

Analysis of SE Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland – A Youth Homelessness Perspective

Where does statistical data on homelessness come from?

Statistical data on Scottish homelessness is drawn from the Scottish Executive's HL1 dataset. Every time a household presents as homeless, the local authority is required to complete a HL1 form. Each quarter compiled data from these forms is submitted electronically from the local authority to the Scottish Executive.

The HL1 form asks about the household's composition, the reasons for homelessness, the details of the homelessness assessment and the action which the local authority has taken. The complete dataset is an invaluable source of information on homelessness in Scotland.

Analysis Stages

This document presents the analysis over three stages –

1. 'Headline' youth homelessness statistics. For example, how many are homeless? What proportion of youths are homeless in terms of the whole Scottish homeless population (Stage 1)?
2. Trends for youth homelessness. For example, is the prevalence of youth homelessness increasing in proportion to the Scottish youth population (Stage 2)?
3. Youth homelessness broken down by assessment type, for example, priority need. (Stage 3).

The Statistics

Analysis will concentrate (unless otherwise indicated) on the Scottish Executive Homeless Persons legislation in Scotland statistics (local authority analyses 2004–05¹). In some cases additional homelessness information/data has been sought from the Scottish Executive. Population statistics used in the analysis were taken from the GRO mid-year estimates².

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2 June 2006

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¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/14844/HlessBulletin04-05>

² <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/library/poptest/index.html>

Stage 1: Headline Statistics for Youth Homelessness

All Scotland Youth Applications

In 2004-05, there were 17,710 youth homelessness applications. *Table 1*, below, shows that there has been a general increase in the number of youth applications made to LAs from the period of 1992/93 to 2004/05 (17% rise in applications when comparing the 1992-93 figure to the 2004/05 figure). Although there was a drop in the number of youth applications from 1992-93 to 1995-96 (7%) there was a steady increase from 1995-96 to 1999-00 (a rise of 14%). Most recently, from 2003/04 to 2004/05 there was a slight rise (1.6%) in applications.

Table 1: Number of youth applications³ made under the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 1992-93 to 2004-05

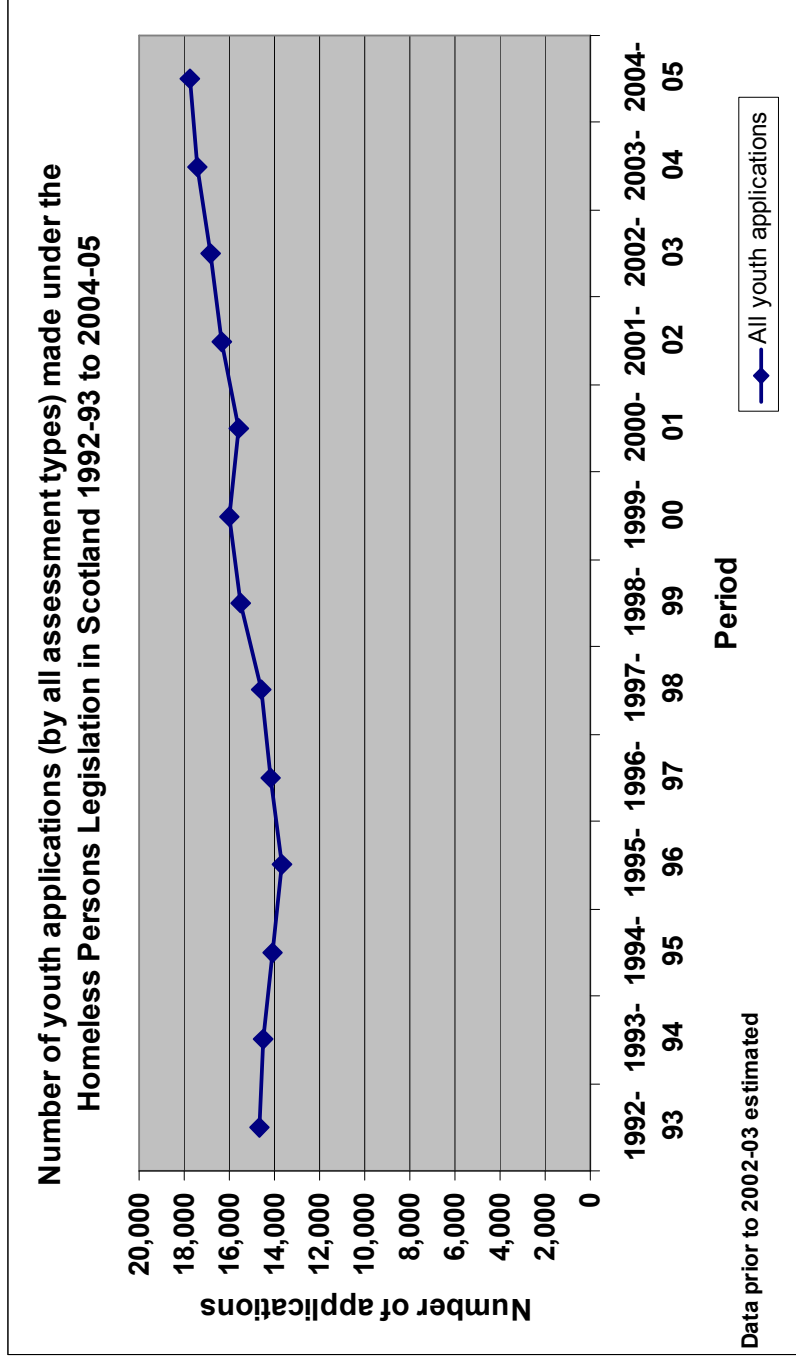
Period	All youth applications
1992-93	14,700
1993-94	14,500
1994-95	14,100
1995-96	13,700
1996-97	14,200
1997-98	14,600
1998-99	15,500
1999-00	16,000
2000-01	15,600
2001-02	16,300
2002-03	16,837
2003-04	17,435
2004-05	17,710

Chart 1 (overleaf) displays this information graphically.

³ Data compiled from the total of single persons under 18, single persons 18-24 and single parents under 25 for all assessments.

All Scotland Youth Applications

Chart 1: Number of youth applications⁴ made under the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 1992-93 to 2004-05



Data from Scottish Executive Statistical Bulletin (Housing Series: HSG/2005/6)

⁴ Data compiled from the total of single persons under 18, single persons 18-24 and single parents under 25 for all assessments.

Stage 1: Headline Statistics for Youth Homelessness Continued

All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by age and gender (2002-03 to 2004-05 – Refer to Table 2 below)

For all ages (16-17, 18-20 and 21-24) the number single males assessed as homeless has decreased from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (by 258 or 3%). This is despite an increase in assessments from 2002-03 to 2003-04 (by 137 or 2%). However, for all ages (16-17, 18-20 and 21-24) the number single females assessed as homeless has steadily increased from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (by 1131 or 12%).

For all males and females over a three year period (2002-03 to 2004-05), there were 9120 more 21-24 year olds recorded as homeless than 16-17 year olds. Over the same period 16-17 year olds accounted for 24% of all youth homeless assessments, while 21-24 year olds accounted for a much higher figure (42%).

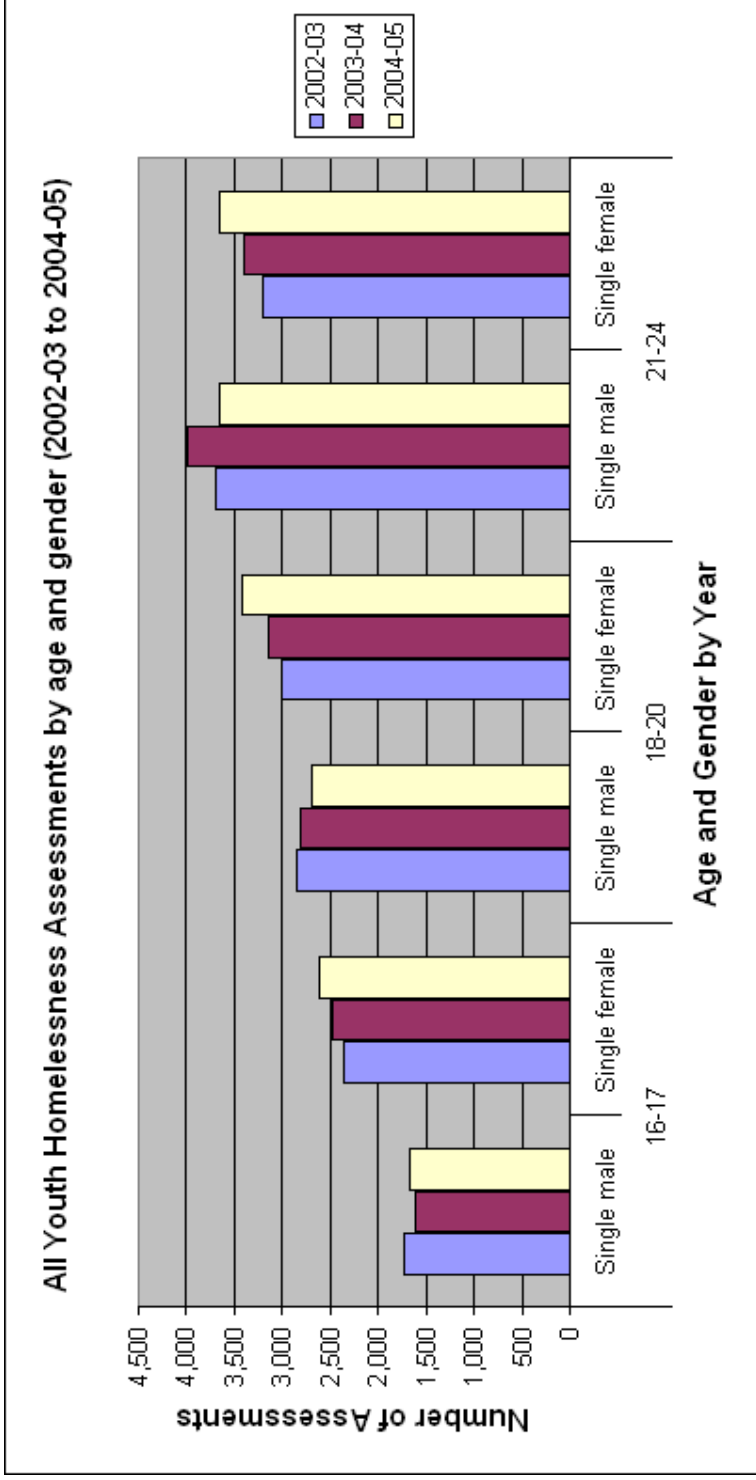
Table 2: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by age and gender (2002-03 to 2004-05)⁵

	Household Type	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Totals for age bands over three year period
16-17	Single male	1,736	1,612	1,664	12465
	Single female	2,354	2,482	2,617	
18-20	Single male	2,841	2,815	2,687	17932
	Single female	3,008	3,153	3,428	
21-24	Single male	3,694	3,981	3,662	21585
	Single female	3,204	3,392	3,652	
					All Assessments over three year period
TOTALS	Total All Male	8271	8408	8013	51982
	Total All Female	8566	9027	9697	

Chart 2 (overleaf) displays this information graphically.

⁵ Includes not homeless/loss contact/resolved cases i.e. data is for all assessments

Chart 2: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by age and gender (2002-03 to 2004-05)



Stage 1: Headline Statistics for Youth Homelessness Continued

Scottish Youth Homelessness as a Proportion of Scottish Youth Population

The data in *Table 3* below, reveals that the proportion of youth homelessness in Scotland to the youth population remains very similar (at about 3%) over the three year period stated. While it is clear that the youth population has increased from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (by 2.6%), so has youth homelessness (1.7%) for the same period. On the following page, a more detailed analysis of this question has been made (splitting the data by age of youth).

Table 3: Scottish Youth Homelessness as a Proportion of Scottish Youth Population⁶

<u>Period</u>	<u>Youth population</u>	<u>Youth Homelessness</u>	<u>Proportion of Youth Homelessness to Youth Population (%)</u>
2002-03	574380	16785	2.9
2003-04	582190	17323	3.0
2004-05	589821	17710	3.0

⁶ Analysis of GRO Mid-Year Estimates (2002-2004) and statistics from the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 2002-03 to 2004-05

Stage 2: Trends for youth homelessness

Scottish Youth Homelessness as a Proportion of Scottish Youth Population split by age

It can be observed from Table 4 (below) that the proportion of youth homelessness in Scotland to the youth population remains around the 3% mark – even if split into age groups. Although not significant in any way, the proportion of youth homelessness for 16-17 year olds has increased very slightly, while for 18-20 and 21-24 year olds this proportion has remained static.

Table 4: Scottish Youth Homelessness as a Proportion of Scottish Youth Population split by age⁷

Age	Period		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
16-17	3.1	3.1	3.3
18-20	3.1	3.1	3.1
21-24	2.7	2.8	2.8

Chart 3 (a), overleaf, displays this information graphically.

Chart 3 (b-c), also overleaf, presents the raw data used to calculate the proportions displayed in Table 4 above

⁷ Analysis of GRO Mid-Year Estimates (2002-2004) and statistics from the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 2002-03 to 2004-05

Chart 3 (a): Scottish Youth Homelessness as a Proportion of Scottish Youth Population split by age

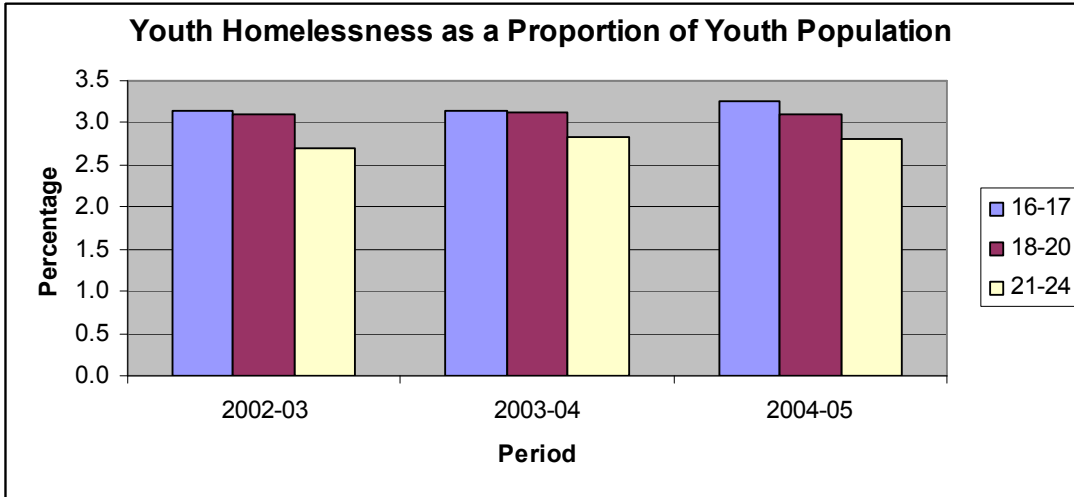


Chart 3 (b): Scottish Youth Homelessness banded by age

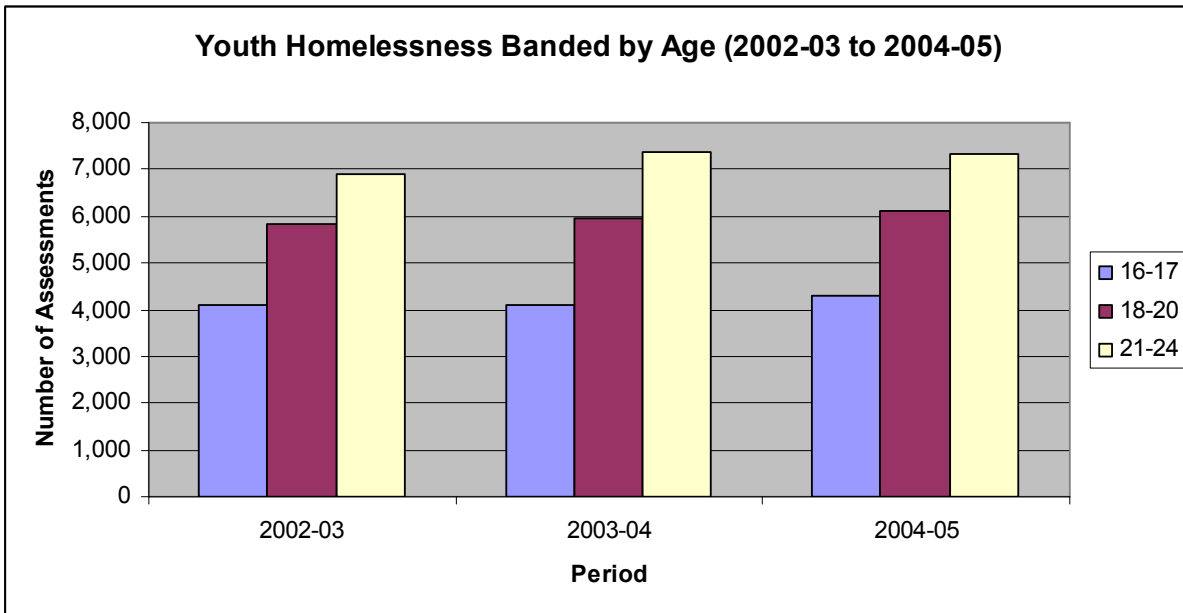
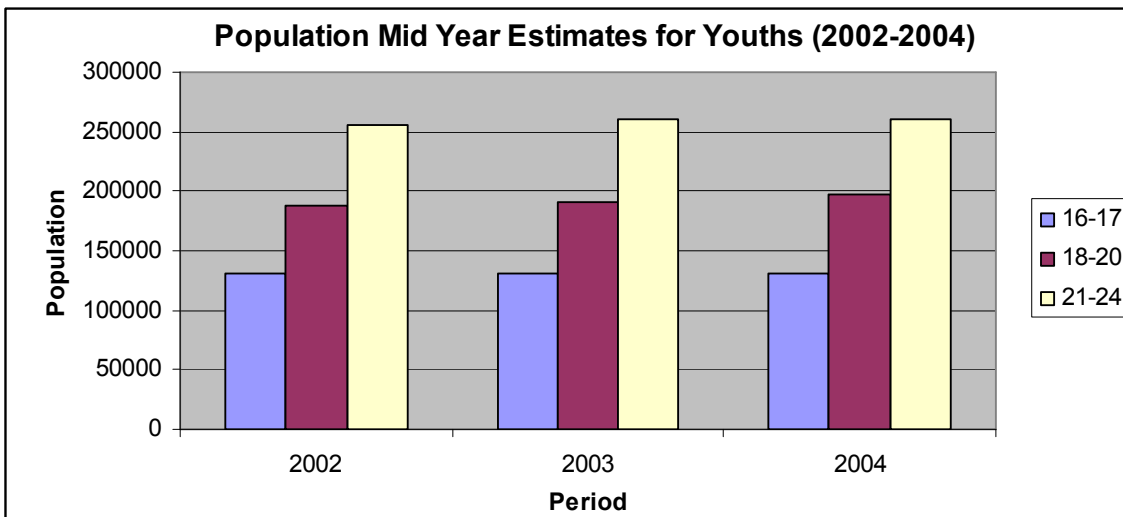


Chart 3 (c): Scottish Youth Population banded by age



Stage 3: Detailed Analysis

All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type (2002-03 to 2004-05)

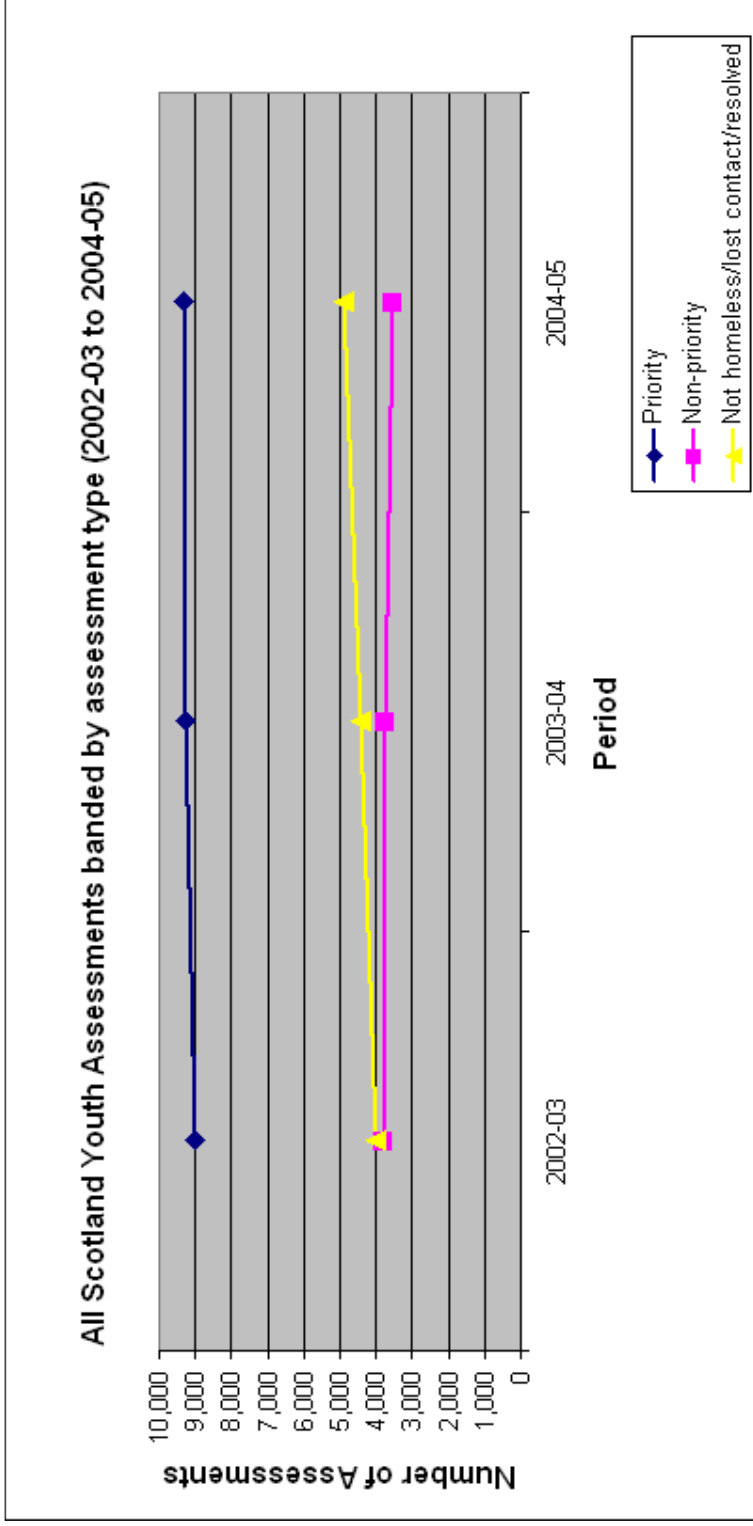
With local authorities having to reach the 2012 homelessness commitment (i.e. the abolition of priority need), it is expected to be observed from the homelessness statistics that the number of individuals being recorded/assessed as 'non-priority' will decrease steadily towards the 2012 target date. The data presented in *Table 5* (below) shows that '**non-priority**' assessments for youths has fallen by 8% between 2002-03 and 2004-05 and the number of '**priority**' assessments has risen by 3% between the same period. Significantly, the number of not '**homeless/loss contact/resolved**' assessments during this period increased by 18%.

Table 5: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type (2002-03 to 2004-05)

Assessment Type	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Priority	9,020	9,248	9,313
Non-priority	3,822	3,766	3,518
Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	3,995	4,421	4,879

Chart 4 (overleaf) displays this information graphically.

Chart 4: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type (2002-03 to 2004-05)



Stage 3: Detailed Analysis Continued Overleaf

All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type, age and gender (2002-03 to 2004-05)

Table 6, below, reveals that for **16-17 year olds** the number of assessments regarded as 'priority' has risen very slightly while the number of 'non-priority' assessments has remained virtually static. However the number of 'not homeless/lost contact/resolved' assessments has increased by 11%. This pattern is slightly more marked for **18-20 year olds**, with the rise in 'priority' assessments at 4% while the drop in 'non-priority' assessments at 9%. Again, the number of 'not homeless/lost contact/resolved' assessments has increased more substantially at 20%. Similar to the 18-20 year old band, 'non priority' assessments dropped by 7% while 'priority' assessments rose by 5%.

Table 6: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type and age (2002-03 to 2004-05)

Assessment Type		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
16-17	Priority	2,756	2,731	2,779
	Non-priority	22	16	20
	Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	1,312	1,347	1,482
18-20	Priority	2,815	2,866	2,922
	Non-priority	1,773	1,705	1,618
	Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	1,261	1,397	1,575
21-24	Priority	3,449	3,651	3,612
	Non-priority	2,027	2,045	1,880
	Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	1,422	1,677	1,822

It can be observed from Table 7 (overleaf) that for **males** the number of both 'priority' and 'non-priority' assessments has dropped from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (drop of 10% for 'priority' and 11% for 'non-priority'). However the number of 'not homeless/lost contact/resolved' assessments rose by 19%. The pattern of dropping 'priority' and 'non-priority' assessments was not repeated for **females**. Over the same period the number of priority assessments rose by 11% and non-priority assessments remained identical. However, 'not homeless/lost contact/resolved' assessments did, like that for males, rise by 17%.

Table 7: All Scotland Youth Assessments banded by assessment type and gender (2002-03 to 2004-05)

Assessment Type		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Male	Priority	3,744	3,683	3,380
Male	Non-priority	2,769	2,712	2,465
Male	Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	1,758	2,013	2,168
Female	Priority	5,276	5,565	5,933
Female	Non-priority	1,053	1,054	1,053
Female	Not homeless/lost contact/resolved	2,237	2,408	2,711