



MEASURING
POVERTY

MEASURING POVERTY 2024

A report of the Social Metrics Commission

Chaired by **Philippa Stroud**, CEO of the Centre for Social Policy Studies

OCTOBER 2024

ABOUT THE SOCIAL METRICS COMMISSION

The Social Metrics Commission was formed in 2016 and is led by the Centre for Social Policy Studies' CEO, Baroness Stroud. It is an independent and rigorously non-partisan organisation dedicated to helping policymakers and the public understand and take action to tackle poverty. Since its inception, its ultimate goal has been to develop new poverty metrics for the UK which have both long-term political support and effectively identify those who are in poverty. By doing so, it is hoped that Government and others will be better able to develop interventions that reduce the number of people experiencing poverty and improve outcomes for those people who do experience it.

SUPPORTERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Social Metrics Commission would like to thank the following organisations and people for their generous support for the work of developing new poverty metrics for the UK.

- The Legatum Foundation;
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation;
- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch);
- Garfield Weston Foundation;
- Oliver Wyman;
- Jon Moulton; and
- Stuart Roden.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks also go to the Commissioners for their continued support and to Edward McPherson and Matthew Tibbles, who have played a central part in creating this year's report.

CONTACTING US AND CONTRIBUTING

We welcome discussion on the issues raised in this report and would appreciate constructive feedback and comment on our approach. To contact the Commission's secretariat, please use the following email address:

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FOREWORD



This is the Social Metrics Commission's (SMC) fifth annual report assessing the level and nature of poverty across the UK. Its key finding is that the rate of poverty in the UK is now higher than at any point in the 21st Century. Against the backdrop of the impacts of the pandemic and the subsequent cost-of-living crisis, poverty rates have risen by two percentage points since 2019/20. As a result, nearly one in four (24%) people in the UK are now judged to be in poverty. In more tangible terms, the report shows that this means that 2.1 million more people are now living in poverty than would have been the case if this rise in poverty rates had not occurred.

As with last year's report, we find that children and disabled people have been particularly hard hit. Over one in three children (36%) now live in families that are in poverty and 8.7 million people in poverty are disabled themselves, or live with someone who is disabled. This means that well over half (54%) of all people in poverty live in a family that includes a disabled person.

Commissioners who came together to develop the Social Metrics Commission measure of poverty did so because they believed that to address a problem you first have to understand it and be able to measure it. We can now see the extent of poverty in the UK and it should challenge us all to want to do something about it.

It is not all bad news, however. For example, whilst deep poverty has been an increasing issue over the last two decades, recent rises in poverty overall have not translated into further rises in deep poverty. In fact, the number of people in deep poverty in 2022/23, is slightly lower than it was prior to the pandemic. The report also demonstrates the protection that work provides against poverty. For example, whilst poverty rates amongst families where all adults work full time have remained stable since 2019/20 (at 9%), rates of poverty amongst people living in workless families have increased by seven percentage points to 75%.

Aside from the financial impacts of poverty, the SMC's framework shows the broader impacts of poverty on the families that experience it. Our analysis shows that people in poverty are more likely to live alone, report that they have poor mental and physical health, and have low or no formal qualifications. They are also less likely to have access to supportive social networks, and more likely to be behind in paying the bills. All of these things impact on the lives of people in poverty, making their experience of poverty more severe and making it more likely that they remain in poverty for longer.

These and other findings through the report provide key insights into the scale, nature and characteristics of poverty in the UK, which can and should be used to guide policy decisions. That is why I was delighted to welcome the Department for Work and Pension's first set of official statistics in development based on the SMC's approach. When fully developed, this new Below Average Resources measure of poverty will provide policymakers, businesses, civil society and individuals the understanding they need to work together to tackle poverty.

The potential power of an approach like this is demonstrated in the Poverty Strategy Commission's (PSC) final report, due later this year. This will show how, by using the analysis laid out by the SMC's approach, an approach to tackling poverty, underpinned by a clear social contract in the UK, can bring about a significant and sustainable reduction in poverty in the UK.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of this. Whilst this report shows that poverty rates are now higher than at any point this Century, they have never fallen below 21% over that same timeframe. This shows the real challenge facing us all in ensuring that we move the dial on poverty in the UK and ensuring that as many people as possible can enjoy a life free of poverty.

As always, this remains mine, and the Commission's ultimate goal. We believe that, with the right measurement framework in place, we will all be better able to understand and take the action that will be needed. As that action is taken, the results from the SMC's framework will also be a vital tool in tracking, monitoring and celebrating the progress we collectively make. My hope is that in the Commission's sixth report next year, we can start to show that progress is being made.



Baroness Philippa Stroud
CEO of the Centre for Social Policy Studies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S POVERTY MEASURE

The SMC was founded in 2016 to develop a new approach to poverty measurement. In response to the fact that the UK no longer had an official measure of poverty for children, adults or pensioners,ⁱ its ambition was to develop metrics that both better reflected the nature and experiences of poverty that different families in the UK have, and which could be used to build a consensus around poverty measurement and action in the UK and to ensure that policymakers and politicians can track progress over time and be effectively held to account for tackling the causes of poverty and improving the lives of those who do experience poverty.

It was clear from the start that, to develop measures that could be successfully adopted, the Commission's recommendations would need to gain widespread support both from individuals and organisations across the political spectrum and from the widest range of people interested in poverty measurement. To ensure that this is the case, the Commission was set up to be rigorously non-partisan. Its membership drew together top UK poverty thinkers from different political and professional backgrounds alongside data and analytical experts and those with experience of working with and supporting people living in poverty. The work has been led by an independent Secretariat and Technical Team, who presented Commissioners with detailed analysis, research and advice. The Commission also chose not to make recommendations on current or future policy direction. The Commission's work remains solely focused on the question of how poverty is measured.

Commissioners	Affiliation when Commissioner
Philippa Stroud (Chair)	Centre for Social Policy Studies
Helen Barnard	Trussell Trust
Dr Stephen Brien	Social Security Advisory Committee
Alex Burghart MP	Former SMC Commissioner, 2016/17
Prof Leon Feinstein	University of Oxford
Deven Ghelani	Policy in Practice
Prof Paul Gregg	University of Bath
Dr David Halpern	Behavioural Insights Team
Dr Nick Harrison	Sutton Trust
Oliver Hilbery	Making Every Adult Matter
David Hutchison OBE	Social Finance
Robert Joyce	Institute for Fiscal Studies
Carey Oppenheim	London School of Economics
Rt Hon David Laws	Education Policy Institute
Hetan Shah	British Academy
Stephan Shakespeare	YouGov

Following two and half years of work, the Commission published its first report in September 2018. This articulated how the approach to poverty measurement could be improved in the UK and elsewhere. The Commission's measure included improvements in three key areas:

1. Identifying those least able to make ends meet. The Commission's measure:
 - Accounted for all material resources, not just incomes. For instance, this meant including an assessment of the available liquid assets that families have;
 - Accounted for the inescapable costs that some families face, which make them more likely than others to experience poverty. These include the extra costs of disability, costs of childcare and rental and mortgage costs; and
 - Broadened the approach of poverty measurement to include an assessment of overcrowding in housing and those sleeping rough.
2. Providing a better understanding of the nature of poverty, by presenting detailed analysis of poverty depth and persistence for those in poverty; and
3. Providing an assessment of Lived Experience Indicators that shine a light on the differences in experiences of those living in poverty and those above the poverty line.

The Commission's 2018 report was the first time this framework had been used to present a detailed articulation of the nature of poverty in the UK. By design, the Commission's findings suggested that the same number of people were in poverty in the UK as previously thought. However, within this overall population, the Commission's results suggested significant changes to the groups identified as being in poverty and shed greater light on the depth, persistence and Lived Experiences of poverty.

PROGRESS TOWARDS NEW OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Last year, the Commission warmly welcomed the last Government's renewed commitment to develop new measures of poverty based on the Commission's workⁱⁱ and was delighted to see the publication of the Department for Work and Pension's first set of official statistics in development and consultation on the new *Below Average Resources* measure. We look forward to future publications on this new measure. This report and the analysis of the data that underpins it has been coordinated with the work of analysts at the DWP to ensure that methodological improvements that have been made for this edition of our report will also be made in any future analysis of the *Below Average Resources* measure. Details of the, typically minor, changes can be found in the main body of the report.

More generally, the Commission has been pleased to be able to support the work of the Department for Work and Pensions in developing its approach to the official statistics in development. As this work is taken forward, our focus will be on ensuring that the full breadth of the Commission's measurement framework is available to policy makers, researchers and the public so that the new statistics can be used to effectively guide and prompt the action needed to reduce poverty in the UK.

WHAT NEXT?

The need for work to create an accurate and insightful approach to measuring poverty is emphasised by the challenges faced by families across the UK in the last four years. With the COVID-19 pandemic followed by a cost-of-living crisis, many families have struggled to make ends meet. The SMC's measure of poverty provides a tool for understanding where living standards have been hit hardest and where policy makers might focus their interventions to make the most difference.

However, the Commission also recognises that its work to date is only the start of what needs to happen. As such, we welcome the Department for Work and Pensions' commitment to developing the SMC's approach further and improving the data that underpins it. This work will be vital in ensuring that the new measures provided by the *official statistics in development* are as accurate a reflection of the experiences of poverty faced by families in the UK as possible.

The Commission is committed to supporting this work. In taking this forward, the Commission will work with the widest range of stakeholders possible to ensure that, once fully developed, this statistic will form the basis of a consensus view on poverty measurement across the Government, the Opposition, the ONS, policymakers and those researching and working with people in poverty and people in poverty themselves. Without this consensus, a large part of society risks being left further behind without the support they need or an understanding of the action they could take to improve their lives.

KEY CONCLUSIONS:

Based on the Commission's approach to measuring poverty, this report shows that:

- **Poverty rates have increased since the pandemic.** The rate of poverty in 2022/23 was 24%, a one percentage-point increase on the previous year and two percentage-point increase since 2019/20. If poverty rates in 2022/23 were the same as in the year prior to the pandemic, 2.1 million fewer people would have been in poverty.
- **Poverty in the UK is an increasingly significant issue.** At 24%, the poverty rate is now the highest it has been in the 21st Century. It means that 16 million people in the UK are living in families in poverty. Of these, 5.2 million are children, 9.2 million are working-age adults and 1.5 million are pension-age adults.
- **Poverty rates have increased most for children.** More than a third of all children (36%) were in poverty in 2022/23, an almost five percentage-point increase since 2019/20.
- **The number of disabled people in poverty has increased significantly.** In 2022/23, there were 8.7 million people in poverty who are disabled themselves, or who live with a disabled person, up from 6.9 million in 2019/20. This means that, as of the latest data, well over half of people in poverty (54%) live in a family that includes a disabled person.
- **Poverty rates have not been below 21% in this Century and have regularly been at 23%. They started at 23% in 2000/01** (the first available year of results using the Commission's approach) and hit that same level between 2007/08 and 2012/13 and in 2021/22 before rising to 24% in the most recent data.
- **Poverty rates for a number of groups have fallen since 2000/01.** Most notably, poverty rates for pension-age adults have fallen by nearly seven percentage points, from 20% in 2000/01 to 13% in 2022/23. Poverty rates amongst those living in lone-parent families have also fallen by three percentage-points to 55% in 2022/23.
- **Gains seen up to the mid-2010s have been eroded.** While reduced poverty rates for pension-age adults and those living in lone-parent families are positive, rates have been rising since lows in rates seen in the mid-2010s. For example, the poverty rate for those living in lone-parent families in 2013/14 was 46%, some nine percentage points below the 55% seen in the most recent data.
- **Poverty rates vary significantly between English regions.** Poverty rates are highest in the West Midlands and in London (both 27%), and in the North West (26%). Regions with the lowest rates are the East of England (17%), the South West (18%) and the South East (19%).
- **Poverty rates vary less across the UK's four nations.** The highest rates are in Wales (24%) and the lowest in Northern Ireland and Scotland (21%).

The nature of poverty

- **The number of people in deep poverty remains slightly below that seen pre-pandemic.** Compared to 2019/20, there are 100,000 fewer people in deep poverty in 2022/23.
- **However, deep poverty has still increased over the last two decades.** 4.1 million people (6% of the population) in the UK now live in the deepest form of poverty (more than 50% below the poverty line), compared to 2.7 million people (5% of the population) in 2000/01.
- **Persistent poverty has risen slightly over time.** Almost six in ten (57%) of those in poverty were living in persistent poverty in 2022/23, a rise of four percentage points since 2014/15.

Characteristics of those in poverty

- **More than half (8.7 million; 54%) of all people in poverty live in a family that includes a disabled person.** Three in ten (31%) of those in poverty are themselves disabled: a total of 4.9 million people.
- **Poverty rates are highest amongst families with children.** The poverty rate for people living in couple families without children is 12% (1.6 million people). This compares to 28% (6.3 million people) for people in couple families with children and 55% (2.2 million people) for those in lone-parent families.
- **Poverty rates are lower for families with higher work intensities.** Three in four (75%) people in workless families are in poverty, compared to 9% of those in families where all adults work full time. Around six in ten (58%) of people in families where some adults work part time are in poverty.
- **Poverty rates of for those in workless families have risen rapidly since the pandemic.** The poverty rate for workless families fell to a low of 68% in 2019/20, however it has risen by seven percentage points to 75% since then.
- **However, the majority of people in poverty live in a family where someone works at least part time.** Over six in ten (62%) people in poverty live in a family where someone works at least part time. Three in ten (29%) are in working-age, workless families. The difference is made up by families in which all adults are retired (7%).
- **Poverty rates are higher for Black and Minority Ethnic families.** Two in five (41%; 1.0 million) people living in families where the household head is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British were in poverty, compared to one in five (20%, 11.1 million people) of those living in families where the head of household is White.

The Commission's Lived Experience Indicators show that those in poverty experience worse outcomes than those not in poverty.

- **Those in poverty are more likely to have poor self-reported mental health.** One in three (33%) people in poverty live in a family that includes someone with poor self-reported mental health, compared to 24% of people who are not in poverty. 15% of people in poverty live in a family that includes someone who reports low life satisfaction, compared to 9% of those who are not in poverty.
- **Those in poverty are more likely to be living on their own.** Nearly half (45%) of those living in poverty are in a household with only one adult. This compares to three in ten (29%) people who are not in poverty.
- **Those in poverty also experience poorer physical health outcomes.** Over a quarter (27%) of people in poverty are in a family that includes at least one adult self-reporting poor physical health, compared to 22% of people not in poverty.
- **Those in poverty are, perhaps unsurprisingly, significantly more likely to face severe strain in budgeting and paying their bills.** Over a quarter (26%) of people in poverty are in families that are behind in paying their bills, compared to only 6% of people who are not in poverty. More than two-thirds (68%) of people in poverty live in a family in which no adult saves, compared to a third (36%) of people who are not in poverty.

Some improvements in recent years

- **Fewer people in poverty are worried about being victims of crime, or feel unsafe in their neighbourhoods.** The proportion of people in poverty who live with somebody who reports feeling unsafe walking alone at night has fallen by six percentage points. Likewise, the proportion living with someone concerned about being a victim of crime has fallen by three percentage points.
- **Rate of worklessness among those in poverty have tumbled since the turn of the century.** The proportion of those in poverty who live in a workless family has fallen by 17 percentage points since 2000/01.
- **The proportion of people in poverty reporting to be in family where someone has drunk to excess or smoked have fallen.** Whilst nearly half (47%) of people in poverty live in a family where one or more adults has drunk to excess, this is a fall of nine percentage points in the last decade and is 10 percentage points lower than the equivalent figure for those not in poverty (57%).

SECTION ONE: SUMMARY OF THE COMMISSION'S POVERTY MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPING THE COMMISSION'S MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

A brief summary of the new approach to measuring poverty that the Commission launched in 2018 is provided below. Full details can be found on the Commission's website and in the 2018 report.

WHY IS POVERTY MEASUREMENT IMPORTANT?

Before outlining the elements that make up the Commission's framework, it is important to outline why Commissioners think that the concept of poverty and its measurement are important, as this frames many of the decisions that were taken.

Overall, Commissioners felt that the concept of poverty is important because of both the direct and indirect impacts that poverty has on individuals, families and communities. The most obvious of these is that, where an individual or family is in poverty, some of their needs cannot be met.

In addition to the challenges people may face in putting food on the table or providing housing for their family, there are close links between poverty and many other aspects of people's lives, including relationships, health and future prospects. A significant body of research has shown some of the wider outcomes that can lead to, or are associated with, living in poverty.

This means that having an accurate and agreed measure of poverty is important as it allows us to:

- Understand the overall extent, nature and dynamics of poverty in the UK;
- Undertake research based on that understanding to assess the causes of this poverty and the potential pathways out of it; and
- Develop interventions, support and the enabling environment needed to both reduce the incidence of poverty and mitigate the impacts for those who do experience it.

Without an agreed measure, each of these is made much more difficult.

THE COMMISSION'S MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

A core measure of poverty

The Commission began its work by outlining how it would approach the measurement of poverty. As outlined in its interim report, the Commission viewed poverty as the experience of having insufficient resources to meet needs. However, there are a number of different dimensions along which 'needs' and 'resources' could be characterised. For example:

- Resources could be focused purely on material resources or be taken to mean a wider view of 'capabilities' affecting someone's ability to change their own life. A wider approach might include education or mental and physical health as 'resources';ⁱⁱⁱ and
- There are also differences between needs conceived as being immediate (e.g. paying for things now) versus a 'need' to ensure adequate provision for the future.^{iv}

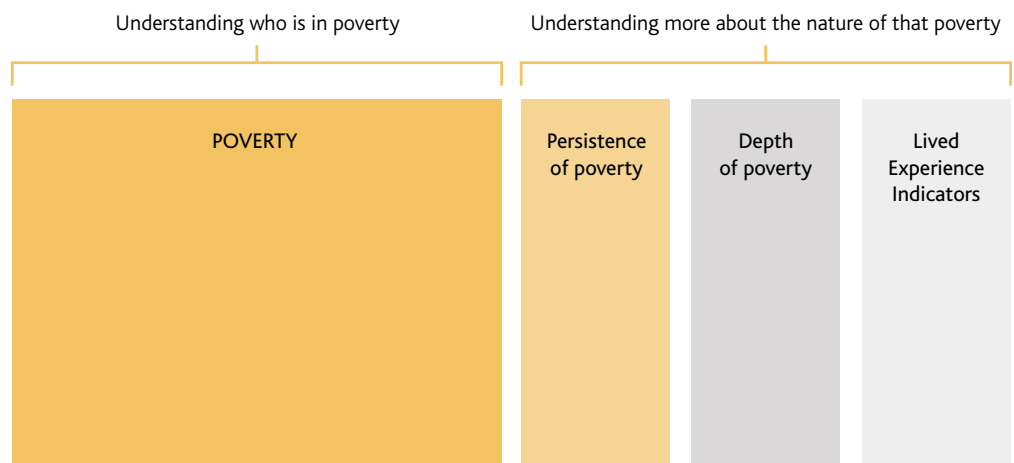
Based on the principles outlined above, the Commission decided to focus its measure of poverty on the extent to which the material resources that someone has available to them now are sufficient to meet the material needs that they currently have.

Understanding the nature of poverty

As well as measuring the incidence of poverty, Commissioners also developed a broader measurement framework that provides a deeper understanding of the factors that affect the experience of poverty, influence the future likelihood of poverty, or are consequences that flow from being in poverty. Figure 1 demonstrates that, alongside measuring the number of people in poverty, the Commission decided to report on three other areas:

- **The depth of poverty:** To assess how far above / below the poverty line families are. This will allow an understanding of the scale of the task that families face in moving out of poverty and how close others (above the poverty line) are to being in poverty;
- **The persistence of poverty:** To assess how long families in poverty have been in poverty for, so that the escalating impact of poverty over time can be considered and tackled; and
- **The Lived Experience of those in poverty:** To assess a range of factors and characteristics that impact on a family's experience of poverty, make it more likely for them to be trapped in poverty and / or are likely predictors of their poverty experience.

Figure 1: The Commission's measurement framework



PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDED DECISION-MAKING

Once an overall framework had been established, the Commission then needed to make detailed decisions about how each of the elements would be measured. To ensure that the Commission approached decisions in a consistent manner, a set of key principles were developed and agreed by the Commission. These were used to frame the Commission's decisions and covered both the Commission's overall approach to measurement and the Commission's approach to measurement of resources and needs. These are summarised in box 1.

Box 1: Overview of the Commission's principles of measurement

Focus on poverty: The Commission's focus is on measuring poverty, not social mobility, income inequality or wider measures of economic wellbeing. The poverty metric will also draw a clear distinction between indicators of poverty itself, the experience of poverty and risk factors or drivers of future poverty.

Poverty now: The Commission is assessing the extent to which families have the resources currently available to meet their immediate needs, rather than how they might manage in the future.

With reference to society: Needs are determined with reference to all of society. The definition of needs will be related to the degree to which people can engage in a life regarded as the 'norm' in UK society.

Neutrality: For the purpose of measurement, the Commission will only consider families' experience now, and not consider how they got into the situation.

Lived experience: It is important to understand more than just who is classed as being in poverty. Understanding the nature of that poverty (e.g. poverty depth and persistence) and the wider characteristics and factors that impact on a family's experience of poverty are also important.

Ongoing measurement: Commissioners wanted to create a measure that could be captured using available data (or with improvements to existing data) and updated regularly.

Balancing accuracy with simplicity: The goal is to measure the size, distribution and nature of the population that is in poverty. We will not add unnecessary layers of complexity to capture very small numbers of atypical families.

MEASURING POVERTY

The Commission began its work by outlining how it would approach the measurement of poverty. The Commission viewed poverty as the experience of having insufficient resources to meet needs. However, there are a number of ways in which needs, resources and sufficiency can be characterised. Overall, this suggests that there are four steps to developing a measure of poverty:



HOW DO PEOPLE SHARE?

Rather than using standard “household” assessments, whereby every individual within the same household is assumed to have an identical living standard, the Commission decided to allow for intra-household differences in living standards in some cases. In practical terms, this meant creating a new measure of intra-household sharing; the Sharing Unit:

1. Related^v individuals within a household are deemed to share resources and needs – they represent one Sharing Unit. For example, a lone parent and child living with the lone parent’s own parents would be counted as one Sharing Unit; and
2. Non-related individuals within a household are deemed not to share resources and needs – they represent multiple Sharing Units. For example, a group of non-related students living in the same property would each be classed as separate Sharing Units.

The Commission is clear that this approach would not perfectly capture all sharing relationships in all households. For instance, in some households, related benefit units, and individuals within the same benefit units, will not equally share their resources and needs. However, whilst this is not a perfect measure, we believe it is the best that is possible using the available data, and an improvement on previous measures, which assumes that all individuals in a physical household share perfectly.

WHAT ARE AVAILABLE MATERIAL RESOURCES?

The Commission wanted to develop a new measure of resources that moved beyond the traditional focus on incomes. The motivation for this was the fact that many families both have access to non-income material resources (e.g. liquid assets) or need to spend a portion of their resources on outgoings over which they have no short-term control (inescapable costs like housing and childcare).

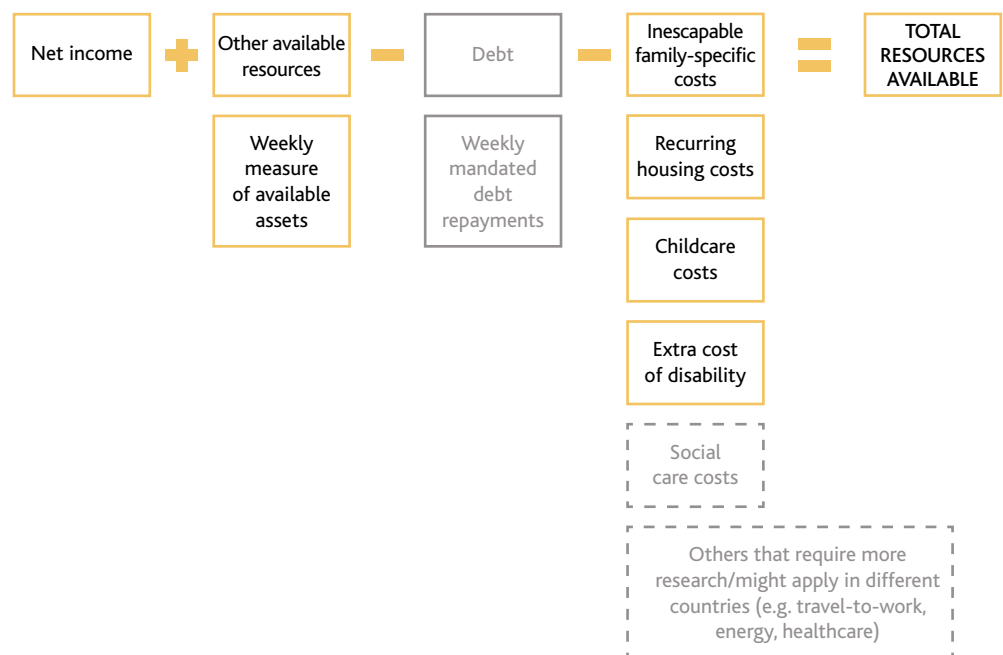
Overall, the Commission decided that the most appropriate approach to assessing the resources that families have available to meet their needs was to create a new measure of total weekly resources available. Figure 2 shows that this includes:

1. All sources of post-tax earnings and income, including all benefit and tax credit income;
2. Liquid assets available for immediate use (judged to be total stock of liquid assets divided by 52);
3. A deduction of inescapable family-specific recurring costs that families face from housing and childcare; and
4. A deduction of inescapable extra costs of disability.

A measure of obligated debt repayments would also have been deducted if the data was available in the FRS. The Commission also strongly recommends further work to explore how the costs of social care could be captured and included.

Creating this measure of total resources available gives a far more accurate picture of the extent to which families are able to meet their day-to-day needs.

Figure 2: Creating a measure of weekly total resources available (all weekly)



Notes: Factors outlined in orange are already included in the measure. Factors outlined in a grey solid line would have been included if the data was available. Factors outlined in a grey dash require measurement and assessment to understand whether they should be included.

WHAT ARE IMMEDIATE MATERIAL NEEDS?

There are a range of questions that need to be answered to develop a measure of immediate material needs. These include questions about which data to use to proxy needs as well as complex questions about how to account for the fact that families of different sizes and compositions will have different needs.

After considering a range of options, the Commission decided that the most appropriate data to use to proxy needs was a measure of what others in society have available to spend (the Commission's measure of total resources available). It then considered a range of options for how to account for family size and composition. It decided:

1. To equalise needs using the After Housing Costs (AHC) version of the OECD adjusted equivalence scales; and
2. To note the urgent need for further work to develop equivalence scales that reflect the experience of families in the UK.

The Commission's 2019 report on equivalisation undertook some of that work. It created a framework to take forward the research needed to develop a new equivalence scale for the UK and outlined how that work should be developed. The Commission will continue to work with all interested parties to ensure that the right evidence is available so that the UK has the most accurate account of the differing needs of different individuals and families.

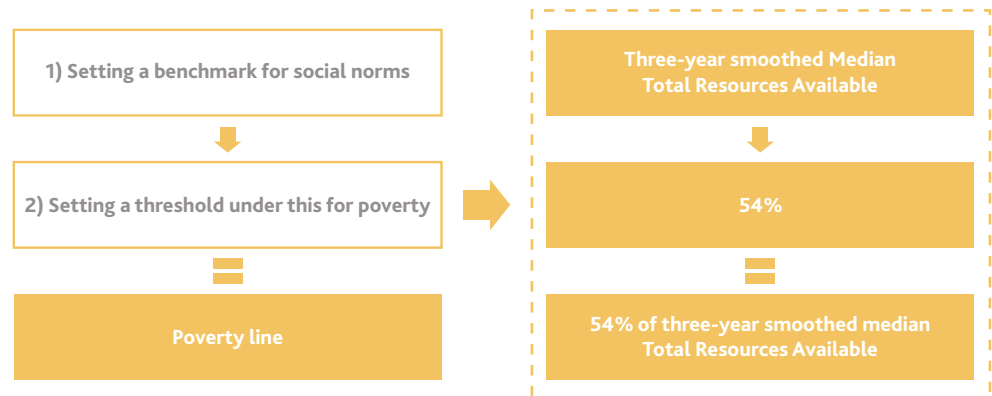
COMPARING MATERIAL RESOURCES AND MATERIAL NEEDS

After creating measures of resources and needs, the Commission had to develop a way of comparing the two to create a poverty line. Commissioners did this by determining a benchmark for social norms in society and then setting a threshold beneath this that reflected the situation of poverty.

Details of these decisions are shown in figure 3. It is worth noting the Commission's decision to use a three-year smoothed measure of social norms better reflects the fact that social norms and expectations will take time to adapt to changes in overall economic conditions. For instance, if median incomes fall rapidly during a recession, it is not necessarily the case that a family's needs (and the poverty line) will fall pound for pound with this reduction. This makes the Commission's measure a hybrid between the traditional absolute and relative approaches to measuring poverty.

The other innovation of the Commission's measure was to broaden the approach to include an assessment of one element of housing adequacy. This included an adjustment for those in overcrowded accommodation and including those sleeping rough to be in poverty.

Figure 3: Commission's approach to setting the poverty line



MEASURING ELEMENTS OF THE EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY

Commissioners also developed a wider measurement framework, which focused on measuring the depth and persistence of poverty as well as understanding a wide range of factors that might impact on a family's likelihood of entering or remaining in poverty, or their wider experience of poverty.

DEPTH OF POVERTY

Capturing the depth of poverty is one element that contributes to understanding the severity of poverty that families are experiencing. It is also apparent that the experiences of those just above the poverty line are likely to be very similar to those just below it. For these reasons, the Commission chose not to set an arbitrary threshold for "deep poverty". Instead, the Commission decided to create a measure of the depth of poverty that:

- Reflects how far each family in poverty is below the poverty line; and
- Captures and reports on families that are just above the poverty line.

POVERTY PERSISTENCE

Another important element of the severity of poverty that people experience is the length of time that they have been in poverty. Commissioners wanted a measure of the length of poverty to reflect families that had been continuously in poverty and also those who may have dipped in and out of poverty.

The Commission decided to create a measure of poverty persistence that matched the approach used by the OECD/ONS. This means that a family would be judged to be in persistent poverty if:

- They were in poverty this year; and
- Had also been in poverty for two of the previous three years.

This measure has been created using data from the Understanding Society survey. As more waves of this become available, an understanding of the longer-term persistence of poverty (for example, over more than four years) will also be possible.

LIVED EXPERIENCE OF POVERTY

Based on Commissioners' experience, existing research and input from a range of experts, the Commission identified a range of factors that were not captured by the Commission's measure of poverty, depth and persistence. These were grouped under five domains:

- Family, relationships and community;
- Education;
- Health;
- Family finances; and
- Labour market opportunity.

This is not meant to be a fully comprehensive list of potential factors: there are others that are important now, or might be important in the future. However, Commissioners wanted to develop a manageable framework for understanding and reporting on some of the wider experiences of people in poverty and how they compare to those not in poverty.

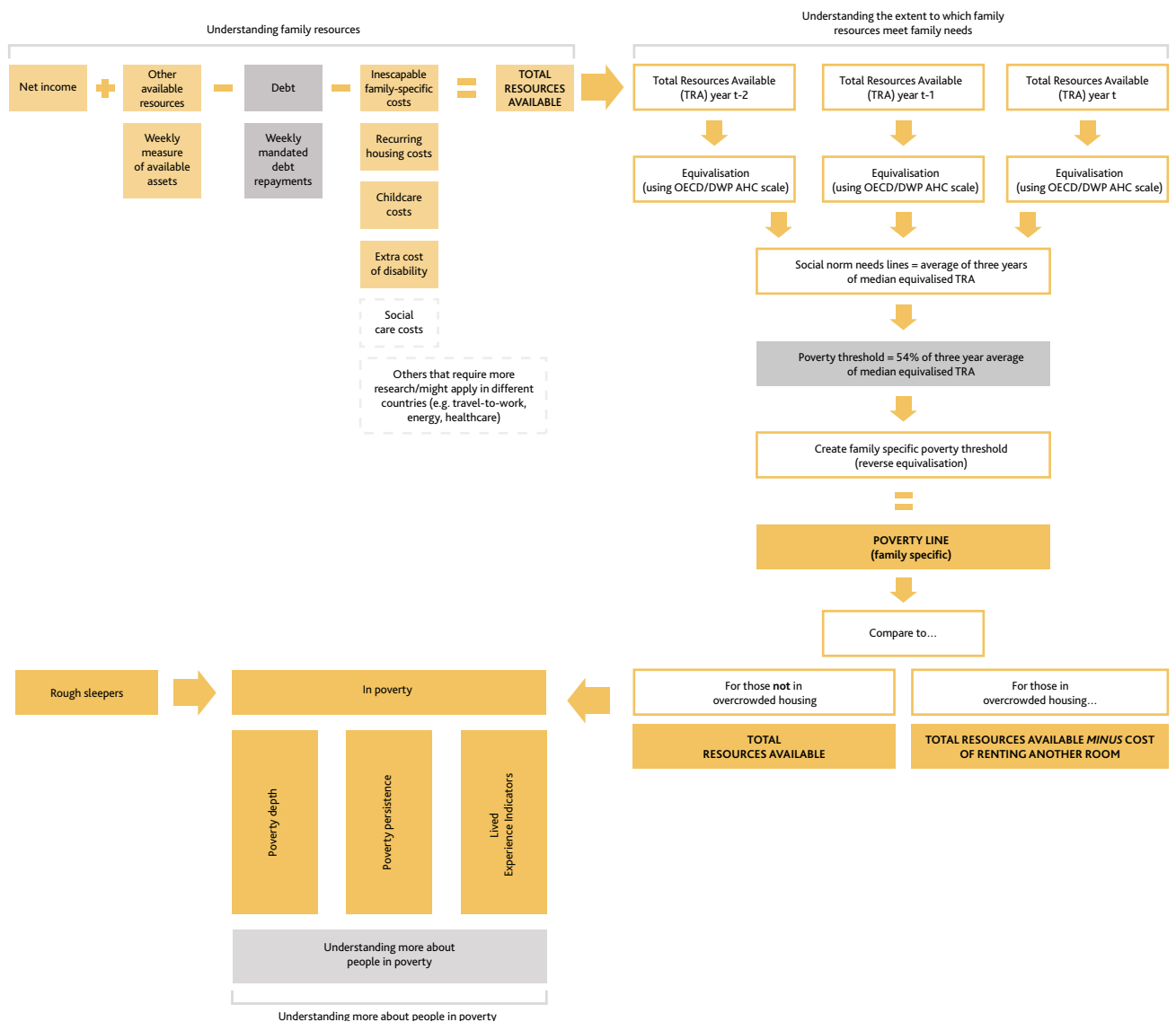
The Commission used data from both the Family Resources and the Understanding Society surveys to capture these factors. The prevalence of each of the factors amongst the population in poverty is compared to that of the population not in poverty, to establish an understanding of some of the differences between the two populations.

It is hoped that this will improve understanding and stimulate more research and analysis to develop a deeper assessment of the experiences of people in poverty, how to create an enabling environment and some of the potential routes of entry and exit.

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION'S APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT

Figure 4 below provides a full overview of the Commission's approach to determining whether or not a specific family is living in poverty.

Figure 4: Overview of the Commission's measurement framework



SECTION TWO: FULL RESULTS

POVERTY IN THE UK

This section provides an overview of the headline results from the Commission's measurement framework, showing the incidence of poverty and how it varies for different types of families and individuals. It also shows how poverty rates and numbers have changed since 2000/01, both overall and for different types of individuals and families.

Results from 2020/21 have been omitted because of concerns around the quality of the underlying data collected during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

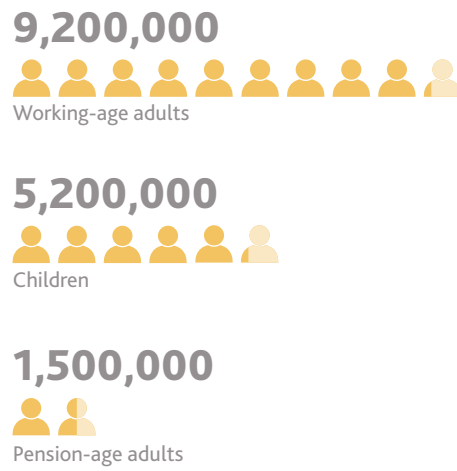
POVERTY – LATEST HEADLINES

Under the Commission's poverty measure, 16.0 million people in the UK are living in families judged to be in poverty (24% of the UK population). This is the highest rate of poverty seen since the SMC measure was first able to be calculated (2000/2001). The previous highest rate (23.3%) was seen in 2009/2010 (figure 6). The current rate represents a 1 percentage point increase in the poverty rate since 2021/22 and a 2.1 percentage point increase from 2018/19.

Within the 16.0 million people living in poverty in 2022/23, there are 5.2 million children (36% of children), 9.2 million working-age adults (23% of working-age adults) and 1.5 million pension-age adults (13% of pension-age adults).

Figure 5: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by age, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:



Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

- 24%** Of the overall population are in poverty
- 23%** Of working-age adults are in poverty
- 36%** Of children are in poverty
- 13%** Of pension-age adults are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

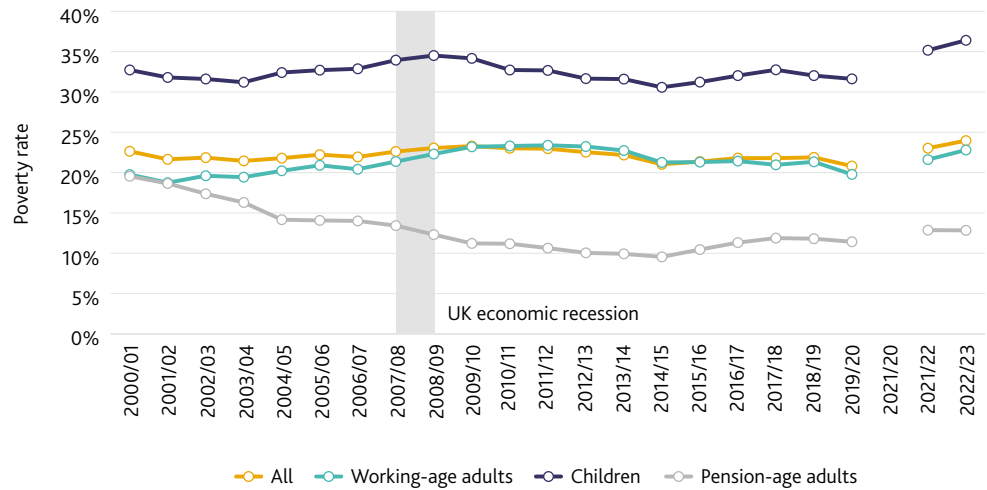
Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

The number of people in poverty has increased by around 0.7 million, from 15.3 million in 2021/22 to 16.0 million in 2022/23. The number of people in poverty is 2.4 million higher than it was in 2019/20.

Between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the number of children in poverty increased by 0.2 million, from 5.1 million to 5.2 million. The rate of poverty amongst children, at 36%, is the highest since records began in 2000/01. There has also been an increase in the poverty rate faced by working-age adults (by 1 percentage points), from 22% in 2021/22 to 23% in 2022/23.

This in part reflects a longer-term trend towards poverty in working-age families. Figure 6 shows that, whilst there has been relatively little movement in the overall rate of poverty in the UK since 2000/01, over the same period, the poverty rate for pension-age adults has fallen from 20% in 2000/01 to 13% in 2022/23.

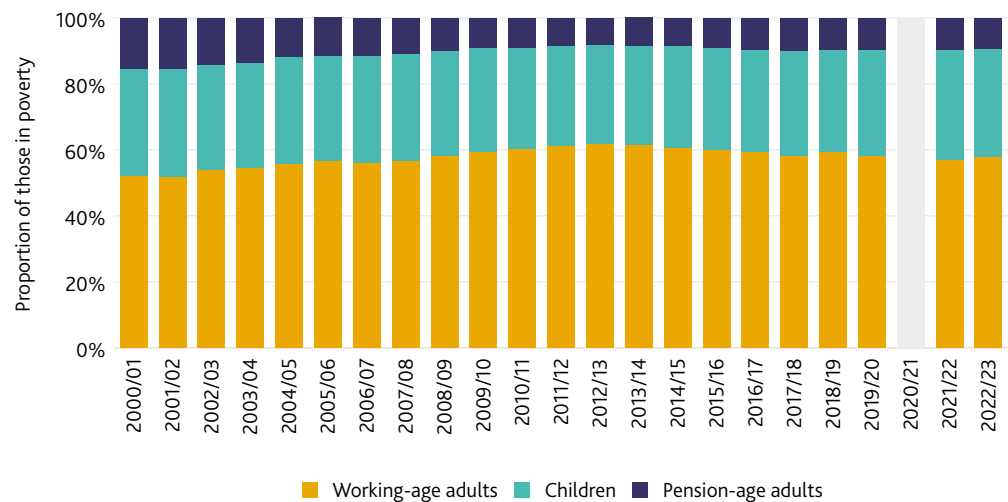
Figure 6: Poverty rates for the UK population, by age, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

The large fall in poverty amongst pension-age adults means that the composition of the total population in poverty in the UK has changed over the last 15 years; working-age adults and their children now make up a larger proportion of the group, while pension-age adults represent a lower proportion of the total. In 2000/01, pensioners accounted for just under one in six (16%) of those in poverty. By 2022/23, this figure had decreased to around one in ten (10%).

Figure 7: Composition of poverty, by age



Notes: Categories refer to individuals who are working-age adults, children, or pensioners, rather than individuals in different family types.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

The prominence of children in poverty has also increased. After decreasing for a decade, this reached a low of three-in-ten (30%) in 2012/23. This has since increased, with children making up around a third (33%) of people in poverty in 2022/23. This returns to the greatest share recorded since data became available in 2000/01.

POVERTY BY FAMILY TYPE

Figure 8: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by family types that people live in, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

3,500,000



Single people with no children

2,900,000



People in lone-parent families

1,600,000



People in couple families with no children

6,300,000



People in couple families with children

800,000



People in pension-age single families

1,000,000



People in pension-age couple families

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

28%

Of single people with no children are in poverty

55%

Of people in lone-parent families are in poverty

12%

Of people in couple families with no children are in poverty

28%

Of people in couple families with children are in poverty

18%

Of people in pension-age single families are in poverty

11%

Of people in pension-age couple families are in poverty

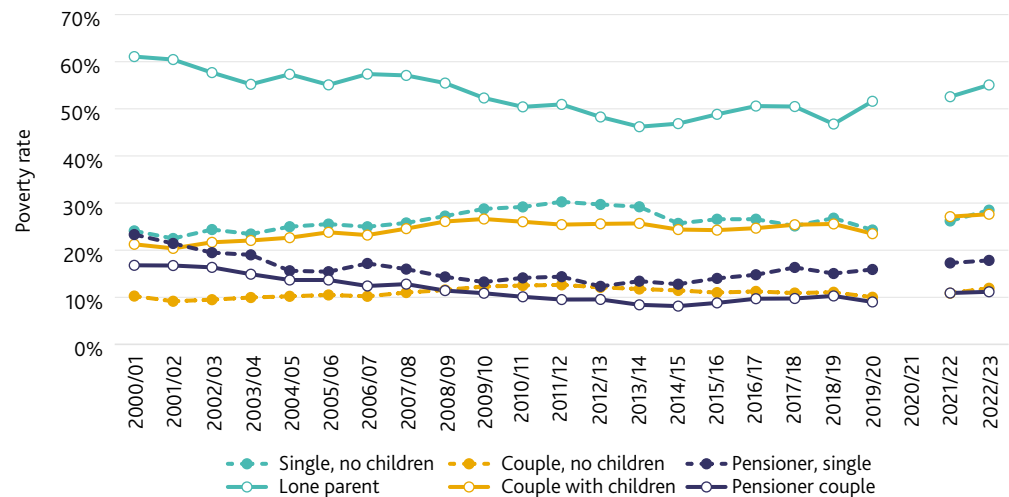
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Family types taken from the HBAI dataset once SMC poverty indicators (assessed at the sharing unit level) have been allocated to each benefit unit. This applies to all estimates for family type in this section.

As well as considering poverty amongst working-age adults, pension-age adults and children, poverty can also be assessed based on the types of family within which people live.

Figure 8 shows that more than half (55%) of people living in lone-parent families are living in poverty. This compares to 28% of those living in couple families with children and 11% of people in pension-age couple families.

Whilst poverty rates amongst people in lone-parent families are high, given the relatively small proportion of the overall population that this group accounts for, they are not the largest group in poverty. Instead, the 6 million people in poverty who live in couple families with children represent around four in ten (39%) of those in poverty. Single people with no children represent the second largest group of people in poverty, with 3.5 million people in this group.

Figure 9: Poverty rates for the UK population, by family type, over time

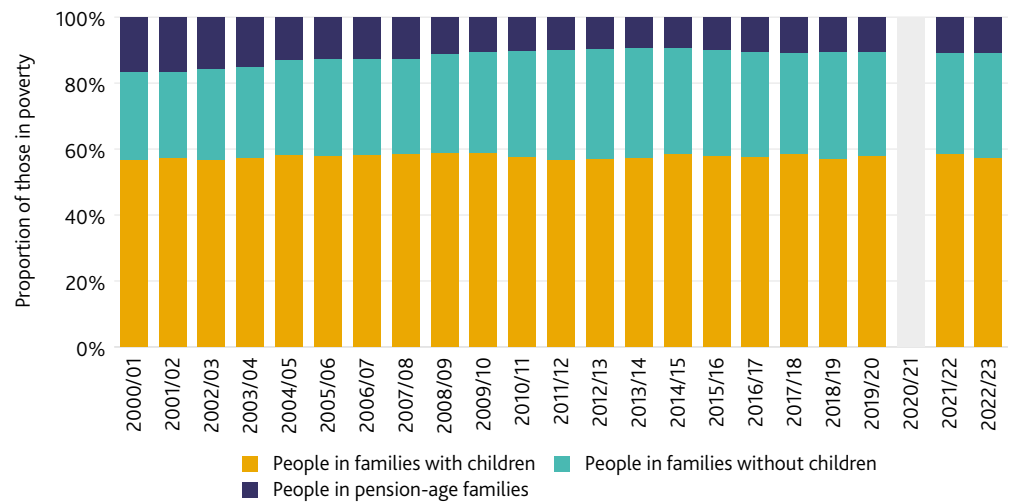


Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 9 demonstrates that poverty rates for individuals in particular family types have changed over time. The poverty rate of lone-parent families is now nine percentage points higher than its low point in this century of 46% in 2013/14. However, despite this rise in the last decade, the rate remains six percentage points below that seen in 2000/01.

Figure 10 shows that, since the early 2000s, there has been a shift in the composition of poverty from pension-aged families^{vi} falling from 17% of the population in poverty in 2001/02 to 11% in 2022/23, to working-age families without children (increasing from 27% of the population in poverty in 2001/02, to 32% in 2022/23). The proportion of the total population in poverty accounted for by people living in families with children has remained fairly constant at just under six in ten.

Figure 10: Composition of poverty, by family type



Notes: Family types created using HBAI family designations and number of children.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

ANALYSIS OF POVERTY BY FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS

There are also characteristics, beyond family type, that are associated with different rates and levels of poverty. This section considers poverty by family disability status, work status, housing tenure and ethnicity.

Housing tenure

Figure 11 demonstrates how people in poverty in the UK are split between families in different housing tenures. Over two thirds (68%) of people in poverty are in the social- or private-rented sector.

Figure 11: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by housing tenure, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

6,000,000



People in families living in social-rented accommodation

4,900,000



People in families living in private-rented accommodation

3,200,000



People in families living in mortgaged-owned accommodation

1,900,000



People in families living in owned-outright accommodation

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

56%

Of people in families living in social-rented accommodation are in poverty

38%

Of people in families living in private-rented accommodation are in poverty

14%

Of people in families living in mortgaged-owned accommodation are in poverty

9%

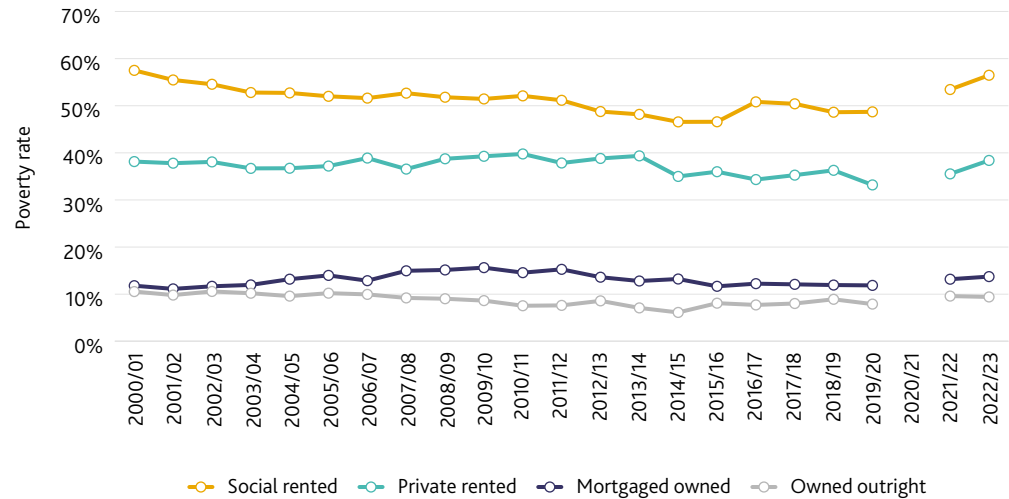
Of people in families living in owned-outright accommodation are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Tenure is derived from HBAI tenure type variables at the benefit unit level. This allows specific benefit units within the sharing unit (e.g. someone renting a room in a house their sibling owns) to be classified separately from other benefit units. This applies to all estimates for housing tenure in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

There have also been changes in the overall poverty rates for people living in different housing tenures. Figure 12 shows that poverty rates amongst those in social-rented accommodation remain significantly higher than for those in other tenure types. Since 2021/22, poverty rates have risen for all tenure types except those who own outright, with the greatest increase seen for those in social-rented accommodation.

Figure 12: Poverty rates for the UK population, by housing tenure, over time

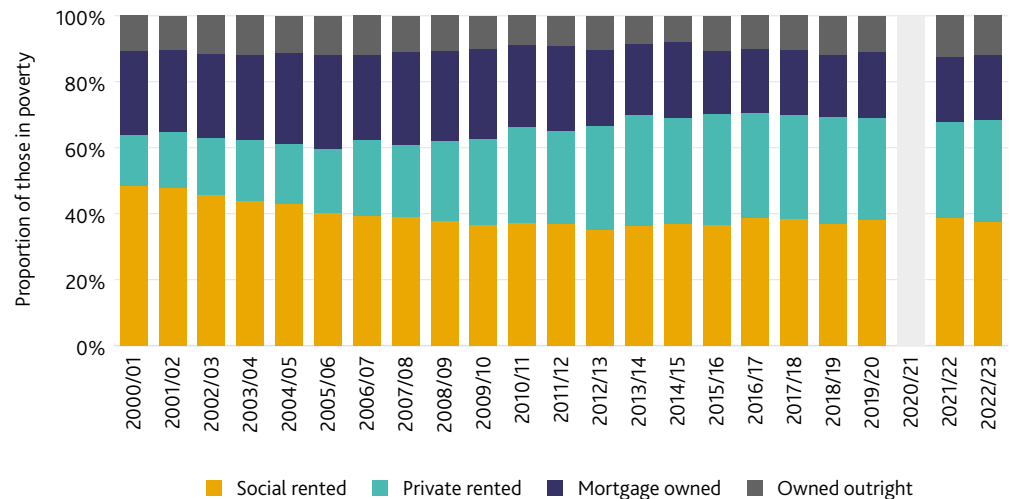


Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Whilst poverty rates for those in private-rented accommodation have remained steady since 2000/01, remaining between 35% and 40%, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of those in poverty that live in the private-rented sector. Having only accounted for 15% of the population in poverty in 2000/01, this group now accounts for nearly a third (31%) of the population in poverty. There has been a commensurate decrease in the prevalence of those in social-rented accommodation. In 2000/01, just under half (49%) of people in poverty were in social-rented accommodation. This has decreased to under four in ten (37%) in 2022/23. It should however be noted that this is still the largest group in poverty, and that poverty rates for those in the social rented sector are persistently higher than for other tenure types.

This change in the tenure composition of poverty has been driven by a large increase in the overall UK population who live in the private-rented sector: this increases from 9% of the population in 2000/01 to 19% in 2022/23.

Figure 13: Composition of poverty, by housing tenure



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2000/01 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Disability

Poverty rates are higher for people living in families that include a disabled adult or child. Three in ten (30%) people in these families are in poverty, compared to under two in ten (19%) people in families where no one is disabled.

Overall, 8.7 million people in poverty are living in families that include a disabled adult or child. This means that over five in ten (54%) people in poverty live in a family where someone is disabled, which is a reduction from 2021/22 (58%) but higher than pre-pandemic levels (50%).

Figure 14: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by whether the family includes a disabled person, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

8,700,000



People in families that include a disabled adult or child

7,300,000



People in families that do not include a disabled adult or child

8.7 million people in poverty in the UK in families that include a disabled person (2022/23), comprised of:

6,300,000



People in families that include one or more disabled adults and no disabled children

900,000



People in families that include disabled children and no disabled adult

1,400,000



People in families that include disabled children and one or more disabled adults

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

30%

Of people living in families that include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

19%

Of people living in families that do not include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

27%

Of people living in families that include one or more disabled adults and no disabled children are in poverty

37%

Of people living in families that include disabled children and no disabled adults are in poverty

47%

Of people living in families that include disabled children and one or more disabled adults are in poverty

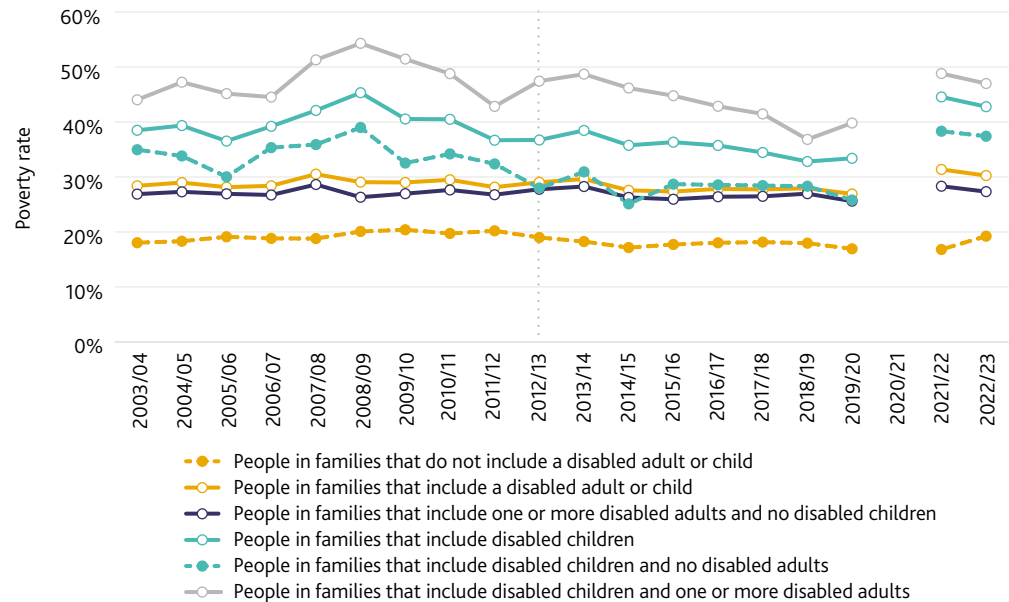
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Families are classified as having a disabled person if one or more benefit unit within the family has a disabled person according to the variables "disability within the family (benefit unit)". This variable changed to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13 but is otherwise consistent across years. This applies to all estimates for family disability in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 15 demonstrates that, in each year since 2003/04, around three in ten people living in families that include a disabled person have been in poverty. This compares to the poverty rate of less than 20% for people not living in a family that include a disabled person.

There has been a slight decrease in the most recent data, with the poverty rate for people who live in a family that includes a disabled person falling from 31% in 2021/22 to 30% in 2022/23. The poverty rate for families that include a disabled child has also reduced, from 45% in 2020/21 to 43% in 2022/23. Nonetheless, the rates are still significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels, with the rate of poverty for those living in a family that includes a disabled person being three percentage points higher than it was in 2019/20.

Figure 15: Poverty rates for the UK population, by whether the family includes a disabled person, over time

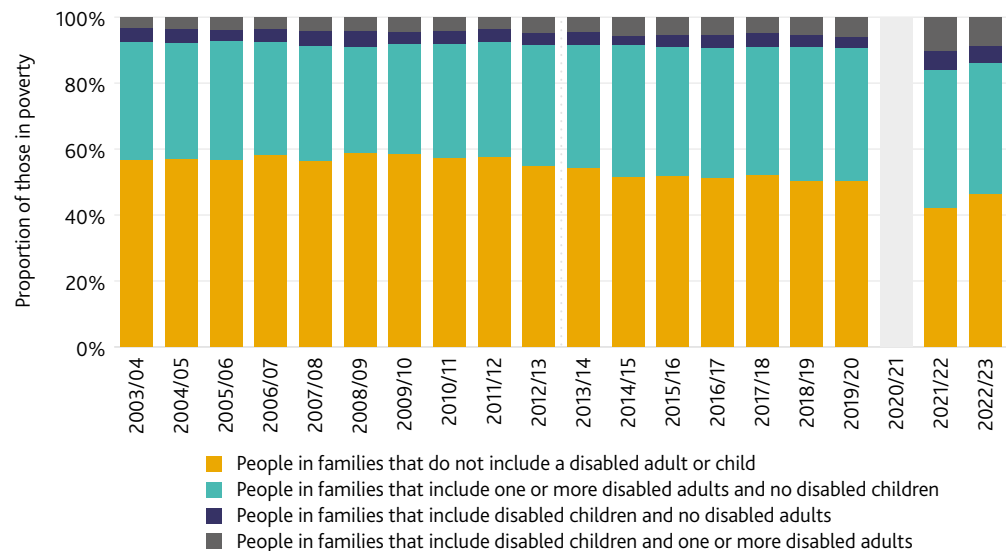


Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13. Estimates for disability are only available from 2003/04 due to data limitations. This applies to all disability estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Figure 16 shows that, while there was a four percentage point reduction between 2021/22 and 2022/23, the proportion of people in poverty who live in families with a disabled person has increased significantly in the last two decades, from 44% in 2003/04 to over 54% in 2022/23.

Figure 16: Composition of poverty, by whether the family includes a disabled person



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Work status

Figure 17 demonstrates how people in poverty in the UK are split between retired, working and workless families. To understand the poverty status of families with different work intensities, the following classifications are used:^{vii}

- **Full-time work family:** All adults in the family work full time;
- **Full/part-time work family:** Some adults in the family work full time, others work part time;
- **Part-time work family:** Some or all adults in the family work part time, others may not work; and
- **Workless family:** None of the adults undertakes any paid work.

The experience of poverty varies significantly between families with different levels of work intensities. For example, just under six in ten people living in part-time work families (58%) are in poverty. This compares to just one in ten (9%) of those people living in full-time work families. Figure 17 also shows that 75% of those living in workless families are in poverty.

Together, this means that more than six in ten (62%) people in poverty in the UK live in a family where someone does at least a few hours of work.

Figure 17: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by family work status, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

3,200,000



People in a full-time work family

4,800,000



People in a full/part-time work family

1,900,000



People in a part-time work family

4,600,000



People in a workless family

1,200,000



People in a retired family

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

9%

Of people living in full-time work families are in poverty

35%

Of people living in full/part-time work families are in poverty

58%

Of people living in part-time work families are in poverty

75%

Of people living in workless families are in poverty

13%

Of people living in retired families are in poverty

Notes: Excludes sharing units where all adult members are students. Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Family work status allocated in accordance with the approach summarised above. This applies to all estimates for family work status in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Table 1 considers how these results vary by different family types. It shows that, across all family types, as the family increases their work intensity, their chances of being in poverty falls significantly.

However, it also shows that different families with similar work-statuses can have quite different experiences of poverty. For example, people living in couple families without children, where both adults work full time, have the lowest poverty rate (3%). This contrasts with a poverty rate of 26% for people in families where the lone parent works full time. Whilst high, this is still considerably lower than the poverty rate for people in lone-parent families where the lone parent works full/part-time (50%), part time (63%) or is workless (79%).

Table 1: Poverty rates for people in working-age families, by family type and work status, 2022/23

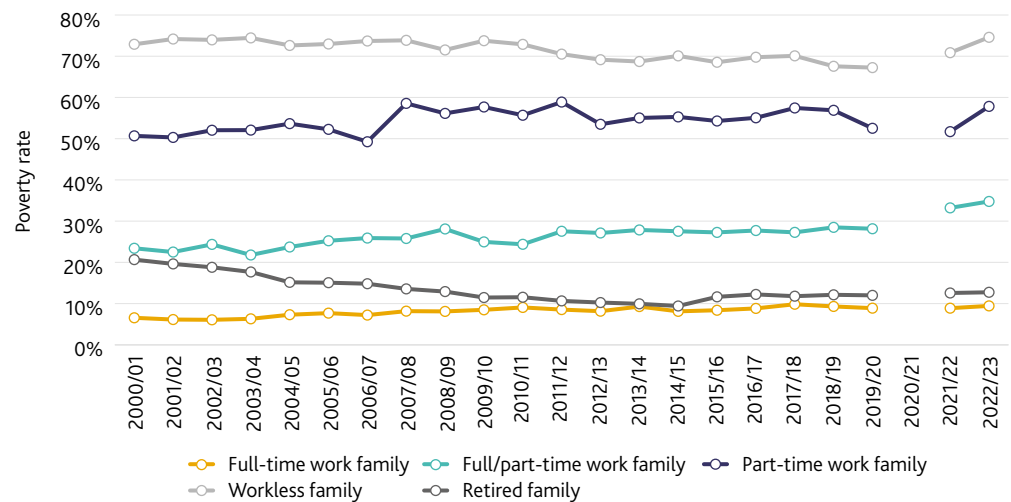
	Full-time work family	Full/part-time work family	Part-time work family	Workless family
Single, no children	8%	22%	48%	72%
Lone parent	26%	50%	63%	79%
Couple, no children	3%	17%	37%	71%
Couple with children	12%	44%	70%	89%

Notes: To provide a sufficient sample size, estimates for each family type have previously been presented as three-year averages of the relevant year and the two years previous. However, given data quality issues for the 2020/21 sample, the 2022/23 figure instead represents the average of figures from 2019/20, 2021/22, and 2022/23. Full/part-time working families refer to the overall mix of adults in the sharing unit. As such, single person families or lone parents could be in a sharing unit with other adults leading to their allocation into this group, depending on the work status of the other adults.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Figure 18 shows how the poverty rate for each of the family work statuses has changed over time. In the most recent year, the most significant changes are seen in the poverty rate amongst part-time work families, which increased from 52% in 2021/22 to 58% in 2022/23, coming close to its previous highest point of 59%. The poverty rate for workless families fell to a low of 68% in 2019/20, however it has risen by seven percentage points to 75% since then.

Figure 18: Poverty rates for the UK population, by family work status, over time

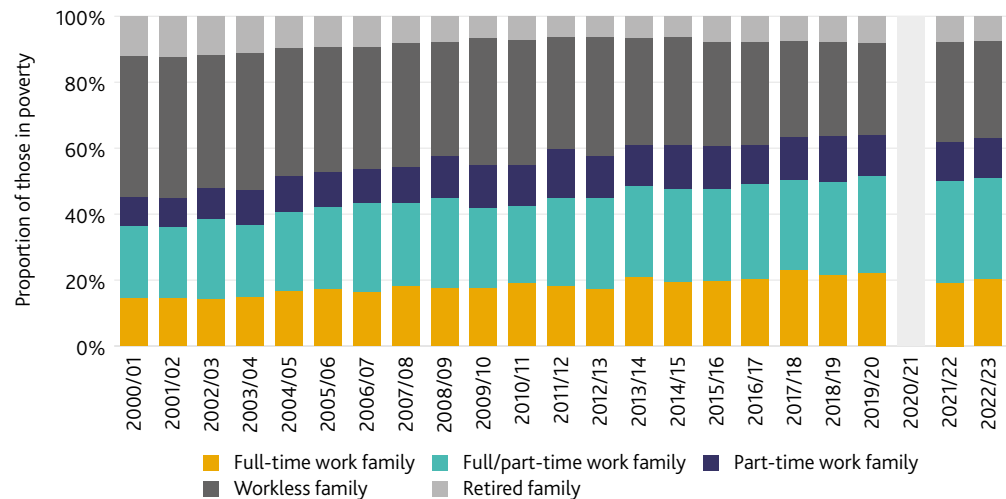


Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Whilst poverty rates are far lower for families where adults work, employment levels in the UK have increased significantly over the last two decades, leaving fewer people living in workless families. In fact, the proportion of working-age adults and children living in workless families has fallen from 13% in 2000/01 to 9% of the population in 2022/23. This has contributed significantly to the shift in composition of UK poverty towards families where someone works at least part time.

Figure 19 shows that over six in ten (62%) of those in poverty live in families where at least one person is working part time. The equivalent figure in 2007/08 was 53%, and in 2000/01 was 44%. Whilst some of these changes are driven by changes in poverty rates (shown above) changes in the number of people in workless and working families are a significant driver.

Figure 19: Composition of poverty, by family work status



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Ethnicity

Britons from ethnic minority backgrounds largely face higher poverty rates than White Britons. Over two in five (42% or 1,000,000) people living in families where the household head is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British were in poverty, compared to one in five (20%, 11.1 million people) of those living in families where the head of household is White.

Figure 20: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by ethnic group of household head, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

11,100,000



People in families with a head of household who is White

300,000



People in families with a head of household who is from a mixed/multiple ethnic group

2,100,000



People in families with a head of household who is Asian/Asian British

1,000,000



People in families with a head of household who is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British

500,000



People in families with a head of household who is from any other ethnic group

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

20%

Of people in families living with a head of household who is White are in poverty

29%

Of people in families living with a head of household who is from a mixed/multiple ethnic group are in poverty

38%

Of people in families living with a head of household who is Asian/Asian British are in poverty

42%

Of people in families living with a head of household who is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British are in poverty

43%

Of people in families living with a head of household who is from any other ethnic group are in poverty

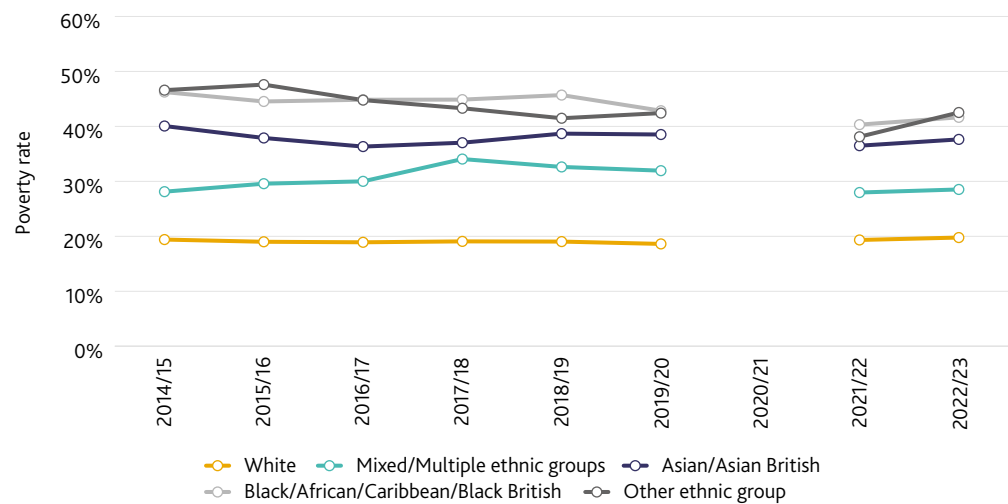
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. To ensure sufficient sample sizes, analysis by ethnic group is presented as three-year averages. The figure presented for 2022/23 is based on an average of data for 2022/23, 2021/22, and 2019/20 due to known issues with data for 2020/21. The harmonised standards for ethnicity questions were fully adopted across the UK from the 2012/13 questionnaire onwards. Analysis by ethnicity therefore only begins in that year and results are only presented from 2014/15 due to three-year averaging. Individuals have been classified according to the ethnic group of the household head. This applies to all estimates for ethnicity in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2016/17 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 21 shows that, since 2014/15^{viii}, around one in five people in families where the head of household is White have been in poverty. Poverty rates for people in families where the head of household is not White have been consistently higher than poverty rates faced by White families. Poverty rates have increased for all groups in the most recent data. The most notable increase is

for families where the head of household is from any Other ethnic group, where the poverty rate increased from 38% in 2021/22 to 43% in 2022/23, however this is still lower than the 47% seen in 2014/15. Similarly, in 2022/23 over four in ten (42%) people in families headed by someone of Black / African / Caribbean / Black British ethnicity were in poverty. This is up from 40% in 2021/22, but lower than the 46% seen in 2014/15. Sample sizes for these groups are relatively small, however, and so population inferences from year-on-year changes should be treated with caution.

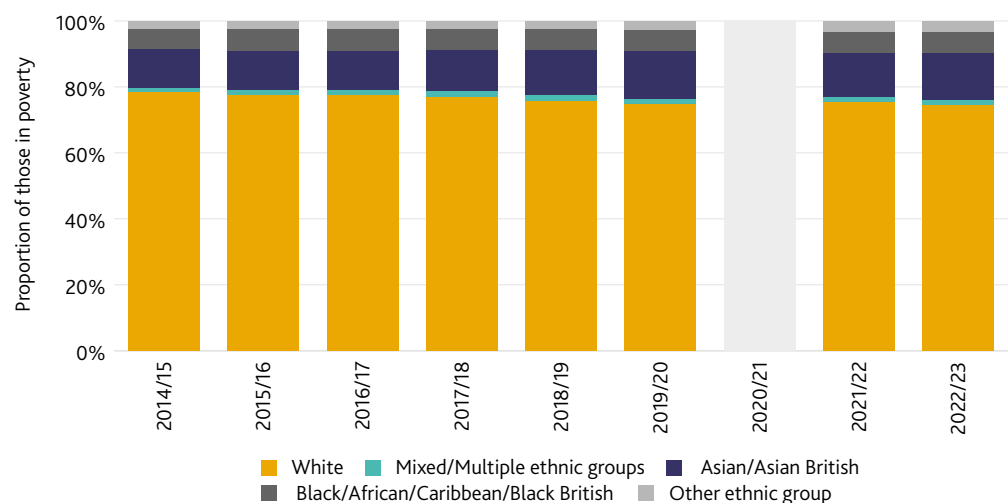
Figure 21: Poverty rates for the UK population, by ethnic group of household head, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2014/15 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

The composition of poverty by ethnicity has changed relatively little since 2014/15.

Figure 22: Composition of poverty, by ethnic group of household head



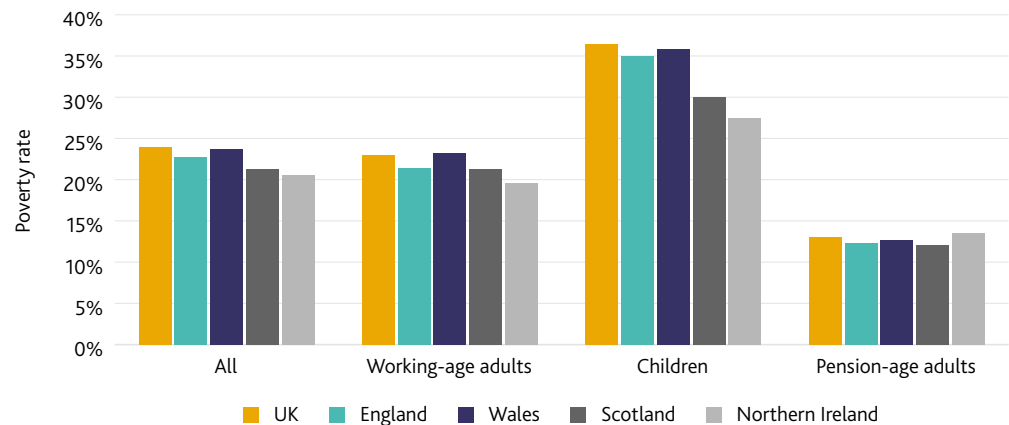
Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2014/15 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

POVERTY ACROSS THE UK

UK countries

This section considers poverty across different parts of the UK. Figure 23 shows poverty rates overall for each country and also split by working-age adults, children and pensioners. Compared to the UK average, poverty rates are generally higher for people living in Wales and lower for those living in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Figure 23: Poverty rates for the UK population, by country and age, 2022/23

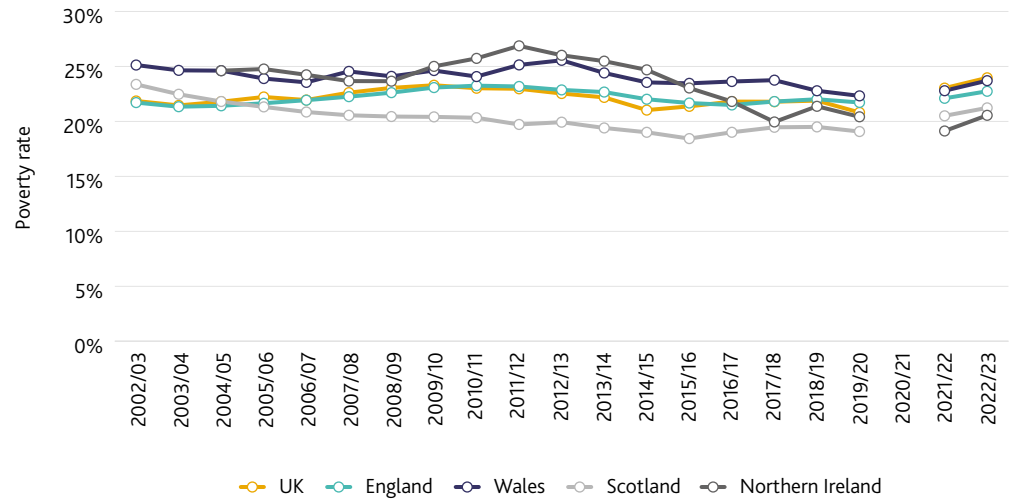


Notes: To provide a sufficient sample size, estimates for each family type have previously been presented as three-year averages, in line with current HBAI approaches. However, given data quality issues for the 2020/21 sample, the 2021/22 figure instead represents the two-year averages of figures from 2019/2020 and 2021/22. Figures for 2022/23 represents a three-year average across 2022/23, 2021/22, and 2019/20. This applies to all sub-national estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 24 shows how poverty rates in each of the four nations have varied over time. Overall pre-pandemic poverty rates in England, Northern Ireland and Wales broadly followed the overall trend in the UK poverty rate: falling slowly in the early 2000s, rising during the financial crisis and recession and then falling post-recession. Poverty in Scotland followed a slightly different trajectory, with the poverty rate on a downward trend up to 2015/16 but plateauing since. Northern Ireland saw the greatest reduction in poverty post-financial crisis: from 27% in 2011/12, to 20% in 2019/20. However, in the most recent data from 2021/22 to 2022/23, the poverty rate increases in all four nations of the UK.

Figure 24: Poverty rates for the UK population, by country, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2002/03 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 2 shows how the poverty rates for people living in different types of families vary across the countries in the UK.

Table 2: Poverty rates for the UK population, by family type and country, 2022/23

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland
Single, no children	26%	27%	29%	25%
Lone parent	54%	47%	48%	46%
Couple, no children	11%	14%	12%	12%
Couple with children	26%	29%	23%	19%
Pensioner, single	17%	18%	16%	18%
Pensioner, couple	10%	11%	10%	12%

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC analysis. To provide a sufficient sample size, estimates for each family type have previously presented as three-year averages, in line with current HBAI approaches. However, given data quality issues for the 2020/21 sample, the 2021/22 figure instead represents the two-year averages of figures from 2019/20 and 2021/22.

Areas within England

Differences in poverty rates between English regions are larger than between the countries of the UK. For example, figure 25 shows that the overall poverty rate in the West Midlands (27%) and in London (27%) is 10 percentage points higher than in the East of England (17%). The North West (26%), North East (25%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (25%) all have higher poverty rates than does England as a whole (23%).

Differences in the overall poverty rate across English regions are also reflected in the poverty rates for working-age adults, children and pension-age adults (table 3).

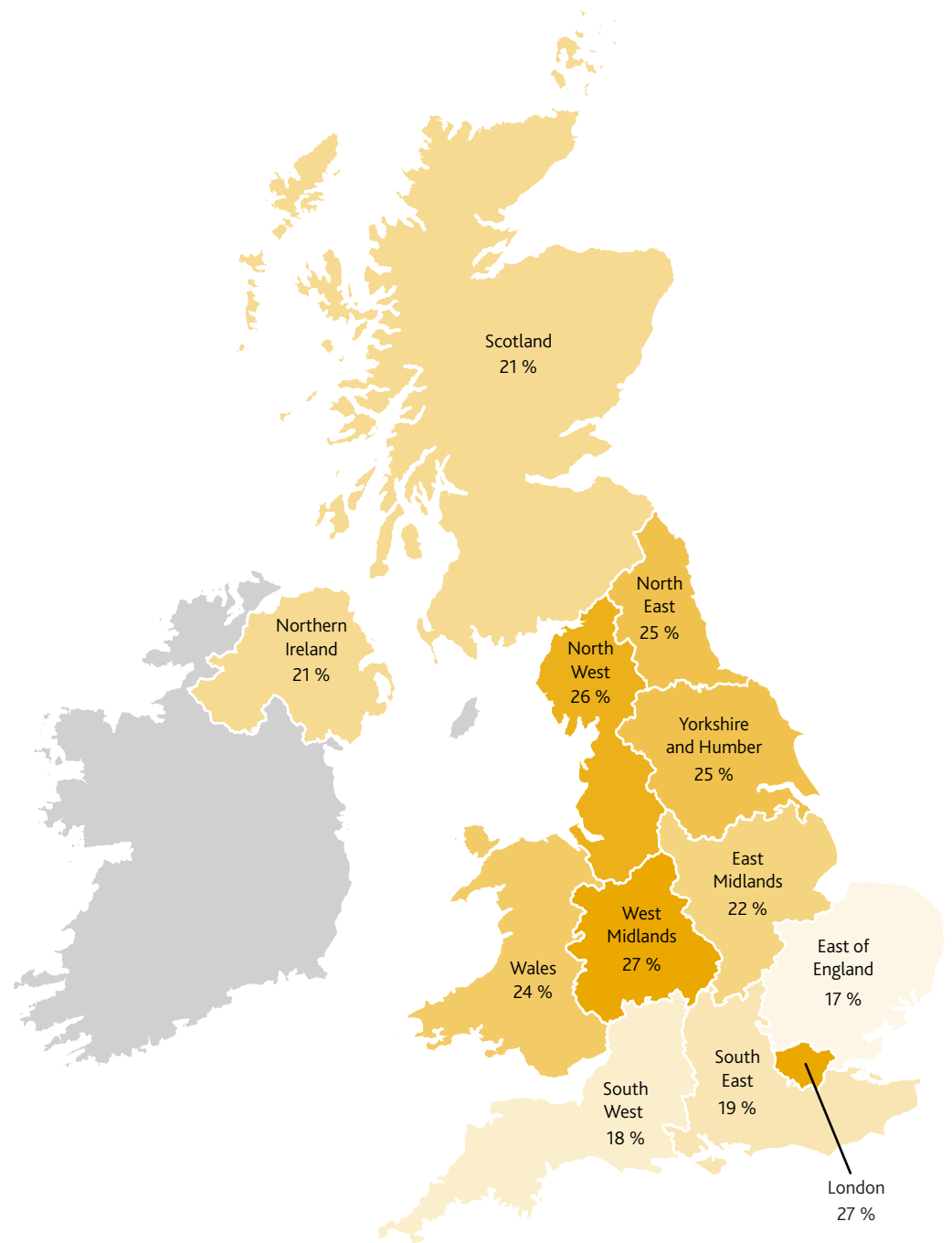
Table 3: Poverty rates for the UK population, by English region and age, 2022/23

	All		Working-age adults		Children		Pension-age adults	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
North East	700,000	25 %	400,000	25 %	200,000	40 %	100,000	12 %
North West	1,900,000	26 %	1,000,000	24 %	700,000	42 %	200,000	15 %
Yorks and the Humber	1,300,000	25 %	800,000	23 %	400,000	38 %	100,000	14 %
East Midlands	1,100,000	22 %	600,000	21 %	300,000	34 %	100,000	12 %
West Midlands	1,600,000	27 %	900,000	26 %	600,000	43 %	100,000	13 %
East of England	1,100,000	17 %	600,000	16 %	400,000	26 %	100,000	9 %
London	2,400,000	27 %	1,400,000	24 %	800,000	37 %	200,000	18 %
South East	1,700,000	19 %	900,000	17 %	600,000	29 %	200,000	10 %
South West	1,000,000	18 %	600,000	17 %	300,000	29 %	100,000	9 %
England	12,700,000	23 %	7,200,000	21 %	4,200,000	35 %	1,200,000	12 %

Notes: To provide a sufficient sample size, estimates for each family type have previously been presented as three-year averages, incorporating the relevant year and the two previous, in line with current HBAI approaches. However, given data quality issues for the 2020/21 sample, the 2022/23 figures instead represents the three-year averages of figures from 2019/20, 2021/22, and 2022/23. This applies to all regional estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 25: Poverty rates for the UK population, by English region, 2022/23



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2017/18 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

SECTION THREE: UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF POVERTY

POVERTY DEPTH

The Commission’s approach to measuring the depth of poverty ensures that it is possible to understand the distribution of poverty underneath the poverty line. The Commission’s research also demonstrates that those only just above the poverty line are some of the most likely families to be in poverty in future and are already likely to be experiencing a similar standard of living as those who are already in poverty. For this reason, the Commission’s approach to measuring depth of poverty also identifies those who are just above the poverty line.

DEPTH BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

Table 4 shows that 9.3 million people in the UK (14% of the population) are more than 25% below the poverty line, meaning that their total resources available would need to increase significantly for them to be out of poverty. Around 2.9 million people are less than 10% below the poverty line, meaning that relatively small changes in their circumstances could mean that they are no longer in poverty.

Table 4: Breakdown of depth of poverty for those in poverty, 2022/23

Distance below poverty line	Number of people	% of UK population
<=5% below the poverty line	1,400,000	2
5%-10% below the poverty line	1,500,000	2
10%-25% below the poverty line	3,800,000	6
25%-50% below the poverty line	5,200,000	8
>=50% below the poverty line	4,100,000	6

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. For poverty calculations, where families were directly on a given threshold, they were treated as being above it, as their resources would be defined as being equal to their poverty-level needs. This approach was also applied to the various categories of poverty depth in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CLEARANCE ABOVE THE POVERTY LINE

Table 5 shows that, as well as those under the poverty line, another 4% of the population (around 2.5 million people) are less than 10% above the poverty line, meaning that small changes to their situation could mean that they are in poverty.

Table 5: Breakdown of those above the poverty line, 2022/23

Distance above poverty line	Number of people	% of UK population
<=5% above the poverty line	1,200,000	2
5%-10% above the poverty line	1,300,000	2
10%-25% above the poverty line	3,700,000	5
25%-50% above the poverty line	5,400,000	8
>=50% above the poverty line	39,200,000	59

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/10 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

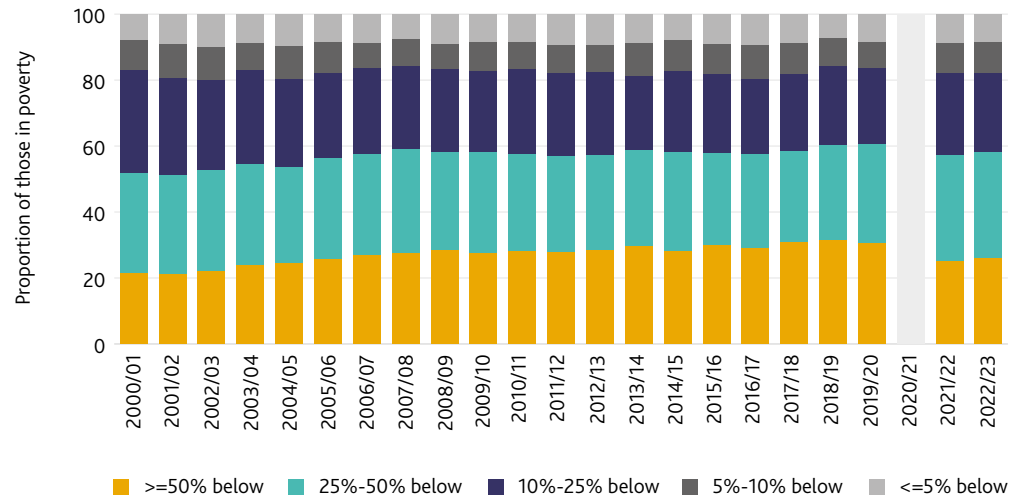
Changing poverty depth over time

Figure 26 shows the composition of poverty by the depth of poverty that families experience.

It shows that, since 2000/01, those in the deepest level of poverty (more than 50% below the poverty line) have represented an increasing share of all of those in poverty. In 2000/01, 21% of those in poverty could be found in deep poverty. By 2019/20, this group accounted for 31% of all of those in poverty, falling back to 26% in 2022/23.

This sort of analysis is a key advantage of the Commission's measurement framework, as this group would have been less apparent under previous measures of poverty that tended to focus on the overall number of people beneath the headline poverty line.

Figure 26: Composition of poverty, by poverty depth



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Poverty depth across English regions and UK countries

Table 6 shows how experiences of poverty depth for those in poverty vary across the regions and countries of the UK. Just under four in ten (38%) people living in poverty in London are in deep poverty (at least 50% below the poverty line). The South East, despite a lower overall poverty rate than London, also sees three in ten (31%) of those in poverty being in deep poverty. This compares to just under two in ten (21%) of those living in poverty in the North West.

Table 6: Poverty depth for those in poverty, by country and English region, 2022/23

	<=10% below	10%- 25% below	25%- 50% below	>=50% below
North East	19	23	34	24
North West	19	28	33	21
Yorkshire and the Humber	17	29	31	23
East Midlands	18	22	34	26
West Midlands	16	25	33	26
East of England	21	25	31	23
London	15	18	30	38
South East	18	21	30	31
South West	20	26	29	25
Wales	16	28	29	27
Scotland	17	24	34	25
Northern Ireland	22	25	30	23
UK	18	24	32	26

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 - 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Notes: To provide a sufficient sample size, the first two depth categories (<=5% below the poverty line and 5%- 10% below the poverty line) have been combined. The estimates for each region have previously been presented as three-year averages to provide a sufficient sample size, in line with current HBAI approaches. However, given data quality issues for the 2020/21 sample, the 2021/22 figures instead represent the two-year averages of figures from 2019/20 and 2021/22.

POVERTY PERSISTENCE

The Commission defines persistent poverty as the situation where a person lives in a family that is currently in poverty and was also in poverty for at least two out of the last three years. A range of research has shown that those experiencing longer spells of poverty can be more detrimentally impacted.

Persistent poverty is measured using the longitudinal survey Understanding Society. The most recent Understanding Society data available to researchers is the 2021/22 data, meaning all analysis of persistent poverty is based off data from that year.

PERSISTENT POVERTY IN THE UK

Based on this definition, 53% of those in poverty in 2021/22 were in persistent poverty. That means that 11% of the whole population, or 8.1 million people, were in persistent poverty in 2021/22.

Rates of persistent poverty vary by age group, with 19% of all children in the UK living in persistent poverty, compared to just 4% of pension-age adults

Figure 27: Persistent poverty in the UK, 2021/22

8.1 million people in persistent poverty in the UK (2021/22), comprised of:

4,600,000



Working-age adults

2,900,000



Children

700,000



Pension-age adults

Persistent poverty rates in the UK (2021/22):

53%

Of all people in poverty are in persistent poverty

11%

Of the whole UK population are in persistent poverty

12%

Of working-age adults in the UK are in persistent poverty

19%

Of children in the UK are in persistent poverty

4%

Of pension-age adults are in persistent poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Understanding Society (2012/13 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

PERSISTENT POVERTY OVER TIME

Table 7 demonstrates how persistent poverty has changed since 2014/15. It suggests that the proportion of those in poverty who are also in persistent poverty has risen slightly to 53% in 2021/22.^{ix}

There has been a three percentage point increase in persistent poverty amongst children between 2014/15 and 2021/22.

Table 7: Persistent poverty by age group, over time

	All		Working-age adults		Children		Pension-age adults	
	% of all people in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all people (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty	% of all working-age adults in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all working-age adults (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty	% of all children in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all children (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty	% of all pension-age adults in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all pension-age adults (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty
2014/15	54	10	56	11	53	15	41	3
2015/16	55	10	56	11	55	16	40	3
2016/17	49	10	50	11	51	16	30	3
2017/18	49	10	51	11	51	16	30	3
2018/19	53	12	53	12	53	18	48	4
2019/20	56	12	56	12	60	19	44	4
2021/22	53	11	52	12	57	19	45	4

Source: Understanding Society (2009/10 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

PERSISTENT POVERTY FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS

This section demonstrates the proportion of various in-poverty groups who are also in persistent poverty (for example, the proportion of those single adults in poverty, who are also in persistent poverty), as well as the proportion of the overall group who are in poverty (for example, the proportion of all single adults who are in persistent poverty).

Table 8 shows this for different family types. It shows that some family types in poverty are more likely than others to be experiencing persistent poverty. For example, 62% of all people living in lone-parent families in poverty are also in persistent poverty. The proportion is lower for people living in poverty in a couple family without children, where just under half (46%) of people in poverty in this group are also in persistent poverty. Similarly, nearly half (49%) of pension-age couple families in poverty are also in persistent poverty.

Rates of persistent poverty across each of these groups are also different. For example, 29% of all of those living in lone-parent families live in persistent poverty, compared to 15% of those in couple families with children and only 7% of people living in couple families with no children.

Table 8: Persistent poverty for people living in different family types, 2021/22

	% of all people in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all people (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty
Single, no children	54	13
Lone parent	62	29
Couple, no children	46	7
Couple with children	54	15
Pensioner, single	42	4
Pensioner couple	49	4

Source: Understanding Society (2009/10 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 9 shows a breakdown of persistent poverty for people living in families at different depths of poverty. The results show that those in the deepest levels of poverty are the most likely to be in persistent poverty. 57% of those who are in deep poverty (more than 50% below the poverty line) are in persistent poverty. This is similar for those who are 25% to 50% below the poverty line, of whom 56% are in persistent poverty.

Table 9: Persistent poverty for people living in families at different depths of poverty, 2021/22

	% of all people in poverty who are also in persistent poverty
Living in a family <=5% below the poverty line	33
Living in a family 5%-10% below the poverty line	50
Living in a family 10%-25% below the poverty line	47
Living in a family 25%-50% below the poverty line	56
Living in a family >=50% below the poverty line	57

Source: Understanding Society (2009/10 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 10 shows that the majority of people in poverty who live in social- (61%) and private-rented (63%) accommodation are also in persistent poverty. This compares to just 41% of those in poverty in mortgage-owned accommodation.

Overall, people living in both social- and private-rented accommodation are also much more likely to be in persistent poverty than those living in families that are owner-occupied. For example, nearly three in ten (27%) of all people in social-rented accommodation are in persistent poverty, compared to just 8% of those in mortgage-owned accommodation. Over a quarter (25%) of people in the private-rented sector are in persistent poverty.

Table 10: Persistent poverty by housing tenure, 2021/22

	% of all people in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all people (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty
Living in a family in social-rented accommodation	61	27
Living in a family in private-rented accommodation	63	25
Living in a family in mortgage-owned accommodation	41	8
Living in a family in owned-outright accommodation	45	3

Source: Understanding Society (2009/10 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 11 shows poverty persistence is significantly more prevalent for Black and Minority Ethnic groups. For example, just under two in ten (19%) of people living in families with a mixed/multiple ethnic head of household are in persistent poverty, compared to 10% of those living in families with a White head of household. Almost a quarter (23%) of people in Black/African/Caribbean/Black British families are in persistent poverty, with the same true for Asian/Asian British families.

Table 11: Persistent poverty by ethnicity of household reference person, 2021/22

	% of all people in poverty who are also in persistent poverty	% of all people (regardless of poverty status) who are in persistent poverty
Living in a family where the household reference person is White	52	10
Living in a family where the household reference person is from a mixed/multiple ethnic group	78	19
Living in a family where the household reference person is Asian/Asian British	59	23
Living in a family where the household reference person is Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	65	23
Living in a family where the household reference person is from any other ethnic group	50	16

Notes: Understanding Society collects certain information on household reference persons rather than household heads. A household reference person is defined as the owner or renter of the accommodation in which the household lives. If there are multiple owners or renters, the default is the eldest of them is the household reference person.

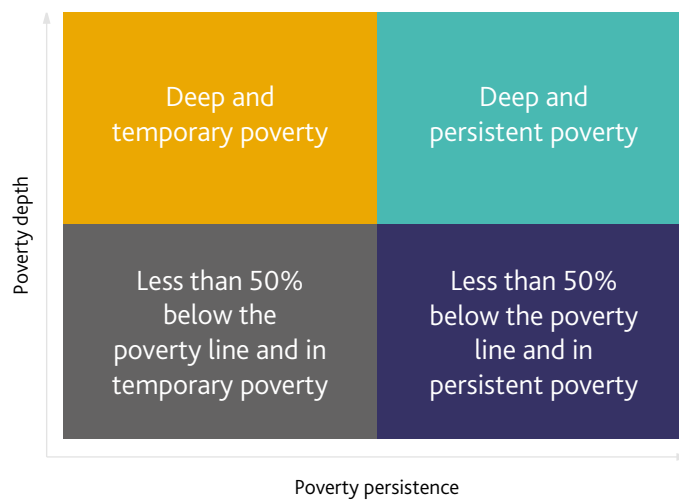
Source: Understanding Society (2009/10 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

CONSIDERING DEPTH AND PERSISTENCE TOGETHER

Of course, someone's experience of poverty will depend on both the depth of that poverty and the length of time that they experience it for. This means that poverty depth and persistence can be brought together to create four groups of the population in poverty. As shown in figure 28 these are:

- **Deep and persistent poverty:** those families 50% or more below the poverty line in the most recent data and who have been in poverty for at least two out of the previous three years.
- **Less than 50% below the poverty line and in persistent poverty:** those families less than 50% below the poverty line in the most recent data and who have been in poverty for at least two out of the previous three years;
- **Deep poverty (non-persistent):** those families 50% or more below the poverty line in the most recent data and who have been in poverty for less than two out of the previous three years; and
- **Less than 50% below the poverty line (non-persistent poverty):** those families less than 50% below the poverty line in the most recent data and who have been in poverty for less than two out of the previous three years.

Figure 28: Categorisation of poverty types



Source: Understanding Society (2012/13 – 2019/20), SMC analysis.

Figure 29 shows how the UK population is split between these categories and those not in poverty. Note that this analysis draws on data from Understanding Society and Family Resources Survey from 2021/22.

It shows that 6% of the UK population is in some form of deep poverty, with nearly six in ten (57%) of those in deep poverty also being in persistent poverty. This means that 2.2 million people in the UK are in families that are in deep and persistent poverty, with another 1.6 million people in families in deep poverty (non-persistent).

Around 17% of the UK population is less than 50% below the poverty line and either in persistent (5.7 million) or non-persistent poverty (5.8 million).

Figure 29: UK population, by poverty status, 2021/22



Notes: Estimates of the proportions of those in each type of poverty were taken from Understanding Society and calibrated against the SMC's headline estimates produced using the 2021/22 FRS/HBAI data.

Source: Understanding Society (2012/13 – 2021/22) and Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2021/22), SMC analysis.

LIVED EXPERIENCE INDICATORS

This section provides detail on a wider set of measures of some of the factors that affect the lived experience of people in poverty. Measuring and understanding the lived experience of poverty is vital to ensure that policymakers can consider the widest range of policy tools available to them to tackle the impacts and reduce the incidence of poverty.

The Commission's approach is limited by the extent to which data on these factors can be linked to the measure of poverty (in the data sources that we are using). As such, Lived Experience Indicators were selected based on data availability and the themes that the Commission viewed as being important to understanding the nature of poverty. A range of indicators have been developed under five domains:

1. Family, relationships and community;
2. Education;
3. Health;
4. Family finances; and
5. Labour market opportunity.

Within each of these, a number of indicators have been analysed to understand the differences between families in poverty and those not in poverty. These indicators have also been analysed to show how they have changed for people in poverty both since the last time they were reported in the survey and since the first time they were reported in the survey. For indicators based on the Understanding Society survey, this is only possible over a relatively short timescale, but as more waves become available, longer-term reporting will be possible.

The results below demonstrate that, across a wide range of indicators, people in poverty are experiencing disadvantage, or a number of factors that are likely to negatively impact on either their experience of poverty today, or the likelihood that they can move out of and avoid poverty in future.

FAMILY, RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY

Nearly half of people in poverty (45%) live in families that contain just one adult; this compares to 29% of those not in poverty. People in poverty are more likely to think that people in their neighbourhood cannot be trusted (21% of people in poverty compared to 9% of those not in poverty) and to be in families in which at least one adult does not feel safe walking alone at night (29% of people in poverty compared to 22% of those not in poverty).

People in poverty are less likely to have significant social and relational capital: they are more likely to live in families where no adult is a member of an organisation (62% of people in poverty compared to 35% of those not in poverty) and are more likely to be in families where the size of the family’s social network is below 5 close friends (64% compared to 54% of those not in poverty).

Table 12: Family, relationships and community domain of Lived Experience Indicators, by poverty status

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)	Proportion of people not in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)
Single adults	22	17
Lone parent families	18	5
Single pensioners	5	7
Adults in family rarely or never feel close to others	14	6
One or more youths in family does not feel supported by their family/people who they live with	6	2
One or more adults in family feels unsafe walking alone at night	29	22
One or more adults in family worries about being affected by crime	50	50
One or more adults in family does not like living in current neighbourhood	13	6
One or more adults in family spends time caring for someone	30	29
One or more adults in family perceives local services as poor	43	42
One or more adults in family thinks people in their neighbourhood cannot be trusted	21	9
No adults in family are members of an organisation	62	35
One or more adults in family is not willing to improve neighbourhood	15	14
Family's average size of social network is below 5 close friends	64	54

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2014/15 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

There have been some positive changes in these indicators over the last few years. In particular, fewer people in poverty are living in families where one or more adults feels unsafe walking home at night (down by six percentage points since the last data was collected).

There have also been reductions in the proportion of people in poverty where one or more adults in family worries about being affected by crime, and where one or more adults in family does not like living in current neighbourhood.

Table 13: Changes over time in family, relationships and community domain of Lived Experience Indicators

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed		
	This year	Change since last data (percentage point)	Change since earliest data (percentage point)
Single adults	22	1	4
Lone parent families	18	0	-5
Single pensioners	5	0	-3
Adults in family rarely or never feel close to others	14	2	4
One or more youths in family does not feel supported by their family/people who they live with	6	3	1
One or more adults in family feels unsafe walking alone at night	29	-6	-
One or more adults in family worries about being affected by crime	50	-3	-
One or more adults in family does not like living in current neighbourhood	13	-3	-
One or more adults in family spends time caring for someone	30	-1	1
One or more adults in family perceives local services as poor	43	1	-
One or more adults in family thinks people in their neighbourhood cannot be trusted	21	-1	-
No adults in family are members of an organisation	62	5	3
One or more adults in family is not willing to improve neighbourhood	15	0	3
Family's average size of social network is below 5 close friends	64	-1	1

Notes: '-' indicates that data is not available for this period. The Lived Experience Indicators use data from a range of survey years as not all questions are asked every year. See Annex 3 for details on the years that each of the indicators are drawn from.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2011/12 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

EDUCATION

Educational outcomes amongst people living in families in poverty are worse than for those not in poverty. For example, almost one in six (16%) people in poverty live in a family where no one has any formal qualifications, compared to less than one in ten (7%) of those in families not in poverty. Additionally, over a quarter (26%) of people in poverty live in families where the highest qualification is below 5A*-C GCSEs or equivalent, compared to only 10% of those in families not in poverty. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that there has been a five point decrease in the proportion of people in poverty living in families where no one has any qualification since 2000/01.

Table 14: Education domain of Lived Experience Indicators, by poverty status

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)	Proportion of people not in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)
No one in family has any formal qualifications	16	5
All adults have highest qualification that is below 5A*-C GCSEs or equivalent	26	10

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2014/15 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 15: Changes over time in education domain of Lived Experience Indicators

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed		
	This year	Change since last data (percentage point)	Change since earliest data (percentage point)
No one in family has any formal qualifications	16	0	-5
All adults have highest qualification that is below 5A*-C GCSEs or equivalent	26	1	-2

Notes: The Lived Experience Indicators use data from a range of survey years as not all questions are asked every year. See Annex 3 for details on the years that each of the indicators are drawn from.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2000/01 - 2022/23) and Understanding Society (2011/12 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

HEALTH

There are some large differences between people in poverty and those not in poverty in the health domain. For example, more than half (54%) of people in poverty live in a family that includes a disabled person, compared to 39% of people who are not in poverty. The prevalence of self-reported mental health concerns is 9 percentage points higher amongst people living in families that are in poverty (33%), than amongst those who do not live in a family that is in poverty (24%). Additionally, smoking prevalence is 15 percentage points higher amongst families living in poverty (35%), than amongst families not living in poverty (20%). Alternatively, it is notable that people in poverty are markedly less likely to live with someone who drinks to excess, or who has taken illegal drugs in the last year.

Table 16: Health domain of Lived Experience Indicators, by poverty status

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)	Proportion of people not in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)
In a family that includes a disabled adult or child	54	39
One or more adults in family with poor self-reported physical health	27	22
One or more adults in family with poor self-reported mental health	33	24
One or more adults in family with low life satisfaction	15	9
One or more adults in family with low health satisfaction	25	16
One or more youths in family has drunk to excess in last four weeks	40	60
One or more adults in family has drunk to excess in the last year	47	57
One or more adults in family smokes cigarettes (not incl. e-cigarettes)	35	20
One or more youths in family has used or taken illegal drugs at least once in the last year	17	20

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2014/15 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 17 shows changes over time in the indicators of the health domain. There has been a four percentage point fall since data was last collected regarding the proportion of people in poverty that live in a family that includes a disabled adult or child, and where one or more youths in family has drunk to excess in last four weeks. In contrast, there have been increases in the proportion of people in poverty living in a family where one or more adults in family has low health satisfaction, and where there are one or more adults in family with poor self-reported physical health.

Table 17: Changes over time in health domain of Lived Experience Indicators

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed		
	This year	Change since last data (percentage point)	Change since earliest data (percentage point)
In a family that includes a disabled adult or child	54	-4	8
One or more adults in family with poor self-reported physical health	27	1	2
One or more adults in family with poor self-reported mental health	33	-2	1
One or more adults in family with low life satisfaction	15	0	-3
One or more adults in family with low health satisfaction	25	2	-6
One or more youths in family has drunk to excess in last four weeks	40	-4	-10
One or more adults in family has drunk to excess in the last year	47	-3	-9
One or more adults in family smokes cigarettes (not incl. e-cigarettes)	35	-1	-5
One or more youths in family has used or taken illegal drugs at least once in the last year	17	0	-1

Notes: '-' indicates that data is not available for this period. The Lived Experience Indicators use data from a range of survey years as not all questions are asked every year. See Annex 3 for details on the years that each of the indicators are drawn from. The question on health satisfaction appears in the adult self-completion questionnaire of Understanding Society, which shifted from paper to computer administered self-interview over the period analysed. This change is likely to contribute to the large fall in low health satisfaction recorded in the table.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2000/01 - 2022/23) and Understanding Society (2011/12 – 2021/22), SMC analysis.

FAMILY FINANCES

As discussed above, worklessness amongst working-age adults in poverty has fallen since 2000/01. However, nearly a third (32%) of people in poverty still live in workless families. This compares to just 4% of those not in poverty. People who are in poverty are more likely to live in families that are behind in paying their bills, that report material deprivation, or where adults have felt embarrassed by low income. The proportion of people in poverty who live in families where no adult saves (68%) is almost double of that of people not in poverty (36%).

Table 18: Family finances domain of Lived Experience Indicators, by poverty status

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)	Proportion of people not in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)
Family is behind in paying bills	26	6
In a workless family	32	4
In a family reporting material deprivation	26	4
One or more adults in family with low income satisfaction	24	12
One or more adults in family has felt embarrassed by low income	42	23
No adult in family saves	68	36

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2014/15 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

Table 19 shows that the proportion of people in poverty living in a workless family has fallen by 17 percentage points since 2000/01. Rates of dissatisfaction with low income and material deprivation along with the likelihood of being behind with paying the bills have also fallen since these indicators started to be measured.

Table 19: Changes over time in family finances domain of Lived Experience Indicators

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed		
	This year	Change since last data (percentage point)	Change since earliest data (percentage point)
Family is behind in paying bills	26	-2	-3
In a workless family	32	-1	-17
In a family reporting material deprivation	26	2	-5
One or more adults in family with low income satisfaction	24	-3	-15
One or more adults in family has felt embarrassed by low income	42	0	-
No adult in family saves	68	2	-4

Notes: '-' indicates that data is not available for this period. The Lived Experience Indicators use data from a range of survey years as not all questions are asked every year. See Annex 3 for details on the years that each of the indicators are drawn from.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2000/01 - 2022/23) and Understanding Society (2011/12 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITY

The proportion of working-age adults in poverty who are workless is 55%, compared to 15% of those living in families not in poverty. On average, working adults in poverty spend slightly less time traveling to work (20 minutes), compared to working adults not in poverty (23 minutes).

Table 20: Education and labour market opportunity domain of Lived Experience Indicators, by poverty status

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)	Proportion of people not in poverty who have characteristic listed (%)
Proportion of working-age adults who are workless	55	15
Average time spent travelling to work for working adults in family (minutes)	20	23

Notes: Estimates denote percentage, unless otherwise specified in the variable description.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23) and Understanding Society (2014/15 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

More positively, the proportion of working-age adults in poverty who are workless has fallen by ten percentage points since 2000/01.

Table 21: Changes over time in labour market opportunity domain of Lived Experience Indicators

	Proportion of people in poverty who have characteristic listed		
	This year	Change since last data (percentage point)	Change since earliest data (percentage point)
Proportion of working-age adults who are workless	55	-1	-10
Average time spent travelling to work for working adults in family (minutes)	20	-1	-2

Notes: The Lived Experience Indicators use data from a range of survey years as not all questions are asked every year. See Annex 3 for details on the years that each of the indicators are drawn from. Estimates denote percentage, unless otherwise specified in the variable description.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2000/01 - 2022/23) and Understanding Society (2011/12 - 2021/22), SMC analysis.

While these statistics begin to paint a picture of the wider experiences and challenges that people in poverty face, they are by no means comprehensive. More work is needed to develop a full suite of indicators that can comprehensively and regularly capture a better picture of the lived experience of people in poverty. The Commission will review and improve its approach to measuring the lived experience of poverty.

SECTION FOUR: DETAILED FACTSHEETS ON POVERTY BY AGE, AGE GROUP, DISABILITY STATUS AND FOR MEN AND WOMEN

POVERTY AMONGST WORKING-AGE ADULTS

There are 9.2 million working-age adults in poverty in the UK. The poverty rate for working-age adults (23%) is around a percentage point lower than the poverty rate for the whole population (24%).

Figure 30: Composition of working-age adult poverty and working-age adult poverty rates in the UK, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), of which:

9,200,000



Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

23%

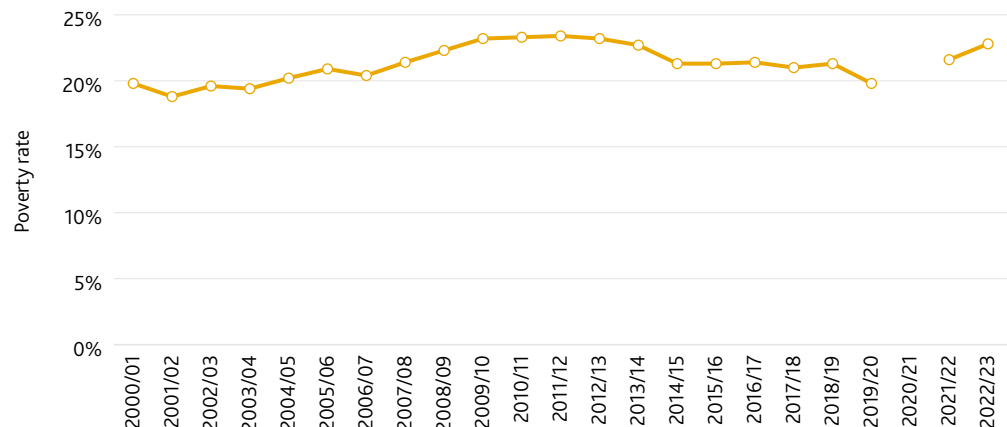
Of working-age adults are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 31 shows that, from a low of 20% in 2001/02, the poverty rate for working-age adults increased steadily to a peak of 23% between 2009/10 and 2013/14, before falling to 20% in 2019/20. The poverty rate for working-age adults then increased during the pandemic, to 22% in 2021/22, increasing in the most recent data to 23%. Overall, this means that the poverty rate for working-age adults is higher than it was in the early 2000s.

Figure 31: Poverty rates for working-age adults, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST WORKING-AGE ADULTS: FAMILY TYPE

Figure 32 shows how poverty amongst working-age adults varies by the type of family in which they live. It shows that the most prevalent family type for working-age adults in poverty is a single family with no children. Together with those in couple families with no children, this means that more than half (56%) of working-age people in poverty live in families without children.

Rates of poverty for working-age adults also vary between those in different family types. The lowest poverty rate for working-age adults is for those living in couple families without children (12%), while the rate for working-age adults in lone-parent families is more than four times as high (52%).

Figure 32: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for working-age adults, by family type, 2022/23

9.2 million working-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

3,500,000



Working-age adults in single families with no children

1,000,000



Working-age adults in lone-parent families

1,600,000



Working-age adults in couple families with no children

3,000,000



Working-age adults in couple families with children

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

28%

Of working-age adults in single families with no children are in poverty

52%

Of working-age adults in lone-parent families are in poverty

12%

Of working-age adults in couple families with no children are in poverty

25%

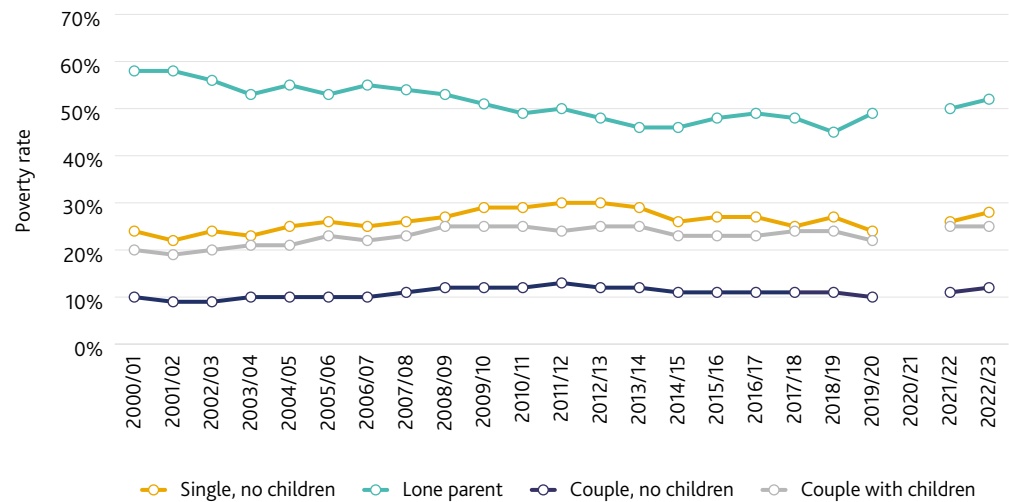
Of working-age adults in couple families with children are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Family types taken from the HBAI dataset once SMC poverty indicators (assessed at the sharing unit level) have been allocated to each benefit unit. In the cases where there are working-age adults in pensioner families they are included in the aggregates, but not displayed in the breakdown above. This applies to all estimates for family type in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 33 shows how poverty rates for working-age adults in different family types have changed over time. It shows that despite increasing by six percentage points between 2013/14 and 2022/23, poverty rates for working-age adults in lone-parent families have fallen from 58% in 2000/01 to 52% in 2022/23. In contrast, poverty rates for working-age adults in couple families with children have risen by five percentage points since 2000/01. Over the entire period, poverty rates are the lowest for couples without children, with around one in ten (12%) people in these families living in poverty in 2022/23.

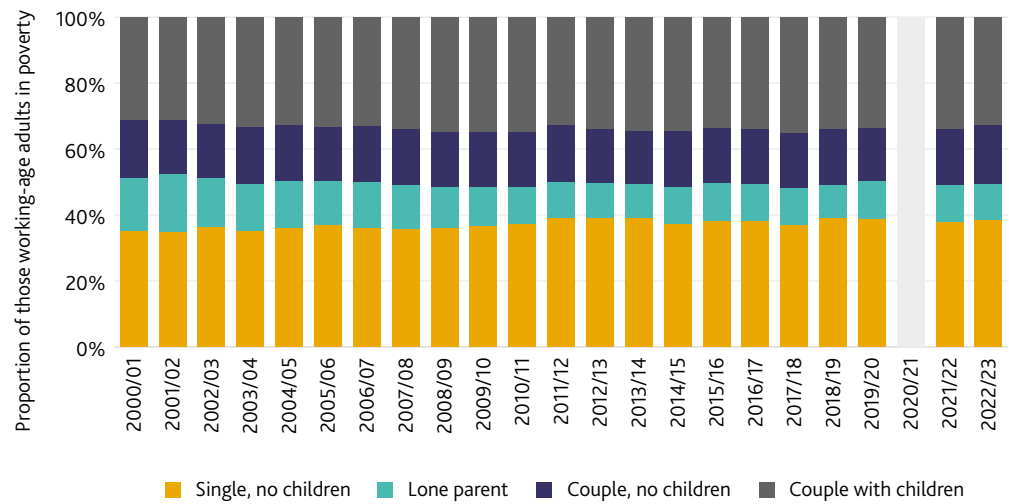
Figure 33: Poverty rates for working-age adults, by family type, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 34 shows what this means for the composition of working-age adults in poverty by family type and how this has changed over time. It shows that, since 2000/01, working-age adults in couple families with children have consistently accounted for around a third of working age adults in poverty. The largest group is working age adults who are single, without children. This group increased from 35% of the total in 2000/01 to just under two in five (39%) in 2011/12. They currently make up 38% of the total. The proportion of working-age adults in poverty who live in lone parent families has fallen by five percentage points, from 16% in 2000/01 to 11% in 2022/23.

Figure 34: Composition of working-age adults in poverty, by family type



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST WORKING-AGE ADULTS: FAMILY WORK STATUS

Figure 35 shows that 66% of working-age adults (5.9 million people) in poverty are in families where at least one person works at least a few hours. However, the overall poverty rate for working-age individuals in workless families is significantly higher (75%) than that of those in families where someone works. Less than one in ten (8%) working-age adults in families where all adults work full-time are in poverty.

Figure 35: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for working-age adults, by family work status, 2022/23

9.2 million working-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

1,900,000



Working-age adults in full-time work families

2,700,000



Working-age adults in full/part-time work families

1,300,000



Working-age adults in part-time work families

3,000,000



Working-age adults in workless families

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

8%

Of working-age adults in full-time work families are in poverty

31%

Of working-age adults in full/part-time work families are in poverty

55%

Of working-age adults in part-time work families are in poverty

75%

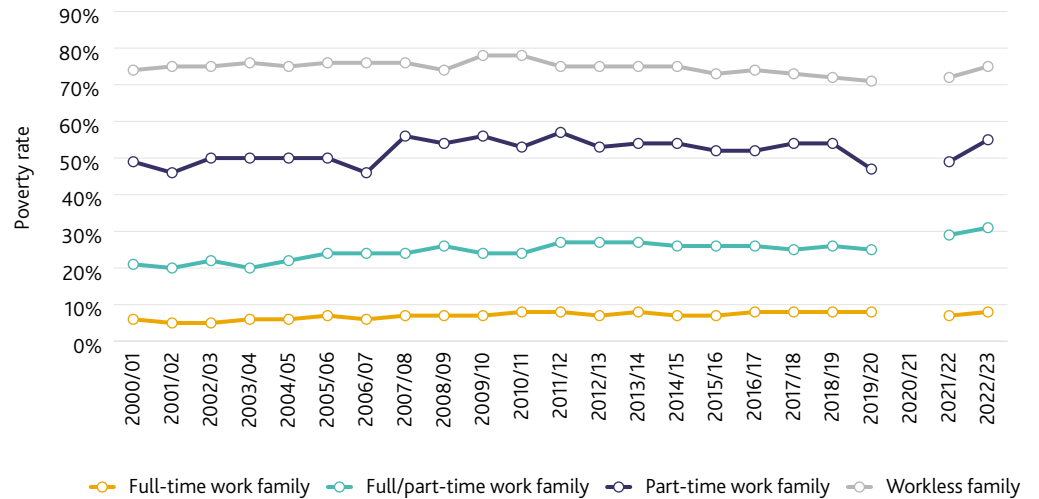
Of working-age adults in workless families are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Poverty rates for working-age adults in workless families had been generally falling from a peak of 78% in 2010/11 to stand at 71% in 2019/20, but have increased in the most recent post-pandemic data from 72% in 2021/22 to 75% in 2022/23. In contrast, the poverty rate for working-age adults in full/part-time work families has risen by ten percentage points since 2000/01, to its highest level on record in 2022/23. Figure 36 shows that this rate rose significantly following the pandemic, after staying broadly flat since 2012/13.

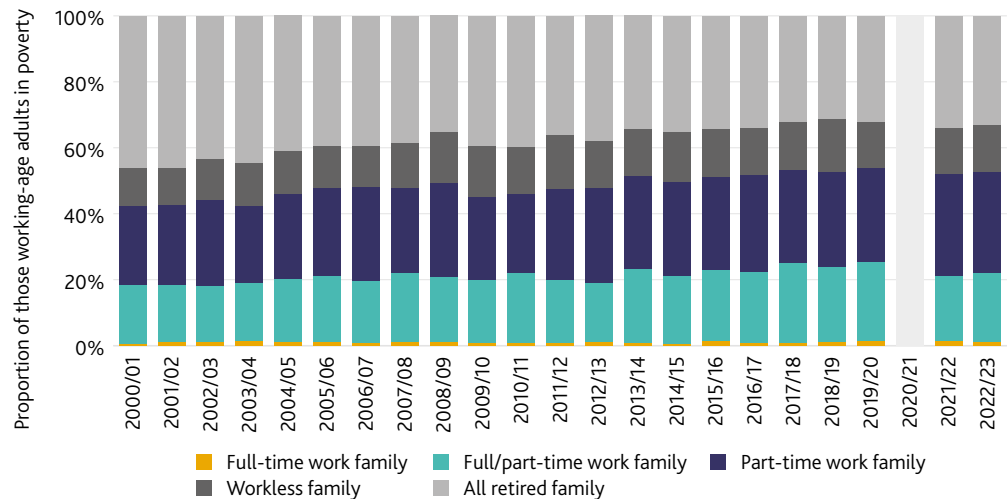
Figure 36: Poverty rates for working-age adults, by family work status, over time



Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

As well as differences in the changes in poverty rates, the overall population of working-age adults living in working families since 2000/01 has risen considerably. In contrast, the number of working-age adults living in workless families has fallen, from just under half (46%) in 2000/01 to just over a third (33%) in 2022/23. This rising number of people in employment and falling number of workless families has been a large driver of the composition of working-age poverty having shifted towards those in working families (figure 37).

Figure 37: Composition of working-age adults in poverty, by family work status



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST WORKING-AGE ADULTS: HOUSING TENURE

Figure 38 shows how the population of working-age adults in poverty is split between different tenure types. Seven in ten (70%) working-age adults in poverty live in families in social-rented or private-rented accommodation. Poverty rates for working-age adults are also highest amongst families in these tenure types, with over half (56%) of working-age adults in social-rented accommodation being in poverty, and a third (34%) of those in private-rented accommodation.

Figure 38: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for working-age adults, by housing tenure, 2022/23

9.2 million working-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

3,400,000



Working-age adults in social-rented accommodation

3,100,000



Working-age adults in private-rented accommodation

1,800,000



Working-age adults in mortgage-owned accommodation

1,000,000



Working-age adults in owned-outright accommodation

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

56%

Of working-age adults in social-rented accommodation are in poverty

34%

Of working-age adults in private-rented accommodation are in poverty

11%

Of working-age adults in mortgage-owned accommodation are in poverty

10%

Of working-age adults in owned-outright accommodation are in poverty

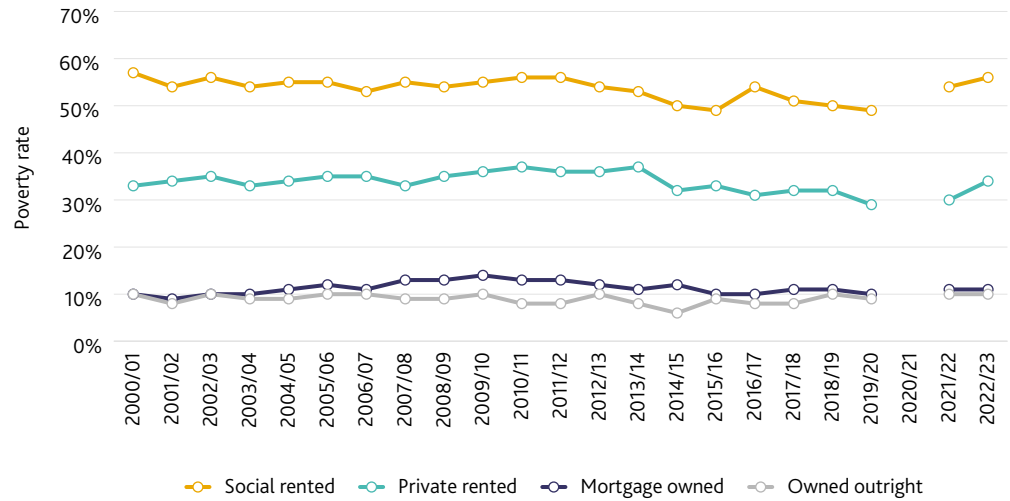
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 39 shows that the poverty rate for working-age adults in social-rented accommodation fell by eight percentage points between 2000/01 and 2019/20. Since then, it has risen by seven percentage points, from 49% in 2019/20 to 56% in 2022/23.

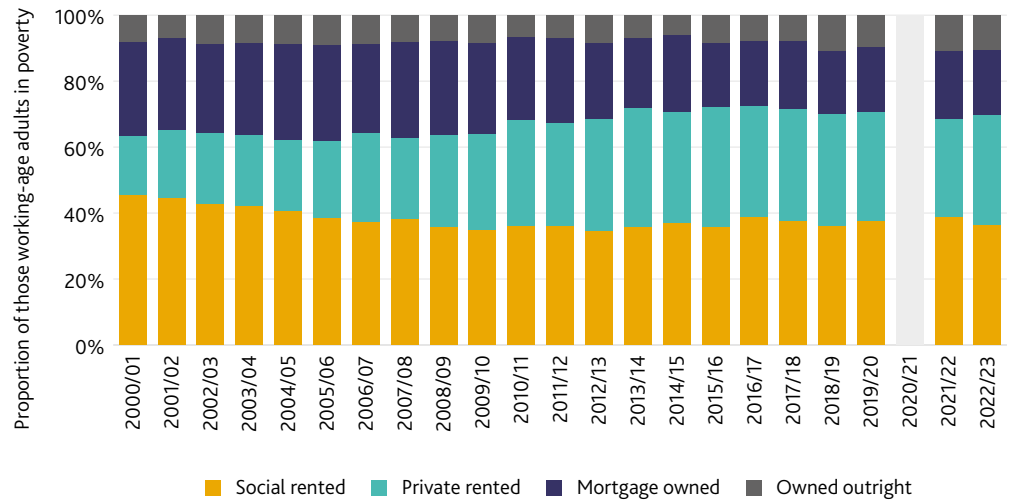
After rising between 2000/01 and 2013/14, poverty rates for working-age adults in private-rented accommodation fell from 37% in 2013/14 to 29% in 2019/20. However, since the pandemic, the rate has increased to 34% in 2022/23. However, the fact that there has been a large shift towards living in the private-rented sector has meant that a higher proportion of working-age adults in poverty now live in the sector than in 2000/01.

Figure 39: Poverty rates for working-age adults, by housing tenure, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis

Figure 40: Composition of working-age adults in poverty, by housing tenure



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST WORKING-AGE ADULTS: FAMILY DISABILITY

Figure 41 shows that of the 9.2 million working-age adults in poverty, 5 million live in a family that includes a disabled adult or child. Rates of poverty for working-age adults living in families with a disabled person are far higher (32%) than those in families with no disabled person (17%).

Figure 41: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for working-age adults, by whether the family includes a disabled person, 2022/23

9.2 million working-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

5,100,000



Working-age adults in families that include a disabled adult or child

4,100,000



Working-age adults in families that do not include a disabled adult or child

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

32%

Of working-age adults in families that include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

17%

Of working-age adults in families that do not include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

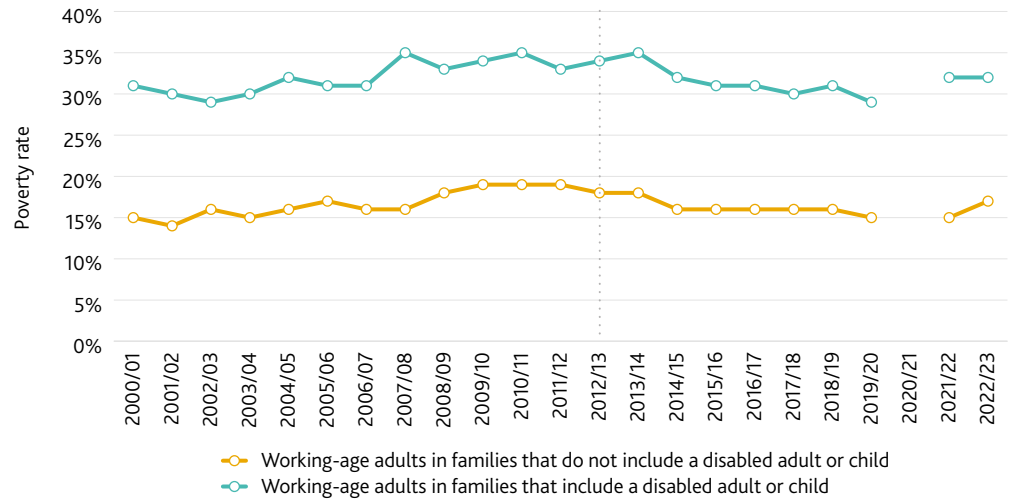
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. The definition of disability changed to align with the core definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 in 2012/13 but is otherwise consistent across years. Comparisons with years prior to 2012/13 should therefore be made with caution. This applies to all disability estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Poverty rates for working-age adults living in families with a disabled person have fallen from a peak of 35% in 2013/14, and now stand at 32%, broadly the same rate as at the start of the 2000s.

In 2022/23, 55% working-age individuals in poverty lived in a family where someone was disabled. Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic increase in the proportion of working-age adults in poverty who live with someone disabled, from 41% in 2009/10 to 55% in 2022/23. However, this trend accelerated between 2019/20 and 2021/22, with a seven percentage-point increase, and in the most recent data there has been a decline of four percentage points to 55% in 2022/23.

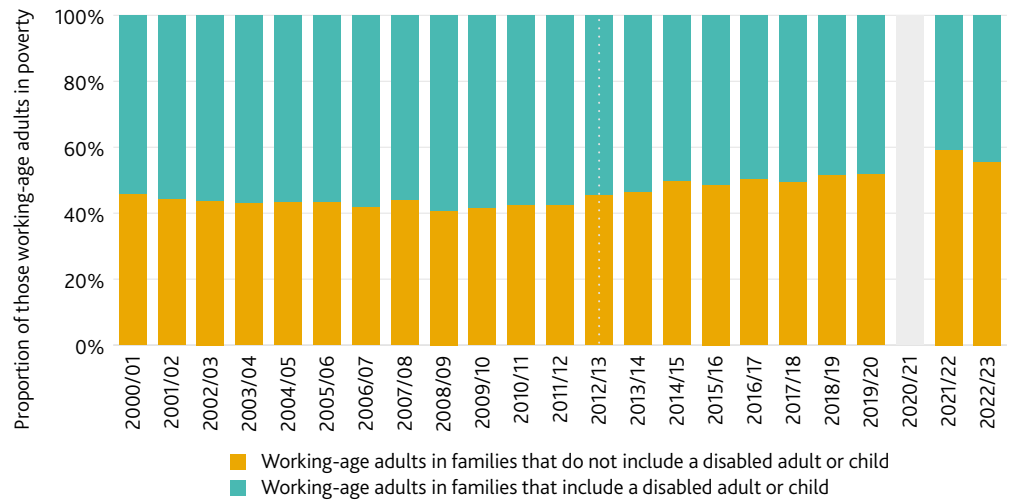
Figure 42: Poverty rates for working-age adults, by whether the family includes a disabled person, over time



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 43: Composition of working-age adults in poverty, by whether the family includes a disabled person



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.


Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Of the 14.9 million people in poverty in the UK, 5.2 million are children. The proportion of children in poverty (36%) is significantly above the rate for the whole population (24%).

Figure 44: The number of children in poverty and poverty rates amongst children in the UK, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), of which:

5,200,000

 Children

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

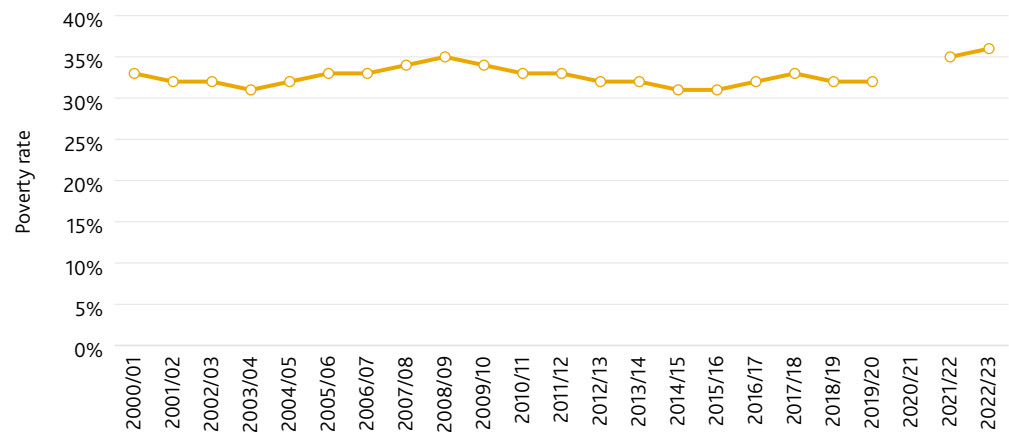
36%
 Of children are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 45 shows that the rate of poverty amongst children fell in the years after the financial crisis, from a high of 35% in 2008/09 to 31% in 2014/15. The rate has since risen (with a notable jump after the pandemic) and stands at 36% in 2022/23.

Figure 45: Poverty rates amongst children, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: FAMILY TYPE

Figure 46 shows that of the 5.2 million children in poverty, about two thirds (63%) live in couple families. However, poverty rates for children living in lone-parent families (57%) are almost twice as high as those living in couple families (30%).

Figure 46: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by family type, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

1,900,000



Children in lone-parent families

3,300,000



Children in couple families

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

57%

Of children in lone-parent families are in poverty

30%

Of children in couple families are in poverty

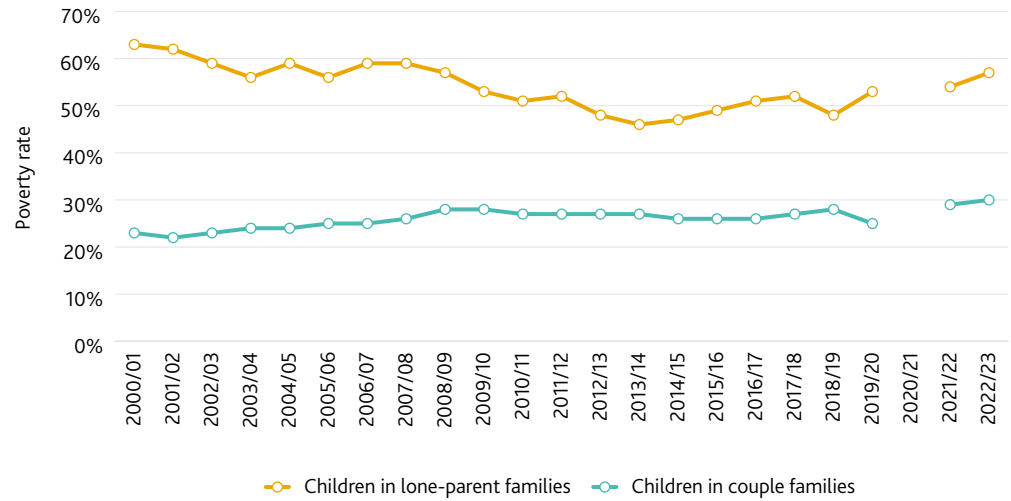
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Family types taken from the HBAI dataset once SMC poverty indicators (assessed at the sharing unit level) have been allocated to each benefit unit. Where one or more adult is pension age, the family type of the child is designated as 'pensioner couple' or 'pensioner single'. For this analysis these groups were included in couple and lone-parent families. This applies to all estimates for family type in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Before the pandemic, one of the major changes in UK poverty over the last two decades was the fall in poverty amongst children living in lone-parent families. Poverty rates for children in lone parent families fell from 63% in 2000/01 to 46% in 2013/14. However, progress in reducing poverty amongst children in lone parent families has more recently reversed, with poverty increasing in the most recent data to 57% in 2022/23.

Poverty rates amongst children in couple families have followed a different trend; after rising by five percentage points in the pre-recession period, they then held steady in the period after the recession. Since 2019/20, there has been a marked increase in poverty for children in couple families, with the rate increasing from 26% in 2019/20 to 30% in 2022/23.

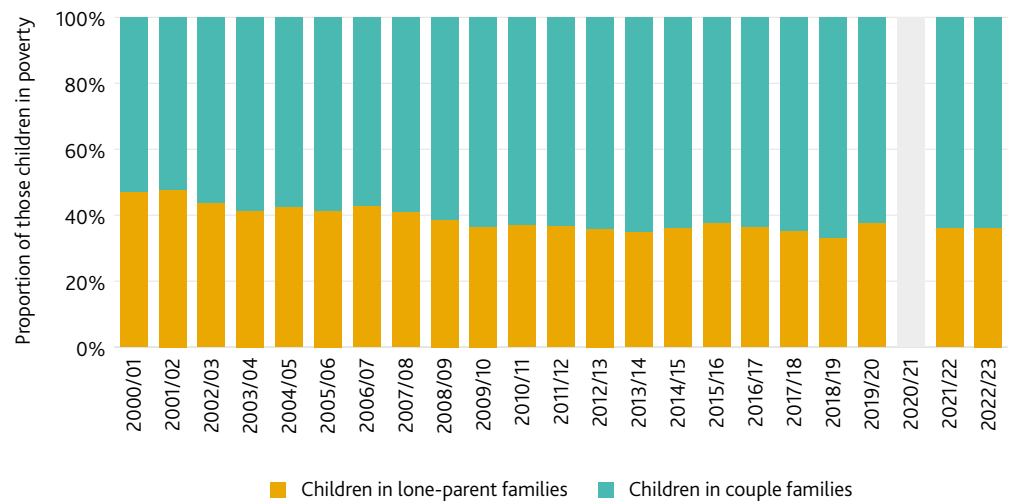
Figure 47: Poverty rates for children, by family type, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

The trends outlined above have also meant that the overall composition of children living in poverty has changed since 2000/01. Figure 48 shows that children living in couple families have formed an increasingly large overall proportion of children in poverty, now representing 64% of children in poverty overall, up from 53% in 2000/01.

Figure 48: Composition of poverty amongst children, by family type



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: FAMILY WORK STATUS

Figure 49 shows that of the 5.2 million children in poverty, 1.2 million (24%) are in families where all adults work full time. Around half (2.5 million children; 48%) of children in poverty are in families that either mix full- and part-time work, or where all adults work part-time. The remaining 1.4 million children in poverty (28%) are in workless families. The poverty rate amongst children in workless families stands at 88%. Even where all adults work full time, 15% of children in these families are in poverty.

Figure 49: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by family work status, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

1,200,000



Children in full-time work families

2,000,000



Children in full/part-time work families

500,000



Children in part-time work families

1,400,000



Children in workless families

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

15%

Of children in full-time work families are in poverty

52%

Of children in full/part-time work families are in poverty

75%

Of children in part-time work families are in poverty

88%

Of children in workless families are in poverty

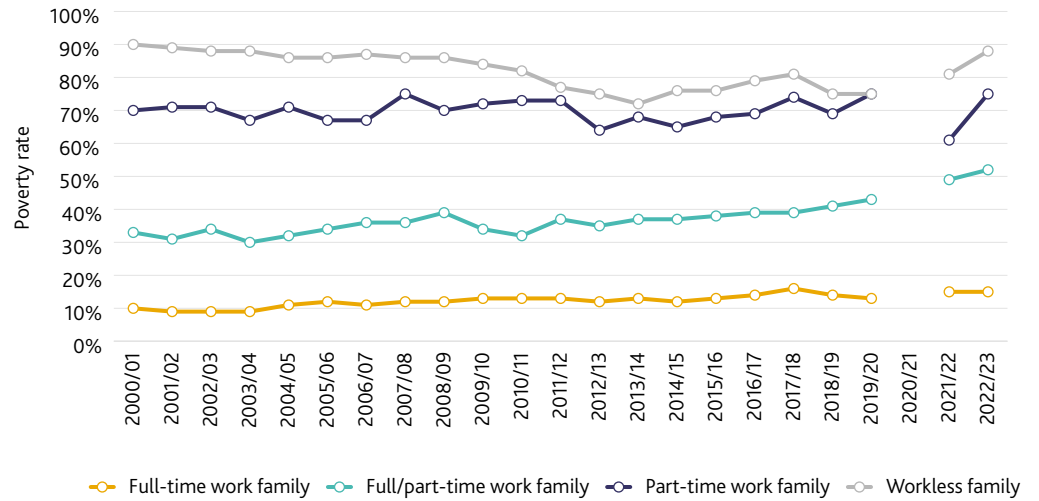
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 50 shows that poverty rates for children in workless families fell to 72% in 2013/14, but have since increased to stands at 88% in 2022/23.

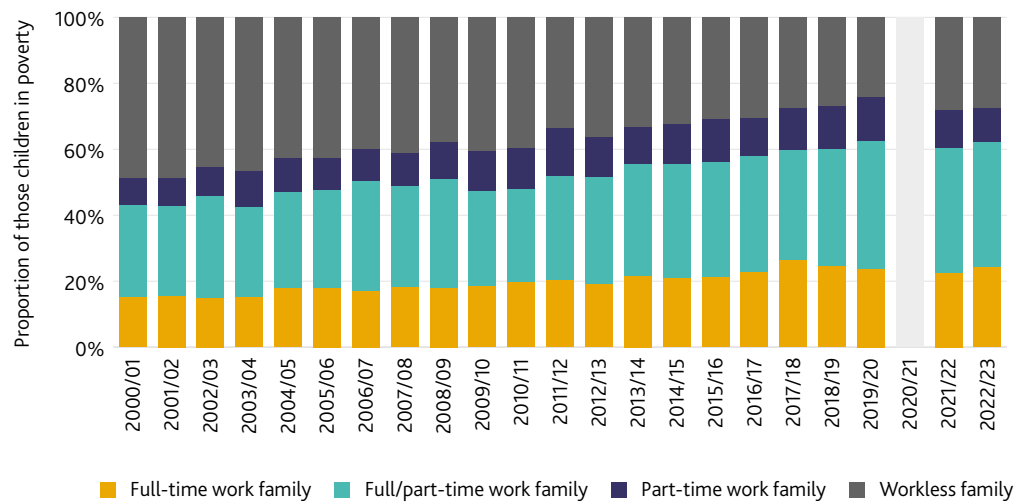
As is the case with poverty amongst working-age adults, a rising overall employment rate has led to the proportion of children in poverty who are in families with someone in work increasing over time. Figure 51 shows that in 2000/01, just over half (51%) of children in poverty lived in a family where someone was in work. By 2021/22, this figure had stood at nearly three in four (72%), where it remains for 2022/23.

Figure 50: Poverty rates for children, by family work status, over time



Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 51: Composition of children in poverty, by family work status



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: HOUSING TENURE

Figure 52 breaks down the number of children living in poverty in the UK by the housing tenure of the child's family. It shows that nearly three in four (71%) children in poverty live in families in social- or private-rented accommodation. The rates of poverty for these two tenures are also significantly higher than for children who live in families in owner-occupied accommodation. For example, almost seven in ten (68%) children living in families in social-rented accommodation are in poverty. Over half (52%) of children in private-rented accommodation are in poverty. In contrast, 19% of children living in families in mortgage-owned accommodation are in poverty.

Figure 52: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by housing tenure, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

2,000,000



Children in social-rented accommodation

1,700,000



Children in private-rented accommodation

1,300,000



Children in mortgage-owned accommodation

300,000



Children in owned-outright accommodation

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

68%

Of children in social-rented accommodation are in poverty

52%

Of children in private-rented accommodation are in poverty

19%

Of children in mortgage-owned accommodation are in poverty

19%

Of children in owned-outright accommodation are in poverty

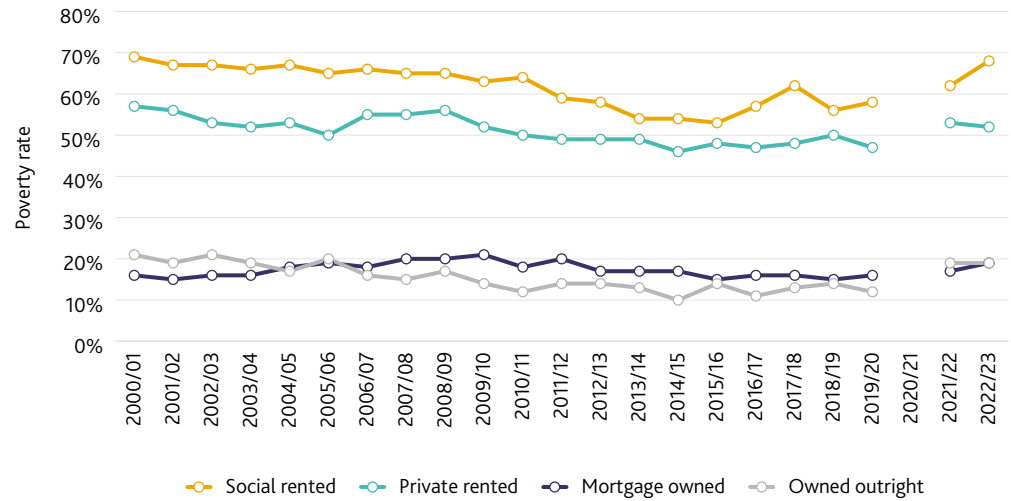
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 53 shows that rates of poverty have risen for children in rented tenures in recent years. In 2015/16, the proportion of children in social rented accommodation who were in poverty was at its lowest (53%). This now stands at almost seven in ten (68%) in 2022/23.

Similarly, in private rented accommodation, the proportion of children in poverty had fallen from 57% in 2000/01 to 47% in 2019/20. There has however been a recent increase in poverty for those in the private rented sector, with the proportion of children in this tenure type living in poverty increasing from 47% in 2019/20 to 53% in 2021/22, coming down by one percentage point in 2022/23. Trends for poverty amongst children in mortgage-owned and outright-owned accommodation are much flatter.

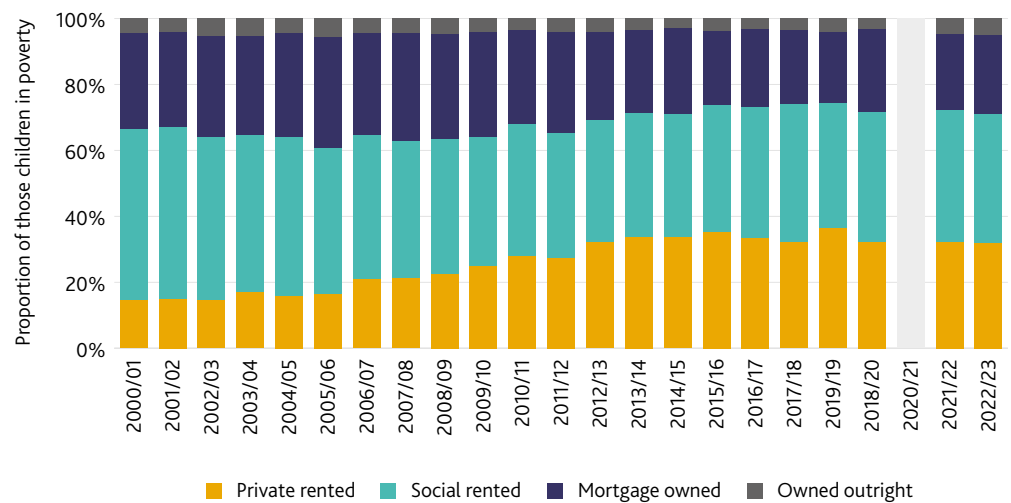
Figure 53: Poverty rates amongst children, by housing tenure, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 54 demonstrates significant shifts in the composition of children living in poverty since 2000/01, with a significant rise (18 percentage points) in the proportion of children in poverty who live in private-rented accommodation. This has been offset by large reductions in the proportion accounted for by children in poverty in the social-rented sector (13 percentage points) and mortgage-owned accommodation (five percentage points). This reflects a broader trend towards a greater share of people in poverty living in the private-rented sector. As demonstrated above, the poverty rate faced by children living in privately rented accommodation sector has fallen since 2000/01, so this compositional increase reflects the fact that more children now live in privately rented accommodation than used to be the case.

Figure 54: Composition of poverty amongst children, by housing tenure



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: FAMILY DISABILITY

Of the 5.2 million children in poverty in the UK, just under half (2.5 million; 48%) are living in a family where someone is disabled. Amongst children living in a family where someone is disabled, 45% are in poverty. In families with no disabled person, this figure is 31%.

Figure 55: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by whether the family includes a disabled person, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

2,500,000



Children in families that include a disabled adult or child

2,700,000



Children in families that do not include a disabled adult or child

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

45%

Of children in families that include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

31%

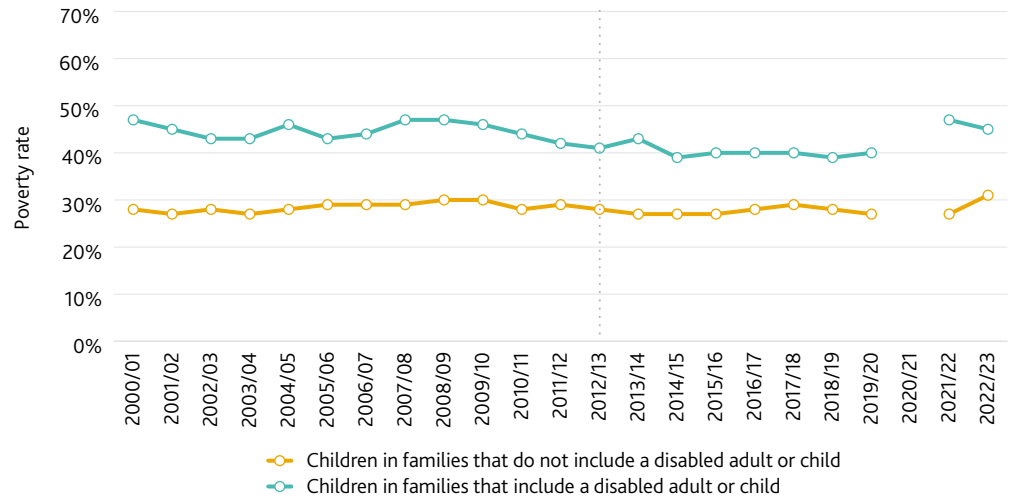
Of children in families that do not include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 56 shows that the poverty rate for children in families with a disabled person fell from 47% in 2000/01 to 39% in 2018/19. Since 2018/19, this rate increased to 47% in 2021/22, falling slightly to 45% in the most recent data. The poverty rate for children in families where no one is disabled has increased by four percentage points in the last year, after remaining at a similar level to that seen in 2000/01. Figure 57 shows that the proportion of all children in poverty comprised of children living in families where someone is disabled has generally increased significantly, from a low of 34% in 2006/07 to over half (53%) in 2021/22. In the latest data, this proportion fell by five percentage points to 48% in 2022/23.

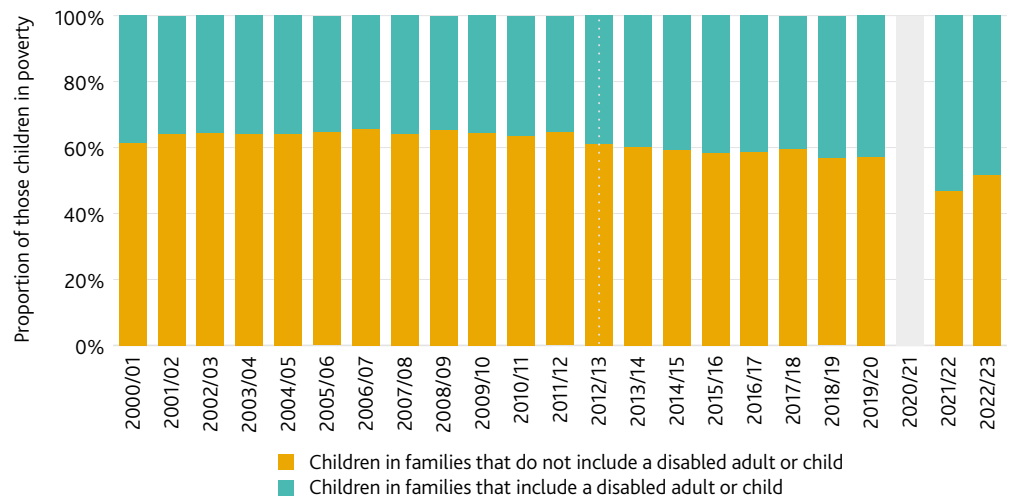
Figure 56: Poverty rates amongst children, by whether the family includes a disabled person, over time



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 57: Composition of poverty amongst children, by whether the family includes a disabled person



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD

Half (50%) of the 5.2 million children in poverty in the UK live in a family where the youngest child is under the age of five. Poverty rates for this group of children are also higher, standing at 44%, compared to between 31% and 30% for children living in families where the youngest child is over the age of five.

Figure 58: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by age of youngest child in family, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

2,600,000



Children in families where the youngest child is under 5

1,900,000



Children in families where the youngest child is aged between 5 and 11

700,000



Children in families where the youngest child is aged over 12

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

44%

Of children in families where the youngest child is aged under 5 are in poverty

31%

Of children in families where the youngest child is aged between 5 and 11 are in poverty

30%

Of children in families where the youngest child is aged over 12 are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

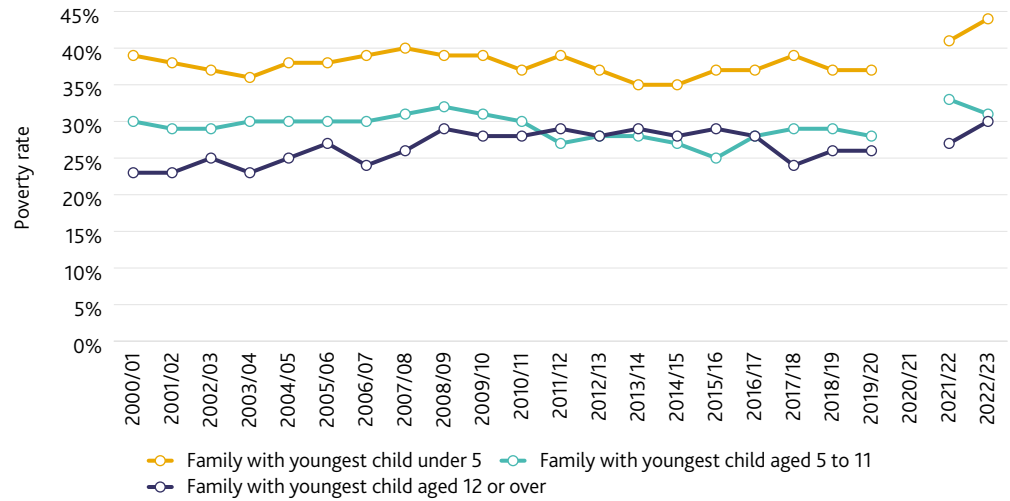
Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 59 shows that poverty rate for children who live in families where the youngest child is aged 5 to 11 has fallen by two percentage points in the most recent year, however it remains higher than the lowest point of 25% in 2015/16

For children living in families where the youngest child is under 5, there has been a gradual increase in poverty rates from a low of 35% in 2014/15, up to 44% in 2022/23.

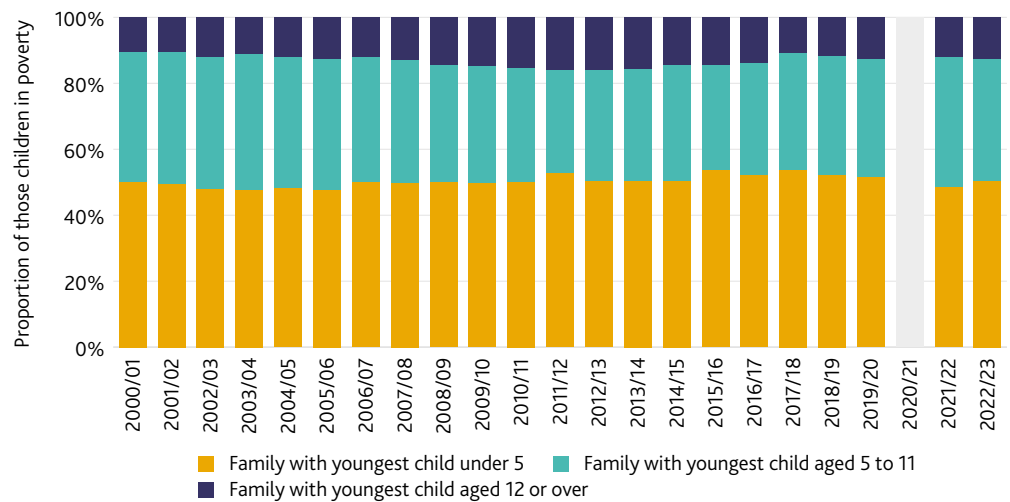
Poverty rates amongst children who live in families where the oldest child is aged 12 or over have risen in recent years, from 24% in 2017/18 to 30% in 2022/23.

Figure 59: Poverty rates amongst children, by age of youngest child in the family, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 60: Composition of poverty amongst children, by age of youngest child in the family



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY: NUMBER OF CHILDREN

Half (50%) of the 5.2 million children in poverty in the UK live in a family with three or more children. Poverty rates for this group of children are also higher, standing at 55% compared to 26% for children living in families where they are the only child, or 27% where there are two children.

Figure 61: Poverty rates and composition of poverty amongst children in the UK, by number of children in family, 2022/23

5.2 million children in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

800,000



Children in families with one child

1,800,000



Children in families with two children

2,600,000



Children in families with three or more children

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

26%

Of children in families with one child are in poverty

27%

Of children in families with two children are in poverty

55%

Of children in families with three or more children are in poverty

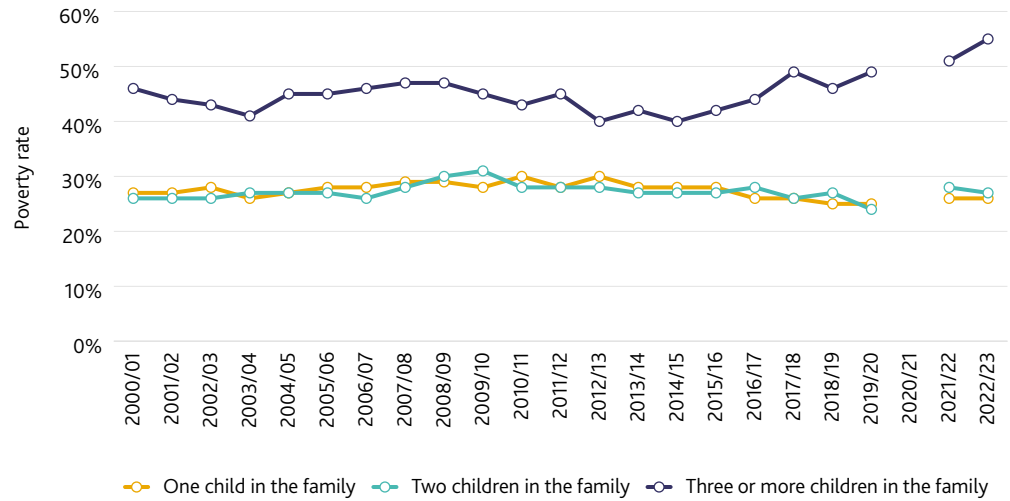
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 62 shows that rates of poverty for children vary depending on the number of children in the family. Since 2000/01, children in families with three or more children have consistently had higher rates of poverty than those in families with fewer children.

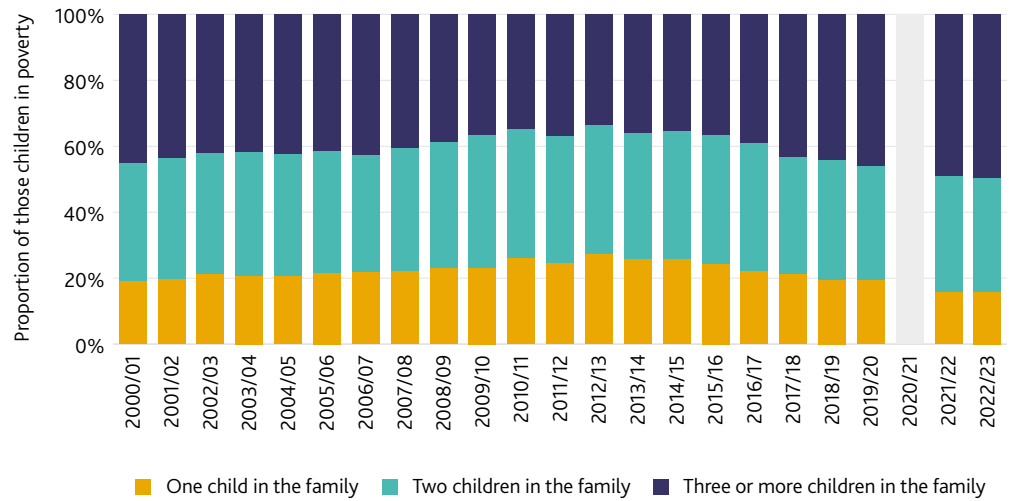
Recently, this gap has been widening, with children in large families facing increasing poverty risk and making up an increasingly large share of the overall number of children in poverty. While the poverty rates for children in one- and two-child families have changed little since 2000/01, poverty rates for those in families with three or more children have shown a significant upward trend, increasing from 40% in 2014/15 and now standing at 55% in 2022/23. Children in families with three or more children make up half (50%) of children in poverty in 2022/23, up from 35% in 2014/15.

Figure 62: Poverty rates amongst children, by number of children in the family, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 63: Composition of poverty amongst children, by number of children in the family



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST PENSION-AGE ADULTS

Of the 16.0 million people in poverty in the UK, 1.5 million are pension-age adults. This means that the poverty rate (13%) for pension-age adults is significantly lower than that of the whole population (24%) and less than half that of children (36%).

Figure 64: Composition of pension-age poverty and pension-age poverty rates in the UK, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), of which:

1,500,000



Pension-age adults

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

13%

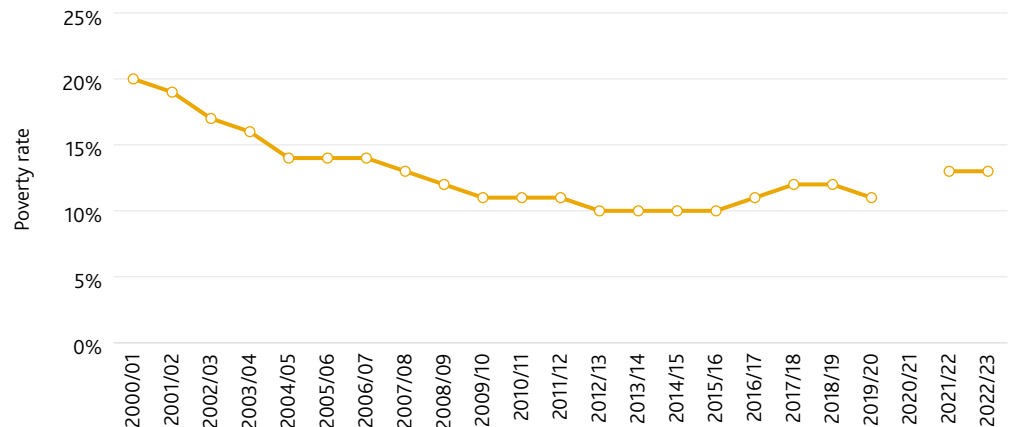
Of pension-age adults are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2021/22), SMC analysis.

Since 2000/01, the overall rate and level of pension-age adults in poverty has fallen significantly. From 20% in 2000/01, the overall pensioner poverty rate fell to a low of 10% in 2014/15. However, this progress has recently been partially reversed. Since 2014/15, the poverty rate for pension-age adults has risen and currently stands three percentage points higher, at 13% in 2022/23.

Figure 65: Poverty rates for pension-age adults, over time



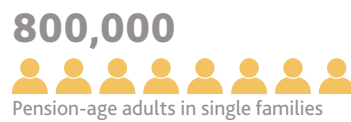
Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST PENSION-AGE ADULTS: FAMILY TYPE

Of the 1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty, 800,000 are single and 700,000 live in couple families. Poverty rates for single pension-age adults (18%) are eight percentage points higher than those for pension-age adults living in couple families (10%).

Figure 66: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for pension-age adults, by family type, 2022/23

1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:



Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

18%
Of pension-age adults in single families are in poverty

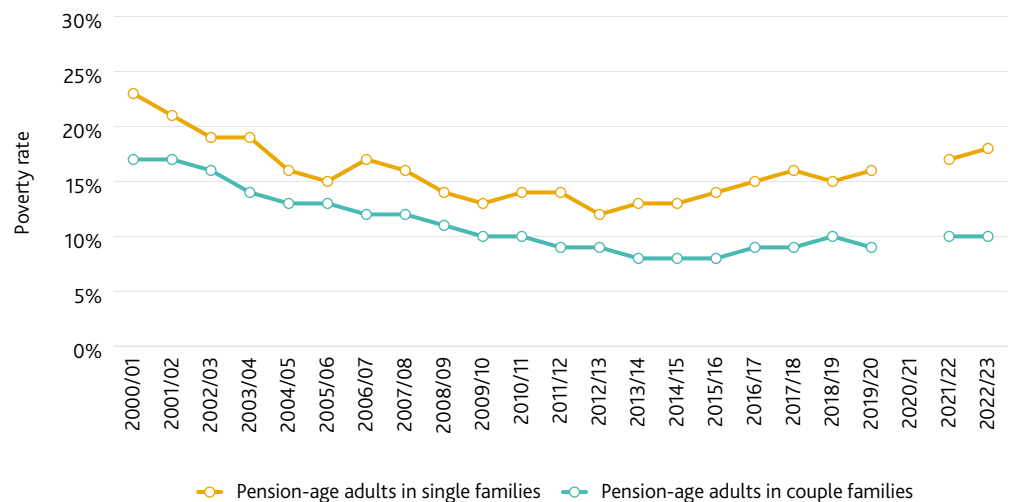
10%
Of pension-age adults in couple families are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 67 demonstrates that poverty rates for pension-age adults fell significantly between 2000/01 and 2014/15, both for single people and for those living in a couple. However, rates have since risen, with the most marked increase coming for single pension-age adults. The poverty rate for such pension-age adults has increased from 13% in 2014/15 to 18% in 2022/23.

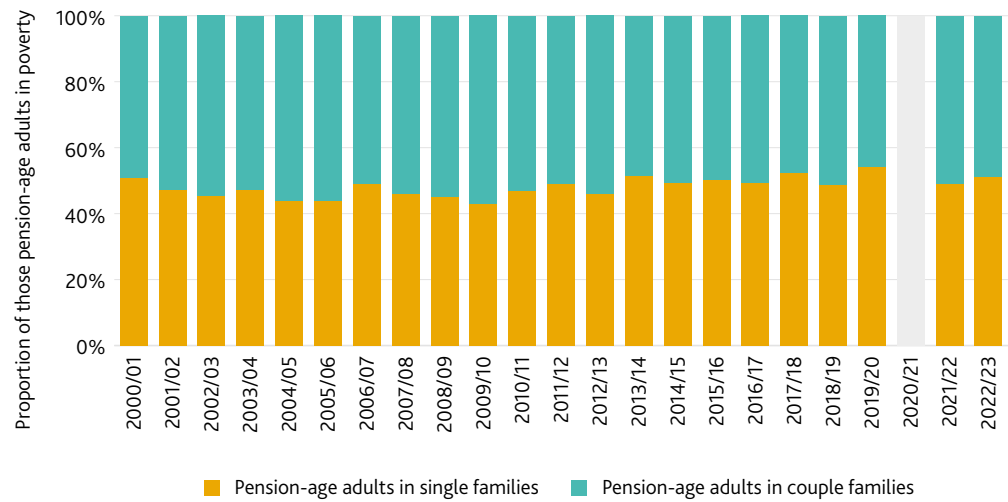
Figure 67: Poverty rates for pension-age adults, by family type, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 68 shows that, overall, the composition of pension-age poverty has remained relatively stable since 2000/01. In 2000/01, just over half (51%) of pension-age adults in poverty lived in single families, where this figure also stands for 2022/23.

Figure 68: Composition of pension-age adults in poverty, by family type



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST PENSION-AGE ADULTS: HOUSING TENURE

Of the 1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty, just over half (800,000) live in social- or private-rented accommodation. Another 700,000 live in accommodation that is owned outright. Poverty rates for pension-age adults are far higher for those living in social-rented (33%) or private-rented accommodation (30%) than they are for those in owned-outright accommodation (8%).

Figure 69: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for pension-age adults, by housing tenure, 2022/23

1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

600,000



Pension-age adults in social-rented accommodation

200,000



Pension-age adults in private-rented accommodation

100,000



Pension-age adults in mortgage-owned accommodation

600,000



Pension-age adults in owned-outright accommodation

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

37%

Of pension-age adults in social-rented accommodation are in poverty

30%

Of pension-age adults in private-rented accommodation are in poverty

19%

Of pension-age adults in mortgage-owned accommodation are in poverty

7%

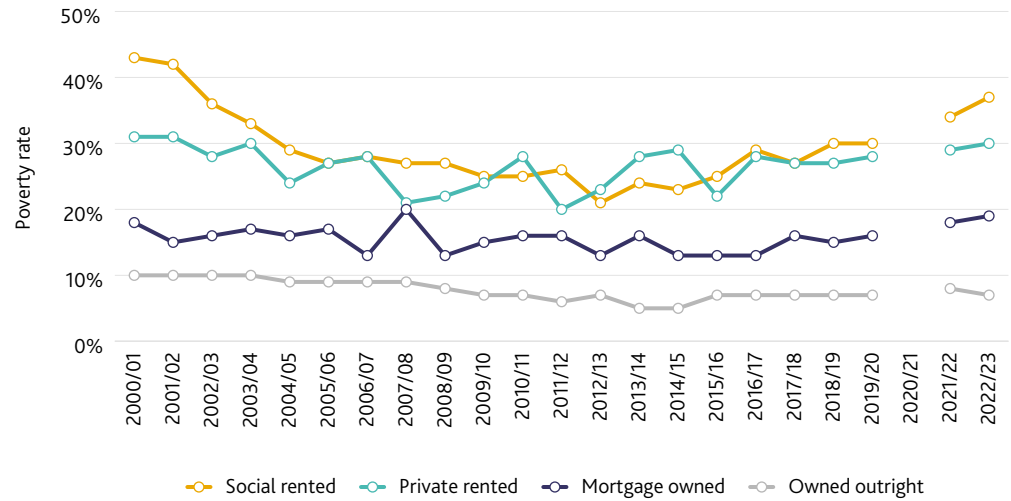
Of pension-age adults in owned-outright accommodation are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 70 shows dramatic falls in poverty rates between 2000/01 and 2012/13 for pension- aged adults living in social-rented accommodation (23 percentage points). However, these have since risen, with poverty rates for those in the social-rented sector rising by 16 percentage points. For the private-rented sector, rates have risen by ten percentage points between 2011/12 and 2022/23.

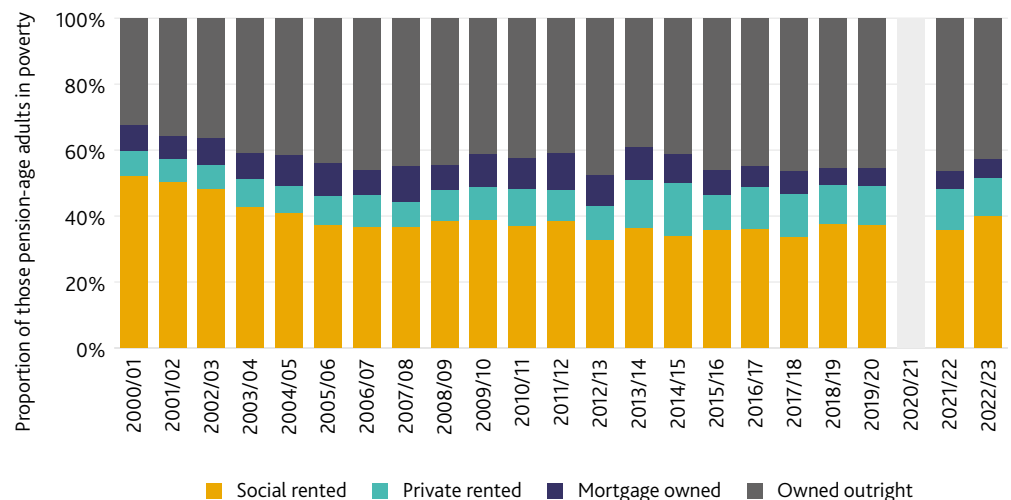
Figure 70: Poverty rates for pension-age adults, by housing tenure, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Large reductions in poverty rates for pension-age adults living in social-rented accommodation have also been reflected in the composition of poverty amongst pension-age adults. Figure 71 shows that the proportion of pension-age poverty accounted for by people in social-rented accommodation fell by 17 percentage points between 2000/01 and 2021/22, but have increased by four percentage points in the most recent data. In contrast, the proportion of pension-age adults in poverty accounted for by those in private-rented accommodation is now slightly higher (11%) in 2022/23 than it was in 2000/01 (8%) (driven by an increase in the population in this tenure type). The proportion for those in owned-outright accommodation is 11 percentage points higher in the latest data compared with 2000/01.

Figure 71: Composition of pension-age adults in poverty, by housing tenure



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST PENSION-AGE ADULTS: FAMILY DISABILITY

Of the 1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty, 1.0 million live in families where someone is disabled. As with working-age adults and children, pension-age adults who live in a family where someone is disabled have higher poverty rates (14%) than those who live in a family where no one is disabled (10%).

Figure 72: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK for pension-age adults, by whether the family includes a disabled person, 2022/23

1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

1,000,000



Pension-age adults in families that include a disabled adult or child

500,000



Pension-age adults in families that do not include a disabled adult or child

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

14%

Of pension-age adults in families that include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

10%

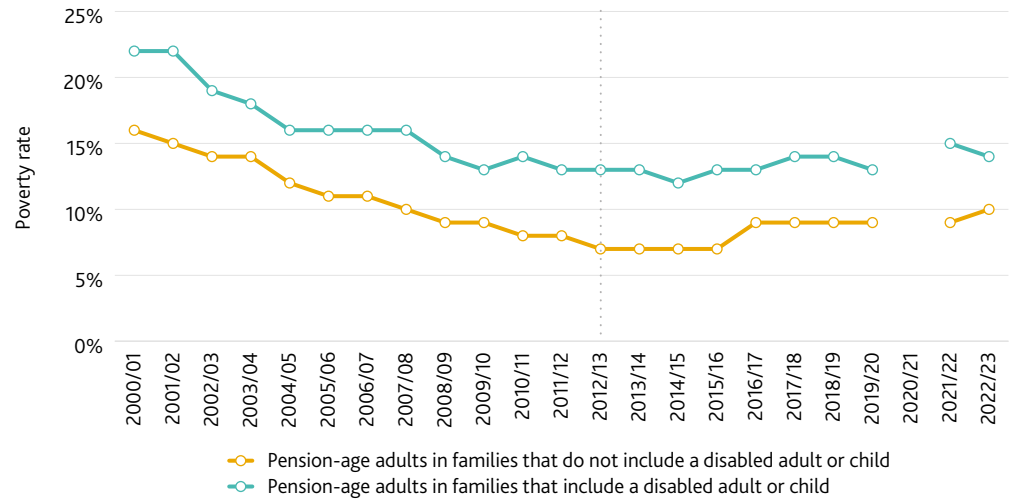
Of pension-age adults in families that do not include a disabled adult or child are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Around two thirds (67%) of pensioners in poverty live in families with someone who is disabled. Poverty rates for pensioners, both in families with and in families without a disabled person fell significantly between 2000/01 and 2014/15. In this period, poverty rates fell by nine percentage points for pensioners living in families without a disabled person, and by ten percentage points for pensioners living in families with a disabled person. There has since been a reversal of trends for both groups, with poverty rates generally rising; although in the latest year, whilst poverty rates fell for pensioners living in families with a disabled person by one percentage point, the opposite was the case for those in families without a disabled person.

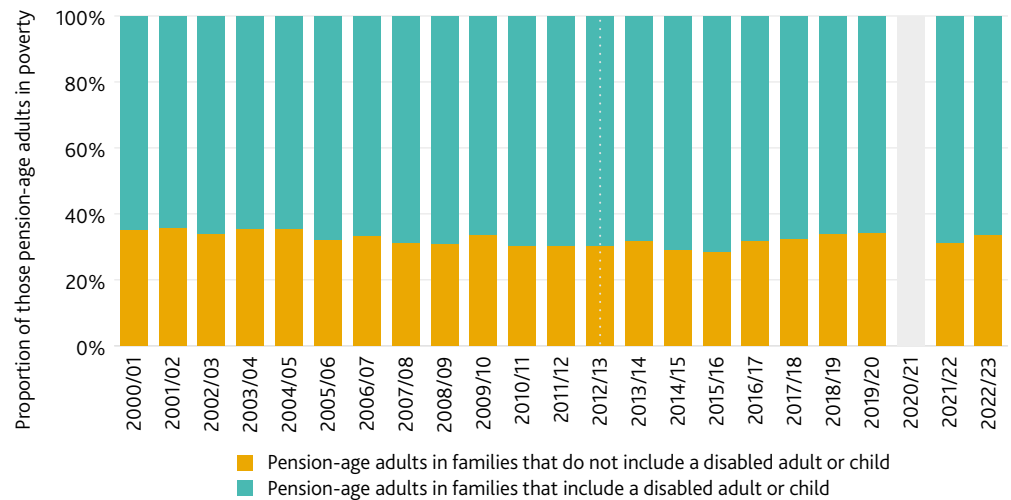
Figure 73: Poverty rates for pension-age adults, by whether the family includes a disabled person, over time



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 74: Composition of pension-age adults in poverty, by whether the family includes a disabled person



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST PENSION-AGE ADULTS: DETAILED BREAKDOWN BY AGE

Poverty amongst pension-age adults can also be split by pension-age families of different ages. This section considers the composition of poverty amongst pension-age adults and rates of poverty by the age of the oldest adult in the pension-age family. Figure 75 shows that just over half (51%) of pension-age adults in poverty live in families where the eldest member is aged over 75.

Figure 75: Composition of pension-age poverty and pension-age poverty rates in the UK, by age of oldest person in family 2022/23

1.5 million pension-age adults in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

400,000



Pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 70 and below

400,000



Pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 71-75

300,000



Pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 76-80

500,000



Pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 80 or above

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

13%

Of pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 70 and below are in poverty

12%

Of pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 71-75 are in poverty

14%

Of pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 76-80 are in poverty

13%

Of pension-age adults in families where the eldest member is 80 or above are in poverty

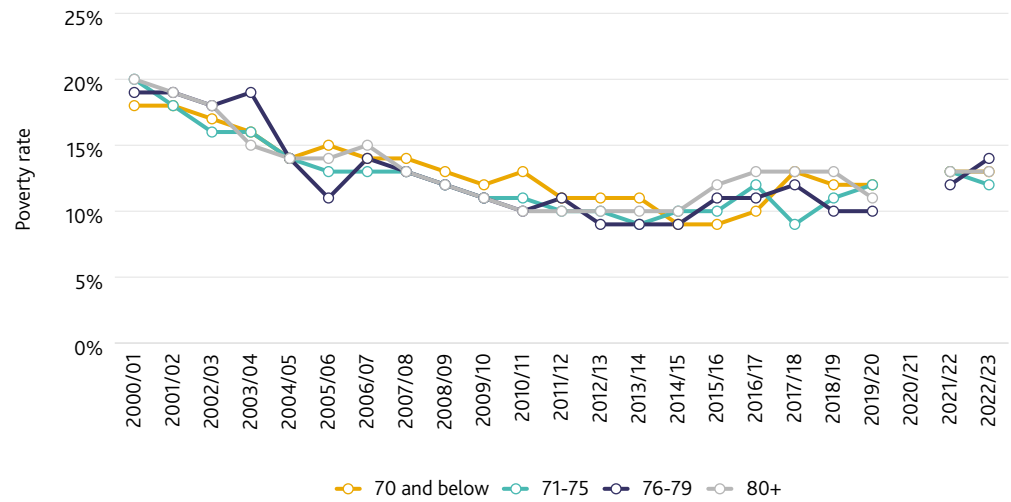
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. In some years, adults under 65 can still be classified as pension- aged due to the gradual increase of the pension age for women. This applies to all estimates for pension-age adults in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 76 shows that, since 2000/01, poverty rates have generally fallen for pension-age adults in all of these groups. For those in families with the eldest member aged over 80, poverty rates have fallen by seven percentage points (from 20% to 13%). There has been a similar eight percentage point decrease (from 20% to 12%) for those in families with the eldest member aged between 71 and 75.

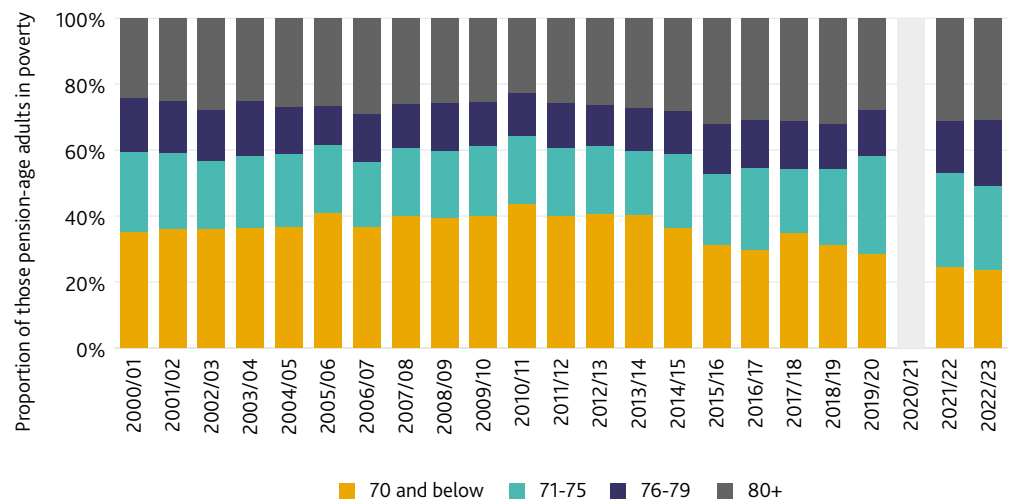
Despite this overall reduction since 2000/01, poverty rates are higher now than they were in 2014/15 for pension-age adults, regardless of the age of the eldest member of the family.

Figure 76: Poverty rates for pension-age adults, by age of eldest person in the family, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 77: Composition of pension-age adults in poverty, by age of eldest person in the family



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 - 2022/23), SMC analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST INDIVIDUALS, BY AGE GROUP

Around one in five (20% or 3.2 million people) of those in poverty are aged 10 and under. Poverty rates are highest for young children, with four in ten (40%) of children aged four or under in poverty. Poverty rates are substantially lower for adults than for children. Among adults, poverty rates are highest for adults in between the ages of 35 and 49, who are more likely to themselves have dependent children. Poverty rates are lowest for pensioners.

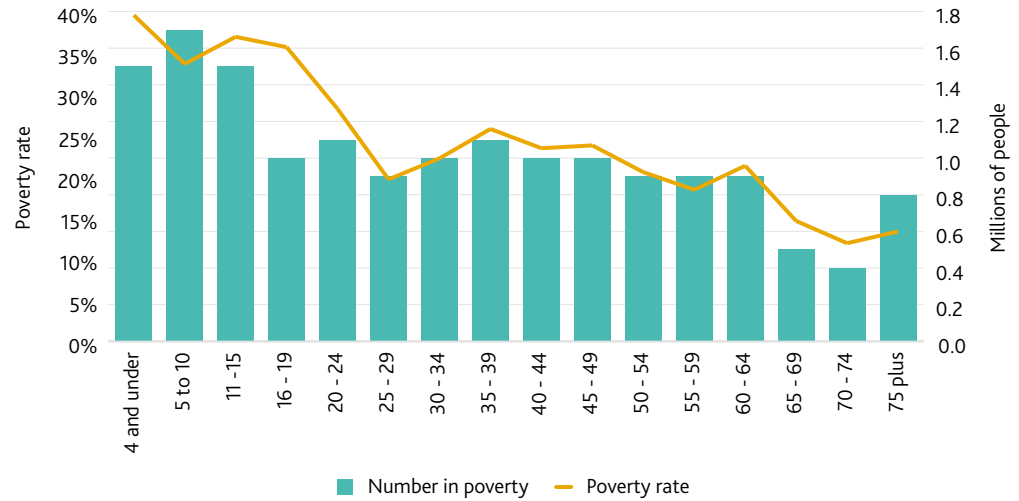
Figure 78: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by age group, 2022/23

14.9 million people in poverty in the UK (2021/22), comprised of:		Poverty rates in the UK (2021/22) for people:	
1,500,000	people aged under 4	Aged 4 and under	40 %
1,700,000	people aged 5 - 10	Aged 5 - 10	34 %
1,500,000	people aged 11 -15	Aged 11 -15	37 %
1,000,000	people aged 15 - 19	Aged 15 - 19	36 %
1,100,000	people aged 20 - 24	Aged 20 - 24	28 %
900,000	people aged 25 - 29	Aged 25 - 29	20 %
1,000,000	people aged 30 - 34	Aged 30 - 34	22 %
1,100,000	people aged 35 - 39	Aged 35 - 39	26 %
1,000,000	people aged 40 - 44	Aged 40 - 44	23 %
1,000,000	people aged 45 - 49	Aged 45 - 49	24 %
900,000	people aged 50 - 54	Aged 50 - 54	21 %
900,000	people aged 55 - 59	Aged 55 - 59	18 %
900,000	people aged 60 - 64	Aged 60 - 64	21 %
500,000	people aged 65 - 69	Aged 65 - 69	15 %
400,000	people aged 70 - 74	Aged 70 - 74	12 %
800,000	people aged 75 plus	Aged 75 plus	13 %

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

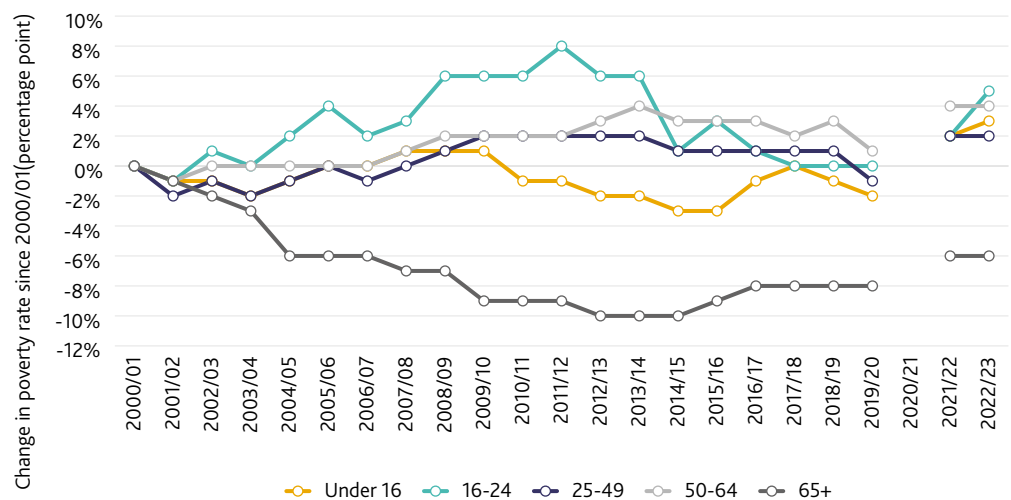
Figure 79: Poverty rates and number in poverty for the UK population, by age group (2022/23)



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Figure 80 shows how poverty rates have changed for different age groups over time. Results are grouped into wider age groups, for ease of presentation (full results can be found in the data tables that accompany this report). The figure shows that people aged 65 and over saw significant falls in poverty rates between 2000/01 and 2014/15, but since then the rate of poverty for this group has gradually increased. A similar trend can be seen for those aged under 16, with poverty rates falling in the early 2000s, before stagnating and then rising during the financial crisis and then falling sharply until 2014/15. Since, the rate of poverty for this group has gradually increased. In contrast, poverty rates for those aged 16-24 rose sharply between 2000/01 and 2011/12 (when they were eight percentage points higher than in 2000/01) but have fallen back to 2000/01 rates since then. Poverty rates for people aged 16-24 have however increased markedly in the most recent year's data.

Figure 80: Change in poverty rates since 2000/01, by age group



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2021/22), SMC Analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST MEN AND WOMEN

Poverty rates for women (21%) are higher than those for men (20%), with about one in five of each group living in poverty. This means that of the 10.7 million people aged 16 and over in poverty, there are 5.6 million women in poverty compared to around 5.1 million men.

Figure 81: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by men and women, 2022/23

10.7 million people aged 16 and over in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:



Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

21%
Of women are in poverty

20%
Of men are in poverty

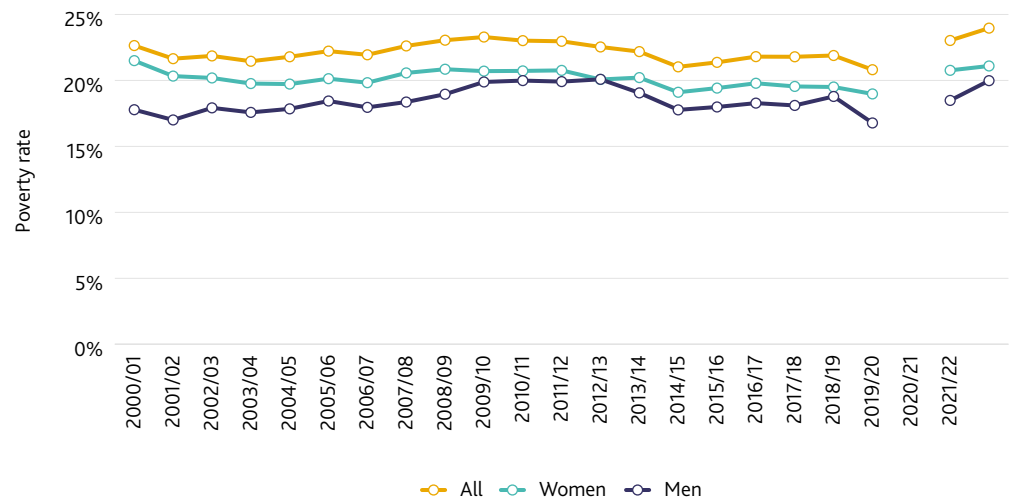
Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. Estimates for men and women apply to people aged 16 and over. This applies to all estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 82 shows that after rising slightly in the 2000s and peaking in 2012/13, poverty rates for men have been falling back to their pre-financial crisis levels before the pandemic. In contrast, apart from a moderate rise during the financial crisis and recession, poverty rates for women were falling slowly, but steadily, before the pandemic. Following the pandemic, rates for women have increased and ended one percentage point lower in 2022/23 (21%) than they were in 2000/01 (22%). There has been an increase in the most recent data for poverty rates of men, with these matching their previous high of 20% for 2022/23.

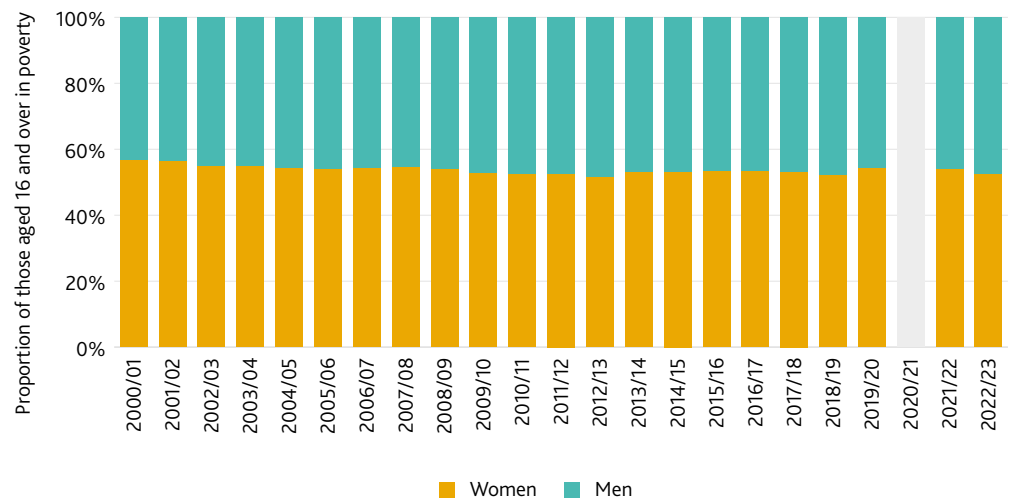
The composition of poverty has shifted slightly away from women (52% of the total in 2022/23, compared to 57% in 2000/01) and towards men.

Figure 82: Poverty rates for the UK population, by men and women, over time



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99–2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Figure 83: Composition of poverty, by men and women



Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99–2022/23), SMC Analysis.

POVERTY AMONGST INDIVIDUALS, BY DISABILITY

The sections earlier in this report looked at the proportion of people in poverty who live in a family that includes a disabled person. It showed that more than half (54%) of people in poverty are either disabled themselves or live with someone who is disabled.

This section considers poverty amongst disabled people, rather than families that include a disabled person. Of the 16.0 million people in poverty in 2022/23, 4.9 million are disabled. Of these, 3.4 million are disabled working-age adults, 700,000 are disabled children and 800,000 are disabled pension-age adults. This means that over half (53%) of all pension-age adults in poverty have a disability, compared to around four in ten (37%) adults in poverty and just over one in ten (13%) children in poverty.

Poverty rates for disabled working-age adults (37%) are almost twice that of non-disabled working-age adults (19%). Poverty rates for disabled children (43%) are significantly above those for children without a disability (36%), and poverty rates for disabled pension-age adults (16%) are five percentage points higher than those for non-disabled pension-age adults (11%).

Figure 84: Composition of poverty and poverty rates in the UK, by disability, 2022/23

16 million people in poverty in the UK (2022/23), comprised of:

3,400,000



Disabled working-age adults

700,000



Disabled children

800,000



Disabled pension-age adults

5,900,000



Working-age adults without a disability

4,600,000



Children without a disability

700,000



Pension-age adults without a disability

Poverty rates in the UK (2022/23):

37%

Of disabled working-age adults are in poverty

43%

Of disabled children are in poverty

16%

Of disabled pension-age adults are in poverty

19%

Of working-age adults without a disability are in poverty

36%

Of children without a disability are in poverty

11%

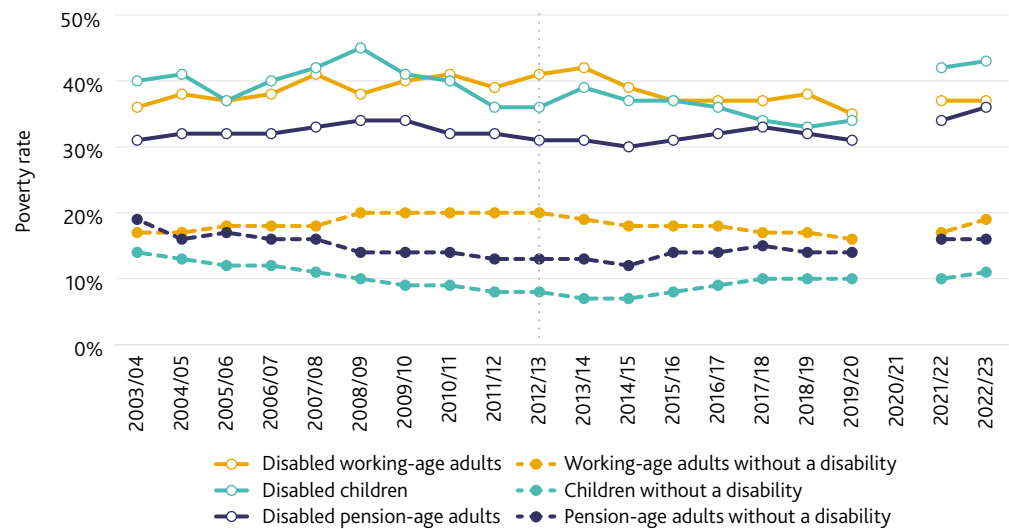
Of pension-age adults without a disability are in poverty

Notes: Figures have been rounded, so may not sum perfectly. The definition of disability changed to align with the core definition of disability under the Equality Act 2010 in 2012/13 but is otherwise consistent across years. Comparisons with years prior to 2012/13 should therefore be made with caution. This applies to all disability estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2022/23), SMC analysis.

Figure 85 shows that poverty rates for disabled working-age adults have fallen since 2013/14, from 42% to 37% in 2022/23. Poverty rates for disabled children were also falling at a similar rates, however, post-pandemic data shows a large increase of nine percentage points from 2019/20 (34%) to 2022/23 (43%). As a result, poverty rates for disabled children are significantly above those for non-disabled children. Poverty rates for disabled pension-age adults have also gradually risen since a low in 2014/15.

Figure 85: Poverty rates for the UK population, by individual disability, over time

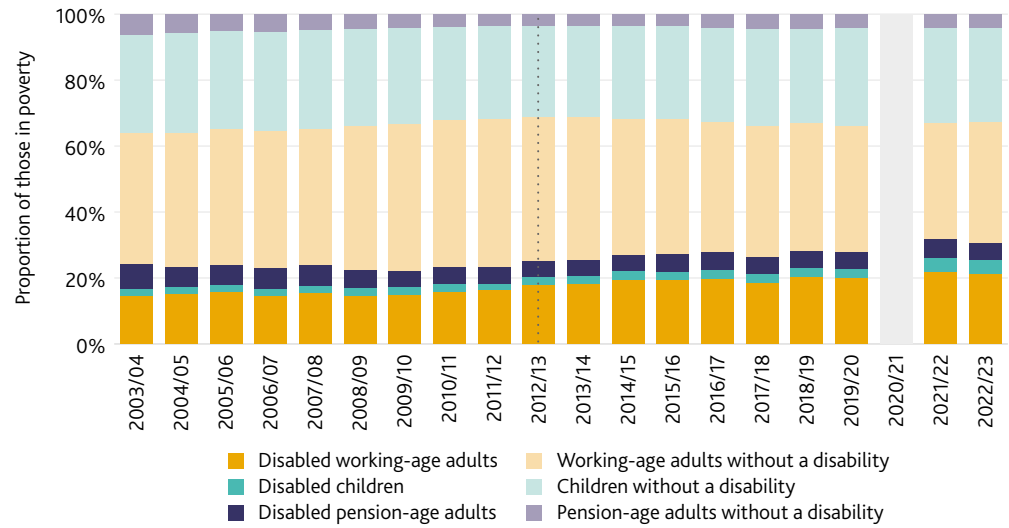


Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13. Estimates for disability are only available from 2003/04 due to data limitations. This applies to all disability estimates in this section.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

Figure 86 shows that the proportion of those in poverty who are disabled has increased over the last five years, rising from 25% in 2013/14 to 31% in 2022/23.

Figure 86: Composition of poverty, by individual disability



Notes: The dotted line indicates the change in definition to align with Equality Act definitions in 2012/13.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (1998/99 – 2022/23), SMC Analysis.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: UPDATES, AND AGREEMENT WITH "BELOW AVERAGE RESOURCES"

There have been no methodological changes this year, but there have been changes to the underlying code. These are predominantly improvements made following a detailed quality-assurance workstream, running alongside the Department for Work and Pension's programme of work on the creation of *Official Statistics in Development* corresponding to the Social Metrics Commission's measure, "Below Average Resources".^x

Following the advice from the Department for Work and Pensions, we have updated the assets variable used to calculate total liquid assets, a component of TRA. From when it became available in 2019/20, TOTCAPB4 is now used in place of TOTCAPB3.

Another change is an update to the method of estimating of the extra costs of disability that are relevant to each family. Disability benefits administered by Social Security Scotland are now included in the calculation of the extra costs of disability, alongside Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, and Attendance Allowance.

Several changes to improve code robustness have also been made. In particular, logic to account for leap years in the conversion between annual and weekly amounts has been applied more consistently across the code. Additionally, code to prevent the mis-interpretation of non-response codes in mortgage principal calculations has been added.

Corrections have also been made to the application of deflators. Where recommended by the analysis team at the Department for Work and Pensions, we have switched from the use of after-housing-costs deflators to before-housing-costs deflators.

The Commission's 2018 report establishes the Commission's principle that where methodological changes have a significant impact on the overall number of people in poverty, it will revisit its original threshold decision. The Commission's intention in doing so is to ensure that the Commission's measure of poverty in 2016/17 continues to match that of the after-housing costs version of the Households Below Average Income series. The changes described above do not meaningfully change the poverty rate in 2016/17. The Commission's poverty threshold therefore remains at 54% of total resources available for this publication.

While every effort has been made to ensure consistency with the Department for Work and Pensions' measure "Below Average Resources" (BAR), development work at the DWP has continued after the finalisation of the figures for this report. As such, some divergence between the figures in this report and the figures in any upcoming BAR report are to be expected, reflecting continued methodological updates.

The Commission’s website^{xi} continues to provide users with access to the underlying code that can be used to create the Commission’s measures of poverty using the Family Resources (FRS) / Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data. This is allowing a range of analysts and researchers to both recreate the Commission’s analysis and also extend and further analyse UK poverty based on its approach. The Commission believes that poverty can only be effectively understood by analysing the incidence of poverty, poverty depth and persistence and Lived Experience Indicators together and would strongly encourage users to approach their analysis in this manner.

ANNEX 2: POVERTY LINES FOR DIFFERENT FAMILIES

In practice, when determining who is in poverty, the Commission’s approach is to set a poverty line specific to the needs of each family. This means that each family’s unequivalised available resources can be compared directly with their poverty line to determine whether they are in poverty.

Table 22 demonstrates these poverty lines for a range of example families. It shows that in 2022/23 a single childless person with less than £202 a week of available resources would be judged to be in poverty. The threshold for a childless couple is £348 a week and, for a couple with two children, the threshold is £564 a week.

Table 22: Poverty lines for different example family types

Family type	2022/23 poverty line (£ available resources per week)
Single, no children	£202
Lone parent	
<i>One child</i>	£272
<i>Two children</i>	£418
Couple, no children	£348
Couple with children	
<i>One child</i>	£418
<i>Two children</i>	£564
Pensioner, single	£202
Pensioner couple	£348

Notes: Indicative poverty thresholds are calculated by typical family type - in one child cases, the child is assumed to be under 14. In two-child cases, one is assumed to be under 14 and one is assumed to be over 14.

Source: Family Resources Survey and HBAI dataset (2019/20 to 2021/22), SMC analysis.

ANNEX 3: SURVEY YEARS FOR LIVED EXPERIENCE INDICATORS

The Lived Experience Indicators were selected based on data availability and the themes that the Commission wanted to capture as important to fully understanding lived experience. Each indicator draws on data from either the Family Resources or the Understanding Society surveys and are estimated in a range of different survey years as not all questions are asked every year. The table below provides details on the survey and years that each of the indicators are drawn from.

Domain and indicator	Survey	Most recent data	Last data	Earliest data
Family, relationships and community				
<i>Single adults</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>Lone parent families</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>Single pensioners</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>Adults in family rarely or never feel close to others</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2012/13
<i>One or more youths in family does not feel supported by their family/people who they live with</i>	Understanding Society	2018/19	2011/12	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family feels unsafe walking alone at night</i>	Understanding Society	2014/15	2011/12	no data
<i>One or more adults in family worries about being affected by crime</i>	Understanding Society	2014/15	2011/12	no data
<i>One or more adults in family does not like living in current neighbourhood</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2011/12	no data
<i>One or more adults in family spends time caring for someone</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family perceives local services as poor</i>	Understanding Society	2014/15	2011/12	no data
<i>One or more adults in family thinks people in their neighbourhood cannot be trusted</i>	Understanding Society	2014/15	2011/12	no data
<i>No adults in family are members of an organisation</i>	Understanding Society	2017/18	2014/15	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family is not willing to improve neighbourhood</i>	Understanding Society	2017/18	2014/15	2011/12
<i>Family's average size of social network is below 5 close friends</i>	Understanding Society	2017/18	2014/15	2011/12

Domain and indicator	Survey	Most recent data	Last data	Earliest data
Education				
<i>No one in family has any formal qualifications</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2008/09
<i>All adults have highest qualification that is below 5A*-C GCSEs or equivalent</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2008/09
Health				
<i>In a family that includes a disabled adult or child</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>One or more adults in family with poor self-reported physical health</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family with poor self-reported mental health</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family with low life satisfaction</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family with low health satisfaction</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2011/12
<i>One or more youths in family has drunk to excess in last four weeks</i>	Understanding Society	2018/19	2016/17	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family has drunk to excess in the last year</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2015/16
<i>One or more adults in family smokes cigarettes (not incl. e-cigarettes)</i>	Understanding Society	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
<i>One or more youths in family has used or taken illegal drugs at least once in the last year</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2011/12

Domain and indicator	Survey	Most recent data	Last data	Earliest data
Family finances				
<i>Family is behind in paying bills</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2011/12
<i>In a workless family</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>In a family reporting material deprivation</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2010/11
<i>One or more adults in family with low income satisfaction</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2011/12
<i>One or more adults in family has felt embarrassed by low income</i>	Understanding Society	2016/17	2015/16	no data
<i>No adult in family saves</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2018/19	2012/13
Labour market opportunity				
<i>Proportion of working-age adults who are workless</i>	Family Resources	2022/23	2021/22	2000/01
<i>Average time spent travelling to work for working adults in family (minutes)</i>	Understanding Society	2021/22	2019/20	2011/12

ENDNOTES

The data in this report is drawn from the following sources:

Department for Work and Pensions. (2024). Family Resources Survey, 2022-2023. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN: 9252, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-9252-1>

Department for Work and Pensions. (2024). Households Below Average Income, 1994/95-2022/23. [data collection]. 18th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 5828, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-5828-16>

University of Essex, Institute for Social and Economic Research. (2023). Understanding Society: Waves 1-13, 2009-2022 and Harmonised BHPS: Waves 1-18, 1991-2009. [data collection]. 18th Edition. UK Data Service. SN: 6614, DOI: <http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-6614-19>

- i There was a UK-wide official measure of child poverty, with associated targets, contained in the Child Poverty Act 2010. Targets based on reducing child poverty in the UK were abolished in 2015. Note that Scotland (who have now legislated for new measures and targets), Wales and Northern Ireland have retained measures of poverty based around the Child Poverty Act 2010 definitions.
- ii Work on an official statistic in development based on the Social Metrics Commission's poverty measurement framework was resumed by the Department for Work and Pensions in March 2023. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/development-of-a-new-measure-of-poverty-statistical-notice/development-of-a-new-measure-of-poverty-statistical-notice>, accessed 13/11/2023. New official statistics in development based on the SMC's work, Below Average Resources, were published in January 2024, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/below-average-resources-developing-a-new-poverty-measure> Accessed 29/08/2024.
- iii Crisp. R, McCarthy. L, Parr. S, & Pearson. S, (2016), Community-led approaches to reducing poverty in neighbourhoods: A review of evidence and practice', Joseph Rowntree Foundation & Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, JRF, York.
- iv Sherraden M. (2002), Assets and the social investment state, In Paxton W. (ed) Equal Shares? Building a progressive and coherent asset-based welfare policy. London: IPPR.
- v Note that we also use "related" to refer to two people living together as a couple.
- vi Note that a pension-age family is defined as one where at least one individual is above state pension age (SPA). Note that that this definition takes account of recent changes to SPA.
- vii Family work status was determined by taking all non-retired and non-student adults in the sharing unit, and allocating full-time workers a value of 1, a part-time worker a value of 0.5, and someone who is unemployed, inactive, or studying a value of 0. The average of these scores is then taken for the family. Full-time work families have an average score of greater than/ equal to 0.75, full/part-time work families have a score of between 0.75 and 0.5 (including 0.5 but excluding 0.75), and part-time work families have a score of between 0 and 0.5 (excluding 0

and 0.5). Families that are workless have scores of 0. Note that these categories will include benefit units with all retired adults that are in a sharing unit with a working-age adult who is not retired. For further information please refer to the full SMC report from 2018.

- viii The use of three-year averages (to ensure sufficient sample sizes) and the fact that harmonised standards for ethnicity questions on the Family Resources Survey mean that results are only available from 2014/15.
- ix The Commission's approach to measuring persistent poverty relies on Understanding Society. Given the relatively few waves of data available for Understanding Society, it is only possible to report on persistent poverty for 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. As more waves of data from Understanding Society become available, a fuller account of long-term poverty persistence will become possible, as will an analysis of those who move repeatedly in and out of poverty, who may not be captured by the measure of persistence outlined here.
- x Department for Work & Pensions (2024). See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/below-average-resources-developing-a-new-poverty-measure/below-average-resources-developing-a-new-poverty-measure/>. Accessed 17/09/2024.
- xi See: <https://socialmetricscommission.org.uk/>



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