

Children's Services

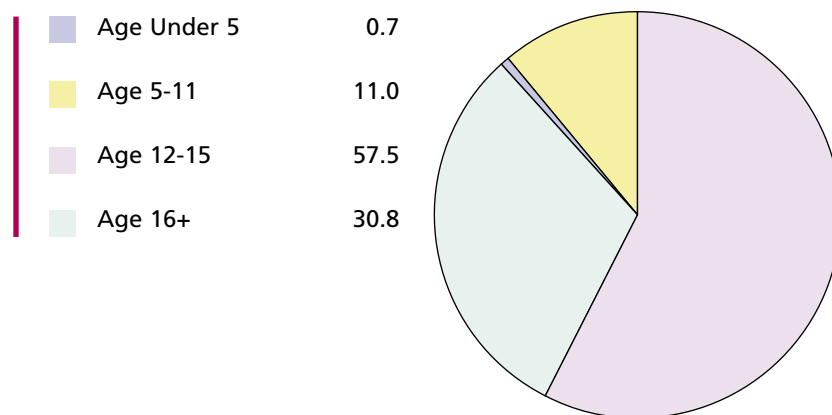
Looked after Children in Residential Accommodation by Age Group

Children aged 12 years old & over make up the largest proportion of looked after children placed in residential accommodation. In 2001, 88.3% of looked after children placed in residential accommodation were aged 12 & over, a slight increase from 82% in 1999.

The proportion of looked after children aged 5-11 placed in residential accommodation decreased significantly over the last three years, from 17.3% (45) in 1999 to 11.0% (30) in 2001. Across Trusts, this ranged from 25.9% in Ulster Community & Hospitals to no children aged 5-11 in five Trusts.

At 31 March 2001, almost 6 in 10 (57.5%) children looked after placed in residential accommodation were aged 12-15. Across Trusts, this ranged from 33.3% of looked after children aged 12-15 placed in residential accommodation in Causeway to 90.9% in Craigavon & Banbridge (Figure 3.11).

Figure 3.11 : Age of Looked After Children in Residential Accommodation (%) (2001)



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- 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 3.6 : Percentage of Looked After Children placed in Residential Accommodation by Age Group at 31 March (1999-2001)

Trust	CH49			CH50			CH51			CH52		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
North & West Belfast	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	3.4	3.8	26.8	25.7	22.7	9.4	15.9	23.3
South & East Belfast	0.0	3.9	0.0	5.3	8.2	4.8	14.7	26.4	24.1	20.5	25.0	22.0
Ulster Community & Hosp.	0.0	3.2	3.4	5.3	7.6	8.0	21.0	19.7	13.7	33.3	32.1	25.0
Down Lisburn	0.0	8.8	0.0	6.6	2.4	1.2	14.7	24.7	29.9	29.7	22.5	22.2
Eastern	0.0	3.5	0.6	5.0	5.3	4.5	20.4	24.5	22.6	20.6	22.3	23.0
Causeway	0.0	2.7	0.0	5.9	0.0	0.0	16.7	21.2	10.3	11.1	8.8	20.0
Homefirst	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	3.3	5.0	12.3	12.7	17.0	16.7	19.4	12.1
Northern	0.0	0.9	0.0	5.1	2.4	3.8	13.1	14.7	15.6	15.2	15.8	14.8
Armagh & Dungannon	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5	0.0	0.0	6.7	20.0	9.4	21.4	13.3	9.5
Craigavon & Banbridge	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.2	20.0	33.3	10.5	18.2	8.3
Newry & Mourne	0.0	12.5	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	23.1	26.9	37.9	20.0	31.3	28.6
Southern	0.0	2.1	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	13.4	22.0	26.4	17.0	20.8	14.9
Foyle	1.7	0.0	1.3	10.4	4.1	3.1	31.8	29.1	30.6	34.8	20.0	22.6
Sperrin Lakeland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.0	19.1	12.2	15.0	17.4	10.3
Western	1.2	0.0	1.0	7.3	2.9	2.3	26.7	26.0	24.5	28.8	19.2	18.3
Northern Ireland	0.3	1.9	0.5	5.3	3.7	3.4	19.0	22.6	22.1	20.1	20.0	19.5

At 31 March 2001, only 2 children aged under 5 were placed in residential accommodation, compared with 8 children in 2000. In 2001, five Trusts did not have any children aged 5-11 placed in residential accommodation.

Children in the upper age groups (aged 12-15 and 16& over), were more likely than those in the two younger age groups to be placed in residential accommodation. In 2001, over 20% of looked after children aged 12-15 were placed in residential accommodation, a slight increase from 19.0% in 1999. Just under 2 in 10 (19.5%) looked after children aged 16 & over were placed in residential accommodation (Table 3.6).

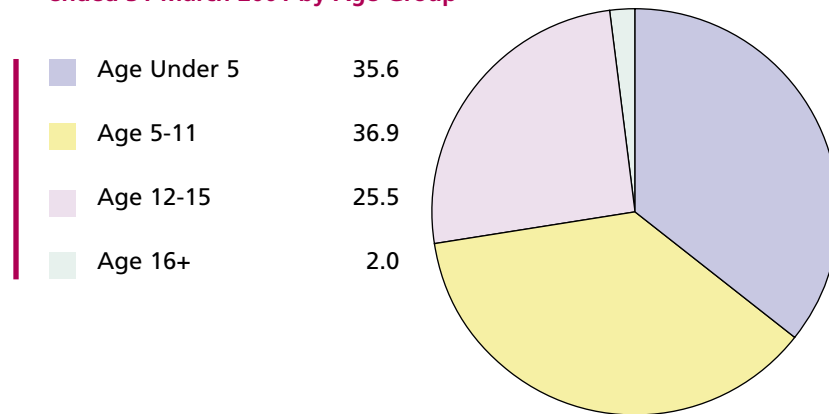
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Children who became Looked After during the year

During 2000/01, a total of 1,093 children became looked after, a slight increase from 1,041 in 1998/99. Almost 50% (535) of all children who became looked after in 2000/01 were in the Eastern Board.

Of the 1,093 children who became looked after in 2000/01, 35.6% were aged under 5, 36.9% aged 5-11, 25.5% aged 12-15 and 2% were aged 16 & over (Figure 3.12).

Figure 3.12 : Percentage of Children who became Looked After during the year ended 31 March 2001 by Age Group



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

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Table 3.7 : Children who became Looked After per 10,000-population aged under 18 during year ended 31 March (1998/99 - 2000/01)

Trust	CH58		
	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01
North & West Belfast	23.1	17.9	25.3
South & East Belfast	71.3	55.1	68.4
Ulster Community & Hosp.	31.7	16.3	13.5
Down Lisburn	12.5	18.4	18.2
Eastern	33.9	27.0	31.6
Causeway	14.9	17.7	16.1
Homefirst	13.1	18.1	19.1
Northern	13.5	18.0	18.5
Armagh & Dungannon	8.6	12.8	13.4
Craigavon & Banbridge	23.0	28.7	13.6
Newry & Mourne	6.9	6.9	18.5
Southern	13.2	16.6	15.0
Foyle	20.9	22.8	14.5
Sperrin Lakeland	24.1	29.3	38.5
Western	22.2	25.5	24.4
Northern Ireland	22.6	22.5	23.7
England	25.1	24.4	n/a

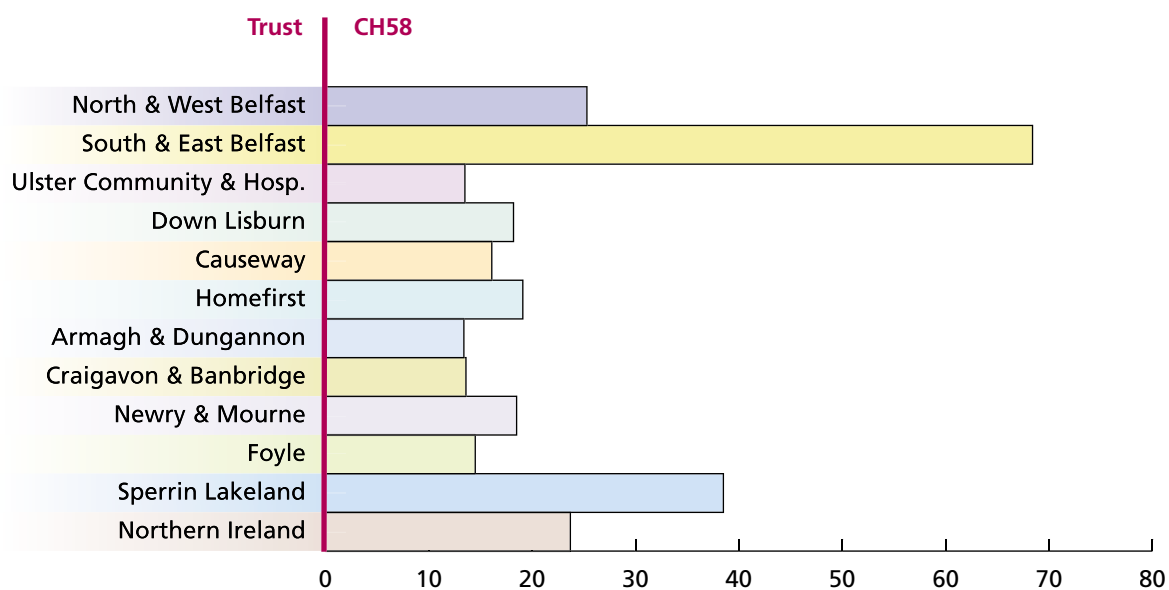
In 2000/01, 1,093 children became looked after, a rate of 23.7 children per 10,000-population aged under 18.

There was a significant variation across Trusts. The highest rate of children who became looked after was in South & East Belfast (68.4 children per 10,000-population aged under 18), whilst the lowest was in Armagh & Dungannon (13.4). Other significantly high rates were in Sperrin Lakeland (38.5 children per 10,000-population aged under 18) and North & West Belfast (25.3).

Over the last three years the rate of children who became looked after during the year decreased significantly in Ulster Community & Hospitals, from 31.7 children per 10,000-population aged under 18 in 1998/99 to 13.5 in 2000/01 (Table 3.7 & Figure 3.13).

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Figure 3.13 : Children who became Looked After during year ended 31 March 2001



Age of Children Looked After during Year

- 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 & over

Table 3.8 : Children who became Looked After per 10,000 population by Age Group (1998/99-2000/01)

Trust	CH59			CH60			CH61			CH62		
	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01
North & West Belfast	28.0	22.7	28.0	13.4	12.3	20.1	40.1	30.1	44.6	13.3	2.2	0.0
South & East Belfast	67.3	61.0	60.2	98.1	61.7	77.8	55.2	56.4	97.8	17.5	13.1	2.2
Ulster Community & Hosp.	24.9	29.2	18.4	28.4	12.1	10.7	55.4	14.8	17.2	12.0	4.8	4.8
Down Lisburn	14.2	20.1	21.6	7.3	14.6	11.5	17.3	30.5	28.5	18.6	4.1	14.5
Eastern	33.8	33.2	32.8	35.2	24.8	29.6	41.0	33.1	46.9	15.5	6.1	5.5
Causeway	14.3	27.1	21.4	12.1	15.1	12.1	25.3	19.9	23.5	6.8	0.0	3.4
Homefirst	16.6	28.2	24.9	12.3	17.3	22.0	15.8	16.3	15.8	2.0	0.0	2.0
Northern	16.1	28.0	24.1	12.2	16.8	19.7	17.9	17.1	17.5	3.1	0.0	2.3
Armagh & Dungannon	14.3	17.9	20.3	5.7	9.7	12.1	8.6	17.3	13.0	5.6	2.8	2.8
Craigavon & Banbridge	28.9	27.8	13.3	20.7	28.6	14.3	26.9	37.4	17.9	8.7	14.5	2.9
Newry & Mourne	10.7	9.3	20.0	0.9	1.8	14.4	13.4	16.8	23.5	6.7	0.0	20.1
Southern	18.5	18.9	17.7	9.4	13.9	13.6	16.3	24.0	17.9	7.0	6.0	8.0
Foyle	28.7	35.0	24.5	15.5	16.0	12.1	28.6	27.7	13.4	5.3	7.1	0.0
Sperrin Lakeland	16.0	36.2	81.0	32.6	33.3	29.2	25.0	27.5	23.8	9.9	2.5	2.5
Western	23.7	35.5	46.9	22.7	23.2	19.3	27.1	27.6	17.7	7.2	5.2	1.0
Northern Ireland	24.7	29.6	30.4	22.2	20.4	22.0	27.7	26.3	28.2	9.1	4.3	4.3
England	29.0	28.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	19.1	18.1	n/a



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The highest rate of children who became looked after during 2000/01 was in the under 5 age group (30.4 children aged under 5 per 10,000-population aged under 5), slightly higher than in 1998/99 (24.7). On the other hand, the 16 & over age group had the lowest rate of children who became looked after (4.3 children aged 16 & over per 10,000-population aged 16 & over).

Within the under 5 age group, Sperrin Lakeland had the highest rate of children who became looked after per 10,000-population aged under 5 (81.0), whilst Craigavon & Banbridge (13.3) had the lowest. Over the last three years, the rate of children under 5 who became looked after in Sperrin Lakeland increased significantly, from 16.0 per 10,000-population aged under 5 in 1998/99 to 81.0 in 2000/01.

In 2000/01, South & East Belfast (77.8) had the highest rate of children aged 5-11 who became looked after, whilst Ulster Community & Hospitals had the lowest rate (10.7 children aged 5-11 per 10,000-population aged 5-11).

In the older age groups, South & East Belfast and North & West Belfast had significantly higher rates of children aged 12-15 who became looked after per 10,000-population aged 12-15 (97.8 and 44.6 respectively). Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest rate of children aged 12-15 who became looked after (13.0). Over the last few years, the rate of children aged 12-15 who became looked after has increased significantly in South & East Belfast, from 55.2 in 1998/99 to 97.8 in 2000/01.

The rate of children aged 16 & over who became looked after varied slightly across Trusts, from 20.1 children aged 16 & over who became looked after per 10,000-population aged 16 & over in Newry & Mourne to no children in North & West Belfast and Foyle (Table 3.8).

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Length of Time 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 months-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 3.9 : Looked After Children by Length of Time being Looked After (1998/99-2000/01)

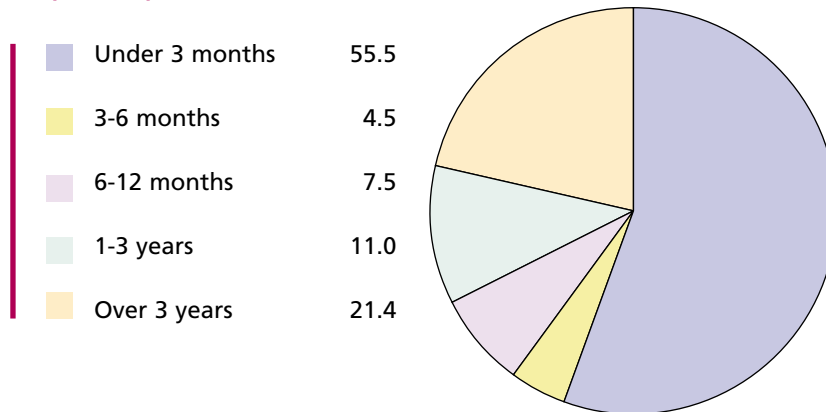
Trust	CH70a			CH70b			CH57			CH57a			CH57b		
	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01	98/99	99/00	00/01
North & West Belfast	30.6	22.7	35.0	16.2	9.3	7.3	8.1	13.3	14.6	18.0	16.0	10.6	27.0	38.7	32.5
South & East Belfast	81.7	79.6	88.1	2.7	3.0	1.1	1.7	3.5	3.0	4.7	3.0	4.1	9.3	10.9	3.7
Ulster Community & Hosp.	58.3	42.9	28.2	8.3	14.3	2.6	6.9	9.5	15.4	6.9	14.3	28.2	19.4	19.0	25.6
Down Lisburn	25.0	47.7	45.9	15.8	4.6	5.4	9.2	10.8	10.8	14.5	13.8	14.9	35.5	23.1	23.0
Eastern	60.9	59.0	64.4	7.9	5.7	3.4	4.6	7.3	7.9	8.9	8.6	9.1	17.7	19.3	15.2
Causeway	20.5	0.0	20.5	23.1	12.5	4.5	7.7	25.0	13.6	23.1	6.3	11.4	25.6	56.3	50.0
Homefirst	31.3	39.4	46.5	6.9	6.9	5.6	6.3	10.0	8.6	24.3	7.5	9.6	31.3	36.3	29.8
Northern	29.0	35.8	41.7	10.4	7.4	5.4	6.6	11.4	9.5	24.0	7.4	9.9	30.1	38.1	33.5
Armagh & Dungannon	30.8	37.5	24.0	0.0	7.5	16.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	15.4	12.5	16.0	53.8	32.5	44.0
Craigavon & Banbridge	51.2	58.2	35.7	4.7	0.0	3.6	4.7	5.5	7.1	22.1	5.5	30.4	17.4	30.8	23.2
Newry & Mourne	37.5	16.1	36.4	16.7	9.7	12.1	8.3	6.5	9.1	8.3	12.9	15.2	29.2	54.8	27.3
Southern	46.3	45.1	33.3	6.5	3.7	8.8	4.9	6.8	6.1	18.7	8.6	22.8	23.6	35.8	28.9
Foyle	41.8	28.0	26.7	7.6	20.0	6.7	11.4	13.3	11.7	12.7	10.7	18.3	26.6	28.0	36.7
Sperrin Lakeland	75.6	69.8	77.5	2.6	2.8	2.9	1.3	4.7	2.2	6.4	7.5	7.2	14.1	15.1	10.1
Western	58.6	52.5	62.1	5.1	9.9	4.0	6.4	8.3	5.1	9.6	8.8	10.6	20.4	20.4	18.2
Northern Ireland	53.1	50.7	55.5	7.7	6.5	4.5	5.3	8.2	7.5	12.9	8.4	11.0	21.0	26.2	21.4

Just over half (55.5%) of looked after children discharged in 2000/01, had been looked after for less than 3 months, slightly more than 1998/99 (53.1%). Also during 2000/01, 4.5% of looked after children discharged, had been looked after for 3-6 months, 7.5% for 6-12 months, 11% for 1-3 years and 21.4% for 3 years or more.

The pattern varied significantly across Trusts. In South & East Belfast almost 90% of all looked after children discharged had been looked after for less than 3 months, compared with 20.5% in Causeway. Alternatively, Causeway (50.0%) had a significantly higher proportion of children looked after for over 3 years, whilst South & East Belfast had only 3.7% of children looked after for over 3 years prior to discharge (Table 3.9 and Figure 3.14).

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Figure 3.14 : Looked After Children by Length of Time being Looked After (2000/01)



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 3.10 : Legal Status of Looked After Children at 31 March (1999-2001)

Trust	CH53a			CH54a			CH54b		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
North & West Belfast	20.6	17.2	20.4	74.3	73.5	72.3	3.2	6.1	5.4
South & East Belfast	28.6	32.2	23.4	62.3	55.1	61.5	6.7	12.0	12.5
Ulster Community & Hosp.	41.6	41.0	46.0	54.5	49.8	44.2	3.0	8.3	8.8
Down Lisburn	30.7	35.2	42.2	64.2	55.4	50.7	3.3	7.3	4.9
Eastern	28.7	29.4	30.7	65.5	60.4	59.4	4.0	8.3	7.9
Causeway	30.1	39.6	37.9	60.3	47.2	46.2	4.4	5.0	9.1
Homefirst	15.9	21.1	20.8	78.0	72.4	71.8	4.8	6.0	6.6
Northern	19.5	26.4	25.2	73.6	65.2	65.2	4.7	5.7	7.2
Armagh & Dungannon	30.5	26.4	46.4	62.1	60.9	41.8	3.2	9.2	9.1
Craigavon & Banbridge	41.4	35.4	36.4	50.5	45.1	45.5	6.3	15.9	14.8
Newry & Mourne	23.8	28.8	39.5	73.8	66.7	44.4	1.3	3.0	11.1
Southern	32.9	30.8	41.2	60.8	55.6	43.7	3.8	10.5	11.5
Foyle	24.6	27.2	26.1	60.2	62.6	65.0	9.4	7.5	6.1
Sperrin Lakeland	27.0	32.4	35.7	66.4	64.0	57.9	4.4	0.7	5.0
Western	25.3	28.7	28.8	62.1	63.0	63.0	7.8	5.6	5.8
Northern Ireland	26.4	28.7	30.4	66.2	61.5	59.6	4.9	7.4	7.7

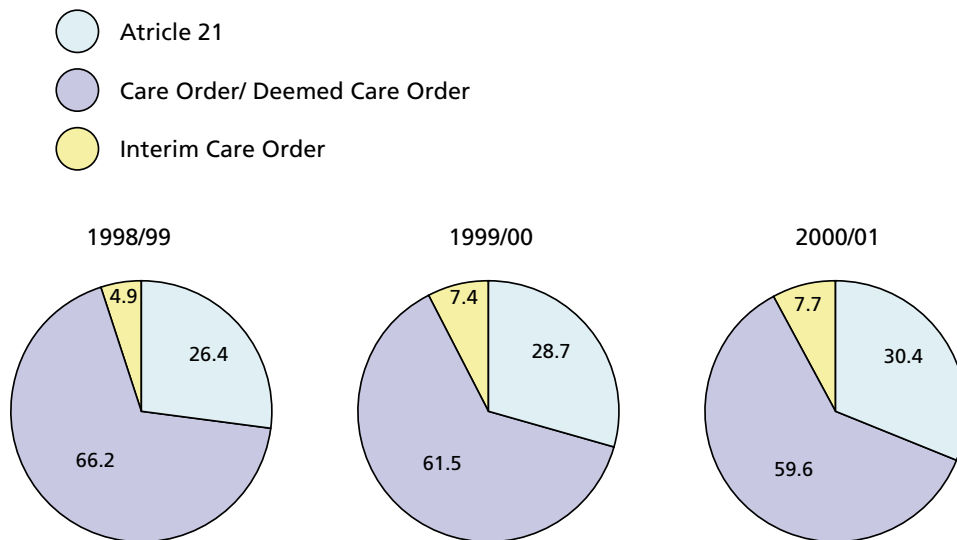
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In 2001, 97.7% (2,358) of looked after children were being looked after under 1 of 3 legal status categories:

- **Accommodated under Article 21;**
- **Care Orders or Deemed Care Orders;**
- **or, Interim Care Orders.**

Almost 6 in 10 (1,438) looked after children were the subject of care orders (66.2% in 1999), 30.4% (733) were accommodated under article 21 (26.4% in 1999) and 7.7% (187) were under interim care orders (4.9% in 1999). Across Trusts the pattern was quite similar (Table 3.10 and Figure 3.15).

Figure 3.15 ■ Legal Status of Looked After Children at 31 March (1999-2001)



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SECTION 4: 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 other. The move could involve a change in placement type (i.e. foster care to residential care) or the child may remain in the same placement type (i.e. foster care to foster care). Children may also move from a 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 4.1 : **Number of Children and Rate per 10,000 Children aged under 18 receiving Respite Care (1998/99-2000/01)**

Trust	1998/99		1999/00		2000/01	
	No.	CRC1	No.	CRC1	No.	CRC1
North & West Belfast	18	4.0	34	7.6	53	11.9
South & East Belfast	53	12.6	64	15.2	68	16.2
Ulster Community & Hosp.	63	17.7	97	27.2	117	32.8
Down Lisburn	7	1.5	25	5.3	22	4.7
Eastern	141	8.3	220	13.0	260	15.3
Causeway	40	15.7	39	15.3	32	12.6
Homefirst	248	28.4	270	30.9	307	35.2
Northern	288	25.5	309	27.4	339	30.1
Armagh & Dungannon	21	6.7	21	6.7	34	10.9
Craigavon & Banbridge	66	20.8	51	16.1	59	18.6
Newry & Mourne	20	7.3	9	3.3	18	6.5
Southern	107	11.8	81	9.0	111	12.3
Foyle	29	5.6	46	8.9	64	12.4
Sperrin Lakeland	18	5.0	21	5.8	29	8.0
Western	47	5.4	67	7.6	93	10.6
Northern Ireland	583	12.7	677	14.7	803	17.4

During 2000/01, 803 children received respite care in Northern Ireland, a rate of 17.4 children per 10,000-population aged under 18. Since 1998/99, the number of children receiving respite care during the year has increased by 37.7% (220). The level of respite care provision varied considerably across Trusts, from 35.2 children per 10,000-population aged under 18 in Homefirst to 4.7 in Down Lisburn.

Across Boards, almost 40% (339) of children who received respite care in 2000/01 were in the Northern Board, whilst only 93 children in the Western Board received respite care during the year. Over the last three years, the number of children receiving respite care in the Eastern Board has almost doubled, from 141 in 1998/99 to 260 in 2000/01 (Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1).