

Poverty in Tonga: Key Results from HIES 2015/16

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- What is essential in Tonga today?
- Consensus: What everyone should have
- Poverty and deprivation in Tonga
 - Child poverty
 - Poverty dynamics

What is essential in Tonga today? (Adults, HH)

Item	% Yes Essential
ADULT ITEMS	
A good meal with meat or fish on Sundays and special occasions	98
Two pairs of properly fitting shoes	97
Small amount of money for self weekly	96
Clothes for special occasions	96
Presents once a year	96
Money for hospital visits to friends and family	96
Fruit and vegetables daily	96
Replace worn-out clothes	95
Access to safe public transport	95
Get together monthly	94
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	
All prescribed medicine when someone is sick	97
Regular savings for emergencies	95
Own means of transportation	95
Repair electrical goods	94
Replace worn-out furniture	92

What is essential in Tonga today? (Children)

CHILD ITEMS (0-15)	
Properly fitting shoes	98
Three meals a day	98
Meat or fish daily	98
Some new, not second-hand clothes.	97
School equipment (uniform, books, pen)	97
A suitable space for homework	97
Beds and bedding for every child	97
Celebrations on special occasions	96
Fruit and vegetables daily	96
School trips and events that cost money	95
Books suitable for their age	94
Tutorial lessons once a week	93
Leisure equipment (Eg, sports equipment or a bicycle)	93

Consensus: what all adults should have

		Meat or fish once a week	Two pairs of shoes	Presents once a year	Money for self weekly	Fruit and veg daily	Access to transport	Replace worn-out clothes	Get together monthly
Gender									
	Man	99	97	96	96	96	96	95	94
	Woman	98	97	95	95	96	95	95	94
Highest qualification respondent									
	No qualification	98	96	95	94	95	95	94	93
	Secondary School	99	98	96	97	98	96	96	95
	Certificate diploma	99	97	97	97	95	96	95	94
	First degree, BA or higher	100	99	100	100	100	99	97	100
Age group									
	Adult	99	97	96	96	96	96	95	94
	Old (60+)	97	96	95	95	96	94	93	94
Number of children									
	0	97	97	96	96	96	95	94	96
	1	98	95	96	94	96	96	94	94
	2	99	97	96	96	96	96	95	95
	3	99	97	94	96	95	94	94	93
	4	99	98	96	96	96	96	95	94
	5	97	97	95	95	96	95	95	95

Consensus: what all household should have

Items identified as essential (% group). Household items						
Gender		Prescribed medicine	Regular savings for emergencies	Own transport	Repair electrical goods	Replace worn-out furniture
	Man	97	95	95	94	93
	Woman	97	95	95	94	92
Highest qualification respondent						
	No qualification	96	95	95	94	91
	Secondary School	98	96	96	96	95
	Certificate diploma	98	96	96	96	95
	First degree, BA or higher	100	99	97	99	96
Age group						
	Adult	97	95	95	94	93
	Old (60+)	96	95	93	95	94
Number of children						
	0	96	94	94	95	95
	1	96	95	95	91	94
	2	97	95	95	96	94
	3	96	94	94	93	92
	4	97	97	95	96	93
	5	97	94	95	93	91

Consensus: what all children should have

Items identified as essential (% group). Child items								
Gender		Shoes	Meat or fish daily	Beds	Homework space	Celebrations	Leisure	Fruit and vegetables
	Man	99	99	97	98	97	94	94
	Woman	98	98	97	97	97	94	94
Highest qualification respondent								
	No qualification	98	98	97	97	97	94	93
	Secondary School	99	99	98	98	97	96	96
	Certificate diploma	99	99	98	98	96	95	95
	First degree, BA or higher	100	100	100	100	97	97	98
Age group								
	Child(<18)	98	98	97	97	97	94	93
	Adult	98	98	97	97	97	94	94
	Old (60+)	99	98	98	97	96	96	95
Number of children								
	0	98	98	97	97	97	96	96
	1	97	98	97	96	95	95	95
	2	98	98	97	97	97	94	94
	3	98	98	97	97	96	91	92
	4	98	98	98	97	96	94	94
	5	98	99	96	98	96	93	93

What do we know about poverty in Tonga?

Progress in child deprivation

Child Deprivation in Tonga 2012/2016

	2016	2012	Change
Replace worn-out furniture	36	44	-8
Own means of transportation	33	33	0
Repair electrical goods	31	43	-12
Regular savings for emergencies	29	32	-3
Leisure equipment (e.g. sports equipment)	23	24	-1
Tutorial lessons once a week	22		
Books suitable for their age	22		
All prescribed medicine when someone is sick	15	24	-9
Fruit and vegetables daily	13		
Celebrations on special occasions	13	17	-4
NewClothes_Ch	11	15	-4
School trips and events that cost money	10	11	-1
A suitable space for homework	9	10	-1
Beds and bedding for every child	9	11	-2
Three meals a day	8	8	0
Meat or fish daily	5	8	-3
School equipment (uniform, books, pen)	4	6	-2
Properly fitting shoes	3	12	-9

Progress in child deprivation

- Also a slight reduction in the number of children experiencing 5+ deprivation
 - 2012: 29%
 - 2016: 25%
- Qualitative data would allow a better understanding of change
 - Why did things get better?
 - What changes are families experiencing?
 - Which resources can they access?

Expanding the analysis

- In 2012 we did not have income information
- Now we do!
- Income information gives a more nuanced understanding of poverty
- And its dynamics

		Low Income	
		Y	N
Deprived	Y	Poor	Vulnerable deprivation
	N	Vulnerable income	Not poor

Key poverty estimates

Poverty rates by age group, HIES 2015/16

	Population	Adults	Children
Poor	27	22	36
Vulnerable deprivation	12	12	14
Vulnerable income	21	23	18
Not poor	39	44	33

Child poverty estimates by individual and household characteristics

	Poor	Vulnerable deprivation	Vulnerable income	Not poor	Total
Gender					
Male	35	14	18	34	100
Female	36	14	18	32	100
Highest qualification household head					
No qualification	42	15	18	25	100
Secondary School	35	13	20	32	100
Certificate diploma	13	8	17	61	100
First degree, BA or higher	5	21	11	63	100
Gender of the household head					
Male	35	13	19	32	100
Female	36	16	15	33	100
Number of children					
1	29	12	22	37	100
2	32	13	19	36	100
3	34	13	20	32	100
4	37	15	17	31	100
5	39	12	18	30	100
6+	37	16	15	32	100
Number of adults					
1	40	0	26	34	100
2	42	10	19	29	100
3	37	11	22	30	100
4	33	9	19	38	100
5	34	21	16	29	100
6+	28	26	11	35	100

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