

Updating the Indices of Deprivation 2004

ODPM brought out the English Indices of Deprivation in 2004 (ID2004) after a long development process in which GLA was fully involved. These were designed to provide comparable information about relative deprivation for small areas across the whole of England. Three indices were produced; the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which incorporates a whole range of aspects of deprivation, the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index. The last two were based purely on the poverty aspects of the IMD. The ID2004 used data from 2001.

The process to update the indices has started and again the GLA will be fully engaged, sitting on the DCLG's Advisory Group and keeping the GLA group, boroughs and other relevant bodies in London informed. Whereas the ID2004 were developed in a completely different way to previous indices, the next release (if it goes ahead) is expected to be an update as far as possible, rather than to completely revise the indices, so the structure and methodology will remain largely the same, that is the IMD would be based on the same domain structure (see below) and the methods to create the domains and to combine them to create the overall index would be the same as those used to produce the current IMD. It is proposed that any update would use data from 2005.

Seven distinct dimensions or 'domains' of deprivation were included in the IMD2004, made up of 37 separate indicators. The domains used were:

- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- Health deprivation and disability
- Education, skills and training deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Living environment deprivation
- Crime

However, a number of issues were identified in the development of the IMD that could not be dealt with within the time frame of the publication of the ID2004 and work on some of these has been progressing in the intervening period. The results will be considered and incorporated as appropriate.

One example is work that is currently being finalised on take-up rates for various benefits and the geographical variation in these. Another example of work identified previously for further development is where the current indices used the proportion of people on particular benefits as a proxy for people in poverty, and again a project has been undertaken to look at producing estimates of people in poverty rather than using the benefits data directly. A third example is in relation to the access to services, where geographical distance was used, but issues around access to transport could not be incorporated. Developments on all these aspects have taken place since 2004, and the results of this work and whether they can be incorporated will be considered as part of the update process.

There were also a number of potential issues considered for the current version but for which indicators were not available. These may be looked at again, and if there is now information available, whether and how to incorporate it would need to be considered. An example of this is in relation to childcare or affordable childcare.

In addition to these potential changes, there are a number of areas where it will not be possible to produce a direct update from the previous indices. For example, the benefits system and the benefits available changed between 2001 and 2005, so this will need to be taken into account and ways to incorporate the new benefits appropriately will need to be established. Also, some of the indicators, particularly in relation to housing, used 2001 Census data, which is not updated, so alternatives need to be investigated.

There is some tension with any proposed changes, between the desire to create the best index and the desire to retain comparability. Proposals for an update are likely to be published for consultation early in 2007.

DMAG publications relating to the ID2004

Indices of Deprivation 2004: A London perspective

(DMAG Briefing 2004-18)

This Briefing covers the construction of the indices and the results for London and how these compare to the previous Indices of Deprivation (2000), along with discussion of the findings for London and how the construction has affected these.

Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Older People

(DMAG Update 2005-14)

Alongside the widely used Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), two further indices were produced. One gives the proportion of children affected by income deprivation, the other gives the proportion of older people affected by income deprivation. These are derived from the income domain of the IMD. This Update presents a summary of the results.

Indices of Deprivation 2004: An analysis of London wards based on SOA ranks

(DMAG Briefing 2005-5)

This Briefing presents a ward analysis of the Indices of Deprivation 2004. It presents the average Super Output Area (SOA) ranks within the ward and the number of SOAs within London wards that are ranked within the lowest 30, 20 and 10 per cent in the country.

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