

STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has today published both 'Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2009/10' and 'Children Order Statistical Trends for Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2009/10' ~ Friday, 27 May 2011

This is the seventh reporting of annual and five year trend statistics relating to children's social care activity in Northern Ireland.

Key Facts and Figures:

Children Order Statistical Tables for Northern Ireland 2009/10

Child Protection

- At 31st March 2010, there were 2,357 children on child protection registers in Northern Ireland, a drop of 5% (131) from 2009 (2,488);
- Of the 2,357 children on the register:
 - 51% were boys and 49% were girls;
 - 8% were aged under 1 year old, and 7% were aged 16 or older;
 - 50% were assessed to be at risk of neglect;
- During 2009/10, there were 4,270 child protection referrals, 44% (1,861) from within social services;

Looked After Children

- At 31st March 2010, there were 2,606 looked after children in Northern Ireland, up by 6% (143) from 2009 (2,463);
- Of the 2,606 looked after children:
 - 52% were boys and 48% were girls;
 - 3% were aged under 1 year old, and 19% were aged 16 years or older;
 - 65% were foster care placements, 19% were family placements, 11% were residential care and 6% were in 'Other' placement types;
 - 23% had been in care for less than 1 year; with 10% in care for 10 years or longer;
- During 2009/10, there were 1,042 admissions into care, 908 discharges from care, and 739 respite placements;

Children in Need

- During 2009/10, there were 31,693 referrals to children's social services, relating to 23,926 children, of which 23,807 were assessed as children in need;
- Compared to 2008/09, referrals increased by 11% (3,253) from 28,440 to 31,693, and children referred rose by 6% (1,394) during the same period;
- By the year ending 31 March 2010, 79% of children referred to social services had been allocated for further action (service or assessment);

Children Order Statistical Trends for Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2009/10

Child Protection

- Between 2005 and 2010, the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register increased by 48% (764), from 1,593 to 2,357, respectively;
- Registrations increased by 64% (717), from 1,129 in 2004/05 to 1,846 in 2009/10;
- De-Registrations more than doubled from 940 in 2005 to 1,947 in 2010;

Looked After Children


- At 31 March 2010, there were 2,606 looked after children, up by 6% (143) from 2009, and by 3% (75) since 2005;

- In recent years, the proportion of looked after children in care for three years or more, fell from 55% in 2007 to 46% in 2010;
- The number of children in foster care has increased by 5% (80), from 1,607 in 2008/09 to 1,687 in 2009/10; this compares with a 7% (21) fall in children in residential care during the same period;

Children in Need

- During 2009/10, 31,693 referrals were made to children's services in Northern Ireland, having increased by 11% (3,253) and 19% (5,070) from 2008/09 and 2004/05, respectively;
- 23,807 children were referred during 2009/10, an increase of 36% (6,309) since 2004/05 and 6% (1,427) since 2008/09.

Notes to editors:

1. This information was collated by Community Information Branch within the DHSSPS.
2. Statistics detailed within these bulletins relate to child protection, children in care (looked after children), children in need and day care provision for children aged under twelve. Figures report activity counts at 31 March 2010, for the year ending 31 March 2010, and five year trends covering the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2010.
3. Similar statistics for 2010/11 and 2005/06 to 2010/11 are due for publication on 16 December 2011.
4. This publication is available [online](#) 
5. Further information is available from:

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