



North East Child Poverty Commission briefing New child poverty data (2024/25)

Publication of new child poverty data

On 26th March 2026, DWP published new child poverty data covering the financial year 2024/25.¹

This included the [Households Below Average Income](#) (HBAI) dataset, which provides child poverty statistics at a UK, devolved nation and English regional level. The HBAI figures published this year reflect improved data collection methods by the Government, comprising information on self-reported household income (as in previous years), but now bolstered by additional administrative data. The Government has so far backdated this improved information to the financial year 2021/22, and will backdate it again to the financial year 2018/19 in summer 2026. The improved information cannot be directly compared to years in which this data collection method was not used.

The new child poverty data also comprised the [Children in Low Income Families](#) (CILIF) dataset, which – for the first time – included *after housing costs* (AHC) child poverty figures for Parliamentary constituencies, local authority areas and local authority wards.² In previous years, AHC estimates of child poverty for local authorities and constituencies were produced and analysed by the Centre for Research in Social Policy, for the End Child Poverty Coalition. For 2024/25, DWP has developed its own method for producing AHC rates and numbers of children in poverty at a local level. Due to differences in methodology and in the population included in the Government estimates, these should not be compared with the End Child Poverty Coalition's previously published local area statistics.

DWP advises that for country and region comparisons, HBAI is the best source of data, while CILIF should be used for local area analysis,³ however, it is important to note that the HBAI data applies to all dependent children (including those aged 16-19 in full-time education), whilst CILIF only includes children under the age of 16.

Both improved datasets provide an important baseline for measuring progress on the Government's [new national child poverty strategy](#) in all parts of the UK. However, as this data is produced retrospectively, the impact of the Government's strategy (e.g the lifting of the two-child limit in Universal Credit or the expansion of free school meals) cannot be seen in the figures published in March 2026.

UK and North East headlines

The new HBAI data confirm that 27% of children across the UK – 4 million – were living in poverty in 2024/25, of which 72% were living in a working family (that is, with at least one parent or carer in paid employment).

The English regions with the highest rates of child poverty in the three years to 2024/25 were London (38%), North West (32%), West Midlands (32%), followed by **the North East, where 30% of children – around 166,000 – were living in poverty in the three years to 2024/25**, of which 64% were living in a working family.⁴ Child poverty rates in other UK nations and regions were Wales 32%; Yorkshire & Humber 29%; East Midlands 25%; East of England 24%; South East 23%; South West 21%; Scotland 21%; and Northern Ireland 19%.

¹ All references to child poverty in this briefing denote relative child poverty after housing costs; that is, the percentage of children living in families with less than 60% of the median UK household income, after housing costs have been taken into account.

² After housing costs poverty data shows the income available to a household once rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments, ground rent and service charges are paid. This enables a more accurate comparison of what families have available to spend on food, utilities, clothing and leisure, than looking at income alone, given the disparity of housing costs in different parts of the UK.

³ NECPC and End Child Poverty (2026): [New Government data shows 1 in 3 North East children growing up in poverty](#)

⁴ The North East's lower proportion of children in poverty from working families does not signal lower rates of in-work poverty in the region, rather higher rates of children living in out-of-work households ([with 18.6% of all North East children living in a household where no adult was in paid work in calendar year 2024, compared with 11.2% of children across the UK](#)). This can be because of unemployment; disability and health conditions; caring responsibilities; and other barriers to employment.

The HBAI data also indicates that, over the three years to 2024/25, 16.7% of children across the North East were living in 'food insecure' households, compared with 16.2% across the UK.

Breakdown of the regional child poverty data

From the HBAI data, we can see that some groups of children and families continue to be more likely to experience poverty than others – both in the North East and across the UK – recognising that there will be significant overlaps between the groups of families listed below.

The HBAI data shows that, over the three years 2022/23 to 2024/2025:⁵

- **Families from Black and minoritised ethnic communities** – in the North East, 57.5% of children from Black and minoritised ethnic communities were in poverty, compared with 25.2% of White children. Across the UK, 47.3% of children from Black and minoritised ethnic groups were in poverty, compared with 21.9% of White children.
- **'Larger' families (3 or more children)** – in the North East, 47.7% of children living in a family with three or more children were living in poverty, compared with 19.4% of children in families with two or fewer children. Across the UK, 41.7% of children in a 'larger' family were in poverty, compared with 21.2% of children in families with two or fewer children.⁶
- **Families living in rented homes** – in the North East, 47.1% of children living in rented homes were growing up in poverty, compared with 14.0% of children in the region living in owner occupied homes. This breaks down to 46.4% of North East children living in socially-rented homes and 48.3% living in the private rented sector. Across the UK, 45.7% of children in rented homes were in poverty (45.4% in social housing; 45.9% in the private rented sector).
- **Families with an under-5** – in the North East, 39.0% of children living in families with an under-5 were living in poverty, compared with 23.7% of children living in families with children over the age of 5. Across the UK, 35.2% of children living in families with an under-5 were living in poverty, compared with 22.6% of children living in families with children over the age of 5.
- **Single parent families** – in the North East region, 37.9% of children in single parent families were living in poverty, compared with 26.9% of children in couple households. Across the UK, 41.0% of children living in single parent families were in poverty, compared with 23.9% of children living in couple families.
- **Families where someone (adult or child) has a disability** – in the North East, 33.2% of children in a family where someone (adult or child) has a disability were living in poverty, compared with 26.9% of children in the region living in households with no disability. This breaks down to 28.6% of North East children in a family where at least one child has a disability being in poverty; 34.8% of children in families where at least one adult has a disability; and 33.7% of children in families with both disabled children and adults. Across the UK, 28.9% of children living in a family where someone has a disability are in poverty, compared with 27.4% of children in households without disability.

Local child poverty data

Using the improved CILIF dataset, Table 1 shows the after housing costs child poverty rate for every North East Parliamentary constituency in 2024/25, alongside the proportion of children in poverty that were in working families (with at least one parent/carer in paid employment).⁷

⁵ NECPC analysis of HBAI data available via the DWP's [Stat-Explore](#) database. It is only possible to provide this breakdown at a national or regional level (not combined or local authority), and 3-year averages are used to increase the robustness of the data.

⁶ This data does not yet reflect the impact of the lifting of the 'two-child limit' in Universal Credit, which took effect from April 2026.

⁷ This does not necessarily denote higher or lower rates of in-work poverty in particular areas, but will also reflect the proportion of children in each area that are in working or out-of-work households.

NECPC briefing on new child poverty data 2024/25

Table 1: % of all children in poverty, and % of children in poverty from working families, by North East Parliamentary constituency, 2024/25

Parliamentary constituency	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Bishop Auckland	31.5	65.0
Blaydon and Consett	24.4	71.3
Blyth and Ashington	31.1	64.6
City of Durham	23.1	68.5
Cramlington & Killingworth	22.4	73.0
Darlington	30.4	69.0
Easington	33.4	61.4
Gateshead Central & Whickham	29.1	72.9
Hartlepool	31.9	62.8
Hexham	16.2	76.1
Houghton & Sunderland South	29.4	66.1
Jarrow & Gateshead East	30.6	65.8
Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland	27.6	67.8
Middlesbrough & Thornaby East	44.1	63.7
Newcastle Central & West	40.4	69.7
Newcastle East & Wallsend	32.3	68.0
Newcastle North	15.4	70.9
Newton Aycliffe & Spennymoor	30.7	66.3
North Durham	28.1	64.7
North Northumberland	23.8	78.9
Redcar	32.0	66.0
South Shields	30.2	64.7
Stockton North	31.8	64.0
Stockton West	14.8	76.1
Sunderland Central	28.4	64.5
Tynemouth	19.4	72.1
Washington & Gateshead South	30.6	66.4

Table 2 shows the after housing costs child poverty rate for every North East local authority area in 2024/25, alongside the proportion of children in poverty that were in working families. From the CILIF data published by Government, it is also possible to produce combined authority-level figures (included here).

Table 2: % of all children in poverty, and % of children in poverty from working families, by North East local authority and combined authority, 2024/25

Local/combined authority	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Darlington	28.7	69.2
Hartlepool	31.9	62.8
Middlesbrough	38.7	64.8
Redcar and Cleveland	31.3	66.8
Stockton	26.2	66.5
Tees Valley CA area	31.3	65.9
Durham	29.2	65.4
Gateshead	28.2	70.3
Newcastle upon Tyne	30.9	68.9
Northumberland	24.2	71.2
North Tyneside	22.9	72.4
South Tyneside	29.6	65.4
Sunderland	29.7	65.7
North East CA area	28.0	67.9

NECPC briefing on new child poverty data 2024/25

The new ward-level figures published by Government highlight the extent to which child poverty rates in localities are masked by regional, combined authority and local authority-level data.

The following tables show **the ten wards with the highest child poverty rates within each North East local authority area in 2024/25**, alongside the proportion of children in poverty that were living in working families. Again, the latter column does not necessarily denote higher or lower rates of in-work poverty in particular wards, but will also reflect the proportion of children in each area that are in working or out-of-work households.

Darlington

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Northgate	46.3	66.7
Park East	44.9	65.2
Bank Top & Lascelles	41.5	65.6
Eastbourne	38.5	74.4
North Road	38.1	60.3
Cockerton	37.5	65.5
Haughton & Springfield	34.7	77.0
Stephenson	34.0	67.7
Red Hall & Lingfield	33.9	66.4
Pierremont	29.2	65.8

Hartlepool

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Victoria	47.7	59.2
Manor House	44.4	62.5
Headland & Harbour	38.3	57.9
Throston	37.8	60.7
Rossmere	36.8	61.3
De Bruce	36.7	59.4
Foggy Furze	33.2	62.4
Burn Valley	32.6	61.3
Fens & Greatham	20.7	74.2
Seaton	19.3	72.7

Middlesbrough

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Newport	69.8	62.2
Central	55.3	62.4
Berwick Hills & Pallister	49.9	58.4
Hemlington	45.8	60.2
Longlands & Beechwood	44.6	63.6
Brambles & Thorntree	44.1	60.9
Park	43.3	63.7
Ayresome	41.8	72.8
Park End & Beckfield	41.5	65.7
North Ormesby	38.3	55.5

NECPC briefing on new child poverty data 2024/25

Redcar and Cleveland

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Grangetown	47.9	56.0
Eston	45.5	62.3
Coatham	43.1	59.8
Lockwood	42.4	59.1
Dormanstown	41.7	62.3
Loftus	40.5	65.9
Southbank	39.4	59.5
Guisborough	36.8	69.1
Brotton	36.6	63.6
Kirkleatham	35.0	67.0

Stockton

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Newtown	44.8	53.1
Roseworth	43.5	61.5
Stainsby Hill	42.0	60.6
Mandale & Victoria	39.7	62.3
Hardwick & Salters Lane	38.9	68.3
Billingham Central	36.3	68.8
Billingham East	36.3	60.1
Billingham South	36.3	64.3
Village	35.4	62.4
Ropner	35.3	66.5

Durham

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Peterlee East	45.1	61.3
Woodhouse Close	45.0	62.5
Aycliffe West	44.7	67.4
Shildon & Dene Valley	41.2	57.6
Annfield Plain	40.2	63.6
Ferryhill	39.8	62.8
Coundon	39.5	61.3
Stanley	39.2	61.9
Deneside	39.1	68.8
Horden	39.0	51.5

Gateshead

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Felling	43.5	60.5
Deckham	41.8	65.0
Bridges	40.4	85.1
Saltwell	39.2	81.9
High Fell	35.7	66.4
Windy Nook & Whitehills	33.4	63.3
Dunston & Teams	31.4	65.9
Chopwell & Rowlands Gill	29.9	64.3
Lobley Hill & Bensham	28.5	71.1
Wardley & Leam Lane	28.3	70.8

NECPC briefing on new child poverty data 2024/25

Newcastle

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Elswick	54.2	68.6
Arthur's Hill	50.0	67.4
Byker	46.1	62.5
Walker	43.3	62.2
Monument	41.1	65.8
Benwell & Scotswood	40.9	71.9
Blakelaw	40.0	66.7
Wingrove	39.8	76.7
Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall	38.2	63.1
West Fenham	36.7	75.1

North Tyneside

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Chirton & Percy Main	44.1	67.4
Howdon	38.6	68.5
New York & Murton	33.7	71.5
Wallsend Central	33.0	67.1
Killingworth	27.6	77.8
Battle Hill	27.3	79.8
North Shields	26.6	73.0
Longbenton & Benton	25.6	71.2
Weetslade	25.3	73.8
Shiremoor	22.2	77.4

Northumberland

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Isabella	47.1	63.8
Hirst	46.6	56.6
Berwick East	38.7	80.2
Lynemouth	37.5	69.7
Bedlington East	37.4	59.4
Croft	37.0	59.5
Sleekburn	36.6	63.5
Ashington Central	36.4	62.9
Newbiggin Central & East	35.9	66.3
Choppington	35.7	65.3

South Tyneside

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Beacon & Bents	47.7	67.8
Biddick & All Saints	41.6	59.5
Simonside & Rekendyke	38.0	60.7
Bede	35.4	61.6
Fellgate & Hedworth	34.7	66.1
Primrose	33.5	67.5
Whiteleas	32.1	74.0
Harton	31.7	69.7
Cleadon Park	31.2	64.0
Horsely Hill	29.5	62.0

NECPC briefing on new child poverty data 2024/25

Sunderland

Ward	% of all children in poverty	% of children in poverty that are from working families
Redhill	41.6	61.1
Washington North	42.3	65.8
Sandhill	38.2	57.9
Castle	36.8	65.2
Barnes	35.9	71.5
Southwick	35.0	55.9
Pallion	34.9	57.9
St Anne's	34.0	66.0
Millfield	33.3	69.7
Silksworth	33.2	63.1