Statistics briefing: looked after children

This briefing looks at what data and statistics are available about looked after children to help professionals, and the organisations they work for, make evidence based decisions.

March 2021

Introduction

This briefing introduces a range of datasets available in the UK that relate to children in local authority care. Data is collected on the demographics of looked after children, their experiences while in care and their outcomes. Statistics can help professionals and the organisations they work for make evidence based decisions about how best to meet the needs of children in care.

What does the data tell us?

- The number and rate of children in care in the UK are increasing overall, although trends vary between the four nations.
- Certain groups of children are more likely to be in care than others.
- The majority of looked after children are in care because of abuse or neglect.
- Foster care is the most common placement type for looked after children.
- The most common reason for a child to leave care is to return to their family.
- A significant minority of looked after children experience multiple care placements in a year.
- Children in care have below average outcomes across a range of measures, although children in care make better progress in some areas than children in need, a closer comparison group.
• Looked after children, or children who were previously looked after, are more likely than children who have never been in care to be the subject of case reviews. These represent a very small minority of children.

Who are looked after children?

A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child. Each UK nation has a slightly different definition of a looked after child and follows its own legislation, policy and guidance. Looked after children are also often referred to as children in care. The two terms are used interchangeably in this briefing.

Find out more about looked after children on NSPCC Learning

What data is available?

Data about looked after children is available from a number of sources. Information covered includes:

- the number of looked after children
- the reasons children are in care
- the characteristics of looked after children, including gender, ethnicity and age
- the types of care looked after children experience, including the type and number of placements
- the outcomes for looked after children, including health, education and offending behaviour
- the reasons children leave care.

Throughout this briefing, figures given are the most up to date at the time of publication.

How can the data be used?

Data can only ever tell part of the story. It’s important to bear in mind the limitations of the data available.
You can use this data to: | But you can’t use it to:
---|---
✔ See trends in the numbers of children in care over time. | ✗ Directly attribute a rise or fall in numbers of children in care to an increase or decrease in need for local authority care.
✔ Look at rates of children in care in the child population. | ✗ Compare the rates of children in care across the UK nations.
✔ Identify groups of children that are disproportionately represented within the looked after children population. | ✗ Attribute disproportionate representation within the care population to a greater need for care within certain groups.
✔ Identify areas of looked after children’s lives where they have poorer than average outcomes. | ✗ Attribute poorer outcomes for looked after children directly to their experiences in care.

What does the data tell us?

The number and rate of children in care in the UK are increasing overall, although trends vary between the four nations.

In 2018/19 there were approximately 102,000 looked after children in the UK. The total number of looked after children in the UK has increased every year since 2010. In the last five years the population of looked after children in the UK has increased by 10%, from 93,013 to 102,291. However, it is important to note that this UK-wide trend is not reflected in all four nations.

The numbers of looked after children in England, Northern Ireland and Wales have increased:

- In England, the number of looked after children has increased every year since 2008.
- In Northern Ireland, the number of looked after children is the highest recorded since the introduction of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
- In Wales, the number of looked after children reached a new high of 6,845 in 2019.

(Sources: Department for Education (DfE), 2019a; Department of Health Northern Ireland (DoHNI), 2019a; Welsh Government, 2019a.)
In contrast, after years on the rise, numbers of looked after children in Scotland have shown a decline:

- In Scotland, the number of looked after children peaked at 16,248 in 2012 and was down to 14,015 by 2019.

(Source: Scottish Government, 2020a)

The number of looked after children is growing faster than that of the UK child population. In the last five years, there has been an increase from 68.4 to 72.8 looked after children per 10,000 of the under-18 UK population. The rate of looked after children per 10,000 of the under-18 population varies significantly between the four nations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
<th>31 July 2019</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>108.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Ireland</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; DoHNI, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019a, Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2020.)

This is partly due to differences between the nations around when children are counted as being ‘in care’, and what this means in practice. Because of these differences, rates cannot be directly compared between nations.

Certain groups of children are more likely to be in care than others.

In the UK children are more likely to be in care if they are:

a) Male

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
<th>31 July 2019</th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Ireland</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion of under-18 population that is male (all mid-2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; DoHNI, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019a; ONS, 2020.)

b) Black or of mixed ethnicity (except in Scotland where only children of mixed ethnicity are overrepresented)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019b; Nomis, 2011.)

2 Data for the population as a whole is from 2011, when the last census took place.

Data is not available for Northern Ireland.

In the UK children are **less likely** to be in care if they are:

a) female

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; DoHNI, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019a; ONS, 2020.)
b) Asian or White

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of looked after child population that is from an Asian background</td>
<td>4.6%(^4)</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of under-18 population that is from an Asian background (under-20 for Scotland)(^3)</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of looked after child population that is White</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
<td>84.7%</td>
<td>91.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of under-18 population that is White (under-20 for Scotland)(^3)</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>93.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019b; Nomis, 2011.)

\(^3\) Data for the population as a whole is from 2011, when the last census took place.

\(^4\) Data on looked after children from a Chinese background is included in the figure for children from an Asian background (unlike in published DfE figures for England, which includes looked after children from a Chinese background within the “Other ethnic group” category).

Data is not available for Northern Ireland.

The gender imbalance has been increasing in some nations. For example, in England there was an increase of 14% for looked after boys between 2015 and 2019, compared to an increase of 10% for girls. This difference is likely to have largely been driven by an increase in unaccompanied asylum-seeking children over this period, the majority of whom are male (DfE, 2019a).

Little is known about why certain minority ethnic groups are overrepresented whilst others are underrepresented within the care system. Research has identified a number of potential causes, including: lack of access to appropriate support services, greater unwillingness in some cultures to report concerns about a child’s safety, or greater uncertainty among child welfare professionals about how to respond appropriately to the needs of families from certain ethnicities. However, it is likely that many different factors interact to contribute to the differences (Owen, 2009).

**The majority of looked after children are in care because of abuse or neglect.**

Only England and Wales publish information on why children are looked after. In both nations, the majority of children were looked after because of abuse or neglect:
• in England 63% of looked after children were looked after due to abuse or neglect in 2018/19
• in Wales 68% of children receiving care and support who are were looked after were looked after due to abuse or neglect in 2018/19.

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Welsh Government, 2020a.)

Other reasons for being in care include:

• family dysfunction5 (England: 14%, Wales 15%)
• family in acute stress6 (England: 8%, Wales: 8%)
• child’s disability (England: 3%, Wales: 3%)
• parent’s illness or disability (England: 3%, Wales: 2%)
• socially unacceptable behaviour (England: 1%, Wales: 2%).

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Welsh Government, 2020a.)

5 Family dysfunction - Children whose needs arise mainly out of their living with families where the parenting capacity is chronically inadequate (DfE, 2019c)

Family in acute stress - Children whose needs arise from living in a family going through a temporary crisis such that parenting capacity is diminished and some of the children’s needs are not being adequately met (DfE, 2019c).

This measure is important because for many looked after children their pre-care experiences continue to affect them long after they become looked after (Rahilly and Hendry, 2014).

Foster care is the most common placement type for looked after children.

Across the UK, the most common placement for a looked after child is living with foster carers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Type</th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>N. Ireland 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of looked after children in foster placements (includes kinship care)</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement with parents</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential accommodation</td>
<td>14%7</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; DoHNI, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019c.)

7 Includes secure units, children’s homes, semi-independent living, residential schools and other residential settings
In Scotland, where the care system is significantly different to the rest of the UK, a large proportion of looked after children (25%) were living at home with their parents.

**The most common reason for a child to leave care is to return to their family.**

For all nations where data is available, the most common reason for a child to leave care is to return home to their family. Data is not available for Northern Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Returned home to live with parents or relatives</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopted</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the care of former foster/kinship carers</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved into independent/supported living arrangement</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019d.)

Excluding instances where a new episode of care began on the same or next day.

In 2018/19, 59% of children who ceased to be looked after in Scotland returned home to their parents. This high proportion can partly be explained by the fact that many looked after children in Scotland (25%) continue to live at home with their parents whilst being "looked after". These children have been through the Children's Hearing system and are subject to a Supervision Requirement (i.e. regular contact with social services) with no condition of residence.

This measure is important because research suggests that, without proper support, outcomes for many children reunified with their families are poor, and many will re-enter care subsequently (Wade et al, 2011; Farmer et al, 2011; Farmer and Lutman, 2012).

**A significant minority of looked after children experience multiple care placements in a year.**

In England, Wales and Scotland the majority of looked after children remained in the same placement last year (68-80%). However, a significant minority (around 5-10%) had three or more placements in the last year. Data for Northern Ireland is not published.
Looked after children with three or more placements in the last 12 months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Scotland 31 July 2019</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Looked after children with three or more placements in the last 12 months</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; Scottish Government, 2020a; Welsh Government, 2019e.)

This measure is important because multiple care placements have been shown to have a significant impact on looked after children’s wellbeing (Hannon et al., 2010) and are associated with poor behavioural outcomes (Rubin et al., 2007).

**Children in care have below average outcomes across a range of measures, although children in care make better progress in some areas than children in need, a closer comparison group.**

Many looked after children have experienced abuse or neglect; experiences which are associated with poorer outcomes for children (Wilkinson et al., 2017).

Research suggests that when children in care are compared with children in the general population, they tend to have poorer outcomes in areas such as educational attainment and mental and physical health (Rahilly and Hendry, 2014). However, this is not necessarily the case when compared with other groups of children who are likely to have had similar experiences, such as children in need.9 One study, which analysed government data, found that looked after children who were continuously in care in England had better educational attainment than children in need (Sebba et al., 2015).

Official data is not available for some outcomes, as they are not routinely or consistently measured or recorded across all four nations. However, some outcomes are collected across the UK, a selection of which are outlined below. Data is also included on the mental health of looked after children which, although not collected across all four nations, has been the subject of large scale research projects.

9 A child is considered to be a “child in need” if they are unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision of services by a public authority; or if a child’s development or health is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision of such services.

**Looked after children are more likely to have a mental health issue.**

In 2001/2 the Office of National Statistics conducted a survey of the mental health of looked after young people aged 5-17 in Great Britain. This research, which remains the most comprehensive data available on the mental health of children in care, found that overall in Great Britain 45% of looked after children aged 5-17 had a mental...
health disorder as defined by the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems 10th Revision, compared to 10% of the general population (Meltzer et al., 2003).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>Wales</th>
<th>GB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of looked after children with a mental disorder</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of the general child population with a mental disorder</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: Meltzer et al., 2003; Meltzer et al., 2004a; Meltzer et al., 2004b, Green et al., 2005.)

Some more recent data is available on the mental health of looked after children in England and Northern Ireland.

In England, the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) should be completed for every child looked after for at least 12 months and aged 5-16 as at the end of March\(^6\).

Data from the DfE on findings from this questionnaire shows that:

- in 2019, 78% of the 41,140 looked after children who met the criteria had a SDQ score returned
- the average SDQ score for England was 14.2, which is classified as “borderline cause for concern”\(^1\).

(Source: DfE, 2019a)

In Northern Ireland, Queen’s University conducted a survey looked at mental health of looked after children in Northern Ireland, supported by a grant from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

The research, published in 2015, found that behavioural and mental/emotional health problems were the most common health issues suffered by looked after children and young people in Northern Ireland, with:

- 40% having been diagnosed with behavioural problems
- 35% with emotional problems
- 21% with depression or anxiety.

(Source: McSherry, D. et al., 2015.)

This measure is important because it highlights the need for mental health support for looked after children. If mental health needs are unmet it can increase children’s risk
of a variety of poor outcomes, including placement instability and poor educational attainment (Bazalgette, Rahilly and Trevelyan, 2015).

10 The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) is a short behavioural screening questionnaire used to assess children’s mental health (The Anna Freud Centre, 2020).

11 Although SDQ scores can be used as continuous variables, it is sometimes convenient to categorise scores. The initial bandings presented for the SDQ scores by Youth in Mind were ‘normal’, ‘borderline’ and ‘abnormal’. These bandings were defined based on a population-based UK survey, attempting to choose cutpoints so that 80% of children scored ‘normal’, 10% ‘borderline’ and 10% ‘abnormal’ (Youth in Mind, 2012).

**Looked after children are more likely to have additional or special educational needs.**

England, Wales and Northern Ireland all collect data on the number of looked after children with additional or special educational needs (SEN). Data is not available for Scotland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>England 31 March 2019</th>
<th>Northern Ireland 2018/19</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of looked after children with SEN</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of the general child population with SEN</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2020a; DfE, 2019b; DoHNI, 2019b; Department of Education (DoE), 2019; Welsh Government, 2020b, Welsh Government 2020c)

12 In England the figures for children with special educational needs (SEN) relates to children with an Education, health and care (EHC) plan. In Northern Ireland and Wales it relates to children with a SEN statement.

**Looked after children are less likely to do well at school.**

All four nations collect some data on the educational attainment of looked after children.

In Northern Ireland and Wales data relates to children obtaining GCSE grades A* - C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Northern Ireland 2017/18</th>
<th>Wales 31 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of looked after children achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Sources: DfE, 2020a; DfE, 2019b; DoHNI, 2019b; Department of Education (DoE), 2019; Welsh Government, 2020b, Welsh Government 2020c)

13 In England the figures for children with special educational needs (SEN) relates to children with an Education, health and care (EHC) plan. In Northern Ireland and Wales it relates to children with a SEN statement.
### Statistics briefing

#### Looked after children

| Percentage of the general child population achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C including English/Welsh and Maths | 72% | 54% |

(Sources: DoHNI, 2018; Welsh Government, 2020d, Welsh Government, 2019f)

13 Data for 2018/19 for Northern Ireland is not available due to problems with data collection.

14 In Wales figures are for the percentage of children achieving the level 2 threshold at key stage 4 including English/Welsh and Mathematics at Key Stage 4. This is the equivalent of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English/Welsh and Maths.

In England, following GCSE reforms, a new grading scale of 9 to 1 has been introduced, with 9 being the top grade. The new measure adopted by the DfE to track student attainment is called “Attainment 8”. Attainment 8 measures the average achievement of pupils across a set of eight subjects. In 2019, the average Attainment 8 score for looked after children in England was 19.1, compared to 44.6 for non-looked after children.

(Source: DfE, 2020a)

In Scotland data relates to the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). In 2018/19, 37% of looked after children in Scotland left school with one or more qualification at Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) level 5 or above, while 85% of all school leavers achieved this level.

(Source: Scottish Government, 2020b.)

### Care leavers are less likely to be in education, training or employment.

England, Northern Ireland and Scotland collect data on what children go on to do after leaving care. Data on care leavers is no longer published for Wales.

- In England in 2019, 35% of care leavers aged 19 were not in education, training or employment. This compares to 11% of 18-year-olds in 2019 and 13% of 19-24-year-olds in the general population in October - December 2019.
- In Northern Ireland in 2018/19, 37% of care leavers aged 19 were not in education, training or employment. This compares to 8% of 16-24-year-olds in the general population in January – March 2019.
- In Scotland data is collected for the number of school leavers who go on to a “positive destination” (education, employment, training, voluntary work or an agreement with a trusted professional that they will take part in a programme of learning and activity). In 2018/19, 19% of school leavers who had been
looked after had not gone on to some form of positive destination. This compares to 5% of all school leavers.

(Sources: DfE, 2019a; DfE, 2020b; DfE, 2020c; DoHNI, 2020; NISRA, 2020; Scottish Government, 2020b)

Looked after children, or children who were previously looked after, are more likely than children in the general population to be the subject of case reviews.

Research indicates that the vast majority of children who are in care in the UK live safely in foster or residential care; only a minority experience harm from those who care for them (Biehal et al, 2014).

A case review is conducted when a child dies, or is seriously harmed, as a result of abuse or neglect. The review identifies ways that local professionals and organisations can improve the way they work together to safeguard children.

Children who are currently in care or who have previous experience of being in care are over-represented as a group among the very small number of children who are the subject of a case review. This can partly be explained by the fact that the suicide of a looked after child should always result in a review. In contrast suicides by young people not in care are not investigated by the case review process unless maltreatment or neglect are identified as critical factors in their lives (Sidebotham, 2016).

- In England, an analysis of 278 serious case reviews (SCRs) from 2014-17 found that 16% of the children were or had previously been looked after.
- In Northern Ireland, an analysis of 24 case management reviews from 2003-2008 found that 21% of children had been looked after at the time of the incident that prompted the review, and a further 17% had previously been looked after.
- In Scotland, an analysis of 56 significant case reviews from 2007-2011 found that 20% related to children who were or had been looked after. More recent analysis (Care Inspectorate, 2016 and 2019) provides data on where children were living at the time of the incident, but does not explicitly state how many of the children had looked after status.
- Data is not available for Wales.

(Sources: Brandon et al., 2020; Devaney et al., 2013; Vincent and Petch, 2012; Care Inspectorate, 2016; Care Inspectorate, 2019.)
References

**General**

<http://library.nspcc.org.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search2?searchTerm0=C5162>


<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

<http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/11152/1/DCSF-RR124.pdf>

<http://library.nspcc.org.uk/HeritageScripts/Hapi.dll/search2?searchTerm0=C5275>


**England**


<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/DC2101EW/view/2092957700?rows=c_ethpuk11&cols=c_age>


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For further reading about looked after children, search the NSPCC Library Catalogue using the keyword “children in care”.

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