



Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnership

Poverty and Inequality Profile

June 2014

Business Intelligence Service



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 Western Edinburgh 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):

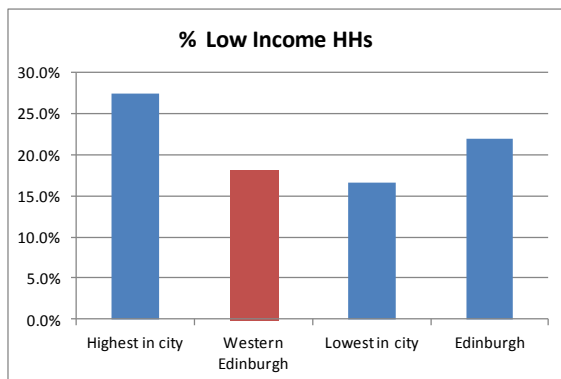
- **Low income Households:** The proportion of households who live on incomes below the poverty threshold (after housing costs). The UK Government defines this threshold as being a level of income below 60% of UK median. For a couple with two children, this threshold is currently estimated at £357 per 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](#).

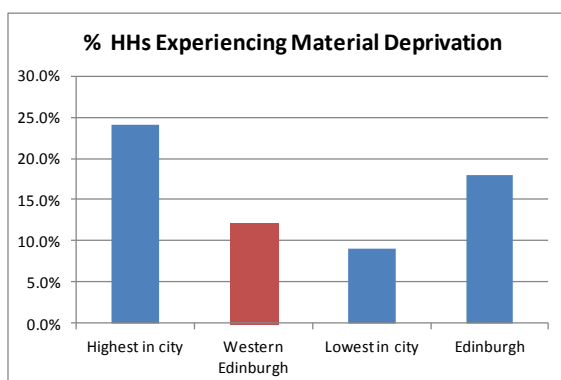
Data presented in the report for these measures relates to the year 2009 and represents a baseline snapshot of poverty in the city. These data represent the most up to date information available for the city on these important indicators.

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.

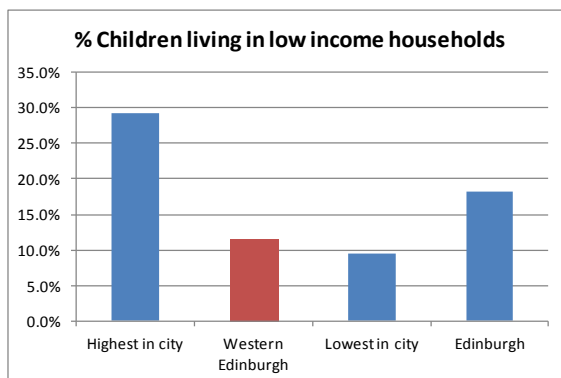
Headline poverty and inequality indicators



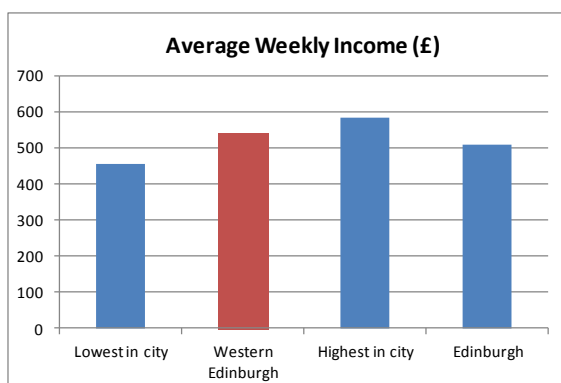
- An estimated 3,570 households in the Western Edinburgh NP live on incomes below the poverty threshold
- This represents 18.1% of all households in the area, below the city average rate of 22%
- The Western Edinburgh NP accounts for 9.0% of all the households in the city, but only 7.4% of all low income households



- Some 2,390 households in the 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 12.1% of all households in Western Edinburgh. The area accounts for 6.0% of all Edinburgh's households experiencing material deprivation

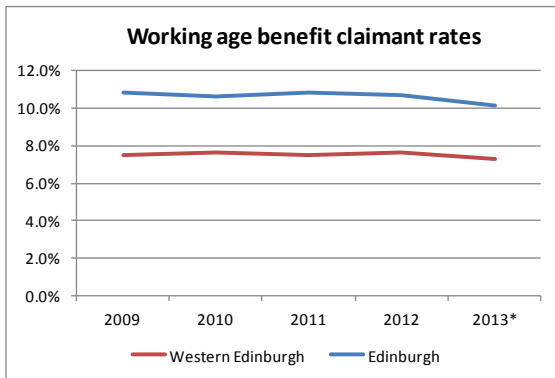


- In the Western Edinburgh NP, 1,070 children live in households whose income is below the poverty threshold
- This represents 11.4% of the local population in the age group, well below the rate of 18.2% recorded for Edinburgh as a whole
- The area accounts for 6.1% of all the children living in low income households across the city

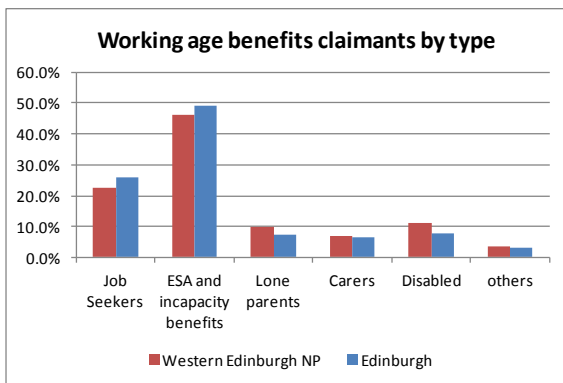


- Average gross weekly household income in Western Edinburgh was estimated at £542 per week in 2009. This was some 6.6% higher than the average for the city as a whole.

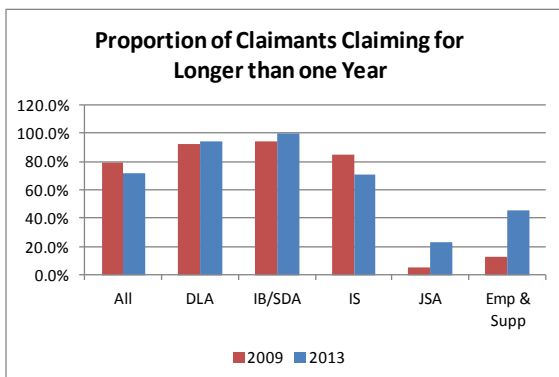
Benefits dependency and other measures of inequality



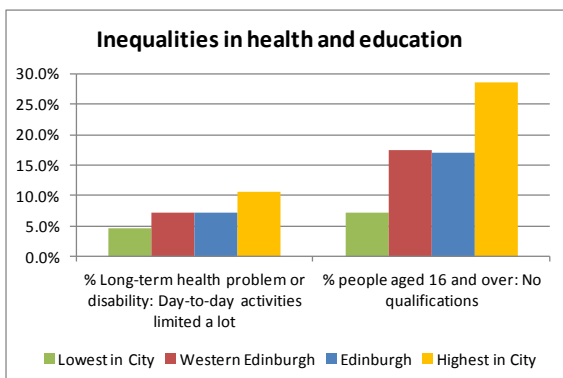
- These figures represent the percentage of working age people who are claiming a range of key DWP benefits
- At May 2013, 2,135 residents in the Western Edinburgh NP were claiming these benefits. This represented 7.3% of the total working age population in the area, a rate well below the city average of 10%
- A detailed definition for all the benefits included here is included in the information pack which accompanies these profiles.



- Job seekers accounted for 22.6% of all benefits claimants in Western Edinburgh in May 2013. This was slightly lower than the city average of 26%
- By contrast, the area records a higher than average proportion of benefits claimants who are lone parents or who are disabled.



- Long term benefits dependency is a useful measure of persistent low income and social exclusion
- 71.3% of claimants in Western Edinburgh had been claiming for more than 1 year in May 2013. This slightly higher than the city average of 69%.
- Long term job seekers increased from 5.4% in to 23.2% of all JSA claimants between 2009 and 2013.



- 7.2% of Western Edinburgh residents reported having a limiting long term illness/disability in 2011. 17.4% reported having no qualifications. Both indicators were close to the city average
- The [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website provides a comprehensive insight into a range of Census data

Other resources

Poverty and inequality data tables

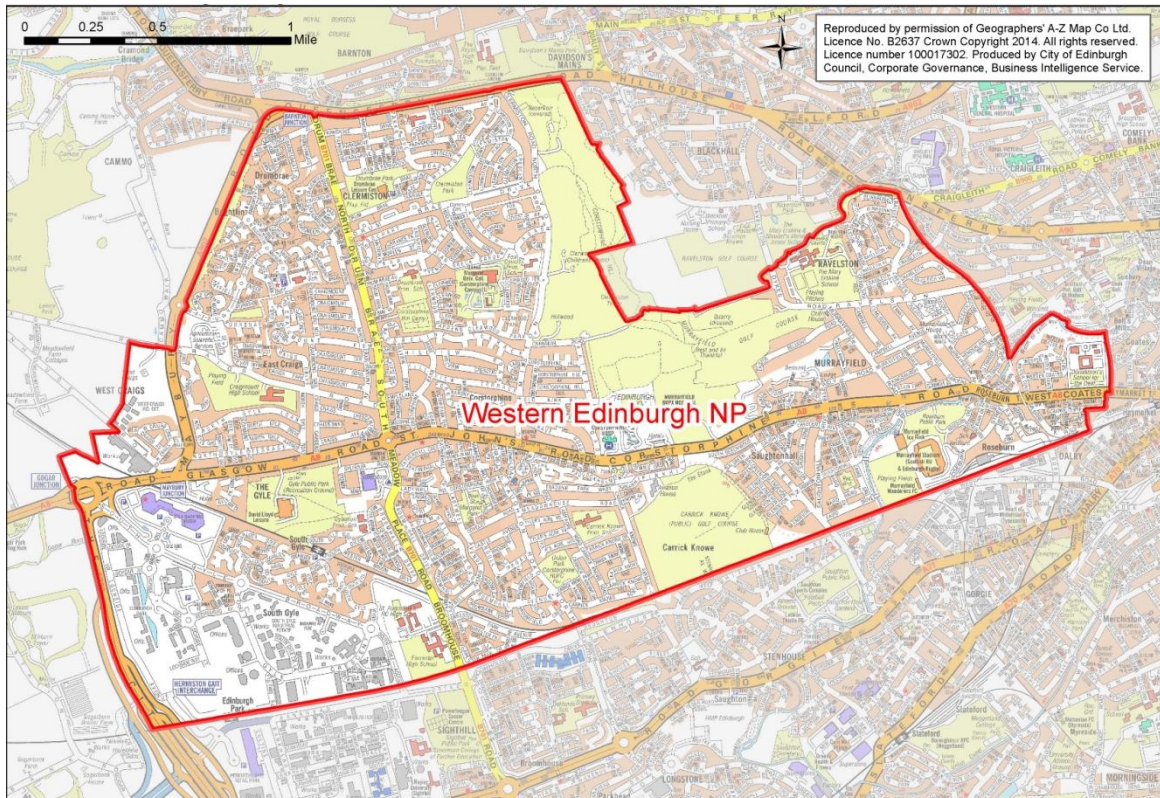
Detailed tables showing data for all neighbourhoods across all indicators used in this profile are available from the Neighbourhood Partnerships website.

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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