

Quarterly Monitoring

3 March 2005

Assessment by Occupational Therapists Northern Ireland: December 2004

Key Points

Persons Waiting for Assessment

?? At 31 December 2004, there were 10,700 persons waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists. This represents a decrease of 45 (0.4%) from the number recorded at the previous quarter (10,745), but an increase of 1,964 (22%) from the recorded position at 31 December 2003.

?? Of all persons waiting at the end of the current quarter, 2,686 (25%) were priority cases and 8,014 (75%) were other cases. Priority cases waiting increased by 98 (4%), and other (non-priority) cases waiting decreased by 143 (2%) from the numbers recorded at the previous quarter. Since December 2003, priority cases waiting increased by 467 (21%), and other cases waiting increased by 1,497 (23%).

?? 16% of priority cases and 43% of other cases were waiting for six months or more. As for the previous quarter, 17% of priority cases and 42% of other cases were waiting for six months or more.

?? Despite the recent increase, there has been an overall decrease since 2000 in the number of cases waiting for assessment.

Detailed notes and definitions are shown in the attached Notes.

Referrals

?? During the quarter ending 31 December 2004, there were 11,358 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 972 (8%) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 387 (4%) from the quarter ending December 2003.

?? Of all referrals in the quarter, 54% were in respect of priority cases and 46% were in respect of other cases.

Assessments Commenced

?? There were 9,490 assessments commenced by community occupational therapists during the current quarter, a decrease of 529 (5%) from the previous quarter, but an increase of 321 (4%) from the quarter ending December 2003.

?? Of all assessments commenced, 5,782 (61%) were in respect of priority cases and 3,708 (39%) in respect of other cases.

?? 61% of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within two weeks of referral. 59% of other assessments met the Charter Standard by commencing within three months of referral.

?? In recent years, there has been an overall increase in the number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases.

Contents

Part A: Persons Waiting for Assessment.....	1
Quarterly Figures.....	1
Trends.....	5
Part B: Referrals.....	7
Quarterly Figures.....	7
Yearly Figures.....	9
Trends.....	9
Part C: Assessments Commenced.....	10
Quarterly Figures.....	10
Yearly Figures.....	13
Trends.....	14

Part A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Quarterly Figures

Numbers of Persons Waiting for Assessment

Table A.1 provides an analysis of the number of persons waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, according to whether these were priority cases or other cases. This table shows the figures for 31 December 2004, and includes comparisons with the position at the end of the previous quarter and the end of the corresponding quarter last year.

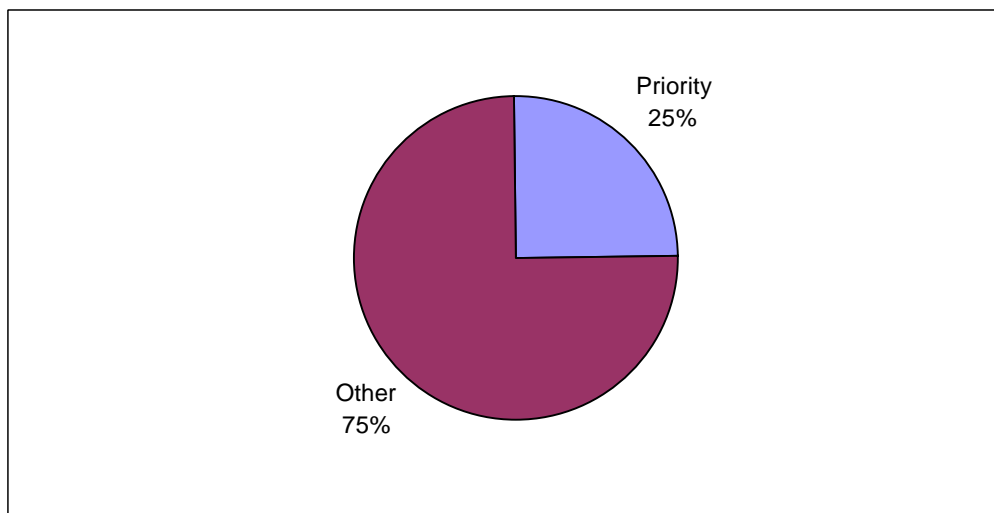
Table A.1 Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Priority Cases	2,686	2,588	2,219	+98	+467
Other Cases	8,014	8,157	6,517	-143	+1,497
All Persons Waiting	10,700	10,745	8,736	-45	+1,964

Source: CP4

Figure A.1 shows the percentages of priority and other cases waiting for assessment at the end of December 2004.

Figure A.1 Persons Waiting for Assessment, according to Priority and Other Cases

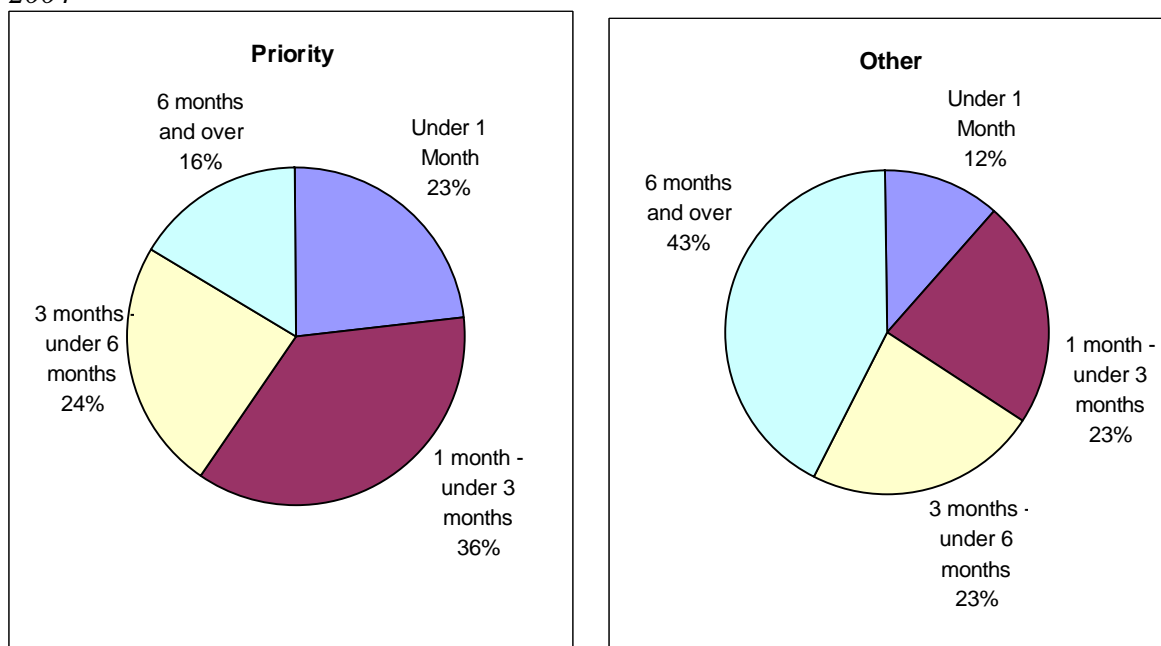


Source: CP4

Number of Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Length of Time Waiting

Figure A.2 provides an analysis of persons waiting for assessment, according to length of time waiting, for the quarter ending December 2004. This is shown for priority and other cases.

Figure A.2 Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Time Waiting, Quarter Ending 31 December 2004



Source: CP4

Table A.2 shows the number of persons waiting for assessment, by length of time waiting, for the current quarter, previous quarter and corresponding quarter last year. This is shown for priority cases, other cases and all cases.

Table A.2 Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Time Waiting and Quarter

(a) Priority Cases

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Under 1 month	624	731	683	-107	-59
1 month - under 3 months	969	800	685	+169	+284
3 months - under 6 months	654	606	531	+48	+123
6 months and over	439	451	320	-12	+119
All Priority Cases	2,686	2,588	2,219	+98	+467

Source: CP4

(b) Other Cases

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Under 1 month	942	1,307	942	-365	0
1 month - under 3 months	1,807	1,736	1,377	+71	+430
3 months - under 6 months	1,842	1,675	1,365	+167	+477
6 months and over	3,423	3,439	2,833	-16	+590
All Other Cases	8,014	8,157	6,517	-143	+1,497

Source: CP4

(c) All Cases

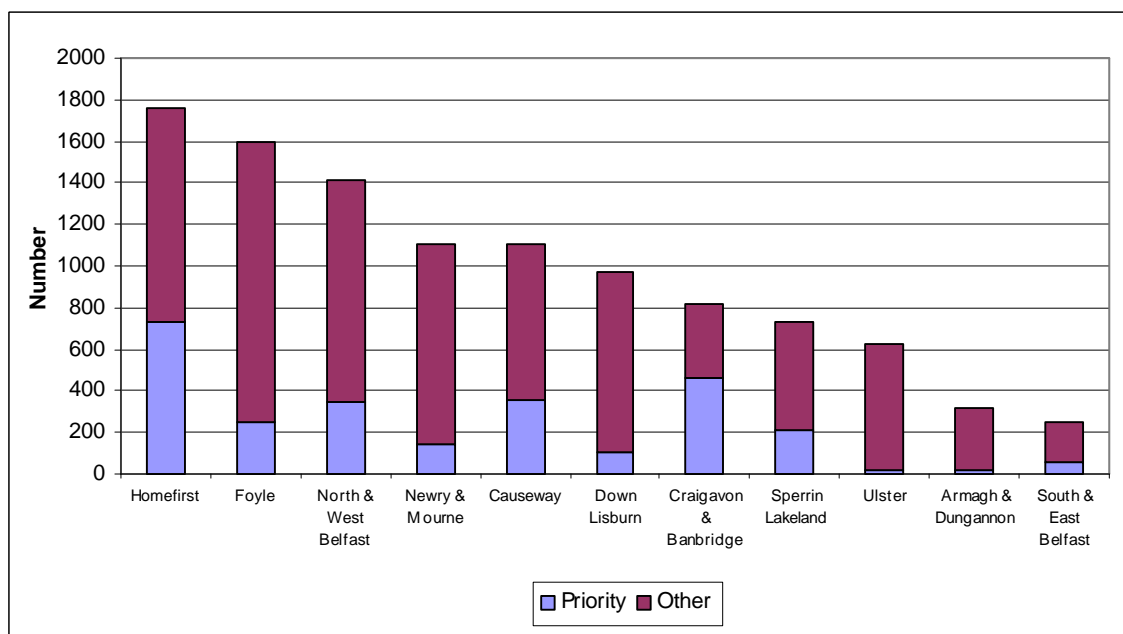
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Under 1 month	1,566	2,038	1,625	-472	-59
1 month - under 3 months	2,776	2,536	2,062	+240	+714
3 months - under 6 months	2,496	2,281	1,896	+215	+600
6 months and over	3,862	3,890	3,153	-28	+709
All Cases	10,700	10,745	8,736	-45	+1,964

Source: CP4

Number Waiting for Assessment, by Trust

An analysis for the latest quarter of the number of persons waiting for assessment by whether they were priority cases or other cases, according to Trust, is shown in Figure A.3.

Figure A.3 Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Trust, Quarter Ending December 2004



Source: CP4

Table A.3 shows, for each Trust, the number of persons waiting according to priority and other cases, and the number and percentage waiting for six months or more.

Table A.3 Persons Waiting for Assessment, by Trust, 31 December 2004

Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
Down Lisburn	101	29	29%	869	325	37%
North & West Belfast	343	0	0%	1,072	472	44%
South & East Belfast	57	0	0%	195	0	0%
Ulster	22	0	0%	600	0	0%
Causeway	357	79	22%	747	461	62%
Homefirst	726	220	30%	1,034	246	24%
Armagh & Dungannon	19	0	0%	303	48	16%
Craigavon & Banbridge	461	0	0%	360	360	100%
Newry & Mourne	143	0	0%	964	538	56%
Foyle	247	102	41%	1,348	730	54%
Sperrin Lakeland	210	9	4%	522	243	47%
Northern Ireland	2,686	439	16%	8,014	3,423	43%

Source: CP4

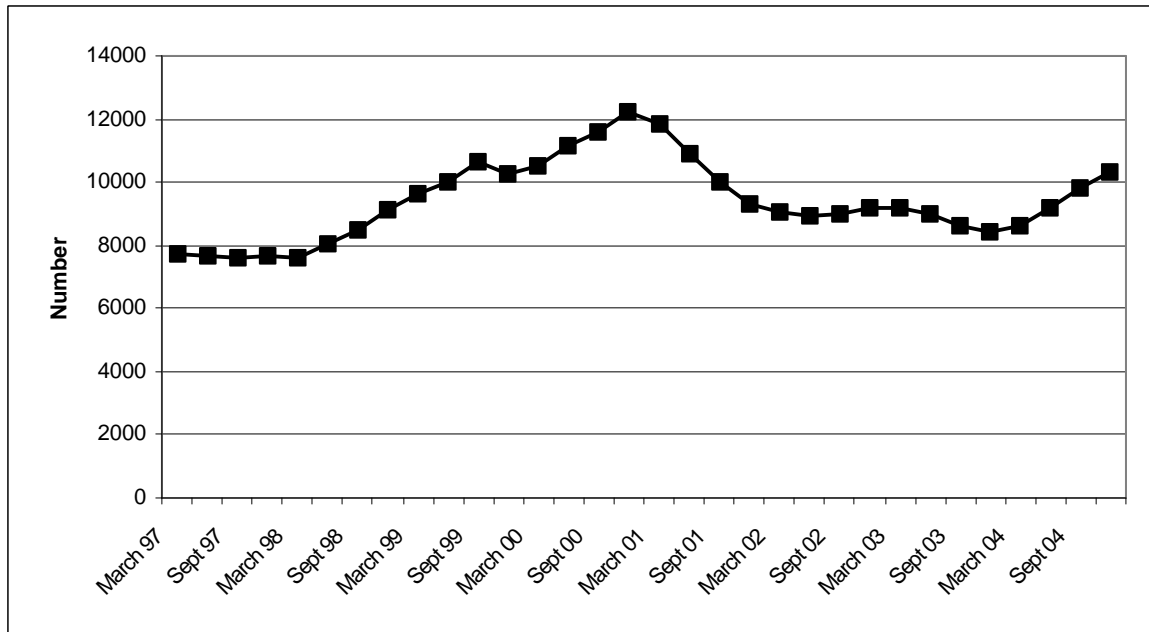
Trends

The trends described in this section are based on data which are averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for December 2004 is based on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending December 2004.

Trends in Number of Persons Waiting for Assessment

There has been an overall decrease since 2000 in the number of all persons waiting for assessment although there has been an overall increase in recent quarters (Figure A.4).

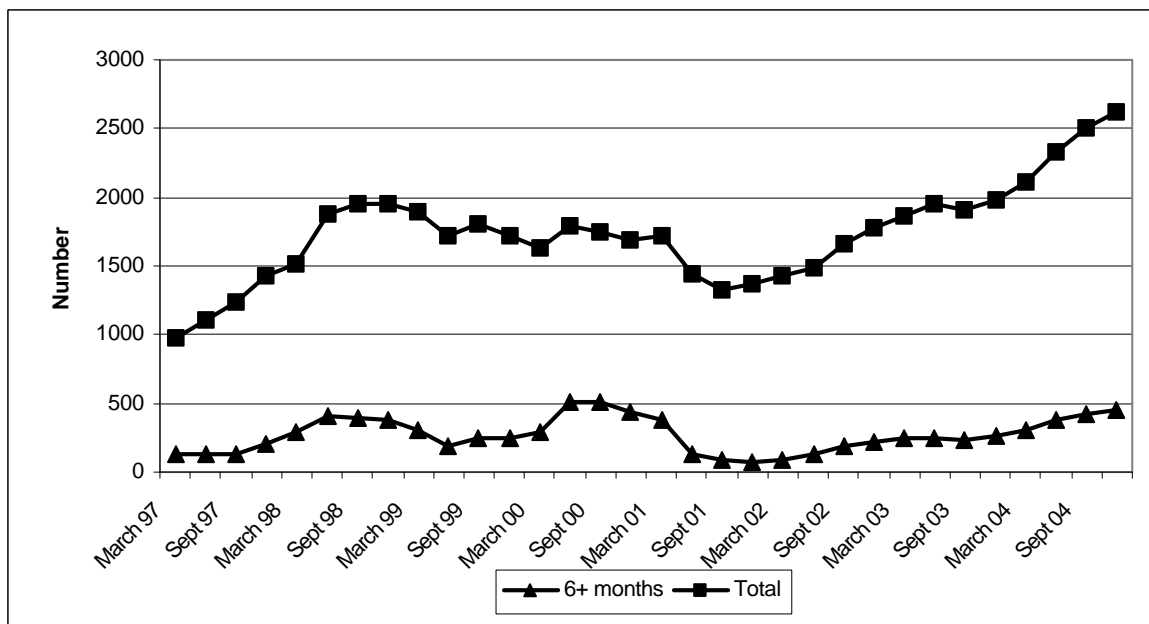
Figure A.4 Trends in Persons Waiting for Assessment



Source: CP4

In recent months, there has been an increase in the total number of priority cases waiting for assessment, and in the number of priority cases waiting for six months or more (Figure A.5).

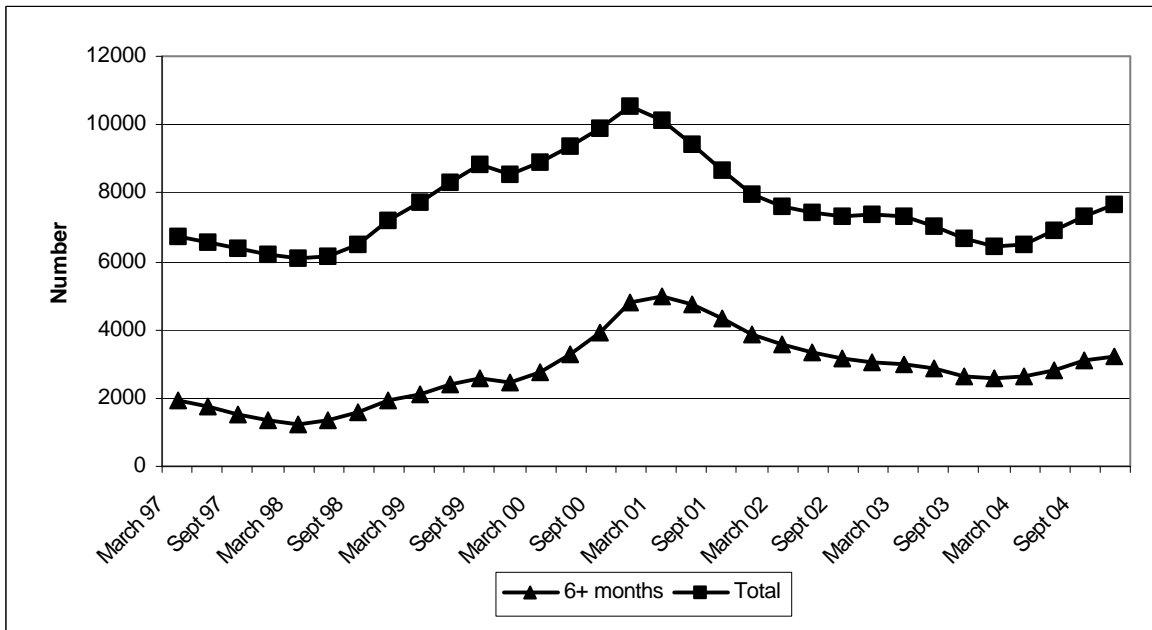
Figure A.5 Trends in Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment



Source: CP4

There has been an overall decrease since 2000 in the total number of other cases waiting for assessment and also in the total number of other cases waiting for six months or more, although there has been an overall increase in recent quarters (Figure A.6).

Figure A.6 Trends in Other Cases Waiting for Assessment



Source: CP4

Part B: Referrals

Quarterly Figures

Number of Referrals for Assessment

An analysis of the number of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, according to whether these were in respect of priority cases or other cases, for the quarter ending December 2004, is shown in Table B.4. This table includes comparisons with the previous quarter and the corresponding quarter last year.

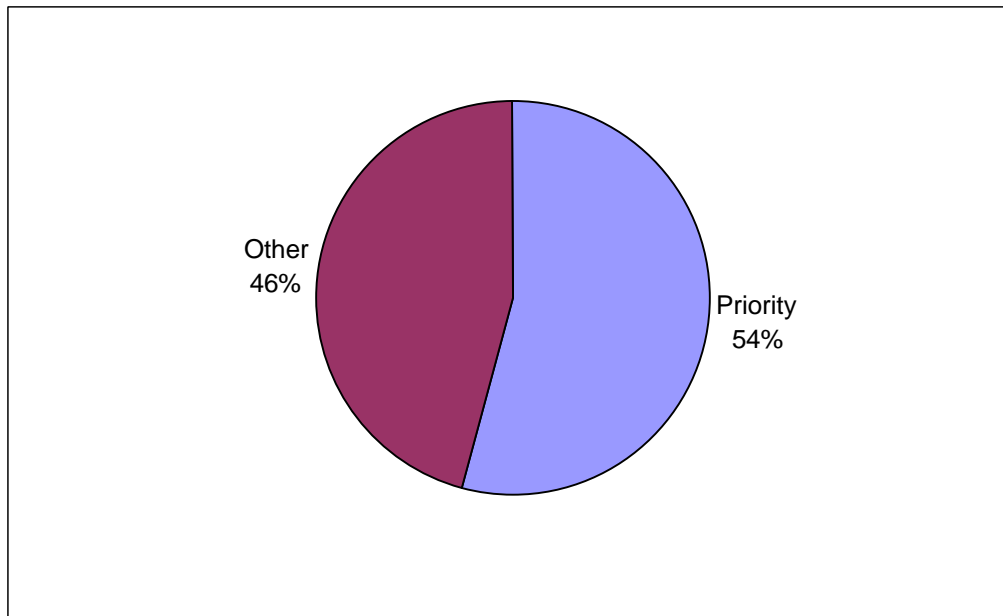
Table B.4 Referrals, by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Priority Cases	6,168	6,316	5,894	-148	+274
Other Cases	5,190	6,014	5,077	-824	+113
All Referrals	11,358	12,330	10,971	-972	+387

Source: CP4

Figure B.7 shows the percentages of referrals which were priority and other cases at the end of December 2004.

Figure B.7 Referrals, according to Priority and Other Cases

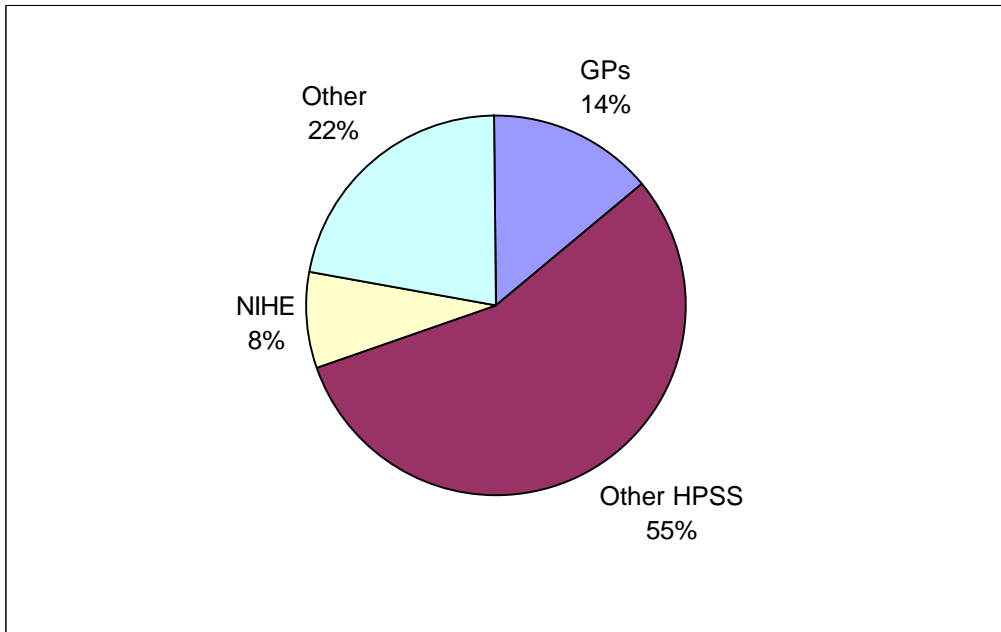


Source: CP4

Number of Referrals, by Source of Referral

Figure B.8 provides an analysis of referrals according to source, for the latest quarter.

Figure B.8 Referrals, by Source, Quarter Ending December 2004

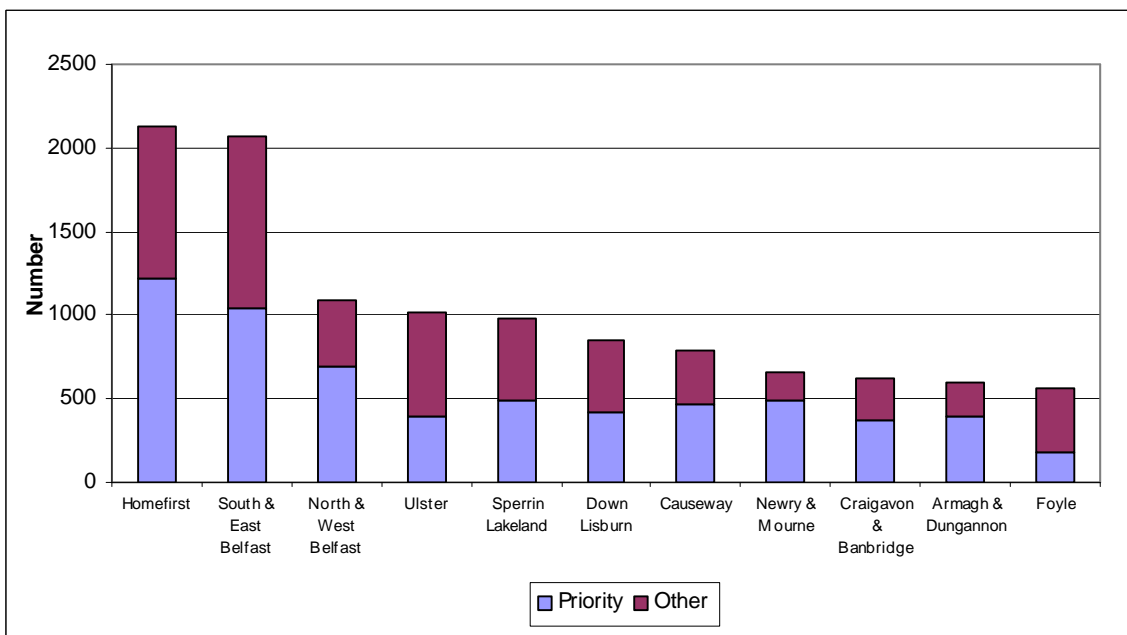


Source: CP4

Number of Referrals, by Trust

An analysis for the latest quarter of referrals by whether they were priority cases or other cases, according to Trust, is shown in Figure B.9.

Figure B.9 Referrals, by Trust, Quarter Ending December 2004



Source: CP4

Yearly Figures

Number of Referrals

Table B.5 provides an analysis of the total number of referrals, and referrals in respect of priority and other cases, for the year ending December 2004, including a comparison with the previous year.

Table B.5 Referrals, by Year

	Year Ending:		Change
	Dec 04	Dec 03	
Priority Cases	24,643	23,878	+765
Other Cases	23,127	21,194	+1,933
All Referrals	47,770	45,072	+2,698

Source: CP4

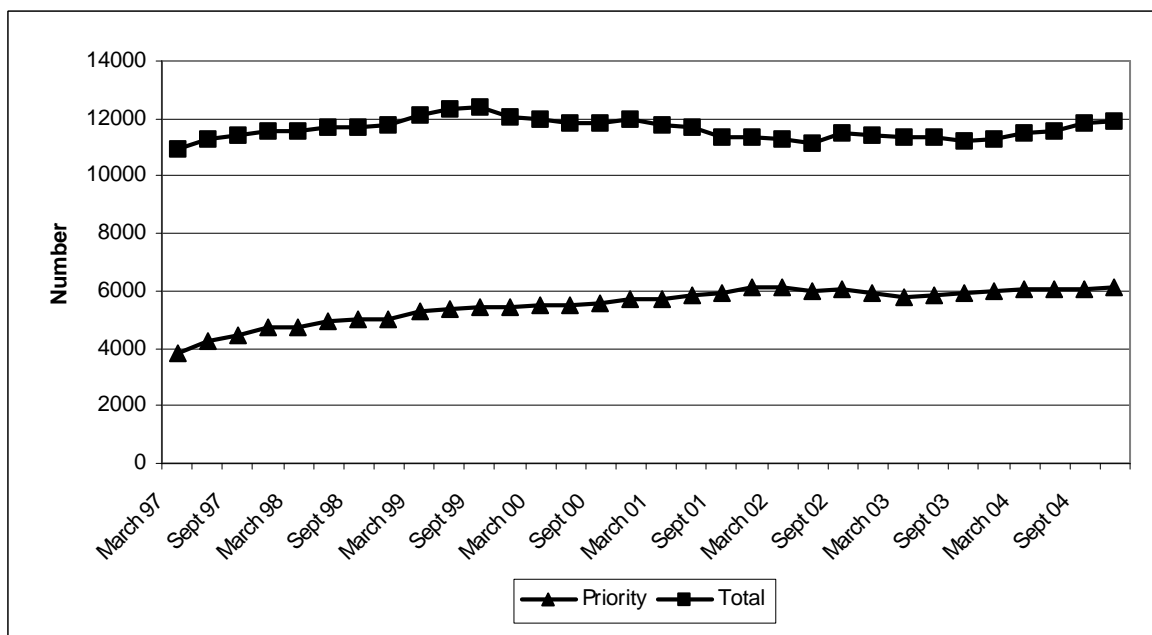
Trends

The trends described in this section are based on data which are averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for December 2004 is based on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending December 2004.

Trends in Referrals

In recent months, there has been little change in the number of referrals in respect of priority cases, but there has been a slight downward trend in the total number of referrals since 1999 (Figure B.10).

Figure B.10 Trends in Referrals



Source: CP4

Part C: Assessments Commenced

Quarterly Figures

Numbers of Assessments Commenced

Table C.6 provides an analysis of the number of assessments commenced by community occupational therapists, according to whether these were in respect of priority cases or other cases. This table shows the figures for 31 December 2004, and includes comparisons with the position at the end of the previous quarter and the end of the corresponding quarter last year.

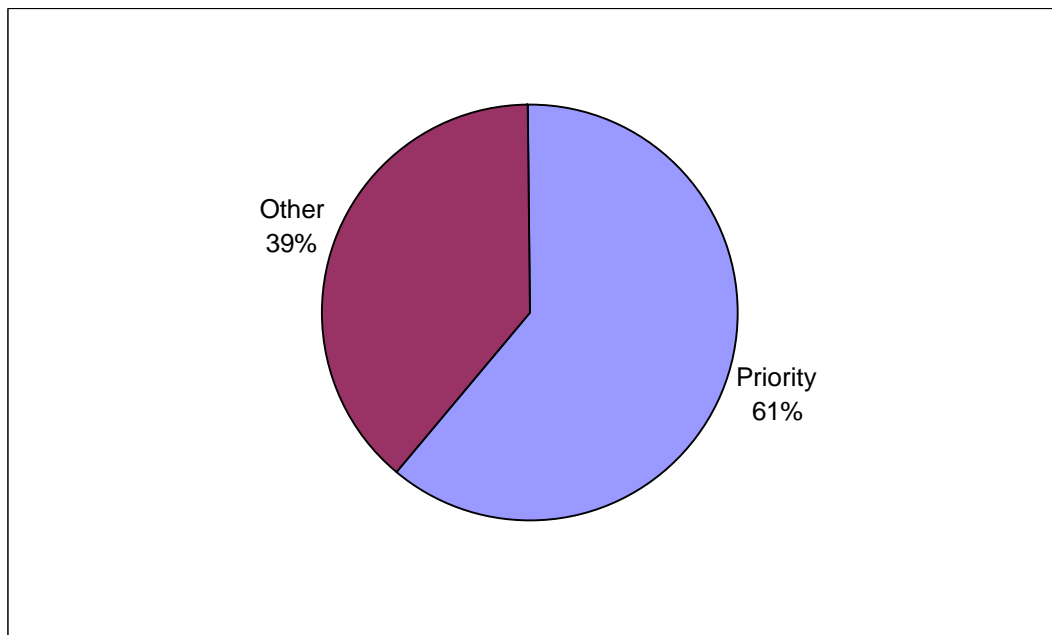
Table C.6 Assessments Commenced, by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Priority Cases	5,782	6,099	5,582	-317	+200
Other Cases	3,708	3,920	3,587	-212	+121
All Assessments Commenced	9,490	10,019	9,169	-529	+321

Source: CP4

Figure C.11 shows the percentages of assessments commenced which were priority and other cases at the end of December 2004.

Figure C.11 Assessments Commenced, according to Priority and Other Cases

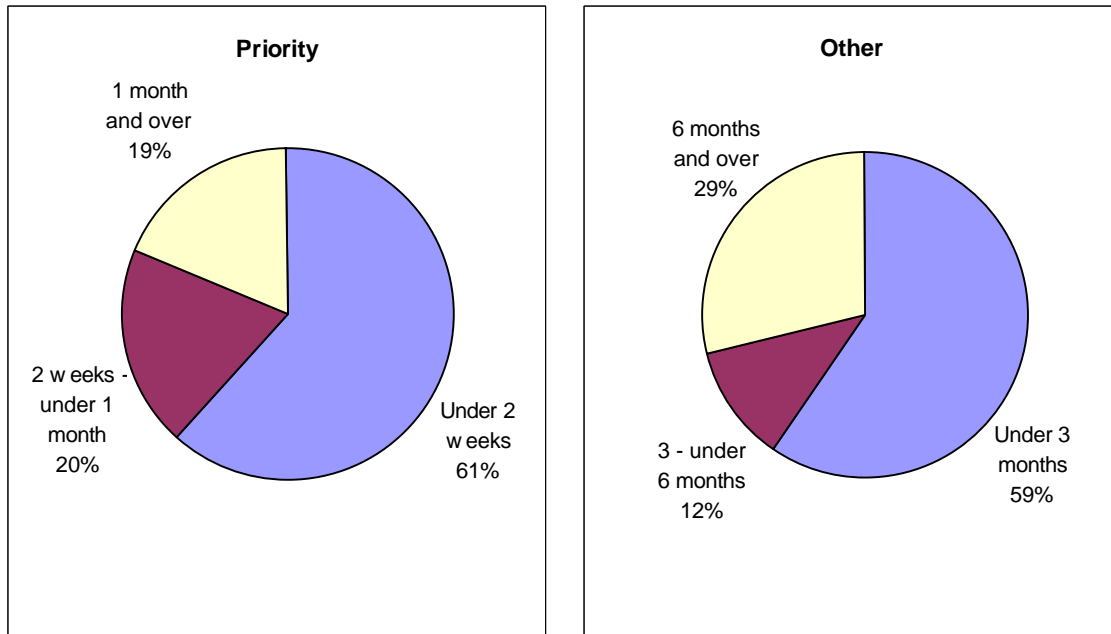


Source: CP4

Number of Assessments Commenced, by Length of Time from Referral

Figure C.12 provides an analysis of assessments commenced, according to length of time between referral and start of assessment, for the quarter ending December 2004. This is shown for priority and other cases.

Figure C.12 Assessments Commenced, by Time from Referral, Quarter Ending 31 December 2004



Source: CP4

Table C.7 shows the number of assessments commenced, by length of time from referral, for the current quarter, previous quarter and corresponding quarter last year. This is shown for priority cases and other cases.

Table C.7 Assessments Commenced, by Time from Referral and Quarter

(a) Priority Cases

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Under 2 weeks	3,550	3,874	3,592	-324	-42
2 weeks - under 1 month	1,133	870	898	+263	+235
1 month and over	1,099	1,355	1,092	-256	+7
All Priority Cases	5,782	6,099	5,582	-317	+200

Source: CP4

(b) Other Cases

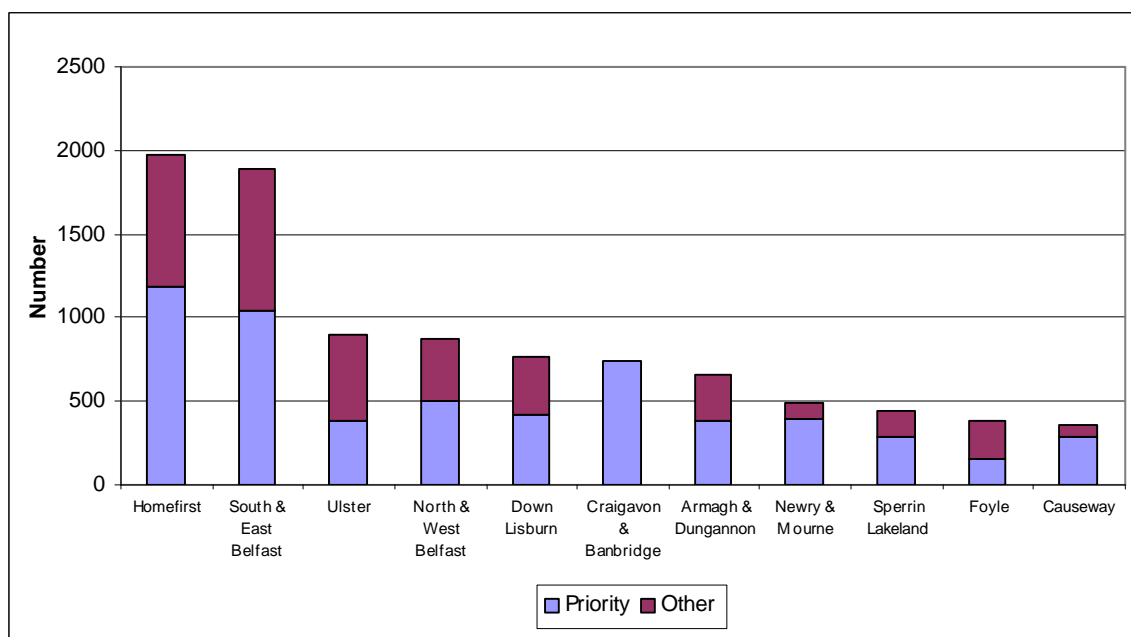
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 04	Sept 04	Dec 03		
Under 3 months	2,204	2,589	2,352	-385	-148
3 months - under 6 months	434	557	492	-123	-58
6 months and over	1,070	774	743	+296	+327
All Other Cases	3,708	3,920	3,587	-212	+121

Source: CP4

Number of Assessments Commenced, by Trust

An analysis for the latest quarter of assessments commenced, in respect of whether they were priority cases or other cases, according to Trust, is shown in Figure C.13.

Figure C.13 Assessments Commenced, by Trust, Quarter Ending December 2004



Source: CP4

Table C.8 shows, for each Trust, the number of assessments commenced according to priority and other cases, and the number and percentage commenced within the Charter Standard of two weeks for priority cases and three months for other cases.

Table C.8 Assessments Commenced, by Trust, 31 December 2004

Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Commenced	Number Commenced within 2 Weeks	Percentage Commenced within 2 Weeks	Total Commenced	Number Commenced within 3 Months	Percentage Commenced within 3 Months
Down Lisburn	413	278	67%	358	131	37%
North & West Belfast	502	314	63%	369	110	30%
South & East Belfast	1,040	701	67%	855	846	99%
Ulster	387	207	53%	514	360	70%
Causeway	283	99	35%	74	20	27%
Homefirst	1,186	673	57%	793	584	74%
Armagh & Dungannon	387	350	90%	265	87	33%
Craigavon & Banbridge	745	432	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	393	341	87%	102	6	6%
Foyle	157	56	36%	230	47	20%
Sperrin Lakeland	289	99	34%	148	13	9%
Northern Ireland	5,782	3,550	61%	3,708	2,204	59%

Source: CP4

Yearly Figures

Number of Assessments Commenced

Table C.9 provides an analysis of the total number of assessments commenced, and assessments commenced in respect of priority and other cases, for the year ending December 2004, including a comparison with the previous year.

Table C.9 Assessments Commenced, by Year

	Year Ending:		Change
	Dec 04	Dec 03	
Priority Cases	22,565	22,843	-278
Other Cases	15,281	15,660	-379
All Assessments Commenced	37,846	38,503	-657

Source: CP4

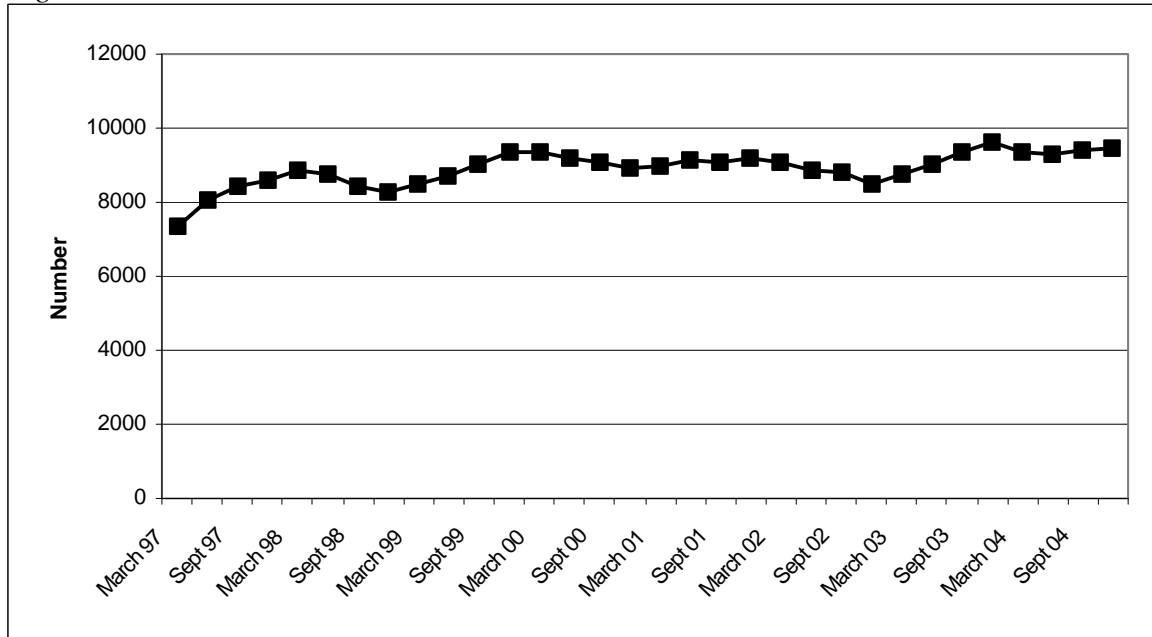
Trends

The trends described in this section are based on data which are averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for December 2004 is based on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending December 2004.

Trends in Number of Assessments Commenced

Since 1997, there has been no overall trend in the number of assessments commenced (Figure C.14).

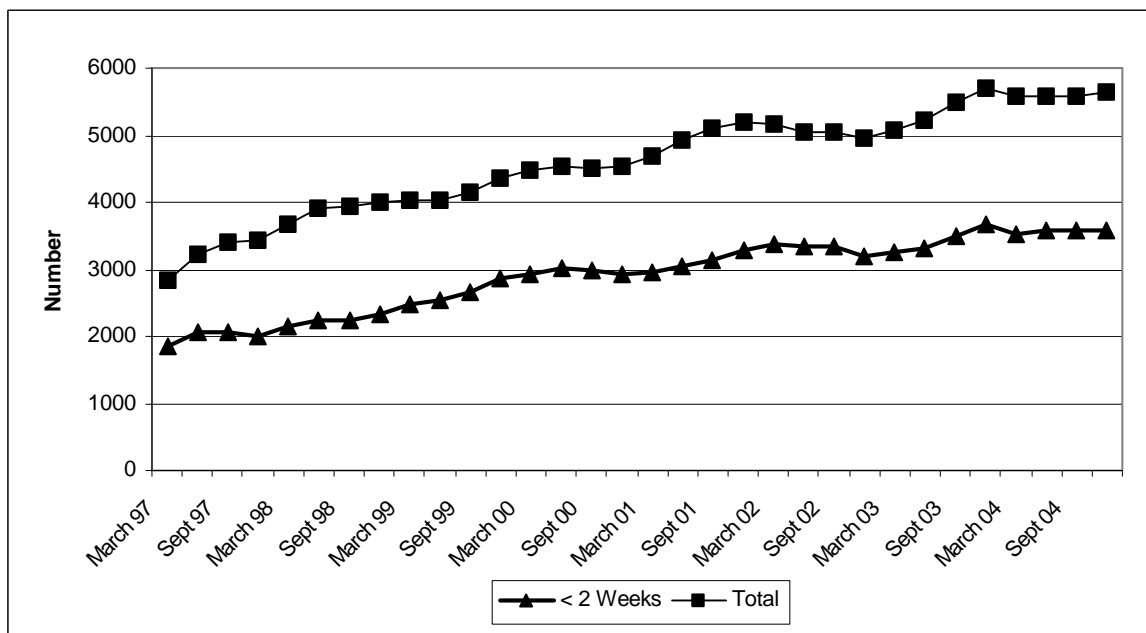
Figure C.14 Trends in Assessments Commenced



Source: CP4

Since 1997, there has been a general increase in the total number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases and also in the total number of priority cases commenced within two weeks of referral (Figure C.15).

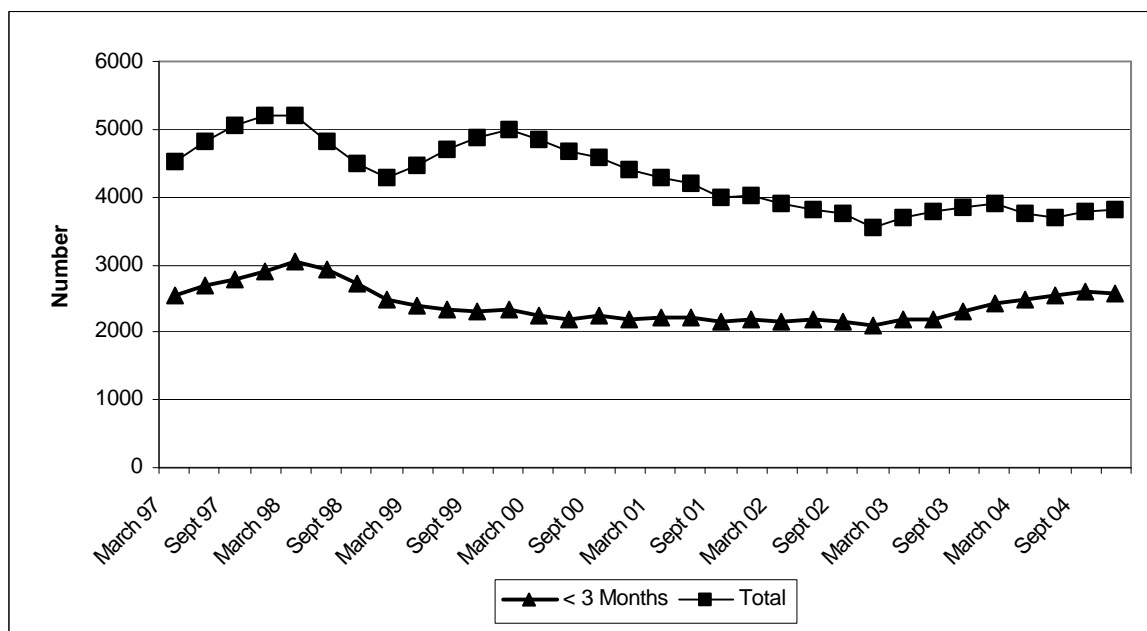
Figure C.15 Trends in Assessments Commenced in Respect of Priority Cases



Source: CP4

In recent years, there has been an overall decrease in the total number of assessments commenced in respect of other cases. Up to 2000, there was an overall decrease in the total number of other cases commenced within three months of referral, since when the figures have shown little change (Figure C.16).

Figure C.16 Trends in Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases



Source: CP4

Notes

1. Occupational therapists treat people with physical and/or psychological illness or disability in order to enable them to reach their maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of life. They assess their physical, psychological and social functions and involve them in a structured programme of treatment designed to help overcome disability.
2. Referrals mean the total number of referrals to occupational therapists for assessment from all sources during the relevant quarter. Sources of referral may be general practitioners, other Health and Personal Social Services personnel such as community nurses or social workers, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive or others such as Education and Library Boards.
3. Referrals are split into Priority and Other cases. Priority cases are defined as those being discharged from hospital and at risk, those living alone and at risk, those living with a carer who is disabled or elderly, and those who are terminally ill.
4. Assessments by community occupational therapists normally take place to determine the type of housing adaptation (which may be either a major or minor adaptation) or equipment which the service user needs to help them to reach their maximum level of function or independence. It should be noted that not all assessments result in a recommendation for a housing adaptation or item of equipment. An assessment for housing adaptation can only be designated as such when the assessment is completed.
5. Time waiting for assessment refers to the time from receipt of the referral, regardless of whether the referral is in writing or not.
6. Commencement of assessment refers to the time of the first visit to the service user's home.
7. The Charter Standard states that, for Priority cases, assessment should commence within two weeks of receipt of referral and, for Other cases, assessment should commence within three months of receipt of referral.
8. The information in this publication relates to persons aged 19 and over and to those in the Elderly Care and Physical & Sensory Disability Programmes of Care. Programmes of Care are divisions of health care, into which activity and finance data are assigned, so as to provide a common management framework. They are used to plan and monitor the health service by allowing performance to be measured, targets set and services managed on a comparative basis. There are nine Programmes of Care in total.
9. The source of the information is the quarterly return CP4.
10. Figures relating to the quarter ending March 2005 are expected to be released on 16 June 2005.
11. Some of the data may be provisional and subject to revision in subsequent quarters.

Additional Information

Further information on assessments by occupational therapists in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager
Regional Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ

Internet address: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hpss/statistics>