

Using the English Indices of Deprivation 2007:

Guidance

The English Indices of Deprivation 2007 (ID 2007) are the Government's official measure of multiple deprivation at small area level. The 2007 Indices update information provided in the ID 2004.

What is the background to the ID 2007?

- The ID 2007 provides a relative ranking of areas across England according to their level of deprivation.
- The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD 2007) which forms part of the ID 2007 is based on the small area geography known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 people living in them with an average population of 1500 people. In most cases, these are smaller than wards, thus allowing the identification of small pockets of deprivation.
- There are 32,482 LSOAs in England. The LSOA ranked 1 by the IMD 2007 is the most deprived and that ranked 32,482 is the least deprived.
- The IMD brings together 37 different indicators which cover specific aspects or dimensions of deprivation: Income, Employment, Health and Disability, Education, Skills and Training, Barriers to Housing and Services, Living Environment and Crime. These are weighted and combined to create the overall IMD 2007.
- The majority of the data underpinning the IMD 2007 represents 2005 although some data covers a number of years, for example an average of 2003-2005.

What does the ID 2007 include?

The ID 2007 includes the following measures of deprivation:

- The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2007) as described above;
- Local Authority Summaries of the IMD 2007
- County Council summaries of the IMD 2007
- Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007
- Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index 2007

What can the ID 2007 be used for?

- All components of the ID 2007 (i.e. SOA, district, county) can be used to describe deprivation in a particular geographical area. The level chosen will depend on the analysis being undertaken and the purpose for which it is to be used.
- The IMD 2007 is the most detailed and should be used to pinpoint pockets of deprivation or to highlight variations within a wider geographical area. The district and county council summaries are useful when only a broad overview is required.
- The IMD 2007 ranks can be used to compare LSOAs, the smaller the rank the more deprived the LSOA.
- The IMD 2007 ranks can also be used to identify the most deprived small areas on the overall Index and each of the seven individual domains, commonly by applying a cut-off such as 10%, 15%, 20%, etc.
- The choice of cut-off should be informed by the focus of the policy/programme, i.e. whether it aims to target areas with very high concentrations of deprivation or whether it is more wide-ranging.
- The Income and Employment domains at the LSOA, district and county levels can be used to identify absolute numbers of people in an area who are affected by these types of deprivation.
- The Index can be used to compare the extent of and concentrations of deprivation within and across local authorities. Users can identify either the proportion of LSOAs within a local authority which fall within the 10% (or 20%) most deprived nationally (concentration) or the proportion of England's most deprived LSOAs that fall within each district (extent).

What should the ID 2007 not be used for?

- The ID 2007 is a relative measure of deprivation and therefore it cannot be used to determine 'how much' more deprived one LSOA is than another. For example, it is not possible to say that LSOA X, ranked 20 is twice as deprived as LSOA Y, which is ranked 40. However, it is possible to say that X is more deprived than Y.
- The ID 2007 scores and ranks cannot be used as absolute measures of deprivation or to identify absolute change over time.
- It is also not appropriate to use the scores to compare an LSOA *between* domains. For example, it is not appropriate to compare an LSOA score of 58.12 on the Income Domain with its score of 2.54 on the Health Deprivation and Disability Domain. This is because the scores have different ranges and different minimum and maximum values. If you want to compare across domains, then ranks should be used.
- The Income and Employment domain scores are rates. It is therefore appropriate to describe the LSOA in terms of the proportion of the population experiencing income or employment deprivation. So for example, if the LSOA has a score of 0.63 on either of these domains, then

- we can say that 63 percent of its population is either income or employment deprived. This does not apply to the other five domains.
- The ID 2007 identifies concentrations of deprivation and it is important to note that not all deprived people live in deprived areas and conversely, not everyone living in a deprived area is deprived.
 - The ID 2007 is not a measure of affluence. The indicators which have been used have been chosen because they represent different aspects of deprivation. A lack of deprivation does not necessarily equate to affluence. Therefore, the LSOAs with the highest ranks (i.e. close to 32,482) are not necessarily affluent, just less deprived.
 - The Index scores from 2004 cannot be compared with those from 2007. Though the two Indices are very similar, it is not valid to compare the scores between the two time points. An area's score is affected by the scores of every other area; so it is impossible to tell whether a change in score is a real change in the level of deprivation in an area or whether it is due to the scores of other areas going up or down.
 - The Indices are for England only. Though the Indices for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland use similar methodologies, it is not valid to compare them.

For more information or further help on using the Indices of Deprivation please email:

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