

## SIMD16 – Key Dates

SIMD16 will be published in May 2016. The collection of data will commence this year from 30 September.

We can now work towards collecting this data since the revised data zones from the 2011 census were published in November 2014.

We collect data at the same time of year as previous SIMDs to reduce any changes due to seasonality - known patterns in data associated with different times of the year.

Previous SIMDs have been released towards autumn of the following year. But after our review last year a key message was users would like the data earlier.

We are working with our data providers to reach earlier timescales and are already looking at where we can reduce the timescales to quality assure the data and produce reports.

The work we are doing now should pave the way for future SIMDs to reduce the leading time between collecting data and publishing SIMD in the future.

If you would like any further information then please contact the team using the email address at the bottom of the page.

## Data Zones 2011

The biggest change for SIMD16 will be the use of 'Data Zones 2011' to assign ranks.

Data zones are the building blocks used to produce SIMD, defined by the Census in 2001.

Due to regeneration and new housing developments, some of these data zones have no people living in them or had grown to nearly 8,000. The average population of a data zone is 807.

The new data zones based on the census in 2011 will fix this problem and in certain areas will improve, as the boundaries have been drawn to make zones contain areas with similar conditions – called homogeneity.

The change from using Data Zones 2001 to 2011 will make it harder to compare areas. A separate piece of work is looking to address this by developing guidance. It will identify where zones have 1-1 matches, and for the remainder identify the proportion of overlaps in population and area.

## What we have read

Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion

[JRF Report Scotland 2015](#)

## Full Steam Ahead!

It's been a while since we contacted everyone but I am pleased to announce we are now working on SIMD16.

While concentrating on other matters, our attention is always drawn back to SIMD. The queries keep coming and we are always happy to help.

Last year's training events were popular and we had hoped to deliver them on-demand and online. This proved trickier and more time consuming than originally anticipated.

So my colleague Maïke and I will begin a training programme in July and August.

The data in SIMD12 is getting older but the principles remain the same in SIMD16.

If you would like to help host an event please get in touch.

*Alastair McAlpine  
Statistician*

## Forthcoming events

Multiple Deprivation Advisory Group (MDAG) – 23 June 2015

@ScotStat



#simd16