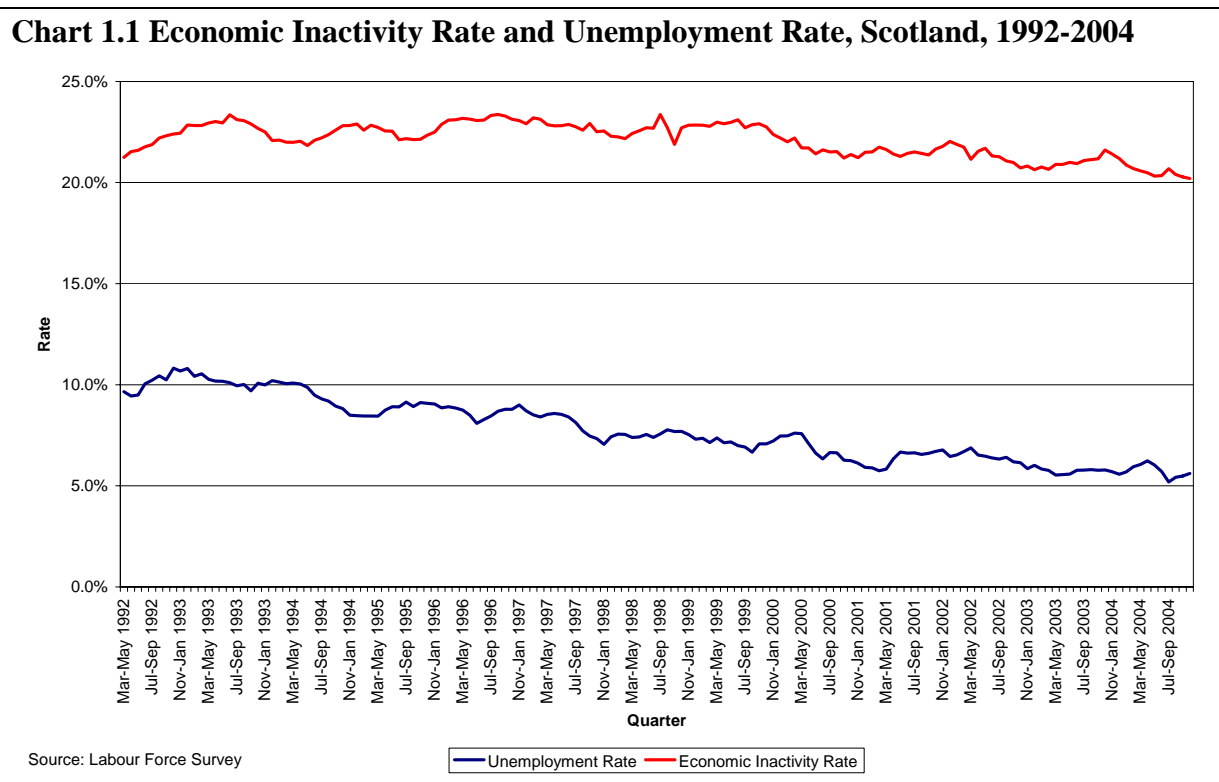


Workless Client Group – Background Information on Characteristics and Geographic Breakdown

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1. Background

1. In December 2004 the Scottish Executive announced the introduction of 10 Closing the Opportunity Gap (CtOG) targets. Target A is to reduce the number of working age people claiming key benefits in 7 Local Authorities in Scotland. The employability framework will support the delivery of this target along with helping to reduce the level of worklessness in Scotland in general.
2. The workless population which the CtOG target is interested in are those who are unemployed and those who are claiming inactive benefits. The majority of this paper will look at all unemployed and economically inactive people as it is often not possible to determine whether people are claiming benefits with the sources available.
3. Chart 1.1 below shows the economic inactivity rate¹ and unemployment rate² for Scotland from 1992 to 2004. The chart clearly shows that although the unemployment rate has reduced considerably over the last 10 years or so, the economic inactivity rate has only dropped slightly remaining at above 20% in the latest quarter.



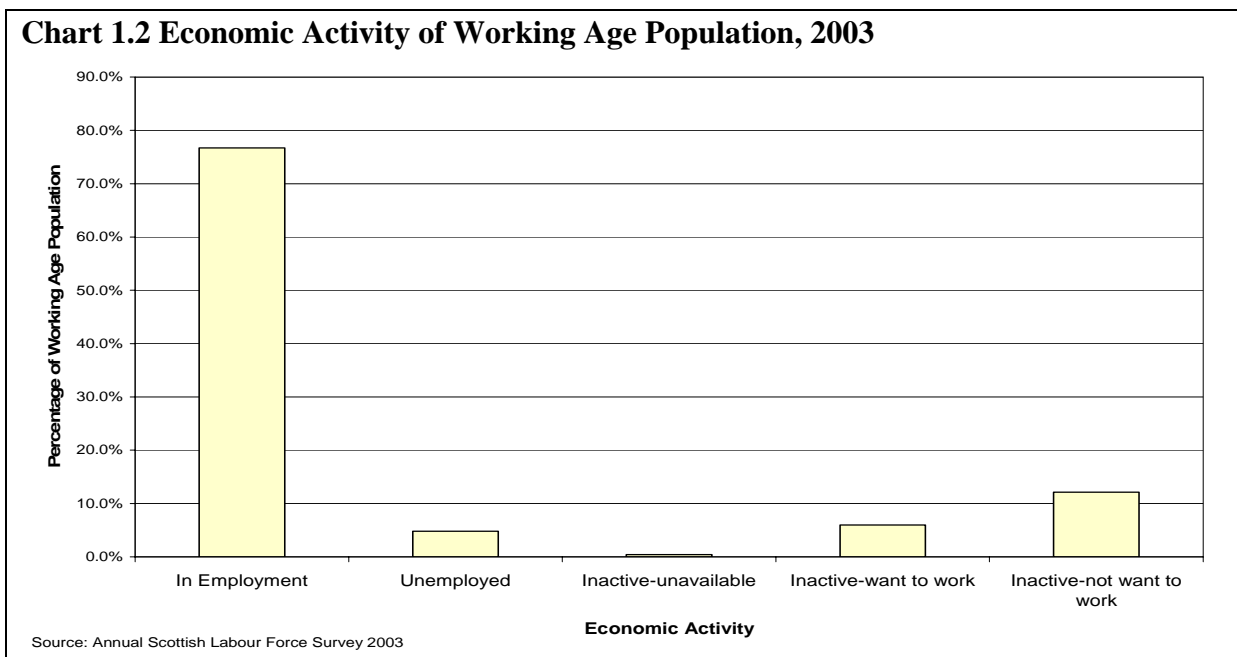
¹ Working age

² As a proportion of the economically active population, 16+

4. As mentioned earlier it is not always possible to identify the workless group claiming benefits. However using the Labour Force Survey (LFS) it is possible to get a measure of the different types of economic activity. The economic activity indicator in the LFS can be broken down into 5 main categories. Note that for the majority of analysis in this paper students will be removed as they can often distort the characteristics of the economically inactive population. The five categories are:

- In employment
- Unemployed
- Economically inactive – Seeking employment but currently unavailable
- Economically inactive – Not Seeking but would like to work
- Economically inactive – Not Seeking and would not like to work

5. The last three categories can be broken down into more detailed categories which give reasons for being in these categories such as sick or disabled, student or looking after family/home. Chart 1.2 below shows the proportion of the working age population³ which fall into each of the 5 categories.

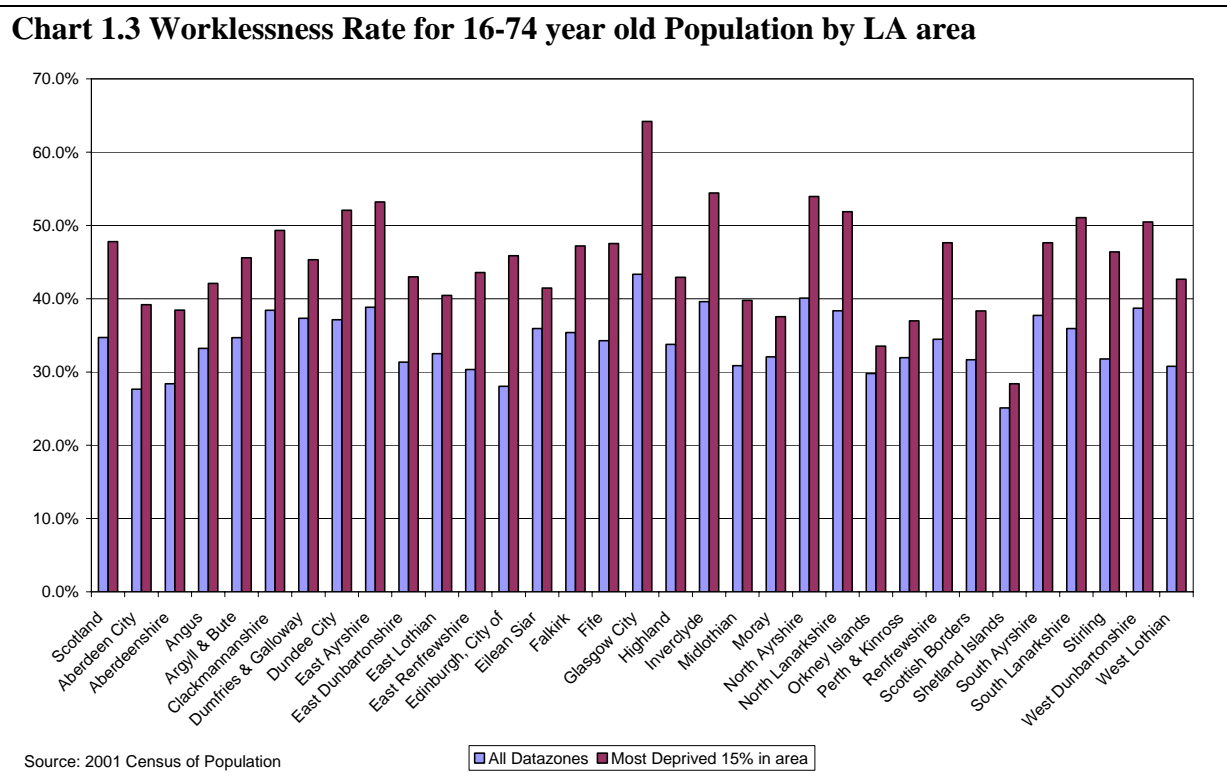


6. Chart 1.2 shows that the vast majority of the working age population are in employment at over 73%. 4.6% of the working age population are unemployed and only 22% of the working age population are economically inactive. Of those who are inactive just over a half do not want to work (approximately 12% of all working age people). For the purposes of this paper the interest lies in the inactive and unemployed groups but for some of the analysis will also split the groups by whether they want to work or not. There are therefore now 3 separate groups:

- In employment
- Inactive – Don't want to work
- Workless-want to work

³ The working age population is defined as males aged 16-64 and females aged 16-59

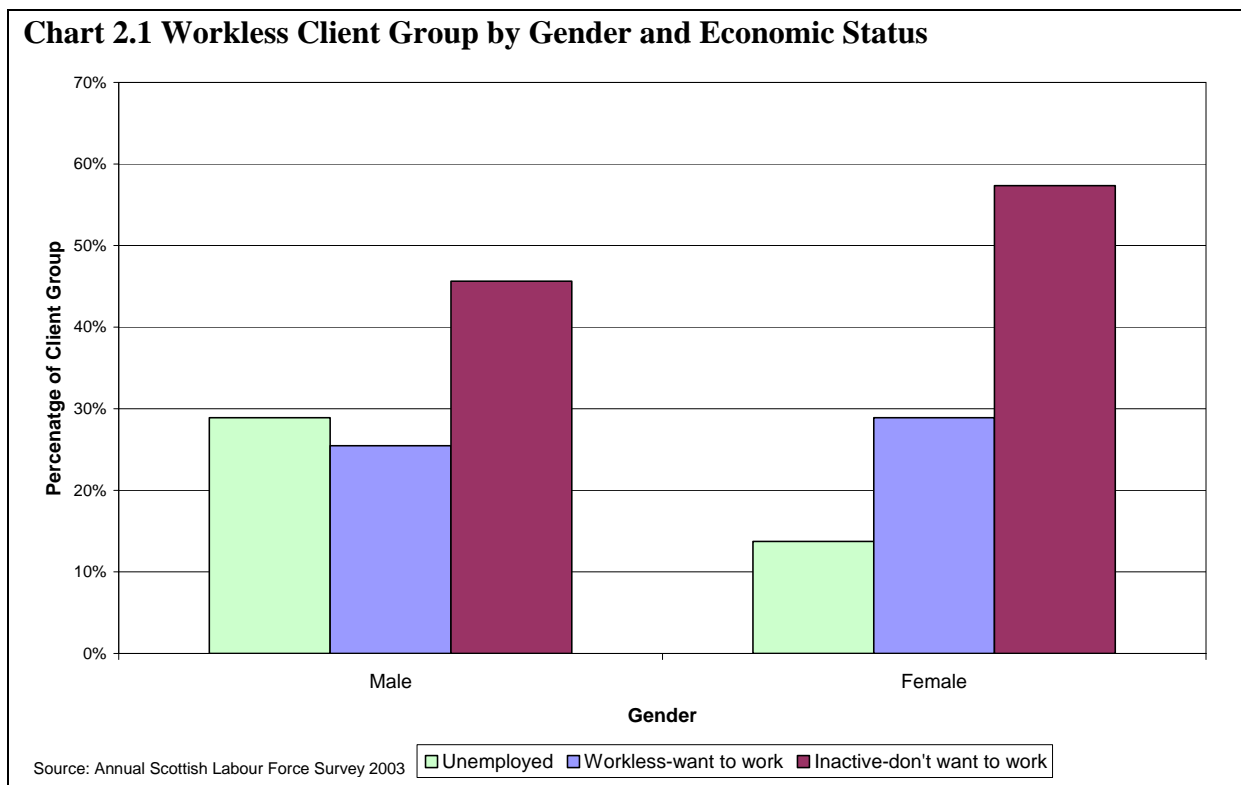
7. The workless-want to work group is made up of approximately 375,000 people (143,000 unemployed, 19,000 unavailable and 212,000 inactive but wanting to work). The inactive-don't want to work is made up of approximately 456,000 people.
8. As well as looking at worklessness issues for Scotland as a whole this paper will look at data at a Local Authority area level to determine any major differences at a local level. Where possible, data will be used to look at the 15% most deprived areas⁴ within each Local Authority Area also.
9. Chart 1.3 below shows the rate of worklessness for the 16-74 year old population by LA area for the full area and also for the 15% most deprived in each area. The chart shows that worklessness varies across the majority of LA areas between 25% and 40%. Glasgow is the one exception with a worklessness rate of over 40%. It should be noted that as this data is for the 16-74 population a proportion of this group will be retired so these rates are slightly higher than would be expected.
10. The Chart also clearly shows a marked increase in the worklessness rate of each local Authority when looking at the 15% most deprived datazones within each LA area. Dundee, East Ayrshire, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire all increase to over 50% worklessness with Glasgow increasing to over 60%.



⁴ As defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). More information on the SIMD can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/government/glsimd.pdf>

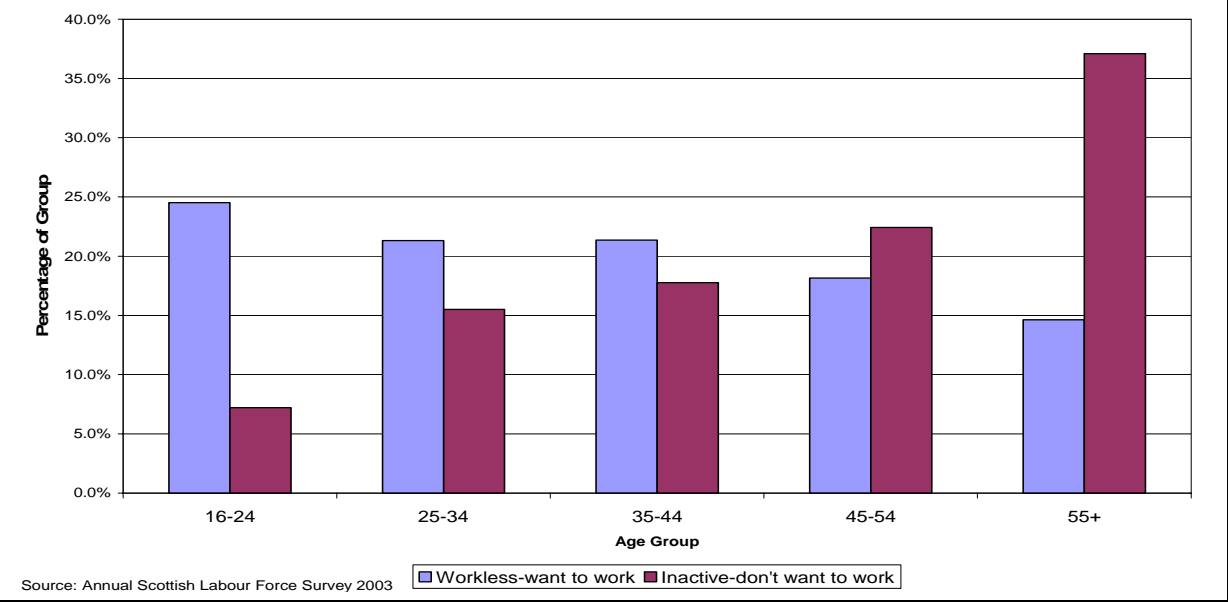
2. Age and Gender

11. The proportion of working age people who are workless is higher for females (26.2%) than for males (20.5%). Chart 2.1 shows that the economic make up of the workless client group is also different for males and females. Almost 60% of workless females are inactive-don't want to work whereas for males this drops to just over 45%. Of those males who do want to almost 55% are unemployed as opposed to inactive whereas for females just over 30% of people who want to work are unemployed. Note the measure of unemployment used here is the ILO unemployed which covers those who are: out of work, want a job, have actively sought work in the previous fortnight; or out of work and have accepted a job that they are waiting to start in the next fortnight.



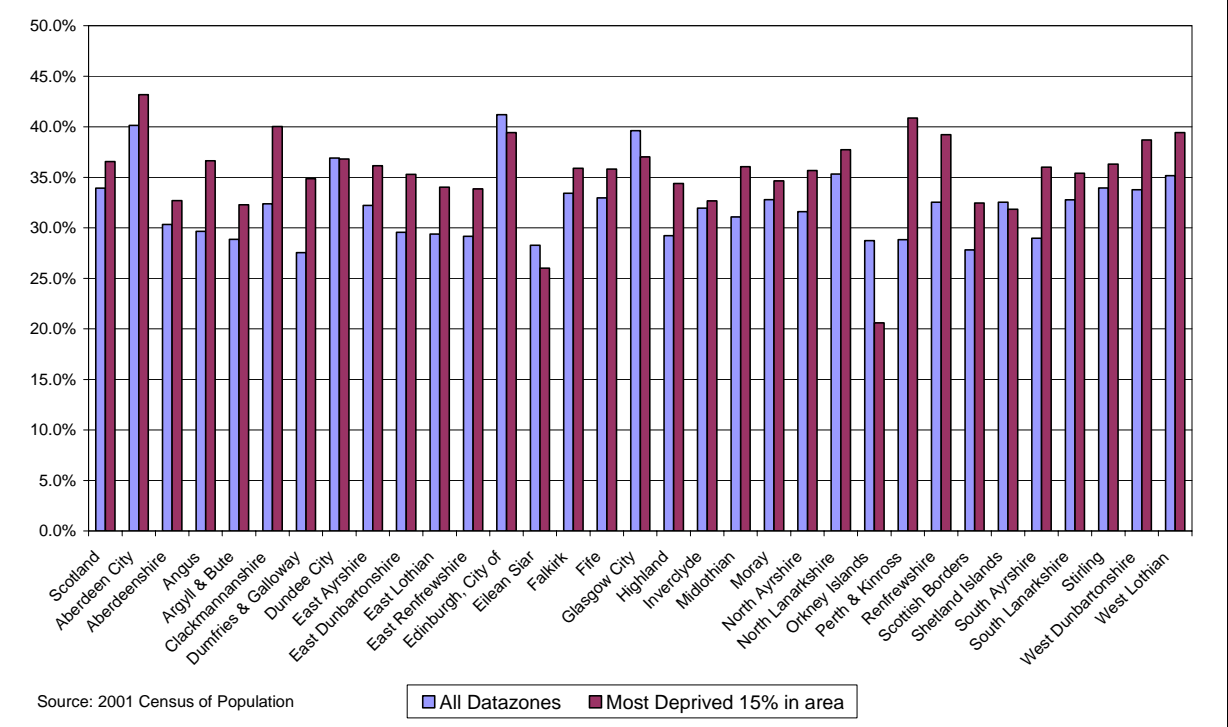
12. Chart 2.2, overleaf, shows the age breakdown of the two workless groups. As would be expected the inactive-don't want to work group have a slightly older age profile with nearly 60% being older than 55. However, there are still over 20% of this group are aged between 16 and 34. The Workless-want to work group has a much younger age profile with over 45% under the age of 34.

Chart 2.2 The Workless Client Group by Age Band



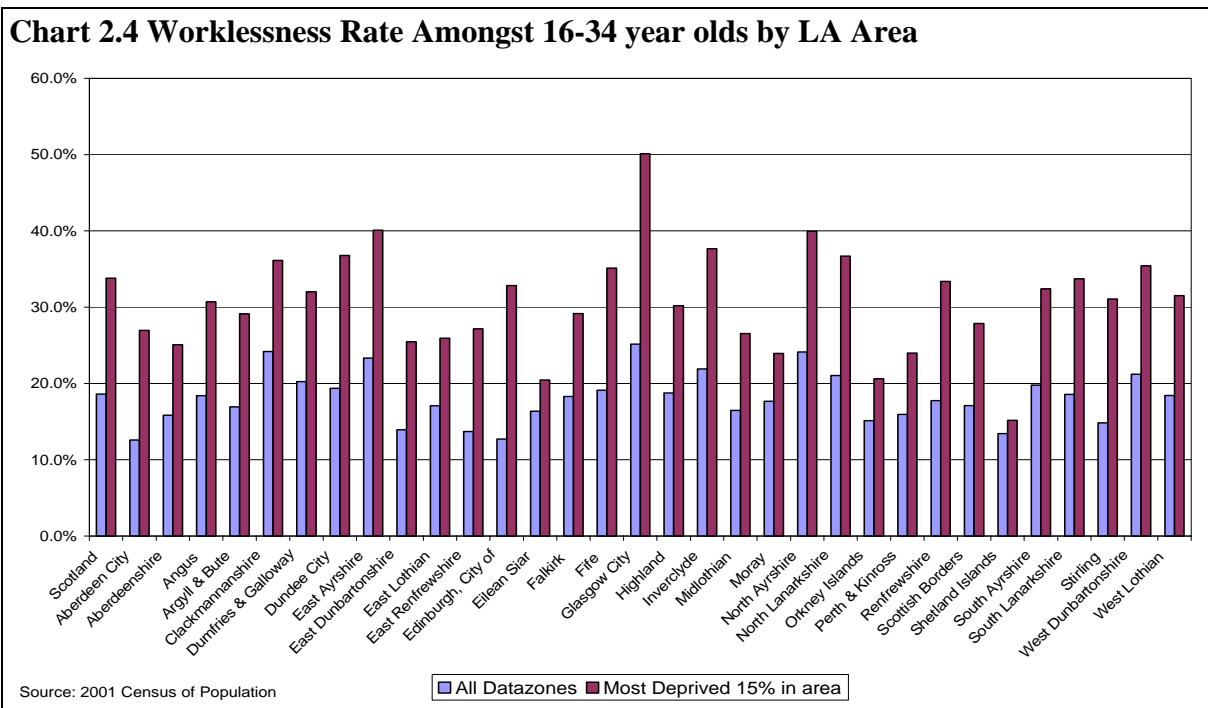
13. Looking at Local Authority areas, chart 2.3 below shows the proportion of people aged 16-74 who are aged less than 35 by Local Authority area. The proportion in the 15% most deprived areas in each LA are also shown.

Chart 2.3 Proportion of 16-74 Population Aged Below 35 by LA area



14. The chart shows that there is a reasonably similar proportion of under 35's in most LA areas. Aberdeen city, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow seem to have a slightly higher proportion of under 35's but this is likely to be due to the student populations in these areas. The chart also shows that the proportion of under 35's increases within the 15% most deprived areas for most LA areas.

15. Chart 2.4 shows the worklessness rate amongst 16-34 year olds by each LA area. The chart shows that worklessness amongst 16-34 year olds is between 10% and 20% for most LA areas. When looking at the 15% most deprived areas within each LA area the worklessness rate increases considerably for each LA area. This is true particularly in Glasgow where the worklessness rate amongst 16-34 year olds increases from 25% to 50%.



16. Looking at the older population in each Local Authority Area chart 2.5 shows the proportion of over 50's in each LA area. Also chart 2.6 shows the worklessness rate amongst the over 50's by LA area.

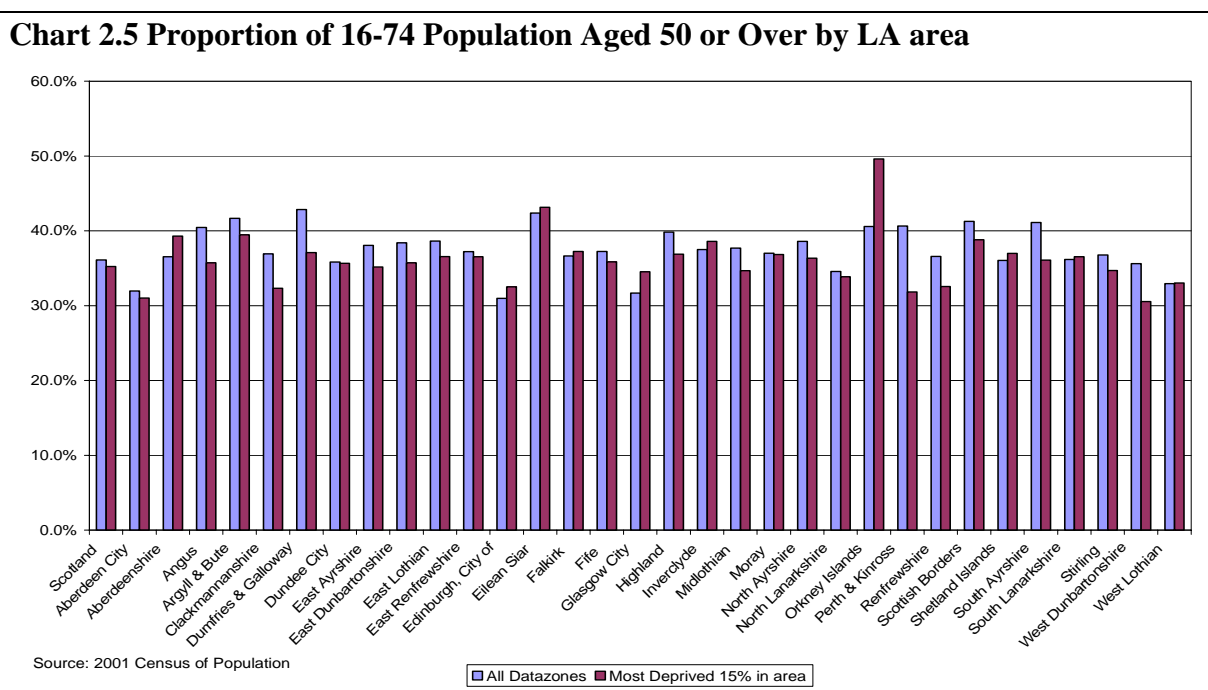
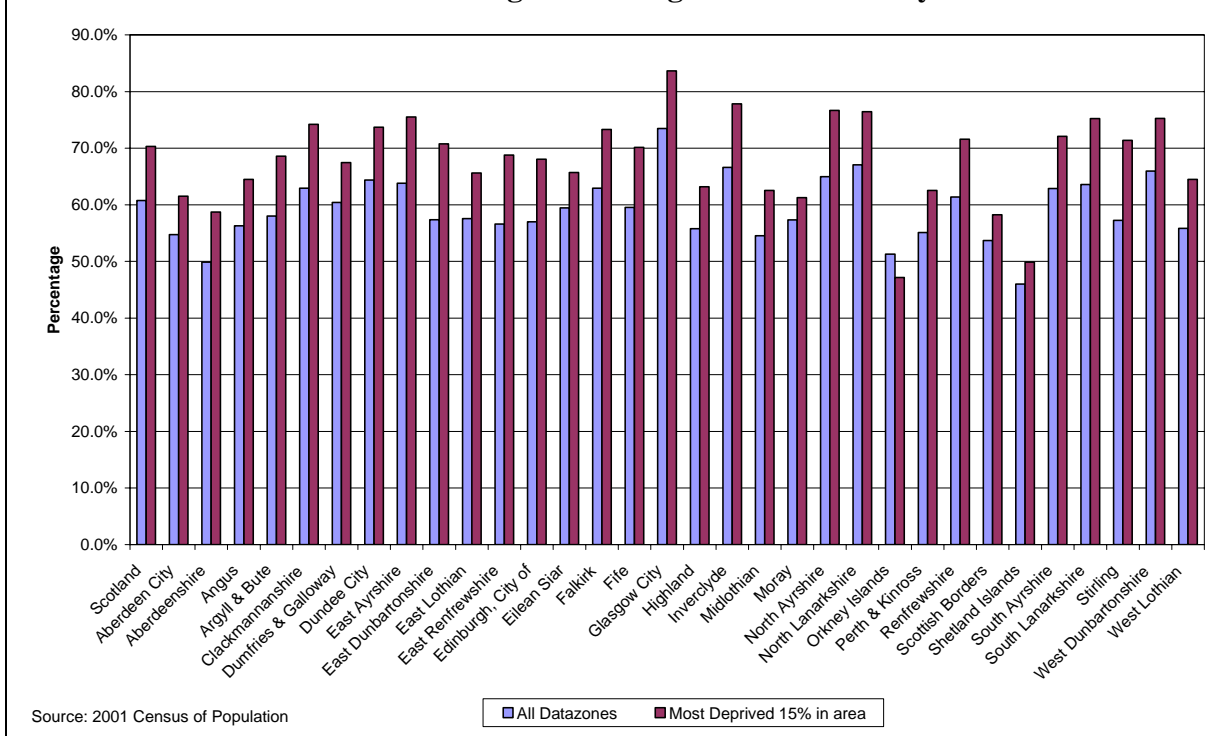


Chart 2.6 Worklessness Rate Amongst Those Aged 50 and Over by LA Area



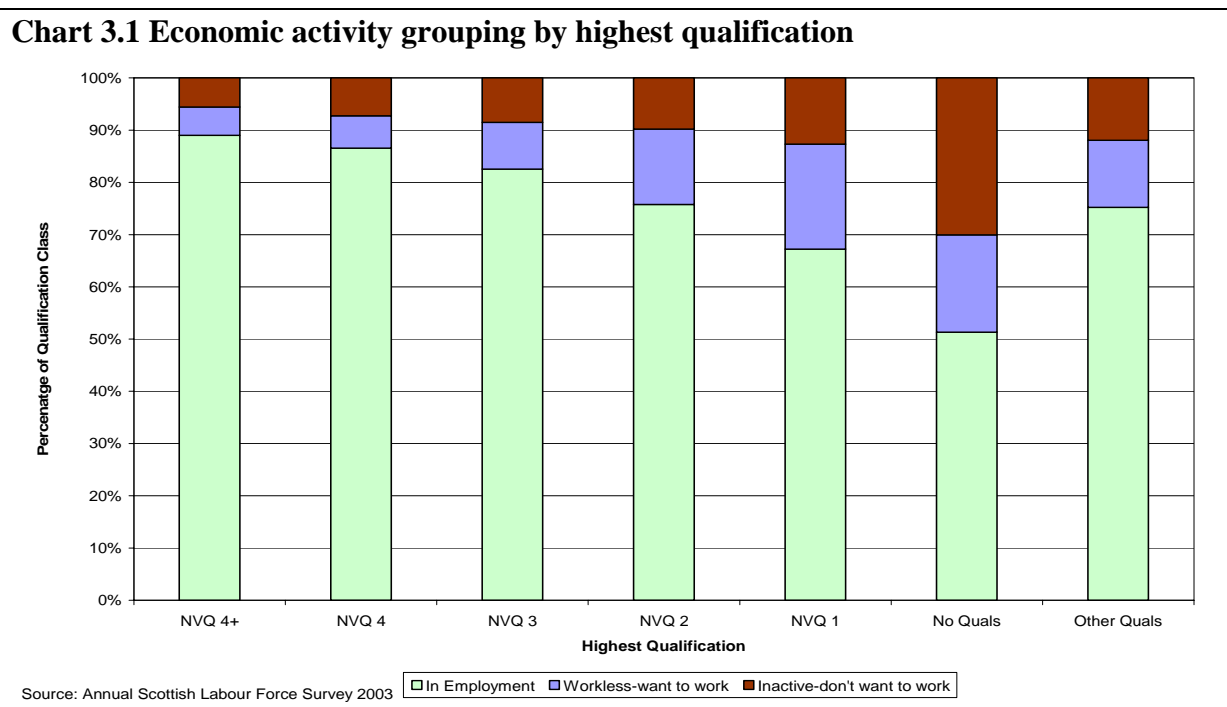
17. Chart 2.5 shows that the proportion of over 50's are reasonably similar across the Local Authority areas with between 30% and 40% of the 16-74 year old population aged 50 or over. There is very little difference when looking at the most 15% deprived areas within each Local Authority area.

18. Chart 2.6 shows that the worklessness rate amongst those aged 50 and over is very high in most Local Authority areas. Glasgow has a particularly high rate with over 70% of people aged 50-74 being workless increasing to over 80% of those aged 50-74 being workless in the 15% most deprived areas of Glasgow.

3. Qualifications

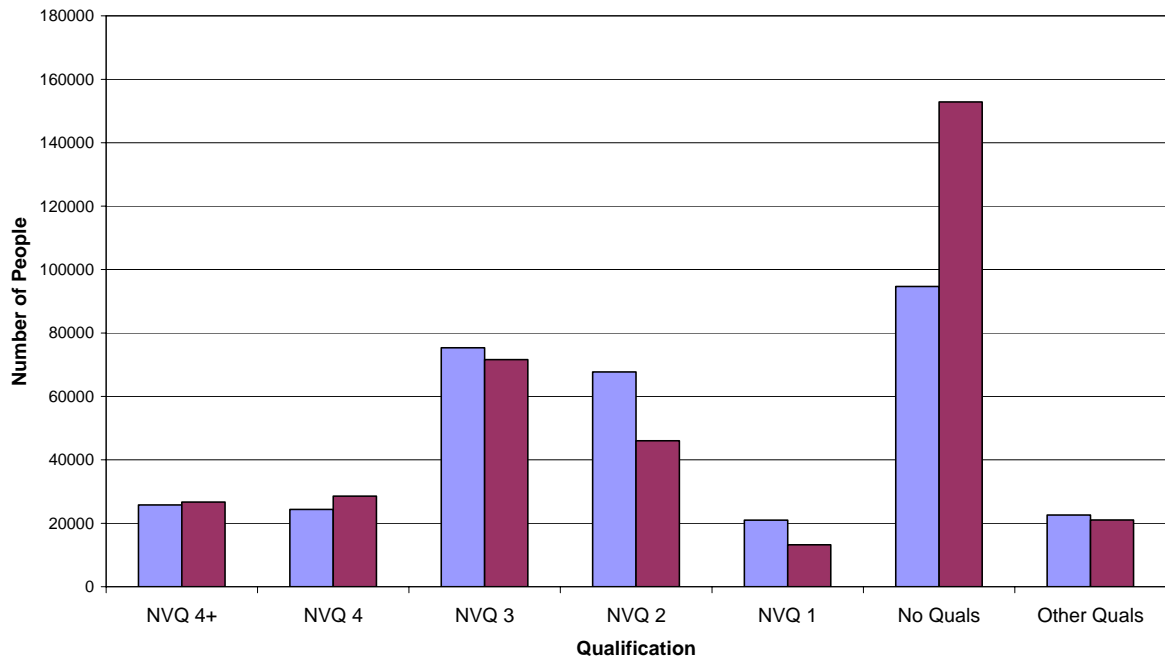
19. Lack of qualifications have often been quoted as a major barrier to employment particularly those with less than NVQ level 2 qualifications. Chart 3.1, overleaf, shows the 3 economic activity groups by highest level of qualification.

20. The chart shows that the working age employment rate declines steadily as the qualification levels decline (excluding other qualifications) ending with the no qualifications group which has an employment rate of 51.3%. The chart also shows that there is a willingness to work (in employment plus workless-want to work) of well over 80% for all qualifications groups except the no qualifications group.



21. Concentrating on just the workless client groups' chart 3.2 shows the qualifications breakdown for these groups. The chart shows that the majority of both groups are made up of those with NVQ level 2 qualifications or below. The chart also shows that there is a considerable amount of people with no qualifications who do not want to work (153,000).

Chart 3.2 Workless client groups by highest qualification

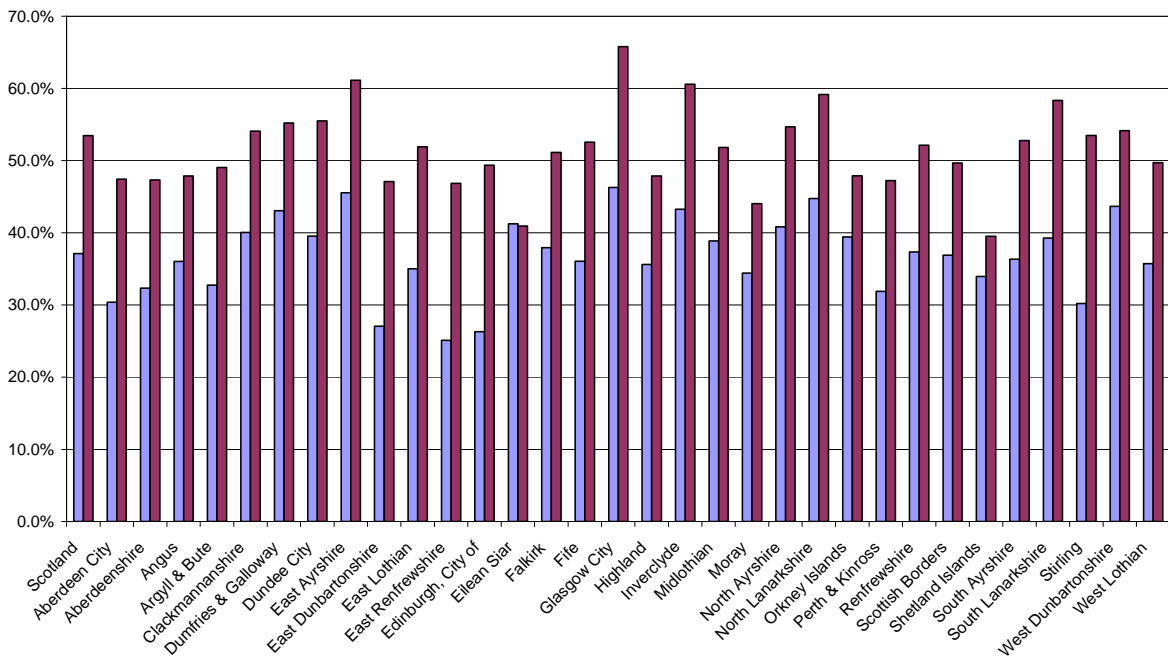


Source: Annual Scottish Labour Force Survey 2003

Legend: Workless-want to work (blue), Inactive-don't want to work (maroon)

22. Chart 3.3 shows the proportion of people aged 25-74 with no qualifications by LA area. The chart shows that most Local Authorities have between 30% and 40% of the 25-74 population with no qualifications. Glasgow and East Ayrshire have particularly high rates of people with no qualifications, at just over 45%, and Edinburgh and East Renfrewshire have particularly low rates at just over 25%

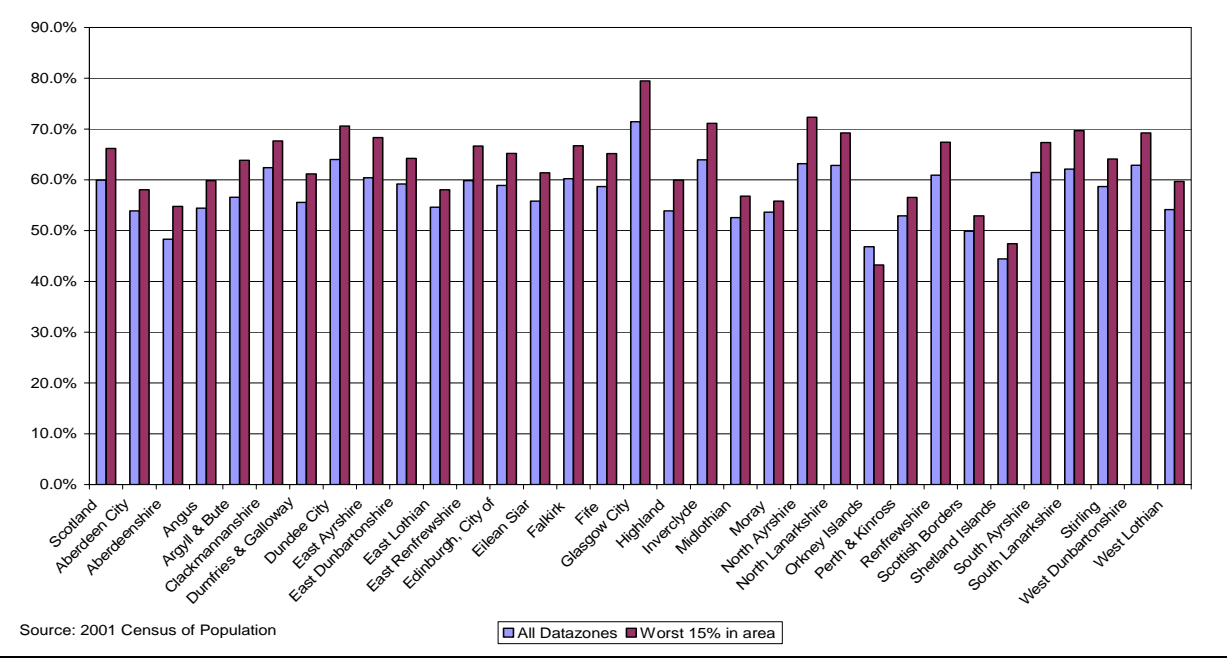
Chart 3.3 Proportion of 25-74 Year Olds with No Qualifications



Source: 2001 Census of Population

Legend: All Datazones (blue), Most Deprived 15% in area (maroon)

Chart 3.4 Worklessness Rate Amongst Those Aged 25-74 With No Qualifications



23. Chart 3.4 shows the workless rate amongst those with no qualifications by LA area. The chart shows that there is not much difference between the worklessness rate of those with no qualifications in LA's in general and the 15% most deprived datazones. This suggests that perhaps lack of qualifications is a barrier to employment independent of whether a person in a deprived area or not.

24. As shown earlier having low qualifications can be a barrier as well as having no qualifications. Chart 3.5 shows the proportion of the 25-74 population with low qualifications by Local Authority Area. Chart 3.6 shows the worklessness rate amongst those with low qualifications.

Chart 3.5 Proportion of 25-74 Year Olds with Low Qualifications

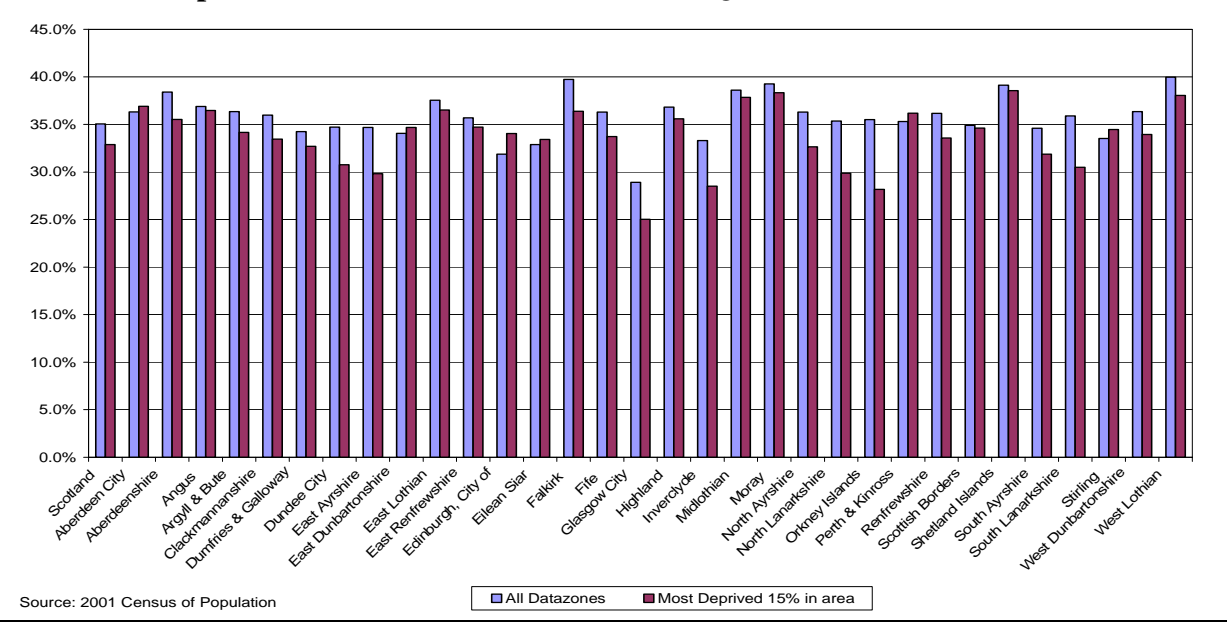
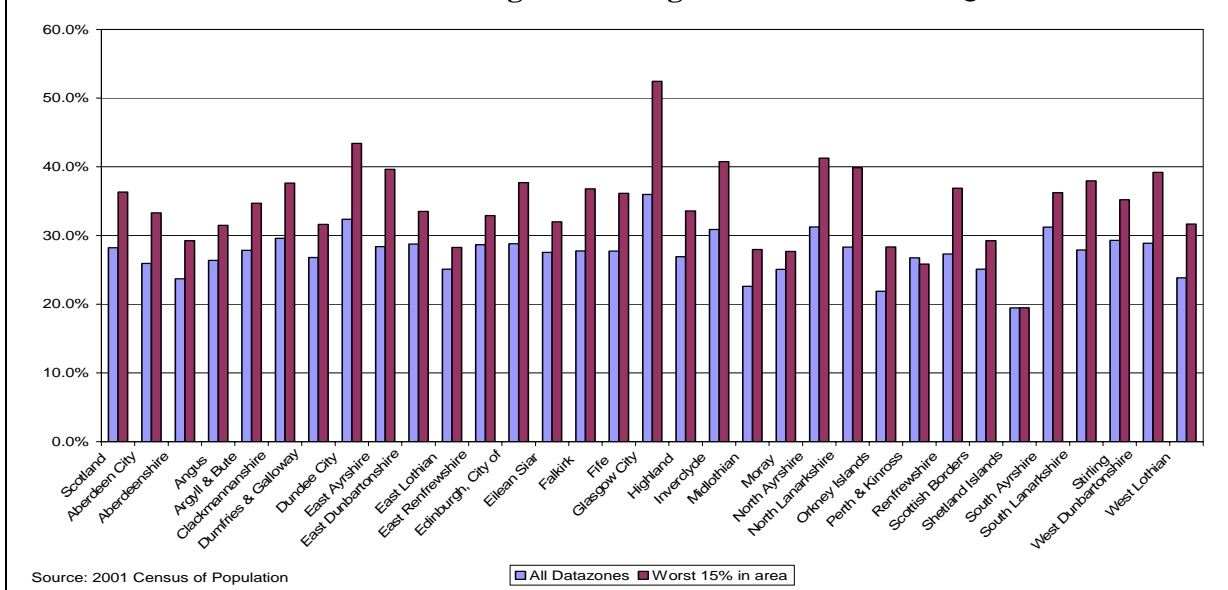


Chart 3.6 Worklessness Rate Amongst Those Aged 25-74 With Low Qualifications



25. Chart 3.5 shows that between 25% and 40% of 25-74 year olds in each Local Authority Area have low qualifications. The chart also shows that there is actually a lower proportion of people in the 15% deprived areas with low qualifications in most Local Authority areas. However, this is balanced out by the fact that a much higher proportion of people living in the 15% most deprived areas have no qualifications as shown in chart 3.3.

26. Chart 3.6 shows that the worklessness rate for those who have low qualifications is considerably lower than those with no qualifications. The chart also shows that there is a marked increase in worklessness amongst those with low qualifications when looking at the 15% most deprived areas. This suggests that, contrary to the no qualifications group, the extra barrier of deprivation has a considerable effect on those with low qualifications.

27. As well low qualifications being a major barrier to employment many people in Scotland lack numeracy and literacy skills which can also be a major barrier to employment. Research shows that around 800,000 adults in Scotland have very low literacy and numeracy skills⁵. This research also shows that those with low literacy and numeracy skills tend to live in economically disadvantaged areas and may have a health problem or disability affecting learning, speech sight or hearing.

⁵ Adult Literacy and Numeracy in Scotland, Scottish Executive

4. Last Occupation

28. The Labour Force Survey collects information on the duration since last having a job and also the last occupation individuals had. Chart 4.1 shows the workless client groups by duration since last employment. The chart shows that the willingness of people to work decreases considerably the longer the individuals are out of employment with only 33% of those out of work for over 5 years still wanting to work.

29. Chart 4.2 shows the workless client groups broken down by duration since last employment. The chart shows that over half of the workless-want to work group have been out of work over 3 years and this rises to over 3 quarters when looking at the inactive-don't want to work group. This could have important implications when trying to help these people into employment.

Chart 4.1 Workless Client Group by duration since last job

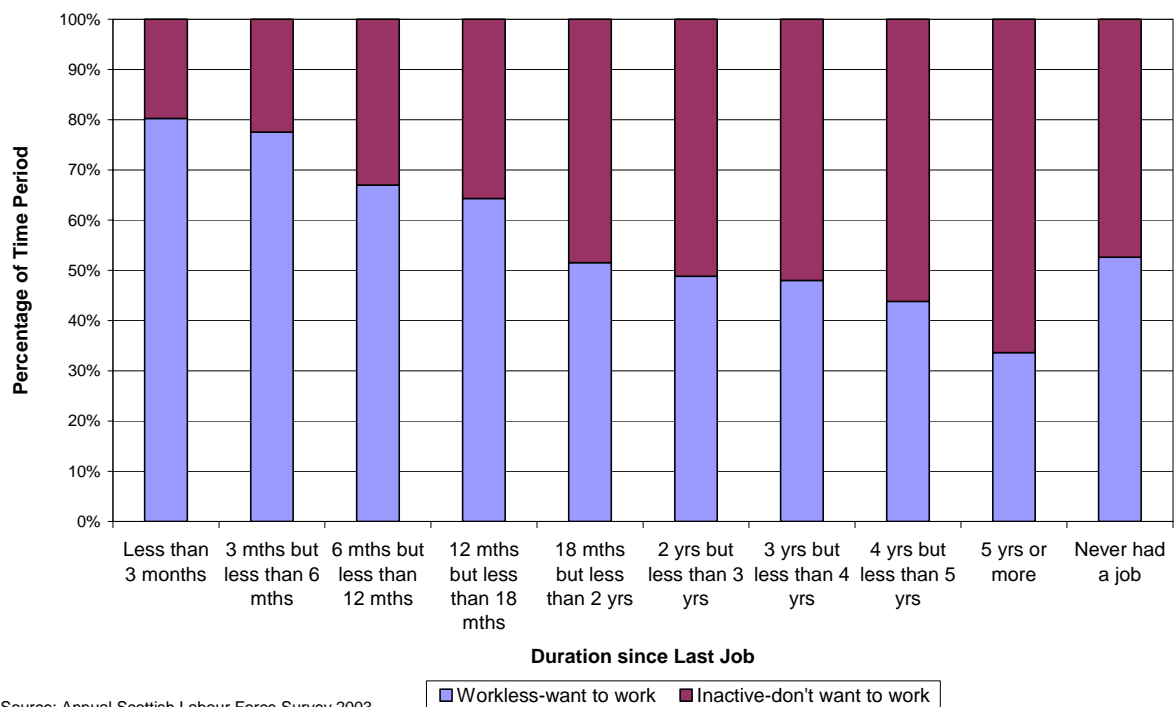
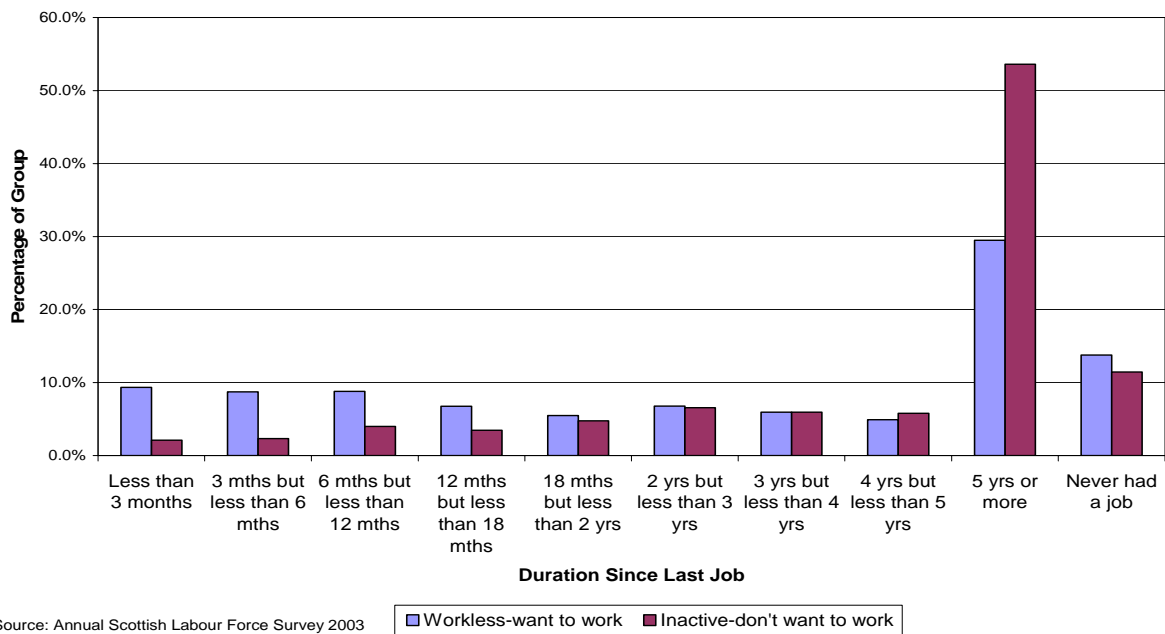
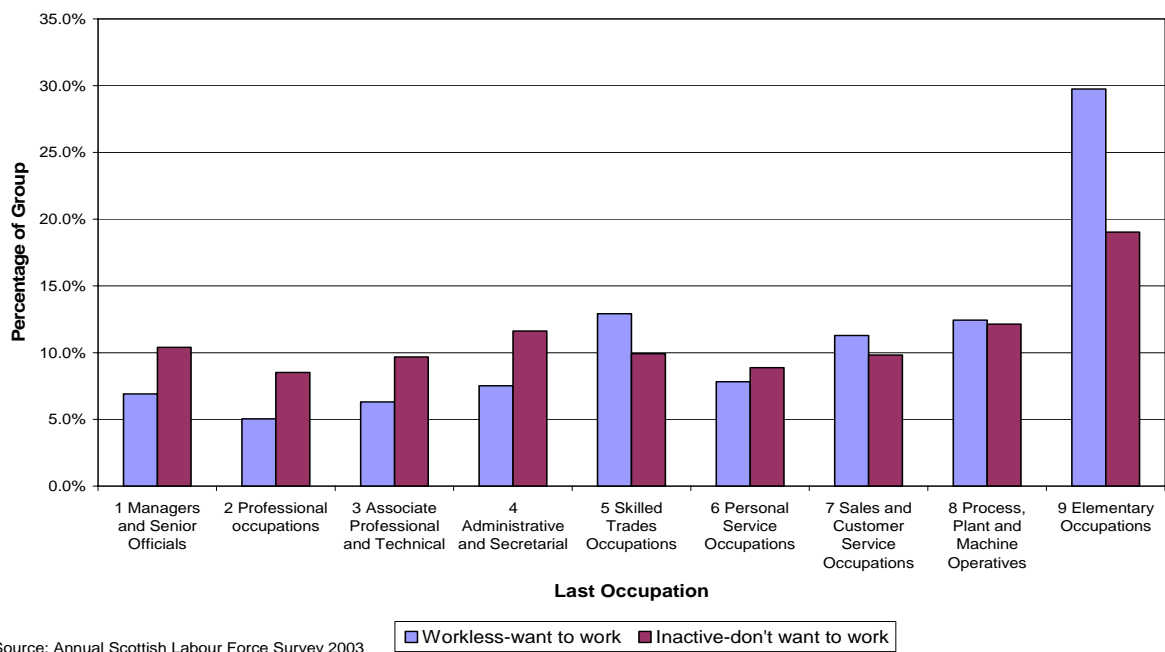


Chart 4.2 Workless Client Groups by duration since last job



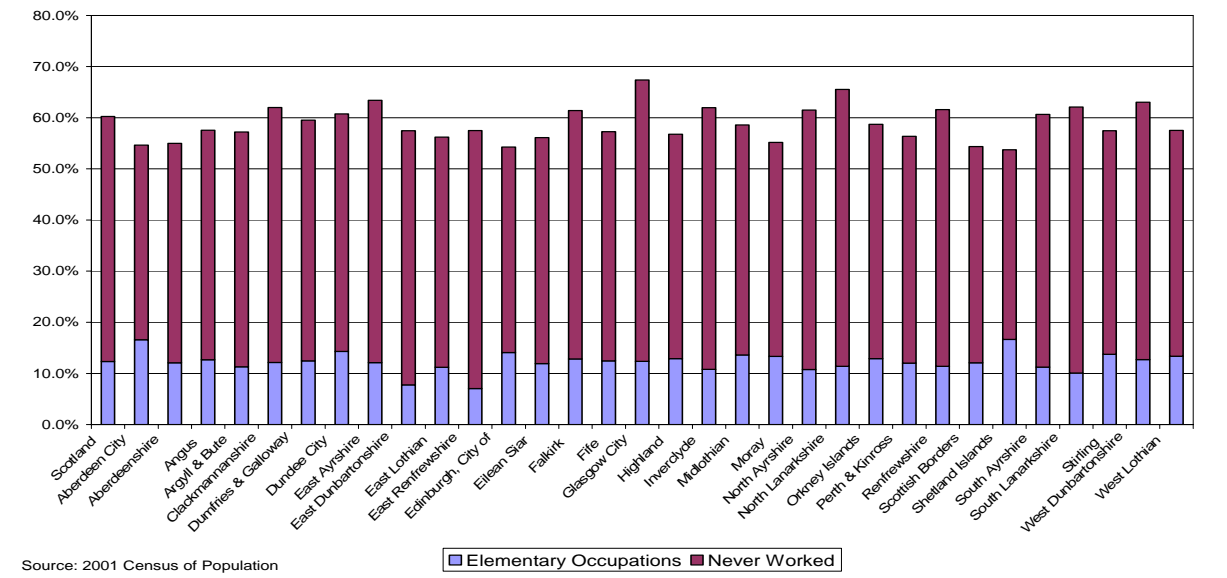
30. Chart 4.3 shows the last occupation of those in the workless client group. Nearly 30% of the workless-want to work group were previously employed in elementary occupations. Also over 12% of the workless-want to work group were employed in skilled trade occupations and a further 12% as process plant and machine operatives. These people are perhaps most likely to need training to work outwith these occupations as they are likely to mainly have skills which are relevant to their trade only. It is perhaps also worth noting that a fair proportion of the inactive-don't want to work group previously worked in categories 1,2 or 3. This may suggest that these people have either taken early retirement or are not able to find employment in a similar position to their last job.

Chart 4.3 Workless Client Groups by last occupation



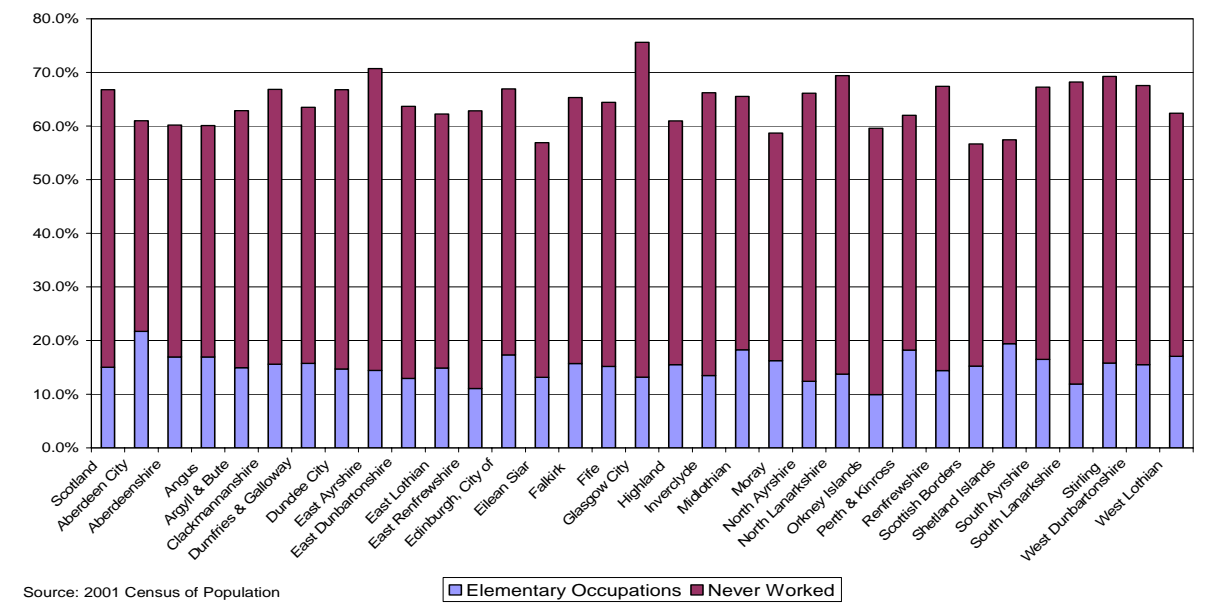
31. Chart 4.4 shows the proportion of the workless population who either worked in an elementary occupation⁶ or have never worked⁷ by LA. Note that this data contains students as it was not possible to remove them from this analysis.

Chart 4.4 Proportion of Workless population who previously worked in Elementary Occupations or have Never Worked



32. The chart shows that between 50% and 70% of the workless population (including students) have never worked or previously worked in elementary occupations, which are possibly more likely to be low paid. The chart also highlights the fact that a large proportion of the workless population have never worked.

Chart 4.5 Proportion of Workless population who previously worked in Elementary Occupations or have Never Worked within the 15% most deprived areas in each LA



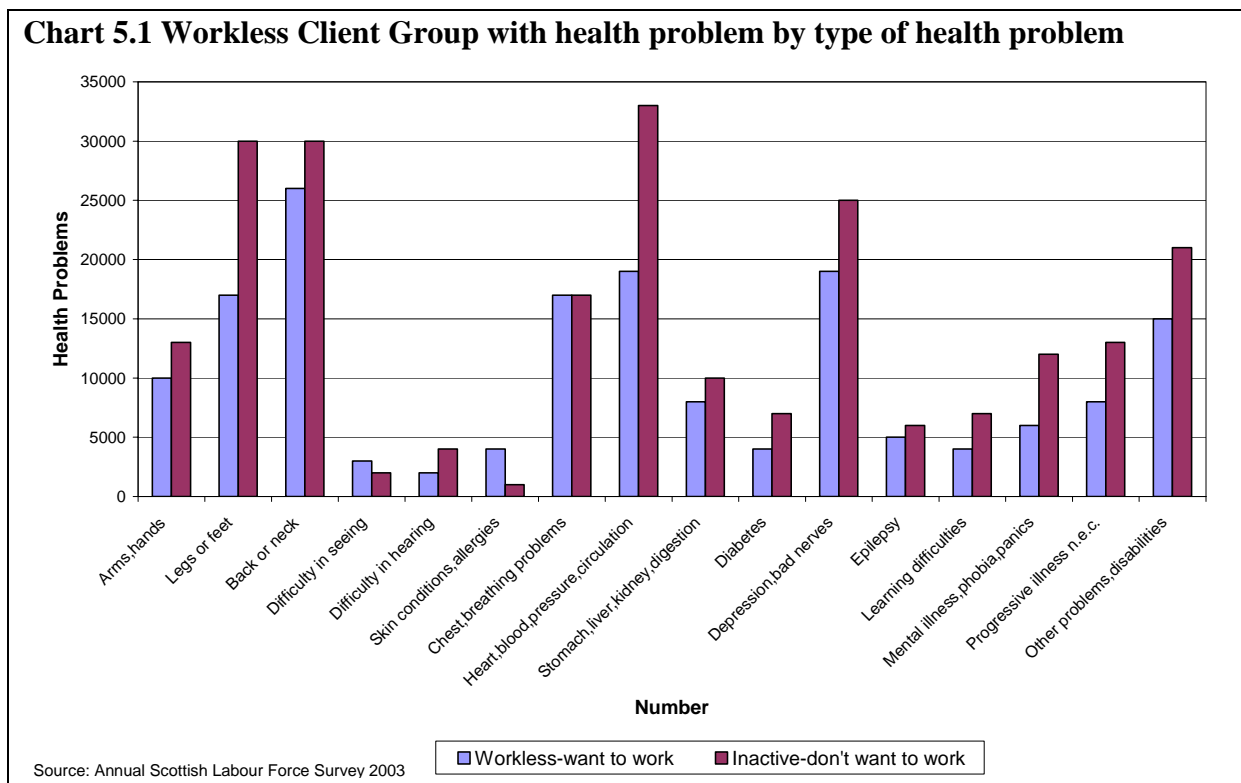
⁶ as classified by Standard Occupational Code 2000

⁷ Census definition is never worked or had not worked in the 5 years prior to the Census

33. Chart 4.5 shows a similar pattern to chart 4.4 although, as before, is slightly higher in the deprived areas. It is worth noting that in many LA areas over 50% of the workless people in deprived areas have never worked, with this rising to over 60% in Glasgow.

5. Health Problems

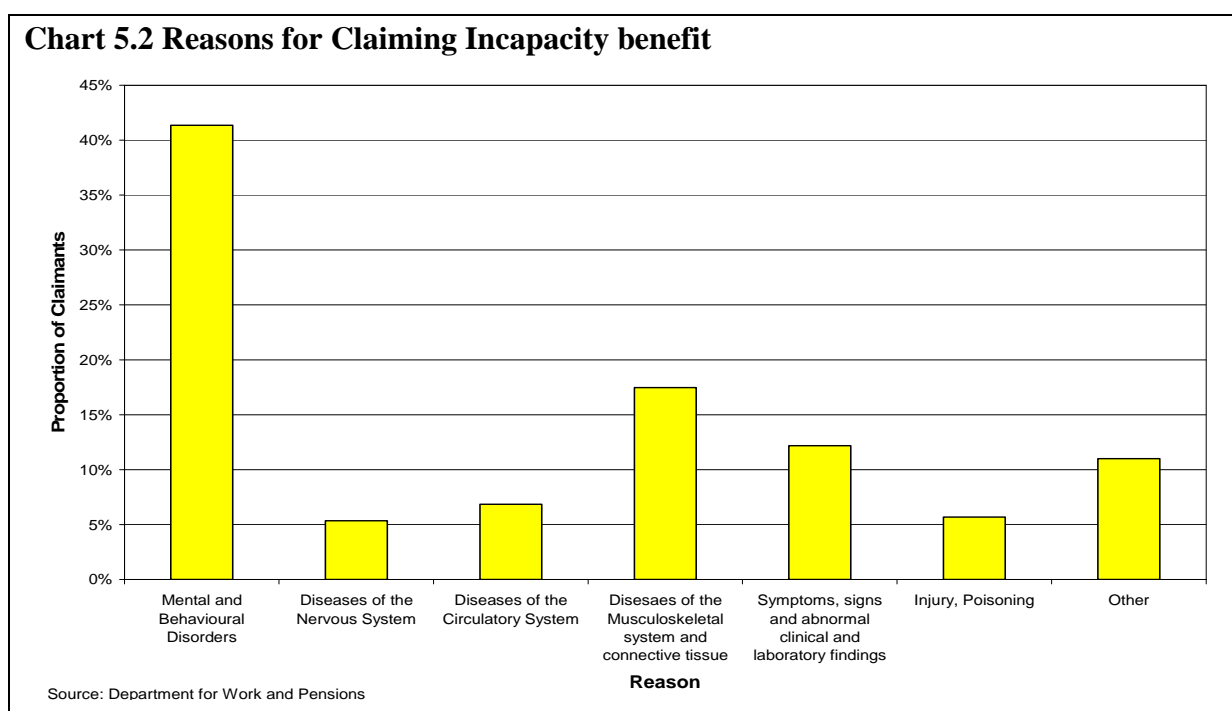
34. One of the main groups of people that the Closing the Opportunity Gap inactivity target is interested in are those who are claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB). There are specific DWP schemes developed to help those on IB including the New Deal for Disabled People and the recent Pathways to Work Pilots. The Pathways to Work pilots are currently running in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Argyll & Bute but will soon be extended to include Glasgow, Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire.
35. Obviously the types of health problems people suffer from can have a large effect on their ability and willingness to work. It has been shown that with the right support many people suffering from health problems can be supported into employment. Chart 5.1 shows those in the workless client groups with health problems broken down by health problem. It should be noted that only about a half of the workless client group have a health problem.



36. The chart shows that there are over 25,000 people with back or neck problems in the workless-want to work group. This is a reasonably large number of people and many of these people may need only little help to be able to take on some form of employment. It is also worth noting that nearly 30,000 people in the workless-want to work group report that they have mental problems (depression, bad nerves, learning difficulties or mental illness).
37. The chart also shows that, for the majority of health problems, more people are in the inactive-don't want to work group than the workless-want to work group. This is particularly true of those with leg or feet problems and those with heart, blood pressure or circulation problems. However, perhaps many of these people would not be aware of the support available to them to help them back into employment.

38. The data shown in chart 5.1 shows the breakdown of health problems defined by the individual as the Labour Force Survey is a self reported survey. Previous evidence has shown however, that the proportions of health problems reported in the LFS does not reflect the reasons given for claiming IB. Chart 5.2 shows the breakdown of official reasons for claiming IB.

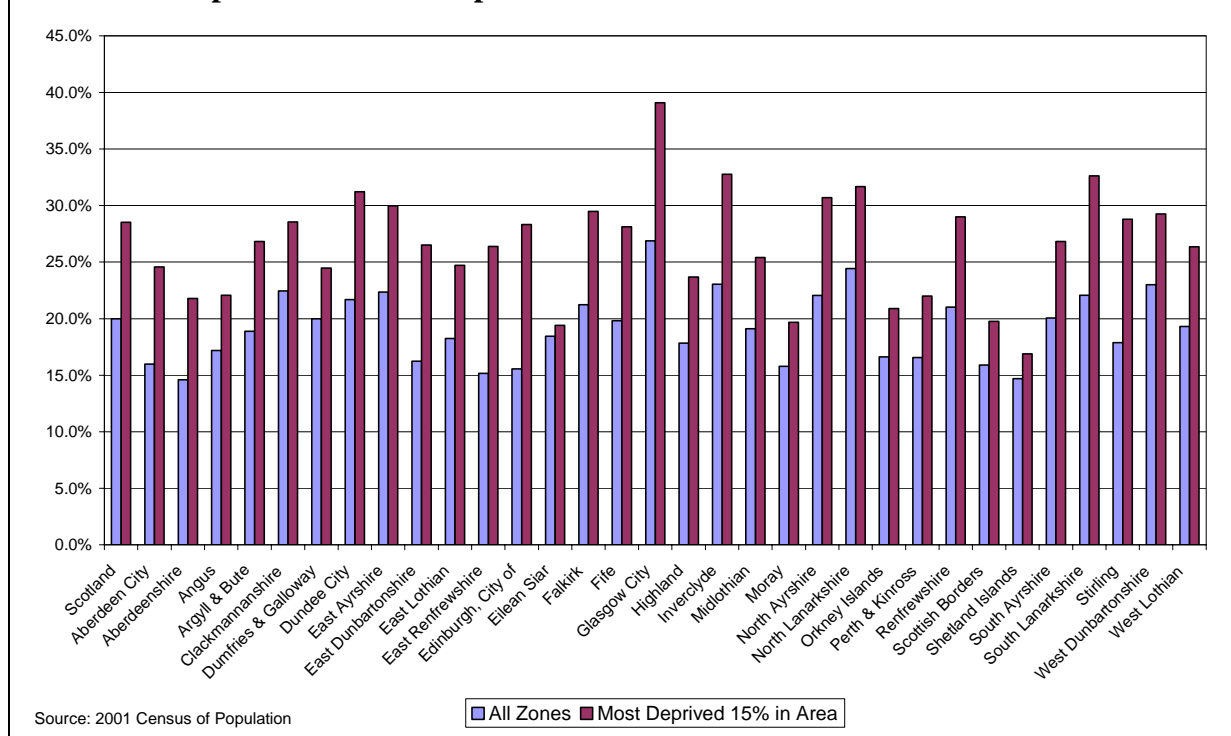
39. The chart shows that over 40% of people claiming IB are claiming due to mental and behavioural disorders. Although there is a relatively large number of people citing mental problems in the LFS data it is not as high as 40%. This mismatch may be caused by people not wishing to be stigmatised with certain health problems when being surveyed and/or people originally being on IB for other reasons but this reason then turning to mental health problems such as depression. Please note that the IB administrative data has no way of telling how many of these people would like to work and how many would not.



40. Although the 2001 Census did not ask about specific health problems question 8⁸ did ask “Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or work you can do?”. The information from this question can be used as a proxy for those who are sick or disabled (and possibly claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance).

⁸ A copy of the 2001 Census form can be found at: <http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/files/indform.pdf>

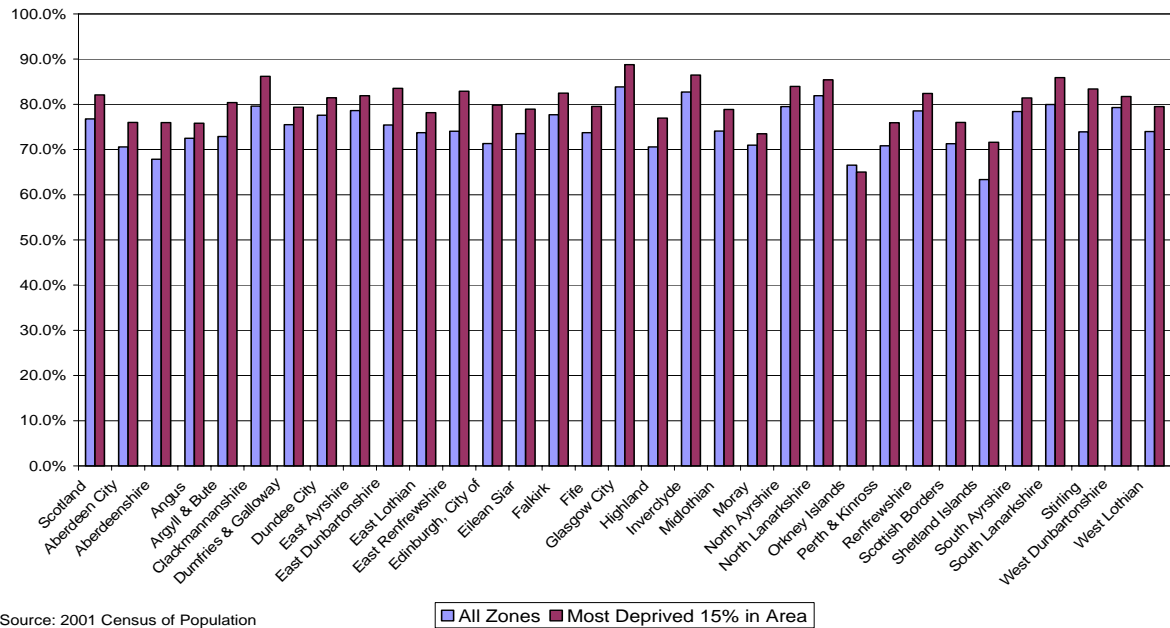
Chart 5.3 Proportion of 16-74 Population with an LLTI



41. Chart 5.3 shows that the majority of LA areas have less than 20% of the population reporting an LLTI. The proportion in Glasgow reporting an LLTI is nearly 27% which reflects the high proportion of Incapacity Benefit Claimants in Glasgow. There are also fairly high rates of LLTI's in Dundee, North Lanarkshire, Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire which ties in with the areas chosen for CtOG target A.

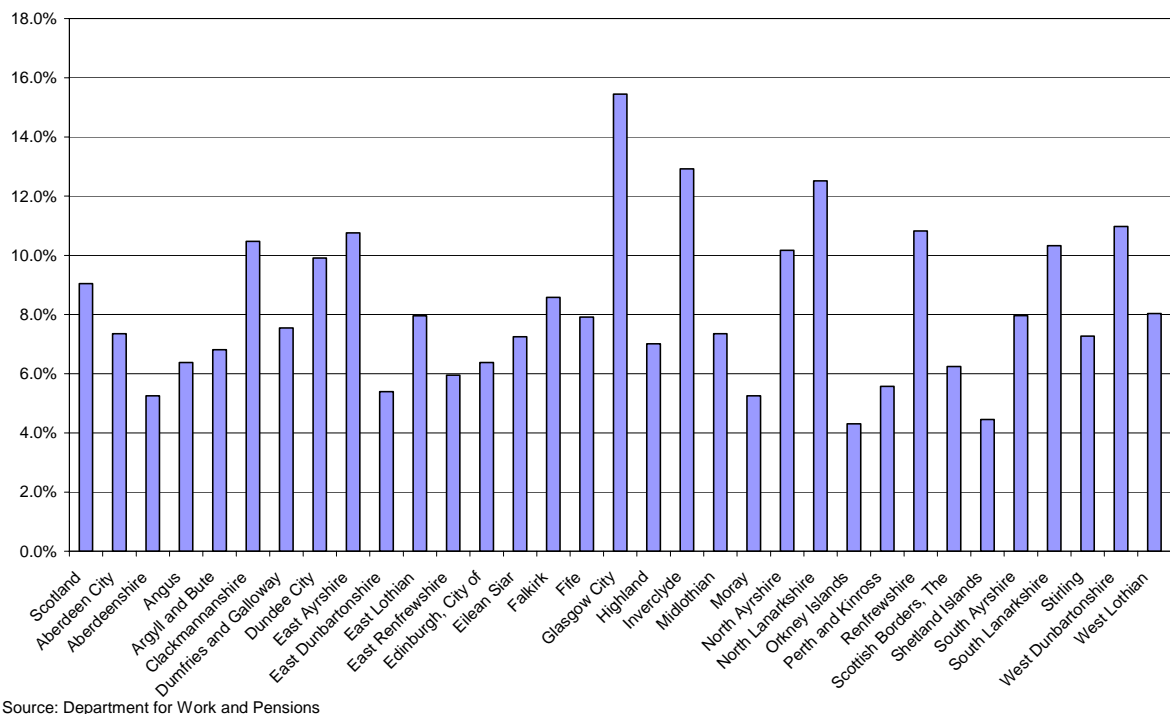
42. Chart 5.4 overleaf shows the worklessness rate amongst those with an LLTI. The chart shows that worklessness amongst those with an LLTI is a considerable issue with almost every LA area having a worklessness rate of over 70%. This increases to almost 85% in Glasgow. When looking at the 15% most deprived areas within each LA the worklessness rate increases but not to a large extent, however Glasgow does approach a worklessness rate of 90%. As with those with no qualifications, this evidence suggests that a LLTI is a strong barrier to employment in itself and is not strongly affected by social circumstances once you have an LLTI. However the evidence also does show that a considerably higher proportion of people with an LLTI live in deprived areas.

Chart 5.4 Worklessness Rate amongst those with an LLTI



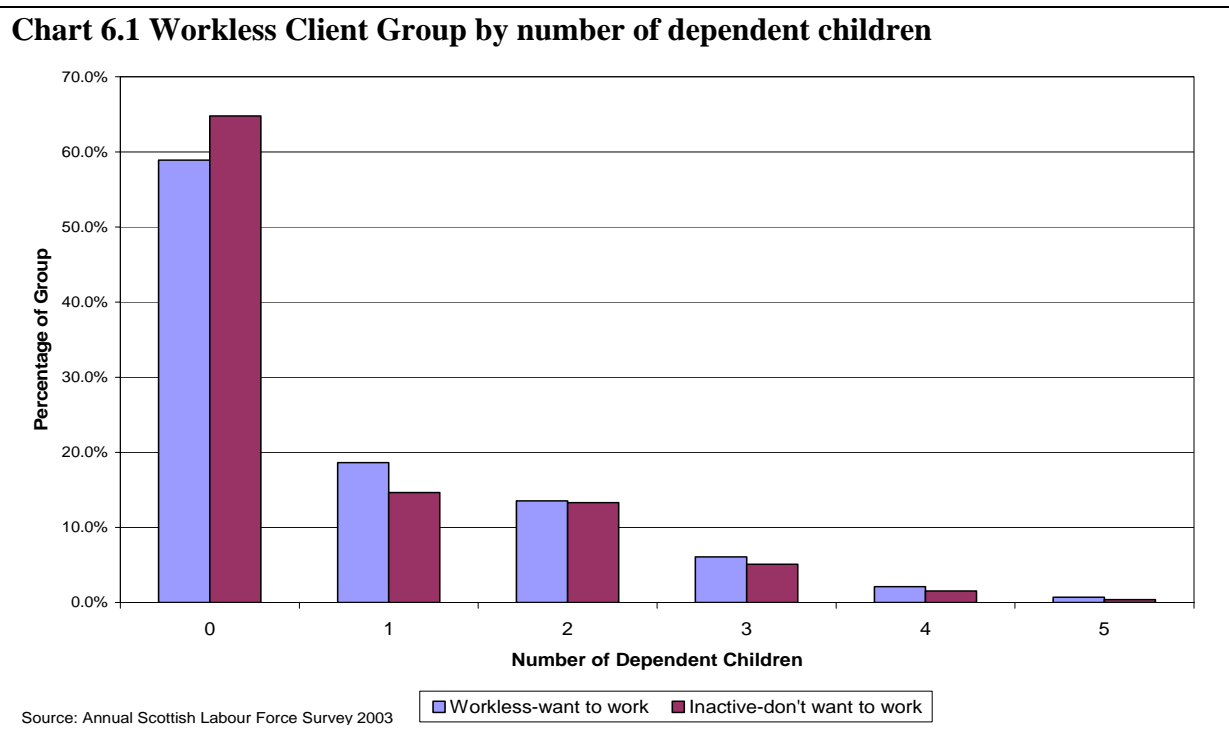
43. Chart 5.5 shows the proportion of working age people claiming Incapacity Benefit (IB) by Local Authority Area. The chart shows that there is a considerable difference between the different Local Authority Areas. Glasgow stands out with over 15% of the working age population claiming IB with North Lanarkshire and Inverclyde not far behind at nearly 13%.

Chart 5.5 Proportion of Working Age Population Claiming IB by Local Authority Area



6. Family Circumstances

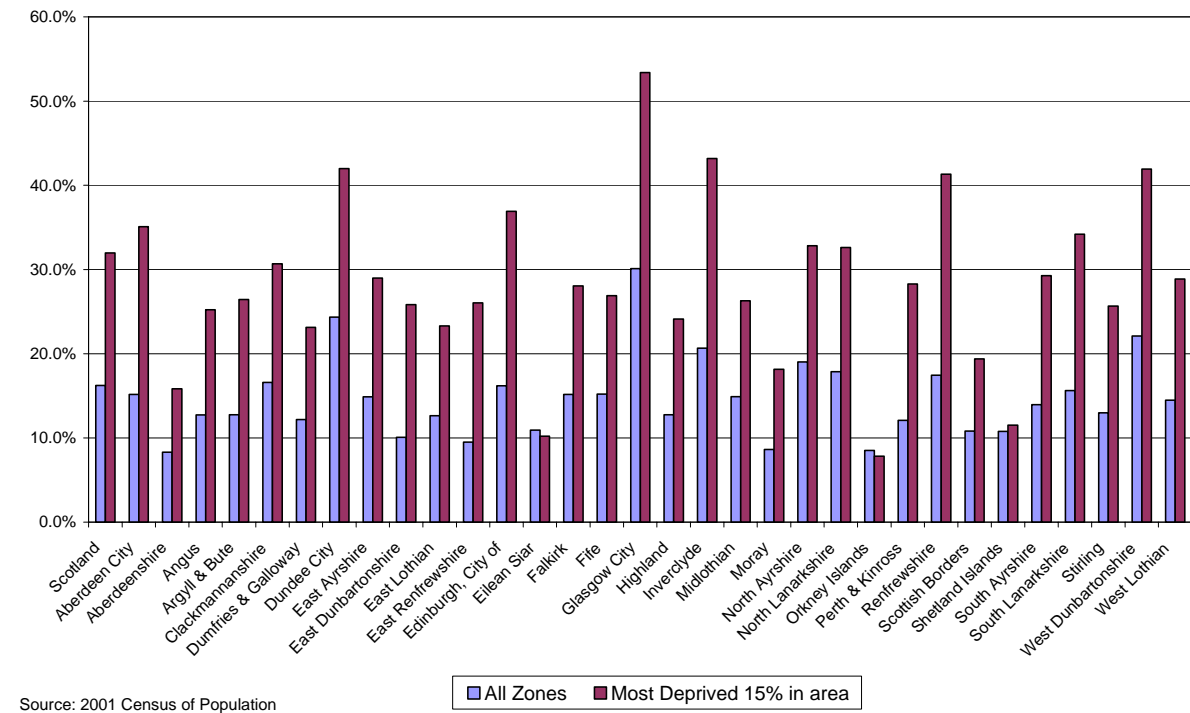
44. The number of dependent children people have or their family circumstances can have a large effect on whether they are able to take up employment or not. This is especially true of those who are lone parents. The data from the LFS estimates that around 17% of the workless-want to work group are lone parents and that around 9% of the inactive-don't want to work group are lone parents. There are many initiatives to help lone parents into employment including New Deal for Lone parents and the Work Works pilot in Glasgow.



45. Chart 6.1 shows the workless client group by the number of dependent children that they have. The chart shows that the profile for both the workless-want to work group and the inactive-don't want to work group are fairly similar. The chart shows that between 35% and 40% of the two groups have at least one dependent child. This means that for up to 40% of the workless client group childcare may be a barrier to employment. Also, there may be other family circumstances which cannot be picked up by the LFS such as caring for a member of the family who is not a dependent child.

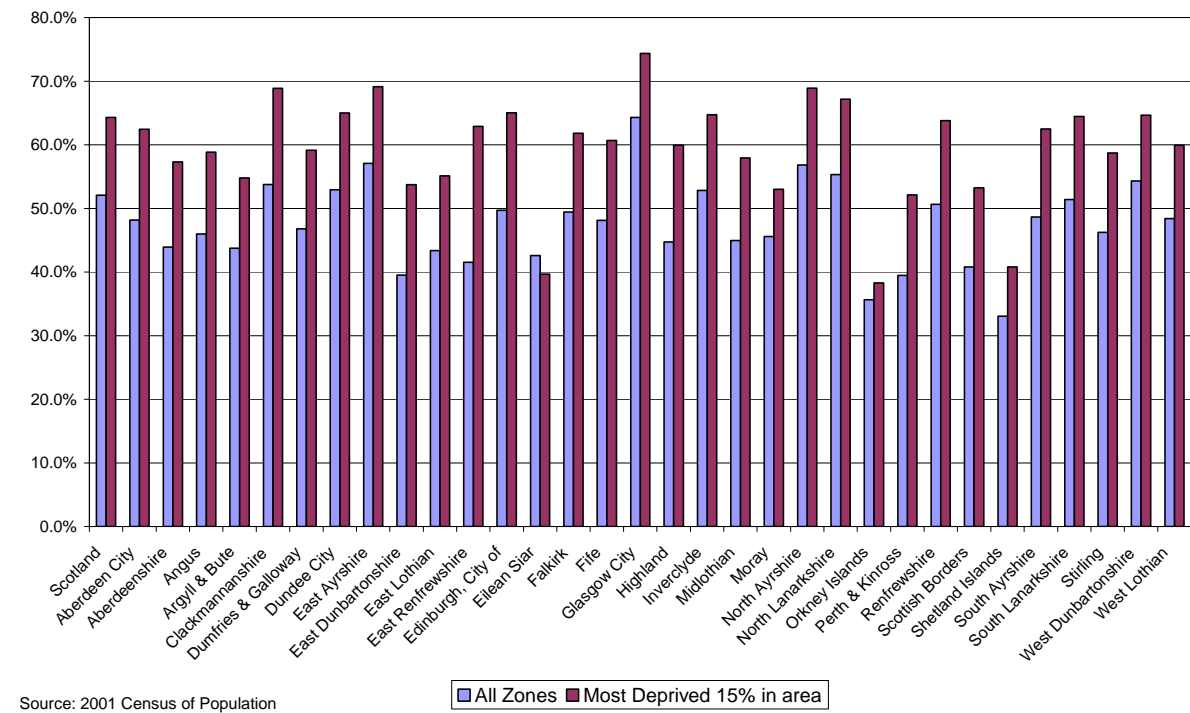
46. Using the 2001 Census data it is possible to look at Lone Parents by Local Authority area. Chart 6.2 below shows the proportion of families (with children) who are lone parent families.

Chart 6.2 Proportion of Families Which are Lone Parent Families



47. The chart shows that the proportion of lone parents vary considerably amongst LA areas. Glasgow has a particularly high rate of lone parents at 30% with Dundee, Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire all having a rate over 20%. Areas such as Aberdeenshire, East Renfrewshire, Moray and the Orkney Islands all have a rate below 10%.

Chart 6.3 Worklessness Rates Amongst Lone Parents by LA area



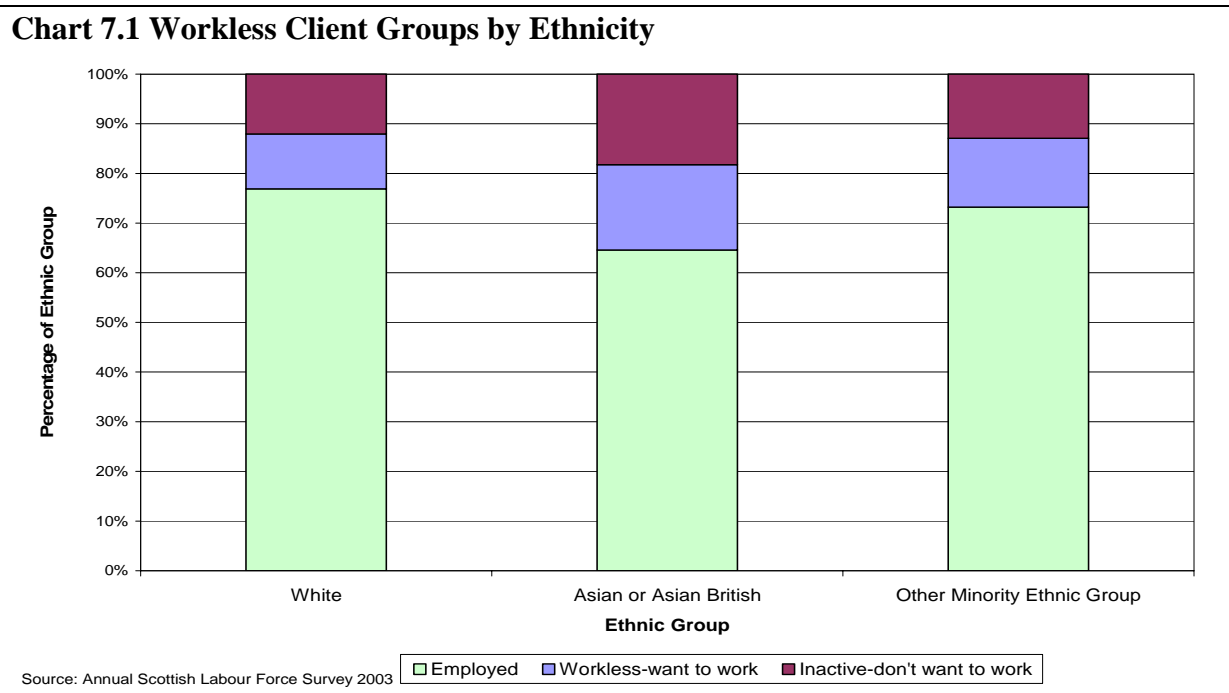
48. Chart 6.3 shows the worklessness rate of lone parents by LA area. The chart shows that the worklessness rate amongst lone parents vary between 30% and 60% for all LA areas except Glasgow which has a rate of nearly 65%. When looking at the 15% most deprived areas within each LA it can be seen that the worklessness rate increases by a considerable amount in most of the LA areas. This is particularly true in areas such as East Renfrewshire, Edinburgh and Clackmannanshire. This data would suggest that, although being a lone parent is a barrier to employment itself, being a lone parent in a deprived area can be a significant barrier to employment.
49. Research has shown that lone parents often suffer multiple barriers to economic activity. One of the main barriers is affordable, accessible childcare however it is worth noting that 51%⁹ of lone parents on IS have no academic or technical qualifications which has been shown to be a barrier in itself. It is also worth noting that recent research has shown that 50% of lone parent families live below the poverty line¹⁰.

⁹ Work Works, Final Report, National Employment Panel's Steering Group on Lone Parents

¹⁰ Work Works, Final Report, National Employment Panel's Steering Group on Lone Parents

7. Ethnicity

50. It is estimated from the LFS that 1.9% of the working age population¹¹ are from a minority ethnic background. The largest single minority ethnic group is Asian or Asian British which has around 36,000 people. Chart 7.1 shows the economic groups by ethnicity (most ethnic groups have been amalgamated). The chart shows that there is a lower employment rate for the minority ethnic groups than for the white ethnic group. The chart also shows that there is a higher proportion in the inactive-don't want to work group for the Asian or Asian British Ethnic Group compared to the other two ethnic groups which are reasonably similar.

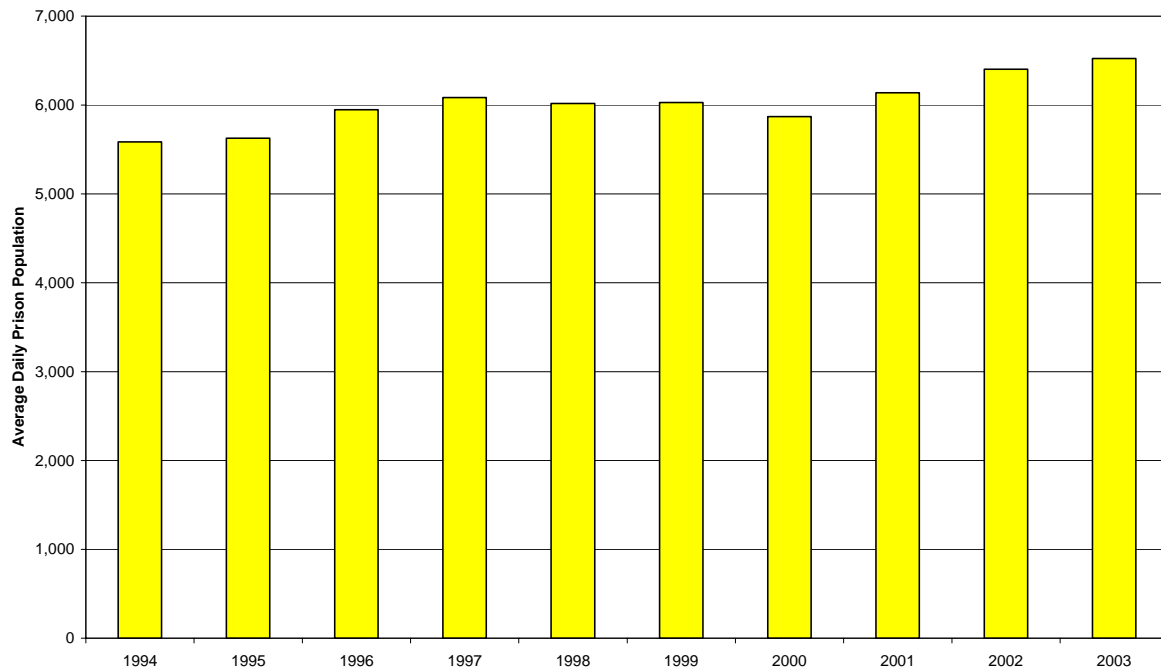


¹¹ Excluding students

8. Prisoners and Ex-Offenders

51. In 2003/04 the average daily prison population was 6,618¹². Also in 2003/04 the average cost per prisoner place was £33,244¹³. Chart 8.1 shows that the prison population has increased considerably since 1994 with the figure looking to increase further.

Chart 8.1 Average Daily Prison Population, Scotland



Source: Prison Statistics Scotland, 2003

52. Research shows that 60% of offenders released from prison are re-convicted of another offence within 2 years¹⁴. Research also shows that employment reduces re-offending between a third and a half¹⁵. Given that 80% of prisoners claim benefits on release¹⁶ these statistics can have a serious financial impact. Some of the barriers to employment for ex-prisoners are¹⁷:

- i. Employer attitudes
- ii. Criminal records and offenders' concerns about disclosing their records
- iii. Low self-esteem, confidence and motivation
- iv. Behavioural problems
- v. Poor Health
- vi. Lack of qualifications, including poor basic skills
- vii. Lack of recent work experience and informal contacts for jobs
- viii. Poverty and debt
- ix. Insecure Housing

¹² Scottish Prison Service Website

¹³ Scottish Prison Service Website

¹⁴ Reduce, Rehabilitate, Reform: a consultation on reducing re-offending in Scotland

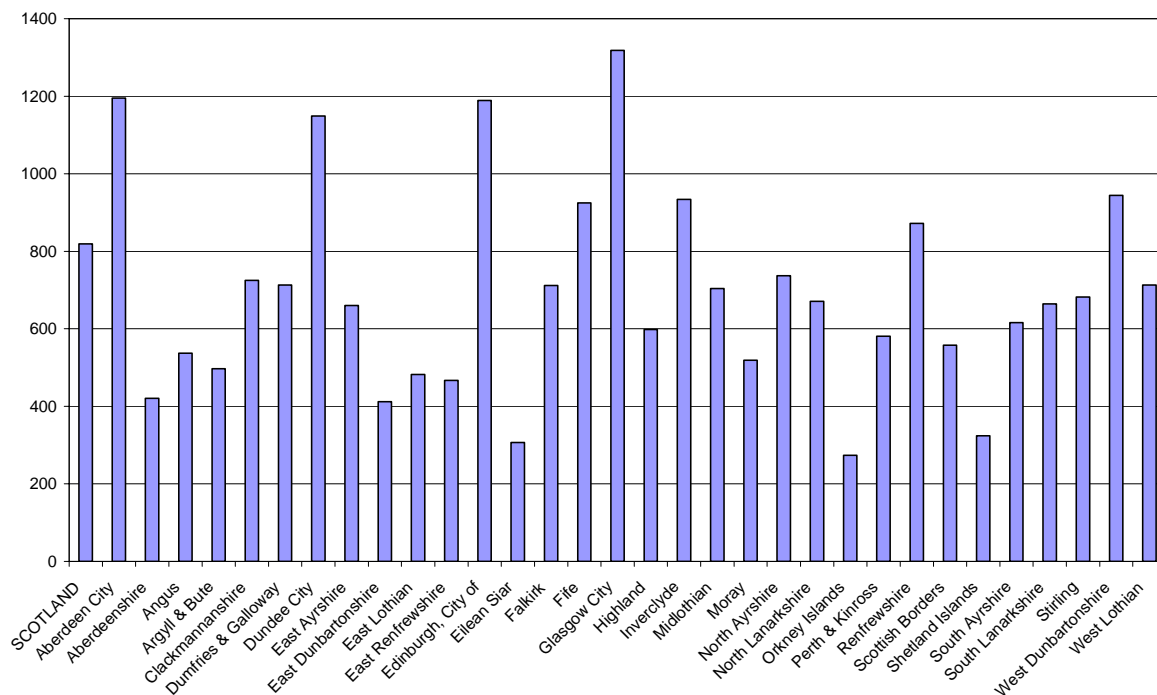
¹⁵ Reducing Re-offending by ex-prisoners, Social Exclusion Unit

¹⁶ Reducing Re-offending by ex-prisoners, Social Exclusion Unit

¹⁷ Building Bridges to Employment for Prisoners, 2001

53. Although it is not possible to look at the number of ex-offenders by Local Authority area chart 8.2 shows the crime rate by Local Authority Area. The chart shows that the four cities have the highest rate of crime with Glasgow having over 1,300 crimes per 10,000 population.

Chart 8.2 Recorded Crime Rates per 10,000 Population by Local Authority Area



9. Substance Abuse

54. Many drug users may wish to work once they have completed a treatment programme or are stabilised on a substitute prescription but may be unable to due to a combination of personal, institutional and labour market barriers. Research¹⁸ shows that the main barriers are:

Individual barriers

- A range of social problems, poor living conditions and financial deprivation (including debt) brought about by months or years of unemployment.
- A criminal record as a result of activities to fund their habit.
- Lack of school and work-related qualifications, as well as minimal previous experience of training and employment.
- Low self-esteem leading to fear of failure when facing the difficult challenge of job-hunting.
- Lack of motivation.
- Mental and physical health problems.

Institutional barriers

- Supervised prescribing of methadone. The need to attend a pharmacy on a daily basis can impede employment opportunities.
- Benefit rules. Income from employment, particularly with entry level or part-time jobs, can be lower than income from benefits
- Informal economic activity can be more financially rewarding than formal employment

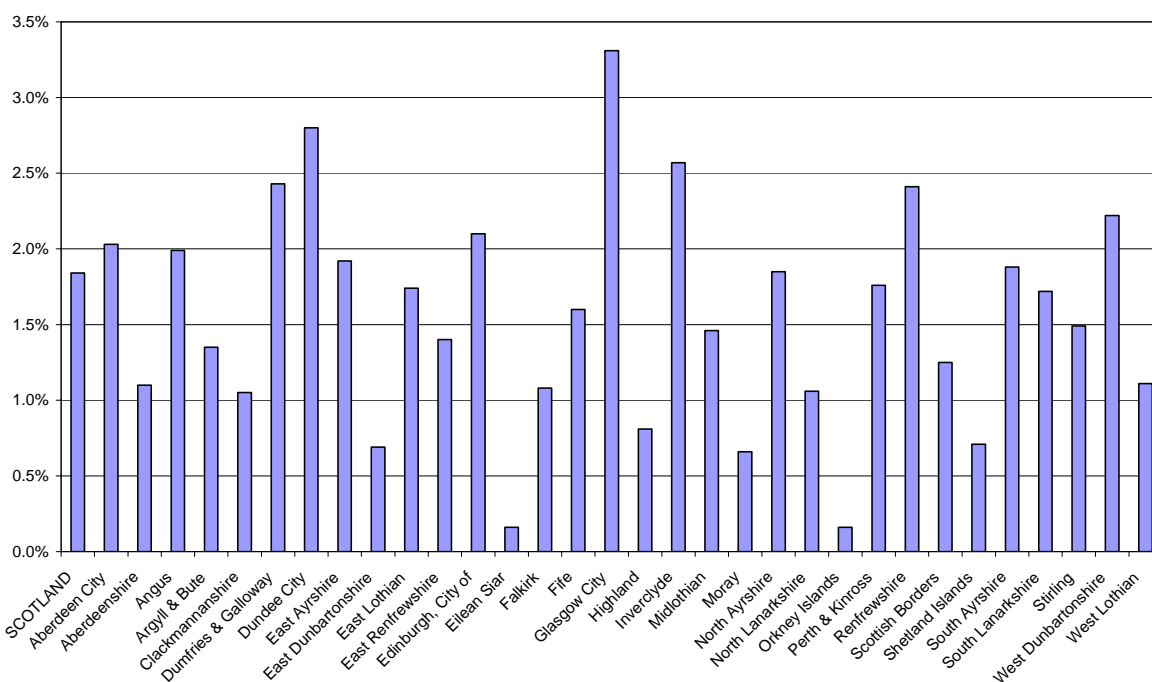
Labour Market

- Employers attitudes.
- Standard recruitment practices. The requirement to fill in application forms or produce CVs can cause problems when an individual has had little or no job experience.
- Lack of knowledge of the current demands of the local labour market.

54. Chart 9.1 below shows the prevalence rates of problem drug users by Local Authority area. The chart shows that there is a fairly wide range of prevalence rates across the different areas. Glasgow has the highest prevalence rate at 3.3% with Dundee (2.8%) and Inverclyde (2.6%) not far behind. Orkney and Eilean Siar have the lowest rates at 0.16%.

¹⁸ Moving On: Update Employability and Employment for Recovering Drug Users

Chart 9.1 Prevalence Rate of Problem Drug Users by Local Authority area



Source: "Estimating the National and Local Prevalence of Problem Drug Misuse in Scotland", University of Glasgow

55. Table 9.1 shows the economic activity of patients/clients in contact with drug treatment services¹⁹ between 1999/00 and 2003/04. The tables shows that the employment rate of those in contact with drug treatment services has decreased over recent years with only 10.1% of clients in employment in 2003/04. The proportion of clients who are unemployed for over a year in 2003/04 was 58.1%, this could have implications on the chances of getting these clients into employment.

Table 9.1 Economic Activity of Patients/Clients in Contact with Drug Treatment Services in Scotland

	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
Never employed	14.6%	13.0%	13.6%	14.3%	14.6%
Unemployed (1 year or longer)	52.0%	52.7%	54.2%	57.8%	58.1%
Unemployed (less than a year)	17.5%	17.8%	15.9%	13.5%	12.0%
Employed ¹	12.4%	12.8%	11.2%	9.7%	10.1%
Student	1.9%	1.9%	3.0%	2.9%	3.8%
Other ²	1.6%	1.8%	2.1%	1.8%	1.5%

1 Employment includes training

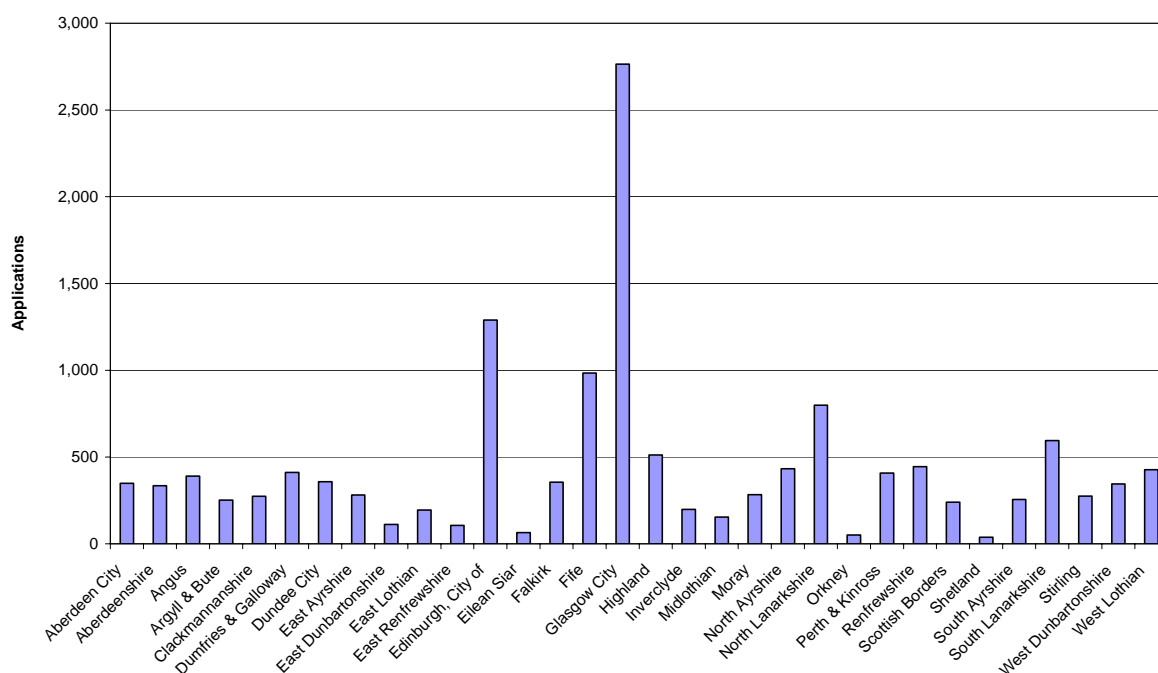
2 Other includes: housewife/husband, retired and invalidity/sick.

¹⁹ Source: Scottish Drug Misuse Database

10. Homelessness

56. Homelessness is an obvious barrier to employment and homeless people are amongst the hardest to help in terms of employability. The best guide to homeless people in Scotland is the number of applications to Scottish Local Authorities for assistance under the Homeless Persons legislation. Chart 10.1 shows the number of applications by Local Authority area for the period July-Sept 2004, the total figure for Scotland was 13,977.

Chart 10.1 Applications to Local Authorities for Assistance Under the Homeless Persons Legislation



Source: Scottish Executive

57. 63% of all applications are made by single people with 43% of applications being made by single males. 35.8% of all applications are made by people aged under 25 years old with this figure rising to nearly 40% for single people. Nearly 60% of all applications are made by people who have had a dispute with their household or have lost their accommodation with friends or family.

11. Discussion

58. This paper has highlighted some of the main characteristics of the Workless group in Scotland. However it should be noted that very few of these groups are mutually exclusive. Evidence has shown that groups such as lone parents, ex-offenders and substance abusers are likely to have low qualifications which is a known barrier to employment. Also it is likely that many ex-offenders are likely to have drug abuse problems. Often one barrier faced by those who are workless can be dealt with. However as the number of barriers increases the chances of gaining employment decreases exponentially. Unfortunately it is not easy to get data on the overlap between the groups which makes it difficult to quantify the level of people who are very far from the labour market with multiple barriers.