

Using SIMD to improve outcomes

Following our last newsletter we heard some very good examples about how SIMD is being used to improve and direct services for the better. We have attached some examples of good practice of SIMD.

These examples show how SIMD can be used in conjunction with other data sources to make informed decisions and policies. We have also re-issued our guidance on the best practices to employ when using SIMD.

Help for our infrequent users

The SIMD team attended the Gathering in the SECC, Glasgow. We met a lot of people who are interested in SIMD, but who don't need to use it often or in very much detail.

To help everyone, including infrequent users, we are preparing a new online tutorial that people can access at any time, with instructions on how to quickly get the SIMD information you require.

Fuel poverty

In the workshops you told us that we should look at fuel poverty as a new long-term indicator. Households are in fuel poverty if they need to spend over 10% of their income to stay satisfactorily warm.

To measure fuel poverty we would need to know household income, cost of fuel, and the house's energy efficiency. Since we don't have this information for all households, we can't measure fuel poverty directly at datazone level.

Instead we are exploring whether other data sources could be used as a proxy measure. If this turns out to be possible this will be included as a new indicator in SIMD 2015.

ScotStat Twitter

The new ScotStat twitter feed was launched in March '14. Future SIMD developments will be posted there.

Follow [@ScotStat](#)

What we are reading

The Scottish House Conditions Survey 2012 was published in December 2013.

[Click here to go to the survey](#)

We have now met with lead analysts from 6 of the 7 SIMD domains and the dialogue as we continue to review all the indicators has been encouraging.

We are currently considering two potential new indicators for the next edition of SIMD. We are working to identify appropriate data sources and quality assure them.

We also hope to lay the groundwork for a measure of internet use – the data will not be available for the next SIMD, but we hope to set things in motion for a future SIMD edition.

Finally we would like to welcome some new members of MDAG, our advisory group. They include a range of expertise from an academic background to people tackling poverty in very rural areas. MDAG will be meeting in April and we will update you on the highlights shortly afterwards.

*Dr Cath Dickie
Assistant Statistician
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Forthcoming events that we will be attending

MDAG Meeting

28th April 2014

Edinburgh