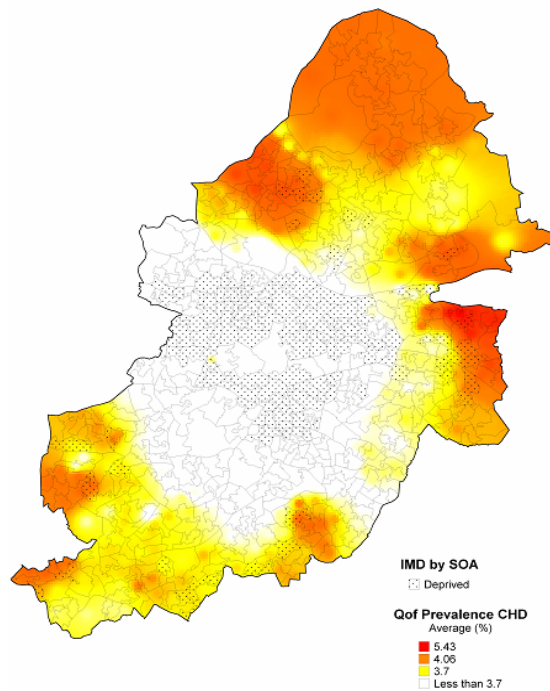


Measuring national health indicators to improve service provision



Prevalence of coronary heart disease in Birmingham based on postcode data

South Birmingham Primary Care Trust is using Ordnance Survey postcode information to compare premature deaths due to coronary heart disease with overall geographic prevalence of the condition.

Measuring mortality against GP practice data from the national Quality Outcome Framework (QOF), the Trust has produced thematic maps for a project to improve diagnosis and disease management programmes in GP-based primary care.

A particular focus is on communities where death rates are higher than average but where prevalence, as measured by QOF, is low, indicating a possible need to strengthen case identification.

'This is a prime example of using geographic information to assess and monitor national health indicators with a view to improving service provision and preventing premature deaths from coronary heart disease.' – **Richard Wilson, Senior Public Health Information Specialist, South Birmingham Primary Care Trust.**