

Visualising SIMD

Until now, it has been difficult to quickly grasp how data zones are distributed across the spectrum of deprivation within each local authority. But Jamie Whyte, founder of Propolis Open Data Factory, and Andy Park in Scottish Government, have produced some visual aids to show this. These will be available on the SIMD website soon: we would really like to know what you think of them.

And if you've produced a visualisation or analysis of SIMD data that could be of general interest, we'd like to hear about that, too.

Equality and social justice publications

The team published in November:

Children in families with limited resources across Scotland 2014-2016 This provides estimates of the proportion of children in combined low income and material deprivation by council area and household characteristics

[Download the publication here](#)

In March, the equality and social justice analysis unit also published:

Poverty and income inequality in Scotland and
Persistent poverty

[Download the publications here](#)

SIMD recent events

Workshop with Falkirk Council: using data and analysis

Alongside other analytical providers, we gave a presentation suggesting ways to make fuller use of SIMD and listened to the views of staff on using our analysis. Feedback from participants was positive and it helped us understand better the needs of a local authority. We will be doing further workshops with Falkirk Council staff later this year.

The Gathering 2018

SIMD had a stall at *The Gathering*, a Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations event, at SECC in February. There was quite a lot of interest from attendees. We showed how SIMD works and discussed how their organisations might use it.

DataVisFest: (In)equality and Inclusion

SIMD presented one of several data visualisation challenges on inequality and inclusion to participants at [datavisfest](#) organised by University of Edinburgh. The participants produced very interesting new approaches to both analysis of our data and visualisation. We hope to be able to use some of the ideas in our future work.

Preparing for SIMD 2019

After the major review carried out for SIMD 2016, our current plans are to focus on domains with known issues, including housing and crime, in collaboration with key users. We will then put proposed revisions out for broader consultation later this year.

The use of benefits data for the income and employment domains will have to be reviewed as a result of the roll-out of universal credit and other changes to social security. This will involve substantial development work, and will be carried out after the 2019 update.

Other news

Indices of multiple deprivation across the UK

We are working with colleagues across the other jurisdictions to look at how we can align the development and use of IMDs.

As part of this process, we have organised a session at the Royal Statistical Society conference in Cardiff in September to explore lessons learned and potential for future developments.

We will also be developing further guidance on using deprivation indices and other data to compare levels of deprivation across jurisdictions.

If you have any questions, please get in touch through simd@gov.scot