

# Children, the Life Course Health Equity and Crime

**Michael Marmot**

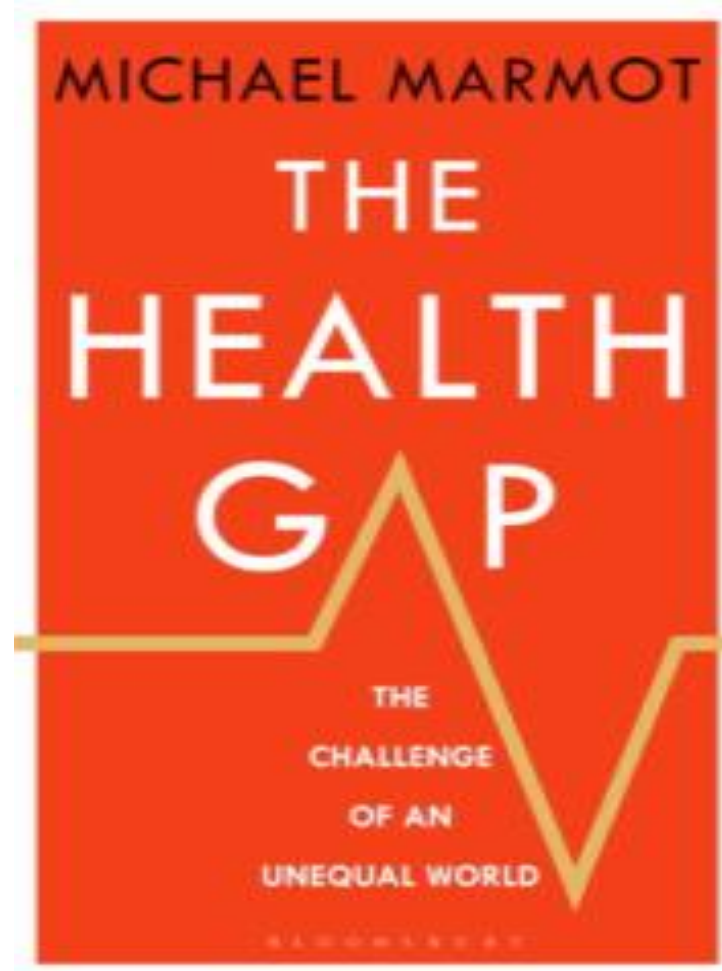
**@MichaelMarmot**

**[www.instituteofhealthequity.org](http://www.instituteofhealthequity.org)**

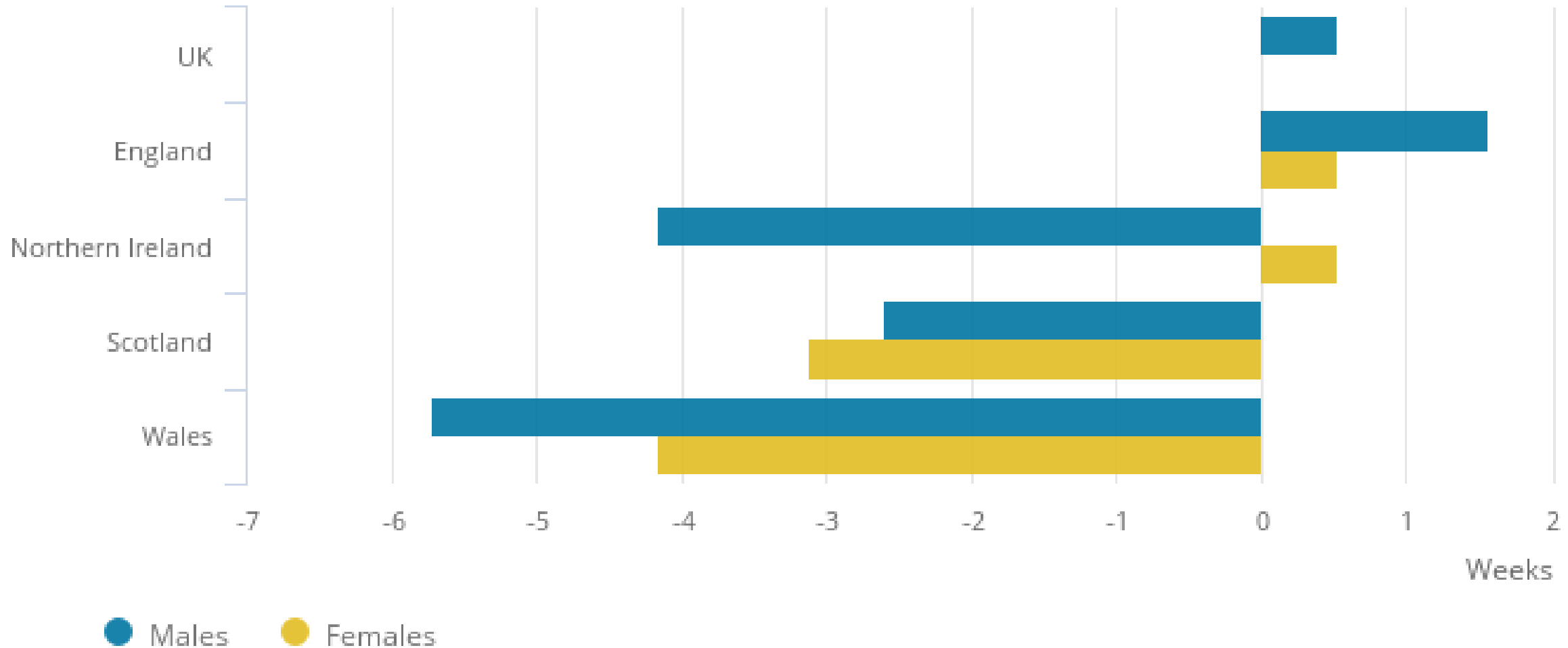
**Edinburgh**

**14 March 2019**

Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick?



# Change in life expectancy at birth in weeks, UK, 2014-16 - 2015-17

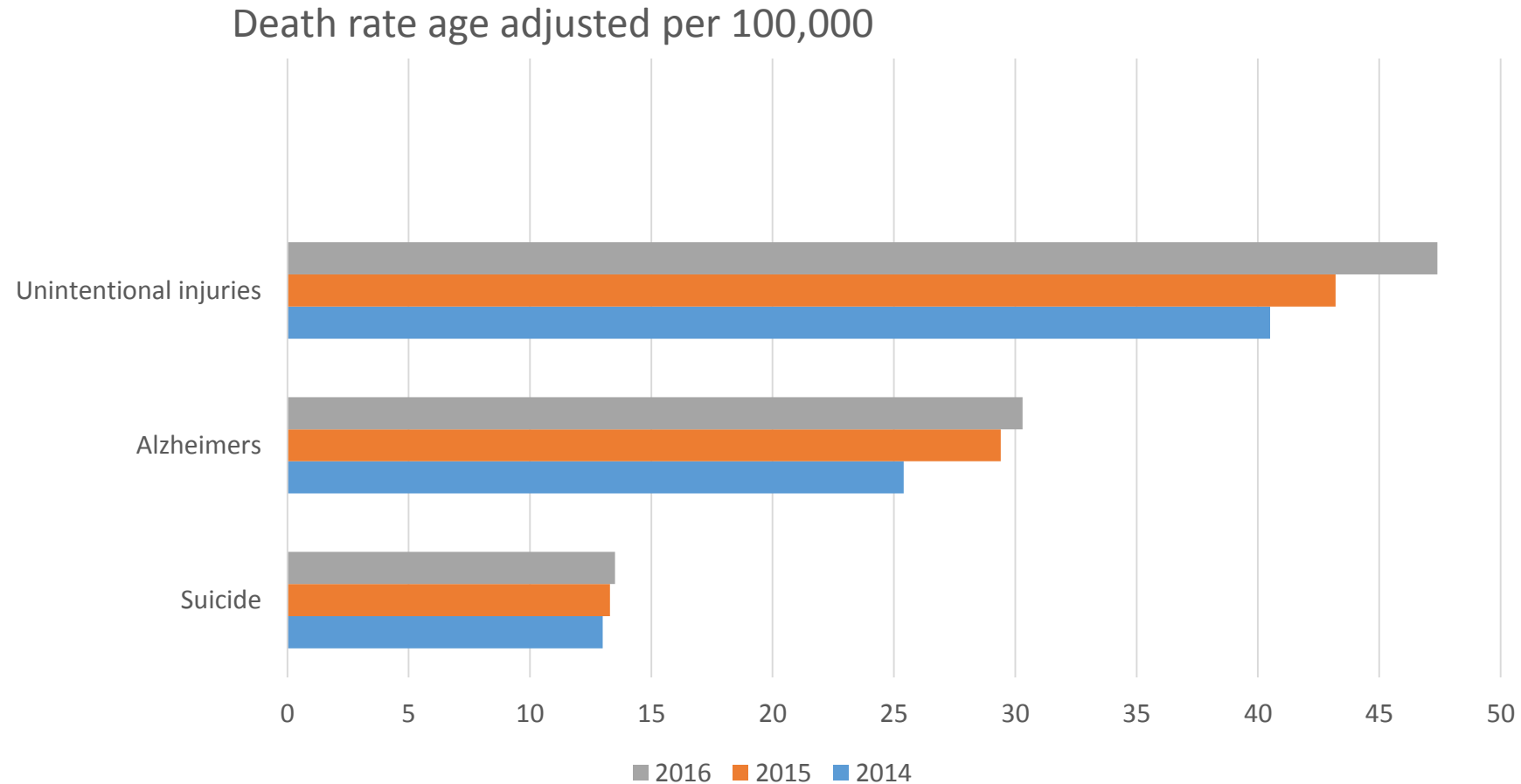


Source: ONS, National life tables, UK: 2015 to 2017

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2015to2017>

Does the USA represent the future?

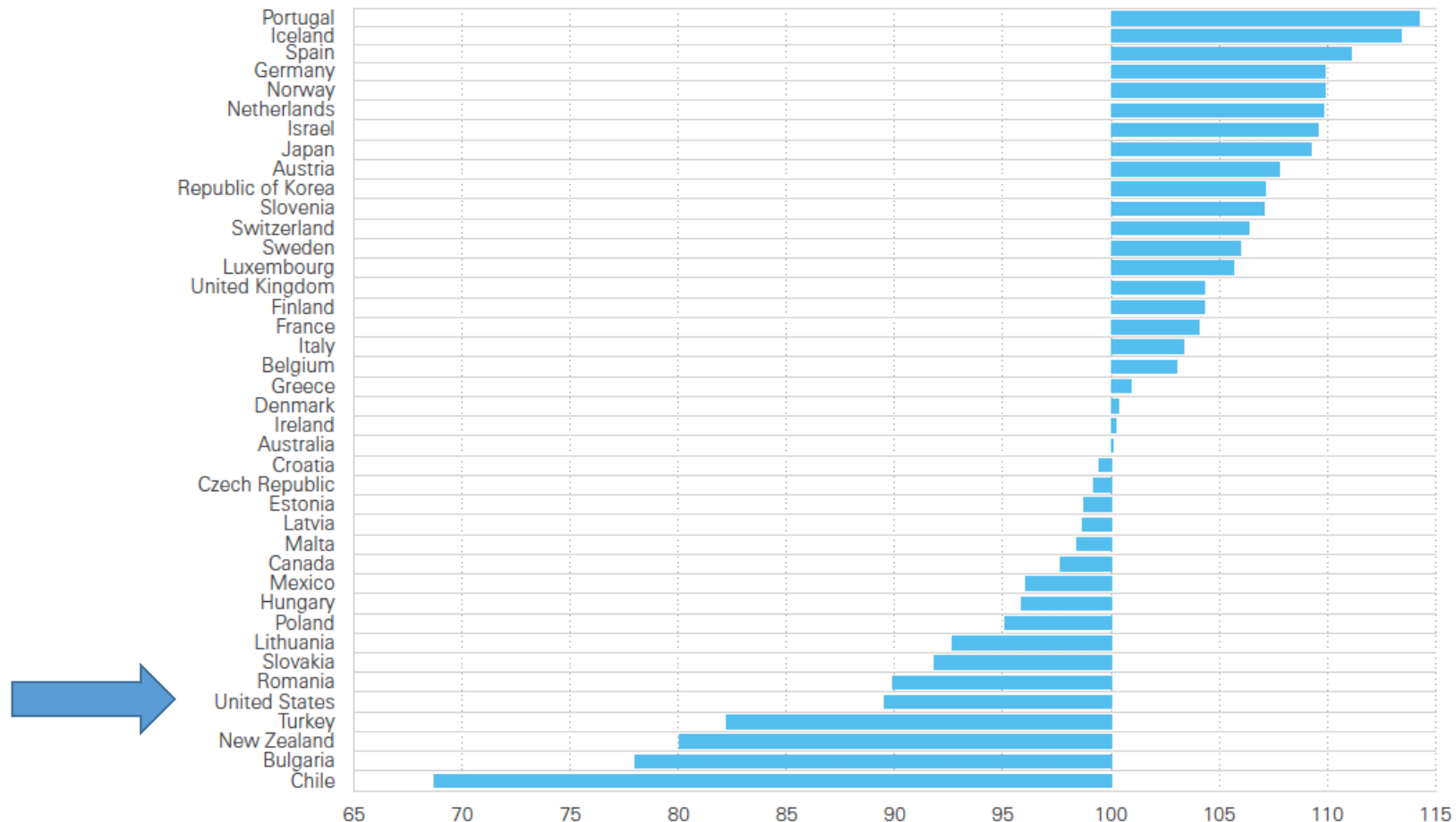
# US Life expectancy declined 2 years in a row



Unintentional injuries include accidental drug overdose 63,600 deaths last year

# neonatal mortality, suicide 0-19, mental health 11-15, drunkenness 11-15, fertility <sup>15-19</sup>

Average country performance across five indicators: neonatal mortality (< 4 weeks of age), suicide rates (0–19 years), mental health symptoms (11–15 years), drunkenness (11–15 years) and teenage fertility rates (15–19 years)



The mind is gateway by which social determinants affect ill-health.

- Mental illness and well-being.
- Psychosocial pathways to physical illness
  - Behaviours
  - Stress pathways

# Growing up in Baltimore: worlds apart

- City of Baltimore in the US state of Maryland is marked by stark inequalities.
- LeShawn, has grown up in the Upton/Druid Heights neighbourhood in Baltimore's inner city.
- Bobby has grown up in Greater Roland Park/Poplar.
- Life expectancy in Upton/Druid is sixty-three; in Roland Park, eighty-three.



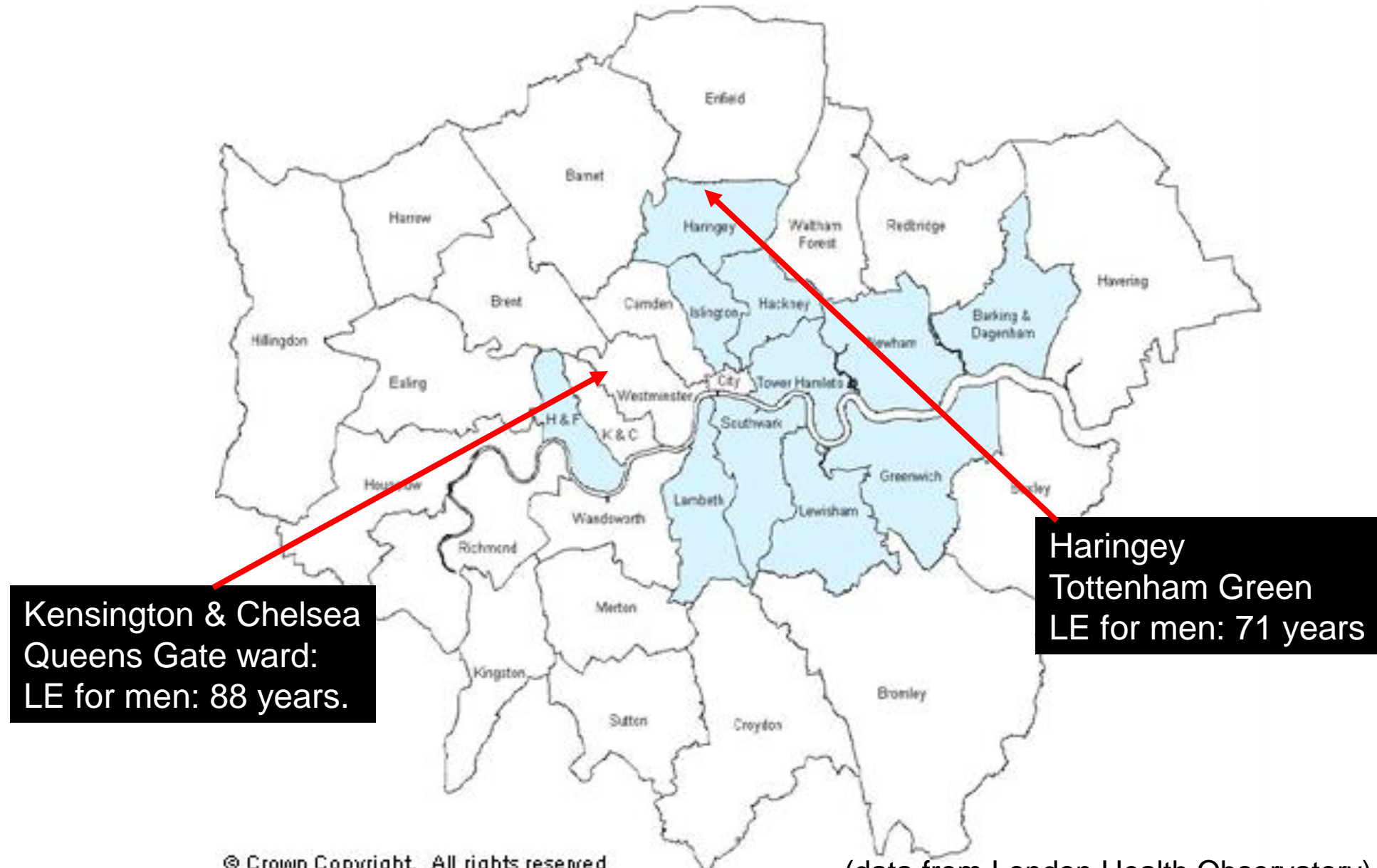
## LeShawn Baltimore Upton/Druid

- Half are single parent families.
- Median household income in 2010 was \$17,000
- Four out of ten under 'proficient' reading third grade
- >50% missed at least 20 days of high school a year.
- 90% did not go on to college.
- **Each year, a third aged 10-17 arrested for 'juvenile disorder'. A third each year: criminal record by 17.**
- **In 2005 to 2009, 100 non-fatal shootings for every 10,000 residents, and nearly forty homicides.**

# Bobby Baltimore: Roland Park

- 93% two-parent families
- Median income \$90,000
- 97% achieve 'proficient or advanced' in third grade reading
- Only 8% missed twenty days a year of high school
- 75% complete college
- **Juvenile arrests one in fifty each year**
- **No non-fatal shootings in 2005–2009; four homicides per 10,000**

# Life expectancy at birth for selected London electoral wards, 2002-06



# LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

	MALE	FEMALE
INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN*	69.1	73.7
NON INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN*	79.7	83.1

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/deaths/life-expectancy/>

Downtown  
Areyonga  
NT Australia





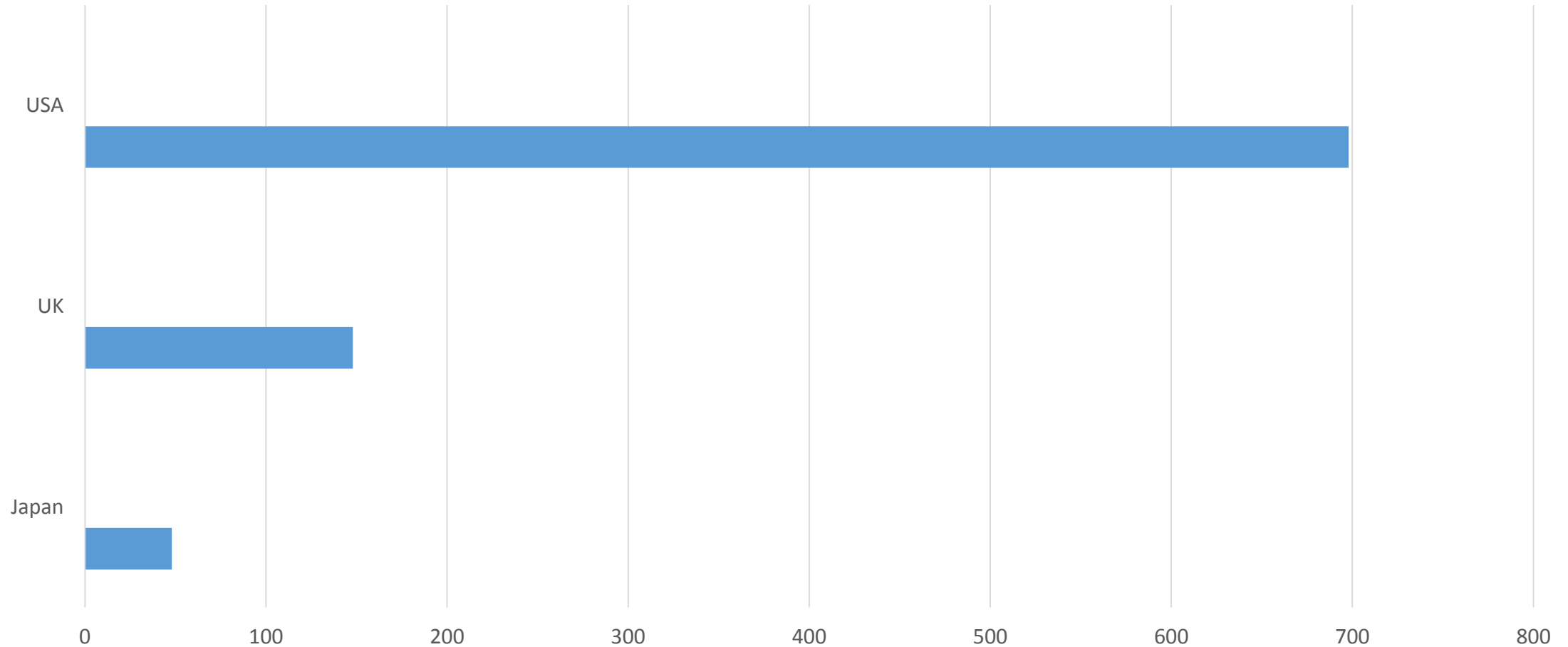
# Supreme Court Alice Springs NT



# Indigenous Australians in NT Australia

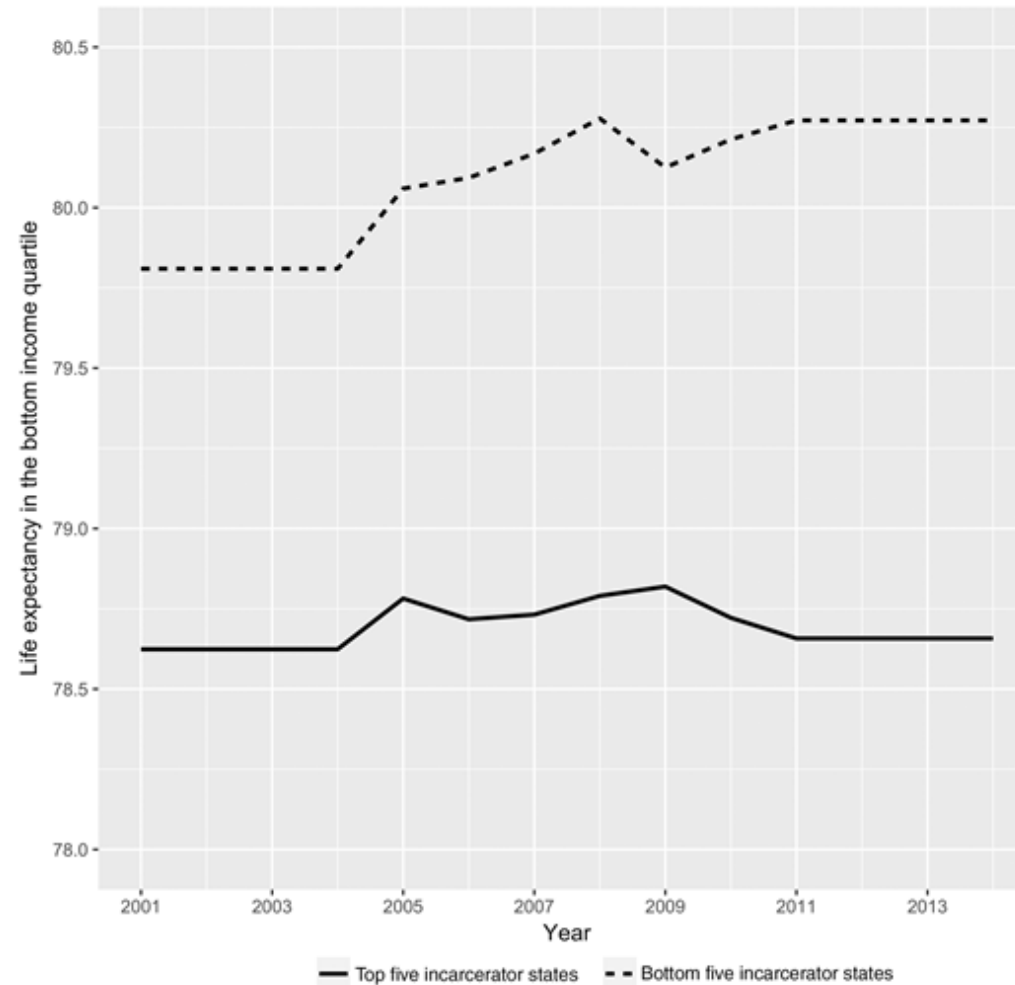
- Incarceration rate 2400/100,000
- Cf Non-indigenous 186/100,000
  - 13 fold difference
- 84% Prison pop is Indigenous Cf 27% general population
- Diagnosed mental illness in prisoners 72% in M; 92% in F

# Incarceration rates/100,000





# Life expectancy in bottom income quartile by state level incarceration rate



Bottom 5 incarceration states

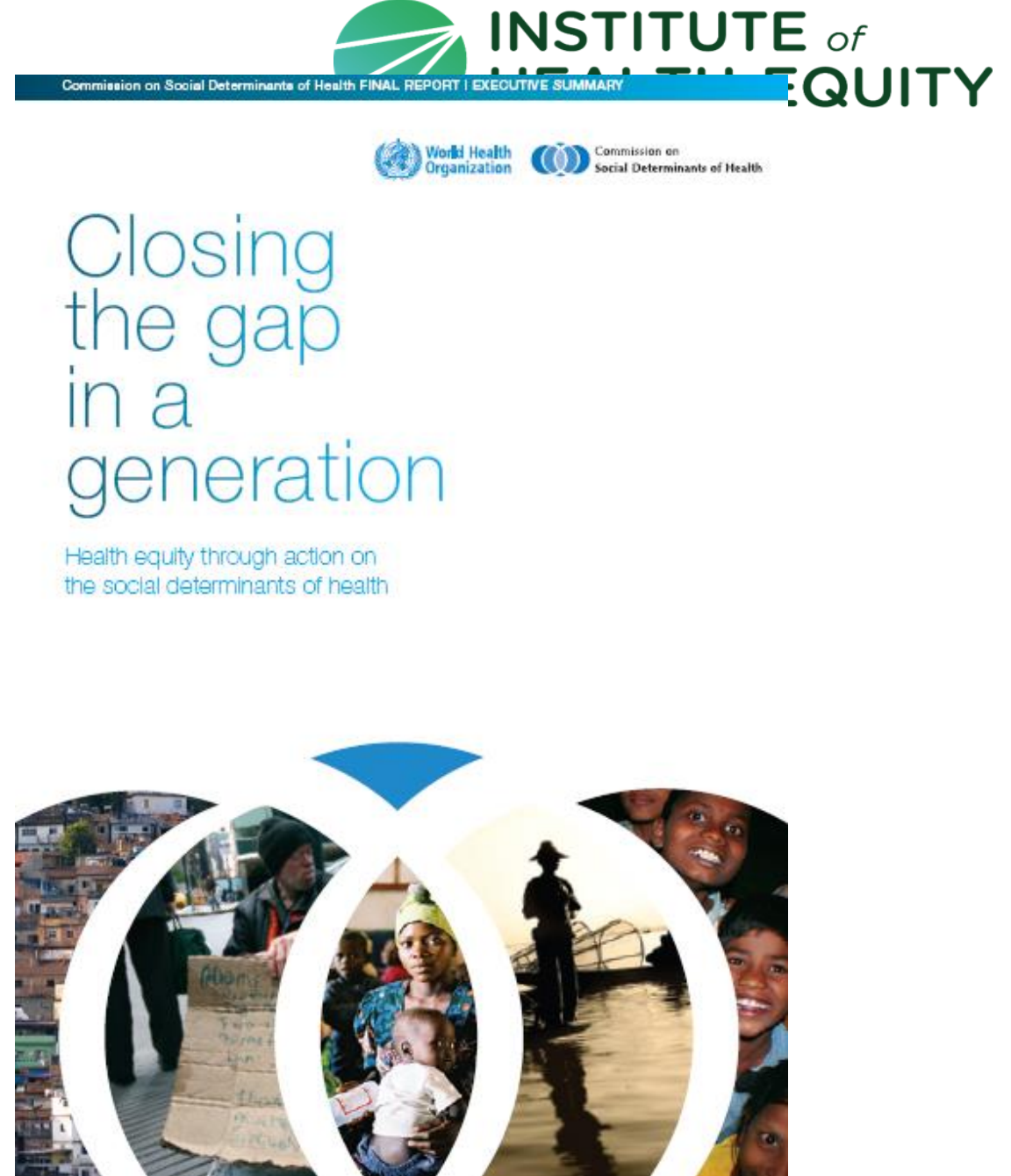
Top 5 incarceration states

# Crime and mental illness

- Denmark: violent offending 10% males; 26% females have mental illness
- UK estimate: 80% of all criminal activity attributable to people who had conduct problems in childhood and adolescence.
- Somewhere between 10 and 80% is a lot.

Therefore prevent mental illness in children

- Social justice
- Empowerment – material, psychosocial, political
- Improving the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age
- Shaped by distribution of power, money and resources



*Fair Society, Healthy Lives:*  
6 Policy Objectives

- A. Give every child the best start in life**
- B. Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives**
- C. Create fair employment and good work for all**
- D. Ensure healthy standard of living for all**
- E. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities**
- F. Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention**



# Lifecourse

*So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back  
ceaselessly into the past.*

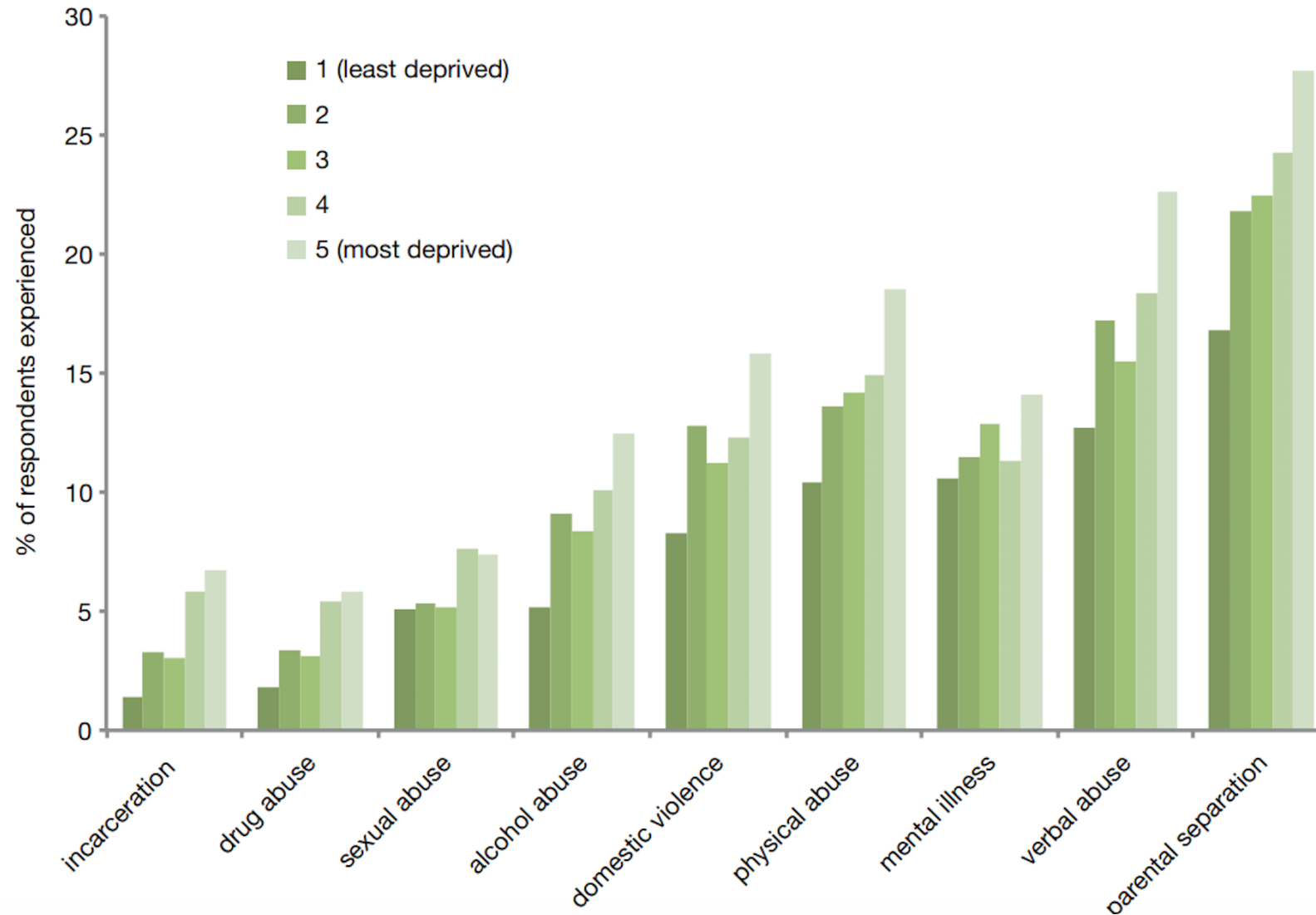
-F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*



# Give Every Child the Best Start

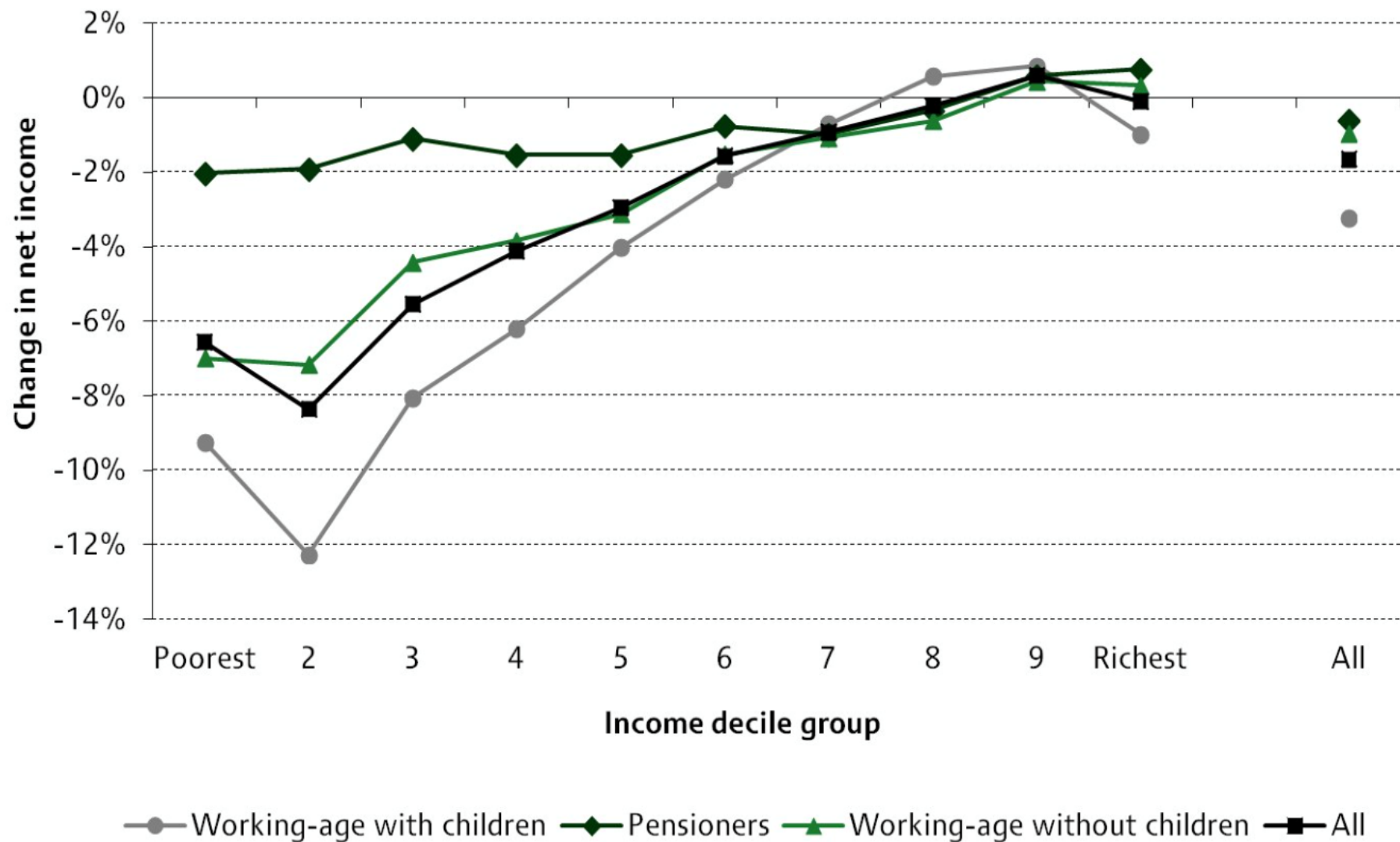


# ACEs by income England 2013

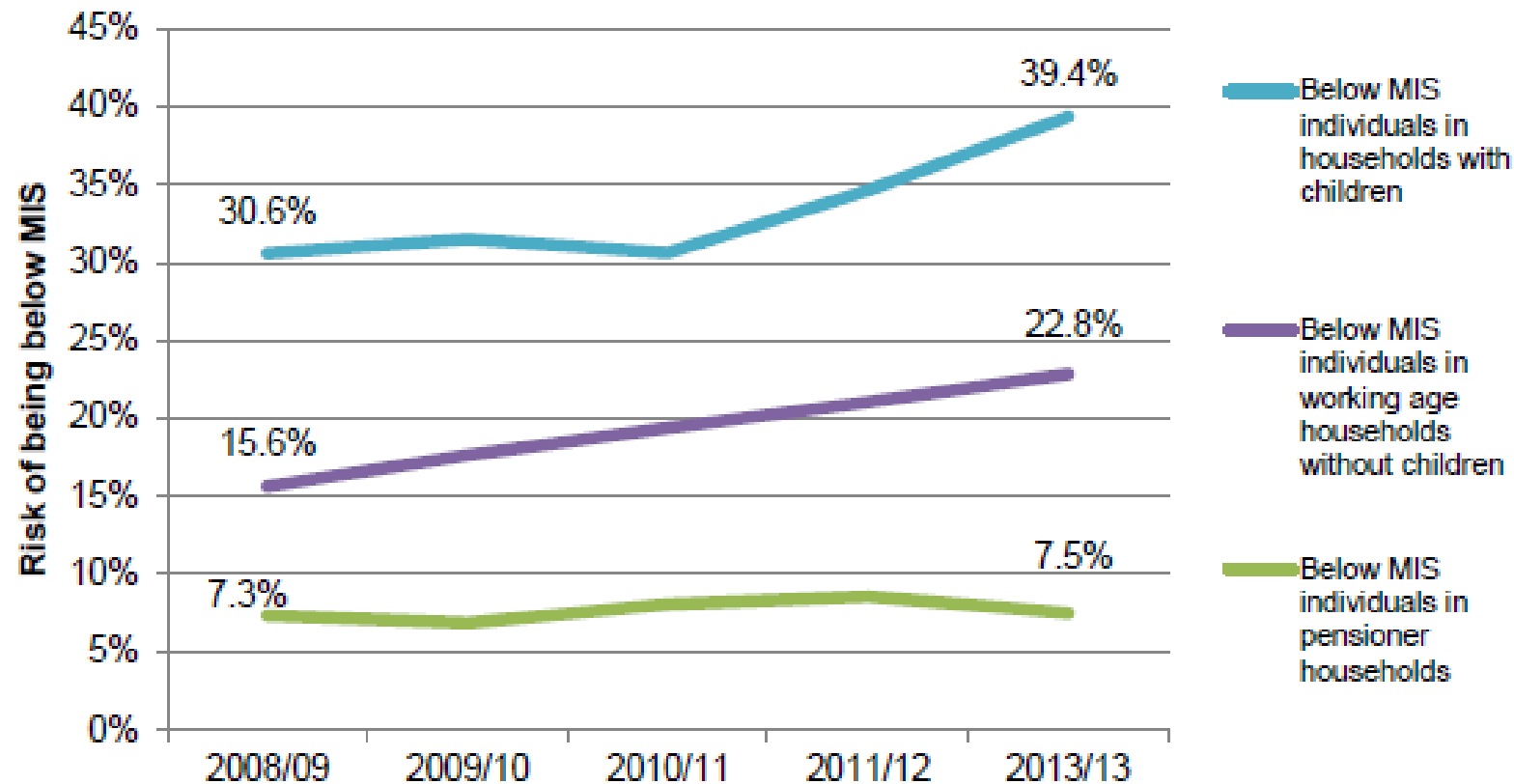




**Chart 4: Long-run impact of tax and benefit reforms introduced between May 2015 and April 2019 by income decile and household type (including universal credit) [[Download the data in Excel](#)]**



# Rick of being below Minimum Income Standard



# Characteristics of housing and neighbourhood matter for health

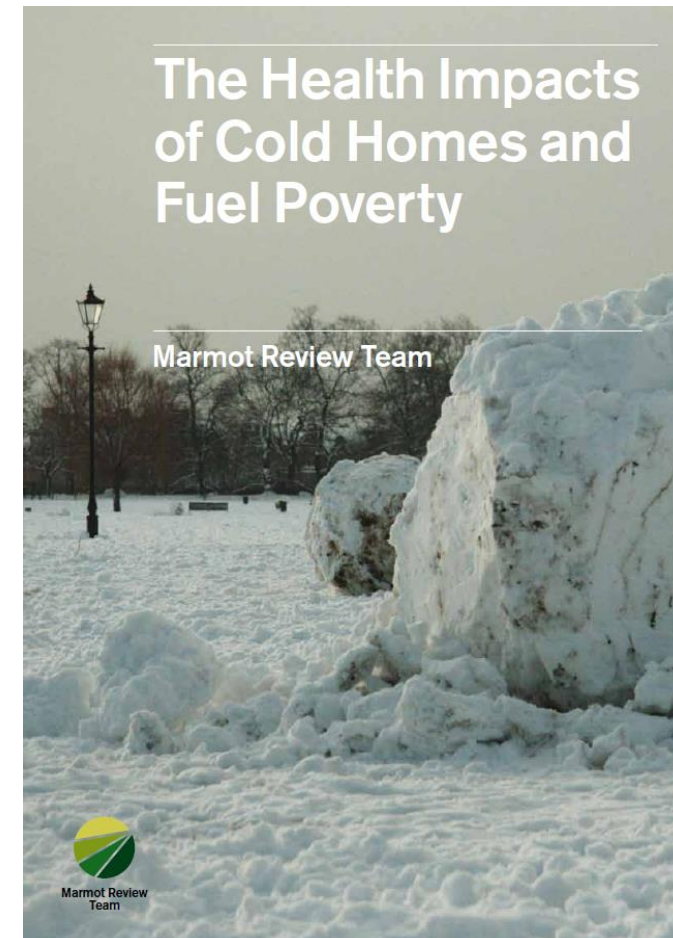
# Childhood poverty in London

## Less than 60% median income

- Before housing costs. 17%
- After housing costs. 37%

# Health Impacts of Cold Homes and Fuel Poverty

- Number of fuel poor households in England dramatically increased between 2004 and 2010 from 1.2 million to 4.6 million.
- Found evidence of impacts on mortality, morbidity, and other social impacts.



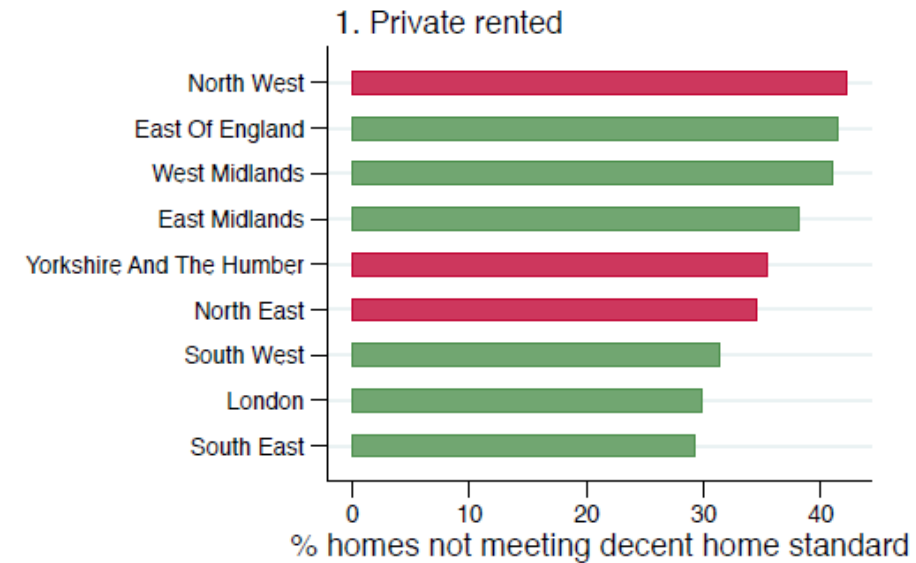
# Direct health impacts - Morbidity

- respiratory problems
- More than 1 in 4 adolescents living in cold housing are at risk of multiple mental health problems, compared to 1 in 20 adolescents in warm housing

# Indirect health and social impacts

- Cold housing negatively affects:
  - children's educational attainment, emotional well-being and resilience
  - family dietary opportunities and choices
  - dexterity; and increases the risk of accidents and injuries in the home

% homes not meeting decent homes standard, by region and tenure, 2012



Source: Due North Report







Emily, Martin and their baby sleep on the sofa bed, in the living room, where they eat.

The other three children in the bedroom.

Martin earns £800 a month

Outside, older kids compete for drugs clientele. Leave knives in the bushes where younger children play hide and seek







Three teenagers and nine year old in one room. Mum and Dad in the other.

Both parents work but they still have to have their rent subsidized

“The area is full of gangs. I want my children to live in a safe place...There are kids around the building who don’t go to school”



Amelie's partner left a five months pregnant

“At the beginning I didn't have benefits, so I didn't have food ... I was crying for no reason”

Amelie puts a towel under the door to stop the weed smoke from getting in.







Nigerian mother, English father and three children in two bedroom flat:

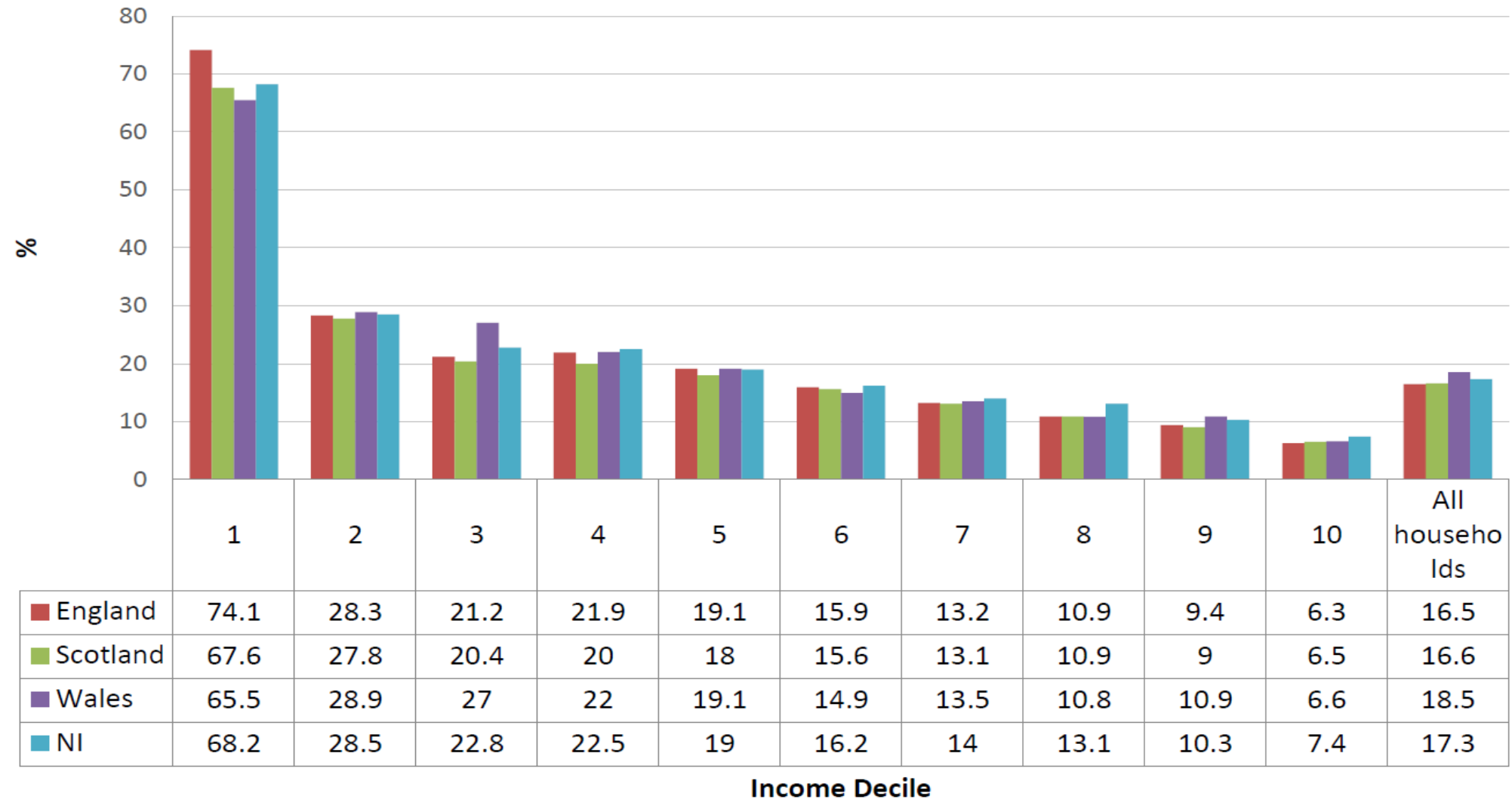
“To know that somebody, somewhere, is making something available for you to be happy. My feeling welcome in this country has been all through charities.”



Feckless? Choosing the easy life of welfare dependence?

“Nobody falls into this on purpose, because your whole life is going to be a trap. A trap. And then you will see yourself living a life you never thought you would”.

Median % of disposable income used up if Eatwell guide was spent,



# COVENTRY: A MARMOT CITY

Some key achievements

## COVENTRY JOB SHOP

Operating since 2012, served 40,000 residents  
Youth unemployment reduced from 27% to 12.3%  
(above national average to below)  
Average weekly earnings increased from £45 less than  
national average to £17 less  
There are 16.5% more residents in work since 2014



## AMBITION COVENTRY



Employment support programme  
engaged with 1,700 young  
people at risk of not being in  
employment, education or  
training

# Trieste: An Italian Marmot City





# Health Equity Network in the Americas HENA



# My two messages in a world of post-fact politics

- Evidence-based policy
- Spirit of social justice

Remember: We said that

“Social injustice is killing on a grand scale”