

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/area-deprivation-social-care-spending/>

This video is a transcript discussing a study on the rising rates of poverty and extreme deprivation in the UK, focusing on its impact on children and families. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's recent findings reveal that approximately 3.8 million people, including one million children, experience destitution in the UK. The UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty has indicated that the government's inaction could breach international law.

The research, co-authored by scholars from Lancaster University, examines the rates of children entering compulsory care proceedings in deprived areas. Evidence shows that living in these areas significantly correlates with children being taken into care, with the risk of care proceedings being notably higher in the most deprived neighborhoods. The study utilized large-scale data linking children's court cases with local authority deprivation and social care expenditure data.

Key findings indicate that over 90% of children in care proceedings are infants, with rates of care significantly higher in deprived areas compared to wealthier ones. For instance, children in the 10% most deprived areas are nearly 15 times more likely to enter care than those in affluent areas. The research highlights the importance of preventive services and funding, showing that additional social care spending can effectively decrease the incidence of children entering care.

However, deprived local authorities struggle to meet the increased demand for intervention amidst budget cuts and greater needs from other demographic groups. While preventive spending is critical, the direct effects of deprivation remain a significant barrier that needs addressing, requiring larger investments in combating poverty to support families and reduce the number of children entering care. The overall emphasis is on the necessity for the government to take serious action in alleviating deprivation to support local authorities and improve the circumstances for vulnerable families.