



## **News Release**

**Telephone: 0131-244 1111**

23 October 2001

### **CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000**

Statistics on child protection covering the year ended 31 March 2000 have been published today by the Scottish Executive.

This news release updates the figures published in October 2000 in the News Release *Child Protection Statistics for the Year Ended 31 March 1999*.

The main points are:

- Just over 7,200 children were referred to local authorities for child protection inquiries in the year ended 31 March 2000.
- Of those children referred to local authorities, 36 per cent were the subject of an inter-agency case conference.
- Of these case conferences, 73 per cent resulted in the child being placed on the local child protection register.
- In 88 per cent of instances where children were subject to a case conference, the children in question were living at home prior to being referred.
- In 78 per cent of all case conferences, the primary source of abuse/risk to the child was known or suspected to be the child's birth parent(s).
- Of the 1,890 children placed on the child protection register in 1999-00, 72 per cent were identified as being at risk of physical injury or physical neglect.
- There were just over 2,100 children removed from child protection registers in the year to 31 March 2000. Two-thirds of these children had been on the register for less than a year, with nearly 11 per cent having spent at least 2 years on the register.

- Of these 2,100 de-registrations, 40 per cent were for children whose main category of abuse had been identified as physical injury while 32 per cent were for children whose main category of abuse was considered to be physical neglect.
- There were 2,050 children on local child protection registers at 31 March 2000; this is a decrease of just over 300 on the number one year previously.
- Of the children on the child protection register at 31 March 2000, 53 per cent were boys and 76 per cent were under the age of 11.

**The following tables are available:**

Table 1 - Children Referred for Child Protection Inquiries: Breakdown by Gender and Age Group.

Table 2 - Children Who Were Subject to a Case Conference: Breakdown by Placement of Children Prior to Referral.

Table 3 - Children Who Were Subject to a Case Conference: Breakdown by Child's Primary Known / Suspected Abuser.

Table 4 - Children Registered as a Result of a Case Conference : Breakdown by Category of Abuse / Risk Identified by Conference.

Table 5A - Children De-Registered: Breakdown by Category of Abuse/Risk Identified at Conference.

Table 5B - Children De-Registered: Breakdown by Length of Time on Child Protection Register.

Table 6 - Number of Children on Child Protection Registers: Breakdown by Gender and Age Group.

Table 7 - Number of Children on Child Protection Registers and Rate Per 1,000 Population Aged 0-15 Years.

Table 8 - Numbers of Children Referred, Subject to a Case Conference, Registered, and on Child Protection Registers.

**NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS**

1. The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 places certain duties on local authorities in relation to the wellbeing of children in their area. These include a general duty to promote and safeguard the welfare of children in need and a specific duty to cause inquiries to be made into the case of a child who may be in need of compulsory measures of supervision due to lack of parental care, abuse or neglect. Arising from these duties, Local Authority Social Work Departments will have received reports about

children who may have been abused or who may be at risk of abuse. These children may have been referred by relatives, neighbours, professionals or other sources. In practice there are differences in interpretation between Local Authorities as to what constitutes a referral. For example, an initial observation by a neighbour may not be counted as a referral until after further preliminary investigations have taken place.

2. Social Work Departments decide whether there is a need to initiate child protection inquiries and the subsequent steps to follow. National guidance sets out a framework for collaboration between Social Work Departments and other agencies in child protection cases (Protecting Children – A Shared Responsibility : The Scottish Office 1998).

3. At the initial stage of inquiries, practitioners will assess whether the child is at immediate risk of serious harm. If so, they may seek to secure the safety of the child by applying for a child protection order or an exclusion order under the 1995 Act. Inter-agency child protection case conferences may be convened to consider the nature and extent of any future identified or potential risk and to decide what action should be taken to reduce the risk. Interim measures of support, supervision or care (e.g. voluntary social work involvement, placing the child with a foster family) may be put in place in order to alleviate the risk to the child.

4. A case conference will decide whether any child(ren) should be placed on the local child protection register. A child should be registered when his/her safety and welfare is considered to require an inter-agency protection plan. An inter-agency plan provides a framework for inter-agency assessment, case work and review. The purpose of a protection plan is to reduce any perceived risk to the child and to safeguard and promote his/her welfare.

5. If the child is registered, a review case conference will normally be held within three months and at six monthly intervals thereafter. The review conference will review the progress of the inter-agency work to protect the child and consider any continuing risk. The conference will also consider whether there is a need for continued registration or to update the child protection plan.

6. When professionals who are working with the child and family decide that the risk to the child has been eliminated or reduced, the local authority should remove the child's name from the child protection register. This decision should normally be made by a review case conference.

7. The statistics in this News Release have been derived from returns provided by local authorities about children who have been referred to authorities because of concerns that they may have been abused or may be at risk of abuse. For this purpose, abuse is defined under the following categories:

Physical injury  
Sexual abuse  
Non-organic failure to thrive  
Emotional abuse  
Physical neglect

8. A child may also be referred for child protection inquiries if he or she is the known or suspected perpetrator of abuse.

9. All 32 local authorities were able to provide the Scottish Executive with child protection data. Some authorities were, however, able to produce some but not all of the data requested. Where this was the case, the remaining data was estimated for these authorities and these estimates were then subsequently used in the calculation of Scotland level data. There are differences in the recording and interpretation of child protection data across Local Authorities, and so some of the apparent variation between Local Authorities may reflect reporting procedures rather than actual child protection practice.

10. Some minor revisions to data for the year to 31 March 1999 have been made by local authorities since the original publication of this data. For this reason 1998-99 figures shown in this release are different to those shown in the release *Child Protection Statistics for the Year Ended 31 March 1999* which was published on 18 October 2000.

11. Supporting tables are available on request – media should contact David Hood on 0131-244-5033 - and on the Scottish Executive web site ([www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)).

12. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

13. Public enquiries (non-media) about the information contained in this News Release should be addressed to Angus MacDonald, Scottish Executive Education Department, Area 1-A, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. Telephone 0131 244 3551 or e-mail [angus.macdonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:angus.macdonald@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

Contact: Murray Meikle 0131-244-2972  
23 October 2001

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 1  
CHILDREN REFERRED FOR CHILD PROTECTION INQUIRIES :  
BREAKDOWN BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP**

Gender	Age Group	Year Ended 31 March.....			
		1999		2000	
		Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total
Boys	0-4	1,150	15.7	1,286	17.9
	5-10	1,317	18.0	1,250	17.4
	11-15	957	13.1	907	12.6
	16+	95	1.3	34	0.5
	Total boys	3,520	48.2	3,477	48.3
Girls	0-4	1,058	14.5	1,152	16.0
	5-10	1,300	17.8	1,216	16.9
	11-15	1,305	17.9	1,313	18.2
	16+	127	1.7	43	0.6
	Total girls	3,790	51.8	3,724	51.7
All children	0-4	2,208	30.2	2,438	33.9
	5-10	2,617	35.8	2,466	34.2
	11-15	2,262	30.9	2,220	30.8
	16+	222	3.0	77	1.1
	Total children	7,310	100.0	7,201	100.0

1. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 2  
CHILDREN WHO WERE SUBJECT TO A CASE CONFERENCE<sup>1</sup> :  
BREAKDOWN BY PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN PRIOR TO REFERRAL**

Placement of children prior to referral	Year Ended 31 March.....			
	1999		2000	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total
At home	2,381	87.1	2,281	88.0
With relatives	152	5.6	113	4.4
With foster carers	87	3.2	75	2.9
In a residential establishment	22	0.8	23	0.9
Other placement	91	3.3	100	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Children referred for child protection inquiries in the years ended 31 March 1999 & 2000 who were subject to a case conference.

2. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 3  
CHILDREN WHO WERE SUBJECT TO A CASE CONFERENCE<sup>1</sup> :  
BREAKDOWN BY CHILD'S PRIMARY KNOWN/SUSPECTED ABUSER**

Primary known/suspected abuser	Year Ended 31 March.....			
	1999		2000	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total
Natural parent	2,148	78.6	2,034	78.4
Step parent	133	4.9	122	4.7
Parent's co-habitee	207	7.6	191	7.4
Other relative (including sibling)	141	5.2	142	5.5
Other person known to child / family	99	3.6	86	3.3
Person unknown to child / family	5	0.2	18	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Children referred for child protection inquiries in Scotland in the years ended 31 March 1999 & 2000 who were subject to a case conference.

2. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 4  
CHILDREN REGISTERED AS A RESULT OF A CASE CONFERENCE<sup>1</sup> :  
BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE/RISK IDENTIFIED BY CONFERENCE**

Category of abuse/risk	Year Ended 31 March.....			
	1999		2000	
	Number	<i>Percentage of total</i>	Number	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Physical injury	836	42.6	713	37.7
Sexual abuse	344	17.6	286	15.1
Emotional abuse	209	10.7	235	12.4
Physical neglect	563	28.7	639	33.8
Other	10	0.5	18	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>100.0</b>

1. Children referred for child protection inquiries in the years ended 31 March 1999 & 2000 who were subject to a case conference and were registered as a result of that conference.

2. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 5A  
CHILDREN DE-REGISTERED :  
BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE/RISK IDENTIFIED AT CONFERENCE**

Category of abuse/risk	Year Ended 31 March.....			
	1999		2000	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Physical injury	845	43.6	839	39.7
Sexual abuse	343	17.7	358	17.0
Emotional abuse	201	10.4	222	10.5
Physical neglect	528	27.3	673	31.9
Other	19	1.0	19	0.9
Total	1,936	100.0	2,112	100.0

**TABLE 5B  
CHILDREN DE-REGISTERED :  
BREAKDOWN BY LENGTH OF TIME ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER**

Length of time registered	Year Ended 31 March.....			
	1999		2000	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Less than 6 months	618	31.9	716	33.9
6 months to under 1 year	673	34.8	702	33.2
1 year to under 18 months	271	14.0	305	14.4
18 months to under 2 years	156	8.1	163	7.7
2 years or more	218	11.3	226	10.7
Total	1,936	100.0	2,112	100.0

1. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 6  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS :  
BREAKDOWN BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP**

Gender	Agegroup	As at 31 March 2000	
		Number	<i>Percentage of total</i>
Boys	0-4	483	23.6
	5-10	368	18.0
	11-15	217	10.6
	16+	11	0.5
	Total boys	1,080	52.7
Girls	0-4	354	17.3
	5-10	351	17.1
	11-15	249	12.1
	16+	17	0.8
	Total girls	970	47.3
All children	0-4	837	40.8
	5-10	718	35.0
	11-15	466	22.7
	16+	28	1.4
	Total children	2,050	100.0

1. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

2. Age and gender breakdowns for number of children on child protection registers were not collected in 1998-99 and therefore no year on year comparison is available.

**CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000**  
**TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE**

**TABLE 7**  
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS**  
**AND RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION AGED 0-15 YEARS**

<b>Local authority area</b>	<b>As at 31 March.....</b>			
	<b>1999</b>		<b>2000</b>	
	<b>Number on Register</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 population aged 0-15</b>	<b>Number on Register</b>	<b>Rate per 1,000 population aged 0-15</b>
Aberdeen City	201	5.2	144	3.7
Aberdeenshire	86	1.8	89	1.9
Angus	59	2.7	50	2.3
Argyll & Bute	41	2.5	42	2.7
Clackmannanshire	16	1.6	20	2.0
Dumfries & Galloway	70	2.5	55	2.0
Dundee City	44	1.6	42	1.5
East Ayrshire	11	0.4	14	0.6
East Dunbartonshire	11	0.5	14	0.7
East Lothian	72	4.0	70	3.9
East Renfrewshire	21	1.2	19	1.1
Edinburgh, City of	360	4.6	317	4.1
Eilean Siar	19	3.5	12	2.2
Falkirk	80	2.8	73	2.6
Fife	85	1.2	76	1.1
Glasgow City	380	3.2	325	2.8
Highland	216	5.1	166	3.9
Inverclyde	11	0.6	8	0.5
Midlothian	47	2.9	57	3.5
Moray	50	2.8	22	1.2
North Ayrshire	31	1.1	41	1.5
North Lanarkshire	54	0.8	52	0.8
Orkney Isles	1	0.2	2	0.5
Perth & Kinross	45	1.7	36	1.4
Renfrewshire	65	1.8	51	1.4
Scottish Borders	21	1.0	37	1.8
Shetland	23	4.5	10	2.0
South Ayrshire	4	0.2	7	0.3
South Lanarkshire	50	0.8	67	1.1
Stirling	42	2.6	21	1.3
West Dunbartonshire	42	2.1	21	1.0
West Lothian	103	3.1	90	2.7
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2.0</b>

1. Due to the inclusion of some estimated (rounded) figures in tables, the sum of component parts may not equal the totals shown.

CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2000  
TABLES FOR 23 OCTOBER 2001 NEWS RELEASE

TABLE 8  
NUMBERS OF CHILDREN REFERRED, SUBJECT TO A CASE CONFERENCE, REGISTERED AND ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS

Local authority area	Year Ended 31 March 2000							
	Number Referred	Rate of referrals per 1,000 population aged 0-15	Number Subject to a Case Conference	Rate of conferences per 1,000 population aged 0-15	Number Registered	Rate of registrations per 1,000 population aged 0-15	Number on Register	Rate on register per 1,000 population aged 0-15
Aberdeen City <sup>1</sup>	352	9.1	106	2.8	100	2.6	144	3.7
Aberdeenshire	736	15.5	91	1.9	78	1.6	89	1.9
Angus	177	8.3	78	3.6	53	2.5	50	2.3
Argyll & Bute	117	7.4	52	3.3	42	2.7	42	2.7
Clackmannanshire	149	14.8	25	2.5	18	1.8	20	2.0
Dumfries & Galloway	160	5.7	94	3.4	63	2.3	55	2.0
Dundee City	166	6.1	91	3.3	67	2.5	42	1.5
East Ayrshire	40	1.6	16	0.7	12	0.5	14	0.6
East Dunbartonshire	48	2.3	12	0.6	10	0.5	14	0.7
East Lothian	150	8.3	55	3.0	46	2.5	70	3.9
East Renfrewshire	61	3.4	40	2.2	28	1.6	19	1.1
Edinburgh, City of	641	8.2	209	2.7	185	2.4	317	4.1
Eilean Siar	23	4.3	9	1.7	8	1.5	12	2.2
Falkirk	259	9.1	49	1.7	49	1.7	73	2.6
Fife	485	7.0	143	2.1	97	1.4	76	1.1
Glasgow City	859	7.3	439	3.7	313	2.7	325	2.8
Highland	431	10.2	231	5.5	175	4.1	166	3.9
Inverclyde	170	9.9	76	4.4	8	0.5	8	0.5
Midlothian	103	6.3	54	3.3	46	2.8	57	3.5
Moray	166	9.4	34	1.9	20	1.1	22	1.2
North Ayrshire	97	3.4	65	2.3	48	1.7	41	1.5
North Lanarkshire	136	2.0	95	1.4	67	1.0	52	0.8
Orkney Isles	40	10.1	11	2.8	5	1.3	2	0.5
Perth & Kinross	236	9.3	62	2.4	42	1.7	36	1.4
Renfrewshire	131	3.6	113	3.1	79	2.2	51	1.4
Scottish Borders	399	19.8	44	2.2	34	1.7	37	1.8
Shetland	39	7.7	4	0.8	2	0.4	10	2.0
South Ayrshire	71	3.3	23	1.1	6	0.3	7	0.3
South Lanarkshire	279	4.5	105	1.7	62	1.0	67	1.1
Stirling	151	9.3	41	2.5	29	1.8	21	1.3
West Dunbartonshire	102	5.1	54	2.7	29	1.4	21	1.0
West Lothian	227	6.8	72	2.2	69	2.1	90	2.7
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2.0</b>

1. Figure for Aberdeen City for number registered is an estimate.