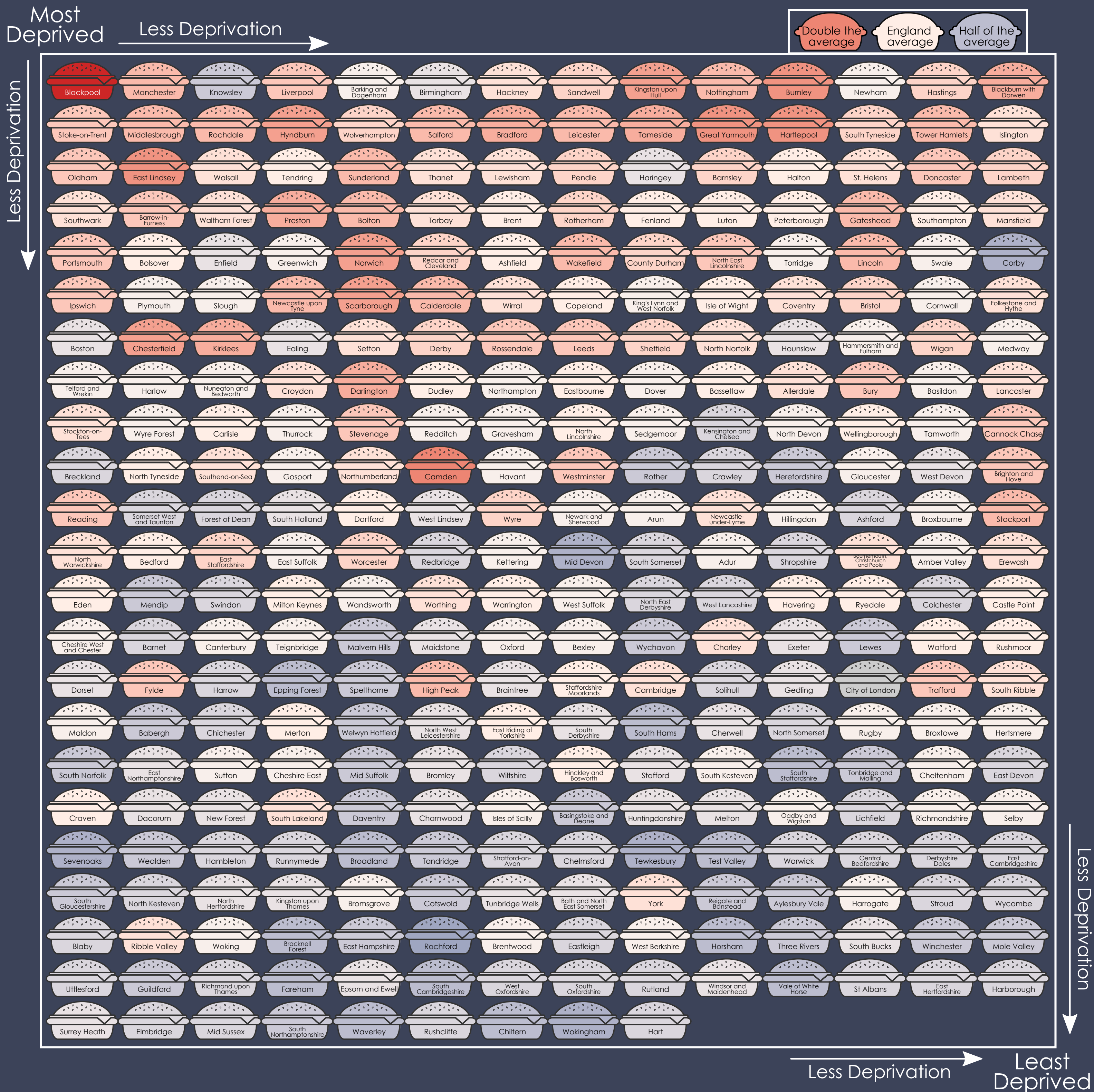


Unhappy Meals

The extent of fast food in our most deprived communities

How does each Local Authority (council) compare to the England Average for the number of fast food outlets per person?



Easy access to fast food outlets presents a challenge to tackling obesity. Fast food is often unhealthy, and also cheaper than healthy alternatives. This graphic shows the stark difference in the number of fast food outlets per person between the most deprived local authorities (top-left), and the least deprived (bottom-right). It highlights a significant challenge in deprived communities: people have less money available for food, and there are more unhealthy outlets to choose from.

Tackling obesity will require more than individual action: local and national policymakers in charge of public health must work to restrict the number of fast food outlets, especially in deprived areas.

Deprivation data was sourced from the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, and fast food outlet data from Public Health England (note: City of London is removed due to its very low resident population). This graphic was produced using free and open-source software (R and Inkscape). For data sources, code, and images used, go to: github.com/CharlesTheFifth/unhappy-meals.