Introducing
The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020
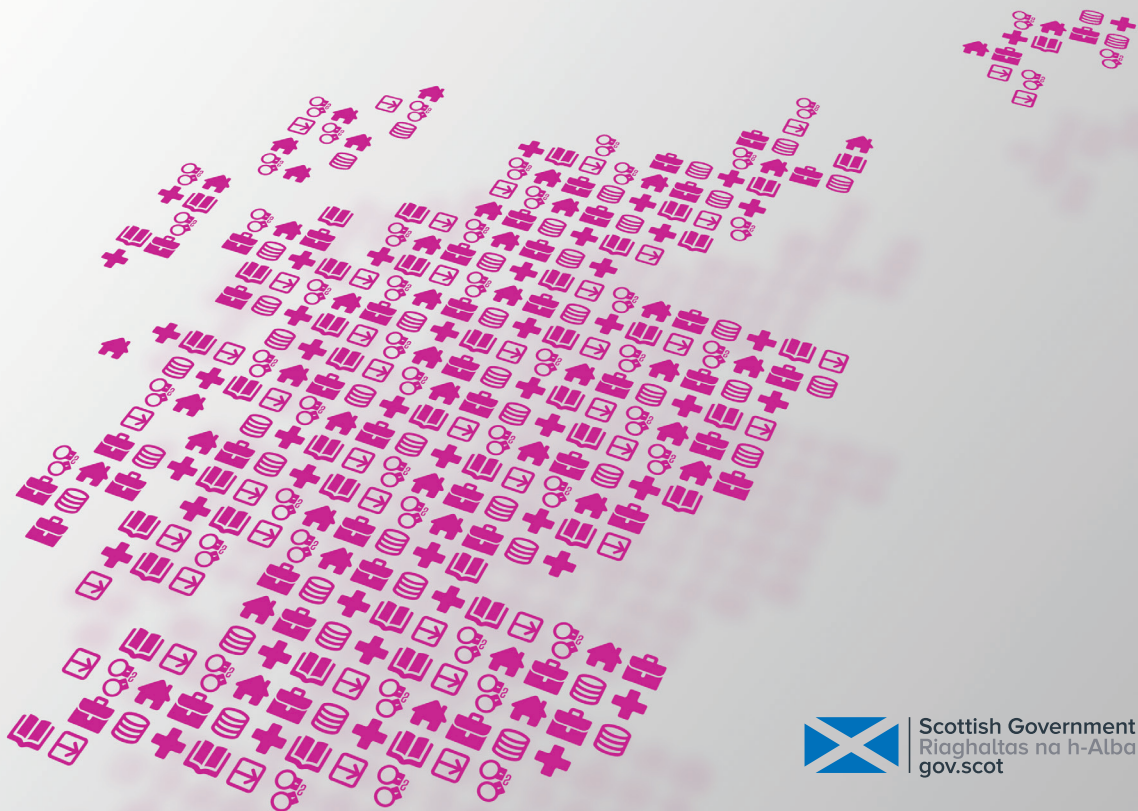
simd
Scottish Index
of Multiple
Deprivation

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot
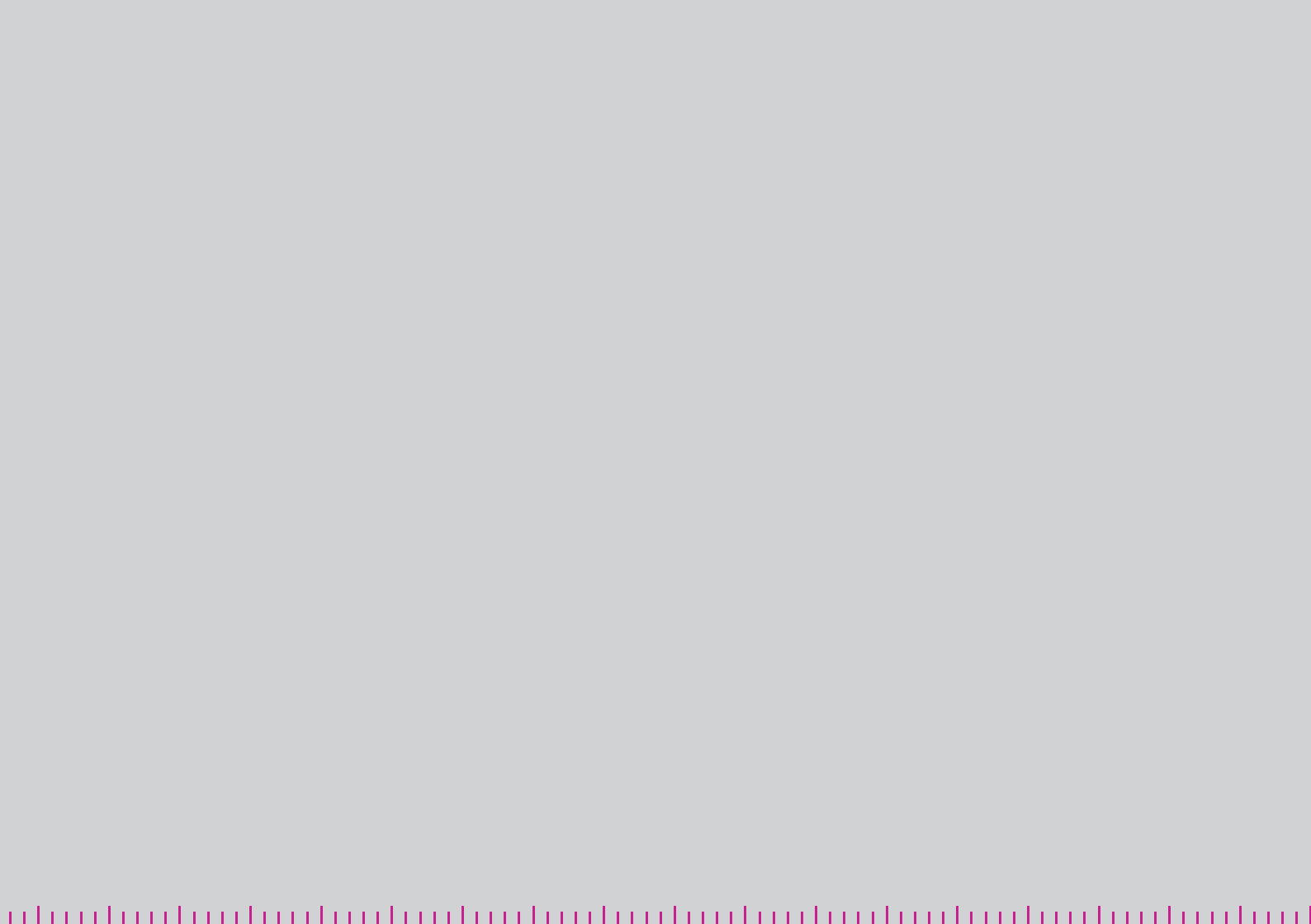
Introduction

This booklet provides an overview of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020. SIMD is a tool for identifying the places in Scotland where people are experiencing disadvantage across different aspects of their lives. It can be used to help organisations invest in those areas that need it most. SIMD can also be used by communities to highlight the things that matter to them, and identify opportunities to improve the lives of local people.

The booklet explains how we built SIMD, offers advice on what you can and can't do with SIMD, and gives some headline findings. It also provides links for you to explore SIMD further, produce your own maps, and get more help if you need it.

SIMD is relevant for both urban and rural settings in Scotland, but care needs to be taken when using SIMD in rural areas. The booklet includes an example case study showing how SIMD has been used to identify deprivation and help inform a rural local authority's poverty strategy.

When using the SIMD tool, it is important to bear in mind that households will have very different circumstances and differing experiences and perceptions of where they live.

Residents and organisations may recognise that their neighbourhood is disadvantaged in some way, and find SIMD useful in building a case for support. However, focussing on the strengths and assets of our communities is also important if we are to work together to make Scotland a fairer and more inclusive place to live.

The booklet showcases local stories of committed organisations and individuals working to make their communities stronger.

We would like to gratefully acknowledge the support from all the organisations who have contributed to developing the index itself. We could not have done it without them.

SIMD is a standard tool for identifying areas with relatively high levels of deprivation.
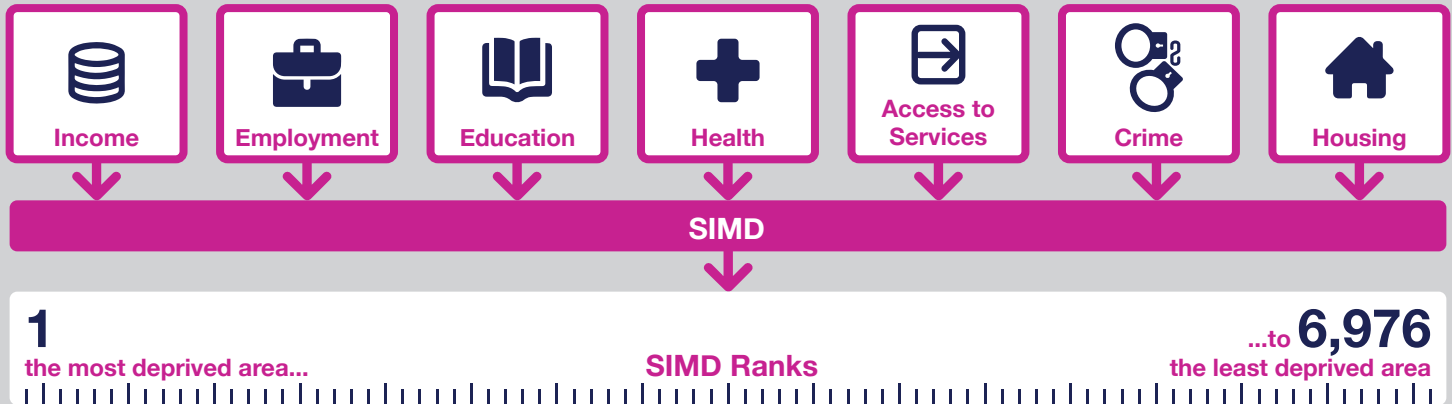
→ SIMD 2020 was published on 28 January 2020.

→ Previous SIMDs were published in 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2016.

SIMD…

… shows where Scotland's **most deprived areas** are, so organisations know where their work can have the biggest impact.

… is **a relative measure** of deprivation across small areas in Scotland.

… looks at **multiple deprivation**. 'Deprived' does not just mean 'poor' or 'low income'. It can also mean people have fewer resources and opportunities, for example in health and education. So communities can use SIMD to identify the things that matter to them.

Income	Employment	Education	Health	Access to Services	Crime	Housing

SIMD

1
the most deprived area…

SIMD Ranks

…to **6,976**
the least deprived area

How SIMD was made

→ We split Scotland into 6,976 small areas, called 'data zones', with roughly equal populations.

→ Next, we looked at indicators to measure the different aspects of deprivation in each data zone, like pupil attainment, travel time to a GP, crime and unemployment.

→ We then grouped over 30 indicators of deprivation into seven types, called 'domains'.

→ We combined the seven domains into one index, ranking each data zone in Scotland from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived).

Focusing on small areas shows the different issues there are in each neighbourhood. These could be poor housing conditions, a lack of skills or good education, or poor public transport.

Here's an example of what a data zone looks like:

→ **5.4 million people**

→ **6,976 data zones**

→ **700-800 people per data zone**
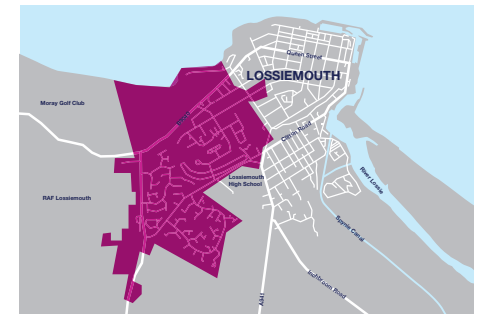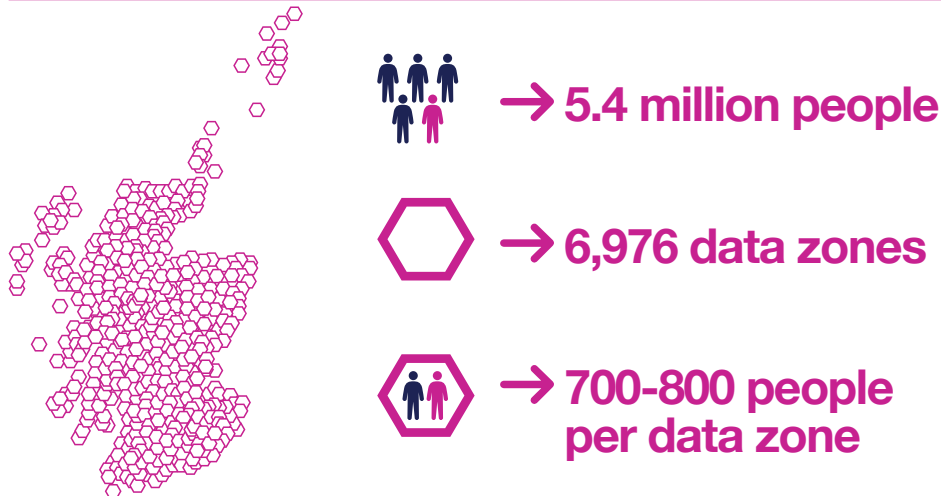
You can find out about the data zone where you live, if you go online to http://simd.scot

Connecting people and communities to tackle disadvantage

SURF is Scotland's Regeneration Forum, aiming to improve the wellbeing of people in Scotland's disadvantaged communities. SURF Awards highlight the important role that community-led initiatives have in improving the wellbeing of individuals and communities. These are some of the projects and people involved in the Awards.

St Paul's Youth Forum
(Blackhill and Provanmill, Glasgow)

SPYF was created by local residents to offer their young people alternatives to crime and antisocial behaviour. It supports 150 teenagers a year into activities such as a community growing initiative, a local radio station, community meals and a cycle share/repair scheme. The focus is on raising aspirations, creating opportunities to learn and building a strong sense of community.

DRC Youth Project
(NW Glasgow – Yoker, Whiteinch and Scotstoun)

DRC offers meaningful long-term support to young people who are most affected by negative social and economic situations, enabling them to make positive changes in their lives. DRC set up the Pathfinder Programme with WorkingRite to give young people access to real jobs and opportunities in the community, and ensure that no one is left behind.

Over 90% of the young people supported during the year progressed into employment, apprenticeships or further education.

WHALE Arts (Wester Hailes, Edinburgh)

WHALE Arts was founded by local community members nearly 30 years ago. They operate from a unique community asset with a range of creative spaces including an arts workshop, performance space, and community garden.

One of their projects was *Changing Perspectives*, Wester Hailes' first Film and Moving Image Festival. They are contributing to the Wester Hailes Place Plan, and showing how an arts centre can inform and drive creative regeneration.

RIGS Arts – Broomhill Project (Broomhill, Glasgow)

This project connects local residents with artists, helping them develop their skills and deliver positive change. A dedicated Community Art Flat has become a busy hub and meeting point for local people. The workshops have enabled participants to gain key practical and interpersonal skills, improving wellbeing and opportunities for work, education and training. The local residents have a sense of pride and ownership over the changes being made to their neighbourhood.

SIMD is important in highlighting what problems a community may be facing, but that is only part of the community story.

'SIMD can be useful to describe the general areas where people live and some of the challenges that they face there. We also need to understand more about local assets and aspirations and how we can better engage with them for more successful and sustainable community regeneration - to everyone's benefit.'

Andy Milne
Chief Executive
SURF – Scotland's Regeneration Forum

How can I use SIMD?

Use SIMD for

✔ Comparing overall deprivation of small areas

✔ Comparing the seven domains of deprivation

✔ Comparing the proportion of small areas in a council that are very deprived

✔ Finding areas where many people experience multiple deprivation

✔ Finding areas of greater need for support and intervention

Do not use SIMD for

✘ Saying **how much more** deprived one area is from another – the difference between two ranks can be tiny or large

✘ Comparing ranks over time – changes are relative and may not reflect actual changes in the neighbourhood

✘ Comparing with other UK countries – each country measures deprivation slightly differently

✘ Identifying **all** people who are experiencing deprivation in Scotland – not everyone facing disadvantage lives in a deprived area

✘ Identifying affluent areas – lack of deprivation is not the same as being rich

Key findings in SIMD 2020

SIMD identifies deprived areas - not people.
The box below shows why.

Non-deprived area

Deprived area

Not on low income
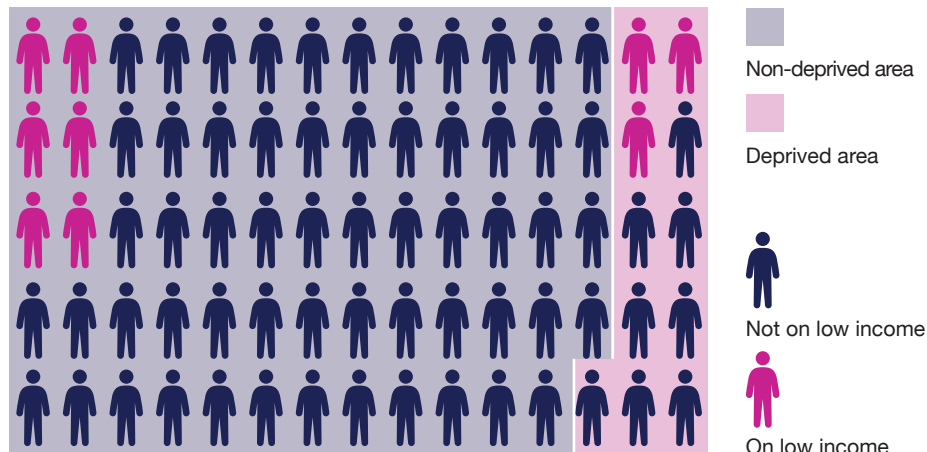
On low income

Not all people experiencing deprivation live in deprived areas. About two out of three people on low income do not live in deprived areas.

Not everyone in a deprived area is experiencing deprivation. About one in three people living in a deprived area are on low income.

In this example, 'deprived area' means among the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland. We are using people on low income to represent people who are facing multiple deprivation.

None of the 15% most deprived data zones are in Shetland, Orkney or Western Isles, but there are still people experiencing deprivation.
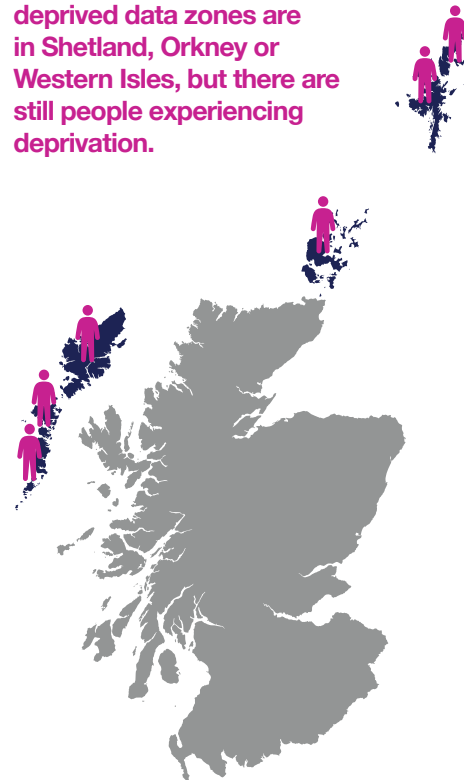
Key findings in SIMD 2020

Deep-rooted deprivation – some areas include data zones which have consistently been among the 5% most deprived in Scotland since SIMD 2004. This map shows a selection of those areas, where over two-thirds of data zones are among the 5% most deprived for SIMD 2020.

Inverness Merkinch (Highland)

Greenock (Inverclyde)

Paisley Ferguslie (Renfrewshire)

Glasgow City:

Central Easterhouse

Glenwood South

Drumchapel North

Milton West

North Barlanark and Easterhouse South

Wynford

Crookston South

Drumry East

Parkhead West and Barrowfield

Craigneuk Wishaw (North Lanarkshire)

Irvine Fullarton (North Ayrshire)

Six council areas have a larger share of the 20% most deprived data zones in Scotland compared with SIMD 2016. Three council areas have a smaller share. The rest have changed by less than 2 percentage points. SIMD measures relative deprivation, so changes in SIMD rank for one area may be due to other areas becoming more or less deprived.
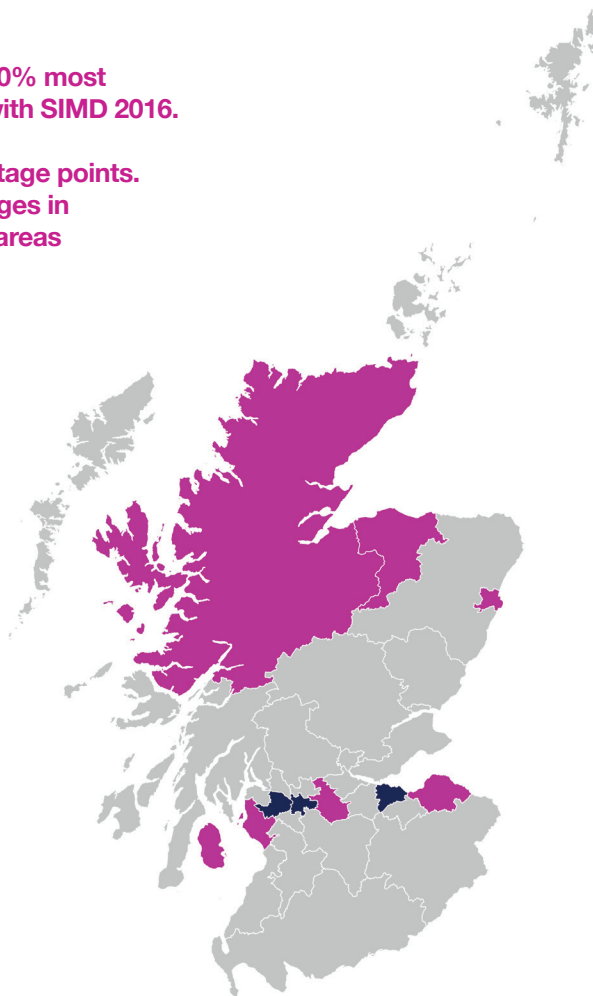
Change map

- ■ Decrease in deprivation
- ■ Increase in deprivation
- ■ Change in deprivation less than 2 pp

Council areas with the largest decrease:
➔ Glasgow City
➔ Renfrewshire
➔ City of Edinburgh

Council areas with the largest increase:
➔ Aberdeen City
➔ North Lanarkshire
➔ Moray
➔ East Lothian
➔ Highland
➔ North Ayrshire

People who live in the most deprived areas are most likely to experience conditions which limit their opportunities in life.
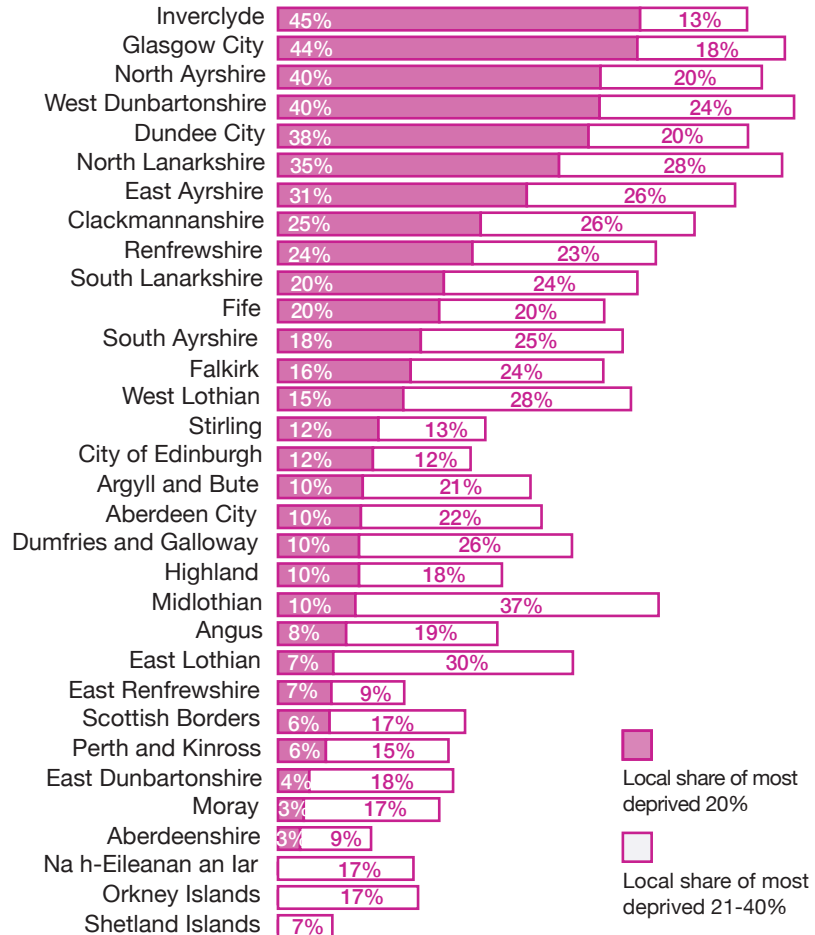
However, people who live in less deprived areas may also experience disadvantage.

→

What is local share?

The charts on the right show the proportion of data zones in each area which are among the most deprived. This local share is calculated by dividing the number of deprived data zones in the area by all data zones in this area. We use local shares to compare areas.
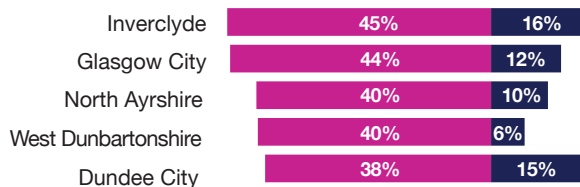
For example, the local share of the 40% most deprived data zones in Moray is the number of data zones in Moray that are among the 40% most deprived in Scotland (25 data zones) divided by the number of all data zones in Moray (126). This results in a local share of 20%.
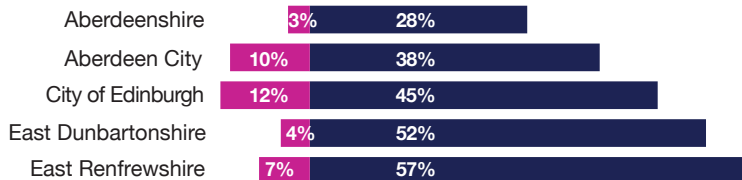
Area	Most deprived 20%	Most deprived 21-40%
Inverclyde	45%	13%
Glasgow City	44%	18%
North Ayrshire	40%	20%
West Dunbartonshire	40%	24%
Dundee City	38%	20%
North Lanarkshire	35%	28%
East Ayrshire	31%	26%
Clackmannanshire	25%	26%
Renfrewshire	24%	23%
South Lanarkshire	20%	24%
Fife	20%	20%
South Ayrshire	18%	25%
Falkirk	16%	24%
West Lothian	15%	28%
Stirling	12%	13%
City of Edinburgh	12%	12%
Argyll and Bute	10%	21%
Aberdeen City	10%	22%
Dumfries and Galloway	10%	26%
Highland	10%	18%
Midlothian	10%	37%
Angus	8%	19%
East Lothian	7%	30%
East Renfrewshire	7%	9%
Scottish Borders	6%	17%
Perth and Kinross	6%	15%
East Dunbartonshire	4%	18%
Moray	3%	17%
Aberdeenshire	3%	9%
Na h-Eileanan an Iar		17%
Orkney Islands		17%
Shetland Islands		7%

■ Local share of most deprived 20%

□ Local share of most deprived 21-40%

These council areas contain the most data zones with deprivation, but still have areas that are not deprived.
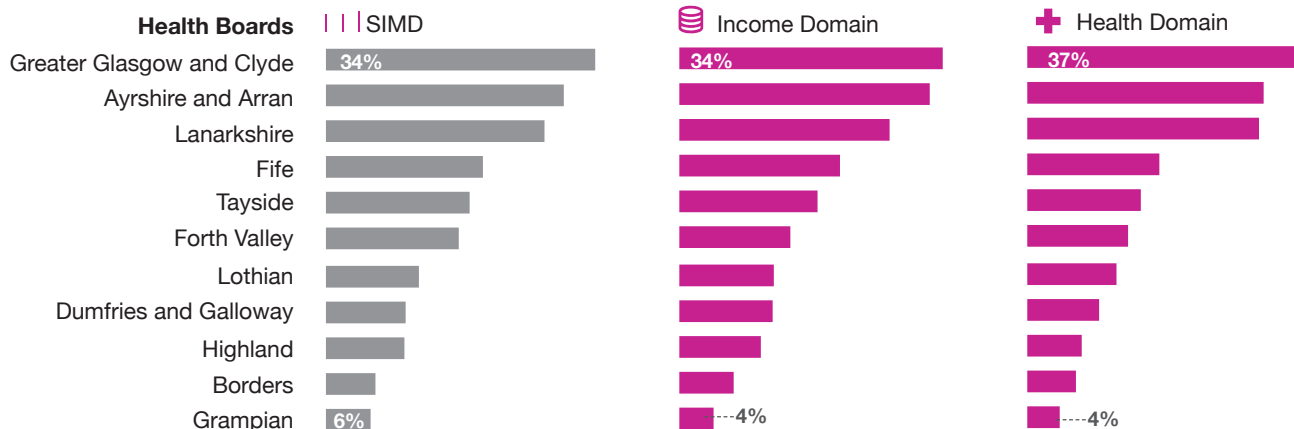
Inverclyde	45%	16%
Glasgow City	44%	12%
North Ayrshire	40%	10%
West Dunbartonshire	40%	6%
Dundee City	38%	15%

These council areas contain the most data zones without deprivation, but there are still some deprived areas.

Aberdeenshire	3%	28%
Aberdeen City	10%	38%
City of Edinburgh	12%	45%
East Dunbartonshire	4%	52%
East Renfrewshire	7%	57%

■ Local share of most deprived 20%   ■ Local share of least deprived 20%

Deprivation is also about poor health.
The same areas that show income deprivation also show health deprivation.

Health Boards	SIMD	Income Domain	Health Domain
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	34%	34%	37%
Ayrshire and Arran			
Lanarkshire			
Fife			
Tayside			
Forth Valley			
Lothian			
Dumfries and Galloway			
Highland			
Borders			
Grampian	6%	4%	4%

All: local share of 20% most deprived.
Health boards with a local share of 0% are omitted.

Using SIMD in Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is a large region which includes sparsely populated and remote rural areas, as well as towns and urban neighbourhoods. Researchers at the University of Glasgow's Dumfries Campus reviewed local evidence to inform Dumfries and Galloway's poverty strategy. They used the results of SIMD, along with background data and other information, to look at where people experiencing deprivation live, and what issues they face.

SIMD is really helpful for people who are making decisions about how to target resources, but it does need to be used carefully in rural areas because:

- data zones in rural areas are bigger than those in urban areas
- pockets of deprivation are smaller in rural areas: these are more likely to include a mix of households experiencing different levels of deprivation
- problems of transport and distance to employment and services are very important features of rural deprivation. They are part of SIMD but have less influence on the overall SIMD rank compared to other domains such as employment and income.
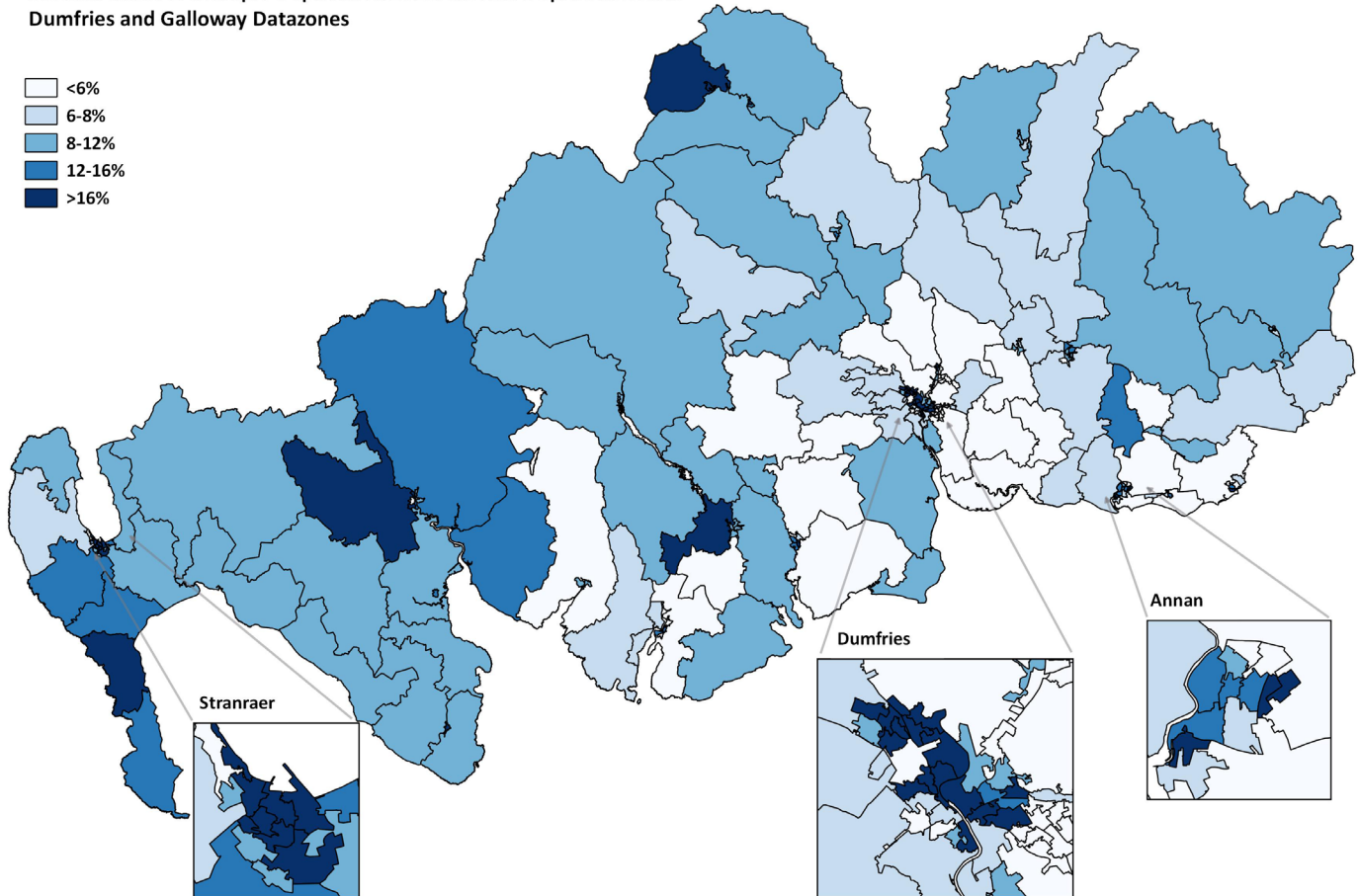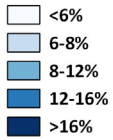
What does this show us?

If we look at the 20% most deprived data zones **in Scotland (dark green)**, we find some in D&G, mostly in and around the largest towns. But if we look at the 20% most deprived data zones **within D&G (light green)**, we find this includes areas which are more rural.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016: Most Deprived Datazones in Dumfries and Galloway

In National Most Deprived Quintile
In Local Most Deprived Quintile

Stranraer

Dumfries

Annan
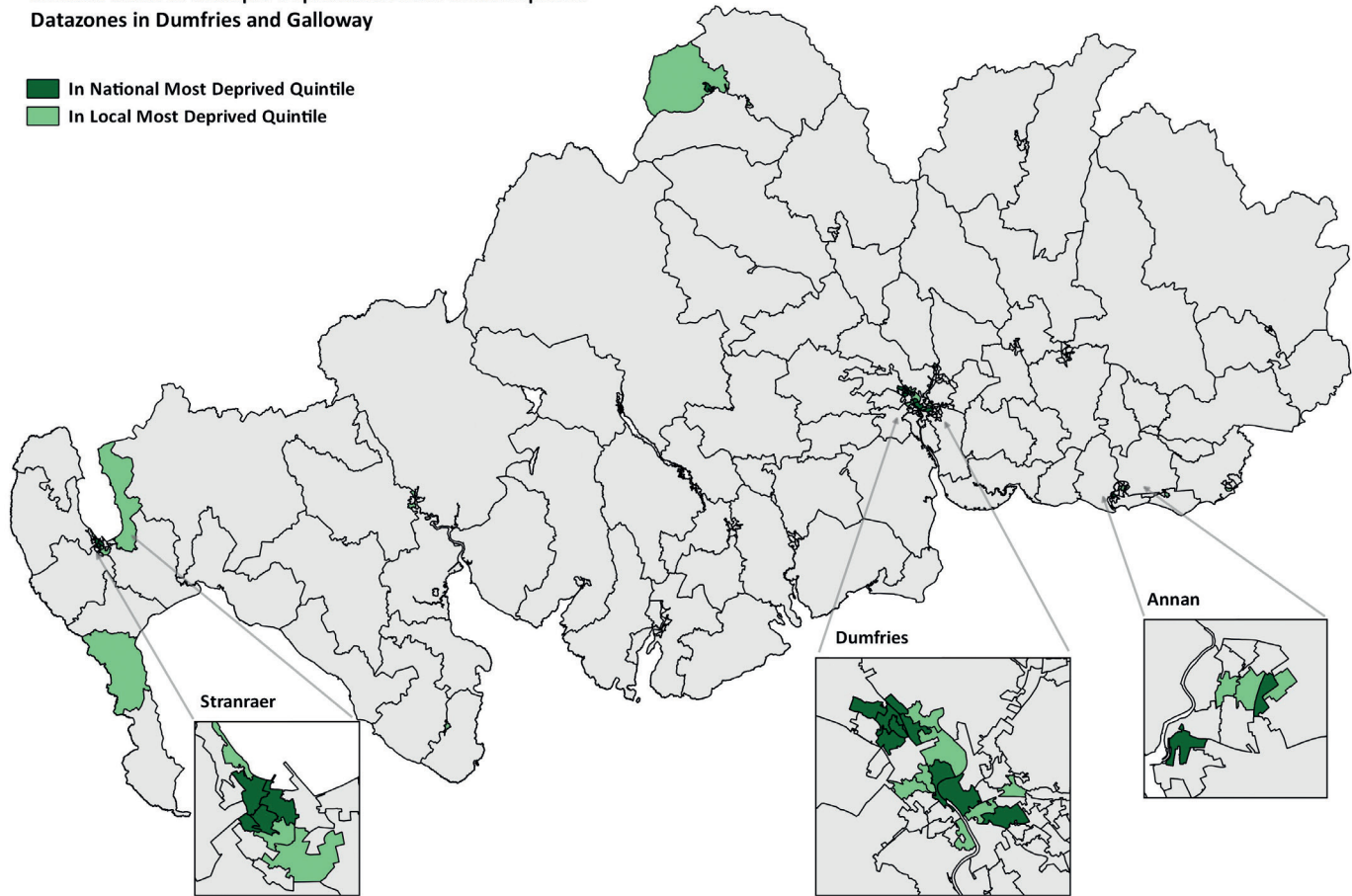
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016: Income Deprivation Rate
Dumfries and Galloway Datazones

<6%
6-8%
8-12%
12-16%
>16%

Stranraer

Dumfries

Annan

Case study
Using SIMD in Dumfries and Galloway

What does this show us?

If we look at the income domain of SIMD, we find that people who are experiencing income deprivation (shown in darker blue) are spread across the region: 80% of people on low incomes live outside the most deprived places.

Why is this important?

This means that we can't assume that every person living in an area with a high level of deprivation will experience disadvantage. We also can't assume that every person living in an area with low levels of deprivation will not experience deprivation in a variety of ways.

When using SIMD we need to be clear about what we are using SIMD for.

Are we looking to identify the particular problems of specific *places?* Using SIMD in this way will work in rural places, especially if comparing places within a local region.

Or is it being used as a convenient way to identify *people* experiencing disadvantage? This approach will not work as well in rural areas, and we need to look at other ways of assessing need and making decisions about allocating resources.

The analysis of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation in Dumfries and Galloway, combined with other information, including the views of local people and partners, has helped to inform the approach that the local authority and its partners have taken to tackling poverty: for instance, a focus on transport to improve access to employment opportunities and services, and addressing fuel poverty.

The report *Poverty and deprivation in Dumfries and Galloway* is available at
http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/108111/1/108111.pdf.

Key resources | Contact

Interactive mapping: http://simd.scot

➔ find out how deprived an area is and show the results on a map

SIMD webpages:
www.gov.scot/SIMD

➔ **Data** – download all SIMD indicator data
➔ **Analysis** – read the key findings
➔ **Guidance** – learn how to use SIMD
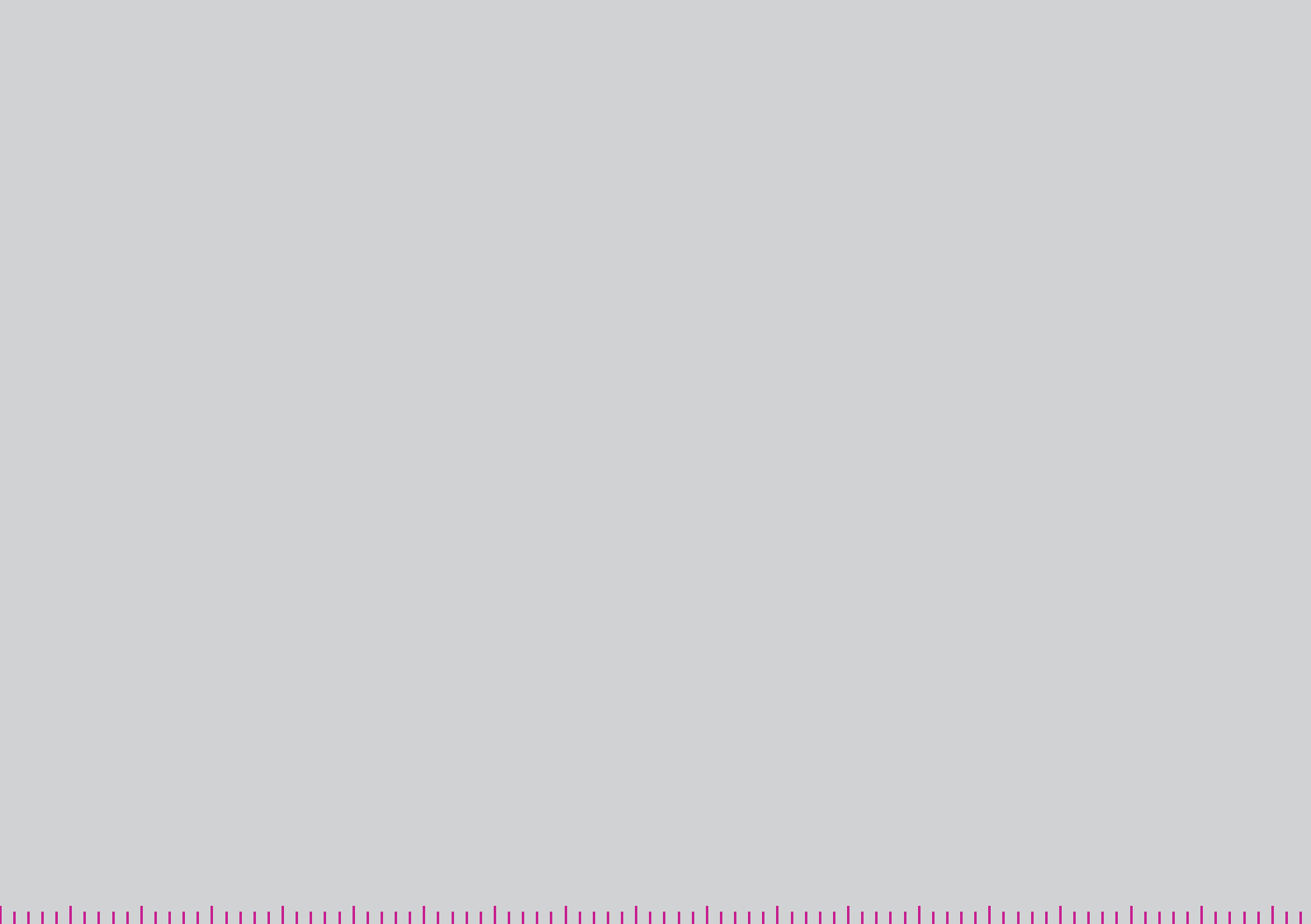➔ **Technical notes** – understand how SIMD is constructed

Statistics Scotland:
http://statistics.gov.scot/

➔ download SIMD ranks and other data for further analysis

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