

**Briefing Paper – Unemployment, Employment Deprivation and Income Support, Rochdale Borough  
July 2005**

**List of Contents**

	Page
<b>Introduction &amp; Background</b>	2
<b>Unemployment (Job Seekers Allowance)</b>	3
<b>Incapacity Benefit &amp; Severe Disablement Allowance</b>	6
Gender Breakdown	7
Age Breakdown	9
<b>Employment Deprivation</b>	10
Employment Deprivation in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas	12
<b>Income Support</b>	14
Gender Breakdown	15
Type of Income Support Claimant	17
Age Breakdown	20
<b>Conclusions</b>	22

This paper analyses employment deprivation and unemployment in Rochdale Borough using benefits data provided from the Department for Work and Pensions.

## **Background**

Changes in the labour market in recent years have resulted in a greater variety of patterns of work and non-work, with more individuals in irregular jobs and with discontinuous employment patterns. Such changes have resulted in the “blurring” of traditional labour market boundaries. It is therefore useful to look at several measures of labour market “attachment”, than trying to stay within traditional employed, unemployed and economically inactive boundaries.

- One measure is joblessness or worklessness.
- The traditional measure is the unemployment rate.
- A third measure is involuntary exclusion from work.

Traditionally Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) data is used as an unemployment measure, and this is the only measure, other than Census data, at small areas level. While this information is of use, and some JSA data is provided in this paper, unemployment data based on this information alone is very tightly defined and does not include, for example, those people who want to work but are unable to do so due to sickness.

Combining data on claimant rates of Job Seekers Allowance, Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA), can be used as a proxy measure for employment deprivation, and provides a more accurate picture than each data set alone. Using benefits data in this way includes some of the “hidden” unemployed, which would not have been recorded using JSA rates alone.

All benefits have criteria against which an applicant will be assessed for eligibility. Below is a summary of the key eligibility criteria for some of the benefits analysed in this paper. It should however be noted, these are not fully comprehensive as to all the circumstances in which any of the given benefits are payable.

- Job Seekers Allowance is payable to men under 65 and women under 60, who are not working or working less than 16 hours per week. In order to be eligible an individual must be; capable of working, available for work and actively seeking work.
- Severe Disablement Allowance is payable if an individual has been unable to work for at least 28 weeks in a row because of illness or disability, or in some circumstances where an individual has never been able to work. New claims for SDA have not been possible since 2001, although some people in receipt of SDA prior to 2001 are still receiving payment today.
- Incapacity Benefit is paid to people who cannot work due to sickness or disablement. It is paid in circumstances where statutory sick pay (SSP) has ended or an individual cannot get SSP. IB is not payable to

people over pension age when they became sick. Eligibility for IB generally relies on the National Insurance contributions of the claimant, and their inability to work because of sickness or disablement for more than 4 consecutive days.

- Income Support is paid to some people on low incomes, not working or working less than 16 hours per week, aged between 16 and 59 and not regularly attending a Job Centre.

### **Benefits Analysis**

Detailed information about Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), Income Support (IS), Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) claimants is provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) at lower and middle super output area level, allowing geographical analysis of areas of the borough with high and low benefit claim rates.

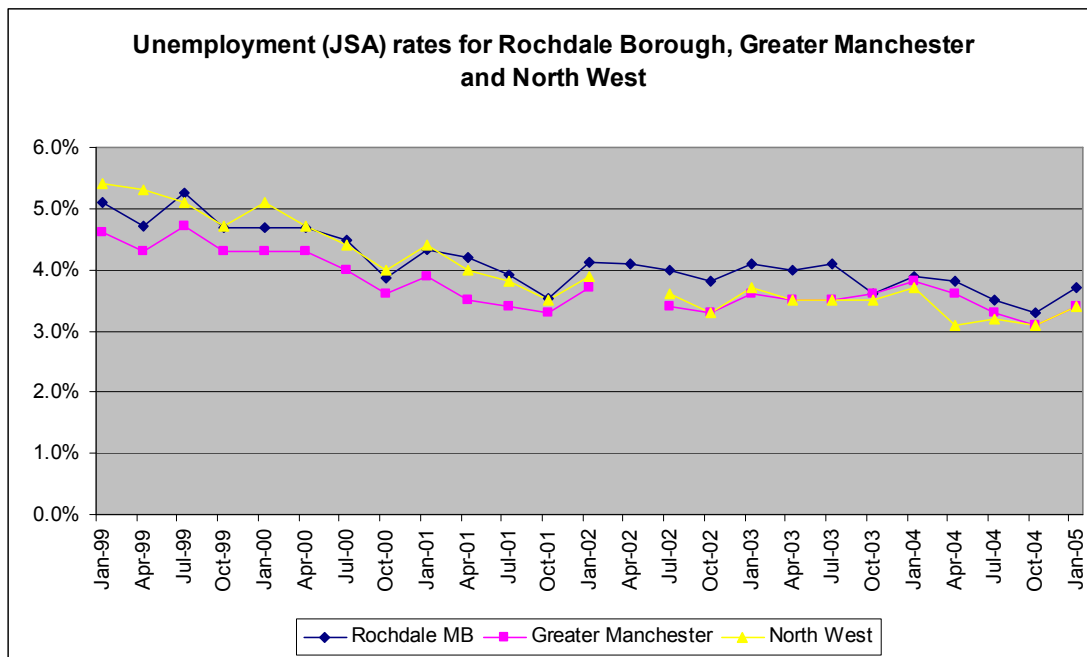
### **Unemployment**

Analysing Job Seekers Allowance gives an indication of the numbers of people in the borough who are either not in employment or working less than 16 hours a week, and who are able to and seeking employment.

In 2004 1.8% of Rochdale Borough's population claimed JSA, compared to 1.6% in the North West and 1.5% in England and Wales. NB: These rates are calculated using the economically active population, not the working age population used later in this paper.

Figure 1 shows unemployment rates based on JSA claims since 1999.

Figure 1

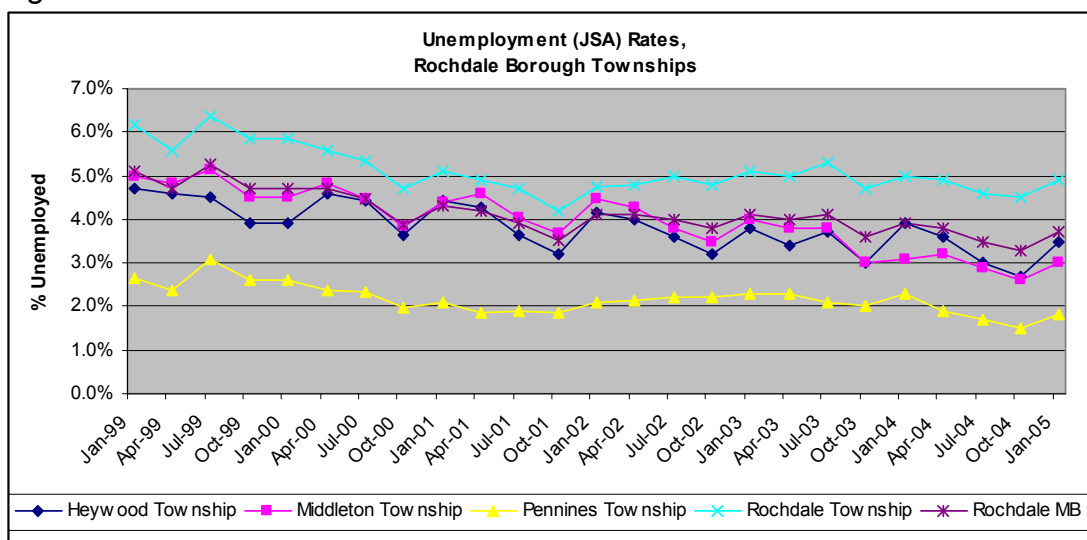


Source: DWP

JSA claims in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and the North West have seen a trend of decline since 1999. Rochdale’s unemployment rate over this period has been generally higher than that of both GM and the North West.

Variations in JSA claim rates exist within the areas of the borough. Figure 2 shows unemployment rates for Rochdale Borough’s townships since 1999.

Figure 2



Source: DWP

All the Townships have seen a general trend of decline in unemployment rates since 1999.

The Pennines Township has seen less fluctuation in claim rates than the other Townships. Pennines JSA claim rate over this period has remained noticeably lower than the other Townships and the borough average.

Heywood Township's unemployment rate has generally been lower than the borough average since 1999, although much closer to the average and reflects more closely the borough trends than Pennines Township.

Middleton Township's unemployment rate remained very similar to the borough average until July 2003, when the unemployment rate fell and has remained below the borough average since.

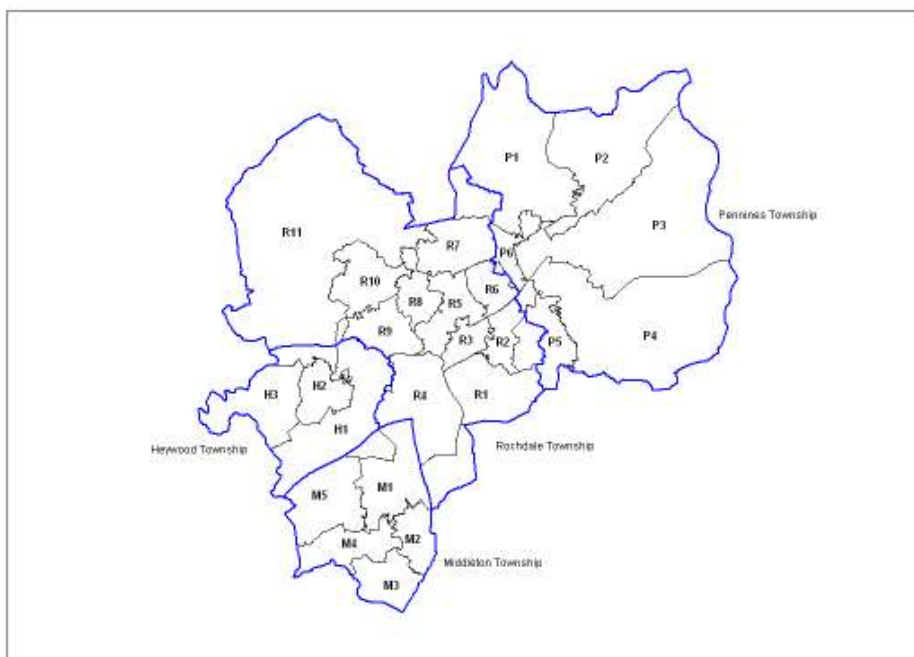
Rochdale Township over this period has had an unemployment rate consistently higher than all of the other Townships and the borough average, although again a general trend of decline is evident.

Many employers in Rochdale Borough are increasingly offering short term contracts and seasonal work. This is particularly evident in sectors such as warehousing, where demand for labour peaks in busy periods, such as the run up to Christmas. Seasonal variations are particularly evident in Heywood and Middleton Townships where unemployment rates fall each year between April and December, with the lowest unemployment each year in the last quarter (October – December). Unemployment levels rise again in January each year when the busy Christmas period has ended and the demand for staff falls.

### Incapacity Benefit & Severe Disablement Allowance

Analysis of Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance and Income Support are shown on thematic maps at middle super output area level (MSOA). There are 25 MSOAs in Rochdale Borough. For ease of identification and comparison the MSOAs have been grouped and named by the Township in which they lie. Where a MSOA straddles a township boundary, it has been allocated to the township in which the majority of the population can be found (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



New claims for Severe Disablement Allowance (SDA) have not been received since 2001, although this benefit is still payable to those people eligible before this date. People of working age who can no longer apply for SDA may be eligible for IB instead.

Incapacity Benefit is payable to people of working age who cannot work due to sickness or disability and who have paid enough National Insurance contributions. Those who have not paid enough contributions can claim Income Support.

Nearly two-thirds of Incapacity Benefit recipients receive benefits due to three main conditions:

- 35% due to mental health problems including depression and anxiety
- 22% due to musculo-skeletal disorders including back/neck pain
- 11% due to heart, circulatory or respiratory disorders.

In 2004 11.3% of Rochdale Borough's population claimed IB and SDA, compared to 10.2% in the North West region and 7.3% in England and Wales.

A greater proportion of IB and SDA claimants in Rochdale Borough are male than female (57.7% and 42.3% respectively). Regionally and nationally a greater proportion of claimants are also male than female, with 58.9% male claimants, and 41.1% female claimants.

### Gender Breakdown

Figures 4 and 5 show the levels of males and females in each MSOA who are claiming IB and SDA, as a percentage of the working age population.

Figure 4

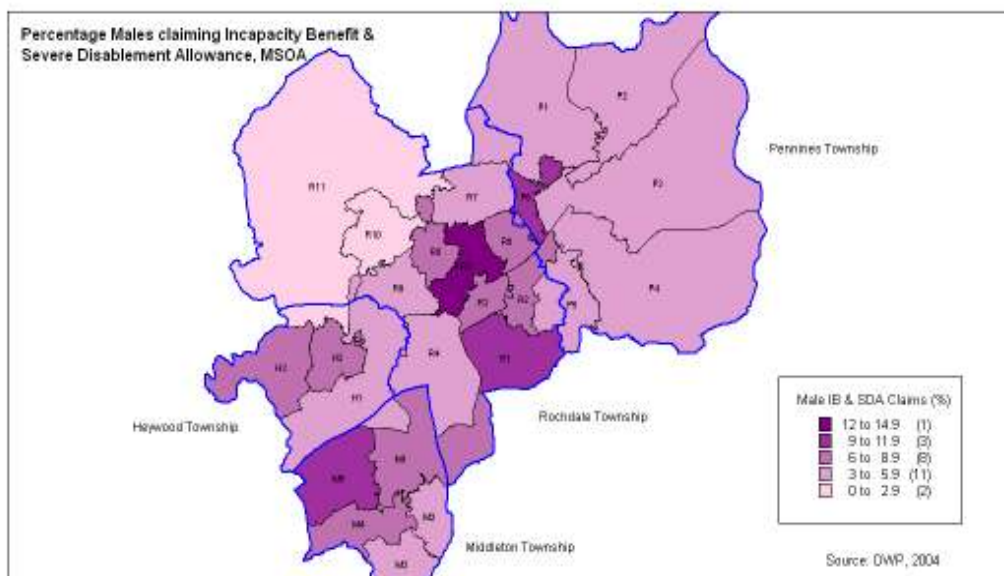
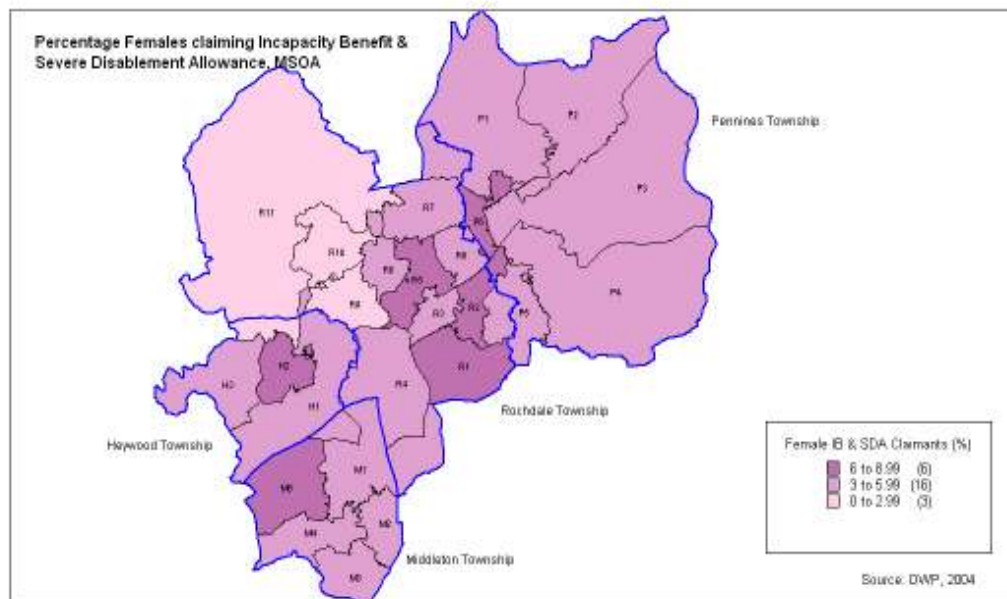


Figure 5



In the Pennines Township, P1-P5 has the same proportion of male and female claimants. P6 however has far more claimants than the other MSOA in the township, and a greater proportion of male claimants than female (10.8% and 8.2% respectively).

In Middleton Township there are more male than female claimants in 3 of the 5 MSOAs, M1, M4 and M5. The highest IB and SDA claim rate in both males and females is in M5, at 7.9% in females and 11.3% in males.

Only 1 of the 3 MSOAs in Heywood Township has a greater proportion of male claimants than females, H3 where 7.4% of claimants are males and 5.3% females.

More variation in claimant rate is evident in Rochdale Township, with the higher numbers concentrated in the Inner Rochdale areas, and far fewer in the more rural parts of the township. 6 of the 11 MSOAs in Rochdale Township have a greater proportion of males claiming IB and SDA than females.

R5 has the highest claimant rate in the whole borough, with male claim rates reaching 14.3%, compared to 7.3% in females.

In both males and females there are very low claims rates in R10 and R11. In R9 however, although claimant rates are still low in both males and females, again a greater proportion of claimants are male (3.0% and 2.0% respectively).

## Age Breakdown

IB & SDA claimants are split into 5 age groups; under 30, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and 60+. Rochdale Borough average IB and SDA claim rates (expressed as a percentage of the total population of each age group), in all the age groups, except the over 60's are higher than the regional and national average figures (see Table 1).

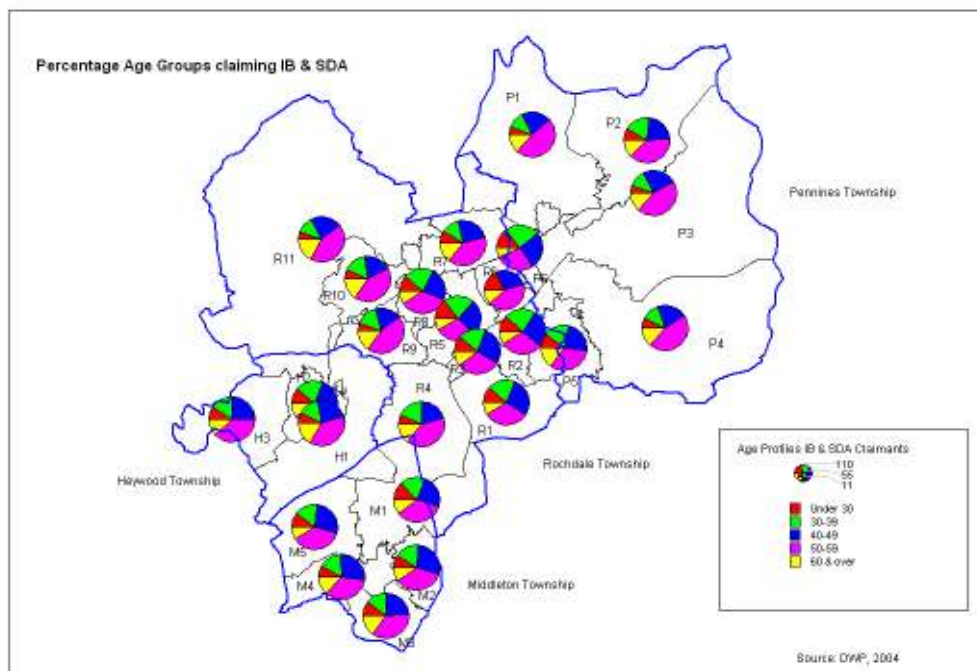
Table 1

	<b>Under 30</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-49</b>	<b>50-59</b>	<b>60 &amp; over</b>
<b>Rochdale Borough</b>	4.4%	8.6%	13.0%	20.0%	17.8%
<b>North West</b>	3.7%	8.0%	12.6%	19.0%	18.5%
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	2.6%	5.4%	8.3%	12.7%	13.2%

Source: DWP, 2004

Figure 6 shows the percentage of the different age groups claiming IB & SDA as a percentage of the total working age population in each MSOA. The size of the pie chart is representative of the proportion of claimants in each MSOA, i.e. the larger the pie chart, the greater the proportion of the population claiming IB & SDA.

Figure 6



In all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough the greatest proportion of IB & SDA claimants are aged 50-59. The smallest proportion of claimants in all the MSOAs are either in the under 30 age group or the over 60's.

Pennines Township has relatively low claimant rates in P1-P5, all of which have total claimant rates lower than the borough average (11.3%). P1 has the lowest claim rate in the township at 6.9%.

P6 has a far higher claim rate the rest of the township, and has the third highest total claimant rate in the borough (19.1%).

In Middleton Township M3 has the lowest claimant rate (6.9%). Both M3 and M2 have claimant rates lower than the borough average and M1 slightly above the borough average (11.9% and 11.3% respectively).

M4 and M5 have claimant rates above the Rochdale Borough average. M5 has the second highest claimant rate in the borough (19.3%).

In Heywood Township H1 has a total claimant rate below the borough average (7.7%).

H2 and H3 both have total claimant rates above the borough average (14.2% and 12.6% respectively).

Variation in claimant rates are again evident between Rochdale Township's inner areas and the more outlying. 5 of the 11 MSOAs in Rochdale Township have total claimant rates below the borough average. The lowest claimant rate is 4.6% in R11, which is also the lowest claim rate in the borough.

6 of the 11 MSOAs in Rochdale Township have total claimant rates above the borough average. The highest claim rate is 21.6% in R5, which is the highest claimant rate in Rochdale Borough.

### **Employment Deprivation**

Employment deprivation looks at people who would like to work but can't. It is difficult to measure as it can include, for example, women categorised as 'looking after home and family', who may want to work provided suitable part time work and childcare is available.

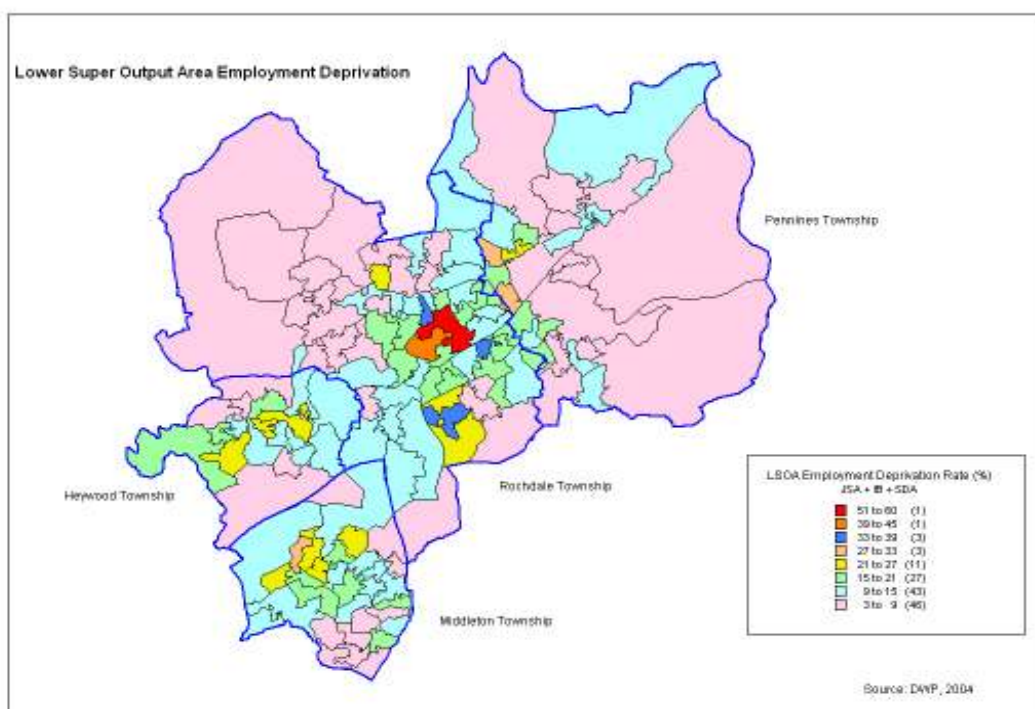
A proxy measure of employment deprivation can be obtained by adding together claimants of JSA, IB and SDA, as used in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004 employment deprivation domain. This measure includes some of the people who are involuntarily excluded from the labour market due to ill health or disability. More than 9 out of 10 persons on incapacity benefit would like to return to work given suitable support, job opportunities and training <sup>(1)</sup>. It is useful as the DWP has recently published data at lower super output area (LSOA), so levels of employment deprivation can be obtained at neighbourhood level.

There are 135 LSOAs in Rochdale Borough, with approximately 1500 people in each. The rates are calculated by adding JSA, IB & SDA claimants and expressing as a percentage of the working age population.

The employment deprivation rate for Rochdale Borough is 13.7%, compared to 12.4% in the North West region and 9.4% in England and Wales.

Figure 7 shows employment deprivation (JSA + IB + SDA claims) for the borough at LSOA level. Data for employment deprivation has been mapped at LSOA level to allow more accurate identification of concentrations of employment deprivation in the borough.

Figure 7



Employment deprivation is concentrated in certain areas of the borough.

The Pennines Township has relatively low employment deprivation with large areas of the township having employment deprivation of less than 15%. The higher claim rates can be seen in the more populated areas of the Township. The three LSOAs with the highest claim rates in the Pennines Township are all located in Smallbridge and Firgrove ward. 2 LSOAs have employment deprivation rates between 29.9% and 27.4% of the working age populations, and one LSOA has a rate of 24.7% of the working age population.

Middleton Township has very low employment deprivation (between 3-9%) in the South of the area (most of South Middleton ward). Other areas of the township have higher employment deprivation. One LSOA in West Middleton

ward has an employment deprivation rate of 28.9% of the working age population. A further 4 LSOAs in the township have employment deprivation rates of 21-27%.

3 LSOAs in Heywood Township have employment deprivation rates of 21-27% and are located in West and North Heywood wards. A further 3 LSOAs have rates of 15-21%. Relatively large areas of the Township which are less densely populated have relatively low employment deprivation rates (15% or less), particularly the large area in Hopwood Hall ward to the South of the Township.

More variation in employment deprivation is evident in Rochdale Township, with some 'pockets' of very high claimant rates in some of the Inner Rochdale wards. In Milkstone and Deplish ward 1 LSOA has a rate of 60.0% i.e. more than half of the working age population living in this area are claiming these benefits and 1 LSOA rate of 39.1% of the working age population. A further 3 LSOAs in Rochdale Township have employment deprivation rates of 33-39%, located in Central Rochdale, Kingsway and Balderstone & Kirkholt wards (34.0%, 33.6% and 36.6% of working age populations respectively).

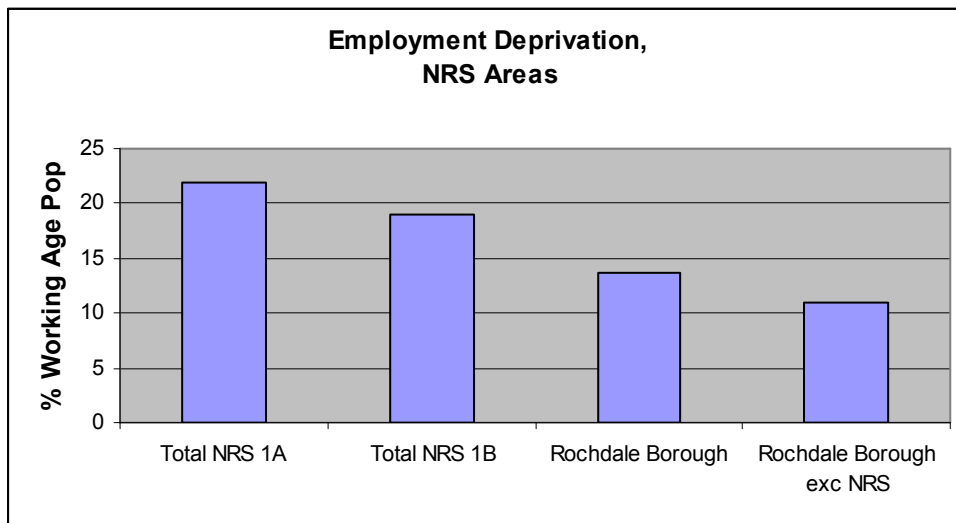
Employment deprivation rates in Rochdale Township are far lower in the more rural, affluent areas. A very large area of the township to the North West of Central Rochdale has 3-9% employment deprivation rates (this area includes almost the whole of Norden ward).

#### Employment Deprivation in Neighbourhood Renewal Areas

Analysis of employment deprivation has also been carried out for the NRS neighbourhoods in the borough. There are 22 NRS areas in Rochdale Borough, with approximately 28% of the borough's working age population living in these areas.

Figure 8 shows employment deprivation rates for the NRS areas and Rochdale Borough.

Figure 8



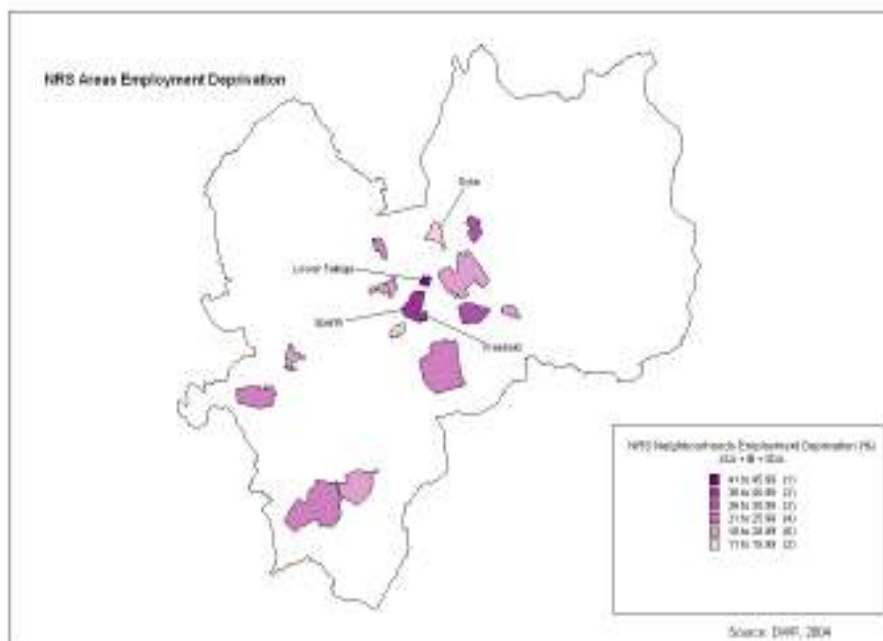
Source: DWP, 2004

The proportions of the populations claiming JSA, IB and SDA are clearly much greater in the NRS neighbourhoods than in the borough as a whole. The employment deprivation rate in the total 1A neighbourhoods is 21.9%, in 1B it is 18.9%, compared to a borough average of 13.7%.

The fourth column on the graph 'Rochdale Borough exc. NRS', is an average employment deprivation rate for the borough with the NRS neighbourhoods excluded. The difference between this average figure and those of the NRS areas are even greater than the borough average. NRS 1A area has almost double the proportion of the working age population claiming these benefits than the borough average with the NRS neighbourhoods excluded (21.9% and 11.0% respectively). This significant difference in employment deprivation rate highlights the difference between Rochdale Borough's most deprived areas and the more affluent.

Figure 9 shows the employment deprivation rates for each of the 22 NRS neighbourhoods.

Figure 9



As with employment deprivation mapped at LSOA level, the greatest concentrations can be seen in the Inner Rochdale areas.

1 of the 22 NRS areas has a very high employment deprivation rate, Lower Falinge at 44.2%. Freehold and Sparth also have high claimant rates (38.9% and 39.9% respectively). In these 3 neighbourhoods 2 out of every 5 working age adults are employment deprived.

Syke is the only NRS neighbourhood to have an employment deprivation rate lower than the borough average (11.8% and 13.7% respectively).

### **Income Support**

Income Support is an income-based benefit, in effect 'topping-up' those people of low incomes. A large majority of IS claimants are made up of lone parents, sick or disabled, and older people not in receipt of pension credits. Some claimants of IS may also be eligible for Child Tax Credit. Analysis of income support claimants gives an indication of the numbers of people living in the borough on very low incomes.

In 2004 9.4% of Rochdale Borough's population claimed IS, compared to 8.2% in the North West and 6.4% in England and Wales.

A greater proportion of IS claimants are female than male. 61.2% of all IS claims in Rochdale Borough are made by females, and 38.5% by males.

Table 2 shows the percentages of males and females claiming IS as a percentage of the male/female working age population.

Table 2

	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>
<b>Rochdale Borough</b>	10.5%	6.8%
<b>Greater Manchester</b>	10.0%	6.3%
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	7.3%	4.3%

Source: DWP, 2004

Rochdale Borough has slightly higher claim rates in both males and females than the Greater Manchester averages. Both the GM and the borough IS claimant rates are much higher than the national average.

### Gender Breakdown

Figures 10 and 11 show the percentages of males and females in each MSOA who are claiming income support (as a percentage of the working age male and female populations respectively).

Figure 10

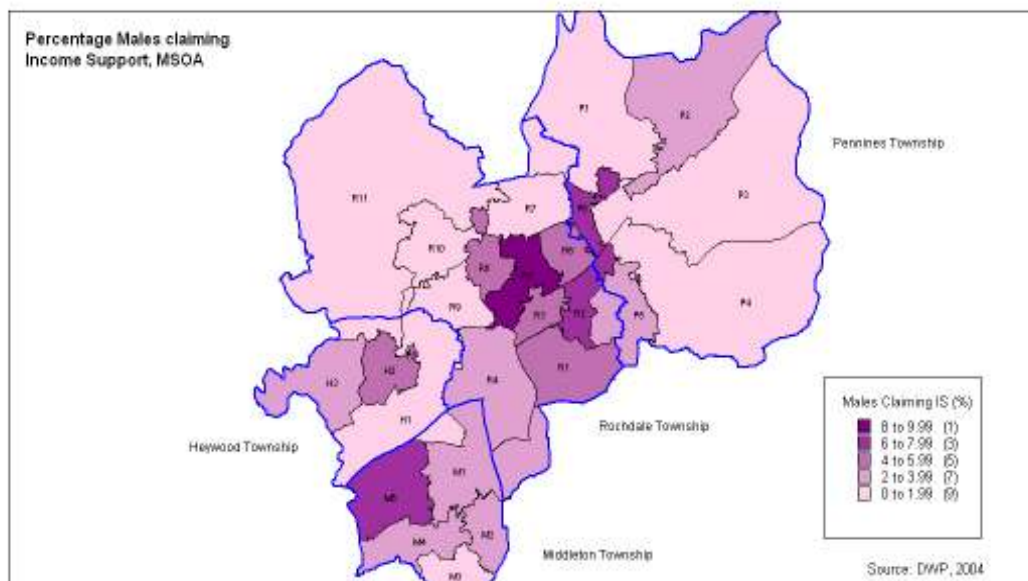
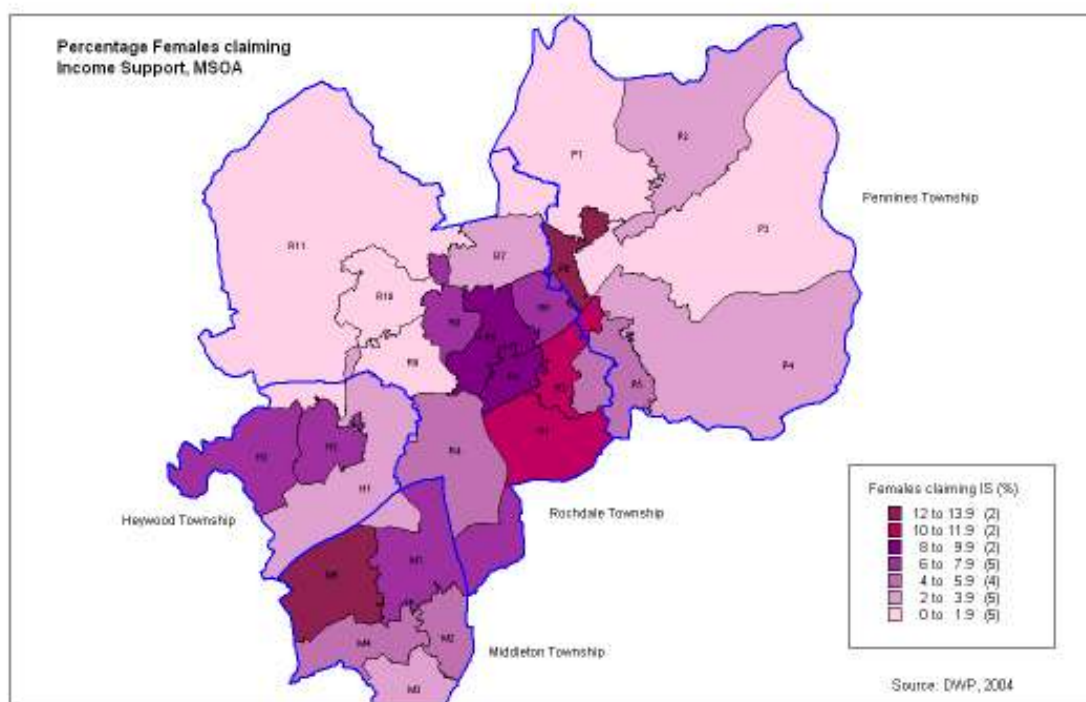


Figure 11



Of the 6 MSOAs in Pennines Township, 4 have the same proportion of male and female claimants. P4 has a higher rate of female than male claimants (2.7% and 1.4% respectively), and in P6 there is a much higher rate of female claimants than males (12.6% and 7.1% respectively), P6 is one of the two MSOAs in Rochdale Borough to have this very high claim rate.

In Middleton Township there is a higher level of female than male claimants in all 5 MSOAs. The greatest difference in claimant rate is evident in M5, with 12.2% of females, compared to 7.2% of males (M5 is the second of the 2 MSOAs with this very high claim rate).

Again, in Heywood Township there is a higher level of female claimants than males in all the MSOAs. The greatest difference in claimants between males and females is in H3, (3.9% of males, 7.6% of females).

More variation in the numbers of IS claimants in both sexes can be seen in Rochdale Township than in the other townships, with higher proportions of claimants in the Inner Rochdale areas and far fewer claimants in the more rural, affluent areas.

The highest percentage of male claimants in the township is 9.9% (R5), with the same level of female claimants in this MSOA. Generally again, claimant rates are greater in the females than the males. 2 MSOAs in Rochdale

Township (R1 & R2) have 11.3% and 10.0% respectively female claimants, compared to 5.6% males in R1 and 6.0% males in R2.

### Type of Income Support Claimant

The vast majority of IS claimants are those people whose earnings are restricted either by the type of work available to them, or by the hours they are available to work. Claimants of IS are assigned to 1 of 3 statistical groups (disabled, lone parent & other), in priority order, so if a claimant is a disabled lone parent they may only appear in the 'disabled' category. Table 3 shows the proportions of IS claimants who are disabled, lone parents and other people who are claiming IS.

Table 3

	<b>Disabled</b>	<b>Lone Parent</b>	<b>Other (inc retired)</b>
<b>Rochdale Borough</b>	54.5%	32.2%	13.3%
<b>North West</b>	54.4%	33.2%	12.4%
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	50.0%	37.6%	12.4%

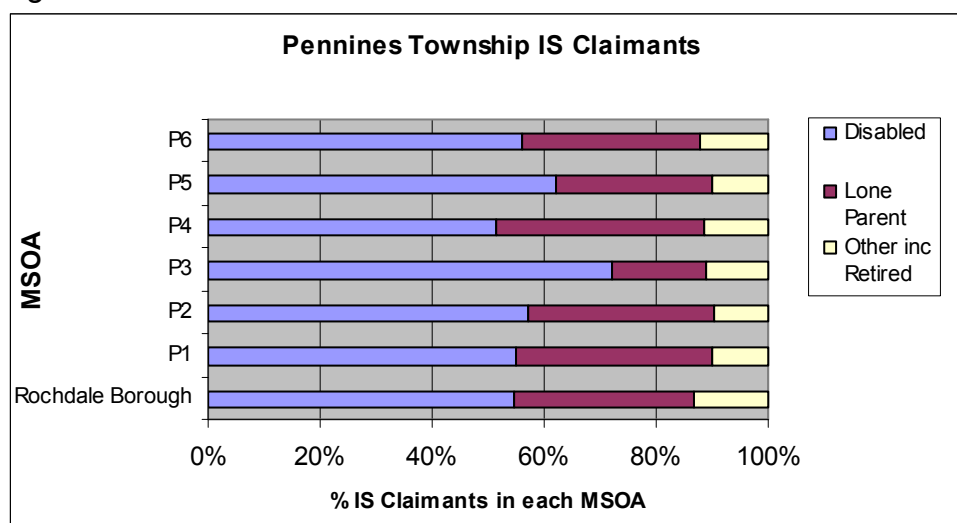
Source: DWP, 2004

Rochdale Borough has about the same proportions of disabled, lone parents and other people claiming IS as the North West. Both the borough and the region have greater proportions of IS claimants who are disabled than the national average, and lower proportions of lone parents and other claimants.

Figures 12, 13, 14 and 15 show the percentage breakdowns of the people who claimed IS in 2004 in each township.

### Pennines Township

Figure 12



Source: DWP, 2004

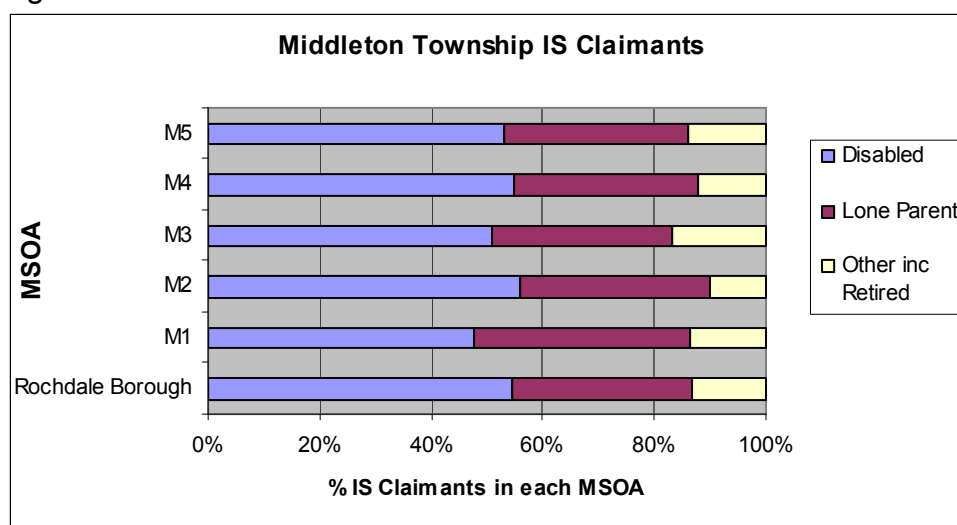
In all the MSOAs in Pennines Township the greatest proportion of IS claimants are disabled. All the MSOAs in the township have a greater proportion of disabled claimants than the borough average, with the exception of P4, which has 51.4% of disabled claimants, compared to 54.5% in the borough.

The greatest proportion of disabled claimants (72.2%) is in P3.

The greatest proportion of lone parents claiming IS are in P4 (37.1%), and the least in P3 (16.7%), which is the lowest lone parent claimant proportion in all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough.

### Middleton Township

Figure 13



Source: DWP, 2004

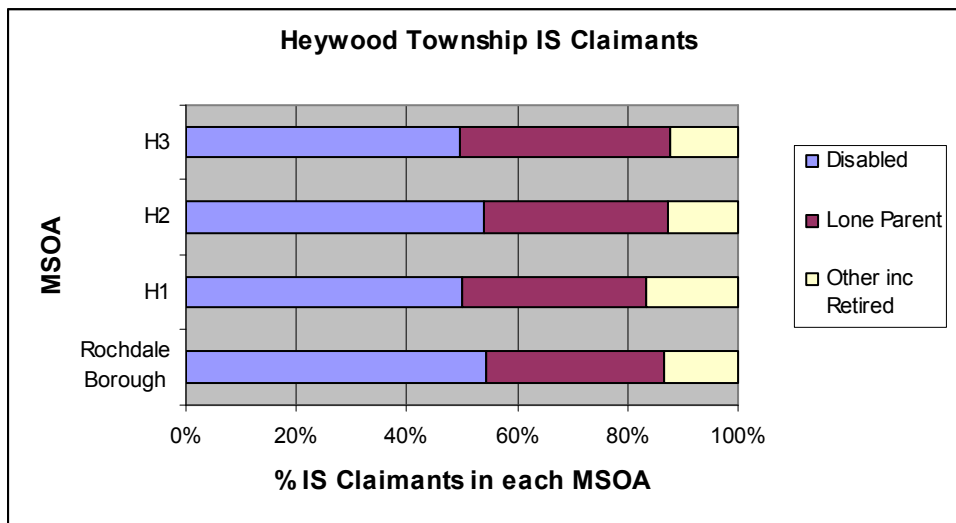
Again, all the MSOAs in Middleton Township have the greatest proportion of claimants who are disabled. All the MSOAs have disabled claimant proportions (ranging from 47.7% to 56.0%) similar to the borough average (54.5%).

The greatest proportion of disabled claimants is in M2 (56.0%) and the least in M1 (47.7%).

A similar proportion of lone parents claiming IS can be seen in all of Middleton's MSOAs. Only M1 has a lone parent claim proportion which is considerably higher than the borough average (38.7% and 32.2% respectively).

Heywood Township

Figure 14



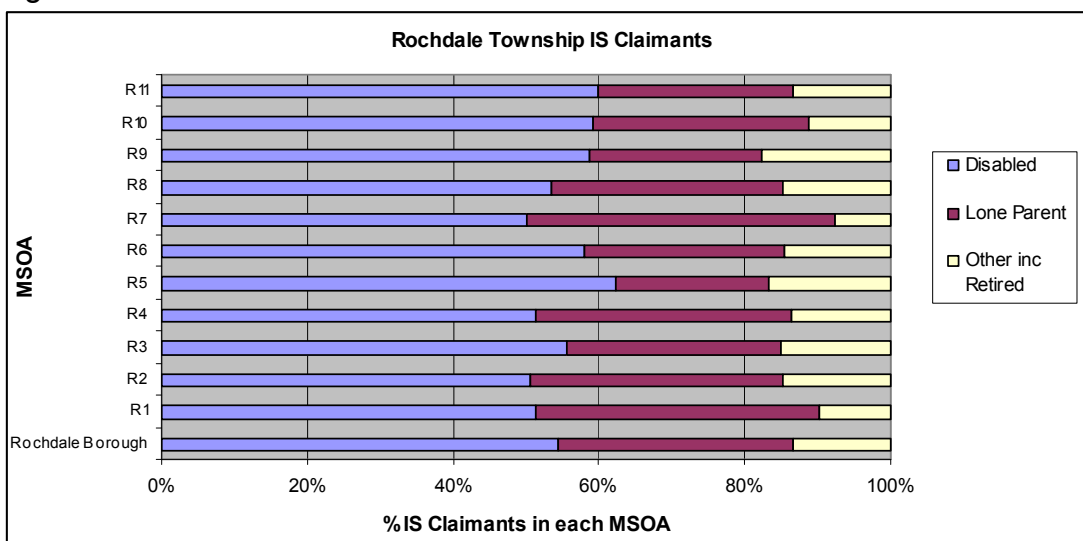
Source: DWP, 2004

Again, the greatest proportion of IS claimants in all the MSOAs are disabled. However, unlike Pennines and Middleton Townships, all 3 of Heywood’s MSOAs have disabled claimant rates lower than the borough average.

Approximately a third of all IS claimants in each of the MSOAs are lone parents (H1, 33.3%, H2, 32.6% and H3 38.3%), and all have a higher lone parent claimant proportion than the borough average (32.2%), albeit very slight in H2.

Rochdale Township

Figure 15



Source: DWP, 2004

The greatest proportion of IS claimants in each MSOA are disabled. Rochdale Township shows more variation around the borough average than the other townships. 6 MSOAs have disabled claimant rates above the borough average (54.5%), with the greatest proportion in R9 (66.7%), which is also the highest proportion in all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough. 5 MSOAs have disabled claimant rates below the borough average, with R7 having the smallest proportion (49.1%), which is also the lowest disabled claimant rate in Rochdale Borough.

Noticeable variation in the proportion of IS claimants who are lone parents exists between the MSOAs in Rochdale Township. 7 MSOAs have lone parent claim rates below the borough average (32.2%), with the lowest rate at 21.0% in R5. 4 MSOAs have lone parent claimant proportions above the borough average, with the highest claimant proportion in R7 (41.5%), this MSOA has the highest proportion of lone parents claiming IS in the whole borough.

### Age Breakdown

Income Support claimants are split into three age groups, under 25, 25-49 and 50 & over. Rochdale Borough average IS claim rates (expressed as a percentage of total population in each age group) in all the age groups are higher than the regional and national figures (see Table 4).

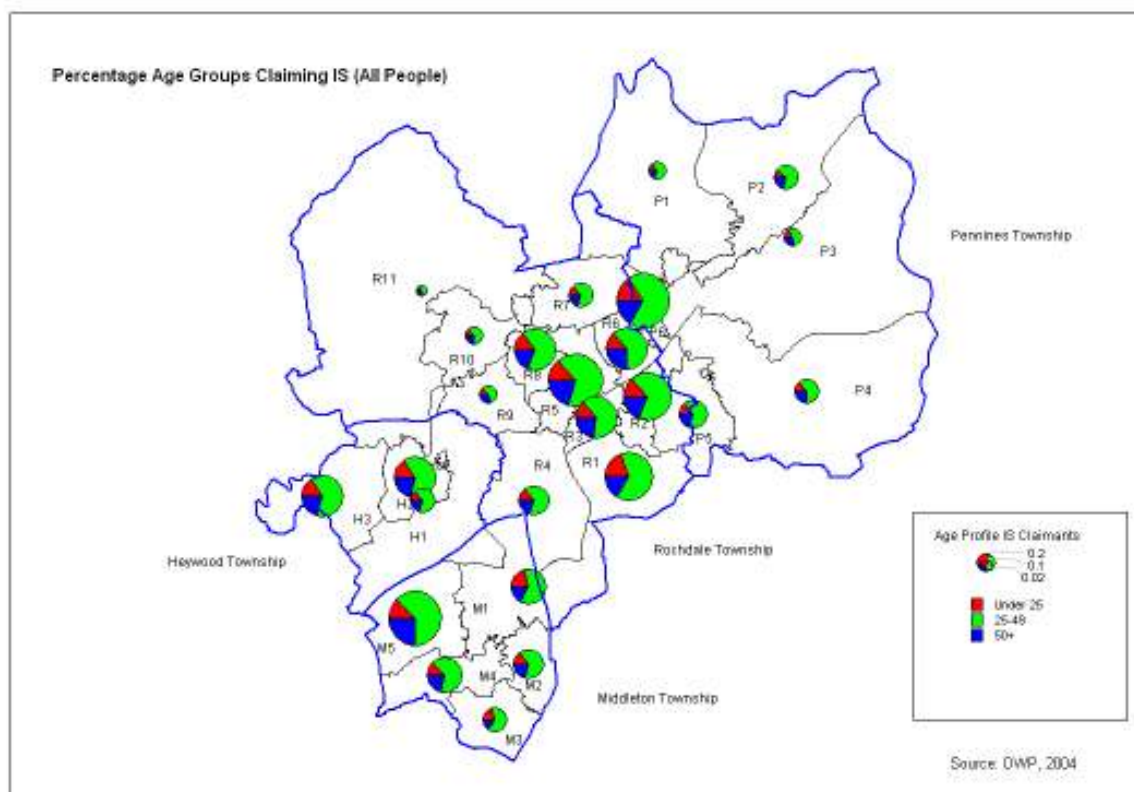
Table 4

	<b>Under 25</b>	<b>25-49</b>	<b>50 &amp; over</b>
<b>Rochdale Borough</b>	7.5%	9.9%	9.4%
<b>North West</b>	6.5%	9.5%	8.9%
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	4.7%	6.9%	6.0%

Source: DWP, 2004

Figure 16 shows the percentages of different age groups of the working age population in each MSOA claiming IS. The size of the pie chart shown on each MSOA is representative of the number of claimants in that area, i.e. the larger the pie chart the greater the percentage of the population in that MSOA claiming IS.

Figure 16



The largest proportion of IS claimants are aged between 25 and 49 in all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough. This is easily explained as the majority of people eligible for IS will be aged between 16 and 59, therefore the vast majority of claimants will fall into the 25-49 age group.

5 of the 6 MSOAs in Pennines Township have relatively few IS claimants. P3 has the smallest proportion (2.3%) of the working age population claiming IS, of which 0.4% are under 25, 1.3% 25-49 and 0.6% over 50. P6 however, has a far greater proportion of the population claiming IS, 19.8%, which is the highest IS claimant rate in all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough, and is made up of 3.0% under 25, 13.4% 25-49 and 3.4% over 50. P6 is also the only MSOA in Pennines Township to have above the borough average proportions of claimants in all age groups.

Middleton Township has 3 of the 5 MSOAs with IS claimant rates higher than the borough average (9.4%), M1 (10.7%), M4 (8.8%) and M5 (19.4%). M5 has the highest claimant rate in the township in all 3 age groups. M3 has the lowest IS claimant rate, with only 4.2% of the population claiming, of which 0.9% are under 25, 2.6% 25-49 and 0.7% over 50.

H2 and H3 both have a greater proportion of the populations claiming IS than the borough average (12.2% and 11.5% respectively), again the largest proportion of claimants are aged 25-49. H1 has a much smaller proportion of

the population claiming IS than H2 and H3 and the borough average, 4.1% of which 0.5% under 25, 2.7% 25-49 and 0.9% over 50.

Rochdale Township has 6 MSOAs with IS claimant rates greater than the borough average. The highest claim rate is 19.4% in R5, of which 2.7% are under 25, 12.5% 25-49 and 4.2% over 50. Very high claim rates are also evident in R1 and R2 (17.0% and 16.0% respectively). The lowest IS claimant rate in Rochdale Township is 1.8% in R11, with only 0.3% under 25, 1.0% 25-49 and 0.5% over 50. R11 has the lowest claimant rate of all the MSOAs in Rochdale Borough, in all 3 age groups.

## **Conclusions**

- Unemployment rates, as measured by Job Seekers Allowance claims have seen steady decline since 1999, but have remained above regional and national average levels throughout this time.
- Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance claim rates are higher in Rochdale Borough than in the North West and England and Wales.
- High concentrations of IB & SDA claimants in some of the MSOAs, notably in some of the inner Rochdale MSOAs and P6 (Smallbridge & Firgrove area) and M5 (West Middleton). R5, has the highest IB & SDA claim rate in the borough and has twice as many male claimants as females.
- A greater proportion of Rochdale Borough's population claim IB & SDA than nationally in all 5 age groups.
- In all the areas of the borough the greatest proportion of IB & SDA claimants were aged 50-59.
- In some of the MSOAs with high IB & SDA claimants, a significant proportion of the claimants are under 40.
- Adding together JSA, IB & SDA claim rates provides a proxy measure for employment deprivation. Employment deprivation levels are higher in Rochdale Borough than that of the North West and England and Wales.
- Employment deprivation is concentrated in certain areas of the borough. Large proportions of the working age population in Smallbridge & Firgrove ward have high concentrations of employment deprivation.
- There are high levels of employment deprivation in areas of West and North Heywood and West Middleton wards.
- Severe pockets of employment deprivation exist in Rochdale Township. Three-fifths of the working age population in one super output area in

Milkstone & Deeplish ward are claiming these benefits. A further 4 super output areas in the inner Rochdale area have employment deprivation rates between 33% and 40%.

- 21 of the 22 NRS neighbourhoods have employment deprivation rates above the borough average.
- A greater proportion of Rochdale Borough's working age population claims Income Support than in the North West and England and Wales.
- Concentrations of IS claimants exist within the borough, again in the Inner Rochdale area, Smallbridge & Firgrove and West Middleton. Generally, a greater proportion of claimants in these areas are female than male.
- Just over half of IS claimants in Rochdale Borough are disabled and about a third are lone parents. The proportions of claimants who are disabled, lone parents and other (includes retired), are about the same in Rochdale Borough as the North West, but both have a greater proportion of disabled and a lesser proportion of lone parents claiming IS than the England and Wales average.
- Rochdale Borough has a greater proportion of the working age population claiming IS in all the age groups than the North West and England and Wales. The highest IS claimant rate in Rochdale Borough is 19.4% in R5. Given that the recipients of IS will be aged between 16 and 59, again it is important to consider the economic implications of such large proportions of the working age population being on income support, and not available or able to access higher paid employment.

**Reference:**

1. *Pathways to Work: Helping people into employment:* Department for Work and Pensions CM 5690 (November 2002)

July 2005  
Research & Information  
Rochdale MBC  
01706 864303  
research@rochdale.gov.uk