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**New data shows 11% of London children hit by two-child limit**

* Statistics available for every London constituency and local authority
* Strong correlation between local child poverty rates and two-child limit

More than one in ten children (11%) in London are affected by the two-child limit, new data reveals.   The data, for the number of children affected in each constituency and local authority, shows Hackney North and Stoke Newington is the London constituency with the highest proportion of affected children - at 29%. Of all UK constituencies, it has the second highest share of children hit by the policy (second only to Blackley and Broughton).

Hackney and Tower Hamlets are among the 20 UK local authorities with the largest share of children affected– Hackney tops the UK with 23% of its children hit by the policy, in Tower Hamlets the proportion is 19%.

The data, obtained by the End Child Poverty Coalition, reveals a strong correlation between the two-child limit and areas with high rates of child poverty.

Seven London constituencies -Tottenham, Bethnal Green and Bow, Poplar and Limehouse, Brent Central, Edmonton, East Ham and West Ham - have more than three in 20 (15%) children affected by the policy.

The two-child limit denies child allowances in universal credit and tax credits worth up to £3,235 per year to third or subsequent children born after April 2017.

Research suggests that scrapping it is one of the most cost-effective ways of addressing child poverty. Ending the policy would lift 250,000 children out of poverty at a cost of £1.3bn.1

The UK region with the highest percentage of children living in households affected by the limit is the West Midlands, at 14%. In both the North West and Yorkshire & Humber the figure is 13%. In the North East it is 12%.

In contrast, the least affected region is the South East at 8%, yet that still amounts to 160,000 children whose life chances could be blighted by the policy.

Across the nations, the figure is 11% for both England and Wales. In Northern Ireland it is 10%, and in Scotland, 9%.

There are around 1.5 million children in the UK living in households subject to the two-child limit – equivalent to one in 102. Areas most affected by the two-child limit are those with the highest child poverty rates3.  Most (58%) families affected by the policy are in work.4

Alison Garnham, Chief Executive of Child Poverty Action Group - a member of the End Child Poverty coalition - said:

*The two-child limit is a hideous policy that picks out some children and denies them the support they need purely because of the brothers and sisters they have. It is cruel, arbitrary and more than any other policy it is responsible for rising child poverty. All political parties must commit to removing it, before it damages more young lives. Abolition of the limit must be included in every party’s manifesto ahead of the next election.*

Joseph Howes, Chair of the End Child Poverty Coalition and CEO of Buttle UK said:

*“Imagine saying to a child who turned up at school – sorry you can’t gain access, we won’t fund your education – only your two older siblings qualify. Or turning a child away from hospital when they need treatment, as they are the third child in a family. Yet this is exactly what the unfair two-child limit to benefit payments does, it denies families the support they need, at a time when they need it the most.*

*“As a parent I want to be able to provide for my children, especially at a magical time like Christmas. But we know from speaking with families impacted by the two-child limit that this time of year is anything but joyful. Instead, they worry about heating their homes, and providing even basic food over the Christmas period.*

*“If political parties seriously want to tackle child poverty, they need to start by scrapping the two-child limit to benefit payments.”*

Case study: One mum of three in London said:

*“The two-child limit has a big impact on the way I have to budget with all three of my children. Having a limited amount of money which has to be spread between three children means that all three children have to have less of what they may need. I can’t let my youngest go without so have to budget accordingly which is so hard with the cost of living at the moment. The two-child limit forces parents to provide less for all children rather than just having one child being affected. I believe it’s wrong to have a limit for some children as this increases the risk of many children having to go without.*

Notes to editors

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| UK nations | Children affected by 2CL | % of children affected by 2CL | Local child poverty rates 21/21 |
| England | 1335080 | 11% | 31% |
| Wales | 69520 | 11% | 28% |
| Northern Ireland | 44950 | 10% | 22% |
| Scotland | 87160 | 9% | 24% |

English regions ranked by percentage of children affected by two child limit.

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| English region | Number of children affected by 2CL | % of children affected by 2CL | Local child poverty rates 21/22 |
| West Midlands | 183030 | 14% | 38% |
| North West | 208680 | 13% | 34% |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 150920 | 13% | 31% |
| North East | 65460 | 12% | 35% |
| London | 231470 | 11% | 33% |
| East Midlands | 109630 | 11% | 33% |
| East of England | 125810 | 9% | 24% |
| South West | 97530 | 9% | 27% |
| South East | 162550 | 8% | 25% |

**Top 20 UK local authorities ranked by percentage of children affected by two child limit.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Local authority** | **Nation/ region** | **Number of children affected by 2CL** | **% of children affected by 2CL** | **Local child poverty rates 21/11** |
| Hackney | London | 14510 | 23% | 43.4% |
| Manchester | North West | 26530 | 20% | 44.7% |
| Salford | North West | 11870 | 20% | 37.4% |
| Birmingham | West Midlands | 58930 | 20% | 46.4% |
| Tower Hamlets | London | 13940 | 19% | 47.5% |
| Pendle | North West | 4500 | 19% | 42.5% |
| Middlesbrough | North East | 6280 | 18% | 40.6% |
| Nottingham | East Midlands | 12340 | 18% | 41.0% |
| Hyndburn | North West | 3470 | 18% | 41.6% |
| Burnley | North West | 4030 | 18% | 40.7% |
| Oldham | North West | 11340 | 18% | 43.6% |
| Stoke-on-Trent | West Midlands | 10280 | 17% | 43.5% |
| Bradford | Yorkshire and The Humber | 25650 | 17% | 39.3% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | North West | 7170 | 17% | 42.2% |
| Blackpool | North West | 4900 | 17% | 38.6% |
| Walsall | West Midlands | 12090 | 17% | 43.3% |
| Bolton | North West | 12480 | 17% | 41.6% |
| Rochdale | North West | 9590 | 17% | 40.5% |
| Sandwell | West Midlands | 14500 | 17% | 44.6% |

About the data

The data on the two-child limit was obtained via Freedom of Information requests to the Department of Work and Pensions, HMRC and the Department for Communities Northern Ireland. You can download the full spreadsheet of data here: <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/>

The number of children affected by the policy includes all children in a family subject to the limit rather than only the particular third or subsequent child who is ineligible for support as a result of the policy.

The Local Child Poverty data is calculated each year by Loughborough University, for the End Child Poverty Coalition, and can be found here: <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty/>.

References:

1 - Child Poverty Action Group, [Budget submission 2023](https://cpag.org.uk/policy-and-campaigns/briefing/budget-submission-2023), 2023

2 -  From Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit claimants: statistics related to the policy to provide support for a maximum of 2 children, April 2022:  <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-2-children-april-2022/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-2-children-april-2022#main-stories>

3 - The Local Child Poverty data is calculated each year by Loughborough University, for the End Child Poverty Coalition, and can be found here: <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty/>.

4 – From Universal Credit and Child Tax Credit claimants: statistics related to the policy to provide support for a maximum of 2 children, April 2022: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-2-children-april-2022/universal-credit-and-child-tax-credit-claimants-statistics-related-to-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-2-children-april-2022#overall-numbers-of-households-affected-by-the-policy-to-provide-support-for-a-maximum-of-two-children>

About the End Child Poverty Coalition

The End Child Poverty Coalition is made up of over 100 organisations including child welfare groups, social justice groups, faith groups, trade unions and others. Together with a group of Youth Ambassadors we all believe that no child growing up in the UK should live in poverty.

Together we ask that this and future governments commit to end child poverty.

**About Child Poverty Action Group**

Child Poverty Action Group works on behalf of the more than one in four children in the UK growing up in poverty. Our vision is of a society free of child poverty, where all children can enjoy a childhood free of financial hardship and have a fair chance in life to reach their full potential. We use our understanding of what causes poverty and the impact it has on children’s lives to campaign for policies that will prevent and end poverty – for good. We provide training, advice and information to make sure hard-up families get the financial support they need.

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