

Care leavers stats

Looked after children

There were over 92,000 looked after children in 2013, which was around 0.7 % of all children in the UK.

28,830 children started to be looked after between April 2012 and March 2013 and 9,900 young people (aged 16 or over) formally left care in 2013.

Leaving care

In 2012, 19 % of those leaving care were aged 16. Those in residential care were most likely to leave at 16.

Education, employment and training

Only 15 % of children in care gained five GCSEs at grades A*–C in 2013, compared with 58 % of all children in England.

34 % of care leavers aged 19 were not in education, employment or training at the end of 2013, compared with 18 % of all young people.

Young people who left care aged 18 or over are more likely to be in education than those who left care aged 16 (40 % compared with 26 % respectively).

There's a strong link between education and suitable accommodation: in 2011, less than 1 % of care leavers who were in education at 19 were deemed to be in unsuitable accommodation, compared with 12 % of those who were not in employment, education or training.

Teenage parents

Young women who have been in care are 2.5 times more likely to become teenage mothers than other teenagers.

A quarter of young women leaving care are pregnant or already mothers, and nearly half become mothers by the age of 24.

Offender numbers

Research suggests that around 25 % of the adult prison population has previously been in care, compared with less than 1 % of the general population.

49 % of young men under the age of 21 in the criminal justice system have spent time in care.

Asylum-seeking children

There were almost 2,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children being looked after by local authorities in 2013.

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