

Client Group Analysis

Quarterly bulletin on families with children on key benefits

February 2004

Contents

Main Findings	1
Children on Benefit	2
Table 1 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 2002 to February 2004	2
Table 2 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: February 2004	3
Table 3 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by family type: February 2002 to February 2004	4
Table 4 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family and age of youngest child: February 2004	4
Table 5 Children and young adult dependants of key benefits by statistical group of family and duration of claim: February 2004	5
Table 6: Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: February 2002 to February 2004.	6
Table 7 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: February 2004	7
Children of claimants of key benefits, as a percentage of population aged under 16 or aged 16-18 in full time education: February 2004	8
Table 8 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of combinations of key benefits: February 2004	9
Families on Benefit	10
Table 9 Families on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2004.....	10
Table 10 Families on key benefits by duration of claim: February 2002 to February 2004.....	10
Table 11 Families on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: February 2004 .	11
Table 12 Families on key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants: February 2002 to February 2004	12
Table 13 Families on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: February 2004	12
Appendix 1 – Child Support Agency	13
Table 1: New Scheme Child Support cases – Summary to end of February 2004.....	13
Table 2 Number of NRPs with a full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment: February 2003 to February 2004 (CSCS cases only).....	14
Table 3 Benefit Status of PWC, February 2003 – February 2004: full assessments (CSCS cases only)	14
Table 4 Compliance levels for 'live and fully assessed' cases, February 2003 to February 2004 caseload (CSCS cases only)	14
Appendix 2 – Maternity Allowance.....	16
Methodology	17

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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 February 2004 compared with previous years. As a result, 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 2002.

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 February 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, 64% had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 74%, 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.
- 7.7% of families on key benefits had four or more children in February 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 10%.

Tables and charts

Children on Benefit

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

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	February-02		Number of children/dependants ¹		February-04	
		%	February-03	%		%
All statistical groups	2,513	100	2,458	100	2,741	100
Unemployed	211	8	197	8	231	8
Sick/ Disabled	658	26	657	27	952	35
Lone Parents	1,585	63	1,548	63	1,501	55
Others	59	2	57	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 February 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 effect on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

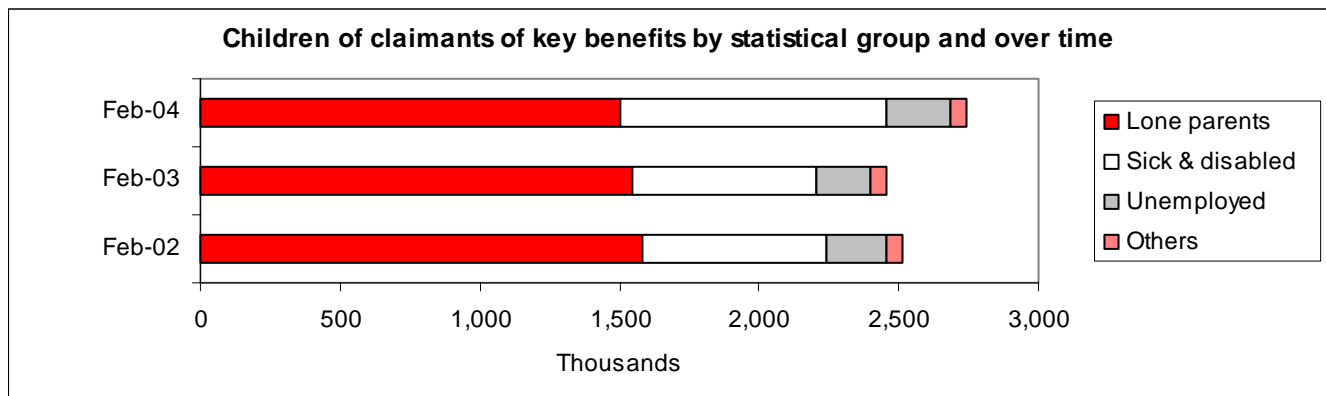


Table 2 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: February 2004

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	2,504	22	840	1,653	12	237	16	110	127	-
Unemployed	204	2	193	11	-	28	2	16	11	-
Sick/ Disabled	823	7	600	211	12	130	9	88	42	-
Lone Parents	1,427	13	-	1,427	-	74	5	-	74	-
Others	50	-	47	4	-	7	-	6	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 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 February 2004; this compared with 16% of those aged 16-18 in full time education.

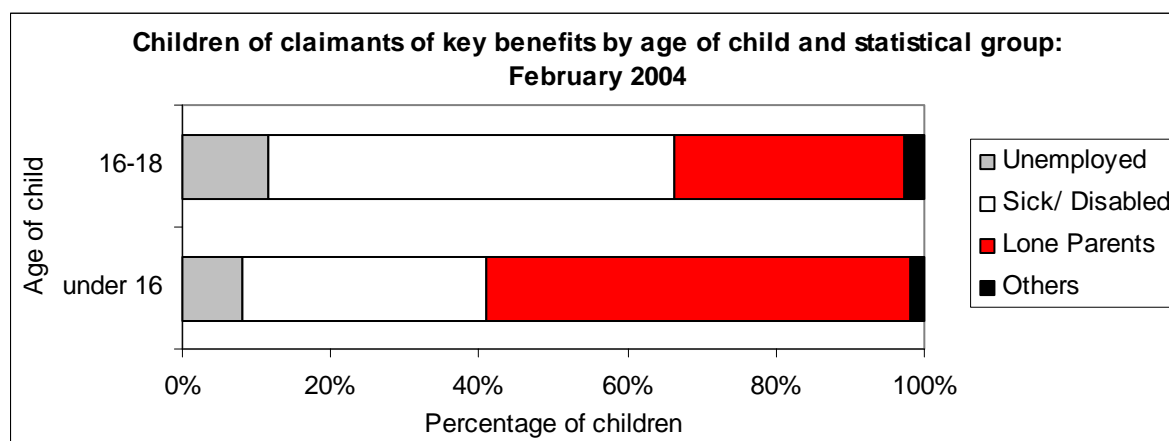


Table 3 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: February 2002 to February 2004

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
Feb 2002	2,339	20	600	1,690	49	173	12	60	114	-
Feb 2003	2,280	20	574	1,658	48	179	12	60	119	-
Feb 2004	2,504	22	840	1,653	12	237	16	110	127	-

Notes:

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

- 54% of young adult dependants in families claiming a key benefit lived in single parent households in February 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.**

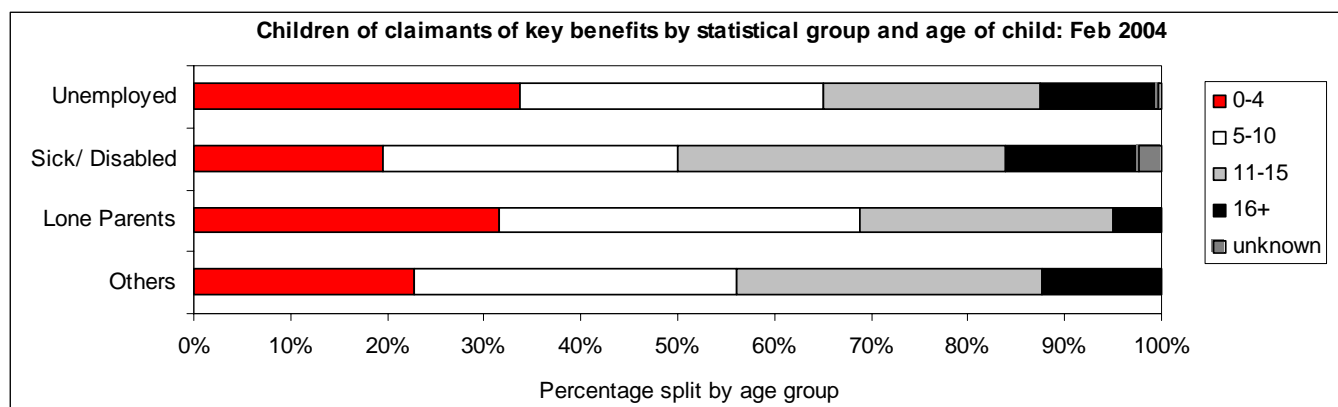
Table 4 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family and age of youngest child: February 2004

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	2,741	100	750	27	941	34	788	29	237	9	25	1
Unemployed	231	100	78	34	73	32	52	23	28	12	1	-
Sick / Disabled	952	100	186	20	291	31	323	34	130	14	23	2
Lone Parents	1,501	100	474	32	558	37	394	26	74	5	1	-
Others	57	100	13	23	19	33	18	32	7	12	-	-

Notes:

- 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 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: February 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	2,741	100	193	7	166	6	260	9	364	13	1,758	64
Unemployed	231	100	89	39	48	21	44	19	32	14	19	8
Sick /Disabled	952	100	36	4	39	4	64	7	106	11	707	74
Lone Parents	1,501	100	62	4	75	5	144	10	217	14	1,003	67
Others	57	100	6	11	5	9	8	14	8	14	30	53

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, 64% had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 74%, while that for the unemployed was only 8%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed, 78% had been on benefit for less than a year.

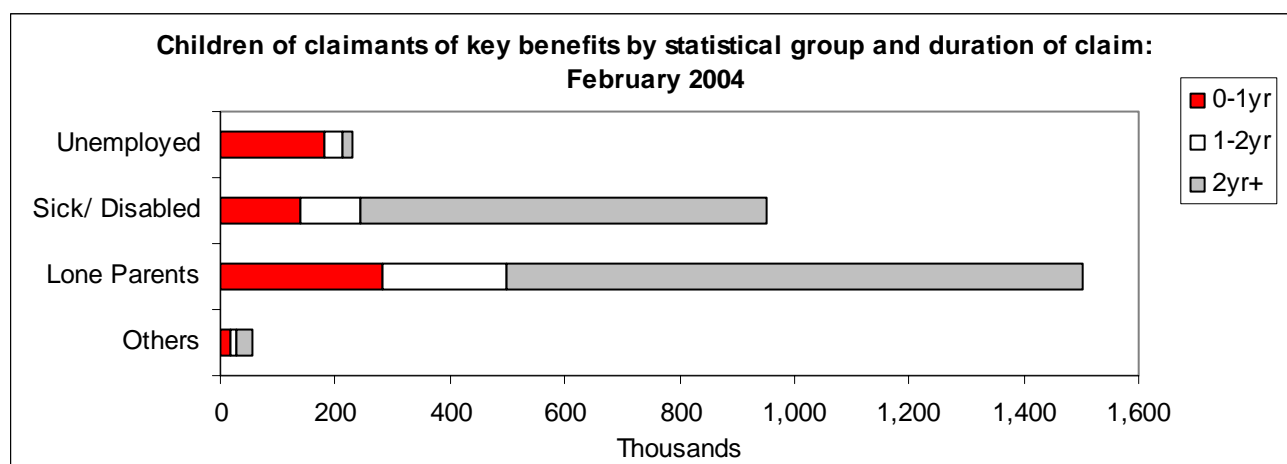


Table 6: Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: February 2002 to February 2004.

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
Feb 2002	2,513	156	153	248	362	1,593
%	100	6	6	10	14	63
Feb 2003	2,458	143	160	240	324	1,591
%	100	6	7	10	13	65
Feb 2004	2,741	193	166	260	364	1,758
%	100	7	6	9	13	64

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 64% in February 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**

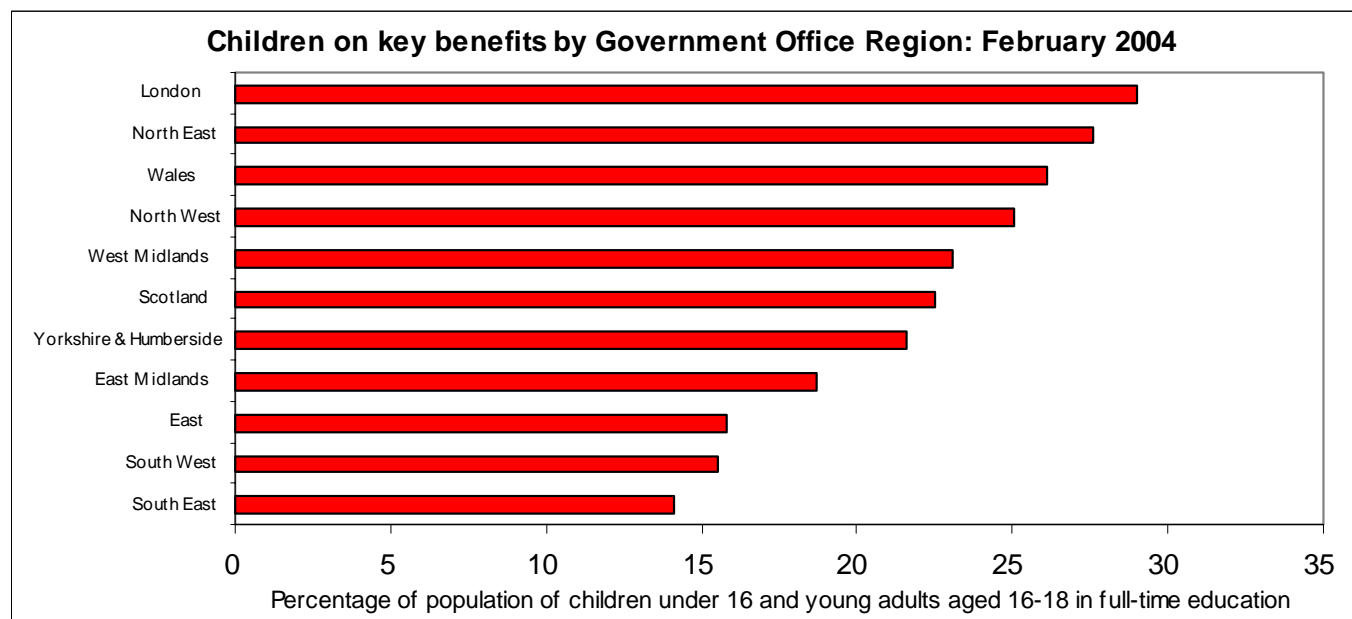
Table 7 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: February 2004

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	000s	% of pop ²
Great Britain	2,741	21
England	2,328	21
North East	153	28
North West	390	25
Yorkshire and the Humber	245	22
East Midlands	176	19
West Midlands	284	23
East	192	16
London	471	29
South East	253	14
South West	164	15
Wales	172	26
Scotland	239	23
SDA/IB claimants living abroad	1	-

Notes:

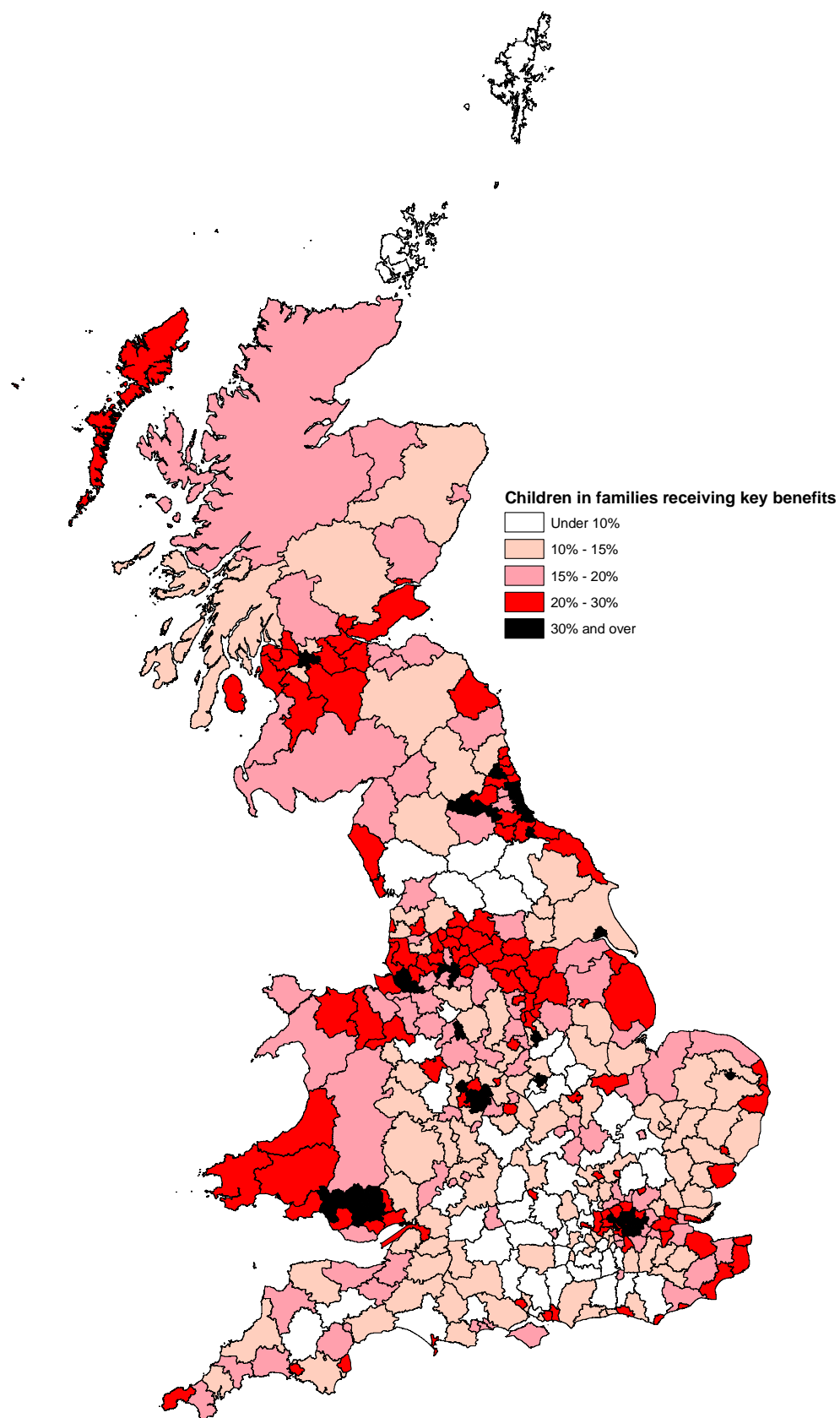
1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).
2. Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16 to 18 in full-time education (from Child Benefit estimates).

- 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 11% 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: February 2004



These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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

<i>Thousands and percentages</i>		
	Number of children/dependants	% population ²
All combinations	2,741	21
IS only	1,591	12
IS & IB	292	2
JSA only	228	2
IB only	185	1
DLA, IS & IB	156	1
DLA & IB	98	1
DLA only	93	1
DLA & IS	56	-
DLA, IS & SDA	18	-
DLA & SDA	12	-
IS & SDA	6	-
SDA only	3	-
Others ³	4	-

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: February 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	1,462	100	106	7	93	6	144	10	200	14	919	63
Unemployed	118	100	48	41	24	21	21	18	15	13	8	7
Sick / Disabled	522	100	20	4	22	4	34	7	58	11	389	74
Lone Parents	798	100	35	4	45	6	86	11	124	16	509	64
Others	24	100	3	12	2	10	3	14	3	14	12	51

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).

- 63% of families on key benefits had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick / Disabled group the figure was 74% while that for the unemployed was 7%.
- 80% 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 2002 to February 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
February 2002	1,315	82	83	135	197	818
%	100	6	6	10	15	62
February 2003	1,286	77	86	132	176	815
%	100	6	7	10	14	63
February 2004	1,462	106	93	144	200	919
%	100	7	6	10	14	63

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 63% in February 2004. This compares with 64% 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.**

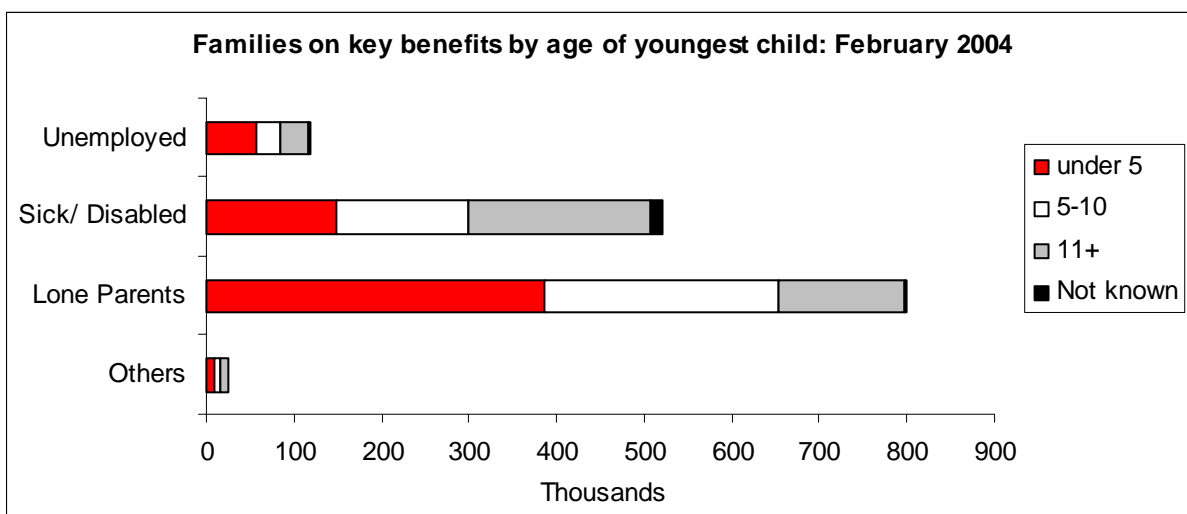
Table 11 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of youngest child: February 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Age of youngest child								Not known	
	Thousands	%	Under 5	%	5-10	%	11-15	%	16+	%	Thousands	%
All statistical groups	1,462	100	602	41	454	31	307	21	84	6	15	1
Unemployed	118	100	58	49	27	23	17	14	15	13	-	-
Sick / Disabled	522	100	148	28	152	29	148	28	59	11	14	3
Lone Parents	798	100	387	48	267	33	137	17	7	1	-	-
Others	24	100	9	39	7	31	5	21	2	9	-	-

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: February 2002 to February 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		
February 2002	1,315	572	398	237	54	54	
%	100	43	30	18	4	4	
February 2003	1,286	556	386	239	56	49	
%	100	43	30	19	4	4	
February 2004	1,462	602	454	307	84	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: February 2004

Thousands

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	1,462	665	479	206	112
Unemployed	118	52	37	17	12
Sick / Disabled	522	247	172	67	35
Lone Parents	798	358	264	116	60
Others	24	8	7	5	4

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).

- 7.7% of families on key benefits had four or more children in February 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 10%.

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 a number of old scheme cases that are linked to new cases. Although at present there is little validated information on these new scheme cases, nor the associated old scheme cases, the information we do have is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: New Scheme Child Support cases – Summary to end of February 2004

	<i>Thousands</i>
Total applications	290.5
Total maintenance calculations	79.8
Total closures	53.6

Notes:

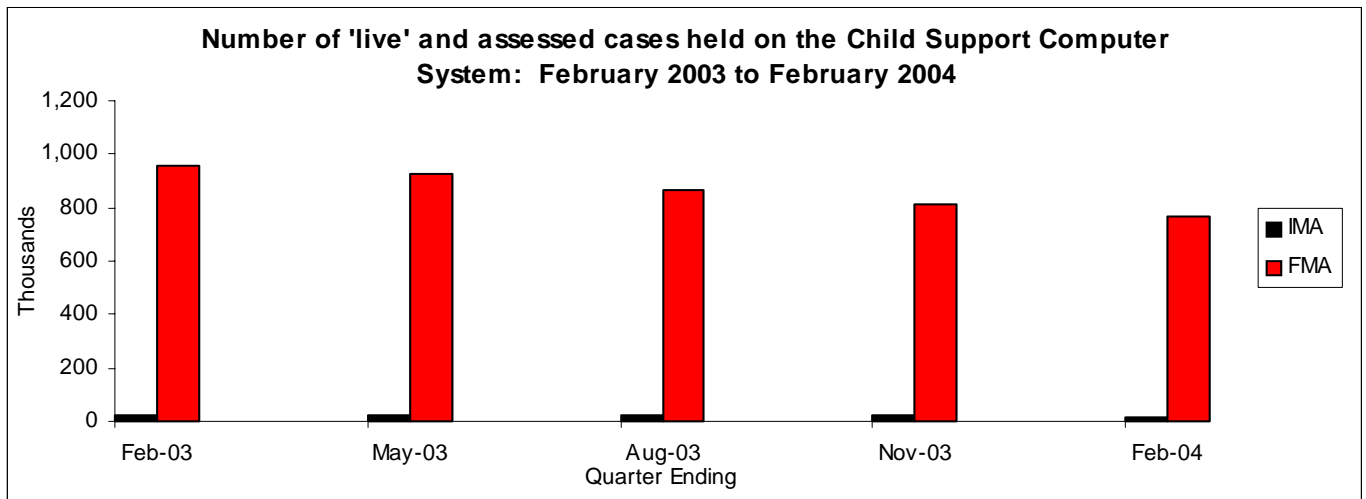
***These figures do not have National Statistics Status.**

1. Data is taken from the Business Data Warehouse- up to and including 29 February 2004.
2. Refers to applications made after 3rd March 2003 and assessed under new rules.

There are approximately 144 thousand cases assessed under old rules that are currently administered on the new IT system. **These cases are not included in this section.** Detailed information on these cases is not currently available.

The remainder of 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 February 2004 there were 763.7 thousand 'live' and fully assessed cases held on CSCS, a fall from 809.7 thousand cases in November 2003. 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 £20.81 to £21.73 during the period February 2003 to February 2004. Non Resident Parents with regular income working as an employee had an average weekly full maintenance assessment of £39.28 at the end of February 2004, compared with £23.29 for the self-employed. However, the NRP benefit/employment status used to produce these figures may not fully reflect the current position.

Table 2 Number of NRPs with a full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment: February 2003 to February 2004 (CSCS cases only)

<i>NRPs with a full maintenance assessment</i>		
	FMA (thousands)	Average £ pw
February 2003	957.4	£20.81
May 2003	923.7	£21.04
August 2003	866.7	£21.26
November 2003	809.7	£21.49
February 2004	763.7	£21.73

- 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), 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 3 Benefit Status of PWC, February 2003 – February 2004: full assessments (CSCS cases only)

<i>Thousands and percentages</i>									
	Total	PWC Benefit Status							
		Income Support		JSA (IB)		WTC/ WFTC ¹		Other	
			%		%		%		%
February 2003	957.4	355.6	37.1	6.9	0.7	278.4	29.1	316.4	33.0
May 2003 ²	923.7	330.8	35.8	7.1	0.8	276.2	29.9	309.6	33.5
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

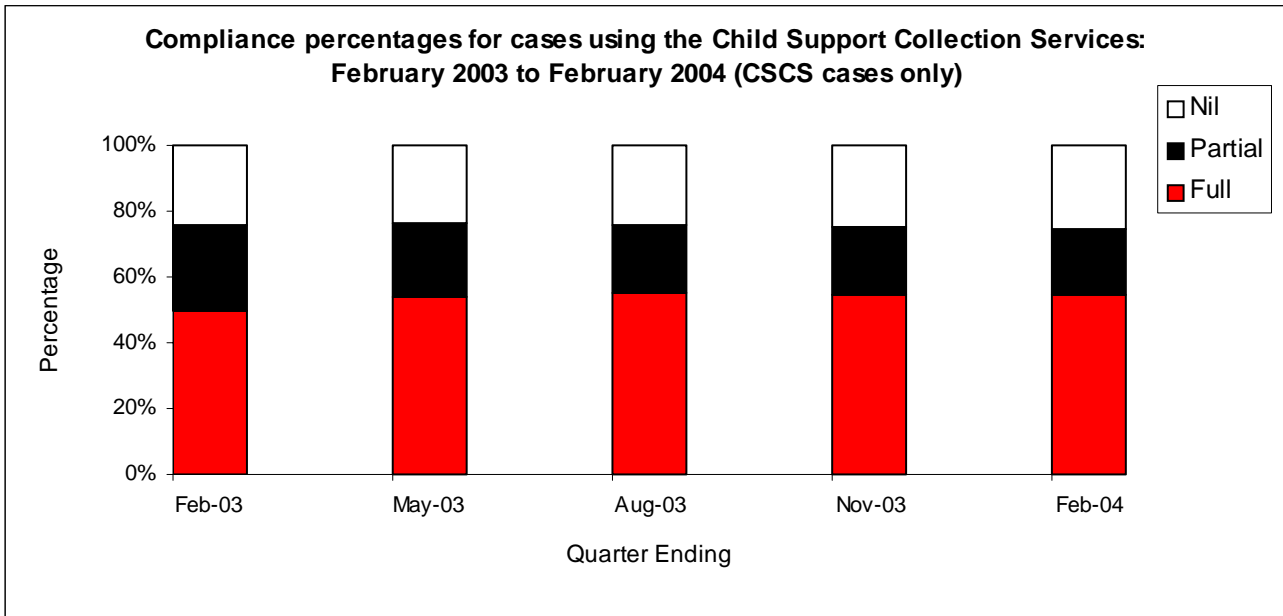
Notes:

- Includes a small number of Pension Credit recipients from April 2003
- Working Families' Tax Credit before April 2003, Working Tax Credit from April 2003 onwards.
- WTC/ WFTC column for May 2003 shows cases receiving WFTC on 7 April 2003.

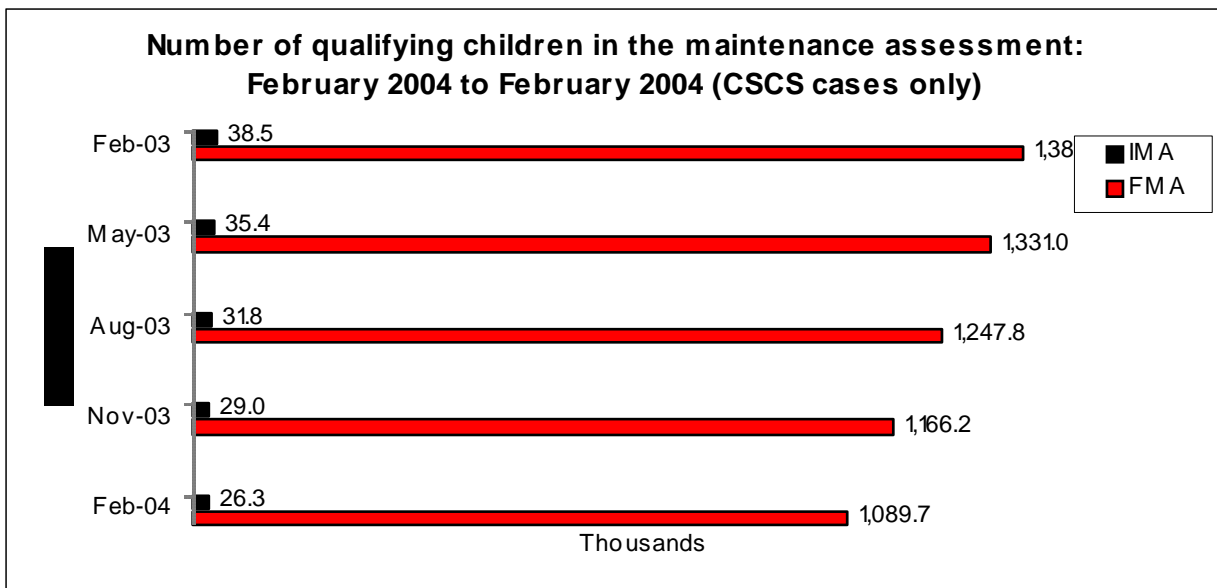
- In the following table, the 'Not Applicable' category includes those cases where payment is not via the collection service, or where the NRP was not charged anything during the quarter.

Table 4 Compliance levels for 'live and fully assessed' cases, February 2003 to February 2004 caseload (CSCS cases only)

<i>Thousands</i>					
	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
February 2003	957.4	584.8	185.9	96.7	90.0
May 2003	923.7	561.8	196.0	80.2	85.8
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

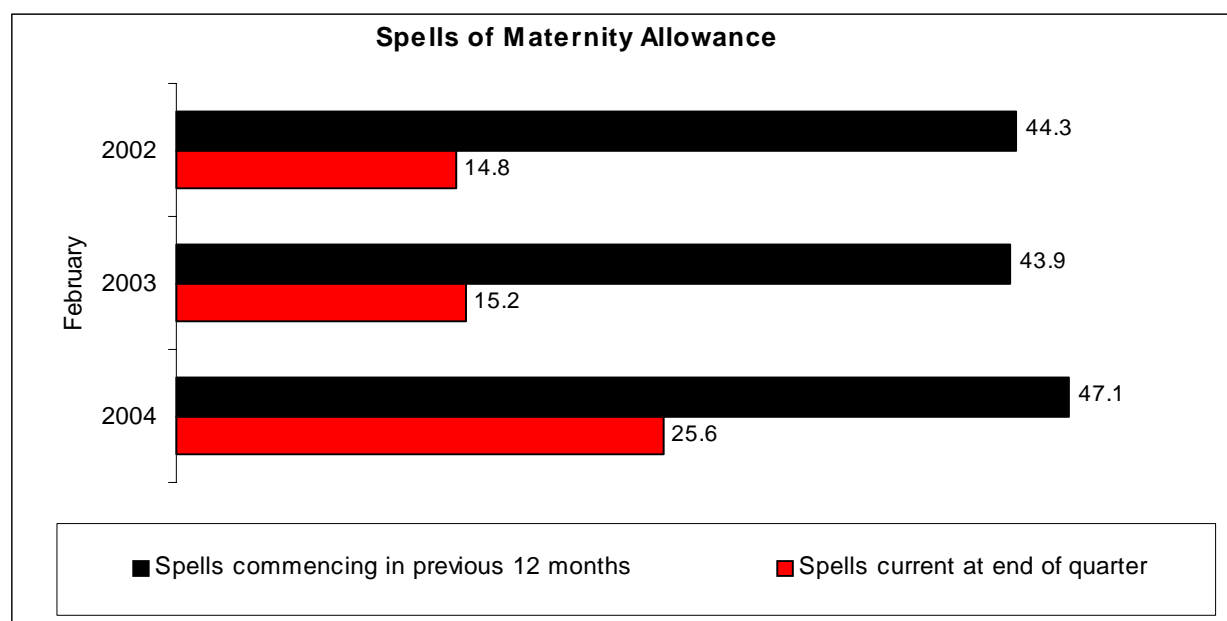


The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 21.2% overall since February 2003 with a 6.6% fall in the last quarter. This fall can be linked to the decrease in the overall caseload.



Appendix 2 – Maternity Allowance

At the end of February 2004 there were 25.6 thousand spells of Maternity Allowance in payment, 73.5% 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	Increase for dependants
					<i>£ per week</i>
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:

Family type	Definition
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).

