

# THE CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY



**Northumbria  
University**  
NEWCASTLE

*Monique Lhussier,*

*Director*

*Professor in public health and wellbeing*

# The landscape

## TWO NATIONS

The State of Poverty in the UK  
An interim report on the state of the nation

December 2023



**CSJ** The Centre for Social Justice



### RADIO 4 Fixing Britain with Louise Casey

Home Episodes

#### Episodes

All Available now (5) Next on (1)

- Cohesion**  
Baroness Casey looks at some of the challenges facing whoever wins the general election.
- Violence against Women**  
Baroness Casey examines the issue of violence against women.
- Children in Care**  
Baroness Casey continues examining the challenges facing whoever wins the general election.
- Hunger**  
Baroness Casey looks at some of the challenges facing whoever wins the general election.
- Rough Sleeping**  
Baroness Casey looks at some of the challenges facing whoever wins the general election.



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ELSEVIER

### Risk factors for deaths of despair in England: An ecological study of local authority mortality data

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**ABSTRACT**

Deaths of Despair (DoD) are socially patterned fatalities encompassing those attributable to drug and alcohol misuse and suicide. DoD occur much more frequently in socially deprived communities. This ecological study aimed to yield new knowledge on the spatial distribution of DoD, and socioeconomic factors that predict DoD risk in England.

Via ICD-10 coding, deaths nationally during 2019-2021 were classified to non-overlapping categories of drug-related death, alcohol-specific death, and suicide. The proportion of DoD from each of these causes was calculated and age standardised DoD rates were generated for local authorities. A multivariable regression model for DoD risk was developed using 25 socioeconomic indicators.

In 2019-2021, an estimated 46,200 people lost their lives due to DoD. Rates were higher in the North and in coastal areas ( $p < 0.001$ ), ranging regionally from 25.1/100,000 (SD 6.3) in London to 54.7/100,000 (SD 9.5) in the North East. Alcohol-specific deaths were the largest contributor of DoD, accounting for 44.1% (95%CI 43.5-44.8%) of all such deaths. Living in the North, unemployment, White British ethnicity, living alone, economic inactivity, employment in elementary occupations, and living in urban areas were significantly associated with elevated DoD risk.

DoD in England are spatially patterned, with northern regions experiencing a much higher burden of mortality from these avoidable causes. This study provides novel insights into the area-level factors associated with DoD in England. Potential ecological error is a key limitation.



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# UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

**THE AWARDS**  
2022

**Top 25 in the UK  
for Research Power**

*Times Higher Education REF 2021*

**Top 25 in the UK for  
the number of  
graduates in skilled  
jobs\***

*Graduate Outcomes 2019/20  
(\*full time UK undergraduate leavers)*

**Top 10  
Student City**

*Student Hut Top UK Cities for 2022*

**One of the best UK  
young universities  
in global rankings**

*Times Higher Education Young  
Universities Rankings 2023*

**Top 40 UK  
University**

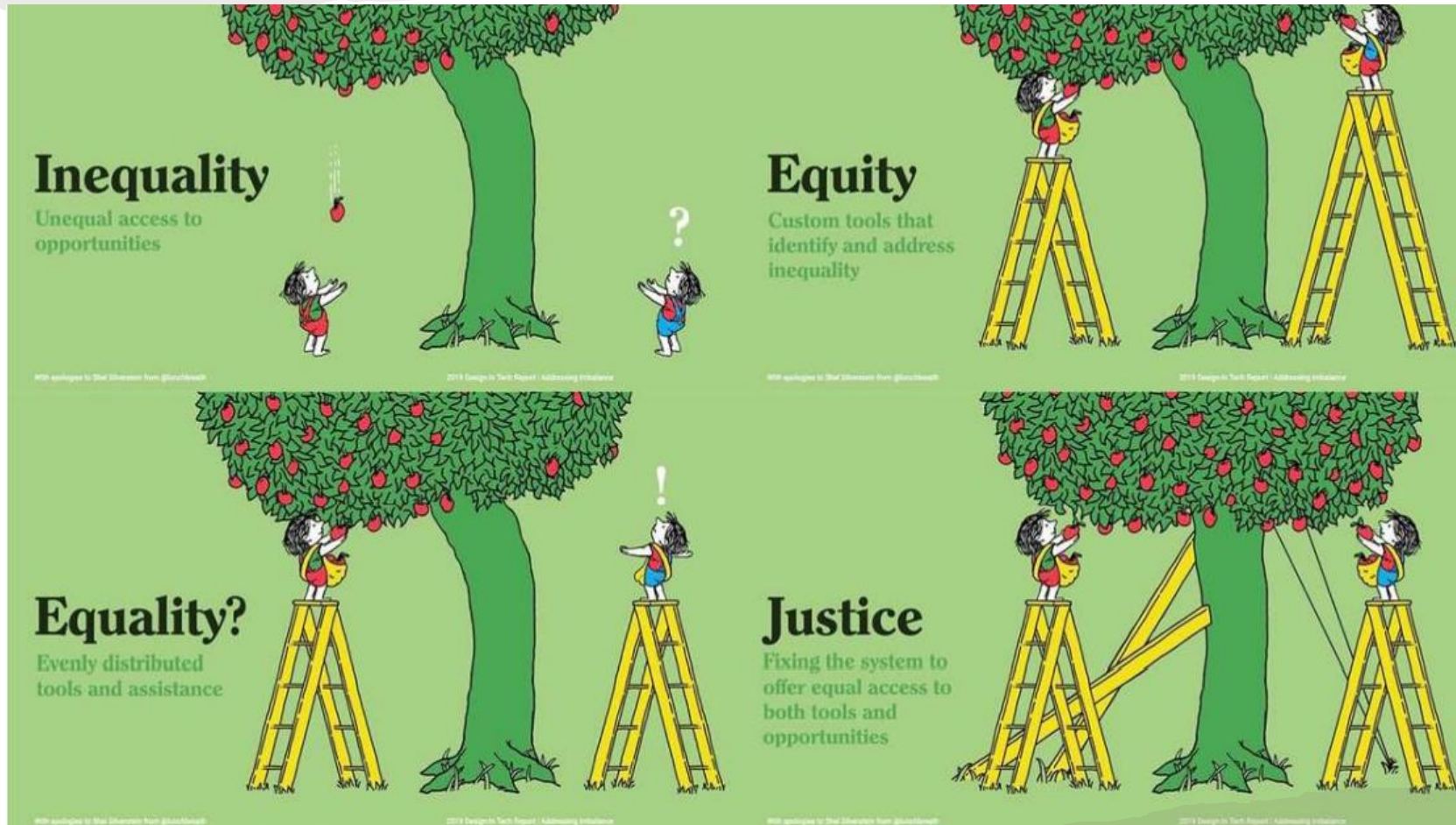
*Guardian University Guide 2024 and  
Complete University Guide 2024*

**Modern University of  
the Year  
and  
Research University of  
the Year**

*Daily Mail University Guide 2024*



The aims of CHASE... an internationally recognised flagship centre, dedicated to reducing health and social inequality across the UK and globally.



# Northumbria as an anchor

Five principles for embedding equity in Northumbria:

- Teaching
- Research
- Contracts
- EDI
- Community







Physical presence on City Campus

Supported by £5.8 m grant from Office for Students

Expanded (3500 m<sup>2</sup>) Clinical Skills Facility

- More nurses
- Better facilities
- Improved Interprofessional Training
- Graduates better prepared to work in health and social care

# Community engagement

A **Community Engagement Hub** that will serve the whole University

Support research to understand health and social inequality and develop interventions

Focus for partnership working across the city and beyond

Capitalising on lived experience





# Dos and Don'ts of community engagement

- **Avoid Goldilocks and shortcuts**
- **What lived experience?**
- **Think about payments**
- **Move beyond consultation to co-construction**
- **Who are we excluding?**
- **What's in it for them?**
- **What's our public?**







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**Questions**