



John Papadachi, Hertfordshire County Council, June 2004

1.0 Deprivation

1.0.1 Gauging deprivation

The geographical spread of deprivation across Hertfordshire can be gauged by using the Government's Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID2004). These rely on Census and administrative data from 2001 for the Census's lower-layer Super Output Areas (SOAs). There are 32,482 of these in England, as opposed to the 8,414 wards used for the Indices of Deprivation 2000.

Areas where deprivation is concentrated can be hidden by ward-level analysis, so the use of the much smaller SOAs is an advance. They also have the advantage, for comparative purposes, of having relatively uniform numbers of residents (around 1,500).

The amount of deprivation in Hertfordshire can best be gauged by way of those of the Indices of Deprivation that allow straightforward quantification. These are the Income and Employment Indices (or 'Domains' of the composite Index of Multiple Deprivation, these ones together accounting for 45% of the total). The actual numbers of people in the income deprived and employment deprived categories, on which these indices are based, are reported as the 'Income Scale' and the 'Employment Scale'. In Hertfordshire there were estimated to be 82,559 people in the income deprived category. This represents around 8% of residents. For employment deprivation the number is 31,841. Hertfordshire has over 15% of the total numbers of income deprived in the region and over 14% of the employment deprived. As Hertfordshire has around 19% of the region's residents, it can be concluded that these forms of deprivation are somewhat less prevalent in Hertfordshire than in the region as a whole. Hertfordshire has 20% fewer people in the income deprived category than its population totals would suggest and 25% fewer employment deprived. The region itself has 27% fewer income deprived and 31% fewer employment deprived than its share of England's population would suggest.

To gauge the geographical spread of deprivation in Hertfordshire, based on the ID2004, requires a distinction to be drawn between 'deprived areas' and the others. Half of Hertfordshire's income deprivation is to be found in 24% of its SOAs and a similar pattern prevails in the region. This means that, on average, income deprivation in these areas is roughly three times as prevalent as in the rest of the county or region. In England as a whole, the deprivation is more concentrated with half of income deprivation being found in 21% of SOAs. This might suggest that from a national perspective a focus on the worst 20% SOAs be justified, but that from a regional or Hertfordshire perspective a focus on the worst 25% be justified.



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1.0.2 Income deprivation

Hertfordshire has only four SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in South Oxhey (Three Rivers), Borehamwood (Hertsmere), Stevenage and Hemel Hempstead (Dacorum). This is only 2% of such SOAs in the region. However, it has 127 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (16 in Broxbourne, 17 in Dacorum, 4 in East Hertfordshire, 14 in Hertsmere, 17 in North Hertfordshire, 9 in St Albans, 18 in Stevenage, 7 in Three Rivers, 14 in Watford, 11 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 14% of the regional total.

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) and the Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) are based on the proportion of children or older people affected by income deprivation. There are 24 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally on the IDACI, representing 8% of the regional total. The proportions in this group range from 61% in a Bedwell, Stevenage SOA (which figures prominently on nearly all indices) down to 34%. There are 5 SOAs in this group in Dacorum, 4 in Broxbourne, 3 in Stevenage, Hertsmere and St Albans, 2 in Three Rivers and Welwyn Hatfield, and 1 each in North Hertfordshire and Watford. There are no fewer than 125 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region, representing 14% of the regional total. The IDAOPI reveals even more SOAs. There are 34 among the worst 20% nationally, representing 13% of the regional total. The proportions in this group range from 35% in a Panshanger,

Welwyn Garden City SOA down to 24%. There are 6 SOAs in this group in Dacorum (Hemel Hempstead), 5 in Hertsmere and Watford, 4 in Stevenage, 3 in Three Rivers, Broxbourne and North Hertfordshire, 2 in Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans, and 1 in East Hertfordshire. There are no fewer than 150 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region, representing 17% of the regional total.

1.0.3 Employment deprivation

Hertfordshire has only 2 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in Stevenage and South Oxhey. This is only 1% of such SOAs in the region. However, it has 78 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (10 in Broxbourne, 10 in Dacorum, 3 in East Hertfordshire, 5 in Hertsmere, 10 in North Hertfordshire, 7 in St Albans, 11 in Stevenage, 4 in Three Rivers, 8 in Watford, 10 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 9% of the regional total.

1.0.4 Health deprivation and disability

Hertfordshire has only 1 SOA in the worst 20% nationally. This is in Stevenage. This is only 1% of such SOAs in the region. However, it has 87 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (8 in Broxbourne, 7 in Dacorum, 3 in East Hertfordshire, 4 in Hertsmere, 13 in North Hertfordshire, 8 in St Albans, 18 in Stevenage, 3 in Three Rivers, 11 in Watford, 12 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 10% of the regional total.



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1.0.5 Education, skills and training

Hertfordshire has no fewer than 40 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in Broxbourne (5), Dacorum (5), East Hertfordshire (1), Hertsmere (4), North Hertfordshire (3), Stevenage (10), Three Rivers (3), Watford (4) and Welwyn Hatfield (5). St Albans is the only district without an SOA in this category. Despite this, these SOAs only amount to 8% of such SOAs in the region, as the region performs unusually badly in this sub-domain. Hertfordshire has 105 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (8 in Broxbourne, 7 in Dacorum, 3 in East Hertfordshire, 4 in Hertsmere, 13 in North Hertfordshire, 8 in St Albans, 18 in Stevenage, 3 in Three Rivers, 11 in Watford, 12 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 12% of the regional total. However, this composite index masks a huge contrast between skill deprivation among the adult population and educational deprivation among children. The county has only 29 SOAs among the worst 20% in England on the adult measure but 53 among the worst 20% nationally on the child measure. These 53 are highly concentrated in certain urban areas; 20 are in Stevenage alone. Other notable concentrations are in Borehamwood (6), Hatfield (5), Hemel Hempstead (5), Welwyn Garden City, Peartree ward (4), Watford (4), South Oxhey (2) and Potters Bar (2). On the adult measure, many of the same areas are affected, but Stevenage is much less so (only 2 SOAs) and both Baldock and Bishop's Stortford come into the reckoning with one SOA each.

1.0.6 Barriers to housing and services

Hertfordshire has 102 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in Broxbourne (18), Dacorum (4), East Hertfordshire (13), Hertsmere (14), North Hertfordshire (13), St Albans (8), Stevenage (6), Three Rivers (9), Watford (8), Welwyn Hatfield (9). These amount to 15% of such SOAs in the region. Despite the region ranking highly on this domain, Hertfordshire has 141 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (25 in Broxbourne, 4 in Dacorum, 15 in East Hertfordshire, 20 in Hertsmere, 16 in North Hertfordshire, 12 in St Albans, 9 in Stevenage, 14 in Three Rivers, 12 in Watford, 14 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 16% of the regional total.

The reasons for Hertfordshire's high rankings on this measure are complex. The wider barriers sub-domain (covering homelessness, overcrowding and access to owner occupation) shows much more deprivation in Hertfordshire than the rest of the region. In a national comparison, though, it is the geographical barriers sub-domain which shows more deprivation in Hertfordshire. However, this is relatively low in comparison with the rest of the region. It is, of course, those areas, largely in the south of the county, where high house prices, the Government's chosen measure of homelessness and rural isolation coexist which rank high in this domain. What is clear, though, is that the high rankings in Hertfordshire on this domain demonstrate that Hertfordshire suffers from problems often considered to be urban ones (homelessness, overcrowding) as well as those often considered to be rural ones (distance from services).



John Papadachi, Hertfordshire County Council, June 2004

1.0.7 Crime

Hertfordshire has 11 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in Dacorum (3), St Albans (1), Stevenage (1), Watford (3) and Welwyn Hatfield (3). These amount to 3% of such SOAs in the region. Hertfordshire has 105 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (16 in Broxbourne, 12 in Dacorum, 1 in East Hertfordshire, 12 in Hertsmere, 8 in North Hertfordshire, 10 in St Albans, 11 in Stevenage, 6 in Three Rivers, 14 in Watford, 15 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 12% of the regional total.

1.0.8 Living environment deprivation

Hertfordshire has 7 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. One is in South Oxhey (Three Rivers) and the rest are in Watford. This is only 3% of such SOAs in the region. However, it has 117 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (10 in Broxbourne, 14 in Dacorum, 6 in East Hertfordshire, 12 in Hertsmere, 12 in North Hertfordshire, 18 in St Albans, 3 in Stevenage, 9 in Three Rivers, 28 in Watford, 5 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 13% of the regional total.

This domain is based on an indoor environment sub-domain and an outdoor environment sub-domain. Hertfordshire has very few SOAs that rank highly for a poor indoor environment (housing stock) but many more with a poor outdoor environment (air quality, traffic accidents).

Only rarely do these problems coincide in Hertfordshire. In comparison with the region, very few Hertfordshire SOAs indeed register as having a poor indoor environment. However, the number of SOAs with a poor outdoor environment is commensurate with Hertfordshire's share of the region's population.

1.0.9 Index of Multiple Deprivation

Hertfordshire has only 4 SOAs in the worst 20% nationally. These are in Stevenage, South Oxhey, Hatfield and Borehamwood (Hertsmere). This is only 2% of such SOAs in the region. However, it has 89 SOAs among the worst 25% in the region (13 in Broxbourne, 7 in Dacorum, 4 in East Hertfordshire, 10 in Hertsmere, 10 in North Hertfordshire, 6 in St Albans, 9 in Stevenage, 5 in Three Rivers, 15 in Watford, 10 in Welwyn Hatfield). This represents 10% of the regional total.

1.0.10 Islands of deprivation – the wrong side of the tracks question

Examination of the Index of Multiple Deprivation, based as it is below ward level, demonstrates how easy it was for deprivation in Hertfordshire to be masked at the ward level. Of the 63 Hertfordshire wards that feature among the region's worst 25% SOAs, as many as 25 also feature among the region's best 25% SOAs. These wards are spread



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across 9 out of the 10 district council areas. The most remarkable are in East Hertfordshire, where Hertford Sele ward and Bishop's Stortford Central ward have SOAs in the best 1% and the worst 40% in England.

The exceptional district, Three Rivers, is no stranger to deprivation rubbing up against comfort, only in this case it is a matter of nearby wards. Northwick ward in South Oxhey has an SOA among the worst 17% in the country while in nearby Carpenders Park there is an SOA among the best 2% in the country. Therefore, in statistical terms, 81% of the country can be said to stand between these settlements separated by a railway line.

1.0.11 The deprivation balance sheet

As the table demonstrates, very few Hertfordshire SOAs count as 'deprived' on the national scale. Looked at the other way, 98.2% of SOAs (with a similar proportion of the Hertfordshire population living in them) are not among the 20% most 'income deprived' in England. It is even more impressive that, by this comparison, the following proportions are not 'deprived' in relation to employment (99.7%), health (99.9%), crime (98.4%) and the living environment (98.7%). The Index of Multiple Deprivation itself indicates that 99.4% are not 'deprived'.

This is not to argue that deprivation is not a problem in Hertfordshire. As we have seen, 8% of residents are income deprived and Hertfordshire's share of income deprivation at over 15% of the regional total is not insignificant in relation to its share of the regional population. Moreover, 54% of Hertfordshire SOAs are in the worst 25% in the region in at least one domain of the Index of Multiple Deprivation or the Index itself. What are rare in Hertfordshire are areas in which numerous measures of deprivation coincide.

Certain individual domains or sub-domains stand out in Hertfordshire. However, a lot depends on whether you compare Hertfordshire with England or the East of England region. It is striking that 34% of SOAs are among the worst 25% in the region on the wider barriers sub-domain. This reflects difficulty in access to housing in the county. Also significant is that 27% of SOAs are among the worst 25% in the region on the outdoor living environment sub-domain. These areas suffer from poorer air quality and road traffic accidents affecting pedestrians and cyclists. These issues can be considered urban problems, so it is perhaps not surprising that in comparison with the rest of the region, which tends to be more rural, Hertfordshire stands out. On a national scale it is a very different sub-domain that stands out. 21% of Hertfordshire SOAs are among the worst 20% in England on the geographical barriers sub-domain. This relates to the road distance between where people live and shops, doctors and primary schools. However, as many other, more rural, parts of the region show up as 'deprived' in this connection, Hertfordshire only has 13% of the SOAs in the East of England in this group and (as the table shows) only 16% of Hertfordshire SOAs are among the worst 25% in the region. Again on a national scale, Hertfordshire looks to have a remarkably unproblematic outdoor living environment with 94% of SOAs outside the worst 20% in England.

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THE NUMBERS AND PROPORTION OF HERTFORDSHIRE SOA'S AMONG THE WORST ACCORDING TO VARIOUS MEASURES FROM THE INDICES OF DEPRIVATION, 2004

	<i>Hertfordshire SOAs in Most Deprived 20% in England</i>		<i>Hertfordshire SOAs in Most Deprived 25% in East of England</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of All Herts SOAs</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>% of All Herts SOAs</i>
Income Deprivation	12	1.8	127	18.6
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	24	3.5	125	18.3
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index	34	5.0	150	22.0
Employment Deprivation	2	0.3	78	11.4
Health Deprivation and Disability	1	0.1	87	12.7
Education, Skills and Training Deprivation	40	5.9	105	15.4
Child Sub-domain	53	7.8	122	17.9
Adult Sub-domain	29	4.2	84	12.3
Barriers to Housing and Services	102	14.9	141	20.6
Geographical Barriers Sub-domain	141	20.6	106	15.5
Wider Barriers Sub-domain	101	14.8	234	34.3
Crime	11	1.6	105	15.4
Living Environment Deprivation	7	1.0	117	17.1
Indoor Environment Sub-domain	9	1.3	92	13.5
Outdoor Environment Sub-domain Index of Multiple Deprivation	42	6.1	186	27.2
Index of Multiple Deprivation	4	0.6	89	13.0
Source(s) : Indices of Deprivation 2004, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.				