

English Indices of Deprivation 2010

Guidance document

Aim

The purpose of the English Indices of Deprivation 2010 is to identify small areas of England which are experiencing multiple aspects of deprivation. It replaces the Indices of Deprivation 2007 as the official measure of deprivation in England.

Key information

What do the Indices of Deprivation measure?

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 provide a relative measure of deprivation in small areas across England.

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 is based on the concept that deprivation consists of more than just poverty. Poverty is not having enough money to get by on where as deprivation refers to a general lack of resources and opportunities.

How do the Indices work?

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 is the collective name for a group of 10 indices which all measure different aspects of deprivation. The most widely used of these is the Index of Multiple Deprivation which is a combination of a number of the other indices to give an overall score for the relative level of multiple deprivation experienced in every neighbourhood in England.

In total 38 separate indicators, which are grouped into seven domains each of which reflects a different aspect of deprivation, are used to produce an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation score for each small area in England. The domains used in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 are income, employment, health, education, crime, access to services and living environment. Each of these domains has their own scores and ranks allowing users to focus on specific aspects of deprivation.

All the small areas in England can be ranked according to their Index of Multiple Deprivation score; this allows users to identify the most and least deprived areas in England and to compare whether one area is more deprived than another.

An area has a higher deprivation score than another one if the proportion of people living there who are classed as deprived is higher. An area itself is not deprived: it is the circumstances and lifestyles of the people living there that affect its deprivation score. And it is important to remember that not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived – and that not all deprived people live in deprived areas.

What time period do the Indices relate to?

Most of the indicators used in the Indices of Deprivation 2010 are from 2008 although some of the indicators come from other time points such as the 2001 Census.

Which areas are covered by the Indices?

England has been divided into 32,482 areas each having roughly the same number of people. These are known as Lower layer Super Output Areas and are a standard way of dividing up England and Wales. Like previous versions of the English Indices of Deprivation, a deprivation score has been calculated for each Lower layer Super Output Area in England. By using these small areas it is possible to identify small pockets of deprivation.

Summaries are provided for local authority districts.

What can you use the Indices of Deprivation 2010 for?

- **Compare different areas in England**

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 collects the same indicators and combines them in the same way for every Lower layer Super Output Area in England this means you can directly compare the ranks of different areas in England. If an area has a higher rank (closer to 1) than another area it is more deprived.

- **Identify the most deprived areas in England**

By using cut points of the ranks you can identify the group of Lower layer Super Output Areas that are amongst the most deprived in England, some common cut points that have been used in the past are the 1%, 5%, 10% and 20% most deprived.

- **Look at differences between the domains of deprivation**

Using the domain scores and ranks you can compare which issues are the biggest concerns for different areas.

- **Calculate how many people are Income or Employment deprived**

The income and employment domain scores represent the proportion of people in a Lower layer Super Output Area who experience that aspect of deprivation. These can be used along with appropriate population estimates for each Lower layer Super Output Area to calculate the total number of people in an area who are income or employment deprived.

- **Look at deprivation across larger areas**

Summaries of overall deprivation are provided for local authorities. There are a number of ways to summarise Indices of Deprivation 2010 results across larger geographic areas and the best approach will depend on the purpose of the analysis. Guidance on the summary measures is provided in the report that accompanies the release of the statistics and is available from the DCLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/subject/indicesdeprivation

What can't the Indices of Deprivation 2010 be used for?

There are a few ways in which it is tempting to use the index, but which do not really make sense or which lead to unreliable results. Tiny differences in the deprivation scores don't mean anything. There is no point rummaging among the decimal places trying to show that one area is more deprived than another.

- **To show how deprived a place is**

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 are relative measures of deprivation. This means it can tell you if one area is more deprived than another but not by how much. For example if an area has a rank of 40 it is not necessarily half as deprived as a place with a rank of 20.

- **Measuring absolute change over time**

Deprivation scores cannot be compared between 2010 and 2007 because an area's score is affected by the scores of every other area; so it is impossible to tell whether a change in score is a real change in the deprivation level of an area, or whether it is due to the scores of other areas going up or down.

- **Say how affluent a place is**

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 is not a measure of affluence; all of the indicators used in the index are designed to identify aspects of deprivation, not affluence. Therefore the area ranked as the least deprived is not necessarily the most affluent.

- **Identify deprived people**

The Indices of Deprivation 2010 measures the relative level of deprivation in an area. Within every area there will be individuals who are deprived and individuals who are not. The Indices of Deprivation 2010 is not a suitable tool for targeting individuals.

- **Make comparisons with different countries**

Each country in the UK produces their own version of the Indices of Deprivation and they all use similar methodologies. However differences in the indicators used, the time periods covered and the sizes of the areas mean that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between the different Indices.

The Office for National Statistics provides some guidance on how to make some comparisons across the devolved Indices:

[Comparing across Countries - Indices of Deprivation](#)

Contact details

The Department for Communities and Local Government website contains a detailed report on the English Indices of Deprivation 2010 which includes information about the indicators used and the methodology used to combine them.

www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/researchandstatistics/statistics/subject/indicesdeprivation

General queries regarding the English Indices of Deprivation 2010 should be directed to indices.deprivation@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Responsible Statistician

Mukund Lad
0303 444 3360

© Crown copyright 2011
Department for Communities and Local Government
ISBN: 978-1-4098-2926-3