

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



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



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

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

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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 Health and Social Care (HSC) 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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NOTE

From the next publication (quarter ending 31 December 2014), this bulletin will be re-named "Child Protection Statistics for Northern Ireland"

Statistics and research for the **Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety** is provided by the Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD). 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 the statistics are produced in accordance with the principles and protocols set out in the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#).

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/statistics

IAD comprises four statistical sections: Hospital Information, Community Information, Public Health Information & Research and Project Support Analysis.

This publication is produced by Community Information Branch.

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.*

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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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Key Findings

The “*Children Order Child Protection and Referral Statistics*” are based on the quarterly Children Order Returns CPR2, CPR3, CPR4 and CPR5 for Northern Ireland. Figures in this bulletin cover the Child Protection Register by legal status, category of abuse, duration on the register 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 childrens social care data for year ending 31 March.

1,885 Children were on the Child Protection Register at **30 September 2014**

Between **1 July 2014 & 30 September 2014** **871** Child Protection Referrals were received

Child Protection Register

- At 30 September 2014, 1,885 children were listed on the Child Protection Register in Northern Ireland. This represented a 4% increase on the previous quarter;
- Taking account of local demographics, Register counts per 10,000 children’s population (under 18), ranged from 38.6 in the Northern HSC Trust to 50.4 in the South Eastern HSC Trust; overall there were 43.6 children per 10,000 on the Register;
- Almost 80% of the children were on the Register due to physical abuse, neglect or a combination of physical abuse and neglect;
- 71% of children on the Child Protection Register at 30 September 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

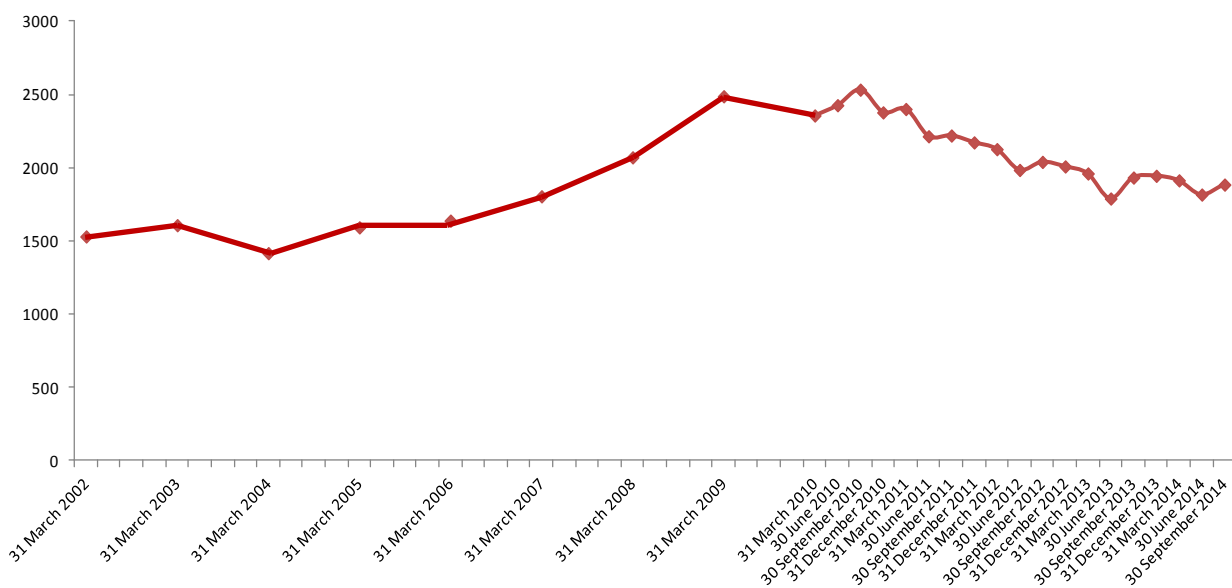
- HSC Trusts received 871 Child Protection Referrals for the quarter ending 30 September 2014. This was 16% lower than the previous quarter, and 7% below the number of referrals for the same quarter in 2013;
- The largest proportion of referrals, 52%, originated from within Social Services, followed by the Police 14%.

Trend Overview – Northern Ireland

Child Protection Register

At 30 September 2014, 1,885 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.

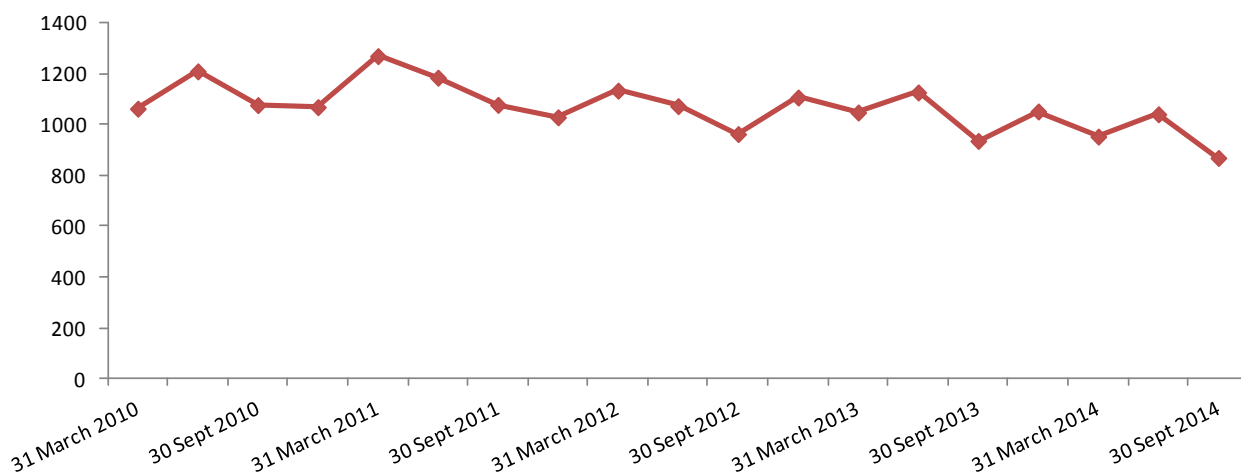
Figure 1: Children on the Child Protection Register 31 March 2002 – 30 September 2014



Child Protection Referrals

Figure 2 sets out the number of child protection referrals between quarters ending 31 March 2010 and 30 September 2014. 871 Child Protection Referrals were received during quarter ending 31 September 2014; a decrease 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 September 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.

At 30 September 2014, 1,885 children were listed on the Child Protection Register in Northern Ireland, equivalent to 43.6 children per 10,000 of the under 18 population¹. Just under a quarter, 22%, of children on the register were in the Northern HSC Trust, with 22% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 21% in the Southern HSC Trust, 20% in the Belfast HSC Trust and 16% in the Western HSC Trust. Proportionally the South Eastern HSC Trust had the highest rate of children on the register and the Northern HSC Trust the lowest.

Similar proportions to previous quarters, 11% of children on the register were aged under one year, 27% were aged 1-4 years, 39% were 5-11 years and 4% were aged 16 or over at 30 September 2014. The proportion of children on the register aged 0–11 years was 11% higher than the Northern Ireland population for that age group. This indicates that the Child Protection population was younger than would be expected when looking at the general population. A possible reason for this is that there is a focus on early intervention to help families address problems as they arise.

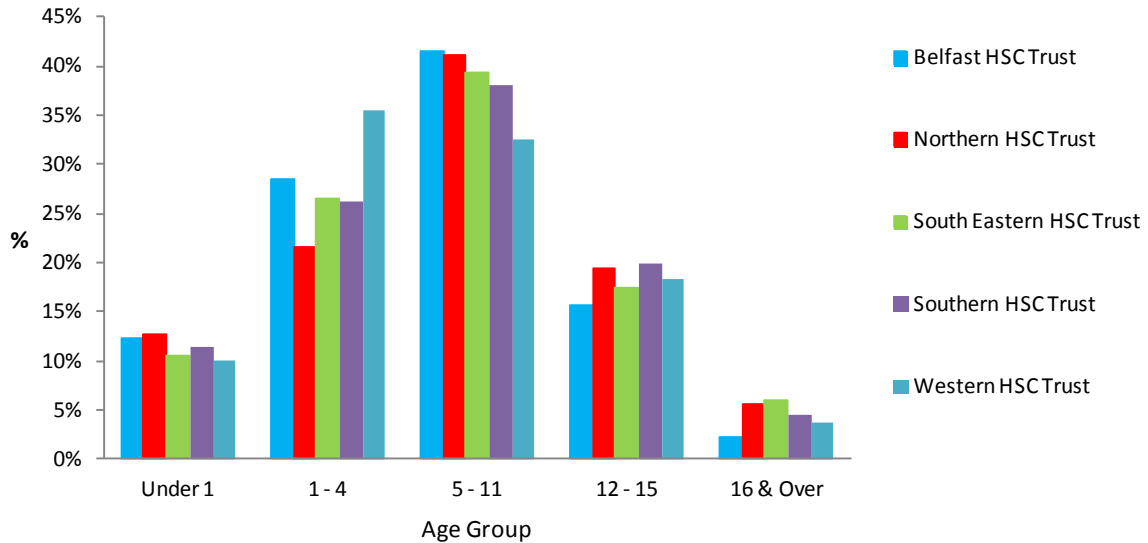
Table 1: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by Age at 30 September 2014

HSC Trust	Age (years)					Total	Per 10,000 Population Under 18
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 11	12 - 15	16 +		
Belfast HSC Trust	46	106	155	58	8	373	49.5
Northern HSC Trust	53	90	172	81	23	419	38.6
South Eastern HSC Trust	43	108	160	71	24	406	50.4
Southern HSC Trust	44	102	148	77	17	388	41.5
Western HSC Trust	30	106	97	55	11	299	40.5
Northern Ireland	216	512	732	342	83	1,885	43.6

Source: Children Order Return CPR4

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

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

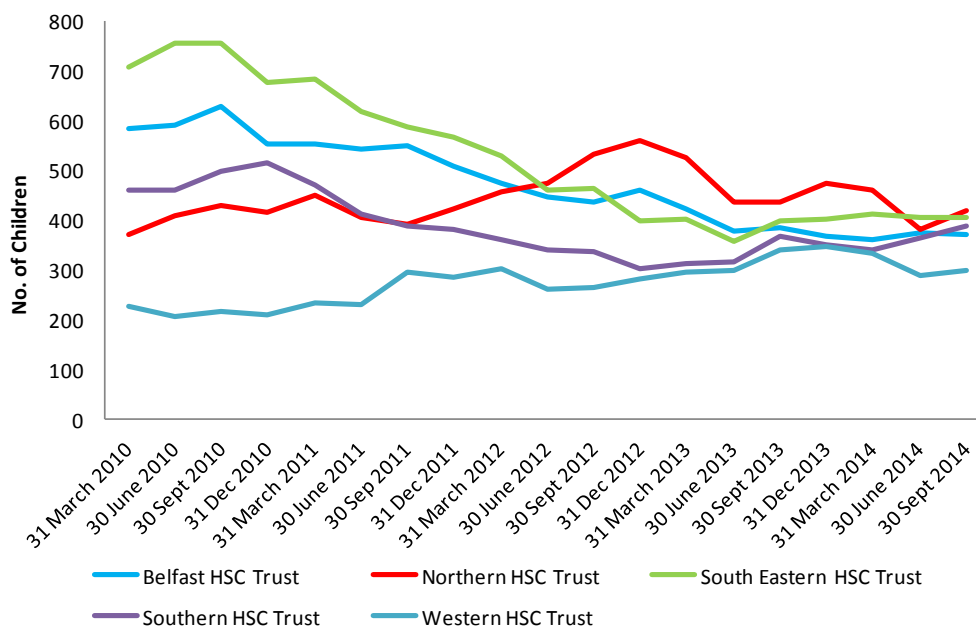


Source: Children Order Return CPR4

In general the HSC Trusts have similar age distributions of children on the Child Protection Register. However some variation does occur quarter on quarter, for quarter ending 30 September 2014 the largest proportion of children in the Western Trust were aged 1–4 years, whereas each of the other HSC Trusts had most children in the 5–11 age group.

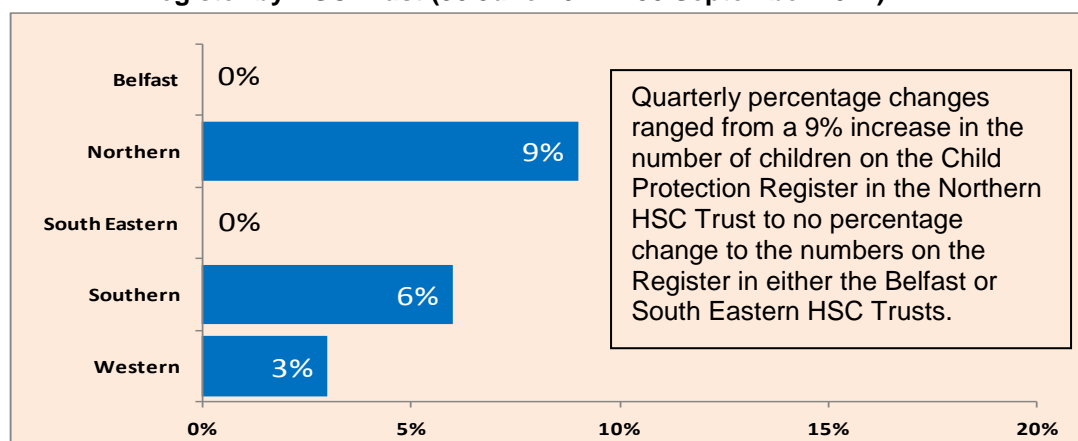
The count of 1,885 children on the Child Protection Register at 30 September 2014 represented a 4% increase on the previous quarter (1,817). Compared with the same time last year (September 2013), the number of children registered decreased by 2%. Annual changes by Trusts ranged from an increase of 5% in the Southern Trust to a drop of 12% in the Western Trust.

Figure 4: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by Trust (31 March 2010 – 30 September 2014)



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Figure 5: Quarterly Percentage Change in the Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by HSC Trust (30 June 2014 – 30 September 2014)



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

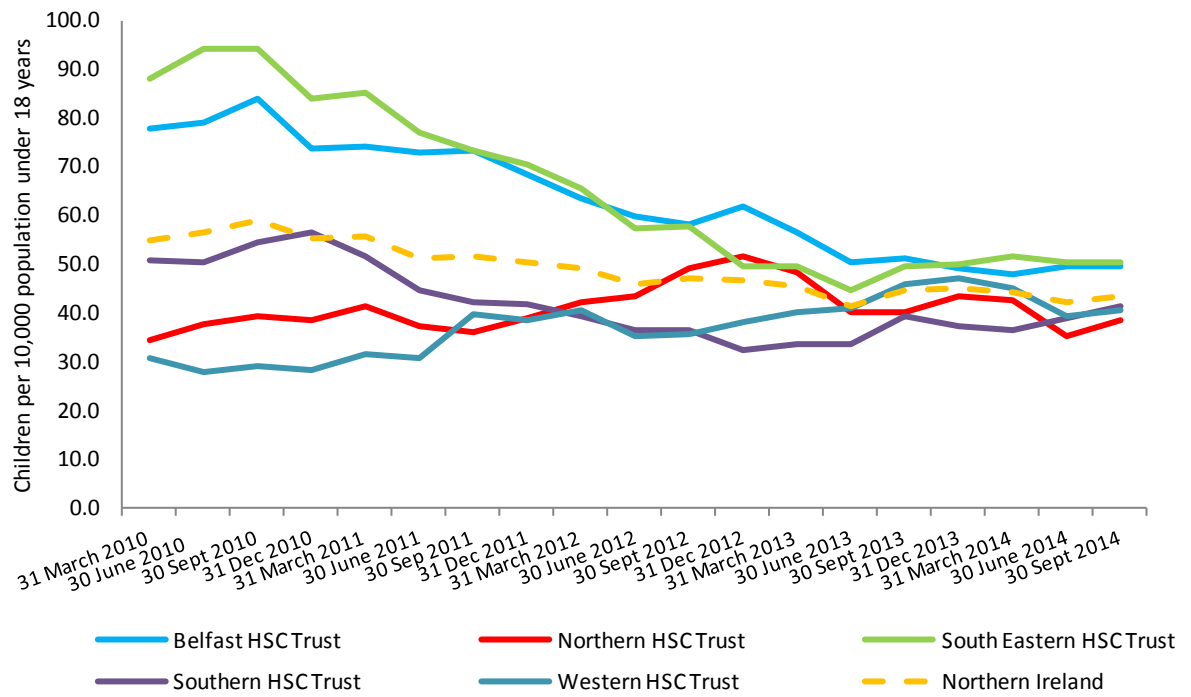
Figure 4 illustrates that between June 2012 and September 2014, except for one quarter, the Northern HSC Trust has had the largest number of children on the register. This might be expected as the Northern HSC Trust has the largest overall childrens population. However there is no overall correlation between childrens population size and the number of children in each HSC Trust area on the register, which would suggest that the number of children on the HSC Trusts register is related to a number of complex interconnecting socio-economic factors including poverty, deprivation and family stress.

This becomes more apparent looking at Figure 6, below, which shows the changing trends in the number of children on the register as a proportion of the overall childrens population in each HSC Trust. The South Eastern and Belfast HSC 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 HSC 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 HSC Trusts rather than a rise in numbers the other HSC Trusts.

Table 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.

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



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

Table 2: Number of Children on the Child Protection Register per 10,000 Population Under 18 (31 March 2010 – 30 September 2014)

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
Northern Ireland	54.8	56.4	58.9	55.3	55.8	51.4	51.5	50.4
	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	50.2	51.4	49.0
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	44.5	49.5	50.1
Southern HSC Trust	39.4	36.7	36.3	32.6	33.7	33.8	39.4	37.4
Western HSC Trust	40.7	35.2	35.8	38.1	40.0	40.8	46.0	47.1
Northern Ireland	49.4	46.0	47.3	46.6	45.4	41.4	44.8	45.0
	31st March 2014	30th June 2014	30th September 2014					
Belfast HSC Trust	48.0	49.6	49.5					
Northern HSC Trust	42.4	35.3	38.6					
South Eastern HSC Trust	51.5	50.3	50.4					
Southern HSC Trust	36.6	39.0	41.5					
Western HSC Trust	45.1	39.3	40.5					
Northern Ireland	44.3	42.1	43.6					

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 3: Legal Status of Children on the Child Protection Register at 30 September 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	23	17	-	0	-	17	311	373
Northern HSC Trust	17	17	-	0	-	-	380	419
South Eastern HSC Trust	12	6	-	0	-	15	373	406
Southern HSC Trust	12	5	-	0	-	-	364	388
Western HSC Trust	7	13	-	0	-	-	272	299
Northern Ireland	71	58	1	0	14	41	1,700	1,885

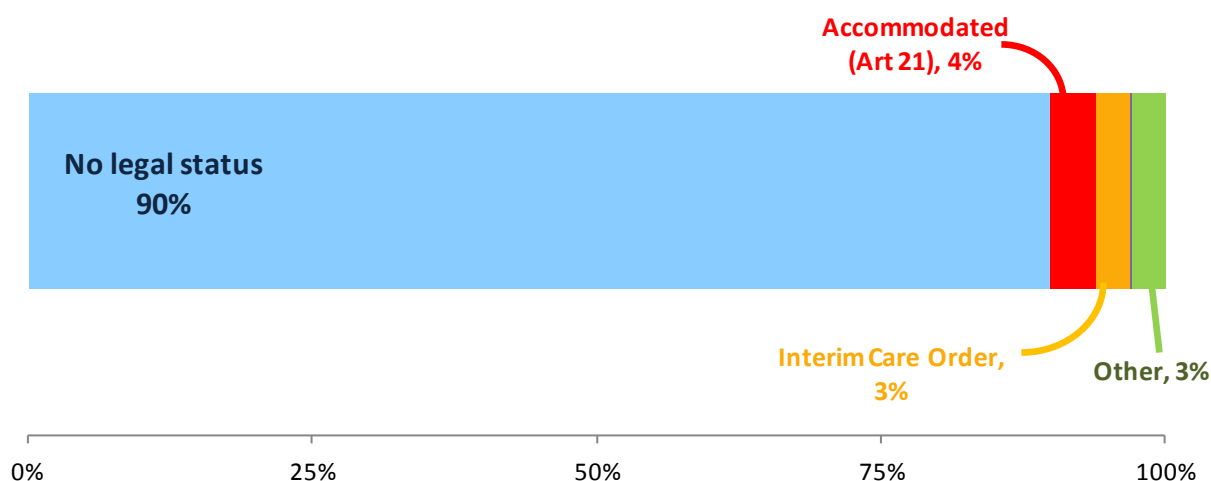
Source: Children Order Return CPR4

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

The Child Protection Register identifies children for whom there are serious concerns, and as such, the children on the register do not need to have a specific legal status. Those children on the register with a legal status are in many cases likely to be looked after children.

The majority, 90%, of children on the register had no recorded legal status. 4% 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 94% in the Southern Trust. The composition of the Register by legal status has remained relatively stable between 31 March 2010 and 30 September 2014².

Figure 7: Legal Status of Children on the Child Protection Register at 30 September 2014



Source: Children Order Return CPR4

² Description of the different legal status can be found in Appendix B

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

Table 4: Children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse at 30 September 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	-	109	-	-	118	91	20	24	373
Northern	11	79	14	23	115	111	35	31	419
South Eastern	7	85	-	-	135	102	25	43	406
Southern	0	48	7	10	116	150	27	30	388
Western	-	44	-	9	64	131	15	28	299
Northern Ireland	20	365	37	52	548	585	122	156	1,885

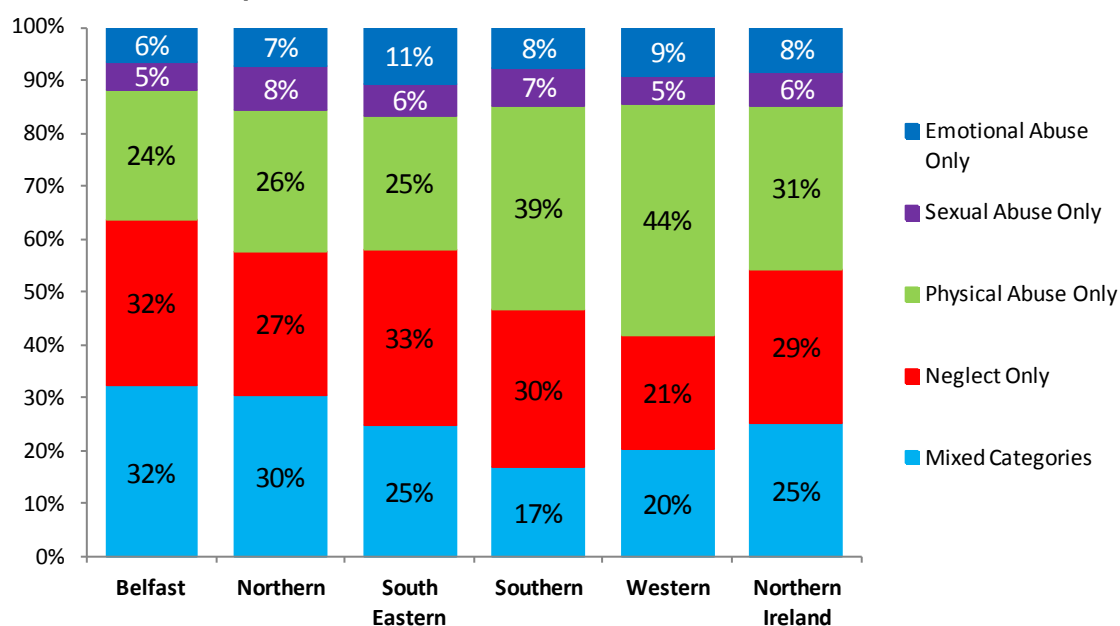
Source: Children Order Return CPR2

⚠ cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

At 30 September 2014 the largest proportion of children was on the register due to Physical Abuse Only (31%) followed by Neglect Only (29%). A further fifth of children were on the Register due to a combination of Neglect and Physical Abuse (19%).

There was some variation between the HSC Trusts in regards to the categories of abuse. At 30 September 2014, the Western HSC Trust had the highest proportion of children on the child protection register due to physical abuse only (44%) whereas the South Eastern HSC Trust had the highest proportion of children on the Register due to neglect only (33%). The Belfast and Northern HSC Trusts had high proportions of children in mixed categories of abuse. 'Emotional Abuse Only' and 'Sexual Abuse Only' accounted for the smallest proportion of children on the Register across all HSC Trusts, with regional proportions of 8% and 6% respectively.

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



Source: Children Order Return CPR2

Table 5: Children on the Child Protection Register by Duration at 30 September 2014

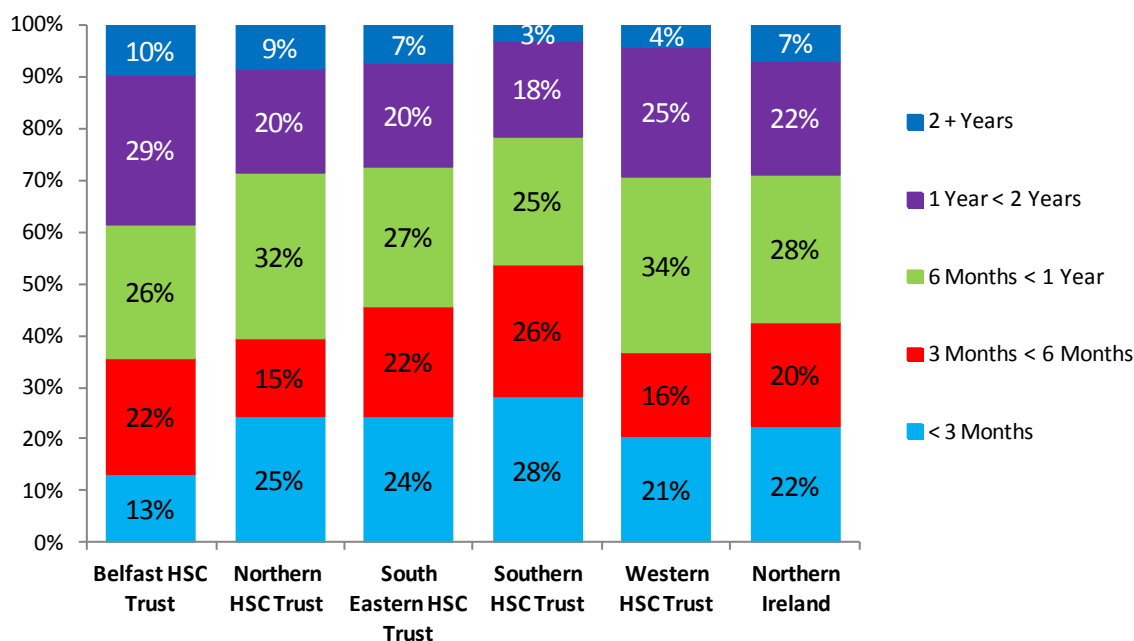
HSC Trust	Duration						Total
	< 3 Months	3 Months < 6 Months	6 Months < 1 Year	1 Year < 2 Years	2 Years < 3 Years	3 + Years	
Belfast HSC Trust	50	83	97	107	25	11	373
Northern HSC Trust	103	62	134	84	31	5	419
South Eastern HSC Trust	98	89	108	81	16	14	406
Southern HSC Trust	110	99	96	71	12	0	388
Western HSC Trust	62	48	101	76	6	6	299
Northern Ireland	423	381	536	419	90	36	1,885

Source: Children Order Return CPR5

Almost three quarters of children had been on the register for less than one year at 30 September 2014, with a fifth on the register for less than 3 months. Under a tenth had been on the register for over two years with two percent registered for three years or longer.

The Southern HSC Trust had the largest proportion of children on the Register for less than one year at 79%, in comparison 62% of children in the Belfast HSC Trust had been on the Register for this length of time. 3% of children in the Southern HSC Trust had been on the Register for two years or longer compared to 10% of children in the Belfast HSC Trust.

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



Source: Children Order Return CPR5

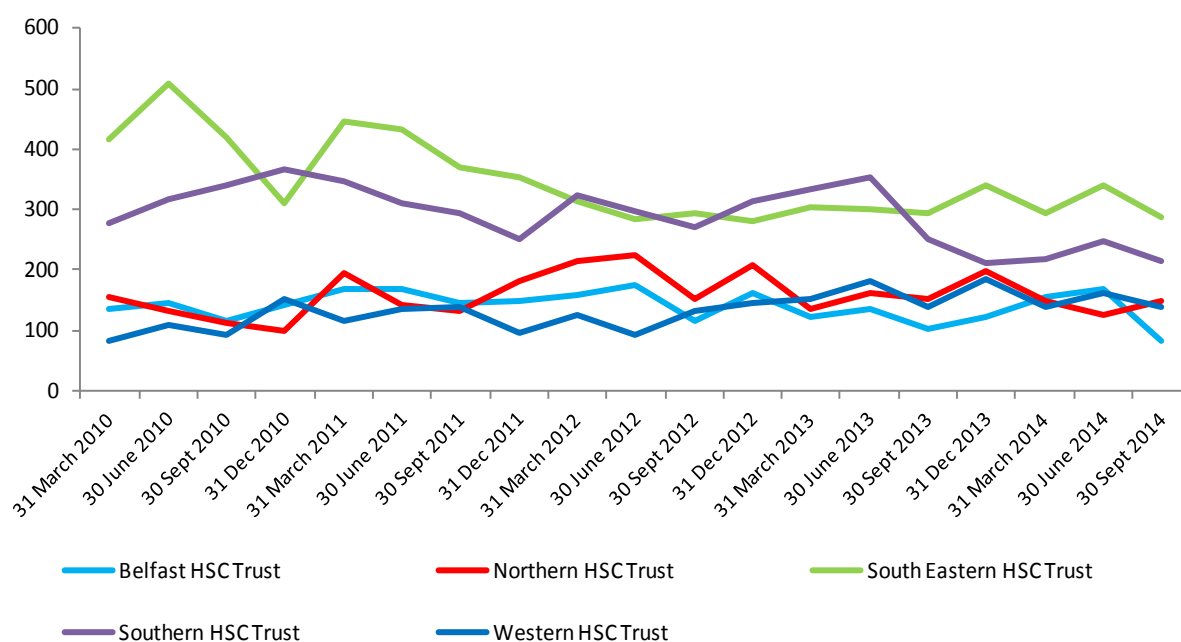
Child Protection Referrals

Table 6 overleaf sets out the number of child protection referrals for the quarter ending 30 September 2014, by source of referral.

A total of 871 child protection referrals were received during quarter ending 30 September 2014 which was 16% lower than the previous quarter (1,042) and 7% below the referrals count for the same quarter in 2013 (937). Counts of referrals during this quarter indicated that 33% were in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 25% were in the Southern HSC Trust, 17% were in the Northern HSC Trust, 16% were in the Western HSC Trust and 10% were in the Belfast HSC Trust.

As a proportion of the children's population the South Eastern HSC Trust received the largest number of child protection referrals (35.5 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years) and the Belfast HSC Trust the lowest (11.1 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years). Overall in Northern Ireland there were 20.2 referrals per 10,000 of the population under 18 years at 30 September 2014, compared to 21.7 during quarter ending 30 September 2013.

Figure 10: Number of Child Protection Referrals by HSC Trust (31 March 2010 – 30 September 2014)



Source: Children Order Return CPR3

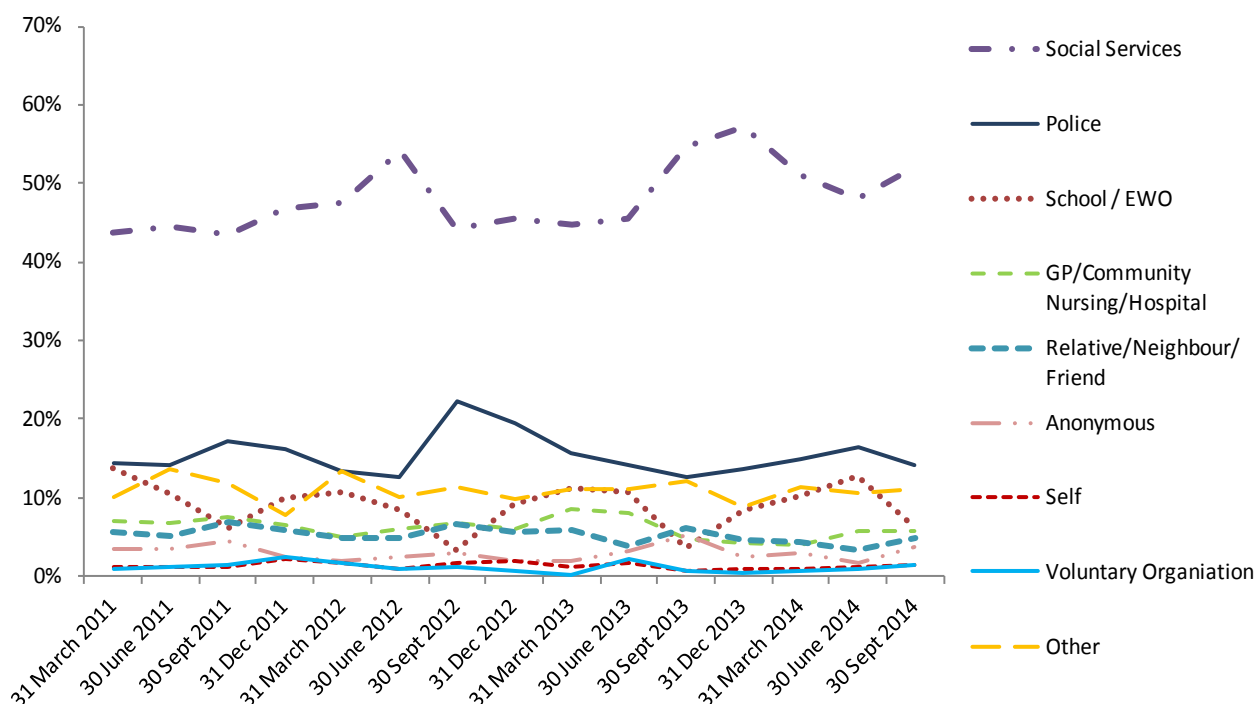
Compared with the quarter ending 30 June 2014, the number of referrals received rose 17% in the Northern HSC Trust. Referrals fell by 50% in the Belfast HSC Trust, 16% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 15% in the Western HSC Trust and by 13% in the Southern HSC Trust. We should be careful in drawing conclusions from these findings as the relatively small numbers involved can lead to what seem to be large quarter on quarter percentage changes.

Figure 10, above, illustrates that the Belfast, Northern and Western HSC Trusts have received a reasonably steady flow of referrals between quarters ending 31 March 2010 and 30 September 2014. The South Eastern and Southern HSC Trusts have consistently received larger numbers of child protection referrals over the same period.

The largest proportion of referrals during quarter ending 30 September 2014 originated from within Social Services (52%), followed by the police (PSNI - 14%) with School or an Educational Welfare Officer representing 6%. For all Trusts the main source of referrals was within Social Services. However variation in these counts existed between the Trusts, with three quarters (75%) of the referrals in the Northern Trust originating from Social Services compared to a third of the referrals (33%) in the South Eastern Trust.

Social Services followed by the Police have consistently been the main sources of child protection referrals. Self referrals and those from voluntary organisations have amounted to around 1% each of all referrals each quarter.

Figure 11: Source of Child Protection Referrals in Northern Ireland (31 March 2011 – 30 September 2014)



Source: Children Order Return CPR3

Table 6: Child Protection Referrals by Source of Referral for Quarter ending 30 September 2014

HSC Trust	Source of Referral												Total	Per 10,000 Population Under 18
	Police	School / EWO ¹	Voluntary Org.	GP	Social Services	Comm. Nursing	Relative	Neighbour / Friend	Hospital	Self	Anon	Other		
Belfast HSC Trust	-	-	0	0	56	0	-	-	-	-	-	6	84	11.1
Northern HSC Trust	-	-	0	-	110	0	-	-	-	-	8	18	147	13.5
South Eastern HSC Trust	61	22	7	-	93	6	21	-	19	6	15	32	286	35.5
Southern HSC Trust	26	11	-	-	127	-	-	-	10	-	5	25	216	23.1
Western HSC Trust	24	13	-	-	68	-	9	-	0	-	-	14	138	18.7
Northern Ireland	123	55	11	5	454	12	38	3	32	12	31	95	871	20.2

^{1,2} cell counts have been suppressed to avoid personal disclosure

¹ EWO – Educational Welfare Officer

Source: Children Order Return CPR3

Appendix A – Technical Notes

NOTE

With the aim of improving accessibility of the statistics presented in this bulletin, the name of the publication will change to

“Child Protection Statistics for Northern Ireland”

from the next publication (relating to quarter ending 31 December 2014)

Data Collection

The figures in this bulletin detail numbers of children on the Child Protection Register at 30 September 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 September 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 childrens social care data at 31 March and for year ending 31 March, and compares childrens 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.

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.

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 2013/14](#)

Wales

[Referrals, Assessments and Social Services for Children, 2013/14](#)

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

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/statistics/feedback-statistics.htm>

or contact:

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Tel: 028 905 28446

Next Release

The next release of these statistics, for the quarter ending 30 September 2014, is scheduled for 26 February 2015. 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/statistics.htm>

Appendix B – Data 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.

Child

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

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 Deregistration

Deregistration is the removal of a child from the Child Protection Register. Where a child has moved on or off the Register several times during the year each deregistration is recorded.

Child Protection Re-registration

Re-registration is the placement on to the Child Protection Register of a child who has already been on the register, irrespective of the date of their first registration on the Register.

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.

Category of Abuse for Child Protection Registration

The category of abuse under which a child is registered will have been decided upon at the child protection conference, when agreement was reached that registration was necessary. If a child suffers multiple abuses, this should be recorded against the main category of abuse. The abuse may

be potential, suspected or confirmed, although the terms 'actual' or 'likely' occur. Potential and suspected equate with 'likely' and confirmed with 'actual'. The categories are:

1. Neglect, Physical Abuse and Sexual Abuse
2. Main category - neglect
3. Main category - physical abuse
4. Main category - sexual abuse
5. Neglect and Physical Abuse
6. Main category - neglect
7. Main category - physical abuse
8. Neglect and Sexual Abuse
9. Main category - neglect
10. Main category - sexual abuse
11. Physical and Sexual Abuse
12. Main category - physical abuse
13. Main category - sexual abuse
14. Neglect (only)
15. Physical Abuse (only)
16. Sexual Abuse (only)
17. Emotional Abuse (only)

Neglect: The actual or likely persistent or severe neglect of a child, or the failure to protect a child from exposure to any kind of danger, including cold or starvation, or persistent failure to carry out important aspects of care, resulting in significant impairment of the child's health or development, including non-organic failure to thrive.

Physical Abuse: Actual or likely deliberate physical injury to a child, or wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocation or Munchausen syndrome by proxy.

Sexual Abuse: Actual or likely sexual exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature.

Emotional Abuse: Actual or likely persistent or severe emotional ill-treatment or rejection resulting in severe adverse effects on the emotional, physical and/or behavioural development of a child. All abuse involves some emotional ill-treatment. This category should be used where it is the main or only form of abuse.

Legal Status

The legal framework for compulsory intervention in the care and upbringing of children. If more than one legal status is indicated or in force for the child at 31 March, the latest one only is recorded.

Emergency Protection Order (Article 63 & 64): An Emergency Protection Order (EPO) is intended for use in urgent cases to protect a child in the short-term. Almost anyone with a concern can apply for an EPO, although in most circumstances a Trust will seek one. Where the applicant is a Trust or the NSPCC they must show that in the course of fulfilling their duty to investigate they are being unreasonably frustrated in gaining access to the child. Anyone else applying for an EPO they must show that the child is likely to suffer significant harm unless removed to, or allowed to remain, in a safe place.

An EPO last for eight days but can be extended on one occasion for a further seven days. An application to discharge the order cannot be made within the first 72 hours giving a Trust sometime to decide what actions to take in respect of the child. The person to whom the order is addressed also gains parental responsibility for the child for the duration of the order.

Accommodated (Article 21): Children with this legal status have been accommodated by a HSC Trust if there is no one who has parental responsibility for them, they have been lost or abandoned or of the person who has been caring for them has been prevented, for whatever reason, from providing them with suitable accommodation or care. Children are often accommodated with the permission of their parents.

Care Order (Article 50 or 59): A Care Order accords the HSC Trust parental responsibility and allows for the child to be removed from the parental home. This does not extinguish the parental responsibility of the child's parents but means that they cannot exercise this responsibility while the Care Order is in place. In for a Court to make a Care Order it must be satisfied that the child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm and that the harm or likelihood of harm is attributable to,

the care given to the child, or likely to be given to the child, not being what it would be reasonable to expect a parent to give or the child being beyond parental control.

Interim Care Orders (Article 57): An Interim Care Order is put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Care Order or in any family proceedings in which a Court orders a Trust to investigate the circumstances of a child. An Interim Care Order can be in place for up to eight weeks initially and for a further four weeks upon renewal and subsequent occasions that Court deems an Interim Order necessary.

Supervision Order: This order requires the Trust to advise, assist and befriend the supervised child and can only be granted if the same threshold conditions that apply for Care Orders are met. This Order does not give the Trust parental responsibility. It does allow a social worker to issue directions about the child's upbringing including place of residence and involvement in certain programmes. Schedule 3 of the Children Order sets out the full range of matters that may be addressed in a Supervision Order.

Interim Supervision Orders (Article 57): An Interim Supervision can be put in place following an adjournment of proceedings for a Supervision Order or in any family proceedings in which a question arises with respect to the welfare of any child, it appears to the court that it may be appropriate for a supervision order to be made with respect to him, the court may direct the appropriate authority to undertake an investigation of the child's circumstances.

Appendix C – Return Templates

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)				
TOTAL				

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	
	TOTAL	

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					TOTAL
		Under one Year	1-4	5-11	12-15	16+	
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	TOTAL						

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:

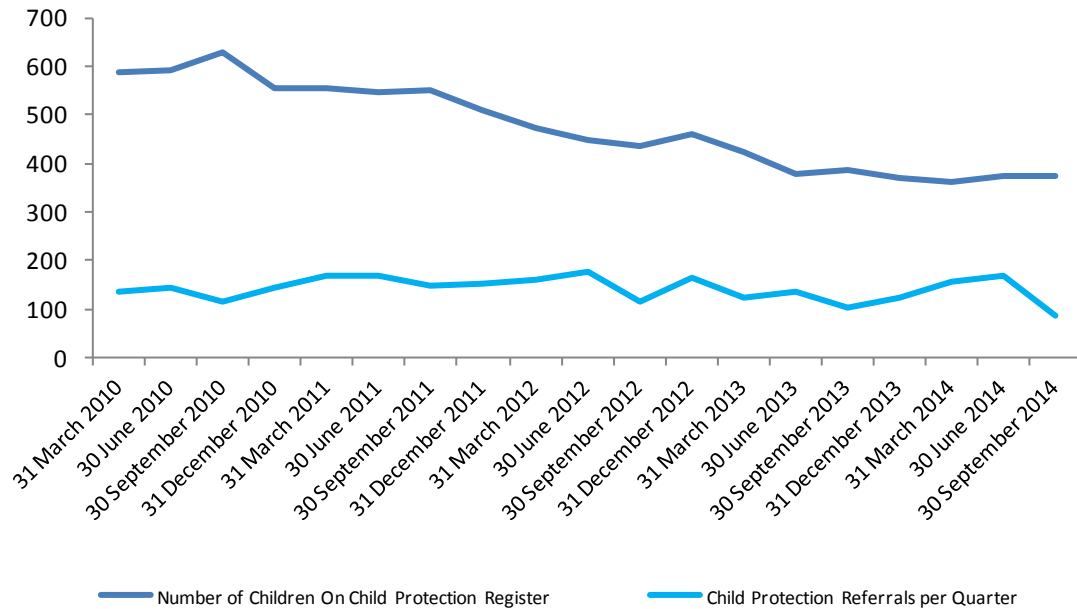
CPR5

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

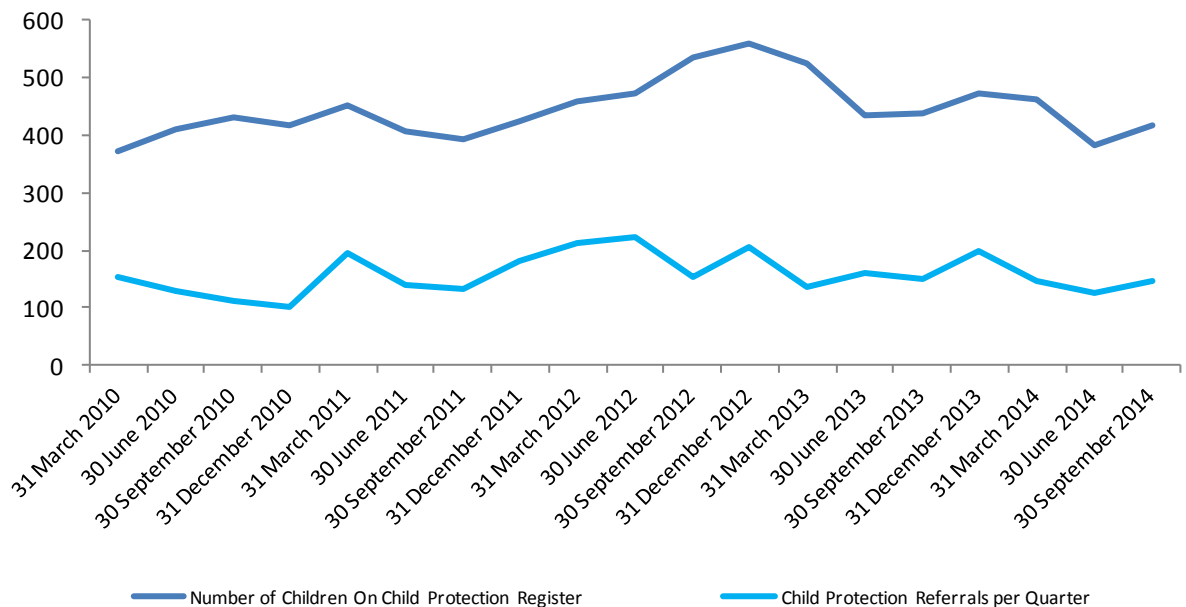
Appendix D – Additional Charts

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



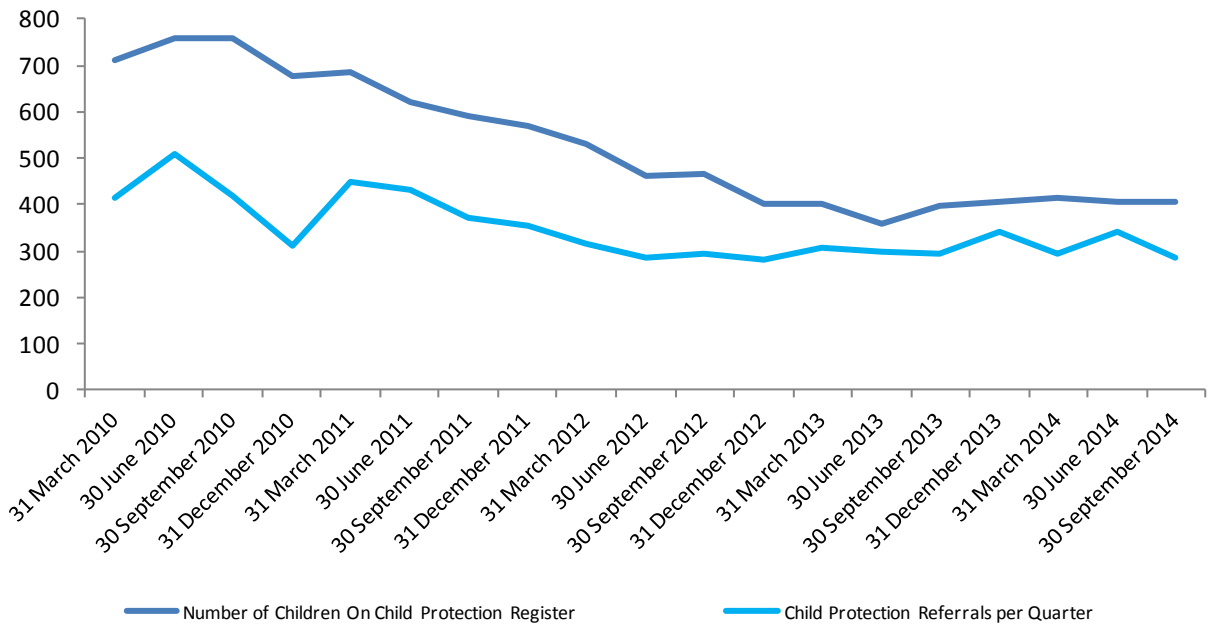
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

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



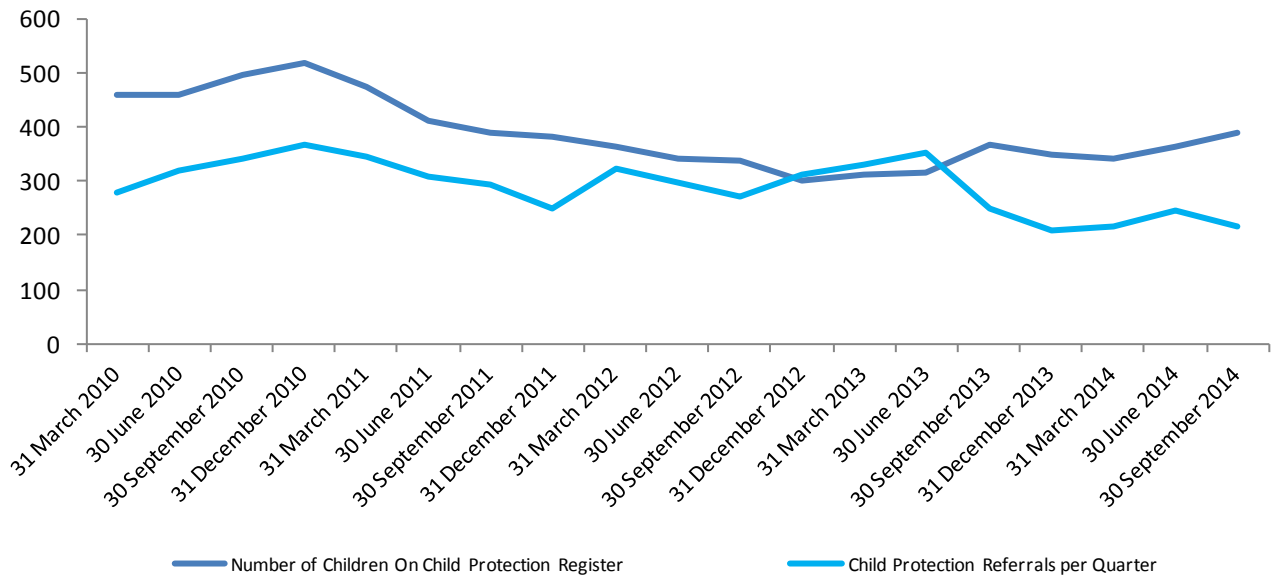
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

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



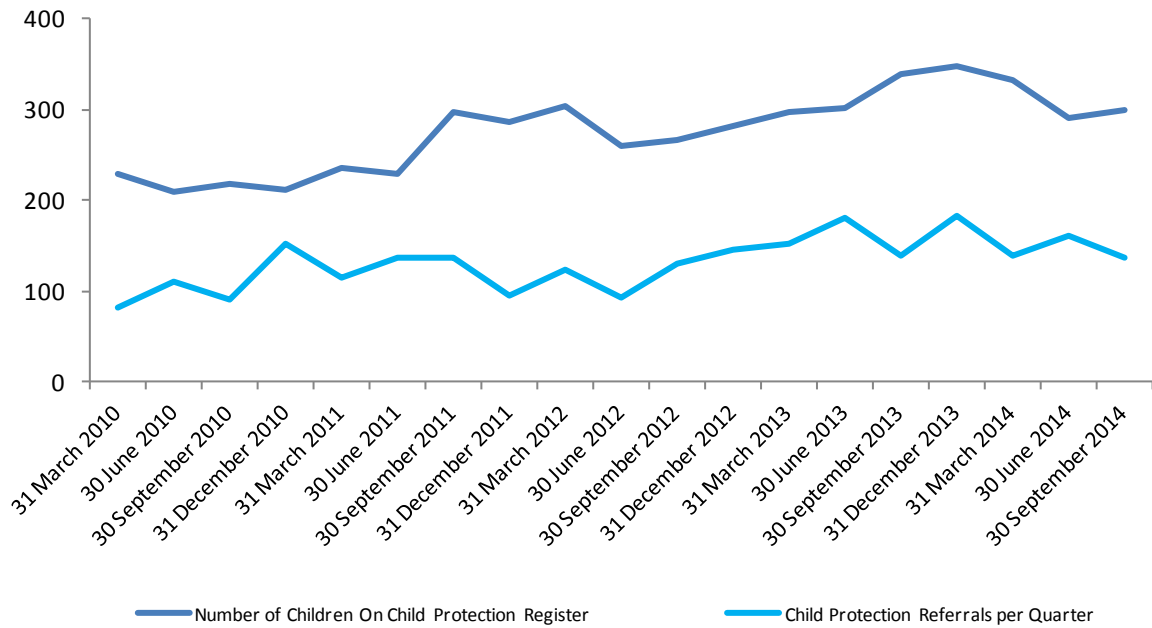
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

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



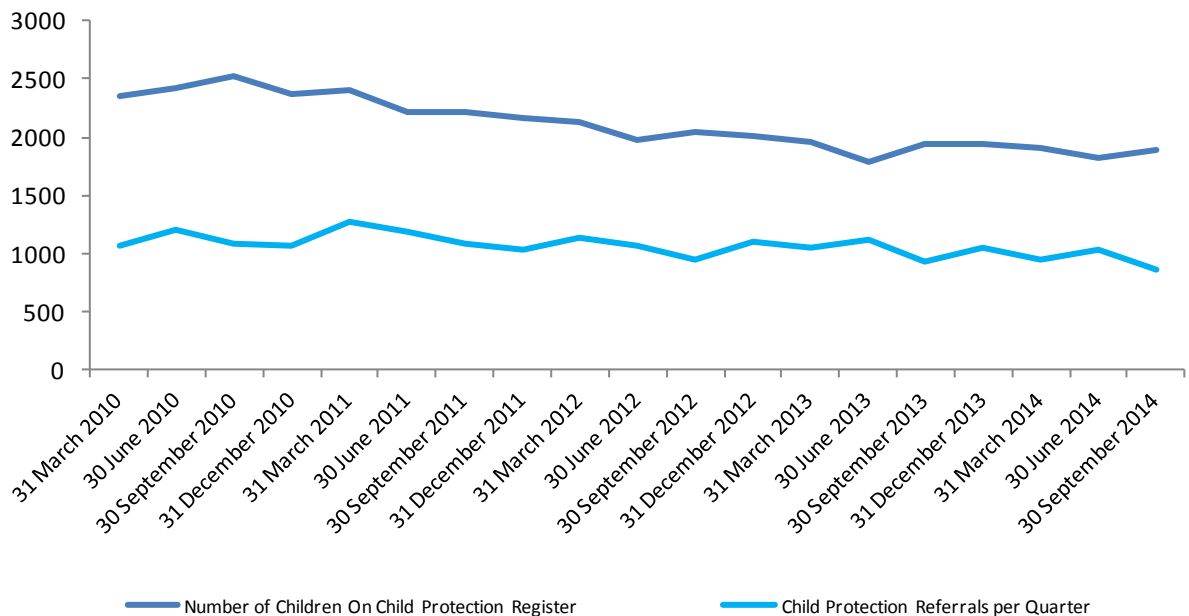
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

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



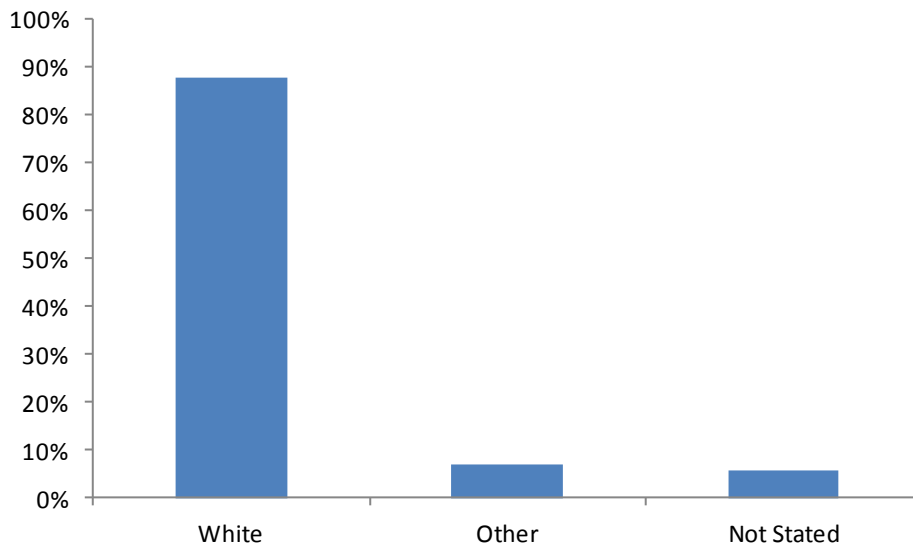
Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

Figure 1F: Child Protection Register and Referral Counts for Northern Ireland (31 March 2010 – 30 September 2014)



Source: Children Order Returns CPR3 & CPR4

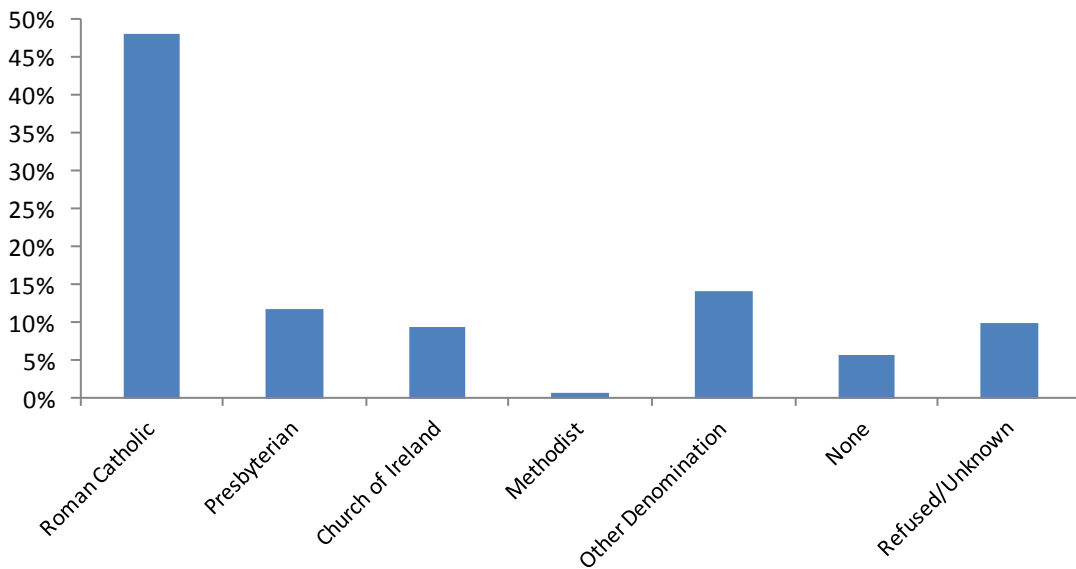
Figure 1G: Child Protection Register by Ethnic Origin at 30 September 2014



Source: Quarterly Regional Child Protection Committee Returns

Note: 'Others' includes Chinese, Irish Travellers, Roma Travellers, Indian, Pakistani, Black, Mixed Race and Other

Figure 1H: Child Protection Register by Religion at 30 September 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 30 September 2014)' is available from:

Community Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
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