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ourcommunities

Research Report

bitesize Dorset County Council



Child Poverty in Dorset¹

Welcome to **ourcommunities** bitesize research bulletin on child poverty in Dorset. This edition will include a local perspective on a national issue using data to build a picture of child poverty across the County and identify priority areas.

Big Numbers Box

Weymouth & Portland has the 3rd highest levels of Child Poverty in the South West

Almost **half** of children in Underhill Portland live in poverty

1/4 living in poverty in Weymouth & Portland
8 wards in Dorset have more than 33% Children in poverty

17% East Dorset lowest levels of Child Poverty

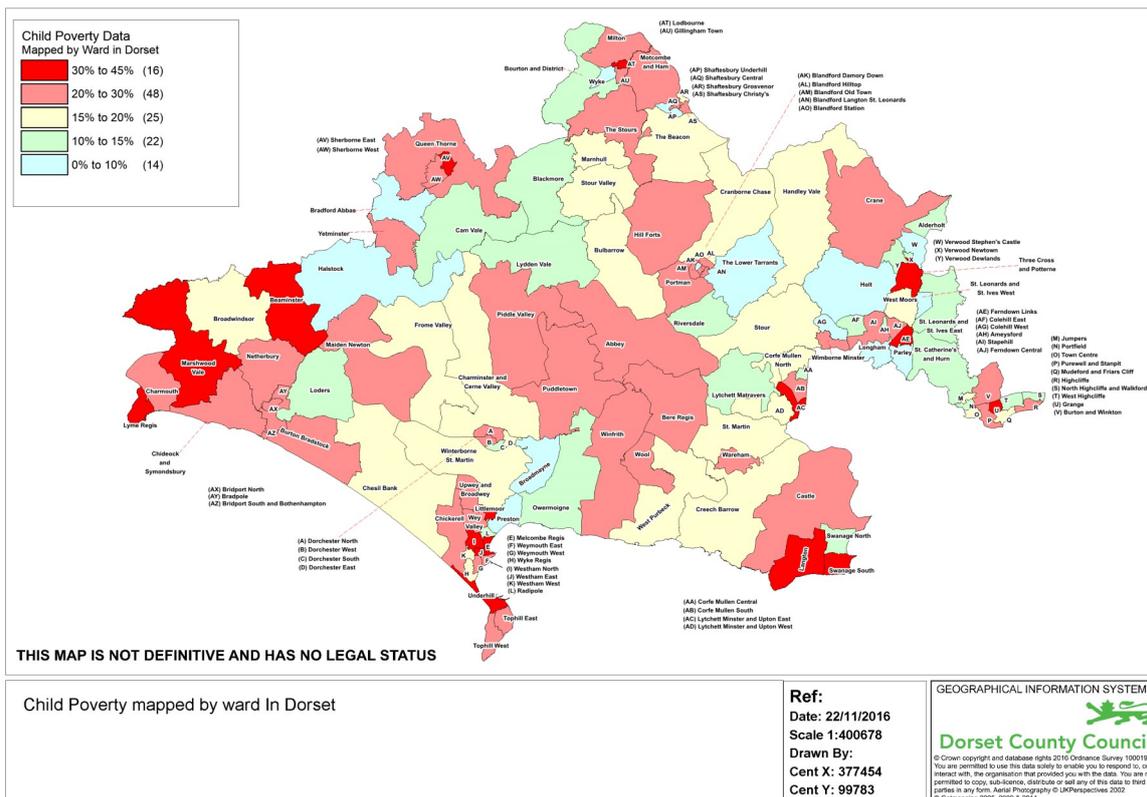
Child Poverty data

- Underhill has 45% of Children living in Poverty
- Preston has only one in ten children living in poverty
- Housing costs increase poverty by approx. 10%
- East Dorset has the lowest levels of Child Poverty 17%...
- ...but Three Cross and Potterne Ward in East Dorset has a third in poverty
- Proportion of children in poverty in Dorset have increased since 2013
- There are no children recorded in poverty in Shaftesbury Underhill
- Rural Marshwood records 38% in poverty



Top 10 Wards for Child Poverty in Dorset

District/Borough	Ward	BEFORE HOUSING COSTS	AFTER HOUSING COSTS
Weymouth & Portland	Underhill	29.1%	44.9%
Weymouth & Portland	Melcombe Regis	28.2%	42.2%
Weymouth & Portland	Littlemoor	24.5%	38.6%
West Dorset	Marshwood Vale	27.0%	38.5%
West Dorset	Sherborne East	26.0%	38.5%
Purbeck	Langton	25.6%	37.4%
Christchurch	Grange	23.3%	36.6%
East Dorset	Three Cross and Potterne	21.7%	33.5%
West Dorset	Lyme Regis	21.1%	31.7%
Purbeck	Lytchett Minster and Upton East	20.5%	31.5%



Identifying those more likely to be in poverty

The local data starts by classifying children in poverty if they live in families in receipt of out of work benefits or in receipt of in-work tax credits where their reported family income is less than 60 per cent of median income.

The map highlights Wards across Dorset with high (red) proportions of children in poverty.

The data illustrates high levels of child poverty both within the urban areas of the County, particularly **Weymouth**, and the rural areas of the County. High proportions of child poverty are found in the predominantly rural areas of **Lyme Regis**, **Beaminster**, **Marshwood Vale** and **Langton Matravers**.

The data may well reflect the relatively low wage levels experienced in rural Dorset as unemployment is actually very low in the County.

It should also be borne in mind that the number of 'all children' in some of the rural areas may well be quite low so it would not take many families to be in receipt of in-work credits to generate high percentage levels.

What can be done?

The data and research that has been undertaken here can be used to help identify areas with potential problems relating to child poverty. This work should also be utilised in future research and help to inform and prioritise service delivery and early intervention initiatives. Deprivation is the primary cause of poor outcomes for children across the country and Dorset is no different.

Like more info?

A more comprehensive dataset looking into child poverty in Dorset is available.
For more information:

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¹**Data source:** The End Child Poverty coalition <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/>