

Client Group Analysis

Quarterly bulletin on families with children on key benefits

February 2002

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Definitions and conventions

Children

The 'children' analyses are based on children in families where the claimant receives an additional allowance of benefit for children or young adult dependants (i.e. those aged 16-18 and still in full-time education); AND those children in families in receipt of contribution-based JSA or JSA National Insurance credits only, with children or young adult dependants recorded in the assessment. Additional amounts are payable for all dependant children in families receiving income related benefits (i.e. Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)) or tax credits. The main gaps are children of claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance, for whom children information is incomplete; and children of claimants of Disability Living Allowance, for whom no children information is recorded.

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 credit.

Key Benefits

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

Tax credits

Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC)
Disabled Persons Tax Credit (DPTC)

Symbols and conventions

Working age is: 16 to 64 years for men
16 to 59 years for women
Population estimates are mid-year from 1999 to 2000
Population figures for young adult dependants are derived from Child Benefit data

"-" less than 500
"." not applicable

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
" "	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 they also receive the disability premium then the family is assigned to 'Sick & Disabled'.

Main Findings

- At February 2002, 2.51 million children were living in families claiming a key benefit and receiving additional benefit for them (the term 'children' refers collectively to children aged 0-15 and young adult dependants aged 16-18 in full-time education)- 4.3% down from last year. While numbers classed as 'Unemployed' fell by 18% over this period, and those classed as 'Lone Parents' by 3.8% the Sick & Disabled rose by 0.2% (Table 1).
- Although the number of children less than 16 years old, living in families where the benefit claimant was single, fell from the previous year (as did the number where the claimant had a partner), a greater *proportion* of children (under 16) were living in families where the claimant was single (72.2% compared with 71.1% a year ago) (Table 3).
- Amongst the Sick & Disabled Group, proportionally fewer children were under the age of five, reflecting the older age profile of those claiming a sickness and/or disability benefit (although some of this group's ages were unknown) (Table 4)
- The percentage of children in families claiming a key benefit for at least two years was 63% in February 2002. This increased from 61% in February 2001. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was higher: 76% (Table 5) at February 2002.
- 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 27% in the London Government Office Region (GOR) down to 12% in the South East GOR (Table 7), showing a variation between local authorities in regions.
- 67% of 'key benefit' children were in families that were claiming IS only (Table 8).
- While 4% of families claiming child benefit had four or more children (February 2002), the figure was 8% for families on key benefits. For the Unemployed the figure was higher: 12% (Table 13).

Tables and charts

Children on Benefit

Table 1 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 2000 to February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	Number of children/dependants ¹					
	Feb-00	%	Feb-01	%	Feb-02	%
All statistical groups	2,708	100	2,626	100	2,513	100
Unemployed	302	11	257	10	211	8
Sick & Disabled	641	24	657	25	658	26
Lone Parents	1,689	62	1,647	63	1,585	63
Others	76	3	65	2	59	2

Notes:

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

- At February 2002, 2.51 million children (19.1% 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 for them. This represents a fall of 4.3% from the previous year.
- While numbers classed as 'Unemployed' fell by 18% in the last year, and those classed as 'Lone Parents' by 3.8%, the 'Sick & Disabled' group rose by 0.2%.

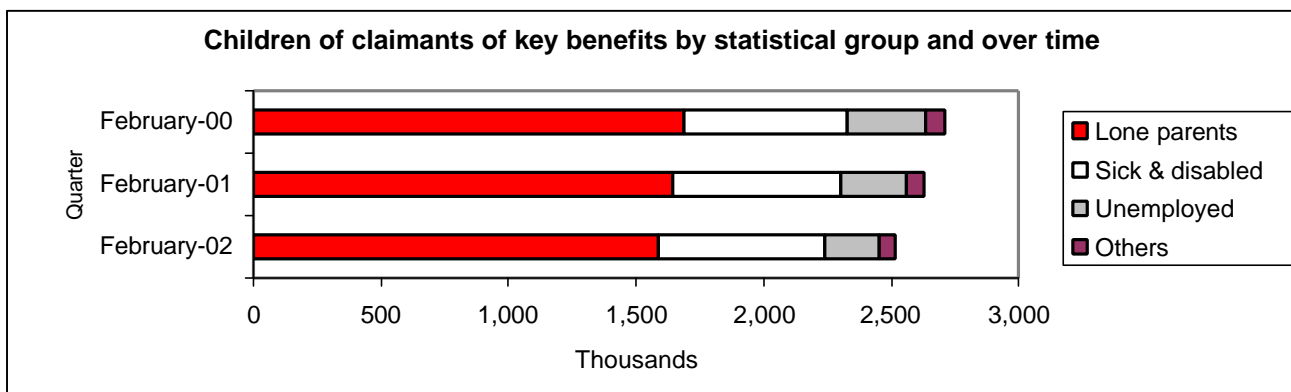


Table 2 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: February 2002

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
All statistical groups	2,339	20	600	1,690	49	173	12	60	114	-
Unemployed	188	2	182	6	-	22	2	13	10	-
Sick & Disabled	586	5	366	171	49	73	5	41	31	-
Lone Parents	1,512	13	-	1,512	-	72	5	-	72	-
Others	53	-	52	1	-	6	-	6	-	-

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance 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 20% at February 2002; this compared with 12% for those aged 16-18 in full time education.

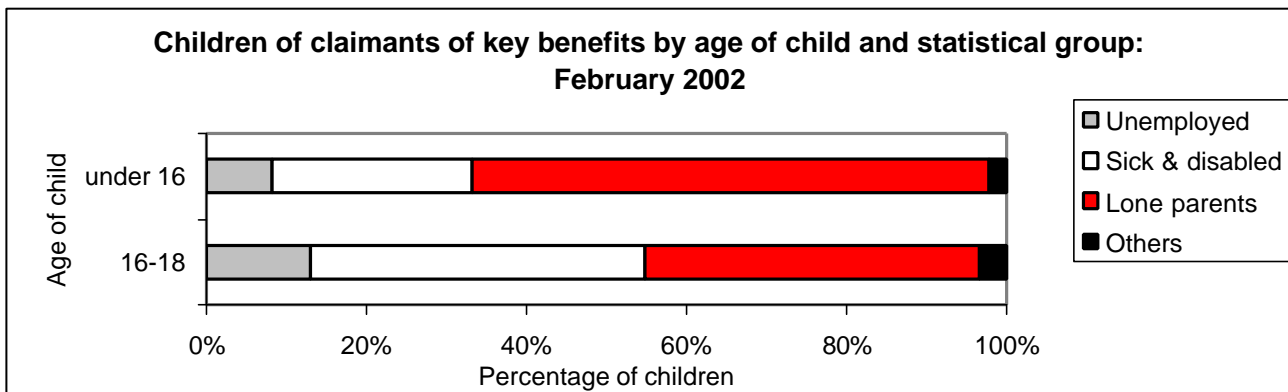


Table 3 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: February 2000 to February 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>									
	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	
Feb 2000	2,535	22	694	1,781	59	173	12	64	109	-
Feb 2001	2,452	21	652	1,744	55	174	12	61	113	-
Feb 2002	2,339	20	600	1,690	49	173	12	60	114	-

Notes:

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

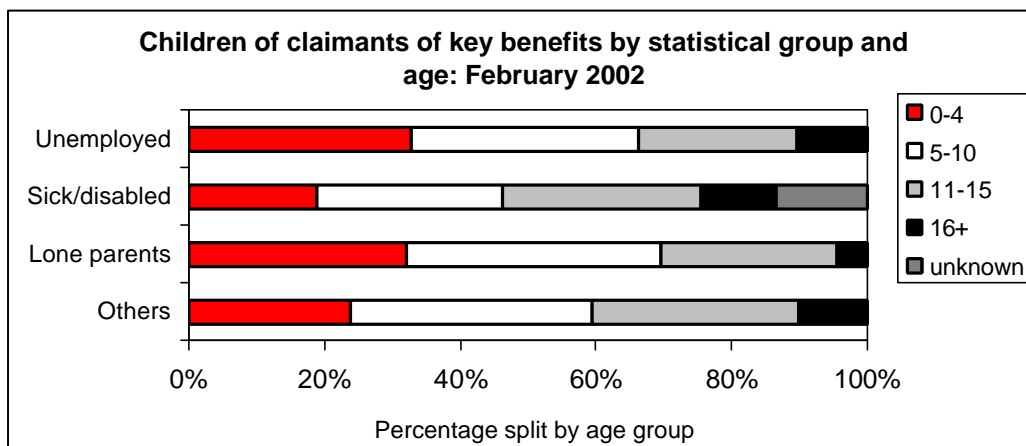
- Although the number of children less than 16 years old living in families where the benefit claimant was single, fell between February 2001 and February 2002 (as did the number where the claimant had a partner), a greater *proportion* of children (under 16) were living in families where the claimant was single (72.2% compared with 71.1% a year earlier), reflecting the faster falls in the married / cohabiting unit.
- For 16-18 year olds the *proportion* of children living in families where the claimant was single was 64.7% in February 2001. This increased to 65.5% in February 2002.

Table 4 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family and age of youngest child: February 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>											
	All children/deps	%	Under 5	%	5 to under 11	%	11 to under 16	%	16 or over	%	Not known	%
All statistical groups	2,513	100	717	29	864	34	669	27	173	7	89	4
Unemployed	211	100	69	33	70	33	49	23	22	10	-	-
Sick & Disabled	658	100	124	19	181	28	192	29	73	11	89	14
Lone Parents	1,585	100	509	32	592	37	411	26	72	5	-	-
Others	59	100	14	24	21	36	18	31	6	10	-	-

Notes:

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



- Amongst the Sick & Disabled Group, proportionally fewer children were under the age of five, reflecting the older age profile of those claiming a sickness and/or disability benefit (although many of this group's ages were unknown). The children of lone parents had the youngest profile, with 69.5% being aged under 11.

Table 5 Children and young adult dependants¹ of key benefits by statistical group of family and duration of claim: February 2002

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	2,513	100	156	6	153	6	248	10	362	14	1,593	63
Unemployed	211	100	72	34	41	19	42	20	31	15	24	11
Sick & Disabled	658	100	16	2	22	3	45	7	78	12	498	76
Lone Parents	1,585	100	63	4	83	5	154	10	244	15	1,041	66
Others	59	100	5	8	6	10	7	12	10	17	31	53

Notes:

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

- Of those children in families on a key benefit, 63% had been on benefit for at least two years (compared to 61% at February 2001). For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 76%, while that for the unemployed was only 11 %.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed, 73% had been on benefit for less than a year.

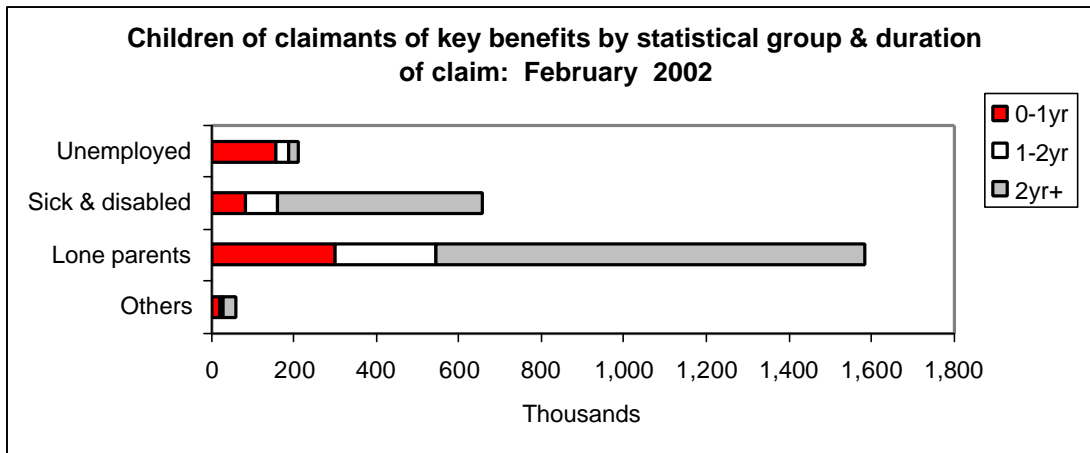


Table 6: Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: February 2000 to February 2002.

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
Feb 2000	2,708	192	190	306	403	1,616
%	100	7	7	11	15	60
Feb 2001	2,626	184	180	276	391	1,595
%	100	7	7	11	15	61
Feb 2002	2,513	156	153	248	362	1,593
%	100	6	6	10	14	63

Notes:

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

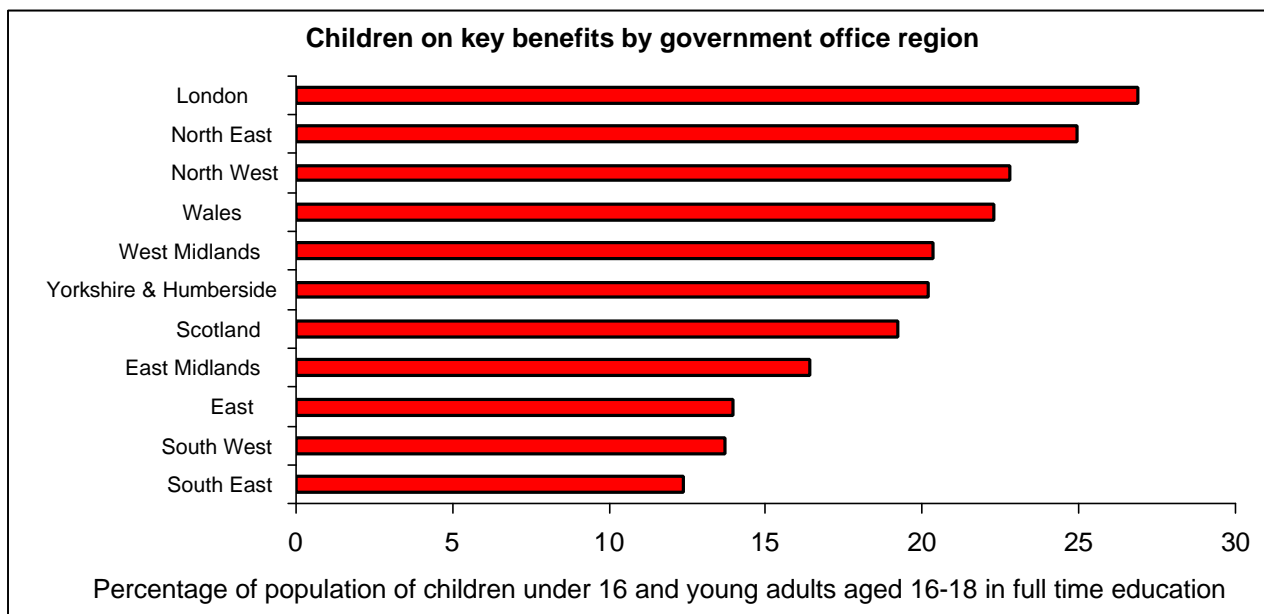
- The percentage of children in families claiming benefit for at least two years was 63% in February 2002. This increased from 61% in February 2001. Conversely, the percentage of children in families claiming benefit for under one year has dropped from 24% in February 2001 to 22% in February 2002.

Table 7 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: February 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>% of pop²</i>
Great Britain	2,513	19
England	2,150	19
North East	144	25
North West	366	23
Yorkshire and Humberside	233	20
East Midlands	156	16
West Midlands	254	20
East	172	14
London	451	27
South East	227	12
South West	148	14
Wales	149	22
Scotland	212	19
SDA/IB claimants living abroad	1	.

Notes:

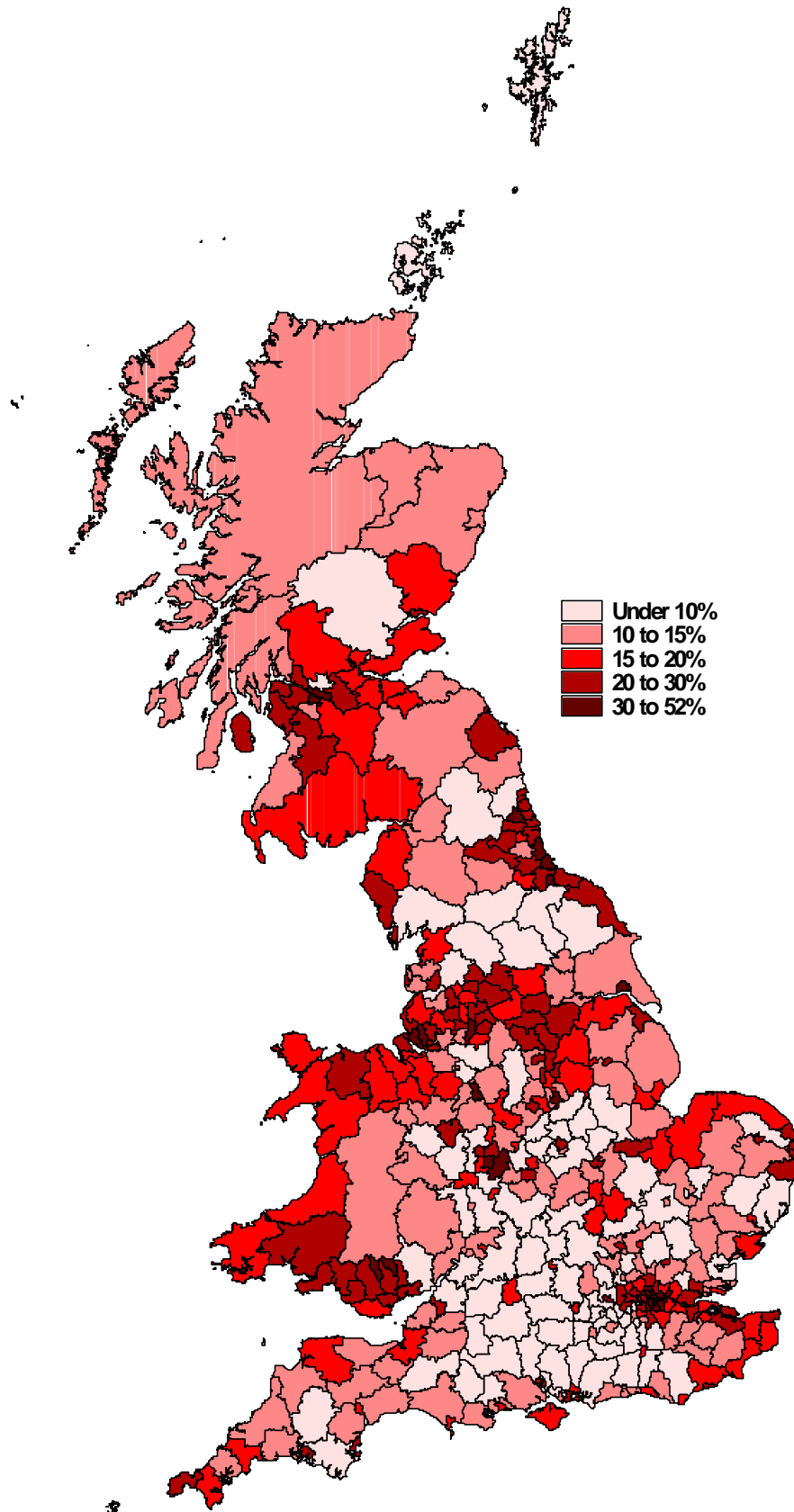
1. *Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance payable (see definitions and conventions).*
 2. *Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16-18 in full-time education (from Child Benefit estimates)*
- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16-18 and in full-time education) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 27% in the London Government Office Region (GOR) down to 12% 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 8% of children in Castle Morpeth lived in families on key benefits compared to 34% of children in Easington.



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

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Comparisons should be made 'year on year'.

Children of claimants of key benefits, as a percentage of population aged under 16 or aged 16-19 in full time education: February 2002



These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Comparisons should be made 'year on year'.

Table 8 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of combinations of key benefits: February 2002

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	Number of children/deps	<i>% population²</i>
All combinations	2,513	19
IS only	1,680	13
JSA only	208	2
IS & IB	311	2
IS,IB & DLA ³	145	1
IB only	47	-
IB & DLA	39	-
IS & DLA	47	-
IS, DLA & SDA	23	-
IS & SDA	8	-
DLA & SDA	2	-
DLA & JSA	1	-
SDA only	1	-
Others ⁴	1	-

Notes:

- 1 *Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance payable*
- 2 *Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16-18 in full-time education*
- 3 *No allowance payable for dependants of recipients of DLA only, therefore no such dependants included in figures*
- 4 *Due to slight differences in dates of benefit data extracts, includes anomalies such as IB with JSA (see definitions and conventions).*

- 67% of 'key benefit' children were in families claiming IS only, reflecting the fact that lone parents form the majority of families with children dependent on key benefits.

Families on Benefit

Table 9 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2002

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	1,315	100	82	6	83	6	135	10	197	15	818	62
Unemployed	101	100	36	36	21	21	20	20	14	14	11	11
Sick & Disabled	348	100	8	2	11	3	23	7	40	11	266	76
Lone parents	840	100	36	4	48	6	89	11	139	17	528	63
Others	25	100	2	8	3	12	3	12	4	16	13	52

Notes:

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

- 62% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least two years. For the sick and disabled group the figure was 76% while that for the unemployed was 11%.
- 76% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

Table 10 Families¹ on key benefits by duration of claim: February 2000 to February 2002

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
Feb 2000	1,414	101	101	164	215	832
%	100	7	7	12	15	59
Feb 2001	1,372	99	98	148	208	819
%	100	7	7	11	15	60
Feb 2002	1,315	82	83	135	197	818
%	100	6	6	10	15	62

Notes:

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

- In the last two years the number of families on a benefit for at least two years increased from 60% in February 2001 to 62% in February 2002. In the same period the percentage of families on a benefit for under 1 year dropped from 25% to 23%.

Table 11 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Age of youngest child								Not known	
	Thousands	%	Under 5	%	5-11	%	11-16	%	16+	%	Thousands	%
All statistical groups	1,315	100	572	43	398	30	237	18	54	4	54	4
Unemployed	101	100	52	51	24	24	14	14	12	12	-	-
Sick & Disabled	348	100	96	28	87	25	79	23	32	9	54	16
Lone Parents	840	100	414	49	279	33	140	17	7	1	-	-
Others	25	100	10	40	8	32	5	20	2	8	-	-

Notes:

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

- Of the youngest children of families on key benefits, 43% were under the age of five.
- For the Sick & Disabled the age profile of the youngest children was older (although many of this group's ages were unknown).

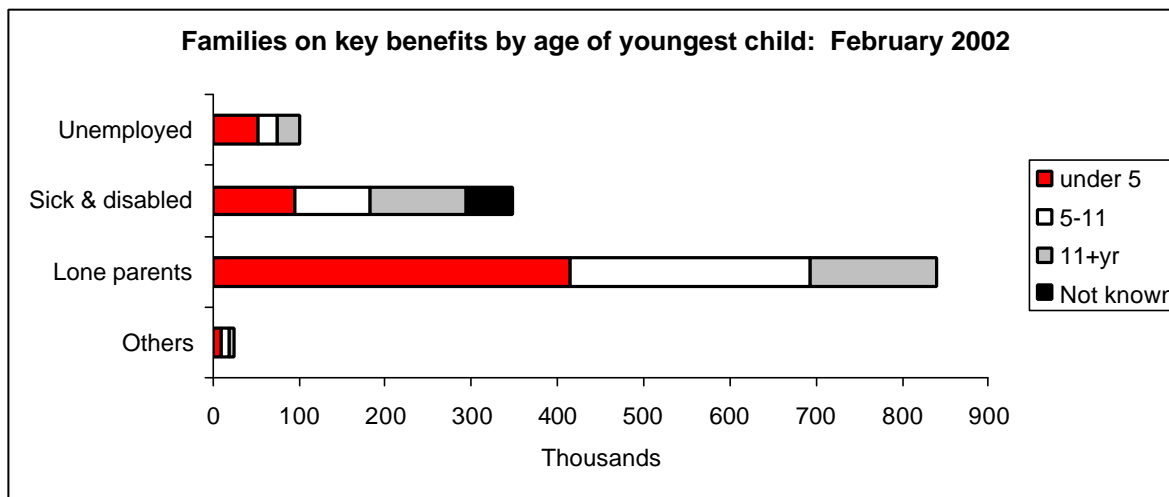


Table 12 Families¹ on key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants: February 2000 to February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	All families	Age of youngest child					Not known
		Under 5	5 to under 11	11 to under 16	16 or over		
Feb 2000	1,414	624	429	240	54	66	
%	100	44	30	17	4	5	
Feb 2001	1,372	604	414	240	54	60	
%	100	44	30	17	4	4	
Feb 2002	1,315	572	398	237	54	54	
%	100	43	30	18	4	4	

Notes:

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

- Between February 2000 and February 2002 there was little change in the age profile of the youngest child in families on key benefits.

Table 13 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: February 2002

Thousands

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	1,315	585	424	195	111
Unemployed	101	40	32	17	12
Sick & Disabled	348	165	104	48	31
Lone parents	840	372	281	125	63
Others	25	8	7	5	5

Notes:

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

- While 4% of families claiming Child Benefit had four or more children (February 2002), the figure was 8% for families on key benefits. For the unemployed the figure was higher: 12%.

Children and Families claiming benefit and/or receiving tax credits

Background

Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC) replaced Family Credit (FC) from 5 October 1999. It is a tax credit available to working families with children. Disabled Person's Tax Credit (DPTC) replaced Disability Working Allowance (DWA) from 5 October 1999. It is a tax credit available to working people who have an illness or disability, which puts them at a disadvantage in getting a job. Both are administered by the Inland Revenue. A small number of people are in receipt of both benefits and tax credits.

Statistical group

When DPTC and the WFTC are included alongside benefits in the client group analysis, 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 and/or Disabled
"	SDA	"	"	Sick and/or Disabled
"	IS, with disability premium	"	"	Sick and/or Disabled
"	IS, single	"	"	Lone Parents
"	IS	"	"	Others
"	WFTC (or FC pre Oct 99)	"	"	Working Family
"	DPTC (or DWA pre Oct 99)	"	"	Working Disabled

As WFTC and DPTC awards can remain in payment after employment has ended (they are paid for six months irrespective of circumstances), those people who also receive a key benefit are allocated to the appropriate group based on the benefit received. For example, a person receiving WFTC who also receives IS as a lone parent is allocated to the 'Lone Parents' group. This explains why the numbers in this bulletin can differ from those shown in the separate DWP and IR benefit and tax credit publications.

Dependent children do not affect the amounts of award of 'Contribution-based' or 'Credits only' IB/JSA and, as such, information relating to them can be somewhat incomplete. However, when combined with information from income-related benefits or tax credits, a much better indication of dependants is obtained. Therefore figures relating to 'Unemployed' and 'Sick and/or Disabled' may differ slightly to those shown in the benefit-only tables.

The data on awards of Working Families' Tax Credit and Disabled Person's Tax Credit used in tables 14-20 are supplied by, and used with the agreement of, Inland Revenue.

Table 14 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family: February 2000 to February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	Number of children/dependants ¹					
	Feb-00	%	Feb-01	%	Feb-02	%
All statistical groups	4,589	100	4,886	100	4,950	100
Unemployed	304	7	259	5	213	4
Sick & Disabled	650	14	667	14	669	14
Lone Parents	1,689	37	1,647	34	1,585	32
Others	76	2	65	1	59	1
Working Family	1,855	40	2,225	46	2,397	48
Working Disabled	16	0	22	0	27	1

Notes:

1. Children aged under 16 and young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance payable (see definitions and conventions).

Table 15 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family & family type: February 2002

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
All statistical groups	4,602	39	1,871	2,683	49	347	25	132	216	-
Unemployed	191	2	183	7	-	22	2	13	10	-
Sick & Disabled	595	5	372	175	49	74	5	42	32	-
Lone Parents	1,512	13	-	1,512	-	72	5	-	72	-
Others	53	-	52	1	-	6	-	6	-	-
Working Family	2,227	19	1,249	979	-	170	12	70	100	-
Working Disabled	24	-	15	8	-	3	-	2	1	-

Notes:

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

Table 16 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family and age of child: February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Number of children/dependants ¹									
			Under 5		5 to under 11		11 to under 16		16 or over		Not known	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
All statistical groups	4,950	100	1,392	28	1,752	35	1,370	28	347	7	88	2
Unemployed	213	100	70	33	71	33	49	23	22	10	-	0
Sick & Disabled	669	100	128	19	185	28	195	29	74	11	88	13
Lone Parents	1,585	100	509	32	592	37	411	26	72	5	-	0
Others	59	100	14	24	21	36	18	31	6	10	-	0
Working Family	2,397	100	665	28	875	37	687	29	170	7	-	0
Working Disabled	27	100	5	19	9	33	10	37	3	11	-	0

Notes:

1 Children aged under 16 and young adult dependants aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance payable (see definitions and conventions).

Table 17 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family and duration of claim: February 2002

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	4,950	100	431	9	514	10	688	14	947	19	2,369	48
Unemployed	213	100	57	27	45	21	47	22	35	16	29	14
Sick & Disabled	669	100	14	2	24	4	47	7	80	12	503	75
Lone Parents	1,585	100	59	4	83	5	155	10	245	15	1,042	66
Others	59	100	4	7	6	10	7	12	10	17	31	53
Working Family	2,397	100	296	12	354	15	428	18	571	24	748	31
Working Disabled	27	100	1	4	2	7	3	11	5	19	16	59

Notes:

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

2 Oldest benefit payable during current spell of benefit receipt

Table 18 Families¹ on key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family and duration: February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	Duration of oldest claim ²											
	All durations	%	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	2,566	100	231	9	275	11	359	14	493	19	1,208	47
Unemployed	103	100	29	28	23	22	22	21	16	16	13	13
Sick & Disabled	354	100	7	2	13	4	24	7	42	12	269	76
Lone Parents	840	100	33	4	48	6	90	11	140	17	529	63
Others	25	100	2	8	3	12	3	12	4	16	13	52
Working Family	1,229	100	159	13	188	15	218	18	289	24	376	31
Working Disabled	15	100	1	7	1	7	1	7	3	20	9	60

Notes:

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

Table 19 Families¹ on key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group of family and age of youngest child: February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	Age of youngest child											
	All ages	%	Under 5	%	5-11	%	11-16	%	16+	%	Not known	%
All statistical groups	2,566	100	1,104	43	818	32	483	19	109	4	54	2
Unemployed	103	100	52	50	24	23	14	14	12	12	-	0
Sick & Disabled	354	100	98	28	89	25	81	23	33	9	54	15
Lone Parents	840	100	414	49	279	33	140	17	7	1	-	0
Others	25	100	10	40	8	32	5	20	2	8	-	0
Working Family	1,229	100	524	43	413	34	239	19	53	4	-	0
Working Disabled	15	100	4	27	5	33	5	33	1	7	-	0

Notes:

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

Table 20 Families¹ on key benefits and/or recipients of tax credits by statistical group and number of children: February 2002

Thousands and percentages

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	2,566	1,073	891	400	203
Unemployed	103	40	33	18	12
Sick & Disabled	354	168	106	49	31
Lone Parents	840	372	281	125	63
Others	25	8	7	5	5
Working Family	1,229	479	458	202	91
Working Disabled	15	7	5	2	1

Notes:

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

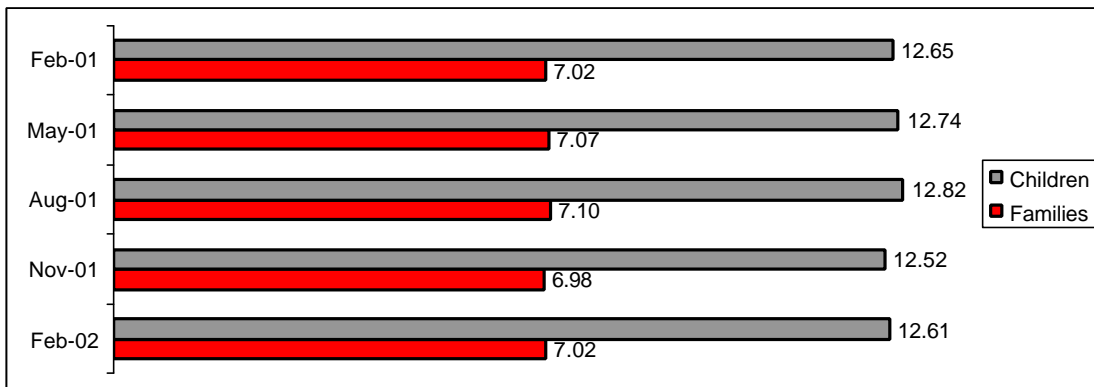
Appendices

Appendix 1 – Child Benefit

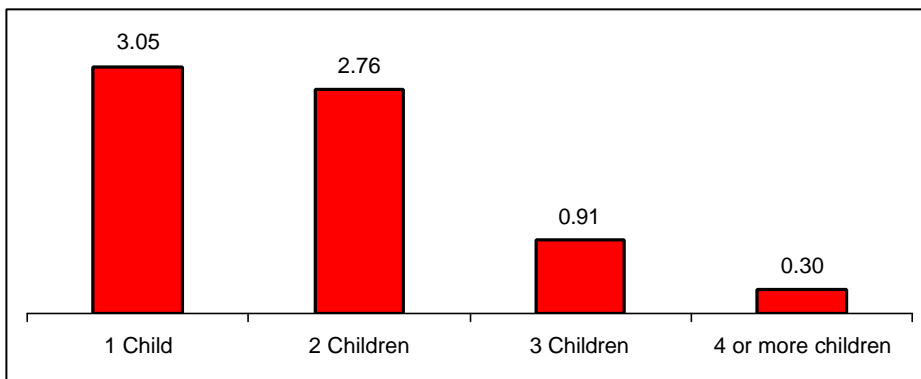
- At the end of February 2002 there were around 7.02 million families receiving a payment of Child Benefit and 12.61 million children for whom a payment of Child Benefit was being made. Both remain virtually the same as at the same point a year earlier, in line with the long-term trend.

- Within academic years, the caseload rises as new births outstrip those 16-18 year olds leaving full-time education - up to A-level or NVQ level 3 standard - and so no longer being eligible for Child Benefit. At the end of each academic year (early September, officially), the volume of 16-18 year olds leaving full-time education is at its greatest, outstripping new births, and the Child Benefit caseload falls again.

Child Benefit caseload: Families and children (millions), February 2002

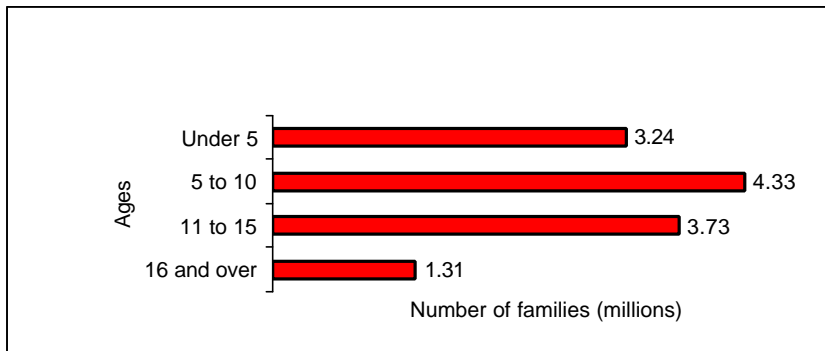


Child Benefit families by number of children, February 2002 (millions)



These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Comparisons should be made 'year on year'.

Child Benefit caseload by age of children, February 2002 (millions)



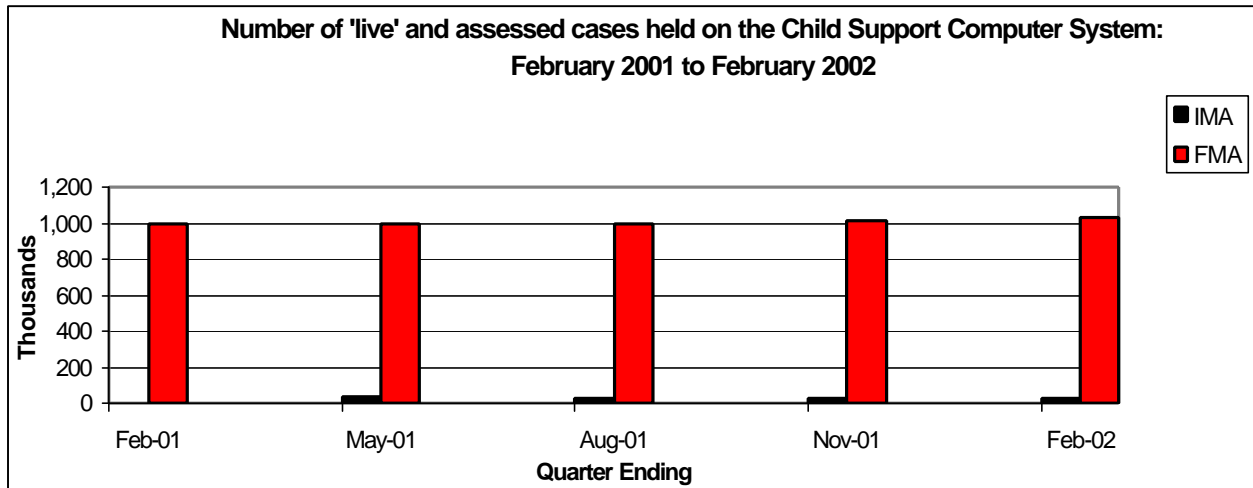
Child Benefit rates (£ per week)

	Eldest qualifying child of a couple	Eldest qualifying child of a lone parent	Each other child
Apr-92	9.65	15.50	7.80
Apr-93	10.00	16.05	8.10
Apr-94	10.20	16.35	8.25
Apr-95	10.40	16.70	8.45
Apr-96	10.80	17.10	8.80
Apr-97	11.05	17.10	9.00
Apr-98	11.45	17.10	9.30
Apr-99	14.40	17.10	9.60
Apr-00	15.00	17.55	10.00
Apr-01	15.50	17.55	10.35
Apr-02	15.75	17.55	10.55

These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Comparisons should be made 'year on year'.

Appendix 2 – Child Support Agency

At the end of February 2002 there were 1,031.8 thousand 'live' and fully assessed cases held on the Child Support Computer System (CSCS).



Notes:

- Following investigations into the over-estimation of IMA figures, we are now able to provide accurate IMA figures using a 100% scan of CSA work in hand totals taken on a monthly basis. We are now able to provide the revised IMA totals for May 2001 onwards. All IMA figures previous to this were calculated using the old methodology and are subject to over-estimation.
- The average weekly maintenance assessment for all 'live' fully assessed cases rose from £20.32 to £20.87 during the period February 2001 to February 2002. NRPs with regular income working as an employee had an average weekly full maintenance assessment of £38.57 at the end of February 2002, compared with £22.33 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: February 2001 to February 2002

	NRPs with a maintenance assessment	
	FMA (thousands)	Average £ pw
February 2001	998.5	£20.32
May 2001	995.9	£20.57
August 2001	1,001.5	£20.77
November 2001	1,019.0	£20.81
February 2002	1,031.8	£20.87

- PWCs are assigned to a benefit status according to the following order of priority: receiving Working Families' Tax Credit (WFTC), 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 employment income, and other benefits).

Table 2 Benefit Status of PWC, February 2001 – February 2002: full assessments

Thousands and percentages

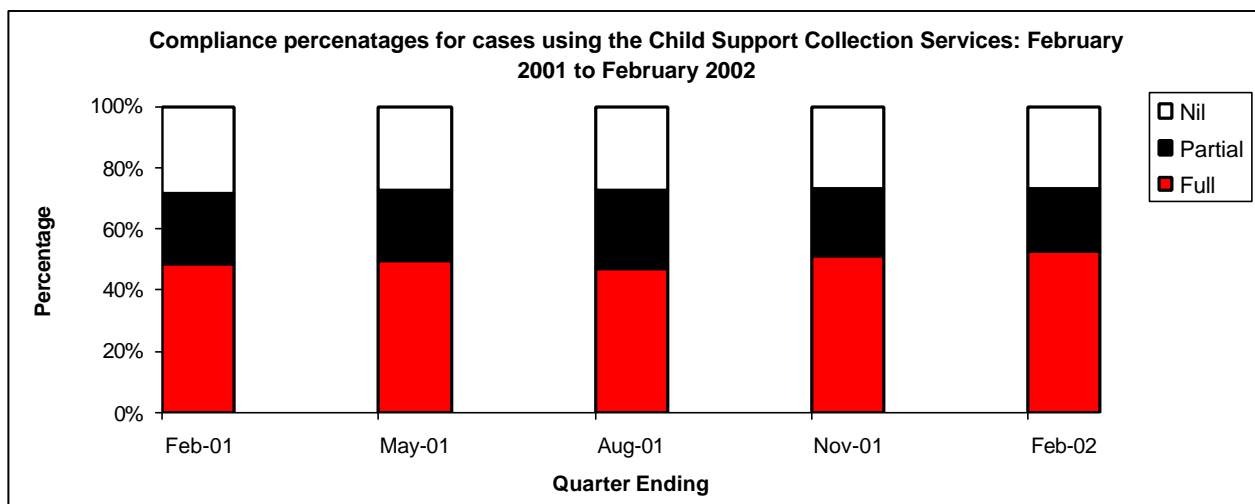
	Total	PWC Benefit Status							
		Income Support		JSA (IB)		WFTC		Other	
			%		%		%		%
February 2001	998,5	393.3	39.4	10.8	1.1	244.6	24.5	349.9	35.0
May 2001	995,9	383.5	38.5	9.2	0.9	243.1	24.4	360.2	36.2
August 2001	1001,5	383.9	38.3	9.6	1.0	252.6	25.2	355.4	35.5
November 2001	1019,0	380.9	37.4	8.6	0.8	258.0	25.3	371.4	36.4
February 2002	1031,8	383.0	37.1	9.2	0.9	261.8	25.4	377.8	36.6

- 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, February 2001 to February 2002 caseload

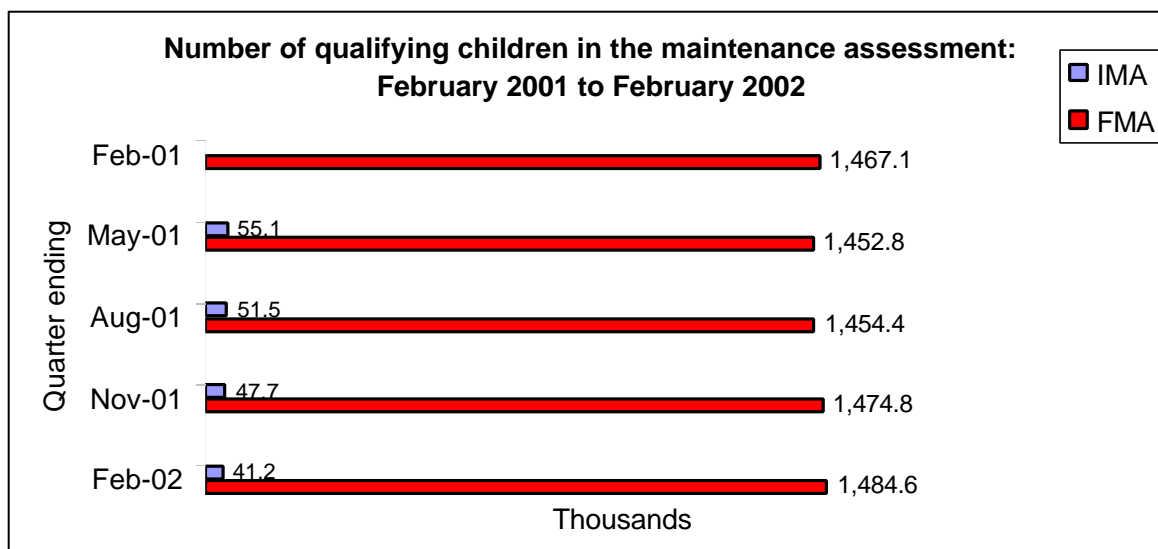
Thousands

Month	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
February 2001	998,5	632.8	177.6	84.0	104.2
May 2001	995,9	627.6	183.6	83.3	101.5
August 2001	1,001,5	631.5	173.2	95.8	101.0
November 2001	1,019,0	647.4	190.4	80.4	100.7
February 2002	1,031,8	663.9	193.1	76.3	98.5



These figures are not seasonally adjusted. Comparisons should be made 'year on year'.

- The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has increased by 1% overall since February 2001.

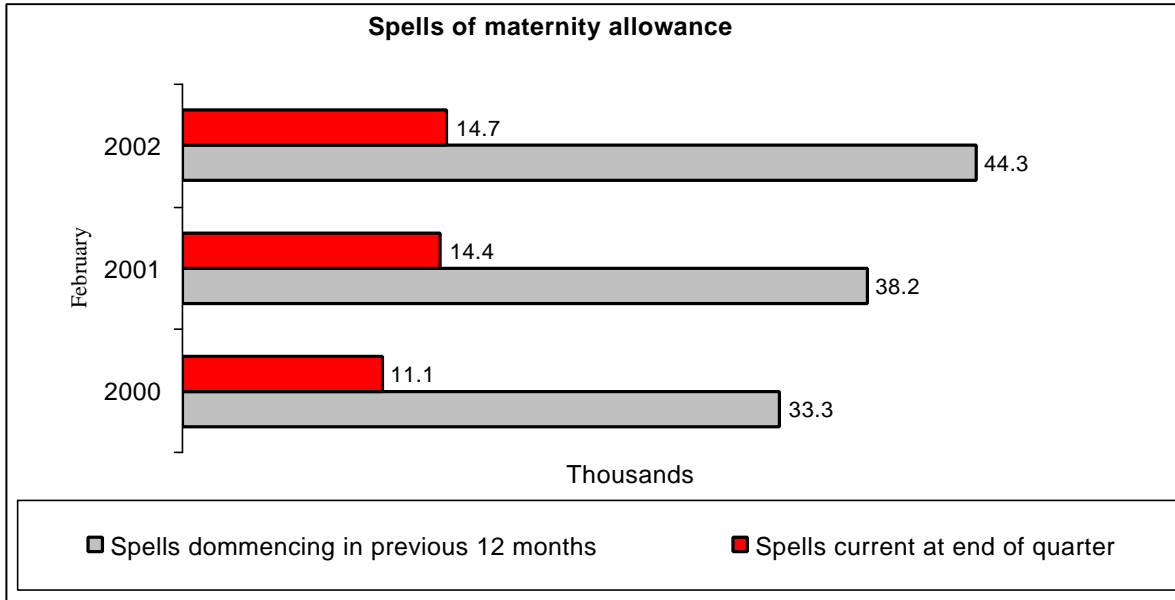


Notes:

1. Following investigations into the over-estimation of IMA figures, we are now able to provide accurate IMA figures using a 100% scan of CSA work in hand totals taken on a monthly basis. We are now able to provide the revised IMA totals for May 2001 onwards. All IMA figures previous to this were calculated using the old methodology and are subject to over-estimation.

Appendix 3 – Maternity Allowance

At the end of February 2002 there were 14.7 thousand spells of Maternity Allowance in payment, 32% up on two years earlier, and reflecting the increase in the number of new spells.



Maternity Allowance rates

	Higher rate ¹	Lower rate	Increase for dependants	£ per week
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		31.50
Apr-01	62.20 ²			32.55

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 for the individual benefits/tax credits that they cover. 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/tax credit and time period for which they have a live claim or award.

To produce the client group analyses, a common 'snapshot' date is chosen and the NINOs for each person claiming a benefit or receiving a tax credit 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 or receiving a tax credit on the snapshot date. The individual data items used for the various analyses (e.g. age, sex, number of children for which additional benefit 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 and recipients of tax credits. However, there are some minor limitations, e.g. the sample of JSA claimants is taken about two weeks before the snapshot date. The best estimates for the numbers claiming each benefit are still given by the individual samples from which the data are drawn. These are published by DWP Analytical Services Directorate and tax credit statistics are published by Inland Revenue Analysis and Research Services.

Children and Families

These analyses are based on children in families where the claimant receives an additional allowance of benefit for children or young adult dependants (i.e. those aged 16-18 and still in full-time education); AND those children in families in receipt of contribution-based JSA or JSA National Insurance credits only, with children or young adult dependants recorded in the assessment. Additional amounts are payable for all dependant children in families receiving income related benefits (i.e. Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)) or tax credits. The main gaps are children of claimants of Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance, for whom children information is incomplete; and children of claimants of Disability Living Allowance, for whom no children information is recorded.

Family type

The 'family type' analyses (i.e. single, couple, not known) in tables 2, 3 and 15 are based primarily on claimants who receive additional amounts of benefit or tax credit for their partner. These amounts are payable for all partners of claimants of income related benefits or recipients of tax credits, which are received by the majority of people covered by these analyses. The main gap comes from claimants of IB/SDA where additional benefit is payable only to those who have a partner who is not working and is looking after children. Most IB/SDA claimants do not qualify for these allowances, though the DWP Family Resources Survey (FRS) suggests that about half have a partner.

This table explains the definitions used in the 'family type' tables:

Family type	Definition
Couple	People who receive an additional allowance of benefit or tax credit for their partner; or those in receipt of contribution-based JSA or JSA national insurance credits only, with a partner recorded.
Single	People who have their status recorded as single and therefore do not receive an additional allowance of benefit or tax credit for a partner.
Not known	People who do not have a marital status recorded and are not receiving an additional allowance of benefit or tax credit for a partner. These are mainly IB/SDA claimants and include a small number who receive allowances for dependants but not partners.

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).

