

Client Group Analysis

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

November 2004

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Definitions and conventions

Children

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

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

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

Families

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

Tax Credits

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

Key Benefits

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

Other Benefits

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

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

Tax Credits

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

Symbols and conventions

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

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

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

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

Statistical group

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

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

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

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

Main Findings

- At November 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, 66% 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 30% in London, down to 14% in the South East GOR (Table 7).
- 7.6% of families on key benefits had four or more children in November 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 9.3% (Table 13).

Tables and charts

Children on Benefit

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

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>					
	Number of children/dependants ¹		Number of children/dependants ¹		Number of children/dependants ¹	
	Nov-02	%	Nov-03	%	Nov-04	%
All statistical groups	2,450	100	2,752	100	2,653	100
Unemployed	185	8	222	8	194	7
Sick/ Disabled	649	26	968	35	962	36
Lone Parents	1,557	64	1,507	55	1,436	54
Others	59	2	55	2	61	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 November 2004, 2.7 million children (21% of the total population of children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 in full-time education), were living in families claiming a key benefit and receiving additional amounts of benefit and/or CTC for them.
- **Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

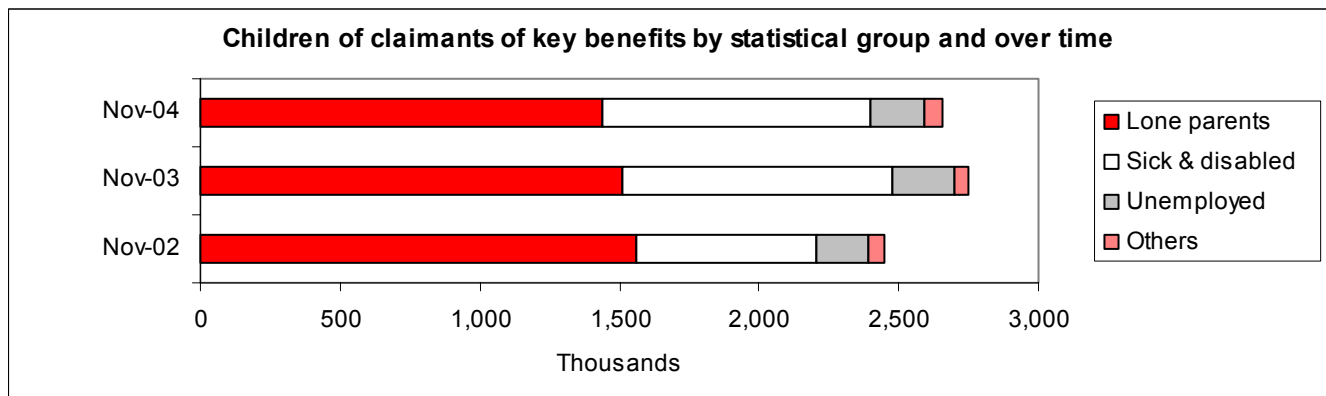


Table 2 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by statistical group of family & family type: November 2004

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	2,427	21	813	1,605	9	226	18	100	126	-
Unemployed	172	2	159	13	-	22	2	11	11	-
Sick & disabled	836	7	606	221	9	126	10	83	43	-
Lone parents	1,365	12	-	1,365	-	71	6	-	71	-
Others	54	-	48	6	-	6	1	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 21% at November 2004; this compared with 18% of those aged 16-18 in full time education.

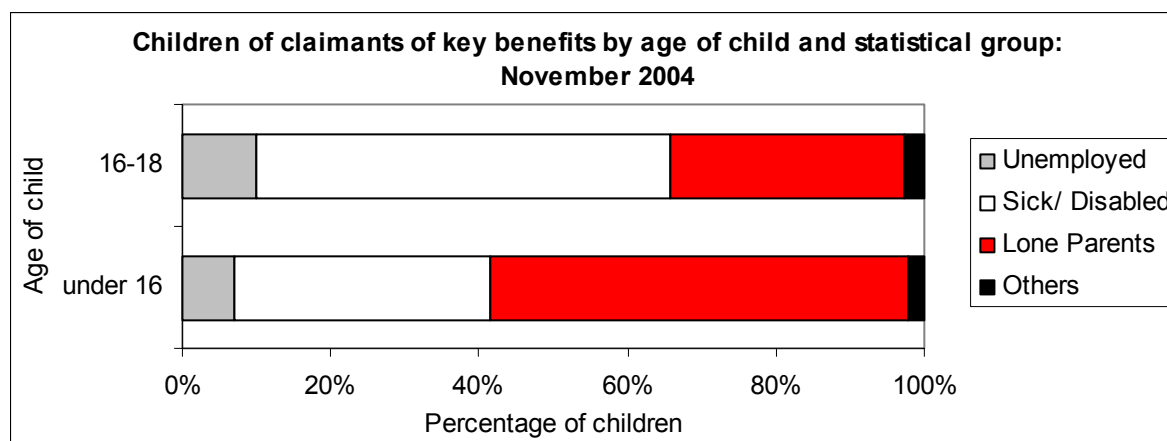


Table 3 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by family type: November 2002 to November 2004

	<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	
Nov-02	2,279	20	566	1,666	47	172	14	57	115	-
Nov-03	2,491	22	828	1,650	13	261	21	131	130	-
Nov-04	2,427	21	813	1,605	9	226	18	100	126	-

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).
3. Percentage of the population figures for young dependants do not match previously published figures for 2002 and 2003. This is due to the release of more up-to-date Child Benefit figures by Inland Revenue.

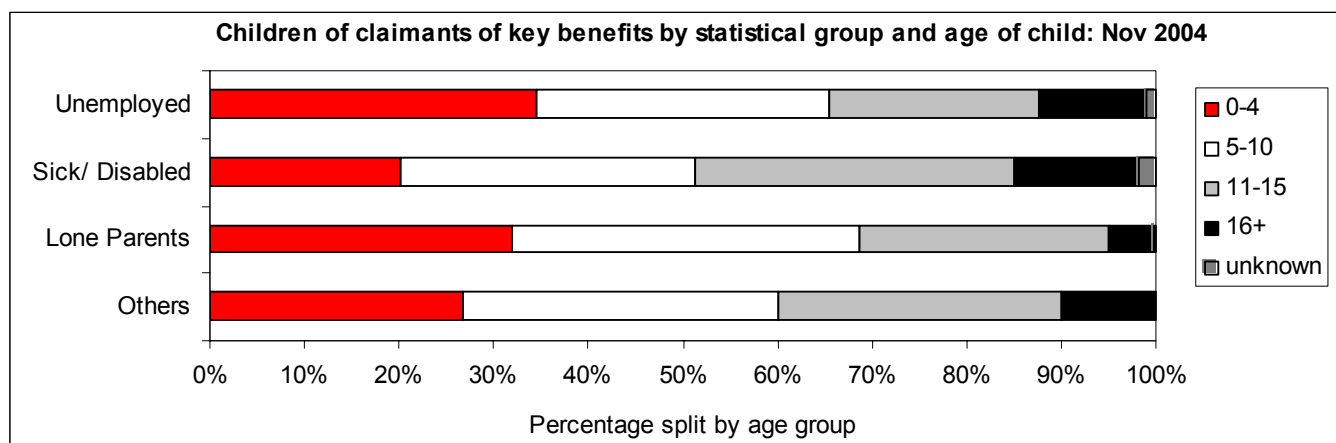
- 56% of young adult dependants in families claiming a key benefit lived in single parent households in November 2004. This is compared to 66% of children under 16 years old (for those whose family type is known).
- **Comparisons of Family Type and Comparisons over time are affected by the introduction of Child Tax Credit. The changes made and the effects on the figures are described in the Methodology.**

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

	<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	2,653	100	734	28	908	34	762	29	226	9	23	1
Unemployed	194	100	67	35	60	31	43	22	22	11	2	1
Sick/ Disabled	962	100	194	20	299	31	325	34	126	13	18	2
Lone Parents	1,436	100	457	32	529	37	376	26	71	5	2	-
Others	61	100	16	26	20	33	18	30	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

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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: November 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	2,653	100	185	7	151	6	231	9	341	13	1,744	66
Unemployed	194	100	78	40	36	19	35	18	29	15	16	8
Sick & disabled	962	100	38	4	39	4	64	7	101	10	720	75
Lone parents	1,436	100	62	4	70	5	125	9	202	14	978	68
Others	61	100	7	11	6	10	8	13	9	15	30	49

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, 66% had been on benefit for at least two years. For the Sick & Disabled group the figure was 75%, while that for the unemployed was only 8%.
- Of those children in families classed as unemployed, 77% had been on benefit for less than a year.

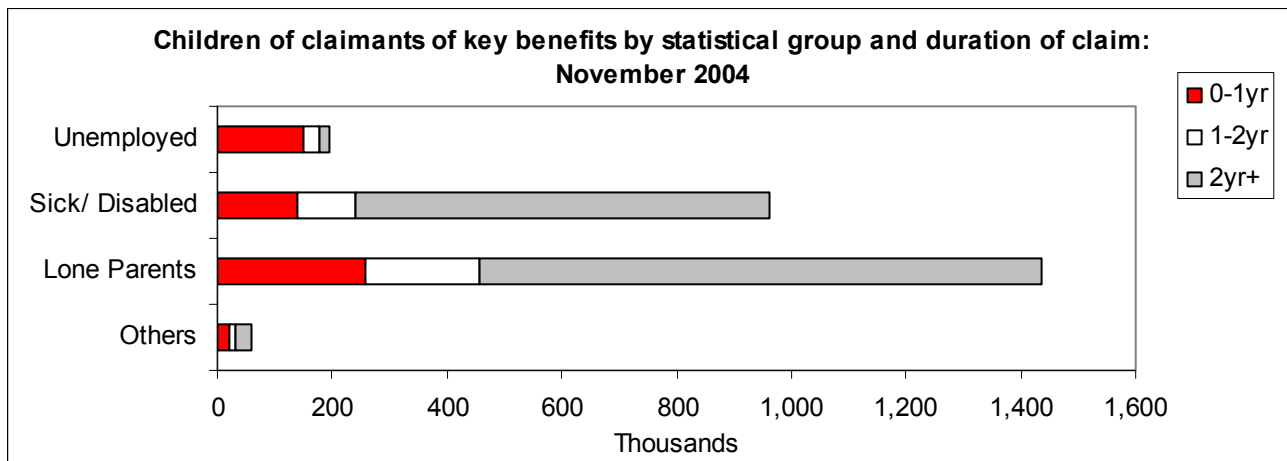


Table 6: Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by duration of claim: November 2002 to November 2004.

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
November 2002	2,450	167	150	221	332	1,580
%	100	7	6	9	14	64
November 2003	2,752	194	162	258	367	1,771
%	100	7	6	9	13	64
November 2004	2,653	185	151	231	341	1,744
%	100	7	6	9	13	66

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 66% in November 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**

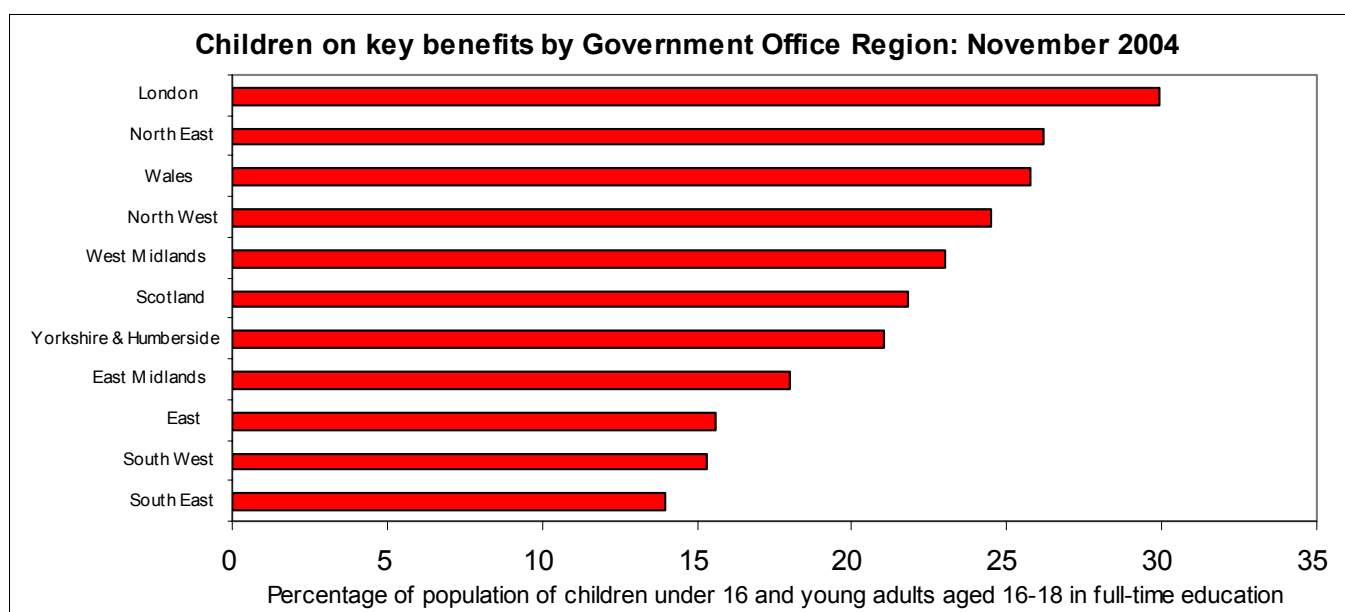
Table 7 Children and young adult dependants¹ of claimants of key benefits by Government Office Region: November 2004

	<i>Thousands and percentages</i>	
	000s	% of pop ²
Great Britain	2,653	21
England	2,261	21
North East	142	26
North West	372	24
Yorkshire and the Humber	232	21
East Midlands	166	18
West Midlands	276	23
East	187	16
London	480	30
South East	246	14
South West	160	15
Wales	166	26
Scotland	225	22
SDA/IB claimants living abroad	1	-

Notes:

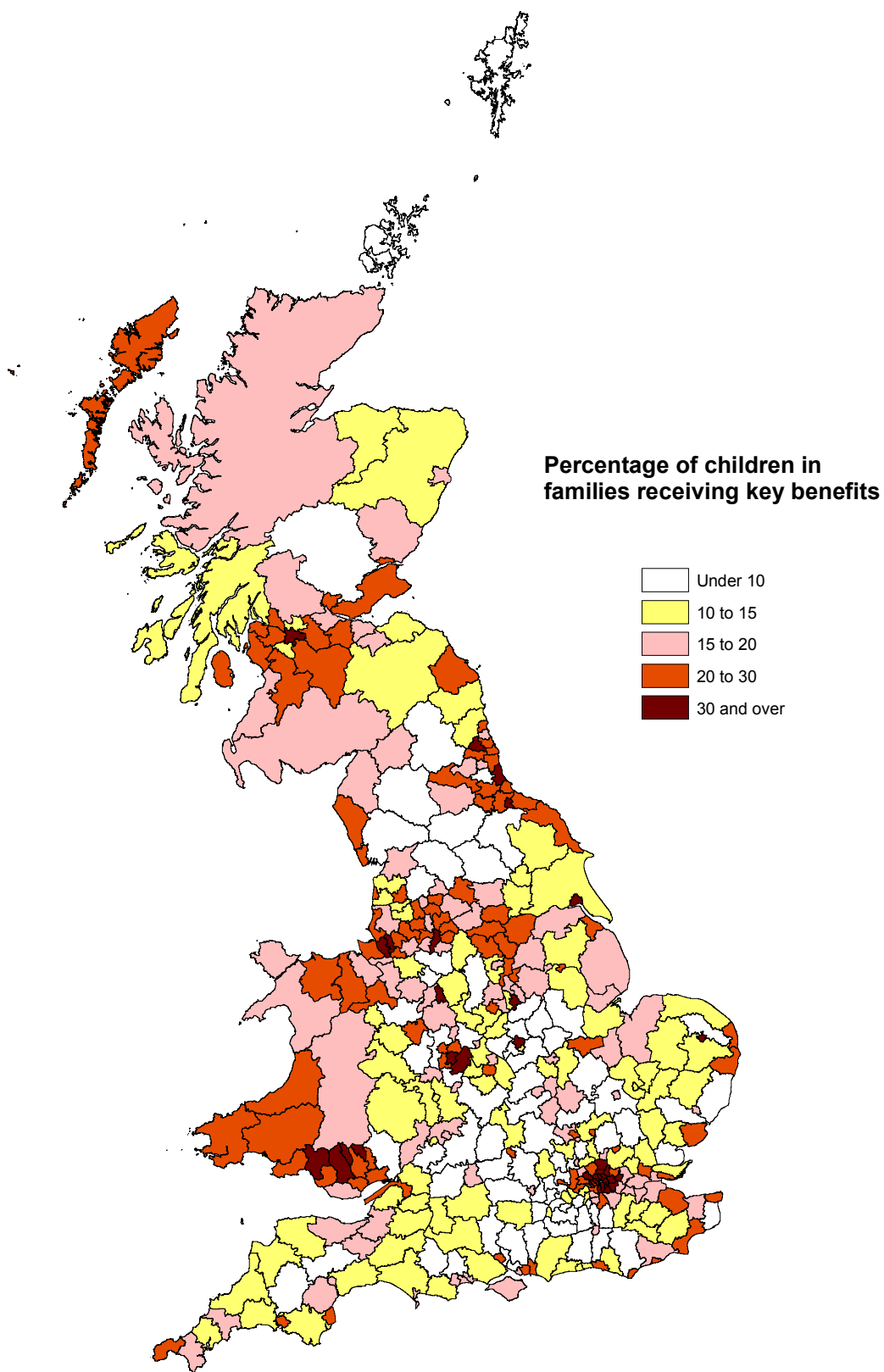
1. Children aged under 16 and young adults aged 16 to 18 for whom additional benefit allowance and/or CTC payable (see definitions and conventions).
2. Population aged under 16 plus population aged 16 to 18 in full-time education (from Child Benefit estimates).

- The percentage of children (aged under 16 or aged 16-18 and in full-time education) living in families claiming a key benefit varied from 30% in London, down to 14% in the South East GOR. All regions have areas with high and low proportion of children living in families on key benefits. For example, in the North East 10% of children in Tynedale local authority lived in families on key benefits compared to 39% of children in Easington.



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

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



These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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

<i>Thousands and percentages</i>		
	Number of children/dependants	% population ²
All combinations	2,653	21
IS only	1,531	12
IS & IB	278	2
IB only	196	2
JSA only	191	2
DLA, IS & IB	157	1
DLA & IB	104	1
DLA only	101	1
DLA & IS	57	-
DLA, IS & SDA	17	-
DLA & SDA	11	-
IS & SDA	5	-
SDA only	3	-
DLA & JSA	1	-
Others	2	-

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: November 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All durations	%	Duration of oldest claim ²									
			Under 3 months	%	3 to under 6 months	%	6 months to under 1 year	%	1 to under 2 years	%	2 years or over	%
All client groups	1,420	100	103	7	86	6	130	9	190	13	912	64
Unemployed	101	100	42	42	20	20	18	18	14	13	8	8
Sick & disabled	531	100	21	4	20	4	35	7	56	11	398	75
Lone parents	763	100	36	5	42	6	74	10	116	15	494	65
Others	26	100	4	14	3	13	3	13	4	15	12	46

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 8%.
- 79% of families classed as unemployed had been on benefit for less than a year.

Table 10 Families¹ on key benefits by duration of claim: November 2002 to November 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
November 2002	1,282	89	82	122	181	809
%	100	7	6	9	14	63
November 2003	1,454	105	89	142	199	918
%	100	7	6	10	14	63
November 2004	1,420	103	86	130	190	912
%	100	7	6	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 November 2004. This compares with 66% 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.**

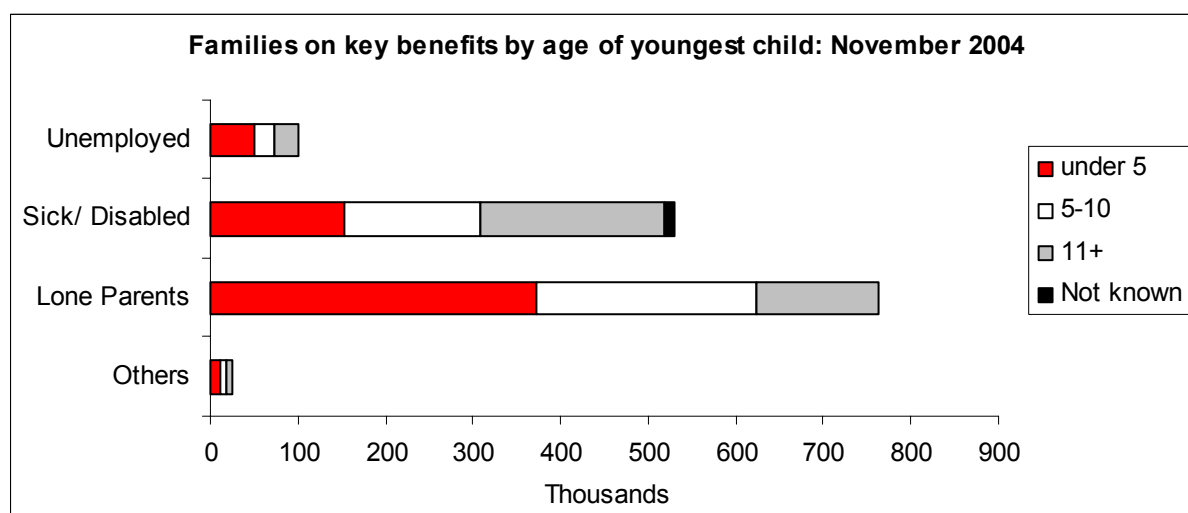
Table 11 Families¹ on key benefits by statistical group and age of children: November 2004

Thousands and percentages

	All ages		Age of children								Not known	
	Thousands	%	Under 5	%	5-10	%	11-15	%	16+	%	Thousands	%
All statistical groups	1,420	100	587	41	437	31	301	21	83	6	12	1
Unemployed	101	100	50	49	22	22	14	14	14	14	1	1
Sick & disabled	531	100	154	29	155	29	150	28	60	11	11	2
Lone parents	763	100	371	49	252	33	132	17	7	1	-	-
Others	26	100	12	45	7	29	5	18	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 Families¹ on key benefits with children and/or young adult dependants: November 2002 to November 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		
November 2002	1,282	557	386	238	52	49	
%	100	43	30	19	4	4	
November 2003	1,454	598	451	305	85	15	
%	100	41	31	21	6	1	
November 2004	1,420	587	437	301	83	12	
%	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: November 2004

Thousands

	All families	Number of children			
		One	Two	Three	Four or more
All statistical groups	1,420	653	461	198	109
Unemployed	101	46	32	14	9
Sick & Disabled	531	255	173	67	36
Lone Parents	763	342	250	112	58
Others	26	9	7	5	5

Notes:

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

- 7.6% of families on key benefits had four or more children in November 2004. For the unemployed statistical group the figure was higher: 9.3%.

Appendices

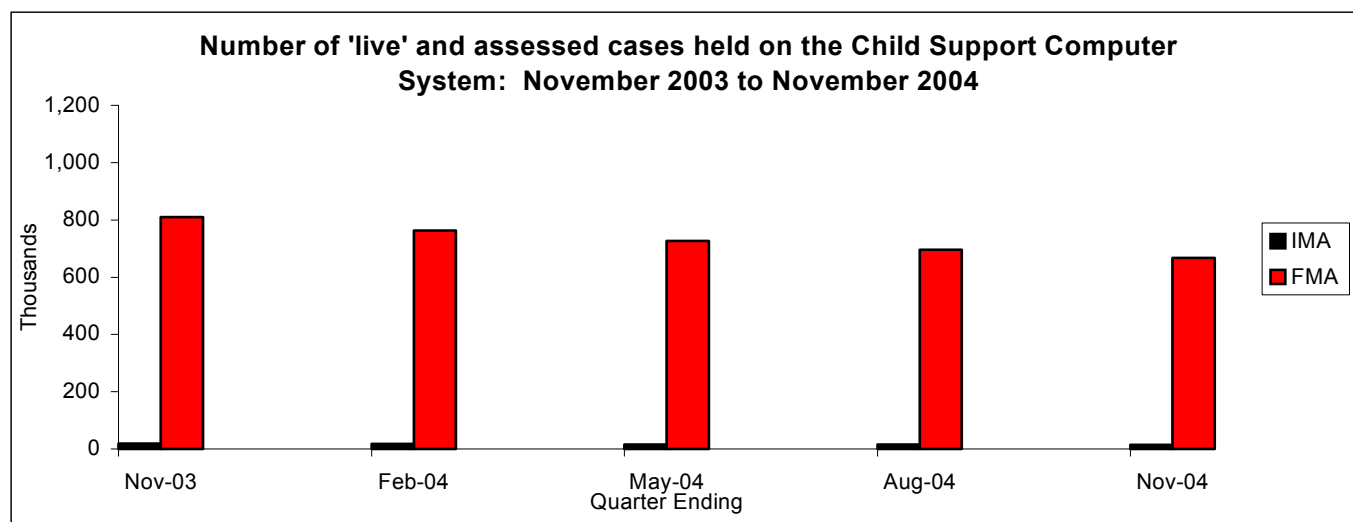
Appendix 1 – Child Support Agency

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

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

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

At the end of November 2004 there were 668.2 thousand 'live' and fully assessed cases held on CSCS, a fall from 696.0 thousand cases in August 2004. This drop is due to the natural closure of cases and the migration of linked cases to the Business Data Warehouse.



- The average weekly maintenance assessment for all 'live' fully assessed cases rose from £21.49 to £22.37 during the period November 2003 to November 2004. Non Resident Parents with regular income working as an employee had an average weekly full maintenance assessment of £39.42 at the end of November 2004, 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 1 Number of NRPs with a full maintenance assessment and average value of assessment: November 2003 to November 2004 (CSCS cases only)

	<i>NRPs with a full maintenance assessment</i>	
	FMA (thousands)	Average £ pw
November 2003	809.7	£21.49
February 2004	763.7	£21.73
May 2004	726.4	£21.94
August 2004	696.0	£22.22
November 2004	668.2	£22.37

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

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Thousands and percentages

	Total	PWC Benefit Status							
		Income Support		JSA (IB)		WTC/ WFTC ¹		Other	
			%		%		%		%
November 2003	809.7	272.6	33.7	6.3	0.8	278.1	34.3	252.7	31.2
February 2004	763.7	252.1	33.0	6.0	0.8	265.9	34.8	239.7	31.4
May 2004	726.4	230.6	31.8	5.1	0.7	256.0	35.2	234.6	32.3
August 2004	696.0	215.4	30.9	4.9	0.7	235.9	33.9	239.8	34.5
November 2004	668.2	195.1	29.2	4.8	0.7	233.7	35.0	234.6	35.1

Notes:

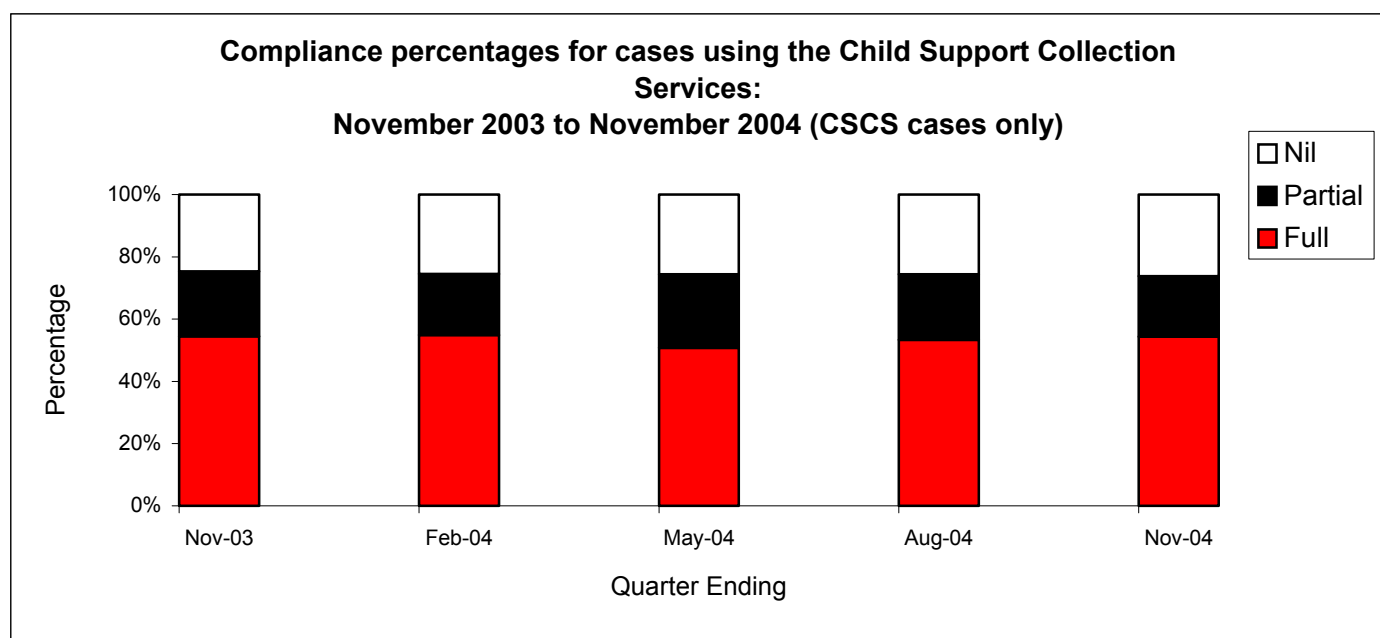
1. Includes a small number of Pension Credit recipients from April 2003
2. Working Families' Tax Credit before April 2003, Working Tax Credit from April 2003 onwards.

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

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

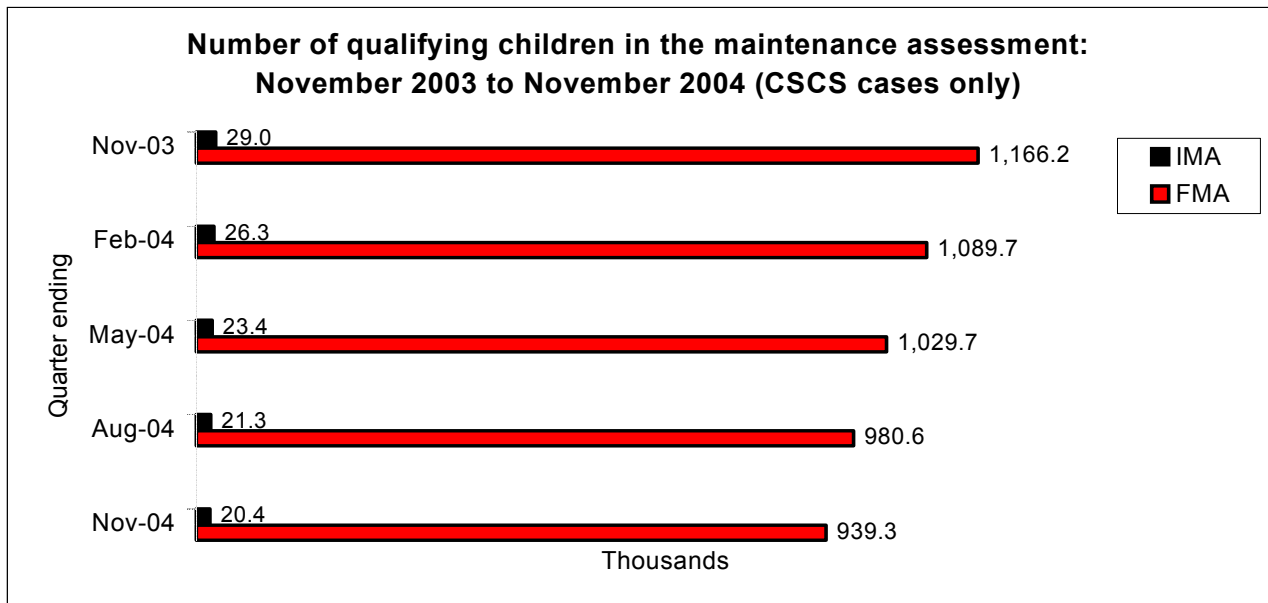
Thousands

	Total	Not Applicable	Full	Partial	Nil
November 2003	809.7	484.7	176.9	68.1	80.0
February 2004	763.7	456.1	168.8	60.5	78.3
May 2004	726.4	432.6	149.1	69.4	75.3
August 2004	696.0	417.4	148.6	58.6	71.4
November 2004	668.2	402.8	144.4	51.5	69.5



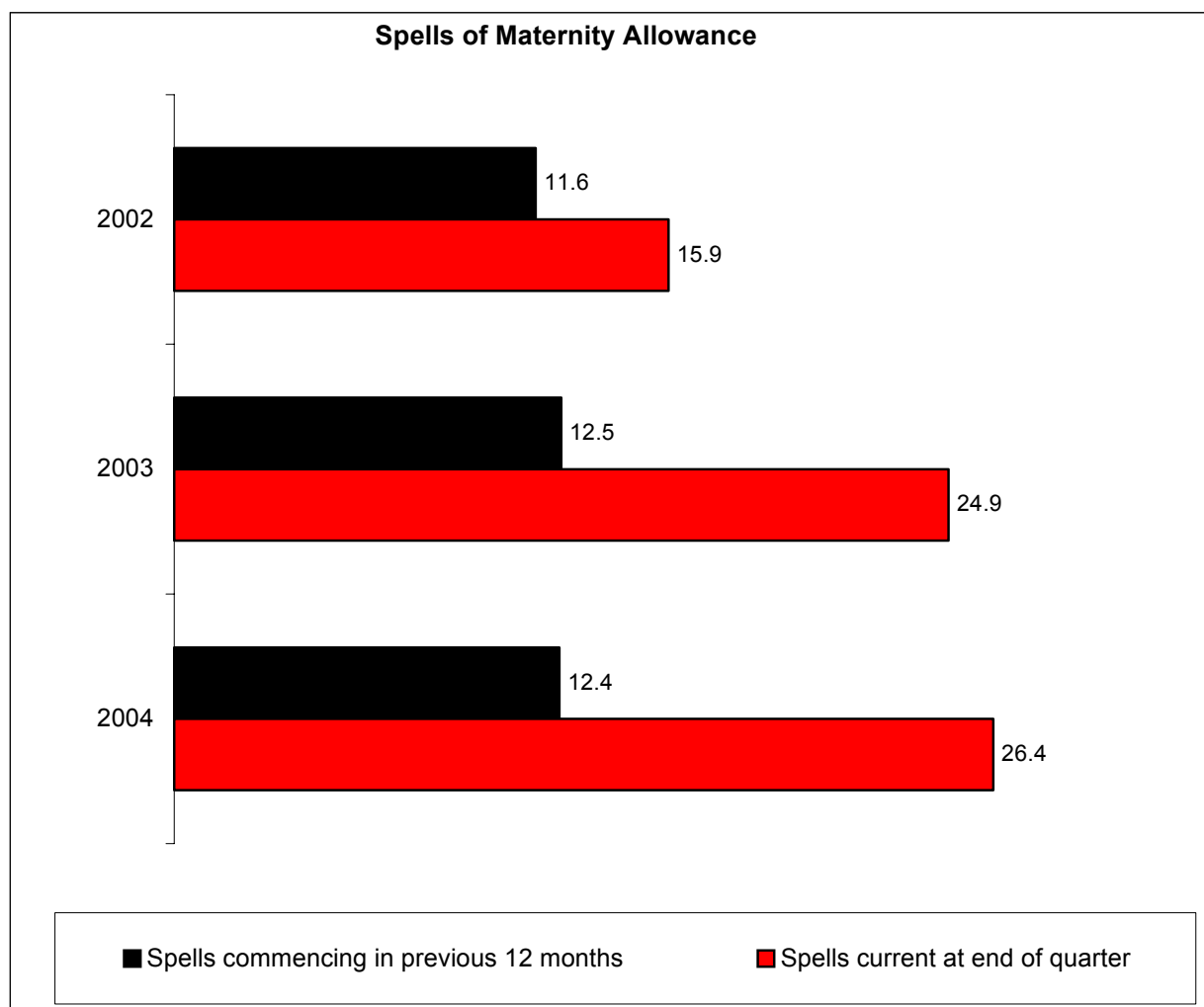
These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

The number of qualifying children in the fully assessed caseload has decreased by 17.5% overall since November 2003 with a 4.0% 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 November 2004 there were 26 thousand spells of Maternity Allowance in payment, 65.7% 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

These figures are not seasonally adjusted.

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).

