



# Effects of choice and market reform on inequalities of access to health care

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Host institution: University of York

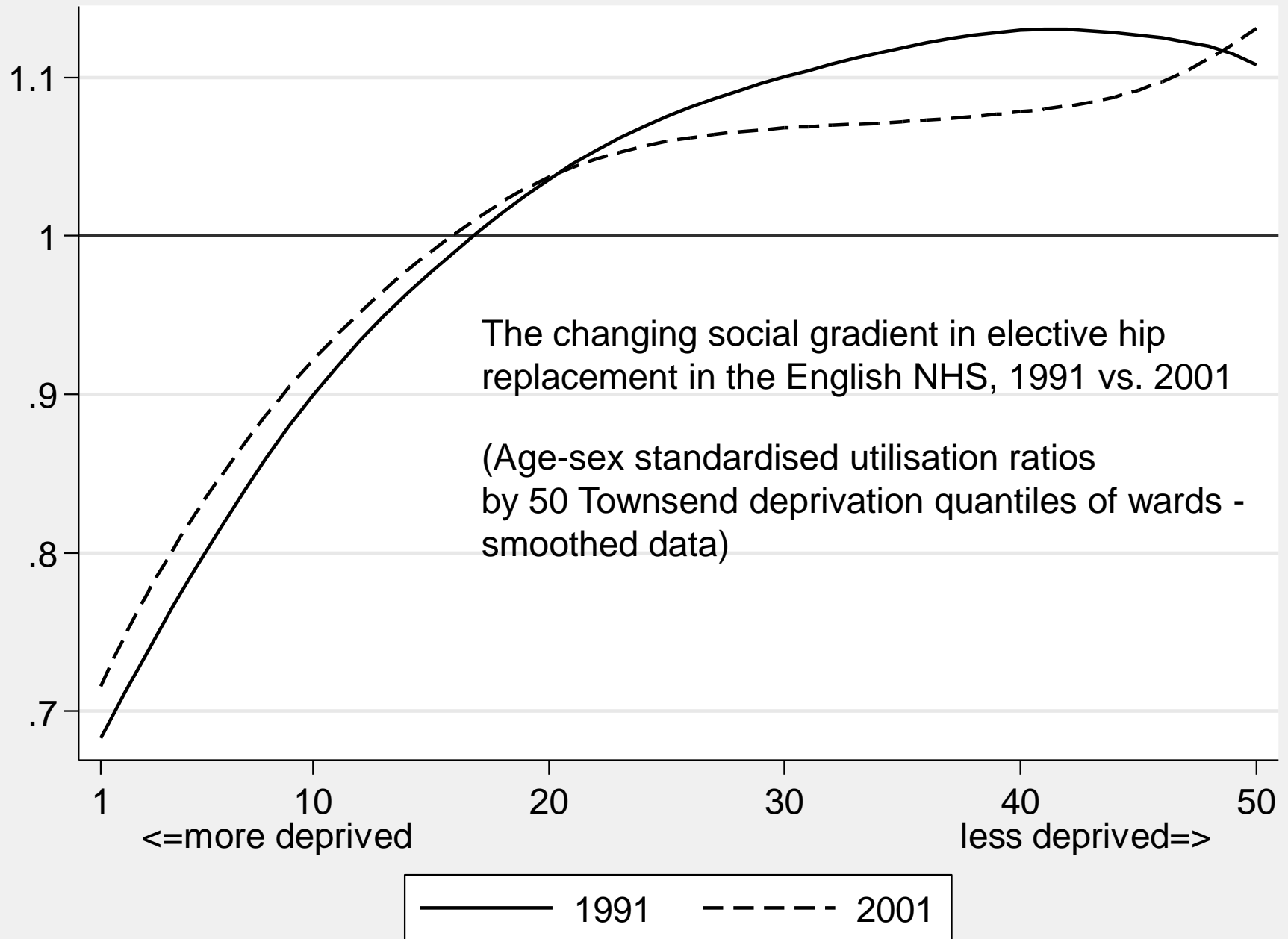
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# Background – Example of Pre-Existing NHS Small Area Inequality



# Research aims

1. To quantify inequality trends in English NHS 2001/2 to 2008/9, for:
  - a) All general categories of hospital activity
  - b) A representative selection of diagnostic & therapeutic procedures
  
2. To test hypotheses about inequality effects of geographically varying aspects of choice and market reform, such as:
  - a) The local degree of choice / competition
  - b) The local share of independent sector provision
  - c) The local degree of financial distress
  
3. To test hypotheses about other factors driving inequality trends, such as:
  - a) Hospital supply factors (e.g. unit cost, length of stay)
  - b) GP supply factors (e.g. GPs per head)

# Research limitations

1. Focus on inequality between small areas
  - Suitable national patient level data not available
2. Focus on socio-economic inequality
  - Will also examine age and ethnicity
  - Hampered by changing relative needs (age) and poor data recording (ethnicity)
3. Focus on inequality in use of care (activity)
  - Not inequality in use of choice
  - Can examine inequality in waiting times and inequality in local supply of GPs/specialists/beds

# Hypotheses about links between health reform and inequality

## 1. Capacity for choice

- E.g. local service closures: disadvantaged patients may be less able to travel

## 2. Perverse incentives

- E.g. “creaming”, “skimping”, and “dumping”: disadvantaged patients may cost more

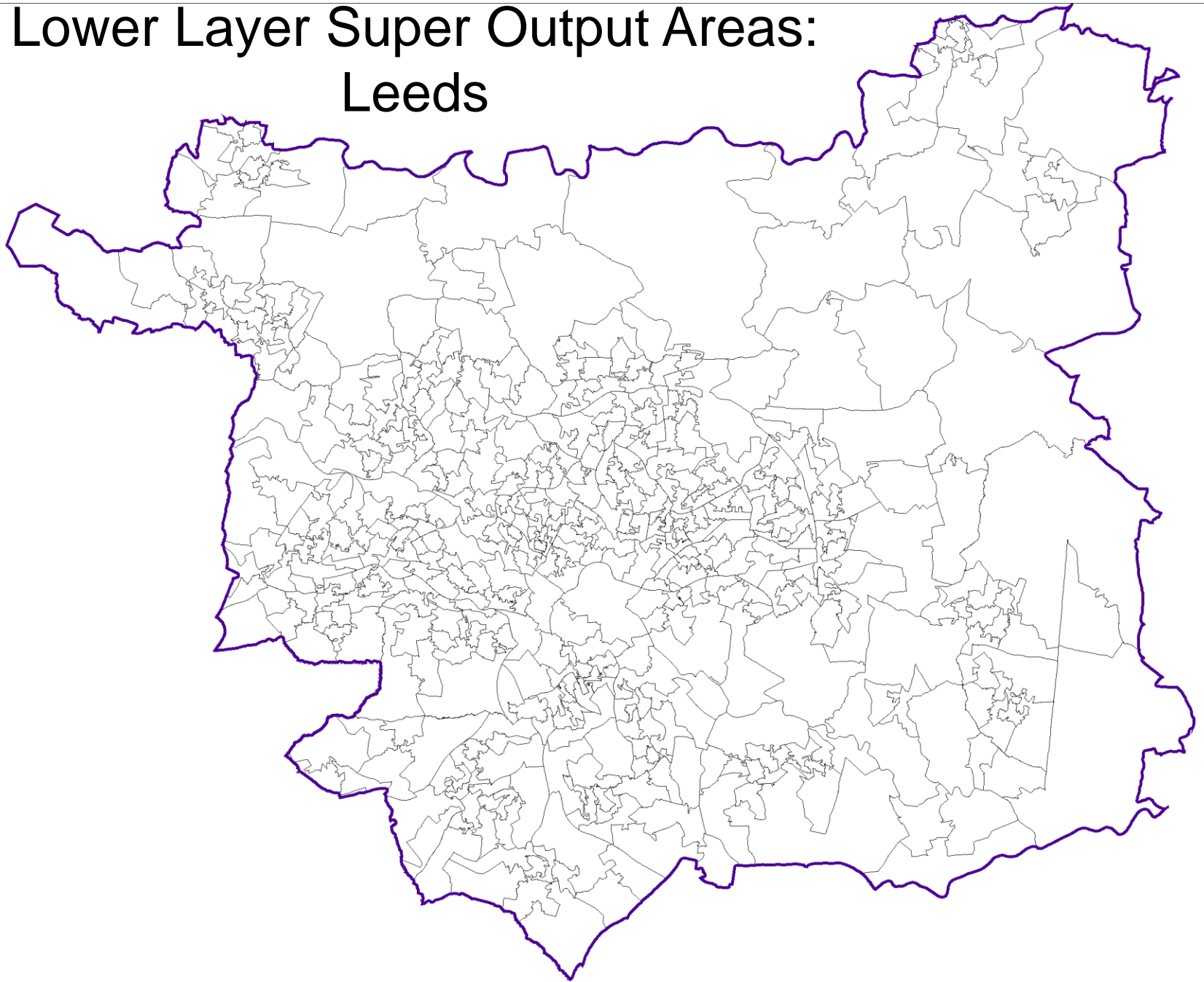
## 3. Demand versus need

- Demand > need formula in affluent areas?

# Longitudinal small area approach

- Lower layer super output areas
  - 32,482 in England; mean population 1,500
  - Consistent size; static boundaries; grouped
- Longitudinal follow up (“panel data”)
  - Powerful statistical techniques
- Socio-economic and lifestyle data
  - ONS modelled income estimates; IMD
  - Geodemographic segmentation tools

# Lower Layer Super Output Areas: Leeds





# Mosaic UK Data Sources



- Demographics**
  - Household demographics
  - Population movement
  - Health
  - Background & beliefs
- Socio-economics and consumption**
  - Occupation
  - Industry
  - Employment status
  - Qualifications
  - Socio-economic status
  - Cars and transport
  - Product and media
- Financial Measures**
  - Directorships
  - Shareholdings
  - Bad debt
  - Credit behaviour
- Property Characteristics**
  - Housing age
  - Second residences
  - Amenities
  - Tenure
  - Building
- Property Value**
  - Council tax band
  - Property value
  - Property sales
- Location**
  - Accessibility
  - Rurality
  - Urbanisation
  - Islands

Group	Group Description	% Households	Type	Type Description	% Households
A	Symbols of Success	9.62	A01	Global Connections	0.72
			A02	Cultural Leadership	0.92
			A03	Corporate Chieftains	1.12
			A04	Golden Empty Nesters	1.33
			A05	Provincial Privilege	1.66
			A06	High Technologists	1.82
			A07	Semi-Rural Seclusion	2.04
B	Happy Families	10.76	B08	Just Moving In	0.91
			B09	Fledgling Nurseries	1.18
			B10	Upscale New Owners	1.35
			B11	Families Making Good	2.32
			B12	Middle Rung Families	2.86
			B13	Burdened Optimists	1.96
			B14	In Military Quarters	0.17
C	Suburban Comfort	15.10	C15	Close to Retirement	2.81
			C16	Conservative Values	2.84
			C17	Small Time Business	2.93
			C18	Sprawling Subtopia	3.08
			C19	Original Suburbs	2.41
			C20	Asian Enterprise	1.02
D	Ties of Community	16.04	D21	Respectable Rows	2.65
			D22	Affluent Blue Collar	3.12
			D23	Industrial Grit	3.82
			D24	Coronation Street	2.81
			D25	Town Centre Refuge	1.13
			D26	South Asian Industry	0.88
			D27	Settled Minorities	1.62
E	Urban Intelligence	7.19	E28	Counter Cultural Mix	1.36
			E29	City Adventurers	1.27
			E30	New Urban Colonists	1.36
			E31	Caring Professionals	1.08
			E32	Dinky Developments	1.10
			E33	Town Gown Transition	0.76
			E34	University Challenge	0.26

F	Welfare Borderline	6.43	F35	Bedsit Beneficiaries	0.71
			F36	Metro Multiculture	1.67
			F37	Upper Floor Families	1.72
			F38	Tower Block Living	0.49
			F39	Dignified Dependency	1.34
			F40	Sharing a Staircase	0.50
G	Municipal Dependency	6.71	G41	Families on Benefits	1.21
			G42	Low Horizons	2.64
			G43	Ex-industrial Legacy	2.86
H	Blue Collar Enterprise	11.01	H44	Rustbelt Resilience	3.00
			H45	Older Right to Buy	2.67
			H46	White Van Culture	3.17
			H47	New Town Materialism	2.17
I	Twilight Subsistence	3.88	I48	Old People in Flats	0.83
			I49	Low Income Elderly	1.63
			I50	Cared for Pensioners	1.43
J	Grey Perspectives	7.88	J51	Sepia Memories	0.75
			J52	Childfree Serenity	1.34
			J53	High Spending Elders	1.53
			J54	Bungalow Retirement	1.26
			J55	Small Town Seniors	2.71
			J56	Tourist Attendants	0.30
K	Rural Isolation	5.39	K57	Summer Playgrounds	0.29
			K58	Greenbelt Guardians	1.74
			K59	Parochial Villagers	1.64
			K60	Pastoral Symphony	1.31
			K61	Upland Hill Farmers	0.41