

factfile 2006–07

*Facts and figures about
Scotland's children
and young people*



the children's charity

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Foreword

by Robert Brown MSP,
Deputy Minister for Education and Young People

Young people are central to the future of Scotland, and it is entirely right that promoting the interests and welfare of children and young people in Scotland is a core theme of the Scottish Executive's partnership agreement, *A partnership for a better Scotland: partnership agreement*. This remains a high-level commitment for Scottish Ministers, and one which is at the very heart of our policy and legislative agenda.

This commitment is reflected in the wide range of policy initiatives and legislation Scottish Ministers have progressed, and continue to progress, in key policy areas impacting upon the lives of children, families and young people. These include, for example, child protection, disability, early years' services and education, health and well-being, housing support and homelessness, and youth justice.

An essential part of Scottish Ministers' work in progressing policy initiatives and legislation is the need to analyse research findings, and to draw upon information from a variety of sources. This highlights the importance of *Factfile Scotland* as a unique collection of facts and information about children and young people in Scotland. Indeed, one of *Factfile Scotland's* greatest strengths is that it presents a wide range of materials and features statistics and information on both devolved and reserved matters impacting upon the lives of children and young people in Scotland.

Factfile is an invaluable resource for all policy makers and service managers working for, and on behalf of, children and young people in Scotland. NCH Scotland is to be highly commended for producing another excellent edition of *Factfile Scotland*. I hope that you will find this new, sixth edition as interesting, and as informative, as I have done.

Robert Brown MSP

Deputy Minister for Education and Young People

Introduction

Welcome to the sixth edition of *Factfile Scotland*, the unique annual collection of key facts and information focusing on Scotland's children and young people.

NCH Scotland's aim in producing *Factfile Scotland* is to provide a publication that government, local authorities, academics, the voluntary sector and other agencies will all find equally useful as a source for key facts about children, families and young people in Scotland. In this respect, we hope that *Factfile Scotland* will help to inform the decision making of government, agencies and organisations in relation to their work with children, families and young people, and add considerable value to their work in these areas.

Factfile Scotland has again been compiled and produced with the generous support of the Scottish Executive, which will help us to distribute copies of *Factfile Scotland* as widely as possible.

We are also grateful to the many agencies and organisations whose work we have drawn upon in compiling *Factfile Scotland*. This includes official statistics and other information from both the Scottish Executive and the UK government, and from the local authority community. It also features material from the voluntary sector, the academic sector and from other key agencies working with children and young people in Scotland.

In this year's *Factfile Scotland* you will find information from the Scottish Executive and the UK government

about, for example, the progress that has been made towards reducing child poverty in Scotland, as well as information from organisations working with children and young people highlighting the residual scale of this problem. *Factfile Scotland* also highlights other significant issues such as the level of support available for looked-after children, and issues around youth justice, education, disability, children's health and homelessness, to name but a few.

Factfile Scotland has a wide circulation including Scottish Ministers, UK Ministers, MSPs, MPs and Peers. Copies are also distributed to civil servants, social work and education departments, health boards and trusts, universities and to voluntary organisations working with children, families and young people. Feedback has confirmed that policy makers and service managers regularly use *Factfile Scotland*.

While every effort has been made to cover all of the key information for each policy area, NCH Scotland would welcome any comments and suggestions, or contributions, for future editions of *Factfile Scotland*.

Andrew S. Girvan

Director of Children's Services
NCH Scotland

Acknowledgements

NCH Scotland appreciates the continued financial support from the Scottish Executive's Unified Fund to produce this sixth edition of *Factfile Scotland*.

The information in this publication has been compiled from a variety of sources, including the Scottish Executive, the UK government, local authorities, voluntary organisations and other key agencies working with children and young people in Scotland. NCH Scotland does not necessarily agree with the opinions or views expressed in the information quoted from these sources.

Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, and NCH Scotland would like to thank all of the sources quoted. NCH would also like to thank the websites listed in the contacts sections for providing information, particularly the Capability Scotland website, the Edinburgh University website, the Glasgow University website, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation website, the *Scotland on Sunday* website, the *Scotsman* website, the Shelter Scotland website, the *Sunday Times* website and the YouthLink Scotland website.

NCH Scotland would like to thank everyone involved in researching and producing *Factfile*, particularly our researcher, Dr Brendan Wallace at the Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society, for all of his hard work and effort in compiling information for *Factfile*. His expertise has been invaluable. Thanks also to Carole Ray and to the production team at NCH, and to Andrea

Page, for all of their help and commitment in producing *Factfile*. NCH Scotland would like to thank Professor Malcolm Hill at the Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society for his helpful comments and suggestions on earlier drafts of *Factfile*. Thanks also to Susan Symington for providing some of the additional information that contributed to *Factfile*.

Factfile 2006–07 is edited by Robert McGeachy, Head of Policy, NCH Scotland. The researcher is Dr Brendan Wallace, the Glasgow Centre for the Child and Society.

Key facts

- About a quarter of Scotland's population is under 19 years old.
- There were 14,216 births in the quarter July to September 2005; births are at their highest level since 1999.
- The latest statistics show a slight increase in the teenage pregnancy rate for 13–19 year olds to 42.4 per 1,000 from 42.1 per 1,000 in 2002–03.
- The largest single cause of death among boys aged 1–14 was accidents, with cancer the next largest cause. For girls aged 1–14 the largest single cause of death was cancer, with accidents and disease of the nervous system ranking second equal.
- The latest available figures confirm that there were 1,072,669 dependent children living in Scotland. Of these almost two thirds were living in a married-couple household, almost a quarter were living in a lone-parent family and 10% in a cohabiting-couple family.
- Only 10% of lone parents in Scotland are under 25; 55% are aged 25–34 and 28% are 35–44 years old.
- The number of asylum seeking and refugee children in Scotland was approximately 3,485.
- The number of unaccompanied child asylum seekers who have come to Scotland since 2001 is approximately 200.
- More than two thirds of 11–16 year olds, and three in five of 17–25 year olds, are proud to be Scottish.

- The most important issues for children and young people in Scotland are having more things to do, concerns over bullying, the need for safer streets, concerns over parents splitting up, education, transport and health.
- The most popular leisure time activities of 17–25 year olds are listening to music, watching TV, going to the pub, using the internet and going to friends' houses.
- The proportion of 11–16 year olds who like to hang about the streets in their spare time has increased from 52% to 57%. By contrast only 7% of 17–25 year olds like to spend their spare time hanging about on the streets.
- Use of the internet is almost universal, with 96% of 11–16 year olds and 88% of 17–25 year olds personally accessing the internet.
- Just over one third of 11–25 year olds (34%) had undertaken voluntary work in the past six months, while a further third (34%) had not volunteered, but would consider doing so.
- Just under half of 11–16 year olds and over half of 17–25 year olds believe they have a healthy lifestyle.
- It is estimated that 20% of children in Scotland are overweight.
- Seventy-four per cent of boys and 63% of girls aged 2–15 have a high physical activity level (the level of activity currently recommended for children); a further 12% of boys and 18% of girls have a medium activity level (the recommended level for children who are currently inactive) and 13% of boys and 19% of girls have a low activity level.
- Nearly one third of all calls to ChildLine Scotland were from children talking about the negative effects of parents' drinking, and 40% of all calls were from children who said they were being physically abused.
- A total of 509 under-18s were given treatment, counselling or support for alcohol dependence between April 2004 and March 2005.
- On average 1,122 people under the age of 18 are admitted each year to hospital due to drink.
- Seven per cent of 13 year olds and 20% of 15 year olds reported that they had used drugs.
- Among 15 year olds, 24% of girls and 14% of boys are regular smokers.
- The number of women who smoked at the start of their pregnancy has fallen from 29.3% in 1998 to 23.8% in 2004; the number who smoked at the time of their first antenatal booking has fallen from 29% in 1995 to 23.8% in 2004.
- The average secondary school of 1,000 will each year have 50 students suffering from depression, 10 affected by an eating disorder and 5–10 attempting suicides.
- At any one time about 10% of young people under 19 years old will have mental health problems severe enough to interfere with their daily lives.
- Suicide attempts by young men have risen by over 170% since 1985.
- The suicide rate for young women has increased by 250% over the last 25 years.

- During 2004–05 there were 41,974 exclusions from local authority schools in Scotland, an 8% increase from 2003–04. About 22,000 different pupils (3%) were excluded, 79% of whom were male.
- Over 99% of all exclusions were temporary. In 271 cases pupils were removed from the school register, an increase of 54% from 2003–04.
- Exclusion rates from local authority secondary schools peaked during S3, with 190 exclusions per 1,000 pupils.
- Of the pupils in S4 in 2002–03, 34% had gained five or more awards at Scottish credit and Qualifications Framework level 5 or better. Pupils registered for free school meals scored on average less than those who were not.
- There are approximately 35,000, 16–19 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), around 13.2% of this age group.
- It is estimated that there are 280,000 children living in poverty in Scotland, or more than one in four children.
- Official figures indicate that between 1998 and 2004, 100,000 fewer children were living in low-income households in Scotland than formerly.
- Children in one-parent families are much more likely to go without necessities than children in two-parent families, irrespective of other family circumstances, such as whether parents are in work or not.
- Approximately 46,000 children live in ‘fuel poverty’ in Scotland.
- Scottish households with one or more disabled persons are twice as likely to live in poverty than those with no disabled people.
- As of 31 December 2005 there were 2,661 households with dependent children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation across Scotland; 78 (or 3%) of these households were living in bed and breakfast hotels.
- In 2004–05 a record 50,529 children were referred to the Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration (SCRA), an increase of 10% on the previous year.
- The number of children referred to the Children’s Reporter in the first quarter of 2005–06 (1 April to 30 June 2005) increased by 15% compared to the last quarter of 2004–05.
- During 2004–05 SCRA dealt with around 17,000 young offenders, of whom 1,260 were persistent offenders (or 5% of all children referred). The majority of children referred to SCRA were children at risk, either because of a lack of parental care or because they were the victims of a serious offence, including a sexual offence.
- There were over 12,185 children looked after by local authorities on 31 March 2005, 4% higher than in 2004. An additional 2,003 children were looked after on a series of short-term respite placements, the lowest number since March 2000.
- The majority of children (57%) were looked after at home with their parents or with family or friends. Approximately 29% were looked after with foster carers or prospective adopters, and 13% in residential accommodation.

- In 2004–05 approximately 45% of care leavers aged 16–17 achieved at least one qualification at SCQF level 3 or above, 3% more than in 2003–04. Approximately 22% of leavers who had been looked after at home achieved SCQF level 3 or above in maths and English, compared to 39% of those who had been looked after away from home.
- Between April and December 2005 more than 756,000 crimes committed by all age groups were reported, 45,000 fewer than in the same period in 2004. This was a fall of 6%.
- It is estimated that 43% of all crimes and offences in Scotland are attributable to young people under the age of 21.
- It is estimated that the bulk of youth crime is attributable to the 18–21 age group (49%), that the under-15 age group commits over one third of youth crime, with the remainder attributable to those aged 16–17.
- Males aged 16 to 24 are more than three times more likely to become the victim of a personal crime compared to other age groups.
- Half of black and ethnic minority young people said they had experienced abuse because of their race or religion in the past year, compared to 5% of white young people.
- Almost one in three girls aged 11–15 year olds in Scotland were involved in at least one physical fight in the last year, while almost 14% had taken part in two or more fights over the same period.
- A survey of young people's views of crime and offending found that 17% feel safe in areas around where they live, a quarter said they do not feel safe and 1 in 10 said they did 'not at all feel safe' in their local area.
- About 20% of young people aged 13 define themselves as gang members, falling to 5% by age 17.

Population

Key facts

The main findings of the Registrar General for Scotland's report, *Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland*, monitoring changes from July 2004 to June 2005, are:

- The estimated population of Scotland on 30 June 2005 was 5,094,800, a rise of 16,400 on the previous year and an increase of 30,600 since mid-2001.
- Compared with the previous year there were more births (+1.3%) and fewer deaths (-1.8%). Despite this, deaths exceeded the number of births by approximately 2,300.
- Over the year there was a net gain from migration of around 19,000, including a net gain of 12,500 people from the rest of the UK and a net gain of 7,300 people from overseas (including asylum seekers).
- Around 57,300 people came to Scotland from England, Wales and Northern Ireland and around 44,800 left Scotland to go in the opposite direction. The net inflow of around 12,500 is lower than the previous year's 15,500 net inflow, reflecting less people coming to Scotland and more people leaving than the previous year.
- The lower overseas net gain of 7,300 comes from an inflow of around 35,400 (including asylum seekers) and an outflow of 28,100. Note that short-term migrants are not included in the estimate as an international migrant is defined as someone who changes their country of residence for 12 months or more.

- Since mid-2001 and the 2001 Census, Scotland's population has increased by 0.6% (+30,600) from 5.06 million to 5.09 million. However, over the last 10 years, Scotland's population has decreased by 8,890 (-0.2%) from 5.10 million to 5.09 million, due to an excess of deaths over births, because net migration fluctuated around zero for most of the period.

Source: *Mid-2005 Population Estimates Scotland*, 27 April 2006, General Register Office for Scotland's website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/mid-2005-population-estimates/index.html>)

Projected total population

The key points of the Registrar General for Scotland's report, *Projected population of Scotland* (2004-based), are:

- the population of Scotland is projected to rise, peaking at just over 5.1 million in 2019 and then slowly declining, falling below 5 million in 2036 and reaching 4.86 million by 2044
- Scotland's population is projected to rise over the next 15 years, thanks to slightly more births, slightly fewer deaths and more people coming to Scotland than leaving. But Scotland still has an ageing nation because its birth rate has declined since the 1980s, and its population is likely to fall from 2020, while the rest of the UK is on a rising trend
- the number of children aged under 16 is projected to decrease by 15% from 0.94 million in 2004 to 0.79 million by 2031
- the number of people of working age is projected to fall by 7% from 3.18 million in 2004 to 2.96 million in 2031

- the number of people of pensionable age is projected to rise by 35% from 0.97 million in 2004 to 1.31 million in 2031
- the number of people aged 75 and over is projected to rise by 75% from 0.37 million in 2004 to 0.65 million by 2031

Source: *Projected population of Scotland*, 20 October 2005, General Register Office for Scotland's website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/04-pop-proj-press.html>)

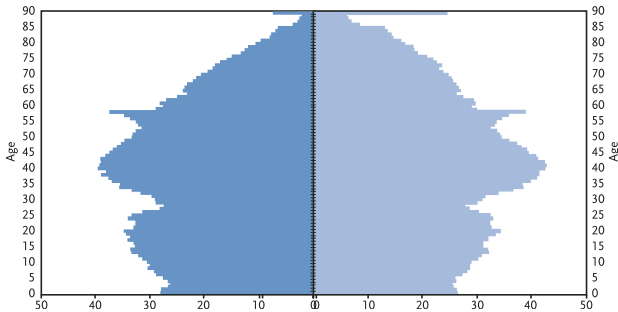
By 2025, 30% of the Scottish population are expected to be over 60 – and 1 in 6 will be over 70.

While the population is expected to decline slightly in the long-term, perhaps the more significant trend is the likely ageing of the population. The number of people aged under 16 is predicted to fall by 15% between 2004 and 2031 (from 0.94m to 0.79m), and the number of adults below state pension age is projected to fall from 3.18 m to 2.96 million, a decline of 220,000 persons (-7%).

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, *Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers*, May 2006, Scottish Executive website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/0>)

Births in Scotland

Table 1.1 Estimated population of Scotland by age and sex, 30 June 2005



Source: Childhood hospital admissions, year ending 31 March 2005, Scottish Health statistics, published 12 December 2005, ISD Scotland (www.isdscotland.org.uk)

Figures released by the General Register Office for Scotland on 22 December 2005 confirm that:

- there were 14,216 births in the quarter July to September – 2.8% more than in the same quarter in the previous year – and taking the first three quarters of 2005 together, births in Scotland were at the highest level since 1999
- there were over 1,400 (11%) more births than deaths. Births outnumbered deaths in 10 out of 15 NHS board areas. But, over the first three quarters of the year, there were almost 1,000 more deaths than births

Source: 'Increase in births' news release, 22 December 2005, General Register Office for Scotland's website (<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/increase-in-births.html>)

Births – historic trend

Viewed over the longer term, the number of babies born in Scotland is falling. In 2002 it fell to 51,270 births, the lowest figure since civil registration began in 1855. Nonetheless, 53,957 births were registered in Scotland in 2004, the second annual rise since 2002. Provisional figures for 2005 indicate 54,387 births, a rise of 0.8% on the previous year and the highest figure since 1999. However, this is a smaller rise than the previous year and not necessarily a sign that the trend is changing long-term. It also still represents 47.9% less than in 1964 (the peak year of the 1960s baby boom with 104,355 births) and 19% less than in 1991.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers, May 2006, Scottish Executive website, (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/o>)

Births and economic circumstances

Until 2005, when there was an increase in the number of births, there had previously been a steady decline since 1976. Within this overall fall in births (from 66,000 to 52,000 during the last 30 years) there has been an increase in the proportion of babies born to women over the age of 30. It is well accepted that women are having fewer children, and postponing childbirth until they are older.

Births to mothers aged 30–34 have risen steadily, and this age group is now the most common group, accounting for 30% of all maternities. There has also been a steady rise in the proportion of mothers aged 35-plus since 1976, from 6% to 18.8%, and the number of births in this age group now equals those in the

20–24 age group. This change has obstetric implications and it has almost certainly contributed to the rise in caesarean sections. It is well documented that age and obesity (more common in older women) are correlated with increased risk of emergency caesarean section.

Among under-20s there are 4–5 times the proportion of births in the more deprived groups compared to the least deprived, and this pattern has remained throughout the period, despite a decrease of nearly 50% in the total number of births in this age group since 1976. In 20–24 year olds the ratio of babies born in quintile one (least deprived) compared to the number born in quintile five (most deprived) is approximately one to two; however, this starts to reverse in the age group 25–29, and for the age groups 30–34 and 35–39 the ratio is two to one. Again, there has been little change in this proportion over the time period.

Much the same sort of pattern is seen when all births are examined, rather than just first births. The impression given is that these changes in behaviour of delaying reproduction and having smaller families are occurring in all sections of society.

Source: *Scottish health statistics: Births and babies' maternal age*, Scottish Health Statistics, 28 June 2005

(www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?jsessionid=52C6CE05CDBE200B2268FFE30E418D69?pContentID=1436&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Births to unmarried parents

The proportion of births to unmarried parents (including births registered solely in the mother's name) has continued to rise, reaching 47% in 2004 compared to 31% ten years earlier. However, the

proportion of births registered solely in the mother's name has remained relatively constant over this period at 6%–7%, suggesting that the increase has been in babies born to stable partners.

Source: 'Scotland's population 2004', *The Registrar General's annual review of demographic trends*, General Register Office for Scotland, July 2004 (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/annrep/rgs-annual-review-2004/chapter-1.html#births)

Teenage pregnancy

The teenage pregnancy rate for 13–19 year olds in 2003–04 was 42.4 per 1,000. This was a slight increase from 42.1 per 1,000 in 2002–03, which was the lowest rate since 1995–96, when it stood at 42 (having fallen from 50.1 in 1991–92).

The rate in the 13–15 age group has also fluctuated since the early 1990s, peaking in 1996–97 at 9.8 per 1,000. The lowest rates recorded are in more recent years, with a rate of 7.5 per 1,000 in 2003–04.

The rate in the 16–19 age group was highest in 1991–2 at 77.4 per 1,000, declining to 68.7 by 1995–6. Following a rise to 72.6 in 1998–9, the rate has subsequently fallen to 68.2 per 1,000 in 2003–04, the lowest in the period reported.

In mainland NHS boards in 2003–04, Borders recorded the lowest rate of teenage pregnancy among 13–15 year olds (3.6 per 1,000) and Forth Valley recorded the lowest rate in the 16–19 year olds (62.2 per 1,000).

Tayside, Dumfries and Galloway, and Fife NHS boards had among the highest teenage pregnancy rates for

13–15 year olds, at 10.3, 9.3 and 9 per 1,000 respectively. Tayside, Fife and Highland NHS Boards have among the highest rates for ages 16–19 (78.6, 76.3 and 75.9 per 1,000) respectively.

In mainland council areas, East Renfrewshire recorded the lowest rate of teenage pregnancy (19.5 per 1,000) in the 13–19 age group and Dundee City Council had the highest rate (64.4 per 1,000).

In 2003–04 in mainland NHS board areas, the delivery rate in age group 13–19 was highest in Fife (27.4 per 1,000) and lowest in Grampian (17.7 per 1,000).

Source: *Scottish health statistics, births and babies' maternal age*, Scottish Health Statistics, 28 June 2005

(www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp;jsessionid=EB539135F470437811338334D3ECF841?pContentID=2108&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Stillbirths and infant deaths

Live and still births in Scotland totalled 54,274 in 2004; a rise of 1,546 births (2.9%) from the total in 2003. There were 691 deaths notified to the *Scottish stillbirth and infant death survey*, comprising 108 late fetal deaths, 317 stillbirths, 166 neonatal deaths and 100 post-neonatal deaths.

In 2004 the stillbirth rate was 5.8 per 1,000 total births. For comparison, the average stillbirth rate was 6.1 per 1,000 between 1994 and 1998 and 5.5 per 1,000 between 1999 and 2003. Under the FIGO (International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics) system, the 'preventable' stillbirth rate (among normally-formed infants weighing up to 1kg) was 3.5 per 1,000. For comparison, the average FIGO stillbirth rate was 3.8 per 1,000 during 1994–8 and 3.5 per 1,000 during 1999–2003.

In 2004 the neonatal death rate was 3.1 per 1,000 live births. For comparison, the average neonatal death rate was 3.7 per 1,000 during 1994–8 and 3.5 per 1,000 during 1999–2003. Under the FIGO system, the 'preventable' neonatal mortality rate (among normally-formed infants weighing up to 1kg) was 1 per 1,000. For comparison, the average FIGO neonatal death rate was 1 per 1,000 during 1994–8 and during 1999–2003. Causes of death were broadly similar to previous years. Among singleton stillbirths, 63% were 'unexplained', with congenital anomaly (13%) and antepartum haemorrhage (11%) being the commonest identifiable causes. Among singleton neonatal deaths, the 'unexplained' categories (57%) and congenital anomalies (22%) were the main contributors.

Source: Scottish Programme for Clinical Effectiveness in Reproductive Health newsletter, December 2005 (www.abdn.ac.uk/spcerh/publications/December%202005.pdf)

Terminations

(Note: Throughout this section on terminations data are presented by calendar year, ending 31 December.)

In 2004 there were 12,448 therapeutic abortions performed, compared to 12,304 in 2003. This is consistent with a pattern seen in recent years. In 2004, the rate of therapeutic abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15–44 was 11.8, compared to 10.9 in 1996.

The rate of terminations for every 1,000 women aged 15–44 was highest in Tayside and Lothian NHS Boards (15.2 and 14.2 respectively), while the Islands (Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles) and Argyll & Clyde had the lowest rates (6.8 and 8 respectively).

In 2004, the rate of terminations was highest among women aged 20–24 (23 per 1,000) and 16–19 (22.5 per 1,000). It reduced for women aged 25–29 (15.4 per 1,000) and women aged over 40 (2 per 1,000).

In 2004, the rate of therapeutic abortions in the most deprived areas was higher than in areas of low deprivation, at 14.6 per 1,000 and 8.5 per 1,000 respectively.

The proportion of early terminations has been relatively stable in the last five years, with 66.1% of all terminations performed at less than 10 weeks in 2004. This compares to 55.8% of terminations performed at less than 10 weeks in 1992.

Source: *Abortions (terminations of pregnancy)*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland, 2004 (updated 24 May 2005) (www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=1923&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Note: For further information about the level of terminations in Scotland between 1999 and 2004 please see ISD Scotland's website, 'Teenage Pregnancy Scottish Health Statistics', at www.isdscotland.org/isd/files/mat_aas_table1.xls

Termination and miscarriage among young people

The delivery rate and the rate of therapeutic abortion and miscarriages among 13–15 year olds are similar for all years: in 2003–04 the delivery rate was 3.1 per 1,000 and the rate of therapeutic abortion and miscarriage was 4.4 per 1,000.

In the age group 16–19, the rate of therapeutic abortion and miscarriage is considerably lower than the delivery

rate for all years, remaining stable at around 26–29 per 1,000. For the periods reported, the delivery rate in 2003–04 was the lowest recorded (39.4 per 1,000).

Source: *Teenage pregnancy 2003–04*, ISD Scotland, 15 December 2005 (www.isdscotland.org/isd/new2.jsp?pContentID=3784&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Life expectancy

The expectation of life at birth is a commonly used summary measure of mortality rates and is particularly useful when comparing the 'health' of a nation through time and for making comparisons with other countries. The expectation of life at birth in Scotland has improved greatly over the last 30 years, increasing from 67.3 years for males and 73.7 years for females born around 1971 to 74.2 years for males and 79.3 years for females born around 2002. Improvements in life expectancy at birth are projected to continue, rising to 78.9 for males and 83.6 for females by 2031.

However, Scottish males and females have the lowest expectation of life at birth in the European Union (15 states). For Scottish males, expectation of life is one year lower than the EU (25 states) average and, for females, it is two years lower. For both sexes, the expectation of life is more than four years lower than in the countries with the highest expectation of life.

Source: *Scotland's population 2004, the Registrar General's annual review of demographic trends*, General Register Office for Scotland, July 2005 (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/annrep/rgs-annual-review-2004/chapter-1.html#Births)

Mortality

On average, people in Scotland are living longer than ever before. With the exceptions of the first and second world wars, average life expectancy for Scottish males has increased steadily from around 50 in 1910 to 73.4 in 2001. Female life expectancy has increased even more and now stands at 78.7. Infant mortality rates have declined in Scotland to an extraordinary degree, with only about six children in every 1,000 failing to reach their first birthday, compared with 130 a century ago and 20 children only 30 years ago.

The main reason for the increase in life expectancy in Scotland over the last 30 years is that diseases of the heart and circulatory system and certain types of cancer are being prevented or delayed. Among men and women death rates have been falling steadily for 50 years for strokes and for about 30 years for coronary heart disease. Death rates from lung cancer among men (but not yet women) have been falling for over 20 years. Much of this can be explained by the decline in smoking over the past 30 to 40 years. Other factors, including better maternal nutrition during pregnancy, better medical care and improved socio-economic conditions, have also contributed.

However, improvements have been slower than in many other comparable countries. In the first half of the 20th century Scotland ranked around seventh to ninth best among 16 western European countries, but by the mid-1990s its position had fallen to 15th, only slightly ahead of Portugal. In particular, Scotland continues to have the highest rates of death from heart

disease and lung cancer and the second highest death rates from stroke in western Europe.

Source: *Health in Scotland 2004*, Scottish Executive, 22 March 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/20877/54847)

Main causes of death among young people

Accidents were the largest single cause of death among boys aged 1–14, accounting for almost a quarter of deaths. Cancer was the next largest cause. For girls aged 1–14, cancer was the most common cause, with accidents and disease of the nervous system ranking second equal.

For males aged 15–34, the main cause was suicide (intentional self-harm plus undetermined deaths), followed by accidents and mental disorders (almost entirely associated with drug and alcohol abuse). For females in this age group, suicide was also the largest category, but there were almost as many deaths from cancer.

Source: *Scotland's Population 2004 – The Registrar General's Annual Review of Demographic Trends*, General Register Office for Scotland, July 2005
(<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/annrep/rgs-annual-review-2004/chapter-1.html#Deaths>)

Other key population trends

Number of households

Results from the 2001 Census show there are almost 2.2 million households within Scotland. Over 1.8 million of these households (82.5%) live in urban

areas. Of these urban households, half live within the large urban areas.

Some 70% of Scotland's households live within settlements with a population of 10,000 or more, and a further 22% live within a 30 minute drive of these settlements. This means there are over two million households either living in or within a 30 minute drive of these settlements.

Source: *Social focus on urban rural Scotland 2003*,
Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 2003
(www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00257.pdf)

Population projections for council areas

Scottish Executive statistics show that in relation to population projections for council areas:

Most council areas near to and including Edinburgh City are projected to increase by 2024.

The greatest projected increase in population during the period from 2004 to 2024 for council areas is in West Lothian (21%), followed by Scottish Borders (15%).

Aberdeen City, Glasgow City, Dundee City and areas in the west of Scotland and the Islands councils are projected to decline by 2024. Aberdeen City and Dundee City have the largest projected decreases (24% and 15% respectively).

For NHS board areas, Borders (15%) and Lothian (11%) have the greatest projected increases in population between 2004 and 2024. The largest decreases are projected in Western Isles (15%) and Shetland (11%).

Scotland's population is projected to age between 2004 and 2024 in most administrative areas. For council areas the number of children under 15 years old is projected to decrease in all areas, apart from the Scottish Borders (a projected increase of 7%), West Lothian (a projected increase of 5%) and Edinburgh City (a projected increase of 3%). The projected decline in other areas ranges from 43% in Aberdeen City to 0.1% in Fife.

By 2024, the population of working age (taking account of the change in women's state pension age between 2010 and 2020) is projected to increase in 14 council areas and decrease in 18. The greatest projected increase is in West Lothian (20%) and the greatest projected decrease is in Aberdeen City (28%).

The population of pensionable age (taking account of the change in women's state pension age between 2010 and 2020) is projected to increase by 2024 in all but two council areas. Glasgow City and Dundee City are projected to fall by 13% and 5% respectively. Similar projected changes in age structure can also be seen in NHS board areas.

Source: 'Population projections for council areas',
Scottish Executive news release, 20 December 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/20101452)

Scottish islands: population statistics

In 2001 the population of the Highlands and Islands was 433,745. This was an increase of 0.8% from 1991, compared to a decline of 0.4% in Scotland as a whole.

The population of the Highlands and Islands was slightly older than that of Scotland in 2001, with a trend towards an ageing population.

Source: 'Statistics for inhabited islands', Scottish Executive news release, 28 November 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/pages/news/2003/11/SEjd366.aspx)

Migration

Patterns of migration

Traditionally, Scotland was a country of emigration. For example, in the mid-1960s there was a net outflow of around 40,000 people per year. This situation has completely changed. Since the early 1990s, inflows and outflows have been approximately equal, while in 2003 and 2004 there was net in-migration of around 9,000 and 26,000 people respectively. In most of Western Europe, the natural decrease in population is compensated by in-migration. The current 2004-based projections assume that from 2008 there will be an annual net inflow of 4,000 people to Scotland, with higher net inflows being assumed in the period 2004–07 (21,000 in 2004–05, 13,500 in 2005–06 and 8,500 in 2006–07).

Even if future net-migration were to be higher than the historical trend, the ageing of our population is still likely to occur (although its exact scale may be open to debate) as migration can at best only temporarily mitigate the ageing of our population. Changes in the age structure of the population may also influence mobility; the younger the population generally, the more likely mobility is to occur.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers, May 2006, Scottish Executive website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/o>)

Total number of asylum seekers in Scotland

The majority of asylum seekers in Scotland live in Glasgow. At January 2 2005 there were 5,798 National Asylum Support Service asylum seekers in Glasgow. At the beginning of 2004, there were also 285 'support only' asylum seekers throughout Scotland.

Source: COSLA Refugees and Asylum Seekers' Consortium (www.asylumscotland.org.uk/)

The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) provides support, accommodation and financial help for asylum seekers while their claim is being considered by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND).

Source: Immigration and Nationality Directorate website (www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/applying/national_asylum_support.html)

Children of asylum seekers in Scotland

There are few reliable statistics on the number of children of asylum seekers in Scotland. However, over 1,400 are registered with Scottish schools.

Source: *Pupils in Scotland 2004*, Scottish Executive statistical bulletin, April 12 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0010239.pdf)

Scottish Executive data indicates that there were 3,485 asylum seeking and refugee children in Scotland in 2005.

Source: As reported in 'This is a good place to live and think about the future' Report for the Scottish Refugee Council (January 2006), Scottish Refugee Council website (http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/UASC_Report)

Unaccompanied child asylum seekers

With regard to unaccompanied child asylum seekers, it was estimated by the Scottish Refugee Council that about 200 have come to Scotland since 2001, with an estimated 109 living in Scotland in 2005. Most of these are aged 16–17, but about one quarter are aged 13 to 15.

Source: As reported in 'This is a good place to live and think about the future' Report for the Scottish Refugee Council (January 2006), Scottish Refugee Council website (http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/pub/UASC_Report)

Dungavel

Dungavel is the only immigrant removal centre in Scotland, holding adults and children detained by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate under UK immigration laws. In response to an oral parliamentary question on 5 July 2005 David Cairns MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Scotland, confirmed that it is government policy that children may only be kept at Dungavel for 72 hours. He also stated that if it is necessary to detain children for longer, they are moved to the specialist family unit at Yarl's Wood in Bedfordshire.

Source: House of Commons, Parliamentary answers, July 2005 (www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/cm050705/debtext/50705-02.htm)

Children and young people: identities and interests

This chapter considers aspects of children's and young people's identity in Scotland such as ethnicity, religion and sexuality. Other areas of identity considered include how children and young people see themselves, and the issues that most concern them. It also looks at their interests. Key sources in this respect are the recent polls of children and young people conducted for the Being Young in Scotland Survey 2005, and for the Scottish Commissioner for Children and Young People's consultation on her policy priorities.

Ethnicity

Table 2.1: Scottish population by ethnic group, all people, 2001 Census

Percentages	% of total population	% of minority ethnic	Base population
White Scottish	88.09	n/a	4,459,071
Other white British	7.38	n/a	373,685
White Irish	0.98	n/a	49,428
Any other white background	1.54	n/a	78,150
Indian	0.30	14.79	15,037
Pakistani	0.63	31.27	31,793
Bangladeshi	0.04	1.95	1,981
Chinese	0.32	16.04	16,310
Other South Asian	0.12	6.09	6,196
Caribbean	0.04	1.75	1,778
African	0.10	5.03	5,118
Black Scottish or any other black background	0.02	1.11	1,129
Any mixed background	0.25	12.55	12,764
Any other background	0.19	9.41	9,571
All minority ethnic population	2.01	100.00	
All population	100.00	n/a	5,062,011

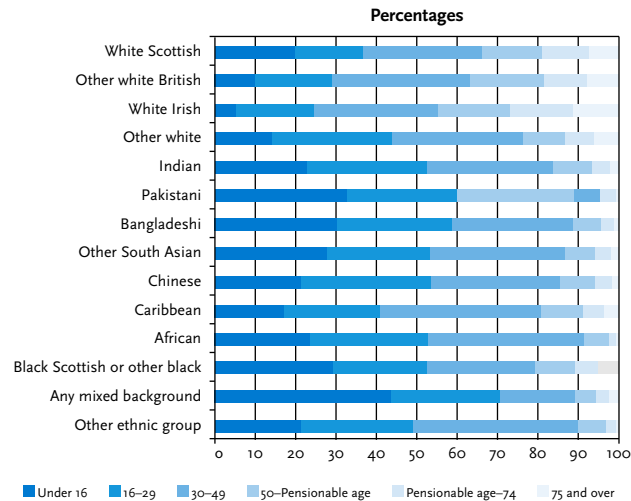
Source: *Analysis of ethnicity in the 2001 Census: summary report*, Office of the Chief Statistician, Scottish Executive, February 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/aesr.pdf)

Therefore 2.32% of the population of Scotland in 2001 were from a minority (non-white) ethnic group, compared with 1.3% in 1991. The largest group of non-white Scots were Pakistanis.

Source: 'Registrar General announces further results from the 2001 Census', General Register Office for Scotland news release, July 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/aescr.pdf)

Age and ethnicity

Table 2.2: Age profile by ethnic group, all people, Scotland



Source: *Analysis of ethnicity in the 2001 Census summary report*, Office of the Chief Statistician, February 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/aescr.pdf)

Religion

For the first time, the 2001 Scottish Census asked two questions on religion: about religion of upbringing and current religion.

In the 2001 Scottish Census people identified their current religion as shown in the table below.

Table 2.3: Scottish population by current religion, all people

	Thousands	Percentages
Church of Scotland	2,146	42.4
Roman Catholic	804	15.9
Other Christian	345	6.8
Buddhist	6.8	0.13
Hindu	5.6	0.11
Jewish	6.4	0.13
Muslim	43	0.84
Sikh	6.6	0.13
Another religion	27	0.53
All religions	3,389	67
No religion	1,394	27.5
Not stated	278	5.5
All no religion/not stated	1,672	33
Base	5,062	100

Source: *Analysis of ethnicity in the 2001 Census summary report*, Office of the Chief Statistician, February 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/aescr.pdf)

In 2001 just over two-thirds (67%) of the Scottish population reported having a religion. The most common faith was Christianity: 65.1% of the population are members of the Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church or other Christian churches. The next most common faith was Islam (0.84%)

followed by 'other' religions (0.53%), Buddhism (0.13%), Judaism (0.13%), Sikhism (0.13%) and Hinduism (0.11%). The Census religion question was voluntary; nevertheless, only 5.5% chose not to answer it.

Christianity was the most common religion for all four 'white' groups and also for Caribbean, African and 'other black' Scottish people. Sikhism was the most common faith among Indian people (37.6%) followed by Hinduism (30.5%). Some 89.2% of Pakistanis, 84.3% of Bangladeshis and 43.2% of 'other south Asian' people said they are Muslim: 32.4% of people who listed their ethnicity as 'other' are also Muslim, as are 18.5% of African people.

Of Chinese people, 63.1% responded as having 'no current religion'. The group reporting the lowest level of 'no religion' was Pakistani people (2.8%).

And 12.5% of 'other black' people chose not to state their religion, as did 10.9% of Caribbean people and 10.3% of 'other south Asian' people.

Source: *Analysis of ethnicity in the 2001 Census summary report*, Office of the Chief Statistician, February 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/social/aescr.pdf)

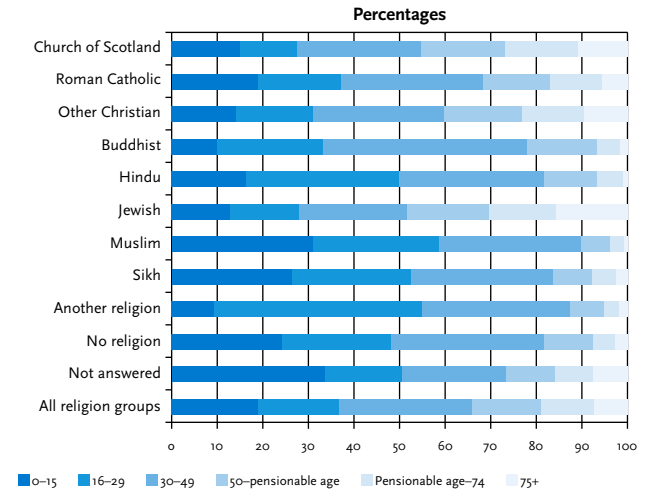
Religion of upbringing

For religion of upbringing, the largest groups were Church of Scotland (47%), 'none' (18%) and Roman Catholic (17%). The equivalent percentages for current religion were 47%, 28% and 16%.

Source: 'Registrar General announces further results from the 2001 Census', General Register Office for Scotland news release, July 2003 (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/centreprs)

Religion and young people

Table 2.4: Age profile of all people by current religion



For those who answered the religion question, Muslims have the youngest age profile, with 31% aged under 16 years. This is followed by Sikhs (27%) and those with no religion (24%). In contrast, the age profile of Christian and Jewish groups is much older. Over a quarter (27%) of those belonging to the Church of Scotland and 30% of Jews are of pensionable age or above. Similarly, 23% of Other Christians and 17% of Roman Catholics are within this age group. Pensionable age is 60 for women and 65 for men.

Source: *Analysis of religion in the 2001 Census summary report*, Office of the Chief Statistician, February 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00398.pdf)

Gaelic speakers

The key findings of Scotland's 2001 Census Gaelic report were:

There were 92,400 people aged three and over (1.9% of the population) with some Gaelic language ability.

The number of people aged three and over who could speak Gaelic declined by 11% between 1991 and 2001. The number who could read Gaelic increased by 7.5% and the number who could write Gaelic increased by 10% over the same period.

People who could either speak, read or write Gaelic fell by 3,800 (6%) between 1991 and 2001, while the number with more extensive Gaelic ability, who could speak, read and write the language, rose by 1,800 (6%) over the same period.

Some 63% of people aged three and over with some Gaelic language ability were Gaelic speakers, while 29% could understand Gaelic but could not speak, read or write it.

Levels of Gaelic speaking increased between 1991 and 2001 for those aged five to nine years, despite falls for these ages in the chief Gaelic heartlands of Eilean Siar and Skye & Lochalsh.

Outwith the main Gaelic areas, only around 1% of the population had any Gaelic language ability.

Source: *Scotland's Census 2001: Gaelic report*, General Register Office for Scotland 10 October 2005 (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/press/news2005/scotlands-census-2001-gaelic-report.html)

Numbers of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people in Scotland

LGBT Scotland has suggested that because of the discrimination LGBT people face in Scotland, and the fear of homophobia from 'standing up and being counted', it is difficult to determine the size of Scotland's LGBT population. However, according to LGBT Scotland 5%–10% of any given population being lesbian or gay is a commonly accepted average in a wide number of studies that have been undertaken. This does not include those who may have same-sex experiences at some point in their lives and who may experience similar issues as people who identify themselves as LGBT.

Numbers in relation to Scotland's transgender population are significantly lower, with the wide range of definitions and identities (such as transsexual, biological intersex conditions, transvestism) making it difficult to quantify. However, we do know that in the region of half a million of Scotland's population are LGBT.

Source: *Towards a healthier LGBT Scotland*, LGBT Health Scotland, October 2003 (www.lgbthealthscotland.org.uk/ARCHIVE/Stonewallopt3.pdf)

Key results from *Being Young in Scotland 2005*

Being Young in Scotland is a survey carried out by MORI Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Executive, YouthLink Scotland and the Scottish Commissioner for Children

and Young People. The survey involved interviews with a representative quota sample of 1,028 young people aged 17–25 in 127 output area sampling points across Scotland. All interviews were conducted between 16 February and 31 March 2005. Data is weighted by gender, age and region back to the known population and its distribution, to ensure the survey findings are representative. (The weightings are derived from data supplied by the 2001 Census.)

The survey's key findings are:

The majority of Scotland's young people lead active social lives and participate in a wide variety of activities and experiences, both relaxing and energetic. The most popular spare time activities among 11–16 year olds are listening to music and watching TV (87% for both).

However, the proportion that say they are most likely to take part in sports, games or fitness in their spare time increased from 45% in 2003 to 54% in 2005. The proportion of 11–16 year olds who like to hang about on the streets increased from 52% to 57%.

The most popular spare time activities among 17–25 year olds are listening to music (88%), watching TV (83%) and going to the pub (73%). However, this age group also likes to spend spare time using the internet (73%) and going to friends' houses (72%). Just 7% of this age group like to spend their spare time hanging about on the streets.

Just over one-third of all 11–25 year olds (34%) had done voluntary work in the past six months. A further third (34%) had not volunteered but would consider doing so. Volunteering is significantly more common among those young people who believe that respecting others is one of the most important aspects of good citizenship.

Almost half (48%) of Scotland's girls in both age groups are dissatisfied with their weight. More than two in five girls aged 11–16 (43%) also dislike their appearance, but this decreases to 23% of 17–25 year old females.

Just under half (48%) of 11–16 year olds and over half (56%) of 17–25 year olds feel that they lead a healthy lifestyle. Just over one-third (34%) of both age groups believe that leading a positive and healthy lifestyle is one of the most important aspects of good citizenship.

More than two-thirds (71%) of 11–16 year olds and three in five 17–25 year olds (56%) agree that they are proud to be Scottish. However, young white Scots are significantly more likely to be proud of being Scottish than young non-white Scots.

The proportion of 17–25 year olds with no religion increased from 41% to 43%. The proportion of 17–25 year olds who are Muslim and Hindu increased from less than 1% in each case in 2003, to 3% and 2% respectively in 2005.

The vast majority of young people – 88% of 11–16 year olds and 85% of 17–25 year olds believe that respecting others is one of the most important aspects of good citizenship.

Two in five 11–16 year olds (42%) believe that the Scottish Parliament makes a great deal or a fair amount of difference to their life.

Young people have a fairly sceptical view of how they are presented by the media. A quarter of 11–16 year olds think that the media presents a very or quite fair picture of young people, down from 31% in 2003. One-third of 17–25 year olds think that the media's presentation is very or quite fair, up from 22% in 2003.

Fear of violence has increased slightly among both age groups. Twelve per cent of 11–16 year olds agree that they are really frightened about going out because there is so much violence about, compared to 9% in 2003. Among 17–25 year olds, the proportion agreeing with this statement increased from 8% in 2003 to 10% in 2005.

Half (51%) of 11–16 year olds agree that children should have legal protection from being smacked. Only one-third (32%) of 17–25 year olds agree.

Scotland's young people are predominantly positive about their future. Two thirds (68%) of 11–16 year olds anticipate that it is very or fairly likely that they will go to university. Half (52%) of this age group and three in five 17–25 year olds (61%) feel that they have good job prospects.

Non-white 11–16 year olds (24%) and those with a disability (18%) are significantly more likely than white young people of this age and those without a disability to agree that there is little chance for people like them to make it in life.

Use of the internet by young people is nearly universal; 96% of 11–16 year olds and 88% of 17–25 year olds personally access the internet.

Scotland's 17–25 year olds appear to have a predominantly responsible attitude towards financial matters; 81% disagree that it is OK to have lots of debt and just under half (48%) agree that planning now for retirement is important.

Source: *Being Young in Scotland 2005*
(www.youthlink.co.uk/docs/Research/Being%20Young%20in%20Scotland%202005.pdf)

For further information about the leisure activities of young people, see *Physical activity in Scottish schoolchildren (PASS) – a summary of key findings from the 2003–04 pupil survey*, from CAHRU (The Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit) and The Moray House School of Education (www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/PASS_SurveySummary.pdf).

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People's poll of children and young people

In a survey of 16,000 children and young people, the following issues were identified as being the most important to children and young people in Scotland:

- Things to do = 4,215 (26.5%)
- Bullying = 4,037 (25.3%)
- Safer streets = 3,830 (24.0%)
- Parents splitting up = 1,462 (9.2%)
- Education = 857 (5.4%)
- Transport = 778 (4.9%)
- Health = 717 (4.5%)

There was little gender difference in the results, although bullying came top for females and safer streets and transport concerned a higher proportion of males.

Source: Massive response to biggest-ever poll of children and Young people, SCCYP news release, 18 January 2006
http://www.sccyp.org.uk/admin/03presscuttings/files/spo_182028Consultation%20results%20-%20updated.doc

Levels of happiness and contentment among young people

Overall, 45.9% of young people said they are 'very happy', 44.7% see themselves as 'quite happy' and 9.4% see themselves as unhappy ('I don't feel very happy' and 'I'm not happy at all' combined).

More boys than girls reported themselves as 'very happy' at each age. More girls than boys reported themselves as unhappy at ages 13 and 15.

There is no gender difference in the mean life satisfaction score of boys and girls at age 11, but at ages 13 and 15 the mean life satisfaction score for girls is very significantly lower than the score for boys. The largest decrease in life satisfaction occurs between the ages of 11 and 13 for both boys and girls. Subsequently, the life satisfaction score for boys remains stable, whereas for girls the score decreases further between the ages of 13 and 15.

Source: *Mental health and wellbeing in the context of school: Young people in Scotland*, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit at the University of Edinburgh, in *HSBC Briefing Paper 4*, March 2004 (www.hbsc.org/countries/downloads_countries/Scotland/BriefingPaper4.pdf)

For further information see *Health behaviour in school-aged children (HBSC) Briefing Paper 2* (www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/BriefingPaper2.pdf).

Attitudes to transport

The overwhelming majority (88%) of young people would prefer to travel by car when they are older. Young people are enthusiastic about cars, even from an early age. Cars are perceived as cheaper, more convenient and an important aspect of being accepted within a peer group.

When asked to rate different forms of transport as 'cool/trendy' or not, the car and train are seen as most acceptable, with taxis and cycling the least popular. For boys, the acceptability of cycling is substantially greater than for girls. Buses and walking are much more acceptable for girls.

Responses by year group show a pronounced slip in the potential acceptability of walking and cycling for years S3 and S4 (ages 14–16), although there is some recovery in this among older pupils. Bus popularity declines with age, whereas the opposite is true for trains and taxis. This age group is not really sure whether the risk of 'stranger danger' is the most important factor in deciding how they want to travel to school. The risk of road accidents is ranked only seventh.

Source: reported in *Children's attitudes towards sustainable transport*, Scottish Executive, 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/transport/cast.pdf)

Health

Smoking and pregnancy

In 2004, 23.8% of pregnant women in Scotland were smokers at the start of their pregnancy. This figure has reduced from 29.3% in 1998.

Smoking during pregnancy shows a clear correlation with deprivation: 38.9% of women from the most-deprived groups in Scotland smoke during pregnancy, compared with just 8.6% of women who are in the least-deprived group. Since 1998 there has been an encouraging decrease of approximately 10% in the number of women from the most-deprived areas smoking during pregnancy. Rates for women in the other deprivation categories have seen smaller decreases over this time.

Source: 'Targets – women smoking in pregnancy',
ASH Scotland news release, 18 April 2005
(www.ashscotland.org.uk/ash/ash_display.jsp?p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&pContentID=4200&-10k)

There was an overall decrease across economic categories in the proportion of women who smoked at the time of their first antenatal booking, from 29% in 1995 to 23.8% in 2004.

Source: *Smoking at booking*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland, June 2005
(www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=2911&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

The Scottish Executive's current target is to reduce the proportion of pregnant women in Scotland who are smokers to 20% by 2010.

Source: *Health in Scotland 2000*, Scottish Executive (www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/health/hiso.pdf)

Breastfeeding

The national target, set by the Scottish Office in 1994, stated that by 2005 more than 50% of women should be breastfeeding their babies at six weeks old.

Recent statistics in relation to breastfeeding indicate that:

- breastfeeding rates at 6–8 week review have increased to 37.7% in 2005 from 35.7% and from 34.6% in 1999
- all NHS board areas improved breastfeeding rates during 2005, although breastfeeding rates continue to vary widely between individual NHS boards. NHS Forth Valley's breastfeeding rate showed the greatest improvement, increasing from 30.8% in 2004 to 34.0% in 2005. NHS Borders and NHS Lothian have the highest breastfeeding rate at 49.0%. NHS Lanarkshire has the lowest rate at 26.6%
- breastfeeding rates at health visitors' first visit have increased to 45.1% from 44.1% in 2004 and 42.7% in 1999
- in 2005 the breastfeeding rate at health visitors' first visit ranged from 33.4% in Lanarkshire to 58.2% in Lothian

Source: Scottish Health Statistics, Information Services Division website, 15 May 2006 (www.isdscotland.org/Child_Breastfeeding)

Immunisation

At a Scotland level, quarterly uptake rates at 12 months' old for the diphtheria, tetanus and polio vaccines are above 95%, with rates for pertussis (whooping cough) at 94.9% and the Hib disease vaccine at 94.7%. Uptake for Meningitis C is below 95% (at 93.8%).

At a Scotland level, quarterly uptake rates at 24 months of age for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Hib and Meningitis C have remained relatively stable, at around 96% to 97%.

Uptake of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine) at 24 months for children born in the first quarter of 2003 is 88.4%. This is 0.4% higher than the preceding three-month period (quarter four, 2002), when the rate was 88%. The MMR uptake rate at 24 months for the year ending 31 March 2005 is 88.4%. This is a 1.1% increase from the year ending 31 March 2004, when the rate was 87.3%.

The quarterly uptake rate of pre-school booster MMR by six year olds remains relatively high, with 89.2% of those children born in the first quarter of 1999 being immunised.

Source: *Latest childhood immunisation uptake rates: up to 31 March 2005*, ISD Scotland (www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=3396&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Impact of family environment on children's health and well-being

Academics at the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh undertook a study with ChildLine Scotland to look at children's concerns about the health of their families and friends. Researchers looked at around 9,000 calls made to ChildLine Scotland over a four-year period about parents', siblings' and friends' ill-health. More than 2,000 of these were analysed in-depth. 'Traditional' health complaints such as cancer, mental health problems like depression and other problems like alcohol and drug abuse were taken into account.

The research revealed that thousands of children across the country are dealing with very difficult family circumstances, physical abuse, neglect, and school problems as a result of their parents' or carers' difficulties in coping with mental health, alcohol or drugs, or other health-related problems. Although many children know a lot about their family's problems, they find it difficult to access the help they need. Often they are worried what will happen if they tell anyone.

Nearly one-third of calls were from children talking about the negative effects of parents' drinking, and 40% were from children who said they were being physically abused.

Violence was perpetrated by mums and dads, step-parents, relations and carers, and ranged from slapping to repeatedly striking children with

implements such as golf clubs and belts. Children often said the abuse was brought on by a health problem like depression or by the parent drinking, and that a 'trigger' such as divorce signalled the onset of this behaviour.

Some children have to care for family members as an 'adult', some experience problems at school where they are bullied and others worry that their home situation will be 'discovered.' Most feel worried and confused.

Friends are the most important source of support, refuge and protection for children, with 29% telling friends about their plight and looking to them for help. In contrast, only 1% told social services and in 14% of cases the child had told no one until they picked up the phone and called ChildLine.

ChildLine Scotland is now calling for more support for children and parents who are under stress, demanding that services take a more child-focused approach and that parents are given vital support before they reach crisis point.

Source: 'Hidden plight of Scotland's children', ChildLine Scotland news release, 18 May 2005
(www.childline.org.uk/HiddenplightofScotlandschildren.asp)

Rates of cancer among young people in Scotland

Almost 160 cancers arise in adolescents and young adults (aged 15–24) in Scotland every year, accounting for approximately 0.7% of total (all ages) malignant

neoplasms, excluding non-melanoma skin cancers. Lymphomas account for the highest proportion of cancers in this age group, at almost 24%. Carcinomas, germ cell tumours (mostly testicular), melanomas (mostly cutaneous) and leukaemia and lymphoma in total account for almost 80% of all cancers in this age group.

The age-specific incidence rates show the same trend for all cancers combined, with higher incidence in the older age group, and they show that overall, incidence is higher in males than females. When looking at all cancers individually, for both sexes combined, leukaemia, CNS tumours, bone tumours and soft tissue sarcomas have a higher incidence rate in the younger age group, with the remaining cancers having a higher incidence in the older age group. Incidence is higher in males than females for the majority of cancers except melanomas, carcinomas and miscellaneous specified tumours.

Incidence is higher in males than females for the majority of cancers, except melanomas, carcinomas and miscellaneous specified tumours.

Incidence rates of all cancers combined in adolescents and young adults have increased over time, from 178.3 per million population to 237.4 per million population between 1976–80 and 1996–2000. This increase is seen for most of the individual cancer groups, although the ‘miscellaneous’ group decreased. The most striking increases in incidence were in germ cell tumours and melanoma.

The rate of survival for one year after cancer diagnosis for adolescents and young adults (aged 15–24) increased from 81% for those diagnosed during 1976–80 to 92% for those diagnosed during 1996–2000. This increase was also apparent when cancers are examined individually, except for soft tissue sarcoma, where one-year survival decreased from 93% to 83%. Overall, five-year survival increased from 60% to 79% and, like one-year survival, it increased generally for each cancer group, with the exception of soft tissue sarcoma.

Fluctuations in survival over time can be explained, at least in part, by random variations due to the small numbers of cases. The apparent decrease in survival from soft tissue sarcoma could be explained by a change in case-mix; specifically, an increase over time in the relative proportion of rhabdomyosarcomas, which often have a very poor prognosis.

Source: *Cancer in adolescents and young adults in Scotland 1976–2000*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland, 22 July 2005 (www.isdscotland.org/isd/cancer_definition.jsp?ContentID=2664&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Asthma

Results from the latest in a series of studies into asthma and allergies – which first began four decades ago – suggests that childhood asthma in Aberdeen may have stabilised for the first time. Researchers at the University of Aberdeen also found – again for the first time – that girls are just as likely to have asthma as boys.

The study, funded by Asthma UK, was launched in May 2004, when thousands of questionnaires were given to Aberdeen primary school pupils in an ongoing attempt to monitor trends in allergic conditions among schoolchildren. It is the most recent study in a series that started in 1964 and was followed by surveys in 1989, 1994 and 1999.

A questionnaire on children's health was completed by parents of 3,712 children from primaries three to seven at 32 schools in Aberdeen city. Overall, 26% of the children had had asthma, 26% had had eczema and 19% had had hay fever at some point since birth.

The percentages of children who had ever had eczema and hay fever have risen since 1999 but, for the first time since the surveys began, the percentage of children in primaries five to seven who had wheezed in the last three years had not increased, suggesting that the peak of the 'asthma epidemic' may have been passed.

Also for the first time, in primaries five to seven there were equal numbers of girls and boys who had wheezed in the past three years; this is a dramatic change from 1964, when there were five boys with wheeze for every three girls.

Source: 'Asthma upward trend over?', University of Aberdeen news release, 24 February 2005 (www.abdn.ac.uk/mediareleases/release.php?id=149)

Obesity

Obesity is no longer a disease found mainly in adults. Children, too, are increasingly developing weight and

obesity problems. The physical, psychological and social ramifications can be just as devastating as they are for adults.

It is estimated that about 20% of children in Scotland are overweight, and the problem is seen particularly in families where one or both parents are overweight or obese. More children from lone parent families tend to be overweight than those from two-parent families. The fewer children there are in a family, the more likely they are to be overweight.

Source: 'Obesity in Scotland', NHS Health Scotland (formerly Health Education Board for Scotland) (www.hebs.scot.nhs.uk/Learningcentre/obesity/theproblem/prevalencechildrengotland.cfm)

One in five 11 and 12 year olds were obese in Scotland in 2004. The Body Mass Index (BMI) of children is higher for children living in deprived areas.

Source: *Childhood obesity statistics*, Scottish Executive, 12 December 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/12124143)

Young people's mental health

The average secondary school of 1,000 pupils will have 50 students with depression, 10 affected by an eating disorder and 5–10 attempting suicide in any one year.

About a quarter of Scotland's population is under the age of 19. At any one time about 10% of them (125,000 young people) have mental health problems that are severe enough to interfere with their daily life.

Suicide attempts by young men have risen by over 170% since 1985.

There has been a 250% increase in Scotland's suicide rate for young women over the last 25 years.

Suicide is the second most common cause of death among people under 35.

Source: Penumbra brochure
(www.penumbra.org.uk/pubs/penumbra_brochure.pdf)

Self-harm among goths

Rates of self-harm and attempted suicide are high within goth youth subculture.

Deliberate self-harm is common among young people, with rates of 7–14% in the UK. It is particularly widespread in certain populations and may be linked to depression, attempted suicide, and various psychiatric disorders in later life. Contemporary goth youth subculture has been linked with self-harm, but up until now there has been little evidence to support this.

Researchers at the University of Glasgow's MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit surveyed 1,258 young people [in the central Clydeside conurbation] during their final year of primary school (age 11) and again at ages 13, 15, and 19. The young people were asked about self-harm and identification with a variety of youth subcultures, including goth.

The researchers found that belonging to the goth subculture was strongly associated with a lifetime prevalence of self-harm (53%) and attempted suicide (47%).

Even after adjusting for factors such as social class, parental separation, smoking, alcohol use, or previous depression, goth identification remained the single strongest predictor of either self harm or suicide attempt.

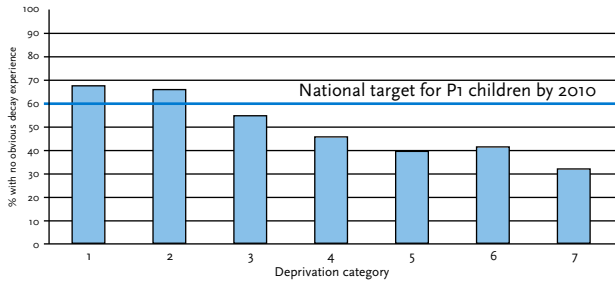
Source: *Prevalence of deliberate self harm and attempted suicide within contemporary Goth youth subculture: longitudinal cohort study*, MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow, British Medical Journal Website, 15 April 2006 (http://bmj.bmjournals.com/content/vol332/issue7546/press_release.shtml#3)

Children's dental health

The target set by the Scottish Executive in 1999 is that at least 60% of Scottish five-year-old children will have no obvious decay experience by the year 2010. Currently, 51% of Scottish five year olds fall into this category. The situation varies across Scotland, with some NHS Boards having already achieved or come close to the 2010 dental health target, while others still have some way to go.

Source: *National Dental Inspection Programme of Scotland: Report of the National Dental Inspection Programme on P1 children during the school year 2003/04*, Scottish Dental Epidemiological Co-ordinating Committee, 2004 (www.scottishdental.org/docs/ndip_scotland2004.pdf)

Table 3.1: Proportion of P1 children with no obvious decay experience by deprivation category (DepCat) in 2004



Source: *National Dental Inspection Programme of Scotland: Report of the National Dental Inspection Programme on P1 children during the school year 2003/04*, Scottish Dental Epidemiological Co-ordinating Committee, 2004 (www.scottishdental.org/docs/ndip_scotland2004.pdf)

A measure of social deprivation often used in Scotland is DepCat (deprivation category). This is a scale of deprivation based on information gathered in the national census every 10 years and describes the socio-economic composition of residents in a particular postcode sector. DepCat scores for each postcode area in Scotland are calculated from the percentage of unemployed males, over-crowded households, households without cars and people from social classes IV and V. The scale runs from DepCat 1 (most prosperous) to DepCat 7 (least prosperous). The index has been shown to be closely linked with measures of death, illness and use of the health service, and a clear association has been established between DepCat-measured social deprivation and dental decay in children. Of the total 9,064 children examined in this NDIP inspection, 96% were subsequently linked to their respective DepCat scores.

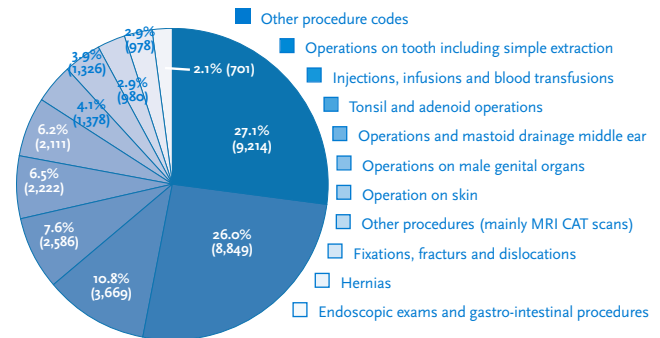
There is a yawning gap in dental health between P1 children in the most deprived areas (DepCat 7) and their more fortunate contemporaries in DepCat 1 and 2. The children from DepCat 1 and 2 have already reached the 2010 national target of 60% with no obvious decay experience. Children from DepCat 7 fall well short, with only 33% with no obvious decay experience. These results have varied little since the DepCat measure was first used in relation to children’s dental health in Scotland in the mid-1990s, but 2004 seems to show an improvement across all seven deprivation categories.

Source: *National Dental Inspection Programme of Scotland: Report of the National Dental Inspection Programme on P1 children during the school year 2003/04*, Scottish Dental Epidemiological Co-ordinating Committee, 2004 (www.scottishdental.org/docs/ndip_scotland2004.pdf)

Childhood injuries

Hospital admissions

Table 3.2: Top 10 main procedures in children under 15 years of age admitted to hospital electively, year ending 31 March 2005



Source: Childhood hospital admissions, year ending 31 March 2005, Scottish Health statistics, published 12 December 2005, ISD Scotland (www.isdscotland.org.uk)

Admission rates to hospital by type of event and age group for the year ending 31 March 2003 show that children under a year old have the highest admission rate, largely accounted for by emergencies (206.2 per 1,000 population). Admissions decrease as children get older. For example, the rate of emergency admissions for children aged 1–4 is 81.8 per 1,000 population, compared to 37.9 in the 10–14 age group. This highlights the fact that children under a year old are more vulnerable than other age groups.

Some 27% of all elective (planned) hospital admissions of children have a main diagnosis of 'disorders of teeth, tongue and mouth'. This is largely accounted for by dental caries, which are particularly noticeable in 5–9 year olds, with 21.1 per 1,000 population being admitted with a condition relating to 'disorders of teeth, tongue and mouth'.

While dental caries can be considered largely preventable, 27% of all elective admissions in children are related to 'operations on the tooth including simple extraction'. This is particularly noticeable in the 1–4 and 5–9 age groups, with rates of 14.3 per 1,000 population and 18.4 per 1,000 population, respectively. From 1 April 2001, any tooth extractions performed under general anaesthetic that involve a child must be carried out in a hospital setting.

Tonsil and adenoid operations are also commonly performed on children, accounting for 9% of all operations following elective admissions. Disorders/diseases of the eye and ear and congenital anomalies account for 9% of all elective admissions; this is

particularly noticeable in the 1–4 and 5–9 age groups. Twenty-four per cent of all emergency admissions in children are due to an injury and/or poisoning. This is particularly noticeable among children aged 1–4, with a rate of 15.8 per 1,000 population. This may be as a result of increasing adventurousness. Respiratory disorders are also a common condition in children, accounting for 20% of all emergency admissions, especially among children under 1 (62.6 per 1,000 population) and 1–4 year olds (21.5 per 1,000 population). However, these conditions are not so predominant in other age groups.

Source: *Childhood hospital admissions and mortality, year ending 31 March 2003*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland (www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?p=ContentID=3060&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Road traffic accidents (RTAs)

In 2004 there were 383 children seriously injured or killed in road traffic accidents; 12 children were killed (five fewer than in 2003).

There were 2,389 child casualties, 4% fewer than in 2003.

Source: 'Road Accidents Scotland 2004', Scottish Executive news release, 30 January 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/01/30093747)

Rates for emergency admissions (for childhood victims of RTAs) are almost three times higher in the most deprived area (161.6 in deprivation quintile 5) compared with the least deprived area (57.3 in deprivation quintile 1).

RTAs account for approximately 7% of all unintentional injuries which resulted in an emergency admission to hospital.

While boys are more than twice as likely to be admitted to hospital with injuries caused by an RTA than girls, the average length of stay across all ages for both sexes is three days. Children aged 10–14 stay in hospital longer compared to other age groups, with an average length of stay of 2.9 days.

Pedestrian injuries are the most common type of RTA in both males and females (236 for males and 93 for females). The number of males and females admitted to hospital with an unintentional injury due to an RTA increases with age. This is most apparent in the 5–9 and 10–14 age groups. The increase in RTAs around these ages could be a direct result of increasing adventurousness and having less direct adult supervision. The second most common type of injury is to pedal cyclists. Overall, males are three times more likely to be admitted than girls. Similarly, children in the 5–9 and 10–14 age groups have the highest number of injuries.

In summary, pedestrians in these age groups are more likely to be involved in an RTA. The next most susceptible group are cyclists.

Source: *Injuries in children – road traffic accidents (RTAs) by deprivation*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland, 12 December 2005 (www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=3068&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&) March 2005)

Fireworks injuries and children

The points below summarise the incidence of all injuries caused by fireworks that require treatment in accident and emergency departments and burns/plastic

surgery units in Scotland during the 33-day survey period (11 October to 12 November 2005). The total number of people injured in Scotland was 94, up 27 from the 2004 survey.

The overall increase can be attributed to the under-16 and the over-20 age groups (16 and nine additional injuries respectively). The proportion of injuries occurring in these age groups (49% and 37% respectively) is similar to previous years.

Most injuries (78%) occur as casual incidents in the street/other public places and at family/private parties (41 and 32 cases respectively).

Of the 62 injuries where type of firework was recorded, rockets were the most common cause (31 cases). Injuries to the hand and eye were most frequently recorded (59 cases); rockets were responsible for 37% of them.

The proportion of head injuries fell from 36% in 2004 to 9% in 2005, partly due to the inclusion of face injuries (16%) as a new category in the 2005 survey. 42% of the injuries sustained in 2005 required no further treatment and only 4 cases (4%) resulted in at least 1 night's detention in hospital.

Overall, firework injury volume remains low in Scotland and the crude rate of 1.9 injuries per 100,000 population is typical of previous surveys.

Source: *Fireworks injuries 2005*, Scottish Health Statistics, ISD Scotland (www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=2855&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&)

Smoking and young people

Among 13 year olds, 7% of girls and 5% of boys are regular smokers. The prevalence of regular smoking among 13 year olds declined since 1998, from 9% to 5% among boys and from 11% to 7% among girls.

Among 15 year olds, 24% of girls and 14% of boys are regular smokers. Among 15-year-old boys, the prevalence of regular smoking decreased from 30% in 1996 to 15% in 2000 and has since remained around that level. The drop among 15-year-old girls, from 30% in 1996 to 24% in 2000, was smaller and not statistically significant; prevalence has remained at 24% since 2000.

Source: *Scottish schools adolescent lifestyle and substance use survey (SALSUS) – national report 2004*, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit (University of Edinburgh) for Scottish Executive, March 2005 (www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/local/SALSUS_2004full.pdf)

Scottish Executive action to ban smoking in public places

The Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 introduced a ban on smoking in public places from 26 March 2006. The legislation seeks to protect the general public from the harmful effects of passive smoking. Breathing other people's smoke is called passive, involuntary or second-hand smoking. The non-smoker breathes 'sidestream' smoke from the burning tip of the cigarette and 'mainstream' smoke that has been inhaled and then exhaled by the smoker. Second-hand smoke is a major source of indoor air pollution.

The new law bans smoking in 'no-smoking premises' by:

- creating an offence of permitting others to smoke in no-smoking premises
- creating an offence of smoking in no-smoking premises
- creating an offence of failing to display warning notices in no-smoking premises
- setting out the powers of enforcement officers to enter no-smoking premises
- creating an offence of failing without reasonable cause to give one's name and address on request by an enforcement officer

No-smoking premises can include restaurants, bars, shops, cinemas, offices, hospitals, work vehicles and sports centres (they are no-smoking premises if they are wholly or substantially enclosed). No-smoking premises all fall into one of the following four broad categories of premises:

- premises to which the public or a section of the public has access
- premises that are being used wholly or mainly as a place of work by persons who are employees
- premises that are being used by and for the purposes of a club or other unincorporated association
- premises that are being used wholly or mainly for the provision of education, health or care services

Source: 'Clearing the air', Scottish Executive website (www.clearingtheairscotland.com/faqs/qanda.html#generalinfo)

Alcohol and young people

The Scottish schools adolescent lifestyle and substance use survey [2004 national report, published in March 2005] on adolescent drinking in Scotland shows that a fifth of 13 year olds and over two-fifths (43%) of 15 year olds had drunk alcohol in the week before the survey.

Among 15 year olds, girls were more likely than boys to report this at 46% and 40% respectively.

Among 15 year olds who reported drinking in the week before the survey, the most common drinks were beer, lager or cider for boys and spirits or alcopops for girls. Among 13 year olds who drank alcohol in the week before the survey, boys reported drinking alcopops and beer, lager or cider with almost equal frequency while girls were more likely to drink alcopops than any other type of drink. It is clear that alcopop drinks have established a niche in the youth market.

Among 15 year olds, the average number of units of alcohol consumed in the week before the survey was 13 for boys and 11 for girls. Among 13 year olds, boys consumed an average of 10 units and girls consumed an average of eight units.

Among 15 year olds, shops and off-licences were the most commonly reported source of alcohol. Among 13 year olds, a friend or relative and 'someone else' were reported as frequently as shops. Around one in 10 of 15 year olds reported buying alcohol from licensed premises (10% from pubs and 7% from clubs/discos) compared with just 1% of 13 year olds. Eight percent of 15 year olds and 3% of 13 year olds had purchased alcohol from

supermarkets. Since 2000, the proportion of 15 year olds reporting that they bought alcohol in shops or supermarkets has grown, while the proportion reporting that they bought alcohol in off-licences has fallen.

Among 13 year olds, the most commonly reported location for drinking was at home – reported by almost half of 13 year olds. Among 15 year olds, parties were a commonly reported drinking venue, particularly among girls – 44% of girls and 37% of boys reported that they drank alcohol at a party with friends. Just under a third of 13 year olds and just over a third of 15 year olds reported that they usually drank outdoors, for example in streets or parks.

Among pupils who reported drinking in the week before the survey, a third of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds reported that their families did not know that they drank alcohol. Fifty-eight per cent of 15-year-old boys, 45% of 15-year-old girls and 42% of 13-year-old boys reported that their families did not mind if they drank alcohol. Over 80% of those who reported ever drinking alcohol agreed that they were always or sometimes allowed to drink at home.

Source: reported in *Alcohol alert* issue no.1 2005, Institute of Alcohol Studies (www.ias.org.uk/publications/alert/osissue1/alert0501_p19.html)

Figures from all 15 Scottish health boards show that 509 under-18s were given treatment, counselling or support for alcohol dependence between April 2004 and March 2005.

In Glasgow, more than 159 young people received treatment for alcohol problems from NHS Greater

Glasgow's primary care services, while addiction services in Forth Valley tended to 119 children. Health workers in Edinburgh treated at least 34 under-18s while NHS Dumfries and Galloway and NHS Highlands helped 19 children each. NHS Orkney treated 12 alcohol-affected youngsters. And a youth alcohol support project in Dumbarton has had more than 180 referrals since it started two years ago. In Tayside, alcohol experts saw 33 under-18 patients.

Experts believe the real number of teenage alcoholics is even higher when those receiving help from voluntary organisations outside of the health service are taken into account.

A recent report on alcohol consumption in Scotland revealed more than 36,000 people a year are admitted to hospital due to drink – on average 1,122 of them under the age of 18.

Source: from 'Hundreds of Scots children treated for alcohol addiction', *Scotland on Sunday*, 6 Nov 2005
(<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=2201192005>)

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 seeks to establish a licensing system within which local decision-making by local authority licensing boards can take place.

The five key objectives of the new legislation are:

- protecting children from harm
- securing public safety
- preventing public nuisance

- protecting and improving public health
- preventing crime and disorder

The Act introduces several new measures to tackle under-age and binge drinking. The main provisions of the Act relating to children and young people are as follows:

- Section 10 sets out the regulations for 'local licensing forums'. Schedule 2 identifies young people as having a relevant interest in these forums, and recommends that young people are included to ensure that forums are as representative as possible.
- Section 19 states that when applying for a licence, the licensee must draft a proposed operating plan and a layout plan for the premises, indicating clearly what activities would be undertaken on the premises. Licensees must decide whether to 'opt in' to children accessing their premises. Consideration has to be taken as to whether their premises are suitable for children, including suitable hours of access, areas of access and whether the child is to be accompanied or unaccompanied. It is mandatory for baby-changing facilities to be accessible on premises that allow children access.
- Section 25 sets out regulations for the conditions of the premises licence. To preclude 'happy hours' and tackle binge-drinking and under-age drinking, Schedule 3 stipulates that alcohol prices would have to be fixed for at least 48 hours. Further, any irresponsible drinks promotions must not be carried out on, or in connection with, the premises.

- Section 93 makes it an offence to sell alcohol to children and young people under 18 anywhere. Section 94 makes it an offence for anyone to knowingly allow alcohol to be sold to a child or young person under 18 on any relevant premises. Section 95 makes it an offence to sell liqueur confectionery to a child or young person under 16.
- Section 96 makes it an offence for a child or young person under 18 to buy or attempt to buy alcohol.
- Section 97 makes it illegal for a child or young person under 18 knowingly to consume alcohol on relevant premises.
- Section 98 makes it an offence to knowingly allow a child or young person under 18 to sell, supply or serve alcohol. Section 99 makes it offence to allow under-18s to deliver alcohol from off-sales or to deliver alcohol, or allow it to be delivered, to someone under 18.
- Section 100 makes it an offence to send a child or young person under 18 to obtain alcohol that is sold for consumption off the premises.
- Section 101 makes it an offence for relevant premises not to display a notice stating that it is an offence for a person under the age of 18 to buy or attempt to buy alcohol on the premises or for a person to buy alcohol on their behalf.

Source: 4 Nations Child Policy Network website (<http://childpolicyinfo.childreninscotland.org.uk/index/news-app/story.2371>)

Drug use and young people

Seven per cent of 13 year olds and 20% of 15 year olds reported that they had used drugs in the month before the [SALSUS 2004] survey.

Reported drug use in the month before the survey among 15-year-old boys declined between 2002 and 2004, from 24% to 21%. The equivalent prevalence figures for 15-year-old girls (21% in 2002 and 20% in 2004), 13-year-old boys (9% in 2002 and 7% in 2004) and 13-year-old girls (6% in 2002 and in 2004) showed no major changes.

Cannabis was the drug most commonly reported as being used: 6% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds reported using cannabis in the last month.

Among regular smokers, 59% of 13 year olds and 64% of 15 year olds reported using drugs in the past month. Of those who reported using drugs in the past month, 36% of 13 year olds and 43% of 15 year olds said that they were also drinking alcohol the last time they used drugs.

Source: *Interim report of the Scottish schools adolescent lifestyle and substance use survey (SALSUS) 2004*, 28 October 2004 (www.isdscotland.org/isd/new2.jsp?p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&pContentID=3106)

Legislative change to tackle drug use

The Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, which will come into force in 2006, contains a number of provisions designed to tackle drug use. The new legislation will replace the Scottish

Drugs Enforcement Agency (SDEA) with the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency.

Other key provisions include new measures to allow the police to test a person for a relevant class A drug if he or she has been arrested under suspicion of committing a relevant offence. The legislation will also give a senior police officer the discretion to test a person arrested under suspicion of committing any other offence which is not a relevant offence. The Bill also provides that an individual who has tested positive for a relevant class A drug can be required to attend a drug assessment.

Source: 4 Nations Child Policy Network
(<http://childpolicyinfo.childrenscotland.org.uk/index/news-app?story=4207>)

HIV and young people

A survey of social work provision found that:

Social work provision for children and young people affected by HIV varies considerably across local authority areas in Scotland. Some areas have well developed services and others have none.

Services that are provided reflect the priority or otherwise given to affected children in local authority children's service plans. Where no such priority is given, there are unlikely to be any services.

Social work assistance is currently provided through a mix of local authority and specialist voluntary organisation services.

Many departments lack information about the numbers and needs of children and young people affected by HIV in their areas.

As people with HIV live longer [than formerly] and HIV becomes a chronic condition rather than a terminal illness, so the unmet needs of affected children and young people are likely to grow.

Source: *Fact Sheet 2: Listening to children and young people with a parent or carer who is HIV positive*, Children in Scotland, 2001
(www.childrenscotland.org.uk/docs/pubs/HIVFS2.pdf)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people's health issues

Research investigating the link between suicide and sexual orientation suggests unusually high rates of attempted suicide, in the range of 20% to 42%.

Gay men in Scotland are less likely to test for HIV than anywhere else in the UK, which already has low rates of testing, compared internationally.

Some 75% of gay men aged 36 or under have tried drugs, compared to 47% of men in the general population; 80% of lesbian and bisexual women said they have been affected by their own drug and/or alcohol use or the use of someone close to them.

Source: *Sexual health needs of LGBT young people survey*, LGBT Youth Scotland, June 2003 (www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/)

Family life

Family Law Act (Scotland) 2006

The Family Law (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent in January 2006. The Act introduces new legal safeguards to prevent children being used as pawns when relationships break down, and a stronger support system that recognises the complexity of modern family living. It will provide a legal framework to ensure that children are protected by adults who have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and their rights.

The key provisions of this legislation:

- establish parental responsibilities and rights for unmarried fathers who jointly register the child's birth
- reduce separation periods for divorce from five years to two years
- establish legal safeguards for cohabiting couples

To support the key provisions of the Family Law (Scotland) Act, Scottish ministers also introduced a number of non-legislative initiatives to help families who need support to deal with the challenges they face. These include:

- the preparation of a draft charter for grandparents, to gain wider recognition of the role played by grandparents

- a 'parenting agreement' for Scotland, which is a tool that parents could use to resolve conflicts over parenting time, including guidance on the kinds of informal contact arrangements that tend to work well
- the development of a single national family relationship helpline to offer basic information and help when families hit hard times
- a public information campaign designed to inform people of changes to family law and signposting sources of help and advice
- working with national bodies to support mediation services across Scotland, which can help to resolve conflict and to manage change when relationships breakdown

Sources: 'Family Law Bill published', Scottish Executive news release, 8 February 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/02/08101038) and (www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/bills/36-familyLaw/36-familyLaw-progress.pdf)

Marriages in Scotland

Marriages in Scotland have decreased steadily since 1951. However, there is some evidence that marriages are now stabilising at around 30,000 per year. In 2004 there were 32,154 marriages, a 4.5% increase on the previous year. Provisional figures indicate 30,881 marriages in 2005, a return to slightly above 2003 figures.

Between 1981 and 2001, the average age for marriage increased from 27.6 years to 34.8 years for men, and from 25.3 years to 32.3 years for women. The increase in

remarriage and the growing number of couples who live together before marriage have contributed to this trend.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers, May 2006, Scottish Executive website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/0>)

Cohabitation

Cohabitation is increasing. In 1999, 41% of births in Scotland were registered to unmarried parents. Of these, 83% were registered jointly by the mother and father, compared to 57% in 1980. A large proportion of women classed as single lone mothers were cohabiting when the relationship broke down, so it would be more accurate to count them as separated lone mothers.

Source: One Parent Families Scotland website (www.opfs.org.uk/factfile/stats01.html)

Divorce

Nearly one in three marriages ends in divorce. There were 11,227 divorces in 2004, 299 more than in 2003. Recent years have seen a slight fall from the levels recorded in the late 1980s and 1990s. It is probable that increasing levels of cohabitation may be relevant to the recent decline in divorces, since divorce proceedings are not necessary to sever such relationships.

Source: 2004 Annual Review, General Register Office for Scotland (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/annrep/rgs-annual-review-2004/chapter-1.html#Divorces)

The average length of marriages ending in divorce is 12 years.

In over a third (33%) of divorces, one or both partners were under 21 when they married.

Source: as reported by One Parent Families Scotland (www.opfs.org.uk/factfile/statso1.html)

Household types

Evidence suggests that cohabitation has moved from a minority to a dominant family type in the UK, with 30–40% of adults having experienced cohabitation. However, it also suggests that these cohabitations rarely last long-term. It appears that cohabitantes have less of a sense of commitment than those who marry directly, which may partly account for the greater likelihood of divorce for those who marry after cohabiting. Survey data also indicates that first cohabiting unions are significantly more likely to end than first marriages, irrespective of the age/birth cohort.

There is evidence that increasing numbers of children are being born into and raised in cohabitating families and that for many, cohabitation and parenting now go hand in hand. In 2001, 38% of the 163,434 non-married, cohabiting families in Scotland had dependent children, either from current or previous relationships. The number of dependent children living in cohabiting families increased from 4% in 1991 to 10% in 2001. The number of lone-parent families increased from 19% to 25%. The number of children in married couple families decreased from 76% to 64%.

Nonetheless, it is not cohabitation that is primarily replacing married households. Examination of data on non-cohabitation and people who never marry shows

that both are on the increase. This indicates that young people are often remaining unattached from both formal and informal relationships.

If current trends continue, there will be more single parents, more people living alone, and less two-adult families with children.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers, May 2006, Scottish Executive website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/0>)

Domestic abuse

There was a 10% increase in the number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in 2004.

The number of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police forces in Scotland increased from 39,643 in 2003 to 43,678 in 2004.

This confirms the pattern of domestic abuse described in previous studies, ie the overwhelming majority of domestic abuse is perpetrated by males against females.

In 2004, incidents with a female victim and male perpetrator represented 88% of all (38,117) incidents of domestic abuse, where this information was recorded.

Almost half of the incidents (21,795) comprised behaviour that led to the recording of a crime or offence.

The most common crime or offence recorded in 2004 was petty assault, at 9,701 incidents (22% of the total), followed by breach of the peace, at 7,309 (17% of all incidents).

The overall incidence of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland was 860 per 100,000 population.

For those incidents where information was available on whether the victim had previously been recorded as a victim of domestic abuse, 52% of the cases (20,436) involved known repeat victimisation.

When looking at the incidence per 100,000 population, females aged 26–30 are at most risk of being victims of domestic abuse, while males are most at risk when aged 31–35.

Nearly 45% of the 19,243 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police involved cohabittees or spouses. There were fewer cases where the partners were married (8,525) compared to where they were not (10,718). In 32% of cases the victim and perpetrator were ex-partners (11,354) or ex-spouses (2,451). In 17% of cases (7,231), the victim and perpetrator were in an ongoing relationship but were not cohabiting. This pattern is similar to that shown in previous years.

The overwhelming majority (91%) of the 38,920 incidents of domestic abuse where the location was recorded took place in the home. This was even more common (94%) where the victim and perpetrator cohabited as spouses or cohabittees.

Source: 'Domestic abuse recorded by the police', Scottish Executive news release, 26 September 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/09/26094240)

Lone-parent families

Recent estimates suggest that there are just over 162,000 one-parent families in Scotland, comprising more than 280,000 children. The media image of lone parents is often that of teenage parents. However, only 10% of lone parents in Scotland are under 25; 55% are aged 25–34 and 28% are 35–44 years old.

Source: 'Registrar General announces further results from the 2001 Census', General Register Office for Scotland news release, 13 February 2003 (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/censsprs)

Lone parents: income and poverty

Six per cent of Scottish households are lone parents living with their children. These single parents are overwhelmingly women (91% of single parent households).

Source: *Scottish Household Survey*, Scottish Executive, June 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/01161017/10195)

Some 79% of single parents have no savings, compared to 41% of two-parent families.

Children in one-parent families are much more likely to go without necessities than children in two-parent families, irrespective of other family circumstances, such as whether parents are in work or not.

Compared to two-parent families, lone-parent households in Scotland are much more dependent on rented housing and are more likely to live in a flat.

Lack of affordable, high-quality childcare is one of the key reasons for relatively low employment rates among lone parents. Under the Working Families Tax Credit, lone parents working at least 16 hours per week and

using registered childcare may be able to get help with 70% of their childcare costs, up to a maximum of £100 weekly for one child and £150 for two or more children.

Lone parents' chances of finding and keeping jobs are much greater if they have children aged over five, if they have less than three children, if they are 35 or older, if they are owner-occupiers, if they are divorced, if they have educational qualifications and if they receive maintenance.

Only 15% of those counted as single have never lived with a partner. One-parent families are one of the groups most vulnerable to poverty.

Source: as reported in 'Factfile', One Parent Families in Scotland website (www.opfs.org.uk/factfile/factfile.html)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families

Beyond Barriers commissioned a national survey of LGBT people in summer 2002. The overall aim of the research was to provide greater insight into the lives and concerns of LGBT people in order to improve the services provided to them and to set the agenda for Beyond Barriers' work.

One in five respondents, or their partners had children. This was more common among female than male respondents and those in rural areas. Thirty-seven per cent of respondents with children had their children living with them; again, this was more common with female respondents.

Some 85% said their children are the product of heterosexual relationships, while 9% had self-inseminated. Seven per cent of those who did not have children plan to bring up children in the future, while 51% do not. The rest said they were unsure.

Source: *First out... Report of the findings of the Beyond Barriers survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Scottish people*, Beyond Barriers, 2002 (www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/First_Out_PDF_Report.pdf)

Stepfamilies

In the 2001 Census 63,330 households in Scotland were known to be stepfamilies and 92,740 children in Scotland were identified as being members of stepfamilies. [The real] figure may well be higher, as children who are often resident with one family also make up part of another stepfamily where they have contact with their other parent.

Source: Stepfamily Scotland website (www.stepfamilyscotland.org.uk/)

In the 2001 Census, 54% of the identified stepfamilies in Scotland were married-couple stepfamilies; 46% were cohabiting-couple stepfamilies.

Source: *Justice 1 Committee Report*, Scottish parliament, 18 May 2005 (www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/reports-05/j1105-08-volo2-04.htm)

In the UK, by the year 2010 there will be more stepfamilies than any other form of family.

Source: *Facts and figures on young people and stepfamilies*, Stepfamily Scotland briefing, December 2003 (www.stepfamilyscotland.org.uk/publications.htm)

Adoptions

In 2003 there were 373 adoption applications for which an outcome was reached. This was 4% higher than in 2002, when there were 360 applications. Over the past 20 years there has been an overall decline in the number of adoption applications – there were almost three times as many adoption applications in 1983 as in 2003.

Source: *Adoption applications 2003*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 16 March 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00329-00.asp)

Table 4.1: Adoptions and re-registrations in Scotland, 1946–2004

Year	Number of adoptions	Number of re-registrations
1946–50	1,862	636
1951–55	1,453	467
1956–60	1,364	364
1961–65	1,775	352
1966–70	2,129	619
1971–75	1,768	781
1976–80	1,423	710
1981–85	1,080	791
1986–90	932	1,132
1991–95	749	1,168
1996–2000	484	1,097
1990	821	1,047
1991	815	1,206
1992	823	1,370
1993	805	1,023
1994	664	1,124
1995	640	1,119
1996	580	1,093
1997	470	1,117
1998	490	1,127
1999	489	1,055
2000	391	1,094
2001	468	1,037
2002	385	1,096
2003	468	950
2004	393	907

Note: Figures in five-year groups are yearly figures

Source: General Register Office for Scotland (www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/04t9-1.pdf)

In 2003, 99% of adoption applications were granted. Since 1983 at least 95% of adoption applications have been granted each year. Of the remainder, the majority have been withdrawn, rather than refused.

Eighty per cent of adoption applications were for children aged between one and 11. The overall number of adoption applications for children has declined since 1983. The biggest decrease has been in adoptions of children under a year old, from 280 in 1983 to 20 in 2003. Since 1997, however, the number of adoption applications for children under the age of five has been stable, while adoptions of children aged 5–17 have continued to decline.

The majority of adoption applications for children under the age of five were made by non-relatives, while children aged 5–18 are more likely to be adopted by relatives. Most of the decline in adoption applications since the mid-1990s is due to a reduction in adoptions by relatives of the child, whereas adoptions by non-relatives have remained fairly stable.

Adoption agencies identify children in need of adoption and bring together potential adopters and children. They also provide care for children waiting to be adopted. Just over half of adoption applications were made through local authority adoption agencies, with almost one in 10 via voluntary agencies. Forty per cent of adoption applications were made without an agency; these were mainly applications by relatives.

In 2003 there were 27 adoption applications by non-relatives made without an agency. Non-relatives can apply to adopt without an agency after a child has

lived with them for more than a year; this can include long-term foster carers.

When a child is freed for adoption, birth parents relinquish their responsibilities for the child and are not involved in any subsequent adoption proceedings. The number of applications for freeing orders reached a peak of 116 in 2000, then fell to 98 in 2003. As in previous years, in 2003 the majority of these (85) were granted, with 12 being withdrawn and one refused. The average age of children freed for adoption was four years and three months.

Source: *Adoption applications in Scotland 2003*, Scottish Executive, 16 March 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00329.pdf)

In 2001, 39% of all adoptions in Scotland were the adoption of a stepchild by a step-parent.

Source: *Justice 1 Committee Report*, Scottish parliament, 18 May 2005 (www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/justice1/reports-05/j1r05-08-vol02-04.htm)

Adoption by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples

In the second half of 2006, the Scottish Executive plans to change the law on adoption in Scotland to bring it into line with changes already made to the law on adoption in England and Wales in the Adoption and Children Act 2002.

The legislation includes provisions that allow unmarried couples, including same-sex couples, who are in an enduring family relationships to adopt jointly. Further details about the Adoption and Children

(Scotland) Bill can be found in the chapter on looked-after children.

Source: Equality Network News, November 2005
([www.equality-network.org/Equality/website.nsf/newslettersall/1DC247B473642F1F802570AD004EA3C2/\\$FILE/November-05.pdf](http://www.equality-network.org/Equality/website.nsf/newslettersall/1DC247B473642F1F802570AD004EA3C2/$FILE/November-05.pdf))

Smacking

On 16 November 2005 the Scottish parliament's Justice 1 Committee overwhelmingly rejected an attempt to ban parental smacking during its stage two consideration of the Family Law (Scotland) legislation. The amendment, lodged by Marlyn Glen MSP, was withdrawn after failing to receive any support. MSPs on the committee warned that a total ban would criminalise parents, and was unnecessary as the law already protects children from abuse. MSPs highlighted the number of letters they had received from parents against the ban. The amendment was opposed by Hugh Henry MSP, Deputy Justice Minister, who said the Scottish Parliament had only recently considered this issue in 2003.

Source: *Scottish parliament, Justice 1 Committee, Official Report*, 16 November 2005
(www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/committees/jjustice1/or-05/j105-3702.htm#Col2295)

The Children's Commissioner calls for a ban

Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People (SCCYP), Professor Kathleen Marshall, wants to see the removal of the 'justifiable assault' defence for parents who hit their children.

The UK's four children's commissioners have issued a joint statement calling for further [parliamentary debate on the issue]. The commissioners want legislation introduced to ban the defence of 'reasonable punishment' throughout the UK. They have been urged by the United Nations and the Council of Europe to ban all forms of corporal punishment against children.

In 2002, the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child said it 'deeply regrets that the (UK) persists in retaining the defence of "reasonable chastisement"'. A year later the Scottish Parliament voted to restrict the scope of 'reasonable chastisement' by setting out criteria for determining whether an assault on a child is 'justifiable'. A recent poll indicated that 77% of Scots are in favour of some sort of tightening of the law, but only 34% want to see smacking banned completely.

Source: Joint statement on physical punishment, SCCYP website, 22 January 2006

Runaways

Missing out, a survey based on research conducted during 1999–2000 with over 3,000 children and young people, found that one in nine children (11%) in Scotland run away or are forced to leave home before the age of 16 due to difficulties in their lives. It is very rare for young people to run away for excitement. The main reasons young people give for leaving home include family conflict and instability, violence, emotional abuse and neglect.

An estimated 6,000–7,000 children under 16 run away every year in Scotland for the first time; 9,000 children run away each year, including those who have run away more than once.

Each year there are likely to be 11,000–12,000 incidents of running away across Scotland. Although most of the young people reported having run away, one in seven were forced to leave before the age of 16.

Three-quarters of the young people had run away once or twice, while a quarter had run away three times or more. Over half of those who had run away more than three times had first run away before the age of 11. Females are more likely to run away than males. However, males are more likely to start running away at an earlier age.

Running away rates for young people from different ethnic groups are broadly similar. Young people in substitute care are over-represented among runaways in Scotland. Two-fifths (40%) of those who had been in care at some point in their lives had run away, compared to 9% of those who had never been accommodated. However, running away is not always directly linked to young people's experiences of being looked after, nor to the quality of care they receive.

Source: *Missing Out: Young Runaways in Scotland*, University of York for Aberlour Childcare Trust/Children's Society, 2002 (<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/swrdu/Publications/missingouttext.pdf>)

Poverty and social exclusion

Total levels of child poverty

The Communities Minister, Malcolm Chisholm MSP, issued a statement on 9 March 2006 indicating that the latest statistics show Scotland has met its first target towards eradicating child poverty by 2020. New data for 2004–05 in relation to households below average income, released by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Scottish Executive, suggests that the number of children in absolute and relative low-income households has fallen over the last decade, meeting the target of reducing the number of children living on low incomes by 25%. These figures show that between 1998 and 2004, 100,000 fewer children were living in low-income households.

Source: 'Progress on child poverty, statement by Malcolm Chisholm MSP', Scottish Executive news release, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/09095043)

According to the Child Poverty Action Group there are currently 280,000 children living in poverty in Scotland, or more than one in four children.

Source: *Ten steps to a society free of child poverty: Child Poverty Action Group's manifesto to eradicate child poverty, 2005* (www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/CPAG-Scot-Manifestocot-2005.pdf)

New government criteria for measuring child poverty

In March 2006 the UK government launched new criteria for measuring child poverty. These criteria were developed by the DWP following the prime minister's 1999 announcement that the government was committed to eradicating child poverty within a generation. The Scottish Executive shares this vision.

The new criteria will be used to measure the progress being made to meet the joint DWP/ HM Treasury child poverty target of halving child poverty by 2010, and of eradicating child poverty by 2020.

This new measure for assessing levels of child poverty will consist of three tiers:

Tier 1: Absolute low income – the number and proportion of children in households whose equivalised income before housing costs is below 60% of inflation-adjusted GB median income in 1998–9. This is a measure of whether the poorest families are seeing their incomes rise in real terms.

Tier 2: Relative low income – the number and proportion of children in households whose equivalised income before housing costs is below 60% of GB median income in the same year. This is a measure of whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole.

Tier 3: Material deprivation and low income combined – the number and proportion of children that are both materially deprived and in households whose equivalised income before housing costs is less than 70% of the GB median in the current year. This is to provide a wider measure of children's living standards.

Figures relating to the first two tiers (absolute and relative low income) are provided below. The third tier (material deprivation and low income combined) will be published later in the year.

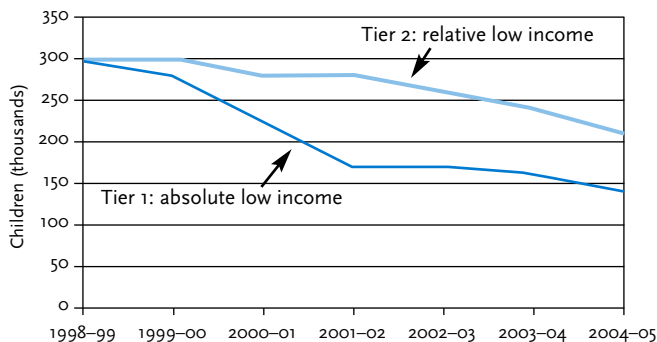
Source: 'Progress on child poverty, statement by Malcolm Chisholm MSP', Scottish Executive news release, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/09095043)

Measurement of child poverty using the new criteria

The Scottish Executive has produced the following tables measuring child poverty in Scotland. These are based on the new criteria for measuring child poverty outlined above, and use the original numbering from the Scottish Executive's *Scottish households below average income 2004–05* survey.

New child poverty measures – Tiers 1 and 2

Table 5.1: New child poverty measures – tiers 1 and 2 (Scotland)



Source: *Scottish households below average income 2004-05*, Scottish Executive, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/08155404/0)

The number of children in Scotland in tier 1 is down from 300,000 (or 28%) in 1998-9 to 140,000 (or 13%) in 2004-05, which is a decrease of 53%. Tier 1 represents children living in absolute low income and is a measure of how many of the poorest families are seeing their incomes rise in real terms.

The number of children in Scotland in tier 2 is down from 300,000 (or 28%) in 1998-9 to 210,000 (or 21%) in 2004-05, which is a decrease of 30%. Tier 2 represents children in relative low income and is a measure of whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole.

Table 5.2: New child poverty measures – tiers 1 and 2 (Scotland)

	Child poverty tier 1		Child poverty tier 2	
	%	(thousand)	%	(thousand)
1994-95	32	350	28	310
1995-96	33	370	27	300
1996-97	35	390	31	340
1997-98	32	350	30	330
1998-99	28	300	28	300
1999-00	26	280	28	300
2000-01	22	230	27	280
2001-02	16	170	27	280
2002-03	16	170	25	260
2003-04	15	160	24	240
2004-05	13	140	21	210

Note: 'Tier 1 absolute low income' measures the number and proportion of children in households whose (modified OECD) equivalised income before housing costs is below 60% of inflation adjusted GB median income in 1998-9.

'Tier 2 relative low income' measures the number and proportion of children in households whose (modified OECD) equivalised income before housing costs is below 60% of GB median income in the same year.

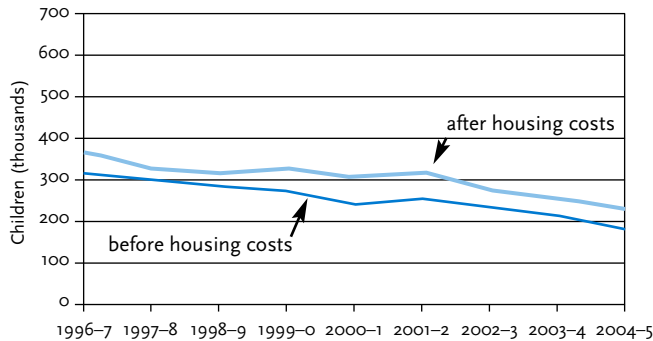
For both tiers income includes insurance premiums.

Source: *Scottish households below average income 2004-05*, Scottish Executive, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/08155404/0)

Children in absolute low-income households

The table below illustrates the trend of children living in absolute low-income households, *before* and *after* housing costs.

Table 5.3: Tier 1, children in absolute low-income households



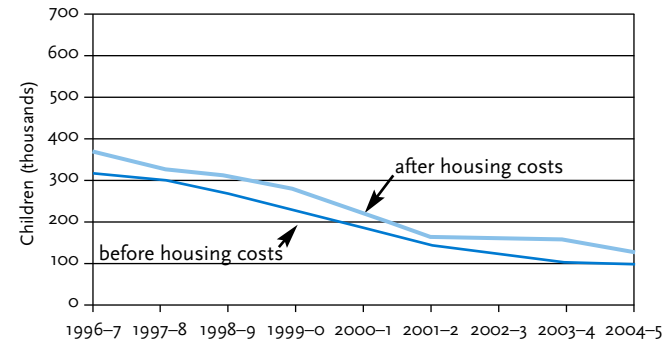
In 1996-7 the number of children in low-income households *before* housing costs was 320,000 (29% of all children). This had fallen by 69% to 100,000 children in 2004-05 (10% of all children).

After housing costs the number of children in low-income households fell by 65%, from 370,000 (33% of all children) in 1996-7 to 130,000 (13% of all children) in 2004-05.

Source: *Scottish households below average income 2004-05*, Scottish Executive, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/08155404/0)

Children in relative low-income households

Table 5.4: Tier 2, children in relative low-income households



In Scotland, since 1998-9 there has been a 34% decrease in relative low income.

Source: *Scottish households below average income 2004-05*, Scottish Executive, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/08155404/0)

Poverty and social exclusion indicators: adults and parents

The number of working-age adults without dependent children who are in income poverty increased from around 300,000 in the mid-1990s to almost 400,000 in recent years.

A third of all working-age disabled adults in Scotland are in income poverty, which is double the rate for their

non-disabled counterparts. Almost half of all lone parents in Scotland are in income poverty, which is three times the rate for couples with children.

There are 200,000 people of working age who want work but who are not officially unemployed; many are disabled people or lone parents. This figure has declined by only a small amount over the last decade.

While work strongly reduces the risk of being in poverty, it does not eliminate it: two-fifths of the people in working-age households who are in income poverty now have someone in their household in paid work. A third of all employees in Scotland earn less than £6.50 per hour. Half of all part-time workers earn less than £6.50 per hour, most of them women. The risk of low pay is much greater for those with poor or no educational qualifications: for people aged 25–50, almost half of all those who are in work but who lack a Higher grade or above earn less than £6.50 per hour.

Source: *Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2005*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, December 2005 (www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/pdf/0585.pdf)

Lone parents

Lone parents are twice as likely to be poor compared with couples with children. Over half (54%) of lone parent households are poor. Scottish lone-parent households have the lowest incomes at £204 a week, compared to the British average of £216.

Source: 'Government trying hard but must do better', Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) Scotland news release, 4 November 2002 (www.cpag.org.uk/campaigns/press041102.htm)

The proportion of non-working lone parents (a group that faces both a high risk of poverty and of persistent poverty) who experience severe material deprivation fell from 41% in 1999 to 26% in 2002. Of those lone parents who claim tax credits, it fell from 21% to 6%. Neither the income poverty nor the material deprivation figures capture the effect of later tax credit reforms, which increased provision to the poorest families, so child poverty is likely to have fallen further.

Source: *Ten steps to a society free of child poverty: Child Poverty Action Group's manifesto to eradicate child poverty, 2005* (www.cpag.org.uk/scotland/CPAG-Scot-Manifestocot-2005.pdf)

Fuel poverty

A group of organisations working together to eradicate fuel poverty among children in Scotland have expressed disappointment that the new Central Heating and Warm Deal Programmes [announced by the Scottish Executive] contain few measures to help low-income families with children. They are calling the programme a missed opportunity.

The organisations – Barnardo's Scotland, Capability Scotland, Child Poverty Action Group Scotland and Children in Scotland – are also concerned that no account has been taken of the impact of rising fuel prices in tailoring the programmes.

The Scottish Executive's own statistics appear to show that over 10% of children under the age of five could end up living in fuel poverty because of recent price rises.

It is estimated that in Scotland 5,000 households with children live in homes without central heating and 46,000 children live in fuel poverty.

Source: 'New fuel initiatives leave Scotland's poorest families out in the cold' news release, 14 March 2006, Children in Scotland website (<http://www.childreninscotland.org.uk/docs/pubs/fuelpoverty.pdf>)

Links between poverty and suicide

Males from more-deprived areas are more likely to commit suicide than those from the least-deprived areas. For females, the rates are substantially lower and there does not appear to be such a strong association with deprivation.

The suicide rates per 100,000 among 10–24 year olds in urban and rural areas are broadly similar.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/sjip03-00.asp)

Internet access and deprivation

The percentage of households with home internet access (via a PC) has increased from 12% of all households at the start of 1999 to 38% by the end of 2002. There have been increases in almost every quarter.

Looking at household internet access in 2002 by the interim Scottish Index of Deprivation, it is clear that there are differences between the most and least relatively deprived areas defined in terms of population-weighted wards. Some 20% of households

in the most relatively deprived areas have home internet access, compared to about 50% of households in the least relatively deprived areas.

Source: 'Data trends (up to, and including, the first quarter of 2004)', *Scottish Household Survey*, Scottish Executive (www.scotland.gov.uk/about/SRCRU-SocInc/00016002/page1468732032.aspx)

Scottish Executive initiatives to tackle poverty

In a statement welcoming the fall in the numbers of children living in poverty in Scotland, Malcolm Chisholm MSP, Minister for Communities, stated that the best route out of poverty for many people was work. He highlighted the action being taken by Scottish Ministers, in close co-operation with the UK government, to encourage more people to work, and to stay in work. For example:

- The targeted Closing the Opportunity Gap approach, backed by action and significant investment across the Scottish Executive, is designed to enhance the ambitions, education and job prospects of the most deprived individuals and communities in Scotland. People are being given training in essential skills for working, through Modern Apprenticeships and the Sector Skills Councils.
- An 'employability framework' is being developed to help the most disadvantaged move towards and into sustained work.
- For families with children, the Scottish Executive's Childcare Strategy continues to provide affordable, accessible, quality childcare across Scotland.

A Working for Families Fund has been created to ensure that childcare is not a barrier to parents in deprived areas entering education, training or employment.

- Working tax credits have helped put more money into pay packets of low-income workers, and the Scottish Executive is committed to keep working with the UK government to maximise benefit uptake in Scotland.

Source: 'Progress on child poverty, statement by Malcolm Chisholm MSP', Scottish Executive news release, 9 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/09095043)

Working for Families

The Scottish Executive's Working for Families Fund (WFF) allocated funding of £50 million for 2004–08. Funding has already been distributed to a selection of local authorities, based mainly on the numbers of children in households dependent on key (workless) benefits.

WFF is part of the wider Executive's Closing the Opportunity Gap approach to tackling poverty and disadvantage, and underpins the Executive's commitment to eradicate child poverty within a generation. The fund aims to provide affordable, accessible childcare that enables parents in deprived areas or groups to access education, training or employment. Childcare is known to be the single biggest barrier to improving parents' employability, especially that of lone parents. The fund aims to address this issue.

Source: 'Working for Families', Scottish Executive website, March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Social-Inclusion/17414/WFF/Intro)

Sure Start Scotland

Sure Start is the UK government's programme designed to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support. Responsibility for delivering Sure Start rests in the Sure Start Extended Schools and Families Group within the Department for Education and Skills.

Sure Start Scotland is the responsibility of the Early Education and Childcare Division, within the Children, Young People and Social Care Group of the Scottish Executive. Sure Start Scotland provides broad-based support for families with very young children. The aim is to expand the availability of support, focusing on more deprived communities and vulnerable families.

Research has demonstrated the benefit of directing support to families with very young children to help children fulfil their potential and be in a position to get the most from subsequent opportunities including, most immediately, pre-school education. Sure Start Scotland is therefore a key element of ministers' broad programme of action to promote social inclusion.

In Scotland, Sure Start funding has been allocated to all 32 local authorities in recognition of there being need across Scotland. In the 2005/06 financial year £52.9m has been allocated to the local authorities to work in partnership with health and relevant voluntary sector organisations. This amount will increase to £59.9m by 2008.

Source: Sure Start Scotland website, March 2006 (www.surestart.gov.uk/aboutsurestart/help/contacts/scotland/)

Disability

Total number of disabled children in Scotland

There are about 33,000 disabled children in Scotland. Over 14,000 have a record of special educational needs.

Source: Supporting disabled children and their families in Scotland: a review of policy and research, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, November 2000 (www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/foundations/ngo.asp)

Children with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorder in Scotland

The estimated number of children aged 18 years and under in Scotland, as at 30 June 2004, was 1,132,000. One in 40 of these children may have a learning disability. Many will have a mild learning disability and require a little additional support. However, 4 in 1,000 of the population will have moderate to profound disabilities and require significant additional support.

Using prevalence studies that estimate 60 per 10,000 children with autism spectrum disorder, there are an estimated 7,614 children and young people under 19 in Scotland with autism spectrum disorder. A [Scottish Executive] service audit in 2003 identified 3,412 individuals, but the information identified by local agencies varied significantly, and it is recognised that these figures were an underestimate.

While the number of children and young people in Scotland is predicted to decrease over the next 10–15 years, it is clear that the number of children with severe and complex disabilities is increasing. Many young children with profound and multiple disabilities are now surviving through childhood and into adulthood. It is predicted that there will be an increase of 1% per annum in this group between 1998 and 2008.

Source: *Changing childhoods?: The same as you? National Implementation Group: Report of the Children's Sub-group*, Scottish Executive website, 26 April 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/24104745/0)

Raising a child with a disability

Nearly 70% of working parents with a disabled child rely on family members to care for their disabled child and 50% of them do so because of a lack of suitable or affordable childcare.

Nearly half of respondents to an opinion poll said that they do not work because they care for their disabled child.

Source: *No one ever wants to play with me*, Capability Scotland, 2003 (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/upload%5Cdocuments%5Ccampaigns%5CNobody_ever_wants_to_play_with_me_word.doc)

Children in residential schools

Nearly 10% of pupils in special schools attend on a residential basis, the greatest proportion at independent schools.

In 2002, 9.9% of pupils in special schools attended on a residential basis, slightly higher than in 2001. Boys were more likely to attend on a residential basis than girls (11.1% and 7.3% respectively in 2002).

Only 2.5% of pupils in publicly funded schools attended on a residential basis in 2002, up slightly from 2001. This compares with 68.5% of pupils based at independent schools.

At September 2002 there were 7,981 pupils based in publicly funded special schools, a fall of 202 from September 2001.

Source: *Summary of results of the September 2002 school census*, Scottish Executive, 26 August 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00272.pdf)

Disability and poverty

Scottish households with one or more disabled persons are twice as likely to live in poverty than those with no disabled people. Sixty-eight per cent of households with children and where both parents are out of work include at least one disabled parent. And 32% of lone parents who are out of work are disabled, meaning disabled people's unemployment plays a major part in relation to child poverty.

Source: *Putting disability at the heart of public policy in Scotland: priorities for action*, Disability Rights Commission, 2005 (www.drc.org.uk/disabilitydebate/uploads/Changing_Britain_for_Good_Scotland.pdf)

Children with learning disabilities are at greater risk of experiencing poverty than children without a learning disability. In 1999 it was estimated that 44% of 5–15 year olds with learning disabilities were living in poverty compared with 30% of children without disabilities. Poverty has a pervasive impact on the health and mental health of children and parents. The experience of poverty is likely to be associated with poor parental health and well-being and poor child health and well-being. More children with learning disabilities live with lone parents and are disproportionately represented in ethnic groups.

Source: *Changing childhoods?: The same as you? National Implementation Group: Report of the Children's Sub-group*, Scottish Executive website, 26 April 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/24104745/0)

Key facts on poverty among disabled people

(Findings from Capability Scotland's 1 in 4 poll, *Living on the Edge* (2001))

- Nearly 40% of households [headed by or including a disabled person] live on less than £200 per week
- State benefits are the main source of income for 70% of households
- Housing costs are 30% higher than the average standard rent in Scotland
- Over 40% of households are fuel poor, spending at least 10% of income on heating
- The average household spends £40.67 per week on food, nearly £30 less than the amount required to provide an adequate, modest diet for a family of four
- Spending on food by the very poorest households takes up one-quarter of income

- One quarter of households spend nearly 10% of income on a special diet for someone with a disability, medical condition or illness
- These households also spend more than 10% of weekly income on special equipment, clothing, materials, cleaning and laundry

Source: 'Closing the opportunity gap: Briefing on the Scottish Executive debate on closing the opportunity gap', Capability Scotland, 31 January 2005 (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/news_media_details.asp?mediaID=14)

Key facts on poverty in families with disabled children

- Over 80% of parents with a disabled child are unemployed
- One in five families live on less than £200 per week
- The average spend of families on housing costs is over £200 per month
- One in five worry that heating costs make it difficult to heat their home in winter
- Weekly spend on food is a third less than the amount required for an adequate diet
- Over 60% spend money every week on special equipment or materials

Key facts from Scottish Executive research on disabled people

(Findings from Social Focus on Disability (2004))

- Just under 1 in 5 adults in Scotland have a disability and/or long-term illness
- 41% of households with a disabled member have an annual income of under £10,000

- Nearly a third of Income Support claimants in Scotland are disabled
- Less than half of disabled adults are employed, compared to over 80% of non-disabled adults
- Gross weekly pay is over £30 a week less than for non-disabled employees
- Only 4% of students at university in Scotland are disabled
- Over half of disabled people have no qualifications
- Households with a disabled member are much less likely to be homeowners
- Nearly 20% of households with a disabled member have no bank account
- Less than half have any savings or investments compared to nearly 60% of households without a disabled member

The Scottish Executive's own statistics indicate that 46,000 children live in 'fuel poverty' in Scotland. For families with a disabled child this situation is even worse, as in many cases these families need to use more fuel to operate special equipment, or the child's condition may require the heating to be on at a higher temperature for longer hours. Research also shows that families with a disabled child spend more time at home than other families, which also impacts on fuel bills.

Source: 'Closing the opportunity gap: Briefing on the Scottish Executive debate on closing the opportunity gap', Capability Scotland, 31 January 2005 (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/news_media_details.asp?mediaID=14)

The case for benefit reform

Disabled people living in Scotland believe that the incapacity benefit system needs to be reformed, according to Capability Scotland.

A survey it carried out shows many disabled people are struggling to get by on benefits that do not meet the real cost of living. For example:

Over two-thirds of respondents agree that incapacity benefit needs to be reformed. However, a large majority (75%) do not agree with the government's idea of paying new claimants a lower benefit until they have been assessed. (The government is proposing to pay new claimants a holding allowance at jobseekers allowance rate, which is lower than incapacity benefit.)

In addition, 84% of respondents believe that people who are assessed as being unable to work should get more money to live on. The government has promised this and Capability Scotland will campaign to ensure that it delivers on this commitment.

Sources: 'Incapacity benefit doesn't meet real living costs,' Capability Scotland news release, 16 January 2006 (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/press_releases_details.asp?newsID=73&CurPage=) and 'Campaign to end fuel poverty for Scotland', Capability Scotland news release, 11 November 2005 (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/press_releases_details.asp?newsID=66&CurPage=)

The UK government's welfare reform Green Paper

The UK government has introduced a Green Paper on its proposals for welfare reform, 'A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work'. The Green Paper includes detailed proposals for:

- reforming incapacity benefit and replacing it with the new 'employment and support allowance' from 2008
- a £360 million roll-out of Pathways to work across the country by 2008
- extending support to lone parents and older workers
- reforming housing benefit
- transforming support for people living in cities
- delivering support to meet the needs of everyone

The Green Paper also sets out the government's proposals for achieving an 80% employment rate for people of working age. It anticipates that this will involve reducing the number of people on incapacity benefit by one million, helping a million older workers into employment, and helping over 300,000 lone parents into work. These areas are considered further in the chapter on employment and training.

Source: 'A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work', Department for Work and Pensions news release, 24 January 2006 (www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2006/jan/fmco68-240106.asp)

Disabled people and education

Support for school pupils with disabilities

A quarter of all pupils with serious sight problems in mainstream schools have no access to books or exam scripts in a format they can read.

Two-thirds of families living with disability do not receive free school meals or clothing grants for dependent children.

Source: Capability Scotland website (www.capability-scotland.org.uk/about_us.asp?pageid=1.1)

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2003

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) Scotland Act 2004 came into force on 14 November 2005. The legislation places a duty on local authorities to introduce and monitor arrangements for all pupils who need additional support to access and benefit from school education. It replaces the term 'special educational needs' with the broader term 'additional support needs'.

Other key provisions include the introduction of co-ordinated support plans for pupils with multiple or complex needs, and the creation of the Additional Support Needs Tribunal to rule on appeals about co-ordinated support plans. In addition, the Act also places a duty on councils, education, health and social services to work together to support pupils, and requires councils to take into account children's and young people's views. It also includes provisions

requiring schools to make sufficient time for preparing pupils for the transition to life beyond the classroom.

Source: 'Additional support needs',
Scottish Executive education and training website
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/School-Education/19094/17176)

Students in higher education with a disability

Six per cent of all students in higher education state that they have a disability. Of the 15,185 students [of all age groups] who stated that they had a disability, 39% suffered from dyslexia.

Source: Students in Higher Education 2004–05, Scottish Executive website,
3 May 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/05/03154431)

UK government initiatives

Responsibility for legislation aimed at tackling disability discrimination is reserved to the UK government.

In January 2005 the UK government published a report, *Improving the life chances of disabled people*, which outlined its plans to help give Britain's estimated 11 million disabled people control over their own lives. The report was developed by the Prime Minister's strategy unit, and by four key government departments. It promises that by 2025 'disabled people should have full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and be respected and included as equal members of society'.

Source: Prime Minister's Strategy Unit website, 24 February 2006
(www.strategy.gov.uk/work_areas/disability/)

Disability legislation

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 came into effect in December 1996 and brought in measures to prevent discrimination against disabled people. The Act applies to all organisations, regardless of industry sector. The key parts of the Act most commonly affecting organisations are:

- Part II, which aims to prevent discrimination against employees by ensuring that a disabled employee can carry out their job without substantial disadvantage
- Part III, which aims to ensure that disabled people have equal access to products and services

On 1 October 2004 further duties came into force, requiring service providers to ensure that physical features of their premises are not making their services impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled people to use. Failure to make reasonable adjustments may mean that businesses are discriminating against disabled people. Part II applies to all businesses, regardless of the industry sector.

Source: System Concepts website, reprinted from the
Occupational health review, January 2005
(www.system-concepts.com/articles/article0154.html)

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 amends the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, in order to provide further safeguards for disabled people in order to protect them from discrimination. The key provisions of the 2005 Act:

- introduce a new and positive duty on public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people
- provide protection for more people diagnosed with the progressive conditions of HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer
- remove the requirement that mental illnesses must be 'clinically well-recognised'
- ensure that all functions of public authorities (eg issuing licences) are covered by the Disability Discrimination Act and not just services, as was previously the case
- provide a power to apply DDA duties on other service providers to the provision of transport vehicles
- allow an 'end date', no later than 2020, by which all rail vehicles will have to comply with accessibility regulations, and apply those regulations to vehicles which are being refurbished
- include provisions enabling disabled people to get reasonable adjustments, other than to physical features, when dealing with landlords and managers of rented premises
- ensure that a landlord cannot unreasonably refuse consent where a disabled tenant wishes to make an adaptation to rented accommodation
- provide new rights for disabled local councillors not to be discriminated against by their local authority, including rights to reasonable adjustments
- cover bodies that award general qualifications such as GCSEs and A levels
- cover larger private members' clubs (those with 25 or more members)

Source: 'Disability Discrimination Act receives Royal Assent',
Department for Work and Pensions news release, 8 April 2005
(www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2005/apr/dda_royal_assent.asp)

Housing and homelessness

Home ownership

The *Scottish Household Survey* shows a gradual but relatively consistent change in home ownership and renting from local authorities or Scottish Homes: the proportion of respondents who own their homes outright was around 28% in the third quarter of 2005, compared to 22% in the first quarter of 1999. Just under 38% of respondents buy their home with the help of a mortgage.

Data on respondents' perceptions of their neighbourhood as a good place to live showed very little change over a six-year period, with approximately half saying it is a very good place to live, and a further 38% agreeing that it is a fairly good place to live.

Source: *Scottish Household Survey 2005 (Quarterly bulletin No 3)*, statistics publication notice, Scottish Executive, February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/02/SHSqr305)

Council occupancy

There are 136,100 people on housing waiting lists across Scotland. 'Waiting lists' refers to the number of people who are waiting to get a council house and the number of people who are in a council house but wish to move into another one.

Source: *Compulsory leasing of empty homes in Scotland*, Shelter Scotland, March 2005 (<http://64.233.179.104/search?q=cache:bPS4RVww3doj:www.cosla.gov.uk/attachments/execgroups/ho/hojunositem7b.doc+There+are+136,100+people+on+housing+waiting+lists+across+Scotland&hl=en&gl=uk&ct=clnk&cd=2>)

Right to buy

There were 21,481 applications made by tenants to buy public sector houses in the year to 31 March 2004.

During this period 16,422 council houses were sold through the right to buy scheme.

Source: *Housing trends in Scotland: quarter ending 31 December 2004*, Scottish Executive, May 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1123/0012116.pdf)

Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)

In the year ending 31 March 2004, there were 5,202 applications received in respect of the mandatory licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation. As at 31 March 2004, there were 3,509 licences in force, representing an increase of 1,587 (83%) over the previous year.

Source: *Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin Housing Series*, May 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1123/0012116.pdf)

New houses

In 2004, 24,057 new dwellings were completed in Scotland: 2,522 were built by housing associations and 21,535 were built by the private sector.

Source: *Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin*, May 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1123/0012116.pdf)

Size of homes

Across Scotland in 2002, an estimated 51% of households had one or two bedrooms, 37% had three bedrooms, and 12% had four or more bedrooms.

Results from the 2001 Census show a clear association between the proportion of households with fewer rooms and the level of relative area deprivation.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library/social/sjipo3-oo.asp)

Housing quality

The 2002 *Scottish housing conditions survey* estimated that 6% of all the dwellings in Scotland are affected by some form of dampness (compared to 8% reported in the 1996 survey). Eleven per cent were affected by condensation, compared to 21% in 1996.

The 2001 Census found that just under 8% of all Scotland's households do not have central heating.

Eleven per cent of all Scotland's households in the most deprived areas have no central heating, compared to 6% of households in the least deprived areas.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.Scotland.gov.uk/library/social/sjipo3-oo.asp)

Types of household: key trends

Table 7.1: Household type, 2001 Census

	Large urban areas	Other urban areas	Accessible small towns	Remote small towns	Accessible rural	Remote rural	Scotland
One-person households							
1 adult of pensionable age and no children	15	15	15	18	13	16	15
1 adult of non-pensionable age and no children	22	17	14	16	12	14	18
Other households							
1 adult of any age and 1+ children	6	6	5	5	4	3	6
1 adult of pensionable age and no children, or 2 adults of pensionable age and no children	12	13	14	15	15	17	13
2 adults and 1 or 2 children	11	14	15	13	16	13	13
2 adults of non-pensionable age and no children	16	17	17	16	20	18	17
2 adults and 3+ children, or 3+ adults & 1+ children	6	7	8	7	8	8	7
3+ adults and no children	11	11	11	10	12	10	11
All households	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *Social focus on urban rural Scotland 2003*, Scottish Executive National Statistics publication (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00257.pdf)

Children in one-adult households

The number of children aged under 16 living in households with one adult as a percentage of all children aged under 16 has risen significantly, from 6% of all children under 16 in 1981 to 20% in 2001. The number of children under 16 living in households with one adult rose from around 70,000 in 1981 to 195,000 in 2001.

Between 1981 and 2001 the overall number of children aged under 16 in Scotland fell by almost 20%.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/social/sjip03-00.asp)

Homelessness

Total levels of homelessness

The available figures on the number of statutory homeless households, rough sleepers and hostel and night shelter users are all estimates and are subject to important limitations. Nevertheless, from a policy and practice perspective it is important to produce reliable estimates of the number of homeless people and to examine the factors that influence the scale of the problem. The partial and limited evidence that is available suggests that the scale of homelessness increased significantly during the 1980s and early 1990s. There appears to have been some decline in recent years in homelessness in England and Wales, but not in Scotland.

Source: *Single homelessness – an overview of research in Britain*, Fitzpatrick S., Kemp P. and Klinker S., The Policy Press in association with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, April 2000 (www.crashindex.org.uk/jr073.pdf)

In 2004–05, 53,995 households applied as homeless to their local council in Scotland.

Source: Scottish Executive statistics as reported by Shelter Scotland, 3 April 2006
(<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/policy/policy-491.cfm#wiplive-14917-1>)

Homelessness among children

As of 31 December 2005 there were 2,661 households with dependent children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation across Scotland: 78 (or 3%) of these households were living in bed and breakfast hotels.

As of 31 December 2005 there were 4,847 dependent children living in temporary accommodation across Scotland.

Source: Scottish Executive statistics as reported by Shelter Scotland, 3 April 2006 (<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/policy/policy-491.cfm#wiplive-18519-6>)

Homelessness applications

(Note: The statistics presented relate to applications made under the legislation as well as individual households. All years reported are financial years.)

In 2004–05, 53,995 individual households made applications to local authorities under the Homeless Persons Legislation. There were 57,020 applications in total during the period, 1% more than in the previous year. This represents a marked slowing of the application rate compared to the increases observed over the past three years.

Nine per cent of households applying in 2004–05 did so more than once in the 12-month period. Most of these households (79%) were single person households.

In 2004–05, the majority of households applying were single person households (62%), which were mainly men. The next largest group (24%) was lone parents, who were predominantly women.

The main reasons given for applying as homeless were loss of accommodation with relatives or friends (35%) and disputes within the household (23%). Single people and couples without children were more likely to give the former reason, while over two-fifths of female lone-parent households gave disputes within the household as the main reason.

Of the 52,670 households assessed during 2004–05, 38,605 (73%) were assessed as homeless. Of those assessed as homeless, 29,032 (75%) were assessed as in priority need. Assessment patterns varied by local authority: of those assessed as homeless, the proportion in priority need ranged from 89% for Dundee and Shetland to 54% for Highland and Moray.

Source: 'Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland: national and local authority analyses 2004–05', statistical bulletin, Scottish Executive, November 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/76169/0018967.pdf)

Temporary accommodation

Temporary accommodation is accommodation in which a council places a homeless household, while it decides whether the household is homeless by law or until the homeless household accesses permanent accommodation.

Number of households living in temporary accommodation

From March 2001, the statistics on temporary accommodation have included a separate breakdown for households with dependent children, including households with pregnant women as of June 2005 (figures from this point onward are therefore not strictly comparable with previous ones as previous figures did not include households with pregnant women and no children). The number of households with children in temporary accommodation also shows a rise since 2002, and these households represent about one third of all households placed in temporary accommodation.

The latest snapshot figure for households placed in temporary accommodation by local authorities under the Homeless Persons legislation was 7,596 as at 31 December 2005. This represents an increase of 6% compared to the situation as at 31 December 2004. However, previous increases have been higher (14% between 31 December 2003 and 31 December 2004) and the longer term data give some indication that the level of increase may be tapering off.

Source: Homeless Applications between 1 April to 30 September 2005 and households in temporary accommodation as at 31 December 2005
Scottish Executive, 28 March 2006
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/27113728/0>)

Temporary accommodation: practitioners' views

An online poll conducted by Shelter Scotland in September 2004 revealed the following:

The vast majority of practitioners say that they cannot meet the duty to provide temporary accommodation to everyone who is homeless. The most common reason for this is lack of suitable accommodation.

Overall the use of temporary accommodation has risen, with furnished flats accounting for the biggest part of that. However, bed and breakfast use has also risen, with almost half of respondents reporting longer stays in bed and breakfast.

Placing people in temporary accommodation 'out of area' is only a minority practice, but among that minority its use has increased.

Despite the recent injection of funding through the 'Supporting People' budget, the biggest temporary accommodation need is for supported accommodation.

Private sector accommodation, for example leasing property from private landlords, is seldom used at present but is expected to become more common in the future.

Although there are some measures that a council can take, such as exploring private sector partnerships or dovetailing support and accommodation, there is still a pressing need for [more temporary accommodation in more varied forms].

Source: *Temporary accommodation survey results*, Shelter Scotland, October 2004 (<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/policy/policy-3001.cfm>)

Key legislative provisions and other regulations

Housing (Scotland) Act 2001

In 2001 the Scottish Parliament passed the Housing (Scotland) Act, which placed additional duties on councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to all applicants assessed as homeless. Its key provisions are:

Local authorities must provide a minimum of temporary accommodation for all homeless households.

Local authorities must provide permanent accommodation for all priority need households who are unintentionally homeless.

Local authorities must produce homelessness strategies.

Registered social landlords (RSLs) must provide accommodation for priority need households as requested by local authorities, unless there is a 'good reason' for refusal.

Source: Scottish Executive
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Housing/homeless/htf)

The Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003

This legislation reinforces the rights of homeless people. It allows for 'priority need' to be expanded so that by 2012 everyone assessed as unintentionally homeless will be entitled to permanent accommodation. This legislation strengthens the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, which imposes a duty on local authorities to provide interim accommodation to people who apply for homelessness assistance while their applications are being assessed.

The Homelessness (Scotland) Act 2003 expands the priority need definition to include the categories of applicants previously set out in the Code of Guidance on Homelessness. The full definition now encompasses:

- people with dependent children who can reasonably be expected to reside with them
- pregnant women and people who reside with them;
- anyone aged 16 or 17
- anyone who has experienced, or is at risk of, discriminatory harassment
- anyone at risk of domestic abuse
- anyone under the age of 21 who is at risk of sexual or financial exploitation or involvement in substance misuse because of their living circumstances
- anyone vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness, personality disorder, learning disability, physical disability, chronic ill health, having suffered a miscarriage or undergone an abortion, or having been discharged from prison, the armed forces or hospital

The Act also gives Scottish ministers the power to abolish the priority need distinction at a point when local authorities could carry out their duties on that basis, and to require ministers to consult on and publish a statement by 31 December 2005 incorporating a target of 2012 for achieving this objective, setting out the steps to be taken and outlining interim objectives. Malcolm Chisholm MSP, the Minister for Communities, confirmed Scottish Ministers' commitment to achieving this target in his Ministerial Statement on Abolition of Priority Need by 2012 published in December 2005.

Other key provisions include:

- updating references to 'domestic abuse' rather than 'domestic violence' throughout homelessness legislation
- giving Scottish ministers the power to make an order setting standards for temporary accommodation
- ensuring that homelessness applicants who have previously been housed in NASS (National Asylum Support Service) accommodation do not form a local connection with the relevant local authority by virtue of being so housed

Source: *Helping homeless people*, Scottish Executive, April 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0010074.pdf)

Scottish Executive, Ministerial Statement on Abolition of Priority Need by 2012,
December 2005
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/21133010/30109>

Regulations to limit use of B&Bs

The Scottish Executive also introduced regulations that mean from December 2004, families and pregnant women who find themselves homeless can no longer be housed in unsuitable B&Bs, except in tightly defined, exceptional circumstances. In effect, no child in Scotland is to be housed in B&B accommodation, except in an emergency. The regulations state that families should have:

- accommodation that is suitable for children
- exclusive use of their own room and access to other rooms
- a private bathroom and access to a kitchen space
- freedom to come and go 24 hours a day
- accessible health and education facilities

The rules mean that accommodation that does not meet these standards can only be used in emergency circumstances, such as when a family presents out of hours or where there is simply no other accommodation available in the area. And, crucially, it can only be used for a maximum period of 14 days.

Source: 'New rules limit B&B option for homeless',
Scottish Executive news release, 11 November 2004
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/11/11091619)

Other government action on homelessness

Scottish Executive policy objectives

The Scottish Executive is committed to delivering, by 2012, a permanent home for all those found to be unintentionally homeless.

Source: as reported in 'Homeless children numbers on rise',
BBC news, 12 December 2005
(<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4520750.stm>)

The Executive has committed over £127 million over the three-year period from 2003/04 to 2005/06 specifically for homelessness. In 2004 the Scottish Budget allocated £152 million to progress this work.

Source: 'New rules limit B&B option for homeless',
Scottish Executive news release, 11 November 2004
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2004/11/11091619)

Homelessness Monitoring Group (HMG)

The HMG was set up by the Scottish Executive in 2001 with the following main aims:

- to ensure that in Scotland no one needs to sleep rough
- to make existing homelessness more visible
- to ensure that sustainable resettlement is secured for people who have been homeless
- to ensure that fewer people become homeless in the first place
- to reduce the duration of homelessness

At the time of this report [April 2005] the following action has been progressed:

All local authorities have a homeless strategy in place and all but one have had these strategies approved by the national assessment panel.

A methodology for assessing local authorities' capacity to achieve the abolition of priority need has been developed and local authorities have been asked to assess their current position.

Health and homelessness standards have been launched.

New regulations to limit the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for homeless families have been put in place.

National co-ordinators have been appointed to provide support in relation to rent deposit schemes and social networks.

The Scottish Homelessness and Employability Network has been launched.

Research relating to the Rough Sleepers Initiative, homelessness among black and minority ethnic communities, lead tenancies, housing advice services for prisoners, priority need and local connection has been published and is being taken forward.

Source: *Homelessness Monitoring Group Second Report*, April 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0010074.pdf)

Supporting People

Supporting People is a new integrated policy and funding framework for housing support services introduced from April 2003. Previously, housing support services were funded from a number of sources, including Housing Benefit (the Transitional Housing Benefit Scheme), Special Needs Allowance Package (SNAP) and Resettlement Grant. On 1 April 2003 (in Scotland) the Scottish Executive began to allocate money directly to local authorities. Local authorities then commission providers to provide appropriate services to meet needs in the local authority area.

The Scottish Executive has announced that it will make £406 million available for Supporting People in 2005/06 and £399 million in each of the following two years. Due to a lack of data it is generally agreed that it is too early to say to what extent Supporting People is working, in terms of simplifying the housing benefit system and ensuring that needs are being met.

Sources: *Supporting People*, Scottish Parliament information centre briefing paper, 16 April 2004 (www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefing-04/sbo4-28.pdf) and Supporting People website (www.scotland.gov.uk/housing/supportingpeople/default.asp)

In 2004/05 there were 170,584 individuals assisted through Supporting People funding. This represents 4% of the population aged 16 and over. The local authorities with the highest percentage of clients per head of population aged 16 and over were West Dunbartonshire (12%), Renfrewshire (9%) and Angus (7%). The lowest percentages were Eilean Siar, Orkney and Shetland (all at 1%).

The biggest groups of clients who received support were older people (49%), homeless or rough sleepers (16%) and other vulnerable groups (15%). Older people were the majority group for 23 local authorities and homeless people for five local authorities.

Overall, 58% of clients were female and 42% were male. People aged 26–49 and 75–84 constituted the largest age groups (both at 22%); 52% of clients were 65 or over.

The largest providers of support were local authority housing [services] (28%), registered social landlords (26%) and local authority social work departments (25%). Voluntary organisations provided 17% of support.

Accommodation-linked continuous support was given to 37% of clients and one to four hours' floating support was given to 33%. Of all clients, 52% received permanent support and 16% received short stay support.

Nearly half (45%) of all clients received support in mainstream housing, with a further 33% receiving support in special housing.

Source: 'Supporting People clients 2004/05', Scottish Executive news release, 21 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/21102052)

Young people in the private rented sector

Young people on social security or in low-paid work can claim housing benefit to help them with their rent. However, in the private rented sector there is a limit imposed on housing benefit for young people called the 'single room rent'. This limits the benefit payable to the rental cost of a single room (bedsit) rather than a self-contained tenancy.

Source: *Single room rent and the private rented sector*, Scottish Council for Single Homeless report, May 2002 (www.scsd.co.uk/publications/singleroomrent.pdf)

Evictions

Eviction occurs when a household loses its home as a result of a legal action by the landlord. Other evictions may occur as a result of illegal action.

Abandonment occurs when a household leaves its home during an eviction action. Most abandonments occur at the late stages of eviction proceedings. Shelter Scotland believes that abandonments occurring at the late stages of eviction are an eviction in all but name, as the final outcome is a household losing a home.

Source: Shelter Scotland (<http://scotland.shelter.org.uk>)

There were 224 evictions of local authority tenants in three months to 30 September 2005. This was 36 (or 14%) fewer than during the same quarter in 2004. Other evictions may occur as a result of illegal action.

Source: *Housing trends in Scotland: quarter ending 30 September 2005*, Scottish Executive, February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/93953/0022600.pdf)

Lettings

During the three months to 30 September 2005 there were 7,841 permanent lettings of local authority dwellings. This was 716 (or 8%) fewer than during the same quarter in 2004.

Source: *Housing trends in Scotland: quarter ending 30 September 2005*, Scottish Executive, February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/93953/0022600.pdf)

Early years services and education

Pre-school education and formal childcare

In January 2005 there were 4,717 childcare and pre-school education centres, up from 4,628 in 2004. There were 11,905 full-time staff and 16,208 part-time staff. There were 6,100 [registered] childminders in Scotland, down from 6,165 in 2004.

Of all Scotland's childcare centres, 2,517 offered a nursery service, 1,079 offered an out-of-school club service, 368 offered a breakfast club service and 62 offered Gaelic provision. The majority of centres offered multiple services, with less than 22% offering only a single service.

The majority of services were equally distributed across the most-deprived, intermediate and least-deprived areas. Exceptions included childminding (more common in the least-deprived areas), adult education/activities, mobile resource/playbus, crèches, and family support services (more likely to be offered in the most-deprived areas).

All services, except Gaelic provision, were more likely to be found in urban areas than small towns or rural areas. Gaelic provision was more likely to be found in rural areas.

In the most-deprived areas (where deprivation is classified as 'most deprived', 'intermediate' and 'least deprived') 49% of childcare providers were managed by local authorities, compared to 35% in the least-deprived areas. Most childcare and pre-school education was provided between 9am and 12 noon on weekdays. Wednesday was the busiest day for childcare and pre-school education providers.

Across Scotland in January 2005 there were 1,984 local authority-run childcare and pre-school education centres, 1,037 privately run centres, 1,345 voluntarily run centres and a further 351 centres of unknown management type.

There were 2,517 centres providing a nursery. Just over half of nurseries (1,558) were managed by local authorities and just over a quarter (711) were private. Approximately 50% of nurseries were run on school premises. Of nurseries that reported a charge, the median cost to parents was £3 per hour, £28 per day or £4 per week. (Weekly charges are less than daily charges because local authority-run centres are more likely to charge per week, while private run centres are more likely to charge per day.)

There were 861 centres providing a playgroup, 596 of which were voluntary. Approximately 36% of playgroups were held in church/village halls.

There were 392 centres providing a crèche. Half of the crèches that provided cost information per hour were charging £3 per hour. Approximately 44% of crèches were run in their own premises, and 27% in community/leisure centres.

Of the 368 breakfast clubs, 46% were run on school premises and 29% were run on centres' own premises.

Of the 1,079 centres providing out-of-school clubs, 760 were in urban areas. Approximately 45% of these were held on school premises, 23% on centres' own premises and 17% in community/leisure centres.

Source: *Pre-school and childcare statistics 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 July 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/55971/0016153.pdf)

Childminders

In January 2005 there were 6,100 [registered] childminders in Scotland, a slight decrease from 6,165 in the previous year. Childminders are most common in the least-deprived areas. The majority of childminders are females aged 35–44.

Almost 18% of registered childminders had, at the start of the year, already left, or had decided to leave within the next year. Of these, 31% gave 'family reasons' as their explanation, whereas 12% either had or wanted another childcare job after leaving childminding.

Almost half of all registered childminders had at least six years' experience of childminding, and a further 28% had between two and five years' experience. Approximately 25% had childcare qualifications and 47% had other, non-childcare qualifications. Childminders' median charges were £3 per hour, £21 per day or £88 per week.

Source: *Pre-school and childcare statistics 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 July 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/55971/0016153.pdf)

Report of the quality of child minding in Scotland

The Care Commission recently published a report on the quality of child minding in Scotland. The key findings of this first-ever report on the quality of child minding were as follows:

- more than 97% of parents are happy or very happy with their childminder
- overall quality of services in Scotland is good – with 78% requiring no intervention by the Care Commission
- upheld complaints were recorded against just 0.9% of registered childminders
- legal enforcement action was needed against only 43 poor-quality services, including four that were shut down

Source: 'First national report on the quality of childminding in Scotland', Care Commission news release, 14 May 2006 (www.carecommission.com/news/documentuploads/237.pdf)

Pre-school education

- In January 2005 there were 4,717 childcare and pre-school education centres, the majority of which offered multiple services. Across all centres, there were 11,905 full-time staff and 16,208 part-time staff.
- In January 2005 there were 6,100 childminders in Scotland, a decrease from 6,165 in 2004. Childminders are most common in least deprived areas.

- In the third most deprived areas, 49% of childcare and pre-school education centres are local authority managed, compared to 35% in the third least deprived areas.
- Approximately 25% of childminders have childcare qualifications, the same percentage as in 2004.
- In January 2005 there were 2,836 pre-school education providers in Scotland, the same number as in 2004. There were 12,573 staff providing pre-school education, 17% of them registered with the General Teaching Council. As many as 96,460 children were attending pre-school education in Scotland, approximately 6,700 (6%) less than in January 2004 (children are counted once for each centre they are registered with).
- In January 2004, 85% of three year olds were registered with pre-school education centres. In January 2005 this figure had fallen to 81%. The percentage of four year olds registered with pre-school education centres fell from 100% to 97.8%. The percentage of five year olds remained constant.

Source: *Pre-school and childcare statistics 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 July 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/55971/0016153.pdf)

Primary and secondary education: pupil and school numbers

In September 2005 there were 713,240 pupils in 2,769 publicly funded schools in Scotland. There were 390,260 pupils in 2,194 primary schools, 315,840 pupils in 385 secondary schools, and 7,140 pupils in 190 special

schools. Pupil numbers have been reducing, in line with a fall in the population. In recent years the proportion of pupils in special schools has been falling slightly, from 1.11% in 2000 to 1.02% in 2004 and 1% in 2005.

About a third of primary schools had less than 100 pupils, with the average size being 178 pupils. The average number of pupils in a secondary school was 820, with almost a third having over 1,000 pupils.

There were 34,680 pupils who were either based in a special school, or had a record of needs (RON) and/or an individualised educational programme (IEP) in primary or secondary schools. In mainstream schools there were 27,540 pupils (3.9% of all mainstream pupils) with a RON and/or IEP compared to 25,363 in 2004, a 9% increase. Eighty-three per cent of these pupils spent all of their time in mainstream classes.

Of those with a RON and/or IEP in mainstream and special schools, the largest categories of main difficulty were moderate learning difficulties (10.3 pupils per 1,000), specific learning difficulties in language and/or mathematics including dyslexia (10.1 pupils per 1,000) and social emotional and behavioural difficulties (6.2 pupils per 1,000). Overall, 70% of pupils with a RON and/or IEP were boys, the same proportion as in 2004. Of those pupils whose ethnic background was declared, 95% were 'white UK'. The other largest groups were 'white other' (1.3%), 'Asian-Pakistani' (1.3%), and 'mixed' (0.8%). Three per cent of pupils did not disclose their ethnic background, compared with 3.7% in 2004.

In 2005 the average class size in primary schools was 23.6 pupils, down from 23.9 in 2004. Composite classes had an average of 19.9 pupils, down from 20.2 in 2004. P1 classes had the smallest average size of single stage classes at 23.1 pupils, down from 23.2 in 2004.

There were 2,048 primary school pupils receiving at least some of the curriculum through Gaelic-medium education, with a further 160 being taught Gaelic through the medium of Gaelic, and a further 2,924 being taught Gaelic as a learner. There were 433 secondary school pupils receiving at least some of the curriculum through Gaelic-medium education, with a further 1,292 being taught Gaelic through the medium of Gaelic, and a further 2,095 being taught Gaelic as a learner.

Source: *Pupils in Scotland 2005*,
Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 February 2006
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/94547/0022796.pdf)

Projected pupil numbers

The total number of pupils receiving publicly funded school education is projected to decrease steadily from 724,000 in 2004 to 631,000 in 2016, a decrease of 13%.

The number of pupils in publicly funded primary schools is projected to continue to fall steadily, from 398,000 in 2004 to 367,000 in 2010, and then more slowly to 359,000 in 2016; a decrease of 10%.

The number of pupils in publicly funded secondary schools is projected to decrease steadily from 318,000 in 2004 to 266,000 in 2016, a decrease of 16%.

The number of pupils in publicly funded special schools is projected to fall in line with the anticipated decrease

in the number of children of school age, but has also been adjusted to account for the potential impact of the mainstreaming of pupils with additional support needs.

Source: *Children educated outwith school and pupil projections 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 15 November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/14163317/33174)

Total number of school-based staff

The main findings of the Scottish Executive's September 2005 teacher census were as follows:

- The total number of teachers based in primary, secondary and special schools was 50,517, which is 963 more than in 2004.
- There were also an estimated 1,662 teachers in the pre-school sector, making a total of 52,179 teachers based in schools and pre-schools.
- There were a further 22,356 school-based staff and 2,396 centrally employed staff identified in the staff census as providing support to the education system, an increase of 4% and 5% respectively.
- There were 22,873 teachers in primary schools (22,577 in 2004), giving a pupil to teacher ratio of 17:1 (17:6 in 2004). Ninety-three per cent of teachers were female. Twelve per cent were part time.
- There were 25,613 teachers in secondary schools (24,984 in 2004), giving a pupil to teacher ratio of 12:3 (12:7 in 2004). Fifty-nine per cent of teachers were female. Seven per cent were part time.

- There were 2,031 teachers in special schools (1,993 in 2004), giving a pupil to teacher ratio of 3:5 (3:7 in 2004). Eighty-two per cent of teachers were female. Twelve per cent were part time.

Source: Teacher census results, September 2005, Scottish Executive; *Teachers and support staff in publicly funded schools in Scotland*, March 2006, Scottish Executive (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/03/28083648/o>)

Independent schools

Total numbers

The annual census of independent schools shows that in September 2004 there were 30,254 pupils in independent schools in Scotland, 90 fewer than in 2003. This net difference consists of a decrease of 169 in mainstream schools and an increase of 79 in special schools. Four per cent of all school pupils in Scotland were in independent schools. The number of pupils in independent schools has been falling at a slightly slower rate than in publicly funded schools

Source: *Independent school census, September 2004*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 19 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0011208.pdf)

Primary schools

The annual census of independent schools shows that in September 2004 there were 63 independent primary schools. The number of primary schools had previously declined from 74 in 1997 to 62 in 2003. There were 11,568 pupils in independent primary schools in 2004, a decrease of 1% from 2003. Numbers have fluctuated between 11,559 and 11,844 in recent years. There were 903 teachers (full-time

equivalent) in independent primary schools in 2004, a similar number to 2003. There were 12.8 pupils per teacher in 2004, compared to 13 in 2003.

Source: *Independent school census, September 2004*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 19 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/18170740/07412)

Secondary schools

In September 2004 there were 55 independent secondary schools, the same as in 2003. The number of independent secondary schools has declined from 63 in 1999. There were 17,554 pupils in independent secondary schools in 2004, a reduction of 51 from 2003, in line with the slight downward trend in recent years. There were 2,065 teachers (full-time equivalent) in independent secondary schools in 2004, a similar number to 2003. There were 8.5 pupils per teacher in 2004, the same as in 2002 and 2003.

Source: *Independent school census, September 2004*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 19 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/18170740/07412)

Special schools

In September 2004 there were 34 independent special schools, compared to 33 schools in 2003, and 32 in 2002. There were 1,132 pupils in independent special schools in 2004, an increase of 8% over 2003. There were 334 teachers (full-time equivalent) in independent special schools in 2004, a 17% increase from 2003. There were 3.4 pupils per teacher in 2004, compared to 3.7 in 2003.

Source: *Independent school census, September 2004*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 19 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/18170740/07412)

Special educational needs

There were 1,349 pupils with a record of needs and/or an individualised educational programme, an increase of 105 (8%) from 2003. The largest categories of main difficulty of learning were social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (22.6 per 1,000 pupils) and specific learning difficulties in language and/or mathematics including dyslexia (6.7 per 1,000 pupils).

Source: *Independent school census, September 2004*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 19 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/18170740/07412)

Home education

In 2004–05 there were 855 children who received local authority education at home or in hospital due to prolonged ill health, or through special arrangements put in place as a result of family illness. (The large drop from 1,314 children in 2003–04 was mainly due to a correction in recording procedures by a local authority, hence the two figures are not comparable.)

A further 113 children received education at home under 'other extraordinary circumstances'. Examples of this includes pupils unable to attend school because of geographical remoteness, travellers' children who may spend part of the school year outwith school, and prolonged adverse weather affecting the ability of island children to attend school.

In 2004–05, 417 children were known by local authorities to be receiving home education as a result of parental choice, who had at some point in the past been in local

authority school education. This figure had risen by six (1.5%) from the previous year. Another 127 children who had never been in local authority school education were known by local authorities to be receiving home education as a result of parental choice, a fall of seven (5%) from the previous year.

At 544, the total number of children known to be educated at home due to parental choice represents 0.08% of the population aged 5–15, unchanged from 2003–04. It is recognised that there may be more children educated outwith school who are not currently known to local authorities, and that changes in numbers known may be due to information management.

Source: *Results for 2004/05 for children educated outwith school and pupil projections 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 15 November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/76169/0019257.pdf)

Attendance and absence in Scottish schools

(Note: Information relates to local authority and mainstream grant aided schools only. This report was revised in 2003–04 to give information at a greater detail and implement changes to definitions of attendance. Much of the information contained in this document is therefore not available for years prior to 2003–04 and direct comparison with years prior to 2003–04 must take into account changes in definitions.)

In the academic year 2004–05 the overall rate of attendance at school was 93% (compared to 93.1% 2003–04).

The rate of attendance for primary schools was 95% (compared to 95.3% in 2003–04). The rate for secondary

schools remained at 90.2%. The rate for special schools was 91% (compared to 91.1% 2003–04).

Attendance was fairly stable between stages P1 and P7, and then decreased steadily through to S4, before increasing slightly in S5 and S6. Overall there was little difference in rates between boys and girls. However, boys did have noticeably better attendance rates from S4 to S6.

Seventy-nine per cent of pupils had an attendance rate of 90% or above. About 34,000 pupils (5%) had a 100% attendance record. These figures only include pupils when they are at a school for more than half the year and so are not comparable with the previous year.

Source: *Attendance and absence in Scottish schools 2004/05*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 6 December 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47121/0020452.pdf)

Discipline in schools

Exclusions from schools

(Note: These results relate to the school year 2004–05. Exclusions, in this context, include both temporary exclusions and pupils removed from the register. Most of the data refers to *cases* of exclusion, which should not be confused with the *number of pupils* excluded, as some pupils were excluded more than once during the year.)

During 2004–05 there were 41,974 exclusions from local authority schools in Scotland, an 8% increase from 2003–04. About 22,000 different pupils (3%) were excluded. Over 99% of all exclusions were temporary. In 271 cases, pupils were removed from the register of the school, an increase of 54% from the

2003–04 figure of 176. Overall, male pupils accounted for 79% of exclusions.

Overall, there were 58 exclusions per 1,000 pupils from local authority primary, secondary, and special schools in Scotland in 2004–05. This ranged between local authorities from seven per 1,000 to 111 per 1,000.

There were 5,319 exclusions from local authority primary schools, 13% of the total and equivalent to 13 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. This was an 18% increase from 4,478 exclusions in 2003–04.

There were 35,513 exclusions from local authority secondary schools, 85% of the total and equivalent to 112 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. Exclusion rates peaked during S3, with 190 exclusions per 1,000 pupils. This was a 6% increase from 33,465 exclusions in 2003–04.

There were 1,142 exclusions from local authority special schools, 3% of the total and equivalent to 163 exclusions per 1,000 pupils.

As in 2003–04, in 2004–05 exclusion rates were highest during the Christmas to Easter term, with the peak in the first week of February. Ninety per cent of all temporary exclusions lasted one week or less (in 2003–04 the figure was 80%).

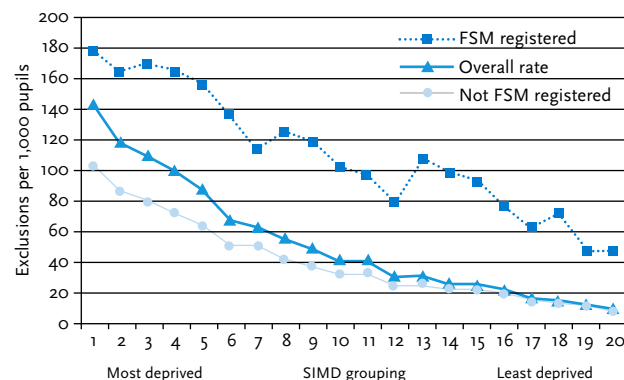
Of the 22,000 pupils excluded, 60% were excluded on one occasion only and 19% were excluded twice. Rates of exclusion varied widely across ethnic groups; however, this analysis was affected by the number of pupils for whom ethnicity was not disclosed.

Comparison with the overall school population shows that pupils entitled to free school meals, pupils with additional support needs, and pupils looked after by the local authority all had higher exclusion rates than other pupils. Where a pupil had all three risk factors the exclusion rate was over four times that of the overall school population.

Some 30% of exclusions involved general or persistent disobedience, 25% involved verbal abuse of members of staff and 13% involved insolent or offensive behaviour.

Source: Exclusions from schools 2004–05, Scottish Executive, 1 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/90946/0021841.pdf)

Table 8.1: Exclusions per 1,000 pupils by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) and free school meal (FSM) registration, 2004–05



Source: Exclusions from Schools 2004/05, Scottish Executive, 1 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/90946/0021841.pdf)

Table 8.2: Exclusions by reason¹ for exclusion, 2004–05

	Number ²	Percentage for known exclusions	Number of temporary exclusions	Number of removals from register
General or persistent disobedience	12,697	30	12,624	73
Verbal abuse of staff	10,452	25	10,402	50
Insolent and offensive behaviour	5,578	13	5,549	29
Physical assault with no weapon	5,509	12	4,969	90
Fighting	3,667	9	3,661	6
Threat of physical violence, no weapon	2,367	6	2,331	36
Verbal abuse of pupil	1,593	4	1,580	13
Damage to school property	1,117	3	1,100	17
Refusal to attend class	854	2	850	4
Substance misuse – not alcohol	625	1	622	3
Theft	413	1	411	2
Threat of physical violence using weapon or improvised weapon	351	1	325	26
Physical assault with improvised weapon	301	1	301	–
Substance misuse – alcohol	272	1	270	2
Fire raising	201	–	198	3
Threat to school property	181	–	178	3
Damage to personal property	110	–	110	–
Spitting	99	–	99	–
Malicious communications	83	–	82	1
Physical assault with weapon	87	–	78	9

Table 8.2 continued

	Number ²	Percentage for known exclusions	Number of temporary exclusions	Number of removals from register
Parental non-cooperation	50	–	49	1
Threat to personal property	35	–	35	–
Indecent exposure	27	–	27	–
Sustained peer exclusion for the purpose of causing significant distress	17	–	17	–
Threat of sexual violence	17	–	17	–
Slander and libel (including website)	15	–	15	–
Extortion	10	–	10	–
Stalking	3	–	3	–
Other	7,848	19	7,821	27

Notes (1) An exclusion with more than one circumstance given is counted under each relevant category

(2) For 2004–05, classifications of the reason for exclusion were amended.

Source: *Exclusions from Schools 2004/05*, Scottish Executive, 1 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/90946/0021841.pdf)

HMIE report

In March 2005, HMIE published *A Climate for Learning: A Review of the Implementation of the Better Behaviour – Better Learning Report*. The HMIE report focused on how the Scottish Executive's plan to tackle indiscipline in schools has been implemented. Some of its key findings were:

- education authorities are committed to following the action plan through

- all education authorities are providing their schools with some leadership and encouragement to develop approaches to promoting positive behaviour
- individual schools have introduced some encouraging initiatives to promote positive behaviour and generally reduce the level of indiscipline and disruption through the school
- provision for pupils with the most challenging behaviour is developing positively in a number of ways. Factors such as increased staffing, in-class support from support-for-learning staff, the use of staged intervention and the widespread development of support bases have all had a positive impact

The report also identified areas for improvement, including a need for consistency in dealing with discipline issues, making the most of curriculum flexibility and developing the quality of learning and teaching. Also important is the need to involve parents more in developing ways to promote good behaviour.

Source: 'Review of discipline policy in schools', Scottish Executive news release, 2 March 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/03/02094019)

Violence against local authority school staff

(Note: An incident, in this context, is categorised as 'any incident in which any employee of a school is seriously abused, is threatened or is assaulted by a pupil, parent, member of the public or any other persons in circumstances arising out of the course of his/her employment. This includes physical attack and threatening behaviour with or without a weapon, and intentional damage to personal property'.)

The main findings in 2002–03 were:

The total number of reported incidents against local authority school staff (both teaching and non-teaching) was 6,899. This equates to an average of one incident per school or pre-school centre per year.

Some 35% of these incidents occurred within the primary sector (on average one incident per school per year), 27% in the secondary sector (5 per school), 36% in the special sector (14 per school) and 2% in pre-school centres of education (0.05 per school).

Four per cent of incidents (301) were reported to the police.

Just over 4,400 of the incidents reported involved teaching staff. There were 75 incidents against teaching staff per 1,000 teachers.

Nearly all (98%) of incidents were recorded as occurring in school hours; 51% took place in the classroom. Twenty-five per cent of the incidents reported involved verbal abuse alone; 45% involved physical violence alone and 29% involved both physical violence and verbal abuse.

One per cent of incidents (81) were reported as sexually motivated (including gender issues), while 0.4% (29) were reported as motivated by race, 0.3% (23) by disability and 0.1% (7) by homophobia. One per cent of incidents were reported to involve a weapon and 4% to involve an improvised object. Eighty-three per cent of alleged perpetrators of incidents [where their gender was recorded] were male.

In 95% of all incidents reported (6,567), the alleged perpetrator was a pupil at the school. This equates to a rate of 8 incidents per 1,000 pupils. In 3% of all incidents, the alleged perpetrator was recorded as a parent. Of the incidents involving pupils (and where this information was available), 65% involved pupils with special educational needs.

Some 42 incidents (0.7%) resulted in the member of staff taking time off (where known).

Source: *Incidents of violence and anti-social behaviour against local authority school staff in 2002–03*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 27 January 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00318.pdf)

Education maintenance allowances (EMAs)

EMAs are available nationally across Scotland to eligible young people in fifth and sixth year at schools and further education colleges. EMAs are weekly payments of up to £30, paid directly to young people who stay on in further education after they reach statutory leaving age (ie after the end of their compulsory schooling). Young people may also receive two bonuses of £150 if they remain on their course and make good progress with their learning. Bonuses are payable in January and July.

Evidence from pilot schemes that have been running since 1999 has shown that EMAs have had a positive impact by increasing the numbers of young people participating in post-16 education, reducing the

numbers who drop out of education and by providing incentives that contribute to higher attainment.

Source: *Education maintenance allowance, an introduction*, Scottish Executive website (www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/education/emab.pdf)

School meals

Nearly every primary school gives free fresh fruit to P1 and P2 pupils, and 94% of all schools make free fresh chilled water available to pupils and staff at all times, up from 78% in 2004.

Source: *School meals in Scotland January 2005*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 22 June 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/06/06172925/29269)

Of those pupils present on the day of a survey (in January 2005), 47% took a meal supplied by the school, down from 49% in 2004. The decrease was largest in the secondary sector. Local authorities report that some of the reduction was due to temporary factors, including initial responses to the implementation of new menus and teething problems with cashless transaction systems.

Nineteen per cent of pupils were known to be entitled to free school meals, approximately the same percentage as reported in 2004. Seventeen per cent of all pupils were registered for free school meals. Of those who are entitled, 67% were present and took a free school meal on the survey day, a percentage that has been declining in recent years. This equates to 12% of all pupils.

There are 33% of mainstream schools with an anonymised system for free school meals receipt, up from 26% in 2004.

Source: *School meals in Scotland*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 7 June 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0012452.pdf)

Primary pupils across Scotland are switching to healthy snacks and more children are trying vegetables at lunchtime. A study looking at the impact of the Scottish Executive's drive to provide all primary one and two (P1 and P2) pupils with free fresh fruit three times each week found that 90% of those surveyed said this is improving youngsters' eating habits; 60% also said that pupils are eating more fresh fruit and vegetables at lunchtime, as a result of the scheme.

Source: 'Healthy eating drive bears fruit in schools', Scottish Executive news release, 29 December 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/28144352)

Qualifications: literacy and numeracy standards among high school pupils

Thousands of high school pupils in Scotland failed to reach basic standards in literacy and numeracy in 2005. Figures from most councils, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, said more than 30% of second-year pupils had poor results in reading. Nearly half failed the standards for writing, while six in 10 pupils achieved the basic standard for mathematics.

Pupils in Glasgow had the lowest pass rates for all subjects; almost six in 10 pupils failed to achieve the benchmark [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework or SCQF] Level E grade for writing in 2005. Other poorly performing areas were West Dunbartonshire, Clackmannanshire and North Lanarkshire. HM Inspectorate of Education has said 75% of pupils should have attained Level E assessment by the end of the second year of high school.

In 2005, Education Minister Peter Peacock said £62m of extra funding for additional teachers would be made available over the coming two years to take fuller account of the impact of social deprivation on schools.

Source: 'Thousands of pupils fail basics', BBC News, 17 December 2005 (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4537380.stm>)

Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) attainment and school leaver qualifications

Information regarding the attainment of national qualifications by pupils attending publicly funded secondary schools and by school leavers was published by the Scottish Qualifications Authority on 14 March 2006. The main findings are:

Attainment

Attainment levels have remained stable in recent years. Attainment is greater for females than males in all stages and in all categories.

Of the pupils in S4 in 2002–03, 34% had gained five or more awards at SCQF [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework] Level 5 or better by the end of that year. This increased to 47% by the end of 2004–05. Calculating an average tariff score for each pupil allows easier comparisons of different types of qualifications.

In S4, pupils attending schools in rural areas had higher average tariff scores than pupils attending urban schools.

Pupils registered for free school meals scored on average less than those who were not.

Data on looked-after children is incomplete and may not be representative of all looked-after children. However, the information available suggests that looked-after children without a record of needs or individualised education plan have a lower average tariff score than pupils who are not looked after but do have a record of needs or individualised education plan.

Chinese, Indian and mixed-race pupils in S4 attained the highest average tariff scores over the last three years.

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority attainment and school leaver qualifications', Scottish Executive news release, 14 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/14114534)

School leavers

In 2004–05:

There were 4.3% of school leavers who obtained no awards at SCQF Level 3 or better (compared with 4.2% in 2003–04 and 4.8% in 2002–03). It should be noted that some of these pupils have achieved unit awards or

Access 1 and 2 Cluster awards; however, these are not currently included in the analyses. One or more passes at SCQF Level 7 were obtained by 12% of leavers, which is broadly similar to the figures for previous years.

Almost 12% of school leavers who were registered for free school meals attained no awards at SCQF Level 3 or better, compared to 3% of leavers who were not registered for free meals.

Ten per cent of pupils leaving schools in large urban areas attained at least one award at SCQF Level 7. This compares to 16% of pupils leaving schools in small, remote towns.

A higher proportion of females than males leaving publicly funded schools achieved passes at all SCQF levels, except where three or more passes at SCQF Level 7 were attained.

Ninety-three per cent of leavers attained English at SCQF Levels 3–5 and 92% attained these levels in mathematics. The proportions attaining English at SCQF Levels 6 and 7 were 26% and 2% respectively, and the corresponding results for mathematics were 18% and 2%.

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority attainment and school leaver qualifications', Scottish Executive news release, 14 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/14114534)

Special schools

There has been a slight but continued decrease in the number of qualifications gained by pupils in special schools; however, there was a small increase in the proportion of passes from 2003–04 to 2004–05.

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority attainment and school leaver qualifications', Scottish Executive news release, 14 March 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/14114534)

The number of exams taken by pupils in special schools increased slightly to 2,876 in 2003–04 from 2,754 in 2002–03, following a drop from the 2001–02 figure of 2,808.

Source: *SQA attainment and school leaver qualifications in Scotland 2003/04*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 5 April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0018056.pdf)

SQA results 2005

This year's results show two main trends:

Pass rates are up at every level, indicating that students are better prepared and are studying at a suitable level.

Total entries are down slightly on last year, but entries for Intermediates continue to grow strongly.

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority issues results for national courses 2005', SQA news release, 9 August 2005 (www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/NQ_2005_MainRelease.pdf)

Table 8.3: Entries at each level of qualification, 2001–05

	Entries					Change 2004–05
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Access 2		2,422	2,243	2,343	2,102	-241
Access 3		4,911	8,930	12,743	15,660	+2,917
Standard Grade	459,366	456,219	453,413	433,828	411,144	-22,684
Intermediate 1	16,008	20,336	24,611	31,216	36,645	+5,429
Intermediate 2	59,090	67,388	72,294	80,261	87,055	+6,794
Higher	161,670 ¹	164,291 ¹	166,795	165,459	164,053	-1,406
Advanced						
Higher/CSYS	14,428 ²	16,168 ²	16,996	17,184	17,141	-43
Total	710,562	731,735	745,282	743,034	733,800	-9,234

Notes: (1) For all tables, figures for 2001 and 2002 are combined SCE Higher and National Course Higher
(2) For all tables, figures for 2001 and 2002 are combined CSYS and Advanced Higher

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority issues results for national courses 2005', SQA news release, 9 August 2005 (www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/NQ_2005_MainRelease.pdf)

Table 8.4: Overall attainment at each level of qualification, 2001–05

	Pass rate					% point change 2004–05
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
Access 2		49.3%	56.8%	66.5%	72.1%	+5.6
Access 3		58.4%	67.2%	70.4%	71.9%	+1.5
Standard Grade						
(grades 1–6)	96.3%	96.7%	96.8%	97.2%	97.3%	+0.1
Intermediate 1	62.2%	62.4%	64.6%	64.3%	67.6%	+3.3
Intermediate 2	67.2%	68.5%	69.6%	72.4%	73.8%	+1.4
Higher	71.9%	69.7%	69.6%	70.7%	71.2%	+0.5
Advanced						
Higher/CSYS	76.1%	72.3%	72.6%	73.6%	74.5%	+0.9

Table 8.5: Entries and attainment at Standard Grade 2001–05

Standard Grade	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Entries	459,366	456,219	453,413	433,828	411,144
Percentage gaining					

Table 8.6: Entries and attainment at Access 2 and Access 3, 2002–05

	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Entries	Pass Rate	Entries	Pass Rate	Entries	Pass Rate	Entries	Pass Rate
Access 2	2,422	49.3%	2,243	56.8%	2,343	66.5%	2,102	72.1%
Access 3	4,911	58.4%	8,930	67.2%	12,743	70.4%	15,660	71.9%

Table 8.7: Entries and attainment at Intermediate 1 and Intermediate 2, 2001–05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Intermediate 1					
Entries	16,008	20,336	24,611	31,216	36,645
Pass Rate	62.2%	62.4%	64.6%	64.3%	67.6%
Intermediate 2					
Entries	59,090	67,388	72,294	80,261	87,055
Pass Rate	67.2%	68.5%	69.6%	72.4%	73.8%

Table 8.8: Entries and attainment at Higher and Advanced Higher, 2001–05

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Higher					
Entries	161,670	164,291	166,795	165,459	164,053
Pass Rate	71.9%	69.7%	69.6%	70.7%	71.2%
Advanced Higher					
Entries	14,428	16,168	16,996	17,184	17,141
Pass Rate	76.1%	72.3%	72.6%	73.6%	74.5%

Source: 'Scottish Qualifications Authority issues results for national courses 2005', SQA news release, 9 August 2005 (www.sqa.org.uk/files_ccc/NQ_2005_MainRelease.pdf)

Achievements of Scottish schools

Current inspection evidence shows that important weaknesses in pupils' overall levels of attainment in English language and mathematics remain in around one-fifth of primary schools. In secondary schools, at S1 and S2 there are important weaknesses in pupils' attainment in over 40% of schools. Evaluations of attainment at S3–S4 and S5–S6 are more positive, with some evidence of an increase in the proportion of schools with major strengths in attainment at S5–S6. Over 80% of secondary schools and almost all primary schools are good or very good at promoting an ethos of achievement.

Source: HMIE report to SEED on the delivery of the national priorities, HM Inspectorate of Education, November 2005 (www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hmiednp.pdf)

Educational achievements of looked-after children

In the financial year 2003/04, 60% of 16 and 17 year olds who left care or lived 'away from home' did not gain standard grades in English and maths.

Source: *Performance indicators 2004/05*, Audit Scotland, 3 February 2005 (www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/ar2005/4-4_reports.htm)

Further details about the educational attainment of looked-after children can be found in the chapter on looked-after children.

School leavers' destinations

In publicly funded schools:

The proportion of young people entering full-time further or higher education has risen slightly, from 50% in 2003-04 to 52% in 2004-05.

The proportion of leavers entering employment also increased by 2% to 27%, while the proportion who are unemployed and seeking employment or training has fallen from 13% to 10%.

The proportion of leavers entering training outwith employment remains the same as 2003-04 at 5%, and the percentage in the 'destination unknown' category has decreased by 1%.

A higher proportion of females than males entered higher or further education (59% and 45% respectively) while a higher proportion of males than females entered employment (31% and 22% respectively). Of the leavers who were unemployed, 12% of males and 8% of females were seeking employment. There was no difference in the proportion of males and females who were unemployed and not seeking employment (both at 3%).

Source: 'Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools 2004-05', Scottish Executive news release, 7 December 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/07155408)

Table 8.9: Percentage of school leavers from publicly funded schools in Scotland by destination category, 1992-93 to 2004-05

Year	Number of leavers	Full time higher education	Full time further education	Training	Employment	Unemployed and seeking employment or training	Unemployed and not seeking employment or training	Other known	Destination unknown
1992-93	55,800	25	15	19	21			13	6
1993-94	53,694	27	15	18	22			14	4
1994-95	56,832	27	16	16	24			14	3
1995-96	57,372	28	17	14	23			14	4
1996-97	60,381	29	18	11	25			13	3
1997-98	59,286	30	19	10	26			13	3
1998-99	57,194	31	18	8	26			14	3
1999-00	55,569	32	19	7	26			13	3
2000-01	57,067	32	20	6	24			14	4
2001-02	56,513	32	20	6	23			16	3
2002-03	57,266	31	21	5	23	12	4		4
2003-04	56,537	29	21	5	25	13	3		4
2004-05	55,952	31	21	5	27	10	3		3

Source: *Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools 2004/05*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication (www.careers-scotland.org.uk/careersscotland/Web/Site/LearningandGuidance/LandGNews/1301NENews.asp)

Independent schools

There was a marked reduction in the percentage of leavers with 'destination unknown' falling from 10% in 2003-04 to 4% in 2004-05. Conversely, the percentage of pupils entering full-time higher education rose from 78% in 2003-04 to 85% in 2004-05, a figure which is more in line with previous years.

Source: *Destinations of leavers from Scottish schools 2004/05*,
Scottish Executive, December 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/06133725/37257)

Higher education

Higher education in Scotland: key trends

Between [academic years] 2002-03 and 2003-04 the number of higher education (HE) students studying in Scotland grew by 1.5%. This reverses the 1.6% decrease in numbers between 2001-02 and 2002-03, but masks a continuing fall in the number of students studying for HE qualifications in colleges. Between 2001-02 and 2003-04 the numbers of students enrolled on HE courses at colleges fell by 13.2%. The decline is particularly marked in part-time study.

The number of Scottish-domiciled students increased by 6% between 2002-03 and 2003-04, while the number of students from the rest of the UK fell by 1%. International student numbers increased again between 2002-03 and 2003-04. This group accounted for 13.4% of all students at higher education institutions (HEIs) in 2003-04, compared to 12.5% in 2001-02. The number of students from China (the largest group of non-EU students) and India (the third largest group) continued to grow in

2002-03 to 2003-04, by 30% and 16% respectively, although this growth was slower than in the previous 12 months.

The number of students studying at sub-degree level declined further between 2002-03 and 2003-04, by 5% at HEIs and by 7% at colleges.

The biggest growth in student numbers continues to be at postgraduate level. Numbers enrolled on postgraduate certificates and diplomas in colleges and HEIs increased by about 11% between 2002-03 and 2003-04. The number of students on first-degree courses dropped by 5% between 2001-02 and 2002-03, but increased again by 2% between 2002-03 and 2003-04.

The Age Participation Index (API) remained unchanged at 48.9% 2002-03 and 2003-04. The gap between the API for young women and the API for young men narrowed from 12.4% in 2002-03 to 10.4% in 2003-04. (The API is used to measure the proportion of young Scots entering higher education anywhere in the UK for the first time in a given year.)

Financial resources available to HEIs and colleges increased by 3.5% and 4.1% respectively between 2002-03 and 2003-04. International recruitment is also an important source of income for HEIs; overseas tuition fee income as a proportion of total fee income increased from about 23% in 1998-99 to 30% in 2003-04.

Source: *Higher education in Scotland: second update report*,
Scottish Funding Council, December 2005
(www.planning.ed.ac.uk/Pub/SHEFC_baselineupdateDec05.pdf)

Number of students applying to universities

The number of Scots going to university has dropped for the first time in five years. Statistics published show that fewer Scots applicants had been accepted to attend UK universities than in the previous year. The last time there was such a drop was between 1998 and 1999. According to figures from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), 28,225 Scots were accepted to attend UK universities in 2004, compared with 28,278 in 2003 – a drop of 0.2 per cent.

Source: 'Warning over drop in number of Scots going to university',
The Scotsman, 27 Jan 2005
(<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=58&id=99122005>)

Students in higher education, 2004–05

The key statistics on students [of all ages] in higher education at Scottish universities and colleges during the academic year 2004–05 were as follows:

- In 2004–05, there were 276,705 higher education (HE) students at Scottish institutions, an increase of 1.8% on the previous year. This number is 6.7% higher than the corresponding number of students in Scotland in 1999–2000.
- In 2004–05, 81% of higher education students studied in higher education institutions (HEIs) while 19% studied in further education colleges (FECs).
- Between 1999–2000 and 2004–05, the number of female higher education students increased by 11% to 156,615. Over the same period the number of male higher education students increased by only 1.4% to 120,090.

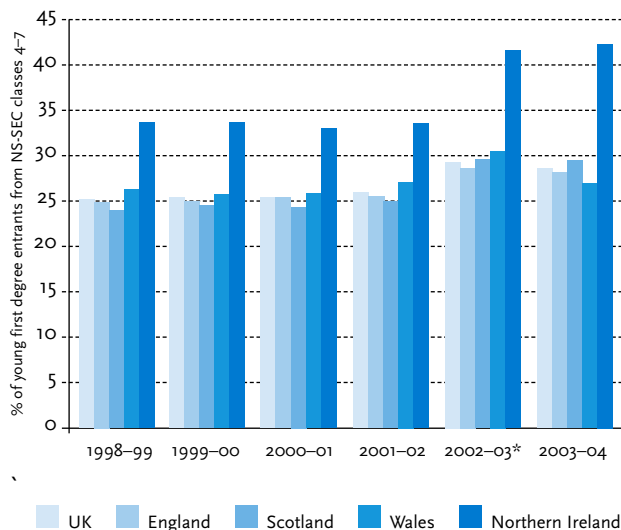
- There were 138,645 entrants to HE at Scottish institutions (HEIs and FECs) in 2004/05, a similar level to the previous year. The numbers of entrants to first degree courses fell by 4% in 2004–05 to 42,530. This ended the steady increase seen between 1998–99 and 2003–04, but is still 17% higher than 1999–2000.
- The number of Scottish domiciled entrants to HE at Scottish institutions fell by 2% between 2003/04 and 2004/05, while the number of entrants from other parts of the UK also fell by 2% over this period. These losses were offset by a 15% increase in entrants from outside the UK (particularly outside Europe), resulting in the total number of entrants being virtually unchanged since 2003–04.
- In 2004/05, the number of Scots studying at HEIs elsewhere in the UK was 13,100 while the number of students enrolled at Scottish HEIs from elsewhere in the UK was 26,040.
- Subjects allied to medicine and the veterinary medicine course are most popular with women (85% and 75% of entrants, respectively), whereas Engineering and Information Technology are most popular with men (90% and 76% of entrants, respectively).

(Note: The above statistics include information on higher education (HE) provision in higher education institutions (HEIs) as well as further education colleges (FECs) in Scotland. Distance learning students enrolled at Scottish institutions are included in the figures. These figures do not include students of the Open University in Scotland. In the year 2004–05 there were a total of 14,335 students [of all ages] in Scotland studying through the Open University)

Source: Students in Higher Education 2004–05, Scottish Executive website, 3 May 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/04/28100117/0)

Background of students in higher education

Table 8.10: Percentage of young full-time undergraduate entrants to higher education institutions from social classes IIIM, IV and V (1998-2001) and NS-SEC classes 4-7 (2002-03 and 2003-04)



Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency, reported in *Higher education in Scotland: second update report*, Scottish Funding Council, December 2005 (www.planning.ed.ac.uk/Pub/SHEFC_baselineupdateDec05.pdf)

Note: 'NS-SEC' is national statistics socio-economic classification

Because the categorisation of social class was revised for the last set of Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) performance indicators, the figures for 2002 are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years.

However, the table above suggests that Scottish HEIs take a marginally higher proportion of their students from socio-economic groups 4 to 7 than England, and Wales, but a lower proportion than Northern Ireland.

Source: *Higher education in Scotland: second update report*, Scottish Funding Council, December 2005 (www.planning.ed.ac.uk/Pub/SHEFC_baselineupdateDec05.pdf)

The total number of applicants accepted to university in 2005 broken down by applicants' parental occupation (or the occupation of the person contributing the highest income to the household if the applicant is aged 21 years or over) is outlined in the table below:

Table 8.11: 2005 year of entry – Scotland
Total number of all applicants, all accepts by socio-economics

Socio-economics	All applicants	Total All accepts
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	5,976	4,783
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	8,576	6,499
3. Intermediate occupations	4,298	3,172
4. Small employers and own account workers	2,125	1,597
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	1,530	1,102
6. Semi-routine occupations	4,168	2,983
7. Routine occupations	1,728	1,213
8. Unknown	8,420	6,324
Total	36,821	27,673

(Note: This data relates to Home (UK) applicants only (accept means 'accepted to University')

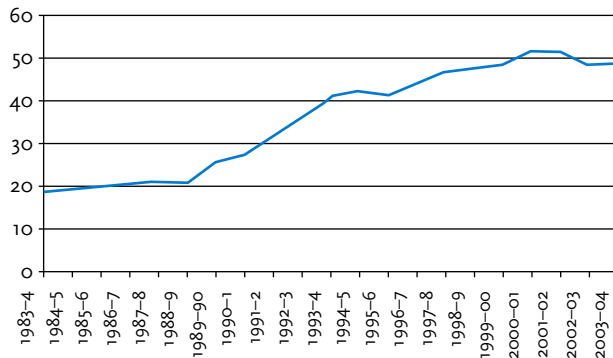
Source: Source: UCAS data, 'Socio-economics' (www.ucas.ac.uk/figures/ucasdata/socio/#show#)

New entrants to higher education

The largest contribution to the Scottish API is made by students entering Scottish higher education institutions (HEIs). The Scottish HEI API stood at 31% in 2003–04. This compares to an API of 15.7% for HE entrants to Scottish further education colleges and an API of 2.2% for entrants to HEIs in the rest of the UK.

Source: *The age participation index for Scotland 2003–04*, Scottish Executive, 14 September 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/69582/0017488.pdf)

Table 8.12: Age participation index 1983–4 to 2003–04



Source: *The age participation index for Scotland 2003–04*, Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 14 September 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/69582/0017488.pdf)

Drop-out rates

The Higher Education Statistics Agency found that one in 10 students dropped out in the first year. It said the four UK higher education institutions with the highest drop-out rates in 2003–04 were all Scottish.

Bell College in Hamilton was the poorest in the UK when it came to retaining students. It lost 38.5% of new entrants in the first year. Abertay University in Dundee lost 21.2%, Napier University in Edinburgh lost 21% and 20.9% of new students left Paisley University within 12 months.

Overall, the Scottish drop-out rate was 10.7%, a rise from 9.6% in 2002–03. The UK-wide average was 7.8%, up from 7.3% the year before.

Source: as reported in 'Increase in university drop-outs', 22 September 2005 (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4270410.stm>)

Access to university has been seen as a route out of poverty for young working-class people, but more recently many who have entered higher education have been choosing to leave early. Research for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which looked at four new universities in disadvantaged areas in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, found that:

- Policy and media tend to portray 'dropping out' as a symptom of working-class 'failure'. Seminars with local stakeholders ('research jury' days) revealed 'drop-out' could be a self-fulfilling prophecy, colouring the way young working-class people regard university and affecting regeneration.

- Interviews with ex-students revealed that young men feel they were channelled by schools and careers services into stereotyped subjects that didn't engage them.
- Interviews showed that 'dropping out' is not a disaster. Students had sound reasons for withdrawing early and all but one intended to return to education. Most students interviewed had gained skills, confidence and life experience from their time at university. Universities have support systems, but interviews indicated these are difficult to access. Students often took the decision to leave on their own, without support or advice. Interviews with students and a survey of admissions offices indicated that universities do not encourage students to change courses, go part-time or take time out; nor do students have the confidence to negotiate. In addition, their families do not have the resources to navigate the system.
- Interviews and research jury days with students, employment agencies, employers, and university careers services revealed a lack of focused services for students who drop out. Students were mostly offered a choice between dead-end jobs and unemployment.
- The researchers concluded that working-class students who withdraw early to refocus and re-enter education are real lifelong learners: institutions and policymakers have yet to catch up with them.

Source: *From life crisis to lifelong learning: rethinking working-class 'drop out' from higher education*, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, November 2005 (www.jrf.org.uk/knowledge/findings/socialpolicy/0525.asp)

Student debt

The first comprehensive overview of the income and expenditure of full-time students in further and higher education across Scotland found that the average income, expenditure and debt of students at higher education institutions (HEIs) in Scotland is lower than that of their counterparts in England and Wales.

Despite longer courses in Scotland, Scottish students graduating in 2005 had [on average] £2,740 less debt than English and Welsh students graduating in 2003 (after adjustment for inflation). This was mostly because of the different student funding systems and students' different patterns of living arrangements.

Other key findings showed that for higher education students in the academic year 2004–05, the average income was £5,795 and the average expenditure was £6,604. In addition, 79% of these students anticipated being in debt; the average debt figure for all higher education students being £4,653. For further education students on non-advanced courses, average income was £4,377, average expenditure was £5,320 and 18% anticipated being debt, with an average debt figure of £109.

Source: *Student income and expenditure survey*, Scottish Executive, 24 November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/11/24102207)

Graduate employment

In 2004 the combined graduate intake of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland amounted to less than 7% of total vacancies, according to Association of Graduate Recruiters' (AGR) statistics. Scotland accounted for 3.5% of total AGR vacancies. However, in 2005 a survey of AGR firms expects graduate vacancies in Scotland to rise by 22.7%.

The median starting salary for a graduate in Scotland is £19,000; this was expected to rise by 5.3% for 2005.

Source: *The AGR graduate recruitment survey 2005*
(www.agr.org.uk/)

Graduate destinations

A total of 65,720 students in Scotland's higher education institutions and colleges successfully completed a higher education course (defined as those at HNC/HND level and above) in 2003-04. This was around 2,000 more than in the previous academic year. Of these, 42% obtained a first degree, 38% obtained a sub-degree qualification and 21% obtained a postgraduate qualification.

The number of graduates of subjects within the mass communication area increased most significantly from the previous year; other subject areas with increases included creative arts, medicine and dentistry, agriculture and social studies. Areas with fewer graduates than in 2002-03 include humanities, subjects allied to medicine, and languages.

The number of Scottish-based graduates increased from the previous year by 2% while the number of foreign-domiciled graduates increased by 13%.

Seventy-nine per cent of respondents who gained permanent employment after qualifying in 2003-04 did so in Scotland; 90% of the Scots-domiciled respondents in permanent employment were employed in Scotland.

Of those graduates who responded to surveys about their first destination approximately six months after graduation, over half (57%) had obtained permanent or temporary employment in the UK at the time of the survey, with a further 2% obtaining employment overseas. Twenty-nine per cent of responding graduates continued in study/training while 6% were unemployed. For all levels of study women were slightly more likely than men to be in employment.

Forty per cent of all postgraduates from Scottish universities obtained their initial permanent UK job in finance and business services; of first degree graduates, 28% of those with permanent UK employment six months after graduating worked in health or social work and 26% worked in finance and business services; of those with non-degree qualifications, about half started work in the health and social care sector.

Some of those not working undertook further study: over half of those who had successfully completed a non-degree level qualification did so, which was 10% more than in the previous academic year.

Source: 'Higher education graduates and graduate destinations 2003-04',
Scottish Executive news release, 7 December 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/12/07102547)

Employment and training

Jobs in Scotland

The number of jobs in Scotland is substantially higher today (2.5 million) than 20 years ago. Despite fluctuations, jobs have grown at an average of 0.5% per year from a baseline of 2.2m in 1981. The growth rate slowed to about 0.3% per year in the 1990s, and this more modest growth is projected to continue, leading to 2.55 million jobs in 2008.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers,
May 2006, Scottish Executive website
(<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/o>)

Employment and unemployment trends

Figures released by the Office for National Statistics show further improvement in the Scottish labour market, with unemployment falling and the number of people in work continuing to rise.

On the ILO (International Labour Organisation) measure, unemployment in Scotland fell by 12,000 in the three months to January 2006, to 133,000. A fall of 14,000 was recorded on the same period in 2005. At 5.1%, the Scottish unemployment rate has not been lower since records began, and is now only marginally above the UK rate and lower compared to most other EU countries.

Despite rising by 1,000 to 85,100 over the month to February, the number of people unemployed and claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) in Scotland fell by 800 over the year and remains close to historic lows.

Further improvement in Scottish employment was recorded, with the number of people in work increasing by 3,000 over the quarter and by 11,000 over the year to 2,463,000.

Source: *February labour market statistics for Scotland*, Scotland Office, March 2006 (www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk/our-communications/release.php?id=3521)

Seasonally adjusted and non-seasonally adjusted rates

Labour force survey (LFS) data for Scotland indicate that the trend in the employment rate is close to flat, and the rate in the latest period is not significantly different from March 2005.

Data for the three months to January 2006 show the seasonally adjusted employment rate at 75.3%, up 0.2% on a year earlier. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1%, down 0.6% points on a year earlier.

LFS estimates also indicate an increase in both the number of employees and in the number of self-employed over the past year.

LFS estimates suggest an increase in the number of full-time workers and a decrease in the number of part-time workers over the past year.

Source: *Labour market statistics March 2006: Scotland*, National Statistics, 15 March 2006 (www.cesi.org.uk/statsdocs/0603/lmsscoto306.pdf)

Adults in employment

Fifty-two per cent all adults are in some type of paid employment, either employed full-time or part-time, or self-employed. Otherwise, 26% are retired, 8% are looking after the home or family, 6% are unable to work on the grounds of health or disability, 4% are in full-time education and 3% are unemployed.

Some 47% of women are in some type of paid employment compared with 58% of men.

Overall, 41% of households have no adults in work, 27% of households have one adult in work, and 32% have two or more adults in work.

Source: *Scotland's people: Annual report: Results from the 2003/2004 Scottish Household Survey*, Scottish Executive, 4 August 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/03155211/52120)

The 2001 Census showed that in Scotland there is a relatively higher employment rate among men. As with unemployment rates in general, there are differences across council areas; the Census showed male employment rates of 58% in Glasgow City and 63% in Dundee City. Male employment rates were higher than the female rates in all council areas.

There are differences between both the employment and economic activity rates of minority ethnic groups. Economic activity and employment rates are lower among minority ethnic groups than the Scottish rates. Within the Pakistani and Bangladeshi minority ethnic

groups, low employment rates are explained to some degree by the low female economic activity rates.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/sjipo3.pdf)

Not in education, employment or training (NEET) rates

For young people aged 16–19, a key indicator of the real availability of employment is the 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) rate. If there is a genuine change in the availability of work for this age group it would be expected to show up in this figure (in other words, it would indicate that young people who go into education and training are doing it because they want to, not merely because they have to as they have no other job/career options).

The proportion of 16–19 year olds who are NEET has been a key measure used to monitor progress in a number of key policy areas for the Scottish Executive, including 'A smart, successful Scotland: building a better Scotland', 'Life through learning: learning through life' and 'Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters'. The reduction of the proportion of NEET is also now a 'Closing the opportunity gap' target. The official data source for this measure is the *Annual population survey (APS)*.

The latest data available shows that there are approximately 35,000 16–19 year olds who are NEET, around 13.2% of this age group. This proportion has not changed significantly for the last 10 years.

Only a relatively small number of people aged 16–19 are surveyed within the *APS*, so this means that any analysis about the NEET group using it is limited. To help develop measures for NEET, other sources of information have been considered. These include the *Scottish school leavers destinations survey*, the *Scottish school leavers survey*, Department for Work and Pensions benefits data and Careers Scotland management information. Other information that is related to NEET has also been investigated, such as school attendance data, school exclusion data and education tariff scores.

All these sources provide some information on those who are NEET and help to provide an insight into the characteristics of the NEET group. However, none of them capture the whole of the NEET group, so at present the *APS* is the best source for measuring the total level.

Source: *Scottish Economic Statistics 2005*, Scottish Executive national statistics, November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/resource/doc/76169/0019773.pdf)

While most young Scots do well at school, 1 in 20 will still leave with no formal qualification.

Source: Scottish Executive Strategy Unit, Futures Project, Trend Analysis Papers, May 2006, Scottish Executive website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/22134120/o>)

NEET: key trends

The estimate for the year March 2003 to February 2004 shows that 14.5 per cent of all 16–19 year olds are not in Education Employment or Training (NEET) in Scotland. International data indicates that the levels

of labour market engagement for young people aged 15–19 in Scotland is among the lowest in the OECD.

Individual costs: Generally a person who is NEET will experience loss of earnings, increased likelihood of depression, poor health, and difficulty in maintaining relationships.

Families: Families are likely to be involved in financial and other support for a young person who is NEET. If the individual has a family of his/her own, this may result in intergenerational effects, such as low expectations, poor educational achievements, poor health and in some cases, exposure to criminality.

Opportunity and Public Finance costs: The opportunity cost of NEET stems from loss of output from unemployed young people; additional health and care costs resulting from mental and physical disability; the poor health and depression associated with unemployment; productivity lost for both teenage mothers and young carers; voluntary sector costs incurred through initiatives for unemployed young people; mentally and physically disabled young people and those with criminal convictions. Unemployment can also lead to a breakdown of social cohesion, a slowdown on economic growth and a consequent impact on retail spending.

Source: The Whole Works: Bridging the employability gap for the hardest to reach young people; a holistic approach to learning and engagement, Fairbridge in Scotland, May 2006

NEET: linkage with low attainment at school

Most of our young people perform well at school and leave appropriately prepared for the next stages in their lives. There are, however, a number of our young people whose life chances are considerably reduced through low achievement at school, many of whom end up in the group who are not in education, employment or training (the NEET group). By the age of 21, a young male who has been in this group for six months is three times more likely than average to have mental health issues, five times more likely to have a criminal record and six times less likely to have any qualifications. Responding effectively to the needs of this group of young people while they are still at school is complex. Their problems are not new, nor are they soluble by schools entirely on their own. Various forms of social dislocation, often associated with deprivation, pose immense challenges to us all. However, it remains essential that the needs of these young people are addressed strategically and individually by all of the public services which exist to support them and their families.

Source: Missing out: A report on children at risk of missing out on educational opportunities, HMIE Report, January 2006 (www.hmie.gov.uk/documents/publication/hmiemoeo.html)

NEET: area-based differences

Differences between areas range from 7% of young people who are NEET in East Dunbartonshire to 19% in Glasgow City. There is also some variation between urban, rural and remote areas, with 14% of young people in large urban areas and 10% in rural areas who are NEET. About 23% of young people in the most

relatively deprived wards are NEET. This compares to 5% in the least deprived areas.

The 2001 Census showed there is a higher proportion of young people living in large urban areas who are NEET, compared to the more rural areas. The number of students entering higher education in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow go some way to explain this. Taking this into account, the proportion of 16 and 17 year olds in Glasgow City is considerably larger than the Scottish average, but at the 18 and 19 age group Glasgow's proportion is closer to the average.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social Justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/sjipo3-00.asp)

The seasonally adjusted *Labour force survey* estimate of economically active people in Scotland was 2.6 million in the October to December 2005 period. The seasonally adjusted economic inactivity rate for working-age people in Scotland was 20.4% in October to December 2005, up 0.1% from a year earlier.

There were 1.51 million economically inactive people in the October to December 2005 period; 647,000 of these were working age, up 7,000 on the same period a year earlier.

Source: *Labour market statistics February 2006: Scotland*, National Statistics, 15 February 2006 (www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsscoto206.pdf)

Employment of disadvantaged groups

'Disadvantaged' in this context means:

- lone parents: a single, working-age adult household with dependent children (aged 0–15 or 16–18 and in full-time education) and no non-dependent children
- people from minority ethnic groups
- people aged 50 or above
- people with a disability that affects day-to-day activities, is work-limiting, or both

Since 1997 there has been an increase in the Scotland-wide employment rate, and the *Labour force survey* evidence shows that the employment rates of disadvantaged groups also increased during this period. The employment rate of lone parents has seen the most significant increase, rising by 10% to just over 50% in the year ending February 2003.

Source: 'Indicators of progress 2003' in *Social justice: a Scotland where everyone matters*, Scottish Executive, 17 December 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/social/sjipo3.pdf)

Households and employment/income

In the majority (60%) of households the highest income householder (HIH) is male. Where the HIH is female this tends to be in households with only one adult and no male adult, ie single adult, lone parent and single pensioner households. The HIH is female in 92% of lone parent households.

Source: *Scotland's people: Annual report: Results from the 2003/2004 Scottish Household Survey*, Scottish Executive, 4 August 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016412.pdf)

Participation in training

Overall, 28% of adults of working age are undertaking some kind of training or education. Younger adults are more likely to be involved in training or education, with those aged 16–24 having the highest participation rate (53%).

Participation levels differ notably by qualifications already held. People with no qualifications have the lowest level of participation in education and training, with only 10% in some form of training. The highest participation levels are found for adults with first or higher degrees (41%) or with a professional qualification (42%).

Source: *Scotland's people: Annual report: Results from the 2003/2004 Scottish Household Survey*, Scottish Executive, 4 August 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/57346/0016412.pdf)

A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work

The UK government has announced the publication of the welfare reform Green Paper – *A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work*.

The chapter on disability provides a general overview of areas in which the Green Paper is likely to impact upon disabled people. A key element in this respect is likely to be employment. The Green Paper sets out proposals for achieving an 80% employment rate for people of working age. If this goal is achieved, it will give the UK the highest employment rate of any developed country.

The Green Paper states that the government wishes to achieve this aim by:

- reducing the number of people on incapacity benefits by one million
- helping a million older workers into employment
- helping over 300,000 lone parents into work

Source: Department for Work and Pensions website, January 2006 (www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2006/jan/fmco68-240106.asp)

Sport and leisure

Children's physical activity

The Scottish health survey shows that 74% of boys and 63% of girls aged 2–15 have a high physical activity level (the level of activity currently recommended for children). A further 12% of boys and 18% of girls have a medium activity level (the recommended level for children who are currently inactive), and 13% of boys and 19% of girls have a low activity level.

Activity levels decline with age among girls (but not among boys) after the age of 8–10. Boys' activity levels do not vary to any great extent by socio-demographic factors. In contrast, there is a tendency for girls' activity levels to increase as household income decreases, and as area deprivation increases. There was a small increase between 1998 and 2003 in the proportion of children who did at least 60 minutes' physical activity in the previous seven days, from 72% to 74% for boys and from 59% to 63% for girls.

The most common type of physical activity children reported in the previous seven days is

- walking (92% of boys and 94% of girls)
- active play (91% of boys and 88% of girls)
- sports and exercise (73% of boys and 68% of girls)

Time spent in front of a screen (TV, computer, video game) was included in the survey as a measure of

physical inactivity. Boys spend an average of 2.6 hours a day sitting in front of a screen outside school hours, and girls spend 2.3 hours. There is a linear increase with age in time spent sitting at a screen: 32% of boys and 24% of girls aged 13–15 spend on average four hours or more a day sitting at a screen. The odds of children meeting the physical activity recommendations decrease significantly as the time spent in front of a screen increases.

Source: *Scottish Health Survey 2003*, Scottish Executive, 25 November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/924/0019811.pdf)

Note: For further information about child obesity levels see the 'Health' chapter.

School children's participation in physical activity

The most common types of physical activity overall are walking for exercise, jogging and running. Participation in more structured sports or activities is less common, with the exception of football among boys.

Boys report higher levels of physical activity than girls and are more likely to be a member of a sports club outside of school. About one in three boys and one in six girls participate in moderate physical activity for at least an hour on five or more days a week. More than three-fifths of boys and half of girls report doing two or more hours of vigorous physical activity a week during their leisure time.

Between stages P7 and S1, there is no change in the proportion of pupils meeting the current guidelines for moderate physical activity. However, there is a small decrease in frequency of vigorous physical activity participation among girls. Between P7 and S1, membership of sports clubs outside of school decreases among both boys and girls.

Pupils from higher socio-economic groups are more likely to be members of sports clubs and teams outside of school and to report more hours per week doing vigorous physical activity. There is no significant relationship between socio-economic status and moderate intensity activity.

Source: *Physical activity in Scottish schoolchildren (PASS) – a summary of key findings from the 2003/04 pupil survey*, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, University of Edinburgh (www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/PASS_SurveySummary.pdf)

Scottish Executive strategy on physical education in schools

In June 2004 the Scottish Executive endorsed the recommendations of the Physical Education Review Group, and launched a 10-point action plan to increase and improve the provision of physical education (PE) in Scotland's schools. The key aims of the action plan are to provide a minimum of two hours' physical education a week for every pupil by 2008, together with a greater choice of activities and 400 more teachers qualified to take PE. Guidance was also issued to all councils to help them meet the requirements, and to monitor progress towards the two-hour 2008 target. These moves are part of wider, long term programmes on diet and activity to address obesity and lifestyle

issues among children. Reflecting this underlining concern, *The Scottish health survey*, for example, shows that 27% of boys and 40% of girls are not active enough to meet the minimum guideline for health (an accumulation of one hour per day, most days of the week). Activity levels vary by age and gender, with girls' levels falling earlier and at a faster rate than boys. By 16, two in three girls and one in three boys do not meet the recommended minimum level.

Source: *The report of the review group on physical education*,
Scottish Executive, June 2004
(www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/rgpe.pdf)

These actions also form the basis of delivering the second target from *Sport 21 – Scotland's national strategy for sport 2003-2007*. Target two is: 'To make progress towards all school children taking part in at least two hours of high quality physical education classes a week.'

Figures published on 16 January 2006 by the Scottish Executive reveal that only one in 20 of Scotland's primary school pupils currently receive two hours of PE per week. Peter Peacock MSP, the Minister for Education and Young People, has stated that Scottish councils and schools need to dramatically improve access to PE.

Source: Physical Education in Schools,
Scottish Executive news release, 16 January 2006
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/01/16121155>
Progress towards the recommendations of the Physical Education Review
Group, Scottish Executive publication, January 2006
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/PEReport2005>

Physical activity at school

According to a 2004 survey of pupils:

Walking is the most common means of travel to school, but the proportion of pupils walking to and from school decreases by about 20% between stages P7 and S1. About one in 10 pupils report travelling by car.

Most pupils report having two periods of PE each week. Enjoyment of PE is significantly higher among boys than girls; over two-thirds of boys but less than half of girls reported that they enjoy PE a lot. Between P7 and S1, reported enjoyment of PE decreases significantly among girls, but not boys.

Participation in extra-curricular sports and membership of school sports clubs are higher among boys than girls. Between P7 and S1, membership of sports clubs at school and participation in extra-curricular sports decrease significantly among both boys and girls.

Source: *Physical activity in Scottish schoolchildren (PASS) – a summary of key findings from the 2003/04 pupil survey*,
Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, University of Edinburgh
(www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/PASS_SurveySummary.pdf)

Primary schools

The key findings of the Scottish Executive's report on progress towards the recommendations of the Physical Education Review Group, in respect of PE in primary schools are:

- On average, primary schools allocate 1 hour and 10 minutes of the weekly curriculum to physical education.
- The vast majority of primary school pupils (93%) have provision within their curriculum for at least 45 minutes of taught physical education.
- Just over two thirds (69%) of primary school pupils have provision for one hour of taught physical education within their curriculum.
- Just under a third (30%) of primary school pupils have provision for 90 minutes of taught physical education, with one in twenty (5%) primary school pupils currently receiving the two-hour aspiration.

The report states that ad hoc activities within primary schools such as health week, sports days and cycling proficiency are not included in the above figures as these do not currently form part of the standard (curriculum) school week. These activities, although not strictly physical education, are seen by many schools as an important part of a child's overall physical activity at school.

Source: Progress towards the recommendations of the Physical Education Review Group, Scottish Executive publication, January 2006
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/11/PEReport2005>

Secondary schools (S1–S4)

On average, secondary schools allocate one hour and 40 minutes of the weekly curriculum to PE. Almost all (99.5%) S1–S4 pupils have provision in their curriculum for at least 45 minutes of taught PE. 87% are provided one hour per week. Almost three-quarters (72%) of S1–S4 pupils have provision in their curriculum for at least 90 minutes of taught PE, with 7% of secondary school pupils being currently provided the two-hour aspiration.

Source: *Progress towards the recommendations of the Physical Education Review Group*, Scottish Executive, January 2006
www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0019904.pdf

Secondary schools (S5–S6)

Non-National Qualification PE drops off significantly for S5 and S6. Just under a third (30%) of S5 pupils are provided 45 minutes or more of taught PE in their curriculum, falling to around one in eight (12%) in S6.

Taught, non-National Qualification PE lessons are often optional for S5 and S6 pupils. As such, schools may have only included mandatory S1 to S4 lessons in the figures provided to the Scottish Executive and will not have included S5 and S6 'optional physical education' provision.

Source: *Progress towards the recommendations of the Physical Education Review Group*, Scottish Executive, January 2006
www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0019904.pdf

Swimming provision by schools

At March 2005 the latest available figures for swimming provision by schools were from 2000–01:

Seventy-two per cent of all local authority schools provided some swimming lessons. Seven authorities reported that all schools make swimming available; these were Dumfries and Galloway, Dundee City, East Lothian, Falkirk, Fife (secondaries not known), Orkney Islands and Stirling. Four local authorities reported that less than half of their schools teach swimming; these were Moray (18.8%), Aberdeen City (25.3%), Aberdeenshire (27.1%) and Highland (39.4%).

Among secondary schools, 58.5% taught swimming. All secondaries provided lessons in eight local authorities. Those with less than half were Midlothian (zero), South Ayrshire (zero), Highland (17.9%), East Dunbartonshire (22.2%), Renfrewshire (30.8%), East Ayrshire (33.3%), Inverclyde (37.5%), North Lanarkshire (38.5%), East Renfrewshire (42.9%) and South Lanarkshire (47.6%).

Among primary schools, 79.6% taught swimming. All primaries provided lessons, in 18 local authorities. Those local authorities where less than half of primary schools provided swimming were Midlothian (none) South Ayrshire (none), Highlands (17.9%), East Dunbartonshire (22.2%), Renfrewshire (30.8%), East Ayrshire (33.3%), Inverclyde (37.5%), North Lanarkshire (38.5%), East Renfrewshire (42.9%) and South Lanarkshire (47.6%).

(Note: Argyll and Bute failed to answer this question. Falkirk only provided figures for primary schools. Fife and West Dunbartonshire did not supply figures for secondary schools.)

There were eight authorities where some charges were made to pupils for swimming. This practice was not always authority-wide, but sometimes decided at school level. The most common reason for charging was to pay for teaching (seven authorities) and extra supervision (three authorities).

Source: *Audit of swimming provision in schools 2001–02*, Scottish Executive, 22 January 2003 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47021/0023971.pdf)

Social and environmental influences on physical activity

More boys than girls report high levels of support for being active from friends. Pupils who report high levels of peer support for being active are more likely to participate in moderate and vigorous physical activity. Pupils are more likely to receive encouragement to be active from their parents than their friends, but are most likely to do physical activity with their friends.

Most pupils report having a park or playing field in the area where they live. Almost three-quarters have a sports centre nearby and three-fifths have a local swimming pool. Fewer pupils have tennis courts or basketball courts locally.

The majority of pupils perceive their neighbourhood as a safe place to be active, but one in 20 pupils feel that it is not safe for them to walk or cycle alone during the day in the area where they live. About one in five pupils agree that aspects of the local environment such as poor pavements, heavy traffic and the presence of gangs make it difficult to be active locally.

More boys than girls report being allowed to play outside unsupervised whenever they want to. Between stages P7 and S1, there is an increase in the proportion of pupils reporting freedom to play outside unsupervised.

Source: *Findings from the physical activity in Scottish schoolchildren (PASS) survey 2003/04: Summary of key findings from the 2003/04 pupil survey*, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, University of Edinburgh (www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/PASS_SummaryReport0304.pdf)

Psychological factors and physical activity

Pupils with high self-esteem reported higher levels of moderate and vigorous physical activity than those with low self-esteem. Pupils who reported higher levels of perceived sports competence and exercise self-efficacy also reported higher levels of physical activity.

Boys reported higher levels of self-esteem, sports competence and exercise self-efficacy than girls.

Source: *Findings from the physical activity in Scottish schoolchildren (PASS) survey 2003/04: Summary of key findings from the 2003/04 pupil survey*, Child and Adolescent Health Research Unit, University of Edinburgh (www.education.ed.ac.uk/cahru/publications/PASS_SummaryReport0304.pdf)

Participation in youth work

Both local authority and voluntary sector youth work opportunities are available in every local authority area. Almost 8,800 local units are provided by the two sectors, although levels of provision vary according to area.

Almost one third of a million young people aged 5–25 were reported to have participated in voluntary and statutory youth work provision across Scotland in 2001–02. This represents 25% of the youth population.

The voluntary sector reported twice as many young people participating in youth work compared to the local authority sector, but this figure is heavily influenced by uniformed organisation provision for young people aged under 10, who account for half of the voluntary sector figures.

Young people tend to see youth work as providing opportunities for informal learning that complements learning in school, to take decisions and responsibility, and to develop positive relationships with adults.

Source: *Mapping the youth work sector in Scotland*, YouthLink Scotland for the Scottish Executive, (www.youthlink.co.uk/docs/lorna/Mapping%20Youth%20Work1.pdf)

Boys' football

Scotland has the lowest number of players as a percentage of population of several European nations, at 3.6% compared to 7.2% in Norway and 7.2% in the Netherlands. The percentage of players aged under 18 varies from 32.4% in Germany to 59% in Denmark

(which has a high number of community clubs). In Scotland, over half the number of players are under 18, indicating that there is likely to be a higher drop-out rate from youth to adult football in Scotland.

Source: *Youth football in Scotland: structure and development review*, Scottish FA (www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?curpageid=457)

Girls' football

Participation in girls' and women's football continues to increase, and there are over 57,000 girls in primary schools involved in the Scottish Football Association's co-ordinated schools programme, which covers the whole of Scotland, and a further 17,500 involved in mixed football at primary schools.

This is a very significant development in the women's game, as studies have shown that due to higher demands, girls develop better technical knowledge and ability at a faster rate when playing in mixed teams.

The consolidation of the secondary schools programme continues, with over 27,000 girls participating in co-ordinated programmes of activity.

Source: extracted from the *Scottish Football Association annual review 2005*, Scottish FA website (www.scottishfa.co.uk/scottish_football.cfm?curpageid=1014)

Girls and sport

According to research by SportScotland:

Sport and physical activity levels decline across the teenage years. For girls this decline starts from around age 12 and continues throughout adolescence. Many girls say that the increased competitiveness of sport in higher years influenced them to drop out.

Girls note that more time is spent encouraging younger girls to participate in physical activity and sport. Almost four girls in every five report that keeping fit and healthy is not that important to them.

Girls interviewed perceive a generally poor awareness of the importance of fitness and health in the Scottish population. Only 27% of girls believe that it is important for girls to be good at sport. However, physical activity is associated with more positive views of oneself, including physical self-worth and general self-esteem.

Some 24% of girls do not perceive their mothers as being supportive of their sport and physical activity participation; 33% do not perceive their fathers as being supportive. Seventy-four per cent of mothers and 64% of fathers are not regularly physically active. Both mothers' participation in physical activity and fathers' involvement and assistance are important in sustaining activity levels of adolescent girls. In addition, girls with brothers and sisters who are physically active are more likely to be active themselves, which may reflect a familial 'culture' of sport participation.

Some 35% of girls do not perceive themselves to be good at sport, which is negatively related to participation. General anxiety and self-consciousness is associated with lower perceived competence at sport. Girls who feel self-conscious are more likely to feel they aren't good at sport and do not want to participate. Schools are only addressing the association of low self-confidence and low participation in a limited way.

Many girls who feel that they are not good at sport and physical activity also report that they do not enjoy it and that they take part primarily because they have to, as opposed to taking part because they want to. Many of these girls also state that they would not carry on being active if it did not help with weight management.

Source: *Increasing demand for sport and physical activity for adolescent girls in Scotland*, SportsScotland, 3 March 2006 (www.sportscotland.org.uk/ChannelNavigation/Resource+Library/Publications/Increasing+demand+for+sport+and+physical+activity+by+girls.htm)

School grounds

Among primary schools, 45% have no sports pitches, compared to only 4% of secondary schools. Among secondary schools, 92% have at least one on-site sports pitch, compared with 52% of primary schools.

Grass pitches are the most common type of sports pitch; they are found in 25% of special school grounds, 44% of primary school grounds and 82% of secondary school grounds. The higher the school roll, the more likely a school is to possess its own on-site sports pitch. Secondary schools with more than 1,000 pupils have an average of 4.4 pitches, while those with at most 200 pupils have an average of 2.1 pitches.

The highest levels of ownership of on-site sports pitches and 'other' outdoor sports facilities are in secondary schools; 82% have a grass pitch, 43% have an athletics track, 21% have tennis courts, 15% have a synthetic surface pitch and 6% have a cricket wicket. Nine per cent of schools have access to their own off-site sports pitches.

The number of organised sports practised in school grounds varies across school types; on average, six sports are practised in secondary school grounds, compared to three in primary and two in special school grounds. The main sports played on an organised basis in school grounds are athletics, rugby, football, netball, rounders and hockey.

Some sports have a strong regional basis of participation, for example shinty (north west Scotland), rugby (south east Scotland and the Scottish Borders) and cricket (central/eastern Scotland).

Three-quarters of all schools report that either 'all' (45%) or 'almost all' (31%) of their pupils are engaged in active play during breaks, with primary schoolchildren being much more active than secondary school pupils.

School grounds are judged to be 'very useful' or 'essential' as a resource for sport in 72% of secondary schools and 42% of primary schools. Poor quality sports pitches are considered to be a problem in 35% of primary schools and 43% of secondary schools; this is the main school grounds problem in 26% of secondary schools.

Source: *School grounds in Scotland research report*, SportScotland, 23 March 2005 (www.sportscotland.org.uk/ChannelNavigation/Resource+Library/Publications/School+Grounds+in+Scotland.htm)

School clubs

Favourite indoor activities at school clubs include arts and crafts, board games, gym and football. Favourite outdoor activities include football, other sports and games, and visiting the park.

Children like to socialise with friends, take part in sport, games and role-playing, and make or eat snacks; 33% of children do their homework at the club or get help with their homework. Of the children who do not do their homework at the club, 23% would like to do it there.

Most children participated in activities at the club that they also do during the normal school day, including sport, art, drama, music and play. Half the children said they receive education about relationships and respect for others at both the school and the club.

About half of children who go to the clubs (but more girls than boys and more younger children than older children) would like a range of activities that are not available to them. These include sport, music, drama, art, green issues, healthy eating, and advice about drink, drugs and smoking.

Some 23% of children who go to the clubs also go to out of school hours learning (OSHL) or study support. In OSHL, they do sport, art, reading, writing, computing and music.

Children have very different experiences in terms of the quality of the club environment. Some like the space and freedom. Others think the building is very poor.

Seventy-four per cent of children who go to school-based out-of-school care said they like being in school after the school day ends.

Source: *School's out: Framework for the development of out-of-school care*, Scottish Executive, 2003
(www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/education/sofd.pdf)

Musical activity

There are between 55,000 and 60,000 individual young people in Scotland who take part in music activities each week; 100,000 young people would take part in music activities if given the opportunity.

The estimated total annual turnover of youth music in Scotland is £28 million. The average annual turnover of youth music organisations is £25,000.

The barriers to participation include fees for instrumental instruction, access to instruments, tutor availability and perceived cultural or gender obstacles.

Source: *What's going on? A national audit of youth music in Scotland*, 2003
(www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/latestnews/1000734.aspx)

Music and instrumental tuition, like art and design, drama and physical education, including dance, are the responsibility of education authorities and schools. Education authorities are not under statutory obligation to make particular levels of provision. A recent report published by the Scottish Council for Research in Education set out the following strengths of existing provision:

Most children in the primary years, and in the first two years of secondary school, receive instrumental tuition within class music lessons, in line with National Guidelines 5–14.

Many children at these stages can also choose to receive additional specialist tuition. Pupils who choose to study music at S3 and beyond receive specialist tuition in one or more instruments.

Source: 'Learning a musical instrument',
Scotland's national cultural strategy, Scottish Executive
(www.scotland.gov.uk/nationalculturalstrategy/docs/cult-09.asp)

Child protection

Child protection: key trends

Referrals to the Children's Hearings System

In 2004–05 a record 50,529 children were referred to Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), up 10% from the previous year. Around 4,000 more children than in 2003–04 were referred to SCRA for non-offence reasons, compared with an extra 1,000 children referred because of an offence. This represents a 6% increase in children referred on offence grounds since 2003–04 and a 12% increase in children referred on non-offence grounds. Since 1995, there has been a 155% increase in the number of children referred on non-offence grounds (these referrals include children who may be at risk). The number of children referred because they may have committed an offence rose 20% in the same period.

In 2005, 4.7% of Scotland's children (or around one in 20) were referred to the SCRA. Across local authority areas this figure ranged from 1.8% (Angus) to 8.9% (Clackmannanshire). Five local authority areas made up over 40% of SCRA referrals: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Fife, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire.

In 2004–05 the SCRA worked with around 17,000 young offenders. Of these young people 1,260 were persistent offenders (or 5% of all children referred). This small percentage made up around 30% of all the offences dealt with. However, the vast majority

of children referred to SCRA are children at risk; this could mean lack of parental care or being the victim of a serious offence, including sexual offences.

Source: *Executive Summary, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration 2004–2005* (www.scra.gov.uk/documents/SCRA_Executive_Summary_04_05.pdf)

Child protection registers

In 2004–05, the numbers of child protection case conferences, registrations, de-registrations and the number of children on the child protection register have decreased since 2003–04. However, the number of child protection referrals has increased substantially.

The number of child protection registrations due to physical neglect has been rising steadily since 2000–01. Registrations due to physical injury or sexual abuse have remained fairly constant since 1999–2000.

At 31 March 2005 there were 2,157 children on local child protection registers; this was 88 (or 4%) fewer than the number of children on registers one year before, and is equivalent to two children per 1,000 children aged under 16.

In 2004–05 the number of child protection referrals increased by 9%, from 8,366 referrals in 2003–04 to 9,132 referrals in 2004–05. The number of children subject to an initial case conference decreased by 1% and the number of children added to child protection registers decreased by 6%.

Of those children referred to local authorities in 2004–05, 36% were the subject of an inter-agency case

conference, compared to 40% in the previous year. In over 80% of instances where children were subject to a case conference, the child in question was living at home prior to being referred. In 80% of cases where the primary source of abuse/risk was known, the primary source was one or both of the child's birth parents. Of these case conferences, 69% resulted in the child being placed on the local child protection register (2,294 children), compared to 73% in the previous year.

In 2004–05 there was an increase in the number of children added to child protection registers because of physical neglect (up 2% from 2003–04). However, there were decreases in the number of children registered because of physical injury (down 15%), emotional abuse (down 13%) and sexual abuse (down 3%).

The number of children de-registered from child protection registers between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005 was 2,574. Over 70% of de-registered children had been on the register for less than one year. A similar to the number of boys and girls are on child protection registers, and over 80% of children on child protection registers are under the age of 11.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004-05*, Scottish Executive, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/10/2791127/11278)

Children of parents with drug or alcohol problems: national trends

A 2003 report by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, an independent expert body that advises government on drug-related issues in the UK,

estimated that there are 250,000–350,000 children of problem drug-users in the UK – about one for every problem drug user. The report, *Hidden harm: responding to the needs of children of problem drug users*, also estimated there are 41,000–59,000 children in Scotland with a problem drug-using parent. This represents about 4%–6% of all children aged under 16.

Source: *Hidden harm: responding to the needs of children of problem drug users*, Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, June 2003 (www.drugs.gov.uk/publication-search/acmd/hidden-harm)

For details of the Scottish Executive's response to the *Hidden harm* report in October 2004, refer to: www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/26350/0012816.pdf, and to *Hidden harm – next steps: working with children? Supporting parents*, Scottish Executive website, May 2006 (www.Scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/05/05/44237/0)

Scotland's 'hidden' victims

A report by Edinburgh University's Centre for Research on Families and Relationships (funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) on Scotland's 'hidden' victims, suggests that those with parents with an alcohol or substance misuse problem can be found among a surprisingly wide range of socio-economic groups. Although parental drug misuse is more likely to be restricted to those from socio-economically disadvantaged groups, alcohol problems span the social spectrum and are often linked to violence.

This qualitative study was undertaken in Scotland and explored the lives of 38 young people between the ages of 15 and 27, whose parents have or have had a drug and/or alcohol problem. Statistics from other studies show that three times as many children live with parents who have a drink problem as misuse drugs. In the UK

there are estimated to be 250,000–350,000 children living with parental drug misuse, compared to 920,000 living with parental alcohol misuse. While the report provides clear insights into the difficult lives of many vulnerable young people who are dealing with parents who misuse drugs and alcohol, the researchers acknowledge that this may only be the tip of the iceberg.

The report calls for young people to be involved in a debate about the type of support they need and value to enable them to cope better. It also calls for integrated policy and service provision, identifying children from all walks of life who need support earlier and continuing to support their needs as they reach young adulthood.

The report found:

- children whose parents misused drugs or alcohol felt their parents were sometimes unable to provide consistent practical and emotional care
- many young people felt their own childhood was shortened through having to take on adult roles caring for themselves, siblings and for their parents
- those with drug-misusing parents were more likely to feel socially stigmatised
- those with alcohol-using parents were more likely to experience violence and parental absence

Source: *Parental drug and alcohol misuse: Resilience and transition among young people*, Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 21 October 2004 (www.ed.ac.uk/news/alcoholdrugs.html)

The Scottish Executive's child protection reform programme

The second Scottish Child Protection Summit was held in Edinburgh on 22 March 2004. At the summit the following next steps in the Scottish Executive's three-year child protection reform programme were outlined:

- the publication of *Protecting children and young people: the charter*, which sets out what every child has the right to expect from the adults who care for them
- the development of a tough new inspection system, which will regularly check the quality of care that each vulnerable child receives
- a new national Framework for Standards for child protection that provides clear guidelines for all agencies, whether health, social services, education, police or justice
- £600,000 to train social workers, particularly those who work with children whose parents abuse drugs and alcohol
- the introduction of new measures to strengthen the role of child protection committees

Source: *Protecting Scotland's children and young people*, Scottish Executive, 2004
(www.scotland.gov.uk/about/ED/CnF/00017834/page54505105.aspx)

Children's services planning

A Scottish Executive update in October 2005 summarised the following developments relevant to its child protection reform programme:

Local planners are to provide annual updates of their plans.

Plans are to be joint productions by local authorities, NHS boards, police, local children's reporters, the voluntary sector, community groups and children and families.

Plans are to include previously separate plans for school education, children's social work, children's health and youth justice. Plans are to include services for children in need and child protection. Plans are to cover both universal services (eg education and healthcare) and those services providing more specialist and intensive interventions to support vulnerable/at risk children and youth offenders.

Local partnerships have been invited to set out local visions, shared objectives and priorities based on assessed needs, structures for multi-agency management and delivery, and ways in which progress and outcomes are to be measured.

The first round of plans has been submitted to the Executive, most well after the end-March deadline. Plans are being reviewed in the Executive, involving officials from education, justice, health and development departments.

Source: *Child protection reform update no.8 October 2005*, Scottish Executive, 17 November 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/17834/CPRPupdateoct05#top)

Child protection: the legislative framework

The seminal legislation in child protection is the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. The key pieces of recent legislation in relation to child protection in Scotland are the Police Act 1997, the Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003, and the Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005. The Scottish Executive is also committed to introducing new legislation to implement the key recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry report on child protection following the Soham tragedy.

The Police Act 1997

The Police Act 1997, passed by the UK Parliament and enacted in March 1997, extended access to criminal records information to cover all those who have substantial access to children, including those who work in voluntary organisations.

Source: *Access to criminal record information under Part V of The Police Act 1997*,
Scottish Parliament research note 00/20, 23 March 2000
(www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/pdf_res_notes/rn00-20.pdf)

Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003 (POCSA)

POCSA was passed by the Scottish parliament, and came into force on 10 January 2005. The Act is designed to help prevent people who are unsuitable to work with children and young people from undertaking childcare positions, through the following key provisions:

- The Act provides for Scottish Ministers to establish and keep the 'Disqualified from working with children list' (DWCL).
- An individual working in a childcare position, whether paid or unpaid, is to be referred to Scottish ministers for inclusion on the DWCL when they have harmed a child or put a child at risk of harm and have been dismissed or moved away from contact with children as a consequence.
- Organisations have a duty to refer such individuals to the Scottish ministers for possible inclusion on the DWCL. Failure to make a referral is an offence under the Act.

The DWCL will also include those convicted of an offence against a child, when the court has referred them because it considers them to be unsuitable to work with children.

Those on the DWCL (other than provisionally) are disqualified from working with children and will commit a criminal offence if they apply to or work with children.

The Act extends disqualifications that already exist in England and Wales to Scotland, except for those listed provisionally on the list kept for England and Wales under the Protection of Children Act 1999.

It will be an offence for an organisation to knowingly employ a person to work with children if that person is disqualified from working with children.

The Act provides safeguards for an individual, including the right to appeal to a sheriff against inclusion on the DWCL.

The fact that someone is disqualified from working with children will be released as part of a disclosure for a childcare position by Disclosure Scotland.

Source: *Protection of Children (Scotland) Act 2003: Guidance for organisations*, Scottish Executive education department, December 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/pcagfo.pdf)

DWLC referrals

Almost 90 cases have been referred to the list since 10 January 2005. As of the end of September 2005, 34 individuals were fully listed and 24 provisionally listed.

Source: *Child protection reform update no.8 October 2005*, Scottish Executive (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1044/0019309.doc)

Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2005

The Protection of Children and Prevention of Sexual Offences Act 2005 came into force on 2 June 2005. The key provisions of this legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament are as follows:

- It allows chief constables to apply to the sheriff court for a 'risk of sexual harm order' to restrict the activities of individuals believed to pose a risk of sexual harm to children, even if they have not been convicted.
- It strengthens the law by creating a specific offence to deal with those who groom children for the purposes of carrying out unlawful sexual activity.

- It extends existing laws relating to those who seek to make and distribute indecent images of children and young people.
- It introduces new offences to deal with those who purchase sexual services from under-18s and for those who encourage, control and arrange such services.
- It enables a sentencing judge to impose a 'sexual offences prevention order' to restrict the movements of sex offenders upon conviction, without the need – as at present – for further evidence of threatening behaviour post-conviction and a chief constable's application.

Source: 'Stronger protection for Scotland's children', Scottish Executive news release, 2 June 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/06/03102033)

Recent legislative and policy developments

The Joint Inspection of Children's Services and Social Work Services (Scotland) Act 2006

The Joint Inspection of Children's Services and Inspection of Social Work Services (Scotland) Act 2006 introduces new legal powers of joint inspection and access to information for those involved in inspecting children's services. It was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 19 January 2006.

The legislation applies to agencies such as Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE), the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA), Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC), the Scottish Commission for the Regulation of Care (SCRC) and NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS). It sets out to ensure that inspectors, as well as the individuals and organisations from which they may obtain information, are aware of the legal requirement and protocols involved in such information-sharing.

The legislation contains the following key provisions:

- Inspection teams are to be provided with relevant information and explanations pertinent to that information from individuals and agencies. The Act also provides for the sharing of this information within inspection teams.
- This information must be held in compliance with prescribed conditions and adhere to Data Protection and Human Rights legislation.
- Inspectors may enter any premises for the purposes of inspection.
- The Act allows for the creation of offences to enable enforcement of the legislation.

Source: 'New powers to improve child protection',
Scottish Executive news release, 31 October 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/10/31121220)

HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) has set out its joint inspection programme for child protection services across Scotland with the intention of ensuring vulnerable youngsters get the care and protection they

need from the authorities. Multi-disciplinary teams from HMIE's Services for Children Unit will visit nine councils, following successful pilot inspections in Highland and East Dunbartonshire in 2004. The aim is for every authority area to be inspected by 2008.

Source: 'Child Protection Inspection Programme',
Scottish Executive news release, 26 January 2006
(www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/01/26112529)

Review of the Children's Hearings System

The Scottish Executive has launched a review of the Children's Hearings System. The key findings of *Getting it right for every child*, the Scottish Executive's summary report on responses to the Phase I consultation, were as follows:

- There was particularly strong support for maintaining the principle of a child-centred system and ensuring that meeting the needs of children is the system's main objective.
- The vast majority of respondents felt strongly that the Children's Hearings System should remain focused on meeting the needs of individual children, rather than balancing these with the needs of family members and the wider community.
- Respondents generally agreed that there was a need for better evaluation of the impact of interventions on children who have been part of the Children's Hearings System.

- There was strong support for giving the Children's Services Inspection System a role in evaluating the effectiveness of the Children's Hearings System. However, a number of respondents said there must be more clarity about the roles of different bodies in auditing and evaluating the hearings system.
- There was strong support among respondents for maintaining the current system where all children and young people, regardless of whether they have been referred on care and protection grounds or offending grounds, come before a hearing made up of generalist panel members. There was very little support for establishing specialised hearings to deal with specific problems or issues.
- There were mixed views among respondents about how the Children's Hearings System should work with existing child protection procedures. There was general agreement that there needs to be more integration and co-ordination, but different views about how this could be achieved in practice.

Source: *Getting it right for every child*, Scottish Executive, 2004 (www.childrens-hearings.co.uk/pdf/Hearings%20Summ2.pdf)

Phase 2 of the consultation process focused on proposals to introduce new statutory duties requiring agencies to co-ordinate work in addressing children's needs; to redefine the grounds for referral to the Children's Hearings System and to introduce an integrated assessment framework for services. The Phase 2 consultation also sought views on proposals to introduce new duties to ensure legal representation for children in certain circumstances; and on placing the training, recruitment and support of panel members

on a regional or national footing. The Scottish Executive is expected to publish its Phase 2 report in the first half of 2006, with legislation to implement the Executive's reforms expected to follow.

Source: 4 Nations Child Policy Network website, 21 June 2005 (<http://childpolicyinfo.childreninscotland.org.uk/index/news-app/story.2009>)

The 21st Century Social Work Review

The 21st Century Social Work Review was an independent review, commissioned in the summer of 2004 to take a fundamental look at all aspects of social work in order to strengthen its contribution to the delivery of integrated services. Social workers have a key role to play in child protection, and the review is likely to impact upon their work in this area. In particular, it aimed to:

- define the role and purpose of social workers and the social work profession
- identify improvements in the organisation and delivery of social work services
- develop a strong quality improvement framework and culture, supported by robust inspection
- strengthen leadership and management, giving clear direction to the service
- ensure a competent and confident workforce
- review and, if necessary, modernise

Peter Peacock MSP, Minister for Education and Young People, launched *Changing Lives*, the 21st Century Social Work Review report on 7 February 2006.

From extensive consultation across Scotland and consideration of a wide range of evidence, the report drew three overriding conclusions:

Doing more of the same won't work. Increasing demand, greater complexity and rising expectations mean that the current situation is not sustainable. Tomorrow's solutions will need to engage people as active participants, delivering accessible, responsive services of the highest quality and promoting well-being.

Social work services don't have all the answers. They need to work closely with other universal providers in all sectors to find new ways to design and deliver services across the public sector. Tomorrow's solutions will involve professionals, services and agencies from across the public, private and voluntary sectors in a concerted and joined-up effort, building new capacity in individuals, families and communities and focusing on preventing problems before they damage people's life chances.

Social workers' skills are highly valued and increasingly relevant to the changing needs of society. Yet we are far from making the best use of these skills. Tomorrow's solutions will need to make the best use of skills across the public sector workforce, refocusing on the core values of social work and its mission of enabling all people to develop their full potential, enrich their lives and prevent dysfunction. Social workers will need to make effective use of therapeutic relationships and find new ways to manage risk.

The main proposals of *Changing Lives* are as follows:

- national standards to be set for social work
- social workers to be given more freedom to do their work by devolving more responsibility to front-line social workers
- professional standards to be developed and improved through a framework for continuous development
- 'para-professionals' to be introduced to undertake certain duties, and to free up more of front line social workers' time with clients
- people who use social work services and their carers to be given a greater say in decisions about the design and delivery of their own care plans
- new performance assessment processes to be introduced to promote continuous improvement
- greater investment to be made in professional leadership, including strengthening the chief social work officer's role

Scottish Ministers have confirmed that legislation will be introduced to provide the framework for national priorities and continuous improvement after the 2007 elections.

Source: *Changing lives: summary report of the 21st Century Social Work Review*, Scottish Executive, 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/91949/0021950.pdf)

Major social work modernisation programme, Scottish Executive news release, 7 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/07102051)

Implementing the recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry report

The Scottish Executive has launched a consultation document, *Protecting vulnerable groups: Scottish vetting and barring scheme*, which outlines its proposals for new legislation to implement some of the key recommendations of the Bichard Inquiry report. This legislation will 'set the framework for a new vetting and barring scheme for people seeking work, whether paid or unpaid, with children or vulnerable adults'. The key proposals are:

- the introduction of a list of those unsuitable to work with adults at risk, to run alongside an extended Disqualified from Working with Children List
- the continuous updating of the barred lists, and notification of an employer if new information comes to light
- the introduction of a 'vetting and barring disclosure check' to centralise and streamline the existing process
- the establishing of a Central Barring Unit to assess whether someone should be placed on one or both of the lists
- allowing parents and personal employers – as well as organisations – to use the vetting and barring disclosure system, for example, to enable them to check whether a private tutor or personal carer is on a barred list

The Scottish Executive has also confirmed that as an interim measure, to further improve the existing disclosure system ahead of these legislative changes, from April 2006 it will:

- widen employers' access to enhanced disclosure checks to cover all posts that involve working with children and adults at risk, in line with Bichard recommendation 21
- provide more robust measures to help verify the identify of applicants, including giving Disclosure Scotland access to a wider range of information, such as that held by the UK Passport Agency and the DVLA

The new system will ensure a consistent and comprehensive package of measures to aid safer recruitment across vulnerable groups. These will be complementary to a range of legislative proposals contained within the Protection of Adults (Scotland) Bill, which aims to improve the care and protection of adults at risk.

Source: 'Plans to enhance protection for vulnerable groups', Scottish Executive news release, 8 February 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/08144956)

Looked-after children

Definition of looked-after children

Children and young people under the care and supervision of a local authority are referred to as 'looked after'. Looked-after children fall into two categories:

1. Looked after and accommodated: these are children and young people placed with foster carers, in a residential setting, or with relatives by the local authority or by the Children's Hearings System
2. Looked after at home: these are children who are made subject to a supervision requirement via the Children's Hearings System but remain at home with their families, receiving support and assistance to address the grounds of referral that led to their attendance at a children's hearing

The principal legislation that outlines local authorities' responsibilities towards looked-after children is the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, in particular:

- Under Section 25 children and young people may be looked after and accommodated usually with foster carers, at the request of their parents. This is normally with the voluntary agreement of their parents.
- Section 70 provides that children may become subject to supervision requirements, either at home or accommodated through the decision of a children's hearing.

- Section 86 contains provisions relating to the small number of looked-after children who are subject to parental responsibilities orders because they are unable to be returned to their parents' care, and the local authority has been required to undertake parental responsibilities.

Source: Clackmannanshire Council Online
(www.clacksweb.org.uk/children/lookedafterchildren)

Total number of looked-after children

There were over 12,185 children looked after by local authorities on 31 March 2005. This was 4% higher than in 2004 (11,675). An additional 2,003 children were looked after on a series of short-term respite placements, the lowest number since March 2000.

The number of children starting to be looked after during the 2004/05 financial year was 4,333, 5% fewer than in 2003/04. The only groups within which there was an increase in starting to be looked after were boys less than one year old and girls aged 1–4 years.

The number of children ceasing to be looked after during the 2004/05 financial year was 3,566, 11% fewer than in 2003/04. (A single child can start and cease to be looked after multiple times within a year.)

On 31 March 2005 the majority of children (57%) were looked after at home with their parents or with family or friends. Approximately 29% were looked after with foster carers or prospective adopters, and 13% in residential accommodation.

Most looked-after children on 31 March 2005 were looked after under supervision requirements. Only 15 children were looked after under criminal court provision, the smallest number since 1999–2000.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, Scottish Executive, 28 October 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Young people in foster care

There are currently 3,500 children and young people in foster care in Scotland, not including those living with family members and friends. These children are looked after by 2,500 foster families.

Foster carers are now Scotland's primary resource for children in the care system. Many of the children and young people now in foster care in Scotland are subject to a supervision requirement made at a children's hearing.

Almost one in three (30%) of children and young people in foster care in Scotland are moved more than three times in their first year in foster care. In England the figure is around one in eight (13%).

One in every four children going into foster care in Scotland will be in a foster family that already cares for four or more children; 6% of children will be in a foster family caring for six or more children. This situation occurs in Scotland because legislation is not yet in place to regulate the number of foster placements per family. There is currently a shortage of 700 foster carers in Scotland. This is an 8% increase from 2002, when it was estimated to be 650.

The Scotland figures take the overall shortage of UK foster carers to 10,000: shortages in England (8,200), Wales (750) and Northern Ireland (350) were released in August. This is a 28% increase for the UK from 2002, when the figure was 7,800.

Source: The Fostering Network website, April 2006
(www.fostering.net/scotland/fostering.php)

Key trends in fostering services

According to figures produced by the Fostering Network, there is an estimated shortfall of almost 1,700 foster families across Scotland. A report published by the Fostering Network in October 2005 suggests that fostering services in Scotland are under considerable strain. *Caring for our children: foster care in Scotland*, based on a survey of foster carers and providers, describes a fostering service struggling to cope with the demands placed upon the service. Its key findings are:

- An estimated one in every four children going into foster care in Scotland will be in a foster family that already cares for four or more children, while 50% of all fostering households will have three or more fostered children (Note: In Scotland there is no statutory provisions limiting the number of foster placements, but in the rest of the UK there is a limit of three fostered children per family.)
- While it is encouraging to note that 94% of children looked after have a named social worker, only 70% have realistic and achievable care plans, and 17% do not have these reviewed within the required six-monthly intervals.

- The number of children who are fostered beyond the geographical boundaries of their responsible local authority, or with fostering agencies other than their responsible local authority, has increased to 30% of all placements.
- Local authorities are the major providers of the fostering services, with 91% of all the fostering households in Scotland supported by local authority fostering teams. The voluntary sector provide 6% and the independent fostering agencies provide 3%.
- The average age of children currently in foster care is 10 years and nine months.
- The average length of each child's foster placement is currently three years and 11 months, but the average length of placement varies across agencies from seven years in one agency to two years in others.
- The profile of children in foster care in Scotland is culturally more diverse than the foster carers, with 2.5% of children from an ethnic minority background other than British while only 0.6% of the foster carers are from other cultures and communities.

Source: As reported in 'Foster services under strain, report warns', Fostering Network website, 18 October 2005
(<http://www.fostering.net/news/?article=6090229>)

See also *Caring for our children: foster care in Scotland*, Fostering Network website (http://www.fostering.net/scotland/caring_for_our_children/)

Young people in secure accommodation

Five secure units provided a total of 93 secure places during the year to 31 March 2005 three places fewer than the previous year. There was an average of 87 residents in secure accommodation throughout 2004–05, ranging from 76 to 95 (there were 95 residents at the beginning of the year, before the number of beds was reduced from 96 to 93). There were 273 admissions to secure accommodation in 2004–05, an increase of 13% from 2003–04. There was a 19% rise in the number of discharges, to 281.

Almost half (49%) of all the children admitted to secure accommodation during the year were 15 years old. Approximately 37% of children admitted to secure accommodation were previously living with parents, other relatives or friends. Girls were more likely than boys to be admitted from foster care or a children's home, whereas boys were more likely to be admitted from the parental home, relatives or friends.

On 31 March 2005, 65% of young people in secure accommodation were males. Some 31% of young people discharged during 2004–05 had been in secure accommodation for less than a month, up 7% from the previous year; 4% had been in secure accommodation for more than 12 months, down 9% from the previous year.

Approximately 38% of children and young people were admitted to secure accommodation under a Place of Safety Order or warrant made under the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

The average cost per bed per week was £3,458. Given the demand in the year to 31 March 2005, the estimated annual cost for secure accommodation in Scotland was £16.6 million, an 8% increase from the previous 12-month period.

Forty per cent of all young people leaving secure accommodation in 2004–05 returned to the same type of placement that they were in before being admitted. In most cases, children were living with parents/friends/relatives prior to admission and returned to them on discharge.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, Scottish Executive, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Support for young people leaving care

During 2004–05 around 1,114 people in Scotland left care and were eligible for aftercare support. Forty-one per cent of young people leaving care had a pathway plan, down 4% from the previous year, and 56% had a pathway-co-ordinator, up 3% from the previous year.

Including people who had left care in previous years, a total of 2,245 people were eligible for aftercare support. Social work departments were no longer in touch with 25% of these people. Forty-one per cent of people receiving aftercare support whose economic status was known were in employment, education or training, 5% more than the previous 12-month period. There were 1,015 care leavers entitled to aftercare with unknown economic status (equating to 45%).

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, Scottish Executive, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Mental health of looked-after children and young people

In 2004 the Scottish Executive published a report about the mental health of young people in residential care in Scotland. The key findings were:

Among children and young people aged 5–17 who were looked after by local authorities, 45% were assessed as having a mental disorder: 38% had clinically significant conduct disorders, 16% were assessed as having emotional disorders (anxiety and depression), and 10% were rated as hyperactive.

Two-thirds of all looked-after children were reported to have at least one physical complaint. The most commonly reported physical complaints were: eye and/or sight problems (19%), bed-wetting (14%), speech or language problems (12%), asthma (12%) and difficulty with co-ordination (10%).

Some 29% of children had been in trouble with the police in the past 12 months.

Thirty-nine per cent of all children had used cannabis at some point in their lives; cannabis was the most frequently reported drug they had used. Nearly half of these children (ie 21%) had used it in the past month.

Over a third of all the young people (38%) reported that they had had sexual intercourse: 17% of the young people had been raped or had experienced some other form of sexual abuse.

Source: *The mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in Scotland*, Office for national statistics, Scottish Executive, May 2004 (www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/Mentalhealth_Scotland_summary.pdf)

There were no significant differences in the prevalence of mental disorders between Scotland (45%), England (45%) and Wales (49%). The Office for National Statistics surveyed the mental health of a representative sample of 10,500 children living in private households in 1999. Comparisons with those results show that among 5–10 year olds the rate of disorders among children looked after by local authorities compared to children in the private household survey was:

- emotional disorders: 14% (4% of children in private households)
- conduct disorders: 44% (4% of children in private households)
- hyperkinetic disorders: 11% (1% of children in private households)
- any childhood mental disorder: 52% (8% of children in private households)

Among 11–15 year olds the prevalence of mental disorders among children looked after by local authorities compared to children in the private household survey was:

- emotional disorders: 14% (5% of children in private households)
- conduct disorders: 35% (6% of children in private households)
- hyperkinetic disorders: 8% (1% of children in private households)

- any childhood mental disorder: 41% (9% of children in private households)

Source: 'Mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in Scotland', Office for National Statistics news release, 27 May 2004

General health of looked-after children

Children living with foster carers are more likely to be rated by their carers as having very good health (70%), compared with children living in any other placement type, particularly those living in residential care (38%).

Over two-thirds (72%) of children who have been in their current placement for two years or more were assessed as having very good health, compared with just under half (47%) of those who have been in their placement for less than two years. The characteristics and circumstances of children in long-term placements tends to be different from those of children in short-term placements.

Only 6% of the children surveyed were reported to be taking one of 14 types of medication commonly used in the treatment of childhood mental disorders. However, a fifth of those diagnosed as having a hyperkinetic or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are taking psycho-stimulants (eg Methylphenidate, Equasym, Ritalin, Dexamphetamine/Dexedrine).

Source: 'Mental health of young people looked after by local authorities in Scotland', Office for National Statistics news release, 27 May 2004 (www.google.co.uk/search?q=cache:VIZYglTYEfQJ:www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/mhs0504.pdf+looked+after+children+in+scotland&hl=en)

Qualifications attained by looked-after children

In 2004–05 approximately 45% of care leavers aged 16–17 achieved at least one qualification at SCQF Level 3 or above, 3% more than in 2003–04.

Approximately 22% of leavers who had been looked after at home achieved SCQF Level 3 or above in Mathematics and English, compared to 39% of those who had been looked after away from home. Overall, 30% of care leavers achieved Mathematics and English at SCQF Level 3 or above, 2% more than in 2003–04.

Further details about the qualifications attained by looked-after children are outlined in Table 12.1.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Table 12.1: Number of 16–17 year olds leaving care with any qualifications, 2004–05

Local authority area	Leavers from care		% with at least 1 qualification at SCQF level 3 or above			% change since 2004–05		
	at home	away from home	Looked after at home	Looked after away from home	Total	Looked after at hom	Looked after away from home	Total
Aberdeen City	18	21	39	57	49	24	-6	11
Aberdeenshire	16	20	56	80	69	22	8	14
Angus	8	9	*	67	*	*	17	*
Argyll & Bute	30	8	37	*	*	-13	*	*
Clackmannanshire	5	5	*	*	70	*	*	-1
Dumfries & Galloway	24	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Dundee City	40	14	35	*	*	0	*	*
East Ayrshire	16	14	38	43	40	13	-7	7
East Dunbartonshire	9	8	56	63	59	-14	*	-12
East Lothian	—	15	—	53	—	—	-4.7	—
East Renfrewshire	12	*	42	*	*	-42	*	*
Edinburgh, City of	13	47	40	51	45	3	2	3
Eilean Siar	6	5	*	*	64	*	*	-36
Falkirk	11	7	*	*	44	*	*	-7
Fife	11	30	55	30	37	39	-48	-19
Glasgow City	121	62	24	52	33	2	-3	0
Highland	22	12	36	67	47	-39	-8	-28
Inverclyde	5	14	0	36	26	0	6	1
Midlothian	9	10	*	50	*	—	—	—
Moray	9	13	*	69	*	*	29	*
North Ayrshire	26	12	65	75	68	33	13	23
North Lanarkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orkney Isles	—	0	100	0	100	0	-100	0
Perth & Kinross	14	6	14	33	20	3	17	7
Renfrewshire	—	25	—	68	—	—	4	—
Scottish Borders	15	6	53	67	57	3	33	13
Shetland	6	0	*	0	*	*	*	*
South Ayrshire	13	11	46	82	63	-31	23	-4
South Lanarkshire	—	18	—	44	—	—	-14	—
Stirling	—	18	*	78	*	*	33	*
West Dunbartonshire	16	14	50	64	57	-21	6	-7
West Lothian	12	17	67	47	55	-33	-1	-12
Scotland	533	447	37	55	45	2	3	3

Notes: Cells containing * represent small numbers that are suppressed to maintain confidentiality. Cells contain – where authorities were unable to provide data. Aberdeen City data excludes three children for whom educational attainment was unknown. East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Highland and Scottish Borders data revised for 2003/04. Midlothian data for 2003–04 withdrawn. Some authorities included 18-year-old care leavers. Scotland totals should be used with caution due to incompleteness of data.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Achievements of looked-after young people

In a study of the self-reported achievements of looked-after young people (170 young people were interviewed), more than half the young people eligible to sit formal academic qualifications reported not having achieved any. Other findings include:

- The young people who did achieve did less well than the national average.
- Young people in residential units did less well than their counterparts in other care settings.
- In most care settings females outperformed males, yet in residential units both sexes performed poorly.
- A significant number of young people, of an appropriate age, had achieved no qualifications and reported not working towards any.
- More than half the young people responding expressed their aspiration to achieve academically.
- Few of the young people were aiming for third level education.

- Females aspired to university more than males.
- Younger children's aspirations lay in the social aspect of school life.
- Young people without educational aims were more likely to live in residential units.
- The 14–16 age group was the group most likely to be concerned about their self-esteem.
- Positive relationships with teachers were a key motivation.
- Escaping from their living situation was a key motivation for some young people living in residential units.
- Younger children were motivated by the need to learn.
- Care leavers acknowledged parental influence as a motivating factor.
- The vast majority of all unofficial school leavers were aged 14–16.
- Male unofficial school leavers were on average younger than their female counterparts.
- Sixty-five per cent of all unofficial school leavers were living in residential units.
- Those unofficial school leavers receiving no further educational input were all living in residential units.
- Most of the young people who were out of school had been so for between six months and a year.
- Familiar reasons for their disengagement include exclusion, lack of placement and bullying.

Young people's recommendations fell broadly into three categories, namely:

In the classroom:

- increase the number of teachers and support staff
- increase class resources
- decrease class sizes

In school:

- increase levels of participation
- increase and improve understanding of issues faced by looked-after young people
- introduce effective measures to tackle bullying

Strategic:

- alter eligibility for financial assistance

Young people also recorded specific recommendations for residential schools.

Source: A different class? Educational attainment: the views and experiences of looked-after young people (2003), Who Cares Scotland? on behalf of the Scottish Executive, October 26 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/dcea.pdf)

Exclusions of looked-after children

Looked-after children are more likely to be excluded from school. During 2002–03, there were an average of 227 exclusions per 1,000 looked-after children, compared to just 50 exclusions per 1,000 pupils overall. The majority of these exclusions are temporary and refer to cases of exclusion, not the number of pupils excluded, as some pupils were excluded more than once during the year.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2003–04*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication, 26 October 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/bulletins/00369-00.asp)

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, a Scottish Executive national statistics publication (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Homelessness and care leavers

The percentage of care leavers still in touch with local authorities who were known to have had an episode of homelessness since leaving care fell by 4% to 11% in 2004–05.

Source: *Children's social work statistics 2004–05*, Scottish Executive, 28 October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018789.pdf)

Looked-after children and youth offending

The picture in relation to accommodated children who commit crimes or anti-social behaviour is particularly stark. Recent research raises the question of whether children in care are being criminalised, as opposed to having their needs met.

The Scottish Executive's *Fast track children's hearings pilot: Final report of the evaluation* certainly points in this direction. The report suggests that in some cases the young person's qualification for fast track came about as a result of offences committed in residential care:

'In the light of concerns expressed at the interim report stage of the research, the extent of this 'problem' was explored by Bradshaw (2005). He found that 13% of offences committed by young people in Fast Track prior to being flagged took place in a residential establishment. Many of these young people only met the entry criterion for Fast Track because offences committed inside the establishment took them above the five referrals in six months threshold. Strikingly, over three-quarters (86%) of those who had been living in residential establishments had such an offence.'

Source: *Fast track children's hearings pilot: Final report of the evaluation*, Scottish Executive, March 2005 (www.scottishExecutive.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013029.pdf)

Recent policy and legislative developments

National Fostering Strategy

Peter Peacock MSP, the Minister for Education and Young People, has instructed officials to develop a national fostering strategy for Scotland. The Minister has also urged more families to consider fostering children, and announced that the Scottish Executive 'will soon seek more powers from Parliament to give Ministers the ability to support fostering more effectively'.

Source: National Fostering Strategy, Scottish Executive news release, 22 March 2006 (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/03/22135451>)

The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Bill

The Adoption Policy Review Group was commissioned in April 2001 by the Minister for Education and Young People to undertake a review of adoption practice and law in Scotland. The review process has now been completed, and the First Minister confirmed its commitment to introduce an Adoption Bill in his statement in September 2005, outlining the Scottish Executive's legislative programme. The Adoption and Children (Scotland) Bill has now been introduced in the Scottish parliament.

The main provisions of the Bill seek to:

- modernise the law to secure more stability and permanence in the lives of vulnerable children
- introduce new permanence orders
- increase children's rights and security
- provide better support for adopted children and families, including natural grandparents
- allow both partners in an unmarried couple (including same-sex couples), who are in an enduring family relationship, to adopt as a couple

Source: *Scottish Executive 2005 legislative programme: background briefing*, 6 September 2005
www.scotland.gov.uk/News/News-Extras/bkgrdbrfsg#a1
 Source: *Shake-up to modernise adoption system*,
 Scottish Executive news release, 28 March 2006

Statistics and further information about key adoption trends can be found in the chapter on population.

Children, young people, crime and the law

Recorded crime: key trends

Latest data from all Scotland's eight police forces reveals that between April and December 2005 more than 756,000 crimes committed by all age groups were reported, 45,000 fewer than in the same period in 2004. This was a fall of 6%.

Violent non-sexual crimes [committed by all age groups] fell even further, by 11% from 11,501 to 10,266. A similar drop was seen in sex crimes, which fell from 5,612 to 4,998. Crimes of dishonesty were down 10% from 159,596 to 143,735. The number of 'category four' crimes (mainly vandalism and fire-raising) barely changed, while miscellaneous offences (including petty assault, breach of the peace and drunkenness) appear to have risen slightly and are being carried out at a rate of 600 per day. 'Category five crime' (including drugs, bail and firearms offences) rose from 58,001 to 60,446 – an increase of 4%.

Despite the current drop, Scotland's crime rate remains historically high. In 2004–05 a record 1,071,075 incidents were recorded. The rise was partly inflated by the introduction of a new crime reporting standard, which means corroborative evidence is no longer required for police to log a complaint as a crime. But the number of crimes committed has exceeded 900,000 every year since 1990, and compares with an annual crime rate of about 200,000 in the 1940s and 1950s.

Source: 'Scotland safer as crime falls by 6%', *The Scotsman*, 14 February 2006
<http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=229592006>

Youth crime in Scotland

Youth crime estimates, recorded crime

The *Measurement of the Extent of Youth Crime in Scotland*, a report commissioned by the Scottish Executive, provides an estimate of the number of crimes committed by young people (aged 21 and under) using data from the Children's Hearings system and the courts.

The key findings of the report were:

- 43% of all crimes and offences in Scotland are attributable to young people under the age of 21.
- It is estimated that young people are responsible for around 30,000 incidents of violent crime, over 48,000 break-ins, around 20,000–30,000 motor vehicle thefts, over one million counts of shoplifting and around 300,000 acts of vandalism.
- As anticipated, young people are responsible for higher proportions of offences such as fire-raising (86%), vandalism (75%), theft of motor vehicles (75%), theft by opening lockfast places (65%), handling offensive weapons (59%) and housebreaking (55%).
- Young people seem less likely to commit crimes of indecency (41%), certain crimes of dishonesty such as fraud and reset (30%) and motor vehicle offences (26%).
- Most youth crime is theft-related, particularly shoplifting. It is estimated that there are around two million crimes of dishonesty per year involving young people in Scotland.

- It is suggested in the report that the relatively low proportion of drug crime being the responsibility of young people (one-third) might be because very few drug offences are detected and result in any form of proceedings.

Further details can be found in Table 13.1.

Table: 13.1 Youth crime estimates, recorded crime

Crime category	No. of recorded crimes	% of crimes due to young people	No. of recorded crimes due to young people
Violent crime	16,461	42%	6,957
Serious assault	7,631	43%	3,272
Robbery	4,938	60%	2,975
Other	3,892	18%	710
Crimes of indecency	6,552	41%	2,705
Crimes of dishonesty	235,668	54%	127,284
Housebreaking	43,808	55%	24,019
Theft by opening lockfast places	40,000	65%	26,066
Theft of a motor vehicle	22,495	75%	16,914
Shoplifting	29,514	42%	12,420
Other theft	75,003	54%	40,348
Other	24,821	30%	7,516
Fire raising, vandalism etc.	95,470	75%	71,953
Fire raising	3,624	86%	3,134
Vandalism	91,846	75%	68,819
Other crimes	72,883	39%	28,558
Crimes against public justice	22,671	40%	9,044
Handling offensive weapon	9,691	59%	5,728
Drugs	40,379	34%	13,766
Other	142	–	–
All crime	427,034	56%	237,487
Miscellaneous offences	167,539	47%	79,249
Motor vehicle offences	341,316	26%	87,994
All offences	508,855	33%	167,243
All crimes and offences	935,889	43%	404,730

Source: *Measurement of the Extent of Youth Crime in Scotland* report by DTZ Pieda Consulting, commissioned by the Scottish Executive, Scottish Executive website, 1 April 2005 (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/31141334/13357>)

Youth crime estimates by age and sex

The report also provides estimates of youth crime by age and sex using data from the Children's Hearings system and the courts. Its main findings are:

- It is estimated that 43% of all crimes and offences in Scotland is attributable to young people under the age of 21. As anticipated, young people are responsible for higher proportions of offences such as fire-raising (86%), vandalism (75%), theft of motor vehicles (75%), theft by opening lockfast places (65%), handling offensive weapons (59%) and housebreaking (55%). Young people seem less likely to commit crimes of indecency (41%), other crimes of dishonesty such as fraud and reset (30%) and motor vehicle offences (26%).
- It is estimated that the bulk of youth crime is attributable to those aged 18–21 (49%) particularly violent crime, other crimes of dishonesty such as fraud and reset, crimes against public justice such as bail offences and motor vehicle offences. This age group commits relatively few crimes of vandalism. The under-15s commit over one-third of youth crime, with the remainder attributable to those aged 16–17.
- The peak age for offending seems to be the late teens and early 20s.
- Most youth crime is theft-related. It is estimated that there are around two million crimes of dishonesty per year involving young people in Scotland. These findings would appear to be in line with previous research.

- It was expected that the under-15s would account for relatively high proportions of fire-raising and vandalism and relatively low proportions of violent crime and other crimes. What was not expected was the high proportion of crimes of indecency attributable to this age group (60% of all crimes of indecency committed by those under 21). Crimes of indecency includes rape, attempted rape, lewd and indecent behaviour and offences such as prostitution. It is not clear why those under-15 appear more likely to commit such offences compared to the rest of those under-21.
- Those aged 16–17 commit relatively high proportions of motor vehicle theft and robbery.
- Young men account for a very high proportion of youth crime, at around 87% of all crime attributable to the under-21 age group, this is slightly higher than previous research suggests.
- Females only account for around 13% of all youth crime, but relatively large proportions of shoplifting offences and other types of violent crime (which includes cruel and unnatural treatment of children).

Further details can be found in Table 13.2.

Table 13.2: Youth crime estimates by age and sex

Crime category	% of youth crime due to 15 & under	Estimated no. of actual incidents due to 15 & under (000)	% of youth crime due to 16-17	Estimated no. of actual incidents due to 16-17 (000)	% of youth crime due to 18-21	Estimated no. of actual incidents due to 18-21 (000)	% of youth crime due to males	Estimated no. of actual incidents due to males (000)	% of youth crime due to females	Estimated no. of actual incidents due to females (000)
Violent crime	24%	7-9	20%	6-7	56%	15-19	90%	24-30	10%	3-4
Serious Assault	28%	2-3	18%	2	61%	6-8	92%	9-12	8%	1
Robbery	21%	4-5	24%	3-4	49%	7-9	89%	13-16	11%	2
Other	25%	0-1	9%	-	67%	1-2	69%	2	31%	0-1
Crimes of indecency	60%	5-6	14%	1	27%	2-3	85%	7-9	14%	1-2
Crimes of dishonesty	34%	648-688	17%	248-267	49%	948-996	85%	1304-1403	15%	540-548
Housebreaking	40%	21-31	17%	8-11	43%	20-30	95%	46-69	5%	2-3
Theft by opening lockfast places	36%	20-29	18%	9-13	46%	24-36	96%	50-76	4%	2
Theft of a motor vehicle	27%	5-9	25%	4-8	47%	8-16	96%	16-33	4%	1
Shoplifting	39%	497	13%	158	48%	187	54%	803	36%	439
Other theft	38%	63-78	17%	27-34	4%	72-89	87%	141-176	13%	21-26
Other	12%	43	14%	42	74%	238	77%	247	23%	77
Fire-raising, vandalism, etc.	65%	185-231	12%	36-44	23%	67-84	90%	260-325	10%	28-34
Fire-raising	81%	10-12	9%	1	10%	1-2	90%	12-14	10%	1
Vandalism	64%	175-219	13%	34-43	23%	66-82	90%	248-311	10%	26-33
Other crimes	24%	7	16%	4	60%	17	90%	26	10%	3
Crimes against public justice	14%	1	18%	2	68%	6	86%	8	14%	1
Handling offensive weapon	38%	2	19%	1	44%	2	96%	6	4%	-
Drugs	25%	4	11%	2	63%	9	89%	12	11%	-
Misc. offences	48%	38	14%	11	38%	30	82%	65	18%	14
Motor vehicle offences	10%	8	16%	14	75%	66	95%	83	5%	5
All crimes and offences	36%	899-988	15%	319-349	49%	1145-1214	87%	1769-1942	13%	594-609

Note: Figures may not sum 100% or to their totals due to rounding.

Source: *Measurement of the extent of youth crime in Scotland*,
Report by DTZ Pidea Consulting commissioned by the
Scottish Executive, Scottish Executive Website, 1 April 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/31141334/13357)

Table 13.3: Number of children referred to the Children's Reporter by local authority 2003–04

Local authority	Children referred in 2003–04	Percentage of the child population referred
Aberdeen City	1,196	3.2%
Aberdeenshire	767	1.4%
Angus	532	2.3%
Argyll & Bute	951	5.1%
Clackmananshire	721	6.6%
Dumfries & Galloway	1,512	5.0%
Dundee City	1,626	5.7%
East Ayrshire	1,123	4.3%
East Dunbartonshire	528	2.2%
East Lothian	675	3.2%
East Renfrewshire	414	1.9%
Edinburgh, City of	3,941	4.9%
Eilean Siar	245	4.4%
Falkirk	1,601	5.1%
Fife	1,936	2.5%
Glasgow City	8,442	7.3%
Highland	2,023	4.5%
Inverclyde	865	4.8%
Midlothian	978	5.3%
Moray	635	3.3%
North Ayrshire	1,525	5.0%
North Lanarkshire	2,786	3.8%
Orkney Islands	107	2.5%
Perth & Kinross	753	2.6%
Renfrewshire	1,589	4.3%
Scottish Borders	816	3.6%
Shetland Islands	151	2.9%
South Ayrshire	895	4.0%
South Lanarkshire	2,379	3.6%
Stirling	1,068	5.6%
West Dunbartonshire	1,432	7.0%
West Lothian	1,699	4.4%
SCOTLAND	45,793*	4.3%

Source: *First quarter performance report 2005–06: Executive summary*,
Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
(www.scra.gov.uk/documents/Q1_Performance_2005_06.pdf)

In the first quarter of 2004–05 (1 April to 30 June 2004) there was:

- a 10% increase in children referred to the Children's Reporter compared with 2003–04
- a 12% increase in total referrals over the same period
- a 6% increase in children under current supervision requirements, equating to 612 extra children in the system
- a 3% increase in hearings held over the same period, equating to 1,016 extra hearings

This created a challenging operating context that continued into the first quarter of 2005–06 (1 April to 30 June 2005). In summary:

- the number of children referred to the reporter in the first quarter of 2005–06 remains high at 16,747, although there was a marginal drop of 2% from the previous quarter
- the number of children referred on offence grounds in this quarter increased by 15% when compared with the last quarter of 2004–05 (up from 5,984 to 6,903)
- the number of children referred on non-offence grounds remained high at 10,880 for the quarter, although there was a drop from the previous quarter of just under 9%
- the number of hearings held in the first three months of 2005–06 increased by 8% (up from 8,932 at the end of 2004–05 to 9,641)

- With regard to the national performance targets, nationally there has been a 10% increase in the number of new persistent young offenders in the first quarter (up from 167 at the end of 2004/05 to 183 in the first quarter of 2005–06.)
- With regard to Children's Hearings System targets, the percentage of re-referrals to the reporter on offence grounds increased from 37% at the end of 2004–05 to 45% in the first quarter of 2005–06. Further information is set out in Table 13.4 at the end.
- With regard to Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) targets, despite increases in referral activity the time taken for decisions on all referrals made within 50 working days improved in the first quarter of 2005–06 to 61%, against a target for the year of 68%. The percentage of hearings scheduled to take place within 20 working days increased from 72% at the end of 2004–05 to 76% in the first quarter of 2005–06. Further information is set out in Table 13.4.
- At 25,009, the number of referrals being disposed of in the first quarter period continued to overtake the number of referrals being received in this period (22,323).

Source: *First quarter performance report 2005–06: Executive summary*, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (www.scra.gov.uk/documents/Q1_Performance_2005_06.pdf)

The Children's Hearings System and the Judicial System

The Children's Hearing System

Table 13.4: Children's Hearings System performance against key performance measures

Key performance measures	05/06 target	04/05 performance	2004/05				2005/06
			Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
National performance target							
No. of persistent young offenders	1,081	1,260	539	815	1,073	1,262	563*
Hearings System targets							
% of re-referrals to the Reporter on offence grounds	34%	37%	41%	39%	38%	37%	45%
Average no. of days for referrals on offence grounds from date of receipt of referral to Hearing decision	65 days	75 days	71 days	75 days	72 days	77 days	70 days
Average no. of days for referrals on non-offence grounds from date of receipt of referral to Hearing decision	120 days	129 days	123 days	128 days	130 days	136 days	139 days
% of decisions on all referrals in the year that were made within 50 working days	58%	56%	58%	57%	54%	56%	61%
SCRA Targets							
% of Hearings scheduled to take place within 20 working days	78%	71%	71%	67%	76%	72%	76%
% of Hearings scheduled to take place within 30 working days	90%	new measure		n/a			93%

Table 13.4 continued

Key performance measures	05/06 target	04/05 performance	2004/05				2005/06
			Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1
% of children and their families who are sent written notification of the outcome of a referral in the year within 5 working days	70%	65%	68%	67%	64%	62%	63%
% of children and their families who are sent written notification of the outcome of a Hearing in the year within 5 working days	90%	84%	84%	85%	83%	84%	85%
% of non-offence applications established at court	95%	93%	92%	94%	92%	91%	92%
Average no. of working days taken to respond to an FOI information request	20 days	new measure		n/a			9 days
% to which SCRA core properties comply with SCRA property standards	90%	89%	88%	89%	89%	89%	72%**
% of staff attendance	97%	96%	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%
Average no. of training days per member of staff	6 days	5.5 days	0.7 days	0.9 days	2 days	1.8 days	1 day
% of expenditure that is within budget	97%	96%	94%	96%	98%	96%	110%

Note: 'First quarter' refers to 1 April–30 June

*The number of new persistent young offenders identified in this first quarter was 183 compared with 167 identified in the previous quarter. 779 new persistent young offenders were identified for the whole of 2004/05.

**Please note the property standards have been revised since 2004/05, and new assessment criteria apply to 2005/06 figures.

Source: *First quarter performance report 2005–06, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration: Executive Summary* (www.scra.gov.uk/documents/Q1_Performance_2005_06.pdf)

Peak age for court convictions for under-21s

The peak age for convictions for under-21s in 2003 was 20: 6% of all males and 1% of all females of this age were convicted at least once in 2003 for a crime or offences such as common assault or breach of the peace.

Source: *Criminal proceedings in Scottish courts 2003*, Scottish Executive, 31 March 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/03/31111150)

Reoffending rates for young adults

For male offenders, the reconviction rate decreases with age; 55% of those males aged under 21 were reconvicted within two years, compared with 32% of those males aged over 30. There was less variation in the two-year reconviction rate for females, at around 40% for all of age groups under 30. For those females aged over 30 the reconviction rate was significantly lower at 26%.

The above picture is similar for custodial reconvictions although the overall rates were lower, with 16% of males and 6% of females receiving a custodial reconviction within two years.

Source: *Reconviction of offenders discharged from custody or given non-custodial sentences in 1999, Scotland*, Statistical bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2005/07, Scottish Executive, June 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/54357/0013269.pdf)

Types of crime committed by young people

Young people accused of homicide

At 28 November 2005 there was a total of 189 accused persons in the homicide cases recorded in 2004–05. This was 35 more than in 2003–04 and the highest figure recorded since 1995–96 (when there were 203 accused). As in previous years, in 2004–05 most of the accused (89%) were male. In 2004–05 the total number of individuals accused of homicide equated to 41 per 1 million population. Within age/gender groups this rate was highest for males aged 21–29 (221 per 1 million population), followed by males aged 16–20 (191 per 1 million population).

Source: *Homicide in Scotland 2004–05*, Statistical bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2005/12, Scottish Executive, December 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/12/13133031/30316)

Violence among girls in Scotland

A new study shows that almost one in three 11–15 year olds in Scotland was involved in at least one physical fight in the previous year.

Rising alcohol and drug use has been blamed on a surge in violent behaviour among young women.

The study, published in the journal of the American Society of Paediatrics and based on a survey of 161,082 adolescents, placed Scottish girls sixth in the international league table of violence. Just over 29% had been involved in a fight in the previous year, compared with 13% in Finland, 21% in Russia and 25% in America.

Almost 14% of Scottish girls had taken part in two or more fights over the same period.

Source: 'Scottish girls among most violent in the world',
Sunday Times, 22 January 2006
(www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-2004540,00.html)

Young people as victims of crime

Child homicide

Over the last 10 years a total of 96 children under the age of 16 were victims of homicide (solved cases). Of these, 48% were killed by one of their parents. (Excluding the 16 child victims of the Dunblane incident, this proportion was 58%.) For the 27 victims aged under a year old, the main accused (where known) was either a parent or other relative.

Source: Statistical Bulletin, Criminal Justice Series, CrJ/2005/12, published December 2005, Scottish Executive website
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47121/0020690.pdf)

Crimes/offences in which firearms are alleged to have caused injury

In 2004/05, the main victim was aged 21 years or over in 134 out of 325 offences (41%) where firearms were alleged to have been fired causing injury. Further details are outlined in Table 13.5.

Table 13.5: Crimes/offences recorded by the police in which a firearm was alleged to have been fired causing injury, by age and sex of main victim, 1995–96 to 2004–05

Age and sex of main victim	1995-6	1996-7	1997-8	1998-9	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	% change 03/04-04-05
All victims	471	349	247	264	265	323	331	345	242	325	34
10 or under	87	40	26	21	23	42	32	42	30	53	77
11–15	179	134	100	99	122	119	107	113	73	92	26
16–20	37	45	29	28	32	40	50	49	30	46	53
21 or over	168	130	92	116	87	122	142	141	109	134	23
Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Male	351	266	156	181	184	229	238	256	176	209	19
10 or under	66	33	19	13	14	35	22	31	24	37	54
11–15	127	98	61	62	87	76	74	82	49	47	-4
16–20	29	34	21	20	20	34	37	40	24	27	13
21 or over	129	101	55	86	62	84	105	103	79	98	24
Unknown	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–
Female	120	80	91	78	81	93	92	88	64	116	81
10 or under	21	7	7	8	9	7	10	11	6	16	167
11–15	52	36	39	37	35	43	33	31	24	45	88
16–20	8	11	8	8	12	6	13	9	6	19	217
21 or over	39	26	37	25	25	37	36	37	28	36	29
Unknown	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Police officer	–	3	–	5	–	1	1	1	2	–	-100

Source: *Recorded crimes and offences involving firearms 2004–05*, Statistical bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2005/11, Scottish Executive, October 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/77843/0018636.pdf)

Young people's experience of crime

People aged 16–24 are most likely to become victims of personal crime. Taking age and gender together, 16–24-year-old men are more than three times more likely to become the victim of a personal crime compared to other age groups. Some 21% of 16–24-year-old men had been victims of personal crime, compared to just 7% of 25–44 year olds, 5% of 45–49 year olds and 1% of men aged 60 or over.

The high prevalence of personal crime against young men is primarily due to the high prevalence of violent crime among this group. In 2002, 13% of men aged 16–24 were victims of violent crime, compared with 5% of men aged 25–44.

Source: *Scottish crime survey 2003*, Scottish Executive Social Research, 2004 (www.scotland.gov.uk/libraries/justice/sccs.pdf)

Black and ethnic minority young people's experience of crime

Half of black and ethnic minority young people said they had experienced abuse because of their race or religion in the past year, in stark contrast to the 5% of white young people who say the same.

Source: *Measurement of the extent of youth crime in Scotland*, Scottish Executive, April 2005, (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37428/0009796.pdf)

Young people's fear of crime

As part of a study carried out in Glasgow, 1,500 young people were asked about their views of crime and offending. Seventeen per cent of those interviewed said they feel safe in areas around where they live. However,

a quarter said they do not feel safe and 1 in 10 'not at all safe' in their local area.

Three in five young people said they feel either very or fairly worried about being attacked in the street or other public place. Very young people (11 year olds) and girls are most likely to feel worried about being attacked in the street, along with young people from black and ethnic backgrounds.

Some 55% of young people surveyed said that something negative (ie of a criminal or threatening nature) had happened to them in the last year. Being threatened by others was the most commonly mentioned incident (39% of respondents). One in five (18%) said they had been physically attacked in the past year.

Boys are more likely than girls to have experienced some sort of incident: nearly half (48%) of all boys interviewed said they had been threatened, compared with just under three in 10 girls (29%).

Source: *Measurement of the extent of youth crime in Scotland*, Scottish Executive, April 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37428/0009796.pdf)

Youth gangs

About 20% of young people at age 13 define themselves as gang members, falling to 5% by age 17. Gang membership is higher among young people from less affluent families and those not living with both parents. It is also much higher among young people living in deprived neighbourhoods.

Delinquency and substance use are more common among gang members than others, for both boys and girls. Delinquency was much higher during periods when people are in gangs than in periods when they were not.

Source: 'New research from the Edinburgh Study of Youth Transitions and Crime', University of Edinburgh news release, 6 October 2005 (www.cpa.ed.ac.uk/release/?FMRecord=1223)

Adults' fear of young people and crime

In a recent survey clear majority of respondents (7 out of 10) thought that youth crime was higher than 10 years ago, while just one in 50 thought it was lower.

It should be noted that whereas this perception is common among ordinary Scots and in the media, it may not be completely accurate. It is difficult to estimate the actual level of youth crime since the age of the offenders is not always known. We do know that the peak age for offending occurs in the late teens and that young people (under the age of 25) account for a very significant proportion of *all* offending. As such, it is reasonable to assume that much of all crime is actually youth crime – and total recorded crime in Scotland has been on a largely downward trajectory in recent years.

Source: *Public attitudes towards young people and youth crime in Scotland: Findings from the 2004 Scottish social attitudes survey*, Scottish Executive social research, July 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/55971/0015628.pdf)

Young people in the adult court system

In 2000–01, 27,000 young people aged 16–21 had cases proven against them in the courts. This was a fall of 10% in numbers over 10 years. The number of offenders with six or more charges proven against them in 2000 was 3,190.

Source: *Dealing with offending by young people*, Audit Scotland, December 2002 (www.auditScotland.gov.uk/publications/pdf/2002/02pfo6ag.pdf)

Table 13.6: Age of prisoners in custody on 30 June 2004

Age	30 June 2004			30 June 2004		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total	6,620	342	6,962	100	100	100
Under 16	2	-	2	*	-	*
16	48	4	52	1	1	1
17	125	12	137	2	4	2
18	189	7	196	3	2	3
19	210	14	224	3	4	3
20	199	16	215	3	5	3
21	281	21	302	4	6	4

Source: *Prison statistics Scotland 2004/05*, Statistics bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2005/8, Scottish Executive, October 2005 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/18102211/22203)

Number of young people in prison

The average population of sentenced young offenders was 560 in 2004–05, a decrease of 2% compared with the 2003–04 figure of 573. The number of male sentenced young offenders fell from 549 in 2003–04 to 530 in 2004–05, whereas the number of female

sentenced young offenders increased from 24 in 2003–04 to 30 in 2004–05.

Source: *Prison statistics Scotland 2004/05*, Statistics bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2005/8, Scottish Executive (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/08/18102211/22203)

Implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2003

Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs)

ASBOs granted to Scottish councils are up by 60% [compared to the first year of implementation]; 298 have been granted since April 2005. Thirty-two councils revealed that 298 ASBOs have been granted since April 2005, four of them against children under 16. About 180 of them are interim orders, half of which are likely to be converted into full ASBOs in the coming months.

If the trend continues, Scotland's councils will have issued around 280 full ASBOs in 2005–06, compared to 174 for 2004–05.

Source: 'Councils send ASBO numbers soaring', *The Scotsman*, 10 January 2006 (<http://thescotsmen.scotsmen.com/index.cfm?id=40782006>)

Restriction of liberty orders (RLOs)

Since 1995 electronic monitoring of offenders aged 17 and over has been possible by means of Restriction of Liberty Orders.

From 2005 Children's Hearings in seven pilot areas have had the power to impose a Movement Restriction Condition within a Supervision Requirement, in circumstances similar to those that would otherwise

result in a young person being placed in secure accommodation. Children and young people subject to such a condition receive intensive support services to complement the restriction.

Source: Anti-Social Behaviour etc (Scotland) Act 2004 and Intensive Support and Monitoring (Scotland) Regulations 2005

In 2004–05 some 5,347 RLO assessments were made, an increase of 46% from 3,655 in 2003–04, and corresponding to a rate of 14.8 per 10,000 population. Local authorities with the highest rates of RLO assessments were South Lanarkshire (96.7 per 10,000 population), Dumfries & Galloway (81.7 per 10,000 population) and Dundee City (73.8 per 10,000 population).

A total of 1,335 RLOs were made in 2004–05, an increase of 65% from the 2003–04 total of 807. The incidence of RLOs was 3.7 per 10,000 population in 2004–05. Male offenders accounted for 92% of RLOs. Over half of all males (66%) and females (57%) receiving RLOs were aged 25 and under; only 7% of offenders were aged over 40. The incidence of RLOs was highest among 18–20 year olds (18 per 10,000 population), 16–17 year olds (13 per 10,000 population) and 21–25 year olds (10.7 per 10,000 population).

Source: *Criminal justice social work statistics 2004–05*, Statistical bulletin, Criminal justice series CrJ/2006/01, Scottish Executive, 31 January 2006 (www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/01/31101934/0)

Parenting orders

Part 9 of the Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act contains provisions relating to parenting orders. These were introduced across Scotland on 4 April 2005.

However, there will first be an interim three-year period while the scheme is piloted, before 'full' roll-out in 2008.

A parenting order is designed to provide the help and support a parent needs to change their behaviour. It is not designed to punish the parent. A parenting order will direct the parent as to how he or she should behave in respect of his/her child. It will require the parent to undertake certain actions that should reduce the offending or anti-social behaviour of their child or improve the welfare of the child. For example, the parent could be required to attend a support service for a set period to address relevant problems, such as drug or alcohol misuse, or participate in a recognised parenting programme.

A parenting order could also require the parent to exercise control over their child's behaviour. These requirements would need to fit with those within a supervision requirement and could include the parent ensuring their child:

- is clean, fed and properly clothed
- attends school or other relevant educational activity
- attends a support service to address relevant problems, eg drug or alcohol misuse
- is receiving support for literacy and numeracy or is in a homework club
- avoids contact with disruptive and possibly older children
- avoids visiting certain areas (eg shopping centres) unsupervised

- is at home during certain hours at night and is effectively supervised

For the purposes of the Act, 'parents' are defined as those persons who have parental responsibilities and rights, either automatically or as a result of a court order, and those persons who ordinarily have charge of or control over a child.

Source: *Guidance on parenting orders: Anti-social Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004*, Scottish Executive
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/22133503/35062)

Dispersal Orders

Section 30 of the Anti-social Behaviour (Scotland) Act 2003 enables the police and local authorities to work together to identify problem areas where people feel threatened by groups hanging around causing intimidation and acting in an anti-social manner. A 'dispersal order' gives the police and police community support officers the power to disperse groups, where the relevant officer has reasonable grounds for believing that their presence or behaviour has resulted, or is likely to result, in a member of the public being harassed, intimidated, alarmed or distressed. Individuals can be directed to leave the locality and may be excluded from the area for up to 24 hours.

Source: Anti-social behaviour toolkit website, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
(www.cieh.org/asb/the_laws.html)

Three dispersal orders have been granted in Scotland: in Aberdeen (Beach Boulevard – Grampian Police), Edinburgh (Hunter Square – Lothian & Borders Police) and Dingwall (Millbank Road – Northern Constabulary).

(This data covers the period to 30 September 2005.)

Source: *Standing up to anti-social behaviour* newsletter, Scottish Executive
(www.antisocialbehaviourscotland.com/asb/files/Annex%20A%20-%20Anti%20social%20newsletter.pdf)

Recent initiatives and legislation designed to tackle youth crime and anti-social behaviour

Youth courts

On 27 June 2002 the Scottish Executive launched a 10-point action plan for dealing with the problem of young offenders in Scotland. One of the commitments made in the plan was to look at the feasibility of establishing a youth court in Scotland to tackle 16–17-year-old persistent young offenders. The December 2002 recommendation of the Feasibility Group was that a youth court would be possible under existing Scottish law, and it proposed a model to be located within Hamilton Sheriff Court.

In June 2003 the Hamilton Youth Court was established, with four permanent Sheriff Court judges presiding over youth court cases only, on a twice-weekly basis. Following the success of the Hamilton pilot (see evaluation below) a second youth court was established within Airdrie Sheriff Court, which will run from June 2004 to June 2006. Like the Hamilton Youth Court, the Airdrie Youth Court will also be independently evaluated. It is expected that a final report will be published once the Airdrie pilot scheme has finished. This report will inform Scottish Ministers' decisions

about whether or not the youth court model, or aspects of it, could usefully be introduced to other parts of the country.

Source: 'Youth court', Scottish Executive website
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/criminal/16905/6819)

Evaluation of the Hamilton Youth Court pilot

According to the evaluation report the introduction of the youth court did not appear to have had a major impact on sentencing patterns in Hamilton Sheriff Court. From 2002 to 2004 there was an increase in recorded levels of less serious crimes and offences, both in Hamilton and in two comparison court areas. There was, however, a larger reduction in crimes of dishonesty in Hamilton than in the comparison areas. It should be noted that changes in recording practices over this period demand caution in interpreting these findings.

Six-month reconviction rates among young people sentenced in the youth court compared favourably with the comparator courts, especially given that the youth court specifically targets 'persistent' offenders whose reconviction rate might have been expected to be higher.

There was little change in community attitudes towards youth crime over the period of the pilot, though any differences tended to be in a positive direction. Professionals were cautiously optimistic that the youth court would be effective in reducing reoffending, at least with some young people who appeared before it.

Source: *Evaluation of the Hamilton Sheriff Youth Court pilot 2003–05*, Scottish Executive social research, 2005
(www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/925/0012200.pdf)

Sure Start Scotland

Research carried out in the USA has demonstrated that early educational and social intervention with families when children are young reduces offending rates compared to those families who did not receive such intervention. An example of such an intervention currently being used in Scotland is Sure Start.

Sure Start Scotland is the responsibility of the Children and Families Division within the Scottish Executive's Children and Young People Group. Sure Start Scotland aims to support families with very young children to ensure they have the best possible start in life, helping them to get the most from subsequent opportunities such as pre-school education. The initiative emphasises the importance of joint working between education, social work, health and relevant voluntary organisations to ensure that the specific needs of families with children aged 0–3 are met. Local authorities, voluntary agencies, health services and existing child support networks are encouraged to work together to provide a more cohesive service for parent and child and to ensure that services are targeting communities in more deprived areas. Sure Start Scotland promotes social inclusion through a positive start in very young children's lives.

In Scotland Sure Start funding has been allocated to all 32 local authorities in recognition of there being need across Scotland. Some £52.9m has been allocated to local authorities in the 2005/06 financial year to work

in partnership with health and relevant voluntary sector organisations. This amount will increase to £59.9m by 2008.

Source: Sure Start Scotland website (www.surestart.gov.uk/surestartservices/surestartlocalprogrammes/ssscotland/) and www.surestart.gov.uk/aboutsurestart/help/contacts/scotland/)

Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson MSP announced the expansion of the VRU on 14 December 2005 as part of a new series of measures designed to tackle violent behaviour in Scotland. Other measures include:

- establishing a Scottish Executive-led working group to tackle violence, featuring senior policymakers and anti-violence experts
- working with the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland and the VRU on a series of national campaigns
- creating a national website for experts to share best practice
- doubling the penalty for possession of knives in public from two to four years

Source: Strathclyde Police website (www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?locID=883&docID=2562)

Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005

This legislation seeks to tackle Scotland's high reoffending rates, which currently see six out of 10 offenders being reconvicted within two years of their prison release. The key provisions of the Act will:

- Establish new Community Justice Authorities to co-ordinate and improve the delivery of services for offenders, and to be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of joint working between local agencies to tackle reoffending.
- Require the police, local authorities and the Scottish Prison Service to establish joint arrangements for assessing and managing the risk posed by sexual and violent offenders, and also the health service in the case of mentally disordered offenders.
- End unconditional early release for sex offenders sentenced to between six months and four years in prison, who will instead be released on licence and may be subject to additional conditions relating to their offending behaviour.
- Enable the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority to recover sums paid to victims from the perpetrators of crime. This aims to discourage offending and make offenders face up to the consequences of their crimes.
- Establish a Home Detention Curfew scheme that will enable selected low-risk prisoners nearing the end of their sentences to serve the remainder of their term in the community, subject to an electronically monitored curfew.

Source: 'Management of Offenders (Scotland) Act 2005',
 Scottish Executive news release, 3 November 2005
 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/11/04100931)

Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill

Justice Minister Cathy Jamieson MSP has pledged that the new Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill will support the police in creating safer daily lives for people. Its key provisions include:

- new measures to reduce knife crime, such as doubling the maximum penalty for carrying a knife in public from two to four years
- football-banning orders to tackle violence, sectarianism, racism or hatred, at both football grounds and other flash points associated with games
- improvements to the organisation of marches and parades, including local authorities being able to take into account of a wider range of factors such as the local community's views, when considering notifications for these events
- measures to encourage those accused of crimes to give information to prosecutors and the police about acquaintances involved in more serious and organised crime, helping get even more serious organised criminals off Scotland's streets
- mandatory drug testing and referral, upon arrest, for anyone aged 16 or over who is suspected of a drugs or drugs-related offence such as theft and shoplifting, to encourage them into treatment earlier and tackle their levels of drug dependence and drug-related crime

Source: 'Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill',
 Scottish Executive news release, 2 June 2005
 (www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2006/02/01135705)

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