National Survey for Wales, 2016-17 Poverty

In 2016-17 the National Survey included questions about the material deprivation of households in order to measure poverty and its long-term consequences. This bulletin presents the material deprivation findings, as well as results on whether people have sought advice for debt problems, whether they've gone without meals due to a lack of money, and whether they received food from a food bank.

Key findings

The following are the factors most strongly linked with material deprivation.

Demographic factors

- Being younger
- Being female
- Being separated or divorced
- Having no qualifications
- Being unemployed

Household factors

- Living in a workless household
- Living in social housing
- Having children under 19 in the household
- Not having a car
- Not having the internet at home
- Providing 50 or more hours of care for someone a week

Health

- Having a long-term limiting illness
- Smoking
- Being overweight or obese
- Not participating in sport

Mental wellbeing

- Having low to very low life satisfaction
- Having low mental well-being
- Feeling lonely

3% said they had sought debt advice in the last 12 months. 3% had gone a day in the previous fortnight without a substantial meal due to lack of money, and 1% had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months.

In this bulletin

Background

The Welsh Government's national strategy, [Prosperity for All](#), focuses on the promotion of economic prosperity in order to help tackle the root causes of poverty in Wales. The Welsh Government's [Child Poverty Strategy](#) sets objectives for tackling child poverty by improving the outcomes of low income households in Wales. The aim of these strategies is to reduce poverty, including long-term poverty, amongst some of our poorest people and communities and to support action to reduce the likelihood that people will become poor.

One way of measuring poverty is through asking questions on material deprivation (that is, whether a household is able to afford things like keeping the house warm enough, making regular savings, or having a holiday once a year). Material deprivation questions are designed to capture the consequences of long-term poverty on households, rather than short-term financial strain.

The questions on material deprivation were asked in the National Survey primarily to allow cross-analysis of other topics on the survey by material deprivation, and so to understand better the circumstances of materially deprived people in Wales.

The questions are also used to report on overall levels of material deprivation in Wales. The [Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015](#) placed a legal requirement on the Welsh Government to assess progress against the well-being goals of the Act. One of the [national indicators](#) developed to do this is the [percentage of people living in households in material deprivation](#), as measured in the National Survey.

Introduction

The National Survey includes three sets of questions to capture material deprivation for different groups. One set is for pensioners, one set for non-pensioner adults, and one set for parents of children. The questions are all taken from the Family Resources Survey1. The full list of questions and an explanation of how material deprivation is calculated is shown in the chapter 'how is material deprivation calculated?' which can be found in the annex to this bulletin.

The overall results are as follows.

- 19% of non-pensioner adults and 6% of pensioners were classified as being materially deprived.

- 6% of parents were classified as having materially deprived children.

- In this bulletin the non-pensioner and pensioner measures of deprivation are combined to provide a single measure of adult deprivation: 15% of adults were found to be materially deprived.

Can we compare results with elsewhere in the UK or over time?

Because the material deprivation questions are taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS), a UK wide survey, it is possible to compare some of the responses to the individual questions with results for the rest of the UK. However, the National Survey is different from the FRS in how it is carried out and in the other topics it covers. This means that the overall proportion of households in material deprivation based on the National Survey results is not comparable with the overall proportions provided by the FRS survey.

Some of the results for individual questions from the National Survey in 2016-17 are comparable with the results from the National Survey in 2014-15. However, the overall proportion of households in material deprivation is not comparable with the overall proportion from 2014-15. This is because pensioner-specific questions were introduced for 2016-17, in line with the FRS.

A detailed report was previously published analysing the 2014-15 material deprivation results.

Comparisons with the 2014-15 National Survey results and further discussion about comparability with the Family Resources Survey can be found in the following sections:

How have responses changed since 2014-15?

How does it compare with other surveys?

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[1] The Family Resources Survey is a UK wide survey which collects detailed information on income and benefits, savings and investments, occupation and employment, pension participation, disability, housing tenure and carers. The FRS method for calculating material deprivation combines the responses to the material deprivation questions with information about household income (which was not included in the National Survey for 2016-17).

Adult material deprivation

In this bulletin, we look at the characteristics associated with being in material deprivation[2]. In-depth analysis was carried out to assess the independent effect of a wide range of factors on material deprivation, taking account of the influence of the other factors. This means that we can isolate the effects of each particular factor, even when it is also related to other factors.

For example, we know that urban areas have higher levels of material deprivation. However, these areas also have higher levels of unemployment. This can make it difficult to say whether material deprivation is linked to unemployment or to living in an urban area.

Once other factors are controlled for, using regression analysis, it becomes clear that living in an urban area is not in itself linked to being in material deprivation. But, as might be expected, unemployment is linked to being in material deprivation even when other factors are taken into account. Note that this kind of analysis does not allow us to draw conclusions on whether a particular characteristic causes material deprivation, or vice versa, although some characteristics (e.g. gender) clearly cannot be 'caused' by material deprivation.[3]

Characteristics associated with being in material deprivation

When controlling for a range of factors[4], the following characteristics were associated with being in material deprivation. For each characteristic, the proportion of that group who are in material deprivation is also noted.

Age – Older people were less likely to be in material deprivation than those in the younger age groups. This is shown in Chart 1.

Chart 1: Material deprivation by age
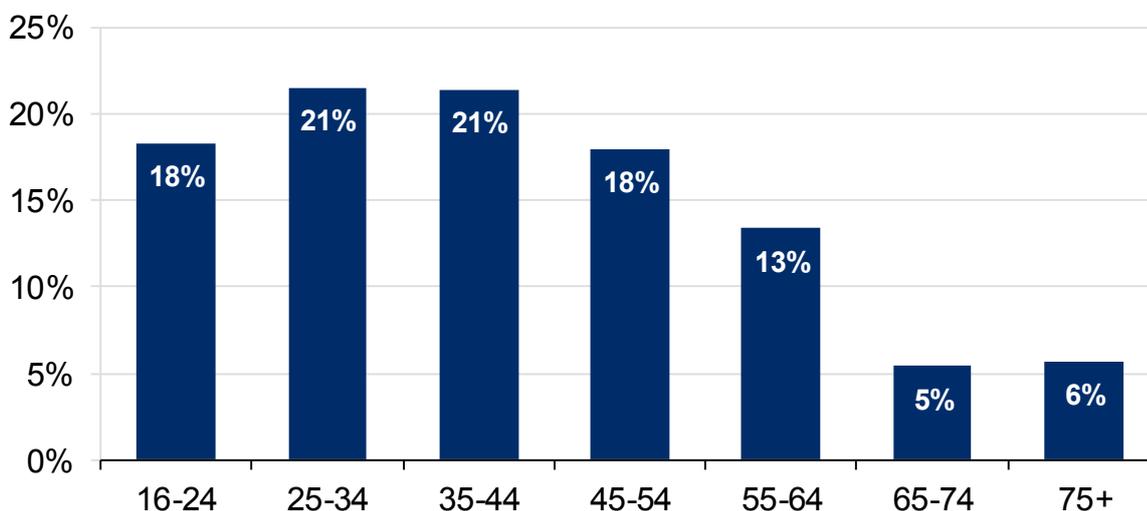
[2] 15% of adults were classed as materially deprived.
[3] See Key Quality Information section for more discussion of this point.
[4] Using regression analysis - Note that the findings depend on which factors are available to take into account in the regression analysis. In this case these included – age, gender, alcohol consumption, area deprivation, economic status, fruit and vegetables consumption, general health, household type, limiting long-term illness, Local Authority, marital status, sport participation, physical activity, qualifications, religion, smoking, tenure, healthy weight, urban or rural area, presence of young children in the home, satisfaction with life, the presence of children under 19, mental well-being, car availability, levels of loneliness, provision of care, internet access, anxiety, local authority area, use of e-cigarettes, general health , workless households, ethnicity religion and sexual orientation. More details can be found in the Key quality information.

Gender – Women were more likely to be in material deprivation than men: 14% of men were in material deprivation compared with 17% of women.

Marital status – People who were separated or divorced were more likely to be in material deprivation than those who were married, single, or widowed. Women of all marital statuses were more likely than men to be in material deprivation as shown in Chart 2. Since 'material deprivation' here refers to household material deprivation, in theory there should be no gender difference for married respondents (as most will live in the same household as their spouse). This highlights the potential that men and women may answer the questions differently.

Chart 2: Material deprivation by marital status and gender
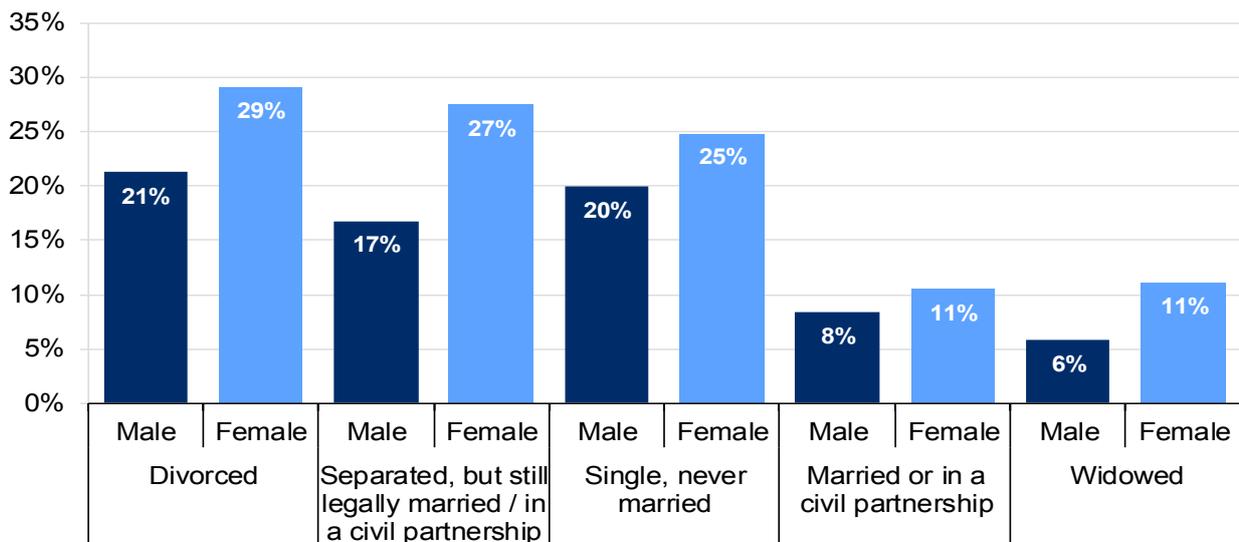
Qualifications – Material deprivation decreased with higher qualification levels[5], from 28% for respondents with qualification equivalent to below grade C at GSCE, to 11% for those with qualifications equivalent to and A-level or higher, as shown in Chart 3.

Chart 3: Material deprivation by qualifications
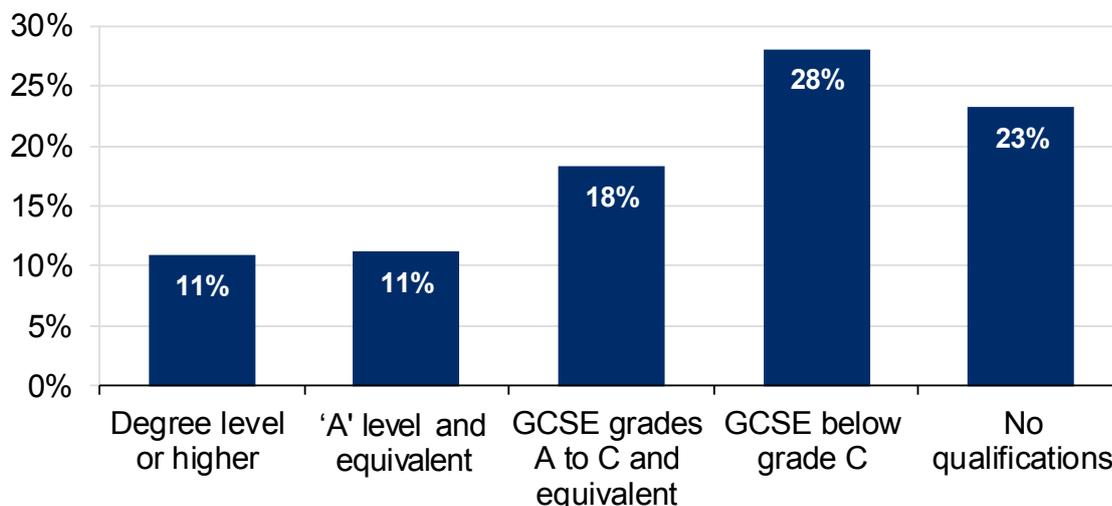

Employment status – Those who were unemployed were far more likely to be in material

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[5] Highest level of qualifications is grouped by the National Framework of Qualifications – see Terms and definitions.

deprivation. 55% of those who were unemployed were in material deprivation compared with 12% of those in employment.

Working status of the household – Households where no-one of working age was in employment were far more likely to be in material deprivation, as shown in Chart 4 below.

Chart 4: Material deprivation by working status of the household
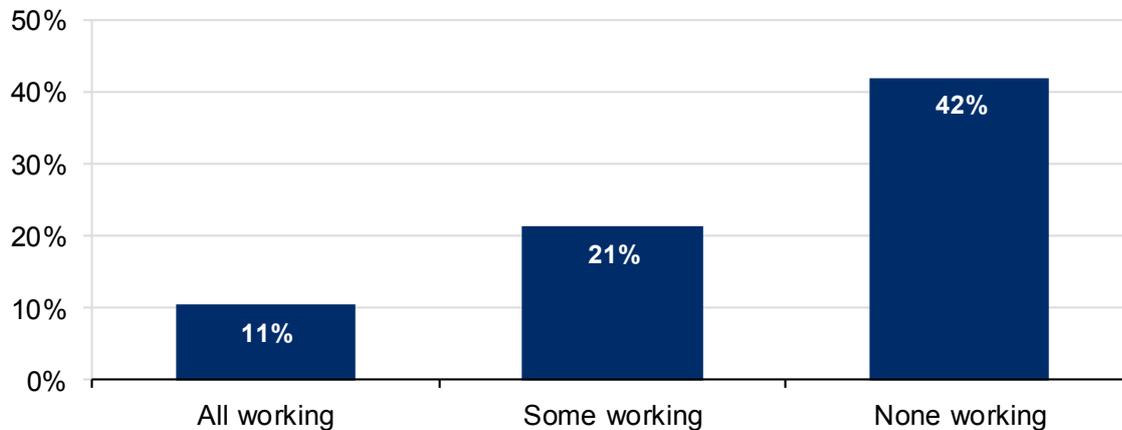
Tenure – People who lived in social housing were more likely to be in material deprivation than private renters and owner-occupiers. 42% of people in social housing experienced material deprivation, compared with 28% of people who rent privately and 7% of owner-occupiers.

Type of household – Single parent households were more likely to be in material deprivation than other types of households. 51% of these were in material deprivation, compared with 20% of households with two adults and children, and 9% of households with two adults and no children.

The presence of children in the household was linked to whether the household was in material deprivation. 12% of households without children were materially deprived compared with 22% of households containing children under 19 years old.

Having access to a car – 12% of those with access to a car were materially deprived, compared with 38% of those who didn't have access to a car. Much like access to the internet above, causality could work in either direction here. Not having access to a car may make it more difficult to get work or cheaper goods, and therefore might increase their probability of being in material deprivation. Also, being in material deprivation might make having a car unaffordable.

Having access to the internet at home – 15% of those with internet access at home were materially deprived, compared with 22% of those who didn't have access at home.

Providing care – Those who provided 50 or more hours of care for someone a week were significantly more likely to be in material deprivation than those who didn't provide care, or who provided less than 20 hours of care a week. This is shown in Chart 5.

Chart 5: Material deprivation by hours of care provided each week

Bar chart showing material deprivation by hours of care provided each week:
- No care: 15%
- 1 - 19 hours a week: 14%
- 20 - 49 hours a week: 24%
- 50+ hours a week: 28%
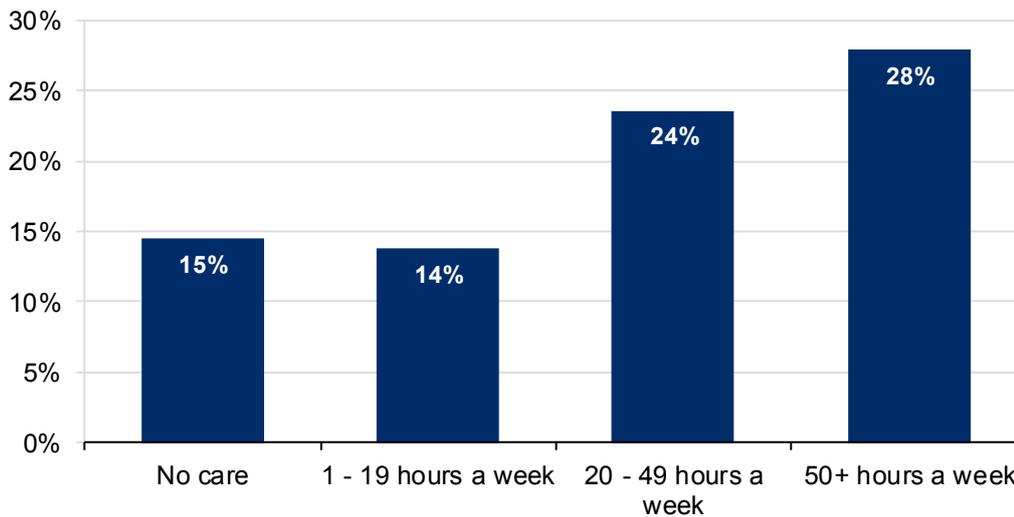
Limiting long-term illness – Elsewhere in the survey, people were asked whether they had conditions or illnesses that had lasted or were expected to last for 12 months or more, and also whether any of their conditions or illnesses reduced their ability to carry-out day-to-day activities. People were defined as having a limiting long-term illness if they had such a condition. 23% of people with a limiting long term illness were materially deprived, compared with 12% of those with no limiting illness.

Smoking – 31% of people who smoked were in material deprivation, compared with 12% of those who didn't smoke.

Being overweight or obese – 16% of people who were overweight or obese were in material deprivation, compared with 13% of those who weren't overweight or obese.

Participation in sport – 19% of those who did not participate in any frequent sporting activity were in material deprivation, compared with 10% of those who participated in sport three times a week or more.

Satisfaction with life – Respondents to the survey were asked to rate their satisfaction with their life on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 was extremely dissatisfied and 10 was extremely satisfied. Chart 6 below shows that 45% of those who gave a low satisfaction score (0 to 4 out of 10) were in material deprivation, when compared with 8% of those who gave a very high life satisfaction score (9 or 10).

Chart 6: Material deprivation by life satisfaction

Bar chart showing material deprivation by life satisfaction:
- Low (0-4): 45%
- Medium (5-6): 32%
- High (7-8): 13%
- Very high (9-10): 8%
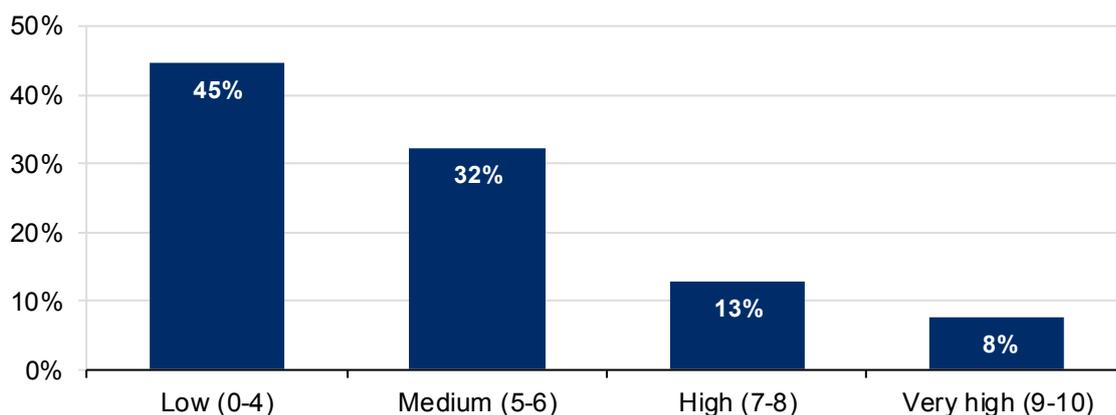
Mental well-being – The National Survey included 14 questions designed to measure mental well-being[6]. The combined responses to the questions gave respondents a score from 14-70, with a higher score representing better mental well-being. In general, people with low well-being were more likely to experience material deprivation: Chart 7 shows that 30% of those who had a low mental well-being score were in material deprivation, compared with 7% of people with high mental-well-being.

As mentioned above, this research doesn't allow us to establish the direction of causality. Low life satisfaction or poor mental wellbeing could contribute to being in material deprivation; whilst material deprivation could also cause low life satisfaction and low mental-wellbeing.

Chart 7: Material deprivation by mental well-being (WEMWBS)
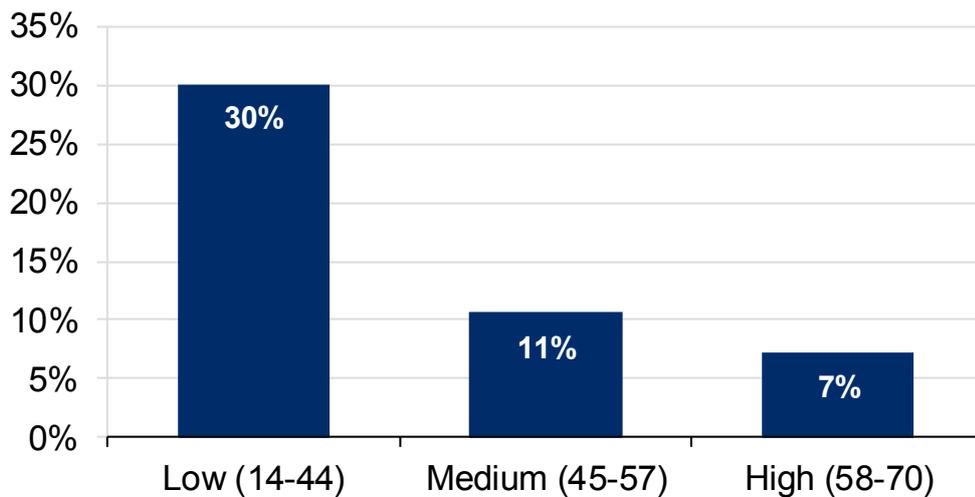
Loneliness[7] – Those who were the most lonely were also the most likely to be in material deprivation. Chart 8 demonstrates how material deprivation increases by degree of loneliness.

Chart 8: Material deprivation by loneliness levels

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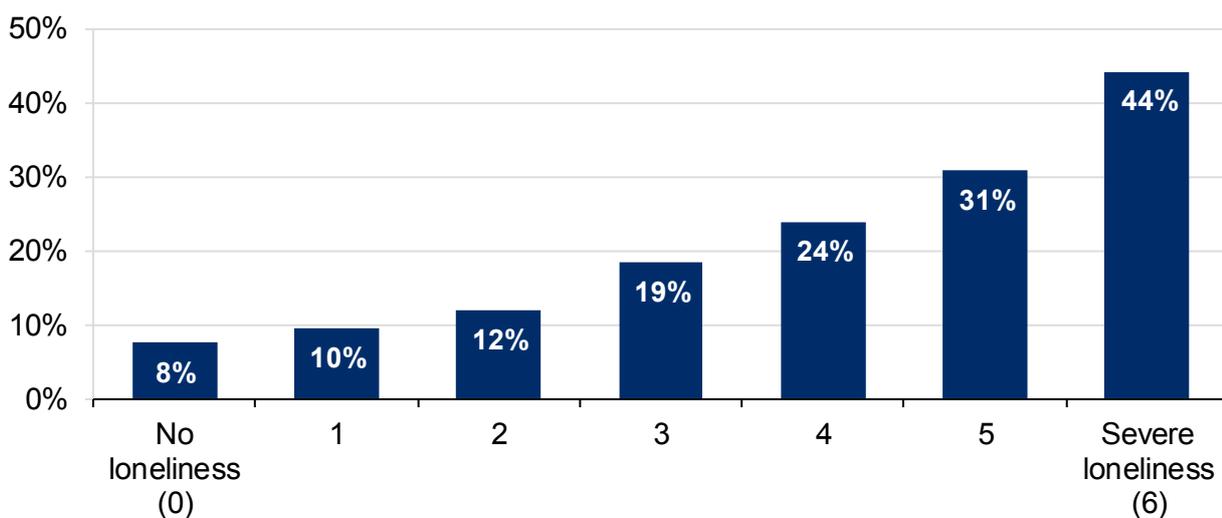
[6] Mental well-being was measured using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS) – see Terms and definitions.
[7] Loneliness was measured using the De Jong Gierveld loneliness scale, which scores loneliness on a scale of 0 to 6, from least to most lonely. In this bulletin scores 4 to 6 were taken to indicate loneliness – see Terms and definitions.

Characteristics <u>not</u> found to be associated with material deprivation

Based on cross-tabulations, a number of characteristics appeared to be related to material deprivation, but in fact were not related once a range of other characteristics had been controlled for. This means that any apparent relationship with material deprivation is more likely to be due to links with the factors set out above. The characteristics found not to be significant are:

- the local authority respondents lived in
- living in an urban area as opposed to a rural area
- area deprivation
- general health

- consumption of fruit or vegetables
- anxiety
- drinking
- meeting the physical activity guidelines

- smoking e-cigarettes
- ethnicity
- religion
- sexual orientation

Some of these are discussed in more detail below.

Anxiety levels – Respondents to the survey were asked to rate how anxious they felt yesterday on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 was not at all anxious and 10 was extremely anxious. Chart 9 below shows that 25% of those who gave a high score (6 to 10), were in material deprivation, compared with 11% of those who gave a very low anxiety score. However, when other characteristics were controlled for this link was found not to be significant. The apparent relationship between anxiety and material deprivation is therefore likely to be better accounted for by the other factors considered.

Chart 9: Material deprivation by feelings of anxiety
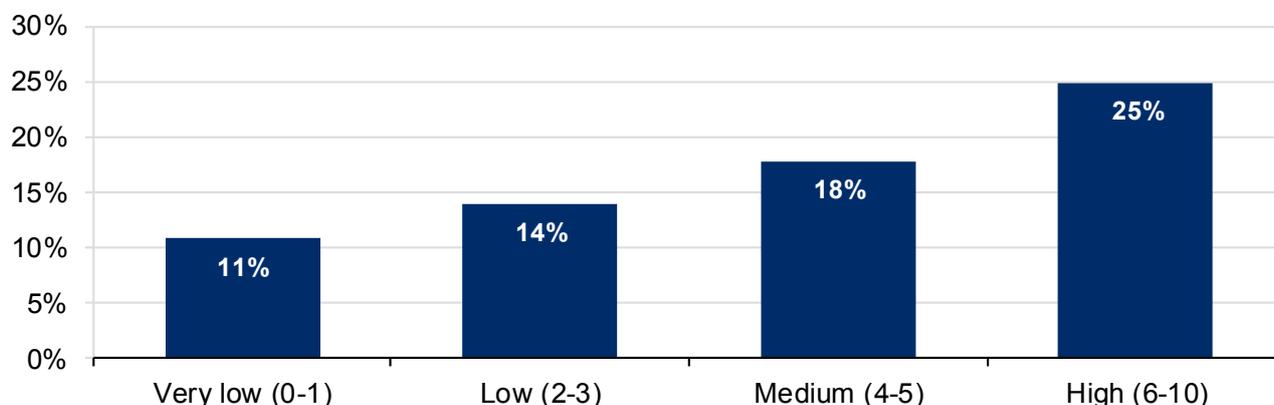
General health – As shown in Chart 10, there appears to be a strong correlation between general health and material deprivation. However this was not found to be significant when the other characteristics were controlled for.

Chart 10: Material deprivation by general health
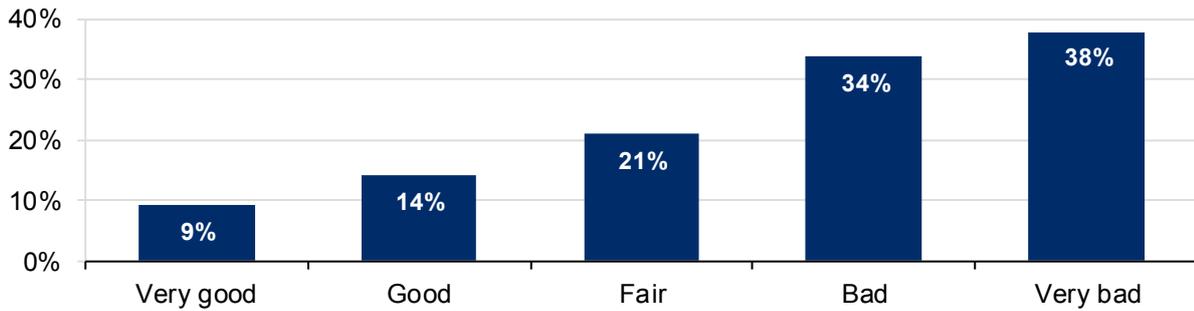
Not drinking alcohol – Those who did not drink alcohol were more likely to be in material deprivation than those who drank above the guidelines, as shown in Chart 11. However this was not found to be significant when other characteristics were controlled for.

Chart 11: Material deprivation by alcohol consumption
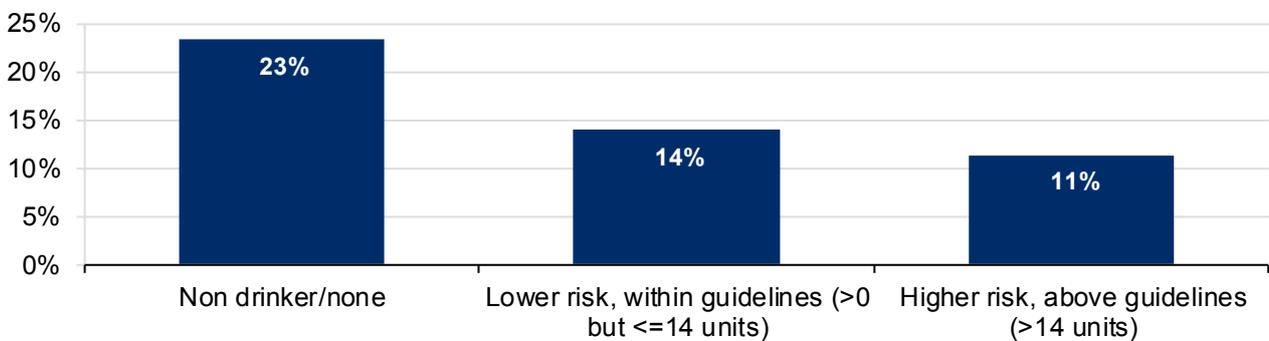
Area deprivation - Those who lived in a more deprived area[8] were more likely to be in material deprivation than those who lived in the least deprived areas, as shown in Chart 12 below.

Chart 12: Material deprivation by area deprivation
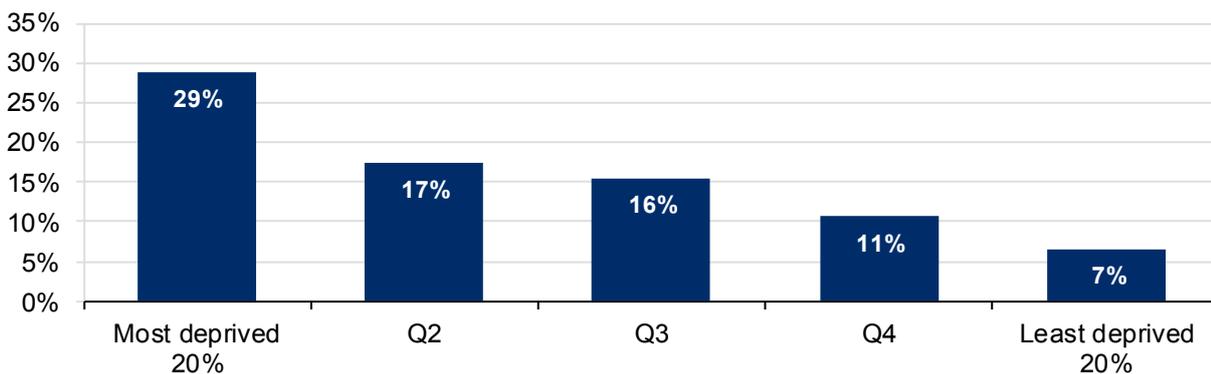
However as with all the other factors identified in this chapter, these differences were not found to be significant after controlling for other factors. This means that the differences in material deprivation scores can be better explained by other differences between the people who live in these areas and not by the area itself.

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[8] Ares deprivation is measured using the Welsh index of multiple deprivation – more information can be found in the terms and definitions

The local authority area – There was quite a difference between the material deprivation levels in various local authorities, as shown in chart 13 below. 11% were materially deprived in Bridgend compared with 21% of people in Merthyr Tydfil. However, when the other characteristics identified in the previous chapter were controlled for, the local authority area itself was not found to be a significant predictor of being in material deprivation. The apparent relationship between the local authority and material deprivation is better explained by the characteristics of the people who live in these areas.

Chart 13: Material deprivation by area deprivation

Local authority	Material deprivation
Merthyr Tydfil	21%
Blaenau Gwent	20%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20%
Swansea	18%
Neath Port Talbot	17%
Denbighshire	17%
Cardiff	16%
Isle of Anglesey	16%
Carmarthenshire	16%
Caerphilly	15%
Flintshire	15%
Torfaen	15%
Newport	14%
Gwynedd	14%
Conwy	13%
Wrexham	13%
Ceredigion	13%
Pembrokeshire	13%
Monmouthshire	13%
Vale of Glamorgan	12%
Powys	12%
Bridgend	11%
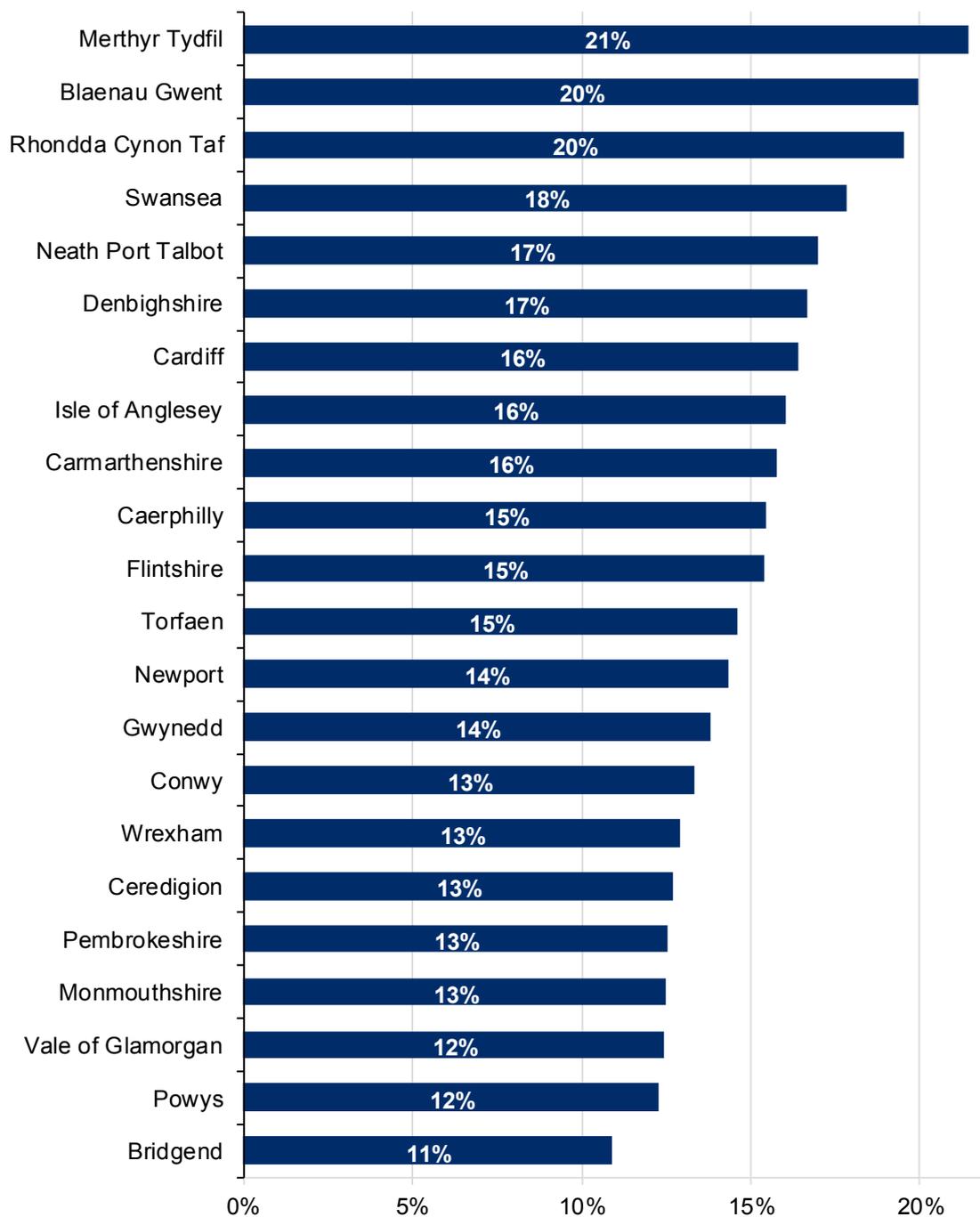
What are the differences in deprivation between pensioner and non-pensioner adults?

Two different sets of questions were used to determine non-pensioner and pensioner measures of deprivation. We carried out more in-depth analysis to look at whether there are any differences between the two groups in the characteristics linked with material deprivation.

The table below shows the strongest predictors of being in material deprivation when other factors are held constant, for non-pensioner adults and pensioners as well as both groups combined.

Table 1: Differences in the characteristics of non-pensioner adults and pensioners who are in material deprivation

All-adults	Non-pensioner adults	Pensioner
• Being unemployed • Feeling lonely • Type of household • Smoking • Living in social housing • Living in a workless household • Female	• Economic status • Feeling lonely • Type of household • Smoking status • Tenure • Living in a workless household • Female	• Economic status • Feeling lonely • Type of household • Smoking status • Tenure • Living in a workless household • Female
• Age		
• Having no qualifications • Have low mental well-being • Not having access to a car • Being overweight or obese • Not participating in sport • Have children under 19 in the household • Having low to very low life satisfaction • Having a long-term limiting illness	• Having no qualifications • Have low mental well-being • Not having access to a car • Being overweight or obese • Not participating in sport • Have children under 19 in the household • Having low to very low life satisfaction • Having a long-term limiting illness	
• Providing 50 or more hours of care for someone a week • Separated or divorced • Not having internet access at home		• Providing 50 or more hours of care for someone a week • Divorced • Not having internet access at home
		• Religion • General health

The first seven factors in this table were predictors of being in material deprivation for both pensioner and non-pensioner adults. When focusing only on pensioners or non-pensioners, age was no longer a predictor. Chart 1, shows that a change in material deprivation levels happens at pensionable age, which might explain why age is not significant when looking at the groups separately.

Interestingly, while general health was a significant predictor for being in material deprivation for pensioners, limiting long term illness was not. This may reflect the fact that almost half of pensioners have a limiting long term illness. Religion was also found to be a significant predictor for pensioners, with Christians being less likely to be in material deprivation when compared with those of 'no religion'. This was not found to be associated with material deprivation for non-pensioners.

Child material deprivation

6% of parents had materially deprived children. Detailed analysis of the 2014-15 National Survey data into material deprivation had found that, even when parents are materially deprived they try to protect their children from the effects of child material deprivation. In this chapter, we look at the characteristics associated with children who are in material deprivation. In-depth analysis[9] was carried out to assess the independent effect of a wide range of factors on child material deprivation, taking account of the influence of the other factors.

Characteristics associated with children being in material deprivation

When controlling for a range of factors[10], the following characteristics were associated with child material deprivation. For each characteristic, the proportion of that group who are in material deprivation is also noted.

Tenure – Children in social housing were more likely to be in material deprivation than those in private rented accommodation or owner-occupied homes. 18% of parents in social housing had children who were in material deprivation, compared with 10% of parents who rent privately and 2% of parents who were owner-occupiers.

Satisfaction with life – Chart 14 below shows that more parents with low life satisfaction had children who were in material deprivation.

Chart 14: Parents with materially deprived children, by their life satisfaction
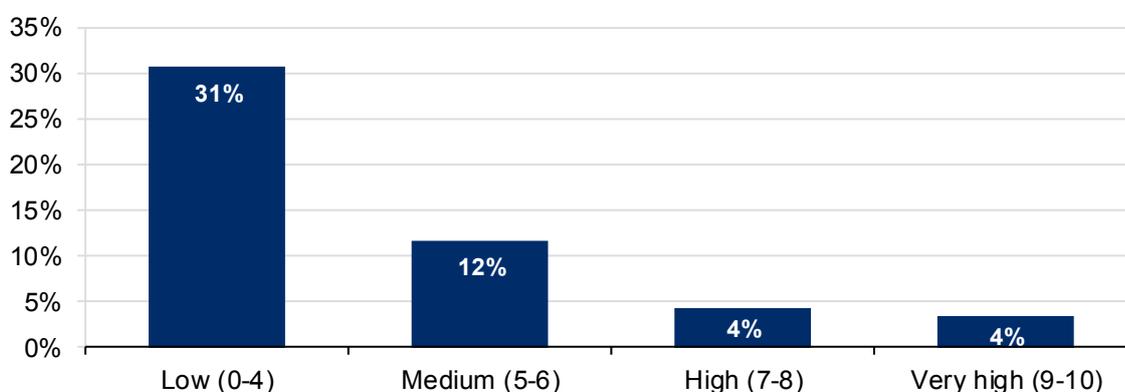
Having access to a car – 4% of parents with access to a car had children who were materially deprived, compared with 25% of those who didn't have access to a car.

Smoking – 13% of parents who smoked had children who were materially deprived, compared with 4% of those who didn't smoke.

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[9] Regression analysis, for more information see the Key Quality Information
[10] Using regression analysis - note that the findings depend on which factors are available to take into account in the regression analysis. In this case these included – age, gender, alcohol consumption, area deprivation, economic status, fruit and vegetables consumption, general health, household type, limiting long-term illness, Local Authority area, marital status, sport participation, physical activity, qualifications, religion, smoking, tenure, healthy weight, urban or rural area, , satisfaction with life, the presence of children under 5, mental well-being, car availability, levels of loneliness, provision of care, internet access, anxiety, local authority area, use of e-cigarettes, general health , ethnicity religion, sexual orientation, number of children in the household, parents' confidence to help child read and write, working status of household, the amount of time child spends watching TV or electronic devices, child's diet (fruit and vegetable consumption and coke /diet coke) and child's physical activity levels.

Alcohol - Parents who did <u>not</u> drink alcohol were more likely to have children who are in material deprivation than those who drank above the guidelines, as shown in Chart 15.

Chart 15: Child material deprivation by parent's alcohol consumption
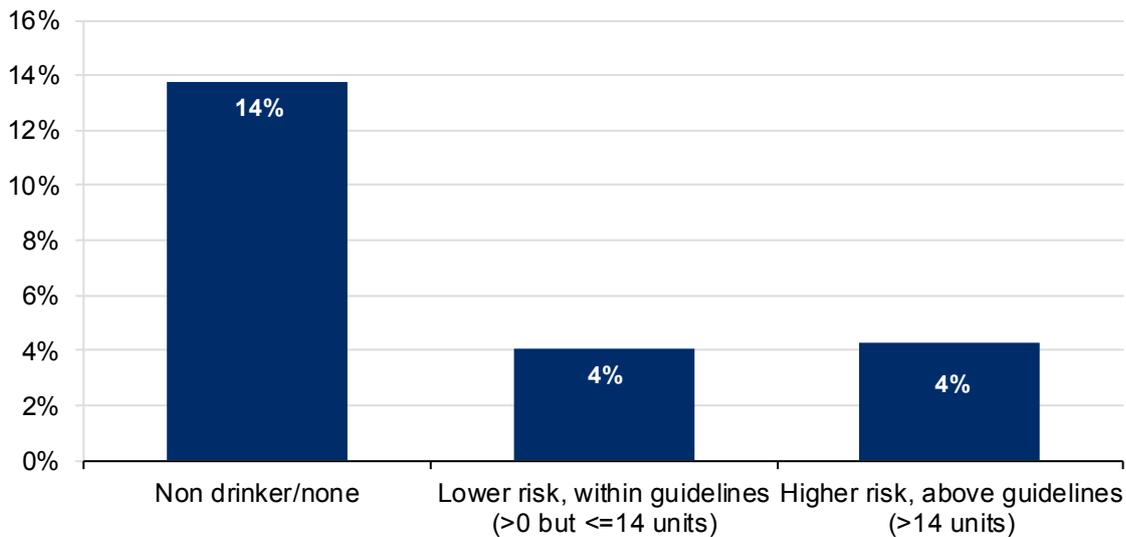
Mental well-being – Parents with low mental well-being were more likely to have children in material deprivation: Chart 16 shows that 12% of those who had low mental well-being scores had children who were materially deprived, compared with 2% of parents with high mental-well-being scores.

Chart 16: Child material deprivation by mental well-being (WEMWBS)
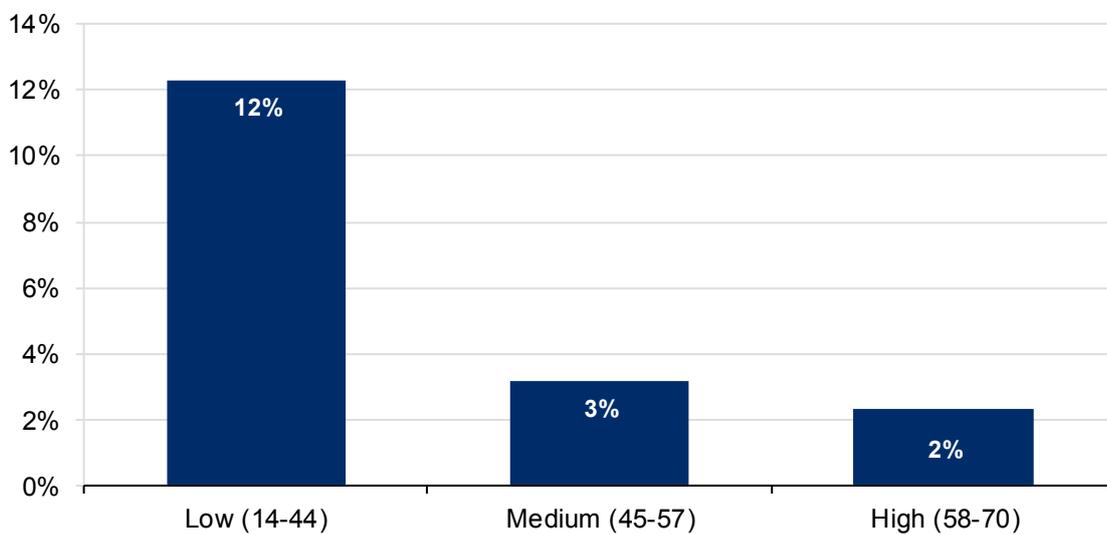
Characteristics <u>not</u> found to be associated with child material deprivation

Based on cross-tabulations, a number of characteristics appeared to be related to child material deprivation, but were not related after other characteristics had been controlled for. Any apparent relationship with child material deprivation is more likely to be due to links with the factors set out above. The characteristics found not to be significant are:

Demographic factors of the parent

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Qualifications
- Economic status
- Religion
- Marital status
- Parents' confidence to help child read and write in English and Welsh

Household

- Number of children in the household
- Household contains children under 5
- Type of household
- Working status of household
- Internet access at home
- Provision of care for others

Parents' wellbeing

- Parents loneliness level
- Parents anxiety levels

Parents' health

- Whether they smoke e-cigarettes
- Frequency of participation in sport
- Having a limiting long-term illness
- General health
- Fruit and vegetable consumption
- Physical activity levels
- Whether obese or overweight

Area demographics

- Area deprivation
- Urban or rural area
- Local authority area

Child's healthy behaviours

- The amount of time the child spends watching TV or electronic devices
- The child's diet (fruit and vegetable consumption and coke /diet coke)
- The child's physical activity levels

Financial difficulties

The National Survey asked both non-pensioners and pensioners about their ability to keep up with bills and credit commitments. The results are shown in Chart 17.

Chart 17: Ability to keep up with all bills and commitments

Category	Percentage
Keeping up with all bills and commitments without any difficulties	66%
Keeping up with all bills and commitments but it is a struggle from time to time	23%
Keeping up with all bills and commitments but it is a constant struggle	7%
Falling behind with some bills or credit commitments	2%
Having real financial problems and have fallen behind with many bills or credit commitments	1%
Have no bills	2%

This question has been included in the survey since 2012-13. There has been a marked rise over time in the proportion of people saying they are able to keep up with bills, as shown in chart 18.

Chart 18: Keeping up with all bills and commitments without difficulty, by year

Year	Percentage
2012-13	48%
2013-14	50%
2014-15	60%
(a)	
2016-17	66%
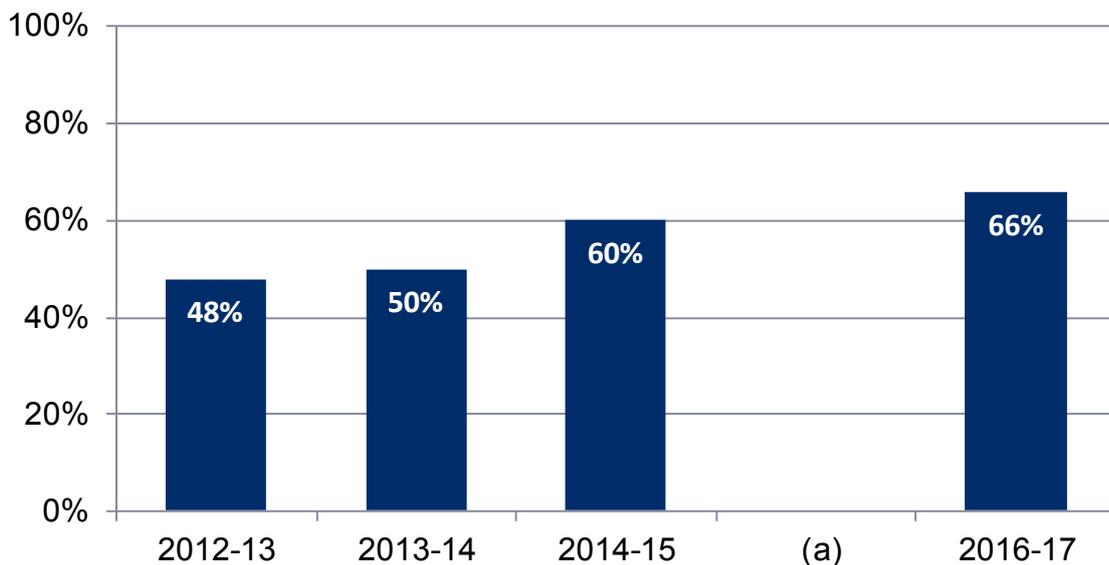
(a) The National Survey did not take place in 2015-16.

In 2016-17, the survey included a question asking respondents whether they had used the services of any organisations providing advice and support for people having problems with debt in last 12 months. 3% said they had done so. 13% of people who were in material deprivation had sought debt advice, compared with 2% of those not in material deprivation.

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As might be expected, those who were able to keep up with their bills and credit commitments were far less likely to be in material deprivation compared with those who struggled with their bills: see Chart 19. 5% of those who could keep up with their bills without difficulties were in material deprivation, compared with 85% of those who had real financial problems and had fallen behind with many bills or credit commitments.

Chart 19: Material deprivation, by ability to keep up with all bills and commitments
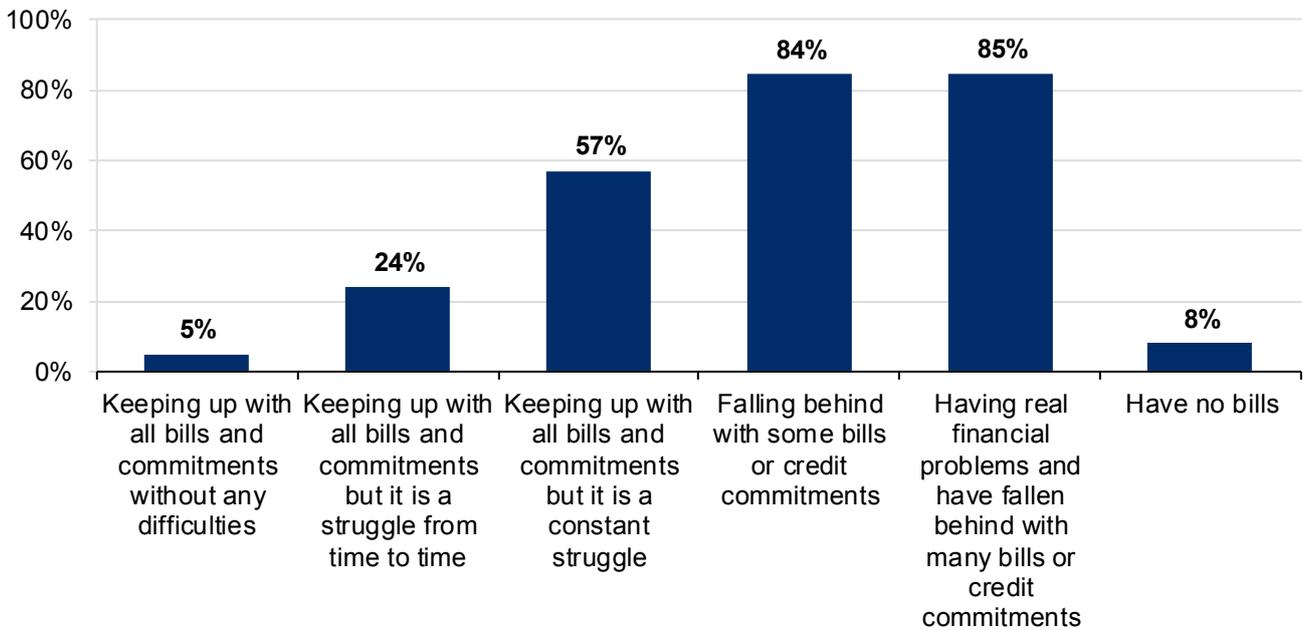
Those who were able to keep up with their bills and credit commitments were far less likely to have used debt advice organisations (see Chart 20). Despite having real financial problems and falling behind with bills and credit commitments, only around a third (34%) had sought debt advice.

Chart 20: Using debt advice services, by ability to keep up with all bills and commitments
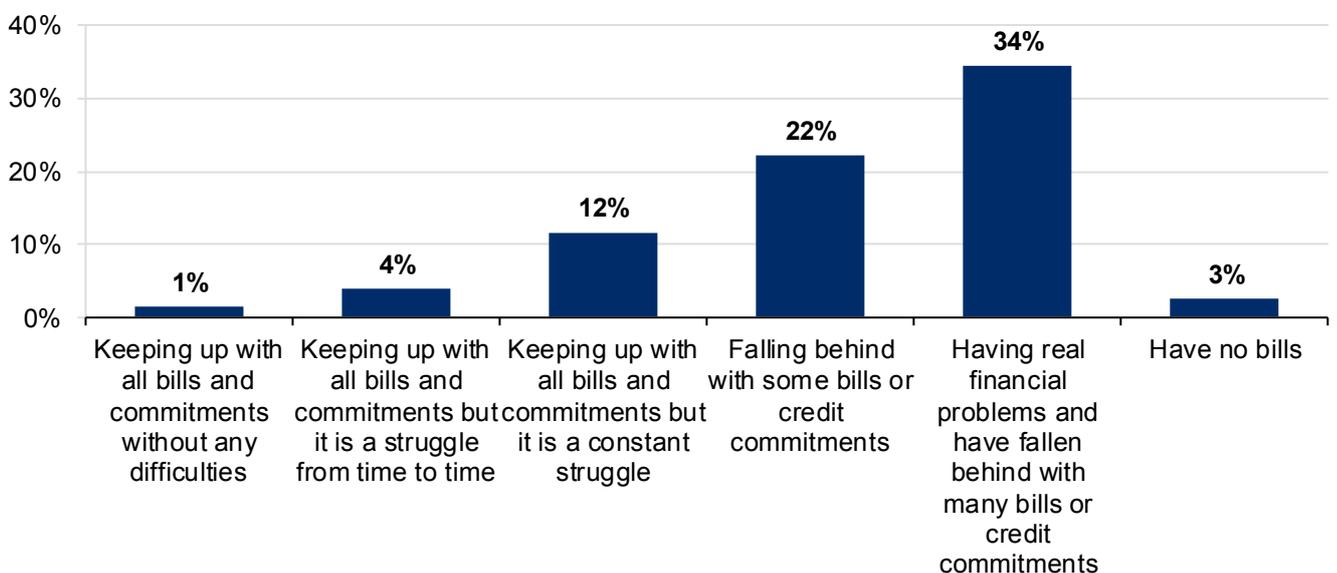
Food poverty

Respondents were also asked some questions on their ability to afford to buy food and whether they had used a food bank.

- 97% said they ate meals with meat, fish (or a vegetarian equivalent) at least every other day. However, 1% said they couldn't afford to do this, and 2% said they didn't do this for another reason.
- 3% said that there had been at least one day in the previous fortnight where they had needed to go without a substantial meal due to lack of money.
- 1% had received food from a food bank in the last 12 months.

Naturally, those who were in material deprivation were more likely to have found it difficult to afford food and were more likely to have used a food bank, as shown in Chart 21. It is notable that only 11% of those in material deprivation were also experiencing food poverty as measured by any of these three questions.

Chart 21: Food poverty, by material deprivation
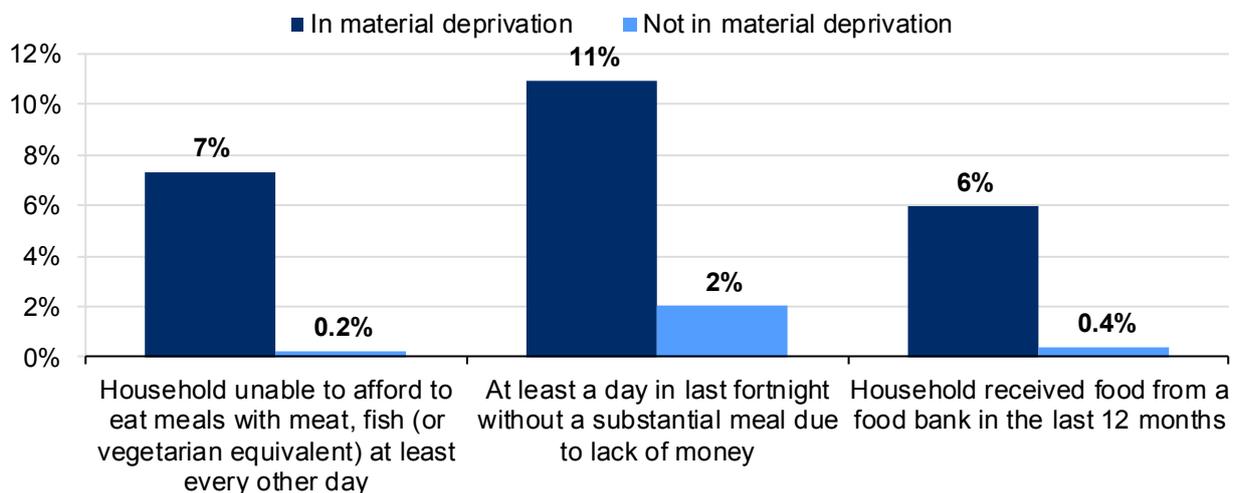
Those who were in households where no one of working age was in work were more likely to have found it difficult to afford food and were more likely to have used a food bank (Chart 22).

Chart 22: Food poverty, by working status of the household
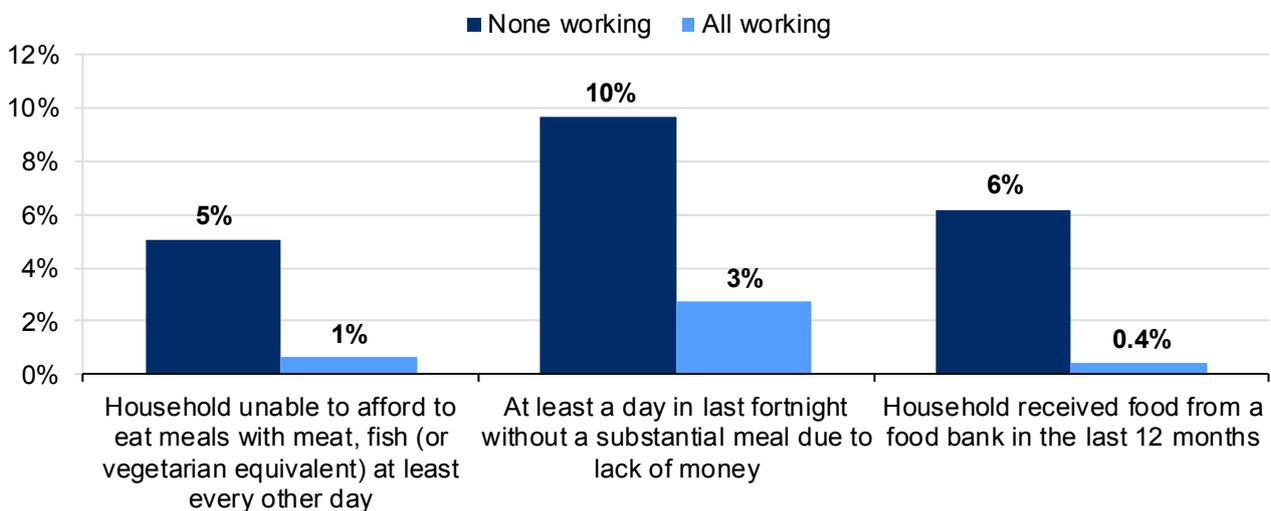
Individual questions

The primary reason for including the material deprivation questions in the National Survey was to create a measure of material deprivation which would allow us to cross-analyse against other topics in the survey, and to better understand the circumstances of materially deprived people in Wales.

However, the results of the individual questions asked are of interest in themselves. They also allow us to explore in more detail the reasons for not having an item and to make some comparisons with the National Survey in 2014-15 and the Family Resources Survey[11]

Chart 23 provides the response proportions for each material deprivation item that was asked of all non-pensioner adults.

Chart 23: Responses to non-pensioner adult material deprivation questions
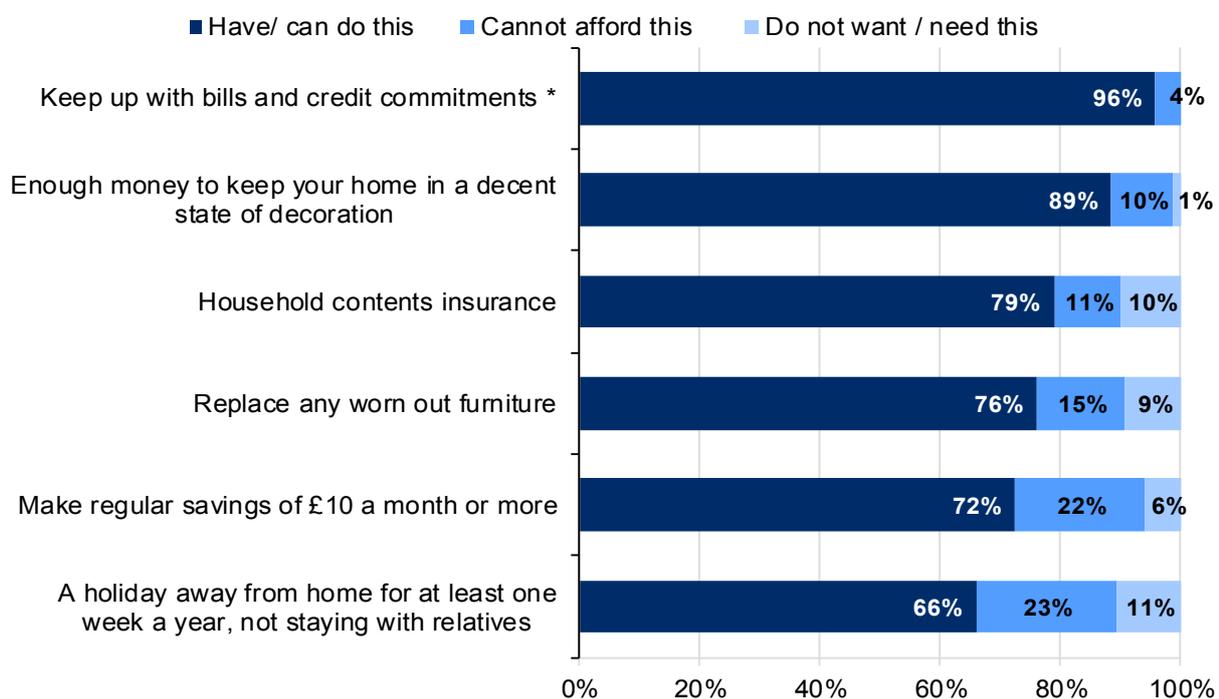
■ Have/ can do this   ■ Cannot afford this   ■ Do not want / need this

| Item	Have/ can do this	Cannot afford this	Do not want / need this
Keep up with bills and credit commitments *	96%	4%	
Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration	89%	10%	1%
Household contents insurance	79%	11%	10%
Replace any worn out furniture	76%	15%	9%
Make regular savings of £10 a month or more	72%	22%	6%
A holiday away from home for at least one week a year, not staying with relatives	66%	23%	11%

* Keeping up with all bills ' without any difficulties', 'but it is a struggle from time to time' and 'it is a constant struggle' grouped together

As can be seen, the item that respondents most commonly said they could not afford was a holiday away from home (not staying with relatives). Almost a quarter (23%) of people indicated that they could not afford such a holiday, with a similar proportion (22%) stating that they could not afford regular savings of £10 each month. These two items highlight an interesting aspect of this type of analysis with the responses indicating different levels of perceived necessity. A holiday away from home is considered by respondents to be less essential (11% stating that they do not need this) than making regular savings (6% stating they do not need this). This aspect of the response pattern was taken into consideration when calculating the overall material deprivation score.[12]

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[11] The Family Resources Survey is a UK wide survey which collects detailed information on income and benefits, savings and investments, occupation and employment, pension participation, disability, housing tenure and carers.
[12] More information on how the overall material deprivation score was calculated can be found in the Annex

Chart 24 shows the response proportions for each material deprivation item that was asked of all pensioner adults. Note that the scale here begins at 80% in order to show the pattern more clearly.

Chart 24: Responses to pensioner adult material deprivation questions (a)
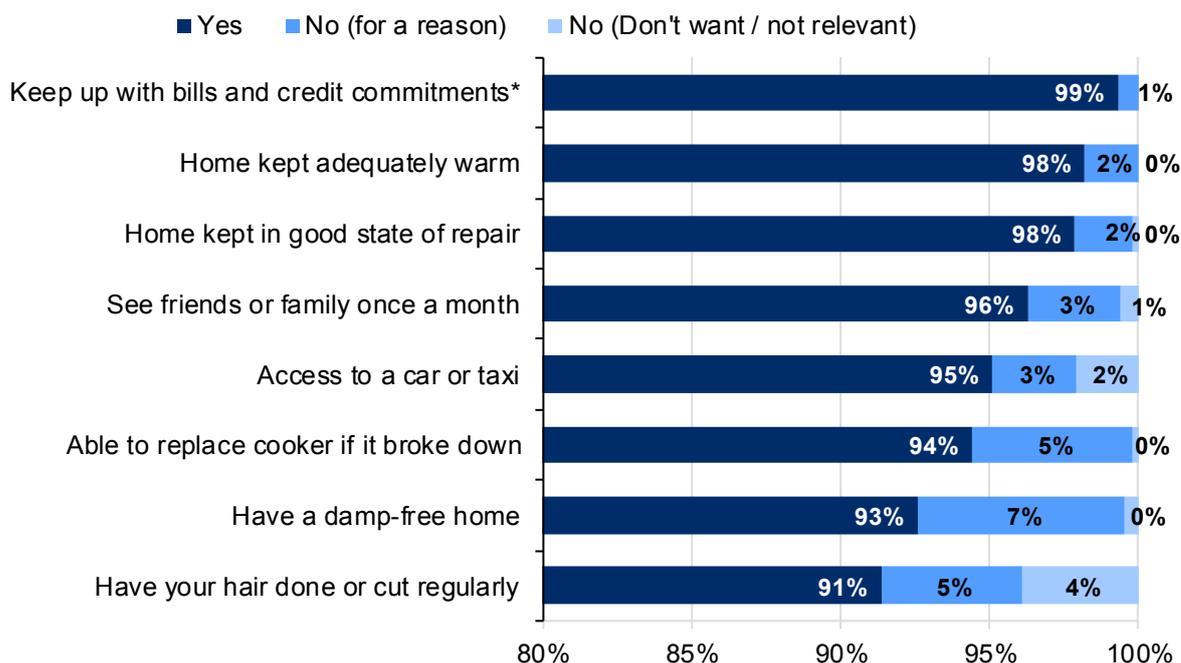
Legend: ■ Yes ■ No (for a reason) ■ No (Don't want / not relevant)

Item	Yes	No (for a reason)	No (Don't want / not relevant)
Keep up with bills and credit commitments*	99%	1%	
Home kept adequately warm	98%	2%	0%
Home kept in good state of repair	98%	2%	0%
See friends or family once a month	96%	3%	1%
Access to a car or taxi	95%	3%	2%
Able to replace cooker if it broke down	94%	5%	0%
Have a damp-free home	93%	7%	0%
Have your hair done or cut regularly	91%	5%	4%

(x-axis: 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 100%)

* Keeping up with all bills ' without any difficulties', 'but it is a struggle from time to time' and 'it is a constant struggle' grouped together

As shown in Chart 24, most pensioners had all of the items. The most common item for pensioners not to have was 'their hair done or cut regularly'; however almost half of those who didn't have this indicated that it was not relevant for them. Therefore a 'damp free home' was the most common item for a pensioner to want but not have with 7% giving some reason for not having this.

Chart 25 shows the proportion of responses to each child material deprivation question. Note that the scale here begins at 70%.

Chart 25: Responses to child material deprivation questions

Legend: ■ Have/ can do this ■ Cannot afford this ■ Do not want / need this

Item	Have/ can do this	Cannot afford this	Do not want / need this
Children have a warm winter coat	99%	0%	1%
Children have celebrations on special occasions	99%	1%	1%
Children have leisure equipment	93%	2%	5%
Children do a hobby or leisure activity	83%	2%	15%
Children attend at least one regular organized activity a week outside school	80%	2%	17%

(x-axis: 70%, 80%, 90%, 100%)

(a) These questions were only asked of parents who had children aged 16 or younger.

These measures are more difficult to compare with each other than the household material deprivation items, as different items apply more to some ages than others. Chart 25 shows that for all the listed items for children 2% or less stated that they couldn't afford them. For some items, (e.g. attending at least one regular organized activity a week outside school, or having a hobby or doing a leisure activity) a greater proportion of people said that their child did not need these, which could be at least in part attributed to the ages of the children concerned.

How have responses changed since 2014-15?

In 2014-15 the National Survey included some of the same material deprivation questions for non-pensioner adults and for children. The comparable results for non-pensioner adults in 2014-15 are shown in Chart 26, alongside the 2016-17 results. Note that the scale begins at 50% to show the differences more clearly.

Chart 26: Non-pensioner material deprivation questions, for 2014-15 and 2016-17
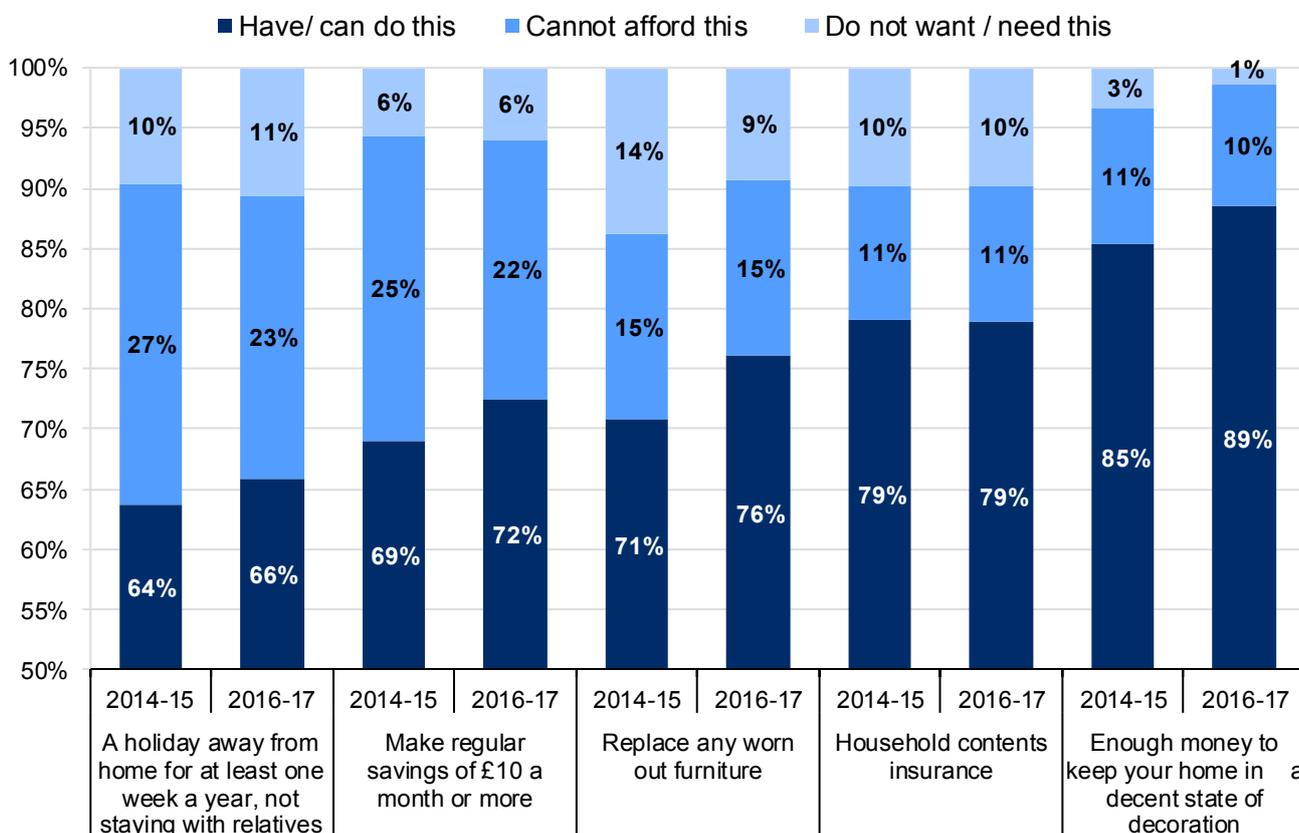
With the exception of proportion of people having household contents insurance, which remained the same between the years, a slightly higher proportion of non-pensioner adults had the items in 2016-17 than in 2014-15.

While, the proportion who had a holiday has not increased significantly, the proportion who said they couldn't afford it fell. 27% of people said that they couldn't afford a holiday in 2014-15, this has fallen to 23% in 2016-17.

21

The proportion who were able to make regular savings of £10 a month increased from 69% in 2014-15 to 72% in 2016-17. In 2014-15, 25% said they couldn't afford to make regular savings of £10 a month or more; by 2016-17 this fell to 22%.

Whilst the proportion who were able to replace any worn out furniture or who had enough money to keep their home in a decent state of decoration both rose between 2014-15 and 2016-17, the proportion who couldn't afford to do this has not changed significantly. It was the proportion who said they didn't 'need' to do this that had fallen.

Results for child material deprivation in 2014-15 vs. 2016-17 are shown in Chart 27. Note that the scale begins at 70% in order to show the differences more clearly.

Chart 27: Child material deprivation questions, for 2014-15 and 2016-17

Legend: ■ Have/ can do this ■ Cannot afford this ■ Do not want / need this

	Children attend at least one regular organized activity a week outside school		Children do a hobby or leisure activity		Children have leisure equipment		Children have celebrations on special occasions		Children have a warm winter coat	
	2014-15	2016-17	2014-15	2016-17	2014-15	2016-17	2014-15	2016-17	2014-15	2016-17
Do not want / need this	20%	17%	14%	15%	6%	5%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Cannot afford this	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Have/ can do this	76%	80%	84%	83%	93%	93%	99%	99%	98%	99%

With the exception of attending at least one regular organised activity a week outside school, there were no significant differences between the proportion of children who had these items in 2014-15 and 2016-17.

In 2014-15, 76% of children attended at least one regular organised activity a week outside school; by 2016-17, this had risen to 80%.

How do the National Survey results compare with UK-wide survey results?

As mentioned earlier, the material deprivation questions used in the National Survey were taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS), a UK wide survey. However, although the National Survey results provide more detail than was previously available for Wales (as it is asked of more people), the FRS material child deprivation figures also take into account income, and pensioner deprivation contains some questions which were not asked in the same way in the National Survey in 2016-17. So, while it is possible to compare some of the responses to the individual questions, the overall material deprivation measures from the FRS are not comparable with those from the National Survey.

In comparing results from individual questions it should also be borne in mind that the National Survey covers a wide range of topics, while the FRS focuses on 'family resources'. Comparisons are given below between the National Survey and the UK-wide FRS for child and for pensioner material deprivation (FRS figures on non-pensioner adult material deprivation are not published).

Chart 28: Child material deprivation, comparing the 2016-17 Family Resources Survey (FRS) UK-wide figures with the National Survey (NS)
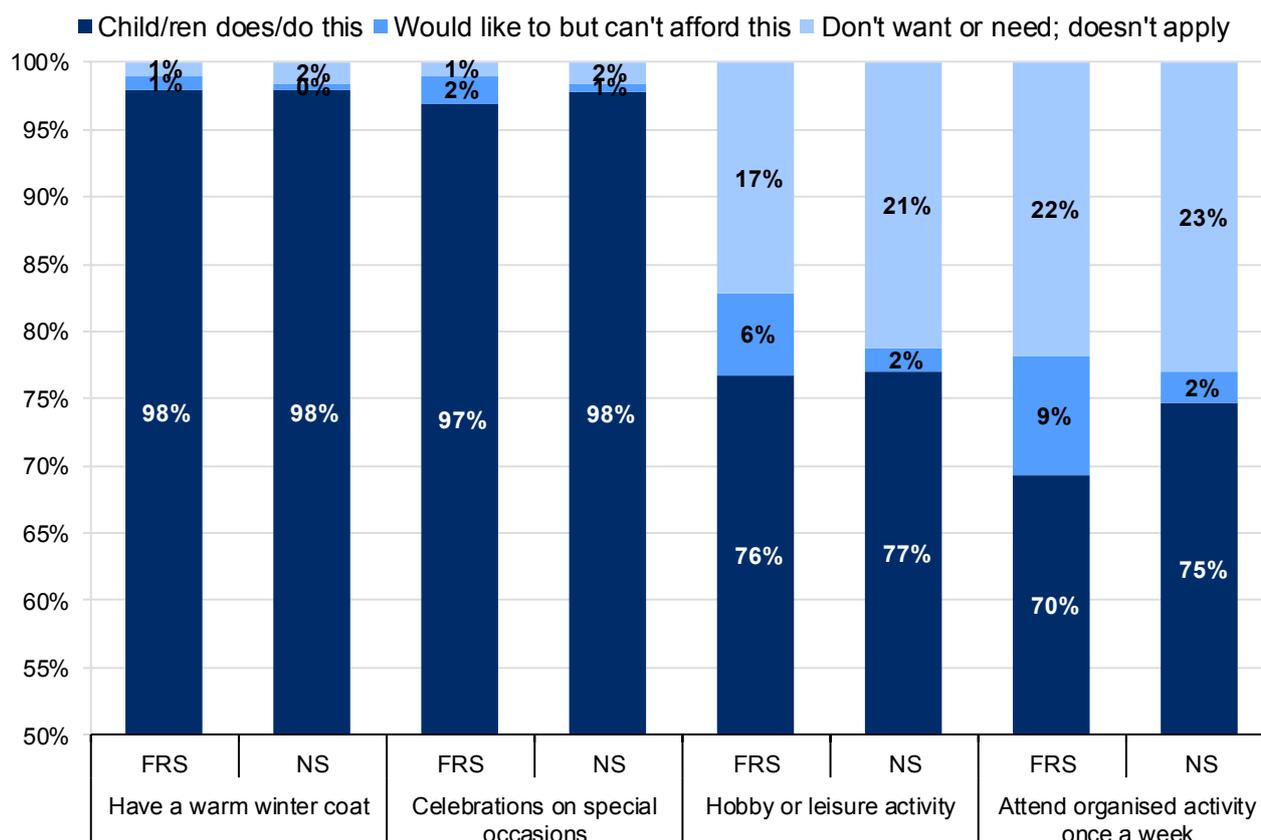

(a) Note that results presented here for the National Survey are slightly different from those noted in previous charts as the results for 'doesn't apply' were removed from previous charts, but included here to ensure comparability with the FRS.
(b) Note that the scale begins at 50% in order to make comparison easier.

As shown in Chart 28, there is no real difference between the proportion of children who had a warm winter coat or had celebrations on special occasions. However for a hobby or attending an organised activity, a greater proportion of respondents in the FRS stated that they couldn't afford an item; whereas in the National Survey, respondents were slightly more likely to say that they didn't 'need' the item or that it didn't apply. This reflects the subjective nature of the material deprivation items.[13]

Chart 28: Pensioner material deprivation, comparing the 2016-17 Family Resources Survey (FRS) UK-wide figures with the National Survey (NS)
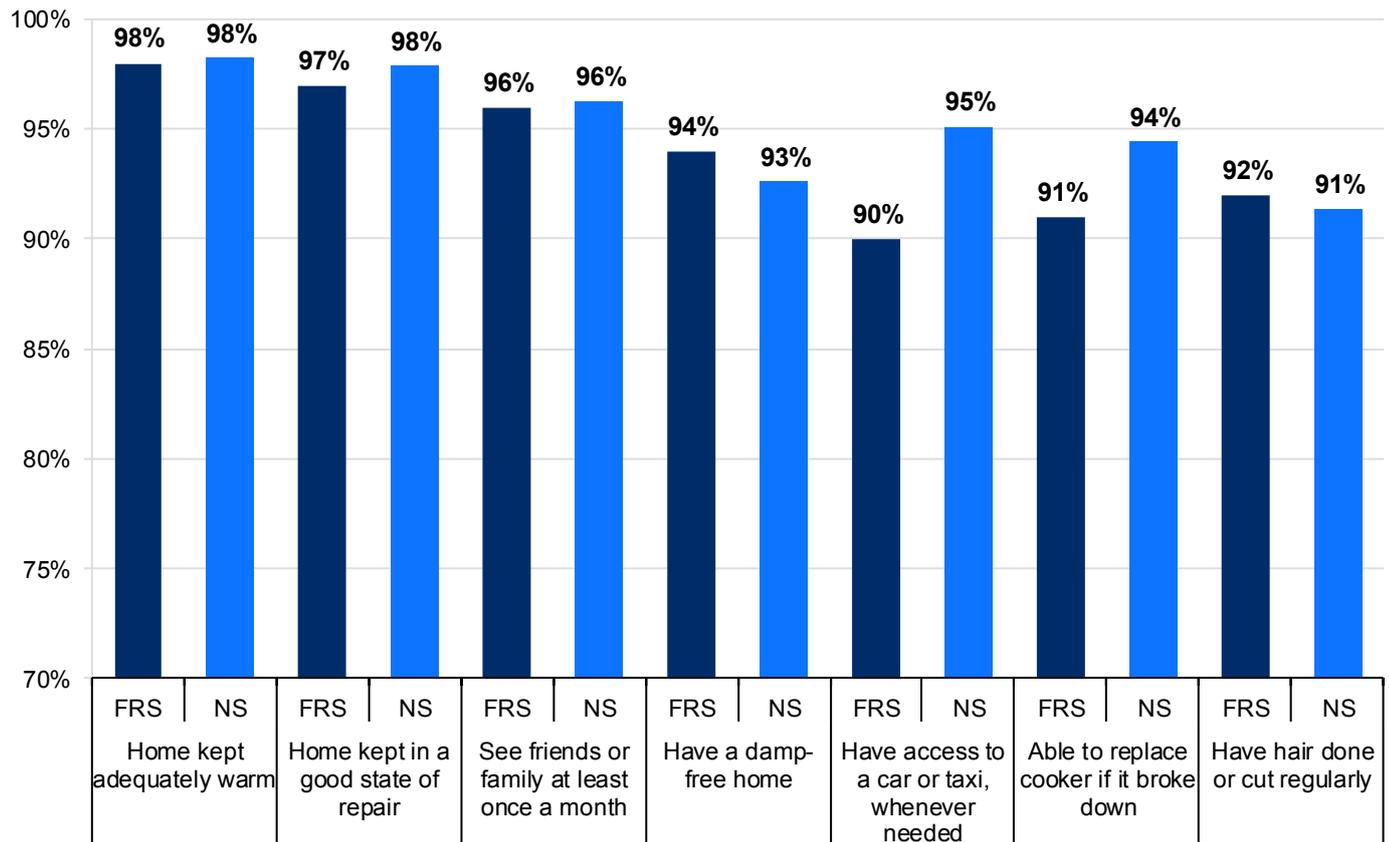
(a) Note also that the scale begins at 70%

With the exception of having access to a car or taxi and being able to replace a cooker if it broke down, the results for the pensioner questions are not significantly different between the two surveys. Further research is required to understand why the National Survey finds that slightly higher proportions of pensioners are found to be able to do these things than are found in the FRS for the UK.

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[13] Pantazis, C., Gordon, D. and Levitas, R. (2006). *Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain*. Bristol: The Policy Press. Pantazis et al found that people living in Wales are generally less likely than those living elsewhere to consider particular items as necessary.

Annex – How is material deprivation calculated?

The National Survey includes three sets of questions to capture material deprivation for different groups. One set is for pensioners, one set for non-pensioner adults and another set for parents of children. These questions were taken from the [Family Resources Survey](#)[14]. Within each of these sets, a core set of questions were asked of the relevant respondents to decide whether they were in material deprivation or not. For respondents found to be 'borderline' deprived, a further set of questions was asked to decide whether they should be classified as materially deprived or not. The three sets of questions are listed below. The questions that were only asked of the 'borderline' deprived respondents are indented.

Non- pensioner adults: These questions focused on whether particular items could be afforded. These items mainly relate to the 'household' as opposed to respondents personally. For each item, respondents were asked if they had it, didn't need it, or would like it but could not afford it.

- Do you and your family/partner have a holiday away from home for at least one week a year, whilst <u>not</u> staying with relatives at their home?[15]

- Do you and your family/partner have enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration?

- Do you and your family/partner have household contents insurance?

- Do you and your family/partner make regular savings of £10 a month or more for rainy days or retirement?

- Do you and your family/partner replace any worn out furniture?

- How well you are keeping up with your bills and credit commitments at the moment?[16]

Questions asked in 'borderline' cases:

- Do you and your family/partner replace or repair major electrical goods, such as a refrigerator or washing machine, when broken?

- Do you have a small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family?

- In winter, are you able to keep this accommodation warm enough?[16]

These items are really for their 'household' as opposed to them personally which is why they were previously called 'household material deprivation'.

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[14] The [Family Resources Survey](#) is a UK wide survey which collects detailed information on income and benefits, savings and investments, occupation and employment, pension participation, disability, housing tenure and carers.
[15] Respondents, who did not have a holiday away from home <u>not</u> staying with relatives, were subsequently asked whether they had a holiday away from home, whilst staying with relatives.
[16] This question was asked in a different way. For analysis, the responses were classified into a binary can afford / cannot afford response as it is considered that no one would logically not want or need to do either of these things.

Pensioners: A slightly different set of questions were used for pensioners. These were less based on the household and more about the individual. The questions asked whether they could afford particular items, but for items that could not be afforded also asked Those who said that they 'didn't have the money', 'it's not a priority on their current income', 'their health / disability prevents them', 'too much trouble / too tiring', or 'no one to do this with or help them' were classed as materially deprived, whereas those who said that 'it isn't something they want' or that 'it isn't relevant for them' were not classed as deprived. The questions used were:

- Would you be able to replace your cooker if it broke down?

- Is your home kept in a good state of repair?

- Do you have a damp-free home?

- Is your home kept adequately warm?

- How well you are keeping up with your bills and credit commitments at the moment?[17]

- Do you have access to a car or taxi, whenever you need it?

- Do you have your hair done or cut regularly?

- Do you see your friends or family at least once a month?

Questions asked in 'borderline' cases:

- Do you eat at least one filling meal a day?

- Do you go out socially, either alone or with other people, at least once a month?

- Do you take a holiday away from home for a week or more at least once a year?

- Are your heating, electrics, plumbing and drains kept in good working order?

- Do you have a telephone (landline) to use, whenever you need it?

- Do you have a warm waterproof coat?

- Would you be able to pay an unexpected expense of £200?[18]

Parents with dependent children[19]**:** Parents were asked an additional series of questions regarding child specific measures of deprivation. For each indicator, parents were asked whether their child/ren had it, whether their child/ren did not need it, or whether their child/ren would like it but they could not afford it.

- Does/do your child/ren have a warm winter coat?

- Does/do your child/ren have leisure equipment such as sports equipment or a bicycle?

- Does/do your child/ren have celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals?

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17 This question was asked in a different way. For analysis, the responses were classified into a binary can afford / cannot afford.

18 For this question, if they said they could afford it, they were asked how? If they said by going without, borrowing from friends or getting a loan they were classed as deprived, if they said from savings or income, they weren't classed as deprived

19 Dependent children were classified as all those who were living in the household and either aged under 16 or 16-19 and in full time education, where the respondent was their parent or legal guardian.

- Does/do your child/ren attend at least one regular organised activity a week outside school, such as sport or a youth group?
- Does/do your child/ren do a hobby or leisure activity?

Questions asked in 'borderline' cases:

- Does/do your child/ren eat fresh fruit and / or vegetables every day?
- Are there enough bedrooms for every child of ten or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom?[20]
- Does/do your child/ren have friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight?
- Does/do your child/ren go to a toddler group / nursery / playgroup at least once a week?[21]
- Does/do your child/ren go on school trips?[22]

Calculating deprivation

For each of the three sets of deprivation question, a prevalence weighted approach is used to calculate a material deprivation score for the relevant respondents, as is used in the Family Resources Survey[23]. This approach allows for the fact that the absence of some items is more uncommon, and so may be considered to represent a greater severity of deprivation than others. Items that are more uncommon are therefore given a higher weighting.

Respondents who did not have the items in a question set were given a score such that if they didn't have any item in the set they would have a deprivation score of 100, and if they had all items, they had a score of 0.

- Non-pensioners with a score of 25 or more and pensioners with a score of 20 or more were classed as deprived.
- Parents of children with a score of 20 or more (from the non-pensioner adult question set and child question sets) were classed as deprived
- Deprived pensioners and non-pensioners were subsequently grouped together to create one classification for all adults.

In this bulletin the non-pensioner and pensioner measures of deprivation are combined to provide an 'adult' deprivation variable. The terms 'adult' and 'household' deprivation may be used interchangeably depending on context.

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20 Only asked of respondents with children of different sexes over the age of 10.
21 Only asked of respondents with children under 6 and not in primary school.
22 Only asked of respondents with children over 6 or under 6 and in primary school.
23 The Family Resources Survey is a UK wide survey which collects detailed information on income and benefits, savings and investments, occupation and employment, pension participation, disability, housing tenure and carers.

Terms and definitions

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is used as the official measure of deprivation in Wales. Deprivation is a wider concept than poverty. Deprivation refers to wider problems caused by a lack of resources and opportunities. The WIMD is constructed from eight different types of deprivation. These are: income, housing, employment, access to services, education, health, community safety and physical environment. Wales is divided into, 1,909 Lower-Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) each having about 1,600 people. Deprivation ranks have been worked out for each of these areas: the most deprived LSOA is ranked 1, and the least deprived 1,909. For this bulletin, we have grouped the people living in the 20 % of LSOAs that are most deprived based on WIMD score and compared them against the 20% of the LSOAs that are least deprived. – see also Material Deprivation below.

Economic status

Respondents were classified into the following three economic statuses according to how they described what they were doing in the previous 7 days.

In employment	Unemployed	Economically inactive
- In any paid employment or self-employment (or away temporarily) - On a government sponsored training scheme - Doing unpaid work for a business that you or a relative owns - Waiting to take up paid work already obtained	- Unemployed and looking for work - Intending to look for work but prevented by temporary sickness or injury (28 days or less)	- Full-time student (including on holiday) - Unable to work because of long-term sickness or disability - Retired - Looking after home or family - Doing something else

Subjective well-being

Respondents were asked to reply to a series of questions concerning their feelings on aspects of their lives, scoring their responses on scales of 0 to 10, where 0 indicates 'not at all' and 10 represents 'completely'. The following four questions were asked:

- 'Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?'

- 'Overall, to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile?'

- 'Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?'

- 'Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?'

For life satisfaction, worthwhileness of life and happiness scales, scores 0-4 were classed as low, 5-6 as medium, 7-8 as high, and scores 9-10 as very high. For anxiety the scale was grouped so that scores 0-1 were classed as very low, scores 2-3 as low, 4-5 as medium and scores 6-10 as high levels of anxiety.

Qualifications

Respondents' highest qualifications have been grouped according to the National Qualification Framework (NQF) levels, where level 1 is the lowest level of qualifications and level 8 is doctoral degree or equivalent. For the National Survey, respondents have been grouped into 5 groups, those with no qualifications are in the lowest category and respondents with qualifications at levels 4 to 8 have been grouped together in the highest qualification category. More information about the NQF levels.

To provide more meaningful descriptions of the qualifications, these short descriptions have been used in this bulletin.

National Qualification Framework levels	Description used in bulletin
NQF levels 4-8	Degree level or higher
NQF level 3	'A' level and equivalent
NQF level 2	GCSE grades A to C and equivalent
Below NQF level 2	GCSE below grade C
No qualifications	No qualifications

Loneliness

Various measures of loneliness can be used for data analysis purposes and in this bulletin we use the De Jong Gierveld six-point loneliness scale. This scale has three statements about emotional loneliness (EL) and three about social loneliness (SL).

1. 'I experience a general sense of emptiness' (EL)

2. 'I miss having people around' (EL)

3. 'I often feel rejected' (EL)

4. 'There are plenty of people I can rely on when I have problems' (SL)

5. 'There are many people I can trust completely' (SL)

6. 'There are enough people I feel close to' (SL)

The scale uses three response categories: **'Yes' / 'More or less' / 'No'** - where **'**Yes' and 'More or less' are scored as '1' on the negatively worded questions (in this instance, questions 1-3). On the positively worded items (questions 4-6), 'More or less' and 'No' are scored as '1'. This means that an answer of 'more or less' is given the same score as either 'yes' or 'no', depending on the question.

The scores for each individual question are added together to provide an overall loneliness measure. This gives a possible range of scores from 0 to 6, **where 0 is least lonely and 6 is most lonely**. For reporting purposes in this bulletin we have considered people who have a score of 4 to 6 as being lonely.

Mental well-being (WEMWBS)

The Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale is a standard scale composed of 14 questions designed to measure respondents' mental well-being. These questions were not asked by the interviewer, respondents were provided with a laptop in order to answer these sensitive questions themselves. The statements covered both "feeling" and "functioning" aspects of well-being.

Respondents were shown the following statements and asked how often they experienced these feelings over the previous 2 weeks

- 'I've been feeling optimistic about the future'

- 'I've been feeling useful'

- 'I've been feeling relaxed'

- 'I've been feeling interested in other people'

- 'I've had energy to spare'

- 'I've been dealing with problems well'

- 'I've been thinking clearly'

- 'I've been feeling good about myself'

- 'I've been feeling close to other people'

- 'I've been feeling confident'

- 'I've been able to make up my own mind about things'

- 'I've been feeling loved'

- 'I've been interested in new things'

- 'I've been feeling cheerful'

These questions have 5 responses, and corresponding scores:

1. None of the time

2. Rarely

3. Some of the time

4. Often

5. All of the time

Scores from the 14 questions are combined to give an overall score ranging from 14 to 70, where higher scores suggest higher mental well-being.

Key quality information

Background

The National Survey for Wales is carried out by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the Welsh Government. The results reported in this bulletin are based on interviews completed in 2016-17 (30 March 2016 – 31 March 2017).

The sample was drawn from the Royal Mail Small Users Postcode Address File (PAF), whereby all residential addresses and types of dwellings were included in the sample selection process as long as they were listed as individual addresses. If included as individual addresses on the PAF, residential park homes and other dwellings were included in the sampling frame but community establishments such as care homes and army barracks are not on the PAF and therefore were not included.

The National Survey sample in 2016-17 comprised 21,666 addresses chosen randomly from the PAF. Interviewers visited each address, randomly selected one adult (aged 16+) in the household, and carried out a 45-minute face-to-face interview with them, which asked for their opinions on a wide range of issues affecting them and their local area. A total of 10,493 interviews were achieved.

Interpreting the results

Percentages quoted in this bulletin are based on only those respondents who provided an answer to the relevant question. Some topics in the survey were only asked of a sub-sample of respondents and other questions were not asked where the question is not applicable to the respondent. Missing answers can also occur for several reasons, including refusal or an inability to answer a particular question.

Where a relationship has been found between two factors, this does not mean it is a causal relationship. More detailed analysis is required to identify whether one factor causes change in another.

The results are weighted to ensure that the results reflect the age and sex distribution of the Welsh population.

Quality report

A summary Quality Report is available, containing more detailed information on the quality of the survey, which includes the relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity and comparability and coherence of the data. It also includes a summary of the methods used to compile the results.

Sampling variability

Estimates from the National Survey are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Part of the uncertainty comes from the fact that any randomly-selected sample of the population will give slightly different results from the results that would be obtained if the whole population was surveyed. This is known as sampling error. Confidence intervals can be used as a guide to the size of the sampling error. These intervals are calculated around a survey estimate and give a range within which the

true value is likely to fall. In 95% of survey samples, the 95% confidence interval will contain the 'true' figure for the whole population (that is, the figure we would get if the survey covered the entire population). In general, the smaller the sample size the wider the confidence interval. Confidence intervals are included in the tables of survey results published on StatsWales.

As with any survey, the National Survey is also subject to a range of other sources of error: for example, due to non-response; because respondents may not interpret the questions as intended or may not answer accurately; and because errors may be introduced as the survey data is processed. These kinds of error are known as non-sampling error, and are discussed further in the quality report for the survey.

Regression analysis

After considering the survey results, factors we considered likely to have an influence on material deprivation were incorporated into multiple linear regression models. The final model consisted of those factors that remained significant even after holding the other factors constant. These significant factors are those that have been discussed in this bulletin and the use of regression analysis is indicated by the statement that we have 'controlled for other factors'.

We are confident that the regression analysis presented here is valuable in understanding the characteristics of people who are in material deprivation. It was helpful that a wide range of factors (e.g. demographic and health information) were available to use in this analysis. However regression findings do depend on which factors are considered in the regression model. Had a different range of factors been available to consider from the survey, then some conclusions about which factors were significant may have been different.

Regression analysis can identify relationships between factors, however, it cannot tell us about causality. While for some factors causality is fairly clear based on prior knowledge (e.g. material deprivation does not cause changes in gender; gender is linked to changes in material deprivation), for others causality is less clear. It's important to bear in mind that causality can operate in either direction (or both, or some third factor may be linked both to material deprivation and to the factor of interest).

More details on the methodology used in the regression analysis are available in the Technical Report: Approach to regression analysis and models produced.

Significant differences

Where the text of this release notes a difference between two National Survey results (in the same year), we have checked to ensure that the confidence intervals for the two results do not overlap. This suggests that the difference is statistically significant (but as noted above, is not as rigorous as carrying out a formal statistical test), i.e. that there is less than a 5% (1 in 20) chance of obtaining these results if there is no difference between the same two groups in the wider population.

Checking to see whether two confidence intervals overlap is less likely than a formal statistical test to lead to conclusions that there are real differences between groups. That is, it is more likely to lead to "false negatives": incorrect conclusions that there is no real difference when in fact there is

a difference. It is also less likely to lead to "false positives": incorrect conclusions that there is a difference when there is in fact none. Carrying out many comparisons increases the chance of finding false positives. Therefore, when many comparisons are made the conservative nature of the test is an advantage because it reduces (but does not eliminate) this chance.

National Statistics status

The [United Kingdom Statistics Authority](#) has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value.

All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Statistics. They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the UK Statistics Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is Welsh Government's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected of National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators ("national indicators") that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016.

Information on the indicators, along with narratives for each of the well-being goals and associated technical information is available in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).

This release presents the results for indicator 19 – the percentage of people in material deprivation.

Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015](#).

The statistics included in this release could also provide supporting narrative to the national indicators and be used by public services boards in relation to their local well-being assessments and local well-being plans.

Further details

This bulletin is available at:

http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?tab=current&lang=en .

The first release for the survey was published on 29 June 2017.

More detailed information on the survey methodology is set out in the Technical Report for the survey.

Next update

Not a regular output.

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics which can be provided by email to surveys@gov.wales

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