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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*

Dorset population living in rural areas **46%**

Average house prices

10 times higher than average earnings

66 areas in most deprived nationally for **access to housing and services**

25 areas in most deprived nationally for **education**

9 areas in most deprived nationally for **income**

14,800

workless households

13.5%

live in workless households

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 2015.¹
- 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 women.²
- As indicators of social mobility, children receiving Free School Meals in Dorset achieve lower than the regional and national average education standard. South Dorset is third highest in the region for people aged 25-34 in unskilled employment.⁴
- 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 Dorset.¹

Sources

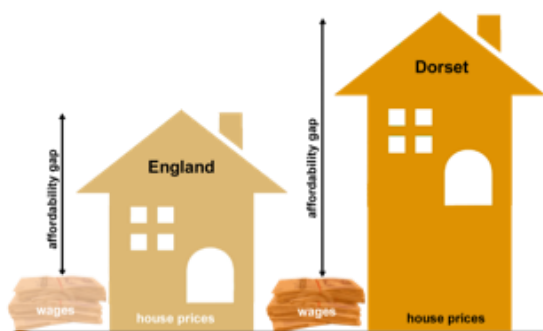
- 1 English Indices of Deprivation (2019), DCLG
- 2 Office for Health Improvement and disparity, Public Health England, 2020
- 3 Census of Population, 2011
- 4 South-West_Social_Mobility_Commission_2023_Report.pdf (exeter.ac.uk)

*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 17,200 people aged 16-64, plus 4,800 children live in 14,800 workless households. 13.5% of Dorset households were workless, very similar to the national figure.⁶

Average house prices are 10x more than average earnings⁷

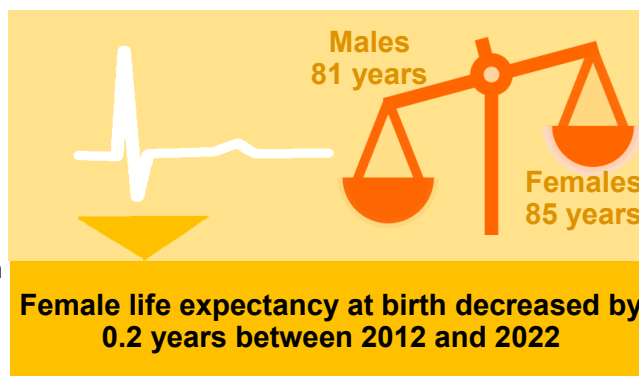


Weekly earnings for people living in Dorset are



Box 3: Health inequalities

- Health inequalities are avoidable, unfair and systematic differences in health between different groups of people.
- Health inequalities can involve differences in health status such as: life expectancy and prevalence of health conditions; access to and experience of care. They can also alter levels of patient satisfaction; behavioural risks to health; and wider determinants of health, including quality of housing.
- 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.
- In the last 10 years, female life expectancy at birth has fallen from 85.0 years to 84.8 years, while male life expectancy has stayed the same at 80.8 years.
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic led to increased mortality in 2020 and 2021, and the impact of this is seen in the regional and local area life expectancy estimates⁸



Sources

⁵ Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (2023), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)

⁶ Annual Population Survey (2023), Households by combined economic activity status, ONS

⁷ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/E06000059/>; Annual Survey of Hours of Earnings (2023), ONS (full time gross weekly earnings)

⁸ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandlifeexpectancies/bulletins/lifeexpectancyforlocalareasoftheuk/between2001to2003and2020to2022#main-points>

Produced by Research, Policy and Performance

biandprequest@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk