

The changing contribution of socioeconomic deprivation to variance in age at death

Rosie Seaman^{*1}, Tim Riffe¹, and Hal Caswell²

¹Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany

²University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

January 5, 2018

Abstract

Mortality inequalities demonstrate a double burden: the most deprived socioeconomic groups experience the lowest average age of death and the highest variation in age at death. Two underlying processes drive variation in age at death: individual stochasticity (within-group variance) and heterogeneity (between-group inequality). Limited research has evaluated how these two components have changed over time. We address this research gap by using population and mortality data for the entire population of Scotland stratified by a validated measure of area-level deprivation that covers the time period 1981-2011. The most deprived areas have experienced stagnating or slight increasing variance in age at death and the least deprived areas have experienced decreasing variance. This is consistent with the existing literature demonstrating that there is not simply a social gradient for variation in age at death but that socioeconomic groups have experienced diverging trends. While the relative contributions from within-group inequality did not change over the study period the relative contributions from between-group inequality increased, indicating relatively greater importance of area level mortality differences for total variation in age at death.

1 Background

The association between socioeconomic inequality and mortality is traditionally evidenced by life expectancy comparisons. The most deprived populations experience the lowest average age of death, and the least deprived populations experience the highest. Studies have further demonstrated that the most deprived populations also demonstrate the highest level of variation in age at death when measuring socioeconomic inequality by income, education, or occupation (Broennum-Hansen 2017, van Raalte et al. 2011, Sasson 2016, van Raalte et al. 2014). The patterning of these two dimensions of mortality represent a double burden of inequality and routine monitoring of both is important for evaluating the extent to which improving average mortality and reducing inequalities are being achieved simultaneously.

^{*}seaman@demogr.mpg.de

A number of highly correlated indices exist for estimating the amount of variance in age at death (van Raalte and Caswell 2013) with relatively low and decreasing variance being interpreted as decreasing uncertainty for individuals. For societies, relatively low and decreasing variance means that the risk of premature death is being reduced for the population which, in turn, may reflect a more efficient social security system with higher welfare redistribution (van Raalte et al. 2012, Bambra 2011, Popham et al. 2013).

Two processes underly the total variance in age at death: individual stochasticity (within-group variance) and heterogeneity (between-group inequality). Within-group variance tends to arise from differences due to random demographic processes. The lifetable assumes that every individual, at the same age, is subject to the same schedule of mortality rates, such that any variance in age of death can be interpreted as individual stochasticity. However, it can also be argued that within-group variance could be due to the lifetable actually being aggregated over heterogeneous populations. For example males and females experience different social and biological processes that mean they demonstrate different mortality schedules. Aggregating over both sexes would increase within-group variance because you are systematically aggregating over two groups that are known to be heterogeneous and that have age distributions which do not completely overlap. It is also possible that a lifetable could be produced for populations that are heterogeneous but without knowing the reasons why the mortality of the populations are disparate and being unable to produce stratified lifetables.

Between-group inequality can arise if individuals at the same age are subject to different mortality rates that may be due to exposures to different social, economic or environmental contexts (Hartemink et al. 2017). One existing study estimated the contribution of educational inequalities (the between-group component) to the total variance in age at death for 11 individual European countries. For males in Sweden the between-group component accounted for 1.7% of the total variance in age at death but for males in the Czech Republic it accounted for 10.9% of total variance in age at death (van Raalte et al. 2012). The between-group component was higher in the Czech Republic because the age distributions of death, stratified by education, are more disparate than in Sweden. Noted was the distinct age distribution for the least educated males in the Czech Republic. However, this study used aggregated data for the years 1990 to 2000, such that time trends for the between-group and within-group components could not be assessed. In addition, it recognised that education may be a problematic socioeconomic measure for studying changes in the between-group components over time due to compositional changes to educational group sizes (Hendi 2015). A further limitation when stratifying data by education, or other socioeconomic states that are theoretically acquired over the life course, is that researchers may be forced to left-truncate data at a justifiable age which the data also permit (although Broennum-Hansen (2017) used an indicator of disposable income that does not require age truncation, results were still reported as age conditional). Area level measures of relative deprivation, although not interchangeable with individual level socioeconomic measures, can help to overcome these practical limitations and also have a number of theoretical advantages.

Firstly, relative deprivation is the idea that not having enough material cultural or social resources to participate in the accepted way of life in one's societal context is as important for health as the absolute minimum requirements for survival (absolute poverty) (Townsend 1987, Carstairs and Morris 1989, Kearns et al. 2000, Kawachi et al. 2002). This means that relative measures of deprivation have a theoretically consistent interpretation over time, particularly when weighting groups by population size: even

though absolute levels of poverty in the population will have improved there is always a notional most deprived group compared to the same sized notional least deprived group. Secondly, assigning individuals to an area level measure of deprivation based on their post-code (zip-code) is pragmatic: home address is routinely collected across all stages of the life course and across a range of health services while measures of income, occupation or education are not. Thirdly, area of residence is not an age dependent or acquired social state. Therefore, age truncation is not necessary and few members of the population will be excluded (students, the unemployed and retirees for example can all be included). Fourthly, area level indicators are also derived from routinely collected data which allows for regular updates and makes them a powerful tool for governments assessing how best to distribute resources. Finally, area level deprivation may have an influence on risk of death independent of individual level socioeconomic circumstance (Carstairs and Morris 1989, Macintyre et al. 2002, Tunstall et al. 2011). Although empirical results are mixed it remains valuable to understand that mortality outcomes are not only driven by characteristics of individuals but also by the collective and contextual characteristics of areas (Macintyre et al. 2002).

We contribute to the mortality inequalities literature by measuring the changing contributions from within-group and between-group components of total variance in age at death. Data are the most robust Census population estimates and mortality data stratified into population-weighted quintiles (20%) according to a validated area-level measure of relative deprivation (Carstairs score). The data include the whole population of Scotland (ca 5 million persons) and cover the time period between 1981 and 2011.

2 Data and methods

2.1 Area level deprivation

Census population estimates and mortality data¹ by single year of age and sex for each part-postcode (zip-code) sector in Scotland were obtained via a commissioned request to National Records of Scotland. There are around 1,012 part-postcode sectors in Scotland at each Census year each with an average population size of 5,000 individuals².

Population-weighted quintiles (each 20% of the population) were created by aggregating the 1,012 part-postcode sectors according to Carstairs score of deprivation. (INTEND TO ADD IN 4 MAPS OF SCOTLAND HERE SHOWING THE GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINES OF EACH POSTCODE SECTOR AND THE QUINTILE OF DEPRIVATION IT WAS ASSIGNED TO AT EACH CENSUS YEAR). The Carstairs score is a z-score for each part-postcode sector that is derived from four individual-level census variables: overcrowding, male unemployment, low social class, and no car ownership. The Carstairs Score (z-score) reflects the material resources that provide the means to access the goods, services, amenities, and physical environment seen as expected in society

¹Mortality data used came from 1980-1982, 1990-1991, 2000-2002 and 2010-2012 to increase the number of events centered around each census. 1990-1991 is just a two-year numerator sample due to geographical boundary changes occurring in 1990. Corresponding Census population estimates are adjusted accordingly.

²1981 total number of postcode sectors=1010, Mean population (SD) =4982.47 (1178.53) 1991 total number of postcode sectors=1001 mean population (SD) 4993.02 (1653.67). 2001 total number of postcode sectors=1010 mean population (SD) =5011.89 (1542.42). 2011 total number of postcode sectors=1012 mean population (SD) =5232.61 (1568.05)

(Carstairs and Morris 1989). This means the Carstairs score is a method of capturing relative deprivation at the contextual level. A higher score indicates relatively higher deprivation than the national level and a lower score (below zero) indicates relatively lower deprivation than the national level.

Deaths and Census population denominators were used to construct complete lifetables for each deprivation quintile, at each Census year, for males and females separately (40 lifetables in total). The Human Mortality Database protocol was used to extrapolate age specific mortality rates from ages 85 to 110 (Wilmoth et al. 2007).³ From the complete lifetables we compute remaining life expectancy and the conditional standard deviation of the remaining lifespan distribution. Lifetable standard deviations are a common measure of the variability applied to the distribution of age at death (van Raalte and Caswell 2013). Lifetable variance is calculated and decomposed into within- and between-group components using Markov chain methods (Caswell 2001)(Caswell 2009)(Caswell 2014). Details of the within-group and between-group component calculations are given in the supplementary files.

2.2 Variance decomposition

Lifetable variance is calculated and decomposed into within- and between-group components using Markov chain methods (Caswell 2001)(Caswell 2009)(Caswell 2014). From the lifetable, we extract conditional single-age death probabilities, q_x , and take its complement, p_x . We then calculate the survival matrix for the i^{th} quintile, \mathbf{U}_i as:

$$\mathbf{U}_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \dots & \dots & \dots & 0 \\ p_1 & & & & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & p_{\omega-1} & p_{\omega} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Conditional remaining survivorship is calculated as:

$$\mathbf{N}_i = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{U}_i)^{-1} \quad (2)$$

\mathbf{N}_i ends up being 0s in the upper triangle, and conditional remaining survivorship in columns descending from the subdiagonal. The moments of longevity for individuals in group i are $\boldsymbol{\eta}_1^{(i)}$ and $\boldsymbol{\eta}_2^{(i)}$.

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_1^{(i)} = (\mathbf{1}^\top \mathbf{N}_i)^\top \quad (3)$$

The second moment is defined as:

$$\boldsymbol{\eta}_2^{(i)} = [\mathbf{1}^\top \mathbf{N}_i (2\mathbf{N}_i - \mathbf{I})]^\top \quad (4)$$

The vectors with the means and variances, for group i , are

$$E(\boldsymbol{\eta}^{(i)}) = \boldsymbol{\eta}_1^{(i)} \quad (5)$$

$$V(\boldsymbol{\eta}^{(i)}) = \boldsymbol{\eta}_2^{(i)} - [\boldsymbol{\eta}_1^{(i)} \circ \boldsymbol{\eta}_1^{(i)}] \quad (6)$$

³Specifically, we apply equations (53) and (54) from the HMD protocol v5, modified to use information from ages 75+ rather than 80+.

To carry out calculations we procede by creating vectors that contain the combined age and stage specific values

$$E(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) = \begin{pmatrix} E(\boldsymbol{\eta}^{(1)}) \\ \vdots \\ E(\boldsymbol{\eta}^{(g)}) \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

and a similar vector for variances $V(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}})$. The tilde indicates that these combine both age and quintile values, with length $= g\omega$.

The next step is to calculate the means and variances of remaining longevity, at each age x , within each group, as follows.

$$E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) = (\mathbf{I}_g \otimes \mathbf{e}_x^T) E(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \quad x = 1, \dots, \omega \quad (8)$$

$$V(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) = (\mathbf{I}_g \otimes \mathbf{e}_x^T) V(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \quad x = 1, \dots, \omega \quad (9)$$

where \mathbf{e}_x is a vector of length ω with a 1 in the x th position and zeros elsewhere. The resulting vectors here are of dimension $g \times 1$.

At age x the cohort consists of a mixture of the g different groups ($g = 5$ for quintiles, 10 for deciles) with mixing distribution $\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)$ generated by the differential survival of groups within the cohort.

The mixing distribution $\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)$ at age x is a vector of dimension $g \times 1$, which sums to 1. It is obtained from the distribution of groups in an initial cohort. Since quintiles are by definition equally distributed, it would seem that the initial cohort should be evenly distributed. Some other distribution could be used if desired.

Let $\boldsymbol{\pi}(0)$ be the initial mixing distribution, and let $\boldsymbol{\eta}^{(i)}(0)$ be the initial cohort age distribution in group i . Then

$$\mathbf{n}^{(i)}(0) = \mathbf{e}_i \pi_i(0) \quad (10)$$

(i.e., a vector with $\pi_i(0)$ in the first entry and zeros elsewhere. For an evenly distributed cohort, $\pi_i(0) = 1/g$.)

Project each group with its appropriate survival matrix

$$\mathbf{n}^{(i)}(x) = \mathbf{U}_i^x \mathbf{n}^{(i)}(0) \quad i = 1, \dots, g \quad (11)$$

add up the entries

$$N^{(i)}(x) = \mathbf{1}_\omega^T \mathbf{n}^{(i)}(x) \quad i = 1, \dots, g \quad (12)$$

and create $\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)$ by putting these into a vector and normalizing it to sum to 1

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} N^{(1)}(x) \\ \vdots \\ N^{(g)}(x) \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sum_i N^{(i)}(x)} \quad (13)$$

At age x remaining life expectancy for the total population is

$$E(\eta_x) = E\boldsymbol{\pi}(x) [E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x))] \quad (14)$$

$$= \boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^T E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \quad (15)$$

$$= (\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^T \otimes \mathbf{e}_x) E(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}) \quad x = 1, \dots, \omega \quad (16)$$

Notice that η_x is a scalar. The remaining life expectancy at age x is a simple average weighted by the mixing distribution.

The variance in η_x is

$$V(\eta_x) = V_{\text{within}} + V_{\text{between}} \quad (17)$$

with

$$V_{\text{within}} = E\boldsymbol{\pi}_{(x)} \left[V(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \right] \quad (18)$$

$$= \boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^\top V(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \quad (19)$$

$$= (\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^\top \otimes \mathbf{e}_x^\top) V(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\eta}}(x)) \quad (20)$$

and

$$V_{\text{between}} = V\boldsymbol{\pi}_{(x)} \left[E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \right] \quad (21)$$

$$= \boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^\top \left[E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \circ E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \right] - \left[\boldsymbol{\pi}(x)^\top E(\boldsymbol{\eta}(x)) \right]^2 \quad (22)$$

Again, $V(\eta_x)$ is a scalar.

3 Results

NEED TO ADD IN GRAPHS SHOWING THE WITHIN-GROUP COMPONENT. NEED TO ADD COMMENTS ON THE WITHIN-GROUP COMPONENT. Table 1 and Table 2 show the life expectancy and variation in age at death for males and females, respectively, in each deprivation quintile at each Census year. The same tables reporting life expectancy and variation in age at death conditional upon survival to age 35 are included in the appendices.

Table 1: Life expectancy and standard deviation for males, age 0.

	1981		1991		2001		2011	
quintile	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd
1 (least dep.)	71.6	15.4	74.5	14.4	77.6	13.7	80.2	13.6
2	69.9	16.1	72.9	14.9	75.3	15.1	78.5	14.6
3	69.1	16.2	72.1	15.4	73.9	15.4	77.0	15.1
4	68.2	16.2	70.4	16.1	72.2	16.1	75.3	15.6
5 (most dep.)	66.4	16.4	68.3	16.5	69.0	17.2	72.4	16.5
Total pop.	69.0	16.1	71.6	15.6	73.5	15.8	76.7	15.4

The most deprived quintile experiences the lowest life expectancy and the highest variation in age at death (highest standard deviation) at each year. For males there was an increase in variation in age at death between 1991 and 2001. Although there was some improvement between 2001 and 2011, variation in age at death was very similar to the level experienced 30 years earlier. Females from the most deprived quintile have experienced decreasing variation in age at death (decreasing standard deviation) but the decrease was greater for the least deprived. The change in standard deviation over time, across all ages is shown in Figure 1. Male total variation has increased somewhat, and female total variation has changed very little over the time period studied.

Table 2: Life expectancy and standard deviation for females, age 0.

	1981		1991		2001		2011	
quintile	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd
1 (least dep.)	77.1	14.9	79.1	14.1	81.3	13.0	83.4	12.8
2	75.8	15.3	78.6	13.9	80.4	13.6	82.1	13.5
3	75.1	15.6	77.7	14.7	78.9	14.5	80.9	13.9
4	74.4	15.7	76.6	14.8	78.1	14.6	80.0	14.0
5 (most dep.)	72.8	16.3	74.9	15.9	76.3	15.7	77.9	15.1
Total pop.	75.0	15.6	77.3	14.8	78.9	14.4	80.9	14.0

Figure 1: Standard deviation of remaining lifespan for total population by age, Census years 1981 until 2011.

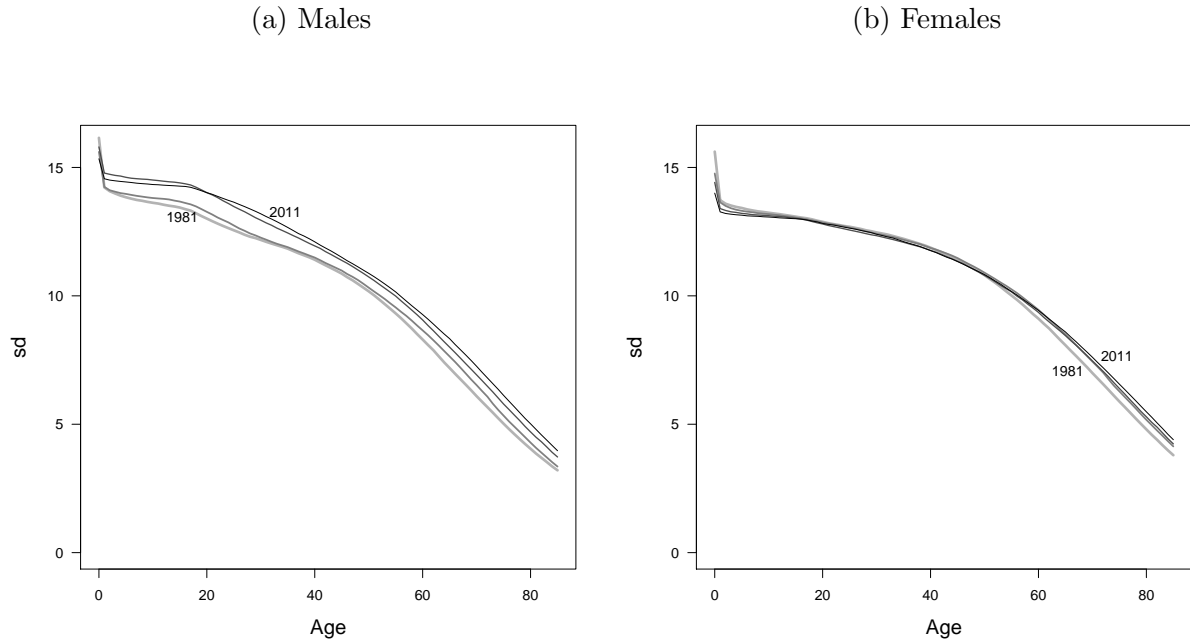


Figure 2: Proportion of variance due to differences between deprivation quintiles by age, Census years 1981 until 2011.

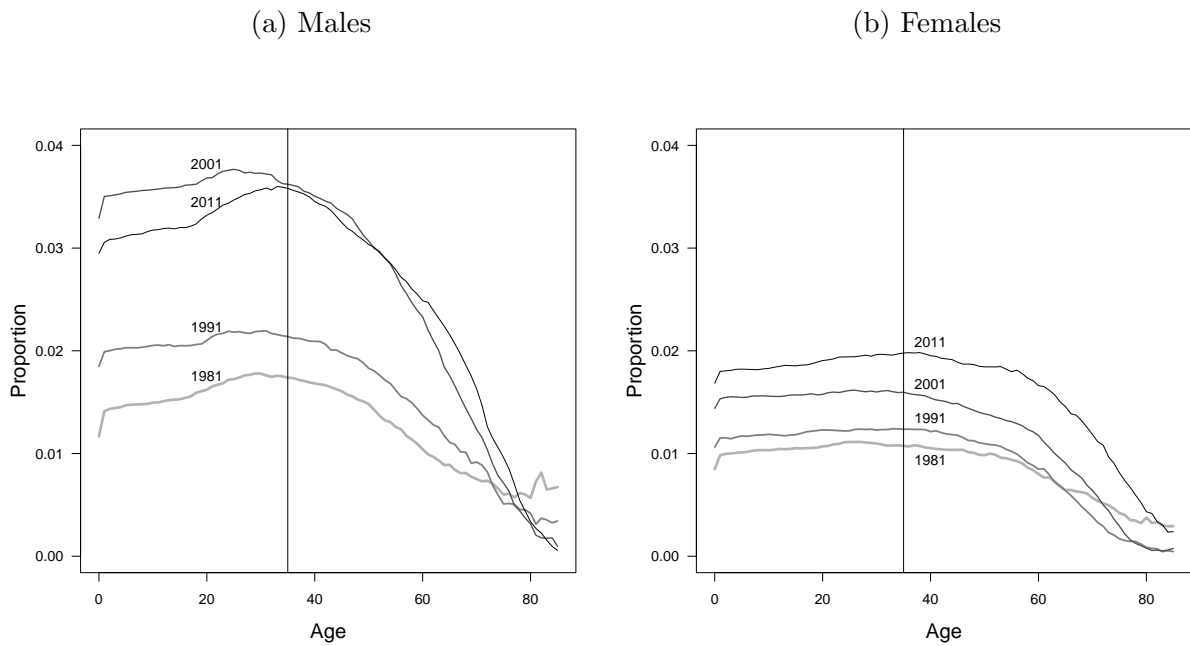


Figure 2 shows the proportion of the total difference in variation in age at death that is due to within-group variance and that which is due to between-group inequality (CHANGE FIGURE TO ALSO INCLUDE WITHIN-GROUP COMPONENT). For males and females the proportion of variation explained by between group inequality has increased over time. The increase in this component was greater in magnitude for males than for females.

3.1 Sensitivity analysis

We tested the sensitivity of our results to the size of deprivation group by replicating the analysis using deciles of deprivation, each representing 10% of the population. The conclusions were the same for males and for females. However, the increase in the between group component over time was greater in magnitude when using deciles. We chose to report results for quintiles of deprivation as they are the preferred analytical grouping for routine reporting of health measures in Scotland (NHS Public Health & Intelligence).

4 Discussion and conclusion

4.1 Summary of main findings

Deprivation differences in age at death were evident at all Census years when measuring socioeconomic inequality by area-level. Those living in the most deprived areas can expect to live the shortest lives and experience the greatest variation in age at death: a double burden of mortality inequality. The difference between deprivation groups was larger for males than for females. Males from the most deprived quintile experienced increasing variation in age at death between 1991 and 2001 so that the level of variation in 2011 was the same as that experienced 30 years earlier. The between group component of inequality increased over the time period while the within group component stayed constant.

4.2 Theoretical reflection - THIS SUB-SECTION IS WEAK AND I NEED TO THINK ABOUT WHAT I WANT TO SAY SOME MORE

Although our results are unable to determine the exact reason why between group differences have become a relatively more important factor when accounting for variance in age at death at the population level they may provide further support for existing theories which emphasizes the role of relative deprivation and social stratification for population level health and mortality outcomes (Wilkinson and Pickett 2007, Marmot and Wilkinson 2001). The timing of the increasing between group component may be associated with the well documented 'polarization' of deprivation, health and mortality that increased in the UK following the 1980s (Shaw et al. 2000, Mitchell et al. 2000). Therefore our results are important for governments to consider when deciding how best to tackle inequalities in age at death: whether to allocate resources to social policies that intervene at the contextual and area level versus social policies that intervene at the individual level (Allik et al. 2016, Diez Roux 2001, Robert 1999, The Scottish Government 2016). In addition to the theoretical contribution, our study demonstrates a number of empirical strengths.

4.3 Study strengths and limitations

The data used for this study includes the most robust population estimates and mortality data for the entire population of Scotland. Using a validated area-level measure of socioeconomic inequality meant that complete lifetables could be constructed and no ages were truncated from the analysis. However, it is important to acknowledge the reasons why studies interested in the social distribution mechanisms of adult mortality may consider restricting analysis to older ages. Smits and Monden (2009) suggest only looking

at ages 15+ because these are the ages where 80% of deaths in developed countries now occur. Looking only at adult mortality may better reflect the causes of death driving mortality change in more recent time periods: infectious disease and effective medical intervention historically reduced infant and childhood deaths rapidly but reductions in adult mortality are influenced by more complex mechanisms that change slowly (Smits and Monden 2009, Vallin and Mesl 2004). Our results indicate that the age at which the difference in variation in age at death is greatest is around 35 years old. This provides some reassurance for studies that are forced to truncate out younger age groups: the peak of variation in age at death (at least in developed countries) is likely to be captured.

We recognize that our results are vulnerable to the ecological fallacy: it is possible that the association found at the area-level may differ from the association found at the individual (Diez Roux 2002). The consistency of our findings with the existing literature on socioeconomic inequalities in variation in age at death (Broennum-Hansen 2017, van Raalte et al. 2014) indicates that the findings by area-level deprivation are not an artefact. This does not mean that area-level measures and individual level measures are substitutes for one another. Area-level measures capture characteristics of populations and individual level measures capture characteristics of individuals (Leyland et al. 2007b). An example helps to illustrate the contentions. GPs aiming to reduce inequalities between individuals by providing preventative screening programmes may rely on area-level indicators to target those who are most deprived but may target an individual in a deprived area who is actually affluent. So relying on an area-level measure to reduce health inequalities between individuals can be problematic if there is an overriding assumption that the underlying characteristics of the population are socially homogenous (Fischbacher 2014). We acknowledge that deprived individuals do not exclusively reside in deprived areas and affluent individuals do not exclusively reside in affluent areas (Leyland et al. 2007b).

The Carstairs score as an empirical measure has been the focus of further criticisms. For example, the meaning of car ownership is fundamentally different for individuals in rural contexts compared to urban contexts. It is also acknowledged that overcrowding may occur out of choice and for cultural reasons rather than simply being a marker of deprivation (Fischbacher 2014). Therefore it has been suggested that the Carstairs score may be an out of date measure of socioeconomic deprivation (Schofield et al. 2016, Tunstall et al. 2011) because the relevance of the variables used for capturing the meaning of deprivation varies across contexts and over time (Norman 2010). In response, it was demonstrated that the scores for each postcode sector at each Census year are highly correlated despite changes to the formal definitions of the variables. This is interpreted as evidence that the underlying information the variables aim to capture is similar or that deprivation has remained stable over time (Leyland et al. 2007b). Alternative measures of area-level deprivation are available, for example the Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD). The SIMD includes 38 indicators from 7 domains (employment, income, health, education, access to services, crime and housing). The SIMD was unsuitable for the trend focus of this research because it is only recommended for analysis using data beginning in 1996 (NHS Public Health & Intelligence). A further limitation is that it includes indicators of health and mortality meaning that the full SIMD can not be used for health inequalities research. Instead health inequalities research tends to use the income domain only (Leyland et al. 2007a). The income domain is highly correlated with the full SIMD and is one of the most heavily weighted domains (NHS Public Health & Intelligence, The Scottish Government 2016).

5 Conclusion

This study has demonstrated increasing contributions from area level deprivation differences to total variance in age at death using population level data for Scotland. This type of trend analysis is important for understanding the changing nature of mortality inequalities in developed countries. Monitoring variance in age at death is complementary to the routine monitoring of life expectancy: monitoring both allows us to establish if average population mortality and mortality inequalities have been improved simultaneously. More countries should begin to measure the between group and within group contributions to variance in age at death and monitor trends in order to understand the extent to which mortality is dependent upon, and amenable to, area level deprivation.

References

- Allik, M., Brown, D., Dundas, R., and Leyland, A. (2016). Developing a new small-area measure of deprivation using 2001 and 2011 census data from scotland. *Health & Place*, 39:122–130.
- Bambra, C. (2011). Health inequalities and welfare state regimes: theoretical insights on a public health puzzle. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*, 65(9):740–745.
- Broennum-Hansen, H. (2017). Socially disparate trends in lifespan variation: a trend study on income and mortality based on nationwide danish register data. *BMJ Open*, 7(5).
- Carstairs, V. and Morris, R. (1989). Deprivation and mortality: an alternative to social class? *Journal of Public Health*, 11(3):210–219.
- Caswell, H. (2001). *Matrix population models*. Wiley Online Library.
- Caswell, H. (2009). Stage, age and individual stochasticity in demography. *Oikos*, 118(12):1763–1782.
- Caswell, H. (2014). A matrix approach to the statistics of longevity in heterogeneous frailty models. *Demographic Research*, 31:553–592.
- Diez Roux, A. (2001). Investigating neighborhood and area effects on health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 91(11):1783–1789. 0911783[PII] 11684601[pmid] Am J Public Health.
- Diez Roux, A. (2002). A glossary for multilevel analysis. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*, 56(8):588.
- Fischbacher, C. (2014). Identifying deprived individuals: Are there better alternatives to the scottish index of multiple deprivation (simd) for socioeconomic targeting in individually based programmes addressing health inequalities in scotland. *Edinburgh, UK: Scottish Public Health Organisation*.
- Hartemink, N., Missov, T., and Caswell, H. (2017). Stochasticity, heterogeneity, and variance in longevity in human populations. *Theoretical Population Biology*, 114(Supplement C):107–116.

- Hendi, A. (2015). Trends in u.s. life expectancy gradients: the role of changing educational composition. *International Journal of Epidemiology*, 44(3):946–955. dyv062[PII] 25939662[pmid] Int J Epidemiol.
- Kawachi, I., Subramanian, S. V., and Almeida-Filho, N. (2002). A glossary for health inequalities. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 56(9):647–652.
- Kearns, A., Gibb, K., and Mackay, D. (2000). Area deprivation in scotland: A new assessment. *Urban Studies*, 37(9):1535–1559. Times Cited: 16.
- Leyland, A., Dundas, R., McLoone, P., and Boddy, F. (2007a). Cause-specific inequalities in mortality in scotland: two decades of change. a population-based study. *BMC Public Health*, 7(1):172–184.
- Leyland, A., Dundas, R., McLoone, P., and Boddy, F. (2007b). Inequalities in mortality in scotland, 1981-2001. Technical Report 1901519066.
- Macintyre, S., Ellaway, A., and Cummins, S. (2002). Place effects on health: how can we conceptualise, operationalise and measure them? *Social Science & Medicine*, 55.
- Marmot, M. and Wilkinson, R. G. (2001). Psychosocial and material pathways in the relation between income and health: a response to lynch et al. *BMJ*, 322(7296):1233–1236.
- Mitchell, R., Dorling, D., and Shaw, M. (2000). Inequalities in life and death. what if britain were more equal? Technical report, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation.
- NHS(Public Health & Intelligence), . (2017). Deprivation guidance for analysts, national services scotland. Technical report.
- Norman, P. (2010). Identifying change over time in small area socio-economic deprivation. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, 3(2-3):107–138.
- Popham, F., Dibben, C., and Bambra, C. (2013). Are health inequalities really not the smallest in the nordic welfare states? a comparison of mortality inequality in 37 countries. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*, 67(5):412–418.
- Robert, S. (1999). Socioeconomic position and health: the independent contribution of community socioeconomic context. *Annual review of sociology*, 25(1):489–516.
- Sasson, I. (2016). Trends in life expectancy and lifespan variation by educational attainment: United states, 1990-2010. *Demography*, pages 1–25.
- Schofield, L., Walsh, D., Munoz-Arroyo, R., McCartney, G., Buchanan, D., Lawder, R., Armstrong, M., Dundas, R., and Leyland, A. (2016). Dying younger in scotland: Trends in mortality and deprivation relative to england and wales, 1981-2011. *Health & Place*, 40:106–115.
- Shaw, M., Gordon, D., Dorling, D., Mitchell, R., and Davey Smith, G. (2000). Increasing mortality differentials by residential area level of poverty: Britain 1981-1997. *Social Science & Medicine*, 51(1):151–153.

- Smits, J. and Monden, C. (2009). Length of life inequality around the globe. *Social Science & Medicine*, 68(6):1114–1123.
- The Scottish Government, . (2016). Scottish index of multiple deprivation: ranks and domain ranks. Technical report, National Statistics.
- Townsend, P. (1987). Deprivation. *Journal of social policy*, 16(02):125–146.
- Tunstall, H., Mitchell, R., Dorling, D., Gibbs, J., and Platt, S. (2011). Socio-demographic diversity and unexplained variation in death rates between the most deprived areas in britain. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 65(Suppl 2):22–23.
- Vallin, J. and Mesl, F. (2004). Convergences and divergences in mortality: A new approach of health transition. *Demographic Research*, S2:11–44. 10.4054/Dem-Res.2004.S2.2.
- van Raalte, A. and Caswell, H. (2013). Perturbation analysis of indices of lifespan variability. *Demography*, 50(5):1615–1640.
- van Raalte, A., Kunst, A., Deboosere, P., Leinsalu, M., Lundberg, O., Martikainen, P., Strand, B., Artnik, B., Wojtyniak, B., and Mackenbach, J. (2011). More variation in lifespan in lower educated groups: evidence from 10 european countries. *International journal of epidemiology*, 40(6):1703–1714.
- van Raalte, A., Kunst, A., Lundberg, O., Leinsalu, M., Martikainen, P., Artnik, B., Deboosere, P., Stirbu, I., Wojtyniak, B., and Mackenbach, J. P. (2012). The contribution of educational inequalities to lifespan variation. *Popul Health Metr*, 10(1):3–3.
- van Raalte, A., Martikainen, P., and Myrskyl, M. (2014). Lifespan variation by occupational class: compression or stagnation over time? *Demography*, 51(1):73–95.
- Wilkinson, R. G. and Pickett, K. E. (2007). The problems of relative deprivation: Why some societies do better than others. *Social Science & Medicine*, 65(9):1965–1978.
- Wilmoth, J., Andreev, K., Jdanov, D., Gleij, D., Boe, C., Bubenheim, M., Philipov, D., Shkolnikov, V., and Vachon, P. (2007). Methods protocol for the human mortality database. *University of California, Berkeley, and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock*. URL: <http://mortality.org> [version 31/05/2007].

6 Appendices

Table 3: Life expectancy and standard deviation for males, age 35.

	1981		1991		2001		2011	
quintile	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd
1 (least dep.)	38.4	11.4	40.9	11.2	43.7	11.3	46.3	11.1
2	37.1	11.6	39.5	11.6	41.9	11.8	44.7	12.0
3	36.4	11.8	38.8	11.8	40.5	12.2	43.4	12.4
4	35.5	11.8	37.6	11.9	39.1	12.5	41.7	13.0
5 (most dep.)	33.8	12.1	35.8	12.3	36.6	13.2	39.2	13.5
Total pop.	36.2	11.8	38.5	11.8	40.3	12.4	43.1	12.6

Table 4: Life expectancy and standard deviation for females, age 35.

	1981		1991		2001		2011	
quintile	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd	ex	sd
1 (least dep.)	43.4	11.7	45.1	11.5	47.0	11.1	49.0	49.0
2	42.2	12.0	44.4	11.7	46.1	11.5	47.9	47.9
3	41.6	12.2	43.8	12.1	45.0	12.0	46.7	46.7
4	41.0	12.1	42.7	12.3	44.1	12.2	45.7	45.7
5 (most dep.)	39.6	12.7	41.4	12.8	42.6	13.1	43.9	43.9
Total pop.	41.5	12.2	43.4	12.2	44.9	12.1	46.7	46.7