



South West Neighbourhood Partnership

Poverty and Inequality Profile

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Business Intelligence Service

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THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Poverty and inequality in Edinburgh: Neighbourhood Partnership profiles

Recent research shows that one in five households in Edinburgh live on incomes below the poverty threshold set by the UK Government. Despite the affluence and success of the city's economy, this is a level of poverty higher than the national average and higher than most other local authorities in Scotland.

Within the city, poverty levels vary considerably between neighbourhoods. In the poorest parts of Edinburgh over 27% of all households live in poverty compared to fewer than 17% of households in more affluent areas.

This profile provides a snapshot of data on poverty and income inequality in the South West Neighbourhood Partnership area. It is one of 12 similar profiles for all Neighbourhood Partnerships intended to support the development of strategies and action plans to reduce poverty and inequality in our city.

The information presented here is built on analysis carried out for the Edinburgh Partnership Poverty and Inequality Theme Group. More information on the work of this group in the city can be found on the City of Edinburgh Council [website](#).

Each profile contains:

- A short note defining the key poverty indicators used in the report
- Information on the number of households living in poverty in each Neighbourhood
- Information on levels of benefits dependency and other measures of inequality
- Links to other resources and profiles providing information on inequality in each Neighbourhood.

Definitions and data sources

These profiles use the following broad definition of poverty:

“People are said to be living in poverty if their income and resources are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living considered acceptable in the society in which they live.”

The following four key indicators are used to measure the extent of poverty in each neighbourhood partnership area (NP):

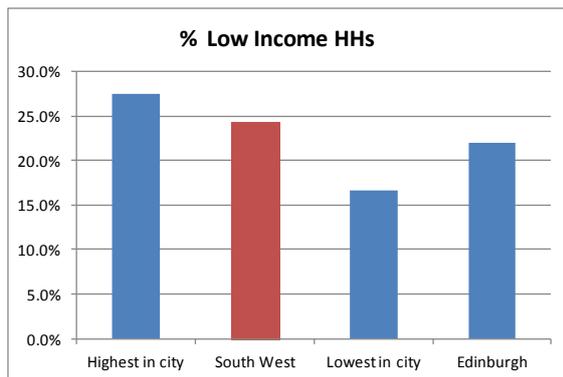
- **Low income Households:** The proportion of households who live on incomes below the poverty threshold (after housing costs). The UK Government defines this threshold as being a level of income below 60% of UK median. For a couple with two children, this threshold is currently estimated at £357 per week. For a single person household, the threshold can be as low as £128 per week.
- **Material Deprivation:** The proportion of households unable to afford a specific set of goods and services regarded as essentials for life in Britain today by a majority of the population.
- **Child Poverty:** The proportion of children (aged under 20) living in households whose income is below the UK Government poverty threshold.
- **Average Weekly Income:** This represents the gross weekly household income.

Data for all of these indicators has been drawn from a 2013 report on income and poverty for small areas across Scotland, commissioned by the [Improvement Service](#) and part funded by City of Edinburgh Council. Detailed information on the results of the research for Edinburgh is available on the Council [website](#).

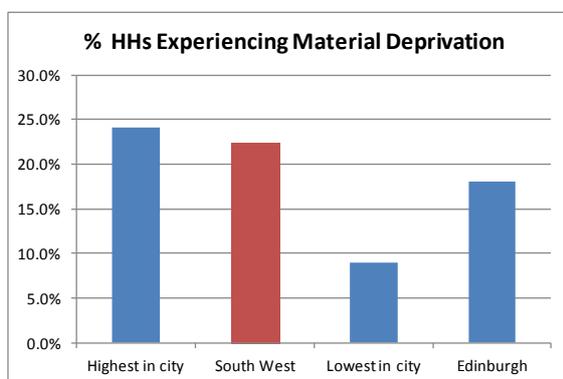
Data presented in the report for these measures relates to the year 2009 and represents a baseline snapshot of poverty in the city. These data represent the most up to date information available for the city on these important indicators.

More current estimates of households on very low incomes are provided by looking at the proportion of adults who receive DWP benefits. The last section of this profile provides an overview of benefits dependency and other measures of inequality in each neighbourhood. Data for this analysis has been drawn from the [NOMIS website](#) and provides information on Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits claimants up to May 2013. Detailed descriptions of the benefits included in the information pack produced to accompany these profiles.

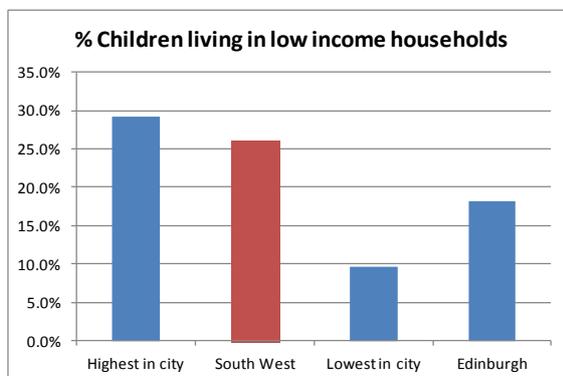
Headline poverty and inequality indicators



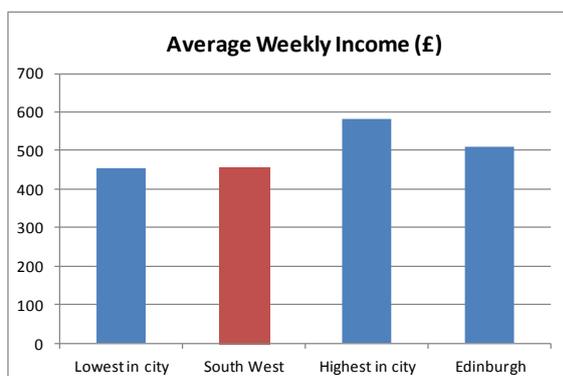
- An estimated 7,350 households in the South West NP live on incomes below the poverty threshold
- This represents 24.3% of all households in the NP, slightly above the city average rate of 22%
- South West accounts for 13.8% of all the households in Edinburgh, but 15.2% of all its low income households.



- Some 6,780 households in the South West NP experience material deprivation. These are households unable to afford several items regarded by a majority of the population as essentials of life in Britain
- This represents 22.4% of all households in the NP. South West accounts for 17.1% of all Edinburgh households experiencing material deprivation.

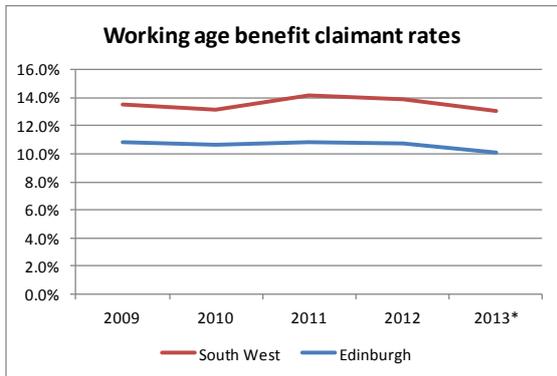


- In the South West NP, 2,870 children live in households whose income is below the poverty threshold
- This represents 26% of the local population in the age group, well above the rate of 18.2% estimated across the city as a whole
- The South West accounts for 16.4% of all the children living in low income households in Edinburgh.

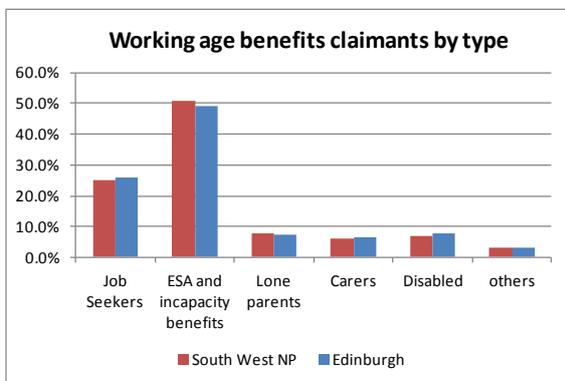


- Average gross weekly household income in the South West NP was estimated at £457 per week in 2009. This is more than 10% below the average for the city as a whole and the second lowest income recorded among all NP areas.

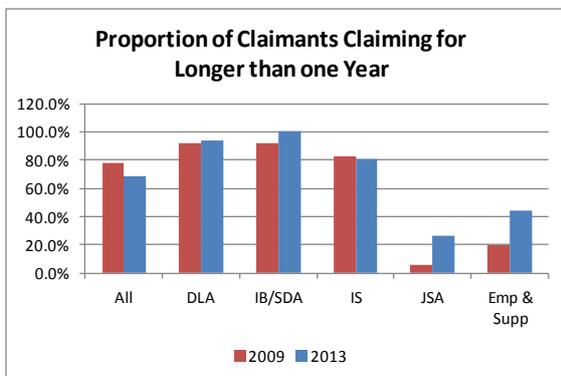
Benefits dependency and other measures of inequality



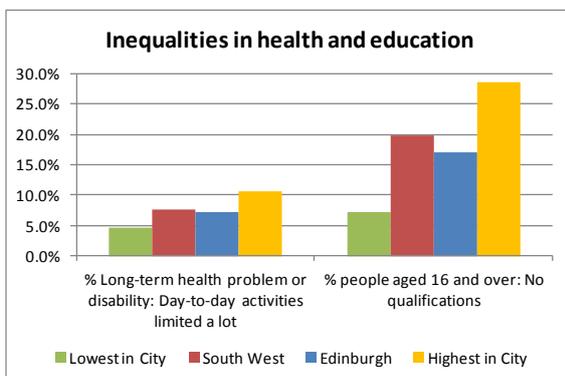
- These figures represent the percentage of working age people who are claiming a range of key DWP benefits
- At May 2013, 5,905 people were claiming these benefits in the South West NP. This represented 13% of the working age population in the area, a rate higher than the city average of 10%
- A detailed definition for all the benefits included here is included in the information pack which accompanies these profiles.



- At May 2013, Job Seekers and ESA Incapacity Benefits claimants accounted for 75.8% of all benefit recipients in the South West compared to 75.3% in the city as a whole
- By contrast, carers represented a lower than average proportion of claimants in the area.



- Long term benefits dependency is a useful measure of persistent low income and social exclusion
- 68.7% of claimants in South West had been claiming benefits for more than one year in May 2013. This was close to the city average of 69%
- Long term job seekers increased from 5.7% in 2009 to 26.1% of all JSA claimants in South West between 2009 and 2013.



- At the 2011 Census, 7.6% people in the South West recorded a limiting long term health problem/disability. 19.7% of the 16+ population reported having no qualifications. Both of these rates are slightly above the city average
- The [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website provides a comprehensive insight into a range of Census data for Neighbourhood Partnerships.

Other resources

Poverty and inequality data tables

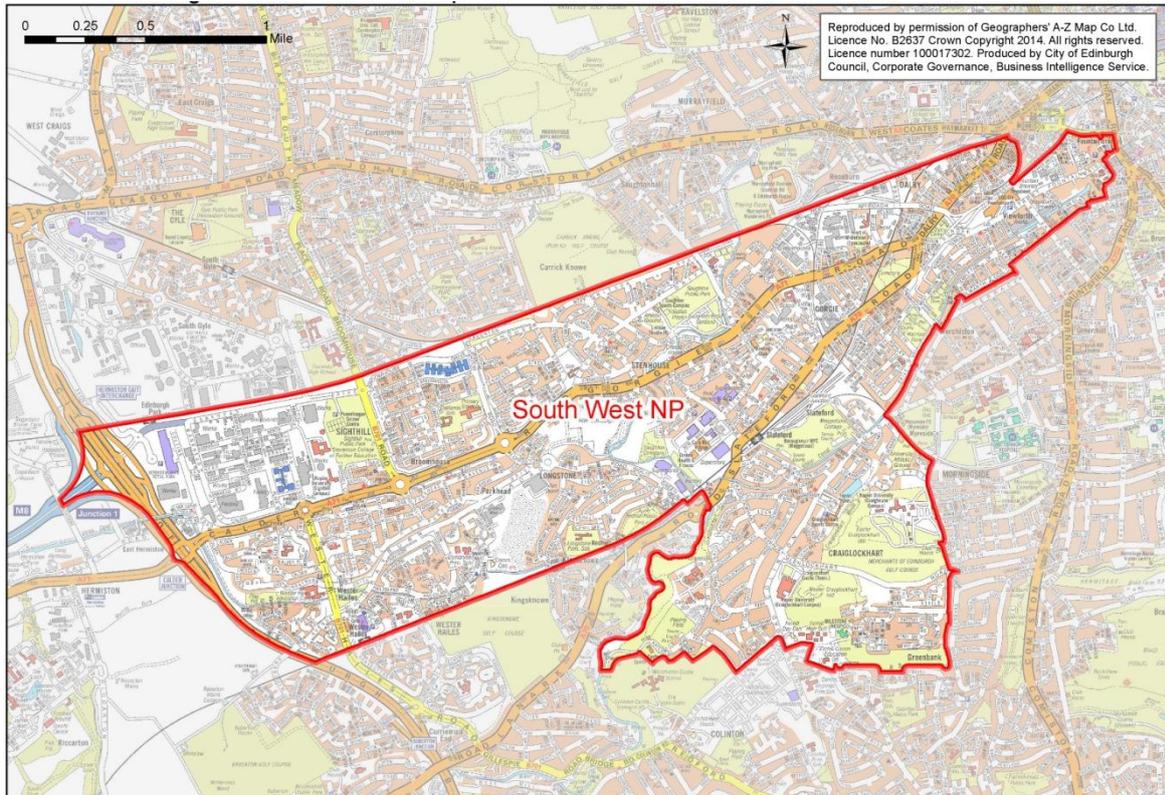
Detailed tables showing data for all neighbourhoods across all indicators used in this profile are available from the Neighbourhood Partnerships website.

Related resources

In addition to this profile, a number of other resources are available providing detailed information on inequality in Edinburgh's neighbourhoods.

- [Census 2011 – Edinburgh analysis](#): detailed analysis of the 2011 Census from an Edinburgh perspective, including profiles for each Neighbourhood Partnership, are available on the [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website.
- [Census 2011 – Data explorer](#): an online tool is also available to help users make their own analysis of Census findings. The tool can be accessed from the [Scotland's Census](#) website.
- [Labour market profiles](#) – profiles of the latest local area data on unemployment, jobs and benefits claimants is available from the [NOMIS](#) website.
- [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) – A large online repository of local area data across a wide variety of topics is provided by the [Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics](#) website.
- [Edinburgh by Numbers](#) – a statistical overview of Edinburgh is published each year by [City of Edinburgh Council](#).
- [Edinburgh Economy Watch](#) – a statistical bulletin tracking Edinburgh's performance across a number of key economic indicators is published each month by [City of Edinburgh Council](#).
- [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#) – a project led by ISD Scotland and NHS Health Scotland to provide online health statistics is available from the [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#) website.

Neighbourhood Map



Contacts

We would be pleased to hear your comments and feedback on this profile. Please contact us at:

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