Children in Poverty

Further Information

There is no single definitive measure of child poverty. This bulletin looks at several measures focusing on child poverty and deprivation. Data is presented for the Kent County Council area and provides national and regional comparisons where available.

Summary

- In 2023/24, 14.8% of children aged under 16 are living in absolute low-income families in Kent (45,882 children).
- 36.0% of children living in absolute low-income families are aged 5 to 10.
- 64.6% of children living in absolute low-income families in Kent live in a family where at least one adult is working.
- 17.5% of children aged under 16 are living in relative low-income families in Kent (54,002 children), 36.5% of which are aged 5 to 10.
- 65.5% of children living in relative low-income families in Kent live in a family where at least one adult is working.
- An estimated 4.0% of children in Kent are living in workless households in 2023.
- All of the top 20 most deprived areas in Kent are in coastal areas according to the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IMD2019).

Contents

Introduction

There is no single definitive measure of child poverty. This bulletin looks at several measures focusing on child poverty and deprivation. Data is presented for the Kent County Council area and provides national and regional comparisons where available.

Children in low-income families
The Children in low-income families statistics (CiLIF), provide information on the number and proportion of children living in Relative and Absolute low income before housing costs by local area across Great Britain.

From 2019/20 CiLIF statistics are drawn from a new database "RAPID" (Registration and Population Interaction Database) which provides a single coherent view of citizens' interactions with DWP and HMRC within a tax year for the UK.

The CiLIF measure looks at the number of children in families (not households), where the income is less than 60% of median income before housing costs in both absolute and relative terms. For both measures a family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year, in comparison with incomes in 2010/11.

Relative low income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year.

Background information and the methodology of how the CiLIF are calculated is available from the Department for Work and Pensions on Gov.uk.

The number of children in an area is taken from the Office for National Statistics Mid-Year Population Estimates.

The latest data is for 2023/24. This is provisional and therefore subject to revision.

Children in workless households
The Annual Population Survey (APS) from the Office for National Statistics releases an annual dataset looking at households by economic activity status. The APS is a labour force based survey. Due to the sample size figures for districts are statistically unreliable. Figures at county level and above are generally more reliable.

This dataset presents an estimate of the number of households where no individuals aged 16 and over are in employment and have dependent children.

The latest data is for 2023.

English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (source: MHCLG)
The English Indices of Deprivation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (now called Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) measure relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas, in England.

The English Indices of Deprivation combines information from seven domain indices (which measure different types or dimensions of deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domain indices can be used on their own to focus on specific aspects of deprivation.

Among the seven domains is The Education, Skills, and Training Deprivation Domain. This measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population. The indicators fall into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills.

In addition to the seven domain indices The English Indices of Deprivation also contain supplementary indices concerned with income deprivation among children (IDACI) and older people (IDAOPI).

The income deprivation affecting children index (IDACI) measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).

Further information on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government webpages can be found.

Children in Low-income Families

The Children in Low-income Families measure (CiLIF) looks at the number of children in families, where the income is less than 60% of median income before housing costs, in both absolute and relative terms. For both measures a family must have claimed one or more of Universal Credit, Tax Credits or Housing Benefit at any point in the year to be classed as low income in these statistics.

In 2023/24 the average (median) household income before housing costs was £650.00 per week (around £34,000 per year). 60% of the median income equates to £390.00 per week (around £20,300 per year).

Percentages are calculated using the number of children aged under 16 using the Mid-Year Population Estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Children (Aged Under 16) living in absolute low-income families

Absolute low income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year, in comparison with incomes in 2010/11. The latest figures for the year 2023/24 are provisional and liable to revision.

In 2023/24, 45,882 children under 16 in Kent are living in absolute low-income families. This is equivalent to 14.8% of the children in the county. While this is below the national level (19.1%) it is higher than the average for the South East Region (12.3%).

Three of the local authorities in Kent are above or the same as the national average of 19.1%: Thanet (22.1%), Dover (19.5%), and Folkestone & Hythe (19.1%).

Thanet district has the highest number and proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in Kent (5,580, 22.1%). Swale has the second highest number (5,023, 16.3%). Almost 2 in 5 children living in absolute low-income families in Kent live in either Thanet or Swale.

Overall, in Kent, the number of children living in absolute low-income families has risen by 9.7% since the previous year. This is a smaller increase than seen in the South East region and England (both 10.4%).

All Kent districts saw a rise in the number of children living in absolute low-income families. Thanet saw the highest rise (13.6%) and Sevenoaks saw the lowest (3.1%).

Thanet district saw the biggest rise in number with 667 more children living in absolute low-income families than the previous year, followed by Maidstone with 440 more children. As well as the smallest percentage increase, Sevenoaks saw the smallest rise in number with 74 more children.

Table 1: Children in absolute low-income families

2023/24	Total children aged under 16	Number Living in Absolute Low Income Families	% Living in Absolute Low Income Families	1-year number change	1-year % change
Ashford	27,227	3,979	14.6%	314	8.6%
Canterbury	25,656	3,884	15.1%	319	8.9%
Dartford	27,483	3,533	12.9%	377	11.9%
Dover	20,713	4,043	19.5%	411	11.3%
Folkestone & Hythe	18,234	3,474	19.1%	304	9.6%
Gravesham	23,105	3,906	16.9%	267	7.3%
Maidstone	36,228	4,826	13.3%	440	10.0%
Sevenoaks	23,851	2,463	10.3%	74	3.1%
Swale	30,811	5,023	16.3%	347	7.4%
Thanet	25,203	5,580	22.1%	667	13.6%
Tonbridge & Malling	27,087	2,905	10.7%	323	12.5%
Tunbridge Wells	23,390	2,273	9.7%	212	10.3%
Kent	308,988	45,882	14.8%	4,049	9.7%
Medway	59,551	9,838	16.5%	1,009	11.4%
Kent & Medway	368,539	55,724	15.1%	5,062	10.0%
South East	1,762,090	217,501	12.3%	20,500	10.4%
England	10,648,350	2,030,841	19.1%	192,119	10.4%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 1 (overleaf) shows the percentage of children in absolute low-income families in Kent districts compared to other authorities in the South East.

Thanet has the second highest proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in the South East. Dover and Folkestone & Hythe have the 6th and 8th highest respectively out of the 64 local authorities in the region.

Overall, the proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in the South East region is 12.3%. All local authorities in Kent are above the South East rate except for Tonbridge & Malling (10.7%), Sevenoaks (10.3%) and Tunbridge Wells (9.7%).

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

A table shoiwing the number and proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in all South East local authorities can be found in table 27 in the Annex at the end of this bulletin.

Chart 1: Children in absolute low-income families in local authorities in the South East

Percentage of children living in absolute low income families in the South East, 2023/24
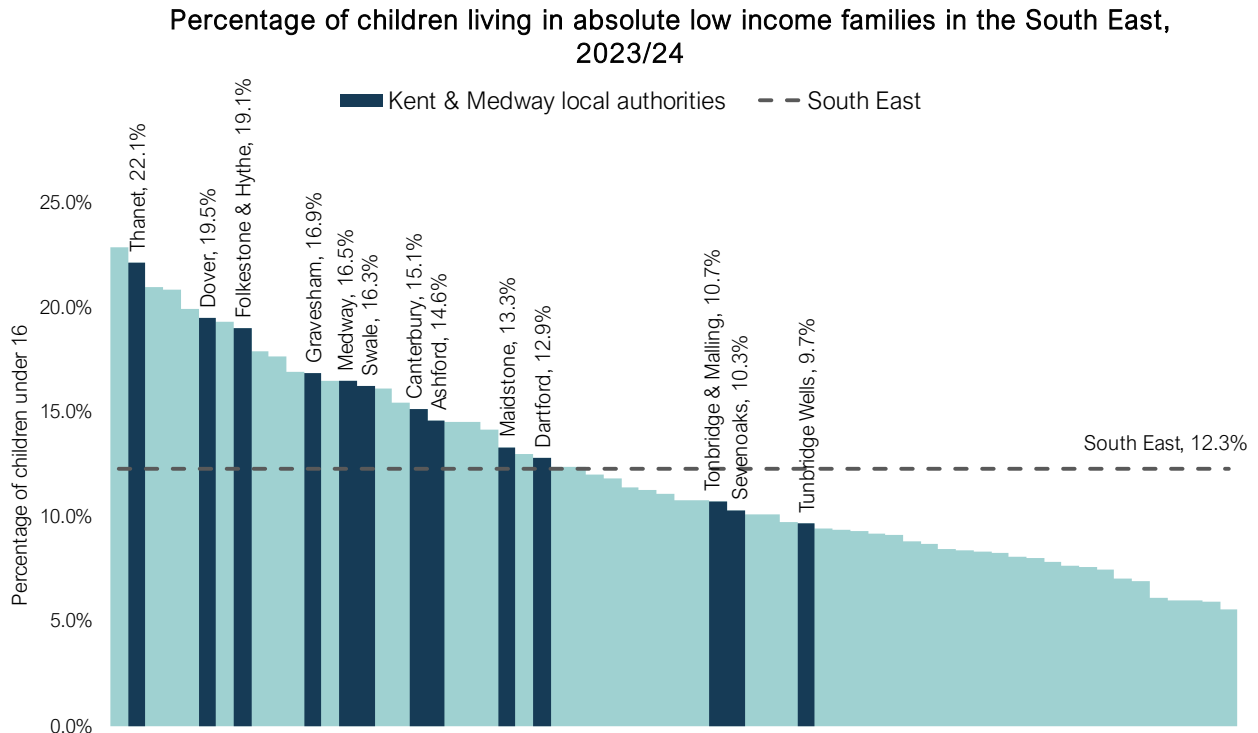
Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Tables 2a and 2b overleaf show a time series of the number and proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in Kent local authorities.

Table 2a: Number of children who are in absolute low-income families from 2014/15

Area	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashford	3,235	3,288	3,024	3,592	3,573	3,549	3,398	3,160	3,665	3,979
Canterbury	2,991	2,971	2,986	3,282	3,074	3,330	3,242	3,067	3,565	3,884
Dartford	2,410	2,387	2,239	2,817	2,788	3,045	3,069	2,742	3,156	3,533
Dover	3,282	3,210	2,918	3,480	3,328	3,420	3,117	2,972	3,632	4,043
Folkestone & Hythe	2,664	2,730	2,492	2,849	2,807	2,961	2,846	2,647	3,170	3,474
Gravesham	3,205	3,189	2,963	3,453	3,346	3,714	3,646	3,201	3,639	3,906
Maidstone	3,430	3,492	3,243	3,753	3,732	4,109	3,941	3,720	4,386	4,826
Sevenoaks	2,088	1,995	1,934	2,251	2,153	2,208	2,334	2,050	2,389	2,463
Swale	3,806	3,723	3,639	4,200	4,281	4,505	4,327	4,000	4,676	5,023
Thanet	5,123	5,147	4,712	5,155	4,989	5,012	4,343	4,198	4,913	5,580
Tonbridge & Malling	2,280	2,069	1,894	2,235	2,190	2,535	2,516	2,290	2,582	2,905
Tunbridge Wells	1,761	1,696	1,561	1,851	1,788	1,975	1,967	1,727	2,061	2,273
Kent	**36,269**	**35,896**	**33,605**	**38,919**	**38,047**	**40,365**	**38,747**	**35,776**	**41,833**	**45,882**
Medway	7,601	7,666	7,244	8,329	8,077	8,623	8,567	8,008	8,829	9,838
Kent & Medway	43,866	43,560	40,847	47,245	46,122	48,988	47,310	43,788	50,662	55,724
South East	171,461	169,575	157,569	182,970	178,461	186,316	181,063	169,345	197,001	217,501
England	1,538,249	1,534,821	1,439,933	1,676,053	1,646,582	1,696,568	1,594,768	1,563,346	1,838,722	2,030,841

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 2b: Percentage of children who are in absolute low-income families from 2014/15

Area	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashford	12.8%	13.1%	11.9%	13.9%	13.8%	13.7%	13.2%	12.2%	13.7%	14.6%
Canterbury	12.0%	11.9%	12.0%	13.1%	12.4%	13.5%	13.2%	12.5%	14.1%	15.1%
Dartford	11.4%	11.0%	10.1%	12.2%	11.6%	12.1%	11.9%	10.5%	11.8%	12.9%
Dover	16.5%	16.2%	14.6%	17.3%	16.5%	16.9%	15.4%	14.7%	17.7%	19.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	14.3%	14.8%	13.4%	15.5%	15.2%	16.1%	15.6%	14.6%	17.4%	19.1%
Gravesham	14.9%	14.6%	13.5%	15.8%	15.2%	16.7%	16.3%	14.4%	16.1%	16.9%
Maidstone	11.2%	11.3%	10.4%	11.8%	11.5%	12.6%	11.9%	11.0%	12.4%	13.3%
Sevenoaks	9.0%	8.6%	8.2%	9.5%	9.0%	9.2%	9.7%	8.6%	10.0%	10.3%
Swale	13.7%	13.4%	12.8%	14.6%	14.7%	15.4%	14.6%	13.5%	15.4%	16.3%
Thanet	19.9%	20.0%	18.3%	19.9%	19.3%	19.6%	17.2%	16.7%	19.5%	22.1%
Tonbridge & Malling	9.0%	8.2%	7.4%	8.6%	8.3%	9.5%	9.5%	8.6%	9.6%	10.7%
Tunbridge Wells	7.6%	7.4%	6.8%	8.1%	7.8%	8.6%	8.7%	7.6%	8.9%	9.7%
Kent	**12.6%**	**12.5%**	**11.6%**	**13.3%**	**12.9%**	**13.6%**	**13.0%**	**12.0%**	**13.7%**	**14.8%**
Medway	13.8%	13.8%	13.0%	14.8%	14.3%	15.1%	15.0%	14.0%	15.2%	16.5%
Kent & Medway	12.8%	12.7%	11.8%	13.5%	13.1%	13.8%	13.3%	12.3%	14.0%	15.1%
South East	10.2%	10.0%	9.2%	10.7%	10.4%	10.8%	10.5%	9.8%	11.3%	12.3%
England	15.0%	14.9%	13.8%	16.0%	15.6%	16.1%	15.2%	14.9%	17.4%	19.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Children in absolute low-income families data is also available at ward level.

Map 1 shows the proportion of children aged under 16 living in absolute low-income families.

Map 1: Percentage of children living in absolute low-income families

**Percentage of children in absolute low-income families
2023/24**

District Boundary

**% of children aged
under 16**
- 2.5% - 8.8%
- 8.9% - 12.1%
- 12.2% - 14.6%
- 14.7% - 18.9%
- 19% - 29.7%

N

Source: DWP
Map produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
Crown Copyright and database right 2025, Ordnance Survey 100019238
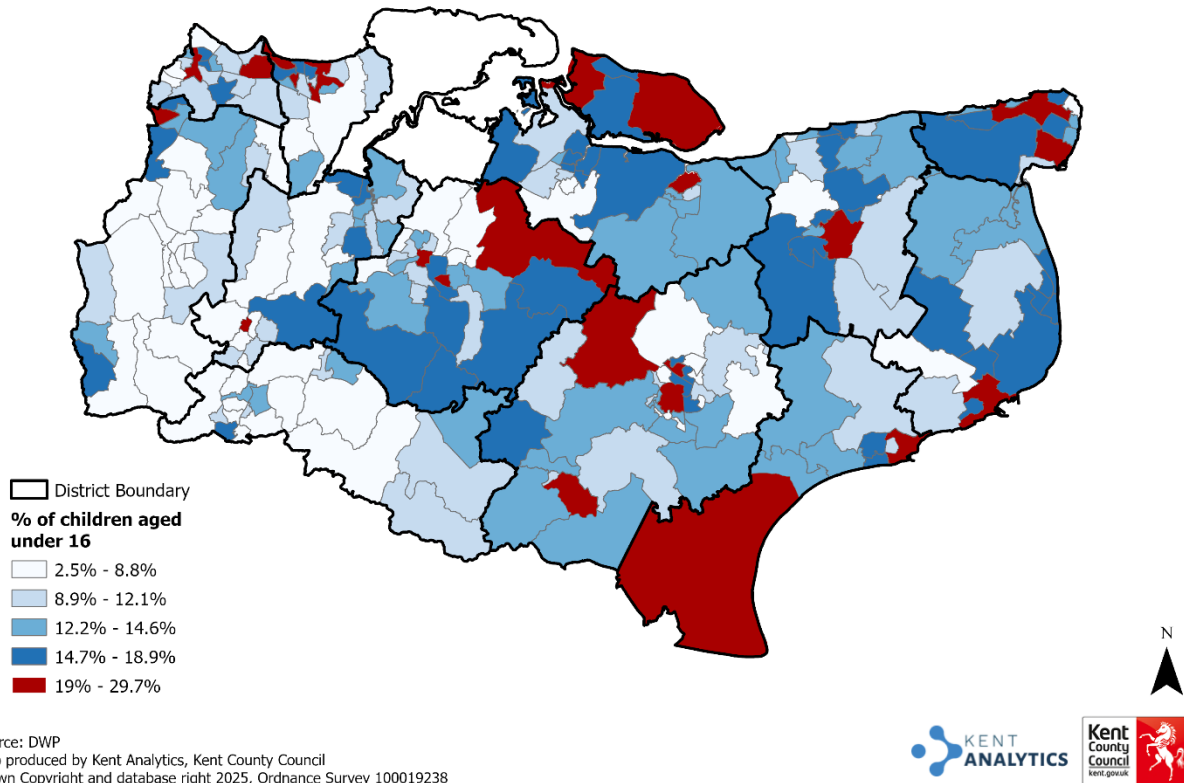
The highest proportions of children living in absolute low-income families tends to be in the east of the county and in the coastal areas. There are some areas of the highest density in Dartford and Gravesham and the north of Sevenoaks. Tunbridge Wells has no areas of the highest density.

Table 3 shows the number of wards in each district within each Kent quintile.

More than half (60%) of the wards in Thanet are within the 20% of wards in Kent with the highest proportion of children in absolute low-income families (those where 18.9% or more children are in absolute low-income families). Tunbridge Wells is the only district that has no wards within the highest 20%.

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Half the wards in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells are within the 20% in Kent with the smallest proportion of children in absolute low-income families (8.6% or less).

Table 3: Number of wards within Kent quintiles in each district

2023/24	20% lowest children in absolute low income families	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	20% highest children in absolute low income families	Total number of wards
Ashford	8	7	11	4	9	39
Canterbury	2	4	5	8	2	21
Dartford	3	8	2	3	4	20
Dover	1	2	2	7	5	17
Folkestone & Hythe	0	1	4	2	6	13
Gravesham	2	5	3	3	5	18
Maidstone	5	6	5	7	3	26
Sevenoaks	13	4	4	3	2	26
Swale	2	4	5	9	4	24
Thanet	1	1	4	3	14	23
Tonbridge & Malling	7	7	5	4	1	24
Tunbridge Wells	10	5	4	1	0	20
Kent Total	54	54	54	54	55	271

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The top ten wards in Kent with the highest proportion of children living in absolute low-income families are shown in table 4 overleaf. Town and Castle ward in Dover has the highest proportion of children living in low-income families (29.7%). Nine of the top ten wards are within coastal districts.

The top ten wards in Kent with highest number of children living in absolute low-income families are shown in table 5 overleaf. Sheerness ward in Swale has the highest number of children living in absolute low-income families (870).

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Table 4: Top ten wards in Kent with highest percentage children in absolute low-income families, 2023/24

Ward Name	District	Number	%
Town and Castle	Dover	467	29.7%
St Radigunds	Dover	507	29.0%
Town	Dartford	108	28.9%
Newington	Thanet	393	27.5%
Tower Hamlets	Dover	308	27.2%
Eastcliff	Thanet	498	26.3%
Dane Valley	Thanet	526	26.3%
Buckland	Dover	414	25.2%
Cliftonville West	Thanet	680	25.1%
Walland & Denge Marsh	Folkestone & Hythe	346	24.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 5: Top ten wards in Kent with the highest number of children in absolute low-income families, 2023/24

Ward Name	District	Number	%
Sheerness	Swale	870	23.7%
Cliftonville West	Thanet	680	25.1%
Riverside	Gravesham	614	23.9%
East Folkestone	Folkestone & Hythe	571	21.6%
Temple Hill	Dartford	571	16.9%
Park Wood	Maidstone	531	18.2%
Northfleet North	Gravesham	530	21.4%
Dane Valley	Thanet	526	26.3%
High Street	Maidstone	513	20.3%
St Radigunds	Dover	507	29.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Children in absolute low-income families by age

It is possible to look at children in absolute low-income families by age group.

14.0% of children in Kent aged 5-10 are living in absolute low-income families and account for the biggest proportion (36.0%) of all children in absolute low-income families in Kent. This varies across Kent authorities. In Ashford, Dover, Swale and Tunbridge Wells a higher proportion of children in absolute low-income families are aged 0 to 4 than any other age group.

In all other districts, a higher proportion are aged 11 to 15 than any other age group. In Canterbury, both children aged 0 to 4 and 11 to 15 have the highest proportions.

Chart 2 shows the proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in Kent by age group.

Chart 2: Children living in absolute low-income families: Age Group

Proportion of children in absolute low income families in Kent by age group, 2023/24

Age 11- 15
16,090
35.1%

Age 0- 4
13,297
29.0%

Age 5- 10
16,497
36.0%
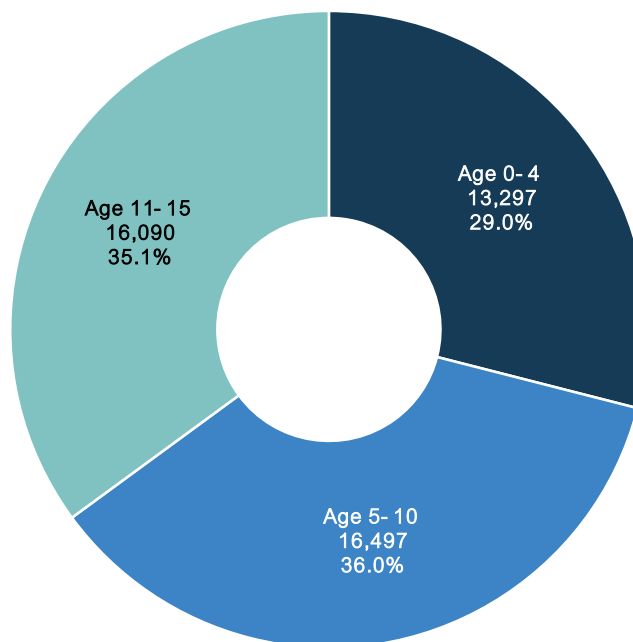
Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Thanet has the highest number and proportion of children in all age groups living in absolute low-income families.

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Sevenoaks has the lowest number and proportion of children in absolute low-income families ages 0-4. Tunbridge Wells has the lowest number and proportion of children ages 5-10 and 11-15.

Table 6 shows the proportion of children living in absolute low-income families in Kent local authorities by age group.

Table 6: Children in absolute low-income families: Age group

2023/24	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	% of all children aged 0 - 4	% of all children aged 5 - 10	% of all children aged 11 - 15
Ashford	1,176	1,444	1,358	15.4%	13.7%	15.0%
Canterbury	1,083	1,371	1,427	15.5%	14.4%	15.5%
Dartford	1,021	1,275	1,241	12.2%	12.2%	14.4%
Dover	1,148	1,496	1,402	20.3%	19.0%	19.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,009	1,176	1,291	20.1%	17.2%	20.3%
Gravesham	1,151	1,458	1,300	17.0%	16.6%	17.1%
Maidstone	1,438	1,718	1,674	13.3%	12.3%	14.7%
Sevenoaks	625	903	933	9.6%	9.9%	11.3%
Swale	1,572	1,810	1,645	17.6%	15.2%	16.4%
Thanet	1,643	1,990	1,948	22.7%	21.1%	22.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	798	1,071	1,037	10.8%	10.1%	11.4%
Tunbridge Wells	642	798	834	10.4%	9.2%	9.7%
Kent	13,297	16,497	16,090	15.2%	14.0%	15.5%
Medway	2,897	3,672	3,269	16.6%	16.0%	17.0%
Kent & Medway	16,190	20,169	19,361	15.4%	14.4%	15.7%
South East	59,921	78,836	78,741	12.1%	11.8%	13.2%
England	544,146	752,807	733,892	17.8%	18.6%	20.7%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Since the previous year the number of children aged 0-4 living in absolute low-income families grew in all Kent local authorities apart from Sevenoaks (-24). Thanet has the largest increase of 117.

The 5-10 and 11-15 age groups saw an increase in children living in absolute low-income families in all Kent local authorities. Thanet again had the largest increases with 277 more children aged 5-10 and 276 more children aged 11-15. This can be seen in table 7 overleaf.

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Table 7: Change in children in absolute low-income families: Age group

2022/23 - 2023/24	Number change 0 - 4	Number change 5 - 10	Number change 11 - 15	% change 0 - 4	% change 5 - 10	% change 11 - 15
Ashford	29	183	94	2.5%	14.5%	7.4%
Canterbury	23	99	202	2.2%	7.8%	16.5%
Dartford	43	153	181	4.4%	13.6%	17.1%
Dover	56	128	233	5.1%	9.4%	19.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	40	137	130	4.1%	13.2%	11.2%
Gravesham	66	102	110	6.1%	7.5%	9.2%
Maidstone	61	134	254	4.4%	8.5%	17.9%
Sevenoaks	-24	33	64	-3.7%	3.8%	7.4%
Swale	55	109	187	3.6%	6.4%	12.8%
Thanet	117	277	276	7.7%	16.2%	16.5%
Tonbridge & Malling	17	150	160	2.2%	16.3%	18.2%
Tunbridge Wells	46	49	115	7.7%	6.5%	16.0%
Kent	520	1,538	1,995	4.1%	10.3%	14.2%
Medway	132	327	562	4.8%	9.8%	20.8%
Kent & Medway	645	1,861	2,559	4.1%	10.2%	15.2%
South East	2,715	7,608	10,176	4.7%	10.7%	14.8%
England	21,876	76,800	93,444	4.2%	11.4%	14.6%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Children in absolute low-income families: Family Characteristics

Children who are living in poverty are more likely to be living in lone parent households.

Chart 3 overleaf shows that in Kent 54.8% of children in absolute low-income families are living in a lone parent household, above the national average of 50.8%.

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Chart 3: Children in absolute low-income families in Kent: Family Type

Proportion of children in absolute low income families in Kent by family type, 2023/24

% of children in absolute low income families Couple 45.2%

% of children in absolute low income families Lone Parent 54.8%
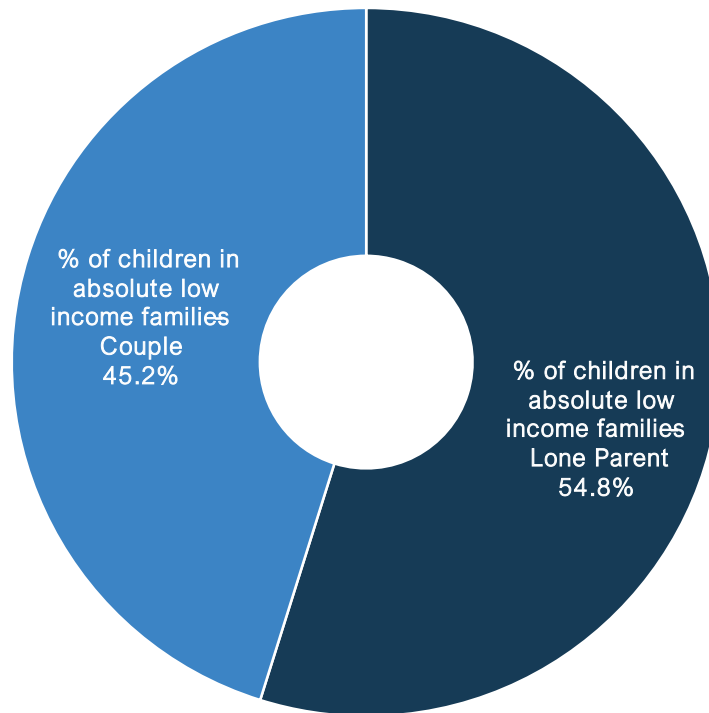
Table 8 overleaf shows the equivalent statistics for each Kent district.

All Kent districts have a higher percentage in lone parent families than couple families. Thanet has the highest number (2,893) and Dartford has the highest proportion (61.6%) living in lone parent families.

Thanet also has the highest number of children (2,691) in absolute low-income families living in couple parent families in Kent while Tunbridge Wells has the highest proportion (48.9%).

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 8: Children in absolute low-income families: Family Type

2023/24	Children in absolute low-income families - Lone Parent	Children in absolute low-income families - Couple	% of children in absolute low-income families - Lone Parent	% of children in absolute low-income families - Couple
Ashford	2,151	1,827	54.1%	45.9%
Canterbury	2,018	1,865	52.0%	48.0%
Dartford	2,175	1,361	61.6%	38.5%
Dover	2,181	1,866	53.9%	46.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,811	1,661	52.1%	47.8%
Gravesham	2,210	1,697	56.6%	43.4%
Maidstone	2,598	2,227	53.8%	46.1%
Sevenoaks	1,488	973	60.4%	39.5%
Swale	2,844	2,182	56.6%	43.4%
Thanet	2,893	2,691	51.8%	48.2%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,640	1,267	56.5%	43.6%
Tunbridge Wells	1,160	1,112	51.0%	48.9%
Kent	25,159	20,721	54.8%	45.2%
Medway	5,769	4,067	58.6%	41.3%
Kent & Medway	30,934	24,793	55.5%	44.5%
South East	113,695	103,804	52.3%	47.7%
England	1,031,063	999,777	50.8%	49.2%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4 overleaf shows the proportion of children in absolute low-income families by family work status in Kent.

Almost two-thirds (64.6%) of children in Kent in absolute low-income families are living in a family where at least one adult is in work. This is a slightly lower proportion than seen nationally where 66.9% of children in absolute low-income families are in families that are in work.

In all Kent districts, children in absolute low-income families where at least one adult is working make up a higher proportion of children in absolute low-income families. This ranges from 61.0% in Swale to 68.8% in Tunbridge Wells.

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 4: Children in absolute low-income families in Kent: Work status

Proportion of children in absolute low income families in Kent by family work status, 2023/24

% in Out of work families
35.4%

% in In work families
64.6%
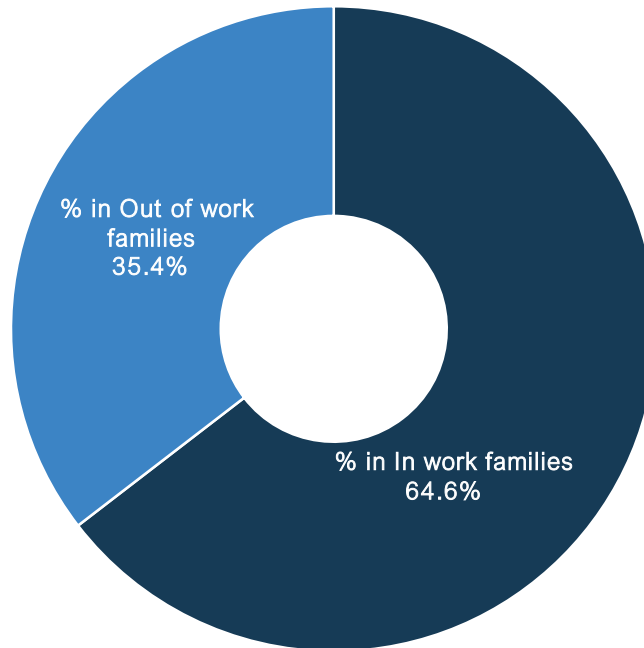
Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 9 shows the proportion of children in absolute low-income families by family work status in Kent local authorities in 2023/24.

Thanet has the highest number of children living in absolute low-income families that are in working families (3,660) while Swale has the highest number in families where no adult is working (1,963).

While Tunbridge Wells has the highest proportion of children living in absolute low-income families where at least one adult is in work (68.8%), Swale has the highest proportion of children living in absolute low-income families that are out of work (39.1%).

Table 9: Children in absolute low-income families – family work status

2023/24	Children in absolute low income families - In work families	% in In work families	Children in absolute low income families - Out of work families	% in Out of work families
Ashford	2,575	64.7%	1,404	35.3%
Canterbury	2,564	66.0%	1,322	34.0%
Dartford	2,204	62.4%	1,325	37.5%
Dover	2,642	65.3%	1,401	34.7%
Folkestone & Hythe	2,255	64.9%	1,217	35.0%
Gravesham	2,522	64.6%	1,384	35.4%
Maidstone	3,118	64.6%	1,706	35.4%
Sevenoaks	1,588	64.5%	872	35.4%
Swale	3,064	61.0%	1,963	39.1%
Thanet	3,660	65.6%	1,917	34.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	1,865	64.2%	1,043	35.9%
Tunbridge Wells	1,563	68.8%	707	31.1%
Kent	29,621	64.6%	16,262	35.4%
Medway	6,266	63.7%	3,576	36.3%
Kent & Medway	35,890	64.4%	19,838	35.6%
South East	148,513	68.3%	68,990	31.7%
England	1,357,893	66.9%	672,947	33.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The number of children in absolute low-income families living in working households has risen in all Kent districts. The largest number and percentage rise was in Thanet with 591 more children than the previous year, equating to a 19.3% increase.

The number of children in absolute low-income families living in out of work families fell in five districts (Ashford, Dover, Gravesham, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells), the largest fall being in Sevenoaks (-133 children, -13.2%). The biggest rise was in Thanet where there are 73 more in out of work families. The biggest percentage increase was in Dartford (4.4%). Canterbury has seen no change.

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 10: Change in children in relative low-income families – family work status

2023/24	1-year change in children in low-income families in in work families	1-year % change in children in low-income families in in work families	1-year change in children in low-income families in Out of work families	1-year % change in children in low-income families in Out of work families
Ashford	333	14.9%	-21	-1.5%
Canterbury	324	14.5%	0	0.0%
Dartford	317	16.8%	56	4.4%
Dover	416	18.7%	-1	-0.1%
Folkestone & Hythe	254	12.7%	49	4.2%
Gravesham	303	13.7%	-37	-2.6%
Maidstone	430	16.0%	11	0.6%
Sevenoaks	206	14.9%	-133	-13.2%
Swale	342	12.6%	11	0.6%
Thanet	591	19.3%	73	4.0%
Tonbridge & Malling	291	18.5%	37	3.7%
Tunbridge Wells	249	18.9%	-40	-5.4%
Kent	4,048	15.8%	6	0.0%
Medway	800	14.6%	216	6.4%
Kent & Medway	4,849	15.6%	221	1.1%
South East	20,036	15.6%	472	0.7%
England	167,043	14.0%	25,077	3.9%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Children (Aged Under 16) living in relative low-income families

Relative low income is defined as a family in low income before housing costs in the reference year.

54,002 children under 16 in Kent are living in relative low-income families in 2023/24, equivalent to 17.5% of the children in the county. While this is below the national level (22.1%) it is higher than the average for the South East Region (14.5%).

In Kent the number of children living in relative low-income families has risen since the previous year by 3.9% (+2,047 children) while nationally it increased by 4.5%.

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 11: Children in relative low-income families

2023/24	Total children aged under 16	Number Living in Relative Low-income Families	% Living in Relative Low-income Families	1-year number change	1-year % change
Ashford	27,227	4,645	17.1%	6	0.1%
Canterbury	25,656	4,547	17.7%	161	3.7%
Dartford	27,483	4,096	14.9%	226	5.8%
Dover	20,713	4,800	23.2%	249	5.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	18,234	4,088	22.4%	231	6.0%
Gravesham	23,105	4,576	19.8%	84	1.9%
Maidstone	36,228	5,670	15.7%	299	5.6%
Sevenoaks	23,851	2,876	12.1%	-27	-0.9%
Swale	30,811	6,038	19.6%	213	3.7%
Thanet	25,203	6,639	26.3%	429	6.9%
Tonbridge & Malling	27,087	3,391	12.5%	133	4.1%
Tunbridge Wells	23,390	2,640	11.3%	53	2.0%
Kent	308,988	54,002	17.5%	2,047	3.9%
Medway	59,551	11,618	19.5%	524	4.7%
Kent & Medway	368,539	65,624	17.8%	2,578	4.1%
South East	1,762,090	256,061	14.5%	11,144	4.6%
England	10,648,350	2,354,691	22.1%	101,533	4.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Thanet district has the highest number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families in Kent (6,639 children, 26.3%).

Tunbridge Wells has the lowest number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families in 2023/24 (2,640, 11.3%).

All Kent districts saw an increase in the number of children living in relative low-income families except in Sevenoaks. The biggest number and percentage increase was in Thanet with 429 more children in relative low-income families than the previous year, a rise of 6.9%. Sevenoaks saw a decrease of 27 fewer children (-0.9%).

Chart 5 overleaf shows the percentage of children in relative low-income families in Kent districts compared to other authorities in the South East.

Thanet has the second highest proportion of children in relative low-income families in the region. Dover and Folkestone & Hythe have the 6th and 8th highest proportions out of the 64 local authorities in the region.

Eleven Kent authorities have a higher proportion of children in relative low-income families than the South East average of 14.5%. Tunbridge Wells is slightly lower than the regional average at 14.1%.

A table of the number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families in all South East local authorities can be found in table 28 in the Annex at the end of this bulletin.

Chart 5: Children in relative low-income families in local authorities in the South East

Percentage of children in relative low income families in the South East, 2023/24

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
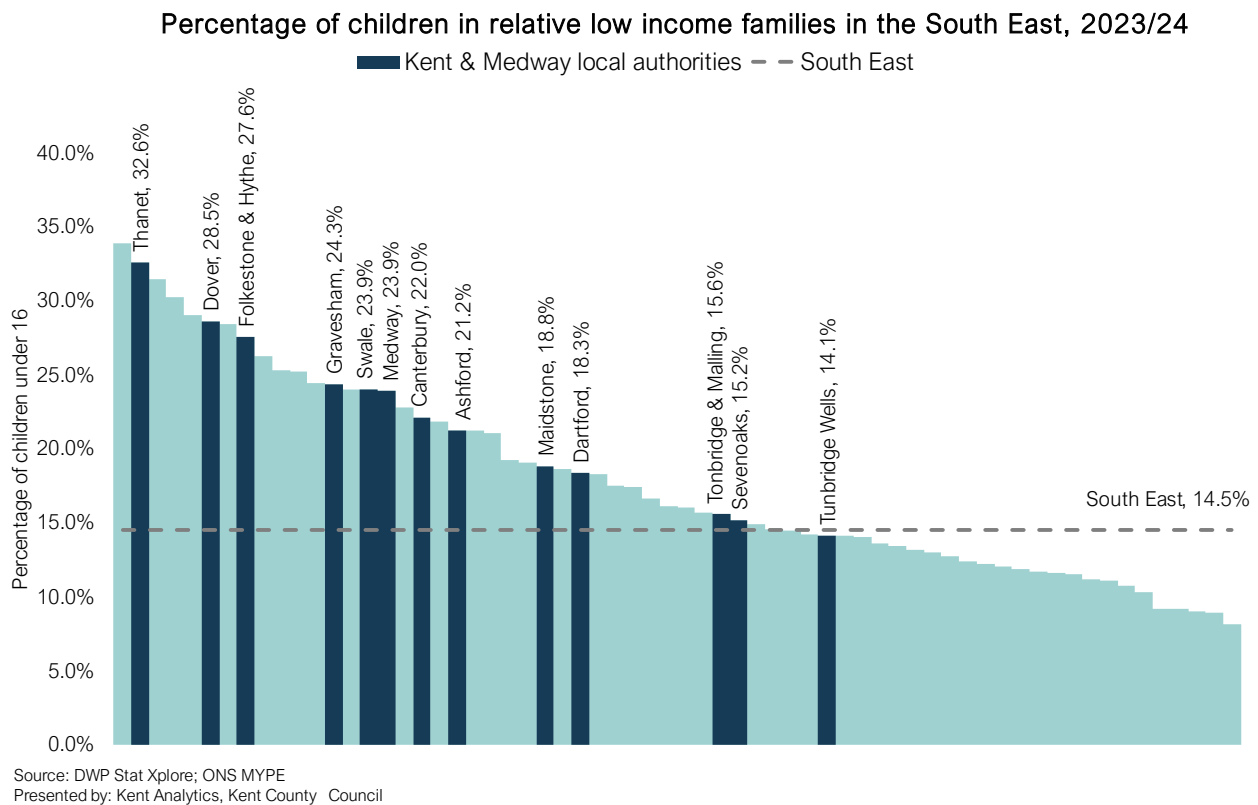
Tables 12a and 12b overleaf present a time series of the number and proportion of children living in relative low-income families.

Table 12a: Number of children who are in relative low-income families from 2014/15

Area	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashford	3,456	3,742	3,682	4,344	4,076	4,636	4,101	4,139	4,639	4,645
Canterbury	3,210	3,521	3,620	3,969	3,624	4,448	3,999	3,891	4,386	4,547
Dartford	2,578	2,720	2,715	3,387	3,252	3,983	3,684	3,481	3,870	4,096
Dover	3,496	3,724	3,660	4,306	3,882	4,545	3,901	3,874	4,551	4,800
Folkestone & Hythe	2,911	3,151	3,049	3,403	3,268	3,969	3,456	3,386	3,857	4,088
Gravesham	3,403	3,634	3,660	4,196	3,907	4,734	4,376	4,073	4,492	4,576
Maidstone	3,634	3,994	3,971	4,544	4,317	5,295	4,810	4,884	5,371	5,670
Sevenoaks	2,224	2,277	2,310	2,654	2,457	2,881	2,861	2,643	2,903	2,876
Swale	4,111	4,395	4,503	5,128	4,924	5,906	5,435	5,270	5,825	6,038
Thanet	5,474	5,908	5,794	6,382	5,812	6,688	5,433	5,497	6,210	6,639
Tonbridge & Malling	2,405	2,355	2,308	2,798	2,582	3,333	3,003	3,025	3,258	3,391
Tunbridge Wells	1,885	1,975	1,906	2,250	2,146	2,628	2,394	2,281	2,587	2,640
Kent	**38,776**	**41,395**	**41,180**	**47,382**	**44,246**	**53,048**	**47,445**	**46,436**	**51,955**	**54,002**
Medway	8,163	8,875	8,861	10,047	9,431	11,270	10,426	10,155	11,094	11,618
Kent & Medway	46,934	50,273	50,040	57,428	53,671	64,316	57,874	56,596	63,046	65,624
South East	184,017	195,290	193,332	222,095	208,167	246,602	220,904	219,646	244,917	256,061
England	1,651,173	1,781,285	1,781,359	2,042,055	1,915,561	2,233,111	1,953,797	2,017,576	2,253,158	2,354,691

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 12b: Percentage of children who are in relative low-income families from 2014/15

Area	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Ashford	13.7%	14.9%	14.4%	16.9%	15.7%	17.9%	15.9%	15.9%	17.4%	17.1%
Canterbury	12.9%	14.1%	14.5%	15.8%	14.6%	18.1%	16.3%	15.8%	17.4%	17.7%
Dartford	12.1%	12.6%	12.3%	14.7%	13.5%	15.9%	14.3%	13.4%	14.4%	14.9%
Dover	17.6%	18.8%	18.4%	21.4%	19.2%	22.4%	19.3%	19.1%	22.2%	23.2%
Folkestone & Hythe	15.7%	17.1%	16.4%	18.5%	17.7%	21.6%	18.9%	18.6%	21.2%	22.4%
Gravesham	15.8%	16.6%	16.7%	19.1%	17.7%	21.3%	19.6%	18.3%	19.9%	19.8%
Maidstone	11.9%	12.9%	12.7%	14.3%	13.3%	16.2%	14.5%	14.5%	15.2%	15.7%
Sevenoaks	9.6%	9.8%	9.8%	11.3%	10.3%	12.0%	11.9%	11.1%	12.1%	12.1%
Swale	14.8%	15.8%	15.9%	17.9%	17.0%	20.1%	18.4%	17.7%	19.2%	19.6%
Thanet	21.3%	23.0%	22.5%	24.7%	22.5%	26.2%	21.5%	21.9%	24.6%	26.3%
Tonbridge & Malling	9.5%	9.3%	9.0%	10.7%	9.8%	12.5%	11.3%	11.4%	12.1%	12.5%
Tunbridge Wells	8.1%	8.6%	8.3%	9.8%	9.4%	11.5%	10.6%	10.0%	11.2%	11.3%
Kent	**13.5%**	**14.4%**	**14.2%**	**16.2%**	**15.0%**	**17.8%**	**15.9%**	**15.5%**	**17.0%**	**17.5%**
Medway	14.8%	16.0%	15.9%	17.8%	16.7%	19.8%	18.3%	17.8%	19.1%	19.5%
Kent & Medway	13.7%	14.6%	14.4%	16.4%	15.2%	18.1%	16.3%	15.9%	17.4%	17.8%
South East	11.0%	11.5%	11.3%	13.0%	12.1%	14.3%	12.8%	12.8%	14.0%	14.5%
England	16.1%	17.2%	17.1%	19.4%	18.2%	21.1%	18.6%	19.3%	21.3%	22.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

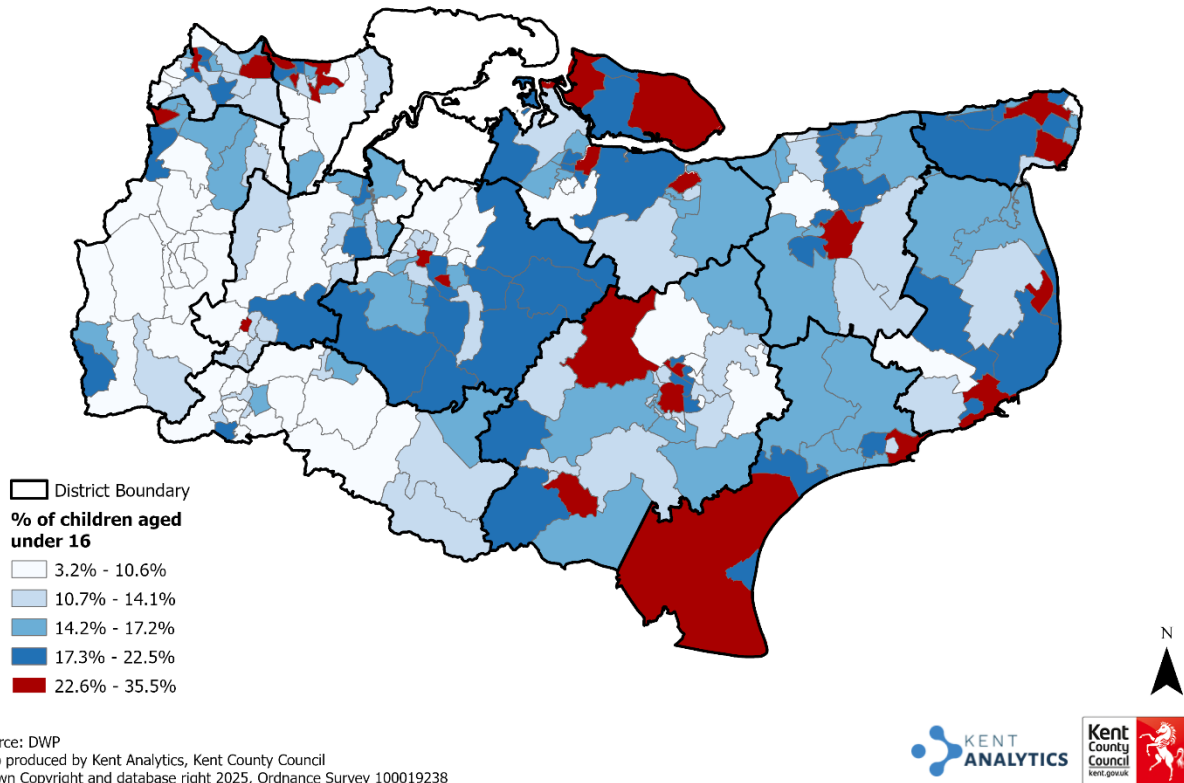**Kent Analytics, Kent County Council**

Children in relative low-income families data is also available at ward level.

Map 2 shows the proportion of children aged under 16 in relative low-income families in Kent wards.

Map 2: Percentage of children living in relative low-income families

Percentage of children in relative low-income families 2023/24

Legend:
District Boundary
% of children aged under 16
- 3.2% - 10.6%
- 10.7% - 14.1%
- 14.2% - 17.2%
- 17.3% - 22.5%
- 22.6% - 35.5%

Source: DWP
Map produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
Crown Copyright and database right 2025, Ordnance Survey 100019238

The highest proportions of children living in relative low-income families tend to be in the east and north of the county, however all local authorities except Tunbridge Wells have some areas with the high proportions of children living in relative low-income families.

Table 13 shows the number of wards in each district within each Kent quintile.

13 of the 23 of the wards in Thanet are within the 20% of wards in Kent with the highest proportion of children in relative low-income families (those where 22.4% or more children are in relative low-income families). Tunbridge Wells has no wards within the highest 20%.

Around half the wards in Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells are within the 20% in Kent with the smallest proportion of children in relative low-income families (10.5% or less). Folkestone & Hythe has no wards within the lowest 20%.

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Table 13: Number of wards within Kent quintiles in each district

2023/24	20% lowest children in relative low income families	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	20% highest children in relative low income families	Total number of wards
Ashford	6	11	8	5	9	39
Canterbury	2	5	6	6	2	21
Dartford	4	6	2	5	3	20
Dover	1	2	2	6	6	17
Folkestone & Hythe	0	1	4	3	5	13
Gravesham	4	3	4	2	5	18
Maidstone	5	6	4	9	2	26
Sevenoaks	14	3	4	3	2	26
Swale	2	2	7	6	7	24
Thanet	1	1	4	4	13	23
Tonbridge & Malling	5	10	5	3	1	24
Tunbridge Wells	10	4	4	2	0	20
Kent Total	54	54	54	54	55	271

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The top ten wards in Kent with the highest proportion of children living in relative low-income families are shown in table 14 overleaf. Town and Castle ward in Dover has the highest proportion of children living in low-income families (35.5%). Nine of the top ten wards are within coastal districts.

The top ten wards in Kent with the highest number of children living in relative low-income families are shown in table 15. Sheerness ward in Swale has the highest number of children living in relative low-income families (1,071).

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 14: Top ten wards in Kent with highest percentage children in relative low-income families, 2023/24

Ward Name	District	Number	%
Town and Castle	Dover	558	35.5%
St Radigunds	Dover	607	34.7%
Newington	Thanet	491	34.4%
Tower Hamlets	Dover	379	33.5%
Eastcliff	Thanet	621	32.8%
Town	Dartford	118	31.6%
Dane Valley	Thanet	623	31.2%
Buckland	Dover	492	29.9%
Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone & Hythe	429	29.8%
Cliftonville West	Thanet	806	29.7%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 15: Top ten wards in Kent with the highest number of children in relative low-income families, 2023/24

Ward Name	District	Number	%
Sheerness	Swale	1,071	29.2%
Cliftonville West	Thanet	806	29.7%
Riverside	Gravesham	713	27.7%
East Folkestone	Folkestone & Hythe	678	25.7%
Temple Hill	Dartford	667	19.8%
Northfleet North	Gravesham	661	26.7%
Park Wood	Maidstone	641	22.0%
High Street	Maidstone	624	24.7%
Dane Valley	Thanet	623	31.2%
Eastcliff	Thanet	621	32.8%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

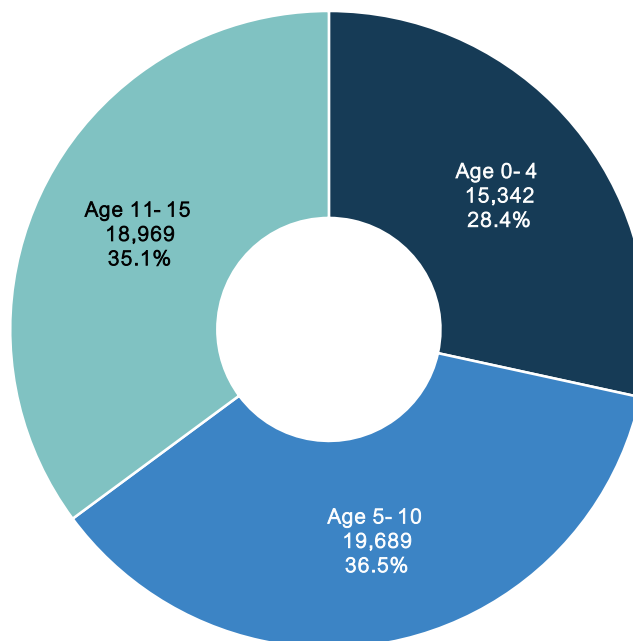## Children in relative low-income families by age

It is possible to look at children in relative low-income families by age group.

A higher proportion of children in relative low-income households in Kent are aged 5-10, accounting for 36.5% of children in relative low-income families.

Chart 6 shows the proportion of children living in relative low-income families in Kent by age group.

Chart 6: Children living in relative low-income families: Age Group

Proportion of children in relative low income families in Kent by age group, 2023/24

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

For all the age groups (0-4, 5-10 and 11-15) in Kent, the proportion is below the national rate.

Thanet has the highest proportion of children in all age groups living in relative low-income families, more than a quarter of the children in all age groups.

Sevenoaks has the lowest proportion of 0-4 year olds living in relative low-income families (11.0%) and Tunbridge Wells has the lowest proportion of 5-10 (10.7%) and 11-15 year olds (11.5%).

Table 16 shows the proportion of children living in relative low-income families in Kent local authorities by age group.

Table 16: Children in relative low-income families: Age group

2023/24	0 - 4	5 - 10	11 - 15	% of all children aged 0 - 4	% of all children aged 5 - 10	% of all children aged 11 - 15
Ashford	1,357	1,707	1,584	17.8%	16.2%	17.5%
Canterbury	1,252	1,631	1,663	17.9%	17.2%	18.1%
Dartford	1,154	1,510	1,429	13.8%	14.4%	16.6%
Dover	1,308	1,797	1,693	23.2%	22.9%	23.5%
Folkestone & Hythe	1,149	1,421	1,515	22.9%	20.7%	23.8%
Gravesham	1,323	1,705	1,552	19.6%	19.4%	20.5%
Maidstone	1,669	2,068	1,928	15.4%	14.8%	17.0%
Sevenoaks	719	1,061	1,090	11.0%	11.7%	13.2%
Swale	1,846	2,204	1,986	20.7%	18.6%	19.8%
Thanet	1,891	2,402	2,343	26.1%	25.5%	27.4%
Tonbridge and Malling	928	1,258	1,203	12.5%	11.9%	13.2%
Tunbridge Wells	727	929	982	11.8%	10.7%	11.5%
Kent	15,342	19,689	18,969	17.5%	16.7%	18.3%
Medway	3,362	4,377	3,885	19.3%	19.1%	20.2%
Kent & Medway	18,704	24,066	22,852	17.8%	17.1%	18.6%
South East	69,217	93,802	93,044	14.0%	14.0%	15.6%
England	617,417	881,821	855,450	20.1%	21.8%	24.2%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Since the previous year, the number of children in Kent overall aged 0-4 living in relative low-income families has fallen (-48). Those aged 5-10 and 11-15 in Kent living in relative low-income families has increased (+800 and +1,302 respectively).

Half of the twelve Kent districts saw an increase in the number of children aged 0-4 living in relative low-income families whereas six Kent districts saw a fall. Ten Kent districts saw a rise in children aged 5-10 except Sevenoaks (-30) and Tunbridge Wells (-6).

All Kent districts saw a rise in the number of children aged 11-15 except Ashford (-14). This can be seen in table 17 overleaf.

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 17: Change in children in relative low-income families: Age group

2022/23 - 2023/24	Number change 0 - 4	Number change 5 - 10	Number change 11 - 15	% change 0 - 4	% change 5 - 10	% change 11 - 15
Ashford	-56	80	-14	-4.0%	4.9%	-0.9%
Canterbury	-5	39	125	-0.4%	2.4%	8.1%
Dartford	-12	113	118	-1.0%	8.1%	9.0%
Dover	-27	73	195	-2.0%	4.2%	13.0%
Folkestone & Hythe	7	123	100	0.6%	9.5%	7.1%
Gravesham	28	1	66	2.2%	0.1%	4.4%
Maidstone	11	99	185	0.7%	5.0%	10.6%
Sevenoaks	-39	-30	38	-5.1%	-2.7%	3.6%
Swale	18	66	130	1.0%	3.1%	7.0%
Thanet	42	172	210	2.3%	7.7%	9.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	-41	77	95	-4.2%	6.5%	8.6%
Tunbridge Wells	4	-6	53	0.6%	-0.6%	5.7%
Kent	-48	800	1,302	-0.3%	4.2%	7.4%
Medway	13	142	372	0.4%	3.4%	10.6%
Kent & Medway	-33	944	1,672	-0.2%	4.1%	7.9%
South East	168	3,977	7,001	0.2%	4.4%	8.1%
England	-2,667	40,862	63,337	-0.4%	4.9%	8.0%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore; ONS MYPE
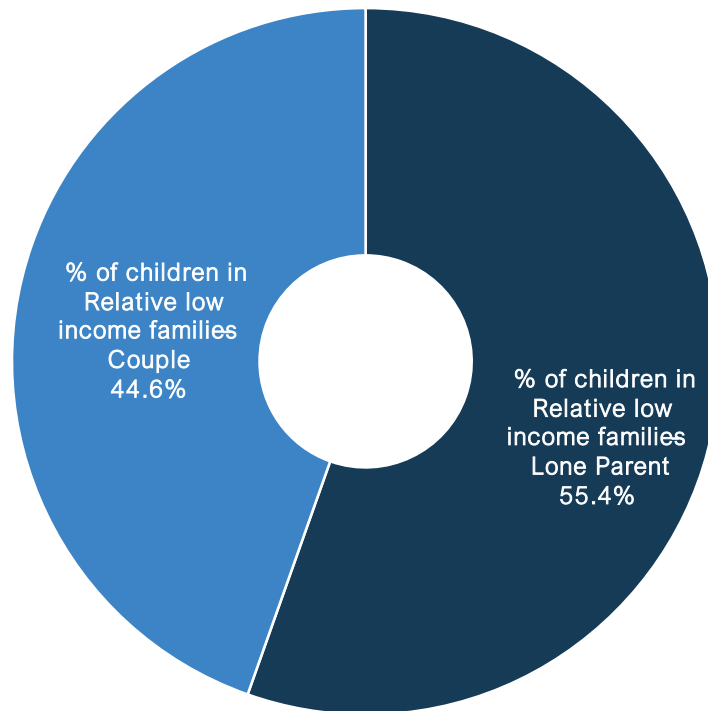Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Children in relative low-income families: Family Characteristics

Children who are living in poverty are more likely to be living in lone parent households.

Chart 7 overleaf shows that in Kent 55.4% of children in relative low-income families are living in a lone parent household, above the national average of 51.8%.

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Chart 7: Children in relative low-income families in Kent: Family Type

Proportion of children in relative low income families in Kent by family type, 2023/24

% of children in Relative low income families Couple 44.6%

% of children in Relative low income families Lone Parent 55.4%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 18 overleaf shows the equivalent statistics for each Kent district.

Thanet has the highest number of children in relative low-income families living in couple families (3,140) while Canterbury has the highest percentage (48.0%).

Thanet (3,504), and Swale (3,422) have the highest number of children in relative low-income families living in lone parent families in Kent.

Dartford has the highest proportion living with a lone parent (61.4%) while Canterbury has the lowest proportion (52.1%).

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Table 18: Children in relative low-income families: Family Type

2023/24	Children in relative low-income families - Lone Parent	Children in relative low-income families - Couple	% of children in relative low-income families - Lone Parent	% of children in relative low-income families - Couple
Ashford	2,549	2,096	54.9%	45.1%
Canterbury	2,367	2,183	52.1%	48.0%
Dartford	2,516	1,576	61.4%	38.5%
Dover	2,609	2,189	54.4%	45.6%
Folkestone & Hythe	2,165	1,919	53.0%	46.9%
Gravesham	2,644	1,936	57.8%	42.3%
Maidstone	3,084	2,580	54.4%	45.5%
Sevenoaks	1,752	1,121	60.9%	39.0%
Swale	3,422	2,612	56.7%	43.3%
Thanet	3,504	3,140	52.8%	47.3%
Tonbridge and Malling	1,925	1,465	56.8%	43.2%
Tunbridge Wells	1,382	1,262	52.3%	47.8%
Kent	29,924	24,076	55.4%	44.6%
Medway	6,883	4,738	59.2%	40.8%
Kent & Medway	36,808	28,813	56.1%	43.9%
South East	135,646	120,418	53.0%	47.0%
England	1,219,411	1,135,281	51.8%	48.2%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Chart 8 overleaf shows the proportion of children in relative low-income families by family work status in Kent.

The majority of children in Kent in relative low-income families (65.5%) are living in a family where at least one adult is in work.

Chart 8: Children in relative low-income families in Kent: Family work status

Proportion of children in relative low income families in Kent by family work status, 2023/24

% in Out of work families
34.5%

% in In work families
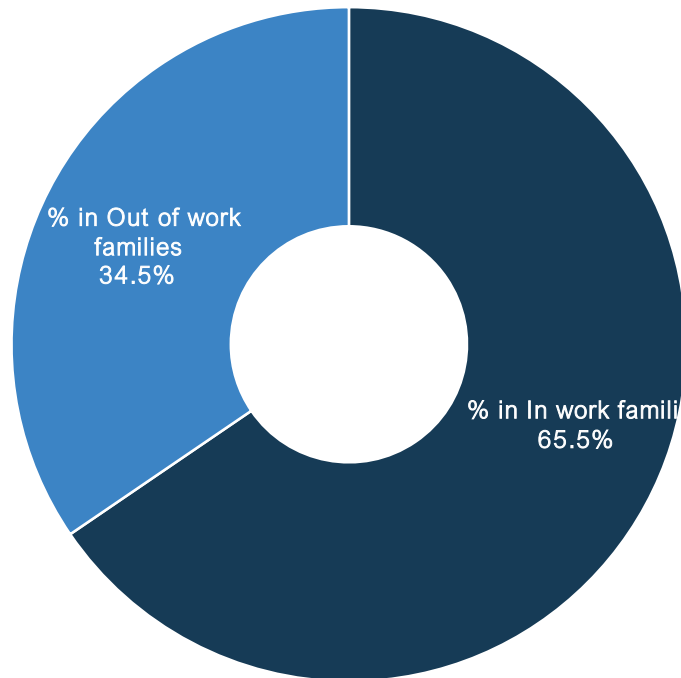65.5%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Table 19 overleaf shows the proportion of children in relative low-income families by family work status in Kent local authorities.

Thanet has the highest number of children living in relative low-income families that are in work (4,375). Tunbridge Wells has the largest proportion (69.8%).

Swale has the highest number and proportion in out of work families (2,262, 37.5%).

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Table 19: Children in relative low-income families – family work status

2023/24	Children in relative low-income families - In work families	% in In work families	Children in relative low-income families - Out of work families	% in Out of work families
Ashford	3,035	65.3%	1,613	34.7%
Canterbury	3,050	67.1%	1,501	33.0%
Dartford	2,626	64.1%	1,467	35.8%
Dover	3,173	66.1%	1,626	33.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	2,707	66.2%	1,378	33.7%
Gravesham	2,965	64.8%	1,615	35.3%
Maidstone	3,725	65.7%	1,939	34.2%
Sevenoaks	1,859	64.6%	1,012	35.2%
Swale	3,770	62.4%	2,262	37.5%
Thanet	4,375	65.9%	2,260	34.0%
Tonbridge and Malling	2,230	65.8%	1,161	34.2%
Tunbridge Wells	1,842	69.8%	799	30.3%
Kent	35,362	65.5%	18,646	34.5%
Medway	7,454	64.2%	4,166	35.9%
Kent & Medway	42,811	65.2%	22,814	34.8%
South East	177,345	69.3%	78,719	30.7%
England	1,593,992	67.7%	760,698	32.3%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

The number of children in Kent living in relative low-income families where at least one adult was in work increased by 3,407 (+10.7%) over the previous year, while those living in out of work families fell by 1,351 (-6.8%).

The number of children living in relative low-income families where at least one adult was in work increased in all Kent districts. The biggest increase in number was in Thanet where there are 525 more children in working families while Dover has seen the greatest percentage increase (13.8%).

The number of children living in relative low-income families where no adult was in work fell in all Kent districts. The biggest decrease was in Sevenoaks where there are 203 fewer children in relative low-income out of work families (-16.7%).

Table 20: Change in children in relative low-income families – family work status

2023/24	1-year change in children in low-income families in in work families	1-year % change in children in low-income families in in work families	1-year change in children in low-income families in Out of work families	1-year % change in children in low-income families in Out of work families
Ashford	181	6.3%	-169	-9.5%
Canterbury	254	9.1%	-84	-5.3%
Dartford	297	12.8%	-74	-4.8%
Dover	384	13.8%	-140	-7.9%
Folkestone & Hythe	308	12.8%	-72	-5.0%
Gravesham	197	7.1%	-109	-6.3%
Maidstone	377	11.3%	-86	-4.2%
Sevenoaks	173	10.3%	-203	-16.7%
Swale	347	10.1%	-140	-5.8%
Thanet	525	13.6%	-104	-4.4%
Tonbridge & Malling	196	9.6%	-63	-5.1%
Tunbridge Wells	167	10.0%	-115	-12.6%
Kent	3,407	10.7%	-1,351	-6.8%
Medway	541	7.8%	-13	-0.3%
Kent & Medway	3,943	10.1%	-1,358	-5.6%
South East	16,216	10.1%	-5,069	-6.0%
England	122,744	8.3%	-21,209	-2.7%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Workless Households with dependent children

Data from the Annual Population Survey shows the number of households with dependent children where no adult is in work. Due to the survey sample size, figures for districts are statistically unreliable. Figures at county level and above are, for the most part, generally more reliable.

It is estimated that in 2023, 4.8% of households with dependent children in Kent have no adult in work, which is equal to the proportion the year before. When compared to the South East region (4.7%) and England (8.5%) a slightly higher proportion of households in Kent are workless with children than regionally though a lower proportion than nationally. This is shown in table 21.

Table 21: Workless households with dependent children

Workless households with dependent children	Kent	South East	England	Kent %	South East %	England%
2004	16,200	82,000	827,200	9.6%	8.3%	13.5%
2005	15,700	83,200	818,100	9.2%	8.4%	13.2%
2006	19,500	87,300	829,700	11.5%	8.8%	13.4%
2007	17,800	79,600	809,300	10.7%	7.9%	13.1%
2008	18,500	89,900	836,600	10.8%	8.8%	13.4%
2009	18,200	95,700	888,400	10.7%	9.2%	14.0%
2010	21,500	98,000	890,200	12.5%	9.3%	14.0%
2011	16,900	94,200	876,900	9.6%	8.9%	13.7%
2012	21,600	97,700	846,800	11.6%	9.1%	12.9%
2013	16,300	86,600	831,300	9.2%	8.0%	12.5%
2014	16,200	79,100	753,200	9.3%	7.3%	11.3%
2015	17,400	77,000	687,400	9.5%	7.0%	10.3%
2016	12,200	63,300	645,100	6.8%	5.8%	9.6%
2017	9,500	58,300	592,400	4.8%	5.3%	8.8%
2018	12,500	60,600	594,900	6.4%	5.4%	8.8%
2019	9,100	50,000	550,200	4.6%	4.4%	8.1%
2020	11,400	54,800	549,400	5.7%	4.8%	8.1%
2021	20,100	68,300	588,400	10.6%	6.0%	8.5%
2022	10,000	69,600	601,300	4.8%	6.0%	8.7%
2023	9,900	54,500	591,100	4.8%	4.7%	8.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey: Households with dependent children and type
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

An estimated 14,000 children are living in workless households in Kent in 2023. This equates to 4.0% of all children.

When compared to the South East region (4.6%) and England (9.5%) a lower proportion of children in Kent are living in workless households. This is shown in table 22 overleaf.

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Table 22: Dependent children in workless households

Children in workless households	Kent	South East	England	Kent %	South East %	England %
2004	32,300	159,300	1,619,900	10.6%	9.0%	14.7%
2005	28,800	160,000	1,612,600	9.5%	9.0%	14.6%
2006	35,700	168,500	1,622,800	12.0%	9.5%	14.7%
2007	34,700	159,700	1,611,700	11.5%	8.9%	14.6%
2008	36,900	179,900	1,673,700	12.0%	9.8%	15.0%
2009	34,400	184,700	1,743,200	11.5%	10.0%	15.6%
2010	43,300	189,100	1,766,600	14.0%	10.2%	15.7%
2011	30,900	177,400	1,709,300	10.1%	9.7%	15.2%
2012	38,100	190,400	1,654,100	11.8%	10.1%	14.3%
2013	32,700	168,600	1,613,600	10.4%	8.8%	13.7%
2014	36,900	156,200	1,488,200	11.5%	8.2%	12.6%
2015	32,900	145,600	1,353,300	10.1%	7.6%	11.3%
2016	29,000	135,100	1,292,600	8.9%	7.1%	10.7%
2017	24,600	121,800	1,212,900	6.8%	6.3%	10.0%
2018	26,300	115,400	1,186,600	7.3%	5.8%	9.8%
2019	21,500	100,600	1,113,100	6.1%	5.0%	9.1%
2020	23,000	104,500	1,139,400	6.4%	5.2%	9.2%
2021	38,300	124,200	1,214,100	12.1%	6.2%	9.7%
2022	20,500	140,800	1,230,200	5.9%	7.0%	9.9%
2023	14,000	93,200	1,178,000	4.0%	4.6%	9.5%

Source: ONS Annual Population Survey: Households with dependent children and type
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

English Indices of Deprivation 2019

The English Indices of Deprivation, published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), combines information from seven domain indices (which measure different types or dimensions of deprivation) to produce an overall relative measure of deprivation. The domain indices can be used on their own to focus on specific aspects of deprivation.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index

In addition to the seven domain indices The English Indices of Deprivation also contain supplementary indices concerned with income deprivation among children (IDACI).

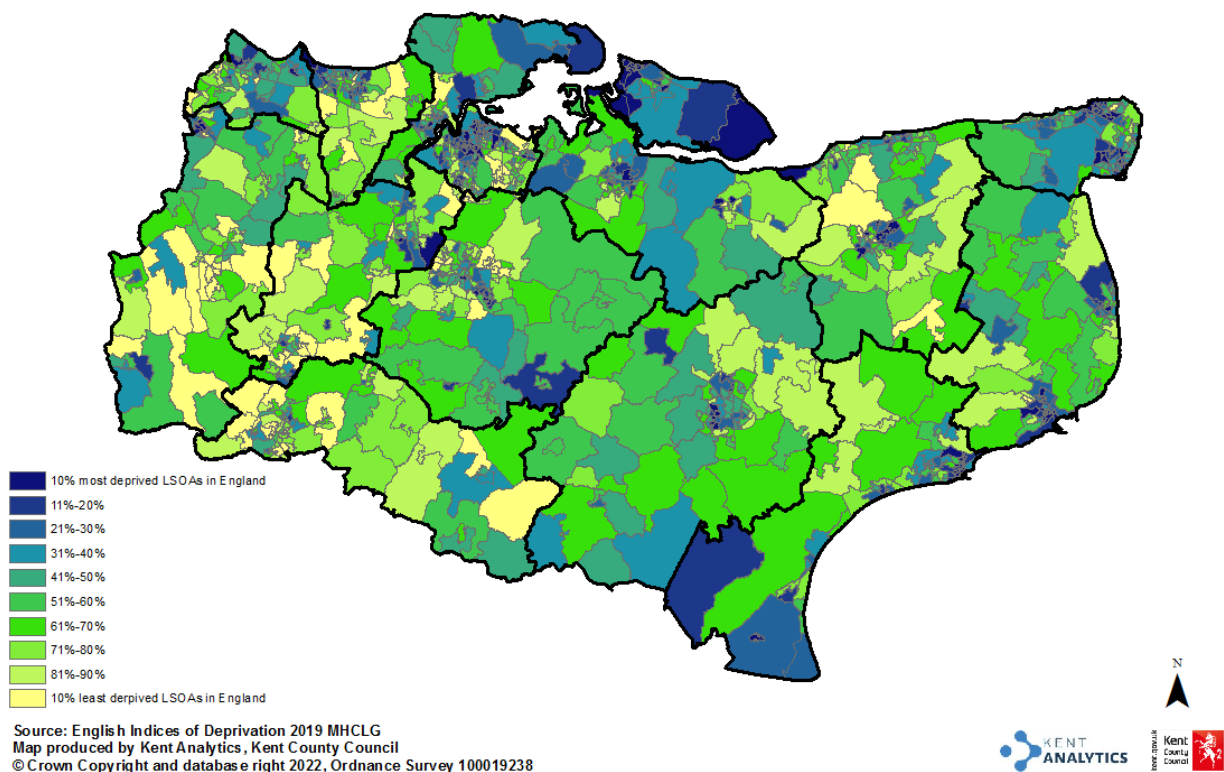**Kent Analytics, Kent County Council**

The IDACI measures the proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. It is a subset of the Income Deprivation Domain which measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests).

The Index shows the proportion of children in each Lower-layer Super Output Area (LSOA) that live in families that are income deprived; those that are in receipt of Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit Guarantee or Child Tax Credit below a given threshold.

Each LSOA is given a score and that score is then ranked against all 32,844 LSOAs nationally. The national rank of Kent LSOAs for the IDACI is presented in Map 3.

Map 3: IDACI (ID 2019): National rank of Kent & Medway LSOAs

Indices of Deprivation 2019 (ID2019): (IDACI) - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index
National Rank of LSOAs in Kent & Medway

Legend:
- 10% most deprived LSOAs in England
- 11%-20%
- 21%-30%
- 31%-40%
- 41%-50%
- 51%-60%
- 61%-70%
- 71%-80%
- 81%-90%
- 10% least derpived LSOAs in England

Source: English Indices of Deprivation 2019 MHCLG
Map produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council
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The IDACI scores are rates so can be interpreted as the proportion of the relevant population that is 'income deprived'. For example, a score of 0.24 on the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index would mean that 24% of children in the area live in income-deprived families.

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Table 23 shows the top twenty most deprived areas within the Kent County Council area according to the IDACI. All are within coastal areas, particularly in Swale, Thanet, and Folkestone & Hythe, and all are within the top 10% most deprived in the country.

The most deprived area in Kent according to the IDACI is within Sheerness ward in Swale with a score of 0.54 which equates to 54% of children in that area live in income deprived families.

Table 23: IDACI (ID2019): top 20 most deprived areas in Kent

LSOA name	Ward	Local Authority	IDACI Score	National rank out of 32,844 LSOAs	Within top 10% most deprived in England	IDACI Kent rank out of 902 LSOAs
Swale 001A	Sheerness	Swale	0.539	152	Yes	1
Thanet 006D	Dane Valley	Thanet	0.524	210	Yes	2
Thanet 013B	Newington	Thanet	0.51	272	Yes	3
Dover 011F	St Radigunds	Dover	0.483	420	Yes	4
Thanet 001A	Cliftonville West	Thanet	0.471	505	Yes	5
Swale 001B	Sheerness	Swale	0.466	550	Yes	6
Swale 005C	Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	0.461	600	Yes	7
Swale 010C	Murston	Swale	0.455	643	Yes	8
Thanet 013A	Newington	Thanet	0.452	673	Yes	9
Shepway 014B	Folkestone Central	Folkestone & Hythe	0.447	737	Yes	10
Swale 002B	Sheerness	Swale	0.442	790	Yes	11
Swale 002C	Sheerness	Swale	0.436	876	Yes	12
Thanet 006C	Dane Valley	Thanet	0.431	949	Yes	13
Swale 002D	Sheerness	Swale	0.43	959	Yes	14
Shepway 003C	East Folkestone	Folkestone & Hythe	0.43	966	Yes	15
Swale 004E	Sheppey Central	Swale	0.426	1,017	Yes	16
Shepway 014A	Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone & Hythe	0.425	1,026	Yes	17
Swale 001C	Sheerness	Swale	0.423	1,058	Yes	18
Dover 012F	Castle	Dover	0.416	1,180	Yes	19
Shepway 014C	Folkestone Central	Folkestone & Hythe	0.412	1,234	Yes	20

Shepway local authority changed name to Folkestone & Hythe in 2018 but the LSOAs are still named Shepway

The MHCLG does not publish ward level figures as an additional output.

Lower-layer Super Output Areas are a more suitable small area geography than wards for measuring relative deprivation. Wards are much larger than Lower-layer Super Output Areas, vary greatly in size and are prone to regular boundary changes, making them

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unsuitable as a unit of analysis or for identifying pockets of deprivation. It is, however, possible to calculate ward scores by following MHCLG guidance.

To create an average score for each ward the IMD score is first multiplied by the LSOA population for each LSOA within the ward. These totals are summed and then divided by the population of the ward to create the average score for that ward. The scores are then ranked against all 283 2015 Wards in Kent.

The top 10 most deprived wards in Kent according to the IDACI are presented in table 24.

Table 24: IDACI: Calculated Ward ranks for 2015 wards in Kent (Excluding Medway)

2015 Ward Name	Local Authority	KCC Rank (out of 268 wards)
Newington	Thanet	1
Sheerness	Swale	2
Stanhope	Ashford	3
Dane Valley	Thanet	4
Cliftonville West	Thanet	5
Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone & Hythe	6
Northgate	Canterbury	7
Margate Central	Thanet	8
St Radigunds	Dover	9
Sheppey East	Swale	10

Source: Based on the Indices of Deprivation 2019
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
(MHCLG) but calculated by Kent Analytics
Kent County Council

Education, Skills, and Training Deprivation

Within the main English Indices of Deprivation one of the seven domains is The Education, Skills, and Training Deprivation Domain. This measures the lack of attainment and skills in the local population.

The indicator falls into two sub-domains: one relating to children and young people and one relating to adult skills. These two sub-domains are designed to reflect the 'flow' and 'stock' of educational disadvantage within an area respectively. That is, the 'children and young people' sub-domain measures the attainment of qualifications and associated measures ('flow'), while the 'skills' sub-domain measures the lack of qualifications in the resident working age adult population ('stock').
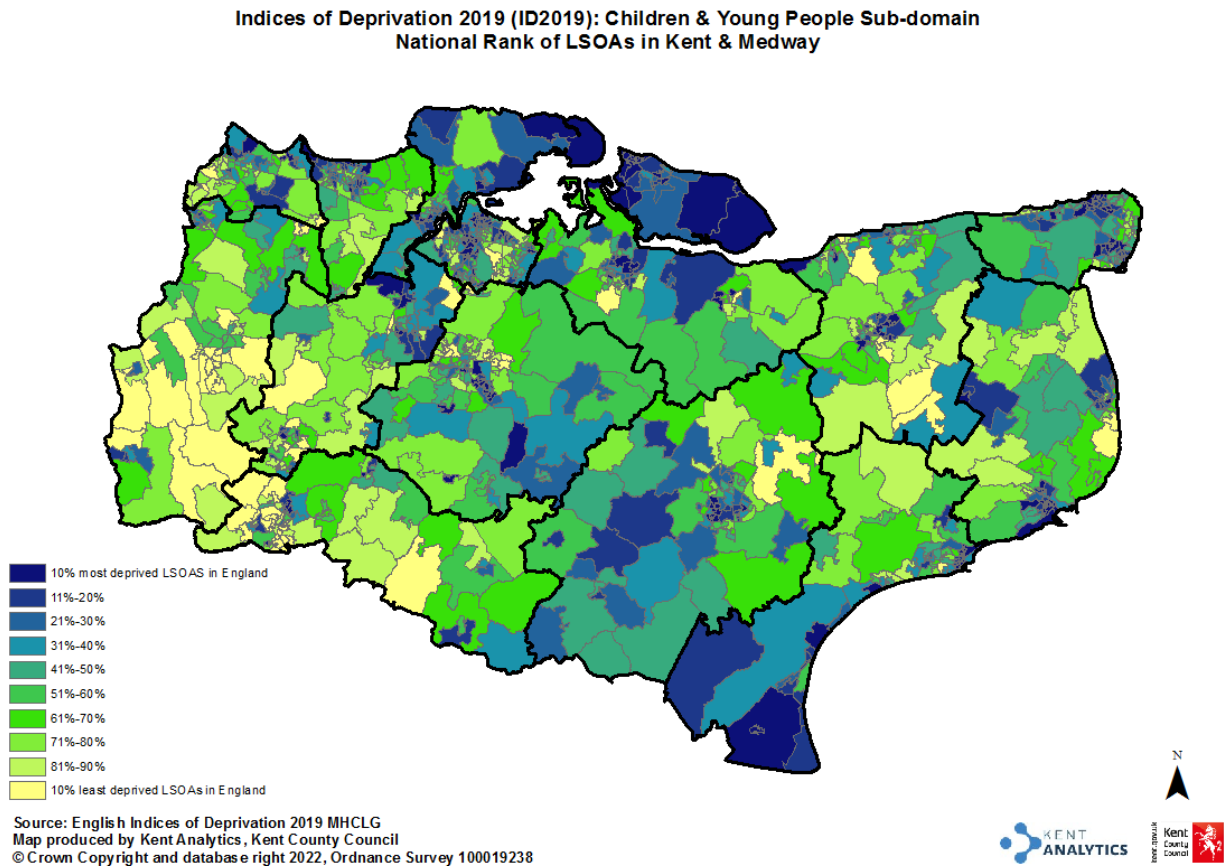
The children and young people sub-domain creates a score based upon:

- Key Stage 2 attainment: The average points score of pupils taking reading, writing and mathematics Key Stage 2 exams12
- Key Stage 4 attainment: The average capped points score of pupils taking Key Stage 4
- Secondary school absence: The proportion of authorised and unauthorised absences from secondary school
- Staying on in education post 16: The proportion of young people not staying on in school or non-advanced education above age 16
- Entry to higher education: A measure of young people aged under 21 not entering higher education.

Each LSOA is given a score and that score is then ranked against all 32,844 LSOAs nationally.

The national rank of Kent LSOAs for the children and young people sub-domain of education, skills and training is presented in Map 4.

Map 4: Children & young people sub-domain: National rank of Kent & Medway LSOAs

Indices of Deprivation 2019 (ID2019): Children & Young People Sub-domain
National Rank of LSOAs in Kent & Medway

15 of the top 20 most deprived areas in Kent, according to the children and young people sub-domain of education, skills, and training, are in coastal areas of the county.

The most deprived area in Kent according to this sub-domain is in Cliftonville West ward in Thanet. Nationally it is ranked as the 5th most deprived area in the country.

Table 25 (overleaf) shows the top twenty most deprived areas in Kent based upon the children and young people sub-domain of education, skills, and training.

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Table 25: Children & young people sub-domain of Education, Skills & Training: top 20 most deprived areas in Kent

Lower Super output Area	2015 Ward	Local Authority	Children and Young People Sub-domain Score	National Rank out of 32,844 LSOAs	Kent rank out of 902 LSOAs
Thanet 001A	Cliftonville West	Thanet	2.736	5	1
Swale 006A	Sheppey East	Swale	2.419	18	2
Thanet 001B	Cliftonville West	Thanet	2.173	61	3
Swale 002C	Sheerness	Swale	2.102	89	4
Swale 001A	Sheerness	Swale	2.098	90	5
Swale 002A	Sheerness	Swale	2.089	97	6
Swale 004E	Sheppey Central	Swale	2.077	100	7
Swale 002B	Sheerness	Swale	2.044	110	8
Swale 006B	Sheppey East	Swale	2.005	133	9
Swale 005C	Queenborough and Halfway	Swale	2.003	134	10
Maidstone 013B	Park Wood	Maidstone	2.002	137	11
Thanet 001E	Margate Central	Thanet	1.974	157	12
Ashford 008C	Stanhope	Ashford	1.952	176	13
Swale 010C	Murston	Swale	1.944	186	14
Maidstone 013C	Shepway North	Maidstone	1.898	219	15
Tonbridge and Malling 003A	East Malling	Tonbridge & Malling	1.891	231	16
Swale 001B	Sheerness	Swale	1.853	269	17
Tonbridge and Malling 009C	Trench	Tonbridge & Malling	1.85	274	18
Canterbury 014C	Northgate	Canterbury	1.832	288	19
Shepway 014A	Folkestone Harbour	Folkestone & Hythe	1.824	299	20

Shepway local authority changed name to Folkestone & Hythe in 2018 but the LSOAs are still named Shepway

As with the IDACI it is possible to calculate ward level deprivation for the children & young people sub-domain following the DCLG guidelines.

The top 10 most deprived wards in Kent according to the children & young people sub domain are presented in table 26 (overleaf).

Table 26: Children & young people sub-domain of Education, Skills & Training: Calculated 2011 Census Ward ranks in Kent (excluding Medway)

2015 Ward Name	Local Authority	KCC Rank (out of 268 wards)
Cliftonville West	Thanet	1
Sheerness	Swale	2
Stanhope	Ashford	3
Sheppey East	Swale	4
Margate Central	Thanet	5
Park Wood	Maidstone	6
Town & Pier	Dover	7
Northgate	Canterbury	8
Tower Hamlets	Dover	9
Newington	Thanet	10

Source: Based on the Indices of Deprivation 2019
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
(MHCLG) but calculated by Kent Analytics
Kent County Council

Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Annex

Table 27: Number and proportion of children living in absolute low income families in South East local authorities in 2023/24

District	Number of children living in absolute low income families	% living in absolute low income families
Hastings	3,678	22.9%
Thanet	5,580	22.1%
Southampton	9,472	21.0%
Isle of Wight	4,296	20.9%
Portsmouth	7,543	20.0%
Dover	4,043	19.5%
Slough	7,756	19.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	3,474	19.1%
Crawley	4,652	18.0%
Havant	3,836	17.7%
Eastbourne	2,913	17.0%
Gravesham	3,906	16.9%
Rother	2,285	16.5%
Medway	9,838	16.5%
Swale	5,023	16.3%
Gosport	2,352	16.2%
Milton Keynes	10,065	15.5%
Canterbury	3,884	15.1%
Ashford	3,979	14.6%
Reading	4,920	14.5%
Arun	3,720	14.5%
Oxford	3,562	14.2%
Maidstone	4,826	13.3%
Adur	1,513	13.0%
Dartford	3,533	12.9%
New Forest	3,288	12.4%
Worthing	2,290	12.4%
Brighton and Hove	4,905	12.0%
Chichester	2,345	11.8%
Lewes	1,897	11.4%
Wealden	3,080	11.3%
Rushmoor	2,147	11.1%
Buckinghamshire	12,273	10.8%
Cherwell	3,430	10.8%
Tonbridge & Malling	2,905	10.7%
Sevenoaks	2,463	10.3%
Woking	2,115	10.2%
Spelthorne	2,040	10.2%
Basingstoke and Deane	3,525	9.8%

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District	Number of children living in absolute low income families	% living in absolute low income families
Tunbridge Wells	2,273	9.7%
Eastleigh	2,537	9.5%
East Hampshire	2,092	9.4%
West Berkshire	2,894	9.4%
Test Valley	2,274	9.2%
Runnymede	1,431	9.1%
Fareham	1,640	8.9%
West Oxfordshire	1,841	8.7%
Tandridge	1,467	8.5%
Bracknell Forest	2,123	8.4%
Horsham	2,230	8.3%
Winchester	1,975	8.3%
Vale of White Horse	2,314	8.1%
Surrey Heath	1,364	8.0%
Reigate and Banstead	2,465	7.8%
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,301	7.7%
Guildford	1,943	7.6%
South Oxfordshire	2,098	7.5%
Mole Valley	1,074	7.1%
Mid Sussex	2,120	6.9%
Epsom and Ewell	1,029	6.1%
Hart	1,156	6.0%
Waverley	1,530	6.0%
Wokingham	2,308	6.0%
Elmbridge	1,667	5.6%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore, ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

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Table 28: Number and proportion of children living in relative low income families in South East local authorities in 2023/24

District	Number of children living in relative low income families	% living in relative low income families
Hastings	5,444	33.9%
Thanet	8,205	32.6%
Isle of Wight	6,465	31.4%
Southampton	13,647	30.3%
Portsmouth	10,957	29.0%
Dover	5,912	28.5%
Slough	11,379	28.4%
Folkestone & Hythe	5,028	27.6%
Havant	5,701	26.3%
Eastbourne	4,342	25.3%
Crawley	6,533	25.2%
Gosport	3,557	24.4%
Gravesham	5,615	24.3%
Rother	3,312	24.0%
Swale	7,379	23.9%
Medway	14,213	23.9%
Milton Keynes	14,816	22.8%
Canterbury	5,657	22.0%
Arun	5,588	21.8%
Ashford	5,784	21.2%
Reading	7,168	21.2%
Oxford	5,286	21.0%
Adur	2,228	19.2%
Worthing	3,520	19.0%
Maidstone	6,802	18.8%
Brighton and Hove	7,605	18.6%
Dartford	5,038	18.3%
New Forest	4,830	18.3%
Chichester	3,461	17.5%
Lewes	2,887	17.4%
Wealden	4,535	16.6%
Rushmoor	3,110	16.1%
Cherwell	5,096	16.0%
Buckinghamshire	17,751	15.7%
Tonbridge & Malling	4,222	15.6%
Sevenoaks	3,614	15.2%
Woking	3,096	14.9%
Spelthorne	2,929	14.6%
Basingstoke and Deane	5,224	14.5%
East Hampshire	3,161	14.2%

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District	Number of children living in relative low income families	% living in relative low income families
Tunbridge Wells	3,307	14.1%
Eastleigh	3,788	14.1%
Test Valley	3,448	14.0%
West Berkshire	4,198	13.6%
Fareham	2,482	13.4%
Runnymede	2,066	13.2%
West Oxfordshire	2,738	13.0%
Tandridge	2,204	12.7%
Bracknell Forest	3,139	12.4%
Horsham	3,258	12.2%
Winchester	2,874	12.0%
Vale of White Horse	3,359	11.8%
Reigate and Banstead	3,668	11.7%
Surrey Heath	1,972	11.6%
Guildford	2,932	11.5%
Windsor and Maidenhead	3,328	11.1%
South Oxfordshire	3,112	11.1%
Mole Valley	1,637	10.8%
Mid Sussex	3,156	10.3%
Waverley	2,328	9.2%
Epsom and Ewell	1,534	9.1%
Hart	1,725	9.0%
Wokingham	3,444	8.9%
Elmbridge	2,421	8.1%

Source: DWP Stat Xplore, ONS MYPE
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Related documents

The [Indices of Deprivation report](#) looks at how Kent's levels of deprivation (and areas within Kent) compared to other parts of England.

The [Financial Hardship Toolkit](#) presents range of data relating to poverty, deprivation and financial hardship for districts within Kent. Data from a range of official sources is presented in four themed pages looking at unemployment and benefits, families, older people, and households.