

# Area-based indicators of inequality: Food insecurity

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See: <https://www.mylocalmap.org.uk/iaahealth/>

# Outline

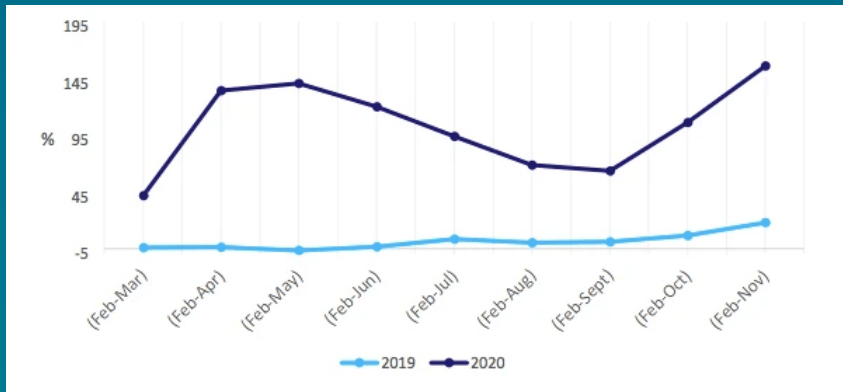
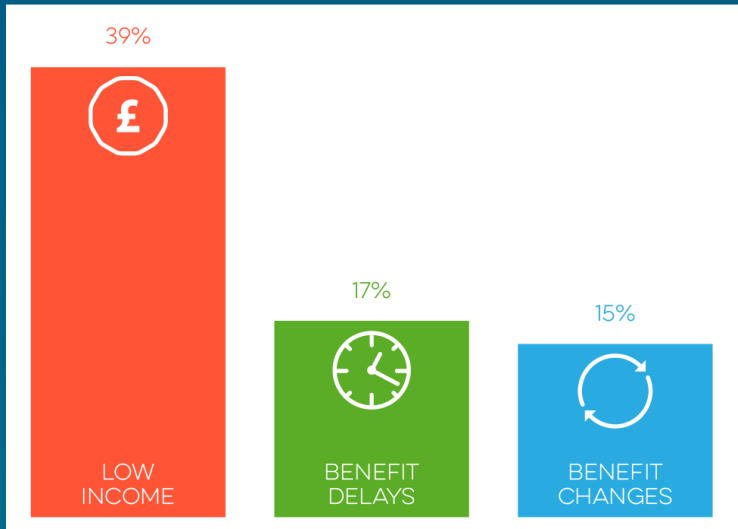
- Measuring food insecurity: national data and local risk measures, beyond the IMD
- Improving risk measures with qualitative research
- Assessing local risk measures: comparing to food aid and child weight
- How can these data be used in localities?
- Further resources to develop local responses to food insecurity.

# Project overview & aims

- Updating more generic measures of relative deprivation (Green et al 2018, Burke & Jones 2019)
- Use open data to answer questions about social and spatial inequality
- Enabling improved targeting of resources
- Make the data and methods available to all for ease of replication, modification

# Food insecurity in the UK

- Most referrals to the biggest group of foodbanks is due to low/loss of income
- Many people who access foodbanks are in work
- Only about 20% of people who are food insecure are using foodbanks (Tarasuk et al 2020)
- Food insecurity quadrupled following the first Covid lockdown



# Local food insecurity risk (England)

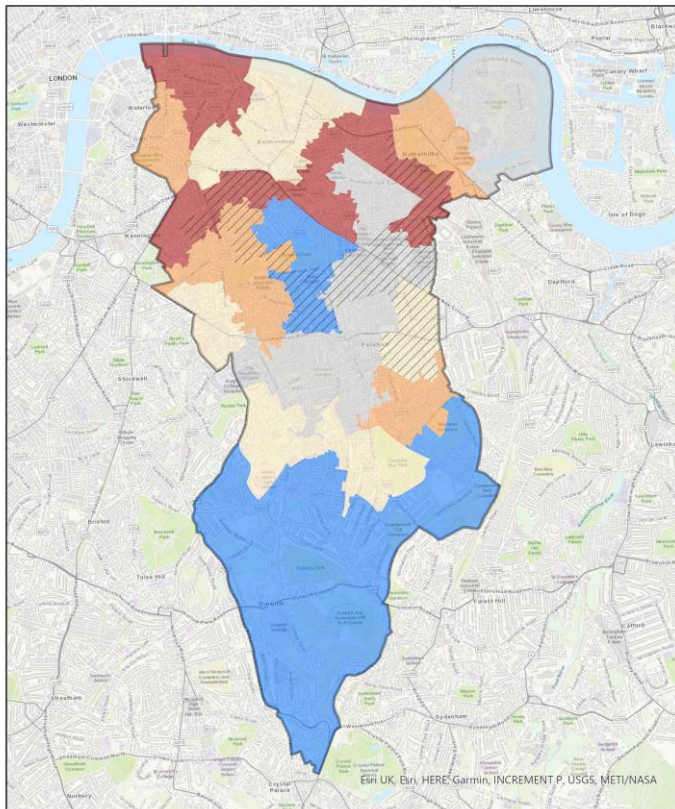
- Devised in collaboration with Claire Thompson, Kirk Harland, Nicola Shelton
- More specific than IMD, but highly correlated with child obesity and IMD.
- Two age groups, with different influences and priorities
- Informed by historic and ongoing qualitative work, discussions with local stakeholders
- Not just where food banks are located
- Published in Smith et al, 2018. Updated annually

# Data

- Census 2011 proportions of higher-risk demographic groups applied to 2019 ONS mid-year population estimates
  - Under age 65: low income\* households of single adults or with dependent children
  - Age 65+: single person households
- Most recent DWP data available for working age and pension age claimant groups (May 2020)
- Can be used individually or combined; previous maps layer the quintiles of demographic risk (colours) with top local quintile of benefits claimants (lines). Areas that are red with lines are the highest risk for that age group locally.

\* routine, semi-routine employment or long term unemployed

# Local examples

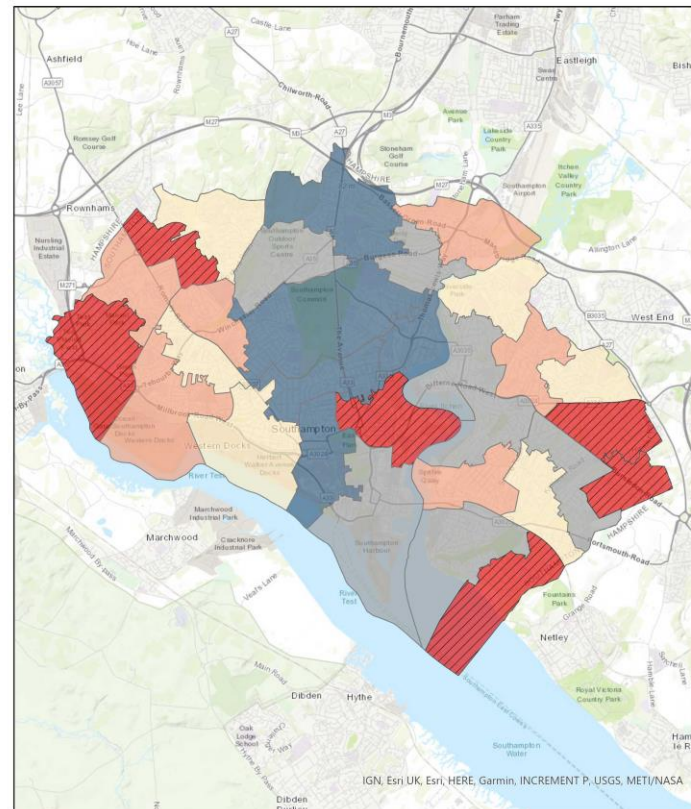


Higher risk households (Southwark)  
% 65+ claiming benefits

/// 58.6-66.3% (top quintile)  
Higher risk households  
% over 65 living alone

Blue	≤35.9
Light Blue	≤39.2
Yellow	≤42.6
Orange	≤44.6
Red	≤53.5

Data from 2011 Census, 2020 DWP, 2020 OS, 2019 ONS  
High risk includes single adult households. Benefits data are from the Pension Age Claimant Group (May 2020).



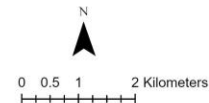
% High risk under age 65

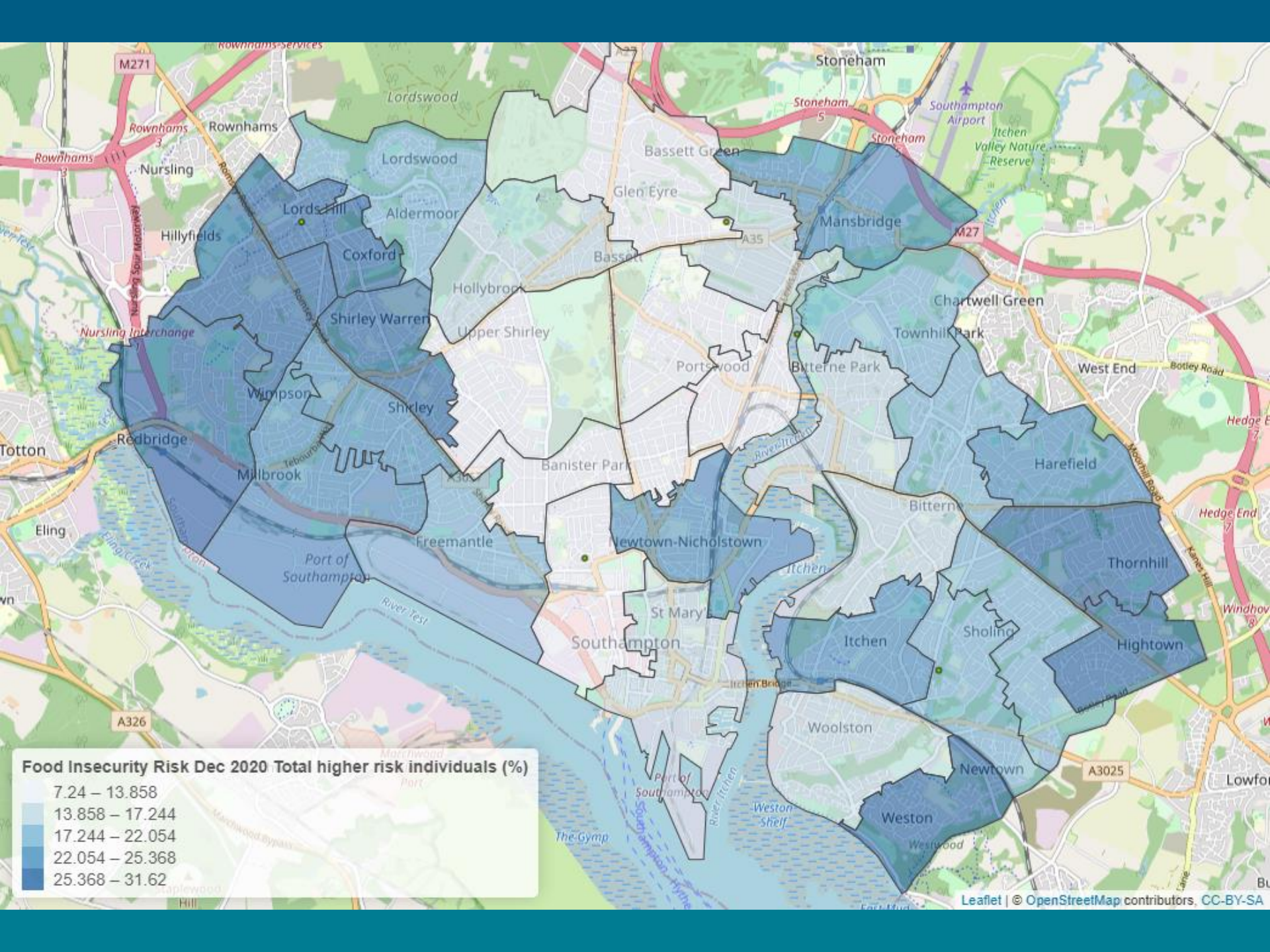
Dark Blue	≤9.8
Light Blue	≤15.0
Yellow	≤18.2
Orange	≤23.1
Red	≤30.4

% claiming benefits under age 65 (May 2020)

///	23.9-32.8% (top quintile)
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Data from 2011 Census, 2019 ONS, 2020 DWP. Higher risk in this age group are those in lower income households with either single adults or with dependent children. Benefits are from the May 2020 DWP Working Age Claimant Dataset.







# Known uses and applications of Food Insecurity Measure

- JSNA
- Food poverty action plans
- The Food Insecurity Risk Index is highly correlated with childhood obesity prevalence (Smith et al 2018)
- Planning for interventions: food pantries, holiday hunger activities
- Confirmation of informal observations, food parcel distribution
- **Website:** like *localhealth.org.uk*. Teams can add their own data and share internally, download data and maps
- Data and maps have been shared with 40+ local authorities, AgeUK, JRF, charities
- **Updates forthcoming: LSOA level, area-specific**
- <https://www.mylocalmap.org.uk/iaahealth/>

# Further resources

- Forthcoming: **Family Resources Survey** (2019 data)
- Ask locally: data collected by **Councils**
- **Understanding Society**: Covid-19 boost sample (2020, six waves); engagement with aid x 3 waves
- **Food Foundation** report: March 20-Jan 21

[https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FF\\_Impact-of-Covid\\_FINAL.pdf](https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/FF_Impact-of-Covid_FINAL.pdf)

# Thank you

- **Food Insecurity:** Claire Thompson, Kirk Harland, Nicola Shelton, ESRC IAA funds; NIHR ARC (Wessex FRIEND)

# References

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- [https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report\\_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf](https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf)