Poverty and social exclusion in urban and rural areas of Scotland

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Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK
Poverty and social exclusion in urban and rural areas of Scotland

Persistent urban bias?

• measuring rural poverty (undercounting)
• different nature/characteristics of rural poverty

Scotland

• Rural & remote areas
Urban-rural classification for Scotland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Share of population</th>
<th>% of sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Large Urban Areas</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Other Urban Areas</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Accessible Small Towns</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Accessible Rural</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Remote Small Towns</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Remote Rural</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>5,299,900</td>
<td>2,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Rural poverty – do we have an accurate picture?

1. Do low income measures undercount rural poverty due to hidden costs of living?

2. Do measures based on benefit/tax credit claiming undercount rural poverty?

1. Low income BHC vs. AHC
2. Low income vs. deprivation

Low income and deprivation measures vs. SIMD Income deprivation score
Low income poverty and deprivation rates by urban-rural location
Low income poverty and deprivation rates by urban-rural location - detailed

[Graph showing data points for different urban-rural locations and poverty rates]
Summary

1. Do low income measures undercount rural poverty due to hidden costs of living?  
   Data do not support the idea that low income poverty measures lead to undercounting

2. Do measures based on benefit /tax credit claiming undercount rural poverty  
   Data shows no undercounting
Exclusion in rural areas

Family and social resources, social participation
  • greater stability, and stronger social connections and sense of community
  • culture of ‘self-reliance’

PSE measures:
• Perceived levels of social support (7 questions)
• Contact with family (2 questions)
• Contact with friends (2 questions)
• Social activities (13 activities)
Low social support, contact and participation – all adults vs. poor adults

![Bar chart showing the comparison between all adults and poor adults for low sense of support, no/low contact with family, no/low contact with friends, and low social activities.](image)
Low social support, contact and participation – all adults vs. poor adults

- Low sense of support
- No/low contact with family
- No/low contact with friends
- Low social activities

Urban-rural (3 cats):
1 Urban
2 Accessible
3 Remote
Exclusion in rural areas

Access to services and transport
  • Public transport not fit for purpose
  • Access services

PSE data on seventeen general services used by the whole population, public and private, and including transport services
  • Combined results for ‘use but inadequate’ with ‘don’t use – inadequate or inaccessible’
Inadequate or inaccessible general services by urban-rural location

- a train or tube station
- bus services
- a pub
- bank/building soc.
- med/large supermarkets
- a corner shop
- chemists
- CAB/advice services
- a post office
- an optician
- a dentist
- a doctor
- public or village hall
- evening classes
- museums and galleries
- public sports facilities
- libraries

Remote | Accessible | Urban
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0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%

Remote | Accessible | Urban
Exclusion in rural areas

Living environment

• housing (affordability, supply and quality)
• neighbourhood environment

PSE data:

• Satisfaction with housing (1 question)
• Housing quality (score out of 8)
• Neighbourhood environment
Housing and neighbourhood ratings by urban-rural category

- Low satisfaction with housing
- Home in poor repair
- Home too cold last winter
- Dissatisfaction with local area
- Social problems in area
- Noise/pollution/traffic...
- Lighting/etc. problems in area

Legend:
- Urban
- Accessible
- Remote
Exclusion in rural areas

Health and well-being

• greater sense of community and support vs. isolation
• environmental benefits (green space)

PSE measures:
• General health
• Limiting health problem or disability
• Subjective well-being
Measure of health and well-being by urban-rural classification

- **High satisfaction with day-to-day activities**
- **High satisfaction with feeling part of community**
- **High satisfaction with life overall**
- **General health very good**
- **Limiting health/disability**

Categories:
- **1.00 Urban**
- **2.00 Accessible**
- **3.00 Remote**
Conclusions

Households in poverty across the urban-rural spectrum in Scotland

No clear bias in low income measures

Exclusion in rural areas similarities greater than differences

• Employment, social support & participation (no differences)
• Health and well-being, nhd environment (better in rural areas)
• Access to (certain) services, public transport (worse in urban areas)