

# Big Data and Socio-Economic Mortality

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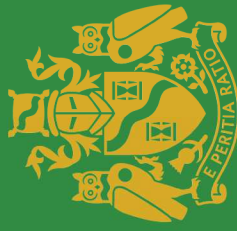
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The **'Modelling, Measurement and Management of Longevity and Morbidity Risk'** research programme is being funded by the ARC, the SoA and the CIA.

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# Outline

- Background
- Data – England male & female mortality
- Methodology
- Results
  - predictive variables
  - residual spatial variation
- Ongoing work



# Background

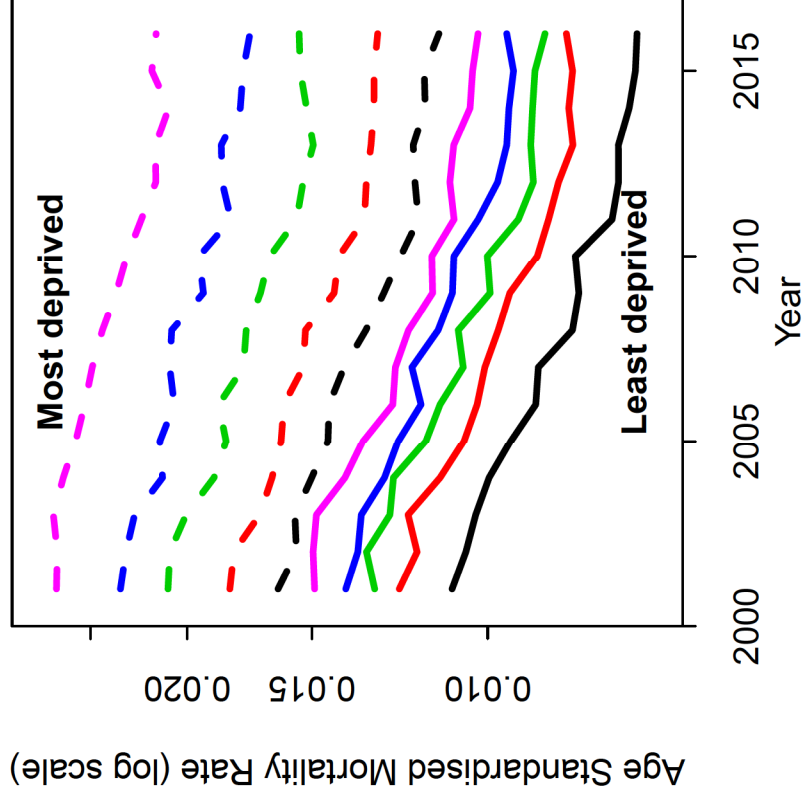
- Considering here:
  - male mortality in England  
(results for females similar and consistent)
- Stylised facts:
  - Mortality varies by socio-economic group
  - Mortality varies by region



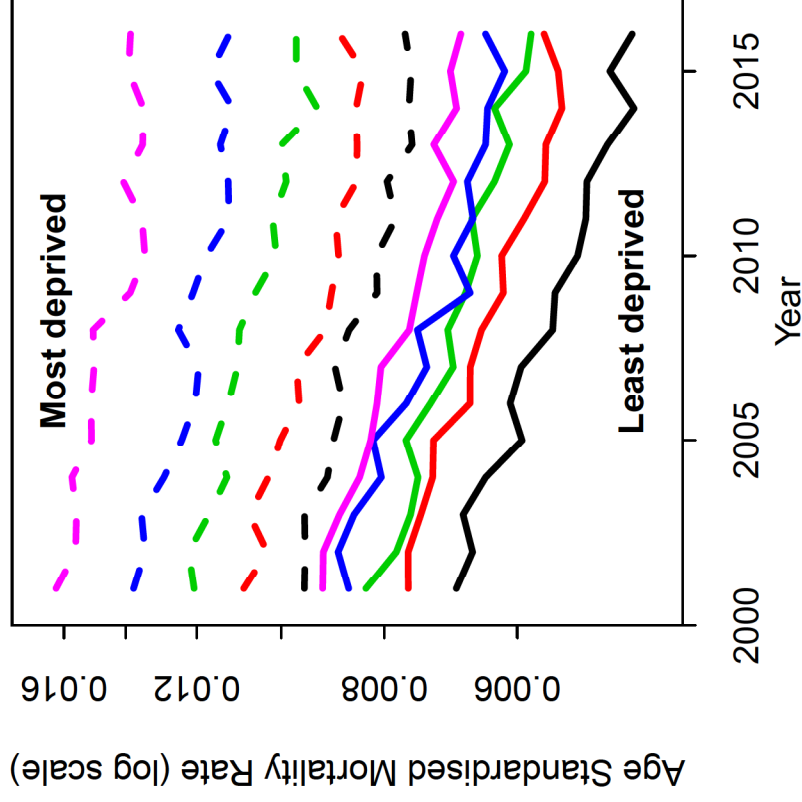
# Socio-Economic Differences in Mortality: England

## England: mortality by deprivation

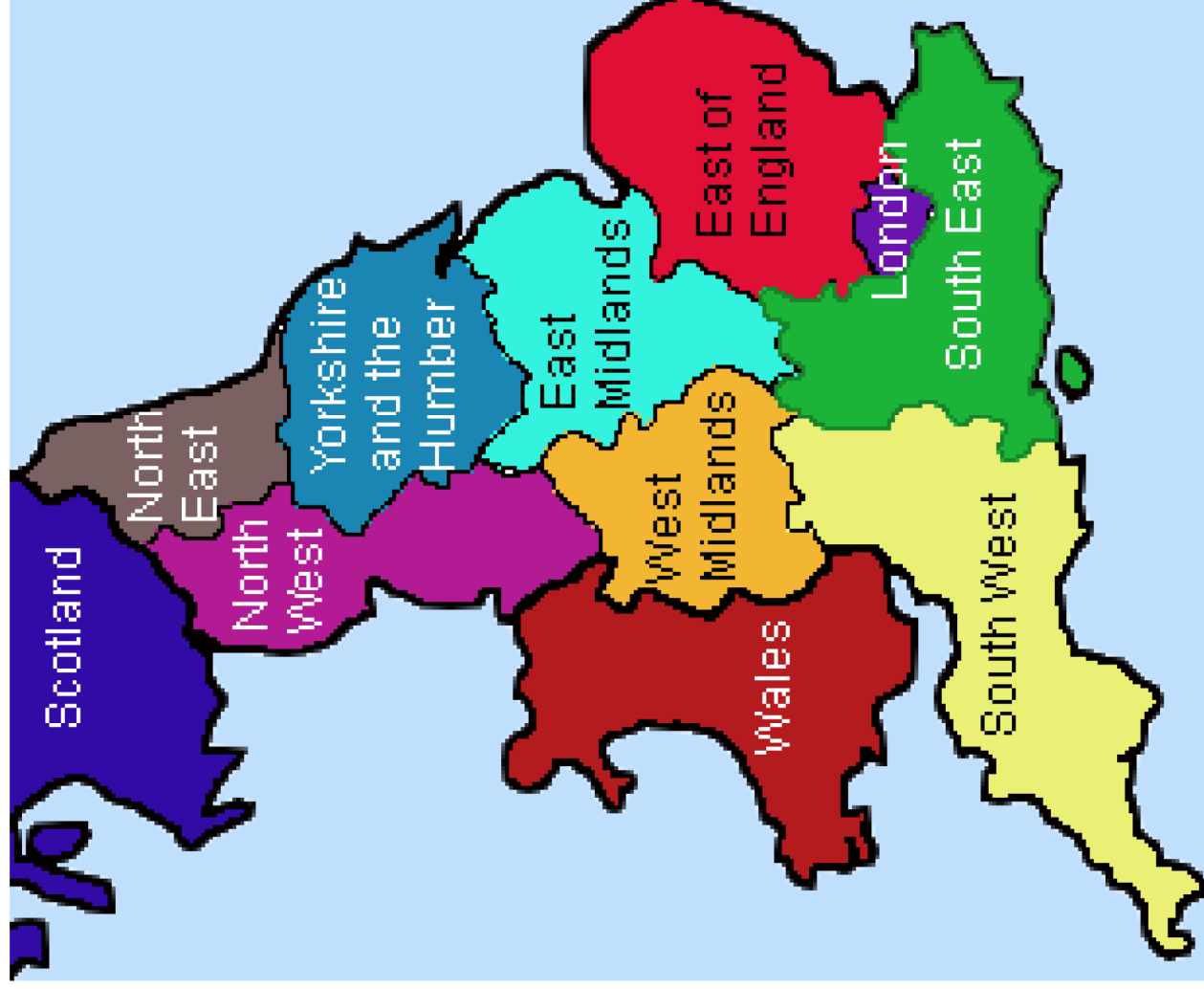
Age Standardised Mortality Rates  
England by Deprivation Deciles  
Males Aged 60–69



Age Standardised Mortality Rates  
England by Deprivation Deciles  
Females Aged 60–69



# Background: Variation By Region



North East  
North West  
Yorkshire & Humber  
East Midlands  
West Midlands  
East of England  
London  
South East  
South West

Not in dataset:  
Scotland, Wales,  
Northern Ireland

## Background: Relative mortality by region

### England Variation by region (males 60-69)

North East	118%
North West	116%
Yorkshire and The Humber	107%
East Midlands	98%
West Midlands	105%
East	88%
London	105%
South East	89%
South West	87%

Values show standardised mortality (ages 60-69) by region as a percentage of national standardised mortality

Regional variation < variation by income deprivation

# Background

- Mortality varies by socio-economic group
- Mortality in the north (and in big cities) is higher than mortality elsewhere
- *How much of this can be explained by underlying **socio-economic** differences?*
- *And how much variation is **geographical**?*

E.g. due to higher or lower levels of smoking than national levels by socio-economic group.





## Data: LSOA's

- England only
- Lower Layer Super Output Areas: LSOA's
- $L = 32,844$  small geographical areas
- Socio-economically homogeneous
- Average size  $\approx 1600$  persons
- LSOA's  $i = 1, \dots, L$ , single years ( $t = 2001-2016$ ), single ages,  $x$ :
  - Deaths:  $D(i, t, x)$
  - Exposures:  $E(i, t, x)$  (population)
- Plus many *static* predictive variables for each LSOA

# Predictive variables by LSOA

- **Indices of deprivation (2015)** (single scores per LSOA)
  - **income deprivation** (benefits)
  - **employment deprivation** (unemployment)
  - education deprivation
  - crime
  - barriers to housing and services
    - geographical barriers (distance to services)
    - **wider barriers** (overcrowding; homelessness)
  - **living environment** (housing quality; unmodernised; air quality)
- Educational attainment (levels  $\times$  age groups)
- Occupation groups (types  $\times$  age groups)
- Average weekly income
- **Average number of bedrooms**
- **# people in care homes with/without nursing**
- **Urban/rural classification** (categorical)
- ....

- $D(i, t, x)$ ,  $E(i, t, x)$  deaths and exposures by LSOA
- National death rates (all  $t$  and  $x$ )

$$m(t, x) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^L D(i, t, x)}{\sum_{i=1}^L E(i, t, x)}$$

- LSOA's ( $i = 1, \dots, L$ ) local death rates:  $m(i, t, x)$   
General Model:  $D(i, t, x) \sim \text{Poisson}(m(i, t, x)E(i, t, x))$

# Methodology (cont.)

General approach:

- Over a limited age range (e.g. 60-69); and
- Over a (potentially) limited range of years:

$$m(i, t, x) = m(t, x)F_1(i)F_2(i)$$

- $F_1(i)$  = relative risk due to socio-economic characteristics
  - GLM
  - kernel smoothing
  - local, weighted linear regression
- $F_2(i)$  = additional relative risk capturing spatial effects
  - kernel smoothing

# Methodology (cont.)

- Years:  $t = t_0, \dots, t_1$
- Ages:  $x = x_0, \dots, x_1$
- **Actual deaths** by LSOA

$$D(i) = \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} \sum_{x=x_0}^{x_1} D(i, t, x)$$

- **Expected deaths** by LSOA (no modelled effects)

$$\hat{D}_0(i) = \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} \sum_{x=x_0}^{x_1} m(t, x) E(i, t, x)$$

- **Actual-over-expected** by LSOA

$$R_0(i) = D(i) / \hat{D}_0(i)$$



# Stage 1: Introduce Predictive Variables

- LSOA's:  $i = 1, \dots, L$
  - Predictive variables (PV):  $j = 1, \dots, n_P$
  - $P(i, j) =$  unadjusted PV
  - Different PVs are on different scales (e.g.  $[0, 1]$ ,  $[0, 100]$ ,  $(-\infty, +\infty)$ )
  - Hence: standardise each PV
- Purpose of standardisation:  
Simplifies the system of weighting later in Stage 1

$$P(i, j) \longrightarrow X(i, j) \sim N(0, 1)$$

- Vector:  $X(i) = (X(i, 1), \dots, X(i, n_P))'$



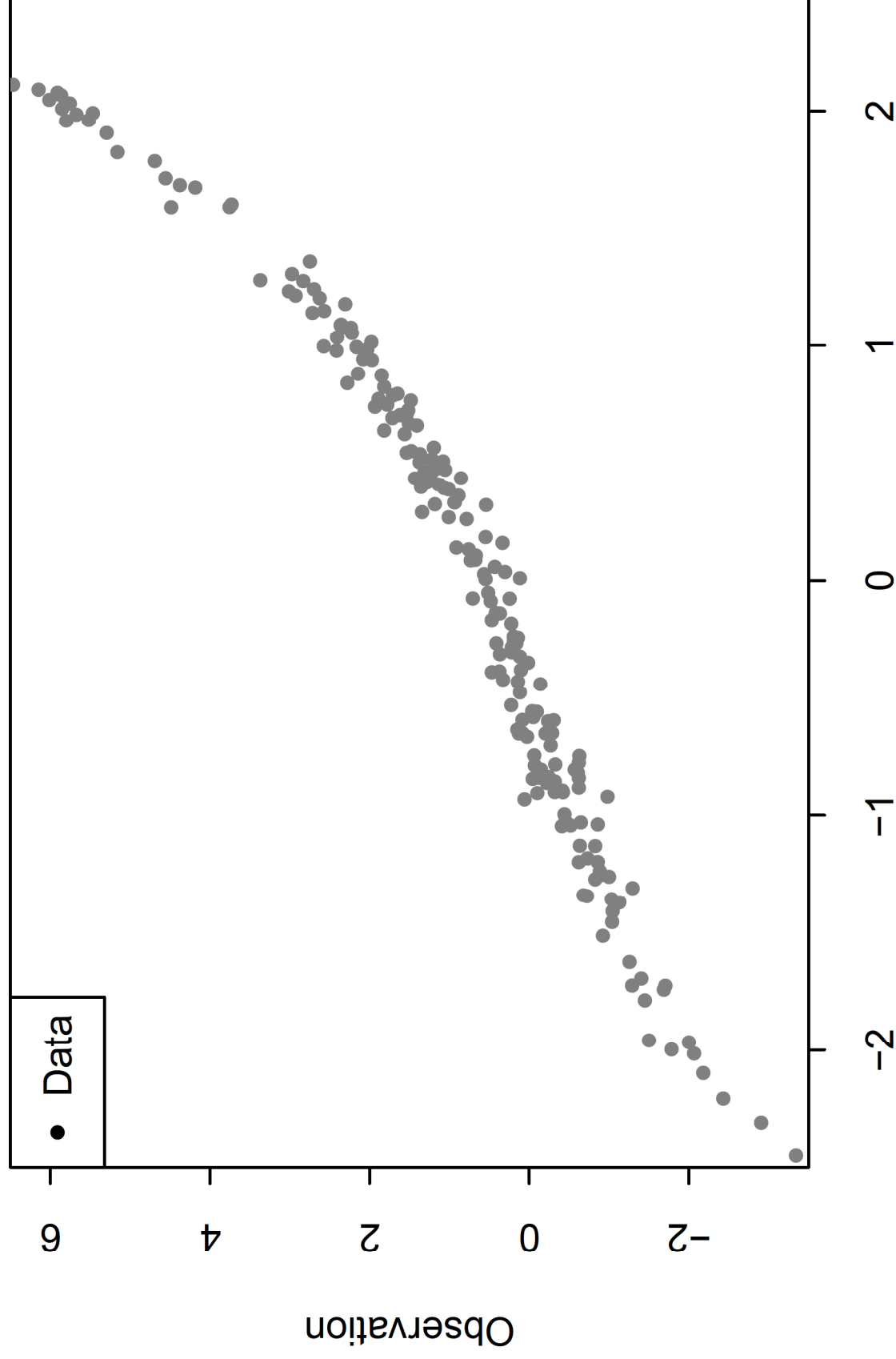
# Stage 1: Urban versus Rural

- Urban-rural classification
  - 1: Conurbation; London (4810 LSOA's)
  - 2: Conurbation: not London (7921)
  - 3: City or town (14515)
  - 4: Rural town (3056)
  - 5: Rural village and dispersed (2542)
- Preliminary experiments  $\Rightarrow$   
contribution and importance of specific predictive variables  
varies significantly between urban and rural LSOA's
- Hence: incorporate urban/rural classification into the  
process.



# Stage 1: Local Linear Regression

## Stylised Weighted Local Linear Regression



Predictive Variable



# Stage 1: Local Linear Regression

Stylised Example:  $X$  one dimensional

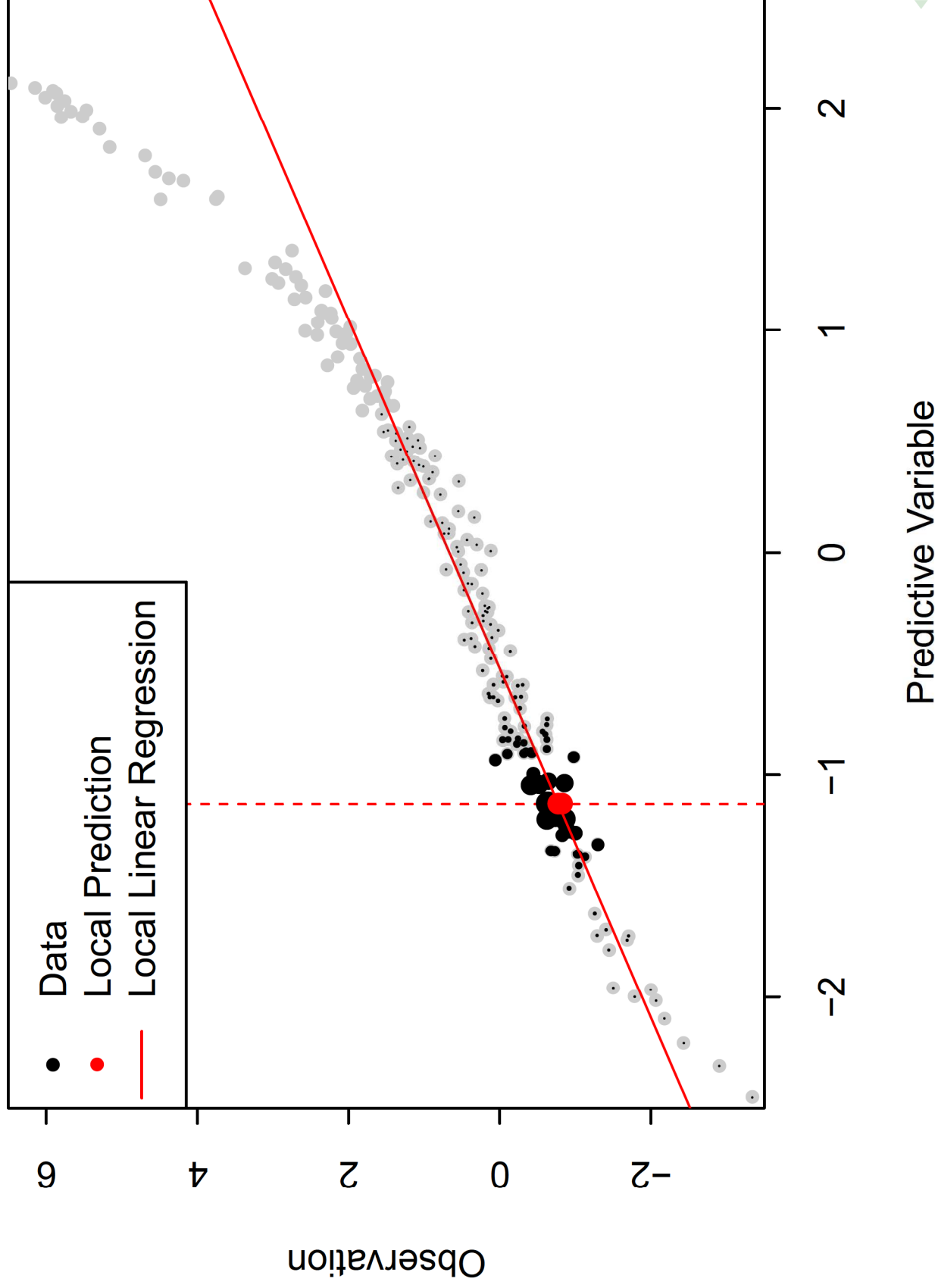
- Observe  $(X(i), Y(i)), \quad i = 1, \dots, n$
- What is  $\hat{Y}(i) = E[Y(i)|X(i)]$ ?
- Weighted least squares:

$$\text{minimise } S_i = \sum_{j=1}^n w(i, j) (Y(j) - (a + bX(j)))^2$$

- Weights,  $w(i, j) \rightarrow 0$  as  $X(j)$  gets further from  $X(i)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  fit a straight line through points near  $X(i)$
  - Minimisation  $\Rightarrow \hat{a}(i), \hat{b}(i)$
  - $\hat{Y}(i) = \hat{a}(i) + \hat{b}(i)X(i)$
  - Could also use e.g. B-splines
- But might not be practical if  $X$  has several dimensions.

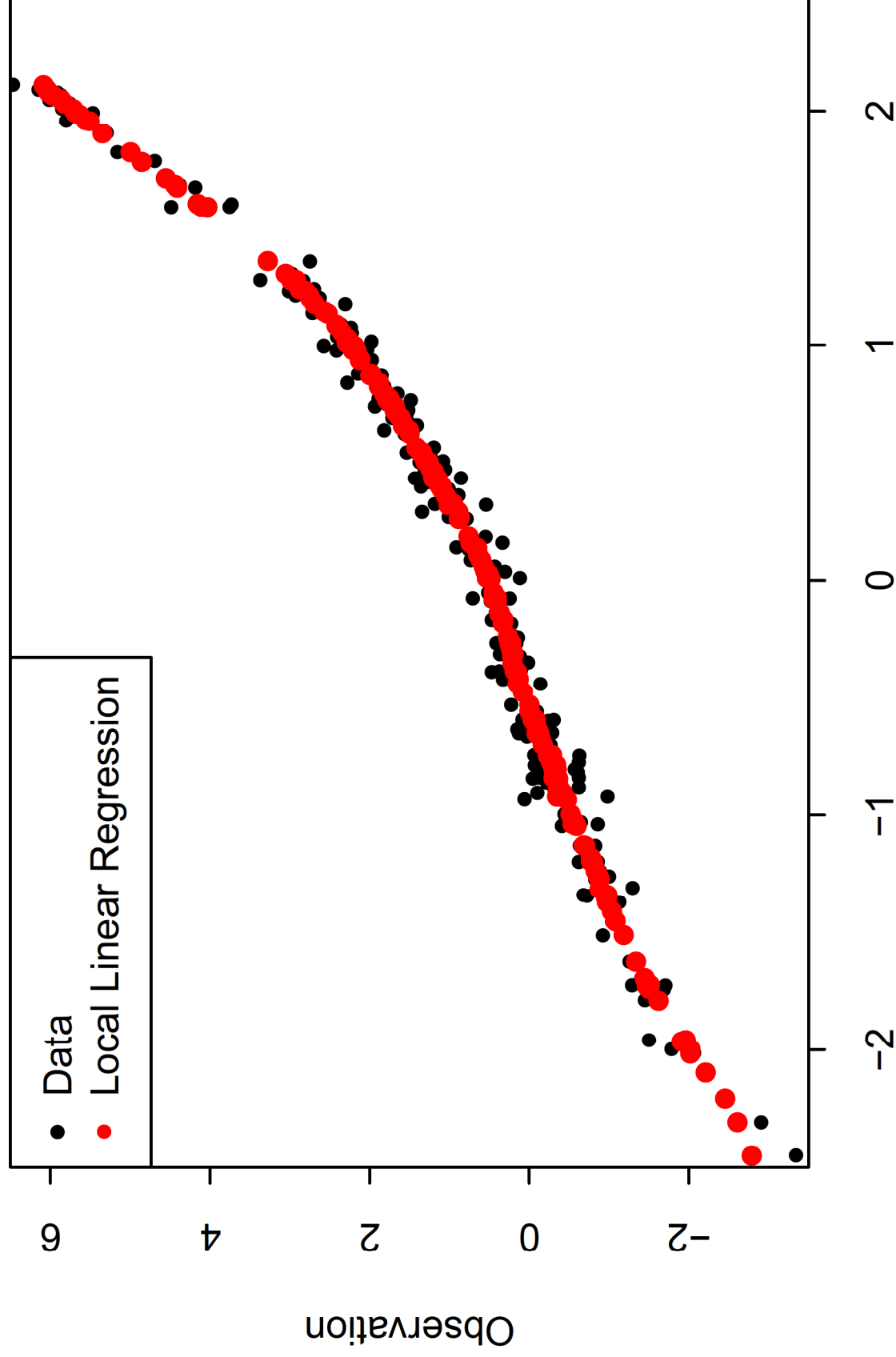
# Stage 1: Local Linear Regression

## Stylised Weighted Local Linear Regression



# Local Linear Regression

## Stylised Weighted Local Linear Regression



Predictive Variable

## Stage 1: Local Linear Regression

- For each LSOA,  $i$
- Estimate the socio-economic-specific Relative Risk,  $F_1(i)$
- For each  $i$ , fit an  $n_P$ -dimensional sheet around  $X(i)$

$$F(i, \mathbf{x}) = a(i) + \mathbf{b}(i)^T \mathbf{x}$$

- $n_P$  predictive variables exclude urban-rural classification urban-rural handled in the weights,  $w_1(i, j)$
- Minimise

$$S(a(i), b(i)) = \sum_j w_1(i, j) (R_0(j) - a(i) - b(i)^T X(j))^2$$

over  $a(i)$  and  $b(i)$

## Stage 1: Local Linear Regression (cont.)

- Then set

$$F_1(i) = a(i) + b(i)^T X(i)$$

⇒ relative risk accounting for socio-economic factors

- Update estimated deaths:

$$\hat{D}_1(i) = \hat{D}_0(i)F_1(i)$$

## Stage 1: Local Linear Regression (cont.)

How to calculate the weights?

- $w(i, i) = 0$
- $w(i, j) = 0$  if LSOA's  $i$  and  $j$  are in different urban-rural groups  
Otherwise:
- $w(i, j)$  depends on the “distance” between predictive variables  $X(i)$  and  $X(j)$
- $w(i, j) \rightarrow 0$  as the distance gets larger

## Stage 1 → Stage 2

$D(i)$  = LSOA actual deaths

$\hat{D}_0(i)$  = LSOA expected deaths with no predictive variables

$\hat{D}_1(i)$  = LSOA expected deaths with predictive variables

$R_1(i) = \frac{D(i)}{\hat{D}_1(i)}$  = updated actual-over-expected

**Stage 2:** Add location data:

$Y(i)$  = LSOA location co-ordinates  
= (latitude, longitude)

Kernel smooth the  $R_1(i)$  using location data.



## Stage 2: Smooth A/E by Location

Estimate the *additional* location-specific relative risk

$$F_2(i) = \frac{\sum_j w_2(i, j) R_1(i)}{\sum_j w_2(i, j)}$$

Then the fitted expected deaths are

$$\hat{D}_2(i) = \hat{D}_0(i) F_1(i) F_2(i)$$

Weights,  $w_2(i, j)$ , depend on the physical distance between the two LSOA's



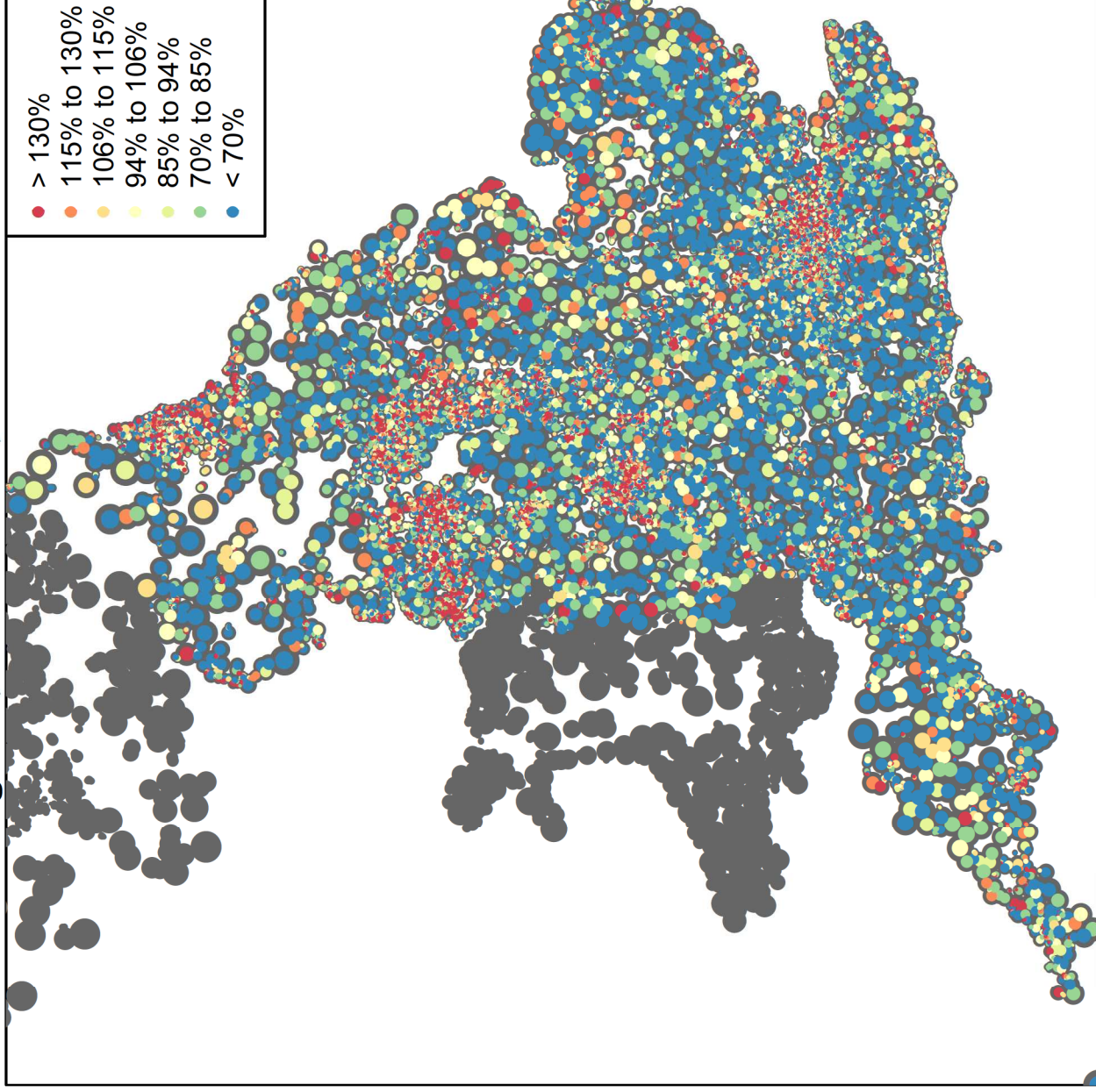


# Data and Results So Far

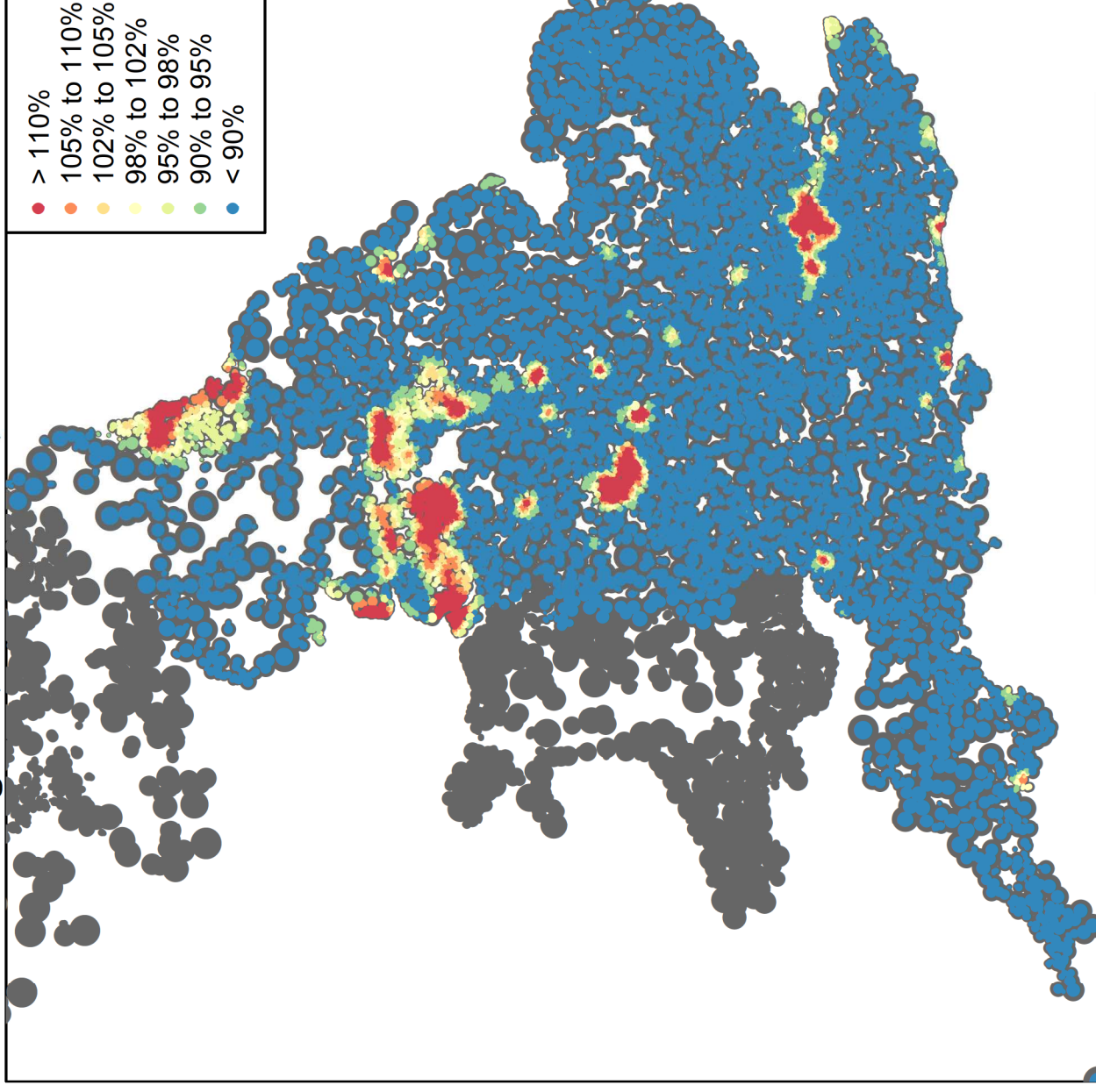
- 2001-2015; 2001-2008; 2009-2016
- Ages: 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89
- Predictive variables:
  - income deprivation (**elderly**; receiving government benefits)
  - employment deprivation (unemployment)
  - average number of bedrooms
  - living environment deprivation (housing quality and air quality)
  - wider barriers (overcrowding)
  - % in care home (60+ with nursing)
  - % in care home (60+ without nursing)
  - urban-rural classification



# R0(i) Actual-over-Expected England, Males 50-59, 2001-2015

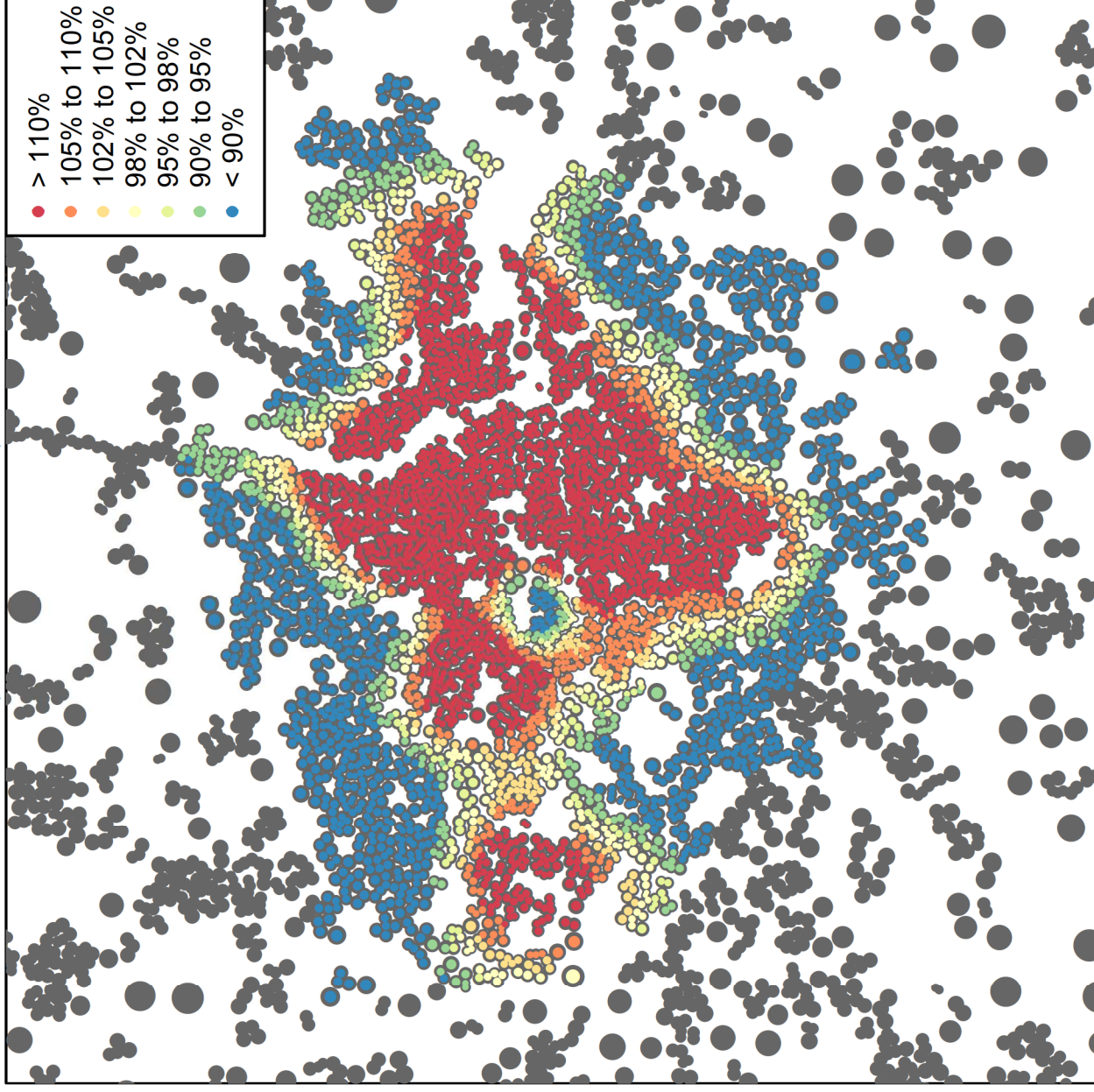


## Smoothed Regional Mortality Variation England, Males 50–59, 2001–2015



Fix  $F_1(i) \equiv 1$ ; estimate  $F_2(i)$ .

# Smoothed Regional Mortality Variation London, Males 50-59, 2001-2015



# Socio-Economic-Specific Relative Risk

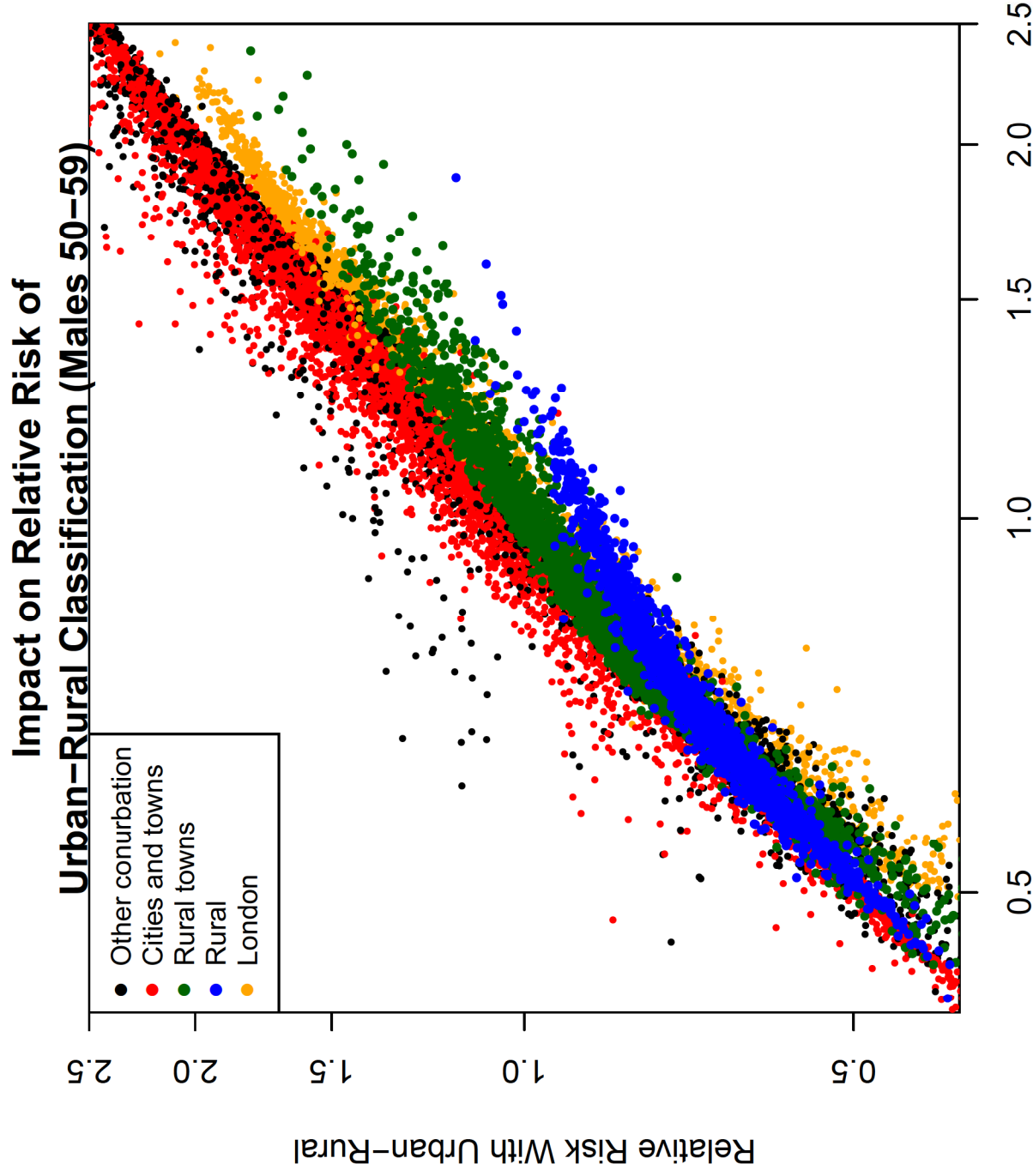
$$\hat{D}_0(i) = \sum_{t=t_0}^{t_1} \sum_{x=x_0}^{x_1} m(t, x) E(i, t, x)$$

$$F_1(i) = a(i) + b(i)^T X(i) \quad (\text{weighted local linear regression})$$

$$\hat{D}_1(i) = F_1(i) \hat{D}_0(i)$$

- How dependent is  $F_1(i)$  on urban-rural classification?
- Does the inclusion of urban-rural classification make a difference?

# Relative risk with or without urban-rural (50-59)



Relative Risk Without Urban-Rural



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# Role of Predictive Variables

- Income deprivation (elderly) and employment deprivation are the main drivers
- Employment deprivation is the main driver for younger age groups
- Income deprivation (elderly) is the main driver for older age groups
- Urban-rural classification is also an important driver
- Bedrooms, living environment and wider barriers are second order but significant
- Care homes:
  - “nuisance” variables when considering socio-economic effects
  - but including these predictive variables is very important
  - methodology allows us to filter out the impact of care homes on individual LSOA mortality
  - E.g. males 80-89 in a care home with nursing: mortality is 3x to 6x higher than not in a care home



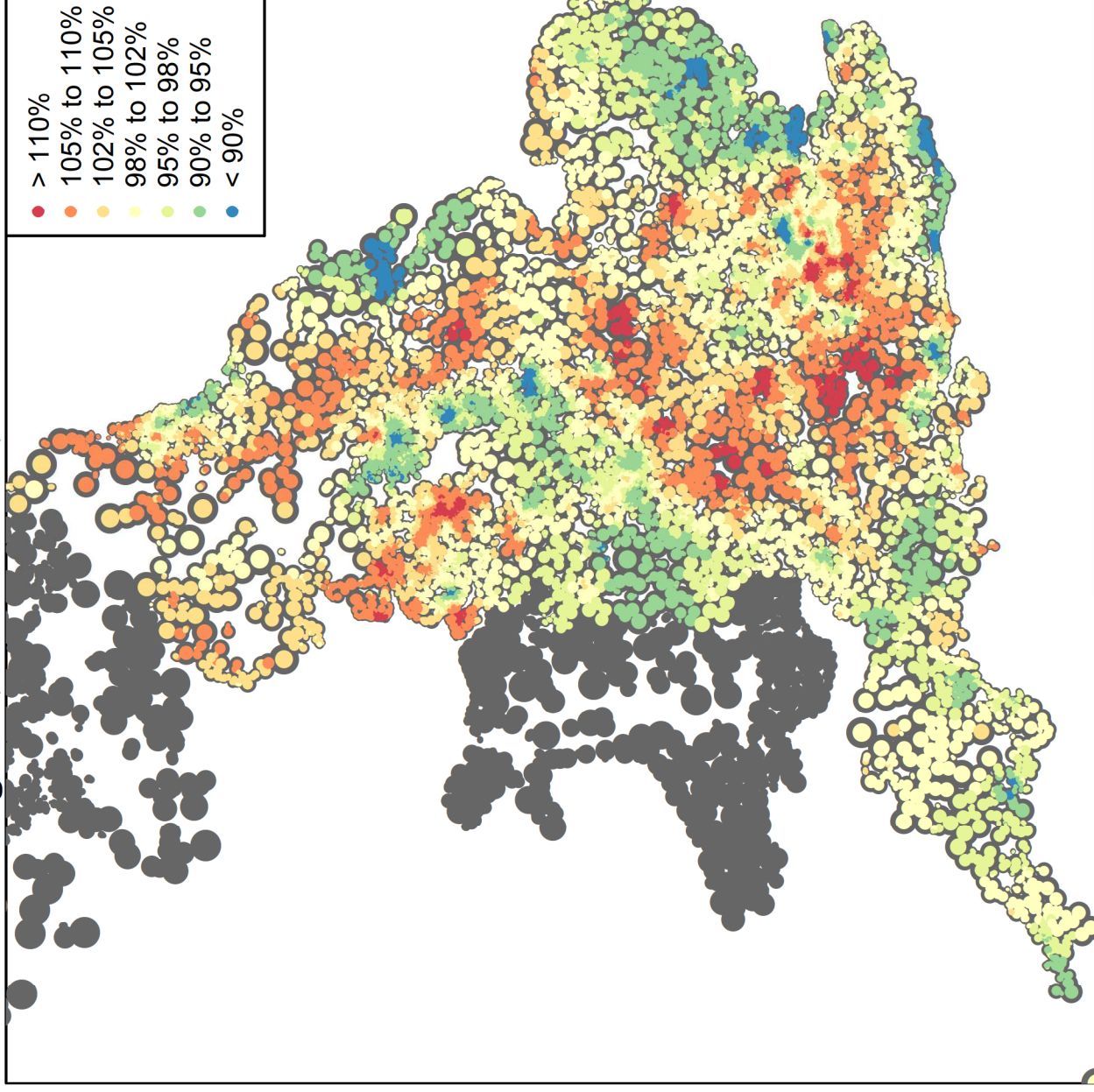
# Location-Specific Relative Risk

$$F_2(i) = \frac{\sum_j w_2(i, j) R_1(i)}{\sum_j w_2(i, j)}$$

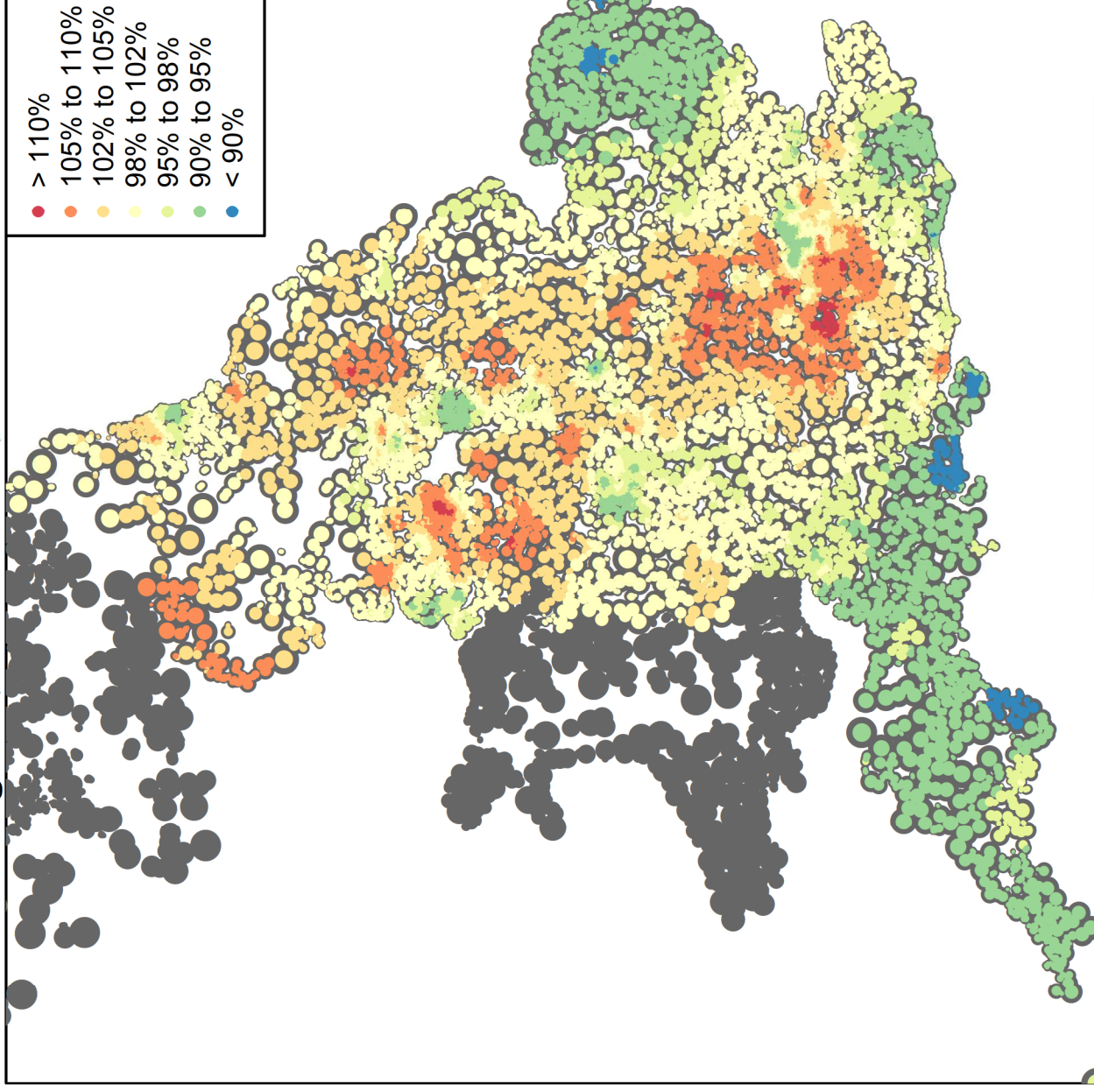




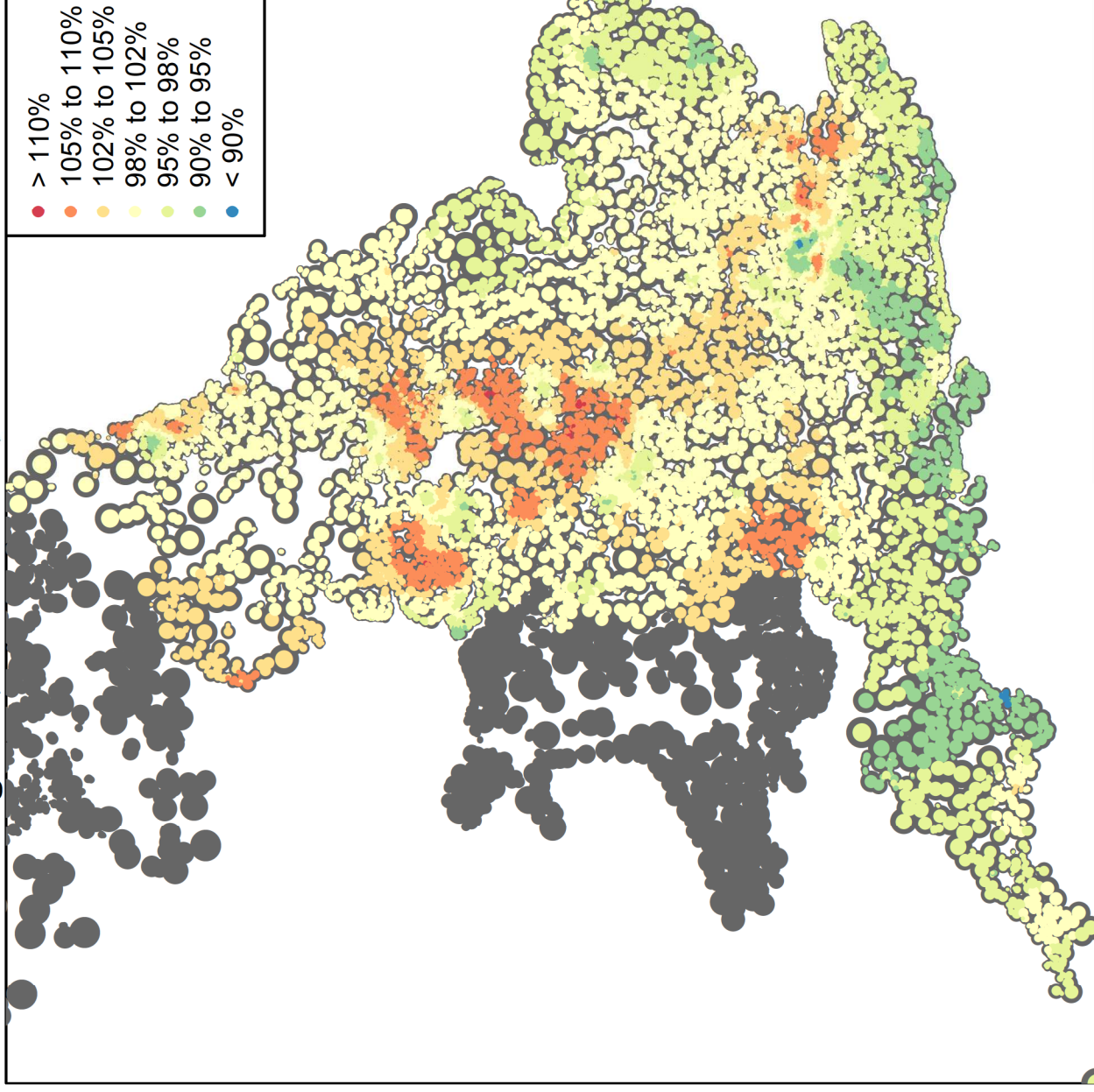
# Location-Specific Relative Risk England, Males 40-49, 2001-2015



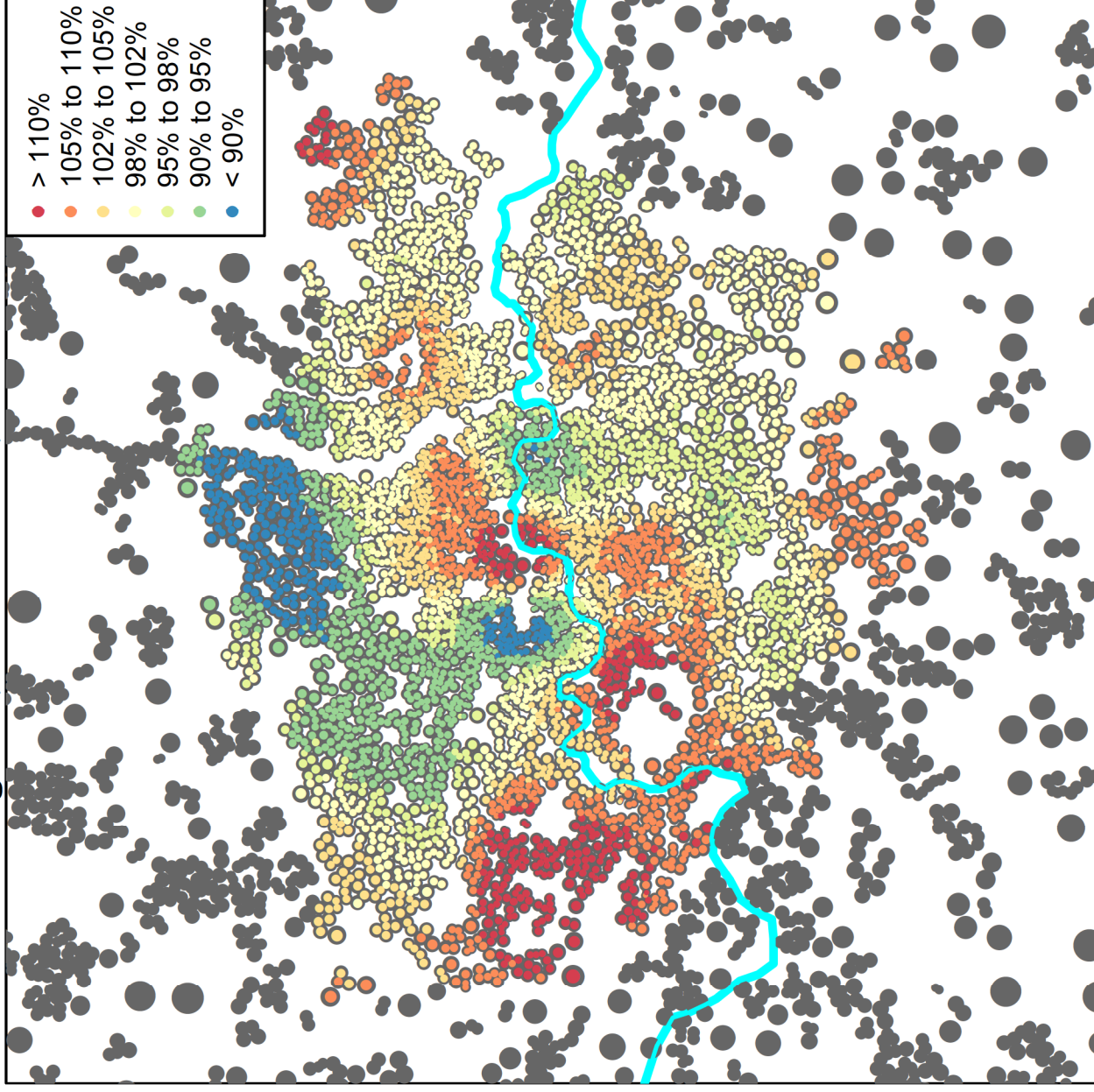
# Location-Specific Relative Risk England, Males 60-69, 2001-2015



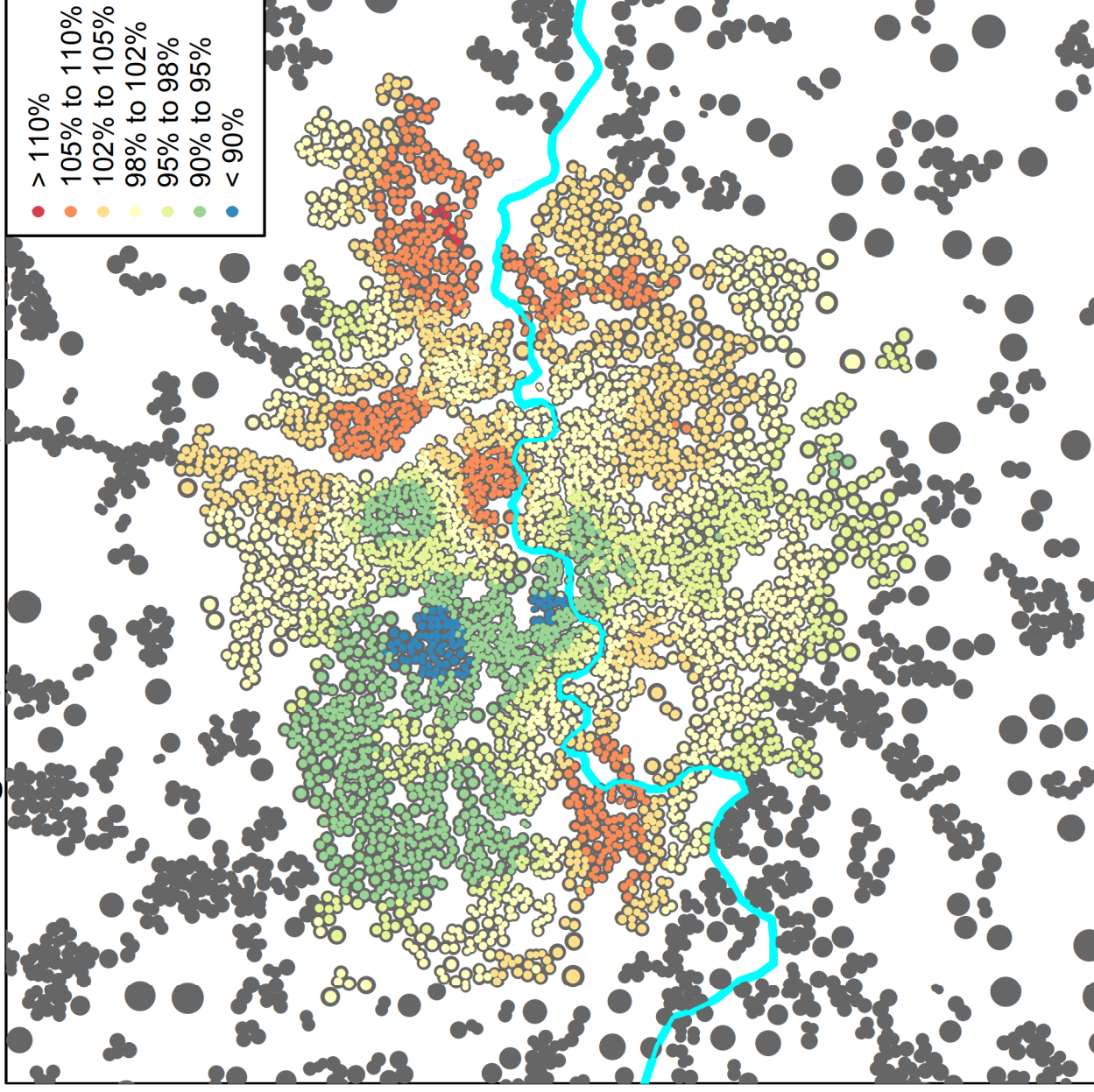
# Location-Specific Relative Risk England, Males 80-89, 2001-2015



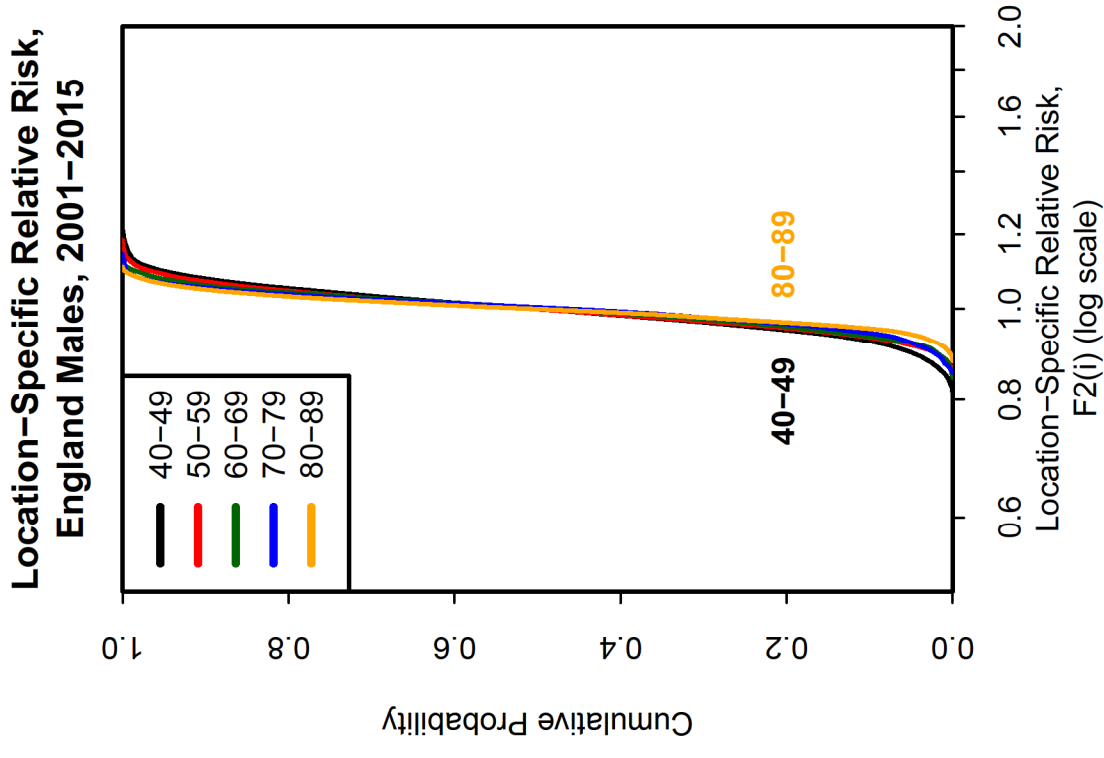
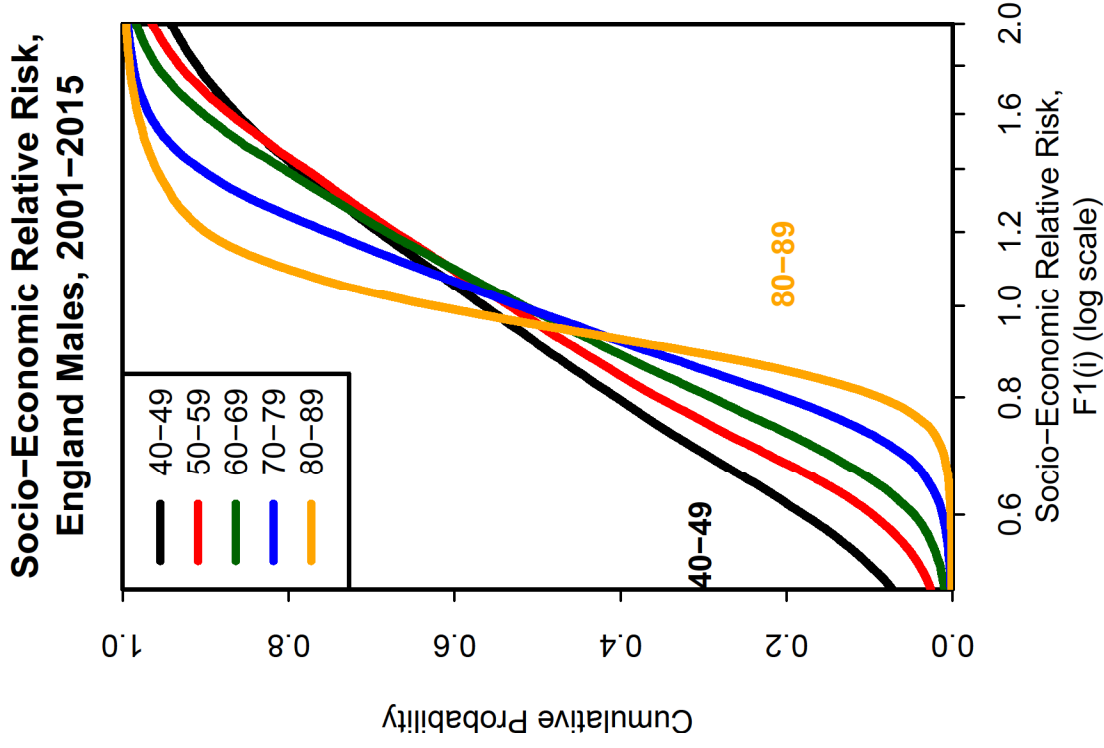
# Location-Specific Relative Risk England, Males 40-49, 2001-2015



# Location-Specific Relative Risk England, Males 80-89, 2001-2015

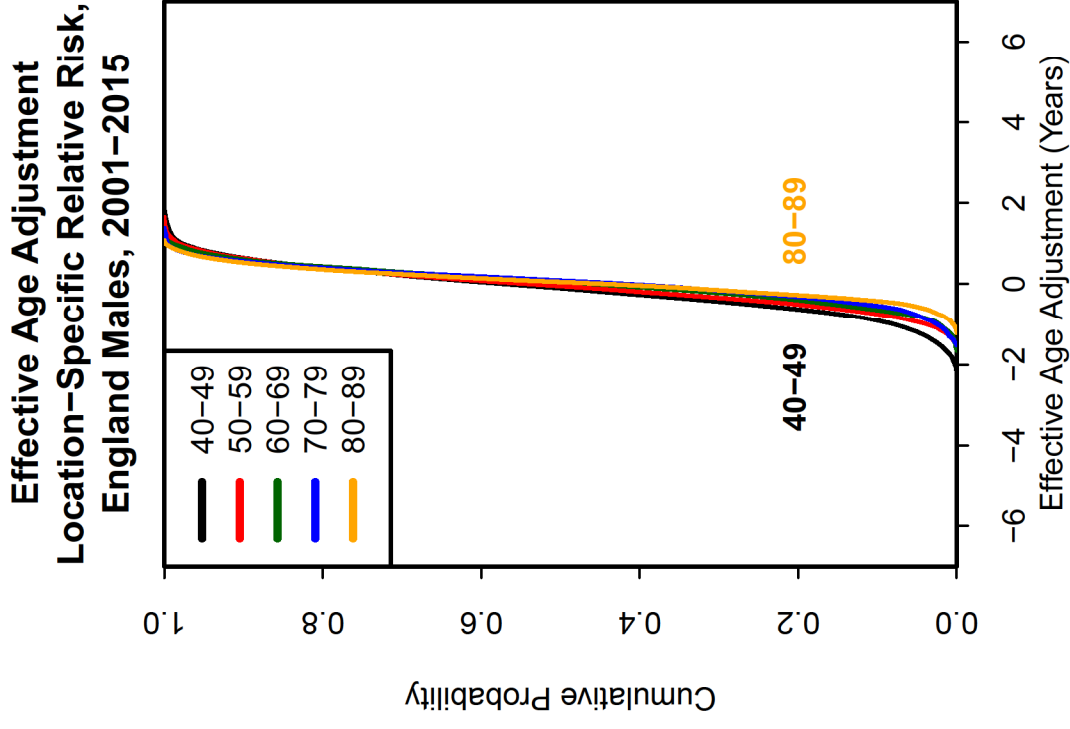
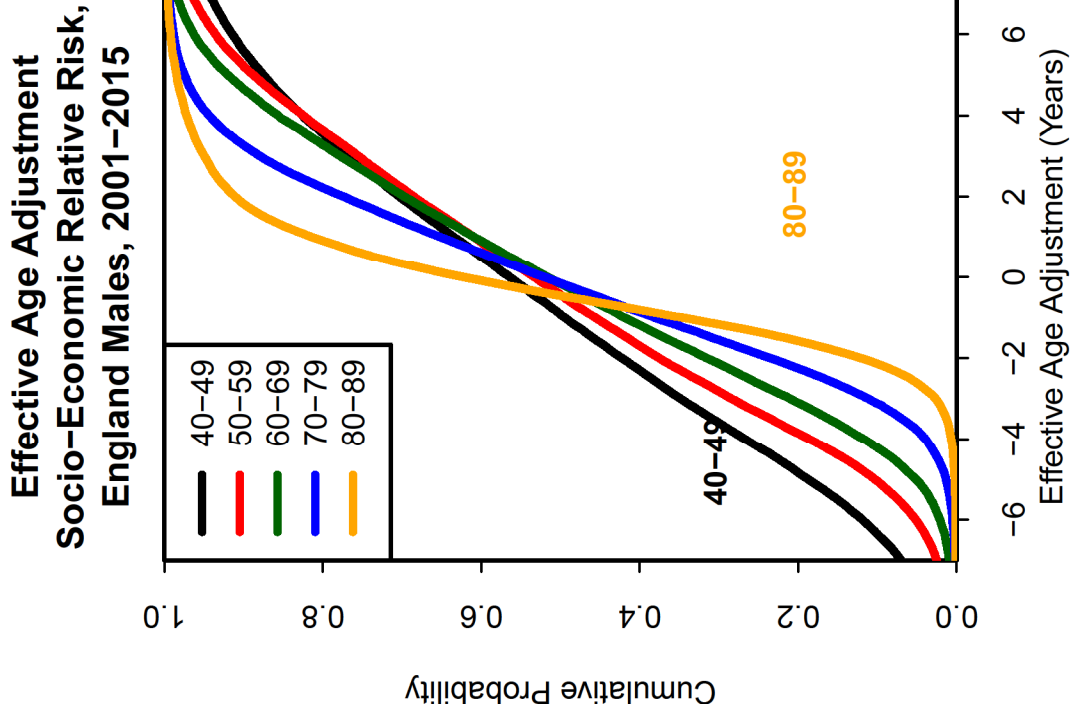


# Socio-Economic vs Spatial Effects



- Location contributes 1.3% to 3.5% of the variance in the relative risk

# Socio-Economic vs Spatial Effects



e.g. Effective age adjustment = -4  $\Rightarrow$  mortality is as if 4 years older

# Actual-over-expected: Ages 60-69

Region	No effect	Socio-economic only	Full Model
North East	118	100	99
North West	116	102	100
Yorkshire and The Humber	107	100	100
East Midlands	98	100	99
West Midlands	105	99	100
East	88	96	98
London	105	100	99
South East	89	101	100
South West	87	94	99

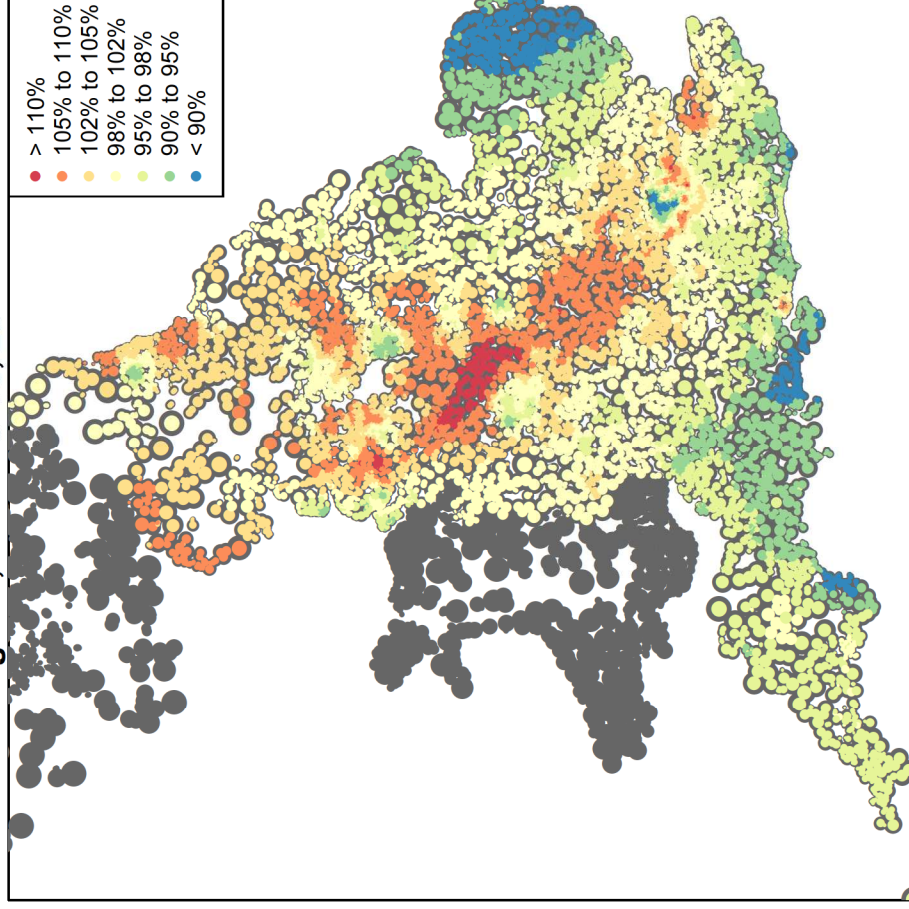
- Similar patterns for other age groups and for females



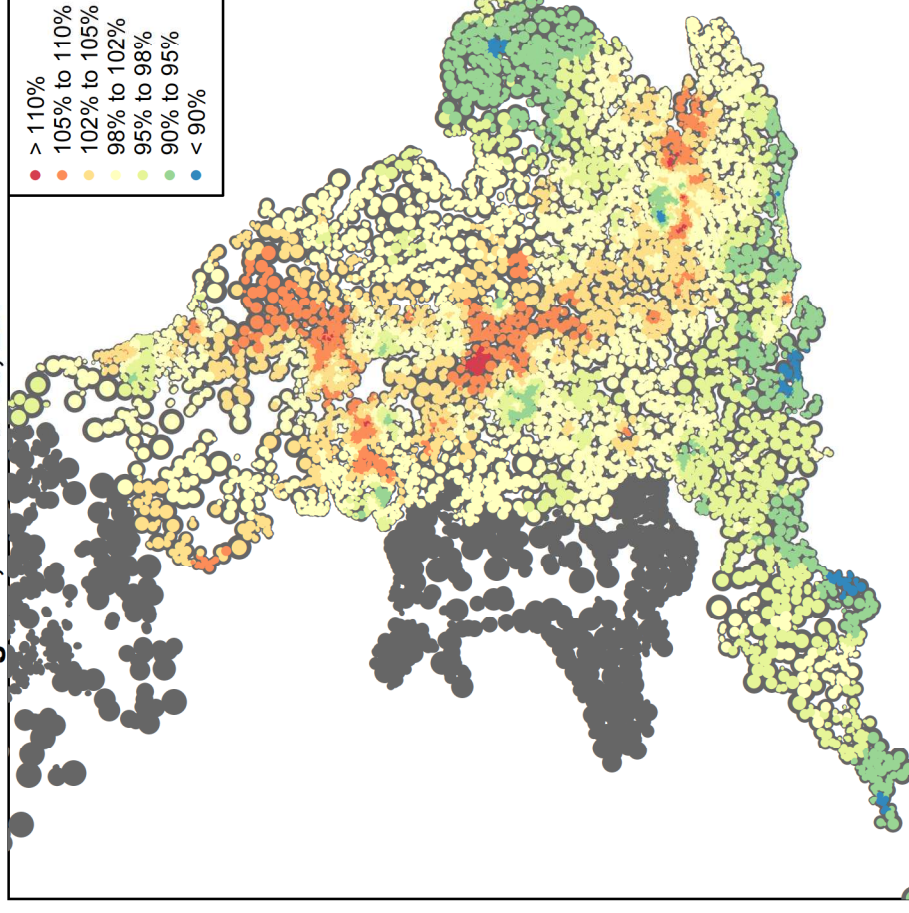


# 2001-2008 versus 2009-2016

Location-Specific Relative Risk  
England, Males 70-79, 2001-2008



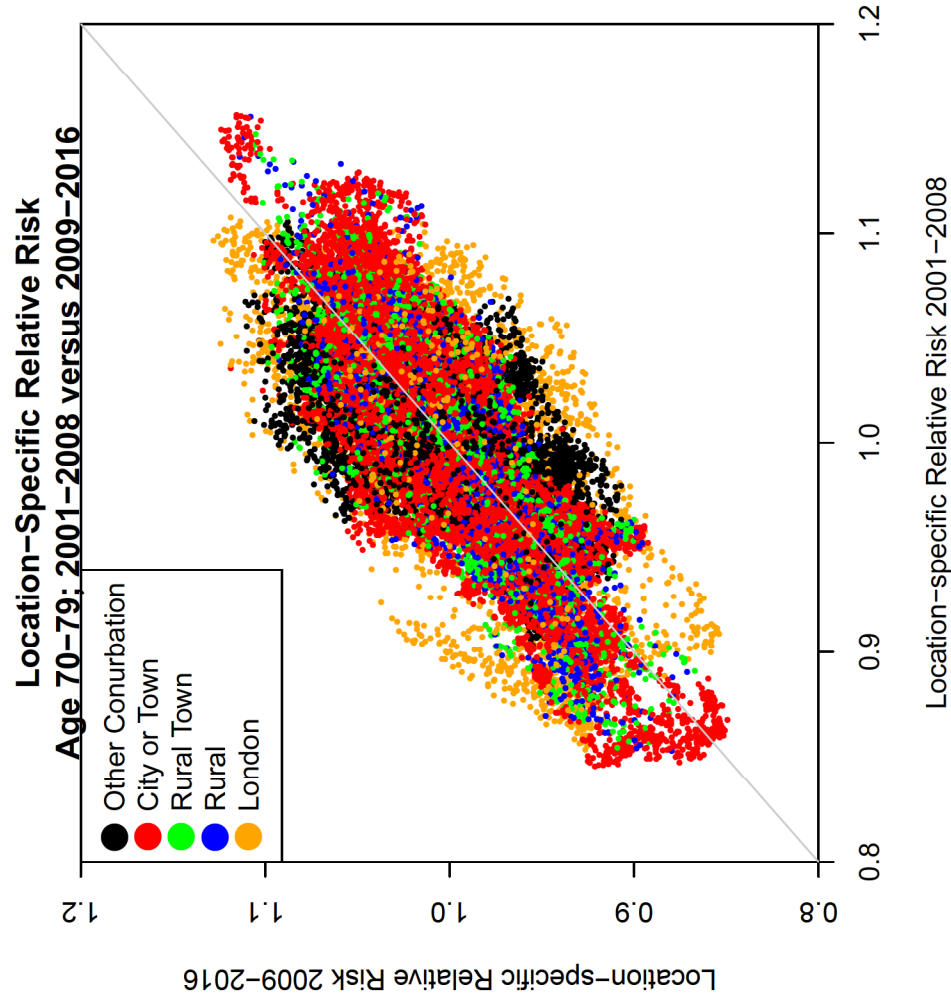
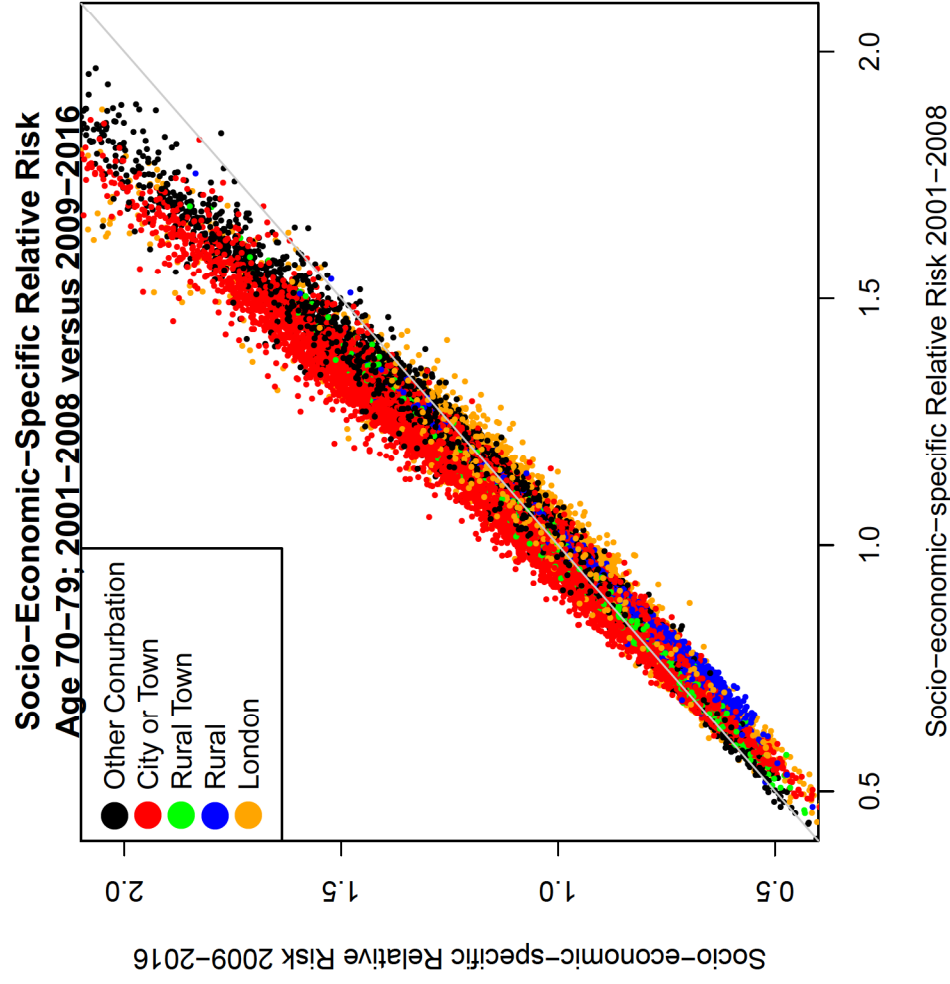
Location-Specific Relative Risk  
England, Males 70-79, 2009-2016



Some variation over time.



# 2001-2008 versus 2009-2016: Ages 70-79



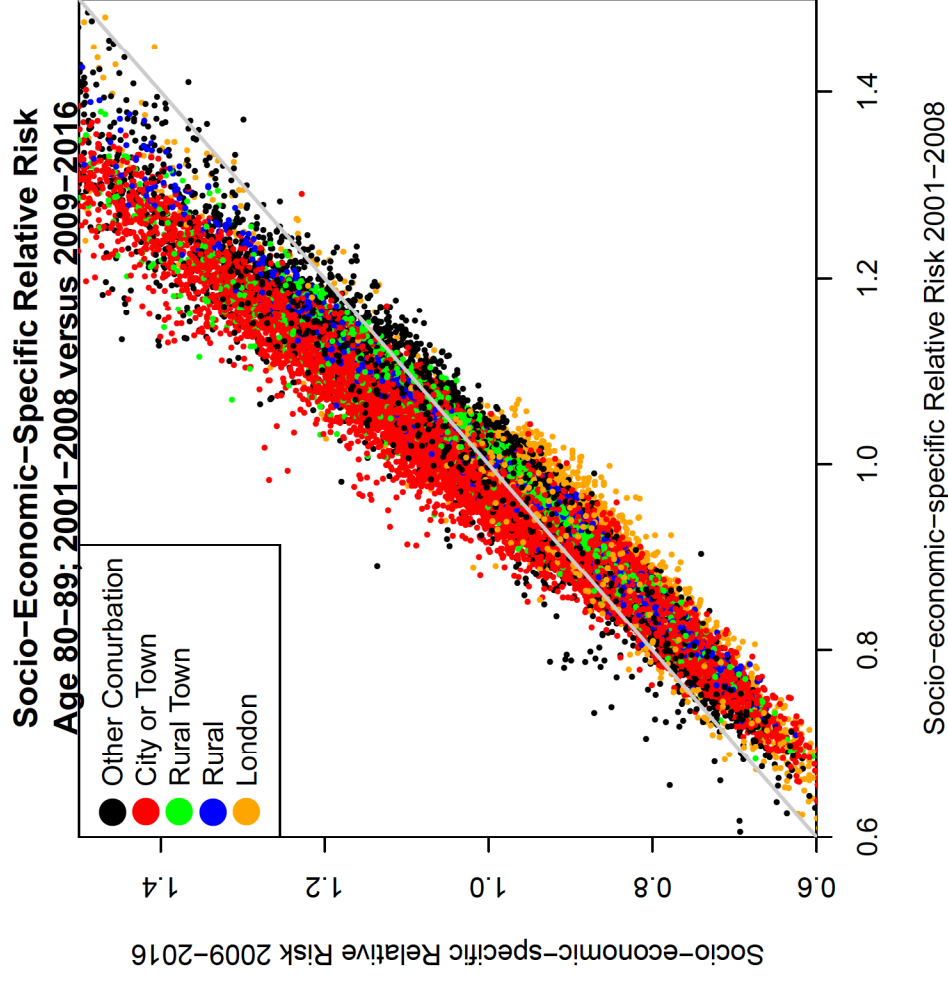
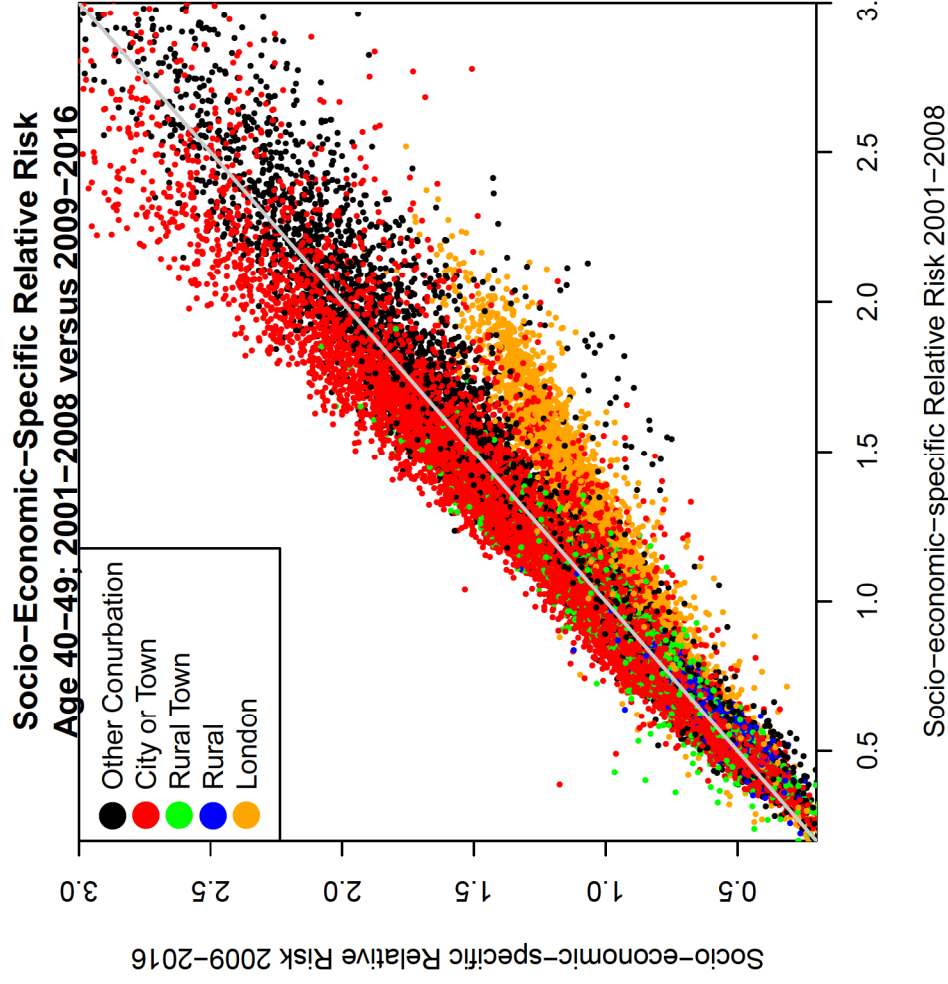
Comments on next slide ...

## 2001-2008 versus 2009-2016: Ages 70-79

- Socio-economic-specific relative risk:
  - consistent rankings from one period to the next
  - the inequality gap has widened
- Location-specific relative risk
  - Sampling variation is significant
  - Location-specific relative risk has narrowed
- Sampling variation  $\Rightarrow$ 
  - Mostly, no strong evidence for a change over time in the regional patterns



# 2001-2008 versus 2009-2016: Ages 40-49 and 80-89



- Widening inequality gap at 80-89
- Stable gap at 40-49, except London: narrowing gap

# Conclusions

- Spatial/regional effects are significant
- But much less important than socio-economic (non-regional) effects
- Next steps:
  - Both effects: can these be used to improve predictions of insurance and pensions mortality?
  - Can we form e.g. 10 clusters of LSOA's with similar mortality experience over the period of observation?

# Thank You!

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