**More than two-thirds of the children living in poverty in the UK are in families where at least one parent is working, according to official figures.**

**Thought for the Week:**

**23rd April 2018**

This is more than ever before in statistics going back 20 years - up from 43% in 1996-97 to the current 67%.

There are now four million children in poverty, the highest since the 2008 financial crash.

The Child Poverty Action Group said it showed families were "stuck on low pay while living costs rise".

The figures on low-income households show that in-work poverty has become the most common form of child poverty.

**'Burning injustice'**

The Child Poverty Action Group, highlighting the prime minister's pledge to support "just about managing" families, said the government needed to act urgently to tackle the "burning injustice" of child poverty.

And the Children's Society described the figures as "truly shocking".

But the Department for Work and Pensions said that work still paid - and that children were five times more likely to be in a low income family if they lived in a workless household, rather than a "household where all adults work".

The figures show that the biggest increases in earnings have been among the highest earners - and the lowest increases have been among low earners.

This has helped to push up the overall average household income to a record level of £481 per week.

But the study defines "relative low income" as earning less than 60% of the most typical median income, which for a combined household income stands at below £25,100 per year.

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Among couples with children in poverty, the proportion without one of these parents working is only 13%.

But for children in poverty living in a lone parent family, only 12% of parents are in either full-time or part-time work.

The figures also consider poverty in terms of "material deprivation" for children - measuring access to a list of goods and services - and this has remained broadly similar over the past five years.

"There are now more people in poverty in the UK than there have been for almost 20 years and a million more than at the beginning of the decade," he said.

Why does the writer use statistics (numbers) in this article?