

# BAROMETER 2005

An analysis of trends in key youth statistics  
since 1991



## Foreword

In 1997, the Youth Council for Northern Ireland published its first '*Barometer : a portrait of young people in Northern Ireland*' document. There have been four subsequent updates of the Barometer, with the latest 2004 edition running to 100 pages. This can be accessed at the Youth Council's website at [www.ycni.org](http://www.ycni.org)

This edition is a departure from the traditional Barometer format. Drawing upon statistics gathered since the early 1990s, this issue provides an overview of trends in key areas such as Demography, Education, Unemployment, Health, Crime and Accommodation.

The next full Barometer edition will be published in 2006.

# CONTENTS

Figure 1	Youth population aged 0-24 (1991-2004).....	4
Figure 2	Youth population by gender 1991-2001.....	4
Figure 3	Community background of under 25s (1991-2001).....	5
Figure 4	Total marriages among 16-24 year olds (1991-2003).....	5
Figure 5	Earnings of 18-20 and 20-24 age groups (1996-2003).....	6
Figure 6	Earnings of 18-20 year olds by gender (1996-2003).....	6
Figure 7	Earnings of 20-24 year olds by gender (1996-2003).....	7
Figure 8	School enrolments (1995-2004).....	8
Figure 9	Enrolments in nursery schools and classes (1994-2005).....	8
Figure 10	Pupil/teacher ratios (1994-2005).....	9
Figure 11	% pupils achieving 2+ A Levels grade A-E (1995-2004).....	10
Figure 12	% pupils achieving 2+ A Levels – N Ireland/ England & Wales.	10
Figure 13	% pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs grad A*-C (1995-2004).....	11
Figure 14	% pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs – N Ireland / England & Wales..	11
Figure 15	% pupils achieving no GCSEs – N Ireland / England & Wales..	12
Figure 16	Destinations of school leavers (1995-2004).....	13
Figure 17	Students graduating from higher education.....	13
Figure 18	Youth unemployment (age 16-24) & claimant count (1992-2005)	14
Figure 19	Children on child protection register (1996-2004).....	15
Figure 20	Child protection register by category of abuse (1997-2004).....	16
Figure 21	All children looked after (1997-2004).....	17
Figure 22	Children looked after by placement (1997-2004).....	17
Figure 23	Births to teenage mothers and % within marriage (1991-2003).	18
Figure 24	Suicides of young people aged 15-24.....	19
Figure 25	Juvenile sentencing (1987-2003).....	20
Figure 26	Juvenile court disposals (1994-2003).....	20
Figure 27	Homeless presenters by gender (1996-2003).....	21
REFERENCES.....		22

# DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 1

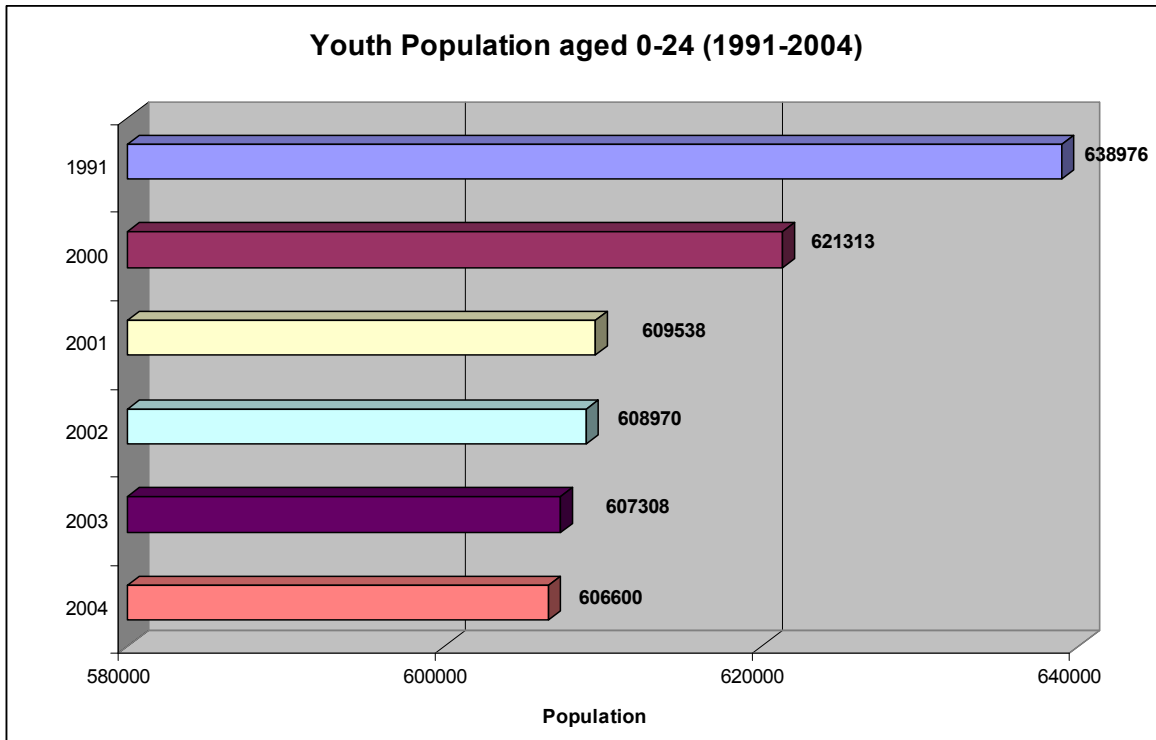
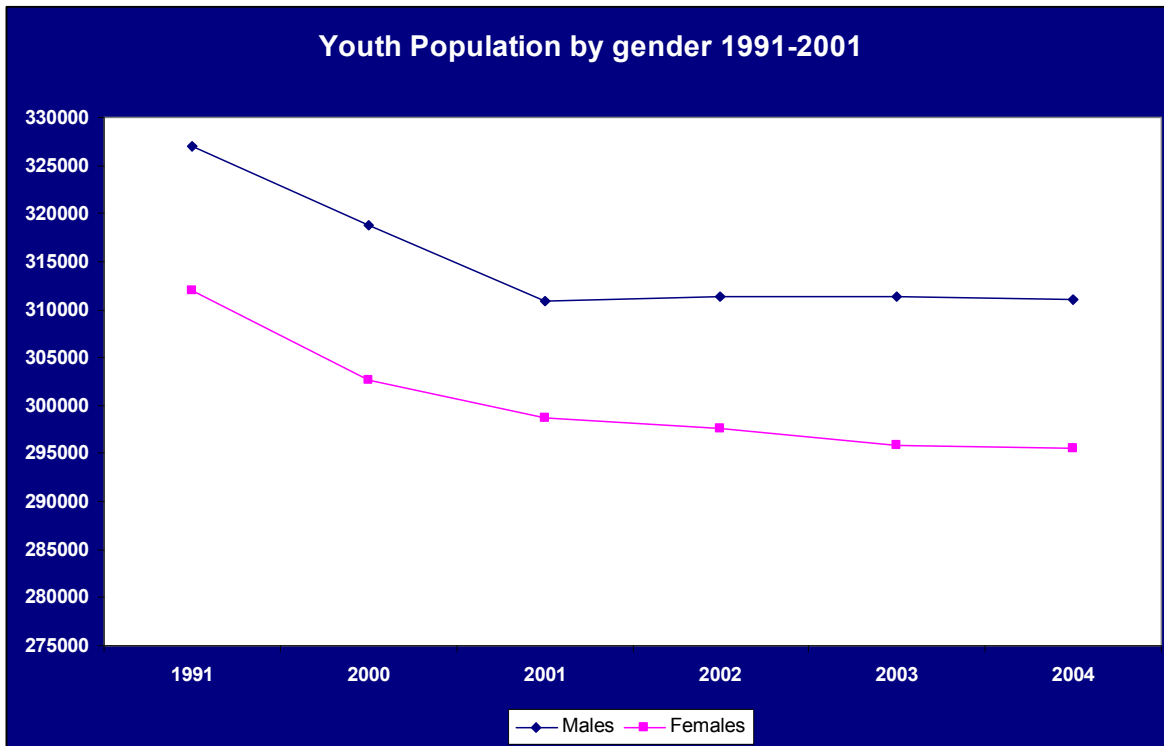
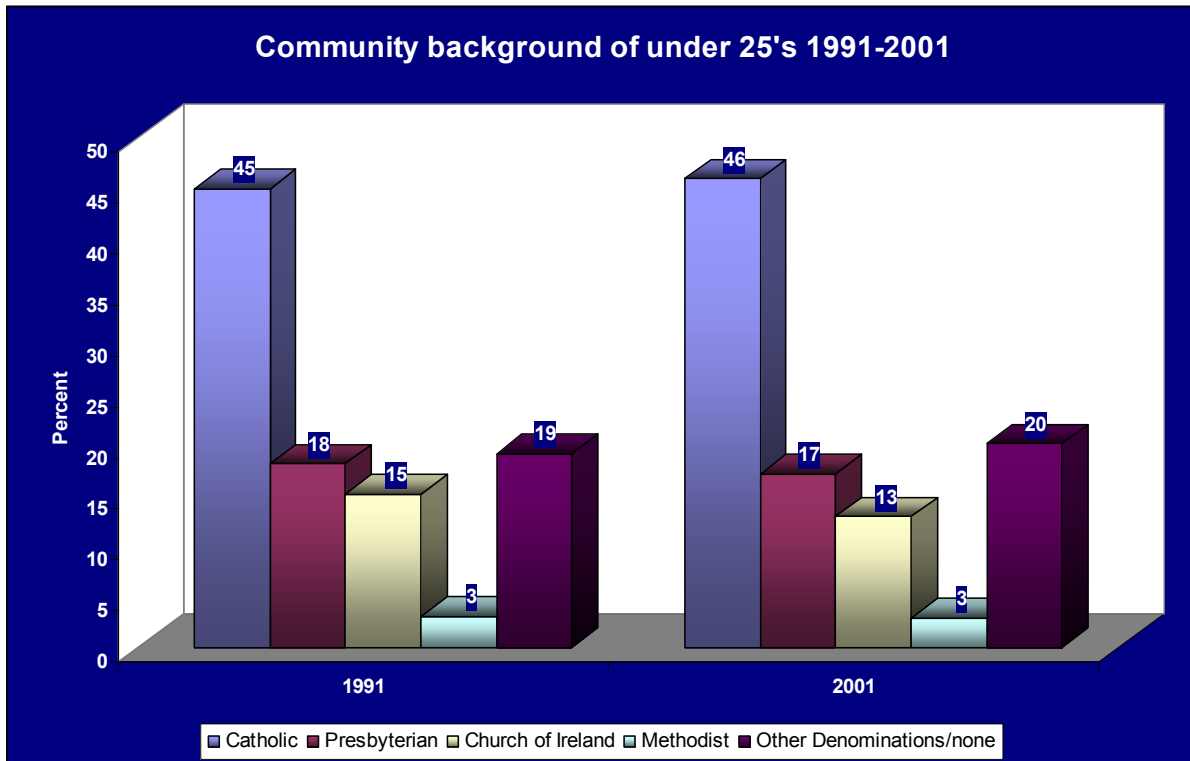


Figure 1 illustrates the decline in the youth population (Aged 0-24) between 1991 and 2004. Figure 2 illustrates that the male youth population remains proportionately higher than female.

Figure 2

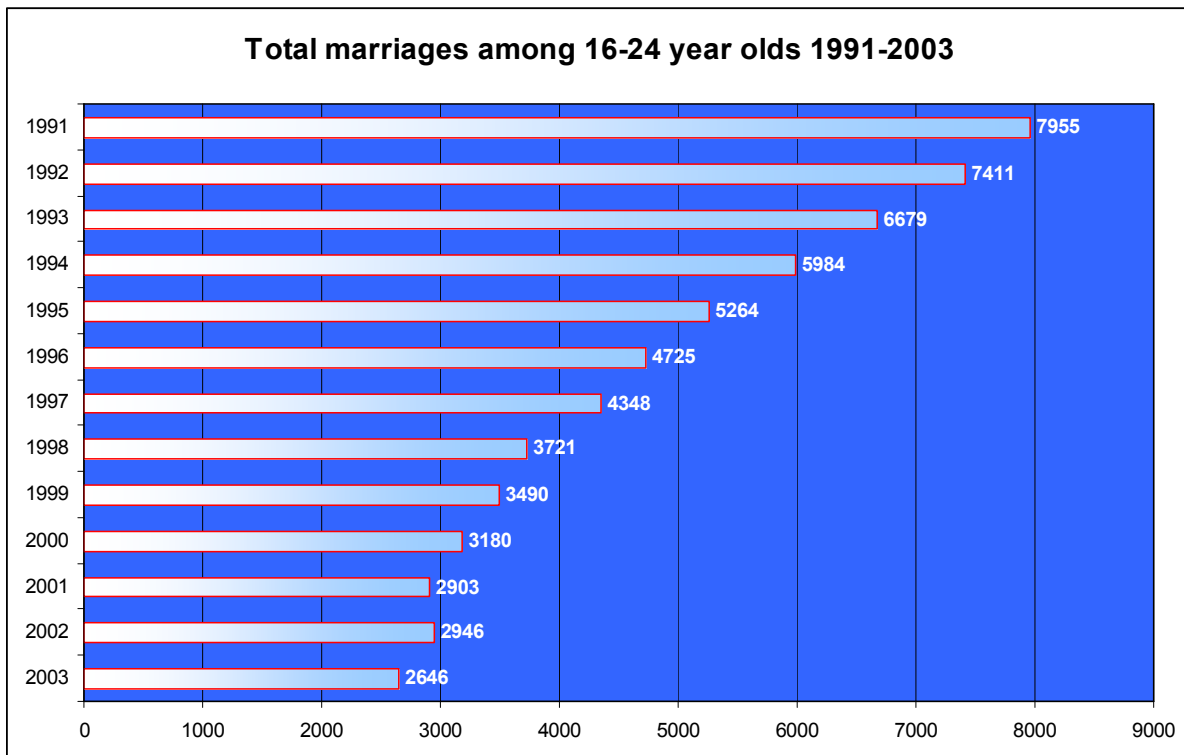


**Figure 3**



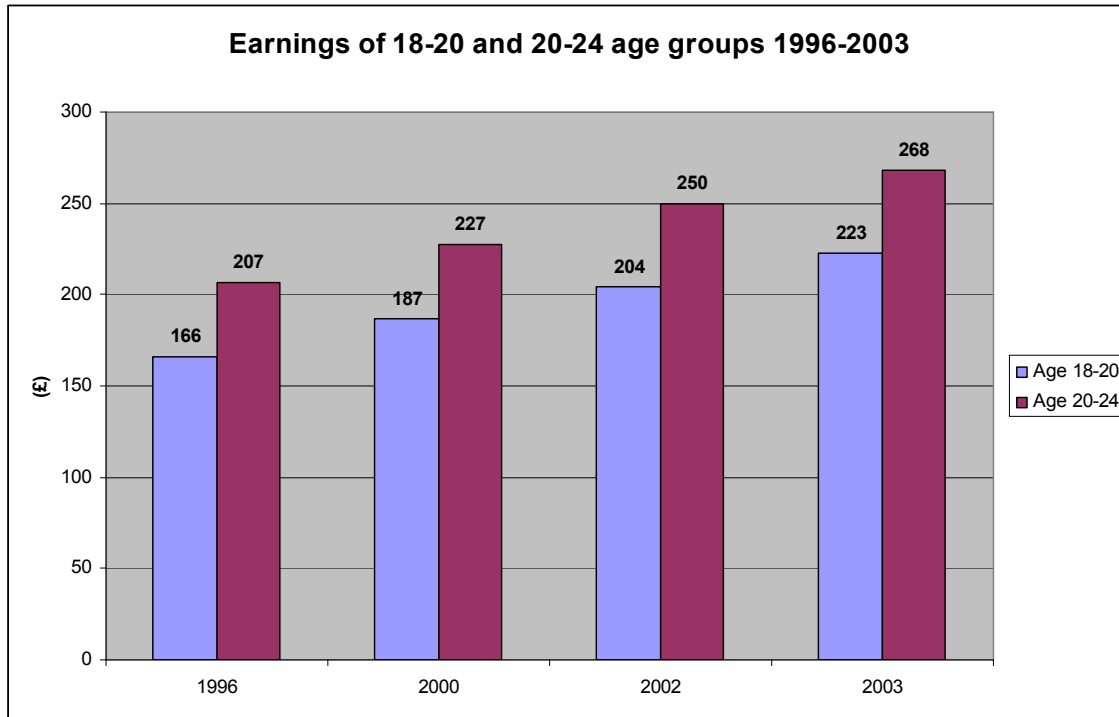
**Figure 3** illustrates slight variation in the community background of young people between 1991 and 2001, with a small proportionate increase in those from a Catholic background and a decrease in those from a Church of Ireland background. **Figure 4** illustrates a constant decrease in the numbers of young people aged 16-24 who get married, from 7955 in 1991 to 2646 in 2003.

**Figure 4**



# SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

Figure 5

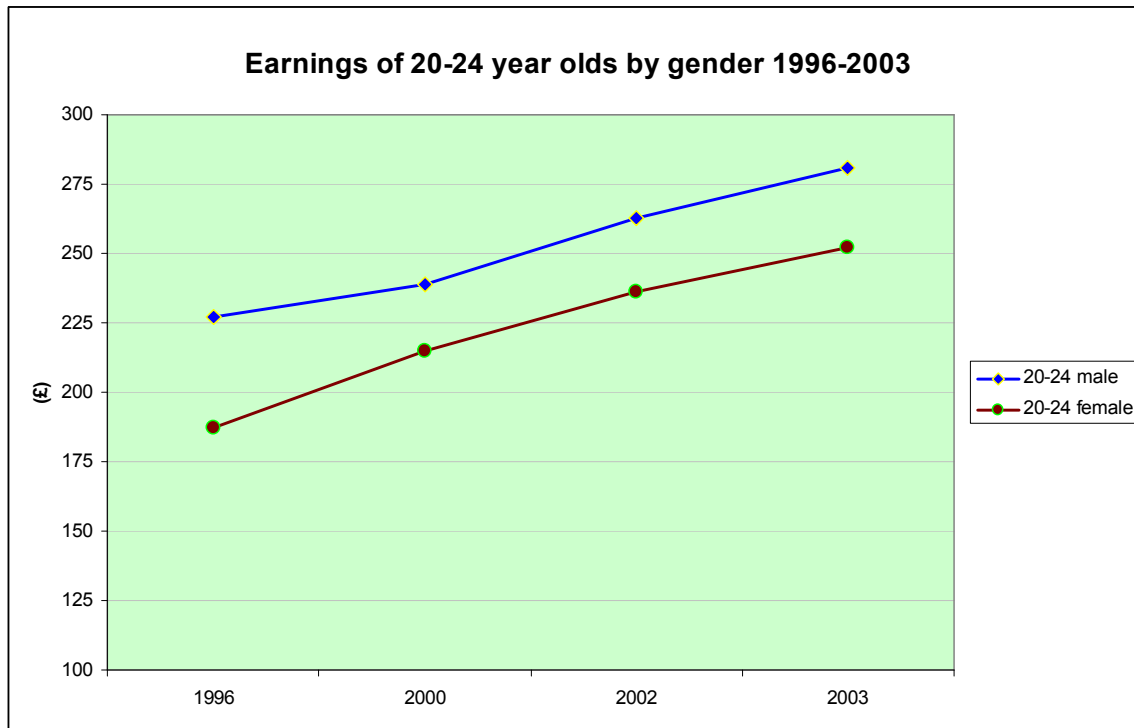


**Figure 5** illustrates that wage differentials between 18-20 yr olds and 20-24 yr olds have increased slightly, to the detriment of 18-20 yr olds. **Figure 6** illustrates that wage differentials between males and females aged 18-20 have widened, to the detriment of females.

Figure 6



However **Figure 7** illustrates that wage differentials between male and female employees aged 20-24 have narrowed (unlike the differentials noted in Figure 6)



**Figure 7**

# EDUCATION

Figure 8

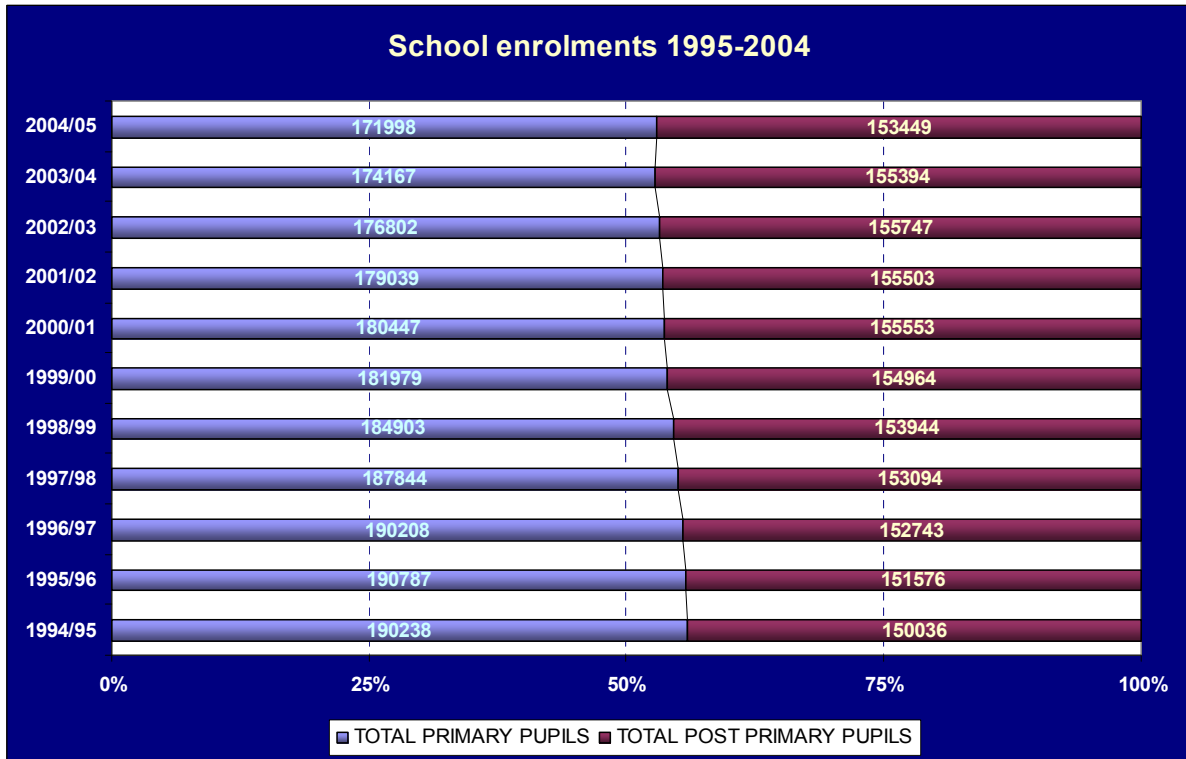
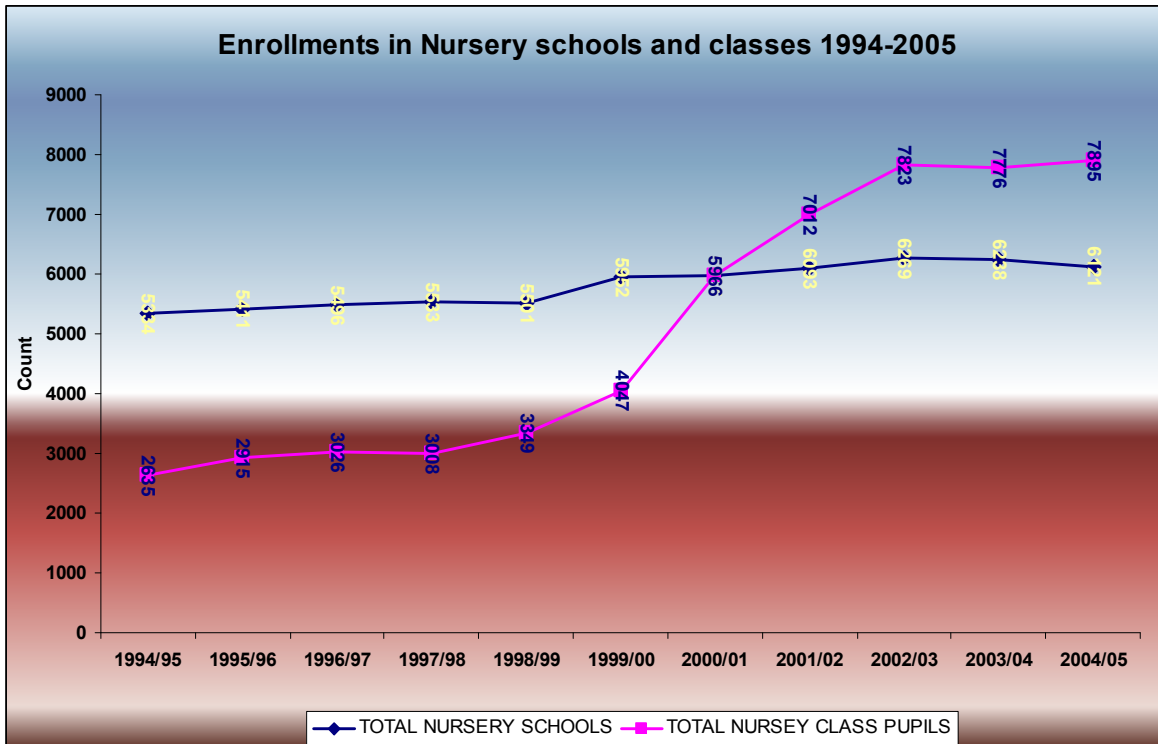
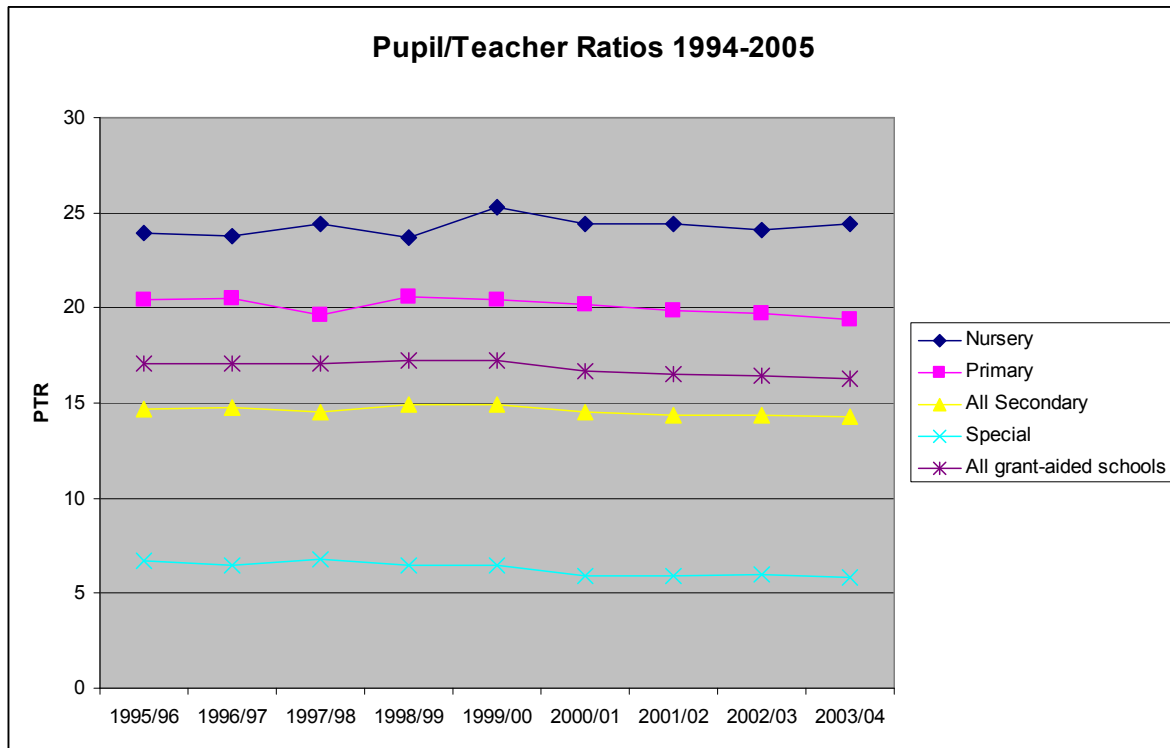


Figure 8 illustrates the population decrease among those of primary school age between 1994 and 2004. Figure 9 illustrates a relative increase in the numbers of those availing of nursery school places compared to those availing of nursery classes.

Figure 9



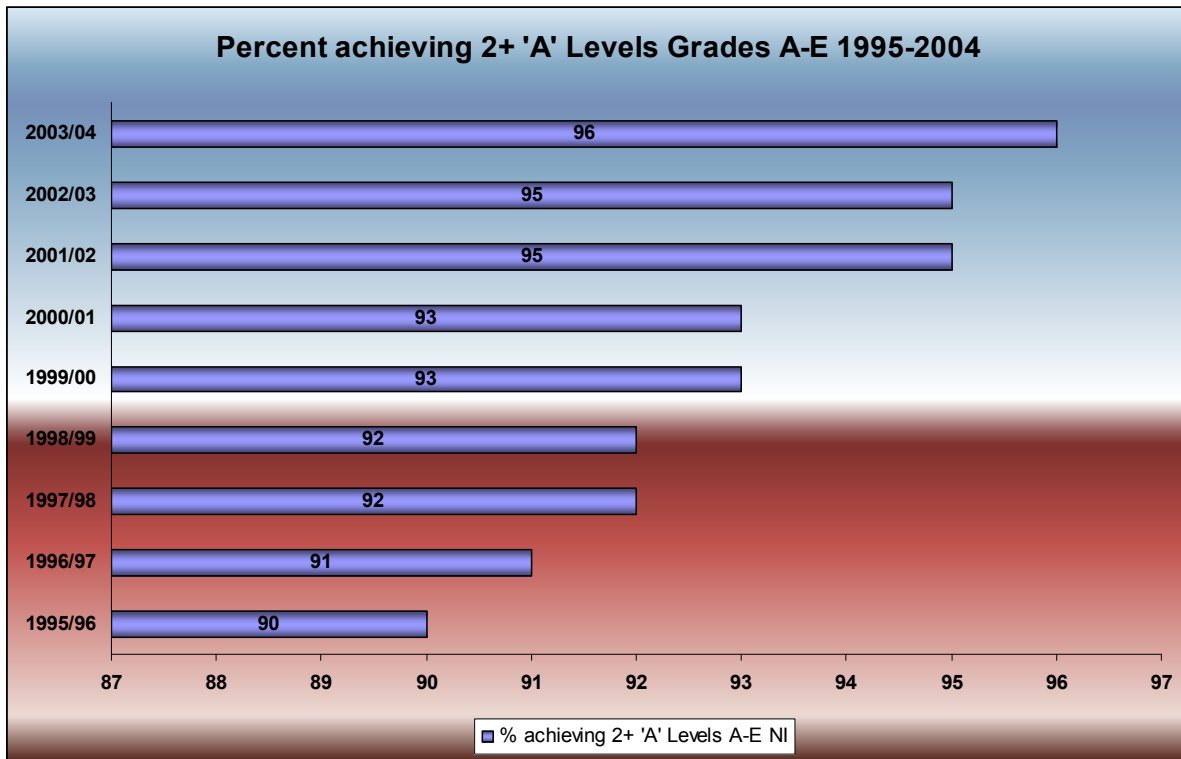
**Figure 10**



**Figure 10** illustrates very slight variations in pupil/teacher ratios between 1995 and 2003. This is in spite of the decreasing school-age population

# QUALIFICATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

Figure 11



**Figure 11** illustrates the steady increase in pupils achieving 2+ A levels grades A-E. **Figure 12** illustrates that, whilst N Ireland pupils continue to out-perform their counterparts in England and Wales, the differential has narrowed.

Figure 12

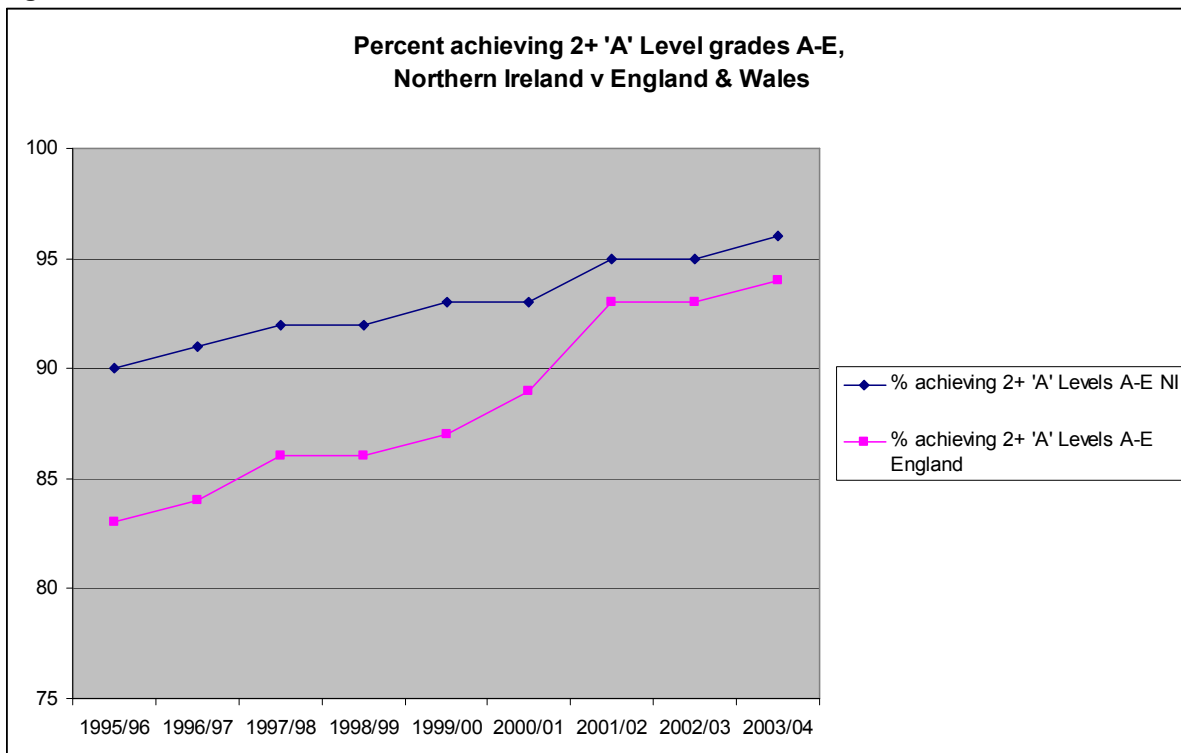


Figure 13

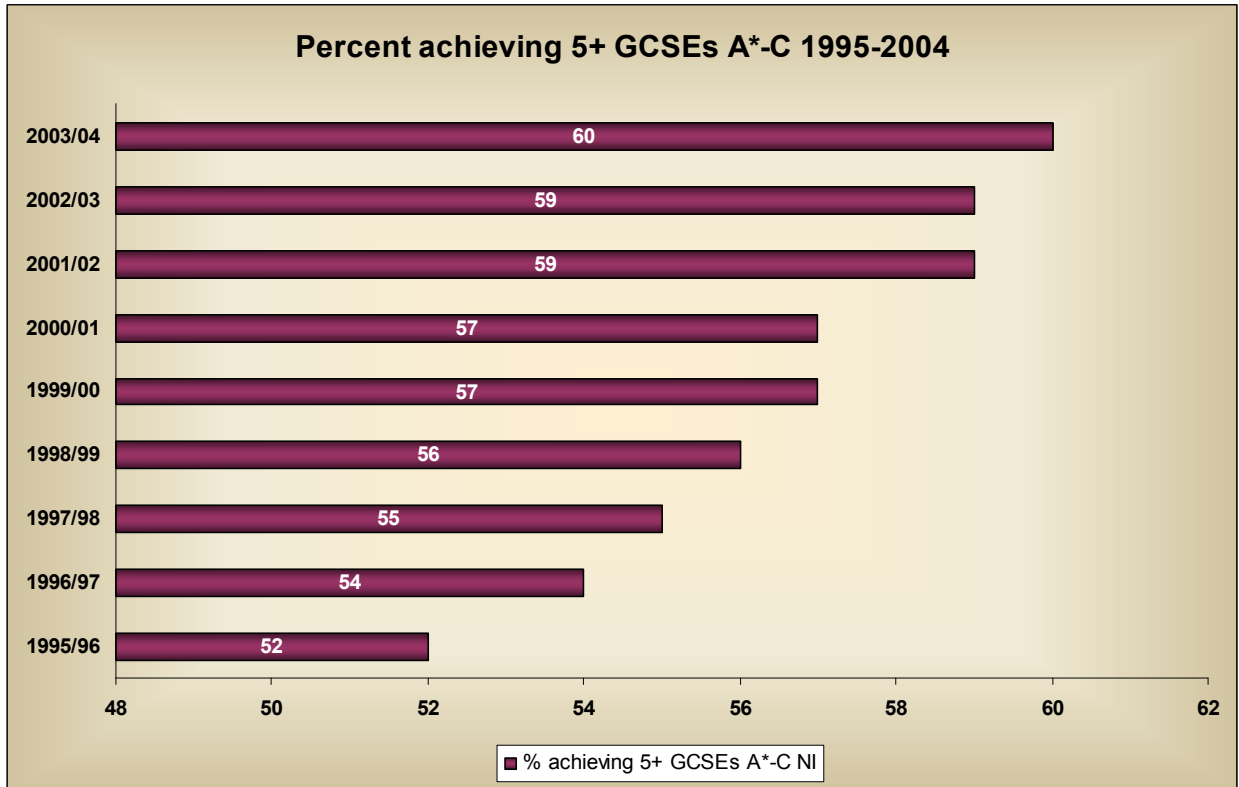
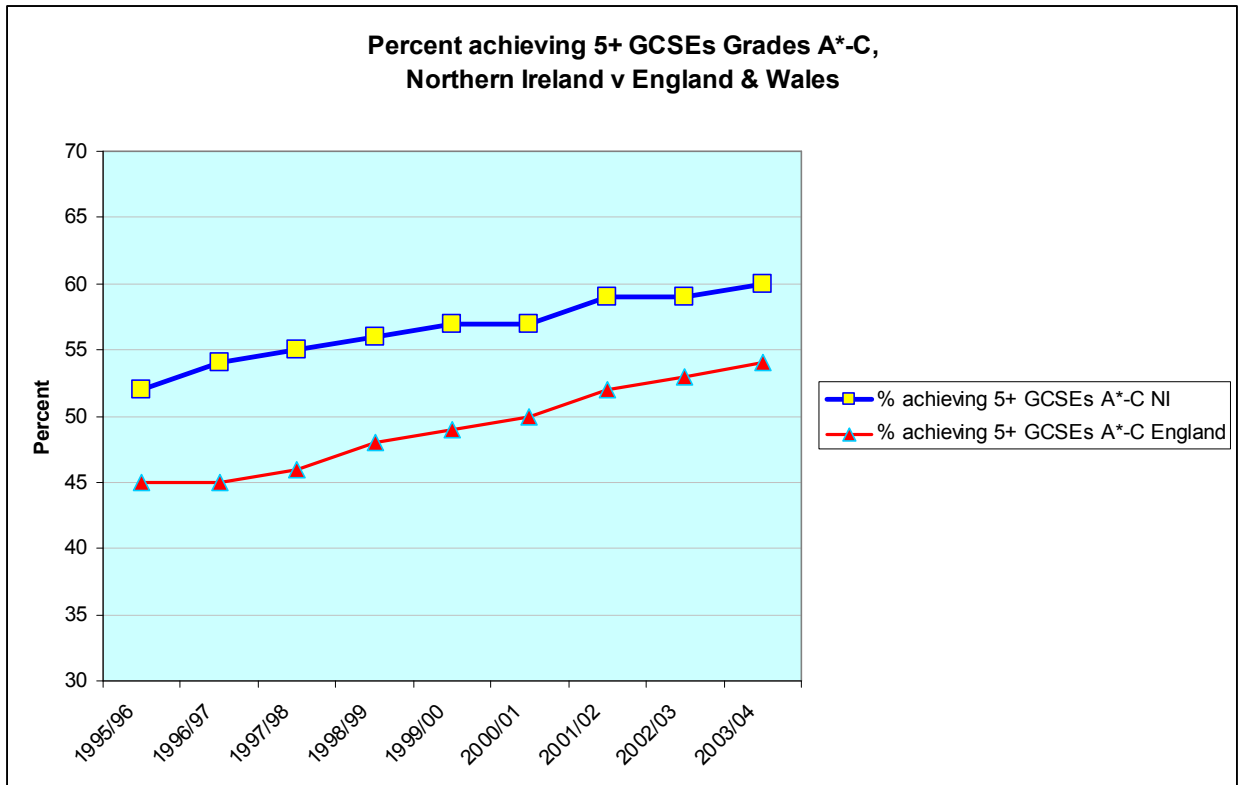
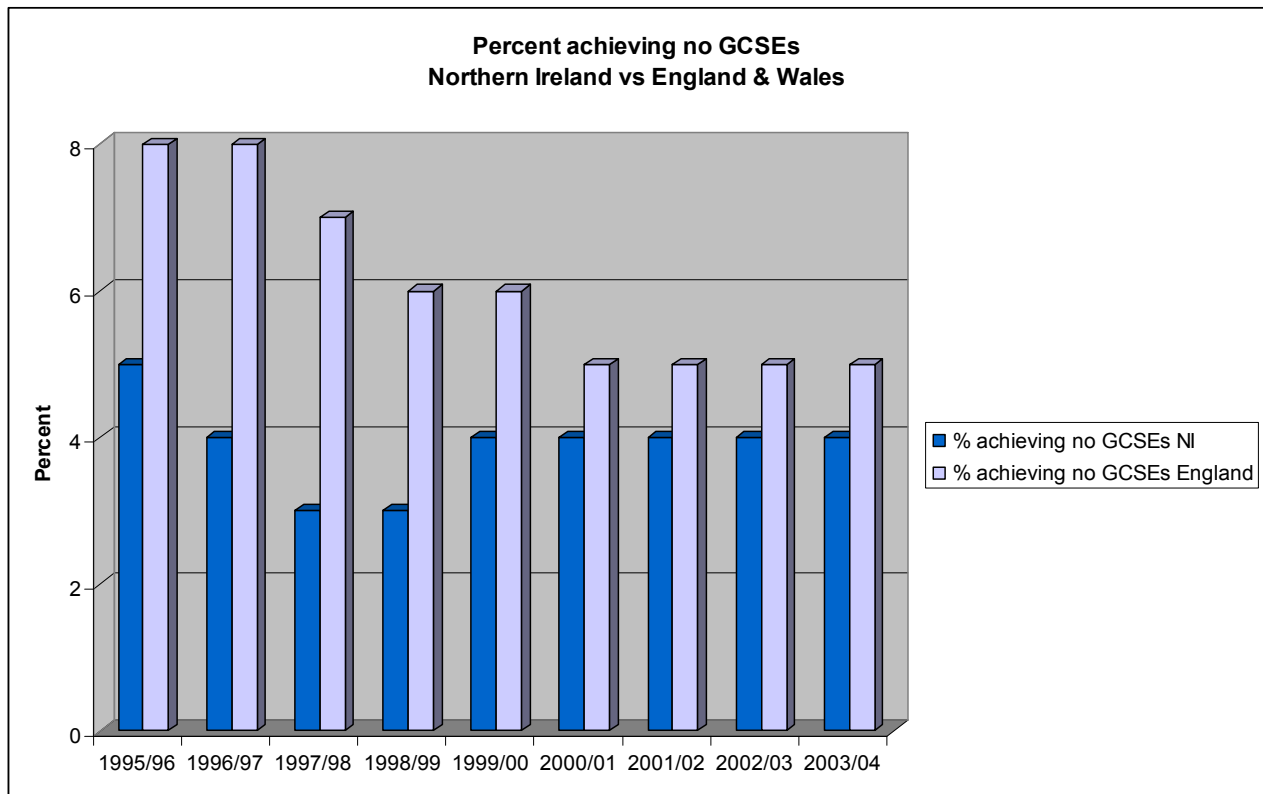


Figure 13 illustrates the constant increase in numbers of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at A\*-C. Figure 14 illustrates the differentials in achievement at GCSE between N Ireland and England/Wales, with the gap slightly narrowing.

Figure 14



**Figure 15**



**Figure 15** illustrates that, whilst the proportion of young people leaving school with no GCSEs has constantly dropped in England and Wales, this is not the case in N Ireland. Whilst N Ireland figures remain lower than England and Wales, the differential has markedly narrowed.

## DESTINATIONS OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

Figure 16

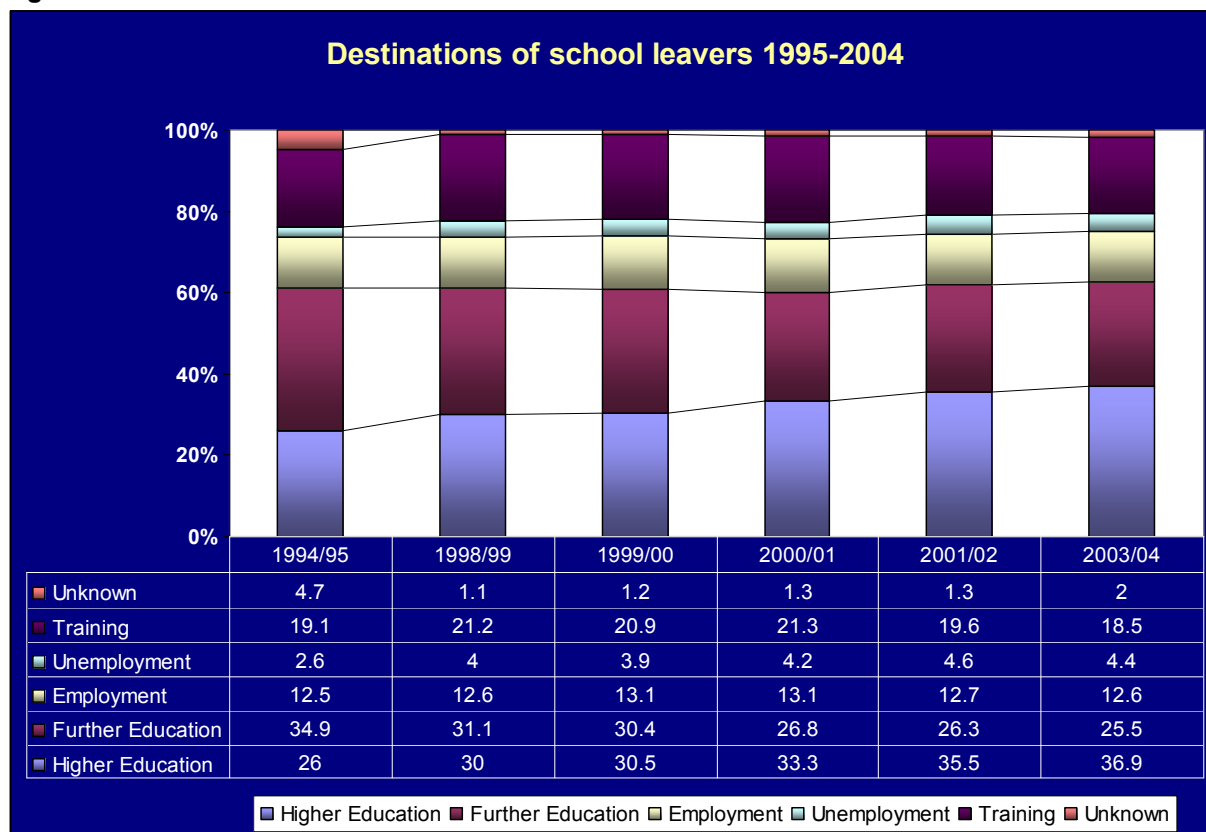
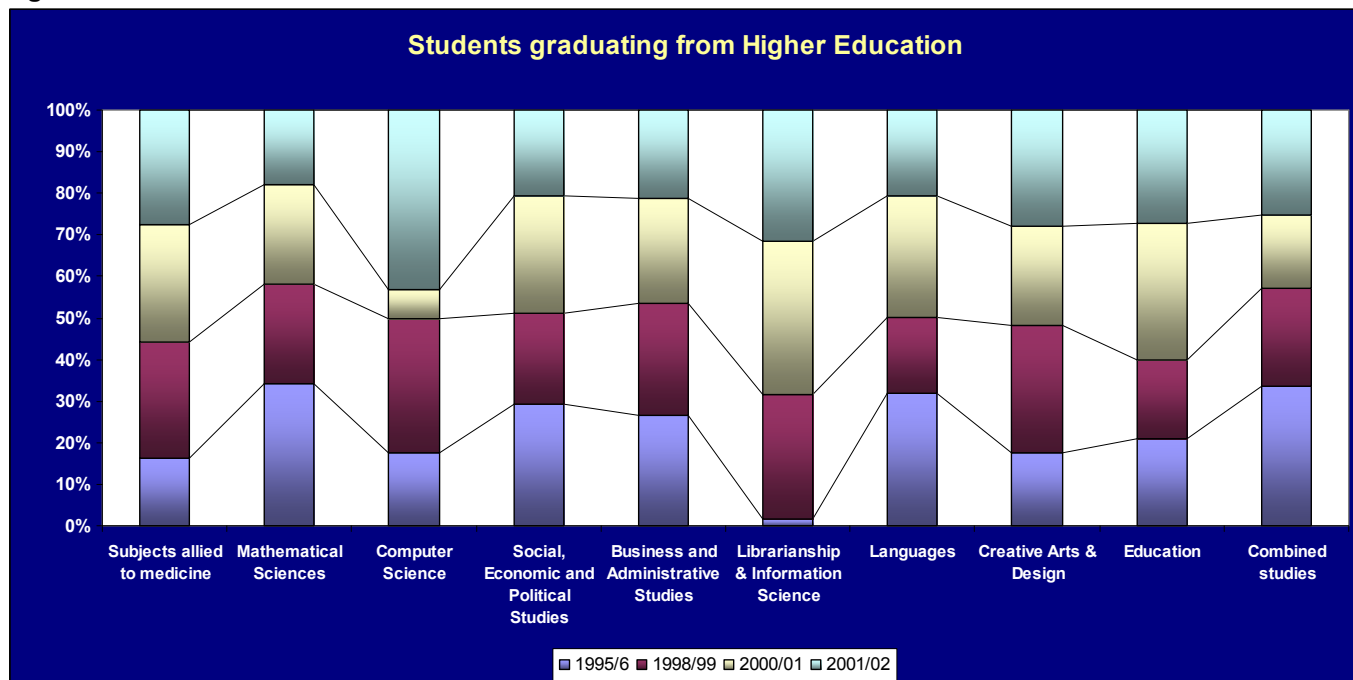


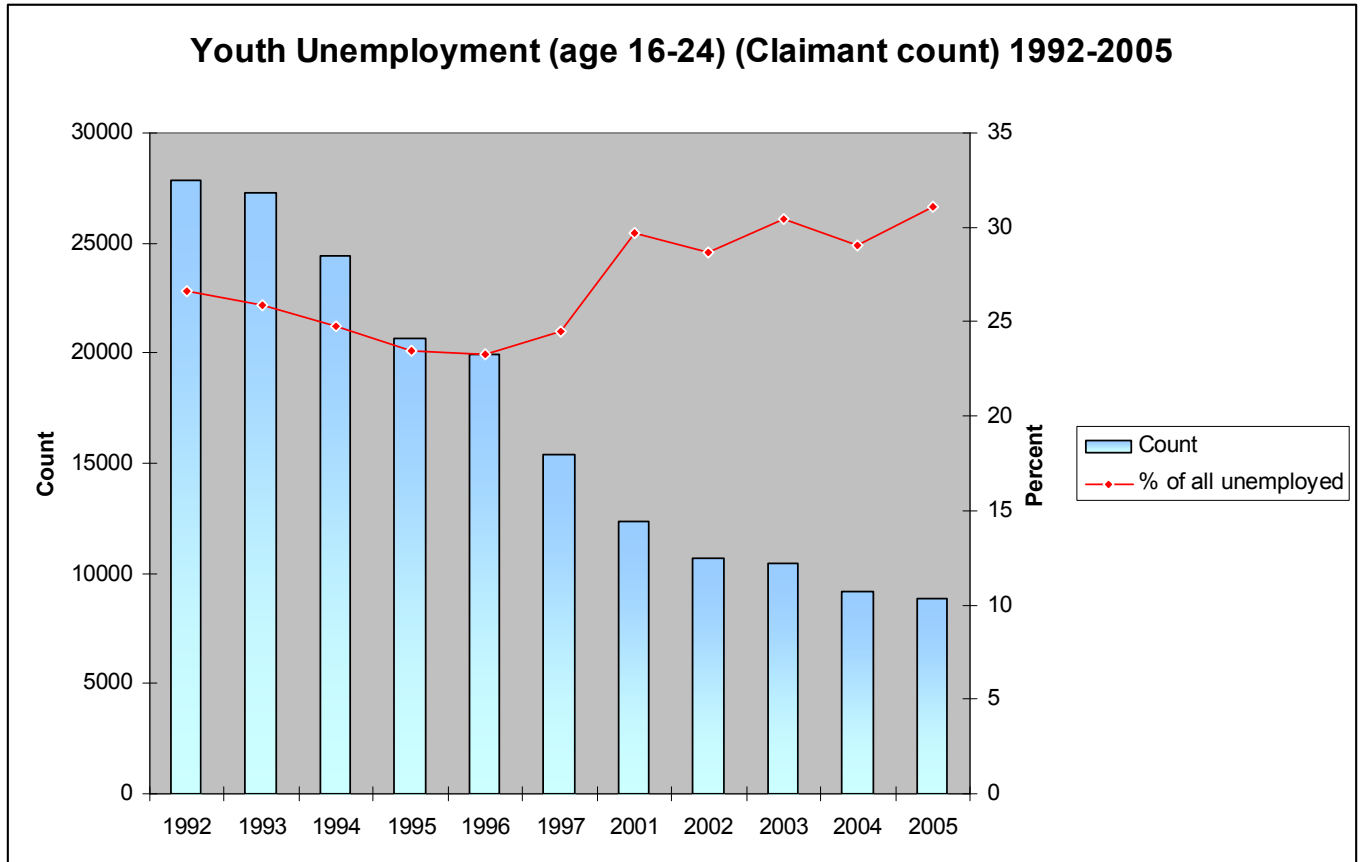
Figure 16 illustrates higher numbers of school leavers entering higher education between 1994 and 2004. Figure 17 illustrates trends in university subjects taken, such as reduced proportions entering language and mathematical subjects, and increased proportions entering information science/ computer sciences.

Figure 17



# YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 18

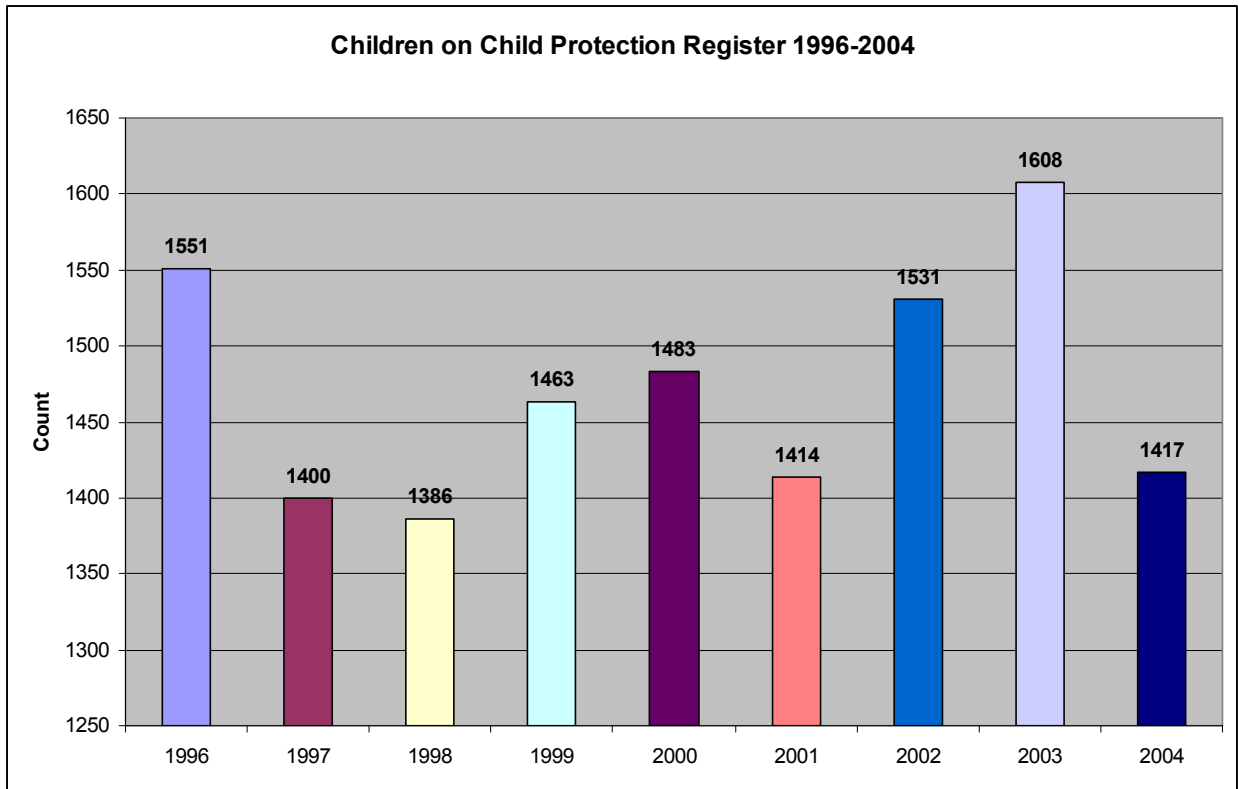


**Figure 18** illustrates the decline in youth unemployment between 1992 and 2005. However the line graph indicates that youth unemployment as a proportion of all unemployment has increased over this timeframe.

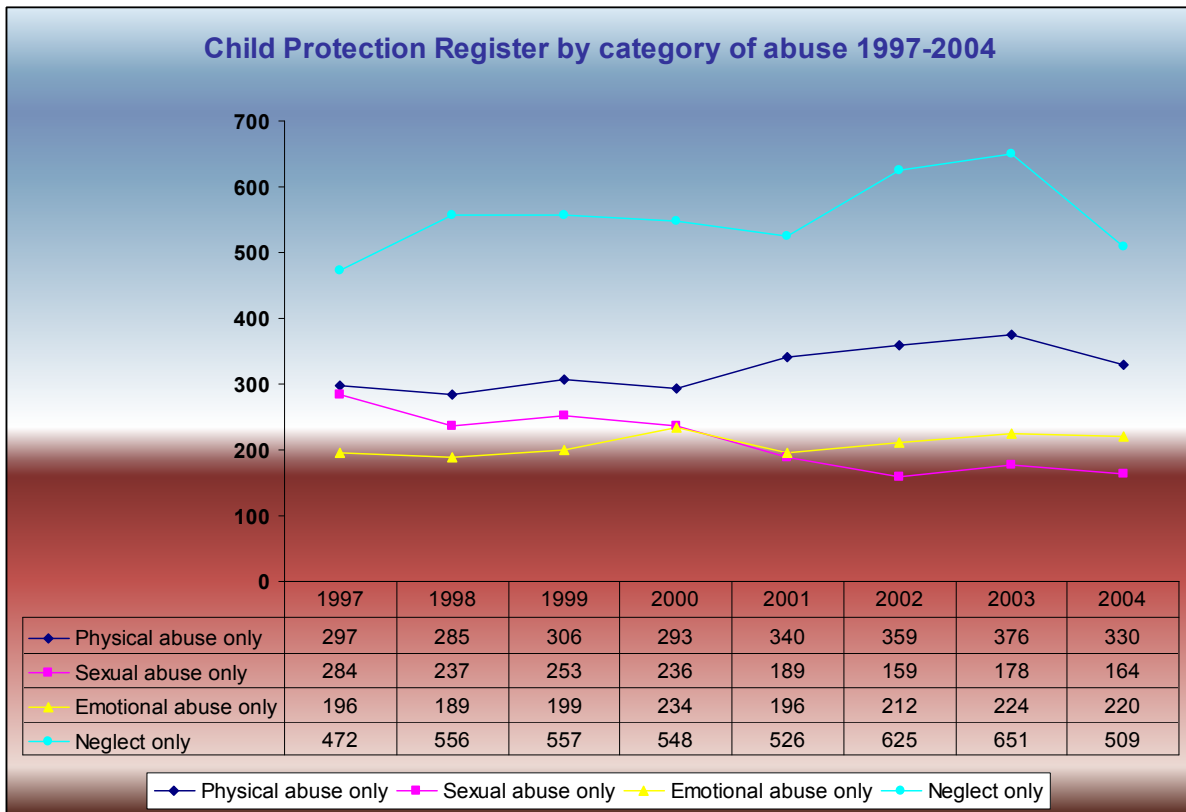
# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER

**Figure 19**



**Figure 19** illustrates a variable pattern in the numbers of children on the Child Protection Register between 1996 and 2004.

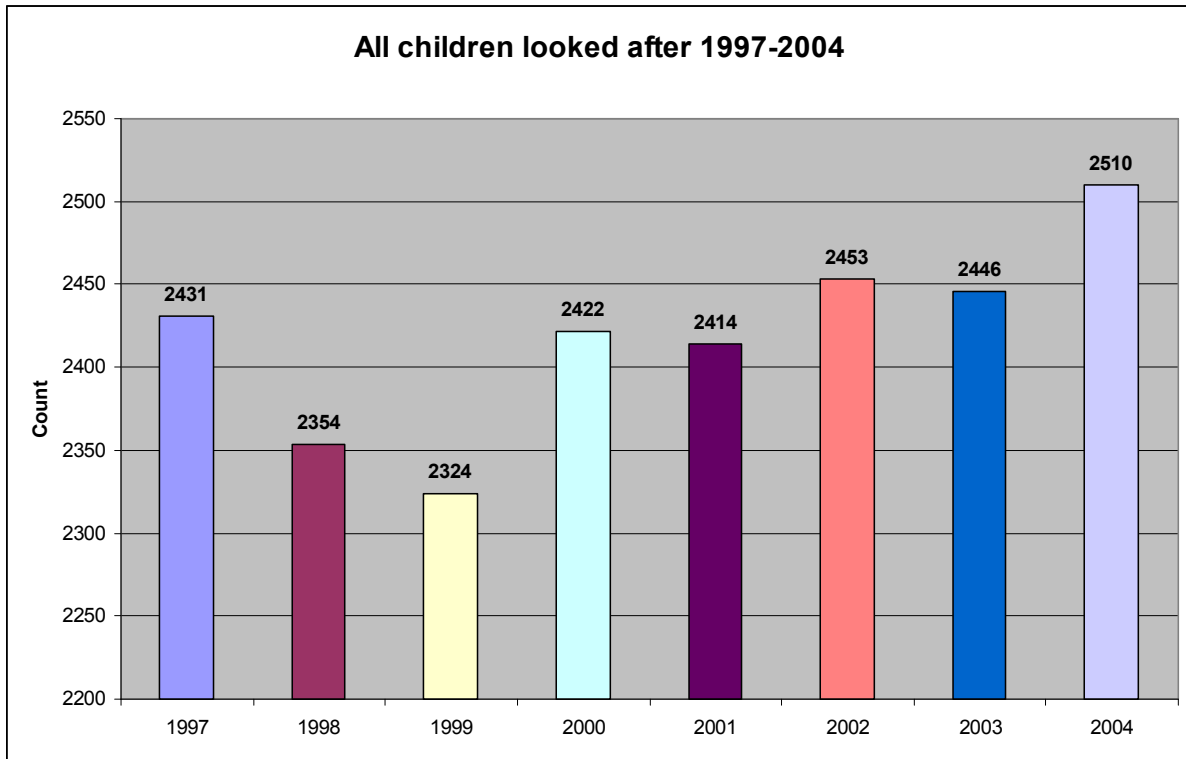


**Figure 20**

**Figure 20** indicates that Neglect continues to be the highest category of abuse of children on the Child Protection Register

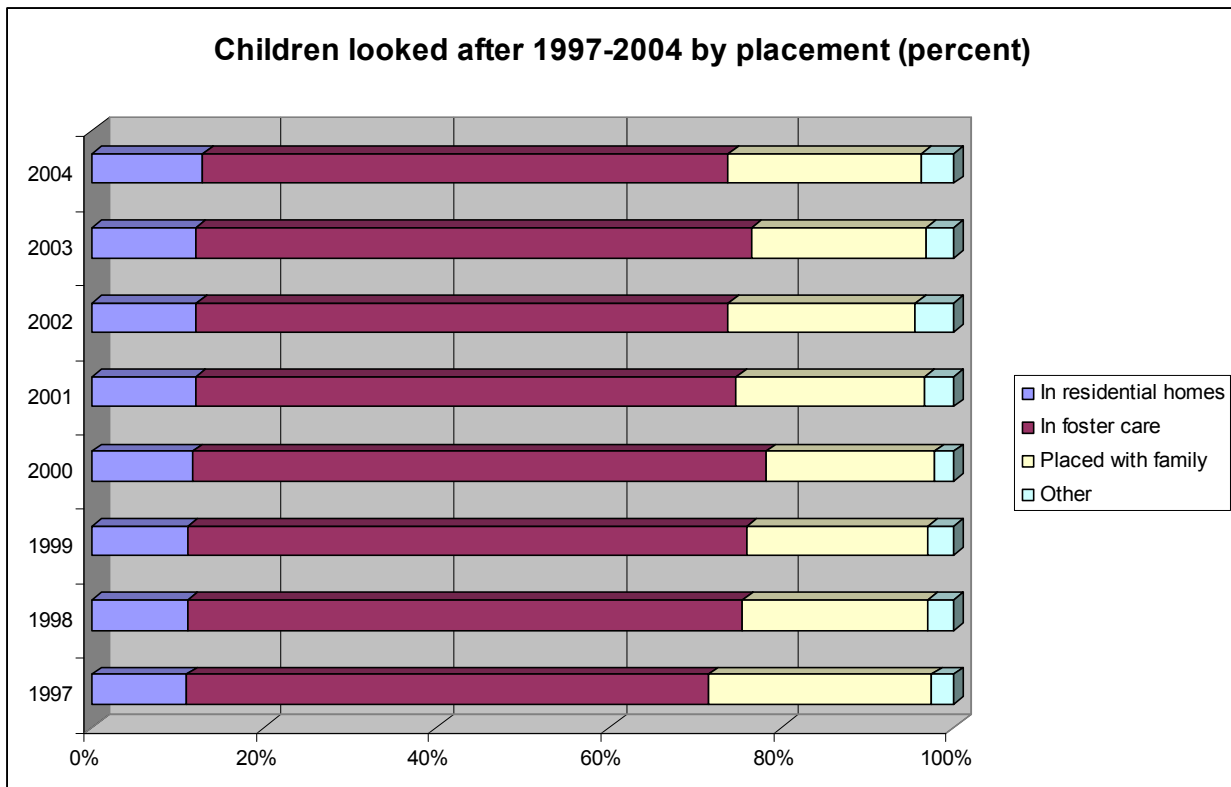
# CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER

**Figure 21**



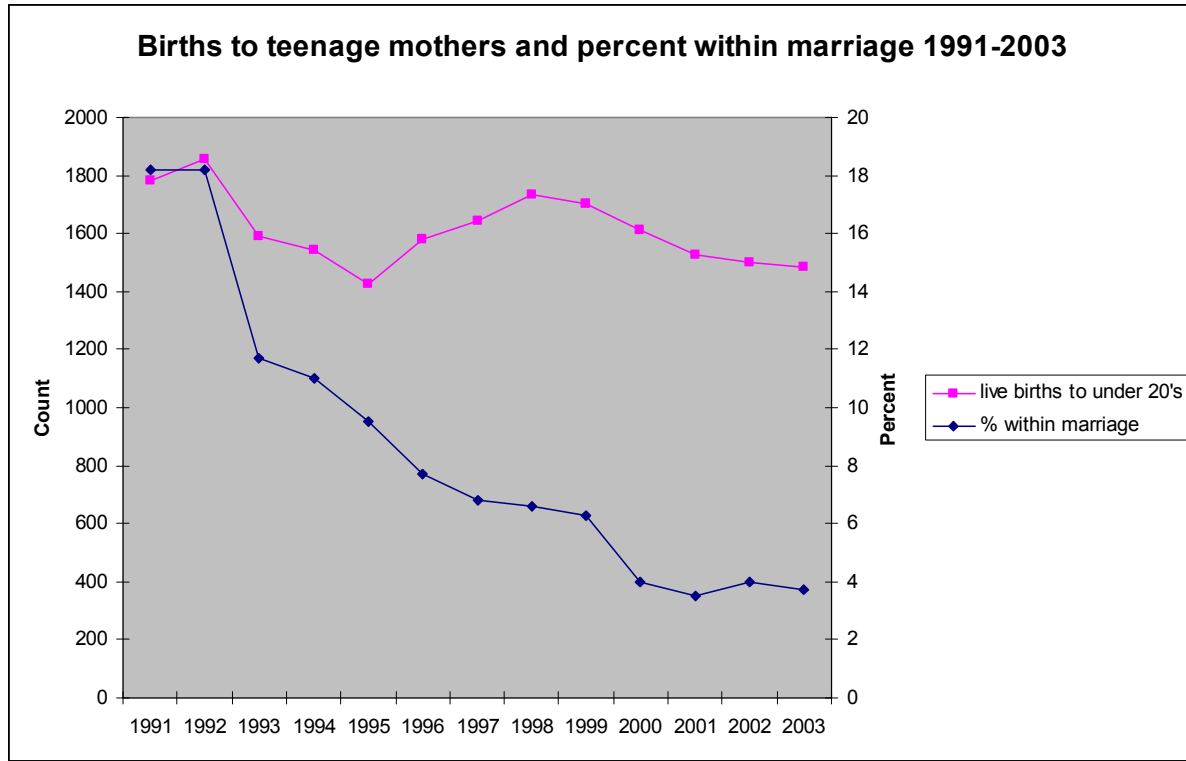
**Figure 21** illustrates the increase in the number of looked after children between 1997 and 2004. **Figure 22** illustrates a slight decrease in the use of residential care placements.

**Figure 22**



## TEENAGE PREGNANCY

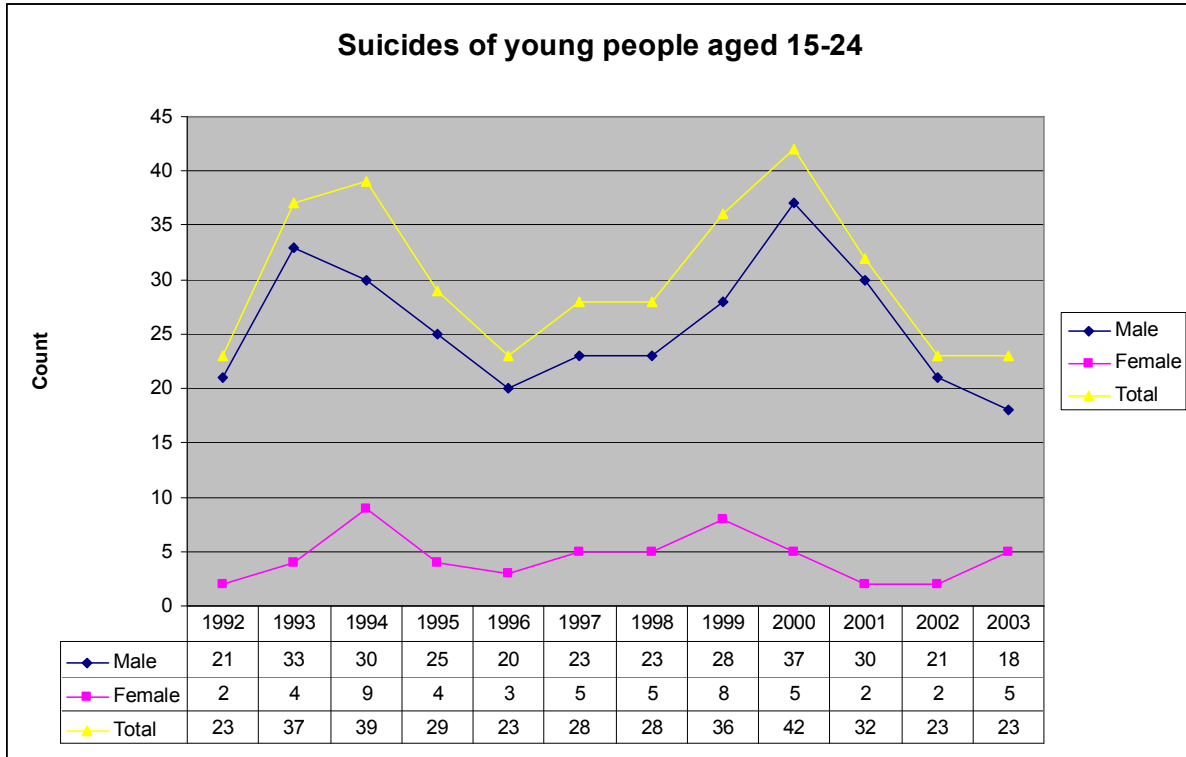
Figure 23



**Figure 23** illustrates that the numbers of young mothers (aged under 20) has decreased between 1991 and 2003. The proportion of parenting within marriage has decreased significantly in this timeframe.

# SUICIDE

Figure 24



**Figure 24** illustrates fluctuating patterns in the number of young people (aged 15-24) who have committed suicide between 1992 and 2003.

# CRIME

Figure 25

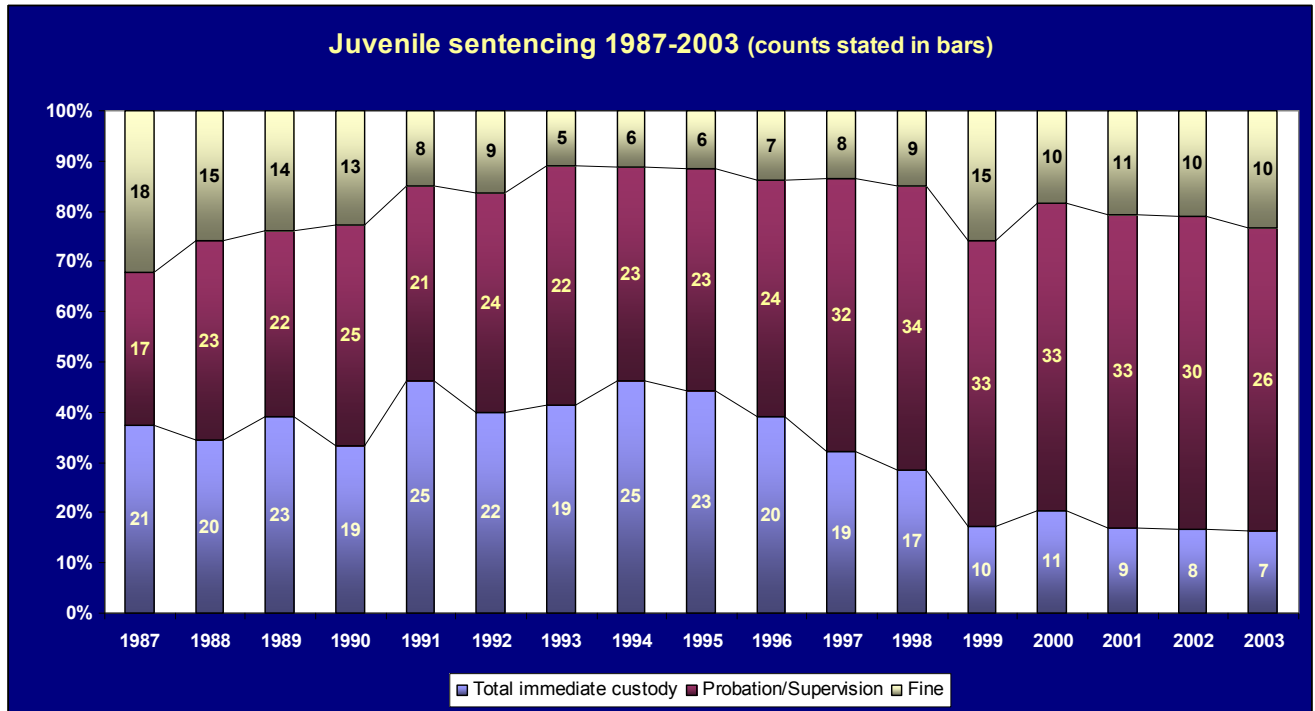
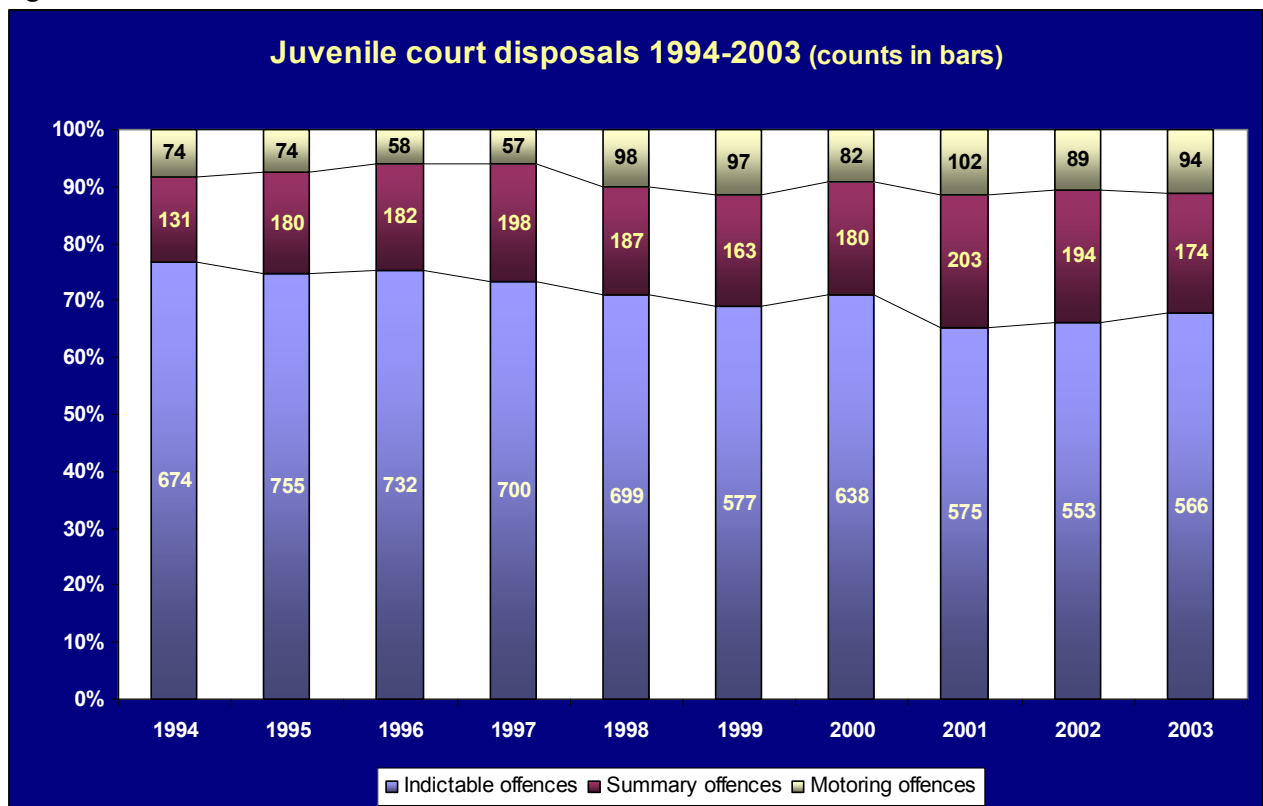


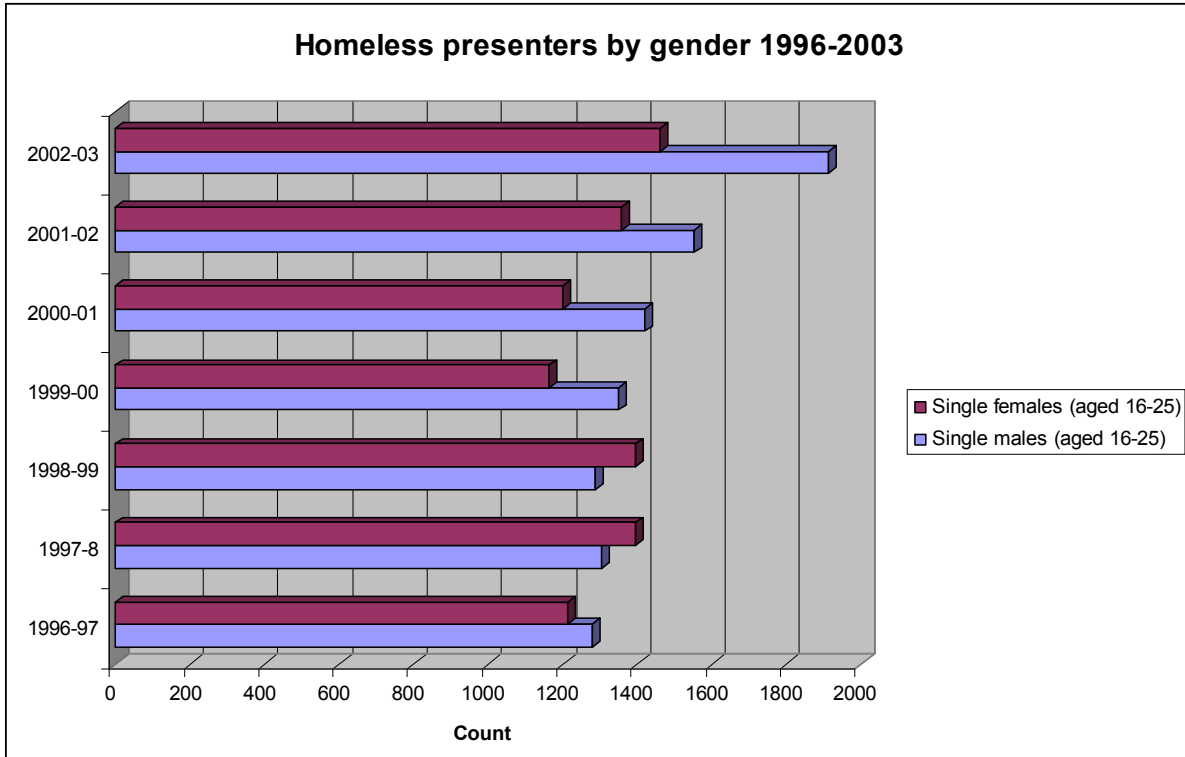
Figure 25 illustrates the increasing use of probation/supervision in juvenile sentencing. Figure 26 indicates a decrease in the proportion of young people convicted of indictable offences in this timeframe

Figure 26



# ACCOMMODATION

**Figure 27**



**Figure 27** illustrates an increase in the numbers of young people (aged 16-25) presenting as homeless between 1996 and 2002. Whilst females outnumbered males between 1997-99, this trend was significantly reversed by 2002.

## REFERENCES

- Figure 1      **Census of Population 1991 & 2001 and Population Projections, NISRA**
- Figure 2      **Ibid.**
- Figure 3      **Census of Population 1991-2001, NISRA**
- Figure 4      **Annual Reports of the Registrar General, NISRA**
- Figure 5      **Northern Ireland New Earnings Surveys, 1997-2004, DETI**
- Figure 6      **Ibid.**
- Figure 7      **Ibid.**
- Figure 8      **Education Statistics, DENI**
- Figure 9      **Ibid.**
- Figure 10     **Ibid.**
- Figure 11     **Ibid.**
- Figure 12     **Ibid.**
- Figure 13     **Ibid.**
- Figure 14     **Ibid.**
- Figure 15     **Ibid.**
- Figure 16     **Ibid.**
- Figure 17     **Higher Education Statistics, DEL**
- Figure 18     **Northern Ireland Claimant Count 1992-2005, DETI**
- Figure 19     **Community Statistics 1997-2005, DHSSPS**
- Figure 20     **Ibid.**
- Figure 21     **Ibid.**
- Figure 22     **Ibid.**
- Figure 23     **Annual Reports of the Registrar General, NISRA**
- Figure 24     **Ibid.**
- Figure 25     **Northern Ireland Crime Statistics, NIO**
- Figure 26     **Ibid.**
- Figure 27     **Housing Statistics, NIHE**