

# Health Poverty Index: 2008 release

## What is the Health Poverty Index?

The Health Poverty Index (HPI) is a web based tool that allows geographical areas and different ethnic groups to be compared in terms of their 'health poverty'. A group's 'health poverty' is a summary measure of both their present state of health and future health potential or lack of it.

The HPI draws on more than 60 indicators of health and its wider determinants and presents these in a spider graph (see below) or a bar chart and in tables. This gives a strong visual overview of health poverty allowing broad trends, distinctive patterns and important associations to be identified.

The centre of the spider graph represents the best possible situation (or the least "health poverty") for each indicator. The outside edge of the graph represents the worst possible situation (or the most "health poverty"). The data for 2003 is shown in red and the data for 2005 is shown in blue.

## Why was the HPI developed?

The HPI was developed to underpin work on reducing inequalities by informing policy development, service planning and resource allocation. Rather than being a tool for monitoring inequalities and evaluating the effectiveness of interventions, the HPI has been developed to provide an essential summary at the start of decision-making processes (e.g. in assessing needs, discussing local priorities). As such, it complements other available products like the Local Basket of Inequalities Indicators (see over).

## How to access the HPI

The latest update of the HPI has just been released and can be accessed through the following link: [www.hpi.org.uk/](http://www.hpi.org.uk/)

A new HPI workbook has also been developed which guides the user through some of the features of the tool and demonstrates how the Index can be used to provide a single visual summary of an area's "health poverty". This is available on the front page of the website under the HPI work book link.

