

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



*Children Order Child  
Protection and Referral  
Statistics for Northern Ireland  
(quarter ending 30 June 2014)*



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

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Authors	Iain Waugh
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Target Audience	Social Services Directors, Directors of Children's Services, Chief Executives of HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics and social care stakeholders.
Main uses of document	The main uses of these data are to monitor the delivery of social care services to children, to help assess Trust performance, corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions. The bulletin is also used by academics/researchers, the voluntary sector and those with an interest in child protection.
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Price	FREE

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## Key Findings

The Children Order Child Protection and Referral Statistics are based on quarterly Children Order Returns CPR2, CPR3, CPR4 and CPR5 for Northern Ireland. Figures in this bulletin are presented for the Child Protection Register by legal status, category of abuse, duration and age. Child Protection Referrals are presented by source of referral. A wider set of Children Order Returns are used to produce the Children's Social Care Statistics for Northern Ireland publication, which presents children's social care data for year ending 31 March, and which compares children's social care data over a five year period.

**1,817** Children were on the Child Protection Register at **30 June 2014**

Between **1 April 2014 & 30 June 2014** **1,042** Child Protection Referrals were Received

### Child Protection Register

- At 30 June 2014, 1,817 children were listed on the Child Protection Register in Northern Ireland which represented a decrease (5%) on the previous quarter. Since June 2013, the register count has increased by 2%, from 1,790, with changes by Trust ranging from a decrease of 12% in the Northern Trust to an increase of 16% in the Southern Trust;
- Taking account of local demographics, Register counts per 10,000 children's population (under 18), ranged from 35.3 in the Northern Trust to 50.3 in the South Eastern Trust; overall there were 42.1 children per 10,000 on the Register at 30 June 2014;
- At 30 June 2014 the largest proportion of children were on the Register due to Neglect Only (32%); 73% of children on the Child Protection Register at 30 June 2014 had been on the Register for less than one year with 2% of children on the Register for three years or longer;

### Child Protection Referrals

- Child Protection Referrals for the quarter ending 30 June 2014, were 9% higher than the previous quarter, and 8% below the number of referrals for the same quarter in 2014;
- The largest proportion of all Referrals, 48%, originated from within Social Services, 16% from the PSNI, 13% from School/Educational Welfare Officers, 3% from Relatives and 10% from 'Other' sources.

Statistics and research for the **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety** is provided by the Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD). It comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

IAD is responsible for compiling, processing, analysing, interpreting and disseminating a wide range of statistics covering health and social care.



The statisticians within IAD are out posted from the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency (NISRA) and our statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

### *Our Vision and Values*

- *Provide up-to-date, quality information on children and adult social services and community health;*
- *to disseminate findings widely with a view to stimulating debate, promoting effective decision-making and improvement in service provision; and*
- *be an expert voice on social care information.*

### **About Community Information Branch**

The purpose of Community Information Branch (CIB) is to promote effective decision making in children and adult social services by providing quality information and analysis.

We collect, analyse, and publish a wide range of community information that is used to help monitor the delivery of personal social services policy. Information collected by CIB is used to assess HSC Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, policy evaluation, and to respond to parliamentary/assembly questions.

Information is widely disseminated through a number of regular key statistical publications and ad hoc reports details of which are available online.

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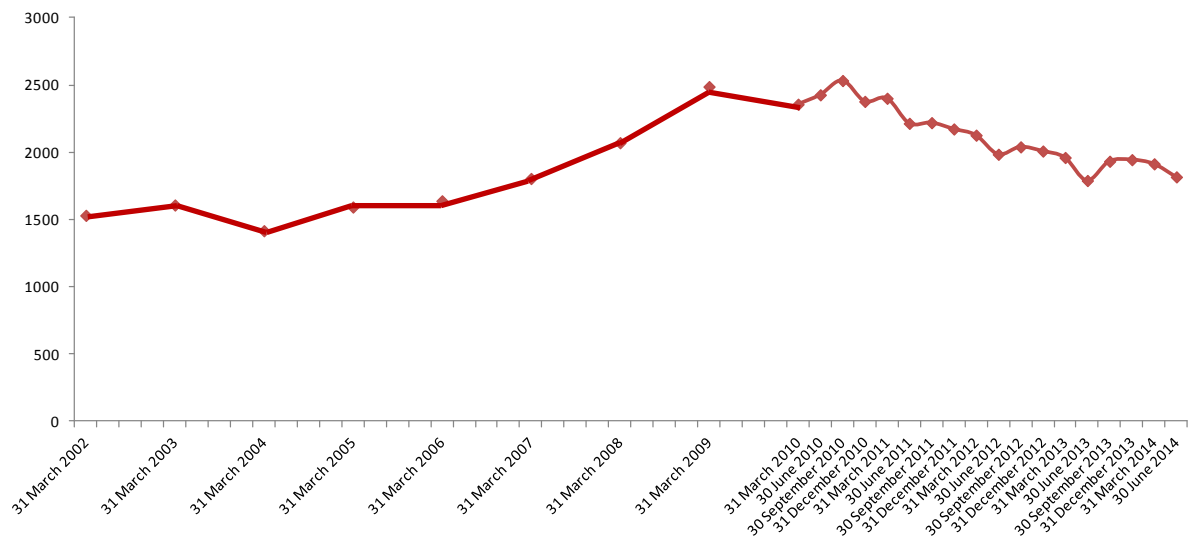
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## Trend Overview – Northern Ireland

### Child Protection Register

At 30 June 2014, 1,817 children were on the Child Protection Register in Northern Ireland. In general there has been a gradual decline in the number of children on the Register since 2011. The rapid growth in numbers of children on the Register between 2008 and 2011 could be attributed to a number of high profile child protection cases covered by the media over this time period. The lowest number of children on the Register in the past ten years occurred in 2004, when approximately 400 fewer children were on the Child Protection Register.

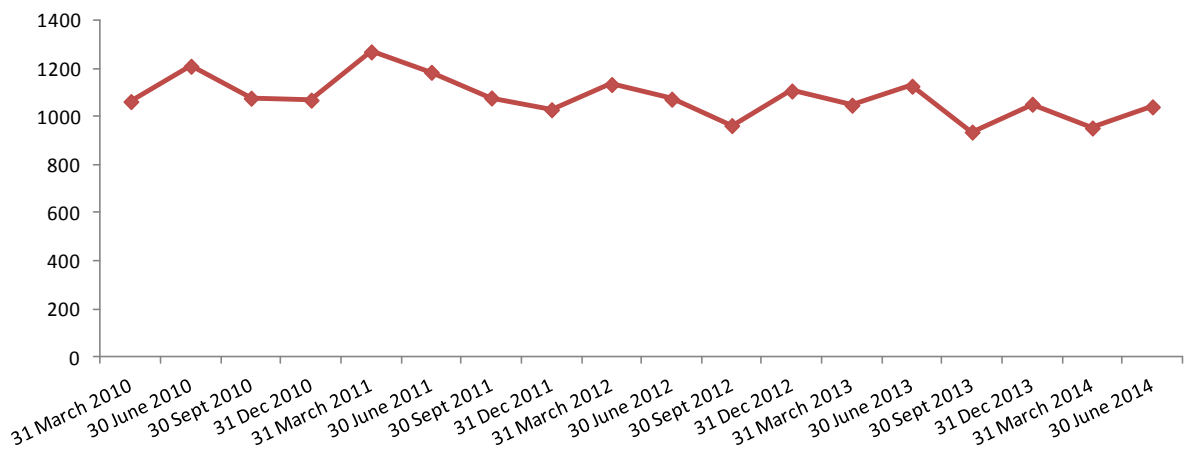
**Figure 1: Children on the Child Protection Register 31 March 2002 – 30 June 2014**



### Child Protection Referrals

Figure 2 sets out the number of child protection referrals between quarters ending 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2014. 1,042 Child Protection Referrals were received during quarter ending 31 June 2014; an increase on the previous quarter. The highest number was recorded in quarter ending 31 March 2011, when 1,271 referrals were received.

**Figure 2: Child Protection Referrals 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



## Child Protection Register

A register must be maintained by each Trust listing every child in the Trust area who has been abused or who is considered to be at risk of abuse, and who is currently the subject of a child protection plan.

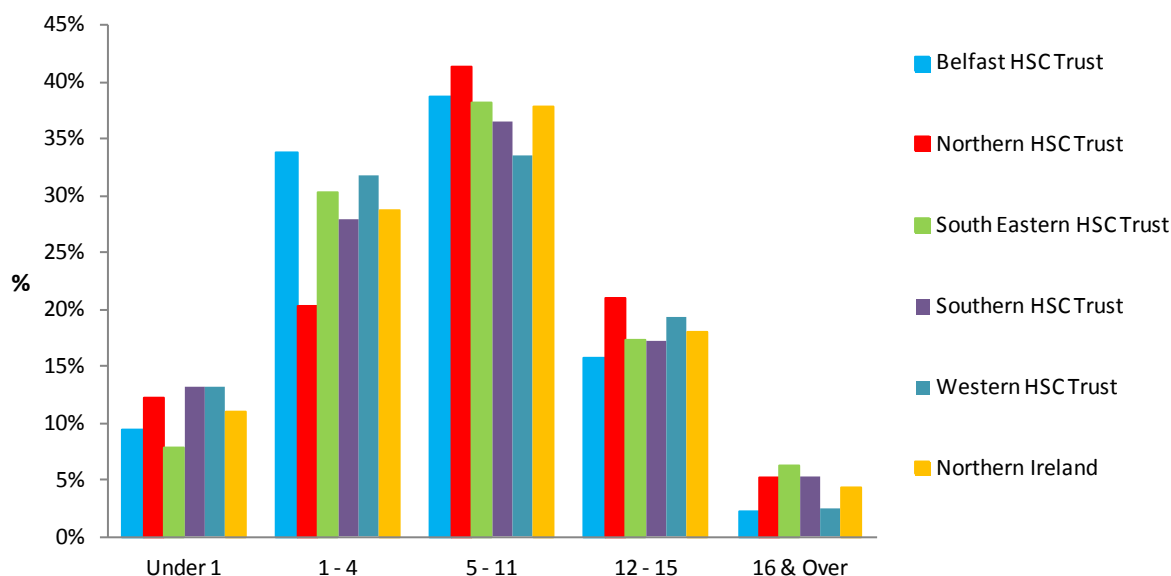
**Table 1.1: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by Age at 30 June 2014**

HSC Trust	Age (years)					Total	Per 10,000 Population Under 18
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 11	12 - 15	16 +		
Belfast HSC Trust	36	124	147	59	8	374	49.6
Northern HSC Trust	47	78	157	81	20	383	35.3
South Eastern HSC Trust	32	123	155	70	25	405	50.3
Southern HSC Trust	48	102	133	63	19	365	39.0
Western HSC Trust	38	92	97	56	7	290	39.3
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>1,817</b>	<b>42.1</b>

Source: Children Order Return CPR4

At 30 June 2014, 1,817 children were listed on the Child protection Register in Northern Ireland, equivalent to 42.1 children per 10,000 of the under 18 population<sup>1</sup>. Just under a quarter, 22%, of children on the register were in the South Eastern Trust, with 21% in the Northern Trust, 21% in the Belfast Trust, 20% in the Southern Trust and 16% in the Western Trust. Proportionally the South Eastern Trust had the highest rate of children on the register and the Southern Trust the lowest.

**Figure 3: The Age Profile of Children on the Child Protection Register at 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

The age profile of children on the register by HSC Trust is shown in Figure 3. It shows us that the age distribution was quite similar across the Trusts. The Northern Trust has proved to be the exception to this where the 1 – 4 age group was significantly smaller than in the other Trusts. Similar to previous

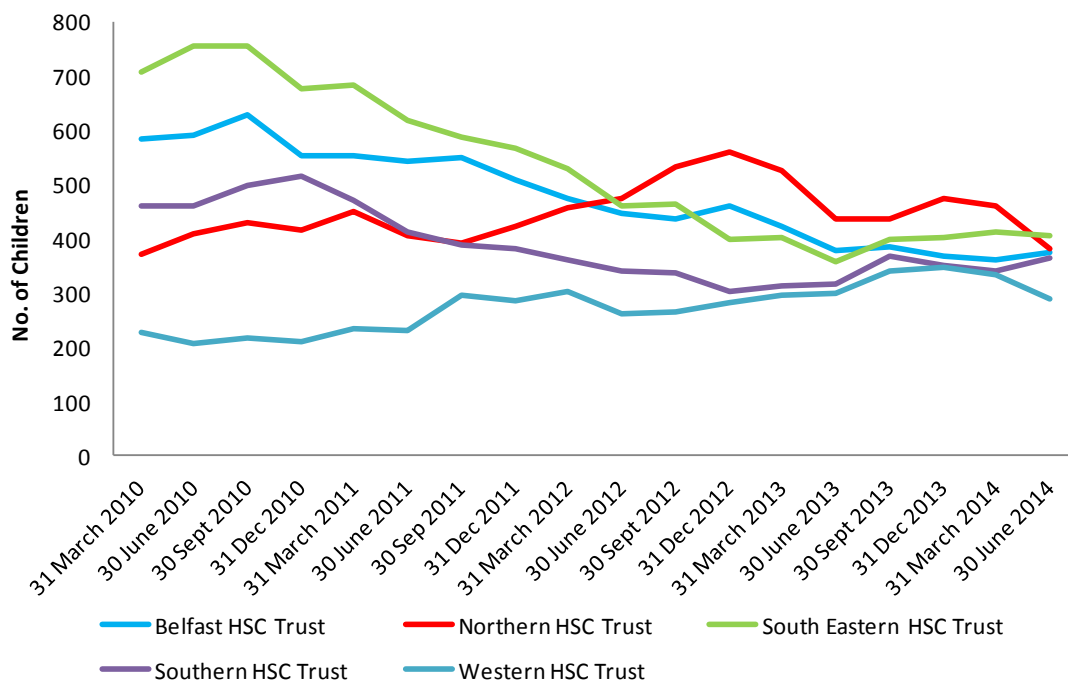
<sup>1</sup> Population figures are based on the latest available mid-year estimates from NISRA.



quarters 38% of children on the register were aged 5 – 11 years, 29% were aged 1 – 4 years, 18% were aged 12 – 15 years, 11 % were aged less than 1 and 4% were aged 16 or over at 30 June 2014.

On average the proportion of children on the register aged 0 – 11 was 11% higher than the Northern Ireland population in this age group. This indicates that the Child Protection population is younger than would be expected when looking at population sizes. A possible reason for this is that there is a focus on early intervention to help families address problems as they arise.

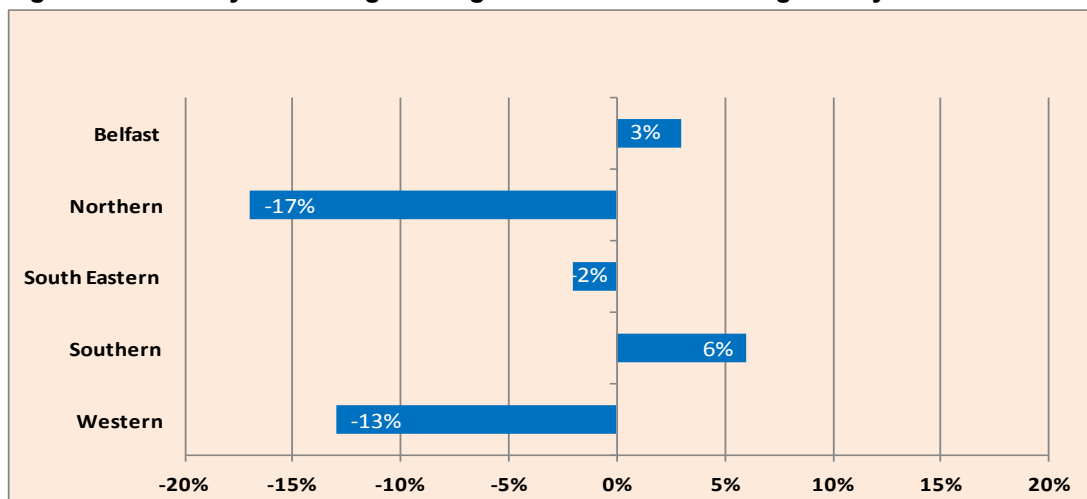
**Figure 4: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

The count of 1,817 children on the Child Protection Register at 30 June 2014 represented a 5% decrease on the previous quarter (1,914). Compared with the same time last year (June 2013), the number of children registered increased by 2%. Annual changes by Trusts ranged from an increase of 16% in the Southern Trust to a drop of 12% in the Northern Trust.

**Figure 5: Quarterly Percentage Change in Children on the Register by HSC Trust**



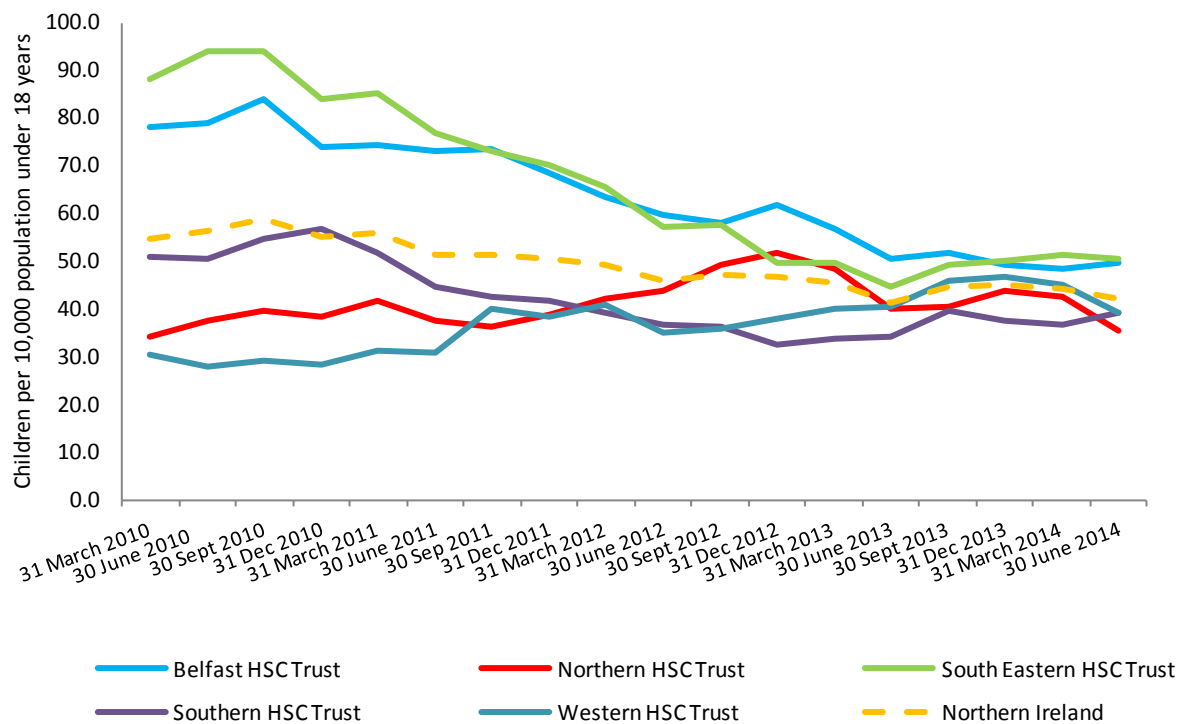
Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Figure 4 illustrates that between June 2012 and March 2014 the Northern Trust has had the largest number of children on the register, this might be expected as the Northern Trust has the largest overall childrens population. However there is no overall correlation between childrens population size and the number of children in each Trust area on the register, if there were the Southern Trust would have the second largest child protection population. This would suggest that there isn't a simple explanation for the total of children on the register and that it is related to a number of complex interconnecting socio-economic factors including poverty, deprivation and family stress.

This becomes more apparent looking at Figure 5, below, which shows the changing trends in the number of children on the register as a proportion of the overall childrens population in each Trust. The South Eastern and Belfast Trusts have over the last years had larger proportions of their population on the Child Protection Register than the other Trusts. A possible reason for this may be that these two Trusts contain some of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.

Variations between the Trusts exist; however the rates have substantially narrowed over the preceding two years. The cause of this narrowing would appear to be a significant fall in the proportion of children registered in the Belfast and South Eastern Trusts rather than a rise in numbers the other Trusts.

**Figure 6: Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 Population Under 18 Years 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Table 1.2, overleaf, details the number of children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 of the population aged under 18 years. Regionally the proportion of children on the register has ranged from 58.9 children per 10,000 population under 18 at 30 September 2010 to 41.5 children per 10,000 under 18 at 30 June 2013.

**Table 1.2: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 Population Under 18**

HSC Trust	Quarter Ending							
	31st March 2010	30th June 2010	30th September 2010	31st December 2010	31st March 2011	30th June 2011	30th September 2011	31st December 2011
Belfast HSC Trust	77.9	79.1	84.0	73.9	74.2	72.9	73.4	68.3
Northern HSC Trust	34.2	37.6	39.5	38.4	41.5	37.4	36.1	38.9
South Eastern HSC Trust	88.1	94.0	94.2	84.1	85.2	76.9	73.2	70.4
Southern HSC Trust	50.8	50.4	54.5	56.7	51.8	44.8	42.4	41.6
Western HSC Trust	30.5	28.0	29.2	28.4	31.4	30.9	39.9	38.5
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>58.9</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>50.4</b>
	31st March 2012	30th June 2012	30th September 2012	31st December 2012	31st March 2013	30th June 2013	30th September 2013	31st December 2013
Belfast HSC Trust	63.4	59.7	58.2	61.7	56.6	50.5	51.7	49.3
Northern HSC Trust	42.1	43.6	49.1	51.5	48.3	40.1	40.3	43.6
South Eastern HSC Trust	65.6	57.2	57.7	49.6	49.8	44.4	49.4	50.0
Southern HSC Trust	39.4	36.7	36.3	32.6	33.7	34.0	39.7	37.6
Western HSC Trust	40.7	35.2	35.8	38.1	40.0	40.6	45.8	46.9
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>47.3</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>
	31st March 2014	30th June 2014						
Belfast HSC Trust	48.3	49.6						
Northern HSC Trust	42.4	35.3						
South Eastern HSC Trust	51.4	50.3						
Southern HSC Trust	36.9	39.0						
Western HSC Trust	44.9	39.3						
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>42.1</b>						

Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Population Figures Based on latest available NISRA Mid-Year Estimates for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013

Some figures may differ from previous publications due to release of new NISRA Mid-Year Estimates

**Table 1.3: Legal Status of Children on the Child Protection Register at 30 June 2014**

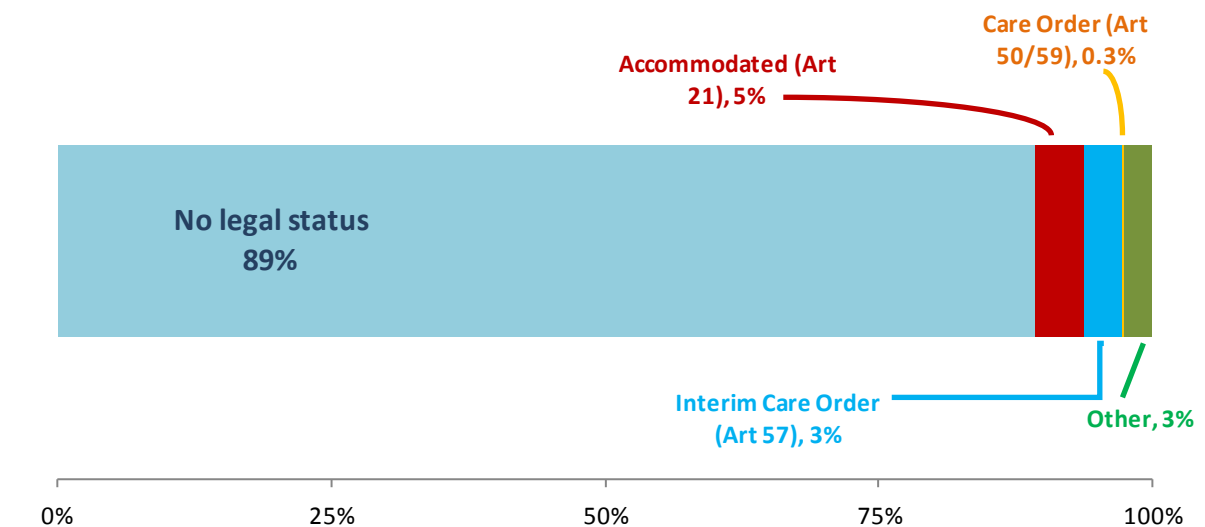
HSC Trust	Legal Status							Total
	Accommodated (Article 21)	Interim Care Order (Article 57)	Care Order (Article 50 or 59)	Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 & 30 of Sch 8)	Interim Supervision Order (Article 57)	Other	None	
Belfast HSC Trust	25	14	6	0	8	12	309	<b>374</b>
Northern HSC Trust	19	9	0	0	-	-	351	<b>383</b>
South Eastern HSC Trust	14	10	0	0	0	10	371	<b>405</b>
Southern HSC Trust	18	11	0	0	-	-	329	<b>365</b>
Western HSC Trust	7	16	0	0	-	-	265	<b>290</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,817</b>

Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Other includes those children with an Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64)

The majority, 89%, of children on the register had no recorded legal status. 5% of children were Accommodated (Article 21) and 3% were subject to an Interim Care Order. This regional pattern was repeated within each HSC Trust; however there was some variation with the proportion of those with no legal status ranging from 83% in the Belfast Trust to 92% in the Northern Trust. The composition of the Register by legal status has remained relatively stable between 31 March 2010 and 30 June 2014.

**Figure 7: Legal Status of Children on the Child Protection Register 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

**Table 1.4: Children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse at 30 June 2014**

HSC Trust	Category of Abuse								Total
	Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse	Neglect and Physical Abuse	Neglect and Sexual Abuse	Physical and Sexual Abuse	Neglect Only	Physical Abuse Only	Sexual Abuse Only	Emotional Abuse Only	
Belfast HSC Trust	-	93	-	7	130	92	20	26	374
Northern HSC Trust	14	64	15	20	116	84	31	39	383
South Eastern HSC Trust	6	70	6	6	148	102	23	44	405
Southern HSC Trust	-	42	-	8	94	139	40	36	365
Western HSC Trust	-	41	-	8	86	103	16	32	290
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>1,817</b>

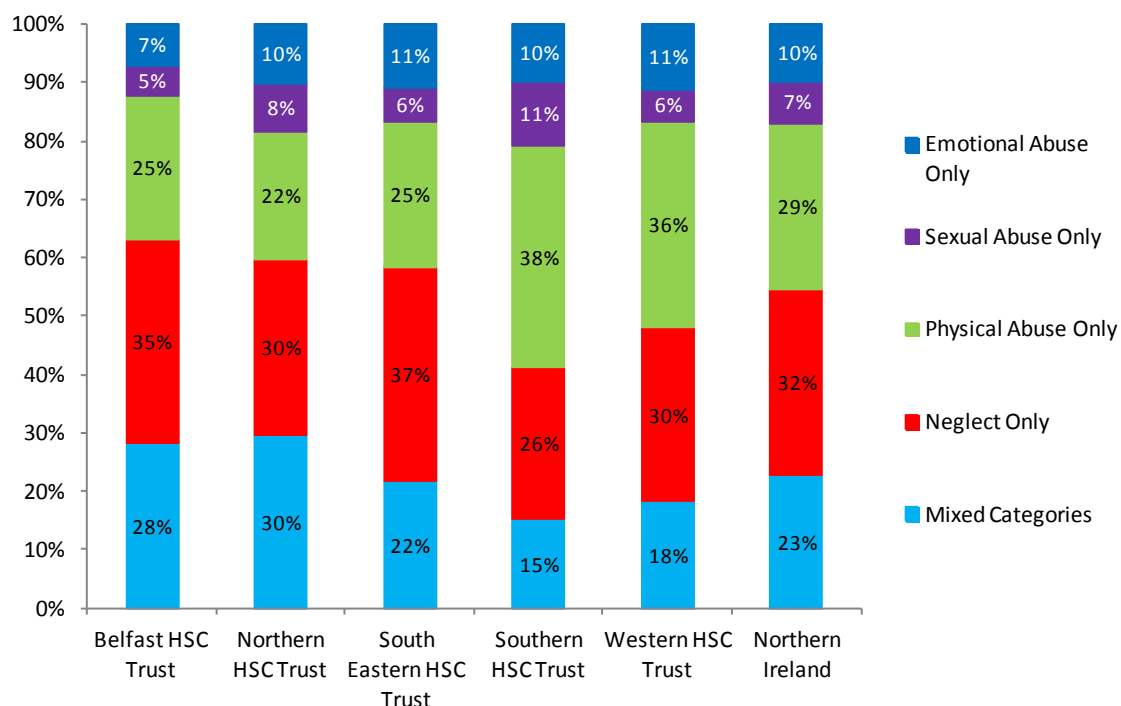
Source: Children Order Return CPR2

'-' cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

Category of abuse is recorded on the Child Protection Register as neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or a combination of these.

At 30 June 2014 the largest proportion of children was on the register due to neglect only (32%) followed by physical abuse only. Just under a quarter of children were on the Register due to a combination of Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse (23%).

**Figure 8: Children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse and Trust at 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR2

There was some variation between the Trusts in regards to the categories of abuse. At 30 June 2014, the South Eastern and Belfast Trusts had the highest proportion of children on the child protection register due to neglect only (37% and 35% respectively) whereas the Southern and Western Trusts had the highest proportion of children on the Register due to physical abuse only (38% and 36% respectively). The Northern Trust had an even split between neglect only and mixed categories of abuse. As a proportion of children on the Register 'sexual abuse only' accounted for the smallest

percentage of reasons. This was the case across each Trust apart from the Southern Trust where 'Emotional Abuse Only' accounted for the smallest proportion of children on the Register.

**Table 1.5: Children on the Child Protection Register by Duration at 30 June 2014**

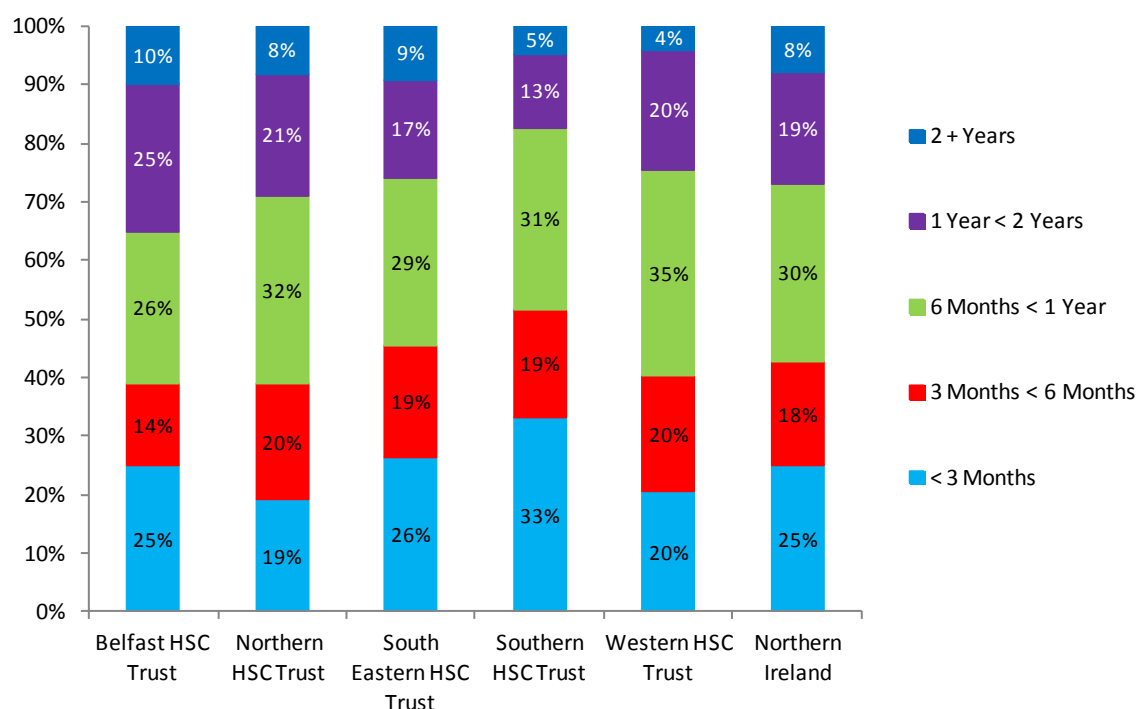
HSC Trust	Duration					Total
	< 3 Months	3 Months < 6 Months	6 Months < 1 Year	1 Year < 2 Years	2 + Years	
Belfast HSC Trust	93	53	97	94	37	374
Northern HSC Trust	74	75	124	80	30	383
South Eastern HSC Trust	107	76	116	68	38	405
Southern HSC Trust	121	68	113	46	17	365
Western HSC Trust	59	57	102	59	13	290
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1,817</b>

Source: Children Order Return CPR5

Three quarters of children had been on the register for less than one year at 30 June 2014, with a quarter on the register for less than 3 months. A tenth had been on the register for over two years with two percent registered for three years or longer.

The Southern Trust had the largest proportion of children on the Register for less than one year at 83%, in comparison 65% of children in the Belfast Trust had been on the Register for this length of time. 4% of children in the Western Trust had been on the Register for two years or longer compared to 10% of children in the Belfast Trust who had been on the Register for this length of time.

**Figure 9: Children on the Child Protection Register by Duration and Trust at 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR5

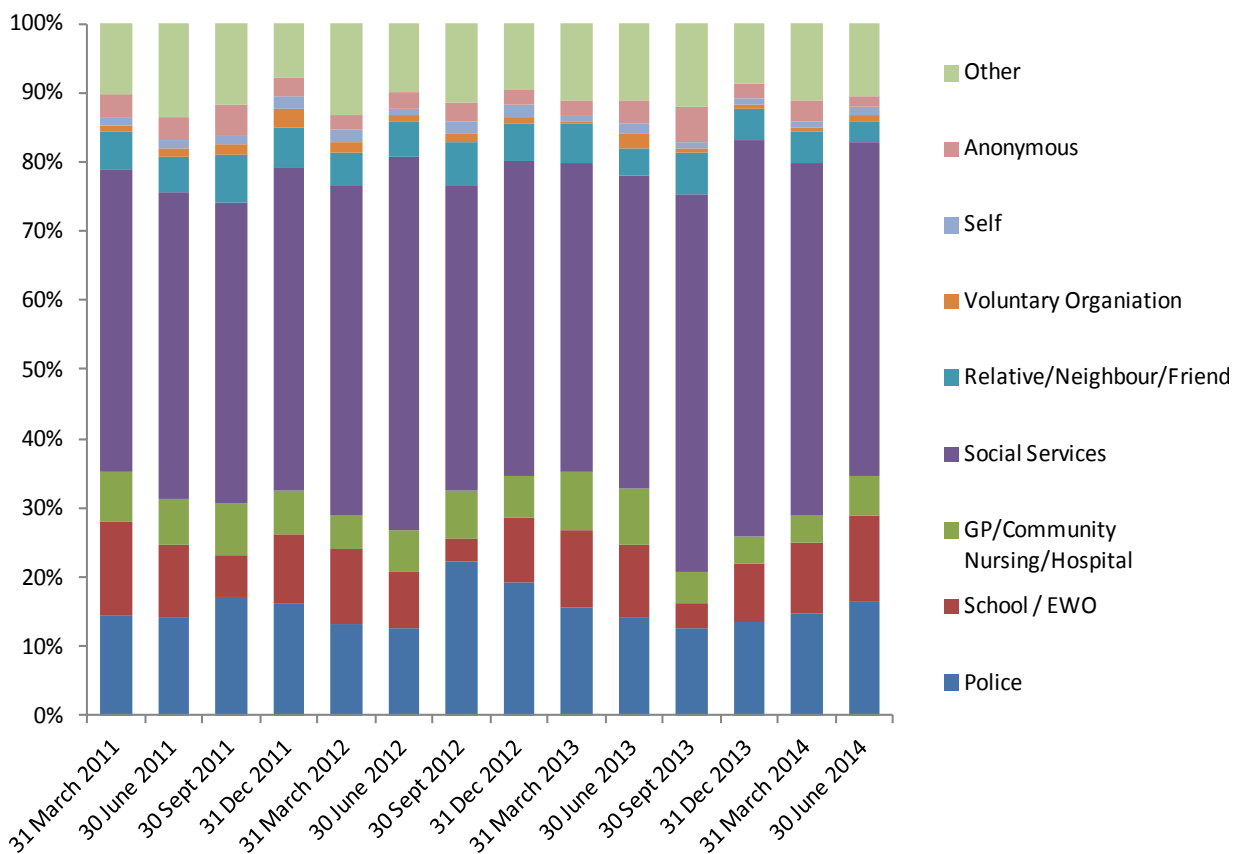
## Child Protection Referrals

Table 1.6 overleaf sets out the number of child protection referrals for the quarter ending 30 June 2014, by source of referral.

A total of 1,042 child protection referrals were received during quarter ending 30 June 2014 which was 9% higher than the previous quarter (954) and 8% below the referrals count for the same quarter in 2013 (1,128). Counts of referrals during this quarter indicated that 33% were in the South Eastern Trust, 24% were in the Southern Trust, 16% were in the Belfast Trust, 16% were in the Western Trust and 12% were in the Northern Trust.

The largest proportion of referrals originated from within Social Services (48%), followed by the police (PSNI - 16%) with School or an Educational Welfare Officer representing 13%. For all Trusts the main source of referrals was within Social Services. However variation in these counts existed between the Trusts, with almost seven in ten (69%) of the referrals in the Northern Trust originating from Social Services compared to almost a third of the referrals (32%) in the South Eastern Trust.

**Figure 10: Source of Child Protection Referrals in Northern Ireland 31 March 2011 – 30 June 2014**



Note: EWO – Educational Welfare Officer  
Source: Children Order Return CPR3



**Table 1.6: Child Protection Referrals by Source of Referral for Quarter ending 30 June 2014**

HSC Trust	Source of Referral											Total	Per 10,000 Population Under 18	
	Police	School / EWO <sup>1</sup>	Voluntary Org.	GP	Social Services	Comm. Nursing	Relative	Neighbour / Friend	Hospital	Self	Anon			Other
Belfast HSC Trust	-	15	-	-	102	-	0	0	-	-	8	18	168	22.3
Northern HSC Trust	-	13	0	-	87	0	-	0	5	-	0	9	126	11.6
South Eastern HSC Trust	84	47	-	9	109	11	16	0	7	7	-	41	339	42.1
Southern HSC Trust	44	36	0	5	121	-	-	0	-	-	-	31	247	26.4
Western HSC Trust	26	20	-	7	81	0	10	0	-	0	-	10	162	21.9
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>24.1</b>

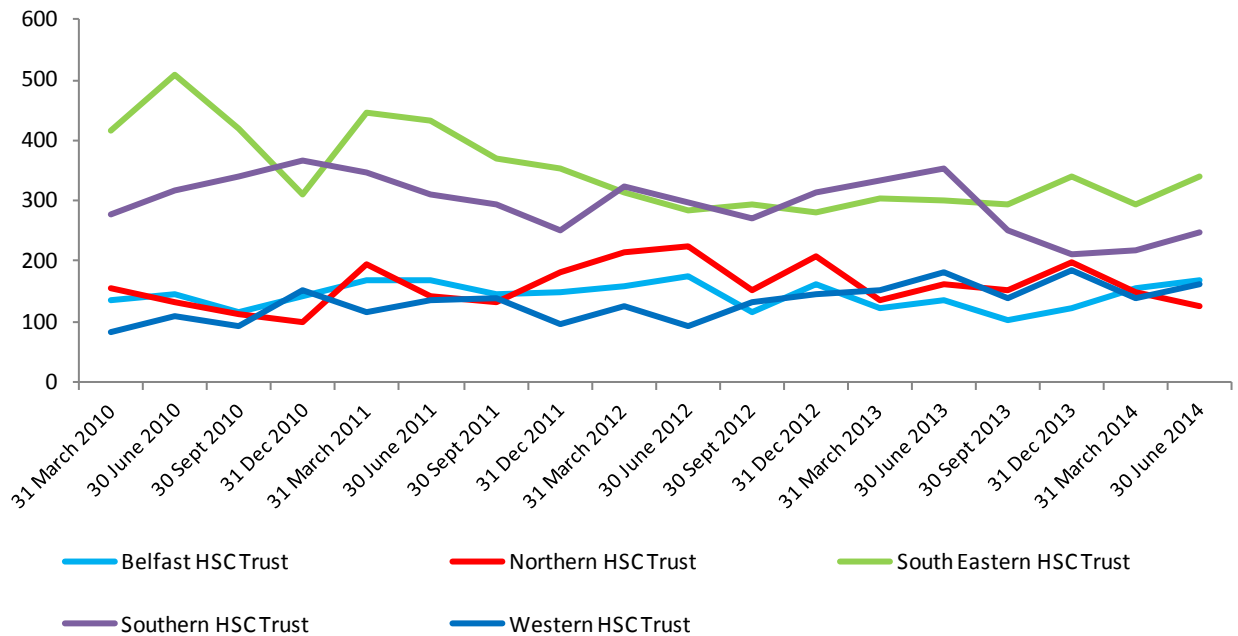
<sup>1,2</sup> cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

<sup>1</sup> EWO – Educational Welfare Officer

Source: Children Order Return CPR3

As a proportion of the children's population the South Eastern Trust received the largest number of child protection referrals (42.1 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years) and the Northern Trust the lowest (11.6 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years). Overall in Northern Ireland there were 24.1 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years at 30 June 2014, compared to 26.1 during quarter ending 30 June 2013.

**Figure 11: Child Protection Referrals by Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



Source: Children Order Return CPR3

Compared with the quarter ending 31 March 2014, the number of referrals received rose 16% in the Western Trust, 15% in the South Eastern Trust, 13% in the Southern Trust and by 8% in the Belfast Trust. Referrals fell by 14% in the Northern Trust.

Figure 10, above, illustrates that the Belfast, Northern and Western Trusts have received a reasonably steady flow of referrals between quarters ending 31 March 2010 and 31 March 2014. The South Eastern and Southern Trusts have consistently received larger amounts of child protection referrals over the same period.

## Technical Notes

### Data Collection

The figures in this bulletin detail numbers of children on the Child Protection Register at 30 June 2014 by legal status, age, category of abuse and duration and the numbers of Child Protection Referrals by source of referral for the quarter ending 30 June 2014. Figures are presented regionally and by Health and Social Care Trusts.

The statistics presented in this bulletin derive from Children Order returns CPR2, CPR3, CPR4, CPR5 and the Regional Child Protection Committee Returns, provided by each of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland to the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) as well as Community Information Branch (CIB) within the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS). Templates for CPR2, CPR3, CPR4 and CPR5 are detailed in Appendix B for information.

These returns are part of a wider set of annual Children Order returns which together provide statistics on activity relating to Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children, and Children's Day Care. The wider set of returns are used to produce [Children's Social Care Statistics in Northern Ireland](#), which records children's social care data at 31 March and for year ending 31 March, and compares children's social care data over a five year period.

### Data Quality

To facilitate the return of accurate counts HSC Trusts have agreed that ten working days from the end of the quarter is sufficient time to update the main administrative system with relevant information. Statistics published do not reflect system updates after the ten day window has passed. Following submission to CIB, further checks are carried out to verify that information is internally consistent. Trend analyses are used to monitor variations and emerging trends.

Queries arising from validation are presented to HSC Trusts for clarification, and if required returns may be amended and/or re-submitted. A detailed [validation report](#) for children's community statistics is available on our website.

### Statement of Administrative Sources

CPR2, CPR3, CPR4, CPR5 and the Regional Child Protection Committee returns are derived from SOS CARE, which is the main administrative system used to support HSC Trusts in delivering social care services to children. A detailed [Statement of Administrative Sources](#) is available on our website.

### Rounding Conventions

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100. 0% may reflect rounding down of values under 0.5%

### Disclosure Conventions

To prevent disclosure of the identity of individual children, it has been necessary to suppress the values of cells with low counts which may otherwise be derived by means of simple arithmetic. Our policy statement on [disclosure and confidentiality](#) is available on our website.

### Revisions Policy

These data are revised by exception. If revisions are required, background circumstances are reported and revision dates are noted in subsequent publications of these series of statistics.

The general [revisions policy for community statistics](#) is published on our website.

### Main Uses of Data

Data from this publication helps to meet the needs of a range of internal and external users. Within DHSSPS these figures are used by policy officials and the Northern Ireland Assembly to monitor

activity, Inter Agency working and reasons for referrals, and to compare the changing characteristics of children on the Child Protection Register.

A detailed [quality report](#) for children's community statistics providing further information is available on our website.

### **Related Publications**

This quarterly publication is produced as a companion piece to annual figures, including counts relating to Child Protection, Children in Need, Looked After Children and Day Care, published in '[Children's Social Care Statistics in Northern Ireland](#)'.

Details of statistics on similar themes to those detailed within this bulletin and published by other countries in the United Kingdom are outlined below.

#### ***England***

[Characteristics of Children in Need in England 2012/13](#)

#### ***Wales***

[Referrals, Assessments and Social Services for Children, 2012/13](#)

#### ***Scotland***

[Children's Social Work Statistics 2012/13](#)

### **Other Data Sources**

A report on the availability and comparability of children's social care statistics across the UK published in September 2011 by Emily Munroe, Rebecca Brown and Esmeranda Manful titled 'Safeguarding children statistics: the availability and comparability of data in the UK' can be found at the following link:

[http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/projects/documents/UK\\_Safeguarding\\_Stats\\_Research\\_Brief\\_DFE-RB153.pdf](http://www.cwrc.ac.uk/projects/documents/UK_Safeguarding_Stats_Research_Brief_DFE-RB153.pdf)

### **A National Statistics Publication**

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods; and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

### **User Engagement**

If you have any comments on this publication, please complete our questionnaire at the following link:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib-3/statistics\\_and\\_research-user\\_engagement.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-user_engagement.htm)

or contact:

Iain Waugh

[iain.waugh@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:iain.waugh@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Tel: 028 905 28446

**Next Release**

The next release of these statistics, for the quarter ending 30 September 2014, is scheduled for 13 November 2014. The publication release dates for Health and Social Care statistics in Northern Ireland are available from the DHSSPS website at:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-pubs.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-pubs.htm)

# Appendix A

## Definitions

### Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order was made on 15 March 1995. The Children Order deals with the care, upbringing and protection of children, including disabled children. It reforms, consolidates and harmonises most of the public and private law relating to children in a single coherent statutory framework along the lines of the Children Act 1989 in England and Wales.

### Children

Under the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, a child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

### Children on the Child Protection Register

#### *Child Protection Register*

A register must be maintained by each Trust listing every child in the Trust area who has been abused or who is considered to be at risk of abuse, and who is currently the subject of a child protection plan.

#### *Registration*

Placement of a child on to the Child Protection Register. Where a child has moved on or off the Register several times during the year each registration is recorded.

#### *Child Protection Referrals*

Child protection referrals are those referrals for which the initial assessment indicates that there may be child protection issues.

The threshold for action should be the allegation or suspicion of child abuse. However the balance needs to be struck between taking action designed to protect the child from abuse while at the same time avoiding unnecessary intervention. Except in emergency situations or urgent cases when immediate protective action is required, referrals will require preliminary discussion with other professionals from the child protection agencies and with the referrer. In some cases it will be necessary to seek specialist opinion.

In some cases action other than a formal investigation will be decided upon following the consultation process. This might include the provision of support for the family. Such a decision should be discussed and agreed with a social worker in consultation with the team leader or supervisor; and recorded and communicated to senior management.

The definition is not taken to mean all referrals, as some may require action such as advice or family support rather than child protection procedures.

## Appendix B

### CPR2

**Number of Children on the Child Protection Register: Current cases by category of abuse -** Refers to cases currently on the register. If a child suffers multiple abuse, e.g. neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse, this should be recorded against the main category of abuse e.g. main category - neglect, as either potential, suspected or confirmed.

Category of Abuse	Potential	Suspected	Confirmed	TOTAL
Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse				
Main category - neglect				
Main category - physical abuse				
Main category - sexual abuse				
Neglect and Physical Abuse				
Main category - neglect				
Main category - physical abuse				
Neglect and sexual Abuse				
Main category - neglect				
Main category - sexual abuse				
Physical and Sexual Abuse				
Main category - physical abuse				
Main category - sexual abuse				
Neglect (only)				
Physical Abuse (only)				
Sexual Abuse (only)				
Emotional Abuse (only)				
<b>TOTAL</b>				

### CPR3

**Child Protection Referrals: total number of referrals during the quarter by source of referral** – refers to the number of referrals during the relevant quarter by source of original referral which identified the child as ‘potential at risk’.

	Source of referral	Number
1	Police	
2	School/EWO	
3	Voluntary Organisation	
4	GP	
5	Social Services	
6	Community Nursing	
7	Relative	
8	Neighbour/Friend	
9	Hospital	
11	Self	
12	Anonymous	
13	Other	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	

## CPR4

**Legal status of children on the Child Protection Register by age** - the most recent legal status in place during the relevant quarter is recorded for this return. Legal status recorded as 'None' means there was no Court Order in effect at the time the child's name was added to the register.

	Legal Status	Age Groups					
		Under one Year	1-4	5-11	12-15	16+	TOTAL
1	Police Protection in Board/Trust Accommodation (Article 62)						
2	Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64)						
3	Accommodated under Article 21						
4	Interim Care Order (Article 57)						
5	Care Order (Article 50 or Article 59)						
6	Deemed Care Order (Paras 11 & 30 of Sch 8)						
7	Interim Supervision Order (Article 57)						
8	Supervision Order (Article 50)						
9	Deemed Supervision Order (Para 20 of Sch 8)						
10	Education Supervision Order (Article 55)						
11	Deemed Education Supervision Order (para 21 of Sch 8)						
12	Children Freed for Adoption and looked after by Board/Trust						
13	Other						
14	None						
15	<b>TOTAL</b>						

Note: Further information regarding the recorded legal status of children on the Child Protection Register can be found in 'Children (NI) Order 1995, Guidance and Regulations, Volume 1: Court Orders and Other Legal Issues' on the Departmental website at the following link:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/child\\_care/child\\_care\\_guidance.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hss/child_care/child_care_guidance.htm)

## CPR5

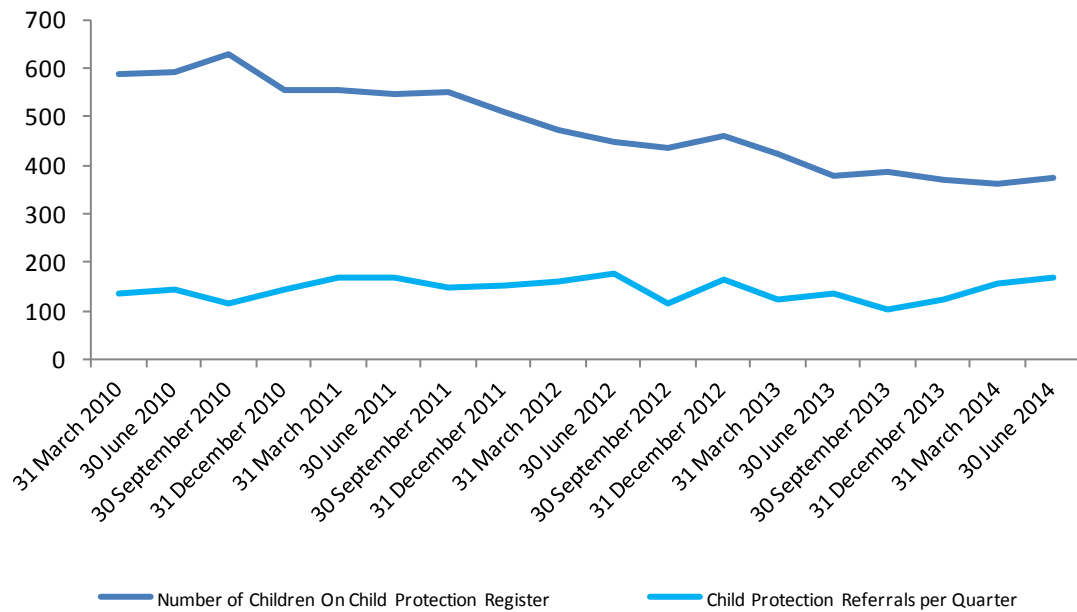
**Child Protection: current cases on the register by length of time on the register and age** - this refers to current cases on the register at end of quarter. Record age of the child as age at quarter end.

Duration	Age Groups					
	Under one Year	1-4	5-11	12-15	16+	TOTAL
less than 3 months						
3 months < 6 months						
6 months < 1 year						
1 year < 2 years						
2 years < 3 years						
3 years or more						
<b>TOTAL</b>						



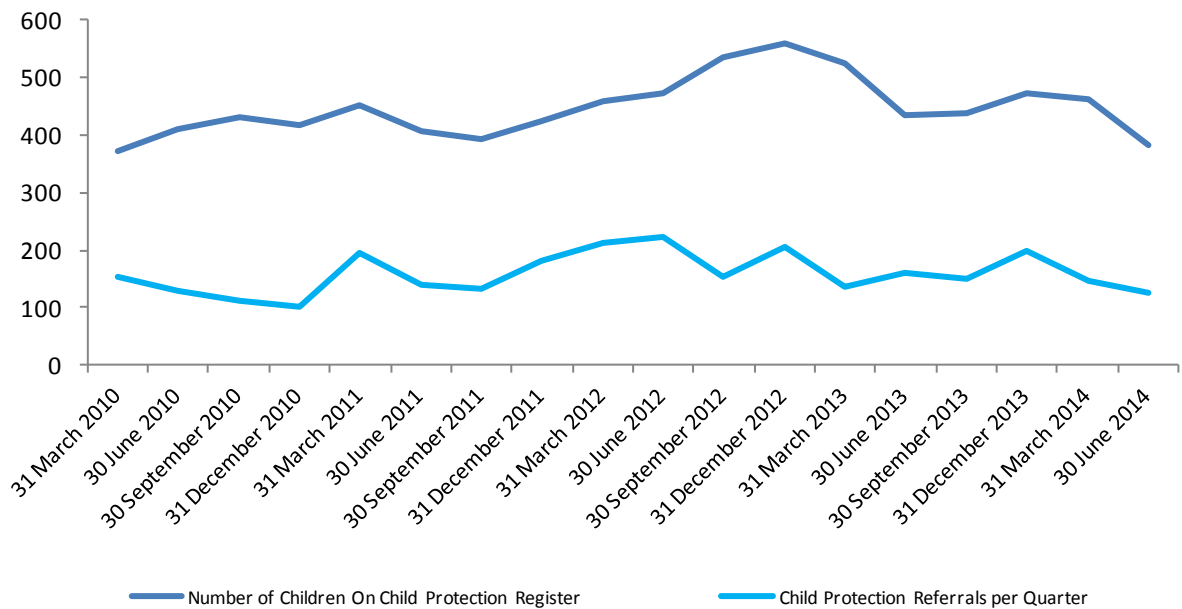
## Appendix C

**Figure 1A: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for the Belfast HSC Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



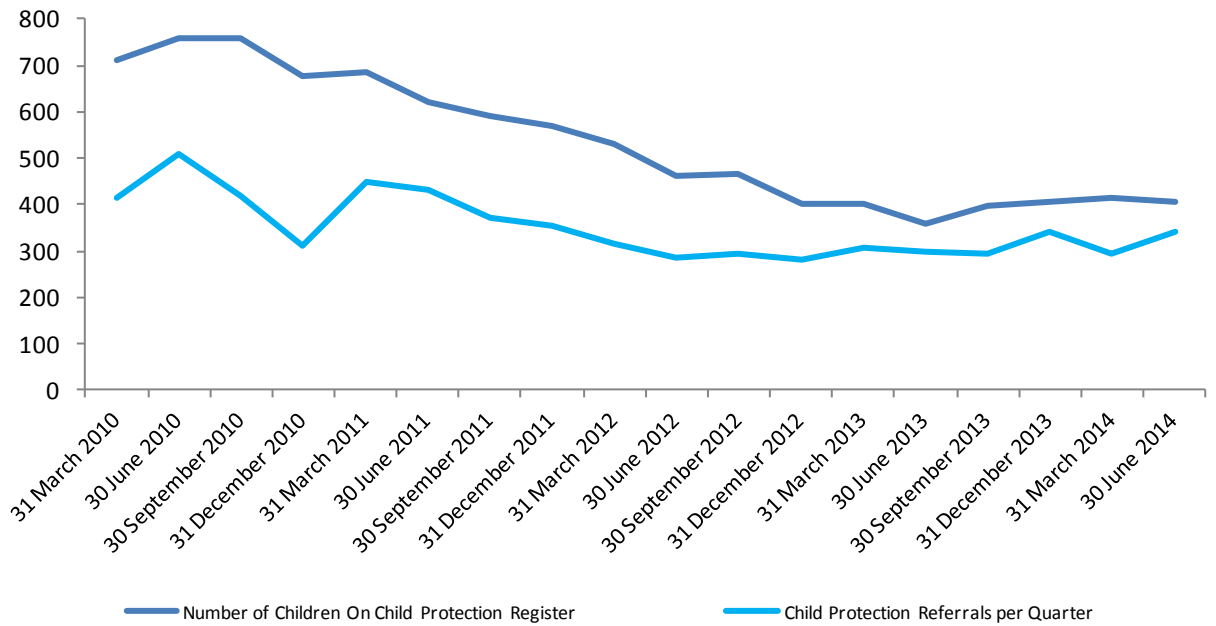
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1B: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for the Northern HSC Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



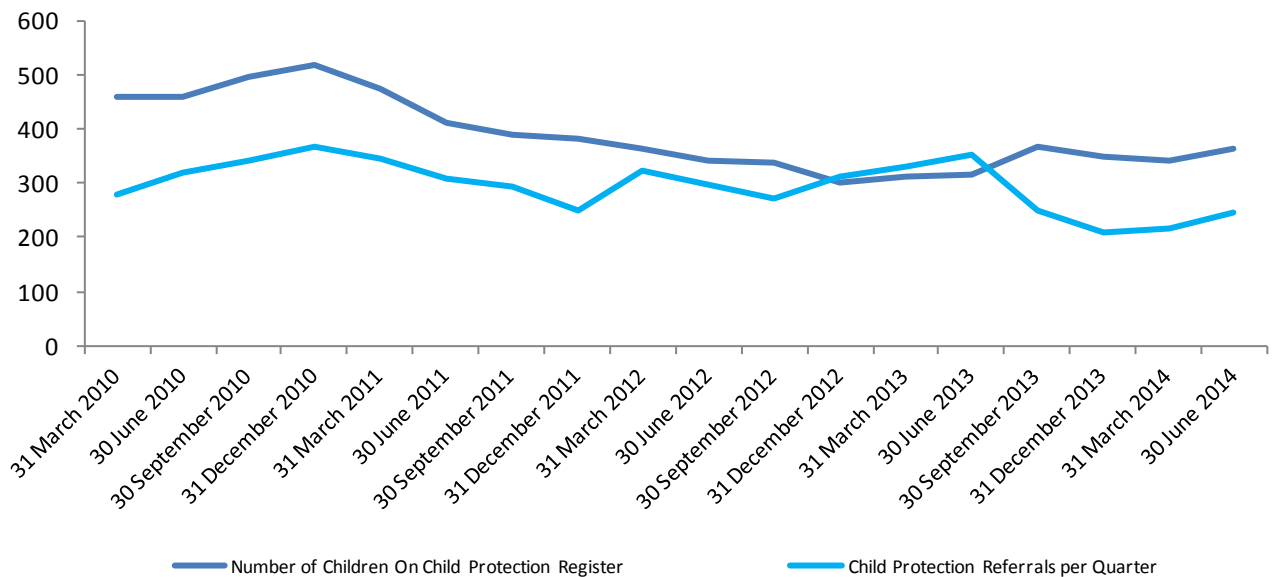
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1C: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for the South Eastern HSC Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



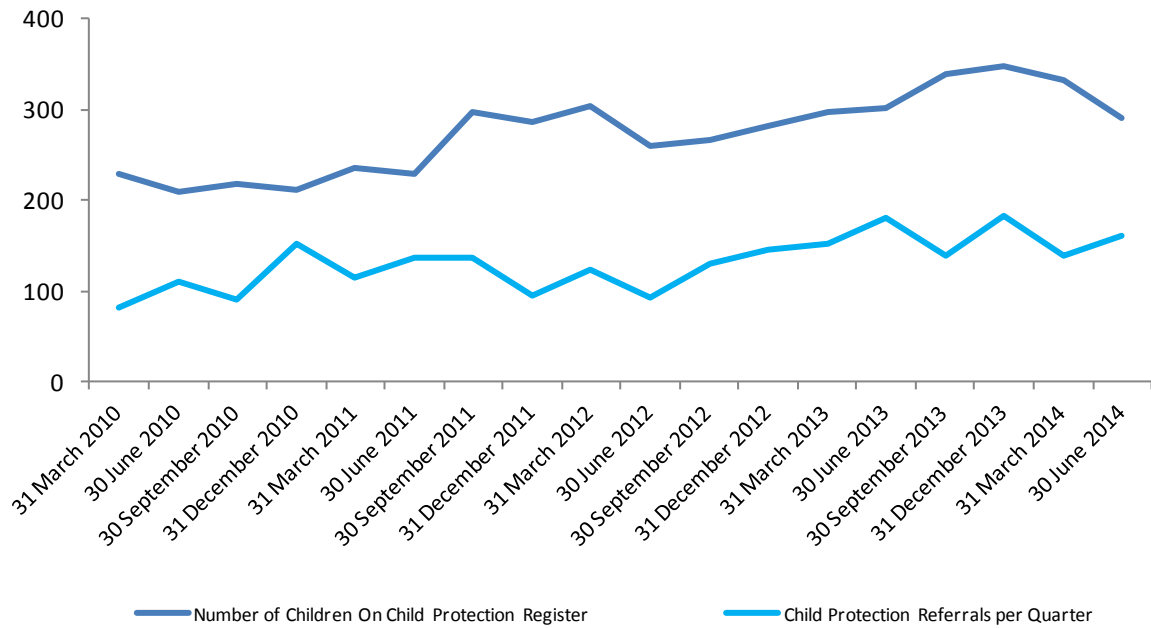
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1D: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for the Southern HSC Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



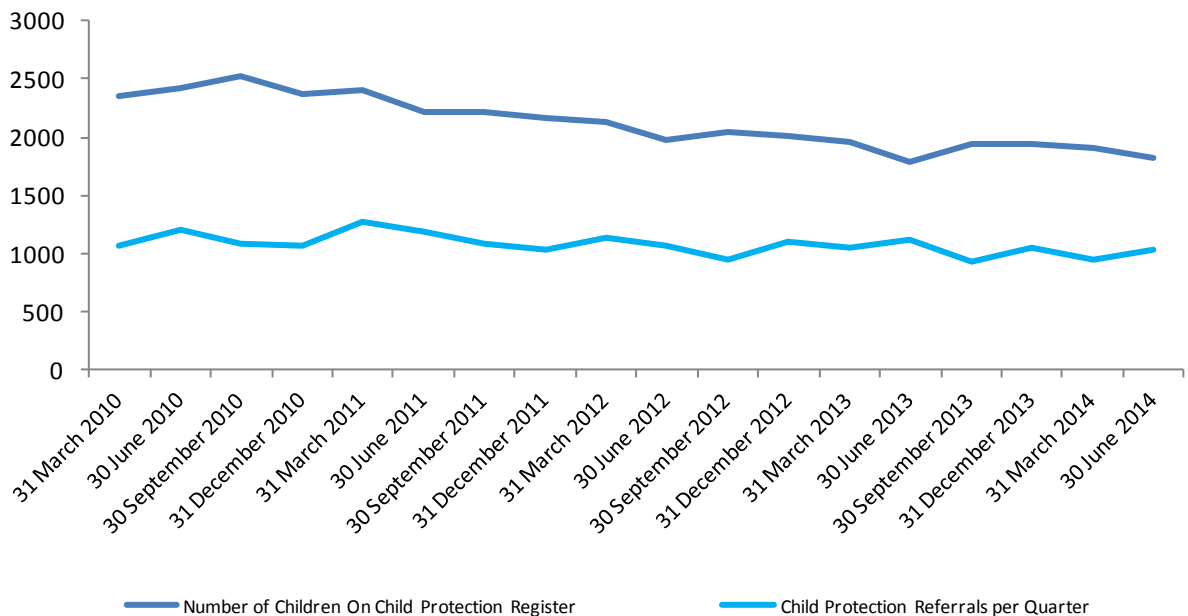
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1E: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for Western HSC Trust 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



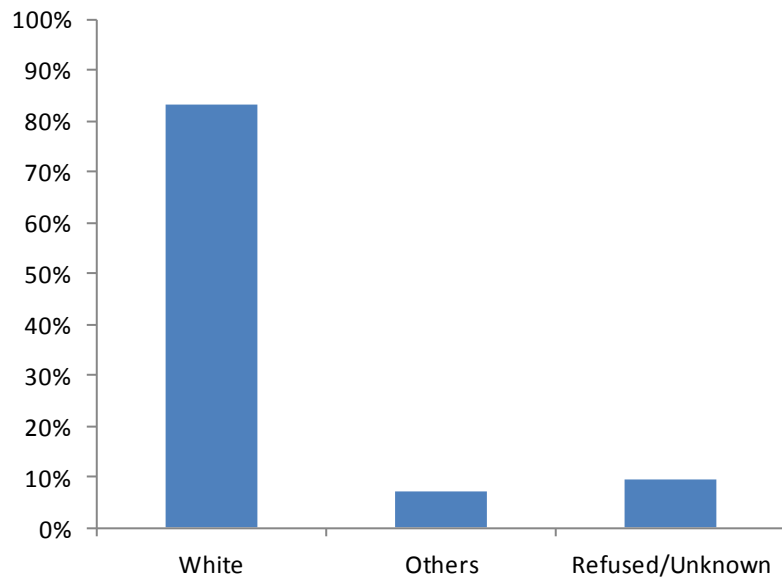
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1F: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for Northern Ireland 31 March 2010 – 30 June 2014**



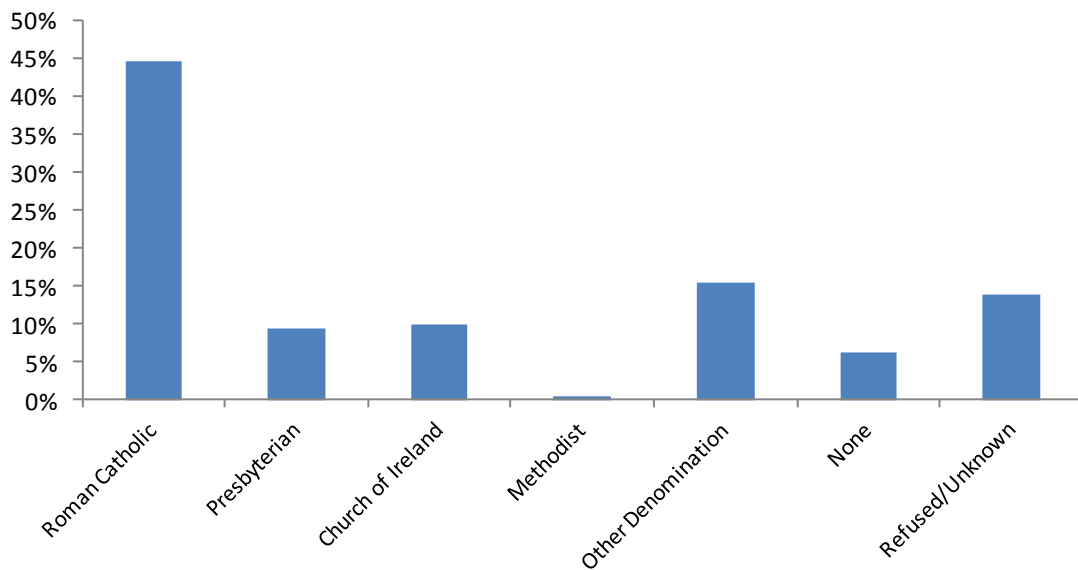
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

**Figure 1G: Child Protection Register by Ethnic Origin at 30 June 2014**



Source: Quarterly Regional Child Protection Committee Returns  
 Note: 'Others' includes Chinese, Irish Travellers, Indian, Black and Other

**Figure 1H: Child Protection Register by Religion at 30 June 2014**



Source: Quarterly Regional Child Protection Committee Returns  
 Note: 'Other Denomination' refers to all other Christian and non – Christian denominations and faiths

## Additional Information

**Further information** on 'Children Order Child Protection and Referral Statistics for Northern Ireland (quarter ending 31 March 2014)' is available from:

### **Community Information Branch**

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety  
Annexe 2, Castle Buildings  
Stormont, BT4 3SQ



(028) 9052 8446

Fax: (028) 9052 3288

Email: [cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:cib@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

This and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch are available to download from the DHSSPS internet at:

[http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib-3/statistics\\_and\\_research-cib-pub/children\\_statistics.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib-3/statistics_and_research-cib-pub/children_statistics.htm)