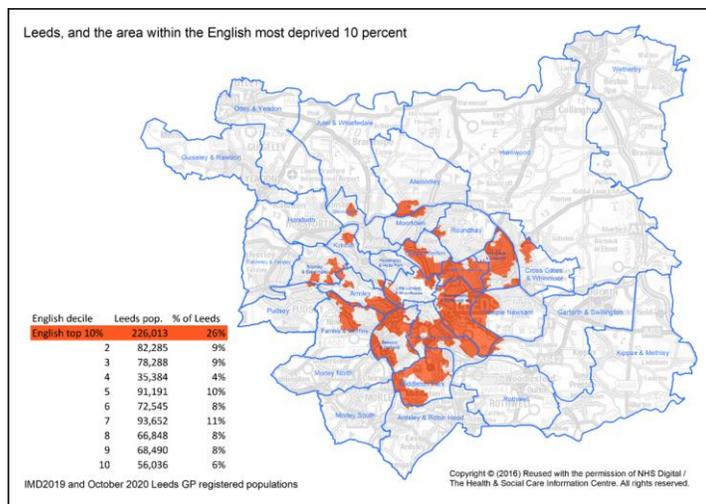


Inequalities in the risk of death for neonates and children in Leeds: Learning from the Child Death Overview Panel



Background: There are clear inequalities in Leeds. 26% of the population of Leeds live in the most deprived decile in England, illustrated in the figure shown on the left. This is up from 19% since 2010. Inequalities are worse for children. 34.1% of Leeds primary school aged children live in the most deprived decile in England.

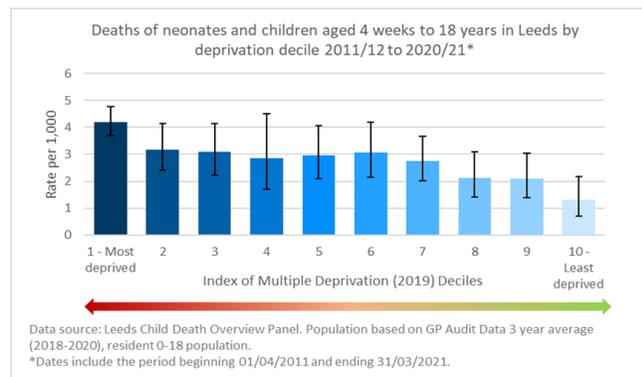
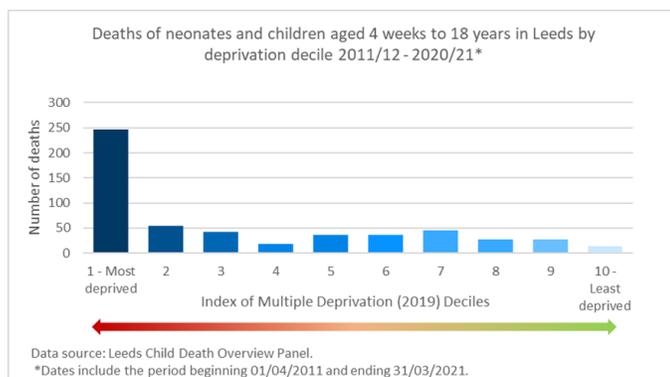
Problem: In 2021 a national analysis of a year of child deaths in England found a clear association between the risk of child death and level of deprivation in all categories apart from cancer (Odd et al, 2021).

Method: An analysis of a decade of child deaths in Leeds by deprivation was conducted using postcode data from the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) covering April 2011 – March 2021.

Results: There was a statistically significant higher rate of deaths in decile 1 (most deprived) compared to deciles 8, 9 and 10 (least deprived). In terms of numbers almost half of the deaths were of neonates and children in decile 1. (See the graphs at the bottom of this slide.) National data show modifiable factors in the social environment included financial difficulties / family debt, homelessness of pregnant mothers, parental mental health problems and raised maternal BMI (poor maternal nutrition).

Discussion: Annual reports are written providing an analysis of modifiable factors in Leeds each year and recommendations on how to prevent neonatal and child deaths are shared with partners in the system. There are recurring themes of: smoking, maternal obesity, consanguinity and co-sleeping. We are reviewing how we collect data in the child death overview process in order that we can capture and analyse data describing the broader determinants of health which may have contributed to neonatal and child deaths.

Conclusion: These data provide further local evidence of the need to take a universally proportionate approach to promoting health of pregnant mothers, families, babies and children in Leeds with a focus on the broader determinants of health. CDOP has a role to play in creating evidence of need to share with partners.



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Acknowledgements: With thanks to Phillip Coneron, Leeds Safeguarding Manager, Maria White, Public Health Analyst, Nichola Aspinall, Designated Doctor Child Deaths and colleagues on the Child Death Overview Panel.

References: [NCMD-Child-Mortality-and-Social-Deprivation-report_20210513.pdf](#)

