

What happened to deprived neighbourhoods in England in the 2000s?

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Social Policy in a Cold Climate

- An ongoing programme funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Nuffield Foundation and Trust for London
- Current and forthcoming neighbourhood work (all 2013)
 - Lupton.R., Fenton, A. and Fitzgerald. A. *Labour's Record on Neighbourhood Renewal in England 1997-2010*
 - Lupton,R.: *Neighbourhood Renewal in the UK 1997-2012*
 - Fenton, A.: *Small Area Measures of Income Poverty*
 - Fenton, A. and Fitzgerald. A. and Lupton.R : *Poverty in British Cities 2000/01 to 2010/11*
 - Lupton et al.: *Prosperity, Poverty and Inequality: London 2000/01 to 2010/11*

http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/case/_new/research/Social_Policy_in_a_Cold_Climate.asp



CENTRE FOR ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Outline

- Deprived neighbourhoods in the late 1990s: what did Labour inherit?
- The policy response and its rationales
- What happened next
- Where we are now

Late 1990s

- Two/three decades of de-industrialisation:
 - Population loss – housing oversupply, loss of shops
 - Second generation worklessness
 - Associated social problems: ill-health, anger, family breakdown, crime, drugs
- Government neglect:
 - Under-investment in social housing
 - CCT regime, loss of front-line staff and lack of co-ordinated management
 - Poor health facilities, schools etc







What Labour did

- Phase 1 (1997-2001) NDCs, Sure Start, Action Zones, while developing....
- Phase 2 (2001-2007) National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal: (a new approach)
 - Cross government strategy and funding
 - Floor targets, backed by investments in data (IMD, neighbourhood stats)
 - LSPs/Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies
 - Neighbourhood Management
- Phase 3: (2004-2010)
 - 1) embedding/mainstreaming (LAAs/ABG)
 - 2) emphasis on worklessness, Working Neighbourhoods Fund
 - 3) emphasis on social mix, sustainability

Rationales for Neighbourhood Renewal

- Unequal neighbourhood conditions, distribution of public goods

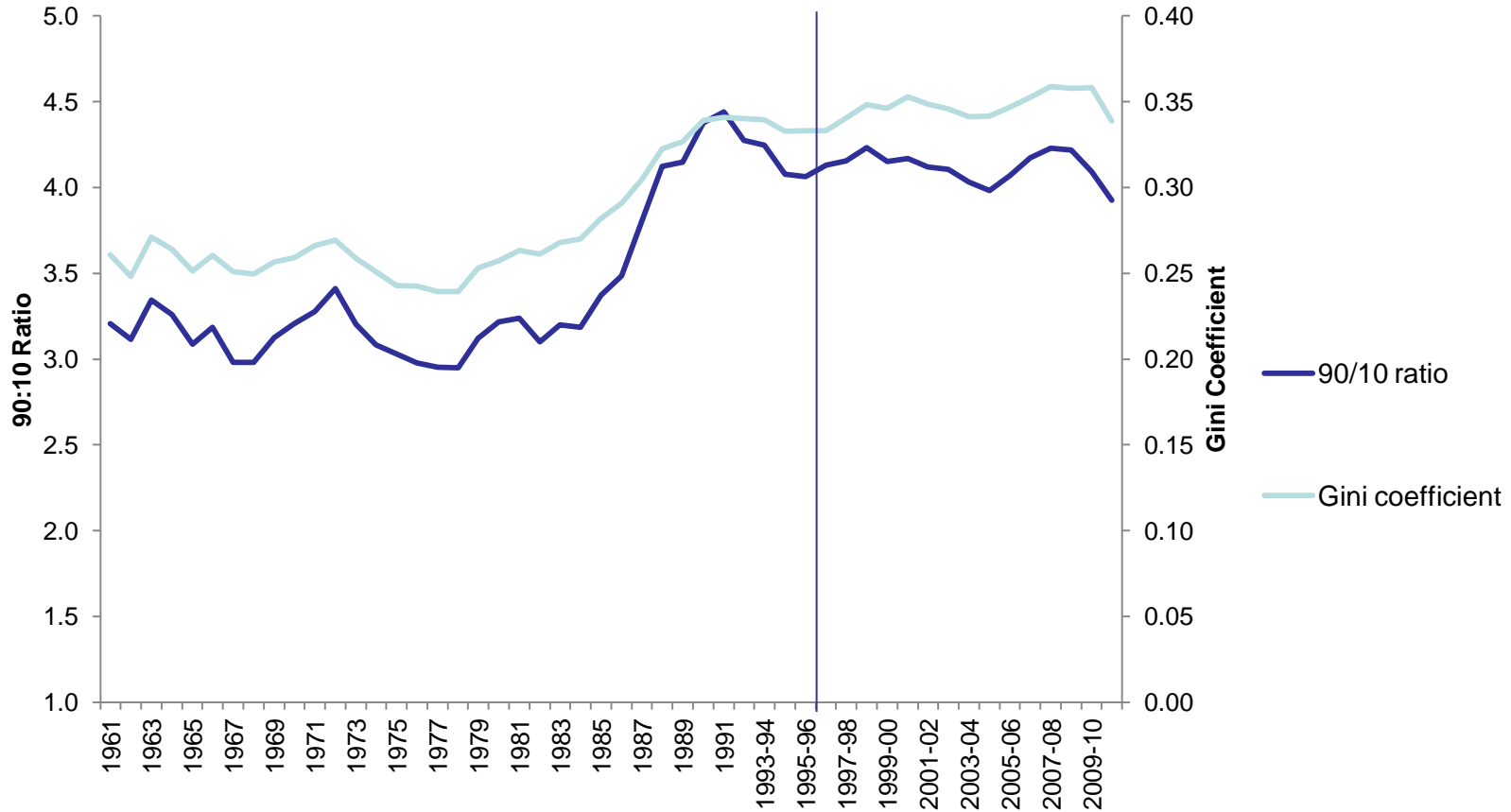
“people on low incomes should not have to suffer conditions and services that are failing and so different from what the rest of the population receives” (NSNR p 8).
- Disparities in individual outcomes (arguably just a manifestation of wider injustices?)
- Segregation (the poor in ‘ghettoes’):
 - Bad for conditions/outcomes (neighbourhood effects)?
 - Bad for social cohesion?
 - Bad for cities?

Policy Shifts under Labour

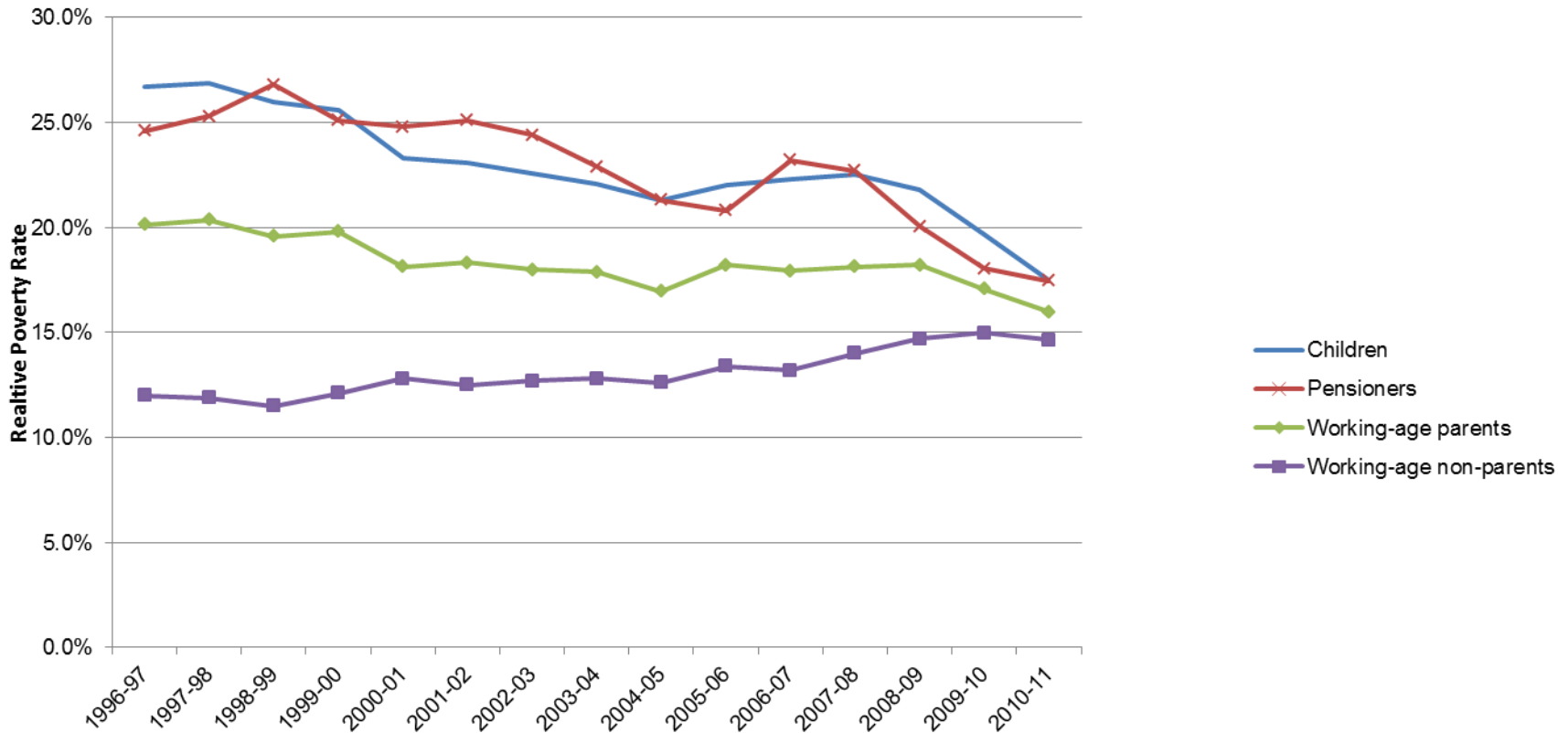
- From conditions to outcomes
- From current issues to future sustainability
- From long term state intervention to market remediation
- From neighbourhood level intervention to city and subregional scale
- From policy influenced by ‘ the front line’ to policy made in the Treasury.

What happened?

Overall income inequality did not change



Poverty fell (for families and pensioners)

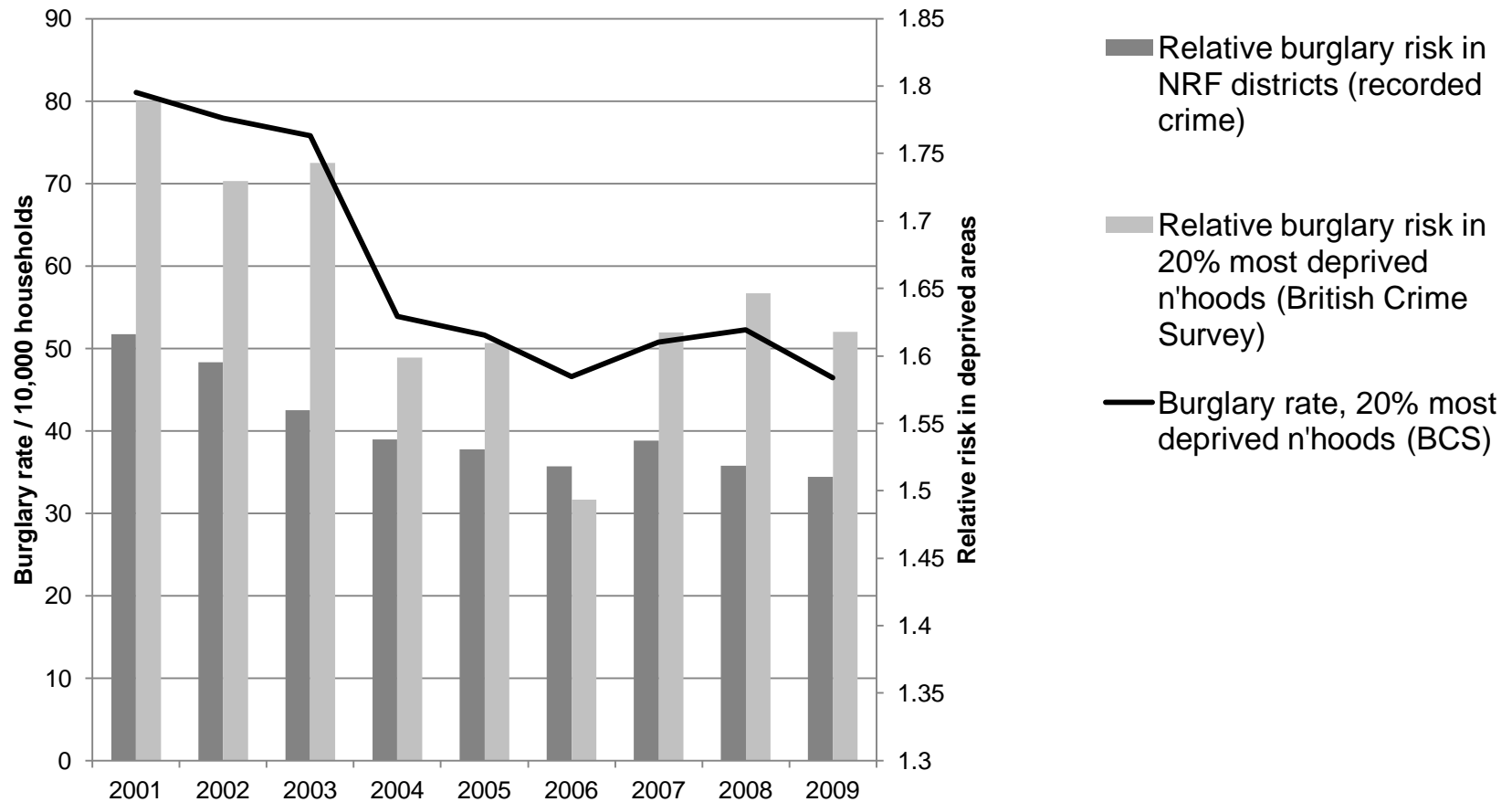


Source Hills (2013,fc), part of Social Policy in a Cold Climate programme

Neighbourhood conditions improved and gaps closed (a bit)

- Many new facilities (Sure Start, new schools, health centres, play areas)
- Less vacant housing
- Fewer schools falling below minimum standards
- Wardens/neighbourhood management/PCSOs
- Evaluations show people notice place-based improvements

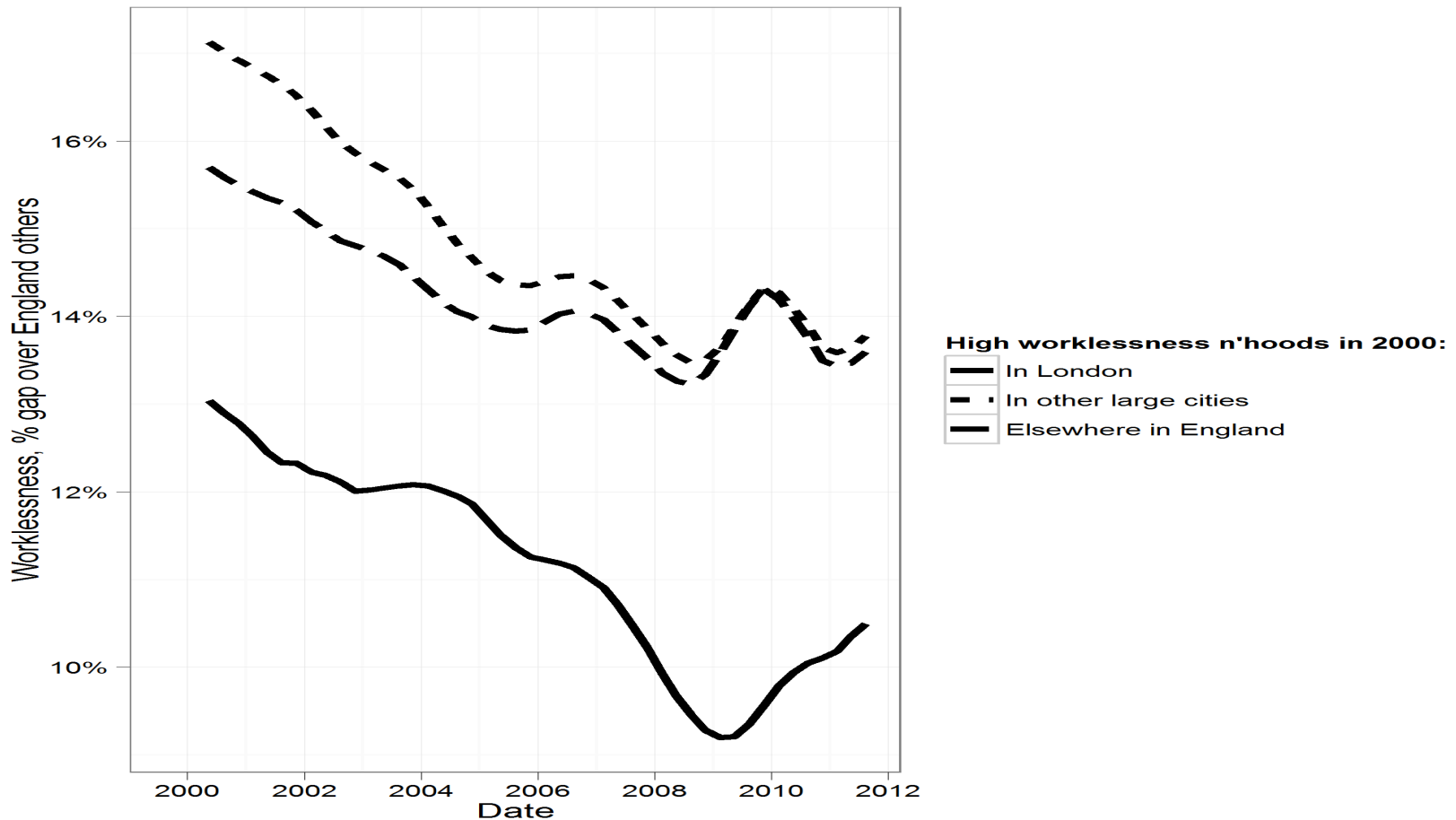
Falling Burglary Risk



Spatial inequalities in many outcomes improved (a bit)

- Some successes:
 - Reduction in gap in death rates from cancer and circulatory diseases
 - Reduction in attainment gaps at Foundation Stage, KS 2, KS 4, HE access (a bit)
 - Narrowing worklessness gap – widened again in recession but still not as high as at the start
 - BUT, life expectancy gaps widened, no overall change in gap in neighbourhood satisfaction
 - And all gaps remain wide

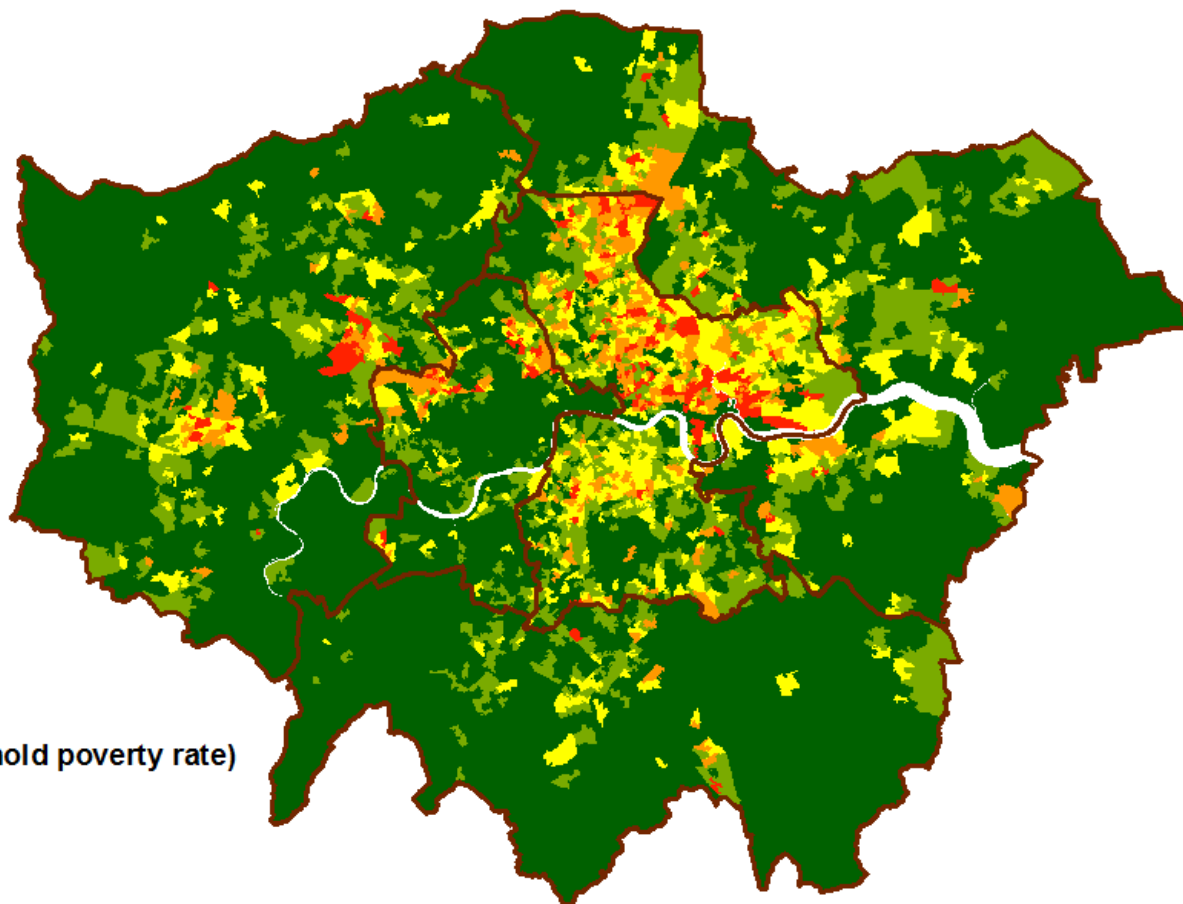
Changing Patterns of Worklessness



There was some desegregation (and decentralisation)

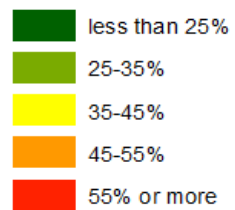
- During growth, driven by gentrification of inner city areas
- During recession, driven by wider experience of unemployment and poverty

Poverty 2001, using the unadjusted means-tested benefits rate by households (UMBRH)

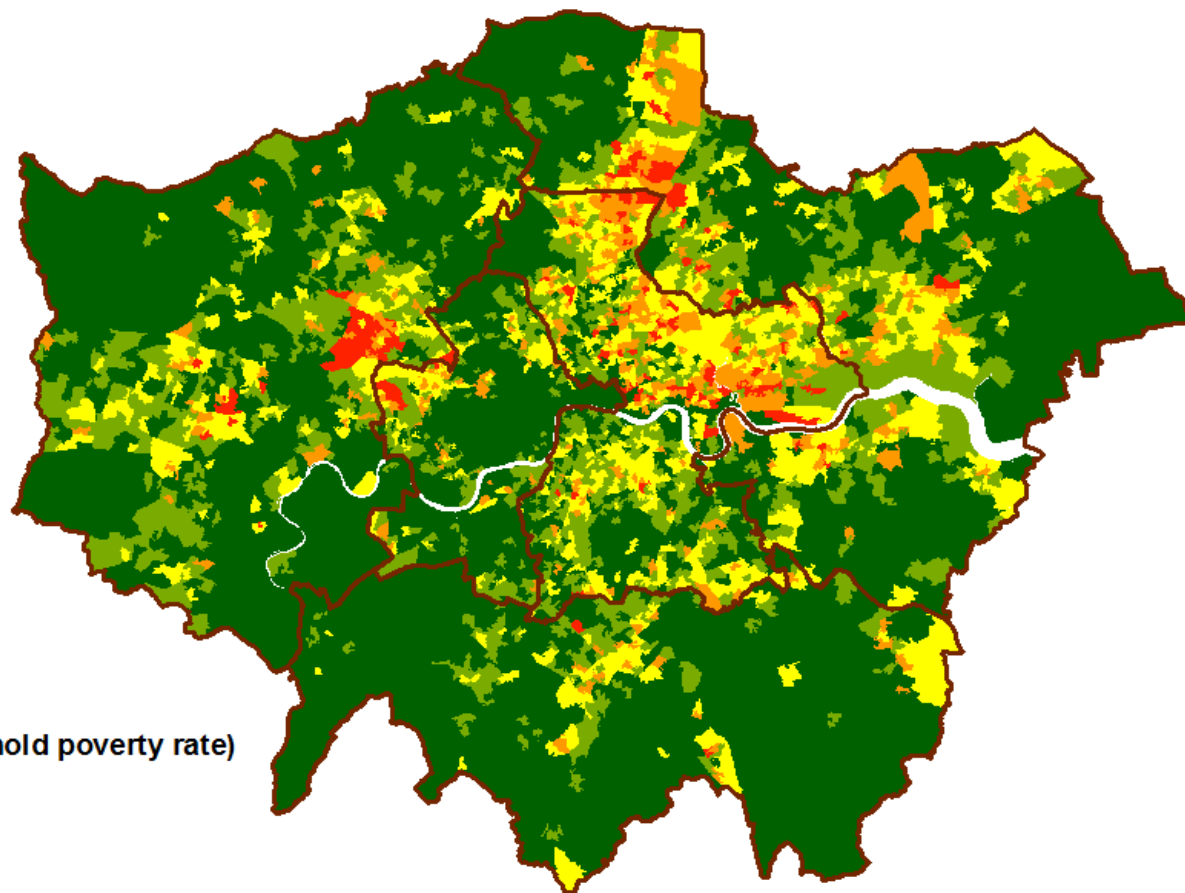


UMBRH 2001 (household poverty rate)

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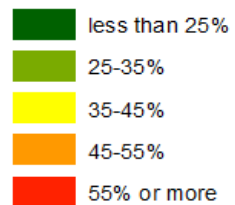


Poverty 2011, using the unadjusted means-tested benefits rate by households (UMBRH)



UMBRH 2011 (household poverty rate)

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So where are we now?

- Better than where we were in the late 1990s
 - Better resourced neighbourhoods
 - Established (?) mechanisms for tackling neighbourhood problems
- BUT:
 - Some neighbourhoods still in limbo
 - Loss of additional funds and threats to neighbourhood management from local authority cuts
 - Still large gaps in conditions and outcomes (not really surprising)
 - No central government agenda for neighbourhood renewal. A policy vacuum?

So...

Two urgent jobs for urban policy scholars:

- 1) Draw some clear conclusions about what the Labour years tell us about the possibilities and limits of neighbourhood renewal
- 2) Clearly articulate what the remaining problems are (conditions, disparities, segregation) and how they might be tackled.