

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020: Scottish Borders

Prepared February 2020

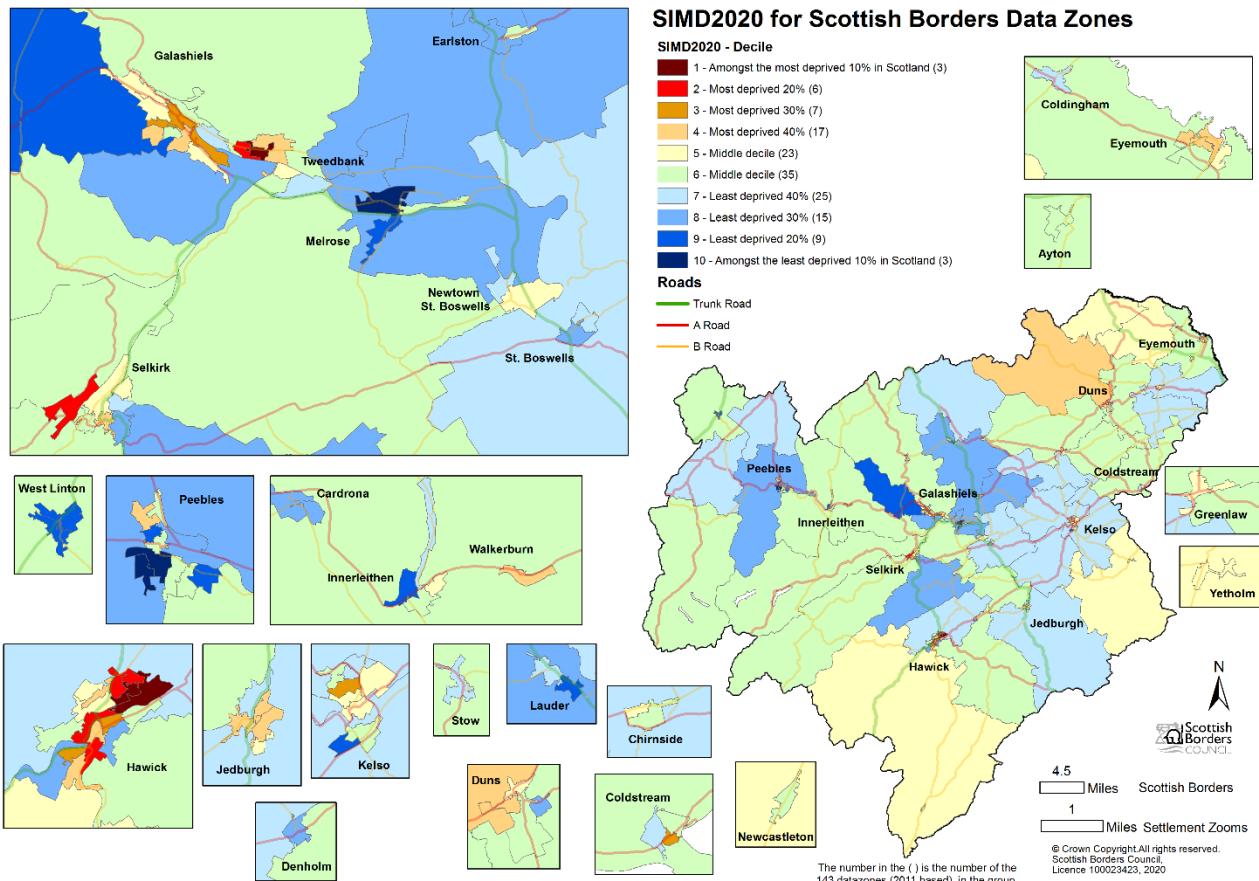
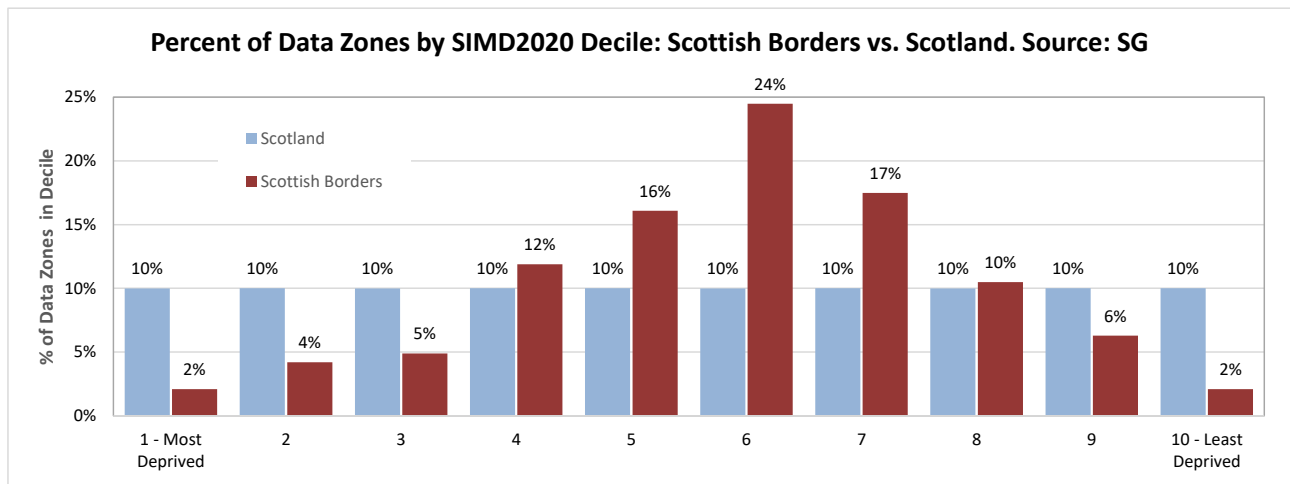
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SIMD2020 FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY









The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland¹. The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing. These are scored and factored down into a single score for Multiple Deprivation. The Scottish Borders has 143 or the 6,976 Datazones in Scotland.

The distribution of the 143 data zones in Scottish Borders can be seen in the graph and map below.



¹ <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Within the domains of the SIMD, the proportion of data zones in the Scottish Borders that are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland varies. Some are more of an issue in Scottish Borders than others:

	<p>9 (6%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived of all of Scotland</p>	 <p>Income</p>	<p>10 (7%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most income deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>
 <p>Employment</p>	<p>10 (7%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most employment deprived.</p>	 <p>Education</p>	<p>8 (6%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most education deprived.</p>
 <p>Health</p>	<p>9 (6%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most health deprived.</p>	 <p>Access to Services</p>	<p>46 (32%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most geographically access deprived.</p>
 <p>Crime</p>	<p>20 (14%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most crime deprived.</p>	 <p>Housing</p>	<p>3 (2%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most housing deprived.</p>

KEY FINDINGS OF SIMD2020 FOR THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Key findings include:

- The 2020 SIMD found that the most deprived Datazone in Scotland is in part of Greenock in Inverclyde with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 1, and the least-deprived Datazone in Scotland is in part of Stockbridge in Edinburgh, with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 6,976.
- The most-deprived Datazone in Scottish Borders is S01012287, Central Langlee in Galashiels with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 264.
- The least-deprived Datazone in Scottish Borders is S01012259, the Caledonian Road/ Springhill Road residential area in Peebles with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 6,917.
- Scottish Borders' most-deprived neighbourhoods are already known-about and have changed little, or even become slightly worse, since the 2016 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- The 3 Scottish Borders Datazones that are amongst the most-deprived 10% in Scotland are in Langlee and Burnfoot, same as 2016.
- A further 6 Datazones are within the 20% most-deprived in Scotland; these are also in Langlee and Burnfoot but also in other parts of Hawick and in Bannerfield in Selkirk.
- At the other end of the deprivation scale, the three Datazones that fall into the least-deprived 10% in Scotland are in Peebles and Melrose.
- Other parts of Peebles and Melrose as well as neighbourhoods within Innerleithen, Kelso, Lauder, West Linton and the rural area around Clovenfords, are amongst the least-deprived 20% in Scotland.
- Central Langlee and all of Burnfoot have become relatively more deprived since 2016.
- The Commercial Road area of Hawick is more deprived in 2020 than it was in 2016.
- Overall, Multiple Deprivation has either stayed the same or got slightly relatively worse overall since 2016 – or has failed to improve as fast as it has improved in other neighbourhoods in Scotland.
- 9% of the Scottish Borders population is “income-deprived” in 2020, which is lower than the Scottish average of 12%, just as it was in 2016.
- In general, Income Deprivation in Scottish Borders has either got worse or failed to improve in Scottish Borders since 2016, both in the most-deprived neighbourhoods and in the less-affected neighbourhoods, compared with other parts of Scotland.
- 8% of the Scottish Borders population is employment-deprived in 2020, which is lower than the Scottish average of 9%, as it was in 2016.
- Central Langlee once again has the highest levels of Employment Deprivation, followed by Bannerfield and Burnfoot. Employment Deprivation is generally highest in Hawick but there are also pockets in Kelso and Coldstream.
- There is evidence that the gap between the most- and the least- employment deprived neighbourhoods is widening. More of the worst-affected neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders have got relatively worse since 2016 by Scottish standards than have got better.
- All of Burnfoot has high levels of Education Deprivation, same as 2016 and has generally got worse, as have other parts of Hawick and part of Eyemouth. Education Deprivation in Langlee has improved.
- There has been a slight increase in Education Deprivation in a number of previously less-deprived neighbourhoods.
- Health Deprivation in Scottish Borders is becoming more polarised, with the overall less-deprived neighbourhoods getting healthier and the most-deprived becoming relatively sicker.
- Most of Langlee, another part of Galashiels, all of Burnfoot and Bannerfield have amongst the worst health deprivation in Scotland. These vulnerable neighbourhoods have persistent health deprivation which is getting relatively worse by Scottish standards.
- There is a strong association between Health Deprivation and overall Multiple Deprivation, suggesting that improving public health is key to reducing Multiple Deprivation.

- Access Deprivation is very high in Scottish Borders but only contributes a small proportion to the overall SIMD score. A third of neighbourhoods in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most access-deprived in Scotland.
- Access Deprivation has decreased slightly since 2016 due to the addition of an indicator measuring Superfast Broadband, meaning that some communities are relatively less cut-off than previously thought.
- 14% of Scottish Borders' Datazones are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland due to the effects of crime. This has increased significantly since 2016.
- There have been a number of changes and a general worsening of Deprivation Due To Crime across the board in Scottish Borders. This may be due to a technical error in the SIMD; however, independent evidence at a Scottish level does confirm that some categories of crime and clear-up rates have indeed worsened since 2016.
- The Housing Deprivation domain has remained unchanged since 2016. This domain serves to recognise that inadequate housing is important in Multiple Deprivation.
- The SIMD is used widely in identifying areas with Multiple Deprivation for funding and policy purposes, at a Scottish and a local level.
- SIMD has a number of limitations, particularly in the Access, Crime and Housing domains. Using it as a single source of evidence without other measures would mean that deprivation and social exclusion issues in Scottish Borders are likely to be under-represented in a Scottish context.
- The Health Deprivation Domain is a particularly strong component of Multiple Deprivation, due to the better quality of the indicators used to measure it.
- Since the SIMD was started in 2001, it has consistently identified the same handful of local areas in Scottish Borders as being Multiply-Deprived: these are Langlee in Galashiels, Burnfoot in Hawick, Bannerfield in Selkirk, other parts of Hawick and Galashiels, and to a lesser extent, parts of Eyemouth, Kelso and Coldstream.

SCOTTISH INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION EXPLAINED

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the official tool for finding the most deprived areas in Scotland². The [SIMD2020](#) consists of over 30 indicators across 7 Domains: Employment, Income, Education, Health, Access, Crime and Housing. These are scored and factored down into a single score for Multiple Deprivation

The SIMD is produced every three or four years by a dedicated team led by the Chief Statistician within Scottish Government and the findings are presented as part of Scotland's official National Statistics. The 2020 Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation (SIMD20) was released in January 2020.

SIMD statistics are based on small units of neighbourhood geography known as Datazones. There are currently 6,976 Datazones in Scotland. 143 of these are in Scottish Borders. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation works on the principle of comparing Datazones (neighbourhoods) against each other.

Things to note from SIMD:

- It shows where Scotland's most deprived areas are, so organisations know where their work can have the biggest impact.
- It is a relative measure of deprivation across small areas in Scotland.
- It looks at multiple deprivation. 'Deprived' does not just mean 'poor' or 'low income'. It can mean people suffer social exclusion and poorer life chances due to a vicious circle of low income, poor health, poor learning outcomes, poor housing, neighbourhood problems or exclusion from services - issues that people from less-deprived neighbourhoods do not experience.
- It is also possible to examine individual domains of deprivation so communities can use SIMD to identify the things that matter to them.

Below is a quick guide to how SIMD can be used.

Use SIMD for	Do not use SIMD for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Comparing overall deprivation of small areas ✓ Comparing the seven domains of deprivation ✓ Comparing the proportion of small areas in a council that are very deprived ✓ Finding areas where many people experience multiple deprivation ✓ Finding areas of greater need for support and intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Saying how much more deprived one area is from another – the difference between two ranks can be tiny or large ✗ Comparing ranks over time – changes are relative and may not reflect actual changes in the neighbourhood ✗ Comparing with other UK countries – each country measures deprivation slightly differently. ✗ Identifying all people who are experiencing deprivation in Scotland – not everyone facing disadvantage lives in a deprived area ✗ Identifying affluent areas – lack of deprivation is not the same as being rich

² <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

DATAZONES EXPLAINED

DATAZONES: THE GEOGRAPHY OF NEIGHBOURHOODS

SIMD statistics are based on small units of neighbourhood geography known as Datazones. There are currently 6,976 Datazones in Scotland. 143 of these are in Scottish Borders. A Datazone is a statistical unit of around 500 - 750 people, which, unlike other small units such as postcodes, are designed to reflect the social and physical boundaries of the communities they represent. Datazones form a complete grid of neighbourhoods across Scotland and are the best statistical unit of neighbourhood geography available to us outside the 10-year Census.

USING DATAZONES TO COMPARE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Datazone geography means small communities from anywhere in Scotland can be profiled using a wide range of quality-assured official statistics and can be compared with each other. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation works on the principle of comparing communities against each other. All 6,976 Datazones in Scotland are scored and ranked in terms of a range of official measures in seven domains, intended to capture the essence of Multiple Deprivation. These ranked Datazones are then factored down into a single Overall Deprivation rank, and can then be compared with each other in terms of whether they have more deprivation or less deprivation than each other.

The 2020 SIMD found that the most deprived Datazone in Scotland is in part of Greenock in Inverclyde with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 1, and the least-deprived Datazone in Scotland is in part of Stockbridge in Edinburgh, with an Overall Deprivation rank of 6,976.

The most-deprived Datazone in Scottish Borders is S01012287, Central Langlee in Galashiels with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 264. The least-deprived Datazone in Scottish Borders is S01012259, the Caledonian Road/Springhill Road residential area in Peebles with an Overall Multiple Deprivation rank of 6,917.

SIMD is a relative measure: if Multiple Deprivation goes down in one part of Scotland, it correspondingly goes up in another. If Multiple Deprivation in a Datazone appears to be getting worse, it does not necessarily mean that the problems in that community are getting worse and there may be no visible change at all on the ground. It means that another community somewhere else in Scotland is getting better. Glasgow City has taken tremendous strides to reduce deprivation since the SIMD first began in 2001 and as Scotland's biggest city, Glasgow has more densely-populated Datazones than other regions and consequently a larger influence in the SIMD. This means that whilst Glasgow City's many Datazones continue to improve, Datazones elsewhere in Scotland will see their share of relative deprivation creep up.

MANAGING THE SIMD: DECILES, QUINTILES AND VIGINTILES

Due to the sheer number of Datazones and the volume of data that are created by the SIMD, Local Authorities tend to express multiple deprivation in terms of the proportion of their Datazones that fall into the 10% most-deprived and the 10% least-deprived Datazones in Scotland. These bandings of 10% are called Deciles, and are a common way of expressing an area's share of Scotland's multiple deprivation.

Other common ways of expressing the share of an area's multiple deprivation include Quintiles (bands of 20%) and Vigintiles (bands of 5%). Many funding applications use either 15% or 20% as a threshold of deciding if an area should be considered deprived, and these can be calculated using Vigintiles 1-3 or Deciles 1-2 respectively.

SIMD2020 IN QUINTILES

Using Quintiles shows how Scottish Borders has an uneven share of Scotland's Multiple Deprivation:

- Deprivation Quintile 1, i.e. the 20% most-deprived Datazones in Scotland, makes up only 6% of Scottish Borders' Datazones, affecting 9 of the 143 Datazones, well below the Scottish average.
- Quintile 2, the 20-40% most-deprived Datazones in Scotland (i.e. with above-average deprivation), makes up 17% of Scottish Borders' Datazones (24 Datazones), just below the Scottish average.
- Quintile 3, the 20% of Datazones that represent around-average deprivation in Scotland, makes up 40% of Scottish Borders's Datazones, twice the Scottish average.
- Quintile 4, the 20-40% with less-but-not-least deprivation in Scotland, represents 27% of Scottish Borders' Datazones, above the Scottish average.
- Quintile 5, the least-deprived 20% of Datazones in Scotland, represents 8% of Scottish Borders Datazones, well below the Scottish average.

This shows that Scottish Borders continues to have an around or below-average share of Scotland's multiple deprivation on the whole, with only a handful of Datazones at either extreme.

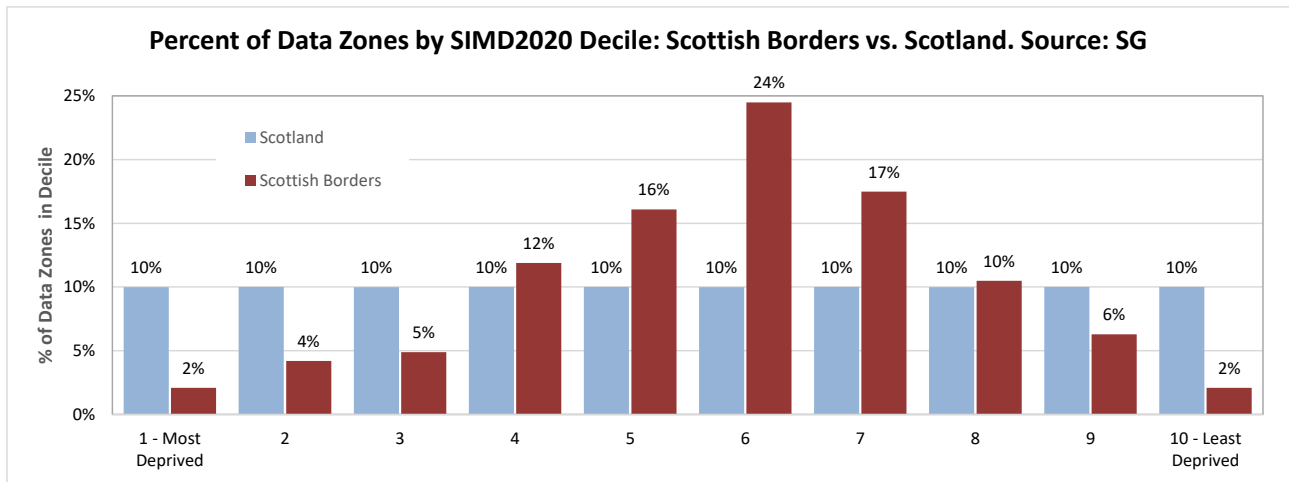
SIMD2020 IN DECILES

The same effect can be seen in more detail when using Deciles rather than Quintiles, which gives a more refined 10-band measure of deprivation instead of 5 bands of 20%. Each of the ten Deciles represents 10% of Scotland's Datazones.

- The Deprivation decile with the highest share of Datazones is Decile 6, representing the 10% of Datazones that have just-below-average deprivation. Scottish Borders has more than twice the Scottish average of these Datazones.
- The next biggest is decile 7, representing the 30-40% least-deprived Datazones. Decile 5 is the next largest, representing just-above-average deprivation. Scottish Borders has an above average share of Decile 5 and Decile 7 Datazones.
- Only 2% of Scottish Borders' Datazones are in the 10% most-deprived, which is the same proportion as the 10% least-deprived. Scottish Borders has a well below average share of these Decile 1 and Decile 10 Datazones.

Overall, this again shows that the lion's share of Scottish Borders' Datazones have around or below average deprivation, with very few extremes of deprivation either way.

The distribution of the 143 Datazones in the Scottish Borders by their Deprivation Decile can be seen the graph below.



SIMD2020 IN VIGINTILES

The same effect can be seen in more detail still when using Vigintiles rather than Deciles or Quintiles, which gives an even more refined 20-band measure of deprivation instead of 10. Each of the twenty Vigintiles represents 5% of Scotland’s Datazones.

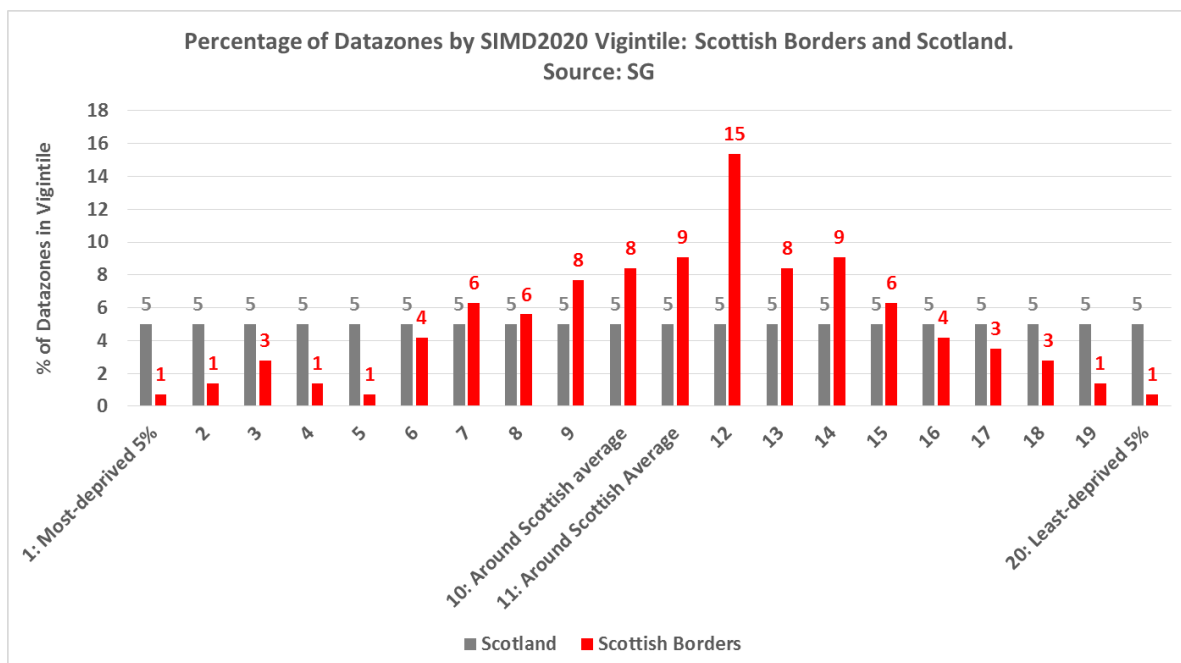
The Deprivation Vigintile with the highest share of Datazones is Vigintile 12, representing a group of neighbourhoods with similar below-average deprivation characteristics. Scottish Borders has three times the Scottish average of these neighbourhoods.

The next biggest groups are Vigintiles 11 and 14, representing two groups of Scottish Borders neighbourhoods with similarly below-average deprivation. Scottish Borders has an above average share of Deciles 7 – 15, representing a large group of neighbourhoods on both sides of the Scottish average with neither extreme of deprivation or affluence.

Only 1% of Scottish Borders’ Datazones are in the 5% most-deprived, which is the same proportion as the 5% least-deprived. Scottish Borders has a well below average share of these Vigintile 1 and Vigintile 10 Datazones.

Overall, this again shows that the lion’s share of Scottish Borders’ Datazones have around or below average deprivation, with very few extremes of deprivation either way.

The distribution of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders by Deprivation Quintile can be seen the graph below.



MAPPING THE SIMD

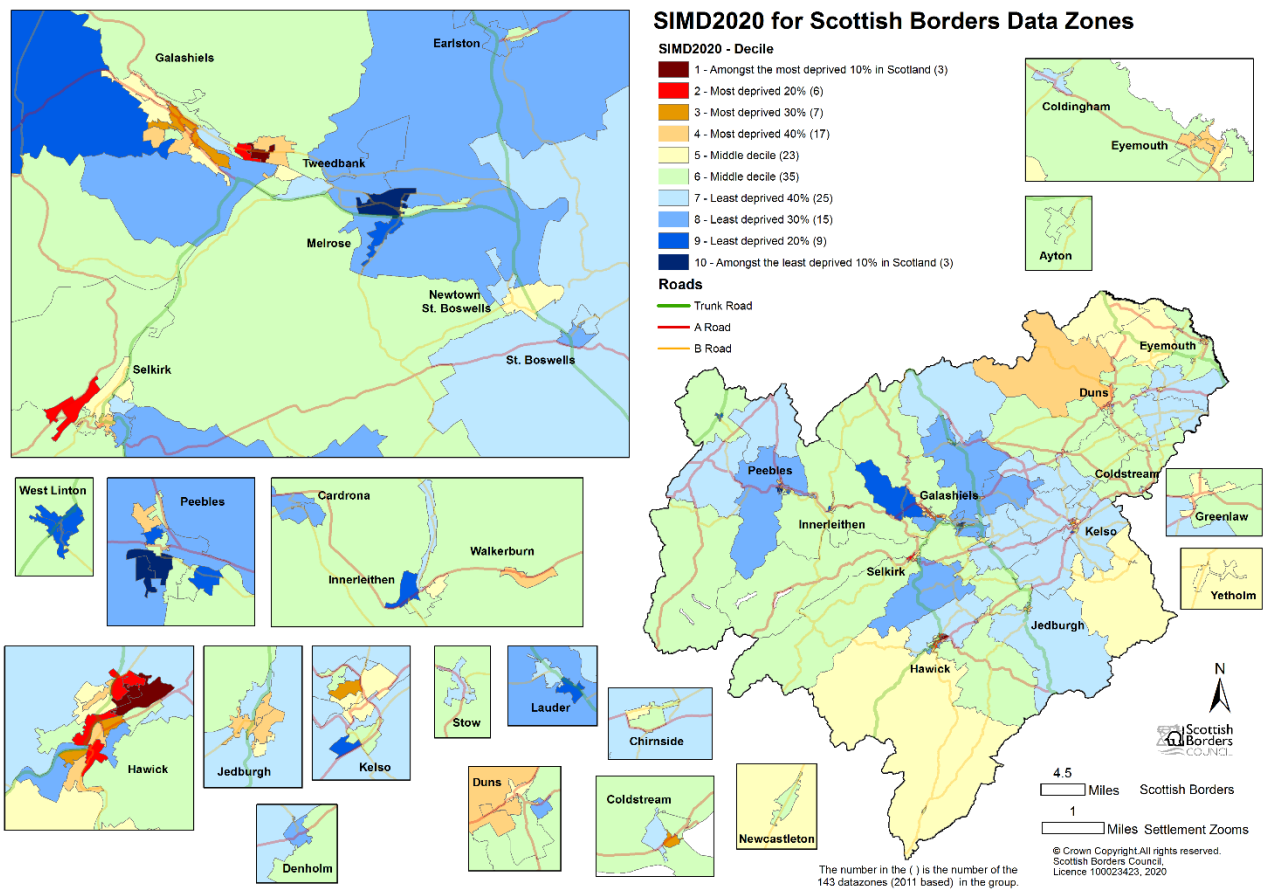
The same data, showing the proportions of Scottish Borders Datazones by SIMD 20 deprivation decile are shown in the map below.

The 3 Scottish Borders Datazones that are amongst the most-deprived 10% in Scotland are part of Langlee in Galashiels and Burnfoot in Hawick.

A further 6 Datazones are within the 20% most-deprived in Scotland; these are also in Langlee and Burnfoot but also in other parts of Hawick and in Bannerfield in Selkirk.

At the other end of the deprivation scale, the three Datazones that fall into the least-deprived 10% in Scotland are in Peebles and Melrose.









Other parts of Peebles and Melrose as well as part of Innerleithen, Kelso, Lauder, West Linton and the rural area around Clovenfords are in Decile 9, so are amongst the least-deprived 20% in Scotland.



COMPONENTS OF SIMD: DEPRIVATION DOMAINS AND OVERALL DEPRIVATION

A large range of official measures and indicators are used to calculate the SIMD. These are arranged into 7 domains: Income, Employment, Education, Health, Access to Services, Crime and Housing. Outcomes from these measures are factored, weighted and combined into a single SIMD score, which is the overall SIMD measure.

Within the domains of the SIMD, the proportion of data zones that are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland varies. Some are more of an issue in Scottish Borders than others:

	<p>9 (6%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are part of the 20% most deprived of all of Scotland</p>	 <p>Income</p>	<p>10 (7%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most income deprived data zones in Scotland.</p>
 <p>Employment</p>	<p>10 (7%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most employment deprived.</p>	 <p>Education</p>	<p>8 (6%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most education deprived.</p>
 <p>Health</p>	<p>9 (6%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most health deprived.</p>	 <p>Access to Services</p>	<p>46 (32%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most geographically access deprived.</p>
 <p>Crime</p>	<p>20 (14%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most crime deprived.</p>	 <p>Housing</p>	<p>3 (2%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most housing deprived.</p>

In Scottish Borders, most of the individual domain scores show that the region has below-average deprivation in all domains except Access Deprivation. These domains are explored in more detail below.

OVERALL DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

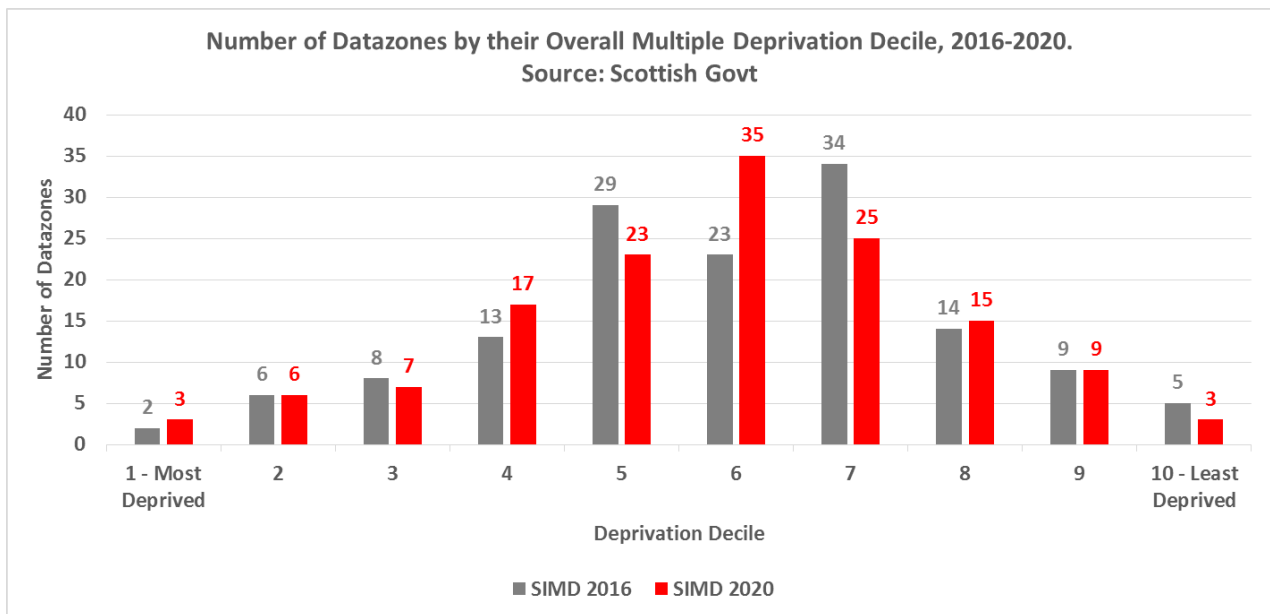
According to SIMD20, 9 (6%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in Quintile 1, the 20% most deprived in Scotland. These neighbourhoods include all of Burnfoot, two thirds of Langlee, Bannerfield in Selkirk, and the town centre/ Wellogate and Commercial Road parts of Hawick. Central Langlee remains in Quintile 1, amongst the 5% most-deprived in Scotland and is the most-deprived neighbourhood in Scottish Borders, same as it was in 2016. Central Langlee, Central and Southeast Burnfoot make up the three Datazones that are within Decile 1, the 10% most-deprived in Scotland.

Central Langlee and all of Burnfoot have remained in the same Deprivation Decile since 2016, i.e. the Multiple Deprivation in Scottish Borders' most-deprived areas has stayed roughly the same, or has failed to improve relative to other comparable neighbourhoods in Scotland. Southeast Burnfoot is now in Decile 1, from Decile 2 in 2016. The Commercial Road area of Hawick is now in Decile 2, from Decile 3 in 2016 indicating that both these neighbourhoods have got relatively worse.

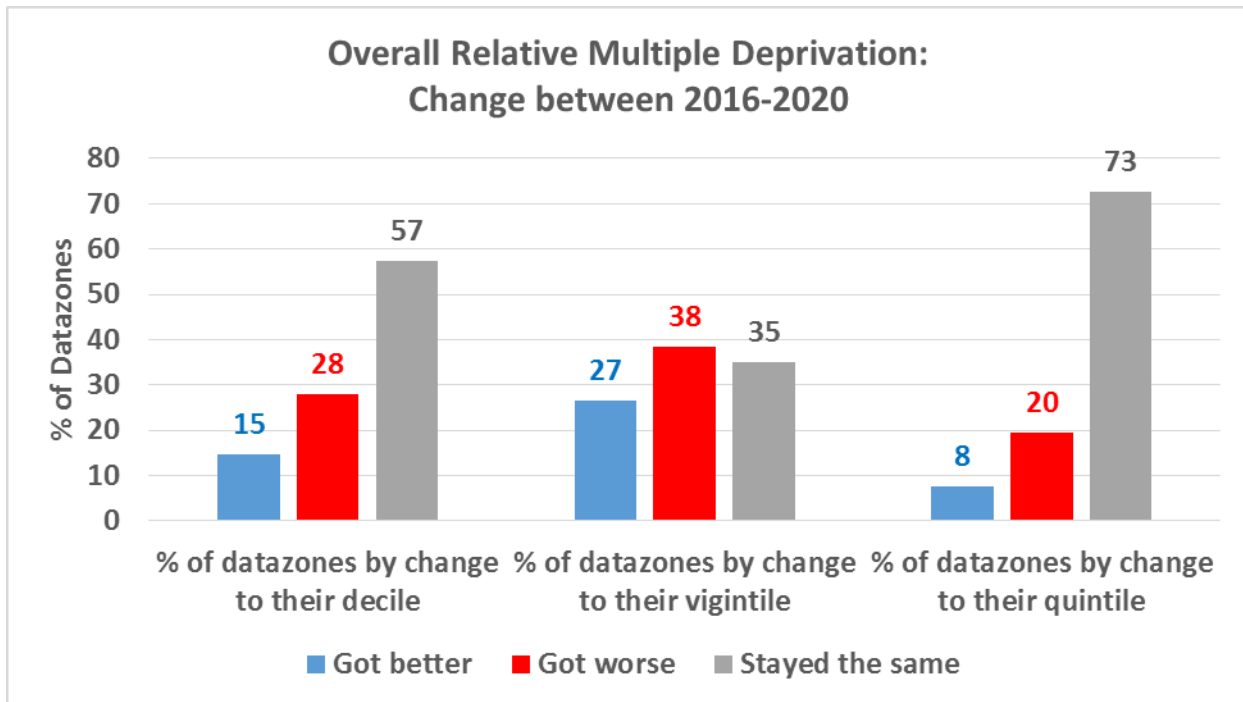
The following table summarises the 9 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in the 20% most-deprived overall, according to SIMD20:

Datazone code	Datazone name	overall SIMD20 Rank	overall SIMD20 Decile	Overall SIMD16 Decile	Change in Decile
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	264	1	1	Same
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	479	1	1	Same
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	510	1	2	Worse
S01012362	Hawick - Burnfoot - North	718	2	2	Same
S01012386	Selkirk - Bannerfield	738	2	2	Same
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	834	2	2	Same
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	980	2	2	Same
S01012363	Hawick Central - Wellogate	1214	2	2	Same
S01012372	Hawick North - Commercial Road	1335	2	3	Worse

The following graph shows how the 143 Datazones in Scottish Borders have changed by deprivation decile overall since 2016.



The following graph summarises all 143 of Scottish Borders’s Datazone in terms of whether their Decile, Vigintile or Quintile has got better, worse or stayed the same since 2016.



The graph shows that over half of Datazones in Scottish Borders have stayed mostly the same since 2016. Of those that have changed, more have got worse than have got better. 28% of the 143 Datazones have got relatively worse, and only 15% have got relatively better.

Overall, Multiple Deprivation has either stayed the same or got slightly relatively worse overall since 2016 – or has failed to improve as fast as it has improved in other areas.

INCOME DEPRIVATION

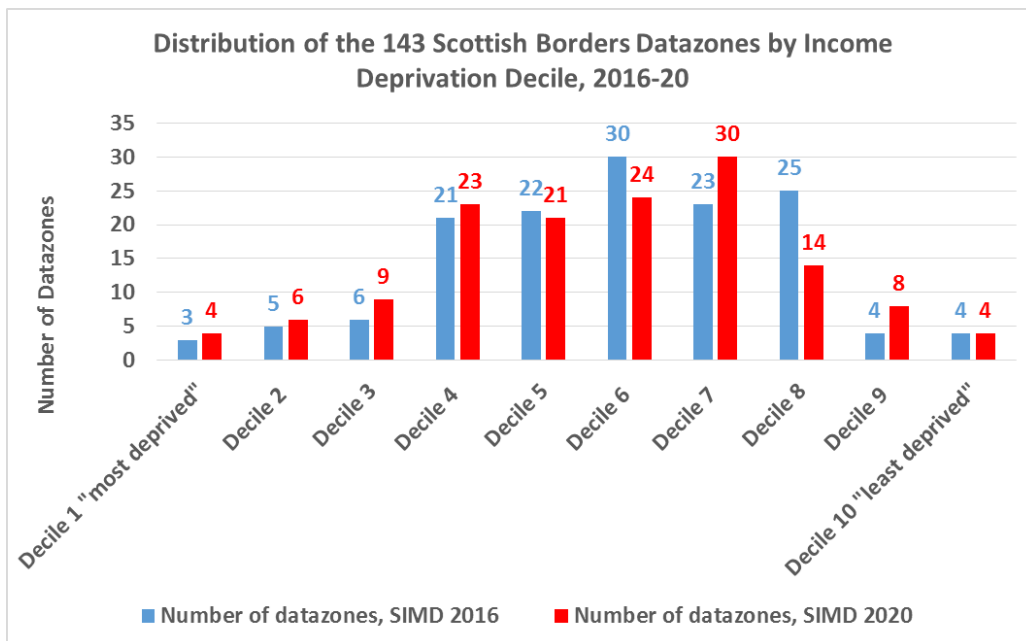
The Income Deprivation domain rank is determined by a measure created for the purpose of SIMD: “the Number and Percentage of people who are income-deprived”. This itself is a factored index of income-deprivation related measures, such as welfare benefits dependency. The full list of measures has not yet been released for SIMD20, nor has the weighting that the Income Deprivation score contributes to Overall Multiple Deprivation.

INCOME DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD, 10 (7%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most income-deprived Datazones in Scotland. This is an increase of 2 since 2016.

Income Deprivation in Scottish Borders is still below average for Scotland, as it was in 2016. The Income Deprivation measure shows that 9% of the Scottish Borders population is income deprived in 2020, which is lower than the Scottish average of 12%.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Income Deprivation Decile. There has been a slight increase in the number of Datazones becoming relatively more deprived, at the expense of the average and somewhat-better-than-average deciles. This shows that Income Deprivation has got slightly worse overall.

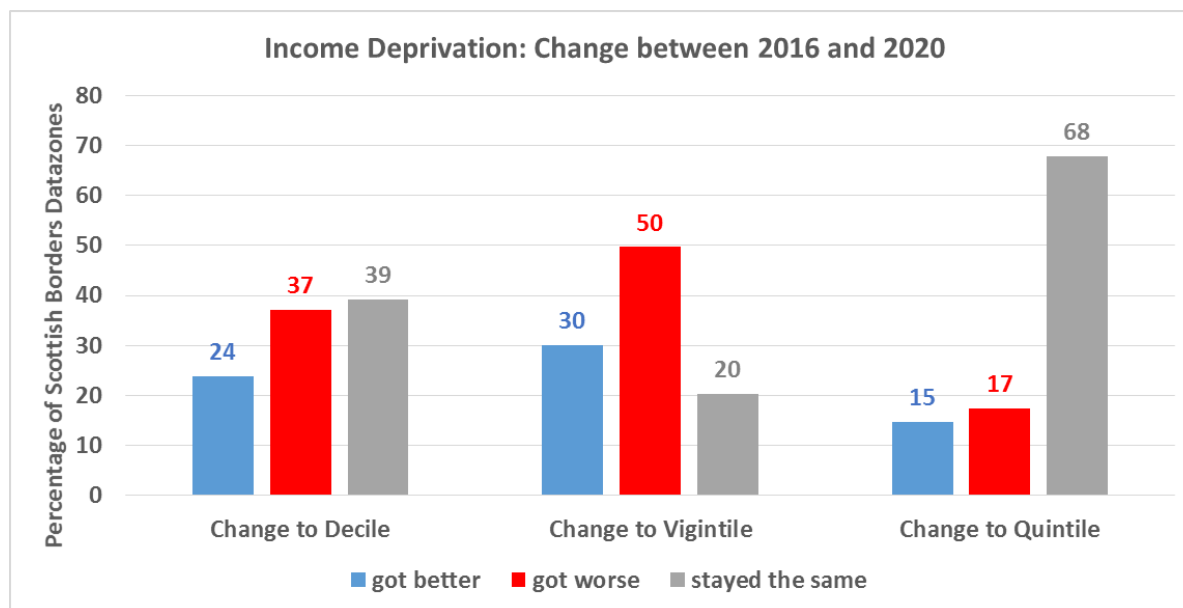


The table below shows the 10 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Income Deprivation Deciles 1 & 2 (Quintile 1), i.e. within the 20% most income-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	SIMD20 Income Domain Rank	SIMD20 Income Domain Decile	SIMD16 Income domain decile	Change in Income Decile
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	196	1	1	Same
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	270	1	1	Same
S01012386	Selkirk - Bannerfield	619	1	2	got worse
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	622	1	2	got worse
S01012362	Hawick - Burnfoot - North	743	2	1	got better
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	930	2	2	Same
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	1053	2	2	Same
S01012326	Coldstream - South	1149	2	3	got worse
S01012363	Hawick Central - Wellogate	1173.5	2	3	got worse
S01012372	Hawick North - Commercial Road	1389.5	2	3	got worse

This information shows that Central Langlee and Central Burnfoot remain with the highest levels of Income Deprivation. Both are in Vigintile 1, the worst 5% in Scotland. Bannerfield and Southeast Burnfoot have also got worse. More of the already worst-affected neighbourhoods have got worse since 2016 than have got better.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Income Deprivation has generally got worse. A higher percentage of Datazones have got relatively worse in terms of Income Deprivation than have got better.



EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION

The Employment Deprivation domain rank is determined by a measure created for the purpose of SIMD: “the Number and Percentage of people who are employment-deprived”. This itself is a factored index of employment-deprivation related measures, such as unemployment, households where nobody is working, and number of adults who have never worked.

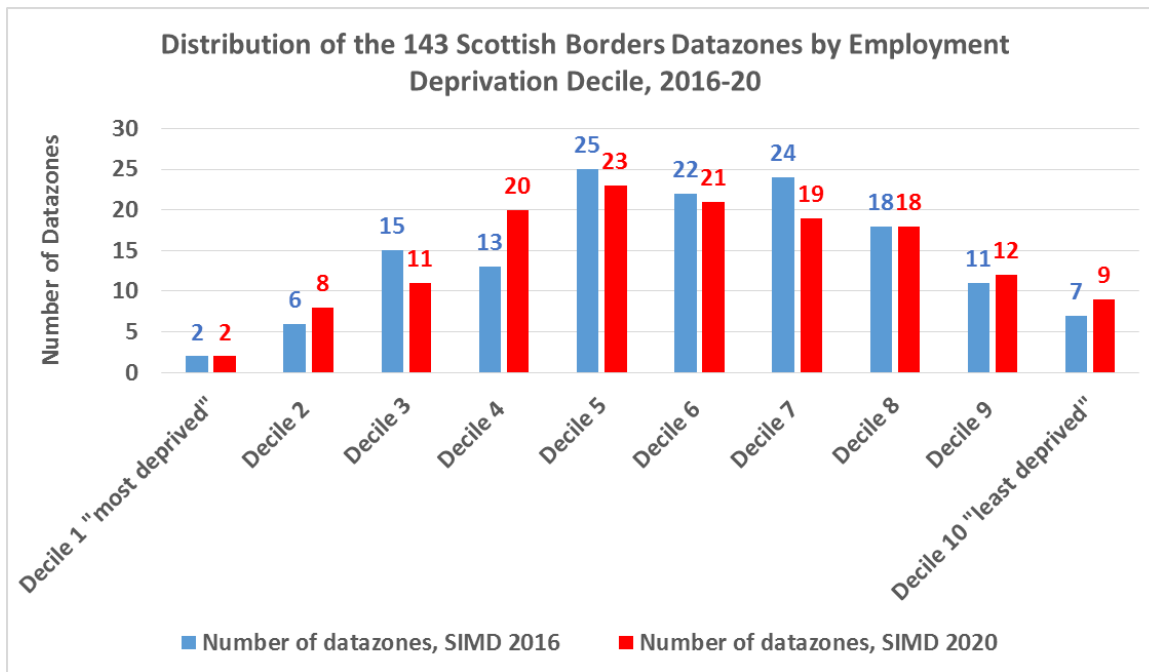
The full list of measures has not yet been released for SIMD20, nor has the weighting that the Employment Deprivation score contributes to Overall Multiple Deprivation. However, Employment Deprivation, along with Income Deprivation are considered to be a major contributor to Multiple Deprivation so they generally have the highest weighting.

EMPLOYMENT DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD, 10 (7%) of the 143 data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most employment-deprived data zones in Scotland. This is an increase of 2 since 2016.

Employment Deprivation in Scottish Borders is still below average for Scotland, as it was in 2016. The Employment Deprivation measure shows that 8% of the Scottish Borders population is employment-deprived in 2020, which is lower than the Scottish average of 9%.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Employment Deprivation Decile. There has been a slight increase in the number of Datazones in the “worst” and the “best” deciles moving further towards the extremes, i.e. the gap between the most-and the least- employment deprived is widening.

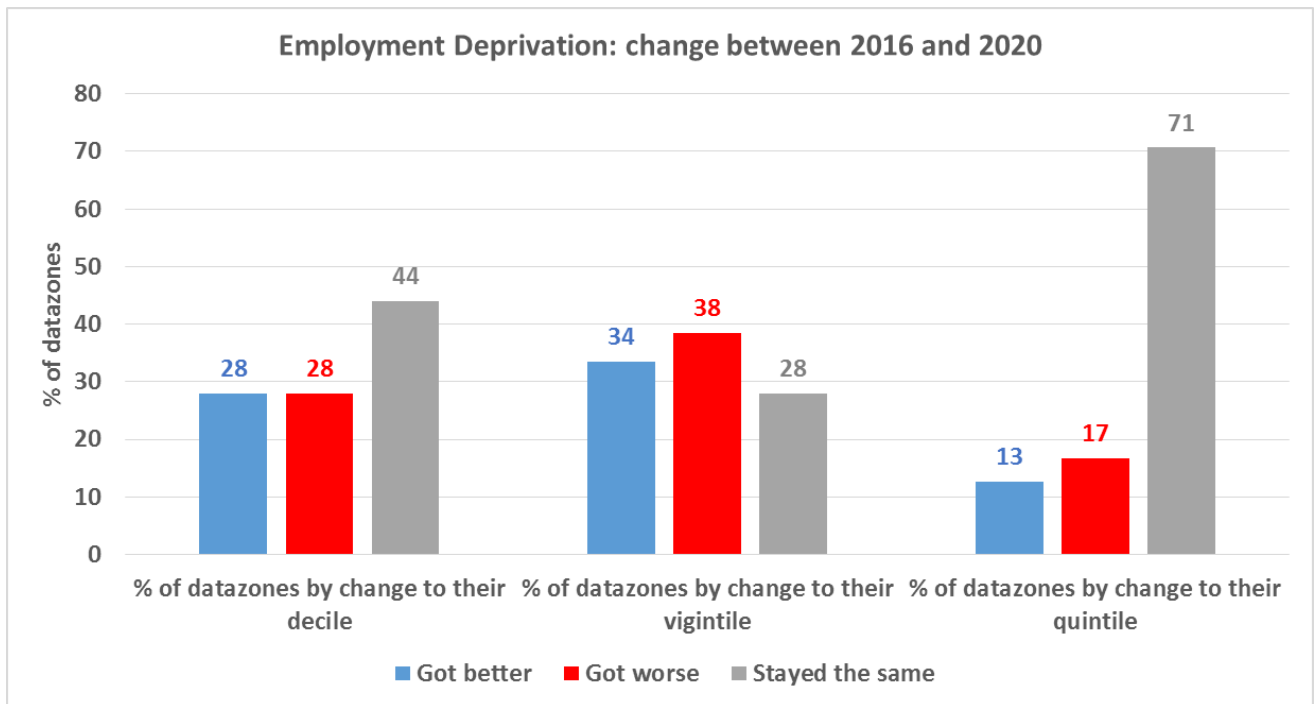


The table below shows the 10 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Deciles 1 & 2 (Quintile 1), i.e. within the 20% most employment-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	SIMD20 Employment Domain Rank	SIMD20 Employment Domain Decile	SIMD16 Employment domain decile	Change In Employment Decile
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	339	1	1	Same
S01012386	Selkirk - Bannerfield	647	1	3	Worse
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	845	2	2	Same
S01012363	Hawick Central - Wellogate	878	2	1	Better
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	882	2	2	Same
S01012372	Hawick North - Commercial Road	1023	2	2	Same
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	1052	2	2	Same
S01012337	Kelso N - Poynder Park	1161	2	3	Worse
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	1254.5	2	2	Same
S01012326	Coldstream - South	1292	2	3	Worse

This information shows that Central Langlee once again has the highest levels of Employment Deprivation, moving into Quintile 1, the worst 5% in Scotland. Bannerfield is next, before the Burnfoot Datazones, as are other parts of Hawick. This shows that the highest levels of employment deprivation are in Hawick, but we also see a part of Kelso and part of Coldstream coming into the worst 20% in Scotland for the first time. More of the worst-affected neighbourhoods have got worse since 2016 than have got better.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Employment Deprivation has either stayed the same or got slightly worse. As a relative measure, some neighbourhoods will gain whilst others lose.



EDUCATION DEPRIVATION

In the SIMD, “Education Deprivation” refers to the extent to which poor attainment, poor outcomes and low aspirations can contribute to Multiple Deprivation. Multiple Deprivation can then impact on a person’s ability to attend school, complete work, learn and attain skills and qualifications. The cause-and-effect spiral of poor outcomes leading to deprivation, leading to poor outcomes, serves to perpetuate the cycle of Multiple Deprivation.

Although poverty is assumed to be at the root of deprivation, education deprivation is a particularly important contributor to the SIMD as education is considered to be the key to enabling an individual to break the cycle of deprivation and change their life chances. On the face of it, all children are offered an equal chance at school to attain, yet there is a persistent attainment gap between most-deprived and least-deprived Datazones. This indicates the complexity of the nature of Education Deprivation and its role in Multiple Deprivation.

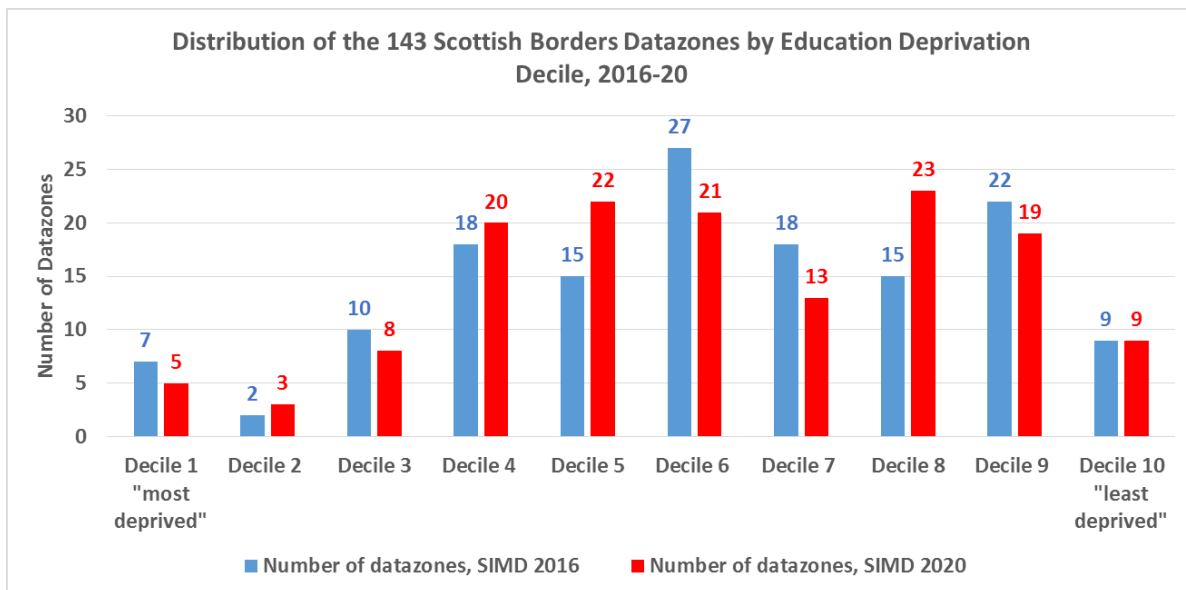
The Education Deprivation domain measures indicators of educational and skills attainment, and the outcomes of school leavers. The indicators used in the 2020 SIMD are as follows:

- Attainment of school leavers
- Working age people with no qualifications
- Proportion of people aged 16-19 not participating in education, employment or training
- Proportion of 17-21 year olds entering university

EDUCATION DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD 2020, 8 (6%) of the 143 Datazones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most education-deprived Datazones in Scotland. This is a decrease of 1 since 2016.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Education Deprivation Decile. There has been a slight decrease in the number of Datazones in the “worst” decile but also a slight shift from “below average” deprivation to “above average” deprivation in a number of Datazones.

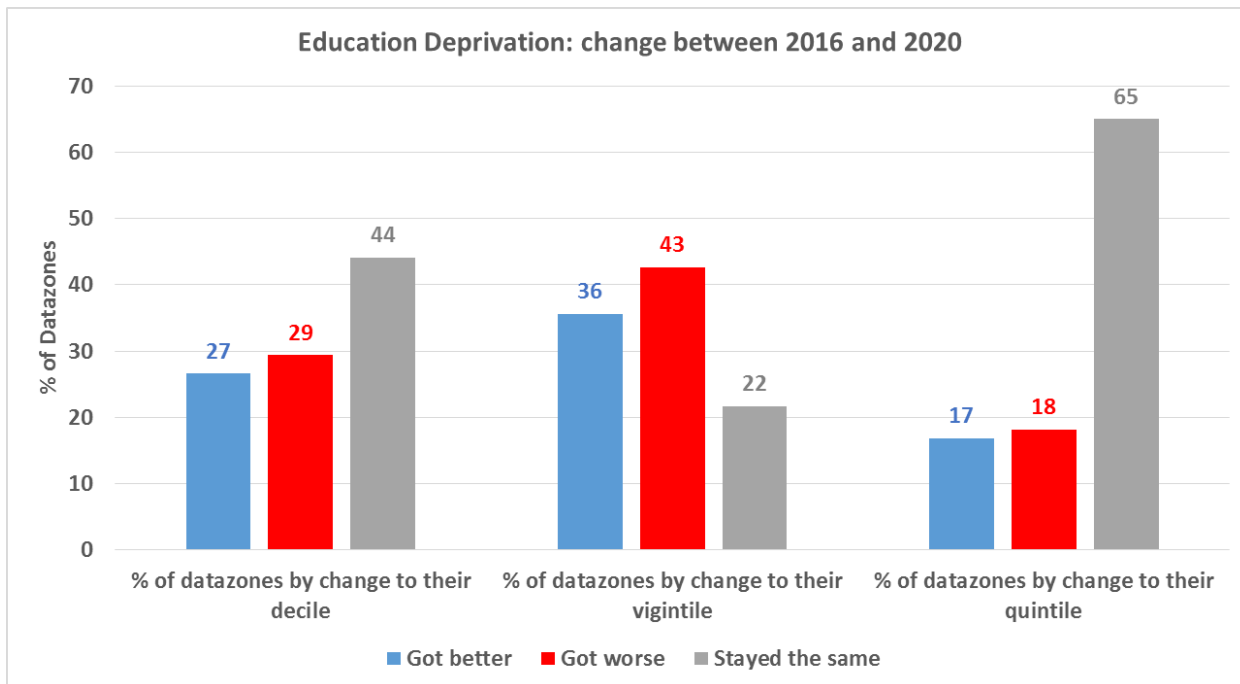


The table below shows the 8 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Deciles 1 & 2 (Quintile 1), i.e. within the 20% most education-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	Education Domain 2020 Rank	Education Domain 2020 Decile	Education domain 2016 decile	Change in Decile
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	174	1	1	Same
S01012362	Hawick - Burnfoot - North	187	1	1	Same
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	388	1	1	Same
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	440	1	1	Same
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	514	1	1	Same
S01012316	Eyemouth - Central	988	2	3	Worse
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	1090	2	1	Better
S01012372	Hawick - Commercial Road area	1195	2	3	Worse

This information shows that all parts of Burnfoot are within the 10% most education-deprived in Scotland, as they were in 2016. The North and the Southeast parts of Burnfoot are now within the 5% most education-deprived in Scotland. West Langlee has got better and is no longer in the 10% most education-deprived. Only two other neighbourhoods in the region share this most-deprived 20% list: the Commercial Road area of Hawick and Central Eyemouth, and both of them have got worse since 2016 and have moved into Decile 2 from Decile 3.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Education Deprivation has either stayed the same or got slightly worse. As a relative measure, some neighbourhoods will gain whilst others lose but here again, like Employment Deprivation, slightly more Datazones have got relatively worse in terms of Education Deprivation than have got better.



HEALTH DEPRIVATION

“Health Deprivation” refers to the extent to which ill-health can affect a person’s ability to thrive, work, care for others and go about their daily business, and how health deprivation spirals into other social and economic problems, thus contributing to Multiple Deprivation.

Unlike the other Deprivation domains, there is a wealth of measures that can be used for measuring poor health as the data are meticulously recorded by ISD Scotland, the Information and Statistics Division of NHS Scotland, which provides some of the best health service data in the world. The Health Deprivation domain focuses on particular measures that target the effect of poor health on the individual’s socio-economic welfare, particularly those that are linked to lifestyle choices, health-related welfare benefits and mental health.

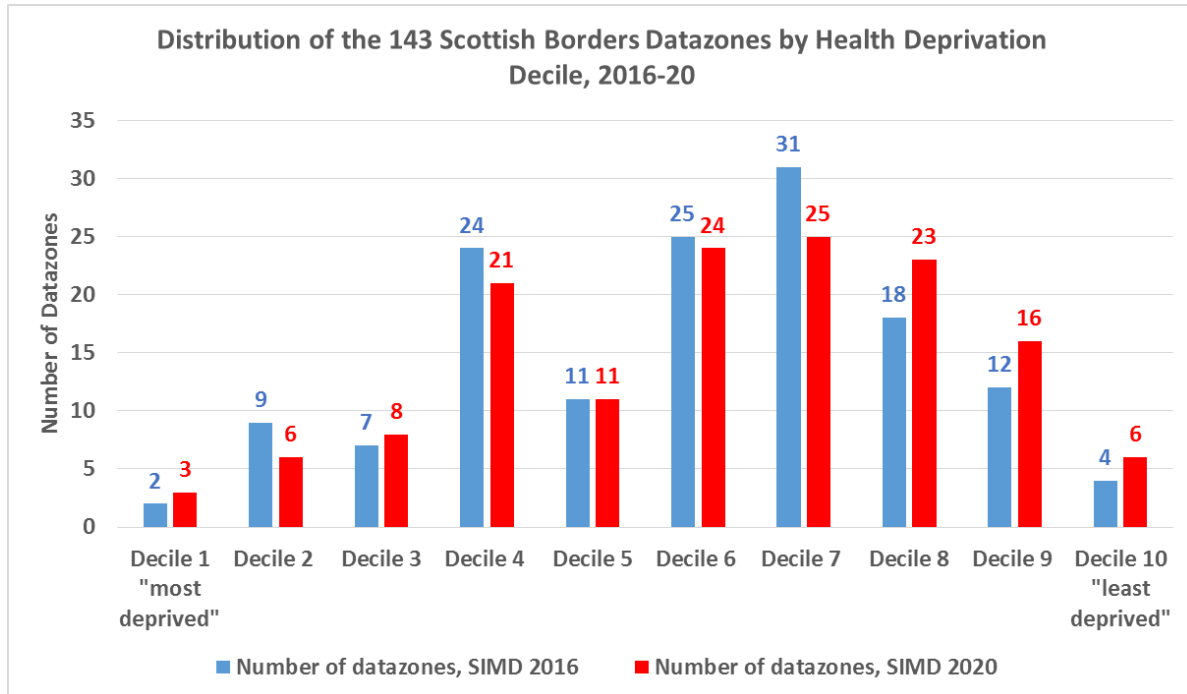
Several of these measures are combined into a comparative indicator called the Comparative Illness Factor, which was created for measuring Health Deprivation. This score is then factored along with a number of other measures of health distress that are linked with deprivation. These indicators include:

- Comparative Illness Factor
- Hospital stays related to alcohol use
- Hospital stays related to drug use
- Standardised mortality ratio
- Proportion of population being prescribed drugs for anxiety, depression or psychosis
- Proportion of live singleton births of low birth weight
- Emergency stays in hospital: standardised ratio

HEALTH DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD, 9 (6%) data zones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most health deprived in Scotland. This is a decrease of 2 since 2016.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Health Deprivation Decile. There has been a slight increase in the number of Datazones in the “worst” decile but also a shift away from the average and a slight increase in Datazones in Decile 8 and higher. This indicates that health deprivation in Scottish Borders is becoming more polarised, with the least-deprived enjoying the best health in Scotland and the most-deprived becoming sicker.

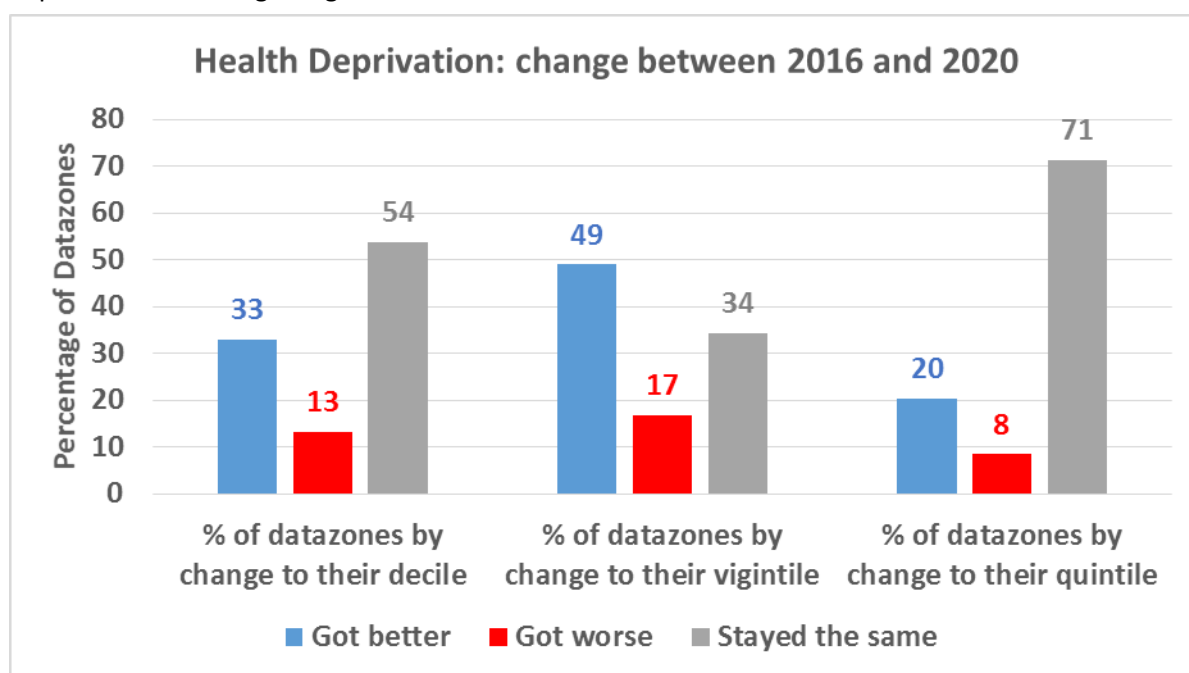


The table below shows the 9 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Deciles 1 & 2 (Quintile 1), i.e. within the 20% most health-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	Health Domain 2020 Rank	Health Domain 2020 Decile	Health domain 2016 decile	Change in Decile
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	342	1	1	Same
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	668	1	2	Worse
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	563	1	1	Worse
S01012279	Galashiels - W - Thistle St	972	2	3	Worse
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	956	2	2	Same
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	1079	2	2	Same
S01012362	Hawick - Burnfoot - North	1039	2	2	Same
S01012363	Hawick Central - Wellogate	1345	2	2	Same
S01012386	Selkirk - Bannerfield	1092	2	2	Same

Out of the 9 Scottish Borders Datazones that are amongst the 20% most health-deprived in Scotland, 3 of them have got worse since 2016. All of them are very much as expected and tie in closely with overall deprivation. Two thirds of Langlee, plus all four parts of Burnfoot plus the Bannerfield area of Selkirk all feature. One neighbourhood which has got unexpectedly worse is the traditional residential neighbourhood around Thistle Street in Galashiels, which is now in the 20% most health-deprived.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Health Deprivation has stayed the same in over half of communities. More neighbourhoods have got better than have got worse. The evidence above shows that most of the neighbourhoods that were averagely or below averagely deprived are getting healthier, but the most vulnerable deprived neighbourhoods have persistent health deprivation which is getting worse.



ACCESS DEPRIVATION

“Access Deprivation” refers to the extent to which long travel distances to services, with and without a private car, and poor access to superfast broadband can contribute to Multiple Deprivation.

Access deprivation is an important aspect of deprivation for rural areas like Scottish Borders, where it is extremely high, but the SIMD Access domain only contributes a small percentage to the overall Multiple Deprivation score. This is because living away from town centres is often a positive choice for families, and is more often associated with a higher quality of life. Poor access to services only becomes a deprivation issue in combination with other domains of deprivation such as low income, worklessness or poor health, or in combination with specific impediments such as not owning a car or an internet-enabled computer or smart device.

The indicator itself is calculated using mathematical modelling and has been somewhat crude and occasionally erroneous in previous versions of the SIMD. The measure’s over-reliance on transport times to services arguably does not capture the essence of access deprivation particularly efficiently. However, the 2020 SIMD has a new indicator concerning access to superfast broadband, which should improve the quality of the Access Deprivation measurement in this edition of the SIMD.

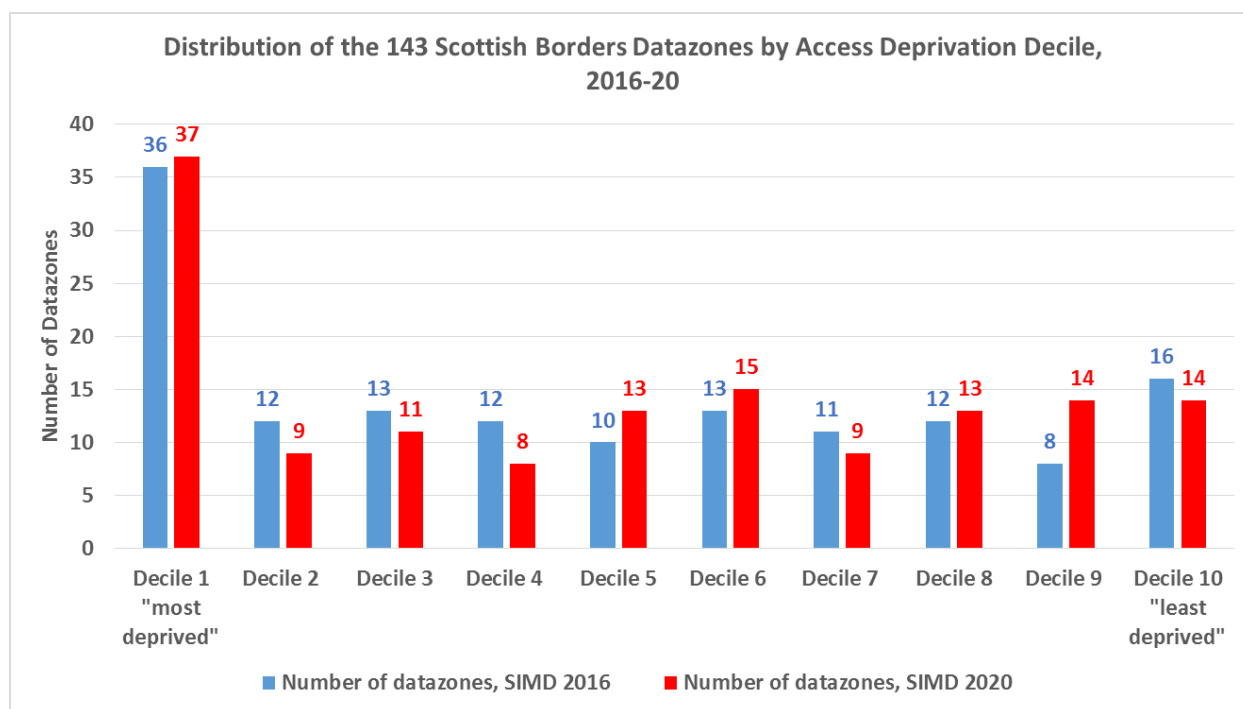
The indicators used in the Access Domain of the 2020 SIMD are as follows:

- Average drive time to a petrol station in minutes
- Average drive time to a GP surgery in minutes
- Average drive time to a post office in minutes
- Average drive time to a primary school in minutes
- Average drive time to a retail centre in minutes
- Average drive time to a secondary school in minutes
- Public transport travel time to a GP surgery in minutes
- Public transport travel time to a post office in minutes
- Public transport travel time to a retail centre in minutes
- Percentage of premises without access to superfast broadband (at least 30Mb/s download speed)

ACCESS DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD2020, 46 (32%) of the 143 Datazones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most access-deprived in Scotland. This is a decrease of 2 since 2016.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Access Deprivation Decile.



There has been a slight increase in the number of Datazones in the “worst” decile but also a slight shift from Deciles 2-4 (above-average access deprivation) to deciles 5 and 6 (around average for Scotland) and to Deciles 8 and 9 (below average access deprivation).

The reasons for this shift are complex. Either local services have improved in formerly less-accessible neighbourhoods, or the new Broadband measure is now showing that some neighbourhoods are more accessible than first thought. The addition of the Superfast Broadband indicator is the most likely explanation. Even though local services are physically as far away as ever, and bus services have not necessarily improved, the inclusion of superfast broadband has had the effect of reducing access deprivation. However, the most-deprived 10% neighbourhoods, which are less likely to benefit from the rollout of superfast broadband in the early phases due to their sparse and remote populations, are as access-deprived as they were before.

The table below shows the 26 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Vigintile 1, i.e. within the 5% most access-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	Intermediate Datazone	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Access Domain Decile	Change in Decile
S01012379	Yarrow Water and Sunderland Area	Ettrick Yarrow and Lilliesleaf Area	19	1	1	Same
S01012302	Cranshaws - Abbey St Bathans Area	Berwickshire Central	26	1	1	Same
S01012378	Ettrick Water and Bowhill Area	Ettrick Yarrow and Lilliesleaf Area	27	1	1	Same
S01012249	Broughton and Upper Tweed	Tweeddale West Area	49	1	1	Same
S01012358	Bonchester Bridge and Chesters Area	Denholm and Hermitage	58	1	1	Same
S01012271	Heriot - Fountainhall - Stow Landward	Earlston Stow and Clovenfords Area	61	1	1	Same
S01012329	Morebattle Hownam and Area	Cheviot East	64	1	1	Same
S01012355	Teviothead and Hermitage Area	Denholm and Hermitage	66	1	1	Same
S01012303	Westruther and Polwarth Area	Berwickshire Central	116	1	1	Same
S01012299	Oxton and Area	Lauder and Area	119	1	1	Same
S01012312	Reston and Coldingham Moor Area	Berwickshire East	127	1	1	Same
S01012247	Eddleston and Area	Tweeddale West Area	169	1	1	Same
S01012248	Stobo - Blyth Bridge - Skirling	Tweeddale West Area	174	1	1	Same
S01012297	Blainslie and Legerwood	Lauder and Area	197	1	1	Same
S01012250	Glentress and Manor Valley	Tweeddale West Area	200	1	1	Same
S01012357	Minto Cauldmill and Boonraw Area	Denholm and Hermitage	213	1	1	Same
S01012313	Cockburnspath and Area	Berwickshire East	218	1	1	Same
S01012376	Ashkirk Lilliesleaf and Midlem Area	Ettrick Yarrow and Lilliesleaf Area	233	1	1	Same
S01012341	Oxnam and Camptown Area	Cheviot West	243	1	1	Same
S01012301	Swinton Leitholm and Fogo Area	Berwickshire Central	268	1	1	Same

Datazone code	Datazone name	Intermediate Datazone	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Access Domain Decile	Change in Decile
S01012346	Dryburgh Charlesfield Maxton Area	St Boswells and Newtown Area	284	1	1	Same
S01012244	Carlops Romannobridge	Tweeddale West Area	294	1	1	Same
S01012304	Gordon and Hume Area	Berwickshire Central	295	1	1	Same
S01012262	Tweeddale East Landward	Tweeddale East Area	311	1	1	Same
S01012322	Whitsome Allanton and Hutton Area	Chirnside and Area	322	1	1	Same
S01012343	Roxburgh Heiton Eckford Area	Cheviot West	347	1	1	Same

The table above shows that the Yarrow Water and Sunderland Hall area is considered to be the most access-deprived Datazone in Scottish Borders and the 19th-most access-deprived Datazone in all of Scotland. This is followed by the Cranshaws and Abbey St Bathans Area in Central Berwickshire.

The other 24 communities in the list are also considered to be amongst the most access-deprived in Scotland. All are small to medium-sized villages in remote, scenic areas. Some of them are on main arterial roads, and would not be considered cut-off by rural standards. However, the distance to larger service centres, poor Broadband speeds and the lack of local services or buses may have been factors in designating them as being vulnerable to Access Deprivation.

The table below shows the 11 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Vigintile 2 i.e. still within the 10% most access-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	Intermediate Datazone	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Access Domain Decile	Change in Decile
S01012333	Sprouston and Area	Cheviot East	364	1	1	Same
S01012261	Cardrona	Tweeddale East Area	375	1	1	Same
S01012332	Smailholm Stichill and Ednam Area	Cheviot East	397	1	1	Same
S01012268	Earlston and Melrose Landward	Earlston Stow and Clovenfords Area	405	1	1	Same
S01012319	Preston and Manderston Area	Chirnside and Area	454	1	1	Same
S01012342	Ancrum and Lanton Area	Cheviot West	498	1	1	Same
S01012324	Birgham and Ladykirk Area	Coldstream and Area	519	1	1	Same
S01012323	Foulden and Area	Chirnside and Area	535	1	1	Same
S01012377	Bowden and Lindean Area	Ettrick Yarrow and Lilliesleaf Area	551	1	1	Same
S01012310	St Abbs and Eyemouth Landward	Berwickshire East	563	1	2	Worse
S01012328	Yetholm area	Cheviot East	697	1	1	Same

Larger villages that would not normally be considered cut-off by rural standards are still within the 10% most access-deprived in Scotland. Examples include Cardrona, where few residents would consider themselves deprived, and is on a good bus route. Cardrona is more access-deprived than Ladykirk, which has no bus service and is struggling with a dwindling, ageing population.

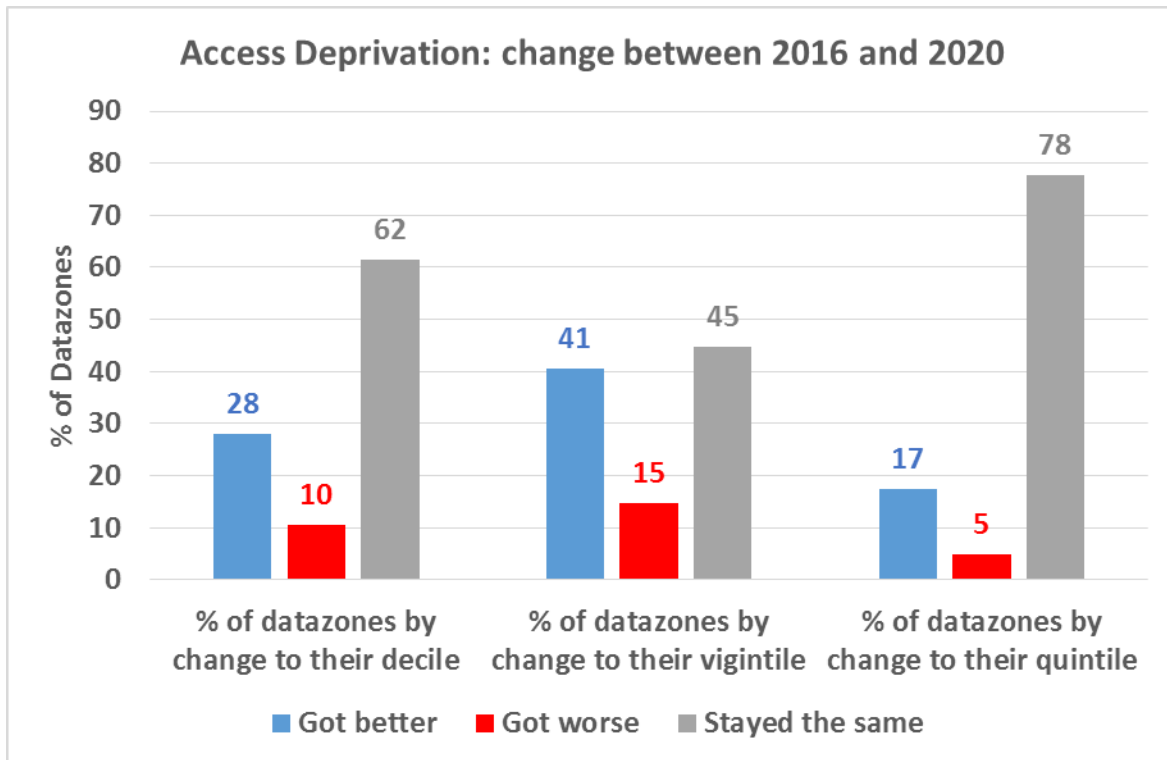
This logic underlines the shortcomings of the Access Deprivation Decile, which, although the official tool for measuring Access Deprivation, does not perhaps succeed in getting to the crux of the challenges of living in communities like the farmsteads around Yetholm or in rural Berwickshire, for an elderly person without access to a car or the resources to order services online.

The table below shows the 9 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Vigintiles 3 and 4, i.e. Decile 2, the 10%-20% most access-deprived in Scotland according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	Intermediate Datazone	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Access Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Access Domain Decile	Change in Decile
S01012273	Clovenfords and Area	Earlston Stow and Clovenfords Area	701	2	2	Got worse
S01012295	Tweedbank - East	Melrose and Tweedbank Area	1054	2	2	Got better
S01012289	Gattonside - Darnick - Chiefswood	Melrose and Tweedbank Area	1069	2	2	Got better
S01012256	Peebles - S - Cavalry Park	Peebles South	1125	2	2	Got better
S01012368	Hawick West End - Wilton Dean	Hawick West End	1148	2	2	Got better
S01012309	Ayton	Berwickshire East	1156	2	4	Got worse
S01012361	Hawick - Burnfoot - West	Burnfoot	1157	2	2	Got better
S01012293	Tweedbank - West	Melrose and Tweedbank Area	1184	2	2	Got better
S01012294	Tweedbank - North	Melrose and Tweedbank Area	1203	2	2	Got better

Many of the neighbourhoods listed above are either fairly accessible by Scottish Borders standards, or are attached to larger settlements. Yet, they are still considered to be access deprived by Scottish standards, meaning that 80% of other communities elsewhere in Scotland have better access to services, better public transport and better Broadband access than they do. This illustrates that, in regions like Scottish Borders, most of the neighbourhoods are isolated by Scottish standards.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Access Deprivation has either stayed the same in the majority of communities or has got better. This is likely to be due to the inclusion of an indicator measuring access to Superfast Broadband for the first time, which shows that many communities are not as access-deprived as previously assumed. However, the evidence above shows that there are many remote communities in the region who have very high access deprivation and still feel cut-off, perhaps because Superfast Broadband rollout has not made very much difference to them.



CRIME DEPRIVATION

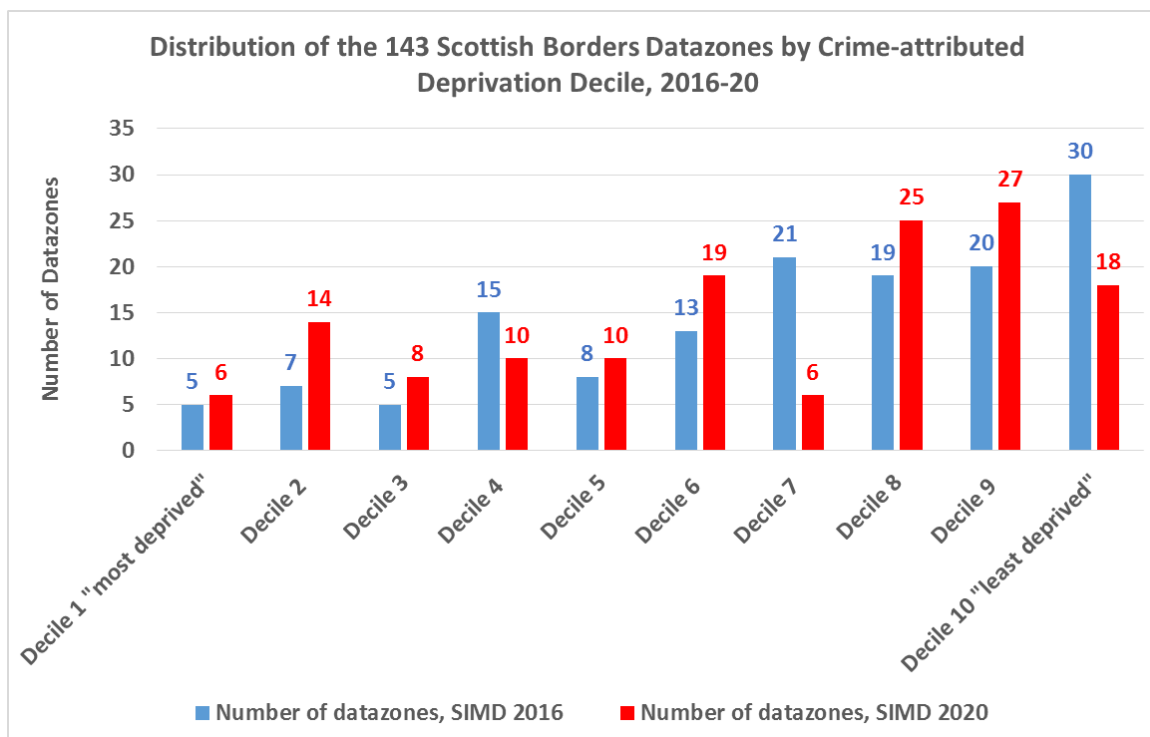
“Crime Deprivation”, or perhaps more accurately, “Deprivation due to the effects of crime”, measures the degradation caused by crime that is suffered by communities and how it contributes to overall Multiple Deprivation. This can be visible crime and antisocial behaviour such as vandalism and arson, and hidden social problems such as drugs and violence. This indicator was created in the SIMD to capture the visible face of deprivation faced by rundown urban housing areas but it also measures the damage done to town centre businesses, industrial units and public spaces caused by crime and antisocial behaviour.

Crime Deprivation is measured using recorded offences from the National Police Database, which is kept continuously up to date. SIMD uses a combined indicator known as “SIMD Crime rate”, consisting of measures of the number and rate per 10,000 of crimes of violence, sexual offences, domestic housebreaking, vandalism, drugs offences and common assault. This composite indicator is created for the single purpose of the SIMD Crime domain.

CRIME DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD, 20 Datazones (14%) in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland due to the effects of crime. This is an increase of 8 since 2016.

This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Crime Deprivation Decile. There has been a worsening and general polarising of crime deprivation across most deciles, as well as a considerable increase in the number of Datazones in the “worst” two deciles, particularly in Decile 2, where the number has doubled. The number of Datazones in the “least crime-deprived” decile has almost halved, although the number in other deciles with below-average crime deprivation has increased.



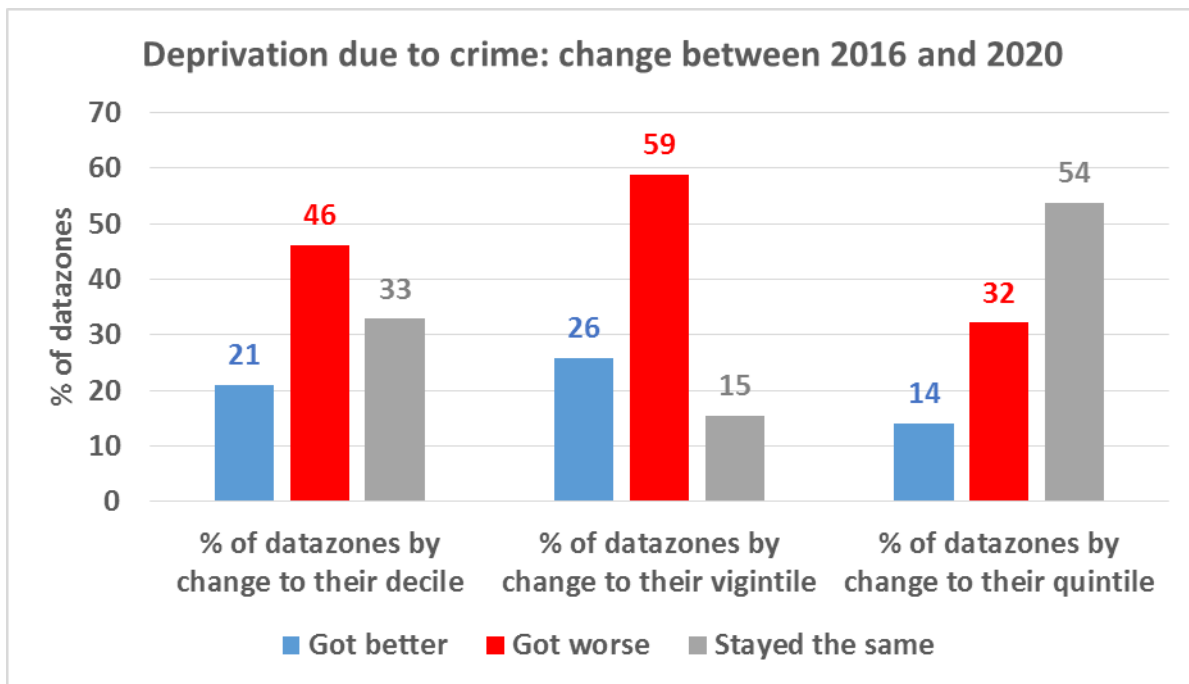
The table below shows the 20 Scottish Borders Datazones that are in Deciles 1 & 2 (Quintile 1), i.e. within the 20% most deprived in Scotland due to crime, according to SIMD20, and how they have changed since SIMD16.

Datazone code	Datazone name	SIMD 2020 Crime Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Crime Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Crime Domain decile	Change in Decile
S01012275	Galashiels - N - Town Centre	74	1	1	Same
S01012278	Galashiels - W - Old Town	212	1	1	Same
S01012284	Galashiels - S - Huddersfield	261	1	1	Same
S01012287	Gala - Langlee - Central	617	1	2	Worse
S01012326	Coldstream - South	624	1	4	Worse
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	697	1	2	Worse
S01012315	Eyemouth - Seafront Harbour	739	2	1	Better
S01012377	Bowden and Lindean Area	745	2	5	Worse
S01012362	Hawick - Burnfoot - North	771	2	2	Same
S01012366	Hawick Central - Town Centre	781	2	2	Same
S01012359	Hawick - Burnfoot - South East	807	2	2	Same
S01012339	Kelso S - Abbey	973	2	4	Worse
S01012363	Hawick Central - Wellogate	990	2	2	Same
S01012276	Galashiels - N - Windyknowe	1074	2	3	Worse
S01012372	Hawick North - Commercial Road	1184	2	3	Worse
S01012281	Galashiels - W - Balmoral Pl	1226	2	5	Worse
S01012364	Hawick Central - Trinity	1274	2	2	Same
S01012337	Kelso N - Poynder Park	1358	2	4	Worse
S01012386	Selkirk - Bannerfield	1364	2	3	Worse
S01012288	Gala - Langlee - West	1369	2	1	Better

There has been a great deal of change in deprivation due to crime in the four years since SIMD 2016. Two Galashiels neighbourhoods: the Town Centre and Old Town areas are still in the “worst” 5% in Scotland. Galashiels town centre has got worse and is now considered the 74th-worst neighbourhood for crime in Scotland. This may be due in part to the crudeness of the measure used, which does not adjust for differences in reporting and recording levels between local areas, nor for the fact that town centre locations attract a different kind of criminal activity from residential areas.

The “worst 4” Datazones are all in Galashiels, followed by part of Coldstream and part of Burnfoot. Most of the neighbourhoods in this list are either small regional service centres, which attract high footfall but are not highly populated, or residential areas with known deprivation issues. Some are surprising, such as the Bowden and Lindean Datazone and the Abbey neighbourhood of Kelso, which have got much worse, and require some explanation.

The graph below shows that out of all the neighbourhoods in Scottish Borders, Crime Deprivation has either stayed the same or got worse in the majority of communities, many by a large enough margin that they have moved to a different decile or quintile. This requires further research, as the change may be due to as-yet unknown changes to the measure that could mean the 2016 and the 2020 SIMD are not comparable. However, it is known that there have been considerable changes to recorded crime statistics, particularly petty and antisocial crime, at a Scottish and regional level in the past four years. This means that the SIMD crime domain may be accurately reflecting real patterns in communities.



HOUSING DEPRIVATION

Housing Deprivation measures the contribution to Multiple Deprivation caused by inadequate housing. Poor housing quality is a symptom of poverty and deprivation, and living in inadequate or unaffordable housing can also trigger the other causes and effects of deprivation such as poor health, poverty, or an inability to work or study at home leading to poorer educational or economic outcomes. As such it is a valid contributor to the SIMD and deserves its place as the seventh and final Deprivation Domain.

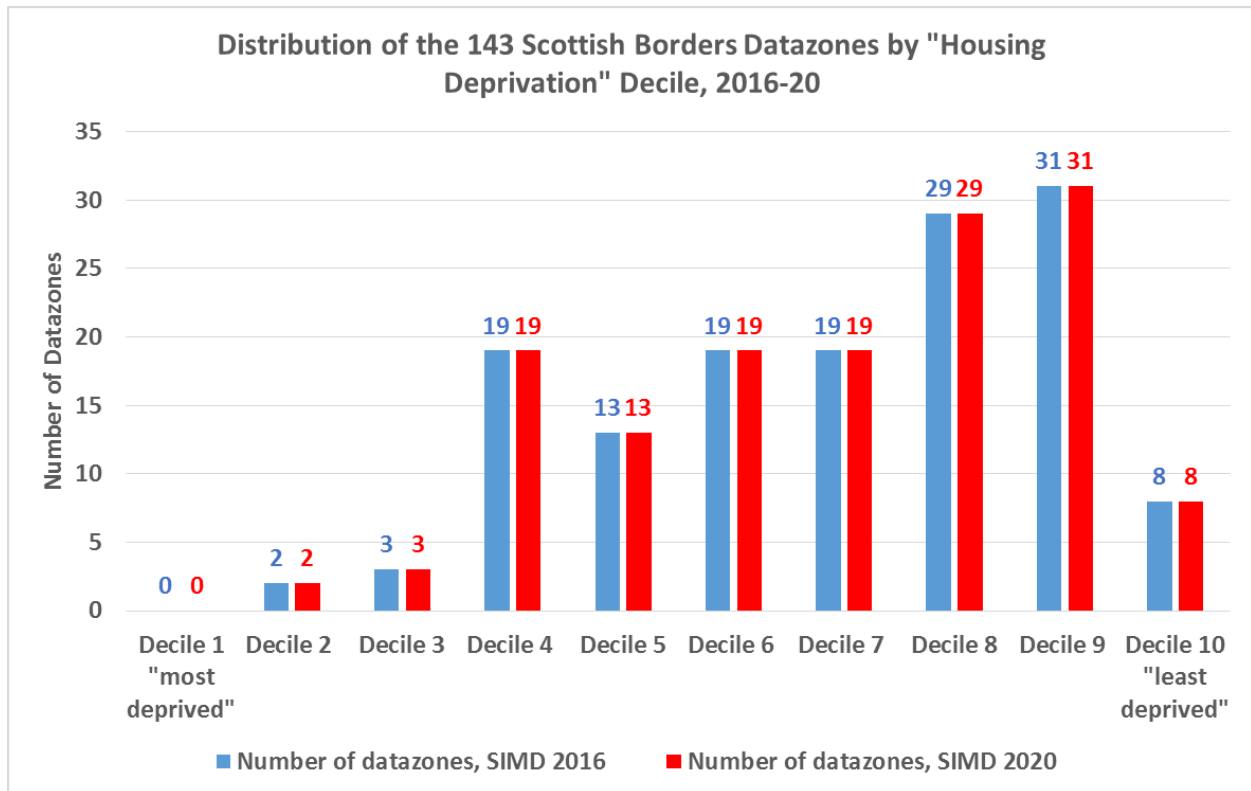
Unfortunately, the Housing Domain is the least-developed of the seven domains, and the measures of it have not changed since the first SIMD in 2001. These were dependent on two measures from the Population Census, which is produced every 10 years: Overcrowding and No Central Heating. Although legislation and our understanding of housing quality issues have evolved since then, the measures have not. The 2011 Census data used in SIMD 2020 are out of date and no longer measure Housing Deprivation issues efficiently at all. This is because householders, particularly Social Rented tenants who are most vulnerable to Multiple Deprivation, are now protected more than ever by legislation on environmental and housing standards, which make overcrowding and inadequate heating much less likely to occur, thus rendering the two measures virtually obsolete in Social Housing. Overcrowded and inadequately heated dwellings still exist, but in nothing like the numbers they did perhaps 20 years ago.

Better measures of housing deprivation do exist, but not on the scale required for them to be used at Datazone level by the SIMD. Therefore, the Housing Domain contribution to the overall SIMD score acts as little more than a placeholder in the SIMD, its inadequacy somewhat mitigated by the fact that it contributes very little to the overall score.

HOUSING DEPRIVATION: CHANGES SINCE SIMD 2016

According to SIMD, 2 (1%) of Datazones in the Scottish Borders are in the 20% most housing deprived. This is unchanged since SIMD 2016.

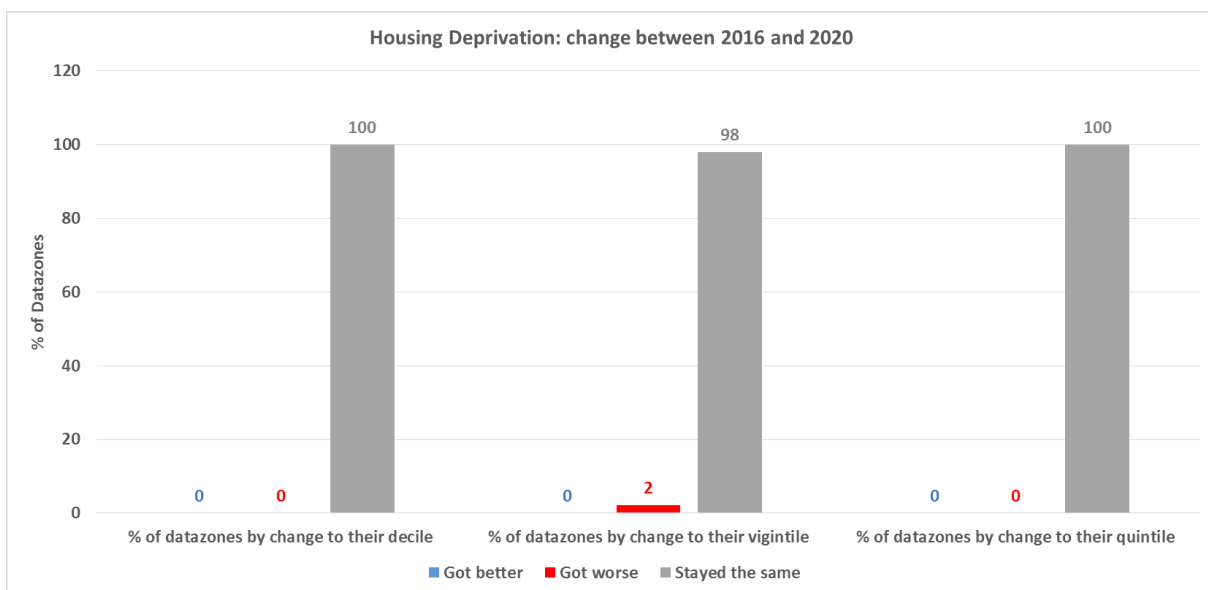
This graph shows how many Datazones in Scottish Borders are in each Housing Deprivation Decile. In contrast to the Crime Domain, there has been no change in the Housing domain. This is because the 2011 Census was used in both the 2016 and the 2020 updates of the SIMD and there has been no change to the measures, so the scores have been simply carried forward from 2016.



The table below is a recap of the two Scottish Borders Datazones that are within the 20% most housing-deprived in Scotland. This indicates that there were issues with inadequate heating or overcrowding in residential properties in these areas at some point in the past 10 years, but gives no indication of whether this is still the case. Demographically, they represent different environments, with Galashiels Town Centre consisting of owned or private rented flats over shops, and Burnfoot being an exclusively residential area, with a high proportion of social rented housing.

Datazone code	Datazone name	SIMD 2020 Housing Domain Rank	SIMD 2020 Housing Domain Decile	SIMD 2016 Housing Domain Decile	change in Decile
S01012275	Galashiels - N - Town Centre	1188	2	2	Same
S01012360	Hawick - Burnfoot - Central	1366	2	2	Same

The graph below reiterates that there has been little or no change in Housing Deprivation between 2016 and 2021. Any minor changes that have occurred to the Scottish Borders Vigintiles would have been caused by a minor correction somewhere else in the index and are of no significance.



USES OF SIMD IN THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

SIMD is used to help organisations invest in areas most in need. It can also be used by communities to highlight the things that matter to them, and identify opportunities to improve the lives of local people.

Within Scottish Borders, the SIMD and the scores which make up the rankings are used in the Child Poverty Index, which informs the Child Poverty Action Plan.

The Scottish Borders Strategic Assessment combines information from SIMD along with other sources of information to present an overall picture of the “state of health” of Scottish Borders, and its socio-economic and demographic standing compared with other Local Authority areas.

The SIMD also informs the work of the Community Learning & Development team, which promotes lifelong learning and equal opportunities for all, particularly children and adults who may be disadvantaged by disability, poverty or due to where they live.

The SIMD also influences community grant and Lottery Fund applications, which are often required to identify whether their applicants live in a deprived area.

Young people and school leavers can also use the SIMD to identify whether they qualify for grants and bursaries for their Higher or Further Education ambitions which are aimed at providing financial support and access to education for applicants from deprived areas.

LIMITATIONS OF SIMD

Relative measure: SIMD is a relative measure which shows whether one area is more deprived than another, but it does not say how much more deprived. A change in level of deprivation, or SIMD rank, shows that the relative deprivation compared to other parts of Scotland has changed, but this does not necessarily mean that the area has changed in an absolute sense. There are a few arithmetic scores in the technical output, which can be used in an absolute sense, but these may not be comparable over time.

Areas, not people: SIMD identifies deprived areas, not people. Over half of people on low incomes do not live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. So using SIMD to identify individuals experiencing deprivation will not work in some areas, such as remote rural areas and the islands.

Urban Bias: The way the indicators and the domains are calculated tends to favour densely-populated urban areas where there are many contiguous Datazones with the same socio-economic characteristics. This gives more of an impression of a breadth and depth of multiple deprivation. In rural areas like Scottish Borders, there are not enough urban Datazones to compete with the hundreds of thousands of people living in the urban sprawl of Scotland's main cities. Because the SIMD measures areas, not people, individuals in sparsely-populated areas do not show up.

Measuring Access Deprivation: Despite having an Access Deprivation Domain, SIMD still tends to overlook rural issues, due to the urban bias and issues with the Access Deprivation domain. The SIMD is weighted so the Access Deprivation domain only contributes to a small proportion of the overall SIMD ranking.

It can also be argued that the Access Deprivation domain does not capture the real issues with rural isolation. For example, travel distances are immaterial when transport options, e.g. school buses, are provided or the household has adequate transport and has made a positive choice to live there. The real issue with rural social exclusion should focus more on whether family members are disadvantaged because of where they live and whether they have the resources to reduce the impact of Access Deprivation on themselves.

Dependency on Welfare Benefits Data: The most influential domains are Income and Employment, which are largely measured using Welfare Benefits Data which are a mercurial and politically-charged source of information. Welfare Reform and Universal Credit means that these measures are changing rapidly and unevenly throughout Scotland. In any case, Scottish Borders is not particularly well represented in welfare dependency statistics for a number of reasons, thus masking the real issues of rural poverty and underemployment. The real economic and income issues facing rural regions of Scotland are not picked up as effectively in the SIMD and there are no suitable official indicators for measuring them.

Housing Domain: the Housing Domain is extremely weak and is barely fit for purpose as a measure of housing deprivation. Other data sources do exist but not at a robust neighbourhood level so cannot be used as present. The Housing Domain is a "work in progress", but one which has made little progress since the SIMD was inaugurated in 2001.