SAVVI Financial Hardship Guide

Finding Your Local Data

November 2026

SAVVI
Scalable Approach to Vulnerability via Interoperability

improvement service

Finding Your Local Data

This resource contains links to publicly available datasets and dashboards which allow you to analyse poverty statistics at a council, datazone, or ward level.

For many purposes, your council's own internal data will be the most precise and up-to-date data you can use. However, in terms of building a business case and understanding how your area compares to other areas, publicly published figures play a valuable role. Consider using published statistics to set the scene and to compare your statistics with other councils. Use internal data to evidence the specific types and areas of need, as well as what impact the work would likely achieve. Where public and internal statistics measure the same thing, make sure you check that they roughly agree.

Improvement Service's Community Planning Outcomes Profile

The Community Planning Outcomes Profile is a set of core measures on important life outcomes, providing a consistent basis for measuring outcomes and inequalities of outcome in your area. Includes child poverty, attainment, positive destinations, employment rates, median earnings, fuel poverty and out of work benefits.

DWP Stat-Xplore

The Department of Work and Pension's Stat-Xplore is the primary tool for DWP benefit caseloads, with breakdowns to local authority, parliamentary constituency, ward and output-area level. Requires registration and log-in.

Scottish Government Open Data Platform

The Scottish Government launched a new open data platform at data.gov.scot on Tuesday 25 August 2026. Data available within that platform includes:

Scottish Government Statistics

- Job Start Payments
- Scottish Welfare Fund Applications and Expenditure
- Discretionary Housing Payments Applications and Expenditure

Social Security Scotland Statistics

- Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods: Applications
- Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods: Expenditure
- Scottish Child Payment: Applications and Payments
- Scottish Child Payment: Caseload
- Winter Heating Payment

Please note that these are datasets. Published analysis can be found via the Scottish Government Social Security Statistics and Social Security Scotland Statistics, both mentioned below.

Scottish Government Social Security Statistics
The Scottish Government publishes official statistics on social security, including both the Scottish Welfare Fund statistics (which includes information on Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants) and Discretionary Housing Payment statistics.

Social Security Scotland official statistics
Social Security Scotland publishes caseload, application and payment statistics for devolved benefits including Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods, Scottish Child Payments, and Winter Heating Payments – broken down by local authority and, for some series, intermediate zones.

Council tax reduction
The Council Tax Reduction Extract is collected monthly and is used to monitor the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme. Scottish Government statisticians use the data provided by local authorities to produce and publish information on the CTR scheme, including the number of recipients and the income foregone by local authorities.

Scottish House Condition Survey
The Scottish House Condition Survey's Local Authority Tables covers fuel poverty, extreme fuel poverty, energy efficiency and housing condition.

Scottish Household Survey
The Scottish Household Survey includes 'how the household is managing financially' broken down by local authority, with the ability to compare to another authority or to Scotland overall. You can also break down by household income, household type, SIMD, amount of savings and various demographic information.

Office of National Statistics
The ONS Local dataset on drivers of child poverty allows Scottish councils to benchmark against comparable authorities across Great Britain. They also have various economic indicators including pay and income, child poverty, fuel poverty, employment rate and economic inactivity rate, broken down by local authority area.

Nomis: Official census and labour market statistics
Nomis is a service provided by the Office for National Statistics which combines common ONS datasets with Census and other data sources. Information includes employment, economic activity/inactivity, workless households, earnings, and out-of-work benefits. You can examine your local area profile and compare it to other local authorities, Scotland, England or Great Britian.

The following resources relate specifically to children and/or child poverty:

Improvement Service Child Poverty Map
The IS Child Poverty Map allows easy access to two key datasets about child poverty at a small area level. The dashboard is designed to allow you to easily view figures for these areas, as well as easily download the data for your own use.

The dashboard contains information about:

- Children in Low Income Families, sourced from DWP/HMRC at 2011 data zone level. This is a measure of the proportion of children living in relative poverty before housing costs.
- Scottish Child Payment Case Load, produced by Social Security Scotland and sourced from statistics.gov.scot at 2011 intermediate geography zone level. This measure records the number of recipients of Scottish Child Payment as a proportion of children in each area.

Take-up rates of Scottish benefits
The Scottish Government publishes annual estimates of take-up for benefits, including local authority-level estimates for take up of Scottish Child Payment and Best Start Foods.

Public Health Scotland's Child Poverty Dashboard
Public Health Scotland's Child Poverty Dashboard is part of PHS's Prioritise Child Poverty programme. The dashboard includes:

- data zone and intermediate zone data, where available
- primary and secondary data indicators
- the ability to compare to other local authority areas
- insights on the primary indicators on what the indicator measures and how it can be used
- a glossary
- metadata which contains the technical information on each source dataset

Department of Work and Pensions Children in Low Income Families
The Children in Low Income Families: local area statistics are published annually by the UK Government and include breakdown by local authority and ward level.

Scottish Government Local Child Poverty Dashboard
The Scottish Government has published a local child poverty dashboard. This dashboard contains a selection of indicators available at local authority level. While these indicators do not measure child poverty directly in the same way as the indicators used for national targets, they can be used to understand the local context. The indicators chosen also provide some evidence on drivers of child poverty, along with information on the groups of people that are more at risk of experiencing child poverty.