

## Financial Poverty

Financial poverty impacts the education, health and well-being, and many more aspects of an individual's life.

Poverty can be present in several different ways. If parents are struggling to afford food and rely on food banks, that is an indicator of poverty. Going without heating and electricity, facing childcare costs higher than earnings, or living in insecure housing because families can't keep up with the rent are poverty indicators. It can affect every part of a child's life. (The Big Issue 24th March 2022)

### Education:

A study conducted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found strong evidence that money makes a difference in children's outcomes. Less well-off children have the worse cognitive ability, achievement and engagement in school, anxiety levels and behaviour.

Does money affect children's outcomes? <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/does-money-affect-children's-outcomes>

### Poor health and wellbeing:

Living in poverty can lead to poorer health outcomes in childhood and adulthood.

Being exposed to some or all of the key factors below and accumulating exposure over time can adversely impact child development and health outcomes.

- Little money for everyday resources - including good quality housing.
- The stress of living in poverty.
- Unhealthy lifestyles.
- Poorer education and employment opportunities.

(Child poverty overview - NHS Scotland)

### Facts and figures:

- 500,000 children were pushed into poverty between 2015 and 2020
- 4.3 million kids were living below the breadline before Covid-19 hit the UK,
- Trussell Trust gave out 1.9 million three-day emergency food parcels in the year up to March 2020; 700,000 of those went to children.
- The Legatum Institute estimated that 120,000 of the 700,000 people who fell into poverty during the pandemic were children.
- two in five families fell into poverty in 2020, meaning hundreds of thousands were struggling to pay bills and cover costs for their children during the pandemic.

Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) said: "A child can have three meals a day, warm clothes and go to school, but still be poor because her parents don't have enough money to ensure she can live in a warm home, have access to a computer to do her homework, or go on the same school trips as her classmates."

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