**Compilation of child poverty local indicators, update to September 2017**

Laura Valadez-Martinez and Donald Hirsch, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University

**Where child poverty is highest**

Child poverty estimates tend to be the highest in large cities, particularly London, Birmingham and Manchester (Table 1). Estimates for 2017 indicate that Bethnal Green and Bow had the highest figures of child poverty with 54 per cent, followed by Birmingham Ladywood and Poplar and Limehouse with 53 per cent each. There are also important pockets of child poverty in areas of Bradford, Glasgow, Newcastle and Leeds, with figures of more than 40 per cent.

**Table 1 Top 25 parliamentary constituencies with highest levels of child poverty across the UK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **% of children in poverty 2017****(after housing costs)** |
| Bethnal Green and Bow | 54.18% |
| Birmingham, Ladywood | 53.06% |
| Poplar and Limehouse | 52.75% |
| Birmingham, Hodge Hill | 51.46% |
| Manchester, Gorton | 47.97% |
| Birmingham, Hall Green | 47.82% |
| Manchester Central | 47.52% |
| Bradford West | 47.26% |
| Bradford East | 46.73% |
| Oldham West and Royton | 45.58% |
| Edmonton | 45.39% |
| Glasgow Central | 45.06% |
| Blackley and Broughton | 44.66% |
| Leicester South | 44.58% |
| Westminster North | 44.41% |
| Newcastle upon Tyne Central | 44.30% |
| East Ham | 43.99% |
| Holborn and St Pancras | 43.89% |
| Leeds Central | 43.57% |
| Hackney South and Shoreditch | 43.29% |
| Birmingham, Perry Barr | 43.18% |
| Blackburn | 42.83% |
| Tottenham | 42.57% |
| Walsall South | 42.56% |
| West Ham | 42.37% |

Table 2 shows the 25 local authorities with the highest estimates of childhood poverty. Tower Hamlets has a distinctively high proportion of children in poverty, with more than 53 per cent (after housing costs). Figures for Manchester, Newham, Birmingham, Hackney, Westminster, Oldham and Leicester are between 41 per cent and 44 per cent.

**Table 2 Top 25 local authorities with highest levels of child poverty across the UK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local authority** | **% of children in poverty 2017** **(after housing costs)** |
| Tower Hamlets | 53.40% |
| Manchester | 43.60% |
| Newham | 43.21% |
| Birmingham | 42.33% |
| Hackney | 41.30% |
| Westminster | 41.29% |
| Oldham | 40.66% |
| Leicester | 40.59% |
| Islington | 40.40% |
| Camden | 39.92% |
| Enfield | 39.60% |
| Blackburn with Darwen | 39.55% |
| Bradford | 39.53% |
| Middlesbrough | 38.25% |
| Nottingham | 38.23% |
| Barking and Dagenham | 37.80% |
| Haringey | 37.18% |
| Luton | 36.91% |
| Brent | 36.84% |
| Sandwell | 36.54% |
| Blackpool | 36.52% |
| Burnley | 36.32% |
| Walsall | 36.21% |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 36.03% |
| Waltham Forest | 35.90% |

At a more local level (Table 3), in 87 electoral wards, more than 50 per cent of children live in poverty after housing costs, an important [increase from 2015](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/images/2016/Local_child_poverty_statistics_full_report.docx) when only 21 electoral wards had at least 50 per cent childhood poverty rates. This reflects the fact that child poverty has started to increase overall, rising from 2.3 million in 2013/14 to 2.7 million in 2015/16 in the national Households Below Average Income measure – an increase of about one-sixth.

**Table 3 Electoral wards with the highest levels of child poverty across the UK**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Electoral ward** | **% of children in poverty 2017 (after housing costs)** | **Parliamentary Constituency** |
| Coldhurst | 62.11% | Oldham West and Royton |
| Daneshouse with Stoneyholme | 59.34% | Burnley |
| Princes Park | 58.85% | Liverpool, Riverside |
| Bethnal Green North | 57.38% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| St Dunstan's and Stepney Green | 57.23% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Bethnal Green South | 57.09% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Washwood Heath | 56.93% | Birmingham, Hodge Hill |
| Moss Side | 56.82% | Manchester Central |
| Bloomfield | 56.38% | Blackpool South |
| Bromley-by-Bow | 56.37% | Poplar and Limehouse |
| Sparkbrook | 56.31% | Birmingham, Hall Green |
| Mile End and Globe Town | 56.17% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Rusholme | 56.10% | Manchester, Gorton |
| Church Street | 56.06% | Westminster North |
| Elswick | 56.00% | Newcastle upon Tyne Central |
| Nechells | 55.29% | Birmingham, Ladywood |
| Mile End East | 55.23% | Poplar and Limehouse |
| Aston | 55.15% | Birmingham, Ladywood |
| Werneth | 55.14% | Oldham West and Royton |
| Park | 54.97% | Halifax |
| Audley | 54.87% | Blackburn |
| St Mary's | 54.87% | Oldham East and Saddleworth |
| Whitefield | 54.70% | Pendle |
| Lozells and East Handsworth | 54.49% | Birmingham, Perry Barr |
| East India and Lansbury | 54.47% | Poplar and Limehouse |
| Bradford Moor | 54.33% | Bradford East |
| Bordesley Green | 54.28% | Birmingham, Hodge Hill |
| Spinney Hills | 54.22% | Leicester South |
| Limehouse | 54.16% | Poplar and Limehouse |
| Longsight | 53.96% | Manchester, Gorton |
| Shadwell | 53.94% | Poplar and Limehouse |
| Cheetham | 53.94% | Blackley and Broughton |
| Weavers | 53.85% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Central Rochdale | 53.68% | Rochdale |
| Hyde Park and Woodhouse | 53.40% | Leeds Central |
| Churchill | 53.32% | Cities of London and Westminster |
| Milkstone and Deeplish | 53.30% | Rochdale |
| Manningham | 53.29% | Bradford West |
| Spitalfields and Banglatown | 53.09% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Bastwell | 53.09% | Blackburn |
| Bow East | 52.98% | Bethnal Green and Bow |
| Pillgwenlly | 52.95% | Newport West |
| Westbourne | 52.90% | Westminster North |
| St Michael's | 52.73% | Coventry South |
| Cliftonville West | 52.53% | South Thanet |
| Central | 52.47% | Hyndburn |
| Halliwell | 52.18% | Bolton North East |
| City | 52.10% | Bradford West |
| University | 52.10% | Middlesbrough |
| Arboretum | 52.10% | Nottingham East |
| Gresham | 52.08% | Middlesbrough |
| Alexandra | 52.07% | Oldham East and Saddleworth |
| Bowling and Barkerend | 52.06% | Bradford East |
| Springfield | 51.93% | Birmingham, Hall Green |
| Aberteifi/Cardigan-Teifi | 51.89% | Ceredigion |
| St Pancras and Somers Town | 51.89% | Holborn and St Pancras |
| Lawrence Hill | 51.78% | Bristol West |
| Arboretum | 51.77% | Derby South |
| Palfrey | 51.70% | Walsall South |
| Little Horton | 51.59% | Bradford East |
| Portsoken | 51.51% | Cities of London and Westminster |
| Wainfleet and Friskney | 51.45% | Boston and Skegness |
| Middlehaven | 51.43% | Middlesbrough |
| Keighley Central | 51.42% | Keighley |
| Rhyl West | 51.39% | Vale of Clwyd |
| Westgate | 51.27% | Newcastle upon Tyne Central |
| Burngreave | 51.19% | Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough |
| Wensley Fold | 50.95% | Blackburn |
| Picton | 50.94% | Liverpool, Wavertree |
| Wingrove | 50.92% | Newcastle upon Tyne Central |
| Adamsdown | 50.79% | Cardiff Central |
| Rotherham East | 50.56% | Rotherham |
| St Peter's | 50.51% | Wolverhampton South West |
| Normanton | 50.41% | Derby South |
| Stoneygate | 50.32% | Leicester South |
| Charles Dickens | 50.31% | Portsmouth South |
| Ardwick | 50.16% | Manchester Central |
| Pier | 50.15% | Clacton |
| Rumworth | 50.10% | Bolton South East |
| Trusthorpe and Mablethorpe South | 50.08% | Louth and Horncastle |
| Brierfield | 49.87% | Pendle |
| Byker | 49.83% | Newcastle upon Tyne East |
| St George's | 49.82% | Preston |
| Soho | 49.78% | Birmingham, Ladywood |
| Little Ilford | 49.65% | East Ham |
| Coolessan | 49.54% | East Londonderry |
| Castle | 49.51% | Swansea West |

**Where child poverty is lowest**

The parliamentary constituencies with the lowest levels of child poverty (AHC) are West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine and Gordon with less than 10 per cent, followed by North East Hampshire, Sheffield Hallam, Henley and Wokingham with figures between 10 and 11 per cent (Table 4). At the local authority level (Table 5), the Isles of Scilly and Shetland Islands have the lowest rates of child poverty with 5 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively.

**Table 4 Top 25 parliamentary constituencies with lowest levels of child poverty across the UK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Constituency** | **% of children in poverty 2017 (after housing costs)** |
| West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine | 9.26% |
| Gordon | 9.27% |
| North East Hampshire | 10.35% |
| Sheffield, Hallam | 10.50% |
| Henley | 11.27% |
| Wokingham | 11.54% |
| York Outer | 11.93% |
| South Northamptonshire | 12.04% |
| South West Surrey | 12.16% |
| Epsom and Ewell | 12.20% |
| East Dunbartonshire | 12.22% |
| North Somerset | 12.31% |
| Orkney and Shetland | 12.42% |
| Sutton Coldfield | 12.54% |
| Rushcliffe | 12.74% |
| Mole Valley | 12.94% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 13.12% |
| Winchester | 13.14% |
| Kenilworth and Southam | 13.18% |
| South West Hertfordshire | 13.20% |
| Hitchin and Harpenden | 13.27% |
| Aberdeen South | 13.37% |
| Witney | 13.39% |
| Mid Bedfordshire | 13.47% |
| Maidenhead | 13.60% |

**Table 5 Top 25 local authorities with lowest levels of child poverty across the UK**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local authority** | **% of children in poverty 2017 (after housing costs)** |
| Isles of Scilly | 5.17% |
| Shetland Islands | 9.39% |
| Wokingham | 10.76% |
| Hart | 11.17% |
| South Northamptonshire | 11.79% |
| Mole Valley | 12.08% |
| Waverley | 12.49% |
| South Oxfordshire | 12.50% |
| Aberdeenshire | 12.59% |
| Rushcliffe | 12.89% |
| Ribble Valley | 12.90% |
| South Cambridgeshire | 13.07% |
| Uttlesford | 13.17% |
| Harborough | 13.34% |
| Mid Sussex | 13.37% |
| West Oxfordshire | 13.39% |
| Elmbridge | 13.44% |
| Rutland | 13.52% |
| Epsom and Ewell | 13.56% |
| Surrey Heath | 13.56% |
| Horsham | 13.94% |
| Chiltern | 14.06% |
| Winchester | 14.08% |
| West Berkshire | 14.27% |
| Fareham | 14.27% |

**The local indicators in this report:**

The figures presented in this report are based on tax credit data, used to estimate the percentage of children on low incomes in local authorities, parliamentary constituencies and wards across the UK. They also use national trends in worklessness to estimate recent changes in the number of children who are in poverty because their parents have lost their jobs, to update the local tax credit data which is more than two years old.

This is not a direct measure of exactly how many children are in poverty on the official definition, but is based on the closest to an equivalent measure we have of local levels of child poverty. The data have been adjusted to produce figures compatible with the measures derived from the national survey of income, showing how many children live in households with below 60 per cent of median income. Specifically, the adjustments ensure that the total reported level of child poverty, before and after housing costs, is similar when adding up all the local figures as the official national totals. Thus, the local data gives an idea of the relative poverty levels in different areas, but are adjusted to estimate what these actual levels would be if they could be measured on the same basis as the national household income survey.

The local data starts by classifying children in poverty if they live in families in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of in-work tax credits where their reported family income is less than 60 per cent of median income. This indicator, compiled officially as a local estimate of child poverty, has been reported for August 2014 by HMRC. However, on its own it is provides an inaccurate picture of actual child poverty, considerably overstating the numbers in out-of-work poverty and understating the numbers in working poverty. While these factors may balance out overall, they can seriously misrepresent the overall trend where working and non-working poverty change in different ways, as well as misrepresenting local differences where working poverty is relatively more important in some areas than others. Therefore, the figures include an upward adjustment in the in-work figure and a downward adjustment in the out-of-work figure. The adjustments are made separately for AHC and BHC estimates, in each case according to how the total of the local estimates compare to the actual national measure. Figures are then updated, taking into account Labour Force Survey data on the number of children in non-working households for the third quarter of 2017.

A [methodology paper](http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/images/ecp/paper_explaining_calculations_and_method_to_ECP.pdf) provides more details about the calculations.