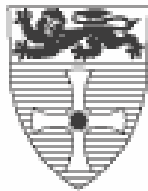


Poverty and Social Exclusion in Rural Areas of the UK.

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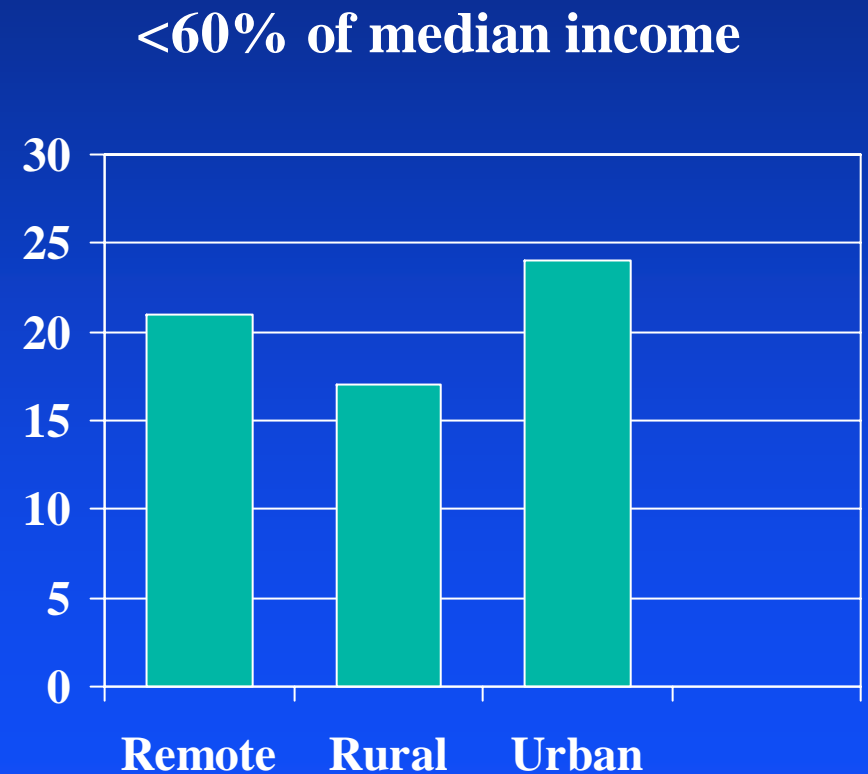
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Introduction

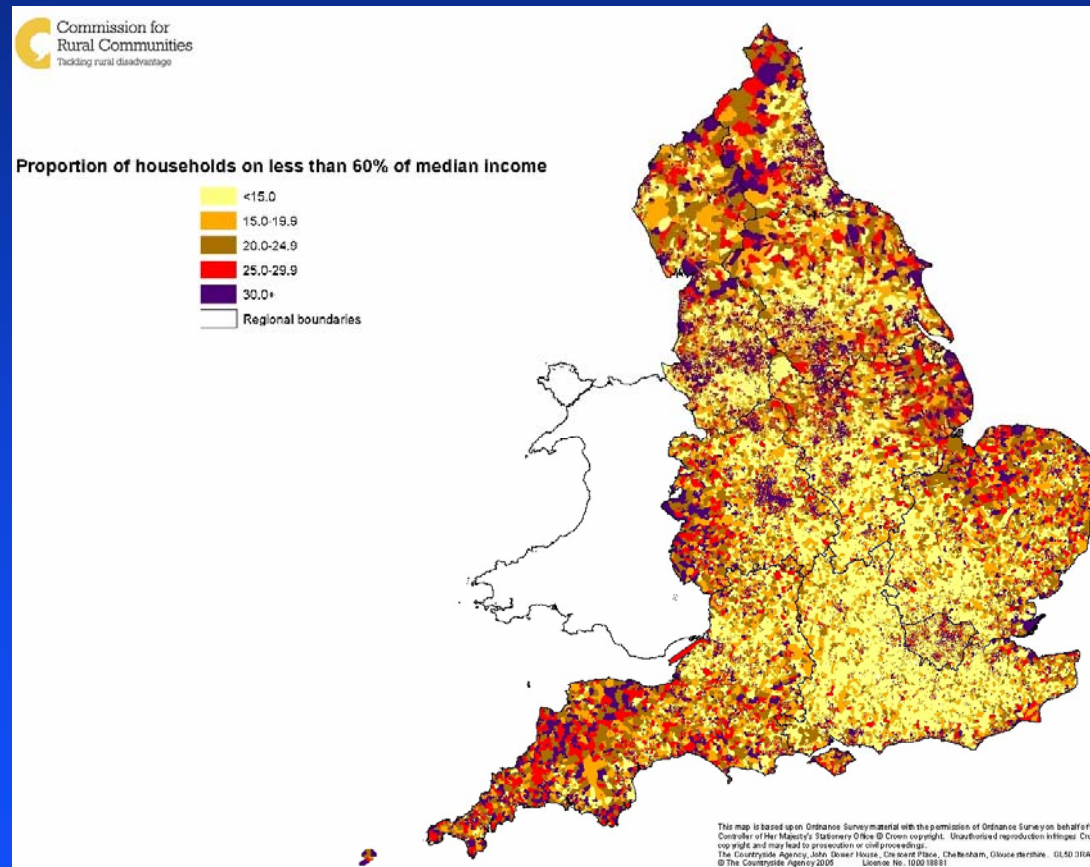
- US: Where are poor rural areas and why are they poor?
 - How do these interact with more prosperous places?
- UK: Most rural areas are affluent, and rural poverty is scattered and hidden amongst general affluence.
 - Interactions between rich and poor are within rural places, structured around social class, gender, age and housing market processes (related to tenure and settlement size).
 - Place-based interventions may be less appropriate.
 - Challenge of how the welfare state can reach rural poor.
 - Challenge of building capacity amongst most disadvantaged.

Incomes and Poverty

- New Policy Institute used Family Resources data for 2000/01 (sample 23,847).
- Shows slightly fewer households in low income in rural areas, but similar intensity of poverty.
- Analysis of BHPS 1991-9 found no significant rural-urban difference.



Spatial Incidence of Poverty



Rural Incomes and Poverty

- Hidden and dispersed poverty: short spells for young; and longer spells for older people, lone parents & unqualified workers.
- Perhaps lower incidence of poverty in rural areas, but 1 in 3 of rural people poor sometime 1991-96.
- Similar risks of poverty in urban and rural areas: elderly, children (23%) and women most susceptible.
- Prosperity imported and poverty exported thru selective migration.
- Main causes of entering poverty:
 - Loss of earned income (for those of working age) and low pay
 - Changes in benefit regulations (for those over 65)

Employment and Low Incomes

Of **working age** on low incomes in 1991-96 :

- 22% were in employment, with persistent low pay
- 23% were self-employed (cf. 8% in urban)
- 13% were unemployed
- 41% were permanently sick (mainly men) or family carers (mainly women) or other.

By 2000, NPI found rather more poverty in work and fewer detached from the labour market. Receipt of in-work means-tested benefits highest in remote areas.

Welfare Entitlements

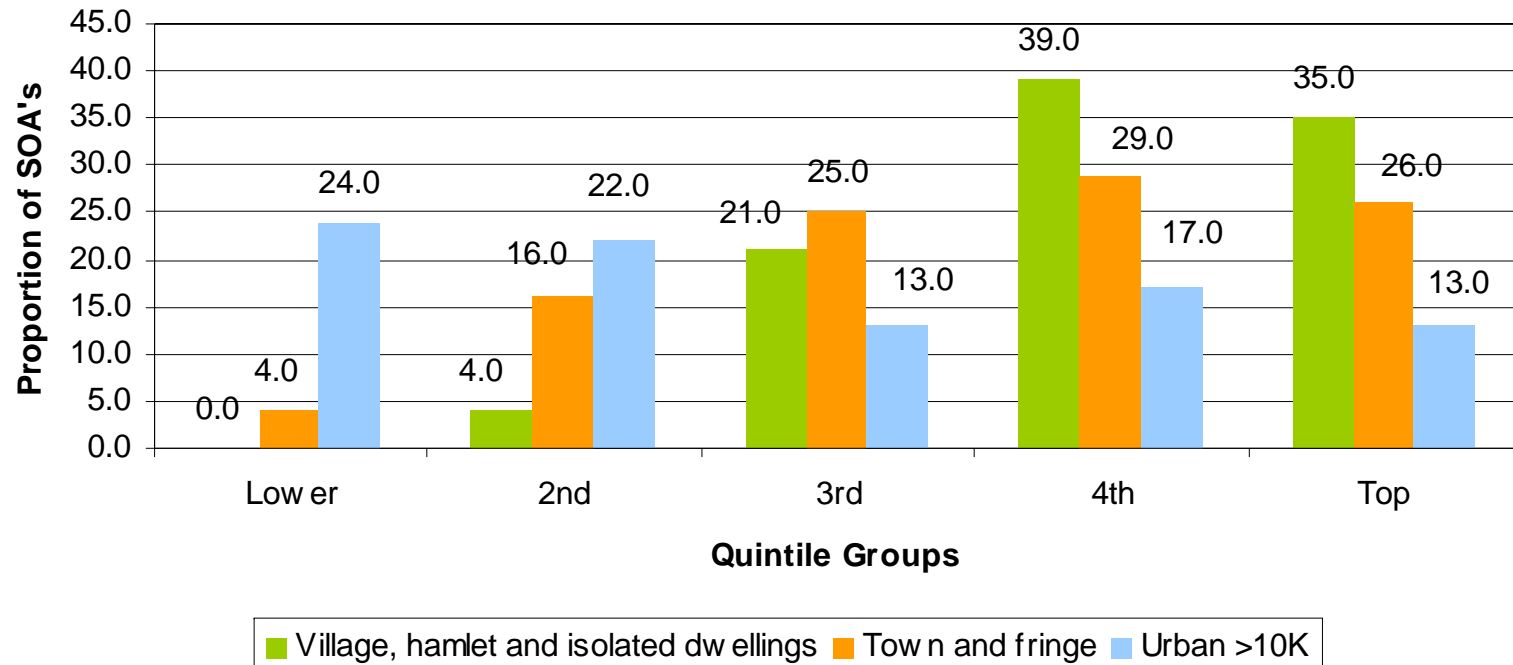
Crucial during short spells of poverty and in old age

- Low take-up of welfare entitlements. Tenure?
- Subjective and objective assessments of poverty and social exclusion: resistance to claiming.
- Access to Advice and Information
- Pensions and the Minimum Income Guarantee
 - 2000 Health Survey shows half of all over 60 in rural areas are dependent solely on the state pension.
 - Proportion of poor receiving MIG is much lower in rural areas

Housing Processes

- The supply of affordable housing :
 - **Market** : strong demand, supply restrictions.
 - **State**: regulatory function often captured by elites, while provision negated by mandatory sales.
 - **Voluntary**: incorporation & inadequate funding.
- Delayed household formation, rupturing of kinship and friendship networks.
- Social exclusion -> spatial exclusion, especially at the micro-scale (scattered houses/villages/market towns).

Incomes by settlement size



Life Course: Young People

- Young people from rural areas become integrated into one of two quite separate labour markets:
 - national : well-paid, distant, career opportunities.
 - local : poorly paid, insecure, fewer prospects.

For the latter, FE and training are much less available.
- The interplay between transport, employment and housing is crucial.
- Young people under adult surveillance and rarely allowed a voice. “Othered” young people.

Conclusions

- In rural UK, some people are poor, not places.
- Processes of social exclusion operate widely but these are less visible in rural areas.
- Scattered poverty amongst affluence affects a substantial minority – not an underclass.
- Affordable housing : changes in market, state and voluntary systems have created social exclusion, with consequences for kinship and social support.
- Reliance on state benefits and pensions in old age.