

Health Inequalities – the Northern Ireland context

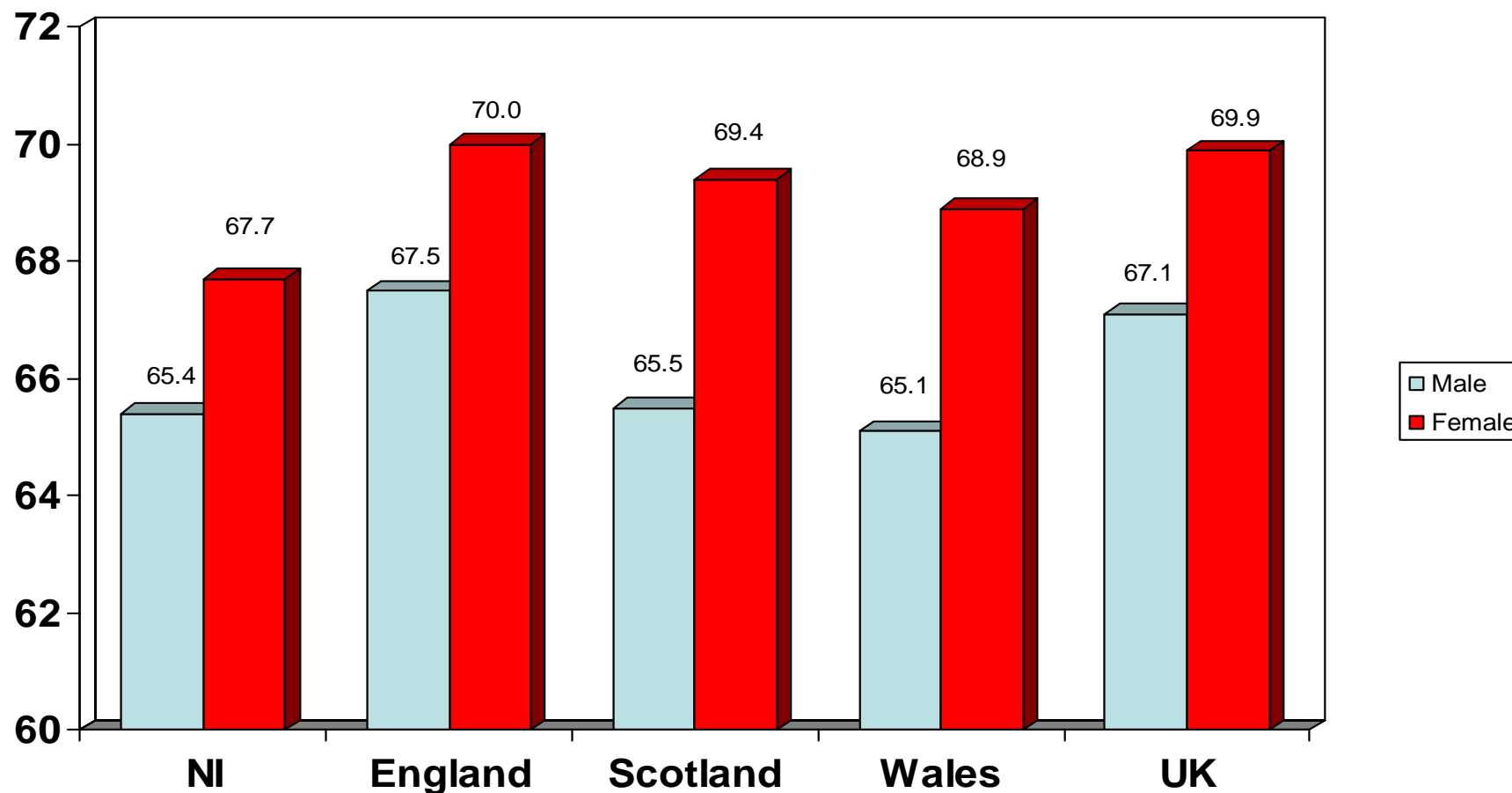
Dr Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer
DHSSPS

“That Poverty is associated with ill health must always have been obvious, except to those who did not care to look or wish to see.”

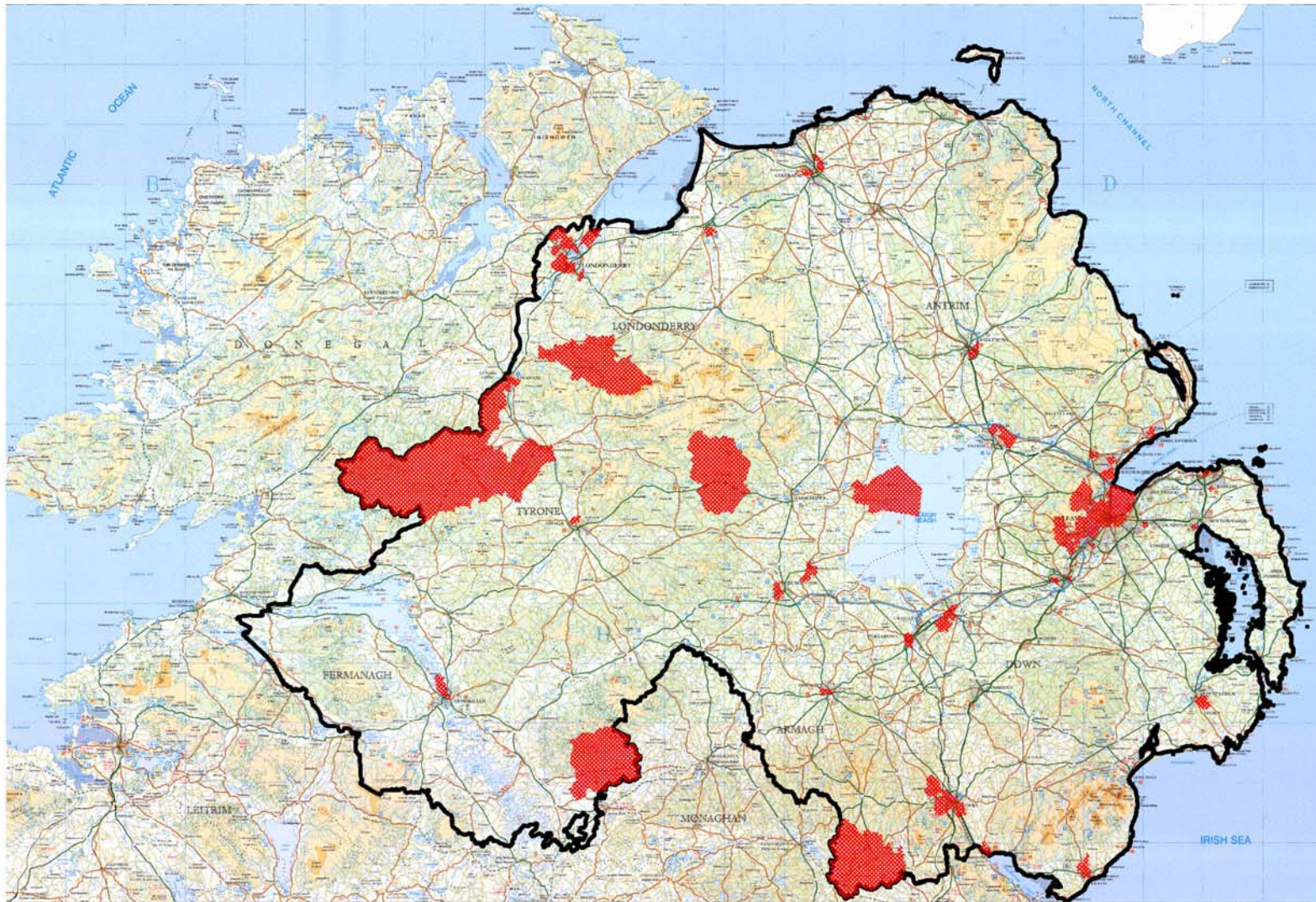
Douglas Black

Healthy life expectancy for females is lower in NI than in the rest of the UK, for males is similar to Scotland and Wales.

Healthy Life Expectancy – at birth 2002

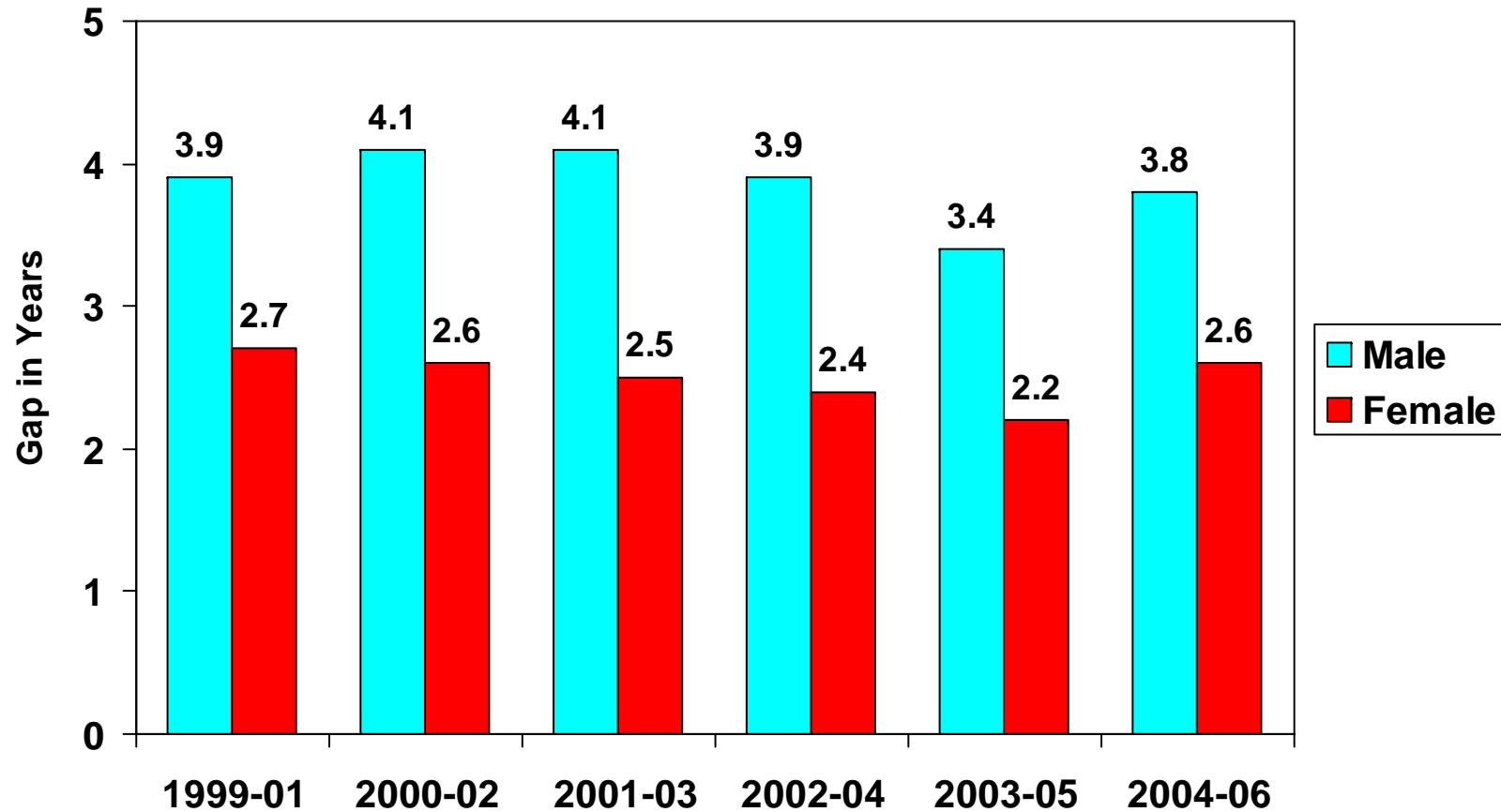


20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland

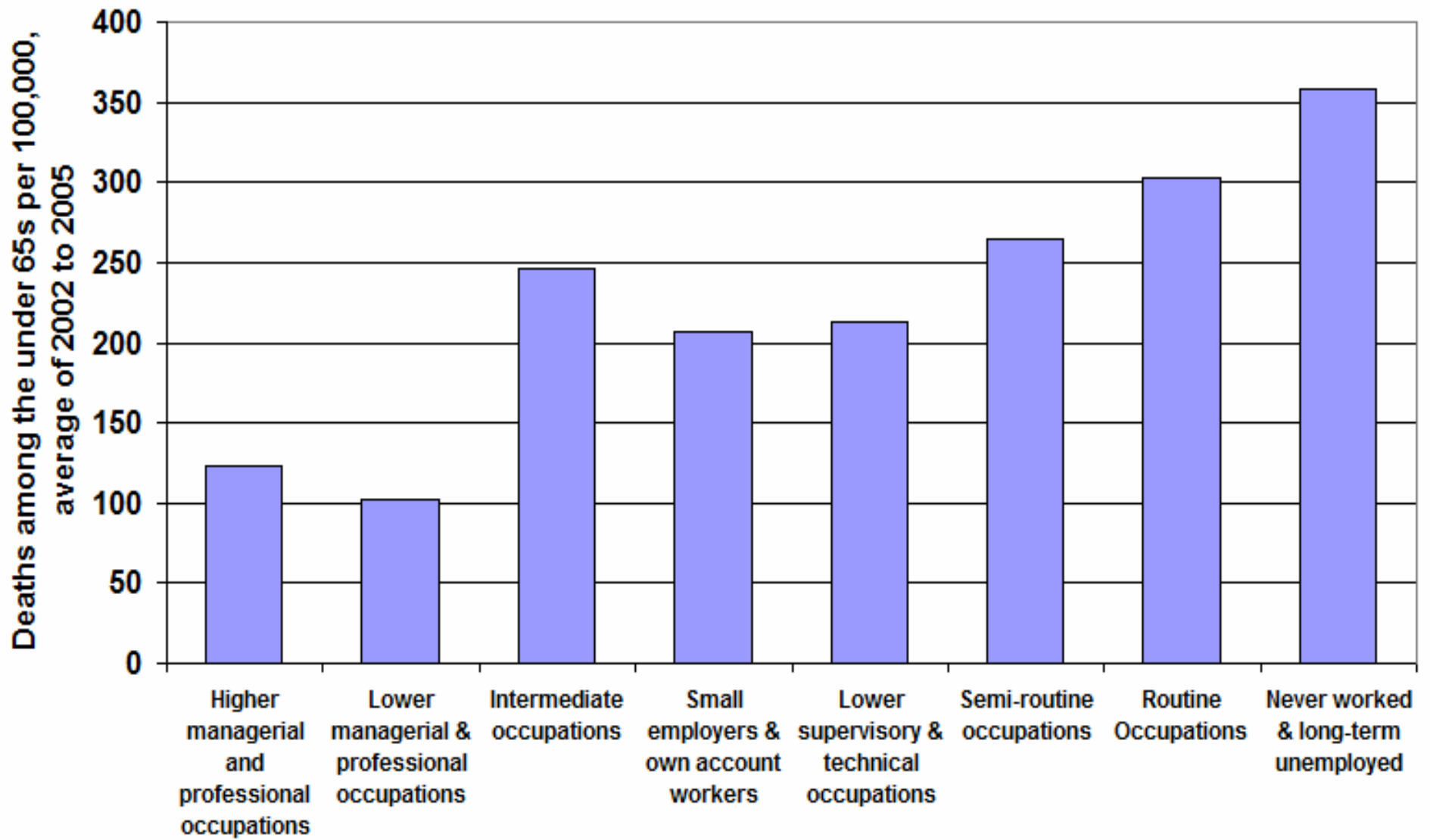


Life Expectancy

Gap between most deprived areas and NI overall

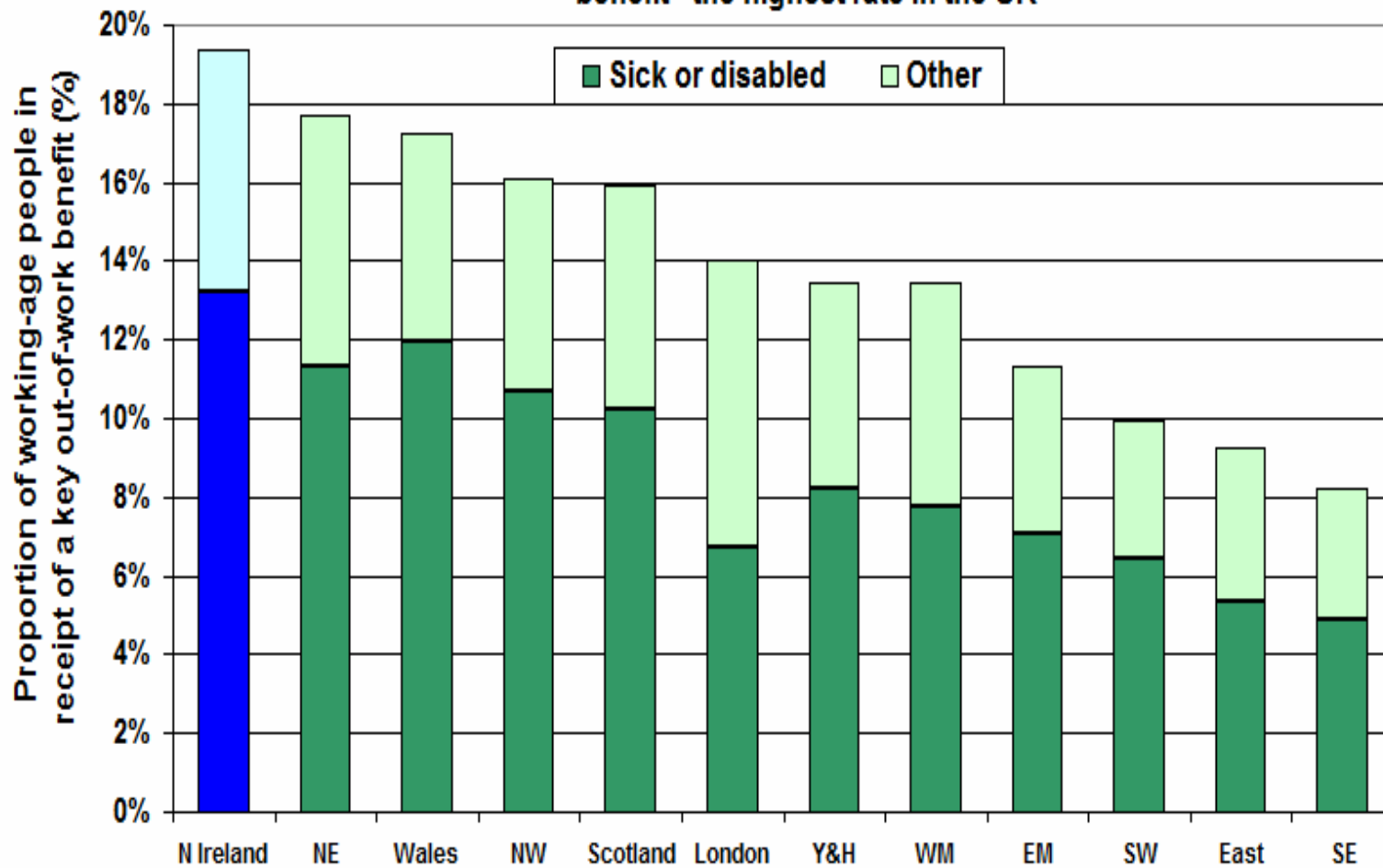


The rate of premature deaths among the long term unemployed is three times that of people in managerial occupations



Source: NISRA, Northern Ireland, the data is the average for 2002 to 2005

Nearly one in five people in Northern Ireland claim some form of out-of-work benefit - the highest rate in the UK



Scope: UK
 Year: 2005
 Updated: Jun 2006

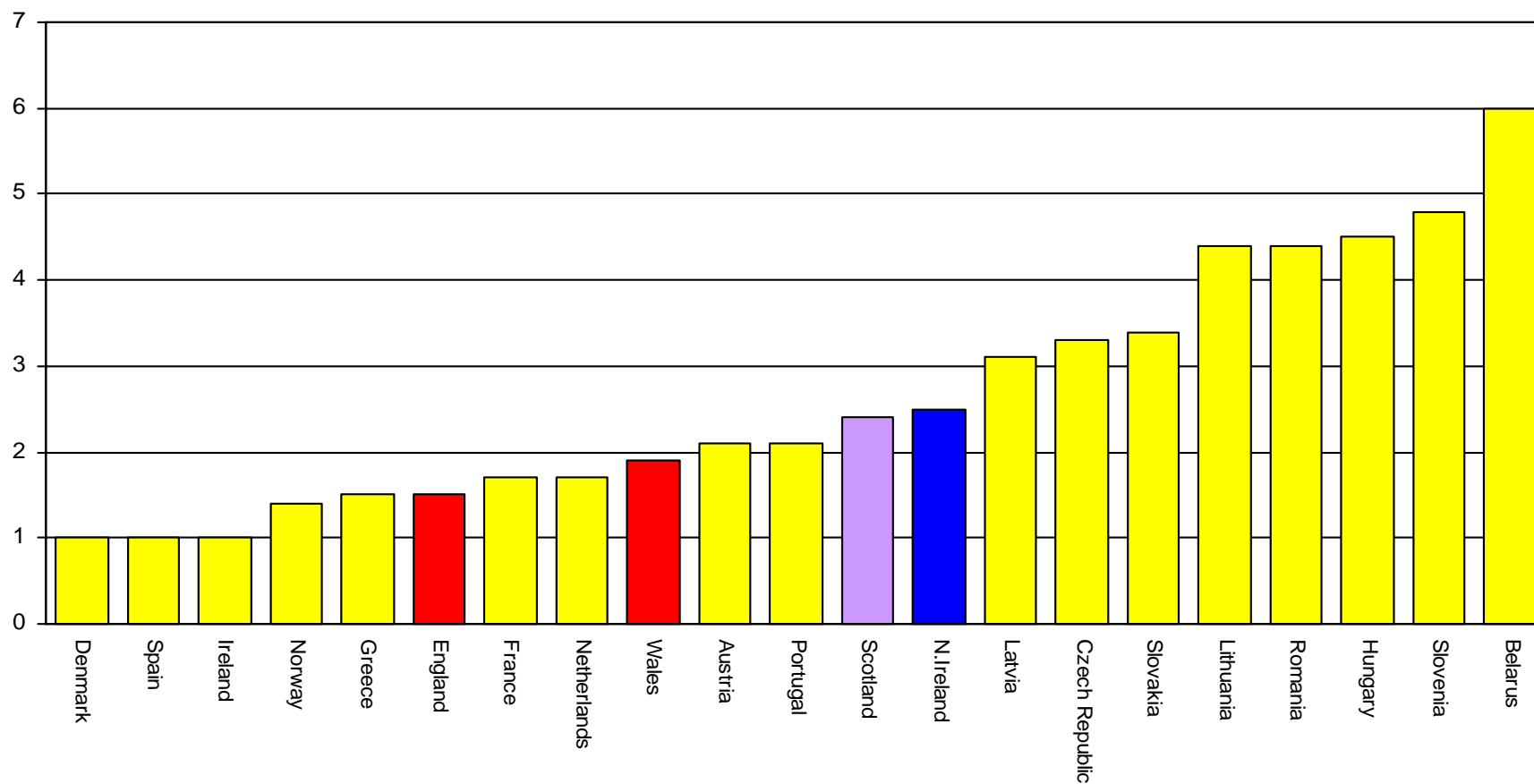
Source: Client Group Analysis, DWP (GB) and from the Department of Social Development (NI);
 the data is for February 2005

CHALLENGES - INEQUALITIES

	CREGGAN	CULTRA
Multiple Deprivation rank	11	563
Free School Meals (2006)	68.9%	1.5%
Aged 3-5 registered with Dentist (2005)	38.2%	74.0%
Births to unmarried mothers (2004)	51.7%	5.2%

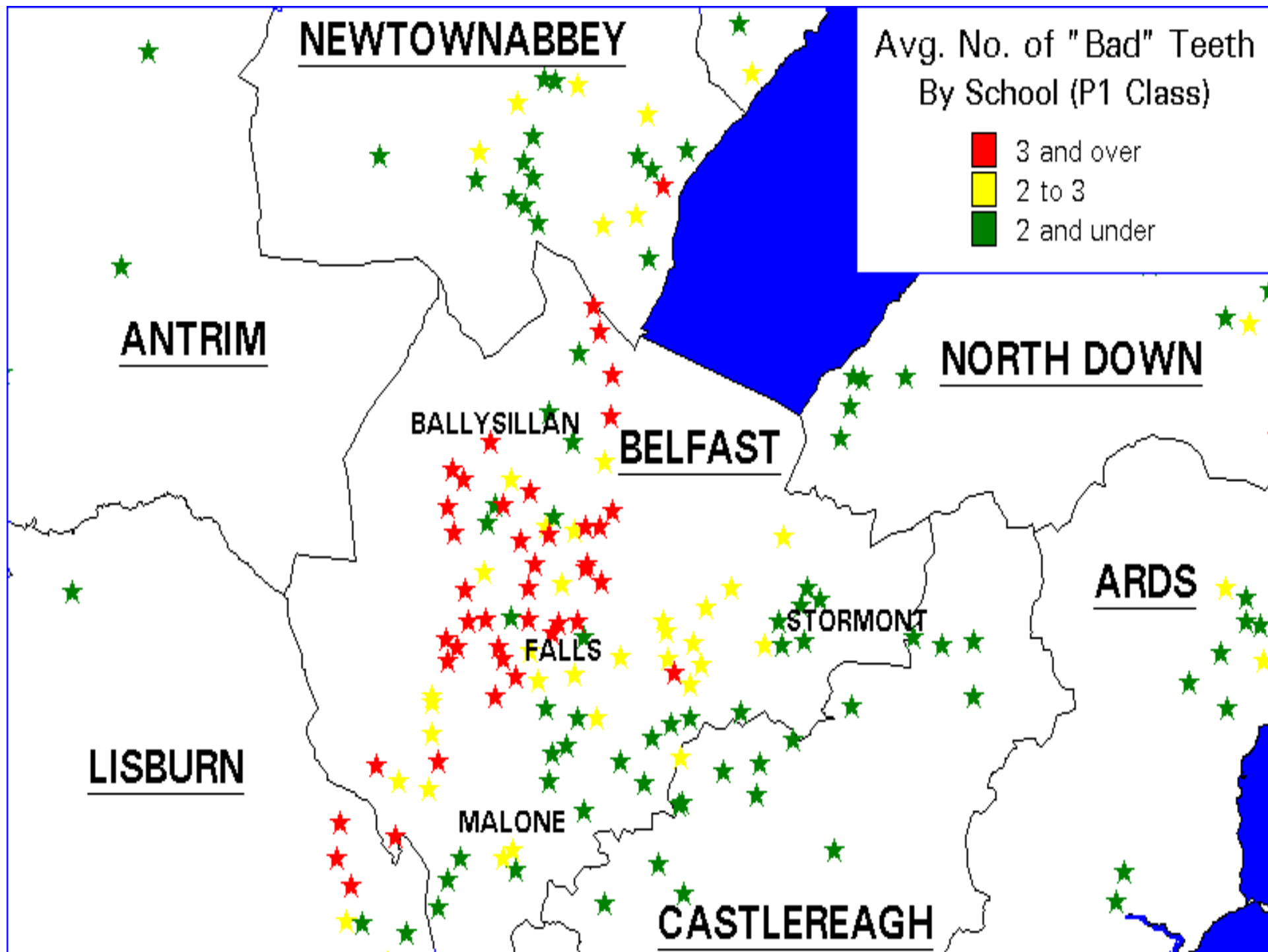
Northern Ireland has a poor record in the dental health of young children (on Western European/UK standards)

Estimated Average decay experience (Decayed, Missing and Filled Teeth) in Young Children

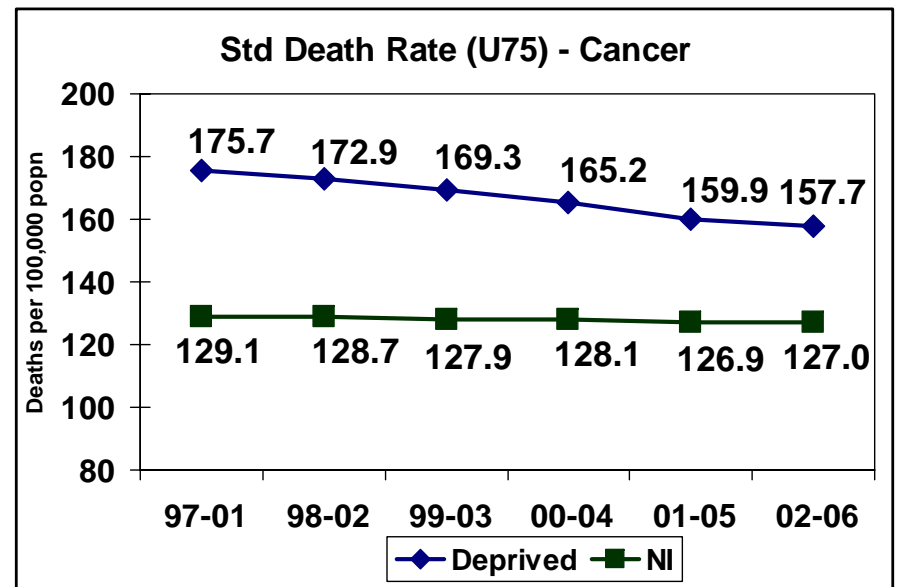
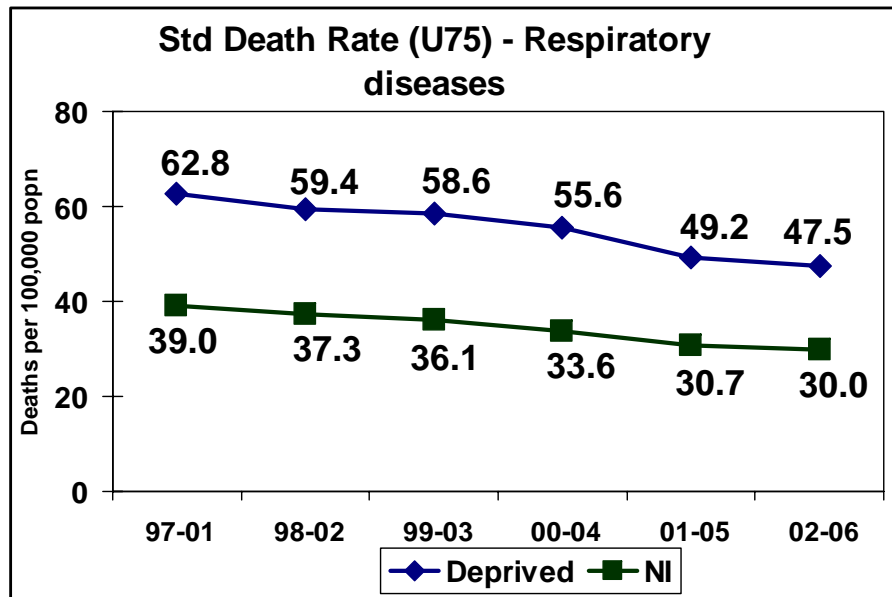
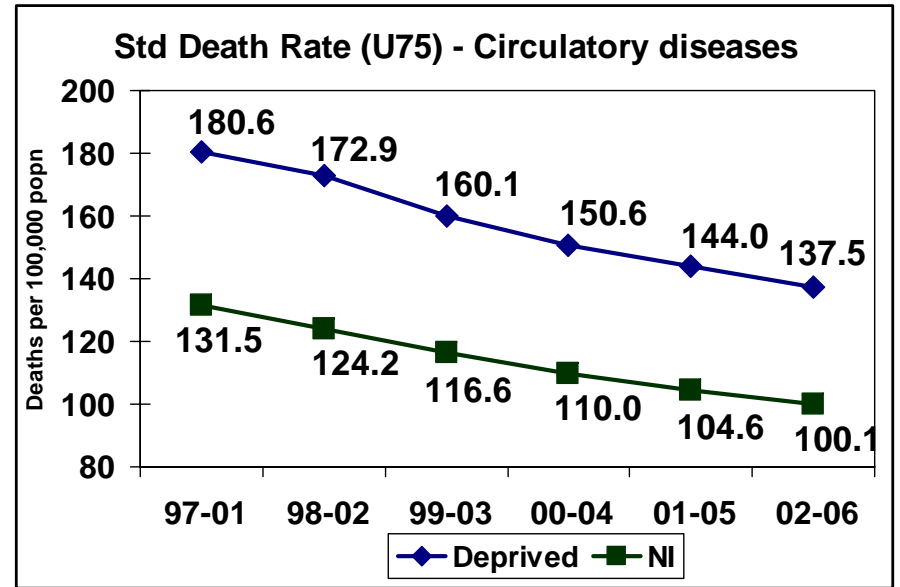
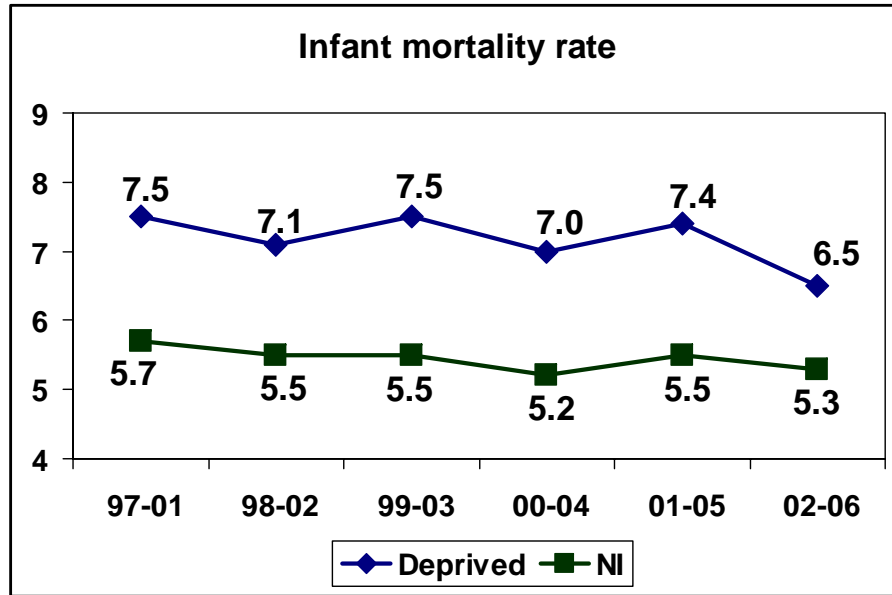


Source: WHO/Childrens Dental Health/ National Dental Inspection Programme of Scotland

Note: Age of children varies from 5-7

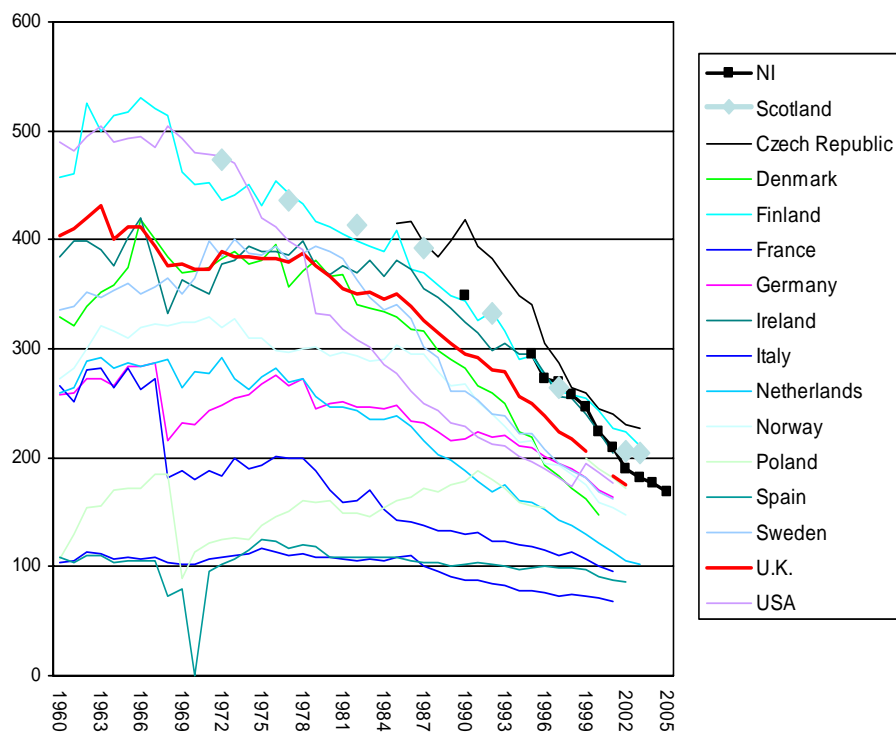


Other health inequality indicators



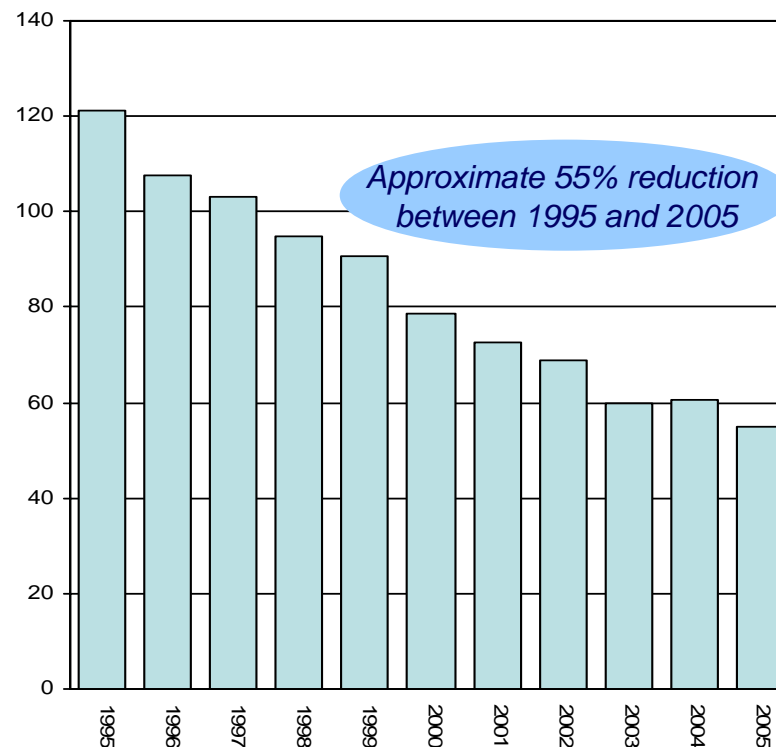
In Northern Ireland and Scotland the death rate due to Coronary heart disease is relatively high albeit improving in recent years.

Coronary heart disease deaths per 100,000 population – all males



Source: OECD Health Data 2005, DHSSPS/GRO
 Note: Data not available for NI for all years

NI coronary heart disease deaths per 100,000 population (under 75)



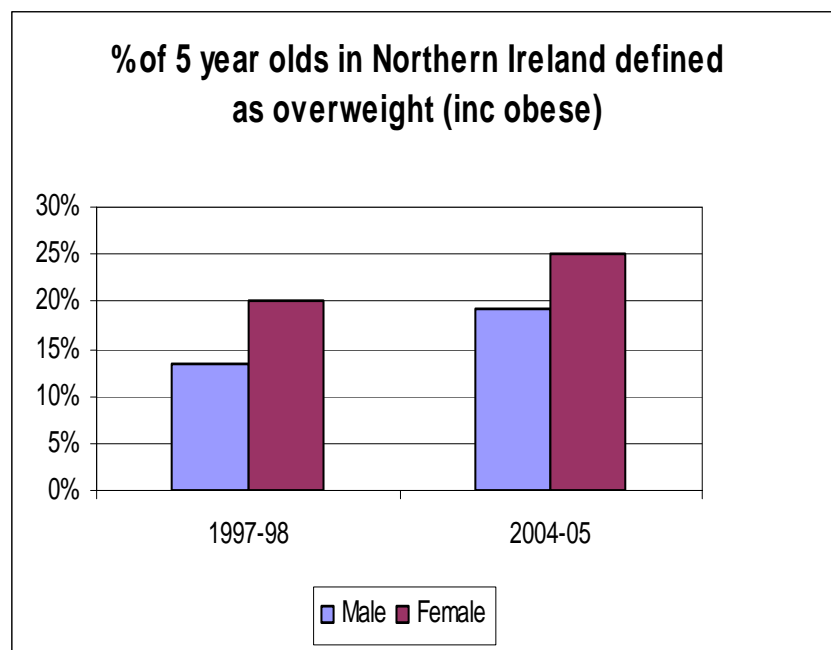
Source: DHSSPS/GRO
 Note: Data standardised to European Population

Health inequalities – access to health services

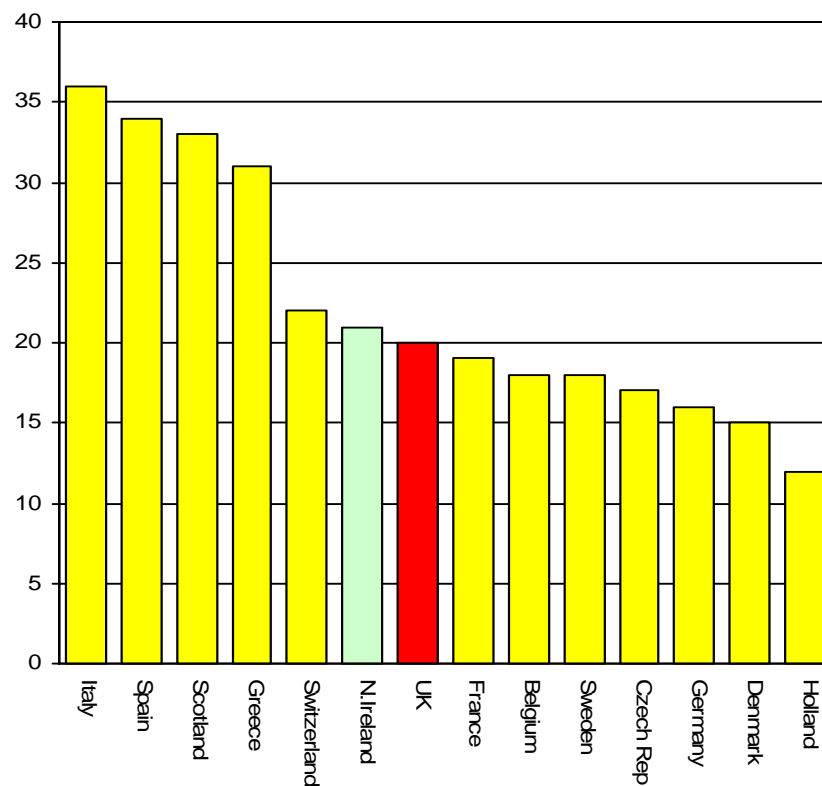
- Intervention rates of Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts (CABG) or angiography following heart attack were 30% lower in lowest socio-economic group (SEG) than the highest.
- Hip replacements 20% lower among lower SEGs despite 30% higher need.
- A one point move down a seven point deprivation scale resulted in GPs spending 3.4% less time per consultation
- Lower uptake of screening & immunisation programmes in lower SEGs

Childhood obesity is a significant and increasing problem in NI with 1 in 5 children classified as overweight and does not compare favourably with some European countries.

% of 5 year olds in N. Ireland defined as overweight (inc obese)



% of children classed as overweight (inc obese) ages vary from 7 – 11 years (ex. NI)



Source: Child Health Systems - DHSSPSNI & International Association for the Study of Obesity

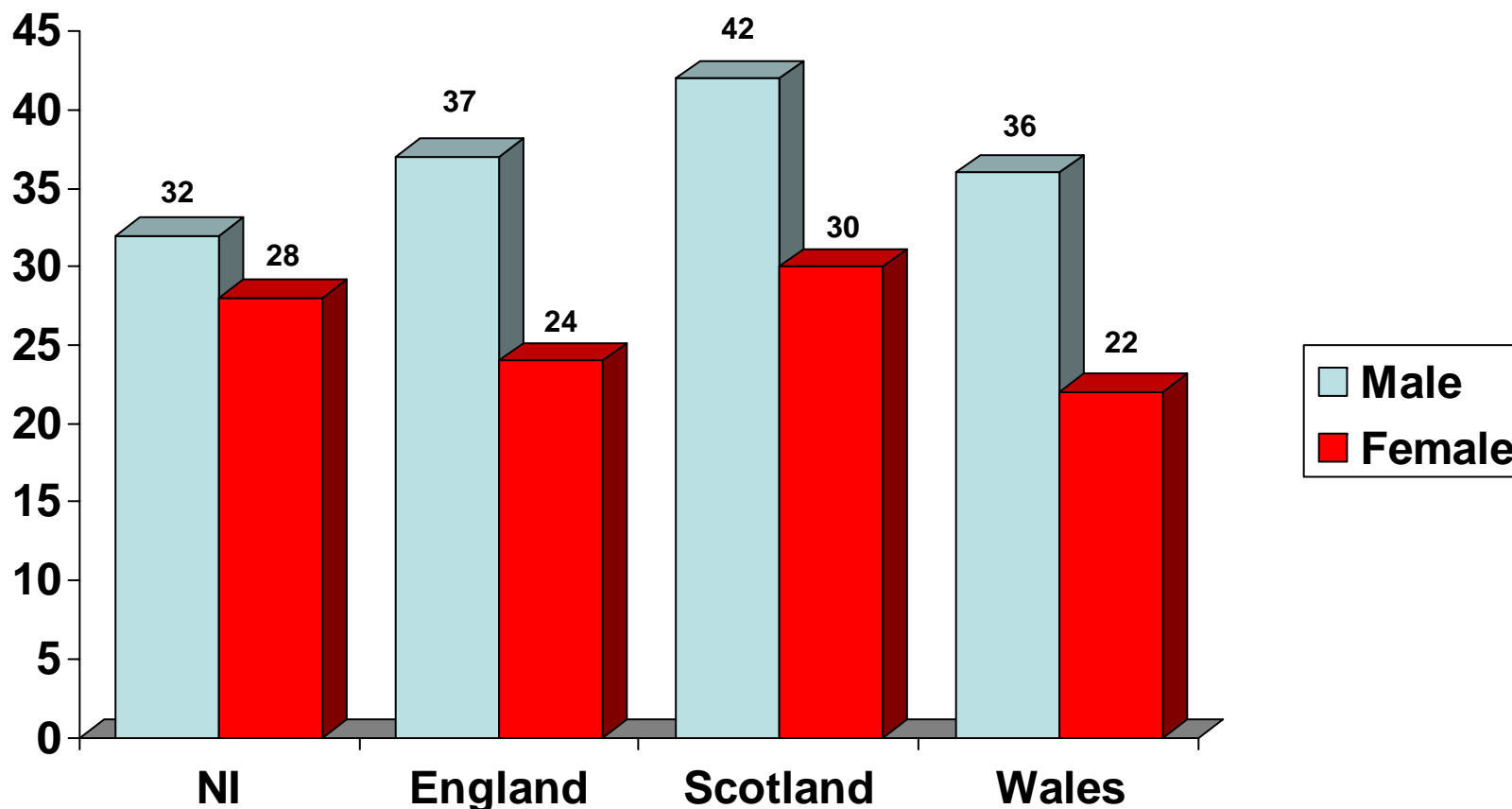
Note 1: Overweight includes obese and severely obese

Note 2: Northern Ireland data is for 5 year olds 1999-2000, other years and ages of children vary by country – from 1998 to 2001

Note 3: Overweight and obesity measured according to IOTF standard measurement

Physical Activity- NI males have the lowest proportion in the UK meeting recommended physical activity levels; a higher proportion of NI and Scottish females meet the recommended levels than in England and Wales

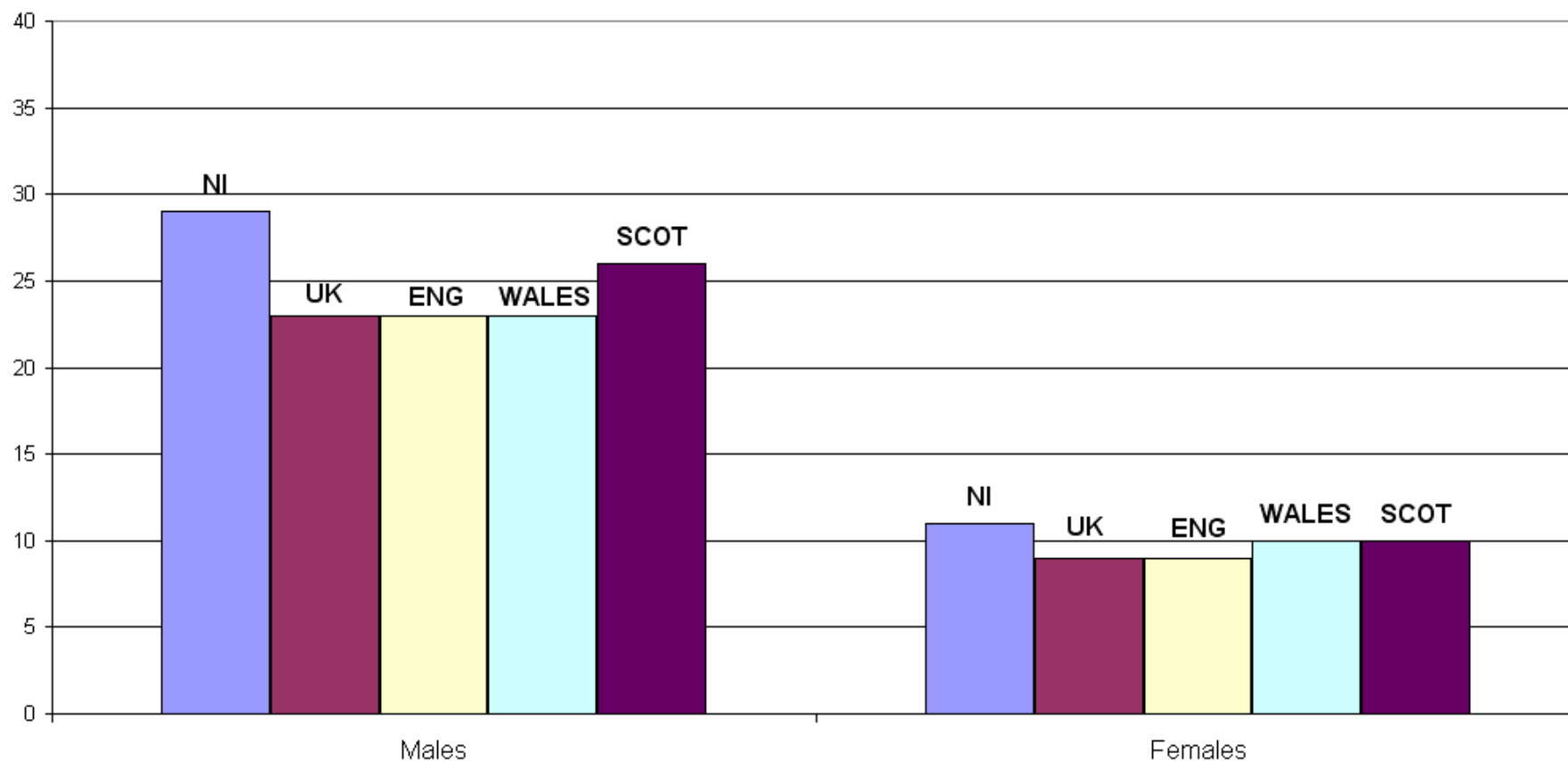
Physical activity level – % above recommended levels



Source: NI Health & Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06. Health Survey for England 2004. The Scottish Health Survey 2003. Welsh Health Survey 2003/04.

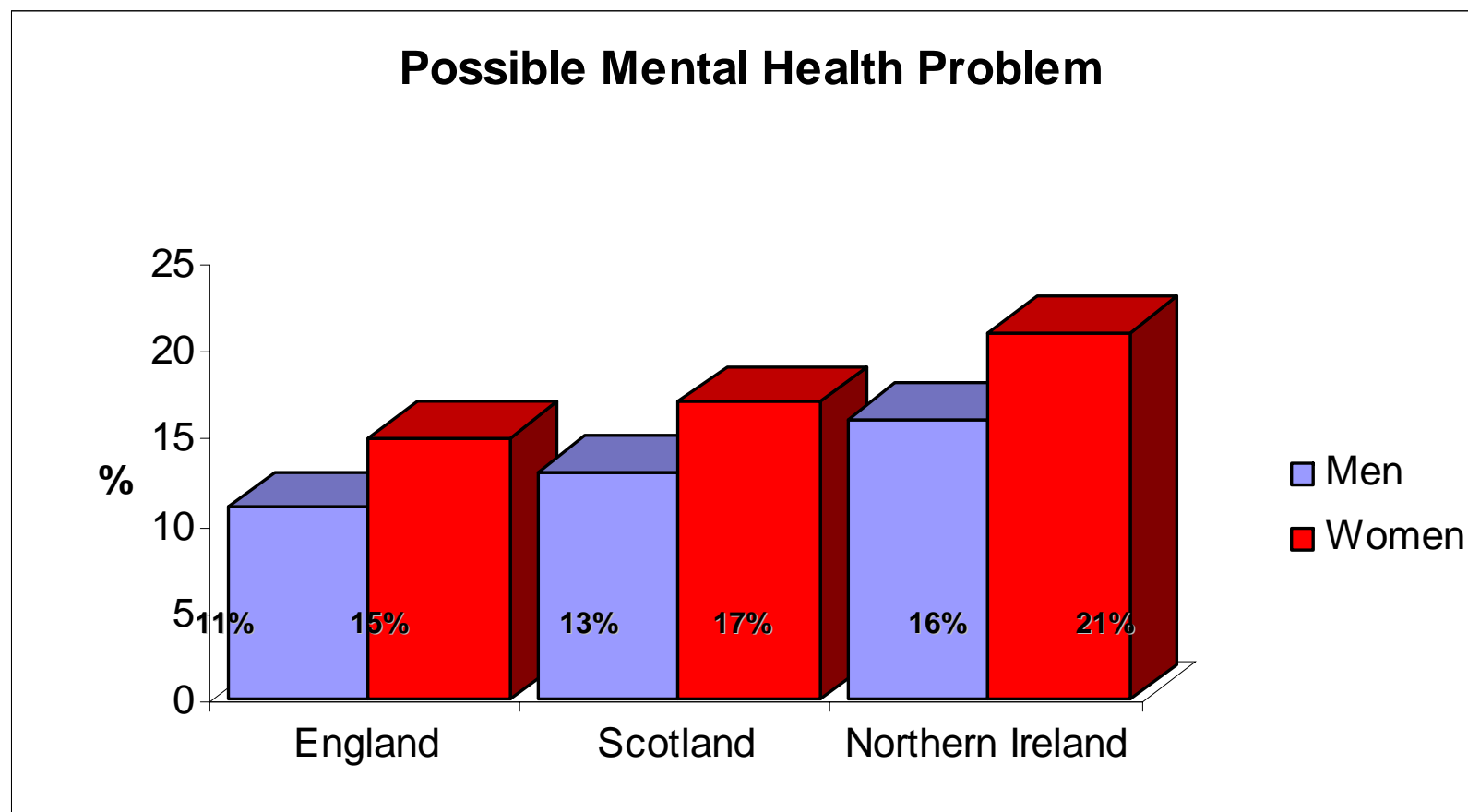
A higher percentage NI's population, both male and female, drink above sensible limits of alcohol than in other UK regions

Percentage of people who drink above sensible levels – Northern Ireland comparisons 2004



Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA & General Household Survey, ONS

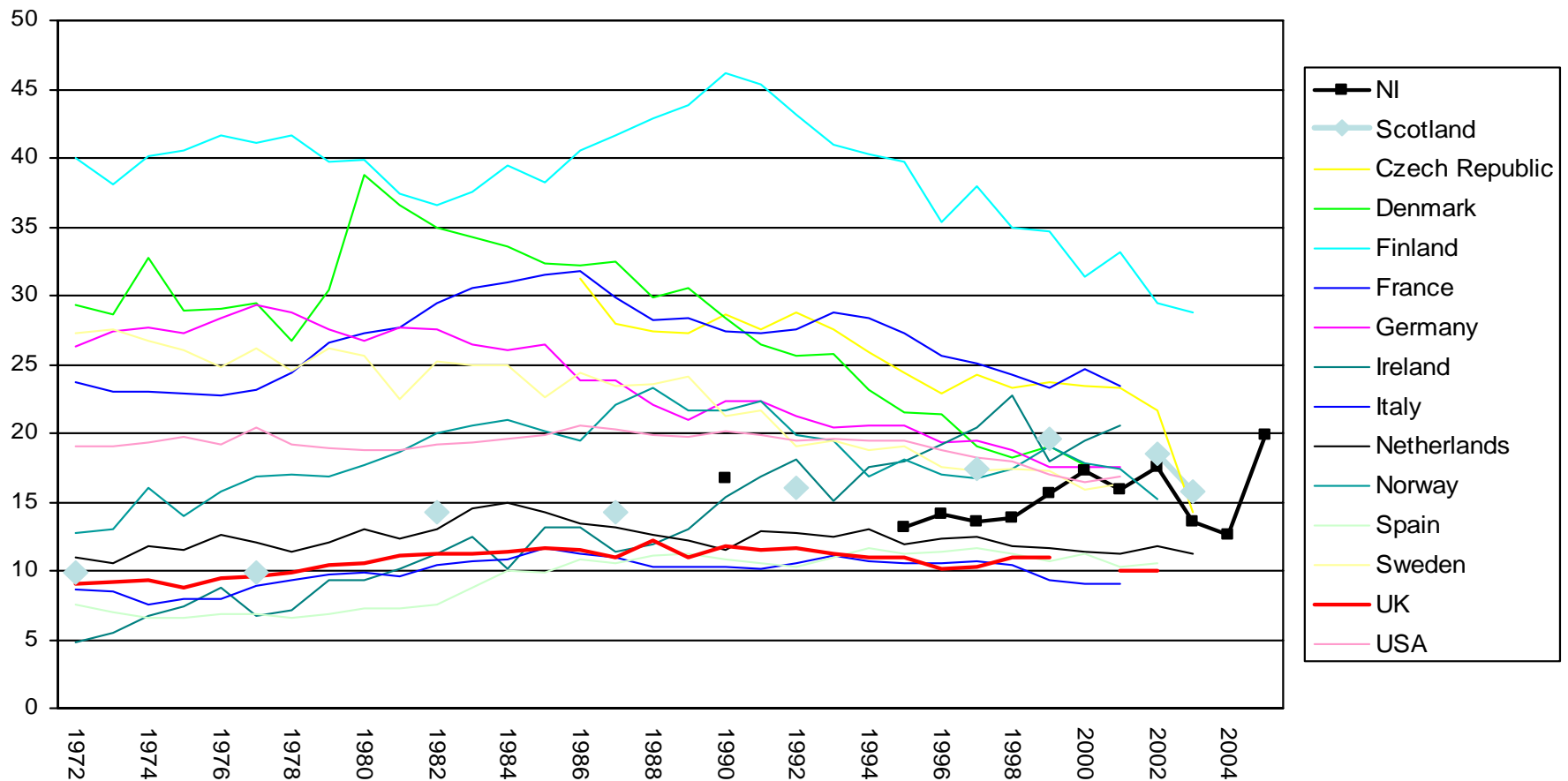
Men and women in Northern Ireland are more likely to show signs of a possible mental health problem than their counterparts in England or Scotland



Source data: Health Survey for England 2003, The Scottish Health Survey 2003, Northern Ireland Health and Social Wellbeing Survey 2005/06.

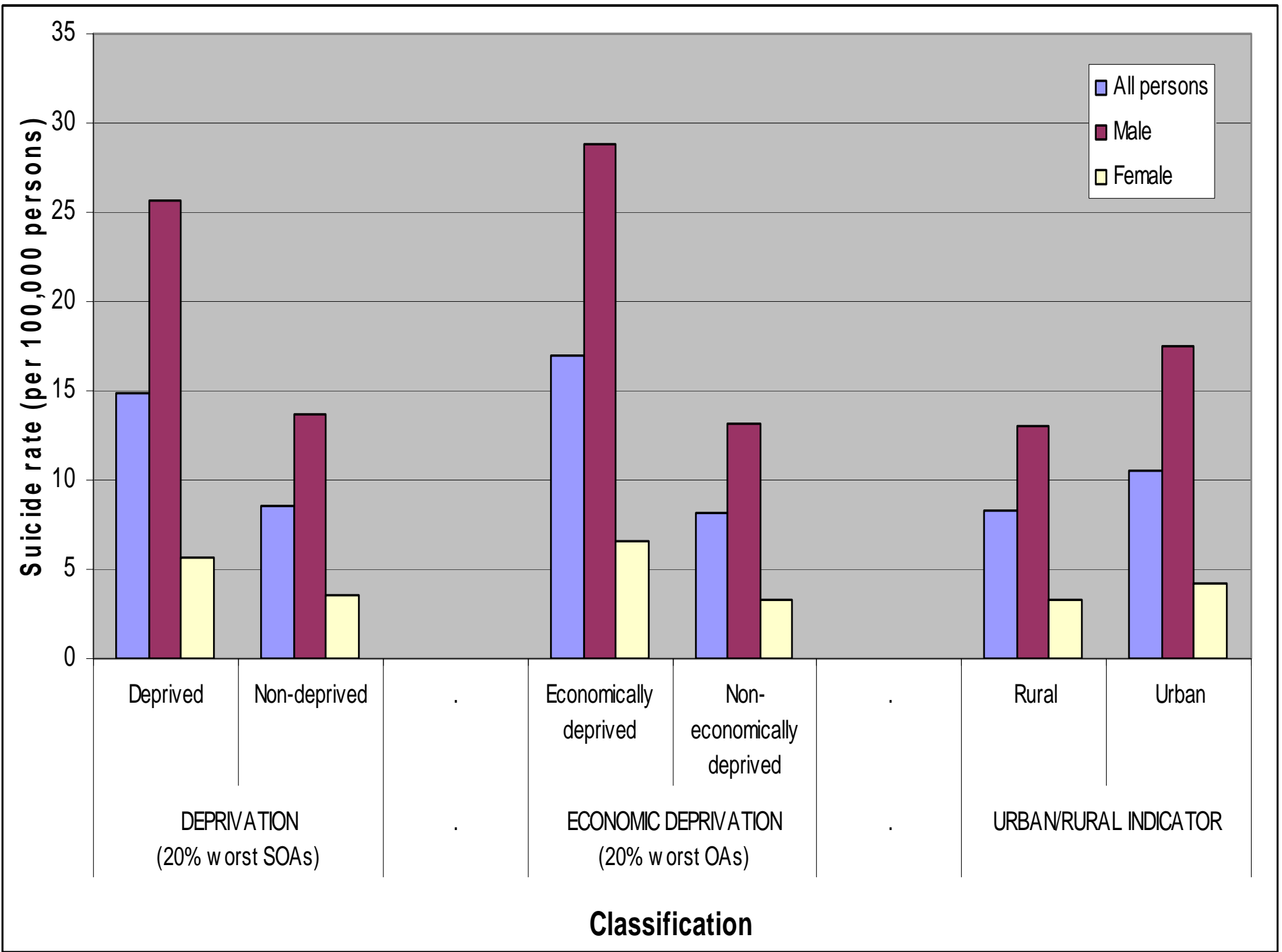
Male suicide is on the increase

Mortality caused by intentional self-harm trend : Males



Source : OECD Health Data 2005

Note: Data not available for NI for all years



Health inequalities

- 6500 fewer people would die prematurely each year across Ireland if death rates matched European average (3000 in Northern Ireland)
- Death rates for CHD, cancer and stroke for lowest SEG more than twice that of highest SEG
- Unemployed twice as likely to have mental health problems
- Children from poorest families;
 - 4 times more likely to die before 20 yrs
 - 15 times more likely to die in house fire
 - 5 times more likely to die in accidents

Dr J McKenna, CMO (1992)

“When data about the number of beds or of operations or of prescriptions written ... are confined to dusty, unopened files ... history will ask rather what successes were recorded in this decade in eliminating the inequalities, in reducing the morbidity and in improving the health of the population of Northern Ireland.”