

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index

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Aims of Briefing

This briefing will provide a summary of the updated Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), one of the supplementary indices published alongside the Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IoD25). It will also explain what the key findings of the IDACI are in relation to West Sussex as a whole, for its district and boroughs and across small areas.

Background

The Indices of Deprivation (IoD25) measures relative deprivation (how deprived one area is compared with another) in small areas, known as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs), across England. Each LSOA represents an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2025).

The IoD25 draws on a range of indicators which are organised into seven distinct domains: Income, Employment, Education, Health, Crime, Barriers to Housing and Services and Living Environment (Francis-Devine, 2025). These domains are combined and weighted together to form the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD25), the official measure of deprivation in England (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025).

Each small area is ranked from most (1) to least deprived (33,755) according to their level of multiple deprivation relative to that of other areas. They are then commonly grouped into deciles or quintiles for easier comparison (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2025). In addition to the seven domains, two supplementary indices have also been updated:

- IDACI - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)
- IDAOP - Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOP)

You can find further information about the IoD25 across small areas of West Sussex on the [deprivation section of the JSNA site](#).

What is the IDACI?

The IDACI measures the proportion of all children (0-15) living in income-deprived families across neighbourhoods in England (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025). It is a subset of the Income Domain, which measures the proportion of the population in an area receiving certain means-tested state benefits, including Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Pension Credit (Guarantee type) or specific levels of Universal Credit (Brooks, 2025; Noble et al., 2025), amongst others.

You can find further information on the specific means-tested benefits or tax included within the income domain in [section 4.3 of the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 technical report](#).

What does the IDACI tell us about West Sussex?

Overall, West Sussex ranked 119th of 153 upper-tier authorities in England on the IDACI (with 1 being the most deprived), with 28.1% of children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. In comparison, neighbouring East Sussex ranked 85th and Brighton and Hove ranked 98th, with 36.0% and 31.9% of children living in income deprived families respectively. Surrey and Hampshire both have lower proportions of children living in income deprivation (19.5% and 24.0% respectively).

Good to know

The IoD25 provides several different ways to explore ranks among larger geographies (e.g. local authority districts and upper tier local authorities). The ranks reported here are based on 'average score' rather than 'average rank'. Average score gives more weight to extremes (i.e. areas containing highly deprived LSOAs), so highly polarised areas will tend to score more highly on this measure. The ranks reported here may therefore differ from elsewhere due to the choice of measure used.

Within the county, Crawley is the most deprived local authority district (ranked 91st of 296) and Mid Sussex is the least deprived (ranked 277th). More than a third of 0- to 15-year-old children in Crawley (39.2%) and Arun (34.8%) are living in income deprived families.

Four neighbourhoods in West Sussex (0.7% of the county total) are among the 10% of small areas nationally with the highest percentage of children living in income-deprived families (indicated by the darkest blue areas in Figure 2). These include two neighbourhoods in Arun, one in Chichester and one in Worthing (see Table 2). Within these small areas, more than two-thirds of children are living in income deprived families.

Across the county, the proportion of children living in income deprived families ranged from 2.6% (Chichester 001A, within Fernhurst ward) to 73.1% (Chichester 011B, within Chichester West ward). Table 8 in the Appendices provides a list of all small areas in West Sussex among the 20% most deprived nationally on the IDACI.

Table 1 Lower Super Output Areas (2021) in West Sussex within the 10% of small areas nationally with the highest percentage of children living in income-deprived households

LSOA Code 2021	LAD	Ward Name 2024*	IDACI 2025	
			Score	Decile
E01031493	Chichester	Chichester West	73.1%	1
E01031779	Worthing	Broadwater	68.2%	1
E01031427	Arun	Courtwick with Toddington	67.5%	1
E01031432	Arun	Hotham	66.7%	1

Note. *Lower super output areas have been ‘best fit’ to ward boundaries to give a sense of ‘place’. However, it is important to note that these geographies are not coterminous, which means their boundaries do not match exactly.

Conclusion

This briefing aimed to provide a summary of the updated Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), published alongside the Indices of Deprivation 2025 (IoD25), and what this tells us about West Sussex.

Overall, West Sussex ranked 119th of 153 upper-tier authorities in England on the IDACI with 28.1% of children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families. Within the county, more than a third of 0- to 15-year-old children in Crawley (39.2%) and Arun (34.8%) are living in income deprived families.

By focusing specifically on income deprivation amongst children, the IDACI can help local authorities to identify areas of need which could inform the delivery of funding and support for families (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2022). However, it is important to note that the IDACI is an area-based, relative measure of deprivation (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025).

This means that not every child living in a deprived area will be deprived and not every child living in the least deprived area will be affluent.

Further information

To find out more information about deprivation in your area, visit the [Local Deprivation Explorer tool](#).

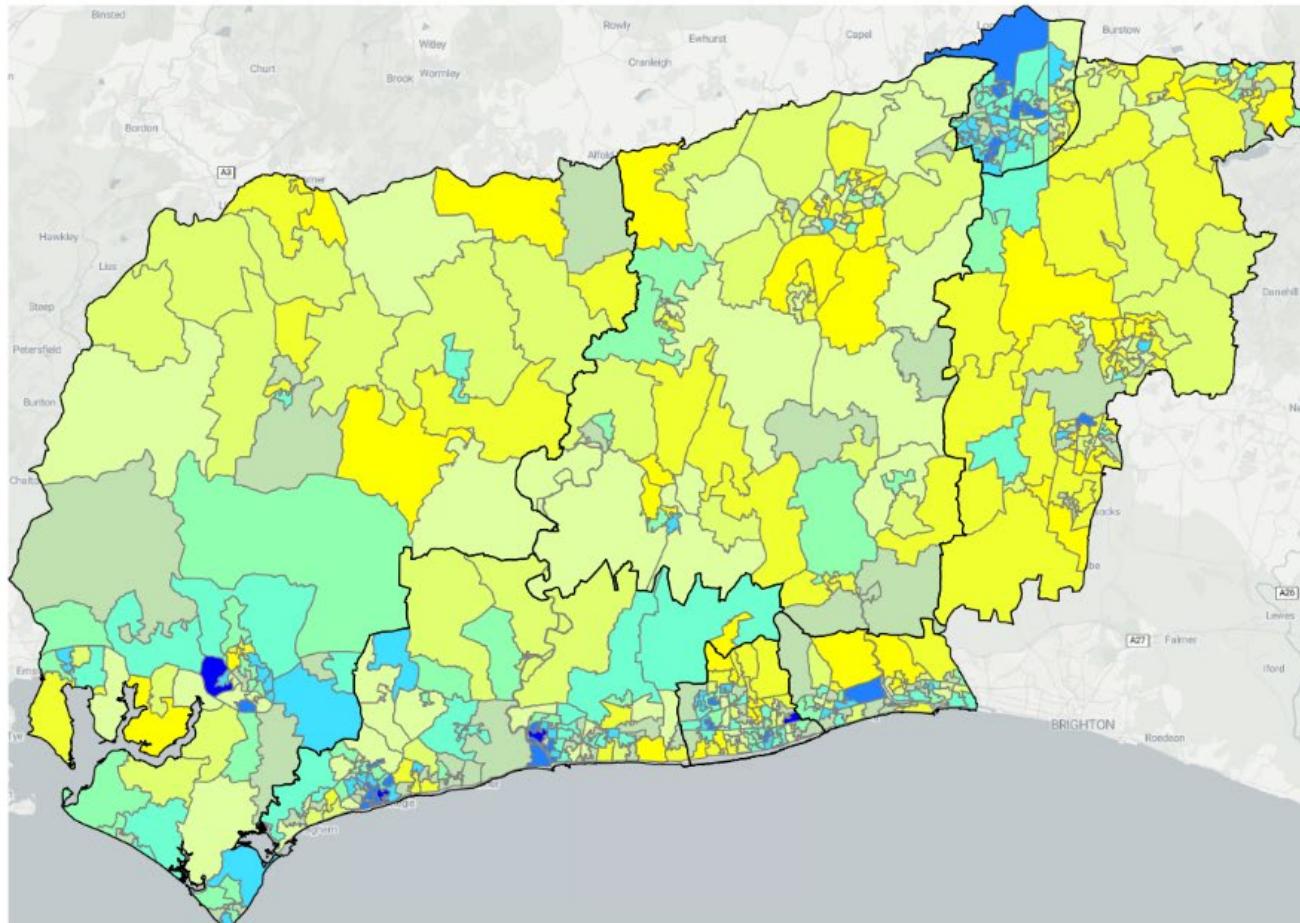
To find out more about the Indices of deprivation 2025 overall, read the [English indices of deprivation 2025: statistical release](#).

To find out more about the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and what this tells us about West Sussex, read the [IMD 2025 briefing for West Sussex on the JSNA site](#).

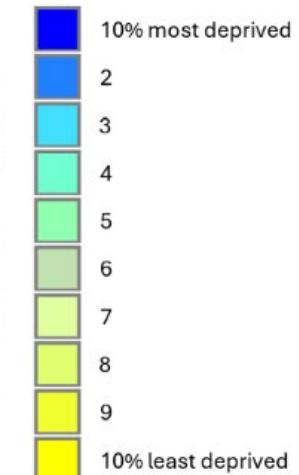
To find out more information on child poverty by coastal and non-coastal geographies in West Sussex, read the [Child poverty briefing on the JSNA site](#).

Figure 1: Lower Super Output Areas (2021) in West Sussex by national deprivation quintile: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2025

Small areas are 2021 Lower Super Output Areas; 2025 Local Authority District boundaries are also shown



Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)



Office for National Statistics: OpenGeography (via Open Government Licence v3.0)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: English Indices of Deprivation 2025 (via Open Government Licence v3.0)

References

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Appendices

Table 2: Lower super output areas in West Sussex that are among the 20% most deprived areas nationally on the IDACI 2025

Note. Scores reflect the proportion of children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.

LSOA21CD	LSOA21NM	LAD24NM	WD24NM	Score	Rank	Decile
E01031493	Chichester 011B	Chichester	Chichester West	73.1%	1780	1
E01031779	Worthing 009A	Worthing	Broadwater	68.2%	2700	1
E01031427	Arun 004A	Arun	Courtwick with Toddington	67.5%	2841	1
E01031432	Arun 017B	Arun	Hotham	66.7%	3009	1
E01031404	Arun 014A	Arun	Bersted	65.0%	3407	2
E01031558	Crawley 013D	Crawley	Broadfield	64.4%	3554	2
E01031429	Arun 004B	Arun	Courtwick with Toddington	64.4%	3571	2
E01031444	Arun 016B	Arun	Orchard	63.6%	3760	2
E01031705	Mid Sussex 014A	Mid Sussex	Burgess Hill Leylands	63.4%	3805	2
E01031453	Arun 017F	Arun	Marine	62.3%	4105	2
E01031436	Arun 017D	Arun	Marine	61.9%	4193	2
E01031454	Arun 011C	Arun	River	61.9%	4206	2
E01031790	Worthing 010A	Worthing	Central	61.3%	4366	2
E01031433	Arun 014B	Arun	Hotham	60.8%	4475	2
E01031358	Adur 007A	Adur	Mash Barn	58.7%	5100	2
E01031573	Crawley 001A	Crawley	Langley Green & Tushmore	56.2%	5859	2
E01031576	Crawley 001D	Crawley	Langley Green & Tushmore	56.2%	5876	2
E01031585	Crawley 004C	Crawley	Northgate & West Green	55.2%	6188	2
E01031575	Crawley 001C	Crawley	Langley Green & Tushmore	55.1%	6215	2
E01031783	Worthing 006A	Worthing	Castle	54.5%	6418	2
E01031559	Crawley 013E	Crawley	Broadfield	54.5%	6440	2
E01031552	Crawley 013A	Crawley	Broadfield	54.4%	6475	2
E01031795	Worthing 003C	Worthing	Durrington	54.3%	6507	2
E01031492	Chichester 012B	Chichester	Chichester South	54.1%	6581	2
E01031437	Arun 017E	Arun	Marine	53.9%	6647	2
E01032836	Crawley 004G	Crawley	Three Bridges	53.8%	6664	2