

Income Support

General details	Data derived from a 100% scan of Income Support Claimants held on the IS Computer System
Area output	National, regional, district and ward (2003) boundaries
Time period	August 25 th 2001, August 31 st 2002, August 23 rd 2003
Source	Department for Work and Pensions (DWO)
Provider	ONS, Neighbourhood Statistics
Comments	The data is regarded as being of very high quality. Changes in eligibility and DWP policy may impact on the number of claimant s

1 Introduction

1.1 Income Support was introduced in 1988. It is a non-contributory, income-related and taxable benefit. It can be paid to a person who is in Great Britain, is aged 16 years of over, is not working more than 16 hours per week and has less money coming in than the law says they need to live on.

1.2 From October 1996, Jobseeker's Allowance replaced Income Support for unemployed people. In general, Income Support is now only available to people who are not required to be available for work such as pensioners, lone parents and sick or disabled people. Income Support is not paid to those with capital holdings of £12,000 or more (£16,000 for those living in residential care homes).

1.3 The basic allowance for a single adult is £55.65 and for a couple £87.30.

2 National and Regional Figures

2.1 Income Support is claimed by over 3.5 million people in England and Wales and has risen by 0.7% and 1.5% respectively over the last two years.

Table 1: Claimants of Income Support 2001 to 2003.

	2001	2002	2003
England & Wales	3507746	3530687	3582479

2.2 Over one third of claimants are single pensioners (37%) a figure that has been consistent over the last three years despite an absolute rise in claimant numbers.

Table 2: Claimants who were single and pensionable age (over 60 years)

	2001	2002	2003
England & Wales	1282601	1302006	1323262

2.3 Almost all districts in West Yorkshire have seen small increases in the number of Income Support Claimants over the last two years. The rise in Kirklees was relatively high from 2002 to 2003 and the highest in the region (2%) from 2001 to 2002.

Table 3: Claimants of Income Support 2001 to 2003

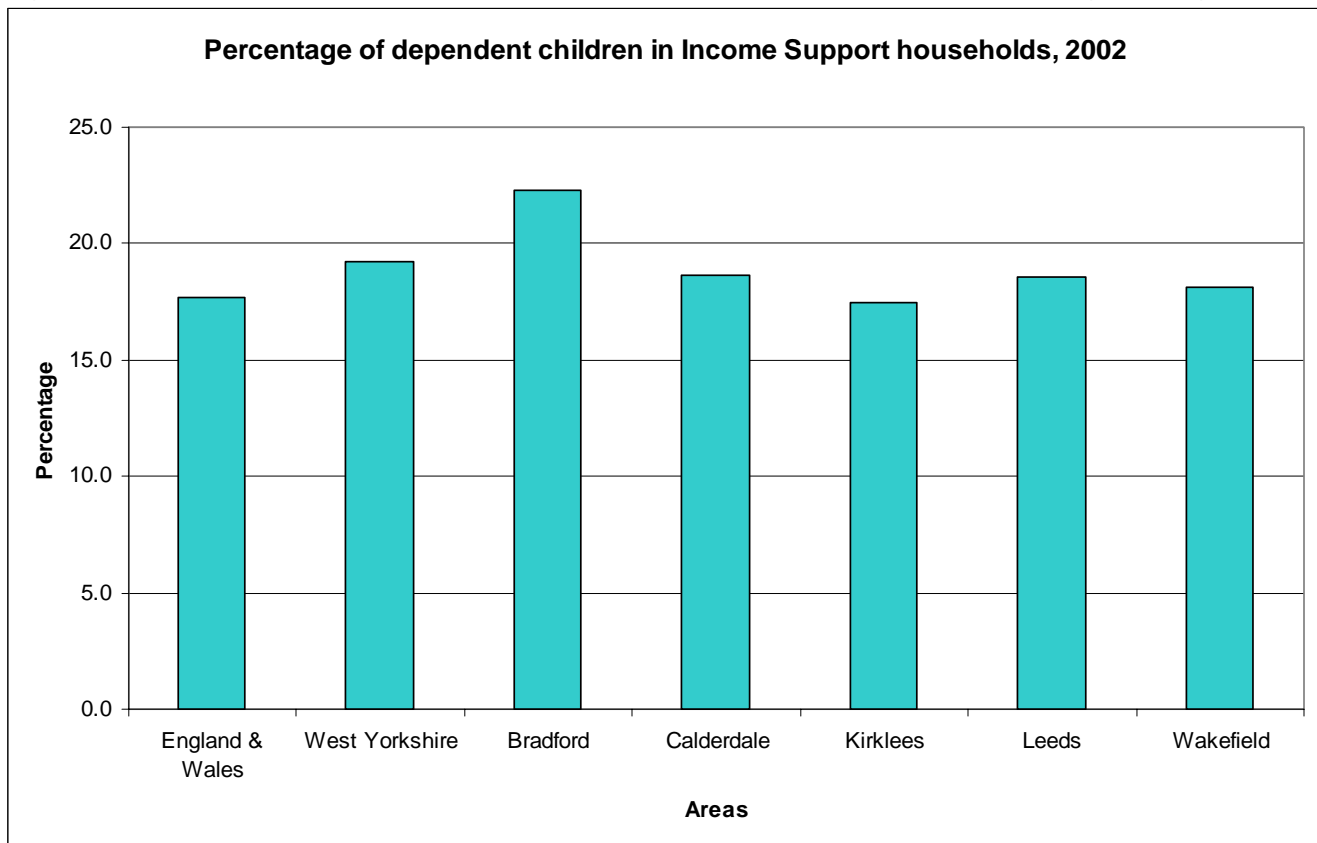
	2001	2002	2003	% change 2001-2	% change 2001-2
West Yorkshire	155025	156705	158610	1.08	1.22
Bradford	40370	40705	41280	0.83	1.41
Calderdale	13805	14050	14110	1.77	0.43
Kirklees	26965	27515	27920	2.04	1.47
Leeds	50395	51040	51890	1.28	1.67
Wakefield	23490	23395	23410	-0.40	0.06

2.4 Over the last three years, about 37% of Income Support Claimants in Kirklees were pensioners living alone. In Leeds the proportion was slightly higher, about 39%. Lone pensioners account for just 300 of the total Kirklees increase in the number of Income Support Claimants between 2001 and 2003.

Table 4: Claimants who were single and of pensionable age

	2001	2002	2003
West Yorkshire	58265	59320	59380
Bradford	14600	14665	14620
Calderdale	5330	5450	5400
Kirklees	9985	10305	10270
Leeds	19800	20355	20575
Wakefield	8550	8545	8515

Figure 1: Dependent children in Income Support households; national and regional figures



2.5 Families who receive Income Support are some of the poorest and most deprived in society. Just under 20% (over 90,000) of all dependent children in West Yorkshire (as measured by the number of children for whom Child Benefit is claimed) live in households claiming Income Support. The Kirklees figure is 16,000 children, a rate that is slightly lower than the West Yorkshire figure and the lowest for each of the five districts in West Yorkshire (and very close to the national figure).

Table 5: Dependants of Income Support Claimants

	2001	2002	% 2001	% 2002
West Yorkshire	95870	91945	19.9	19.2
Bradford	28085	27230	22.8	22.3
Calderdale	8555	8325	19.0	18.6
Kirklees	16840	16100	18.2	17.4
Leeds	28870	27535	19.1	18.5
Wakefield	13520	12755	19.0	18.1

2.6 As with any benefit, some people, who are eligible to receive Income Support, do not claim and receive it. In 2001 - 2, the Department of Work and Pensions estimated that the take-up rate for non-pensioners was between 86 and 95% of all those who were entitled and that this amounted to between 91 and 98% of the amount that could have been claimed. In other words, between 5 and 14% of non-pensioners who could have claimed Income Support in 2001 - 2 did not claim.

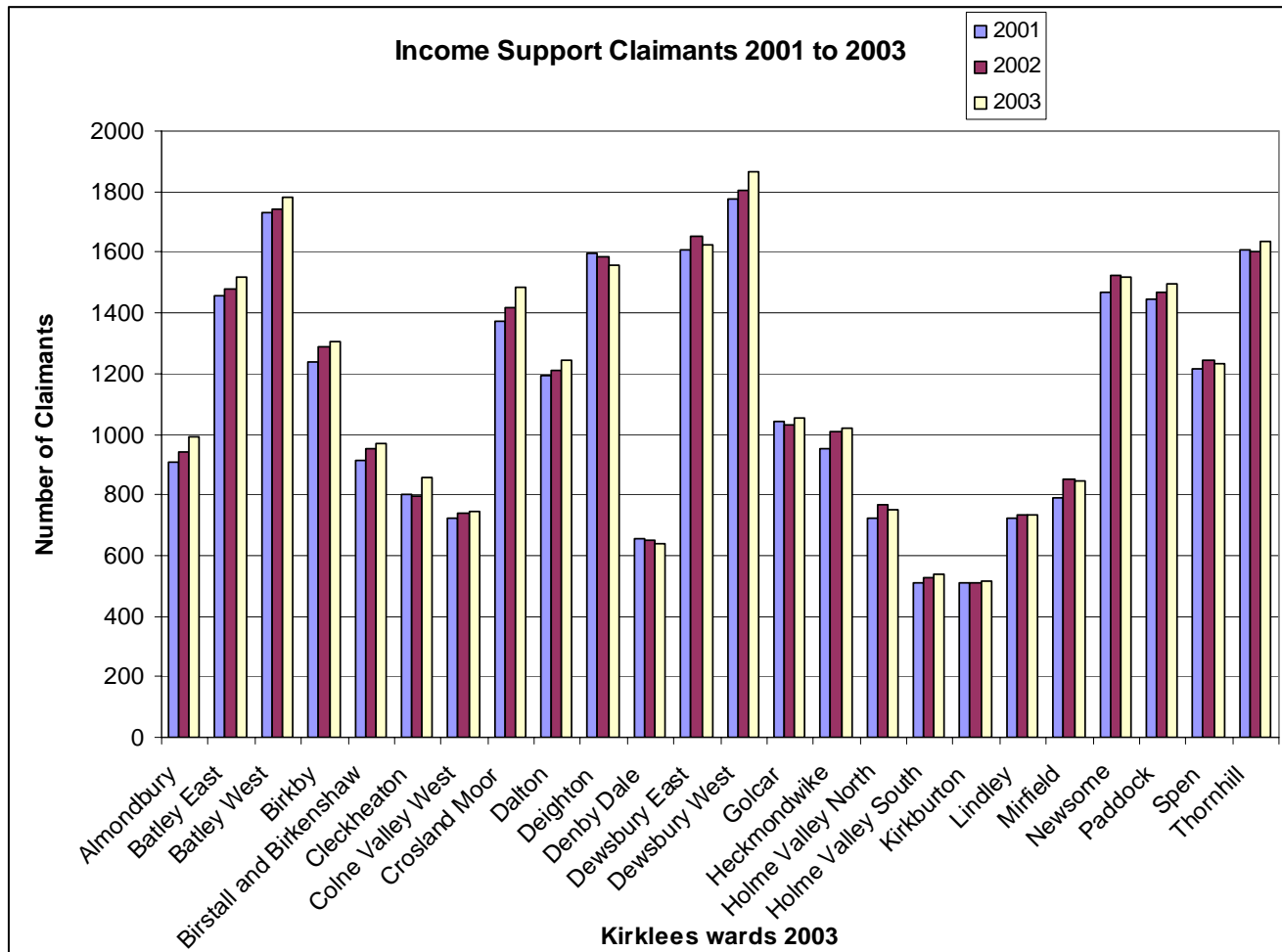
2.7 The figures of non-claimants (the term used by the Department for Work and Pensioners is entitled non-recipient) for pensioners is higher. Between 63 and 72% of possible claimants actually claim and the total amount claimed is between 75 and 83% of what it could be.

3 Kirklees Figures

3.1 At the ward level, there is considerable variation in the number of people claiming Income Support. Batley West, Deighton, Dewsbury East and West and Thornhill, all have over 1,500 claimants. If the number of households identified in the ward from the 2001 Census is used as a denominator, around one quarter of households in these wards is occupied by an Income Support claimant.

3.2 Holme Valley South and Kirkburton have fewer than 600 claimants, equivalent to less than 8% of households as measured by the 2001 Census..

Figure 2: Income Support Claimants 2001-3 by Kirklees 2003 wards



3.3 Most wards share the slight increase in the number of Income Support claimants experienced at the district, regional and national level. Only Denby Dale and Deighton wards, show slight decreases in the number of claimants.

3.4 North Kirklees has proportionately far more Income Support Claimants per household than South Kirklees (18.9%).

Table 6: Claimants of Income Support 2001 to 2003 by Kirklees 2003 wards

Ward	2001	2002	2003	% households 2001
Almondbury	910	940	990	16.3
Batley East	1455	1480	1520	21.9
Batley West	1730	1745	1780	23.9
Birkby	1240	1290	1305	20.6
Birstall and Birkenshaw	915	955	970	12.3
Cleckheaton	800	795	855	12.2
Colne Valley West	720	740	745	12.2
Crosland Moor	1370	1420	1485	20.9
Dalton	1195	1210	1245	17.7
Deighton	1595	1585	1560	28.3
Denby Dale	655	650	640	9.0
Dewsbury East	1610	1655	1625	24.9
Dewsbury West	1775	1805	1865	25.7
Golcar	1040	1030	1055	14.4
Heckmondwike	955	1010	1020	13.5
Holme Valley North	720	765	750	10.9
Holme Valley South	510	525	540	7.2
Kirkburton	510	510	515	7.9
Lindley	720	735	735	10.4
Mirfield	790	850	845	11.9
Newsome	1465	1525	1520	24.0
Paddock	1445	1465	1495	21.2
Spennings	1215	1245	1235	17.8
Thornhill	1610	1600	1635	25.7
North Kirklees	12855	13140	13350	18.9
South Kirklees	14095	14390	14580	15.5
Kirklees	26965	27515	27920	17.0

3.5 Approximately 10,000 pensioners in Kirklees live alone and claim Income Support. In the more affluent wards (e.g Denby Dale, Mirfield and Kirkburton) single pensioners comprise more than half of all Income Support Claimants. Wards in which the number of single pensioner claimants is particularly high are Paddock, Dewsbury East and West.

Table 7: Claimants who were single and of pensionable age by Kirklees 2003 wards

Ward	2001	2002	2003	% single pensioner claimants 2003
Almondbury	355	360	370	37.4
Batley East	455	450	440	28.9
Batley West	540	540	530	29.8
Birkby	400	415	405	31.0
Birstall and Birkenshaw	390	415	440	45.4
Cleckheaton	380	375	395	46.2
Colne Valley West	285	290	300	40.3
Crosland Moor	450	475	490	33.0
Dalton	430	435	435	34.9
Deighton	380	385	385	24.7
Denby Dale	350	345	330	51.6
Dewsbury East	625	640	625	38.5
Dewsbury West	530	535	560	30.0
Golcar	410	425	440	41.7
Heckmondwike	385	425	420	41.2
Holme Valley North	335	365	345	46.0
Holme Valley South	200	210	205	38.0
Kirkburton	240	260	265	51.5
Lindley	360	390	380	51.7
Mirfield	400	460	450	53.3
Newsome	495	500	495	32.6
Paddock	570	560	540	36.1
Spennings	525	560	535	43.3
Thornhill	495	500	495	30.3
North Kirklees	4725	4900	4890	36.6
South Kirklees	5260	5415	5385	36.9
Kirklees	9985	10305	10270	36.8

3.6 Of particular concern, is the number of children who live in poverty. In Deighton ward, the proportion of dependent children in households claiming Income Support is double the Kirklees average (using Child Benefit Claimants as the denominator). In Crosland Moor, Dewsbury West and Newsome more than a quarter of children live in Income Support households

Figure 3: Children in Income Support households, Kirklees 2003 wards

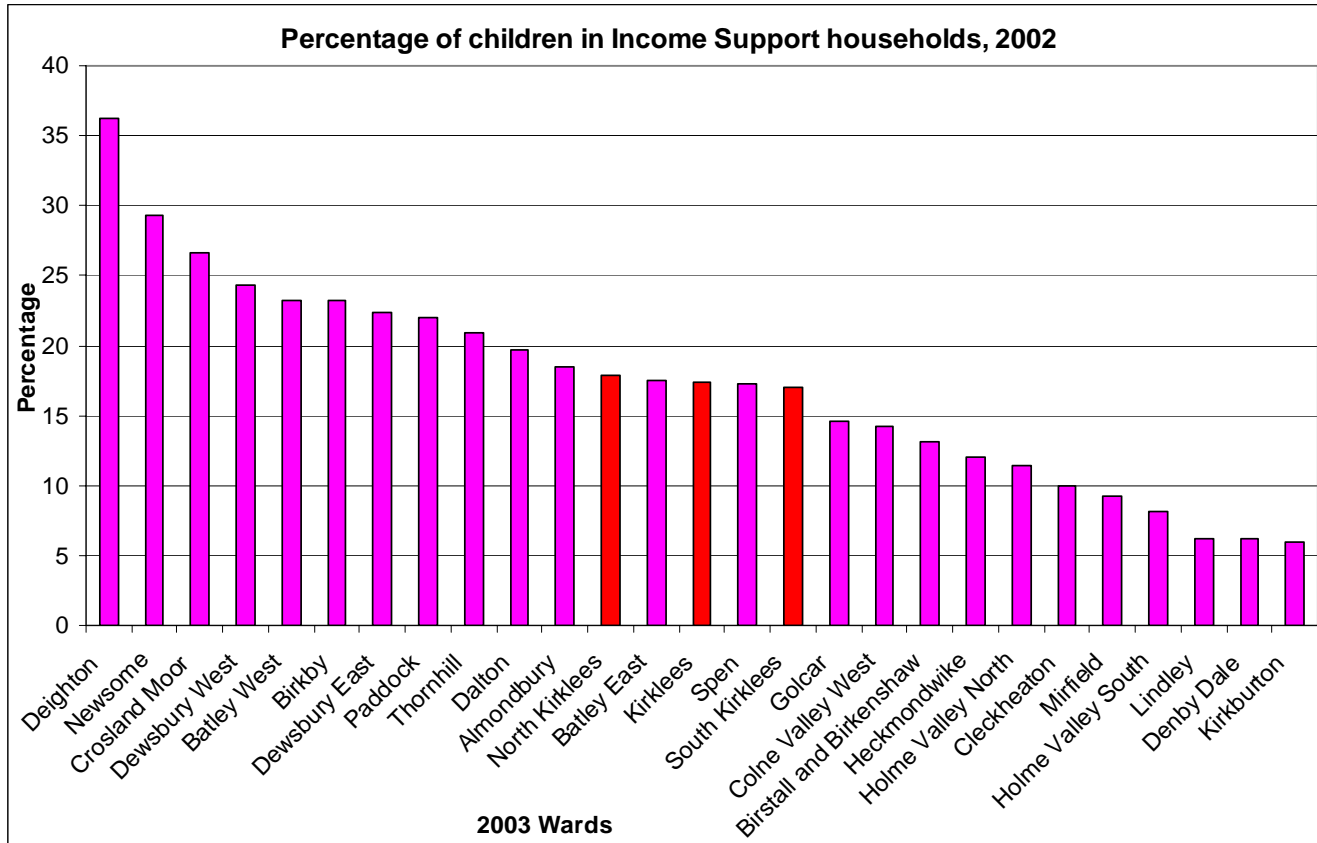


Table 8: Dependants of Income Support Claimants

Ward	2001	2002	% dependents 2001	% dependents 2002
Almondbury	560	525	20.0	18.5
Batley East	940	900	18.0	17.5
Batley West	1320	1215	24.8	23.2
Birkby	910	890	23.5	23.2
Birstall and Birkenshaw	500	485	13.4	13.1
Cleckheaton	340	305	11.1	10.0
Colne Valley West	380	410	13.0	14.2
Crosland Moor	1005	1010	25.9	26.6
Dalton	765	735	19.9	19.7
Deighton	1265	1190	36.6	36.3
Denby Dale	265	245	6.7	6.2
Dewsbury East	1015	940	24.2	22.3
Dewsbury West	1450	1390	25.6	24.3
Golcar	640	570	16.2	14.6
Heckmondwike	540	510	12.8	12.1
Holme Valley North	375	400	10.9	11.4
Holme Valley South	320	315	8.4	8.1
Kirkburton	225	200	6.8	6.0
Lindley	255	220	7.2	6.3
Mirfield	305	295	9.6	9.2
Newsome	885	895	28.8	29.2
Paddock	690	685	22.7	22.0
Spennithorne	720	680	18.0	17.2
Thornhill	1195	1085	23.0	20.9
North Kirklees	8325	7805	19.0	17.9
South Kirklees	8540	8290	17.5	17.0
Kirklees	16840	16100	18.2	17.4

3.7 The total number of people who claim Income Support rose over the last three years but during this period there were more people in work and wage levels are rose, therefore the increase must be among people who not at work.

3.8 With the introduction of Minimum Income Guarantee for pensioners, plus the raising of the capital threshold (the maximum allowable holding is £12,000), more pensioners became entitled to Income Support. Unfortunately the figures that could describe this are not supplied by ONS. Single pensioners (a figure which is supplied by ONS) in Kirklees only account for one third of the increase.

3.9 Up to 2003, changes in child premiums may have increased the number of families eligible for Income Support but there is no evidence of this in the Kirklees figures.

4 Links and further information

Office for National Statistics

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/default.asp>

Department for Work and Pensions

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>

5 Indicator archive

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