



Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2024/25

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Local indicators of child poverty after housing costs, 2024/25

This briefing summarises the latest government statistics on child poverty in the UK, at national, regional and local level. Poverty is defined as being in a household with an income below 60% of the contemporary median income, after housing costs.

In previous years, after housing costs estimates of child poverty for local authorities and constituencies were produced and analysed by the Centre for Research in Social Policy, for the End Child Poverty Coalition. For 2024/25, the Department for Work and Pensions has developed their own method for producing after housing costs rates and numbers of children in poverty at a local level as part of the 'Children in Low Income Families' release. These government data were previously only available for child poverty before housing costs. The data are integral to the child poverty strategy, and will be used to evaluate the local impact of government action to tackle child poverty. However, due to differences in methodology and in the population included in the government estimates, these should not be compared with End Child Poverty Coalition's previously published local area statistics.

1 Headline child poverty statistics: Households Below Average Income

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of children in relative poverty, after housing costs, in the UK as a whole and in its constituent regions and countries, in 2023/24 and 2024/25, based on the Government's *Households Below Average Income*¹ statistics. Overall, **4 million** children (**27%**) are estimated to be in poverty in the UK in 2024/25. The number and percentage of children in poverty in the UK remain unchanged in the most recent year, which includes the first 10 months of Labour government. Previously, the Government estimated that there were 4.5 million children in poverty in 2023/24. However, improvements to the survey data used to produce the official poverty statistics were implemented this year, and the estimates revised retrospectively. The household survey data that form the basis of the estimates is now linked to administrative data on benefit receipt, which gives a more precise indication of income from benefits, which was known to be underestimated based on the survey responses alone. This resulted in the number of children in poverty being revised down to 4 million for 2023/24, but does not represent a real fall in poverty rates.

Overall, 72% of children living below the poverty line are in working households. If they are already in employment, parents will likely have limited scope to increase their incomes, while balancing opportunities to work with the cost of childcare. The latest statistics further shown that among the estimated 4 million children in poverty, **2.8 million** are living in deep poverty – defined as an equivalised household income below 50% of the median. This suggests that for many parents, a substantial increase in their income would be needed to lift their household out of income poverty, and that they will often be living with very limited resources to meet their daily needs.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2>

1.1 Country/region variation

There is substantial variation between the regions and countries of the UK in the proportion of children who are in poverty. Table 1 and Figure 1 show that in 2024/25, child poverty rates were highest in London, at 38%, with almost a third of children in poverty in Wales, the West Midlands, and the North of England. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, rates are notably lower, at 22% and 19%, respectively. The high rates in London are driven in large part by high housing costs in the capital. In Wales, child poverty is linked more to factors around income and employment – compared to the rest of the UK, Wales has lower than average earnings, and relatively high rates of economic inactivity and unemployment.² In Scotland, the Scottish Child Payment has a direct, positive impact on the incomes of households with children, which contributes to its lower child poverty rate.

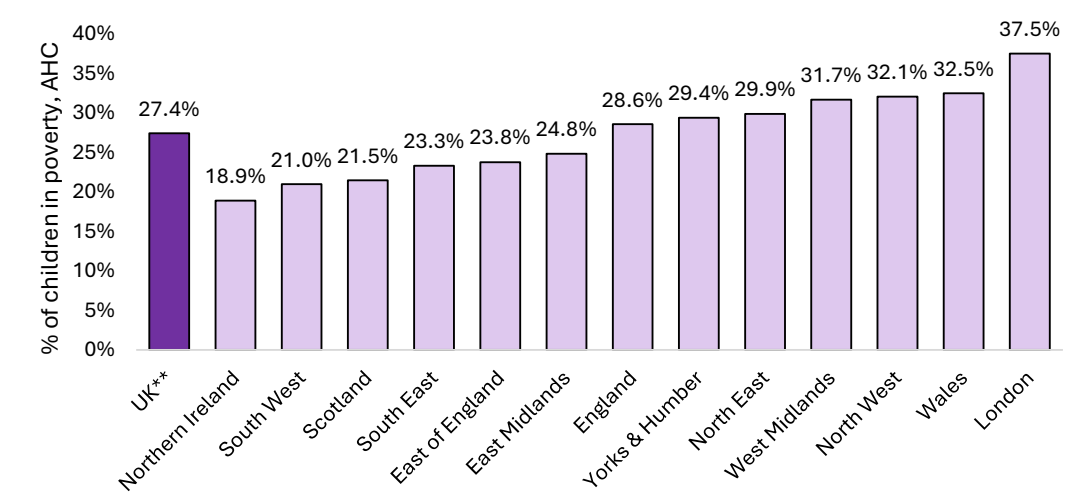
Table 1 Number and percentage of children in poverty, after housing costs

Country/Region	Number (millions)		Percentage	
	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
UK*	4.0	4.0	27.7%	27.4%
England	3.5	3.6	28.6%	28.6%
East Midlands	0.3	0.3	26.0%	24.8%
East of England	0.3	0.3	22.9%	23.8%
London	0.7	0.8	33.2%	37.5%
North East	0.2	0.2	29.9%	29.9%
North West	0.5	0.5	32.4%	32.1%
South East	0.5	0.5	23.7%	23.3%
South West	0.3	0.2	24.9%	21.0%
West Midlands	0.5	0.4	35.6%	31.7%
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.3	0.4	27.9%	29.4%
Wales	0.2	0.2	29.9%	32.5%
Scotland	0.2	0.2	21.8%	21.5%
Northern Ireland	0.1	0.1	19.5%	18.9%

*The headline UK statistics are for the single years shown. Other statistics in this table are based on a three-year average ending in the year shown.

² <https://ifs.org.uk/publications/labour-market-living-standards-and-poverty-trends-wales>

Figure 1 Percentage of children in poverty, AHC in 2024/25, by country and region



Source: Households Below Average Income (DWP), 2022/23 - 2024/25)

2 Children in low-income families: local area statistics

As noted above, this year, the Children in Low-Income Families data were produced by DWP both before and after housing costs. These data allow us to identify those local areas where child poverty rates are particularly high, and how this varies within regions and countries of the UK. Tables 2 and 3 show the top ten parliamentary constituencies and local authorities with the highest rates of child poverty. While in both cases, London areas feature prominently, it is not just in the capital that there are local areas with very high rates of child poverty. In four Birmingham constituencies, more than half of children are living below the poverty line; among local authorities, metropolitan areas in the North West (Manchester), West Midlands (Birmingham), and East Midlands (Leicester) all have a very high prevalence of child poverty. Tables 4 and 5 show the ten areas with the highest rates of child poverty by country/region, and highlight that in every part of the UK, there are local areas where child poverty rates are unacceptably high.

Table 2 **Top ten constituencies with the highest child poverty rates, 2024/25**

Parliamentary constituency	Child poverty rate
Hackney North & Stoke Newington	60%
Birmingham Ladywood	58%
Bethnal Green & Stepney	56%
Birmingham Perry Barr	52%
Birmingham Hodge Hill & Solihull North	52%
Tottenham	51%
Birmingham Yardley	51%
Bradford East	50%
Bradford West	49%
Brent East	48%

Table 2 **Top ten local authorities with the highest child poverty rates, 2024/25**

Local authority	Child poverty rate
Tower Hamlets	50%
Hackney	50%
Newham	45%
Birmingham	44%
Manchester	42%
Bradford	42%
Oldham	42%
Pendle	43%
Brent	42%
Leicester	40%

Table 4 Top ten constituencies with the highest child poverty rates by country/region of the UK: 2024/25

North East		North West		Yorks & Humber		East Midlands	
Middlesbrough & Thornaby East	44%	Manchester Rusholme	48%	Bradford East	50%	Nottingham East	42%
Newcastle upon Tyne Central & West	40%	Gorton & Denton	46%	Bradford West	49%	Leicester South	41%
Easington	33%	Oldham W, Chadderton, Royton	46%	Leeds South	46%	Derby South	41%
Newcastle upon Tyne East & Wallsend	32%	Liverpool Riverside	45%	Dewsbury & Batley	46%	Leicester East	41%
Redcar	32%	Manchester Central	44%	Sheffield Brightside, Hillsboro	45%	Nottingham N, Kimberley	40%
Hartlepool	32%	Blackley & Middleton South	43%	Bradford South	43%	Leicester West	39%
Stockton North	32%	Bolton South & Walkden	42%	Great Grimsby & Cleethorpes	41%	Boston & Skegness	38%
Bishop Auckland	31%	Blackburn	42%	Leeds East	40%	Nottingham South	35%
Blyth & Ashington	31%	Rochdale	42%	Kingston upon Hull East	39%	Northampton North	32%
Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor	31%	Blackpool South	41%	Huddersfield	38%	Ashfield	31%
West Midlands		East of England		London		South East	
Birmingham Ladywood	58%	Luton South & S Bedfordshire	41%	Hackney N & Stoke Newington	60%	East Thanet	37%
Birmingham Perry Barr	52%	Peterborough	41%	Bethnal Green & Stepney	56%	Portsmouth South	35%
Birmingham Hodge Hill & Solihull N	52%	Clacton	38%	Tottenham	51%	Hastings & Rye	35%
Birmingham Yardley	51%	Luton North	38%	Brent East	48%	Isle of Wight East	33%
Walsall & Bloxwich	48%	Great Yarmouth	37%	East Ham	48%	Southampton Test	32%
Birmingham Hall Green & Moseley	48%	Southend East & Rochford	34%	Poplar & Limehouse	47%	Slough	31%
Birmingham Erdington	44%	Lowestoft	34%	Edmonton & Winchmore Hill	45%	Eastbourne	31%
Smethwick	43%	Ipswich	33%	West Ham & Beckton	44%	Southampton Itchen	30%
Wolverhampton South East	41%	Bedford	31%	Stratford & Bow	41%	Bognor, Littlehampton	30%
Tipton & Wednesbury	40%	North East Cambridgeshire	31%	Enfield North	41%	Havant	30%
South West		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
Torbay	31%	Blaenau Gwent & Rhymney	33%	Glasgow East	30%	Belfast West	25%
Plymouth Sutton & Devonport	31%	Rhondda & Ogmore	33%	Glasgow South West	25%	Newry & Armagh	25%
Bristol East	31%	Newport East	32%	Glasgow North East	25%	Belfast North	24%
North Cornwall	30%	Clwyd North	32%	Glasgow South	23%	Foyle	23%
Camborne & Redruth	30%	Cardiff South & Penarth	31%	Glasgow North	22%	Upper Bann	23%
St Austell & Newquay	30%	Aberafan Maesteg	30%	Glenrothes & Mid Fife	21%	East Londonderry	22%
St Ives	29%	Swansea West	30%	Glasgow West	19%	West Tyrone	22%
Plymouth Moor View	29%	Ynys Môn	29%	Dundee Central	19%	North Antrim	22%
Bridgwater	29%	Cardiff East	29%	Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock	18%	Fermanagh & S Tyrone	21%
Bristol South	28%	Merthyr Tydfil & Aberdare	29%	Edinburgh North & Leith	18%	South Down	21%

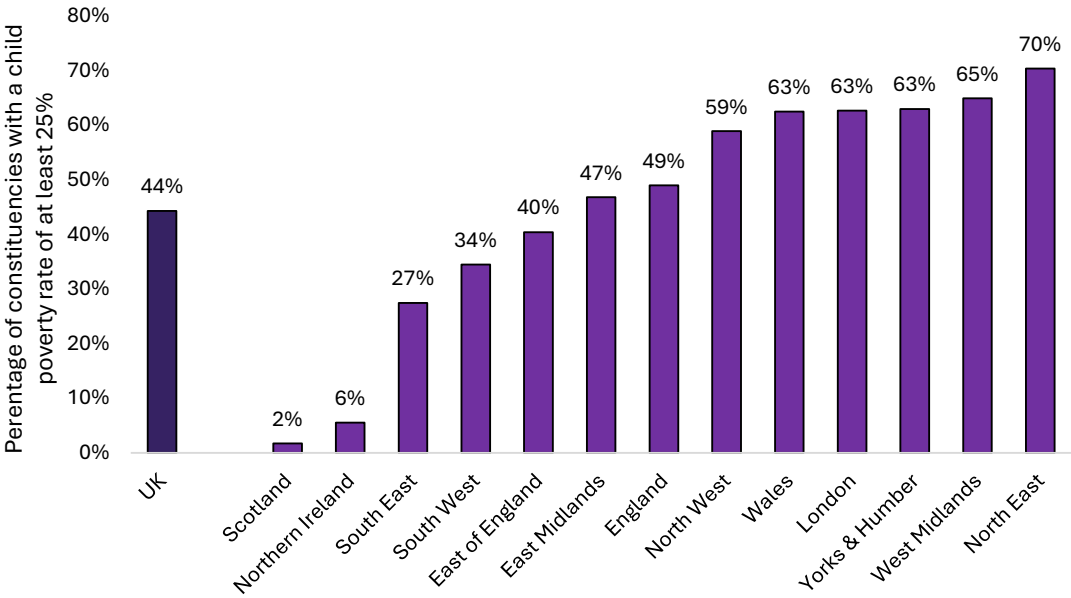
Table 5 Top ten local authorities with the highest child poverty rates by country/region of the UK: 2024/25

North East		North West		Yorks & Humber		East Midlands	
Middlesbrough	39%	Manchester	42%	Bradford	42%	Leicester	40%
Hartlepool	32%	Oldham	42%	Kingston upon Hull, City of	37%	Nottingham	40%
Newcastle upon Tyne	31%	Pendle	43%	North East Lincolnshire	36%	Boston	35%
Redcar & Cleveland	31%	Blackburn with Darwen	39%	Doncaster	35%	Derby	33%
South Tyneside	30%	Blackpool	39%	Kirklees	33%	East Lindsey	34%
Sunderland	30%	Burnley	40%	Calderdale	31%	Lincoln	33%
County Durham	29%	Hyndburn	40%	Sheffield	32%	Ashfield	30%
Darlington	29%	Rochdale	37%	North Lincolnshire	30%	Bolsover	29%
Gateshead	28%	Bolton	37%	Barnsley	31%	Mansfield	29%
Stockton-on-Tees	26%	Liverpool	34%	Rotherham	31%	Bassetlaw	28%
West Midlands		East of England		London		South East	
Birmingham	44%	Luton	40%	Tower Hamlets	50%	Thanet	35%
Stoke-on-Trent	38%	Peterborough	35%	Hackney	50%	Hastings	35%
Sandwell	40%	Great Yarmouth	37%	Newham	45%	Slough	31%
Walsall	38%	Ipswich	33%	Brent	42%	Southampton	31%
Wolverhampton	38%	Norwich	32%	Enfield	40%	Portsmouth	31%
Coventry	32%	Tendring	34%	Barking & Dagenham	39%	Eastbourne	31%
Telford & Wrekin	33%	Fenland	31%	Haringey	38%	Isle of Wight	31%
Dudley	32%	Southend-on-Sea	29%	Ealing	34%	Crawley	30%
East Staffordshire	29%	North Norfolk	30%	Islington	33%	Havant	28%
Cannock Chase	29%	Harlow	28%	Waltham Forest	32%	Dover	28%
South West		Wales		Scotland		Northern Ireland	
Torbay	32%	Blaenau Gwent	32%	Glasgow City	23%	Belfast	22%
Torridge	30%	Newport	28%	North Ayrshire	18%	Derry City & Strabane	23%
Cornwall	28%	Merthyr Tydfil	28%	Dumfries & Galloway	17%	Newry, Mourne & Down	22%
Plymouth	27%	Torfaen	28%	Clackmannanshire	17%	Causeway Coast & Glens	22%
Gloucester	26%	Pembrokeshire	28%	Dundee City	17%	Armagh/Banbridge/Craigavon	22%
North Devon	27%	Cardiff	27%	East Ayrshire	17%	Fermanagh & Omagh	22%
Bristol, City of	26%	Denbighshire	29%	West Dunbartonshire	15%	Mid & East Antrim	20%
Forest of Dean	25%	Ceredigion	28%	Fife	16%	Mid Ulster	20%
Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole	24%	Rhondda Cynon Ta	27%	Angus	16%	Antrim & Newtownabbey	17%
West Devon	25%	Isle of Anglesey	29%	North Lanarkshire	15%	Ards & North Down	17%

2.1 Prevalence of high rates of child poverty

Figure 2 shows the percentage of constituencies in each country or region where the child poverty rate is 25% or higher. What stands out is that in some areas, rates of child poverty appear to be consistently high – in the North East, at least one in four children are in poverty in 70% of constituencies. Conversely, in Scotland, only 2% of constituencies have a child poverty rate of 25% or more, reflecting the overall lower prevalence of poverty in Scotland. Overall, in the UK 44% of constituencies have a child poverty rate of 25% or more.

Figure 2 Percentage of constituencies where at least 25% of children are in poverty, by country/region: 2024/25



3 Conclusions

The Government's recently announced Child Poverty Strategy, published at the end of 2025, is an important first step to making sure that children in the UK can have a decent standard of living, regardless of where in the country they live. For the first time in a decade, there is a defined commitment to reducing child poverty across the UK, with the aim of producing policies that can address its root causes. However, the statistics described in this briefing highlight the magnitude of this task. With 4 million children living below the poverty line in 2024/25, radical action is needed.

Some positive developments are already underway. The removal of the two-child limit is an extremely welcome and necessary change, which will potentially lift 450 thousand of children out of financial hardship. Other changes are also in progress, particularly those related to improving access to and conditions of employment for households with children. The Employment Rights Bill will have a beneficial impact on the potential incomes for households across the UK, including those with children.

There are specific policy changes that could have indirect but potentially substantial effects on child poverty rates, most notably removing or raising the Benefit Cap, and increasing the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) to more appropriately reflect actual rents. For households affected by the Benefit Cap, the removal of the two-child limit will not necessarily result in any increase in their income. The local area data presented in this briefing demonstrate how local variation in housing costs can contribute to the risk of child poverty. With private rents increasing every year, making sure that low-income households are receiving adequate support to pay their rent is imperative, and if the LHA remains frozen it will become increasingly disconnected from the costs that people are actually facing.

The challenge for the Government is to make sure that the targets and actions outlined in the Child Poverty Strategy are taken forward and that reducing child poverty remains a priority during this parliament. To fully address child poverty requires a continued commitment to developing, monitoring, and evaluating policies that have a positive impact on the living standards and life experiences of children, regardless of where in the UK they live.

4 Appendix

4.1 Definitions

- In the headline poverty statistics from HBAI, a **child** is defined as aged 0-15 or aged 16-19 in full-time education.
- In the local area statistics, a **child** is defined as aged 0-15. Note that because the local area data produced by DWP are based on administrative data from tax and benefit records, certain sub-groups of children will not be included in the statistics. These include children in families with no recourse to public funds, and children who are not living in private households (e.g. are in a residential care setting).
- **Poverty** is defined as being in a household with an income below 60% of the contemporary median income, after housing costs.
- **Deep poverty** is defined as being in a household with an income below 50% of the contemporary median income, after housing costs.

4.2 Additional statistics

Detailed statistics on the ranking of local authorities and constituencies based on their rates of child poverty can be found here:

<https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty/>

Figure A1 Number and percentage of children in poverty after housing costs, by Combined Authority

