



Lifting the lid on poverty stigma in Wales: Methodological appendix

The report “Lifting the lid on poverty stigma in Wales” is based on data collected through the Bevan Foundation’s Winter 2024 Poverty Snapshot survey (Bevan Foundation, 2024). The survey was conducted online by YouGov and data collection took place between 15th – 18th January. The total sample size was 1,029 adults and the data were weighted to be representative of the Welsh population.

Ten survey items asked about poverty stigma. These items were adapted from a recent study of poverty stigma and mental health in the UK (Inglis et al., 2024). Five of these items related to received stigma and five items related to perceived structural stigma. The response categories and scoring are provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Response options and scoring for the received and perceived structural poverty stigma items.

Response option	Score
Don't know	0
Never	0
Rarely	1
Sometimes	2
Often	3
Always	4

Survey respondents’ answers to these questions were combined to give two overall scores for received stigma and perceived structural stigma. The total scores for both types of stigma could range between 0 to 20 and higher scores indicated higher levels of reported stigma.

The primary analyses are based on the total scores for received stigma and perceived structural stigma. There was particular interest in public attitudes toward public services, and so additional analyses were also conducted on the two perceived structural stigma items that relate specifically to public services: “*People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services*” and “*Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income.*”



Independent samples t-tests and one-way analyses of variance (ANOVA) were conducted to compare total scores of received stigma and perceived structural stigma, as well as responses to the two specific questions on public services, between different social groups (e.g. age, gender, etc). Equal variances between groups were not assumed in these analyses, and Welch's F is reported for each ANOVA.

The full output from each test is reported below, and all analyses are based on the weighted data.

Gender

On average, male respondents reported lower levels of received stigma (Mean = 2.04) than female respondents (Mean = 2.49). This difference was not statistically significant however, $t(1026.52) = -1.79$, $p = .074$, $d = -.11$.

Male (Mean = 10.12) and female (Mean = 10.11) respondents reported similar levels of perceived structural stigma and there was no statistically significant difference between the groups, $t(1018.93) = .03$, $p = .980$, $d = .002$.

There was no significant difference between male (Mean = 1.86) and female respondents (Mean = 1.83) in response to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services*, $t(1018.60) = .38$, $p = .707$, $d = .02$.

There was also no significant difference between male (Mean = 1.59) and female respondents (Mean = 1.64) in response to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income*, $t(1020.07) = -.57$, $p = .57$, $d = -.04$.

Age

Average reports of received stigma varied between respondents aged 16-24 (Mean = 3.23), 25-49 (Mean = 2.93), 50-64 (Mean = 2.02) and 65+ (Mean = 1.11). Overall, there was a statistically significant difference between the four age groups $F(3, 446.14) = 15.42$, $p < .001$. Post hoc Games-Howell comparisons showed that respondents aged 16 – 24 reported higher levels of received stigma compared to those aged 50-64 ($p = .04$) and 65+ ($p < .001$). Respondents aged 25 – 49 reported higher levels of stigma compared to those aged 50 – 64 ($p = .032$) and 65+ ($p < .001$). Respondents aged 50-64 reported higher levels of stigma compared to those aged 65 and over ($p = .024$).

Average reports of perceived structural stigma varied between respondents aged between 16-24 (Mean = 9.59), 25-49 (Mean = 10.97), 50-64 (9.92) and 65+ (Mean = 9.38). Overall, there was a statistically significant difference in average reports of perceived structural stigma between the four age groups $F(3, 452.59) = 4.61$, $p =$



.003. Post hoc Games-Howell showed that those in the 25-49 age group reported higher levels of perceived structural stigma than those in the 65+ group ($p = .004$).

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* varied between respondents aged 16-24 (Mean = 1.58), 25-49 (Mean = 2.00), 50-64 (Mean = 1.86) and 65+ (Mean = 1.76). Overall, there was a statistically significant difference between the four age groups $F(3, 453.80) = 3.49, p = .016$. Post hoc Games-Howell comparisons showed that respondents aged 16 – 24 reported lower scores compared to those aged 25-49 ($p = .015$), but no other group differences were statistically significant.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* differed between respondents aged 16-24 (Mean = 1.56), 25-49 (Mean = 1.78), 50-64 (Mean = 1.46) and 65+ (Mean = 1.57). Overall there was a statistically significant difference between the groups, $F(3, 457.84) = 2.73, p = .043$. Post hoc Games-Howell comparisons showed that the average score was higher amongst respondents aged 25-49 compared to those aged 50-64 ($p = .033$) but no other group differences were statistically significant.

Household income

On average, respondents who reported an annual household income of less than £20,000 reported higher levels of received stigma (Mean = 3.60) compared to those with an income of £20,000 or greater (Mean = 1.80) or those who didn't provide their household income (Mean = 2.02). There was a statistically significant difference in reported received stigma between the three income groups, $F(2, 457.21) = 11.80, p < .001$. Post hoc Games-Howell comparisons showed that respondents with a household income of less than £20,000 reported higher levels of received stigma compared to those with a household income of £20,000 or more ($p < .001$) or those who did not provide their household income ($p < .001$).

Reported levels of perceived structural stigma were similar among respondents with household incomes of less than £20,000 (Mean = 10.22) and £20,000 or greater (Mean = 10.33), but slightly lower amongst respondents who did not provide household income data (M = 9.57). There was no statistically significant difference in perceived structural stigma between the three groups however, $F(2, 508.57) = 1.57, p = .209$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* varied between respondents with annual household incomes less than £20,000 (Mean = 1.97), £20,000 or more (Mean = 1.86) and those who did not provide information on their household income (Mean = 1.70). These differences were not statistically significant however, $F(2, 521.39) = 2.31, p = .100$.



Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* varied among respondents with an annual income of less than £20,000 (Mean = 1.71), £20,000 or more (Mean = 1.63) and among respondents who did not provide this information (Mean = 1.48). Overall, there was no significant difference between these groups, $F(2, 521.24) = 1.81, p = .164$.

Household occupational type

Respondents in the ABC1 group reported lower levels of received stigma (Mean = 1.69) than those in the C2DE group (Mean = 2.86), and this difference was statistically significant, $t(929.10) = -4.64, p < .001, d = -.29$.

Average reports of perceived structural stigma were similar between the ABC1 (Mean = 10.13) and C2DE (Mean = 10.11), and there was no statistically significant difference between the groups $t(1021.14) = .07, p = .948, d = .00$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* were similar amongst respondents from the ABC1 (Mean = 1.87) and C2DE (Mean = 1.83) groups, and there was no significant difference between the two groups, $t(1025.19) = .41, p = .686, d = .03$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* were similar amongst respondents in the ABC1 (Mean = 1.59) or C2DE (Mean = 1.64) groups, and there was no significant difference between the two groups, $t(1022.69) = -.58, p = .561, d = -.04$.

Food insecurity

Respondents who reported that they had cut down on the size of meals or skipped meals for themselves in the past three months reported higher levels of received stigma (Mean = 4.64) than those who had not cut back or skipped meals, or responded “don’t know” or “prefer not to say” (Mean = 1.52), and this difference was statistically significant, $t(324.92) = -9.18, p < .001, d = -.81$.

Respondents who reported that they had cut down on the size of meals or skipped meals for themselves in the past three months also reported higher levels of perceived structural stigma (Mean = 11.82) than those who had not cut back or skipped meals, or responded “don’t know” or “prefer not to say” (Mean = 9.57), and this difference was statistically significant, $t(413.92) = -5.48, p < .001, d = -.40$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* were higher amongst respondents who had cut back or skipped meals for themselves in the past three months (Mean = 2.22) compared to those who had not (Mean = 1.73). This difference was statistically significant, $t(402.99) = -4.84, p < .001, d = -.36$.



Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* were higher among respondents who had cut back or skipped meals for themselves in the past three months (Mean = 2.00) compared to those who had not (Mean = 1.49). This difference was statistically significant, $t(412.96) = -4.86$, $p < .001$, $d = -.36$.

Disability

Respondents who reported having no health or disability issue in the past 12 months reported lower levels of received stigma (Mean = 1.73) compared to those who had experienced a health or disability issue in the past 12 months (Mean = 3.41). This difference was statistically significant, $t(499.16) = -5.63$, $p < .001$, $d = -.42$.

Respondents who reported having no health or disability issue in the past 12 months also reported lower levels of perceived structural stigma (Mean = 9.70) compared to those who had experienced a health or disability issue in the past 12 months (Mean = 10.99). This difference was statistically significant, $t(682.68) = -3.49$, $p < .001$, $d = -.23$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* were higher among respondents who reported a health or disability issue in the past 12 months (Mean = 1.98) compared to respondents who did not report a health or disability issue in the past 12 months (Mean = 1.78). This difference was statistically significant, $t(697.55) = -2.16$, $p = .031$, $d = -.14$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* were higher among those who reported having a health or disability related issue in the past 12 months (Mean = 1.86) compared to those who did not (Mean = 1.50). This difference was statistically significant, $t(661.71) = -3.92$, $p < .001$, $d = -.26$.

Benefit receipt

Respondents were asked if they received any of the following benefits:

- Universal credit
- Child tax credit
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income support
- Housing benefits
- Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

For each type of benefit, respondents answered either “yes” or “no”. Two groups were created based on these responses: those who answered “yes” to at least one



type of benefit (receives benefits) and those who answered “no” to every type of benefit (does not receive benefits).

On average, respondents who received at least one form of benefits reported higher levels of received stigma (Mean = 4.13) compared to those who did not receive benefits (Mean = 1.82). This difference was statistically significant, $t(257.81) = -6.20$, $p < .001$, $d = -.58$.

On average, respondents who received at least one form of benefits reported slightly higher levels of perceived structural stigma (Mean = 10.89) compared to those who did not receive benefits (Mean = 9.93). This difference was statistically significant, $t(288.56) = -2.05$, $p = .042$, $d = -.17$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* were higher among respondents who received at least one form of benefits (mean = 2.04) compared to those who did not receive benefits (mean = 1.80). This difference was statistically significant, $t(295.25) = -2.13$, $p = .034$, $d = -.17$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* were higher amongst respondents who received at least one form of benefit (mean = 1.85) compared to those who do not (mean = 1.56), and this difference was statistically significant, $t(298.40) = -2.55$, $p = .011$, $d = -.21$.

Carer experience

Average reports of received stigma varied between respondents who were currently carers (Mean = 2.55), had previously been a carer (Mean = 2.57) and those who had never been a carer or did not provide this information (Mean = 2.16). Overall however, there was no statistically significant difference in the levels of received stigma reported between the three groups $F(2, 254.61) = .99$, $p = .371$.

Average reports of perceived structural stigma were also similar amongst respondents who were carers (Mean = 10.76), had previously been a carer (Mean = 10.13) or had never been a carer or did not provide this information (Mean = 10.00). There was no statistically significant difference in the level of perceived structural stigma that was reported between the three groups, $F(2, 270.42) = 1.03$, $p = .360$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* varied between respondents who had previously been a carer (Mean = 1.84), are currently a carer (Mean = 1.96) and those who had never been a carer or did not provide this information (Mean = 1.83). There were no statistically significant differences between these three groups however, $F(2, 265.52) = .50$, $p = .608$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* varied amongst respondents who had previously been a carer (Mean = 1.61), were currently a carer (Mean = 1.71) and had never been a carer or



did not provide this information (Mean = 1.60). Overall, there was no significant difference between these groups however, $F(2, 266.12) = .30, p = .741$.

Housing tenure

Average reports of received stigma varied depending on whether respondents owned their home (Mean = 1.43), rented from a private landlord (Mean = 3.30), rented from a housing association or local authority (Mean = 4.19) or reported another form of housing tenure (Mean = 3.20). There was a statistically significant difference between the groups, $F(3, 255.07) = 19.17, p < .001$. Games-Howell post hoc tests revealed that respondents who owned their home reported lower levels of received stigma compared to those who rented their home from a private landlord ($p < .001$) or who rented from a local authority or housing association ($p < .001$), or who reported another form of housing tenure ($p < .001$).

Average reports of perceived structural stigma appeared to vary depending on whether respondents owned their home (Mean = 9.71), rented from a private landlord (M = 10.53), rented from a housing association or local authority (Mean = 11.04) or reported another form of housing tenure (Mean = 10.66). There was no statistically significant difference in average received stigma scores according to participants' housing tenure however, $F(3, 281.74) = 2.61, p = .052$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* differed among respondents who owned their home (Mean = 1.79), rented from a private landlord (Mean = 1.95), rented from a local authority or housing association (Mean = 1.97) or reported another form of housing tenure (Mean = 1.90). Overall, there was no statistically significant difference between these groups however, $F(3, 286.45) = .94, p = .423$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* differed among respondents who owned their home (Mean = 1.49), rented from a private landlord (Mean = 1.79), rented from a local authority or housing association (Mean = 1.92) or reported another form of housing tenure (Mean = 1.73). Overall, there was a significant difference between the groups, $F(3, 287.83) = 4.25, p = .006$. Post hoc Games-Howell comparisons showed that those who rented from a local authority or housing association had higher scores on average compared to those who owned their home, $p = .026$. There were no other significant differences between the groups.

Region

Average reports of received stigma were similar across Mid and West (Mean = 2.90), North (Mean = 1.98), Cardiff and South Central (Mean = 2.45), South East (M = 2.20) and South West (Mean = 1.80). Overall, there was no statistically significant



difference in reports of received stigma across the regions, $F(4, 505.20) = 1.92, p = .106$.

Average reports of perceived structural stigma were similar across Mid and West (Mean = 10.52), North (Mean = 9.79), Cardiff and South Central (Mean = 10.04), South East (Mean = 10.02) and South West (Mean = 10.27). Overall, there was no statistically significant difference in reports of perceived structural stigma across the regions however, $F(4, 503.70) = .47, p = .758$.

Responses to the item *People on low incomes receiving a lower standard of public services* differed among respondents living in the Mid and West (Mean = 2.00), North (Mean = 1.78), Cardiff and South Central (Mean = 1.78), South East (Mean = 1.74), and South West regions (Mean = 1.98). There was no significant difference between these groups however, $F(4, 504.82) = 1.52, p = .194$.

Responses to the item *Public services making you feel inadequate when you are living on a low income* varied among respondents living in the Mid and West (Mean = 1.75), North (Mean = 1.50), Cardiff and South Central (Mean = 1.57), South East (Mean = 1.65), and South West regions (Mean = 1.63). There was no significant difference between these groups however, $F(4, 504.32) = .90, p = .463$.

References

Inglis, G., Sosu, E., McHardy, F., Witteveen, I., & Jenkins, P., Finlay, J., Knifton, L., & McDaid, S. (2024). **Experiences of poverty stigma and mental health in the UK**. Retrieved from: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/our-work/research/experiences-poverty-stigma-and-mental-health-uk>



Author Details

Dr Greig Inglis is lecturer in Psychology at the University of the West of Scotland.

Amanda Hill-Dixon, Senior Research Fellow, Wales Centre for Public Policy

Josh Coles-Riley, Research Associate, Wales Centre for Public Policy

For further information please contact:

Wales Centre for Public Policy

+44 (0) 29 2087 5345

info@wcpp.org.uk



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**Canolfan Polisi
Cyhoeddus Cymru**