

National Assembly for Wales

In Figures: Child poverty May 2010

This research paper updates and replaces the previous research paper of the same title, to include data up to 2009.

It provides a statistical portrait of the incidence and nature of child poverty across Wales, including a special focus on education in chapter 7.

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National Assembly for Wales

In Figures: Child poverty
May 2010

Jenny King

May 2010

Paper Number:10/053

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Summary

This research paper updates and replaces the paper of the same title, published in July 2008, to include data up to 2009.

Child poverty can be measured in a number of ways. These can include indicators based around income, such as estimates of the number of children living in low income households, or indicators based on other manifestations of poverty, such as child dental health and education.

- The most widely used measure of child poverty is the proportion of children living in households with less than 60 per cent average income, after housing costs. In 2007/08, 32 per cent of children in Wales were in this group, compared with 30 per cent of children across the UK.
- In 2009, 17 per cent of primary school pupils and 15 per cent of secondary school pupils were entitled to free school meals. Local authorities with the highest proportions of free school meal entitlement tend to be located in the South Wales Valleys.
- Between 2003 and 2009, the overall number of registered child care places in Wales increased by 6 per cent.
- Five-year-olds in Wales have, on average, 2.4 decayed, missing or filled teeth. Children in Blaenau Gwent had the highest average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth.
- According to the WIMD 2008 Child Index Newport, Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff had the highest percentage of their Lower Level Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10 per cent of LSOAs in Wales.
- Pupils' attainment at Key Stages 2 and 3 increased 1.5 and 1.7 percentage points, between 2008 and 2009 respectively. Attainment at Key Stage 4 has improved each year since 2000 and in 2009 was 1 percentage point above the 2010 milestone
- The number of 16-18 year olds in education, employment or training is at its lowest level since before the 2003 baseline.
- In 2008-09, 42 per cent of children leaving care achieved at least two GCSEs or a GNVQ qualification, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2007-08.
- The proportion of working age adults with qualifications at NVQ levels 2+, 3+ or 4+ has increased each year since 2001.

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In Figures: Child Poverty

1. Introduction

This research paper is part of the *In Figures* series, which aims to provide a statistical portrait of a number of key social and economic issues. This particular issue focuses on statistics relating to child poverty.

The UK and Welsh Governments have committed to halving child poverty by 2010 and eradicating it by 2020. This target will be measured using the number of children living in households below average income, of which there is further discussion in this paper. However, poverty can manifest itself in a number of ways, as the then Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Edwina Hart, stated in the Welsh Government document *Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success*¹:

[Poverty] manifests itself in underachievement and social exclusion; in poor health; and in limited opportunities for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is damaging to individual children, to families, to communities, and to society as a whole.

For this reason, in addition to overall measures of child poverty, this paper will present figures on other specific areas affected by child poverty.

Given that education is considered by many to be an important route out of poverty, this paper includes a special focus on the Welsh Government's progress towards meeting its child poverty education targets.

Addressing poverty and inequality among children and young people has been a key consideration within the National Assembly with cross party support for working towards its eradication. The National Assembly's [Children and Young People Committee](#) for example, undertook an inquiry into child poverty in relation to education² publishing its report in November 2008. In her forward to the report, the chair of the Committee, Helen Mary Jones AM said,

In Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government has developed innovative policies aimed at enabling children to break free from poverty's grip. Some initiatives have worked well and we should celebrate these successes. Yet much of the evidence gathered in this inquiry suggests that progress towards eradicating Child Poverty in Wales has long been patchy, and has stalled in recent years.³

¹ Welsh Assembly Government, [Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success](#), October 2006

² Children and Young People Committee, [Child Poverty in Wales: Eradication through Education](#), November 2008

³ *ibid* (page 1)

The then Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, Jane Hutt and then Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, Brian Gibbons responding to the Committees inquiry in January 2008.⁴

As well as policy responses, the Welsh Government has also brought forward legislation in the form of the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure](#) which received royal approval on 10 February 2010. The Measure makes statutory provision to take forward the Welsh Government's target of eradicating child poverty by 2020 and builds on the *One Wales* commitment to '*...legislate in the fields of vulnerable children, looked-after children and child poverty.*'⁵

⁴ [Response to Committee Report: Child poverty in Wales: Eradication through Education? By Jane Hutt the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and Brian Gibbons, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, GEN-LD7371, January 2008](#)

⁵ Welsh Assembly Government, [One Wales, A progressive agenda for the government of Wales](#), 27 June 2007

2. Households Below Average Income

The measure most widely used by the UK and Welsh Government to measure child poverty is the percentage of children living in households with less than 60 per cent of the UK median household income. This measure comes from the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data set, published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Percentages of children living in households below 60 per cent average income are normally quoted before and after housing costs have been paid.

As part of the Welsh Government's commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020; a milestone for 2010 and a target for 2020 were set relating to the HBAI data set. Table 1 shows the percentage of children in Wales and the UK living in households with less than 60 per cent median income. The figures after housing costs are presented alongside the 2010 milestone in chart format in Figure 1.

Milestone: To have no more than 17 per cent of children living in relatively low-income households (this is calculated as the percentage of children living in households where income is below 60 per cent of median value, **after housing costs**)⁶.

Target: To have matched the lowest poverty rate in Europe.

Table 1. Children living in households with less than 60 per cent median UK income, before and after housing costs (a)

Year	<i>Per cent</i>			
	Before Housing Costs		After Housing Costs	
	Wales	UK (b)	Wales	UK (b)
1996/97	29	25	36	33
1997/98	31	26	37	33
1998/99	30	27	36	34
1999/00	30	26	36	33
2000/01	29	25	35	33
2001/02	28	24	34	31
2002/03	28	23	34	30
2003/04	27	23	32	30
2004/05	26	22	31	29
2005/06	24	22	28	29
2006/07	25	22	29	30
2007/08	27	22	32	30

Source: DWP - [Households Below Average Income](#) (table 4.13ts)

(a) Data are based on three year averages, that is, an average of the current year and the previous two years. For example, the figure for 2007/08 is based on data from 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08.

(b) Data are for Great Britain up to and including 1999/00 and the United Kingdom from 2000/01 onwards.

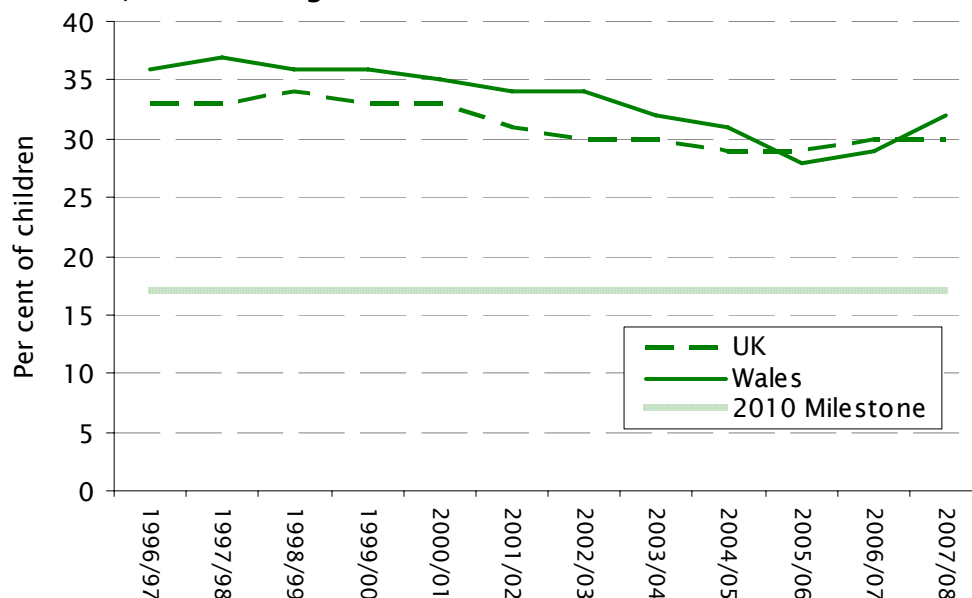
⁶ Welsh Assembly Government: [Child Poverty Indicators - Indicator 21](#), February 2009

The percentage of children living in Households Below Average Income in Wales (after housing costs) decreased gradually between 1997/98 and 2005/06, but the **last two years** have shown an **increase of 4 percentage points**. The UK has followed a similar trend, although the decrease has been at a slightly slower rate and there was no change between 2006/07 and 2007/08. To **reach the 2010 milestone**, the percentage of children living in households in Wales with less than 60 per cent of the median UK income (after housing costs) needs to **decrease by 15 percentage points**.

In 2005/06, the percentage of children living in households below average income was lower in Wales than across the UK as a whole, when using figures after housing costs. This trend was maintained in 2006/07, but reversed in 2007/08.

The risk of living in a household with below 60 per cent of the average UK income is greatly affected by the type of household the child lives in. Approximately 31 per cent⁷ of all children across the UK live in Households Below Average Income (after housing costs), however the figure for lone parent families is 52 per cent. The figure for those living in a family headed by someone of Asian or Asian British origin is 53 per cent, 48 per cent for Black or Black British, 41 per cent for Mixed, 27 per cent for White and 46 per cent for Chinese or other ethnic groups.

Figure 1. Children living in households with less than 60 per cent median UK income in Wales and the UK, after housing costs



Source: [Households Below Average Income](#) (table 4.13ts)

In addition to the work on households below average income, the Labour Force Survey estimated that in June 2009, across Wales **107,000 children (19.8 per**

⁷ This is for the **year 2007/08 only** and not a three-year average, as provided in table 1 and figure 1.

cent) lived in households where no working-age adult worked⁸, an increase of 20,000 since June 2008. The Welsh Government document on *Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success* sets a milestone of having no more than 13.5 per cent of children living in workless households by 2010, to reach this milestone there **needs to be a 6.3 percentage point reduction** over the next year.

Both these sets of figures are *estimates* compiled from surveys which have sampled households across the UK. It is not possible to reliably produce estimates for either of these measures below the Wales level as the sample of households used is too small. However, a number of other statistics are available below the all-Wales level. These are discussed in the following sections.

⁸ Office for National Statistics, [Work and Worklessness Among Households](#), August 2009

3. Pupils Entitled to Free School Meals

Figures from the Schools Census 2009 (provisional results) show that **17.1 per cent of primary school pupils and 14.8 per cent of secondary school pupils** in Wales are entitled to free school meals.

The **highest concentrations** of pupils entitled to free school meals are in the **South Wales Valleys authorities**, with Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf having the highest percentages for both primary and secondary schools. The eastern authorities of Monmouthshire, Powys and Flintshire, along with the Vale of Glamorgan and Ceredigion, have the lowest percentages of pupils entitled to free school meals.

Table 2. Pupils entitled to free school meals, January 2009, by local authority

	Primary		Secondary	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Isle of Anglesey	890	16.7	616	14.4
Gwynedd	1,166	12.0	786	10.3
Conwy	1,269	14.7	1,002	13.4
Denbighshire	1,314	16.0	926	12.0
Flintshire	1,458	10.9	916	8.8
Wrexham	1,793	15.4	1,058	15.8
Powys	1,027	9.8	708	7.8
Ceredigion	668	12.9	468	9.4
Pembrokeshire	1,441	13.8	895	10.8
Carmarthenshire	2,456	16.8	1,662	13.4
Swansea	3,450	16.9	2,479	17.2
Neath Port Talbot	2,388	19.7	1,612	18.4
Bridgend	2,384	19.4	1,416	14.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,350	11.7	996	10.2
Rhondda Cynon Taf	5,300	24.8	3,397	18.9
Merthyr Tydfil	1,248	24.5	868	21.2
Caerphilly	3,059	18.4	2,324	18.6
Blaenau Gwent	1,551	25.5	1,005	22.3
Torfaen	1,342	17.3	1,105	13.7
Monmouthshire	552	8.2	470	8.6
Newport	2,583	19.6	1,834	17.4
Cardiff	5,394	19.6	3,883	18.6
Wales	44,083	17.1	30,426	14.8

Source: [Schools Census 2009 \(Provisional Results\), Table 11a, Welsh Government](#)

Note, pupils attending nursery or special schools are not included in the above table

4. Childcare

The Welsh Government document *Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success* includes their commitment to ‘increase the overall pool of childcare places and to give priority to the poorest communities’.⁹ From the information provided it is not possible to determine how the Welsh Government is measuring this aim; however information published by the [Care and Social Service Inspectorate Wales](#) gives some indication of the recent changes in childcare places.

The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales’ annual report on children’s day care services¹⁰ gives the number of day care places available for under eight-year-olds in registered child care settings across Wales. Table 3 shows the number of places available since 2003, while Table 4 breaks down the data for the two most recent years by the type of day care setting.

Table 3. Number of day care places for under 8s in Wales, 31 March

Year	Places
2003	69,710
2004	71,383
2005	72,856
2006	72,894
2007	70,681
2008	72,395
2009	73,645

Source: CSSIW, [Children's Day Care Services Annual report 2008-2009](#)

Table 4. Number of day care places for under 8s in Wales, by day care setting, 31 March

Setting	2008	2009	Change
Childminders	12,033	12,137	104
Full day care	20,147	21,335	1,188
Sessional day care	17,287	17,633	346
Out of school care	18,444	18,259	-185
Creches	1,110	891	-219
Open access	3,374	3,390	16
Total	72,395	73,645	1,250

Source: CSSIW, [Children's Day Care Services Annual report 2008-2009](#)

The number of registered day care places in Wales has **risen since 2003**, but fell by over 2,000 places in 2007, followed by an **increase of almost 3,000 places by 2009**. Table 4 shows that most of this rise between 2008 and 2009 was in the full day care and seasonal day care sectors, the number of registered crèche places decreased by 219, and out of school care places fell by 185.

⁹ Welsh Assembly Government, [Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success](#), (page 10) October 2006

¹⁰ Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales, [Children's Day Care Services Annual report 2008-2009](#), September 2009

In 2004, the Wales Rural Observatory (WRO) carried out a survey of Town and Community Councils in rural Wales, with child care being one of the areas covered by the survey¹¹. The survey included publicly and privately funded nurseries; play groups and out-of-school child care facilities. They summarised their findings on child care as follows:

The provision of accessible childcare services in rural areas is of key importance given its role in allowing members of the family unit to gain employment. In terms of nursery and playgroup provision 74 per cent of responding Town and Community Councils did not have a publicly run nursery and 78 per cent are without a privately run nursery, however, only 38 per cent did not have a playgroup.

The WRO conducted some analysis on child care facilities by the size of the community's population. The likelihood of having child care facilities available in the community decreased as community sizes got smaller.

¹¹ Wales Rural Observatory, [Rural Services in Wales](#), March 2005

5. Child Dental Health

The British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry carries out an annual survey of child dental health across the UK. The latest survey, covering 2005/06, focused on the dental health of five year olds¹². Table 5 includes figures on the average number of five-year-olds with decayed, missing or filled teeth for each local authority in Wales.

Table 5. Average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth in five year olds, 2005/06, by local authority

Local Authority	Decayed, missing or filled teeth
Isle of Anglesey	1.8
Gwynedd	2.3
Conwy	1.6
Denbighshire	1.8
Flintshire	1.8
Wrexham	2.0
Powys	2.1
Ceredigion	1.7
Pembrokeshire	2.3
Carmarthenshire	2.2
Swansea	2.6
Neath Port Talbot	3.0
Bridgend	1.8
The Vale of Glamorgan	2.3
Cardiff	2.1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2.6
Merthyr Tydfil	3.9
Caerphilly	2.7
Blaenau Gwent	4.0
Torfaen	3.4
Monmouthshire	1.9
Newport	2.2
Wales	2.4

Source: British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry

Children with the **highest numbers of decayed, missing or filled teeth were in the Valleys authorities** of Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen. Conwy had the lowest number of decayed, missing or filled teeth with an average of 1.6. Ceredigion had the second lowest figure.

¹² British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry, [BASCD Survey Report 2005/06](#), March 2007

6. Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation – Child Index

The [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) (WIMD) is the official measure of deprivation for small areas in Wales. In conjunction with the WIMD 2008, the Welsh Government developed the child sub-index¹³ as a measure of child deprivation. The index is composed of deprivation domains, built from underlying domain indicators, which are combined to give a single score. The child index uses seven of the eight domains used in WIMD 2008 to measure deprivation. The indicators used are only those thought to be most relevant to children and have been adjusted so that they only refer to children. For example, indicators used in the income domain only relate to households with low incomes that include dependent children. The employment domain is not used in the child index.

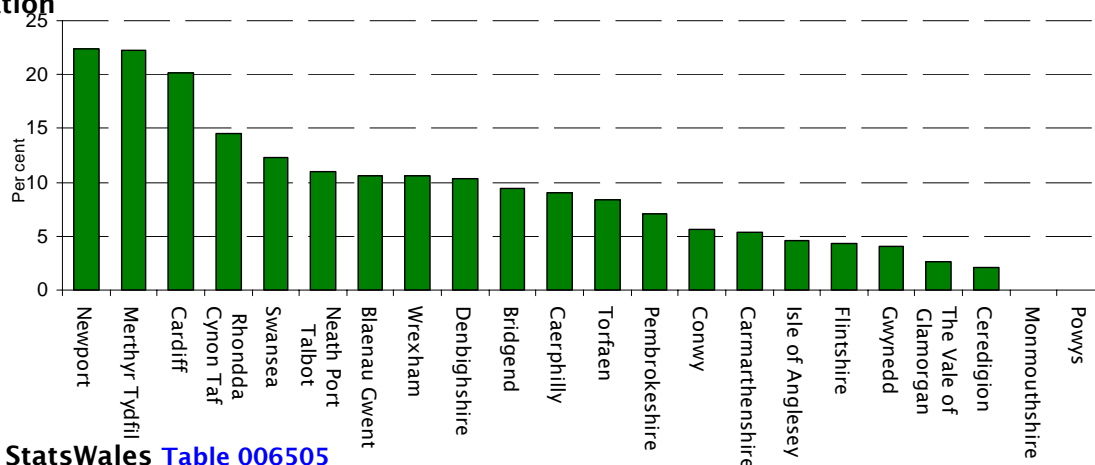
The seven domains included in WIMD 2008 – Child Index are:

- Income;
- housing;
- access to services;
- health;
- environment;
- education; and
- community safety.

The basic geographical unit of the index is the Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA). There are 1,896 LSOAs in Wales each with a population of approximately 1,500. There are 190 LSOAs in the most deprived 10 per cent areas of Wales.

Newport, Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff had the **highest** percentage of their LSOAs in the **most deprived 10 per cent of LSOAs in Wales**, as highlighted in the figure below. The map on the following page displays the distribution of the most and least deprived areas of Wales.

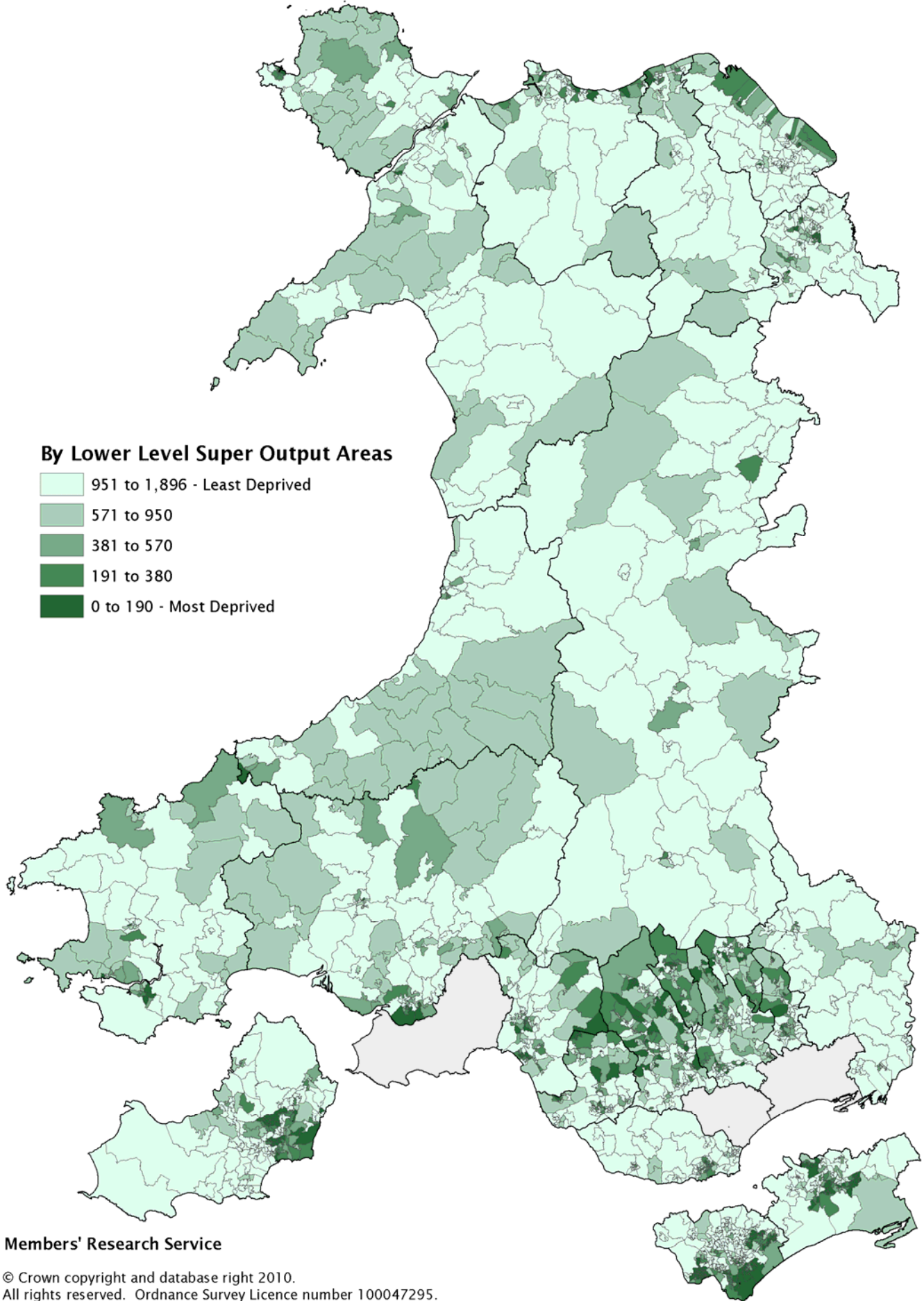
Figure 2. Percentage of LSOAs in 10 per cent most deprived, by local authority – overall deprivation



Source: StatsWales [Table 006505](#)

¹³ In September 2008 the Welsh Government launched a consultation presenting the results of the [WIMD 2008 – Child Index](#) and investigating how to further develop the index for the next WIMD update. The [responses to the consultation](#) have since been published by the Welsh Government.

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation - Child Index



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7. Education

Educational attainment is considered by many to be an important route out of poverty for children. This section provides figures on the educational outcomes of learners in Wales and gives an update on the Welsh Government's progress towards achieving the national education targets set out in *Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success*. Each target has:

- a baseline date (between 2003 and 2006);
- a milestone date (2010 or 2015); and
- a target date (2020).

Milestones and targets are given in a grey box and the baseline year is marked in each table and chart by (b). Where possible, figures have been provided for years earlier than the baseline date in order to provide a fuller picture of the trends for each target over time.

Key Statistics

- For Key Stage 2 and 3, the percentage of pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) needs to increase by 3 and 3.7 percentage points respectively on 2009 results to reach the 2010 milestone;
- for 15-year-olds, 57 per cent achieved 5 GCSE's at A* - C grade in 2009, this needs to increase by 3 percentage points to reach the 2010 milestone;
- the percentage of 15-year-olds leaving education without a qualification has fallen to 0.9 per cent in 2009, the target for 2010 is zero;
- 46 per cent of 15-year-olds achieved the Key Stage 4 core subject indicator in 2009, this is 1 percentage point above the 2010 milestone;
- 88.5 per cent of 16-18 year olds were in education, employment or training in 2007, 4.5 percentage points off the 2010 milestone;
- the percentage of adults with at least level 2 qualification is 70.3 per cent, 0.3 percentage points above the 2010 milestone;
- the percentage of adults with at least level 3 qualifications was 48.9 per cent, 1.1 percentage point off the 2010 milestone and those with level 4 or above qualifications is 1.8 percentage point off the milestone, at 28.2 per cent.

7.1. Attainment in Primary Schools

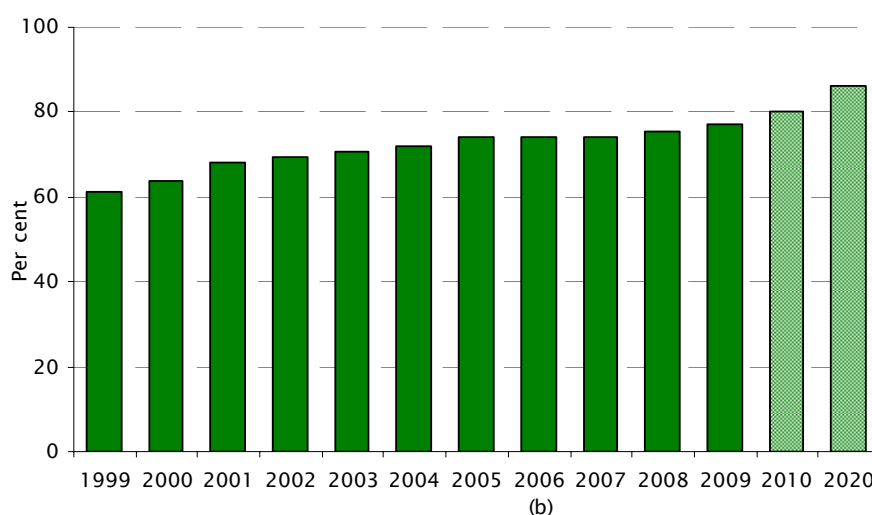
Milestone: 80 per cent of pupils in Key Stage 2 to achieve the core subject indicator by 2010

Target: 86 per cent of pupils in Key Stage 2 to achieve the core subject indicator by 2020

To achieve the core subject indicator, pupils must reach the expected level in teacher assessments in the three core subjects: English or Welsh first language, Science and Maths. The expected level at Key Stage 2 is level 4.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 2

	% achieving the CSI
1999	61.1
2000	63.8
2001	68.1
2002	69.6
2003	70.6
2004	71.9
2005	74.3
2006 (b)	74.2
2007	74.1
2008	75.5
2009	77.0
2010 milestone	80.0
2020 target	86.0



Source: StatsWales table [003298](#)

Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success gives a baseline figure of 74 per cent of pupils achieving the CSI.¹⁴ In 2009, the percentage of pupils achieving the core subject indicator at Key Stage 2 had increased by nearly 3 percentage points from the baseline year and would require a further 3 percentage points increase to reach the 2010 milestone.

¹⁴ *Measuring Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success* gives the baseline year as 2004; however this does not match the figure of 74 per cent given. The Welsh Government [child poverty indicators](#) website stated the baseline year is 2006.

7.2. Attainment in Secondary Schools

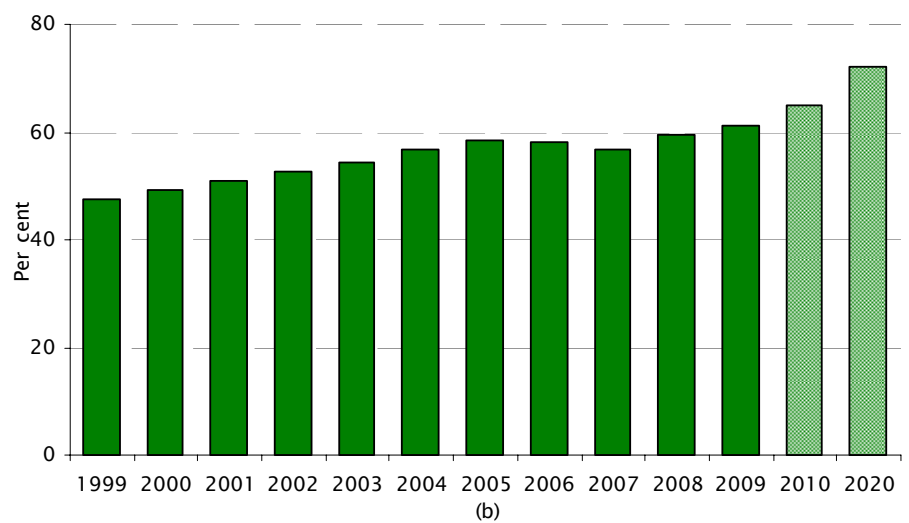
Milestone: 65 per cent of pupils in Key Stage 3 to achieve the core subject indicator by 2010.

Target: 72 per cent of pupils in Key Stage 3 to achieve the core subject indicator by 2020.

To achieve the CSI at Key Stage 3, pupils must reach level 5 in the three core subjects.

Pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 3

	% achieving the CSI
1999	47.5
2000	49.1
2001	50.8
2002	52.5
2003	54.4
2004	56.9
2005 (b)	58.3
2006	58.2
2007	56.7
2008	59.6
2009	61.3
2010 milestone	65.0
2020 target	72.0



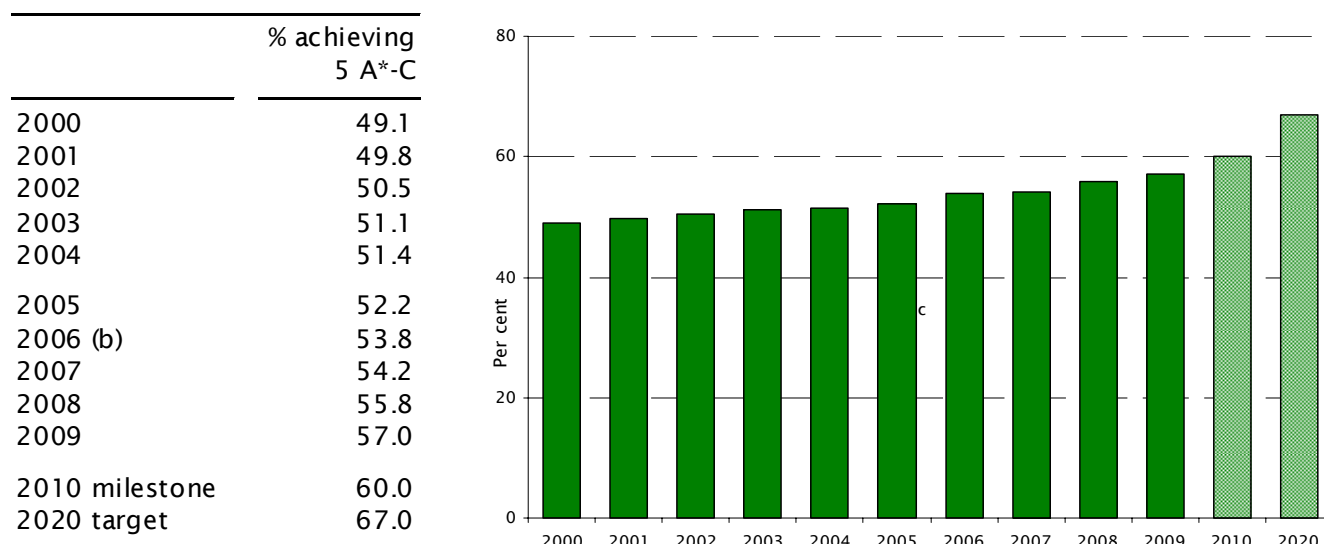
Source: StatsWales [004929](#)

Since the 2005 baseline, the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI at Key Stage 3 fell each year until 2007. By 2009 the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI increased by 3 percentage points from the baseline year. A further 3.7 percentage point increase would be needed to meet the milestone by 2010.

Milestone: 60 per cent of 15 year olds to achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C or vocational equivalent by 2010.

Target: 67 per cent of 15 year olds to achieve 5 GCSEs at A*-C or vocational equivalent by 2020.

15 year old pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at A*-C or vocational equivalent

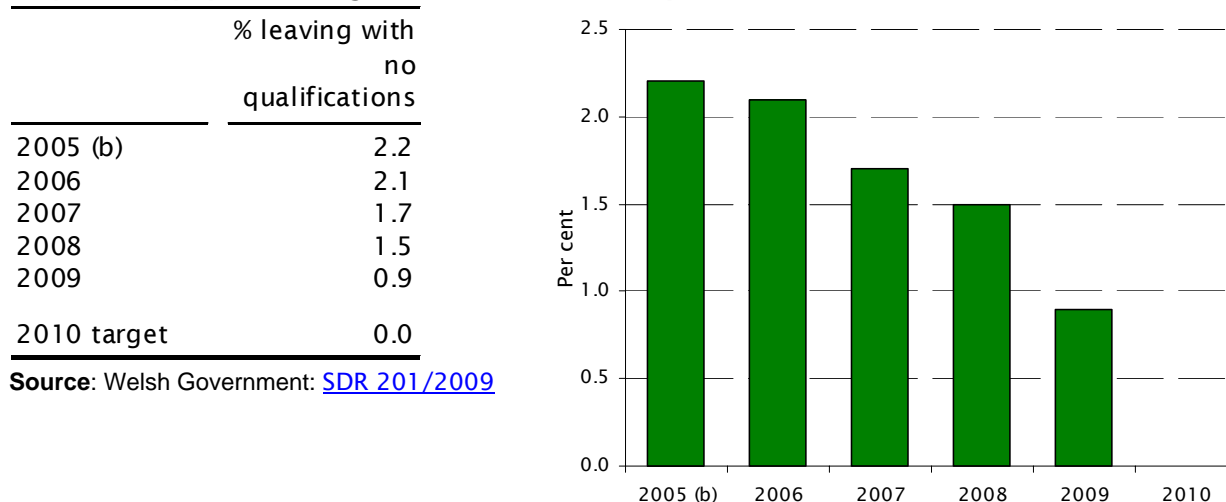


Source: [Examination Results in Wales, 2008/09](#)

Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success gives a baseline for 2006 of 53 per cent. This was based on provisional data for that year and has since been revised to 53.8 per cent. Data is available for three years following the baseline, where the percentage of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs at A*-C increased to 57 per cent. This is 3 percentage points below the 2010 milestone.

Target: No pupil to leave full time education without an approved qualification by 2010.

15 year old pupils leaving education without a qualification



Source: Welsh Government: [SDR 201/2009](#)

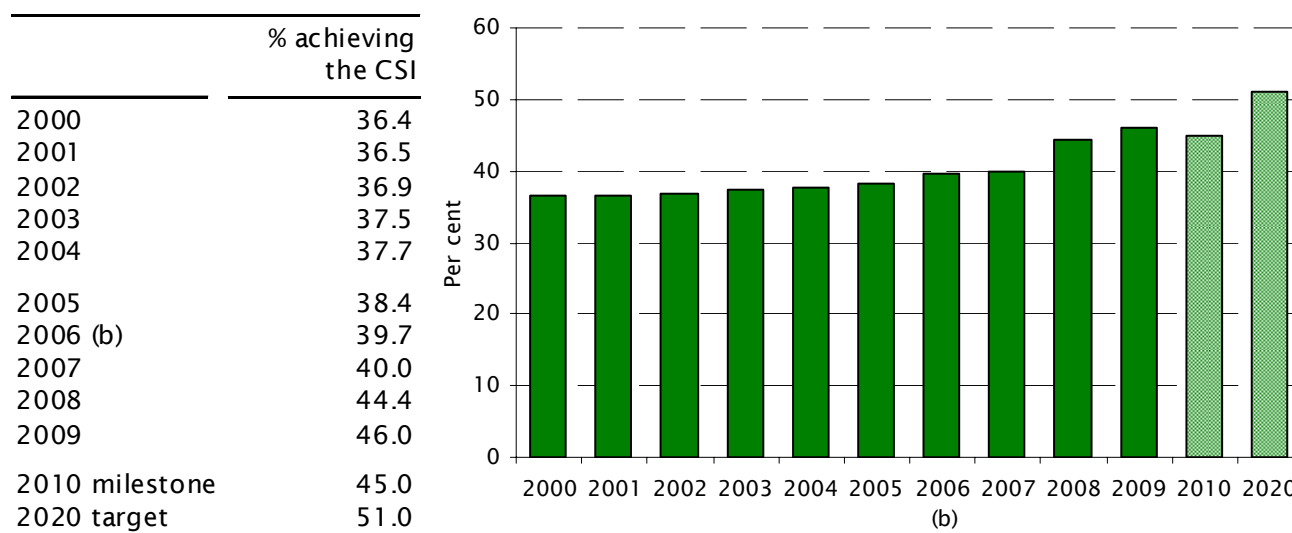
The percentage of 15-year-old pupils leaving full time education without a qualification has fallen each year since the 2005 baseline. It now stands at 0.9 per cent. Comparable figures are not available prior to 2005 as data were published using a different definition.

Milestone: 45 per cent of 15 year olds to achieve the core subject indicator by 2010.

Target: 51 per cent of 15 year olds to achieve the core subject indicator by 2020.

To achieve the CSI at Key Stage 4, pupils must reach level 2 in the three core subjects, which is achieving at least 5 A* - C grade GCSE's, including English or Welsh first language, Maths and Science.

15 year old pupils achieving the Core Subject Indicator (CSI) at Key Stage 4



Source: [Exam Performance - table 2.1](#)

Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success gives a baseline for 2006 of 39 per cent. This was based on provisional data for that year and has since been revised to 39.7 per cent. Data is available for three years following the baseline, where the percentage of pupils achieving the CSI increased to 46 per cent, one percentage point above the 2010 milestone. The percentage achieving the CSI increased gradually from 2000 until 2007. There was a much larger jump, of 6 percentage points, between 2007 and 2009.

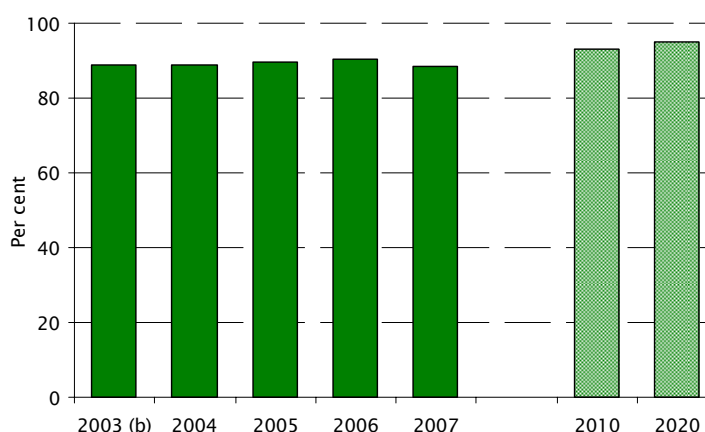
7.3. 16-18 year olds in Education, Employment or Training (EET)

Milestone: 93 per cent of 16-18 year olds to be in education, employment or training by 2010.

Target: 95 per cent of 16-18 year olds to be in education, employment or training by 2020.

	% in education, employment or training
2003 (b)	89.0
2004	88.8
2005	89.8
2006	90.2
2007	88.5
2010 milestone	93.0
2020 target	95.0

Source: [StatsWales 010041](#)



Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success gives a baseline figure of 89 per cent of 16-18 year olds in education, employment or training. Data collection methods are believed to have changed since 2003. The Welsh Government Child Poverty indicators website gives a figure of 88 per cent for 2003¹⁵.

Four years of data are available for this target since the baseline year. The most recent figures show that the percentage of 16-18 year olds in education, employment or training has reached its lowest level since before the baseline at 88.5 per cent, 4.5 percentage points below the 2010 milestone.

¹⁵ Welsh Government; [Child Poverty Indicators – Indicator 10](#), February 2009

7.4. 25-year-olds and under in education or employment

Milestone: 95 per cent of young people by the age of 25 to be ready for high skilled employment and/or further or higher education by 2015.

Target: 97 per cent of young people by the age of 25 to be ready for high skilled employment and/or further or higher education by 2020.

No baseline data is provided for this indicator; therefore it is not possible to determine how the Welsh Government intends to monitor progress on this target. A definition needs to be provided on how to classify someone as being “ready for high skilled employment and/or further or higher education”.

7.5. Educational Attainment of Looked After Children

Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success does not give any targets for the educational outcomes of looked after children. However, the Welsh Government and Local Government Data Unit produce annual statistics on children looked after by local authorities^{16,17}. These figures show that in 2008-09, 42 per cent of children leaving care that year achieved at least two GCSEs or a GNVQ, an increase of 1 percentage point from 2007-08. 45 per cent of children leaving care in 2008-09 did not have any GCSEs or GNVQs (excluding those who were due to sit examinations later or were prevented by illness or disability), a 4 percentage point decline from 2007-08¹⁸.

These figures may not be calculated on the same basis as those quoted for 2004-05 in *Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success*, as not enough information is provided on how these figures were defined.

7.6. Educational Attainment Amongst Adults

Milestone: 80 per cent of working age adults to have level 1 or above functional basic skills in literacy by 2010.

Target: 85 per cent of working age adults to have level 1 or above functional basic skills in literacy by 2020.

Milestone: 55 per cent of working age adults to have level 1 or above functional basic skills in numeracy by 2010.

¹⁶ Welsh Government, [Adoptions, Outcomes and Placements for Children Looked After by Local Authorities: year ending 31 March 2009](#), August 2009

¹⁷ [Local Government Data Unit Dissemination Tool](#)

¹⁸ [ibid](#)

Target: 63 per cent of working age adults to have level 1 or above functional basic skills in numeracy 2020.

The baseline data for these targets comes from a national survey carried out by the Basic Skills Agency in 2004¹⁹. They found that 75 per cent of adults in Wales had literacy skills at level 1 or above and 47 per cent had numeracy skills at the same level. No further surveys have been undertaken in order to update these figures.

Milestone: 70 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 2 or above by 2010.

Target: 74 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 2 or above by 2020.

Milestone: 50 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 3 or above by 2010.

Target: 55 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 3 or above by 2020.

Milestone: 30 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 4 or above by 2010.

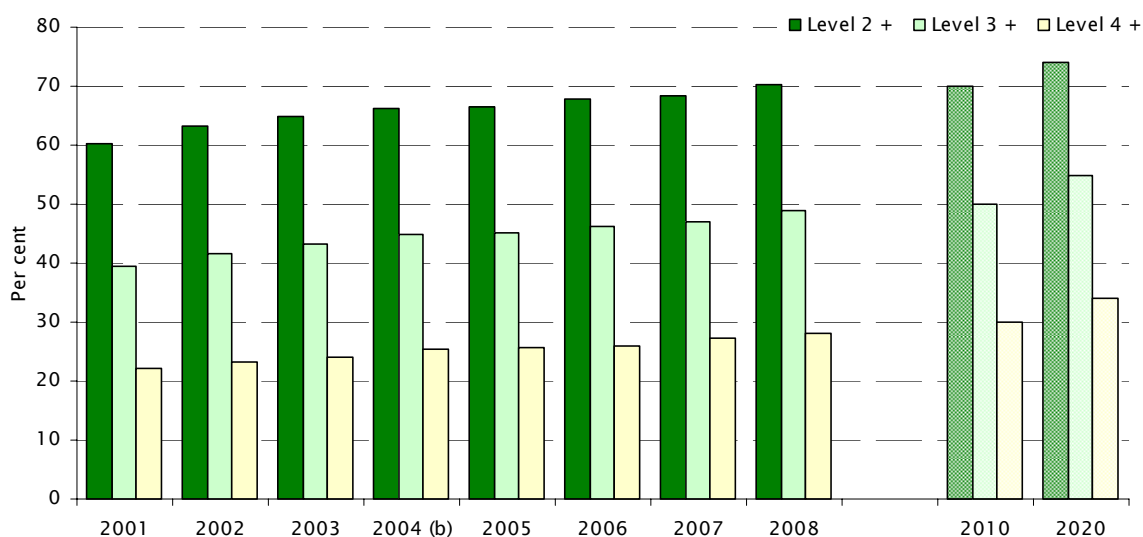
Target: 34 per cent of working age adults to have a qualification at NVQ level 4 or above by 2020.

¹⁹ Welsh Assembly Government, [The National Survey of Adult Basic Skills in Wales](#), 2004

Qualification levels of working age adults

	<i>Per cent</i>		
	Level 2 +	Level 3 +	Level 4 +
2001	60.4	39.5	22.1
2002	63.3	41.6	23.2
2003	64.9	43.3	24.1
2004 (b)	66.1	44.8	25.3
2005	66.4	45.1	25.8
2006	67.8	46.2	25.9
2007	68.5	47.1	27.2
2008	70.3	48.9	28.2
2010 milestone	70.0	50.0	30.0
2020 targets	74.0	55.0	34.0

Source: StatsWales table [003357](#)



Source: StatsWales table [003357](#)

Progress has been made against each of the three targets above since the baseline year and attainment is close to or above the 2010 milestone for all three indicators. The percentage of adults with level 2 qualifications has increased by 4.2 percentage points and has already passed the 2010 milestone, followed by an increase of 4.1 percentage points for adults with a level 3 qualification and 2.9 percentage points for adults with level 4 qualifications.

Useful links and further information

The links below provide further information about the data sources used in this paper and also contain links to further information on child poverty in Wales.

[British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry](#)

[Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales](#)

[Child Poverty Solutions - Wales](#)

[Households Below Average Income](#) published by the DWP

Local Government Data Unit – [dissemination tool](#)

National Assembly for Wales’ legislation pages on the [Children and Families \(Wales\) Measure](#)

National Assembly for Wales’ [Children and young People Committee](#) inquiry into [Child Poverty in Wales](#)

[Schools in Wales: Examination Performance](#) published by the Welsh Government

[Schools in Wales: General Statistics](#) published by the Welsh Government

[Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation – Child Index](#) published by the Welsh Government

Welsh Government’s [Child Poverty website](#)

Welsh Government’s [Children and young people’s well-being monitor](#)

Welsh Government’s [Child Poverty Statistics](#)

