

Postnatal anaesthetic clinic: representation of attenders by age, ethnicity and deprivation

Toby Culling, Alison Tucker, Matt Turner
Department of Anaesthesia, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Wales, UK



Why this matters – MBRRACE Findings:

MBRRACE-UK 2025 continues to show maternal outcome inequalities by deprivation, ethnicity and age. Therefore, our post-natal clinic should be examined to ensure access to it is representative of the population.

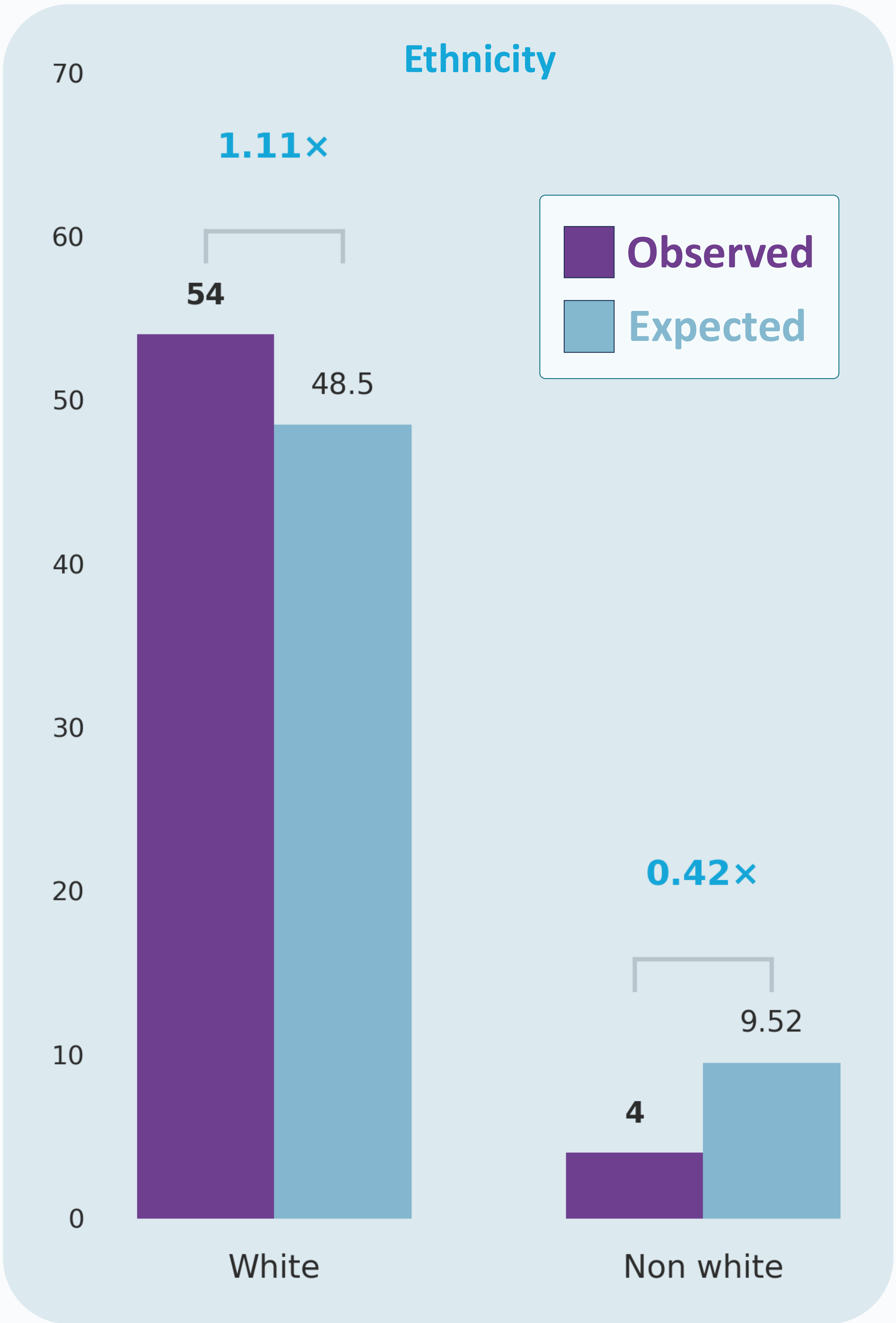
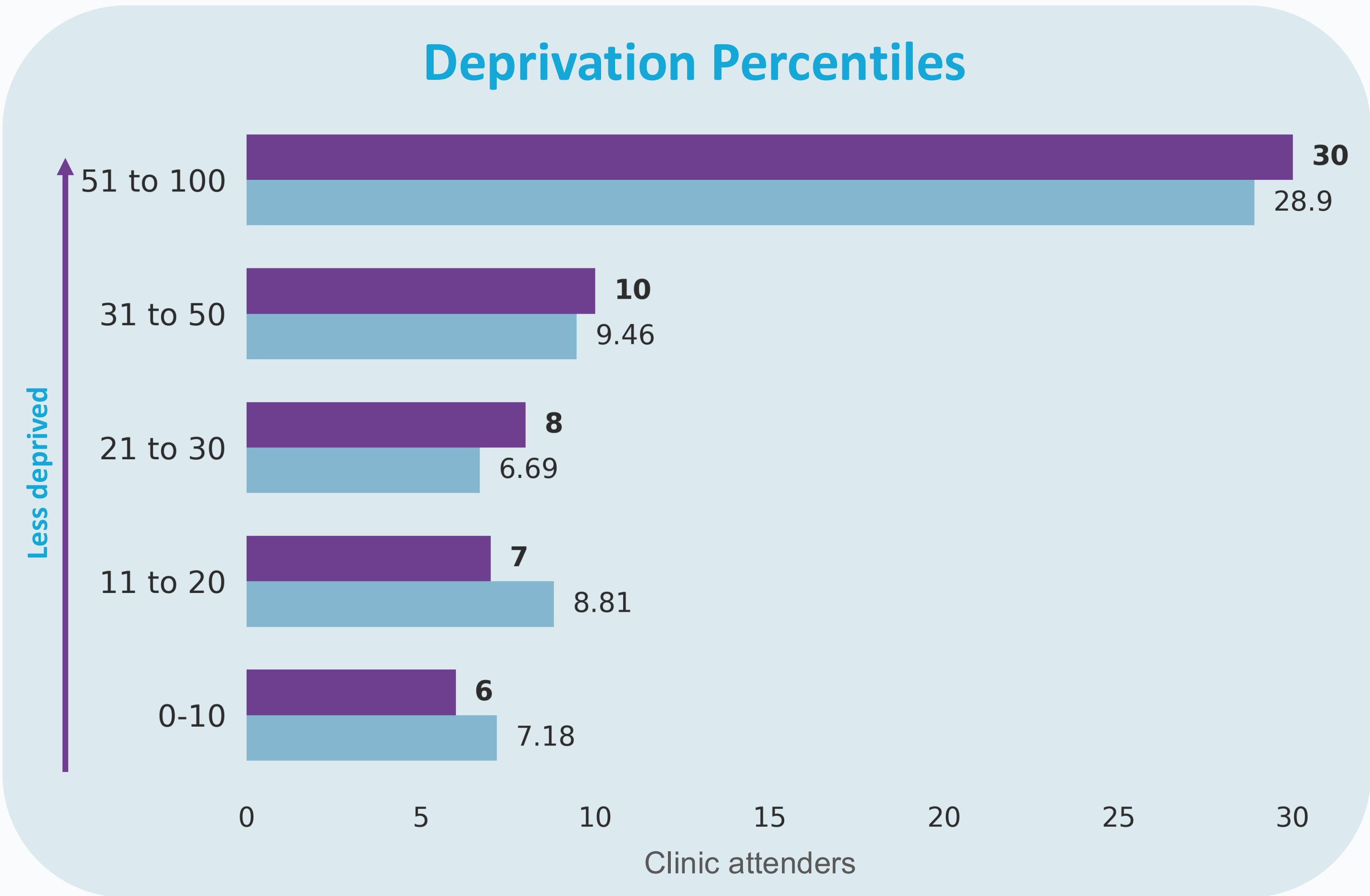
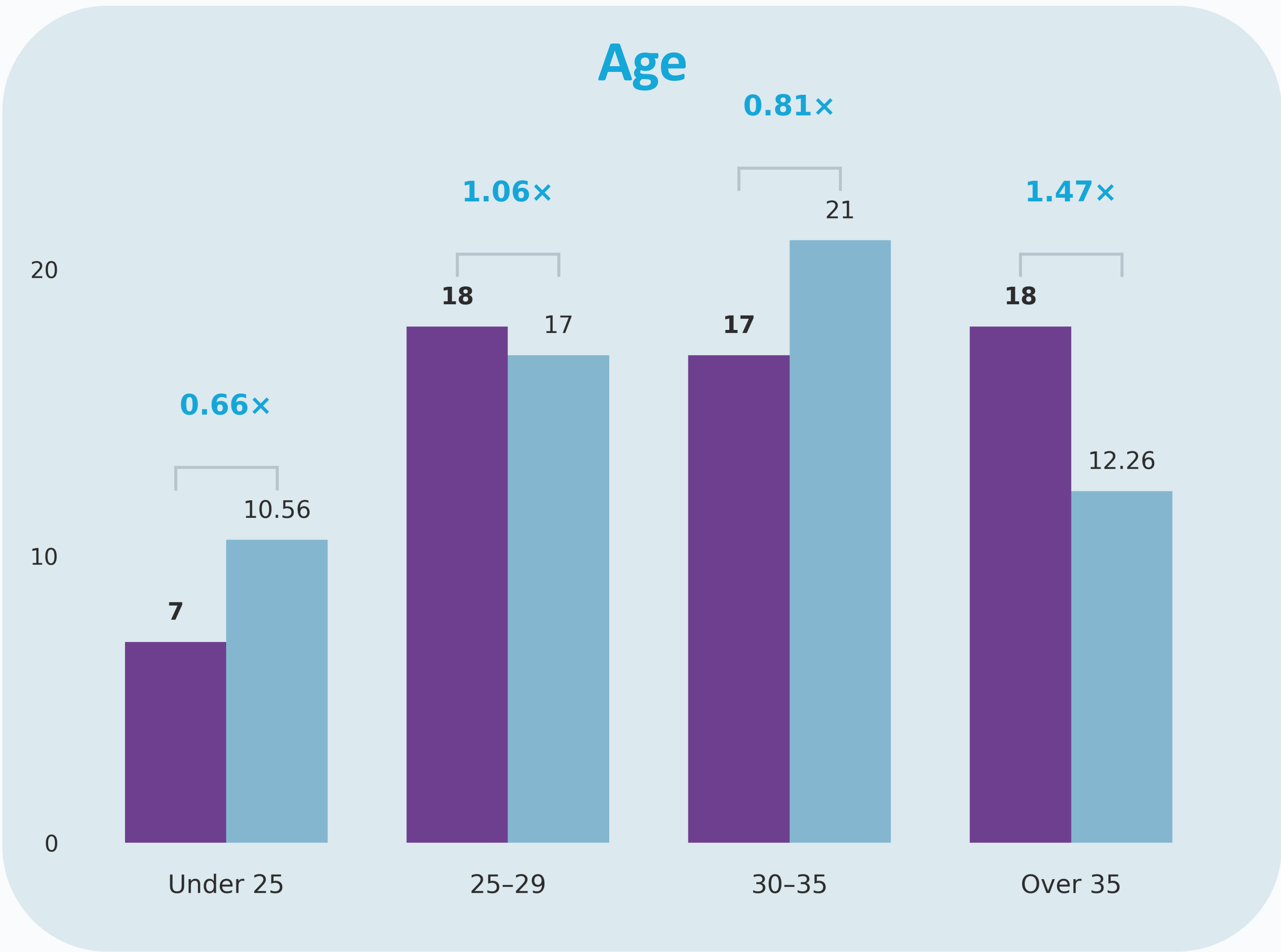
- 1.9x** higher maternal mortality in the most vs least deprived areas
- 2.3x** higher maternal mortality in Black vs White women
- 1.6x** higher maternal mortality in women aged >=35 vs 25-29

Background

- The Ockenden report recommended outpatient postnatal anaesthetic follow-up for women with significant anaesthetic complications.
- MBRRACE-UK highlights worse maternal outcomes for older age, high deprivation, and black women.
- We assessed whether attenders at our postnatal anaesthetic clinic are representative of the local maternity population for these demographics

Methods

- Service evaluation including all 61 clinic attenders from 2024-2025.
- Postcodes were mapped to Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) to determine deprivation level.
- WIMD distribution was compared with all 16-49 year-olds in the health board.
- Maternal age and ethnicity was compared with health board maternity data.



Domain	P-value
Age	0.07
Ethnicity	0.24
Deprivation	0.93

Results

- There was no significant difference between clinic attenders and comparator groups for maternal age, ethnicity or deprivation. Although sample size was small n=61.
- This suggests there are no large differences in representativeness between clinic attenders and the health board population.
- There were 58% less non-white clinic attenders than expected.

Limitations

- Small sample size reduces statistical power to only detect large differences in representativeness.
- Deprivation comparison used all 16–49-year-olds in the health board, not a maternity-specific population.
- Deprivation level was based purely on post-code.

Discussion

- Some groups may have a higher incidence of significant anaesthetic issues meaning a higher proportion of these women should be seen in clinic. The skew towards older age may reflect this.
- Next analyses should examine whether the clinic is representative of the proportion for the number of women having a significant anaesthetic issue.