Department for Work & Pensions

DWP Latest Updates & Developments

Family Finance Surveys User Conference – July 2025

Introduction

Joanna Littlechild, Head of Surveys Branch

Setting the scene

- The presentation today focuses on analytical updates and developments.

- We develop our statistics in the context of the Code of Practice and are focusing here on some of our methodological developments or data and results recently published.

DWP Statistical Work Programme

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dwp-statistical-work-programme/statistical-work-programme

Family Resources Survey Release Strategy

Family Resources Survey: release strategy - GOV.UK

User Engagement via StatsUserNetwork

- As part of increasing user engagement for DWP Statistics, our Statistics producers publicise their releases on StatsUserNetwork.

What is StatsUserNetwork?

- The forum was launched in early 2025 and replaces StatsUserNet. This site became an archive from 1 May 2025 allowing users to still access all historical material without logging in.

- It is Government Statistical Service branded, ONS funded and maintained for benefit of all users of official statistics.

- StatsUserNetwork is a discussion forum for users and producers of Official Statistics. It allows you to create posts and add comments, connect with other users and join Statistical Theme Groups that are relevant to you.

How do I sign up on StatsUserNetwork?

- Sign up to set up a profile via: https://www.statsusernetwork.ons.gov.uk/

Updates on Children in Low-Income Families and Below Average Resources Statistics

- ## Children in Low-Income Families

  - A consultation note on proposals for developing After Housing Costs measures of local area child poverty statistics has been published: Children in low income families - After Housing Costs Consultation Note - GOV.UK. Comments and feedback from users are welcome by 31 July 2025.
  - Please email: stats.consultation-2018@dwp.gov.uk if you have any questions.

- ## Below Average Resources

  - We published Below Average Resources statistics for financial years ending 2001 to 2023 and a response to the public consultation in January. Significant work remains to develop the measure, updates will be made via the statistical work programme.
  - Please email team.povertystats@dwp.gov.uk if you have any questions or feedback.

Surveys Branch Latest Releases

Surveys Branch Team Members

Family Resources Survey (FRS)

team.frs@dwp.gov.uk

Mitch Chambers

Code of Practice for Statistics

Trustworthiness

- Our **Release Strategy** continues to give transparency on plans for future years

- Family Resources Survey: release strategy - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Quality

- Remains a large-scale survey with a big pool of respondents – nearly 16,800 households in last year's sample

- Keen focus on accuracy; face-to-face interviewing and reference to documents wherever possible, and an increasing use of admin data

Value

- continues to focus on concepts which are core to the DWP policy arena

  income, from both work & earnings, pensions, or state benefit receipt, or other sources such as investments

  characteristics such as demographics, tenure, disability, carers, child maintenance and childcare

  other facets such as material deprivation, pension participation, household food security & food bank usage

Family Resources Survey   state of play

2023-24 publication & release of data

For the public   GOV.UK
For analysts   Stat-Xplore
For researchers   microdata   @   UKDA / ONS *Secure Research Service*

New aspects for 2023-24

Material deprivation   …data from both old & new questions available
New variables   …armed forces / care leavers / doctors / food variables
Scottish Child Payment   …consultation with ScotGov → increased precision
Other alterations

Evolved approach to background info >> separation of material - Quality Assessment Report considers end to end process & data quality

Getting started with the FRS - a new training module

Getting started with the Family Resources Survey (FRS)

START MODULE

- New training to support use of FRS microdata
- Developed through collaboration between UKDS and DWP
- Free, interactive and user-friendly
  - Self-test knowledge quiz included
- Support both new and established FRS users

Family Resources Survey   looking ahead through 2025

- Field initiatives / Response monitoring

  Sample size, composition & mode;   also, field capacity

- **Next publication** – March 2026

  This will be the **2024-25** dataset – 16,300 households
  Timetable, interim deadlines, progress …

- Refresh of Council Tax variables

  Council Tax Band no longer asked at interview
  Editor input & QA – using valuation list data (manually for 24/25)
  Pathway to admin linking → reduced respondent burden

- Other changes

  Add in new variables:
  - Collective Defined Contribution (CDC) Pensions income
  - Childcare – distinguishing between typical term-time & school holiday childcare
  - Harmonising of marital status with other surveys and the Census

  Tweaks to excel tables
 Winter fuel payments

Households Below Average Income (HBAI)

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2

team.hbai@dwp.gov.uk

Jo Cockerham and Dawn McDonagh
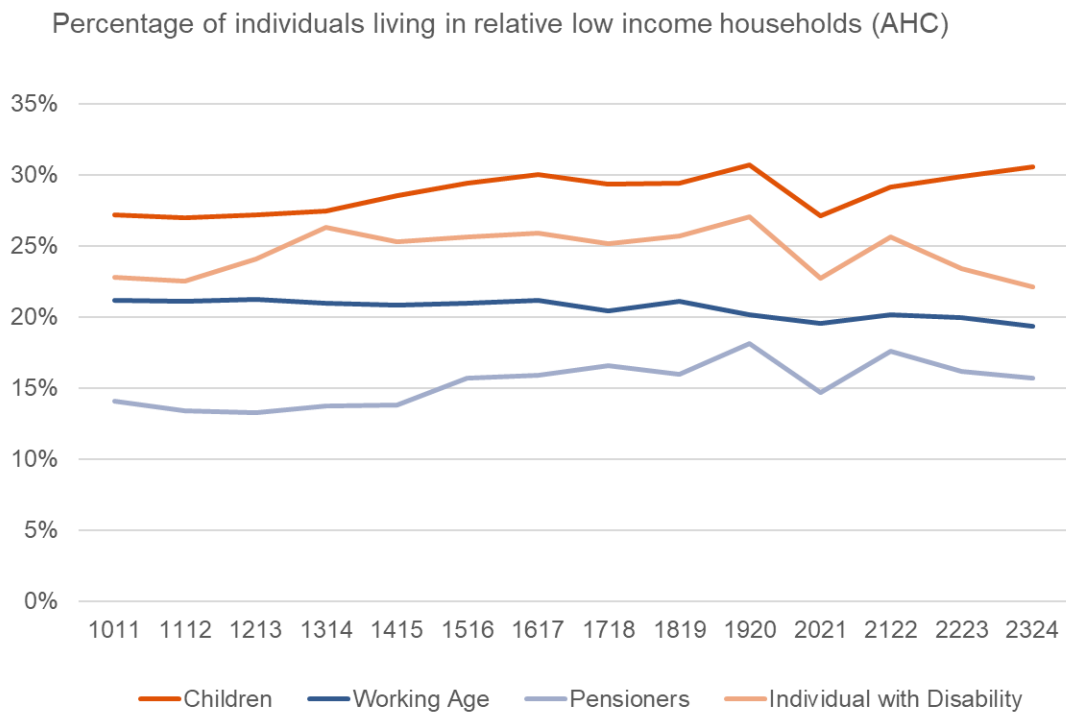
HBAI Introduction

- **Households Below Average Income (HBAI)** is an Accredited Official Statistic, produced annually and presents estimates of the number and percentage of individuals by measures of poverty including:

    - Living in low-income households
    - In material deprivation
    - In combined low income and material deprivation
    - Household food security status
    - Household food bank usage
    - Income inequality/deciles/quintiles

- HBAI data is available from 1994-95 to 2023-24 and the underlying data source is the Family Resources Survey (FRS).

- It meets DWP's statutory obligation to publish a measure of relative and absolute low income; and combined low income and material deprivation for children under section 4 of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.

- Main findings presented in our 2023-24 Report, our Quality and Information Methodology Report as well as extensive published tables are available on gov.uk.

- Data is available on Stat-Xplore, along with a user guide and via the UK Data Service, again with extensive user documentation.

- Please do contact our team mailbox: team.hbai@dwp.gov.uk with feedback and with any queries.
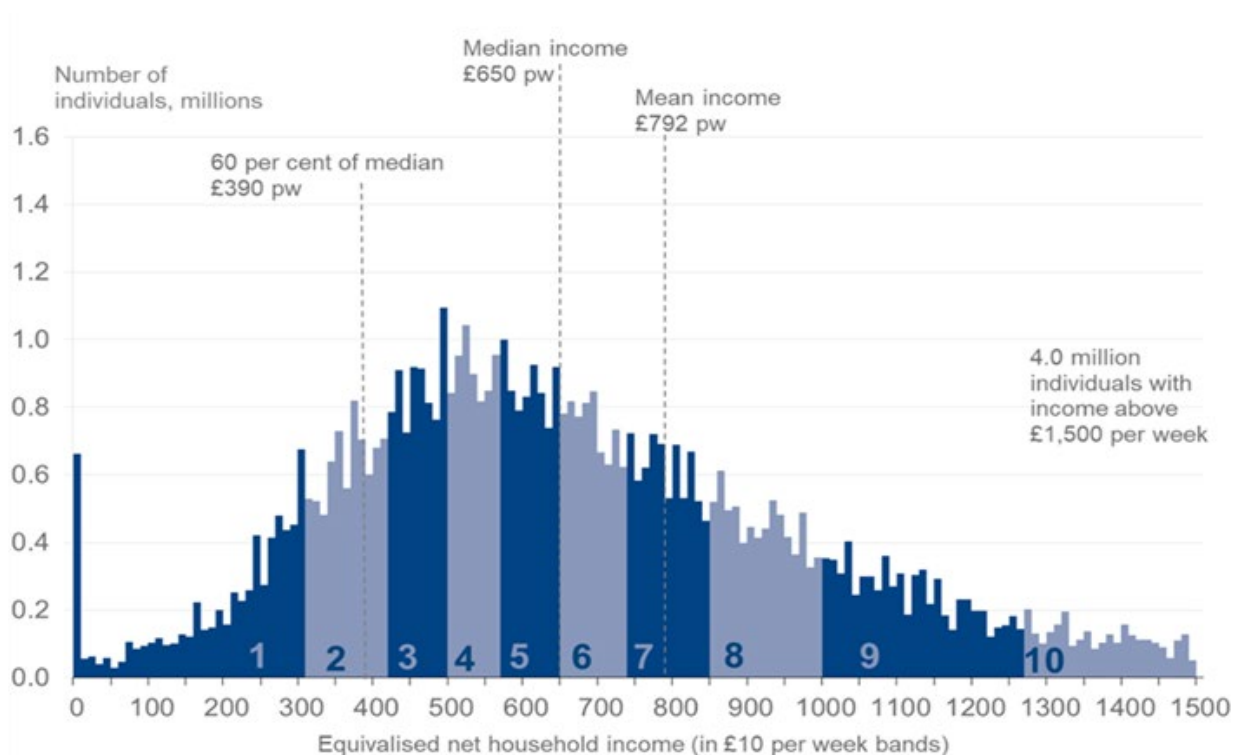
There was a 2% decrease in real terms median household income.

Percentage of individuals living in relative low income households (AHC)

Legend: Children, Working Age, Pensioners, Individual with Disability

- The percentage of all individuals in relative low income (before and after housing costs) remained the same. The proportion of individuals in absolute low income BHC increased, whereas for AHC the proportion stayed the same.

- Low-income rates for working-age adults were broadly flat compared with 2022-23, with a small decrease in rates for relative low income AHC.

- Relative pensioner BHC rates were broadly flat, and both absolute pensioner rates showed increases.

- The largest increases in low-income measures were seen for children, with absolute measures showing the largest increase.

- The percentage of children in food insecure households increased, while for other groups this has remained stable.

- The percentage of individuals in households that had accessed a food bank in the 30 days prior to interview increased. The largest increases in household food bank usage were recorded for children.

Percentage of children in absolute low income, FYE 2003 to FYE 2024

Legend: Before Housing Costs, After Housing Costs
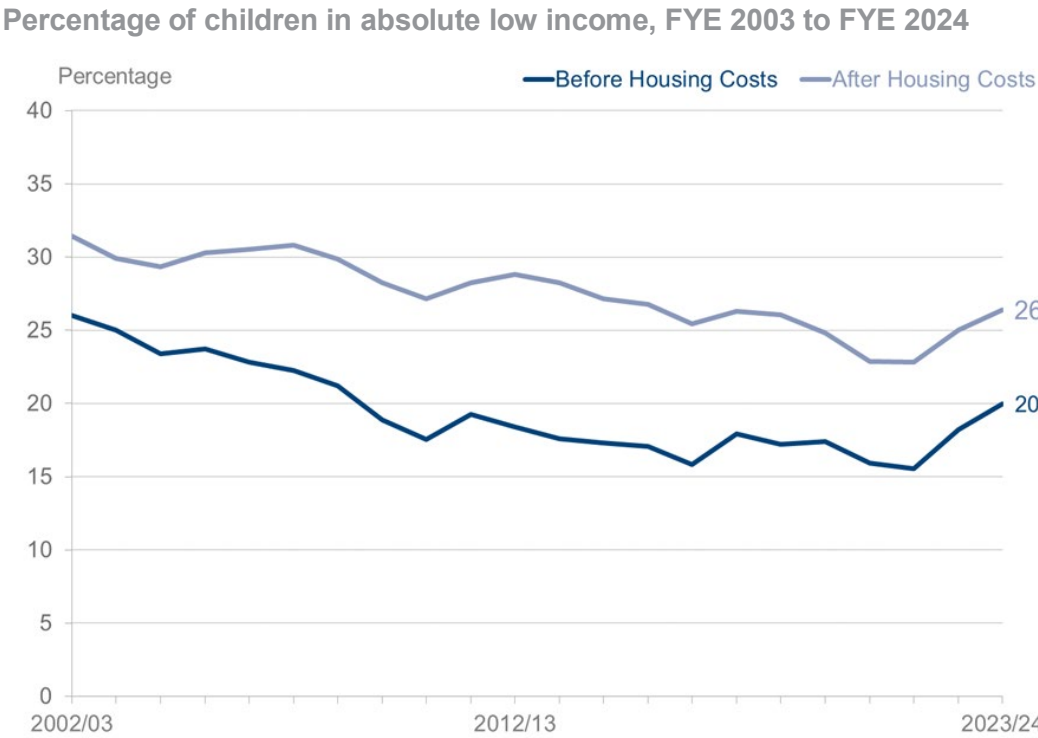
HBAI 2023-24 publication and forward look

To note for 2023-24 publication:

- **Review of Material Deprivation Measures:** as announced in the FRS Release Strategy and Statistical Work Programme, the first results based on the updated questions were published in HBAI 2023-24 release in March 2025.

- **Cost of Living Support Schemes, Warm Home Discount** and **Scottish Winter Heating Payment** were included in HBAI estimates of household income. A minor correction to 2022-23 data has also been implemented.

- **Three-year average estimates re-instated:** Regional and ethnicity estimates back to using 3-year averages, while any period including 2020-21 are based on two data points only.

- **Level of educational attainment variable reinstated:** The FRS variable EDUCQUAL has been corrected and the HBAI variable EDATTAIN, used to present estimates of low income for working-age adults by their level of educational attainment, is available.

Developments for 2024-25 publication:

Base FRS developments which impact on HBAI statistics are:
- Revisions to HBAI data from 2018-19 to 2023-24 due to transformative use of administrative data (creating a structural break).
- Questionnaire changes approved in questionnaire consultation (including Council Tax variable changes).

- **Change of the absolute low-income reference year:** as announced in the FRS Release Strategy, the reference year will change from 2010-11 to 2024-25.

- **Revised outputs for HBAI education variable EDATTAIN on historical datasets:** Corrected data for this HBAI variable for the survey year 2022-23 will be available in March 2026.

Updated Material Deprivation Measures

Material Deprivation is a direct measure of poverty based on the lack of everyday items.

FRS respondents are asked a series of questions about access to goods and services.

HBAI uses these questions to produce material deprivation measures and report on these estimates alongside other low income and poverty measures.

Material Deprivation Review: The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) Review of Income-based Poverty Statistics was published in May 2021. Following the recommendations, DWP and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) conducted a review of the UK Material Deprivation measures and the associated FRS questions.

The LSE Review was published in March 2024.

Updated questions were added from FRS 2023-24 and DWP updated the methodology to measure Material Deprivation at the same time.

This update involved close and successful collaboration across DWP, with LSE, our FRS Expert Advisory Group, the Devolved Governments and beyond. **We thank everyone involved.**

Key updates to material deprivation measures from 2023-24 are:

Updated questions	29 updated questions to better reflect current necessities, with core household questions and reasons for lacking an item for all groups. Question routing was improved to collect more accurate reasons for lacking an item.
Definition of a lacked item	Only items lacked due to financial constraints are counted, consistent across all groups. Previously, the pensioner measure included wider reasons.
Material deprivation thresholds	Move to a simple count method: • 4 or more items for children • 5 or more items for working-age adults • 4 or more items for pensioners. Easier for users to understand compared to the previous prevalence-weighted score.
Additional measures presented	Measures presented in the HBAI report have been extended to improve comparability across groups and ensure consistency in reporting all material deprivation measures.
Technical report	Detailed technical report on the decisions made that underpin the updated measures and an assessment of the break in the series between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Updated Material Deprivation Measures

Estimates for 2023-24: Estimates based on the updated measures give the following percentages of individuals in material deprivation:

- Children: 28%
- Working-age adults: 23%
- Pensioners: 11%

Presentation of Estimates: The structural break in the series in 2023-24 is presented by a dotted vertical line in charts and labelling in tables. We advise users not to make a direct comparison of changes in material deprivation estimates between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Impact: The updated methodology aims to provide measures of material deprivation that use:
- **updated questions** that are **more relevant** to society today
- an **improved data collection methodology**
- a **transparent, simple count approach** to counting the number of items lacked
- a **consistent** definition of lacking an item across groups.

Please refer to the detailed [technical report](#) for more information.

Percentage of children in combined relative low income (below 70% of median income Before Housing Costs) and child material deprivation, 2004-05 to 2023-24
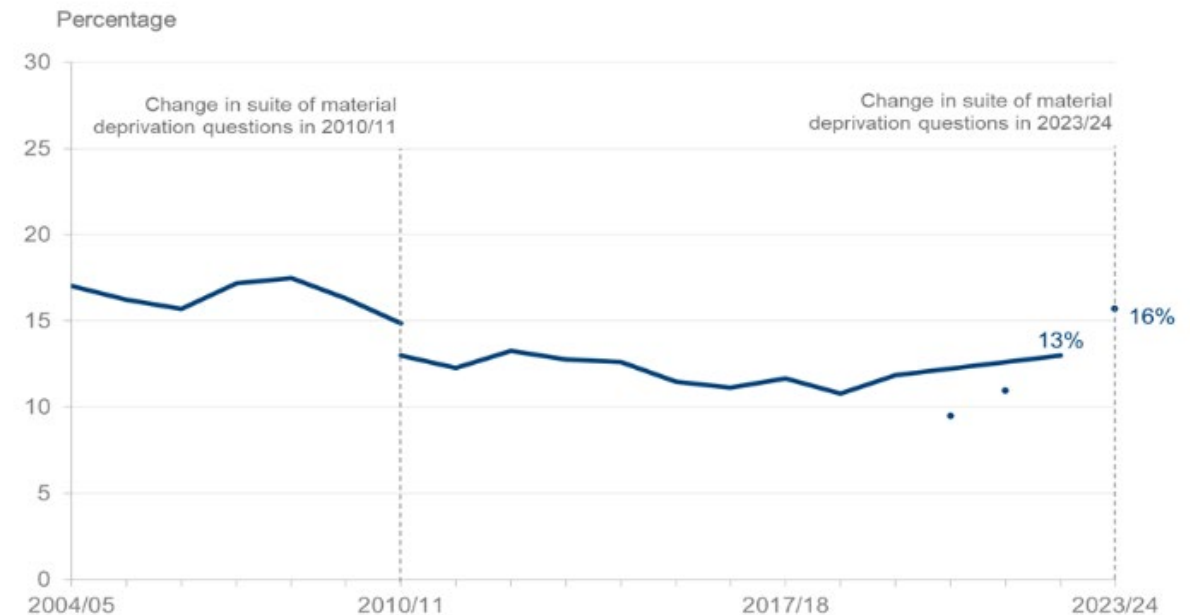
Estimates for the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic period (2020-21 and 2021-22) continue to be presented as individual data points. We advise users not to make a direct comparison of changes in material deprivation estimates over this period with those published prior to the pandemic.

Pensioners' Incomes (PI) and Take-up

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pensioners-incomes-series-statistics--3
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up--2
pensioners-incomes@dwp.gov.uk
irb.takeup@dwp.gov.uk

Kate Martin

Pensioners' Incomes (PI) introduction

- Annual Accredited Official Statistics publication which reports on pensioners' incomes from the FRS.

- The statistics examine how much income pensioners get each week and where they get that income from. They look at how their incomes have changed over time and variations in income between different types of pensioners.

- Estimates are normally based on a sample of around 7,000 pensioners in private households in the UK. For financial year 23/24, there were 6,300 pensioner units in the sample.

- PI data is available to users on Stat-Xplore as well as on the UK Data Service (UKDS).

- From 22/23 and 23/24, PI estimates also included Cost of Living Payments.

Pensioners' incomes have increased since 1995 and been stable since 2010

Average median weekly income of pensioners (after housing costs) in financial year ending (FYE) 2024 prices (£)

Weekly income, £s
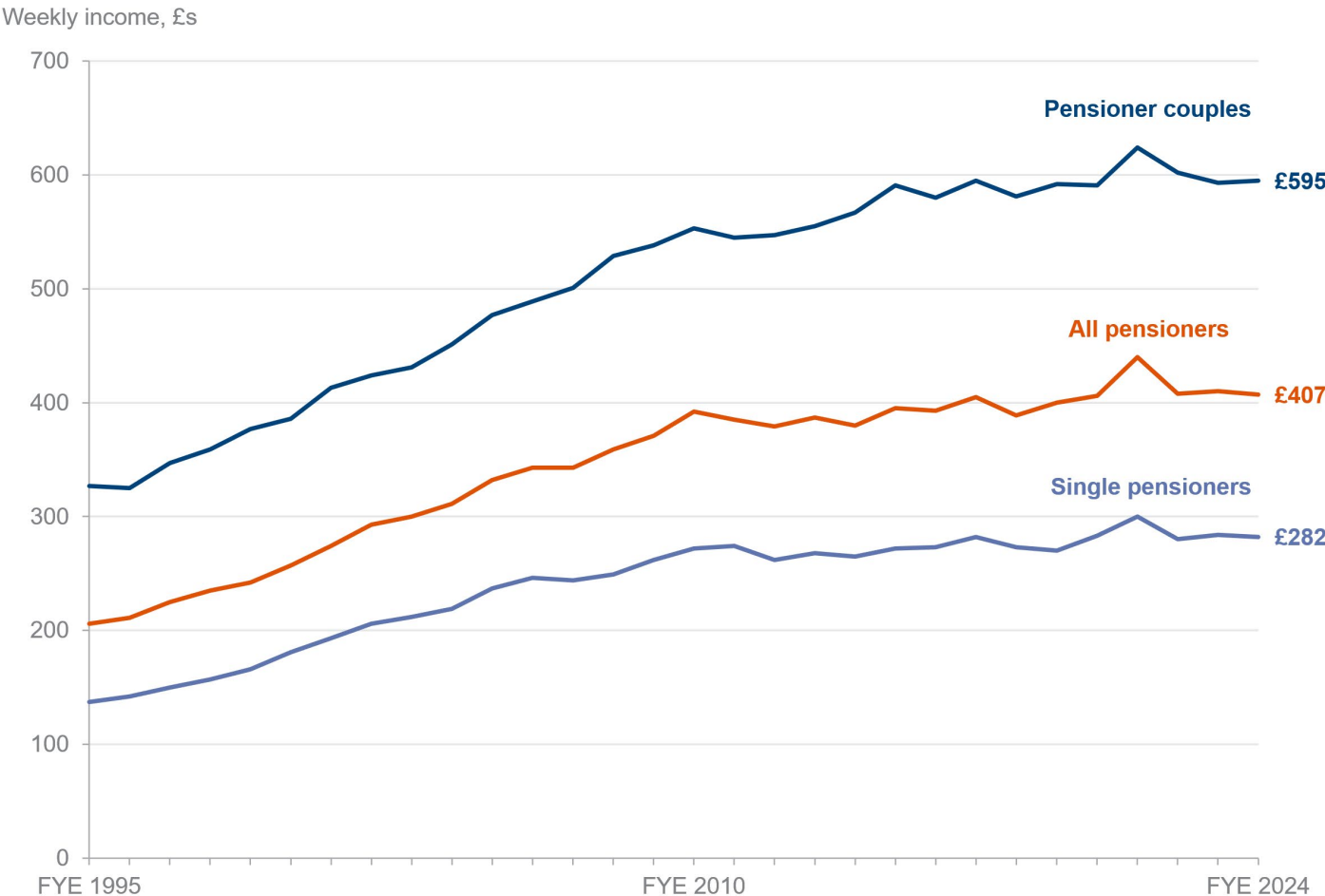
- In FYE 2024, pensioners had an average median income of £407, which was a statistically significant increase from FYE 1995, when it was £206.

- The average median income for pensioner couples was £595 per week. Single pensioners had an average income of £282 per week. This difference is statistically significant.

Income-related benefits: estimates of take-up introduction and latest results

- Annual statistical publication which reports on the take-up of benefits.

- Take-up refers to the receipt of benefits someone is entitled to - by caseload (% of eligible people) and expenditure (% of money claimed).

- FRS data is matched to administrative records to produce estimates for the main income-related benefits – currently Pension Age only – Pension Credit and Housing Benefit (for pensioners).

Overall PC caseload and expenditure figures for FYE 2023
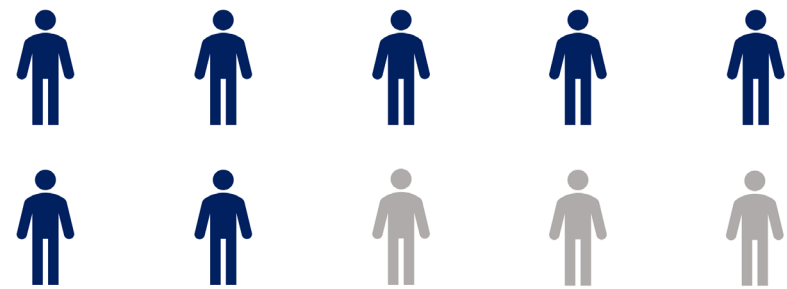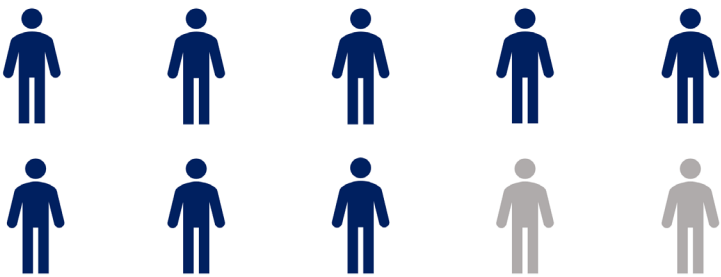
7 out of 10 of those entitled to PC claimed the benefit

78% of the total amount of PC that could have been claimed was claimed

Overall HB (for pensioners) caseload and expenditure figures for FYE 2023

8 out of 10 of those entitled to HB (for pensioners) claimed the benefit

86% of the total amount of HB (for pensioners) that could have been claimed was claimed

Income-related benefits: estimates of take-up for working age benefits

- We began development work on a take-up measure for UC but are unable to complete this work during the managed migration of claimants onto UC as part of the UC roll-out programme. Whilst there are still large numbers of people in receipt of legacy benefits & tax credits, a UC take-up rate would not provide the full picture of what was happening for the entitled working-age population.

- To develop a methodology that takes account of both UC and legacy benefits & tax credits there are several complex conceptual and methodology issues we are having to work through, for example in defining and calculating the estimate of Entitled Non-Recipients and their entitled amounts, as well as developing our understanding of new datasets for this analysis.

- As stated in the Department for Work and Pensions statistical work programme, this measure to assess UC and income-related legacy benefit take-up for the working-age population is currently under development. Our release strategy document on our publication home page will be updated as this develops.

Income Dynamics

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/income-dynamics-statistics

teamincome.dynamics@dwp.gov.uk

Priti Sunuwar

Income Dynamics (ID) uses Understanding Society (USoc), managed by the University of Essex, to present findings on persistent low income and movements into and out of low income, and across the wider income distribution. This year we included Wave 14 of USoc, with analysis covering the period 2010 to 2023.

Persistent low income: headline findings for the two most recent four-wave periods

Legend:
- BHC from 2018 and 2019 to 2021 and 2022
- BHC from 2019 and 2020 to 2022 and 2023
- AHC from 2018 and 2019 to 2021 and 2022
- AHC from 2019 and 2020 to 2022 and 2023
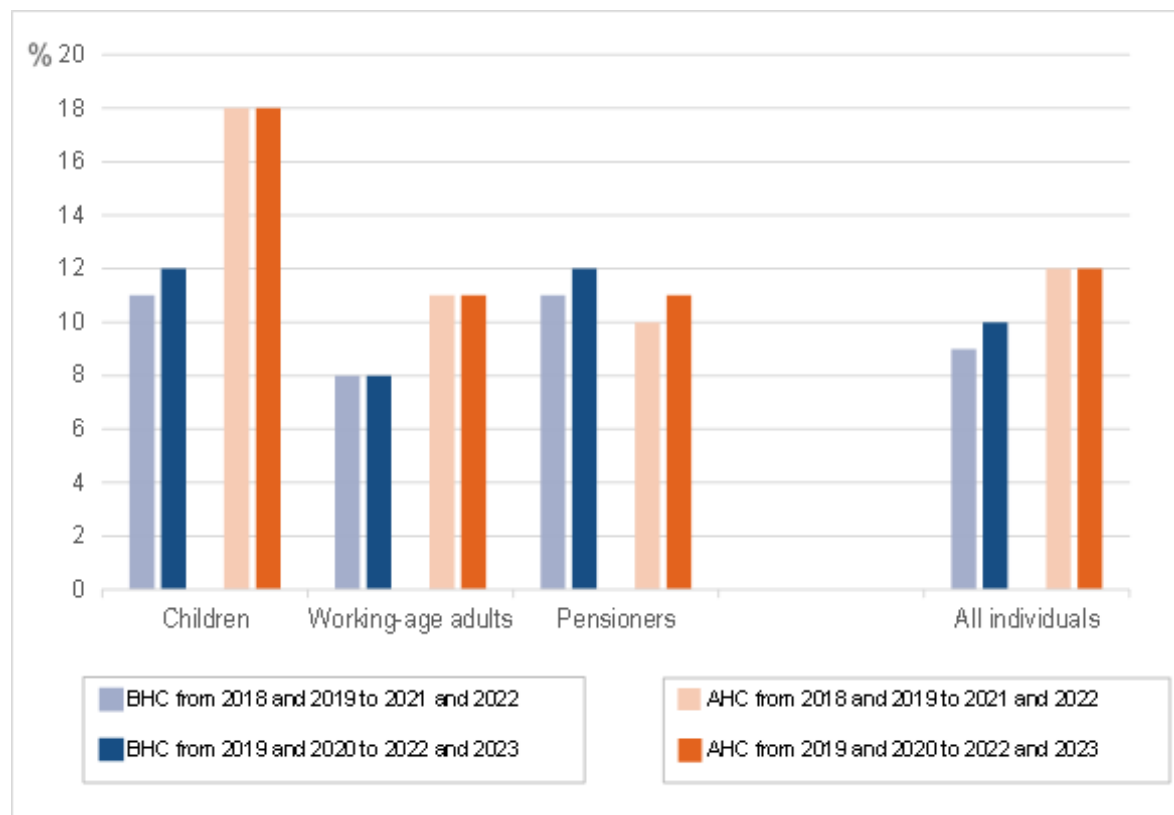
Persistent low income definition: in relative low income for any three out of the most recent four waves.

Persistent low income rates are lower than the single-year rates produced by HBAI, and are relatively **stable over time**:

- in the latest four-wave period, the overall rate of **Before Housing Cost (BHC)** persistent low income was 10% (compared to 9% in all periods since 2010-2011). This increase was observed among children and pensioners

- **BHC** rates are consistently lowest for working-age adults

- in the latest four-wave period, the overall rate of **After Housing Cost (AHC)** persistent low income remained at 12%. It was unchanged for children and working-age adults, while the rate for pensioners increased from 10% to 11%

- children are consistently most likely to experience persistent low income **AHC**

Income Dynamics 2010-2023: short-term movements into and out of relative low income ('entries and exits')

Over time, and both before and after housing costs:

Children are more likely to enter low income than working-age adults or pensioners
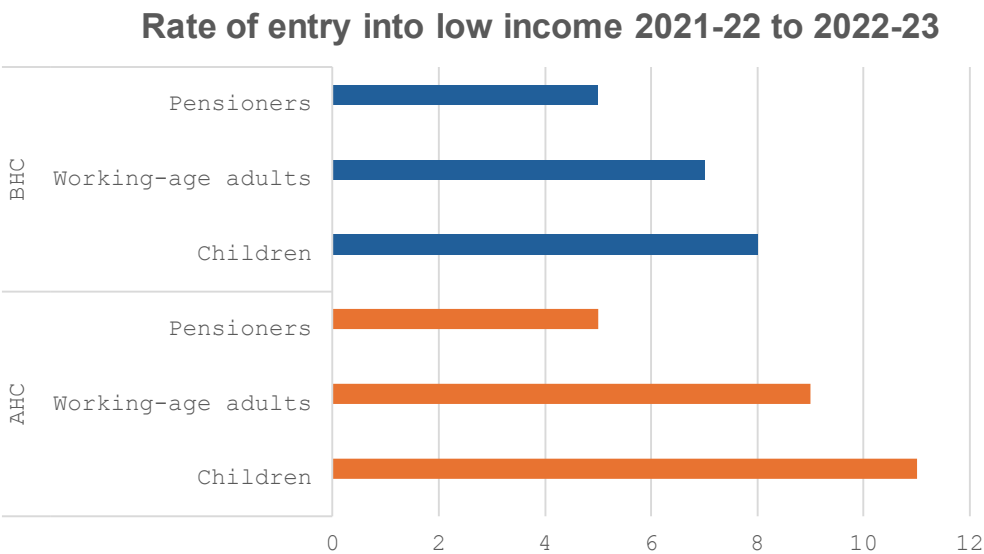
Working-age adults are generally more likely to exit from low income than children or pensioners

Rate of entry into low income 2021-22 to 2022-23

Rate of exit from low income 2021-22 to 2022-23
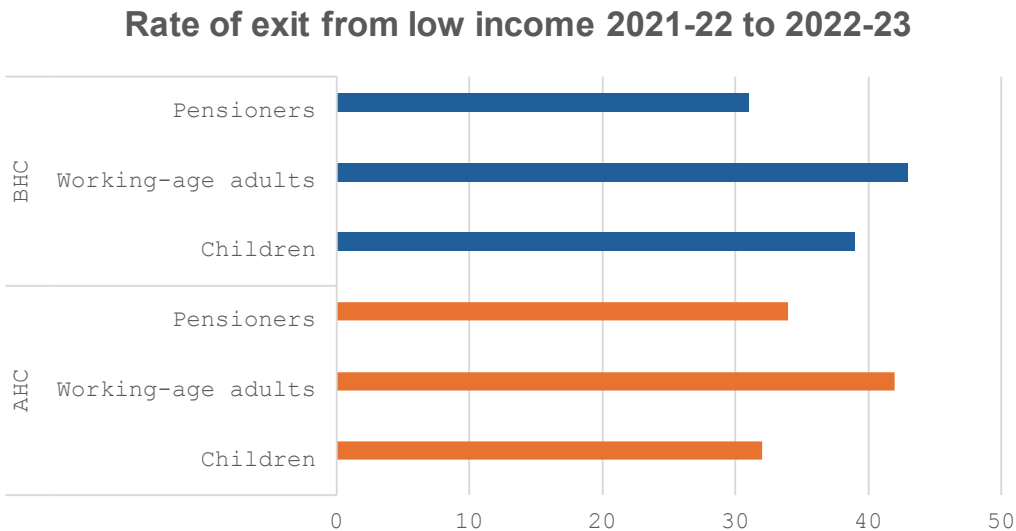
Note: exit rates are higher than entry rates because they're based on a smaller denominator.

Analysis of how different household-level changes are associated with these movements found that:

- changes in earnings, benefits and employment are closely linked to movements into and out of low income

- changes in number of full-time workers are more closely linked to movements into and out of low income than changes in any amount of work or changes in working status (e.g. a change from not working to working and vice versa).

Longer-term income mobility

Using **income quintiles** to consider income mobility across the full income distribution: income quintiles divide the individual income distribution into five equally- sized groups. Q5 have the highest income.

Comparing position in 2022-23 to 2015-16:

- Most movement towards the middle of distribution
- Less movement at the top and bottom

2015 and 2016 position in income distribution (BHC)

2022 and 2023 position in income distribution (BHC)

Q5 Highest / Q4 / Q3 / Q2 / Q1 Lowest

What's next?

- Preparing for next publication and inclusion of Wave 15 Understanding Society data.

- Presentational changes, including revising our tables to meet accessibility best practice guidelines.

Questions or feedback: teamincome.dynamics@dwp.gov.uk

Publication: Income Dynamics: 2010 to 2023 - GOV.UK

Any questions on latest releases?

Still to come:

Integrating administrative data into the FRS

Universal Credit Low Income Statistics

FRS Developments

Progress on integration of administrative data

Family Resources Survey Transformation: integrating administrative data

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/family-resources-survey-transformation-integrating-administrative-data-into-the-frs

donncha.burke@dwp.gov.uk
frs.transformation@dwp.gov.uk

Don Burke

Integrating admin data into the FRS

- We moved from consent to public task as the legal basis for linking with the introduction of GDPR in 2018. This means we can link all respondents (v 66% who consented) and successfully link 95%.

- We link respondents by name, date of birth and postcode to our Customer Information System to obtain National Insurance Numbers and create a lookup file consisting of **sernum, benunit, person, NINO**. We have 95% lookup files from 2018-19 onwards for Great Britain and from 2020-21 for the UK.

- Our aim is to integrate administrative datasets covering the core topic areas of the FRS: DWP benefits, Child Maintenance, HMRC Real Time Information (RTI) on Pay As You Earn (PAYE), Self Assessment, Child Benefit:

  - Eliminating the long-standing undercount of benefits and tax credits.
  - Improving accuracy of employment and self-employment income.
  - Adding more analytical power.
  - Reducing costs and respondent burden.
  - Improving timeliness.

- We published our research on benefits in March 2024. This shows that linking respondents resolves about half the benefit undercount – and that we can resolve the remainder through the use of additional grossing controls.

- We now plan to implement this approach in our FRS-based publications from March 2026 - publishing a revised back series at the same time.

Integrating admin data into the FRS

- Research is continuing, with a focus on the integration of RTI PAYE and Self Assessment.

- Critically, we now have agreement from HMRC for on-going annual delivery of these data sources and their integration into the FRS.

- We will update the DWP Statistical Work programme and the FRS Release Strategy as our plans develop.

Benefits: Long-standing caseload undercount across all benefits

Table M.6: Receipt of state support, FRS and administrative data, 2022 to 2023, Great Britain

Benefit/Tax credit received	FRS 2022 to 2023				Administrative data	
	Ungrossed percentage	Grossed number (1,000s)	Grossed percentage	Number (1,000s)	Percentage	Percentage difference
All Benefit units	**100**	**34,500**	**100**	**34,500**	**100**	
Income Support	[low]	180	1	170	[low]	6
Pension Credit	3	1,000	3	1,370	4	-27
Housing Benefit	6	2,000	6	2,510	7	-20
Council Tax Reduction	12	3,900	11	4,500	13	-13
Universal Credit	8	3,000	9	4,290	12	-30
All in-work Benefit units	**100**	**21,800**	**100**	**21,800**	**100**	
Working Tax Credit	2	400	2	600	3	-33
Child Tax Credit	3	600	3	760	3	-21
All Adults	**100**	**51,000**	**100**	**51,000**	**100**	
State Pension	30	11,300	22	11,470	22	-1
Attendance Allowance	2	800	2	1,420	3	-44
Carer's Allowance	1	800	2	950	2	-16
Employment and Support Allowance	2	1,100	2	1,660	3	-34
All individuals aged 16 or over	**100**	**52,500**	**100**	**52,500**	**100**	
Disability Living Allowance	2	800	2	700	1	14
Personal Independence Payment	5	2,600	5	3,140	6	-17

Average - 20%

Benefits: approach to integration
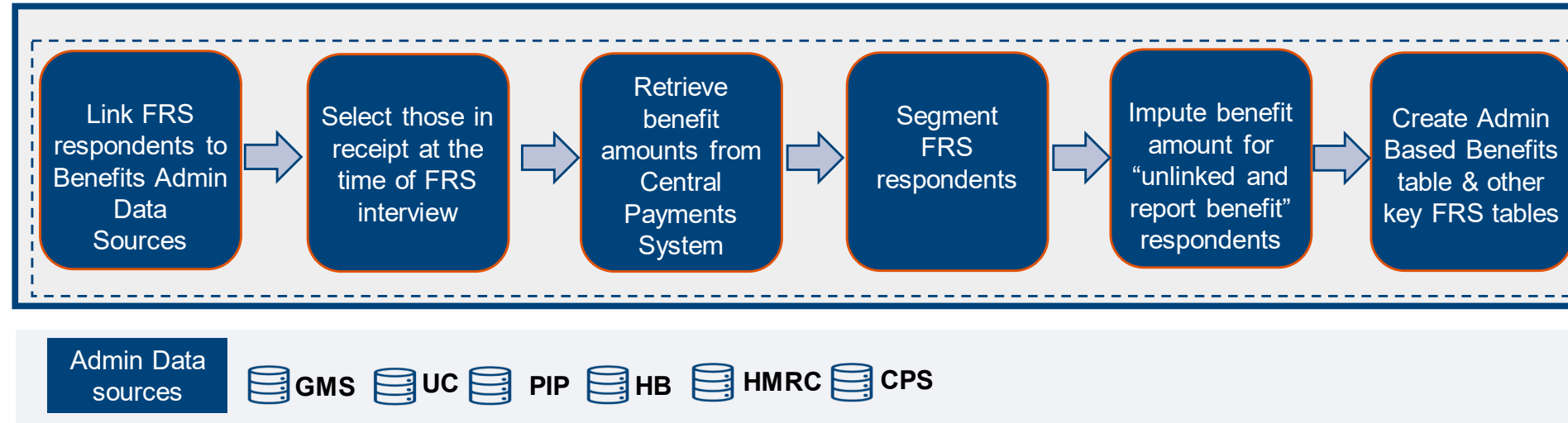
- **GMS**: General Matching Service holds most of the benefits:
Attendance Allowance, Disability Allowance, Carer's Allowance and Industrial Injury Disability Benefit,
Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance and Income Support
State Pension and Pension Credit
Maternity Allowance, Bereavement Support Payment
- **UC**: Universal Credit (UCOS & UC Full Service)
- **PIP**: Personal Independence Payment
- **HB**: Housing Benefit
- **HMRC**: Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit & Working Tax Credit   ,
- **CPS**: Central Payment System

Benefits: segmentation analysis – Attendance Allowance

	Segments	Final objective
Not linked (5%) 3m *(1,651)*	1.Don't report AA **3m** *(1,642)*	
	2.Report AA **10k** *(9)*	Imputed BENAMT **10k** *(9)*
Linked (95%) 47m *(37,610)*	3.Report AA on FRS only **20k** *(19)*	Not in receipt
	4.Report AA on FRS and on Admin **820k** *(764)*	All Admin **1.2m** *(1,091)*
	5.AA Admin only **360k** *(327)*	
	6.Don't report AA on FRS and not on admin	Don't report AA on FRS and not on admin

All FRS adults FRS 2022-23 GB 51 million* *(39,261**)*

All FRS respondents fall into one of six segments:

1. Unlinked and do not report AA on the FRS
2. Unlinked and report AA on the FRS
3. Linked and report AA on the FRS but no AA administrative record exists
4. Linked and report AA on the FRS and an AA administrative record exists
5. Linked and do not report AA on the FRS but an AA administrative record exists
6. Linked and do not report AA on the FRS and no AA administrative record exists

* Numbers = FRS grossed population estimates
** Numbers in brackets = FRS sample size

Admin Caseload:**1.4m**

* Survey responses grossed using existing FRS grossing regime – Gross4.

Benefits: segmentation analysis – all benefits, FRS2223

FRS2223 GB grossed estimates of numbers in benefit receipt (1,000s)

Segment	UC	ESA	HB	WTC	CTC	AA	DLA	PIP	CA	SP	PC	CB
1) Not Linked and don't report benefit	2,680	2,750	2,700	2,760	2,740	2,760	2,760	2,730	2,750	2,540	2,750	2,570
2) Not Linked and report benefit	**90**	**20**	**60**	**10**	**30**	**10**	**10**	**30**	**10**	**220**	**10**	**200**
3) Linked and report on FRS only	40	30	70	100	90	20	90	20	20	120	30	350
4) Linked and report on FRS and Admin	**3,000**	**1,020**	**1,820**	**320**	**720**	**820**	**630**	**2,440**	**750**	**10,960**	**910**	**4,860**
5) Linked and report on Admin only	**720**	**200**	**250**	**120**	**170**	**360**	**390**	**390**	**270**	**80**	**230**	**1,710**
6) Linked and don't report benefit on FRS and on admin	44,460	46,970	46,080	47,670	47,240	47,020	47,420	45,460	47,180	37,050	47,040	41,300
All GB adults	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**51,300**	**51,070**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**	**50,980**
Grossed % linked	97%	98%	97%	98%	96%	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	96%
Grossed % unlinked	3%	2%	3%	2%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	4%
Administrative count (average across 2022-2023)	4,910	1,530	2,500	600	1,100	1,380	1,250	3,120	930	11,360	1,320	6,610
FRS self-reporting count	3,120	1,070	1,950	430	840	850	730	2,490	780	11,300	950	5,410
FRS admin-linked count	3,800	1,240	2,130	450	920	1,190	1,030	2,860	1,030	11,260	1,150	6,770
FRS survey only undercount	-36%	-30%	-22%	-28%	-24%	-38%	-42%	-20%	-16%	-1%	-28%	-18%
FRS admin-based remaining under count	-23%	-19%	-15%	-25%	-16%	-14%	-18%	-8%	11%	-1%	-13%	2%
% of the undercount using admin data resolves	38%	37%	33%	12%	31%	64%	58%	59%	167%	-67%	54%	113%

Remaining undercount after linking admin data and grossing suggests that the FRS sample is biased in ways that are not being corrected for by the current grossing regime

- which lead us to review grossing methodology.

On average we are solving 65% of the undercount

Grossing: revised approach with additional controls

GROSS4 Factors	GROSS5 test 1 Factors	GROSS5 test 2 Factors	GROSS5 test 3 Factors
1. Age by Sex and Region	GROSS4 factors	GROSS4 factors	GROSS4 factors
2. Benefit Units with Dependent Children – England & Wales	**UC**	UC	UC
3. Benefit Units with Dependent Children – Scotland	**JSA**	JSA	JSA
4. Lone Parent Benefit Unit Male	**ESA**	ESA	ESA
5. Lone Parent Benefit Unit Female	**IS**	IS	IS
6. Households by Council Tax Band	**HB**	HB	HB
7. Households by Tenure	**WTC**	WTC	WTC
8. Households by Region	**CTC**	CTC	CTC
	AA	AA	AA
	DLA	DLA	DLA
	PIP	PIP	PIP
	IIDB	IIDB	IIDB
	CA	CA	CA
	SP	SP	SP
	PC	PC	PC
	WFP	WFP	RTI PAYE counts
	CB	CB	**RAPID SE counts**
		RTI PAYE counts	

Addition of control totals for:

- All the main benefits
- RTI PAYE
- RAPID* Self-employment (SA + UC SE + TCs SE)

Enables us to resolve the benefit undercount, while maintaining representativeness of other key measures e.g. employment, self-employment.

*RAPID: Registration and Population Interaction Database. Annualised 100% extracts from DWP and HMRC systems.

Benefits: Illustrative results – Universal Credit 2022-23

Caseload (Thousands)

Administrative caseload	4,910
FRS caseload estimate	3,120
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data	3,800
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, revised grossing	4,910

Coverage - FRS estimates as a percentage of administrative caseloads

FRS caseload	64%
FRS caseload estimate, integrating administrative data	78%
FRS caseload estimate, integrating administrative data, revised grossing	100%

Mean award £ (weekly/monthly)

Administrative caseload	704
FRS caseload estimate	818
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data	723
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputing values for unlinked cases	725
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputed values for unlinked cases, revised grossing	695

Median award (weekly/monthly)

Administrative caseload	648
FRS caseload estimate	757
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data	676
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputing values for unlinked cases	680
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputed values for unlinked cases, revised grossing	653

Annual expenditure £m

Administrative caseload	41,500
FRS caseload estimate	30,700
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data	33,000
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputing values for unlinked cases	33,100
FRS caseload estimate, integrating admin data, imputed values for unlinked cases, revised grossing	40,900
Published (expenditure tables)	43,400

Full illustrative results across all benefits are available here:

family-resources-survey-transformation-benefits.ods (live.com)

Further information

Publication with accompanying excel tables are available here:

Family Resources Survey Transformation: integrating administrative data into the FRS - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

For further discussion, please do get in touch:

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Wider DWP Developments

Analysts from across DWP

Universal Credit Low Income (UCLI) Statistics
NB illustrative only

Universal Credit administrative data has extensive income details for each family - benefit unit (BU) - plus housing costs for renters.

Therefore, both Before and After Housing Costs (BHC, AHC) income variables for each family can be created and then equivalised. Hence, families on UC can be categorised into whether they are in poverty or not, using income lines consistent with HBAI. We estimate little difference between BU-level and household-level measures.

As with HBAI, we would count numbers and proportions of *individuals* (on UC) in poverty.
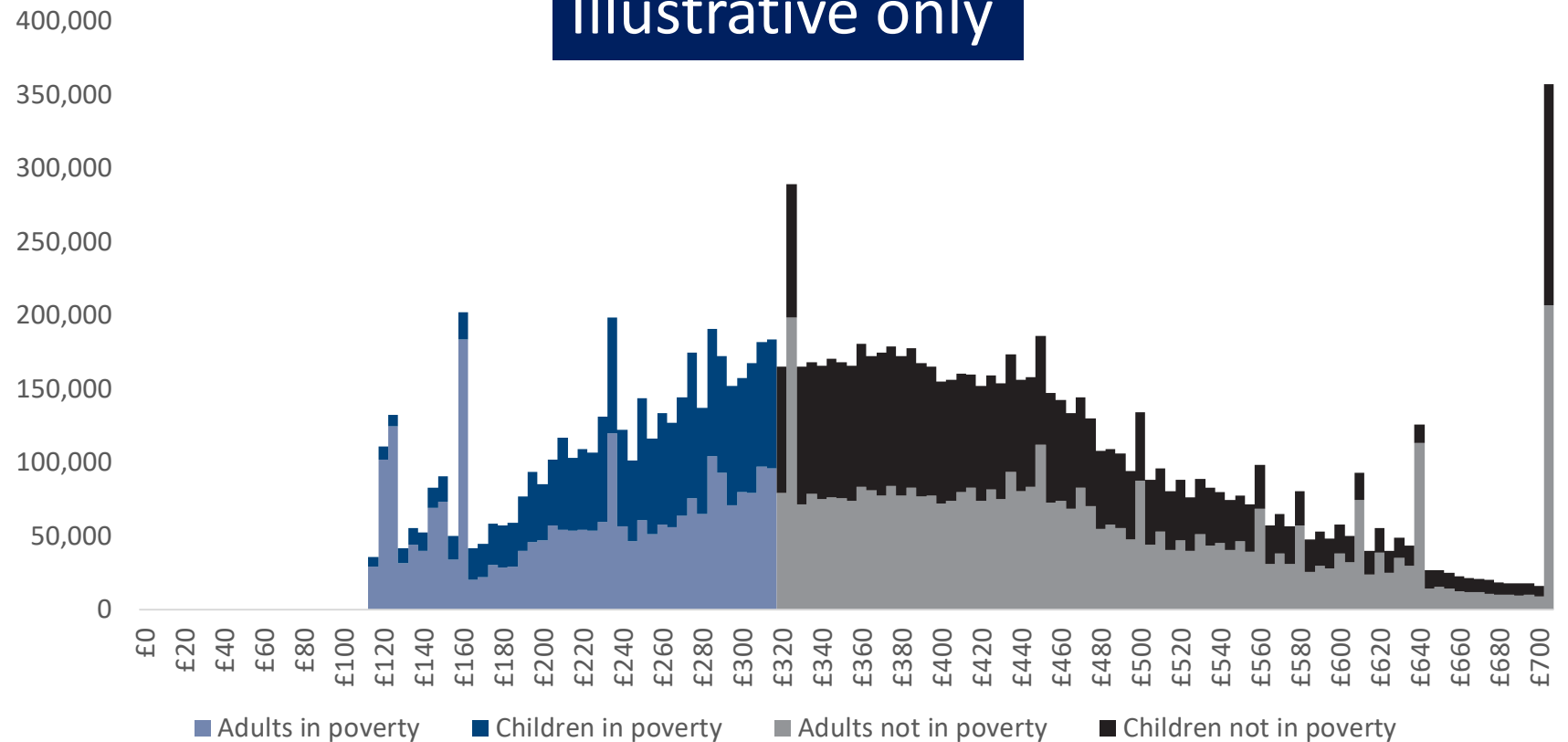
Most-relevant metrics would be relative and absolute poverty AHC. *NB Chart is the latter.*

Individuals on UC by weekly AHC income band, March 2025
Approx. 40% of individuals on UC are in poverty
Data for those on very low incomes being investigated

Illustrative only

Legend: Adults in poverty · Children in poverty · Adults not in poverty · Children not in poverty

UCLI Statistics (2)
NB illustrative only

Potential Outputs - Illustrative only

Geography	No of individuals on UC April 2025	No of individuals on UC in poverty AHC April 2025	% of individuals on UC in poverty AHC April 2025	No of individuals on UC July 2025	No of individuals on UC in poverty AHC July 2025	% of individuals on UC in poverty AHC July 2025
Local authority 1	a	b	100*(b/a)	etc.	etc.	etc.
Local authority 2	c	d	100*(d/c)			
etc.	e	f	100*(f/e)			
Parliamentary constituency 1	g	h	100*(h/g)			
Parliamentary constituency 2	i	j	100*(j/i)			
etc.	k	l	100*(k/l)			

- Likely to add splits for children and adults.
- Will enable both between and within-year comparisons, plus between local areas regarding poverty rates for those on UC.
- This will **not** provide poverty rates for people outside of UC, nor similarly for WA adults and Children as a whole.
- Initial presentation will be via flat tables, rather than on Stat-Xplore.

UCLI Statistics (3)
NB illustrative only

Potential Publication Plans	Caveats with the Stats
Illustrative only	
Publish official statistics, with timing to be announced in Stats Work Programme. May not include back series before April 2025 due to compositional change in UC caseload during rollout	Within-year data is effectively seasonal due to the impact of annual uprating
Timeliness would be within approx. 3 months of the reference period	Absolute and Relative poverty lines for the most-recent time periods would need to be projected from HBAI, noting HBAI is household-level and UCLI BU-level
Would show numbers and proportions of individuals on UC in poverty (Relative and Absolute AHC) over time	Poverty numbers and rates are *only* in respect of those on UC, not the whole population e.g. there are children and WA adults in poverty not receiving UC
Would publish numbers for local authorities and, in time, at sub-LA level	Some sources of income and housing costs are missing e.g. child maintenance, income of household members outside of benefit unit, owner-occupier housing costs

For further information or to comment, please email: stats.consultation-2018@dwp.gov.uk