

NSPCC

How safe are our children?

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE
OVERVIEW OF CHILD
PROTECTION IN THE UK



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EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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Foreword



Our third annual state of the nation report: *How Safe are our Children?* takes an overview of the child protection landscape and compiles the most robust and up-to-date child protection data that exists across each of the four nations in the UK.

Over the past year, child abuse has rarely been out of the public eye. We've seen the continued fallout from decades of horrendous sexual abuse committed by Jimmy Savile, grooming and trafficking in Rotherham, greater awareness of the dangers of online abuse and a concerted attempt to tackle it alongside an increasing awareness of the impact of emotional as well as physical abuse.

Our reports go further than merely allowing us to understand how many children are being abused and neglected. They also help us to track the progress of how we, as a nation, are dealing with these issues, and remind us of our responsibility to children. Only by monitoring the extent of child abuse and neglect in the UK can we judge whether efforts to prevent maltreatment and to protect children are working.

In some ways this is a watershed moment in the UK. The nations are listening and child abuse is top of the agenda. We need to seize the moment and use this opportunity to help adult survivors who have suffered in silence for years and children who are being abused today to get the help they so desperately need.

Child abuse comes in many forms – from neglect to physical, online to sexual – and at the heart of tackling it lies a need to provide a loving and supportive environment for all children. Listening to them properly when they need to be heard and then helping to equip them with an understanding of abuse and develop resilience against it. Preventing abuse before it can take hold is how, together, we will end cruelty to children.

Crimes against children are now being exposed – past and present – and as individuals, communities and a society we need to ensure that this appalling exercise of power over young people is made very much more difficult, and those who suffer get immediate help and support. Every day the NSPCC is inundated with calls from adults worried about children, while children are contacting ChildLine with increasingly challenging issues. It seems that awareness of child abuse has never been higher, and the feeling that victims who come forward will be believed has never been stronger. It's essential that we meet this heightened sense of hope.

As our report shows, the challenges in keeping future generations safe are myriad and complex. But we at the NSPCC believe abuse can be prevented and damaged lives can be turned around. As a country, we must work together, listen to the voices of those that have suffered, and protect those who cannot protect themselves. Every childhood is worth fighting for.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Peter Wanless'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peter Wanless
NSPCC Chief Executive

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Overview

Sexual abuse dominated the headlines

This year child sexual abuse has remained a prominent feature on the news agenda – with details emerging about systemic failures in a range of high profile abuse cases. In the Savile scandal, hospital staff were implicated in the facilitation of abuse¹. The cases of Rotherham², Rochdale and Oxford highlighted failures to identify and protect at-risk children. And previously trusted individuals such as Rolf Harris and Dr Myles Bradbury were convicted of multiple counts of sexual abuse against children. This all happened against a backdrop of ongoing governmental activity which included the Northern Ireland inquiry into historic institutional

abuse between 1922 and 1995, the announcement in Scotland of a national statutory inquiry on the historical abuse of children in care,³ the conclusion of the Wanless and Whittam QC review⁴ and the formal establishment of the Goddard Inquiry.⁵ Amidst all this it emerged that in some areas of the UK sexual abuse has become so common that it is seen by children as a normal way of life⁶.

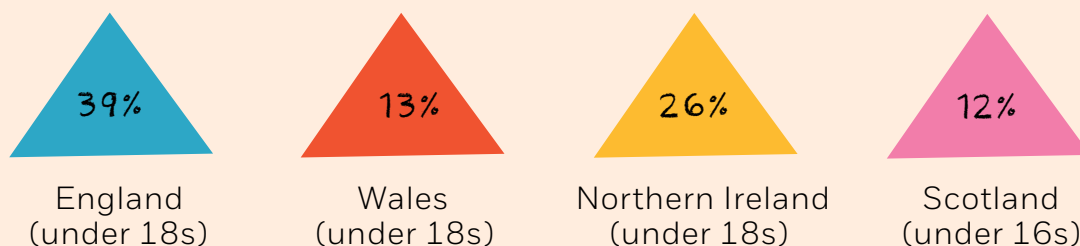
All four countries in the UK have seen the number of recorded sexual offences against children increase by between 12 per cent and 39 per cent in 2013/14 compared with the previous year⁷. This surge could partially be accounted for by an increased willingness to report abuse following media focus on the issue,

which is to be welcomed. However it does mean that more children are speaking out, only to find little support to help them recover from abuse.

This increase in official figures is mirrored by the NSPCC helpline and ChildLine – both of which saw a rise in people coming forward. Helpline contacts have risen every year since 2009/10 – and the nature of these contacts has been increasingly concerning. Referrals to statutory agencies this year hit the highest ever peak of 46 per cent of contacts⁸. For ChildLine, counselling sessions where the main concern was sexual abuse or online sexual abuse accounted for 45 per cent of discussions⁹. On the ChildLine

Number of police-recorded sexual offences

Percentage change
2012/13
to 2013/14



website, sexting was the most viewed ChildLine Explore page in 2014/15.

An increased confidence in confronting sexual abuse should be welcomed. An NSPCC study into disclosures of childhood abuse showed that for some children disclosure was often significantly delayed from the start of the abuse – by 7.8 years¹⁰ on average. Delay can have damaging consequences.

Support must match increased willingness to speak out

Having the courage to speak out after abuse can be the beginning of a long journey, and there is a significant shortfall in therapeutic support for children who have experienced sexual abuse. At least another 55,000 clinical therapeutic support places would be needed per year¹¹ to make sure all children received this necessary support. This would only cover young people who have displayed high level support needs including suicidal or self-harming behaviour following abuse. And whilst not all children will need this level of help, the current provision of non-clinical early support is also far from sufficient. This is despite evidence that early intervention would be cost effective in the long term¹².

Once victims of child abuse enter the criminal justice process, too many find it a traumatising experience. The criminal justice system remains one designed by adults, for adults; this needs revision. It is vital that children receive age-appropriate support at every stage of the criminal justice process to help them give their best evidence and to limit them being further traumatised by the justice process. Children face significant challenges understanding the questions asked of them and making themselves understood in court, but less than 4 per cent of young witnesses receive support from a communications specialist when giving their evidence. Despite the fact that one of their greatest fears is the possibility of seeing their abuser and their abuser's supporters at the court, more than nine out of ten children still have to attend the court building to give evidence because of a lack of remote sites. Unsurprisingly, research undertaken by the NSPCC and the Nuffield Foundation found that going to court causes children stress and anxiety, which can prevent them giving their full evidence¹³.

CSE work to be done

The child protection systems across the UK need to continue to adapt to new and emerging forms of abuse, including Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). The systems need to help practitioners feel confident in identifying and protecting victims, as well as contributing to working towards preventing CSE in the first place. Social workers report concerns that "sexual abuse might go undetected when more evident indicators of neglect or physical abuse are presented" and that too frequently they "were operating without the support, time, knowledge and training they needed to ensure the identification of sexual abuse and the protection and well-being of extremely vulnerable children."¹⁴ In addition, there is evidence that suggests child protection processes and procedures tend to be designed for work with young children in a family context. Adolescents require a more sophisticated model of risk prevention and protection¹⁵.

We must not lose sight of neglect

While CSE is dominating the media, we must not lose sight of neglect. Neglect remains the most common form of child abuse across the UK and is usually the most common cause for being subject to a child protection plan (CPP) or on a child protection register (CPR)¹⁶. Numbers of recorded cruelty and neglect offences in England and Northern Ireland are now the highest they have been for a decade¹⁷. There are more children suffering abuse or neglect than those who are known to children's social services – we estimate that for every child subject to a child protection plan or register, another eight children have suffered maltreatment¹⁸.

However, we know increasingly more about the signs of neglect and are beginning to get the necessary evidence to understand what works best in assessing and intervening more preventatively to tackle it¹⁹. It's important to note that whilst NSPCC helpline data shows that the number of contacts received about sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect have increased since 2009/10, contacts about neglect have seen the biggest increase over this time period²⁰.

Emotional well-being underlies neglect and all forms of abuse. However, emotional well-being is a much broader issue for children and young people. Low mood and unhappiness remain key reasons why children and young people get in touch with ChildLine, as do self-harm and suicidal feelings²¹.

A glimmer of good news

Due to the economic backdrop, austerity continues and as with many public services, child protection is continuing to deliver with less. While services are stretched, it's heartening that key outcome indicators of child deaths continue to point in the right direction, as the number of children dying as a result of homicide or assault have been in long term decline²².

Early Intervention is key

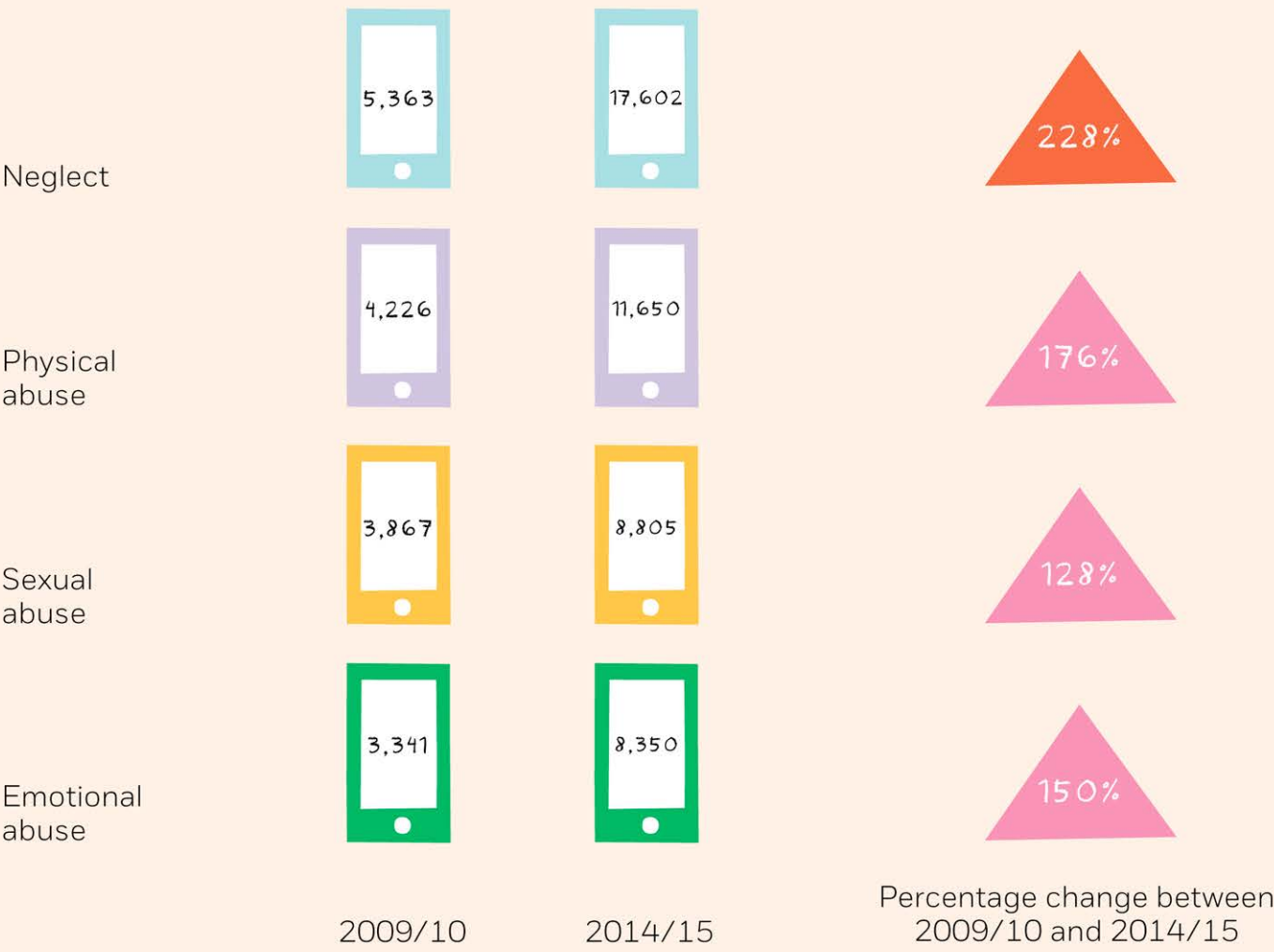
Intervening early remains an ambition across the UK. In Scotland there is already a statutory duty for early intervention²³ and in Wales such a duty is expected to come into force in 2016²⁴. This is to be welcomed, but shifting towards early intervention and ultimately reducing the need for a social care response is a challenge in the current economic climate. However, arguably because of this climate, early intervention is realistic and a smart choice in the face of public resources that are increasingly

scarce. A recent report by the Early Intervention Foundation²⁵ found that nearly £17 billion per year is spent by the state in England and Wales on a range of acute or statutory services that are required when children and young people experience significant difficulties in life. While many of these services are in themselves valuable and important, and the need for them will never be eliminated completely, the fiscal challenges we face do mean we need to minimise demand for them as much as possible by intervening early to prevent needs from becoming serious and entrenched²⁶ and to reduce costs to the public purse.

There has been progress in the past year, however there remains much to do to ensure that abuse and neglect is prevented from happening in the first place and also to ensure that children who have been abused or neglected get the support they need to recover their childhoods and rebuild their lives. Abuse changes childhood. But so can we.

The rest of this report takes you through the latest available data arranged by the 20 indicators of abuse and neglect. Briefing papers for the four UK nations can be found on nspcc.org/howSAFE.

Reasons for contacting the NSPCC helpline





Measuring the extent of abuse and neglect in the UK

What is abuse and neglect? We have defined abuse and neglect according to the definitions set out in the table. Child protection is a devolved matter and each of the four nations of the UK has its own guidance and definitions. The definitions in the table are taken from the UK Government's own guidance for professionals¹ but these are not substantially different from those used in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.²

Online sexual abuse

In the UK there is no single agreed definition of what constitutes online child sexual abuse. The NSPCC's view is that it is important that the agencies working on preventing and tackling online child sexual exploitation have a shared definition as this will ensure all the agencies that work in this field have an agreed focus.

The NSPCC's working definition of online child sexual abuse is:

Online child sexual abuse is the use of technology to manipulate, coerce or intimidate a child, to engage in sexual activity that is abusive and/or degrading

in nature. Online child sexual abuse is characterised by an imbalance of power and lack of choice resulting from physical, emotional and/or social vulnerabilities. As with other forms of sexual abuse, online abuse can be misunderstood by the child and others as being consensual, occurring without the child's immediate recognition or understanding of abusive or exploitative conduct; although it is emphasised that no child under the age of 18 can consent to being abused or exploited. Online child sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to the grooming of children for sexual purposes, including sexual acts online, and the production, distribution or possession of indecent images of

children. Online child sexual abuse takes different forms and can lead to or be preceded by contact abuse. Financial gain can be a feature of online child sexual abuse and it can involve serious organised crime.

The indicators we have used

We have compiled 20 different indicators in an effort to understand the extent of abuse and neglect in the UK today. The indicators relate both to deaths due to child maltreatment and the incidence of abuse and neglect. In each case there are multiple ways to measure the extent of child maltreatment.

ABUSE

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (eg via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

NEGLECT

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or responsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Since there is a wide range of relevant information, we have had to be selective in the measures presented. Our aim has been to provide the most robust and comprehensive picture possible, so we have chosen indicators that:

- provide different insights on the extent of child abuse and neglect;
- use robust data, where possible based on a large sample and standardised measures. Where there are weaknesses in the data we state these; and
- wherever possible, use data that can be tracked over time and broken down by each of the four nations.

Population data used in this report

In this report we draw on UK population data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for England and Wales. Data for Scotland is published by the General Register Office for Scotland. Data for Northern Ireland is published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency. The most recent population data draws on the 2013 mid-year population estimates.

What we have not been able to include

We have not been able to include data on all forms of child abuse in this report, largely due to the paucity of data available. Often data may be available, yet it will not be broken down by age allowing children to be identified.

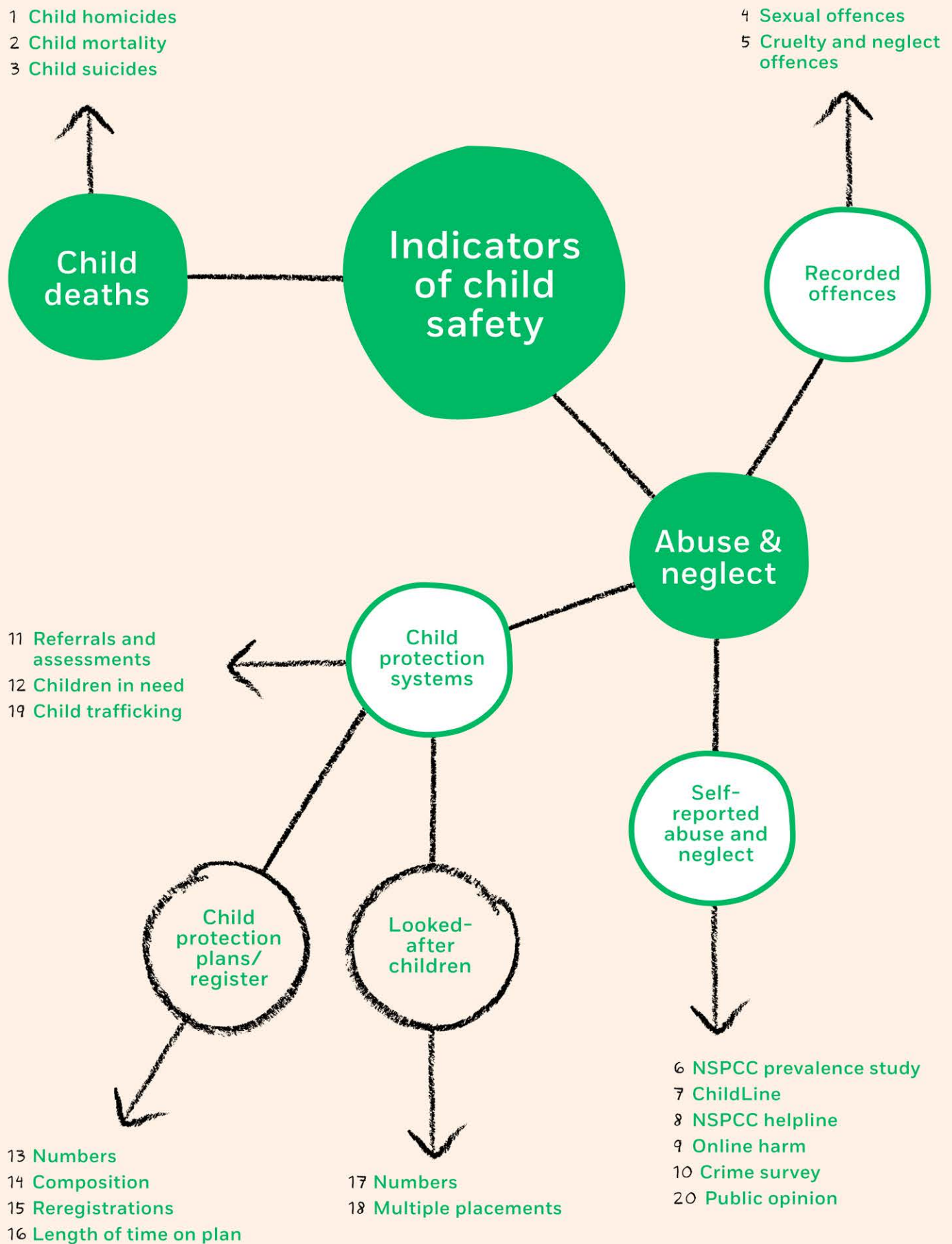
For example, some data is available on accident and emergency attendances for assault and self-harm, however, only for a single country, so this data has not been included in this four-nation report.

Another example is data on assaults recorded by the police and published across the UK nations; only in Northern Ireland is this data broken down by the age of the victims. The police do record this information but it is not currently collected or published centrally. There is also insufficient data on children's own views about how safe they feel from abuse and neglect.

Services to safeguard and protect children in the UK are underpinned by legislation, guidance and policies. As power is devolved within the UK, differences between the respective child protection systems have become increasingly pronounced. In comparing information about child abuse in each of the four nations, it is important to understand the different contexts in which the statistics have been compiled. These have been explored in some depth by the NSPCC/University of Edinburgh Child Protection Research Centre. We know, for example, that the English statistical returns are most comparable with Wales and least comparable with Scotland. Where data is not comparable we have highlighted this. Nonetheless we consider there to be value in setting out what is known and not known for each of the four nations.

A brief summary of the child protection systems in each of the four nations is included in the glossary of this report.

Child protection is a devolved matter and each of the four nations of the UK has its own guidance.



The diagram above summarises the different indicators and how they can be grouped. The table on the next page lists the 20 indicators, a brief description and data availability.

Key



Data is available in all four nations. Trend data may be for different time periods and there may be some differences in classifications, for example in offence categories.



Data is available, but it was not possible to drill down to the same level of detail in all countries. For example, for children in need data or looked-after children data we are interested in those children who are in need or looked after due to abuse or neglect as opposed to other reasons. Also used where data is only available for the latest year.



No published data available.



Survey data or UK wide data.

Indicator

- 1 Child homicides recorded by the police
- 2 Child mortality
- 3 Child suicides
- 4 Number of recorded sexual offences against children
- 5 Number of recorded cruelty and neglect offences against children
- 6 Self reported prevalence of abuse and neglect
- 7 Contacts with ChildLine
- 8 Contacts with the NSPCC helpline
- 9 Survey data on online harm
- 10 Violent incidents experienced by 10 to 15 year olds (crime survey)
- 11 Referrals to social services
- 12 Children in need due to abuse or neglect
- 13 Children subject to protection plans or on the child protection register
- 14 Composition of child protection plans/child protection register
- 15 Re-registration onto the child protection register (returning to a child protection plan)
- 16 How long children are on child protection plans or the child protection register
- 17 Children looked after due to abuse or neglect
- 18 Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year
- 19 Child trafficking
- 20 Public opinion

Description	England	Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland
Murder, manslaughter and infanticide offences recorded by police.	★	★	★	★
Deaths by assault and undetermined intent based on death certificates provided by local registrars and information from coroners and procurators fiscal.	★	★	★	★
Deaths of 15 to 19 year olds recorded as intentional self-harm or event of undetermined intent, and deaths of 10 to 14 year olds recorded as intentional self-harm.	★	★	★	★
Sexual offences recorded by the police including rape, sexual assault, child grooming and offences related to indecent images of children.	★	★	★	★
Offences recorded by police where a parent or carer wilfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, abandons or exposes a child under 16 in a manner likely to cause them unnecessary suffering or injury to health.	★	★	★	★
Abuse or neglect reported by children when asked in a UK-wide survey.	Survey data – not collected statistics.			
Counselling sessions held by ChildLine with children and young people via phone call, email and online chat.	Data covers the whole of the UK and is not broken down by country.			
Calls, emails, texts and online reporting to NSPCC's UK 24/7 helpline for those concerned about a child.	Data covers the whole of the UK and is not broken down by country.			
Information about children's experience of the internet via surveys.	Survey data – not collected statistics.			
Violent offences against children reported in an annual crime survey for England and Wales.	★	★	✗	✗
Number of referrals made to social services due to concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.	★	★	✗	★
Number of children deemed to be "in need" because they are unlikely to have a reasonable standard of health and development without support provided by a public authority, due to abuse or neglect.	★	★	✗	▲
Children subject to a child protection plan or on a register because they are deemed to be at risk of ongoing harm.	★	★	★	★
The reason why children are on a child protection plan or on the child protection register.	★	★	★	★
The number of children who come back onto child protection plans or registers.	★	★	★	★
Percentage of children who are on a child protection plan or the register for more than two years.	★	✗	★	★
Number of children where the state is acting as a corporate parent.	★	★	▲	▲
Proportion of looked-after children who have had three or more placements during one year.	★	★	★	★
Number of children being recruited and moved for the purpose of exploitation.	Available data covers the whole of the UK and is not broken down by country.			
Survey data on public attitudes to child abuse and neglect.	Survey data – not collected statistics.			

INDICATOR 1

Child homicides recorded by police includes the offences of murder, manslaughter and infanticide

Why is this measure important?

The child homicide rate is an important measure of child safety. It shows the number of children killed by another person. The statistics give an indication of how many children are dying directly as a result of violence or abuse. Historical data is available and consistent recording methods allow robust comparison over time.

What are the limitations of the data?

Police-recorded homicide statistics should accurately reflect the number of child homicides reported each year. However, they will only record cases where there is sufficient evidence to suspect that a homicide has taken place. Studies have indicated that the number of child deaths where abuse or neglect is suspected as a factor is higher than shown in the police-recorded homicide figures.* Homicide data can give an indication of the scale of the problem, but cannot help us understand the preventable factors behind child deaths.

The number of child homicides recorded each year is small. This means a slight change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on homicide rates. We have tried to compensate for this by looking at five-year averages.

Data availability and comparability

Data is available for all four nations showing recorded homicide offences. For the first time we have included data for under 18s for all four nations. This has reduced the amount of historical data available, but increased the comparability between nations.

England

Homicide rate per million children aged 0 to 17 years



Latest figure: 62 homicides of under 18s were recorded in England in 2013/14, a five-year average rate of 5.5 per million children aged under 18.

Trend: The five-year average rate of child homicides has decreased by 33 per cent in England over the past decade. It decreased from a five-year average of 8.2 per million in 2004/05 to 5.5 per million in 2013/14.

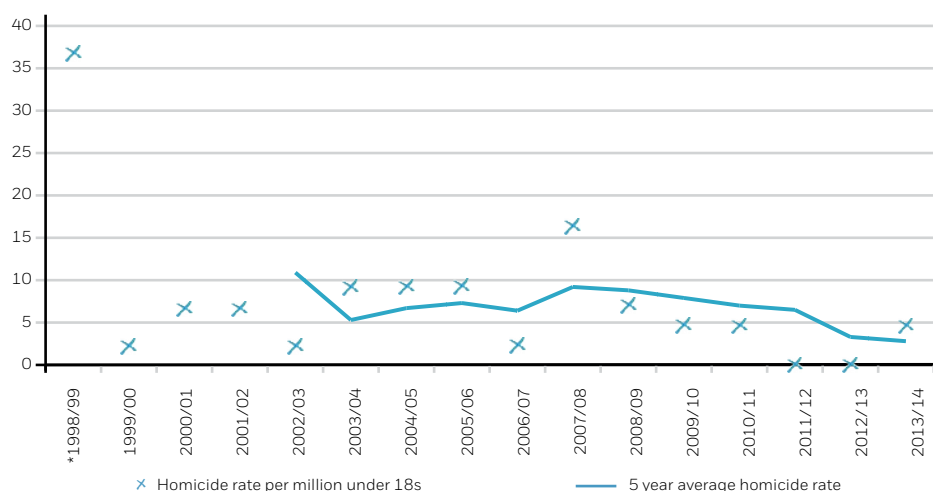


KEY MESSAGES

- There were 67 child homicides across the UK in 2013/14
- The average child homicide rate in Wales for the five years to 2013/14 was seven per million under 18s. In Scotland the rate was 5.6 per million under 18s, in England it was 5.5 and in Northern Ireland 2.8.
- The five-year average rate has declined in all four of the UK nations since the early 2000s.

Northern Ireland

Homicide rate per million children aged 0 to 17 years



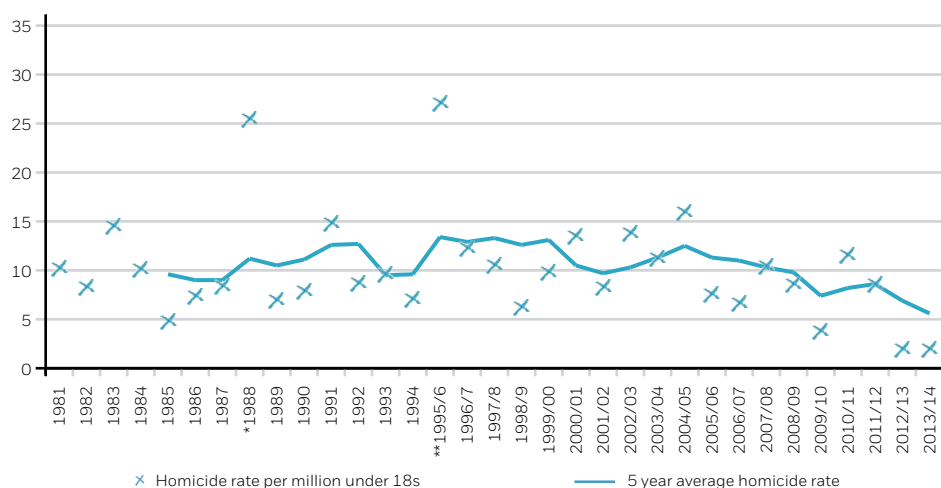
Latest figure: Two child homicides were recorded in 2013/14. The five-year average in 2013/14 was 2.8 per million under 18s.

Trend: The five-year average rate has ranged between a high of 10.9 per million in 2002/3 following the 1998 Omagh bombing, to a low of 2.8 per million in 2013/14. The child homicide rate has decreased each year since 2007/8. The fluctuation in homicide rates can be partially explained by the small number of offences involved.

*The Omagh bombing occurred on 15 August 1998

Scotland

Homicide rate per million children aged 0 to 17 years



Latest figure: Two homicides of under 18s were recorded in 2013/14, a five-year average rate of 5.6 per million under 18 year olds.

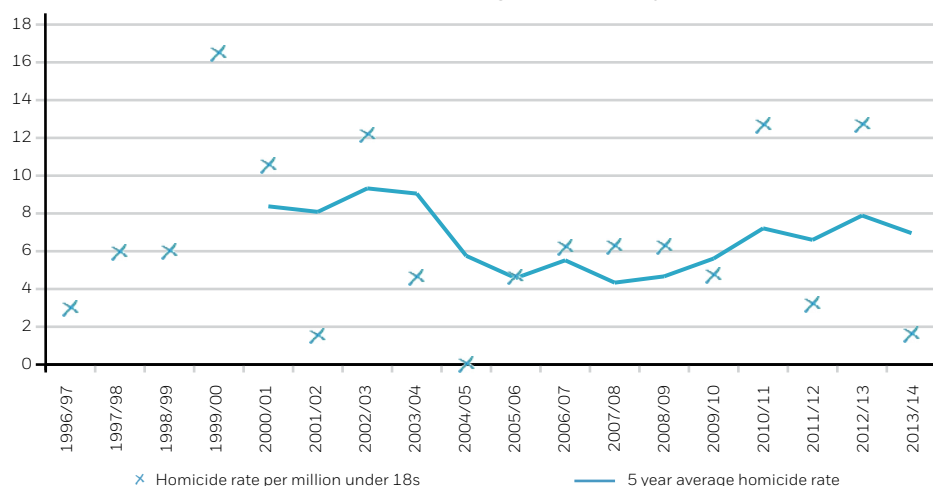
Trend: The five-year average rate has ranged from a high of 13.4 per million in 1995/6 following the Dunblane massacre, to a low of 5.6 per million in 2013/14. The fluctuation in homicide rates can be partially explained by the small number of offences involved.

*Includes the 21 victims of the Lockerbie bombing who were under 18 years of age.

** Includes the 16 victims of the Dunblane massacre who were under 18 years of age.

Wales

Homicide rate per million children aged 0 to 17 years



Latest figure: Police recorded one homicide of an under 18 in 2013/14. The five-year average rate was seven per million under 18 year olds.

Trend: The five-year average homicide rate has ranged from a high of 9.3 per million under 18s in 2002/3 to a low of 4.3 per million in 2007/8. Following a period of decline the five-year average homicide rates appear to have been rising in recent years. The fluctuation in homicide rates can be partially explained by the small number of offences involved.

UK comparison

The five-year average child homicide rate in 2013/14 was highest in Wales, at seven per million under 18 year olds, compared with 5.6 per million in Scotland, 5.5 per million in England and 2.8 per million in Northern Ireland. Overall child homicide rates have decreased for all UK nations, although in Wales it has been rising since a low of 4.3 per million in 2007/8. Children under one year continue to be more at risk of being killed at the hands of another person than any other age group in England and Wales. In 2013/14 there were 23.9 homicides per million children under one in England and Wales, compared to an average of 9.2 per million for all age groups (Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2015).

INDICATOR 2

Child mortality deaths by assault and undetermined intent*

Why is this measure important?

Mortality statistics report the number of children who have died in any given year based on death certificates provided by local registrars and information from coroners and procurators fiscal. Data shown here is specifically from the deaths recorded under the codes of “assault and neglect” and “undetermined intent” and therefore show a subset of the preventable deaths of children. Deaths recorded as “undetermined intent” are generally seen as probable suicides for adolescents and adults, whereas for children it is more likely that a question remains over whether someone else was responsible, though this cannot be proven. While the statistics may not fully reflect the number of child deaths where abuse or neglect may have been a factor, they do give an understanding of how many children are dying directly as a result of violence, abuse or in suspicious circumstances. This data may overlap with the homicides data in Indicator 1, but is a fundamentally different way of recording deaths since it is based on the cause of death rather than whether a homicide was committed.

What are the limitations of the data?

Mortality statistics reflect the number of child deaths where another person was responsible or where responsibility is not determined, though their accuracy depends on consistent recording practices. They do not necessarily reflect the full number of child deaths where abuse or neglect is suspected as a factor.** Studies have indicated that the number of child deaths where abuse or neglect is suspected as a factor is higher than shown in the mortality figures. Data is normally only published for children in ‘five year’ age groups (eg 10 to 14 years), so the figures that are readily available only cover children up to the age of 14.

Data availability and comparability

Mortality data coded consistently under the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is available for all UK nations. However, data for England and Wales is combined, preventing a full comparison between the four nations. Historical data is available for all UK nations and consistent recording methods across all nations allow comparison. However, differences in the death registration systems used in each nation may have an impact on the comparability of the data between nations.

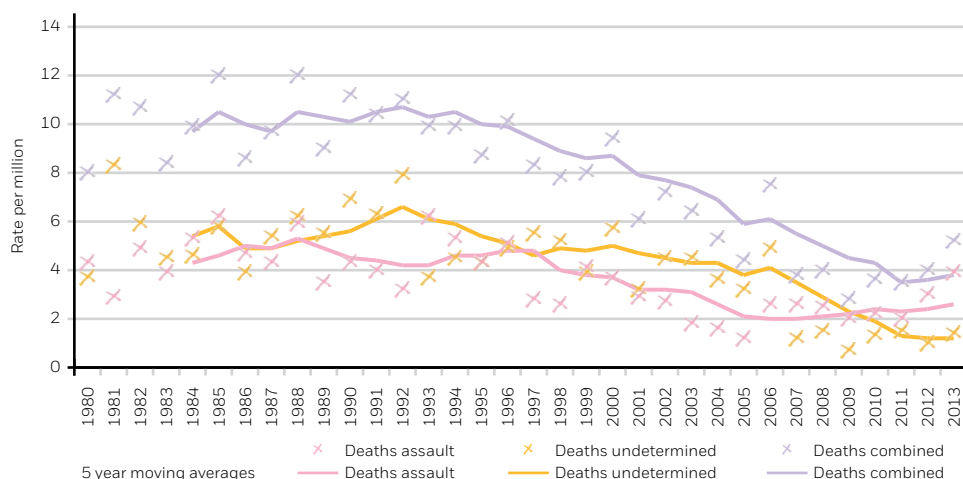
KEY MESSAGES

- **In 2013, 56 children aged under 15 died as a result of assault or undetermined intent in the UK.**
- **In 2013, the five-year average rate of deaths due to assault and undetermined intent was highest in Northern Ireland at 5.6 per million, followed by 3.8 per million in England and Wales, and 3.5 per million in Scotland.**
- **The five-year average rate has declined in all four of the UK nations since the early 1980s.**

*Data drawn from the deaths recorded from 2001 using ICD-10 under the codes of assault and neglect (X85-Y09, Y87.1) and undetermined intent (Y10-Y34, Y87.2) and pre-2001 using ICD-9 under the codes E904, E960-E969 and E980-E989. **Brandon, M. et al. (2012) *New learning from serious case reviews: a two year report for 2009-11*; Ofsted (2008) *The Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills 2007/08*, p69.

England and Wales

Mortality rates among children aged 1 month to 14 years by assault and undetermined intent

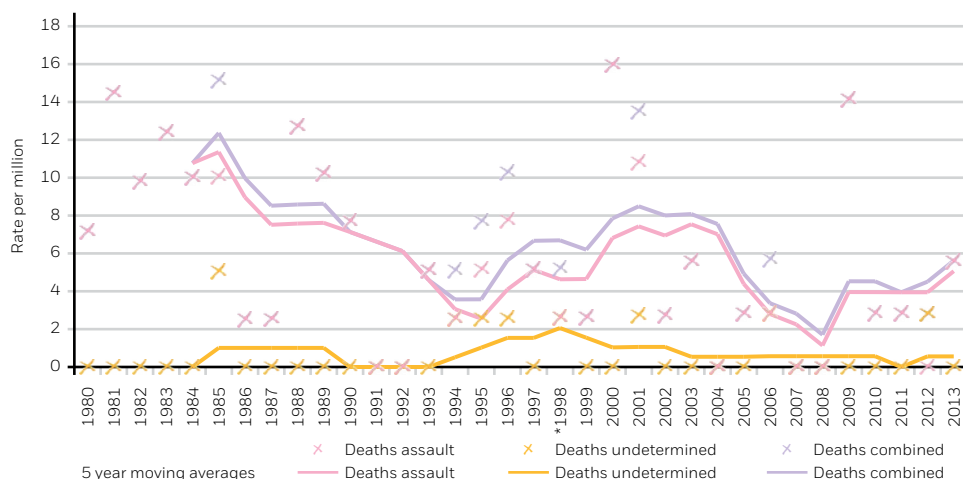


Latest figure: There were 53 deaths by assault or undetermined intent of children aged 28 days to 14 years in 2013, a five-year average rate of 3.8 per million.

Trend: There has been a 60 per cent decrease in the five-year average rate of child deaths due to assault and undetermined intent, from around 9.7 per million in 1984 to 3.8 per million in 2013.

Northern Ireland

Mortality rates among children aged 0 to 14 years by assault and undetermined intent



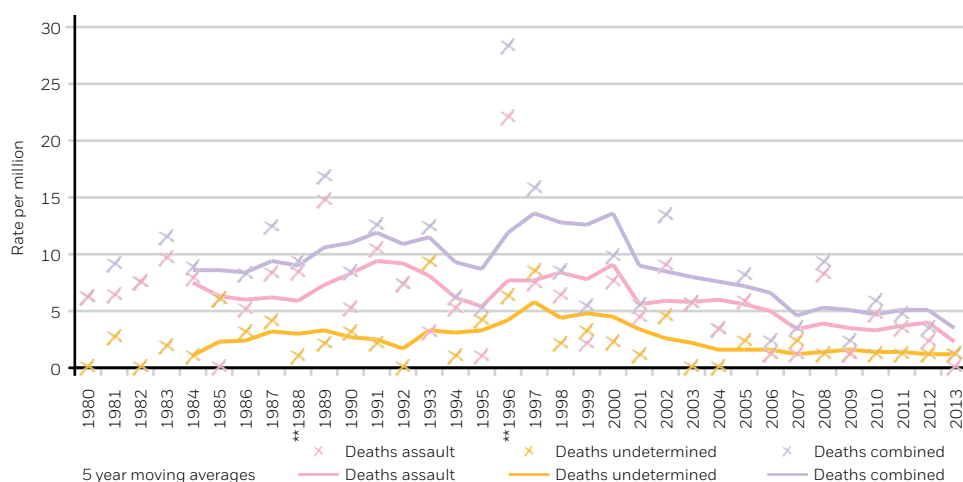
Latest figure: There were two deaths by assault or undetermined intent recorded in 2013, a five-year average of 5.6 per million.

Trend: The five-year average rate of child deaths due to assault and undetermined intent has decreased by 48 per cent since 1984, from 10.8 per million to 5.6 per million. The average rate increased in the years following the Omagh bombing in 1998.

Although it appears that mortality rates have been on the rise for the past few years, actual numbers remain low.

Scotland

Mortality rates among children aged 0 to 14 years by assault and undetermined intent



Latest figure: One death by assault or undetermined intent was recorded in 2013, a five-year average of 3.5 per million.

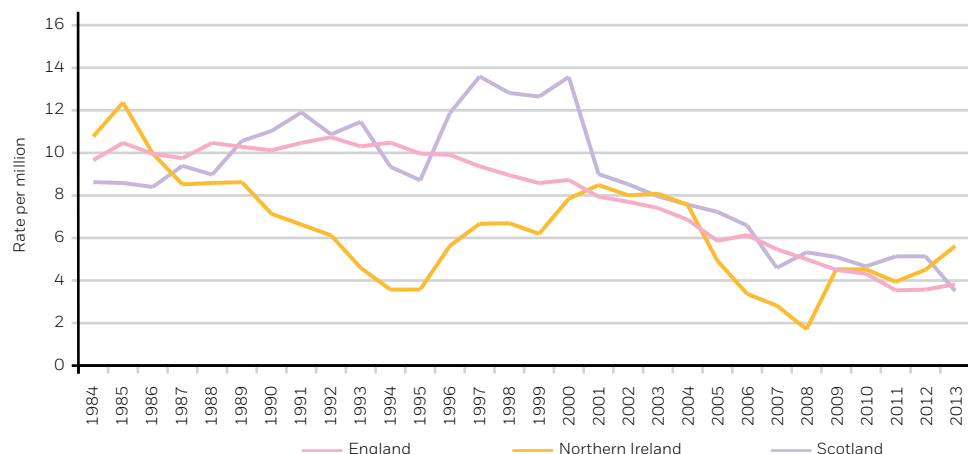
Trend: The five-year average rate of deaths due to assault and undetermined intent has decreased by 59 per cent since 1984, from 8.6 per million to 3.5 per million in 2013. The rate peaked in the late 1990s after the Dunblane massacre in 1996.

*The Omagh bombing occurred on 15 August 1998

**1988/89 and 1996 include deaths resulting from the Lockerbie bombing and the Dunblane massacre respectively.

UK comparison

5 year mortality rates among children aged 0 to 14 years



In 2013, the rate of deaths due to assault and undetermined intent was highest in Northern Ireland at 5.6 per million, followed by 3.8 per million in England and Wales and 3.5 per million in Scotland. The rate has declined in all four nations since the 1980s – by 59 per cent in Scotland, 48 per cent in Northern Ireland and by 60 per cent in England and Wales. This is a steeper decline than that suggested by the homicide data in Indicator 1. A change in the mortality coding system from 2001 may exaggerate the later decline. However, in the case of England and Wales there was evidence of a genuine decline prior to this change.

Data sources

England and Wales: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mortality statistics: deaths registered in England and Wales (Series DR). Historic data provided to NSPCC. **Scotland:** General Register Office for Scotland – Vital events data. Data provided to NSPCC. **Northern Ireland:** Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) Registrar General Annual Reports (various years).

While services are stretched it is heartening that key outcome indicators of child deaths continue to point in the right direction, as the number of children dying as a result of homicide or assault remain in long term decline.

INDICATOR 3

Child suicides

Why is this measure important?

Information on the number of suicides is an important measure of the safety of children and young people. Suicide may often be the result of a combination of other factors, such as abuse, neglect, family problems or mental health issues.

Tracking the numbers of children and young people who take their own lives shows the number of children who feel that there is no way out of their problems and for whom the right help is not there. It therefore shows a subset of the preventable deaths of children. The National Statistics definition of suicide includes deaths given an underlying cause of intentional self-harm (labelled on the graphs below as suicides) or an injury/poisoning of undetermined intent. For over 15s, deaths of undetermined intent are seen as cases where the harm was self-inflicted, but where there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. However, this cannot be applied to younger children due to the possibility that these deaths were caused by unverifiable accidents, neglect or abuse, therefore the suicide data for 10 to 14 year olds only uses deaths coded under "intentional self-harm".

What are the limitations of the data?

Data on suicides from mortality statistics is affected by difficulties in recording a suicide where intent is unclear. In relation to children in particular, there may be difficulties in recording a death either as a suicide or as an accident. Data on attempted suicides is not reflected in these statistics. The numbers of child suicides are also relatively small; meaning a small change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on rates. We have tried to compensate for this by looking at five-year averages. Finally, data is published with the age band 15 to 19 years, so data for under 18s is not readily available.

Data availability and comparability

Statistics on child suicides come from mortality data. Mortality data coded consistently under the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) is available for all UK nations. In official publications, a smaller set of codes is used to measure suicide in England and Wales than the rest of the UK.* To enable cross-national comparisons, we have chosen to use the broader UK definition for all four nations. Historical data is available for all UK nations and consistent recording methods allow comparison over time within each nation. However, differences in the death registration systems used in each nation may have an impact on the comparability of the data between nations. Also, as data is published for England and Wales combined, it has not been possible to calculate and compare separate rates for the two nations.

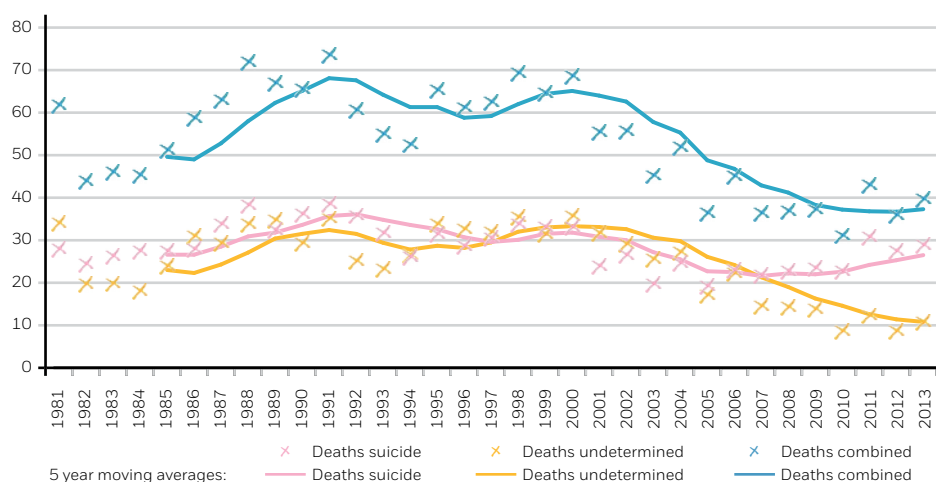


KEY MESSAGES

- **There were 171 suicides of 15 to 19 year olds in the UK in 2013.**
- **Suicides of that age group in England and Wales have decreased since the 1980s but increased in Northern Ireland. In Scotland they have decreased since 2003, but are still higher than the early 1980s.**
- **Northern Ireland has the highest suicide rate for 10 to 14 year olds, followed by Scotland, then England and Wales. Very small numbers are involved, so caution must be taken before drawing conclusions.**

England and Wales

Suicide rates per million 15 to 19 year olds

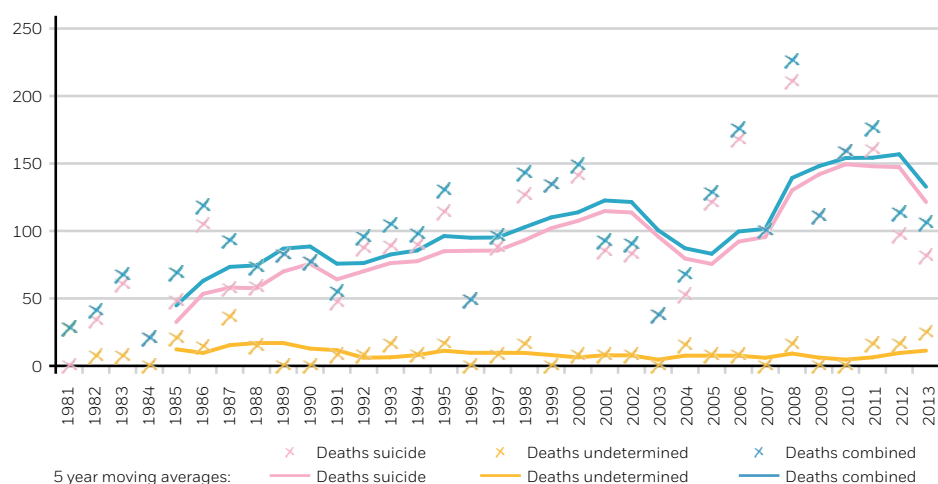


Latest figure: 99 suicides where death was recorded as by intentional self-harm, and a further 37 deaths of 15 to 19 year olds by undetermined intent in 2013 – a combined five-year average rate of 37.3 per million 15 to 19 year olds.

Trend: The five-year combined average rate among 15 to 19 year olds has been steadily declining for over a decade, and has decreased by 25.9 per cent since 1985 (from 49.6 per million to 37.3). However, the five-year average suicide rate, for cases where deaths were recorded as by intentional self-harm, has recently been on the rise, up 20.7 per cent since 2009.

Northern Ireland

Suicide rate per million 15 to 19 year olds

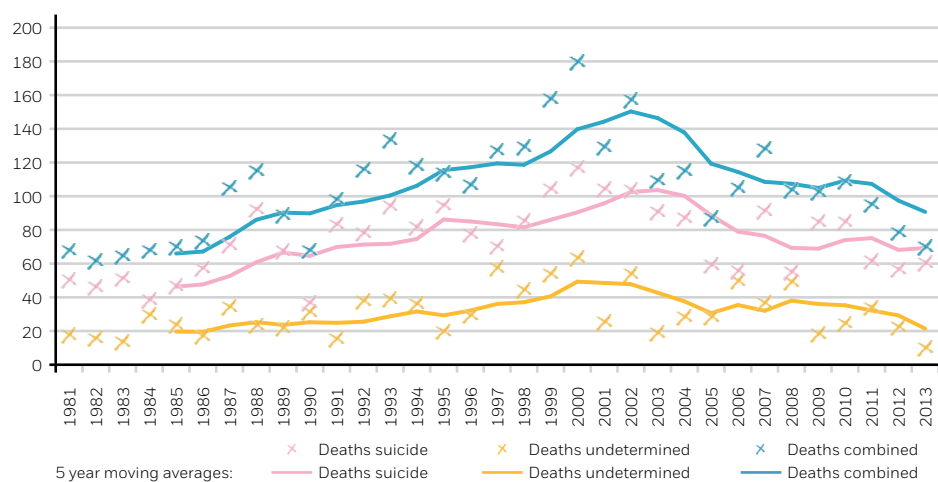


Latest figure: Ten suicides where death was recorded as by intentional self-harm, and a further three deaths of 15 to 19 year olds by undetermined intent in 2013, a five-year average combined rate of 132.8 per million 15 to 19 year olds.

Trend: The five-year combined average rate among 15 to 19 year olds has increased by 196 per cent since 1985 (from 44.8 per million to 132.8). However, it should be noted that the numbers involved for Northern Ireland are small, meaning a small change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on rates.

Scotland

Suicide rates per million 15 to 19 year olds

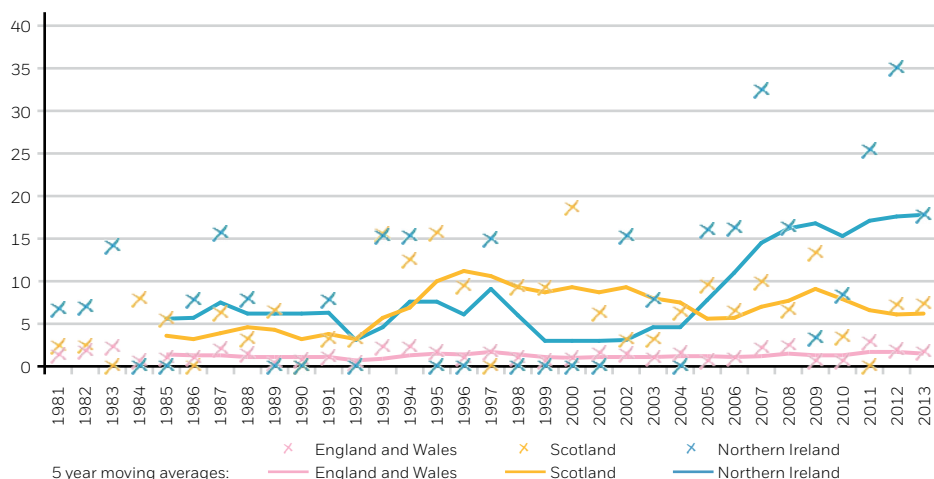


Latest figure: 19 suicides where death was recorded as by intentional self-harm, and a further three deaths of 15 to 19 year olds by undetermined intent in 2013, a five-year average combined rate of 90.7 per million 15 to 19 year olds.

Trend: The five-year combined average rate among 15 to 19 year olds has increased by 37 per cent since 1985 (from 66 per million to 90.7). However, average rates have been declining since 2002. The start of this decline coincides with the Scottish Government's Choose Life suicide prevention strategy and plan, launched in 2002. Again, it should be noted that the numbers involved for Scotland are small, meaning a small change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on rates.

United Kingdom

Suicide rates per million 10 to 14 year olds



Latest figure: Nine suicides of 10 to 14 year olds where death was recorded as by intentional self-harm. The five-year average rate was 17.8 per million 10 to 14 year olds in Northern Ireland, 6.2 per million in Scotland, and 1.5 per million in England and Wales.

Trend: Since 1981 the rate of suicides recorded as deaths by intentional self-harm of 10 to 14 year olds has remained relatively stable in England and Wales, has increased in Scotland (although did decline in recent years) and has increased significantly (by 221 per cent) in Northern Ireland. However, it should be noted that the numbers involved for Northern Ireland and Scotland are small, meaning a small change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on rates.

UK comparison

Over the past 30 years the number of suicides among 15 to 19 year olds has decreased in England and Wales whereas it has increased significantly (by 196 per cent) in Northern Ireland. In Scotland, the five-year average rate in 2013 was 37 per cent higher than 1985, but the rate has been on a downward trend since 2002. For 10 to 14 year olds the rate has remained relatively stable in England and Wales, has increased in Scotland (though there has been a downward trend in recent years) and has increased significantly (by 221 per cent) in Northern Ireland. In 2013, the five-year average rate for 15 to 19 year olds was 132.8 per million in Northern Ireland, 90.7 per million in Scotland and 37.3 per million in England and Wales. For 10 to 14 year olds, the five-year average rate in 2013 was 17.8 per million in Northern Ireland, 6.2 per million in Scotland and 1.5 per million in England and Wales.

As in the previous sections, it should be noted that the numbers involved for Northern Ireland and Scotland are small, meaning a small change in the number of deaths has a significant impact on rates.

Data sources

England and Wales: ONS – Mortality Statistics: Deaths Registered in England and Wales (Series DR) (various years) (Historical data provided to NSPCC). **Scotland:** General Register Office for Scotland – Vital events data (Data provided to NSPCC). **Northern Ireland:** NISRA – Registrar General Annual Reports (various years).

Low mood and unhappiness remain a key reason why children and young people get in touch with ChildLine, as do self harm and suicidal feelings.

INDICATOR 4

Number of recorded sexual offences against children

Why is this measure important?

This measure shows the number of sexual offences committed against children recorded by the police. The data covers a range of sexual offences, including rape, sexual assault, sexual activity with a minor and child grooming. The data does not reflect the total number of sexual offences committed against children, but it does provide an important picture of the amount of sexual abuse committed against children that comes to the attention of the police and is then recorded as an offence.

What are the limitations of the data?

Police-recorded crime statistics suffer from under-reporting and therefore do not reflect the actual number of offences committed. Trends in the data may reflect increased public awareness and changes in policing rather than an increase in incidence.

The focus of police-recorded crime statistics is on offences, rather than on victims of crime. This can make it hard to establish the total number of sexual offences committed against children because offence types cover different age groups, with the majority relating to children aged under 16 only. The NSPCC has addressed this issue by making freedom of information (FOI) requests to all police forces in England and Wales asking for the number of recorded sexual offences against under 18s. Figures for offences against under 18s are also available for Northern Ireland.

Data availability and comparability

Data is available for all four nations showing recorded offences for the past decade. Legislation, offence categories and recording methods are not identical across the UK and so direct comparisons need to be treated with caution. In particular, crimes are counted differently in Scotland to the other nations. Figures for offences committed against under 18s are available for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but not for Scotland.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Police recorded 36,429 sexual offences against children in the UK in 2013/14.**
- **In England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, police in 2013/14 recorded the highest number of sexual offences against children in the past decade.**
- **All four countries saw a sharp increase in numbers of recorded sexual offences against children in the past year – likely to be due in part to increased willingness to report abuse following recent high profile sexual abuse cases in the media.**

England

Number and rate of sexual offences against under 16s in England



Latest figure: 22,754 recorded offences against children in 2013/14 (22,294 excluding offences that include victims up to the age of 18 – abuse of a position of trust and abuse of children through prostitution and pornography). This is a rate of 2.2 sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 16.

Trend: There has been an increase of 26 per cent in the number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 16 in the last year. Having remained fairly stable, ranging between 1.4 and 1.7 between 2004/05 and 2012/13, the rate of sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 16 increased to a high of 2.2 in 2013/14. It is likely that this increase in offences over the past year is due in part to a 'Yewtree effect' – ie, a greater willingness to report abuse due to the recent series of high profile sexual abuse cases in England and Wales. Another reason for this increase could be improved compliance with recording standards in some police forces as a result of an investigation of recording practices in November 2014, which found high levels of under-recording for sexual offences.*

*Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (2014) Crime recording: making the victim count.

England

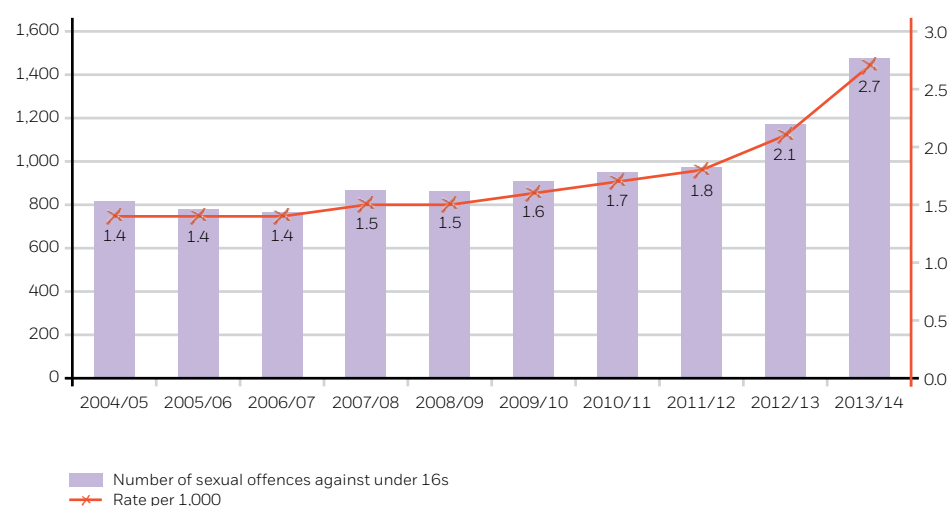
Offence category	Number of offences
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	1,520
Rape of a female child under 16	3,221
Rape of a female child under 13	2,631
Rape of a male child under 16	378
Rape of a male child under 13	1,029
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	4,825
Sexual activity involving a child under 13	2,698
Sexual activity involving a child under 16	5,562
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature (includes u18s)	176
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography (includes u18s)	284
Sexual grooming	430
Total	22,754

In 2013/14 there were:

- 5,852 recorded offences of rape of girls under 16 (2,631 offences of rape of a female child under 13 and 3,221 of rape of a female child under 16)
- 4,825 offences of sexual assault against girls aged under 13
- 1,407 recorded offences of rape of boys aged under 16 (1,029 offences of rape of a male child under 13 and 378 of rape of a male child under 16)
- 1,520 recorded offences of sexual assault against boys aged under 13.

Wales

Number and rate of sexual offences against under 16s in Wales



Latest figure: 1,502 recorded offences against children in 2013/14 (1,478 excluding offences that include victims up to the age of 18 – abuse of a position of trust and abuse of children through prostitution and pornography). This is a rate of 2.7 sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 16.

Trend: The number of recorded sexual offences against children under 16 has increased significantly from 818 in 2004/5 to 1,478 in 2013/14. There has been an increase of 26 per cent in the number of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 16 in the past year which is likely to be due to a willingness to report abuse due to high profile sexual abuse cases in England and Wales, combined with improved recording practices. The rate of sexual offences has increased steadily from 1.5 per 1,000 children under 16 in 2007/08 to 2.7 per 1,000 children aged under 16 in 2013/14.

Wales

Offence category	Number of offences
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	128
Rape of a female child under 16	180
Rape of a female child under 13	205
Rape of a male child under 16	38
Rape of a male child under 13	96
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	299
Sexual activity involving a child under 13	183
Sexual activity involving a child under 16	317
Abuse of position of trust of a sexual nature (includes u18s)	18
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography (includes u18s)	6
Sexual grooming	32
Total	1,502

In 2013/14 there were:

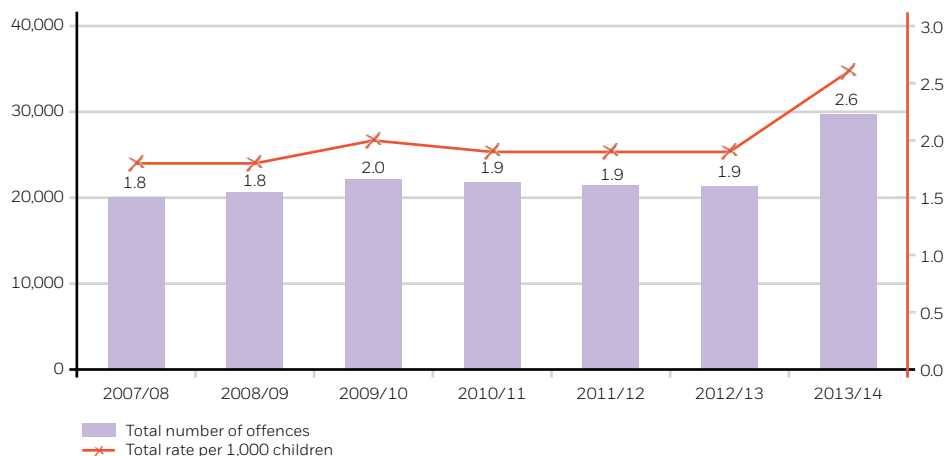
- 385 recorded offences of rape of girls under 16 (205 offences of rape of a female child under 13 and 180 of rape of a female child under 16)
- 299 offences of sexual assault against girls aged under 13
- 134 recorded offences of rape of boys aged under 16 (96 offences of rape of a male child under 13 and 38 of rape of a male child under 16)
- 128 recorded offences of sexual assault against boys aged under 13.

NSPCC freedom of information (FOI) requests

For the past six years the NSPCC has sent out FOI requests to every police force in England and Wales in order to build a fuller picture of offences against children under 18. This data is examined in greater detail below.

England

Number and rate of sexual offences against children under 18



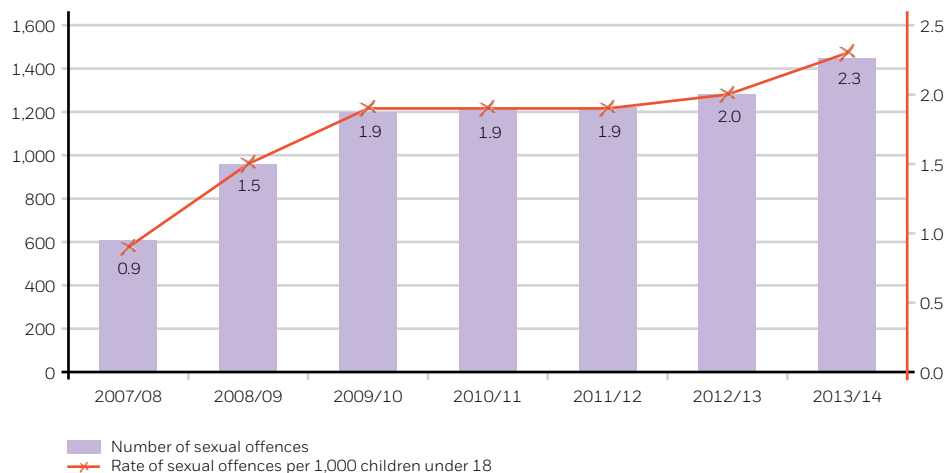
Latest figure: 29,792 recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18 in 2013/14, a rate of 2.6 sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 18.

Trend: Having remained stable over a five-year period, the number of sexual offences against children under 18 rose sharply in 2013/14 to 29,792, a 39 per cent increase on the 2012/13 figure of 21,372.

Having remained stable between 1.8 and 2.0 per 1,000 children between 2007/08 and 2012/13, rates of sexual offences against children under 18 rose sharply in 2013/14 to 2.6 offences per 1,000 children under 18. The data follows a similar pattern to that for children under 16 as presented above.

Wales

Number and rate of sexual offences against children under 18



Latest figure: 1,446 recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18 in 2013/14, a rate of 2.3 sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 18.

Trend: The total number of recorded sexual offences against under 18s has been increasing steadily and has more than doubled from 606 in 2007/2008 to 1,446 in 2013/14. The rate of sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 18 has also more than doubled from 0.9 in 2007/08 to 2.3 in 2013/14. Trends in data for sexual offences against under 18s in Wales closely reflect trends for sexual offences against children under 16.

Northern Ireland

Number and rate of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18



Latest figure: 1,485 recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18 in 2013/14, a rate of 3.4 sexual offences per 1,000 children under 18.

Trend: Having increased gradually between 2002/3 and 2012/13, the number of recorded sexual offences and offence rates have risen sharply by 26 per cent over the past year from 1,187 (2.7 offences per 1,000 children under 18) in 2012/13 to 1,485 (3.4 offences per 1,000 children under 18) in 2013/14. This may reflect an increased willingness to report sexual offences as a result of the focus on child abuse cases in the media including coverage of the recent Inquiry into Historical Institutional Abuse in Northern Ireland between 1922 and 1995.

Northern Ireland

Offence category	Number of offences
Rape (including attempts)	295
Sexual assaults/sexual activity	980
Exposure and voyeurism	58
Obscene publications etc and protected sexual material	143
Other sexual offences	9
Total	1,485

In 2013/14 there were:

- 1,485 sexual offences against children aged under 18 recorded by police
- a fifth (295) were rapes or attempted rapes
- nearly two-thirds (980) were sexual assaults or sexual activity with a child.

Scotland

Number and rate of recorded sexual offences against children aged under 18



Latest figure: 3,742 recorded sexual offences against children in 2013/14 (3,101 excluding offences that include victims up to the age of 18) – abducting a girl under 18 woman mental disordered, procurement of sexual services from child under 18, procurement of child under 18 for pornography, taking, distribution etc of indecent photos of children, and sexual abuse of trust of person under 18). This is a rate of 3.4 sexual offences per 1,000 children aged under 16.

Trend: Since 2008/09, both numbers and rates of sexual offences have been increasing, reaching a high of 3,101 in 2013/14 and producing a rate of 3.3 sexual offences per 1,000 under 16s. Trends in Scotland must be treated with caution (see below).

The Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009, came into force on 1 December 2010, and resulted in a redistribution of Group 2 crimes among the subcategories. Comparisons over time of the breakdown of sexual crimes should therefore be treated with caution. However, no new crimes were introduced as a result of the legislation and thus this is not considered to be a break in the time series.

Scotland

Offence category	Number of offences
Rape or attempted rape of a child aged 13 to 15	208
Rape or attempted rape of a child aged under 13	97
Sexual assault of a child aged 13 to 15	372
Sexual assault of a child aged under 13	349
Sexual activity involving a child aged 13 to 15	507
Sexual activity involving a child aged under 13	116
Taking, distribution, possession etc of indecent photos of children (includes under 18s)	621
Grooming of children for purposes of sexual offences	25
Lewd and libidinous practice (includes under 18s)*	956
Sexual abuse of trust (includes under 18s)	13
Other sexual offences (some include under 18s)	476
Total	3,740

In 2013/14 there were:

- 305 recorded offences of rape or attempted rape against children aged under 16 (208 rapes or attempted rapes of children aged 13 to 15 and 97 rapes or attempted rapes of children under 13)
- 721 recorded offences of sexual assault of a child aged under 16 (372 sexual assaults of a child aged 13 to 15 and 349 sexual assaults of children aged under 13).

Data sources

England and Wales: Home Office Police-recorded crime open data tables. NSPCC (various dates) FOI requests sent to all police forces in England and Wales.

Scotland: Scottish Government Recorded crime statistics (Data provided to NSPCC).

Northern Ireland: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland (Data provided to NSPCC).

*Offences in the category "lewd and libidinous practices" cover sexual offences against children committed prior to 1 December 2010 under previous legislation.

INDICATOR 5

Number of recorded cruelty and neglect offences

Why is this measure important?

This measure shows the number of offences recorded by the police where a parent or carer “wilfully assaults, ill-treats, neglects, abandons or exposes a child under 16 in a manner likely to cause them ‘unnecessary suffering or injury to health’”. The data does not reflect the total number of children actually suffering from cruelty or neglect, but it does provide an important picture of the cases of cruelty and neglect against children that come to the attention of the police and that are recorded as offences.

What are the limitations of the data?

Police-recorded crime statistics suffer from the problem of under-reporting and therefore do not reflect the actual number of offences committed. In some cases, it is agreed that the best interests of the child are served by a social care-led intervention rather than a full police investigation. Trends in the data may also reflect increased public awareness and changes in policing rather than an increase in incidence.

Data availability and comparability

Data is available for all four nations showing recorded offences for the past decade. Legislation, offence categories and recording methods are not identical across the UK and so direct comparisons need to be treated with caution. In particular, crimes are counted differently in Scotland to the other nations, and reporting categories used are broader than those in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

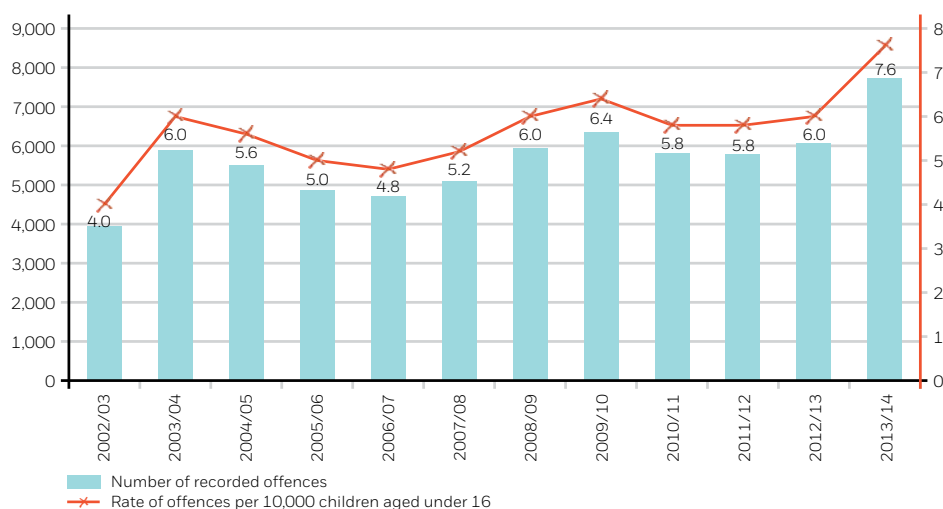


KEY MESSAGES

- **Police recorded 9,516 cruelty and neglect offences against children under 16 in the UK in 2013/14.**
- **Numbers of recorded cruelty and neglect offences in England and Northern Ireland are now the highest for a decade. In Scotland, numbers of recorded cruelty offences are at their lowest for a decade.**
- **Numbers and rates of neglect and cruelty offences in Wales have fallen this year, having risen to the highest levels in a decade in 2012/13.**

England

Recorded offences and offence rates for cruelty to children/young people

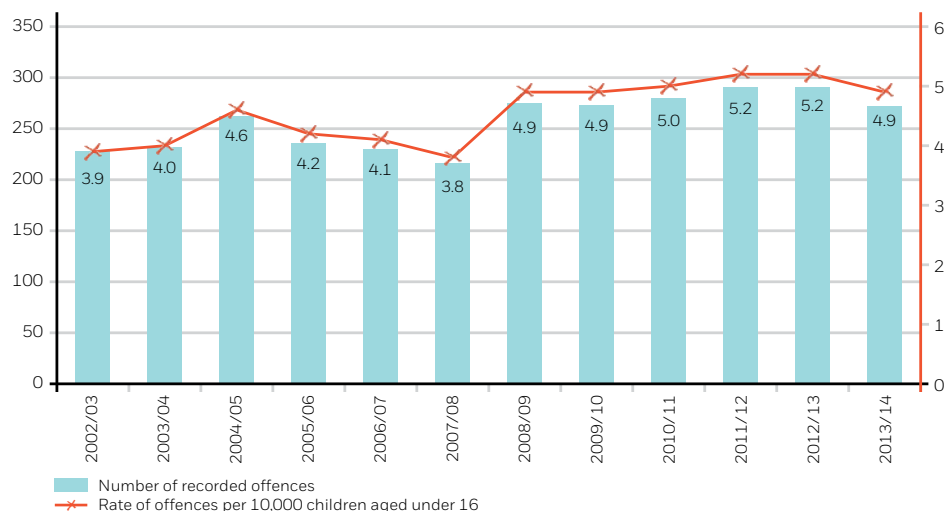


Latest figure: 7,726 recorded offences in 2013/14, a rate of 7.6 offences per 10,000 children aged under 16. Figures include offences of abandonment of a child, as this offence was merged with that of cruelty to and neglect of children in 2013.

Trend: The rise in offences from 2002/3 to 2003/4 may be attributable to changes in recording practices. After 2003/4, the number of recorded offences decreased by 20 per cent in 2006/7 but since then has increased to the highest it has ever been in 2013/14 at 7,726. In the same time period, rates have varied from a low of 4.8 offences per 10,000 under 16s in 2006/7 to a high of 7.6 offences per 10,000 under 16s in 2013/14.

Wales

Recorded offences and offence rates for cruelty to children/young people

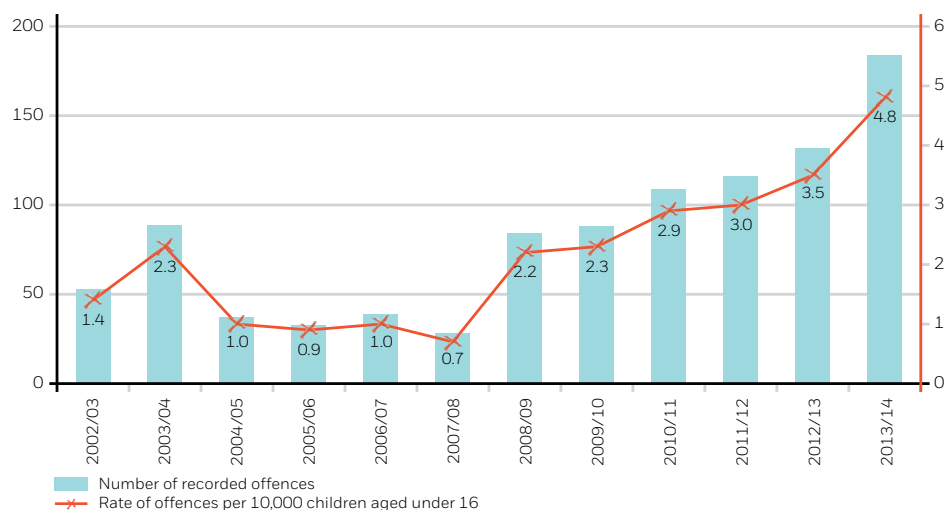


Latest figure: 272 recorded offences in 2013/14, a rate of 4.9 offences per 10,000 children aged under 16. Figures include offences of abandonment of a child, as this offence was merged with that of cruelty to and neglect of children in 2013.

Trend: After falling to a low of 216 in 2007/08, numbers of offences recorded increased, reaching 291 in 2012/13 before falling again in 2013/14. Rates have varied from a low of 3.8 offences per 10,000 under 16s in 2007/8 to a high of 5.2 offences per 10,000 under 16s in 2012/13.

Northern Ireland

Number and rate of recorded offences of cruelty and neglect of children

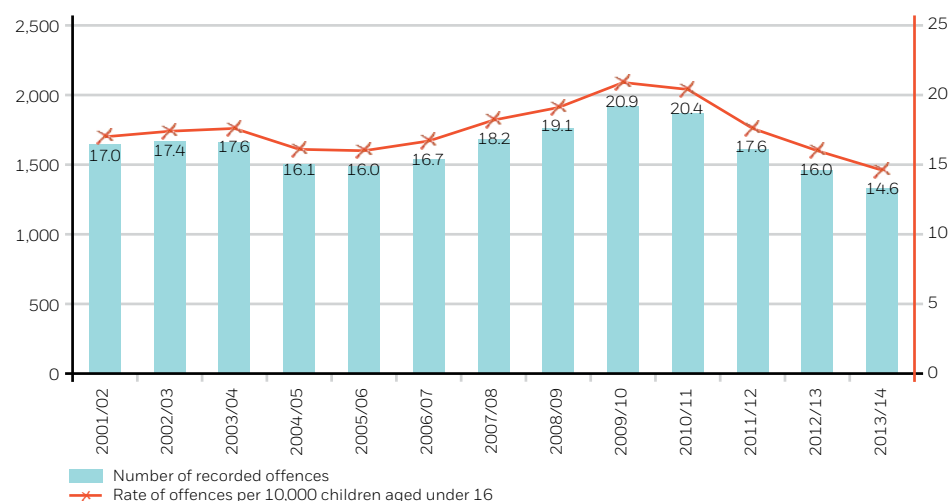


Latest figure: 184 recorded offences in 2013/14, a rate of 4.8 offences per 10,000 children aged under 16. Figures include offences of cruelty to and neglect of children and abandoning a child.

Trend: The number of offences has increased six-fold from 28 to 184 since 2007/8. Since 2007/8 the offence rate per 10,000 children aged under 16 has increased from 0.7 to 4.8

Scotland

Number and rate of recorded offences of cruelty and neglect of children



Latest figure: 1,334 recorded offences in 2012/13, a rate of 14.6 offences per 10,000 children aged under 16. Figures include offences of cruelty (neglecting and causing) to and unnatural treatment of children, drunk in charge of a child, and children and young person offences (not elsewhere classified).

Trend: The total number of offences has been slowly decreasing since the 2009/10 peak of 1,919 offences. The 2013/14 total of 1,334 is the lowest figure within the data set. The offence rate per 10,000 under 16s peaked at 20.9 in 2009/10, and has since dropped to 14.6 per 10,000 children.

Data sources

England and Wales: Home Office Police-recorded crime open data tables. **Scotland:** Scottish Government Recorded crime statistics (Data provided to NSPCC). **Northern Ireland:** Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland (Data provided to NSPCC).

INDICATOR 6

Self-reported prevalence of abuse and neglect

Why is this measure important?

This measure draws on the findings of the NSPCC research report *Child abuse and neglect in the UK today*, published in September 2011. In that study, a sample of parents, young people and young adults in the UK were interviewed about experiences of child abuse and neglect*. The findings provide the only UK-wide research-based indication of the prevalence and impact of child abuse and neglect. Definitions of terms used in this indicator can be found in the glossary.

What are the limitations of the data?

This is a self-report survey for 11 to 24 year olds and a caregiver survey for the under 11s. As survey data, it may be subject to error associated with sampling and respondents recalling past events. For under 18s, parental consent was needed, which may have resulted in some sample bias. The change in measures between surveys (only a subset of measures were repeated) limits trend analysis.

Data availability and comparability

This survey is only done once every ten years, so no new data is available. Although the data is available for all four nations, small sample sizes in the devolved nations mean that it is problematic to report these separately. The data has been weighted for the UK as a whole



KEY MESSAGES

- **Experiencing certain forms of abuse are good predictors of experiencing other specific forms of abuse.**
- **Children (11 to 17 years old) who experienced physical violence from their parent or guardian during their childhood were four times more likely to experience contact sexual abuse during their childhood than children who did not.**

*2,275 young people between the ages of 11 and 17 and 1,761 young adults between the ages of 18 and 24.

Co-occurrence of maltreatment

Research has demonstrated that certain forms of abuse are good predictors of there being other types of abuse occurring. Using odds ratios, this data was analysed to see what types of maltreatment were good predictors of other forms of maltreatment.

- Children between 11 and 17 who experience maltreatment or severe maltreatment from a parent or guardian are at greater risk of being victimised by siblings and peers than those who are not maltreated. They are also 2.4 times more likely to be victimised by an intimate partner, and 1.9 times more likely to be maltreated by other adults.
- Children between 11 and 17 who experience physical violence by a parent or guardian are four times more likely to experience contact sexual abuse than children who did not experience physical abuse by a parent or guardian.
- Children and young people who experienced physical violence by a parent or guardian were four to almost five times more likely to witness family violence than children who had not experienced physical violence by a parent or guardian. (Children under 11 were 4.9 times more likely and children aged 11 to 17 were four times more likely.)

Lifetime victimisation odds ratios

Maltreatment by parent or guardian	Any victimisation by siblings	Any maltreatment by non-resident adults	Any victimisation by peers	Any victimisation by an intimate partner	Any family violence
Under 11	1.29*	1.85ns	1.26*	-	3.44***
11-17	1.70***	1.90***	1.39***	2.44***	3.17***
Severe maltreatment by parent or guardian	Any victimisation by siblings	Any maltreatment by non-resident adults	Any victimisation by peers	Any victimisation by an intimate partner	Any family violence
Under 11	1.16ns	1.81ns	0.85ns	-	2.69***
11-17	1.37**	1.98***	1.32***	2.41***	2.77***
Physical violence by parent or guardian	Any physical violence not by parent or guardian	Any contact sexual abuse	Any family violence	Any neglect	
Under 11	2.29***	5.70ns	4.92***	2.64*	
11-17	1.51***	4.19***	4.00***	2.60***	
Physical violence not by parent or guardian	Any physical violence by parent or guardian	Any contact sexual abuse	Any family violence	Any neglect	
Under 11	8.47***	5.18*	2.94***	0.99ns	
11-17	3.71***	6.58***	2.89***	2.02***	

*p<0.05; **p<0.01; ***p<0.001; ns = not significant.

An odds ratio is the measure of an outcome happening in two distinct groups. Odds ratios greater than one mean that there is a greater likelihood of that event happening. For example: there is a greater likelihood that a child under 11 will witness family violence for children who have been maltreated by a parent or guardian than for those who have not. The odds ratio of 3.44 means that this is 3.44 times more likely.

To know if this association is significant – or the likelihood that the outcome is caused by something other than random chance – a significance test is used. The smaller the 'p' value, the higher the significance. Some odds ratios may appear to indicate that there is a relationship between the variables, but the significance test will show that it is not a strong association. For example: the odds ratio (1.85) seems to indicate that a child under 11 who experiences maltreatment by a parent or guardian is more likely to be maltreated by another non-resident adult. But the significance test shows this to be a weak association (ie a non-significant association which means we cannot rule out that this was by chance).

Rate of severe maltreatment during childhood

Maltreatment type	11-17 years			18-24 years		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Severe physical abuse	6.7% (59)	7.1% (60)	6.9% (119)	10.2% (98)	12.9% (120)	11.5% (218)
Contact sexual abuse	2.6% (23)	7.0% (59)	4.8% (82)	5.1% (50)	17.8% (165)	11.3% (215)
Severe neglect by a parent or guardian	9.9% (82)	9.8% (82)	9.8% (170)	7.0% (67)	11.0% (102)	9.0% (170)
Severe maltreatment by a parent or guardian	13.5% (112)	13.3% (112)	13.4% (231)	11.6% (112)	17.5% (163)	14.5% (275)
All severe maltreatment	18.2% (161)	19.0% (159)	18.6% (320)	20.3% (284)	30.6% (284)	25.3% (480)

- 11.3 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds reported that they had experienced contact sexual abuse when under the age of 18.
- 25.3 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds reported they had experienced severe maltreatment in childhood.
- 4.8 per cent of 11-17 year olds reported that they had experienced contact sexual abuse in childhood.

INDICATOR 7

Contacts with ChildLine

Why is this measure important?

ChildLine is the UK's free, 24-hour helpline for children and young people. Information about ChildLine counselling sessions* provides a unique indication of the nature and levels of concerns among children. It allows us to identify emerging trends in the issues that children are facing. ChildLine information also allows us to track concerns about specific forms of abuse and neglect that may not be covered in official crime or child protection statistics.

What are the limitations of the data?

This data only captures where children have contacted ChildLine and is therefore only a snapshot of the concerns they may have. In general it is not possible to identify the number of individual children who are contacting ChildLine, as the same child may make multiple contacts. The number and reasons for contacts can also be affected by news coverage, NSPCC marketing, changes to how ChildLine data is coded and the introduction of new ways to contact ChildLine, such as online counselling.

Data availability and comparability

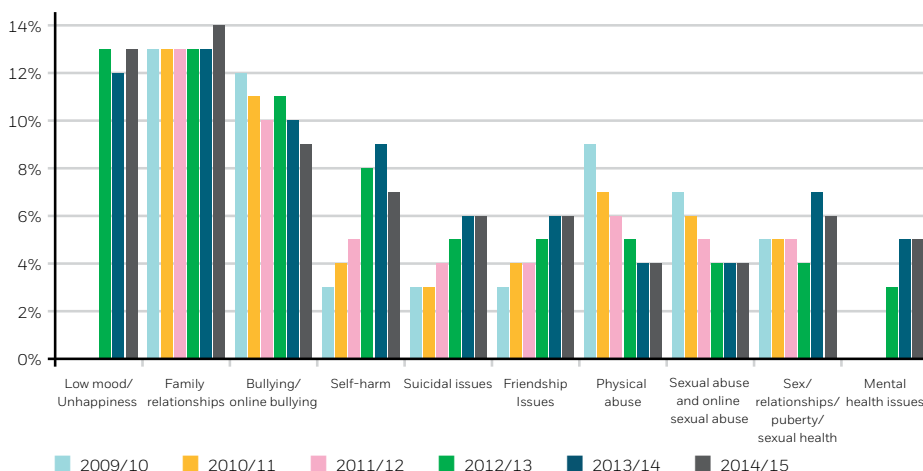
ChildLine data covers the UK as a whole and comparable data is available for the previous three years. Due to the confidentiality of the service, very few young people tell a counsellor where they live, and therefore a UK nation breakdown of data is not possible.



KEY MESSAGES

- **Family relationships and low mood/unhappiness were the two most prevalent issues that children and young people contacted ChildLine about in 2014/15.**
- **In 2014/15, ChildLine made 3,714 referrals on behalf of children to external agencies – a 72 per cent increase since 2013/14.**
- **There has been a 124 per cent increase in referrals about sexual abuse and online sexual abuse since 2013/14.**
- **The ChildLine website received 3,219,943 visits – an increase of 36 per cent since 2012/13.**

Percentage of counselling sessions broken down by primary concern (2014/15)

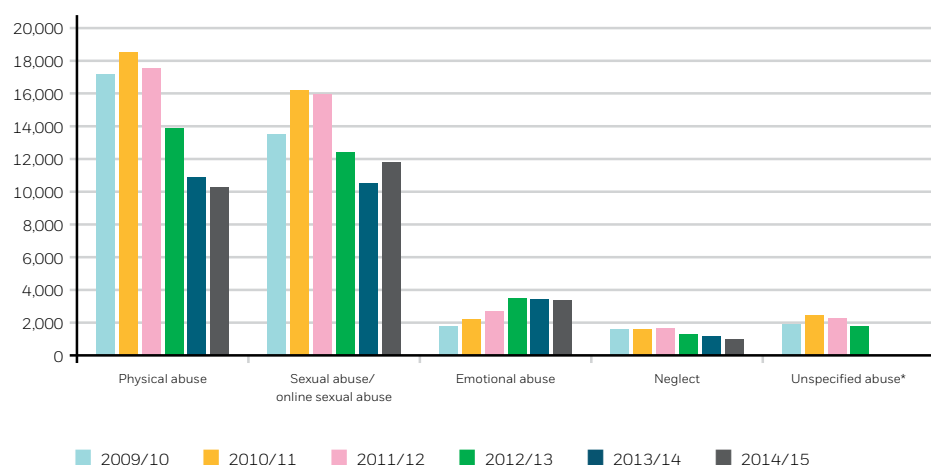


Family relationships and low mood/unhappiness were the most talked about issues from children and young people in 2014/15.

Bullying, self-harm and suicidal issues were also among the top five main concerns counselled.

*Counselling sessions refer to calls, online chats and emails.

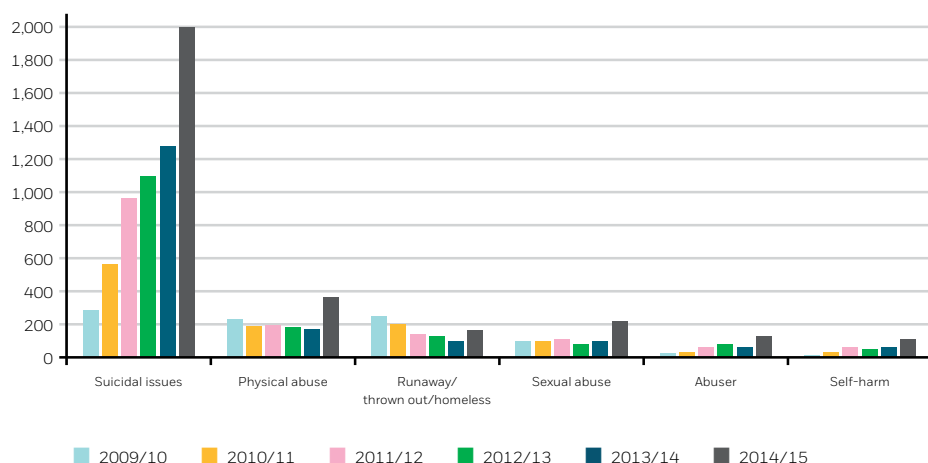
Counselling sessions with abuse as primary concern 2009/10 – 2014/15



Sexual abuse/online sexual abuse was the highest abuse-related main concern in 2014/15. Over the past year 11,839 counselling sessions were carried out with children whose main concern was sexual abuse/online sexual abuse. This accounted for 45 per cent of all abuse-related main concerns.

Counselling sessions about physical abuse and neglect have both dipped since 2013/14. Emotional abuse has remained level for the third year running.

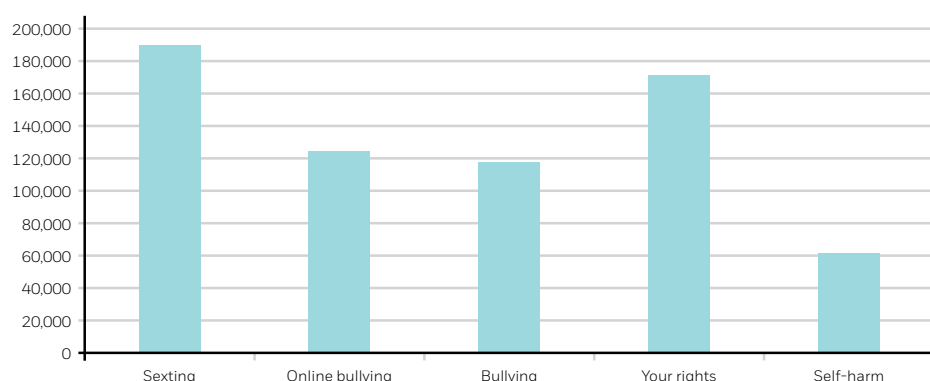
Referrals* to external agencies by primary concern 2009/10 – 2014/15



In 2014/15, ChildLine made 3,714 referrals on behalf of 3,379 children to external agencies. This is a 72 per cent increase since 2013/14. Suicide remains the most frequent reason for a referral, accounting for 59 per cent of all referrals. This figure increased by 82 per cent compared with 2012/13.

In terms of abuse, physical abuse accounted for 11 per cent of referrals made in 2014/15 and 7 per cent related to sexual abuse/online sexual abuse. There was a 124 per cent increase in referrals about sexual abuse/online sexual abuse in 2014/15 compared with 2013/14.

ChildLine website† data 2014/15



In addition to offering counselling sessions by phone or online, the ChildLine website is a resource for children and young people. In 2014/15 the ChildLine website received a total of 3,219,943 visits. This figure has increased by 36 per cent since 2012/13.

The table shows that information about "sexting" (sharing inappropriate or explicit images or messages online or through mobile phones) was the most viewed ChildLine Explore page, closely followed by 'Your Rights' which provides information on rights to help children stay safe and get fair treatment.

The ChildLine Message Boards received a total of 3,172,853 page views** and 76,817 posts were submitted and published by children and young people.

*Unspecified abuse is no longer recorded as a primary concern since 2012/13. **ChildLine will only make a referral to an external agency when the child is in a life-threatening situation, facing significant harm or when the child has requested direct help. †The website data relates specifically to the ChildLine Explore pages. ‡Page views is the number of times that page was viewed and not the number of individual people who viewed that page.

INDICATOR 8

Contacts with the NSPCC helpline

Why is this measure important?

The NSPCC helpline offers an advice and support service for anyone worried about the safety or welfare of a child. Information from the helpline gives us an indication of the levels of concern among the public and professionals about children's welfare, the nature of these concerns and whether they are serious enough to warrant a referral to police or children's services. This is also a useful indicator to assist in future service planning for local authorities.

What are the limitations of the data?

Contacts to the helpline are based on people's own perceptions of abuse and neglect, and therefore, the data only captures instances of abuse and neglect that callers have identified. News coverage and NSPCC marketing can affect the number of and reasons for contacts.

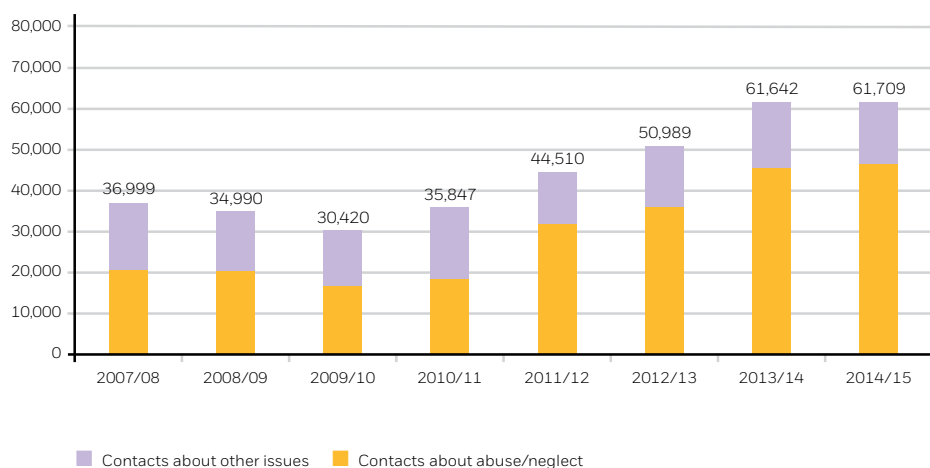
Data availability and comparability

Overall data is available and comparable back to 2007/8. Comparable data broken down by nation is available from 2010/11. Referral data captures the local authority or agency to which the referral was made. For advice contacts, geographical location of the caller is captured where the caller gives us the information.

KEY MESSAGES

- **There were 61,709 contacts made to the NSPCC helpline in 2014/15 (21 per cent more than in 2012/13). These have more than doubled since 2009/10.**
- **Three-quarters of contacts relate to abuse or neglect, these have risen by 176 per cent over the past five years.**
- **67 per cent of all contacts to the helpline in 2014/15 led to a referral.**

Contacts to the NSPCC helpline

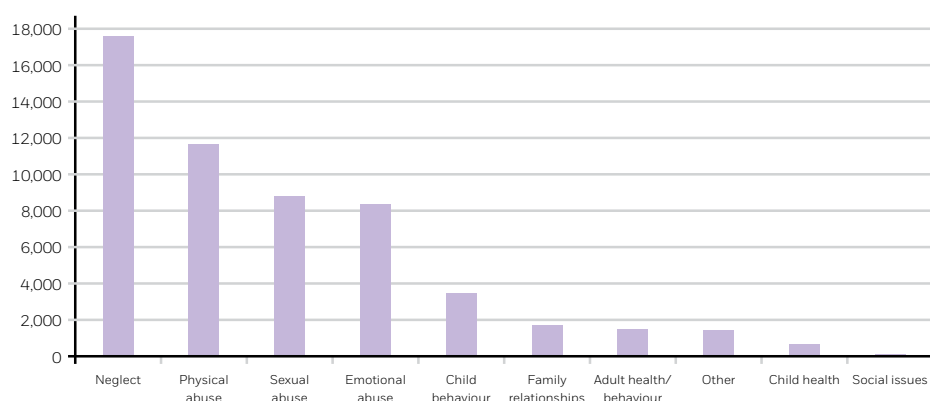


There were 61,709 contacts made to the NSPCC helpline in 2014/15 (21 per cent more than in 2012/13).

Contacts to the NSPCC helpline have more than doubled since 2009/10.

Contacts about abuse and neglect have increased by 29 per cent since 2012/13 and by 176 per cent over the past five years.

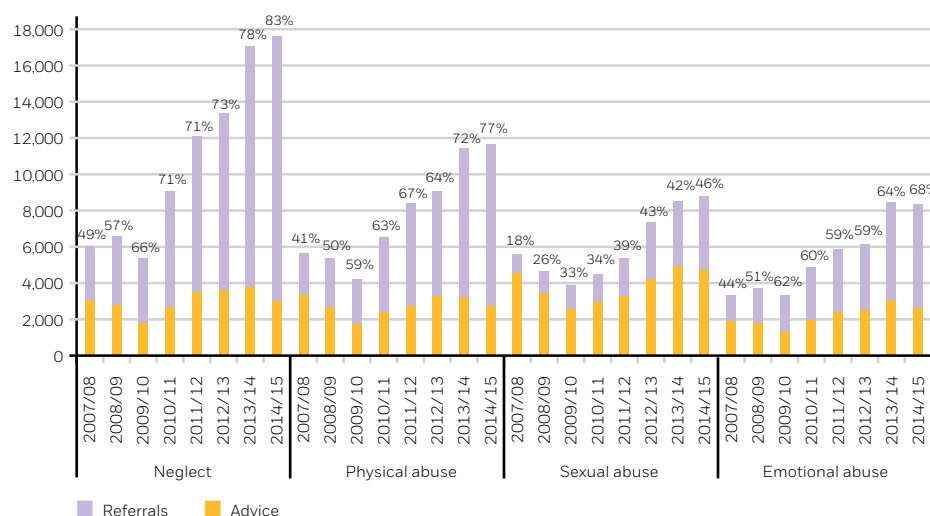
Reasons for contacting the helpline in 2014/15



In 2014/15 three-quarters of contacts to the helpline were about abuse or neglect.

Other reasons for contacting the helpline include calls about child or adult behaviour, family relationships and child health.

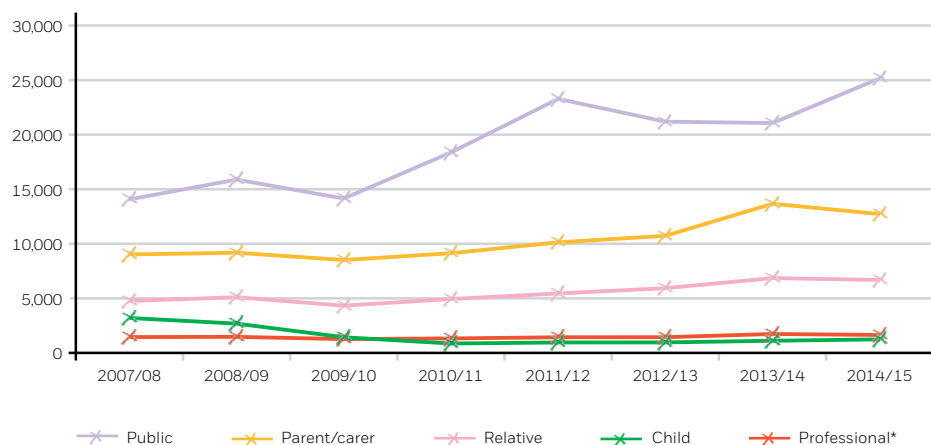
Trends in contacts about abuse and neglect 2007/08 – 2014/15



The data shows that the number of contacts received about sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect have all increased each year since 2009/10. Contact about neglect have seen the largest increase since 2009/10.

Contacts to the helpline can result in advice or a referral being made to an external agency such as a local authority or the police. More than three-quarters of all contacts relating to neglect (83 per cent) and physical abuse (77 per cent) led to a referral. The number of contacts about sexual abuse resulting in a referral has risen by 14 per cent since 2013/14.

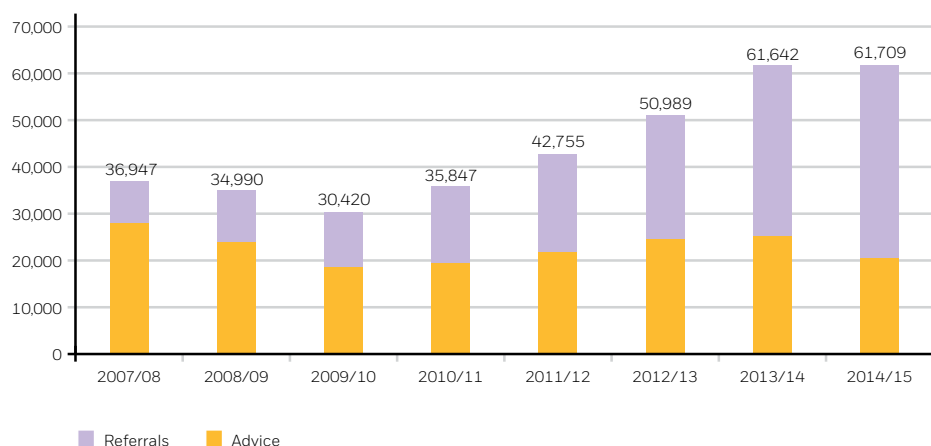
Who contacts the helpline (2007/8 – 2014/15)?



This year, where the information was recorded, more than half (53 per cent) of contacts made to the helpline that resulted in advice or a referral were from the public and 69 per cent of these contacts were serious enough to warrant a referral to police or children's services.

Since 2009/10 there has been a 50 per cent increase in parents/carers contacting the helpline to seek advice or to report a concern about the welfare of a child.

Trends in helpline advice contact and referrals



In 2014/15, 67 per cent of all contacts led to a referral. The data shows that although the number of contacts responded to by the helpline have remained level between 2013/14 and 2014/15, there has been an increase of 13 per cent in the number of calls resulting in referrals, rather than lower-risk advice calls.

This means that the contacts that the NSPCC were responding to related to more serious concerns (and/or that more people gave identifying details that allowed referrals to be made).

**Contacts to the
NSPCC helpline have
more than doubled
since 2009/10.**

INDICATOR 9

Online harm

Why is this measure important?

The internet can be extremely beneficial for children; they can use it to learn, communicate, develop, create and explore the world around them. However, too often, it also leaves them vulnerable to risks and exposes them to experiences that they find upsetting. These online risks are not always fully understood but it is essential for children's safety that they are addressed. For many children there is no distinction between their online and offline lives.

Here we present available data on cyber bullying, "sexting" (sharing inappropriate or explicit images or messages online or through mobile phones), viewing harmful content, child abuse images and sexual grooming.

What are the limitations of the data?

The research and evidence presented here are snapshots of information because longer-term trend data is limited. This is a relatively new and emerging area of research. Research tends to concentrate on children aged around eight or nine and above. We know little about the risks and harm experienced by younger children online.

Data availability and comparability

The data presented here is sourced from a number of studies and also from official sexual offences statistics.

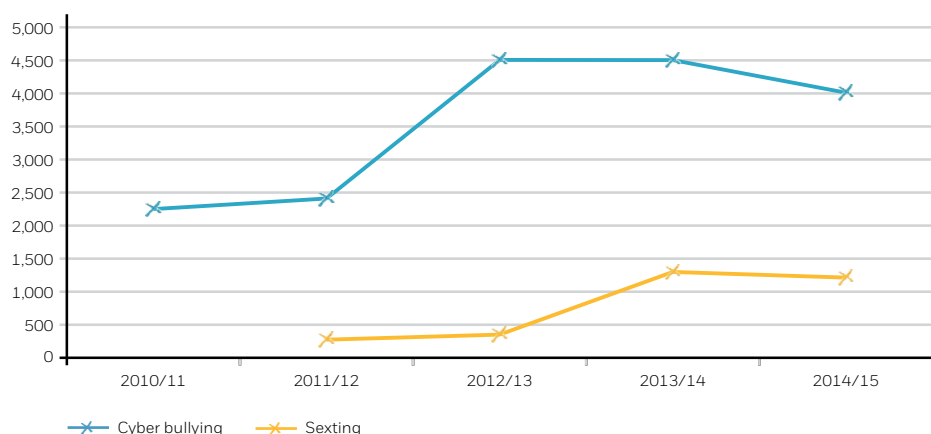


KEY MESSAGES

- **In 2014/15 cyber bullying was mentioned in 4,011 counselling sessions – comparable to 2013/14.**
- **Young people aged 12 to 15 are more than twice as likely to say they had viewed harmful content online, compared to children aged 8 to 11.**
- **In 2014, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) worked with partners to remove 31,266 URLs of child sexual abuse images worldwide – a 137 per cent increase from 2013/14.**
- **In 2015, it became illegal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland for an adult to send a sexual message to a child.**

Cyber bullying and “sexting”

Number of ChildLine counselling sessions where cyber bullying and sexting were mentioned*

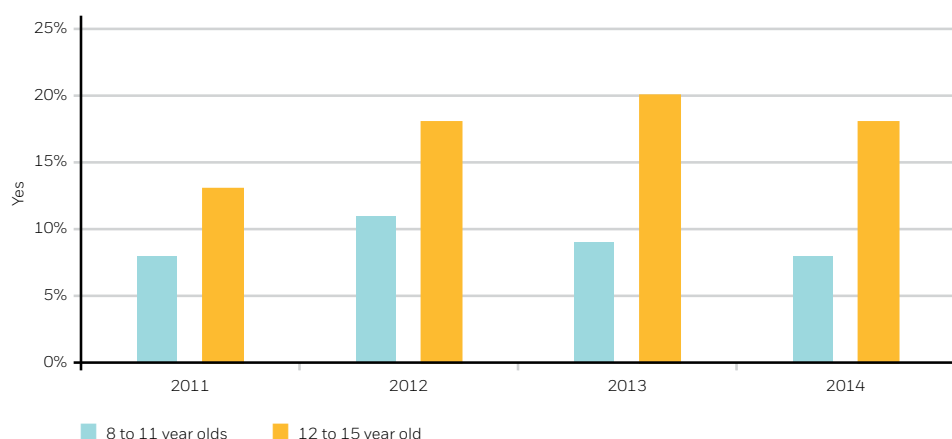


In 2014/15, cyberbullying was mentioned in 4,011 counselling sessions, which is comparable to 2013/14.

In 2014/15, “sexting” was mentioned in 1,213 counselling sessions, also comparable to 2013/14.

Viewing harmful content online

In the last year, have you seen anything online that you found worrying, nasty or offensive?

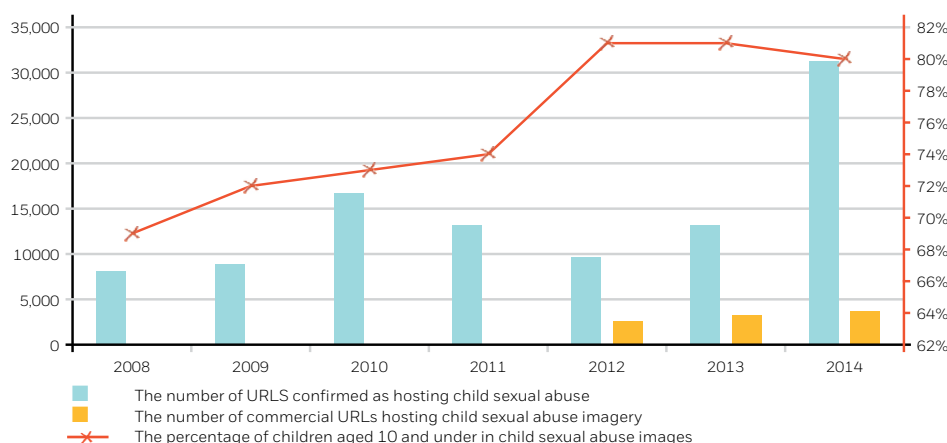


Since 2011, Ofcom have asked children and young people who use the internet at home or elsewhere if they have seen anything online that they found worrying, nasty or offensive in some way.

Older children (12 to 15 years old) are more likely than younger children (8 to 11 years old) to have seen something that they found worrying, nasty or offensive. In 2014, young people aged 12 to 15 years old were more than twice as likely to answer “yes” to this question compared to younger children aged 8 to 11 years old (18 per cent vs. 8 per cent).

Child sexual abuse images

The number of URLs confirmed as hosting child sexual abuse images and videos globally



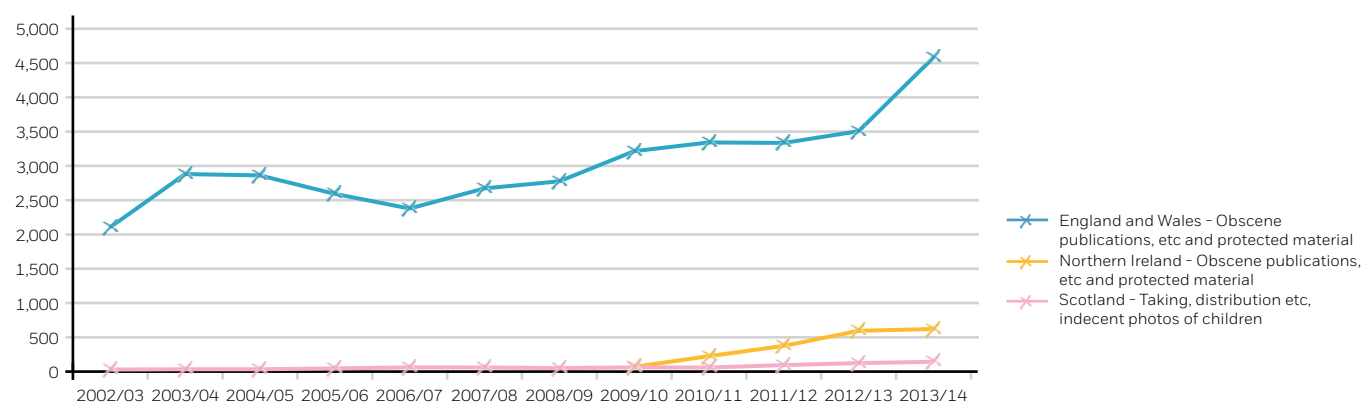
The IWF was granted powers to search proactively for criminal content in 2014; previously they were only permitted to work on reports made by the public.

In 2014, the IWF identified and worked with partners to remove 31,266 URLs hosting child sexual abuse imagery worldwide – a 137 per cent increase from the previous year.

From the overall total of URLs confirmed as hosting child sexual abuse images, 80 per cent were of children aged 10 and under, and 3,741 of the URLs were commercial child sexual abuse images, meaning they were being sold for commercial gain.

* The increase in the number of counselling sessions where cyber bullying and “sexting” were mentioned does not necessarily directly correlate with an increase of children and young people experiencing these issues. See Indicator 7 for more detail on limitations of ChildLine data.

The number of police recorded offences of indecent images



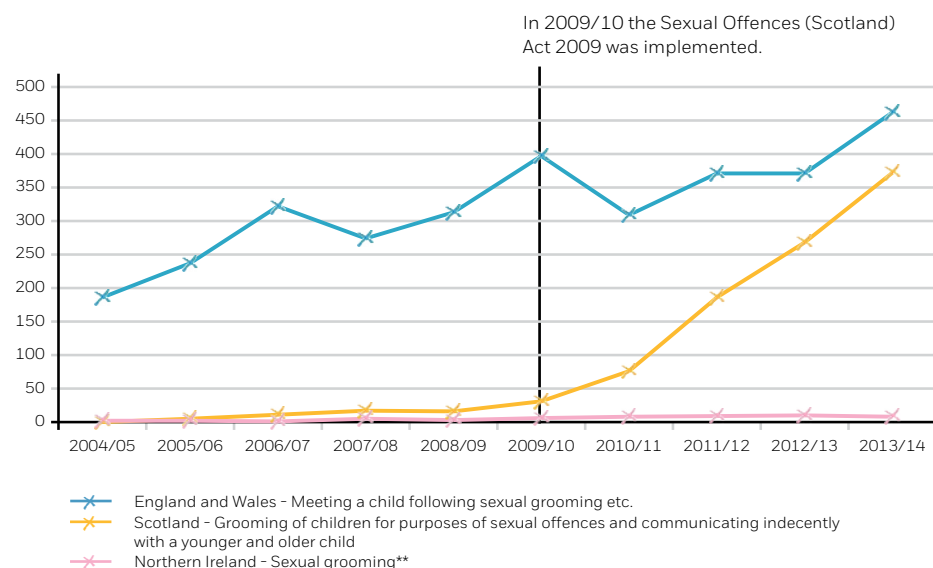
In England, Wales and Northern Ireland it is a crime to create, possess or distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of children*. These crimes are recorded in the Home Office Counting Rules under the miscellaneous category of 'Obscene Publications', a category which includes a variety of offences relating to obscene material and which is not focused exclusively on children. This means that the figures below are the maximum number of possible offences which have been recorded in relation to indecent images of children. Some of these offences will relate to adults, but we don't know how many.

In 2013/14 the number of police recorded offences for 'Obscene Publications' rose by 31 per cent in England and Wales compared to the previous year. This increase has been attributed by the ONS to a rise in offences relating to making and distributing of indecent or pseudo-photographs, of children and adults, through the use of internet and mobile phones. The police have also stated that they are giving more attention to child sexual exploitation cases which is likely to have led to an increase in the number of offences recorded under this category.

In Northern Ireland there has been a year on year increase of police recorded offences of 'Obscene Publications'. In 2013/14 recorded offences in this category rose by 15 per cent compared to the previous year.

In Scotland it is a crime to create, possess and distribute indecent photos of children under section 52 and 52A of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. In 2013/14 the number of recorded offences in this category was 621.

Sexual grooming and communicating indecently with a child



We have summarised available data on sexual grooming and communicating indecently with children for the nations of the UK.

The legislation for child sexual offences differs between the four nations (for more details see Indicator 4). In England, Wales and Northern Ireland it is illegal to meet a child following sexual grooming. In Scotland it is illegal to meet a child following sexual grooming, to communicate indecently with a young child (under 13) and to communicate indecently with an older child (13 to 15).

In Scotland those latter two offences became illegal under the Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act in 2009. This has led to an increase in the number of offences recorded, as can be seen from the graph.

In 2015, following the passage of the Serious Crime Act (England and Wales) it became illegal for an adult to intentionally send a sexual message to a child. The Minister of Justice in Northern Ireland has indicated a willingness to ensure Northern Ireland law is also amended in line with Great Britain through a provision to be added to the Criminal Justice Bill. We would expect to see increases in reporting of this new offence in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Data sources

ChildLine data on file with the NSPCC.
Ofcom (2014) Children and parents: media use and attitudes report.
ONS (2014) Crime in England and Wales: Year ending September 2014.
Police Service of Northern Ireland (2014) Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2013/14.
FOI request, Scotland: Sexual Offences against Children.
IWF (2015) Annual report 2014.

* The legislation for child sexual abuse offences differs between the four nations (for more details see indicator 4).

** In Northern Ireland the "sexual grooming" offence falls under the category of "other sexual offences".

**Young people aged
12 to 15 are more
than twice as likely to
say they had viewed
harmful content
online, compared to
children aged 8 to 11.**

INDICATOR 10

Violent incidents experienced by 10 to 15 year olds

Crime Survey for England and Wales

Why is this measure important?

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (previously the British Crime Survey) is a face-to-face survey in which people resident in households in England and Wales are asked about their experiences of crime in the previous 12 months. The 2013/14 survey was based on face-to-face interviews with 3,000 children aged 10 to 15. Crime Survey estimates are higher than the number of crimes recorded by the police because the survey captures offences that have not been reported to the police. The survey is therefore an important way of filling the gap left by police-recorded crime statistics.

What are the limitations of the data?

As survey data, it may be subject to error associated with sampling and respondents recalling past events. The survey only provides data for children aged 10 to 15 years old and only covers certain offence categories (violence and theft offences). Additionally, the survey uses two different measures of crime due to difficulties in classifying some crimes against children. Methodological differences between the adults' and children's survey mean that direct comparison is not possible. It also excludes children living in communal establishments, boarding schools, youth detention centres and children's homes.

Data availability and comparability

Data is only available for England and Wales for the past four years. However comparison between the four years is not possible due to changes in the way the statistics are collected. The Scotland and Northern Ireland Crime Surveys do not include data for under 16s.



KEY MESSAGES

- **In 2013/14, 6.5 per cent of 10 to 15 year olds in England and Wales were the victim of a violent crime.**
- **67 per cent of these offences resulted in an injury to the victim.**
- **An estimated 445,000 violent offences were experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in 2013/14.**

England and Wales

Estimated percentage of 10 to 15 year olds who were the victim of a violent crime in the past 12 months

	Preferred measure					Broad measure				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Wounding	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
Assault with minor injury	3.7	3.7	3.6	2.9	3.3	5.0	4.5	4.4	3.7	4.2
Assault without injury	2.4	1.7	2.2	1.4	1.7	4.2	3.0	7.2	6.4	5.0
Robbery	1.3	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	0.8
Violence with injury	5.5	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.5	6.8	5.8	5.7	4.5	5.5
Violence without injury (includes unspecified)	3.4	2.1	3.1	2.2	2.2	12.4	7.4	8.1	7.1	5.6
Any violent incidents	8.5	6.8	7.7	6.1	6.5	18.1	12.0	12.9	11.7	10.5

In 2013/14, 6.5 per cent of 10 to 15 year olds in England and Wales were the victim of a violent crime in the past 12 months on the preferred measure, and 10.5 per cent on the broad measure. On the preferred measure, 4.5 per cent were victims of violence and sustained an injury.

It is not possible to analyse trends between the survey years due to changes in the way the data is collected.

General findings

The Crime Survey for England and Wales made changes to its methodology in line with work to incorporate the 2011 Census data that had revised population estimates for England and Wales from mid-2002 to mid-2012. From this, it was found that the population estimates for children aged 10 to 15 years old had been undervalued. These revised population figures were used to re-estimate the number of violent offences experienced by 10 – 15 year olds.

In 2013/14, 6.5 per cent of 10 to 15 year olds were victims of violent crimes on the preferred measure, and 10.5 per cent on the broad measure. As an indication, this is more than three times the proportion of adults who were victims of violent crime in 2013/14 (1.8 per cent), though direct comparisons are problematic due to methodological differences.

The Crime Survey estimates that a total of 0.81 million crimes were experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in 2013/14 based on the preferred method. Of this total more than half (55 per cent) were violent crimes (445,000) while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property (322,000). Of the 445,000 violent offences, the majority (67 per cent) resulted in injury to the victim. In comparison, about 47 per cent of violent incidents among adults aged 16 or above resulted in injury to the victim. In 2013/14, 4.5 per cent of 10 to 15 year olds were the victims of violence and sustained an injury on the preferred measure, equivalent to 300,000 individual incidents.

Data sources

ONS (2013) *Crime in England and Wales, Year ending March 2014*. ONS (2014) *The 2013/14 crime survey for England and Wales: technical report: volume one*. ONS (2014) *Presentational and methodological improvements to National Statistics on the Crime Survey for England and Wales*.

INDICATOR 11

Referrals to social services

Why is this measure important?

A referral is the first stage of the child protection process in all four nations. A referral will be made about children because some aspect of their life is giving cause for concern. A referral is a request for services to be provided by children's social care services where the child is not previously known to children's social care services, or where the case was previously open but is now closed. On receipt of a referral, children's social care will decide what further work needs to be done. It may be that more investigation is needed, or it may be that a referral can be resolved by providing some information, or referring to another agency, or in some cases, no further action at all is needed.

Anyone who has concerns about the safety or welfare of a child can make a referral to statutory services. Referrals to social services can be made by all parts of society including a local authority social services department, the police, health services, family, friends and neighbours. Children and young people can also self-refer.

What are the limitations of the data?

An increase in referrals is not good or bad in terms of the safety of children — an increase in referrals could indicate an increase in awareness of concerns about the safety of a child; alternatively it could indicate an increase in the levels of concern about the safety of children or changes in legislation, policy and practice, such as an adjustment to thresholds.

Data availability and comparability

Referral data is published for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland discontinued publication in 2010 due to concerns about the inconsistency of definitions used to record data with local authorities. Children referred data is available for England and Northern Ireland.

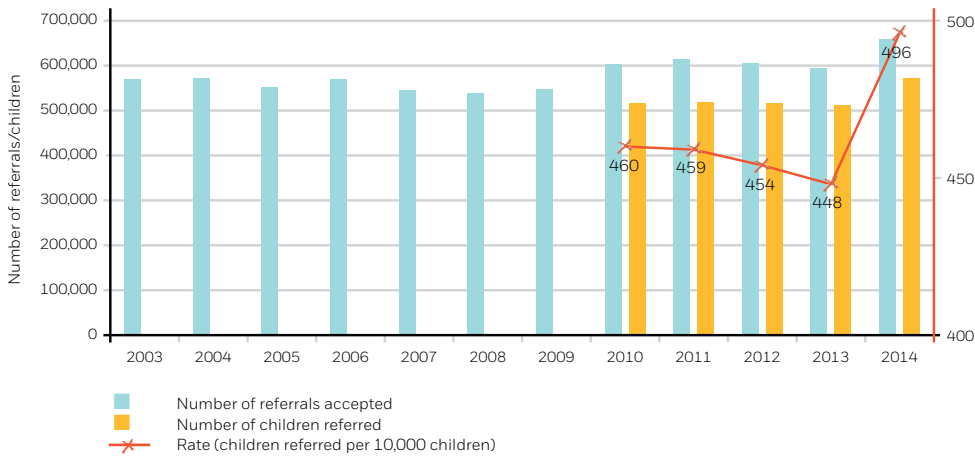


KEY MESSAGES

- **Referrals increased significantly in England in 2013/14, following a steady decrease over the previous three years.**
- **Referrals have decreased year on year in Wales (since 2009/10).**
- **In Northern Ireland the number of referrals and children referred has been increasing every year since 2007/8.**
- **In both England and Wales just under a quarter of referrals are re-referrals from within a 12-month period (23 and 22 per cent respectively).**

England

Number of referrals accepted in the year ending 31 March

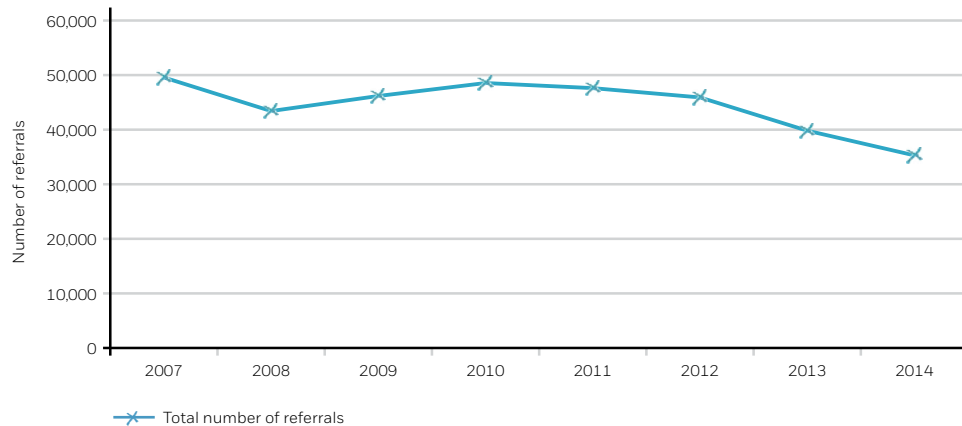


Latest figure: There were 657,800 referrals relating to 570,800 children for the year to 31 March 2014.

Trend: Referrals increased significantly in England in 2013/14, following a steady decrease over recent years (2010/11 to 2012/13).

Wales

Total number of referrals accepted for the year ending 31 March



Latest figure: There were 35,285 referrals for the year ended 31 March 2014.

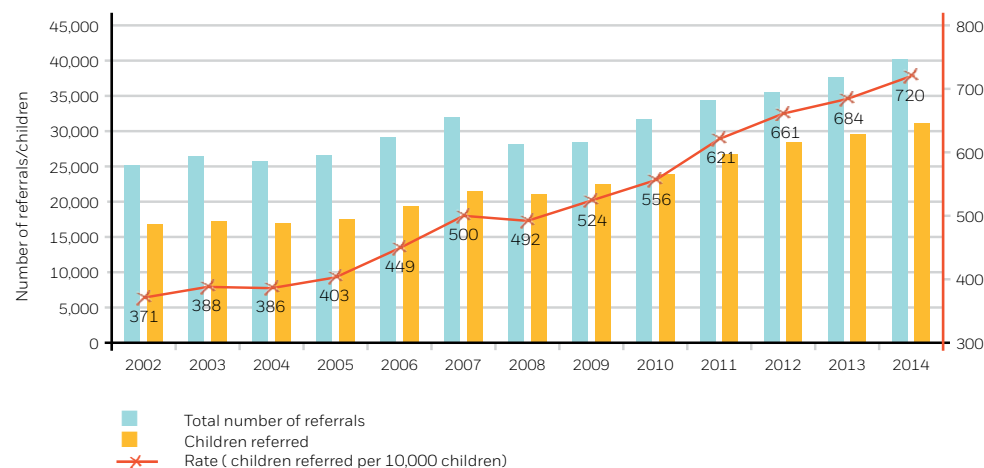
Trend: Referrals have decreased year on year since 2009/10. Referrals in 2007/8 were lower than in 2006/7. Between 2007/8 and 2009/10 referrals increased.

Latest figure: There were 35,285 referrals for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Trend: Referrals have decreased year on year since 2009/10. Referrals in 2007/8 were lower than in 2006/7. Between 2007/8 and 2009/10 referrals increased.

Northern Ireland

Number of referrals accepted in the year ending 31 March



Latest figure: There were 40,165 referrals relating to 31,098 children for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of referrals, children referred (and therefore the rate of children referred) has been increasing every year since 2007/8.

What happens after children's social services accept a referral

A referral may result in a number of different routes. There may be no further action following a referral; there could be a referral to another service for family support if the child is not at risk of significant harm, but considered to be in need. There could also be further investigation or if a child is in immediate danger emergency protective action.

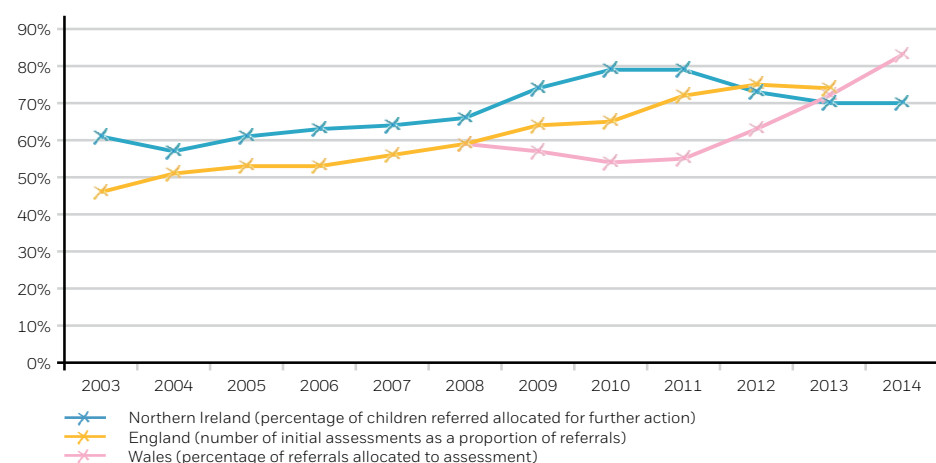
There is some available data on assessments that gives an indication of what happens once a referral has been accepted by social services. In Wales, when children enter the child protection systems, they currently receive an initial assessment that determines what, if any, support they may receive from children's services.

Until recently this information was also recorded in England. However many local authorities in England have now moved to carrying out continuous assessments and are no longer making a distinction made between an initial and a core assessment. As a result, data on initial assessments completed as a percentage of referrals is not available for 2013/14. In England some areas operate a multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH) which may in turn make a child in need or child protection referral to the relevant local authority or take different courses of action (eg, referring to a youth service or to the relevant school). Children who end up being referred to children's social services as a result of a MASH triage will be reflected in the statistics presented here.

In Northern Ireland no distinction is made between initial and core assessments undertaken using the "Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland" (UNOCINI) assessment model. No data is available for Scotland.

The graph below shows the available data on assessments and allocation for further action.

Data showing what happens after a referral



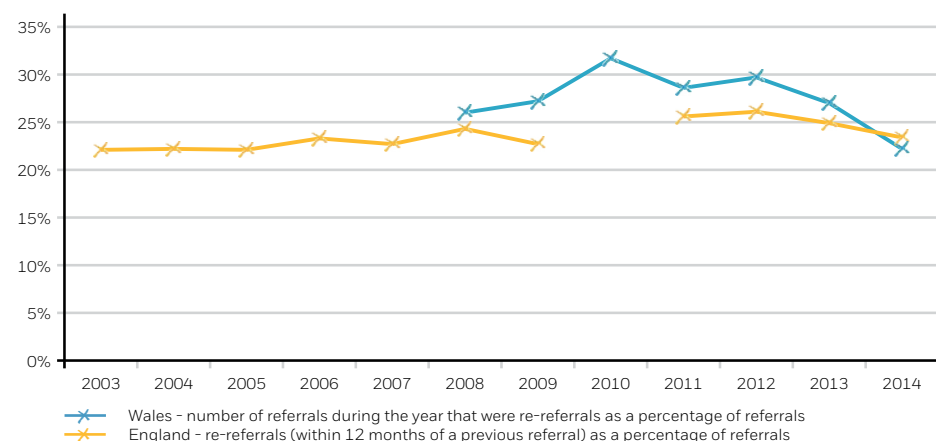
Trend: This graph shows the number of initial assessments as a proportion of referrals (England and Wales) and the proportion of children who are allocated for further action (Northern Ireland).

In England the trend has been increasing since 2003, the proportion appears to have levelled off in 2013 and the data is not comparable for 2014 because many local authorities have moved to carrying out continuous assessments (108 local authorities changed to using continuous assessments in the year, many changed mid-year).

In Wales the percentage of referrals allocated to assessment has been increasing since 2010/11. In Northern Ireland the percentage of children referred who were allocated for further action appears to have levelled off in 2014. This follows a number of years that saw a decrease (since 2010/11) and an earlier trend of a steady increase in the percentage of children referred allocated for no further action (between 2003/4 and 2010/11).

The data shows that for most of the past decade a referral in Northern Ireland has been more likely to result in assessment/further action than in England, and in more recent years, Wales. The 2012/13 data showed some convergence, and in 2013/14, a referral in Wales was more likely to result in assessment/further action than in Northern Ireland.

Re-referrals



Trend: England and Wales publish data on the re-referrals that local authorities receive. In both England and Wales, just under a quarter of referrals are re-referrals from within a 12-month period (23 and 22 per cent respectively). This percentage has decreased slightly over recent years (since 2012) in both nations. The gap in the England data can be explained by the move from an aggregate level return to a child level return in 2009/10, as the new child level data could not be matched back to a previous year.

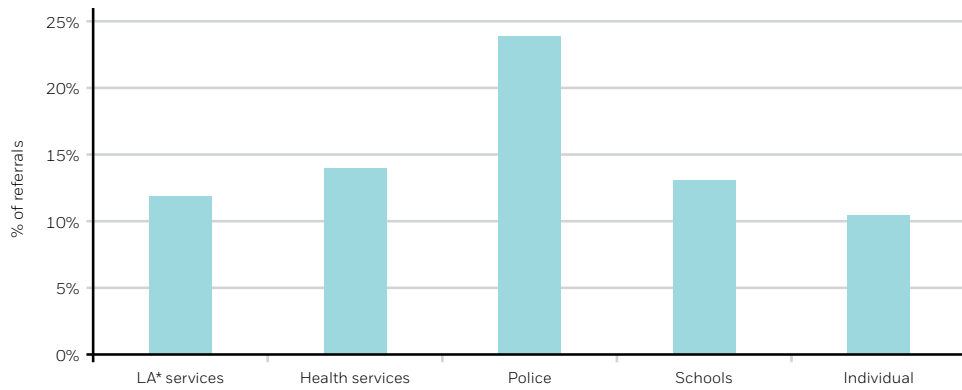
Data sources

England: Department for Education (DfE) referral and assessment statistics and Children in Need census statistics. **Wales:** StatWales Children's Services statistics.

Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPNI) Children Order Statistics Northern Ireland.

Source of referral: Top five sources of referral

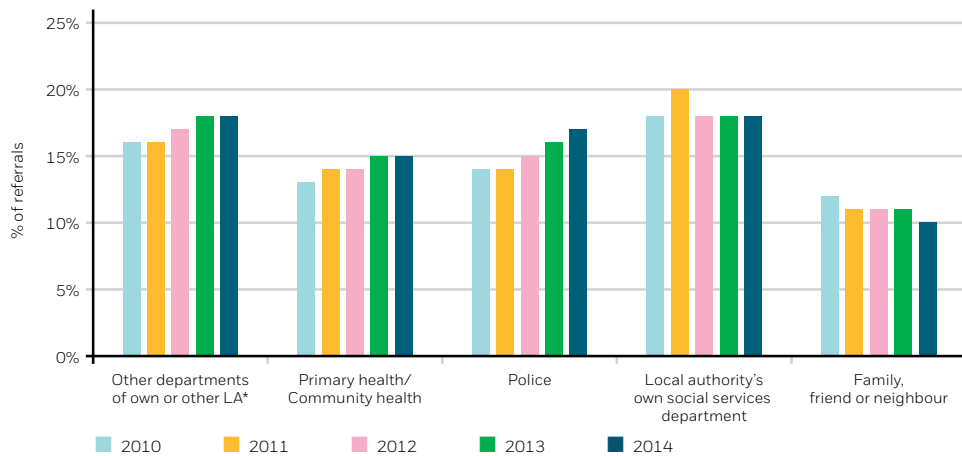
England: Data for year ending 31 March 2014



Information on the source of referrals in England was published for the first time this year. Not all local authorities have been able to report it fully so data on the source of referral should be interpreted with some caution and is likely to change next year. Wales and Northern Ireland have been publishing this information for a number of years. All three nations collect data at different points in the referral process and present the data in different ways.

- England records source of referral when the referral is received, ie, a request for services to be provided by children's social care in respect of a child who is not currently in need.

Wales: Data for years ending 31 March 2010–2014

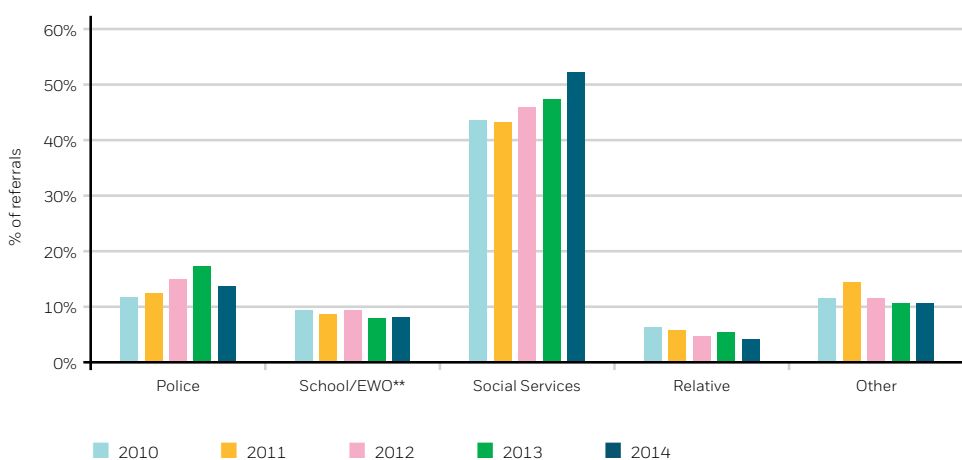


- In Wales information is only collected about the source of referral of children in need. Children in need are those who receive social services from their local authorities (see Indicator 12 for more information).

- In Northern Ireland, information about the source of referral is recorded for all child protection referrals. A child protection referral is one for which the initial assessment indicates that there may be child protection issues.

Data presented in this report focuses on the main five referral sources. In both Wales and Northern Ireland referrals mainly come from within social service departments, although the proportions vary possibly due to Wales distinguishing between referrals from own or other local authorities. In England, referrals come mainly from the police.

Northern Ireland: Data for years ending 31 March 2010–14



*Local authority

**Educational welfare officer

INDICATOR 12

Children in need

Why is this measure important?

A child in need is a child who is unlikely to have, or have the opportunity to have, a reasonable standard of health and development without any support provided by a public authority. There are many different reasons why a child would be in need including for instance, being disabled. Here we have, as far as possible, focused on the data regarding children who are in need due to abuse or neglect.

What are the limitations of the data?

An increase or decrease in this number does not mean that children are becoming more or less safe. A fluctuation may mean that more or fewer children are coming to the attention of social services, rather than a change in actual numbers of children in need.

Data availability and comparability

Children in need data showing children in need due to abuse or neglect is available for England and Wales. Northern Ireland's data shows where further action is taken following a referral — this data will not necessarily be as focused on abuse or neglect as the data for England and Wales. Data is not collected or published in Scotland.

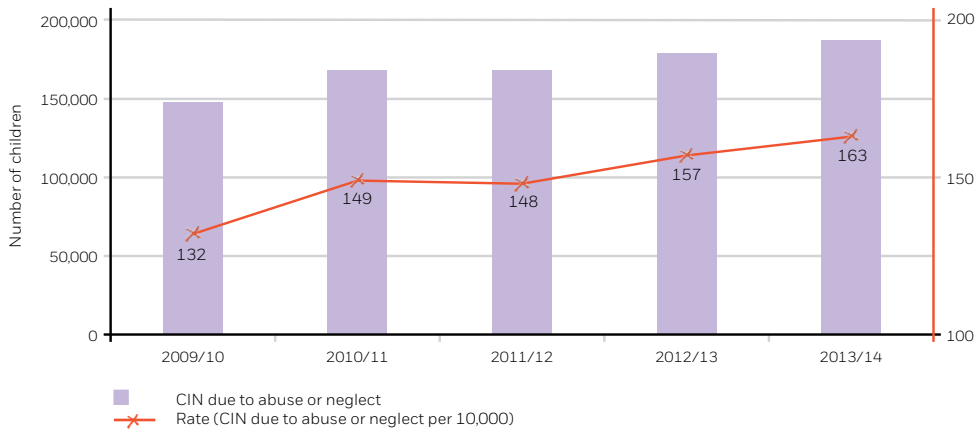


KEY MESSAGES

- **The data shows an increase in the number of children in need due to abuse or neglect in England and Wales.**
- **The rate of children in need due to abuse or neglect has also increased over this period.**
- **In Northern Ireland the number of children allocated for further action has more than doubled in the past ten years. Numbers started to level off (from 2010/11 to 2012/13), however there was a slight increase in 2013/14.**

England and Wales

Children in need (CIN) due to abuse or neglect at 31 March

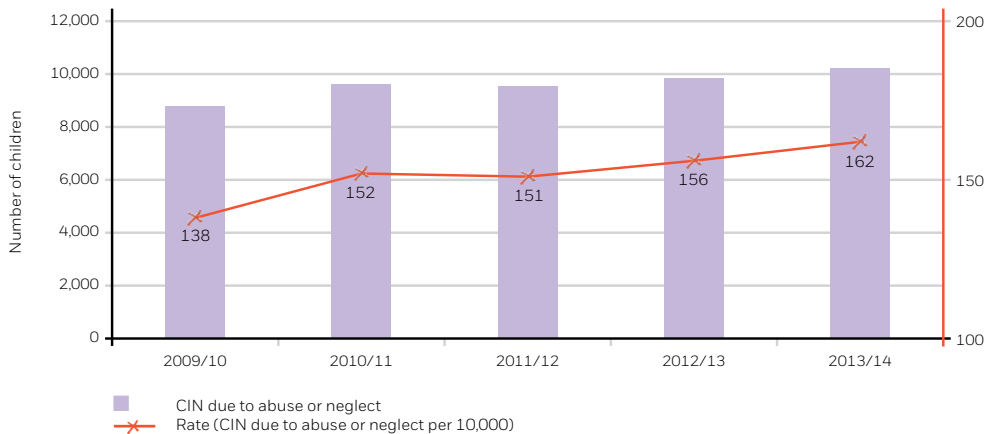


Latest figure: There were 187,710 children in need due to abuse or neglect at 31 March 2014. This comprises 47 per cent of the total children in need. The rate per 10,000 children was 163.

Trend: Overall, the number and rate of children in need due to abuse or neglect has increased between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Wales

Children in need due to abuse or neglect at 31 March

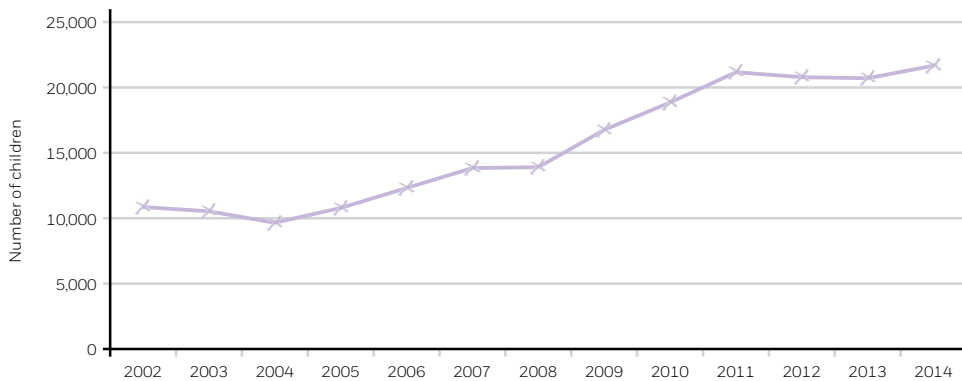


Latest figure: There were 10,235 children in need due to abuse or neglect at 31 March 2014. This comprises 51 per cent of the total children in need. The rate per 10,000 children was 162.

Trend: Overall, the number and rate of children in need due to abuse or neglect has increased between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Northern Ireland

Number of children allocated for further action at year ending 31 March



Latest figure: There were 21,664 children allocated for further action in the year ending 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of children allocated for further action has more than doubled in the past ten years. Numbers had started to level off in recent years (2010/11 to 2012/13), however there was a slight increase in 2013/14. We do not know what proportion of these children have been allocated for further action due to abuse or neglect.

Data is not published in the same way in Northern Ireland as in England or Wales. Data is published on the number of children allocated for further action. Following a full assessment, a significant proportion of the children will be assessed as being in need. (In Northern Ireland "being in need" is equivalent to being allocated for further action – see Indicator 11 for more detail.)

Data sources

England: Department for Education (DfE) Children in need census 2009/10 to 2013/14; **Wales:** StatWales Children in need data; **Northern Ireland:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPSNI) Children Order Statistical Trends; UK: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-year population estimates.

INDICATOR 13

Children in the child protection system

Why is this measure important?

Children subject to plans or on registers are deemed to be at continuing risk of harm. Plans and registers record details regarding children where there are on-going concerns about their safety. Despite a difference in terminology, plans and registers are roughly the same.

We have included the stock (the number of children on CPPs or CPRs at one time) and the flow into the system (the number of children who become subject to a CPP or added to a CPR in a year). In England, Wales and Scotland the flow is consistently higher than the stock as some children will stay on plans/registers for less than a year, and some will be counted twice if they are re-registered in the same year. In these three countries the flow is increasing more quickly than the stock. This is likely to be due to the fact that more children are spending a shorter time on plans and registers, or that there are more re-registrations. For the first time in recent years the flow of children added to the CPR in Northern Ireland exceeded the stock, which has gradually decreased since 2011.

What are the limitations of the data?

This data captures the number of children subject to a CPP or on CPRs. Data is only held on children who have been identified by the authorities as being in need of a CPP. Many children who have experienced or are likely to experience significant harm may not be identified. These figures should therefore not be interpreted as a record of all child abuse. An increase in the number of children subject to CPPs or on CPRs could suggest that more abuse is coming to the attention of social services or that it is more prevalent.

Data availability and comparability

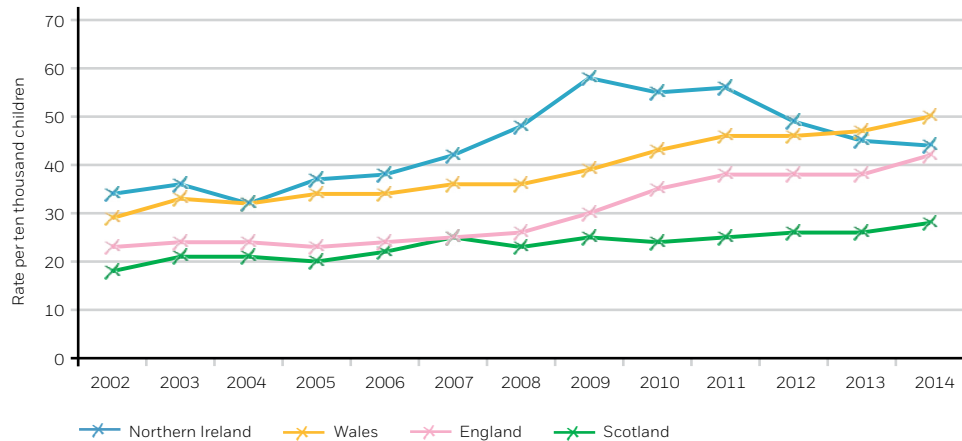
All four nations publish data on the number of children subject to CPPs or on CPRs. Scotland began to collect this data for the year ending 31 July (rather than 31 March) from 2011.



KEY MESSAGES

- **Numbers of children within the child protection system have increased in all four nations since 2002.**
- **In the past year the absolute number of children subject to child protection plans (CPPs) or on child protection registers (CPRs) continued to increase in England, Scotland and Wales but decreased slightly in Northern Ireland.**
- **The flow of children becoming subject to CPPs or CPRs continued to increase in all four nations. The rate of increase in flow flattened in Wales, while England experienced the biggest yearly increase for five years.**

Children subject to child protection plans or on registers (rate per 10,000 children)

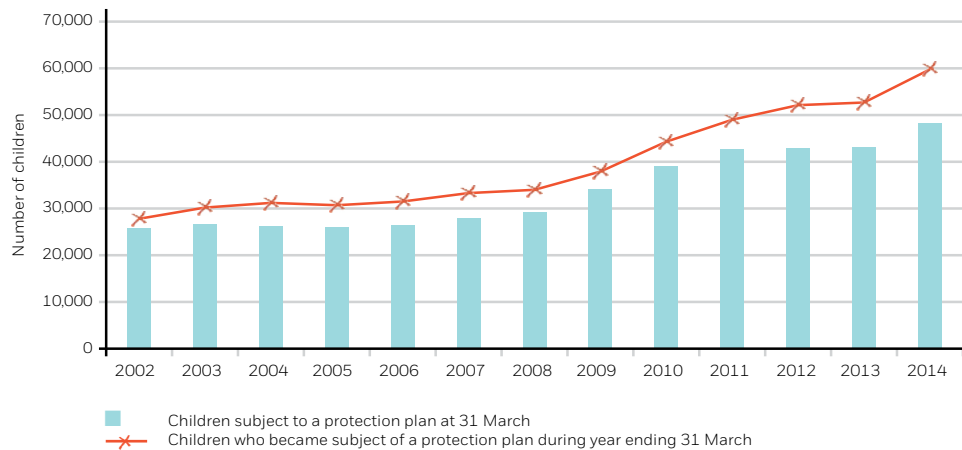


Latest figure: For the second year Wales had the highest rate of children on child protection registers, with 50 per 10,000 under 18s on the register in Wales.

Trend: The rate of children subject to CPPs and on CPRs has increased in all four nations. Northern Ireland had a very sharp increase in the rate of children on the register up to 2009, with a relative decline since. A yearly increase of 11 per cent moved the rate in England closer to that of Northern Ireland.

Between 2002 and 2014 the largest rate increase was in England (82 per cent), followed by Wales (72 per cent), Scotland (51 per cent) and Northern Ireland (31 per cent). During this period the population of children increased in England and declined in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

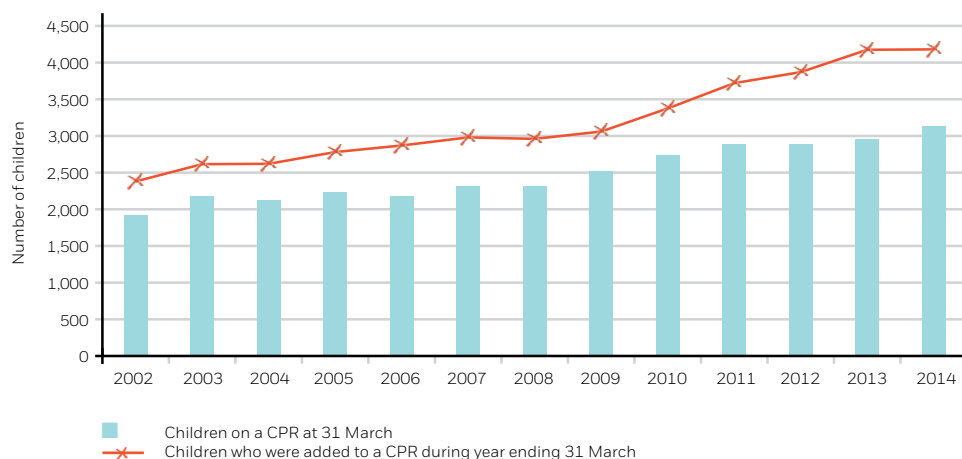
England



Latest figure: There were 48,300 children subject to CPPs on 31 March 2014 and 59,780 children became the subject of a CPP in the year 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2014. If a child is the subject of more than one child protection plan during the year, each is counted.

Trend: Between 2002 and 2014 the number of children subject to CPPs increased by 88 per cent, and the number of children becoming the subject of a CPP each year increased by 115 per cent.

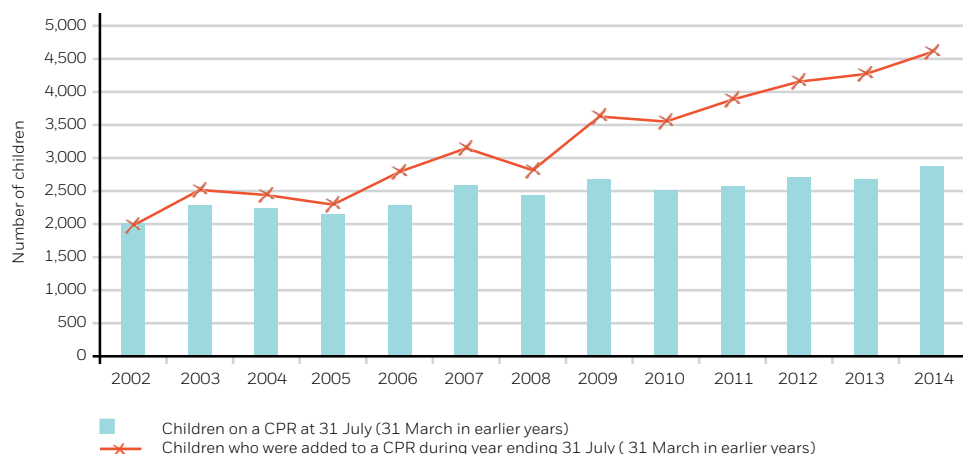
Wales



Latest figure: There were 3,135 children on a CPR on 31 March 2014 and 4,180 children were added to a CPR in the year 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2014. Where a child has moved on to the register several times during the year each registration is recorded.

Trend: Between 2002 and 2014 the number of children on a CPR increased by 64 per cent and the number of children added to a CPR each year increased by 76 per cent.

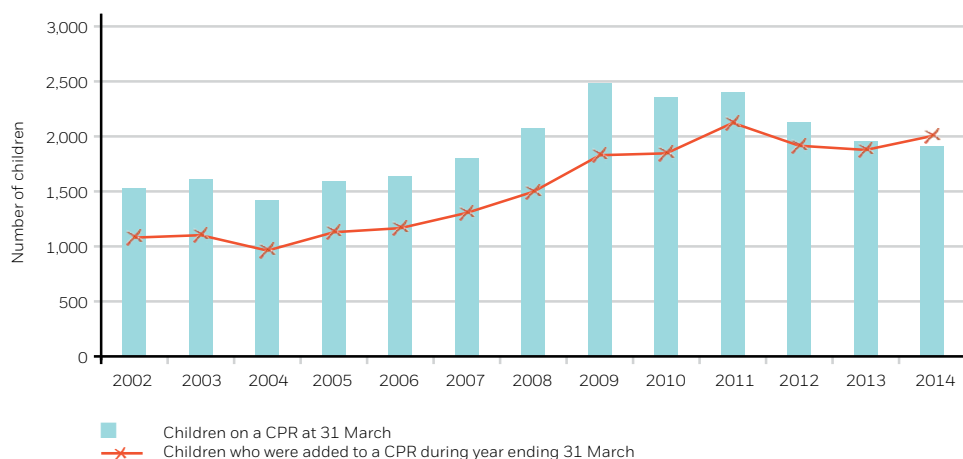
Scotland



Latest figure: Scotland began to collect data for years ending 31 July from 2011. There were 2,882 children on a CPR on 31 July 2014 and 4,606 children were added to a CPR in the year 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014. Where a child has moved on to the register several times during the year each registration is recorded.

Trend: Between 2002 and 2014 the number of children on a CPR increased by 43 per cent and the number of children added to a CPR each year increased by 133 per cent.

Northern Ireland



Latest figure: There were 1,914 children on a CPR on 31 March 2014 and 2,004 children were added to a CPR in the year 31 March 2013 to 31 March 2014. Where a child has moved on to the register several times during the year each registration is recorded.

Trend: Between 2002 and 2014 the number of children on a CPR increased by 25 per cent and the number of children added to a CPR each year increased by 86 per cent.

Data sources

England: Department for Education (2014) Characteristics of children in need: 2013/14. **Wales:** StatWales (2014) Number of children and young persons on the child protection register at 31 March by age at 31 March. **Scotland:** The Scottish Government (2015) Children's Social Work Statistics 2013/14. **Northern Ireland:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2014) Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013/14.

**Numbers of children
within the child
protection system
have increased in
all four nations
since 2002.**

INDICATOR 14

Composition of child protection plans and child protection registers

Why is this measure important?

This data shows the reasons why a child deemed to be at continuing risk is subject to a child protection plan or on a child protection register.

What are the limitations of the data?

All four nations publish data on the reasons why children are subject to a CPP or are on a CPR, but there are differences in the criteria for recording and the classification of categories of abuse or concerns between the nations, as described below.

Data availability and comparability

In England, Northern Ireland and Wales the data shows the reasons why a child is subject to a CPP or on a CPR as per the initial category of abuse (neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or multiple forms of abuse), which is the category as assessed when the child protection plan commenced. The method of recording in Scotland changed in 2012 to enable recording of multiple concerns at each case conference rather than just the initial main category of abuse. Since this change Scotland records additional categories, including domestic abuse, parental substance misuse and parental mental health and on average records between two or three concerns per child case conference.

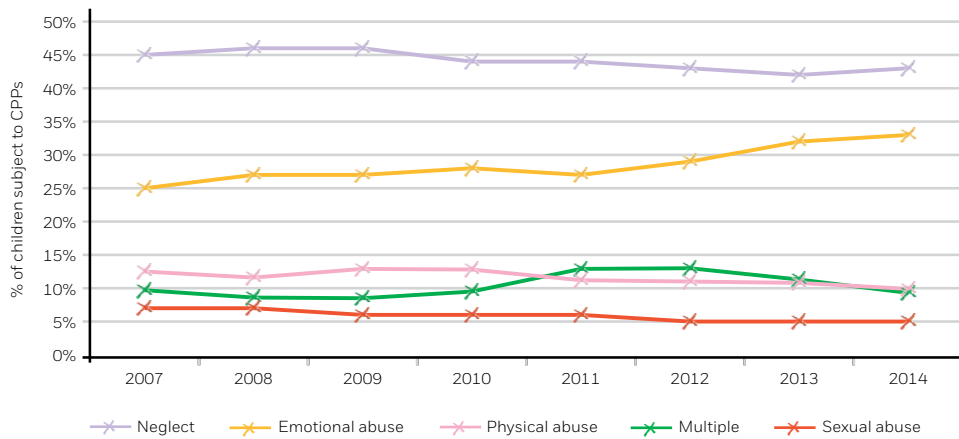
Different time series are available for the four nations – here we have selected data from 2007 to 2013/14 for England and Northern Ireland, 2002 to 2014 for Wales, and 2012 to 2014 for Scotland. The change to the method of recording in Scotland means that figures on concerns identified in Scotland are not directly comparable to data for the category of abuse/risk prior to 2012.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Neglect is usually the most common cause for being subject to a child protection plan (CPP) or on a child protection register (CPR) in all nations.**
- **The proportion of children on a CPR due to multiple forms of abuse is much higher in Northern Ireland compared with England and Wales. The proportion due to emotional abuse is lower.**
- **Through recording multiple concerns at case conference in Scotland, parental substance misuse and domestic abuse have been identified as concerns for more than a third of children.**

England

Composition of child protection plans at 31 March 2014

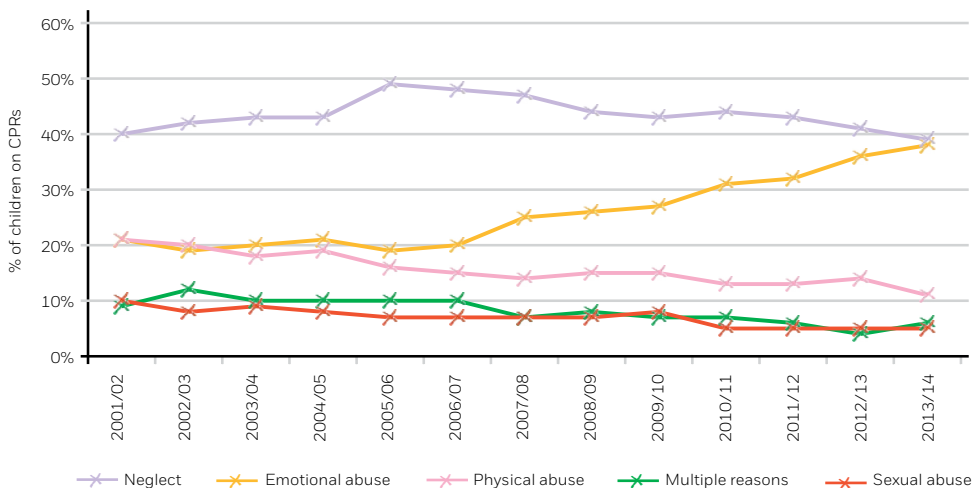


Latest figure: At 31 March 2014 the breakdown was as follows: 43 per cent neglect; 33 per cent emotional abuse; 10 per cent physical abuse; 9 per cent multiple reasons; and 5 per cent sexual abuse.

Trend: Neglect is consistently the most common reason for being subject to a CPP, followed by emotional abuse which has gradually increased in the last few years. Physical, sexual and multiple forms of abuse have also remained relatively stable.

Wales

Composition of child protection registers at 31 March 2014

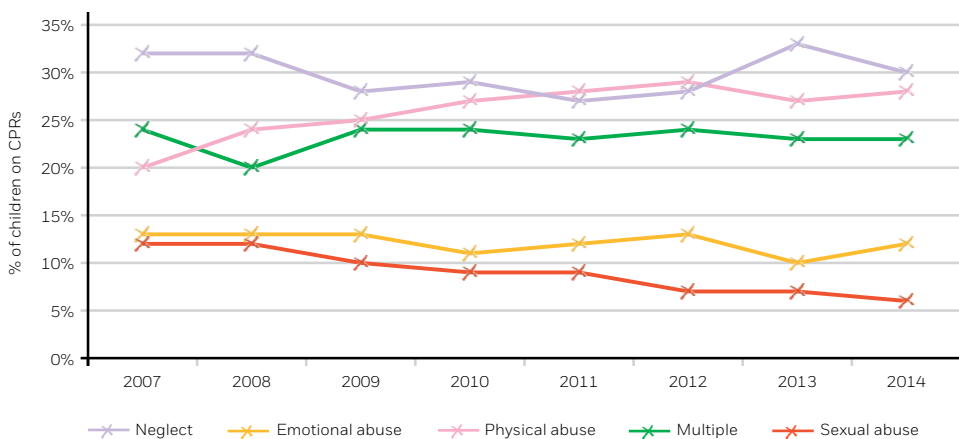


Latest figures: The breakdown was as follows: 39 per cent neglect; 38 per cent emotional abuse; 11 per cent physical abuse; 6 per cent multiple reasons and 5 per cent sexual abuse.

Trend: Although declining since a peak in 2006, neglect is consistently the most common reason for being on a CPR in Wales, followed by emotional abuse, which has nearly doubled since 2007.

Northern Ireland

Composition of child protection registers at 31 March 2014

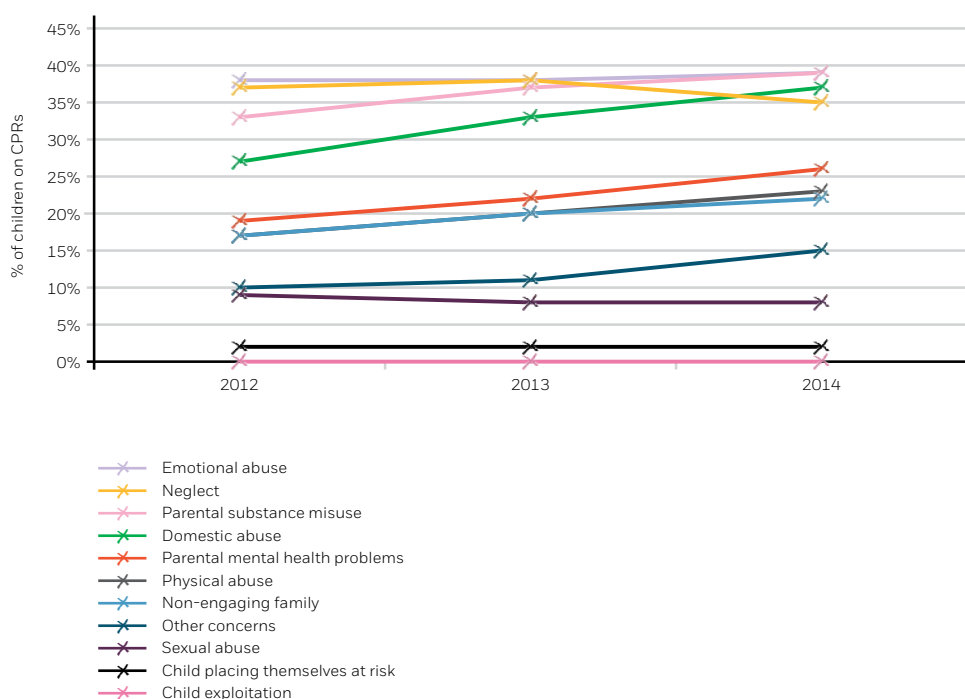


Latest figures: The breakdown was as follows: 30 per cent neglect; 28 per cent physical abuse; 23 per cent multiple reasons; 12 per cent emotional abuse; and 6 per cent sexual abuse.

Trend: Physical abuse has risen to similar levels as neglect as the most common causes for being on a CPR. The proportion of children on the CPR due to sexual abuse has declined since 2007.

Scotland

Concerns at case conference of children on the child protection register at 2014



Latest figures: The percentage of case conferences where the following concerns were identified were: 39 per cent for emotional abuse; 39 per cent parental substance misuse; 37 per cent domestic abuse; 35 per cent neglect; 26 per cent parental mental health problems; 23 per cent physical abuse; 22 per cent non-engaging family; 15 per cent other concerns and 8 per cent sexual abuse. Other categories of concern (child exploitation and child placing themselves at risk) were identified for less than 3 per cent of children.

Trend: While emotional abuse, parental substance misuse, domestic abuse and neglect have consistently been the four most frequently identified concerns at case conference since 2012, the newer categories of parental substance misuse and domestic abuse have overtaken neglect during this time. There were increases for other main categories of concern, apart from sexual abuse.

Data sources

England: Department for Education (2014) Characteristics of children in need: 2013/14. **Wales:** StatWales (2014) Number of children and young persons on the child protection register at 31 March by age at 31 March. **Scotland:** The Scottish Government (2015) Children's Social Work Statistics 2013/14. **Northern Ireland:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2014) Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland 2013/14.

Neglect is usually the most common cause for being subject to a child protection plan or on a child protection register in all nations.

INDICATOR 15

Re-registration onto child protection registers (returning to a child protection plan)

Why is this measure important?

Re-registration data shows the number of children subject to child protection plans (CPPs) or on child protection registers (CPRs) who come back onto the plans or registers. Re-registration rates could suggest that the decision to initially remove them from a CPP or CPR was premature and that they are not actually safer. Alternatively, they could suggest that circumstances in the child's life have changed requiring re-registration.

What are the limitations of the data?

Data is only held on children who have been identified by the authorities as being in need of a child protection plan. Many children who have experienced or are likely to experience significant harm may not be identified. These figures should therefore not be interpreted as a record of all child abuse. It should be noted that there is no optimal amount of time to be subject to a CPP or on a CPR.

Data availability and comparability

All four nations publish data on the number of children being re-registered on CPRs or returning to CPPs.

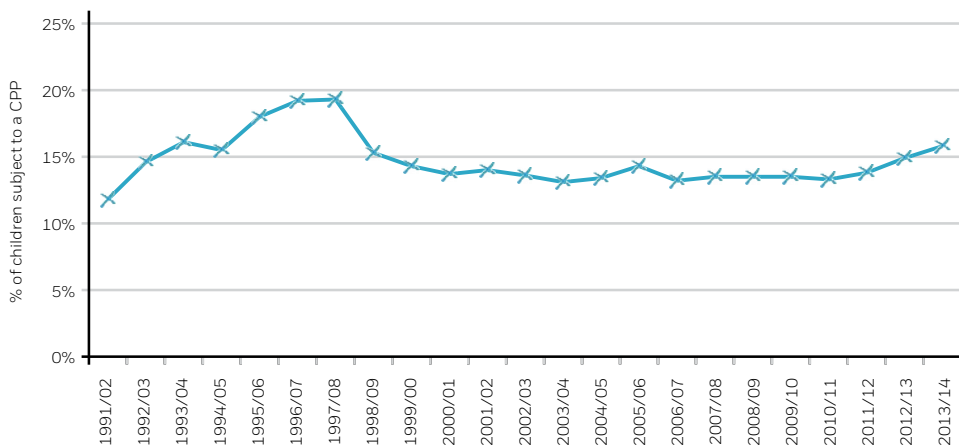


KEY MESSAGES

- **In England the percentage of children who become subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time has increased slightly every year since 2010/11.**
- **In Wales the percentage of children who went back on a CPR for a second or subsequent time increased from 14.5 per cent to 17.8 per cent in the year to 31 March 2014.**
- **In Northern Ireland the proportion of all children becoming re-registered has been increasing in recent years, from 14.9 per cent in 2009/10 to 19.3 per cent in 2013/14.**
- **In Scotland the proportion of children returning to CPRs for a second or subsequent time has been gradually increasing from 12.5 per cent in 2006/7 to 16.5 per cent in 2013/14.**

England

Percentage of children who became the subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time

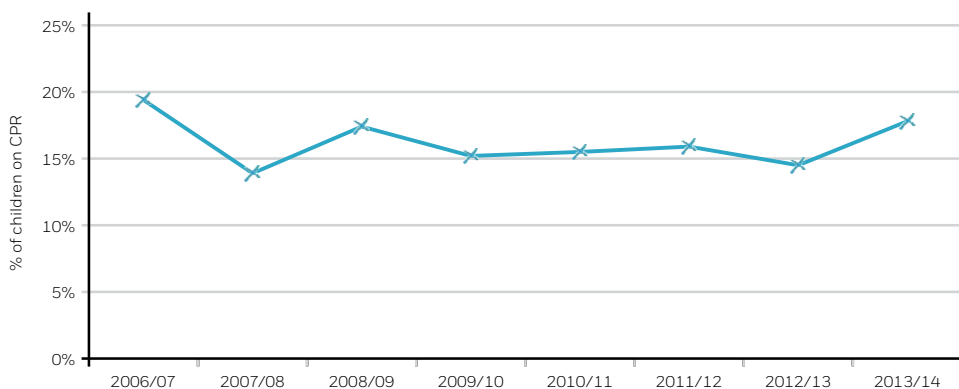


Latest figure: 15.8 per cent of children became subject to a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time in the year to 31 March 2014.

Trend: The percentage of children who become subject to a CPP for a second or subsequent time has increased slightly every year since 2010/11. Between 1999/2000 and 2010/11 the percentage was broadly constant at between 13 to 14 per cent. The most recent figure (15.8 per cent) is the highest since 1997/98.

Wales

Percentage of children being re-registered who were registered for the second or subsequent time

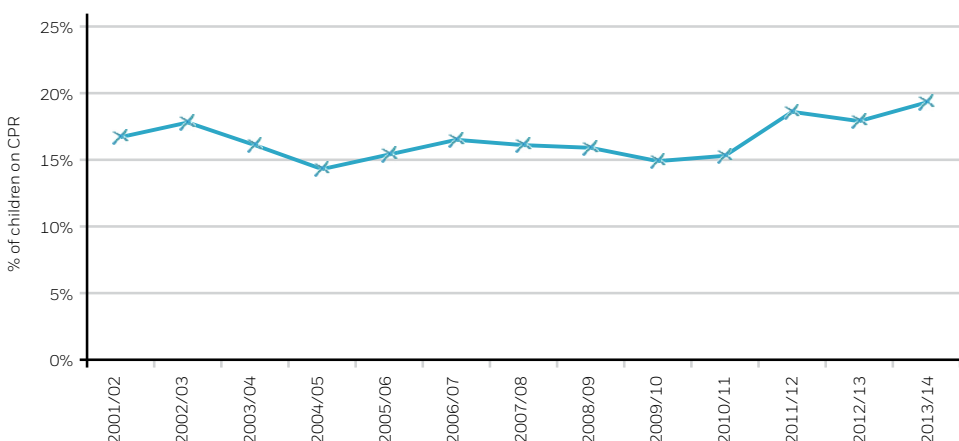


Latest figure: 17.8 per cent of children were re-registered on a CPR for a second or subsequent time in the year to 31 March 2014.

Trend: The available data shows that the percentage of children who went back on a CPR for a second or subsequent time increased from 14.5 per cent to 17.8 per cent in the year to 31 March 2014. The percentage had been between 15 per cent and 16 per cent since 2009/10.

Northern Ireland

Percentage of all children being registered who were registered for a second or subsequent time

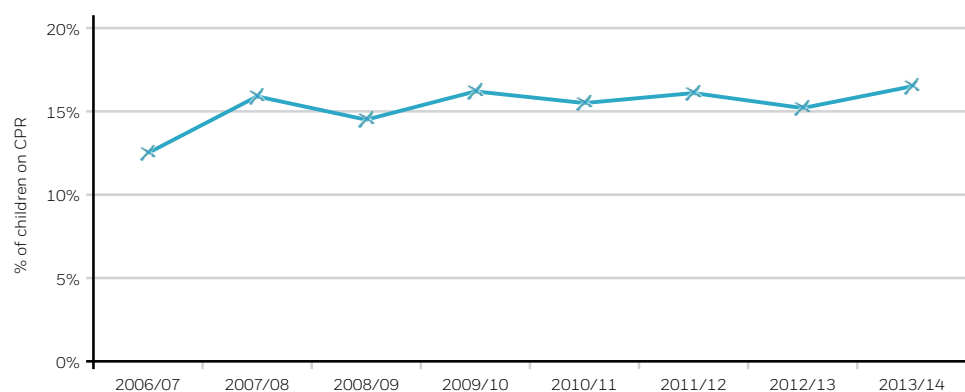


Latest figure: 19.3 per cent of children were re-registered on a CPR for a second or subsequent time in the year to 31 March 2014.

Trend: In Northern Ireland the proportion of all children becoming re-registered has been increasing in recent years. The proportion increased from 14.9 per cent to 19.3 per cent between 2009/10 and 2013/14.

Scotland

Percentage of registrations to children who had been registered before



Latest figure: 16.5 per cent of CPR registrations relate to children being registered for a second or subsequent time in the year to 31 July 2014.

Trend: For the period between 2006/7 and 2013/14 the proportion of children returning to CPRs for a second or subsequent time has been gradually increasing from 12.5 per cent in 2006/7 to 16.5 per cent in 2013/14.

Data sources

England: Department for Education (DfE) Children in need statistics. **Wales:** StatWales Children's services statistics. **Scotland:** Scottish Government Children's Social Work Statistics. **Northern Ireland:** Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPSNI), Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland.

There are more children suffering abuse or neglect than those who are known to children's social services – we estimate that for every child subject to a child protection plan or on a child protection register another eight children have suffered maltreatment.

INDICATOR 16

How long children are subject to child protection plans or the child protection register

Why is this measure important?

Plans and registers record details regarding children where there are concerns about their safety. When a child is de-registered, it would suggest that there were no longer concerns about that child's safety and that he or she was indeed safe and no longer at a risk of harm.

The data presented here shows the percentage of children subject to a CPP or on CPR who are there for longer than two years. Children spending a long time on either plans or registers could suggest that cases are allowed to "drift".

What are the limitations of the data?

Data is only held on children who have been identified by the authorities as being in need of a child protection plan. Many children who have experienced or are likely to experience significant harm may not be identified. These figures should therefore not be interpreted as a record of all child abuse. It should be noted that there is no optimal amount of time to be subject to a CPP or on a CPR.

Data availability and comparability

All nations, apart from Wales, publish data on how long in total children were subject to a CPP or were on a CPR before they were de-registered. Wales records how long children have been on a register at the year's end, which is not a comparable figure.

KEY MESSAGES

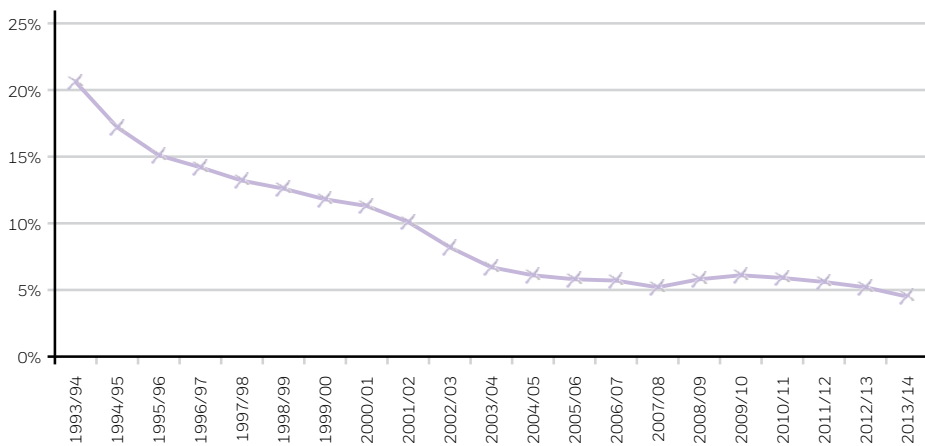
- **The proportion of children who are subject to child protection plans (CPPs) or on child protection registers (CPRs) for longer than two years continues to decline in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. This suggests that the proportion of children whose cases are drifting appears to be decreasing.**
- **The data shows that a larger proportion of children on CPRs in Northern Ireland are on for two years or longer compared with England or Scotland.**

Data sources:

England: DfE Children in Need (2009/10 – 2013/14); Referrals, assessment and children and young people who are the subject of a child protection plan, England – year ending 31 March 2009; Numbers of children whose child protection plans (CPPs) were discontinued by length of time as the subject of a plan: years ending 31 March 2000 to 2009.

England

Percentage of children who ceased to be subject to a CPP during the year to 31 March who had been on for two years or longer

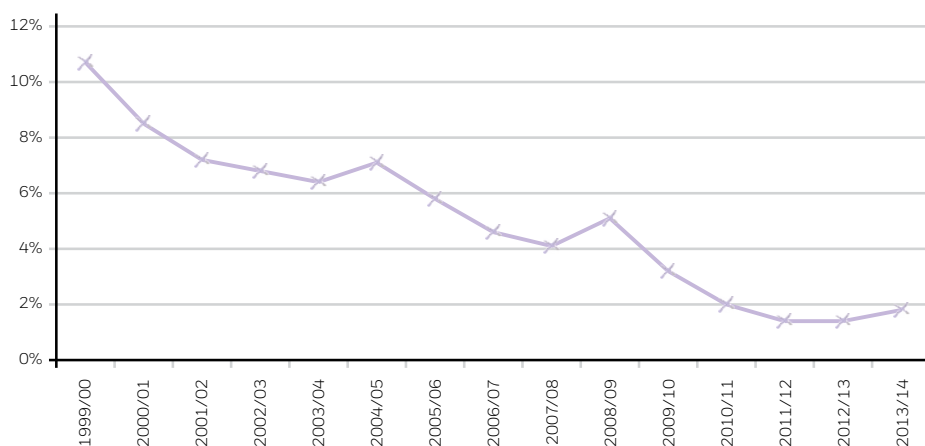


Latest figure: 4.5 per cent of children coming off a CPP in the year to 31 March 2014 have been subject to a plan for longer than two years.

Trend: The percentage of children who had been subject to a CPP for two years or longer declined from 21 per cent in 1993/4 to 4.5 per cent in 2013/14, the lowest percentage yet recorded. This may suggest that a smaller percentage of cases are being allowed to drift.

Scotland

Percentage of children ceasing to be on a CPR during the year to 31 July who had been on for two years or longer

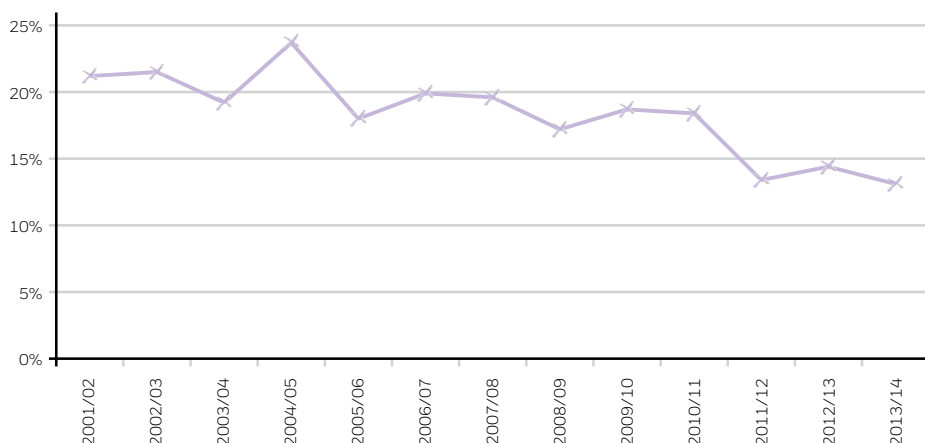


Latest figure: Less than 2 per cent of children who came off a CPR in the year to 31 July 2014 had been on the register for two years or longer.

Trend: The percentage of children who had been on a CPR for two years or longer has declined by more than 80 per cent since 1999/2000.

Northern Ireland

Percentage of children ceasing to be on a CPR during the year to 31 March who had been on for longer than two years



Latest figure: 13.1 per cent of children coming off a CPR in the year to 31 March 2014 had been on a plan for longer than two years.

Trend: Overall the trend has been a decline since 2001/2 in the percentage of children who had been on a CPR for two years or more.

INDICATOR 17

Looked-after children

Why is this measure important?

The term 'looked-after children' refers to those children who are cared for by the state. The measure gives an indication of the number of instances in which the state acts as a corporate parent. There are many reasons why the state might do this, including because a child has suffered abuse or neglect, was at risk, or is disabled. Additionally, a child may become looked after if a parent is ill or disabled, or because parents are absent. Looked-after children also include children who are cared for on a voluntary basis at the request of, or by agreement with, their parents, and children who are looked after for short periods of time, for example in instances of respite care.

The total number of looked-after children is frequently cited as an indication of the state of child welfare and the efficacy of social services within a particular country or region. While this is important, we have again focused on the available statistics for children who are looked after due to abuse or neglect and children who started to become looked after in England and Wales. This allows us to track changes in a specific area of need (abuse and neglect) and thereby gain a deeper understanding of key influencing factors within that area.

What are the limitations of the data?

In England and Wales statistics on looked-after children are available for different categories of need. The reason why a child first becomes looked after is registered under whichever category is most applicable at that particular time. This may not be the only category that pertains to that child for the entire period that he or she is looked after.

Data availability and comparability

Data is published for all four nations on looked-after children. Only England and Wales publish data on the number of children who are looked after due to abuse or neglect. Northern Ireland and Scotland only publish numbers of looked-after children, not the reasons why they become looked after.

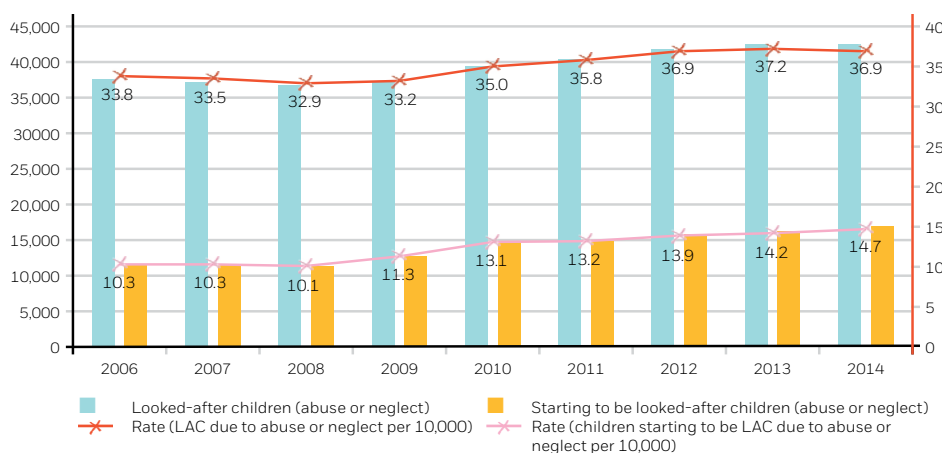


KEY MESSAGES

- **The number (and rate) of children looked after due to abuse or neglect fell in England in 2013/14 – but the number and rate of children starting to become looked after increased.**
- **The number of children looked after due to abuse or neglect in Wales in 2013/14 fell by 9 per cent on last year's figures.**
- **62% of all looked-after children in England in 2013/14 were looked after as a result of abuse or neglect. In Wales the figure is 65%.**
- **Scotland and Northern Ireland both saw increases in numbers of looked-after children.**

England

Number and rate of children looked after due to abuse and neglect at 31 March, and children who started to be looked after during year ending 31 March

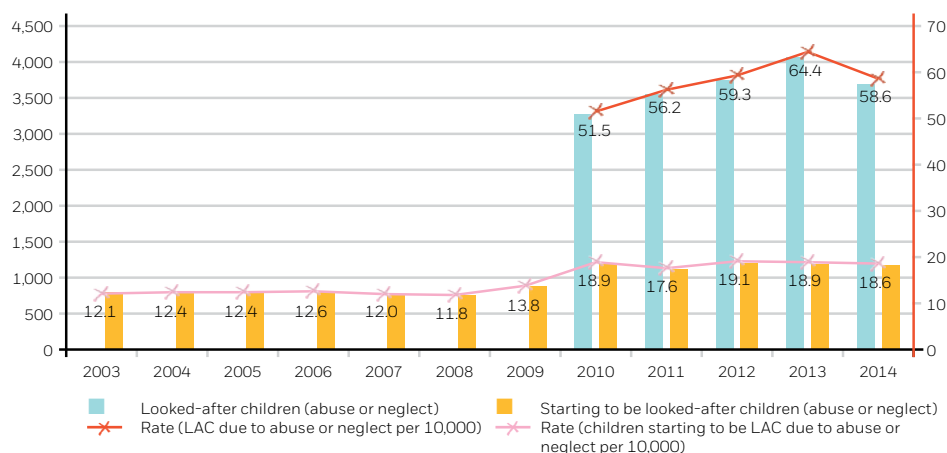


Latest figure: There were 42,460 children looked after due to abuse and neglect at 31 March 2014. During that year, 16,890 children became looked after.

Trend: Following a year-on-year increase since 2007/8, the number and rate of children looked after due to abuse or neglect fell marginally in 2013/14. However the number and rate of children who began to be looked after continued to rise. The proportion of children in care due to abuse or neglect has remained at around 61 to 62 per cent between 2007 and 2014.

Wales

Number and rate of children looked after due to abuse and neglect at 31 March, and children who started to be looked after during year ending 31 March



Latest figure: There were 3,695 children looked after due to abuse or neglect at 31 March 2014. During that year, 1,170 children started to be looked after due to abuse or neglect.

Trend: The number of children looked after due to abuse or neglect fell by around 9 per cent in 2014 following a year-on-year increase since 2009/10. The proportion of children in care due to abuse or neglect returned to roughly the same levels as 2010–2012 (65 per cent) having reached a high of 71 per cent last year. The number of children starting to be looked after has continued to remain stable.

Northern Ireland

Number of looked-after children at 31 March

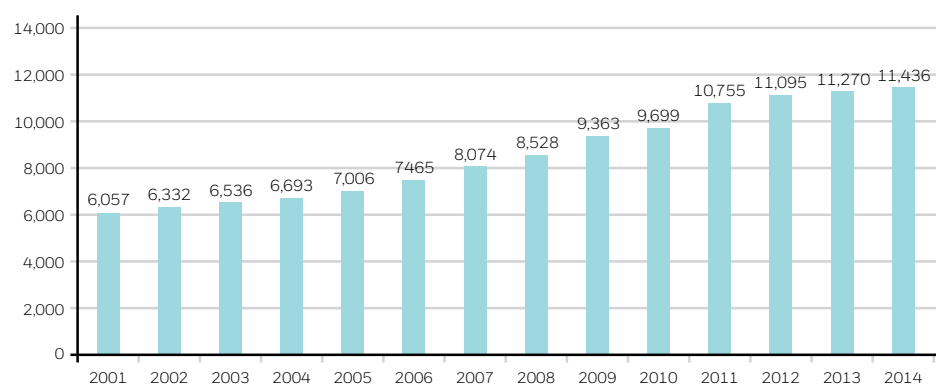


Latest figure: There were 2,858 looked-after children in Northern Ireland at 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of looked-after children at 31 March rose in 2013/14. The total number of looked-after children has been increasing yearly since 2011. Rate calculations have not been included. They would not be comparable with England and Wales as Northern Ireland's data does not allow us to identify children looked after due to abuse or neglect.

Scotland

Number of looked-after and accommodated children
at 31 March (31 July from 2011)



Latest figure: There were 15,580 looked-after children in Scotland at 31 July 2014. Of these 11,436 were looked after or accommodated away from home.

Trend: The number of children looked after or accommodated away from home in Scotland has been increasing each year since 2001. Rate calculations have not been included. They would not be comparable with England and Wales, as Scottish data does not allow us to identify the children who are looked after due to abuse or neglect.

Data Sources:

England: Department for Education (2014) Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2014.

Wales: StatsWales (2015) Children in need by local authority and category of need.

Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Information Analysis Directorate (2014) Children's social care statistics, Northern Ireland, 2013/14.

Scotland: A national statistics publication for Scotland (2015) Children's social work statistics Scotland, 2013–14.

**Around two thirds of
looked-after children
are looked after due
to abuse or neglect.
Experiencing certain
forms of abuse are
good predictors
of experiencing
other specific forms
of abuse.**

INDICATOR 18

Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year

Why is this measure important?

The term “looked-after children” is generally used to mean those children looked after by the state, according to the relevant national legislation. This gives an indication of the number of instances in which the state is acting as a corporate parent. Indicator 18 shows the proportion of children who have three or more placements in a year where this data is available. (See Indicator 17 for information about children looked after generally and as a result of abuse and neglect.)

The evidence suggests that many children do well in care, particularly if they are able to settle into their placements in the long term. However, placement instability can have a negative impact on looked-after children’s wellbeing*.

Here we present the available data on the proportion of children who have three or more placements in a year. A low or falling proportion of children who have three or more placements a year would suggest low or decreasing placement instability.

What are the limitations of the data?

The data on the number of placements relates to all children who are looked after, not just those children who are looked after due to abuse or neglect, since available data is not broken down to that level of detail.

Data availability and comparability

Data on the number of placements that looked-after children have is available for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For the first time we also have data from Scotland about the number of looked-after children with three or more placements covering the period 2012 to 2014.



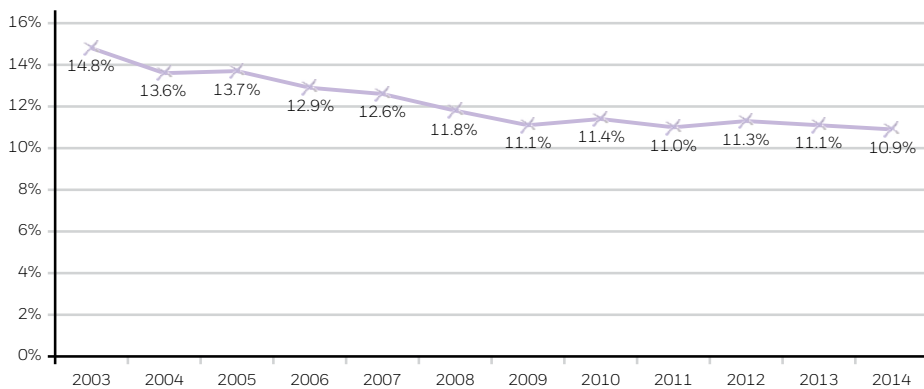
KEY MESSAGES

- **In England the number of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year continued to fall.**
- **In Scotland the number and proportion of looked-after children with three or more placements rose on 2013 figures but remained below the 2012 figure.**
- **In Northern Ireland the number of children with three or more placements reached the highest figure since data became available.**
- **In Wales the proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during a year fell for the first time in three years.**

*Rubin, D.M. et al (2007) The impact of placement stability on behavioral well-being for children in foster care. *Pediatrics* 119: 336–44; Ward, H. et al (2008) *Costs and Consequences of Placing Children in Care*.

England

Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year

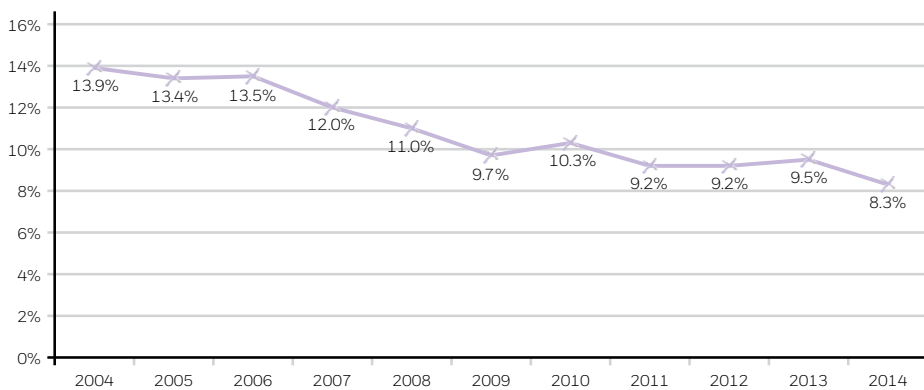


Latest figure: There were 7,520 looked-after children who had three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2014. This was 11 per cent of all looked-after children at 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of looked-after children with three or more placements a year has been in decline since 2003. However the proportion of all looked-after children who have three or more placements in a year has hovered at around 11 per cent for the past six years.

Wales

Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year

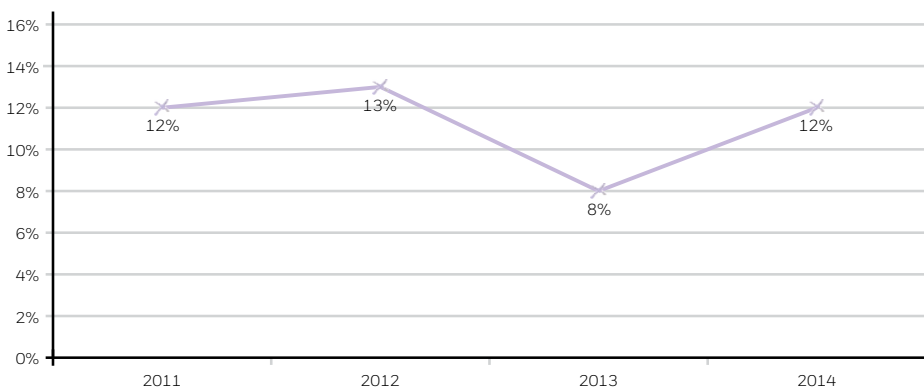


Latest figure: There were 480 looked-after children who had three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2014. This was 8 per cent of all looked-after children at 31 March 2014.

Trend: Although the number of looked-after children who had three or more placements has been decreasing over the past ten years, since 2011 the proportion of looked-after children with three or more placements remained static at around 9 per cent. This figure fell for the first time in three years to 8 per cent in 2014.

Northern Ireland

Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year

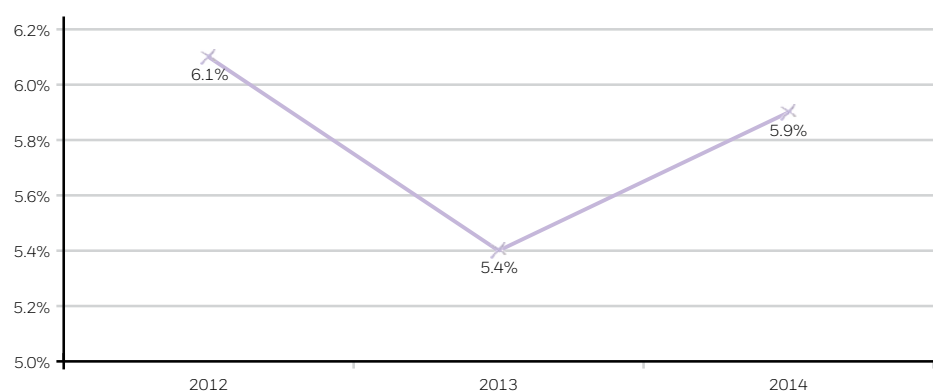


Latest figure: There were 349 looked-after children who had three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2014. This was 12 per cent of all looked-after children at 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of children who had three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2014 was higher than in all previous years for which data is available (349). The proportion of looked-after children with three or more placements returned to 2011 levels (12 per cent) after a dip in 2013 to 8 per cent.

Scotland

Proportion of looked-after children who have three or more placements during the year



Latest figure: There were 915 looked-after children who had three or more placements in the year ending 31 March 2014. This was 5.9 per cent of all looked-after children at 31 March 2014.

Trend: The number of looked-after children who had three or more placements in 2014 increased to 915 from 871 in 2013. This is below the 2012 figure of 987. This variance is reflected in the proportion of looked-after children with three or more placements which increased on 2013 figures but remains below that of 2012.

Data Sources:

England: Department for Education (2014) Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2014.

Wales: StatsWales (2014) Children looked after at 31 March by local authority, number of placements during year and measure.

Northern Ireland: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (2015) Children's social care statistics, Northern Ireland, 2013/14 (data provided to the NSPCC).

Scotland: A national statistics publication for Scotland (2015) Children's social work statistics Scotland, 2013–14.

The fiscal challenges we face mean we need to minimise demand for acute or statutory services as much as possible by intervening early to prevent needs from becoming serious and entrenched.

INDICATOR 19

Child trafficking

Why is this measure important?

"Modern slavery" is the new overarching term used by the UK Government to encompass slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking. Child trafficking is the recruitment and movement of children for the purpose of exploitation and is a form of modern slavery. Child trafficking can happen across borders and internally. Children cannot give informed consent to being trafficked. It is a serious form of child abuse that causes significant harm to its victims. Victims are vulnerable to a very high level of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect while being trafficked.

Modern slavery has been identified as an issue of significance by the UK Government – in March 2015 the Modern Slavery Bill received Royal Assent. The Act consolidates current offences relating to trafficking and slavery.

This measure uses data from referrals received by the Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC)* as well as data collated by the The National Crime Agency's UK Human Trafficking Centre from a range of sources including the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).**

What are the limitations of the data?

The hidden nature of child trafficking makes it difficult to identify its true extent. Both CTAC and NRM data depends on a referral being made by a professional with concerns about a child. However, not all cases of identified trafficking will be referred, and even if a referral has been made the trafficking indicators may not always be clear. Some victims will not be identified in the first place. This means that these data sources do not necessarily reflect the full scale of child trafficking in the UK. Understanding trends in numbers of victims also poses problems. Increases in referrals may not indicate an increase in children being trafficked, but rather an increase in the numbers being identified.

Data availability and comparability

Figures from the National Crime Agency include data on children trafficked within the UK, whereas CTAC's data only includes children trafficked to the UK from overseas. CTAC's data is available for the UK as a whole, for the past seven years. This data is shared with the National Crime Agency and is added to its figures on child trafficking and exploitation. The National Crime Agency figures were chosen because its 2014 report *NCA Strategic Assessment: the nature and scale of human trafficking in 2013* makes use of the now-disbanded UK Human Trafficking Centre statistics that were included in *How Safe Are Our Children? 2014*. Thus the dataset is consistent and allows for ongoing analysis of trends. As in 2014, no new data breaking down trafficking figures by nation has been identified so a nation-level analysis has not been included.



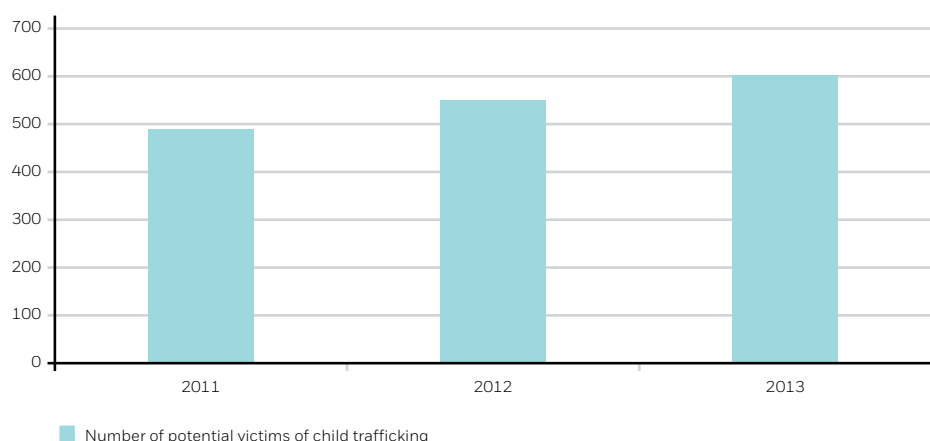
KEY MESSAGES

- **The National Crime Agency estimates that there were 602 child victims of trafficking in 2013, up 10 per cent from 549 in 2012.**
- **160 children were referred to the NSPCC Child Trafficking Advice Centre (CTAC) between November 2013 and October 2014.**
- **The most frequent exploitation type in referrals is criminal activity, followed by sexual exploitation.**
- **38 per cent of children referred to CTAC originate from Asia, followed by Africa (30 per cent), and Europe (26 per cent).**

*CTAC was launched in 2007 and provides a UK-wide service offering advice to professionals with concerns about child trafficking. The service receives referrals from a range of professionals across the country.

**The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a victim identification and support process which is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies involved in a trafficking case (eg police, UK Visa and Immigration, local authorities and NGOs) to cooperate, share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support.

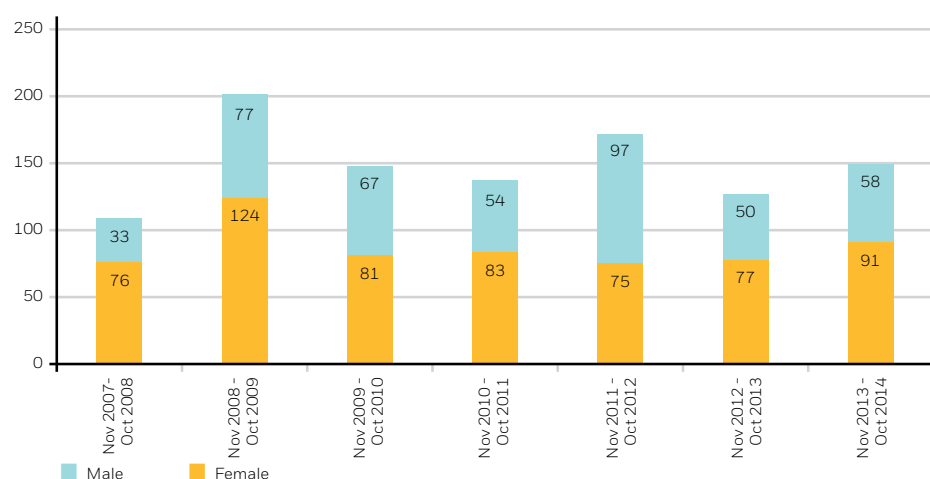
Estimated number of potential victims of child trafficking



In 2013 the National Crime Agency estimated that there were 602 child victims of trafficking, up 10 per cent from 549 in 2012. Of the total, 394 (65 per cent) were female, 177 (30 per cent) were male, and in 31 (5 per cent) of the cases the gender was unknown.

The National Crime Agency's data shows the most prevalent exploitation types for trafficked children were sexual exploitation (236, ie 40 per cent) and criminal exploitation (112, ie 19 per cent).

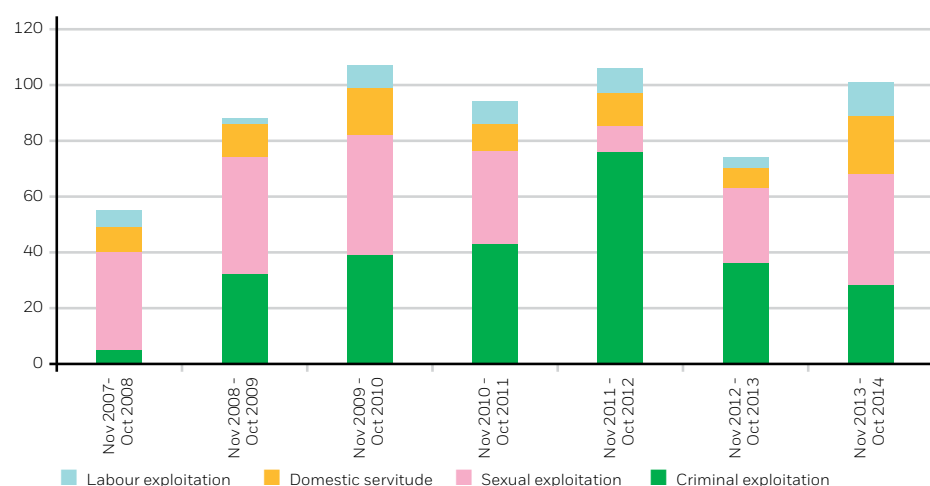
Number of children referred to CTAC



Latest figure: Between November 2013 and October 2014, 160 children were referred to CTAC – 91 female, 58 male and 11 cases in which the gender was unknown. In the three months following the launch of the Modern Slavery helpline on 31 July 2014, CTAC saw a 71 per cent rise in referrals.

Trend: Between November 2012 and October 2013, 132 children were referred to CTAC – 77 female, 50 male and 5 cases where the gender was unknown. Thus there has been an increase in both the number of girls and boys referred from 2012/13 to 2013/14 by 21 per cent.

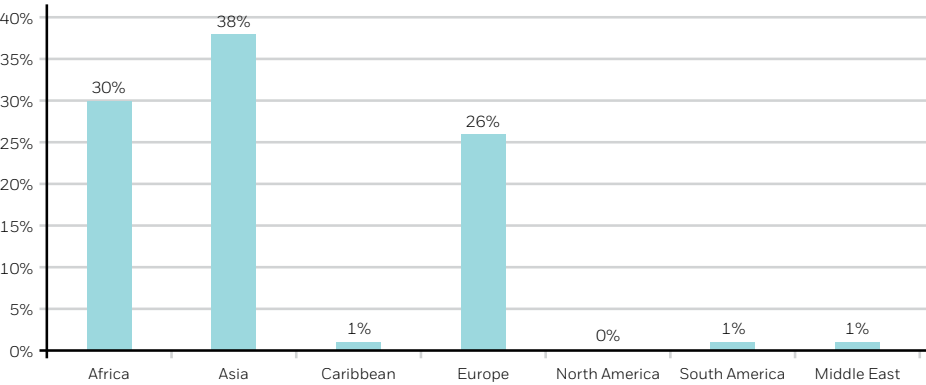
CTAC referrals by main exploitation type:*



This chart shows some of the main forms of exploitation experienced by victims of child trafficking referred to CTAC over the past seven years. Overall sexual exploitation forms the largest exploitation type. There has been a 48 per cent increase in sexual exploitation from 2012/13 to 2013/14. Criminal exploitation is the second most common exploitation type. This category covers cannabis cultivation, street crimes and possible benefit fraud where children are living with unrelated adults in informal fostering situations. Both domestic servitude and labour exploitation have increased this year in comparison to last.

*This is an illustrative list and does not cover all forms of exploitation.

Region of origin of CTAC referrals



Asia is the region of origin for 38 per cent of children referred to CTAC. This is followed by Africa, which accounts for 30 per cent of referrals, and Europe for 26 per cent.

38 per cent of children referred to the Child Trafficking Advice Centre originate from Asia, followed by Africa (30 per cent), and Europe (26 per cent).

INDICATOR 20

Public attitudes to child abuse and neglect

Why is this indicator important?

Public attitudes matter because they guide behaviour and because we all have a responsibility to take action to keep children safe. Importantly, evidence tells us that if people have greater understanding of the drivers of abuse and neglect, they are more likely to support interventions and solutions, and to take action to keep children safe.

Limitations of the data

Our data is drawn from two quantitative surveys. The “tracker survey” is a quarterly survey commissioned by NSPCC from YouGov. It used YouGov’s panel online with a nationally representative sample of 2,001 UK adults in October 2014. The data is weighted by age, gender, social grade and government office region.

The “values survey” is a random sample of 690 UK adults drawn from a larger experimental survey of 9,650 that was nationally representative. Because of random assignment to this group, the smaller sample is still representative of the UK population. The data was collected in 2014.

Data availability and comparability

Comparable data is not available for the four nations.

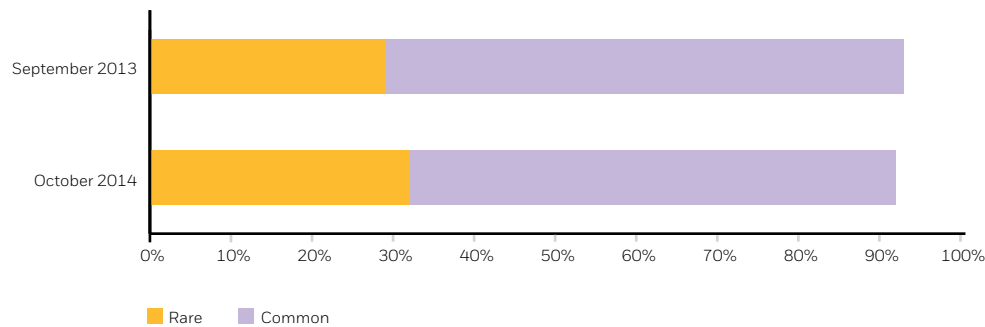


KEY MESSAGES

- **Awareness of the high level of abuse and neglect continues to be fairly strong with most people describing them as “common”.**
- **People are highly aware that abuse can happen in all kinds of families and that it may be perpetrated by children or young people.**
- **Most people are not clear on how to take action to keep a child safe.**

Public awareness of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in the UK

Tracker survey: Which of these best describes how prevalent you think child abuse and neglect is in the UK?*



Public awareness of abuse and neglect is strong. According to our tracker survey, 60 per cent of the public said that child abuse and neglect were common in the UK, while 32 per cent thought they were rare. Men were almost twice as likely than women to say child abuse was rare (41 per cent vs. 22 per cent). The public's awareness of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect has not significantly shifted since the 2013 survey.

Public awareness of the nature of child abuse and neglect in the UK

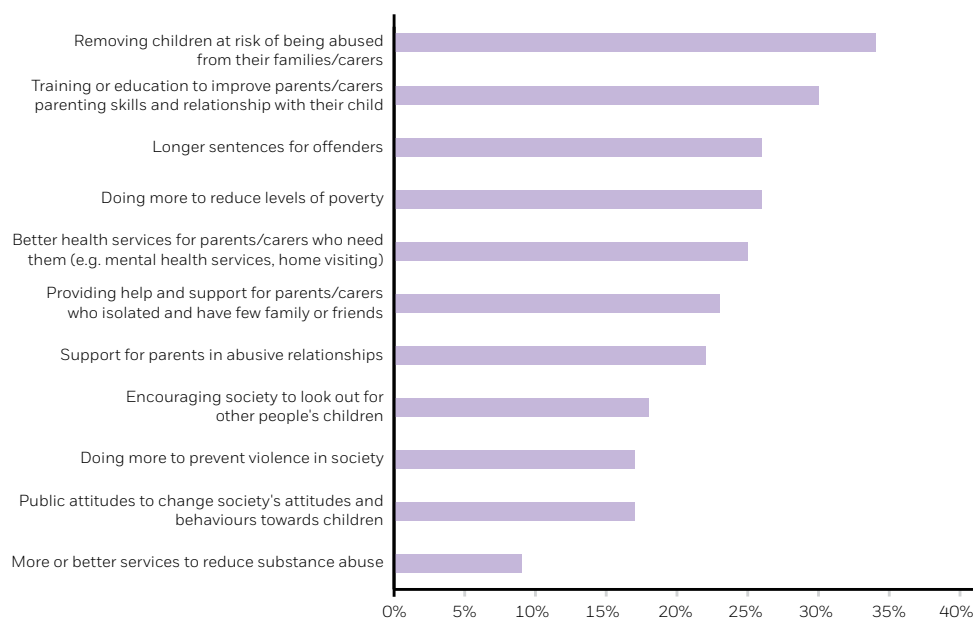
Values Survey – Do you agree with the following statement?	The percentage of respondents who agreed with the statement
Along with adults, other children can abuse children	87%
Child abuse and neglect happen in well off families as well as poorer families	86%
Child abuse and neglect is probably happening close to my area right now	74%
Disabled children and children from minority ethnic groups are more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than others	61%

Our values survey found a good level of understanding of the nature of abuse. There were high levels of agreement with statements about the fact that abuse and neglect occur across all segments of the population. For example, support for the idea that "child abuse and neglect happen in well-off families as well as poorer families" was at 86 per cent.

Respondents also appreciated that abuse can be perpetrated by peers and other children, with levels of support reaching 87 per cent for the following statement: "Along with adults, other children can abuse children".

Solutions to tackle child abuse and neglect

Tracker survey: Which, if any, of the following statements do you think are potential solutions to tackling child abuse and neglect (multiple choice, up to 3)



Our tracker survey asks people about the solutions to abuse and neglect that they would support. The most popular solution identified by people in the tracker survey was "removing children at risk of being abused from their families/carers" (34 per cent), followed by "training or education to improve parents'/carers' parenting skills and relationship with their child" (30 per cent).

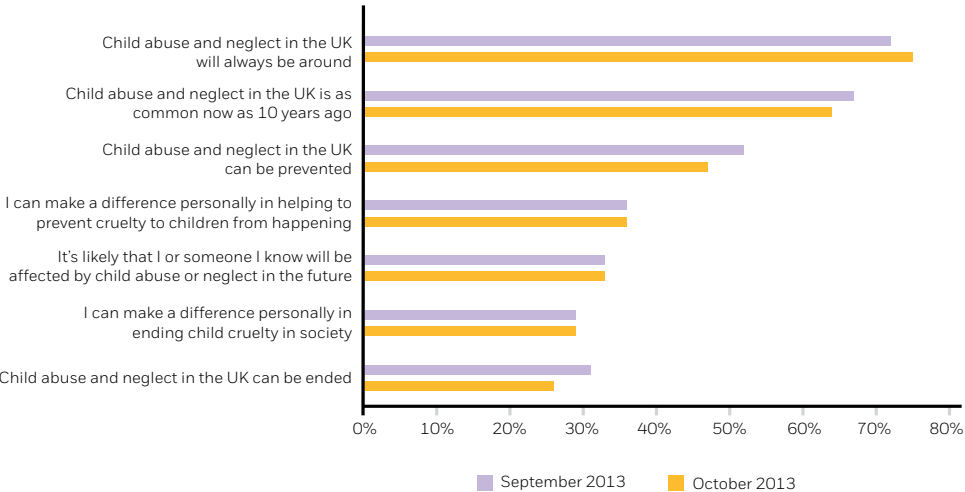
* Percentages do not add up to 100 as the "don't know" responses are not shown.

Solutions to tackle child abuse and neglect

Values survey – Do you agree with the following statement?	Level of support
All adults who work with children should have rigorous background checks	91%
We can depend on the government to help deal with child abuse and neglect	49%
We should make sure that child protection services are fully funded and able to do their job	83%
It is vital for public services to act quickly if there is any sign that a child needs help	85%



Having a personal impact on ending child abuse and neglect
Tracker survey: To what extent do you agree that ...



Values Survey – Do you agree with the following statement?	Level of support
There are things I can do to help neglected children	58%
There are things I can do to help prevent child neglect	59%
The consequences of child abuse and neglect eventually affect the whole of society.	73%
Many of the problems to do with crime, substance abuse and mental health that Britain faces are the result of child abuse and neglect.	59%
When one child has problems and fails to succeed, everyone suffers.	55%
Taking steps to alleviate the problems caused by child abuse and neglect will help us all.	79%
Abuse and neglect are problems that keep us from moving forward as a country.	62%

In contrast, our values survey found that support for policies and procedures that focused on safety regulations was high. Support for the idea that “All adults who work with children should have rigorous background checks” was 91 per cent. However, there was low support for policies that were clearly linked to people’s trust and faith in the government’s ability to look after the wellbeing of children. For example, there was 49 per cent support for the statement: “We can depend on the government to help deal with child abuse and neglect”. There was much higher support for similar questions that did not include language about “government”, for example: “We should make sure that child protection services are fully funded and able to do their job” or “It is vital for public services to act quickly if there is any sign that a child needs help” (83 and 85 per cent respectively).

In October 2014, our tracker survey found that almost three-quarters of the public (72 per cent) agreed that “child abuse and neglect in the UK will always be around” but more than half of the public (52 per cent) agreed that “child abuse and neglect can be prevented in the UK” which has remained consistent since 2013.

Approximately one-third of the public agree that they “can make a difference personally to prevent cruelty to children from happening” (36 per cent) and “can make a difference personally in ending child cruelty in society” (29 per cent).

However, our values survey found higher levels of agreement among respondents that they could do something to tackle neglect. Support for the statements “There are things I can do to help neglected children” or “There are things I can do to help prevent child neglect” were at 58 and 59 per cent respectively.

Support for statements that asked respondents to indicate their agreement that abuse and neglect had an impact right across society was evident. For example, there was 55 per cent support for the idea that “When one child has problems and fails to succeed, everyone suffers”.

Over 80 per cent of people in the UK agree that “We should make sure that child protection services are fully funded and able to do their job”.



Glossary

Child in need (CIN)

A child in need is a child who is unlikely to have, or have the opportunity to have, a reasonable standard of health and development without any support provided by a public authority.

Child protection plan / Child protection register

Children subject to plans or on registers are deemed to be at risk of harm. Plans and registers record details regarding children where there are concerns about their safety. Despite a difference in terminology, plans and registers are roughly the same. In England a child may be subject to a child protection plan (CPP) if they are deemed to be at risk of on-going harm. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have retained the use of child protection registers (CPR).

Child protection systems in the UK

Services to safeguard and protect children in the UK are underpinned by legislation, guidance and policies. As power is devolved within the UK, differences between the respective child protection systems have become increasingly pronounced. In comparing information about child abuse in each of the four nations, it is important to understand the different contexts in which the statistics have been compiled.

Each nation's approach is founded on key pieces of child protection legislation about the welfare of children, covering support for children in need as well as children in need of protection. In England and Wales these are the Children Acts of 1989 and 2004; in Northern Ireland, the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Act 2011; and in Scotland, the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

England

Child protection in England is the overall responsibility of the Department for Education (DfE), which issues guidance to local authorities. The most recent guidance is Working together to safeguard children. England's 148 Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) use this guidance to produce their own procedures that should be followed by practitioners and professionals who come into contact with children and their families in their local authority area. LSCBs are responsible for ensuring that the key agencies involved in safeguarding children work effectively together in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at the local level. Their core membership is set out in the Children Act 2004, and includes local authorities, health bodies, the police and others.

Northern Ireland

Child protection in Northern Ireland is fully devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive and Northern Ireland Government departments, in particular to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS). Northern Ireland is split into five Health and Social Care Trust areas, each of which holds delegated responsibility for child protection in that area. All five trusts abide by a single set of child protection procedures (Area Child Protection Committees' Regional Policy and Procedures 2005) which is based on the DHSSPS guidance Co-operating to Safeguard Children. The Social Services Gateway team within each trust is responsible in conjunction with the police for investigating any concerns or allegations about children being abused. Co-operating to Safeguard Children was published by the DHSSPS in 2003 to assist the then Area Child Protection Committees (ACPCs) develop strategies, policies and procedures to safeguard children who are assessed to be at risk of significant harm.

The Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland was launched on 18 September 2012 and, under the provisions of the Act, assumes responsibility for the interagency coordination of safeguarding between Board members and lead on the development of new regional procedures.

Scotland

Child protection in Scotland is the responsibility of the Scottish Government. National interagency child protection guidance was published by the Scottish Government in December 2010, providing a national framework for agencies and practitioners at a local level to work together to protect children. The child protection system in Scotland is unique within the UK in having a Children's Hearing System. This is based upon the principles that there is no meaningful distinction between children for whom there are child protection concerns and children who have committed offences and, further, that families should be involved in the processes for determining intervention and support for children. Introduced by the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, and reformed recently by the Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, the system allows for decision-making to be made by a panel of lay persons, based upon the needs of the child.

In Scotland social work departments and the police have a statutory duty to investigate and take action to protect children, where there is reasonable cause to suggest they are suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm. However offence and care and protection cases must be referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration if compulsory measures of care are needed. Anyone, not just professionals, can make such a referral. Scotland also has a national structure of local Child Protection Committees which are responsible for the strategic planning of local interagency child protection work. Although these have a similar remit to LSCBs in England, they do not have a statutory basis. They are the main network with whom the Scottish Government engages in developing child protection policy, with the Government convening national meetings of Chairs of Child Protection Committees. A government-funded post of National Child Protection Committee Coordinator sits in WithScotland, the multi-agency resource for child protection in Scotland, which provides advice, expertise, training and research to all professionals working with child protection issues. Joint inspection of child protection in Scotland was introduced by legislation in 2006 and covers education, social work, police, community social care and health services. It is carried out by a new unified independent body, the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) known as the Care Inspectorate.

Wales

Child protection in Wales is the responsibility of the Welsh Government. The Children Acts 1989 and 2004 are the current legislative framework for child protection and safeguarding. The key guidance in Wales is Safeguarding children: working together under the Children Act 2004, which was issued by the Welsh Government in 2007.

The All Wales Child Protection Procedures provide processes that all professionals in Wales must follow and there are a series of All Wales Protocols that guide the work of all professionals in certain areas such as child sexual exploitation.

The National Assembly for Wales has primary law-making powers and social services were identified as a priority in the government's legislative programme for 2011 to 2016. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 will reform social care legislation and repeal parts of the Children Act when it is enacted in 2016. The Act will strengthen collaboration by placing duties on local government, health boards and other public bodies to improve the wellbeing of people and place duties to provide preventative services and advice and assistance in order to reduce the demand on social services. The Act will repeal Parts 3 and 4 of the Children Act 1989; this includes Section 17 Children in Need which will be replaced by a duty to assess the needs of a child for care and support, meet eligible needs and consider providing preventative services or information, advice and assistance. The Act also is establishing six Safeguarding Children Boards (to replace the 22 LSCBs) in Wales and a National Independent Safeguarding Board. The Welsh Government is currently consulting on regulations and codes of practice in readiness for implementation of the Act in April 2016, which will supersede the current Working Together guidance.

Contact sexual abuse

For this definition statutory contact sexual offences were restricted to: if under 18 and perpetrated in a position of trust; if under 16 and perpetrated by an adult relative; and under 13 and perpetrated by any other non-resident adult.

Disabled child

There are significant variations in the way that childhood disability is defined in the UK. The term “disabled children” applies to children with a wide range of physical, sensory, and cognitive impairments. The impairments will vary in severity for each child and their needs may be complex, severe, multiple or profound. Disabled children are automatically categorised as being “children in need” under the Children Act 1989.

Intimate partner abuse

Abuse that occurs within an intimate partner relationship. The duration of the relationship is varied, from one day to years. There is no age restriction for this type of abuse.

Looked-after children

The term “looked-after children and young people” is generally used to mean those looked after by the state. Each nation, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, has specific legislation that defines who is looked after. “This includes those who are subject to a care order or temporarily classed as looked after on a planned basis for short breaks or respite care”.

Looked after at home with parent(s)

In Scotland, where the child or young person is subject to a Supervision Requirement with the condition of residence at home with parent(s) or “relevant person(s)” as defined in Sec. 93(2)(b) of the Children’s (Scotland) Act 1995.

Odds Ratio

An odds ratio is the measure of an outcome happening in two distinct groups. The odds ratio tells us how much more likely it is that someone who is exposed to the factor under study will develop the outcome as compared to someone who is not exposed. Odds ratios greater than 1 mean that there is a greater likelihood of that event happening.

Overall maltreatment

Defined by the NSPCC Prevalence study¹ as: all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power (Butchart, Putney, Furniss, and Kahane, 2006, p.9).

Physical violence

This term is used to describe a combination of screener questions from the NSPCC Prevalence study that are analysed together.² Physical violence includes only violence perpetrated by adults and includes abuse such as being attacked with or without a weapon, being kicked, hit or otherwise physically hurt. It does not include ‘smacking’.

Recorded offences

Police record a crime if, on the balance of probabilities, the circumstances as reported amount to a crime defined by law and if there is no credible evidence to the contrary.

Referral

A referral is the first stage of the child protection process in all four nations. A referral will be made about children because some aspect of their life is giving cause for concern. Anyone who has concerns about the safety or welfare of a child can make a referral to statutory services. However it is worth noting that some referrals are for services (eg disabled children) so not every referral is the first stage of the child protection process.

Regular physical treatment / discipline

Screener questions asked in both the 1998 and the 2009 NSPCC Prevalence study to 18 to 24 year olds³. The questions asked about physical discipline by a parent/ carer such as smacking on the bottom, hands, arms or legs and the frequency of such discipline.

Severe maltreatment

A combination of screener questions from the NSPCC Prevalence study that are analysed together.⁴ This is a combination of subjective and objective questions. Only acts of maltreatment by adults are included. These acts include severe physical abuse, severe neglect and contact sexual abuse.

1 Radford, L.; Corral, S.; Bradley, C.; Fisher, H.; Bassett, C.; Howat, N. and Collishaw, S. (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today, London: NSPCC, p. 7

2 Ibid, p. 44

3 Ibid, p. 110

4 Ibid, p. 7

Severe neglect

This term is used to describe a combination of screener questions from the NSPCC Prevalence study that are analysed together.⁵ Only acts of violence perpetrated by parents or guardians are included. Acts of severe neglect include acts of medical and supervisory neglect that occurred with high lifetime frequency (more than six times in the young person's lifetime), resulted in some type of physical harm and acts which the young person felt amounted to 'child neglect' or of 'criminal' nature. All neglect screener questions are adjusted for age appropriate responses.

Severe physical abuse

This term is used to describe a combination of screener questions from the NSPCC Prevalence study that are analysed together.⁶ Only acts of violence perpetrated by adults are included. Acts of violence which were included were where a weapon which could potentially cause harm was used, resulted in an injury, had a high frequency (more than six times in the young person's lifetime), more than two types of physical violence perpetrated or if the young person felt the acts perpetrated upon them were 'child abuse' or 'criminal'.

Statistically Significant

To know if this association is significant – or the likelihood that the outcome is caused by something other than random chance – a significance test is used. The smaller the 'p' value, the higher the significance. The higher the significance the higher the probability that the association is not by chance. This means that if an association is not statistically significant we cannot rule out that the association was by chance.

⁵ Ibid, p. 132

⁶ Ibid, p. 132



Endnotes

References for Section 1: Overview

- ¹ Dr Kirkup, B CBE Marshall, P (June 2014), *Jimmy Savile investigation: Broadmoor Hospital. Report to the West London Mental Health NHS Trust and the Department of Health*
- ² Jay, A OBE (August 2014) *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997 – 2013*
- ³ (2014) <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Inquiry-into-institutional-child-abuse-13b2.aspx>
- ⁴ The Peter Wanless and Richard Whittam Review (2014) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-peter-wanless-and-richard-whittam-qc-review>
- ⁵ (2015) <https://childsexualabuseinquiry.independent.gov.uk>
- ⁶ Coffey, A (October 2014) *Real Voices Child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester*
- ⁷ England (39 per cent); Wales (13 per cent); Northern Ireland (26 per cent); Scotland (12 per cent). England, Wales and northern Ireland figures are for under 18 year olds, Scotland figures are for under 16 year olds. See Indicator 4 for more detail.
- ⁸ See Indicator 8 for more detail.
- ⁹ See Indicator 7 for more detail.
- ¹⁰ Allnock, D and Miller, P, (2013) *No one noticed, no one heard: a study of disclosures of childhood abuse*
- ¹¹ Allnock, D. et al. (2012) *In demand: therapeutic services for children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse* (Child abuse review, Vol.21, Iss.5)
- ¹² Munro E. (2011). *The Munro Review of Child Protection Final Report: A Child Centered System*. Department for Education: London. Available: <URL> <http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/> [June 15 2011].
- ¹³ NSPCC and Nuffield Foundation (2009) *Measuring Up?*
- ¹⁴ Martin, L et al. (November 2014) *Social workers' knowledge and confidence when working with cases of child sexual abuse. What are the issues and challenges?*
- ¹⁵ Hanson, E and Holmes, D, (2013) *That Difficult Age: Developing a more effective response to risks in adolescence*
- ¹⁶ In England, Wales and Northern Ireland neglect is the most common cause for being subject to a child protection plan or on a child protection register. In Scotland neglect is one of the main concerns along with emotional abuse, parental substance misuse and domestic abuse. See Indicator 14 for more detail.
- ¹⁷ See Indicator 5 for more detail.
- ¹⁸ *How Safe Are Our Children?*, (2013), page 5
- ¹⁹ See Core Info leaflets on NSPCC.org for more detail.
- ²⁰ See Indicator 8 for more detail.
- ²¹ See Indicator 7 for more detail.
- ²² See Indicator 1 and 2 for more detail.
- ²³ Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, section 9 and Public Bodies (Joint Working)(Scotland) Act 2014, section 31
- ²⁴ Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, Section 15
- ²⁵ Chowdry, H, Oppenheim, C (2015) *Spending on late intervention: how we can do better for less*
- ²⁶ Ibid p9

References for Section 2: Measuring section

- ¹ Department for Education (2013) *Working together to safeguard children* and (2015) *Revisions to working together to safeguard children*.
- ² In Wales the key guidance is *Safeguarding Children: Working together under the Children Act 2004* and the *All Wales Child Protection Procedures* (2008). In Scotland the key guidance is *National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland* (2014). In Northern Ireland, key guidance is set out in Area Child Protection Committees' *Regional Policy and Procedures* (2005).

