

Area and inequality in later life

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Overview

- Better wellbeing and social outcomes were observed among older people in 2016-17 who:
 - Lived in less deprived areas
 - Lived in more rural areas
 - Lived in southern regions of England
- Over a 14 year period (2002-2016):
 - Social and wellbeing outcomes were continuously better among older people in less deprived and rural areas.
 - Outcomes declined at a faster rate among older people in more deprived and more urban areas.
- Moving into more or less deprived areas in later life impacts on mental wellbeing.

Area and inequality: introduction

- Evidence area effects on mental wellbeing might be particularly prevalent among older people.
 - Social factors
 - Environmental factors
 - Geographical factors
- Living in deprived areas is linked to:
 - poorer health and health behaviours
 - poorer social networks.
- Reasons for moving in later life influence its effects
 - Chosen (e.g. to enjoy retirement)
 - Forced (e.g. too expensive to remain, needing care)

Definitions: Area and inequality

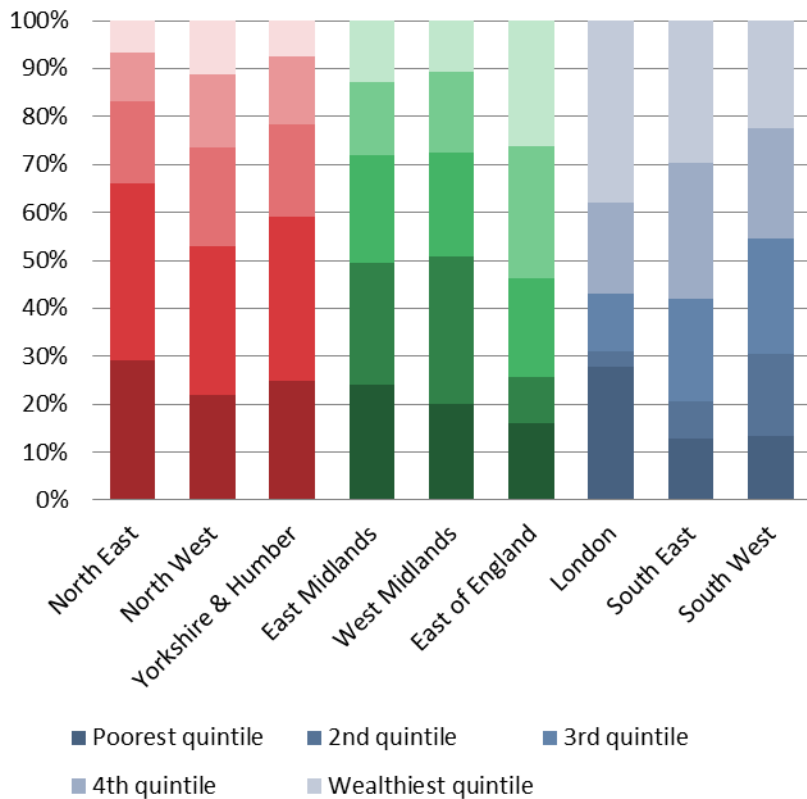
- Three measures of area:
 - Government Office Region
 - North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, South East, South West.
 - Index of Multiple Deprivation
 - Income, employment, health and disability, education and skills, barriers to housing, living environment and crime.
 - Urban/rural indicator
 - Urban, town and fringe, village, hamlet or isolated.
 - Urban populations >10,000

Definitions: Area and inequality

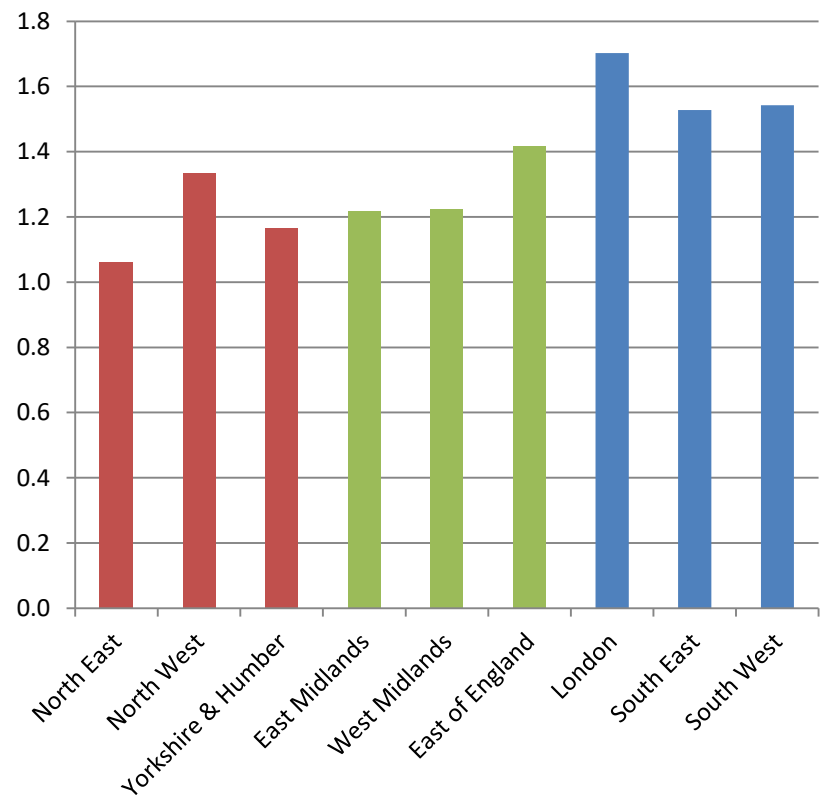
- Inequality
 - Social engagement
 - Social and civic engagement, cultural engagement, close contacts, volunteering.
 - Transport
 - Car access, public transport use.
 - Work and Employment
 - Economic status, working beyond SPA, effort-reward imbalance.
 - Mental wellbeing
 - CES-D score.

Government Office Region: 2016-17

Wealth

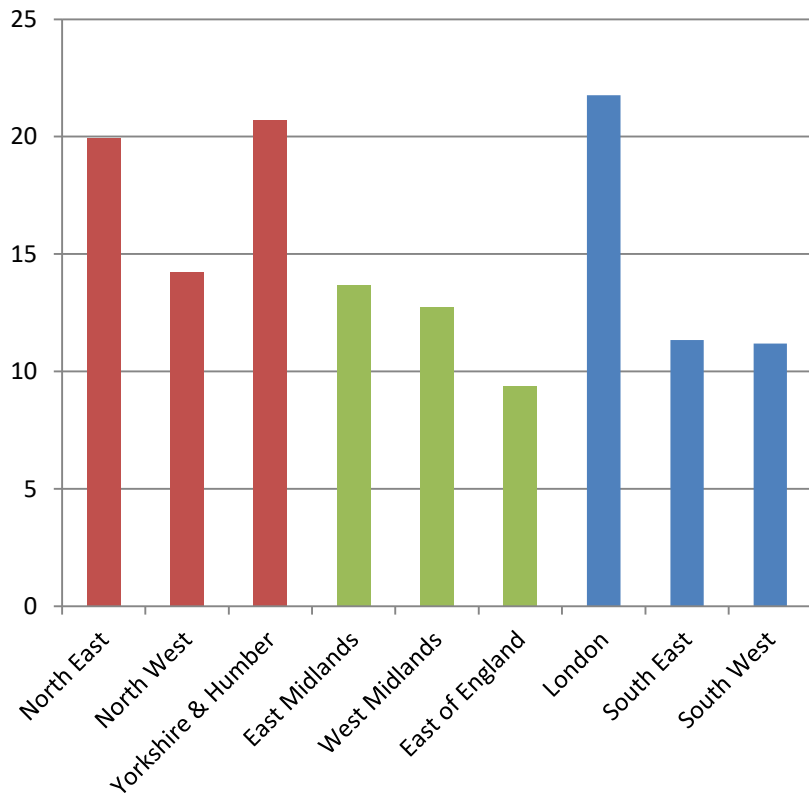


Social and civic engagement

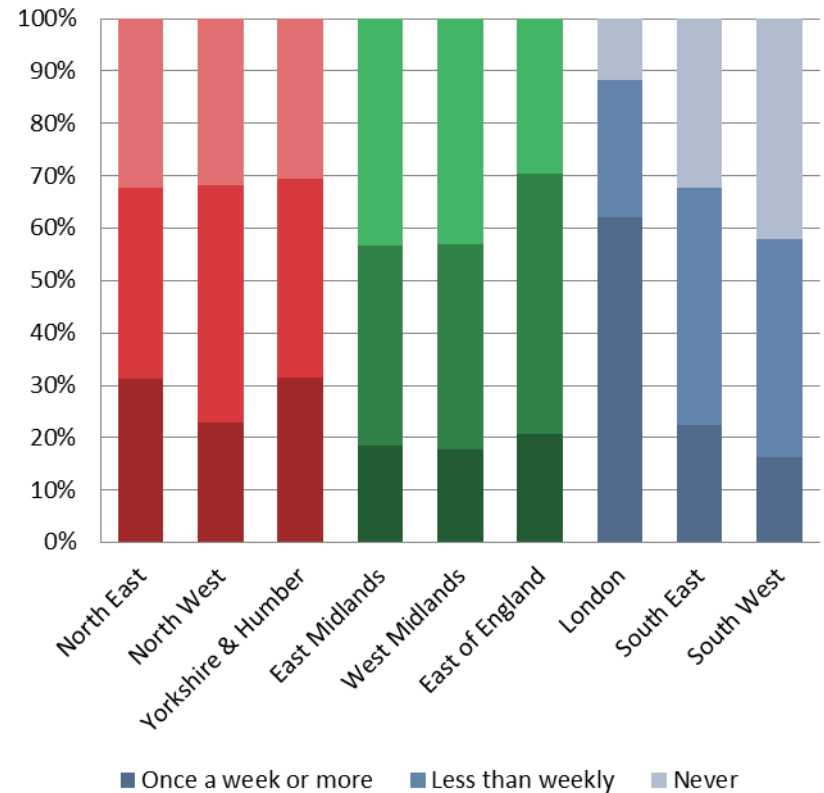


Government Office Region: 2016-17

No car access

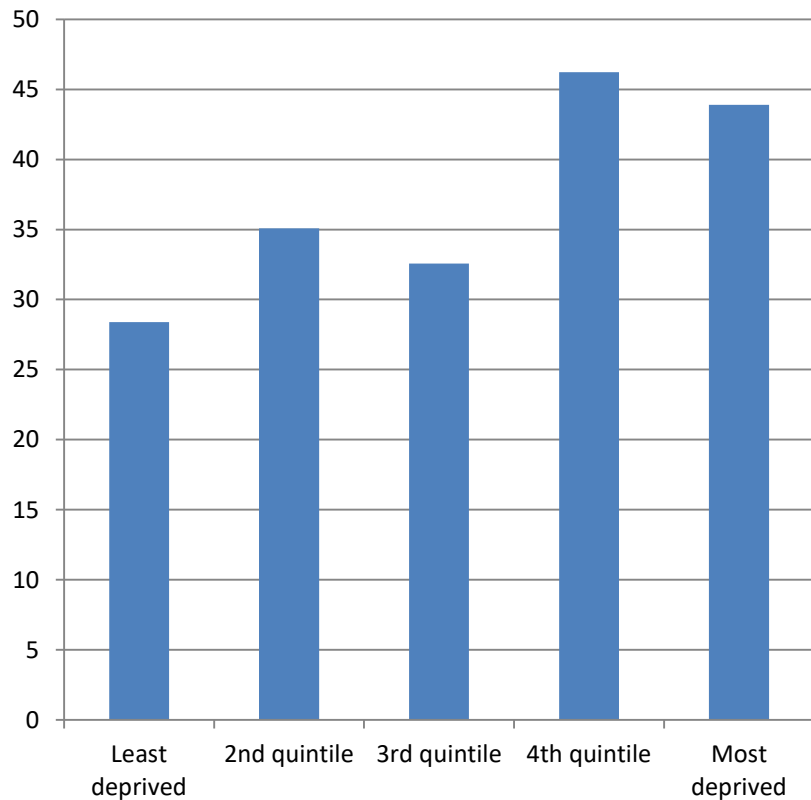


Public transport use

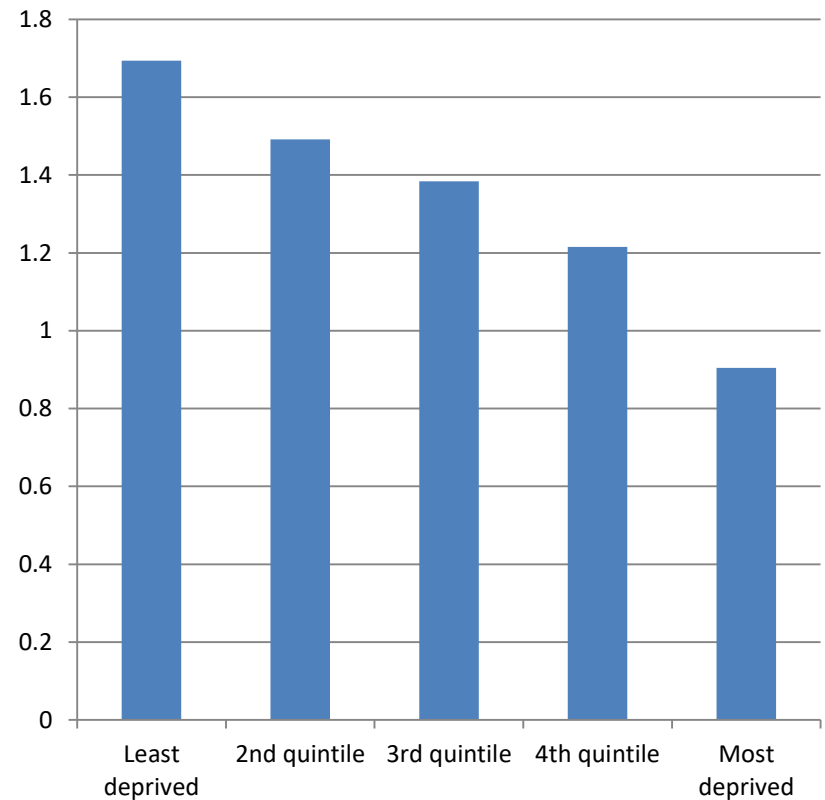


Index of Multiple Deprivation: 2016-17

Poor work quality

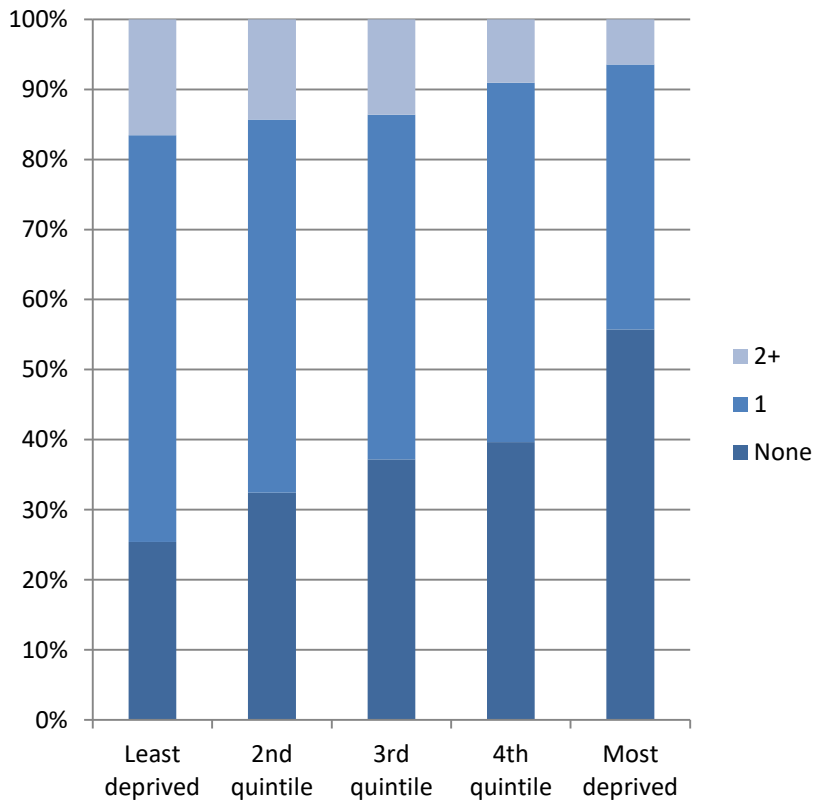


Social and civic engagement

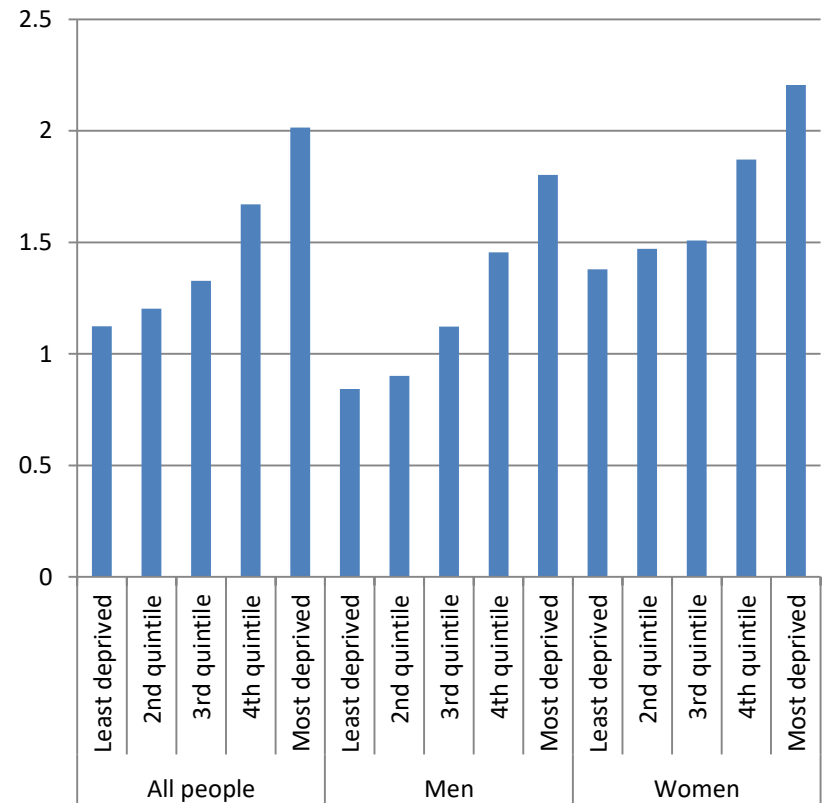


Index of Multiple Deprivation: 2016-17

Cultural engagement

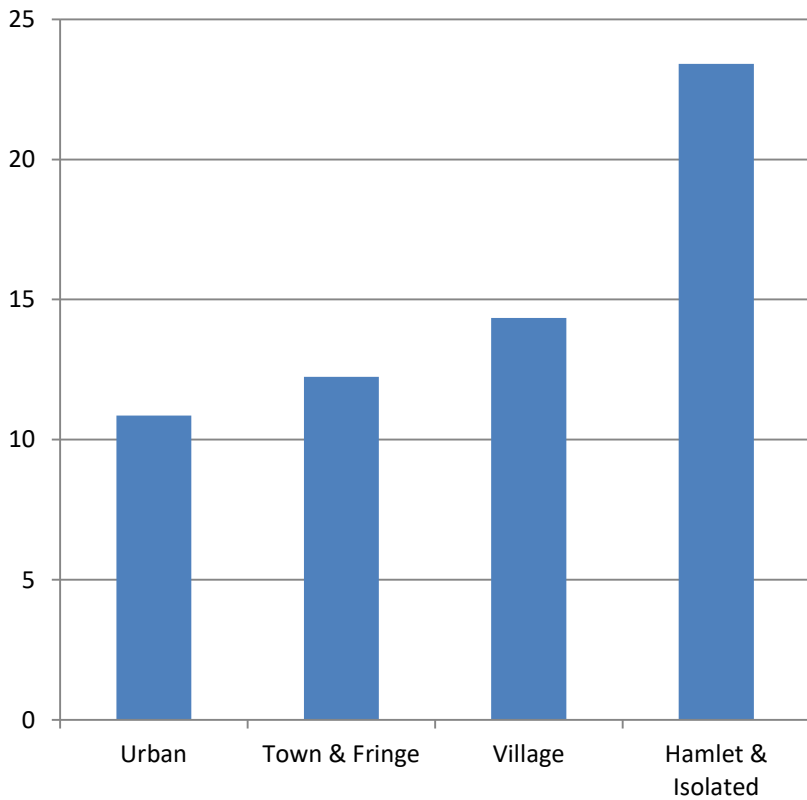


CES-D score

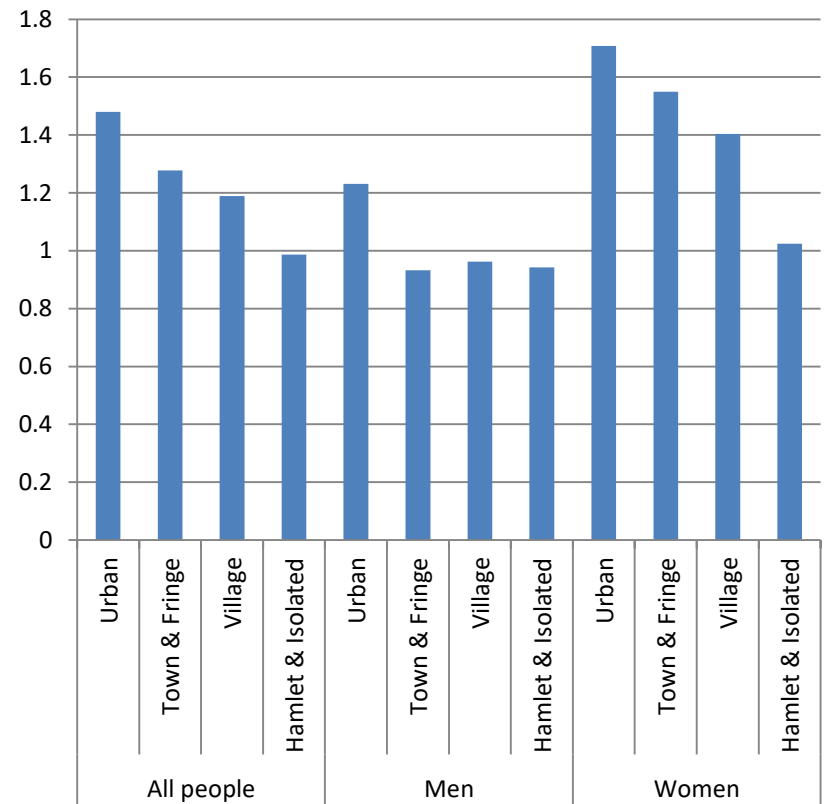


Urban/Rural indicator: 2016-17

Working beyond SPA

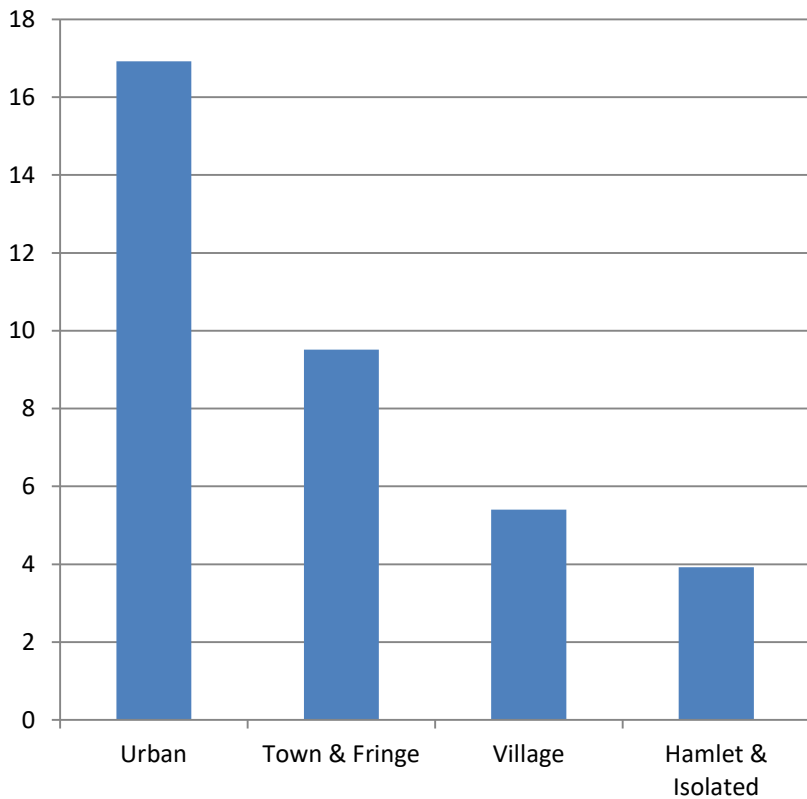


CES-D score

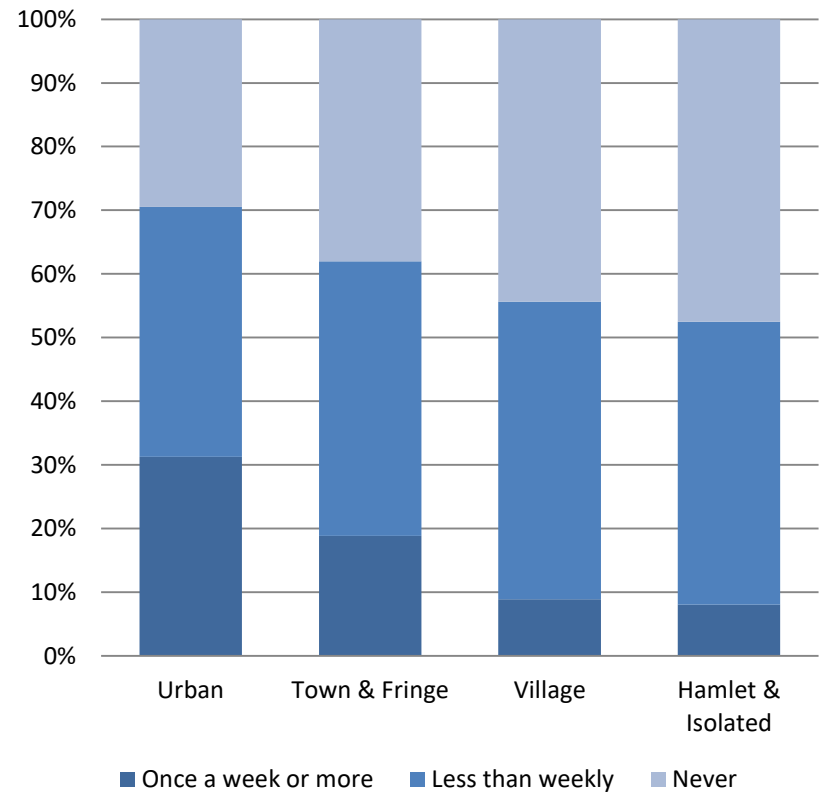


Urban/Rural indicator: 2016-17

No car access



Public transport use

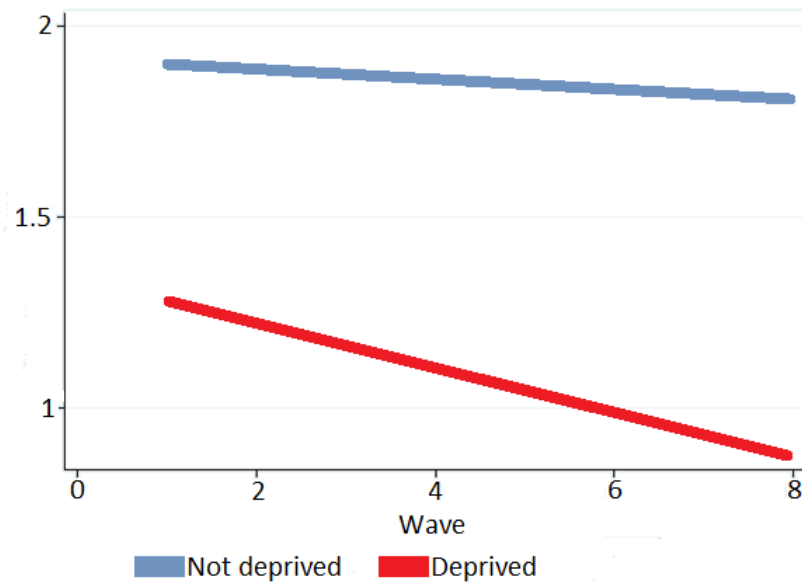


Changing inequality: 2002-2016

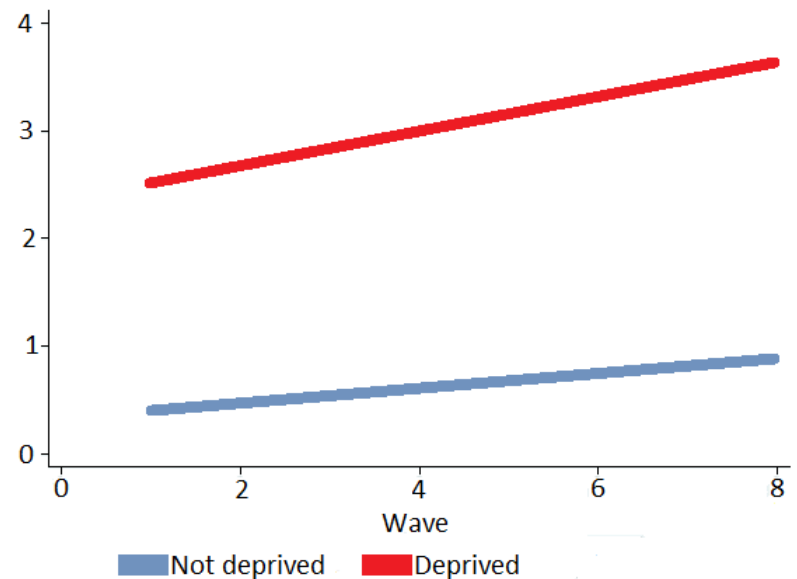
- Do outcomes change differently over time on the basis of area type?
 - Does social and mental wellbeing decrease faster among some areas compared with others?
- Longitudinal mixed models
 - Index of Multiple Deprivation (quintiles)
 - Urban/rural indicator
 - Models adjust for age, gender, marital status, wealth quintile and self-reported health.
- 3,573 core sample members at wave 1
 - 8 observations across waves

Changes in inequality: Index of Multiple Deprivation

Social and civic engagement

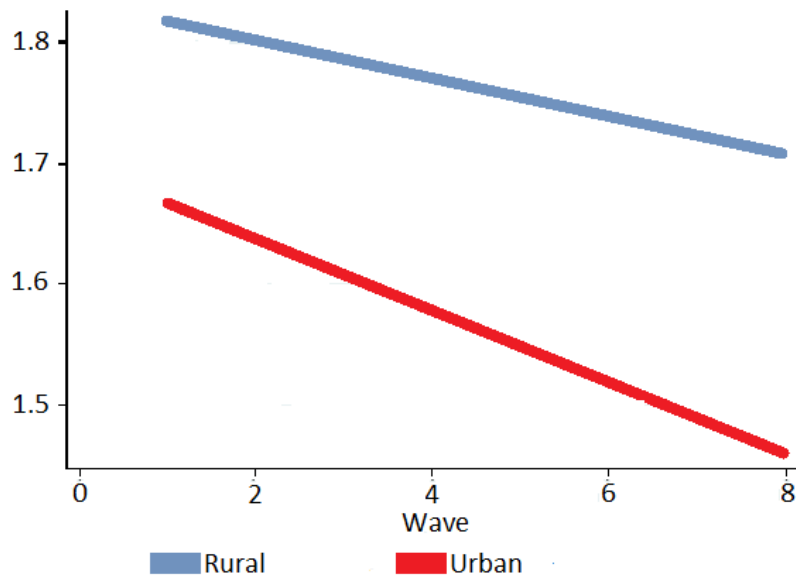


No car access

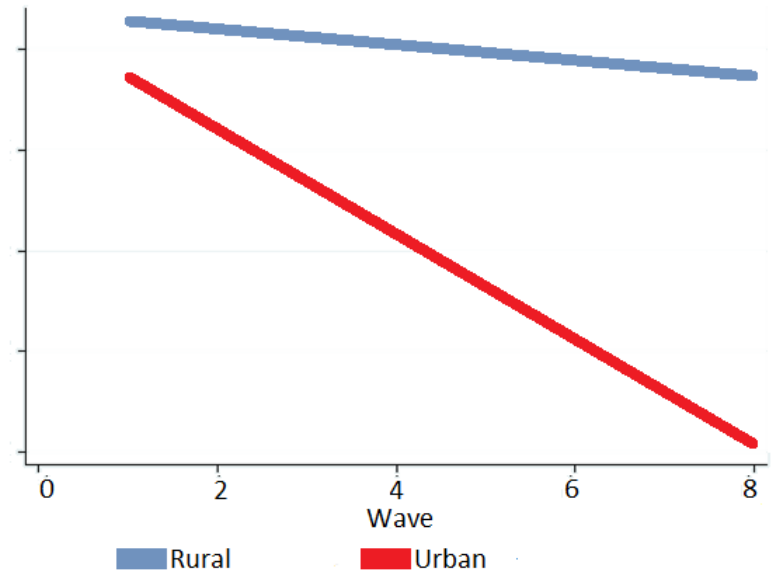


Changes in inequality: Urban/rural indicator

Social and civic engagement



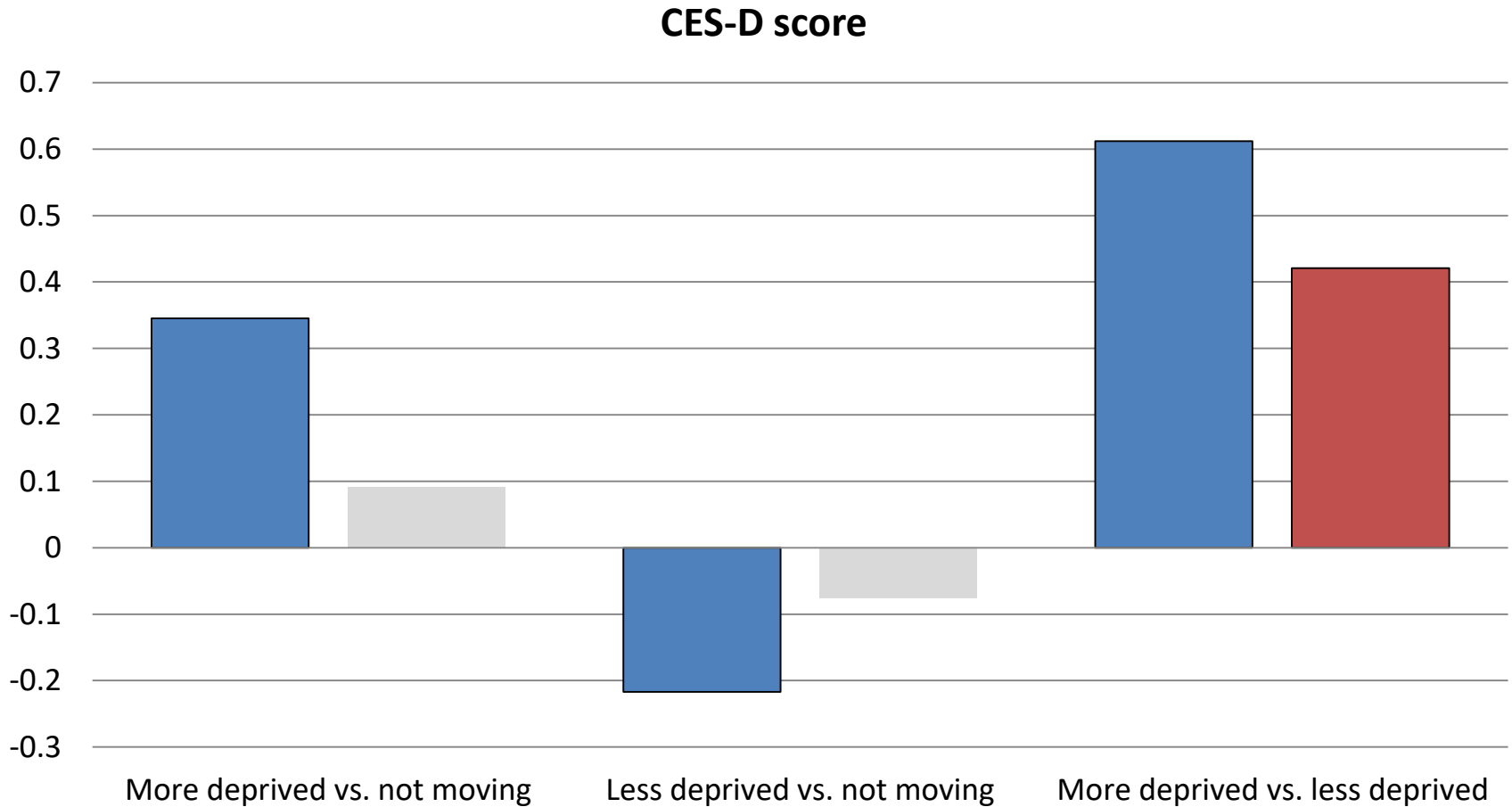
Cultural engagement



Changes in area deprivation

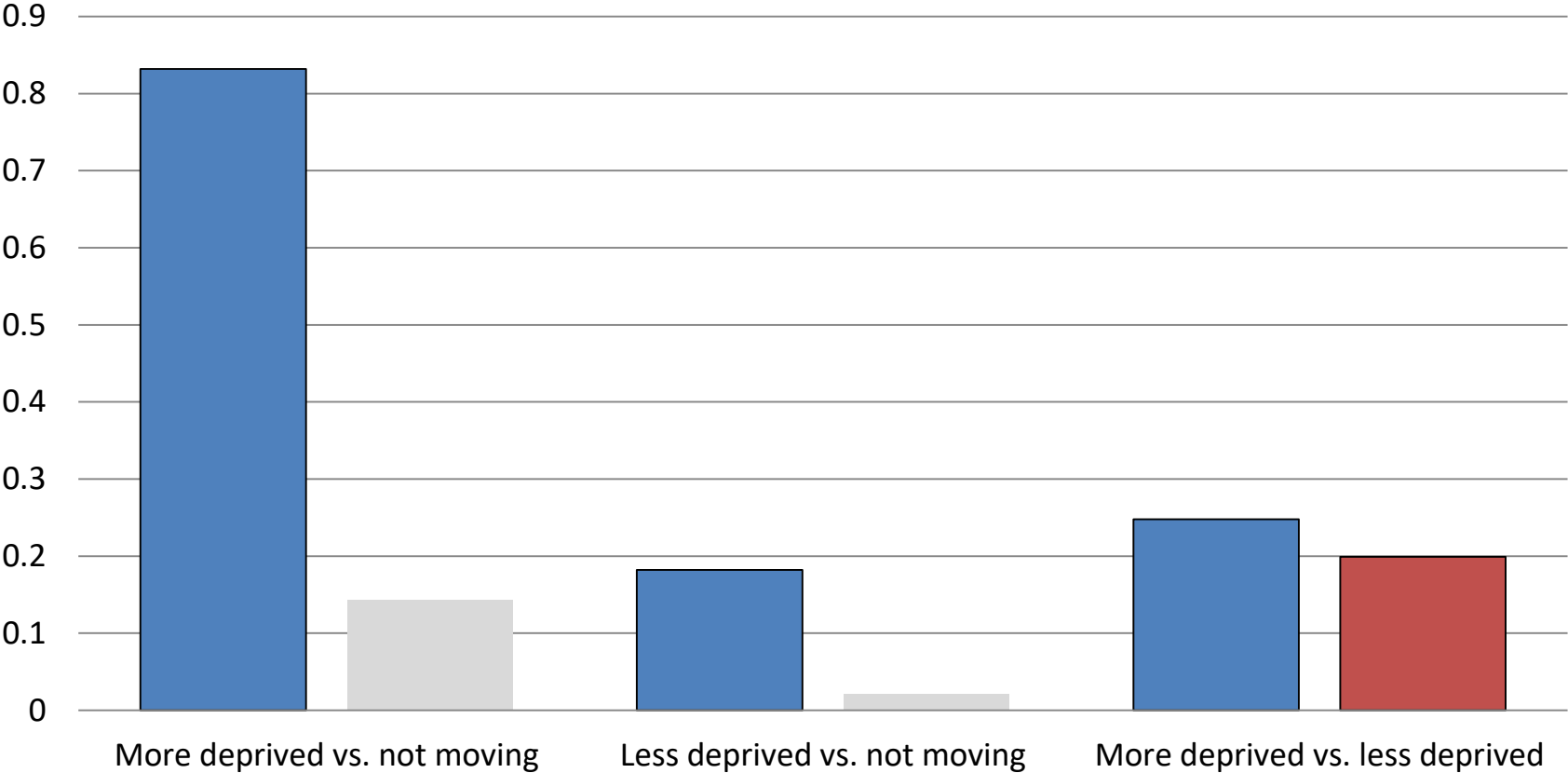
- Does moving into an area with higher or lower deprivation affect wellbeing and social engagement?
- 6,107 core sample members responding to at least 2 consecutive waves of ELSA.
- Three comparisons:
 - Moving into higher deprivation vs. not moving
 - Moving into lower deprivation vs. not moving
 - Moving into higher deprivation vs. lower deprivation
- Regression using pooled data.
 - All models control for baseline outcome.
 - Adjusted models control for baseline outcome, gender, age, marital status, wealth quintile and self-reported health.

Changes in area deprivation



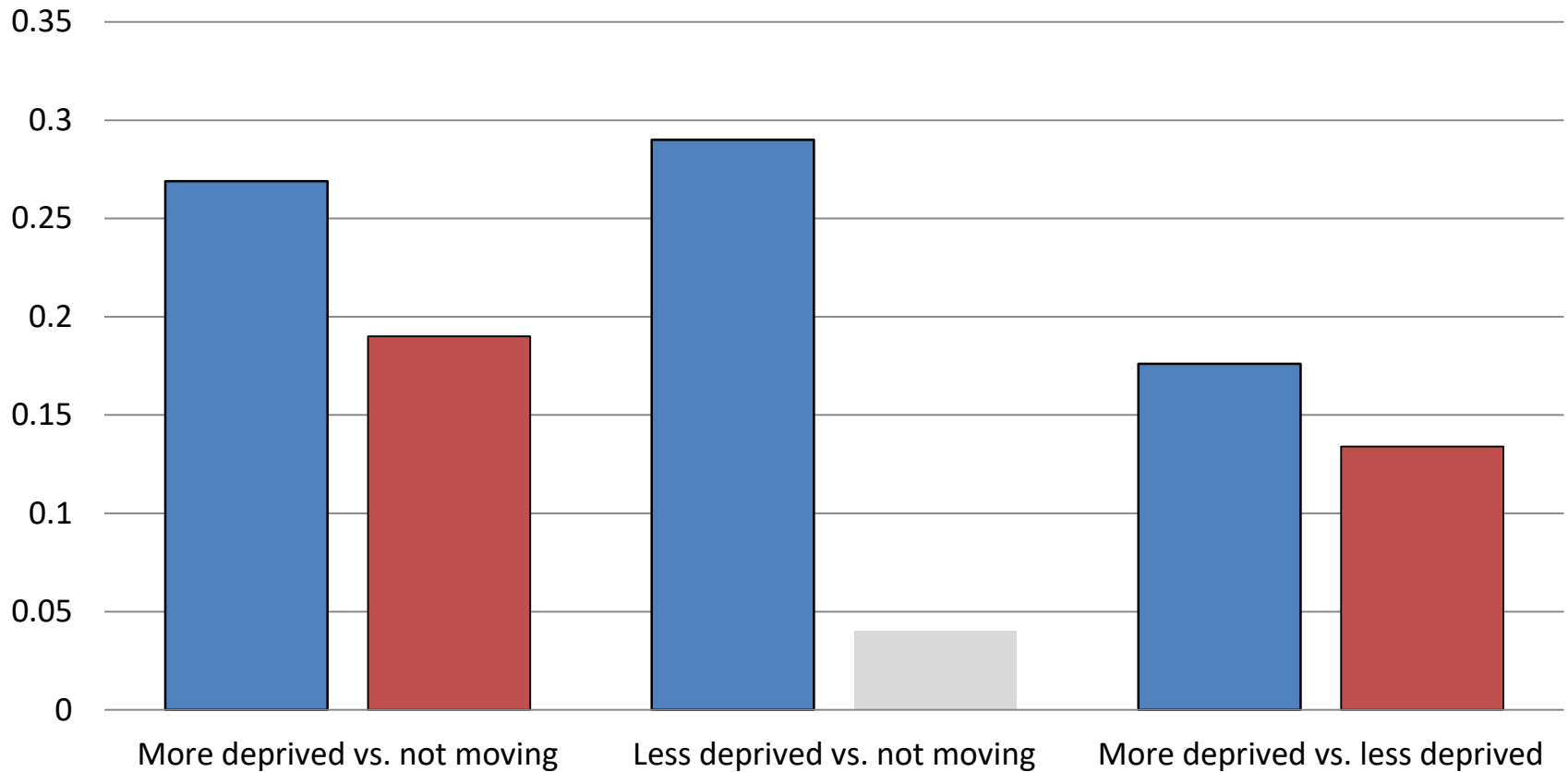
Changes in area deprivation

Social and civic engagement



Changes in area deprivation

Cultural engagement



To conclude...

- Inequalities in mental wellbeing and social outcomes persist across the life course and often widen as individuals age.
 - More deprived and urban areas associated with poorer outcomes.
- Lower social and cultural engagement in more deprived and urban areas.
 - Smaller and less useful social networks.
 - Greater prevalence of crime.
 - Poorer individual wealth and health circumstances.
- These factors may also lead to further poorer mental wellbeing.

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