

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014

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General

What is WIMD?

WIMD is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. It is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. WIMD ranks all small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). The WIMD Guidance document provides additional information on WIMD: www.wales.gov.uk/wimd

Why do you produce an index of multiple deprivation for Wales?

WIMD is designed to identify those small areas where there are the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. This information can be used to target policies and services.

When will you prepare the next update to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation?

In the past, WIMD has been published roughly every three years. A decision on the next WIMD update has not yet been taken and will depend on business need and priorities.

Using WIMD

What can WIMD be used for?

WIMD can be used for:

- Comparing overall deprivation ranks for each small area or a group of them (like those in a Local Authority), so that they can be put in order from the most to the least deprived;
- Comparing ranks among the separate domains of deprivation for the small areas;
- Comparing two or more local authorities (or other groups of aggregated small areas) by looking at the proportion of the small areas in the Local Authority in the most deprived (say) ten per cent in all of Wales;
- By using the underlying indicator data (although not the WIMD rankings themselves) it is possible to analyse change over time (published on StatsWales).

Important applications of previous indexes include:

- Development and monitoring of the Communities First programme;
- Calculation of school families and as a contextual factor in annual school value added calculations;
- Measurement of health inequalities;
- Local government needs assessments;
- Planning of neighbourhood police resourcing.

What can't WIMD be used for?

It is important to remember that WIMD is not the only way to measure deprivation. WIMD has been developed for a particular purpose which is; to measure concentrations of several types of deprivation at a small area level.

Deprived individuals: There can be individuals in deprived areas that would not be considered deprived; and there can also be individuals that would be considered deprived in the least deprived areas. Around 1 in 5 of the people in income benefit households live in the most deprived 10 per cent of areas in Wales. This means that although it is true to say that deprivation is much more concentrated in some areas than others, 4 out of 5 people in income benefit households live outside these areas. This is important to remember when targeting resources, as targeting those 'most deprived' areas leads to some households in those areas who may not be deprived being included and many deprived households living in less deprived areas missing out.

Individuals who are deprived in several ways: WIMD does not identify individuals who are deprived in several ways, rather, it identifies areas where there are concentrations of several different types of deprivation.

Absolute deprivation: WIMD doesn't give a measure of the amount of deprivation in an area, for example it does not allow for statements such as "area A is twice as deprived as area B". The ranks can only be used to say "area A is more deprived than area B". This also means that even if an area's rank remains the same in successive WIMD publications, the level of deprivation in that area could have gone up or down but just not enough to affect the comparison with other areas. However, the analysis of the individual indicators within WIMD does allow for such comparisons between areas and over time.

Affluence: It is important to remember that a lack of deprivation is not the same as affluence.

Deprivation across the UK: Ranks are not comparable with the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) from the other UK countries. Further information on the issue of comparing IMDs across the UK can be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website:
<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm>.

Comparisons over time: As the WIMD is a relative index, it's important not to compare ranks from one edition of WIMD to another. WIMD indicator data is published annually on StatsWales, where possible, in order to allow comparison over time.

Can I tell how deprived my area is compared to another place in another part of Wales?

Yes by using the overall Index rank. The ranks are from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived)

How can I use the results at a local authority level?

It is not possible to aggregate the ranks to larger geographies by taking an average of the ranks of the small areas. This is because of the way in which the Index is constructed. There are two ways of comparing larger geographies.

The first is to calculate the proportion of small areas in a larger geography which are in the most deprived (say) 10 or 20 per cent of areas in Wales. This has been done for local authorities in the analysis sections of this report and interactive product.

So for example, if an area has more than 10 per cent of its small areas in the most deprived 10 per cent in Wales it can be considered relatively deprived. If it has fewer than 10 per cent, then it can be considered relatively less deprived.

The second method is to consider the underlying individual indicators, which can be aggregated (as published on StatsWales). The indicators are published not just at the small area level, but also for a range of other useful geographies including local authorities and communities first areas.

Can I average the ranks at local authority level?

No. It is not possible to aggregate the ranks to larger geographies by taking an average of the ranks of the small areas. This is because of the way in which the Index is constructed. There are two ways of comparing larger geographies.

The first is to calculate the proportion of small areas in a larger geography which are in the most deprived 10 per cent of areas in Wales. This has been done for local authorities in the analysis sections of this report and interactive product.

If an area has more than 10 per cent of its small areas in the most deprived 10 per cent in Wales it can be considered relatively deprived. If it has fewer than 10 per cent, then it can be considered relatively less deprived.

The second method is to see the underlying individual indicators, which can be aggregated (as published on StatsWales). The indicators are published not just at the small area level, but also for a range of other useful geographies including local authorities and communities first areas.

How can I use WIMD for comparison over time?

As the WIMD is a relative index, it's important not to compare ranks from one edition of WIMD to another. WIMD indicator data is published annually on StatsWales, where possible, in order to allow comparison over time.

Methodology

What is a domain?

WIMD is currently made up of eight separate domains (or types) of deprivation.

- a) Income
- b) Employment
- c) Health
- d) Education
- e) Access to Services
- f) Community Safety
- g) Physical Environment
- h) Housing

Each domain is compiled from a range of different indicators.

Why are some domains of deprivation considered more important than others?

Some domains are considered more important to the underlying concept of deprivation (as evidenced by academic literature). The weights for WIMD 2014 are based on those used for WIMD 2011 (and WIMD 2008):

- Income (23.5%)
- Employment (23.5%)
- Health (14.0%)
- Education (14.0%)
- Access to Services (10.0%)
- Community Safety (5.0%)
- Physical Environment (5.0%)
- Housing (5.0%)

The criteria for selecting the proposed set of weights for the standardised domains are that domains should be given a higher weight if there is evidence that they are a stronger determinant of deprivation. A secondary consideration is the robustness of the domain indicators (not only the robustness of the data itself but also the extent to which a reasonable basket of indicators can be found to 'accurately' measure the underlying deprivation rather than be influenced to a large degree by unrelated factors). Using these criteria, the Income and Employment domains carry more weight than the other domains, followed by Health and Education.

What is an indicator?

An indicator measures a specific aspect of deprivation and each domain includes a number of individual indicators. For example, the Education domain includes an indicator on adults with no qualifications, repeat absenteeism from schools and several school attainment indicators. Together, these indicators measure a particular form of deprivation.

How were the domains and indicators chosen?

The domains for WIMD 2014 are the same as those used for WIMD 2008 and WIMD 2011.

In order to develop indicator proposals for public consultation, statisticians at the Welsh Government worked with seven expert topic groups to review indicators used in WIMD 2011 and to consider potential new indicators. Each topic group included analytical experts from the Welsh Government, local authorities, other public bodies (eg National Resources Wales, Public Health Wales) along with policy representatives from the Welsh Government.

A consultation on proposed indicators for WIMD 2014 was held between November 2013 and February 2014. The purpose of this consultation was to expose proposals for the domains and indicators for WIMD 2014 to critical review. All consultation responses and the views of other user groups were carefully considered. In light of the responses, additional work was undertaken to further investigate and assess the feasibility of new indicators.

A response to the consultation was published in June 2014. This provided a summary of the responses to the consultation, a summary of recent work and outlined changes made in light of consultation responses. The consultation document and response are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/statistics/proposed-indicators-wimd-2014/?lang=en>

What data is available for the indicators that are included in the Index?

In addition to the overall WIMD and domain ranks, individual indicator data is published on StatsWales. This data is published for a range of different geography areas (2014 data to be published early 2015)

www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

How does the methodology for WIMD 2014 differ from that used for WIMD 2011?

The methodology used within WIMD 2014 is the same as used for WIMD 2011. The domains have also stayed the same. There have been a small number of changes to individual indicators (or the inclusion of new indicators) within the Education, Access to Services, Community Safety, Income and Physical Environment and Housing domains. Further information is available in the WIMD publication and technical report (due for publication 26 November): www.wales.gov.uk/wimd

Geography

What is a lower super output area? Why is this used in the index?

WIMD is calculated for all small areas (Lower layer Super Output Areas – LSOAs) in Wales. Following the 2011 Census, 1909 LSOAs were defined in Wales and they have an average population of 1600 people. WIMD is based on indicators that consider the aggregate characteristics of the people living in the area and, in some cases, the characteristics of the area itself (for example, the Physical Environment domain).

The small areas geographies have changed between the WIMD 2011 and WIMD 2014 – where can I find out about these changes?

LSOA boundaries are revised following each Census, to take into account changes in the population. Following the 2011 Census, 1909 LSOAs were defined in Wales and they have an average population of 1600 people. Full information on the changes are available in an annex of the WIMD publication (due to be published 26 November 2014): www.wales.gov.uk/wimd

Comparison with Other UK Countries

Is the methodology for calculating WIMD the same as that used for Indexes of multiple deprivation in other parts of the UK?

Ranks are not comparable with the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) from the other UK countries. Further information on the issue of comparing IMDs across the UK can be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm>.

Can I tell how deprived my area is compared to another area in England?

No, ranks are not comparable with the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) from the other UK countries. Further information on the issue of comparing IMDs across the UK can be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/indices-of-deprivation.htm>.