

Children in Scotland

CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND: A Snapshot of Scotland

Numbers are a simple way of describing complex realities. There are stories, histories and controversies behind each number in this Children in Scotland document. Those complexities are well worth exploring and understanding. However, we have done something more modest, but still useful. We have gathered up an intriguing collection of existing statistics from public sources that shed a little light on the well-being of children and young people in each of Scotland's 32 local authority areas. Then, when possible, we have compared the data for each local authority with the same data for Scotland as a whole.

This is worthwhile for two reasons. First, it provides a snapshot of how well children, young people and their families are doing in terms of a variety of measures of health, education, economic status – all of which contribute to their “well-being”. No single statistic can reveal the whole story. However, the bigger picture starts to come into view when lots of these small pieces of the puzzle are brought together.

Second, Scotland has just started down the path of a very major change in how government operates; how public policies and funding are decided; and, how public services are developed and delivered. The *Concordat* between the Scottish Government and COSLA (on behalf of the local authorities) is intended to usher in a new era of partnership between national and local government – with more power and responsibility shifting to local councils and communities. Therefore, the statistics presented here provide ‘baseline data’ (that is, the numbers against which progress can be measured and compared in the years ahead) for key features of well-being for children and young people in every local authority area.

Governments at every level make decisions daily about policies, programmes, laws and funding based upon such numbers. Newspapers, radio and television use such statistics to construct stories about children, young people and families. However, we know that ‘the numbers’ rarely ‘speak for themselves’. A significant change in the numbers over time doesn't reveal **why** it has happened or **what the consequences are** in terms of the lives and life chances of children and young people. That important work can, and should, be done by many people and groups bringing diverse perspectives and ideas to their analyses.

Thus, in considering these data, there are three questions we encourage you to ask: *Is this a high number (when compared to what)? What does this statistic actually mean for children and young people? What would have to happen for these numbers to improve?* It is important that these statistics are widely known, investigated and understood. By doing so, we all can be well-informed as we develop opinions, make decisions and take actions that affect the lives of children and young people across each local authority and throughout Scotland.

	Male	Female	Total
Total Population of Scotland¹	2,469,407	2,647,493	5,116,900
Total aged under 19	537,832	512,358	1,184,789
Age: 0 - 4	137,389	131,068	268,457
Age: 5 – 9	143,221	136,209	279,430
Age: 10 – 14	157,404	150,792	308,196
Age: 15 – 19	168,880	159,826	328,706
Birth Rate^a (per 1000 women)²	1986	1996	2006
	58.5	54.1	52.8
Ethnic group aged under 18³			
White Scottish	91.53%		
White Other British	4.00%		
Indian	0.36%		
Pakistani	1.08%		
Chinese	0.38%		
Any mixed Background	0.57%		

Families in Scotland

% Married couple families ⁴ :	70%
% Co-habiting couple families:	12%
% Lone mother families:	16%
% Lone father families:	2%
No. of Looked after children (% of all children) ⁵ :	12,966 (1.2%)
No. of children looked after by foster carers ⁶ :	3,731
No. of children adopted (2006) ⁷ :	418

^a General Fertility Rate (GFR), live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44

Economic (in)Security

	Scotland		UK		EU	
	2002	2006	2002	2006	2002	2006
Children in relative poverty ^b	27%	21%	23%	22%		21%
Adult unemployment rate ⁸ :	5%	4.8%	5.8%	5.4%	9.1%	8.6%
	Scotland ⁹		England ¹⁰		Wales ¹¹	
% of pupils entitled to free school meals ^c :	2002	2006	2002	2006	2001	2006
Primary:	20.3%	19.0%	17.1%	16.0%	20.5%	16.9%
Secondary:	15.9%	14.6%	14.9%	13.6%	17.7%	14.7%

Education

Pre-school:

% attending pre-school ^d :	Scotland ¹²	England ¹³	Wales ¹⁴
2 year olds:	15.6%		
ante-pre-school year:	96%	101% ^e	99.8% ^f
pre-school year:	98.8%		
	Scotland	England	Wales
Average cost of a full time nursery place (per week) ¹⁵ :	£146	£152	£131

Scottish Schools:

	Attendance ¹⁶	Truancy ¹⁷	Exclusion rate ^{18g} (per 1000 pupils)
Primary:	95.0%	0.3%	14.8
Secondary:	90.4%	1.2%	114.4
Special:	90.7%	1.7%	158.6
Pupils with additional support needs in mainstream schools ¹⁹			
	2003	2006	
Primary:	3.3%	4.2%	
Secondary:	3.0%	4.2%	

School Leavers:

	Scotland ²⁰		England		Wales	
	2003	2005	2003	2005	2003	2005
Full time higher education	31%	31%	-	24% ²¹	-	-
Full time further education	21%	21%	-	18.4%	-	-

^b % of children (all children aged 0-16 plus 17-19 year olds in full time education) living in households with equivalised household disposable income below 60% of the national median

^c Figures for primary schools in England include nursery and middle schools

^d Some 3 or 4 year olds taking places from more than one provider may have been counted twice

^e % of 3 and 4 year olds taking up early education places, may include some 2 year olds

^f % of 3 and 4 year olds receiving educational provision

^g Refers to both temporary and permanent exclusions. A child may be excluded more than once during the year.

Training or employment ²²	28%	32%	16%	13%	15%	14%
Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET)	16%	13%		10.9%		10.1% ²³

Health

Mortality:

Infant mortality rate (<i>per 1000 live births</i>):	Scotland		UK		EU	
	5.2 ²⁴		5.1 ²⁵		4.1 ²⁶	
	Scotland²⁷		England & Wales²⁸		EU²⁹	
Accidental death rate (<i>per 100,000</i>):	M	F	M	F	M	F
Ages 0-14:	7	5	5.3	3	12.9	8.6
Ages 15-25 ^h :	29	7	20.9	5.7	43.5	10.3
Suicide rate ⁱ (<i>per 100,000</i>) ³⁰						
Ages 10-14:	1	0	0	0	0.7	0.2
Ages 15-24:	15	2	5.8	1.5	18.1	2.4

Weight Issues in Scotland:

Infants born with low birth weight ^j : ³¹	2.4%
Pre-school pupils overweight ^k : ³²	20.7%
Primary 7 pupils overweight ³³ :	34.1%
Secondary 3 pupils overweight ³⁴ :	31.3%

Mental Health:

	Scotland		Great Britain
	1999	2004	2004
Children ^l diagnosed with mental disorder ³⁵ :	8.5%	8.3%	9.6%
Male :	9.0%	9.2%	11.4%
Female:	8.0%	7.4%	7.8%
Emotional disorders ^m (% on medication):	4.6%	2.5% (7%)	3.7%
Conduct disorders ⁿ (% on medication):	4.6%	5.5% (9%)	5.8%
ADHD & Hyperkinetic disorders ^o (% on medication):	1.1%	1.6% (43%)	1.5%

Scottish Pregnancy and Abortion Rates (per 1000 women, aged 13-19):

	1999/00	2001/02	2003/04
Teen pregnancy rate ³⁶ :	44.7	43.1	42.4
Teen delivery rate ³⁷ :	26.8	24.8	24
Teen aborted ^p rate ³⁸	17.9	18.3	18.4

^h European Figures are up to age 29

ⁱ Deaths from intentional self-harm, rates per 100,000 of population

^j Low Birth Weight is where weight at birth is <2500g for a singleton full term birth

^k % of pre-school aged children receiving a review

^l Ages 5-16 years old

^m e.g. phobias, anxiety, depression

ⁿ e.g. oppositional defiant disorder, socialised (typified by actions like criminal behaviour etc.) and unsocialised behaviour disorders (typified by being a loner / exclusion from groups)

^o e.g. child is hyperactive and impulsive

^p Ages 13-19, Aborted includes therapeutic abortions and miscarriages managed in hospitals

Teen pregnancies by age and deprivation ³⁹ :	Most affluent	Most deprived
13-15:	2.8	13.5
16-19:	29.6	119.5

Sexual Health:

No. of STIs diagnosed by gender and age :	Scotland		UK ⁴⁰	
	1996	2006	1996	2006
Male (under 15):	10	10	90	82
Female (under 15):	18	53	329	576
Male (15-19):	462	1811	-	-
Female (15-19):	1423	3467	-	-

Substance Use in Scotland:

Est. no. children affected by parental drug use:	60,000⁴¹
Est. no. children affected by parental alcohol use:	100,000⁴²

	2002	2004	2006
Young people who smoke regularly: ⁴³			
Male			
13 years old:	6%	5%	3%
15 years old:	16%	14%	12%
Female			
13 years old:	9%	7%	5%
15 years old:	24%	24%	18%
Young people who have been drunk more than 10 times: ⁴⁴			
13 years old:	7%	6%	7%
15 years old:	20%	8%	18%
Young people who have never tried alcohol: ⁴⁵			
13 years old:	31%	32%	43%
15 years old:	12%	12%	16%
Young people who reported having used drugs in the last month: ⁴⁶			
13 years old:	8%	7%	4%
15 years old:	23%	20%	14%
Young people who had never tried drugs: ⁴⁷			
13 years old:	-	-	93%
15 years old:	-	-	75%

Youth Justice in Scotland

No. of Children Referred to the Reporter ⁴⁸ :	1996/97	2005/06
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	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Non-offence:	7513	6961	20975	19843
Offence:	11589	2962	13392	4222
	2003/04		2005/06	
Main reasons for referral: ⁴⁹				
Allegedly committed an offence:	16470		17624	
Lack of parental care:	16266		17801	
Victim of a Schedule 1 offence:	12929		17331	
	2004/05		2005/06	
Number under 16 spending time in adult prison ⁵⁰ :	18		24	
Average no. of children in secure accommodation ⁵¹ :	87		81	
16-17 year olds in young offenders institutions who were previously Looked After Children ⁵² :			45%	

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- ¹ General Register Office for Scotland (GROS) 2006 mid-year population estimates.
 - ² General Register Office for Scotland, Annual Review 2006
 - ³ General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), 2001 Census
 - ⁴ Office of National Statistics, Labour Force Survey, spring 2004
 - ⁵ Scottish Executive, Looked After Children 2005/06
 - ⁶ Scottish Executive, Looked After Children, 2005/06
 - ⁷ GROS, Vital Events Reference Tables 2006, Adoptions and Re-registrations
 - ⁸ Office for National Statistics, Labour Force Survey
 - ⁹ Scottish Executive, School Meals in Scotland, June 2007
 - ¹⁰ National Statistics, Schools and Pupils in England, January 2006
 - ¹¹ Welsh Assembly Government, Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2006
 - ¹² Scottish Executive, Pre-School and Childcare Statistics 2006
 - ¹³ National Statistics, Provision for children under five years of age in England, January 2007
 - ¹⁴ Welsh Assembly Government, Schools in Wales: General Statistics 2006
 - ¹⁵ The Daycare Trust, Childcare Costs Survey 2007
 - ¹⁶ Scottish Executive, Attendance and Absence in Scottish Schools 2005/06
 - ¹⁷ Scottish Executive, Attendance and Absence in Scottish Schools 2005/06
 - ¹⁸ Scottish Executive, Exclusions from Schools 2005/06
 - ¹⁹ Scottish Executive, Pupils in Scotland, 2006
 - ²⁰ Scottish Executive, Destinations of Leavers from Scottish Schools: 2005/06
 - ²¹ National Statistics, Participation in Education Training and Employment, England, 2005/06
 - ²² National Statistics, Education and Training Statistics for the United Kingdom, 2006
 - ²³ Statistics for Wales, Participation of Young People in Education and the Learning Market, (Year End 2005)
 - ²⁴ ISD Scotland, Scottish Perinatal & Infant Mortality and Morbidity Report, 2005
 - ²⁵ Eurostat Yearbook, 2006/07,
 - ²⁶ Eurostat Yearbook 2006/07
 - ²⁷ GROS, Vital Events Reference Tables 2006,
 - ²⁸ ONS, Mortality Statistics 2005, DH2 No. 32
 - ²⁹ WHO, European Health for All Database, Mortality by cause of death, 2006
 - ³⁰ GROS, Vital Events Reference Tables 2006,
 - ³¹ ISD SMR02 Data, 2005
 - ³² ISD Scotland, 3 year olds born in 2001.
 - ³³ 2004/5 school year
 - ³⁴ 2004/5 school year
 - ³⁵ National Statistics, Mental Health of Children and Young People in Great Britain, 2004
 - ³⁶ ISD Scotland, Teenage Pregnancies, 2003/4,
 - ³⁷ ISD Scotland, Teenage Pregnancies, 2003/4,
 - ³⁸ ISD Scotland, Teenage Pregnancies, 2003/4,
 - ³⁹ ISD Scotland, Teenage pregnancies in Scotland by age group and deprivation, as at 31 March 2004
 - ⁴⁰ WHO/Europe, Computerised Information System for Infectious Diseases
 - ⁴¹ Have we got our priorities right? Children living with parental substance use, Aberlour, 2007
 - ⁴² Have we got our priorities right? Children living with parental substance use, Aberlour, 2007
 - ⁴³ ISD Scotland, Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), national report 2006
 - ⁴⁴ ISD Scotland, Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), national report 2006
 - ⁴⁵ ISD Scotland, Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), national report 2006
 - ⁴⁶ ISD Scotland, Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), national report 2006
 - ⁴⁷ ISD Scotland, Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS), national report 2006
 - ⁴⁸ Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Annual Report 2005/06
 - ⁴⁹ Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Annual Report 2005/06
 - ⁵⁰ Chief Inspector of Prison for Scotland, Annual Report, 2005-2006
 - ⁵¹ Scottish Executive publication, Secure Accommodation Statistics 2005/06
 - ⁵² Quoted by Cathy Jameson, in Children in Scotland Magazine, January 2007