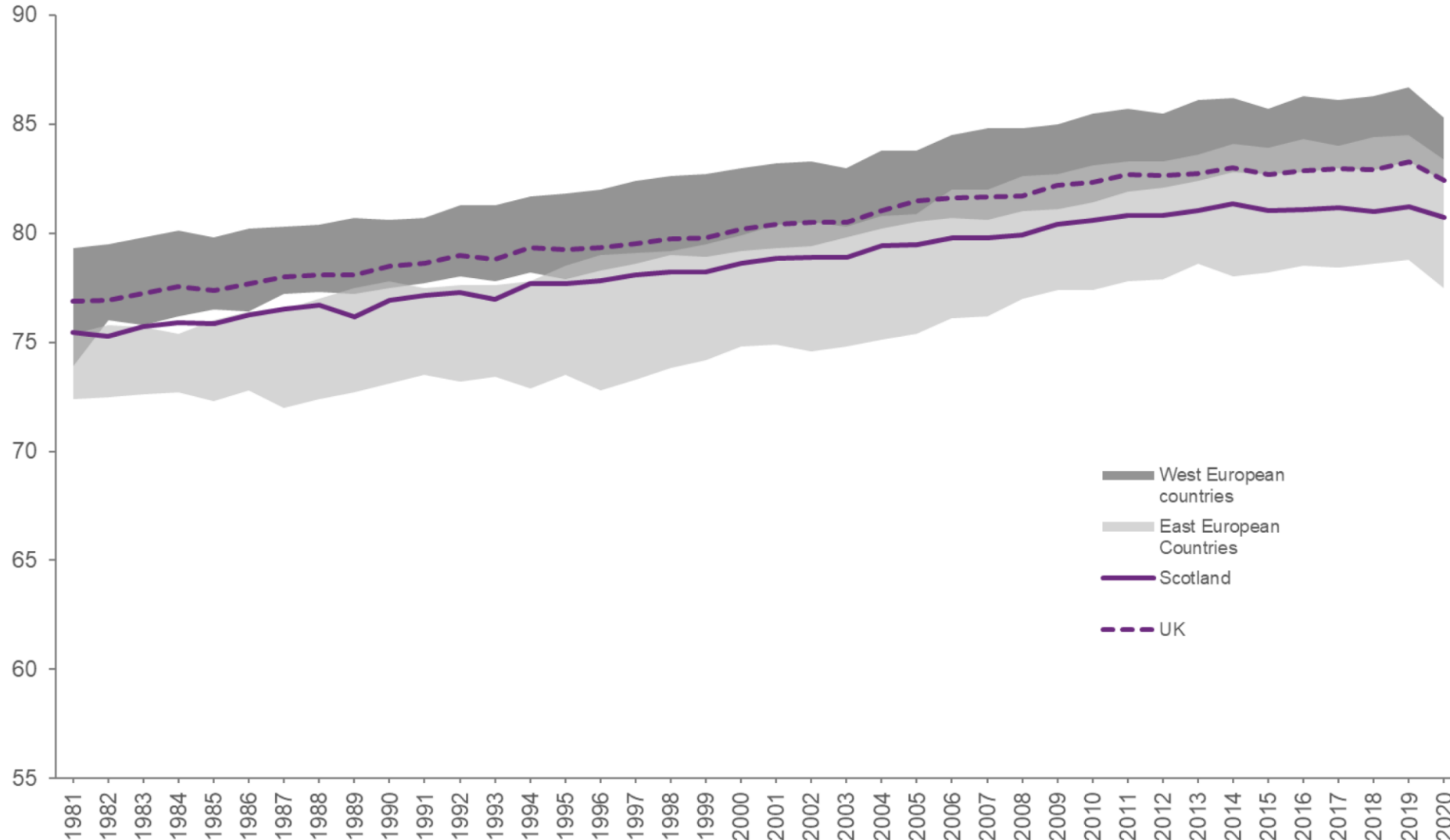


Inequalities in kidney care

Dr Simon Sawhney

Senior Clinical Lecturer, University of Aberdeen

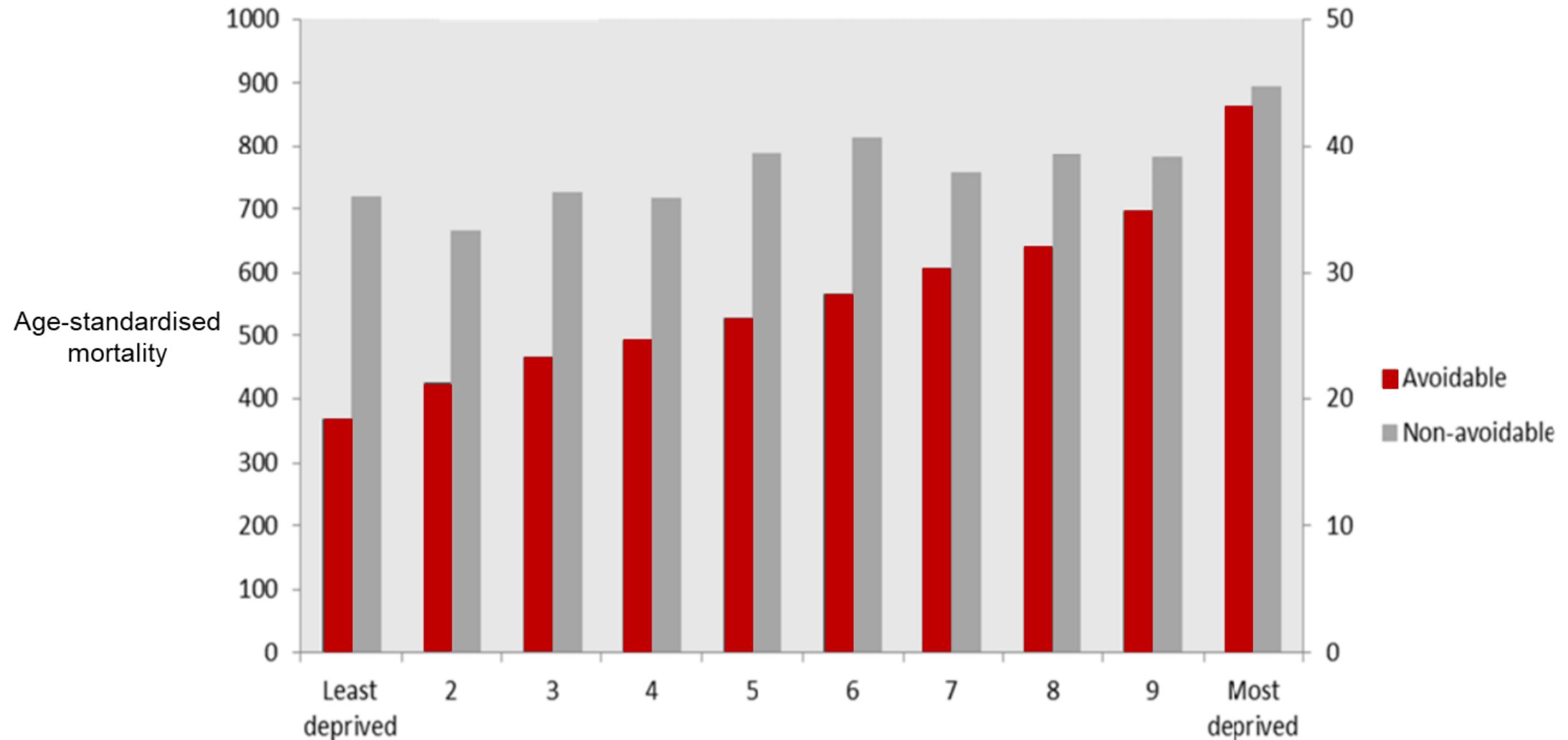
Life expectancy in Scotland lags behind

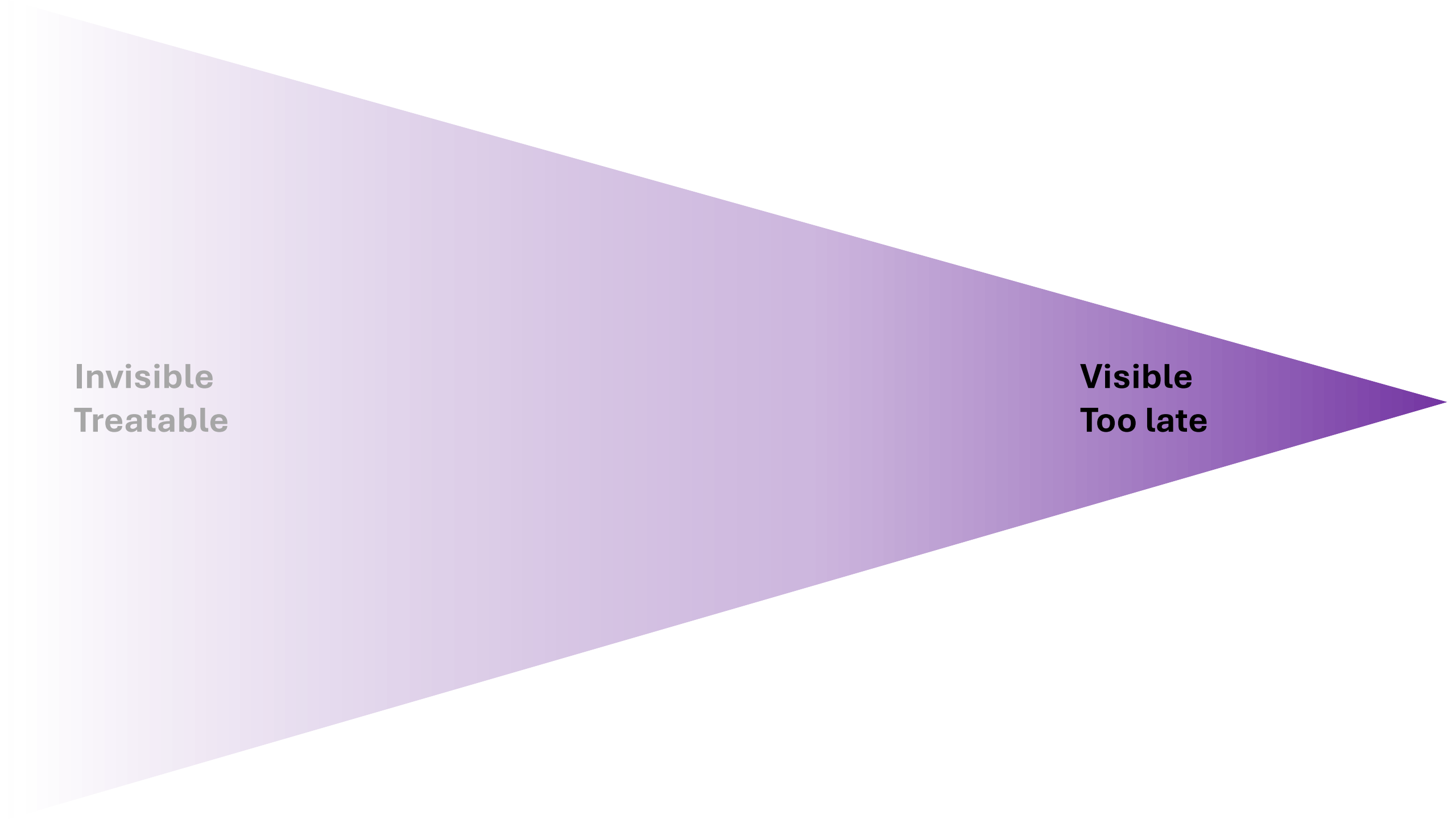


Related to:
Working ages
Men
Ethnic groups
Deprivation

Key concerns:
Healthy ageing
Mental Health
Long term conditions

Preventable and treatable conditions are especially unfair





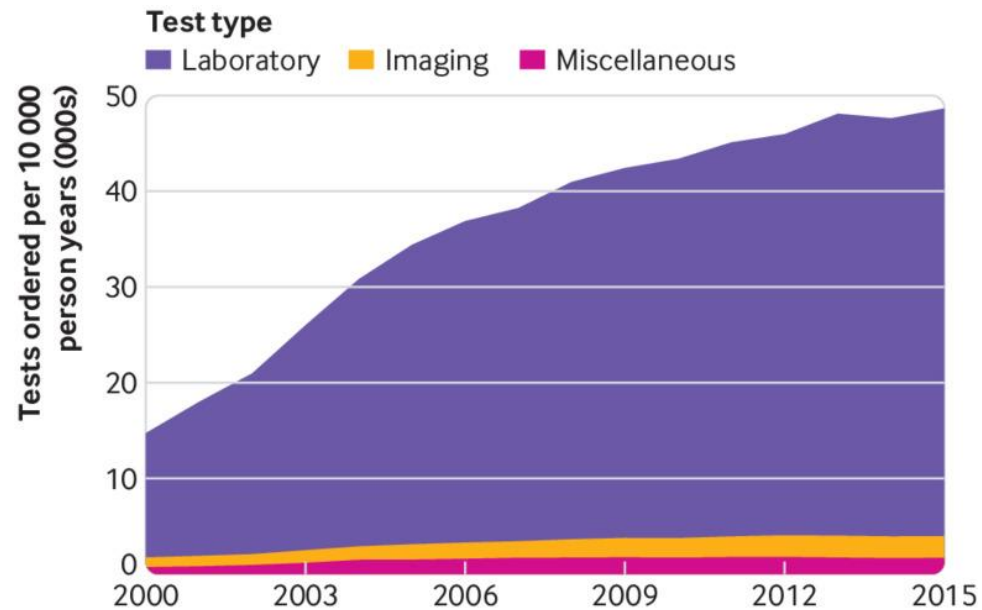
**Invisible
Treatable**

**Visible
Too late**

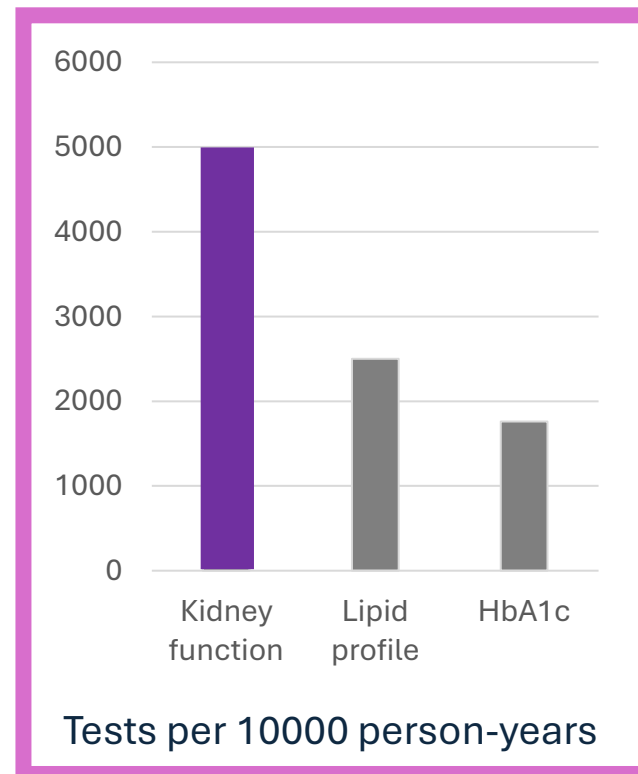
The most common test ordered in Primary care

Temporal trends in use of tests in UK primary care, 2000-15:
retrospective analysis of 250 million tests

Jack W O'Sullivan,^{1,2,3,4} Sarah Stevens,² F D Richard Hobbs,² Chris Salisbury,⁵ Paul Little,⁶
Ben Goldacre,^{1,2} Clare Bankhead,^{1,2} Jeffrey K Aronson,^{1,2} Rafael Perera,^{1,2} Carl Heneghan^{1,2}



[thebmj](#) | [BMJ 2018;363:k4666](#) | doi: [10.1136/bmj.k4666](#)



*‘Many patients are **dumbstruck** when they are initially called to discuss medication because they have CKD but were unaware this was the case’*
(Primary Care Pharmacist)

*‘You can’t just give them the information and then **leave them on their own**’*
(Patient with CKD)

Poor knowledge

1 in 2 people know that
kidneys make urine

1 in 8 people know that
kidneys process medicines

Ipsos MORI poll **‘THINK
KIDNEYS’**

Invisibility + Poor awareness + Disadvantaged access =

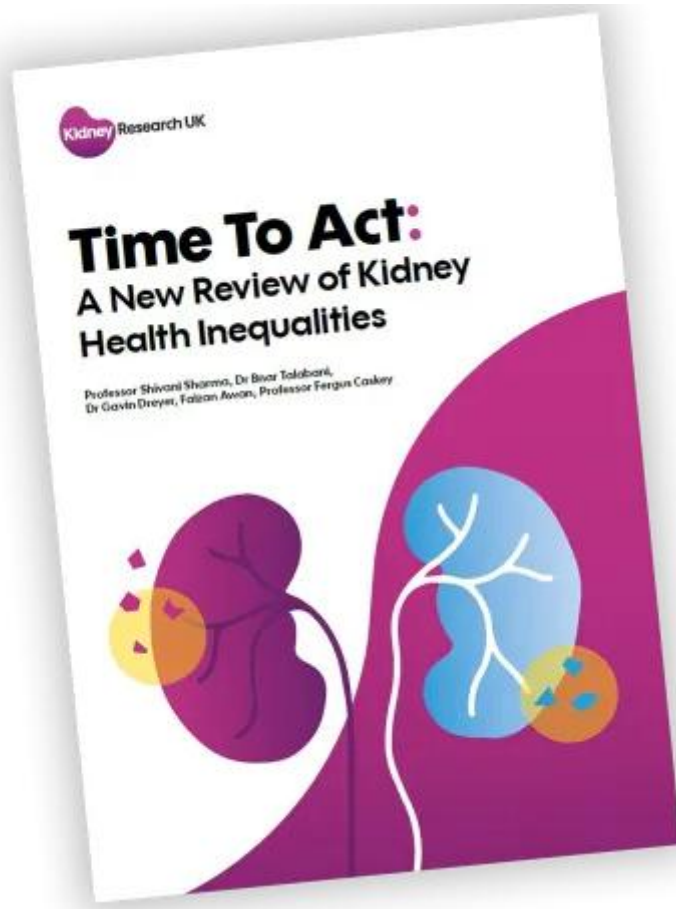
Let's talk kidneys

Opportunities for early intervention
in chronic kidney disease

December 2023



**Kidney
Care UK**



Kidney disease impacts some communities much more than others:



South Asian adults
**develop kidney
disease younger**
than white adults¹³



People from low
socioeconomic groups are
**more likely to
develop chronic
kidney disease**
than those in higher
socioeconomic groups¹⁴



Acute kidney injury is
**more common in
men than women**
after accounting for
socioeconomic status,
ethnicity, alcohol intake
and smoking history¹⁵

Disease progresses faster in some people:



People of Black, Asian
or mixed heritage are
**more likely to
experience
kidney failure**
than people of white
heritage¹⁶



Under-70s living in
deprivation are
**more than
twice as likely
to progress to
kidney failure**
than those in more
affluent areas¹⁷

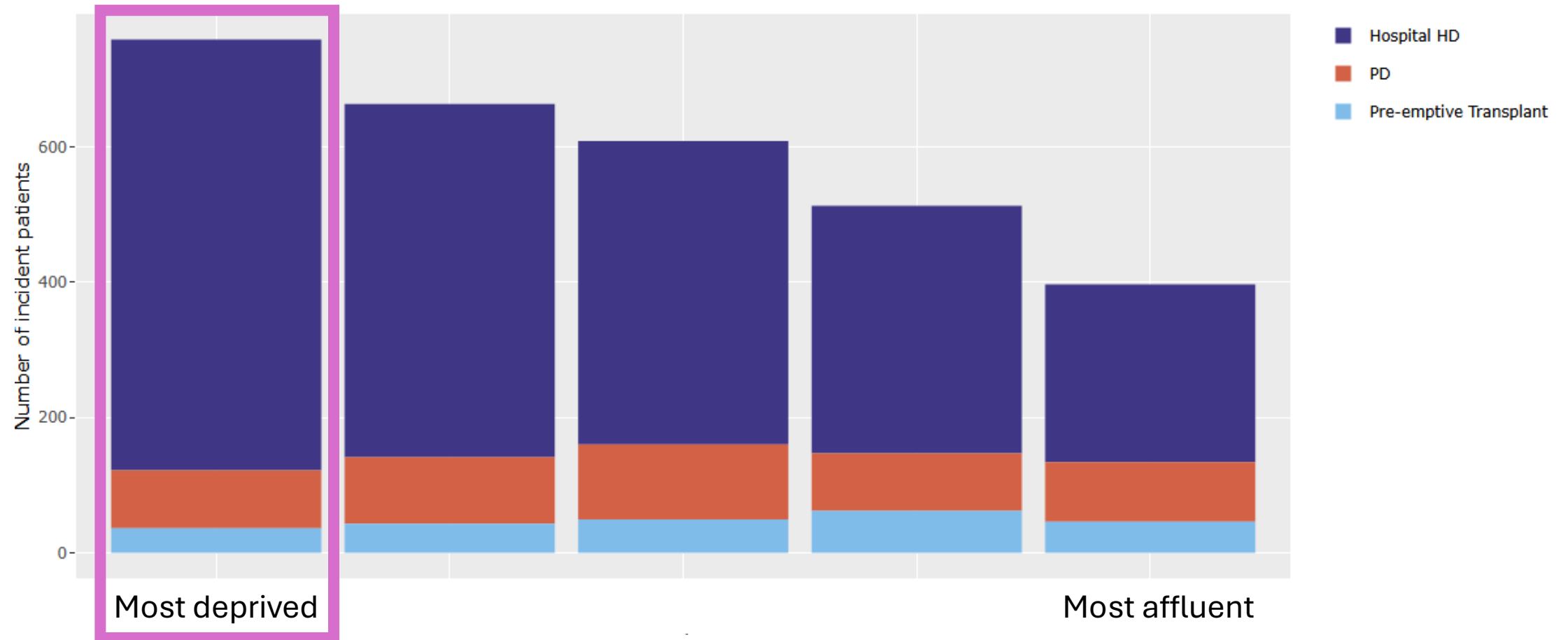


**More men
than women**
start treatment for
kidney failure¹⁷



Mental health conditions
are associated with
**faster disease
progression and
worse outcomes**
for people with kidney
disease¹⁸

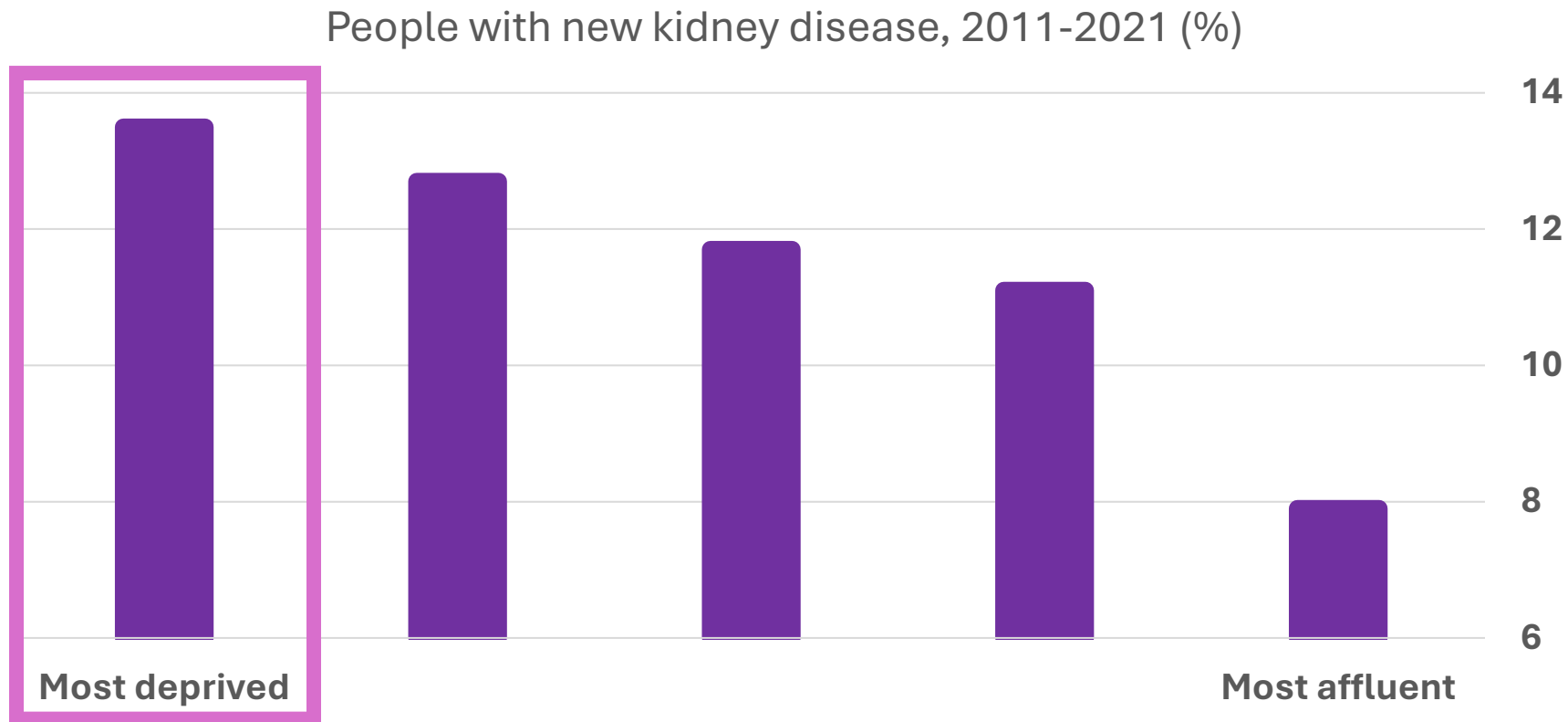
Kidney failure treatment in Scotland



No clear oversight of earlier stages of disease



No clear oversight of **earlier stages of disease**

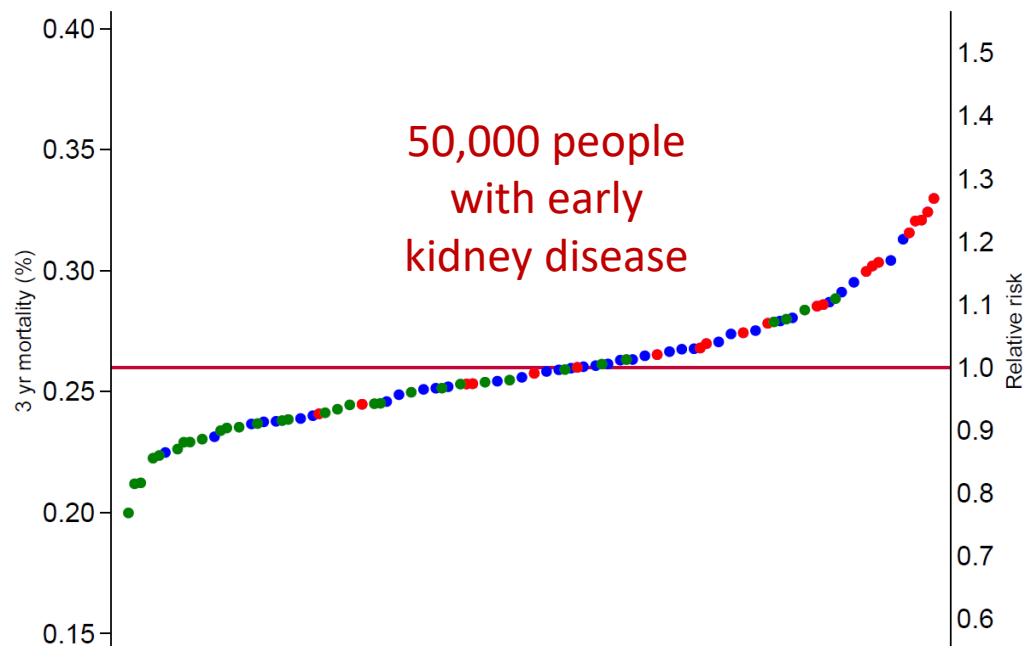


KINDER study – Kidney Inequalities:
Needs, Data, Experiences, Response

No clear oversight of variation in early kidney care



No clear oversight of **variation in early kidney care**



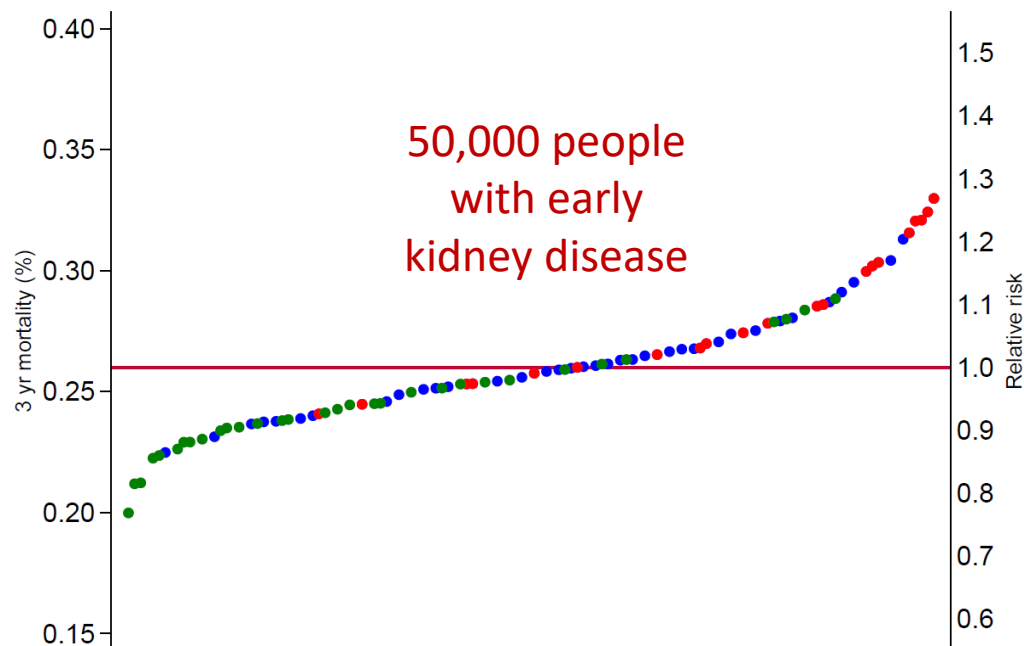
Mortality **20%** in affluent and **35%** in deprived neighbourhoods

The immediate next step :



KINDER study – Kidney Inequalities:
Needs, Data, Experiences, Response

No clear oversight of **variation in early kidney care**



Mortality **20%** in affluent and **35%** in deprived neighbourhoods

Deprived households:

Twice as likely to **present (too) late**

60% more likely to get **treatment in A&E**

75% more likely to **miss appointments**

The immediate next step :

Urine check in 19% vascular conditions, **85% diabetes**



KINDER study – Kidney Inequalities:
Needs, Data, Experiences, Response

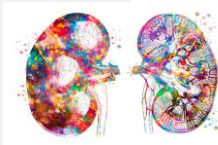
“We set our services up around what the service needs; we don’t always think about what patients need” Health Inequalities lead

Deprivation among 50,000 people with new CKD		Survey responses from later stages (KRUK)
Prior mental health condition	x4 more likely	Three-quarters couldn’t get psychosocial support
Learning or language difficulty	x5 more likely	A quarter had contemplated suicide
Live alone	x4 more likely	Two-thirds have never seen a renal support worker
No access to a car	x13 more likely	Three-quarters had to stop their job

*“Sometimes the car is low in petrol and **I dinna hae the money** to put petrol in”* (Female, 60-65)

*“I would come into work and my own manager would tell me things like, ‘**I need to quit because they are sick of paying an invalid**’...”* (Male, 30-35)

*“**They are nae worrying about it... so I just think, well what’s the point in asking?**”*
(Female, 60-65)



M's story

“There was no-one saying you'd better look after your kidneys, you'd better take care of your kidneys... my late father had kidney disease and I never really looked into why... in hindsight, if I knew back then... I would have probably taken my [health] a lot more seriously.”

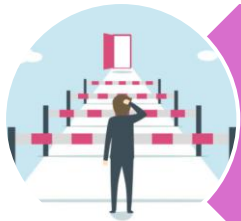
“There's been a lot of adjustments, in general in my life in the past eight months, I have lost my job, I have split up from my wife and family... Because all these things just happened and crashed from underneath me in that short period ... initially I was homeless. I was living in temporary accommodation...”

“When I was at my lowest, I was suicidal. I looked at throwing myself in the Aberdeen harbour. I didn't know where to turn and I wasn't eating. I had no kitchen and no place to prepare food, it was hard... and you are always worrying about the next thing, you are worrying if your condition is getting worse”

Three improvement needs for kidney inequalities



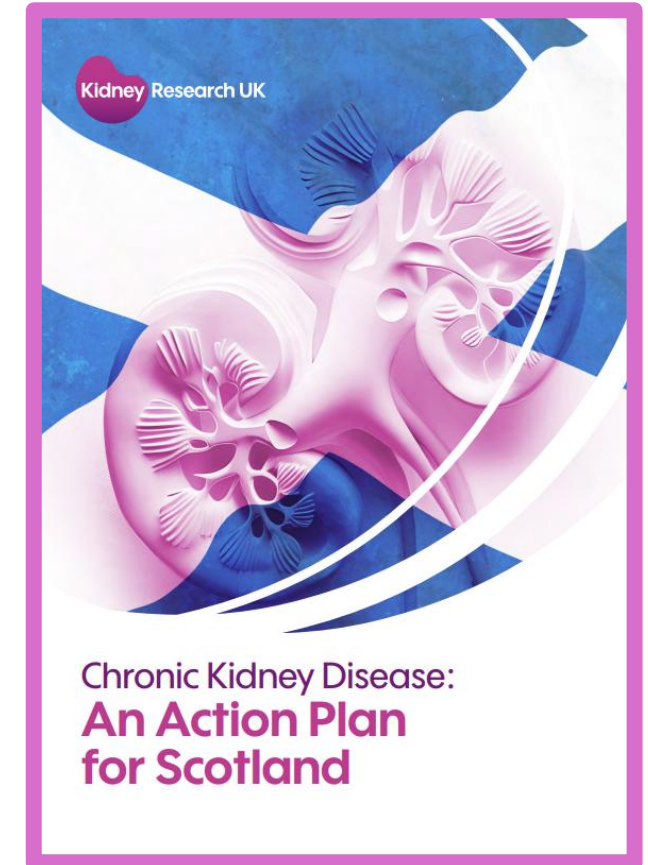
Improve kidney health messaging:
trusted, consistent, usable



Reduce barriers to access early care



Provide a whole-person approach to care



We can't evaluate this without better oversight of clinical data and disadvantages