

Statistical evidence

Statistical evidence about the Drivers of Child Poverty in the Scottish Borders

Earnings

- Scottish Borders median gross weekly pay (workplace based) in 2020 for full-time workers was **£481** a week. (Nomis)¹
- This is **£111 lower** than the Scottish average of **£593** and is the 2nd lowest out of the 32 Scottish Local Authority areas.(Nomis)

Skills and qualifications

- An estimated **6.3%** of working-age people in the Annual Population survey had no qualifications in 2020. This is better than the Scottish average of **8.0%**. (Nomis)
- **95%** of Scottish Borders 16-19 year olds were participating in employment, education or training in 2020, according to Skills Development Scotland (SDS) data. This is slightly higher than the Scottish average of **92%**.²
- **72%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 participated in Education in 2020; similar to the Scottish average of **72%**.(SDS)
- **222%** of Scottish Borders young adults aged 16-19 entered employment, training or another positive destination other than education in 2020. This is similar to the Scottish average of **20%** (SDS)

Accessible transport

- **47.6%** of children in Scottish Borders live in areas classified as “Rural” (Accessible-rural or Remote-rural) by the Urban-rural Classification system in 2018.³

Childcare

- 5,370 children were registered by the Care Inspectorate for Early Learning and Childcare in 2019 in the Scottish Borders. This is **28.2%** of all children, slightly higher than the Scottish average of **27.2%**.⁴

Food insecurity and food costs

- The January 2020 Independent Food Aid Network⁵ reported six participating independent food banks in the Scottish Borders between April 2018 and September 2019. They gave out **3,915** food parcels, an **8%** increase on the previous year. This shows that there is sustained and increasing food insecurity in the Scottish Borders, which is certain to get worse in 2020. Following the outbreak of Covid-19, IFAN analysed data from independent food banks in Scotland comparing February to July 2019 with February to July 2020. The table below shows the results for Scotland.

¹ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

² <https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/47100/rsa-infographic-scottish-borders.pdf>

³ <https://statistics.gov.scot/home>

⁴ <https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/statistics-and-analysis>

⁵ <https://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/scotland-food-bank-data>

Table 2: The number of people supported by independent food banks in Scotland (February to July in 2019 and 2020)

Month	2019	2020
February	9,209	10,137
March	9,483	12,614
April	9,279	19,613
May	9,778	18,897
June	8,972	17,415
July	9,470	17,060

Internet access

- The Scottish Household Survey estimates that **90%** of households in Scottish Borders had home internet access in 2019, an increase of 2% since 2018. This has been steadily increasing year after year and is now higher than the Scottish average of **88%**.⁶

Fuel Poverty

- Around **29%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are fuel poor, equivalent to approximately 16,000 households. There seems to be a higher level of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders compared to Scotland (25%), although it is not statistically different.⁷
- Households with higher levels of fuel poverty in the Scottish Borders are those that are Older (38%) and those in Social Housing (51%).
- Around **15%** of all households in the Scottish Borders are in extreme fuel poverty, which is not significantly different to the 12% for Scotland.

Children in families with Limited Resources⁸

- **20.4%** of children in the Scottish Borders are living with limited resources **before** housing costs compared to 17.3% for Scotland. This is above the Scottish average and is 6th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.
- **24%** of children are living with limited resources **after** housing costs, compared to 20.7% for Scotland. The Scottish Borders is still 4th-highest out of the 32 Local Authority areas.

Children in Low Income families⁹

- **18%** of children in Scottish Borders were living in relative low income families for the financial year end 2020, similar to 19% for Scotland.

⁶ <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>

⁷ [Scottish House Condition Survey: Local Authority Analyses to 2016-2018 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-house-condition-survey-local-authority-analyses-to-2016-2018-gov.scot/)

⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/children-in-families-with-limited-resources/>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/children-in-low-income-families-local-area-statistics#contents>

Statistical evidence about the high priority groups and other statistics

- **8.1%** (or 4,241) of Scottish Borders households in the 2011 Census¹⁰ were a lone-parent family. This is a lower proportion than the Scottish average of 11.1% of households (263,360 households)
- The Scottish Borders has a lower crude rate of teenage pregnancies (per 1,000 females aged 15 – 19) of **27.2** compared to 30.5 for Scotland.¹¹
- According to SBC's internal Education Management Information System SEEMIS, 95.4% of pupils have English as their "First-Language".
- According to Scottish Government statistics¹², there were 187 children in the Scottish Borders in 2020 who were Looked After by the Local Authority in a variety of settings, equal to which 0.7% of the population aged 0 to 17, compared to 1.4% for Scotland. Of the children looked after by Scottish Borders Council 18% are aged under 5, similar to the 19% for Scotland.

Other high level statistical evidence relating to child poverty in the Scottish Borders

- In Scotland Young Carers are more common in lone parent families and these Young Carers also contribute the most hours 47% (3 years ago this figure stood at 28%) of Young Carers in the most deprived areas care for 35 hours a week or more, compared with 24% (previously 17%) of Young Carers in the least deprived areas, who provide care for 35 hours a week or more. As at 21st September 2018, there were 75 carers recorded on Seemis (the Council's Education Management Information system).

¹⁰ <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/>

¹¹ https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/

¹² <https://www.gov.scot/publications/childrens-social-work-statistics-2019-20/>