



Child welfare 2023

Child welfare notification filed for one out of six teenagers in 2023

MAIN FINDINGS

- A total of 17,300 children, amounting to 1.6% of all children, were placed outside the home during 2023.
- During the year, 0.4% of children were subject to the emergency placement of a child.
- 1.0% of children were placed in care during the year.
- 3.8% of children were child welfare community care clients.
- A child welfare notification was submitted for 10.2 per cent of children.

In 2023, a child welfare notification was filed on 110,269 children, which is 10.2 per cent of all children. The number of children subject to a notification increased from the previous year (+11%). The number of children subject to a child welfare notification has already been growing steadily for years while the other child welfare indicators have remained stable.

The number of children subject to a child welfare notification continued to grow the most in the age group of 13–15-year-olds – a child welfare notification was filed on as many as 15.8 per cent of children in this age group.

The child welfare notification results in an investigation of the child and his or her situation. In addition to the number of children subject to child welfare notifications, the number of notifications (214,638) also grew (+15 %) from the previous year. The client relationship with child welfare services begins only if a social worker finds that there is a special need for child welfare services.

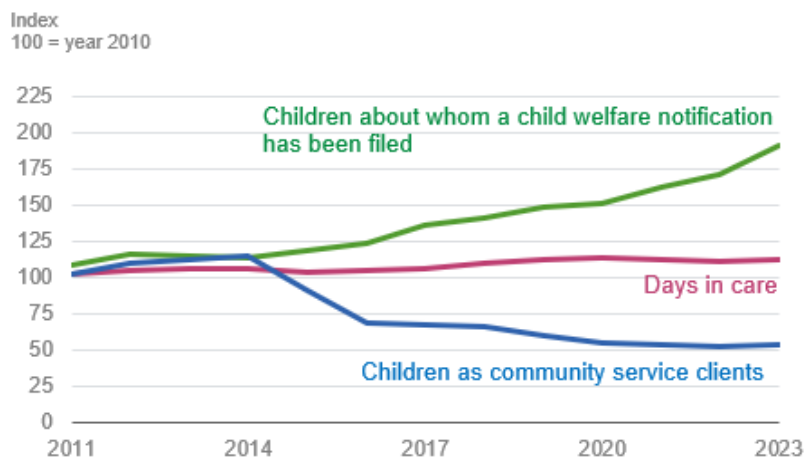
In 2023, 38,531 children were child welfare clients in open care. The number increased from the previous year (+4%). The last time an increase in client numbers was recorded was in 2014. A legislative amendment adopted in 2015 emphasised the role of other social welfare services for families with children, which contributed to the annual decrease in client numbers between 2015 and 2022.

The number of urgent placements increased by eight per cent from the previous year. In 2023, a total of 4,873 children were subject to an emergency placement. There was a particular increase in first placements of children's lives. Emergency placements and placements as an open care support measure are nearly equally common when a child is placed outside the home for the first time.

The number of children taken into care (11,300) remained at the same level as the previous years (-1%). In total, there were 1,785 new cases of children taken into care, which is slightly more (+2%) than in previous years.

The number of clients in open care clients over the age of 18 (15,002) is approximately one quarter (28%) of the total number of open care clients in child welfare. However, few of those aged 18 or over were subject to placement (774 young people).

Figure 1. Development of the main key figures in child welfare since 2010.



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