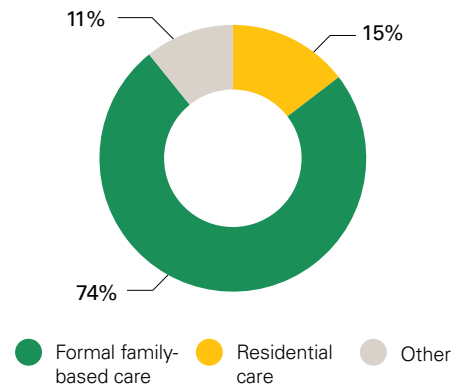
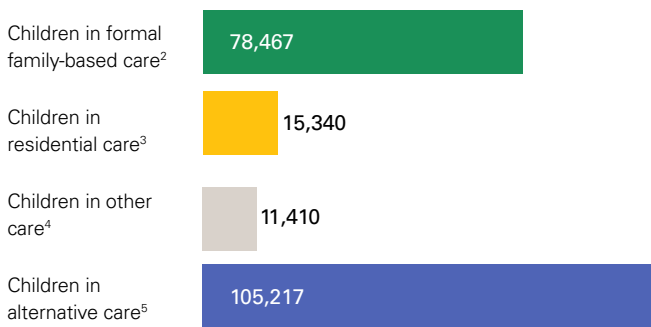


# United Kingdom

<p><span style="color: red;">●</span> No</p> <p><span style="color: green;">●</span> Yes</p>	<p>Red indicates that the variable is not collected or the statement not true, green that it is. If no information was found about any of the points in the overview for the particular country, the points are removed on the page for that country.</p>	<p><span style="color: green;">●</span> Children in formal family-based care</p> <p><span style="color: orange;">●</span> Children in residential care</p> <p><span style="color: grey;">●</span> Children in other care</p> <p><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Children in alternative care</p>
--	---	--

## Total number of children in alternative care<sup>1</sup>

● All children in alternative care covered



## Headline statistics<sup>6</sup>

The rate of children aged 0-17 in alternative care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	741
The rate of children aged 0-17 in residential care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	108
The rate of children aged 0-17 in formal family-based care at a specific point in time (per 100,000)	553
The percentage of children aged 0-17 in residential care (of the total number of children in alternative care) at a specific point in time	14.6%

## Country system

- Decentralised alternative care and data system
- Data on alternative care published
- Is the data system on children in alternative care covered in legislation?
- Is the overarching term, in line with 'alternative care', used in legislation?
- Formal kinship care is a subdivision of foster care

## Data system

- Recent or current reform of data system on children in alternative care<sup>7</sup>
- Data collected per individual child
- Personal identification numbers used<sup>8</sup>
- More than one agency mandated to collect data
- Data collected on quality of care and outcomes<sup>9</sup>

## Variables collected on

● Age	● Reason for entry into care <sup>10</sup>
● Sex	● Placement decision maker <sup>11</sup>
● Unaccompanied minor status <sup>12</sup>	● Reintegrated with family
● Statelessness	● Adopted
● Disability status	● Leaving care due to death
● Parental status	● Age on leaving care <sup>13</sup>

## Residential care

● Official maximum number of places in a small group home (only in Northern Ireland): Up to 8
● Official maximum number of places in largest type of residential care facilities
● Data collected separately for small group homes and large institutions <sup>14</sup>
● Data collected on length of stay <sup>15</sup>
● Data collected on number of staff and their qualifications <sup>16</sup>

## Helpful examples

The ability to observe the placement stability experienced by children in alternative care. Data record a reason for placement change, allowing for planned changes of placements to be identifiable. Repeat re-entries to care are also possible to identify.<sup>17</sup>

Consistent data collection over the last 10 years that enables trends over time in the number, characteristics, and placements of looked after children to be identified.<sup>18</sup>

One proxy measurement of care quality is that of placement stability, measured through the recording the number of placement changes a child or young person experiences in each data collection year. The numbers of children who experience 1, 2, or 3 or more placements in a year is recorded.<sup>19</sup>

## Room for improvement

Scotland's data could be further optimised at national and local government levels with increased access provided to practitioners and managers and increased use made of it by decision makers/leaders regarding service delivery. Data officers may also have limited knowledge of day-to-day care practice, which then impacts on the quality of the data recording systems and the analysis derived from the data.<sup>20</sup> All the publicly available aggregate figures quoted are rounded to the nearest five by the Welsh Government prior to publication. Where there are less than five children in any group, the actual number is suppressed and not published.<sup>21</sup>

Source: The DataCare project, 2021.

### Endnotes

- 1 The data reference point for Scotland is 31/07/2020. For England, Northern Ireland, and Wales the reference point is 31/03/2020. The data contain 'other' alternative care provisions that cannot be definitely said to be residential care or family-based care, or that are not considered alternative care in all countries. Sources of data for England: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-looked-after-in-england-including-adoption-2019-to-2020>. Source for Northern Ireland: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/child-social-care-19-20.pdf>. Source for Scotland: [https://www.scra.gov.uk/resources\\_articles\\_category/official-statistics/](https://www.scra.gov.uk/resources_articles_category/official-statistics/). Source for Wales: <https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Social-Services/Childrens-Services/Children-Looked-After/> (all accessed August 2021).
- 2 This does not include pre-adoptive foster care in England and Northern Ireland, and specialised foster care in Northern Ireland. In Wales, numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and if the total is below 5 the number is suppressed.
- 3 This does not include supported accommodation in Northern Ireland. In Wales numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and if the total is below 5 the number is suppressed.
- 4 This does not include unregulated placements in Northern Ireland. In Wales numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 and if the total is below 5 the number is suppressed.
- 5 As noted, numbers in Wales are rounded to the nearest 5 and the number is suppressed if the total is below 5.

- 6 Calculated by the DataCare project team using, where relevant, country-specific population statistics from the UNICEF Data Warehouse. Source: [https://data.unicef.org/resources/data\\_explorer/unicef\\_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=DM&ver=1.0&dq=DM\\_POP\\_U18...&startPeriod=2010&endPeriod=2020](https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer/unicef_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=DM&ver=1.0&dq=DM_POP_U18...&startPeriod=2010&endPeriod=2020).
- 7 Except England.
- 8 Except Scotland.
- 9 Except Northern Ireland.
- 10 Except Scotland.
- 11 As above.
- 12 Except Scotland, which does not cover any part of 'country of origin'.
- 13 Except Wales.
- 14 Except Northern Ireland, which only has small group homes.
- 15 Except Wales.
- 16 Except England.
- 17 UK-England.
- 18 UK-Scotland.
- 19 UK-Wales.
- 20 UK-Scotland.
- 21 UK-Wales.