

Poverty

[i.e. Relative Poverty]

“Individuals, families and groups in the population 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 widely encouraged or 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 the ordinary living patterns, customs and activities.”

[Peter Townsend, Poverty in the UK, 1979]

Townsend estimated the number for 1968-69 as 22.9% of the population, or 12, 046, 000 people.

The Groups most likely to be in Poverty

The Elderly

The Disabled

The Long term Unemployed

Single Mothers

Divorced Women with Children

The Low Paid

Young Unemployed

[Joanna Mack and Stewart Lansley, Poor Britain,
LWT, 1985, 1992]

**Mack & Lansley estimated the total as 13.8% in 1983,
7,500,000 people, 5m adults, 2.5m children.
In 1990, they estimated that it had risen to 11,000,000.**