

Client Group Analysis

**Quarterly bulletin on families
with children on key benefits**

August 2004

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Definitions and conventions

Children

The 'children' analyses are based on children in families where an adult of working age claims a key benefit (see definition below) and either:

- receives an additional allowance of benefit for children or young adult dependants (i.e. those aged 16-18 and still in full-time education); or
- receives contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or JSA National Insurance credits only, with children or young adult dependants recorded in the assessment; or
- receives Child Tax Credit (CTC).

Additional amounts are payable for all dependant children in families receiving income related benefits (i.e. Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)). These additional amounts for children will be payable via either benefit or CTC. The main gaps are children of claimants of Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance without CTC, for whom child information is incomplete; and children of claimants of Disability Living Allowance without CTC, for whom no child information is recorded. It should be noted that not all CTC children are included in this Bulletin, only those in families also claiming a key benefit. More details of the methodology can be found in the "Methodology" section at the back of this Bulletin.

Families

The 'family' tables in this publication are based on family units including children as defined above (e.g. a couple with children, a lone parent with children) and claiming a key benefit.

Tax Credits

Figures in these tables are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. As CTC is available to nearly all families with children, it has been possible to add additional information about children not available from the benefit data (e.g. children of DLA only claimants, for whom no child information is collected by the benefit system). This has added to the total number of children where we have information at August 2004 compared with previous years. Although figures for August 2003 are also affected by the introduction of CTC, great care should be taken when making comparisons with previous years (especially numbers of children in families where non income-related benefits are in payment). Please see "Methodology" for further details.

Key Benefits

Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
Incapacity Benefit (IB)
Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA)
Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
Income Support (IS)

Other Benefits

Maternity Allowance and the Child Support Agency figures are not included in the main tables. However, information is included in Appendices 1 to 2. Responsibility for Child Benefit transferred to Inland Revenue in April 2003. Statistics are now produced by Inland Revenue. See:

http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/menu.htm

Tax Credits

Working Tax Credit (WTC)
Child Tax Credit (CTC)
Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) (between October 1999 and April 2003)
Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) (between October 1999 and April 2003)
Family Credit (prior to October 1999)
Disability Working Allowance (prior to October 1999)

Symbols and conventions

Working age is: 16 to 64 years for men and 16 to 59 years for women.

Population estimates for children aged 0-15 are mid-year from 2003.

Population figures for young adult dependants are derived from Child Benefit data.

"_"	less than 500
"."	not applicable
".."	not available

Statistical group

Claimants and their families have been allocated to statistical groups to give an indication of the main reason why they are claiming benefit. This is only one of the possible ways in which claimants could be classified and alternative classifications are possible.

Families are assigned to statistical group according to the following hierarchy:

<i>If claimant receives</i>	JSA (including credits)	<i>then family assigned to:</i>	Unemployed
<i>Otherwise, if claimant receives</i>	IB (including credits)	" "	Sick / Disabled
" "	SDA	" "	Sick / Disabled
" "	DLA	" "	Sick / Disabled
" "	IS, with disability premium	" "	Sick / Disabled
" "	IS, single	" "	Lone Parents
" "	IS	" "	Others

For example, if a claimant who is single receives IS but no disability premium then the family is assigned to 'Lone Parents'; but if they also receive the disability premium then the family is assigned to 'Sick / Disabled'.

Main Findings

- At August 2004, 2.7 million children were living in families claiming a key benefit (the term 'children' refers collectively to children aged 0-15 and young adult dependants aged 16-18 in full-time education) (Table 1).
- Amongst the Sick /Disabled Group proportionally fewer children were under the age of five compared to other statistical groups. This reflects the older age profile of those claiming a sickness and/or disability benefit (although some of this group's ages were unknown) (Table 4).
- Of those children in families on a key benefit, 65% had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 75%, while that for the unemployed was only 8%.
- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16-18 and in full-time education) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 29% in London, down to 14% in the South East GOR.
- 7.6% of families on key benefits had four or more children in August 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 8.9%.

Tables and charts

Children on Benefit

Table 1 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: August 2002 to August 2004

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	Number of children/dependants ¹					
	Aug-02	%	Aug-03	%	Aug-04	%
All statistical groups	2,509	100	2,825	100	2,694	100
Unemployed	193	8	231	8	200	7
Sick/ Disabled	664	26	970	34	961	36
Lone Parents	1,594	64	1,565	55	1,476	55
Others	58	2	59	2	57	2

Notes:

¹ Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).

- At August 2004, 2.7 million children (21% of the total population of children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 in full-time education), were living in families claiming a key benefit and receiving additional amounts of benefit and/or CTC for them.
- **Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

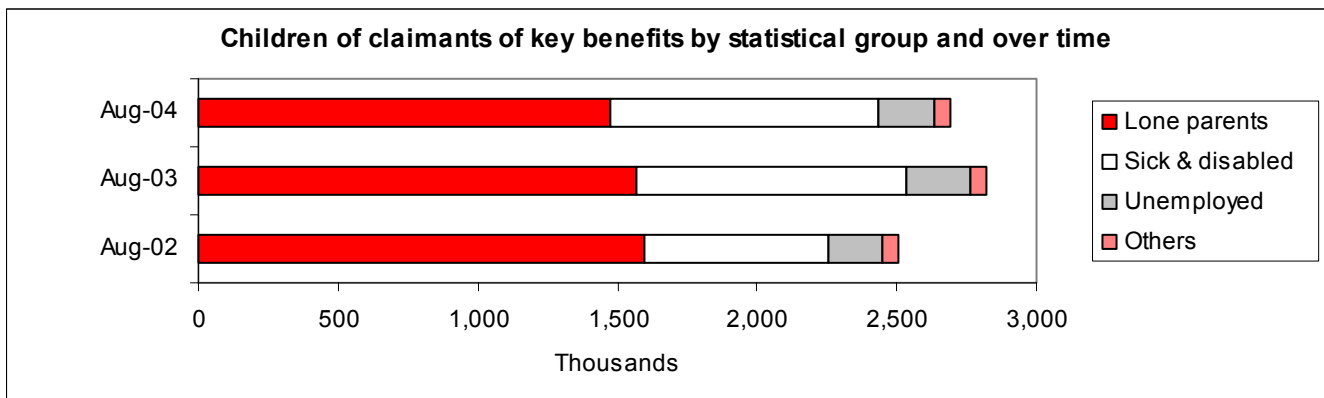


Table 2 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	Children aged under 16 years					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	Family Type				All	Family Type			
		% pop aged under 16	Couple	Single	Not Known		% pop aged 16-18 ²	Couple	Single	Not known
All statistical groups	2,462	22	823	1,628	11	232	16	95	136	-
Unemployed	177	2	167	10	-	23	2	12	12	-
Sick/ Disabled	838	7	610	216	11	123	8	78	45	-
Lone Parents	1,397	12	-	1,397	-	80	5	-	80	-
Others	51	-	46	5	-	6	-	5	-	-

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable.
2. Population figures are based on 16 to 18 year olds in full time education (see definitions and conventions).

- The percentage of under-16s living in key benefit households was 22% at August 2004; this compared with 16% of those aged 16-18 in full time education.

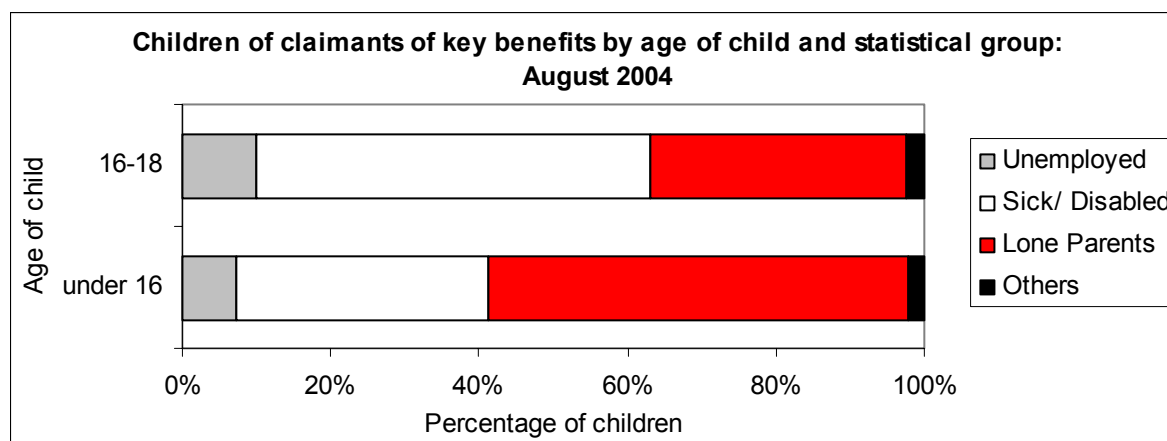


Table 3 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: August 2002 to August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	Children aged under 16 years					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	% pop aged under 16	Family type			All	% pop aged 16-18 ²	Family Type		
			Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not Known
Aug 2002	2,314	20	574	1,691	49	195	13	65	130	-
Aug 2003	2,546	22	837	1,693	17	278	19	130	148	-
Aug 2004	2,462	22	823	1,628	11	232	16	95	136	-

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable
2. Population figures are based on 16 to 18 year olds in full time education (see definitions and conventions).

- 59% of young adult dependants in families claiming a key benefit lived in single parent households in August 2004. This is compared to 66% of children under 16 years old (for those whose family type is known).
- **Comparisons of Family Type and Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

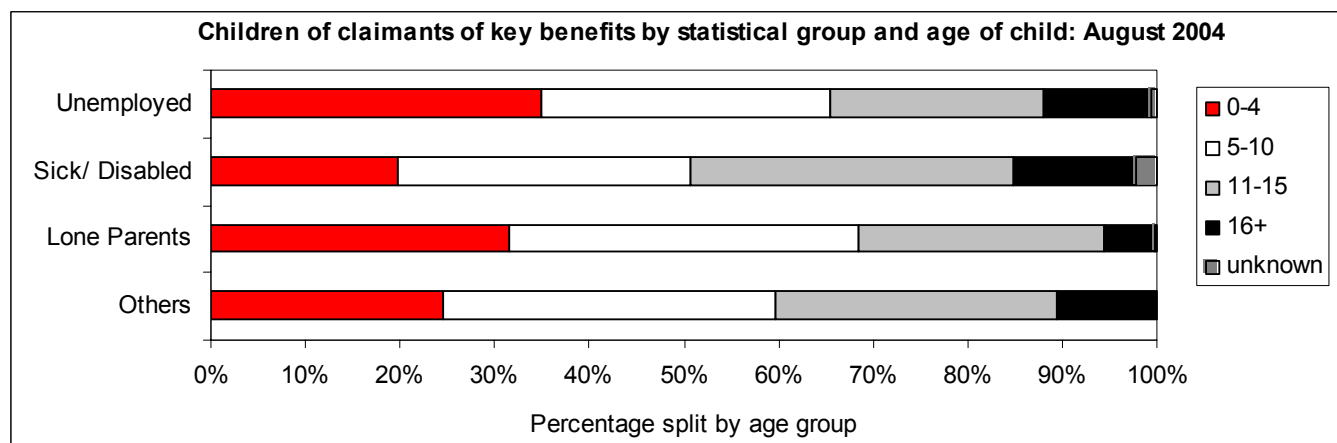
Table 4 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family and age of child: August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All children/deps		Under 5		5 to under 11		11 to under 16		16 or over		Not known	
	Thousands	%	Thousands	%	Thousands	%	Thousands	%	Thousands	%	Thousands	%
All statistical groups	2,694	100	740	27	925	34	773	29	232	9	25	1
Unemployed	200	100	70	35	61	31	45	23	23	12	1	1
Sick / Disabled	961	100	190	20	298	31	328	34	123	13	22	2
Lone Parents	1,476	100	466	32	547	37	383	26	80	5	2	-
Others	57	100	14	25	20	35	17	30	6	11	-	-

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).



- Amongst the Sick / Disabled Group proportionally fewer children were under the age of five compared to other statistical groups. This reflects the older age profile of those claiming a sickness

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

and/or disability benefit (although some of this group's ages were unknown). The children of lone parents had the youngest profile, with 69% being aged under 11.

Table 5 Children and young adult dependants¹ of key benefits by statistical group of family and duration of claim: August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All durations	%	Duration of oldest claim ²									
			Under 3 months	%	3 to under 6 months	%	6 months to under 1 year	%	1 to under 2 years	%	2 years or over	%
All statistical groups	2,694	100	181	7	161	6	233	9	358	13	1,760	65
Unemployed	200	100	75	38	40	20	40	20	30	15	16	8
Sick /Disabled	961	100	37	4	41	4	61	6	105	11	718	75
Lone Parents	1,476	100	63	4	75	5	126	9	214	14	998	68
Others	57	100	7	12	5	9	7	12	8	14	29	51

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable.
2. Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt (see definitions and conventions).

- Of those children in families on a key benefit, 65% had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 75%, while that for the unemployed was only 8%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed, 77% had been on benefit for less than a year.

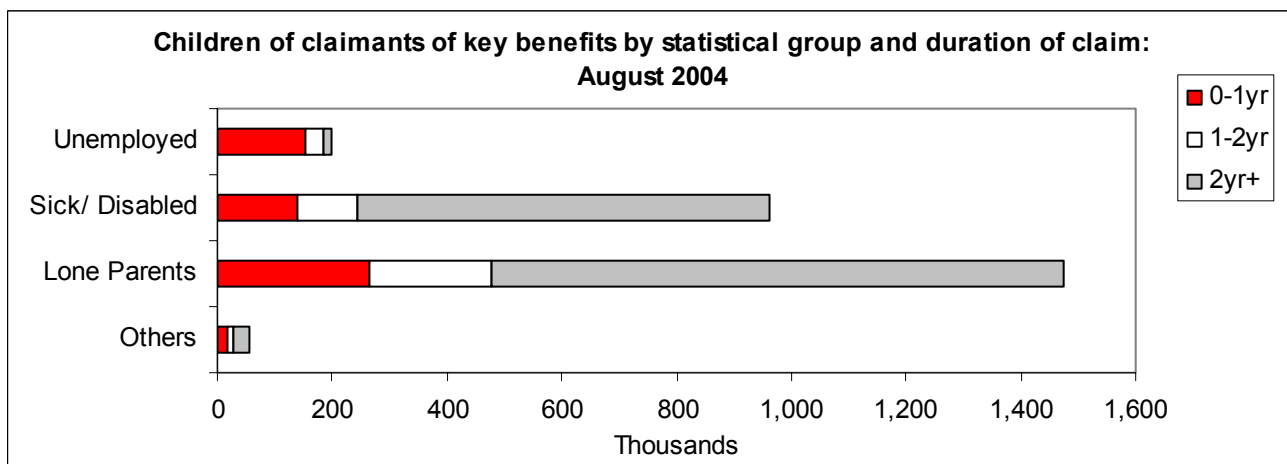


Table 6: Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: August 2002 to August 2004.

Thousands and percentages

	All durations	Duration of oldest claim ²				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
August 2002	2,509	163	157	225	350	1,614
%	100	6	6	9	14	64
August 2003	2,825	199	197	261	367	1,802
%	100	7	7	9	13	64
August 2004	2,694	181	161	233	358	1,760
%	100	7	6	9	13	65

Notes:

1 Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable

2 Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt (see definitions and conventions).

- The percentage of children in families claiming benefit for at least two years was 65% in August 2004.
- **Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effect on the figures are described in the Methodology**

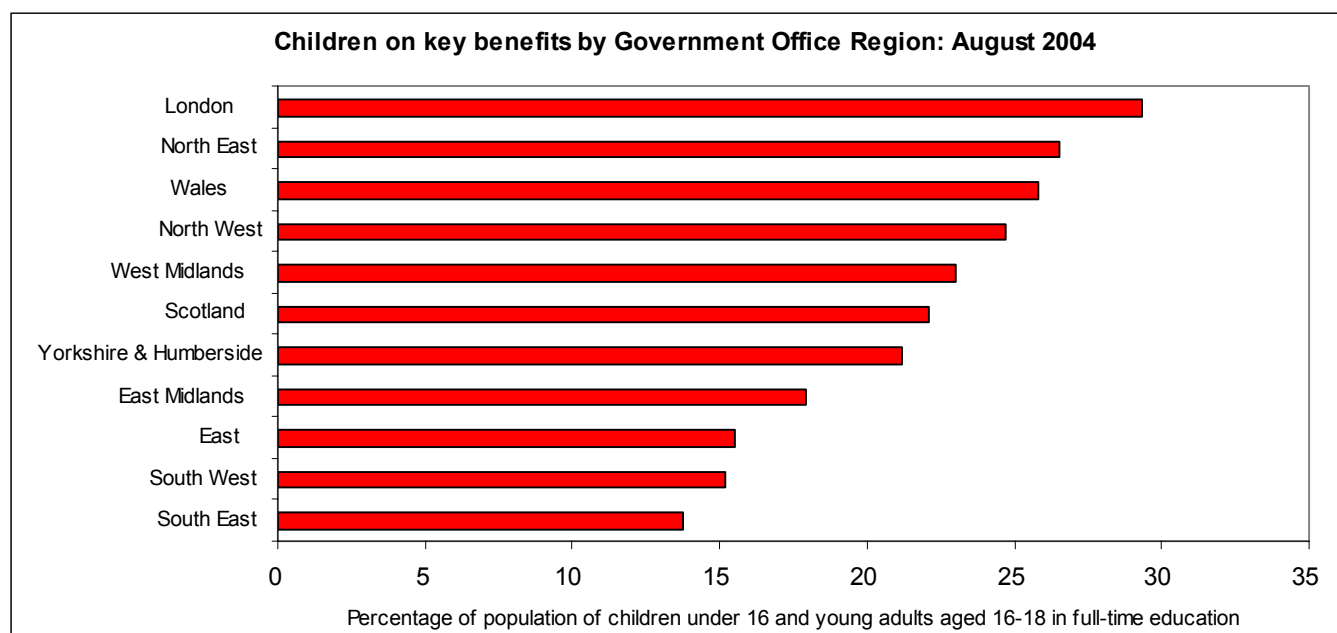
Table 7 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: August 2004

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	000s	% of pop ²
Great Britain	2,694	21
England	2,291	21
North East	147	27
North West	383	25
Yorkshire and the Humber	238	21
East Midlands	169	18
West Midlands	281	23
East	189	16
London	478	29
South East	247	14
South West	161	15
Wales	169	26
Scotland	232	22
SDA/IB claimants living abroad	1	-

Notes:

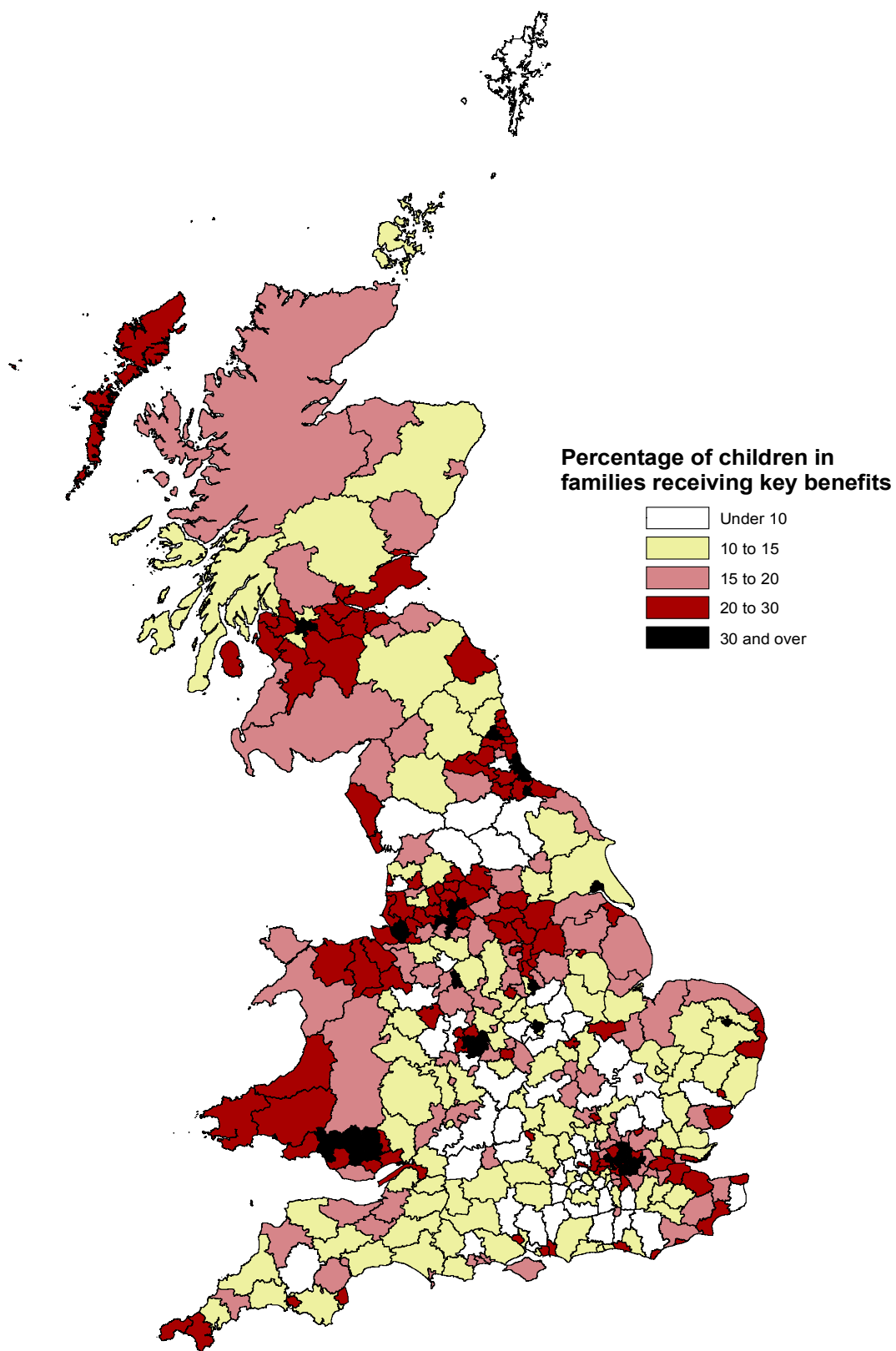
1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).
2. Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16 to 18 in full-time education (from Child Benefit estimates).

- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16-18 and in full-time education) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 29% in London, down to 14% in the South East GOR. All regions have areas with high and low proportion of children living in families on key benefits. For example, in the North East 10% of children in Tynedale local authority lived in families on key benefits compared to 39% of children in Easington.



Further regional benefit statistics can be accessed at the Neighbourhood Statistics Service web site at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/home.asp>

Children of claimants of key benefits, as a percentage of population aged under 16 or aged 16-18 in full time education: August 2004



These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

Table 8 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants by combinations of key benefits: August 2004

<i>Thousands and percentages</i>		
	Number of children/dependants	% population ²
All combinations	2,694	21
IS only	1,566	12
IS & IB	285	2
JSA only	197	2
IB only	192	2
DLA, IS & IB	158	1
DLA & IB	101	1
DLA only	97	1
DLA & IS	58	-
DLA, IS & SDA	17	-
DLA & SDA	11	-
IS & SDA	5	-
SDA only	3	-
Others	2	-
DLA & JSA	1	-

Notes:

- 1 Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable
- 2 Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16-18 in full-time education
- 3 Due to slight differences in dates of benefit data extracts, includes anomalies such as IB with JSA (see definitions and conventions).

Families on Benefit

Table 9 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All durations	%	Duration of oldest claim ²									
			Under 3 months	%	3 to under 6 months	%	6 months to under 1 year	%	1 to under 2 years	%	2 years or over	%
All client groups	1,443	100	102	7	91	6	132	9	199	14	920	64
Unemployed	105	100	42	40	22	20	19	18	14	14	8	7
Sick & disabled	531	100	20	4	22	4	34	6	58	11	397	75
Lone parents	783	100	37	5	45	6	76	10	123	16	503	64
Others	24	100	3	13	3	11	3	13	4	14	12	48

Notes:

1. Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable
2. Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt (see definitions and conventions).

- 64% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick / Disabled group the figure was 75% while that for the unemployed was 7%.
- 79% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

Table 10 Families¹ on key benefits by duration of claim: August 2002 to August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All durations	Duration of oldest claim ²				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
August 2002	1,310	87	85	123	192	823
%	100	7	7	9	15	63
August 2003	1,487	108	107	143	199	930
%	100	7	7	10	13	63
August 2004	1,443	102	91	132	199	920
%	100	7	6	9	14	64

Notes:

1. Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).
2. Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

- The percentage of families claiming benefit for at least two years was 64% in August 2004. This compares with 65% of children in families being long-term benefit claimants.
- **Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effect on the figures is described in the Methodology.**

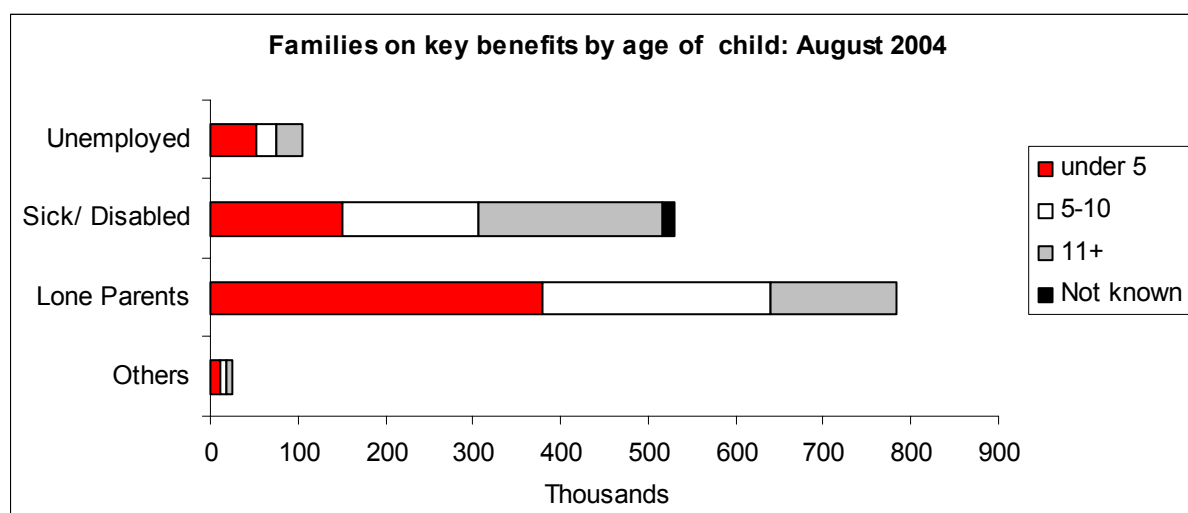
Table 11 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of child: August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Age of youngest child								Not known	
	Thousands	%	Under 5	%	5-10	%	11-15	%	16+	%	Thousands	%
All statistical groups	1,443	100	593	41	447	31	305	21	83	6	15	1
Unemployed	105	100	52	49	23	22	15	14	15	14	1	1
Sick & disabled	531	100	151	29	156	29	151	28	59	11	14	3
Lone parents	783	100	379	48	261	33	135	17	8	1	-	-
Others	24	100	11	44	7	28	5	20	2	7	-	-

Notes:

1. Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).



- Regarding the youngest child for each family on key benefits, 41% were under the age of five.
- For the Sick/ Disabled the age profile of the youngest children was older (although some of this group's ages were unknown).

Table 12 Families¹ on key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants: August 2002 to August 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All families	Age of youngest child					Not known
		Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over		
August 2002	1,310	564	395	240	60	52	
%	100	43	30	18	5	4	
August 2003	1,487	610	463	307	88	18	
%	100	41	31	21	6	1	
August 2004	1,443	593	447	305	83	15	
%	100	41	31	21	6	1	

Notes:

1 Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).

- Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.

Table 13 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: August 2004

Thousands

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	1,443	664	468	201	110
Unemployed	105	48	32	15	9
Sick & Disabled	531	256	172	66	36
Lone Parents	783	351	258	115	60
Others	24	9	7	5	5

Notes:

1 Claimants with children aged under 16 or young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).

- 7.6% of families on key benefits had four or more children in August 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 8.9%.

Appendices

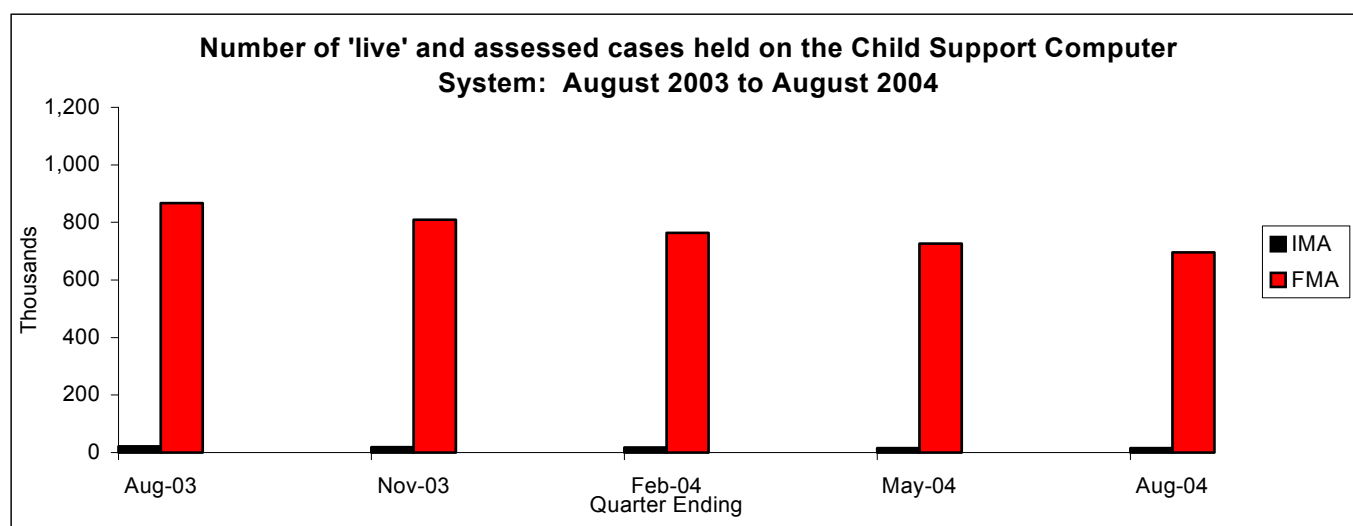
Appendix 1 – Child Support Agency

From the 3rd March 2003 all new Child Support applications have been assessed under a new scheme. These cases are stored on the Business Data Warehouse with approximately 200 thousand old scheme cases that are linked to new cases.

As previously acknowledged, IT difficulties with the new computer system have impacted on the quality of management information on the new scheme. The Agency is currently revisiting its statistical data. We expect to include new scheme figures in our next publication.

The remainder of old scheme cases (ie. those not linked to new cases) are still held on the Child Support Computer System (CSCS). **The following tables and charts relate to only those cases.**

At the end of August 2004 there were 696.0 thousand 'live' and fully assessed cases held on CSCS, a fall from 726.4 thousand cases in May 2004. This drop is due to the natural closure of cases and the migration of linked cases to the Business Data Warehouse.



- The average weekly maintenance assessment for all 'live' fully assessed cases rose from £21.26 to £22.22 during the period August 2003 to August 2004. Non Resident Parents with regular income working as an employee had an average weekly full maintenance assessment of £39.46 at the end of August 2004, compared with £22.71 for the self-employed. However, the NRP benefit/employment status used to produce these figures may not fully reflect the current position.

Table 1 Number of NRPs with a full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment: August 2003 to August 2004 (CSCS cases only)

	<i>NRPs with a full maintenance assessment</i>	
	FMA (thousands)	Average £ pw
August 2003	866.7	£21.26
November 2003	809.7	£21.49
February 2004	763.7	£21.73
May 2004	726.4	£21.94
August 2004	696.0	£22.22

- Parents with Care are assigned to a benefit status according to the following order of priority: receiving Working Tax Credit (WTC) (or it's predecessor Working Families' Tax Credit),

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

receiving income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)), receiving Income Support (IS), and 'Other' (i.e. cases not covered earlier in the list whose income is from other sources, such as pensions, investments, irregular and regular employment income, and other benefits).

Table 2 Benefit Status of PWC, August 2003 – August 2004: full assessments (CSCS cases only)

Thousands and percentages

	Total	PWC Benefit Status							
		Income Support		JSA (IB)		WTC/ WFTC ¹		Other	
			%		%		%		%
August 2003	866.7	307.8	35.5	7.3	0.8	281.9	32.5	269.7	31.1
November 2003	809.7	272.6	33.7	6.3	0.8	278.1	34.3	252.7	31.2
February 2004	763.7	252.1	33.0	6.0	0.8	265.9	34.8	239.7	31.4
May 2004	726.4	230.6	31.8	5.1	0.7	256.0	35.2	234.6	32.3
August 2004	696.0	215.4	30.9	4.9	0.7	235.9	33.9	239.8	34.5

Notes:

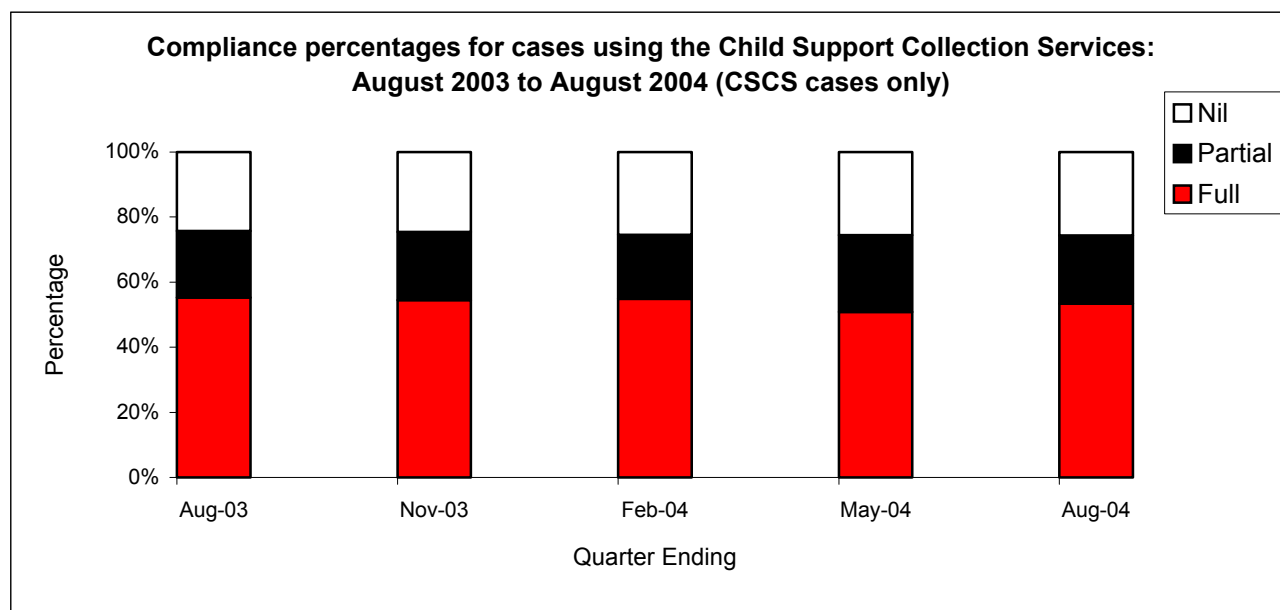
1. Includes a small number of Pension Credit recipients from April 2003
2. Working Families' Tax Credit before April 2003, Working Tax Credit from April 2003 onwards.

- In the following table, the 'Not Applicable' category includes those cases where payment is not via the collection service, or where the NRP was not charged anything during the quarter.

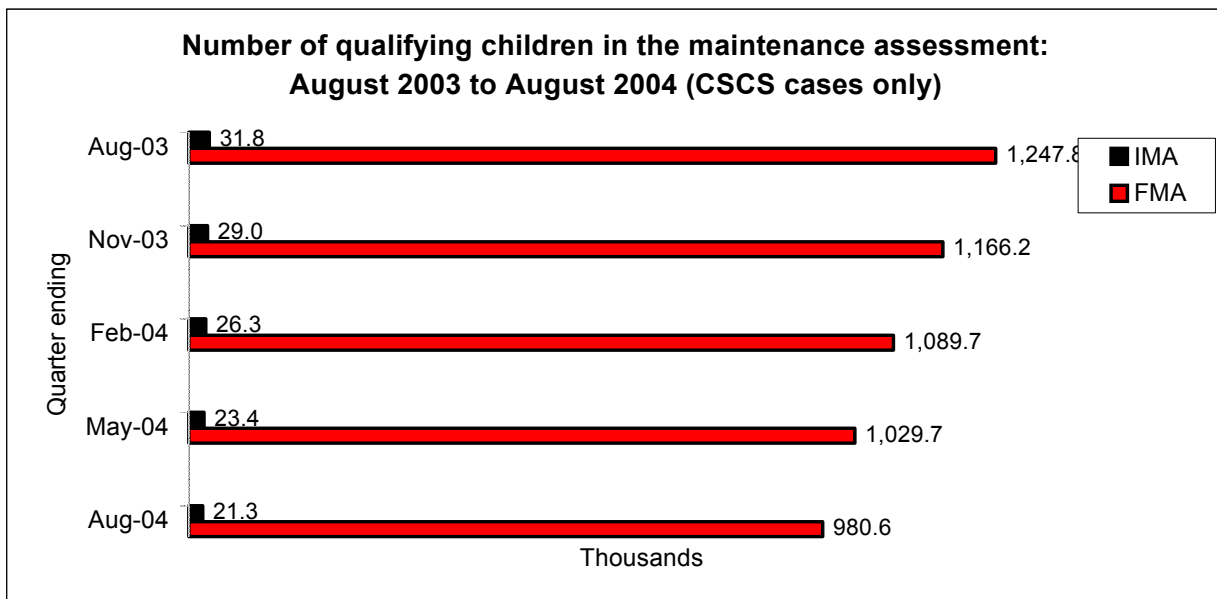
Table 3 Compliance levels for 'live and fully assessed' cases, August 2003 to August 2004 caseload (CSCS cases only)

Thousands

	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
August 2003	866.7	522.4	190.2	70.4	83.8
November 2003	809.7	484.7	176.9	68.1	80.0
February 2004	763.7	456.1	168.8	60.5	78.3
May 2004	726.4	432.6	149.1	69.4	75.3
August 2004	696.0	417.4	148.6	58.6	71.4

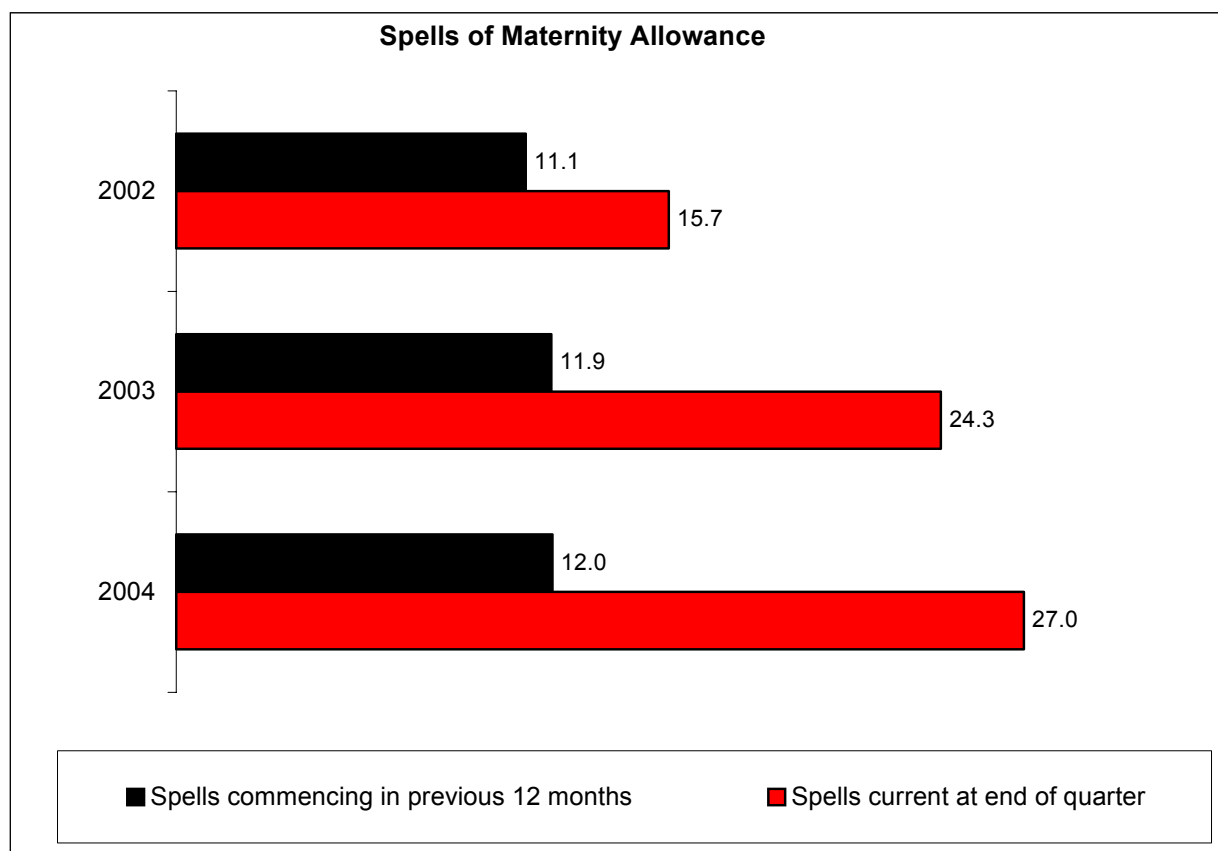


The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 21.4% overall since August 2003 with a 4.8% fall in the last quarter. This fall can be linked to the decrease in the overall caseload.



Appendix 2 – Maternity Allowance

At the end of August 2004 there were 27 thousand spells of Maternity Allowance in payment, 72.1% up on two years earlier. This increase is because the Maternity Allowance period was extended from 18 weeks to 26 weeks for women with an expected week of child birth on or after 6 April 2003.



Maternity Allowance rates

	Higher rate ¹	Lower rate	New Standard Rate	Threshold	£ per week Increase for dependants
Apr-92	.	42.25	.	.	25.50
Apr-93	.	43.75	.	.	26.40
Apr-94	.	44.55	.	.	26.90
Oct-94	52.50	44.55	.	.	26.90
Apr-95	52.50	45.55	.	.	27.50
Apr-96	54.55	47.35	.	.	28.55
Apr-97	55.70	48.35	.	.	29.15
Apr-98	57.70	50.10	.	.	30.20
Apr-99	59.55	51.70	.	.	31.15
Apr-00	60.20	52.25	60.20	30.00	31.50
Apr-01 ²	.	.	62.20	30.00	32.55
Apr-02 ²	.	.	75.00	30.00	33.10
Apr-03 ²	.	.	100.00	30.00	33.65
Apr-04 ²	.	.	102.80	30.00	34.60

Notes:

1. The woman must be an employee in the 15th week before the baby is expected (the 'qualifying week').
2. In April 2001 the higher and lower rates of maternity allowance were abolished and replaced by a standard rate.

Methodology

A full description of the methodology used to produce these analyses and the possible uses that can be made of the data is available from the contact point listed earlier in this publication.

Summary of methodology

These analyses have been constructed by matching 5% samples from administrative benefit computer systems. People in these individual samples are selected using the last two digits of the National Insurance number (NINO). This sampling scheme ensures that the same set of people will be selected for each individual benefit and time period that they have a live claim.

To produce the client group analyses, a common “snapshot” date is chosen and the NINOs for each person claiming a benefit on this date are selected. The NINOs are then matched to produce an overall data set for those who are claiming at least one benefit on the snapshot date. The individual data items used for the various analyses (e.g. age, sex, number of children for which additional benefit is payable) are then taken from the source data sets and additional variables are then derived (e.g. statistical group, family type).

This methodology gives a “best estimate” of the overall number of claimants of benefits. However, there are some minor limitations (for example, the sample of JSA claimants is taken about two weeks before the snapshot date). The best estimates of the numbers claiming each benefit are still given by the individual samples from which the data are drawn. Benefit statistics are released by DWP Information and Analysis Directorate.

For analyses relating to children/young adult dependants and family type, Child Tax Credit (CTC) data has been used to supplement the benefit data. This particularly provides information not previously available for dependants and partners of non income-related benefit claimants i.e. claimants of IB, SDA, DLA, Contributory JSA and JSA Credits. Where child/dependants information is available on both benefit and CTC data – e.g. regarding IS claimants with children – the CTC data has been preferred as the definitive source. Where partner information is available on both the benefit and CTC data, the benefit data has been preferred. This is because CTC is becoming the primary means of paying additional money for children, whereas benefits remain the primary means of paying money in respect of partners. In the vast majority of cases where child/dependants or partner information exists on both benefit and CTC data, the information is the same on both sources anyway.

Children and Families

These analyses are based on children in families who receive additional money via benefits or tax credits for their partner and/or children/young adult dependants. These analyses are based on information collected for the administration of benefits and tax credits. Full information on children is available from benefit and/or Child Tax Credit (CTC) data regarding families in receipt of income-related benefits.(IS, JSA(IB)). CTC data also provides child information regarding families with children in receipt of non income-related benefits (IB, SDA, DLA, Contributory JSA, JSA Credits). The main gaps are children in families receiving non income-related benefits where there is no entitlement to CTC (e.g. household income is too high) or where there is entitlement but CTC is still not in payment (e.g. it has not been claimed by the family).

This table explains the definitions used in the ‘family type’ tables:

<i>Family type</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Couple	Claimants with a partner recorded on CTC data or receiving an additional allowance for a partner in their benefit calculation.
Single	Claimants who have their status recorded as single on benefit and/or CTC computer systems.
Not known	Claimants who do not have a marital status recorded and are not receiving an additional allowance of benefit for a partner. These are mainly IB, SDA and DLA claimants not also receiving CTC.

The effect of New Tax Credits

Figures in this, and future DWP publications are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit (CTC) in April 2003. The main changes are:

- Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits were abolished for new claims to State Pension, Bereavement Benefit, Incapacity Benefit and Carer's Allowance from April 2003.
- CTC is replacing the child elements of Income Support (IS) and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA(IB)). This is happening from April 2004 onwards.

Dates when there may be particular changes in the figures are:

- April 2003, when Child dependency increases paid with non-income related benefits were abolished for new claims.
- October 2003, when families on the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) with children had child elements migrated to CTC.
- Financial year 2004/05, when families on Income Support and income-based Jobseeker's Allowance will have child elements migrated to CTC.

A small number of IS/JSA(IB) recipients will no longer be eligible once CTC is in payment. This is because CTC payments will raise total income above the IS/JSA(IB) threshold, or other income exceeds the threshold once child allowances are removed.

We therefore advise that customers exercise caution when performing year on year comparisons, or when comparing with the previous quarter. The main effect of incorporating CTC data into this bulletin has been to add additional information on children/dependants and family type for claimants of non income-related benefits. When CTC data was added for the first time for the August 2003 bulletin, this added almost 200 thousand families and almost 350 thousand children to the overall totals for children in families on key benefits.

Clerical cases

Some of the claims to each of the key benefits featured in this bulletin are not administered using the relevant DWP computer system. These claims are administered clerically and make up a very small proportion of people of working age who claim a key benefit. Therefore most clerical cases have been excluded, except Income Support claims where clerical cases are included.

Sampling error

The analyses in this report are subject to 'sampling error', i.e. by chance the number of cases in the sample with certain characteristics (e.g. "with children") may produce rated up estimates for the population which are slightly lower or slightly higher than the true population value. An indication of the effect of these sampling errors can be gained from the table of 'confidence intervals' below. Each figure shown in the tables in this report is a best estimate based on the sample data. The true number will most probably lie somewhere in a range around this estimate. The size of this range is usually indicated by a '95% confidence interval'. There is only a 1 in 20 chance that the true value lies outside of this range. Usually this interval is approximately symmetric so, for example, an estimate of 10,000 is really showing that the true value probably lies in the range 9,100 to 10,900.

Approximate 95% confidence intervals for a sample based on 1 in every 20 cases in the population are shown below for estimates of 1,000 or more.

Estimated value	95% confidence interval (+ or -)	Confidence interval as % of estimate (+ or -)
1,000	270	27
2,000	382	19
3,000	468	16
4,000	540	14
5,000	604	12
6,000	662	11
7,000	715	10
8,000	764	10
9,000	811	9
10,000	854	9
20,000	1,208	6
30,000	1,480	5
40,000	1,709	4
50,000	1,910	4
100,000	2,702	3
200,000	3,821	2
300,000	4,679	2
400,000	5,403	1
500,000	6,041	1
600,000	6,618	1
700,000	7,148	1
800,000	7,641	1
900,000	8,105	1
1,000,000	8,543	1

The above method applies only to estimates of numbers of people and not to other characteristics (such as percentages).

