

Determining the domain weights for the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation

The weights used to combine the domains of the [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) are based on a normative approach. For the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008, these are:

domain	weight
income	23.5
employment	23.5
health	14
education	14
community safety	5
housing	5
physical environment	5
geographical access to services	10
TOTAL	100

The first Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD 2000) was developed and produced by the [Social Disadvantage Research Group](#) (SDRC) of Oxford University. Their own research informed the choice of weights for WIMD 2000, and subsequent publications of WIMD have been firmly based on this initial work. The choice of weights is supported not only by SDRC's research, but also independently in the literature, which overwhelmingly points to lack of income and lack of work as the main drivers for broader deprivation. The original research paper on which WIMD was based, The Welsh Index Report 2000, can be found [here](#).

Changes to the weights have occurred as domains have been added to the index, i.e. the physical environment domain in 2005, and the community safety domain in 2008. These changes were discussed and agreed by the WIMD Advisory Group, which consists of academic and other experts in the field. The [minutes](#) of the Advisory Group record these discussions, which were informed by the relevant academic literature and consultation with users. We carry out regular user consultation, and the values of the weights reflect the consensus from those consultations. An overview of changes to the weights, and their rationale, can be found in the sections on Community Safety and Physical Environment in the *Summary of methodological changes for WIMD 2008* which can be found [here](#) under *Guidance*.

The weights were designed to reflect both the importance of each domain as a factor of deprivation, and the quality of the indicators that are used to construct the domain. So, for example, although the evidence suggests that housing quality is an important factor in deprivation, the only source we have in Wales for relevant indicators is the Census. By 2005, the 2001 Census data was less up-to-date than would have been ideal, but the indicators were retained to maintain a housing element in the Index. The weight for the housing domain was down-graded to reflect the issue with timeliness, and this down-grade was kept in place in 2008.

Sensitivity analysis has been carried out on the weights, both in 2005, and more recently, on WIMD 2008. The analysis can be found in [Paper PBD6](#) of the Project Board meeting, 22 October 2010. Both analyses conclude that the WIMD rankings are fairly robust to changes to the weighting system.