



Wales Centre for Public Policy
Canolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru

Children looked after in Wales: Trends

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September 2020



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Summary

- The number of children looked after in Wales increased by 7% between 31st March 2018 and 31st March 2019; equivalent to an increase from 102 to 109 per 10,000.
- However, there is a great deal of variation across Wales. In eight local authorities, on the day of census, the number of children looked after was either the same or lower than on the same day the previous year.
- For ten local authorities, the cohort was more than 10% larger than the previous year. These ten local authorities account for 85% of the net national increase between 2018 and 2019.
- However, snapshot data, by its nature, is sensitive to short-term variations in the numbers. So it is important to look at the trends in these data.
- Over the five years to 31st March 2019, the number of children in care in Wales increased by over 22% (an increase of 1,235 children and young people).
- In this period, four local authorities have seen their numbers steadily decrease, and two in particular – Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot – have seen large reductions.
- By contrast, nine local authorities have seen upward trends in their numbers of children looked after in recent years. Together they account for almost 83% of net increase in numbers over the five years.
- Had these local authorities seen neither an increase nor a decrease over the five years, the rate of children looked after in Wales on 31st March 2019 would have been 93 per 10,000 (5,840 children and young people).
- Over the three years for which data is available about the wider cohort of children receiving care and support, there has only been a 3% increase in overall numbers. In that time, the number on the child protection register at 31st March has remained fairly static.
- This means that there has been a 6% drop in the proportion of those receiving care and support, who are neither on the child protection register nor looked after.
- Those aged 10 to 15 make up the largest proportion of children looked after across Wales (37%). However, the highest rate of children looked after by age is the over 16s.
- All age groups have seen a rise over the five years, but the biggest increase has been in rate of under-1s (37% over five years).
- In terms of placements, there has been an 84% increase in the numbers placed with parents over the last five years.
- Whilst the majority are placed in foster care, there has been a rise in the numbers placed with kinship carers (60% over five years) and placed outside their 'home' local authority (20% between 2015 and 2019).

Introduction

This briefing focuses on describing the trends associated with children looked after¹ in Wales at both a national and local level. It utilises aggregate data to describe trends with respect to:

- The number and rate of children looked after in Wales
- Placement
- Legal status

In compiling these figures, the briefing provides context for the Centre's wider programme of work around children looked after in Wales.

Data is drawn primarily from the returns made annually by local authorities reflecting the position on 31st March, the most recent of which relate to the snapshot taken on 31st March 2019. As such the analysis presented supplements that published by Statistics for Wales and the Welsh Government in Experimental Statistics: Children Looked After by Local Authorities, 2018-19 (SFR 106/2019)² and Wales Children Receiving Care and Support Census, 2019 (Experimental Statistics) (SFR 20/2020)³.

Table 1 provides an overview of the characteristics of the wider children receiving care and support cohort, highlighting the differences in the profile for those looked after, on the child protection register or 'other'. The relationship between these three components of the wider cohort are summarised in Figure 1.

¹ Throughout this report references are made to 'children looked after' rather than 'looked after children' since the label 'looked after child' and particularly the shortened version of 'LAC' can give the impression of children lacking in something. However, in some instances it has been necessary to use the term 'looked after children' as it is a statutory term used by the Welsh Government. Notably the Looked After Children Census has been abbreviated to LAC Census.

² Technical guidance for the Children Looked After Census 2018-19 can be found: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-05/looked-after-children-census-2018-19-guidance_1.pdf

³ The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 came into effect on 6 April 2016. It provided a new legal framework, bringing together and modernising social services law in Wales. The Act changes the way people's needs are assessed and the way services are delivered, introducing new duties on local authority social services in relation to assessment and provision of care and support. Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, which defines 'Children in Need', was repealed. As a result, the Children in Need Census is no longer conducted (although this remains in England where the 1989 Act still applies). It has been replaced by the 'Children Receiving Care and Support' (CRCS) Census and has new requirements. For example, data for unborn children are not collected. Technical guidance for the CRCS Census can be found: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-05/children-receiving-care-and-support-census-2018-19-notes.pdf>

Table 1: Characteristics of the Respective Cohorts on 31st March 2019, by Source

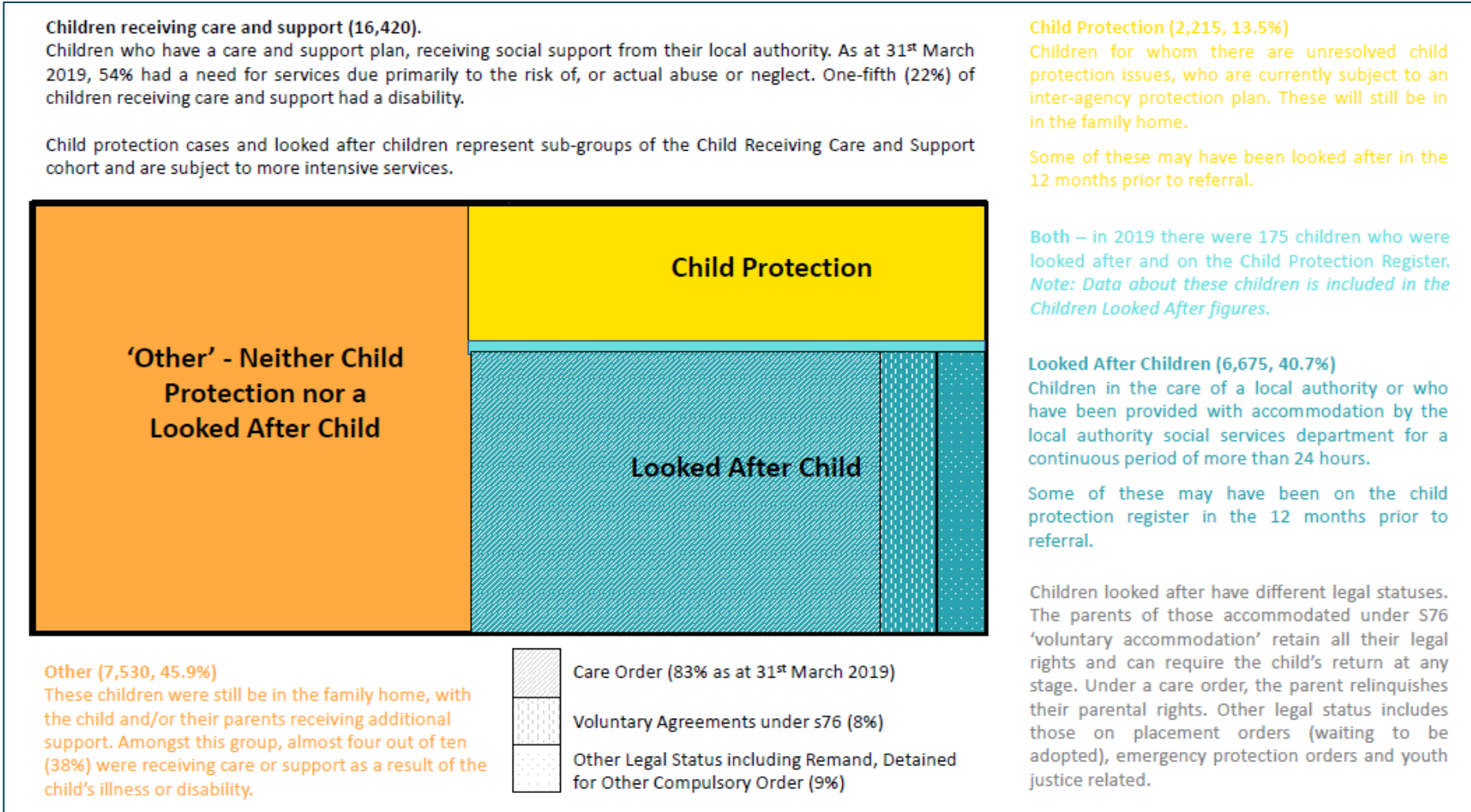
		CRCS Census: All	CRCS Census: Other	CRCS Census: Child Protection	CRCS Census: Looked After	LAC Census: All
Gender	Male	55%	58%	51%	54%	54%
	Female	45%	42%	49%	46%	46%
Age	Under 1	5%	3%	9%	5%	6%
	1 to 4	19%	16%	26%	19%	19%
	5 to 9	27%	28%	31%	24%	23%
	10 to 15	37%	39%	30%	38%	37%
	16 and over	13%	13%	4%	15%	15%
Ethnicity	White ⁽¹⁾	90%	89%	89%	92%	91%
	Mixed ethnic group	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%
	Asian or Asian British ⁽²⁾	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%
	Other ethnic groups	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
	Refused / Not Obtained	3%	4%	5%	1%	*
Disability	Disabled	22%	38%	4%	9%	6%
	Not Disabled	78%	62%	95%	91%	91%
	Not Obtained					2%
Total		16,420	7,530	2,215	6,675	6,845

Source: CRCS Census (Stats Wales, 2020b; 2020c; 2020d; 2020e; 2020f), LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019a; 2019e) and Welsh Government (2019). Notes: (1) includes Travellers and Gypsy/Gypsy Roma. (2) includes Chinese and Chinese British. The data on Stats Wales is rounded to the nearest 5 and is subject to suppression. Where this has occurred, it is denoted by *. The underlying data can found in Table A.1.

The LAC Census is used as the ‘official’ measure of children looked after. On 31st March 2019 there were 6,845 children looked after, equivalent to a rate of 109 per 10,000 of the population aged 0-17. Numbers of children looked after within the CRCS Census are lower as, to be included in this snapshot, children need to have had a care and support plan in place on or before 1st January 2019 and to still be on this plan on 31st March 2019.

Compared to 2017 (the first year for which data is available from the CRCS Census), there has been a 3% increase in the overall numbers receiving care and support across Wales. However, the proportion either on the child protection register or looked after has increased from 49.7% to 54.1%. This has largely been as a result in the higher numbers now looked after – these have increased by 15.5% (from 5,780 to 6,675) whilst those on the child protection register have increased by just 3.7% (from 2,135 to 2,215). Over the same three-year period the number of children neither looked after or on the child protection register who receive care and support has fallen by 6% (from 8,015 to 7,530).

Figure 1: The Relationship Between Children Receiving Care and Support, the Child Protection Register and Looked After Children (31st March 2019)

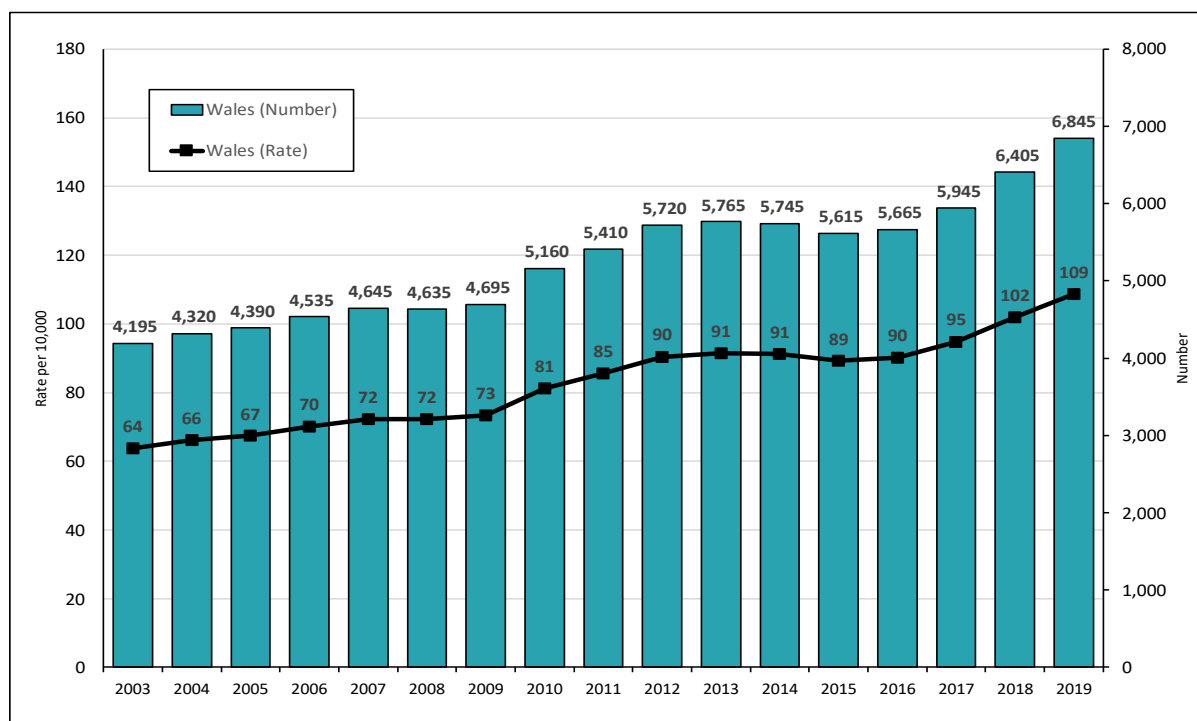


Source: CRCS Census (Stats Wales, 2020a; 2020d; 2020f), LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019b) and Welsh Government (2019). Note: The data on Stats Wales is rounded to the nearest 5 and is subject to suppression.

Trends over time

Since the early 1990s, both the total *numbers* and *rates* of children looked after in Wales have increased (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Number and Rate of Children Looked After in Wales

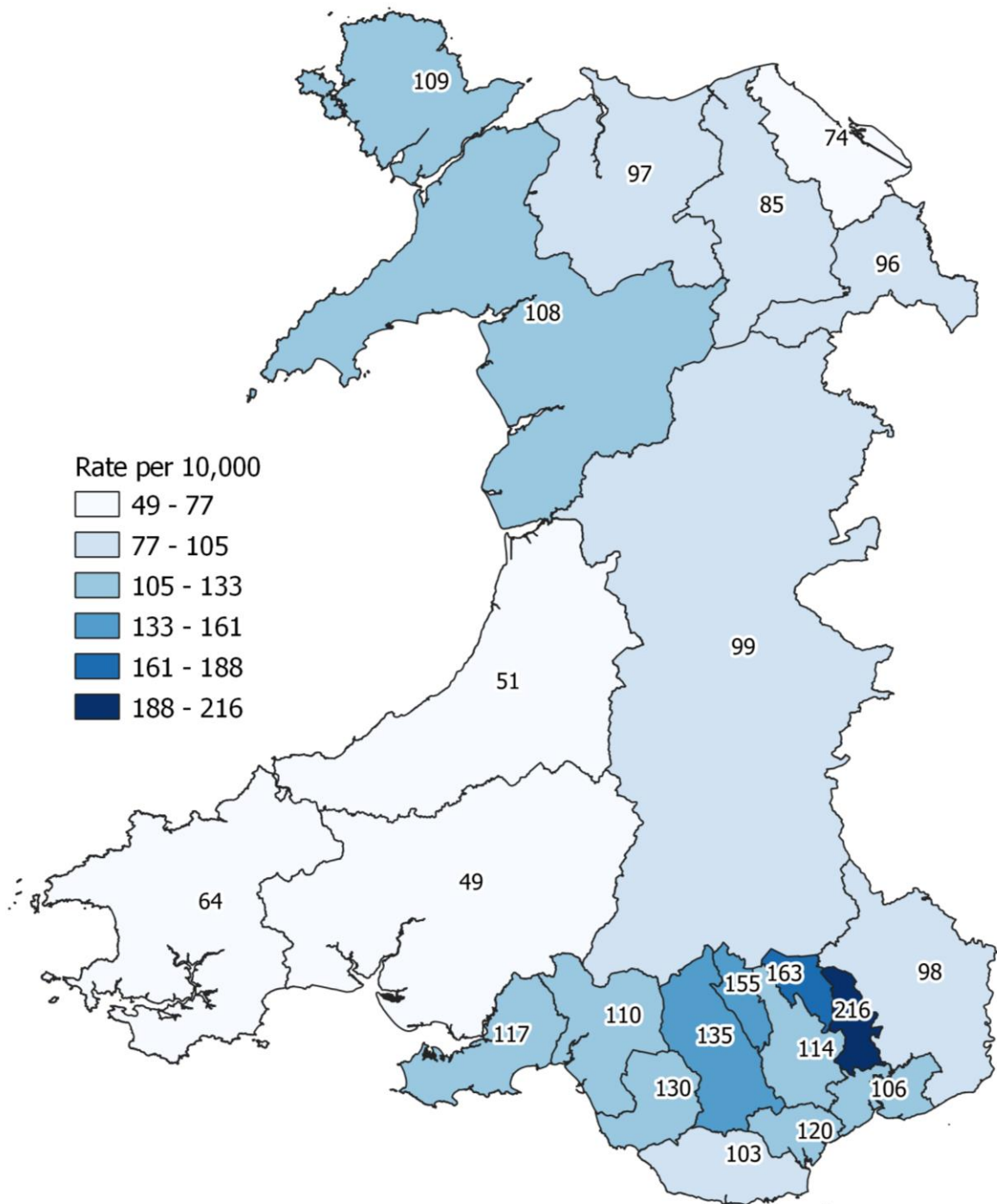


Source: Looked After Children Census (Stats Wales, 2019f; 2019g). The underlying data can be found in the data annex.

Experts are divided as to whether the high rates of children coming into care evidences a system that is working. Some argue that more children who are at risk of harm are now being protected, with those in care having more positive outcomes than they would if they were not taken into care (Oakley et al., 2018). Conversely, others argue that higher rates are negative since, on average, the educational and health outcomes for children looked after are poorer than those in the general population. There is also moral argument which recognises the importance of maintaining links to birth families. As such the issue of whether there is an optimal size for the population in care is contested, with recent research in Wales suggesting that ‘there is no “magic number” for the rate of looked after children in a local area that would determine whether numbers were “too high” or “too low”’ (Cordis Bright, 2013 cited in Thomas, 2018). Rather it is suggested, as in the Care Crisis Review, that policy and practice should be driven by the continuing need to make decisions about care on the basis of individual needs and best interests. Despite this moral imperative, there is growing concern that the increased numbers being looked after is placing a strain on already tight local authority budgets. The statutory duty to safeguard and promote the well-being of

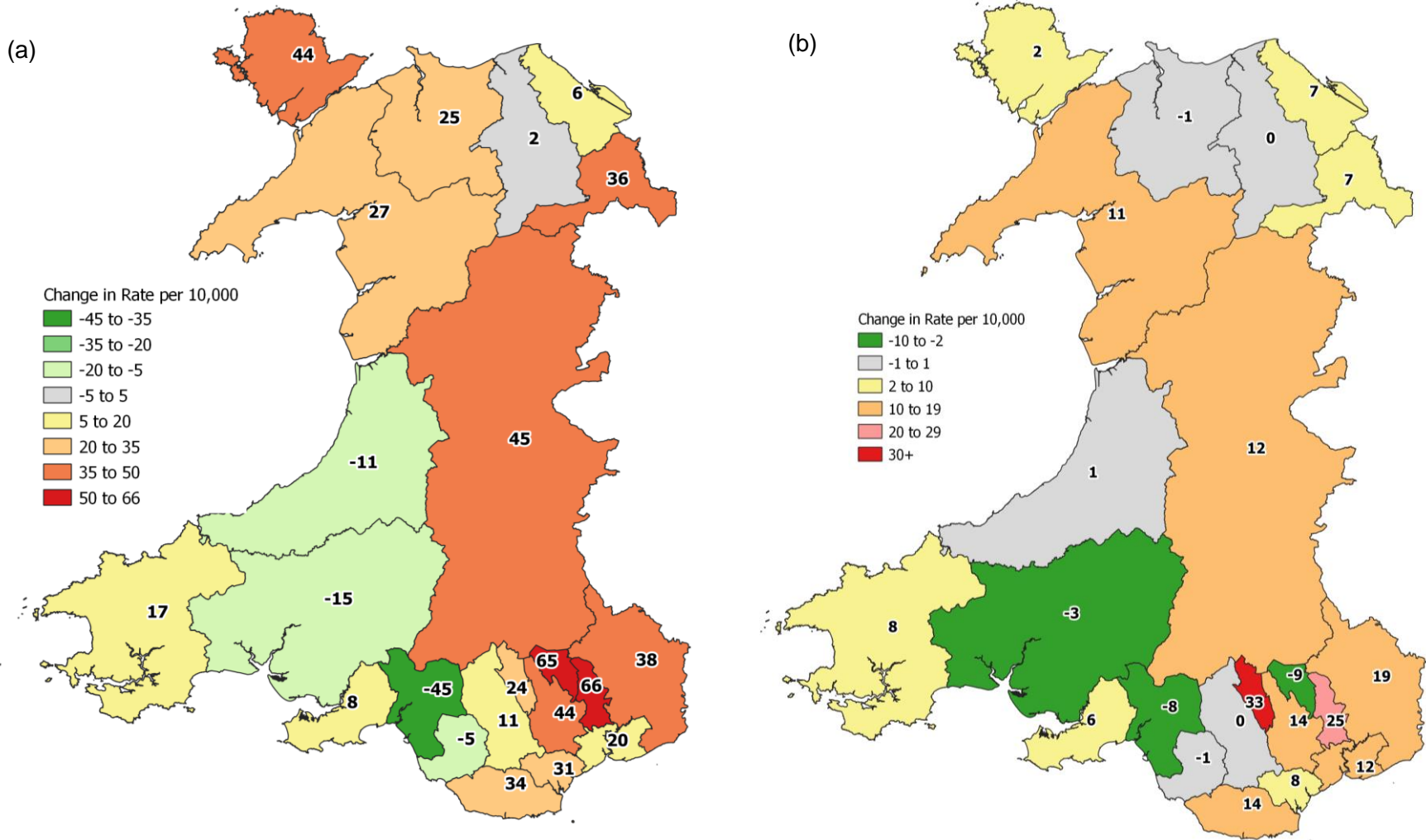
looked after children means that in order to support children and their families, challenging budgetary choices are now needing to be made (WLGA and ADSS Cymru, 2018).

Figure 3: Rates of Children Looked After, 2019



Source: LAC Census, (Stats Wales, 2019g). The underlying data is summarised in the data annex.

Figure 4: Net Change in Rates of Children Looked After (a) 2015 to 2019 and (b) 2018 to 2019



Source: LAC Census, (Stats Wales, 2019g). The underlying data is summarised in the data annex.

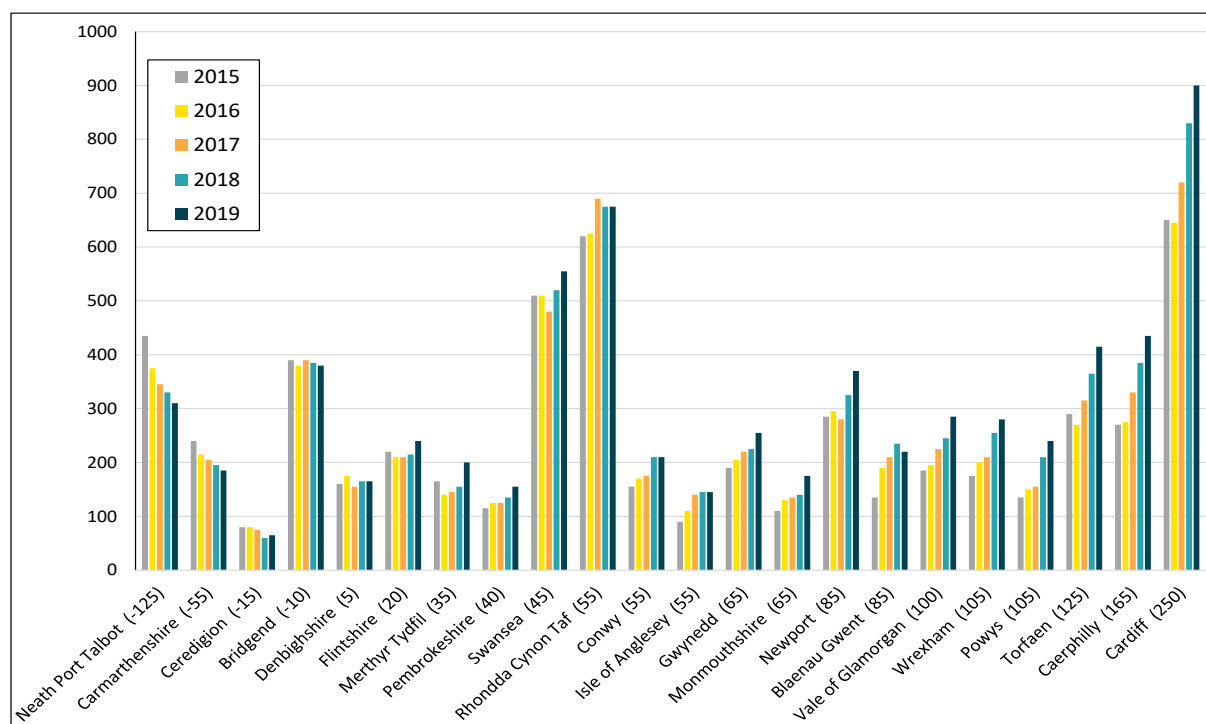
There is also variation within Wales with the rate of children looked after ranging from 49 per 10,000 in Carmarthenshire to 216 in Torfaen. Figure 4(a) summarises the local authority rates along with the net change between 2015 and 2019. Notably Neath Port Talbot has seen its rate fall from 155 per 10,000 in 2015 to 110 in 2019 – a fall equivalent to 46 fewer children looked after per 10,000. In contrast, Torfaen has seen its rate increase over the same period of an additional 66 children per 10,000.

Compared to the previous year (Figure 4(b)), there are three local authorities where the rate has fallen and five where the rate has remained fairly stable with the remainder seeing their rate of children looked after increasing. Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen have seen the greatest increase in their rates.

Which local authorities have had the greatest impact on the upward trend?

Those local authorities with the largest children looked after cohorts have the potential to have the greatest impact on the overall trend across Wales – a 10% increase in the size of the cohort in a smaller local authority such as Ceredigion or Isle of Anglesey has quite a different impact on the headline figure than a 10% increase in one of the larger authorities.

Figure 5: Number of Children Looked After, by Local Authority



Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019e). The number in brackets after each local authority name reflects the size of the net change between 2015 and 2019. The underlying data is summarised in the data annex.

Figure 5 summarises the change in actual numbers by local authority over the last five years with local authorities ordered on the basis of the net change in the size of the cohort. Focusing on the three largest authorities, it can be seen that Swansea (45, 9%) and

Rhondda Cynon Taf (55, 9%) had comparatively small percentage increases. Cardiff has the largest cohort and on 31st March 2019 there were an additional 250 children looked after compared to 2015 – an increase of 38% over five years. Whilst this is not the largest percentage increase, when taken in the context of there being 1,235 additional children looked after across Wales compared to five years ago, this suggests that Cardiff had the greatest impact on the upward trend. If Cardiff had been able to maintain its cohort at its 2015 level, the 2019 rate across Wales would have been 105 per 10,000 rather than 109 (see Table A.3, Version 1 for details).

In recent years nine local authorities have seen increases in the numbers of children looked after (see Table A.3, Version 2 for details). Together they account for almost 83% of the net increase in numbers over the five years. Assuming these local authorities had seen neither an increase nor a decrease between 31st March 2015 and 31st March 2019, the rate of children looked after in Wales would have been 93 per 10,000 (5,840 children and young people).

Compared to the previous year, the overall size of the cohort increased by 440. In terms of absolute figures, the increases in the numbers looked after in Cardiff (+70), Caerphilly (+50) and Torfaen (+50) contributed the most to this. Had these three local authorities not experienced these increases, the 2019 rate across Wales would have been 106 per 10,000.

Which groups have had the greatest impact on the upward trend?

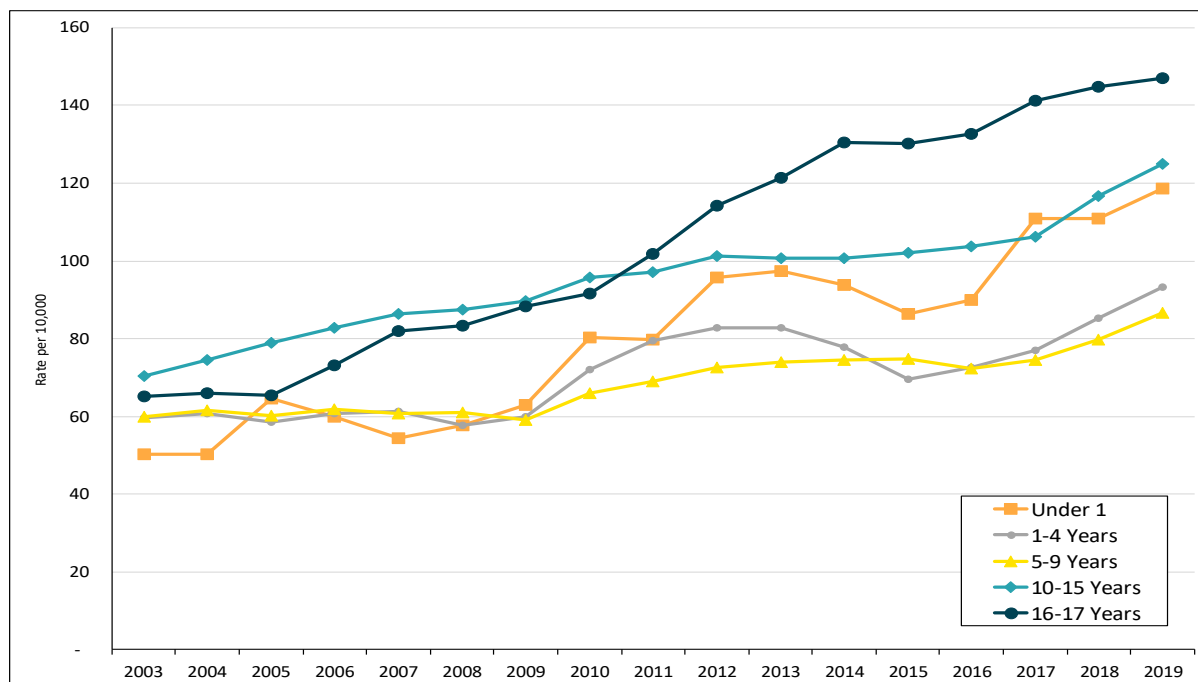
The broad characteristics of looked after children have remained similar to previous years: just over half (54%) are male and 46% are female. Taking into account the profile of the 0-17 population in Wales, this is roughly equivalent to 114 male children looked after per 10,000 compared to 103 female children per 10,000.

Over the last five years the numbers of children looked after have increased within each age group. This has occurred at different rates, prompting a shift in the age profile of the children looked after cohort. Notably the number of children looked after aged 10-15 has increased by 20% (from 2,035 to 2,545) whereas the number aged 16-17 has increased by only 7% (from 945 to 1,015). Calculating indicative rates of children looked after by age group to take into account the structure of the underlying population highlights the growth in the rate of 10-15 year olds looked after compared to 31st March 2018.

Longer term trends are shown in Figure 6. Whilst these show that the rate of children looked after in each age group has increased since 2003, the rate of 10-15 year olds looked after was overtaken by the rate of 16-17 year olds for the first time in 2011. It is likely that some of the increased rate for this older group can be explained by the cumulative effect of higher numbers entering the care system at a younger age and continuing to be looked after as a teenager. Notably, although they make up just over one in 20 children looked after, there has been a 33% increase in the number of infants under one over the last five years.

Analysis on behalf of the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory (Alrouh et al., 2020) highlights how frequently infants are the subject of recurrent care proceedings, with local authorities and the courts appearing to take far more pre-emptive action early in the life of an infant where the courts already know a mother.

Figure 6: Indicative Rates of Children Looked After by Age Group



Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019f). Notes: Numbers have been converted into rates per 10,000 children using the Mid-Year Population Estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020). The underlying data is summarised in the data annex.

Have there been changes to the type of provision in which children have been placed?

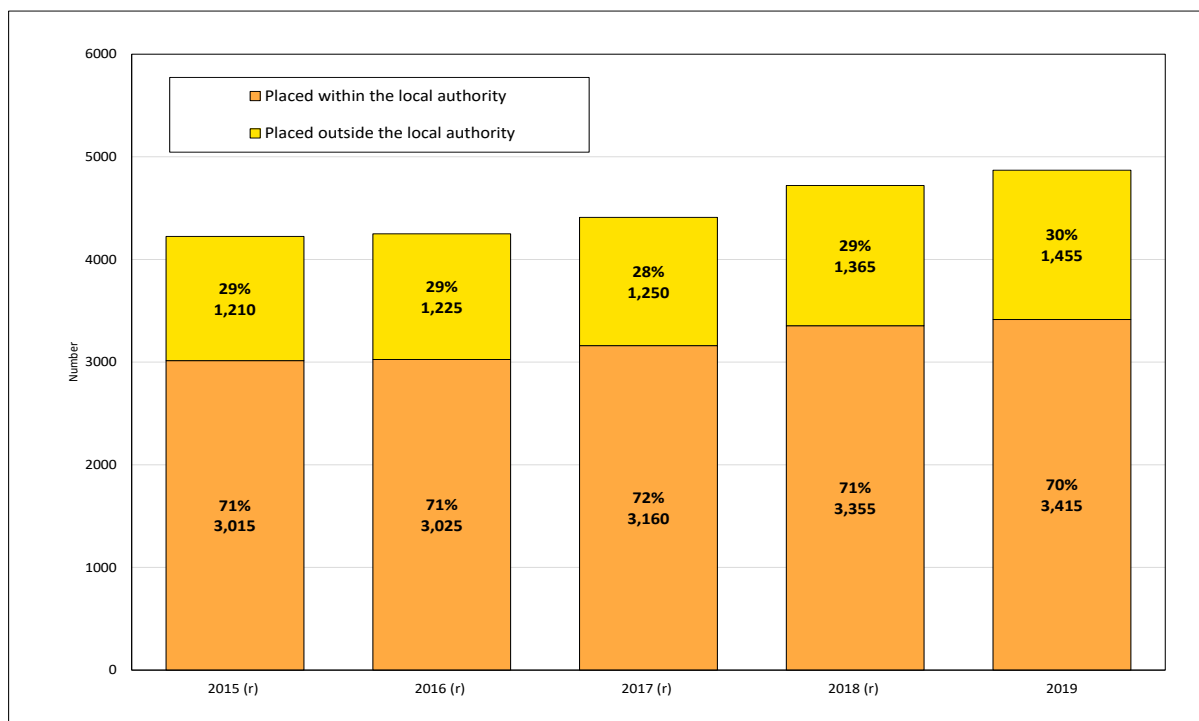
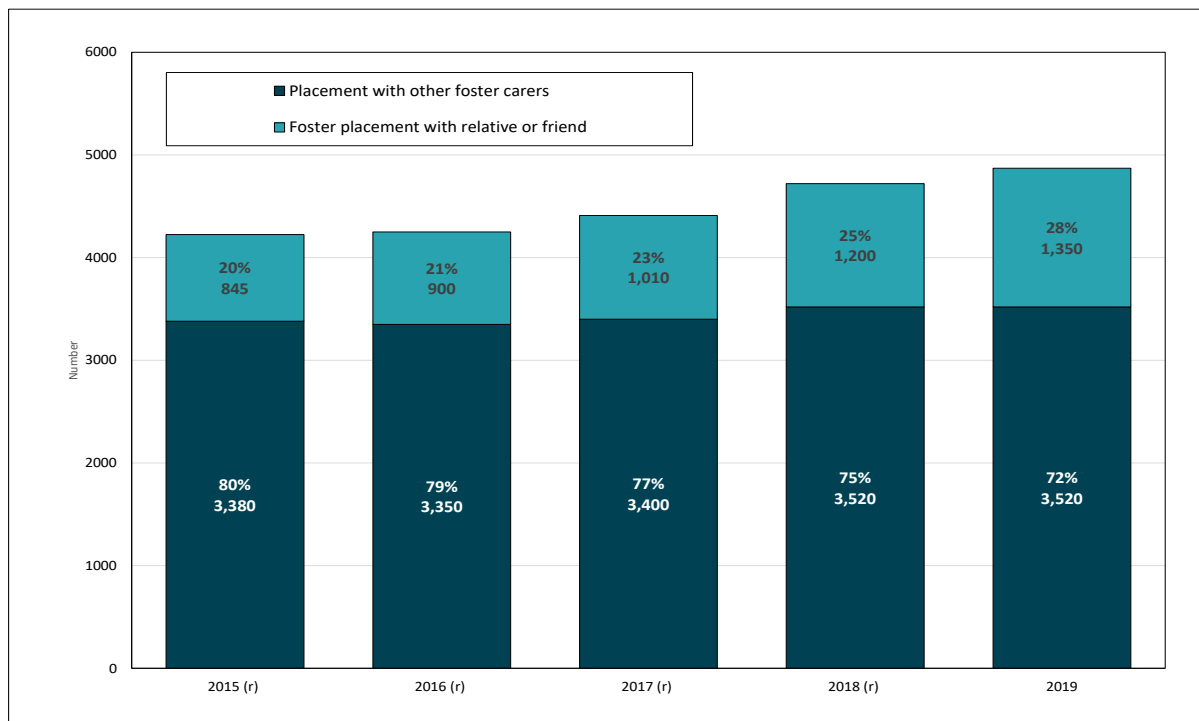
The majority of children looked after are placed with foster carers (4,870 out of 6,845, 71% on 31st March 2019).

As Figure 7 highlights, there has been two distinct trends which have occurred in the context of the overall numbers in foster placements increasing by 15% over the last five years:

- An increase of 60% in the numbers being placed with kinship carers (from 845 in 2015 to 1,350)
- An increase of 20% in the numbers placed with carers outside the local authority (from 1,210 to 1,455 over five years)

It is also notable that in recent years there has been an increase in the numbers placed with their own parents or another person with parental responsibility (Figure 8). As a result, the proportion placed with foster carers has been falling.

Figure 7: Type of Foster Carer Placed with and Location of the Placement

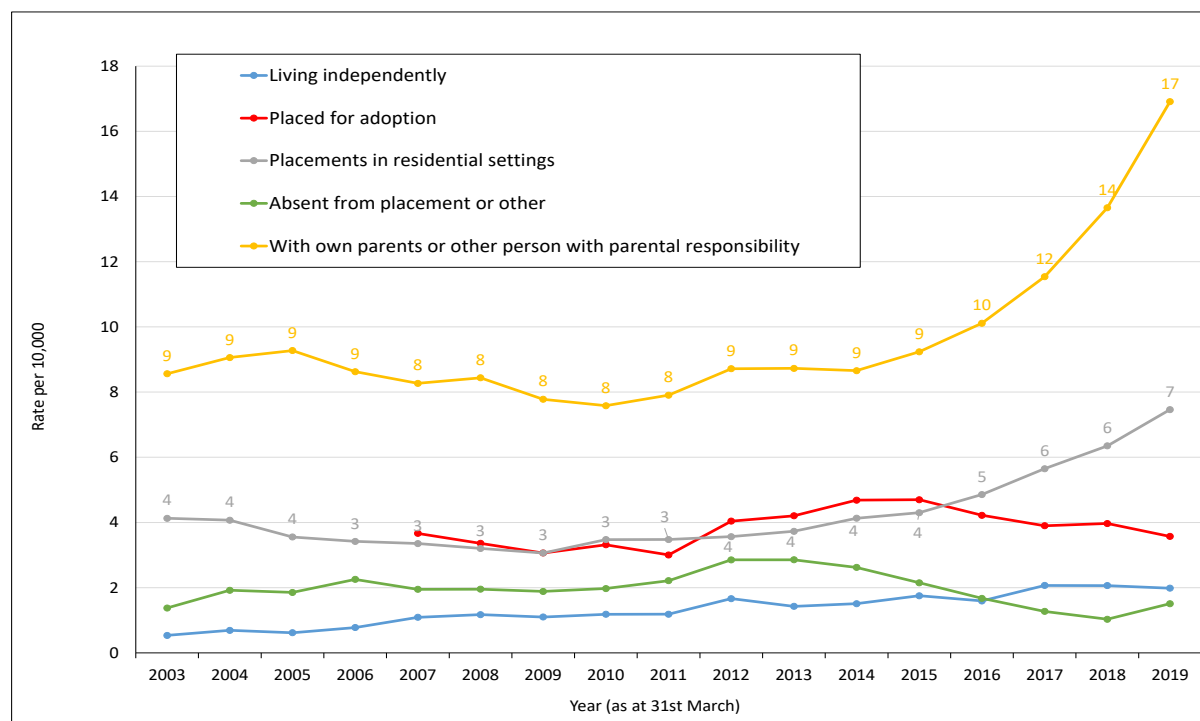
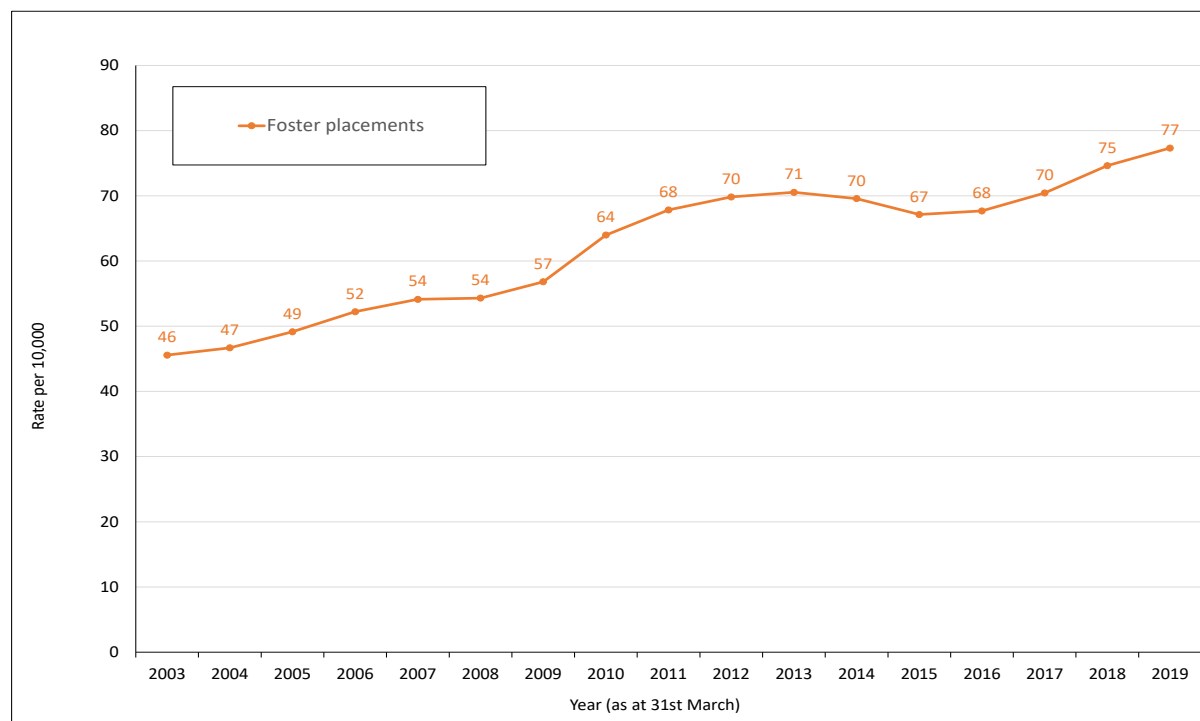


Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019i)

The numbers placed with parents have increased from 580 on 31st March 2015 to 1,065 on 31st March 2019 equivalent to an increase of 84% over five years. Nearly one in six children looked after are now placed with their own parents or another person with parental responsibility. During the same period, the numbers placed in residential settings such as secure units, children’s homes and hostels has increased by 75%, from 270 to 470. In

contrast the numbers placed for adoption have been falling since 2015 whilst those living independently have remained fairly stable over the last five years.

Figure 8: Rates per 10,000 Children, by Placement Type



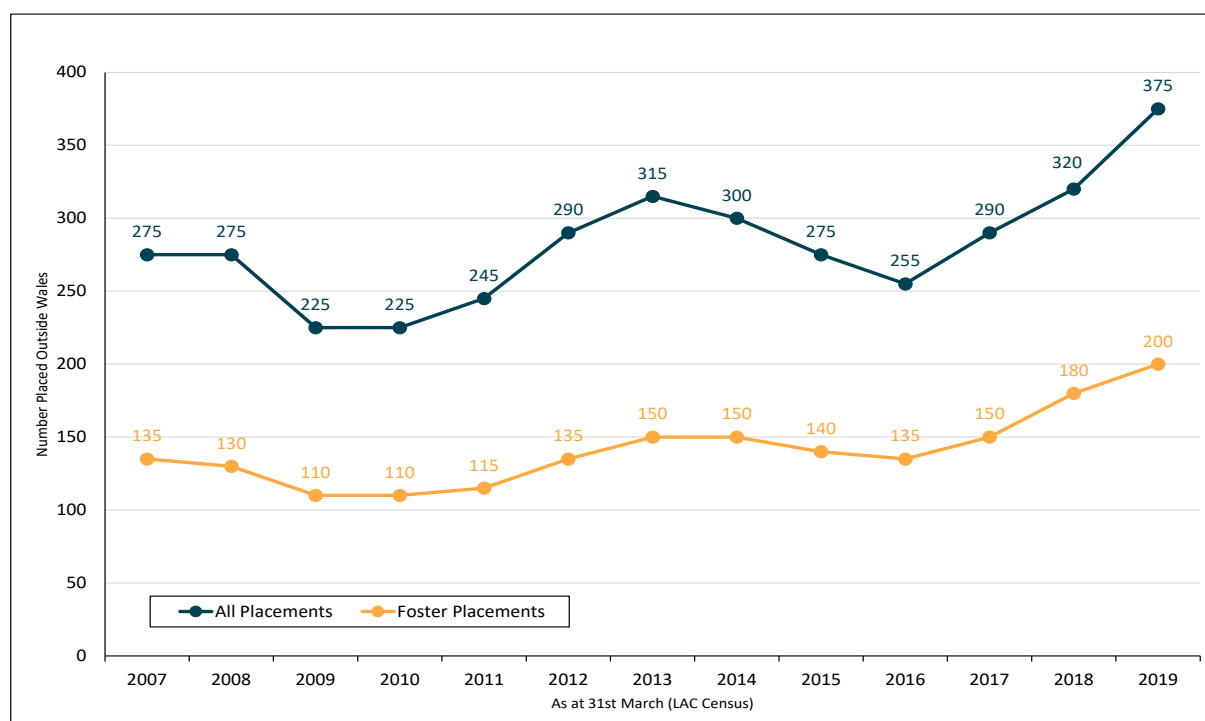
Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019d). Notes: Numbers have been converted into rates per 10,000 children using the Mid-Year Population Estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020). Foster placements have been shown on a separate chart to provide a clearer view of trends with regards to other placement types. The underlying data is summarised in the data annex.

Where are they living?

The majority (64%) of all children looked after are placed within their 'home' local authority although the proportion increases to 66% amongst those in foster placements. There can be many reasons for this, including placing the child with other family members or so that they can access specialist support or services which may not be available locally.

Around one in four (25%) are placed outside their local authority, but still in Wales. The proportion is slightly higher amongst those in foster placements (27%).

Figure 9: The Number of Children Looked After Placed Outside of Wales



Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019c; 2019h)

Around one in twenty (5.5%) children looked after are now placed outside Wales. As can be seen from Figure 9, the numbers have been rising since 2016. Potentially the number may be higher as in 2019 there were 5% for whom there was no postcode.⁴

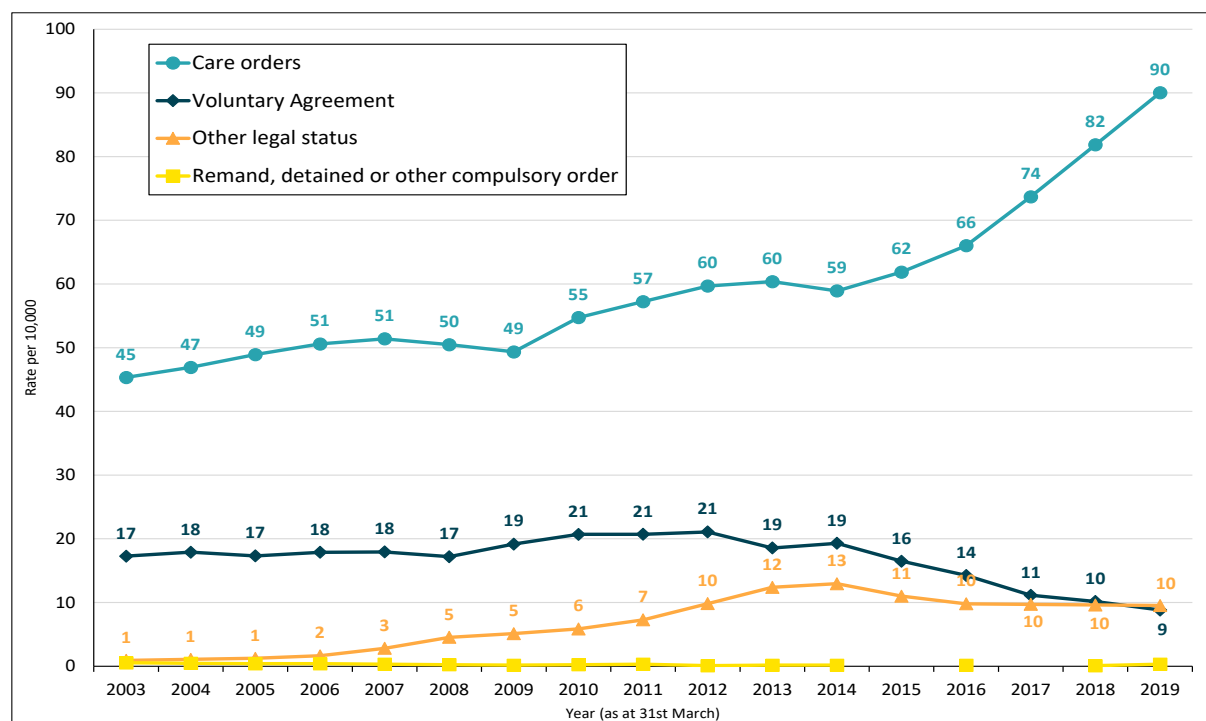
What is their legal status?

On 31st March 2019, just over four out of five (83%) children looked after was on a section 31 Care Order whilst 8% were accommodated for a single period under section 76 (previously section 20 of the 1989 Act). The remaining 9% were predominately

⁴ It is believed that this is an IT issue with the provider address having been used rather than that of the care setting.

accommodated under another legal status⁵ with 20 out of the 620 being on remand, detained or on another compulsory order.⁶

Figure 10: Rates per 10,000, by Legal Status



Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019b). Numbers have been converted into rates per 10,000 children using the Mid-Year Population Estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020).

Figure 10 summarises the increased use of care orders and declining use of section 76s respectively. Over the last five years, the number of children looked after on care orders has increased by 46% (from 3,885 to 5,670) whilst during the same period, the number accommodated for a single period of voluntary accommodation has decreased by 46% (from 1,035 to 555).

⁵ Other legal status includes those on remand, or committed for trial or sentence, and accommodated by LA; Detained in LA accommodation under PACE; Sentenced to CYPA 1969 supervision order with residence requirement; Under police protection and in local authority accommodation; Emergency protection order; Under child assessment order and local authority accommodation.

⁶ Includes freeing order granted; placement order granted; Wardship granted in High Court and child in LA accommodation.

Data Annex

Table A.1: Characteristics of the Respective Cohorts on 31st March 2019, by Source

		CRCS Census: All	CRCS Census: Other	CRCS Census: Child Protection	CRCS Census: Looked After	LAC Census: All
Gender	Male	9,090	4,350	1,135	3,600	3,695
	Female	7,330	3,180	1,075	3,075	3,150
Age	Under 1	770	240	190	340	385
	1 to 4	3,050	1,205	585	1,260	1,290
	5 to 9	4,385	2,120	685	1,575	1,600
	10 to 15	6,130	2,950	655	2,525	2,545
	16 and over	2,085	1,015	95	975	1,015
Ethnicity	White ⁽¹⁾	14,815	6,695	1,980	6,140	6,255
	Mixed ethnic group	490	195	55	235	235
	Asian or Asian British ⁽²⁾	285	135	35	115	125
	Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	200	100	10	90	105
	Other ethnic groups	175	95	30	55	125
	Refused / Not Obtained	455	315	105	35	*
Disability	Disabled	3,575	2,880	95	600	435
	Not Disabled	12,845	4,650	2,115	6,080	6,260
	Not Obtained					155
Total		16,420	7,530	2,215	6,675	6,845

Source: CRCS Census (Stats Wales, 2020c; 2020d; 2020e; 2020f), LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019a; 2019e) and Welsh Government (2019). Notes: (1) includes Travellers and Gypsy/Gypsy Roma. (2) includes Chinese and Chinese British. The data on Stats Wales is rounded to the nearest 5 and is subject to suppression. Where this has occurred, it is denoted by *.

Table A.2: Children Looked After, by Local Authority

	Number of Children Looked After					Net Change		Rate of Children Looked After					Net Change	
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 yrs	1 yr	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5 yrs	1 yr
Isle of Anglesey	90	110	140	145	145	55	0	65	80	104	107	109	44	2
Gwynedd	190	205	220	225	255	65	30	81	88	93	97	108	27	11
Conwy	155	170	180	210	210	55	0	72	78	83	98	97	25	-1
Denbighshire	160	175	160	165	165	5	0	83	89	82	85	85	2	-0
Flintshire	220	205	210	215	240	20	25	68	64	65	67	74	6	6
Wrexham	175	200	215	260	280	105	20	60	67	74	89	96	36	8
Powys	135	150	155	210	240	105	30	54	60	63	87	99	45	12
Ceredigion	80	80	75	60	65	-15	5	62	63	61	50	51	-11	1
Pembrokeshire	115	125	125	135	155	40	20	47	52	52	56	64	17	8
Carmarthenshire	240	215	205	195	185	-55	-10	64	58	56	52	49	-15	-3
Swansea	510	510	480	525	555	45	30	109	108	102	111	117	8	7
Neath Port Talbot	435	375	350	330	310	-125	-20	155	135	124	118	110	-45	-7
Bridgend	390	380	390	385	380	-10	-5	135	131	134	131	130	-5	-2
Vale of Glamorgan	185	195	230	240	285	100	45	69	73	85	89	103	34	13
Cardiff	650	645	725	830	900	250	70	89	88	98	112	120	31	9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	620	625	690	675	675	55	0	124	125	138	135	135	11	-1
Merthyr Tydfil	165	140	145	155	200	35	45	131	113	114	122	155	24	32
Caerphilly	270	275	325	385	435	165	50	70	71	85	100	114	44	14
Blaenau Gwent	135	190	210	235	220	85	-15	98	139	154	172	163	65	-9
Torfaen	290	270	320	365	415	125	50	150	142	167	191	216	66	26
Monmouthshire	110	130	135	140	175	65	35	60	73	75	79	98	38	19
Newport	285	295	280	325	370	85	45	86	88	83	94	106	20	12
Wales	5,610	5,660	5,960	6,405	6,845	1,235	440	89	90	95	102	109	20	7

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019e; 2019g).

Table A.3: Children Looked After, by Local Authority: Modelled Data

		Number on 31 st March					Modelled 2019 Data		
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Version 1	Version 2	Version 3
Isle of Anglesey		90	110	140	145	145	145	145	145
Gwynedd	↑	190	205	220	225	255	255	190	255
Conwy		155	170	180	210	210	210	210	210
Denbighshire		160	175	160	165	165	165	165	165
Flintshire		220	205	210	215	240	240	240	240
Wrexham	↑	175	200	215	260	280	280	175	280
Powys	↑	135	150	155	210	240	240	135	240
Ceredigion		80	80	75	60	65	65	65	65
Pembrokeshire	↑	115	125	125	135	155	155	115	155
Carmarthenshire		240	215	205	195	185	185	185	185
Swansea		510	510	480	525	555	555	555	555
Neath Port Talbot		435	375	350	330	310	310	310	310
Bridgend		390	380	390	385	380	380	380	380
Vale of Glamorgan	↑	185	195	230	240	285	285	185	285
Cardiff	↑	650	645	725	830	900	650	650	830
Rhondda Cynon Taf		620	625	690	675	675	675	675	675
Merthyr Tydfil		165	140	145	155	200	200	200	200
Caerphilly	↑	270	275	325	385	435	435	270	385
Blaenau Gwent		135	190	210	235	220	220	220	220
Torfaen	↑	290	270	320	365	415	415	290	365
Monmouthshire	↑	110	130	135	140	175	175	110	175
Newport		285	295	280	325	370	370	370	370
Wales		5,610	5,660	5,960	6,405	6,845	6,610	5,840	6,690

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019e). In modelling the data, version 1 uses the 2015 figure for Cardiff to illustrate the impact on the national figure had the country's largest authority not experienced any growth in its CLA cohort over the last five years. Version 2 'fixes' the cohort size at its 2015 level in the nine local authorities that experienced a significant upward trend in either the last three or five years – these are denoted by ↑. Version 3 'fixes' the cohort size at its 2018 level in the three local authorities that experienced the largest increases relative to the previous year. For reference, the four local authorities that experienced reductions relevant to the previous year as flagged with ↓.

Table A.4: Children Looked After by Age Group

	Number of Children Looked After					Indicative Rate per 10,000				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Under 1	290	300	360	360	385	86	90	111	111	118
1 to 4 years	990	1,015	1,065	1,180	1,290	70	73	77	85	93
5 to 9 years	1,345	1,320	1,375	1,475	1,600	75	72	74	80	87
10 to 15 years	2,035	2,085	2,165	2,380	2,545	102	104	106	117	125
16 to 17 years	945	940	975	1,000	1,015	130	133	141	145	147
Total exc 18 year olds	5,605	5,660	5,940	6,395	6,845	89	90	95	102	109

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019f). Mid-year population estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020).

Table A.5: Children Looked After by Gender

	Number of Children Looked After					Indicative Rate per 10,000				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	3,020	3,025	3,205	3,475	3,695	94	94	99	108	114
Female	2,595	2,640	2,750	2,930	3,150	85	86	90	96	103
Total exc 18 year olds	5,605	5,660	5,940	6,395	6,845	89	90	95	102	109

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019f). Mid-year population estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020).

Table A.6: Children Looked After by Placement

	Number of Children Looked After					Indicative Rate per 10,000				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Foster Care	4,215	4,250	4,425	4,700	4,870	67	68	70	75	77
Placed for Adoption	295	265	245	250	225	5	4	4	4	4
Residential Setting	270	305	355	400	470	4	5	6	6	7
With Parents	580	635	725	860	1,065	9	10	12	14	17
Living Independently	110	100	130	130	125	2	2	2	2	2
Absent or Other	135	105	80	65	95	2	2	1	1	2
Total	5,605	5,660	5,940	6,395	6,845	89	90	95	102	109

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019d). Notes: Numbers have been converted into rates per 10,000 children using the Mid-Year Population Estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020).

Table A.7: Children Looked After by Foster Placement

	Number of Children Looked After					Percentage				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kinship	845	900	1010	1,200	1,350	20%	21%	23%	25%	28%
Non-Kinship	3,380	3,355	3,400	3,520	3,520	80%	79%	77%	75%	72%
Within Local Authority	3,015	3,025	3,160	3,355	3,415	71%	71%	72%	71%	70%
Outside Local Authority	1,210	1,225	1,250	1,365	1,455	29%	29%	28%	29%	30%
Total in Foster Care	4,215	4,250	4,425	4,700	4,870	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019i).

Table A.8: Children Looked After by Legal Status

	Number of Children Looked After					Indicative Rate per 10,000				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Care Orders	3,885	4,145	4,630	5,255	5,670	62	66	74	82	90
Voluntary Agreement	1,035	895	700	640	555	16	14	11	10	9
Remand, Detained or Other Compulsory Order	*	10	*	5	20	*	0	*	0	0
Other Legal Status	690	615	610	605	600	11	10	10	10	10
Total	5,605	5,660	5,940	6,395	6,845	89	90	95	102	109

Source: LAC Census (Stats Wales, 2019b). Numbers have been converted into rates per 10,000 children using the Mid-Year Population Estimates by age for each local authority, 2001 to 2019 (Office for National Statistics, 2020). The data on Stats Wales is rounded to the nearest five and is subject to suppression. Where this has occurred, it is denoted by *.

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