Pobal & Health Research Board

Analysis of the relationship between addiction treatment data and geographic deprivation in Ireland, 2019 to 2021

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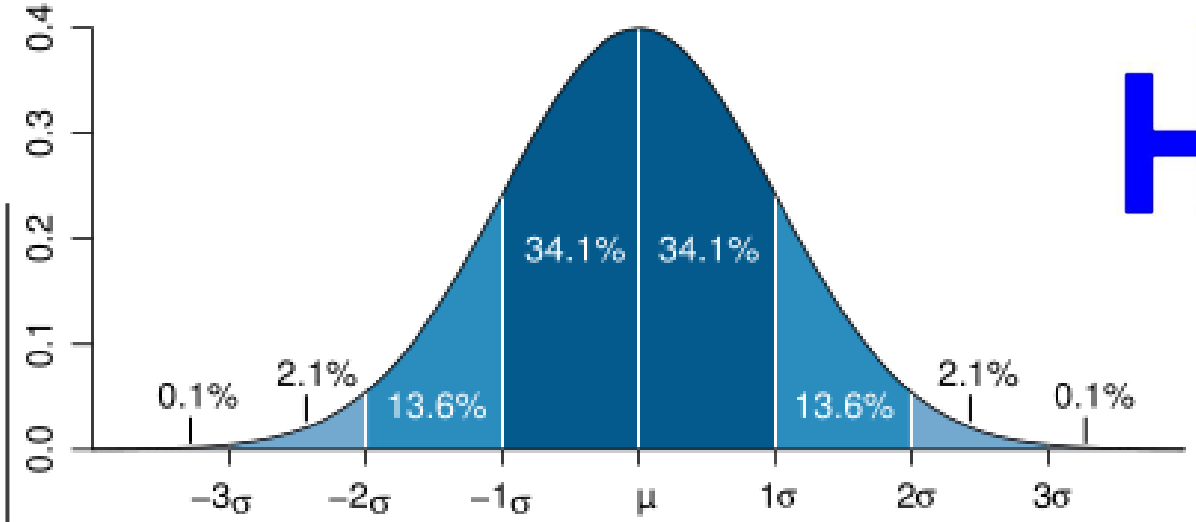
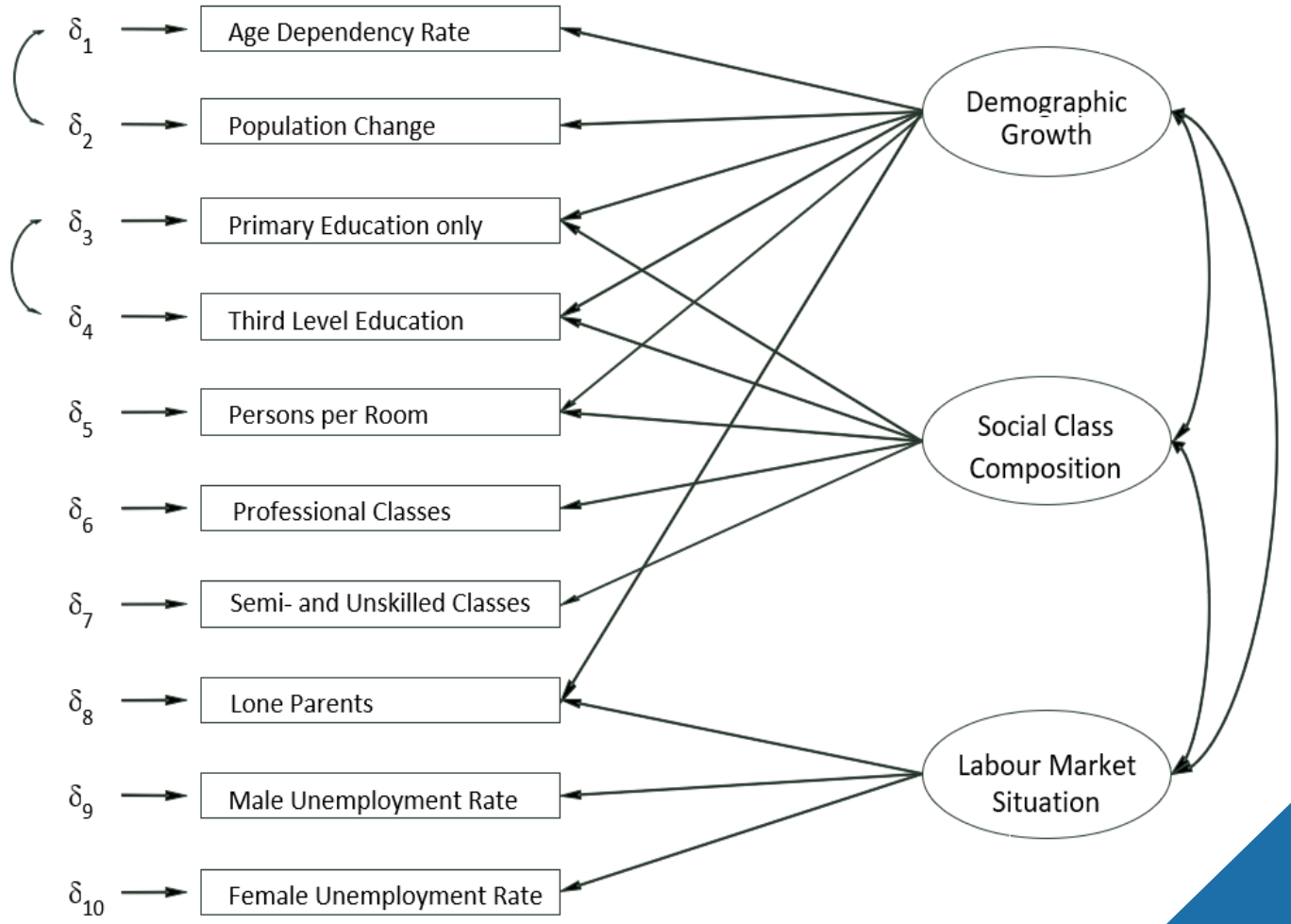
Aims

- Demonstrate potential for geographic analysis of addiction treatment data when mapped onto area-based disadvantage using the Pobal HP Deprivation Index
- Compliment work of Trutz Haase & Jonathan Pratchke (2017)
- Present findings on the relationship between addiction treatment and geographic deprivation

Pobal HP Deprivation Index



- Developed every census since 1991
- Commissioned by Pobal
- Used by Pobal, other Departments, State Agencies and researchers
- Available at Electoral Division level at data.gov.ie, and at Small Area (SA) level on license with authors
- Updated with 2022 census (November 2023)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δ2
δ3
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Age Dependency Rate
Population Change
Primary Education only
Third Level Education
Persons per Room
Professional Classes
Semi- and Unskilled Classes
Lone Parents
Male Unemployment Rate
Female Unemployment Rate
Demographic Growth
Social Class Composition
Labour Market Situation

NDTRS

- National epidemiological database on treated drug (including alcohol) use; maintained by Health Research Board on behalf of the Department of Health.
- Episode-based; Small Area recorded since 2016
- All publicly funded drug and alcohol treatment services required to participate:
  - outpatient, inpatient, low threshold, general practitioners, and prison.

Methodology

- Attributed the Deprivation Index (based on the 2016 census) to each drug treatment episode (2019-2021) at Small Area level
- Geographic mapping of data on ARCGis
- Compared general population proportion to drug treatment episode proportion
- Calculated drug treatment rate per 100,000 of population

Limitations

- Treatment patterns may not always reflect prevalence
- Only publicly funded treatment centers are required to provide data

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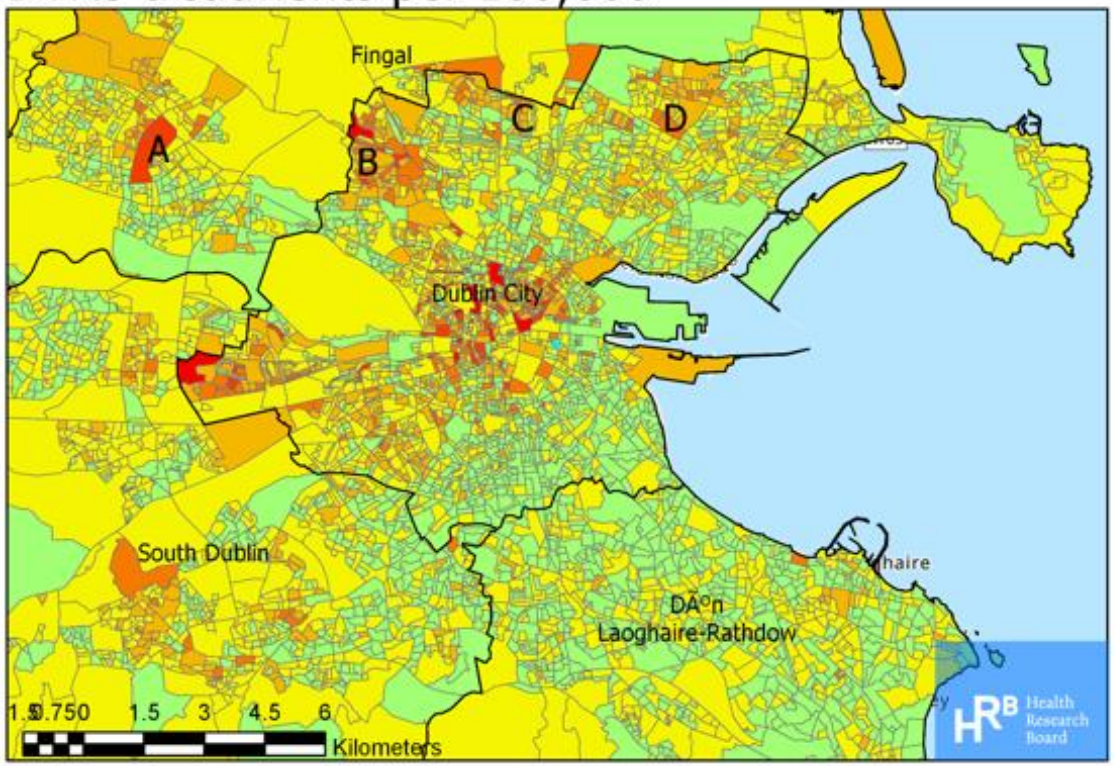
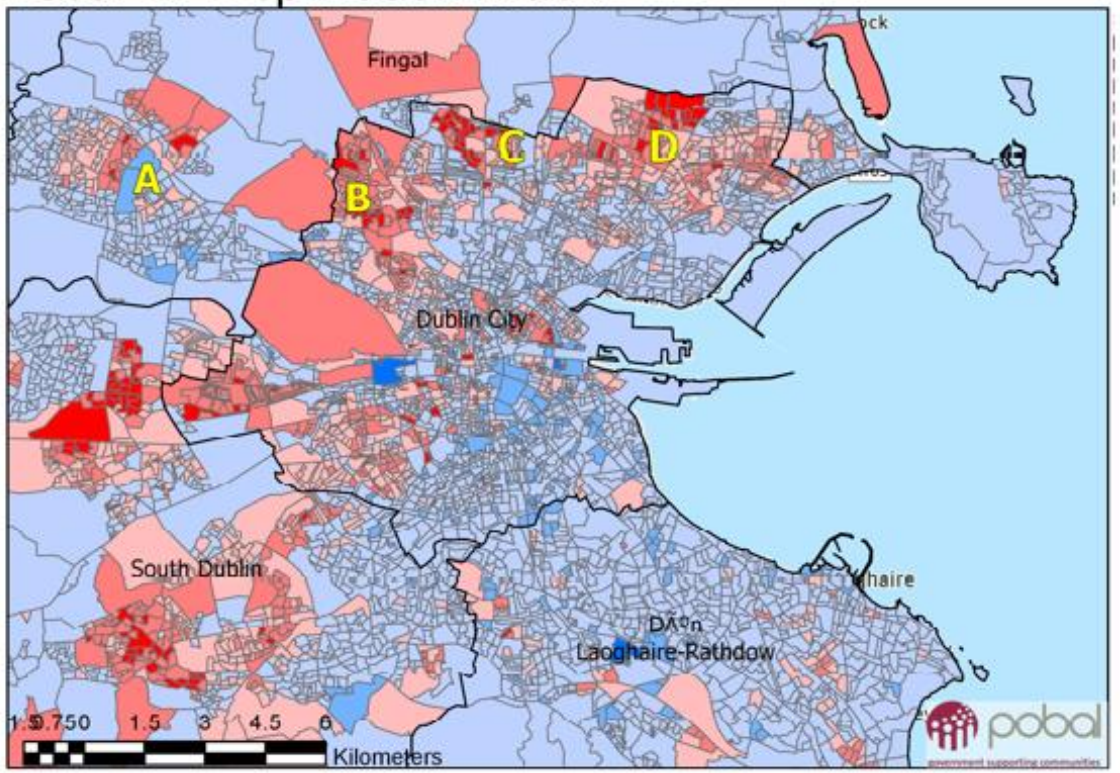
DTRS treatments per 100,000



Pobal HP Deprivation Index



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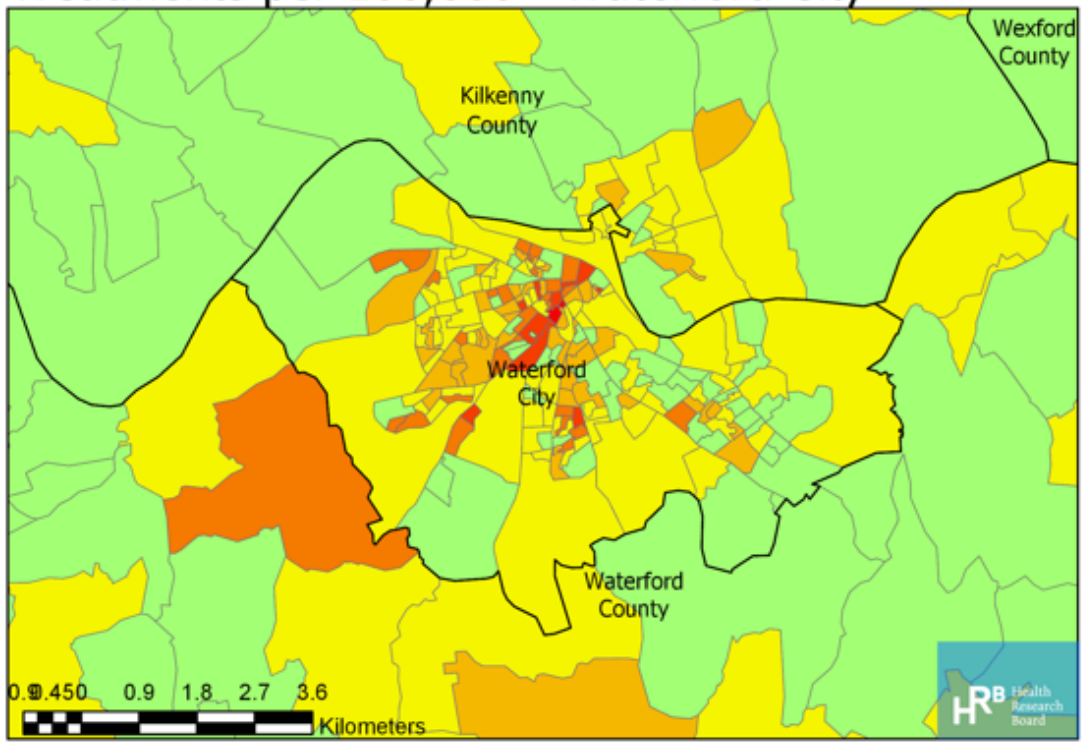
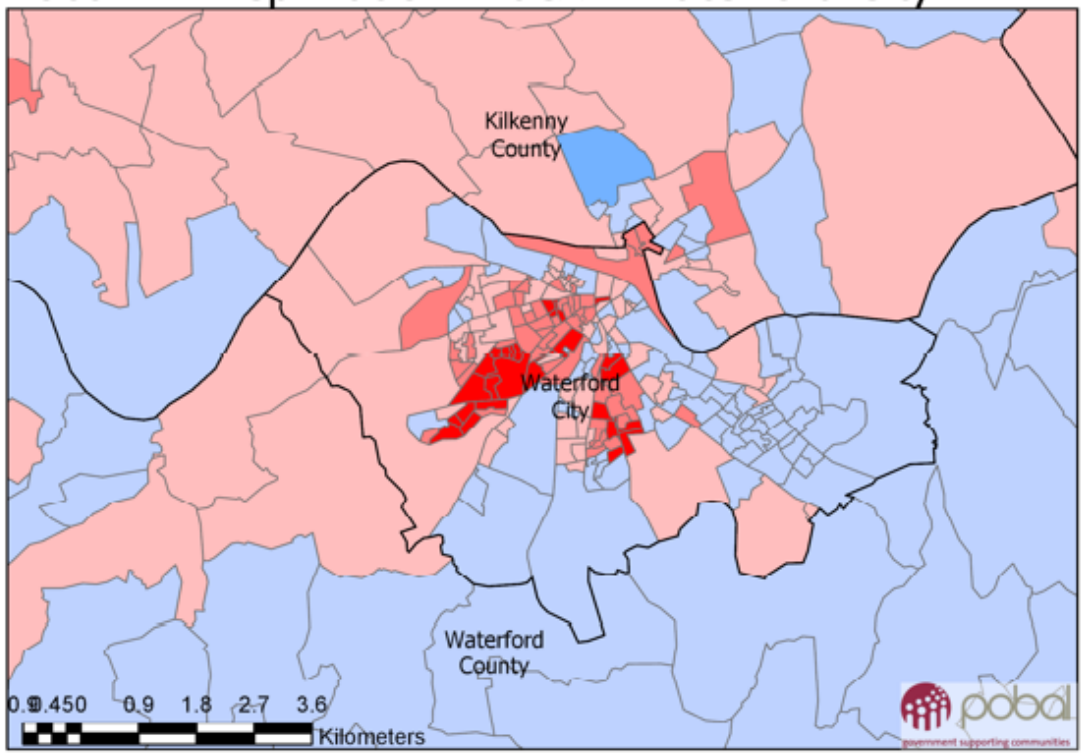
Treatments per 100,000 - Waterford City



Pobal HP Deprivation Index - Waterford City



Type of drug by Deprivation band

Deprivation band	Population (%)	All drug types (%)	Alcohol (%)	Cannabis (%)	Cocaine (%)	Opioids (%)	Other drugs (%)
Extremely disadvantaged	0.09	0.18	0.11	0.18	0.24	0.13	0.57
Very disadvantaged	2.81	8.57	6.53	7.77	10.17	11.03	10.66
Disadvantaged	11.45	26.52	22.23	26.80	30.33	31.22	28.22
Marginally below average	31.52	29.87	33.19	30.80	28.23	25.58	25.92
Marginally above average	37.10	24.02	26.80	25.08	21.75	20.34	22.22
Affluent	15.24	9.61	10.13	8.53	7.93	9.91	11.24
Very affluent	1.75	1.21	0.99	0.84	1.35	1.79	1.17
Extremely affluent	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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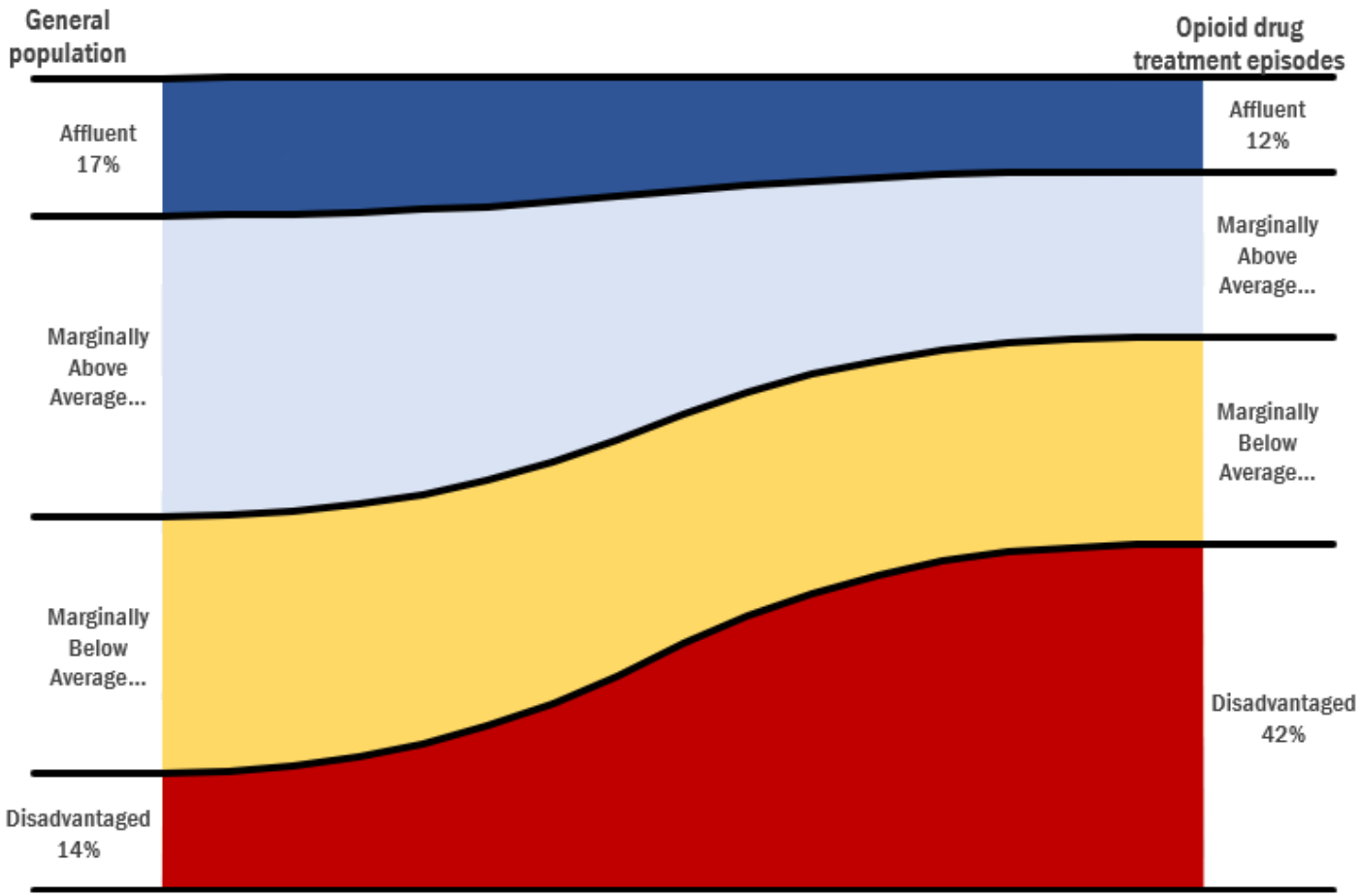
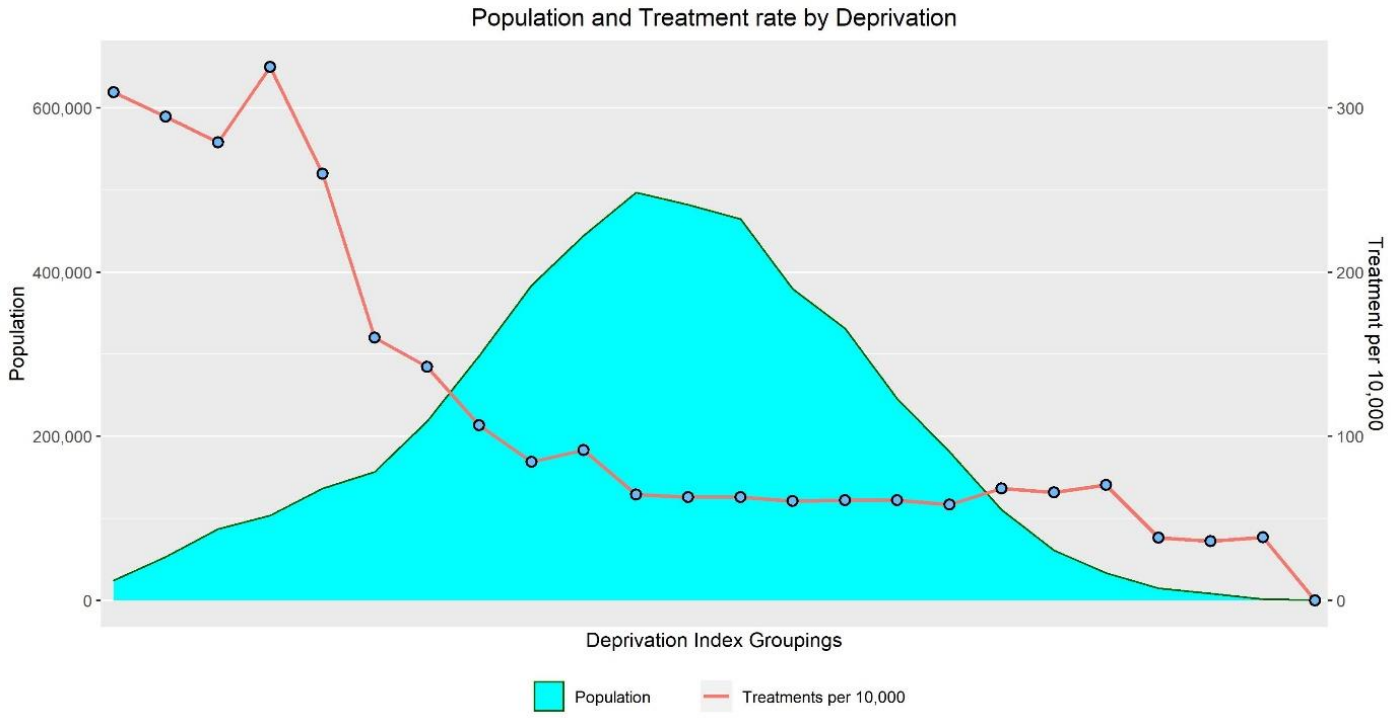
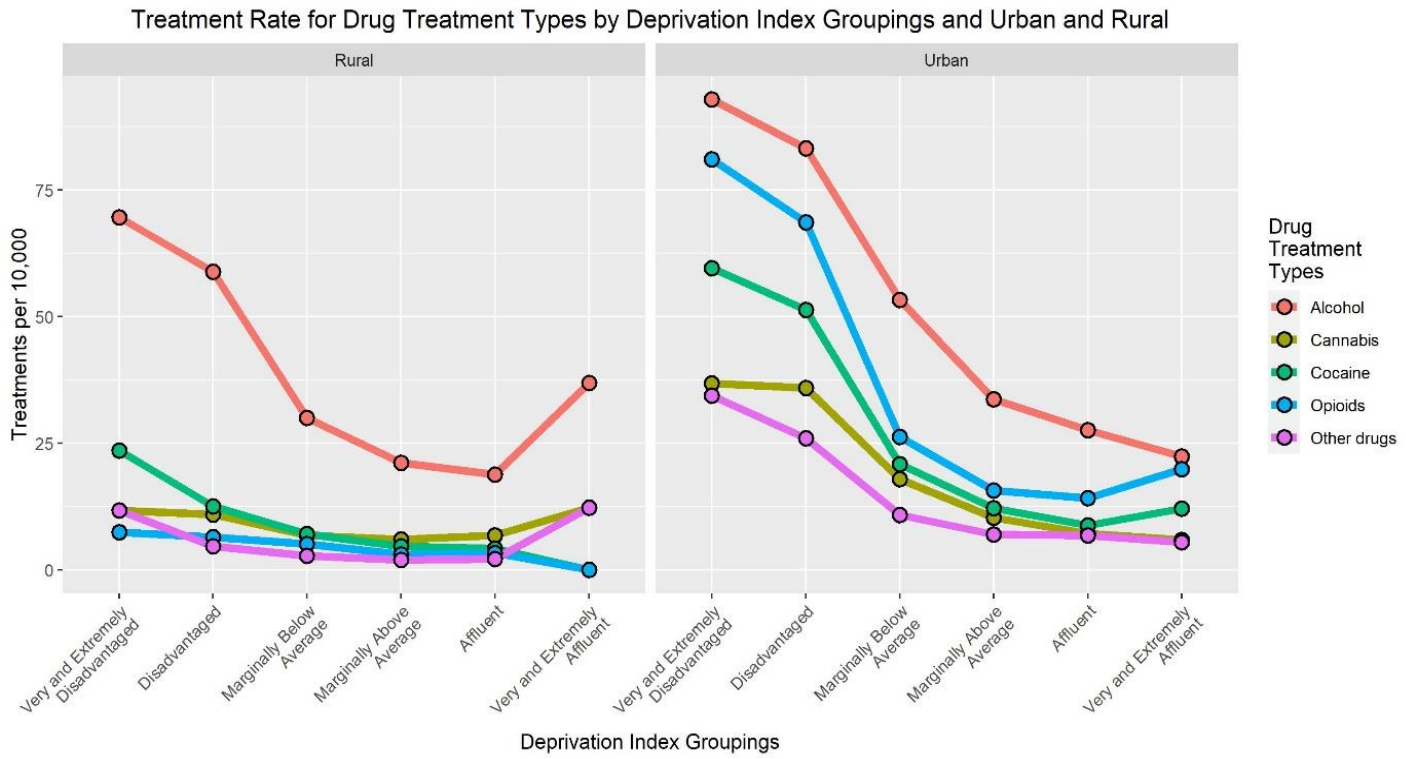
Opioid Treatment Distribution



Treatments per 10,000 population



Urban and Rural Analysis



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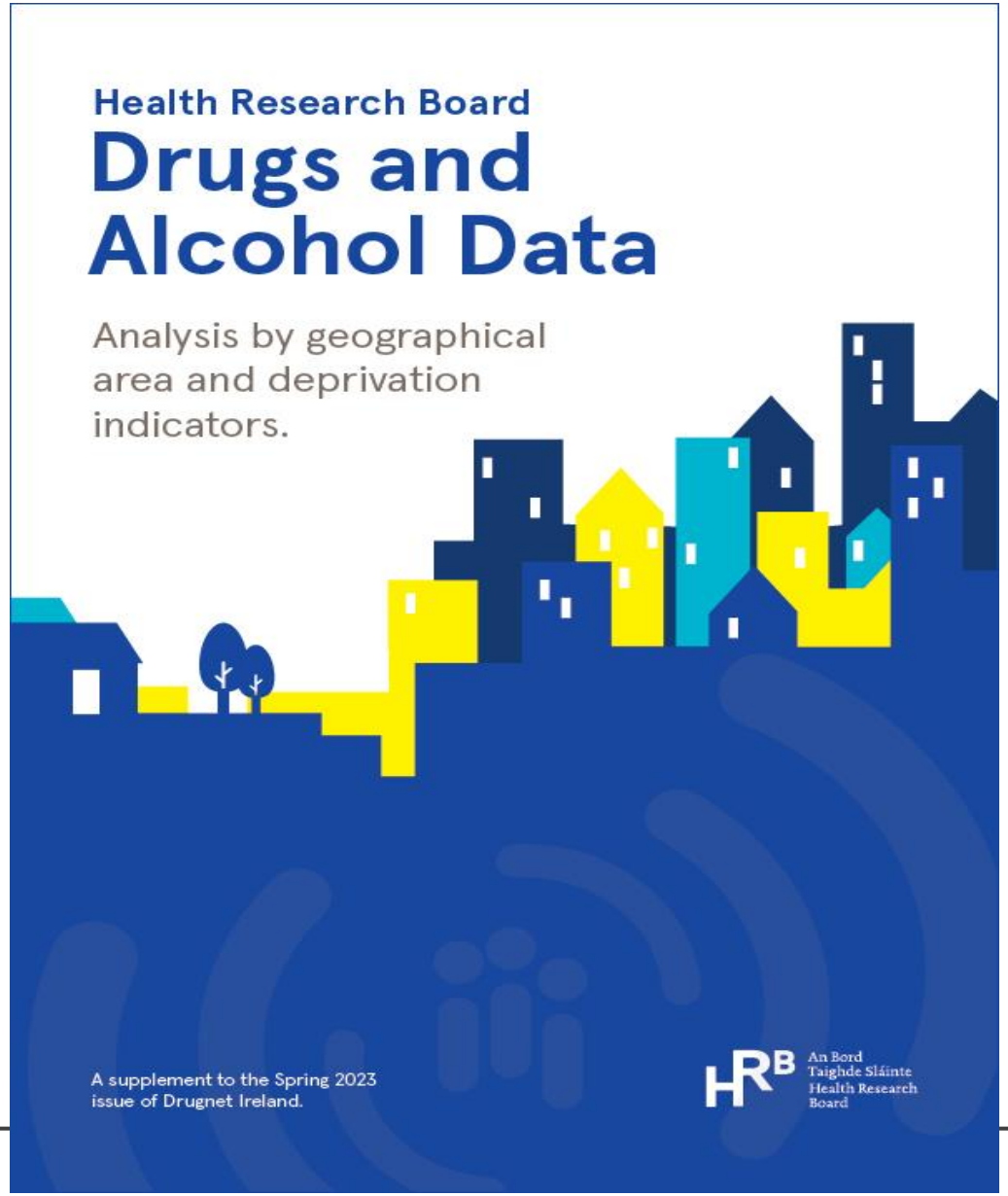

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Next Steps

- Consider how data could be used by Drug and Alcohol Task Forces
- Consider implications for Sláintecare reforms
- Repeat the analysis with the updated HP Index (2022 census)
- Undertake more in-depth analysis e.g. substance specific analysis, further rural / urban analysis.