

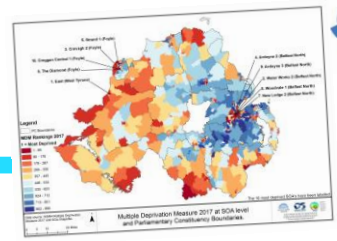
The Inverse Teaching Law;

Does it apply to Northern Ireland's undergraduate medical education?

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Mapped Northern Ireland's GP practices as per deprivation indices

How



Introduction

The 'Inverse Care Law' was published in 1971 states the availability of adequate healthcare varies inversely with the need for it. 50 years later, this still applies, evidenced by Covid-19 mortality rates. Workforce availability in areas of high deprivation is a key issue. Exposure and experience in any clinical setting is known to impact future career choices.

Aims

Investigate whether medical students at QUB get opportunities and exposure in areas of deprivation through GP placements.



Results

32% of 'deprived practices' were involved in medical education compared with 42% of 'non deprived practices'

10% of teaching practices were 'deprived practices', compared to 14% of general practices that met this criteria.



"Inverse Teaching Law?"

The concept of insufficient exposure to teaching and learning in areas of deprivation, leads to poor recruitment and retention of interested staff. Propagating the 'inverse care law' and inequalities in health provision for those living with the highest need.

Definition

A 'deprived practice' defined as >50% registered patients living in the most deprived quintile of NI



Compared QUB Teaching Practices

Reviewed the deprivation data for the 135 registered QUB practices, against 323 national GP practices



Conclusion

Whilst 'Deprived practices' were under-represented, the results were promising. Exposure to GP in deprived areas is a clear and essential step to improving future workforce recruitment and ultimately closing the health inequalities gap.

Implications

Intentional placement of medical students in areas of deprivation is evident at QUB, but further recruitment of deprived practices is still required.

Limitations

This study is limited to Northern Ireland and further work is required to compare institutions across the UK and Ireland.

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