

Poverty Methods Summer School

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The Poverty and Social Exclusion Project

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Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

www.poverty.ac.uk

PSE Aims

1. Improve the measurement of poverty, deprivation, social exclusion and standard of living.
2. Measure the change in the nature and extent of poverty and social exclusion over the past ten years.
3. Produce policy-relevant results about the causes and outcomes of poverty and social exclusion and how best to address these problems.

Method – operationalise ‘consensual poverty’

- Two aspects: income and deprivation
 1. Lacking a standard of living which is regarded as socially acceptable
 2. Excluded/marginalised from participating in activities which are considered the norm
- Two ways of conceptualising the link:

Normative – with reference to what exists

vs

Consensual – based on entitlement

Methods used to achieve project aims:

1. Focus groups, cognitive testing
2. Quantitative surveys (2)
3. Qualitative interviews with low income families
4. Engagement with policy-making
5. Involvement of low income groups and areas

2. Method used to operationalise 'consensual poverty'

Two stages:

Survey 1 – Defining necessities (majority vote)

Survey 2 – Determine who experiences an enforced lack of socially perceived necessities

– Define the household income level at which people run the greatest risk of not being able to afford the socially perceived necessities

2. Survey 1 – Defining necessities/deprivation items

Online version of survey at www.poverty.ac.uk ([alt](#))

Door-to-door – Participants asked to sort pack of 76 cards

Box A: ‘necessary’; ‘people in NI should not have to do without’

Box B: ‘desirable’ items

Box C: Don’t know

2. Survey 1 – Selection of items

76 items (30 relating to children)

Considerations:

- Comparisons with other surveys
- Standards and expectations change
- Expert views not always same as popular views
- Spectrum of living standards

Main innovations:

‘all recommended dental work’

‘hair done or cut regularly’

‘table with chairs at which family can eat’

‘taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes’

2. Survey 1 results:

Adult items:

11 items scored \geq 75%

including dental work, fresh fruit and veg daily

12 items 55-74%

including Church, table + chairs, sport/exercise, contents insurance

4 items borderline majority

including car, unexpected expense, shoes, new clothes

10 items 35-44%

including holiday, replace furniture, presents, haircut

9 items 30% or below

including computer, internet, out socially, dishwasher

2. Survey 1 results:

Children's items:

PSE used 30, EU-SILC 2009 used 19

12 items scored $\geq 75\%$

including books, outdoor space, study area, clubs

6 items 55-74%

including, internet, family trips, outdoor kit

6 items borderline 47-54%

including pocket money, school trips, bicycle, holiday

4 items below 30%

including mobile phone (for 11+), MP3 player

Is there a consensus on 'necessities'?

YES but some differences: representation?

	Male	Female	Younger (16-24 years)	Older (65+ years)	Managerial and professional occupations	Partly skilled and unskilled manual	Tertiary	Primary	Catholic	Protestant
Damp-free home	91%	93%	93%	89%	91%	92%	94%	87%	91%	93%
Heating to keep home adequately warm	90%	92%	89%	86%	92%	93%	96%	85%	92%	92%
Two meals a day	85%	90%	83%	85%	88%	91%	91%	85%	89%	87%
Washing machine	83%	85%	74%	82%	80%	84%	82%	84%	85%	84%
Replace/ repair broken electrical goods (eg fridge, washing machine)	77%	83%	75%	82%	80%	77%	80%	77%	80%	81%
A warm waterproof coat	79%	80%	59%	85%	83%	77%	82%	79%	80%	81%
Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	73%	83%	73%	70%	83%	71%	85%	70%	78%	80%
All recommended dental work/treatment	75%	83%	78%	71%	80%	70%	80%	71%	78%	78%
Telephone at home (landline or mobile)	73%	70%	65%	82%	72%	70%	73%	72%	71%	72%
Keep home in a decent state of decoration	73%	73%	64%	82%	60%	75%	68%	77%	69%	74%
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day	68%	75%	72%	60%	72%	69%	70%	64%	75%	69%
Household contents insurance	69%	71%	64%	73%	70%	61%	70%	68%	67%	73%
A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat	67%	69%	71%	69%	70%	65%	72%	64%	72%	66%
Curtains or window blinds	62%	70%	57%	70%	64%	68%	65%	64%	68%	64%
Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews	59%	60%	78%	42%	59%	59%	71%	45%	64%	50%
Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days	55%	59%	53%	60%	59%	55%	63%	50%	59%	57%
Television	59%	53%	49%	63%	52%	62%	40%	67%	57%	54%
Two pairs of all-weather shoes	46%	62%	40%	68%	52%	60%	52%	61%	54%	55%
To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500	53%	50%	44%	59%	52%	44%	52%	50%	48%	50%
Car	54%	48%	42%	59%	52%	41%	52%	50%	48%	53%
Replace worn out clothes with new (not second hand) ones	55%	47%	41%	57%	48%	49%	49%	49%	54%	49%
A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family	48%	40%	43%	60%	40%	43%	41%	54%	41%	46%
Replace any worn out furniture	43%	45%	38%	52%	40%	40%	40%	47%	40%	43%
Presents for friends or family once a year	40%	41%	41%	48%	42%	44%	40%	44%	41%	45%
Regular payments into an occupational or private pension	42%	42%	46%	38%	40%	37%	47%	33%	38%	45%
An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings	40%	37%	42%	49%	39%	34%	39%	44%	43%	40%
A roast (joint (or its equivalent) once a week	44%	37%	22%	51%	38%	40%	32%	48%	40%	41%
Hair done or cut regularly	43%	32%	30%	52%	39%	32%	38%	38%	35%	37%
Mobile phone	40%	33%	42%	33%	33%	32%	34%	39%	37%	35%
Home computer	34%	26%	32%	39%	33%	22%	37%	31%	32%	27%
Internet connection at home	30%	20%	34%	30%	29%	23%	25%	19%	11%	25%
Dishwasher	13%	9%	9%	15%	12%	11%	13%	10%	15%	8%

Representation of survey 1 results:

[Interactive](#) scatter plot

Survey 2 - Social exclusion

B-SEM: Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix

Resources:

- Material/economic resources
- Access to public and private services
- Social resources

Participation:

- Economic participation
- Social participation
- Culture, education and skills
- Political and civic participation

Quality of life:

- Health and well-being
- Living environment
- Crime, harm and criminalisation

Survey 2: Social exclusion

Domains in Main Survey

Housing	Social networks and support
Fuel poverty	Necessities
Area/neighbourhood deprivation	Intra-household decisions
Local services	Poverty over time and subjective poverty
Income change and indebtedness	Subjective well-being ('satisfaction')
Education & Parenting	Harm, crime, criminalisation
Employment and working conditions	Critical life events
Health and disability	Social and political engagement
Time	Experience of the Troubles (N Ireland only)

2. Combining survey 1 and 2

Statistical analysis used to:

Determine validity and reliability of items

Determine 'additivity' of items

Define four groups (GB result for 1999):

'Poor' (low income, high deprivation) (25%)

'Rising out of poverty' (high dep + high income) (2%)

'Vulnerable' (low income, low dep) (13%)

'Not poor' (60%)

3. Qualitative interviews

Family support (intergenerational)

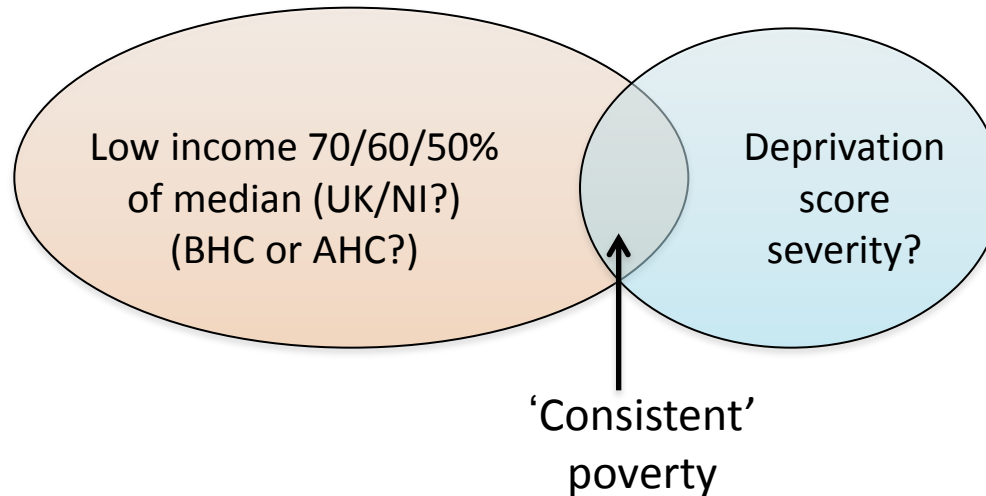
Economising

Tipping points: interactions with social protection
policy change

4. Policy engagement

Deprivation measures – issues

Low income and/or deprivation?



Survey 1 results: issues

Pensioners' deprivation items, DWP

	Omnibus score (or closest equivalent)
• At least one filling meal a day 99%	(88)
• Go out socially at least once a month 72%	(28)
• See friends or family at least once a month 95%	(43)
• Take a holiday away from home 60%	40
• Able to replace cooker if it broke down 89%	(80)
• Home kept in good state of repair 96%	71
• Heating, electrics, plumbing and drains working 98%	-
• Have a damp-free home 94%	92
• Home kept adequately warm 96%	92
• Able to pay regular bills 96%	-
• Have a telephone to use, whenever needed 99%	(72)
• Have access to car or taxi, whenever needed 90%	(50)
• Have hair done or cut regularly 89%	36
• Have a warm waterproof coat 98%	80
• Able to pay an unexpected expense of £200 87%	51

Deprivation measures – issues

1. Three categories?

Pensioners, Children and Overall

2. Prevalence weighting

a) DWP May 2011 new measure – score of 20 for pensioners, 25 for children

b) Non-monetary reasons for lacking items

3. Deprivation rate (EU-SILC):

Proportion lacking 3 or more out of 9 items

e.g. 2010: 13.4% UK

19.6% Ireland (S)

4. Consensus vs expert?

- 5 of 11 deprivation items in Ireland measure are below 50% threshold in PSE survey 1
- 3 of 9 EU deprivation items are below or on margins of 50% threshold in PSE survey 1

Ireland 2007 (2 of 11)	EU 2009 (3 of 9)
Two pairs of strong shoes	To have a washing machine
A warm waterproof overcoat	To have a colour TV
Buy new not second-hand clothes	To have a car
Meat, chicken, fish (...) every second day	Meat, chicken, or fish every second day
Roast joint or its equivalent once a week	To have a telephone
Go without heating during the last year through lack of money	To pay for arrears (mortgage or rent, utility bills or hire purchase instalments)
Keep home adequately warm	Keep home adequately warm
Presents for family/friends at least once a year	
Replace any worn out furniture	Face unexpected expenses
Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month	One week annual holiday away from home
Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment	



'Consistent poverty', 11-item index: (PSE 2011)

Lacking two or more of:

1. Two pairs of strong shoes – **54%**
2. A warm waterproof overcoat – **80%**
3. Buy new not second-hand clothes – **51%**
4. Eat meals with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day – **72%**
5. Have a roast joint or its equivalent once a week – **40%**
6. Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money – **N/A**
7. Keep the home adequately warm – **92%**
8. Buy presents for family or friends at least once a year – **43%**
9. Replace any worn out furniture – **44%**
10. Have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month – **43%**
11. Have a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight, for entertainment – **28%**

Five items are below threshold



Child Poverty Act 2010

By 2020:

1. Proportion of children living in low income households (<60% UK median income) must be <10% of all children.
2. Less than 5% should be in the 'combined low income and material deprivation' category by the same date.
3. Less than 5% of all children in 'absolute low income'
4. Reduce 'persistent poverty' by 2015 (Persistent poverty is 3 year spell of income poverty)

4. Policy engagement

1. UK Govt attack on income measure

‘Average’, mean and [median confusion](#)

Cause of poverty lies in behaviour

120,000 troubled families

2. Measure for ‘Europe 2020 Strategy’

At risk of poverty (<60% median)

Low work intensity (20% in the past year)

Severe material deprivation (4 of 9 items)

Proposed expansion of items opposed

5. Involving low income groups and areas

1. Link up with other projects
2. Capacity building
3. Recording experience systematically
4. Representing experience through video and images on website
5. Monitoring low income localities and 'auditing' child poverty strategy