

CHAPTER 12

The Problems of The Poor Areas

The method of sampling involved classifying the data by various different area types, which facilitated analysis by different types of area. It was grouped into regions and constituencies and then arranged in high income, middle income and low income sections according to the percentage of the electorate in the constituency who voted left. These classifications were used again in selecting wards from the 51 constituencies chosen, the criterion being the proportion of the population aged 25 years and over who left school at 15 years or less.

The data was also divided into conurbations, urban and rural areas, and a further survey was carried out in four of the lowest income areas.

AGE GROUPS.

In the main survey, as a whole, approximately 25% were 14 years or less, and a further quarter 25-44 years, although this varied between regions, ranging from 21% (children) in the South-West and Wales to 32% in Scotland.

12.4% of the survey were 65 yrs and over, with 15.5% in the North-West and South-West and Wales and only 9% in West Midlands. Over-all there were 14% 15-24 years and 24% 45-64 years. Scotland, where the proportion of children was highest had the lowest percentage of both these groups.

Rural areas had both higher percentages of children and old people than urban areas or conurbations. Low income areas had higher percentages of children than high or middle income areas, but high income areas had most old people, both by the Left-Vote and School-Leaver criteria.

Of the four Special Areas, Belfast, Glasgow and Salford all had higher than the national average proportion of children and Neath much higher than for that region as a whole. On average these areas had the same percentage of old people as the main survey although in Salford it was much lower (9% instead of 12%) particularly as that region had the highest (15.5%).

SEX DISTRIBUTION

In most areas there were slightly more females than males, the exceptions being, Anglia and E. Midlands, North-West and Northern Ireland. But Belfast in the Special Areas has 58% women.

The patterns for high, medium and low income areas were similar for both criteria except that there are slightly more men in the low income area when Left-vote is used — women voting Tory?

SOCIAL CLASS

Social class, according to the Registrar General's classification was distributed in the main survey as a whole, almost exactly the same as in the Sample Census of 1966. Almost half the people were included in Social class III. 3.5-4% were in Class I, 16-17% in Class II, 21-22% in Class III, 7-8% in Class IV.

Poverty Data showed a smaller proportion of people in the South-East and Greater London who were in Class IV, than the Sample Census. With an average of about 7.5% in this class, Poverty Data showed variations from 4% in South-East and 10% in Scotland and the North-West and 17% in N. Ireland, which showed a more even class distribution than any other region — only 35% in Class III and 25% in Class II. (National 17%). No Census figures are available for N. Ireland.

Housing Tenure In Different Areas.

48% of the population were in rented accommodation of some kind, the majority (30% of pop.) being in council property. In all of the areas this type of tenancy never accounted for less than 20% of people and in Scotland the proportion rose to 50%.

14% of people were in privately rented, unfurnished accommodation, although this varied widely, from 8% in Anglia and East Midlands to 35% in Northern Ireland, and it was larger in rural areas than in urban ones.

Council housing increased, as a percentage of the population it covered, as income fell, according to the Leftward Voting criterion, although under the School Leavers condition for income it remained the same for high and middle income areas. The middle income range had the smallest proportion of people with privately rented, unfurnished homes, with the Left Vote condition, but the largest proportion with School Leaving condition.

In the Special Areas, 77% of the people lived in rented accommodation, varying from 55% in Neath to 88% in Salford. It was not possible, because of lack of information on the Screening Questionnaire to distinguish ^{between} the different types of tenancy.

In the main Survey a further 48% lived in owner-occupied homes, 28% in mortgaged property and 20% in completely owned property. This type of tenure was least prevalent in Scotland, with a total of 22% owner-occupiers and also low in N. Ireland, 36%. It was correspondingly higher in the South-East and Anglia and E. Midlands, although Greater London had fewer than average homes owned outright (16%). The proportion who were owner-occupiers was approx. the same for each income group for both Left-Wing and School-Leaver criteria, with the percentage falling with income.

In the Special Areas a much smaller proportion, 21%, were owner-occupiers, although it was 44% in Neath. The percentage who lived in rent-free accommodation was also smaller in these areas, 1.4% instead of 3.2% in main Survey. They were urban and conurban areas, the figure for rural areas being 9.1. It was also slightly higher for high income areas and between regions ranged from about 1% in the Midlands to 11% in Scotland and was nearly 3% in the South East.

Household Income as % S.B. Entitlement + Housing Costs in Different Areas.

Of the regions, Northern Ireland had by far the largest percentage of people living below the government social standard, 16% with a further 28% living on the margins of poverty. The North-West had 34% below and in the margins, South-West and Wales and Scotland 29%. The lowest proportion of people in in these categories was in Greater London, 23% and the South East, 24%, with average for all regions being 27.8%. Greater London also had the largest proportion of people living at over 200% of the scale (48.6%).

However not all sub-areas within the regions displayed the same distributions as the regions as a whole. In N.Ireland, the proportion in poverty was 9% in Belfast and 28% in Fermanagh and Tyrone, a further 13% in the margins in Belfast and 43% in Fermanagh. In Greater London there was 13% in or on the margins of poverty in Hendon and 37% in Woolwich.

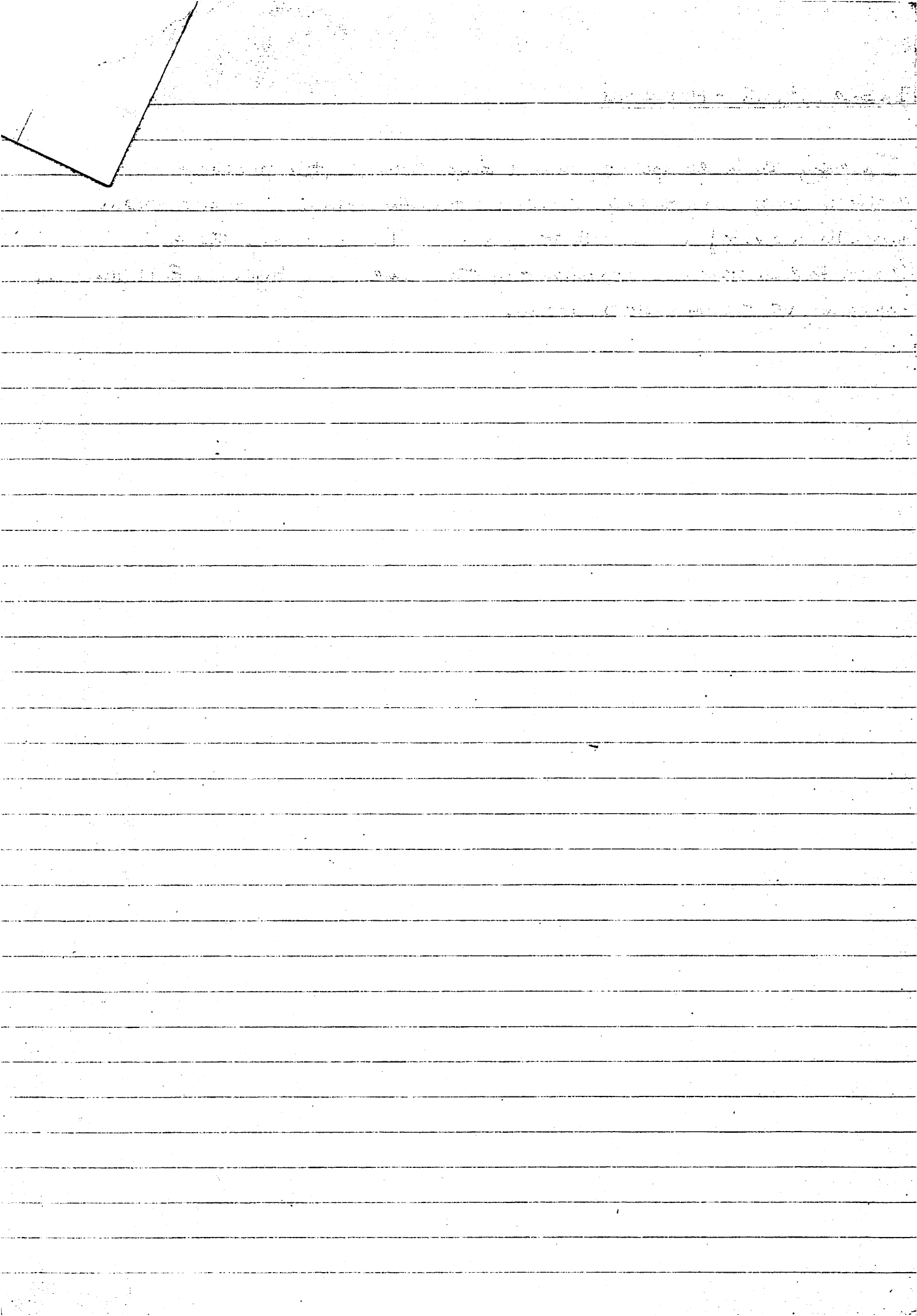
Although ^{a bigger pop} ~~more~~ people in conurbations were in poverty than in urban areas, 7.2% and 4.2%, the situation was reversed for those in the margins 19.7% and 22.4%. For both groups the highest percentages were in rural areas, 8% in poverty and 24.6% in margins.

According to the Left-Vote criterion, those in the middle income range had the highest percentage in poverty, although high income areas had more ~~of~~ either in or on the margins. This was ^{also} true for the School-Leaver criterion, although in both cases low income areas had the biggest proportion in or on the margins, 20% 3% more than high income areas.

In the Special Areas as a whole 40% were living below or in margins of poverty, although this varied for the areas separately, ranging from 27% in North to 48% in Glasgow.

Income as % S.B - Households.

In every region except Anglia and East Midlands, the percentage in or on the margins of poverty was greater for households than for individuals. — (one-person households in poverty) and overall it was 31%. The positions of the regions in relation to each other was approximately the same, with Anglia and E. Midlands as the region with the smallest proportion.



CONSTITUENCIES

Within regions there are sometimes wide variations in the level of poverty in different constituencies. In the poorest of the regions, Northern Ireland, Fermanagh and South Tyrone has two-thirds of its population in, or on the margins of poverty, while Belfast East has only 15%. Likewise, Greater London, the least poor region has 29% in or on margins of poverty in the Wandsworth-Streatham constituency and only 13% in Hendon North. There are similar differences of varying magnitude in all the regions.

Percent of individuals with different levels of the Social Scale by different areas.

In the national survey there were 312 people living below the social standard of poverty and a further 1123 people in the margins. No one region had more than 15% of these people, the North-West having the most, with 14.4% of those in poverty and 14.4% of those in and in the margins of poverty. Two other regions had over 14% of those in poverty, North, Yorkshire + Humberside and West Midlands, with South-West and Wales having the lowest percentage 5.8.

Of the combined group of those in and in the margins of, poverty, the South-East had the second highest percentage, even though the percentage of its own population who came into that category was the second lowest.

RANKING OF AREAS ACCORDING TO INDICATORS OF DEPRIVATION

The rankings of the regions over ~~6 deprivation~~ variables showed the South-East clearly first and N Ireland clearly last but at first sight, much less clearly defined patterns in between. This was partly due to the fact that in some cases there was only a very small margin, perhaps less than 1% between regions. For instance, according to the Bedroom Overcrowding Index, those ranked 5, 6, 7, North, Yorkshire, Humberside, West Midlands and Greater London ~~were~~ all ^{had} approximately 17% of their population with 1 or less bedroom for every person. In the Environment Index those ranked 4, 5, 6 all had between 71 and 73% of their population scoring less than 2.

South-West and Wales region appeared generally to rank much lower over these variables than on poverty. It was the third poorest region but averaged in the rankings about 5. If the fact that there was only a difference of 0.5% between 5, 6, 7 and 8 on Years of Education variable, is taken into account, its average placing changes to 2.

The rankings also depend ^{to} a large extent on ~~what~~ the critical value is. For instance, using the Years of Education variable, children were excluded as their education was still in progress ~~and~~ as were the over-65's in the rankings shown. If they had been included and the 15-24's left out, the ranks would have for some regions, been different.

Peter,

The Rich. All the computer print-out concerning the rich is in the binder marked "Rich". The first tables and descriptions of top 1% with your comments and suggestions for further work are in (blue) folder labelled 'Rich'. The binder contains the print out for top 5% and bottom 5% by certain variables, with which the table we talked about could be constructed. Top 1% questionnaires and a few of next 4% are on shelf near binders.

Special Areas. and Poor Areas.

All the computer print-out is in the marked binders, and the tables and notes in the folders. Most of the print-out relevant ~~is~~ for the Special Areas is in the one labelled Special Areas A. Special Areas B contains miscellaneous tables Hazel produced a long time ago which to my knowledge were only used in the amendments to Eligibility for Supplementary Benefit.

I ran most of the set of tables we talked of recently and they are in series A.

I enclose what I hope is a fully corrected code book for the screening questionnaire.

There is no code book for the follow-up questionnaire tape, called Special Four, but all the column counts are labelled.

Women.

Here are the few tables which you wanted.

See you

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