

2005 Family and Children's Study

The 2005 Families and Children Study (FACS) is the seventh in a series of annual surveys to investigate the circumstances of British families with dependent children. This Update presents, without commentary, a selection of statistics based on tables published in the main report for 2005, focussing on London comparisons with Great Britain.

FACS covers a range of topics including: health; disability and caring; education; income; childcare; child maintenance; housing; transport; and labour market activity. It is carried out by the National Centre for Social Research (NCSR), commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and co-sponsored by other Government departments.

The main objectives of the FACS surveys are to provide information on:

- the effects of work incentive measures;
- the effects of policy on families' living standards;
- changes in family circumstances over time.

Specifically to look at:

- the impact of benefits and tax credits in supporting families with young children;
- barriers to work, particularly for low income families, and measures to overcome such barriers; and
- general family welfare issues.

The focus of the surveys has widened to take into account recent or modified Government policies. These include the long-term targets to eradicate child poverty by 2020 and to reduce child poverty by half by 2010, as well as objectives to increase the proportion of households (particularly lone parents) in paid work. The study provides data on employment-related experience of parents and also on outcomes for children – such as educational attainment, health and behaviour.

The family unit: In FACS, the family unit must comprise at least one dependent child (see definition of dependent child below) and at least one adult who is responsible for this child. The adult responsible for the child can be the child's natural or adoptive parent, or the legal guardian(s) to whom child benefit is paid.

The main respondent/'mother figure': Information about the family is collected principally from one family member – usually the mother or the 'mother figure'.

Dependent child: A dependent child is defined as any resident child aged 16 or under, or aged 17 or 18 and in full-time education.

For further background information regarding FACS see [DMAG Briefing 2006-21](#).

To download the full NCSR report click here:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep424.pdf>

Views and problems with local neighbourhood (%)			
		London	GB
How much of a problem is rubbish or litter lying around?	Big problem	27	18
	Not a very big problem	39	36
	Not a problem	34	47
How much of a problem are vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles?	Big problem	30	17
	Not a very big problem	36	33
	Not a problem	35	50
How much of a problem are teenagers hanging around on the street?	Big problem	31	24
	Not a very big problem	35	28
	Not a problem	34	48
How much of a problem are troublesome neighbours?	Big problem	8	7
	Not a very big problem	18	13
	Not a problem	74	80
How much of a problem is people being attacked or harassed because of their skin colour, religion or ethnic origin?	Big problem	11	4
	Not a very big problem	21	10
	Not a problem	68	86
How much of a problem are people being drunk or rowdy in public places?	Big problem	16	12
	Not a very big problem	31	23
	Not a problem	54	66
How much of a problem are people using or dealing drugs?	Big problem	21	15
	Not a very big problem	21	15
	Not a problem	58	70
Likelihood that (purse/wallet) is returned to you if found in the street by someone living in your neighbourhood?	Very likely	10	20
	Quite likely	26	38
	Not very likely	35	24
	Not at all likely?	28	18

Highest academic and vocational qualification in family (%)		
Academic	London	GB
None	14	11
GCSE grade D-G and equivalent	7	10
GCSE grade A-C and equivalent	25	35
GCE A-Level/ SCE Higher grade (A-C) and equivalent	12	14
First degree or higher	38	27
Other academic qualifications	4	4
Vocational	London	GB
None	45	30
Level 1 NVQ or equivalent (lowest)	9	10
Level 2 NVQ or equivalent	9	13
Level 3 NVQ or equivalent	10	14
Level 4 NVQ or equivalent	9	11
Level 5 NVQ or equivalent (highest)	1	1
Other	18	21

Notes: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'. Table does not take into account qualifications of children in the family.

Hours of work of mother and partner (%)			
		London	GB
Mother's usual hours of work	30 hours or more	52	44
	24-29 hours	12	14
	16-23 hours	20	27
	1-15 hours	16	15
Partner's usual hours of work	30 hours or more	94	97
	24-29 hours	1	1
	16-23 hours	2	1
	1-15 hours	3	1

Notes: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'. Excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'.

SOC-2000 major group of mother and partner (%)				
	Mother		Partner	
	London	GB	London	GB
Managers and senior officials	11	9	21	20
Professional occupations	15	11	22	14
Associate professional and technical	20	18	18	15
Admin. and secretarial	22	21	5	4
Skilled trades	2	2	15	21
Personal services	16	17	1	2
Sales and customer services	5	9	3	3
Process, plant and machine operatives	1	2	8	12
Elementary occupations	8	11	7	8

Notes: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'. Excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'.

Method of travel to work of mother (%)		
	London	GB
Underground, metro, light rail, tram	7	1
Train	10	2
Public bus, minibus or coach	14	7
Motorcycle scooter or moped	0	0
Car or van	53	73
Taxi/ minicab	-	0
Bicycle	1	1
On foot	11	13
Usually works from home	3	2
Other	1	0
Travel to work costs of mother (£ per week)		
Median	15.00	10.00
Mean	16.98	13.94

Notes: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'.

'-' = suppressed

Family unit work status (%)		
	London	GB
Lone parent: 16+ hours	13	13
Lone parent: 1-15 hours	1	1
Lone parent: not working	17	11
Couple: mother 16+ hours, partner 16+ hours	31	42
Couple: mother 16+ hours, partner not working	3	3
Couple: mother 1-15 hours, partner 16+ hours	8	9
Couple: mother not working, partner 16+ hours	21	17
Couple: mother and partner not working	4	4
Couple: other	2	1
Work status of mother (%)		
Working 16 or more hours	48	59
Working fewer than 16 hours	9	10
Unemployed and seeking work	2	2
Full-time education/ training scheme	3	1
Sick/ disabled	2	2
Looking after/ caring for home or family	35	24
Other	1	1
Work status of partner (%)		
Working 16 or more hours	86	90
Working fewer than 16 hours	2	1
Unemployed and seeking work	4	2
Full-time education/ training scheme	1	0
Sick/ disabled	3	3
Looking after/ caring for home or family	2	2
Other	1	1

Notes: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'. Excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'.

Duration since mother was last in paid employment (%)		
	London	GB
In last 12 months	8	15
In the last 1 to 2 years	8	10
More than 2 years ago	55	59
Never worked	29	16

Note: Includes lone fathers but excludes couple families where the father was the 'main respondent'.

Type of housing (%)		
	London	GB
Detached house/ bungalow	6	23
Semi-detached house/ bungalow	29	39
Terrace/end-terrace house	37	28
Purpose-built flat/ maisonette	18	7
Other	10	3

Banded total unequivalised weekly family income - BHC (%)		
	London	GB
Less than £200	13	10
£200 or more but less than £300	16	14
£300 or more but less than £400	12	14
£400 or more but less than £500	13	16
£500 or more but less than £600	11	14
£600 or more but less than £700	9	11
£700 or more	25	21
Average total unequivalised weekly family income -BHC (£ weekly)		
Median	471	472
Mean	591	553
Proportion of total weekly family income - BHC by income sources (%)		
Earnings	57	63
Tax Credits	9	10
Income Support	7	5
Other benefits	19	15
Child maintenance	2	2
Other	3	2
Total OECD equivalised family income (BHC) quintiles (%)		
Lowest quintile	22	17
Second quintile	15	17
Third quintile	15	17
Fourth quintile	15	17
Highest quintile	20	17
Self-employed	13	15

Weekly housing costs (%)				
	Gross		Net*	
	London	GB	London	GB
No housing costs	12	10	23	18
Under £50	4	10	11	12
£50 or more but less than £75	14	22	9	16
£75 or more but less than £100	17	16	13	14
£100 or more but less than £150	20	23	17	22
£150 or more	33	19	28	18
Mean and median housing costs (£ weekly)				
Mean	133.38	102.38	111.75	92.45
Median	104.78	87.69	91.36	80.77

* Net housing costs do not include contributions made by housing benefit or rent rebate.

Childcare arrangements (%)				
	Working mothers		Non-working mothers	
	London	GB	London	GB
Childcare used	48	52	20	31
Formal childcare	30	28	10	15
Informal childcare	29	37	13	20
Other	2	1	0	0
Childcare not required	52	48	80	69

Note: Row percent, multiple responses are allowed so totals may sum to more than 100.

Number of items a family cannot afford (%)		
	London	GB
Food and meal items		
None	83	86
1	10	7
2	4	3
3	1	1
4 or more	2	2
Clothes and shoes items		
None	76	81
1	11	8
2	5	5
3	4	3
4 or more	5	3
Consumer durable items		
None	62	71
1	14	14
2	8	7
3	7	4
4 or more	9	4
Leisure activities		
None	58	66
1	12	13
2	13	10
3	8	6
4 or more	9	6
Number of all items		
None	49	55
1-2	16	19
3-5	16	13
6-10	9	8
4 or more	10	5

Mean relative material deprivation score (RMDS)		
	London	GB
Food and meals	4.31	3.77
Clothing and shoes	7.81	5.85
Consumer durables	5.92	3.64
Leisure activities	16.53	11.50
All items	7.73	5.43

Notes: The relative material deprivation score (RMDS) is calculated using the 34 items listed and weighted according to ownership of items amongst all families. Higher score equals greater deprivation.

Material deprivation reflects aspects of poor living standards by indicating the inability to afford/access items listed below. A family is defined as deprived of an item if it did not have it and wanted it but could not afford it. Please note that the items used in FACS to measure material deprivation differ from those used in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP's) long-term measure of child poverty.

Food and meal items

- Main meal every day
- Meat/fish every other day
- Roast meat every week
- Vegetables most days
- Fruit most days
- Cakes/biscuits most days
- Brand name, good most days

Clothing and shoes items

- Waterproof coat for each adult
- Waterproof coat for each child
- Two pairs of shoes for each adult
- Two pairs of shoes for each child
- New clothes when needed
- Best outfit for each child
- Brand clothing/shoes for each child

Consumer durable items

- Colour TV
- Cable/satellite/digital
- Refrigerator
- Separate deep freeze
- Washing machine
- Tumble drier
- Telephone (inc. mobile)
- Dishwasher
- Video recorder
- Central heating
- Microwave
- Car or van
- Music system
- Home computer

Leisure activities

- Celebrations with presents at special occasions
- Toys/sports gear for each child
- Money for trips/outings/gifts to parties
- One-week holidays (not staying with relatives)
- Night out once a month
- Friends/relatives for a meal once a month

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