

2 Factors that shape the lives of people in Newcastle

2.1 Overview: the social gradient

Why this matters?

“Poor social and economic circumstances affect health throughout life. People further down the social ladder usually run at least twice the risk of serious illness and premature death as those near the top. Nor are the effects confined to the poor: the social gradient in health runs right across society, so that even among middle-class office workers, lower ranking staff suffer much more disease and earlier death than higher ranking staff”¹

Relative deprivation and affluence in Newcastle is a reflection of the wider UK society of which its people are part.

The national Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) takes into consideration a total of 38 factors grouped under the headings of income, employment, health, education, crime, access to services and living environment to ‘rank’ the small geographical areas called Lower Level Super Output Areas (LLSOAs). It therefore helps to provide a picture of those areas with relative affluence and deprivation in context to the rest of the country. The latest IMD was published in 2010.

Taken as a whole, Newcastle is currently the 40th most deprived local authority area in the country according to the IMD 2010. This represents a slight improvement in ranked position compared with the IMD 2007.

Within Newcastle, there are people living in areas considered to be amongst the most affluent in the country as well as the most deprived areas (see Table 2.1-1 and Figure 2.1-1). The Census 2011 population data is used here to present the proportion of people living in each deprivation band, so figures may differ to those published elsewhere which are based on other sources. Whilst almost a quarter of people in Newcastle live in the 10% most deprived areas nationally, around 7% live in the 10% least deprived areas nationally.

Table 2.1-1: The number and proportion of Newcastle residents living in each national decile, compared to the English population as a whole. Source: Index Multiple Deprivation 2010

National decile	In Newcastle		England %
	Number	%	
1 – most deprived	69341	24.7	10.2
2	36070	12.9	10.2
3	26198	9.4	10.1
4	27839	9.9	10.0
5	18456	6.6	10.0
6	15289	5.5	10.0
7	27001	9.6	9.9
8	17625	6.3	9.9
9	22231	7.9	9.9
10 – least deprived	20127	7.2	9.8
Total	280177	100.0	100.0

Know your city: a profile of the people living in Newcastle

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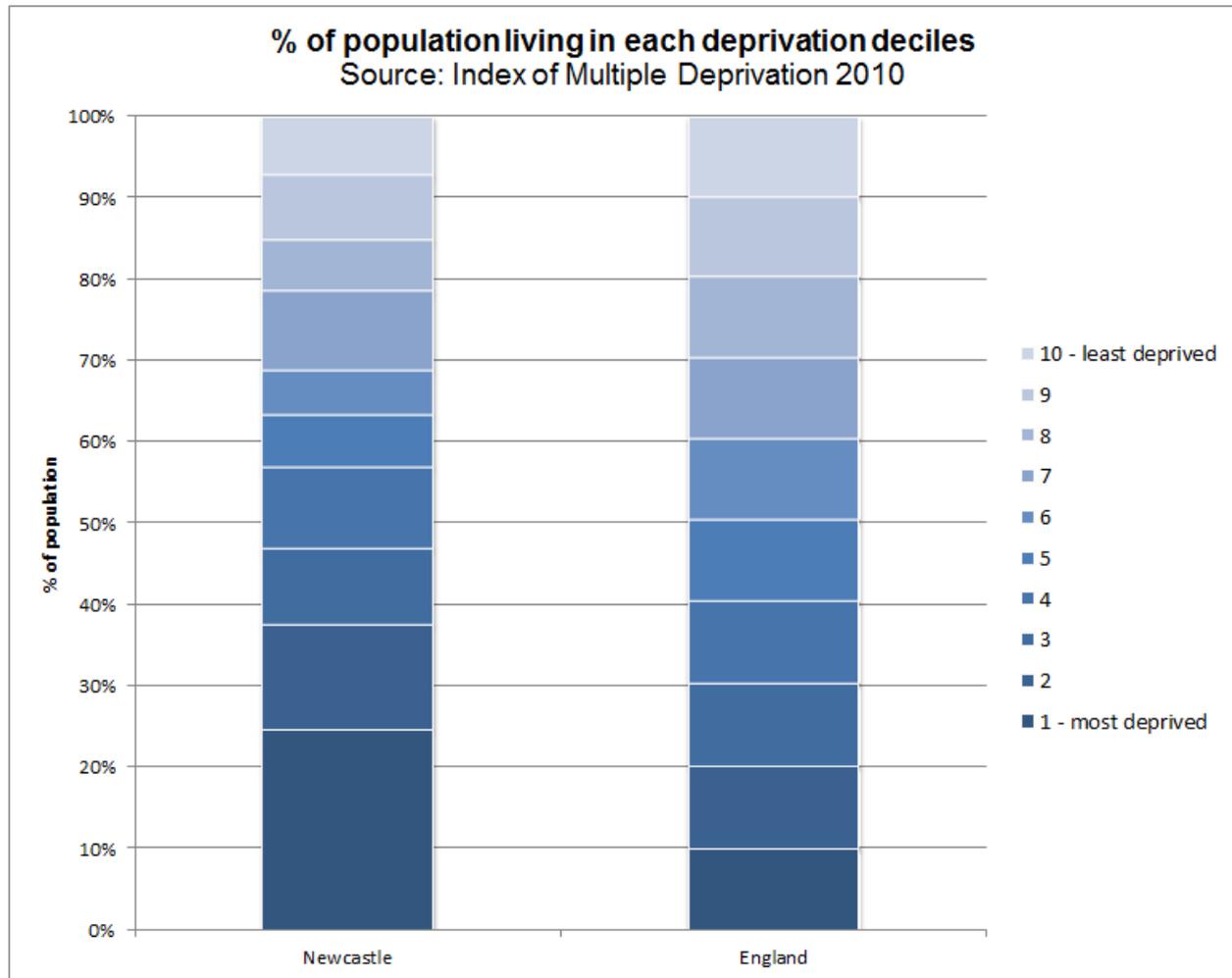


Figure 2.1-1: Percentage of Newcastle residents living in each national decile, compared to the English population as a whole. Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

Figure 2.1-2 provides a further breakdown of Newcastle residents living in each national decile, highlighting the proportion of people in each life stage living in the three most deprived deciles (i.e. the 30% most deprived areas in England). A higher proportion of children and young people live in the three most deprived deciles (59% and 56% respectively) and a lower proportion of young people in transition years (35%).

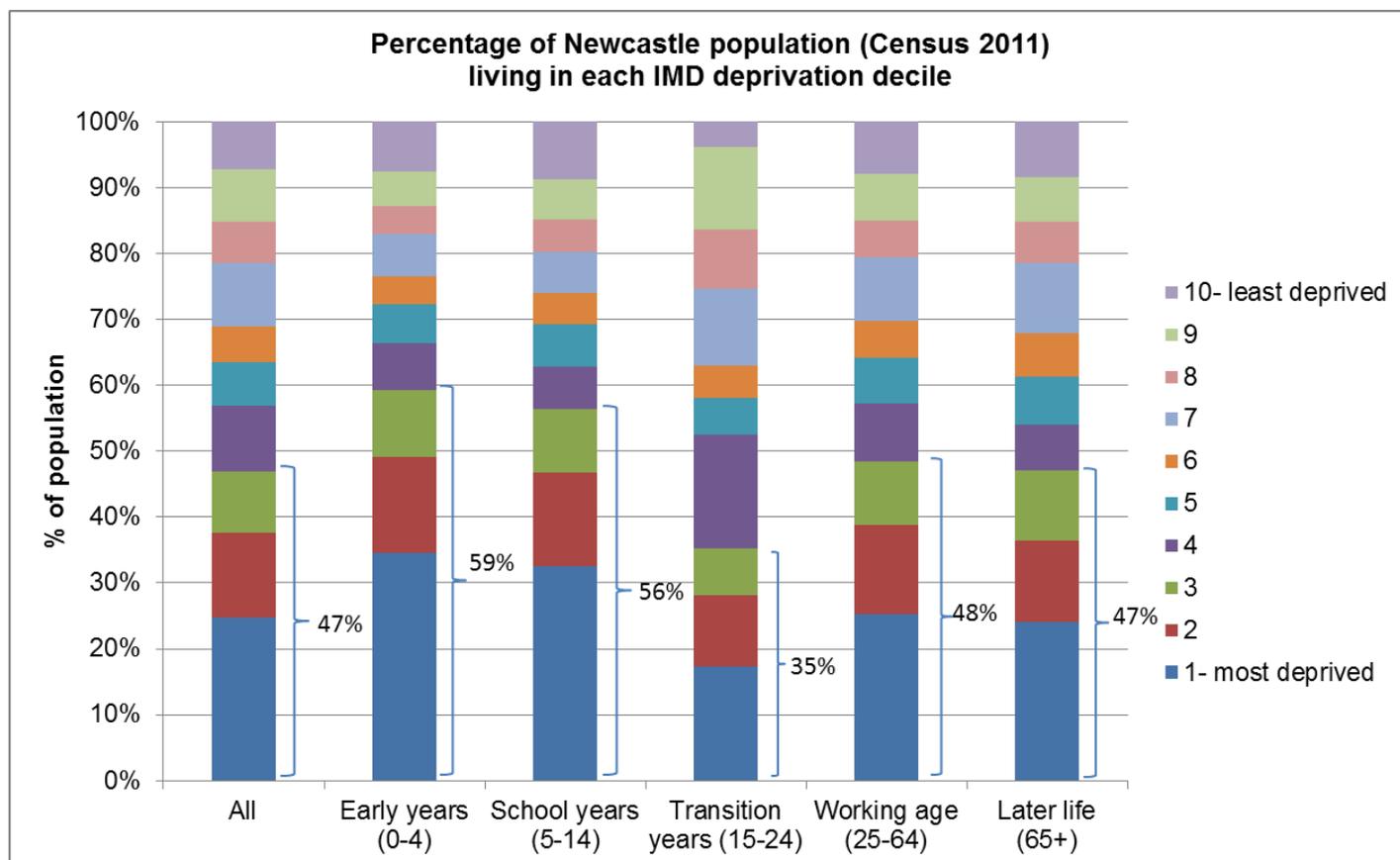


Figure 2.1-2: Percentage of Newcastle residents, by life stage, living in each national decile. Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010 and Census 2011 population

Figure 2.1-2 presents the locations of the small areas called Lower Level Super Output Areas (LLSOAs) that rank in the five most deprived national deciles. Ward boundaries are overlaid.

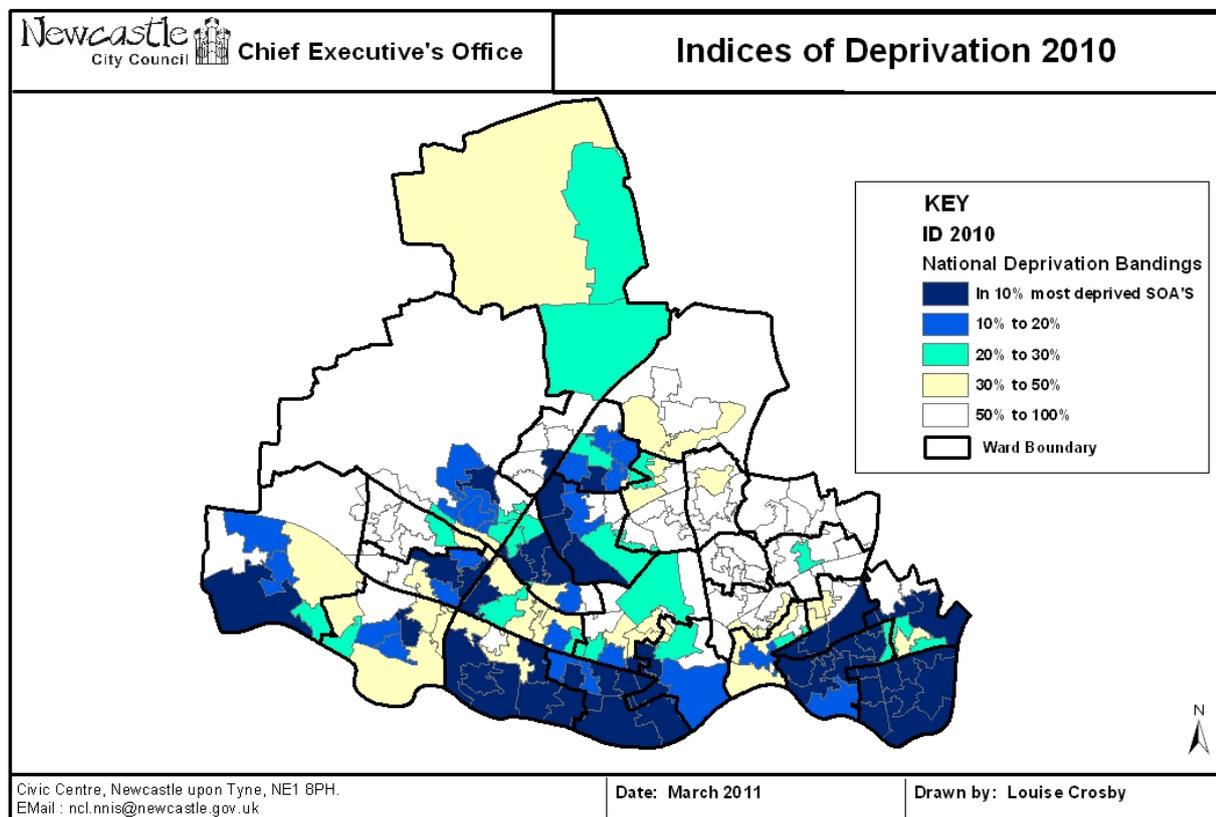


Figure 2.1-3: The locations of the areas that rank the lowest on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010.

It is important to note that some communities of interest, identity or experience also experience inequalities so within any geographical area there are further differences. The 'protected characteristics' included in the Equalities Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and, sexual orientation. To this list we can add other groups known through research to be vulnerable to poor wellbeing and health – for example, children who have to be taken into the care of the local authority; people in housing need; and, people with caring responsibilities.

These vulnerabilities do not exist in isolation – individuals may experience the impact of more than one. Unfortunately, data is not always available with sufficient 'richness' to quantify the differences in life experiences and their impact on either a city-wide or locality level, but where possible we do so.

References and Sources

¹ Wilkinson, R. and Marmot, M (editors) (2003) "Social determinants of health: the solid facts". 2nd edition, World Health Organisation.