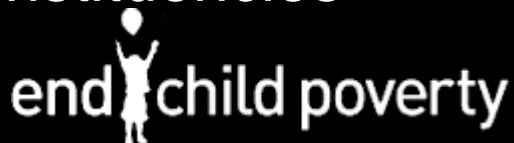


Fife Findings: Child Poverty after housing costs for Westminster Constituencies

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Every year the End Child Poverty Coalition, together with the Centre for Research in Social Policy at Loughborough University, publishes data on the number of children living in poverty, in each Westminster Constituency and Local Authority across the UK.

Figures published in June 2024 reveal that poverty continues to affect children in every part of Scotland, with as many as 32.9% of children still living in poverty in Glasgow compared to 14% of children in East Renfrewshire. The figures highlight that 26.6% of children in Fife continue to live in poverty after housing costs.

Fife ranks 9 of 32 local authorities across Scotland for child poverty and continues to track just above what is happening with Scotland as a whole. However, this disguises the considerable variation that exists across different areas of Fife.

At Westminster constituency level within Scotland, child poverty (after housing costs) is highest in the Glenrothes and Mid Fife (rank 7 of 59 in Scotland, after Glasgow) and Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (rank 11, after North Ayrshire) constituencies, and lower in the Dunfermline and West Fife (rank 31), and North East Fife (rank 39) constituencies.

Table 1 – Child Poverty (before and after housing cost) and percentage affected by two-child limit - Westminster Parliamentary Constituency, Fife, Scotland (FYE 2023)

	Before housing costs		After housing costs		Affected by two-child limit	
	Number	%	Number	%		%
Dunfermline and West Fife	3,822	20.6%	5,472	26.5%	1,550	7%
Glenrothes and Mid Fife	4,692	28.8%	5,929	33.1%	2,460	14%
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	4,674	26.4%	6,091	31.5%	1,990	10%
North East Fife	1,840	16.5%	2,757	22.4%	760	6%
Fife	15,024	23.6%	18,711	26.6%	6,760	9%
Scotland	194,592	21.3%	247,144	24.5%	87,160	9%

The End Child Poverty Coalition also published data on the percentages of children impacted by the two-child limit, which highlights the contribution that this is having to higher child poverty rates in some parts of Fife. Analysis over time shows that while child poverty rates were relatively steady between 2015 and 2020 there was an improvement with support provided to households during the pandemic, however child poverty has risen sharply since then driven by the cost of living, including higher fuel and food prices.

Figure 1 – Fife trends in relative child poverty after housing costs (FYE 2015 to 2023)



Technical note

This data is based on calculations that build on the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HMRC Children in Low Income Families dataset, published in March 2024. This DWP dataset estimates the percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income in each local area. These figures draw directly from tax and benefit records. Unlike surveys, they cover the whole population, not just a sample, and can therefore be considered at the very local level.

Using these data, the DWP has produced **Before Housing Cost child poverty rates** that track changes in child poverty across Britain, at ward, constituency and local authority level, in working and non-working families from 2014/15–2022/23.

The end child poverty research uses these DWP data alongside information on local rent levels from the Valuation Office Agency and income data from the Understanding Society survey to compile an **After Housing Cost** set of data.

The **two-child limit** uses data from 2023 from the Department for Work and Pensions, and HMRC obtained under FOI, which provided figures for the old pre-2024 electoral boundaries. This data was subsequently modelled to the new election boundaries prior to the 2024 General Election.

Further Information

The report, interactive maps and data tables published by End Child Poverty Coalition can be found at <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/child-poverty-2024/>

An update to the DWP Children in low income families measure (relative and absolute poverty before housing costs) is expected to be published by the end of March 2025. See link to 2024 briefing: [Fife-Findings-Children-in-Low-Income-Families-2024.pdf](#)

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