

Income deprivation and place of death among people aged 60 and over in the South West

M McKelvey, S Norkett, R Mulliss, A Pring, C Ohaeri, L Rolfe, & P Brown

Local Knowledge and Intelligence Service (South West), Public Health England

INTRODUCTION

The South West has the highest proportion of residents aged 60 years and over in England¹. It is a favorable destination for people to move to from other areas of the UK, in particular for retirement². In mid-2014, **1,474,838** (27.2%) South West residents were aged 60 and over, compared to 24.7% in the North East, the region with the second highest proportion¹.

The national End of Life Care Strategy (2008)³ states that people approaching the end of life should have equal access to services, and their final wishes respected. However, evidence suggests that people living in the most deprived areas are more likely to die in hospital than those living in the least deprived⁴. Reducing deprivation inequalities is an important step towards the improvement of end of life care, especially among people aged 60 and over given the context of an aging population.

This poster presents the number and geographical distribution of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation in the South West. It also explores the relationship between income deprivation and place of death for South West residents.

METHODS

The Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI), is supplemented to the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. Calculation of IDAOPI incorporates the percentage of the population aged 60 and over who receive income support, income-based jobseekers allowance or income based employment and support allowance or pension credit.

IDAOPI is produced at lower super output area (LSOA) level. Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2014 mid-year population estimates were applied to IDAOPI to calculate the proportion of people aged 60 years and over living in income deprivation. LSOA figures were then aggregated to local authority, region and national level using ONS Geography lookup tables. 95% confidence intervals were calculated using the Wilson Score Method. These confidence intervals were then compared to the England point value to assess significance.

Numbers of deaths, by place of death, at LSOA level were obtained from the ONS mortality file.

ArcGIS mapping software was used to visualise the proportion of people aged 60 and over living in deprivation at LSOA level, compared to the England value.

Figure 1. Proportion of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation, by government office region, England, 2014

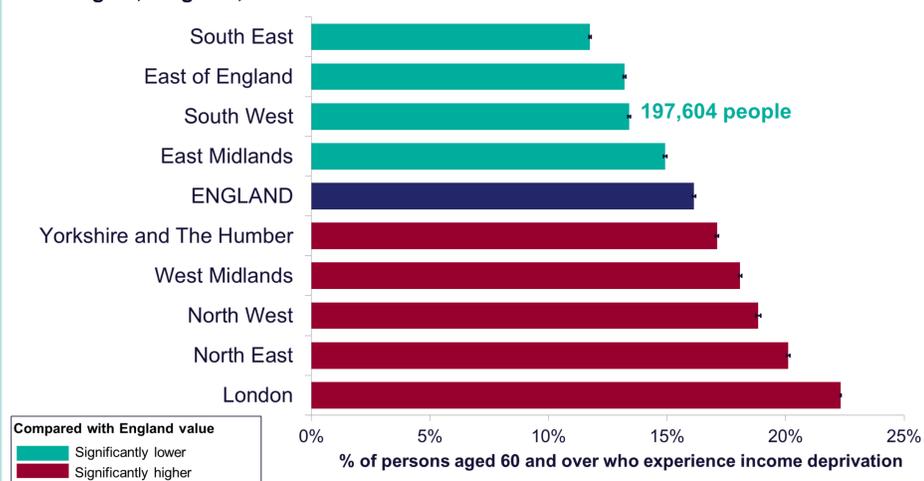
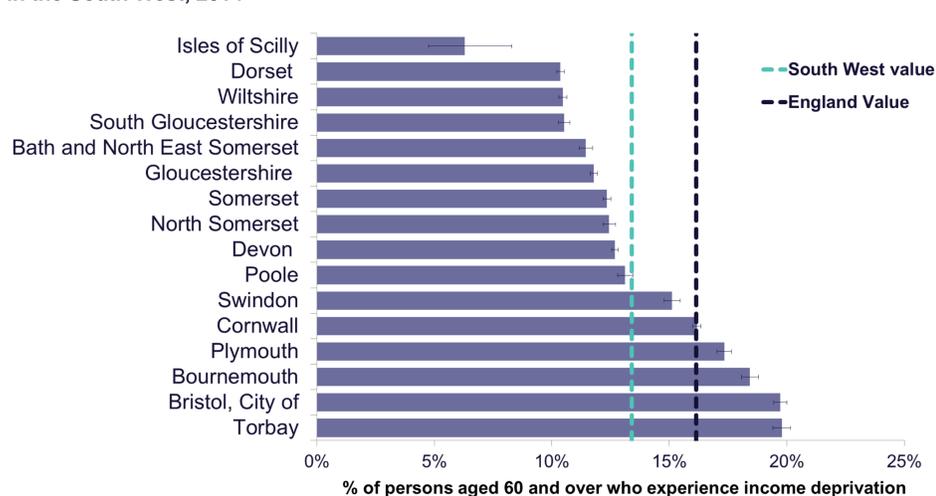


Figure 2. Proportion of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation, by local authority, in the South West, 2014



DISCUSSION

Within the South West, place of death varies with the level of income deprivation associated with the area of residence. This reflects the findings of other studies which suggest that where you live, and the relative levels of deprivation in your area, can have a significant impact on how likely you are to access the right care and affect your family's views of the quality of care you receive^{4,5}.

The present study indicates that the proportion of people dying in hospices is lowest in areas where income deprivation is significantly higher. This may reflect inequalities in terms of access to end of life care services such as hospices, something identified by the Quality Care Commission⁶.

Although this study estimates that 197,604 people aged 60 and over in the South West live in income deprivation, true numbers could be even higher as some pensioners are eligible non-recipients of public benefits including pension credit; In 2013/14, the level of pension credit take-up was between 61% and 64%, while take-up of the Guarantee Credit, paid to the poorest pensioners, was between 73% and 80%⁷.

Future analysis could look at the demographic characteristics and geographical variation of these eligible non-recipients as well as looking at patterns of hospital admission and re-admission towards the end of life. Work undertaken by the National End of Life Care Intelligence Network has shown that cancer patients from areas of higher income deprivation spend more time in hospital in the last 6 months of life compared to people from less deprived areas⁸.

RESULTS

- The proportion of people aged 60 and over and living in income deprivation is significantly lower in the South West compared to the England average of 16.1% (Figure 1). Despite this, there are an estimated **197,604** people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation in the region (Figure 1), equating to 13.4% of the population of that age group.
- The proportion of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation varies considerably across the South West; ranging from 6.3% in the Isles of Scilly to 19.8% in Torbay (Figure 2).
- Four local authorities in the South West (Torbay, Bristol, Bournemouth and Plymouth) have a significantly higher proportion of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation compared to England (Figure 2).
- Six local authorities (Torbay, Bristol, Bournemouth and Plymouth, Cornwall and Swindon) have a significantly higher proportion of people aged 60 and over living in deprivation compared to the average value for the South West (Figure 2).
- Compared to the rest of England, of the 3,281 LSOAs in the South West, 1,673 (51%) have a significantly lower proportion of income deprivation among people aged 60 and over, 861 (26.2%) have a similar proportion of income deprivation among people aged 60 and over and 747 (22.8%) have a significantly higher proportion of income deprivation among people aged 60 and over (Figure 3). LSOAs with significantly higher levels of income deprivation among people aged 60 and over are mostly located in urban areas - Bristol, Bournemouth, Torquay and Plymouth (Figure 3).
- The proportion of hospital deaths is highest in LSOA's where income deprivation is significantly higher compared to England and lowest in LSOA's where income deprivation is significantly lower (Table 1). The proportion of deaths at home, and in hospices, is lowest in LSOA's where income deprivation is significantly higher compared to England and highest in LSOA's where income deprivation is significantly lower (Table 1).

Figure 3. Proportion of people aged 60 and over living in income deprivation, by LSOA, in the South West, compared against the England value, 2014

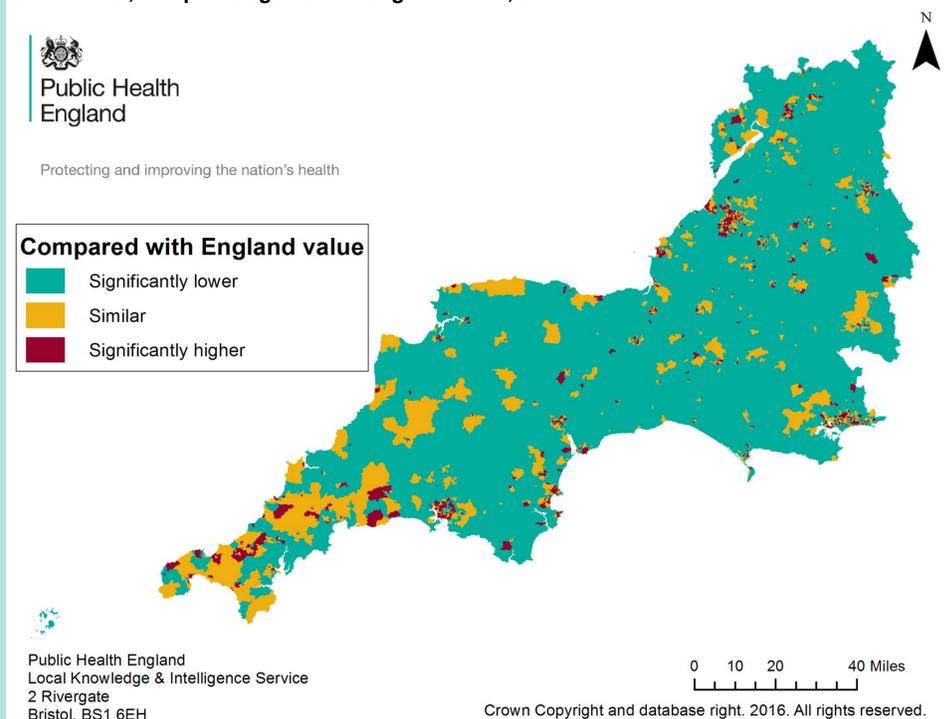


Table 1. Percentage of deaths by place of death and income deprivation for South West residents, 2012-2014

Place of death	Income deprivation compared to England		
	Significantly more deprived	Similar	Significantly less deprived
Hospital (acute or community, not psychiatric)	45.5%	43.9%	42.2%
Home	20.8%	21.3%	23.3%
Care home (nursing or residential)	28.6%	29.2%	28.4%
Hospice	3.9%	4.2%	4.6%
Other Places	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%

CONCLUSIONS

This work highlights the further need to reduce the numbers of older people living in income deprivation across the South West, ensuring equity in terms of accessing services and understanding individual needs at the end of life.

REFERENCES

- ONS annual mid-year population estimates, 2014.
- ONS Regional Profiles - Population and Migration - South West, March 2013.
- Department of Health. End of Life Care Strategy: promoting high quality care for adults at the end of their life. July 2008
- Dixon J, King D, Matosevic T, Clark C, Knapp K (2015) Equity in the provision of palliative care in the UK: review of evidence. Personal Social Services Research Unit, London School of Economics and Political Science, London
- Equity in the Provision of Palliative Care and End of Life Care in the UK. www.mariecurie.org.uk April 2015.
- A Different Ending. Addressing Inequalities in End of Life Care. Quality Care Commission May 2016
- Department for Work and Pensions, Income-Related Benefits: Estimates of Take-up - Financial Year 2013/14 (experimental), June 2015.
- NEoLCIN, PHE. The Percentage of Time in the Last 6 Months of Life Spent at Home or in a Community Setting. Geographical Variations for Persons Dying of Cancer. May 2015