

Milestone 6: Reducing the number of households with children, and particularly families with children, living in temporary accommodation

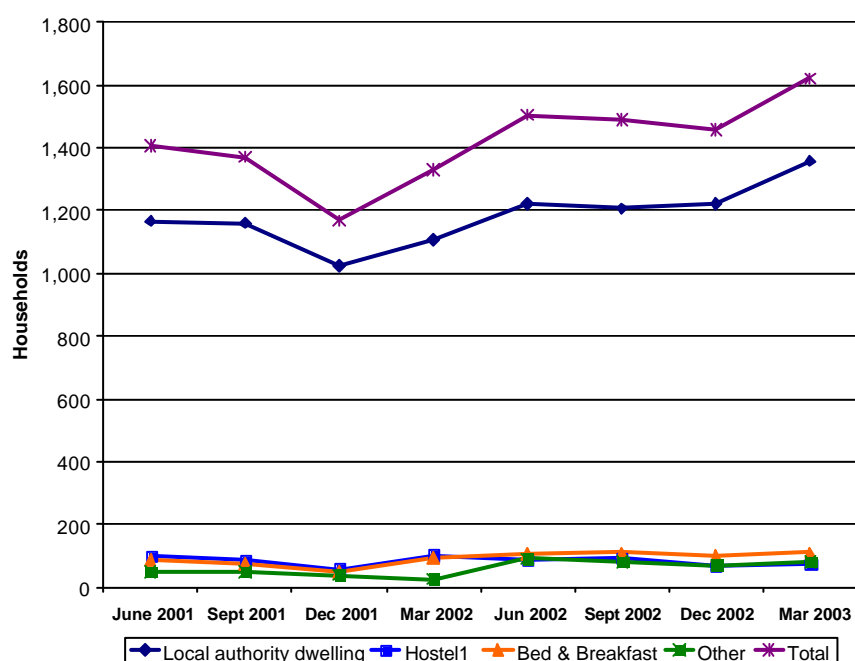
This milestone is measured by means of a snapshot count of the number of households in temporary accommodation carried out by the Scottish Executive at the end of March, June, September and December. The information is collected from local authorities under the homeless persons legislation and relates only to those households who secured temporary accommodation under the legislation.

Applicants for assistance under the homelessness legislation may be placed in temporary accommodation either as the outcome of the application, or as a temporary measure until the council can complete their assessment and identify suitable permanent accommodation for the applicant. In 2001, the Scottish Parliament passed legislation which placed additional duties on councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to **all applicants** assessed as homeless. In particular, from September 2002, councils have been required to provide temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to non-priority applicants who in the past would have received advice and assistance only.

Temporary accommodation

Coinciding with the change in legislation, there has been an increase in the total number of households and households with dependent children in temporary accommodation over the last 12 months. However, since 2001, there has been a fall in households with dependent children as a proportion of all households living in temporary accommodation.

Chart 6a: Number of households with dependent children in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, June 2001 – March 2003



Source: Scottish Executive

Since the information was first collected, the total number of households with dependent children in temporary accommodation has increased from some 1,400 in June 2001 to some 1,600 in March 2003. This increase of some 16 per cent has occurred over the last 12 months.

Since 2001, there has been a fall from 35 per cent to 29 per cent in households with dependent children as a proportion of all households living in temporary accommodation. The number of households with dependent children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation as a percentage of all households with dependent children in temporary accommodation has remained fairly steady at some 7 per cent since 2001.

Background data

Table 6b: Households in temporary accommodation, 2001 - 2003

Period	Total Households	Households with dependent children	Households with dependent children as a percentage of all households
	Number	Number	Percentage
as at 31 March 2001	4,060	1,438	35
as at 30 June 2001	4,002	1,405	35
as at 30 September 2001	3,924	1,370	35
as at 31 December 2001	3,913	1,169	30
as at 31 March 2002	4,153	1,329	32
as at 30 June 2002	4,420	1,503	34
as at 30 September 2002	4,704	1,490	32
as at 31 December 2002	5,047	1,457	29
as at 31 March 2003	5,496	1,620	29

Source: Scottish Executive

Table 6c: Households with children and number of children living in temporary accommodation by accommodation type, 2001 - 2003

Household type	Local authority dwelling		Hostel		Bed & Breakfast		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Households with dependent children										
as at 30 June 2001	1,166	83	101	7	88	6	50	4	1,405	100
as at 30 Sept 2001	1,160	85	86	6	76	6	48	4	1,370	100
as at 31 Dec 2001	1,024	88	58	5	48	4	39	3	1,169	100
as at 31 March 2002	1,107	83	103	8	94	7	25	2	1,329	100
as at 30 June 2002	1,222	81	85	6	105	7	91	6	1,503	100
as at 30 Sept 2002	1,206	81	93	6	110	7	81	5	1,490	100
as at 31 Dec 2002	1,220	84	67	5	99	7	71	5	1,457	100
as at 31 March 2003	1,357	84	73	5	110	7	80	5	1,620	100
Total number of dependent children										
as at 30 June 2001	2,203	84	189	7	149	6	82	3	2,623	100
as at 30 Sept 2001	2,210	85	156	6	138	5	86	3	2,590	100
as at 31 Dec 2001	1,925	88	114	5	81	4	64	3	2,184	100
as at 31 March 2002	2,046	86	156	7	142	6	45	2	2,389	100
as at 30 June 2002	2,322	83	156	6	164	6	153	5	2,795	100
as at 30 Sept 2002	2,117	81	195	7	171	7	144	5	2,627	100
as at 31 Dec 2002	2,407	85	128	5	155	6	126	4	2,816	100
as at 31 March 2003	2,594	86	121	4	186	6	128	4	3,029	100

Source: Scottish Executive

Availability of data and references

This is the third year information on households with dependent children is available. Focus will increase on households with dependent children in inappropriate temporary accommodation as more information becomes available. Information on all households in temporary accommodation will continue to be presented. Information on temporary

accommodation can be disaggregated by local authorities, but is not available by age, gender, ethnicity or disability. Analysis by urban and rural split is also not available.

*Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland
National and Local Authority Analyses 2002-03*
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00271-00.asp>