

Fife Findings: Children in low income families – 2019/20 local area statistics

Experimental Statistics from DWP

25 March 2021

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has published an update to statistics on the number (and proportion) of children living in low income families across Great Britain by local area. The local estimates are broken down by Local Authority, Ward, and Westminster Parliamentary Constituency.

At least 1 in 5 children in Fife (21%) - 13,724 children aged under 16 - are living in relative poverty before housing costs. 11,473 children (18%) of Fife children are living in absolute poverty before housing costs. This is above 19% and 16% for Scotland respectively. While there has been little change in absolute poverty since 2014/15, relative poverty has increased in Fife from 16% to 21% between 2014/15 and 2019/20.

Table 1 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), in Fife and Scotland, 2019/20 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Fife	13,724	21%	11,473	18%
Scotland	164,871	19%	133,778	16%

The figures continue to show that poverty affects children in every part of Scotland, with as many as 28% of children living in relative poverty in Glasgow compared to 10% of children in Shetland (see **Figure 1**):

% 0 to 15 in Relative Poverty by Local Authority - FYE 2020 (p) (Source: DWP, Children in low income families)

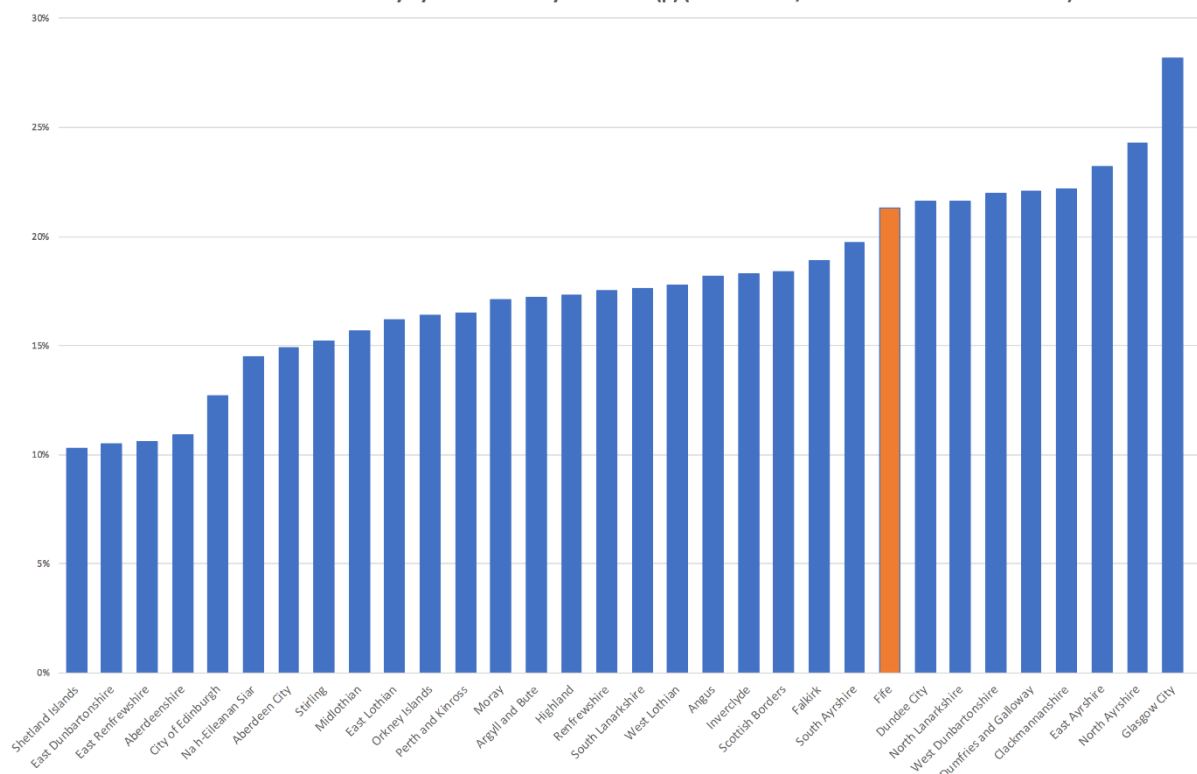


Figure 1 - Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority Area, 2019/20 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

A breakdown of the latest figures by local authority area is given in **Table 2**:

Table 2 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Local Authority Area, 2019/20 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Local Authority	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Aberdeen City	5,267	15	4,435	13
Aberdeenshire	5,364	11	4,579	9
Angus	3,480	18	2,948	15
Argyll and Bute	2,215	17	1,807	14
City of Edinburgh	10,061	13	8,356	11
Clackmannanshire	1,985	22	1,676	19
Dumfries and Galloway	5,143	22	4,298	19
Dundee City	5,186	22	4,271	18
East Ayrshire	4,89	23	4,072	19
East Dunbartonshire	2,039	11	1,710	9
East Lothian	3,184	16	2,695	14
East Renfrewshire	2,060	11	1,733	9
Falkirk	5,324	19	4,466	16
Fife	13,724	21	11,473	18
Glasgow City	28,404	28	23,650	24
Highland	6,753	17	5,634	14
Inverclyde	2,308	18	1,817	14
Midlothian	2,818	16	2,334	13
Moray	2,755	17	2,331	14
Na h-Eileanan Siar	616	15	489	12
North Ayrshire	5,460	24	4,560	20
North Lanarkshire	13,547	22	11,394	18
Orkney Islands	589	16	480	13
Perth and Kinross	4,021	17	3,441	14
Renfrewshire	5,299	18	4,430	15
Scottish Borders	3,509	18	2,831	15
Shetland Islands	433	10	357	9
South Ayrshire	3,464	20	2,864	16
South Lanarkshire	9,791	18	8,180	15
Stirling	2,351	15	1,984	13
West Dunbartonshire	3,445	22	2,836	18
West Lothian	6,313	18	5,278	15
Scotland	164,871	19	133,778	16

Within Fife, child poverty remains highest in the Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath Constituencies, and lower in the North East Fife constituency (see **Table 3**):

Table 3 – Number Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Westminster Parliamentary Constituency, 2019/20 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Westminster Parliamentary Constituency	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
Dunfermline and West Fife	3,592	19	3,003	16
Glenrothes (includes Levenmouth)	4,062	25	3,375	21
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	4,338	24	3,621	20
North East Fife	1,732	15	1,480	13
Fife	13,724	21	11,473	18
Scotland	164,781	19	133,778	16

At ward level, child poverty remains highest in Kirkcaldy Central and East, and Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages, and lowest in Tay Bridgehead and St Andrews. Notably, East Neuk and Landward has higher rates of both relative and absolute child poverty than many other Fife wards (see **Table 4**).

Table 4 – Number and Percentage of Children aged under 16 living in Relative and Absolute Poverty (Before Housing Costs), by Ward for Fife, 2019/20 (provisional) (Source: DWP)

Ward	Relative Poverty		Absolute Poverty	
	Number	%	Number	%
West Fife and Coastal Villages	670	25	562	21
Rosyth	550	20	447	16
Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay	388	14	333	12
Dunfermline North	464	17	384	14
Dunfermline Central	600	17	487	14
Dunfermline South	814	16	681	13
Cowdenbeath	974	24	810	20
Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty	1,078	30	878	24
Burrtisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy	463	19	389	16
Kirkcaldy North	720	22	608	19
Kirkcaldy Central	807	32	686	27
Kirkcaldy East	839	31	708	26
Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch	683	21	571	18
Glenrothes Central and Thornton	737	26	596	21
Glenrothes West and Kinglassie	711	23	587	19
Howe of Fife and Tay Coast	336	17	281	14
Tay Bridgehead	330	12	274	10
St. Andrews	197	13	173	11
East Neuk and Landward	361	20	312	18
Cupar	383	17	325	14
Leven, Kennoway and Largo	651	21	566	18
Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages	989	30	814	24
Fife	13,724	21	11,473	18
Scotland	164,781	19	133,778	16

Note: local area statistics are calculated on the basis of 2007 Ward boundaries.

Technical Notes

These statistics complement and should be viewed as a companion release to the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey on children in low income households which provides National and Regional estimates, but not local area estimates.

This is the second release of the local area statistics which have replaced DWP's Children in out-of-work benefit households and HMRC's Personal Tax Credits: Children in low income families local measure.

Note: There is no material impact of COVID-19 upon the data used in this release. The Family Resources Survey 2019 to 2020 data (which Households Below Average Income estimates are based on) forms a key, pre-pandemic baseline of household incomes.

A minor methodological revision has been made to capture all income from child maintenance in HBAI. This has resulted in more income from child maintenance being included, which in turn has slightly increased some household incomes and slightly reduced low income rates for families with children. The full back series of HBAI and Children in low income families: local area statistics have been revised. This means previously published statistics may be slightly different to those published in this year's release.

A family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

Relative low income measures families in low income in the reference year, whereas Absolute low income measures families in low income based on what low income looked like in 2010/11.

Income is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and is equivalised to adjust for family size and composition.

This is an annual release and the next release will be in Spring 2022.

More information is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics-2014-to-2020>

Report Contact

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