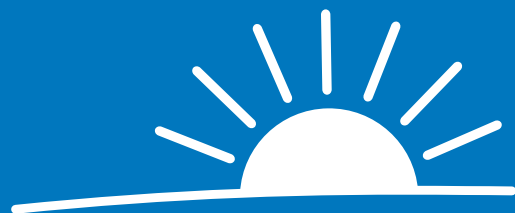


# Older people count

The Help the Aged  
Income Index for older people  
in England and Wales 2003



**Help the Aged**

## Summary

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This paper is a summary of *Older people count*, a report on the findings of a project that investigates the distribution of older people living on income related benefits.



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## Foreword

I am proud to welcome this innovative new research on older people living on income related benefits. The Help the Aged Income Index makes use of the highest quality data and research expertise to create a unique tool for highlighting disadvantage in the older population.

It is the responsibility of all organisations that provide services and assistance to older people to ensure they target help at the most vulnerable people and work in the most disadvantaged areas. Help the Aged has a firm commitment to help the most disadvantaged older people, by tackling poverty, isolation and neglect.

Reaching those who are most in need requires accurate, up-to-date data on the situation of pensioners, which can be broken down to small local areas. Whilst deprivation and income indices have been produced in the past, this is the first to focus solely on older people.

The Index is constructed using data supplied by the Department for Work and Pensions on older people claiming income related benefits in England and Wales. This is by far the best source of data available at a ward level relating to older people's incomes.

All wards and districts are ranked and mapped to highlight the most disadvantaged areas. The results are analysed at a regional, England and Wales, and Wales only level.

The result is an excellent tool for people working in local, regional and national organisations with an interest in older people or poverty and social exclusion issues.

Help the Aged believes in promoting effective research of high quality, and I hope this Index will lead to an improved level of support being delivered to the most disadvantaged older people.

I would like to congratulate the Social Disadvantage Research Centre at Oxford University on this excellent research, and thank the Department for Work and Pensions for their support.

**Michael Lake CBE**

*Director General, Help the Aged*

## Methodology and indices

For this project, the rate of older people living on income related benefits has been calculated for every ward in England and Wales. Each ward has been given a rank depending on this rate. The ward with the highest rate has been given a rank of 1, and is the 'most disadvantaged' ward.

The rate of older people living on income related benefits was calculated for each ward, **using benefit claimant data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)**. Older people are described in this report as living on income related benefits if they are receiving Income Support (IS – Minimum Income Guarantee) or if they are in receipt of help with their rent and/or council tax through receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Benefit (HB/CTB).

When talking about the Help the Aged Income Index, we are comparing older people aged 65 or over living on income related benefits (ie in receipt of IS or HB/CTB), with the whole population aged 65 or over. It is recognised that some older people eligible for benefits do not claim. This population cannot be addressed by the Index.

Older people in Scotland could not be included in the Income Index due to the lack of accessible data.

*Full details of the methodology and indices are provided in the report.*

## Overview

Income disadvantage among older people is found in electoral wards throughout England and Wales, but can be seen to be particularly concentrated in some areas. All Regions have a range in terms of the rates of older people living on income related benefits, but some Regions have a greater consistency of income disadvantage.

## How many older people living on income related benefits live in England, Wales and the Regions?

There are over 2.5 million older people living on income related benefits across England and Wales. The North West Region is home to the greatest number (almost 370,000 such people). Wales is home to the fewest number (under 150,000) compared with other Regions. **Table 1** shows the total figures.

Table 1: Total number of older people living on income related benefits, by Region

| Region                   | Aged 65+  | Aged 65–74 | Aged 75+  |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| All England and Wales    | 2,530,105 | 1,002,130  | 1,528,230 |
| England                  | 2,381,500 | 940,790    | 1,441,060 |
| Wales                    | 148,605   | 61,340     | 87,170    |
| East                     | 235,045   | 83,500     | 151,675   |
| East Midlands            | 204,575   | 75,860     | 128,940   |
| London                   | 304,965   | 133,930    | 171,055   |
| North East               | 165,695   | 72,860     | 92,840    |
| North West               | 369,710   | 155,565    | 214,055   |
| South East               | 304,270   | 108,240    | 196,130   |
| South West               | 220,595   | 80,475     | 140,065   |
| West Midlands            | 304,405   | 123,170    | 181,265   |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 272,240   | 107,190    | 165,035   |

Note: Because of rounding, the 65–74 and 75+ age groups do not add up to the total for the 65+ age group.

It is important to remember that numbers do not tell the whole story. The Help the Aged Income Index looks at ward-level **rates** of older people living on income related benefits. Rates are the fairest way to compare areas, as they take into account variations in population size. In other words, they measure the proportion of all older people in an area who are living on income related benefits.

### How do the rates of older people living on income related benefits vary across England, Wales and the Regions?

There is a substantial range in the rates of older people living on income related benefits across England and Wales, and within each Region. In the lowest rated ward, less than 2% of older people are living on income related benefits, while in the highest rated ward, over 85% of older people are living on income related benefits. All Regions contain wards with very high rates and wards with very low rates. **Table 2** shows the range of rates across the Regions.

### In which districts are the wards with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits?

Looking at the 20% of wards in England and Wales with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits (a total of 1,855 wards), Hackney, Islington, Manchester and Newham all have over 95% of their wards falling in this bracket. A further 15 districts have 75% or more of their wards in this bracket.

Looking at the districts containing the largest proportion of wards with the most acute levels of income disadvantage – the 1% of wards in England and Wales with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits (a total of 92 wards) – Liverpool, Manchester and Salford top the list by having at least one-fifth of their wards in this most disadvantaged bracket. Almost one-third of the wards in Liverpool fall into this category.

Table 2: Rates of older people living on income related benefits across wards in England and Wales

|                          | Average rate across wards (%) | Lowest rated ward (%) | Highest rated ward (%) | Total number of wards |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| All England and Wales    | 30.5                          | 1.9                   | 85.1                   | 9,279                 |
| England                  | 30.5                          | 1.9                   | 85.1                   | 8,414                 |
| Wales                    | 29.2                          | 4.6                   | 69.9                   | 865                   |
| East                     | 26.8                          | 2.4                   | 58.2                   | 1,192                 |
| East Midlands            | 30.5                          | 3.4                   | 85.1                   | 924                   |
| London                   | 33.6                          | 2.7                   | 77.4                   | 760                   |
| North East               | 39.7                          | 2.6                   | 77.1                   | 504                   |
| North West               | 34.4                          | 4.4                   | 82.2                   | 1,007                 |
| South East               | 23.4                          | 1.9                   | 69.7                   | 1,583                 |
| South West               | 24.1                          | 2.9                   | 64.0                   | 1,147                 |
| West Midlands            | 36.3                          | 4.4                   | 78.7                   | 789                   |
| Yorkshire and the Humber | 34.1                          | 3.8                   | 71.7                   | 508                   |

## Do the wards with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits also have the largest numbers of older people?

Wards with the highest **rates** of older people living on income related benefits tend to contain a larger **population** of older people, than the average for all wards taken together.

## District-level summary measures

The Help the Aged Income Index is a ward-level index. However, in addition to the ward-level results, the Index has been summarised at district level in three different ways. These summaries allow comparisons to be made between districts. Each of the summaries describes information about older people living on income related benefits in districts in a different way, as there is no one way that best describes a district. These three measures are: 'average of ward scores', 'extent' and 'local concentration'. Each district has been given a rank on each of the measures. As with the ward-level index, a rank of 1 indicates the district with the highest score.

### Looking at the average of ward scores

This score simply measures the proportion of each district's older population who are living on income related benefits.

There are seven districts where over 50% of the older people are living on income related benefits. These districts are: Liverpool, Hackney, Islington, Manchester,

Newham, Haringey and Tower Hamlets. Many other districts have over 40% of the older population living on income related benefits. These are very striking figures, as they reveal significant proportions of older people living on income related benefits at district level.

The districts with the highest scores on this measure are concentrated in the North East, the southerly part of the North West, London, Yorkshire and the Humber, some parts of the East Midlands, and south Wales.

### Looking at the extent scores

The extent score considers only the 10% of wards across England and Wales with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits. It measures the proportion of a district's **total** older population (65+) who live in wards that are within this most disadvantaged 10% bracket (927 wards in total). Only districts that have one or more ward in this bracket on the Index have a score. The aim of this measure is to portray how widespread high rates of income disadvantage are for older people within districts.

The districts with the highest ranking on this measure are Hackney and Islington, which have over 95% of their total older population living in wards that rank in the most disadvantaged 10% of all wards.

A further six districts, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Haringey, Manchester, Liverpool and Southwark, all have over 70% of their total older population living in the 10% bracket examined by the extent score. The next eight districts, in terms of ranks, are more spread out in England. These are Wolverhampton, Kingston upon Hull, Birmingham, Gateshead, Sandwell, Coventry, Middlesbrough and Walsall.

## Looking at local concentration scores

This measure considers the rates of older people living on income related benefits in the most disadvantaged wards that contain 10% of the district population. This allows us to see which districts have severe 'pockets' of older people living on income related benefits that might not be identified by an average score for the whole district.

In the district ranked as the most disadvantaged on this measure, Liverpool, 10% of the older people in the district live in wards whose average rate of older people living on income related benefits is 78%. This is extremely high, and shows a great concentration of income disadvantage amongst the older population. Six other districts: Manchester, Middlesbrough, Coventry, Birmingham, Leicester, and Newcastle upon Tyne, have scores of over 70%. This means that 10% of the older people in these districts live in wards whose average rate of older people living on income related benefits is over 70%.

This measure has also highlighted the 'pockets' of high rates of older people living on income related benefits in some other districts, such as Portsmouth and Havant in the South East, Carmarthenshire and Swansea in Wales and Allerdale in the North West.

## Looking at all three measures

Overall, looking across all three measures, Liverpool, Hackney, Islington, Manchester and Newham appear more than once in the top five of the three district-level summary measures that were calculated.

The most disadvantaged districts have predominantly the largest **numbers** of older people living on income related benefits compared with other districts, and not just the highest **rates** of older people living on income related benefits.

**Table 3** shows the districts that rank within the 'top 30' on any of the district-level summary measures.

Table 3: The top 30 districts with the highest ranks on any of the district-level summary measures of the Help the Aged Income Index

| Rank | Average score          | Extent                 | Local concentration     |
|------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1    | Liverpool              | Hackney                | Liverpool               |
| 2    | Hackney                | Islington              | Manchester              |
| 3    | Islington              | Newham                 | Middlesbrough           |
| 4    | Manchester             | Tower Hamlets          | Coventry                |
| 5    | Newham                 | Haringey               | Birmingham              |
| 6    | Haringey               | Manchester             | Leicester               |
| 7    | Tower Hamlets          | Liverpool              | Newcastle upon Tyne     |
| 8    | Coventry               | Southwark              | Blackburn with Darwen   |
| 9    | Birmingham             | Wolverhampton          | Salford                 |
| 10   | Wolverhampton          | Hull                   | Hartlepool              |
| 11   | Gateshead              | Birmingham             | Brent                   |
| 12   | Hartlepool             | Gateshead              | Haringey                |
| 13   | Southwark              | Sandwell               | Wolverhampton           |
| 14   | Hull                   | Coventry               | Bolton                  |
| 15   | Salford                | Middlesbrough          | Havant                  |
| 16   | Leicester              | Walsall                | Leeds                   |
| 17   | Tameside               | Salford                | North Tyneside          |
| 18   | Sandwell               | Leicester              | Bradford                |
| 19   | Easington              | Wear Valley            | Gateshead               |
| 20   | Derwentside            | Blackburn with Darwen  | Islington               |
| 21   | Middlesbrough          | North Tyneside         | Oldham                  |
| 22   | Blackburn with Darwen  | Mansfield              | North East Lincolnshire |
| 23   | Newcastle upon Tyne    | Hammersmith and Fulham | Hackney                 |
| 24   | Brent                  | Hartlepool             | Newham                  |
| 25   | Walsall                | Derwentside            | High Peak               |
| 26   | Blyth Valley           | Tameside               | Stockton-on-Tees        |
| 27   | Sunderland             | Telford and Wrekin     | Halton                  |
| 28   | Sedgefield             | Easington              | Greenwich               |
| 29   | Hammersmith and Fulham | Blyth Valley           | Sandwell                |
| 30   | Mansfield              | Newcastle upon Tyne    | Hull                    |

## Focus on Wales

**Table 4** shows the ranks of the district-level summaries for the Help the Aged Income Index specifically for Wales.

The average rate across wards in Wales for older people living on income related benefits is almost the same as in England. In Wales, 29.2% of older people are living on income related benefits while in England the figure is 30.5%.

Welsh districts do not feature when looking at the top 20 districts in England and Wales which have the highest proportions of wards in the most disadvantaged 10 or 20% of all wards on the Index. In Wales, the most disadvantaged wards on the Help the Aged Income Index are spread between many of the districts, whereas in England,

high rates of older people living on income related benefits are more clustered in particular districts.

However, over half (56.3%) of the wards in Blaenau Gwent fall into the top 20% of wards in England and Wales (1,855 wards) with the highest proportions of older people living on income related benefits. Similarly, over a quarter (27.3%) of the wards in Merthyr Tydfil rank within the top 10% of wards in England and Wales (927 wards) with the highest proportions of older people living on income related benefits.

Overall, Merthyr Tydfil, Carmarthenshire, Swansea, Wrexham and Rhondda, Cynon, Taff, dominate the top five ranks of the district-level summary measures of older people living on income related benefits in Wales.

Table 4: The ranks of the districts on the district-level summary measures for Wales

| Rank | Average score         | Extent               | Local concentration   |
|------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | Merthyr Tydfil        | Merthyr Tydfil       | Carmarthenshire       |
| 2    | Blaenau Gwent         | Carmarthenshire      | Swansea               |
| 3    | Caerphilly            | Wrexham              | Wrexham               |
| 4    | Rhondda, Cynon, Taff  | Swansea              | Rhondda, Cynon, Taff  |
| 5    | Torfaen               | Cardiff              | Merthyr Tydfil        |
| 6    | Wrexham               | Caerphilly           | Cardiff               |
| 7    | Swansea               | Torfaen              | Newport               |
| 8    | Carmarthenshire       | Flintshire           | Torfaen               |
| 9    | Neath Port Talbot     | Denbighshire         | Caerphilly            |
| 10   | Flintshire            | Rhondda, Cynon, Taff | Flintshire            |
| 11   | Cardiff               | Newport              | Blaenau Gwent         |
| 12   | Newport               | Blaenau Gwent        | Denbighshire          |
| 13   | Isle of Anglesey      | Isle of Anglesey     | Gwynedd               |
| 14   | Denbighshire          | Pembrokeshire        | Isle of Anglesey      |
| 15   | Gwynedd               | Gwynedd              | Pembrokeshire         |
| 16   | Bridgend              |                      | Neath Port Talbot     |
| 17   | Pembrokeshire         |                      | The Vale of Glamorgan |
| 18   | Conwy                 |                      | Powys                 |
| 19   | The Vale of Glamorgan |                      | Bridgend              |
| 20   | Powys                 |                      | Conwy                 |
| 21   | Monmouthshire         |                      | Monmouthshire         |
| 22   | Ceredigion            |                      | Ceredigion            |

Note: Bridgend, Ceredigion, Conwy, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Powys and The Vale of Glamorgan, do not have an extent score as they have no ward in the most disadvantaged 10% of all wards in England and Wales.

## Older people living alone on income related benefits

There are two ways of expressing the proportion of older people living alone on income related benefits. The first is to calculate the proportion of older people living alone on income related benefits, out of **all older people** in a ward. The second is to look at the number of older people living alone as a proportion of the **older people living on income related benefits**.

Across England and Wales 20.2% of all older people live alone on income related benefits. The 10% of wards in England and Wales with the highest rates of older people living alone on income related benefits compared to all older people, have rates ranging from 31 to 62%. This compares with a range of rates in the next most disadvantaged 10% of wards of 26 to 31%. These figures clearly show that the most disadvantaged wards have very acute levels of income disadvantage. **Table 5** shows the 20 districts with the highest proportion of their wards in the top 10%.

Over 80% of wards in Hackney, Islington, Manchester and Liverpool fall into the 10% of all wards in England and Wales with the highest rates of older people living alone on income related benefits, compared to **all** older people. Some smaller districts such as Lincoln and Mansfield in the East Midlands also have high proportions of their wards in the top 10%.

The North East and London have the highest proportions of older people living

alone on income related benefits, compared with all older people, judged by the average rates in these Regions.

Cardiff has 25% of its wards in the top 10% bracket for older people living alone on income related benefits compared with **all** older people. This shows that wards with high rates are not as clustered in particular districts in Wales as in many districts in England, where Hackney has 96% of its wards in the top bracket on this rate.

Table 5: Top 20 districts containing the highest proportion of wards which fall into the top 10% bracket in terms of the rate of older people living alone on income related benefits, as a proportion of all older people

| District                  | Region        | Number of wards in the top 10% on the measure | Total number of wards in the district | Proportion of wards in the top 10% (%) |
|---------------------------|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Hackney                 | London        | 22  | 23                                    | 96                                     |
| 2 Islington               | London        | 19  | 20                                    | 95                                     |
| 3 Manchester              | North West    | 29  | 33                                    | 88                                     |
| 4 Liverpool               | North West    | 27  | 33                                    | 82                                     |
| 5 Southwark               | London        | 18  | 25                                    | 72                                     |
| 6 Newham                  | London        | 17  | 24                                    | 71                                     |
| 7 Haringey                | London        | 16  | 23                                    | 70                                     |
| 8 Easington               | North East    | 18  | 26                                    | 69                                     |
| 9 Coventry                | West Midlands | 11  | 18                                    | 61                                     |
| 10 Middlesbrough          | North East    | 15  | 25                                    | 60                                     |
| 11 Salford                | North West    | 12  | 20                                    | 60                                     |
| 12 Birmingham             | West Midlands | 23  | 39                                    | 59                                     |
| 13 Sunderland             | North East    | 14  | 25                                    | 56                                     |
| 14 Lincoln                | East Midlands | 6   | 11                                    | 55                                     |
| 15 Lambeth                | London        | 11  | 22                                    | 50                                     |
| 16 Blackburn with Darwen  | North West    | 11  | 22                                    | 50                                     |
| 17 Mansfield              | East Midlands | 9   | 18                                    | 50                                     |
| 18 Hammersmith and Fulham | London        | 11  | 23                                    | 48                                     |
| 20 Leicester*             | East Midlands | 13  | 28                                    | 46                                     |
| 20 Camden*                | London        | 12  | 26                                    | 46                                     |

\* These districts hold joint 20th place.

## What proportion of older people living on income related benefits live alone?

In Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea – the two highest ranked districts on this measure – over 70% of the wards are in the top 10% of all wards in England and Wales in terms of older people living **alone** on income related benefits (out of all older people living on income related benefits). Although there are not large numbers of older people living alone on income related benefits in these districts, those who are income disadvantaged tend to be living alone.

## The 65–74 and 75+ age groups

### How do the age groups compare in terms of income disadvantage?

The most prominent distinction between the two age groups is the considerably greater rates of older people living on income related benefits for the 75+ group than for the 65–74 group. Nearly 39% of people aged 75+ are living on income related benefits compared with 23% for the 65–74 age group, with the average for the whole older population aged 65+ being 30.5%.

At Regional level, average rates of income disadvantage for the 65–74 age group range from 16.3% (South East Region) to 31.6% (North East Region), while the average rate for the 75+ age group ranges from 30.8% (South East and South West Regions) to 49.8% (North East Region).

### How do the age groups compare in terms of living alone on income related benefits?

In the 75+ age group, much higher proportions of older people living on income related benefits are living alone (compared to **all** people aged 75 or over) than in the 65–74 age group, and than the overall figure for all people over 65. Indeed across England and Wales 28.5% of people aged 75+ live alone on income related benefits (as a proportion of all people aged 75+). This is compared with 12.7% of people aged 65–74 (as a proportion of all people aged 65–74).

In the most disadvantaged ward in terms of people aged 75+ living alone on income related benefits (taken as a proportion of all people aged 75+), 74% of this group are living alone on income related benefits. However, in the same ward, only 52% of 65–74-year-old people are living alone on income related benefits.

### Where are the wards with the highest rates of people aged 75+ who are living alone on income related benefits?

The district of Easington, in the North East Region, has 88% of its wards amongst the 927 wards with the highest rates of people aged 75+ living alone on income related benefits (as a proportion of all people aged 75+). This shows that high rates of people aged 75+ living alone on income related benefits are widespread across wards in this district. Five other districts also have over 70% of their wards in the top 10% on this measure, showing a marked incline from the other districts.

Table 6: Top 20 districts with the highest proportions of wards in the most disadvantaged 10% of all wards in terms of people aged 75+ living alone on income related benefits

| District               | Region        | Number of wards in the most disadvantaged 10% of wards | Total number of wards | Proportion of wards in the most disadvantaged 10% of wards (%) |
|------------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Easington            | North East    | 23   | 26                    | 88   |
| 2 Liverpool            | North West    | 27   | 33                    | 82   |
| 3 Sunderland           | North East    | 20   | 25                    | 80   |
| 4 Manchester           | North West    | 26   | 33                    | 79   |
| 5 Mansfield            | East Midlands | 14   | 18                    | 78   |
| 6 Derwentside          | North East    | 17   | 23                    | 74   |
| 7 Hackney              | London        | 15   | 23                    | 65   |
| 8 Islington            | London        | 12   | 20                    | 60   |
| 9 Walsall              | West Midlands | 12   | 20                    | 60   |
| 10 Gateshead           | North East    | 13   | 22                    | 59   |
| 11 Coventry            | West Midlands | 10   | 18                    | 56   |
| 12 Blyth Valley        | North East    | 10   | 18                    | 56   |
| 13 Salford             | North West    | 11   | 20                    | 55   |
| 14 Wolverhampton       | West Midlands | 11   | 20                    | 55   |
| 15 Lincoln             | East Midlands | 6  | 11                    | 55   |
| 16 Birmingham          | West Midlands | 21   | 39                    | 54   |
| 17 Newcastle upon Tyne | North East    | 14   | 26                    | 54   |
| 18 Haringey            | London        | 12   | 23                    | 52   |
| 20 Sandwell*           | West Midlands | 12   | 24                    | 50   |
| 20 South Tyneside*     | North East    | 10   | 20                    | 50   |

\*These districts hold joint 20th place.

## Comparing the Help the Aged Income Index with the Indices of Deprivation 2000 for England and the Index of Multiple Deprivation for Wales

The Help the Aged Income Index can be compared to the Income Domain of the Indices of Deprivation 2000 for England (ID 2000) and that of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (Welsh IMD). It is important to remember that these indices measure income deprivation in the whole population, whereas the Help the Aged Income Index is only concerned with older people living on income related benefits, and this will affect any comparison, as will the different dates of the indices and the data used in them.

### How similar are the results for the Help the Aged Income Index to those of the Income Domain of the ID 2000 for England?

Looking at the most disadvantaged 10% of **English** wards in the Help the Aged Index (those wards with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits), 68% also feature in the most disadvantaged 10% of the Income Domain of the ID 2000, indicating a strong correlation. However, the match decreases when you compare income disadvantage in the population aged 75+ with the results of the ID 2000 Income Domain.

### Where do the results of the Help the Aged Income Index and the Income Domain for the ID 2000 for England differ?

When looking at wards which fall into the most disadvantaged 10% of all wards in England on the Income Domain of the ID 2000 and the Help the Aged Income Index, nine districts have 25% or more of their wards not 'matching', ie they fall into the most disadvantaged 10% of wards on the Help the Aged Income Index, but not on the Income Domain of the ID 2000. In several of these districts the proportion of older people in the population is amongst the lowest in England. This suggests that in these areas, income disadvantaged older people were captured by the Income Domain of the ID 2000, but that they did not have the same impact on the ID 2000 Income Domain results as other sectors of the population in their area, who may or may not be income disadvantaged.

**Table 7** shows the 15 districts with the highest proportion of their wards in the Help the Aged Income Index's most disadvantaged 10% but **not** the ID 2000 Income Domain's most disadvantaged 10%.

Table 7: The 15 highest ranked districts by proportion of wards falling in the most disadvantaged 10% on the Help the Aged Income Index and NOT in the most disadvantaged 10% of the Income Domain of the ID 2000

| District                  | Region        | Number of wards in most disadvantaged 10% of the Help the Aged Income Index but NOT the most disadvantaged 10% of the Income Domain | Total number of wards in district | Proportion of wards in most disadvantaged 10% of the Help the Aged Income Index but NOT the most disadvantaged 10% of the Income Domain (%) |
|---------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Islington               | London        | 8   | 20                                | 40.0  |
| 2 Nuneaton and Bedworth   | West Midlands | 5   | 15                                | 33.3  |
| 3 Coventry                | West Midlands | 5   | 18                                | 27.8  |
| 4 Lincoln                 | East Midlands | 3   | 11                                | 27.3  |
| 5 Gateshead               | North East    | 6   | 22                                | 27.3  |
| 6 Telford and Wrekin      | West Midlands | 9   | 34                                | 26.5  |
| 7 Tameside                | North West    | 5   | 19                                | 26.3  |
| 8 Ipswich                 | East          | 4   | 16                                | 25.0  |
| 9 Barking and Dagenham    | London        | 5   | 20                                | 25.0  |
| 10 Brent                  | London        | 7   | 31                                | 22.6  |
| 11 Mansfield              | East Midlands | 4   | 18                                | 22.2  |
| 12 Haringey               | London        | 5   | 23                                | 21.7  |
| 13 Hammersmith and Fulham | London        | 5   | 23                                | 21.7  |
| 14 Derwentside            | North East    | 5   | 23                                | 21.7  |
| 15 Broxbourne             | East          | 3   | 14                                | 21.4  |

### How do the district-level summary measures of the Help the Aged Index and the ID 2000 for England compare?

Of the 43 districts that appear in the 'top 30' in one or more of the Help the Aged Income Index district-level summaries, 27 also appear in one or more of the 'top 30' district-level summaries for the ID 2000. Sixteen districts appear in the Help the Aged 'top 30', but not those for the ID 2000; these districts are: High Peak, Havant, Blyth Valley, Hammersmith and Fulham, North East Lincolnshire, Telford and Wrekin, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Derwentside, Coventry, Mansfield, Brent, Greenwich, Sedgefield, Tameside and Leeds.

### How does the Help the Aged Income Index compare to the Income Domain of the Welsh IMD?

In **Wales**, the match between wards in the most disadvantaged 10% of wards in Wales on the Help the Aged Income Index and the Welsh IMD Income Domain was strongest in Merthyr Tydfil, with 27% of wards in both indices' most disadvantaged 10%. Nineteen per cent of wards in Wrexham were in the Help the Aged Income Index's most disadvantaged 10% but not that of the Welsh IMD Income Domain.

## Conclusion

Older people are living on income related benefits throughout England and Wales. In every ward, some older people are claiming IS or HB/CTB, and in the most disadvantaged wards, very high proportions of older people are living on income related benefits, creating areas of acute disadvantage.

In every Region there is a wide variation between the ward with the highest rate of older people living on income related benefits, and the ward with the lowest rate. Many districts also show a considerable variation across their ward rates, showing that districts can be quite heterogeneous. However, some districts emerge as much more homogeneous, with many of their wards showing high levels of disadvantage.

The Help the Aged Income Index provides valuable information about the distribution and extent of older people living on income related benefits across England and Wales. This information will be vital to policy makers, charitable organisations and local authorities in prioritising the help they give to disadvantaged older people. The robust methodology used to construct the Index means that it is able to give a rate for every ward in England and Wales, to be used to address the disadvantage of older people.

## Maps of the district-level summaries of the Income Index

The Regions described in the Income Index are the Government Office Regions identified in the map on p14.

### Map 1: England and Wales average score district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index

The districts with the highest scores on this measure (the most disadvantaged deciles) are concentrated in the North East, the southerly part of the North West, London, Yorkshire and the Humber, some parts of the East Midlands and south Wales. The North East is particularly striking as most of its districts are in the most disadvantaged 50% of the distribution, showing consistently high rates of older people living on income related benefits within the Region.

### Map 2: England and Wales extent district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index

From this map it is clear that in some Regions, such as the North East, North West and London, most of the districts register a score on the extent measure, showing that they have at least one ward that falls into the 10% of all wards with the highest rates of older people living on income related benefits. The most disadvantaged districts in terms of this measure are concentrated in London, North East, North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. Some areas such as the South East and the East Regions have many fewer districts with a score, and those that do score, do not have such high levels of disadvantage.

### Map 3: England and Wales local concentration district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index

The map shows a similar pattern to the distribution of the average score measure, with the North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, London and the West Midlands containing districts with the highest scores (the most disadvantaged deciles).

## Government Office Regions in England and Wales



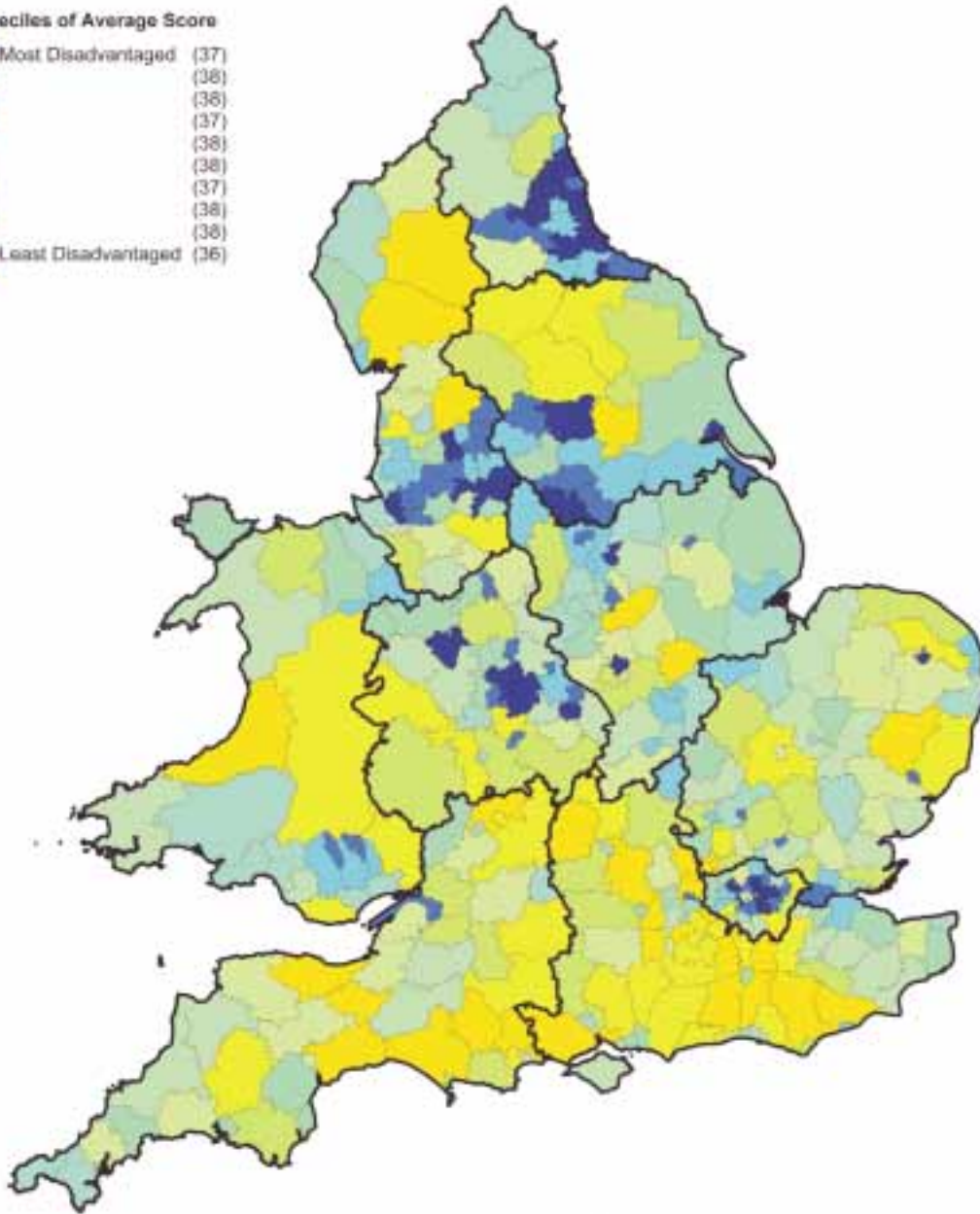
Crown Copyright - Census Digital Boundaries

Scale 1: 2 000 000



Map 1

England and Wales: **average score** district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index 2003



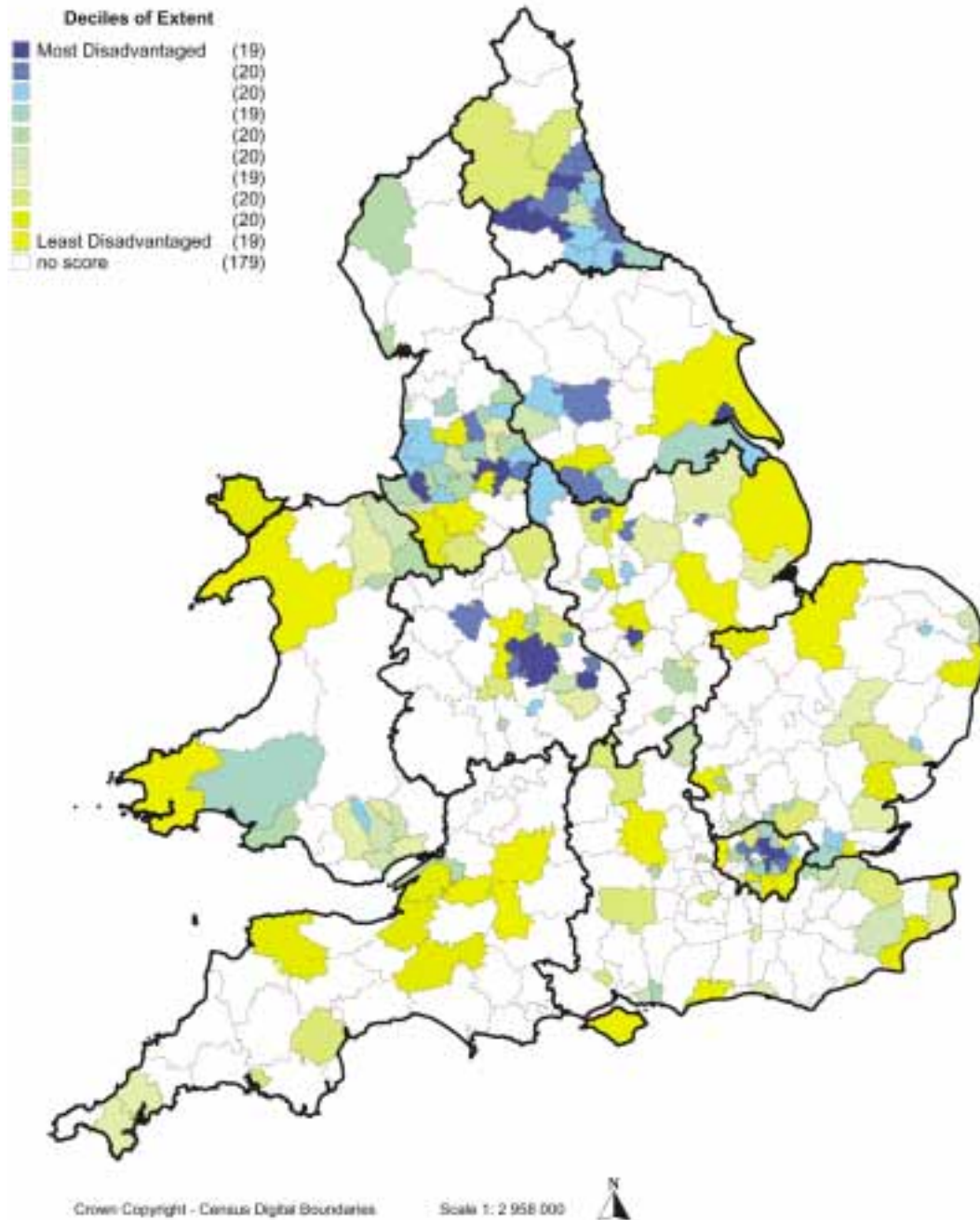
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Scale 1: 2 958 000



## Map 2

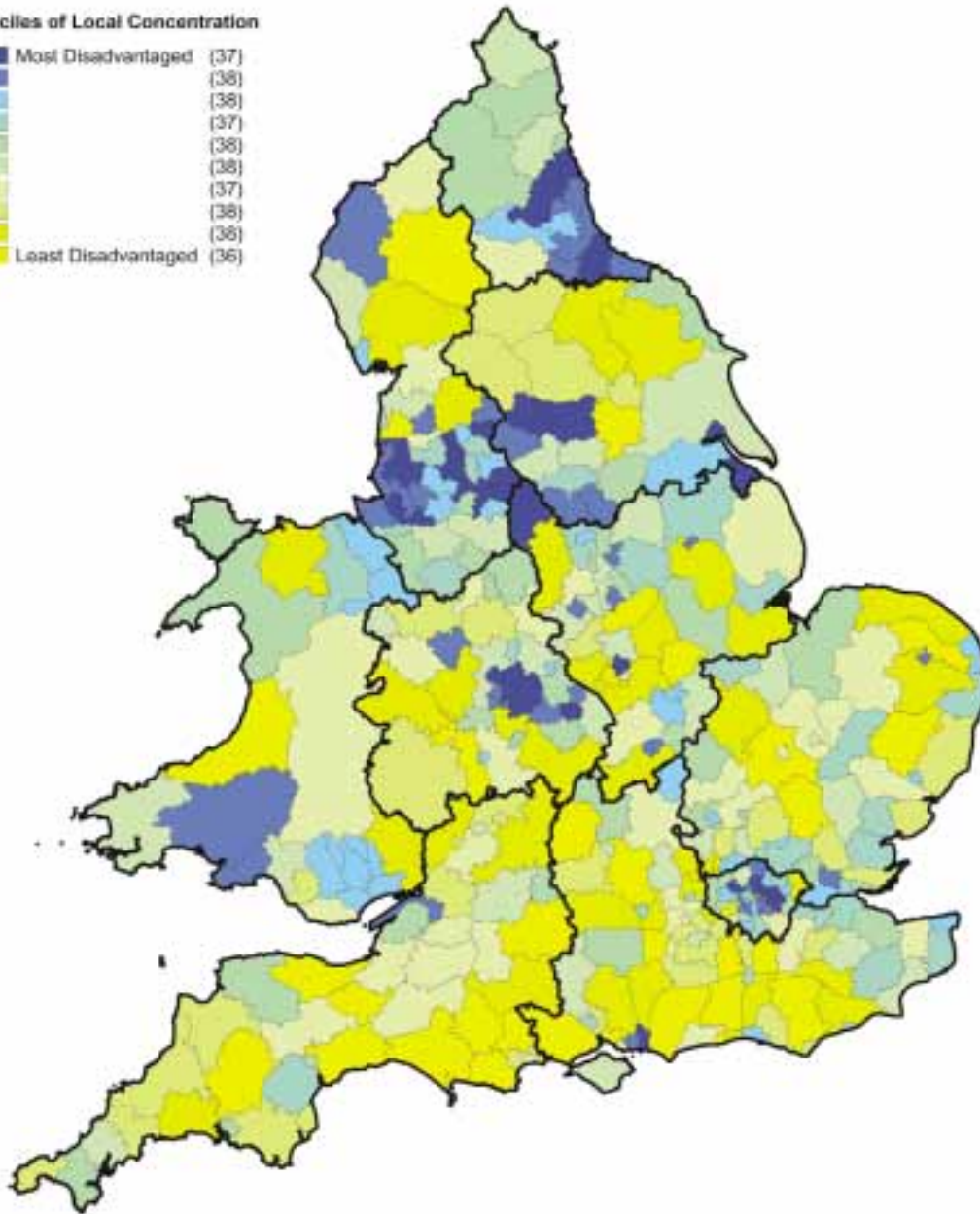
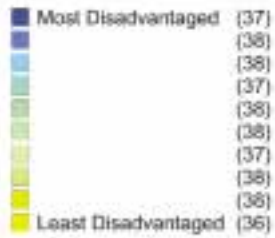
### England and Wales: **extent** district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index 2003



Map 3

England and Wales: **local concentration** district-level summary of the Help the Aged Income Index 2003

Deciles of Local Concentration



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Scale 1: 2 958 000



## Important notes

The Help the Aged Income Index measures the differences in rates of older people living on income related benefits at a ward level and, within a ward with a very high rate, there will still be some individuals who are not living on income related benefits. Similarly, within a ward with a low rate, there will still be some individuals living on income related benefits. It must be emphasised that there is no absolute cut-off point which marks the start of disadvantage, and every ward will contain some older people living on income related benefits.

It is important to remember that in the wards with the lowest rates of older people living on income related benefits, the rates may be distorted by missing data, as explained in the introduction to the main report, *Older people count: The Help the Aged Income Index for older people in England and Wales 2003*. For example, if a district has not provided Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit data to the data suppliers for this project, the rates on the Help the Aged Income Index for the wards in that district, and the district-level summary scores, will be erroneously low, showing them to have very low levels of older people living on income related benefits.

A comprehensive listing of the Income Index ranks for all wards in every district can be found on the Help the Aged Income Index 2003 CD-ROM, which accompanies the report. This also includes details of the district-level summary measures and older people living alone on income related benefits, as well as information on the methodology and analysis.



Other measures of income disadvantage are available for England and Wales but none of them focuses on just older people. The Help the Aged Income Index is a vital addition to our knowledge about income disadvantage in the older population in England and Wales.

*Older people count: The Help the Aged Income Index for older people in England and Wales 2003* is an invaluable tool for targeting initiatives at older people who can be considered to be particularly disadvantaged.

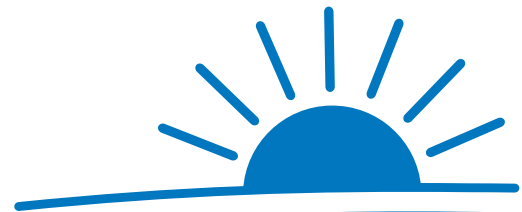
*Older people count* is available at £40 from Jenny Havis, Publications, Help the Aged, 207–221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ.

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Working for a future where older people  
are highly valued, have lives that are richer  
and voices that are heard.