

Poverty in the UK

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Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland and the UK

New Register House Dome,
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Wednesday 20 August 2014





PSE UK

Web Site <http://www.poverty.ac.uk>

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

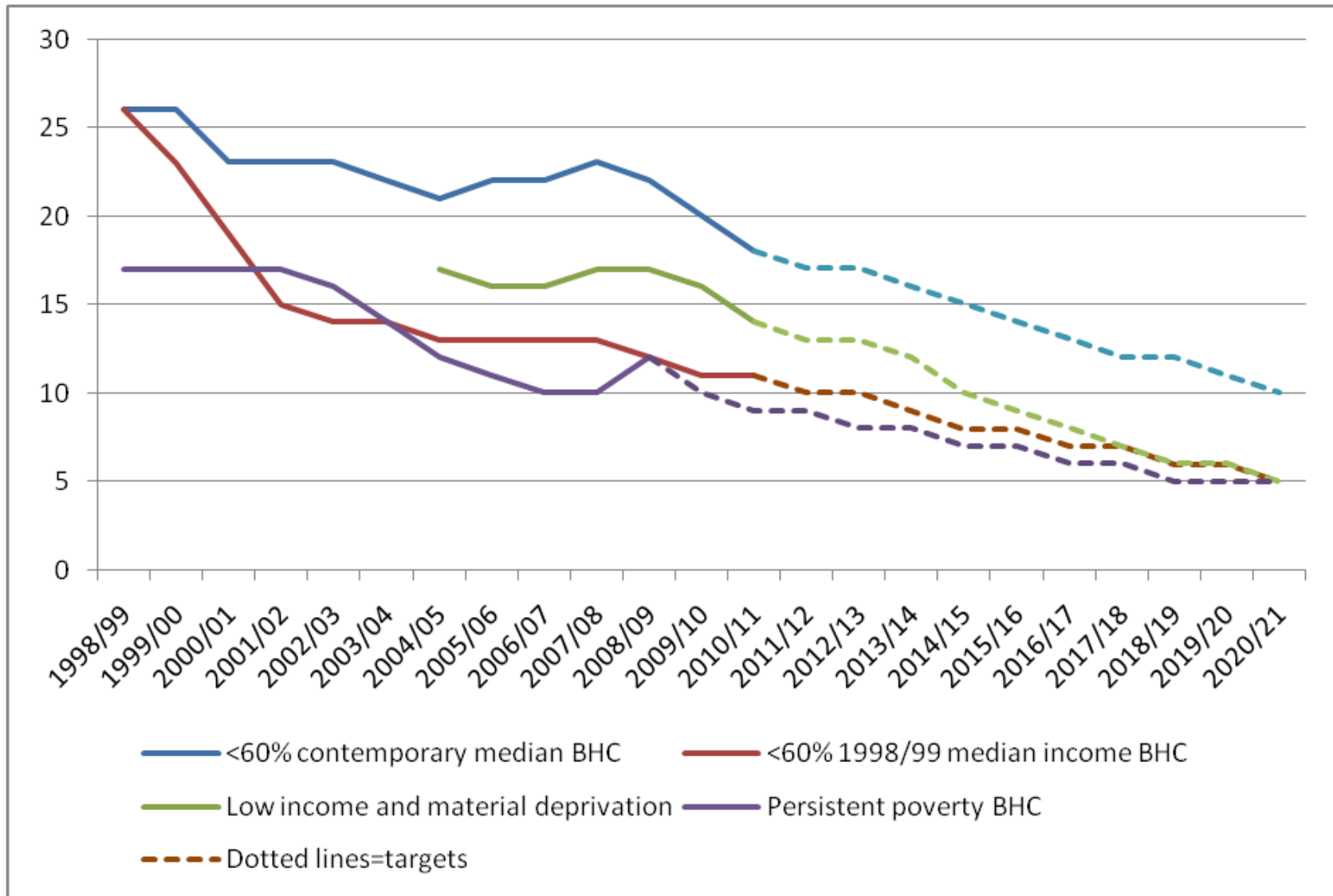
**Townsend Centre
for International
Poverty Research**



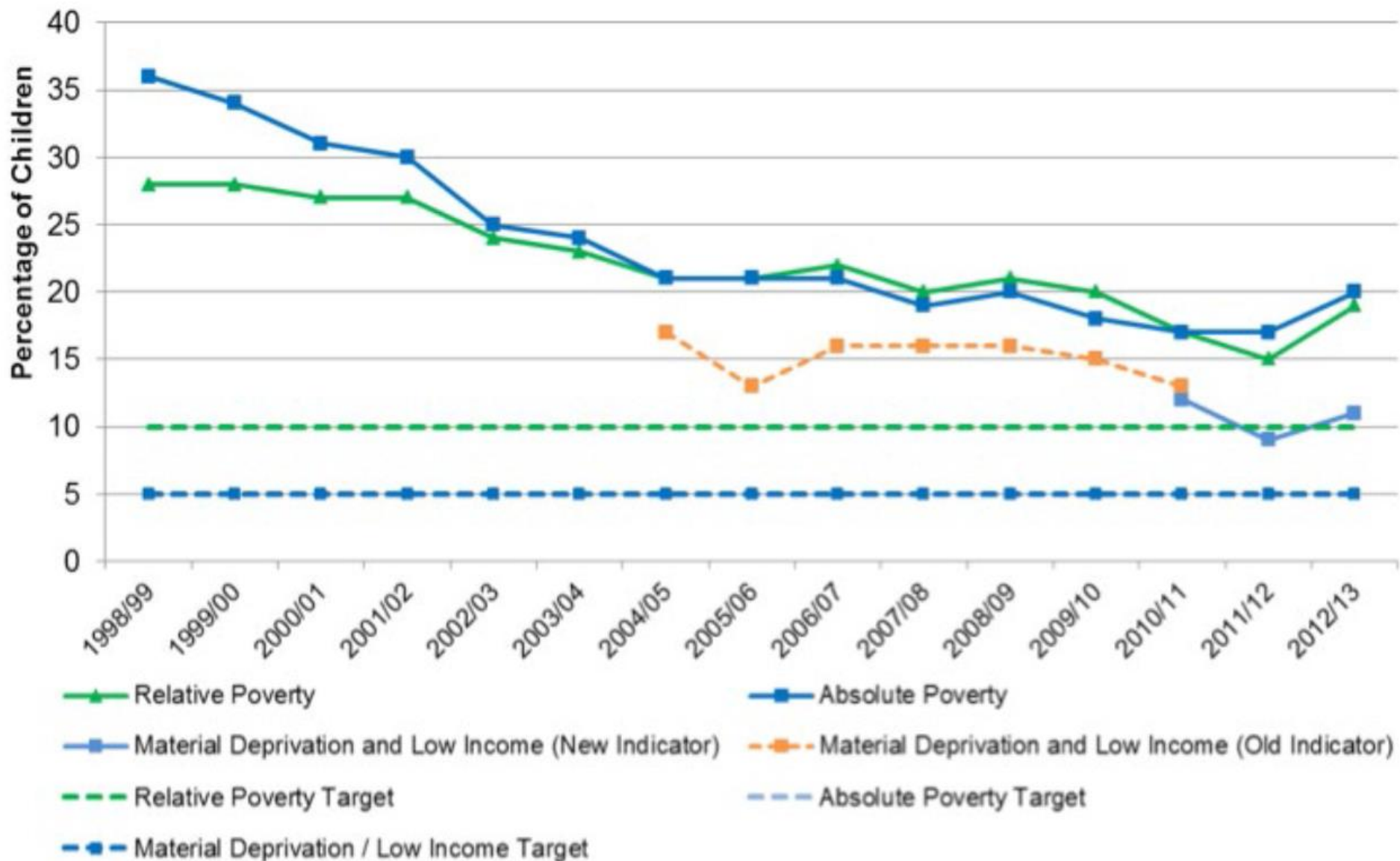
SECOND UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR THE
eradication of poverty
(2008 – 2017)

Web Site <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/poverty>

UK Child poverty targets



Child Poverty in Scotland 1998/99 to 2012/13



Source: Annual Report for the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland, August 2014

The Problem

“The government’s draft child poverty strategy is a missed opportunity. The farce of ministers proving unable to agree on how to measure poverty after rubbishing existing measures is particularly lamentable.

The government’s approach falls far short of what is needed to reduce, yet alone end child poverty in our country. Our new research shows that the gap between the objective of making child poverty history and the reality is becoming ever wider.

This is not just an issue for the current government. Politicians from all parties say they are committed to the 2020 targets. Willing the ends without the means today merely becomes a broken promise tomorrow.”

Alan Milburn – Chair of the independent Social Mobility and Child Poverty (SMCP) Commission (9th June 2014)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/social-mobility-and-child-poverty-commission>

The 'scrounger' narrative

10p DAILY EXPRESS
 How dim can you get? Now the EU bans the 60w bulb
 MASSIVE FLOORING MADNESS 25% OFF
 GET BACON WINE'S BESTSELLER 'A PLACE OF SECURITY' FOR JUST £1

4M SCROUNGING FAMILIES IN BRITAIN

And there's 370,000 households where no one has EVER worked



London's no longer an English city, says John Cleese

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DAILY EXPRESS

Yes, there is life after the cremation Street star

ONE IN 5 BRITONS WILL BE ETHNICS



15 years for man who killed wife after a bad dream

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£2M ASYLUM SCROUNGER GETS BOOTED OUT THANKS TO STAR

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How Colin Firth's King's Speech is up for 12 Oscars

Cut out the little things and save a small fortune

75% ON SICK ARE SKIVING

Smell checks an talking us to the cleaners



Sky TV's food £1.7m a year football pundit is fired

10p DAILY EXPRESS
 How dim can you get? Now the EU bans the 60w bulb
 MASSIVE FLOORING MADNESS 25% OFF
 GET BACON WINE'S BESTSELLER 'A PLACE OF SECURITY' FOR JUST £1

4M SCROUNGING FAMILIES IN BRITAIN

And there's 370,000 households where no one has EVER worked



London's no longer an English city, says John Cleese

FREE ROD STEWART CD

SUNDAY EXPRESS

FREE SUMMER BULBS £20

FREE RIBENA

MANSIONS FOR SCROUNGERS

We are looking out 100 million a year to keep families up to £7 in the top of luxury



5p DAILY EXPRESS

HOLLYWOOD STAR DEAD AFTER 9000 OVERDOSE

BENEFITS BLITZ ON SCROUNGERS

Call for crackdown on system benefits will be proposed



72 HOURS OF STORM HILL TO COME... AND EVEN THE QUEEN ARE BEING SWIFT AWAY

DAILY EXPRESS

LOW ANKLE INJURY WITH NAILBITE ON MARCH 10

MIGRANTS TAKE ALL NEW JOBS IN BRITAIN

STRANGERS IN OUR OWN COUNTRY

BRITAIN'S 40% SURGE IN ETHNIC NUMBERS

ROMANIANS STEAL MAN'S HOME

DAILY EXPRESS

ONE IN 5 BRITONS WILL BE ETHNICS

CHAIN TO BUILD 1 MILLION HOMES FOR MIGRANTS

17 MILLION NEW JOBS AND 97% SO TO THE MIG

IMMIGRANTS BRING MORE CRIME

NOW ASYLUM IF YOU'RE GAY

EACH ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT TO COST £5.2M

MIGRANTS TAKE ALL NOBELS IN BRITAIN

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WIN £3,000 IN BAKES & SPICES

How the obese lose a 'fat tax' if they won't lose weight

FURY OVER £28BN BILL FOR WORKSHY

Half a million scroungers get benefits...and you pay



WANTED TO MARKET OF BAKES ON TV!

PUBLIC sees its Inactivity go taxpayer to the Government

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has published a report that says the government's new 'inactivity trap' will cost the Treasury £28 billion a year.

The IFS says that the government's new 'inactivity trap' will cost the Treasury £28 billion a year. The report says that the government's new 'inactivity trap' will cost the Treasury £28 billion a year.

MailOnline

The shirking classes: Just 1 in 14 incapacity claimants is unfit to work

And 28 per cent are actually fit enough for employment

10p DAILY EXPRESS

SICK BENEFITS: 75% ARE FAKING

1.9m claimants could work but skive instead



DAILY EXPRESS

FREE SUMMER BULBS £20

MANSIONS FOR SCROUNGERS

4M SCROUNGING FAMILIES IN BRITAIN

INSIDE THE £500M BAKES & SPICES

DAILY EXPRESS

WIN £3,000 IN BAKES & SPICES

FURY OVER £28BN BILL FOR WORKSHY

Smiling Susanna is the red hot Strictly favourite



DAILY EXPRESS

ONE DIRECTION FAN BOOK £1

SIX-PIECE MANICURE SET £70

MIGRANT BEGGARS ON £36,000 A YEAR

Why Britain is now the scrounging capital of Europe

10p DAILY EXPRESS

ONE DIRECTION FAN BOOK £1

SIX-PIECE MANICURE SET £70

MIGRANT BEGGARS ON £36,000 A YEAR

Why Britain is now the scrounging capital of Europe

Daily Mail

Tough new benefits test: weeds out workshy - and could save taxpayer £8 billion every year

75% OF INCAPACITY CLAIMANTS ARE FIT TO WORK



Years for a feature! Cherie tells Tooy's signifiers on eddy

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PSE UK

Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK





Many people have worked on the PSE Project



People to thank...

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Data collection, analyses, project management



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ESRC

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Organisations



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Cregagh Community Association	Belfast
Donegall Pass Community Forum	Belfast
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Gateway family Services	Birmingham
Sifa Fireside	Birmingham
St Basil's	Birmingham
Villages Together	Bready, Donemana
Lettershandoney District Development Group	Derry/Londonderry
North East Child Poverty Commission	Durham
Bridges Programmes	Glasgow
Loretto housing association	Glasgow
One Parent Families Scotland	Glasgow
Poverty Alliance	Glasgow
Poverty Truth Commission	Glasgow
Queen's Cross Housing Association	Glasgow
South Side housing Association	Glasgow
Citizen's Advice Bureau	Gloucestershire
The Family Haven	Gloucestershire
GL Communities	Gloucestershire
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	Gloucestershire
Taughnevan Community Development Association	Lurgan
Children North East	Newcastle upon Tyne
Fountain Street & Springhill Park Community Development Association	Strabane



PSE Research Team



People to thank...

PSE UK Team Members

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PSE Research Team



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The research grant

- Funded by the ESRC & Scottish Government
- The UK's largest ever research project on poverty, social exclusion and living standards
- Started April 2010
- Ended June 2014

The research aims

1. To improve the measurement of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and standard of living.
2. To measure the change in the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion over the past ten years.
3. To produce policy-relevant results about the causes and outcomes of poverty and social exclusion.

Every decade since the late 1960s, UK social scientists have attempted to carry out an independent poverty survey to test out new ideas and incorporate current state of the art methods into UK poverty research.

- 1968-69 *Poverty in the UK* survey (Peter Townsend and colleagues),
- 1983 *Poor Britain* survey (Joanna Mack, Stewart Lansley)
- 1990 *Breadline Britain* survey (Joanna Mack, Stewart Lansley)
- 1999 *Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey* (Jonathan Bradshaw and colleagues) and its 2002 counterpart in Northern Ireland (Paddy Hillyard and colleagues)
- 2012 *Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK*



Survey Data

Omnibus Survey: Necessities of Life – A systematic random achieved sample of adults (16+) of over 1,900 interviews in Britain and Northern Ireland.

Main Survey: Poverty & Social Exclusion – A follow-up survey to the 2010/11 Family Resources Survey (circa 47,000 households). The main survey in Britain has an achieved sample of over 4,000 households and 9,500 individuals – with approximately 1,000 households in the ‘ethnic’ strata and 1,000 households in Scotland. In Northern Ireland, the achieved sample was just under 1,000 households and over 2,000 individuals.

The survey was divided into a household questionnaire which was answered by the Household Reference Person (HRP) and an individual questionnaire which was answered by all adult household members (aged 18 and over).



Qualitative Data

British Impoverishment Study, The qualitative study, Life on a Low Income in Austere times sought to provide insights into the experiences of poverty during the recent recession and ongoing programme of austerity. The project collected 62 video/audio testimonies during 2012-2013, in Birmingham, Glasgow and Gloucestershire.

Northern Ireland Family Solidarity Study, a qualitative survey of 50 parents to explore the role of family in coping with poverty.

The study had a material focus – examining the extent to which resources are transferred among family members (both nuclear and extended) - and it also explores family cultures and relationships as factors affecting poverty and social exclusion. This helps to understand the extent and limits of family solidarity



Dissemination

A major website – www.poverty.ac.uk

Full results of the 2012 Survey

Comparisons with the earlier surveys in 1983, 1990 and 1999

Development of new graphic visualisation tools enabling access to more complex datasets and richer comparisons between datasets across time

Video clips of what it means to live in poverty for key groups in 2012 (e.g. young, elderly, unemployed, disabled) and comparisons from the two broadcast documentary series accompanying the 1983 and 1990 surveys (*Breadline Britain* and *Breadline Britain in the 1990s*) to illustrate changing circumstances and attitudes

Survey Development

Rigorous qualitative & quantitative methods were used in developing and analysing the survey questionnaire;

- 1) Systematic literature reviews
- 2) Focus groups
- 3) Expert review
- 4) Cognitive interviews
- 5) Survey pilots
- 6) Behaviour coding

As far as possible comparability was maintained with UK & EU official poverty measures.

PSE Necessities Questions

**86 questions in total:
46 relating to adults;
30 to children;
10 on services**



Method used to operationalise 'consensual poverty'

Two stages:

Survey 1 – Defining necessities (majority vote)

Survey 2 – Determine who experiences an enforced lack of socially perceived necessities

- Define the household income level at which people run the greatest risk of not being able to afford the socially perceived necessities

Omnibus Survey – Defining necessities/deprivation items

Online version of survey at www.poverty.ac.uk

Door-to-door – Participants asked to sort pack of 76 cards

Box A: ‘necessary’; ‘people should not have to do without’

Box B: ‘desirable’ items

Adult Items	%	Adult Activities	%
Heating to keep home adequately warm	96	Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions	90
Damp-free home	94	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas	80
Two meals a day	91	Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions	79
Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine	86	A hobby or leisure activity	70
Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	83	Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes	56
Washing machine	82	Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month	46
All recommended dental work/treatment	82	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives	42
A warm waterproof coat	79	Going out socially once a fortnight	34
Telephone at home	77	Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship	30
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day	76	Visits to friends or family in other parts of the country 4 times a year	27
Curtains or window blinds	71	A meal out once a month	25
Household contents insurance	70	Holidays abroad once a year	18
Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration	69	Going out for a drink once a fortnight	17
Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews	69	Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month	15
A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat	64		
To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500	55		
Two pairs of all-weather shoes	54		
Regular savings for rainy days	52		
Regular payments into an occupational or private pension	51		
Television	51	20 items above 50% threshold	
Presents for friends or family once a year	46	5 activities above 50% threshold	
Replace worn out clothes with new ones	46		
Car	44		
A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family	42		
Internet connection at home	41		
Mobile phone	40		
Home computer	40		
Replace any worn out furniture	39		
An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings	38		
A roast joint once a week	36		
Hair done or cut regularly	35		

The Impoverishment of Expectations in the UK

The current long recession and austerity measures have taken their toll and people in the UK now consider many things which in the past were viewed as essential to no longer be necessities of life. Less than 50% of the population currently believes these items are necessities

1. Presents for friends or family once a year
2. Replace worn out clothes with some new ones
3. A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family
4. Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month
5. A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives
6. Replace worn out furniture
7. An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings
8. Children's friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight

Adult Items	SOCIAL CLASS OF RESPONDENT (Prof/Managerial vs Routine/Semi-routine)		SOCIAL CLASS OF RESPONDENT (Manual vs Non-Manual)		Equivalised HH Income quintiles		Educational qualification obtained		Tenure		Political party supported	
	Managerial and professional occupations	Semi-routine and routine occupations	NON-MANUAL	ROUTINE/M ANUAL	Poorest quintile	Richest quintile	Degree or higher	No qualifications	Owner	Social Renter	Cons-Lib	Labour
Heating to keep home adequately warm	97%	95%	97%	95%	93%	97%	98%	94%	96%	96%	97%	96%
Damp-free home	97%	93%	97%	93%	94%	96%	98%	92%	96%	93%	96%	95%
Two meals a day	91%	93%	91%	92%	92%	90%	95%	89%	90%	91%	89%	91%
Replace or repair broken electrical goods	85%	89%	85%	88%	87%	87%	89%	85%	86%	88%	86%	88%
Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	88%	76%	88%	76%	73%	88%	90%	78%	85%	74%	87%	84%
Washing machine	79%	84%	79%	85%	82%	79%	76%	85%	81%	85%	81%	85%
All recommended dental treatment	81%	82%	81%	81%	84%	80%	84%	80%	81%	82%	85%	80%
Warm waterproof coat	85%	76%	85%	76%	69%	86%	89%	78%	82%	77%	85%	79%
Telephone	78%	76%	78%	76%	77%	71%	78%	84%	80%	70%	81%	78%
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day	84%	66%	84%	68%	72%	81%	87%	68%	79%	65%	81%	76%
Curtains or window blinds	72%	72%	72%	71%	72%	70%	71%	74%	72%	69%	73%	74%
Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration	68%	71%	68%	72%	64%	61%	66%	82%	71%	73%	70%	75%
Appropriate clothes for job interviews	74%	66%	74%	66%	71%	77%	77%	59%	70%	66%	69%	71%
Household contents insurance	70%	66%	70%	68%	57%	72%	68%	75%	79%	52%	79%	67%
Table and chairs at which all the family can eat	72%	57%	72%	58%	58%	66%	71%	68%	69%	54%	72%	64%
To be able to pay unexpected costs of £500	61%	52%	61%	53%	46%	50%	55%	59%	60%	47%	60%	55%
Two pairs of all weather shoes	54%	57%	54%	55%	52%	51%	58%	63%	54%	57%	55%	55%
Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days	55%	53%	55%	53%	52%	56%	53%	55%	54%	47%	56%	49%
Television	45%	57%	45%	56%	42%	38%	42%	70%	50%	59%	53%	56%
Regular payments to an occupational or private pension	57%	47%	57%	48%	51%	60%	56%	42%	55%	39%	53%	54%
Presents for family or friends once a year	44%	49%	44%	49%	49%	40%	42%	56%	47%	53%	47%	49%
Replace worn out clothes with new not second hand clothes	43%	51%	43%	51%	53%	42%	45%	50%	47%	50%	45%	50%
A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family	45%	42%	45%	43%	43%	32%	38%	50%	42%	42%	43%	43%
Car	45%	42%	45%	42%	35%	40%	35%	48%	48%	36%	49%	44%
Mobile phone	34%	47%	34%	45%	54%	33%	35%	44%	37%	43%	37%	41%
Internet connection at home	47%	38%	47%	37%	49%	46%	48%	29%	41%	33%	41%	44%
Home computer	45%	38%	45%	35%	46%	45%	48%	30%	41%	33%	39%	42%
Replace any worn out furniture	32%	49%	32%	47%	46%	28%	31%	51%	38%	45%	33%	41%
An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties, weddings etc	37%	39%	37%	40%	38%	31%	35%	47%	39%	40%	37%	41%
Roast joint or equivalent once a week	32%	42%	32%	42%	31%	29%	22%	49%	37%	44%	36%	36%
Hair done or cut regularly	34%	34%	34%	35%	34%	34%	33%	45%	37%	39%	41%	32%
Dishwasher	12%	11%	12%	11%	18%	9%	8%	10%	11%	5%	9%	11%

PSE: Helping the Scottish Government to Measure Deprivation



The Scottish Government Programme of analytical work for 2013/14 includes the following key projects....

Analyses of initial data from a set of question on child material deprivation which have been included within the Scottish Household Survey for the first time, enabling a view of the extent to which households have access to basic necessities

In addition, in August 2014, the Scottish Government will be hosting a conference on findings from the Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey, with particular reference to Scottish Data

Poverty in the UK



PSEUK Headline findings

Almost 18 million people cannot afford adequate housing conditions; 12 million people are too poor to engage in common social activities; one in three people cannot afford to heat their homes adequately in the winter and four million children and adults aren't properly fed by today's standards.

One in every six (17 per cent) adults in paid work are poor

The percentage of households who fall below society's minimum standard of living has increased from 14 per cent to 33 per cent over the last 30 years, despite the size of the economy doubling.

Headline findings

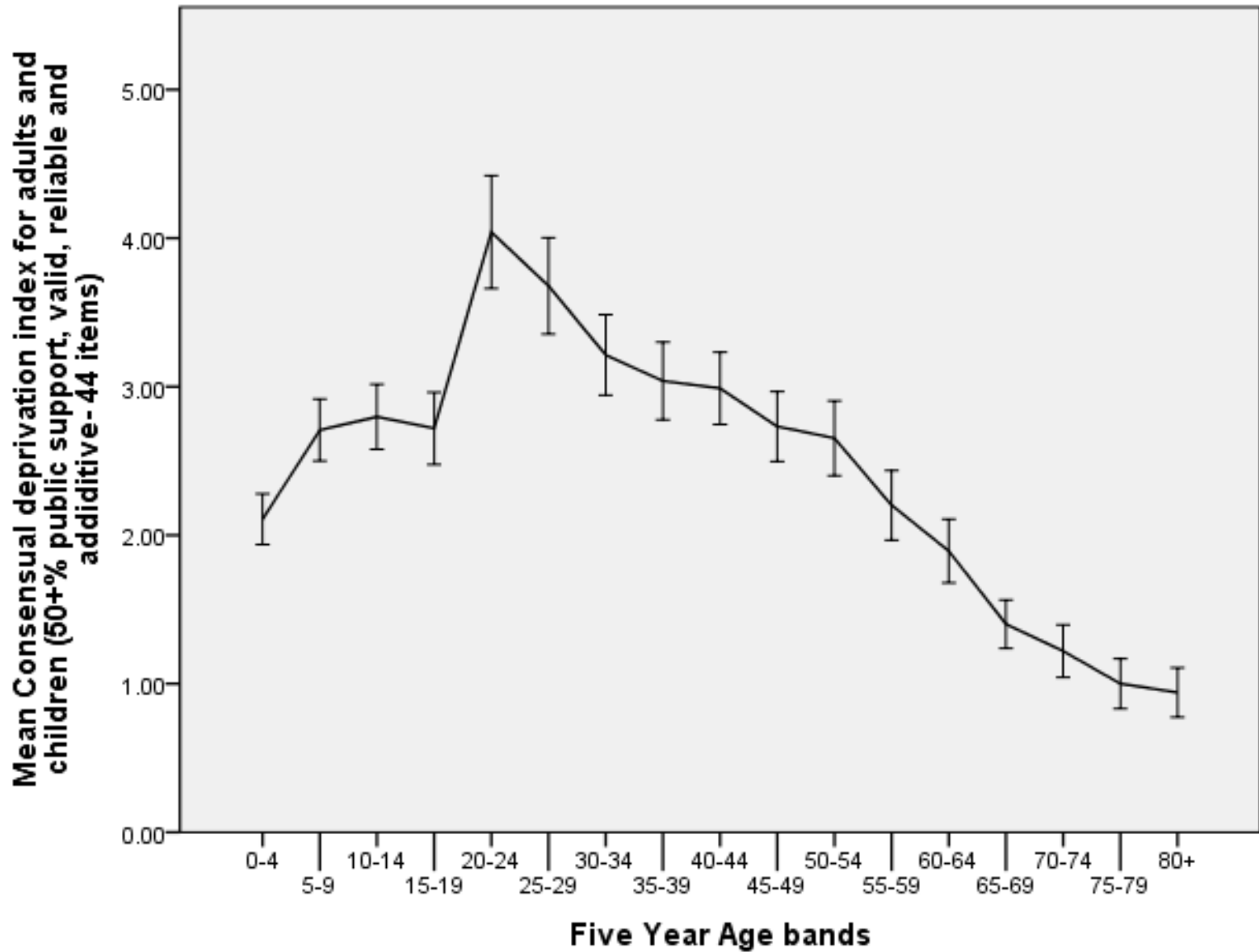
- Over 30 million people (almost half the population) are suffering some degree of financial insecurity.
- Roughly 14 million cannot afford one or more essential household goods.
- About 5.5 million adults go without essential clothing. Almost 4 million children go without at least two of the things they need.
- Around 2.5 million children live in homes that are damp.
- Around 1.5 million children live in households that cannot afford to heat their home.



Since 2010 deprivation has increased in the UK

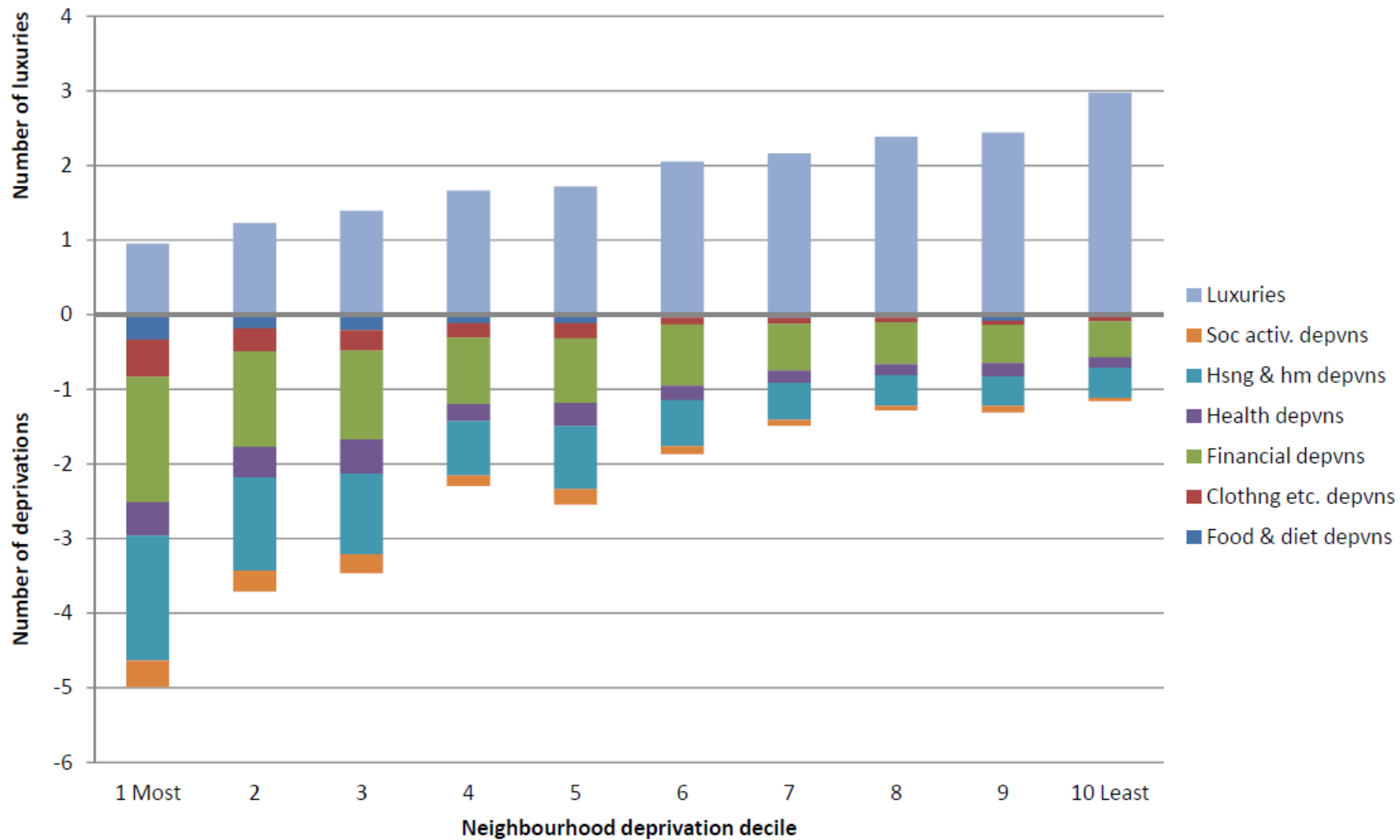
- One in three people could not afford to adequately heat their homes in winter and 29% had to turn the heating down or off or only heat part of their homes. The number of households unable to heat the living areas of their homes is at a record high – now 9% compared to 3% in the 1990s and 5% in 1983.
- Overcrowding is as high as it was in 1983: today 9% of households cannot afford enough bedrooms for every child aged 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom (back up from 3% in 1999).
- The number of households unable to afford damp-free homes has also risen since 1983 – from 6% to 10%.
- One in five households can't keep their home in an adequate state of decoration – up from 15% in the 1990s.
- Overall, across all these aspects of housing, around 13 million people (aged 16 and over) in Britain cannot afford adequate housing conditions, up from 9.5 million in 1999.
- The proportion of school age children unable to go on school trips at least once a term has risen from 2% in 1999 to 8% today.

PSEUK: Average Deprivation Score by Age



Error Bars: 95% CI

Average number of luxuries (positive) and deprivations (negative) by neighbourhood deprivation decile



Hunger in the UK

There is widespread public agreement on what constitutes a minimally acceptable diet. Over 90% agree that, for children, this means: three meals a day; fresh fruit and vegetables; and meat, fish or a vegetarian equivalent at least once a day.

Yet well over half a million children live in families who cannot afford to feed them properly.

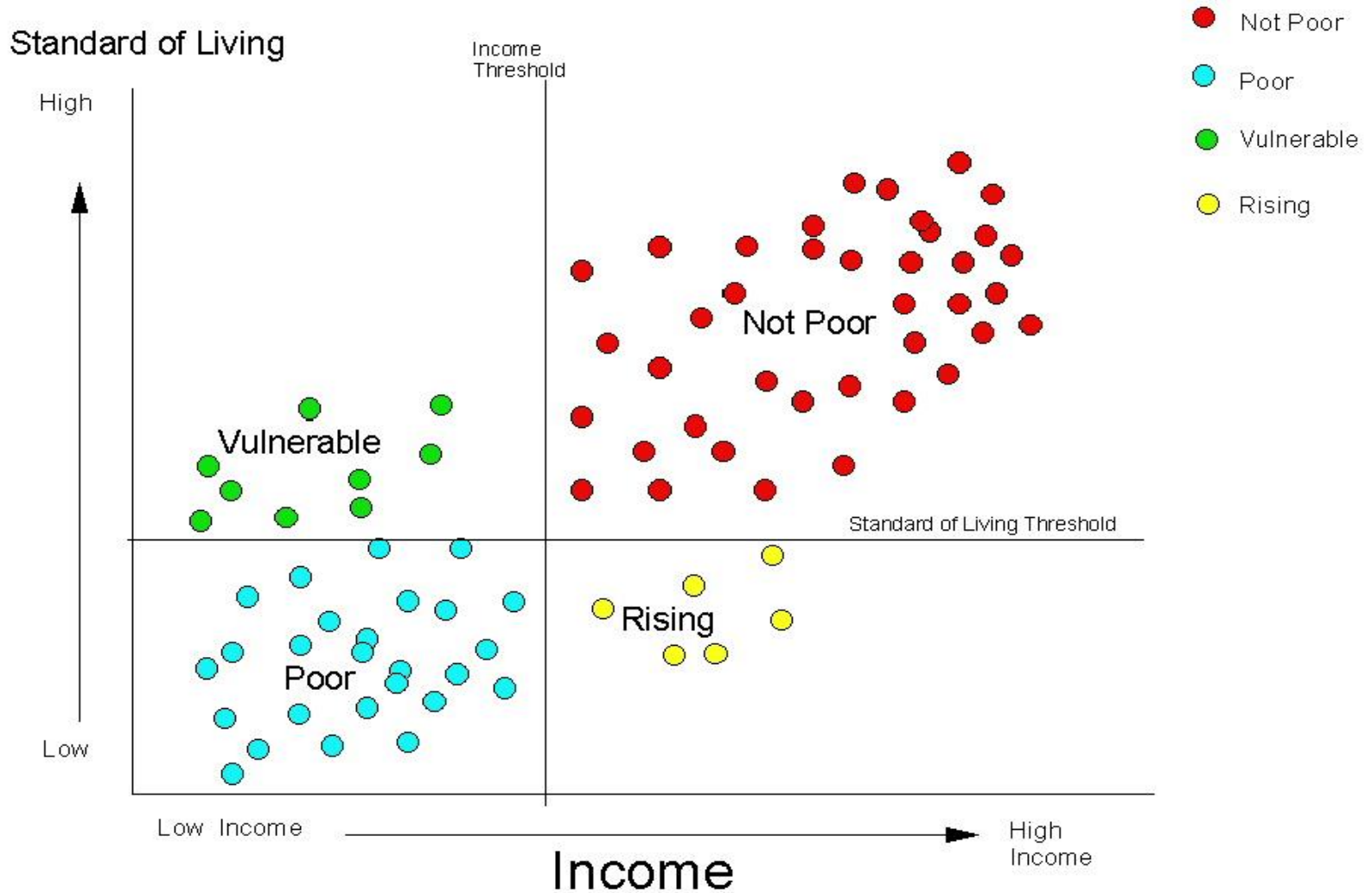
*'I go without for the children so they have proper meals.
I can live on one meal a day.'* Jennie, single parent of 3 children

Our research shows that, in households where children go without one or more of these basic food necessities:

In 93% at least one adult skimp on their own food 'sometimes' or 'often' to ensure others have enough to eat.

Drawing the Poverty Line

Poverty Groups



Poverty Rate in the UK (PSEUK 2012 Survey)

	%
Poor	22
Rising	1
Vulnerable	10
Not Poor	67

In Scotland the poverty rate is slightly lower at 18%

Subjective poverty in the UK (2012)

		%
Household income needed to avoid poverty		
	Above that level of income	54
	About the same	21
	Below that level of income	25
Felt embarrassed because of low income		
	Yes	22
	No	77

One Englishman's view on the purpose of Independence



“When it shall be said in any country in the world my poor are happy; neither ignorance nor distress is to be found among them; my jails are empty of prisoners, my streets of beggars; the aged are not in want; the taxes are not oppressive; the rational world is my friend, because I am a friend of its happiness: When these things can be said, there may that country boast its Constitution and its Government”

— [Thomas Paine](#), [Rights of Man](#) (1791)