



Hard work, Hard Times

In-work poverty in Glasgow

Ipsos MORI Scotland

- 1) Review of recent research about issues faced by individuals experiencing in-work poverty
- 2) Analysis of data from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS)
- 3) Analysis of data from the Glasgow Household Survey (GHS)
- 4) 30 in-depth interviews with individuals identified as experiencing in-work poverty

Analysis of SHS & GHS data



Characteristics of in-work poverty



Those most likely to be experiencing in-work poverty in Scotland:

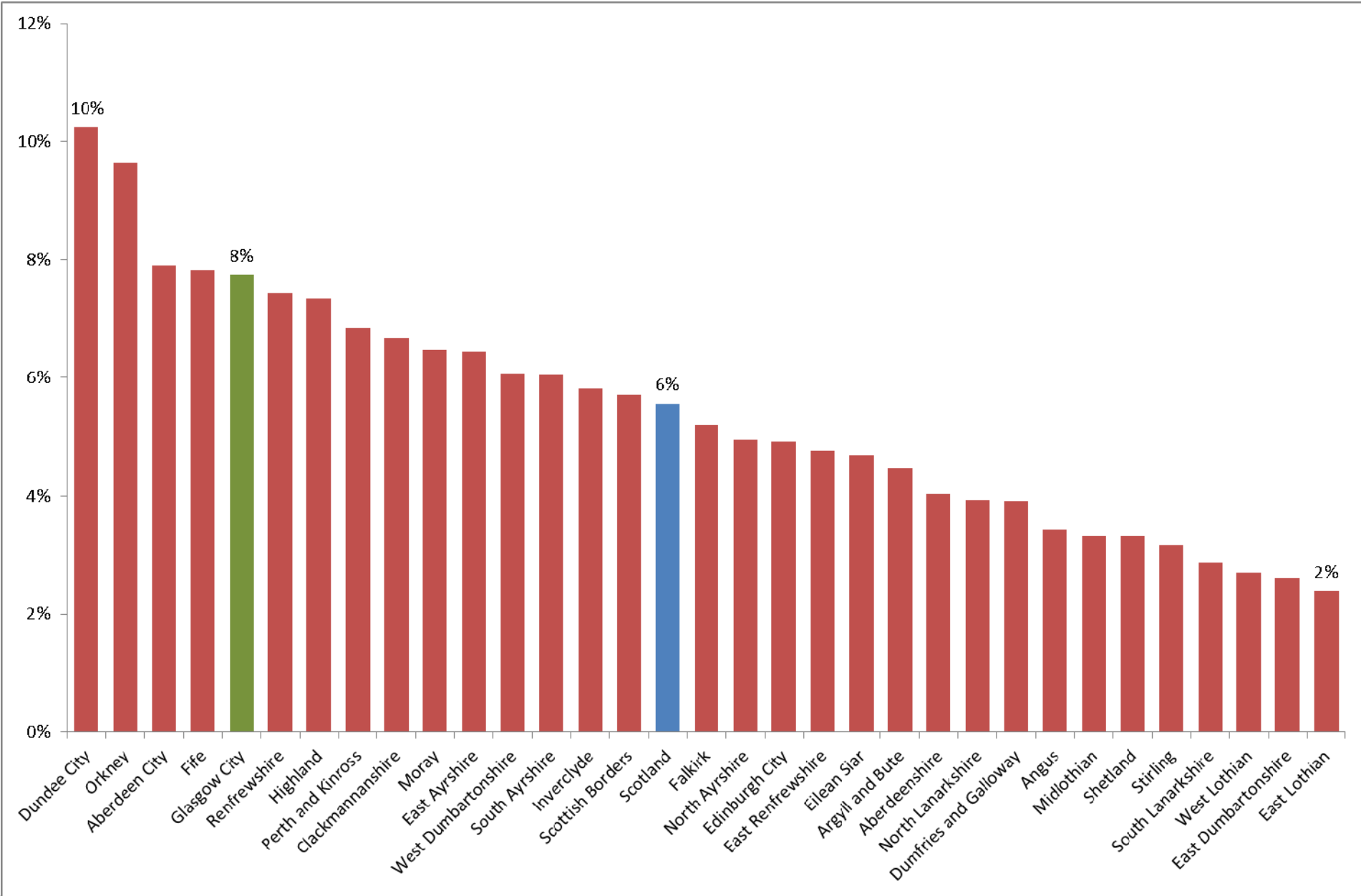
- Hotel and restaurant industry
- Wholesale and retail trades
- Agricultural sector

- Elementary occupations

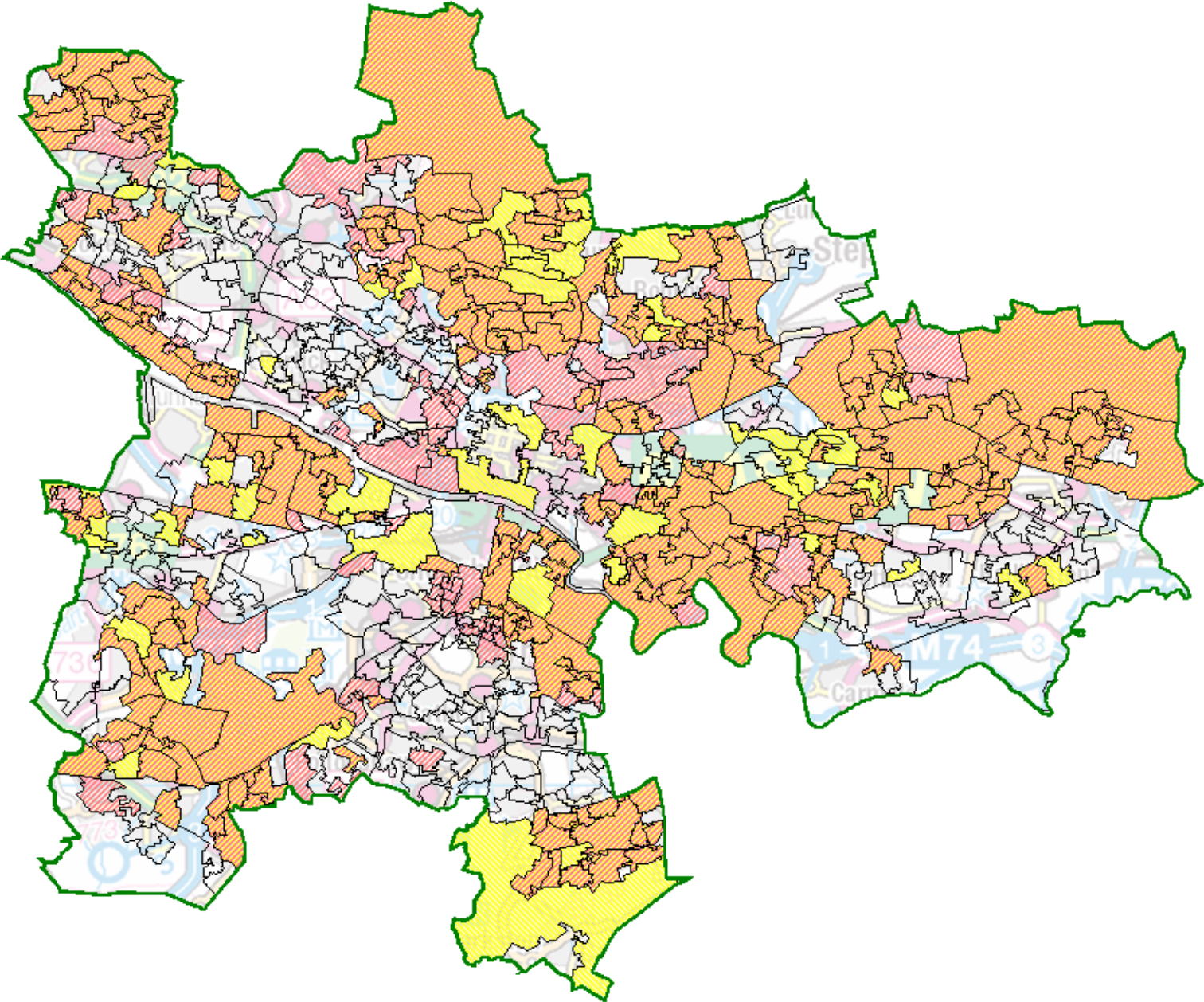
- No qualifications

- Couple households with children

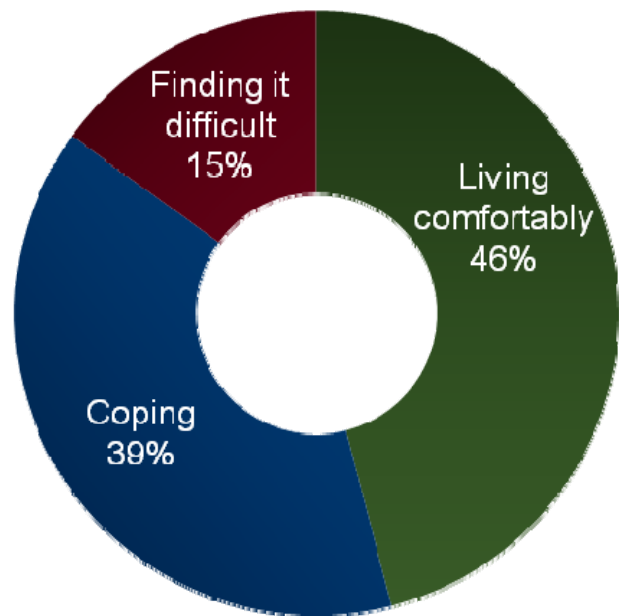
In-work poverty by local authority area



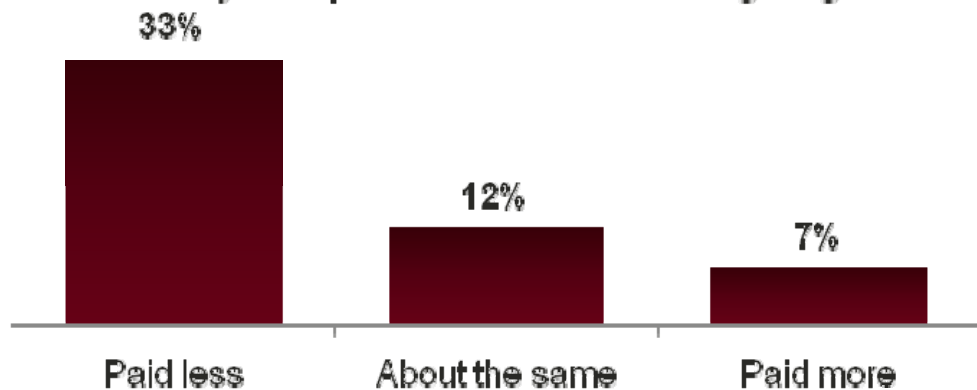
Geographical distribution in Glasgow



Difficulties coping financially



Ability to cope in relation to the Living Wage



Base: All respondents who were working (478). Data collected among Glasgow residents aged 16+, 29th March – 1st June 2014

Among those who were finding it difficult:

67%

were finding it difficult to pay bills

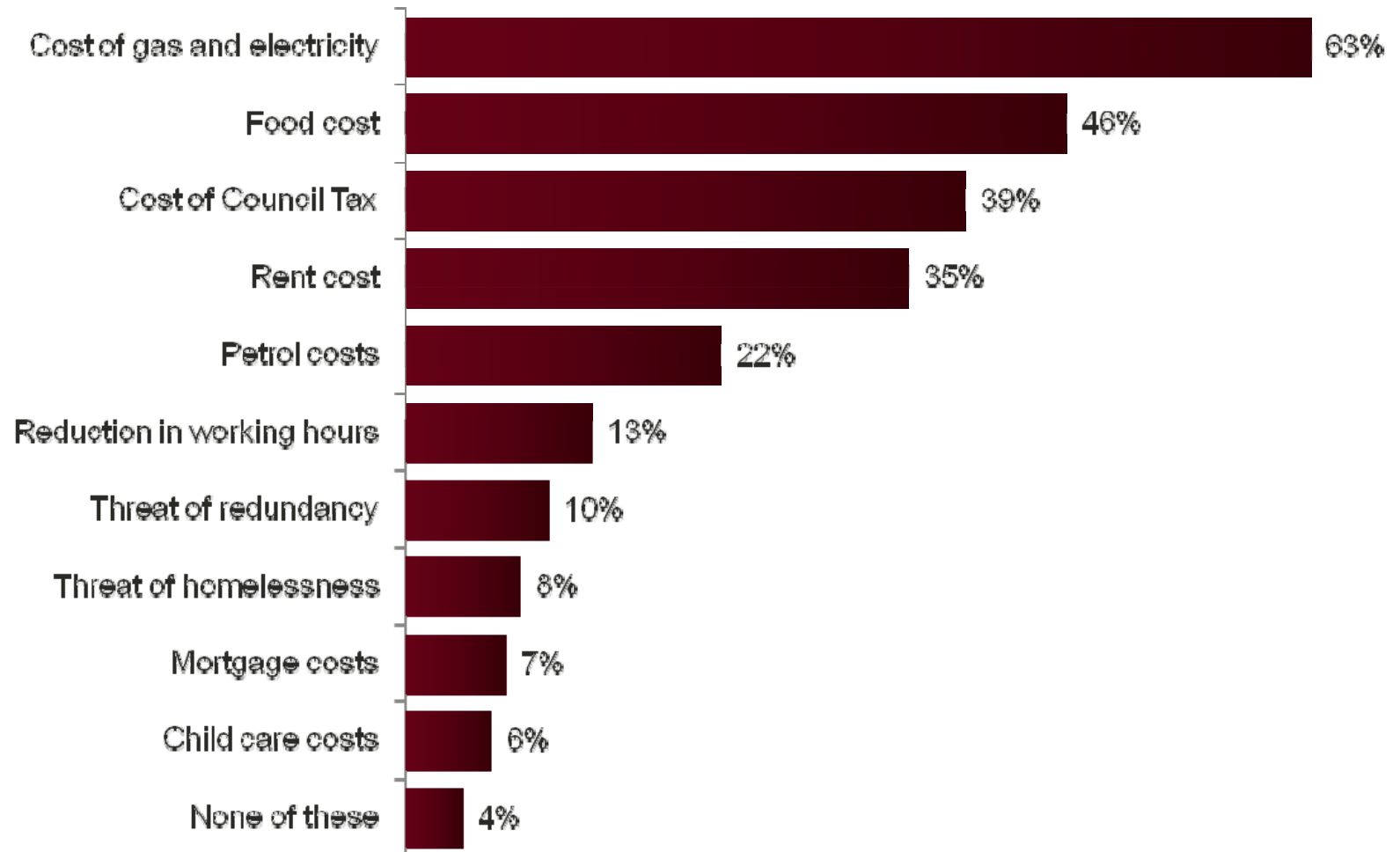
36%

were in arrears with creditors

Base: All working respondents who were finding it difficult to cope on present income (68). Data collected among Glasgow residents aged 16+, 29th March – 1st June 2014

Financial concerns

Here is a list of concerns people may have in the current economic climate. Which, if any, are the two or three biggest concerns for your household?



Base: All working respondents who were finding it difficult to cope on present income (68). Data collected among Glasgow residents aged 16+, 29th March – 1st June 2014

In-depth interviews



Who we spoke with



- 12 men and 18 women
- 23 White
- 7 BME
- 10 in full-time employment
- 20 in part-time employment
- 13 two parent families
- 6 single parent families
- 2 living with a partner with no children
- 7 people living alone
- 2 young people living with parents

In-work poverty in Glasgow – main issues



- Poor quality, low-paid work
- Difficulties finding better work
 - Childcare costs
- Difficulty meeting basic needs
- Lack of financial resilience
- High levels of debt
- Mental health problems
- Relationship problems

Poor quality work & difficulties finding better work



Most participants:

- worked part-time in call centres, retail, social care or in elementary occupations
- had permanent contracts but several worked in zero-hours contracts
- earned around the level of the National Minimum Wage

Barriers to finding better work:

- lack of suitable job opportunities
- lack of suitable qualifications/work experience – especially for migrants/refugees
- limited opportunities for skills enhancement within the workplace
- Childcare costs
- possible loss of WTC

Difficulty meeting basic needs



- Cost of rent/mortgage payments, Council Tax, fuel, food & transport bore heavily
- Tendency to prioritise rent/mortgage payments and fuel....
- ...although rent/mortgage arrears and reliance on emergency fuel supply were common
- Council Tax arrears also very common (typically low hundreds to low thousands £)
- Many reported having limited money to spend on food

Lack of financial resilience & debt



- Running out of money before the end of the most a regular occurrence
- Most had no savings they could fall back on – reliant on coping strategies/ borrowing
- Very limited ability to deal with financial shocks
- Most had outstanding debt – typically c£3,000 to c£10,000

Mental health & relationship problems



- > half indicated were suffering from stress, depression or both
 - shame & low self-esteem

- Tension and arguments between couples – separation

Tackling in-work poverty



- Maximising incomes:
 - Increasing income from employment - Living Wage
 - Raising awareness of benefits and financial assistance
- Minimising outgoings:
 - Childcare – barrier to work / increased hours
 - Making housing cheaper to heat – fuel costs, heating systems and repairs
 - Food, social and leisure activities
 - Debt advice and financial management
- Improving skills and employability:
 - Employers – improved support and training
 - Improved terms and conditions for temp / zero hrs contracts
 - Refugee/migrant qualifications and experience