

# Housing Benefit recipients: local authority breakdown by age and family type, October 2010

February 2011

## Background

People who are on a low income or receiving certain benefits can apply for financial help to pay their rent (Housing Benefit - HB) and Council Tax (Council Tax Benefit - CTB). Both HB and CTB are administered by Local Authorities.

Further information on HB and CTB is available at:

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On\\_a\\_low\\_income/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/MoneyTaxAndBenefits/BenefitsTaxCreditsAndOtherSupport/On_a_low_income/index.htm)

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit statistics published by DWP are based on the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) data source. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from Local Authority computer systems. It has been designed to provide sufficient information for all current and future statistical purposes and is now the single source of HB & CTB data.

## Results

The Department publishes a range of statistical information on HB & CTB recipients at <http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=hbctb> . From the March 2010 data onwards, information has been available of recipients by age and family type, which is shown in Table 9a of the monthly statistical report.

In summary, of the 4.8 million recipients of HB, 2.7 million (56% of the total) are single without child dependants. 1.0 million of these are aged 65 and over, and 1.7 million are under 65. A further 1.1 million (23% of the total) are single with child dependants. Almost all of this group are aged under 65, and 93% of them are female. The remaining 1.0 million (20% of the total) are couples, around half of them with dependant children.

The associated spreadsheet provides a more detailed breakdown of family type and age by Local Authority area, and displays the numbers of single recipients as percentages of the relevant population. ([Click here to view the associated spreadsheet.](#))

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