

Northern Ireland Children's Social Services Data during COVID-19

The management information presented in these tables derive from a temporary data collection for children's social care services during the period of COVID-19. These data returns have been extracted from administrative systems for each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. **Please note these figures are provisional and may be subject to change.**

Number of children on the Child Protection Register by HSC Trust (provisional)

HSC Trust	Pre Covid19 ¹	06-Apr-20	13-Apr-20	20-Apr-20	27-Apr-20	4-May-20	11-May-20	18-May-20	25-May-20
Belfast	277	252	258	263	273	273	274	279*	280
Northern	512	522	528	533	518	523	520	524	513
South Eastern	335	383	393	393	397	396	393	378	378
Southern	545	569	585	581	565	568	562	558	554
Western	577	607	611	612	616	622	626	625	626
Northern Ireland	2,246	2,333	2,375	2,382	2,369	2,382	2,375	2,364*	2,351

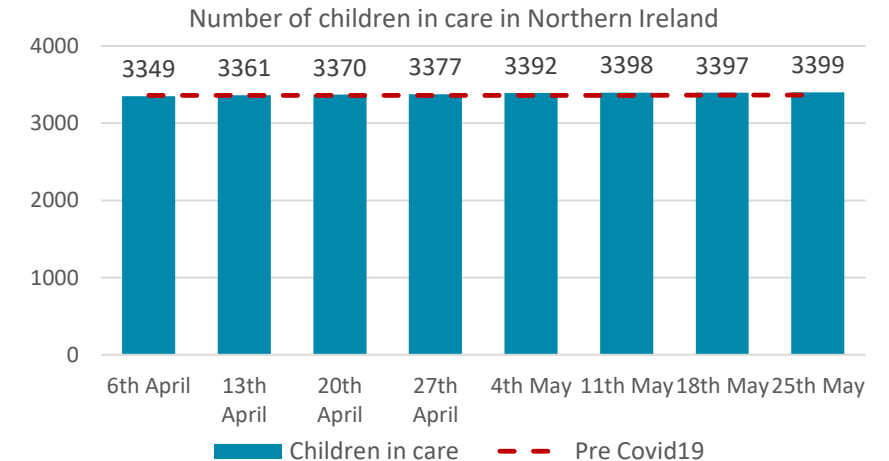
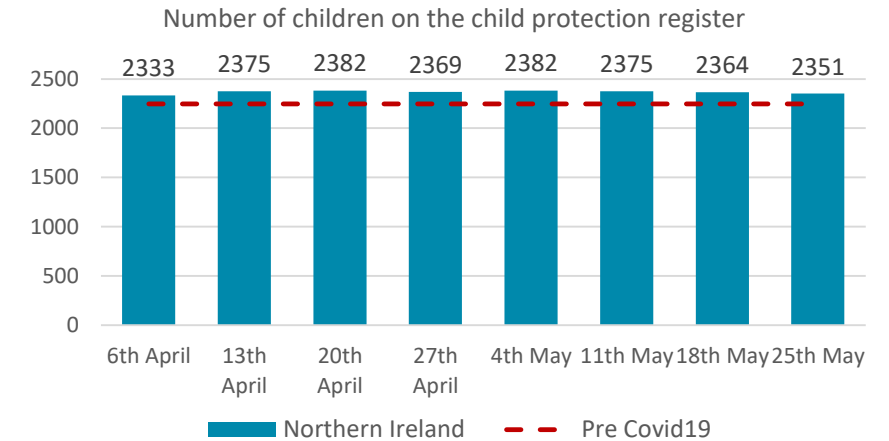
¹ Source: "Quarterly Child Protection Statistics for Northern Ireland, Quarter ending 31 December 2019", DoH

* Figure has been revised.

Number of Children in Care by HSC Trust (provisional)

HSC Trust	Pre Covid19 ¹	06-Apr-20	13-Apr-20	20-Apr-20	27-Apr-20	4-May-20	11-May-20	18-May-20	25-May-20
Belfast	826	880	879	882	877	880	880	879	876
Northern	680	660	667	666	667	674	673	672	673
South Eastern	621	607	607	612	622	623	627	628	634
Southern	582	557	556	556	557	560	558	560	558
Western	653	645	652	654	654	655	660	658	658
Northern Ireland	3,362	3,349	3,361	3,370	3,377	3,392	3,398	3,397	3,399

¹ Source: 30 September 2019, Delegated Statutory Functions report, Health & Social Care Board



TECHNICAL NOTES

Temporary Data Collection

The figures presented in these tables derive from a temporary management data collection of Children's Social Care Services during the period of COVID-19. These data returns have been extracted from administrative systems for each of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland.

The data in this output is separate to the official statistics data series published by DoH on children's social care.

Data validation

The reports used to extract the contained management figures have been agreed between HSC Trust, the HSC Board and the Department of Health (DoH).

Although the data has been deemed to be of robust quality, it has not undergone the same rigorous quality assurance checks that are carried out prior to the publication of official statistics. Furthermore, the extractions are weekly and there may be some adjustments required that don't fit the short timeline of weekly outputs. Therefore, these figures are deemed provisional and may be subject to change.

Publication

As set out in the DoH press release (20 May 2020), these figures will be updated weekly without further notification. It is expected that DoH will continue to publish these weekly figures until the temporary collection is stood down.

The release is available here:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research/covid-19-statistics>

DEFINITIONS

Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order was made on 15 March 1995. The Order deals with the care, upbringing and protection of children, including disabled children. It reforms, consolidates and harmonises most of the public and private law relating to children in a single coherent statutory framework along the lines of the Children Act 1989 in England and Wales.

Child

Under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

Child Protection Register

A register must be maintained by each HSC Trust listing every child in the Trust area who has been abused or who is considered to be at risk of abuse, and who is currently the subject of a child protection plan.

Looked After Child / Child in Care

A child is looked after by an Authority if he or she is in their care or if he or she is provided with accommodation for a continuous period of more than 24 hours by the authority in the exercise of its Social Services function. Figures presented excludes any children who were looked after by virtue of short break arrangements only.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information:
Community Information Branch
Information Analysis Directorate,
DoH Northern Ireland
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