England.

The SSDA903 is a statistical return completed by local authorities covering children looked after. Between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2003, authorities were only required to provide data for a sample of their children (children born on a day of the month divisible by three). Prior to 1 April 1997 and from 1 April 2003, the SSDA903 covered all children looked after.

The information collected contains details normally available when the child starts to be looked after (gender, date of birth, category of need, legal status under which looked after and type of placement). When a change in legal status or placement (or both) occurs a new episode of care is started and the date and reason for the change are recorded. Information is supplied to the Department for Education and Skills annually, and these records are then linked (by a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local council in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).

An individual child may start and cease to be looked after more than once in a particular year, or a single period of care may span over several years. The analyses presented relate to children rather than individual episodes of care.

Between 1998 and 2003, the CLA100 return was completed in addition to the SSDA903. The CLA100 return collected aggregate data from local authorities regarding children looked after at 31 March. This return has now been discontinued as a result of the SSDA903 collection covering all children looked after.

The SSDA903 was generally considered to be more accurate than the CLA100 for the following reasons:

- All SSDA903 records are subject to vigorous validation to ensure that all reported episodes are fully consistent with one another. Failure to pass any validation test renders the entire care-history of the child invalid, and these records are excluded from all analyses
- Efforts are made to ensure that for every child who is looked after at 31 March a further episode is submitted for that child in the following year. No child can simply go 'missing' from the database without this being checked with the appropriate local authority

However between 1998 and 2003, the SSDA903 only covered a third of children looked after. Estimates produced from small sample numbers may be unreliable and should be used with caution.

In 2004–05, the SSDA903 return was completed for the second time via the internet and contained the former OC1, OC3 and AD1 returns.

The AD1 return collects child level figures for children looked after by local authorities who were adopted during the year ending 31 March. It was first collected for the year ending 31 March 2001 and since 2003–04 the data collection has formed part of the SSDA903 return.

The OC1 return collects the educational qualifications held by young people leaving care aged 16 or over in the year ending 31 March, regardless of how long they had been looked after, at the point of leaving care. Any examinations taken after the end of the latest period of care are excluded. The OC1 was first collected in the year ending 31 March 2000 and since 2003–04 the data collection has formed part of the SSDA903 return.

The OC3 return collects the activity and accommodation on their 19th birthday of former care leavers who are 19 in the year ending 31 March. The return covers all young people who were looked after on 1 April aged 16 (in their 17th year). The OC3 was collected for the first time in the year ending 31 March 2002 and since 2003–04 the data collection has formed part of the SSDA903 return.

Estimation methodology

Figures presented for 2003–04 and 2004–05 and for years prior to 1997–98 are based entirely on the detailed SSDA903, which for these years covered all looked after children. Between 1997–98 and 2002–03, sample data from the SSDA903 return and the CLA100 return have been combined to give the best estimates available of the figures at both national and local levels.

For the years 1997–98 and 1998–99 three multiplying factors have been used to follow the patterns revealed in the SSDA903 sample, which is considered more accurate, rather than the CLA100. These are calculated based on comparing the CLA100 totals for the numbers of children who started to be looked after during the year, ceased to be looked after during the year and those looked after at 31 March with corresponding counts of valid SSDA903 records. The number of children who started to be looked after in the year was not included in the 1999–00 CLA100 collection, and the number of children who ceased to be looked after in the year was not included in the 2000–01. These changes resulted in a revision to the grossing methodology, and it was decided that, for the years 1999–00 and 2000–01 (and onwards) only one multiplying factor, based on the number of children looked after at 31 March, would be prepared for each local authority. By using one factor, the results obtained will follow the patterns revealed in the SSDA903 sample, which is considered more accurate, rather than the CLA100.

The AD1, OC1, and OC3 returns have been used to prepare national tables AM to AO, tables AP to AV, and tables AW to BB (Volume 1) respectively and also to prepare local authority table 18, tables 19 and 20, and tables 21 (Volume 2) respectively. One can access these two volumes from website links which are specified at the end of this document. These returns have always been completed for all children looked after and so the breakdowns of figures from these returns differ slightly from results derived by grossing sample numbers from the SSDA903 prior to 2003–04.

Where possible tables that present data being looked after on 31 March 1998 to 2003 are based entirely on the aggregate data from the CLA100 return. These include national tables A to I (Volume 1) and local authority tables 1 to 5 (Volume 2).

Tables including figures from both the SSDA903 and CLA100 returns are presented so that, wherever possible, the sum of figures from the sample equals the aggregate data. However in some cases this isn't possible and footnotes have been added to explain any inconsistency. Sampling reduces the reliability of some of the breakdowns presented and so local authority figures, particularly where the figures for individual categories are relatively small, should be used with caution.

Tables AJ and AK present figures on the number of placements and number of periods of care children who ceased to be looked after in the year have experienced in their care history respectively. Although the figures are for 2004–05, when the SSDA903 return covered all looked after children, the tables are based on only those children in 2004–05 who would have fallen within the one-third sample in previous years (i.e. were born on a day in the month divisible by three). While some of the children who ceased to be looked after in 2004–05 may have only been looked after in 2004–05, the majority will have been looked after prior to 2004–05 and so we only have the entire care histories of those who would have been captured in the sample.

Figures on the causes of death of children looked after for 2002–03 were obtained with a special matching exercise. Where the SSDA903 return for 2002–03, based on the one-third sample, indicated that a child left care due to death (from the 'reason episode ceased' codes), DfES contacted the appropriate local authority and asked for them to send the child's name to the Office of National Statistics (ONS). ONS used the name to link the SSDA903 information and the death registration records to obtain cause of death. In 2003–04 and 2004–05, ONS obtained cause of death information solely by using the SSDA903 return, which covered all children looked after, and did not repeat the special matching exercise: as a consequence only two thirds of those who died while in care could be uniquely matched to ONS records.

Missing data

All local authorities in England submitted data for 2004–05 in time for inclusion in this publication. There are however a few gaps in coverage for earlier years – where this is the case the national figures include estimates for any missing data.

Data Quality

All returns were subject to a number of validation checks including comparisons with other returns where possible. Inconsistencies are raised with local authorities for checking and correction.

For the years prior to 1997–98, and since 2003–04, compensating adjustments were made to the figures for authorities where records had been excluded due to unresolved discrepancies (these compensating adjustments refer to the multiplying factors as mentioned in the paragraph above entitled 'Estimation Methodology'). In 2004–05, only 5 local authorities had outstanding discrepancies: the national multiplying factor for 2004–05 is less than 1.01.

Table E2 in Appendix E (Volume 2) gives a comparison of the CLA 100 and SSDA903 returns for 2000 and 2003, including the multiplying factors. Taking into account leap years, the expected value of all ratios is 3.07, although this figure is unlikely to be achieved very often because of the chance effects of sampling. Ratios which indicate a significant difference between the CLA 100 and the SSDA903 submission have been underscored, and any estimate that depends on an underscored ratio should be treated with caution.

Note that 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.

The reason behind this stems from how the data which will be analysed is extracted from the database. Two to three times a year a snapshot of the database is taken and is used as the basis for analyses. Because some information provided by local authority at the data collection stage are later refined or discovered to be wrong, changes are made to the database on receipt of those modifications. Hence these amendments are only reflected in the next snapshot taken of the database. For instance, the SFR and the Key Local Authority Tables present provisional figures whilst the Statistical Volume presents final figures which take account of any subsequent amendments sent by local authorities (See Appendix D for links to websites).

The SFR and the Key Local Authority Tables for 2004–05 data can be accessed on the following website: <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000615/index.shtml>

Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000

For the years 1997–98 to 1999–00 local councils were asked to include children under Sections 90–92 of the Powers of the Criminal Courts Act 2000, (formally Section 53 of the Criminal & Young Persons Act 1933) in their CLA100 figures, even though these are generally not looked after. This requirement was however dropped from 2000–01. This means that estimates for the number of children looked after at 31 March 1998 to 2000 are inflated by about 100 children compared with figures for other years.

Local Government Reorganisation

Local councils affected by reorganisation at the end of March 1998 supplied the Department with information indicating which successor council took over responsibility for which looked after child. This information covered all children looked after by these authorities since the implementation of the Children Act (1989). It has therefore enabled us to present estimated data in this publication for the new authorities for years before they came into existence.

Rounding and suppression

To ensure that no individual child can be identified from statistical tables we have used the following conventions throughout this publication:

- National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise
- Regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10
- Local authority figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 (Volume 2).
- Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-). Zero (0) is shown only when the number submitted was zero.
- Percentages, where the numerator is 5 or less or the denominator is 10 or less, have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-).

It has on occasion been necessary to suppress other data whenever it would be possible to calculate missing data by means of simple arithmetic. In these circumstances

the second smallest number relating to the same variable is suppressed. In addition, in local authority tables presenting figures used in the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) indicators (such as local authority tables 5 and 6), it may have been necessary to suppress the third smallest number or a zero in order to avoid the suppression of a figure used in the indicator. For further details on rounding and suppression see Appendix C.

Note that as a consequence of our rounding and suppression figures may not sum to the total.

Rates and percentages

Rates per 10,000 of the population have been calculated using the appropriate mid-year estimates of the number of children in England aged under 18 years supplied by the Office for National Statistics. A small number of young people aged 18 and over are included in the figures, but this is not thought to seriously distort the rate. The mid-year population estimates for 2002 to 2004 are presented in Appendix E in Volume 2: Local Authority Tables. These have been used to derive estimates of rates for the years 2003–04 to 2004–05 respectively.

Note that percentages are shown as whole numbers, and as a result may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Figures on the internet

The Department of Education and Skill's web site contains a copy of this publication as well as a copy of Volume 2: Local Authority Tables with all the tables in a suitable format for downloading into Microsoft Excel. It can be found at:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/index.shtml>

Symbols used

The following conventions have been used in the tables:

- .. not available
- data suppressed for reasons of confidentiality. Normally this will refer to numbers of five or less, or percentages where either the numerator is five or less or the denominator is ten or less

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A

Children looked after at 31 March by gender and age, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and rate per 10,000 children under 18 years

Age at 31 March	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	49,900	50,800	51,500	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900
Rates per 10,000	45	46	46	48	49	52	53	54	55	55	55
Male	26,800	27,600	28,200	29,200	30,200	31,900	32,600	33,200	33,600	33,900	33,700
Under 1	830	890	900	940	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300	1,400	1,400
1–4	3,600	3,900	4,300	4,600	4,900	5,100	4,900	5,000	4,900	4,700	4,600
5–9	5,700	6,000	6,100	6,500	6,800	7,100	7,200	7,300	7,200	7,100	6,700
10–15	11,800	12,000	12,200	12,400	12,700	13,500	14,100	14,500	14,800	14,900	14,900
16 and over	4,800	4,800	4,700	4,800	4,700	5,100	5,200	5,200	5,400	5,800	6,100
Female	23,200	23,200	23,300	24,200	25,300	26,200	26,300	26,500	27,200	27,200	27,200
Under 1	770	750	830	870	1,100	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,300	1,200	1,400
1–4	3,200	3,400	3,800	4,200	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,300	4,300	4,200	4,100
5–9	4,600	4,800	4,900	5,300	5,900	6,200	6,100	6,100	6,000	5,600	5,500
10–15	10,000	9,800	9,500	9,600	9,800	10,400	10,600	10,800	11,300	11,600	11,600
16 and over	4,600	4,500	4,300	4,200	4,100	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,500	4,700

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLAT00 return.

B

Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by age and by gender, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

percentages

Age at 31 March	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
1–4	14	14	16	16	17	17	16	15	15	15	14
5–9	21	21	21	22	23	23	23	22	22	21	20
10–15	44	43	42	41	41	41	42	42	44	44	44
16 and over	19	18	17	17	16	16	16	16	16	17	18
Male	52	53	54	55	54	55	55	56	55	55	55
Female	47	46	47	45	46	45	45	44	45	45	45

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLAT00 return.

C

Children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers

Legal status	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	49,900	50,800	51,500	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900
Care orders ⁵	29,100	29,400	30,700	32,100	34,400	36,400	37,600	38,400	39,600	39,600	39,400
S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements)	19,500	19,800	19,200	19,100	18,800	19,300	19,100	19,000	18,900	18,800	18,800
On remand or committed for trial or detained ⁶	450	510	500	650	530	620	320	310	240	210	220
Other legal status ⁷	910	1,000	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,100	2,500	2,400

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

5 Includes both full and interim care orders.

6 For the years ending ending 31 March 1998 to 2000, includes children who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90–92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

7 Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table L for a breakdown of the figure for 2005.

D

Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by legal status, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

percentages

Legal status	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Care orders ⁵	58	58	60	60	62	63	64	64	65	65	65
S20 CA 1989 (voluntary arrangements)	39	39	37	36	34	33	32	32	31	31	31
On remand or committed for trial or detained ⁶	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Other legal status ⁷	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

5 Includes both full and interim care orders.

6 For the years ending ending 31 March 1998 to 2000, includes children who were subject to a compulsory care order under Sections 90–92 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.

7 Includes child protection orders and freed for adoption. See Table L for a breakdown of the figure for 2005.

E

Children looked after at 31 March by placement, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers

Placement	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	49,900	50,800	51,500	53,300	55,500	58,100	58,900	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900
Foster placements	32,300	33,200	33,700	35,000	36,200	37,900	38,300	39,200	41,100	41,200	41,700
Living independently or in residential employment	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,200	1,500	1,400
Secure Units, homes, hostels and schools	8,000	7,600	7,400	7,200	7,300	7,700	7,900	7,900	7,700	8,200	8,100
Secure Units ^{5,6}	N/A	N/A	6,400	6,100	6,100	6,300	190	220	210	250	270
Homes and hostels subject to Children's Homes regulations	N/A	N/A									
Homes and hostels not subject to Children's Homes regulations	N/A	N/A	160	110	180	310	520	540	560	900	1,100
Residential Schools	N/A	N/A	800	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,100
Placed for adoption ⁷	2,200	2,200	2,400	2,400	2,900	3,100	3,400	3,600	3,400	3,600	3,100
Placement with parents	4,400	4,700	5,200	5,700	6,300	6,500	6,900	6,700	6,400	5,900	5,700
Other accommodation	1,700	1,700	1,600	1,900	1,600	1,700	1,200	1,100	990	810	850

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

5 Prior to 2001, secure units were classified under children's homes.

6 Estimates of numbers of children re-calculated for 1997 to 2000 in line with the new coding structure which came into force on 1 April 2000.

7 Increase since 1996 is, in part, a result of improved recording of this type of placement.

F

Percentage of children looked after at 31 March by placement, 1995–2005^{1,2}

England

percentages

Placement	1995 ³	1996 ³	1997 ³	1998 ⁴	1999 ⁴	2000 ⁴	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ³	2005 ³
All Children¹	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	65	65	66	66	65	65	65	66	68	67	68
Children's homes ⁵	16	15	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
Placed for adoption	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	5
Placement with parents	9	9	10	11	11	11	12	11	10	10	9
Other accommodation ⁶	6	6	5	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	4

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

4 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

5 Includes secure units, homes and hostels and residential schools.

6 Includes lodgings and other residential settings.

G

Children looked after at 31 March by category of need, 2002–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers				percentages			
	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴
All Children¹	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	37,500	38,600	38,200	38,100	63	63	62	63
Disability	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,400	4	4	4	4
Parents illness or disability	3,600	3,500	3,400	3,300	6	6	6	5
Family in acute stress	3,900	4,100	4,200	4,400	7	7	7	7
Family dysfunction	6,100	6,000	6,100	6,100	10	10	10	10
Socially unacceptable behaviour	2,000	1,800	1,700	1,500	3	3	3	2
Low income	70	90	110	120	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	4,100	4,200	4,900	4,900	7	7	8	8

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

H

Children looked after at 31 March by ethnic origin, 2002–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers				percentages			
	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴
All Children¹	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900	100	100	100	100
White	49,100	49,500	48,800	48,100	82	81	80	79
Mixed	4,700	5,000	5,000	5,000	8	8	8	8
Asian or Asian British	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,800	2	2	2	3
Black or Black British	4,000	4,200	4,900	4,900	7	7	8	8
Other ethnic groups	800	870	990	1,100	1	1	2	2

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return.

I

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after at 31 March by gender, by age and by region, 2002–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers				percentages				
	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	
All Children¹	2,200	2,400	2,900	2,900	100	100	100	100	
Gender	Male	1,700	1,900	2,100	2,000	78	76	70	70
	Female	490	580	870	880	22	24	30	30
Age	Under 16	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,100	52	51	41	37
	16 and over	1,100	1,200	1,700	1,800	48	49	59	63
Region	North ⁵	50	100	140	170	2	4	5	6
	Midlands ⁶	160	230	270	280	7	9	9	10
	London	1,600	1,700	2,000	2,000	72	71	70	69
	South East	410	390	480	470	19	16	16	16

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the CLA100 return.

4 Figures are taken from the SSSA903 return.

5 Includes North East, North West, Merseyside and Yorks & Humber.

6 Includes East Midlands, West Midlands, South West and Eastern.

J

Children looked after at 31 March with three or more placements during the year by age, 2001–2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ³	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	2001 ³	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴
All Children¹	9,600	9,100	9,000	8,400	8,000	100	100	100	100	100
Age										
Under 1	350	320	270	300	300	4	4	3	4	4
Age 1	440	490	450	360	410	5	5	5	4	5
2 to 4	1,000	900	890	760	680	10	10	10	9	8
5 to 9	1,700	1,400	1,500	1,100	960	18	15	16	13	12
10 to 15	4,400	4,400	4,300	4,100	4,000	46	48	48	49	50
16 and over	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	18	18	18	21	21

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

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

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

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003–04 and 2004–05 covered all looked after children.

K

Children looked after at 31 March 2005 by placement and age^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Placement	All Children	Age at 31 March 2005									
		numbers					percentages				
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children¹	60,900	2,800	8,700	12,100	26,500	10,800	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	41,700	2,200	5,800	9,300	19,000	5,400	79	67	77	72	49
Foster placement inside Council boundary											
With relative or friend	5,600	140	880	1,600	2,400	650	5	10	13	9	6
With other foster carer											
provided by Council	21,300	1,600	3,400	4,500	9,300	2,600	58	39	37	35	24
arranged through agency	1,600	60	160	390	800	220	2	2	3	3	2
Foster placements outside LA boundary											
With relative or friend	1,900	50	280	530	760	250	2	3	4	3	2
With other foster carer											
provided by Council	4,800	230	560	940	2,300	760	8	6	8	9	7
arranged through agency	6,500	110	550	1,400	3,500	880	4	6	12	13	8
Placed for adoption	3,100	220	1,700	1,000	190	10	8	19	9	1	0
Placement with parents	5,700	260	1,100	1,400	2,100	830	10	13	12	8	8
Other placements in the community	1,400	0	0	0	40	1,300	0	0	0	0	12
Living independently	1,400	0	0	0	40	1,300	0	0	0	0	12
Residential employment	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0
Secure units, homes and hostels	7,000	10	10	200	4,100	2,600	0	0	2	16	24
Secure unit inside Council boundary	40	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
Secure unit outside Council boundary	240	0	0	-	180	-	0	0	-	1	-
Homes and hostels subject to											
Children's Homes regulations											
inside Council boundary	3,100	-	-	100	2,100	910	-	-	1	8	8
outside Council boundary	2,600	10	10	100	1,800	680	0	0	1	7	6
Homes and hostels not subject to	1,100	0	0	0	60	1,000	0	0	0	0	9
Children's Homes regulations											
Other residential settings	590	90	50	30	210	220	3	1	0	1	2
Residential care homes	250	-	-	20	160	70	-	-	0	1	1
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	90	10	-	-	20	50	0	-	-	0	0
Family centre or mother and baby unit	150	80	40	-	-	20	3	0	-	-	0
Young offenders institution or prison	110	0	0	0	30	80	0	0	0	0	1
Residential Schools	1,100	0	0	50	740	320	0	0	0	3	3
Absent from agreed placement	130	0	-	-	60	70	0	-	-	0	1
Other accommodation	130	-	-	10	50	60	-	-	0	0	1

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

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

Children looked after at 31 March 2005 by legal status and age^{1,2}

L

England

numbers and percentages

Legal Status	Age at 31 March 2005											
	numbers						percentages					
	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children¹	60,900	2,800	8,700	12,100	26,500	10,800	100	5	14	20	44	18
Care Orders	39,400	1,800	6,000	9,400	17,000	5,200	100	5	15	24	43	13
Interim care orders	9,500	1,600	3,200	2,600	2,000	170	100	17	33	27	21	2
Full care orders	29,900	170	2,800	6,800	15,000	5,000	100	1	9	23	50	17
Youth Justice legal statuses	220	0	0	0	140	80	100	0	0	0	63	37
On remand or committed for trial	200	0	0	0	120	70	100	0	0	0	63	37
Detained under PACE ³	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	20	0	0	0	10	10	100	0	0	0	72	28
Detained for child protection	50	20	20	10	10	0	100	37	29	16	18	0
Police protection	10	-	-	-	-	0	100	-	-	-	-	0
Emergency Protection Orders	40	20	10	10	10	0	100	36	29	17	19	0
Under child assessment order	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Freed for adoption	2,300	140	1,200	710	270	50	100	6	50	30	11	2
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	18,800	820	1,500	2,000	9,100	5,500	100	4	8	10	48	29
Wardship	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0

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

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

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

Children looked after at 31 March 2005 by category of need and age^{1,2}

M

England

numbers and percentages

Category of Need	Age at 31 March 2005													
	Numbers							Percentages						
	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & 17	18 & over	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & 17	18 & over
All Children^{1,2}	60,900	2,800	8,700	12,100	26,500	10,800	30	100	5	14	20	44	18	0
Abuse or neglect	38,100	-	6,600	8,900	15,700	4,900	-	100	-	17	23	41	13	-
Disability	2,400	20	80	290	1,300	680	20	100	1	3	12	54	29	1
Parents illness or disability	3,300	170	480	720	1,500	490	0	100	5	15	22	44	15	0
Family in acute stress	4,400	-	500	770	2,200	750	-	100	-	11	18	50	17	-
Family dysfunction	6,100	-	720	1,000	2,900	1,200	-	100	-	12	17	48	19	-
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,500	-	30	60	920	510	-	100	-	2	4	60	34	-
Low income	120	10	20	30	40	20	0	100	7	16	25	33	20	0
Absent parenting	4,900	-	220	330	1,900	2,300	-	100	-	4	7	39	46	-

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

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

N

Children looked after at 31 March 2005 by ethnicity and age^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Ethnic Origin	Age at 31 March 2005															
	Numbers							Percentages								
	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & 17	18 & over	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & 17	18 & over		
All Children^{1,2}	60,900	2,800	8,700	12,100	26,500	10,800	30	100	5	14	20	44	18	0		
White	48,100	2,100	6,800	9,900	21,500	7,700	30	100	4	14	21	45	16	0		
White British	45,900	2,000	6,600	9,600	20,600	7,000	30	100	4	14	21	45	15	0		
White Irish	480	10	40	110	230	80	0	100	3	8	24	48	17	0		
Any other White background	1,800	-	170	220	650	670	-	100	-	10	12	36	37	-		
Mixed	5,000	350	980	1,100	1,900	660	0	100	7	20	22	39	13	0		
White and Black Caribbean	1,900	100	330	420	840	250	0	100	5	17	22	43	13	0		
White and Black African	440	40	110	90	130	70	0	100	10	25	21	29	15	0		
White and Asian	700	60	160	150	260	80	0	100	8	22	21	37	12	0		
Any other mixed background	1,900	160	380	420	700	260	0	100	8	20	22	37	14	0		
Asian or Asian British	1,800	-	210	310	730	450	-	100	-	12	17	41	25	-		
Indian	280	-	40	50	130	60	-	100	-	14	18	45	20	-		
Pakistani	580	20	90	140	240	90	0	100	4	15	25	41	16	0		
Bangladeshi	270	10	50	70	100	40	0	100	5	17	25	37	16	0		
Any other Asian Background	640	-	40	50	270	260	-	100	-	6	7	42	40	-		
Black or Black British	4,900	180	550	740	1,900	1,500	0	100	4	11	15	39	31	0		
Caribbean	1,600	70	230	310	660	320	0	100	4	15	20	41	20	0		
African	2,400	60	180	250	870	1,000	0	100	3	8	10	37	43	0		
Any other Black background	910	40	130	180	360	200	0	100	5	15	20	40	21	0		
Other Ethnic groups	1,100	50	100	100	410	430	0	100	4	9	9	38	39	0		
Chinese	120	-	-	10	50	60	0	100	-	-	6	39	46	0		
Any other ethnic group	950	40	90	90	360	370	0	100	5	9	10	38	39	0		

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

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

0

Children looked after at 31 March 2005 by distance between home and placement^{1,2,3}

England

numbers

Distance	All Children ¹	Placements					Placed for Adoption
		Foster Placements	Children's homes and hostels ⁴	Living independently	Placed with Parents ⁵	Other	
All children¹	60,900	41,700	7,000	1,400	5,700	1,900	3,100
Distance							
Under 20 miles	44,800	33,300	4,500	1,100	5,300	710	
20 miles and over	10,900	7,000	2,300	140	370	1,100	
Not Known ^{3,6}	2,000	1,400	260	180	90	110	
Not Recorded ⁷	3,100						3,100

England

percentages

Distance	All Children ¹	Placements					Placed for Adoption
		Foster Placements	Children's homes and hostels ⁴	Living independently	Placed with Parents ⁵	Other	
All children¹	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Distance							
Under 20 miles	74	80	64	76	92	37	
20 miles and over	18	17	32	10	6	58	
Not Known ^{3,6}	3	3	4	13	2	5	
Not Recorded ⁷	5						100

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

2 Figures are taken from the SSDA 903 return.

3 This is the first year of data collection and some authorities have reported difficulties in recording this information.

4 Includes homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

5 Placed with parents or other person with parental responsibility.

6 Due to "Home" address being unknown or unavailable. This could occur with UASC or child missing from main placement.

7 Due to confidentiality any children who were placed for adoption were exempt from recording the distance.

	Age at 31 March 2005											
	numbers						percentages					
	Mothers aged 12 & over	12-14	15	16	17	18 & over	Mothers aged 12 & over	12-14	15	16	17	18 & over
All females³	13,400	5,900	2,800	2,500	2,200	10	100	44	21	19	16	0
Mothers age 12 and over ⁴	320	10	50	90	170	0	100	4	15	28	53	0
Placements												
Foster placements	130	10	30	40	40	0	100	9	26	32	33	0
Children's homes and hostels ⁵	70	-	10	20	50	0	100	-	12	23	64	0
Living Independently	80	0	0	20	60	0	100	0	0	21	79	0
Placed with parents	30	0	-	10	10	0	100	0	-	48	44	0
Other	20	0	-	10	10	0	100	0	-	26	58	0
Ethnicity												
White	210	10	30	60	110	0	100	4	15	30	51	0
Mixed	30	-	10	10	10	0	100	-	23	27	46	0
Asian or Asian British	-	0	0	-	-	0	100	0	0	-	-	0
Black or Black British	80	-	10	20	50	0	100	-	11	24	61	0
Other Ethnic groups	10	0	-	-	10	0	100	0	-	-	-	0
Region												
North East	10	-	-	-	10	0	100	-	-	-	62	0
North West	40	-	10	10	20	0	100	-	11	32	55	0
Yorkshire & The Humber	30	-	-	10	10	0	100	-	-	40	47	0
East Midlands	10	0	10	-	10	0	100	0	46	-	38	0
West Midlands	30	-	10	10	10	0	100	-	19	39	39	0
East of England	30	-	-	10	10	0	100	-	-	35	50	0
Inner London	60	-	10	20	40	0	100	-	14	23	61	0
Outer London	60	-	10	10	40	0	100	-	9	13	75	0
South East	20	-	-	10	10	0	100	-	-	30	48	0
South West	20	-	10	10	10	0	100	-	22	48	22	0

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

2 This is the first year of data collection and some authorities have reported difficulties in recording this information.

3 All females in care aged 12 and over.

4 All mothers in care aged 12 and over.

5 Includes homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

Q

Children looked after who were required to have a review during the year ending 31 March 2005, by method of participation at the last review and age at 31 March 2005^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

		Age at 31 March 2005							
		numbers				percentages			
		Under 4 ²	4-9	10-15	16 & over	Under 4 ²	4-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children looked after at 31 March³	60,900	9,400	14,100	26,500	10,800	100	100	100	100
Child looked after for less than 28 days and not required to have a review ¹	1,500	490	300	640	100	5	2	2	1
All children required to have a review	59,300	8,900	13,800	25,800	10,700	100	100	100	100
Method of Participation									
Child aged under 4 at time of review and not required to participate ²	9,200	8,700	440	0	0	98	3	0	0
Child physically attends and speaks for him or herself ^{4,5}	25,900	0	3,000	15,400	7,500	0	22	60	70
Child physically attends and an advocate speaks on his or her behalf ^{4,5}	1,100	0	410	540	190	0	3	2	2
Child attends and conveys his or her view symbolically (non-verbally) ^{4,5}	480	0	150	260	70	0	1	1	1
Child physically attends but does not speak for him or herself, does not convey his or her view symbolically (nonverbally) and does not ask an advocate to speak for him or her ⁵	790	0	340	350	100	0	2	1	1
Child does not attend physically but briefs an advocate to speak for him or her ^{4,5}	6,800	0	2,900	3,100	840	0	21	12	8
Child does not attend but conveys his or her feelings to the review by a facilitative medium ^{4,5}	5,700	0	2,500	2,600	530	0	18	10	5
Child does not attend nor are his or her views conveyed to the review ⁵	8,500	0	3,800	3,400	1,300	0	27	13	12
Review information not supplied	900	180	210	300	210	2	2	1	2

1 Only children who have been looked after for 4 weeks or more are required to have a review.

2 Participation is only required by children from the age of 4.

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

4 Figures represent the numerator of C63 of the Performance Assessment Framework.

5 Figures represent the denominator of C63 of the Performance Assessment Framework.

R

Children looked after during the year under at least one agreed series of short term placements by gender, by age, by placement, and by category of need for years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ³	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴	2001 ³	2002 ³	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁴
All Children¹	12,600	12,800	12,300	11,600	11,400	100	100	100	100	100
Gender										
Male	7,800	7,900	7,700	7,300	7,300	61	62	62	63	64
Female	4,900	4,900	4,700	4,200	4,100	39	38	38	37	36
Age⁵										
Under 1	120	90	70	70	80	1	1	1	1	1
1 to 4	830	690	540	440	390	7	5	4	4	3
5 to 9	3,100	3,000	2,700	2,300	2,100	25	23	22	20	18
10 to 15	6,300	6,600	6,500	6,200	6,200	50	52	53	54	55
16 and over	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,500	2,600	18	19	21	22	23
Average age (yrs : months)	11:9	12:1	12:4	12:7	12:9					
Placement⁶										
Foster placement	6,200	6,100	5,700	5,100	4,900	49	47	46	44	43
Residential ⁷	5,400	5,700	5,700	5,500	5,500	43	45	46	47	48
Other	990	1,000	940	970	980	8	8	8	8	9
Category of need⁶										
Disability of child	9,200	9,600	9,500	9,100	8,900	73	74	77	78	78
Family in acute stress	1,100	920	820	780	860	9	7	7	7	8
Abuse or neglect	790	800	670	570	600	6	6	5	5	5
Other	1,500	1,600	1,300	1,200	1,100	12	12	11	10	9

1 All children looked after under one or more agreed series of short term placements at any time during the year 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 in this publication.

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

4 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003–04 and 2004–05 covered all looked after children.

5 Age at the end of the latest episode of care, or at 31 March if child is still covered by an agreement.

6 Placement and category of need relate to child's latest episode of care during the year.

7 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

S

Number of days of care provided by legal status and placement during years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005^{1,2}

England

Thousands of days

	Year ending 31 March				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Children¹	21,500	21,800	22,200	22,400	22,200
Legal Status					
Care Orders	13,900	14,200	14,600	14,700	14,300
Voluntary agreements under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	6,800	6,800	6,700	6,700	6,800
Other Legal Status	760	820	860	940	1,000
Placement					
Foster care	13,700	14,100	14,600	15,000	15,000
Residential ³	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,600
Placed for Adoption	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,300
Placed with Parents	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,300	2,100
Other Placements	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,300

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

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

3 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

T

Number of days of care provided, number of children looked after during the year, and number of children looked after at 31 March for years ending 31 March 2001 and 2005, by region^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

	2000–01 Numbers				2004–05 Numbers				Percentage increase			
	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided (1000's)	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March	Care days provided	Children in year	Days provided per child	Children at 31 March
England	21,500	82,700	259	58,900	22,200	84,600	262	60,900	3	2	1	3
North East	1,200	4,900	255	3,400	1,200	4,700	255	3,300	-5	-5	0	-4
North West	3,500	13,100	267	9,700	3,800	13,800	273	10,200	7	5	2	6
Yorks & Humber	2,300	8,900	263	6,500	2,400	9,000	265	6,500	1	1	1	1
East Midlands	1,500	5,900	256	4,100	1,400	5,200	261	3,800	-10	-12	2	-9
West Midlands	2,400	9,000	263	6,400	2,600	9,600	265	7,000	8	7	0	8
East of England	1,900	7,400	259	5,200	2,100	7,700	269	5,800	9	5	4	11
Inner London	2,000	7,500	262	5,400	1,900	7,300	262	5,300	-3	-2	0	-1
Outer London	2,000	8,300	246	5,500	2,400	9,600	251	6,600	19	17	2	19
South East	2,800	10,700	264	7,700	2,800	10,600	261	7,600	-2	-1	-1	-2
South West	1,800	7,300	246	4,900	1,800	7,100	251	4,900	-1	-3	2	-1

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

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

U

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005, by gender and age on starting^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,200	24,700	25,000	24,500	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	3,700	4,000	3,900	4,100	4,200	15	16	16	16	17
1-4	4,500	4,600	4,700	4,600	4,400	18	18	19	18	18
5-9	4,700	4,400	4,700	4,400	4,300	19	18	19	18	18
10-15	10,800	10,800	10,400	10,400	9,900	43	43	42	42	40
16 and over	1,300	1,300	1,000	1,400	1,600	5	5	4	6	7
Male	13,600	13,700	13,400	13,400	13,100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	1,900	2,100	2,000	2,200	2,200	14	15	15	16	17
1-4	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,400	2,300	17	18	19	18	18
5-9	2,700	2,400	2,700	2,500	2,400	19	18	20	19	18
10-15	6,100	5,900	5,500	5,400	5,200	44	43	41	41	40
16 and over	730	750	590	830	1,000	5	5	4	6	8
Female	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,600	11,500	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	1,700	1,900	1,900	2,000	2,100	15	16	17	17	18
1-4	2,200	2,100	2,200	2,100	2,100	20	19	19	18	19
5-9	2,100	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	18	17	18	17	17
10-15	4,700	4,900	4,800	5,000	4,700	42	43	43	43	41
16 and over	560	550	430	610	590	5	5	4	5	5

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04 and 2004-05 covered all looked after children.

V

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by legal status on starting^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,200	24,700	25,000	24,500	100	100	100	100	100
Care Order	4,300	4,400	4,900	4,300	4,100	17	17	20	17	17
Interim care order	3,800	4,000	4,700	4,000	4,000	15	16	19	16	16
Full care order	450	330	250	230	180	2	1	1	1	1
Youth Justice legal statuses	830	730	690	670	550	3	3	3	3	2
On remand or committed for trial	750	690	650	620	520	3	3	3	2	2
Detained under PACE ⁶	60	30	30	40	30	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	20	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Detained for child protection	2,700	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,500	11	12	13	13	14
Police protection	1,500	1,600	1,900	2,000	2,100	6	6	8	8	8
Emergency protection order	1,200	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,400	5	6	5	5	6
Under child assessment order	10	20	-	10	-	0	0	0	0	0
Freed for adoption	20	20	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	17,100	17,000	15,900	16,800	16,300	68	68	64	67	67
Wardship	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003–04 and 2004–05 covered all looked after children.

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

W

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by placement on starting^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

Placement	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,200	24,700	25,000	24,500	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	18,700	19,300	19,000	19,200	18,600	75	77	77	77	76
Children's homes and hostels ⁶	3,200	3,200	2,800	3,100	3,100	13	13	11	12	13
Placed for adoption	30	10	10	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Living Independently	300	190	180	360	420	1	1	1	1	2
Other	2,800	2,500	2,700	2,300	2,400	11	10	11	9	10

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which covered all children looked after.

6 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

X

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by legal status and age on starting to be looked after^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Legal Status	Age on starting to be looked after											
	numbers						percentages					
	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children²	24,500	4,200	4,400	4,300	9,900	1,600	100	17	18	18	40	7
Care Order	4,100	1,300	1,100	990	750	20	100	31	27	24	18	0
Interim care order	4,000	1,300	1,000	940	710	10	100	32	26	24	18	0
Full care order	180	20	70	50	40	10	100	11	37	28	21	4
Youth Justice legal statuses	550	0	0	0	400	150	100	0	0	0	72	28
On remand or committed for trial	520	0	0	0	370	150	100	0	0	0	72	28
Detained ³	30	0	0	0	20	10	100	0	0	0	76	24
Supervision order	10	0	0	0	-	-	100	0	0	0	-	-
Emergency order or Police protection	3,500	730	980	810	940	30	100	21	28	23	27	1
Police protection	2,100	270	590	480	720	20	100	13	28	23	34	1
Emergency Protection Order	1,400	450	390	330	220	10	100	32	28	24	16	1
Under child assessment order	-	-	-	0	-	-	100	-	-	0	-	-
Child freed for adoption	10	-	-	10	0	0	100	-	-	-	0	0
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placement)	16,300	2,200	2,400	2,500	7,800	1,400	100	14	14	15	48	9

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

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

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

Y

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by placement and age on starting to be looked after^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Placement	Age on starting to be looked after											
	numbers						percentages					
	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over	All Children	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children²	24,500	4,200	4,400	4,300	9,900	1,600	100	17	18	18	40	7
Foster placements	18,600	3,500	4,000	3,800	7,000	450	100	19	21	20	38	2
Foster placement inside LA boundary												
With relative or friend	1,500	220	410	400	450	30	100	15	27	26	30	2
With other foster carer												
provided by LA	12,500	2,500	2,700	2,500	4,600	290	100	20	22	20	36	2
arranged through agency	620	90	100	140	270	20	100	15	16	22	44	4
Foster placements outside LA boundary												
With relative or friend	320	60	100	70	90	10	100	19	30	22	27	2
With other foster carer												
provided by LA	2,000	380	360	360	860	50	100	19	18	18	43	2
arranged through agency	1,700	190	300	330	770	60	100	12	18	20	47	4
Placed for adoption	10	-	-	-	-	0	100	-	-	-	-	0
Placement with parents	1,400	310	410	360	320	30	100	22	29	25	22	2
Other placements in the community	420	0	0	0	80	340	100	0	0	0	19	81
Living independently												
Residential employment												
Secure units, homes and hostels	3,100	20	10	80	2,200	740	100	0	0	3	72	24
Secure unit inside LA boundary	40	0	0	0	40	10	100	0	0	0	86	14
Secure unit outside LA boundary	110	0	0	-	90	-	100	0	0	-	81	-
Homes and hostels subject to	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Homes regulations	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
inside LA boundary	2,000	10	10	60	1,600	300	100	0	0	3	81	15
outside LA boundary	510	-	-	20	410	80	100	-	-	3	80	15
Homes and hostels not subject to												
Children's Homes regulations	390	0	0	0	60	340	100	0	0	0	14	86
Other residential settings	620	450	40	20	90	30	100	72	7	3	14	4
Residential care homes	80	-	0	-	60	10	100	-	0	-	71	17
NHS Trust providing medical/nursing care	400	340	30	10	10	10	100	85	8	3	3	2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	120	110	10	-	10	-	100	85	7	-	5	-
Youth Treatment Centres	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Young offenders institution or prison	10	0	0	0	-	-	100	0	0	0	-	-
Residential Schools	190	0	-	-	150	20	100	0	-	-	77	11
Absent from agreed placement	30	-	-	-	20	-	100	-	-	-	52	-
Other accommodation	110	10	20	10	50	10	100	12	18	13	44	13

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

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

Z

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by age on starting to be looked after and category of need^{1,2,3}

England

numbers

Need code	Age on starting to be looked after					
	All Children ²	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children²	24,500	4,200	4,400	4,300	9,900	1,600
Abuse or neglect	11,900	2,900	2,900	2,600	3,300	180
Disability	740	30	50	130	410	130
Parents illness or disability	1,600	320	440	420	430	20
Family in acute stress	2,900	330	420	430	1,600	80
Family dysfunction	3,100	400	410	430	1,700	130
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,400	10	10	30	1,100	210
Low income	80	20	20	20	20	10
Absent parenting	2,800	260	160	230	1,300	870

England

percentages

Need code	Age on starting to be looked after					
	All Children ²	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16 & over
All Children²	100	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	48	68	66	60	33	11
Disability	3	1	1	3	4	8
Parents illness or disability	7	7	10	10	4	1
Family in acute stress	12	8	9	10	16	5
Family dysfunction	13	9	9	10	18	8
Socially unacceptable behaviour	6	0	0	1	11	13
Low income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Absent parenting	12	6	4	5	13	54

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

AA

Children who started to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005, by category of need and ethnicity^{1,2,3}

England

numbers

Category of need	All Children ²	Ethnic Origin				
		White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
All Children²	24,500	18,100	1,800	1,100	2,600	800
Abuse or neglect	11,900	9,400	960	400	960	170
Disability	740	580	50	30	50	20
Parents illness or disability	1,600	1,100	170	70	200	50
Family in acute stress	2,900	2,400	190	70	190	50
Family dysfunction	3,100	2,600	200	60	170	50
Socially unacceptable behaviour	1,400	1,100	80	30	110	20
Low income	80	30	-	-	30	10
Absent parenting	2,800	860	160	480	910	440

England

percentages

Category of need	All Children ²	Ethnic Origin				
		White	Mixed	Asian	Black	Other
All Children²	100	100	100	100	100	100
Abuse or neglect	48	52	53	35	37	21
Disability	3	3	3	3	2	2
Parents illness or disability	7	6	9	6	8	6
Family in acute stress	12	13	11	6	7	7
Family dysfunction	13	15	11	5	7	6
Socially unacceptable behaviour	6	6	4	2	4	3
Low income	0	0	-	-	1	1
Absent parenting	12	5	9	42	35	54

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by gender and age on ceasing to be looked after^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,400	24,300	25,800	25,600	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,400	5	5	5	5	5
1-4	5,000	5,200	5,200	5,600	5,500	20	20	21	22	22
5-9	4,000	4,200	4,000	4,400	4,000	16	17	17	17	16
10-15	7,900	8,000	7,300	7,700	7,200	32	31	30	30	28
16 and over	6,800	6,700	6,600	6,900	7,500	27	27	27	27	29
Male	13,700	13,700	13,100	13,900	13,700	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	690	710	650	670	690	5	5	5	5	5
1-4	2,500	2,800	2,800	2,900	2,900	19	20	21	21	21
5-9	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,200	16	16	16	17	16
10-15	4,500	4,300	3,900	4,000	3,700	33	31	30	29	27
16 and over	3,800	3,800	3,700	3,900	4,200	27	28	28	28	31
Female	11,300	11,700	11,200	11,900	11,900	100	100	100	100	100
Under 1	570	590	540	640	680	5	5	5	5	6
1-4	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,600	2,600	22	21	22	22	22
5-9	1,800	2,000	1,900	2,000	1,800	16	17	17	17	15
10-15	3,400	3,700	3,400	3,600	3,500	30	32	30	31	30
16 and over	3,000	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,300	27	25	26	25	27

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003-04 and 2004-05, covered all looked after children.

AC

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by legal status on ceasing to be looked after^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

Legal Status	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,400	24,300	25,800	25,600	100	100	100	100	100
Care Order										
Interim care order	1,900	2,200	2,500	3,000	2,800	7	9	10	12	11
Full care order	4,700	5,100	4,900	5,200	4,900	19	20	20	20	19
Youth Justice legal statuses										
On remand or committed for trial	850	690	730	620	520	3	3	3	2	2
Detained under PACE ⁶	40	20	10	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
Supervision order	50	30	20	20	20	0	0	0	0	0
Detained for child protection										
Police protection	480	400	390	530	570	2	2	2	2	2
Emergency protection order	170	160	160	180	200	1	1	1	1	1
Under child assessment order	0	10	0	-	-	0	0	0	-	-
Freed for adoption	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,900	5	5	6	7	7
Voluntary agreement under S20 CA 1989 (single placements)	15,700	15,400	13,900	14,500	14,700	63	61	57	56	57
Wardship	-	20	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 and 2004–05, covered all looked after children.

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

AD

Children who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by placement on ceasing^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

Placement	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵	2001 ⁴	2002 ⁴	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁵
All Children²	25,000	25,400	24,300	25,800	25,600	100	100	100	100	100
Foster placements	14,000	13,900	13,000	13,700	13,400	56	55	53	53	52
Children's homes and hostels ⁶	3,500	3,400	3,200	3,300	3,600	14	13	13	13	14
Placed for adoption	2,900	3,500	3,700	3,800	3,800	12	14	15	15	15
Living independently	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,300	1,500	5	4	5	5	6
Placed with parents	2,300	2,600	2,500	2,800	2,500	9	10	10	11	10
Other	1,000	860	780	830	860	4	3	3	3	3

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

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

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

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

5 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003–04 and 2004–05, covered all looked after children.

6 Includes secure units, homes and hostels, but excludes residential schools.

AEChildren who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by duration of latest period of care^{1,2,3,4}

England

numbers of children and average duration of stay

	2001 ⁵	2002 ⁵	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶
All Children^{1,2}					
Number of children	25,000	25,400	24,300	25,800	25,600
Average duration of stay (days)	712	755	772	775	781
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	4,900	4,700	4,300	4,700	4,500
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,600	2,600
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	3,400	3,200	3,000	2,900	2,900
From 6 months to under 1 year	3,000	2,900	2,800	3,000	3,100
From 1 year to under 2 years	3,500	3,500	3,800	3,900	4,000
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,100	2,400	2,500	2,500	2,600
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,200	2,600	2,400	2,800	2,400
From 5 years to under 10 years	1,800	2,100	2,100	2,300	2,400
10 years and over	1,100	1,000	1,000	960	980

England

percentages

	2001 ⁵	2002 ⁵	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶
All Children^{1,2}					
Number of children	100	100	100	100	100
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	20	19	18	18	18
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	12	11	10	10	10
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	14	13	13	11	12
From 6 months to under 1 year	12	12	12	12	12
From 1 year to under 2 years	14	14	16	15	15
From 2 years to under 3 years	9	10	10	10	10
From 3 years to under 5 years	9	10	10	11	10
From 5 years to under 10 years	7	8	8	9	9
10 years and over	4	4	4	4	4

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

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

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

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

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

6 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return, which in 2003-04 and 2004-05, covered all looked after children.

AF

Average duration (in days) of placements ceasing during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005^{1,2}

England

average duration (days)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All placements	251	264	269	281	268
Foster placements	258	266	272	289	281
Children's homes ³	201	199	215	204	198
Schools	330	569	618	652	734
Placed with parents	345	408	397	433	401
Placed for adoption	388	386	373	375	335
In lodgings, living independently or in residential employment	150	167	146	157	161
Other placements	96	101	92	95	78

1 Figures exclude placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements.

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

3 Includes secure units, homes and hostels.

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after.

AG

Causes of death of children looked after years ending 31 March 2003 to 2005^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

Cause of death	numbers			percentages		
	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
All children⁴	110	95	100	100	100	100
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	-	10	5	-	8	6
Diseases of the nervous system	30	25	15	26	26	16
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Episodic and paroxysmal disorders (epilepsy)</i>	5	10	-	6	8	-
<i>Cerebral palsy and other paralytic syndromes</i>	20	10	10	17	11	9
Diseases of the respiratory system	10	-	10	9	-	10
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	20	5	15	17	6	15
Diseases of blood, heart and circulatory system	5	5	5	6	7	6
External causes of morbidity and mortality	20	10	10	20	10	11
Other	20	5	10	17	7	8
Not known	-	30	30	-	32	29

1 Figures include children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Figures are derived from SSDA903 return.

3 Underlying cause of death code derived by the automatic cause coding system using the codes for all the causes mentioned on the death certificate. The definition of the code is identified using the International Classification of Deaths, 10th Revision (ICD10) manual.

4 Total number of children who died in care year ending 31 March.

Notes: 2002–03 figures have been grossed up from a one third sample. The data were collected by matching child records from SSDA903 to death certificates. A special matching exercise was carried out for the 2002–03 data, so there was a low rate of mismatch. The normal data collection was used in 2003–04 and 2004–05, and it was not possible to uniquely identify one third of the records. Therefore results need to be treated with caution.

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by duration of latest period of care and legal status on ceasing to be looked after^{1,2,3,4}

England

numbers of children and average duration of stay

	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
All Children ^{1,2}					
Number of children	25,600	4,900	2,800	14,700	3,200
Average duration of stay (days)	781	2,312	407	399	534
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	4,500	-	-	3,600	880
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,600	-	-	2,300	220
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	2,900	10	310	2,500	130
From 6 months to under 1 year	3,100	40	1,100	1,800	170
From 1 year to under 2 years	4,000	410	1,000	1,700	850
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,600	660	230	1,200	580
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,400	1,100	70	1,000	270
From 5 years to under 10 years	2,400	1,900	10	500	70
10 years and over	980	850	-	90	-

England

percentages

	All Children	Full Care Order	Interim Care Order	Voluntary Agreements (S20 CA 89)	Other
All Children ^{1,2}					
Number of children	100	100	100	100	100
Duration					
Under 2 weeks	18	-	-	25	27
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	10	-	-	15	7
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	12	0	11	17	4
From 6 months to under 1 year	12	1	38	13	5
From 1 year to under 2 years	15	8	36	11	27
From 2 years to under 3 years	10	13	8	8	18
From 3 years to under 5 years	10	22	2	7	8
From 5 years to under 10 years	9	38	0	3	2
10 years and over	4	18	-	1	-

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return.

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

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by duration of latest period of care and age on ceasing to be looked after^{1,2,3,4}

England

numbers of children and average duration of stay

	All Children	Age on ceasing to be looked after				
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16 and over
All Children^{1,2}						
Number of children	25,600	1,400	5,500	4,000	7,200	7,500
Average duration of stay (days)	781	134	457	649	367	1,611
Duration						
Under 2 weeks	4,500	320	920	890	2,100	240
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	2,600	230	370	360	1,300	310
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	2,900	280	400	380	1,300	590
From 6 months to under 1 year	3,100	530	630	470	830	680
From 1 year to under 2 years	4,000	0	2,000	430	640	900
From 2 years to under 3 years	2,600	0	890	480	250	1,000
From 3 years to under 5 years	2,400	0	330	580	300	1,200
From 5 years to under 10 years	2,400	0	0	410	410	1,600
10 years and over	980	0	0	0	60	920

England

percentages

	All Children	Age on ceasing				
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16 and over
All Children^{1,2}						
Number of children	100	100	100	100	100	100
Duration						
Under 2 weeks	18	24	17	22	30	3
From 2 weeks to under 8 weeks	10	17	7	9	18	4
From 8 weeks to under 6 months	12	21	7	9	18	8
From 6 months to under 1 year	12	38	11	12	11	9
From 1 year to under 2 years	15	0	36	11	9	12
From 2 years to under 3 years	10	0	16	12	3	13
From 3 years to under 5 years	10	0	6	15	4	16
From 5 years to under 10 years	9	0	0	10	6	22
10 years and over	4	0	0	0	1	12

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

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

3 Figures are taken from the SSSDA903 return.

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

England

numbers

Number of placements	All Children	Age on ceasing to be looked after					
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16–17	18 & over ⁴
All children ceasing²	25,600	1,400	5,500	4,100	7,200	3,400	4,000
1	7,700	670	1,400	1,300	2,800	890	540
2	4,500	360	900	690	1,400	570	530
3	3,300	170	950	540	860	410	420
4	2,900	110	1,000	460	590	290	410
5	1,900	40	590	340	420	270	290
6	1,300	10	320	270	290	170	240
7	970	10	190	160	220	160	230
8	590	0	60	110	130	120	190
9	490	0	30	80	120	100	160
10 or more	2,000	0	30	110	390	430	1,000

England

percentages

Number of placements	All Children	Age on ceasing to be looked after					
		Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–15	16–17	18 & over ⁴
All children ceasing²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1	30	49	26	33	39	26	13
2	17	27	16	17	19	17	13
3	13	12	17	13	12	12	10
4	11	8	19	11	8	9	10
5	8	3	11	8	6	8	7
6	5	1	6	7	4	5	6
7	4	0	3	4	3	5	6
8	2	0	1	3	2	4	5
9	2	0	1	2	2	3	4
10 or more	8	0	1	3	5	13	25

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

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

3 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample.

4 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table AP).

AK

Children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by number of periods of care in care history and age on ceasing to be looked after^{1,2,3}

England

numbers

Number of periods of care	All Children	Age on ceasing to be looked after					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over ⁴
All children ceasing²	25,600	1,400	5,500	4,100	7,200	3,400	4,000
1	19,300	1,300	4,800	3,200	4,800	2,200	3,000
2	3,800	50	530	570	1,400	670	640
3	1,300	10	110	180	480	280	250
4	490	0	30	50	210	120	70
5	250	0	0	10	140	80	30
6	150	0	10	20	70	40	20
7	80	0	10	10	30	10	20
8	50	0	0	10	20	20	10
9	30	0	0	-	20	10	-
10 or more	140	0	0	10	100	30	10

England

percentages

Number of periods of care	All Children	Age on ceasing					
		Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-17	18 & over ⁴
All children ceasing²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1	75	96	87	79	66	63	74
2	15	3	10	14	19	20	16
3	5	1	2	4	7	8	6
4	2	0	1	1	3	4	2
5	1	0	0	0	2	2	1
6	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
10 or more	1	0	0	0	1	1	0

1 Figures are derived from a one-third sample.

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

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

4 Most children who ceased to be looked after aged 18 and over ceased on their 18th birthday (see Table AP).

	All placements	Number of placements								Average duration (days)
		1 to 7 days	8 days under 1 month	1 month under 3 months	3 months under 6 months	6 months under 1 year	1 yr under 2 yrs	2 yrs under 5 yrs	5 yrs and over	
All placements¹	84,500	16,400	12,400	12,400	11,300	14,300	10,300	5,600	1,800	268
Foster placements	54,200	11,800	8,400	7,200	6,200	8,800	6,700	3,700	1,400	281
Children's homes ²	12,900	2,200	2,000	2,700	2,100	1,800	1,200	700	100	198
Schools	550	30	30	60	40	70	110	150	50	734
Placed with parents	5,500	490	620	890	940	1,000	670	640	270	401
Placed for adoption	4,300	30	80	130	960	1,700	1,100	280	20	335
In lodgings, living independently or in residential employment	3,200	330	470	750	610	650	370	30	0	161
Other placements	3,800	1,500	760	690	430	300	90	50	10	78

¹ Figures exclude placements forming part of an agreed series of short term placements.

² Includes secure units, homes and hostels.

Note: this table gives figures for placements ceasing during the year and therefore differs from other tables which give figures for children ceasing to be looked after.

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ²	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004 ³	2005 ³	2001 ²	2002 ²	2003 ²	2004 ³	2005 ³
All looked after children	58,900	59,700	60,800	61,100	60,900					
All Children looked after adopted²	3,100	3,400	3,500	3,800	3,800	100	100	100	100	100
Gender										
Male	1,600	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,900	52	50	53	51	51
Female	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,900	1,800	48	50	47	49	49
Age at adoption										
Under 1	200	200	220	220	210	7	6	6	6	6
1 to 4	1,900	2,000	2,200	2,200	2,300	61	59	62	58	62
5 to 9	830	1,000	960	1,100	1,100	27	29	27	30	28
10 to 15	130	180	180	210	160	4	5	5	6	4
16 and over	10	20	10	20	20	0	1	0	0	0
Average age (yrs : months)	4:3	4:5	4:4	4:5	4:2					
Final legal status³										
Freed for adoption	1,200	1,300	1,500	1,700	1,900	39	39	42	44	49
Care order	1,500	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,600	49	49	48	46	42
Voluntary agreement (S20)	370	440	350	370	340	12	13	10	10	9
Duration of final period of care⁴										
Under 1 year	230	260	250	260	260	8	7	7	7	7
1 year to under 2 years	950	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,400	31	30	35	33	36
2 years to under 3 years	920	900	960	1,100	1,100	30	26	27	28	30
3 years and over	970	1,300	1,100	1,200	1,000	32	37	31	32	27
Average duration (yrs:mths)	2:9	2:10	2:9	2:8	2:7					
Age on starting final period of care⁴										
Under 1	1,700	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,100	56	53	56	53	56
1	430	500	440	470	470	14	14	12	12	13
2	310	430	380	400	400	10	13	11	11	11
3	260	230	280	310	300	9	7	8	8	8
4 and over	350	450	450	580	500	11	13	13	15	13
Average age (yrs: mths)	1:6	1:7	1:7	1:8	1:7					
Timing of adoption										
Placed within 12 months of best interest decision	2,500	2,700	2,900	3,000	3,000	81	80	81	79	81
Placed over 12 months of best interest decision	600	700	690	790	720	19	20	19	21	19

¹ Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

² Figures are taken from the AD1 section of the SSDA903 return.

³ Figures are derived from the SSDA903 return.

⁴ "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

AN

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2005 by age at the start of the final period of care and by length of time between start of final period of care and granting of adoption order

England

years:months

	Time between the start of the final period of care and the granting of adoption order								
	All children	Under 1 year	1 year to under 2 years	2 years to under 3 years	3 years to under 4 years	4 years to under 5 years	5 years to under 6 years	6 years to under 7 years	7 years and over
All Children	3,800	260	1,400	1,100	500	210	140	70	90
Percentages	100	7	36	30	13	6	4	2	2
Age at start of final period of care¹									
Under 1	2,100	250	1,000	510	140	60	40	20	30
1	470	-	130	160	80	40	30	10	10
2	400	-	80	160	90	30	20	10	10
3	300	-	50	110	70	30	20	-	10
4	210	-	20	90	50	20	10	-	10
5	130	-	10	50	30	10	10	10	-
6	80	0	10	30	20	10	10	10	10
7 and over	80	-	10	20	10	10	10	10	-

¹ "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

AO

Looked after children adopted during the year ending 31 March 2005 by age at start of period of care and average time between the different stages of the adoption process

England

years:months

Age at start of period of care	Average time between entry into care and date of best interest decision	Average time between date of best interest decision and matching of child and adopters	Average time between date of matching and date placed for adoption	Average time between date placed for adoption and the date child adopted	Total average time between entry into care and adoption
All ages	1:0	0:7	0:1	0:11	2:7
Under 1	0:9	0:5	0:1	0:10	2:1
1	1:3	0:8	0:1	1:0	3:0
2	1:3	0:8	0:1	1:1	3:1
3	1:2	0:11	0:1	1:1	3:3
4	1:4	0:11	0:1	1:2	3:5
5	1:5	0:9	0:2	1:3	3:6
6	1:11	0:9	0:2	1:2	4:1
7 and over	1:9	0:8	0:2	1:3	3:10

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 2001 to 2005 by gender, by age on ceasing, by final placement, by duration of final period of care, by duration of care history since 14th birthday, and by qualifications^{1,2,3}

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers					percentages				
	2001 ⁵	2002 ⁵	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶	2001 ⁵	2002 ⁵	2003 ⁵	2004 ⁶	2005 ⁶
All Children²	6,700	6,600	6,700	6,800	7,500	100	100	100	100	100
Gender										
Male	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,900	4,200	56	56	55	57	56
Female	2,900	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,300	44	44	45	43	44
Age on ceasing⁴										
16	2,400	2,200	2,100	2,000	2,100	36	33	31	30	28
17	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,400	18	19	19	18	18
18th birthday	3,000	3,200	3,300	3,500	4,000	46	48	49	51	53
Older than 18th birthday	70	30	80	50	40	1	0	1	1	1
Final placement										
Foster placement	3,000	3,000	2,900	2,900	2,900	46	46	44	42	39
Children's homes ⁷	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,600	2,100	23	23	24	24	28
Living independently ⁸	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,300	1,500	17	16	17	19	20
Placed with parents	460	520	530	530	450	7	8	8	8	6
Other	510	500	470	510	550	8	8	7	7	7
Duration of final period of care⁹										
Under 6 months	1,200	1,100	1,000	960	1,100	17	17	16	14	15
6 months to under 1 year	610	580	500	500	680	9	9	7	7	9
1 year to under 2 years	1,100	910	880	840	900	16	14	13	12	12
2 years and over	3,800	4,000	4,300	4,600	4,800	57	61	64	67	64
Duration of care history since 14th birthday										
Under 3 months	490	560	460	580	600	7	9	7	9	8
3 months to under 6 months	350	280	280	250	380	5	4	4	4	5
6 months to under 1 year	560	520	510	500	630	8	8	8	7	8
1 year to under 2 years	1,100	980	960	840	970	17	15	14	12	13
2 year to under 4 years	2,000	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	30	34	35	34	32
4 years	2,100	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,400	31	31	32	31	32
4 years and over	40	10	50	210	140	1	0	1	3	2
Qualifications										
At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	2,500	2,700	2,900	2,900	3,200	37	41	43	43	43
At least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C	300	350	390	400	460	5	5	6	6	6

1 Only the last occasion on which a child ceased to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2 Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
3 Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
4 Methodology used to calculate "Age on ceasing" has been amended compared to previous publications. The methodology used is now consistent throughout the publication and more accurately calculates "Age on ceasing", taking into account the number of days in a year, including leap years.
5 Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
6 Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04 and 2004-05 covered all looked after children.
7 Includes secure units, homes and hostels but excludes residential schools.
8 Includes living in lodgings, living independently, and in residential employment.
9 "Period of care" refers to a continuous period of being looked after, which may include more than one placement or legal status.

AQ

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by duration of latest period of care and level of qualification achieved¹

England

numbers and percentages

Duration of latest period of care	All care leavers aged 16 & over				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
All durations	7,500	3,200	460	43	6
Up to 6 months	1,100	180	20	16	1
6 months to 1 yr	690	160	20	23	2
1 yr to under 2 yrs	900	300	20	33	3
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	1,000	450	70	45	7
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	740	390	60	53	8
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	480	270	40	56	9
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	380	200	30	53	8
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	360	200	30	56	8
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	350	200	30	55	9
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	250	140	20	58	7
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	260	170	40	63	13
10 yrs and over	930	540	90	58	10

¹ Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after during the year aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

AR

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005, with an opportunity of sitting examinations before leaving, by duration of latest period of care and level of qualification achieved^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Duration of latest period of care	Care leavers aged 16 & over with opportunity of sitting exams ²				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*–G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*–C
All durations	6,700	3,100	450	46	7
Up to 6 months	780	140	10	18	2
6 months to 1 yr	530	140	20	26	3
1 yr to under 2 yrs	760	270	20	36	3
2 yrs to under 3 yrs	950	440	60	46	7
3 yrs to under 4 yrs	700	380	60	54	8
4 yrs to under 5 yrs	460	260	40	56	9
5 yrs to under 6 yrs	360	200	30	54	9
6 yrs to under 7 yrs	360	200	30	57	8
7 yrs to under 8 yrs	350	190	30	55	9
8 yrs to under 9 yrs	250	140	20	58	7
9 yrs to under 10 yrs	260	170	40	63	13
10 yrs and over	910	540	90	59	10

¹ Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after during the year aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

² Children whose date of birth is later than 31 August 1988, and children whose date of birth is between 1 September 1987 and 31 August 1988 and who left care on or before 30 June 2004, have been excluded.

AS

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by number of placements in last period of care and level of qualification achieved¹

England

numbers and percentages

Number of placements in last period of care	All care leavers aged 16 & over				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*-G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*-G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C
All children ceasing	7,500	3,200	460	43	6
1	2,400	890	150	37	6
2	1,900	860	120	46	7
3	1,100	500	70	47	6
4	590	270	30	47	6
5	390	190	30	48	9
6	250	110	10	43	4
7	190	90	10	46	5
8	160	80	10	47	6
9	100	40	-	39	-
10 or more	460	170	10	38	2

¹ Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

AT

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 with an opportunity of sitting examinations before leaving by number of placements in last period of care and level of qualification achieved^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

Number of placements in last period of care	Care leavers aged 16 & over with opportunity of sitting exams ²				
	All children	number with		percentage with	
		at least 1 GCSE at grade A*-G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C	at least 1 GCSE at grade A*-G or GNVQ	at least 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C
All children ceasing	6,700	3,100	450	46	7
1	2,000	820	150	41	7
2	1,700	830	120	48	7
3	960	480	70	50	7
4	540	270	30	50	6
5	350	180	30	52	10
6	230	110	10	46	4
7	170	80	10	48	6
8	150	70	10	49	7
9	90	40	-	39	-
10 or more	440	170	10	39	2

¹ Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

² Children whose date of birth is later than 31 August 1988, and children whose date of birth is between 1 September 1987 and 31 August 1988 and who left care on or before 30 June 2004 have been excluded.

Duration of last period of care	Male					Female				
	All males	Age on leaving care ³				All females	Age on leaving care ³			
		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday		16	17	18th birthday	Older than 18th birthday
Number of care leavers¹										
All durations	4,200	1,100	800	2,200	30	3,300	950	560	1,700	10
less than 6 months	680	430	160	90	-	450	310	80	60	0
6 months to under 1 year	360	180	70	100	-	340	200	60	80	-
1 year to under 2 years	440	210	110	110	-	470	240	110	110	-
2 years to under 4 years	1,000	180	240	570	10	730	130	170	430	-
4 years to under 6 years	510	80	80	350	-	350	30	50	270	-
6 years to under 8 years	390	20	50	310	-	330	20	30	280	-
8 years and over	850	40	90	720	-	590	30	50	510	-
Number of care leavers with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ										
All durations	1,500	300	290	950	-	1,600	360	290	1,000	-
less than 6 months	60	40	20	-	0	110	90	20	10	0
6 months to under 1 year	60	40	10	10	0	100	70	20	20	0
1 year to under 2 years	110	70	30	10	0	190	100	50	40	-
2 years to under 4 years	410	80	120	220	-	420	70	100	260	-
4 years to under 6 years	250	40	40	170	0	220	10	40	170	0
6 years to under 8 years	190	20	20	150	0	210	10	20	180	-
8 years and over	460	20	60	380	0	390	20	40	330	0
Percentage of care leavers with at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ										
All durations	37	25	41	43	42	51	37	57	57	53
less than 6 months	9	10	11	2	0	25	28	24	10	0
6 months to under 1 year	17	22	12	12	0	30	33	33	21	0
1 year to under 2 years	25	30	26	13	0	41	41	47	33	100
2 years to under 4 years	41	43	48	38	15	58	53	57	60	50
4 years to under 6 years	49	50	54	48	0	63	52	70	63	0
6 years to under 8 years	49	70	48	48	0	63	41	79	63	50
8 years and over	54	45	64	54	0	66	68	75	66	0

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after.

2 Figures are taken from the OCI section of the SSDA903 return.

3 Methodology used to calculate "Age on ceasing" has been amended compared to previous publications. The methodology used is now consistent throughout the publication and more accurately calculates "Age on ceasing", taking into account the number of days in a year, including leap years.

AV

Children aged 16 and over who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2005 by the time the child would normally sit exams and the level of qualifications achieved^{1,2}

England

numbers

	All Years	Time child would normally sit exams ²				
		Jun 01	Jun 02	Jun 03	Jun 04	Jun 05
Number of care leavers¹	7,500	-	1,800	3,400	1,800	370
Number with:						
at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	3,200	0	890	1,600	690	10
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A ⁺ -G	2,000	0	580	1,100	380	-
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A ⁺ -C	460	0	120	270	70	-
Percentage with:						
at least 1 GCSE or GNVQ	43	0	49	46	38	3
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A ⁺ -G	27	0	31	31	21	-
at least 5 GCSEs at grades A ⁺ -C	6	0	6	8	4	-

1 Figures exclude children who ceased to be looked after aged 16 or over who had been looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Based on date of birth.

AW

Care leavers at age 19 who were looked after on 1 April 1999, 1 April 2000, 1 April 2001, and 1 April 2002 aged 16 (in their 17th year) by gender, activity and accommodation, 2002-2005^{1,2}

England

numbers and percentages

		numbers				percentages			
		2002 ³	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁶	2002 ³	2003 ⁴	2004 ⁵	2005 ⁶
All young people¹		4,700	4,900	5,100	5,200	100	100	100	100
Gender	Male	2,600	2,700	2,800	2,900	55	55	55	56
	Female	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,300	45	45	45	44
Activity	In education, training or employment	2,200	2,400	2,800	3,100	46	49	55	59
	Not in education, training or employment	1,400	1,600	1,500	1,600	29	32	30	30
	Not in touch	1,200	970	750	560	25	20	15	11
Accommodation	With parents or relatives	470	540	560	690	10	11	11	13
	Community home	200	200	230	230	4	4	4	4
	Supported accommodation ⁷	580	710	800	860	12	15	16	17
	Lodgings	310	270	250	190	6	6	5	4
	Independent living	1,600	1,800	2,100	2,200	35	37	41	42
	In custody	110	120	120	150	2	2	2	3
	Other ⁸	270	300	320	310	6	6	6	6
	Not in touch	1,200	970	750	560	25	20	15	11

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

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

3 Looked after on 1 April 1999.

4 Looked after on 1 April 2000.

5 Looked after on 1 April 2001.

6 Looked after on 1 April 2002.

7 Includes supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings, foyers.

8 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

	Numbers				Percentages			
	Council in touch with young person				Council in touch with young person			
	All young people	In education, training, or employment	Not in education, training, or employment	Not in Touch	All young people	In education, training, or employment	Not in education, training, or employment	Not in Touch
England	5,200	3,100	1,600	560	100	100	100	100
Males	2,900	1,700	820	370	56	55	53	67
Region								
North East	150	90	50	10	3	3	3	1
North West	360	240	110	20	7	8	7	3
Yorkshire & Humberside	270	150	80	40	5	5	5	7
East Midlands	140	80	50	20	3	3	3	3
West Midlands	290	170	100	30	6	5	6	4
East of England	230	140	60	30	4	5	4	6
London	820	460	210	150	16	15	14	27
South East	380	230	90	60	7	8	6	10
South West	240	130	80	30	5	4	5	6
Females	2,300	1,400	740	190	44	45	47	33
Region								
North East	130	80	-	-	2	3	3	1
North West	340	210	120	10	7	7	7	2
Yorkshire & Humberside	210	110	80	20	4	4	5	4
East Midlands	140	90	40	10	3	3	3	2
West Midlands	230	130	80	10	4	4	5	3
East of England	180	100	60	20	3	3	4	3
London	560	340	170	50	11	11	11	10
South East	290	180	80	30	6	6	5	6
South West	220	120	80	20	4	4	5	4

¹ Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

Accommodation on 19th birthday of care leavers who were looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (in their 17th year) by gender, region, and accommodation¹

England

numbers

	Council in touch with young person								
	All young people	With Parents or Relatives	Community Home	Supported Accommodation ²	Lodgings	Independent Living	Other ³	In Custody	Not in Touch
England	5,200	690	230	860	190	2,200	150	310	560
Males									
Region	2,900	450	140	460	110	1,000	140	200	370
North East	150	50	-	20	-	40	10	10	10
North West	360	100	20	60	20	100	20	30	20
Yorkshire & Humberside	270	50	20	40	10	80	20	10	40
East Midlands	140	20	-	20	-	70	10	10	20
West Midlands	290	60	20	40	20	100	20	20	30
East of England	230	30	10	30	10	90	10	10	30
London	820	50	30	150	10	360	20	50	150
South East	380	60	30	70	20	110	20	30	60
South West	240	40	20	40	10	60	10	30	30
Females									
Region	2,300	250	90	400	80	1,200	20	110	190
North East	130	10	-	20	-	80	0	0	-
North West	340	60	20	40	20	180	-	20	-
Yorkshire & Humberside	210	30	10	20	-	110	-	10	20
East Midlands	140	10	-	20	-	90	-	10	10
West Midlands	230	30	-	30	20	110	-	10	10
East of England	220	20	10	40	-	100	-	20	20
London	560	30	20	130	-	300	-	20	50
South East	180	20	10	30	10	80	0	10	20
South West	290	30	-	70	10	130	-	10	30

England

percentages

	Council in touch with young person								
	All young people	With Parents or Relatives	Community Home	Supported Accommodation ²	Lodgings	Independent Living	Other ³	In Custody	Not in Touch
England	100	13	4	17	4	42	3	6	11
Males									
Region	100	16	5	16	4	35	5	7	13
North East	100	16	-	16	4	35	5	7	13
North West	100	31	5	14	-	27	7	7	5
Yorkshire & Humberside	100	28	5	16	6	28	6	7	4
East Midlands	100	19	6	14	3	31	7	5	14
West Midlands	100	13	-	11	-	47	8	5	11
East of England	100	20	5	13	5	34	7	6	9
London	100	13	6	13	6	39	3	6	14
South East	100	6	3	18	2	44	2	6	18
South West	100	14	7	19	4	28	4	8	15
Females									
Region	100	11	4	17	4	51	1	5	8
North East	100	11	4	17	4	51	1	5	8
North West	100	11	-	19	-	61	0	0	-
Yorkshire & Humberside	100	17	4	11	6	52	-	5	3
East Midlands	100	14	4	9	-	54	-	6	10
West Midlands	100	9	-	12	-	60	-	6	8
East of England	100	14	3	15	-	50	-	5	6
London	100	10	4	19	-	44	-	8	11
South East	100	5	3	23	1	53	-	4	10
South West	100	11	-	15	5	47	0	7	8

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

3 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

Accommodation	Numbers of young people in touch			Percentage of young people in touch		
	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁵	2003 ³	2004 ⁴	2005 ⁵
All young people	4,000	4,400	4,600	100	100	100
With parents or relatives	540	560	690	14	13	15
Community home	200	230	230	5	5	5
Supported accommodation ⁶	710	800	860	18	18	19
Lodgings	270	250	190	7	6	4
Independent living	1,800	2,100	2,200	46	48	47
Other ⁷	120	120	150	3	3	3
In Custody	300	320	310	8	7	7

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2000, 2001, and 2002 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

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

3 Looked after on 1 April 2000.

4 Looked after on 1 April 2001.

5 Looked after on 1 April 2002.

6 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

7 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

Comparison between activity and accommodation of care leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April 2002 then aged 16 (in their 17th year)¹

England

numbers

Accommodation	All young people	Council in touch with young person					Not in touch
		In Higher Education (above A level)	In Education other than Higher Education	In Training or Employment	Not in Education Training or Employment owing to illness/disability	Not in Education, Training or Employment for other reasons	
All young people	5,200	310	970	1,800	260	1,300	560
Not in touch	560	560
With parents or relatives	690	20	100	350	40	180	.
Supported accommodation ²	860	70	260	320	40	160	.
Lodgings	190	20	60	80	10	20	.
Independent living	2,200	170	370	880	90	670	.
Other ³	700	20	180	150	90	260	.

England

percentages

Accommodation	All young people	Council in touch with young person					Not in touch
		In Higher Education (above A level)	In Education other than Higher Education	In Training or Employment	Not in Education Training or Employment owing to illness/disability	Not in Education, Training or Employment for other reasons	
All young people	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Not in touch	11	0	0	0	0	0	100
With parents or relatives	13	7	10	20	15	14	0
Supported accommodation ²	17	24	26	18	15	13	0
Lodgings	-	6	6	-	-	-	0
Independent living	42	57	38	50	32	52	0
Other ³	13	6	19	8	34	20	0

¹ Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

² Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

³ Includes community homes, bed & breakfast, emergency accommodation and in custody.

BBCare leavers aged 19 who were looked after on 1 April 2002 then aged 16 (in their 17th year) by activity and accommodation on 19th birthday and qualifications on leaving care¹

England

numbers and percentages

	numbers			percentages		
	All young people	With qualifications ²	No qualifications	All young people	With qualifications ²	No qualifications
All young people	5,200	2,600	2,600	100	100	100
Not in touch	560	210	350	11	8	13
In custody	150	20	130	3	1	5
In Education, Training or Employment						
All accommodation	3,000	1,700	1,300	58	67	50
With parents or relatives	470	270	200	9	11	8
Community home	160	20	140	3	1	5
Lodgings	160	110	50	3	4	2
Independent living	1,400	840	590	28	33	23
Supported accommodation ³	650	390	260	13	15	10
Other ⁴	150	80	70	3	3	3
Not In Education, Training or Employment						
All accommodation	1,400	610	830	28	24	32
With parents or relatives	220	90	130	4	4	5
Community home	70	10	60	1	0	2
Lodgings	30	20	10	1	1	0
Independent living	750	340	410	15	13	16
Supported accommodation ³	200	100	110	4	4	4
Other ⁴	160	50	110	3	2	4

1 Figures exclude former care leavers looked after on 1 April 2002 aged 16 (and in their 17th year) under an agreed series of short term placements.

2 At least 1 GCSE or GNVQ.

3 Supported hostels, trainer flats, supported lodgings and foyers.

4 Includes bed & breakfast and emergency accommodation.

APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND

Why does the Department collect statistics on children's services?

The statistics presented in this publication are, in the main, derived from the SSDA903 statistical returns submitted by local councils in England.

This data is a substantial information resource that is used for:

- the evaluation of the outcome of policy initiatives and the monitoring of trends by the Department and Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI);
- the evaluation of the quality of data provided by authorities for the Performance Assessment Framework;
- the provision of statistics and analyses to inform discussions on government expenditure;
- the provision of information to Ministers and Parliamentary Committees;
- the provision of statistical information in response to parliamentary questions;
- the provision of information for research;
- the publication of information about children looked after in England, including figures for individual local authorities, which can be used by those authorities and by others to assist with the monitoring of trends and the planning of services.

What is a 'looked after' child?

Social services for children are provided under the Children Act 1989, which was implemented on 14 October 1991. Under this Act a child is 'looked after' by a local authority if he or she is placed in their care by a court (under a care order) or provided with accommodation by the authority's Social Services Department for more than 24 hours. Please see 'Supplementary Notes on Children Act' at the end of this appendix for further details on the Children Act.

Scope of the "Looked After" statistical collection

It should be borne in mind that the statistics presented in this publication only refer to the 'looked after' population, as defined above. There will be many other children and young people who receive a service from a local authority, for example Section 17 of the Children Act provides that it is the duty of every local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need. Such children do not appear in these statistics, unless at some stage they become looked after. Similarly, on reaching their 18th birthday, the vast majority of children who are still looked after at that age cease to fall within the definition of a looked after child as given in the Children Act. As such, they are recorded as ceasing to be looked after in these statistics (see table AP), even though many of these young people will

continue to receive support from a local authority beyond their 18th birthday under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Although these statistics are confined to England, a similar collection based on the SSDA 903 form is made in Wales. Figures for Wales can be obtained from the National Assembly for Wales, whose address is given at the end of this appendix.

The 'Children in Need' statistical collection

The Department undertakes a wider data collection to cover all children in contact with the Children's and Family Services of local authorities, including those who are looked after. This survey, conducted during a sample week, is designed to give a more comprehensive picture of the work of Social Services Departments with children in their area. The first survey was conducted in February 2000, the second during September/October 2001 and the third during February 2003. The fourth survey took place during February 2005 and discussions are currently underway regarding future surveys. The results of the first surveys are available from the following websites:

Results of first survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000504/index.shtml>

Results of second survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000505/index.shtml>

Results of third survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000451/index.shtml>

Results of fourth survey:

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000647/index.shtml>

The SSDA 903 collection

The SSDA 903 is a child level statistical return submitted by local councils for all children looked after at any time in the statistical year. A list of the codes that local councils can use is reproduced in Appendix B. All SSDA 903 data received by the Department is subjected to a rigorous validation procedure, and any records that fail validation are returned to the local council for correction. For the second time since 31 March 1997, authorities in 2004–05 were required to provide data for all children looked after (between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2003 this information was only required on a sample).

The information collected via the SSDA 903 contains details such as gender, date of birth, category of need, legal status under which looked after and the type of placement, plus all subsequent changes to the legal

status or placement occurring in the year (including ceasing to be looked after). On each occasion that there is a change, the date and reason for the change are recorded on the form. Information for each child is supplied to the Department for Education and Skills annually and these records are linked (by means of a unique identifier for each child) to any supplied by the same local council in preceding years (from 1992 onwards).

It should be emphasised that an individual child may start and cease to be looked after more than once in a particular year, or a single period of being looked after may span several years. As far as possible, the analyses presented relate to children rather than individual episodes of care. (For the purposes of collecting data on form SSDA 903, the care history of each looked after child is recorded in “episodes”. In general, when a child’s placement, or legal status changes, a new “episode” is generated).

Until 31 March 1991, statistics were collected on children in care under the legislation that preceded the Children Act. Children looked after by local councils include a number who would not previously have been counted as children in care, for example those for whom a series of short term breaks was provided. For this reason the number of children looked after is not directly comparable with the number of children in care under old legislation.

The CLA100 collection

This publication also includes aggregate data from the CLA100 collection. This return was required between 1998 and 2003 to enable the Department to publish summary statistics in advance of the more detailed data presented here. The approach used to combine CLA100 and SSDA903 data in this publication is described in the Technical Notes.

Performance Assessment Framework

In December 2005 the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) published the Performance Assessment Framework (PAF) data for 2004–05. For those indicators relating to looked after children the PAF figures were extracted from SSDA903 returns. Historically PAF figures were taken where relevant from the CLA100 return. In this publication, data have been based on the SSDA903 returns rather than the PAF data.

Agreed series of short term placements

The statistical collection covers all children accommodated under an agreed series of short term breaks (under Regulation 13 of the Arrangements for Placement of Children Regulations 1991). Since April 1992 authorities have been given a choice of either recording every short term placement as a separate episode or recording, as one episode, the continuous

period spent under an agreement. When this information was first collected, in 1991–92, authorities were only offered the first of these options. The difficulties experienced by many authorities in gathering this level of detail made it necessary to provide a second option. Because of this alternative approach to recording these placements, figures on children accommodated under an agreed series of short term placements are not included in the main national and local authority analyses. The information available about these short term placements is summarised at national level in Table R (Volume 1) and at local authority level in Table 11 (Volume 2).

Children looked after at 31 March

Figures on children looked after at 31 March 2005 relate to all children looked after by a local authority at 31 March, excluding children who were the subject of an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

Children starting to be looked after

Figures on children who started to be looked after relate to those who began a period of care during the year. The legal status, placement and age details represent the position when they started to be looked after. If they started to be looked after more than once during the year the figures relate to the first occasion. Where a period of care was initiated by an agreed series of short-term placements under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, this episode is ignored in producing the tables in this volume. Consequently, children with periods of accommodation initiated by and consisting only of these short-term placements are completely excluded. However, where an agreed series is followed by the child being looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20), it is the start of this second period which is treated as the point at which the child “started to be looked after” for tabulation purposes.

Children ceasing to be looked after

Figures for children who ceased to be looked after are based on those who had a period of care that ceased during the year to 31 March. Where a child ceased to be looked after more than once during a year the figures relate to the last occasion. Where a child was the subject of an agreement for a series of short-term placements when he or she ceased being looked after, this period of accommodation has been ignored in producing the tables. Consequently, children who were only looked after for agreed series of short-term placements during the year are completely excluded from these tables. Conversely children are included if a period under such an agreement was preceded by a separate period which ended while the child was looked after under another legal status (a care order, compulsory care or a single placement under Section 20).

Revisions to the figures for previous years

Revised estimates for the years ending 31 March 2001 to 31 March 2005 have been included in this publication; these revised figures replace those previously published for these years.

Supplementary Notes on the Children Act 1989

The Children Act begins from the standpoint that when a local council has to arrange for a child to live away from home because the parents are unable to care for him or her properly, or need respite, this should preferably be under voluntary arrangements with the parents. Administrative measures to exercise compulsion when the child is looked after were abolished by the Act, which now provides for a range of court orders for those situations where the child either needs protection from his or her parents, or a secure substitute family.

Even when a child is under a care order the Act provides for the parents to retain parental responsibility (although the local council may limit its operation), to be involved in local council decision-making, and for them to have reasonable contact with the child unless the court provides otherwise.

To ensure that interventions are positive, the Act prohibits a court from making any order unless it is satisfied that the order will positively contribute to the child's welfare. This is intended to discourage court orders being made in all private proceedings, such as divorce, simply as part of a package and to ensure that the court, when considering whether to make a care or supervision order, considers whether the order will positively improve the child's welfare. Under the Act, a local council looks after a child if he or she is in their care or is provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours. Looked after children fall into three main groups:

- children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (under Section 20);
- children who are the subject of a care order;
- children who are compulsorily accommodated. This includes children on remand and those subject to short-term emergency orders for the protection of the child.

Further enquiries and analyses

Copies of the tables in this publication have been placed on the Department's web site. Further analyses of the data can also be provided, although large requests may incur a charge to cover the costs involved. Please write to:

Anne-Gaëlle Roche
Data Services Group S1,
Department for Education and Skills,
6P, Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street,
London
SW1P 3BT
Telephone: 020 7925 3803
E-mail: Anne-Gaëlle.Roche@dfes.gsi.gov.uk

The Department for Education and Skills web site contains all the tables from this publication, which may be downloaded. They can be found at:
<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/index.shtml>

Welsh Data

Enquiries on published information for Wales should be made in the first instance to:

Local Government Data Unit – Wales
Contact name: Helen James
Telephone: 029 2090 9500
E-mail: pss@dataunitwales.gov.uk

Request for further analyses should be made to:

Statistical Directorate
National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Contact name: Robin Jones
Telephone: 029 2082 3625
E-mail: stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wales.gov.uk/statistics>

*Statistics Division
Department for Education and Skills,
March 2006*

APPENDIX B

LIST OF CODES USED ON THE SSSA 903 FORM, 2004–2005

The record header: coding items 1–6

This part of the record records the child's identity details and should not change from year to year. Any change in items 1–5 causes a validation error.

Item 1: Local authority

The designated local authority code.

Item 1a: Area office

This is an optional item for local use. If Item 1A is not used it must be left blank.

Item 2: Child identifier

An anonymous unique identifier (no longer than 10 characters). For each child it must be retained from year to year. It can include alphabetic and numeric characters. This item is the sole means of DfES computer identification of each child record, and the same ID is used in the OC1, OC3 and AD1 sections of the SSSA903 returns.

Item 3: Gender of child

Code 1 for Male, code 2 for Female.

Item 4: Date of birth

Enter day, month and year as two digit numbers.

Examples:

Born 24 January 1990: enter as 240190
Born 15 November 1994: enter as 151194

Item 5: UASC

Code 1 if the child was an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker at any point in the year, code 0 if the child was not an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker at any point in the year.

Item 5a: UASC cease date

Enter day, month and year of date the UASC status ended if the child ceased to be an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker in the year following the format displayed in Item 4

Item 6: Ethnic origin

There are no prescriptive instructions as to who should decide on a child's ethnic identity for the purpose of completing the 903 record. This recognises the many current variations in LA practice in this area.

This item should not be left blank.

The following list of categories reflects those which were used in the 2001 Census.

Ethnic Origin Code List

White

White British	A1
White Irish	A2
Any other White background	A3

Mixed

White and Black Caribbean	B1
White and Black African	B2
White and Asian	B3
Any other mixed background	B4

Asian, or Asian British

Indian	C1
Pakistani	C2
Bangladeshi	C3
Any other Asian background	C4

Black or Black British

Caribbean	D1
African	D2
Any other Black background	D3

Other ethnic groups

Chinese	E1
Any other ethnic group	E2

EPISODE DETAILS

Item 7: Date episode commenced

This item records the date that each episode began. Where episodes are consecutive, the new episode must start on the same day that the previous episode finished.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 8: Reason for new episode

This item records the reason why a new episode is being shown on the SSSA903 system.

As an episode consists of the combination of placement and legal status, a change in either or both of these triggers a new episode and the reason in item 8 reflects this.

Code List

Reason for new SSDA 903 episode	Code
Started to be looked after	S
Change of legal status only	L
Change of placement only	P
Change of both legal status and placement	B

Notes

Code **S** is used where a child starts to be looked after for the first time, or had previously ceased to be looked after and is now starting to be looked after again. Code **S** is also used where recording individual short breaks using legal status **V3**. For more information on short breaks see the section on Legal status codes.

Code **B** is used where both legal status and placement change on the same day.

Item 9: Legal status which underlies being 'looked after'

The legal status code on the SSDA903 records the legal status underlying the reason the child is being 'looked after'.

A renewal of an existing legal status does not generate a new episode. If the legal status code does not change, a new episode is not required, (unless there happens to be a change of placement at the same time).

In certain circumstances a child being looked after can have more than one 'looked after' legal status. In general this happens when a child who is already 'looked after' under a Children Act care order comes into contact with the youth justice system, and as a result is detained in local authority accommodation under a second legal status which would also make him or her 'looked after'. In such cases a new episode commences, which records *the latest legal status*.

Legal Status Code list

Care orders

Interim care order	C1
Full care order	C2

Freed for adoption

Freeing order granted	D1
-----------------------	----

Voluntary accommodation

Single period of accommodation under section 20	V2
---	----

Accommodation under an agreed series of short-term breaks, when individual episodes of care are recorded	V3
--	----

Accommodation under an agreed series of short-term breaks, when individual episodes of care are recorded	V4
--	----

Detained on child protection grounds, in LA accommodation

Under police protection and in local authority accommodation	L1
--	----

Emergency protection order	L2
----------------------------	----

Under child assessment order and in local authority accommodation	L3
---	----

Youth justice legal statuses

On remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA	J1
---	----

Detained in LA accommodation under PACE	J2
---	----

Sentenced to CYPA 1969 supervision order with residence requirement	J3
---	----

Item 10: Category of Need (CiN) codes

Category of Need (CiN) codes record the main reason why a child is being provided with services. This provides a further insight as to why a particular child is being looked after. There are eight broad CiN codes designed to describe the different sorts of pressure upon social services to provide services and hence to commit resources. They help provide answers as to why social service departments of local councils need to be involved with children and their families.

CiN code	Main reason for child being looked after at start of current period of care	Definition
N1	Abuse or neglect	Children in need as a result of, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
N2	Child's Disability	Children and their families whose main need for services arises out of the child's disabilities, illness or intrinsic condition
N3	Parental illness or disability	Children whose main need for services arises because the capacity of their parents or carers to care for them is impaired by disability, illness, mental illness, or addictions
N4	Family in acute stress	Children whose needs arise from living in a family going through a temporary crisis such that parenting capacity is diminished and some of the children's needs are not being adequately met
N5	Family dysfunction	Children whose needs arise mainly out of their living with families where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate
N6	Socially Unacceptable Behaviour	Children and families whose need for services arises primarily out of their children's behaviour impacting detrimentally on the community
N7	Low income	Children, either living in families or independently, whose need for services arises mainly from being dependent on an income below the standard state entitlements
N8	Absent Parenting	Children whose need for services arises mainly from having no parents available to provide for them. Children whose parents decide it is in the best interest for the child to be adopted would be included in this category

Item 11: Placement

This category can be defined, in a broad sense, as indicating where the child is living.

Placement Code list

1) Family placements

Foster placements :

Carer lives inside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F1
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F2
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F3

Foster placements :

Carer lives outside LA Boundary

Foster placement with relative or friend	F4
Placement with other foster carer, provided by LA	F5
Placement with other foster carer, arranged through agency	F6

Placed for adoption

Placed for adoption (not with their former foster carers)	A1
Placed for adoption (with their former foster carers)	A2

Placed with own parents

Placed with own parents or other person with parental responsibility	P1
--	----

2) Other placements in the community

Independent living , e.g. in flat or lodgings <i>without</i> formal support staff, or in bedsit, B&B or with friends	P2
Residential employment	P3

3) Placements in residential settings

Looked after, and placed in secure unit

Secure unit inside LA boundary	H1
Secure unit outside LA boundary	H2

Placements in homes and hostels subject to *Children's Homes Regulations*

Homes and hostels inside LA boundary	H3
Homes and hostels outside LA boundary	H4

Placements in other hostels & supportive residential settings

Residential accommodation not subject to <i>Children's homes regulations</i>	H5
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Placements in other residential settings

Residential care home	R1
NHS/Health Trust or other establishment providing medical or nursing care	R2
Family centre or mother and baby unit	R3
Young Offender Institution or prison	R5

Schools

All Residential schools, except where dual-registered as a school and children's home.	S1
--	----

4) Temporary placements

Temporary placements

All types of temporary move	T0
Temporary periods in hospital	T1
Temporary absences of the child on holiday	T2
Temporary accommodation whilst normal foster carer is on holiday	T3
Temporary accommodation of seven days or less, for any reason not covered by codes T1 to T3	T4

5) Other placements

Absent more than 24 hours from agreed placement

In Refuge (section 51 of Children Act)	M1
Whereabouts known (not in Refuge)	M2
Whereabouts unknown	M3

Other placements not listed above

Other placements (must be listed on a schedule sent to DfES with annual submission)	Z1
---	----

Item 12: Date episode ceased

The date the episode ceased, if applicable. An episode cannot start and end on the same day.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers as illustrated in Item 4.

Item 13 : Reason episode ceased/end of care

A single code, X1, is used in Item 13 to signify that an episode has ended and that a further episode has started on the same day.

All other codes in Item 13 record the circumstances when a child ceases to be looked after.

Reason Episode Ceased Codes

1) New episode follows, remains looked after

Episode ceases, and new episode begins on same day, for any reason	X1
--	----

2) Care ends, no longer looked after

Adopted (adoption order granted by court on date episode ceased)	E1
Died	E2
Care taken over by another LA in the UK	E3
Returned home to live with parents, relatives, or other person with parental responsibility	E4

Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : <u>supportive</u> accommodation providing formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. most hostels, YMCAs, foyers, and care leavers projects)	E5
---	----

Moved into independent living arrangement and no longer looked after : accommodation providing <u>no</u> formalised advice/support arrangements (e.g. B&B, bedsit, own flat, living with friends)	E6
---	----

Transferred to care of adult social services	E7
--	----

Period of being looked after ceased for any other reason	E8
--	----

Item 14: Distance between home and placement on 31 March (miles)

The distance in miles between home and placement is to be calculated using the following postcodes:

Home: The postcode of the address that children looked after are living in when they are first taken into care.

Placement: The postcode of the location where children are placed at 31 March.

Item 15: Looked after girls who are mothers on 31 March

Code 1 for yes the girl is a mother, code 0 for no the girl is not a mother.

Only data on live births is required (data on pregnancies that do not result in a live birth will not be collected)

Item 16: Date of statutory reviews

Date of each review: All dates should be recorded in a DDMMYY format i.e. day, month and year as two digits as in Item 4.

Item 17: Participation of children looked after in statutory reviews

The method of participation is only to be recorded for those children aged 4 or over at the time of the review. Only the participation method for the last review held during the year needs to be recorded.

Method of participation code list:

CODE	Definition	Examples
PN0	Child aged under 4 at the time of the review	
PN1	Child physically attends and speaks for him or herself	Attendance
PN2	Child physically attends and an advocate speaks on his or her behalf	Attendance Views represented by advocate or IRO
PN3	Child attends and conveys his or her view symbolically (non-verbally)	Attendance Symbols
PN4	Child physically attends but does not speak for him or herself, does not convey his or her view symbolically (non-verbally) and does not ask an advocate to speak for him or her.	Attendance without contribution
PN5	Child does not attend physically but briefs an advocate to speak for him or her	Views represented by advocate or IRO Texting Written format Phone Audio/video tape CD ROM Viewpoint
PN6	Child does not attend but conveys his or her feelings to the review by a facilitative medium	Texting the chair Written format Phone Audio/video tape CD ROM Viewpoint
PN7	Child does not attend nor are his or her views conveyed to the review.	

DATA ITEMS RELATING TO KEY MILESTONES

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ADOPTED

Item 1: Date of approval of adopters

This item records the date the prospective adoptive parents were formally approved as being suitable for this role.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 2: Date of best interest decision

This is the date on which the local authority (in its capacity as the adoption agency) formally decides that adoption would be in the best interest of the child.

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 3: Date of matching child and adopters

This is the date on which the local authority (in its capacity as the adoption agency) decides that the child will be placed for adoption with its prospective adoptive parent(s).

Code day, month, and year as two digit numbers

Item 4: Child adopted by former foster carer

Code 1 for yes, code 0 for no.

EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF CARE LEAVERS

Item 1: Number of GCSE passes obtained, A*–G

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

Item 2: Number of GCSE passes obtained, A*–C

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

Item 3: Number of GNVQ passes

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

Item 4: Number of other educational or vocational qualifications

This item records the total number of passes obtained at the time of leaving care.

Item 5: Reason for having no qualifications on ceasing

Reason for no qualification code list

Description	Code
Not applicable (i.e. has at least one qualification)	0
Young person due to sit exams later in the school year having ceased to be looked after	1
Young person sat at least one exam but obtained no qualifications	2
Health condition or disability prevented young person sitting exams	3
Young person did not sit exams, or was not due to sit exams later in the school year, and was not prevented from doing so by a health condition or disability	4

ACTIVITY OF FORMER LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN ON THEIR 19TH BIRTHDAY

Item 1: In touch on 19th birthday

This item most accurately answers the question – was the local council in touch with this young person on, or near, his/her 19th birthday?

In touch code list

Description	Code
Yes, resident in the UK	1
No, resident in the UK	2
Yes, gone abroad	3
No, gone abroad	4
No, residence not known	5
Died after leaving care but prior to 19th birthday	6

Item 2: Main activity on 19th birthday

This item records the code that most accurately reflects the young person's main activity status on or around their 19th birthday

Main activity list

Description	Code
Young person engaged in higher education (i.e. studies beyond A level)	G1
Young person in education other than higher education	G2
Young person in training or employment	G3
Young person not in education, training or employment because of illness or disability	G4
Young person not in education, training or employment: other circumstances	G5

Item 3: Accommodation on 19th birthday

Accommodation list

Description	Code
With parents or relatives	B
Community home or other form of residential care	C
Semi-independent, transitional accommodation	D
Supported lodgings	E
Ordinary lodgings	K
Foyers	T
Independent living	U
Emergency accommodation	V
Bed and breakfast	W
In custody	X
Other accommodation	Y

Item 4: Suitability of accommodation

Code 1 if accommodation is considered suitable, code 2 if accommodation is considered unsuitable.

APPENDIX C

NOTE ON THE ROUNDING AND CONFIDENTIALITY CONVENTION USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. All numbers which appear in the national summary tables have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the table by a hyphen (-). 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.

At local council level the England totals have been rounded either to the nearest 10, or 100 following the rule outlined above. Regional totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. All other numbers have been rounded to the nearest five, and numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive have been suppressed, being replaced in the published table by a hyphen. Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers, but where the numerator was five or less or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced by a hyphen. Where a percentage is zero because the number from which that percentage has been calculated is a zero, the percentage is shown as zero.

The rounding convention has not been applied to the figures provided in tables E1 and E2 (Appendix E).

In tables which include time series, this rounding convention has been applied to data for previous years for the sake of consistency, even though unrounded data for these years may have been published in previous publications.

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. The only exception to this rule is to avoid the suppression of a figure used in Performance Assessment Framework Indicator calculations (such as table 10A and 10B). In this circumstance, which is indicated by a footnote, the third smallest data item or a zero may have been suppressed.

The following table gives some examples of the rounding convention used:

Actual Number	Numbers at England level, as shown in tables	Numbers at local council level, as shown in tables
0	0	0
1	-	-
2	-	-
3	-	-
4	-	-
5	-	-
6	10	5
7	10	5
8	10	10
9	10	10
10	10	10
11	10	10
12	10	10
13	10	15
14	10	15
15	20	15
16	20	15
17	20	15
18	20	20
19	20	20
20	20	20
120	120	120
124	120	125
125	130	125
126	130	125
994	990	995
995	1,000	995
999	1,000	1,000
1,949	1,900	1,950
1,950	2,000	1,950
1,955	2,000	1,955
1,956	2,000	1,955
1,957	2,000	1,955
1,958	2,000	1,960

APPENDIX D

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

Statistical First Release (SFR): Children looked after in England (including adoptions and care leavers): 2004–05

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000615/index.shtml>

Key Local Authority tables (replacing the Statistical Bulletin)

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000615/index.shtml>

Referrals, Assessments, and Children and Young People on Child Protection Registers, England – Year Ending 31 March 2005

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000632/index.shtml>

Children Accommodated in Secure Children's Homes, year ending 31 March 2005: England and Wales

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000593/index.shtml>

Outcome Indicators for Looked-after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2004 – England

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000580/index.shtml>

Children in Need in England: Results of a survey of activity and expenditure as reported by Local Authority Social Services' Children and Families Teams for a survey week in February 2005: Local Authority tables and further national analysis

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000647/index.shtml>

Social Services Performance Assessment Framework Indicators 2004–2005

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STA/t000541/index.shtml>

The Children Act 2004

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/childrenactreport/>