



Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation
Child Index

Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation: Child Index 2011

**Summary of
methodological
changes**

This document presents a summary of the methodological changes made to the Child Index in 2011. The purpose of the Child Index was to update the Child Index 2008, so methodological changes have been avoided, except where changes to data provision have made it unavoidable.

Income domain: Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) has replaced Incapacity Benefit for new claimants since October 2008. The Income Support element of Incapacity Benefit is replaced with the Income-Based element of ESA.

Community safety: in the Child Index 2011, the violent crime rate is based on a single year (2009/10) of data, instead of the average over two years of data. This is due to a crime coding issue in the 2008/9 data year.

Education: pupil postcodes are now available for both primary and secondary absences. This is an improvement over the Child Index 2008, where the school-level data had to be apportioned to postcodes. The Key Stage 4 (GCSE)-level) points scoring system changed in 2008, and it also now includes qualifications other than GCSEs. Data are no longer available for the old points system. The inclusion of qualifications other than GCSE improves this indicator, but both the level and the ratio between successive grades are changed, which may lead to differences in the ranking.

Physical environment: the methodology used to create the indicators of the physical environment domain is the same for the Child Index 2011 as it was in 2008. However, there have been some improvements to the air emissions mapping, and the flood risk mapping.

Changes in flood risk between the Child Index 2008 and 2011 are largely due to the improved flood risk mapping. Although over 4,500 properties in Wales have benefited from reduced flood risk due to capital improvement and maintenance schemes since April 2005, half of these were in the last three years, and so not all of them will be included in the 2009 flood risk data used in the Child index 2011.