

## MATERIAL DEPRIVATION IN SCOTLAND 2013/14

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### CHILD MATERIAL DEPRIVATION AND LOW INCOME IN SCOTLAND



Combined low income and child material deprivation is an additional way of measuring living standards and refers to the inability of households to afford basic goods and activities that are seen as necessities in society.

It is a more direct measure of poverty than income alone, as it captures changes in standard of living.

- While relative child poverty decreased in 2013/14, child deprivation increased
- 13% of children in Scotland were living in low income, before housing costs, and material deprivation in 2013/14, increasing to 14% after housing costs
- 130,000 children in Scotland were living in low income, before housing costs, and material deprivation in 2013/14, 20,000 more than the previous year. After housing costs, 140,000 children were living in combined low income and material deprivation

The rise in the number of families with children experiencing combined low income and material deprivation was likely to have been driven by a relatively high level of inflation between 2011/12 and 2013/14 affecting families' purchasing power and their ability to afford various goods and services. Prices of goods and services increased faster than income over this period.

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### PENSIONER MATERIAL DEPRIVATION IN SCOTLAND



Pensioner material deprivation is an additional way of measuring living standards for pensioners.

It focuses on access to specific goods, services and experiences. It is used to explore a broader definition of pensioner poverty and captures both financial and non-financial reasons for being in material deprivation.

Pensioner material deprivation captures whether it is health or disability, or if someone is available to help them, that prevents access to goods and services, rather than solely low income.

- While relative pensioner poverty remained flat over recent years, pensioner deprivation increased
- 9% of pensioners in Scotland were living in material deprivation in 2013/14
- 80,000 pensioners (9%) in Scotland were living in material deprivation in 2013/14, 10,000 more than the previous year

Over recent years, the number of pensioners experiencing relative poverty was flat, as Basic State Pension was increased in line with inflation. This indicates the increase in pensioner deprivation was driven by non-financial reasons (such as health and disability), rather than low income.