

Blackpool - Key Statistics

Location

Blackpool is a large seaside town located in Lancashire County in North West England. Blackpool covers an area of 13.46 square miles within the urban area stretching along the Fylde Coast, and is one of the most densely populated authorities in the UK.

Demographics

The population of Blackpool¹ is estimated at 142,080, with a larger proportion of residents aged 60+ compared to national age structure. Residents are mostly of White ethnicity, with Black and Minority Ethnic groups estimated to make up just 3% of the population approximately 4000 people, compared with the estimated proportion for England of 15%.

Table 1: Population Demographics

Age ²	Blackpool	England
Aged 0-18 years	22%	23%
Aged 19-24 years	7%	8%
Aged 25-59 years	45%	47%
Aged 60+	26%	22%
Ethnicity ³		
White	97%	85%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	1%	2%
Asian/Asian British	2%	8%
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	0.2%	4%
Other ethnic group	0.2%	1%
Tenure ⁴		
Owner Occupied	67%	71%
Social Rented	11%	18%
Private Rented	22%	11%

Sources: See endnotes

Housing

Blackpool has a similar proportion of Owner-Occupiers compared to national (England) levels, but almost double the proportion of Private Rented accommodation (26.1% vs 16.8%). This is driven largely by changes in the seaside economies with many former guest houses converting to flats, and fluctuations in seasonal work creating demand for temporary accommodation in resort areas. Blackpool has a significant proportion of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in central wards close to the promenade and a monitoring project by Blackpool Council identified up to 37% of private sector rented properties in resort areas could be classified as a HMO⁵.

Poverty and Deprivation

Blackpool has a large proportion of residents living in deprived areas and is currently ranked the 6th most deprived authority in England under the Indices of Deprivation 2010 – a higher rank than in 2007 (12th) and 2004 (24th) Additionally, in the 2010 Indices, Blackpool ranked 1st for the concentration of deprivation.

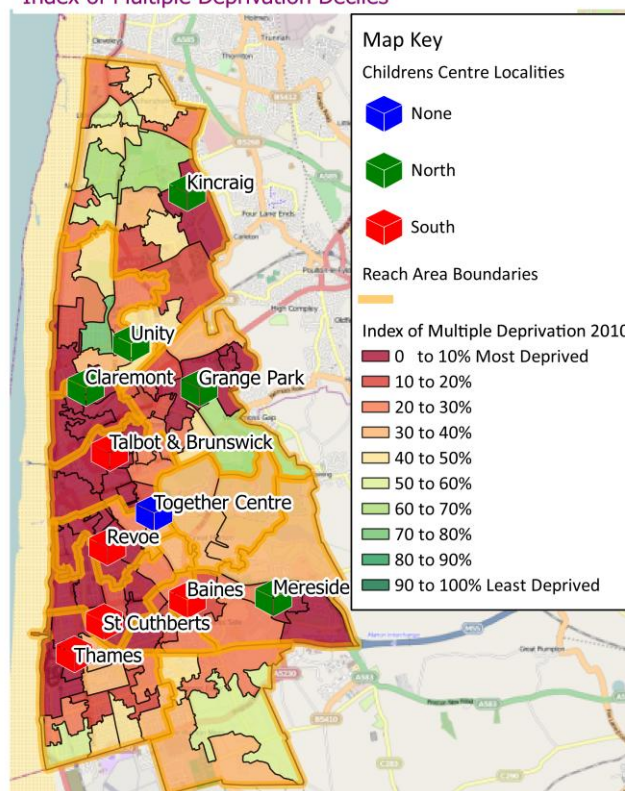
Map 1 below shows the relative positions of local areas in Blackpool. Around half of Blackpool's 94 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's)¹, are in the most deprived 20% of all LSOAs in England. Specific areas in the central wards of Talbot, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Claremont and the outer wards of Clifton and Park have the highest ranked levels of deprivation in Blackpool.

¹ An LSOA is a small area of approximately 1500 residents

Poverty is also a significant factor in Blackpool. In 2010, 30% of children in Blackpool were estimated to be in poverty, compared to 20.6% of all children in England. Further analysis highlighted that the majority of children in poverty live in lone parent families⁶.

There are strong relationships between deprivation and a range of social issues and as a continued effort to address inequalities, Blackpool has launched a Fairness Commission. The Commission is made up of a range of local people representing different organisations which will explore social and other inequalities in depth and make recommendations for further improvements. 2012 also saw the introduction of a Child Poverty Framework aimed at reducing the levels of children in low income families and providing support for families currently in financial difficulty.

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Employment and Benefits

In terms of workforce, Blackpool has a low employment rate at 68.1% compared to a national (GB) rate of 70.3%. There are a high proportion of benefit claimants with out-of-work benefits, including Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) at almost twice the national (GB) level - currently 23%, compared to 12.5% (GB)⁷. This approximates to about 20,000 individuals claiming an out-of-work benefit, the majority (10,930) of which claim ESA. Table 2 below shows the distribution of claims in Feb 2012.

Table 2: Distribution of benefits claims in Blackpool by Statistical Group

	Number	Blackpool	Great Britain
Total claimants	23,940	26.9	15.0
Key out-of-work benefits†	20,050	23.0	12.5
By statistical group			
Job seekers	6,340	7.3	4.1
ESA and incapacity benefits	10,930	12.5	6.5
Lone parents	2,010	2.3	1.5
Carers	1,780	2.0	1.2
Others on income related benefits	760	0.9	0.4
Disabled	1,460	1.7	1.1
Bereaved	200	0.2	0.2

Source: DWP February 2012

For residents in employment, the median wage for full time employees in Blackpool is around £293.00, which is £117 per week less than the national median⁸. An estimated 17.8% of the working age population in Blackpool having no formal qualifications.⁹

Education and Children's Outcomes

For young people in Blackpool, there are a range of challenges across both educational attainment and life chance indicators. The range of issues is partly driven by the existing high levels of poverty and social disadvantage in Blackpool, both of which have generational impacts whereby parents' difficulties create problems in the family and influence children's outcomes. The rate of Looked after Children in Blackpool is the highest in England at a rate of 150 per 10,000 children; this is over twice the rate for England as a whole at 59 per 10,000.¹⁰

In terms of academic achievement, the proportion of children attaining the expected level at Key Stage 2 is similar to national levels at 80-85% attainment dependent on subject. There are strong differences between the highest and lowest performing areas however with evidence for the North West region suggesting the proportion attaining level 4 in the 10% most deprived areas is 18 percentage points lower than those in the least deprived 10%..

Blackpool pupils perform similarly to national levels at GCSE level with an equal proportion achieving 5 or more A* to C grade GCSEs (82%). When Maths and English are included however a significant gap appears – 48% of Blackpool pupils achieve 5+ A*-C (incl. Maths & English) compared to 59% nationally¹¹.

In addition, approximately 10% of Blackpool's young people are not in education, employment or training compared to 8% for the sub-region¹².

Health and Lifestyles

Blackpool has poor life expectancy, with life expectancy for males the poorest in England at 73.6 years compared to 78.5 years. Life expectancy for females is similarly poor, at 79.4 years, compared to 82.5 years for England -the 3rd poorest after Manchester and Liverpool¹³. The biggest contributors for both men and women are circulatory diseases, digestive disease including cirrhosis, and respiratory disease. These three areas contribute over half of the overall life expectancy gap in Blackpool. Lung Cancer is also a significant contributor to Female Life Expectancy¹⁴.

Substance and Alcohol misuse is considered high, with alcohol-related death the highest in England¹⁵ (cirrhosis being one of the major drivers of the life expectancy gap). Further estimates suggest that the prevalence of problematic heroin and/or crack cocaine use in Blackpool was 27.49 per 1,000 populations¹⁶. Blackpool has the highest drug prevalence rate across the region, and is within the top ten nationally.

While not directly a health damaging issue, teenage Pregnancy rates in under-18s are the 6th highest in England & Wales. In addition, Blackpool has a very low proportion of teenage pregnancies leading to abortion (36%) compared to England & Wales (49%). This implies a greater relative proportion of teenagers go on to become parents¹⁷ and may require further local authority support. Teenage conceptions have associated risks for both parent and child's health and social wellbeing.

¹ ONS Mid Year Population estimates 2011

² ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates Analysis Tool, 2011

³ ONS Census 2011 Ethnicity, 2011

⁴ ONS Census 2011 Tenure, 2011

⁵ Blackpool Council - MIPS Summary Report - 2011

⁶ HMRC Child Poverty Statistics, 2010

⁷ DWP WPLS, February 2012

⁸ ONS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2011.

⁹ ONS Labour Force Survey, 2011 – Estimates for Jan-Dec 2011.

¹⁰ DfE: Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England, 2012

¹¹ DfE: Local Area Data Tables, 2012

¹² CCIS Database, September 2011, (12 month averages of 2010 data)

¹³ ONS Life Expectancy, 2008-10

¹⁴ London Health Observatory – Spearhead Life Expectancy Tools - 2009

¹⁵ NWPHO Local Alcohol Profiles 2011

¹⁶ Glasgow University 2006/07

¹⁷ DfE: Teenage Pregnancy Statistics, 2008- 2010