

A closer look: Recent trends in child protection reports to DoCS



NSW Department of
Community Services

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SECTION 1. CURRENT TRENDS IN REPORTING: ALL REPORTS TO DOCS

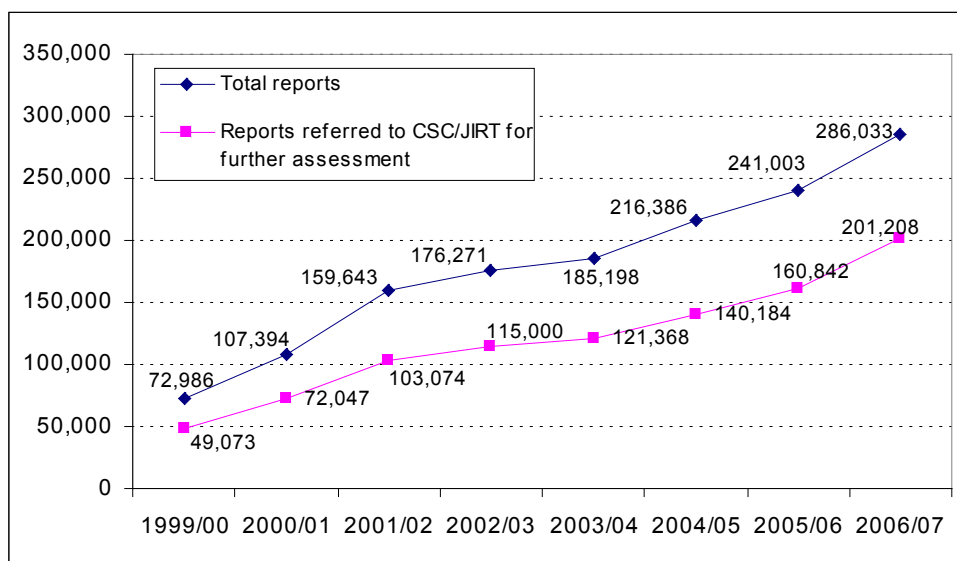
KEY FINDINGS

- In 2006/07, 286,033 child protection reports were received by DoCS. This marks a 79% increase from 2001/02.
- In 2006/07, 123,690 children and young people were reported to DoCS. An average of 2.3 reports per child were received. For Indigenous children, the average was 3.1 reports.
- More than half of all children reported are already known to DoCS.
- The number of new children reported to DoCS each year has remained relatively stable from 2001/02 to 2006/07 whereas the number of children with a child protection history has increased significantly.
- Reports for 90% of known children reported are referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment, compared with 72% of 'new' children.
- Police accounted for one-third of all reports in 2006/07. Half of all children reported to DoCS in 2006/07 were reported by Police at least once in that year.
- The most urgent reports (required response time < 24 hours) have increased over time at a comparatively slower rate than other reports.
- The rate of reporting about children aged less than one year is higher than that for all other age groups.
- The number of reports per child, per year has been slowly rising since 1999/00.
- In 2006/07, 20% of children accounted for just over half of all reports.

1a. Reports and children

Over the last seven years, the total number of child protection reports received by DoCS has quadrupled from 72,986 reports in 1999/00 to 286,033 reports in 2006/07 (Figure 1). Since 2001/02, which marks the beginning of the reform package, the number of child protection reports received by DoCS has increased by 79%. In 2006/07, 70% of all reports were referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment. This marks a slight increase from previous years.

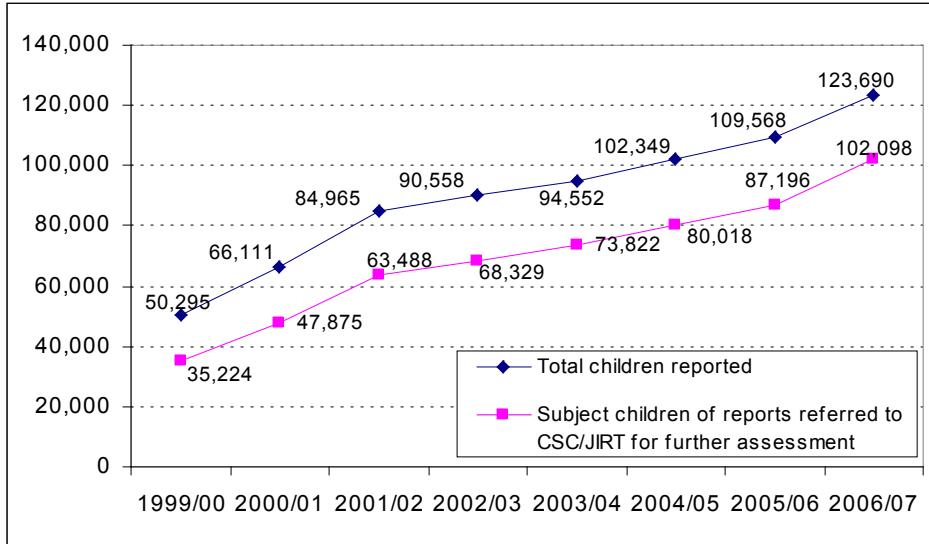
Figure 1: Total reports to DoCS and those referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment, 1999/00 to 2006/07



The number of individual children and young people reported each year to DoCS has more than doubled from 50,295 in 1999/00 to 123,690 in 2006/07 (Figure 2). However, the rise from 2001/02 to 2006/07 has been less sharp at 46%. In comparison, the percentage of individual children whose reports were referred to a CSC/JIRT for assessment sometime in that year has increased by 61% from 2001/02 to 2006/07.

The average number of reports has increased from 1.5 reports per child in 1999/00 to 2.3 reports per child in 2006/07.

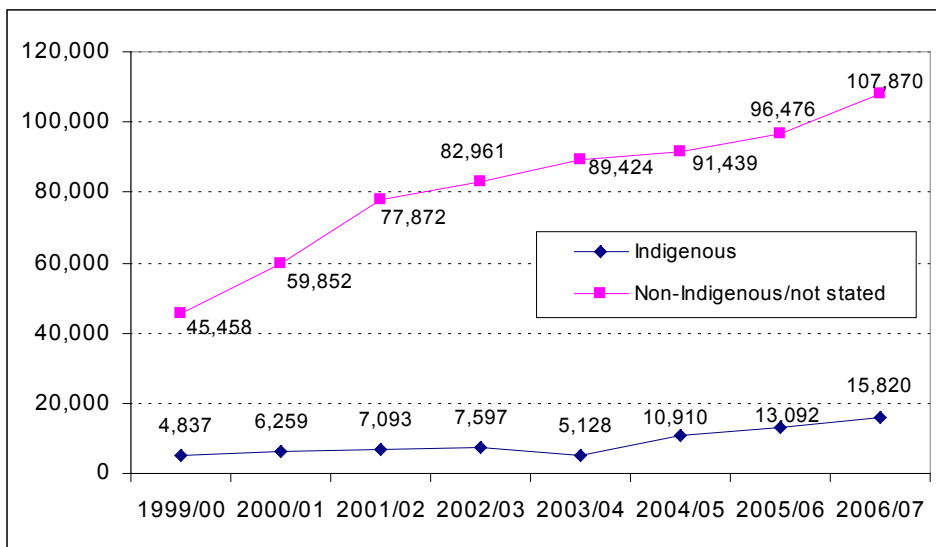
Figure 2: Total children and young people reported to DoCS and those children who were the subject of a report referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment, 1999/00 to 2006/07



1b. Indigenous status of children reported

When Indigenous status is examined over time, the rise in Indigenous children reported has been greater than for those recorded as non-Indigenous or not stated, as shown in Figure 3. Some of this difference may be accounted for by better recording of Indigenous status. In 1999/00 children recorded as Indigenous made up 9.6% of all children reported to DoCS; in 2006/07 this had risen to 12.8%. The average number of reports received about Indigenous children per year is greater than the average for other children. In 2006/07, 3.1 reports per child were received about Indigenous children compared with an average of 2.2 reports for children recorded as non-Indigenous or not stated.

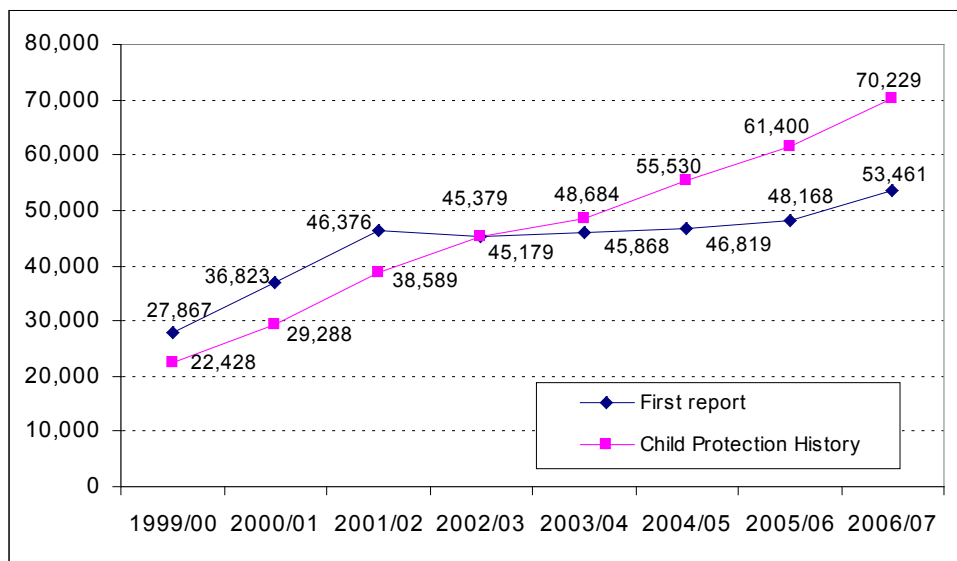
Figure 3: Children and young people reported to DoCS by Indigenous status, 1999/00 to 2006/07



1c. Children with a Child Protection history

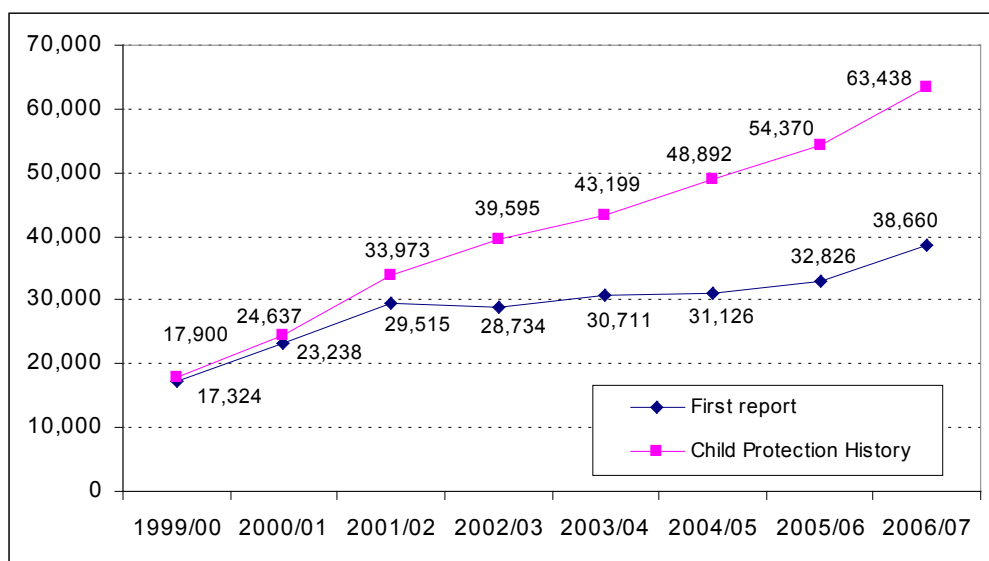
Figure 4 shows the total number of children reported to DoCS by whether the child had been reported previously (history from 1987/88). It shows that prior to 2002/03, there were more new children reported than children who were already known to DoCS each year. From 2002/03 to 2006/07 the number of children reported each year with a child protection history increased at a greater rate than the number of new children, with the percentage increase over this period being 18% for new children and 55% for known children. In 2006/07, 57% of children reported had a child protection history.

Figure 4: Total children and young people reported to DoCS by child protection history status, 1999/00 to 2006/07



The number of children involved in reports requiring further assessment at a CSC/JIRT who were known to DoCS also increased substantially more than the number of new children (Figure 5). In 2006/07, 62% of those children referred to CSC/JIRT for further assessment had a child protection history compared with 51% in 1999/00.

Figure 5: Children and young people who were the subject of a report referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment by child protection history status, 1999/00 to 2006/07



In comparing Figure 4 and Figure 5, a larger proportion of children with a child protection history were the subject of a report referred for further assessment than children reported for the first time; however, both increased slightly over the time period. By 2006/07, 90% of children known to DoCS were referred for further assessment compared with 72% of new children.

1d. Reporter types

Police are the largest source of child protection reports to DoCS, accounting for one-third of all reports in 2006/07 (Figure 6). Since 1999/00 the average annual percentage increase in reports referred by Police has been 27%. This figure is similar to that for Health reporters, which includes hospitals, GPs and other medical professionals.

Figure 6: Total reports referred to DoCS by reporter type, 1999/00 to 2006/07

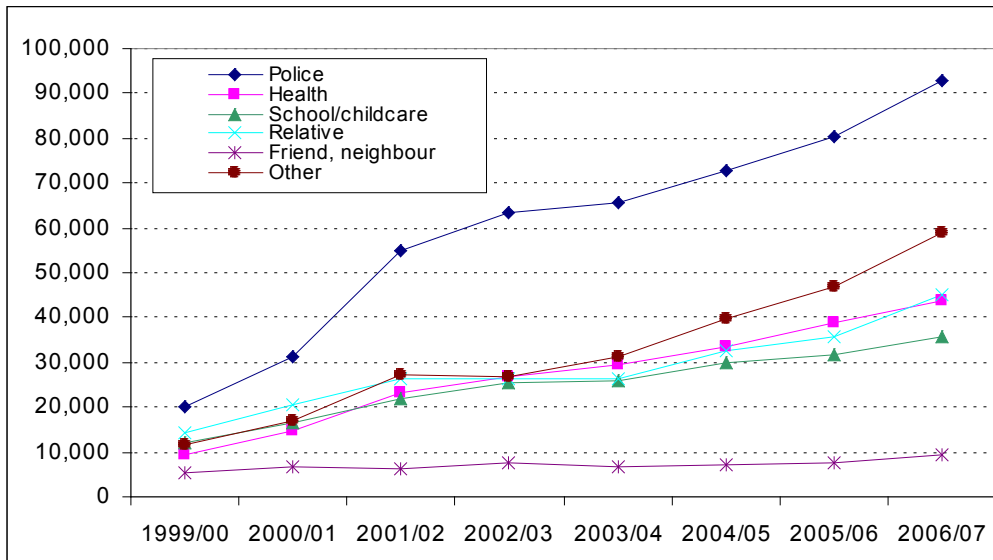
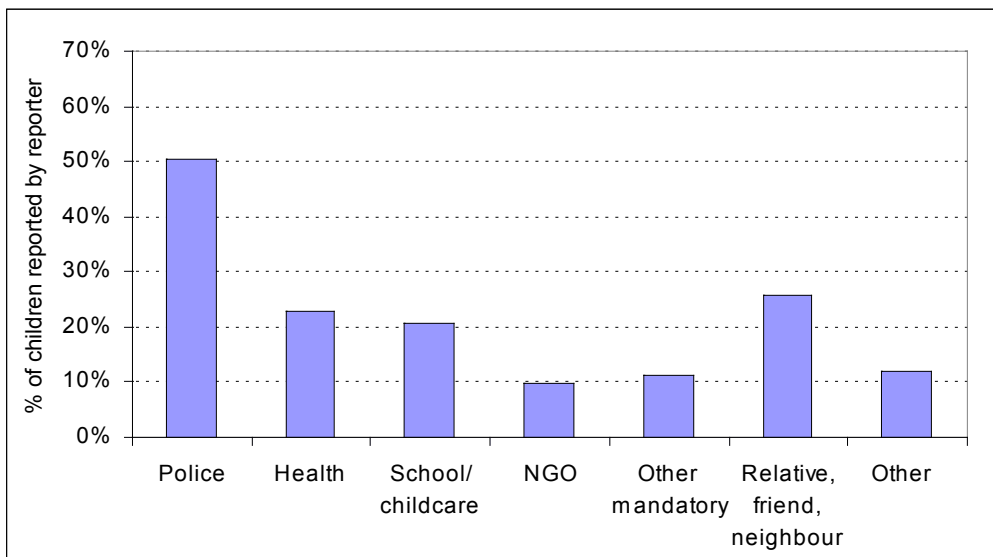


Figure 7 examines the percentage of children who were reported to DoCS at least once in 2006/07 by various reporter types. This shows that half of the 123,690 children reported to DoCS during 2006/07 were reported by Police at some stage during that year. The next highest groups of reporters were relatives/friends/neighbours (26%), health (23%) and school/childcare (21%).

Figure 7: Percentage of children and young people reported to DoCS by reporter type, 2006/07

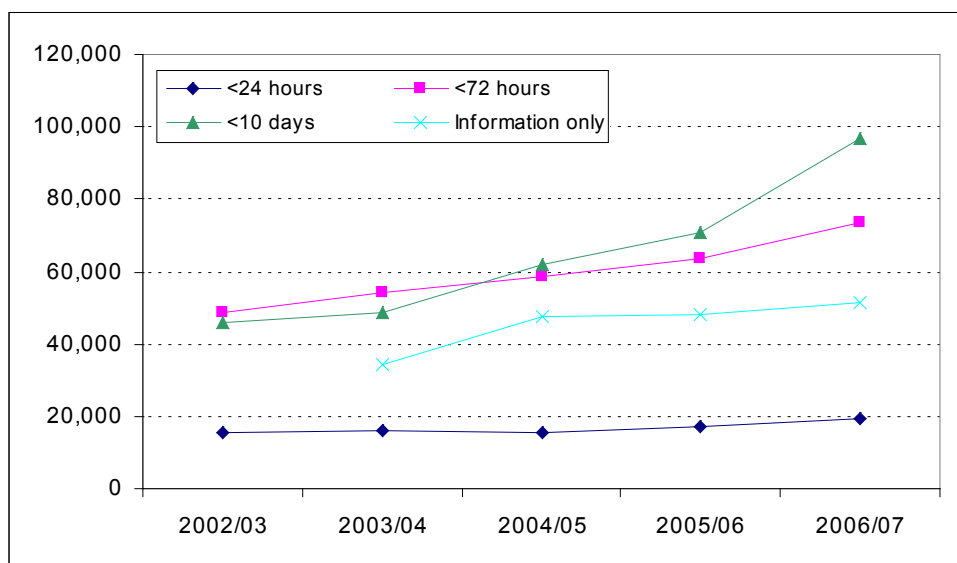


Notes: Groups are not mutually exclusive; children may be reported by one or more reporter types throughout the year. Coded reporter type fields have changed overtime, therefore a more detailed breakdown has been provided for 2006/07.

1e. Required response time

At the end of initial assessment a required response time should be attached to a report which is being referred to a CSC/JIRT for further assessment. As shown in Figure 8, since 2002/03, despite an overall increase of 75% in total reports referred, the number of reports deemed most urgent, with a required response time of less than 24 hours, has increased by 22%. For reports with a response time of less than 72 hours the comparable increase has been 51%, with a 111% increase for reports with a required response time of less than 10 days. The number of reports sent to CSC/JIRTs for 'information only' has increased by 51% over the past four years.

Figure 8: Reports referred to CSC/JIRT for secondary assessment with selected required response times and reports referred for information only, 2002/03 to 2006/07



Notes: Reports referred to CSC/JIRT with required response times of 10 days or more and with a response time not stated were excluded from the above figure due to relatively low volumes of reports. Equivalent required response times are not available for reports prior to 2002/03.

As shown in Table 1, generally there has been a steady increase in the percentage of total reports referred for secondary assessment which had a required response time of less than 10 days. Conversely, there has been a steady decrease in the percentage of total reports referred for secondary assessment with a required response time of less than 24 hours or less than 72 hours.

Table 1: Reports referred to CSC/JIRT for secondary assessment with selected required response times and reports referred for information only, 2002/03 to 2006/07

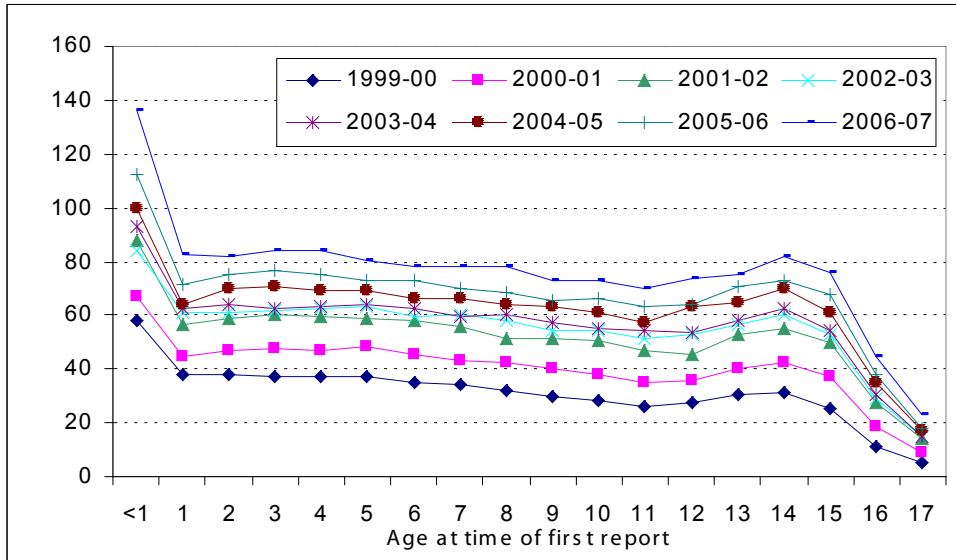
	2002/03		2003/04*		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<24 hours	15,721	13.7	15,978	13.1	15,669	11.2	17,406	10.8	19,193	9.5
<72 hours	48,760	42.4	54,235	44.5	58,380	41.6	63,741	39.6	73,687	36.6
<10 days	45,835	39.9	48,810	40.0	61,839	44.1	70,960	44.1	96,657	48.0
+10 days	2,261	2.0	1,476	1.2	881	0.6	464	0.3	559	0.3
No response required/ not stated	2,423	2.1	1,472	1.2	3,415	2.4	8,271	5.1	11,112	5.5
Total reports referred for secondary assessment	115,000	100.0	121,971	100.0	140,184	100.0	160,842	100.0	201,208	100.0
Reports referred for information only			34,118	21.9	47,310	25.2	48,373	23.1	51,546	20.4
Total reports received CSC/JIRT	N/A		56,089	100.0	87,494	100.0	09,215	100.0	52,754	100.0

Notes: * The total reports referred in 2003/04 is higher than the (published) figure shown elsewhere in this report, due to the utilisation of two different data extracts.

1f. Children's age at time of report

In 2006/07, for every 1,000 children in NSW, around 78 were reported to DoCS. Rates of children reported to DoCS vary considerably by age group. The rate of reporting about children aged less than one year¹ is considerably higher than for all other age groups. For every 1,000 children aged less than one year in NSW, 136 were reported to DoCS in 2006/07. (Figure 9)

Figure 9: Rate of children and young people reported to DoCS per 1,000 population by age group, 1999/00 to 2006/07



Notes: Age is child's age at time of first report for a given year. Base population is sourced from ABS, Estimated Resident Population; 2005/06 population data used for 2006/07.

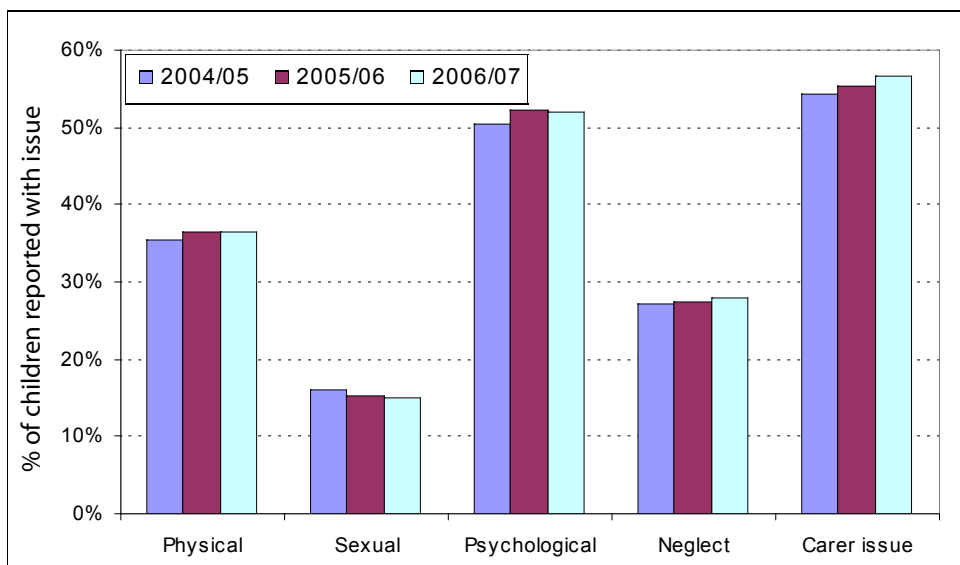
1g. Reported issues

Each initial assessment record in KiDS allows for the entering of up to three reported issues from a list of 47 coded issues. These issues can be grouped in a number of ways to examine trends in areas of interest. Appendix A shows the full list of issues which fall under each of the categories presented in Figures 10 and 11.

As shown in Figure 10, over half the children had a 'carer' type issue recorded in at least one of the reports received about them in each of the years from 2004/05 to 2006/07. A slightly lower percentage of children had reports containing issues relating to alleged psychological abuse.

¹ The rate for children aged less than one year is likely to be artificially inflated by a small amount. This is because DoCS data contain pre-natal reports, whereas the base population only includes born children..

Figure 10: Percentage of children and young people with reported issue type recorded in any of their reports, 2004/05 to 2006/07

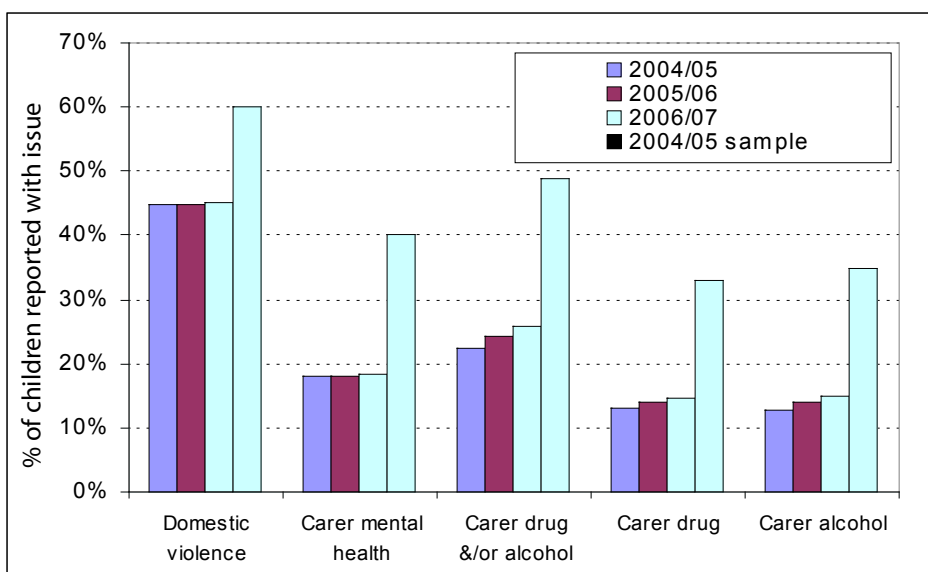


Notes: Data prior to 2004/05 are not shown as it is not comparable to later years due to a change in reporting systems. Groups are not mutually exclusive; children may be recorded against more than one issue.

Figure 11 depicts the percentage of children where selected reported issues were recorded in any of their reports for a given year. In 2006/07, around one-quarter of children reported have had carer drug or alcohol issues feature in the coded fields of their reports. Again, this trend has been consistent across recent years.

It is known that those issues recorded in the coded reported issue fields in KiDS (used in Figure 11) are subject to under-enumeration. A study conducted by the Economics and Statistics Branch in 2006 examined the child protection history of a sample of 200 children that were reported to DoCS in 2004/05 and were subsequently referred to a CSC/JIRT. The results estimated that 71% - 85% of children reported had at least one of the selected issues, as shown in Table 2 and in the fourth bar of Figure 11.

Figure 11: Percentage of children and young people with selected reported issues recorded in any of their reports, 2004/05 to 2006/07 and 2004/05 sample



Notes: Data prior to 2004/05 are not shown as they are not comparable to those for later years due to a change in reporting systems. Groups are not mutually exclusive; children may be recorded against more than one issue.

Source: 2004/05 Sample - Key Information and Directory System (KiDS) KiDS May 2006.

Table 2: Percentage of selected issues for a sample of 200 cases with a SAS 1 or SAS 2 completed in 2004/05 compared with recording in KiDS coded fields for children and young people reported in 2004/05 to 2006/07

	2004/05 sample (N=200) In KiDS record/history		2004/05 (102,349)	2005/06 (109,568)	2006/07 (123,690)
	Sample percentage	95% confidence interval	Coded KiDS reported issues fields (%)	Coded KiDS reported issues fields (%)	Coded KiDS reported issues fields (%)
Alcohol use carer	35	28 - 42	13	14	15
Drug use carer	33	26 - 40	13	14	15
Drug &/or Alcohol carer	49	42 - 56	22	24	26
Domestic Violence	60	53 - 67	45	45	45
Mental Health carer	40	33 - 47	18	18	19
One or more selected issue(s)	78	71 - 85	62	63	64
Two or more selected issues	53	46 - 60	20	21	22

Notes: Categories are not mutually exclusive, as children may be recorded against more than one issue. The 2004/05 sample was based on children with a completed SAS 1 or SAS 2, whereas the 2004/05 to 2006/07 coded data are for all children reported in that year – therefore they are not directly comparable.

Source: 2004/05 Sample - Key Information and Directory System (KiDS) KiDS May 2006.

1h. Concentration of reports

The occurrence of multiple reports per child has increased over time, as shown in Figure 12. In 1999/00, the 1% of children with the highest number of reports accounted for 4.8% of total reports, whereas in 2006/07 this top 1% accounted for 8.9% of reports. In 2006/07, the top 20% of children made up just over half of all reports.

Figure 12: Percentage of all reports by percentage of children and young people, 1999/00 to 2006/07

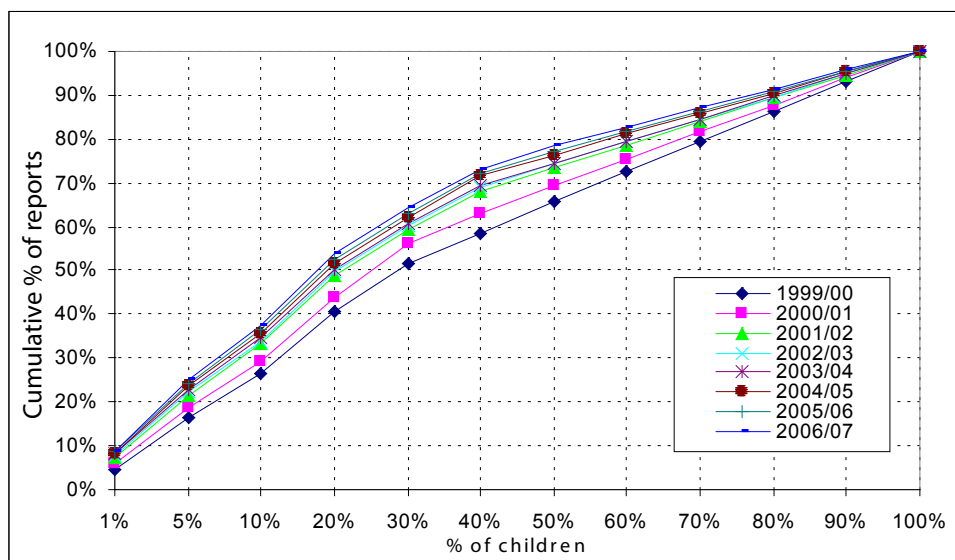
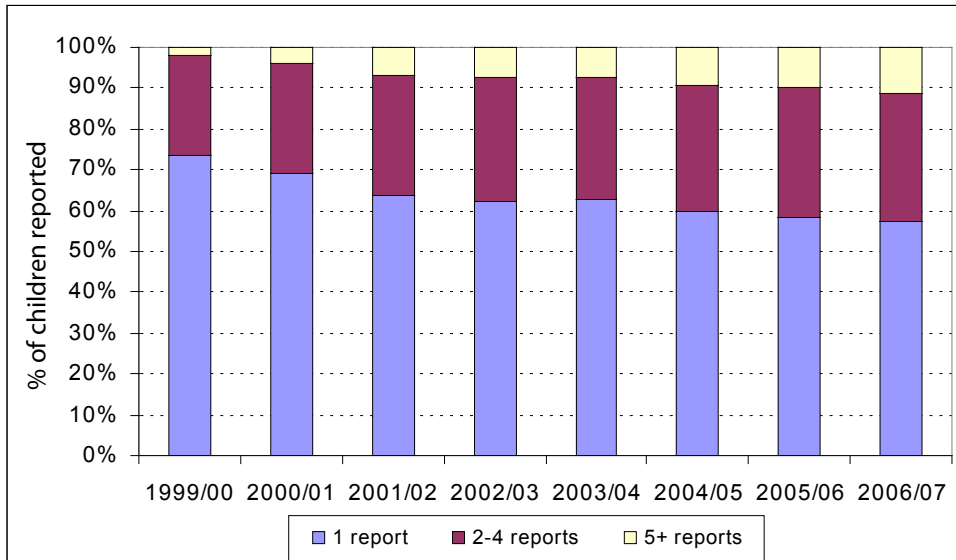


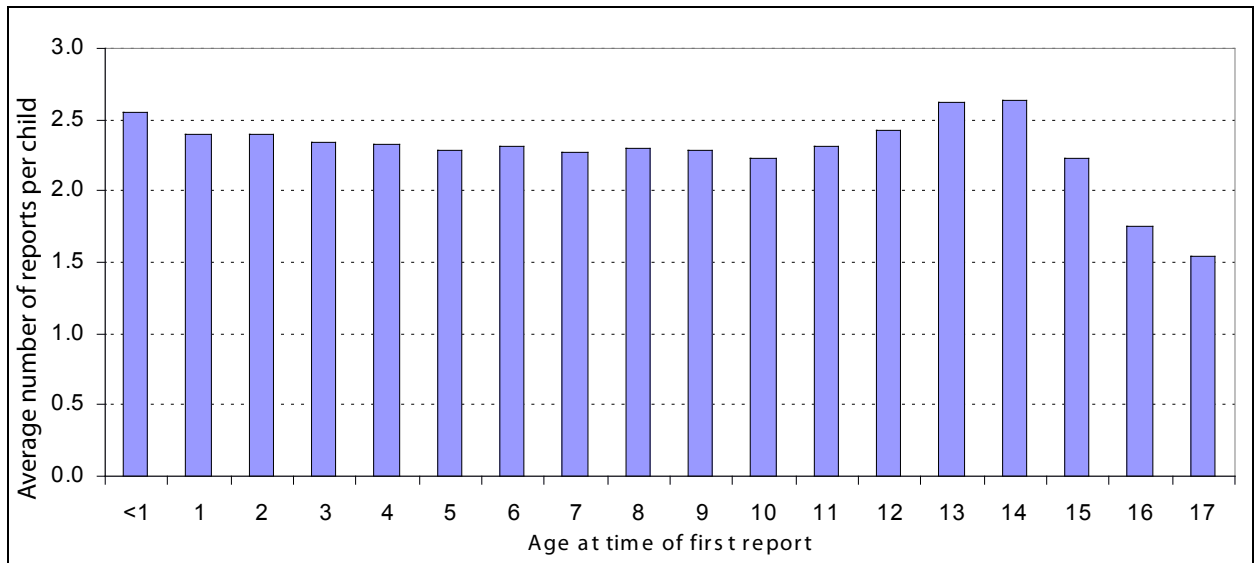
Figure 13 further demonstrates the rising number of reports per child over time. As shown, the percentage of children with just one report in a year has decreased from 74% in 1999/00 to 57% in 2006/07, while the percentage of children with five or more reports has increased from 2% in 1999/00 to 11% in 2006/07.

Figure 13: Numbers of reports per child/young person per year, 1999/00 to 2006/07



As shown in Figure 14, the highest average number of reports per child in 2006/07 were for children aged less than one year, 13 years and 14 years (2.6 reports). It should be noted that not only do children of these ages receive the highest number of reports about them, but the rates of reporting about these ages are also high (see Figure 9).

Figure 14: Average number of reports received by children and young people in 2006/07 by age



SECTION 2. RE-REPORTING: ANALYSIS OF A COHORT OF CHILDREN

KEY FINDINGS: Based on a cohort of children reported during July-September 2004:

- Over half of the children were re-reported within 12 months.
- When controlling for all other factors, child protection history, age, Indigenous status, and OOHC history were significant in determining whether a child would be re-reported.
- Children with a child protection history were more likely to be re-reported and were more likely to be re-reported more quickly than new children.
- As the number of prior reports a child had received increased, so did their likelihood of being re-reported.
- Younger children were more likely to be re-reported than older children.
- Children who had previously been in OOHC were more likely to be re-reported than other children.

Introduction and Method

The following section investigates re-reporting in more detail. It explores the time it takes for children to be re-reported and factors influencing re-reporting.

The analysis is based on a cohort of children aged 0-16 years reported in July-September 2004 (reference report) and follows their child protection outcomes in KiDS for 12 months. If the child was reported more than once during this period, the first report was used in the cohort for the analysis and became the reference report. The children's electronic child protection histories were examined (5 years history) to determine the number of prior reports for the child. The cohort was restricted to a maximum age of 16 years so that all children could be followed for a full 12 months and that there was no bias due to the young person turning 18 years.

Throughout this analysis where a history of out-of-home care (OOHC) is referred to, this means that the child has been in a placement at some time in their life. It also means that he/she is not currently in a placement unless it is specifically stated.

2a. Re-reporting within 12 months

Over half (57.5%) of the children reported in July-September 2004 were re-reported within 12 months (Table 3). Children with a child protection history were more likely to be re-reported and were more likely to be re-reported more quickly. There were 18.1% of children with five or more prior reports that were re-reported within one week compared with 10.0% of children with no prior reports. After six months, over two-thirds of the children with five or more prior reports had been re-reported whereas less than one-third of first reports had been re-reported.

Table 3: Number and percentage of children and young people 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months by time to re-report

Time to re-report	Child protection history						Total	
	First ever report		1-4 reports prior		5+ prior reports		No.	Cum. %
	No.	Cum. %	No.	Cum. %	No.	Cum. %	No.	Cum. %
1 week	1,100	10.0	1,624	12.7	1,625	18.1	4,349	13.3
1 month	683	16.1	1,332	23.1	1,509	34.9	3,524	24.0
3 months	888	24.2	1,732	36.7	1,801	54.9	4,421	37.5
6 months	710	30.6	1,413	47.8	1,180	68.1	3,303	47.6
9 months	429	24.5	823	54.2	709	76.0	1,961	53.5
12 months	330	37.5	602	58.9	383	80.2	1,315	57.5
Not re-reported	6,907	62.5	5,243	41.1	1,774	19.8	13,924	42.5
Total	11,047			12,769		8,981		32,797

Figure 15 and Table 4 show the likelihood of being re-reported by the number of reports. They show that the more reports that have been received about a child, the more likely it is that the child will be reported again within 12 months. Of the children with more than 10 reports, 85.7% were re-reported. Table 4 shows that once a child receives a second report, they are more likely to be reported again within 12 months than not (likelihood of re-report is 52.2%). This likelihood rises above two-thirds from the 5th report onwards (70.1%) and around 80% from the 8th report onwards.

The group of children with five or more prior reports who were not re-reported in the following 12 months was further analysed to examine if a possible reason for the children not being re-reported was that they had entered a placement. However, only 2.6% of these children entered a placement during that time period. This compares with 4.6% of children in the cohort overall.

Figure 15: Percentage of children and young people aged 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months, by number ever received about the child

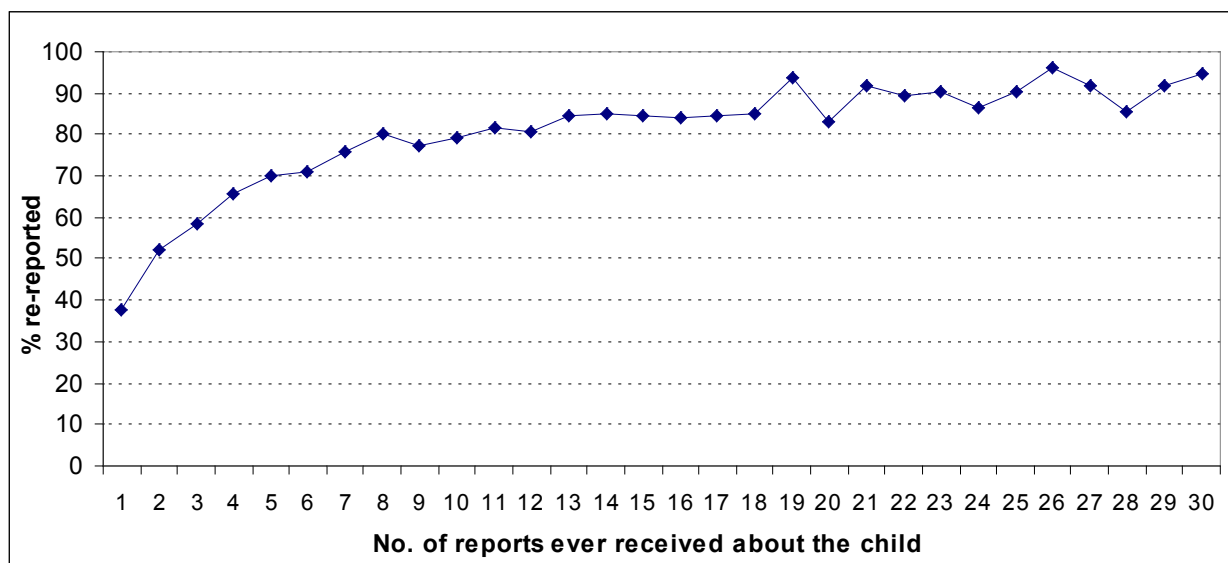


Table 4: Percentage of children and young people aged 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months, by number ever received about the child

Report number for the child	Percentage of children re-reported within 12 months
1st report	37.5
2nd report	52.2
3rd report	58.5
4th report	65.7
5th report	70.1
6th report	71.2
7th report	75.9
8th report	80.3

2b. Children who receive just one report

There were 11,047 children reported for the very first time during July – September 2004; of these children, 6,907 or 63% had just one report over a 12 month period. Characteristics of the children were examined to determine if those children who had just one report were distinguishable from those children who had multiple reports. Table 5 shows selected characteristics of children who were not re-reported (just one report over 12 months) compared with those children who were re-reported. Children who received just one report in a 12 month period were less likely to be: aged less than one year; reported by a relative or a health source; of Indigenous status; reported with issues of carer drug/alcohol abuse or carer mental health.

Table 5: Selected characteristics of children and young people reported to DoCS for the very first-time in July – September 2004 by whether they were re-reported within a 12-month period

Characteristic	Not re-reported		Re-reported		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age						
< 1 year	784	44.6	972	55.4	1,756	100.0
1 - 2 years	880	60.7	570	39.3	1,450	100.0
3 - 8 years	2,304	65.5	1,212	34.5	3,516	100.0
9 - 14 years	2,269	67.0	1,117	33.0	3,386	100.0
15 - 16 years	670	71.4	269	28.6	939	100.0
Reporter source						
Police	2,825	64.3	1,567	35.7	4,392	100.0
Health	1,147	56.6	880	43.4	2,027	100.0
School/childcare	1,417	69.2	630	30.8	2,047	100.0
Relative	490	50.4	483	49.6	973	100.0
Friend/neighbour	153	63.0	90	37.0	243	100.0
Other	875	64.1	490	35.9	1,365	100.0
Indigenous status						
Non-Indigenous/ not stated	6,548	64.1	3,663	35.9	10,211	100.0
Indigenous	359	42.9	477	57.1	836	100.0
Initial Assessment outcome						
To CSC/JIRT secondary assessment	4,750	61.4	2,982	38.6	7,732	100.0
Info forwarded to CSC/JIRT	631	55.5	505	44.5	1,136	100.0
Other	1,522	70.1	650	29.9	2,172	100.0
Reported issues include						
Carer drug/alcohol	666	50.1	663	49.9	1,329	100.0
Carer mental health	726	53.8	623	46.2	1,349	100.0
Domestic violence	2,594	60.0	1,726	40.0	4,320	100.0
Reported issue type includes						
Physical	1,516	64.4	837	35.6	2,353	100.0
Sexual	784	67.5	378	32.5	1,162	100.0
Emotional	1,437	61.4	905	38.6	2,342	100.0
Neglect	1,041	61.9	641	38.1	1,682	100.0
Total children (average)	6,907	62.5	4,140	37.5	11,047	100.0

2c. Children with prior reports

Children with multiple prior reports were not only more likely to be re-reported (as shown in Figure 15), they were also likely to be re-reported multiple times in the following 12 months, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Children and young people reported July-September 2004 by the number of prior reports and number of re-reports within 12 months

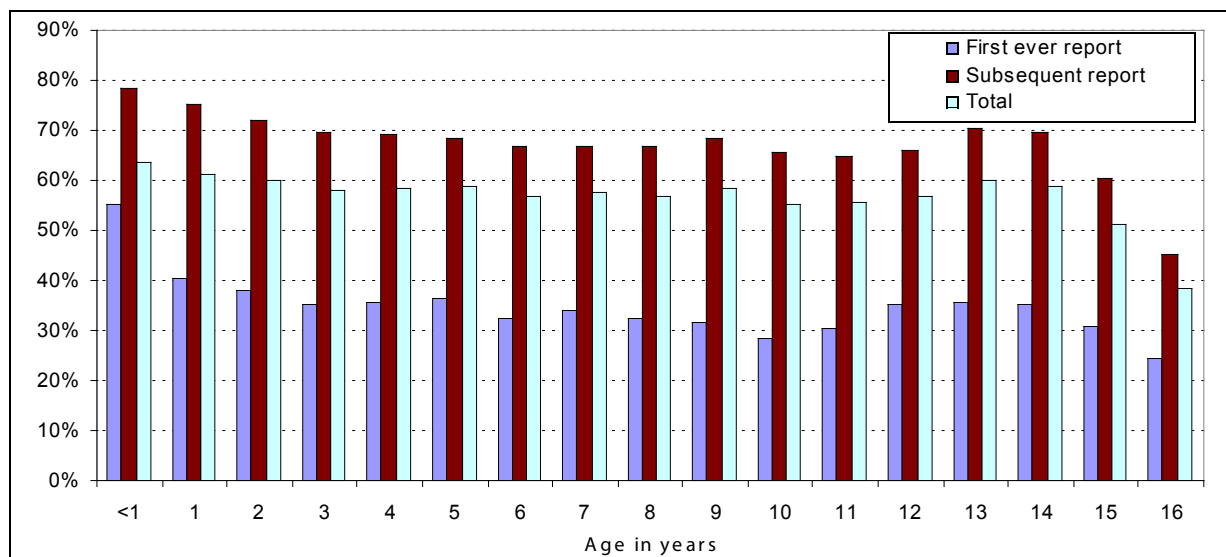
Child Protection History		Number of re-reports within 12 months				Total
		1 report	2-4 reports	5+ reports	Not re-reported	
First ever report	No.	2,079	1,509	552	6,907	11,047
	%	18.8	13.7	5.0	62.5	100.0
1 prior report	No.	1,137	1,135	454	2,498	5,224
	%	21.8	21.7	8.7	47.8	100.0
2-4 prior reports	No.	1,657	2,127	1,016	2,745	7,545
	%	22.0	28.2	13.5	36.4	100.0
5+ prior reports	No.	1,522	2,979	2,706	1,774	8,981
	%	16.9	33.2	30.1	19.8	100.0
Total	No.	6,395	7,750	4,728	13,924	32,797
	%	19.5	23.6	14.4	42.5	100.0

Approximately two-thirds (63.3%) of children with five or more prior reports received multiple reports within 12 months and approximately one-third of this group received five or more reports. Children for whom this was the first report were most likely to not be re-reported (62.5%) and a relatively small proportion were re-reported five or more times in the following year (5.0%). For children with 2-4 prior reports almost half (50.2%) were reported 1-4 times in the following 12 months.

2d. Children's age at time of reference report

Figure 16 shows that younger children were more likely to be re-reported than older children with almost two-thirds (63.6%) of children aged under one year re-reported. The re-reporting rate was higher for children with a child protection history for all ages. While children under one year with a child protection history had the highest re-reporting rate (78%) overall, the difference between first and subsequent reports was greater for older children.

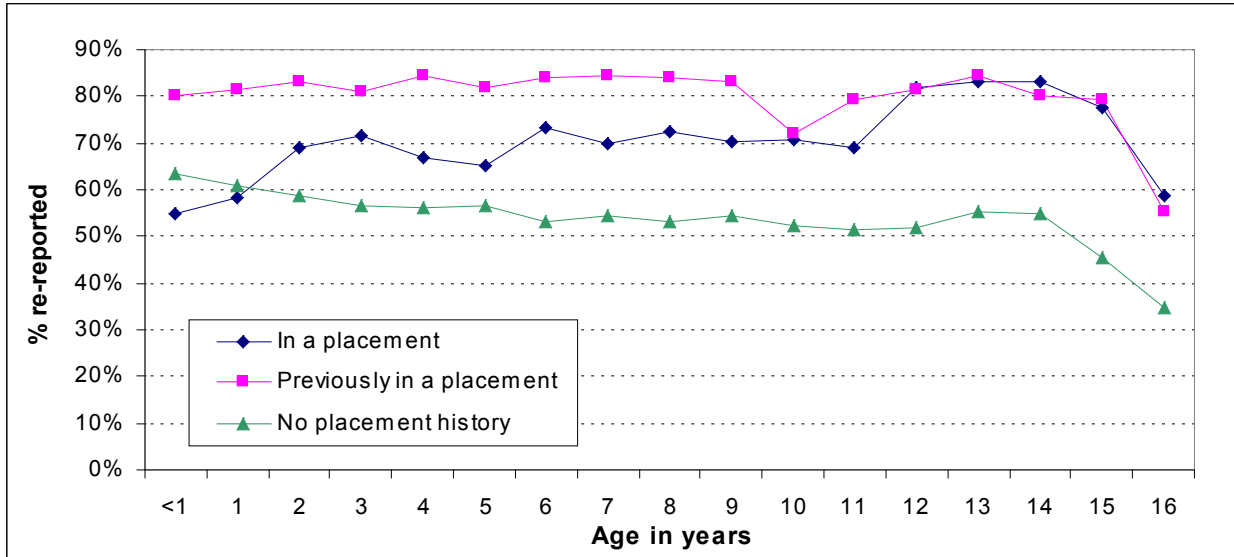
Figure 16: Percentage of children and young people aged 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months by age



2e. Children's placement history

Figure 17 examines re-reporting by the child's placement history and age. Overall, children who had previously been in a placement were more likely to be re-reported than children with no placement history, or children who were in a placement at the time of the reference report. Older children (12 years and over) in a placement were just as likely to be re-reported as children with a history of being in OOHc (but who were not currently in a placement).

Figure 17: Percentage of children and young people aged 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 that were re-reported within 12 months by age and placement history

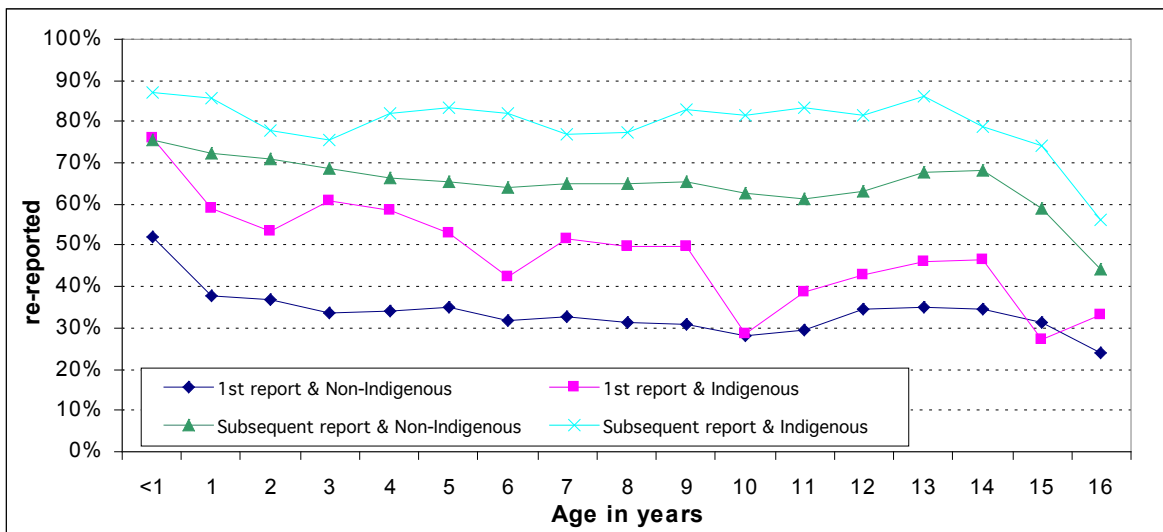


2f. Child's Indigenous status

Taking into account Indigenous status, child protection history and age, children with prior reports who were Indigenous were the most likely to be re-reported at any age, as shown in Figure 18. Children with a child protection history and who were non-Indigenous were the next most likely group to be re-reported.

For children reported for the first time, those aged under one year were substantially more likely to be re-reported than other age groups. This was the case for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous children.

Figure 18: Percentage of children and young people aged 0-16 years reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months by Age, Indigenous status and Child Protection History



2g. Re-reporting rate based on the child's child protection history, Indigenous status and placement history

Next, child protection history, Indigenous status and placement history were considered simultaneously. Indigenous children with a child protection history who had previously been in a placement were found to be the most likely to be re-reported (87.6%) as shown in Table 7. The next most frequently re-reported group were Indigenous children with a child protection history, but no history of being in a placement (79.0%).

The group least likely to be re-reported were non-Indigenous children for whom this was their first report, and who had no OOHC placement history. For this group the likelihood of being re-reported decreased further with age until 10 years where it started to increase again slightly.

Very few children had no child protection history but had previously been in a placement and they were therefore not shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Number and percentage of children and young people reported July-September 2004 who were re-reported within 12 months by Indigenous status, child protection history and placement history

Child and report factors	Child Protection Status after 12 months					
	Not re-reported		Re-reported		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
First ever report, Non-Indigenous, no placement history	6,538	64.1	3,654	35.9	10,192	100.0
First ever report, Indigenous, no placement history	357	42.8	477	57.2	834	100.0
Subsequent report, Non-Indigenous, no placement history	5,938	36.2	10,452	63.8	16,390	100.0
Subsequent report, Non-Indigenous, placement history	415	21.6	1,502	78.4	1,917	100.0
Subsequent report, Indigenous, no placement history	581	21.0	2,191	79.0	2,772	100.0
Subsequent report, Indigenous, placement history	83	12.4	588	87.6	671	100.0
Total	13,924	42.5	18,873	57.5	32,797	100.0

2h. Multivariate analysis

Multivariate analysis (logistic regression) was undertaken to determine which factors were still significant in predicting re-reporting after controlling for all of the other factors; for example, to determine if age was still a significant predictor even after taking into account factors such as the child's Indigenous status and the number of prior reports.

The multivariate analysis determined that (as illustrated above) the most significant factors in determining re-reporting were:

- child protection history,
- age,
- Indigenous status and
- OOHC history.

Other factors that were also found to significantly increase the likelihood of a re-report, though to a lesser extent were:

- reporter type (reports from Health, relatives and 'other' sources were more likely to be re-reported),
- reported issues (including carer drug, alcohol and mental health issues and reports involving neglect, psychological issues and domestic violence),
- child currently being in a placement and
- gender (males were more likely to be re-reported than females).

SUMMARY: TRENDS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS PAPER

This analysis has highlighted a number of key trends relating to child protection reports received by DoCS in recent years, including:

- The number of reports and children reported each year has increased substantially; this is especially the case for certain groups of children and young people. In particular, Aboriginal children and young people and infants are over-represented in child protection reports.
- The average number of reports per child per year has increased. Analysis of this increase identified that there is an increased likelihood of continued contact with DoCS (being reported and re-reported more times per year) for children and young people with previous contact with the child protection system (reports and OOHC placement), infants, adolescents and Indigenous children and young people.

These factors are clearly not all independently impacting on child protection reporting rates, and are likely to occur in concert among the more frequently encountered groups in the system.

Data Sources:

Unless otherwise stated, all data contained in this paper has been sourced from:

1999/00 – September 2003: Client Information System (CIS)– Annual Statistical Extracts

October 2003 - 2004/05: Key Information and Directory System (KiDS) – Annual Statistical Extracts.

2005/06 and 2006/07: Corporate Information Warehouse (CIW) Annual Statistical Extracts.

Appendix A - Categorisation of data used in this report (sections 1d and 1g)

Table A1: Classification used for reporter type (Figure 6)

Category	Contactor type coded field
Police	Police
Health	Hospital/health centre Medical practitioner Other health professional
School/childcare	Child care personnel School personnel
Relative	Other relative Parent/Guardian Sibling
Friend/neighbour	Friend/neighbour
Other	Anonymous DADHC DoCS officer Family Court Non Gov Organisation Other Other Government Social Worker Subject Child/Young Person

Table A2: Classification used for reporter type (Figure 7)

Category	Contactor type coded field
Police	Police
Health	Hospital/health centre Medical practitioner Other health professional
School/childcare	Child care personnel School personnel
NGO	Non Gov Organisation
Other mandatory	DoCS officer Family Court Other Government Social Worker DADHC
Relative/friend/neighbour	Friend/neighbour Other relative Parent/Guardian Sibling
Other	Anonymous Other Subject Child/Young Person

Table A3: Classification used for reported issue type (Figure 10)

Category	Reported issue coded field
Physical	Alcohol use by child or YP Death of child, non accident Death of sibling, non accident Drug use by child or YP DV, Child/n harmed intervening Physical: Hit, kick, strike Physical: other Physical: Poisoning Physical: Shaking baby/child Physical: Strangle/suffocate Physical: Throwing baby/child Risk of physical harm/injury Runaway child/young person
Sexual	Child inappropriate sexual behaviour Risk of sexual harm/injury Sexual: Penetration Sexual: Exposure pornography Sexual: Indecent acts/molestation Sexual: Non-physical exploitation
Psychological	DV Child/n exposed to violence Persistent caregiver hostility Psychological mistreatment Risk of psychological harm Suicide risk for child
Neglect	Child/n left unattended in car Child/n or YP/s abandoned Failure to thrive, non-organic Inadequate clothing Inadequate nutrition Inadequate shelter or homeless Inadequate supervision for age Medical treatment not provided
Carer	Alcohol abuse by carer Unauthorised OOHC arrangement Carer in prison Developmental disability, carer Drug abuse by carer DV - Domestic violence Emotional state of carer Financial problems of carer Gambling problem of carer Hague Convention kidnapping Legal guardianship issues Physical disability of carer Psychiatric disability, carer Suicide risk/attempt of carer

Table A4: Classification used for reported issues (Figure 11)

Category	Reported issue coded field
Carer alcohol	Alcohol abuse by carer
Carer drug	Drug abuse by carer
Carer mental health	Emotional state of carer Psychiatric disability, carer Suicide risk/attempt of carer
Domestic violence	DV - Domestic violence
	DV Child/n exposed to violence
	DV, Child/n harmed intervening