

National Child Measurement Programme

Examining the relationship between child obesity prevalence and deprivation

Figure 1:

Prevalence of obesity in Year 6 children 2008/09

by local authority (Source: NHS Information Centre for health and social care)

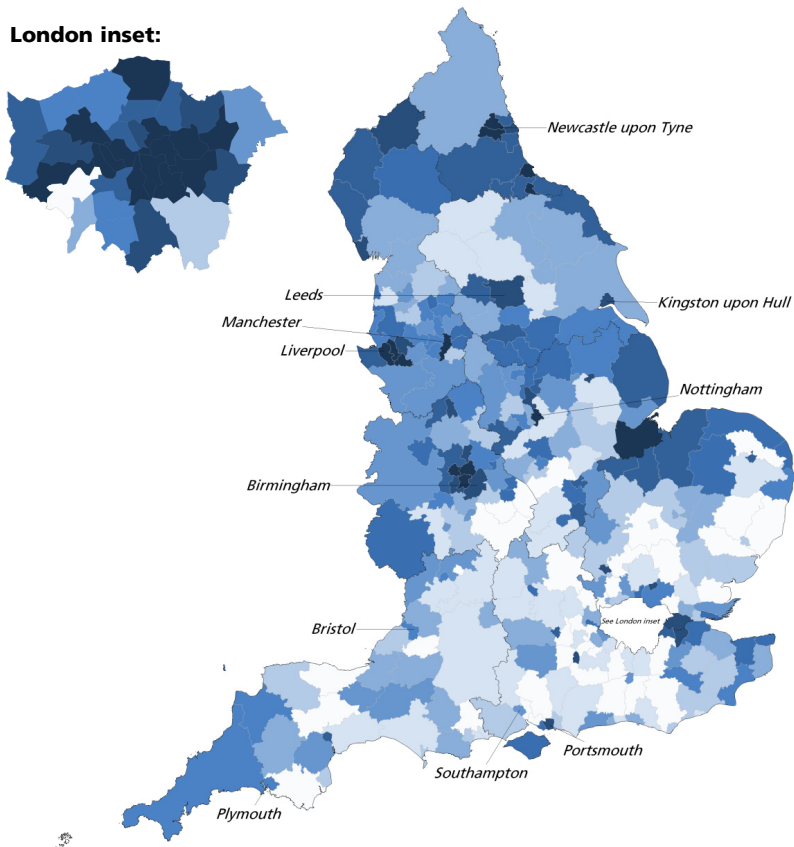


Figure 2:

Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007

by local authority (Source: Department for Communities and Local Government)

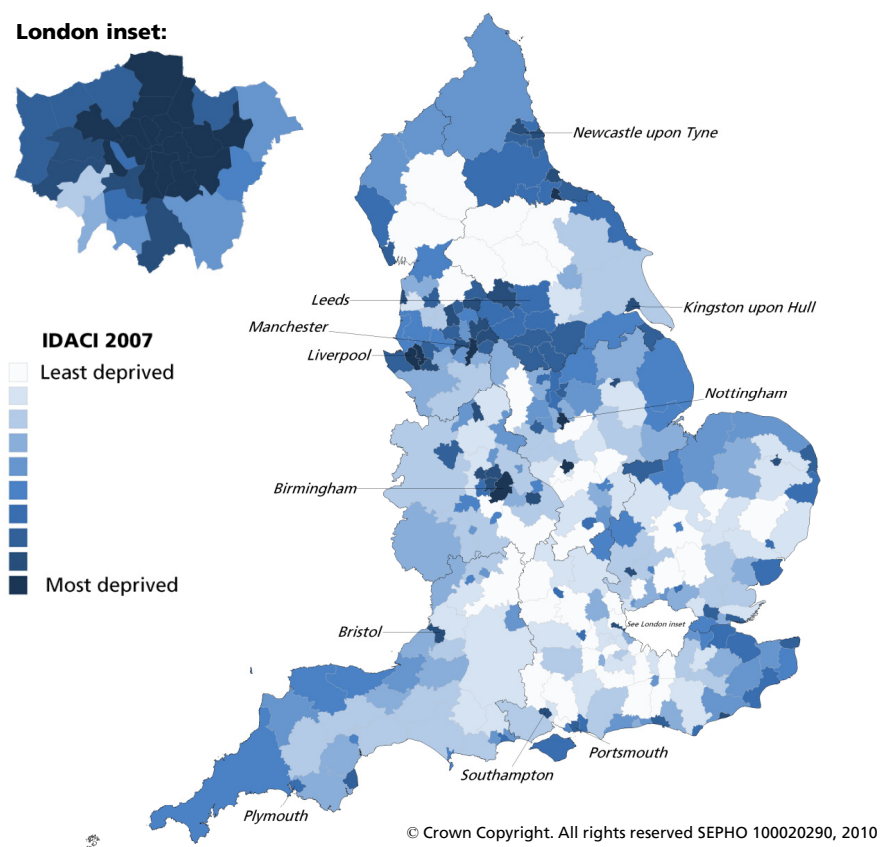


Figure 3:

Obesity prevalence: Year 6 children 2008/09 and IDACI 2007

with the trend from linear regression by local authority

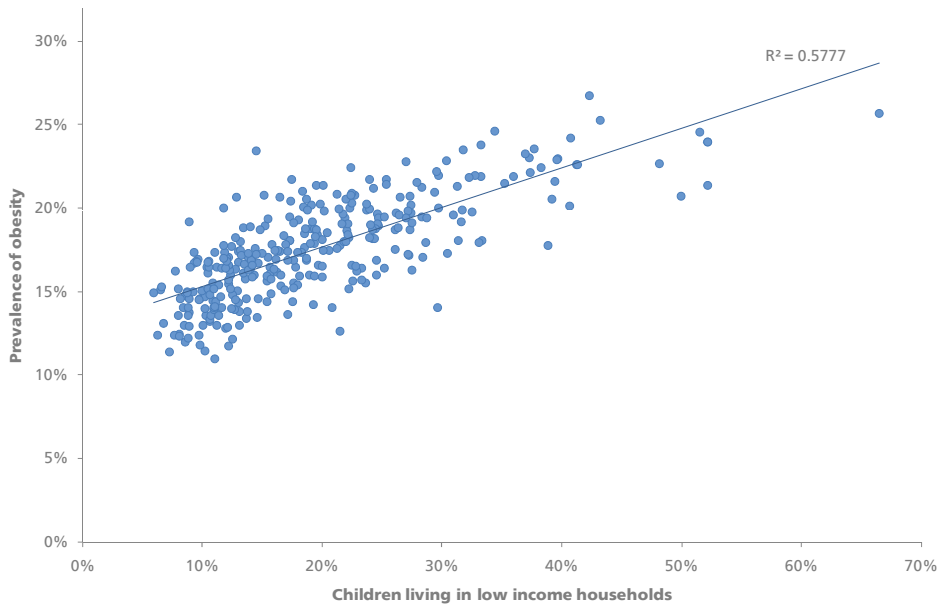
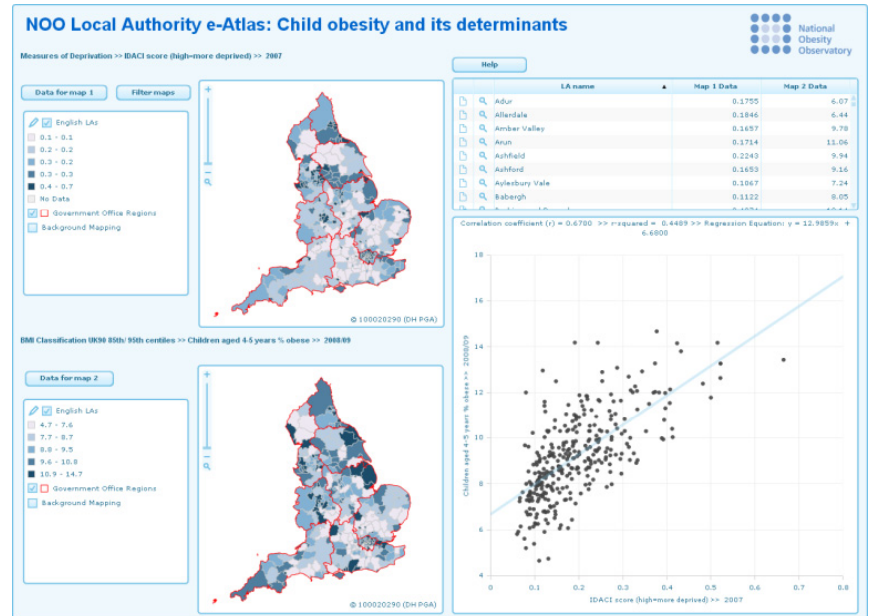


Figure 4:

Obesity prevalence: Reception children 2008/09 and IDACI 2007

NOO Local Authority e-Atlas: www.noo.org.uk/maps/eatlas



The 2008/09 **National Child Measurement Programme** dataset contains over 1 million measurements of school children aged 4-5 years (Reception) and 10-11 years (Year 6). Figure 1 illustrates obesity prevalence for children in Year 6 at local authority level. In these figures, children are classified as obese if their BMI for age and sex is above the 95th centile of the British 1990 Growth Reference.

The **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index** (IDACI) shows the proportion of children aged 0-15 years living in households receiving Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit. Children living in households in receipt of Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit and with an equivalised income below 60 per cent of the national median before housing costs are also included in this proportion. Figure 2 illustrates the (population weighted) IDACI score at local authority level.

Obesity prevalence for children is known to be closely linked to socioeconomic status, with **higher obesity prevalence in more deprived areas**. Figure 3 shows the proportion of a local authority's child population living in low income households compared to the obesity prevalence for children in Year 6 for that area. Nearly 60% of the variation in obesity prevalence between local authority areas can be explained by the proportion of children living in low income households. Obesity prevalence in this age group varies by around 10% on average between the most deprived and least deprived local authorities in England.

NOO has produced a **child obesity e-Atlas** (Figure 4), which can be used to further investigate the relationship between NCMP data and sociodemographic variables at both local authority and PCT level. NCMP data are included from 2006/07 to 2008/09 and show the prevalence of overweight and healthy weight as well as obesity. The data are broken down by school year and sex and can be filtered to allow regional patterns to be examined. All maps and charts can easily be extracted from the e-Atlas for use in presentations or reports.