

Lone parents under pressure - Summary of trends

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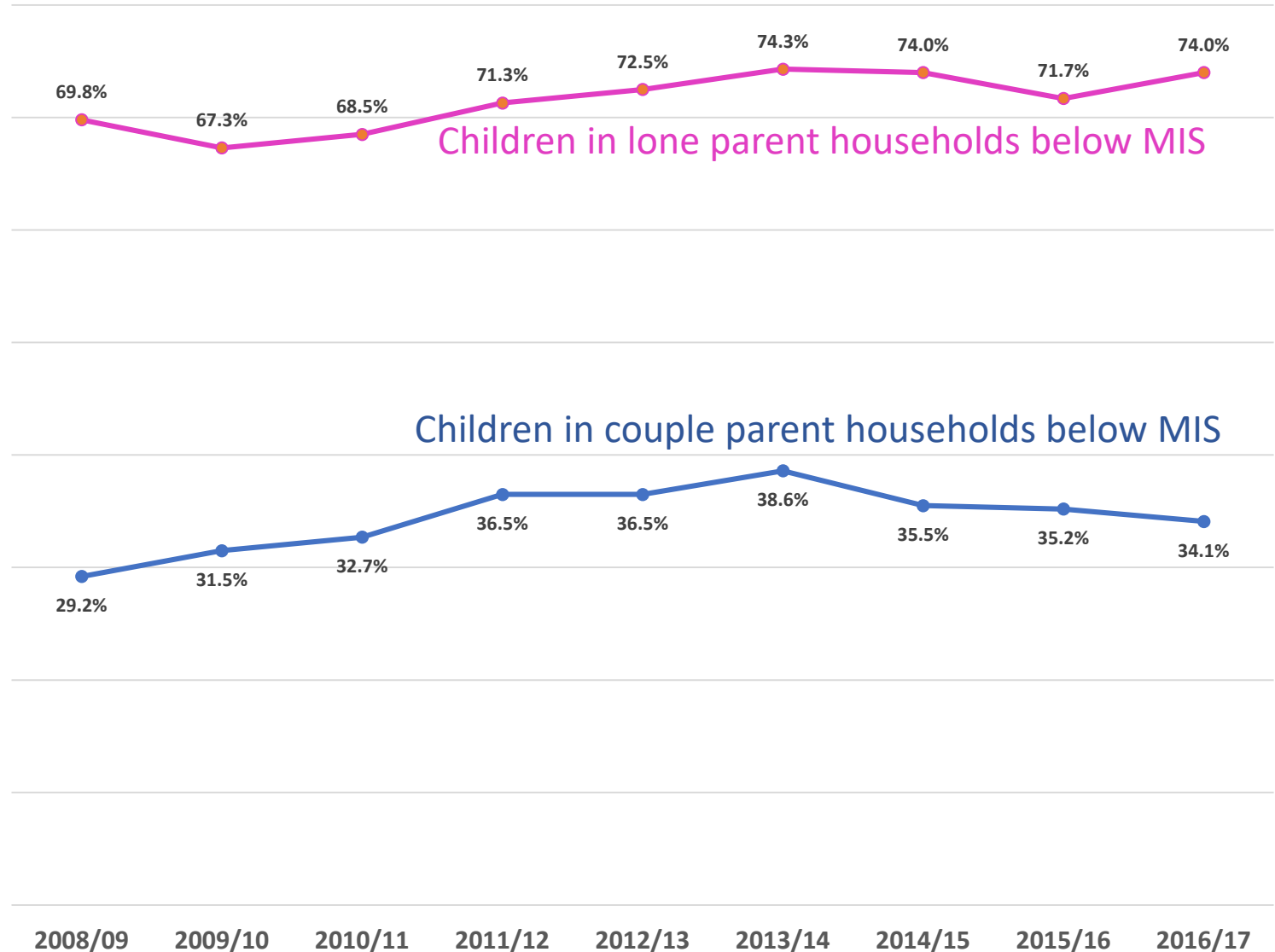
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1. Three in four children of lone parents are in households with less income than they need as a minimum

The percentage of **children in lone parent households below the Minimum Income Standard (MIS)*** rose from two thirds to three-quarters between 2009 and 2013, and remains close to its peak...

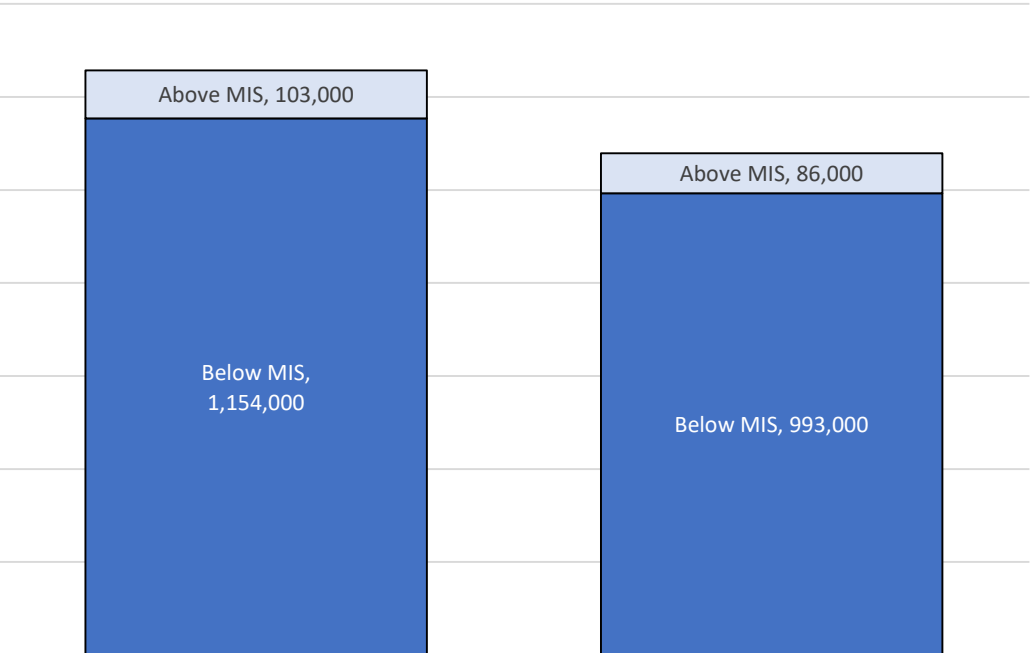
The percentage of **children in couple parent households below MIS** also rose after the financial crash, but a fall since 2013 has reversed half of this increase.

*The **Minimum Income Standard** is how much income households require in order to buy the things that members of the public say they need as a minimum, to meet material needs and participate in society



2. More lone parents are working, but this has not stopped the increase in the number below the Minimum Income Standard

There are 180,000 fewer **children with non-working lone parents** than in 2008...

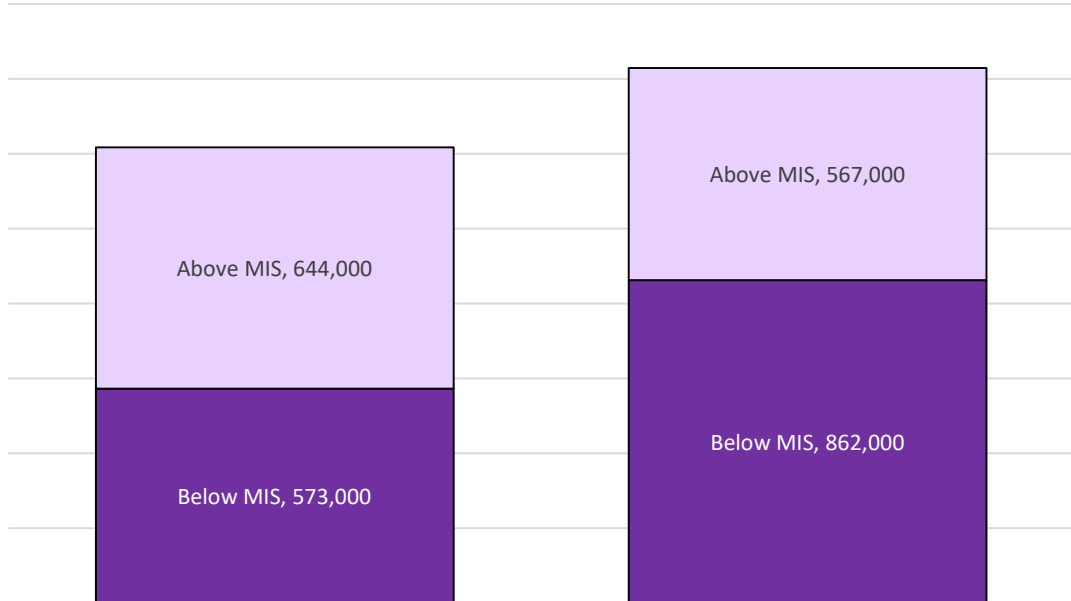


2008/09

2016/17

Parent does not work

...and the majority of children with lone parents are now **in working families**, but 60% of these are below MIS



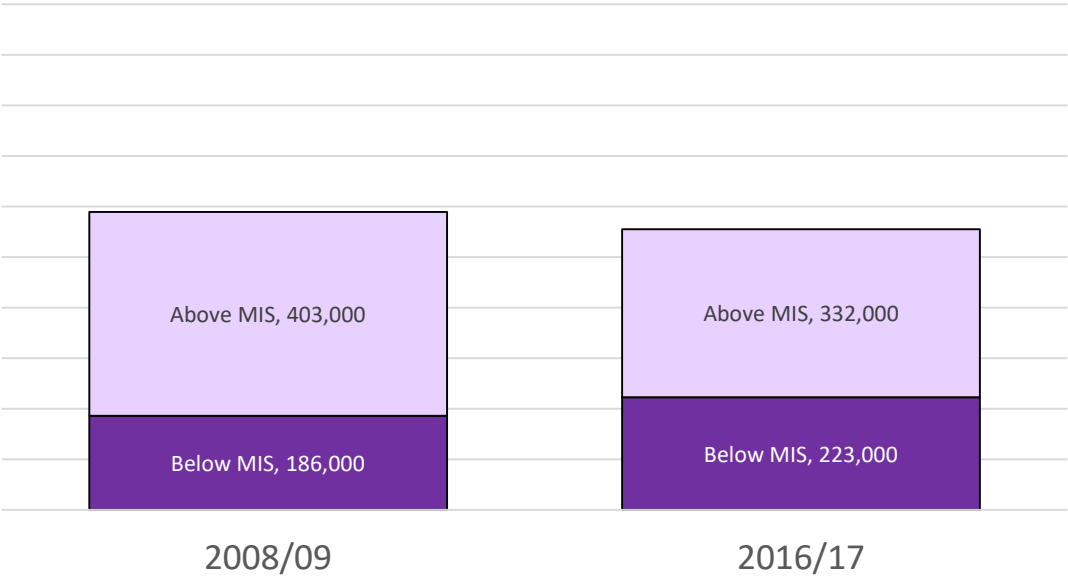
2008/09

2016/17

Parent works

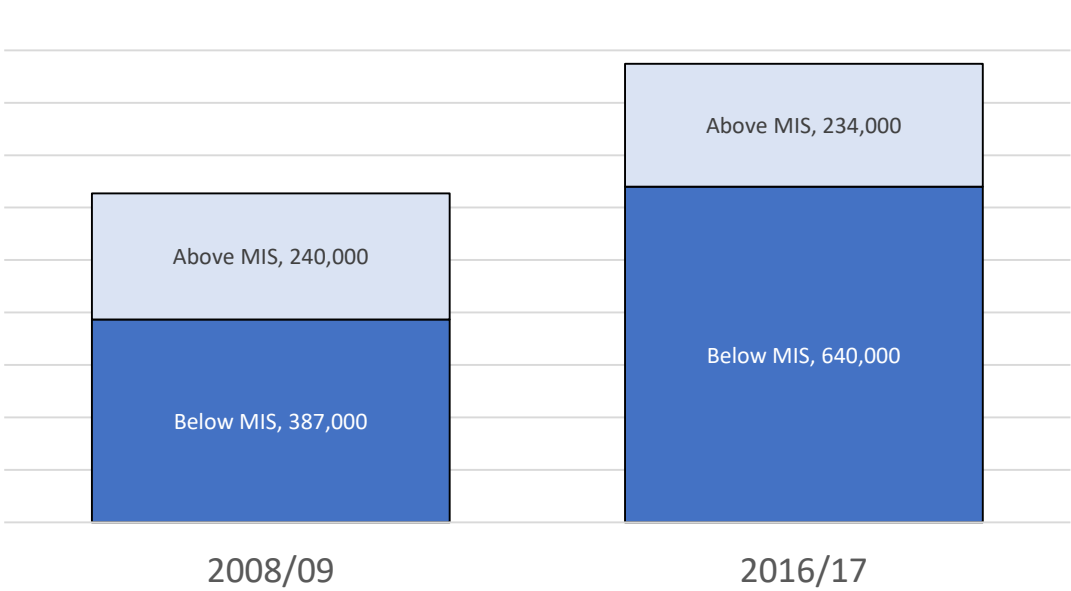
3. Lone parent employment growth has been in part-time work, with a high and rising chance of producing income below MIS

There are 40,000 fewer **children with lone parents in full-time work**, but 40,000 more of them who are nevertheless below MIS



Parent works full time

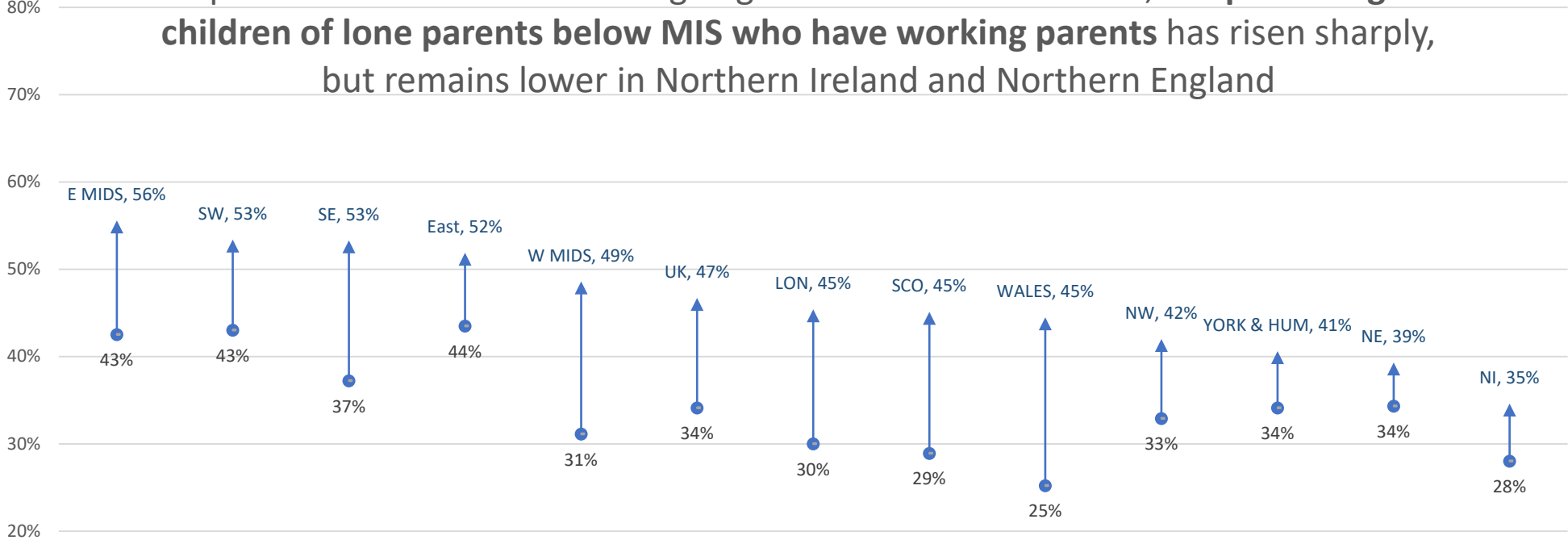
There are 250,000 more **children with lone parents in part-time work or self-employed**, and the proportion below MIS has risen from 62% to 73%



Parent works part time or is self-employed

4. In some regions, the majority of children with lone parents below MIS are now in working families

Despite out of work families being at greater risk of low income, the **percentage of children of lone parents below MIS who have working parents** has risen sharply, but remains lower in Northern Ireland and Northern England



Key: 2009 ● 2015 ▲

Based on three-year averages: 2008/09-2010/11 ("2009") and 2014/15-2016/17 ("2015")

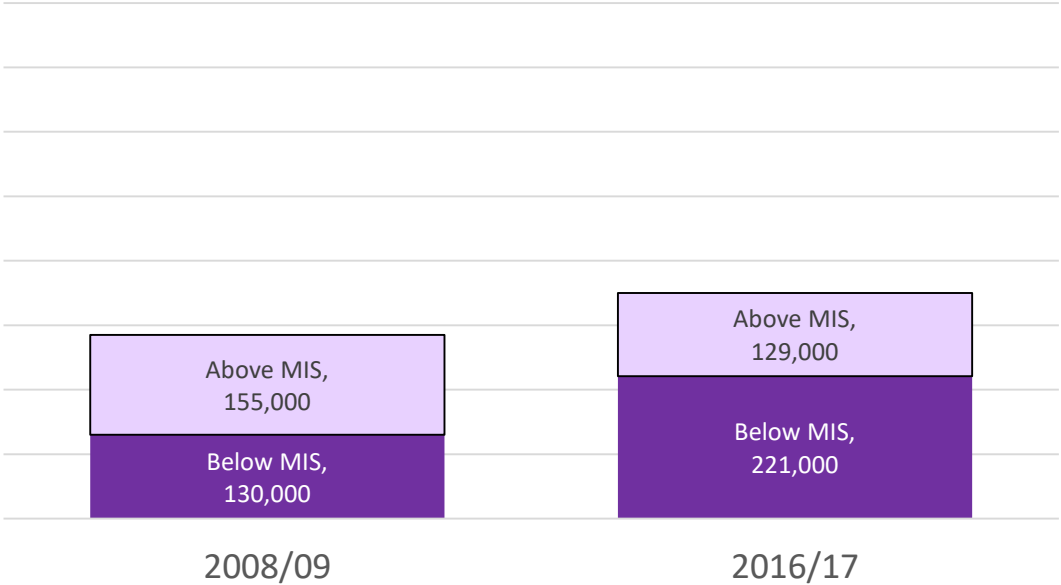
5. Most lone parent families with young children remain out of work, and most of those who work remain below MIS

There are 70,000 fewer **children with non-working lone parents**, in families with children under 5, than in 2008...



Parent with child under 5 does not work

...but among lone parent families with children under 5, those with **working parents** remain the minority, and only a third of these have incomes above MIS

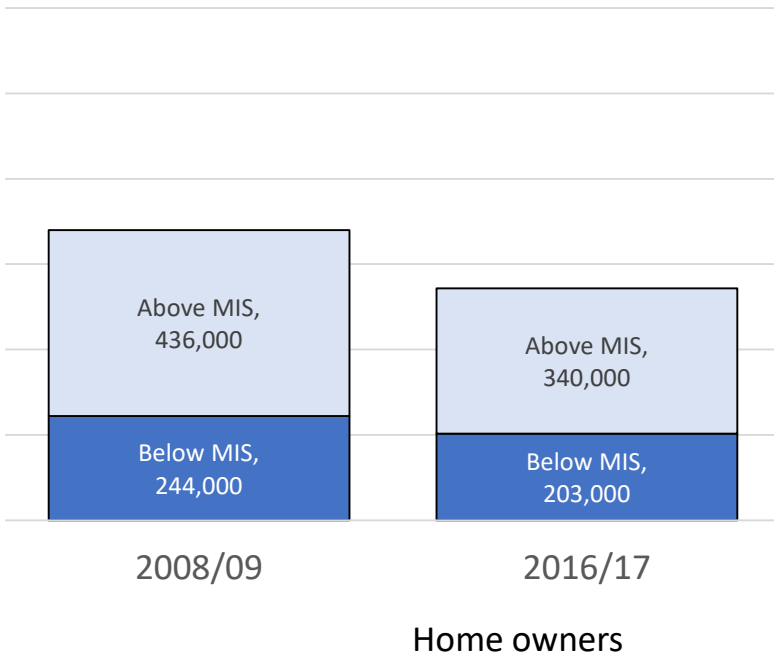


Parent with child under 5 works

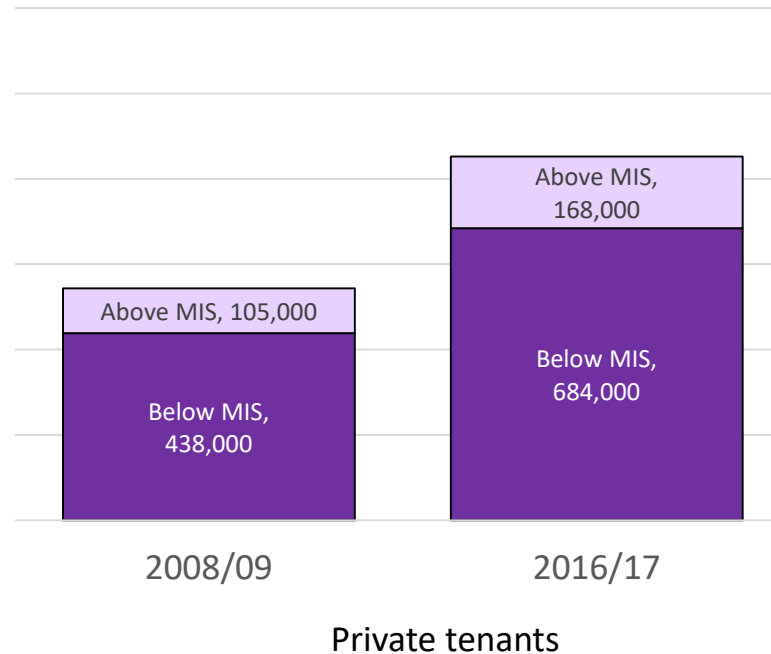
*Relatively low employment rates and low income in work combine to leave **82%** of children in lone parent families with young children below the Minimum Income Standard*

6. Nearly 60% more children of lone parents than in 2008 live in private rented housing and have inadequate incomes

Most children of lone parents who own their homes are above MIS, but their numbers are falling



The proportion in private rented accommodation has risen to one in three, and 80% of these are below MIS



Fewer children with lone parents than before are in social housing; nearly 90% of them are below MIS



7. If three forthcoming cuts* were now in place, six in ten children of lone parents would fall at least 25% short of the minimum

* Benefits freeze; ending family element of tax credits; restricting tax credits to two children

Under the projected cuts, there would be an even higher **proportion of children of lone parents below MIS...**

... but the biggest effect would be to raise the **proportion of children of lone parents at least 25% below MIS** from under half to six in ten, and to three quarters in larger families.

