



Statistical First Release

Children accommodated in secure children's homes at 31 March 2015: England and Wales

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Internet	Statistics: secure children's homes

- 15** Secure children's homes (SCHs) open at 31 March 2015 in England and Wales. There have been two SCH closures since 31 March 2014: Leverton Hall (Essex) and Redbank (St.Helens).
- 254** Approved places in England and Wales at 31 March 2015, a decrease of 44 places since 31 March 2014, reflecting the above closures, and a decrease of 57 places from 31 March 2010.
- 205** Children were accommodated in SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March 2015; 194 in England and 11 in Wales. The total for England and Wales represents a decrease of 10% from 31 March 2014 and a decrease of 21% from 31 March 2010.
- 81%** Occupancy at 31 March 2015. Since 2010 the occupancy rate at 31 March has fluctuated between a minimum of 70% and a maximum of 83%.
- 43%** Of children accommodated at 31 March 2015 were placed by the local authority on welfare grounds, compared with 45% at 31 March 2014 and 37% at 31 March 2010.
- 35%** Of children accommodated at 31 March 2015 were female compared with 41% at 31 March 2014 and 36% at 31 March 2010.

A National Statistics publication

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1. Background and context

This statistical first release (SFR) provides data on secure children's homes (SCHs) in England and Wales. It includes the number of places approved and number of children accommodated as well as characteristics of those children accommodated: gender, age, length of stay and type of placement.

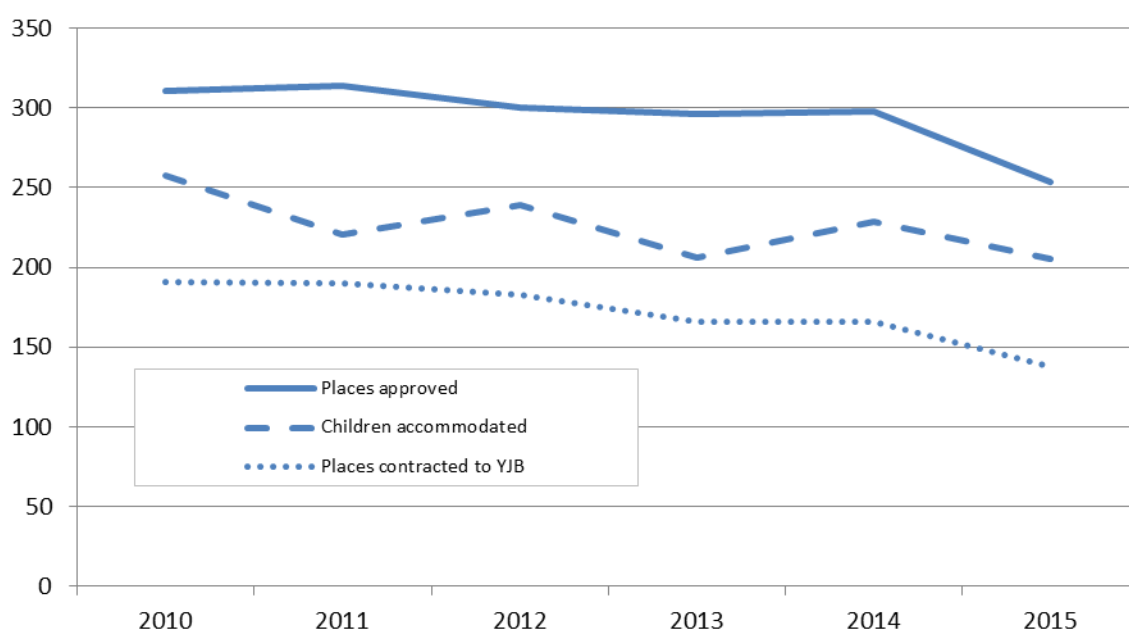
Secure children's homes are children's homes which provide a locked environment and restrict a young person's liberty. They provide care and accommodation to children and young people who have been detained or sentenced by the criminal courts and those who have been remanded to secure local authority accommodation. They also accommodate and care for children and young people who have been placed there on welfare grounds by local authorities and the courts. Secure children's homes provide children and 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.

This publication gives an annual snapshot of the status of SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March. Please see the accompanying methodology document for further details on the collection process and the quality and uses document for further details on quality and how the data is used.

2. Places approved and children accommodated (Table 1)

Chart A: Overall trend in number of children accommodated is decreasing over time

Number of places approved, children accommodated and places contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) at 31 March from 2010 to 2015 in secure children's homes in England and Wales.



18% decrease in the number of approved places since 2010, due to the two home closures	<p>There were 254 approved places in England and Wales at 31 March 2015, a decrease in 44 places since 31 March 2014. This is a decrease of 57 places (18%) from 31 March 2010.</p> <p>There were 45 approved places lost due to the two home closures in the year; therefore there has been a net increase of 1 approved place in the 15 open SCHs.</p>
21% decrease in the number of children accommodated since 2010	<p>There were 205 children accommodated in SCHs in England and Wales at 31 March 2015; 194 in England and 11 in Wales. The total for England and Wales represents a decrease of 10% from 31 March 2014 and a decrease of 21% from 31 March 2010.</p>
28% decrease in the number of Youth Justice Board places since 2010	<p>At 31 March 2015, 138 approved places were contracted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB), compared with 166 places at 31 March 2014 – a decrease of 28 places (17%), of which 21 places are associated with home closures. This represents a decrease of 53 places (28%) from 31 March 2010.</p>

3. Occupancy rates (Table 1)

At 31 March 2015, 81% of approved places in England and Wales were occupied, an increase of 4 percentage points from 2014. The occupancy rate at 31 March has fluctuated between a minimum of 70% and a maximum of 83% in the period 2010 to 2015. The occupancy rates also fluctuate by type of placement as shown in table A below.

Table A: Occupancy rates fluctuate over time
Occupancy rates in secure children's homes in England and Wales by type of placement at 31 March, 2010 to 2015.

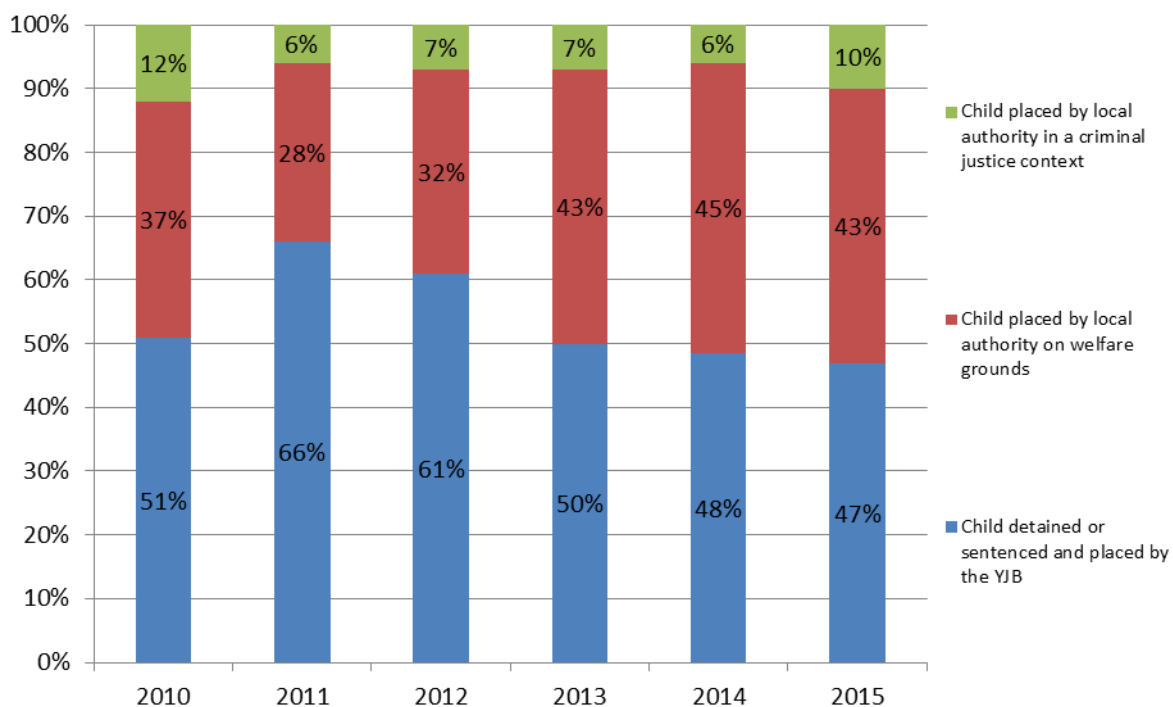
	Occupancy rates (%)			Overall
	Child detained or sentenced and placed by the YJB	Child placed by local authority in a criminal justice context	Child placed by local authority on welfare grounds	
2010	42	10	31	83
2011	46	4	20	70
2012	49	6	25	80
2013	34	5	30	70
2014	37	5	35	77
2015	38	8	35	81

4. Type of placement (Table 1)

Of the children accommodated at 31 March 2015 in England and Wales, 43% were placed by the local authority on welfare grounds compared with 45% at 31 March 2014 and 37% at 31 March 2010. Please note that numbers are small so percentages are volatile.

Chart B: Proportion placed on welfare grounds has decreased since 2014

Type of placement percentages for children accommodated in secure children's homes in England and Wales at 31 March, 2010 to 2015



5. Gender (Table 1)

Of the 205 children accommodated in England and Wales at 31 March 2015, 35% were female and 65% were male. At 31 March 2014, 41% were female and 59% were male. Percentages for the gender split this year are similar to as at March 2010, where 36% were female and 64% were male. Information showing the gender split by type of placement is not collected.

6. List of tables

The following tables are available in excel format on the department's statistics website:

[Secure children's homes statistics](#)

- 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, 2010 to 2015
- 2 Places approved and available, and children accommodated at 31 March by individual secure children's homes (numbers and percentages), England and Wales, 2010 to 2015
- 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, 2010 to 2015



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at cin.stats@education.gsi.gov.uk.

This document is also available from our website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-secure-children-s-homes>