



Welcome to the GUS 2018 newsletter

Thanks for making this year another
successful one for the study

You are helping policy makers make things better

GUS continues to be an important and unique resource for the Scottish Government as well as for local authorities, health boards and a whole host of others who aim to make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.

This was really made clear by Maree Todd MSP, Minister for Childcare and Early Years, in her speech to our annual conference in December last year. You and your family are what make GUS possible, and we are extremely grateful to you for your support and participation. Thank you once again for helping us ensure another successful year for the study.

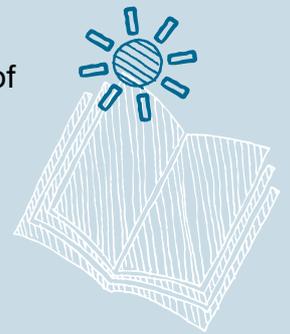


Photo competition

Thank you very much to everyone who took part in our photo competition. We received many excellent entries, providing wonderful examples of the variety of scenery you can find across Scotland - everything from the stunning natural landscape in our winning entry (shown above), to urban shots in Edinburgh, Glasgow and elsewhere. Head to our website, growingupinScotland.org.uk, to have a look at some of the other entries.

NEW FINDINGS

Finding paid work after having a child...

...can be tricky! In December we released a report that explored the experiences of mothers as they returned to, or looked for, paid work after giving birth. The research compared the experiences and circumstances of mothers in our two groups – our group of families with children born in 2004/05, and our younger group born in 2010/11- to find out how things changed (or didn't change!) over time.

You can access the full report on the study website, but one of the main things we found was that a higher proportion of mothers who had a child in 2010/11 were in paid work when their child was 10 months old, compared with mothers who had a 10 month old child six years earlier.

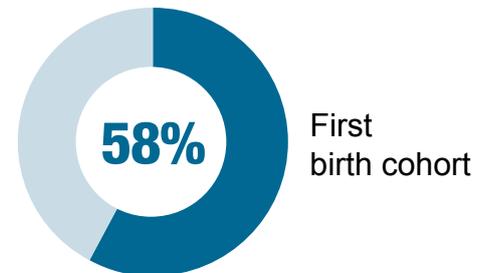
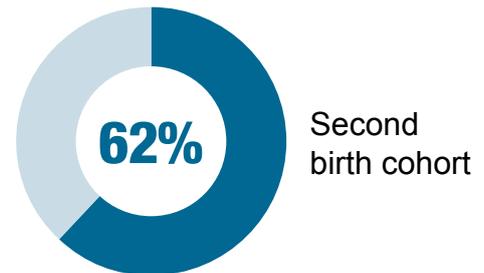
At the same time, we also found that some women who wanted to return to paid work were unable to do so.

These women tended to be younger, and had fewer educational qualifications.

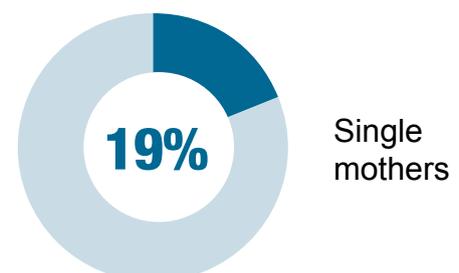
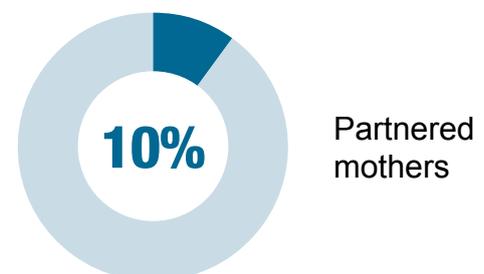
The most common reason mothers gave for not being able to return to paid work was that there were no suitable jobs available, although many also mentioned that they struggled to find suitable childcare. Among those with a 10 month old baby, childcare seemed to be a particular issue for single mothers.

One of our researchers presented these findings to a ministerial working group in the Scottish parliament.

Proportion of mothers in work (when child was 10 months old)



Is childcare an issue for mothers looking for a job? (when child is 10 months)



We have over 4,600 followers on Twitter – make sure you're one of them to get all our latest updates! Follow us @growingupinscot



NEW FINDINGS

Childcare quality

GUS has always been of major importance to childcare policy in Scotland. A few months back, our research was cited in a new action plan for improving services.

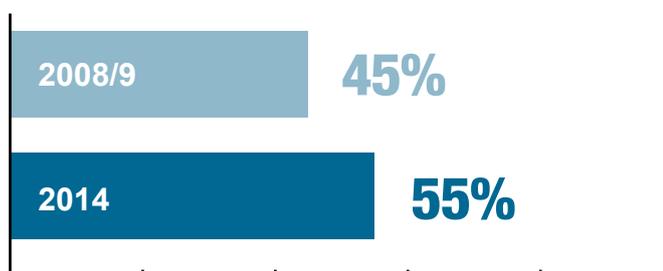
This year we have published a new report looking at the use of nurseries and childcare in Scotland. Amongst other things, the report compared how much time children in our two groups (born six years apart) spent in these services, and the quality of them.

At the age of 4, on average, children born in 2010/11 were spending longer in nurseries and childcare than children who were born six years earlier.



On average, 4 year olds in 2014 spent **just over two hours per week** longer at their main ELC provider than 4 year olds in 2008/09

Percentage of children attending an early learning or childcare facility with a high staffing quality grade

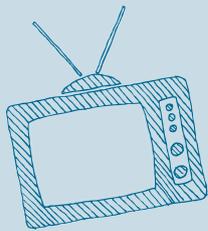


The report also looked at language development. We found some signs that there was less of a 'gap' in vocabulary among 5 year olds from the richest and the poorest families in 2015 than in 2009/10, although the changes were quite small.

To view a full list of our publications and to read about any of the GUS findings in more detail, visit the study website:
growingupinscotland.org.uk/publications



Our findings on mothers' experiences of juggling work and childcare got a lot of press coverage!



The collage features several news items:

- Daily Mail:** "3,000 more mums juggle work with care of child". The article states that researchers found 62 per cent of women in Scotland whose children were born in 2010/11 were in work or on maternity leave when the child was ten months old, compared with 58 per cent who gave birth in 2004/05. It notes that childcare and a lack of suitable jobs are preventing some from securing work, according to a Scottish study.
- Metro:** "Still hard for mothers to find a job despite SNP's free childcare". The article mentions that while the SNP's free childcare policy is a step forward, it is not enough to get more mothers into the workforce. It highlights that many mothers still face barriers to finding work, such as a lack of suitable jobs and childcare options.
- The Telegraph:** "Young single mothers still face obstacles finding work". The article notes that despite the SNP's free childcare policy, young single mothers still face significant challenges in finding work. It mentions that many of these mothers have lower qualifications and are often in precarious employment.
- SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY:** "Young single mothers still face obstacles finding work". This article also discusses the challenges faced by young single mothers, including the need for better training and support to help them enter the workforce.
- BBC News:** "More mothers with young children have paid jobs". This article reports that the number of mothers with young children who are in paid work has increased in Scotland over the past decade, a trend that researchers are now trying to understand better.

What next for GUS?

The GUS Research Team are currently busy planning for the next round of interviews – this will be our 10th round of interviews with GUS families of children born in 2004/05! The interviews will take place in the spring of 2019 and the spring of 2020 – watch out for our letter and email; we will always notify you that your interview is coming up.

We are also busy analysing the information you have given us – at the moment we are working on two different reports: one looking at language development across the primary school period (using information collected via the language exercises), and one looking at changes in children's height and weight. We have already had a lot of interest in both reports and look forward to sharing our findings with you in our next update.

GUS goes international!

We've been working with sister studies in Ireland and New Zealand to look at how Scottish families' experiences compare with those of families in two nations of a similar size. It's still early days, but we'll make sure to keep you updated as the project progresses.

In the meantime you can follow us on Twitter, [@growingupscot](https://twitter.com/growingupscot)

Please keep in touch

Your contribution to the study is really important and we value your commitment. If this newsletter has been forwarded to you at an address that is different from the one we have on record or if you are moving home, please let us know your new details.

You can do this by calling us on Freephone **0800 652 2704** by emailing gus@scotcen.org.uk or by completing the change of address form on our website: growingupscotland.org.uk/contact-us/change-your-details-gus-families