

Evidence Request Bank

Development Project

EVIDENCE RESPONSE

Family households:

How have family households in Scotland changed over 2001-2011?

This trends and statistics report was produced as part of the Evidence Request Bank Development Project (2013-14). The request concerns the changing shape of family households in Scotland over 10 years (2001 – 2011). This report outlines key points, gives comments on the range and type of existing relevant data, and reports on data. The appendices give search details, keywords used and references.

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<http://evidencerequestbank.org/>

The Evidence Request Bank Development Project is seeking to develop an evidence request service model for the children and families sector in Scotland. It produces and shares appraised summaries of evidence for the third and public sectors in direct response to practice needs, and supports practitioners to use evidence in practice.

This project builds on piloting work carried out as part of a Big Lottery Funded knowledge exchange project, About Families (2010-2013) <http://aboutfamilies.org.uk/> which was a collaboration between the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, Capability Scotland and Parenting across Scotland.

The Evidence Request Bank Development Project is a partnership between the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, West Lothian Council, Parenting across Scotland, Children in Scotland, and the Scottish Government. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, with additional funding from the Scottish Government and Parenting Across Scotland.



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1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

Why was this report requested?

This Evidence Response was requested by Parenting across Scotland (PAS).

Parenting across Scotland and its partners work with thousands of families throughout Scotland. We know that there is no such thing as an average or 'normal' family – each family is unique with its own strengths and challenges. In addition, services report that they are seeing changes in how families are constituted. So, what do households look like in Scotland today, and how have they changed in recent years? What does this mean for policies and services that aim to support families?

We hope that the evidence gathered in this report will enable those who support families to plan services that better meet their needs. To this end, PAS will be hosting a seminar in May 2014 to share this evidence widely with policymakers, local authorities, health boards, community planning partnerships and voluntary organisations. We hope that this evidence will increase the knowledge about families in Scotland today, but more importantly we hope it will have positive impact on how families are supported.

This report seeks to address the evidence request **'How have family households in Scotland changed over 2001-2011?'** It aims to give service providers up-to-date and accurate information about family households in Scotland, which they can use to ensure that children and families are receiving the services and support they need.

In addition to providing a broad overview of the changing shape of the family household between 2001-2011, the report gives specific consideration to the evidence base and availability of data relating to a range of different family types including but not limited to lone parent families, grandparent-headed families, step-families, adoptive families, fostering families, families affected by prison and families affected by disability.

The report also considers the evidence base and the availability of data relating to a number of key issues affecting families and children across Scotland, namely; the number and ages of children in households, parental working patterns, relationship breakdown, children in care, kinship care and ethnicity.

The report:

- outlines key terms and definitions stating how they will be used in the report;
- presents key points detailing broad trends and changes in family households across Scotland over 2001-2011;

- provides an overview of the evidence landscape detailing the breadth and depth of available evidence, noting gaps in the evidence base and describing the data sources which the report draws upon;
- Presents findings under the following headings: households and families; family formation and dissolution; children in need of care; families affected by disability and parental working patterns.

Throughout the report, statistics for England and Wales are also presented to allow for comparisons with what is happening in Scotland.

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

The report uses a number of key terms when considering household composition and families. Definitions are based on 2001 and 2011 Census classifications and those provided by the Office of National Statistics ([ONS](#)). Whilst definitions amongst datasets are broadly similar, any variations across sources, where they occur, will be highlighted.

- **Household:** one person living alone or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area.
- **Family household:** a married, civil partnered or cohabiting couple (with or without children), or a lone parent with at least one child.
- **Dependent children:** Dependent children are those living with their parent(s) and either (a) aged under 16, or (b) aged 16 to 18 in full-time education, excluding children aged 16 to 18 who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household.
- **Non-dependent children:** Non-dependent children are those living with their parent(s), and either (a) aged 19 or over, or (b) aged 16 to 18 who are not in full-time education or who have a spouse, partner or child living in the household. Non-dependent children are sometimes called adult children.
- **Single carer:** In the discussion of kinship care, carers who are described as single are those who were never married, divorce, separated or widowed (Nandy et al. 2011:83).
- **Percentage point:** The arithmetic difference between two percentages is described in terms of percentage points. Percentage points are used to compare data and in the context of this report to discuss changes over time. In contrast, percent (%) is used to describe change relative to the initial value. For example, an increase of 10% from 50,000 = 55,000; an increase of 10 percentage points from 50,000 = 60,000.

Census household classifications

As this report is based largely on Census data, it adopts the household classifications used in the currently available Census reports. Table 1 details the categories into which the Census classifies households which will be referred to throughout the report.

Table 1: Census household classifications

Type of household	Person(s) in household	Category label
Household with one person living alone	Person aged under 65	One-person household
	Person aged 65 or over	
Family household (who do not live with any non-family members or include more than two generations)	All persons in family aged 65 and over	All aged 65 and over family
	A married couple or same-sex civil partnered couple (with or without children), where at least one person is aged under 65	Married or civil partnered couple family
	A cohabiting couple (with or without children), where at least one person is aged under 65	Cohabiting couple family
	A lone parent living with at least one child, regardless of whether or not the child is dependent	Lone parent family
Other households	All persons in full-time education	Other households
	Other households, e.g. two or more families	

Source: National Records of Scotland (2013c: 16)

Limitations of the Census classifications

There are a number of limitations to the Census household classifications which it is important to bear in mind.

- The 2011 Census reports currently available do not provide a breakdown of married/civil partnered household. The category of same-sex civil partnership was introduced to the Census in 2011. In current Census reports, same-sex civil partnership has been included within the married category to allow for comparison with 2001 data. Consequently, it is difficult to assess how much civil partnerships have contributed to changes in the proportion of married households between 2001 and 2011. Current evidence from the Census does tell us that in 2011 some 7,000 people reported their relationship status as being in a registered civil partnership

compared with 1,982,000 who reported their relationship as married. The contribution of civil partnership to changes in the category of married couple households is, therefore, likely to be small.

- Currently available reports do not distinguish between married/civil partnered households with and without children.
- A breakdown of 'Other' household types is not available in current reports and it is therefore not possible to report proportions of particular types of other households which may be of interest such as multi-generational families.

3. SUMMARY POINTS

Households and families

- **Number of households:** There were 2.4 million households in Scotland in 2011; an increase of 0.2 million, 8 percentage points, since 2001. Over this period, the increase in the number of households was greater than the increase in population resulting in larger numbers of smaller households. There was a particular increase in levels of people living alone.
- **Type of household:** Increases in the number of people living alone resulted in single person households being the most common household type in 2011. Whilst married couple households were the most common household type in 2001, the trend towards single person households coupled with rising levels of cohabitating couple households, resulted in decreased levels of married/civil partnered households. Levels of lone parent households remained stable across 2001-2011.
- **Family households:** The proportion of all households classed as family households fell from 62% in 2001 to 60% in 2011. Married / civil partnered couple households remained the most common type of family household between 2001 and 2011. However, levels of such households as a proportion of all family households fell over the same period due to increasing levels of cohabiting couple family households. Levels of lone parent family households remained stable between 2001 and 2011.
- **Dependent children:** In 2011, 26% of households included dependent children a decrease of two percentage points from 2001. There were a total of 1.0 million dependent children living in 614,000 family households in 2011, with married / civil partnered family households more likely to have children than cohabiting couple households. The trend towards smaller households saw increasing levels of family households with only one dependent child, with almost a third of children growing up in a household without siblings. Levels of family households with two or more dependent children fell.
- **Minority ethnic groups:** The proportion of the total population of Scotland who described themselves as 'white Scottish' fell by four percentage points between 2001 and 2011. This was mainly attributable to increases in the population of both non-British white minority ethnic groups and non-white minority ethnic groups. Levels of both groups as a proportion of the total population doubled between 2001 and 2011 from 2% to 4% for each group.

Family formation and dissolution

- **Marriage:** Levels of marriage remained relatively stable over the period 2001 -2011 fluctuating around 30,000 per year. In 2011, 29,135 marriages took place in Scotland, a decrease of approximately 2% from 2001. Delays in marrying due to increasing numbers of couples cohabiting before marriage and rising levels of remarriages saw the average age at marriage increase between 2001 and 2011 from 34.8 to 37.0 for men and 32.3 to 34.5 for women.
- **Civil partnerships:** In 2011, 554 civil partnerships were registered in Scotland. Following their introduction by the Civil Partnership Act 2004, 2011 was the first year to show an increase in the number of civil partnership registrations following four consecutive annual decreases from the peak of 1,047 registrations in 2006.
- **Births:** Following a record low in 2001, the average number of births to childbearing women was seen to increase peaking in 2008, before entering a period of gradual decline up to 2011. Despite a decline from 2008, the number of births and the total fertility rate¹ in 2011 remained higher than in 2001. The period 2001-2011 saw a continuation of the pattern of delayed child-bearing with fertility rates highest for women aged 25-29 and 30-34. Reflective of decreasing numbers of married couple families and increasing levels of cohabitation, there was a notable decrease in the number of births registered to married parents, with slightly over half of all births in 2011 being registered to unmarried parents.
- **Adoptions:** The period 2001 -2011 saw a 6% increase in the number of adoptions recorded in Scotland.
- **Divorces and dissolutions:** There were 9,862 divorces granted in Scotland in 2011 a decrease of 7% from 2001. Forty-four dissolutions of civil partnerships were granted in 2011, the fourth consecutive year of increases following the first dissolutions granted in 2007.

Children in need of care

- **Looked after children:** At July 2011 there were 16,231 looked after children in Scotland, an increase of 49% since 2001.

¹ The total fertility rate is a measure of the number of children women will have over their childbearing years and is explained further in the text. It is a statistical summary and results in a number between 1 and 2, but of course nobody has a fraction of a child.

- In both 2001 and 2011 the majority of looked after children were cared for in the family home. Numbers of looked after children staying with foster carers, prospective adopters or in other community placements rose between 2001 and 2011 whilst levels of looked after children staying in residential care fell.
- **Kinship care:** In Scotland in 2001, just over 1% of all children were in kinship care. Of these children, the vast majority were in informal kinship care with only a small minority in formal kinship care. In 2011 the number of children in formal kinship care was nearly four times that in 2001.

Families affected by disability

- Levels of disability remained stable over the period 2001-2011 with one in five people in Scotland living with a long-term activity-limiting health problem.
- **Dependent children:** In both 2001 and 2011 the vast majority of households with someone with a long-term health problem or disability did not contain dependent children.
- **Carers:** The proportion of people in Scotland providing unpaid care to family members or friends remained stable between 2001 and 2011. The number of hours spent providing care however had increased between 2001 and 2011.

Parental working patterns

- In 2011, 74% of working age men and 64% of working age women were economically active, respective increases of two and five percentage points from 2001.
- **Full-time and part-time employment:** Levels of part-time and full-time employment increased between 2001 and 2011 for both men and women. However, there remained significant differences between the sexes in the type of economic activity undertaken with women remaining far more likely to be in part-time employment and far less likely to be in full-time employment than men. In addition, women with children remained considerably more likely to engage in part-time employment than women without children.
- **Home and family:** Whilst levels of economic inactivity decreased for both men and women between 2001 and 2011, proportions of those who were economically inactive on account of looking after the home or family increased for both sexes. The

proportion of men undertaking this role increased from 1% in 2001 to 3% in 2011. Women, however, remain far more likely to be looking after the home or family than men. In 2011, women were six times more likely to fulfil this role than men.

- **Lone parents:** Consistent with broader trends, levels of economic activity and the number of hours worked by lone parents increased notably between 2001 and 2011 for both men and women. However, lone mothers remained considerably more likely to be in part-time employment and less likely to be in full-time employment than lone fathers.

4. COMMENTS ON THE DATA

4.1. SUMMARY

There is a wealth of data available on families and children in Scotland. The Censuses provide the most representative and reliable data about Scotland's population, demographics and distribution. A number of high quality surveys including, but not limited to, the Scottish Household Survey, the Labour Force Survey, the Growing Up in Scotland Study and the Millennium Cohort Study also provide valuable data about families and children in Scotland. Finally a range of official statistics published by the General Registrar Office for Scotland and the Scottish Government provide information about trends affecting families and children. The available evidence and data allows much of the evidence request to be addressed, allowing consideration to be given to a wide range of family types and to a number of key issues affecting families and children in Scotland. In addition, as the Census is conducted every ten years, the most recent being in 2011, and as official statistics are collected and published on an annual basis by the Scottish Government and the General Register Office for Scotland, the wealth of available data sources are ideally suited to considering how families in Scotland have changed over 2001-2011.

As will be seen, the report on the data which follows does not draw upon the Growing Up in Scotland and Millennium Cohort studies. This decision was informed by a number of considerations. Firstly, neither study fits within the time points under consideration in this report, namely 2001 and 2011. The Growing Up in Scotland study commenced data collection in 2005 and therefore cannot be used to explore change between the relevant time points. Whilst the Millennium Cohort study commenced data collection in 2001, no data collection was undertaken in 2011 thereby again precluding its use to examine change between the relevant time points. More importantly, both the Growing Up in Scotland and Millennium Cohort studies are birth cohort studies and as such focus on specific groups of children. This report seeks to provide a broad picture of families in Scotland as opposed to focussing on particular age groups thereby limiting the usefulness of these datasets in this specific context. Having said that, this report does occasionally draw on these studies for

illustrative purposes, where there is lack of Census evidence. However, the informed decision not to include these studies should not be seen to detract from their importance and the valuable contribution they make to the evidence landscape in Scotland and throughout the UK. As such, brief consideration will now be given to each of these studies in turn.

The Growing Up in Scotland study ([GUS](#))

Growing Up in Scotland is a large-scale longitudinal study which currently seeks to follow the lives of three cohorts of Scottish children from birth, throughout childhood and beyond. The three cohorts of children who have taken part in GUS are as follows:

- **Child cohort:** Approximately 3000 children born between June 2002 and May 2003. Four ‘sweeps’ of data were collected from families when the child was aged just under three years to just under six years. There are currently no plans to undertake further data collection with this cohort.
- **Birth cohort 1:** Approximately 5000 children born between June 2004 and May 2005. Data collection occurred annually when children were between the ages of ten months and just six years. Further data collection has occurred/will occur periodically collected until children are in primary six.
- **Birth cohort 2:** Approximately 6000 children born between March 2010 and February 2011. Three sweeps of data have currently been collected from families when children were aged ten months, just under three years and just under five years.

The study collects information on a wide range of topics and as such is a valuable resource not only for policy-makers and academics but for those working directly with children and families. GUS is concerned with all areas of children’s lives including the following key domains:

- Cognitive, social, emotional and behavioural development
- Physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Childcare, education and employment
- Home, family, community and social networks
- Involvement in offending and risky behaviour

A large number of reports using GUS data have been published covering a wide range of topics all of which are available here <http://growingupinScotland.org.uk/publications>.

The Millennium Cohort study (MCS)

The Millennium Cohort study is a large-scale longitudinal study aimed at tracking the lives of approximately 19,000 children born in the UK in 2000-01 from childhood into adulthood. Five sweeps of data collection have been carried out so far when the children were nine months, three, five, seven and eleven years.

The study covers a wide range of topics including, but not limited to, parenting, childcare, education, child development, health, poverty, housing and neighbourhood.

A large number of wide-ranging publications using MCS data have been published and can be searched for here <http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk/Bibliography>.

4.2. GAPS IN DATA

Despite the wealth of evidence and data available, there are notable gaps in both the evidence base and available data about a number of key issues affecting children and families in Scotland. *It is important to make a distinction between a lack of evidence and a lack of data.*

What is lack of evidence? Lack of evidence means that raw data does exist which would allow a particular issue to be analysed but that such analysis has not as of yet been undertaken and reported upon.

What is lack of data? Lack of data specifically means that data about particular issue has not been collected.

There was a lack of evidence and / or data relating to a number of family types and issues detailed in the evidence request including:

- **Families affected by imprisonment:** There is very little statistical evidence regarding families affected by prison. The Annual Prison Statistics & Population Projections do not provide details of the family circumstances of prisoners. The Scottish Prison Service Prisoner Survey 2011 did however provide details of the numbers of prisoners with children reporting that just under half of those taking part in the prisoner survey had children (48%). Of those prisoners with children, 46% had one child, 27% had two children, 12% had three children and the remaining 11% had four or more children. Clearly there are a large number of children and families across Scotland affected by imprisonment and it is important that this gap in both evidence base and raw data is addressed.
- **Relationship breakdown:** Changes in family form mean gathering and reporting of evidence regarding relationship breakdown is increasingly complex. Official divorce

statistics in Scotland do not provide details of whether there are any children of the marriage. Furthermore there are increasing numbers of couples who cohabit and increasing numbers of children born out-with marriage and the breakdown of these relationships is difficult to capture as they can be severed without the need for legal proceedings.

A number of surveys have looked at the issue of relationship breakdown specifically where there are children including the Growing Up in Scotland and Millennium Cohort studies. For example, the Growing Up in Scotland Study shows that approximately one in ten children (11%) experienced parental separation in the first five years of their lives. For two-thirds of these families, 7% of all the children, the separation marked a transition into a relatively sustained period of lone parenthood (Chanfreau et al. 2011).

- **Step-families:** There is a real lack of evidence about step-families across Scotland. However the raw Census data does allow for step-families to be analysed. The 2001 Census was the first census to allow the identification of step-families. Office for National Statistics (ONS) analysis of the 2001 Census provided details of the numbers and types of step-families indicating that there were 0.7 million step-families across the UK in 2001. Similar analysis has not yet been conducted using the 2011 Census to allow consideration of changes in the intervening ten years. Given the large numbers of step-families across Scotland in 2001 this is an issue which most definitely merits in-depth analysis using the 2011 Census data. Some consideration will be given to step-families in this report when considering the issue of adoption.

As with the issue of relationship breakdown, the Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) study is again a valuable source of evidence in relation to specific sub-groups of children and families. GUS data tells us that in their first five years of life, 4% of children born in 2004/5 experienced their parents separating and a mother's new partner joining their household. An additional 4% who had no father in their household at birth had their father come to live with them whilst 3% are children of lone parents who re-partner and the partner comes to live with them. Consequently, 11% of these children experienced a new parent-like figure moving into their home in their first five years of life and 7% of these arrangements might be called step-families. (Chanfreau et al. (2011).

4.3. DATA USED IN THIS REPORT

As noted there is a wealth of evidence and data relating to families and children in Scotland. This report draws upon the following Scottish data sources:

- **Scottish Census, 2001 and 2011:** Censuses provide the most representative and reliable data about a country's population, demographics and distribution. The Scottish Census is the official means of recording data about every person and household in Scotland and takes place every 10 years. It collects information about a wide range of topics including household composition, ethnicity, identity, language and religion, participation in the labour market, housing and accommodation, education, health and transport. Despite a number of limitations in currently available reports on the 2011 Census discussed above, the Censuses remain the most appropriate and accurate data source available to consider family types and a range of issues affecting families across Scotland between 2001 and 2011.
- **Scottish Household Survey:** The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous cross-sectional survey² based on a sample of the general population in private residences in Scotland. The survey started in 1999 and information on a variety of topics including the composition, characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of Scottish households and individuals making it a valuable source of information about a range of issues affecting families and children across Scotland.
- **General Registrar Office for Scotland (GROS) statistics:** The General Registrar Office for Scotland collects, analyses and publishes a wide range of statistical information about Scotland's population. The Annual Reviews published by GROS contain a wealth of information including details of births, deaths, marriages, civil partnerships, divorces, dissolutions and adoptions.
- **The Children's Social Work Statistics for Scotland:** The Scottish Government publishes annual statistics bringing together a wide range of information on children's social work in Scotland including looked after children, child protection and children and young people in secure care and close support accommodation. Detailed information is provided about the characteristics of these children including, but not limited to, gender, age group, ethnicity, disability status and accommodation type.

² A continuous cross-sectional survey asks the same questions at different time-points to a new sample of people on each occasion.

5. REPORT ON THE DATA

5.1. HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES

HOUSEHOLDS

In 2011 there were 2.4 million households in Scotland, an increase of 8% (almost 0.2 million) since 2001. Over this period, the number of households increased faster than the number of people in households meaning that average household size has decreased and greater numbers of people are living alone or in smaller households. This trend is not new; a consistent pattern of households becoming more numerous but smaller in size has been evident since the 1970s. Factors influencing this trend may include, decreasing fertility rates, increasing levels of divorce or uncoupling, longevity and greater numbers of people choosing to live alone or being left to live alone after bereavement or uncoupling.

One person households were the most common type of household, increasing by two percentage points to account for over a third (35%) of all households in 2011. This rise is also the main factor contributing to the increase in the total number of households, and corresponding decrease in statistical average household size. Of one person households in 2011:

- The most common type accounting for 22% (511,000) consisted of one person aged under 65 living alone, as compared to 20% in 2001
- 13% (312,000) comprised one person aged 65 or over living alone, as compared to 14% in 2001.

Married or civil partnered households accounted for just under a third (32%, 758,000) of all households in 2011, a six percentage point decrease from 2001 when married couple households accounted for 38% of all households³. At the same time there was a corresponding growth in the proportion of **cohabiting couple households** from 7% of all households in 2001 to 9% (217,000) in 2011.

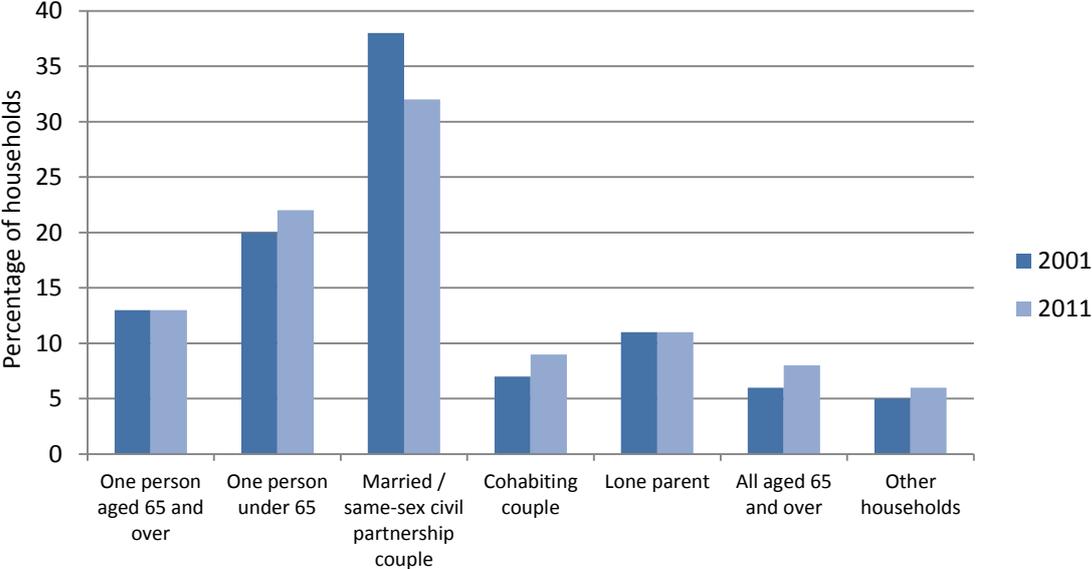
There were 263,000 **lone parent households** in 2011 constituting 11% of all households. This proportion had remained stable between 2001 and 2011. Lone parent households were overwhelming headed by females, 92% of all lone parent households, a proportion that had also remained stable since 2001.

³ So as to make comparisons with the 2001 Census, Statistical Bulletins reporting on the 2011 Census recalculated the 2001 statistics to reflect the 2011 definition of pensionable age (65 years old and over). Consequently, the figures presented here differ slightly from those previously reported using the 2001 data. In addition, as the category of same-sex civil partnership was new in 2011, to allow for comparisons with the 2001 data Statistical Bulletins reporting on the 2011 data include it within the married category.

Whilst the proportion of one person aged 65 or over households showed a slight decrease, **families in which all members were aged 65 and over** saw a 2 percentage point increase accounting for 8% (179,000) of all households in 2011. These trends are perhaps partly attributable to increasing life expectancies for both men and women.

Those households classified as **'Other'** for example, student households or multiple family households, constituted 6% of all households in 2011, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2001⁴.

Figure 1: Household composition, Scotland, 2001 and 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

England & Wales - Key Comparisons

- Married / civil partnered cohabiting couples accounted for 33% of all households in 2011. The respective proportion in Scotland was 32%.
- Cohabiting couple households accounted for 10% of all households in 2011 compared with 9% in Scotland.
- Lone parent families constituted 11% of all households in 2011, the same proportion as in Scotland.
- All aged 65 and over households constituted 8% of all households in 2011, the same proportion as in Scotland.
- One person households accounted for 30% of all households in 2011. The respective proportion in Scotland was 35%.
- 'Other' household types accounted for 8% of all households in 2011 compared with 6% in Scotland.

⁴ The Census reports currently available do not allow further breakdown of 'Other' households.

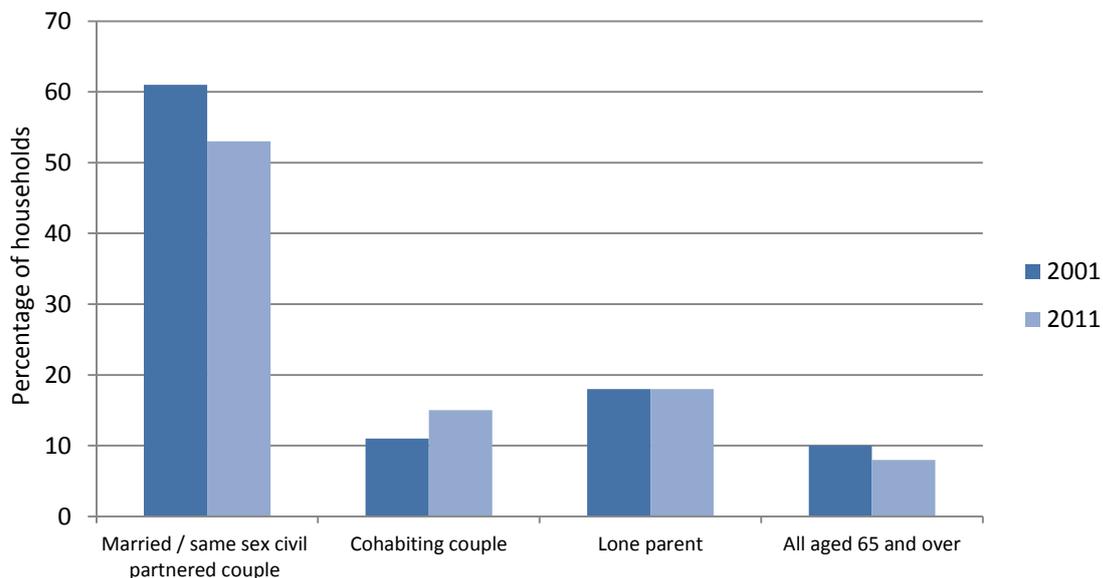
FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS

Of the 2.4 million households in 2011, six in ten were classed as family households. This was a decrease of two percentage points from 2001 when family households constituted 62% of all households.

Quite significant differences are evident between 2001 and 2011 when considering the breakdown of family households by family type:

- Despite the decreasing number of **married/ civil partnered couple families** as a proportion of all households, this remained the most common family form constituting over half of all family households (53%, 758,000). However, this was a marked decrease of eight percentage points from 2001 when married couple families accounted for 61% of all family households⁵.
- There were 217,000 **cohabiting couple families** accounting for 15% of family households in 2011 an increase of four percentage points from the corresponding proportion of 11% in 2001.
- Just under a fifth of family households in 2011 were **lone parent families** (18%, 263,000), a proportion which had remained stable between 2001 and 2011.
- Finally, the proportion of family households in which **all family members were aged 65 and over** rose from 10% to 13%.

Figure 2: Family households, Scotland, 2001 and 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

⁵ The category 'Same-sex Civil Partnership' did not feature in the 2001 Census therefore for the purposes of comparison Census reports have included this category within the married category.

Family households by council area

Household composition and family type showed significant differences by council area.

The proportion of **married or civil partnered family households** fell in every council area between 2001 and 2011. The largest decreases were in East Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire where the proportion of married or civil partnered family households in each area fell by eight percentage points.

In contrast, the proportion of **cohabiting couples** increased between one to three percentage points across all council areas over the period.

In 2011 the largest proportions of **lone parent families** were in Glasgow City and surrounding council areas. West Dunbartonshire had the largest proportion of lone parent families accounting for 15% (6,000) of all households. This was closely followed by Glasgow City (41,000), North Lanarkshire (21,000) and Inverclyde (5,000) where lone parent families accounted for 14% of all households. Between 2001 and 2011, a decrease of one or more percentage points in the proportion of lone parent families as a proportion of all households was only seen in Glasgow City where the proportion of lone parent families fell from 15% to 14%.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2011, just over a quarter of all Scottish households (26%) included at least one dependent child. This was slightly less than the comparable figure of 28% in 2001. In terms of geographical location, the council areas containing the highest proportion of households with at least one dependent child were West Lothian (32%, 24,000) and East Renfrewshire (31%, 12,000)⁶.

Dependent children and family type

Families who were married or in a civil partnership were more likely to have dependent children than cohabiting couples, 61% compared with 46%. However, of *all* families with children, cohabiting couple families were most likely to have dependent children. Eighty-eight percent of all cohabiting couples with children had dependent children compared to 70% of married or civil partnered families and 65% of lone parent families.

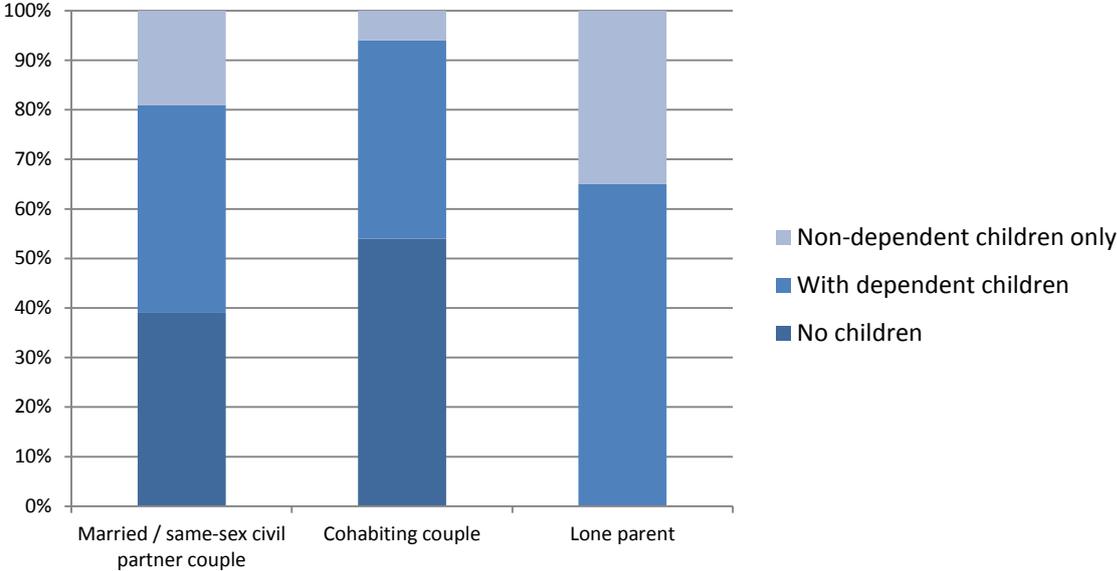
Non-dependent children and family type

Lone parent families were the most likely of all families with children to have only non-dependent children. Thirty-five percent of lone parent families had only non-dependent children compared with 30% of married or civil partnered couple families and 12% of cohabiting couple families. This may be because married or civil partnered families and lone

⁶ Reports currently available on the 2011 Census do not provide an overall picture of how many households have non-dependent children only or both non-dependent and dependent.

parent families have a different age distribution that means on average they are older than cohabiting couple families. In addition, a substantial proportion of cohabiting couples marry after their children are born and so are no longer cohabiting couples when their children reach adulthood.

Figure 3: Dependency of children by family type, Scotland, 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

Number of dependent children

In 2011, there were a total of 1.0 million dependent children living in 614,000 families across Scotland. There has been a decrease in numbers of dependent children per family during this period. In 2011,

- 50% of families had one dependent child (304,000), as compared with 46% in 2001
- 37% (229,000) of such families had two dependent children, as compared with 54% in 2001
- 13% (81,000) had three or more dependent children.⁷

This trend towards only children meant that nearly one-third of children in 2011 were growing up without siblings.

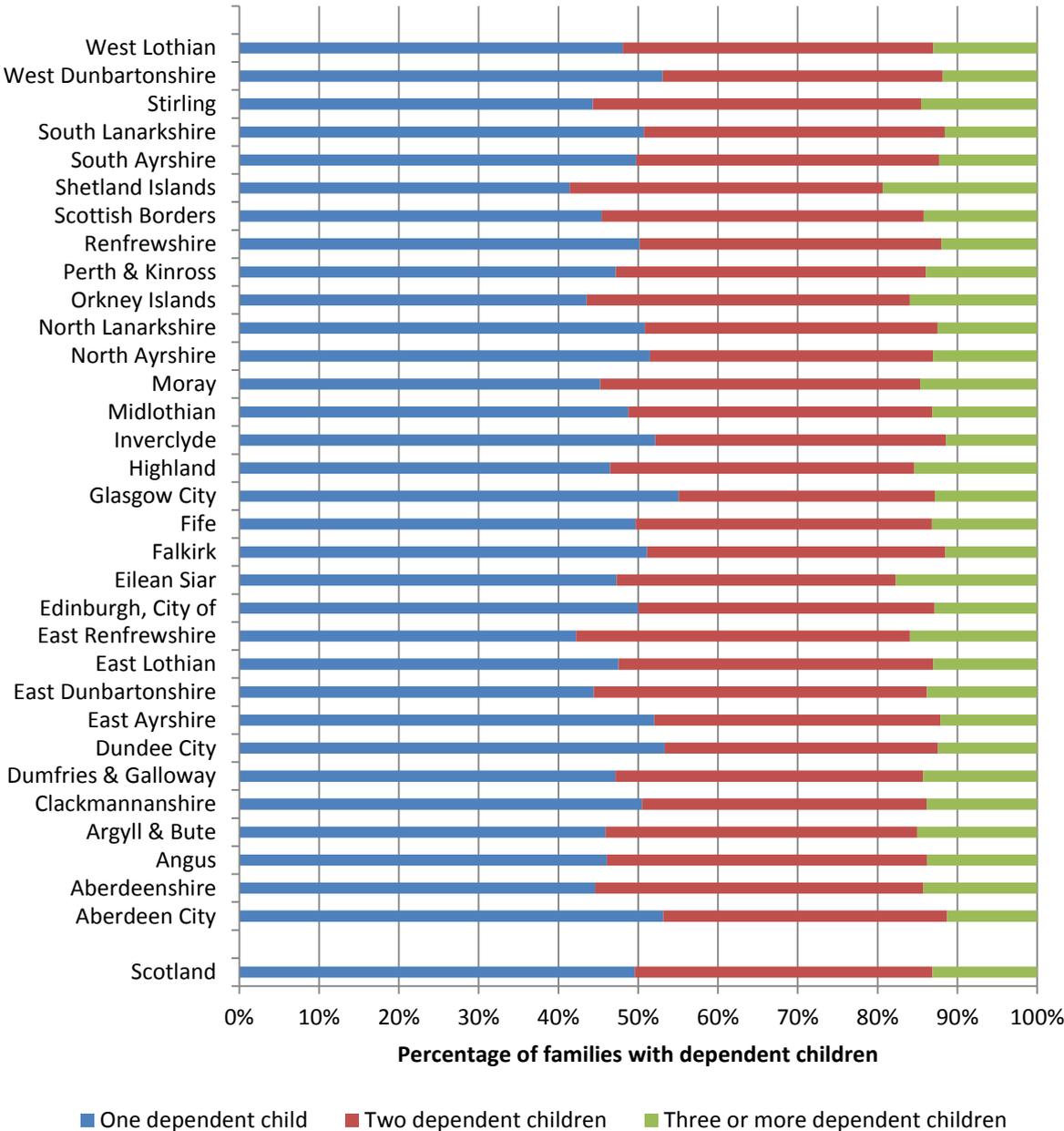
Number of dependent children by council area

The number of dependent children in families varied by council area as shown in figure 4. The largest proportions of families with only one child were found in Glasgow City where

⁷ Non-dependent children are not included in these figures. Consequently a family who have two children one of whom is dependent and one of whom is non-dependent will be included in the one dependent child category. A family who have only non-dependent children will not be included in the figures.

55% (36,000) of all families with dependent children had only one dependent child. This was closely followed by Dundee City (9,000), Aberdeen City (12,000) and West Dunbartonshire (6,000) where the corresponding proportion was 53% across the three areas. The lowest proportions of such families were found in the Shetland Islands and East Renfrewshire 42% and 43% respectively. Between 2001 and 2011 the proportion of families with only one dependent child did not decrease in any council area. Conversely, the highest proportions of families with dependent children comprising three or more dependent children were found in the Shetland Islands 19% (500) and Eilean Siar 18% (500).

Figure 4: Number of dependent children in families with dependent children by council area, Scotland, 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

Ages of dependent children

In 2011, of families with dependent children:

- 38% had a youngest child aged 0-4
- 33% had a youngest child aged 5-11
- 29% had a youngest child aged 12-18.

As with the number of dependent children, the distribution of ages of dependent children also varied by council area. Families with a youngest dependent child aged 0-4 years were most prominent in large urban areas. The City of Edinburgh had the greatest proportion of such families at 44% followed by Aberdeen City at 42%, Glasgow City at 41% and West Lothian at 40%. In contrast, in East Renfrewshire the proportion of all families with a youngest dependent child aged 0-4 years was only 33%.

ETHNICITY

In 2011 the reported ethnicity of the vast majority of people in Scotland, 96% or 5.1 million, was white, a decrease of two percentage points from 2001. Some 84% of the population classified themselves as 'White Scottish' a drop of four percentage points from 2001. Those people classifying themselves as 'White Other British' constituted the second largest proportion of those reporting their ethnicity as 'white' accounting for 8% of the total population, a one percentage point increase from the corresponding proportion in 2001. In the 2011 Census, those people classifying themselves as 'White Irish', 'White Polish', 'White Gypsy / Traveller' and 'White Other white' constituted the remainder of the 'white' population and combined, accounted for 4% of the total population, an increase of two percentage points from the combined categories of 'White Irish' and 'Other White' in 2001.

Outwith white ethnic minorities, the largest ethnic minority group in 2011 was the Asian population accounting for 3% of the total population, an increase of one percentage point since 2001. Within the Asian population, Pakistani was the largest ethnic minority group, accounting for 1% of the total population. The African, Caribbean or Black groups also constituted 1% of the total population in 2011, an increase of 28,000 people since 2001. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups constituted 0.4% of the total population in 2011 whilst other ethnic groups accounted for 0.3% of the total population.

Ethnicity by council area

In 2011, ethnicity varied quite considerably by council area. The largest proportions of 'White Polish' were found in Aberdeen City and Edinburgh City accounting for 3% of the population in both cities. In both of these cities and most other council areas in eastern Scotland, the proportion of 'White Polish' people was greater than the proportion of 'White Irish' people. The greatest proportion of 'White Irish' people was in Glasgow City accounting for 2% of the population. Generally speaking, proportions of 'White Irish' people were highest in council areas in the greater Glasgow area. Whilst 'White Gypsy / Traveller' people

accounted for only 0.1% of the total population, in Perth and Kinross, they accounted for 0.3% of the total population, the highest proportion across council areas.

Glasgow City reported the greatest proportion of people belonging to minority ethnic groups, increasing from 6% (2001) to 12% (2011), Aberdeen increased from 3% (2001) to 8% (2011), the City of Edinburgh increased from 4% (2001) to 8% (2011), and Dundee City increased from 4% (2001) to 6% (2011).

Table 2: Ethnic groups, Scotland, 2001 and 2011

2001			2011		
	Number	Percentage		Number	Percentage
All people	5,062,000	100.0	All people	5,295,000	100.0
White	4,960,000	98.0	White	5,084,000	96.0
Scottish	4,459,000	88.1	Scottish	4,446,000	84.0
Other British	374,000	7.4	Other British	417,000	7.9
Irish	49,000	1.0	Irish	54,000	1.0
Other	78,000	1.5	Gypsy / Traveller	4,000	0.1
			Polish	61,000	1.2
			Other white ethnic group	102,000	1.9
Mixed	13,000	0.3	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	20,000	0.4
Asian, Scottish or British	71,000	1.4	Asian, Scottish or British	141,000	2.7
Pakistani	32,000	0.6	Pakistani, Pakistani or Scottish or Pakistani British	49,000	0.9
Indian	15,000	0.3	Indian, Scottish or Indian British	33,000	0.6
Bangladeshi	2,000	0.0	Bangladeshi, Bangladeshi or Scottish or Bangladeshi British	4,000	0.1
Chinese	16,000	0.3	Chinese, Chinese or Scottish or Chinese British	34,000	0.6
Other	6,000	0.1	Other	21,000	0.4
Black, Scottish or British (Including Caribbean, African and Other Black)	8,000	0.2	African	30,000	0.6
			African, Scottish or African British	29,000	0.6
			Other	-	0.0
			Caribbean or Black	7,000	0.1
			Caribbean, Caribbean or Scottish or Caribbean British	3,000	0.1
			Black, Scottish or Black British	2,000	0.0
			Other	1,000	0.0
Other	10,000	0.2	Other ethnic group	14,000	0.3
			Arab, Arab Scottish or Arab British	9,000	0.2
			Other	5,000	0.1

Source: Census data 2001, 2011

Talking point

- What are the implications of the increasing levels of people living alone for service design and delivery?
- How might the increasing levels of family households with one dependent child impact on families, and what might this mean for services?

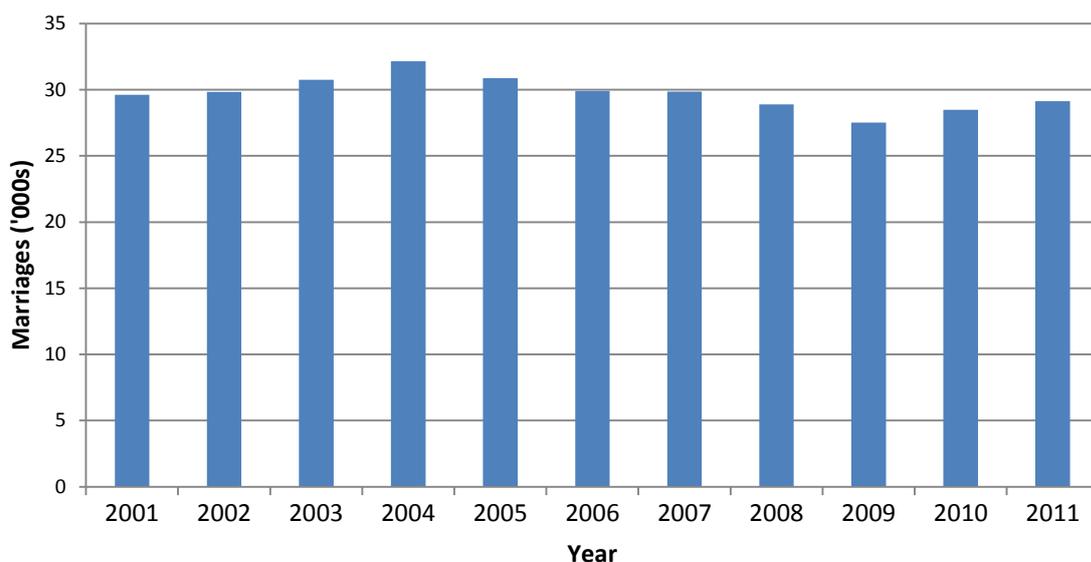
5.2. FAMILY FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION

Changes in family formation including decreasing levels of and delays in marriage and child bearing, trends in divorce and separation of couples, increasing levels of cohabitation and increasing numbers of births out with marriage are bound up with shifts in family types.

MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

According to General Register Office (GRO) data, in 2011, 29,135 marriages took place in Scotland; only 486 fewer than took place in 2001. It is important to note that these figures include all marriages registered in Scotland, regardless of whether the bride and groom lived in Scotland. In 2011, 23% of all marriages in Scotland were between a bride and groom living outside Scotland. This figure is a six percentage point decrease from the corresponding proportion in 2001. Equally, many couples who live in Scotland get married abroad. Such marriages are not included in these figures and most do not come to the attention of the Registrar General.

Figure 5: Marriages in Scotland 2001-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

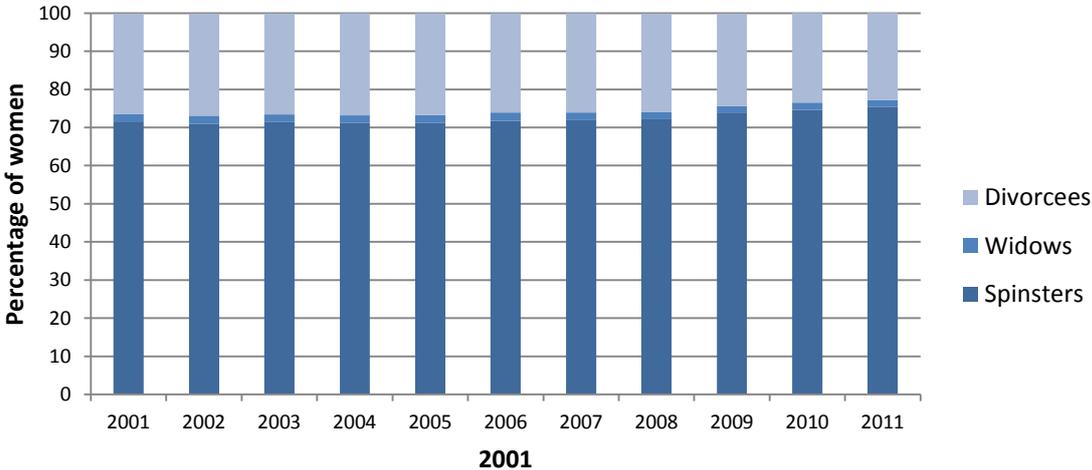
Age at marriage

The average age of both men and women at marriage has increased between 2001 and 2011. The average age of all men marrying has increased from 34.8 to 37.0 whilst the average age for all women has increased from 32.3 to 34.5. The average age at the time of a *first* marriage was 32.6 for men and 28.8 for women in 2011 compared to 30.7 and 30.9 in 2001. Reasons for the increase in average age include the increasing proportion of marriages where one or both parties has been previously married and the fact that the overwhelming majority of couples now cohabit before marrying.

Marital status at marriage

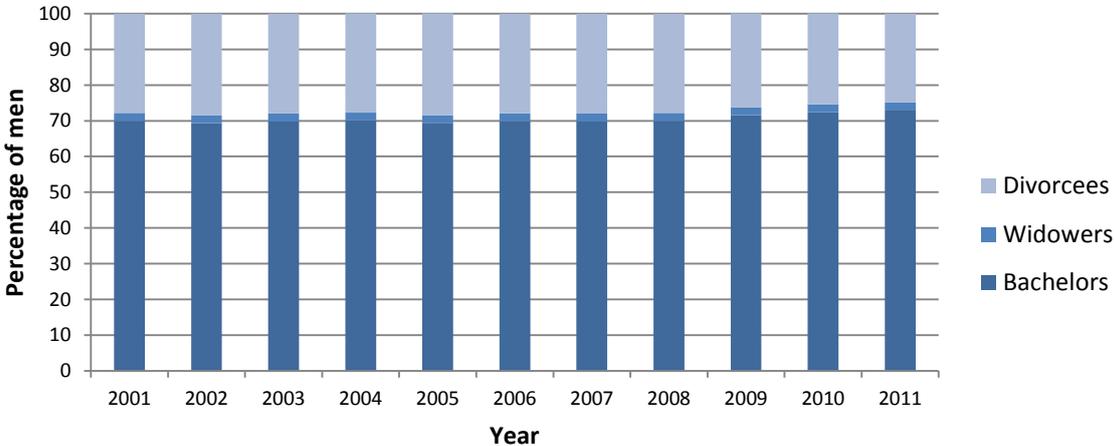
In 2001 over a quarter of people marrying had been divorced, 28% for men and 26% for women. These proportions fell to 25% of men and 23% of women in 2011. Over the same period, the proportions of those marrying who had been widowed remained stable at around 2% for both men and women.

Figure 6: Marital status of women at time of marriage 2001-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

Figure 7: Marital status of men at time of marriage 2001-2011

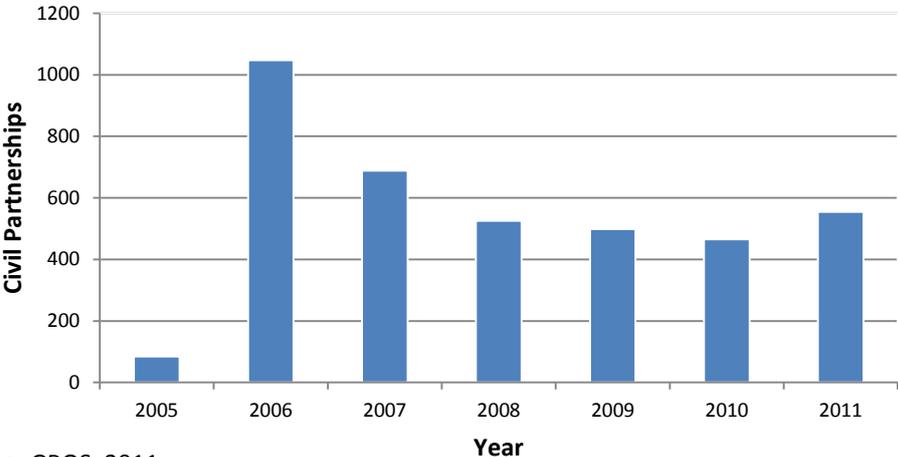


Source: GROS, 2011.

Civil Partnerships

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 allowing same-sex couples to register their partnership came into force on 5 December 2005. It is therefore only possible to assess change between 2006 and 2011. In 2006, 1,047 partnerships were registered in Scotland. In 2007 only 688 partnerships were registered. This initial decrease was not surprising as it was expected that many long-standing relationships would have been registered during the first full year of registration. However, the number of partnerships registered continued to decline annually reaching 465 in 2010. 2011 was the first year to show an increase with 554 registration taking place, 227 between male partners and 327 between female partners. The small number of civil partnerships do not significantly alter partnership trends. For example, the addition of civil partnership has not significantly modified the decline in legally registered arrangements.

Figure 8: Civil Partnerships in Scotland 2001-2011



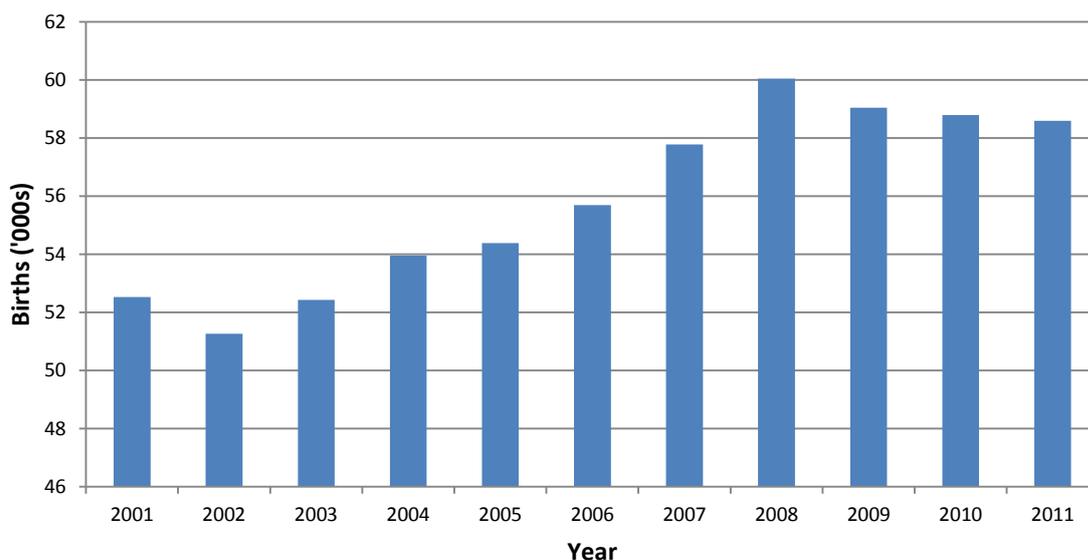
Source: GROS, 2011.

BIRTHS

Number of births

In 2011, 58,590 births were registered in Scotland, 6,063 more than in 2001 (which saw the lowest level of fertility on record, 52,527, since civil registration began in 1855). Despite being an increase on 2001, the number of registered births in 2011 was the third consecutive fall following six consecutive years of increases.

Figure 9: Births in Scotland, 2001-2011



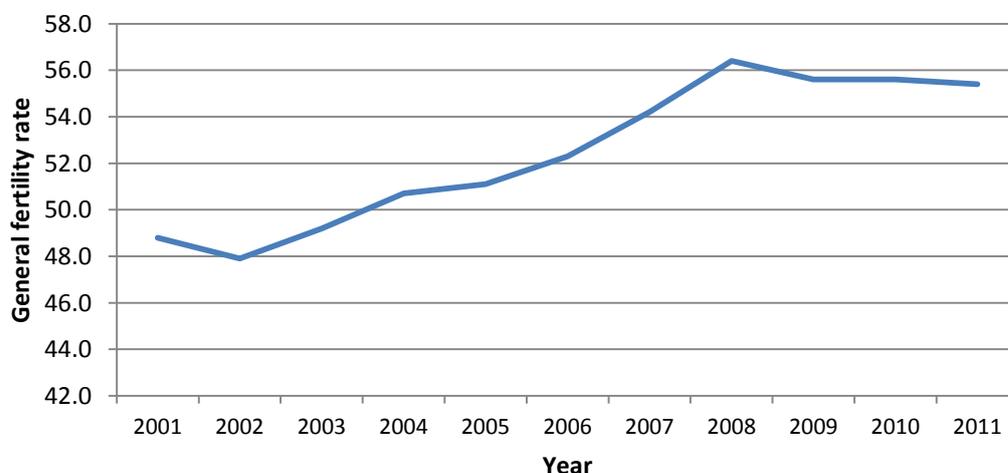
Source: GROS, 2011.

Fertility rates

The most straightforward fertility rate to consider is the crude birth rate which is the number of live births per 1,000 of the total population. In 2011 the crude birth rate was 11.1 compared to 10.4 in 2001. However, the usefulness of information provided by the crude birth rate is somewhat limited as it does not take account of the age / sex structure of the population.

The General Fertility Rate (GFR) is a more useful measure to consider as it is based on the numbers of women of childbearing age. Figure 9 shows the GRF for women aged 15-44 was 55.4 in 2011 compared with 48.8 in 2001. Following a dip in 2002 the GFR showed a steady increase, peaking in 2008 at 56.4, before exhibiting a gradual decline to the 2011 rate.

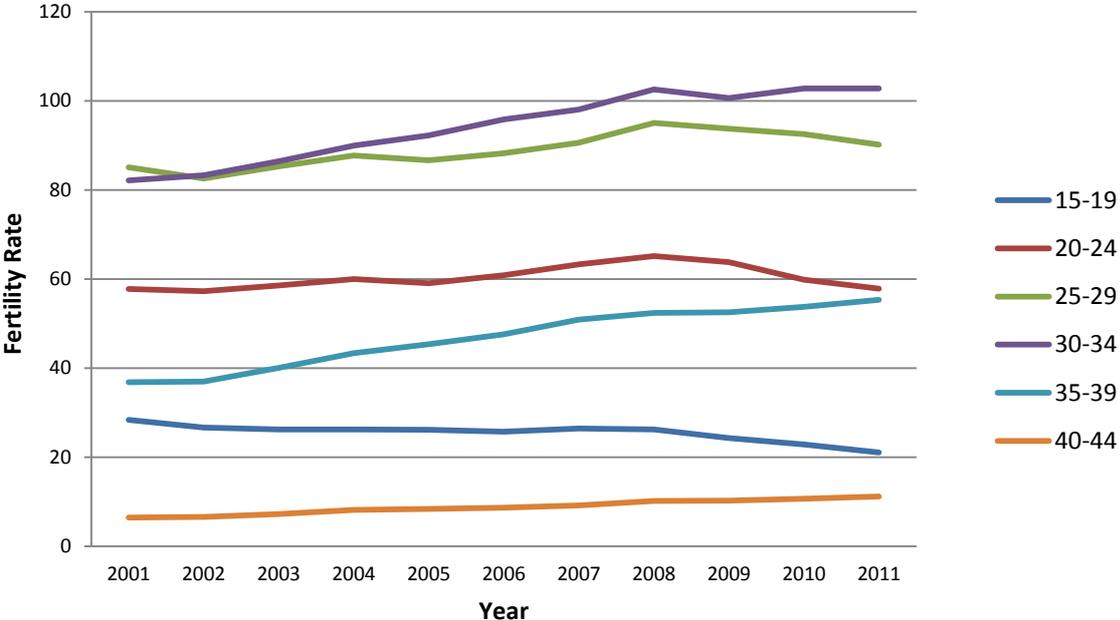
Figure 10: General Fertility Rate (GFR), Scotland, 2001-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

In addition to women having fewer babies, recent decades have seen a trend towards delayed child bearing. Consideration of the Age Specific Fertility Rates (ASFRs) provides information about age-related patterns of childbearing. The highest fertility rates between 2001 and 2011 were for women aged 25-29 and 30-34. In 2011, the highest fertility rate was for women aged 30-34 at 102.8. Indeed this group of women had the highest fertility rate each year from 2002 to 2011. For women in all age categories over 25, fertility rates were notably higher in 2011 than in 2001. Conversely, the fertility rate for women aged 15-19 was notably lower in 2011 at 21.1 compared to 28.4 in 2001. The fertility rate for women aged 20-24 in 2001 and 2011 was approximately equal at 57.8 and 57.9 respectively although fluctuations were seen in the intervening period. The fertility rate for women aged 25-29 in 2001 and 2011 was approximately equal at 85.8 and 90.1 respectively although fluctuations were seen in the intervening period. The fertility rate for women aged 30-34 in 2001 and 2011 was approximately equal at 82.1 and 102.8 respectively although fluctuations were seen in the intervening period. The fertility rate for women aged 35-39 in 2001 and 2011 was approximately equal at 37.1 and 55.1 respectively although fluctuations were seen in the intervening period. The fertility rate for women aged 40-44 in 2001 and 2011 was approximately equal at 6.1 and 11.1 respectively although fluctuations were seen in the intervening period.

Figure 11: Live births per 1,000 women, by age of mother, Scotland, 2001-2011



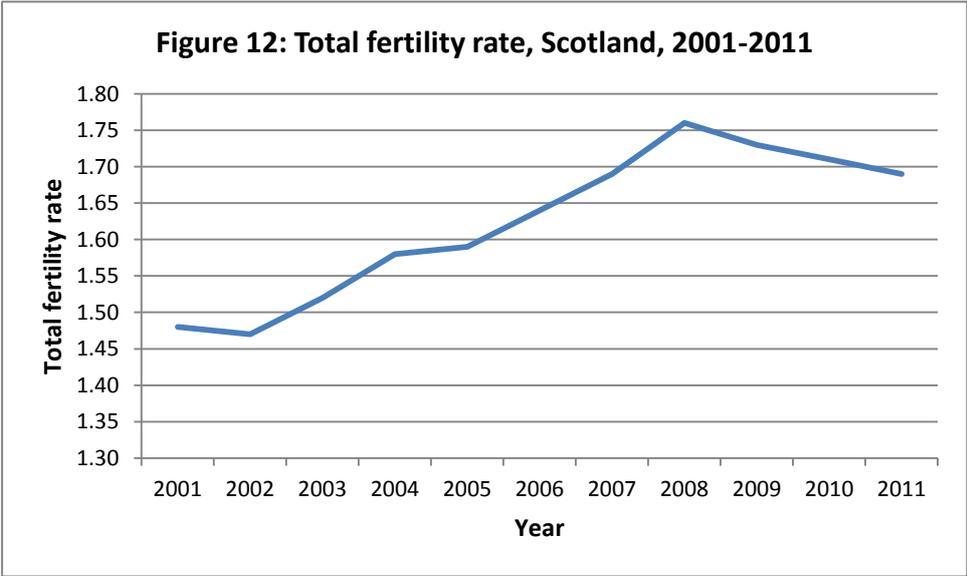
Source: GROS, 2011.

Table 3: Age-specific fertility rates by Council area 2001: live births to mothers in each age-group per 1,000 women of that age-group

Area	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
Scotland	21.1	57.9	90.2	102.8	55.4	11.2
Aberdeen City	18.5	34.8	74.6	97.8	58.2	11.6
Aberdeenshire	11.5	61.8	103.0	129.1	53.4	10.6
Angus	23.8	76.5	111.5	94.2	50.9	9.3
Argyll & Bute	19.3	69.6	90.7	110.0	53.3	10.3
Clackmannanshire	27.9	93.8	103.1	95.6	44.4	7.1
Dumfries & Galloway	21.1	81.4	111.3	95.3	46.9	8.3
Dundee City	24.2	50.6	91.5	93.2	52.1	10.4
East Ayrshire	28.0	83.8	109.7	95.3	42.2	9.5
East Dunbartonshire	11.2	38.4	84.6	131.9	72.2	14.1
East Lothian	21.7	75.1	103.7	119.4	67.8	10.8
East Renfrewshire	6.4	34.0	91.1	130.3	72.1	14.0
Edinburgh City	13.1	29.7	53.8	97.7	71.9	18.1
Eilean Siar	16.6	73.9	98.4	88.1	54.1	14.0
Falkirk	22.8	68.0	99.7	102.0	52.2	10.8
Fife	28.0	70.7	117.8	104.1	51.3	8.3
Glasgow City	23.6	49.5	77.1	93.3	56.5	13.5
Highland	25.1	69.9	96.6	101.5	54.3	12.4
Inverclyde	19.2	65.2	101.7	99.7	42.6	10.7
Midlothian	28.2	83.5	116.3	107.8	52.9	9.4
Moray	18.1	84.8	107.8	103.1	51.1	10.5
North Ayrshire	33.6	80.1	102.8	94.1	46.6	8.0
North Lanarkshire	24.9	73.1	102.6	103.3	48.0	8.6
Orkney Islands	10.5	70.1	120.1	100.4	49.7	12.4
Perth & Kinross	18.6	69.6	97.3	109.3	58.5	11.2
Renfrewshire	20.1	65.5	90.2	100.9	48.8	11.0
Scottish Borders	19.8	73.7	116.2	117.4	54.2	12.5
Shetland Islands	20.7	61.5	102.6	110.6	54.1	10.9
South Ayrshire	23.8	71.4	94.1	99.1	51.8	12.0
South Lanarkshire	18.6	64.8	99.7	112.0	58.8	10.7
Stirling	14.5	26.6	76.8	111.9	62.7	11.2
West Dunbartonshire	27.9	82.7	110.1	92.5	48.1	7.6
West Lothian	22.6	88.0	106.0	104.1	50.8	8.6

Source: GROS, 2011.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) provides a summary measure of completed family size and is calculated by summing the age specific fertility rates of each age group in that particular year. It gives the average number of children that a group of women would expect to have if they were to experience the observed ASFRs in each of their childbearing years. The TFR has to be around 2.1 for a population to replace itself. Figure 11 shows that the TRF in 2011 was 1.69 compared with 1.48 in 2001. The TRF dropped slightly from 2001 to 1.47 in 2002 before steadily increasing to reach a peak of 1.76 in 2008, the highest level for 26 years. Following this peak, the TRF showed a steady decline to 2011.

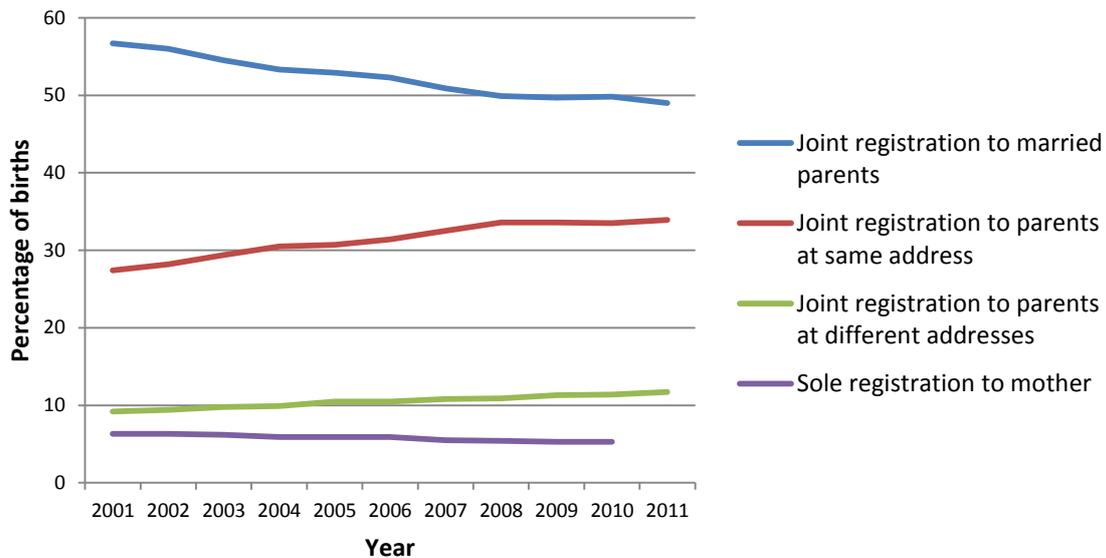


Source: GROS, 2011.

Marital status and type of registration

In 2011, just over half of all births (51%) were registered to unmarried parents. This figure included births registered solely to the mother. This was a significant increase from the corresponding proportion of 43% in 2001. It appears that the increase in births to unmarried parents is of babies born to partners in relationships, since births registered solely to the mother fell from 7% in 2001 to 3% in 2011.

Figure 13: Births in Scotland by type of registration, 2001-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

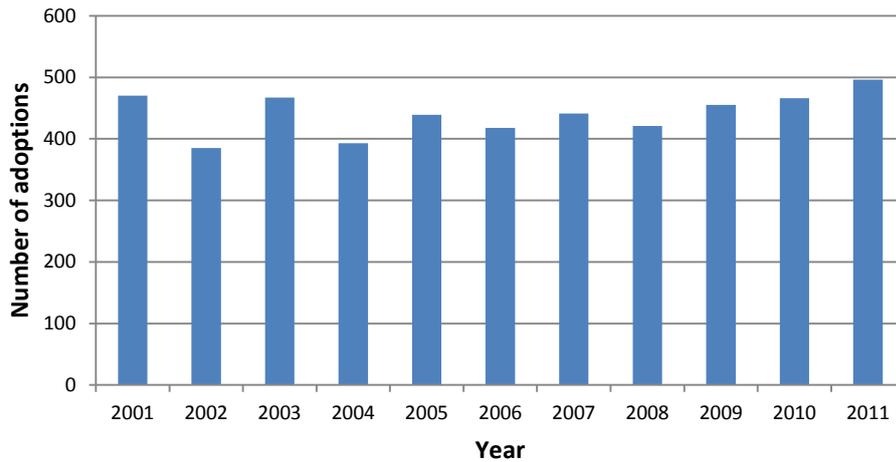
ADOPTIONS

It has been a legal requirement to register adoptions in Scotland since 1930. Today, adoptions of children are registered by the Registrar General for Scotland under the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007.

Adoptions can occur in a variety of circumstances. For example, step-parents may adopt the children of their spouse or partner, relatives may adopt children of other family members or children may be adopted by people who are not related to them in any way. In addition it is important to note that adoption figures include a small number of parental orders granted in cases of surrogacy and foreign adoptions which are registered in Scotland.

The Registrar General recorded 496 adoptions during 2011 (30 more than the previous year). This showed an increase of 6% from 2001, when the number of recorded adoptions (468) represented the second lowest number since the first full year of recording in 1931.

Figure 14: Adoptions in Scotland, 2001-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

Relationship of adopter to the child

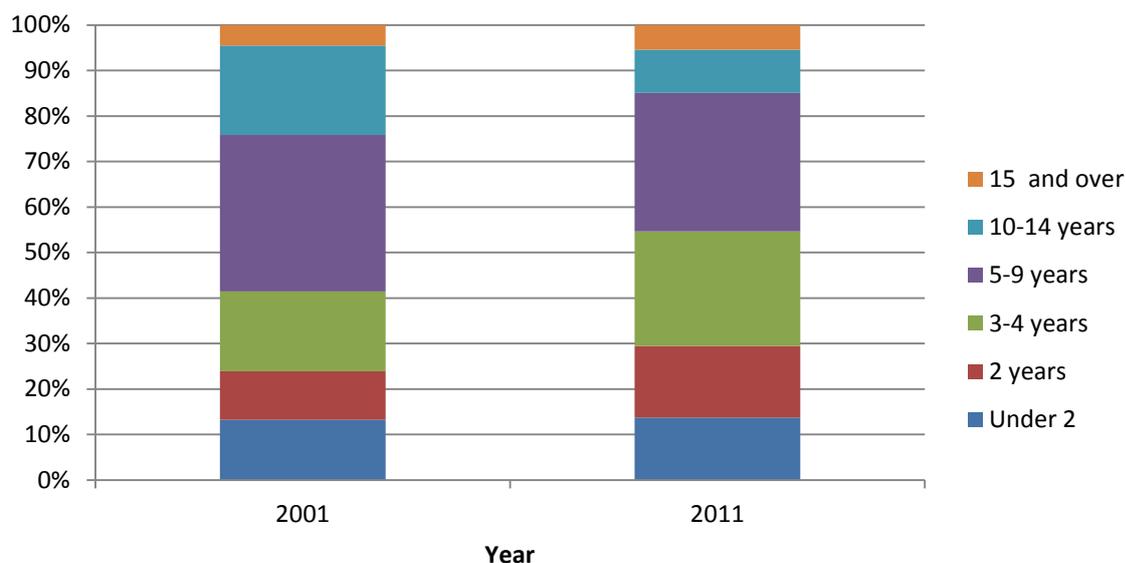
Nearly a quarter of the children adopted in 2011 (24%) were adopted by a step-parent, a decrease of fifteen percentage points from 2001 when 39% of all children adopted were adopted by a step-parent. In contrast, there has been a decrease of fifteen percentage points in the number of children adopted by non-relatives: 71% in 2011 compared to 86% in 2001. The proportions of children adopted by grandparents or other relatives have remained constant at 1% and 3% respectively.

Age of child at time of adoption

In 2011, 85% of children adopted were under the age of ten, an increase of nine percentage points on the corresponding proportion of 76% in 2001. A breakdown of these figures shows increasing numbers of children being adopted at a younger age:

- **Children aged 15 or over:** 5% of adoptions in 2011, compared to 4% in 2001
- **Children aged 10-14 years:** 9% in 2011, compared to 20% in 2001
- **Children aged 5-9 years:** 30% in 2011, compared to 34% in 2001
- **Children aged 3-4 years:** 25% in 2011, compared to 18% in 2001
- **Children aged 2 years:** 16% in 2011, compared to 11% in 2001
- **Children under the age of 2:** 14% in 2011, compared to 13% in 2001

Figure 15: Adoptions by age of child, 2001 and 2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

Age of the child by relationship of the adopter

In 2001, all children adopted under the age of two were adopted by non-relatives. This was markedly different in 2011 with only 69% of under twos adopted by non-relatives; 16% were adopted by step-parents, 7% by grandparents or other relatives and a further 7% by both parents.⁸ As the age of the adopted child increases the proportion adopted by non-relatives markedly decreases. In 2011, only 18% of children aged 10 or over were adopted by non-relatives, though this was a notable increase from 7% in 2001.

DIVORCE / DISSOLUTION

Number of divorces

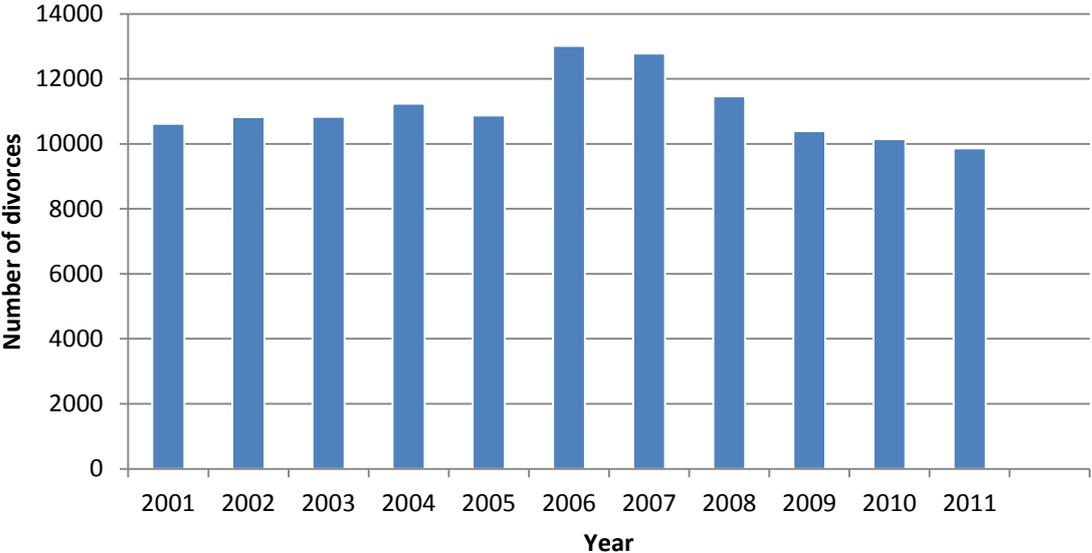
There were 9,862 divorces in Scotland in 2011, a 7% decrease from 10,631 in 2001 (which at the time was the lowest recorded since 1982), and a decrease of 3% from 10,149 in 2010. Consideration of the longer term picture shows that divorce levels increased from the early 1970s peaking in 1985 at 13,365. During the early 2000s there was a slight decrease in the number of divorces recorded from the levels witnessed in the 1980s and 1990s. This may be partly due to increasing levels of cohabitation since divorce proceedings are not necessary to end cohabiting relationships.⁹

⁸ An adoption by 'both parents' occurs in circumstances where the child has been born to a surrogate mother.

⁹ Consideration of the number of divorces is somewhat limited without also discussing divorce rates. However, both the General Register Office for Scotland and the Scottish Government Civil Judicial Statistics provide information on numbers of divorces and not divorce rates.

The Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006 introduced significant changes to divorce legislation which came into force on 4 May 2006. Key changes included reduction of the separation periods for divorce with consent from two years to one year and without consent from five to two years. The notably high number of divorces in 2006 (13,012) and subsequent annual decreases were therefore expected as divorces granted under the new legislation would have taken place in subsequent years had the qualifying separation periods not been reduced.

Figure 16: Divorces in Scotland 2001-2011

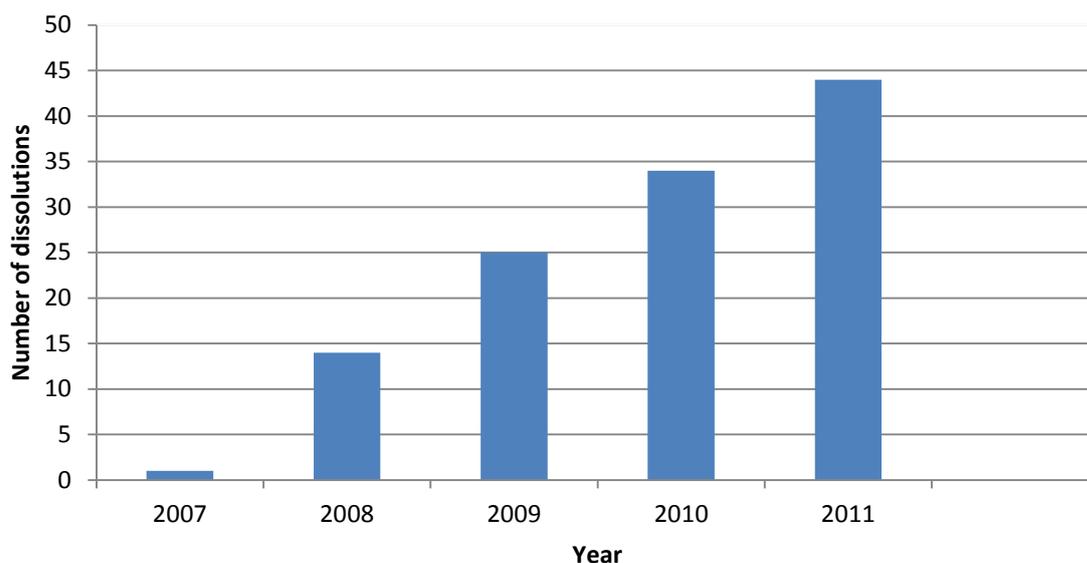


Source: GROS, 2011.

In 2011 the **average duration of marriage** ending in divorce was 15 years, compared with 13 years in 2001. This change can probably also be attributable to increasing levels of cohabitation as such relationships can end without the need for divorce proceedings. Additionally, it may be that shorter relationships that end are more likely to be cohabitations than marriages.

Civil partnerships can be dissolved under the Civil Partnership Act 2004. The first dissolution in Scotland was granted in 2007. In 2011, 44 civil partnerships were dissolved (17 male partnerships and 27 female partnerships), 10 more than the number of dissolutions granted in 2010.

Figure 17: Dissolutions in Scotland, 2007-2011



Source: GROS, 2011.

England & Wales – Key Comparisons

- 247,890 marriages took place in England & Wales in 2011 a decrease of less than 1% from 2001. The respective decrease in Scotland was approximately 2%.
- There were 117,558 divorces granted in England & Wales in 2011 a decrease of 18% from 2001. The respective decrease in Scotland was 7%.
- In 2011 the total fertility rate for England & Wales was 1.93 compared with 1.69 in Scotland.
- 4,734 adoptions took place in 2011 in England & Wales a decrease of 12% since 2001 compared with a 6% increase in Scotland.

Talking point

- How can services help parents and children to manage transitions in family life, such as re-partnering?
- What more do services need to know about reconstituted families and their experiences of transition in order to provide appropriate support?

5.3. CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

In some circumstances local authorities have a duty to provide care and support to children and young people. These children and young people are known as 'looked after children'. There a variety of circumstances in which children and young people may come to be 'looked after children'. The child may be neglected, or experience physical or emotional abuse. Parents may have problems with substance misuse or may experience difficulties in meeting the demands of parenting. The child may have a disability which requires specialist care. The child may have engaged in delinquent behaviour and had dealings with the youth justice system. These are only a few examples of circumstances which could lead to children and young people becoming 'looked after children'. There are two broad categories of looked after children, those looked after at home and those looked after away from home.

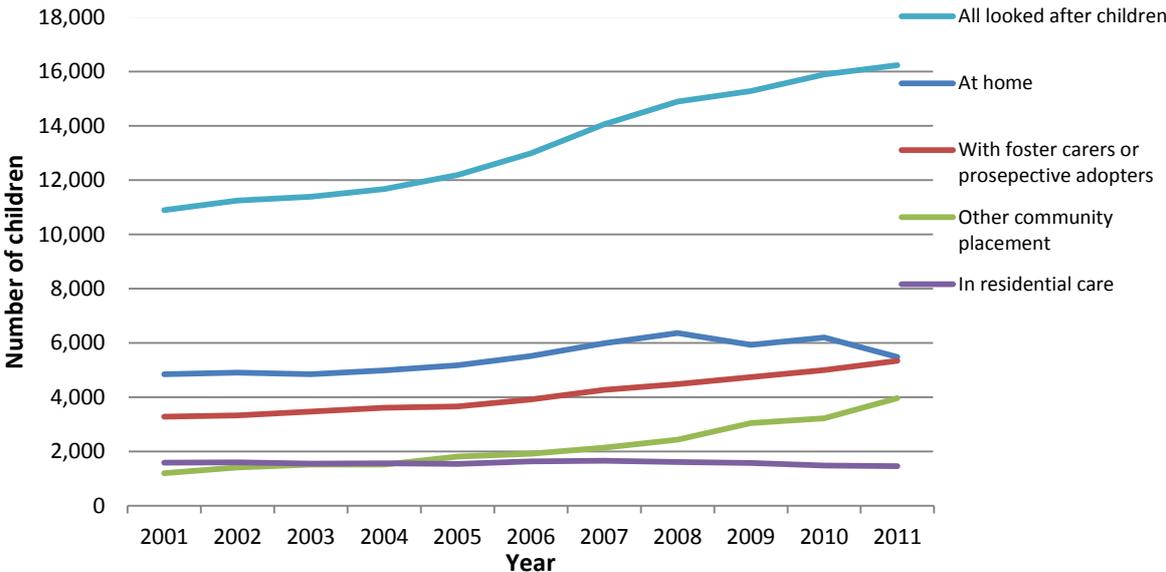
Looked after at home: The child or young person is subject to a Supervision Requirement (regular contact with social services) through the Children's Hearing System with no condition of residence. In these circumstances the child or young person continues to live in their normal place of residence which is very often the family home.

Looked after away from home: The child or young person is subject to a Supervision Requirement with a condition of residence; the child is accommodated under section 25 (voluntary agreement) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995; the child is subject to a permanence order under Part 2 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007. In these circumstances, the child or young person is cared for away from their normal place of residence. Such children can be cared for in a variety of locations, for example, with foster carers, in a residential unit, at a residential school, in a secure unit or with other relatives.

Number of looked after children in Scotland

At 31 July 2011 there were 16,231 'looked after' children in Scotland. This represented 15 per 1,000 children of the 0-18 year old population. Both the number and proportion have increased every year between 2001 and 2011. The number of looked after children at July 2011 was the highest figure since 1981 and an increase of 5,334 children since 2001.

Figure 18: Number of looked after children by accommodation, Scotland, 2001-2011



Source: Children’s Social Work Statistics, 2010-2011

Children looked after in community settings

The continuous increase in the number of looked after children since 2001 was attributable to increasing numbers of children looked after in community settings (including foster carers/ prospective adopters, friends, relatives and other community settings). In 2011, the number of children being looked after in the community was 14,770, the highest recorded level. Of these children the majority were being cared for at home with parents; the second largest group were being cared for by friends or relatives, known as kinship care (see below).

Children in residential care

Numbers of children looked after in residential care settings were reasonably stable between 2001 and 2011 hovering around the 1,500 mark. In 2011 the number of children looked after in residential settings was 1,461, the lowest recorded level and 121 fewer children than in 2001.

Table 4: Looked after children by type of accommodation, Scotland, 2011

Type of accommodation	Number of children
In the community:-	
At home with parents	5,476
With friends/relatives	3,910
With foster carers provided by LA	3,871
With foster carers purchased by LA	1,197
With prospective adopters	267
In other community	49
Residential Accommodation:-	
In local authority home	615
In voluntary home	88
In residential school	460
In secure accommodation	86
Crisis care	13
In other residential	199
Total looked after children	16,231

Source: Children's Social Work Statistics, 2010-2011

KINSHIP CARE

The Annual Social Work Statistics for Scotland are a valuable and reliable source of information about looked after children. However, the usefulness of these figures is limited in terms of what it can tell us about kinship care as they provide details for children in formal kinship care only (as defined below). The most comprehensive evidence source available on kinship care is analysis of the 2001 Census carried out by Nandy et al. (2011). At present similar analysis of the 2011 Census has not yet been carried out, although the raw data does exist, therefore exploration of change over the period 2001 – 2011 is not currently possible. However, data collected by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (Kidner, 2008) and Citizens Advice Scotland (Dryburgh, 2010) provide some more recent estimates of kinship care in Scotland.

What is kinship care?

When a child or young person lives full-time with a friend or relative this is known as kinship care. Kinship care can occur on a formal or informal basis.

Formal kinship care: Where a child or young person is 'looked after' by the local authority and lives with a friend or relative by virtue of a supervision requirement under section 70 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, by virtue of a permanence order or where the child is accommodated with the carer by the local authority

under section 25 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 this is known as formal kinship care.

Informal kinship care: When a child is not ‘looked after’ by the local authority but lives with relatives or friends by means of an informal arrangement amongst family members or by virtue of a residence order under section 11 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, this is known as informal kinship care.

Number of children in kinship care

In 2001, some 15,433 children in Scotland were in kinship care, accounting for 1.3% of all children. In other words, 1 in every 77 children in the general population was in kinship care. Of these children, 14,453 were in informal kinship care and 980 were in formal kinship care (Nandy et al. 2011). At July 2011, the number of children in formal kinship care had increased substantially to 3,910 whilst the most recent best estimates suggest 10,454 children were in informal kinship care in 2009 (Dryburgh, 2010). Clearly, this estimate is significantly lower than the 2001 figure and it is therefore likely to be an underestimate.

Age of children in kinship care

Very young children accounted for a very small proportion of children in kinship care with the prevalence rate of kinship care increasing with the age of the child. The highest rate was among children aged 15-17 years at 1.7% in 2001.

Table 5: Children in kinship care by age group, Scotland, 2001.

Age of children	Number of Children in kinship care	Prevalence rate (%)	Distribution (%)
0-4	2,633	0.9	17
5 to 9	4,300	1.3	28
10 to 14	4,867	1.4	32
15 to 17	3,633	1.7	24
Total	15,433	1.3	100

Source: 2001 Census data, Nandy et al 2011

Ethnicity of children in kinship care

Children from non-white backgrounds are more likely to be living in kinship care than children from white backgrounds. In 2001, nearly all (98%) children in Scotland were white with just 2% of children from non-white ethnicities. As table 6 illustrates, children from non-white backgrounds living in kinship care were over-represented at 5%.

Table 6: Children in kinship care by ethnicity, Scotland, 2001.

Ethnicity	Number of children	Distribution
		%
White	14,533	94.2
Non-White	767	5.0
Total	15,300	99.1
<i>Missing data on ethnicity</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Total	15,433	100.0

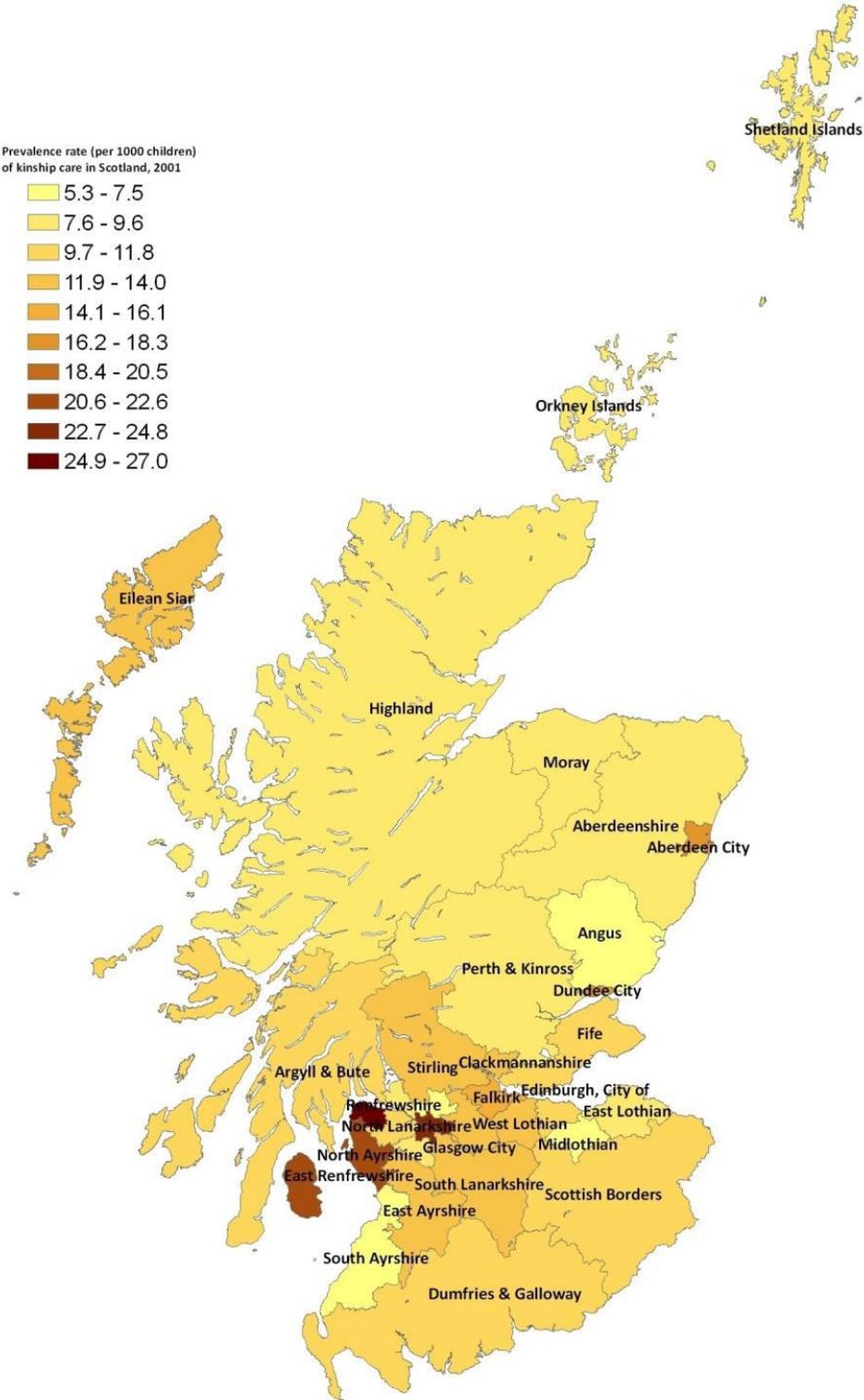
Source: 2001 Census data, Nandy et al 2011

The rates of children from non-white backgrounds varied by age and gender. Non-white boys aged 0-4 years were particularly over-represented with twice the proportion in kinship care than the general population. Girls were not over-represented in the younger age groups but were when aged ten and over.

Geographical distribution of kinship care

The geographical distribution of kinship care is not even across Scotland. In 2001 the highest prevalence rates of kinship care were in Glasgow City and Inverclyde where 24 and 27 children per 1000 children respectively were living in kinship care.

Figure 19: Kinship care by council area, Scotland, 2001.

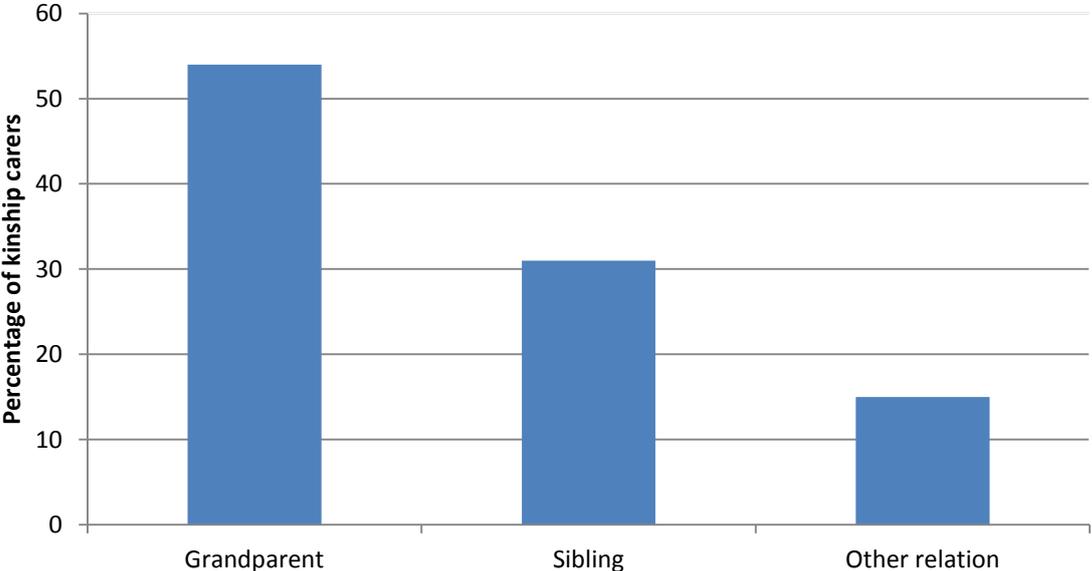


Source: 2001 Census data, Nandy et al 2011:44

Relationship of kinship carers to children in their care

In 2001 over half of all children in kinship care lived with a grandparent (54%, approximately 8,300 children), 31% lived with a sibling and 15% lived with other relatives.

Figure 20: Relationship of kinship carer to child, Scotland, 2001

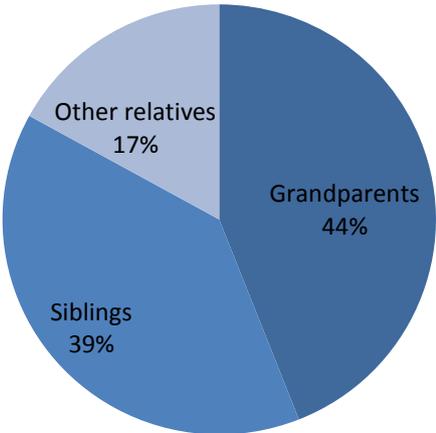


Source: 2001 Census data, Nandy et al 2011.

Characteristics of kinship carers

In 2001, the majority of kinship carers were grandparents accounting for 44% of carers; siblings accounted for over a third of carers (39%) whilst other relatives accounted for 17% of all carers.

Figure 21: Kinship carers in Scotland, 2001



Source: 2001 Census data, Nandy et al. 2011

Grandparent carers

- The average age of grandparent carers was 57 for grandfathers and 56 for grandmothers.
- 80% of grandmother carers were single compared with only 11% of grandfather carers.
- 68% of grandmother carers reported having a limiting long-term illness or disability compared with 28% of grandfathers.

Sibling carers

- The average age of sibling carers was 34 for brothers and 32 for sisters.
- 90% of sibling carers were single. When broken down by gender the differences are striking, 50% of male sibling carers were single compared with 89% of female sibling carers.
- 40% of male sibling carers reported having a limiting long-term illness or disability, more than two times the proportion of female sibling carers (18%).

Other relative carers

- The average age of other relative carers was 50 for males, markedly higher than that of females at 31.
- Seventy-eight percent of other relative female carers were single, more than three times the proportion of other relative male carers (25%).
- Relatively small proportions of other relative carers, both male and female, reported having a limiting long-term illness or disability, 13% and 11% respectively.

Concluding thoughts on kinship carers: The circumstances leading to a child entering kinship care are likely to be a source of significant stress for both the child and carer. Carers are therefore faced with the task of managing their own stress in response to the family circumstances whilst also facing the demands of caring for a child who may experience significant difficulties due to the circumstances leading to their placement in kinship care. In addition, the evidence shows that most kinship carers are grandparents amongst which there are high levels of disability particularly for grandmothers. This poses yet another challenge for those providing kinship care as they may themselves have significant support needs. At the same time this poses the risk that children may themselves have to become carers for their grandparents. Finally, proportions of kinship carers who are single are high, particularly amongst female carers, thereby meaning that many are carrying the burden of care alone. Ultimately, like the children they care for, kinship carers are potentially a vulnerable group who may have multiple needs requiring considerable levels of support.

Talking point

- What does the increasing number of children in kinship care mean for families and services?
- How can services support grandparent carers, including lone grandparents and those with long-term conditions?

5.4. FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DISABILITY

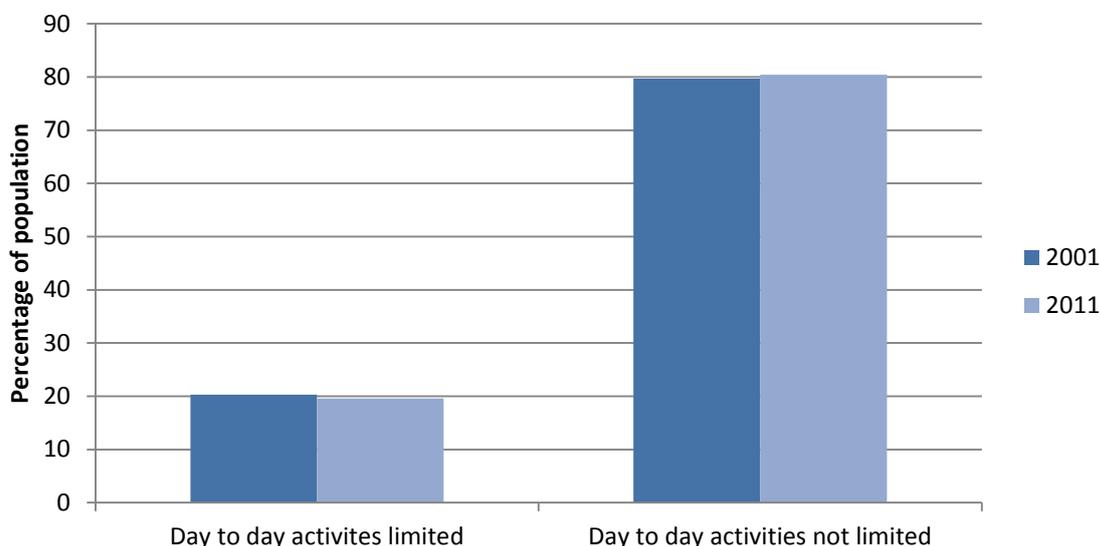
There is a lack of detailed evidence and data on families affected by disability. However evidence from the Censuses provides useful information about families affected by disability.

Number of people with a long-term activity-limiting health problem or disability

In 2011, 20% of people said they had a long-term health problem or disability which limited their day-to-day activities. Some 10% of people said they had such a problem which limited their day-to-day activities a little and 10% said such a problem limited their activities a lot. These figures were 8% and 7% respectively for people of working age.

The 2001 Census did not distinguish between problems and disabilities that limited daily activities 'a lot' and 'a little' only providing response categories of 'yes' and 'no' to the question 'do you have a long-term health problem or disability?'. Consequently, to allow comparisons between 2001 and 2011 the 'Yes, limited a lot' and 'Yes, limited a little' response categories were combined into a simple 'yes' category. Using only the 'yes' category the proportion of people with a long-term activity-limiting illness was 20% in both 2001 and 2011. There has been a decrease in the proportion of working age people who have a long-term health activity-limiting health problem or disability of one percentage point from 16% in 2001 to 15% in 2011.

Figure 22: Proportion of persons with a long term activity limiting illness or disability, Scotland, 2001, 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

- **With dependent children**

The majority of households, 83%, with someone with a long-term health problem or disability did not contain dependent children. This proportion had remained more or less stable since 2001 increasing by only one percentage point. This is probably because adults who have a long-term illness or disability are likely to be older and therefore less likely to have dependent children living in their household.

- **With dependent children by council area**

Inverclyde had the highest proportion of households containing one or more persons with a long-term health problem or disability without dependent children (34%, 13,000). Conversely, the highest proportions of such households with dependent children were in North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, Midlothian and West Dunbartonshire (7% for all, 11,000, 5,000, 2,000 and 3,000 respectively).

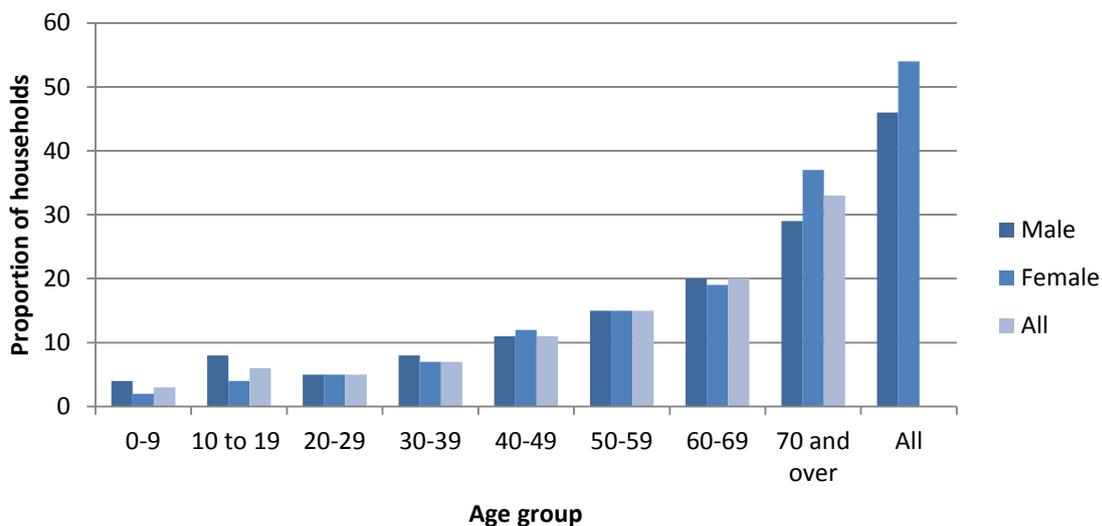
Over the period 2001-2011 the proportion of households with dependent children in which someone had a long-term health problem or disability either increased or remained stable across all council areas. However the proportion of such households without dependent children showed small increases in some council areas, with the largest increase of two percentage points in East Dunbartonshire and the largest decrease of four percentage points in Glasgow City.

Analysis of the 2011 Census undertaken so far does not include consideration of those with a long-term activity-limiting health problem or disability by age, gender or family type thereby limiting the current usefulness of Census data in advancing knowledge and understanding of families affected by disability. The raw data does, however, exist to conduct such analysis.

- **By age and gender**

The Scottish Household Survey 2011 provides information about the age and gender breakdown of households in which someone has a long-standing health problem or disability. Overall a larger proportion of households included a female than male with such a health problem, 54% compared with 46% respectively. Low proportions of households included a young child aged 0-9, either male or female, with a long-term health problem or disability although the proportion of males was double that for females, 4% compared with 2%. Similarly, for young people aged 10-19 double the proportion of households included a male with a long-term health problem or disability than a female, 8% compared with 4%.

Figure 23: Household members with a long-standing limiting illness, health problem or disability by age and gender, Scotland, 2011



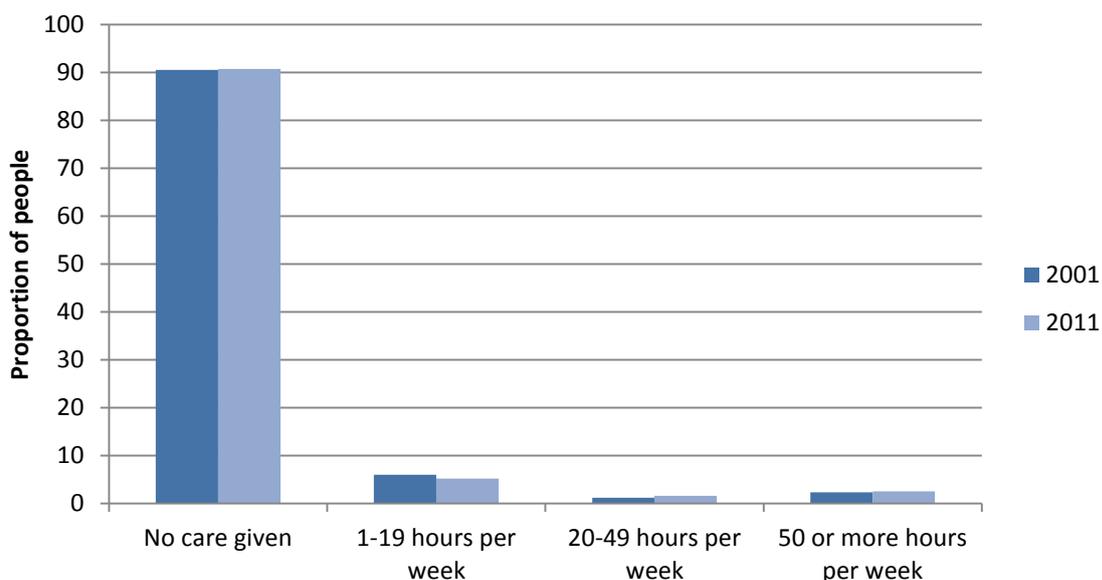
Source: Scottish Household Survey 2011

CARE NEEDS IN THE HOME AND PROVISION OF UNPAID CARE

The Census 2011 defines a person as a provider of unpaid care if he or she looks after or gives help or support to a family member, friend, neighbour or other person because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or problems related to old age.

In 2011, 9 per cent (0.5 million) of people in Scotland were providing unpaid care, the same proportion as in 2001. Of these carers, 44% (219,000) provided 20 or more hours of care a week, an increase of 7 percentage points since 2001, 27% (132,000) provided 50 or more hours of care a week, an increase of 3 percentage points since 2001.

Figure 24: Provision of unpaid care, Scotland, 2001, 2011



Source: Census data 2001, 2011

Again the 2011 Scottish Household Survey provides more detailed information about care needs in the home and the provision of unpaid care than currently available analysis of the 2011 Census. Of the 12% of adults providing unpaid care in 2011, 8.5% provided care solely outside their household and 3.0% provide unpaid care solely within the household. Considering only those adults who do provide care, 72% provided care solely to someone outside the household, 25% provided care solely within the household and 3% provided both care within and out with the household.

England & Wales – Key Comparisons

- 18% of the total population had a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011 compared with 20% of the total population in Scotland.
- 13% of the working age population had a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011 compared with 15% of the working age population in Scotland.
- 90% of the total population were not providers of unpaid care in 2011. The respective proportion in Scotland was 91%.
- 7% of the total population provided 1-19 hours of unpaid care per week compared with 5% of the total population in Scotland.
- 1% of the total population provided 20-49 hours of unpaid care per week compared with 2% of the total population in Scotland.
- 2% of the total population provided 50 or more hours of unpaid care per week the same proportion as in Scotland.

Talking point

- How can services support unpaid carers, particularly given the increase in hours of care being provided by them?
- What are the implications of the increasing need for unpaid care for policy and practice?

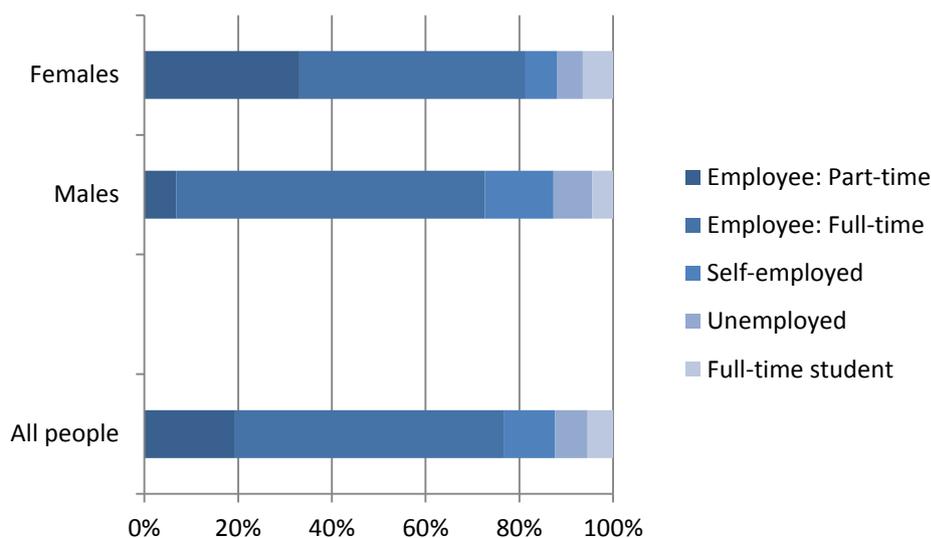
5.5. PARENTAL WORKING PATTERNS

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF MEN AND WOMEN

The 2011 Census indicated that of working age adults (16-74 years old), almost three-quarters of males (74%) and almost two-thirds of females (64%) were economically active. The respective figures in 2001 were 72% and 59%.

Significant differences were apparent in the type of economic activity engaged in by men and women. Thirty-three percent (433,000) of women who were economically active were engaged in part-time employment. This figure was almost five times that for men with only 7% (97,000) of economically active males being engaged in part-time employment. Men were twice as likely to be self-employed, 15% of economically active males (209,000) compared with 7% of economically active females (89,000). Levels of unemployment were also higher for males, 8% of economically active males (118,000) compared with 5% of economically active females (71,000).

Figure 25: Economically active people aged 16-74 by sex, Scotland, 2011

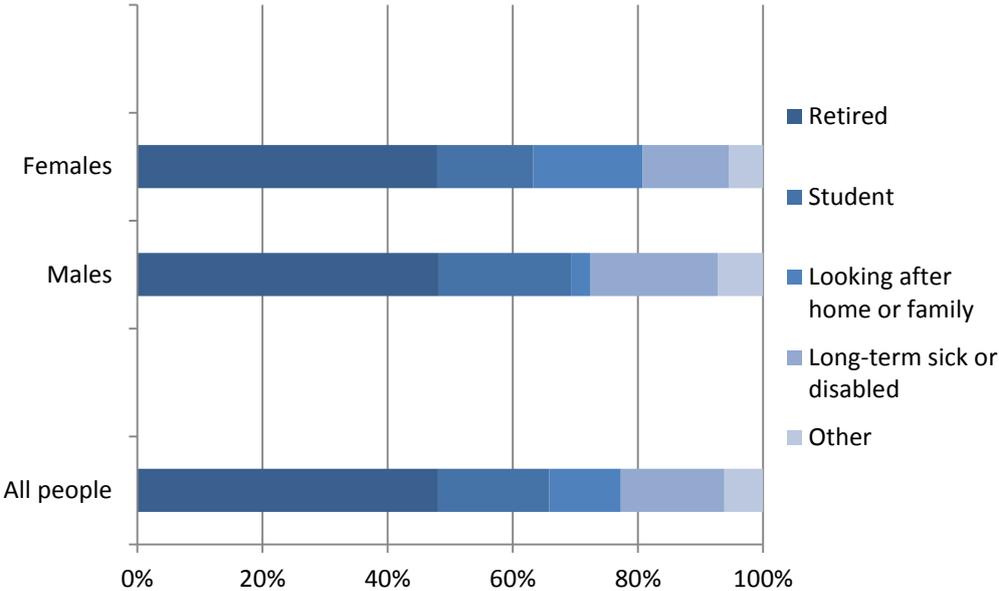


Source: 2011 Census data

ECONOMIC INACTIVITY OF MEN AND WOMEN

Of those people of working age who were economically inactive, the proportion of women who were looking after the home or family was almost six times greater than that for men: 17% of economically inactive women (126,000) compared with only 3% of economically inactive men (16,000). Compared with 2001, this is an increase of seven percentage points for women and two percentage points for men. It is important to stress that this figure includes individuals who are looking after the home *or* a family. Unfortunately analysis of the Census undertaken so far does not breakdown economic activity and inactivity by the presence of children in the household. However, data from the Scottish Household Survey allows this issue to be explored in greater depth (see table 7).

Figure 26: Economically inactive people aged 16-74 by sex, Scotland, 2011



Source: 2011 Census data

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF WOMEN WITH CHILDREN

Evidence from the 2001 and 2011 Scottish Household Surveys allows consideration of the economic activity by the presence of children in the household. As table 6 shows the majority of women of working age are in some type of employment irrespective of the presence of children in the household. In 2011, 63% of women of working age with children were employed or self-employed compared with 61% of women without children. However, key differences are apparent in the type of employment of these two groups of women. In 2011 women who had children in the household were twice as likely to be in part-time employment than women without children, 30% compared with 15%. Meanwhile women without children were significantly more likely to engage in full-time employment than women with children, 43% compared with 28%. Unsurprisingly, a far greater proportion of women with children were looking after the home or family than women without children, 22% compared with 5% in 2011. Notably, the proportion of women without children looking after the home or family fell by nine percentage points between 2001 and 2011 to 5% from 14%.

Unfortunately comparable figures are not currently available for men although the raw data does exist to allow such analysis to be undertaken.

Table 7: Economic activity of women by presence of children in the household, Scotland, 2011 and 2001 (column percentages)

Economic activity of working age females (aged 16-64)	Have children		No children	
	2011	2001	2011	2001
Self-employed	5	4	3	3
Full-time employment	28	28	43	45
Part-time employment	30	31	15	18
Looking after home/family	22	24	5	14
Permanently retired from work	0	0	12	2
Unemployed and seeking work	5	3	4	3
In education ¹⁰	7	9	10	6
Unable to work for health reasons ¹¹	2	2	7	8
Other	0	0	0	1
All	100	100	100	100
Base	1,990	1,981	3,133	3,445

Source: Scottish Household Survey 2001, 2011

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF LONE PARENTS

In terms of the economic activity of lone parents, the Census shows that in 2011, 64 per cent of male lone parents and 58 per cent of female lone parents aged 16 to 74 were in employment. These proportions are considerably higher than those in 2001 when 55% of male lone parents and 47% of female lone parents of working age were in employment.

In terms of working patterns, part-time work was more likely to be undertaken by female lone parents than male lone parents, 64% of all female lone parents in employment compared with 18% of all male lone parents in employment. As with the proportion of lone parents in any form of employment, these proportions are again higher than those in 2001; 55% of female lone parents and 11% of male lone parents.

¹⁰ 'In education' includes those attending school and those in further/higher education.

¹¹ 'Unable to work for health reasons' includes those who are permanently sick or disabled and those who are unable to work due to short term ill-health

Table 8: Employment status of lone parents of working age (16-64) by sex, Scotland 2011, 2001 (column percentages)

	All lone parents		Males		Females	
	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001
Part-time employment	34.7	24.3	11.7	6.0	36.6	26.0
Full-time employment	23.4	23.4	52.5	49.4	20.9	21.0
Not in employment	41.9	52.3	35.8	44.6	42.5	53.0
All	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Census data 2001, 2011

England & Wales – Key Comparisons

- In 2011, 83% of men and 72% of women were economically active compared with 74% and 64% respectively in Scotland.
- 62% of economically active men were in full-time employment in 2011 compared with 47% of women. The respective proportions in Scotland were 66% and 48%.
- 33% of economically active women worked part-time in 2011 compared with 8% of men. In Scotland these proportions were 33% and 7% respectively.
- In 2011, 32% of economically inactive women were looking after the home / family compared with 11% of men compared with 17% and 3% respectively in Scotland.

Talking point

- How can services support women to balance entering and remaining in the labour market while meeting family needs? What does this mean for lone parents?
- How can services best support lone fathers?

6. CONCLUSION

This report has attempted to address the question **‘How have families in Scotland changed over 2001-2011?’** A range of evidence and data sources have been drawn on, primarily the 2001 and 2011 Censuses but also General Registrar Office for Scotland annual statistics, the Children’s Social Work Statistics and the Scottish Household Surveys 2001 and 2011.

Where specific family types or issues detailed in the evidence request could not be addressed due to either a lack of evidence or data this has been explicitly highlighted. For example, there is a notable lack of evidence and data relating to particular family types such as step-families. Given the prevalence of such families this is undoubtedly an important gap to be addressed. In addition, there is a definite gap in both evidence and data about particular issues affecting children and families, for example, families affected by prison and relationship breakdown. These are important issues affecting significant numbers of families across Scotland and it is therefore important that these gaps be addressed. Attention has been drawn to valuable data sources such as the Growing Up in Scotland study which provide valuable evidence addressing some of these gaps in relation to specific cohorts of children.

The importance and value of Census data has been emphasised whilst at the same time acknowledging the limitations of the evidence currently available from the 2011 Census. It therefore seems important to draw attention to the as yet untapped potential of the Census data. The 2011 Census data offers opportunities for analysis of a number of issues affecting children and families in Scotland on which the evidence landscape is currently sparse, including but not limited to, step-families and kinship care.

So, what does the evidence tell us about how families in Scotland have changed between 2001 and 2011?

Ultimately, the evidence has shown a mixed picture of both stability and change across family households in Scotland between 2001 and 2011.

- **Households and families:** The period 2001-2011 saw a number of significant changes in household composition and family forms. There has been a trend towards smaller but more numerous households with one person households becoming the most common type of household in 2011. At the same time, increasing numbers of cohabiting couples contributed to a notable decline in levels of married couple households. In the midst of these changes, stability was however evident in the level of lone parent families. In terms of children, the trend towards smaller households saw decreasing levels of households with dependent children. In addition, within those households with dependent children there were increasing levels with only one dependent child.

- **Family formation and dissolution:** During 2001-2011, fertility levels experienced a period of increase peaking in 2008 before gradually declining again. Fertility rates in 2011 however remained higher than the record lows in 2001. Decreasing levels of marriage and increasing levels of cohabitation saw a significant increase in the number of births registered to cohabiting parents and a corresponding decrease in births registered to married parents resulting in over half of all births in 2011 being registered to unmarried parents. Marriages fell slightly over this time but fluctuated around 30,000 per year whilst the number of divorces fell by 7%. A key development during this period was the introduction of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 providing for the registration and dissolution of same-sex partnerships.
- **Children in need of care:** In terms of children in need of care, the most striking change between 2001 and 2011 was the marked increase in the number of looked after children which rose from 10,897 to 16,231, an increase of 49%. In both 2001 and 2011 the majority of looked after children remained in the family home. A trend towards looked after children being cared for in 'other community settings' which included staying with relatives or friends, was evident, indicative of increasing levels of kinship care. Whilst a lack of available evidence made detailed consideration of changes in kinship care over this period difficult there was a notable rise in levels of formal kinship care with nearly four times as many children living in formal kinship care than in 2001.
- **Families affected by disability:** Stability was evident in levels of those living with a long-term illness or disability and levels of those providing unpaid care to family members or friends over the period 2001- 2011, with one in five people living with a long-term illness or disability and approximately one in ten providing unpaid care. Change was evident however, in the level of time spent by unpaid carers providing care with the proportion of carers providing 20 or more hours of care a week increasing by seven percentage points.
- **Parental working patterns:** The period 2001-2011 saw increases in levels of economic activity and the number of hours worked for both men and women of working age. Notable differences remained however in the type of employment undertaken by men and women, with women considerably more likely to engage in part-time employment and less likely to engage in full-time employment than men. The same trend was seen when comparing women with children and women without children with the former being far more likely to be in part-time employment and less likely to be in full-time employment than the latter. Whilst levels of economic inactivity decreased for both men and women between 2001 and 2011 reasons for such inactivity continued to exhibit stark gender differences. In 2011 women were

almost six times as likely to be economically inactive on account of looking after the home or family than men.

7. APPENDICES

7.1. ABOUT THE EVIDENCE REQUEST BANK

This trends and statistics report has been produced by the Evidence Request Bank Development Project, which is seeking to develop a model for an evidence request service for the children and families sector in Scotland. The Evidence Request Bank produces and shares appraised summaries of evidence for the third and public sectors in direct response to practice needs, and supports practitioners to use evidence in practice.

7.2. HOW THE RESEARCH WAS CARRIED OUT

Existing evidence was gathered in the following way:

Research standards: To ensure high quality, evidence drawn on is either peer-reviewed¹², publicly funded or produced by government bodies. Where relevant, grey literature¹³ has been drawn on to inform the report and limitations in methodology and robustness of findings are highlighted. The research strategy and draft report were peer-reviewed; the report was also user-reviewed.

Key sources searched:

Census for England & Wales 2011 <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/census/2011/index.html>

General Registrar Office for Scotland statistics <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/>

Labour Force Survey <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/method-quality/specific/labour-market/labour-market-statistics/index.html>

Office for National Statistics <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

Scottish Census 2001 <http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/common/home.jsp>

Scottish Census 2011 <http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

Scottish Government statistics 2001 -2011 <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics>

¹² Peer review is a process used to ensure the quality of academic work through a process of academics with similar expertise reviewing each others' work.

¹³ Grey literature refers to documents that are not found through publishers or databases, such as company reports, reports published by not-for-profit organisations, and conference reports. Such literature is generally not peer reviewed.

Scottish Household Survey <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002>

Key words: Searches were conducted using combinations of {Families, parents, children, demographic trends, societal change, statistics, Scotland, England.}

Places of publication: The report focused on families in Scotland. However, where comparable data exists for 'key points' comparisons were made between Scotland and England/Wales.

7.3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This evidence review was researched and prepared by Sarah Rodgers (University of Edinburgh PhD student and Knowledge Exchange intern with the Centre for Research on Families and Relationships) for the Evidence Request Bank. It was supervised by Karen Mountney, peer reviewed by Professor Lynn Jamieson (Professor of Sociology, Families and Relationships, University of Edinburgh) and field reviewed by Lesley Kelly (Dissemination Officer, Growing Up in Scotland).

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