



A flavour of what we have learned so
far from the Growing Up in
Scotland Study:

Inequalities in the Early Years:

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- Led by Paul Bradshaw and colleagues at the Scottish Centre for Social Research in collaboration with CRFR and the MRC Social and Public Health Research Unit, Glasgow
- Funded by the Scottish Government in 2003; Now entering second phase of funding 2008-2013
- Designed to provide information that will help develop policies affecting children and their families in Scotland

Inequalities, human rights and the early years

- CRC – the child as an individual and as a member of a family and community
Governments are obliged to recognize the full spectrum of human rights for all children and consider children in legislative and policy decisions
- Pierre Sané (2005) *To address the contradiction between the equality proclaimed in the granting of rights and growing inequality in access to life giving resources is essential for the preservation of our own humanity.*

Scottish Government key policy frameworks

- National Performance Framework
- Equally well: report of the Ministerial task force on health inequalities
- Early Years' Framework

Equality: persisting Inequalities

Patterns of disadvantage

- Children of younger mothers and lone mothers more likely to experience disadvantage
- Mothers living in situations of disadvantage are less likely to attend antenatal classes or to breastfeed
- Education plays an important role in promoting positive health behaviours

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Equality and Support

- Role of Grandparents
- Contact with professionals
- Non parental childcare

Community

- Satisfaction with area in which they lived was higher amongst those parents living in areas of lower deprivation and those in rural areas
- Areas of higher deprivation were reported as lacking in childcare, health and leisure facilities
- Satisfaction with local facilities was high but facilities for children and young people were rated as lowest
- More disadvantaged circumstances were associated with less satisfactory networks
- However, older mothers had less satisfactory family networks

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We live in well designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need

The majority are satisfied but this is not the view of GUS parents in the most deprived areas

59% say they would live in another area if able to - compared to 16% from all areas, 3% from least deprived

39% think childcare services are good compared with 63% from the least deprived area

19% think that facilities for children aged under 12 are good compared with 47% from least deprived

27% don't have or never go to a local public play/park - compared to 9% from least deprived areas

We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they support others

Of GUS parents in deprived areas:

39% agree the neighbourhood has a good community spirit, compared with 67% in the least deprived area
8% high and 49% medium child-friendliness compared with 26% and 69%

Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

Satisfaction often high but

‘Facilities for young children’ picked out as the most in need of improvement by 20% of respondents overall and 24% living in the most deprived areas, 21% in rural areas (facilities for teenagers rated the lowest overall)

‘Level of crime’ picked out as the most in need of improvement by 19% of those in the most deprived area and 2% in rural areas.

‘Good quality affordable housing’ was identified by 15% in rural areas and in the most deprived areas.

Dignity

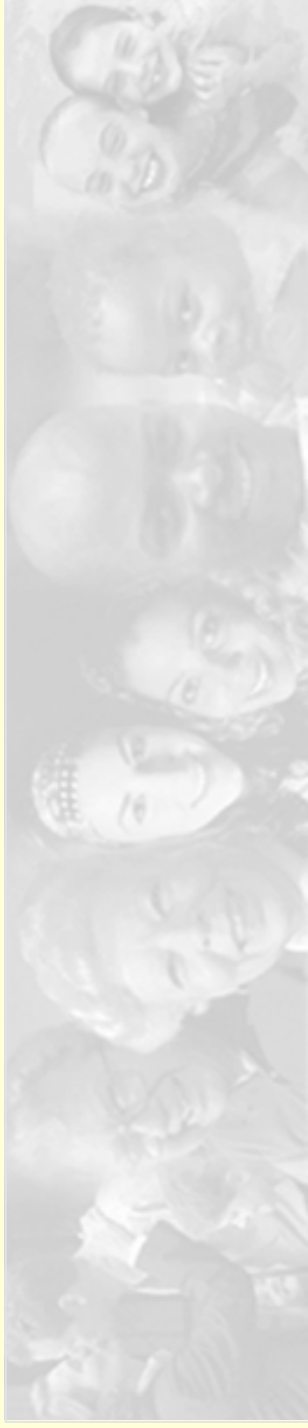
- Mothers with no qualifications and those from low income households are more likely to have difficulties with seeking advice from professionals and to be more wary of doing so than mothers with qualifications and those from high income households

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Not always a good start in life

- Large variations in cognitive scores were evident at age 34 months with children from less advantaged families outperformed by their more affluent counterparts
- Demand for a wider range of activities was greatest among the most disadvantaged groups

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