

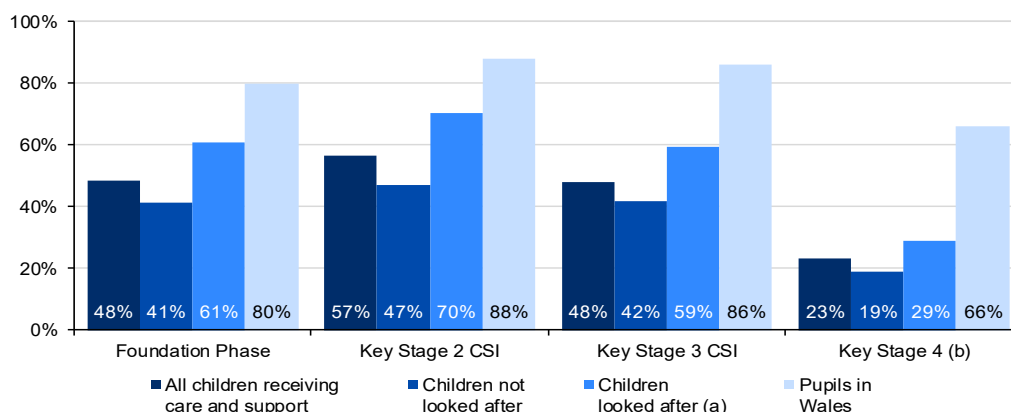
## Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census, 2019 (experimental statistics)

18 March 2020  
SFR 20/2020

This annual release presents figures on children receiving care and support from local authority social services on the census date of 31 March.

This release is based on the third year of data collected from the [Children Receiving Care and Support Census](#) following the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. See the [Key quality information](#) section for more information about the data.

### Chart 1: Educational achievement of children receiving care and support, children looked after, and all pupils at Foundation Phase and Key Stages at 31 March 2019



Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Databases

(a) Includes children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(b) L2 inclusive threshold: 5 A\*-C GCSEs or equivalents including English or Welsh First Language and Mathematics.

### Key results at 31 March 2019:

- There were 16,421 children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2019. Of these, 6,677 (41 per cent) were looked after and 2,214 (13 per cent) were on the Child Protection Register.
- 9,091 (55 per cent) were boys and 7,330 (45 per cent) were girls.
- 22 per cent of children receiving care and support were disabled.
- Children receiving care and support saw lower educational attainment than the average for all pupils in Wales; with a gap of 31 percentage points at Key Stage 2, increasing to 43 percentage points at Key Stage 4.

### About this release

This release presents data collected from the Children Receiving Care and Support (CRCS) Census.

The CRCS Census collects data that measures the characteristics and attributes of children receiving care and support (i.e. children under the age of 18 who have a care and support plan) and their parents, as at 31 March 2019.

Further information for local authorities are published on [StatsWales](#).

### In this release

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## Summary

- There were 16,421 children receiving care and support included in the Children Receiving Care and Support Census at 31 March 2019. This is a rate of 261 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years. ([Section 1](#), [Table 1](#))
- 6,677 (41 per cent) of children receiving care and support were looked after by a local authority and 2,214 (13 per cent) were on the Child Protection Register (CPR). ([Section 1](#), [Table 1](#))
- 93 per cent of children receiving care and support were white, 3 per cent were of mixed ethnicity, 2 per cent were Asian, 1 per cent were Black and 1 per cent were other ethnic groups. ([Section 1](#), [Table 2](#))
- 37 per cent of children receiving care and support were aged 10-15 years. ([Section 1](#), [Chart 3](#))
- Over half of all children receiving care and support (8,850 or 54 per cent) had a need for care and support due primarily to the risk of, or actual, abuse or neglect. ([Section 2](#), [Table 3](#))
- Parental mental ill health was recorded as a parenting capacity factor present for over a third (35 per cent) of children receiving care and support. ([Section 3](#), [Table 4](#))
- 83 per cent of children receiving care and support had up to date immunisations. ([Section 4](#), [Table 7](#))
- 3,575 (22 per cent) of children receiving care and support were disabled. ([Section 5](#), [Table 8](#))
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders were reported for 10 per cent (1,689) of children receiving care and support. ([Section 5](#), [Chart 5](#))
- Overall 46 per cent of children receiving care and support were eligible for free school meals. For children who were looked after, this figure was 32 per cent. For children who were not looked after it was 55 per cent. ([Section 6](#), [Table 9](#))
- 26 per cent of children receiving care and support had a Statement of Special Educational Needs, compared to 3 per cent for all pupils in Wales. ([Section 6](#), [Table 10](#))
- There is a wide educational attainment gap between children receiving care and support and all pupils in Wales. At the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the difference in the proportion achieving the expected outcome was 32 and 31 percentage points respectively. The gap then increases to 38 percentage points for Key Stage 3 and 43 percentage points for Key Stage 4. ([Section 6](#), [Table 11](#), [Table 12](#))

## Section 1 – Numbers of children receiving care and support included in the Children receiving care and support (CRCS) Census

The number of children receiving care and support includes only those children who had a care and support plan in place for 3 months or more at the census date of 31 March, i.e. the care and support plan was in place on or before 1 January 2019 and remained at 31 March 2019. This includes a small number of 18 year olds.

Looked after children have a care and support plan and are a subset of this population. Children who are on the Child Protection Register (CPR) are also captured, as are children supported in their families or independently, children with a care and support plan who are in the secure estate and children who have a support plan and are providing care to someone else. In order to have a care and support plan, children will have had an assessment of their care and support needs.

**Table 1: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census and whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register at 31 March, 2017 to 2019**

|  | 2017          |            | 2018          |            | 2019          |            |
|--|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|
|  | Percentage    |            | Percentage    |            | Percentage    |            |
|  | Number        | (%)        | Number        | (%)        | Number        | (%)        |
| <b>All children receiving care and support</b> | <b>15,932</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>16,081</b> | <b>100</b> | <b>16,421</b> | <b>100</b> |
| Children looked after (a)                      | 5,780         | 36         | 6,099         | 38         | 6,677         | 41         |
| Children on the Child Protection Register      | 2,136         | 13         | 2,384         | 15         | 2,214         | 13         |
| Other children receiving care and support (b)  | 8,016         | 50         | 7,598         | 47         | 7,530         | 46         |

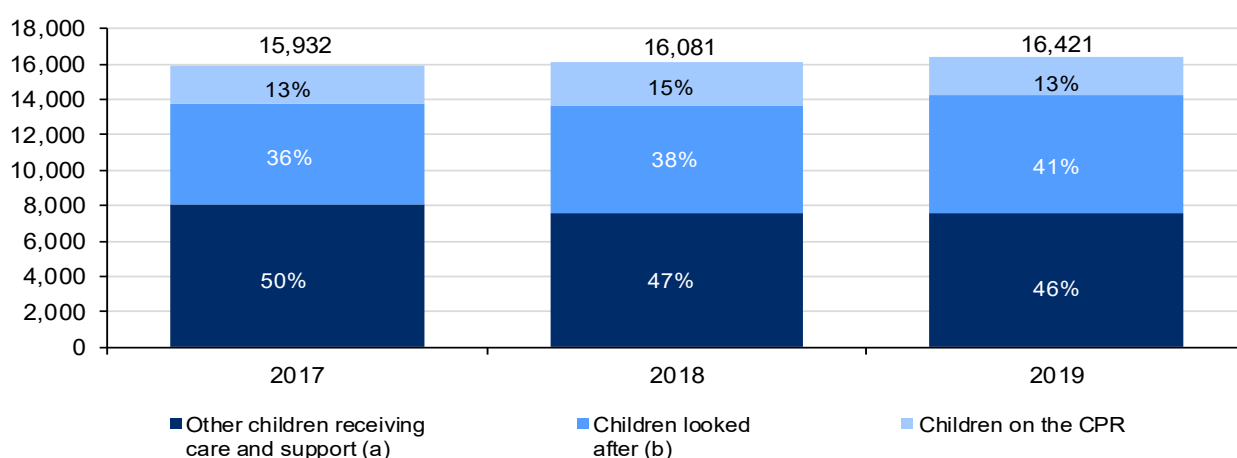
Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes 175 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2019, 141 at 31 March 2018, and 237 at 31 March 2017.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

There were 16,421 children receiving care and support at 31 March 2019, of which 6,677 (41 per cent) were looked after and 2,214 (13 per cent) were on the Child Protection Register. Data for unborn children is no longer collected.

**Chart 2: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census and whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register at 31 March, 2017 to 2019**



Source: CRCS Census

(a) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

(b) Includes 175 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2019, 141 at 31 March 2018, and 237 at 31 March 2017.

The overall number of children captured in the CRCS Census has been increasing since data began being collected in 2016-17. The proportion of children who were looked after has been increasing whilst the proportion of children who were not looked after and not on the CPR has been decreasing. For those children on the CPR at 31 March 2019, the majority had been added to the register under the emotional abuse category.

**Table 2: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by disability, ethnicity, asylum status and gender at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census | Male         | Female       |
|--|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total children receiving care and support</b> | <b>16,421</b>  | <b>9,091</b> | <b>7,330</b> |
| <b>Number of disabled children</b>               | <b>3,575</b>   | <b>2,366</b> | <b>1,209</b> |
| <i>Percentage (%)</i>                            | <i>22</i>  | <i>26</i>    | <i>16</i>    |
| <b>Number of children of known ethnicity</b>     | <b>15,965</b>  | <b>8,830</b> | <b>7,135</b> |
| <i>Percentage (%)</i>                            | <i>97</i>  | <i>97</i>    | <i>97</i>    |
| <b>Number</b>                                    |  |              |              |
| White  | 14,817   | 8,157        | 6,660        |
| Mixed  | 488  | 264          | 224          |
| Asian or Asian British                           | 285  | 176          | 109          |
| Black or Black British                           | 198  | 126          | 72           |
| Other Specific Ethnic Groups                     | 177  | 107          | 70           |
| Not available / refused / unknown                | 456  | 261          | 195          |
| <b>Percentage (%) (a)</b>                        |  |              |              |
| <i>White</i>                                     | <i>93</i>  | <i>92</i>    | <i>93</i>    |
| <i>Mixed</i>                                     | <i>3</i>   | <i>3</i>     | <i>3</i>     |
| <i>Asian</i>                                     | <i>2</i>   | <i>2</i>     | <i>2</i>     |
| <i>Black</i>                                     | <i>1</i>   | <i>1</i>     | <i>1</i>     |
| <i>Other</i>                                     | <i>1</i>   | <i>1</i>     | <i>1</i>     |
| <b>Asylum seeking children</b>                   |  |              |              |
| Number of unaccompanied asylum seekers           | 72   | 64           | 8            |
| Number of accompanied asylum seekers             | 22   | 15           | 7            |
| <i>Percentage (%)</i>                            | <i>1</i>   | <i>1</i>     | <i>-</i>     |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Percentages are based upon children of known ethnicity.

'-' The data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half of the final digit shown.

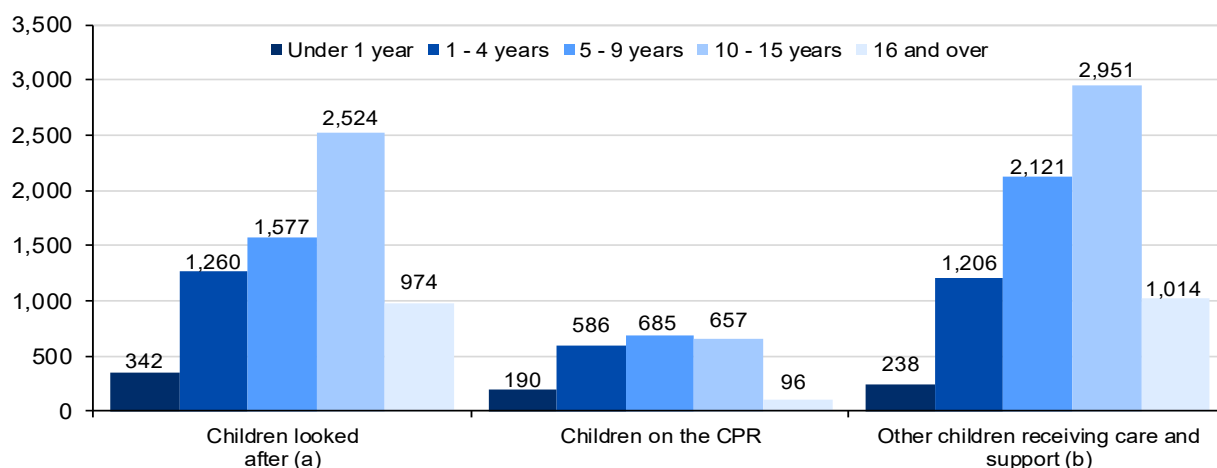
9,091 (55 per cent) of children receiving care and support were boys and 7,330 (45 per cent) were girls. This proportion has been consistent since data collection began in 2016-17.

22 per cent of children receiving care and support were disabled. A higher proportion of boys were disabled than girls (26 per cent compared to 16 per cent).

Ethnicity information was known and recorded for 97 per cent of children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census. Of children for whom ethnicity was known, 93 per cent of children receiving care and support were White, 3 per cent were mixed ethnicity, 2 per cent were of Asian ethnicity and 1 per cent were Black.

94 asylum seeking children were recorded in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2019. The majority of whom were male (84 per cent). This is a slightly higher proportion than for the previous two years.

**Chart 3: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census and whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register by age at 31 March 2019**



Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes 175 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2019.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

Nearly a quarter of all children receiving care and support (23 per cent) were aged under 5 years old, just over a quarter (27 per cent) were aged 5-9 years old and over a third (37 per cent) were aged 10-15 years. The remaining 13 per cent of children receiving care and support were aged 16 years or older. This is a similar pattern to the previous two years.

Children receiving care and support who were on the CPR were generally younger than other children receiving care and support, with 37 per cent aged under 5, 31 per cent aged 5-9, 30 per cent aged 10-15 and 4 per cent were aged 16 and over. There were 175 children receiving care and support who were looked after and on the Child Protection Register.

Information on the child's preferred language was received for all children aged 3 and over (14,100 children). 93 per cent of children in the CRCS Census' preferred language was English, followed by Welsh (3 per cent) and 'other language' (2 per cent). Other preferred languages specified in relation to children in the CRCS Census were Polish, Kurdish, Arabic, Sign Language, Urdu, Bengali and Portuguese. This is a similar pattern to the previous two years.

The rate of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census at 31 March 2019 equated to 261 per 10,000 children aged under 18 years. At local authority level, the rate per 10,000 children varied from 123 children receiving care and support per 10,000 in Pembrokeshire to 474 in Merthyr Tydfil (see [Annex](#)).

## Section 2 – Need for care and support

As part of a child's assessment, their needs for care and support are identified. If a child's assessment leads to the provision of a care and support plan, the main reason why a child started to receive care and support from local authority social services is recorded.

**Table 3: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by primary need for care and support and whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children<br>receiving care<br>and support in<br>the CRCS<br>Census | Children looked<br>after (a) | Children on the<br>CPR | Other children<br>receiving care and<br>support (b) |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Number</b>                          | <b>16,421</b>  | <b>6,677</b>                 | <b>2,214</b>           | <b>7,530</b>  |
| Abuse or neglect                       | 8,850  | 4,568                        | 1,571                  | 2,711   |
| Child's disability or illness          | 2,763  | 169                          | 32                     | 2,562   |
| Parental disability or illness         | 404  | 138                          | 59                     | 207   |
| Family in acute stress                 | 1,626  | 534                          | 207                    | 885   |
| Family dysfunction                     | 2,145  | 998                          | 260                    | 887   |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour        | 373  | 109                          | 70                     | 194   |
| Absent parenting                       | 230  | 143                          | 15                     | 72  |
| Adoption disruption                    | 30   | 18                           | 0                      | 12  |
| <b>Percentage (%)</b>                  | <b>100</b>   | <b>100</b>                   | <b>100</b>             | <b>100</b>  |
| <i>Abuse or neglect</i>                | <i>54</i>  | <i>68</i>                    | <i>71</i>              | <i>36</i>   |
| <i>Child's disability or illness</i>   | <i>17</i>  | <i>3</i>                     | <i>1</i>               | <i>34</i>   |
| <i>Parental disability or illness</i>  | <i>2</i>   | <i>2</i>                     | <i>3</i>               | <i>3</i>  |
| <i>Family in acute stress</i>          | <i>10</i>  | <i>8</i>                     | <i>9</i>               | <i>12</i>   |
| <i>Family dysfunction</i>              | <i>13</i>  | <i>15</i>                    | <i>12</i>              | <i>12</i>   |
| <i>Socially unacceptable behaviour</i> | <i>2</i>   | <i>2</i>                     | <i>3</i>               | <i>3</i>  |
| <i>Absent parenting</i>                | <i>1</i>   | <i>2</i>                     | <i>1</i>               | <i>1</i>  |
| <i>Adoption disruption</i>             | <i>-</i>   | <i>-</i>                     | <i>*</i>               | <i>-</i>  |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes 175 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2019.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

'-' The data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half of the final digit shown.

More than half (54 per cent) of all children were receiving care and support because of the risk of, or actual, abuse or neglect. The proportion was higher for children who were looked after or on the Child Protection Register (68 and 71 per cent respectively).

The child's disability or illness was the primary reason for receiving care and support in just under a fifth (2,763) of children included in the CRCS Census. Family dysfunction and family in acute stress were the reasons for 13 per cent (2,145) and 10 per cent (1,626) of children respectively. These proportions have remained fairly stable since 2016-17.

The majority (93 per cent) of children receiving care and support due to the child's disability or illness, were neither looked after nor on the Child Protection Register. This is a similar proportion to the previous year.

## Section 3 – Parenting capacity

For each child, information was recorded on five factors related to their parents that might affect their ability to parent. These factors may have been present at the referral stage or may have arisen since referral. One or more factors may have been recorded for each child and so children may be counted under more than one factor.

**Table 4: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by parental factor recorded at 31 March 2019 and whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register**

|                                      | Number of children for whom information was provided | Number of children for whom the factor was present | of which:                 |                     |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
|                                      |  |  | Children looked after (a) | Children on the CPR | Other children receiving care and support (b) |
| Parental substance or alcohol misuse | 16,369   | 4,585  | 2,403                     | 871                 | 1,311   |
| Parental learning disabilities       | 16,370   | 1,063  | 636                       | 115                 | 312   |
| Parental mental ill health           | 16,366   | 5,688  | 2,560                     | 950                 | 2,178   |
| Parental physical ill health         | 16,369   | 1,773  | 694                       | 246                 | 833   |
| Domestic abuse                       | 16,369   | 4,670  | 2,093                     | 1,039               | 1,538   |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes children in the CRCS census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

For more than half of all children receiving care and support (55 per cent), at least one parenting capacity factor was recorded as being present at 31 March 2019. This is a similar proportion to the previous year.

Parental mental ill health, domestic abuse and parental substance or alcohol misuse were the most frequently recorded parenting capacity factors. Parental mental ill health had been recorded for 35 per cent of children for whom information was provided. This proportion has increased each year from 2017.

For 6 per cent (1,063) of children receiving care and support, parental learning disabilities was recorded. This group had the highest proportion (60 per cent) of children looked after when compared to other parental capacity factors, as in previous years.

Of the 4,670 children receiving care and support who recorded domestic abuse as a parental factor, 22 per cent (1,039) were on the Child Protection Register. This proportion has decreased each year from 25 per cent in 2017, although the actual number has increased slightly.

## Section 4 – Health of children receiving care and support

For each child, information was collected on mental health and substance misuse problems and also on how up to date children in the relevant age groups were with health surveillance checks, dental checks and immunisations.

**Table 5: Children aged 10 and over receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with mental health problems by age, whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register and parenting factors present at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children<br>receiving care<br>and support in<br>the CRCS<br>Census | Children<br>looked<br>after (a) | Children on<br>the CPR | Other children<br>receiving care<br>and support (b) |
|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Number of children aged 10 and over where information was available</b>                           | <b>8,197</b>   | <b>3,497</b>                    | <b>752</b>             | <b>3,948</b>  |
| <b>Number of children aged 10 and over where information was not available</b>                       | <b>19</b>  | <b>1</b>                        | <b>1</b>               | <b>17</b>   |
| <b>Numbers with mental health problems aged 10 and over</b>  | <b>1,354</b>   | <b>565</b>                      | <b>138</b>             | <b>651</b>  |
| Aged 10 to 15  | 875  | 336                             | 109                    | 430   |
| Aged 16 and over   | 479  | 229                             | 29                     | 221   |
| <i>Percentage (%) aged 10 and over with mental health problems</i>                                   | <i>17</i>  | <i>16</i>                       | <i>18</i>              | <i>16</i>   |
| Number of children aged 10 and over with mental health problems and the following parenting factors: |  |                                 |                        |   |
| Parental substance or alcohol misuse   | 306  | 184                             | 44                     | 78  |
| Parental learning disabilities   | 60   | 37                              | 2                      | 21  |
| Parental mental ill health   | 478  | 217                             | 59                     | 202   |
| Parental physical ill health   | 209  | 83                              | 25                     | 101   |
| Domestic abuse   | 315  | 153                             | 57                     | 105   |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes children in the CRCS census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

For the 8,197 children aged 10 and over in the CRCS Census where information was available, 17 per cent (1,354) were recorded as having a mental health problem. This is up from 14 per cent for the previous year.

For 478 (35 per cent) of children aged 10 and over receiving care and support with mental health problems, a parental mental health problem was also recorded. This was similar to the 35 per cent average for all children in the CRCS Census, found in [Table 4](#).

For 315 (23 per cent) of the children aged 10 and over receiving care and support with mental health problems, domestic abuse was recorded as a parental factor present; and for 306 (23 per cent) parental substance or alcohol misuse was recorded.



**Table 6: Children aged 10 and over receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with substance misuse problems by age, whether they were looked after or on the Child Protection Register and parenting factors present at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children<br>receiving care<br>and support in<br>the CRCS<br>Census | Children<br>looked<br>after (a) | Children on<br>the CPR | Other children<br>receiving care<br>and support (b) |
|--|--|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Number of children aged 10 and over where information was available</b>                           | <b>8,188</b>   | <b>3,494</b>                    | <b>752</b>             | <b>3,942</b>  |
| <b>Number of children aged 10 and over where information was not available</b>                       | <b>28</b>  | <b>4</b>                        | <b>1</b>               | <b>23</b>   |
| <b>Numbers with substance misuse problems aged 10 and over</b>                                       | <b>645</b>   | <b>289</b>                      | <b>81</b>              | <b>275</b>  |
| Aged 10 to 15  | 320  | 129                             | 59                     | 132   |
| aged 16 and over   | 325  | 160                             | 22                     | 143   |
| <b>Percentage (%) aged 10 and over with Substance misuse problems</b>                                | <b>8</b>   | <b>8</b>                        | <b>11</b>              | <b>7</b>  |
| Number of children aged 10 and over with mental health problems and the following parenting factors: |  |                                 |                        |   |
| Parental substance or alcohol misuse   | 229  | 105                             | 31                     | 93  |
| Parental learning disabilities   | 20   | 12                              | 0                      | 8   |
| Parental mental ill health   | 230  | 110                             | 24                     | 96  |
| Parental physical ill health   | 92   | 34                              | 14                     | 44  |
| Domestic abuse   | 199  | 84                              | 31                     | 84  |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes children in the CRCS census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

For the 8,188 children aged 10 and over in the CRCS Census where information was available, 8 per cent (645) were recorded as having a substance misuse problem. This is a similar proportion to the previous year.

For 229 (36 per cent) of children receiving care and support with substance misuse problems, a parental substance or alcohol misuse problem was recorded as a factor. This was greater than the 28 per cent average for all children in the CRCS Census, found in [Table 4](#).

For 230 (36 per cent) of the children receiving care and support with substance misuse problems, parental mental ill health was recorded, a slight decrease in proportion compared to the two previous years. For 199 (31 per cent) parental domestic abuse was recorded, compared to 32 per cent in 2018 and 27 per cent in 2017.

**Table 7: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census and whether their health surveillance checks were up to date; they had a recent dental check; and their immunisations were up to date at 31 March 2019**

|  | Total children in age group | Children looked after (a) | Children on the CPR | Other children receiving care and support (b) |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>Health Surveillance Checks, aged 5 or younger</b>               |                             |                           |                     |   |
| Checks up to date  | 4,022                       | 1,763                     | 726                 | 1,533   |
| Checks not up to date  | 514                         | 105                       | 169                 | 240   |
| Information not provided   | 93                          | 14                        | 10                  | 69  |
| <b>Total children receiving care and support aged 5 or younger</b> | <b>4,629</b>                | <b>1,882</b>              | <b>905</b>          | <b>1,842</b>                                  |
| <i>Percentage (%) of children with health checks up to date</i>    | <i>89</i>                   | <i>94</i>                 | <i>81</i>           | <i>86</i>                                     |
| <b>Dental Checks, aged 5 and over</b>                              |                             |                           |                     |   |
| Checks up to date  | 10,815                      | 4,754                     | 1,149               | 4,912   |
| Checks not up to date  | 1,567                       | 306                       | 275                 | 986   |
| Information not provided   | 216                         | 15                        | 14                  | 187   |
| <b>Total children receiving care and support aged 5 and over</b>   | <b>12,598</b>               | <b>5,075</b>              | <b>1,438</b>        | <b>6,085</b>                                  |
| <i>Percentage (%) of children with dental checks up to date</i>    | <i>87</i>                   | <i>94</i>                 | <i>81</i>           | <i>83</i>                                     |
| <b>Immunisations, all children</b>                                 |                             |                           |                     |   |
| Up to date   | 13,561                      | 5,803                     | 1,692               | 6,066   |
| Not up to date   | 2,758                       | 861                       | 509                 | 1,388   |
| Information not provided   | 102                         | 13                        | 13                  | 76  |
| <b>Total children receiving care and support</b>                   | <b>16,421</b>               | <b>6,677</b>              | <b>2,214</b>        | <b>7,530</b>                                  |
| <i>Percentage (%) of children with immunisations up to date</i>    | <i>83</i>                   | <i>87</i>                 | <i>77</i>           | <i>81</i>                                     |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes children in the CRCS census who were looked after and on the CPR.

(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

\* The data item is disclosive for publication.

Information on health surveillance checks was provided for 4,536 (98 per cent) children aged 5 or younger. The proportion of children who were up to date with health checks has increased from 80 per cent in 2017 to 89 per cent in 2019. The proportion of children looked after who were up to date with health checks was higher (94 per cent) than for other children on the CPR or otherwise not looked after (81 per cent and 86 per cent respectively).

Information on dental checks was provided for 12,382 (98 per cent) children aged 5 and over. 87 per cent of children were up to date with dental checks; an increase of about 10 percentage points from 76 per cent in 2018 and 77 per cent in 2017. The proportion of children looked after who were up to date with dental checks was higher (94 per cent) than for other children on the CPR or otherwise not looked after (81 per cent and 83 per cent respectively).

Information on immunisations was provided for 16,319 (99 per cent) of the children aged 17 or under receiving care and support. 83 per cent of children receiving care and support had up to date immunisations, suggesting somewhat lower rates than for the general child population – see the statistical release, [NHS Immunisation](#), for information about immunisation for all children.

## Section 5 – Disabled children receiving care and support

Information in this section was recorded based on the Equality Act 2010 using specified categories corresponding to guidance in relation to its predecessor, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (although the Disability Discrimination Act has been replaced by the Equality Act, the guidance has not been changed). Each child was recorded under each applicable category and so children may be counted in more than one category.

**Table 8: Disabled children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by category of need for care and support at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children receiving<br>care and support in<br>the CRCS Census | Disabled children | Non-disabled<br>children |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>All children receiving care and support</b> | <b>16,421</b>  | <b>3,575</b>      | <b>12,846</b>            |
| Children looked after (a)                      | 6,677  | 598               | 6,079                    |
| Children on the CPR                            | 2,214  | 97                | 2,117                    |
| Other children receiving care and support (b)  | 7,530  | 2,880             | 4,650                    |
| <b>Number</b>                                  |  |                   |                          |
| Abuse or neglect                               | 8,850  | 604               | 8,246                    |
| Child's disability or illness                  | 2,763  | 2,478             | 285                      |
| Parental disability or illness                 | 404  | 43                | 361                      |
| Family in acute stress                         | 1,626  | 242               | 1,384                    |
| Family dysfunction                             | 2,145  | 167               | 1,978                    |
| Socially unacceptable behaviour                | 373  | 22                | 351                      |
| Absent parenting                               | 230  | 11                | 219                      |
| Adoption disruption                            | 30   | 8                 | 22                       |
| <b>Percentage</b>                              |  |                   |                          |
| <i>Abuse or neglect</i>                        | <i>54</i>  | <i>17</i>         | <i>64</i>                |
| <i>Child's disability or illness</i>           | <i>17</i>  | <i>69</i>         | <i>2</i>                 |
| <i>Parental disability or illness</i>          | <i>2</i>   | <i>1</i>          | <i>3</i>                 |
| <i>Family in acute stress</i>                  | <i>10</i>  | <i>7</i>          | <i>11</i>                |
| <i>Family dysfunction</i>                      | <i>13</i>  | <i>5</i>          | <i>15</i>                |
| <i>Socially unacceptable behaviour</i>         | <i>2</i>   | <i>1</i>          | <i>3</i>                 |
| <i>Absent parenting</i>                        | <i>1</i>   | <i>0</i>          | <i>2</i>                 |
| <i>Adoption disruption</i>                     | <i>-</i>   | <i>-</i>          | <i>-</i>                 |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) Includes 175 children in the CRCS Census who were looked after and on the CPR at 31 March 2019.

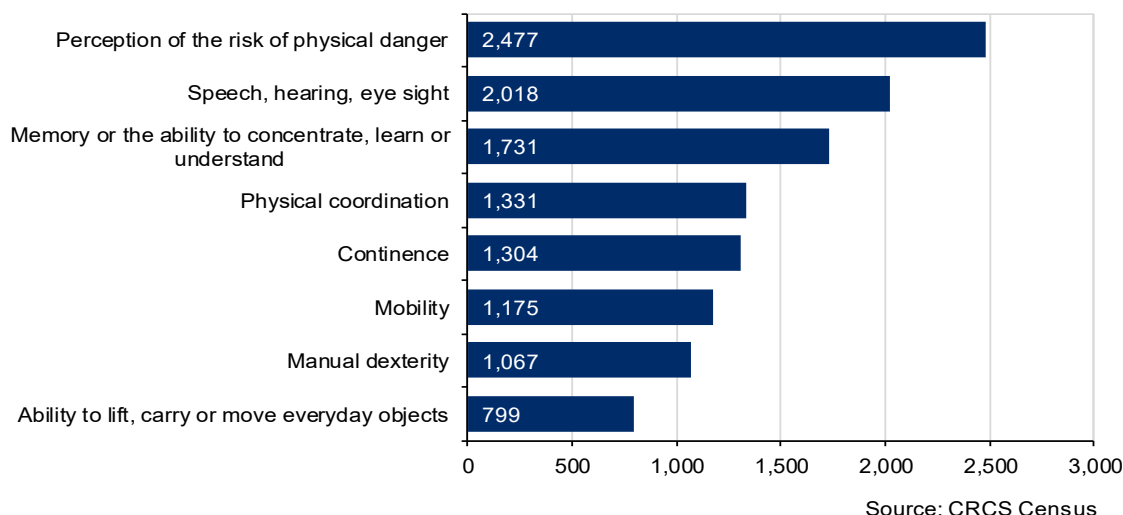
(b) Children who were not looked after and not on the CPR.

'-' The data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half of the final digit shown.

3,575 (22 per cent) children receiving care and support were recorded as disabled according to the specified categories which is a similar proportion to previous years). Over two thirds (69 per cent) of disabled children receiving care and support had a primary need for care and support due to the child's disability or illness. This has decreased from 74 per cent in 2017 and 71 in 2018. 17 per cent of disabled children receiving care and support had a primary need recorded as the risk of, or actual abuse or neglect. This compares to 64 per cent in this category for non-disabled children.

While not a direct comparison, the [Health Behaviour in School-aged Children](#) study showed 19 per cent of children in school years 7-11 surveyed between September and December 2017 had a long-term illness or disability diagnosed by a doctor.

**Chart 4: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by impairment category at 31 March 2019**



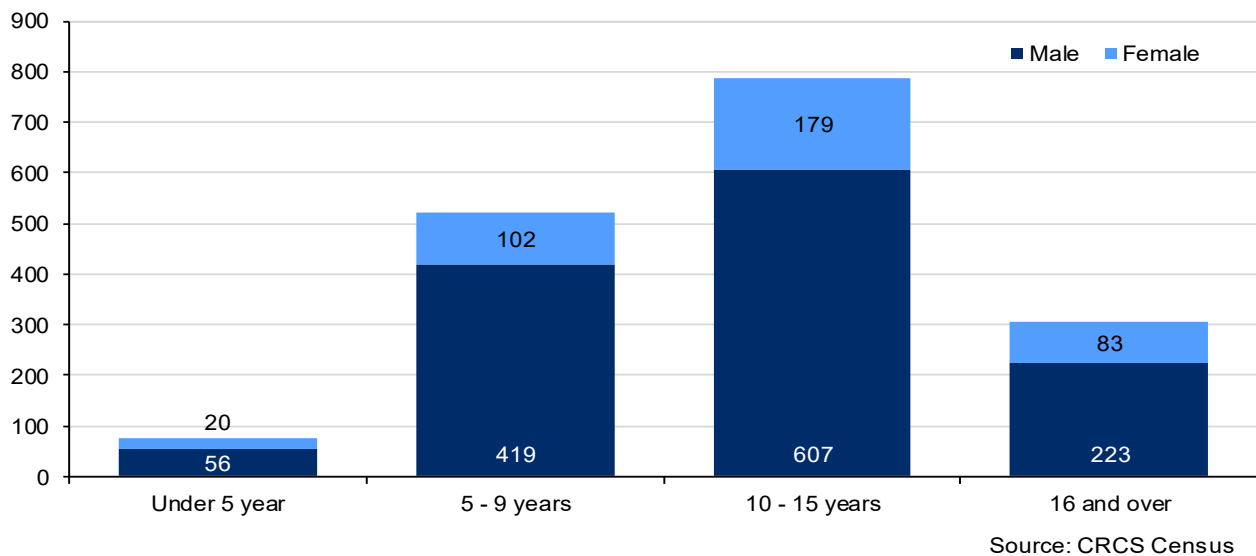
Lack of perception of the risk of physical danger was recorded for nearly three-quarters (69 per cent) of the 3,575 disabled children receiving care and support, whilst a speech, hearing or eye sight disability was recorded for 56 per cent of disabled children. The lowest percentage was for ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects, which was recorded for 22 per cent of disabled children receiving care and support. Trends have remained similar since 2017.

For 958 (27 per cent) of disabled children receiving care and support, only one category was recorded whilst for 333 (9 per cent) disabled children receiving care and support, a disability was recorded in all eight categories. These proportions are similar to those for the previous two years.

## Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Information on whether children receiving care and support had an Autistic Spectrum Disorder was collected in the CRCS Census.

**Chart 5: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder by age and gender at 31 March 2019**



Autistic Spectrum Disorders were reported for 10 per cent (1,689) of the 16,421 children receiving care and support, similar to previous years. Four-fifths (77 per cent) of the children recorded as having an ASD were boys, and 47 per cent of children recorded with an ASD were aged 10 to 15 years.

Of those children aged 5-15 years receiving care and support at 31 March 2019, 12 per cent were reported as having an Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The corresponding figure for all pupils aged 5-15 in Wales was 2 per cent (according to the January 2019 [Pupil Level Annual Schools Census](#)).

## Section 6 – Education of children receiving care and support

For each child, the Unique Pupil Number (UPN) was collected to allow anonymous matching of children in the relevant age groups with the National Pupil Database (NPD), so that records about free school meals eligibility, attainment and special educational needs could be summarised for children receiving care and support without having to collect this information from local authorities.

This analysis on schools is based upon children who were already five or over at the time of the CRCS Census, but had not yet reached their 16th birthday at the end of the 2018/19 school year and were therefore of statutory school age. This removes the effect of differing local provision for the under fives and sixth forms. Using this statutory school age (i.e. 5 to 15 years old) there were 9,488 children receiving care and support whose UPN matched with the education databases.

Further details of education terminologies can be found in the Glossary.

Throughout this section of the release pupils' ages are quoted as at 31 August 2018. This refers to the start of the academic year and is a useful reference in that pupils normally transfer from maintained primary to secondary school, and move thereafter through the secondary school system, according to their age at 31 August.

### Free School Meals (FSM)

Pupils are eligible for [Free School Meals](#) if their families are in receipt of certain benefits/support payments.

**Table 9: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by entitlement to Free School Meals and whether they were looked after at 31 March 2019 <sup>(a)</sup>**

|   | All children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census | Pupils entitled to Free School Meals |                |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|----------------|
|   |  | Number                               | Percentage (%) |
| Children in the Census matched to NPD (aged 5 to 15)          | 9,488  | 4,368                                | 46             |
| Children receiving care and support who were not looked after | 5,854  | 3,211                                | 55             |
| Children receiving care and support who were looked after     | 3,634  | 1,157                                | 32             |
| <b>All pupils of statutory school age</b>                     | <b>375,894</b>   | <b>68,674</b>                        | <b>18</b>      |

Source: CRCS Census

(a) This refers to the pupils' ages as at 31 August 2018 and includes local authority maintained schools (i.e. nursery, primary, secondary and special) only. Pupils from independent schools are not included as they are not required to provide the necessary data at pupil level to match to the CRCS Census.

32 per cent of children who were receiving care and support and were looked after were eligible for free school meals whilst 55 per cent of children who were receiving care and support who were not looked after were eligible for free school meals. These proportions are similar to those for the previous two years; and are much higher than the 18 per cent average for all pupils of statutory school age.

Further information and statistics on pupils in Wales entitled to free school meals can be found on [StatsWales](#) and [Achievement and Entitlement to Free School Meals](#) statistical releases.

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

A child has special needs (SEN) if they have learning difficulties which require special educational provision to be made for them. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children. Pupils with SEN may have statements issued by the local authority or may have their needs identified by the school. In the latter case they come under one of two further categories: School Action or School Action Plus.

In the [School Census](#) statistical release the numbers of children with special education needs are published for all ages at the Wales level for all pupils. However, at the local authority level, published in [StatsWales](#), the numbers of children with special education needs are published for statutory school age only (5 to 15) to improve comparability between local authorities that may have different levels of provision for non-statutory ages.

**Table 10: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by educational provision and whether they were looked after at 31 March 2019**

|  | All children receiving care and support | Children who were not looked after | Children who were looked after | Pupils on roll in Wales |
|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Children in the CRCS Census matched to NPD (aged 17 or under)</b> | <b>11,094</b>                           | <b>6,921</b>                       | <b>4,173</b>                   | <b>468,398</b>          |
| Number   |   |                                    |                                |                         |
| No special educational needs   | 4,102                                   | 2,316                              | 1,786                          | 364,422                 |
| School Action or School Action Plus                                  | 4,117                                   | 2,284                              | 1,833                          | 90,808                  |
| Statement of Special Educational Needs                               | 2,875                                   | 2,321                              | 554                            | 13,168                  |
| Percentage (%)   |   |                                    |                                |                         |
| <i>No special educational needs</i>                                  | 37                                      | 33                                 | 43                             | 78                      |
| <i>School Action or School Action Plus</i>                           | 37                                      | 33                                 | 44                             | 19                      |
| <i>Pupils with SEN statements</i>                                    | 26                                      | 34                                 | 13                             | 3                       |
| <b>Children in the CRCS Census matched to NPD (aged 5 to 15)</b>     | <b>9,488</b>                            | <b>5,854</b>                       | <b>3,634</b>                   | <b>375,894</b>          |
| Number   |   |                                    |                                |                         |
| No special educational needs   | 3,200                                   | 1,788                              | 1,412                          | 282,237                 |
| School Action or School Action Plus                                  | 3,780                                   | 2,061                              | 1,719                          | 82,456                  |
| Statement of Special Educational Needs                               | 2,508                                   | 2,005                              | 503                            | 11,201                  |
| Percentage (%)   |   |                                    |                                |                         |
| <i>No special educational needs</i>                                  | 34                                      | 31                                 | 39                             | 75                      |
| <i>School Action or School Action Plus</i>                           | 40                                      | 35                                 | 47                             | 22                      |
| <i>Pupils with SEN statements</i>                                    | 26                                      | 34                                 | 14                             | 3                       |

Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

There were 11,094 children receiving care and support in total whose UPN matched with the National Pupil Database, an addition of 1,606 children receiving care and support who fell outside the statutory school age compared to the 9,488 matched records for children of statutory school age.

The proportion of children included in the CRCS Census with a Statement of Special Educational Needs was 26 per cent (compared to 3 per cent for all pupils in Wales for both children aged 5 to 15 and for all ages).

57 per cent of children of all ages who were looked after had either a statement of SEN, School Action or School Action Plus. This has decreased in recent years from 61 per cent in 2018 and 62 per cent in 2017. The proportion for children receiving care and support who were not looked after and had either a statement of SEN, School Action or School Action Plus has remained at 67 per cent since 2017. This compares to a figure of 22 per cent for all pupils in Wales.

Further information on special education needs for all pupils can be found in [Special Educational Needs Code of Practice for Wales](#).

## Education Attainment

The National Curriculum is applied to the Foundation Phase and three Key Stages of pupil development. See [Key Stages](#) section in the notes for definitions.

### Attainment at Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2 and 3

Overall attainment levels consider the numbers of children who were eligible for assessment at the end of Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 and those who achieved the Foundation Phase or core subject indicator. The performance of boys and girls at Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2, and Key Stage 3 can also be compared.

**Table 11: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census achieving the foundation phase and core subject indicator by gender and whether they were looked after at 31 March 2019**

|                                      | Foundation Phase |        |               | Key Stage 2 |        |               | Key Stage 3 |        |               |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------|---------------|-------------|--------|---------------|
|                                      | Boys             | Girls  | Total         | Boys        | Girls  | Total         | Boys        | Girls  | Total         |
| Eligible children in the CRCS Census | 418              | 387    | <b>805</b>    | 534         | 383    | <b>917</b>    | 502         | 428    | <b>930</b>    |
| Achieved level: number               | 169              | 220    | <b>389</b>    | 280         | 239    | <b>519</b>    | 218         | 229    | <b>447</b>    |
| Achieved level: percentage (%)       | 40               | 57     | <b>48</b>     | 52          | 62     | <b>57</b>     | 43          | 54     | <b>48</b>     |
| Children who were not looked after   | 272              | 244    | <b>516</b>    | 324         | 217    | <b>541</b>    | 322         | 271    | <b>593</b>    |
| Achieved level: number               | 91               | 122    | <b>213</b>    | 134         | 121    | <b>255</b>    | 117         | 130    | <b>247</b>    |
| Achieved level: percentage (%)       | 33               | 50     | <b>41</b>     | 41          | 56     | <b>47</b>     | 36          | 48     | <b>42</b>     |
| Children who were looked after       | 146              | 143    | <b>289</b>    | 210         | 166    | <b>376</b>    | 180         | 157    | <b>337</b>    |
| Achieved level: number               | 78               | 98     | <b>176</b>    | 146         | 118    | <b>264</b>    | 101         | 99     | <b>200</b>    |
| Achieved level: percentage (%)       | 53               | 69     | <b>61</b>     | 70          | 71     | <b>70</b>     | 56          | 63     | <b>59</b>     |
| All pupils in Wales                  | 18,273           | 17,541 | <b>35,814</b> | 18,379      | 17,567 | <b>35,946</b> | 16,804      | 15,973 | <b>32,777</b> |
| Achieved level: number               | 13,833           | 14,822 | <b>28,655</b> | 15,567      | 16,021 | <b>31,588</b> | 13,846      | 14,392 | <b>28,238</b> |
| Achieved level: percentage (%)       | 75               | 85     | <b>80</b>     | 85          | 91     | <b>88</b>     | 82          | 90     | <b>86</b>     |

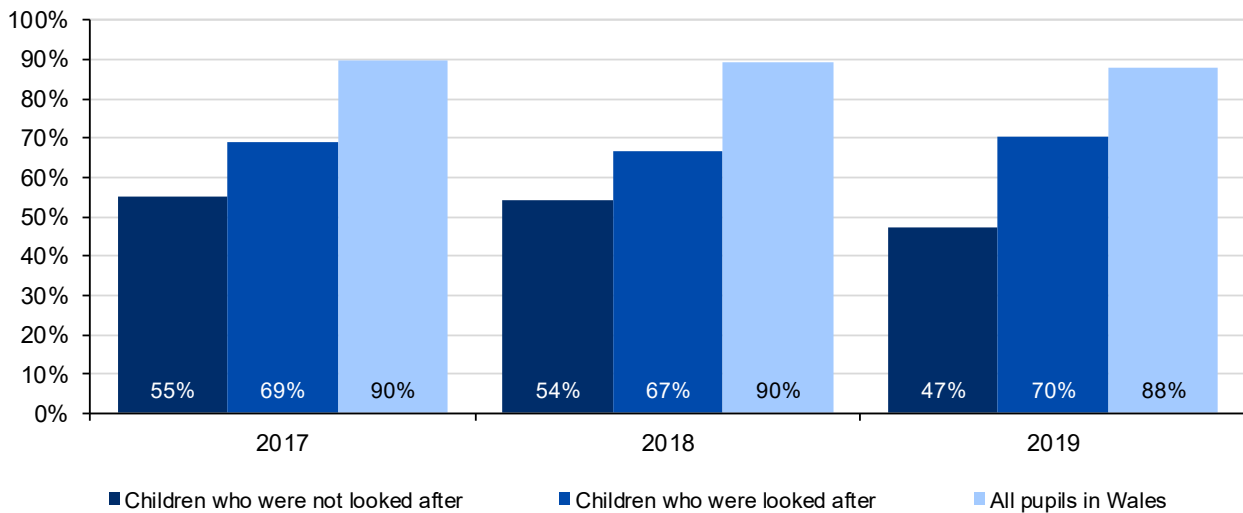
Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

Children who were receiving care and support and eligible for assessment had lower attainment levels than the average for all pupils at the Foundation Phase, as well as at Key Stage 2 and at Key Stage 3. Children receiving care and support who were looked after achieved higher levels than children receiving care and support who were not looked after.



The attainment gap between children receiving care and support and all pupils in Wales varies as they progress from the Foundation Phase to Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3. At the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 the difference in the proportion was 32 and 31 percentage points respectively. The gap then increases to 38 percentage points for Key Stage 3. Girls performed better than boys at all key stages.

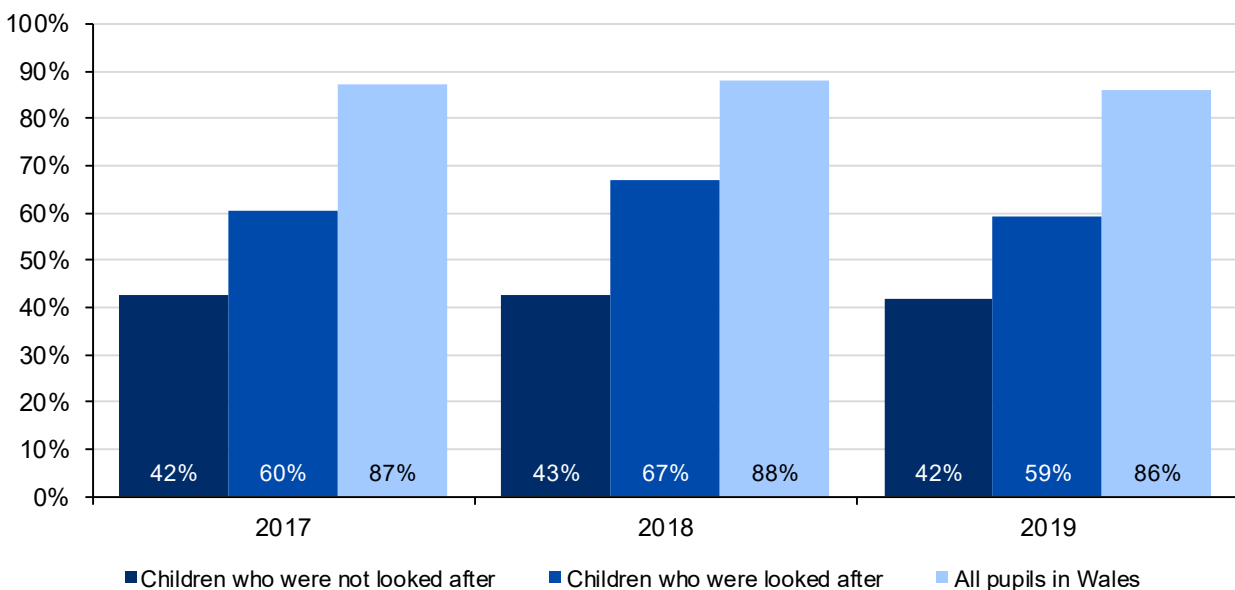
**Chart 6: Percentage of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2**



Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

For Key Stage 2, children receiving care and support who were looked after have maintained a higher level of attainment compared to children receiving care and support who were not looked after. The attainment gap for children receiving care and support who were looked after and all pupils in Wales has narrowed whilst in recent years the attainment gap for children receiving care and support who were not looked after has increased.

**Chart 7: Percentage of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 3**



Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

Similarly, for Key Stage 3, attainment for children receiving care and support who were looked after has remained at a higher level compared to other children receiving care and support who were not looked after. The attainment gap between all pupils and children receiving care and support who were looked after is similar to that for 2017, however the gap was 6 percentage points lower in 2018. The attainment gap between all pupils and children receiving care and support who were not looked after has been similar since 2017.

Further information and statistics on Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 for all pupils can be found in [Academic achievement of pupils aged 4 to 14 in core subjects](#) statistical release.

## Attainment at Key Stage 4

Following recommendations from independent reviews and policy changes announced by Welsh Government, several key changes have been made to the Key Stage 4 performance measures data since last year's release which impacts on comparisons with previous years. Comparisons between 2018 and earlier years should be made with caution due to changes in the definitions of this indicator. More information on these changes in the public [Examination Results](#) release.

From 2017, only the new specifications for GCSE English Language, GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Mathematics/Mathematics-Numeracy will count towards the literacy and maths elements of the Level 2 Inclusive threshold measure. The legacy GCSE Mathematics specification will not count towards the maths element of the level 2 Inclusive measure. Literature qualifications do not count towards the literacy elements.

At Key Stage 4 attainment is shown using the percentage of pupils aged 15 who achieve the level 2 threshold, and the level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\* to C in English or Welsh first language and Maths.

**Table 12: Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census by Key Stage 4 attainment and whether they were looked after at 31 March 2019**

|   | Level 2<br>threshold (a) | Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A* - C in<br>English or Welsh first language and mathematics |               |               |
|---|--------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
|   |                          | Total   | Boys          | Girls         |
| <b>Eligible children in the CRCS Census</b> | <b>836</b>               | <b>836</b>  | <b>451</b>    | <b>385</b>    |
| Achieved level: number                      | 194                      | 123   | 52            | 71            |
| <i>Achieved level: percentage (%)</i>       | 23                       | 15  | 12            | 18            |
| <b>Children who were not looked after</b>   | <b>481</b>               | <b>481</b>  | <b>258</b>    | <b>223</b>    |
| Achieved level: number                      | 91                       | 62  | 22            | 40            |
| <i>Achieved level: percentage (%)</i>       | 19                       | 13  | 9             | 18            |
| <b>Children who were looked after</b>       | <b>355</b>               | <b>355</b>  | <b>193</b>    | <b>162</b>    |
| Achieved level: number                      | 103                      | 61  | 30            | 31            |
| Achieved level: percentage (%)              | 29                       | 17  | 16            | 19            |
| <b>All pupils in Wales</b>                  | <b>31,348</b>            | <b>31,348</b>   | <b>16,126</b> | <b>15,222</b> |
| Achieved level: number                      | 20,726                   | 16,863  | 7,882         | 8,981         |
| <i>Achieved level: percentage (%)</i>       | 66                       | 54  | 49            | 59            |

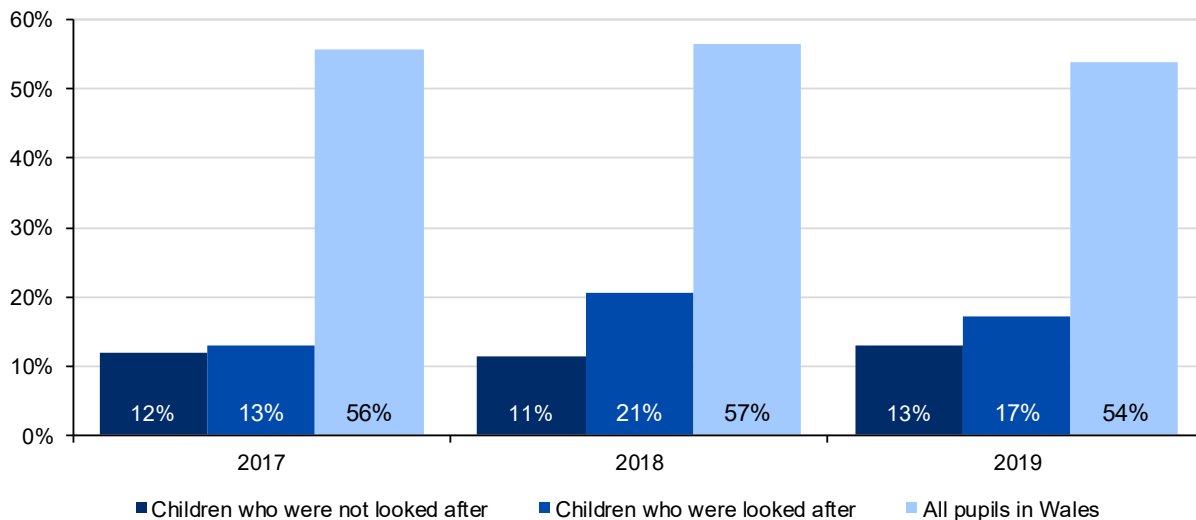
Source: CRCS census and National Pupil Database

(a) A volume of qualifications at Level 2 equivalent to the volume of 5 GCSEs at grade A\*-C.

There was a large gap between the Key Stage 4 attainment of children receiving care and support and that of all pupils in Wales (23 per cent compared to 66 per cent). Similar to earlier Key Stages, children who were looked after performed better than those who were receiving care and support who were not looked after (29 per cent compared to 19 per cent).

Girls consistently achieved higher rates of attainment than boys. This was especially true among children who were not looked after, where 18 per cent of girls achieved the level 2 threshold (with the requirement in language and mathematics) compared to 9 per cent of boys.

**Chart 8: Percentage of children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census achieving the Key Stage 4 level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\* - C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics**



Source: CRCS Census and National Pupil Database

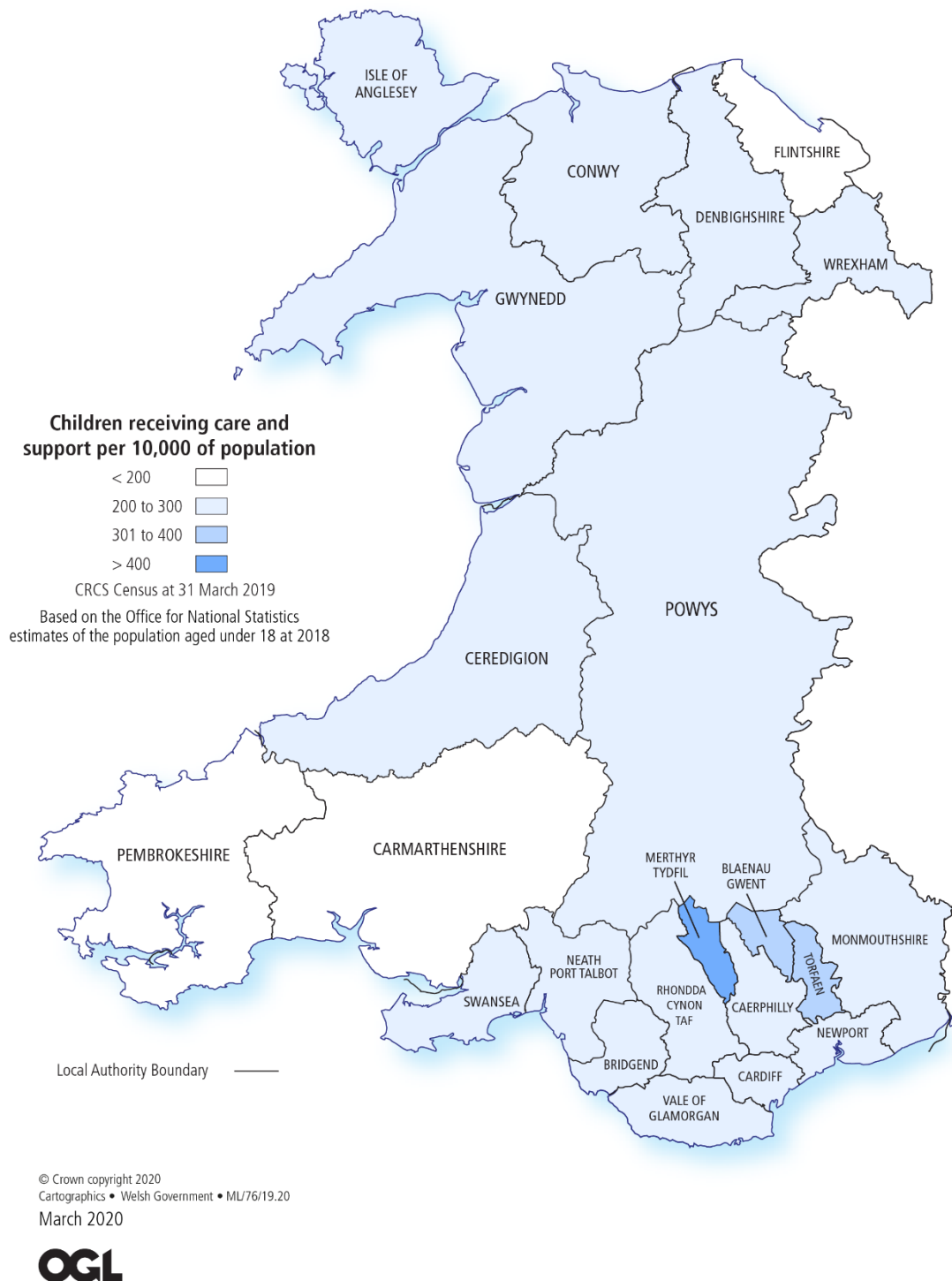
The proportion of children achieving the Key Stage 4 level 2 threshold, including a GCSE grade A\* - C in English or Welsh first language and mathematics respectively, has not shown a consistent trend over the last three years. Attainment rates have remained relatively stable for all pupils in Wales, ranging from 54 per cent to 57 per cent. Similarly, achievement rates for children receiving care and support who were not looked after have also remained fairly stable at between 11 and 13 per cent. However the proportion of children receiving care and support who were looked after children achieving the level 2 threshold has varied considerably, rising from 13 per cent to 21 per cent between 2017 and 2018, before falling again to 17 per cent in 2019.

Further information and statistics on Key Stage 4 for all pupils can be found in the [Examination Results](#) statistical release.

## Annex

### Children receiving care and support in the CRCS Census per 10,000 population aged under 18 at 31 March 2019

#### Children receiving care and support in the Census per 10,000 population, aged 0-17, as at the 31 March 2019



Further local authority level data can be found on [StatsWales](https://stats.wales.gov.uk/).

## Glossary

A full description of each data item can be found in the [Guidance notes for the completion of Children Receiving Care and Support Census](#).

### **Social Services**

**Asylum seeking children:** An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the Refugee Convention or Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, who is awaiting a decision on that application. A child could be an asylum-seeking child either as an unaccompanied minor (UASC) or as a member of a family that was recognised as having asylum-seeking status.

**Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD):** Autistic spectrum disorders are a range of related developmental disorders that begin in childhood and persist throughout adulthood. ASD can cause a wide range of symptoms, which are grouped into three broad categories:

- **Problems and difficulties with social interaction**, such as a lack of understanding and awareness of other people's emotions and feelings.
- **Impaired language and communication skills**, such as delayed language development and an inability to start conversations or take part in them properly.
- **Unusual patterns of thought and physical behaviour**. This includes making repetitive physical movements, such as hand tapping or twisting. The child develops set routines of behaviour and may be upset if the routines are broken.

**Children Act 1989:** The [Children Act 1989](#) legislates for children in England and Wales – The intention of the legislation is that children's welfare and developmental needs are met, including the need to be protected from harm. Key principles of the Act reflect aspects of the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (UNCRC); protection from harm, respect for a child's race, culture and ethnicity, parents' responsibility for bringing up children and the duty to take account of a child's wishes and feelings in decisions taken that affect them.

**Child Protection Register (CPR):** Each local authority maintains a Child Protection Register to provide a record of all children in the area for whom there are unresolved child protection issues and who are currently the subject of an inter-agency protection plan.

**Children receiving care and support:** Children (under the age of 18) who have a care and support plan. Looked after children have a care and support plan and will be a subset of this population. For this data collection, children receiving care and support are defined as those who receive care and support from their local authorities, including children looked after by local authorities, and who had a case open for at least 3 months at the census date of 31 March 2019.

**Equality Act 2010:** The [Equality Act 2010](#) states that a person has a disability if a person has a physical or mental impairment, and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This legislation replaced much of the [Disability Discrimination Act 2005](#) which is still the basis for the categories used in this collection.

**Looked After Children:** This term is used to describe children who are in the care of the local authority or who is provided with accommodation by the local authority social services department

for a continuous period of more than 24 hours. This covers children in respect of whom a compulsory care order or other court order has been made. It also refers to children accommodated voluntarily, including under an agreed series of short-term placements which may be called short breaks, family link placements or respite care.

**Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014:** The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is the law for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support. The Act imposes duties on local authorities, health boards and Welsh Ministers that require them to work to promote the well-being of those who need care and support, or carers who need support.

## **Education**

**Foundation Phase:** The Foundation Phase has brought together what was previously known as the Early Years (from 3 to 5-year-olds) and Key Stage 1 (from 5 to 7-year-olds) of the National Curriculum to create one phase of education for children aged between three and seven which is set out in the [Foundation Phase: Framework for Children's Learning for 3 to 7 year-olds in Wales](#)

In the Foundation Phase, the mandatory Areas of Learning are “Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity” (PSD), “Language, literacy and communication skills” (in English (LCE) or Welsh (LCW)) and “Mathematical development” (MDT).

The general expectation is that the majority of 7 year olds will attain outcome 5 in each area of learning. At end of the Foundation Phase, the **Foundation Phase Indicator** (FPI) represents the percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected outcome in LCE **or** LCW, PSD and MDT in combination.

**Free School Meal Entitlement:** Pupils are entitled to [free school meals](#) if their families receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or the guarantee element of State Pension Credit. They are also eligible if their parents are in receipt of Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (IR). Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals. Children whose families are in receipt of Child Tax Credit, providing they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs that does not exceed £16,190, are also eligible for free school meals.

**Key Stages:** The National Curriculum applies to Foundation Phase and three Key Stages of pupil development. Broadly these are:

|                  | Pupils' ages <sup>1</sup> | Year groups     |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Foundation Phase | 3-7                       | Reception, 1, 2 |
| Key Stage 2      | 7-11                      | 3-6             |
| Key Stage 3      | 11-14                     | 7-9             |
| Key Stage 4      | 14-16                     | 10-11           |

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the pupils' ages as at 31 August, start of the academic year.

In the Foundation Phase, the mandatory Areas of Learning are “Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity” (PSD), “Language, literacy and communication skills” (in English (LCE) or Welsh (LCW)) and “Mathematical development” (MDT). A pupil achieves the Foundation Phase Indicator if they reach the expected outcome in LCE or LCW, PSD and MDT in combination.

A pupil achieves the core subject indicator if they reach the expected level on the national curriculum scale in Maths, Science and either English or Welsh first language. The expected levels are Outcome 5 at Foundation Phase, level 4 at Key Stage 2 and level 5 at Key Stage 3.

**Local Authority Maintained Schools:** Schools maintained by the local authorities. The authorities meet their expenditure partly from council tax and partly from general grants made by the Welsh Government.

**National Pupil Database:** Since 2005, the National Pupil Database has consolidated pupil level data from the annual school census, national curriculum assessments at Foundation phase, key stages 2 to 3, public examinations at key stage 4 and attendance records. Only pupils at LA maintained schools are included. Independent schools are not required to provide the data at pupil level.

**Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN):** A child has special needs if he or she has learning difficulties which requires special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty means that the child has significantly greater difficulty in learning than most children of the same age or that the child has a disability that needs different educational facilities from those that the school generally provides for children. Pupils with SEN may have statements issued by the LA or may have their needs identified by the school. In the latter case they come under one of two further categories: School Action or School Action Plus.

- i. Pupils with statements: Pupils for whom the LA maintains a statement of SEN under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. A statement may be issued by the LA after assessment of a child’s needs.
- ii. School Action: When a class or subject teacher identifies that a pupil has SEN they provide interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school’s usual curriculum.
- iii. School Action Plus: When the class or subject teacher and the SEN Co-ordinator are provided with advice or support from outside specialists, so that alternative interventions additional or different to those provided for the pupil through School Action can be put in place. The SEN Co-ordinator usually takes the lead although day-to-day provision continues to be the responsibility of the class or subject teacher.

**Statutory School Age:** The statutory school age means any age between 5 and 16 years. See Section 35 of the Education Act 1944, the Education (School Leaving Date) Act 1976 and the Education Act 1996.

**Unique Pupil Number (UPN):** A Unique Pupil Number (UPN) is automatically allocated to each child in maintained schools in England and Wales. It is an identifier only for use in an educational context during a child’s school career and it is subject to Data Protection restrictions that prevent its use outside the education context.

## Notes

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into effect on 6 April 2016. It is the new legal framework that brings together and modernises social services law in Wales. From 6 April 2016, Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, which defines 'Children in Need', was repealed. As a result, the Children in Need Census was changed to the Children Receiving Care and Support Census. From 2016-17, local authorities are expected to collect and return data through the Children Receiving Care and Support Census.

These statistics are published as experimental statistics. More information on the designation of these statistics can be found in the [correspondence between the Welsh Government and the Office for Statistical Regulation](#).

## Future developments

Data requirements in relation to measuring the impact that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is having on people who need care and support and carers who need support are currently being reviewed. It is intended that new data will be launched in April 2020.

## Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and punctuality, Accessibility and clarity, and Comparability and coherence.

### Relevance

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor children's social services trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. More specifically they will provide a summary of activity in relation to new legal duties introduced in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- the Health and Social Services Group in the Welsh Government;
- other areas of the Welsh Government;
- local authorities;
- the third sector (e.g. charities);
- the research community;
- students, academics and universities;
- individual citizens and private companies.

The statistics may also be useful for other UK governments

- the Northern Ireland Executive's Department of Health;
- the Scottish Government;
- the Department for Education in England.



These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- advice to Ministers;
- to inform national policy developments;
- local authority analysis;
- to inform the Care Inspectorate Wales;
- to model the financial consequences of changes in the population or the care system;
- to assist in research on children receiving care and support.

Local authorities will be able to use the CRCS Census data in conjunction with other information to analyse and plan their patterns of activity children's social services and compare their children receiving care and support populations with that of other local authorities. A focus on outcomes such as this census provides will enable local authorities to develop a clear picture of the effectiveness of their current social work practice and commissioned services. It may also help them to find the right balance between the services for children receiving care and support, and those more intensive services, such as for looked after children. The information on health and education outcomes should provide further insight into patterns and outcomes of services. This information will be crucial to planning in partnership, to achieve the targets for children and young people set out in the Welsh Government's [Seven Core Aims for Children and Young People](#).

The CRCS Census has provided information that will enable users to compare outcomes for children looked after with outcomes for children receiving care and support, or on the threshold of being looked after who remain at home, or otherwise within their families and communities. In order to encourage continuous service improvement and to meet the objective of reducing the number of looked after children in Wales, all partners must have access to data about the outcomes for children who receive care and support services.

The Welsh Government accepts the social definition of disability, in which it is recognised that barriers in society act to disable people who have impairments or health conditions or who use British Sign Language. The CRCS Census collects data based on the Equality Act 2010 which uses the medical definition of disability ("a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term impact on a person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities").

## **Accuracy**

This is the third year of collecting the data from the [Children Receiving Care and Support Census](#) following the introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act. The collection is based on the definition of eligible children who receive care and support from their local authority, i.e. children (under the age of 18) who have a care and support plan on the census date of 31 March 2019 and the plan had been in place for the previous 3 months, i.e. their care and support plan was in place on or before 1 January 2019 and remained at 31 March 2019.

This requirement means that the total number of children receiving care and support included in the CRCS Census is less than the total number of children receiving care and support. The CRCS Census covers all children receiving support that is financed from Children's Social Services

budgets, including those supported in their families or independently, children on the Child Protection Register, looked after children, children with a care and support plan who are in the secure estate, and children who have a support plan if they are providing care to someone else.

Information about parenting capacity and other information about characteristics of the children, such as a mental health problem, was taken from the social services department records. Whether an issue was recorded or not thus depended on the assessment of the individual social worker completing the case records and was not derived from other data collections such as medical records. Educational data in Section 6 was obtained from educational databases by record linkage using the Unique Pupil Number, age and gender.

Statisticians within the Welsh Government review the data and query any anomalies with local authorities between submissions to ensure coherence of the data received, and before tables are published. Data adhere to the national standards and guidance, thus ensuring coherence within and across organisations. Local authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form.

The figures in this release reflect the final position of the 2018-19 data year, and are correct as at 31 March 2019. For the CRCS Census data, information which may be inconsistent with that already held in a previous year about the child is checked. Data is also checked against that collected from the Looked after children Census.

Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release. Where changes are not deemed to be significant, figures will be corrected if they appear in future releases. However minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the [StatsWales](#) tables prior to the next release.

### **Symbols and rounding conventions**

The following symbols are used in the tables:

- the data item is not exactly zero, but is less than half the final digit shown.
- . the data item is not applicable.
- .. the data item is not available.
- \* the data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication.

### **Timeliness and punctuality**

The Data Collection team within the Welsh Government collected data, as at 31 March 2019. Data in this release refers to final 2018-19 data. Once submitted data has been validated, this release is drafted and published as soon as possible. This release was published in February 2019, meeting the planned date of publication.

### **Accessibility and clarity**

This statistical release is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics and Research section of the Welsh Government website. It is accompanied by more detailed tables on [StatsWales](#), a free to use service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download data.

## **Comparability and coherence**

2018-19 is the third year of collecting and reporting on data derived from the [Children Receiving Care and Support Census](#). Comparisons with years prior to 2016-17, when data was captured through the Children in Need Census, should be avoided in many cases. An example of this would be that data for unborn children are not collected in the CRCS Census.

This statistical release largely provides figures at the Wales level. Further information for local authorities is available on [StatsWales](#). To ensure that the national data are comparable and consistent, local authorities are expected to comply with the guidance notes for completion that accompany the data collection form. When comparing figures for different local authorities, relevant factors such as the size of the local authority population should be taken into account. [Local authority population estimates](#) by age can be found on StatsWales.

Statistics collected in each United Kingdom country may differ and the detailed guidance available from each country's website should be consulted before using these statistics as comparative measures.

England's [Children in need and child protection statistics](#) (Department for Education)

Scotland's [Children's social work statistics](#) (Scottish Government)

Northern Ireland's [Children's social care statistics](#) (Northern Ireland Executive)

## **Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

## Further details

This document is available at: <https://gov.wales/wales-children-receiving-care-and-support-census>

Data at local authority level is available on [StatsWales](#).

Codes of practice and statutory guidance issued under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act are available at: [Codes of practice and statutory guidance](#)

Information on the costs to local authorities of services provided for children are produced by the Welsh Government from local authority financial returns. Detailed figures are available on [StatsWales](#).

Sources of education information for Wales:

[Academic achievement of pupils aged 4 to 14 in core subjects](#)

[Examination Results](#)

## Next update

February 2021 (provisional)

## We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to [stats.pss@gov.wales](mailto:stats.pss@gov.wales)

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