

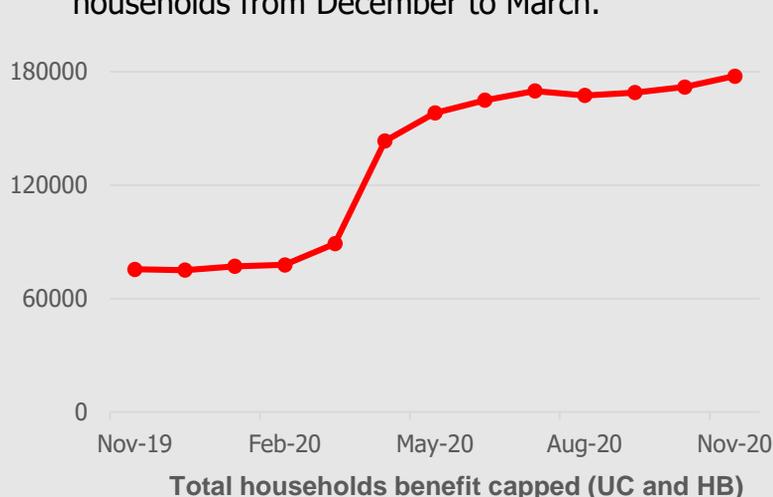
Number of people affected by benefit cap still rising

Statistics show a rise in the number of households benefit capped to 178,000. 84% are families with children.

1

Households benefit capped still rising

178,000 UK households now have their benefits capped, a rise of 128% since the start of the pandemic. Numbers are set to rise further. This data is from November 2020 and does not yet include people who started claiming at the start of lockdown and have now reached the end of their nine-month grace period before the cap applies, which research suggests could be 76,000 households from December to March.



128%
more households with capped benefits since February 2020

178K
households with capped benefits as of November 2020

2

Capped families lose out on £59 a week

The average that families with children lose every week under the cap is £58.84. This is slightly more than the average UK household spends on food (£58.40 per week).

Average weekly food budget



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Average weekly benefit cap loss



3

Most of those capped are families

84% of those whose benefits are capped are families with children. 61% (108,000 households) are lone parents, who may face additional barriers returning to work even as the economy recovers from the pandemic.



6 in 10 are lone parents



16%

The number of single people who are benefit capped is growing. 1 in 6 capped households live alone. In London it is 37%. **The cap puts people at risk of rough sleeping: single people who cannot pay their rent are often ineligible for homelessness support.**

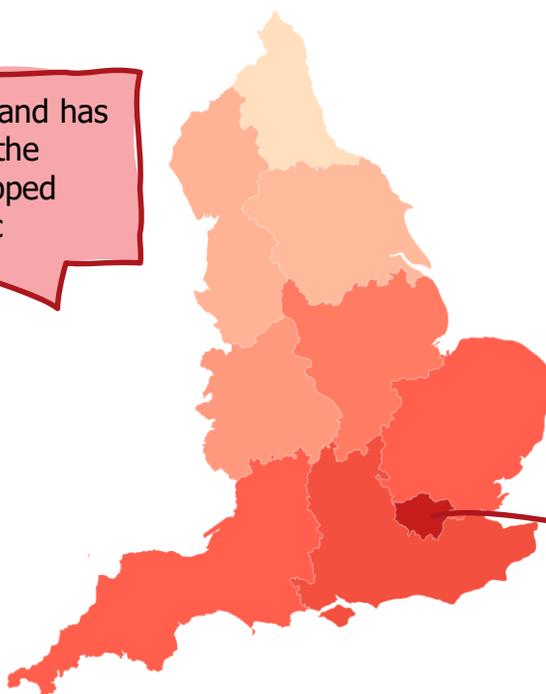
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Numbers of capped households are rising across England

Percentage increase in number of households with capped benefits (UC and HB) Feb-Nov 2020



Every region of England has seen an increase in the number of those capped during the pandemic



The biggest increases since the start of lockdown have been in London (185%) and the South East (140%)

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Sources

DWP, ['Benefit Cap Statistics: Households capped to November 2020'](#)

ONS, ['Living Costs and Food Survey, financial year ending 2001 to financial year ending 2020'](#): Table A1 'Detailed expenditure with full-method standard errors'

Numbers of claimants of housing benefit and the housing element of Universal Credit are from DWP, statexplore, accessed 30th March 2021.

Estimated numbers of capped households from December 2020 – March 2021 come from Child Poverty Action Group, ['Capped-in-the-New-Year.pdf \(cpag.org.uk\)'](#).