



Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011

**Summary of
methodological
changes**

This document presents a summary of the methodological changes made in WIMD 2011. The purpose of WIMD 2011 was to update WIMD 2008, so methodological changes have been avoided, except where changes to data provision have made it unavoidable.

Income domain: Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) has replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claimants since October 2008. The Income Support element of Incapacity Benefit is replaced with the Income-Based element of ESA.

No comparison with the income domain of WIMD 2008 has been carried out, because the 2008 income indicator values are not comparable with the WIMD 2011 income indicator. This is because the dependent children of claimants of income-related Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits were erroneously omitted from the indicator in 2008. This was only discovered during the production of WIMD 2011 and at the time of publication the WIMD 2008 indicators and ranks had not been revised. Significant changes to the income domain and Index ranks in WIMD 2008 are not expected as a result of correcting this error.

Employment domain: the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) has replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claimants since October 2008.

Community safety: in WIMD 2011, the violent crime rate is based on a single year (2009/10) of data, instead of the average over two years of data. This is due to a crime coding issue in the 2008/9 data year.

Education: pupil postcodes are now available for both primary and secondary absences. This is an improvement over WIMD 2008, where the school-level data had to be apportioned to postcodes. The Key Stage 4 (GCSE)-level) points scoring system changed in 2008, and it also now includes qualifications other than GCSEs. Data are no longer available for the old points system. The inclusion of qualifications other than GCSE improves this indicator, but both the level and the ratio between successive grades are changed, which may lead to differences in the ranking.

Health: following the discovery of some anomalous data points in the health domain of WIMD 2008, the WIMD Steering Group agreed to change the age-sex standardisation methodology of the health indicators from direct to indirect standardisation for WIMD 2011. Indirect standardisation is a more robust approach for small number statistics such as the Index indicators. The effect of the change of methodology is limited, and is greatest where use of direct standardisation for very small numbers produced anomalous results for WIMD 2008. The new methodology corrects this problem.

Full analysis of the effects of direct versus indirect standardisation is presented in the [paper and minutes](#) of the Health Domain Working Group in May 2011. The discussion and agreement of the WIMD Steering Group can be found in the [minutes](#) of the Steering Group meeting of 2 June 2011.

Physical environment: the methodology used to create the indicators of the physical environment domain is the same for WIMD 2011 as it was for WIMD 2008. However, there have been some improvements to the air emissions mapping, and the flood risk mapping.

Changes in flood risk between WIMD 2008 and WIMD 2011 are largely due to the improved flood risk mapping. Although over 4,500 properties in Wales have benefited from reduced flood risk due to capital improvement and maintenance schemes since April 2005, half of these were in the last three years, and so not all of them will be included in the 2009 flood risk data used in WIMD 2011.