

Department for Education: The distance travelled to childcare providers

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Objectives

The aim of the report was to explore the potential factors involved in how far parents are willing to travel for childcare

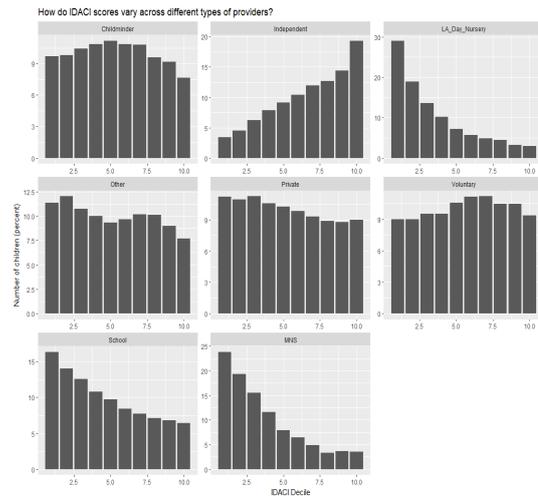


Figure 2: A graph to show the distribution of IDACI scores by provider type

Results and Conclusions

- The median distance travelled is 729 metres (0.5miles). (Figure 1)
- Those living in rural areas travel a median distance of 905 metres, and 722 metres for urban areas.
- Those living in the 10% most deprived areas have a median distance of 595 metres, compared to those in the 10% least deprived areas who have a median distance of 895 metres. (Figure 2)
- Our regression model for rurality and IDACI showed that for every 1% increase in rurality, distance increases by 12 metres. And for every IDACI decile, distance increases by 78 metres. Our model is significant and explains 3% of the variation we see in distance travelled.
- Those in registered independent schools travel the furthest, with a median of 2,432 metres, and those in Schools travel the smallest distance with a median of 211 metres. (Figure 3)
- Children on the EHC plan are travelling further (1,493 metres), on average, than those on no plan (732 metres) and those with SEN support (632 metres) and SEN statement (1074 metres).
- The children taking the extended hours (30 hours) have a median distance travelled of 1,114 metres, compared to those not taking it who have a median distance of 675 metres.
- The median distance for children attending a maintained nursery is 670 metres.
- 97% of maintained nurseries are in urban areas and in the most deprived areas. Those attending maintained nurseries are also amongst the most deprived.

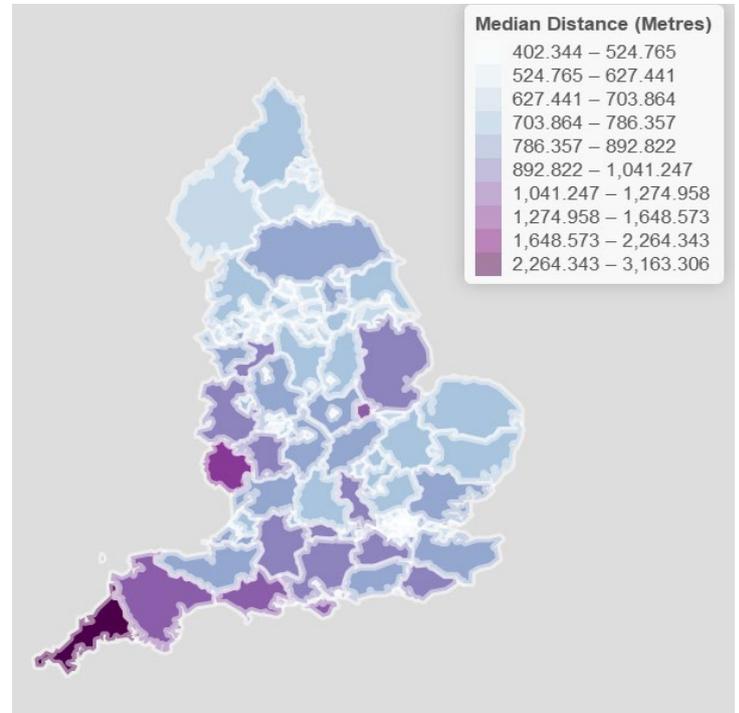


Figure 1: A graph to show the distribution of median distance travelled across

Method

I used SPSS to extract data from both the school census and the early years census. I used these two to retrieve information from all funded children under 5. With this information I was able to calculate the distance between their home address and their provider. In R, I was able to carry out analysis of the distance travelled, and several personal and geographical characteristics.

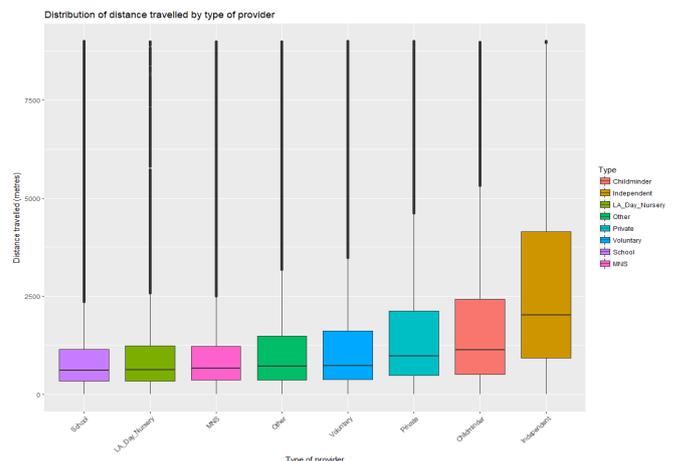


Figure 3: A graph to show the distribution of median distance travelled across