

2. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)

A higher proportion of children living independently or in semi-independent accommodation at 31 March 2019 were UASC (43% and 36% respectively) compared to all CLA (6%). At a national level the majority of UASC are male (90%), and aged 16 and over (85%).

The proportion of children who were UASC has increased since 2018 for those living independently (from 36%) and in semi-independent accommodation (from 32%). This follows the national increase of UASC by 11% since 31 March 2018. Between 31 March 2018 and 2019, 65% of the increase in children living independently and in semi-independent living accommodation was due to the increase in UASC in these settings.

Table 1: CLA in independent or semi-independent accommodation by UASC status, as at 31 March 2019

31 March 2019		
UASC	Number of children	Percentage
Living independently	3,400	100
UASC	1,460	43
Not UASC	1,940	57
Semi-independent living accommodation not subject to Children's Homes regulations	2,790	100
UASC	990	36
Not UASC	1,800	64

Source: SSDA903