



# How to build a country that works for all children and young people



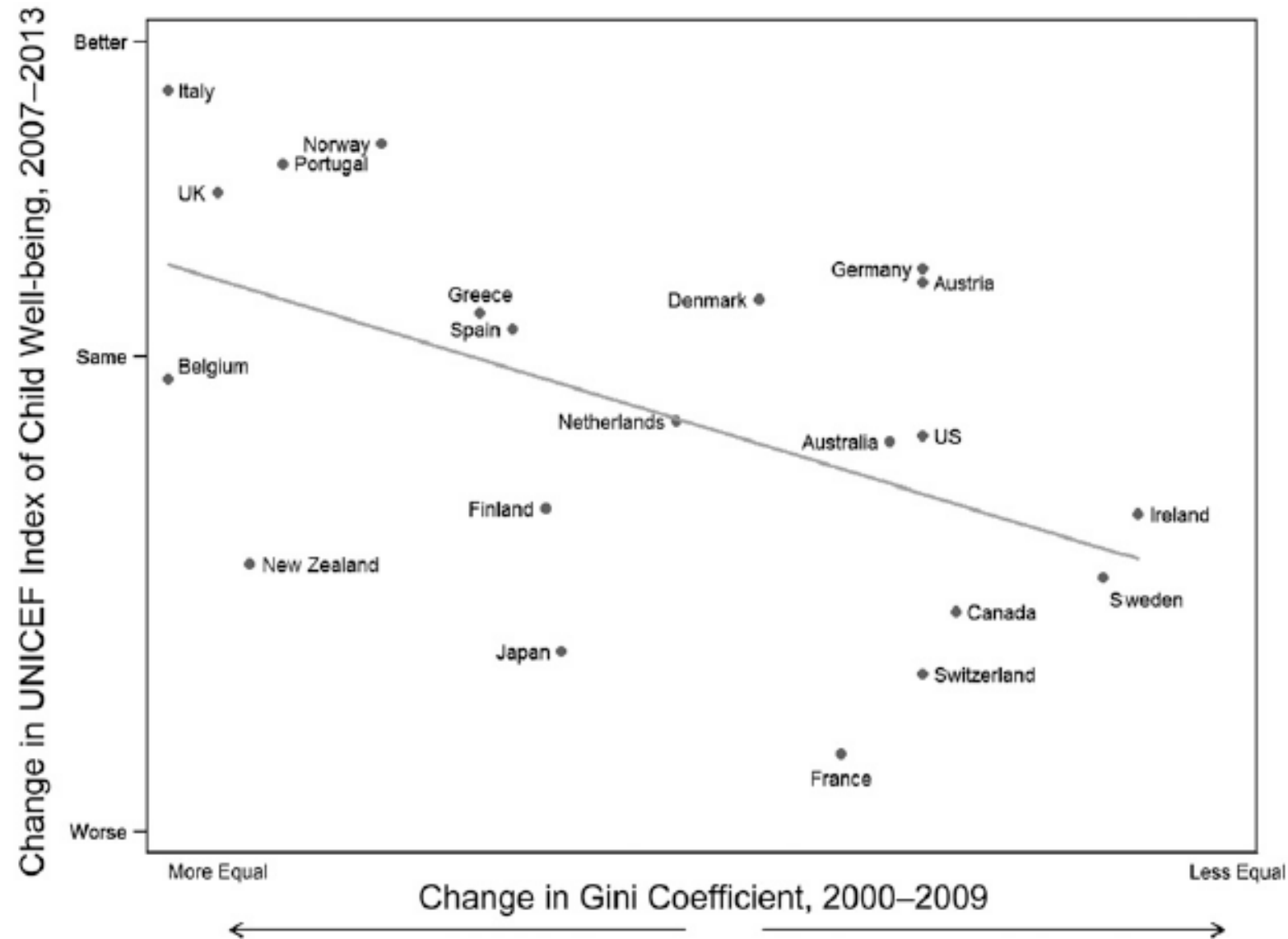
# The UNICEF Index of Child Well-being 2007

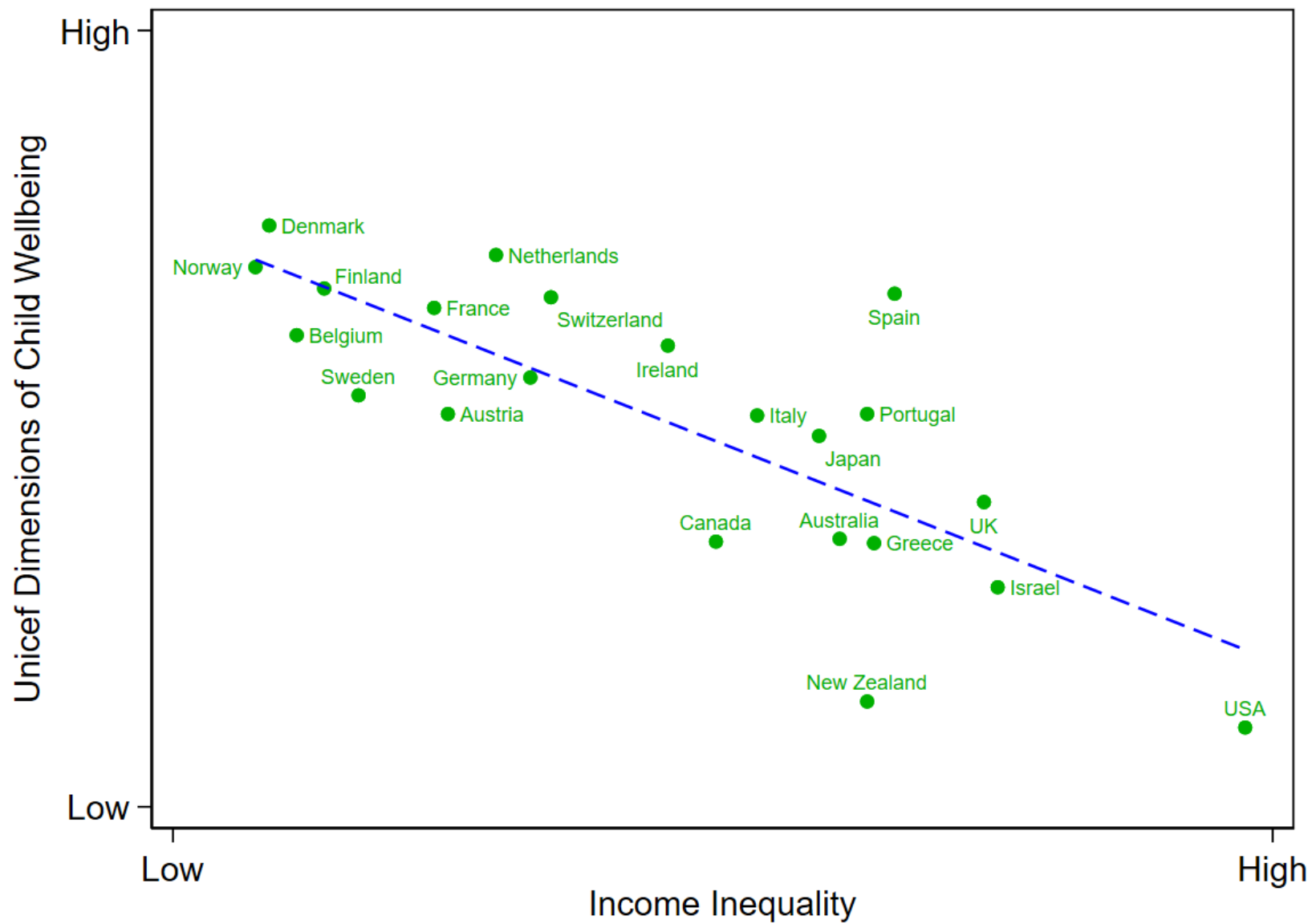
Dimensions of child well-being		Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Dimension 5	Dimension 6
Average ranking position (for all 6 dimensions)		Material well-being	Health and safety	Educational well-being	Family and peer relationships	Behaviours and risks	Subjective well-being
Netherlands	4.2	10	2	6	3	3	1
Sweden	5.0	1	1	5	15	1	7
Denmark	7.2	4	4	8	9	6	12
Finland Spain	7.5	3	3	4	17	7	11
Switzerland	8.0	12	6	15	8	5	2
Norway Italy	8.3	5	9	14	4	12	6
Ireland	8.7	2	8	11	10	13	8
Belgium	10.0	14	5	20	1	10	10
	10.2	19	19	7	7	4	5
	10.7	7	16	1	5	19	16
Germany	11.2	13	11	10	13	11	9
Canada	11.8	6	13	2	18	17	15
Greece	11.8	15	18	16	11	8	3
Poland	12.3	21	15	3	14	2	19
Czech Republic	12.5	11	10	9	19	9	17
France Portugal	13.0	9	7	18	12	14	18
Austria Hungary	13.7	16	14	21	2	15	14
United States	13.8	8	20	19	16	16	4
United Kingdom	14.5	20	17	13	6	18	13
	18.0	17	21	12	20	20	–
	18.2	18	12	17	21	21	20

# Child Well-being is Better in More Equal Rich Countries



# Changes in inequality and child wellbeing (UNICEF Index)





# Child of the North

Building a fairer future  
after COVID-19



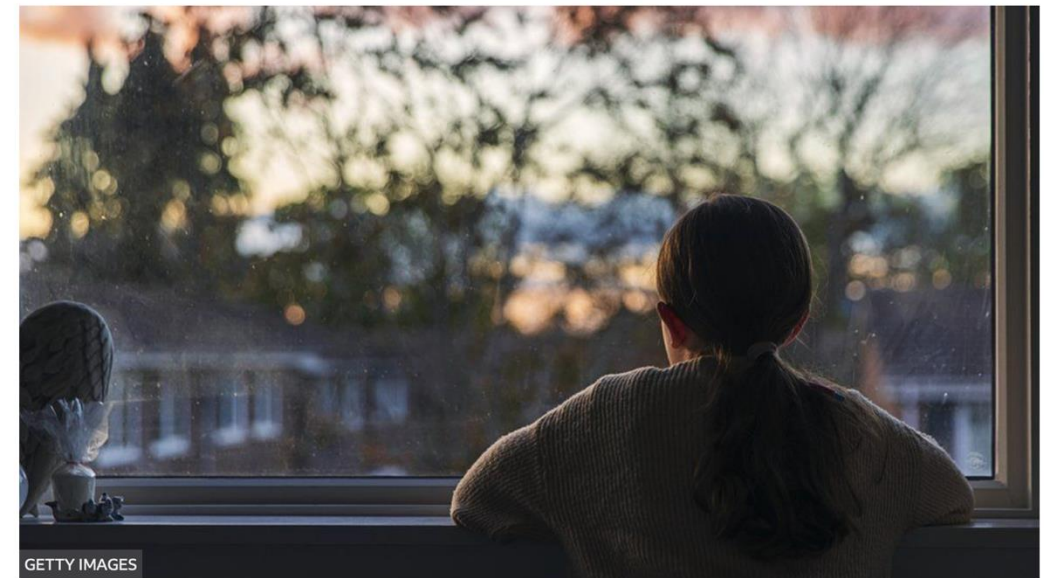
## NEWS

Home | Coronavirus | Climate | UK | World | Business | Politics | Tech | Science | Health | Family & Education

England | Local News | Regions

### Child inequalities widen as a result of pandemic

5 days ago



GETTY IMAGES

Children in the north of England have poorer health and educational outcomes

**Inequalities between children in the north of England and those in the rest of the country have worsened during the pandemic, a report says.**

Nearly all children have suffered, but researchers said those in the North East, North West and Yorkshire and the Humber had poorer educational outcomes.

**The Child of the North report** warned the inequalities would cost billions and increase poverty in the future.

© 12th October 2023

## Evidence given by David Taylor-Robinson at Covid inquiry



*This article has been reproduced with permission from a [University of Liverpool press release](#)*

**INQ000280060 – Expert report titled ‘Child health inequalities’ by Professor David Taylor-Robinson. dated 21 September 2023**

**Published:** 6 October 2023

**Type:** Evidence

**Module:** Module 2

## Rising inequalities in:

- Infant mortality
- Life expectancy at birth
- Healthy life expectancy
- Child obesity
- Child mental health problems
- Maternal mortality
- Children being taken into care
- Educational attainment
- Vaccination uptake

Expert report titled 'Child health inequalities' by Professor David Taylor-Robinson. dated 21 September 2023.

**What caused the adverse trends in inequalities?**





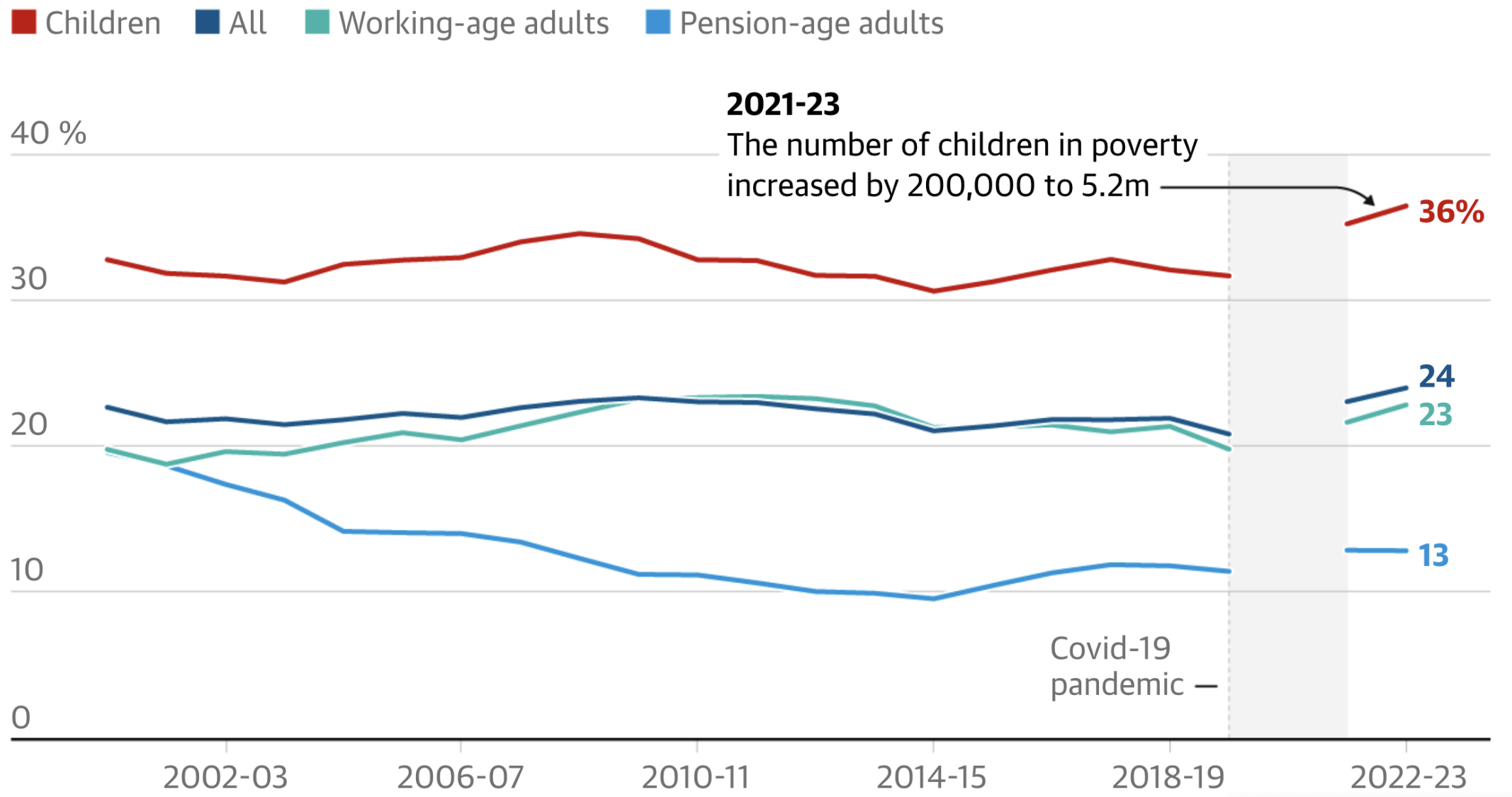
Families in an Age of Austerity:  
January 2012

## **The Impact of Austerity Measures on Households with Children**

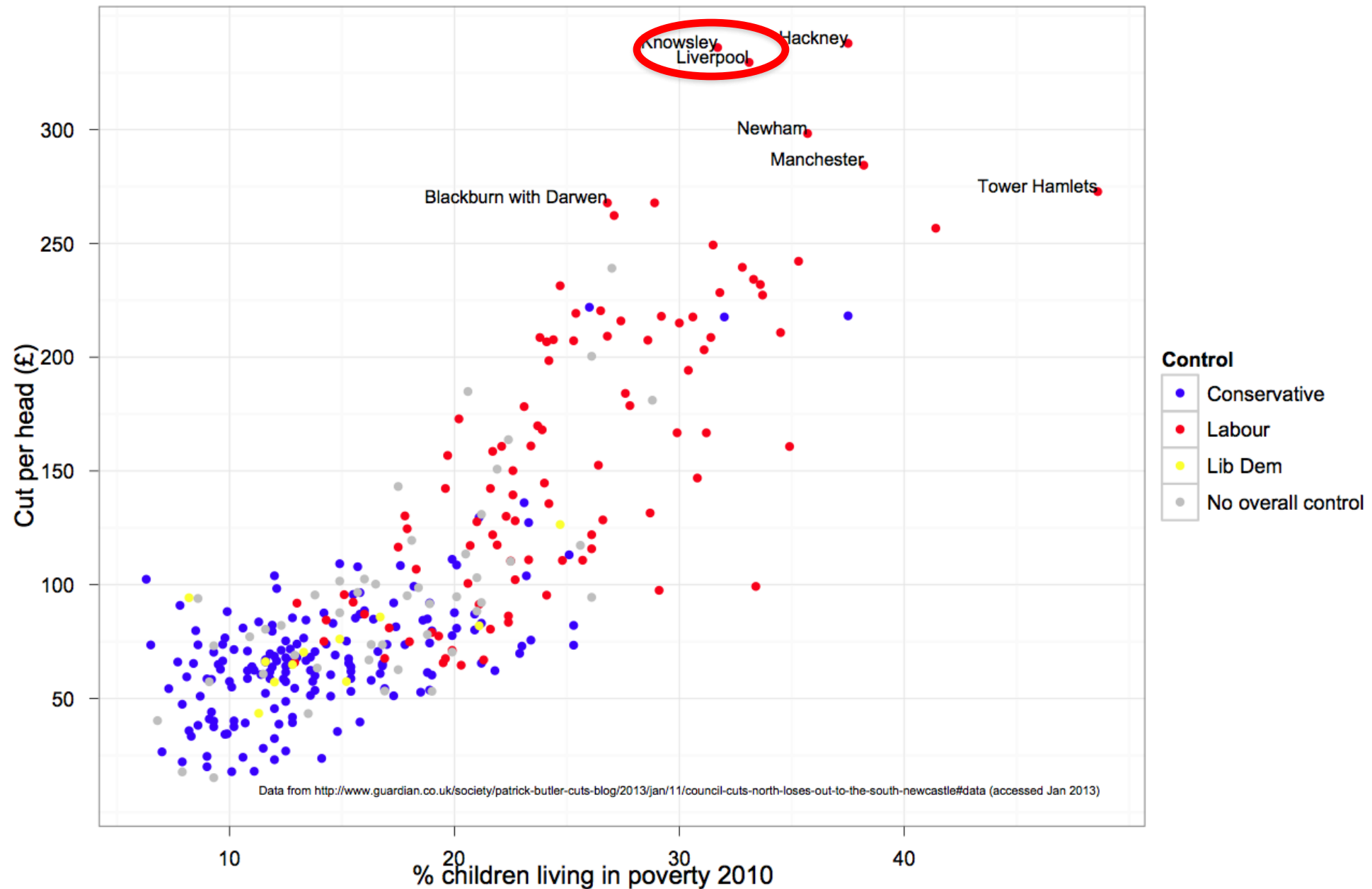
Analysis by James Browne, Institute for Fiscal  
Studies

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has described these as “colossal cuts,” raising the question, *“Is this a fundamental re-imagining of the role of the state”?*

# 36% of UK children live in poverty, the highest on record

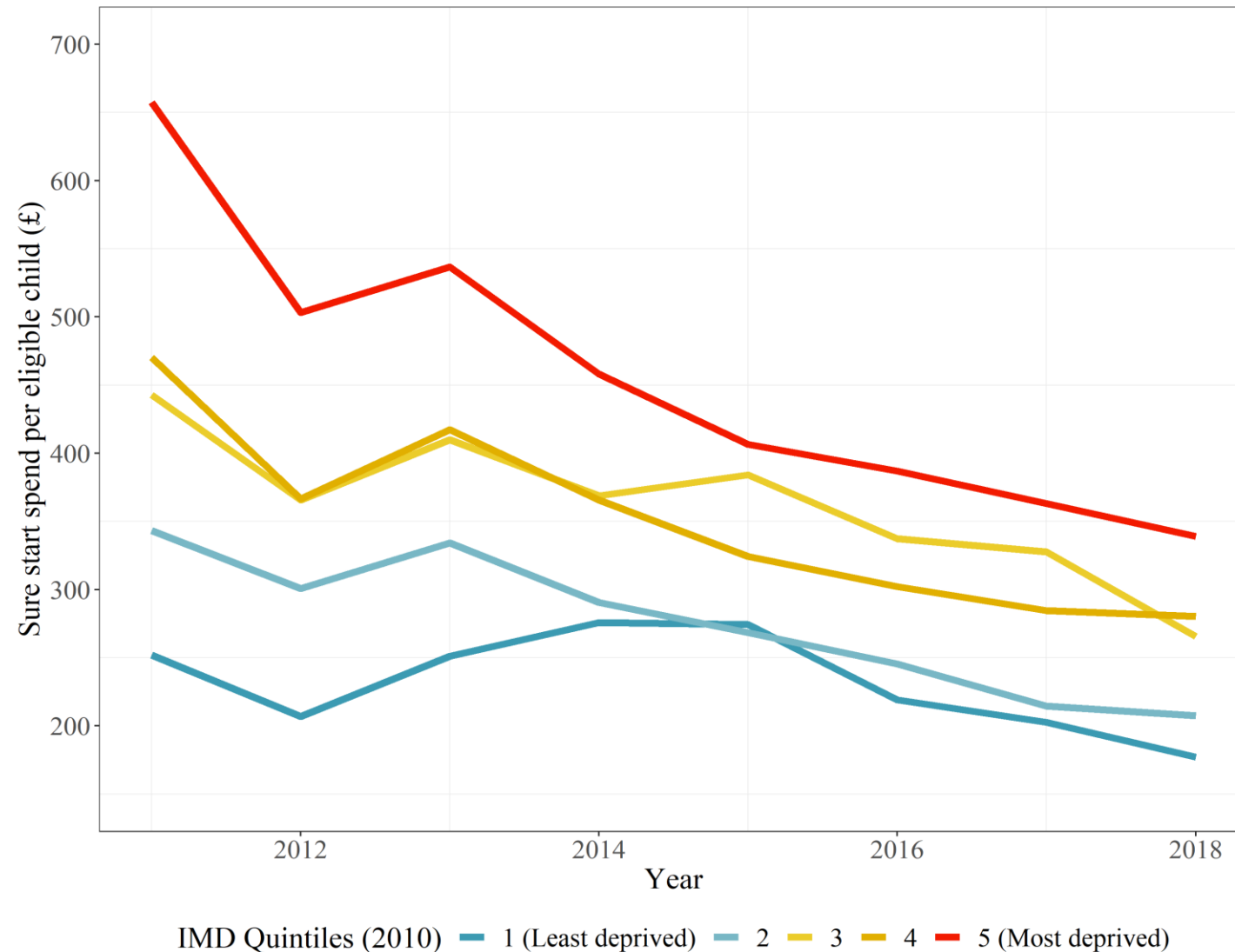


Local authority budget cut 2010-11 to 2014-15 versus child poverty



# A decade of cuts to children's services

## *Biggest cuts to prevention in poorest areas*



Taylor-Robinson and Bennett 2020  
<https://cpag.org.uk/shop/cpag-titles/2020-vision-ending-child-poverty-good>

**What are the main risk factors driving poor outcomes for UK children?**

ONLINE FIRST, 100279



PDF [1023 KB]



Figures

# Impact of poverty and family adversity on adolescent health: a multi-trajectory analysis using the UK Millennium Cohort Study

Nicholas Kofi Adjei   • Daniela K. Schlüter • Viviane S. Straatmann • Gabriella Melis • Kate M. Fleming •  
Ruth McGovern • Louise M. Howard • Eileen Kaner • Ingrid Wolfe • David C. Taylor-Robinson •  
on behalf of the ORACLE consortium • Show less

**Open Access** • Published: November 30, 2021 • DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanepe.2021.100279>

11726 families



ELSEVIER

---

JOURNAL OF  
ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH

---

[www.jahonline.org](http://www.jahonline.org)

---

Original article

# Impact of Parental Mental Health and Poverty on the Health of the Next Generation: A Multi-Trajectory Analysis Using the UK Millennium Cohort Study

Nicholas Kofi Adjei, Ph.D.<sup>a,\*</sup>, Daniela K. Schlüter, Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>, Gabriella Melis, Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>, Viviane S. Straatmann, Ph.D.<sup>b</sup>, Kate M. Fleming, Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>, Sophie Wickham, Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>, Luke Munford, Ph.D.<sup>c</sup>, Ruth McGovern, Ph.D.<sup>d</sup>, Louise M. Howard, Ph.D.<sup>e</sup>, Eileen Kaner, Ph.D.<sup>d</sup>, Ingrid Wolfe, Ph.D.<sup>f</sup>, and David C. Taylor-Robinson, Ph.D.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, United Kingdom

<sup>b</sup> Department of Public Health Sciences, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

<sup>c</sup> Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care, University of Manchester, Manchester, United Kingdom

<sup>d</sup> Population Health Sciences Institute, Newcastle University, Newcastle, United Kingdom

<sup>e</sup> Department of Health Service and Population Research, King's College London, London, United Kingdom

<sup>f</sup> Department of Women and Children's Health, King's College London, London, United Kingdom



Low adversity and poverty – 43%

***Persistent poverty – 23%***

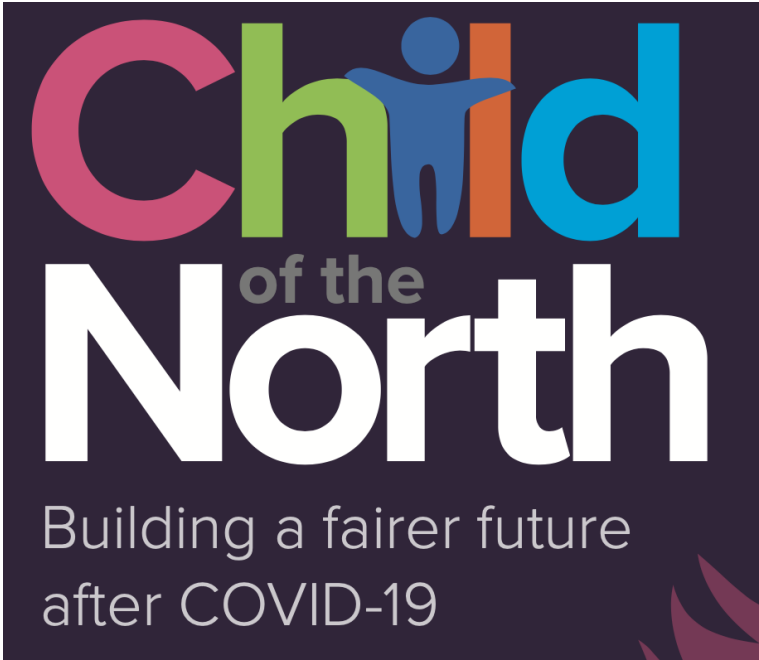
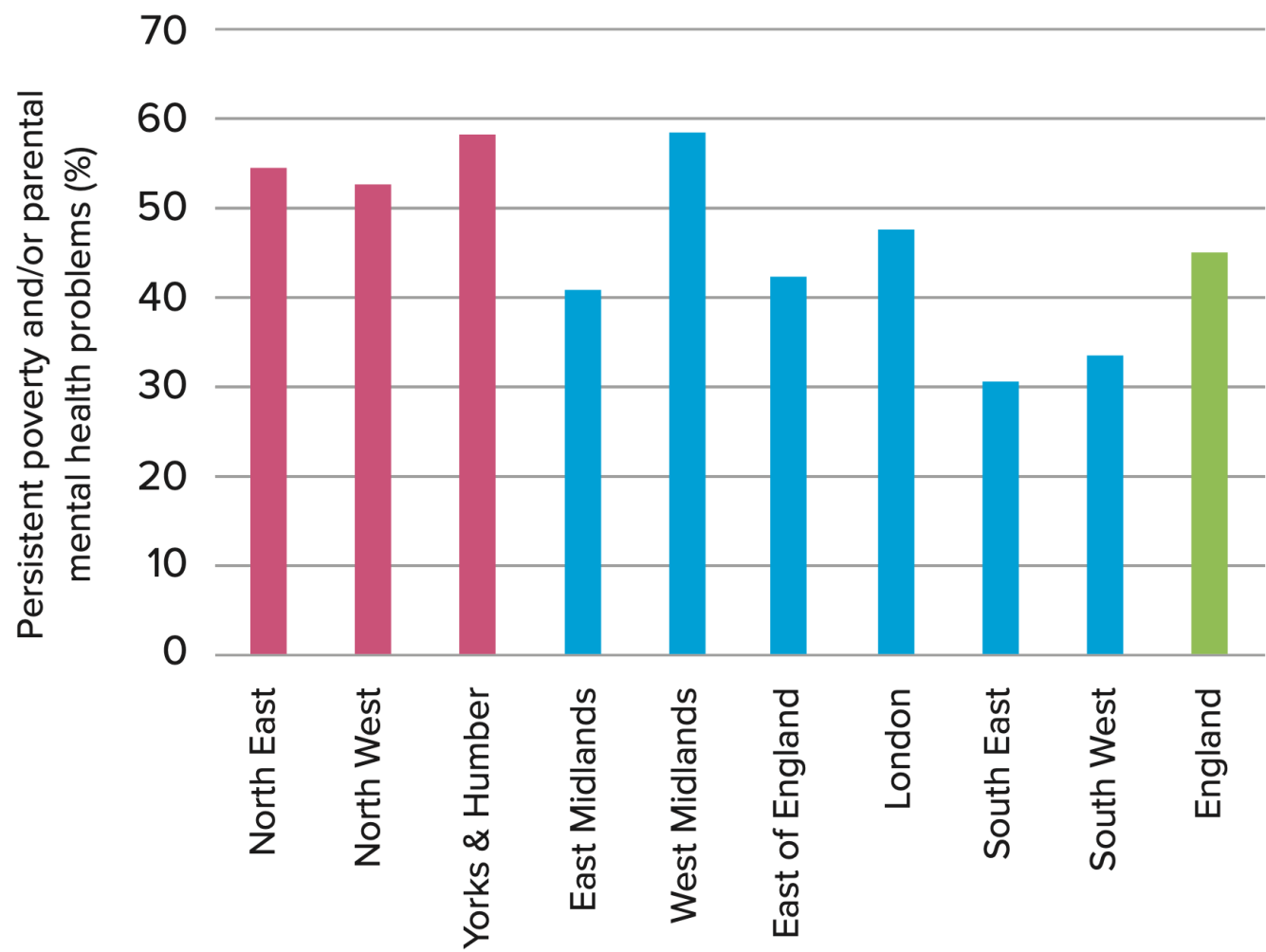
***Persistent parental mental illness – 12%***

***Parental mental illness & poverty – 11%***

***Persistent parental alcohol use – 8%***

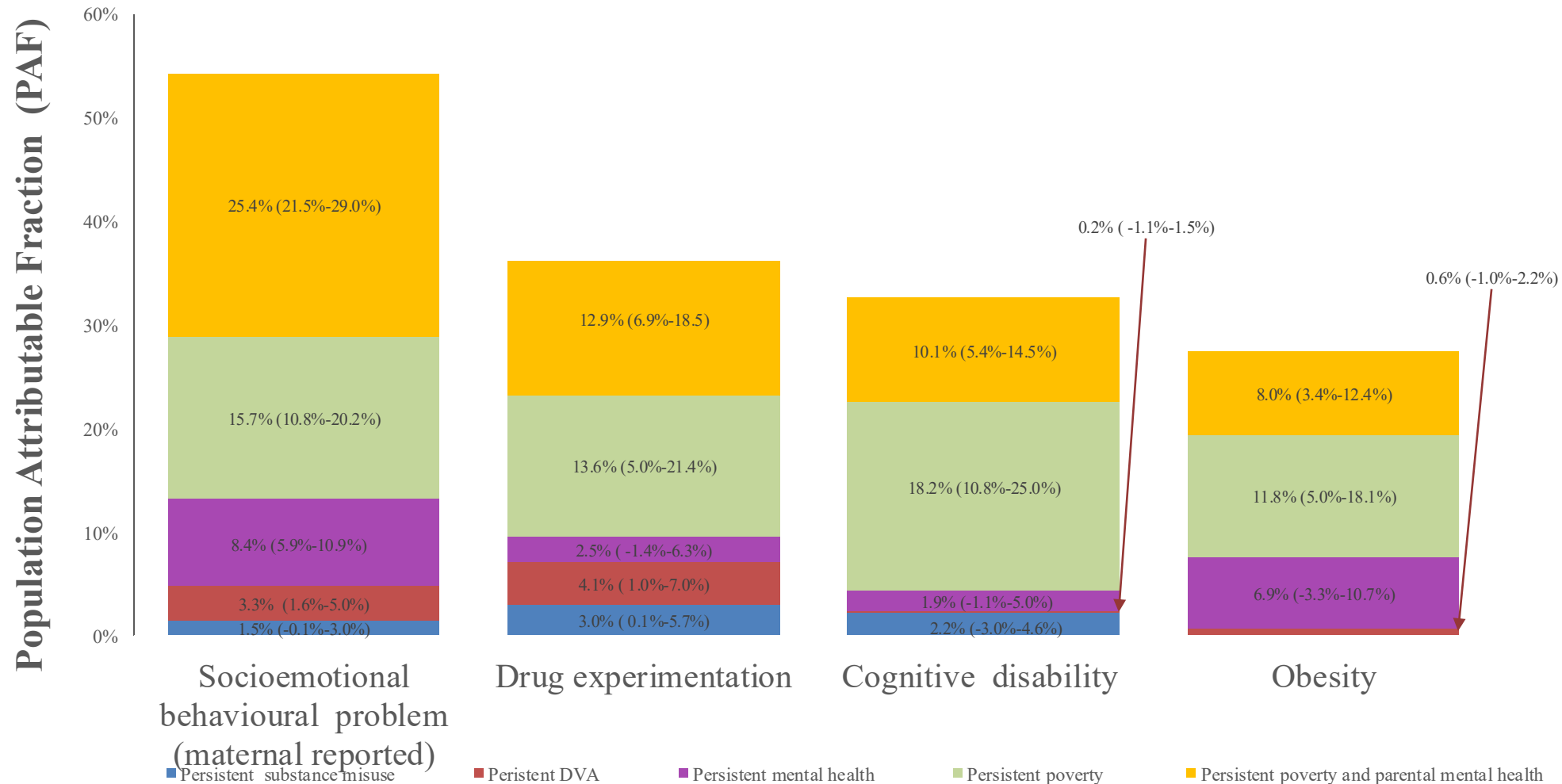
***Persistent DVA – 3.4%***

**Figure 1.2.** Persistent poverty and/or parental mental health problems up to age 14, by region.



Source: UK Millennium Cohort Study, analysis by Nicholas Adjei, University of Liverpool

# What proportion of adverse child health outcomes could be prevented if exposure to poverty and family adversity during childhood were reduced?



**‘Positive Social Mobility’ (PSM) profile**, designed to capture adolescent developmental success across educational, behavioural and mental health domains at age 17 years

- successful GCSE exams
- no reported criminality
- low risk of ill health, obesity, and socioemotional behavioural problems

**WHAT TO DO?**

# Child of the North key recommendations

This set of recommendations should form the basis of an action plan to build a fairer future for children of the North after COVID-19. Detailed recommendations are given at the end of each chapter.

1

**Increase Government investment in welfare, health and social care systems that support children's health, particularly in deprived areas and areas most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

2

**Tackle the negative impacts of the pandemic in the North through rapid, focussed investment in early years services, such as the Health Improvement Fund. This should include health visiting, family hubs and children's centres - as supported in the Leadsom review - but with investment proportional to need and area-level deprivation adequately accounted for.**

3

**Commissioners of maternity and early years services must consider the impact of pandemic-related service changes on inequalities in families and children's experiences and outcomes. This must shape service delivery during the recovery.**

4

**Take immediate measures to tackle child poverty. Increase child benefit by £10 per child per week. Increase the child element in Universal Credit and increase child tax credits.**

5

**We must feed our children. Introduce universal free school meals, make the Holiday Activities and Food Programme scheme permanent, and extend to support all low-income families. Promote the provision of Healthy Start vouchers to all children under five and make current government food standards mandatory in all early years settings.**

6

**Government should prioritise support to deprived localities by increasing the spending available to schools serving the most disadvantaged pupils in England. This requires a reversal of the current approach to resource allocation: the new national funding formula will deliver 3–4 percentage points less funding to schools in poorer areas relative to those in more affluent areas.**

# Child of the North

Building a fairer future  
after COVID-19





Early years: 0–16

## Reducing inequities in health across the life-course

Early years, childhood and adolescence



Young adults: 16–24



Working age: 24–64



Later life: 65+

Act early  
Act on time  
Act together

## Reduce poverty

Invest proportionate to need  
Better data  
Children's rights-based approach

# Child Poverty in the Midst of Wealth

Innocenti Report Card 18

## UNICEF Innocenti Rank

1	Slovenia
2	Poland
3	Latvia
4	Republic of Korea
5	Estonia
6	Lithuania
7	Czechia
8	Japan
9	Ireland
10	Croatia
11	Canada
12	Belgium
13	Portugal
14	Finland
15	Denmark
16	Malta
17	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)
18	Greece
19	New Zealand
20	Norway
21	Slovakia
22	Sweden
23	Iceland
24	Cyprus
25	Germany
26	Australia
27	Chile
28	Romania
29	Austria
30	Switzerland
31	Bulgaria
32	United States
33	France
34	Italy
35	Luxembourg
36	Spain
37	United Kingdom
38	Türkiye
39	Colombia

## Most recent rate of child poverty (Average 2019–2021)

% Rank

10.0	2
14.1	8
16.3	16
15.7	15
14.8	9
18.3	22
11.6	4
14.8	11
14.8	10
16.6	17
17.2	19
14.9	12
19.3	25
10.1	3
9.9	1
19.8	26
13.5	7
22.3	31
21.1	29
12.0	5
18.9	23
18.0	20
12.4	6
15.6	14
15.5	13
17.1	18
21.6	30
29.0	37
19.2	24
18.0	21
26.1	34
26.2	35
19.9	27
25.5	33
24.5	32
28.0	36
20.7	28
33.8	38
35.8	39

## Change in child poverty rate (2012–2014 to 2019–2021)

% Rank

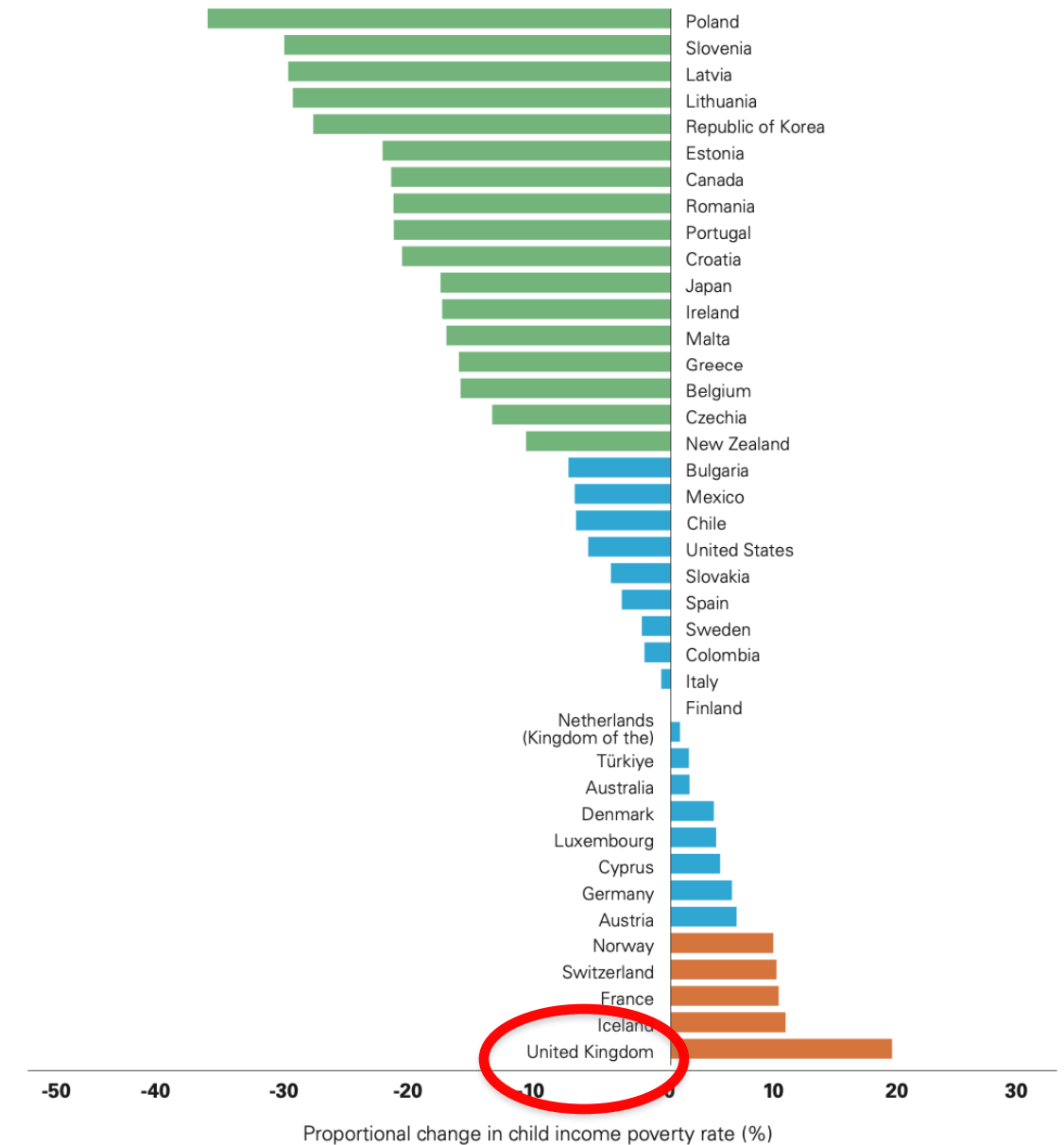
-31.4	2
-37.6	1
-31.0	3
-29.0	5
-23.4	6
-30.6	4
-14.5	16
-18.7	11
-18.5	12
-21.8	10
-22.7	7
-17.0	15
-22.5	9
0	26
+3.5	30
-18.2	13
+0.7	27
-17.2	14
-11.7	17
+10.1	35
-4.9	21
-2.4	23
+11.0	38
+4.0	32
+5.0	33
+1.7	29
-7.7	19
-22.5	8
+5.3	34
+10.3	36
-8.3	18
-6.7	20
+10.4	37
-0.8	25
+3.7	31
-4.0	22
+19.6	39
+1.5	28
-2.1	24



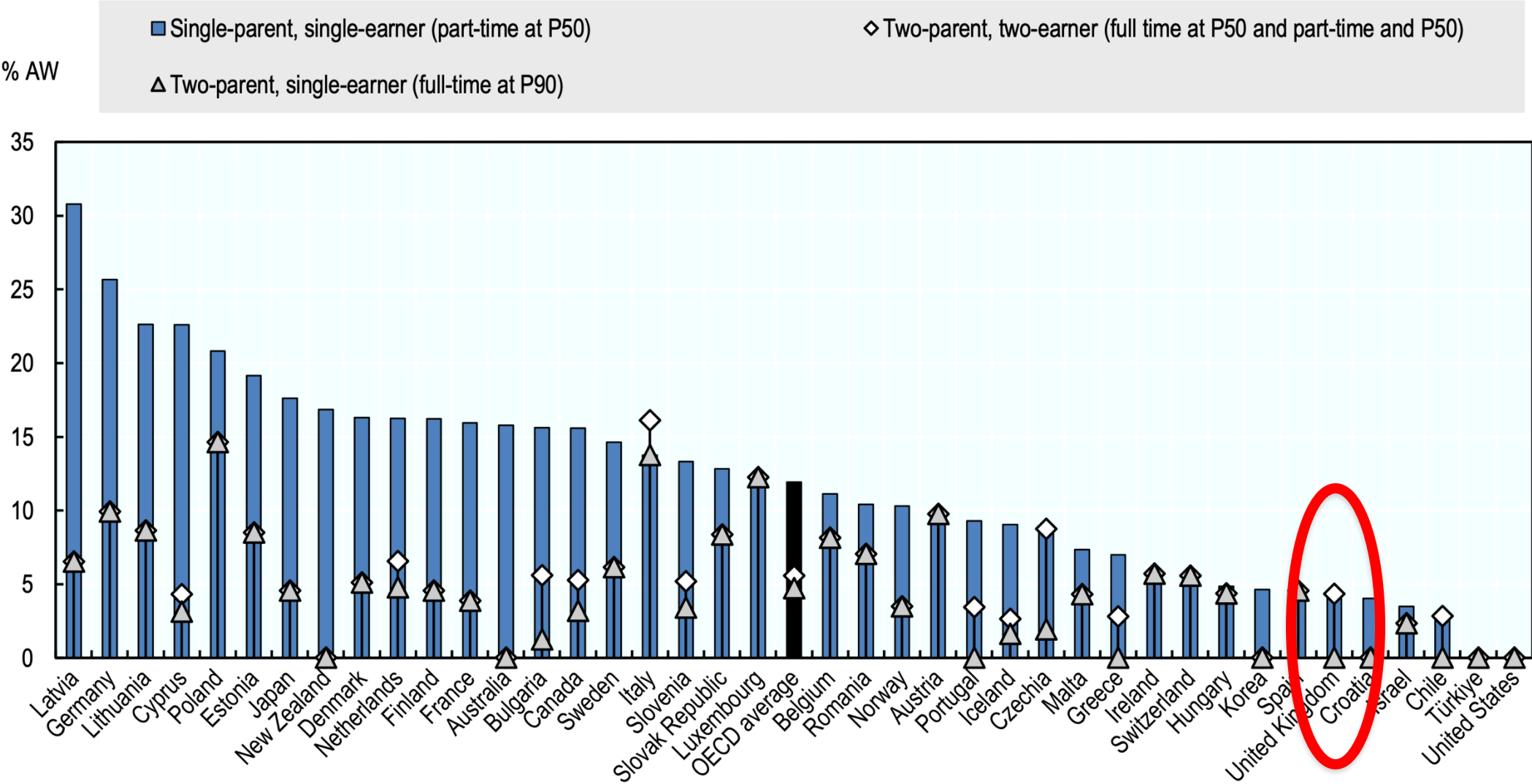
## Child poverty rates, 2019–2021



## Change in child income poverty rates, 2012–2014 to 2019–2021



# Total family benefits for a two-child family, by family type and earnings level, as a % of average full-time earnings, 2023



# Public spending on early childhood education and care

