**Epidemiology of Fractures in the United Kingdom 1988-2012: Variation with age, sex, geography, ethnicity and socioeconomic status**

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**Highlights**

* We used CRPD to document the epidemiology of fractures in the UK from 1988 to 2012, stratifying fracture incidence by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.
* The incidence of any fracture was 94.8 per 10,000 person-years of follow up (py) in men aged 18-49 years, in comparison to 54.3 per 10,000 py in women aged 18-49 years. In men aged 50+ years, the overall rate of fracture was reduced to 71.8 per 10,000 py whereas in women 50+ years it almost tripled to 155.4 per 10,000 py.
* There was substantial geographic heterogeneity in age- and sex- adjusted fracture incidence, with rates in Scotland almost 50% greater than those in London and South East England. Lowest rates of fracture were observed in black individuals of both sexes; rates of fragility fracture in white women were 4.7 times greater than in black women. Strong associations between deprivation and fracture risk were observed in hip fracture in men.
* These findings may inform public health policy in UK and elsewhere.