

Socioeconomic Status is Associated with Place of Death in Patients Known to Hospice Services

Sarah Bowers¹, Maire O’Riordan², Mike MacFarlane³, Emma Carduff^{2,4}
¹Queen Elizabeth University Hospital Glasgow, ²Marie Curie Hospice Glasgow, ³Severn Hospice, Telford, ⁴University of Glasgow



Introduction

- Place of death is a priority to patients at the end of life
- Home is the preferred place of death for the majority of patients
- However, in Scotland, 58% of deaths occur in hospital
- Studies examining the influence of socioeconomic status on place of care have mainly focused on cancer

Method

- **Participants:** all patients referred to a Glasgow hospice over a 5 year period from 2010-2015; deaths in a nursing home were excluded
- **Variables:** place of death (home, hospital, hospice) and socio-economic status using Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD, 2016) (1 deprived – 5 affluent)
- **Analysis:** Chi squared test for trend

Aim

This study aimed to describe the relationship between socioeconomic status and place of death in patients known to a hospice

Results

- 4585 patient deaths over the 5 year period
- The majority were in SIMD1 (most deprived) (Figure 1)
- The proportion of patients dying at home was lower in the most affluent
- Highly significant direct relationship between deprivation and the proportion of patients dying in the hospice
- Inverse correlation between deprivation and patients dying in hospital (P=0.0002, Chi squared test for trend) (Figure 3)

Figure 1
Deprivation quintile for patients known to the hospice from 2010-2015

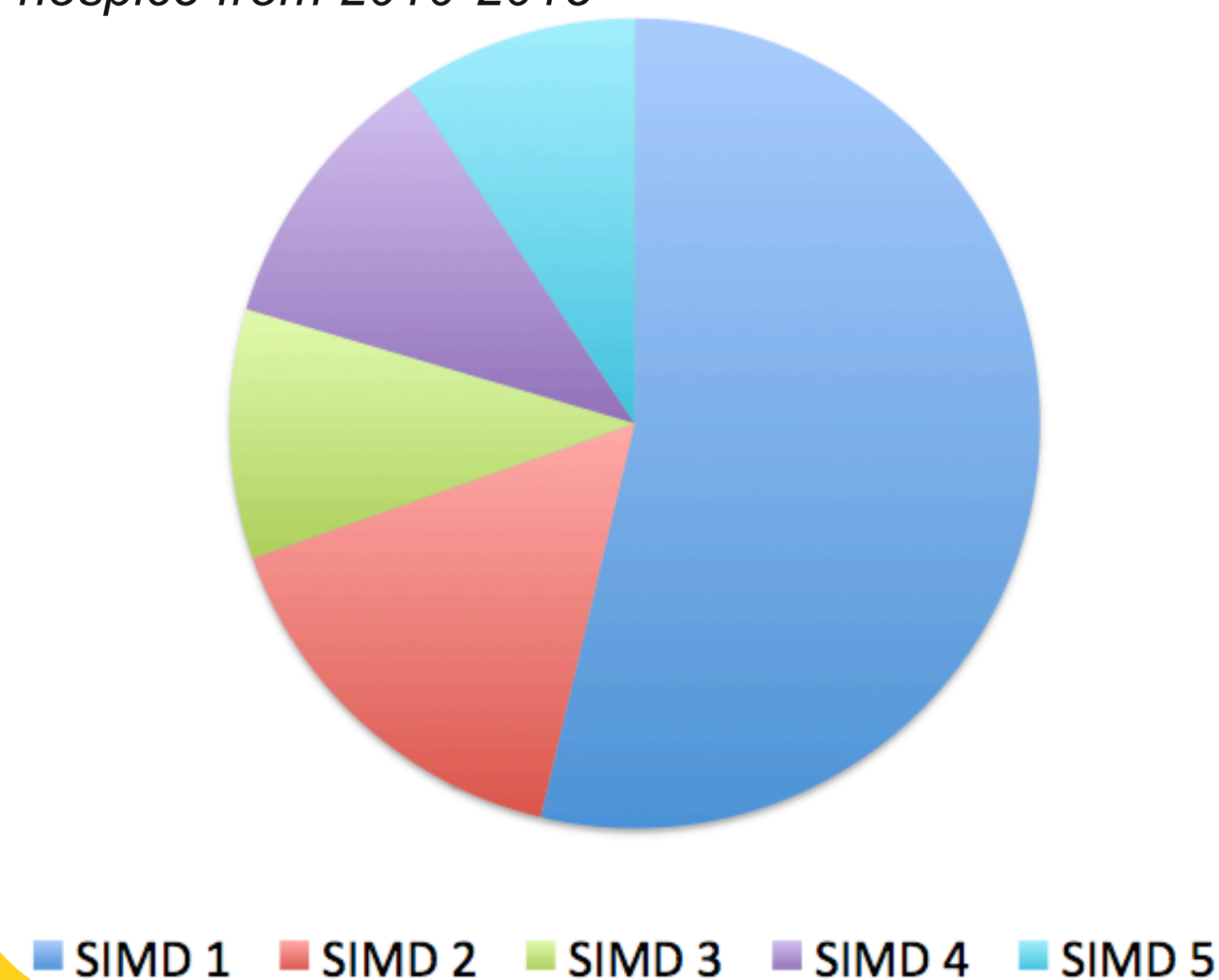


Figure 2
Place of death for all 4505 patients in this study

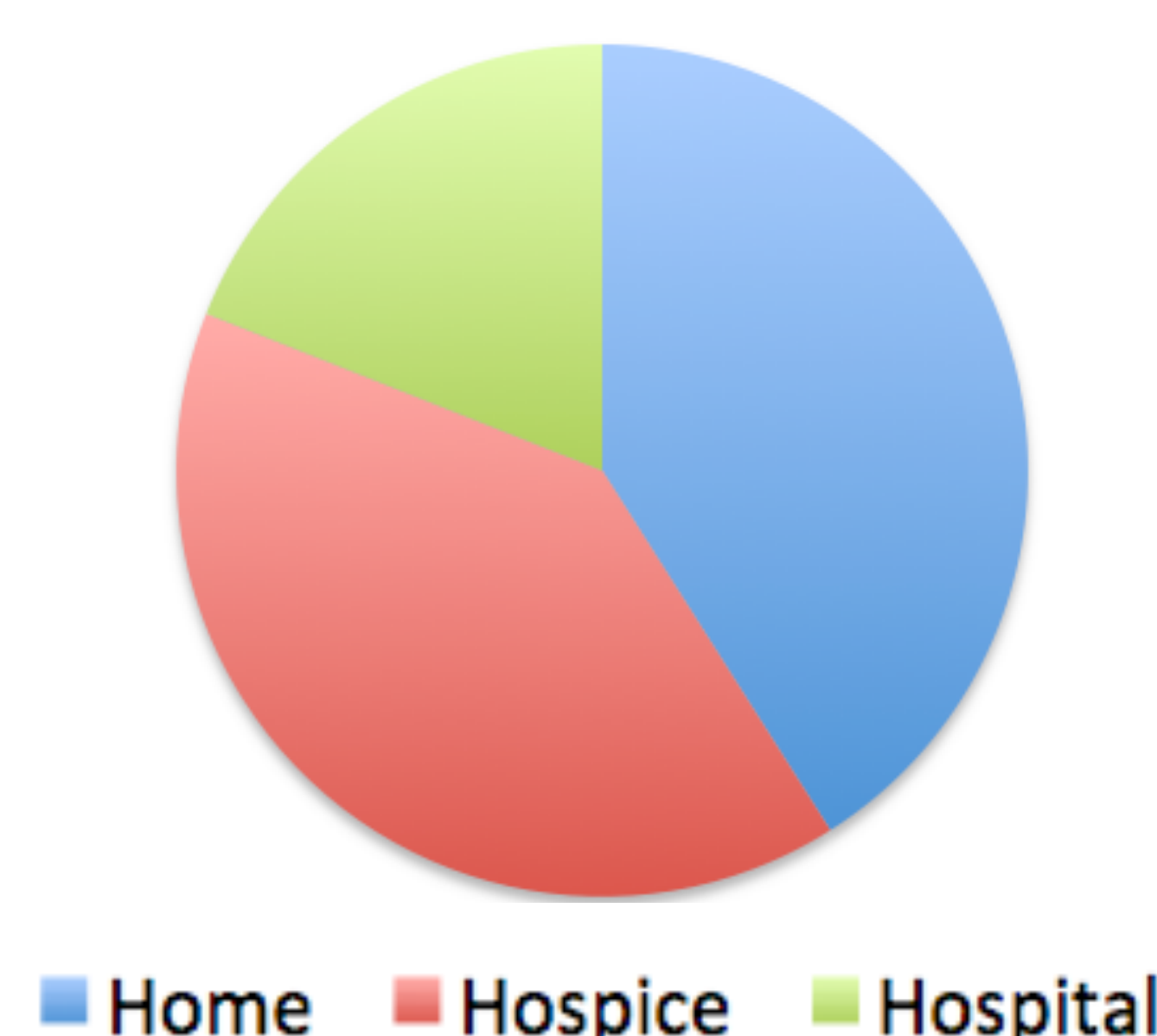
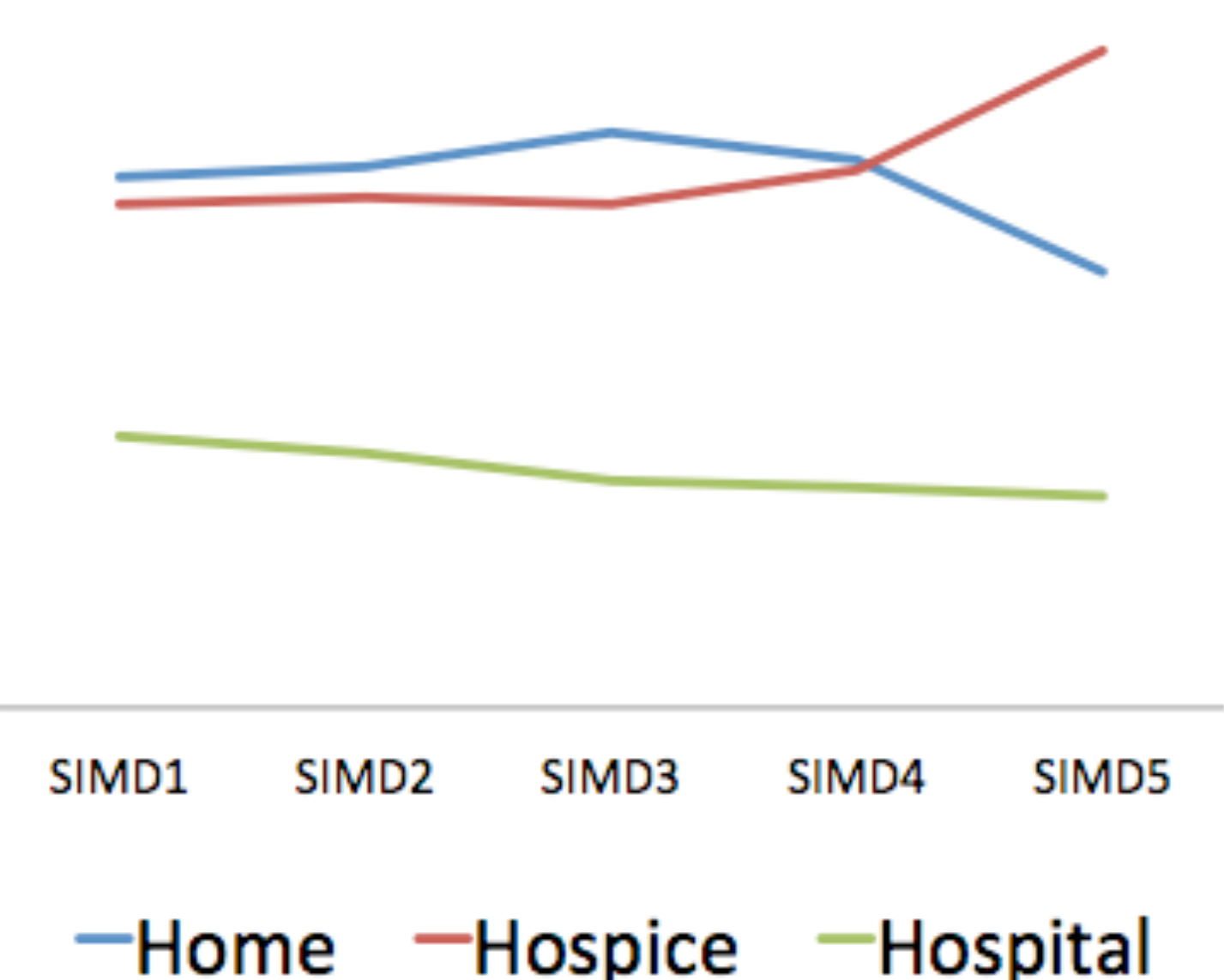


Figure 3
Proportion of deaths in each of the settings, stratified by deprivation quintile



Conclusion

- Patients from more deprived areas were more likely to die in the hospital
- Overall, this study highlights potential inequality, does not necessarily reflect need, has resource implications.
- Further investigation is needed to establish explore reasons for admission, anticipatory care planning and characteristics of families achieving home death

For further details please contact:
sarah.bowers4@nhs.net