

## Child poverty estimates 2013

- Before housing costs, 16% of Oxford's children are estimated to be living in households below the poverty line. After housing costs have been taken into account, 25% of Oxford's children live in poverty. Both of these figures are the same as the UK average.
- This means that, after housing costs are taken into account, there are 6,600 Oxford children living below the poverty line.
- We do not have figures to show how this has changed in Oxford over the last few years. At a national level the proportion of children living in relative poverty has fallen slightly, because median income (adjusted for inflation) and therefore the poverty line has been falling since 2009/10. Conversely, the number of children living in absolute poverty has risen<sup>1</sup>.
- Within Oxford, the child poverty rate varies significantly across the city's wards from 4% to 36%. Child poverty is geographically concentrated with 72% of children in poverty living in nine wards in the south and east of the city.

### Notes on the data

HM Revenue & Customs have, in the past, released small area child poverty estimates but these have not been updated recently; their latest data relates to 2011. However the End Child Poverty (ECP) campaign has published ward-level child poverty estimates commissioned from Loughborough University. These statistics use data from out of work benefits, tax credits and child benefit claims, adjusted to ensure that poverty experienced by working households with children is properly accounted for<sup>2</sup>. Nationally over 60% of children living in poverty are in a household with at least one working adult (local estimates are not available).

The ECP figures estimate the number of children living in households with an income below 60% of the median national household income (after taxes and benefits) in the period October to December 2013. Median household income in 2012/13 was £440 per week<sup>3</sup> so that the poverty line was set at £264 per week. The figures also estimate the number of children living in poor households after housing costs have been deducted. The median national household income after housing costs (AHC) in 2012/13 was £374 per week so that the AHC poverty line was set at £224 per week. Household incomes are also 'equivalised' to take account of the fact that larger households need larger incomes in order to support their members. Taking housing costs into account has the effect of drawing more households and children below the poverty line, because housing costs tend to be a higher proportion of household incomes at the lower end of the distribution. In Oxford 16% of children live in households below 60% of median income before housing costs, but this rises to 25% after housing costs.

Because a different method has been used to previous estimates we cannot use the ECP data to show change over time, but they do give a snapshot of the variation of child poverty rates across the city in late 2013. The estimates show that child poverty rates varied from 4% in Holywell ward to 36% in Blackbird Leys ward. These should not be treated as precise estimates but indicative of the variation in child poverty across the city.

---

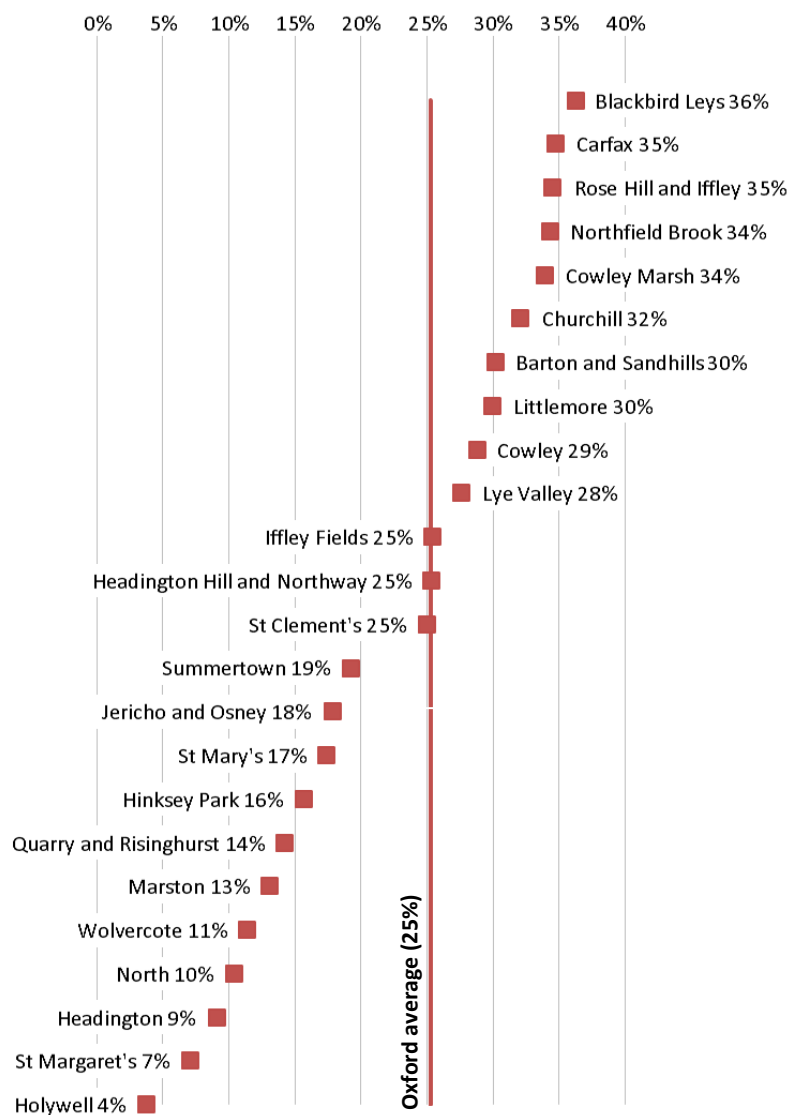
<sup>1</sup> Household below average income 2012/13, Department for Work & Pensions

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area>.

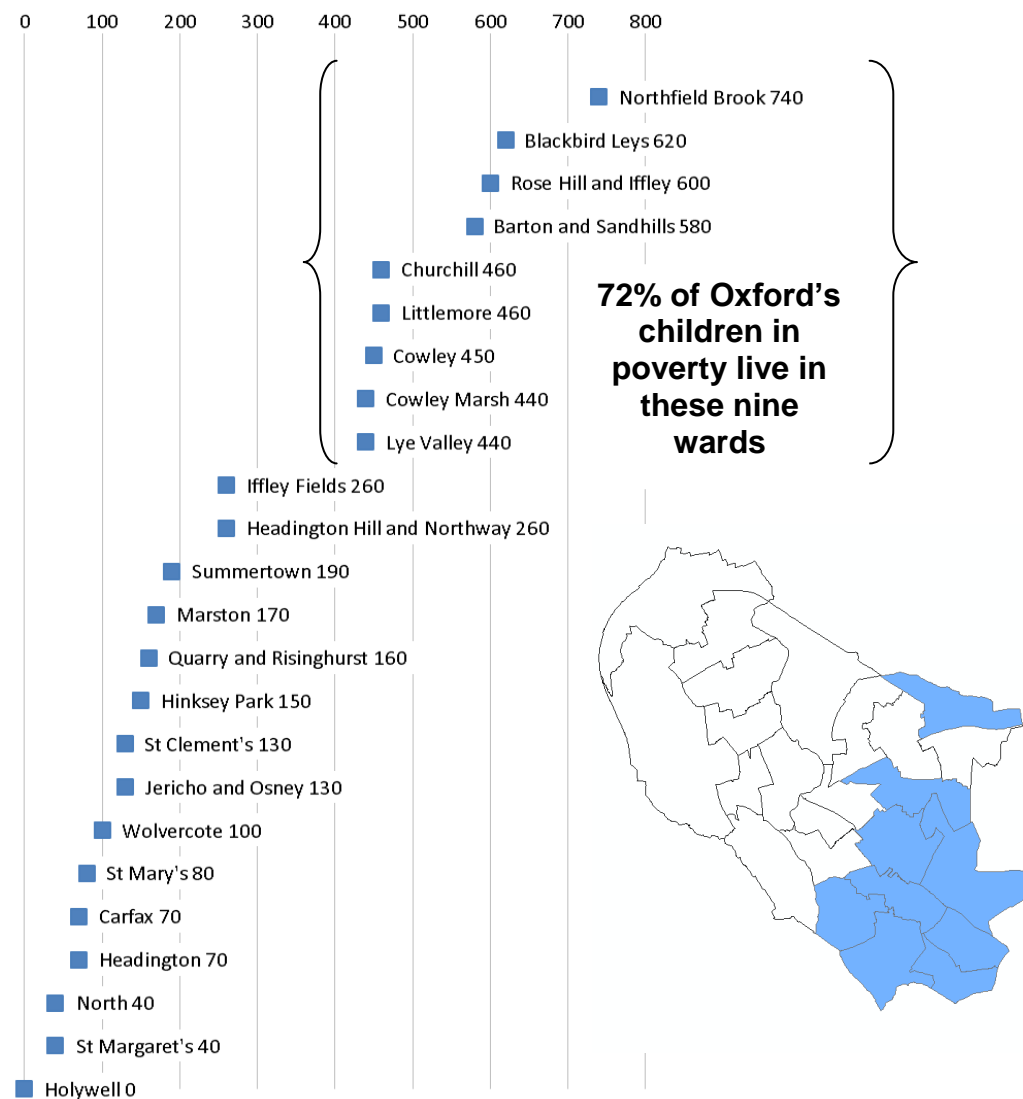
<sup>3</sup> Household below average income 2012/13, Department for Work & Pensions

# Child poverty in Oxford, 2013

Proportion of children living in poverty after housing costs by Oxford ward, Oct-Dec 2013



Number of children living in poverty after housing costs by Oxford ward, Oct-Dec 2013 (rounded to nearest 10)



Data: Child poverty estimates Oct-Dec 2013, End Child Poverty campaign: retrieved from <http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/why-end-child-poverty/poverty-in-your-area>.