

## 2006 Family and Children's Study

The 2006 Families and Children Study (FACS) is the eighth 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 2006, 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.

However, other variables previously available from the study are no longer available. In wave 7 (FACS2005) respondents were asked 34 different questions about material deprivation items, in wave 8 (FACS2006) only 7 items were included in total (the majority of which are leisure activities), and therefore no material deprivation statistics or a relative material deprivation score (RMDS) are included.

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.

Highest academic and vocational qualification in family (%)		
Academic	London	GB
None	15	11
GCSE grade D-G and equivalent	7	10
GCSE grade A-C and equivalent	23	34
GCE A-Level/ SCE Higher grade (A-C) and equivalent	12	15
First degree or higher	37	27
Other academic qualifications	6	4
Vocational	London	GB
None	43	30
Level 1 NVQ or equivalent (lowest)	8	10
Level 2 NVQ or equivalent	9	13
Level 3 NVQ or equivalent	12	13
Level 4 NVQ or equivalent	11	11
Level 5 NVQ or equivalent (highest)	1	1
Other	18	23

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	50	44
	24-29 hours	13	14
	16-23 hours	21	27
	1-15 hours	15	15
Partner's usual hours of work	30 hours or more	93	96
	24-29 hours	1	1
	16-23 hours	3	2
	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	10	8	16	17
Professional occupations	17	11	18	13
Associate professional and technical	21	18	21	16
Admin. and secretarial	19	21	9	6
Skilled trades	2	2	16	20
Personal services	17	17	0	2
Sales and customer services	5	10	4	3
Process, plant and machine operatives	0	2	7	13
Elementary occupations	8	11	9	9

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	10	1
Train	10	2
Public bus, minibus or coach	10	6
Motorcycle scooter or moped	0	0
Car or van	53	73
Taxi/ minicab	-	0
Bicycle	2	2
On foot	12	12
Usually works from home	3	2
Other	0	0
Travel to work costs of mother (£ per week)		
Median	14.00	10.00
Mean	16.73	14.21

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	10	13
Lone parent: 1-15 hours	1	1
Lone parent: not working	17	11
Couple: mother 16+ hours, partner 16+ hours	34	42
Couple: mother 16+ hours, partner not working	3	2
Couple: mother 1-15 hours, partner 16+ hours	7	8
Couple: mother not working, partner 16+ hours	21	17
Couple: mother and partner not working	5	4
Couple: other	2	1
Work status of mother (%)		
Working 16 or more hours	47	59
Working fewer than 16 hours	9	10
Unemployed and seeking work	2	2
Full-time education/ training scheme	2	1
Sick/ disabled	3	2
Looking after/ caring for home or family	36	24
Other	1	1
Work status of partner (%)		
Working 16 or more hours	86	90
Working fewer than 16 hours	3	1
Unemployed and seeking work	3	3
Full-time education/ training scheme	0	0
Sick/ disabled	4	3
Looking after/ caring for home or family	2	2
Other	2	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	12	15
In the last 1 to 2 years	6	10
More than 2 years ago	52	58
Never worked	30	17

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	30	39
Terrace/end-terrace house	35	29
Purpose-built flat/ maisonette	19	7
Other	10	3

Banded total unequivalised weekly family income - BHC (%)		
	London	GB
Less than £200	15	10
£200 or more but less than £300	14	15
£300 or more but less than £400	13	14
£400 or more but less than £500	11	14
£500 or more but less than £600	11	13
£600 or more but less than £700	9	11
£700 or more	27	24
Average total unequivalised weekly family income -BHC (£ weekly)		
Median	461	483
Mean	634	579
Proportion of total weekly family income - BHC by income sources (%)		
Earnings	61	68
Tax Credits	9	10
Income Support	6	4
Other benefits	19	14
Child maintenance	2	2
Other	3	2
Total OECD equivalised family income (BHC) quintiles (%)		
Lowest quintile	23	17
Second quintile	15	17
Third quintile	12	17
Fourth quintile	13	17
Highest quintile	21	17
Self-employed	16	15

Weekly housing costs (%)				
	Gross		Net*	
	London	GB	London	GB
No housing costs	13	10	23	18
Under £50	4	8	10	11
£50 or more but less than £75	11	20	9	15
£75 or more but less than £100	15	16	10	13
£100 or more but less than £150	21	25	19	23
£150 or more	36	22	30	21
Mean and median housing costs (£ weekly)				
Mean	139.51	110.19	116.61	99.40
Median	115.38	92.31	93.08	87.69

\* 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	54	54	25	29
Formal childcare	32	28	13	14
Informal childcare	33	40	18	20
Other	1	0	0	0
Childcare not required	46	46	75	71

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

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/rrep486.pdf>

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