



Methodology note

Kinship care constituency map: kinship.org.uk/constituency-map

Where mentioned below, 'relevant mapped local authority/ies' refers to the 'best fit' local authority area which covers each parliamentary constituency in England or Wales. Where a constituency boundary included areas based in two or more local authorities, an average of the relevant local authority figures was taken.

Number of children in kinship care

The number of children in kinship care is an estimate. This is calculated by first taking the average proportion of kinship households for the relevant mapped local authority/ies and multiplying this by the number of households with dependents in each constituency to generate a constituency-level kinship households figure.

This is then scaled to reflect the average number of children per kinship household and then to account for kinship children living in households of 6 or more (as source figures only include kinship households containing 5 or fewer people) to generate an estimate of the number of kinship children at a constituency level.

These estimates are based on ONS analysis of Census 2021 data.

Prevalence of kinship children

The prevalence figure and accompanying ranking is an estimate. This is calculated by dividing the estimated number of children in kinship care (see above) by the estimated number of children aged 0-17 in each constituency.

Number of children in local authority care

The number of children in local authority care is an estimate. This is calculated by taking the average prevalence figure of looked after for the relevant mapped local authority/ies and applying this to the estimated number of children aged 0-17 in each constituency.

In the vast majority of constituencies across England and Wales (91%), the estimated number of children in kinship care exceeds the number of children in local authority care, illustrating what we know about the scale of kinship care. On average, there are 89 more children in kinship care in each constituency than in local authority care.

However, there is a degree of overlap across the two cohorts: a small proportion of children in kinship care are also looked after in local authority care in kinship foster placements (about 10% across England and Wales). Put another way, around 15% of children in local authority care in England and 23% in Wales are also in kinship care.

Cost savings associated with diversion to kinship care

This finding is taken from modelling completed by Nicol Economics and includes an assumption that the kinship carers of those children diverted from local authority care would receive a financial allowance to support the costs of raising the children in their care.

Regional figures

The percentages of kinship carers living in each English region or in Wales: who rated the support received by their local authority as poor or very poor; who have been unable to take on the care of a brother or sister to a kinship child already in their care; and who are concerned they won't be

able to continue caring for their kinship children in the next year if their situation doesn't improve are taken from Kinship's 2023 annual survey of kinship carers.

The number of children at risk of entering local authority care is an estimate calculated by taking the relevant regional percentage of kinship carers concerned about continuing of the estimated number of children in kinship care in that region.

Sources

Department for Education (2023) [Children looked after in England including adoptions: Reporting year 2023](#) [Published 16 November 2023]

Nicol Economics for Grandparents Plus (2020) [Kinship Care: The Opportunity](#)

Kinship (2023) [Breaking Point: kinship carers in crisis](#). Further information about our 2023 annual survey cohort [can be found here](#).

Office for National Statistics (2024) [OA \(2021\) to Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies \(July 2024\) Best Fit Lookup in EW](#) [File added 8 February 2024]

Office for National Statistics (2024) [Parliamentary constituency population estimates \(official statistics in development\)](#) [Published 19 March 2024]

Office for National Statistics (2024) [Dependent children in household and their age - indicator](#) [Custom dataset created using Census 2021 data]

Office for National Statistics (2023) [Kinship care in England and Wales: Census 2021](#) [Published 6 September 2023]

Welsh Government (2023) [Children looked after at 31 March per 10,000 population aged under 18 by local authority](#) [Last updated 27 February 2024]

Office for National Statistics (2024) [Dependent children in household and their age - indicator](#) [Custom dataset created using Census 2021 data]