Asthma and climate change: results from second phase of research exploring the role of social deprivation and its influence on Asthma in the UK using GIS

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Asthma is the most common chronic respiratory disease present in the population. In the UK, 5.4 million people are currently receiving treatment for Asthma and one in every five households has a person suffering from the disease. Being a multifactorial disease, most studies to date have looked at linking climate change with infectious diseases for which the etiology is known whereas the etiology for Asthma is complex and not well understood.

Applying a socio-ecological model of health (Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991), the overall aim of this research is to examine individual and health system scale understandings of, and responses to, extreme weather events.

This presentation will describe the results from the second phase of the research-GIS mapping of secondary data from a UK wide Asthma audit that lists GP practices linking deprivation levels with crude prevalence rates at the ward level.

This would lead to identify field study sites for the third phase of the research that would explore how different geographies of place and environment can influence the self-management and resilience of Asthma patients within their surroundings when faced with one or more extreme weather events as a result of evolving climate change impacts.

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