

THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY



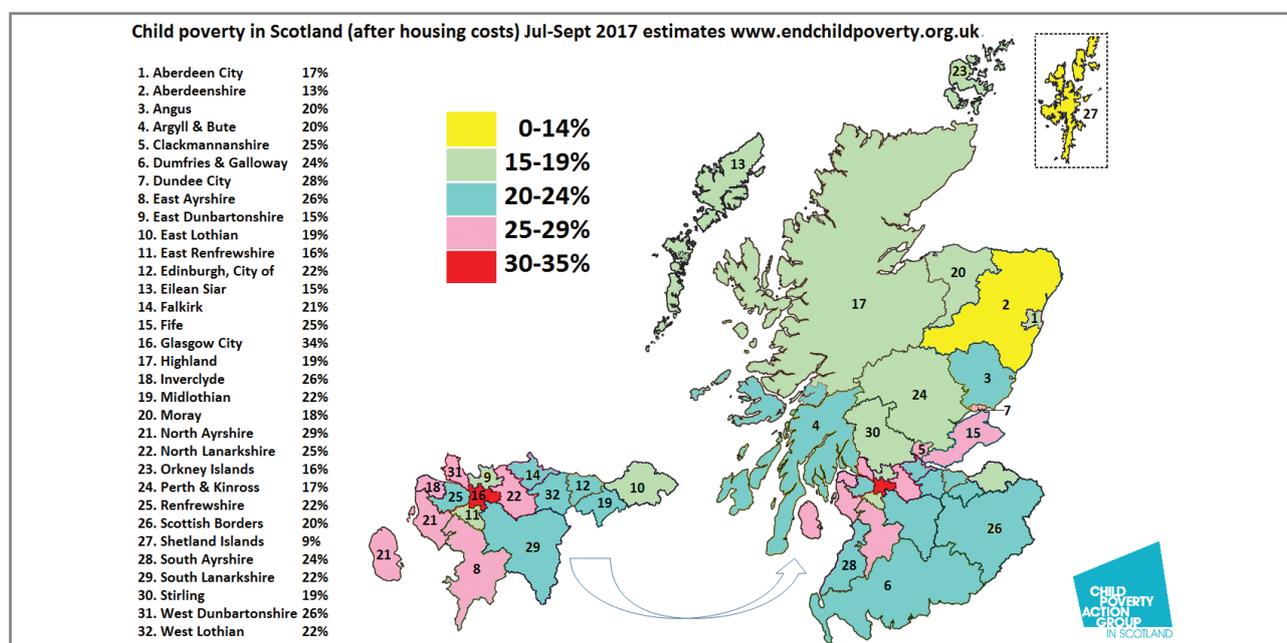
CHILD POVERTY IN SCOTLAND

Last updated: May 2018

National and local child poverty rates

Across Scotland, almost one in four (230,000) of children are officially recognised as living in poverty.¹

Child poverty rates vary between local authority areas, ranging from 9% of children in the Shetland Islands right up to over a third of children, 34%, in Glasgow City. The map below shows estimated levels of poverty in each local authority area in Scotland.



Child poverty rates also vary between wards in each local authority. For example, the table to the right shows the variation in Stirling where rates range from 9% of children in one ward right up to 29% in another.

Local Authority and wards	Number of children in poverty	% of children in poverty
Stirling	3,148	18.6%
Dunblane and Bridge of Allan	254	9%
Castle	279	11%
Bannockburn	386	18%
Stirling East	415	18%
Stirling West	559	23%
Trossachs and Teith	623	24%
Forth and Endrick	628	29%

Table 1 – estimated child poverty rates in Stirling Council

¹ Latest 2016/17 Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland figures, CH 15, table showing: relative poverty in Scottish households with children (AHC) 1994/5 to 2016/17, www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/3017/downloads (See Excel datasets)

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Local authorities with ostensibly low levels of child poverty may contain areas with significant levels of poverty – for example, in East Renfrewshire, a local authority area with a relatively low child poverty rate of 15%, almost a third of children in one ward are affected by poverty.

Poverty varies in scale across Scotland but exists, to some extent, in every area and in every school.

If you would like to see estimated child poverty rates in your local authority or school ward, go to www.endchildpoverty.org.uk

Child poverty drivers and risk factors

Households with certain characteristics are at greater risk of poverty. At UK level:

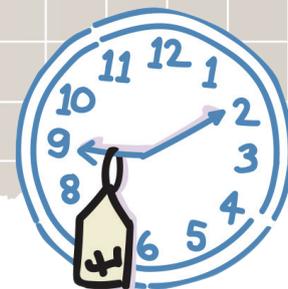
- children living in households where someone is disabled have a 36% risk of experiencing poverty
- children living in lone parent families have a 49% risk of experiencing poverty
- children living in households where there are more than two children have a 42% risk of experiencing poverty.²

Factors which contribute to insufficient incomes include low incomes, worklessness, barriers to employment (e.g. lack of opportunities, lack of suitable childcare, caring responsibilities or ill health and disabilities), ongoing welfare reforms and inadequate social security benefits.

Changes to the social security system since 2012 have led to reduced incomes for families across Scotland. The implementation of universal credit, a new benefit gradually being introduced across Scotland to replace current means-tested benefits and tax credits for working-age people, can pose a number of risks to the incomes of families moving over to the new entitlement. In addition, sanctions, delays and administrative errors are increasingly causing families to go for extended periods with severely reduced or, in some cases, no income.

² 2016/17 Households Below Average Income (HBAI) Table 4.5 db: Percentage of Children in low income groups by various family and household characteristics, UK www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hbai-199495-to-201617-children-data-tables

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In work poverty

Low wages and underemployment are also now key drivers of poverty. In 2016/17, around two thirds of children in poverty in Scotland were living in households with at least one adult in employment.³

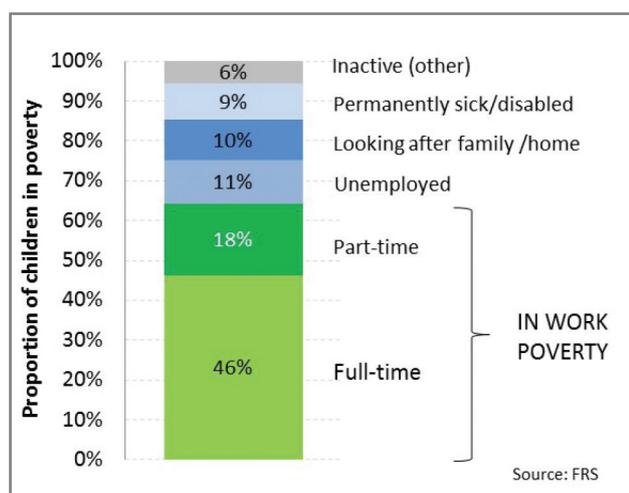


Figure 1 - proportion of children in families experiencing in work poverty

What does the future hold?

Child poverty rates in Scotland look set to rise further in coming years without substantial policy change at UK and Scotland level.

The graph below shows UK child poverty rates from 1965 to a 2020/21 rate forecast by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) which predicts an increase of more than 50% in the proportion of children living in poverty by 2021. This would reverse most of the fall in child poverty observed in the UK since the late 1990s.

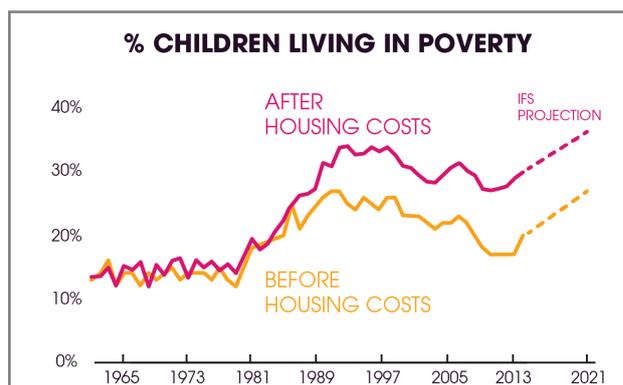


Table 2 - Child poverty rates 1965-2021

Independent analysis commissioned by the Scottish Government⁴ echoes this forecast and estimates that, on the basis of announced tax and benefit changes, levels of relative child poverty will continue rising to **38% by 2030/31**.

There is hope that action will be taken to reverse this trend in Scotland through the **Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017** which places a duty on the Scottish Government to eradicate child poverty by 2030.

From 2019, local authorities and health boards must produce annual Local Child Poverty Action Reports outlining how they are tackling poverty, including in education settings.

³ Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland in 2016/17, Table CH 18 People in relative poverty in households with at least one adult in employment (in work poverty) by age group (2016/17); www.gov.scot/Publications/2018/03/3017/downloads

⁴ Reed, H. and Stark, G. (2018) Forecasting child poverty in Scotland. Scottish Government. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00533637.pdf>