

Children's Services

- CH49** *Percentage of looked after children aged under 5 at 31 March who were in residential accommodation*
- CH50** *Percentage of looked after children aged 5-11 at 31 March who were in residential accommodation*
- CH51** *Percentage of looked after children aged 12-15 at 31 March who were in residential accommodation*
- CH52** *Percentage of looked after children aged 16 & over at 31 March who were in residential accommodation*

Table 15 : Percentage of Looked After Children by Age Group in Residential Accommodation (1998/99 & 1999/00)

Trust	CH49			CH50			CH51			CH52		
	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00
North & West Belfast	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.1	3.7	3.4	22.9	26.8	25.7	20.8	9.4	15.9
South & East Belfast	0.0	0.0	3.9	7.4	5.3	8.2	15.9	14.7	26.4	8.9	20.5	25.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	0.0	0.0	3.2	2.6	5.3	7.6	24.0	21.0	19.7	13.0	33.3	32.1
Down Lisburn	5.7	0.0	8.8	7.8	6.6	2.4	19.0	14.7	24.7	26.8	29.7	22.5
Eastern	1.2	0.0	3.5	5.4	5.0	5.3	20.6	20.4	24.5	17.9	20.6	22.3
Causeway	0.0	0.0	2.7	5.0	5.9	0.0	19.4	16.7	21.2	11.1	11.1	8.8
Homefirst	2.8	0.0	0.0	3.8	4.8	3.3	11.3	12.3	12.7	13.0	16.7	19.4
Northern	1.8	0.0	0.9	4.1	5.1	2.4	12.8	13.1	14.7	12.4	15.2	15.8
Armagh & Dungannon	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	6.5	0.0	16.7	6.7	20.0	5.9	21.4	13.3
Craigavon & Banbridge	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.0	7.1	12.2	20.0	26.3	10.5	18.2
Newry & Mourne	0.0	0.0	12.5	3.6	3.7	0.0	20.7	23.1	26.9	27.3	20.0	31.3
Southern	0.0	0.0	2.1	4.6	3.3	0.0	13.9	13.4	22.0	20.7	17.0	20.8
Foyle	2.1	1.7	0.0	9.3	10.4	4.1	34.6	31.8	29.1	34.9	34.8	20.0
Sperrin Lakeland	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	16.3	17.0	19.1	28.0	15.0	17.4
Western	1.6	1.2	0.0	7.1	7.3	2.9	28.2	26.7	26.0	32.4	28.8	19.2
Northern Ireland	1.3	0.3	1.9	5.3	5.3	3.7	19.1	19.0	22.6	19.2	20.1	20.0

At 31 March 2000, only 8 children aged under 5 were being accommodated in residential accommodation in Northern Ireland, a slight increase from only 1 child in 1998/99. Children aged 5-11 were less likely than their older counterparts to be placed in residential accommodation. In 1999/00, 3.7% of looked after children aged 5-11 were placed in residential accommodation, a slight decrease from 5.3% in 1997/98. Children in the upper age groups, 12-15 and 16 & over, were more likely to be placed in residential accommodation, than those in the two younger age groups.

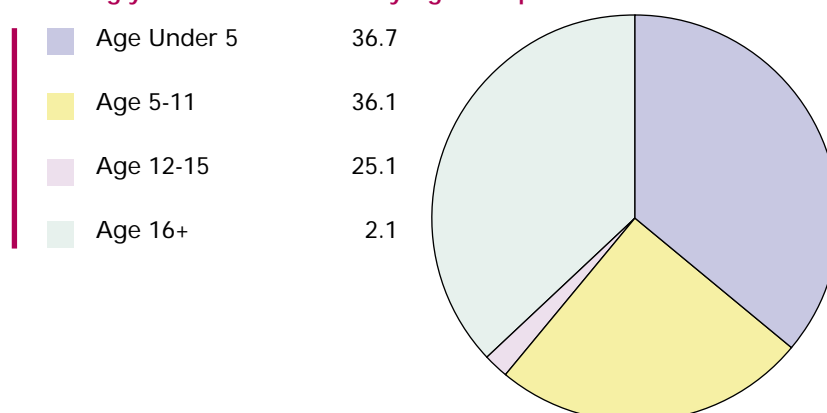
In 1999/00, 22.6% of children aged 12-15 being looked after were placed in residential accommodation, a slight increase on the 1997/98 figure (19.1%). Also 20% of children aged 16 & over being looked after in 1999/00, were placed in residential accommodation, slightly higher than 1997/98 (19.2%) (Table 15).

Children who Became Looked After during the year

During 1999/00, a total of 1,034 children became looked after, a slight decrease from 1,041 in 1998/99. Of the 1,034 children who became looked after in 1999/00, 36.7% were aged under 5, 36.1% aged 5-11, 25.1% aged 12-15 and 2.1% aged 16 & over (Figure 19).

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Figure 19 : Percentage of Looked After Children who became Looked After during year ended 31 March by Age Group



CH58 Children who became looked after during the year per 10,000 population aged under 18

CH59 Children aged under 5 who became looked after during the year per 10,000 population aged under 5

CH60 Children aged 5-11 who became looked after during the year per 10,000 population aged 5-11

CH61 Children aged 12-15 who became looked after during the year per 10,000 population aged 12-15

CH62 Children aged 16 & over who became looked after during the year per 10,000 population aged 16 & 17

Table 16 : Children who became Looked After per 10,000 population during year ended 31 March

Trust	CH58		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	24.4	23.1	17.9
South & East Belfast	56.8	71.3	55.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	29.5	31.7	16.3
Down Lisburn	22.7	12.5	18.4
Eastern	33.0	33.9	27.0
Causeway	13.0	14.9	17.7
Homefirst	11.5	13.1	18.1
Northern	11.8	13.5	18.0
Armagh & Dungannon	4.5	8.6	12.8
Craigavon & Banbridge	24.6	23.0	28.7
Newry & Mourne	9.1	6.9	6.9
Southern	12.9	13.2	16.6
Foyle	16.1	20.9	22.8
Sperrin Lakeland	17.4	24.1	29.3
Western	16.6	22.2	25.5
Northern Ireland	20.8	22.6	22.5
England	26.3	25.1	24.7

During 1999/00, 1,034 children became looked after, a rate of 22.5 per 10,000 children aged under 18. The rate of children who became looked after in Northern Ireland was slightly lower than the corresponding figure for England (24.7). Across Trusts, there was a significant variation. The highest rate of children who became looked after in 1999/00, was in South & East Belfast (55.1), whilst the lowest was Newry & Mourne (6.9). Other significantly high rates of children who became looked after were in Sperrin Lakeland (29.3) and Craigavon & Banbridge (28.7) (Table 16 and Figure 20).

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Figure 20 : Children who became Looked After during year ended 31 March 2000

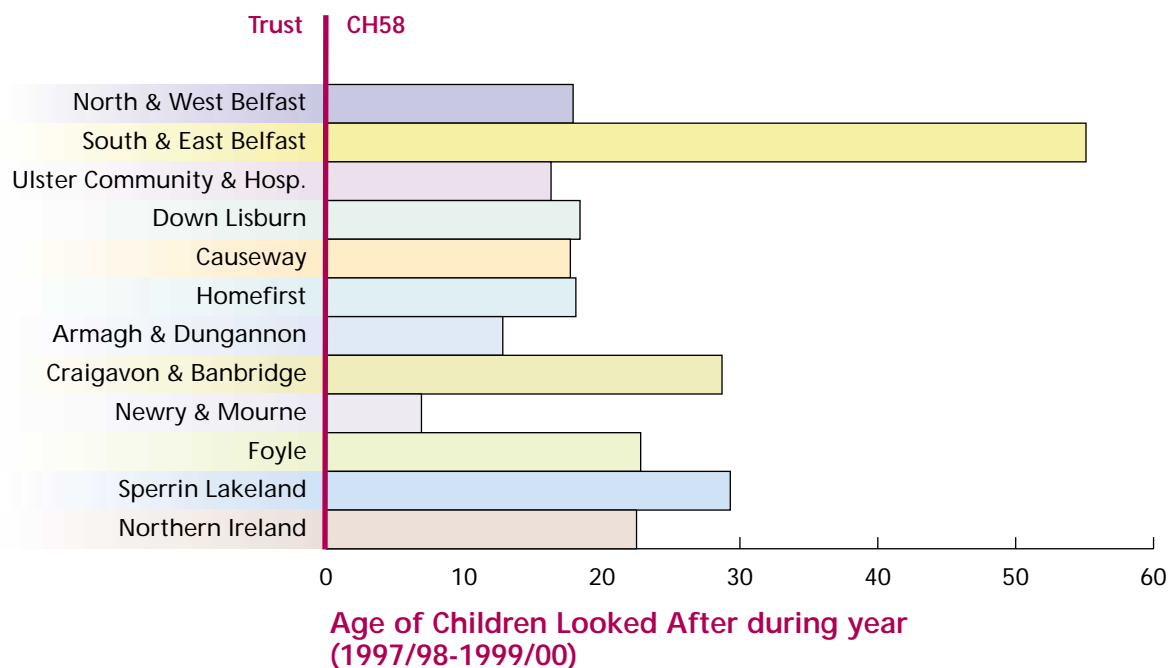


Table 17 : Children who became Looked After per 10,000 population (1997/98 - 1999/00) - By age Category

Trust	CH59			CH60			CH61			CH62		
	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00	97/98	98/99	99/00
North & West Belfast	31.0	28.0	22.7	24.6	13.4	12.3	23.4	40.1	30.1	6.7	13.3	2.2
South & East Belfast	55.5	67.3	61.0	87.0	98.1	61.7	32.2	55.2	56.4	0.0	17.5	13.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	19.5	24.9	29.2	9.2	28.4	12.1	88.6	55.4	14.8	4.8	12.0	4.8
Down Lisburn	26.1	14.2	20.1	18.3	7.3	14.6	28.5	17.3	30.5	18.6	18.6	4.1
Eastern	33.8	33.8	33.2	34.6	35.2	24.8	41.8	41.0	33.1	7.7	15.5	6.1
Causeway	22.8	14.3	27.1	6.0	12.1	15.1	14.5	25.3	19.9	10.2	6.8	0.0
Homefirst	18.3	16.6	28.2	9.1	12.3	17.3	10.5	15.8	16.3	5.0	2.0	0.0
Northern	19.3	16.1	28.0	8.4	12.2	16.8	11.4	17.9	17.1	6.2	3.1	0.0
Armagh & Dungannon	7.1	14.3	17.9	2.4	5.7	9.7	5.8	8.6	17.3	2.8	5.6	2.8
Craigavon & Banbridge	17.8	28.9	27.8	25.4	20.7	28.6	44.8	26.9	37.4	0.0	8.7	14.5
Newry & Mourne	8.0	10.7	9.3	4.5	0.9	1.8	21.8	13.4	16.8	3.3	6.7	0.0
Southern	11.2	18.5	18.9	11.1	9.4	13.9	24.0	16.3	24.0	2.0	7.0	6.0
Foyle	22.4	28.7	35.0	14.1	15.5	16.0	18.8	28.6	27.7	1.8	5.3	7.1
Sperrin Lakeland	21.3	16.0	36.2	21.1	32.6	33.3	15.0	25.0	27.5	0.0	9.9	2.5
Western	22.0	23.7	35.5	17.0	22.7	23.2	17.2	27.1	27.6	1.0	7.2	5.2
Northern Ireland	23.7	24.7	29.6	20.2	22.2	20.4	26.0	27.7	26.3	4.9	9.1	4.3
England	28.4	29.0	28.7	18.7	17.1	16.0	32.3	30.9	30.9	22.9	19.1	18.1

In 1999/00, the highest rate of children who became looked after was in the under 5 age group, where 29.6 children per 10,000 aged under 5 became looked after. The rate for children aged 16 & over was very small, 4.3 children per 10,000 population aged 16 & over, slightly less than the figure for 1998/99 (9.1); although, the rate for Northern Ireland was significantly less than the corresponding figure for England (18.1).

Within the younger age groups (aged under 11), South & East Belfast had a significantly higher rate of children who became looked after in 1999/00 (61.0 per 10,000 children aged under 5 and 61.7 per 10,000 children aged 5-11). Newry & Mourne had the lowest rate of

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children who became looked after in 1999/00 (9.3 per 10,000 children aged under 5 and 1.8 per 10,000 children aged 5-11).

In the older age groups, South & East Belfast and Craigavon & Banbridge had significantly higher rates of children aged 12-15 who became looked after in 1999/00 (56.4 and 37.4 per 10,000 children aged 12-15 respectively). Ulster Community & Hospitals had the lowest rate of children aged 12-15 who became looked after in 1999/00 (14.8), a major decrease from 88.6 per 10,000 in 1999/00.

The rate of children aged 16 & over who became looked after during 1999/00, was relatively low across all Trusts. Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest rate of children who became looked after in 1999/00 (14.5). Three Trusts did not have any children aged 16 & 17 who became looked after in 1999/00 (Causeway, Homefirst and Newry & Mourne) (Table 17).

Length of Time of Children Being Looked After

- CH70a** *Children looked after for less than 3 months prior to discharge as a percentage of all discharges from care*
- CH70b** *Children looked after for 3-6 months prior to discharge as a percentage of all discharges from care*
- CH57** *Children looked after for 6-12 months prior to discharge as a percentage of all discharges from care*
- CH57a** *Children looked after for 1-3 years prior to discharge as a percentage of all discharges from care*
- CH57b** *Children looked after for more than 3 years prior to discharge as a percentage of all discharges from care*

Table 18 : Looked After Children by Length of Time being Looked After (1998/99 & 1999/00)

Trust	CH70a		CH70b		CH57		CH57a		CH57b	
	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	30.6	22.7	16.2	9.3	8.1	13.3	18.0	16.0	27.0	38.7
South & East Belfast	81.7	79.6	2.7	3.0	1.7	3.5	4.7	3.0	9.3	10.9
Ulster Community & Hosp.	58.3	42.9	8.3	14.3	6.9	9.5	6.9	14.3	19.4	19.0
Down Lisburn	25.0	47.7	15.8	4.6	9.2	10.8	14.5	13.8	35.5	23.1
Eastern	60.9	59.0	7.9	5.7	4.6	7.3	8.9	8.6	17.7	19.3
Causeway	20.5	0.0	23.1	12.5	7.7	25.0	23.1	6.3	25.6	56.3
Homefirst	31.3	39.4	6.9	6.9	6.3	10.0	24.3	7.5	31.3	36.3
Northern	29.0	35.8	10.4	7.4	6.6	11.4	24.0	7.4	30.1	38.1
Armagh & Dungannon	30.8	37.5	0.0	7.5	0.0	10.0	15.4	12.5	53.8	32.5
Craigavon & Banbridge	51.2	58.2	4.7	0.0	4.7	5.5	22.1	5.5	17.4	30.8
Newry & Mourne	37.5	16.1	16.7	9.7	8.3	6.5	8.3	12.9	29.2	54.8
Southern	46.3	45.1	6.5	3.7	4.9	6.8	18.7	8.6	23.6	35.8
Foyle	41.8	28.0	7.6	20.0	11.4	13.3	12.7	10.7	26.6	28.0
Sperrin Lakeland	75.6	69.8	2.6	2.8	1.3	4.7	6.4	7.5	14.1	15.1
Western	58.6	52.5	5.1	9.9	6.4	8.3	9.6	8.8	20.4	20.4
Northern Ireland	53.1	50.7	7.7	6.5	5.3	8.2	12.9	8.4	21.0	26.2

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Just over half of looked after children (50.7%) who were discharged during 1999/00, had been looked after for less than 3 months, slightly less than 1998/99 (53.1%). Also during 1999/00, 6.5% of looked after children who were discharged had been looked after for 3-6 months, 8.2% for 6-12 months, 8.4% for 1-3 years and 26.2% for over 3 years.

The pattern varied across Trusts. In South & East Belfast, 79.6% of looked after children were being looked after for less than 3 months prior to discharge, whilst in Causeway no children were looked after for less than 3 months. In Newry & Mourne and Causeway there was a significantly higher rate of children being looked after for over 3 years (54.8% and 56.3% respectively), whilst South & East Belfast had the lowest proportion of children being looked after for over 3 years prior to discharge (10.9) (Table 18 and Figure 21).

Figure 21 : Looked After Children by Length of Time being Looked After

Trust	< 3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months	1-3 years	> 3 years
North & West Belfast	22.7	9.3	13.3	16.0	38.7
South & East Belfast	79.6	3.0	3.5	3.0	10.9
Ulster Community & Hosp.	42.9	14.3	9.5	14.3	19.0
Down Lisburn	47.7	4.6	10.8	13.8	23.1
Causeway	0.0	12.5	25.0	6.3	56.3
Homefirst	39.4	6.9	10.0	7.5	36.3
Armagh & Dungannon	37.5	7.5	10.0	12.5	32.5
Craigavon & Banbridge	58.2	0.0	5.5	5.5	30.8
Newry & Mourne	16.1	9.7	6.5	12.9	54.8
Foyle	28.0	20.0	13.3	10.7	28.0
Sperrin Lakeland	69.8	2.8	4.7	7.5	15.1
Northern Ireland	50.7	6.5	8.2	8.4	26.2

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Looked After Children by Legal Status

CH53a Looked after children accommodated under Article 21 as a percentage of all looked after children at 31 March

CH54a Looked after children under Care Order or Deemed Care Order as a percentage of all looked after children at 31 March

CH54b Looked after children under Interim Care Order as a percentage of all looked after children at 31 March

Table 19 : Legal Status of Looked After Children (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	CH53a			CH54a			CH54b		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	14.2	20.6	17.2	80.6	74.3	73.5	4.5	3.2	6.1
South & East Belfast	21.5	28.6	32.2	74.9	62.3	55.1	3.6	6.7	12.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	26.0	41.6	41.0	70.5	54.5	49.8	0.0	3.0	8.3
Down Lisburn	27.8	30.7	35.2	66.9	64.2	55.4	2.0	3.3	7.3
Eastern	21.0	28.7	29.4	74.4	65.5	60.4	3.0	4.0	8.3
Causeway	31.0	30.1	39.6	64.8	60.3	47.2	2.1	4.4	5.0
Homefirst	16.3	15.9	21.1	81.7	78.0	72.4	1.8	4.8	6.0
Northern	19.9	19.5	26.4	77.5	73.6	65.2	1.9	4.7	5.7
Armagh & Dungannon	17.6	30.5	26.4	76.5	62.1	60.9	4.7	3.2	9.2
Craigavon & Banbridge	26.2	41.4	35.4	69.2	50.5	45.1	1.5	6.3	15.9
Newry & Mourne	17.4	23.8	28.8	73.3	73.8	66.7	4.7	1.3	3.0
Southern	21.3	32.9	30.8	72.4	60.8	55.6	3.3	3.8	10.5
Foyle	26.3	24.6	27.2	70.5	60.2	62.6	0.4	9.4	7.5
Sperrin Lakeland	26.3	27.0	32.4	71.4	66.4	64.0	2.3	4.4	0.7
Western	26.3	25.3	28.7	70.8	62.1	63.0	1.0	7.8	5.6
Northern Ireland	21.7	26.4	28.7	74.3	66.2	61.5	2.4	4.9	7.4

In 1999/00, 97.6% of looked after children were being looked after under 1 of 3 legal status categories- Accommodated under Article 21, Care Orders or Deemed Care Orders and Interim Care Orders. In 1999/00, 61.5% of looked after children were the subject of Care Orders (74.3% in 1997/98), 28.7% were accommodated under Article 21 (21.7% in 1997/98) and 7.4% were under Interim Care Orders (2.4% in 1997/98) (Table 19 and Figure 22).

This trend of decreasing use of Care Orders and the increasing use of accommodation is consistent with the children order 'No Care Order' principle. This was evident across all Trusts.

Figure 22 : Legal Status of Looked After Children (1997/98-1999/00)

Health Board	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
Article 21	36.7	35.5	39.1
Care Order/Demand	31.3	26.6	26.4
Interim Care Order	22.0	18.3	18.8

Children in Respite Care

Respite care relates to either a series of short-term pre-planned or ad-hoc placements, where a child moves temporarily from his/her carer (i.e. foster care, residential care or with family etc), in order to allow the child and/or the carer to spend some time away from each

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other. The move could involve a change in placement type (i.e. foster care to residential care) or the child could remain in the same placement type (i.e. foster care to foster care). Children also move from family placement to other placement types. The use of respite care varies across Trusts. Some Trusts make considerable use of short-term respite care, aimed at maintaining a child in a family placement. Others use respite care on a more limited basis.

CRC1 *Children who received respite care per 10,000 population aged under 18 during the year ended 31 March*

Table 20 : Number of Children and Rate per 10,000 Children aged under 18 receiving Respite Care (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	1997/98		1998/99		1999/00	
	No.	CRC1	No.	CRC1	No.	CRC1
North & West Belfast	10	2.2	18	4.0	34	7.6
South & East Belfast	51	12.1	53	12.6	64	15.2
Ulster Community & Hosp.	61	17.1	63	17.7	97	27.2
Down Lisburn	11	2.3	7	1.5	25	5.3
Eastern	133	7.8	141	8.3	220	13.0
Causeway	41	16.1	40	15.7	39	15.3
Homefirst	249	28.5	248	28.4	270	30.9
Northern	290	25.7	288	25.5	309	27.4
Armagh & Dungannon	24	7.7	21	6.7	21	6.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	73	23.0	66	20.8	51	16.1
Newry & Mourne	16	5.8	20	7.3	9	3.3
Southern	113	12.5	107	11.8	81	9.0
Foyle	29	5.6	29	5.6	46	8.9
Sperrin Lakeland	20	5.5	18	5.0	21	5.8
Western	49	5.6	47	5.4	67	7.6
Northern Ireland	585	12.7	583	12.7	677	14.7

During 1999/00, 677 children received respite care, a rate of 14.7 per 10,000 children aged under 18, an increase from 1997/98 (585 children, a rate of 12.7). The level of respite care received varied considerably across Trusts, from 30.9 per 10,000 children aged under 18 in Homefirst to 3.3 in Newry & Mourne. Ulster Community & Hospital (27.2) also had a high rate of children per 10,000 population aged under 18 receiving respite care (Table 20 and Figure 23).

Figure 23 : Children in Respite Care during 1998/99 and 1999/00



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Placement of Children in Respite Care

CRC2 Percentage of children receiving respite care in residential accommodation

CRC3 Percentage of children receiving respite care in foster placements

CRC4 Percentage of children receiving respite care within their family

Table 21 : Children in Respite Care by Placement and Age Group (1999/00)

Trust	CRC2	CRC3	CRC4	CRC5	CRC6	CRC7	CRC8
North & West Belfast	0.0	100.0	0.0	29.4	47.1	20.6	2.9
South & East Belfast	0.0	100.0	0.0	31.3	48.4	18.8	1.6
Ulster Community & Hosp.	32.0	62.9	5.2	21.6	55.7	17.5	5.2
Down Lisburn	12.0	72.0	16.0	20.0	52.0	28.0	0.0
Eastern	15.5	80.5	4.1	25.5	51.8	19.5	3.2
Causeway	5.1	89.7	2.6	28.2	43.6	23.1	5.1
Homefirst	30.7	33.3	35.9	13.3	46.3	27.0	13.3
Northern	27.5	40.5	31.7	15.2	46.0	26.5	12.3
Armagh & Dungannon	0.0	95.2	4.8	14.3	47.6	38.1	0.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	54.9	25.5	5.9	11.8	37.3	37.3	13.7
Newry & Mourne	11.1	88.9	0.0	22.2	33.3	22.2	22.2
Southern	35.8	50.6	4.9	13.6	39.5	35.8	11.1
Foyle	0.0	95.7	4.3	32.6	63.0	4.3	0.0
Sperrin Lakeland	0.0	100.0	0.0	33.3	42.9	23.8	0.0
Western	0.0	97.0	3.0	32.8	56.7	10.4	0.0
Northern Ireland	21.9	60.3	16.7	20.1	48.2	23.8	8.0

Just over 60% of children who received respite care during 1999/00 were placed in foster care, 21.9% were placed in residential care and 16.7% were placed with family. This pattern varied across Trusts, with some using only foster placements (North & West Belfast, South & East Belfast and Sperrin Lakeland). Craigavon & Banbridge used residential care for over 50% of their respite placements, whilst Homefirst divided their placements equally between foster, residential and family placements (30.7%, 33.3% & 35.9% respectively). Family placements varied considerably across Trusts, from 35.9% of placements in Homefirst to no family placements in North & West Belfast, South & East Belfast, Newry & Mourne and Sperrin Lakeland (Table 21 and Figure 24).

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Figure 24 : Children in Respite Care by Placement (1999/00)

Trust	Residential	Foster	Family
North & West Belfast	0.0	100.0	0.0
South & East Belfast	0.0	100.0	0.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	32.0	62.9	5.2
Down Lisburn	12.0	72.0	16.0
Causeway	5.1	89.7	2.6
Homefirst	30.7	33.3	35.9
Armagh & Dungannon	0.0	95.2	4.8
Craigavon & Banbridge	54.9	25.5	5.9
Newry & Mourne	11.1	88.9	0.0
Foyle	0.0	95.7	4.3
Sperrin Lakeland	0.0	100.0	0.0
Northern Ireland	21.9	60.3	16.7

Age of Children in Respite Care

- CRC5** *Percentage of children who received respite care aged under 5*
- CRC6** *Percentage of children who received respite care aged 5-11*
- CRC7** *Percentage of children who received respite care aged 12-15*
- CRC8** *Percentage of children who received respite care aged 16 & over*

Almost 50% of children who received respite care during 1999/00 were aged 5–11 years old, 23.8% were aged 12–15 years old, 20.1% were aged under 5 years old and 8.0% were aged 16 and over.

The age profile of children who received respite care varied across the eleven Trusts. In Foyle, only 4.3% of children over the age of 11 received respite care, whilst in Down Lisburn, Foyle, Armagh & Dungannon and Sperrin Lakeland no children over the age of 16 received respite care (Table 21 and Figure 25).

Figure 25 : Children in Respite Care - by Age Group (1999/00)

Trust	Under 5	Aged 5-11	Aged 12-16	Aged 16 & over
North & West Belfast	29.4	47.1	20.6	2.9
South & East Belfast	31.3	48.4	18.8	1.6
Ulster Community & Hosp.	21.6	55.7	17.5	5.2
Down Lisburn	20.0	52.0	28.0	0.0
Causeway	28.2	43.6	23.1	5.1
Homefirst	13.3	46.3	27.0	13.3
Armagh & Dungannon	14.3	47.6	38.1	0.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	11.8	37.3	37.3	13.7
Newry & Mourne	22.2	33.3	22.2	22.2
Foyle	32.6	63.0	4.3	0.0
Sperrin Lakeland	33.3	42.9	23.8	0.0
Northern Ireland	20.1	48.2	23.8	8.0

Children's Services

Child Protection Investigations and Children on the Child Protection Register

CP1 Total number of child protection investigations during the year ended 31 March

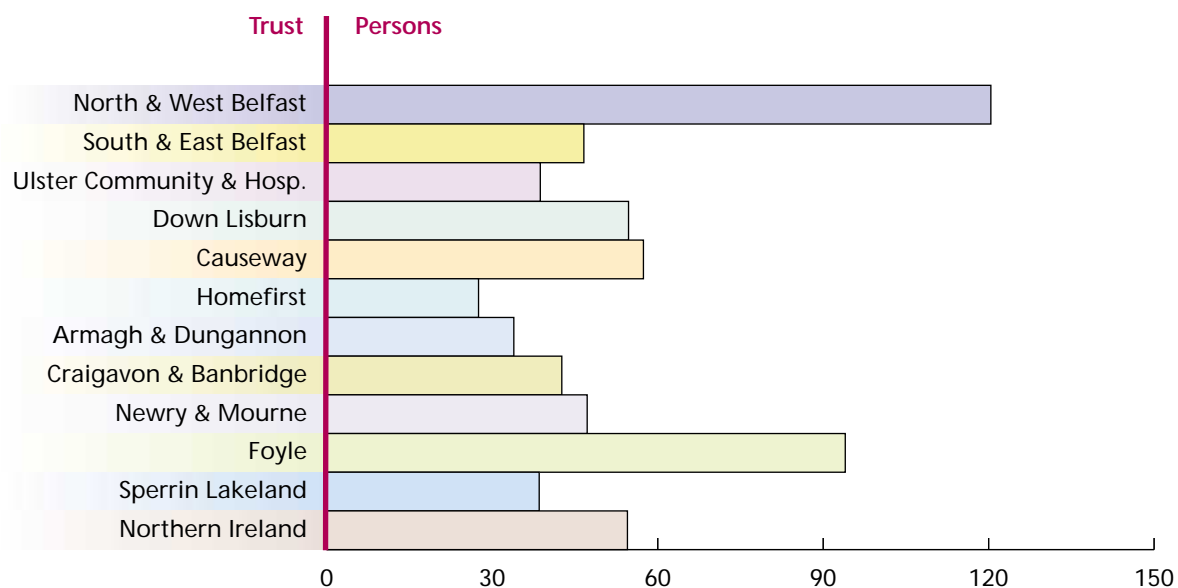
CP15 Child protection investigations per 10,000 population aged under 18

Table 22 : Child Protection Investigations Completed during Year (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	CP1			CP15		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	721	585	537	161.7	131.2	120.4
South & East Belfast	241	260	196	57.3	61.8	46.6
Ulster Community & Hosp.	249	237	138	69.9	66.5	38.7
Down Lisburn	306	290	258	64.9	61.5	54.7
Eastern	1,517	1,372	1,129	89.5	80.9	66.6
Causeway	79	107	146	31.1	42.1	57.4
Homefirst	201	287	240	23.0	32.9	27.5
Northern	280	394	386	24.8	34.9	34.2
Armagh & Dungannon	80	61	106	25.6	19.5	33.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	136	157	135	42.9	49.5	42.6
Newry & Mourne	69	107	130	25.1	38.9	47.2
Southern	285	325	371	31.5	35.9	41.0
Foyle	974	724	486	188.4	140.1	94.0
Sperrin Lakeland	208	169	139	57.6	46.8	38.5
Western	1,182	893	625	134.6	101.7	71.2
Northern Ireland	3,264	2,984	2,511	70.9	64.8	54.5

In 1999/00, there were 2,511 child protection investigations, a rate of 54.5 investigations per 10,000 population aged under 18 in Northern Ireland, a slight decrease from 70.9 in 1997/98. The rate of child protection investigations varied significantly across Trusts, from 120.4 investigations per 10,000 children aged under 18 in North & West Belfast to 27.5 investigations per 10,000 children in Homefirst. Foyle also had a very high rate of investigations (94.0) significantly less than the rate for 1997/98 (188.4) (Table 22 and Figure 26).

Figure 26 : Child Protection Investigations per 10,000 population aged under 18



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CPI2 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted under joint protocol*

CPI3 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted by social workers*

CPI4 *Percentage of child protection investigations conducted by police*

Table 23 : **Child Protection Investigations Completed during Year (1997/98-1999/00)**

Trust	CPI2			CPI3			CPI4		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	57.6	50.1	60.1	42.0	49.1	38.7	0.4	0.9	1.1
South & East Belfast	27.4	26.5	18.9	66.4	70.0	78.1	6.2	3.5	3.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	19.3	23.6	13.8	79.5	72.2	85.5	1.2	4.2	0.7
Down Lisburn	24.5	31.7	14.3	72.5	64.1	83.7	2.9	4.1	1.9
Eastern	39.8	37.2	36.8	58.2	60.2	61.6	2.0	2.6	1.6
Causeway	54.4	74.8	69.2	45.6	23.4	30.1	0.0	1.9	0.7
Homefirst	27.9	23.0	24.6	67.2	75.3	74.2	5.0	1.7	1.3
Northern	35.4	37.1	41.5	61.1	61.2	57.5	3.6	1.8	1.0
Armagh & Dungannon	53.8	57.4	24.5	41.3	36.1	67.0	5.0	6.6	8.5
Craigavon & Banbridge	33.1	17.2	21.5	63.2	77.7	72.6	3.7	5.1	5.9
Newry & Mourne	15.9	34.6	20.8	82.6	64.5	74.6	1.4	0.9	4.6
Southern	34.7	30.5	22.1	61.8	65.5	71.7	3.5	4.0	6.2
Foyle	17.6	13.8	11.5	81.1	84.8	87.0	1.3	1.4	1.4
Sperrin Lakeland	41.3	42.0	30.9	55.8	56.2	69.1	2.9	1.8	0.0
Western	21.7	19.1	15.8	76.6	79.4	83.0	1.6	1.5	1.1
Northern Ireland	32.4	31.0	30.1	65.4	66.7	67.8	2.1	2.3	2.1

During 1999/00, Social Workers carried out two thirds of child protection investigations (67.8%), 30.1% were conducted as joint investigations with the Police, and the Police carried out 2.1% of investigations alone. This pattern varied slightly across Trusts. In Causeway, two thirds of investigations were carried out under joint protocol (69.2%) compared to 11.5% in Foyle. In Foyle, almost 90% of investigations were carried out by Social Workers. In the Northern, Western and Eastern Boards the Police were less likely to be involved in child protection investigations than in the Southern Board (Table 23).

Children's Services

Children on Child Protection Register

CH01 *Children on child protection register at 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18*

Table 24 : Children on the Child Protection Register (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	CH01		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	77.6	65.0	61.7
South & East Belfast	36.6	39.2	43.2
Ulster Community & Hosp.	52.2	46.0	51.1
Down Lisburn	43.0	39.4	35.8
Eastern	52.5	47.5	47.7
Causeway	12.6	15.7	27.1
Homefirst	19.2	28.4	23.6
Northern	17.7	25.5	24.4
Armagh & Dungannon	7.7	10.2	24.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	8.8	10.7	6.0
Newry & Mourne	13.1	13.4	14.5
Southern	9.7	11.4	14.8
Foyle	28.6	37.9	34.4
Sperrin Lakeland	16.9	19.6	24.4
Western	23.8	30.4	30.3
Northern Ireland	30.1	31.8	32.2
England	28.0	28.2	26.8

At 31 March 2000, there were 1,483 children on the Child Protection Register (CPR), a rate of 32.2 children per 10,000 aged under 18, significantly higher than the corresponding figure for England (26.8). The number of children on the Child Protection Register has increased since 1997/98 when the rate was 30.1 children per 10,000 aged under 18. The rate varies considerably across Trusts, from 61.7 children per 10,000 aged under 18 in North & West Belfast to 6.0 children per 10,000 aged under 18 in Craigavon & Banbridge. Almost one fifth of children on the Child Protection Register in 1999/00, were from North & West Belfast. Since 1997/98 the proportions of children on the Child Protection Register have increased in the Western, Northern and Southern Boards, although over 50% of children are still in the Eastern Board (Table 24 and Figure 27).

Figure 27 : Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 population aged under 18 (1999/00)



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Age of Children on Child Protection Register

CH11 *Children on the Child Protection Register aged under 5 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the Child Protection Register*

CH12 *Children on the Child Protection Register aged 5-11 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the Child Protection Register*

CH13 *Children on the Child Protection Register aged 12-15 as a percentage of all children under 18 on the Child Protection Register*

CH14 *Children on the Child Protection Register aged 16 and over as a percentage of all children under 18 on the Child Protection Register*

Table 25 : Children on Child Protection Register-Categorised by Age

Trust	CH11	CH12	CH13	CH14
North & West Belfast	34.9	41.8	21.8	1.5
South & East Belfast	31.3	42.3	23.6	2.7
Ulster Community & Hosp. Down Lisburn	35.2	43.4	17.6	3.8
Eastern	32.7	43.3	21.0	3.0
Causeway	33.3	39.1	23.2	4.3
Homefirst	40.3	35.4	20.9	3.4
Northern	38.5	36.4	21.5	3.6
Armagh & Dungannon	21.3	44.0	28.0	6.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	36.8	47.4	10.5	5.3
Newry & Mourne	30.0	37.5	32.5	0.0
Southern	26.1	42.5	26.9	4.5
Foyle	25.3	38.8	29.2	6.7
Sperrin Lakeland	39.8	43.2	13.6	3.4
Western	30.1	40.2	24.1	5.6
Northern Ireland	32.7	41.4	22.2	3.7

In 1999/00, the highest proportion of children on the Child Protection Register were aged 5-11 (41.4%), 32.7% were aged under 5, 22.2% were aged 12-15 and only 3.7% were aged 16 & 17. There was little variations across Trusts in relation to the proportions of children on the Child Protection Register in each age group.

The proportion of children in each Trust, aged under 5 on the Child Protection Register, ranged from 25.3% in Foyle to 40.3% in Homefirst. The 12-15 age group also had a significant variation across Trusts, from 10.5% in Craigavon & Banbridge to 32.5% in Newry & Mourne. The two remaining age groups remained quite constant, with little variation; although, the 16 & over age group had significantly less proportions of children on the Child Protection Register (Table 25).

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- CH03** Registrations on Child Protection Register during the year ended 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18
- CH10** De-registrations from Child Protection Register during the year ended 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18
- CH11a** Re-registrations on Child Protection Register during the year ended 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18

Table 26 : Registrations, De-registrations & Re-registrations during Year ended 31 March

Trust	CH03			CH10			CH11a	
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	53.6	40.8	34.3	41.5	53.4	37.7	7.7	15.7
South & East Belfast	30.9	34.0	31.1	33.5	31.4	27.1	12.6	20.6
Ulster Community & Hosp.	37.0	34.8	26.1	31.4	40.7	23.6	18.5	26.9
Down Lisburn	24.2	28.4	28.4	24.8	33.1	31.8	16.4	30.6
Eastern	36.3	34.4	30.1	32.7	39.6	30.4	13.2	22.9
Causeway	7.5	15.3	29.5	16.1	12.2	18.1	23.1	13.3
Homefirst	15.2	19.7	17.4	14.2	10.5	22.3	7.0	8.6
Northern	13.5	18.7	20.1	14.6	10.9	21.4	10.0	10.1
Armagh & Dungannon	3.5	5.4	21.1	8.0	4.5	9.0	29.4	22.7
Craigavon & Banbridge	13.6	14.2	12.6	15.1	12.0	17.3	6.7	22.5
Newry & Mourne	8.7	9.8	14.2	4.7	9.1	13.4	7.4	15.4
Southern	8.6	9.8	16.0	9.5	8.5	13.3	11.2	20.7
Foyle	18.0	28.2	23.2	23.2	18.6	25.5	13.7	18.3
Sperrin Lakeland	18.3	17.7	17.7	22.1	14.9	13.0	9.4	18.8
Western	18.1	23.9	21.0	22.8	17.1	20.4	12.4	18.5
Northern Ireland	21.8	23.7	23.2	21.8	22.2	22.9	12.3	19.1
England	26.6	26.7	25.9	26.8	26.2	27.0	n/a	n/a

Information on registrations and de-registrations, gives an indication of the activity and throughput on the Child Protection Register throughout the year. In 1999/00, there were 1,067 registrations and 1,056 de-registrations on the Child Protection Register during the year, a slight increase on corresponding figures for 1997/98 (1,004 and 1,006 respectively). The rate of registrations per 10,000 aged under 18 increased from 21.8 in 1997/98 to 23.2 in 1999/00, and the rate of de-registrations increased from 21.8 to 22.9 for the same period.

In 1999/00, the highest rate of registrations occurred in North & West Belfast with 34.2 registrations per 10,000 aged under 18, a decrease from 53.6 per 10,000 in 1997/98. The lowest rate of registrations on the Child Protection Register was in Craigavon & Banbridge at 12.6 per 10,000 population aged under 18. Seven of the eleven Trusts showed an increase in the rate of registrations between 1997/98 and 1999/00. Causeway and Armagh & Dungannon showed the most significant increases in rates (Causeway 7.5 in 1997/98 to 29.5 in 1999/00 and Armagh & Dungannon 3.5 in 1997/98 to 21.1 in 1999/00).

During 1999/00, 19.1% of all registrations on the Child Protection Register were re-registrations, i.e. children who had previously been on the Child Protection Register either in early years or during the current year. The proportions of re-registration on the Child Protection Register varied across Trusts, from 8.6% in Homefirst to 30.6% in Down Lisburn. The Southern, Eastern and Western Health Boards had the majority of re-registrations, 20.7%, 22.9%, and 18.5% respectively, whilst the Northern had the least proportion of re-registrations (10.1%).

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De-registration is when a child is removed from the Child Protection Register because the threat/need for protection is perceived to have gone. During 1999/00, North & West Belfast had the highest rate of de-registrations (37.7 per 10,000 children aged under 18), a significant decrease from 53.4 per 10,000 population under 18 in 1998/99. Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest rate of de-registrations, 9.0 per 10,000 population aged under 18 in 1999/00. Between 1997/98 and 1999/00, seven of the eleven Trusts showed an increase in the rate of de-registrations per 10,000 population aged under 18, while the remaining four Trusts showed a decrease (Table 26 and Figure 28).

Figure 28 : Registrations and De-registrations on Child Protection Register during year ended 31 March 2000

Trust	CH03	CH10
North & West Belfast	34.3	37.7
South & East Belfast	31.1	27.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	26.1	23.6
Down Lisburn	28.4	31.8
Causeway	29.5	18.1
Homefirst	17.4	22.3
Armagh & Dungannon	21.1	9.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	12.6	17.3
Newry & Mourne	14.2	13.4
Foyle	23.2	25.5
Sperrin Lakeland	17.7	13.0
Northern Ireland	23.2	22.9

Registrations on Child Protection Register - category of abuse

The category of abuse under which each child is registered is decided at the Child Protection Conference, when agreement is reached that protection is necessary. A child is recorded under the abuse category which provides the most accurate picture of the situation.

There are four main categories, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse, as well as a number of mixed categories that reflect more complex cases, e.g. 'neglect and physical abuse' and 'physical and sexual abuse'. For the purpose of this analysis, registrations recorded under 'mixed categories' have been included in each of the relevant categories.

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- CH05** Registrations under 'neglect' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31 March
- CH06** Registrations under 'physical abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31 March
- CH07** Registrations under 'sexual abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31 March
- CH08** Registrations under 'emotional abuse' category as a percentage of all registrations during year ended 31 March

Table 27 : Registrations on Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse (1997/98-1999/00) ⁽¹⁾

Trust	CH05			CH06		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	66.1	51.6	59.5	27.2	30.8	34.6
South & East Belfast	40.8	28.0	50.4	22.3	45.5	48.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	26.5	28.2	24.7	28.8	34.7	34.4
Down Lisburn	38.6	41.8	50.7	35.1	27.6	44.8
Eastern	47.2	38.6	48.5	28.0	34.5	40.7
Causeway	36.8	61.5	54.7	36.8	15.4	26.7
Homefirst	47.4	42.4	36.2	27.1	33.7	26.3
Northern	46.1	46.0	42.3	28.3	30.3	26.4
Armagh & Dungannon	9.1	5.9	48.5	27.3	58.8	47.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	20.9	35.6	45.0	23.3	13.3	37.5
Newry & Mourne	16.7	59.3	30.8	79.2	22.2	25.6
Southern	17.9	37.1	42.8	41.0	24.7	38.6
Foyle	67.7	64.4	62.5	24.7	30.8	25.0
Sperrin Lakeland	34.8	43.8	37.5	19.7	10.9	9.4
Western	54.1	58.1	53.8	22.6	24.8	19.6
Northern Ireland	45.8	43.6	47.3	28.2	31.0	33.7
England	38.8	41.8	44.0	33.1	31.3	32.5

(1) Registrations under 'mixed categories' of abuse have been included in each of the relevant categories. The values for CH05 - CH08 therefore add to more than 100% in some trusts.

Table 28 : Registrations on Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse (1997/98-1999/00) ⁽¹⁾

Trust	CH07			CH08		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	9.6	17.0	9.8	6.7	12.1	4.6
South & East Belfast	16.9	21.7	10.7	27.7	9.1	9.9
Ulster Community & Hosp.	24.2	10.5	10.8	29.5	33.1	30.1
Down Lisburn	18.4	26.9	26.1	10.5	11.9	7.5
Eastern	15.9	19.0	14.5	16.7	15.8	11.4
Causeway	10.5	23.1	29.3	15.8	12.8	2.7
Homefirst	24.8	22.7	29.6	6.0	9.9	15.1
Northern	23.0	22.7	29.5	7.2	10.4	11.0
Armagh & Dungannon	54.5	41.2	28.8	18.2	5.9	6.1
Craigavon & Banbridge	25.6	26.7	22.5	30.2	24.4	7.5
Newry & Mourne	8.3	22.2	15.4	8.3	11.1	30.8
Southern	24.4	28.1	23.4	21.8	16.9	13.1
Foyle	21.5	24.7	7.5	5.4	10.3	12.5
Sperrin Lakeland	12.1	12.5	10.9	36.4	32.8	42.2
Western	17.6	21.0	8.7	18.2	17.1	22.8
Northern Ireland	17.9	20.9	17.9	15.9	15.1	13.5
England	20.5	19.2	17.4	15.9	16.0	16.5

(1) Registrations under 'mixed categories' of abuse have been included in each of the relevant categories. The values for CH05 - CH08 therefore add to more than 100% in some trusts.

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Almost 50% of all registrations on the Child Protection Register during 1999/00 were categorised as 'neglect' (47.3%), 33.7% were 'physical abuse', 17.9% were 'sexual abuse' and 13.5% were categorised under 'emotional abuse' (Tables 27 & 28 and Figure 29).

Between 1997/98 and 1999/00, the proportion of registrations categorised as 'emotional abuse' decreased, from 15.9% in 1997/98 to 13.5% in 1999/00. Two categories have increased, 'neglect' and 'physical abuse', whilst the proportion of registrations on Child Protection Register categorised as 'sexual abuse' has remained the same.

In 1999/00, Northern Ireland had slightly higher rates of registrations on the Child Protection Register under neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse categories, than the corresponding England figures (44%, 32.5% and 17.4% respectively).

Figure 29 : Categories of Abuse on Child Protection Register (1999/00)

Trust	CH05	CH06	CH07	CH08
North & West Belfast	59.5	34.6	9.8	4.6
South & East Belfast	50.4	48.1	10.7	9.9
Ulster Community & Hosp.	24.7	34.4	10.8	30.1
Down Lisburn	50.7	44.8	26.1	7.5
Causeway	54.7	26.7	29.3	2.7
Homefirst	36.2	26.3	29.6	15.1
Armagh & Dungannon	48.5	47.0	28.8	6.1
Craigavon & Banbridge	45.0	37.5	22.5	7.5
Newry & Mourne	30.8	25.6	15.4	30.8
Foyle	62.5	25.0	7.5	12.5
Sperrin Lakeland	37.5	9.4	10.9	42.2
Northern Ireland	47.3	33.7	17.9	13.5

The proportion of registrations under the various categories of abuse varied significantly across Trusts. Registrations categorised under 'neglect' ranged from 24.7% in Ulster Community & Hospitals to 62.5% of all registrations in Foyle.

The proportion of cases categorised under 'physical abuse' varied from 9.4% of all registrations in Sperrin Lakeland to 48.1% in South & East Belfast. 'Sexual abuse' was cited as a reason for registration in 29.6% of all registrations in Homefirst, whereas in Foyle it was cited in only 7.5% of all registrations. Over 40% of all registrations in Sperrin Lakeland were categorised under 'emotional abuse', compared with 2.7% in Causeway. Levels of 'emotional abuse' were also relatively high in Ulster Community & Hospitals (30.1%) and Newry & Mourne (30.8%).

Nine of the eleven Trusts, cited neglect as the main reason for registration on the Child Protection Register, with the remaining two Trusts, Ulster Community & Hospitals and Sperrin Lakeland showing 'physical abuse' and 'emotional abuse' respectively.

Day Care Facilities for Children

Day care facilities for children include registered child minders, playgroups, day nurseries and out of school clubs. These are available

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mainly through independent providers. The statutory sector provides a very small number of day nurseries (7), a significant decrease from the number provided in 1998/99 (35). The vast majority of day care facilities, are provided through the independent sector – either through voluntary organisations, private companies or individuals as a business, community groups as a co-operative enterprise or any of these bodies on a partnership basis. Children may attend on a full or part time basis depending on their needs or those of their parents.

CH15a *Day care places for children aged under 12 per 1,000 population aged under 12*

CH16 *Independent day care places for children aged under 5 per 1,000 population aged under 5*

Table 29 : Day Care Places for under 12's and Independent Day Care Places for under 5's (1997/98-1999/00)

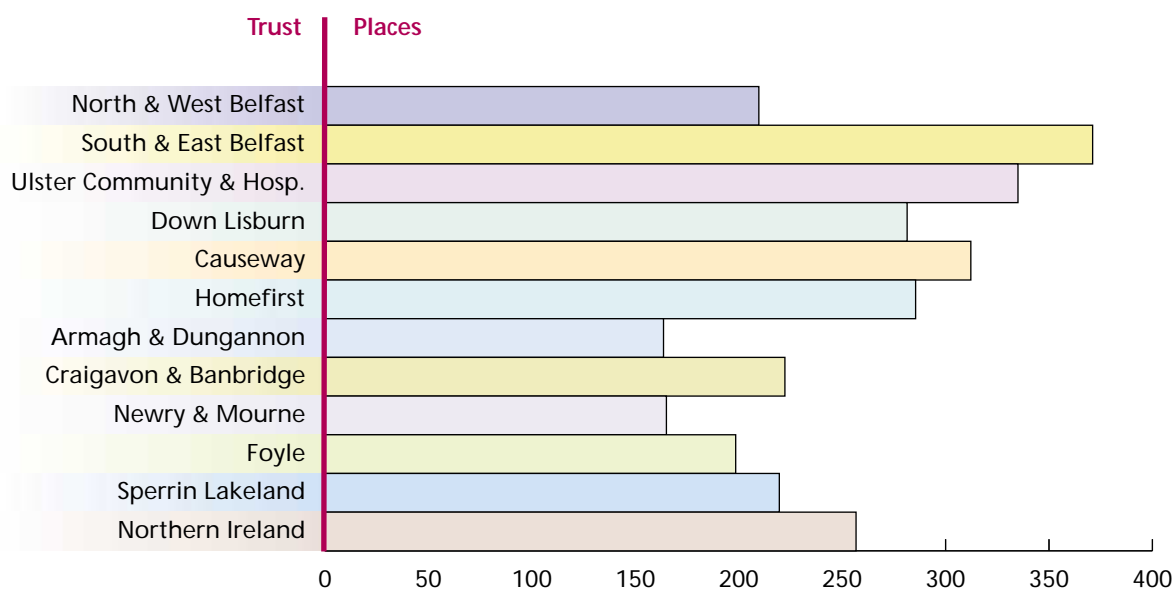
Trust	CH15a			CH16		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	83.3	107.8	131.6	140.1	192.2	209.7
South & East Belfast	175.0	199.1	241.2	293.1	318.8	371.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	193.7	209.5	207.3	311.0	345.2	335.0
Down Lisburn	204.5	178.2	171.3	319.2	288.1	281.4
Eastern	162.4	170.8	185.3	262.1	280.9	295.4
Causeway	134.4	171.9	197.9	237.8	279.6	312.2
Homefirst	138.2	141.0	140.1	207.4	268.5	285.5
Northern	137.4	147.9	153.1	214.3	271.0	291.5
Armagh & Dungannon	66.2	89.6	116.9	146.4	143.9	163.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	103.8	113.8	125.6	191.0	203.5	222.3
Newry & Mourne	70.8	67.2	76.4	168.1	152.3	165.0
Southern	80.9	91.4	107.6	169.1	168.0	185.2
Foyle	99.2	104.2	99.8	196.8	201.7	198.5
Sperrin Lakeland	107.1	103.0	109.2	217.8	215.7	219.6
Western	102.4	103.7	103.7	205.1	207.3	206.9
All Trusts	129.0	137.0	146.8	221.9	242.9	256.7

In 1999/00, there were 146.8 day care places per 1,000 population aged under 12 available in Northern Ireland, a significant increase from 1997/98 (129.3). The rate of day care places available per 1,000 population aged under 12 varied considerably across Trusts. South & East Belfast had the highest number of places available in 1999/00 (241.2 places per 1,000 population aged under 12), whilst Newry & Mourne had the lowest number of places available (76.4 per 1,000 population aged under 12). Ten of the eleven Trusts showed an increase in the rate of available places between 1997/98 and 1999/00, whilst one Trust, Down Lisburn, showed a decrease in the rate of day care places available (Table 29).

Playgroups and day nurseries mainly provide day care for children aged under 5. There are also a significant number of places with registered childminders, which are designated for children aged under 5. South & East Belfast (371.1) had the highest rate of day care places available per 1,000 children aged under 5, whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest rate (163.6). The rate of available day care places has increased in Northern Ireland since 1997/98. In 1997/98, there were 221.9 places per 1,000 children aged under 5, which increased to 256.7 per 1,000 children aged under 5 in 1999/00. This increase is evident in nine of the eleven Trusts over the same period (Table 29 and Figure 30).

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Figure 30 : Independent Day Care Places for Children aged under 5 per 10,000 population aged under 5 (1999/00)



Day Care Facilities for under 5's by Type of Provision

CH17 Places for children aged under 5 with registered childminders per 1,000 population aged under 5

CH18 Places in day nurseries per 1,000 population aged under 5

CH19 Places in playgroups per 1,000 population aged under 5

Table 30 : Day Care Provision for under 5's by Type of Provision (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	CH17			CH18			CH19		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	n/a	30.5	54.0	18.2	25.9	28.7	123.7	135.8	127.0
South & East Belfast	106.6	103.0	134.7	88.4	95.9	108.9	98.2	119.9	127.5
Ulster Community & Hosp.	130.3	142.3	142.4	37.3	38.6	43.1	143.4	164.3	149.4
Down Lisburn	162.1	124.2	116.2	33.1	34.3	37.9	124.0	129.5	127.3
Eastern	133.9	96.6	109.1	44.2	48.9	54.9	120.9	135.3	131.5
Causeway	87.5	125.0	143.9	20.7	33.4	33.4	129.6	121.2	134.9
Homefirst	43.0	94.9	95.0	34.9	41.8	56.1	129.5	131.7	134.4
Northern	53.1	101.7	106.0	31.7	39.9	51.0	129.5	129.4	134.5
Armagh & Dungannon	36.1	29.0	32.6	20.0	13.9	14.9	90.3	101.0	116.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	61.0	63.6	68.0	27.4	43.6	51.7	102.6	96.3	102.6
Newry & Mourne	16.1	16.0	14.8	44.5	39.2	39.2	107.4	97.2	111.0
Southern	39.1	37.6	40.0	30.1	32.3	35.5	99.9	98.1	109.7
Foyle	39.3	33.6	30.3	20.4	22.8	20.3	144.0	145.3	147.8
Sperrin Lakeland	59.3	62.7	56.7	6.2	9.3	21.3	155.8	143.8	141.6
Western	47.2	45.2	40.8	14.8	17.4	20.7	148.7	144.7	145.4
Northern Ireland	73.6	76.9	82.3	33.0	37.7	43.9	124.0	128.4	130.5
England	n/a	n/a	n/a	71.8	80.5	n/a	123.5	112.9	n/a

In 1999/00, the main form of independent day care provision available in Northern Ireland, were playgroups with 130.5 places available per 1,000 children aged under 5. This was slightly higher than in 1997/98 (124.0). Registered childminders provided a significant proportion of the day care services for those aged under 5, with 82.3 places available per 1,000 children aged under 5, a slight

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increase from 1997/98 (73.6). The rates of independent day care places provided by registered childminders varied considerably across Trusts, from 14.8 places per 1,000 children aged under 5 in Newry & Mourne to 143.9 in Causeway.

Day nurseries provide the least number of places for children aged under 5 in Northern Ireland, 43.9 places per 1,000 children aged under 5, significantly less than 1997/98 (33.0). The rate of day nursery places available varied significantly across Trusts, from 108.9 places per 1,000 children aged under 5 in South & East Belfast to 14.9 in Armagh & Dungannon (Table 30 and Figure 31).

Figure 31 : Day Care Places by Service Type for Children aged under 5 per 10,000 population aged under 5 (1999/00)

Trust	CH17	CH18	CH19
North & West Belfast	140.1	192.2	209.7
South & East Belfast	293.1	318.8	371.1
Ulster Community & Hosp.	311.0	345.2	335.0
Down Lisburn	319.2	288.1	281.4
Causeway	237.8	279.6	312.2
Homefirst	207.4	268.5	285.5
Armagh & Dungannon	146.4	143.9	163.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	191.0	203.5	222.3
Newry & Mourne	168.1	152.3	165.0
Foyle	196.8	201.7	198.5
Sperrin Lakeland	217.8	215.7	219.6
Northern Ireland	221.9	242.9	256.7

Day Care Facilities for Children aged under 12

Whilst some provision for children aged under 12 is made within day nurseries, the majority of places are provided through registered childminders and out of school clubs.

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CH17a *Places with registered childminders per 1,000 population aged under 12*

CH20a *Places in Out of School Clubs per 1,000 population aged 4-12*

Table 31 : Day Care Provision for under 12's (1997/98-1999/00)

Trust	CH17a			CH20a		
	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00
North & West Belfast	23.9	26.1	38.2	n/a	22.8	47.6
South & East Belfast	93.3	96.9	121.3	5.9	13.7	29.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	122.1	129.1	131.0	n/a	0.0	n/a
Down Lisburn	133.6	102.4	95.8	10.6	14.0	12.7
Eastern	91.8	85.9	93.7	8.4	13.4	29.4
Causeway	72.3	103.3	118.9	n/a	8.0	16.1
Homefirst	64.6	65.3	53.1	9.7	6.6	14.0
Northern	66.3	73.9	67.9	9.7	7.0	14.5
Armagh & Dungannon	19.8	20.7	23.1	2.9	37.7	68.6
Craigavon & Banbridge	38.9	41.2	44.0	18.3	24.3	29.4
Newry & Mourne	6.9	6.8	6.7	4.2	9.0	15.1
Southern	22.7	23.7	25.5	8.7	24.2	38.5
Foyle	28.0	28.0	22.5	11.3	12.5	14.4
Sperrin Lakeland	34.2	36.5	35.1	18.3	11.4	17.5
Western	30.5	31.5	27.7	14.2	12.1	15.7
Northern Ireland	60.5	60.5	61.6	10.2	13.7	24.6

In 1999/00, registered childminders provided 61.6 places per 1,000 children aged under 12 in Northern Ireland, a slight increase from 60.5 in 1997/98. The provision of day care for under 12's by registered childminders varied considerably across Trusts. In 1999/00, Ulster Community & Hospitals (131) and Causeway (118.9), had the highest number of places available per 1,000 children aged under 12. The lowest rate of places with registered childminders was in Newry & Mourne (6.7). Over the last three years, seven of the eleven Trusts have shown an increase in the rate of places available with registered childminders. Across the Boards, only the Western Board indicated a decline in the rate of places with registered childminders (30.5 per 1,000 children aged under 12 in 1997/98 and 27.7 in 1999/00).

Ten of the eleven Trust have 'Out-of-School' clubs, which provide care to school age children at the end of the school day until the parent or carer can collect the child. Out-of-School clubs maybe run by the Trust, voluntary organisations, community groups or privately. In 1999/00, 24.6 places per 1,000 children aged between 4 and 12, were available in Northern Ireland, a significant increase from 1997/98 (10.2). In 1999/00, this ranged from 12.7 places per 1,000 children aged 4-12 in Down Lisburn to 68.6 places per 1,000 children aged 4-12 in Armagh & Dungannon (Table 31).

Children's Homes

At 31 March 2000, there were 32 children's homes in Northern Ireland, providing a total of 321 places. The majority of children's homes were in the statutory sector (24), with the remainder in the voluntary sector. There were no private sector children's homes in Northern Ireland in 1999/00. During 1999/00, there were 372 admissions to the 32 children's homes and 327 children discharged.

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Table 32 : Admission, Discharges and Places available in Children's Homes (1999/00)

Health Board	Statutory	Voluntary	Total
Category of Home	24	8	32
Places available	240	81	321
Admissions	325	47	372
Discharges	273	54	327
Average weekly occupancy	207	64	271
Admissions	323	637	960

The children's homes provide a range of facilities including educational assessment (3 homes), observation & assessment (21), and facilities for those with learning disabilities (26) and physical disabilities (16). Nine homes have a hostel/semi independent unit and 21 provide respite care. All the homes are mixed religion, and only two homes are single sex (1 male only and 1 female only). All age groups are accommodated across the 32 homes; although, only 4 homes provide accommodation for children aged 0-4 (Table 32).

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Table 33 : Facilities Available in Childrens Homes (1999/00)

Health Board	Yes	No	Total
Educational Facilities	3	29	32
Observation & Assessment	21	11	32
Facilities for Children with Both a Learning Disability and Physical Disability	12	20	32
Facilities for Children with a Learning Disability	14 ⁽¹⁾	18	32
Facilities for Children with a Physical Disability	4	28	32
Hostel/Semi Independent unit	9	23	32
Provision for Respite Care	22 ⁽²⁾	10	32
Provision for Secure Accommodation	1	31	32
Facilities for Children on remand or Police Bail	3	29	32
Boys only	1	31	32
Girls only	1	31	32
Boys & Girls	30	2	32
Catholic only	0	32	32
Protestant only	0	32	32
All Religions	32	0	32
Age Groups accommodated			
Aged 0-4	1	31	32
Aged 5-11	13	19	32
Aged 12-15	12	1	13
Aged 16+	29	3	32

(1) One children's home provided facilities for children with mild disabilities

(2) One children's home only provided respite care when places were available

Secure Accommodation

Secure accommodation refers to accommodation provided for the purpose of 'restricting liberty'. In 1999/00, there was only 1 secure unit in Northern Ireland, providing accommodation for 8 young people at any one time. The secure unit is located within Ulster Community & Hospitals Trust; although, admissions are drawn from across the eleven Trusts.

During 1999/00, there were a total of 31 young people admitted, covering 47 admissions (29 male, 18 female), to the secure unit. Nine young people were readmitted (5 readmitted once, 2 readmitted twice, 1 readmitted 3 times and 1 readmitted 4 times) to the secure unit.

During 1999/00, the young people admitted ranged in age from 12-17 years old; although, the vast majority, were aged 15-16.