

# **Client Group Analysis**

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

### **February 2005**

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Contact point for enquiries:

Mr Stuart Mackay  
Information Directorate (IFD)  
Working Age and Children Analysis Team (WACAT)  
Room BP5201, Benton Park View,  
Longbenton,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,  
NE98 1YX

Telephone: 0191-225-3251  
(GTN 522 53251)

Fax: 0191-225-3193  
(GTN 522 53193)

e-mail: [stuart.mackay@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.mackay@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

## 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 from August 2003 onwards, compared with previous years. 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](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 0-18) are mid-year from 2003.

“-“ 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 2005, 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% (Table 5).
- 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 28% in London, down to 13% in the South East GOR (Table 7).
- 7.6% of families on key benefits had four or more children in February 2005. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 9.1% (Table 13).

## Tables and charts

### Children on Benefit

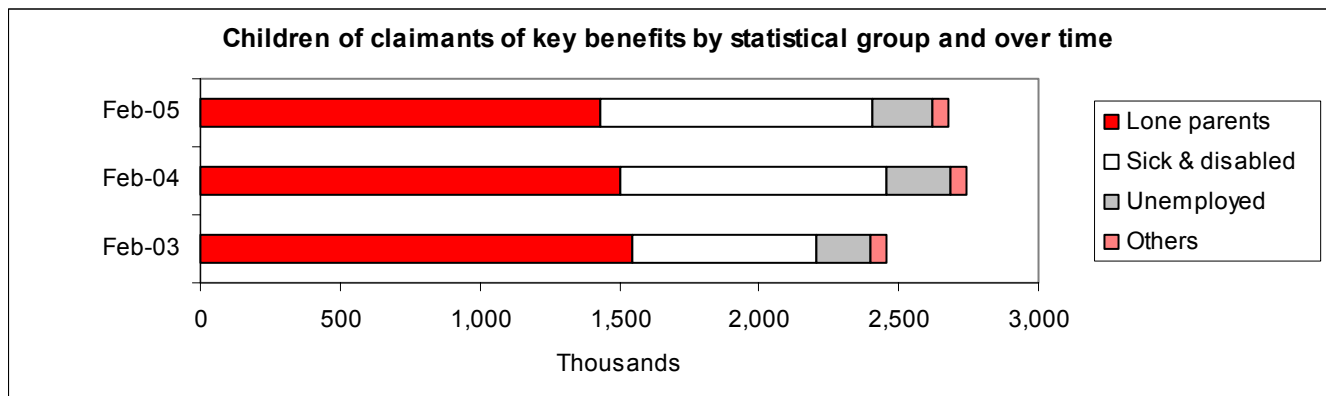
**Table 1 Children and young adult dependants of claimants of key benefits by statistical group: February 2003 to February 2005**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	February-03		February-04		February-05	
	Number of children/dependants <sup>1</sup>					
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All statistical groups</b>	<b>2,458</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,741</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100</b>
Unemployed	197	8	231	8	215	8
Sick/ Disabled	657	27	952	35	969	36
Lone Parents	1,548	63	1,501	55	1,434	54
Others	57	2	57	2	59	2

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup> 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 2005, 2.7 million children (20% of the total population of children aged under 19), 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 dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: February 2005**

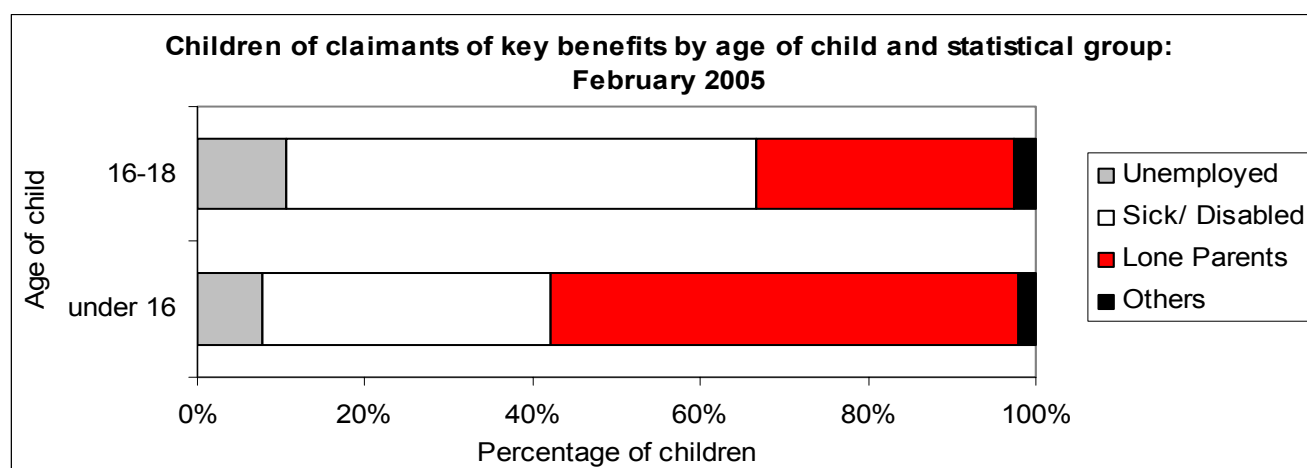
*Thousands and percentages*

	Children aged under 16 years					Young dependants aged 16 to 18 years				
	All	% pop aged under 16	Family Type			All	% pop aged 16-18	Family Type		
			Couple	Single	Not known			Couple	Single	Not known
<b>All statistical groups</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>-</b>
Unemployed	189	2	175	14	-	25	1	13	12	-
Sick & disabled	834	7	605	221	8	135	6	89	46	-
Lone parents	1,360	12	-	1,360	-	74	3	-	74	-
Others	52	-	45	7	-	6	-	5	1	-

*Notes:*

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

- The percentage of under-16s living in key benefit households was 22% at February 2005; this compared with 11% of those aged 16-18.



**Table 3 Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by family type: February 2003 to February 2005**

	<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	Family Type		
Couple			Single	Not known	Couple			Single	Not Known	
Feb-03	<b>2,280</b>	20	574	1,658	48	<b>179</b>	8	60	119	-
Feb-04	<b>2,504</b>	22	840	1,653	12	<b>237</b>	11	110	127	-
Feb-05	<b>2,436</b>	22	825	1,602	8	<b>241</b>	11	107	133	-

**Notes:**

1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable
2. Percentage of the population figures, for young dependants do not match previously published figures for 2002 and 2003. This is due to revised methodology

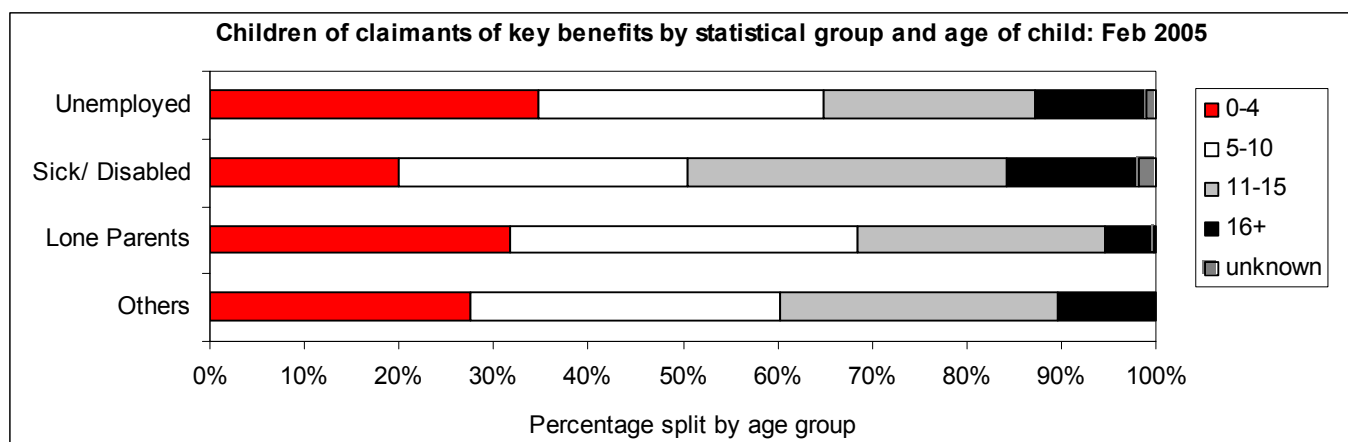
- 55% of young adult dependants in families claiming a key benefit lived in single parent households in February 2005. This is compared to 66% of children under 16 years old (for those whose family type is known).
- **Comparisons of Family Type and Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

**Table 4 Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family and age of child: February 2005**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>											
	All children/ deps	%	Under 5	%	5 to under 11	%	11 to under 16	%	16 or over	%	Not known	%
<b>All Statistical groups</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>
Unemployed	<b>215</b>	<b>100</b>	74	34	64	30	48	22	25	12	2	1
Sick/ Disabled	<b>969</b>	<b>100</b>	193	20	297	31	327	34	135	14	18	2
Lone Parents	<b>1,434</b>	<b>100</b>	456	32	527	37	375	26	74	5	3	-
Others	<b>59</b>	<b>100</b>	16	27	19	32	17	29	6	10	-	-

**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 is reflected in 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 68% being aged under 11.

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

**Table 5 Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of key benefits by statistical group of family and duration of claim: February 2005**

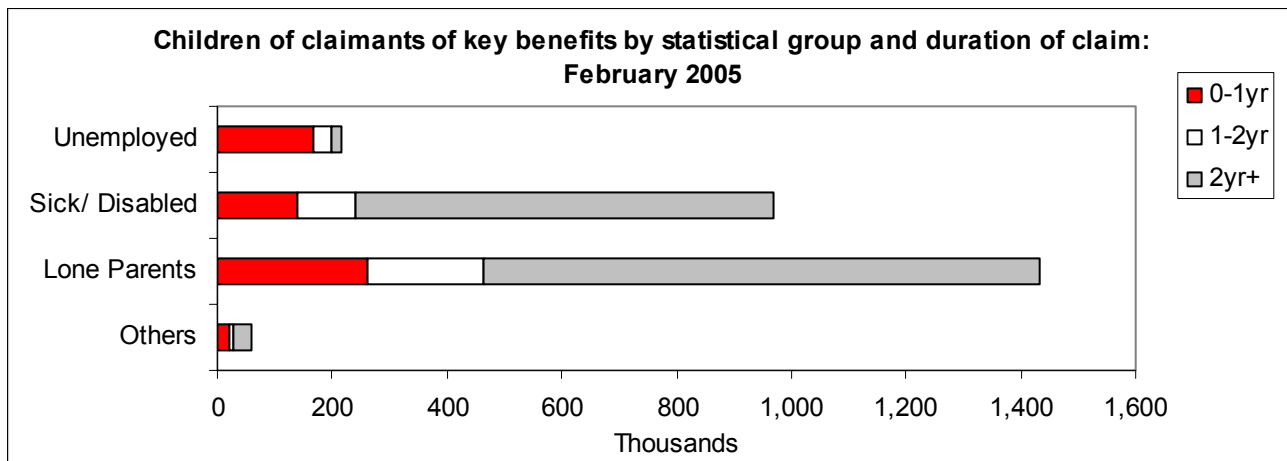
*Thousands and percentages*

	All durations	%	Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup>									
			Under 3 months	%	3 to under 6 months	%	6 months to under 1 year	%	1 to under 2 years	%	2 years or over	%
<b>All statistical groups</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1,746</b>	<b>65</b>
Unemployed	215	100	87	40	46	21	35	16	29	13	17	8
Sick & disabled	969	100	33	3	41	4	65	7	103	11	727	75
Lone parents	1,434	100	62	4	75	5	124	9	201	14	972	68
Others	59	100	5	8	8	14	8	14	8	14	30	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, 78% had been on benefit for less than a year.



**Table 6: Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: February 2003 to February 2005.**

*Thousands and percentages*

	All durations	Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup>				
		Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
February 2003	<b>2,458</b>	143	160	240	324	1,591
	<b>100</b>	6	7	10	13	65
February 2004	<b>2,741</b>	193	166	260	364	1,758
%	<b>100</b>	7	6	9	13	64
February 2005	<b>2,676</b>	187	169	232	342	1,746
%	<b>100</b>	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 February 2005.
- **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**

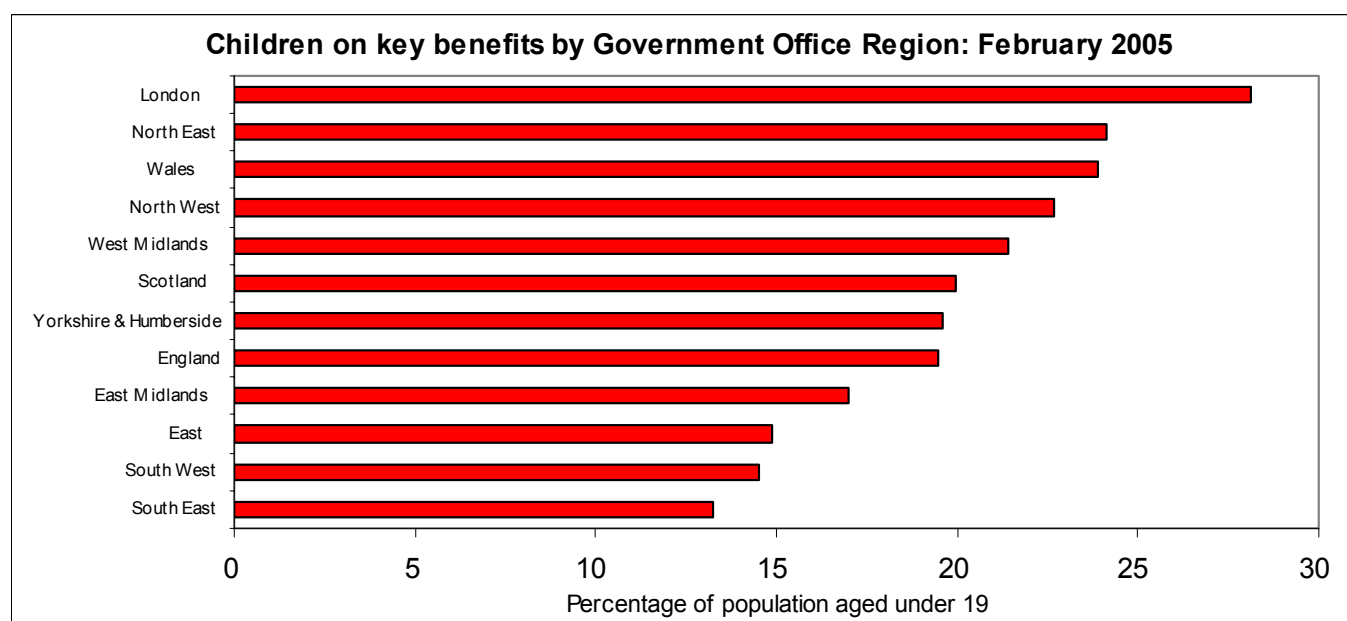
**Table 7 Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: February 2005**

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	000s	% of pop <sup>2</sup>
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>20</b>
England	2,282	19
North East	142	24
North West	373	23
Yorkshire and the Humber	235	20
East Midlands	170	17
West Midlands	277	21
East	191	15
London	481	28
South East	251	13
South West	163	15
Wales	166	24
Scotland	227	20
SDA/IB claimants living abroad	1	-

*Notes:*

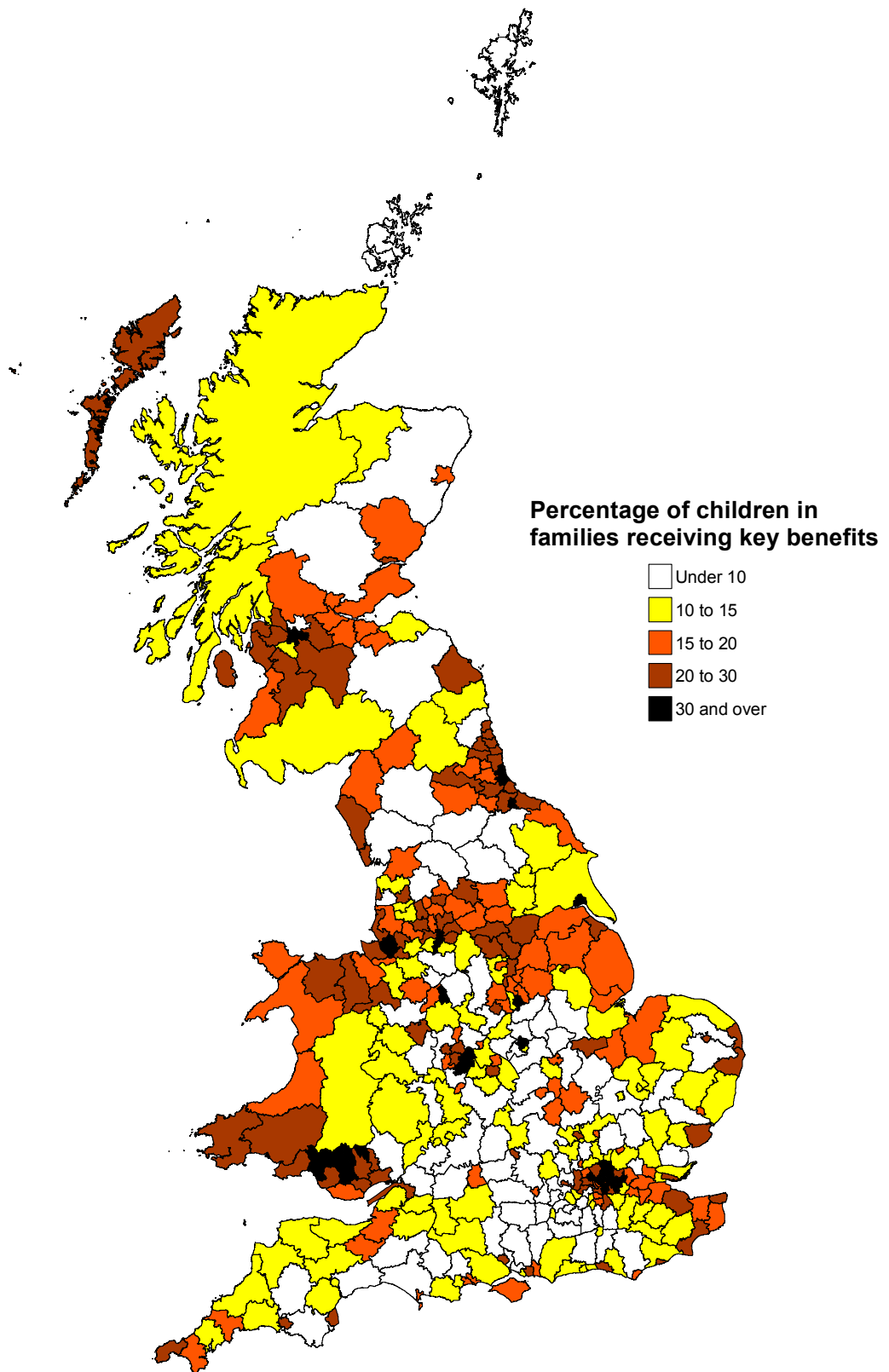
1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).
2. Population of children aged 0 to 18 from Mid 2003 estimates

- The percentage of children (aged 0-18) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 28% in London, down to 13% 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 37% 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/dissemination>

Children of claimants of key benefits, as a percentage of population aged under 19: February 2005



These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

**Table 8 Children and young adult dependants<sup>1</sup> of claimants by combinations of key benefits:  
February 2005**

<i>Thousands and percentages</i>		
	Number of children/dependants	% population <sup>2</sup>
<b>All combinations</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>20</b>
IS only	1,527	11
IS & IB	273	2
JSA only	211	2
IB only	201	1
DLA, IS & IB	158	1
DLA & IB	106	1
DLA only	104	1
DLA & IS	57	-
DLA, IS & SDA	17	-
DLA & SDA	12	-
IS & SDA	5	-
SDA only	3	-
DLA & JSA	1	-
Others <sup>3</sup>	3	-

*Notes:*

- 1 Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable
- 2 Population of children aged 0 to 18 from Mid 2003 estimates
- 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 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by statistical group and duration of claim: February 2005**

*Thousands and percentages*

	All durations		Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup>									
			Under 3 months		3 to under 6 months		6 months to under 1 year		1 to under 2 years		2 years or over	
		%		%		%		%		%		%
<b>All client groups</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>64</b>
Unemployed	113	100	48	42	25	22	18	16	13	12	8	7
Sick & disabled	534	100	18	3	22	4	35	7	57	11	402	75
Lone parents	761	100	36	5	44	6	74	10	116	15	491	64
Others	25	100	3	10	4	14	4	14	4	14	12	47

**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%.
- 81% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

**Table 10 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by duration of claim: February 2003 to February 2005**

*Thousands and percentages*

	All durations		Duration of oldest claim <sup>2</sup>				
			Under 3 months	3 to under 6 months	6 months to under 1 year	1 to under 2 years	2 years or over
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
February 2005	1,434		105	95	131	190	913
%	100		7	7	9	13	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 February 2005. 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.**

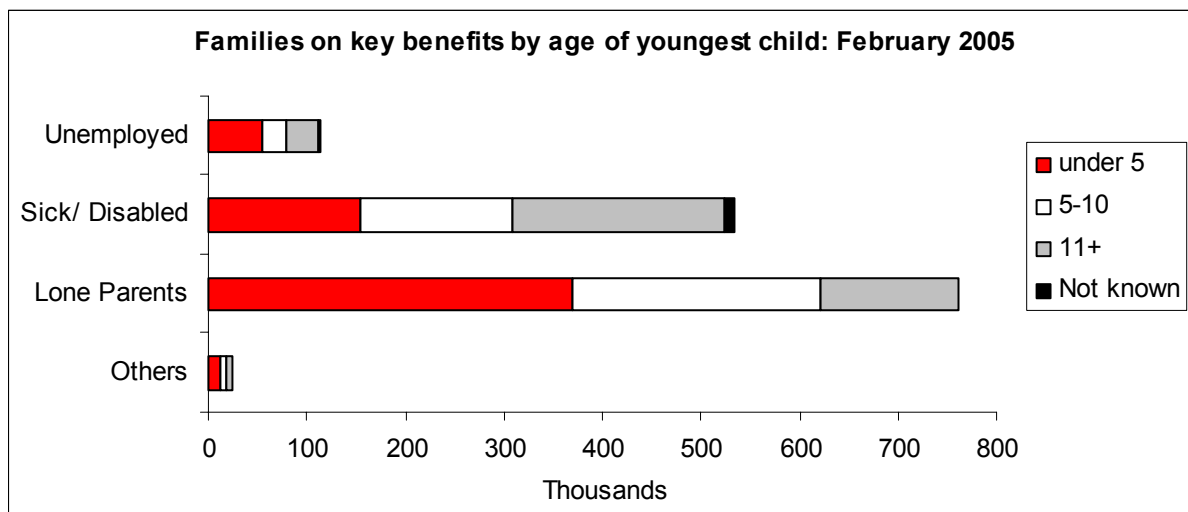
**Table 11 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by statistical group and age of children: February 2005**

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Age of children								Not known	
		%	Under 5	%	5-10	%	11-15	%	16+	%	known	%
<b>All statistical groups</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>
Unemployed	113	100	55	49	24	22	17	15	16	14	1	1
Sick & disabled	534	100	154	29	155	29	152	28	64	12	10	2
Lone parents	761	100	370	49	252	33	132	17	7	1	-	-
Others	25	100	12	46	7	27	5	19	2	8	-	-

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).



- 41% of children in a family receiving key benefits were under the age of five.
- For the Sick/ Disabled the age profile of children was older (although some of this group's ages were unknown).

**Table 12 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants: February 2003 to February 2005**

*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 2003	<b>1,286</b>	556	386	239	56	49	
%	<b>100</b>	43	30	19	4	4	
February 2004	<b>1,462</b>	602	454	307	84	15	
%	<b>100</b>	41	31	21	6	1	
February 2005	<b>1,434</b>	591	438	306	88	11	
%	<b>100</b>	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 Families<sup>1</sup> on key benefits by statistical group and number of children: February 2005**

*Thousands*

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
<b>All statistical groups</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>109</b>
Unemployed	<b>113</b>	52	36	15	10
Sick & Disabled	<b>534</b>	258	173	67	36
Lone Parents	<b>761</b>	341	249	113	58
Others	<b>25</b>	9	6	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 February 2005. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 9.1%.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1 – Child Support Agency**

From the 3rd March 2003, all new Child Support applications have been calculated under a new scheme. These cases are stored on a new computer system. In addition, approximately 200 thousand cases assessed under the old scheme are also administered on the new computer system. Following IT difficulties with the new computer system, the Agency are making steady progress with revising and quality assuring statistical data. Some assured information is presented here. The range of information is set to expand in future quarters.

**Table 1 Compliance levels (regular payment accounts and arrears accounts) for 'Live' and Fully Assessed Cases on CSCS and CS2, May 2004 - Feb 2005: Caseloads**

Scheme	Compliance Status	May 2004	August 2004	November 2004	February 2005
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,002.2</b>	<b>1,014.3</b>	<b>1,019.4</b>	<b>1,045.1</b>
All Schemes	Nil Assessed	382.3	379.5	375.2	385.1
	Assessed not Charging <sup>2</sup>	70.8	81.3	88.5	102.9
	Fully Compliant	179.4	190.7	191.0	183.3
	Partially Compliant	110.1	101.7	101.6	104.6
	Nil Compliant	120.9	122.8	124.2	125.6
	Maintenance Direct	138.7	138.3	138.9	143.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>144.9</b>	<b>171.1</b>	<b>198.6</b>
New Scheme	Nil Assessed	12.2	14.7	17.7	21.4
	Assessed not Charging <sup>2</sup>	33.0	37.8	41.0	48.1
	Fully Compliant	15.7	24.4	29.8	34.6
	Partially Compliant	24.4	27.3	34.2	38.3
	Nil Compliant	28.6	32.9	37.0	40.0
	Maintenance Direct	5.6	7.8	11.4	16.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>882.8</b>	<b>869.3</b>	<b>848.3</b>	<b>846.5</b>
All Old Scheme	Nil Assessed	370.1	364.8	357.5	363.7
	Assessed not Charging <sup>2</sup>	37.9	43.5	47.5	54.8
	Fully Compliant	163.7	166.3	161.1	148.7
	Partially Compliant	85.7	74.4	67.4	66.3
	Nil Compliant	92.3	89.8	87.2	85.5
	Direct Pay	133.2	130.5	127.6	127.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>726.4</b>	<b>696.0</b>	<b>668.2</b>	<b>647.0</b>
Old Scheme CSCS	Nil Assessed	289.4	275.4	262.6	253.6
	Assessed not Charging <sup>2</sup>	28.8	32.0	34.0	37.8
	Fully Compliant	149.1	148.6	144.4	133.0
	Partially Compliant	69.4	58.6	51.5	50.9
	Nil Compliant	75.3	71.4	69.5	67.9
	Direct Pay	114.4	109.9	106.3	103.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>156.3</b>	<b>173.3</b>	<b>180.1</b>	<b>199.5</b>
Old Scheme CS2	Nil Assessed	80.7	89.3	95.0	110.1
	Assessed not Charging <sup>2</sup>	9.0	11.5	13.5	17.0
	Fully Compliant	14.6	17.7	16.8	15.6
	Partially Compliant	16.3	15.8	15.9	15.4
	Nil Compliant	17.0	18.4	17.7	17.6
	Direct Pay	18.8	20.6	21.3	23.7

Source: 100% extract from CS2 system and 5% sample from CSCS

**Notes:**

*This table contains experimental National Statistics and has undergone considerable quality assurance.*

*1. Above figures based on quarterly case compliance methodology. The table gives a time series on a consistent basis.*

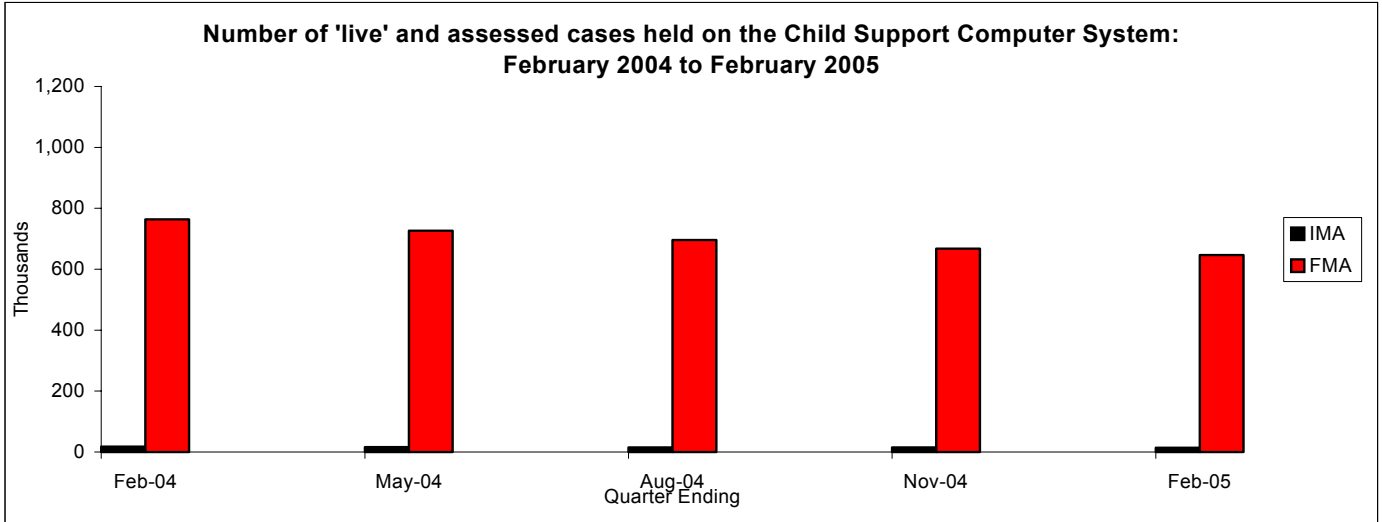
*2. Cases with a positive maintenance assessment but no active charging schedule in place*

*3. Robust data from CS2 is currently not available prior to April 2004*

*4. Live and fully assessed cases include all those old scheme cases with a full maintenance assessment, and those new scheme cases with either a full maintenance calculation, or a default maintenance decision.*

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 February 2005 there were 647.0 thousand 'live' and fully assessed cases held on CSCS, a fall from 668.2 thousand cases in November 2004. This drop is due to the natural closure of cases and the migration of linked cases to the new system.



- The average weekly maintenance assessment for all 'live' fully assessed cases rose from £21.73 to £22.44 during the period February 2004 to February 2005. Non Resident Parents with regular income working as an employee had an average weekly full maintenance assessment of £39.33 at the end of February 2005, compared with £22.77 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 2004 to February 2005 (CSCS cases only)**

	<i>NRPs with a full maintenance assessment</i>	
	FMA (thousands)	Average £ pw
February 2004	763.7	£21.73
May 2004	726.4	£21.94
August 2004	696.0	£22.22
November 2004	668.2	£22.37
February 2005	647.0	£22.44

- 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).

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

**Table 3 Benefit Status of PWC, February 2004 – February 2005: full assessments (CSCS cases only)**

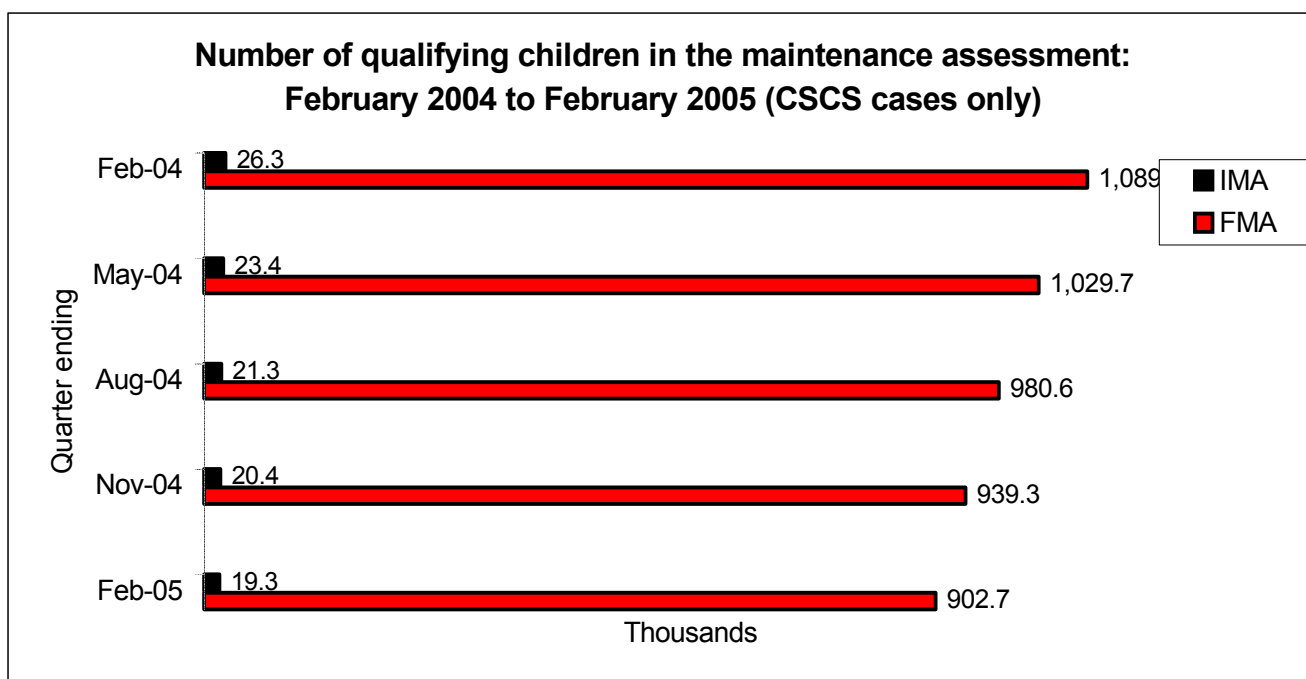
Thousands and percentages

	Total	PWC Benefit Status							
		Income Support		JSA (IB)		WTC/ WFTC <sup>1</sup>		Other	
			%		%		%		%
February 2004	<b>763.7</b>	252.1	33.0	6.0	0.8	265.9	34.8	239.7	31.4
May 2004	<b>726.4</b>	230.6	31.8	5.1	0.7	256.0	35.2	234.6	32.3
August 2004	<b>696.0</b>	215.4	30.9	4.9	0.7	235.9	33.9	239.8	34.5
November 2004	<b>668.2</b>	195.1	29.2	4.8	0.7	233.7	35.0	234.6	35.1
February 2005	<b>647.0</b>	182.9	28.3	4.1	0.6	229.6	35.5	230.5	35.6

Notes:

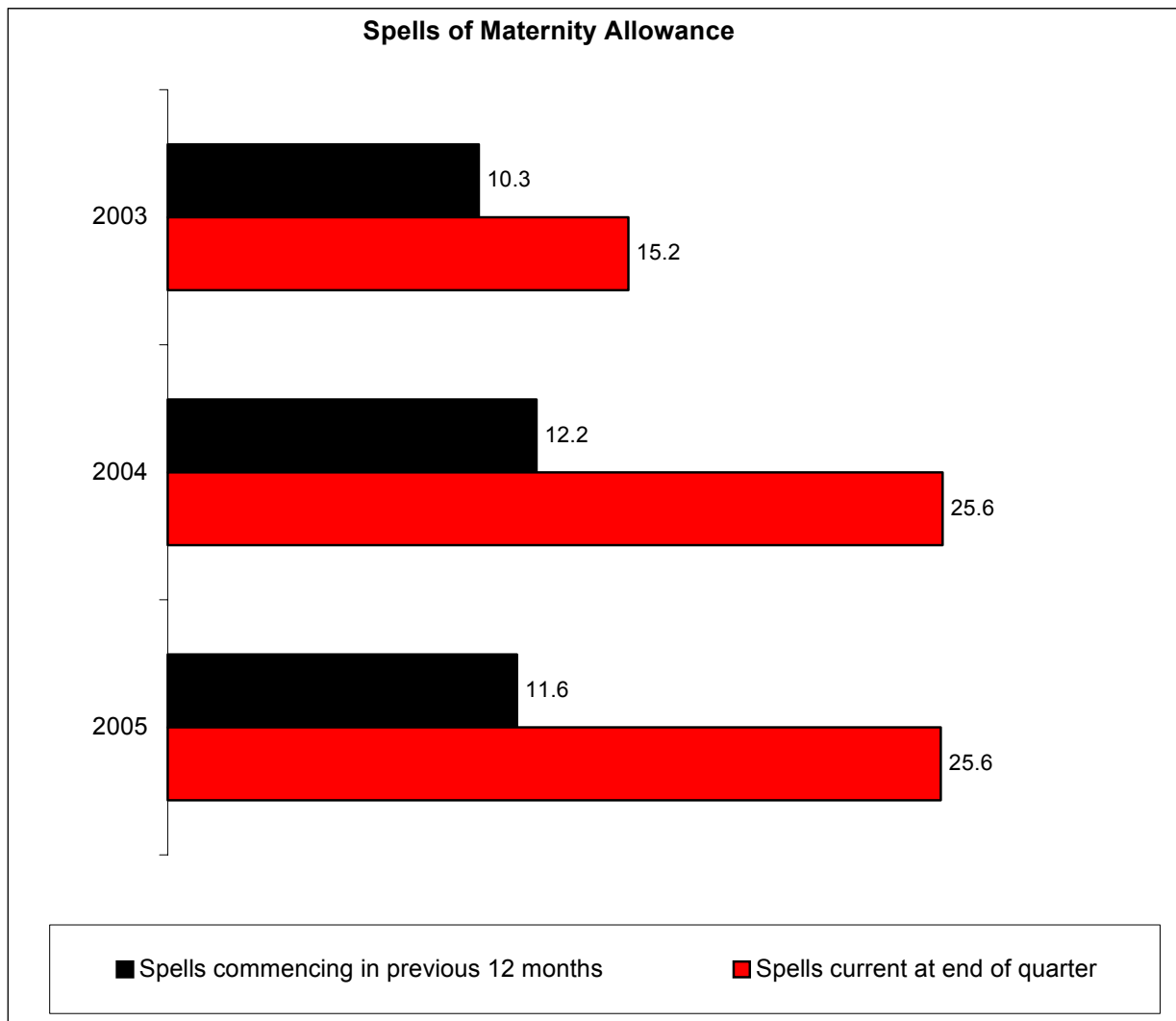
1. Includes a small number of Pension Credit recipients from April 2003
2. Working Families' Tax Credit before April 2003, Working Tax Credit from April 2003 onwards.

The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 17.4% overall since February 2004 with a 3.9% 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 2005 there were 26 thousand spells of Maternity Allowance in payment, 67.8% 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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	.	.	62.20	30.00	32.55
Apr-02 <sup>2</sup>	.	.	75.00	30.00	33.10
Apr-03 <sup>2</sup>	.	.	100.00	30.00	33.65
Apr-04 <sup>2</sup>	.	.	102.80	30.00	34.60

### Notes:

1. The woman must be an employee in the 15<sup>th</sup> 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).

