

# Scotland's experience of analysing and measuring poverty and deprivation in rural areas

Tom Spencer and Paul Teasdale

# Rural poverty – talk synopsis

- A current issue for SG analysts and policy makers
- Recent research – what we know (and don't)
- Rural facts and figures
- Cost of living
- Next steps – discussion!

# Rural poverty is a current issue for us because...

- New Government
  - SNP support strong in rural areas
  - Poverty indicators key to Performance Framework
- New relationship with Local Authorities and data users
- New ‘tackling poverty’ framework
  - *“Poverty is most visible in disadvantaged communities in urban Scotland, but it is no less real in rural areas.”*
- Also, Scotland is 95 percent rural

# Recent qualitative research highlighted issues around...

- Transport
- Heating/fuel costs
- Childcare costs
- Access to services
- Low paid work



# But there are also specific issues in urban areas...



- Crime
- Unemployment
- Health
- Housing costs
  
- Differences in cost of living difficult to quantify

# Do our figures effectively represent rural poverty?

- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation issues in rural areas
- Income poverty is lower in rural areas
- But what about cost of living?

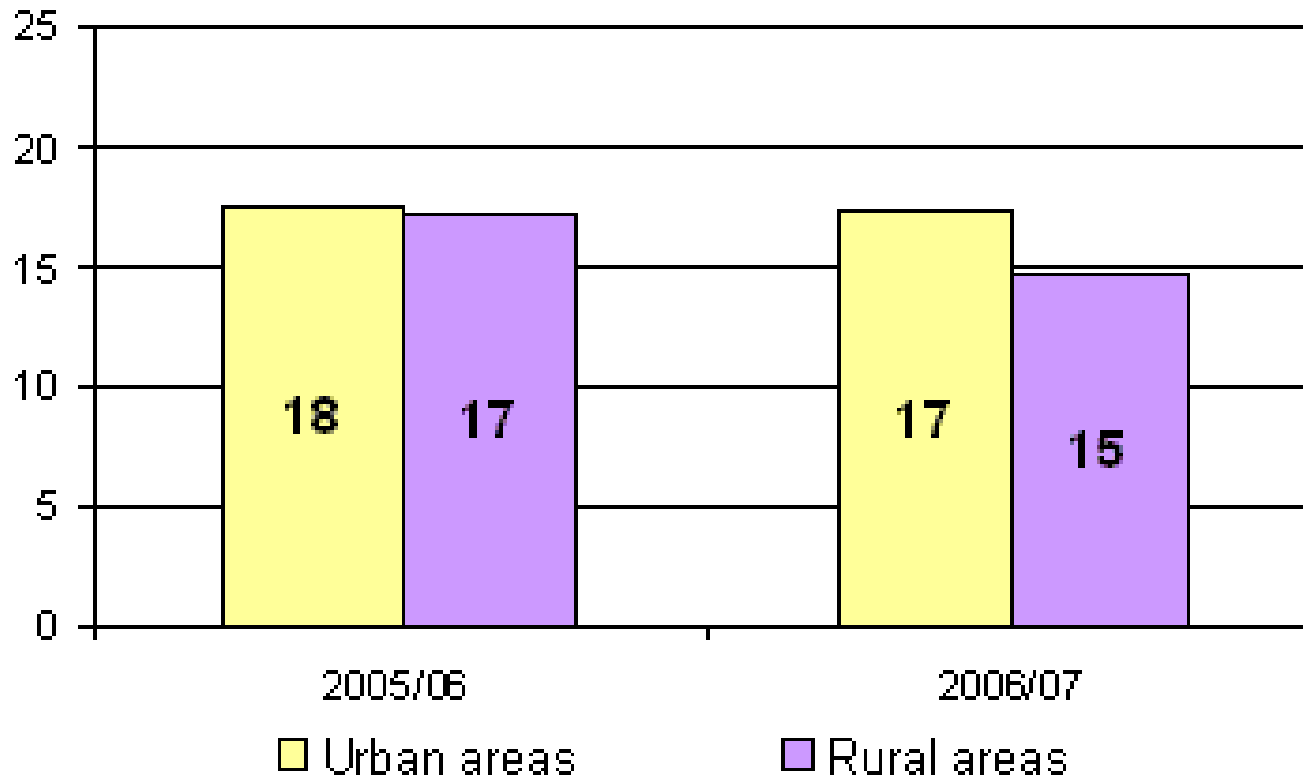


# Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

- Most deprived datazones are almost all in urban areas.
- Why? SIMD designed to highlight areas of concentrated deprivation AND does this
- Scottish Index of Rural Deprivation is unlikely

# Urban / rural poverty

Percentage of individuals in **RELATIVE** low income households **BEFORE** housing costs



# Rural Scotland Key Facts

- Demographics – rising population
- Education – standards relatively high
- Health – high life expectancy
- Employment – high
- Earnings – high
- Quality of life – better neighbourhood, safer

But

- Access to services - poor
- Fuel poverty
- Rented housing sector is small

# The Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification 2007-2008

- Consistent with the Scottish Government's core definition of rurality which defines settlements of 3,000 or less people to be rural
- Also classifies areas as remote based on drive times from settlements of 10,000 or more people

## Scottish Government Urban Rural Classification

1 Large Urban Areas	Settlements of over 125,000 people.
2 Other Urban Areas	Settlements of 10,000 to 125,000 people.
3 Accessible Small Towns	Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
4 Remote Small Towns*	Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of between 30 and 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
5 Very Remote Small Towns	Settlements of between 3,000 and 10,000 people and with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
6 Accessible Rural	Settlements of less than 3,000 people and within 30 minutes drive of a settlement of 10,000 or more.
7 Remote Rural*	Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of between 30 and 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.
8 Very Remote Rural	Settlements of less than 3,000 people and with a drive time of over 60 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more.

## Scottish Government 6-Fold Urban Rural Classification

- Large urban areas (with a population of over 125,000)
- Other urban areas (with a population of 10,000 to 125,000)
- Accessible\* small towns (with a population of 3,000 to 10,000)
- Remote small towns (with a population of 3,000 to 10,000)
- Accessible\* rural
- Remote rural

\* Accessible is defined as those areas that are within a 30 minute drivetimes from the centre of a town with a population of 10,000 or more

Source:  
SIS Urban Rural Classification - Scottish Government 07-08

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# The Scottish Government

# Is Cost of living different ?

- Does income go just as far in rural areas ?
- Impetus from rising fuel prices
- Need to look at both:
  - Prices
  - Expenditure patterns

# Prices

## Prices

- Nothing from ONS on local variation
- Rural Scotland Price Survey 2003
- Conclusion
  - Several categories – Rural Scotland higher
  - Significant exceptions: motoring and housing
  - Overall differences in prices are small
- Challenges
  - People do not shop locally
  - People buy a Different basket of goods
  - Differing Availability of items in the basket – especially housing

# Expenditure patterns

- Expenditure & Food Survey
- 2001 Survey in rural Scotland
- Pattern very similar to rural England

## **But**

- average income in rural areas relatively high
- No detail by income bands
- So cannot compare rural poor with urban poor

# Where do we go from here?

- Would it be worthwhile having more detail on expenditure ?
- How have you approached gaps regarding data on remote rural and low income households?
- Large sample vs. targeted study
- Benefits/costs of devoting resources to rural poverty specifically rather than overall poverty?
- Would it be better to concentrate research on paths out of poverty in recognition of need for different policies in rural areas?

Contact details:

Tom Spencer [Tom.Spencer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tom.Spencer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Paul Teasdale [Paul.Teasdale@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Teasdale@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)