Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016: Fife Facts

Fife continues to track what is happening with Scotland as a whole in relation to both income and employment deprivation. Many of Fife's most deprived areas are concentrated in Central Fife, with some areas now showing as more deprived relative to other areas of Scotland. A changed picture is seen in relation to Health deprivation in Fife, but still within what might be expected for Fife's size and population.

Introduction
The Scottish Government launched its latest Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) – SIMD16 – on 31 August 2016. It ranks datazones (some 700 people on average) across Scotland from 1 (most deprived) to 6976 (least deprived). As an index, it measures relative not absolute deprivation (i.e. how multiple deprivation compares between datazones, rather than how much deprivation is in each). Its uses include: understanding the concentration of multiple deprivation, tracking change over time for Fife's most and least deprived areas, informing policy and allocating resources.

Understanding change over time
It is not possible to make direct comparisons between the 2012 and 2016 Indices as they are based on different geographies. SIMD16 provides finer grain analysis of deprivation across Scotland based on 2011 datazones (6976 neighbourhoods across Scotland), while SIMD12 is based on 2001 datazones (6505 neighbourhoods across Scotland). The increase in the overall number of datazones affects the cut-off point used, for example, 20% most deprived, is now defined as a rank of 1395 or less (instead of 1301).

Annual updates to the income and employment domains for the years between SIMD12 and SIMD16 are expected to be published by the end of 2016. This will provide insight into how different local neighbourhoods have been changing over the period 2013 to 2016.

What the SIMD tells us and what it doesn't
Identifying the most deprived datazones in Scotland enables policies to target need. However, since the SIMD is a relative ranking of all datazones in Scotland, as some improve and move down the table others will move up to take their place. Such changes may only reflect a relative change in deprivation. Further analysis of the underlying data may be necessary to explain:
  a) the extent to which absolute changes in deprivation have occurred
  b) explanation for changes in Fife's relative rankings, including changes elsewhere
  c) significant changes in the pattern of deprivation within Fife

Fife in context
Fife is Scotland's third largest local authority and has a 7% share of Scotland's population and datazones and has a varied socio-economic profile that mirrors that of Scotland. With SIMD 2016, Fife continues to track what is happening in Scotland as a whole. In absolute terms, 11% of the working age population are employment deprived in Fife (10.8% for Scotland). 12.4% of the population are income deprived in Fife (12.3% for Scotland).

Since 2004, Fife has generally seen an increasing share of Scotland's most deprived datazones but consistent with its share of Scotland's population and datazones. Fife now has 11.9% of its 494 datazones in the 15% most deprived for Scotland (down slightly from 12.8% SIMD12). 19.2% of Fife's datazones are in the 20% most deprived for Scotland (unchanged from SIMD12).

Area Overview

Figure 1 Table: Area distribution of 20% most deprived datazones, showing change from 2012 to 2016

Area	No of datazones in 20% most deprived		Change
	2016	**2012**	
South West Fife	5	7	-2
City of Dunfermline	8	9	-1
Cowdenbeath	19	19	0
Kirkcaldy	23	21	+2
Glenrothes	16	11	+5
Levenmouth	23	19	+4
North East Fife	1	1	0
Fife	95	87	+8

The majority of Fife's most deprived areas are concentrated in Central Fife, spread out across the Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth, Cowdenbeath and Glenrothes areas. Compared to 2012, there are now more datazones in 5% and 10% most deprived, as opposed to the 15% and 20% most deprived

SIMD Domains

As deprivation can take many different forms, the SIMD combines seven different domains (aspects) of deprivation:

Figure 2 Table: Distribution of 20% most deprived datazones by Domain, showing change from 2012 to 2016

Makeup of the index	Domain	No of datazones in 20% most deprived		Change
		2016	**2012**	
28%	Income	95	93	+2
28%	Employment	103	99	+4
14%	Health	73	36	+37
14%	Education, Skills and Training	97	92	+5
9%	Geographic Access	94	95	-1
5%	Crime	81	76	+4
2%	Housing	14	9	+5

Employment, Income and Education deprivation remain key factors in the relative ranking of Fife datazones on the index. Marginal increases have been seen in Fife's share of Scotland's most deprived datazones across most domains, but still in line with what might be expected.

Although the number of Fife datazones in the most deprived for Health has doubled since 2012, this remains lower than expected (14.7% of Fife datazones in 20% most deprived for Health).

Further Information

Information about the SIMD including reports, guidance and mapping will be made available at:
1. National analysis of SIMD   http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/
2. National mapping of SIMD   http://simd.scot
3. Fife analysis of SIMD   www.fifedirect.org.uk/deprivation
4. Local area SIMD data and maps https://knowfife.fife.gov.uk/
5. LocalView map (Fife Council only) http://arcgisweb.fife/LocalView/Sites/SIMD/

Report Contact

Coryn Barclay, Fife Council Research Team coryn.barclay@fife.gov.uk
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