The Relationship between Poverty and Deaths after Surgery

Summary of the Perioperative Mortality Review Committee’s Sixth Annual Report findings

Poverty is measured with the ‘Deprivation Index’. It is based on:

- Employment
- Income
- Education
- Housing

The population is divided into five equal-sized groups (called ‘quintiles’), from least deprived (QUINTILE 1) to most deprived (QUINTILE 5).

20% of the population live in the most deprived areas, but make up 23% of all surgery in NZ and 27% of deaths after surgery.

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