

New Local Child Material Deprivation Statistics out November

On 28 November, the SIMD team will publish new local statistics on children who live in low income families that also experience material deprivation. This means they cannot afford certain items and activities which most people agree are necessities. These statistics allow council area breakdowns and give a fuller picture of families in poverty. We hope this will help councils address and monitor child poverty in each area in Scotland.

The new statistics complement an existing similar measure. However, the two measures cannot be directly compared because they are calculated differently, and will be used for different purposes. The established measure, from Family Resources Survey data, provides annually a national headline figure going back to 2004. The new measure uses data from the Scottish Household Survey and provides detail on local areas and groups of families within Scotland.

The new data is categorised as 'experimental' – this means we are still making minor developments to the methodology, so we welcome feedback to improve the statistics and how we present them. Please email me maike.waldmann@gov.scot or the SIMD team for more information.

Maike Waldmann, Senior Assistant Statistician

Notes from the Team - All change in SIMD!

It is with mixed emotions that I will be leaving the SIMD team. I'm delighted to be moving on to Agricultural Statistics in early November but I can't leave without saying "thank you" to everyone I have met and spoken to, too many to mention here. Without our users, we would be just another set of numbers. It is our users that turn our data into improvements for deprived areas and I'm proud of the work we have done in the team to support SIMD users.

I'm delighted to announce that my replacement will be Elizabeth Frazer. I'm sure you will get the opportunity to meet her in the near future, and you will continue to support the team. Also Keith Hoy has joined the team as Maike has moved on to looking at new child deprivation statistics and more. Elizabeth and Keith both have experience with housing statistics and Keith has introduced what he is working on below. As always, continue to contact the team by email SIMD@gov.scot or telephone 0131 244 7714 and follow us on twitter @EqualityPoverty

Ally McAlpine, Statistician

Last call for Expert Panel Members

The team will be shortly inviting people to join their expert panels. We have had a great response from people working in housing, and we will be contacting you shortly.

But if you would like to join and provide expert opinion on any aspects of deprivation then please email us

SIMD@gov.scot

Alternatively please feel free to forward this newsletter on or nominate someone that you think we should be speaking to.

Notes from the Team – Introducing Keith

I've recently joined the SIMD team, having previously worked on housing statistics and the census.

I've begun looking at how we can use Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings to improve the housing domain for the 2019 SIMD. Living in a house that's difficult to keep warm can definitely be seen as a sign of deprivation.

An initial examination of the data suggests that data zones with the worst EPC ratings are not correlating with the existing index, which we think could mean that we are not capturing this aspect of deprivation and could help improve SIMD. The next stage will be to test the data with experts and share some of our initial findings.

I'm looking forward to making the next SIMD an even better measure of deprivation.

Keith Hoy, Assistant Statistician