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State of Dorset Deprivation



Deprivation has a significant impact on health and wellbeing. The Dorset Council areas of significant deprivation are largely located in the urban areas - in particular the former borough of Weymouth & Portland - but many of Dorset's rural communities could also be considered deprived in terms of barriers to housing and essential services. The English Indices of Deprivation divides the Dorset Council geography into 219 areas.

As the number of older people living in rural areas grows, the challenge of access to facilities and pressure on health and care services will accelerate.

Big Numbers Box

- 11** areas of Dorset in most deprived nationally*
- 66** areas in most deprived nationally for **access to housing and services**
- 13,600** workless households
- Dorset population living in rural areas **46%**
- 25** areas in most deprived nationally for **education**
- 1,160** **children** live in workless households
- 12** times higher than average earnings
- 9** areas in most deprived nationally for **income**

Average house prices

Box 1: Social deprivation

- There are 11 areas (out of a total of 219) in Dorset within the top 20% most deprived nationally for multiple deprivation, up from 10 in 2015¹.
- 10 of these are within the former borough of Weymouth and Portland, one is in the former West Dorset District area.

11 areas in Dorset suffer high deprivation



Weymouth & Portland

West Dorset

Life expectancy gap for females in Dorset



Most deprived area

Least deprived area

- The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Dorset is 6.3 years for men and 5.3 years for women².
- Weymouth and Portland is ranked the third lowest authority for Social Mobility in the Country⁴
- 46% of Dorset's population live in rural areas³. Barriers to housing and essential services are significant in Dorset reflecting rurality and distance from services. 66 Dorset neighbourhoods fall in the 20% most deprived nationally for this measure: in the former council areas, 21 in North Dorset and 19 are in West Dorset¹.

Sources

1 English Indices of Deprivation (2019), DCLG

2 Office for Health Improvement and disparity, Public Health England, 2020

3 Census of Population, 2011

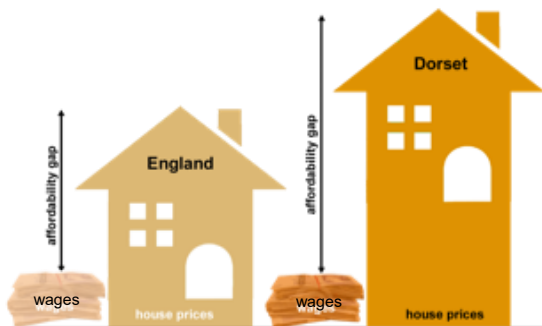
4 The Social Mobility Index Gov.UK

*Most deprived = area fall within the top 20% nationally

Box 2: Economic deprivation

- 9 neighbourhoods in Dorset fall into the top 20% nationally for income deprivation (up from 7 in 2015) - 7 of these are in the former borough of Weymouth and Portland¹.
- In Dorset, about 24,500 people aged 16-64, plus 1,200 children live in 13,600 workless households. 13% of Dorset households were workless, very similar to the national figure⁵.

Average house prices are 12x more than average earnings



Weekly earnings for people living in Dorset are



Box 3: Health inequalities

- Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.
- The gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and least deprived areas of Dorset is 6.3 years for men and 5.3 years for women².
- Health inequality isn't just about the place you live or how much disposable income you have. Some people identify with several protected characteristics and may face multiple barriers.
- Health inequalities can involve differences in health status such as: life expectancy and prevalence of health conditions; access to care, including availability of treatments; quality and experience of care. Inequalities can also involve levels of patient satisfaction; behavioural risks to health, such as smoking rates and wider determinants of health, including quality of housing.



The life expectancy of a man born in one of the most deprived areas of Dorset is **6.3 years lower** than that of a man born in the least deprived of areas and **for women the gap is 5.3 years**.

Sources

4 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2023), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)

5 Annual Population Survey (2023), Households by combined economic activity status, ONS

6 UK House Price Index 2023; Annual Survey of Hours of Earnings (2023), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)