Child Health 27-30 Month Review Statistics
Scotland 2017/18
An Official Statistics publication for Scotland
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About this release
This release from Information Services Division (ISD) provides an update on children’s development as assessed during 27-30 month child health reviews. The latest information presented comes from reviews provided to children turning 27 months between April 2017 and March 2018.

Main Points
- In 2017/18, 15% of children undergoing a 27-30 month child health review had a concern recorded about at least one area of their development. This has steadily declined from 19% in 2013/14 when the review was introduced.

**Percentage of children with any developmental concern recorded at their 27-30 month review, Scotland, 2017/18**

- Concerns were most commonly recorded about children’s speech, language and communication (11% of children), and their emotional and behavioural development (5% of children).
- Boys (20%) were twice as likely as girls (10%) to have a concern recorded about their development.
- Children living in the most deprived areas of Scotland (22%) were much more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (9%) to have a concern recorded about their development.
- Developmental concerns were particularly common for children who were looked after by their Local Authority at the time of their 27-30 month review (29%), reflecting the broader vulnerability, and generally poor health, of this group of children.
- In 2017/18 50,600 children (90% of those eligible) received a 27-30 month review.
**Background**

Early child development is influenced by both biological factors (such as being born premature) and environmental factors (such as the parenting and learning opportunities children receive). Problems with early child development are important as they are strongly associated with long-term health, educational, and wider social difficulties.

Detecting developmental problems early provides the best opportunity to support children and families to improve outcomes. There is good evidence that parenting support and enriched early learning opportunities can improve outcomes for children with, or at risk of, developmental delay. There is also increasing evidence that intensive early interventions for children with serious developmental problems can also improve outcomes.

All children in Scotland are offered the child health programme which includes a series of child health reviews. Health Visitors usually provide reviews for preschool children. A review for children aged 27-30 months was introduced in Scotland in April 2013. As part of this review, Health Visitors assess children’s development by asking parents about their child’s progress, carefully observing the child, and supporting parents to complete a structured questionnaire about the child’s development. At the end of the review Health Visitors record whether they have any concerns about each area of the child’s development.

Information for parents on early child development, and promoting good development, is available through Ready Steady Baby, Ready Steady Toddler, and Parent Club.

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**Further Information**

Find out more in the [27-30 Month Review Statistics Financial Year 2017/18 report](#), and in the [interactive data visualisation](#). Background information and metadata can be found in the [technical report](#).

ISD Scotland publishes a wide range of information on Child Health including infant feeding, immunisations, and Primary 1 Body mass Index (BMI). [Further information is available on our website](#).

The next release of this publication will be in February 2020.

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