

Health, inequalities and climate change

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CC and Health

Our brief

- To show how policies to improve health can contribute to the net zero target of GHG emissions.
- We made health inequalities an important part of our focus.
- Difficult to put precise numbers on the kinds of health, and health inequality, benefits expected.

Health and climate: co-benefits

Example interventions

These interventions have benefits both for health and for reducing climate change (also known as *mitigation*)

Produce more renewable energy

Improve insulation in homes

Encourage use of lower emission vehicles

Promote active transport

Reduce solid fuels used for cooking

Less food from animal sources

Encourage locally produced fruit and veg

Reduced
climate
change

Indirect benefits

Reducing climate change also leads to further benefits downstream:

- > Fewer deaths and injuries from extreme weather events
- > Less skin cancer from UV radiation
- > Reduced spread of vector-borne diseases to new areas

Less reforestation

Reduced livestock production

Less meat consumed

Local
fruit and
veg

Health
benefits

Better mental health

Fewer deaths
from extreme
heat

Less
cardiovascular
disease

Less
respiratory
disease

Lower rates
of cancer

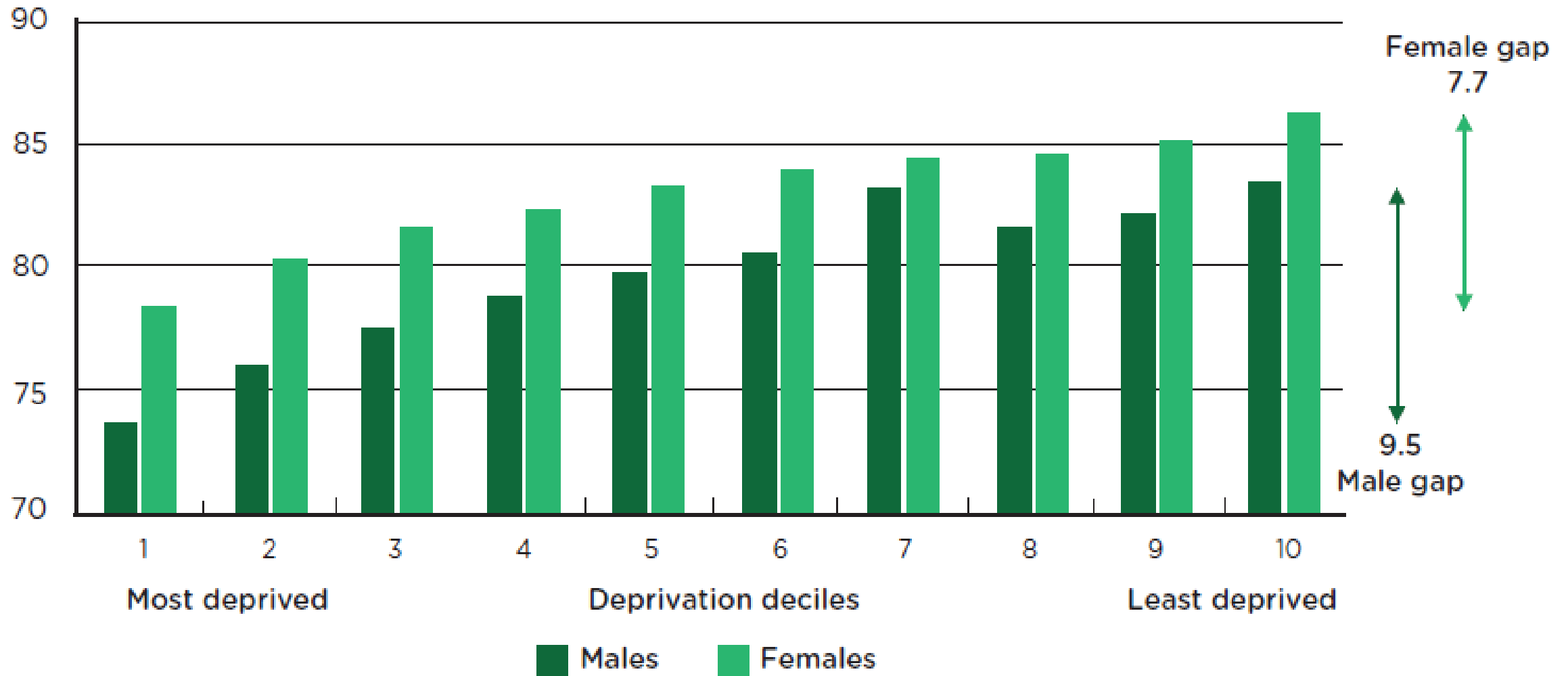
Lower rates of obesity



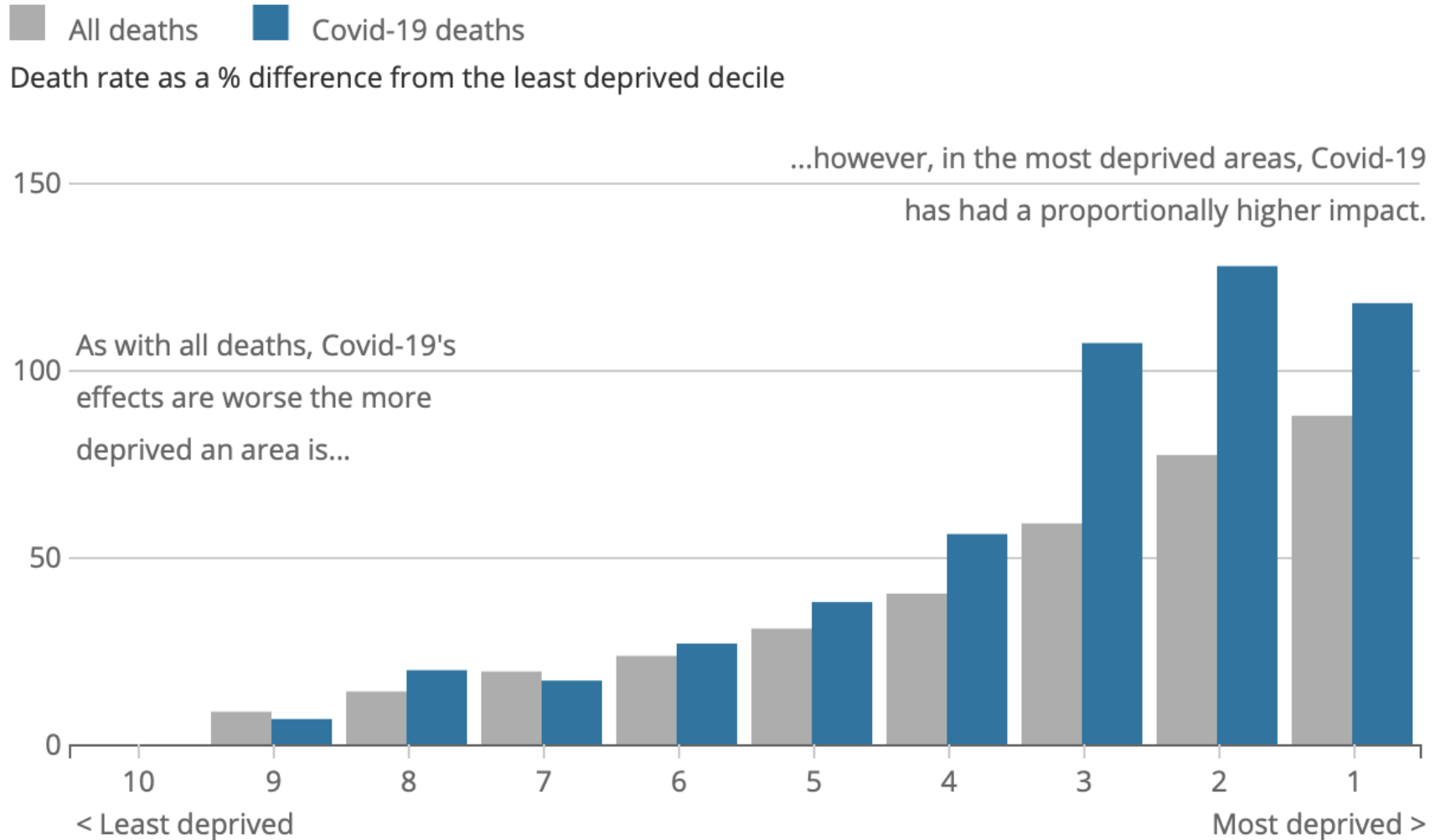
HEALTH EQUITY IN ENGLAND:
THE MARMOT REVIEW 10 YEARS ON

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There are large differences in life expectancy by area deprivation in England



Mortality ASMR England 1 March to 17 April 2020



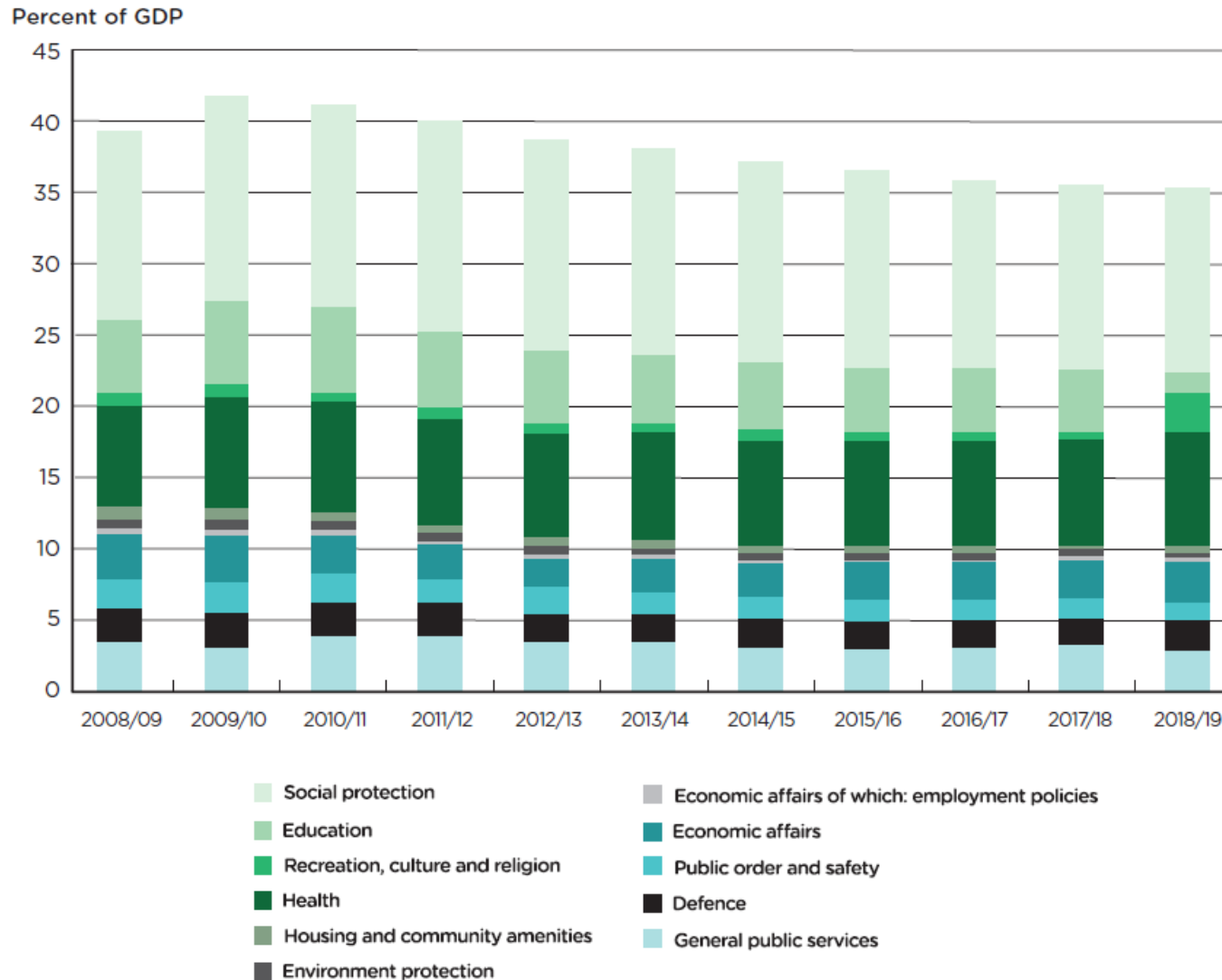
Source: Office for National Statistics – Deaths involving COVID-19

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: 6 Policy Objectives

- A. Give every child the best start in life**
- B. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives**
- C. Create fair employment and good work for all**
- D. Ensure healthy standard of living for all**
- E. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities**
- F. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention**

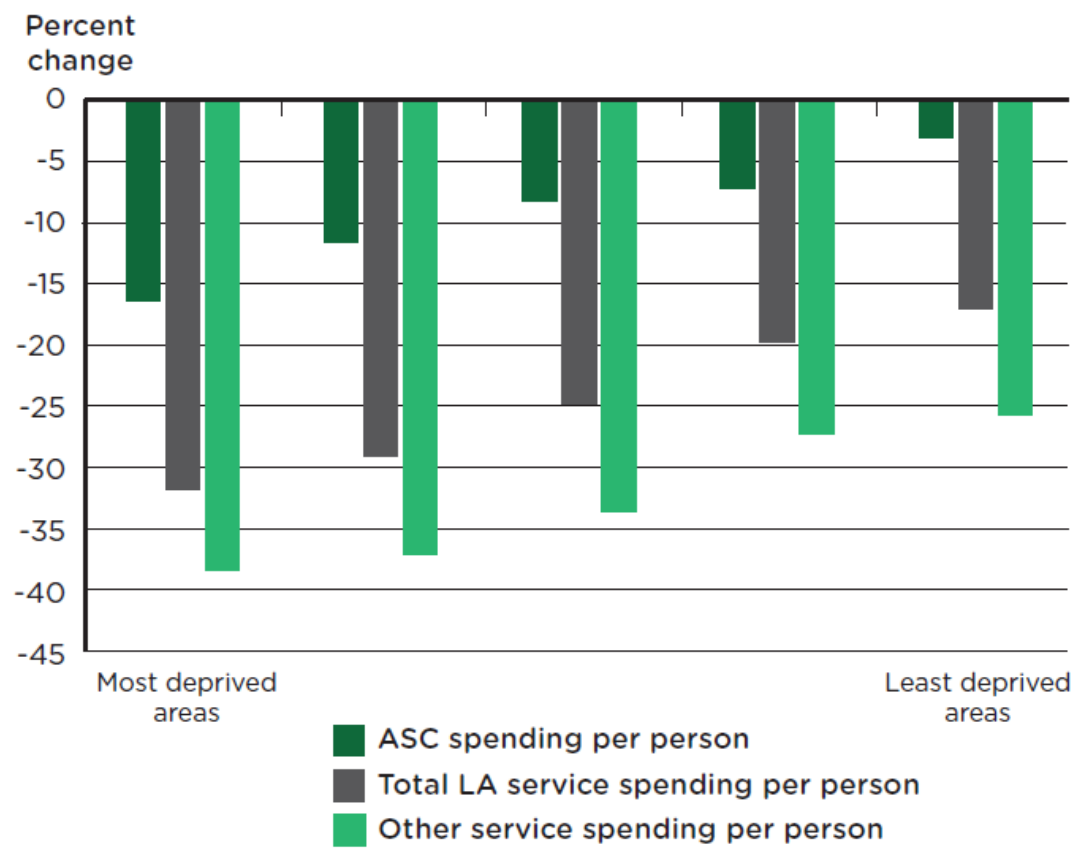


Public sector expenditure on services by function as a percentage of GDP, UK 2008/09-2018-19



Source: HMT National Statistics, 2019 (7)

Average change in council service spending / person by quintile of Index of Multiple Deprivation 2009/10-2017/18 (average score)



Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2018 (9)
Note: LA=local authority; ASC=adult social care; Other services=all council services except adult social care

Health, inequalities and climate change

Key themes

- Housing and buildings
- Sustainable diets
- Transport
- New ways of working

Overarching recommendations

- England should consider implementing a Future Generations Act building on the experience of Wales
- Reflect recent recommendations of the Citizens Assembly (linking to principle of inclusion)
- Consider adoption of Well-being years (WELLBYs) or other metric to ensure health considerations are incorporated into decision making in a consistent and transparent manner.

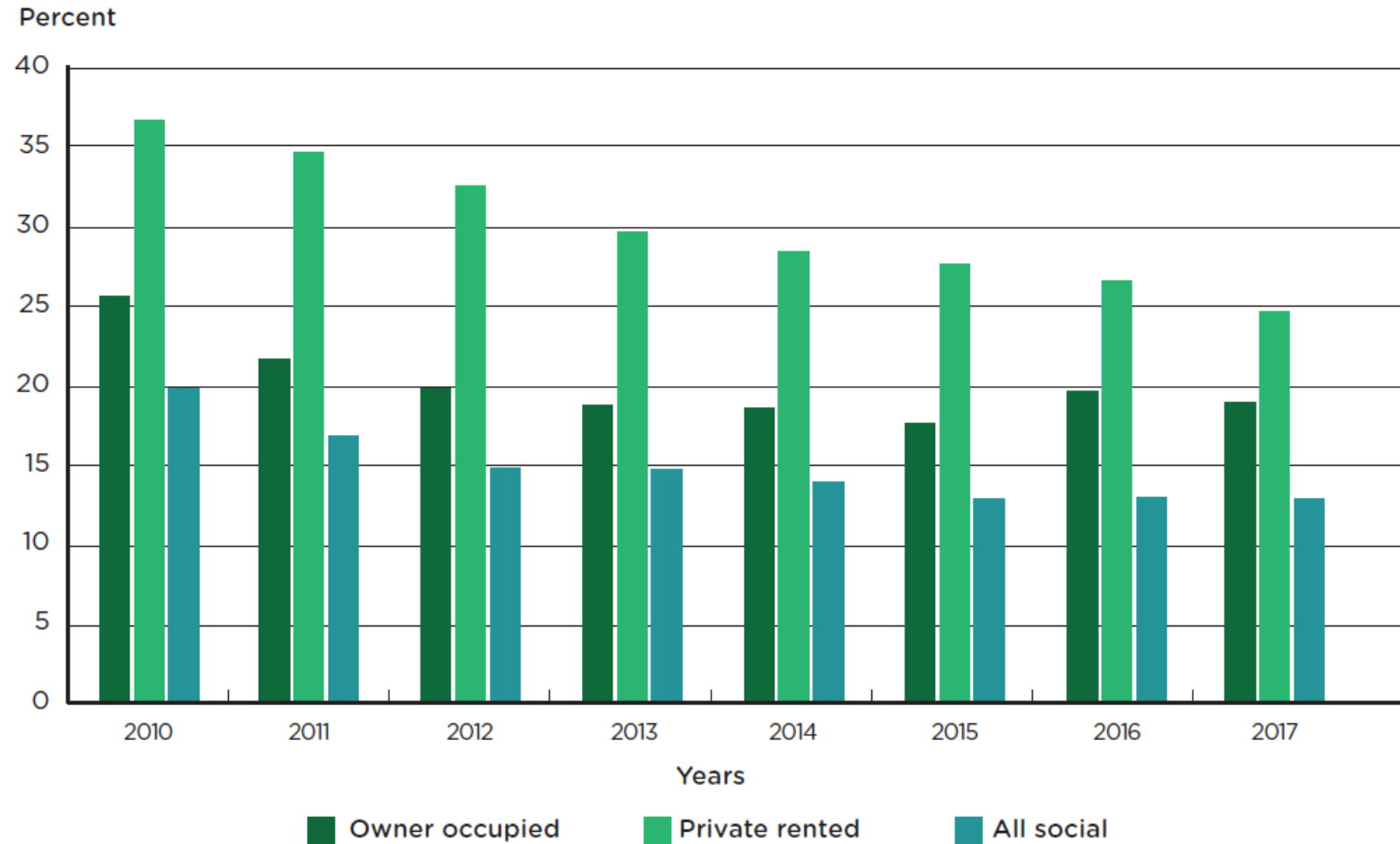
Power generation

- Maximising health benefits
- Equitable approach to managing costs and benefits

Houses and buildings

- Cold homes and excess winter deaths. Fuel poverty
- Indoor air pollution
- Series of recommendations on housing standards

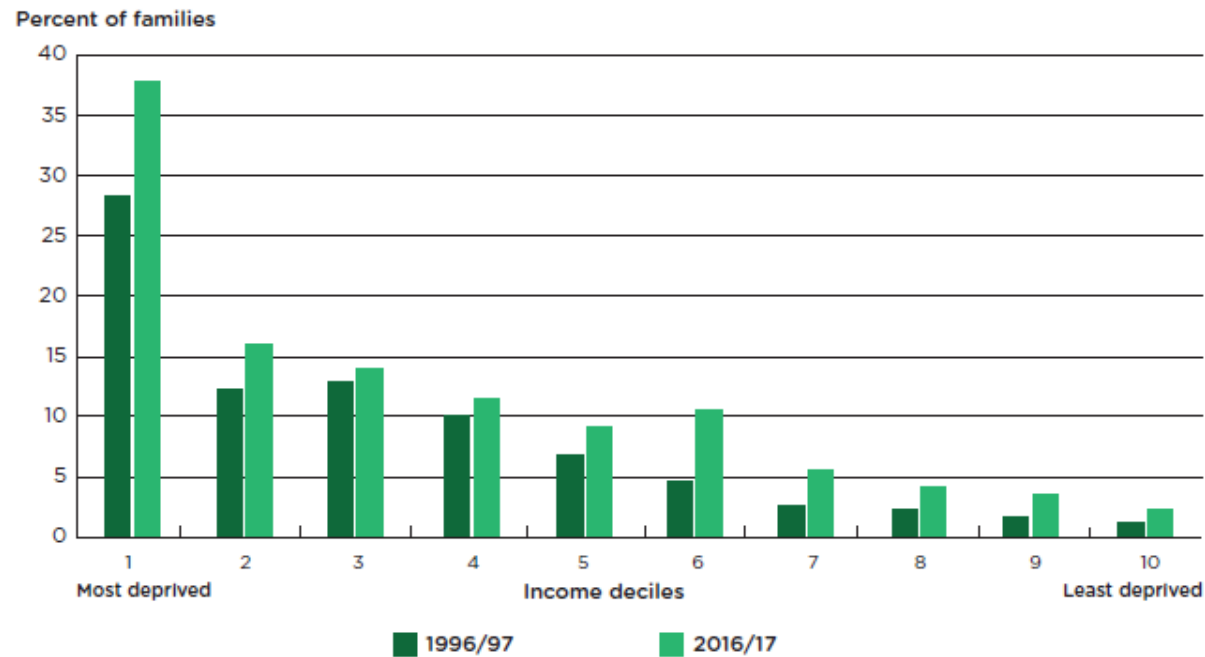
Percentage of non-decent homes, by tenure, England, 2010-2017



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (373)

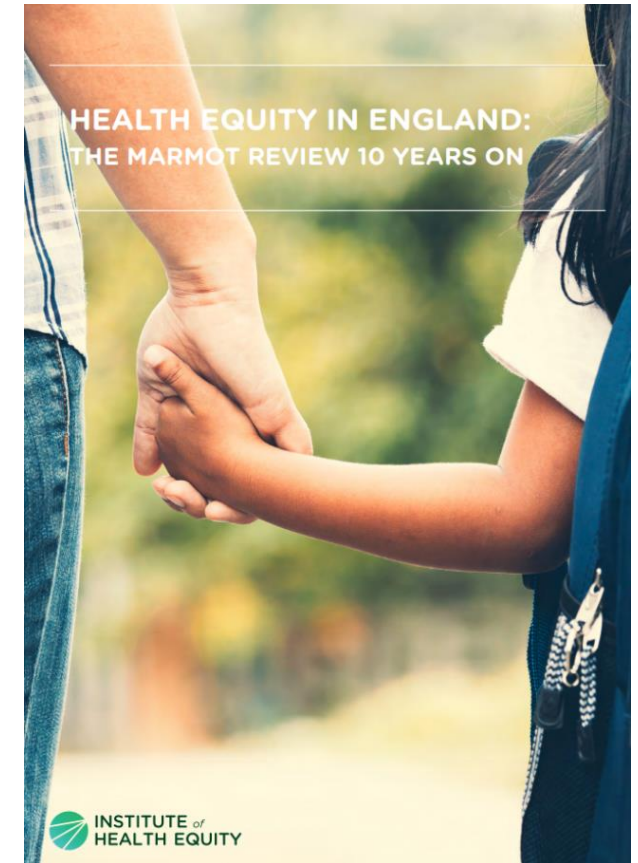
Social determinants & climate change

Figure 3.54. Percent of families spending more than a one-third of their income on housing costs, by income decile, UK, 1996/97 and 2016/17

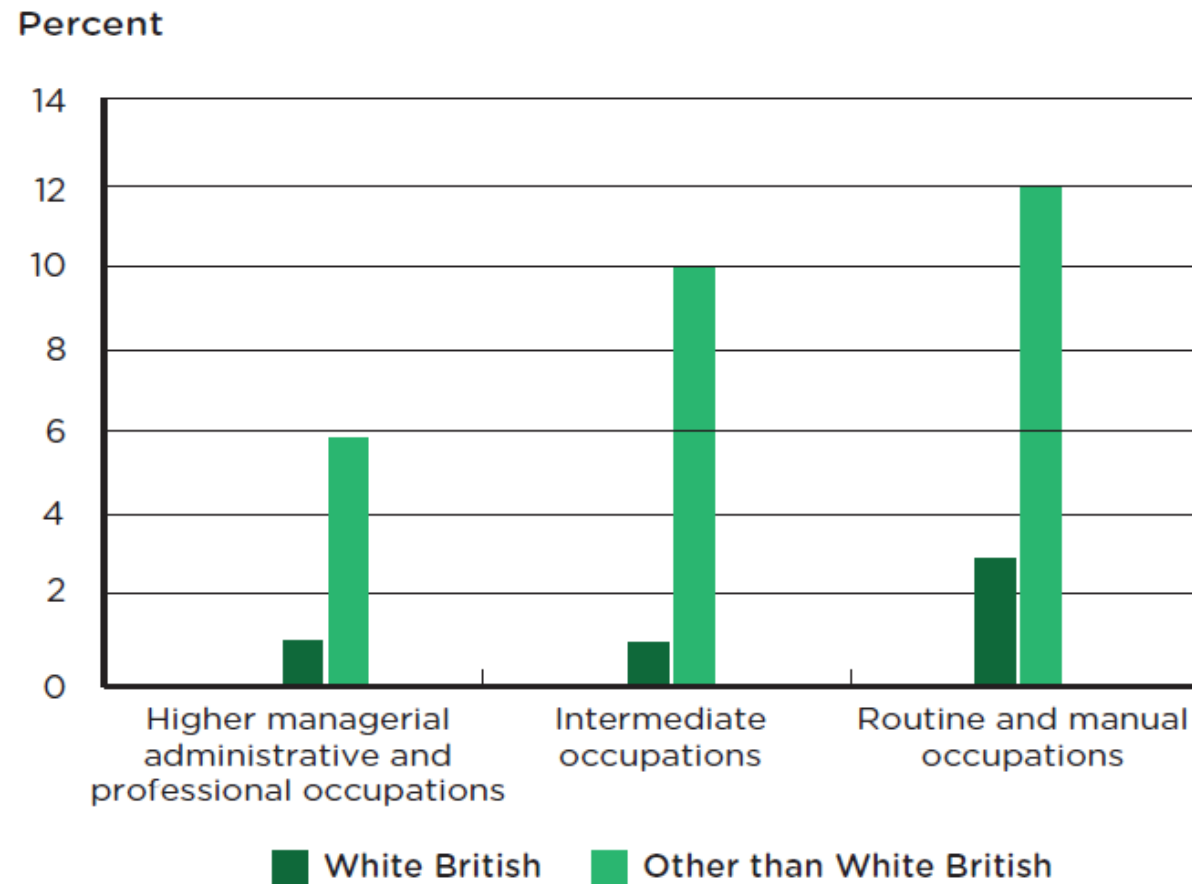


Source: Resolution Foundation (350)

Note: Housing costs and incomes net of housing benefit



Percentage of overcrowded households, by ethnic background and socioeconomic group, England 2014-2017



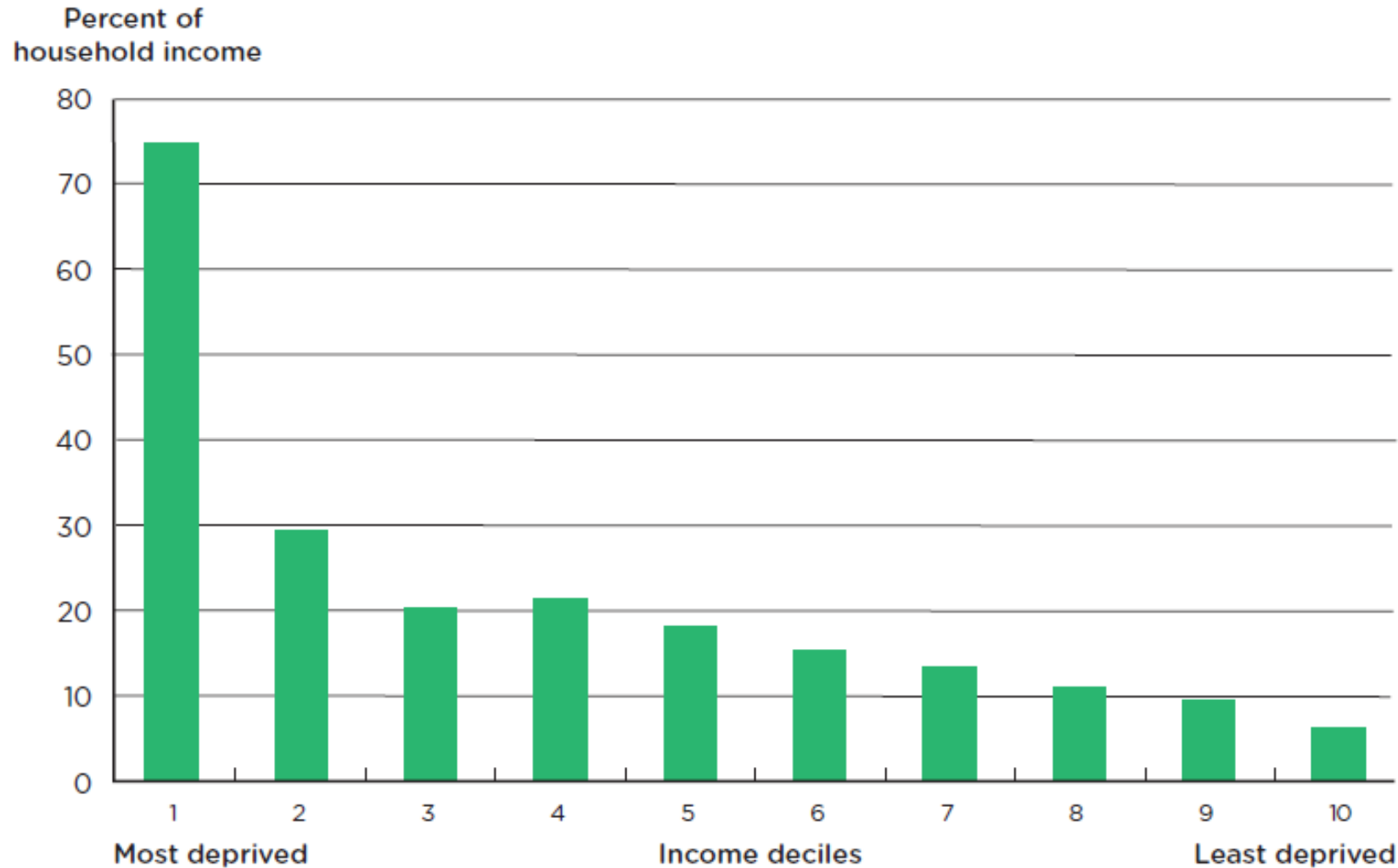
Source: English Housing Survey (382)

Sustainable diets

- Meat
- Obesity
- Food waste

- UK diet contains 25% more fat and 30% less Fruit and Veg than WHO recommends
- If UK meat and dairy were replaced by cereals, F and V: 37,000 fewer deaths from CVD and cancer
- Diet related GHGs reduced by 19%

The most deprived decile households would spend 75% of their disposable income to meet the NHS Eatwell Guide



Transport

- Active travel: walking and cycling
- Pollution and effects on health
- Bicycle commuting compared to cars: reduction in mortality
24% all cause; 25% cancer
- Promoting walking leads to increased safety and reduction in inequalities
- Recommendations – public transport and active travel

Work and health

- Physical hazards
 - Psychosocial conditions
 - Poor pay or insufficient hours
 - Job insecurity and temporary work
-
- All of these have an inequality dimension

Work

- Automation could contribute to reduction in GHGs but increase inequalities.
- Four day week. Work life balance

Thematic area (aligned with COP26 themes)	Main mitigation / adaptation action	Recommendations
Adaptation	Reduce exposure to high indoor temperatures	New build and retrofit standards to include ventilation and passive cooling measures as well as insulation.
		Allow installation of A/C in care homes, hospitals and where vulnerable groups will be exposed to high temperatures, but only where passive cooling is inadequate.
	Reduce exposure to flood risk	Subsidise flood protection measures based on risk of exposure not on property values.
		Restrict developments in flood prone areas.
Nature	Reduce the impact of food production on the natural environment and carbon emissions by: - Enabling and encouraging sustainable food production. - Reducing consumption of lamb, beef and dairy by 30% by 2030. Ensuring alternatives are healthy and accessible to all.	Develop an eco-labelling system combined with health promotion campaign to enable informed choice and encourage dietary change.
		Farmers to be subsidised for stewardship of land and carbon sequestration, and where possible to support local production of essential crops, reducing importation of food from climate vulnerable countries.
		Production of meat from ruminants to be of lowest environmental impact, reducing emissions from red meat production processes by 50% by 2035.
	Address food waste to minimise the environmental impact of food production.	Restrict advertising and volume-based promotions of HFSS products

Thematic area (aligned with COP26 themes)	Main mitigation / adaptation action	Recommendations
Finance	Moving towards a circular economy.	Reduce NHS emissions by 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050 based on 1990 levels
	Use the NHS as an exemplar / model for good practice for industry	Develop procurement strategies that incentivise pharmaceutical and equipment companies to decarbonise their supply chains. Encourage use of remote consultations where there is evidence that this does not compromise the quality of the consultation.
	Invest in re-training and efforts to diversify the affected economies prior to closure of fossil fuel industry sites (power plants and extraction)	Create a dedicated £100million a year training and development fund to ensure jobs lost are met with newly created opportunities in areas negatively affected by the energy transition.

Thematic area (aligned with COP26 themes)	Main mitigation / adaptation action	Recommendations
Energy transition (to include energy efficiency or keep buildings separate?)	Reduce availability of fossil fuels and transition to clean energy sources – decarbonising both power generation and industrial, commercial and domestic energy by 80% by 2040 from 1990 baseline.	Eliminate home installation of new woodburning stoves by 2030. All urban wood burning stove eliminated by 2050. Enforce fuel standards.
	Reduce demand for energy by improving and enforcing energy efficiency and ventilation standards.	Increase home energy efficiency to basic minimum of EPC C+, and target subsidies towards low income households
		100% of new housing carbon neutral by 2022, with 40% either ‘affordable’ or in the social housing sector.
		All social housing homes carbon neutral by 2028
		Minimum one million homes upgraded each year, as achieved in 2010-2012.
		Enable flexible build standards depending on regional needs: whether priority is to reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants (e.g. radon, or particulates) and increase ventilation, or reduce exposure to outdoor air pollutant (e.g. in major cities).
		Ringfence and increase funding to support holistic behaviour change programmes with cycle training, segregated cycle networks, travel planning support to schools and businesses and large scale health promotion campaigns.

Thematic area (aligned with COP26 themes)	Main mitigation / adaptation action	Recommendations
Road Transport	Increase modal share of journeys that are < 2 miles to 70% walking, cycling or public transport by 2030 and 90% by 2040.	Ringfence and increase funding to support road space re-allocation, town-city wide interventions including holistic behaviour change programmes with cycle training, segregated cycle networks, travel planning support to schools and businesses and large scale health promotion campaigns.
		Reduce funding for road investment by 5% each year until 2030.
		20 MPH speed limit in all urban areas by 2030.
		Increase availability of affordable and reliable public transport and intra-city transport connections.
		Encourage continued remote working and reduced reliance on road transport for commuting
		Increase monitoring and enforcement of traffic regulations, including 20MPH and 20MPH zones.
		Incentivise car sharing schemes in order that 25% of all cars on roads are pooled ownership by 2030
		All new housing developments to provide infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, public transport users, electric vehicle owners and access to local facilities.
	Accelerate uptake of electric vehicles	Increase vehicle excise to duty on diesel and petrol vehicles to £500 per year to encourage behavioural change; proceeds to be used for an active travel and public transport infrastructure fund.
		Expand EV charging point network to ensure one charging point every 250 metres in urban areas

UK public opinion on what governments should prioritise in the future, May 2020

	England	Wales	Scotland
The health and wellbeing of UK citizens	81	87	89
The economic growth of the UK	12	9	5
Don't know	7	4	6

- “a wellbeing approach can be described as enabling people to have the capabilities they need to live lives of purpose, balance, and meaning for them.”

Amartya Sen?

No



TE TAI ŌHANGA
THE TREASURY