Truth and Lies about Poverty: Infographics

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#2 They are addicted to drink and drugs

Only 4% of people claiming out of work disability payments do so because of alcohol or drugs. And only 1.7% of all benefits claimants do so.
DLA claimants - main disabling condition (Can be in work)

Mental/neurological

Bones, joints and muscles

Other Physical Illness/Disability

More people are claiming disability living allowance because they are terminally ill, than because of drink or drugs.
Annual housing benefit payment bands

The vast majority of housing benefits payments are less than £6,000 a year. Payments of more than £500 a week are so rare we couldn’t make them show up on this graphic.
#5 'They' have an easy life on benefits

Only 3% of families receive more than £10,000 a year in housing benefit.
'It pays to be out of work and have more kids'

8% of families claiming benefits have 3 or more children, about the same as a population as a whole.
Life expectancy (Scottish males)

Rather than being a soft option, being poor is a short cut to health issues and early death.
Who receives benefits money?

The biggest slice of the benefits budget goes to pensioners.
Benefit fraud is 0.9% of payments, or about £1.9 billion. Tax avoidance is about 6% of revenues due, or about £30 billion.
Who had a drink last week? (%)

People out of work drink less than those in work. Please note this for the next time you discuss benefits in the pub.
In reality, welfare spending has risen less than overall government spending over the last two decades.
The poor are more likely to be in work or pensioners, rather than the image of being on the dole.
Benefit fraud

Benefit fraud is 0.9% of payments

Only 0.9% of benefit payments are fraudulent; about a quarter of press coverage of welfare refers to fraud.
0.04% of families receive more than £30,000 a year in housing benefit. There are 5,000,000 housing benefit claimants. Of these, at least 20% are in work.