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CHILDREN ACCOMMODATED IN SECURE CHILDREN'S HOMES AT 31 MARCH 2013: ENGLAND AND WALES

INTRODUCTION

This Statistical First Release (SFR) provides figures on the number of secure children's homes in England and Wales along with the number of places approved and number of children accommodated.

Secure children's homes are children's homes which provide a locked environment and restrict a young person's liberty. They provide care and accommodation to children and young people who have been detained or sentenced by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and those who have been remanded to secure local authority (LA) accommodation. They also accommodate and care for children and young people who have been placed there on welfare grounds by LAs and the courts. Secure children's homes provide the young people with support tailored to their individual needs; to achieve this they have a high ratio of staff to young people and are generally small facilities.

The number of children accommodated has decreased from last year, resulting in a large fall in the occupancy rate. There have been large changes in the type of placement. The percentage of children detained or sentenced and placed by the YJB has decreased and the percentage of children placed by local authority on welfare grounds has increased.

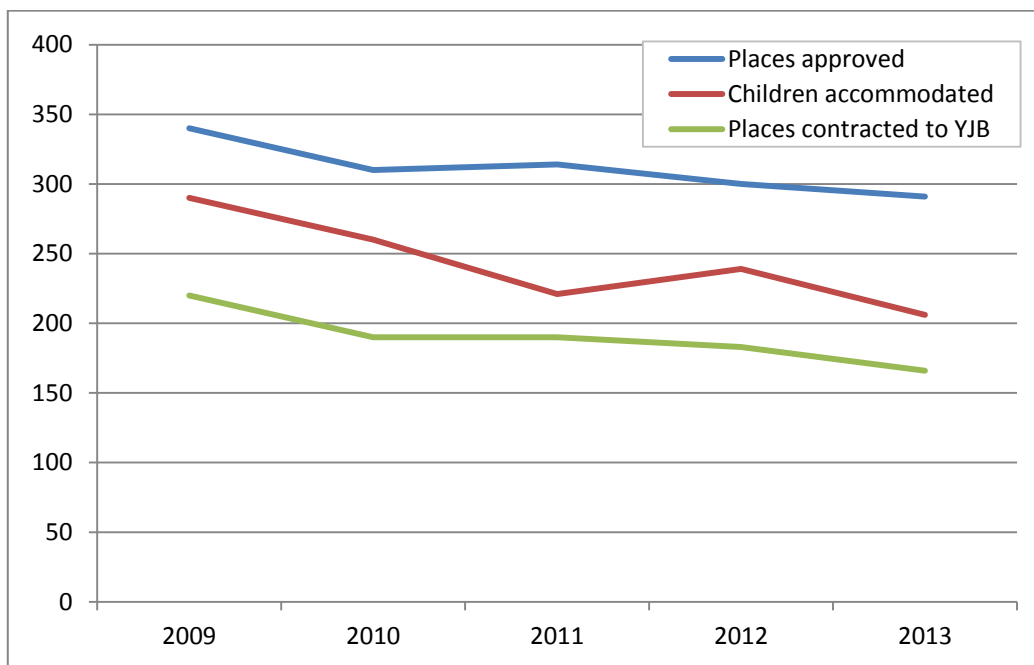
Although changes are large, numbers are small and volatile. The percentage of children detained or sentenced and placed by YJB has been equally low in previous years.

KEY POINTS

- The number of secure children's homes open at 31 March 2013 in England and Wales was 17; no change from the previous year. There were 19 homes open at 31 March 2009.
- 206 children were accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales at 31 March 2013 – 187 in England and 19 in Wales. The total for England and Wales represents a fall of 14% from 2012 and a 29% decrease from 2009.
- At 31 March 2013, there were 291 approved places in England and Wales, a decrease of 3% from the previous year. This represents a fall of 14% from 31 March 2009.

- 166 approved places were contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) (57% of approved places), a decrease of 9% from last year and a 25% decrease from 2009. These numbers have decreased over the past five years.

Figure 1: Number of places approved, children accommodated and places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) from 2009 to 2013 in secure children’s homes in England and Wales



- 71% of approved places in England and Wales were occupied, a decrease of 9 percentage points from 2012. There was a large decrease in the occupancy rate in 2011, then a large increase in 2012. The decrease in 2013 has brought the figure back to the level in 2011.

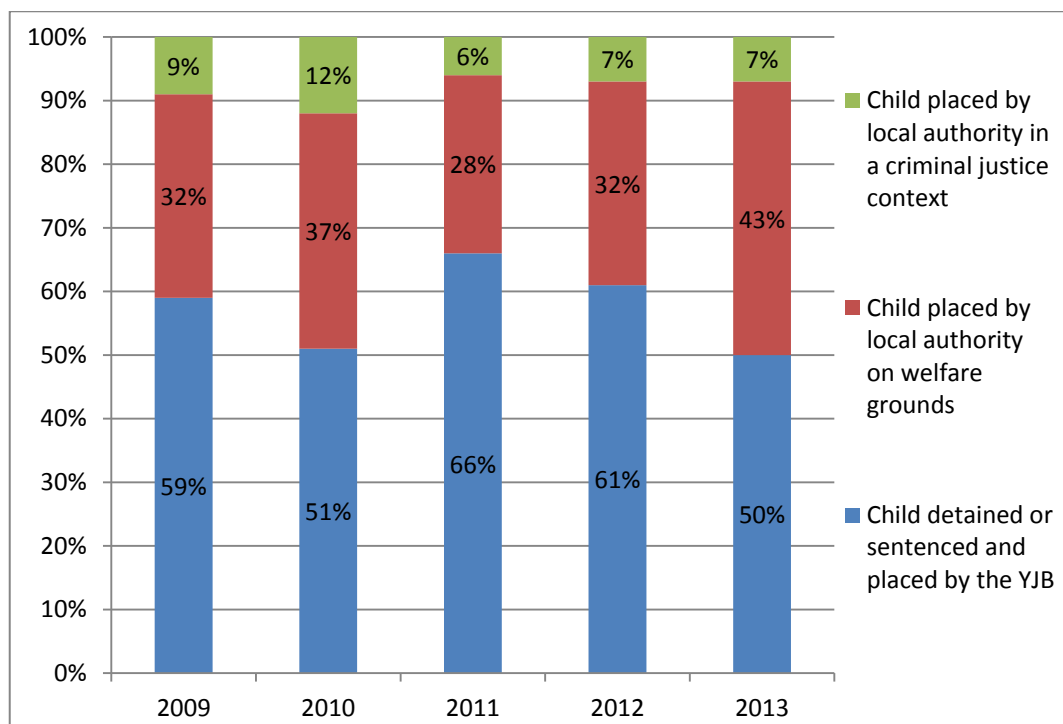
Table 1: Occupancy rates in secure children’s homes in England and Wales at 31 March, 2009 to 2013

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Occupancy rate (%)	86	83	70	80	71

- Of the total number of children accommodated in England and Wales, 65% were male and 35% female (the same as in 2009), compared with 66% and 34% in 2012.
- There was a large increase of 11 percentage points in children placed by the local authority on welfare grounds¹, from 32% of children accommodated in 2012, to 43% in 2013. Please note numbers are small (76 children in 2012, 89 children in 2013) so percentages are volatile.

¹ Child placed under section 25 of the Children Act 1989 for the protection of himself and/or others: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/part/III/crossheading/secure-accommodation>

Figure 2: Percentage of children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales from 2009 to 2013 by type of placement at 31 March



TABLES

Table	Title	Coverage	Years
1	Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages)	England and Wales	2009-2013
2	Places approved and available, and children accommodated at 31 March 2013 by individual secure children's homes (numbers and percentages)	Secure Home level, England and Wales	2013
3	Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages)	England	2009-2013

The tables are also available in Excel format on the publication webpage.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Background

1. In England and Wales there are three types of secure accommodation in which children and young people can be placed. These are secure training centres, young offender institutions and secure children's homes. This Statistical First Release provides figures on children accommodated in secure children's homes. Information has been derived from statistical data reported to the Department by all secure children's homes in England and Wales that were open at 31 March 2013. Data on secure training centres and young offender institutions are published separately; see Related Publications.

2. Secure children's homes are a scarce national resource providing care in a secure setting for the most vulnerable looked after children and young offenders with challenging and complex needs – e.g. with behavioural and emotional difficulties; learning difficulties etc. There are 16 secure children's homes in England; 15 are managed by local authorities and one by a charity (Nugent Care). Although only 15 LAs run secure children's homes, almost all authorities have an occasional but compelling need to commission secure welfare placements. There is one secure children's home in Wales which is managed by the local authority. Of the 16 English homes, six provide welfare places only and the remainder provide both welfare and youth justice places types. Placements for sentenced children are commissioned by the Youth Justice Board (YJB), whereas placements for children requiring detention on welfare grounds under Section 25 of the Children Act 1989 are commissioned by individual local authorities, usually on a spot-purchase basis.

3. New approaches to managing very troubled children have influenced demand for these very complex high maintenance services and local authorities have gradually withdrawn from direct provision of secure accommodation. This has resulted in a steady decline in the numbers of secure children's homes such that those remaining are not evenly distributed throughout English regions. At present, any decision to establish a new secure children's home would be for local authorities or other potential providers (private or voluntary) based on their assessment of the future market for these highly specialised services.

4. Many factors are taken into account when determining whether a child is sent to a secure children's home or another type of secure accommodation. Children under 12 who commit serious offences will always be sent to a secure children's home; but for older children the Youth Justice Board will take account of their vulnerability, based on what is known about their mental health, emotional and cognitive development etc. Whilst there is a preference for placing children within travelling distance of their families – the geographical distribution of secure children's home will often mean that this is not possible. Further, some secure children's homes have developed expertise in managing certain kinds of behaviour and these specialisms will also need to be taken into account in determining the most appropriate placement for an individual child.

5. The Statistical First Release contains information for both England and Wales due to a long-standing agreement with the Welsh Government that DfE will report on the single secure children's home in Wales. The combined figures for England and Wales are presented as the main figures, as cross-border placements mean that Welsh children may be accommodated in English secure children's homes and vice versa. Figures for England are available separately in the Statistical First Release.

Data Quality and Uses of Data

6. Information on data quality issues and the uses made of the data on children accommodated in secure children's homes is available in a separate document available on the publication webpage.

Methodology

7. A detailed account of the methods used to collect and calculate the data used in this publication is available in a separate document on the publication webpage.

Confidentiality

8. In order to ensure confidentiality of children, the following suppression conventions have been used in this statistical release:

- Any numbers less than 6 (1 to 5 inclusive) have been suppressed and have been replaced by an 'x'. It has been necessary to suppress other figures whenever it would be possible to calculate the value of a suppressed number by means of simple arithmetic. The rule applied in these circumstances has been to suppress the next smallest data item.
- Percentages are displayed to the nearest whole number but where the numerator between 1 and 5 inclusive, they have been suppressed.
- Where any number is shown as zero (0), the original figure submitted was zero.
- A '.' represents data not applicable.

National Statistics

9. This is a National Statistics publication. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference.

Related Publications

10. The Ministry of Justice publishes monthly statistics on children and young people within secure children's homes, secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs). These figures are available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-custody-data>

While this publication from the Department for Education is concerned with children accommodated in secure children's homes, the Ministry of Justice publishes statistics on the population in custody of children and young people within secure children's homes, secure training centres (STCs) and young offender institutions (YOIs).

From the Ministry of Justice publication, only the figures on children in secure children's homes are comparable with figures in this publication. There is however small discrepancies between the two figures; figures in this publication show 102 children held on remand or under sentence and placed by the Youth Justice Board in a secure children's home as at 31 March 2013. Figures from the Ministry of Justice publication (table "2.4 Accom Type") published May 2013 shows a figure of 117 for Under 18 Secure Population accommodated in secure children's homes as at March 2013.

There are some slight differences in methodology which can explain the difference:

- i) The Ministry of Justice figures are a monthly snapshot of the custodial population in the secure estate for children and young people. They are taken on the last Friday of the month or first Friday of the following month, depending on which is nearer to the actual month end and not necessarily the position at 31 March on which this publication is based.
- ii) The Ministry of Justice figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time. The specific system used is the

internal YJB placements system (eAsset, formerly known as SACHs) which is populated by the YJB upon placements of children. Whereas the Department for Education's figures are taken from local records held by secure children's homes which are based on their own administrative IT systems which, as with any administrative recording system, maybe subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and can be subject to change over time.

Both the Department for Education and Ministry of Justice figures are useful in their own right. The Department for Education's figures provides a comparable annual time series of data on secure children's homes sourced directly from them, and includes some figures on children detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Justice Board in a secure children's home. The Ministry of Justice figures focus on the population in custody overall, including children placed in a secure children's home.

11. A research report, titled "Understanding the Market for Secure Children's Homes" was undertaken by the Childhood Wellbeing Research Centre in September and October 2011, as part of the centre's programme of rapid-response work for the Department for Education on issues of immediate policy relevance. The report is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/understanding-the-market-for-secure-childrens-homes-summary-report>

12. Figures on the number of children accommodated in secure children's homes in Scotland are available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/03/5229>. Northern Ireland does not produce statistics relating specifically to secure accommodation.

Consultation and Queries

User Consultation

13. In 2011 users were invited to comment on the format and content of this publication via the DfE Research and Statistics Gateway. No responses were received so the format and content of this publication remains unchanged from previous years.

14. If you would like to be involved in future consultations, please get in touch (contact details can be found in the next section).

Queries

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Table 1: Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages)
Year: 2009 to 2013

Coverage: ENGLAND and WALES

At 31 March	numbers					percentages				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of secure children's homes	19	17	17	17	17	.	.	.	.	.
Places approved	340	310	314	300	291	.	.	.	.	.
Children accommodated	290	260	221	239	206	.	.	.	.	.
Occupancy rate¹ (%)	.	.	.	.	.	86	83	70	80	71
Places contracted to Youth Justice Board¹	220	190	190	183	166	65	61	61	61	57
Gender²										
Male	190	165	152	157	133	65	64	69	66	65
Female	100	95	69	82	73	35	36	31	34	35
Age²										
Aged under 12	0	x	0	x	x	0	x	0	x	x
Aged 12	x	5	x	x	x	x	3	x	x	x
Aged 13	30	30	22	22	13	10	12	10	9	6
Aged 14	100	70	45	62	47	34	27	20	26	23
Aged 15	90	90	70	72	69	31	34	32	30	33
Aged 16	50	45	65	62	56	18	17	29	26	27
Aged 17	15	15	x	11	18	5	6	x	5	9
Aged 18 and over	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	x	0
Length of stay²										
Under 1 month	70	50	49	49	43	23	20	22	21	21
1 to < 3 months	100	90	76	85	60	34	34	34	36	29
3 to < 6 months	70	50	51	56	58	24	20	23	23	28
6 to < 12 months	45	45	29	36	30	15	17	13	15	15
12 to < 24 months	10	15	x	x	x	4	7	x	x	x
24 months or more	0	x	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	x
Type of Placement²										
Child detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Justice Board	170	130	146	146	102	59	51	66	61	50
Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	25	30	13	17	15	9	12	6	7	7
Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds	95	95	62	76	89	32	37	28	32	43

Source: DfE SA1 Survey

(1) Percentages are based on the number of approved places. Percentages for 2009 and 2010 are based on unrounded figures.

(2) Percentages are based on the number of children accommodated. Percentages for 2009 to 2010 are based on unrounded figures.

. Not Applicable

x represents a number between 1 and 5 inclusive, or a percentage based on a numerator between 1 and 5 inclusive.

Data for 2010 and earlier has been rounded to the nearest 5.

To protect the suppressed number, secondary suppression may be required in some cases.

**Table 2: Places approved and available, and children accommodated at 31 March 2013 by individual secure children's homes (numbers and percentages)
Year: 2013**

Coverage: ENGLAND and WALES

	numbers and percentages			
Secure children's home	Number of places approved	Number of places available	Number of children accommodated	Occupancy rate (%) ¹
All Secure Homes	291	286	206	71
Beechfield	7	7	6	86
St Catherines	12	12	10	83
Atkinson Unit	10	10	9	90
Swanwick Lodge	16	12	12	75
Clare Lodge	16	16	12	75
Leverton Hall	16	16	9	56
Lansdowne	x	x	x	x
Aldine House	x	x	x	x
Lincolnshire	12	12	7	58
Redbank ²	24	24	12	50
Barton Moss	20	20	18	90
Kyloe House	12	12	8	67
Clayfields House	18	18	16	89
Vinney Green	24	24	23	96
Aycliffe Centre	42	42	20	48
East Moor	27	27	18	67
Neath Hillside ³	22	22	19	86

Source: DiE SA1 Survey

(1) Percentages are based on the number of places approved.

(2) Redbank includes secure children's homes Newton House, Willows House and Vardy House.

(3) Secure children's home in Wales.

x represents a number between 1 and 5 inclusive, or a percentage based on a numerator between 1 and 5 inclusive.

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Table 3: Places approved and children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March
by gender, age, length of stay and type of placement (numbers and percentages)
Year: 2009 to 2013

Coverage: ENGLAND ONLY

At 31 March	numbers					percentages				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of secure children's homes	18	16	16	16	16	.	.	.	.	.
Places approved	320	295	292	278	269	.	.	.	.	.
Children accommodated	275	240	202	221	187	.	.	.	.	.
Occupancy rate (%)¹	.	.	.	.	.	85	82	69	79	70
Places contracted to Youth Justice Board¹	205	175	173	166	149	64	60	59	60	55
Gender²										
Male	175	145	134	145	120	64	61	66	66	64
Female	100	95	68	76	67	36	39	34	34	36
Age²										
Aged under 12	0	x	0	x	x	0	x	0	x	x
Aged 12	5	5	x	x	x	2	3	x	x	x
Aged 13	30	30	19	21	11	11	13	9	10	6
Aged 14	95	65	43	57	44	36	28	21	26	24
Aged 15	80	85	68	65	64	30	35	34	29	34
Aged 16	45	35	56	58	49	16	15	28	26	26
Aged 17	15	15	x	10	16	5	6	x	5	9
Aged 18 and over	0	0	0	x	0	0	0	0	x	0
Length of stay²										
Under 1 month	65	50	41	46	36	23	22	20	21	19
1 to < 3 months	95	80	71	78	55	34	33	35	35	29
3 to < 6 months	65	50	47	49	55	25	20	23	22	29
6 to < 12 months	40	45	28	35	28	14	18	14	16	15
12 to < 24 months	10	15	x	x	x	4	5	x	x	x
24 months or more	0	x	x	x	x	0	x	x	x	x
Type of Placement²										
Child detained or sentenced and placed by the Youth Justice Board	160	115	129	131	86	58	48	64	59	46
Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	25	30	13	17	15	9	13	6	8	8
Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds	90	95	60	73	86	33	39	30	33	46

Source: DfE SA1 Survey

(1) Percentages are based on the number of approved places. Percentages for 2009 and 2010 are based on unrounded figures.

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