



## National Survey for Wales 2017-18 Poverty and deprivation

20 February 2019  
SB 5/2019

Material deprivation is a measure of poverty and its effects. The National Survey first included questions about material deprivation in 2014-15 and then again in 2016-17 and 2017-18. This bulletin provides the 2017-18 results for material deprivation and also on food poverty.

### Key findings

- 16% of adults in Wales are materially deprived
- 39% of parents with three or more children are materially deprived.
- 49% of single parents are materially deprived.
- 4% of adults had gone at least one day without a substantial meal during the last fortnight, and 2% cannot afford to eat meat (or equivalent) at least every other day.
- 46% of people living in social housing are materially deprived, compared with 31% in private rented accommodation and 7% in owner-occupied housing.
- People who provide care for family members or friends are more likely to be materially deprived.



- 37% of people in material deprivation are lonely compared with 12% of those who are not deprived.
- 59% of materially deprived people were highly satisfied with life, compared with 87% of non-deprived people.

- 49% of people in material deprivation had experienced a problem or dispute in the past 12 months compared with 20% of those not in material deprivation.
- Material deprivation is less common in older people. 7% of pensioners are materially deprived.

### About this bulletin

This bulletin provides more detailed analysis of **Poverty** results from the National Survey for Wales in 2017-18.

The full questionnaire is available on the [National Survey web pages](#).

Additional tables can be accessed via the [Results viewer](#).

### In this bulletin

<a href="#">Introduction</a>	2
<a href="#">Demographics</a>	3
<a href="#">Health</a>	4
<a href="#">Well-being</a>	5
<a href="#">Lifestyle</a>	6
<a href="#">Location</a>	7
<a href="#">Accommodation</a>	7
<a href="#">Problems &amp; disputes</a>	8
<a href="#">Child deprivation</a>	10
<a href="#">Pensioner deprivation</a>	11
<a href="#">Food poverty</a>	12
<a href="#">How is material deprivation calculated?</a>	13
<a href="#">Terms &amp; definitions</a>	16
<a href="#">Key quality information</a>	17

## Introduction

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 life for low-income households in Wales. The aim of these strategies is to mitigate the impact of poverty, including long-term poverty, amongst some of our poorest people and communities; and to support action to reduce the risk that people 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. Questions on material deprivation are asked in the National Survey partly 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 [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.

The National Survey includes three sets of questions to capture levels of 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 Survey](#)<sup>1</sup>, however results from the National Survey and the FRS are not directly comparable.<sup>2</sup> The full list of questions and an explanation of how material deprivation is calculated is shown in the [Annex](#).

The overall results are as follows.

- 19% of working-age adults and 7% of pensioner adults were classed as being materially deprived.
- 7% of parents were classified as having materially deprived children.
- **Combining the working-age and pensioner measures of deprivation, 16% of all adults were found to be materially deprived. It is this measure that is the main indicator of material deprivation and is reported nationally in the [Well-being of Wales report](#).**

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<sup>1</sup> 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 2017-18).

<sup>2</sup> Click to see details on [Comparability of results](#)

## Adult material deprivation

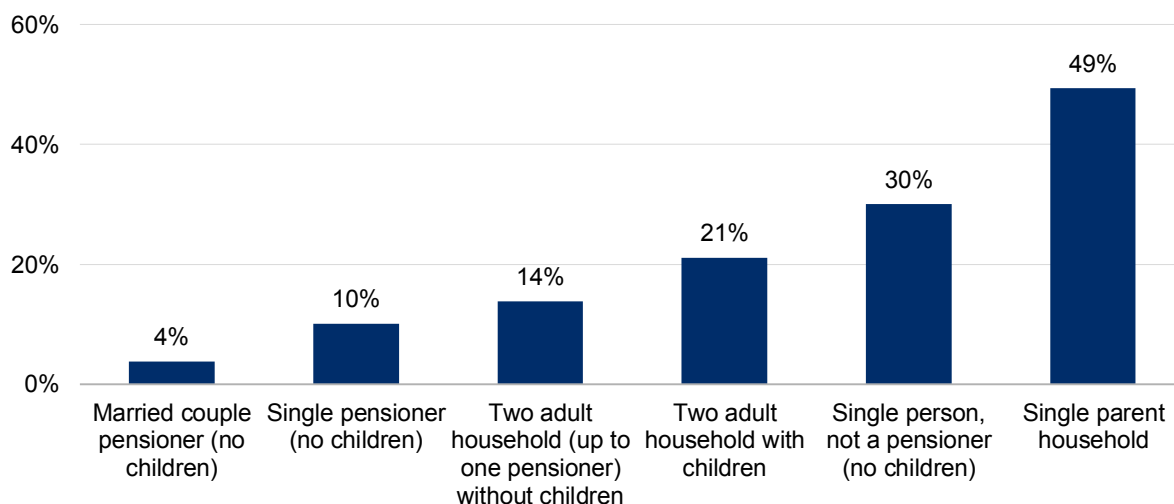
In this bulletin, we use cross-analysis to look at the characteristics associated with being in material deprivation and the differences between those who are materially deprived and those who are not. Of course, different factors that may be associated with material deprivation, such as living in urban areas and unemployment, are linked. We therefore carried out further analysis to isolate the link between each factor and material deprivation; this is discussed in the [Further analysis](#) section.

## Demographics

Unemployment is closely associated with whether a person is materially deprived. 57% of those who were unemployed were materially deprived, compared with 13% of people who were employed.<sup>3</sup>

The size and makeup of a household is also linked with whether they are likely to be in material deprivation. Chart 1 shows that working-age adults who are single or live alone are more likely to be deprived than those in a household with more than one adult.

**Chart 1: Material deprivation by household type**



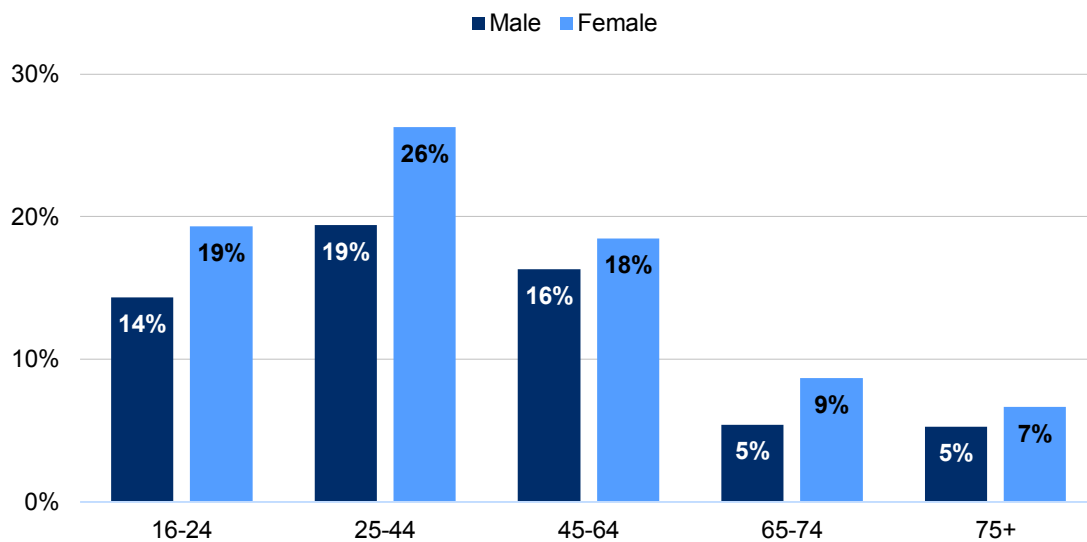
Single parent households have the highest rate of material deprivation of all these types of household, with 49% of single parents classed as materially deprived.

Consistent with results from 2016-17, age is one of the strongest predictors of adult material deprivation. As shown in Chart 2, material deprivation is more common in younger age groups than in those aged 65 and older. 23% of those aged 25-44 were materially deprived.

Chart 2 suggests that in all age groups female respondents are more likely to be in material deprivation than men, and overall 18% of women were materially deprived compared with 14% of men.

<sup>3</sup> Economic status – see [Terms and definitions](#)

**Chart 2: Percentage in material deprivation by age and gender**

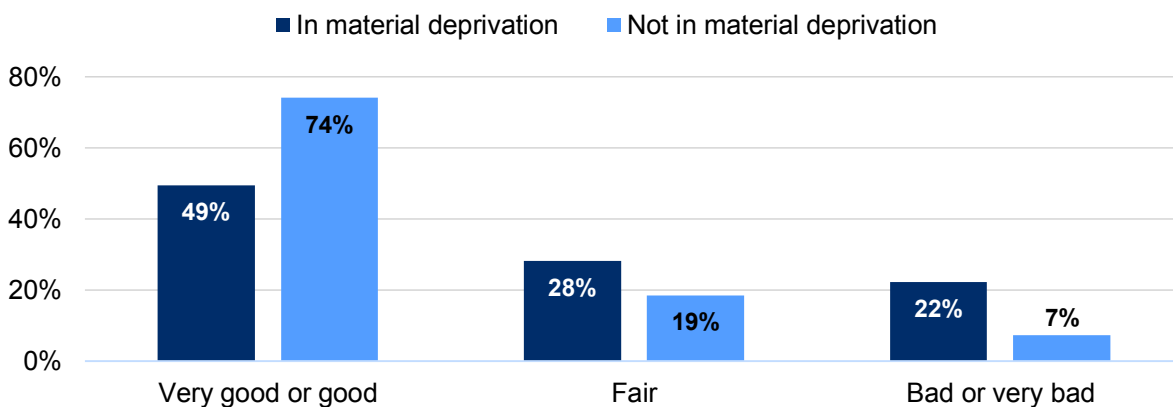


Older people are less likely to be materially deprived than younger people. Pensioners are thought sometimes to under-report their material deprivation using the standard questions so they were asked a separate set of [questions](#) to measure their level of deprivation; these questions were more about the individual than household necessities and the results can be found [later in the report](#).

## Health

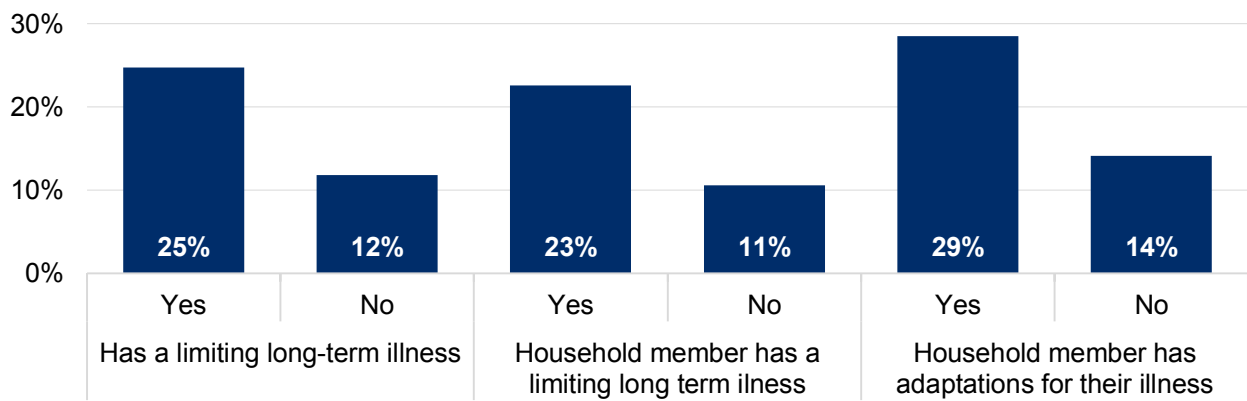
Chart 3 shows that those in material deprivation are less likely to be in good health than those who are not in material deprivation.

**Chart 3: General health by material deprivation**



Similarly, a higher proportion of materially-deprived people have limiting long-term illnesses: 25% of the materially deprived, compared with 12% of those who are not materially deprived (Chart 4). Furthermore, even if the respondent does not have a long-term illness, if they are in material deprivation then they have an increased likelihood of living with another person who has a long-term illness (again, see Chart 4).

**Chart 4: Material deprivation by long-term illness**



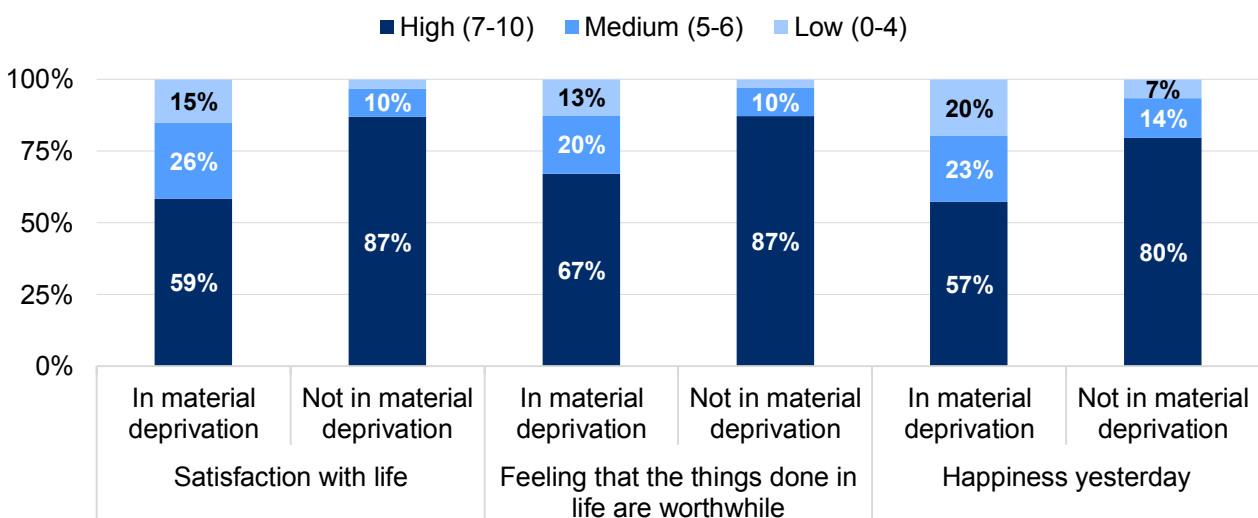
Similarly, people who provide care for family members or friends are more likely to be materially deprived. 30% of people who spend twenty hours or more a week caring for family or friends are materially deprived, compared with 15% of other people.

## Well-being

24% of those in material deprivation have a mental health disorder, compared with 6% of those not in material deprivation.

Chart 5 shows three measures of [subjective well-being](#). All respondents were asked to give a response on a scale of 0-10 where 0 is a measure of low well-being and 10 is an indicator of high well-being. Those in material deprivation were less likely to give a high score to any of these questions.

**Chart 5: Measures of mental well-being, by material deprivation**

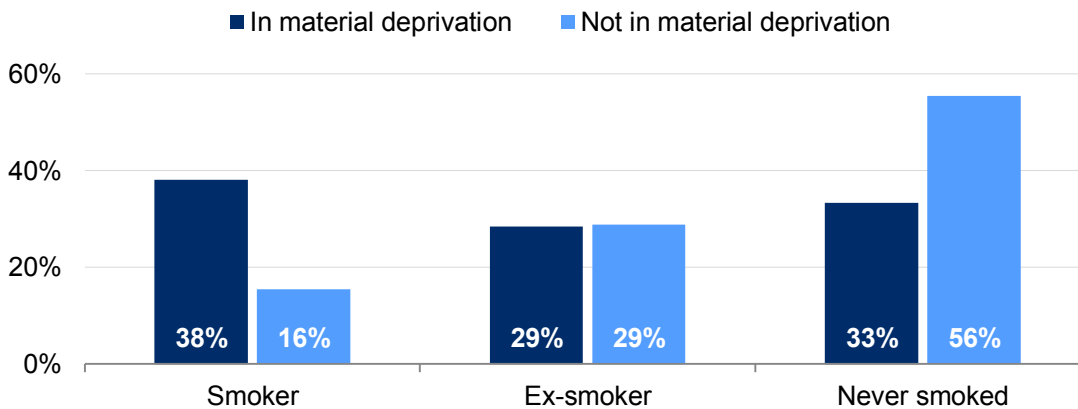


Finally, materially deprived people are more likely to be lonely, with 37% reporting being lonely compared with 12% of those not in material deprivation. As with all analysis of this kind, we are unable to say whether being in material deprivation has an impact on mental well-being; or whether having an illness makes a person more likely to become materially deprived.

## Lifestyle

38% of people in material deprivation currently smoke, compared with 16% of those not in material deprivation (Chart 6). 33% of people in material deprivation have never smoked, compared with 56% of people who are not materially deprived.

**Chart 6: Smoking status by material deprivation**



People in material deprivation are more likely to be obese, with a body mass index (BMI) of 30 and above; 29% being obese compared with 21% of people who are not in material deprivation.

However, people in material deprivation are less likely to drink over the guideline of 14 units per week: 12% of materially deprived people drink above the guidelines, compared with 19% of people who aren't deprived.

15% of people in material deprivation have five servings of fruit and vegetables a day, and 17% consume no fruit or vegetables at all daily. This compares with 25% and 8% respectively of people not in material deprivation.

45% of people in material deprivation were active for the recommended 150 minutes per week compared with 54% of non-materially deprived adults. Of the materially deprived, 43% were inactive (active for less than 30 minutes a week) compared with 32% of not in deprivation.

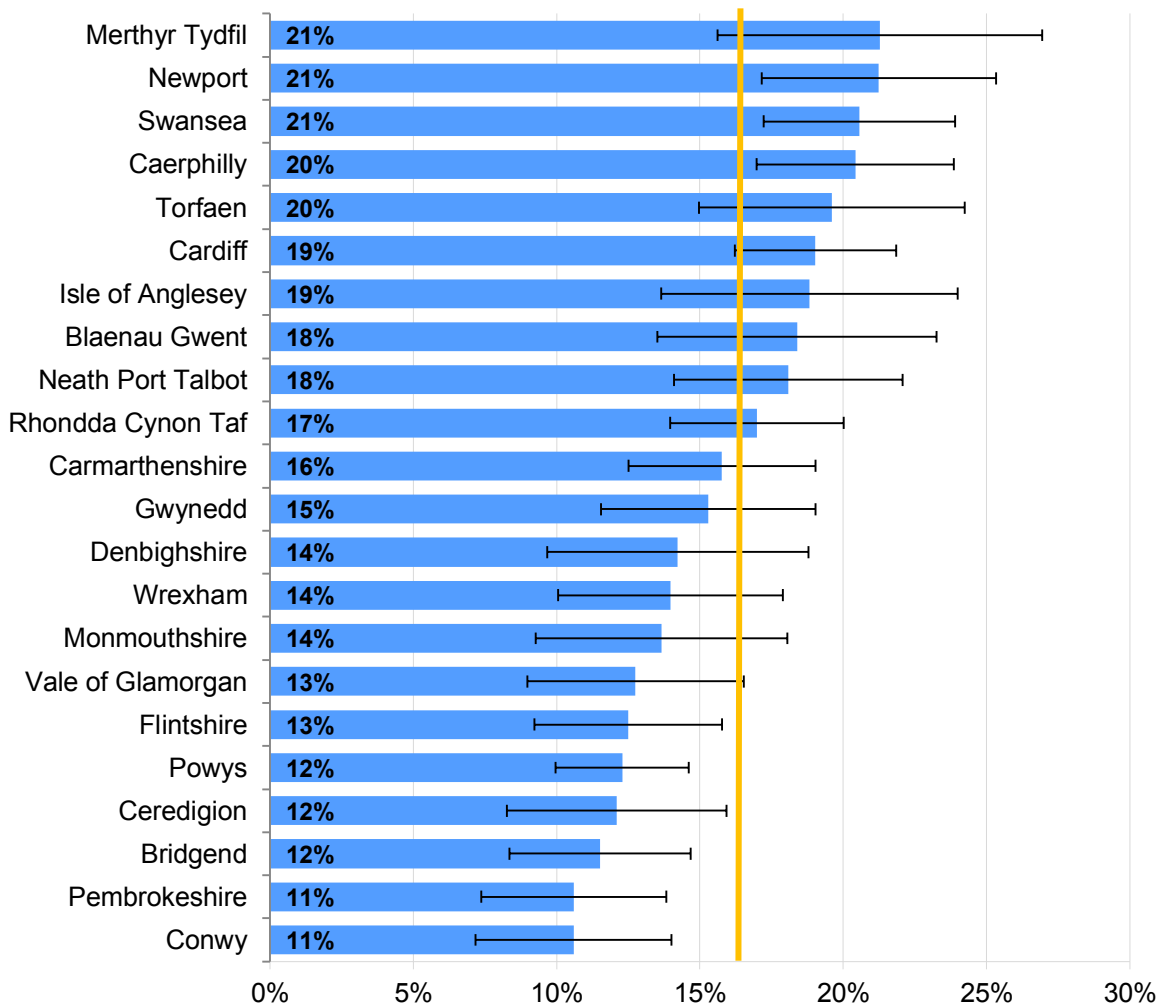
Similarly, materially deprived people are less likely to regularly participate in sport – 22% participated in a sport three or more times a week, compared with 34% of those who were not materially deprived. 46% of the materially deprived had participated in some type of sport in the previous four weeks compared with 62% of those not in deprivation.

## Location

In general, areas that are built-up or urban have a higher proportion of people in material deprivation than other areas: 18% of people living in urban areas (defined as areas with more than 10,000 residents) are deprived compared with 13% in rural areas.

Chart 7 shows the proportion of households in material deprivation for each local authority whilst the vertical reference line at 16% indicates the national average. The chart includes error bars to show the margin of error for each result. Local authorities whose error bars do not overlap have significantly different proportions of material deprivation (e.g. Conwy and Newport).

**Chart 7: Material deprivation by local authority**



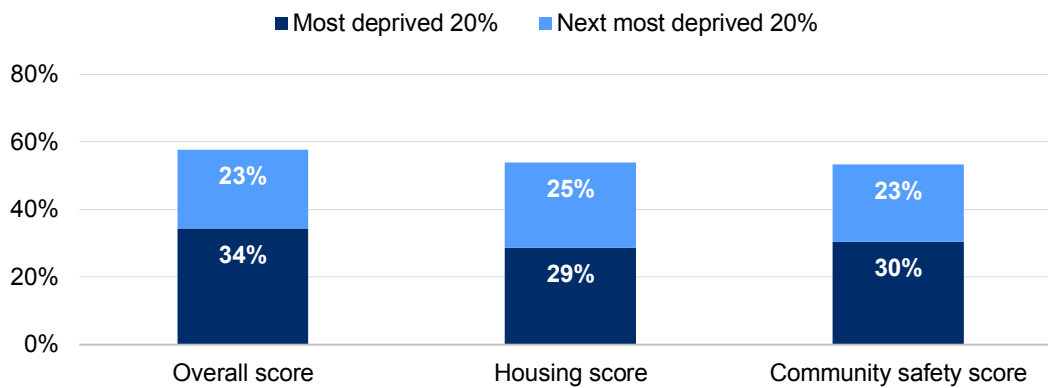
## Accommodation

46% of people living in social housing are materially deprived, compared with 31% in private rented accommodation and 7% in owner-occupied housing. Materially deprived people are more likely to be dissatisfied with their accommodation, with 17% saying they are dissatisfied compared with 3% of those who are not materially deprived. This difference may be due, in part, to noise pollution: 38% of those in material deprivation are regularly bothered by noise from outside their homes, compared with 21% of those not in material deprivation.

20% of those in material deprivation said that their home is not kept in a good state of repair, compared with 3% of people who aren't deprived.

Over half of those experiencing household material deprivation also live in areas classified as the 40% most deprived based on the overall index and the housing, and community safety domains defined by the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#). See Chart 8.

**Chart 8: Percentage of materially deprived people living in deprived areas**



## Problems and disputes

Overall, 49% of people in material deprivation had experienced a problem or dispute in the past 12 months compared with 20% of those not in material deprivation.

**Chart 9: Problems and disputes by material deprivation**

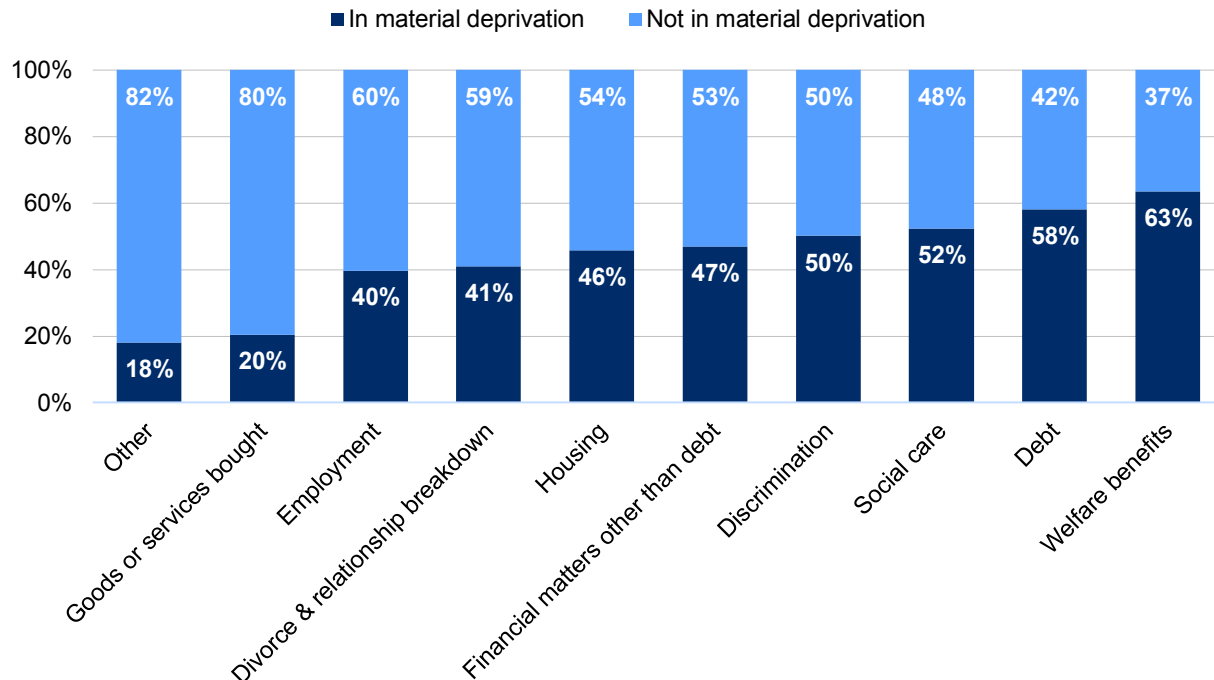


Chart 9 indicates the types of problem and dispute encountered and how these varied across the deprived and non-deprived groups. Of all people citing debt and welfare issues, over half were people in material deprivation (despite this group accounting for only 16% of the total adult population). Conversely, a much higher proportion of the employment and the goods and services disputes were experienced by those who were not deprived.



Another notable difference between the two groups was that when asked about the most serious problem faced in the past 12 months, 52% of those who were not deprived said they had sorted it out, compared with 28% of those in material deprivation.

### **Adult material deprivation – further analysis**

In-depth analysis was carried out to assess the independent effect of a wide range of factors on material deprivation, whilst taking account of the influence of the other factors. This allows us to 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<sup>4</sup>, 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<sup>5</sup> 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.

A number of these associations have been discussed already but the full list of significant factors linked with being in material deprivation (from this particular model) was:

- Age between 25 and 44
- Being female
- Being separated or divorced
- Being in poor general health
- Having low-level or no qualifications
- Being unemployed
- No-one working in household
- Children in the household
- Living in social housing
- Not having use of the internet
- Not having use of a car
- Being a carer
- Feeling lonely
- Feeling anxious
- Having low life satisfaction
- Being dissatisfied with accommodation
- Living in rural areas
- Living in the 20% most deprived areas of Wales
- Living in a particular authority: for example, Wrexham or Conwy rather than Isle of Anglesey or Newport
- Disagreeing that local people are asked before their local authority sets its budget
- Not participating in sporting activity 3 or more times a week
- Not attending arts events three or more times a year

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<sup>4</sup> See [Regression](#) explanation and [technical report](#)

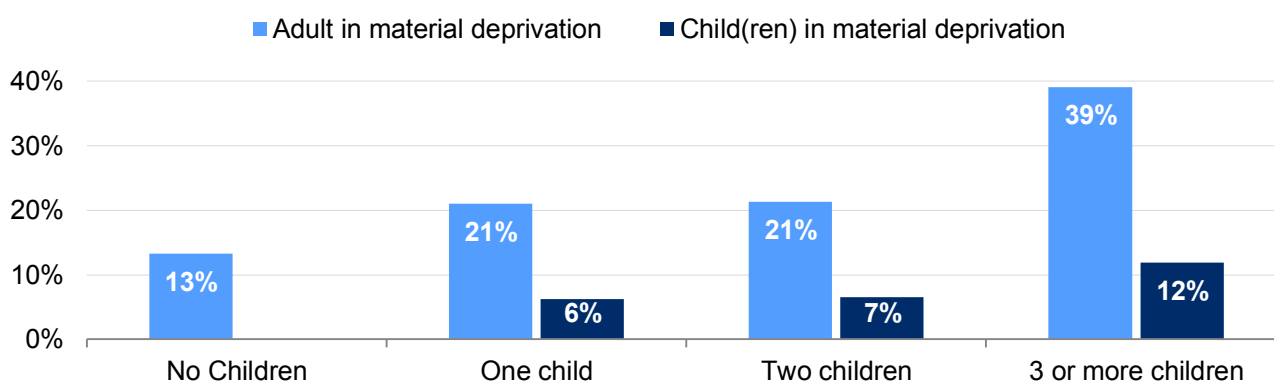
<sup>5</sup> The full list of factors considered in this regression model were: Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Marital Status, Limiting long-term illness, General Health, Highest educational qualification, Economic status, Working status of household, Household type, Number of children, Household contains child under five, Household contains person under 19, Tenure, Internet use, Car available for use, Whether a carer, Loneliness, Anxiousness yesterday, Satisfaction with life, Satisfaction with accommodation, Urban/rural area, WIMD overall score, Local Authority, Agree that local people are asked about local authority's budget, agree they can take part in decisions about local services, Play sport 3 times a week, Participates in arts events three times a year.

## Child material deprivation

We have already discussed how adults with dependent children are more often in material deprivation than are adults with no children in the household. However, the same level of deprivation may not be experienced by the children of the household as that experienced by the adult(s). Parents will typically protect their children from the worst effects of deprivation as discussed in [detailed analysis](#) of the 2014-15 National Survey data. 7% of under-16s in Wales live in material deprivation, whilst 19% of working-age adults (parents and non-parents) do.

Households with a greater number of children are more likely to experience poverty, with 39% of households containing 3 or more children being materially deprived, and with 12% of the children in these larger families classed as deprived. See Chart 10.

**Chart 10: Adults and children in material deprivation, by number of children**

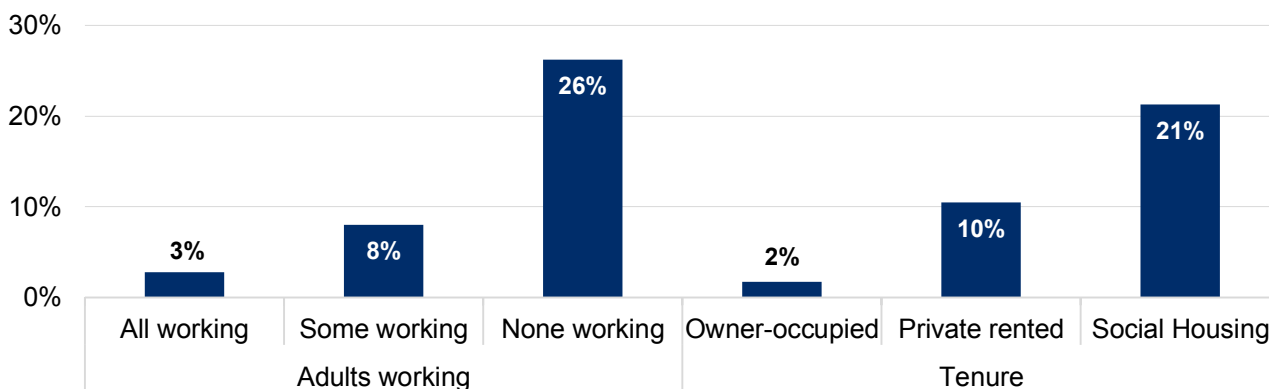


As shown earlier, single parents are the household type most likely to be experiencing material deprivation. Similarly, children living in single parent households are more likely to experience material deprivation than those with two parents living together: 17% of children in single parent households are materially deprived, compared with 6% of children in other households.

Further analysis showed that when holding other variables constant<sup>6</sup>, the number of adults working in the household and the tenure type were the most significant factors predicting whether a child was in material deprivation. (Chart 11)

<sup>6</sup> The full list of factors considered (relating to the parent) in this regression model were: Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Marital Status, Limiting long-term illness, General health, Highest educational qualification, Economic status, Working status of household, Household type, Number of children, Whether household contains child under five, Tenure, Internet use, Car available for use, Whether a carer, Loneliness, Anxiousness yesterday, Satisfaction with life, Satisfaction with accommodation, Urban/rural area, WIMD overall score, Local authority, Plays sports three times a week, Participates in arts events three times a year.

**Chart 11: Children in material deprivation, by working status and tenure**



In addition to the above, further analysis found that the parent's mental well-being, satisfaction with accommodation, and highest level of qualification were associated with whether a child is materially deprived or not.

## **Pensioner material deprivation**

Pensioner-specific [questions](#) were introduced in 2016-17 and asked again in 2017-18. 7% of pensioners are materially deprived (no change from 2016-17). Again as with adult material deprivation we carried out further analysis on the pensioner deprivation results and found that while holding other factors<sup>7</sup> constant, the following were most closely linked with a pensioner being deprived:

- Living in an isolated area
- Living in private rented accommodation
- Being dissatisfied with accommodation
- Being lonely
- Having low satisfaction with life
- Being in bad health
- Not having access to a car or van
- Not attending arts event

Analysis of this type, as discussed previously, provides strong evidence of association between the test factor (in material deprivation or not) and the explanatory variables. In the list above we might assume that not having access to a car or van is a result of being deprived. However, we must avoid drawing conclusions on whether a particular characteristic causes material deprivation, or vice versa.

<sup>7</sup> The full list of factors considered in this regression model were: Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Religion, Sexual orientation, Marital status, Limiting long-term illness, General health, Highest educational qualification, Economic status, Working status of household, Household type, Number of children, Household contains someone under five, Household contains someone under 19, Tenure, Internet use, Car available for use, Whether a carer, Loneliness, Anxiousness yesterday, Satisfaction with life, Satisfaction with accommodation, Urban/rural area, WIMD overall score, Local Authority, Agree that local people are asked about local authority's budget, agree they can take part in decisions about local services, Play sport 3 times a week, Participates in arts events three times a year.

## **Food poverty**

People were asked two questions about food poverty.

- 97% of people said they ate meals with meat, fish (or a vegetarian equivalent) at least every other day. However, 2% said they couldn't afford to do this, and 2% said they didn't do this for some other reason.
- 4% 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

Of materially-deprived people, 8% couldn't afford to eat meals with meat, fish or equivalent at least every other day; and 12% said there had been at least one day in the past fortnight where they had missed a meal due to lack of money.

93% of those who couldn't afford to eat meat, fish or equivalent at least every other day are also not eating five fruit or vegetables a day.

## 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 are taken from the [Family Resources Survey](#)<sup>8</sup>. 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.

**Working-age (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 **not** staying with relatives at their home?<sup>9</sup>
- 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?<sup>10</sup>

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?<sup>10</sup>

These items are really for their ‘household’ as opposed to them personally which we sometimes refer to it as ‘household material deprivation’.

**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 had particular items, and for items that they didn’t have they were then asked the reasons why: ‘didn’t have the money’, ‘it’s not a priority on their current income’, ‘their health / disability prevents them’, ‘too

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<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Respondents, who did not have a holiday away from home not staying with relatives, were subsequently asked whether they had a holiday away from home, whilst staying with relatives.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

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?<sup>11</sup>
- 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?<sup>12</sup>

**Parents with dependent children**<sup>13</sup>: 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?
- 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?

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<sup>11</sup> This question was asked in a different way. For analysis, the responses were classified into a binary can afford / cannot afford.

<sup>12</sup> 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

<sup>13</sup> 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.

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?<sup>14</sup>
- 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?<sup>15</sup>
- Does/do your child/ren go on school trips?<sup>16</sup>

## 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](#)<sup>17</sup>. 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.

- Working-age adults (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 working-age adult question set and child question sets) were classed as deprived
- Deprived pensioners and working-age adults (non-pensioners) were subsequently grouped together to create one classification for all adults.

In this bulletin the working-age adult 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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<sup>14</sup> Only asked of respondents with children of different sexes over the age of 10.

<sup>15</sup> Only asked of respondents with children under 6 and not in primary school.

<sup>16</sup> Only asked of respondents with children over 6 or under 6 and in primary school.

<sup>17</sup> 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.

## 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 2017-18 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 asked in 2017-18 (and 2016-17), in line with the FRS.

A [detailed report](#) was previously published analysing the 2016-17 material deprivation results.

## Terms and definitions

### 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In any paid employment or self-employment (or away temporarily)</li><li>• On a government sponsored training scheme</li><li>• Doing unpaid work for a business that you or a relative owns</li><li>• Waiting to take up paid work already obtained</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unemployed and looking for work</li><li>• Intending to look for work but prevented by temporary sickness or injury (28 days or less)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full-time student (including on holiday)</li><li>• Unable to work because of long-term sickness or disability</li><li>• Retired</li><li>• Looking after home or family</li><li>• Doing something else</li></ul>

### 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.



## **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.

## **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 2017-18 (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018).

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 2017-18 comprised 23,517 addresses chosen randomly from the PAF. Interviewers visited each address, randomly selected one adult (aged 16+) in the household, and carried out a 44-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 11,381 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 find whether a 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 as well as 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 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.

## **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. 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.

Where National Survey results are compared with results from other sources, we have not checked that confidence intervals do not overlap.

## **Regression analysis**

Where further analysis has been carried out selection of the initial variables used in the regression was based on; the results from cross-analysis, policy direction, and the practicality of using the variable. The results for some factors were only available for a sub-sample of respondents, or there were a large number of 'missing' results which resulted in a substantial drop in the sample size on which the regression model could be tested. For this reason some variables/factors were omitted from the investigation. The final models 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'. It is worth noting that 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.

More details on the methodology used in the regression analysis in this report are available in the [Technical Report: Approach to regression analysis and models produced](#).

## **Technical report**

More detailed information on the survey methodology is set out in the [technical report](#) for the survey.

## **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 20 June 2018.

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@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:surveys@wales.gsi.gov.uk).

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