

Making Britain Great for Children and Families

Statistical Sources

Background statistics

- 3.5 million (one in four) children are living in poverty, with 1.6 million in severe poverty¹
- Over one million young people aged 16-24 are not in employment, education or training²
- 500,000 families in this country are 'just coping,' dropping in and out of crisis³
- 1 in 5 of children have a mental health problem⁴
- 33% of girls and 20% of boys are 'distressed' by their body image⁵
- Almost 70,000 children are in care ('looked after') at any one time⁶
- There were 600,000 referrals to child protection services in 2012 alone⁷
- Children in care are four to five times more likely to have mental health issues than their peers and are more likely to end up homeless or in prison⁸
- Only 1% of care leavers go to university, compared to 37% of all young people⁹
- Children in care are ten times more likely to be excluded from school than other children¹⁰
- A third of homeless people and 23% of the adult prison population were formerly in care¹¹
- Over 20% of women who leave care between the ages of 16 and 19 become mothers within a year¹²
- Children in care are three times more likely to run away than other children¹³
- The UK spends around 60% of its children's services' budget, accounting for over £2 billion each year, on the care system¹⁴

¹ Barnardos [Child Poverty Statistics and Facts](#)

² ONS (2013) [Young People not in Education, Employment or Training, November 2013](#)

³ Riots Communities and Victims Panel (2012) [After the Riots](#)

⁴ Mental Health Foundation [Mental Health Statistics: Children and Young People](#)

⁵ Micali, N et al. (2013) [Frequency and Patterns of Eating Disorder Symptoms in Early Adolescence](#) Journal of Adolescent Health

⁶ Department for Education (2013) [Children looked after in England \(including adoption and care leavers\) year ending 31 March 2013](#)

⁷ Department for Education (2013) [Supporting social workers to provide help and protection to children](#)

⁸ Centre for Social Justice (2008) [Children in Care Commission Report: Breakthrough Britain - Couldn't Care Less](#)

⁹ Jackson, S, Ajayi, S, Quigley, M. (2003) 'By Degrees: the first year, from care to university'. The Frank Buttle Trust, London referred to in Barnardos (2006) [Failed By The System: The views of young care leavers on their educational experiences](#)

¹⁰ Department of Health (2003) [Outcome Indicators for Looked after Children: Twelve months to 30 September 2002](#)

¹¹ Centre for Social Justice (2008) Children in Care Commission Report: Breakthrough Britain - Couldn't Care Less

¹² Centre for Social Justice (2008) Children in Care Commission Report: Breakthrough Britain - Couldn't Care Less

¹³ APPG for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults and the APPG for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (2012) [Report from the Joint Inquiry into children who go missing from care](#)

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- In Britain today almost 1 million children (950,000) grow up in a household with domestic violence¹⁵
 - 2.6 million children grow up in a household where a parent drinks hazardously¹⁶
 - 20% of parents have a mental health problem¹⁷
 - Every year, we spend £9bn on managing and containing the crisis that we have already allowed to escalate and which could have been prevented¹⁸
 - We know that families can turnaround their problems with the right support and our research shows that 91% of the public agree¹⁹
 - 67% of parents say the lack of available childcare is limiting their ability to work²⁰
 - 18% of households say they have a serious burden of debt²¹
 - 67% of women are now working²²
 - 11.5% of children are starting school without essential behavioural skills²³
 - 33% of children entering secondary school in England are overweight²⁴
 - 46% of children have been bullied at school and 38% of children have experienced cyber bullying²⁵
 - 75% of children do not travel to and from school independently²⁶
 - 2,500 children have experienced sexual exploitation in gangs with a further 16,500 at risk²⁷
 - 250,000 new homes per year are needed to meet demand over the next twenty years²⁸
 - 120,000 families have multiple and complex problems²⁹

¹⁴ Department for Education (2013) 2013-14 [Planned Expenditure on Schools, Education, Children and Young People's Services by Local Authorities](#), published 24 September 2013

¹⁵ 4Children (2012) [Give Me Strength: The Enemy Within](#)

¹⁶ 4Children (2012) [Give Me Strength: Over The Limit](#)

¹⁷ Ofsted (2013) [Children whose parents have mental health difficulties are poorly supported and protected](#)

¹⁸ DCLG (2013) [The Fiscal Case for Working with Troubled Families](#)

¹⁹ 4Children (2011) [Give Me Strength Campaign](#)

²⁰ Government Childcare Commission / Netmums (2013) [The Childcare Barrier](#)

²¹ ONS (2013) [The Burden of Household Debt, by Household Type: Great Britain, 2008/10 \(Excel sheet 31Kb\)](#)

²² ONS (2013) [Women in the labour market \(PDF\)](#)

²³ Demos (2010) [Ex Curricula](#)

²⁴ Health and Social Care Information Centre (2013) [National Child Measurement Programme - England, 2012-13 school year](#)

²⁵ NSPCC (2013) [Statistics on bullying](#)

²⁶ Policy Studies Institute (2013) Children's independent mobility: a comparative study in England and Germany (1971-2010) http://www.psi.org.uk/site/publication_detail/852

²⁷ Children's Commissioner (2013) [Ending Gang and Youth Violence Review 2012-13](#)

²⁸ Shelter (2013) [Solutions for the housing shortage: How to build the 250,000 homes we need each year](#)

²⁹ DCLG (2013) [Helping troubled families turn their lives around](#)

YouGov Polling: December 2013

All of the below figures are from a YouGov poll undertaken on 4Children's behalf in December 2013. The total sample size was 2,221 adults across the UK. Fieldwork was undertaken between 20th-23rd December 2013. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults (aged 18+)

Family Life Harder

- 56% of parents (8.7 million) believe that family life is harder today than it was 20 years ago

Family Friendly Services

- Only 28% of people (14 million) think childcare services are family friendly
- Only 8% of people (4 million) think local councils are family friendly
- Only 45% of people (22.5 million) think schools are family friendly
- Only 33% of people (16.5 million) think GPs' practices are family friendly
- Only 28% of people think hospitals are family friendly
- Only 2% of people think job centres are family friendly

Neighbourhoods

- 27% of parents (4.2 million) don't think their neighbourhood is a good one for children to grow up in. This means 3.6 million children are growing up in areas that their parents believe are not good for them

Worse Life for Children

- 35% of parents (5.4 million) think their/today's children will have a worse life than them

Public Services

- 56% of people (28 million) think public services should be aimed at families

Positive Differences to Family Life (NB question only asked of parents)

- 29% of parents think having more family friendly policies in the workplace would make the most real positive difference to their family life
- 27% of parents think having more parks/open places for children to play in would make the most real positive difference to their family life
- 24% of parents think having more affordable, flexible or accessible childcare would make the most real positive difference to their family life
- 27% of parents think having better housing would make the most real positive difference to their family life
- 28% of parents think having better support from local public services (e.g. Children's Centres; GPs' practices etc) would make the most real positive difference to their family life