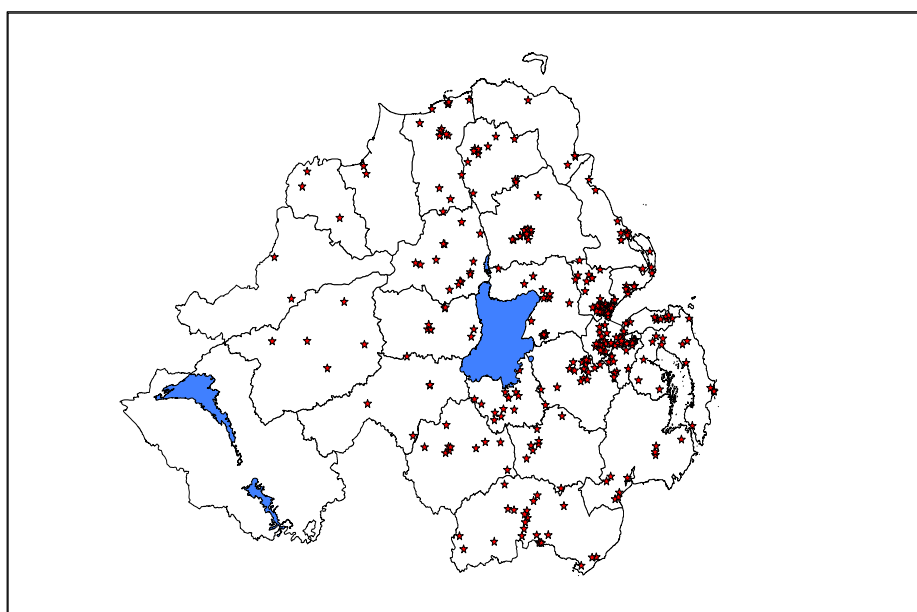


5.9 The postcodes of service-users' addresses were recorded and the location of postcodes is mapped in Figure 1 below. As such, it was possible to make a direct mapping to ward. The Noble measures of deprivation (for income and employment) as used in the 'Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2001' were used to indicate the level of deprivation in each ward. The data on which the Noble income and employment rankings were based came from social security benefit claimant counts, unemployment claimant counts and New Deal participant counts.

Figure 1 Geographic Spread of Service Users



Source: Regional Fertility Centre, Royal Group of Hospitals

5.10 Noble ranks the 566 in Northern Ireland wards from number 1 (the most deprived) to number 566 (the least deprived). The position of the wards of fertility service users were analysed according to this ranking by breaking the 566 wards up into five quintiles for both the income deprivation domain and the employment deprivation domain. Table 4 overleaf and Figure 2 show the deprivation profiles of the wards in which the 315 service users lived (4

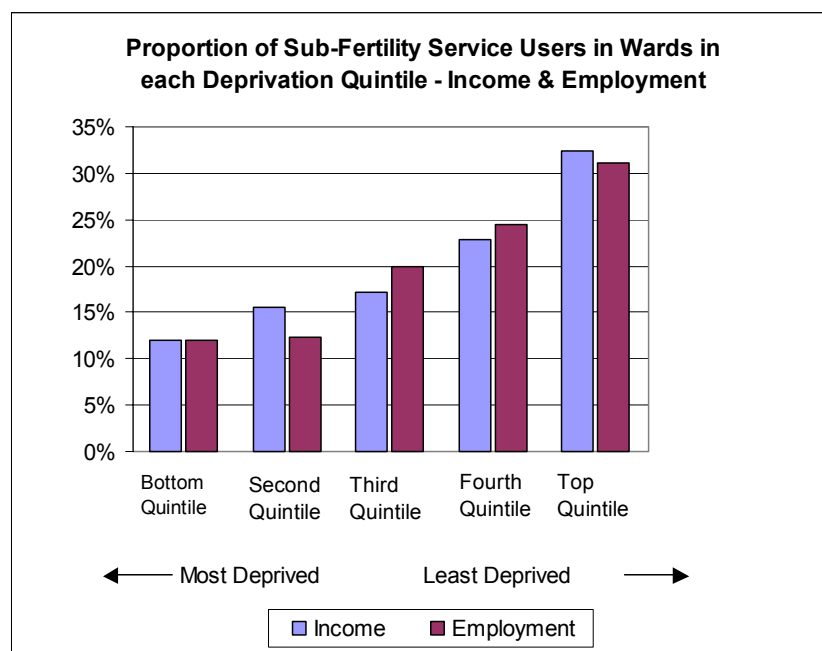
postcodes were unassigned to 1984 based wards, 9 were duplicates and were removed from the database).

Table 4 - Couples Using Fertility Services

Deprivation Measure		Bottom Quintile	Second Quintile	Third Quintile	Fourth Quintile	Top Quintile
Income	Number	38	49	54	72	102
	Percentage	12%	16%	17%	23%	32%
Employment	Number	38	39	63	77	98
	Percentage	12%	12%	20%	24%	31%

Source: *Regional Fertility Centre, Royal Group of Hospitals*

Figure 2 – Proportion of Fertility Service by Ward



Source: *Regional Fertility Centre, Royal Group of Hospitals*

5.11 As can be seen from the results, fertility service users are resident in wards across the full range of deprivation levels, but are more likely to come from the

least deprived wards according to both deprivation domains examined. Both measures show that almost one third (32% and 31%) of fertility service users come from the top 20% of the least deprived wards. Again, caution is needed in interpreting this information. As the population size in each ward is different, it should be borne in mind that equal quintiles of wards will not have equal sized populations and that the variation in the percentage of users might be due to variations in sizes of population (particularly population in the age-group specific to fertility users).

- 5.12 The ward religion data was taken from the ‘Northern Ireland Census 2001 Key Statistics - Table KS07b: ‘Community Background: Religion or religion brought up in’. The term Catholic includes those respondents who gave their religion as Catholic or Roman Catholic. The term Protestant covers Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related);
- 5.13 The postcodes of service users were used to identify the wards in which they were resident (4 postcodes were unassigned to 1992 based wards, 9 were duplicates and were removed from the database). The Catholic/Protestant breakdown of these wards was identified from the census figures (‘Other religions and philosophies’ and ‘None’ were excluded from the calculation). The proportions for each religion in each ward were summed to provide an overall figure for the proportion of each religion amongst service users.
- 5.14 Table 5 overleaf shows the religious breakdown of wards in which service users lived based on the methodology outlined above. For comparative purposes the equivalent profile of the Northern Ireland population is also shown.