



REVISION NOTE

The Scottish House Condition Survey Key Findings 2007

Original Publication Date: 27th November 2008

Revised: 17th December 2008

After publication on the 27th November 2008, an error was discovered in the Scottish House Condition Survey Key Findings 2007. The error affected income data, and hence all tables in the report containing analysis by income (including fuel poverty estimates).

In line with the National Statistics Code of Practice, the scale and impact of the error has been assessed and the Key Findings Report 2007 revised and re-published.

Error

Winter Fuel Payment is granted to those over 60 to help with fuel bills over winter. In the SHCS, the amount of Winter Fuel Payment received is imputed for those households which should get the payment but it was not recorded during the social interview. The values for Winter Fuel Payment were incorrectly imputed, with households being given up to £3,000 rather than a maximum of £300. The error increased some household incomes – primarily for pensioner households. As income is used to derive whether a household is living in fuel poverty, the error also had an impact on fuel poverty estimates.

Changes to the Key Findings Report 2007

The correct values of Winter Fuel Payment have now been imputed and the main changes are highlighted below:

Household income band

- The number of households in the lowest weekly income band (less than £100 per week) increased from 93,000 households to 99,000 households, and the number of households on £100 -199 per week increased from 435,000 to 451,000 households.
- The numbers of households in all other income bands were reduced apart from those on more than £700 per week which did not change.

Section 3: Fuel Poverty

This section of the Key Findings report has been re-run with the main changes as follows:

- The number of households in fuel poverty increased by a further 17,000 from 569,000 to 586,000 households – from 24.6% to 25.3% of all households. This estimate is not statistically significantly different from the 2005/6 estimate.
- The number of households in extreme fuel poverty increased from 163,000 households to 172,000 households – from 7.0% to 7.4% of all households.
- The number of single pensioner households in fuel poverty increased from 182,000 to 190,000 households. Likewise, the number of older smaller households increased by 5,000 to 146,000 living in fuel poverty.¹ It holds that pensioner households are more likely than other household types to experience fuel poverty.
- 25% of private sector households and 27% of social sector households are living in fuel poverty compared to 24% and 25% respectively before the error was discovered.
- The number of fuel poor households living in dwellings with full central heating increased from 508,000 to 522,000 households, and those living in dwellings with partial central heating from 34,000 to 36,000 households.

Section 2: Energy Efficiency

Table 14 (NHER band by household characteristics (Row %)) and Table 16 (Mean and median NHER score by household characteristics) have been revised as they gave a breakdown by weekly household income band. Figure 5 (Mean NHER by tenure, type of dwelling, household income and urban/rural indicator) was also corrected and all mean confidence intervals were revised.

The SHCS Key Findings Report has now been amended and all changes have been fully incorporated into the publication available on the website. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SHCS>

If you have any further questions relating to the error or changes made to the Key Findings Report, please contact the SHCS team at shcs@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 0131 244 1685.

¹ For definitions of household types see the SHCS Key Findings report paragraph 105.