



The Rural Share of Deprivation in Devon

Executive Summary



“Rural Devon is substantially more deprived based on the location of deprived people than on the location of deprived areas”



Community Council of Devon
Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion
South West ACRE Network

October 2009



Foreword

Devon is the third largest county in England, and yet has a population density well below both regional and national averages. With the vast majority of Devon's landmass classified as 'rural', issues around defining rural deprivation are more pressing in Devon than in most parts of the country.

Rural Devon has, by many counts, much to commend itself as a place to live. However, there has long been a belief that the true level of deprivation encountered by many people living rurally in Devon has not been fully recognised or acted upon. The dispersed nature of this rural deprivation across a large county has meant that traditional methods of defining disadvantage have not been relevant, and simple 'one size fits all' solutions cannot be applied.

This new research unmasks the full extent of deprivation in rural Devon - and the information contained within this report is only a tiny proportion of the full data that is available. However, the true value of these findings will only be realised if those in a position to influence changes in the support and services offered to our rural

communities do so in full recognition of the nature of rural deprivation. With this in mind, we make three clear recommendations for future action.

Jay Talbot
Chief Executive, Community Council of Devon

Recommendations:

1. Decision takers and policy makers take full account of the real but dispersed nature of rural deprivation when formulating policy and strategy.
2. Resources in Devon are targeted appropriately to ensure that the needs of people facing deprivation in rural areas are met as fully as those facing deprivation in non-rural areas.
3. Further comparator research is undertaken once the full results of the 2011 Census are available to ascertain a 'direction of travel'.

Introduction

Traditional methods of analysing deprivation focus on an area-based approach, with clearly definable 'deprived areas' identified and responses targeted accordingly. Such an approach is not helpful where significant numbers of deprived people are spread across a wide geographical area rather than located in identifiable 'pockets'. This is typically the case in rural areas.

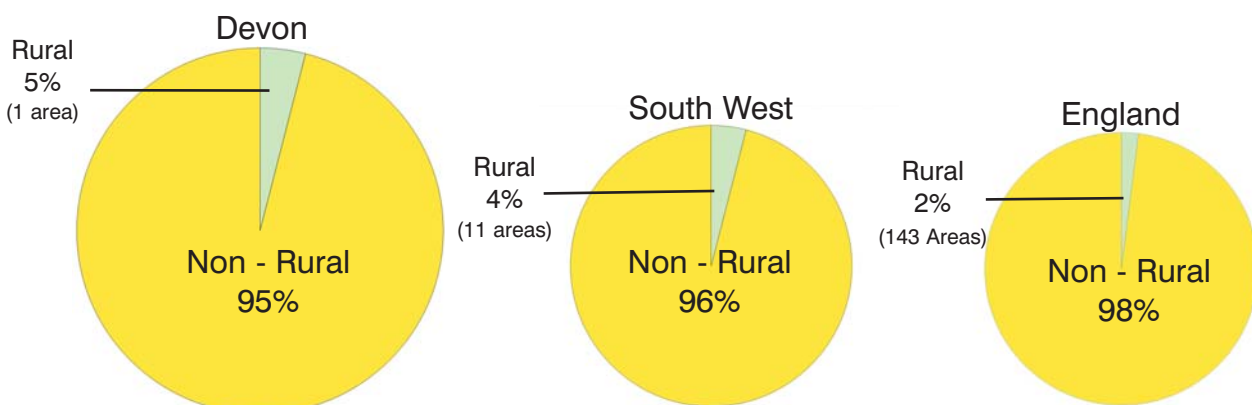
Analysis of the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), for example, identifies very few 'deprived areas' across rural England. In fact, under this measure only 2% of the most deprived areas in England are rurally located (with the equivalent in Devon 5%)¹. However, the proportion of deprived people living rurally is substantially higher than this - 17% of all people on the lowest incomes² in England live in rural areas.

In other words, across England rural areas are more deprived based on the location of deprived people than based on the location of deprived areas.

In recognition of this inconsistency at an England-wide level, the South West ACRE Network (SWAN) of Rural community councils commissioned Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) to identify the 'rural share' of deprivation for each of the Local Authority areas across the South West.

This research has adopted a people rather than area based approach to identifying deprivation in South West England. The 'rural share' data presented in this report shows, for a series of key groups, the proportion of the group that lives in rural Devon, and compares this at both regional and national levels.

Proportion of areas in the most deprived 20% of all areas across England

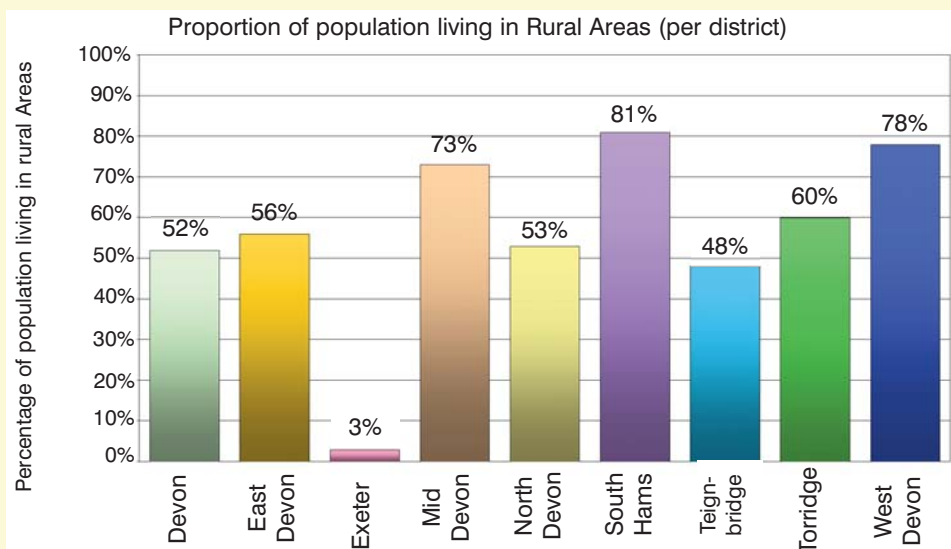
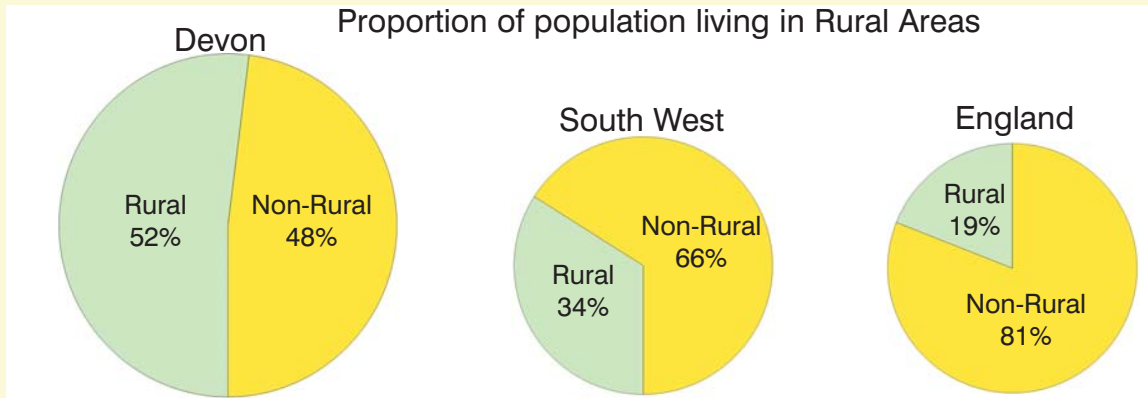


¹ Those areas categorised under the IMD (2007) to be amongst the most deprived 20% of all areas across England

² People living on less than 60% of median income across England

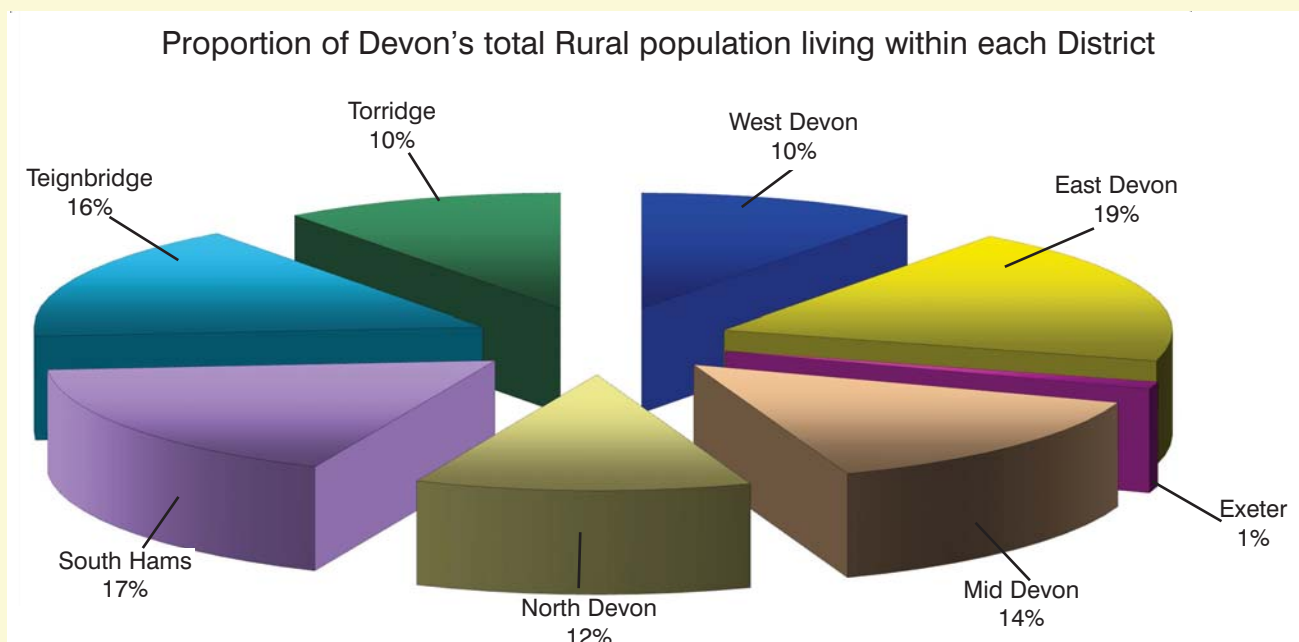
Rural Devon

Of the 750,105 people living in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) 52% live in rural areas¹. This is significantly higher than the regional (34%) and national (19%) rural averages. The highest proportion of rural residents within any of Devon's districts is in the South Hams, where 81% of the population live rurally.



Rural Definition

Throughout this report 'rural' refers to all areas outside settlements with a population of more than 10,000 people, following standard Government definitions².



¹ Office of National Statistics (ONS) 2008, OCSI 2009

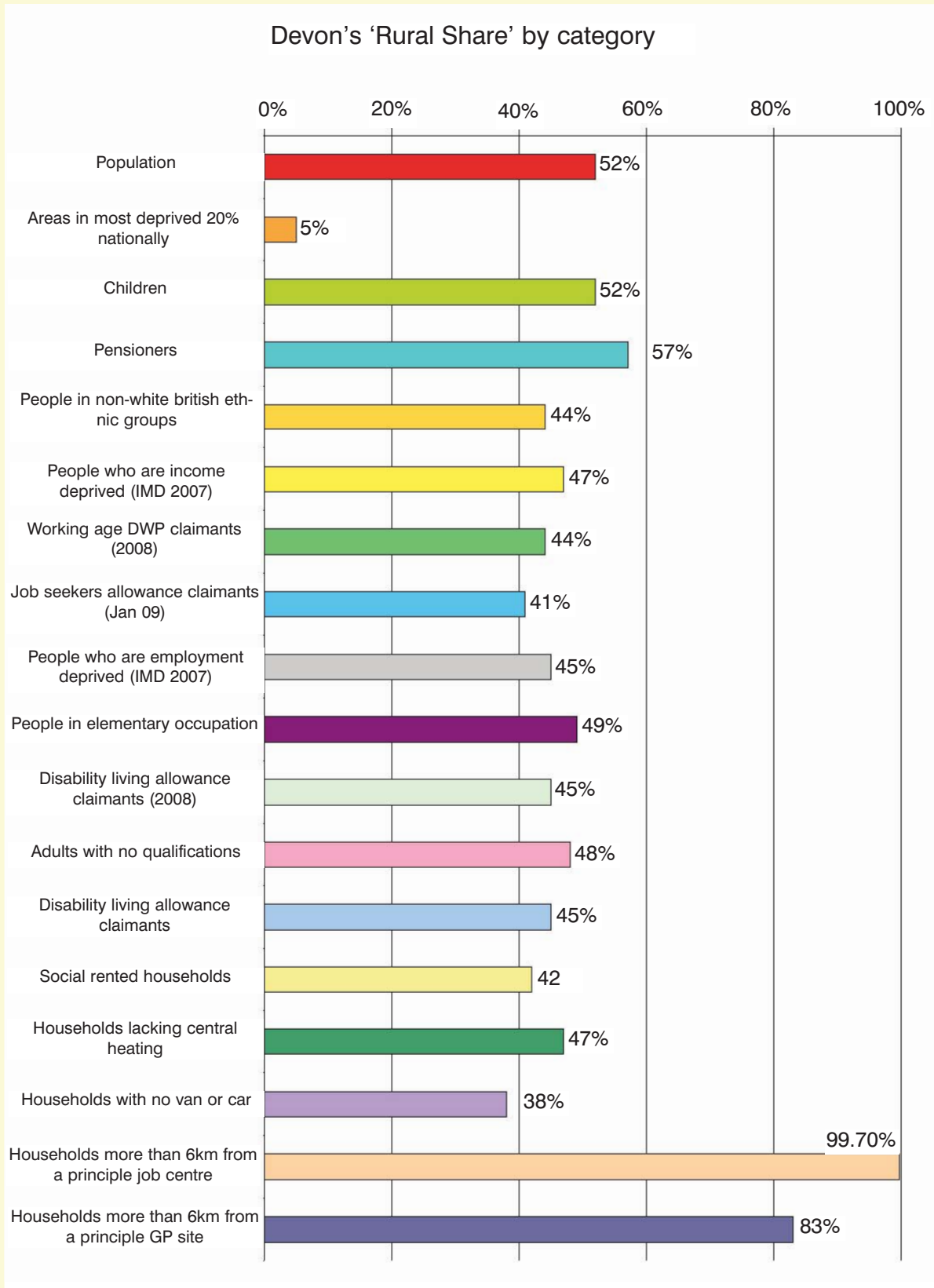
² ONS / Defra standard definition of rural areas, combining definitions for small town & fringe; village; and hamlet and isolated dwelling.

The 'Rural Share' of Deprivation in Devon

Rural Devon is substantially more deprived based on the location of deprived *people* than on the location of deprived *areas*

The 'Rural Share' analysis shows, for a series of key groups, the proportion of the group that occurs in rural Devon.

Across Devon there are 21 areas in the most deprived 20% of all areas nationally, with just 1 of these (5%) in a rural area. However, 20,825 people of working age in rural areas are in receipt of some form of Department of Work & Pensions benefit - this is 43.7% of the total claimants across Devon.

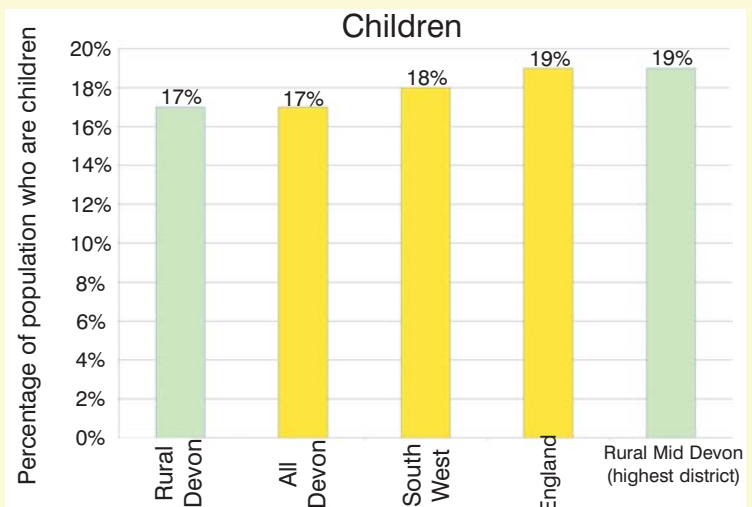
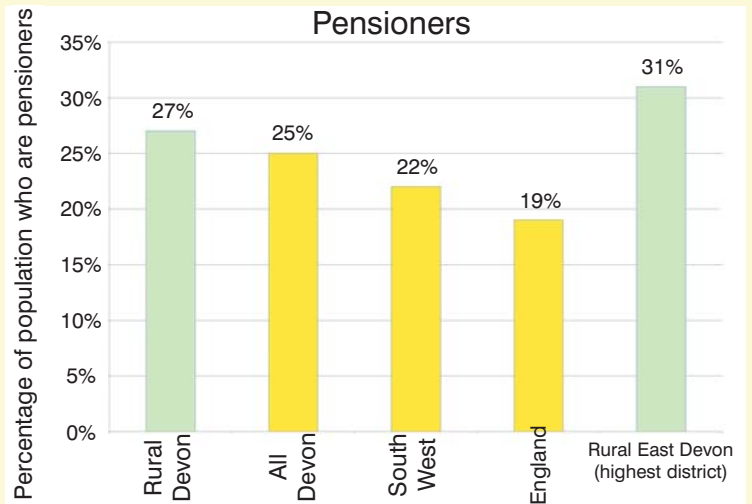
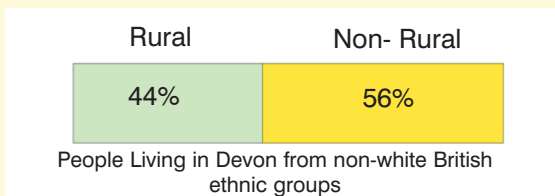


Demographics

Of all the pensioners in Devon, 57% live in rural areas. Pensioners account for more than 1 in 4 of the rural population (significantly higher than the regional and national averages).

In comparison, 52% of all children in Devon live in rural areas. They account for 17% of the rural population (lower than both the regional and national averages).

Of all people in Devon from non-white British ethnic groups 44% live in rural areas. However, when taken as a proportion of all the people living in rural Devon this group is below the regional and national averages - only 2.5% of the total rural population of Devon, for example, are people from non-white British ethnic groups, against a national rural average of 3.6%, and overall national average of 13%. In other words, a significant proportion of all people from non-white ethnic groups in Devon live in rural areas, even if the absolute numbers are fairly low.



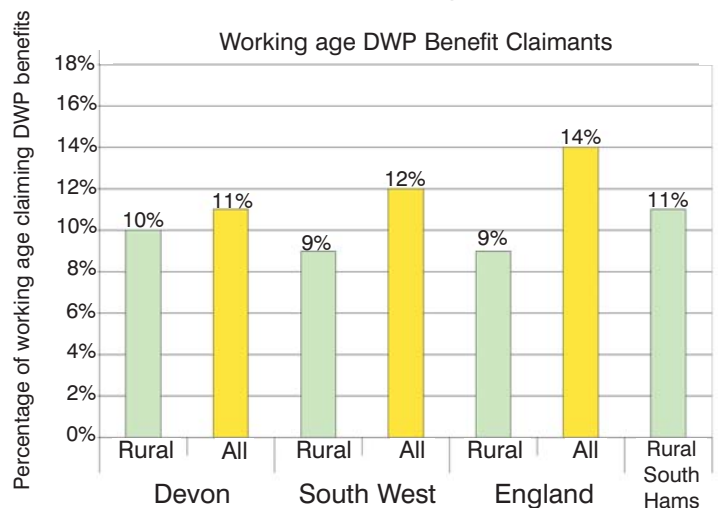
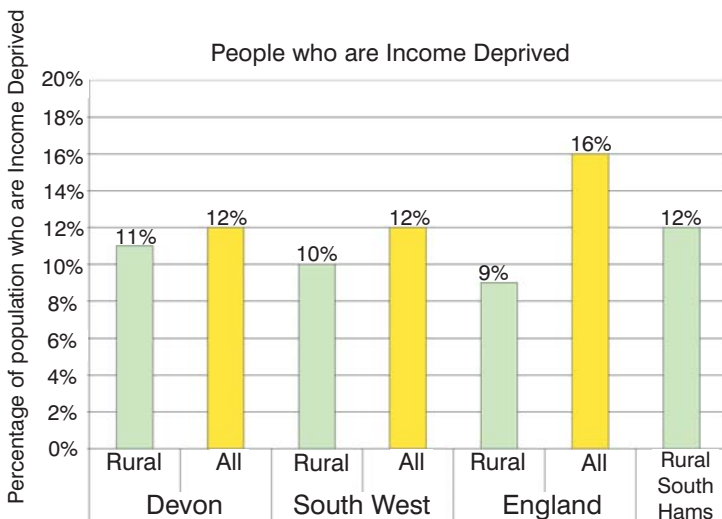
Income and Deprivation

47% of all people classed as 'income deprived' in Devon live rurally. They account for 11% of the rural population - higher than the averages for the rural South West and rural England. Similarly, 43% of all children living in income deprived households in Devon live in rural areas. At a rate of 13% of all the children living in rural Devon, this is again higher than the regional and national rural averages.



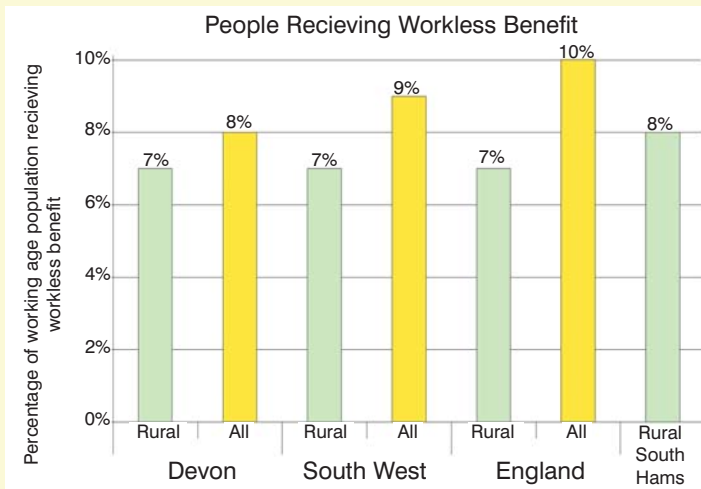
Working age DWP Claimants in Devon

44% of all Devon's working age DWP benefit claimants are in rural areas. They account for 10% of the rural population, which is again higher than the averages for the rural South West and rural England.

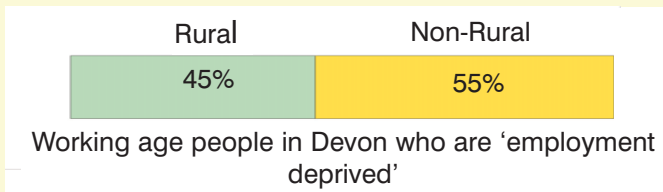


Employment and Worklessness

43% of all people receiving workless benefits in Devon live in rural areas (as do 41% of all Job Seekers Allowance claimants). Those receiving workless benefits make up 7% of the working age population of rural Devon, which is on a par with regional and national rural averages.

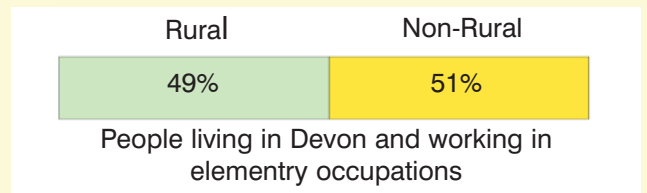


45% of all people classified as 'employment deprived' in Devon live in rural areas.



Just under half of all the people in Devon employed in 'elementary occupations' live in rural areas. They account for 7% of all working age people in rural Devon (roughly equivalent to regional and national averages). The highest proportion of people working in elementary occupations and living rurally occurs in Torridge, which

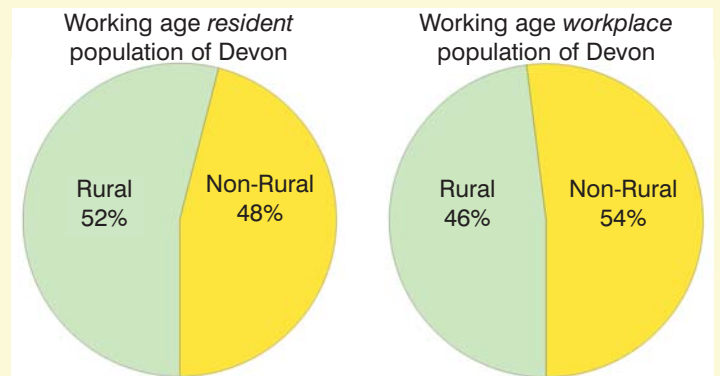
at 9% of the rural working age population is 25% above the national average.



55% of all people in Devon employed in 'professional occupations' live in rural areas. They account for a quarter of the rural working age population (below the regional and national averages). The lowest level of people employed in senior occupations and living in a rural area occurs in Torridge, which at 18% of the rural population is 30% below the national average

19% of the working age population of rural Devon work from home (70% above the regional average, and more than double the national average).

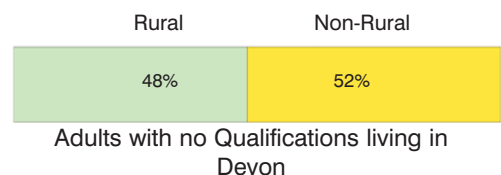
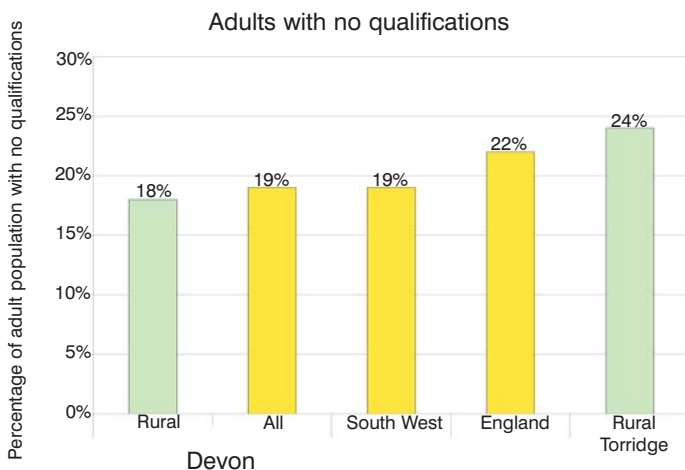
52% of the working age population of Devon live in a rural area, but only 46% of Devon's workforce actually works in a rural area. This is also reflected in over 30% of the rural working age population travelling more than 10km to work.



Skills

Almost half of all adults in Devon with no qualifications live in rural areas. They account for 18% of the adult

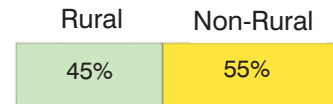
rural population (equivalent to regional averages but better than national averages). However, rural Torridge, with 24% of adults with no qualifications, is higher than both regional and national averages.



56% of all adults in Devon with degree level qualifications live in rural areas. This accounts for 26% of the adult rural population of Devon (equivalent to the national average). Rural Torridge, with 17% of adults holding degree level qualifications, is 37% below the national average.

Health

The proportion of all people living in rural Devon and claiming Disability Living Allowance is 4%, whilst 29% of all people aged 0-64 living in rural Devon have a limiting long-term illness. Both of these figures are on a par with the regional rural and national rural averages, but slightly lower than the overall rates for the South West and England. The 14% of all older people living in rural areas and claiming Attendance Allowance is slightly higher than regional and national rural averages, but lower than the overall rates for the South West and England.



Disability Living Allowance Claimants in Devon

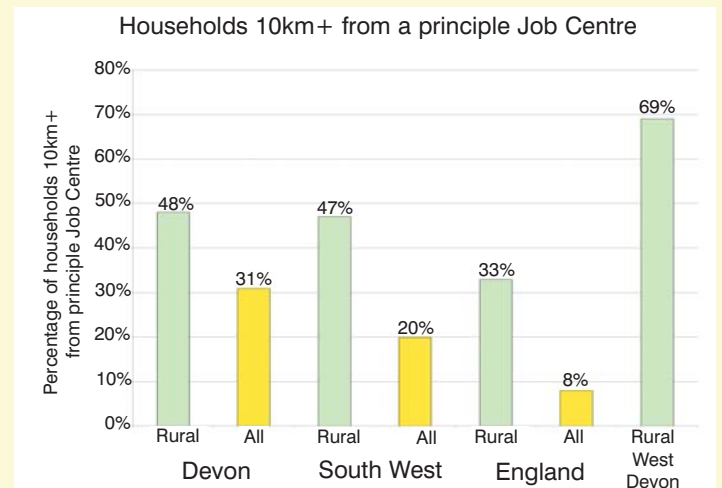
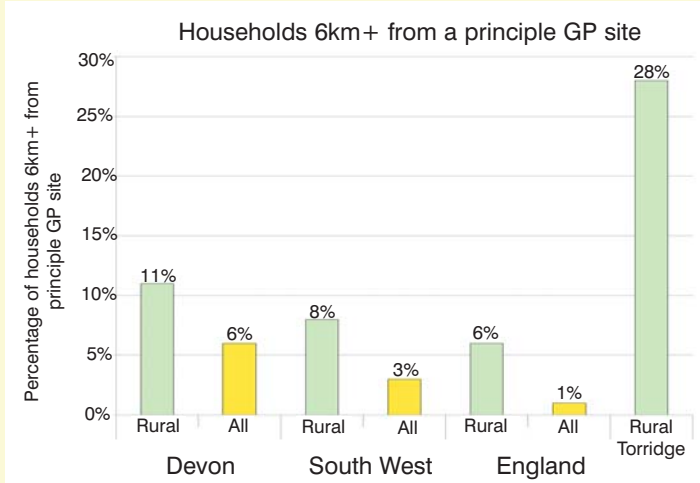
45% of people claiming Disability Living Allowance in Devon live in rural areas, as do 46% of all people with a limiting long-term illness (aged 0 to 64), and 52% of all Attendance Allowance claimants.



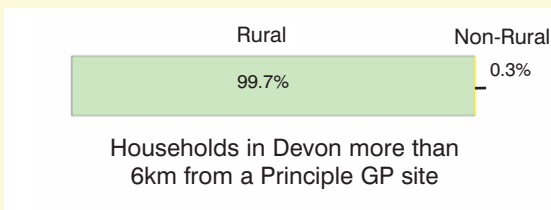
Older people living in Devon and in receipt of Attendance Allowance

Access to Services

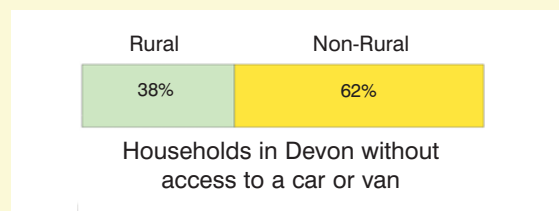
Unsurprisingly, over 99% of all households in Devon which are located more than 6km from a principal doctor's surgery and/or more than 6km from a secondary school are in rural areas. Similarly, 83% of all Devon households more than 10km from a principal Job Centre are also rurally located.



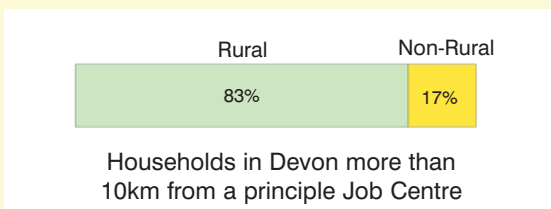
A further layer of concern is that 38% of all the households in Devon with no access to a car or van are also in rural areas. They account for 14% of the rural population (on a par with regional and national rural averages), and create the 'double disadvantage' of individuals being remote from services and unable to access them by private transport.



Households in Devon more than 6km from a Principle GP site



Households in Devon without access to a car or van

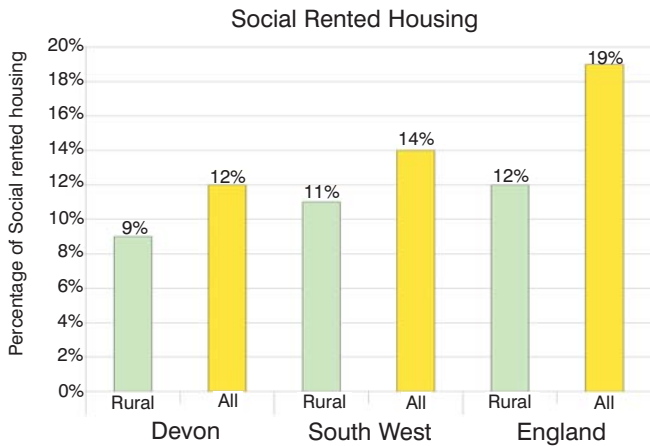


Households in Devon more than 10km from a principle Job Centre

A further indication of this is that 71% of all households in Devon which have no car and are located over an hour by public transport from a further education institution are in rural areas.

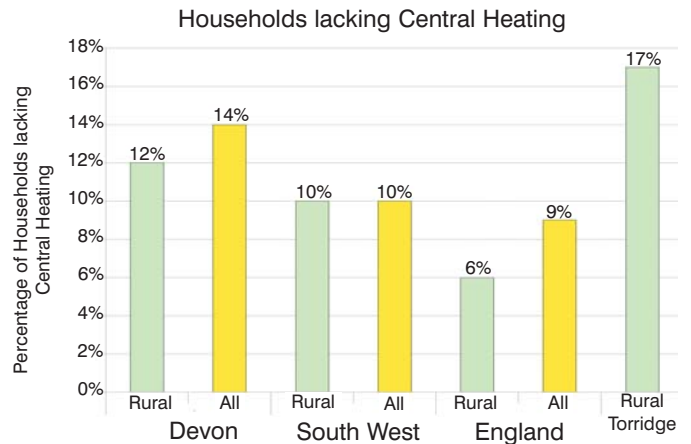
Housing

Across Devon, 42% of all social rented housing is located in rural areas. However, this social rented housing makes up just 9% of the entire housing stock in rural areas, considerably lower than the regional and national averages.



Data on households that lack central heating and overcrowded households can give an indication of where housing conditions may play a role in deprivation. People living in households lacking central heating are

also more likely to experience fuel poverty. In Devon, 37% of all overcrowded households are located in rural areas. Similarly, 47% of all households lacking central heating in Devon are rurally located - they account for 12% of the total housing stock in rural Devon, higher than both the regional and national averages.



Further Information Available

Full findings from the OCSI research are available from the Community Council of Devon. Information includes:

1. 'Rural share' and 'rural rate' of deprivation across a comprehensive range of indicators (including those highlighted in this publication)
2. Workplace and resident populations in rural areas

Reports are available at the following levels:

- England-Wide
- South West Region
- Devon (excluding Torbay and Plymouth)
- District Council
- Settlement, population greater than 300 (not for workplace/resident reports)

For details on how to access these reports please contact CCD, email info@devonrcc.org.uk

References

Demographics: Total Population, Pensioners, Children - ONS 2007

Non-white population - Census 2001:

Income & Deprivation: Income Domain - Indices of Deprivation (ID) 2007

DWP Claimants - DWP, August 2008

Employment & Worklessness: Workless Benefits - DWP, August 2008

Employment Domain - ID 2007

Industry of Employment, Employment Patterns - Census 2001

Skills: All - Census 2001

Health: Disability Living Allowance / Attendance Allowance Claimants - DWP, August 2008

People with Limiting Long Term Illness - Census 2001

Access to Services: All - Census 2001

Housing: All - Census 2001

Community Council of Devon

County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter

EX2 4QB

T: 01392 383443

F: 01392 382062

E: info@devonrcc.org.uk

www.devonrcc.org.uk

Charity no: 1074047

Company no: 3694095

Vat reg no: 942049627



This document is available in large print and alternative formats upon request. Please ring 01392 383443