



Forth 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 Forth 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):

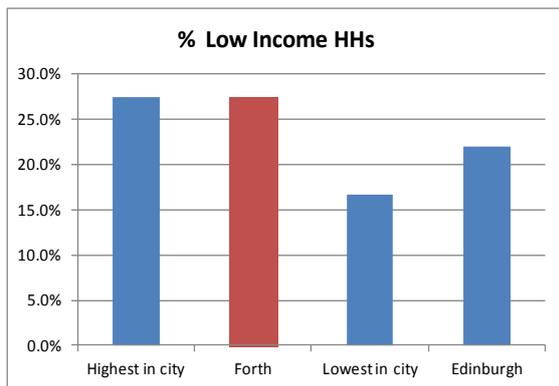
- **Low income Households:** The proportion of households who live on incomes below the poverty threshold (after housing costs). The UK Government defines this threshold as being a level of income below 60% of UK median. For a couple with two children, this threshold is currently estimated at £357 per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

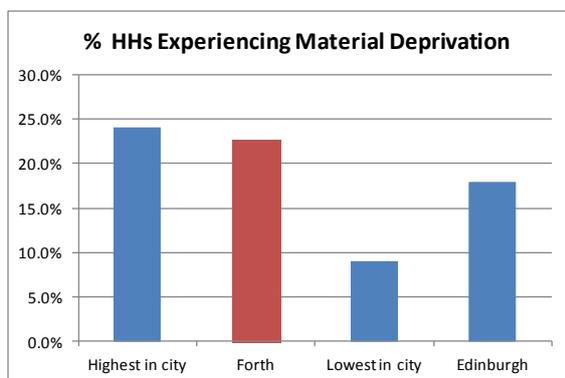
Data presented in the report for these measures relates to the year 2009 and represents a baseline snapshot of poverty in the city. These data represent the most up to date information available for the city on these important indicators.

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.

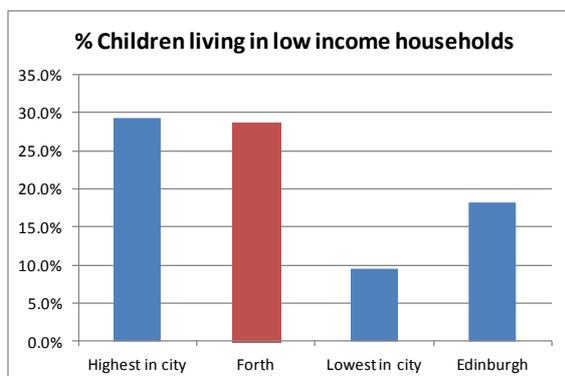
Headline poverty and inequality indicators



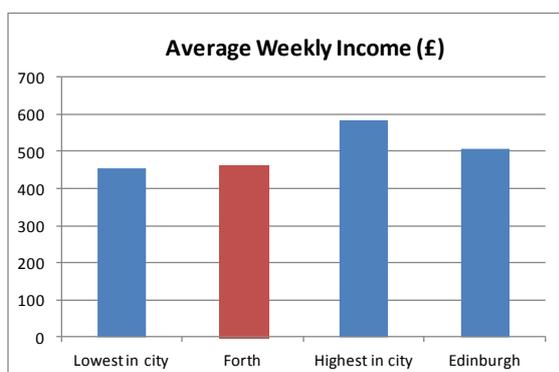
- 4,100 households in the Forth NP live on incomes below the poverty threshold
- This represents 27.4% of all households in the NP, well above the average rate for Edinburgh as a whole
- Forth accounts for 6.8% of all the households in Edinburgh, but 8.5% of all its low income households.



- An estimated 3,380 households in Forth 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 22.6% of all households in Forth. Overall, the NP accounts for 8.5% of all Edinburgh's households experiencing material deprivation

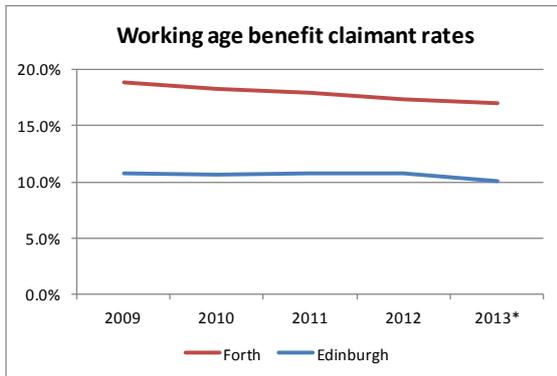


- In the Forth NP, 2,180 children live in households whose income is below the poverty threshold
- This represents 28.7% of the population in the age group, well above the 18.2% estimated for Edinburgh as a whole
- The NP accounts for 12.5% of all the children living in low income households across the city

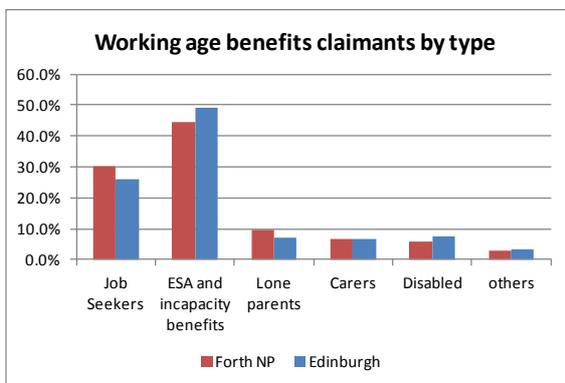


- In the Forth NP the average weekly household income was estimated at £462, some 91% of the average across the city as a whole.

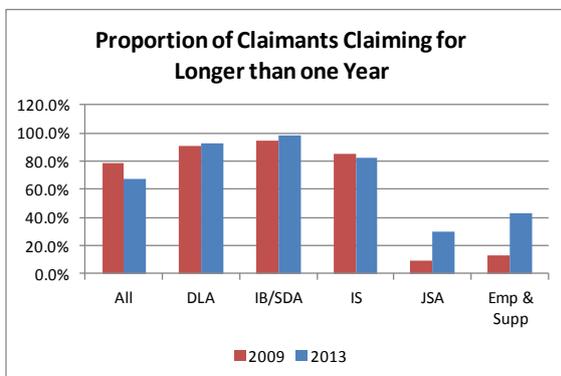
Benefits dependency and other measures of inequality



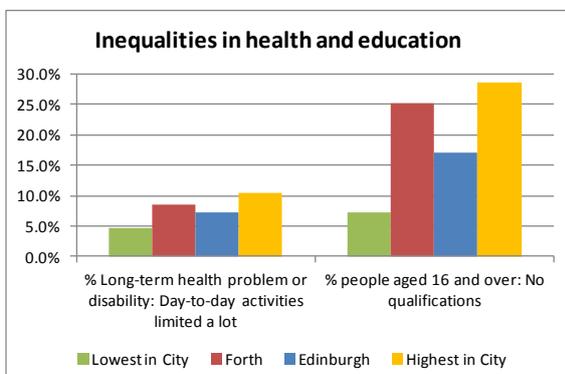
- These figures represent the percentage of working age people who are claiming a range of key out-of-work benefits
- At May 2013, 3,760 people were claiming these benefits in the Forth NP (17% of the working age population) compared to 34,175 (10.1%) in the city as a whole



- Job Seekers Allowance and Lone Parents account for 30.2% and 9.7% of benefit claimants respectively compared with the city averages of 26.1% and 7.3%.
- 44.6% of claimants in the Forth NP claimed ESA and Incapacity benefits (the city average was 49.2%) – this is the 2nd lowest rate in Edinburgh



- The proportion of claimants claiming for over one year decreased from 78.1% in 2009 to 67.1% in 2013
- The proportion of long term JSA claimants increased from 9.0% in 2009 to 29.4% in 2013; Long Term Employment and Support Claimants increased from 12.9% to 42.5%.



- 8.6% of people in Forth had a limiting long-term health problem or disability in 2011. The area recorded the third highest rate of people with no educational qualifications (25.1%) among all NPs in Edinburgh
- The [City of Edinburgh Council](#) website provides a comprehensive insight into a range of Census data

Other resources

Poverty and inequality data tables

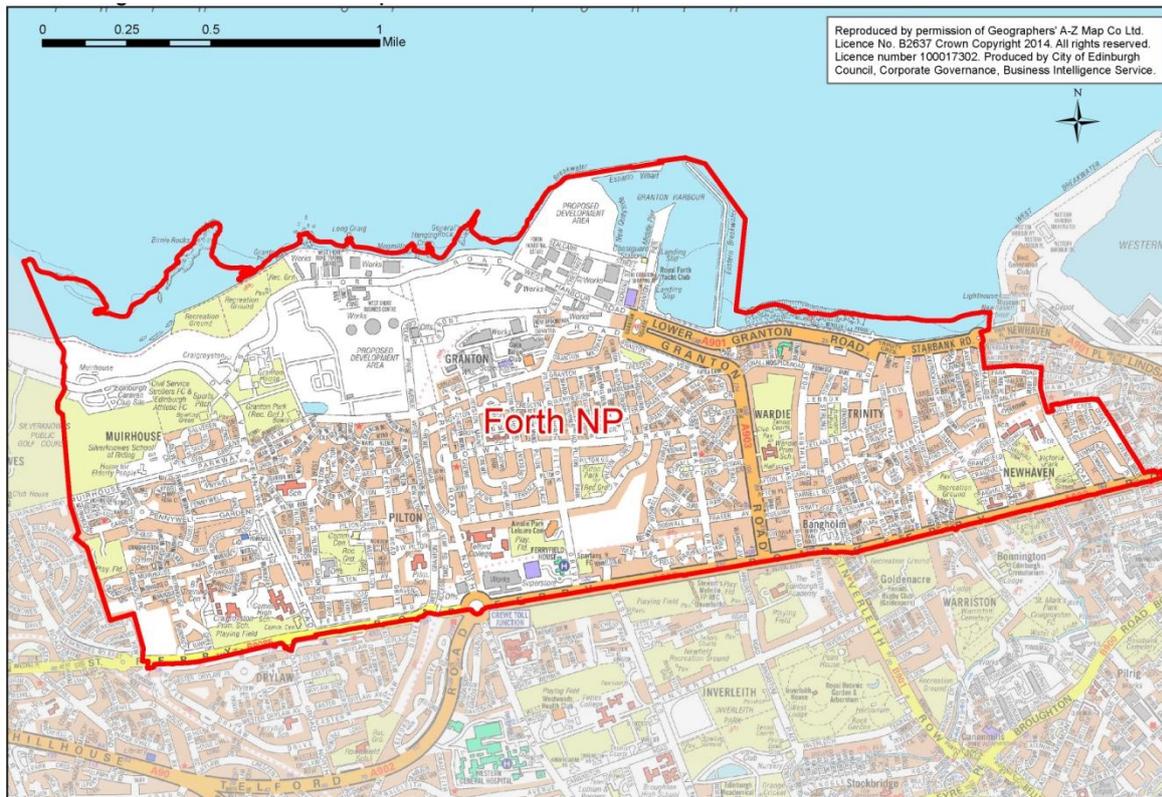
Detailed tables showing data for all neighbourhoods across all indicators used in this profile are available from the Neighbourhood Partnerships website,

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:

Business Intelligence Service
Governance Service
Corporate Governance
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG
0131 469 3852
business.intelligence@edinburgh.gov.uk