

Changes in the nature and sequence of placements of children in care in England

1980-2010

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Sample of sequential admissions to care

- 1980 - 450 children
- 2010 - 430 children

- Legal changes since 1980 -
- Young offenders and poor school attenders no longer in care
- So fewer adolescents presenting behaviour problems

Admissions to care 1980 and 2010

- Tables:
- 1 Age on admission
- 2 Reasons for admission
- 3 First placement in care

Placement changes

Short-stay group

- Short-stay (< 6 months) children
- Table 4:
 - Placement changes 1980 sample
- Table 5:
 - Placement changes 2010 sample

PLACEMENT CHANGES

Long stay group

- Children still in care after 12 months
- Table 6
- Placement changes 1980 sample
- Table 7
- Placement changes 2010 sample

MAJOR CHANGES

1980 - 2010

- NB Information is limited but sample is comprehensive
- Residential care virtually disappeared
- Older adolescents in supported lodgings and own accommodation - not residential hostels
- Different method of needs assessment
- No indication of reduction in amount of placement change
- Adoption not a major issue early on
- Wider role of foster care - contact, education, special needs , leaving care
- Not much use of evidence-based programmes