

# Statistics Publication Notice

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## CHILD PROTECTION STATISTICS 2007/08

24 September 2008



Scotland's Chief Statistician today published the [Child Protection Statistics 2007/08](#). This publication contains the latest figures on the number of child protection referrals, number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference, number of registrations, number of de-registrations and number of children on child protection registers

The main findings are:

- In 2007/08, there were 12,382 child protection referrals, an increase of 4% compared with the previous year. Forty-six per cent of these referrals were for boys, 50% were for girls, and 4% were for children whose gender was not known (largely due to being unborn). (Table 1, Chart 1)
- Thirty-five per cent of child protection referrals resulted in an inter-agency case conference in 2007/08. This compares to 39% in 2006/07 and 38% in 2005/06. (Table 1, Table 2, Chart 4)
- Seventy-nine per cent of children who were subject to a case conference were living at home prior to being referred, compared with 83% the previous year. (Table 2)
- For 86% of children who were subject to a case conference, the primary known/suspected abuser was the child's natural parents (where this was known), the same as in the previous year. (Table 3)
- Of the 4,298 case conferences, 65% resulted in the child being placed on the local child protection register. This compares to 68% in 2006/07 and 70% in 2005/06. (Table 3, Table 4, Chart 4)

- The total number of registrations on to child protection registers between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was 2,814, a fall of 11% compared with the previous year. The number of registrations on to child protection registers as a result of emotional abuse were up by 12%, for sexual abuse were down by 30%, for physical neglect were down by 17%, and for physical injury were down by 8%. (Table 4, Chart 2)
- Sixteen per cent of registrations on to child protection registers in 2007/08 were of children who were known to have been previously on a child protection register. This compares with 12% in 2006/07 and 14% in 2005/06. (Table 5)
- The total number of de-registrations from child protection registers between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 was 3,197, an increase of 4% compared with the previous year. Seventy-five per cent of these de-registrations were for children who had been on the register for less than one year compared with 79% in the previous year. (Table 6)
- Twenty-six per cent of all de-registrations from child protection registers were because of an improved home situation. A further 13% were because the child was taken into care and risk reduced, 7% were because the child was with other carers, 4% were because the perpetrator was removed, and 5% were because the child moved away and there was no continued risk or the child was transferred to another local authority. The remaining 45% were because of an 'other' reduced risk. (Table 6)
- As at 31 March 2008, there were 2,437 children on Child Protection Registers, a decrease of 6% compared with the previous year. A similar number of boys and girls were on child protection registers, and 83% of children were under the age of 11 years old (including unborns). (Table 7)
- At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, 48% of all children on local child protection registers were registered because of physical neglect (down 1 percentage point compared with the previous year), 23% because of emotional abuse (up 5 percentage points compared with the previous year), 21% because of physical injury (down 2 percentage points compared with the previous year) and 7% because of sexual abuse (down 2 percentage points compared with the previous year). (Table 8)

**The following charts are available:**

Chart 1 - Number of child protection referrals by gender, 1999/00-2007/08

Chart 2 - Number of registrations to child protection registers following a case conference by category of abuse/risk, 1999/00-2007/08

Chart 3 - Number of children on child protection registers by gender, at 31 March 2000-2008

Chart 4 - Child Protection Statistics 2007/08 – Flow Chart

**The following tables are available:**

- Table 1 - Number of child protection referrals: 1999/00-2007/08 by gender and age group
- Table 2 - Number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference: 1999/00-2007/08 by placement of children prior to referral
- Table 3 - Number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference: 1999/00-2007/08 by child's primary known/suspected abuser
- Table 4 - Number of registrations following a case conference: 1999/00-2007/08 by category of abuse/risk identified by conference
- Table 5 - Number of registrations following a case conference: 2005/06-2007/08 by length of time since de-registration before this registration
- Table 6 - Number of de-registrations: 1999/00-2007/08 by category of abuse/risk identified, length of time on register and reason for de-registration
- Table 7 - Number of children on child protection registers: 31 March 2000-2008 by gender and age group
- Table 8 - Number of children on child protection registers: 31 March 2006-2008 by category of abuse/risk identified
- Table 9 - Numbers of child protection referrals, subject to a case conference, registrations, de-registrations and on child protection registers: 2000-2008
- Table 10 - Number of children on child protection registers and population rates: 31 March 2000-2008 by local authority
- Table 11 - Numbers of child protection referrals, subject to a case conference, registrations, de-registrations and on child protection registers by local authority: 2007/08

## **BACKGROUND NOTES**

### **Method of Collection**

Each local authority is asked to submit an annual survey form providing aggregate data for children going through the process of child protection. Figures were collected for the number of child protection referrals, number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference, number of registrations, number of de-registrations and number of children on child protection registers. The dates for the collection is throughout the financial year, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

### **Change in Methodology**

From 2005/06, to improve consistency in reporting across local authorities, the question in relation to the number of child protection referrals was revised from asking for the number of children who had a child protection referral to asking for the total number of child protection referrals and the total number of children these involved. The reason for this change was to take into account that a child may be subject to more than one child protection referral in the same year, and that more than one child could be involved in a single child protection referral. In previous years, the child was only being counted once by some local authorities, whereas from 2005/06 this was now a count of referrals and a child could be counted more than once. Also, if a number of children were included in a single child protection referral, then all children were to be counted (as if they had each had their own child protection referral).

This change in the way Child Protection Referrals were to be counted may also have affected the number of Case Conferences and any subsequent Child Protection Registrations (see Tables 2 – 5) as a child who was subject to more than one Case Conference and Child Protection registration during the year will now be counted more than once by some local authorities.

As a result of this change any comparisons pre- and post- 2005/06 should be made with caution.

### **Revisions to 2006/07 figures**

One local authority revised their previously published 2006/07 figures. This revision has resulted in the breakdown of the number of child protection referrals that resulted in a case conference by the child's primary known/suspected abuser for 2006/07 being revised.

### **Resources**

The information in this News Release was obtained from the statistical return. The attached link gives details of the statistics collected from each local authority.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Children/SurveyChildProtection>

This News Release is available on the Scottish Government website at:-  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00685](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00685)

More information on other children's areas and social work staffing, can be seen at  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/childrenstats>

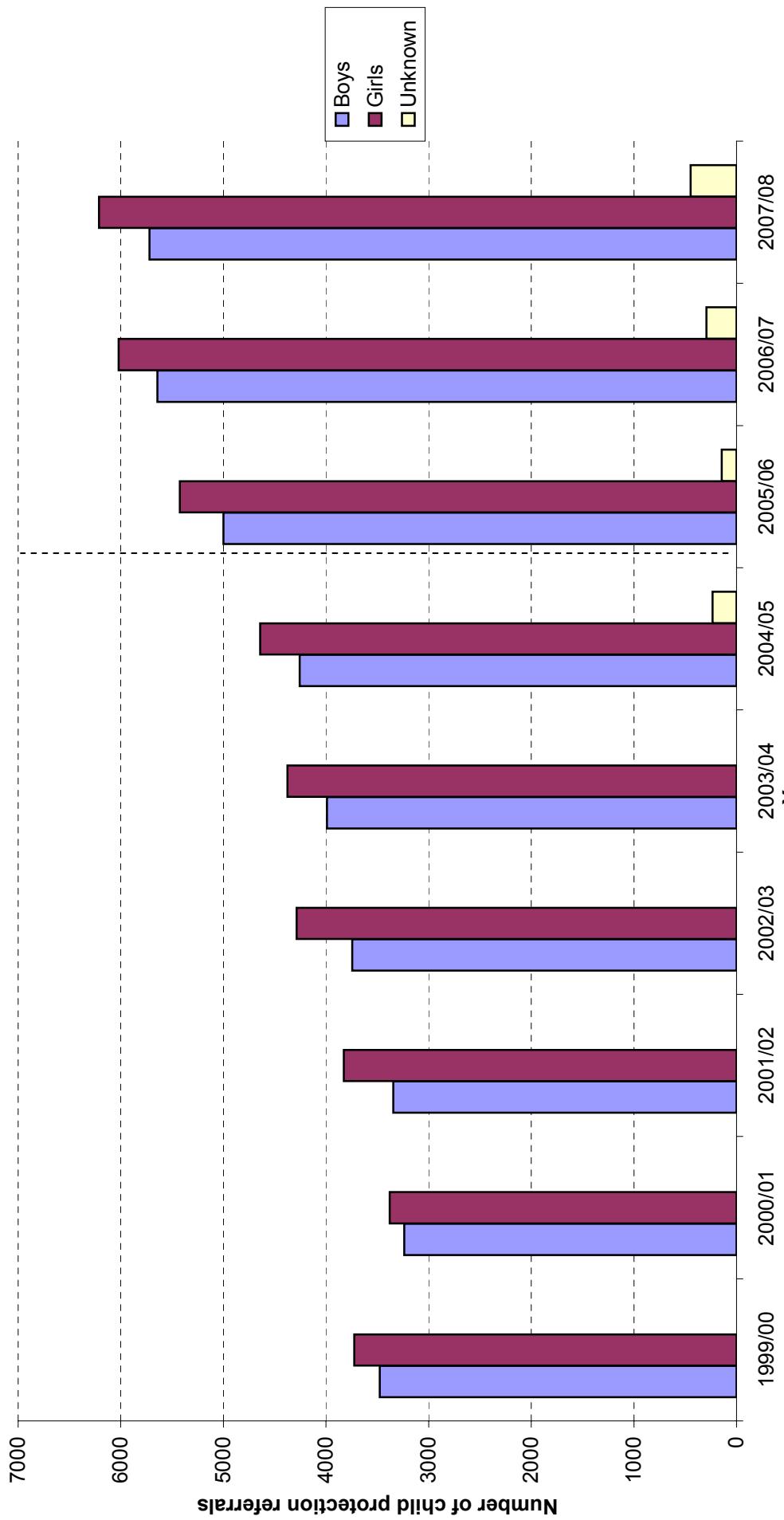
### **General**

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

Public enquiries (**non-media**) about the information contained in this Publication Notice should be addressed to Gary Sutton, Scottish Government, Area 1-B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ (telephone 0131 244 1690 or e-mail [gary.sutton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gary.sutton@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) ).

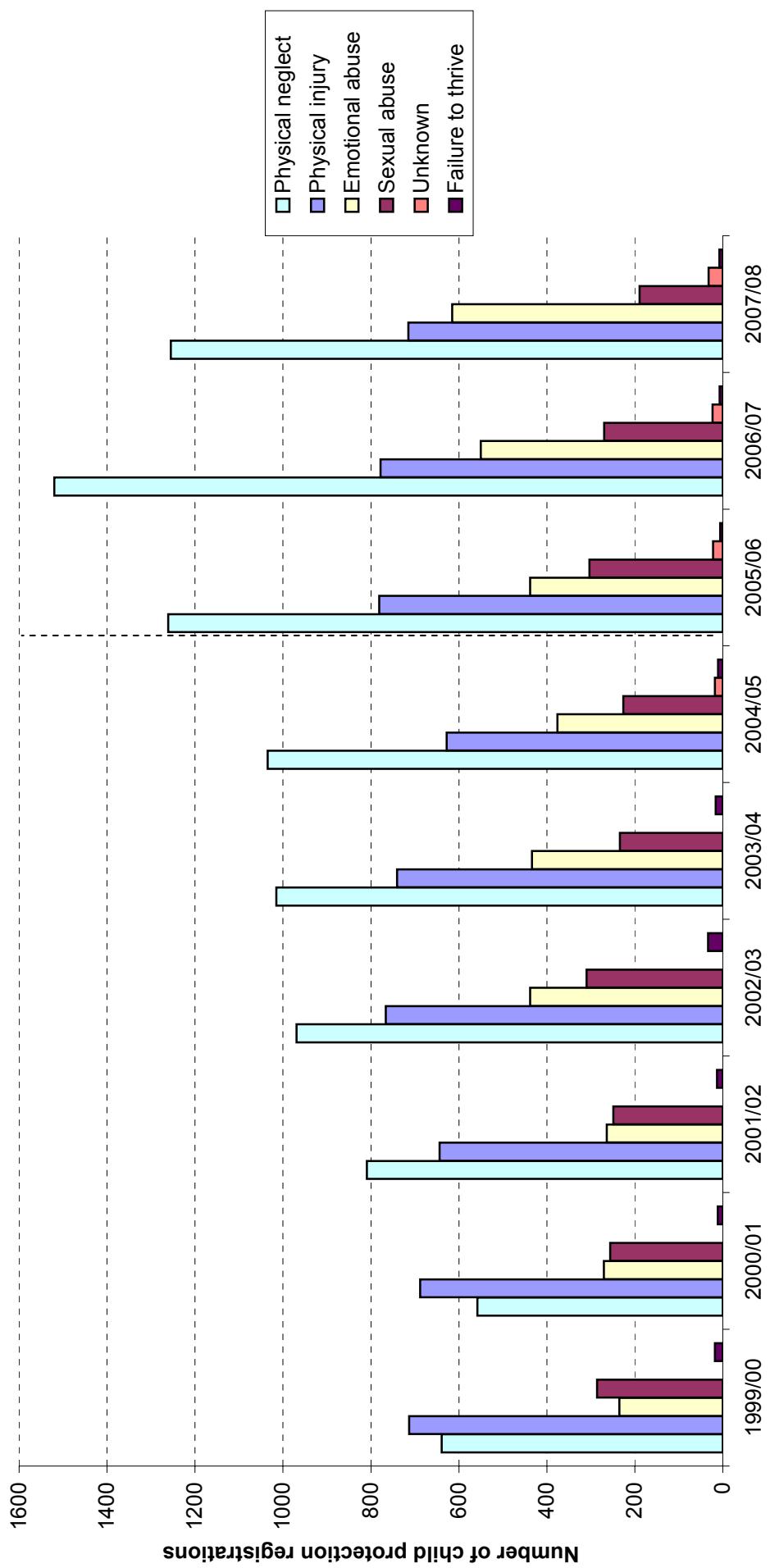
**Media** enquiries about the information in this Statistics Publication Notice should be addressed to Brendan Rooney on 0131 244 2960.

**Chart 1: Number of child protection referrals by gender, 1999/00 - 2007/08**



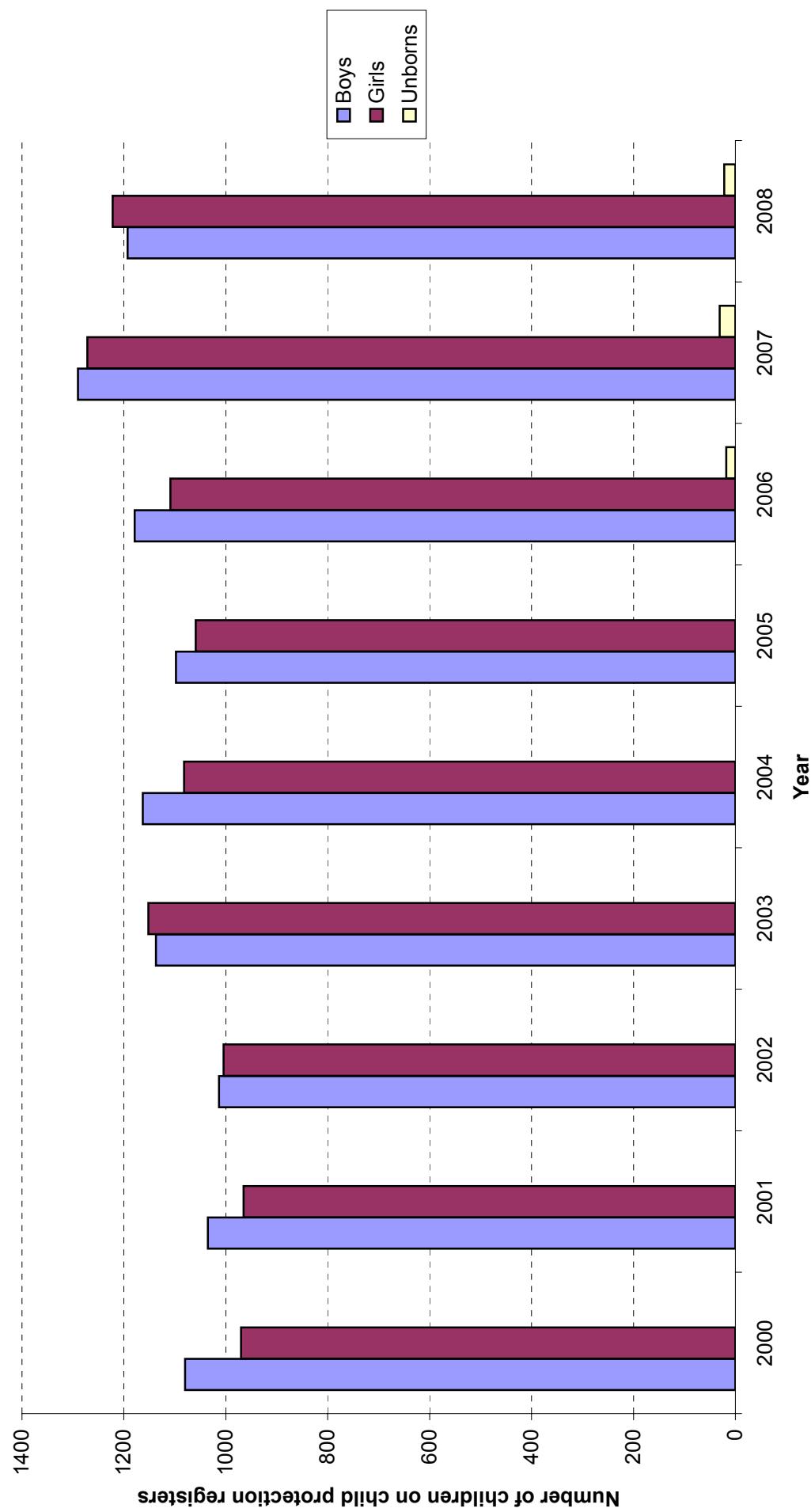
Note: Figures prior to 2005/06 may not be directly comparable due to a definitional change in the way child protection referrals were counted

**Chart 2: Number of registrations to child protection registers following a case conference by category of abuse/risk, 1999/00 - 2007/08**

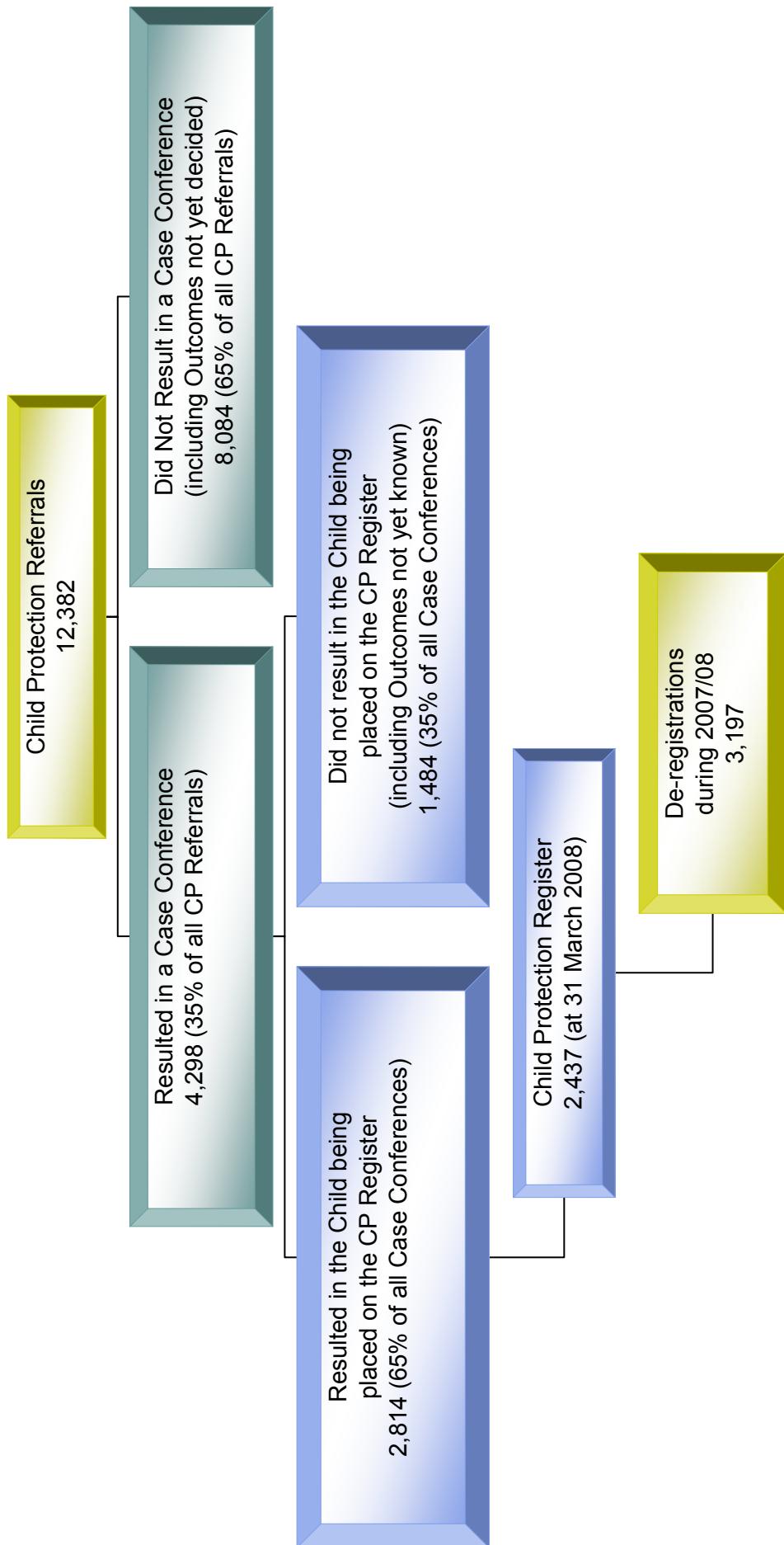


Note: Figures prior to 2005/06 may not be directly comparable due to a definitional change in the way child protection referrals were counted

**Chart 3: Number of children on child protection registers by gender, at 31 March 2000-2008**



**Chart 4: Child Protection Statistics 2007/08 - Flow Chart**



**TABLE 1**  
**NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS: 1999/00-2007/08**  
**BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP**

Age/gender	Year Ended 31 March.....						% of total 2008	% change 2007-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
<b>Boys</b>								
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0-4	1,286	1,053	1,023	1,252	1,260	1,444	1,554	1,816
5-10	1,250	1,142	1,267	1,400	1,555	1,515	1,862	2,108
11-15	907	1,002	1,003	1,044	1,114	1,169	1,407	1,621
16+	34	41	53	50	61	83	95	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,477</b>	<b>3,239</b>	<b>3,345</b>	<b>3,746</b>	<b>3,990</b>	<b>4,257</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,644</b>
<b>Girls</b>								
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
0-4	1,152	915	1,035	1,232	1,240	1,331	1,488	1,805
5-10	1,216	1,121	1,215	1,436	1,396	1,462	1,677	1,837
11-15	1,313	1,282	1,496	1,536	1,589	1,675	1,995	2,192
16+	43	62	81	83	150	117	156	159
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	58	52	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>3,380</b>	<b>3,827</b>	<b>4,287</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>4,643</b>	<b>5,424</b>	<b>6,022</b>
<b>Gender Unknown</b>								
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	233	143	294
<b>All people</b>								
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	270
0-4	2,438	1,968	2,058	2,485	2,500	2,837	3,053	3,634
5-10	2,466	2,263	2,482	2,835	2,951	3,021	3,541	3,952
11-15	2,220	2,284	2,498	2,580	2,704	2,885	3,404	3,817
16+	77	103	134	134	211	205	251	240
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	185	118	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,201</b>	<b>6,619</b>	<b>7,172</b>	<b>8,033</b>	<b>8,366</b>	<b>9,133</b>	<b>10,567</b>	<b>11,960</b>
							<b>12,382</b>	<b>100%</b>
								<b>4%</b>

Note : From 1999/00 to 2003/04, 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

Note : Since 2006/07, the gender-split for unborns was not requested so these are all allocated as 'unknown gender'.

Note : Data prior to 2005/06 are not comparable to previous years due to definitional change for referrals (see background notes).

Note : For cells shown as "-", figures are not available.

**TABLE 2**  
**NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS THAT RESULTED IN A CASE CONFERENCE: 1999/00-2007/08**  
**BY PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN PRIOR TO REFERRAL**

Placement of children prior to referral	Year Ended 31 March.....						% of total 2008	% change 2007-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
At home	2,281	2,006	2,382	2,878	2,915	2,661	3,321	3,818
With relatives	113	150	170	97	163	121	133	141
With foster carers	75	73	210	135	166	91	88	56
In a residential establishment	23	25	27	29	30	18	30	19
Other placement	100	98	62	105	77	122	138	128
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	290	322	446
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>4,032</b>	<b>4,608</b>
							<b>4,298</b>	<b>100%</b>
								<b>-7%</b>

Note : For cells shown as "-", figures are not available.

Note : From 1999/00 to 2003/04, 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

Note : Figures prior to 2005/06 figures may not be directly comparable due to a definitional change in counting child protection referrals made in 2005/06 (see background notes).

**TABLE 3**  
**NUMBER OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS THAT RESULTED IN A CASE CONFERENCE: 1999/00-2007/08**  
**BY CHILD'S PRIMARY KNOWN/SUSPECTED ABUSER**

Primary known/suspected abuser	Year Ended 31 March.....					% of known total 2008	% change 2007-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004		
Natural parent	2,034	1,808	2,154	2,493	2,640	1,972	2,351
Step parent	122	85	100	128	133	109	55
Parent's co-habitee	191	152	255	263	175	119	174
Other relative (including sibling)	142	167	172	165	203	124	116
Other person known to child / family	86	83	105	137	149	96	117
Person unknown to child / family	18	56	64	58	51	29	9
Child him/herself was known/suspected perpetrator	-	-	-	-	-	6	12
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	1,159	1,529
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,352</b>	<b>2,851</b>	<b>3,244</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>3,303</b>	<b>4,032</b>
						<b>4,608</b>	<b>4,298</b>
						<b>100%</b>	<b>-7%</b>

**Note :** For cells shown as "", figures are not available.

**Note :** From 1999/00 to 2003/04, 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

**Note :** Figures prior to 2005/06 may not be directly comparable due to a definitional change in counting child protection referrals made in 2005/06 (see background notes).

**Note :** Some revisions to 2006/07 data (see background notes).

**TABLE 4**  
**NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS FOLLOWING A CASE CONFERENCE: 1999/00-2007/08**  
**BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE/RISK IDENTIFIED BY CONFERENCE**

Category of abuse/risk	Year Ended 31 March.....						% of total	% change 2007-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Physical injury	713	688	644	766	741	628	781	778
Sexual abuse	286	256	249	310	234	226	303	270
Emotional abuse	235	270	264	438	434	376	438	550
Physical neglect	639	558	809	969	1,015	1,035	1,261	1,520
Failure to thrive	18	11	13	33	16	11	6	7
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	18	22	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>2,294</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>3,148</b>
							<b>2,814</b>	<b>100%</b>
								<b>-11%</b>

Note : From 1999/00 to 2003/04, 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

Note : Figures prior to 2005/06 may not be comparable due to a definitional change made in counting child protection referrals in 2005/06 (see background notes).

Note : Prior to 2005/06, 'failure to thrive' included child known/suspected perpetrator.

**TABLE 5**  
**NUMBER OF REGISTRATIONS FOLLOWING A CASE CONFERENCE: 2005/06 - 2007/08**  
**BY LENGTH OF TIME SINCE DE-REGISTRATION BEFORE THIS REGISTRATION**

Category of abuse/risk	Year Ended 31 March.....			% of total 2008
	2006	2007	2008	
Never been registered before	2,150	2,565	2,355	84%
Registered before but time unknown	-	8	5	0%
Less than 6 months	64	92	95	3%
6 months - < 1 year	58	68	68	2%
1 year - < 18 months	27	46	48	2%
18 months - < 2 years	35	43	53	2%
2 years or more	204	120	181	6%
Not known if been registered before	273	206	9	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>3,148</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note : 'Registered before but time unknown' was not collected prior to 2006/07

**TABLE 6**  
**NUMBER OF DE-REGISTRATIONS : 1999/00-2007/08**  
**BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE/RISK IDENTIFIED, LENGTH OF TIME ON REGISTER AND REASON FOR DE-REGISTRATION**

	Year Ended 31 March.....						% of total 2008	% change 2007-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
<b>Category of abuse/risk</b>								
Physical injury	839	627	758	770	792	714	808	784
Sexual abuse	358	300	296	318	313	277	293	322
Emotional abuse	222	202	319	397	454	427	478	599
Physical neglect	673	513	825	907	1,041	1,115	1,284	1,367
Failure to thrive	19	44	18	17	32	18	9	3
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	23	15	9
<b>Length of time registered</b>								
Less than 6 months	716	570	815	942	1,085	901	1,097	1,329
6 months to under 1 year	702	543	729	835	843	971	1,052	1,092
1 year to under 18 months	305	303	328	316	407	357	404	362
18 months to under 2 years	163	127	185	151	131	161	166	158
2 years or more	226	144	159	164	168	184	168	143
<b>Reason for De-registration</b>								
Child taken into care & risk reduced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child with other carers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child died	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Removal of perpetrator	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Improved home situation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reduced risk (other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child automatically de-registered because of age	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child moved away - no continued risk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Child transferred to another local authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,887</b>	<b>3,084</b>
								<b>3,197</b>
								<b>100%</b>
								<b>4%</b>

**Note :** From 1999/00 to 2003/04, 'unknowns' were allocated to a category rather than being reported as unknown.

**Note :** Prior to 2005/06, 'Failure to thrive' included child known/suspected perpetrator.

**Note :** Information on the reason for de-registration is not available prior to 2007/08.

**TABLE 7**  
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS: 31 MARCH 2000-2008**  
**BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP**

Age group/ gender	As at 31 March.....					% of total 2008	% of Scottish population	% change 2007-2008	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Boys</b>									
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-
0-4	483	454	476	490	523	553	625	598	25%
5-10	368	348	354	408	417	355	407	434	16%
11-15	217	224	179	235	215	206	207	226	9%
16+	11	8	4	4	8	4	5	5	0%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,080</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>1,013</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>1,098</b>	<b>1,179</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,193</b>
<b>Girls</b>									
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-
0-4	354	371	458	481	497	493	490	607	25%
5-10	351	344	327	405	377	354	370	421	17%
11-15	249	236	208	258	199	208	228	234	8%
16+	17	15	12	8	9	4	9	10	5%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>1,005</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>1,109</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>1,222</b>
<b>All people</b>									
Unborns	-	-	-	-	-	18	31	22	1%
0-4	837	825	933	971	1,020	1,026	1,044	1,232	49%
5-10	718	693	681	813	794	710	777	855	32%
11-15	466	460	387	493	414	413	435	460	17%
16+	28	23	16	12	17	8	14	15	1%
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,018</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,157</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,437</b>
									<b>100%</b>

**Source :** General Register Office (Scotland) - 2007 mid-year population estimates

**Note :** For Age 16+, relevant population used was 16-17 years old

**Note :** Information on unborns is not available prior to 2005/06, or available split by gender since 2006/07

**-6%**

**TABLE 8**  
**NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS: 31 MARCH 2006-2008**  
**BY CATEGORY OF ABUSE/RISK IDENTIFIED**

Category of abuse/risk	As at 31 March.....			% of total 2008	% change 2007-2008
	2006	2007	2008		
Physical injury	626	585	513	21%	-12%
Sexual abuse	266	240	160	7%	-33%
Emotional abuse	371	472	572	23%	21%
Physical neglect	1,020	1,275	1,166	48%	-9%
Failure to thrive	*	7	10	0%	43%
Unknown	*	14	16	1%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,288</b>	<b>2,593</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

**Note :** Cells containing \* represent small numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

**TABLE 9**  
**NUMBERS OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS, SUBJECT TO A CASE CONFERENCE, REGISTRATIONS, DE-REGISTRATIONS**  
**AND ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS: 2000-2008**

	Year Ended 31 March.....						% change 2007-2008	% change 2000-2008
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Summary	7,201	6,619	7,172	8,033	8,366	9,133	10,567	11,960
Referrals	2,593	2,352	2,851	3,244	3,351	3,303	4,032	4,608
Case Conferences	1,890	1,783	1,979	2,517	2,440	2,294	2,811	3,148
Registrations	2,112	1,687	2,216	2,408	2,633	2,574	2,887	3,084
De-registrations	2,050	2,000	2,018	2,289	2,245	2,157	2,288	2,593
Children on CP registers (at 31 March....)							2,437	2,437
							-6%	19%

Note : Please refer to footnotes in Tables 1-8.

Note : Figures for referrals, case conferences and registrations prior to 2005/06 may not be comparable due to a definitional change made in counting child protection referrals in 2005/06 (see background notes).

**TABLE 10  
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS AND POPULATION RATES: 31 MARCH 2000-2008  
BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA**

**Source** : General Register Office (Scotland) - 2000-2007 mid-year population estimates

**TABLE 11**  
**NUMBERS OF CHILD PROTECTION REFERRALS, SUBJECT TO A CASE CONFERENCE, REGISTRATIONS,  
DE-REGISTRATIONS AND ON CHILD PROTECTION REGISTERS BY LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA: 2007/08**

Local authority area	Year Ended 31 March 2008			As at 31 March 2008
	Number of Referrals	Number Subject to a Case Conference	Number of Registrations	
Aberdeen City	1,385	311	156	179
Aberdeenshire	555	91	79	68
Angus	215	126	99	97
Argyll & Bute	129	63	45	36
Clackmannanshire	97	32	30	29
Dumfries & Galloway	403	151	116	102
Dundee City	163	136	110	129
East Ayrshire	299	163	99	98
East Dunbartonshire	150	84	46	54
East Lothian	337	70	65	54
East Renfrewshire	106	42	32	31
Edinburgh, City of	1,510	287	205	311
Eilean Siar	74	17	16	24
Falkirk	484	100	80	96
Fife	703	304	246	295
Glasgow City	1,315	813	400	445
Highland	282	57	31	32
Inverclyde	243	93	59	57
Midlothian	325	74	64	59
Moray	230	39	32	72
North Ayrshire	346	100	54	79
North Lanarkshire	513	187	91	158
Orkney Isles	124	22	20	32
Perth & Kinross	142	82	61	68
Renfrewshire	347	248	150	149
Scottish Borders	176	59	43	73
Shetland	90	16	14	10
South Ayrshire	134	51	35	36
South Lanarkshire	510	224	136	144
Stirling	249	77	61	51
West Dunbartonshire	158	82	53	44
West Lothian	588	97	86	85
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>12,382</b>	<b>4,298</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>3,197</b>
				<b>2,437</b>

Note : Please refer to footnotes in Tables 1-8.