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 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 provides more details about the calculations.