

Table ID: PLAW_IW

Contents:	Inter-war poor law statistics, at union or LGD level.
Approx. number of rows:	8,418
Documentation Author:	Humphrey Southall
Geography:	Reporting units are identified by: Administrative County
Chronology:	The data cover the period 1920 to 1939.
Dates and times are identified by:	Month, Year

Sources:

1. All data held here are drawn from a series of annual reports published by the Ministry of Health and titled *Persons in receipt of poor relief (England and Wales)*. The full title of the 1931 report adds: 'Return to an order of the Honourable the House of Commons, dated 27th July, 1931; -- for "Return showing the number of persons in receipt of poor relief in England and Wales on the night of the 1st day of January, 1931 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper no. 146 of session 1929-30)'. table 26, "Statement of the Number of Persons in Receipt of Poor Relief in England and Wales on the 1st of January 1931 (excluding rate-aided patients in mental hospitals)". These were accessed via the ProQuest online system.
2. All data held here are for 1st of January in each year. The indexes to Parliamentary Papers refer to equivalent figures for July, but these were not listed in the contents pages for the relevant volumes.
3. These data were input at Queen Mary and Westfield College c. 1990, but have been extensively checked in 2017, when this documentation was completely rewritten.

Notes:

1. Although all data come from the same publication, the reporting geography is markedly different for three blocks of years:
 - **1920 and 1921:** For these years, the reports had a different structure, so a fuller transcription is held in the table `plaw_1920_21` and relevant data then imported into this. The `out_tot` figures were computed from the broken-down figures in that table. Data are not listed for every union, and some of the rows are for Districts within London (`area_type = 'D'`), Incorporations ('I'), 'Other' ('O', meaning all other Unions within a County), 'Parishes' ('P') and 'Townships' ('T'), 'Nations' ('N'), as well as 'Unions' ('U'). Except for national overall totals these other kinds of area have not been matched to the AUO, and the data for these years should be treated with caution.
 - **1922 to 1930:** For these years, the table holds data for all individual Poor Law Unions (`area_type = 'U'`) in England and Wales. All units have been matched to the AUO except for two units within the County of London labelled as "Casual Wards" and "Ex-Casuals".

- **1931 onwards:** The system of Unions was abolished in 1930, and from then on the reports list data for each Administrative County (area_type = 'C') and for each County Borough (area_type = 'CB'). These have all been matched to the AUO, but NB this means we have assigned IDs for Administrative Counties which usually refer to areas including associated County Boroughs but here clearly exclude them.
2. In all reports from 1920 to 1939, the counties listed in these reports are Administrative Counties, in the sense that the Parts of Lincolnshire, the Isle of Ely and the Soke of Peterborough all appear; and these are the units we identify in the adm_cnty_unit column. However, it is clear that the Union boundaries were not aligned to local government district boundaries: the 1930 report states "The counties mentioned in col. I are "Union counties", the boundaries of which follow the boundaries of poor-law unions and are in many cases not coterminous with the boundaries of either administrative or geographical counties."
 3. All rows in this table have adm_cnty_unit set, whether or not g_unit could be set. For 1931 onwards, the County Boroughs are listed in a block after the Administrative Counties, so the county names have been added by us to match the structure of the AUO, which essentially follows the reports of the Census of Population in "associating" County Boroughs with counties. The assignment of Bristol, Brighton and York is particularly arbitrary. The original documentation for this table stated "Consistent county series can be computed by aggregating using the county field", but this should be treated with caution for 1920-21.
 4. No figures for area populations are given in the tables. Rates per 10,000 population are included in the reports, and have been used with the reported total number of paupers to estimate the values in e_pop.

Checking:

1. As the data were being input, a check sum was calculated as:
 - in_tot + o_other + o_unem_m + o_unem_w + o_unem_c + casuals
 Where this differed from the overall total, the data were further checked. Five errors were found in the originals. These remain in the data, so the table is an accurate transcription. The best correction would probably be to recalculate the totals using the available components. The figures for o_unem_t and out_tot were generally computed rather than independently input, but where lines contained errors these values were set to the figure appearing in the source.
2. For the pre-1930 reports, the Union reference numbers were checked to ensure that no rows were missing.

Indices:

Index	Type	Column(s) indexed
plaw_iw_idx_name	Unique	area_name, adm_cnty, area_type, year
plaw_iw_idx_unit	Unique	adm_cnty_unit, g_unit, year, rec_num

Columns within table:

Column	Type	Contents
year	Integer number.	Year to which data refer
month	Integer number.	Month to which data refer (January only).
ref_no	Text string (max.len.=10).	Code identifying geographical unit within the individual report. These numbers were transcribed from the pre-1930 reports and generated as a sequence number for subsequent ones.
area_name	Text string (max.len.=84).	Name of the unit to which the data refer. Up to 1930, this will usually be the name of a Union, although see note above. From 1931 onwards, this will be the name of an Administrative County or County Borough.
area_type	Text string (max.len.=6).	Type of geographical unit. Up to 1930, all data are for unions ('U'); from 1930, data refer to County Boroughs ('CB') or the remainder of the Administrative Counties ('AC') in question. For 1920 and 1921, 'type' codes from plaw_20 also appear.
adm_cnty	Text string (max.len.=64).	Name of the Administrative County to which the data refer. NB these are always Admin. Counties, such as the three Parts of Lincolnshire, even when the reporting areas are Unions.
out_relief	Text string (max.len.=6).	Flag: 'Y' if area_name ends in '(OUT RELIEF)' and null otherwise
g_unit	Integer number.	Unit ID for the Poor Law Union or Local Government District, as defined in the AUO. NB in the post-1931 period these include IDs which usually refer to Administrative Counties including associated County Boroughs, but here exclude them.
adm_cnty_unit	Integer number.	Unit ID for the Administrative County containing the reporting district, as defined in the AUO.
in_tot	Integer number.	Total in receipt of institutional relief.
o_other	Integer number.	Total on domiciliary relief 'otherwise than on account of unemployment'.
o_unem_m	Integer number.	Men on domiciliary relief 'on account of unemployment'.
o_unem_w	Integer number.	Women on domiciliary relief 'on account of unemployment'.
o_unem_c	Integer number.	Children on domiciliary relief 'on account of unemployment'.
o_unem_t	Integer number.	Total on domiciliary relief 'on account of unemployment'
out_tot	Integer number.	Total in receipt of domiciliary relief.
casuals	Integer number.	Those receiving 'casual' relief.

total	Integer number.	Total in receipt of relief.
pc_unem	float8	Percentage in receipt of domiciliary relief on account of unemployment, excluding casuals (restated as a percentage, but given in original as an integer number per 10,000 population.).
pc_tot	float8	Overall percentage in receipt of relief, including casuals (restated as a percentage, but given in original as an integer number per 10,000 population.).
e_pop	float8	Estimated population: calculated as $(total * 100) / pc_tot$.
rec_num	Integer number.	Sequence number added on loading the data, keeping rows in order.

Additional Notes:

This transcription is complete for indices of unemployment, but the original tables also included the following columns:

- Within the total for those in institutions:
 - Those suffering from sickness, accident or bodily infirmity.
 - Suffering from mental infirmity:
 - Certified under Lunacy and other Acts.
 - Not so certified.
 - Not suffering from sickness, accident or bodily or mental infirmity:
 - Children in specialised institutions.
 - Other persons.
- Within the total for domiciliary relief 'otherwise than on account of unemployment':
 - Those suffering from sickness, accident or bodily infirmity:
 - Widows and wives living apart.
 - Other persons.
 - Suffering from mental infirmity.
 - Those not suffering from sickness, accident or bodily or mental infirmity:
 - Widows and wives living apart.
 - Children of [Widows and wives living apart].
 - Other persons.