Charity density and material deprivation in the UK: A longitudinal perspective

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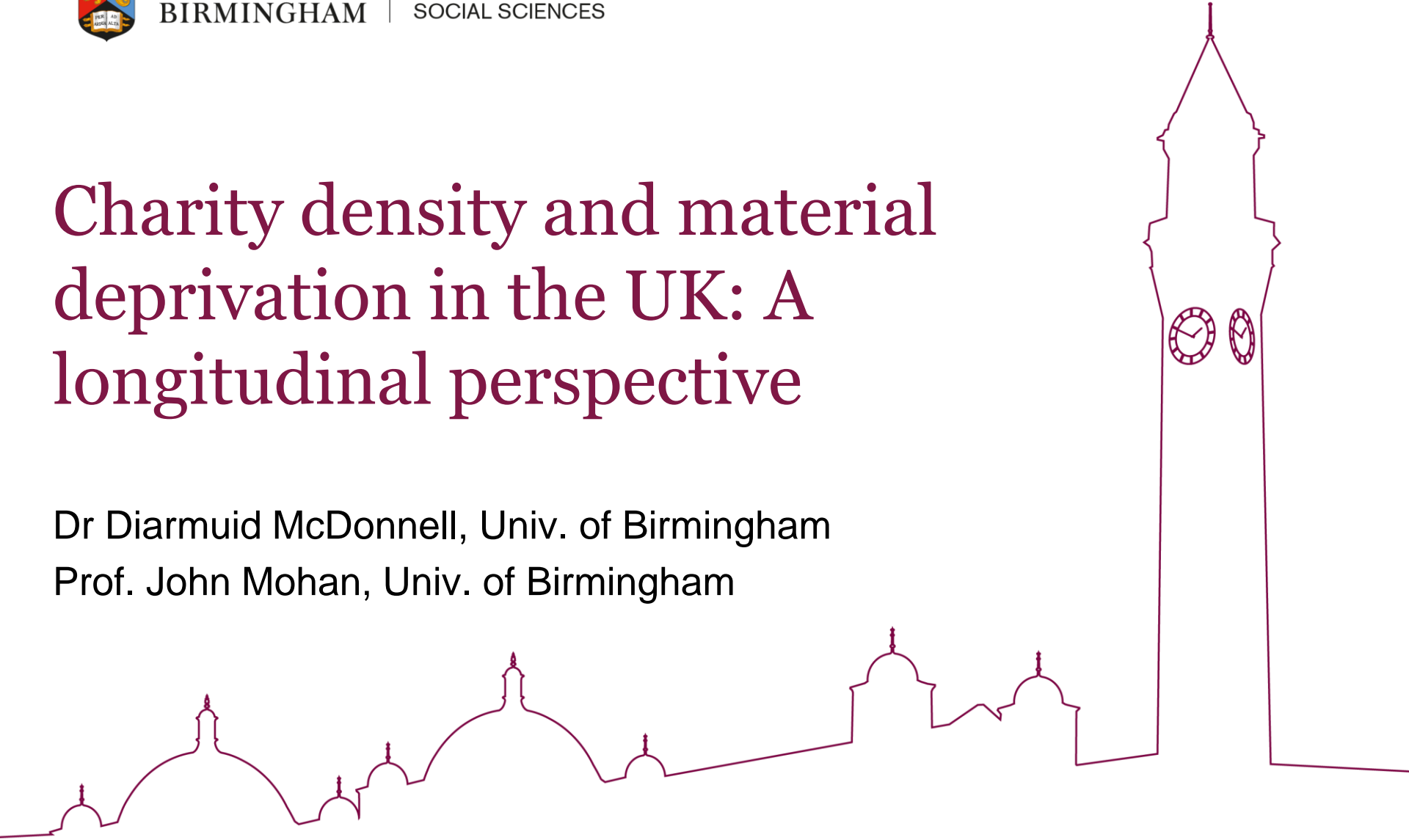
Motivation

☐ The distribution of voluntary activity in an equitable and socially-just manner is a long-standing policy concern in the UK and many other jurisdictions (Mohan & Breeze, 2016; Mohan, 2016).

☐ J. S. Mill: "*charity almost always does too much or too little. It lavishes its bounty in one place, and leaves people to starve in another.*"
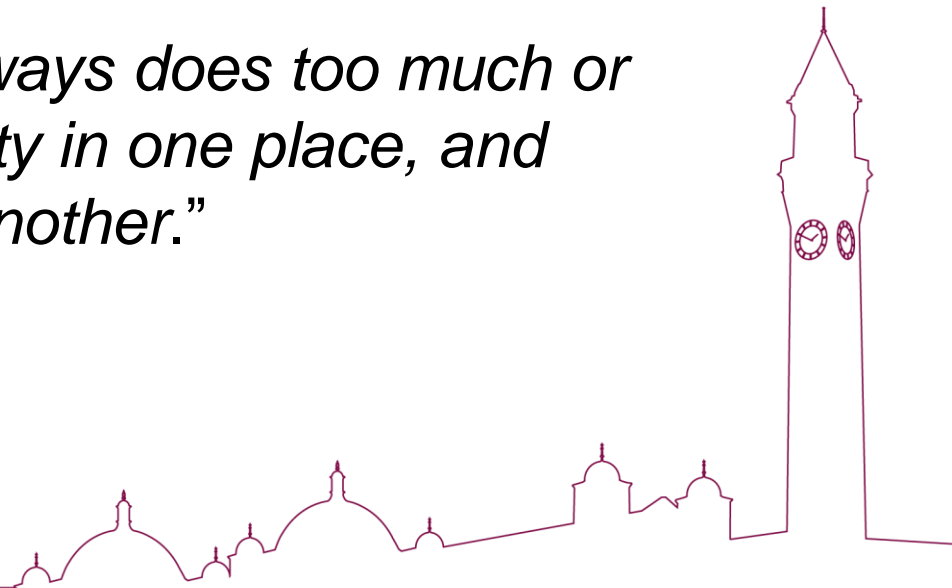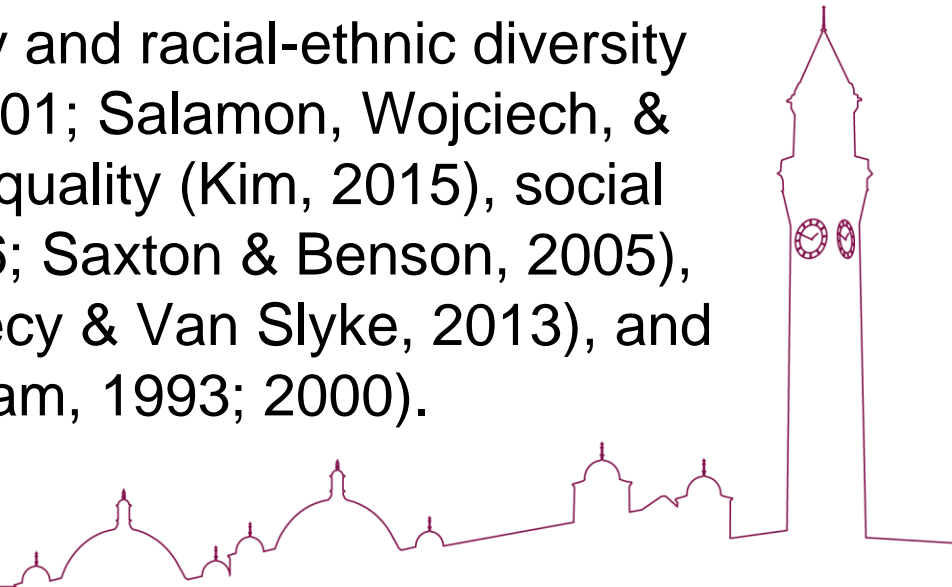
Theory

☐ Theoretical basis:

- **Voluntary failure theory** (Anheier, 2005; Salamon, 1987): amateurism, paternalism, *particularism of service or cause*, and *resource inadequacy.*
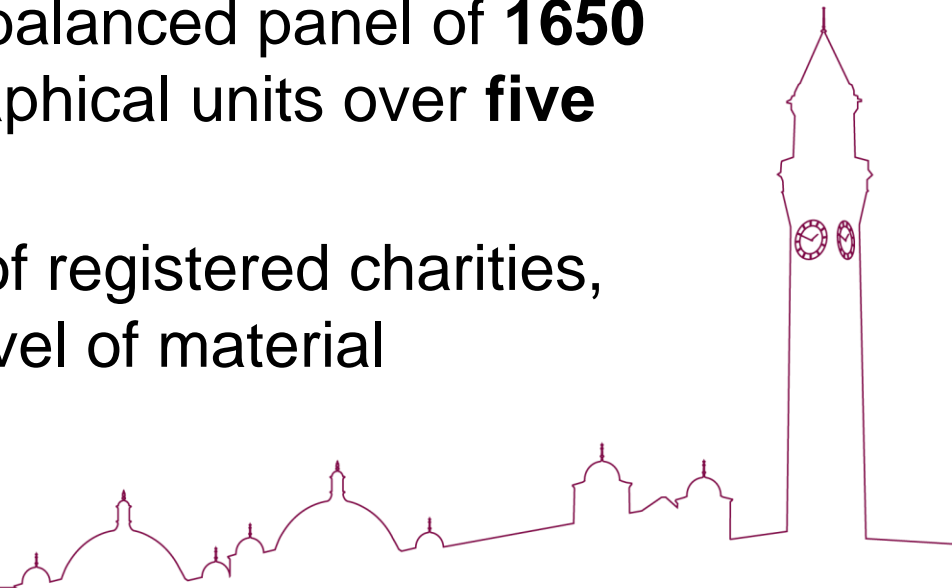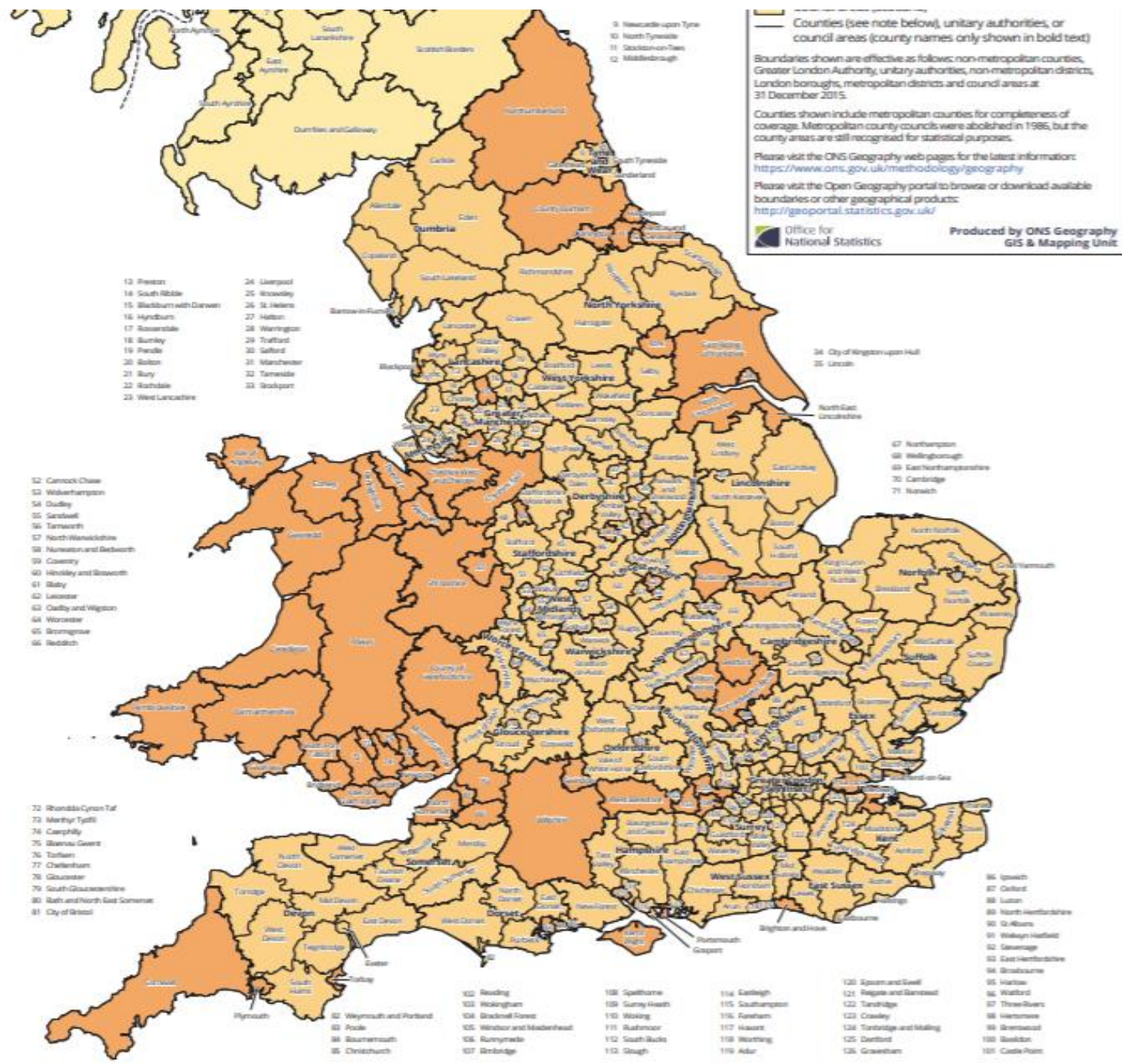
☐ Empirical basis (US):

- link between charity density and racial-ethnic diversity (Grønbjerg & Paarlberg, 2001; Salamon, Wojciech, & Anheier, 2000), income inequality (Kim, 2015), social capital (Coffe & Geys, 2006; Saxton & Benson, 2005), size of the public sector (Lecy & Van Slyke, 2013), and political engagement (Putnam, 1993; 2000).

Data

- Two administrative datasets:
    - Register of Charities
    - Popchange

- Linkage provides us with a balanced panel of **1650** observations for **330** geographical units over **five** census years (**1971-2011**).
- Information on the number of registered charities, population estimates and level of material deprivation.

9 Newcastle upon Tyne
10 North Tyneside
11 Stockton-on-Tees
12 Middlesbrough

13 Preston
14 South Ribble
15 Blackburn with Darwen
16 Hyndburn
17 Rossendale
18 Burnley
19 Pendle
20 Bolton
21 Bury
22 Rochdale
23 West Lancashire

24 Liverpool
25 Knowsley
26 St. Helens
27 Halton
28 Warrington
29 Trafford
30 Salford
31 Manchester
32 Tameside
33 Stockport

34 City of Kingston upon Hull
35 Lincoln

36 North East Derbyshire
37 Chesterfield
38 Bolsover
39 Mansfield
40 Ashfield
41 Broxtowe
42 Erewash
43 Nottingham
44 Gedling
45 East Staffordshire
46 South Derbyshire
47 North West Leicestershire
48 Newcastle-under-Lyme
49 Stoke-on-Trent
50 Telford and Wrekin
51 South Staffordshire

52 Cannock Chase
53 Wolverhampton
54 Dudley
55 Sandwell
56 Tamworth
57 North Warwickshire
58 Nuneaton and Bedworth
59 Coventry
60 Hinckley and Bosworth
61 Blaby
62 Leicester
63 Oadby and Wigston
64 Worcester
65 Bromsgrove
66 Redditch

67 Northampton
68 Wellingborough
69 East Northamptonshire
70 Cambridge
71 Norwich

72 Rhondda Cynon Taf
73 Merthyr Tydfil
74 Caerphilly
75 Blaenau Gwent
76 Torfaen
77 Cheltenham
78 Gloucester
79 South Gloucestershire
80 Bath and North East Somerset
81 City of Bristol

82 Weymouth and Portland
83 Poole
84 Bournemouth
85 Christchurch

102 Reading
103 Wokingham
104 Bracknell Forest
105 Windsor and Maidenhead
106 Runnymede
107 Elmbridge

108 Spelthorne
109 Surrey Heath
110 Woking
111 Rushmoor
112 South Bucks
113 Slough

114 Eastleigh
115 Southampton
116 Fareham
117 Havant
118 Worthing
119 Adur

120 Epsom and Ewell
121 Reigate and Banstead
122 Tandridge
123 Crawley
124 Tonbridge and Malling
125 Dartford
126 Gravesham

86 Ipswich
87 Oxford
88 Luton
89 North Hertfordshire
90 St Albans
91 Welwyn Hatfield
92 Stevenage
93 East Hertfordshire
94 Broxbourne
95 Harlow
96 Watford
97 Three Rivers
98 Hertsmere
99 Brentwood
100 Basildon
101 Castle Point

Isles of Scilly

Analytical Approach

- *Unit of analysis*: Local authorities in England & Wales

- *Outcome*: Charity density = number of registered charities per 5,000 residents

- *Key explanatory factor*: Level of material deprivation = Townsend Score

- *Controls*: Urban/Rural classification; previous level of density

- *Models:* Linear Regression, Count Regression (Poisson, NBREG).
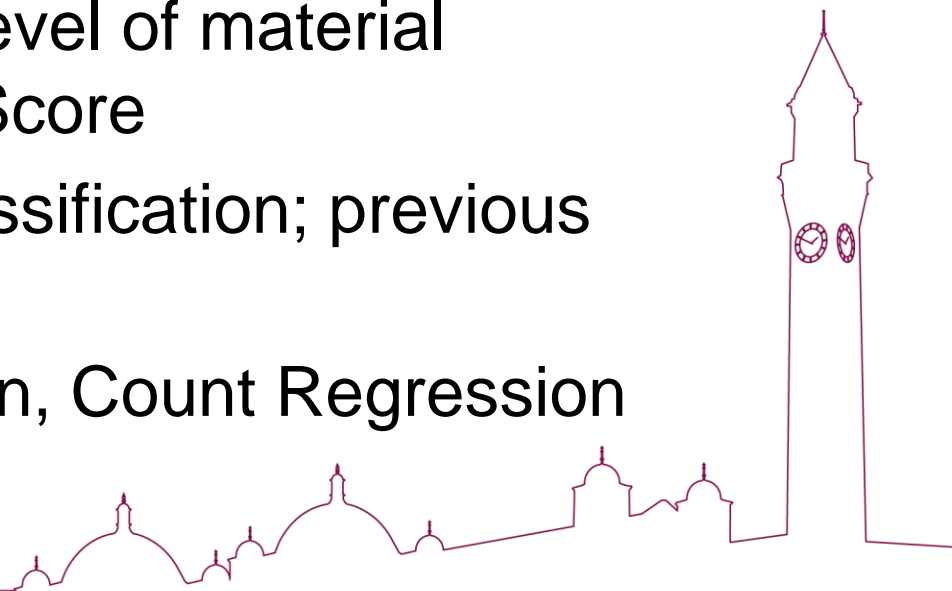
Results – Univariate (outcome)
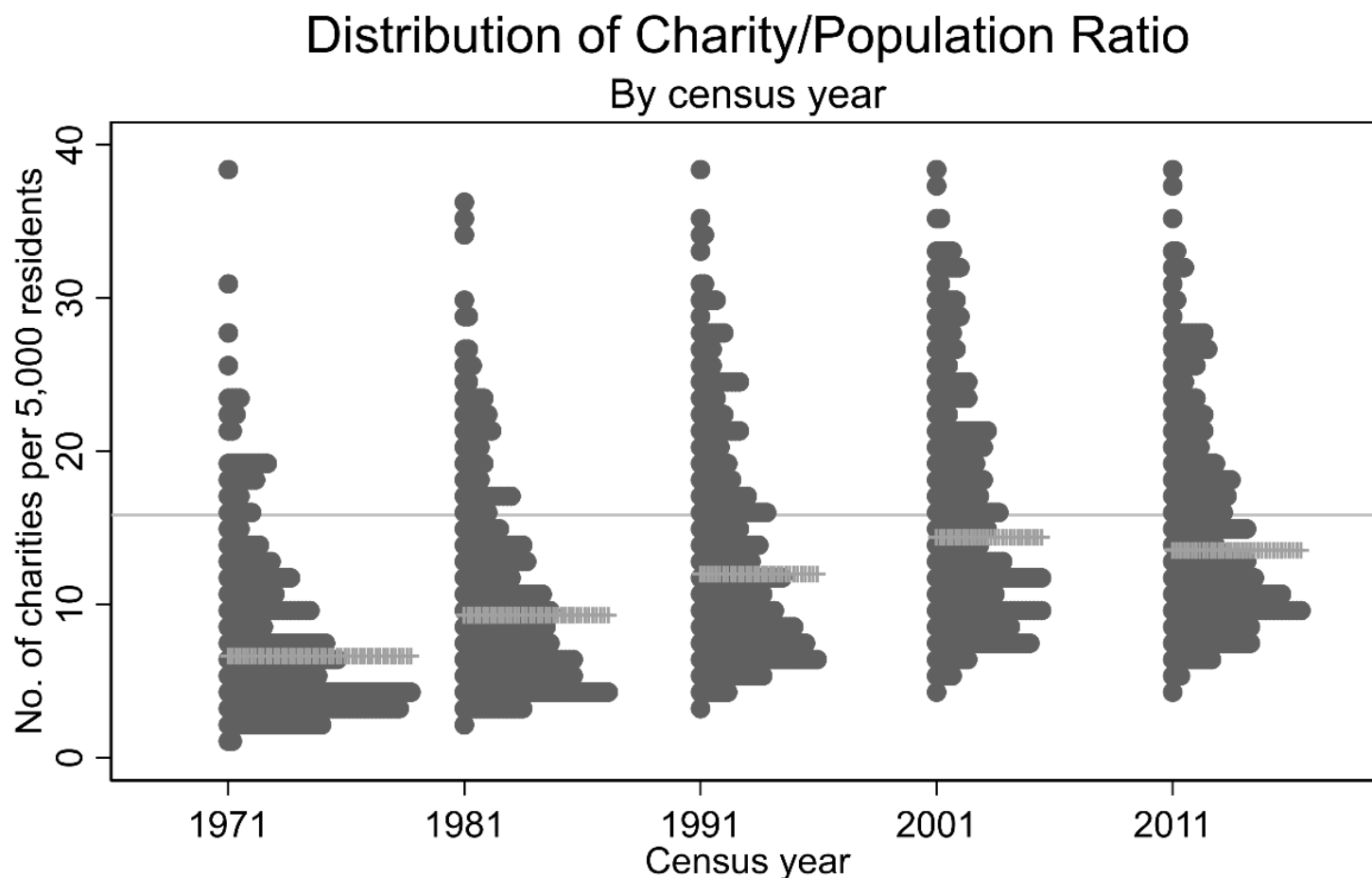
Distribution of Charity/Population Ratio

By census year

Source: Charity Commission Register of Charities (31/12/2016) and Popchange; n=1,650. Produced: 17 Nov 2018
Local Authorities with a ratio greater than the 99th percentile are excluded.
Solid line represents the mean value for the entire period.
Spearman's rho = .41***
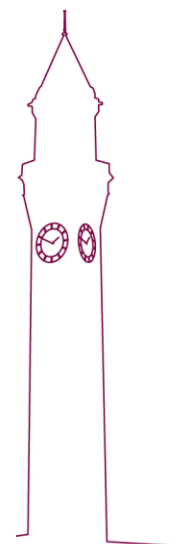
Results – Univariate (key factor)
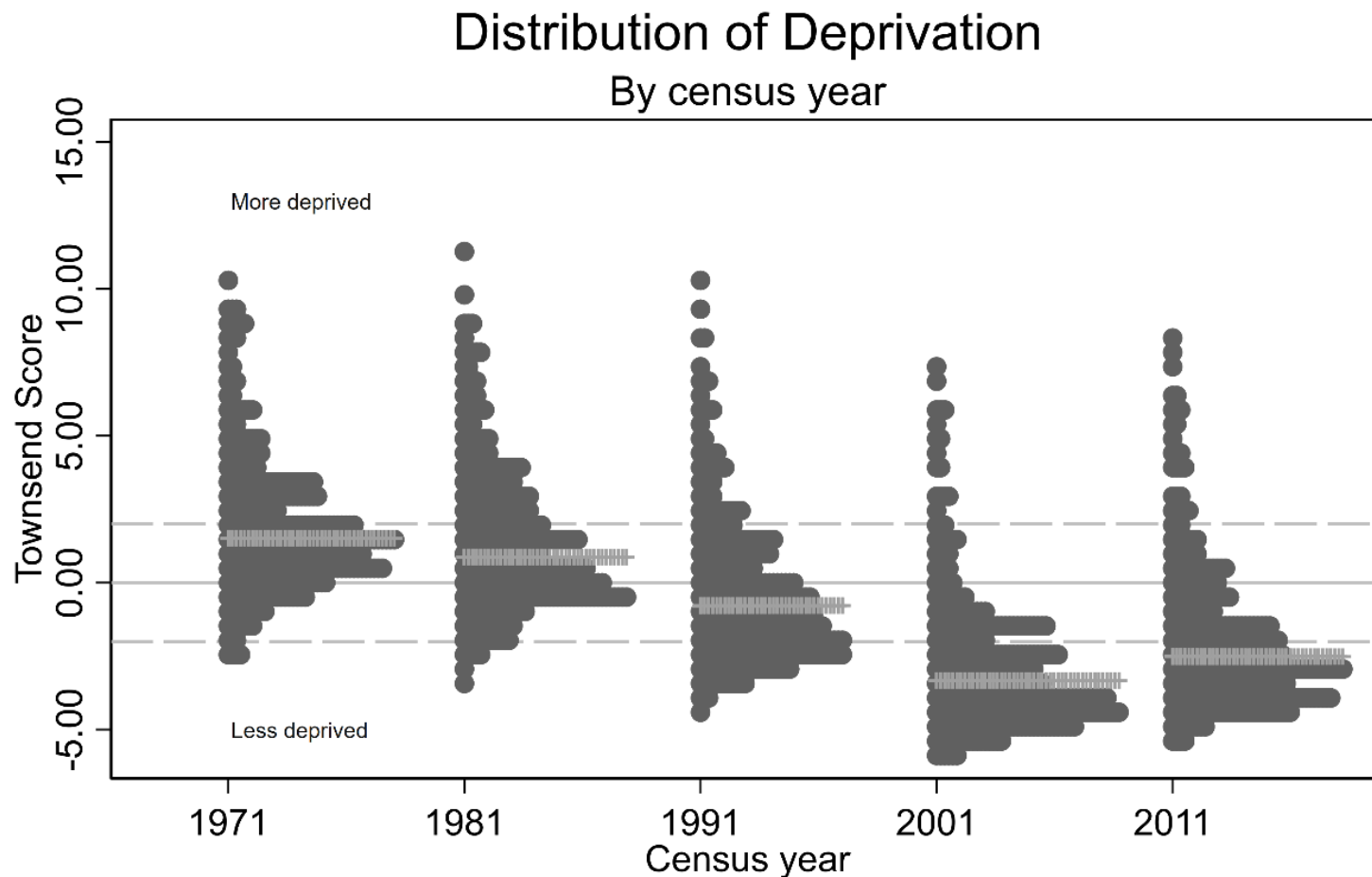
Distribution of Deprivation
By census year

Source: Charity Commission Register of Charities (31/12/2016) and Popchange; n=1,650. Produced: 17 Nov 2018
Local Authorities above the solid line are more deprived than average in a given year, while those below are less deprived.
Local Authorities above and below the dashed lines are two standard deviations or more away from the average.
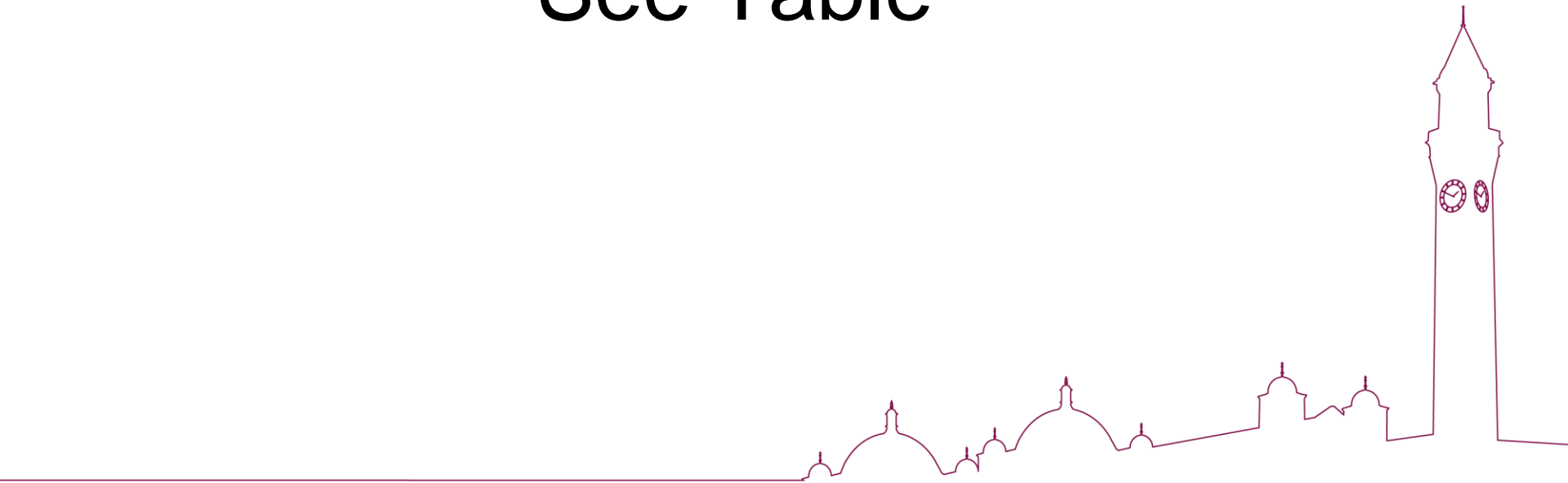Spearman's rho = .60***
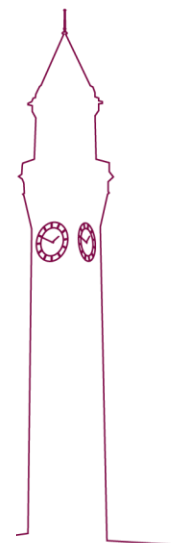
Results - Bivariate

Distribution of Charity Density
By Level of Deprivation
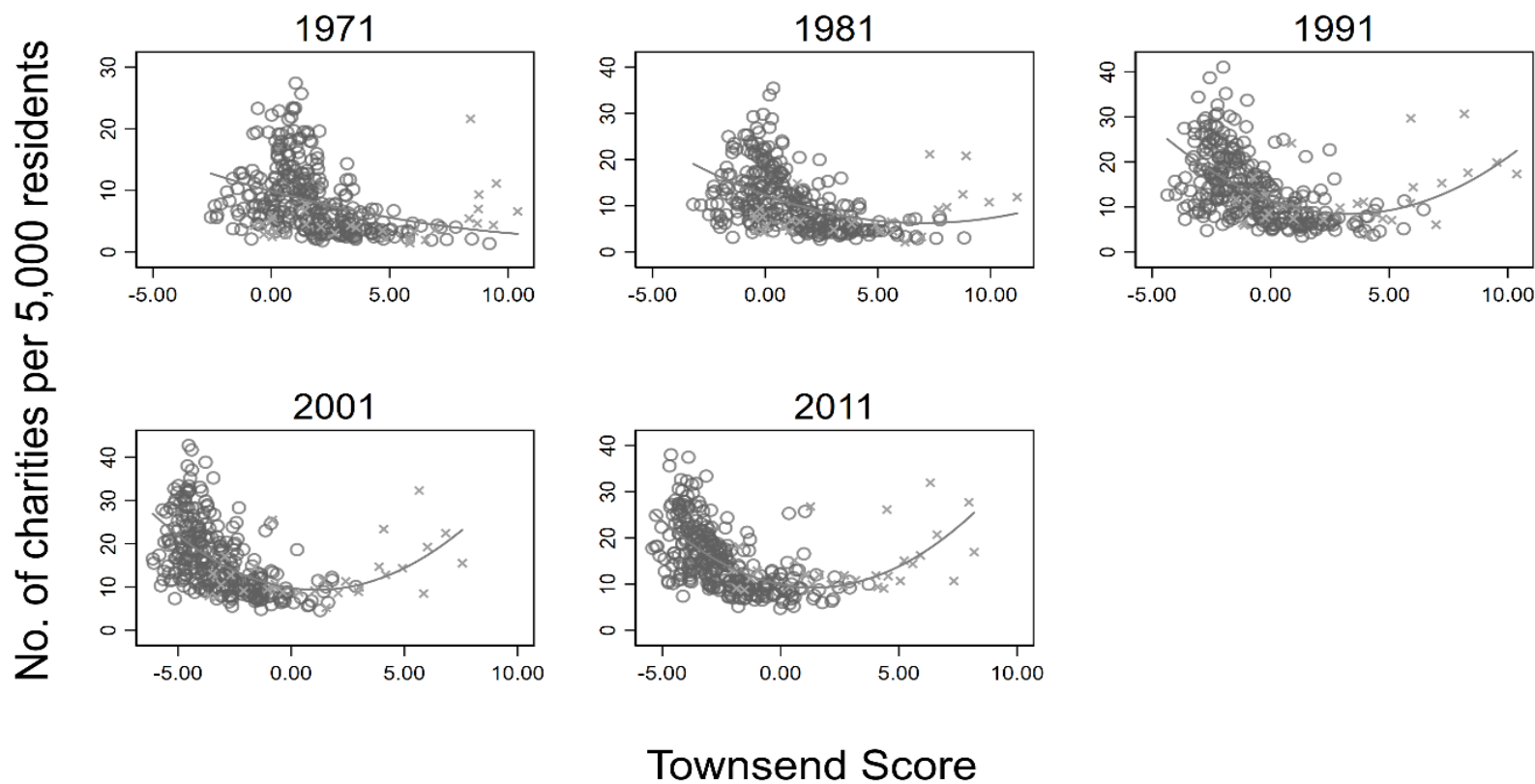
Source: Charity Commission Register of Charities (31/12/2016) and Popchange; n=1,635.
Local authorities with a level of charity density in the 99th percentile are excluded.
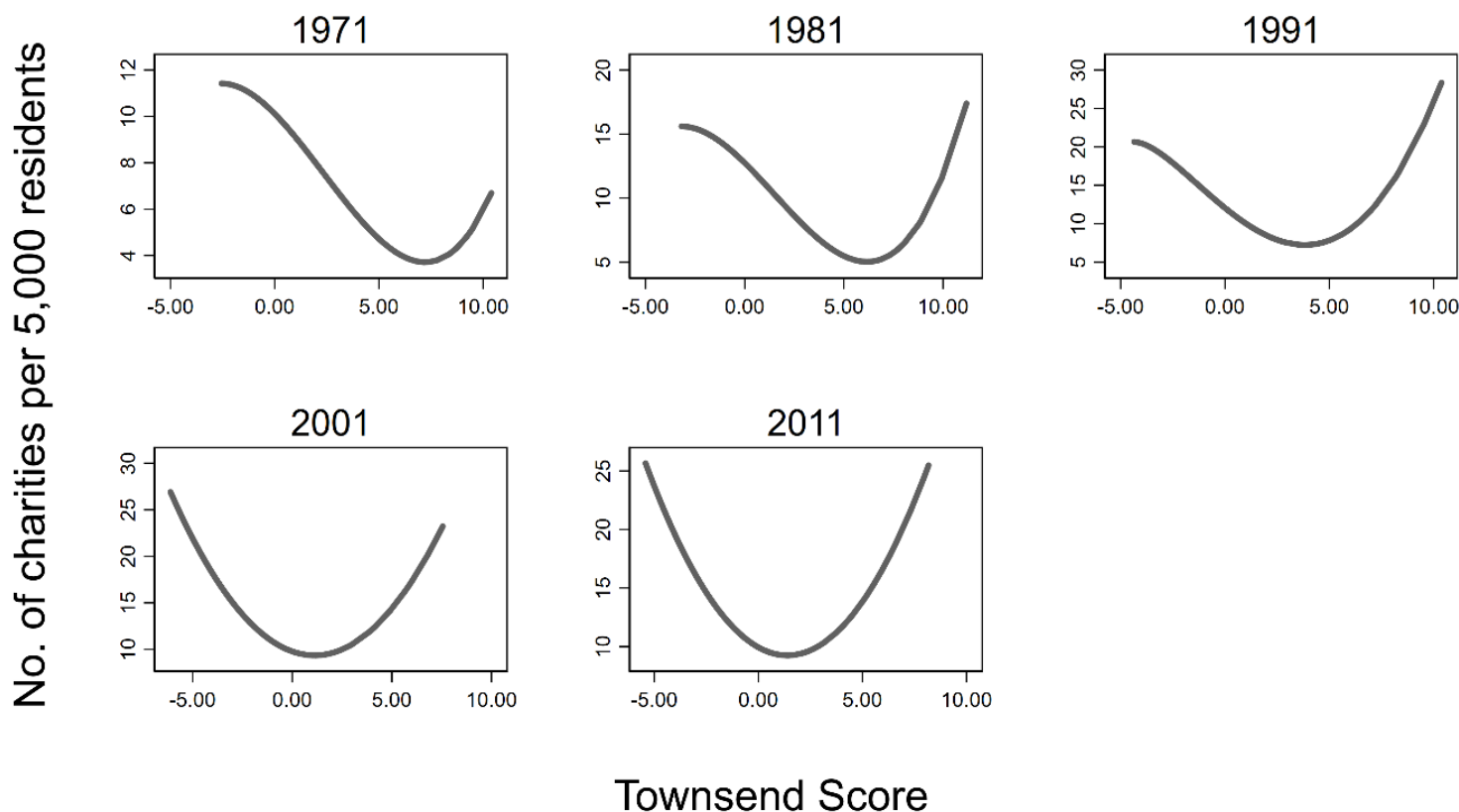Local authorities based in London are marked with an X.

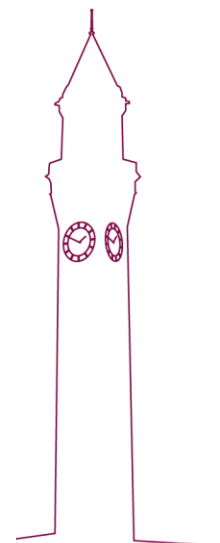# Results – Statistical Model

See Table

Results – Predictions

Distribution of Predicted Charity Density
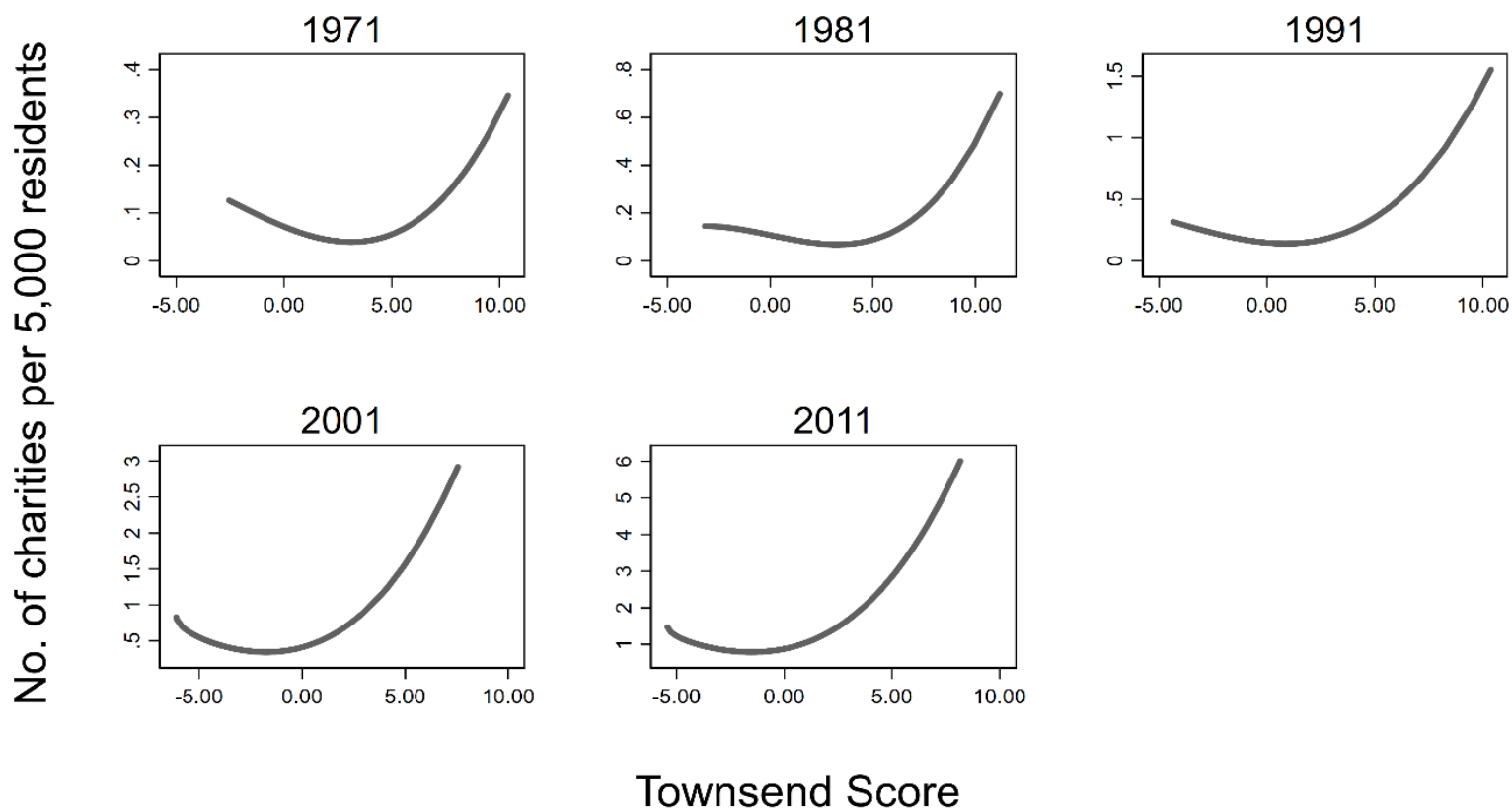### By Level of Deprivation

Source: Charity Commission Register of Charities (31/12/2016) and Popchange; n=1634.
Local authorities with a level of charity density in the 99th percentile are excluded.
Graph displays polynomial line of best fit between predicted charity density and Townsend Score.

Results – Predictions

Distribution of Predicted Density (Overseas Charities)
By Level of Deprivation

No. of charities per 5,000 residents

Townsend Score

Source: Charity Commission Register of Charities (31/12/2016) and Popchange; n=1634.
Local authorities with a level of charity density in the 99th percentile are excluded.
Graph displays polynomial line of best fit between predicted charity density and Townsend Score.