

Social Exclusion in the UK

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Third Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK



Social Exclusion in the UK

- The approach to social exclusion in the PSE – multidimensional poverty and the BSEM
- Some headline figures for BSEM indicators
- Social resources and participation



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Defining Social Exclusion

Social exclusion is a complex and multi-dimensional process. It involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole. (Levitas et al. 2007)



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Social Exclusion in the 1999 PSE

- Impoverishment, or exclusion from adequate resources and income
- Labour market exclusion
- Service exclusion
- Exclusion from social relations



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The Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix (BSEM)

- Resources
 - Economic
 - Access to Services
 - Social
 - Cultural (Education and Skills)
- Participation
 - Economic
 - Social
 - Cultural
 - Civic and Political
- Quality of Life
 - Health and Well-being
 - Living Environment
 - Crime, harm and criminalisation



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Material and Economic Resources

	% all adults
Less than 60% PSE median hhld income	25.5
Income less than 60% threshold in FRS and PSE	18.5
Cannot afford 5+ social and material necessities	27.7
In arrears on any bills last year	23.0
Falling behind with bills	21.6
Had to borrow money from friends, family or elsewhere	16.2
Cannot afford unanticipated, necessary expense of £500	36.8
Not a home owner	33.7
Genuinely feels poor all the time	8.7
Has (well) below average living standards	12.7
Has been often/mostly poor across lifetime	10.1



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Access to Services

- Lacks adequate access to 3 or more services % all adults
21.3



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Cultural Resources

	% adults
• Completed full-time education aged 16 or less	52.2
• Limited language skills (non-native speakers)	2.9



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Social Resources

	% all adults
• Less than monthly contact with friends	5.6
• Speaks to less than 3 friends monthly	24.4
• Less than monthly contact with relatives	6.3
• Speaks to less than 3 relatives monthly	29.8
• Less than monthly contact with friends or family	
• Speaks to less than 3 friends/relatives monthly	
• Not satisfied with personal relationships	16.8
• Low social support (score less than 15)	15.5



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Economic Participation

% all adults

- No working age adults in household in paid work 17.0
- Not in paid employment 40.6
- Unemployed more than 12 months in last 5 years 8.0
- Gives any unpaid care (incl. childcare) 47.4
- Not satisfied with current job (in employment only) 14.0



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Common Social Activities

	% doing activity
• A hobby or leisure activity	71
• A week's holiday a year	59
• Friends and family for a meal or drink once a month	62
• Going out socially once a fortnight	54
• Celebrations on special occasions	92
• A meal out once a month	59
• Holidays abroad once a year	42
• Visits to friends and family in other parts of the country	41
• Going out for a drink once a fortnight	41
• Attending weddings, funerals	88
• Visiting friends and family in hospitals/ other institutions	64
• Attending church, synagogue, mosque or other places of worship	25
• Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month	35
• Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes	44



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Social Participation

% adults

- Participates in 5 or fewer common social activities 18.5



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Cultural Participation

- Does not use any listed social and cultural facilities 19.6
(Libraries, public sports facilities, museums and galleries, evening classes, public or community hall)

% adults



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Political and Civic Participation

	% adults
• Not a member of any listed organisations (e.g. sports, leisure or social club, trade union, campaigning group)	43.4
• Taken no local or national action (including voting)	32.0
• Low sense of political efficacy	23.1



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Health and Well-Being

	% all adults
• Fair/bad or very bad general health	27.2
• Limiting longstanding illness	22.3
• Poor mental health	
• Low life satisfaction	20.0



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Living Environment

% all adults

- Multiple problems with accommodation 21.6
- Home not in 'good' state of repair 31.2
- Dissatisfied with accommodation 11.1
- Dissatisfied with neighbourhood 14.0
- Experiencing 3+ neighbourhood problems 24.1



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Crime and Social Harm

		% all adults
• Experienced harassment or discrimination		15.3
• Has criminal record	5.1	



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Exclusion from Social Relations

Individuals, families and groups can be said to be in poverty when they lack the resources to obtain the types of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities which are customary, or at least are widely encouraged and approved, in the societies to which they belong. Their resources are so seriously below those commanded by the average individual or family that they are, in effect, excluded from ordinary living patterns, customs and activities.

(Townsend 1979: 32)



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Common Social Activities

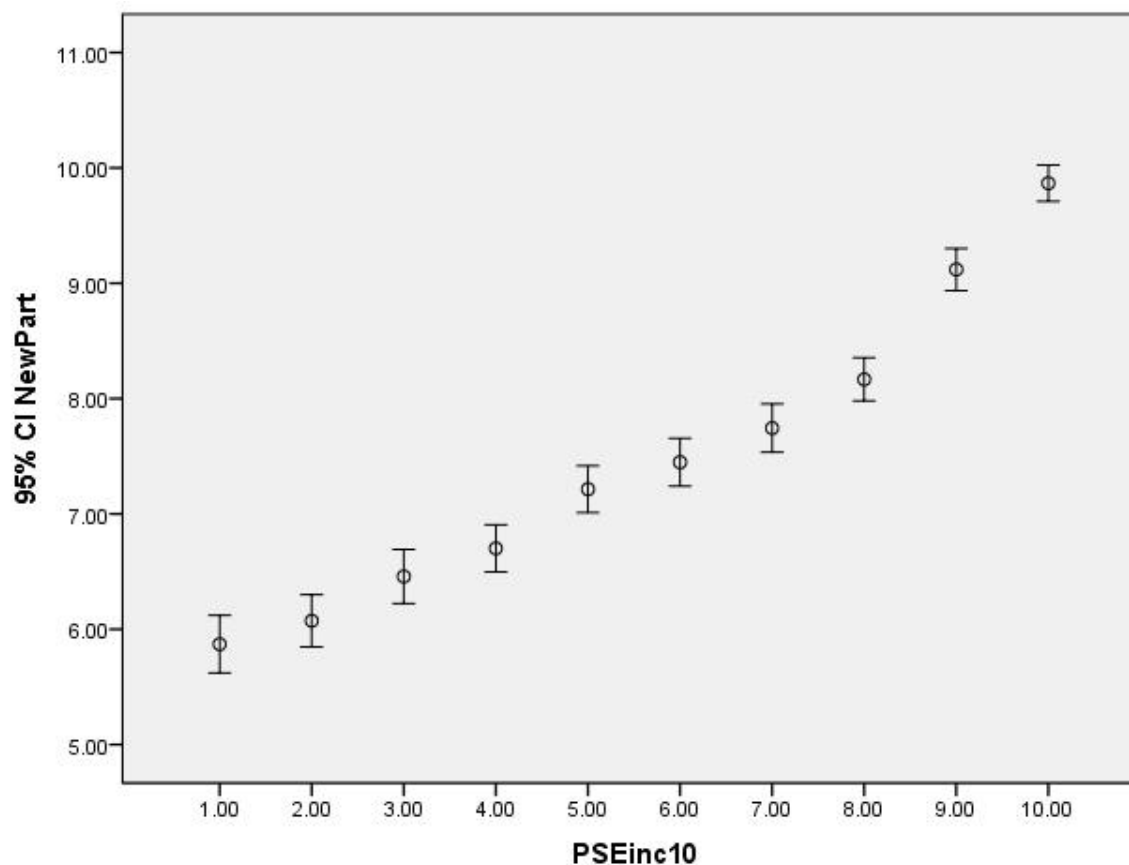
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Social Participation by Income Decile



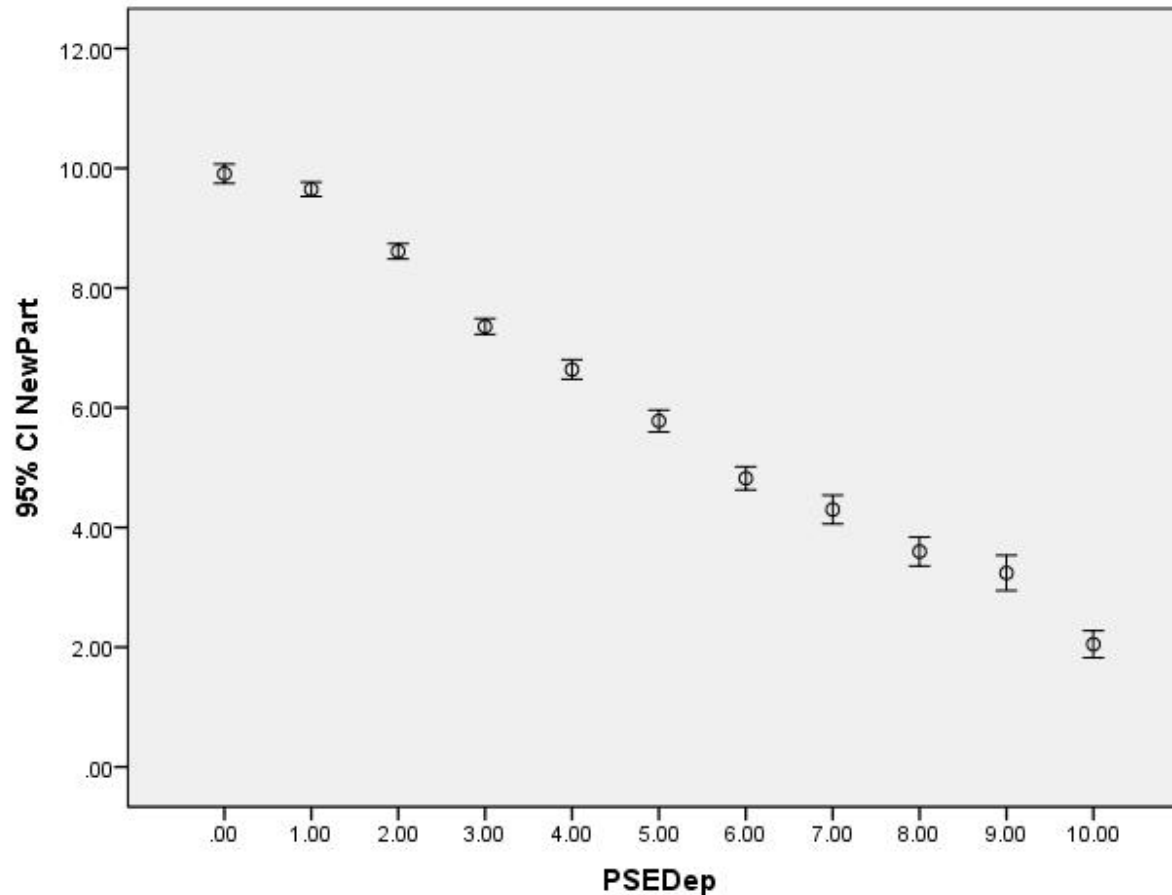
Cases weighted by Normalised PSE Individual weight - use this weight for individual level analyses



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Social Participation by PSE Deprivation



Cases weighted by Normalised PSE Individual weight - use this weight for individual level analyses



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Social Support

Respondents were asked how much support they would get on 7 items: a lot, some, not much, none at all:

Practical

- Being ill in bed and needing help around the home
- Needing practical help around the home such as moving heavy furniture
- needing someone to look after home or possessions while away
- Needing a lift somewhere in an emergency

Emotional

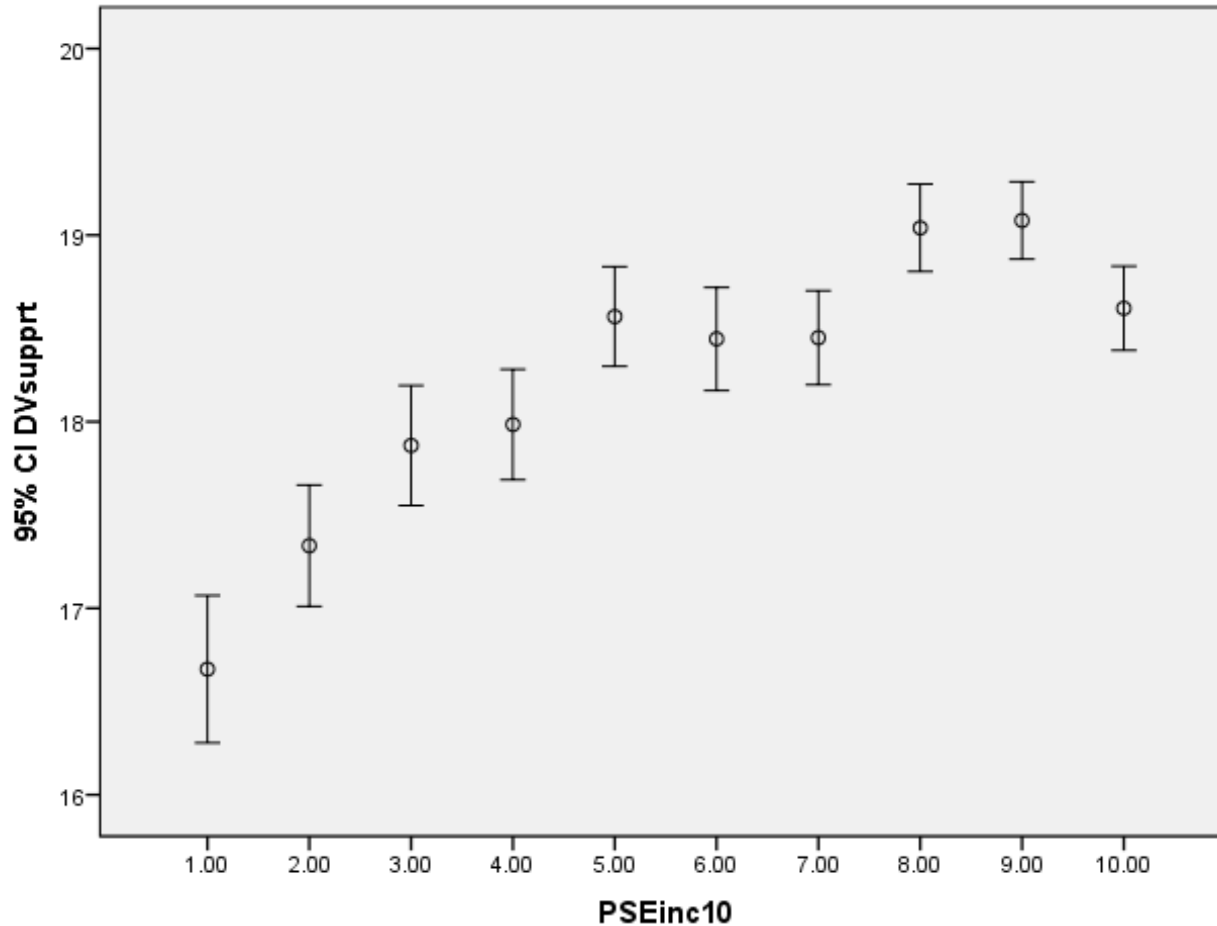
- Needing advice about an important life-change
- Being upset because of relationship problems or feeling depressed
- Serious personal crisis



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Social Support by Income Decile



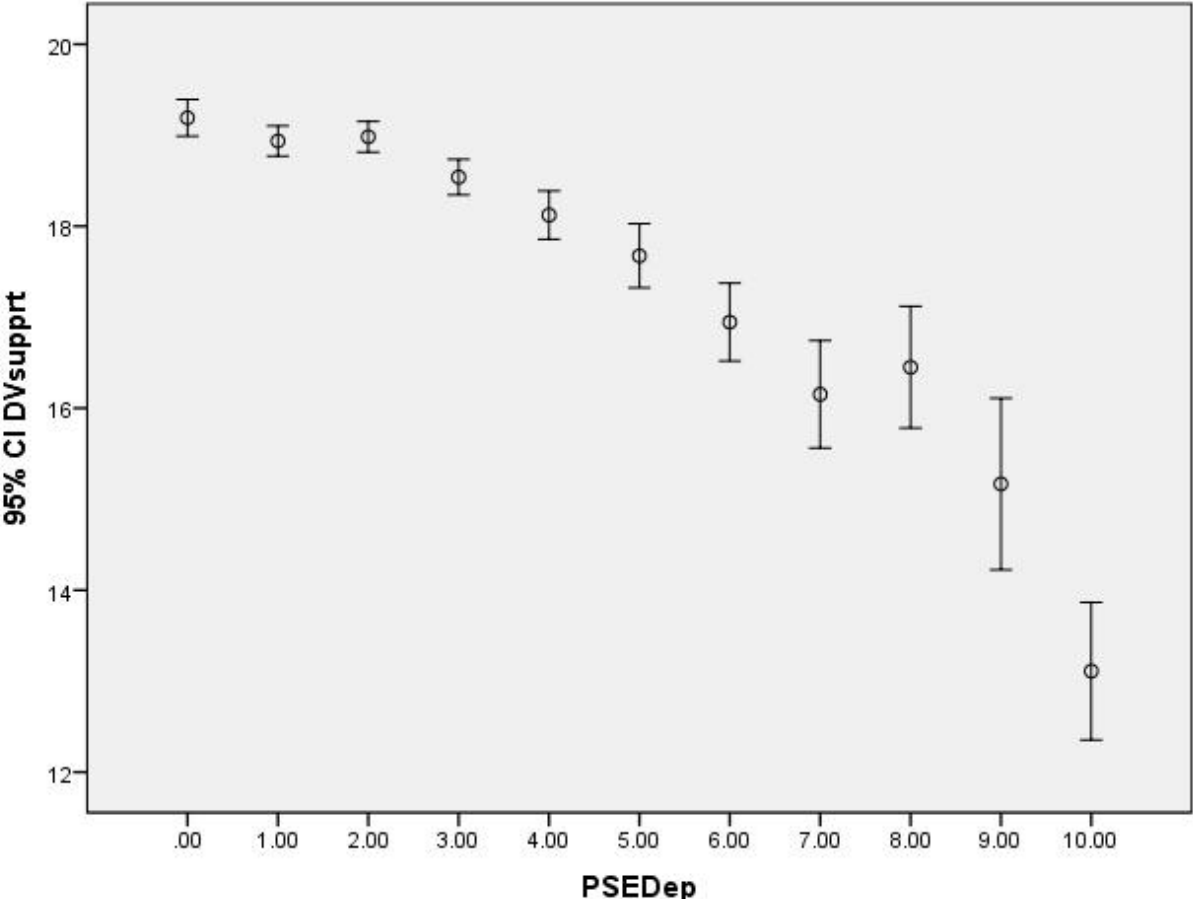
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Social Support by PSE Deprivation



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Social Support and Satisfaction with Personal Relationships by Household Type

	% Low support	% Low satisfaction
Pensioner Couple	10	6
Single Pensioner	17	15
Couple with children	16	13
Couple without children	8	7
Lone Parent	34	43
Single without children	24	36



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