



Child Well-being: How are children in the UK faring?

Anita Tiessen, Deputy Executive Director

Overview

RANKINGS

**GOVERNMENT
POLICY
IMPACT**

AUSTERITY



unicef
UNITED KINGDOM

BRITAIN FAILING ITS KIDS, SAY

UK worst of 21 rich nations

DEPENDENT

Britain's children unhappy, neglected and poorly educated

The failed generation

Continued from Page One
brought up by single parents
or their families break
Shadow chancellor
Osborne

BOTTOM OF THE LEAGUE

Overall ranking on child well-being:

Country	Rank
Holland	1
Sweden	2
Denmark	3
Finland	4
Spain	5
Switzerland	6
Norway	7
Denmark	8
France	9
Portugal	10
Austria	11
Hungary	12
United States	13
United Kingdom	21

How British children fare on:

Health	12th/21
Education	17th/21
Poverty	18th/21
Family Relationships	21st/21
Risky Beh	21st/21



UNICEF
Innocenti Research Centre
Report Card 7

Child poverty in perspective:

An overview of child well-being in rich countries

A comprehensive assessment of the lives and well-being of children and adolescents in the economically advanced nations

For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY

unicef

the guardian
Newspaper of the y

Children: poorer, at and more insecure

nations • 'A crisis at heart of our society' - children's commission

16.2%
of British children live below the poverty line

35.8%
have been bullied in the past two months

35.3%
of 15-year-olds aspire to low-skilled work

30.8%
of young people have been drunk two or more times

more likely
in violent
other countries
Austria have w
the report s

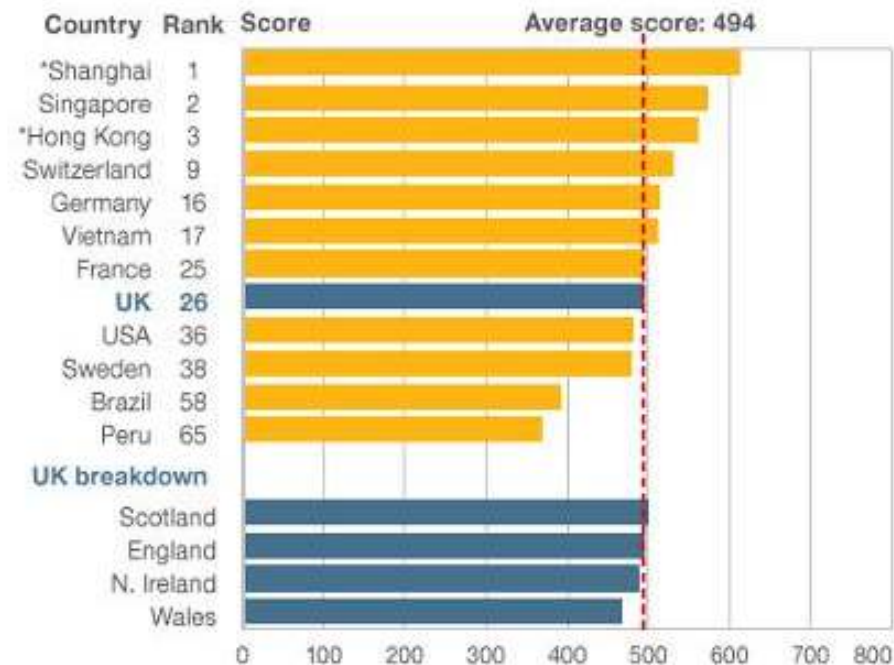
Pisa tests: UK stagnates as Shanghai tops league table

COMMENTS (1743)

By Sean Coughlan

BBC News education correspondent

Pisa maths scores for selected education systems



Source: OECD

*China does not participate as a country, but is represented by cities such as Shanghai and Hong Kong

The UK is falling behind global rivals in international tests taken by 15-year-olds, failing to make the top 20 in maths, reading and science.

England's Education Secretary Michael Gove said since the 1990s, test performances had been "at best stagnant, at worst declining".

Shanghai in China is the top education system in the OECD's Pisa tests.

THE UK IS FALLING BEHIND GLOBAL RIVALS IN INTERNATIONAL TESTS TAKEN BY 15-YEAR-OLDS, FAILING TO MAKE THE TOP 20 IN MATHS, READING AND SCIENCE.

MICHAEL GOVE SAID SINCE THE 1990S, TEST PERFORMANCES HAD BEEN "AT BEST STAGNANT, AT WORST DECLINING".

Related Stories

Shanghai's 'mind boggling' school ambition

South Korea's schools: Long days, high results

OR

**Economic
competitiveness**

**Children's
Rights**

Child rights and well-being

CHILD POVERTY

- ❖ **More than lack of money**
- ❖ **Denial of children's rights (UNGA 2007)**
- ❖ **Children's experiences of poverty**



Child rights and well-being

- ❖ **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child – global standard**
- ❖ **Economic, social and cultural rights progressive**
- ❖ **Right to an adequate standard of living (Art. 27)**



Child rights and well-being

- ❖ **Well-being multi-dimensional**
- ❖ **Relative achievement**
- ❖ **Political priorities**



Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2007



Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2007

- material well-being
- health and safety
- educational well-being
- family and peer relationships
- behaviour and risks
- subjective well-being



Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2007

Dimensions of child well-being	Average ranking position (for all 6 dimensions)	Dimension 1 Material well-being	Dimension 2 Health and safety	Dimension 3 Educational well-being	Dimension 4 Family and peer relationships	Dimension 5 Behaviours and risks	Dimension 6 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	7.5	3	3	4	17	7	11
Spain	8.0	12	6	15	8	5	2
Switzerland	8.3	5	9	14	4	12	6
Norway	8.7	2	8	11	10	13	8
Italy	10.0	14	5	20	1	10	10
Ireland	10.2	19	19	7	7	4	5
Belgium	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	13.0	9	7	18	12	14	18
Portugal	13.7	16	14	21	2	15	14
Austria	13.8	8	20	19	16	16	4
Hungary	14.5	20	17	13	6	18	13
United States	18.0	17	21	12	20	20	-
United Kingdom	18.2	18	12	17	21	21	20

OECD countries with insufficient data to be included in the overview: Australia, Iceland, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, the Slovak Republic, South Korea, Turkey.

UK SCORES

Material well-being: **18**

Health and Safety: **12**

Educational well-being: **17**

Family and peer relationships: **21**

Behaviours and risks: **21**

Subjective well-being: **20**

Average ranking position for all 6 dimensions: **18.2**

Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2007

- lowest ranking for peers being kind and helpful
- poor scores on risky behaviours
- low ranking on child poverty



Child Well-being in the UK, Spain and Sweden



Ipsos MORI
Social Research Institute

In partnership with Dr Agnes Nairn

**Children's Well-being in UK, Sweden and Spain:
The Role of Inequality and Materialism**

A Qualitative Study



June 2011

Child Well-being in the UK, Spain and Sweden

1



Stable family, activities, time

2



Technology, brands

3



UK families under pressure



Child Well-being in the UK, Spain and Sweden

1

2

3

- ❖ Materialism cause and effect of negative well-being
- ❖ Higher inequality linked to worse well-being



Child Well-being in the UK, Spain and Sweden

1

2

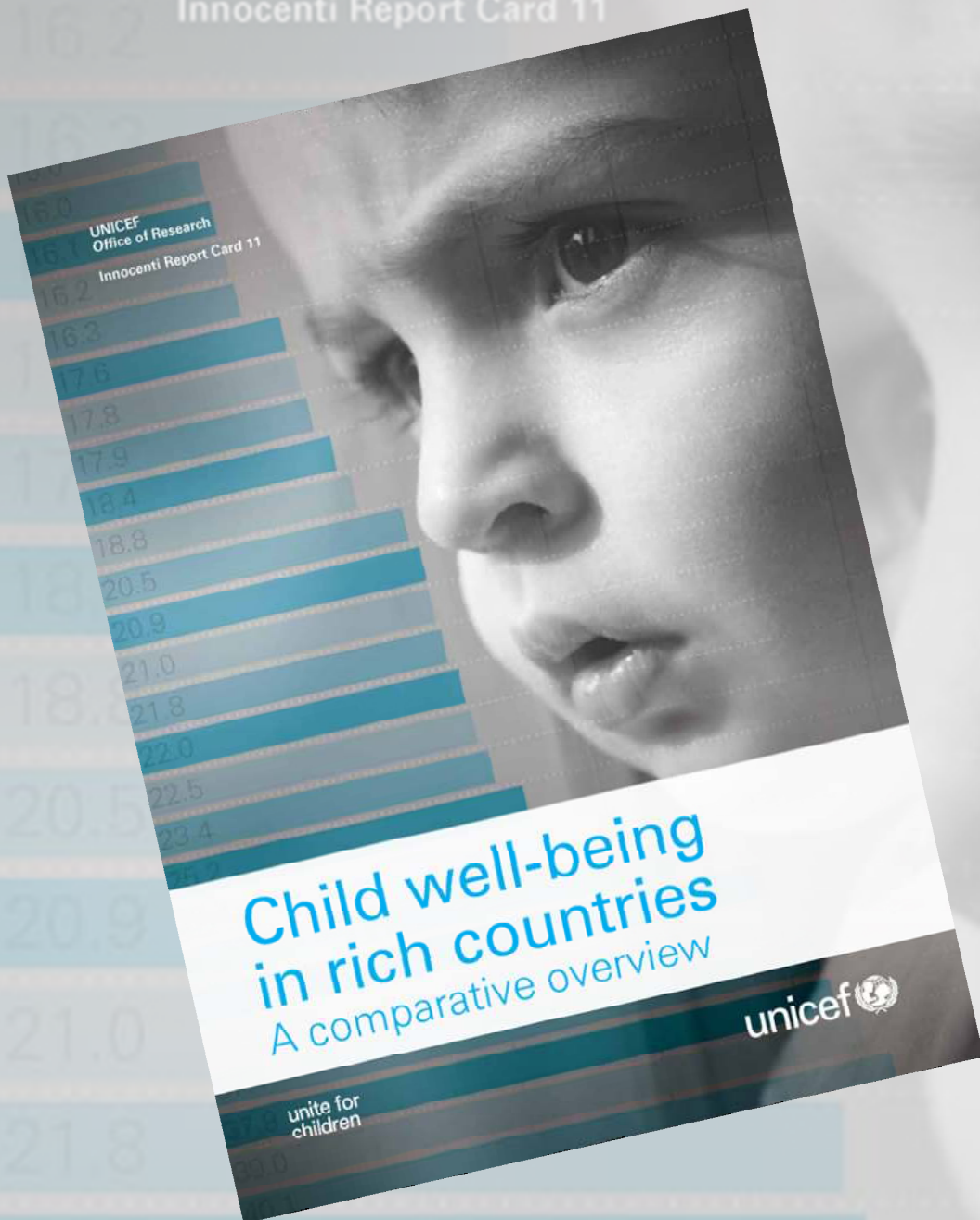
3

“Children in all 3 countries have the same needs, wants and concerns yet the response by each society is different. Children are more likely to thrive where the social context makes it possible for them to have time with family and friends, to get out and about without having to spend money, and to feel secure about who they are rather than what they own”



Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2013

Innocenti Report Card 11



Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2013

		Overall well-being	Dimension 1	Dimension 2	Dimension 3	Dimension 4	Dimension 5
		Average rank (all 5 dimensions)	Material well-being	Health and safety	Education	Behaviours and risks	Housing and environment
			(rank)	(rank)	(rank)	(rank)	(rank)
1	Netherlands	2.4	1	5	1	1	4
2	Norway	4.6	3	7	6	4	3
3	Iceland	5	4	1	10	3	7
4	Finland	5.4	2	3	4	12	6
5	Sweden	6.2	5	2	11	5	8
6	Germany	9	11	12	3	6	13
7	Luxembourg	9.2	6	4	22	9	5
8	Switzerland	9.6	9	11	16	11	1
9	Belgium	11.2	13	13	2	14	14
10	Ireland	11.6	17	15	17	7	2
11	Denmark	11.8	12	23	7	2	15
12	Slovenia	12	8	6	5	21	20
13	France	12.8	10	10	15	13	16
14	Czech Republic	15.2	16	8	12	22	18
15	Portugal	15.6	21	14	18	8	17
16	United Kingdom	15.8	14	16	24	15	10
17	Canada	16.6	15	27	14	16	11
18	Austria	17	7	26	23	17	12
19	Spain	17.6	24	9	26	20	9
20	Hungary	18.4	18	20	8	24	22
21	Poland	18.8	22	18	9	19	26
22	Italy	19.2	23	17	25	10	21
23	Estonia	20.8	19	22	13	26	24
23	Slovakia	20.8	25	21	21	18	19
25	Greece	23.4	20	19	28	25	25
26	United States	24.8	26	25	27	23	23
27	Lithuania	25.2	27	24	19	29	27
28	Latvia	26.4	28	28	20	28	28
29	Romania	28.6	29	29	29	27	29

UK SCORES

Material well-being: **14**

Health and Safety: **16**

Educational well-being: **24**

Behaviours and risks: **15**

Housing and environment: **10**

Average ranking position for all 5 dimensions: **15.8**

Lack of data on a number of indicators means that the following countries, although OECD and/or EU members, could not be included in the league table of child well-being: Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Israel, Japan, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and Turkey.

Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2013

10 year record

Rank	Early 2000s	Rank	Late 2000s	Change in rank
1	Sweden	1	Netherlands	+2
2	Finland	2	Norway	+2
3	Netherlands	3	Finland	-1
4=	Denmark	4	Sweden	-3
4=	Norway	5	Germany	+2
6	France	6	Denmark	-2
7	Germany	7	Belgium	+1
8	Belgium	8=	France	-2
9=	Czech Republic	8=	Ireland	+4
9=	Poland	8=	Switzerland	+3
11	Switzerland	11	Portugal	+5
12	Ireland	12	Poland	-3
13	Spain	13	Czech Republic	-4
14=	Canada	14=	Canada	no change
14=	Italy	14=	Italy	no change
16=	Greece	16	United Kingdom	+4
16=	Portugal	17	Austria	+1
18	Austria	18=	Greece	-2
19	Hungary	18=	Hungary	+1
20=	United Kingdom	18=	Spain	-5
20=	United States	21	United States	-1

The tables are ranked by each country's average rank in four dimensions of child well-being – material well-being, health, education, and behaviours and risks – for which comparable data are available towards the beginning and end of the first decade of the 2000s.

Child Well-being in Rich Countries 2013

- ❑ lowest rates of further education
- ❑ one of the highest rates of NEETs
- ❑ teenage pregnancy
- ❑ alcohol use
- ❑ life satisfaction
- ❑ child poverty
- ❑ smoking and cannabis
- ❑ child deprivation



Government policy and child well-being

Child well-being is policy susceptible

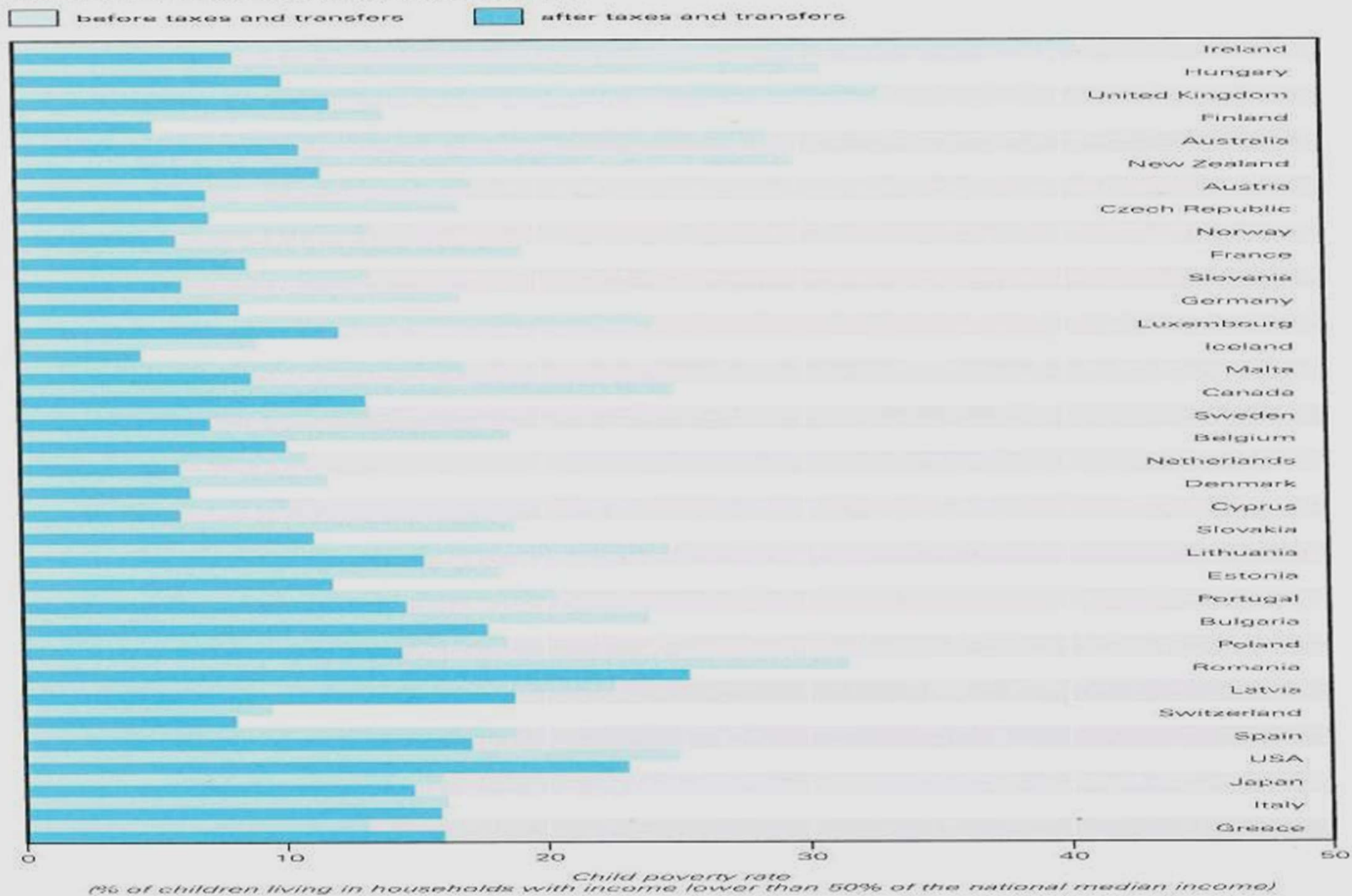
RC11 reflects long term investments in children

Rankings relatively stable



Poverty and income transfers

Fig. 8 Relative child poverty rates before taxes and transfers (market income) and after taxes and transfers (disposable income)



Government policy and child well-being

RC 11 Launch

Dr David Gordon

Professor of Social Justice

University of Bristol



Child Multiple Deprivation Rates: by 2009 the UK was in the top group of countries – the child poverty eradication policies were producing good results.

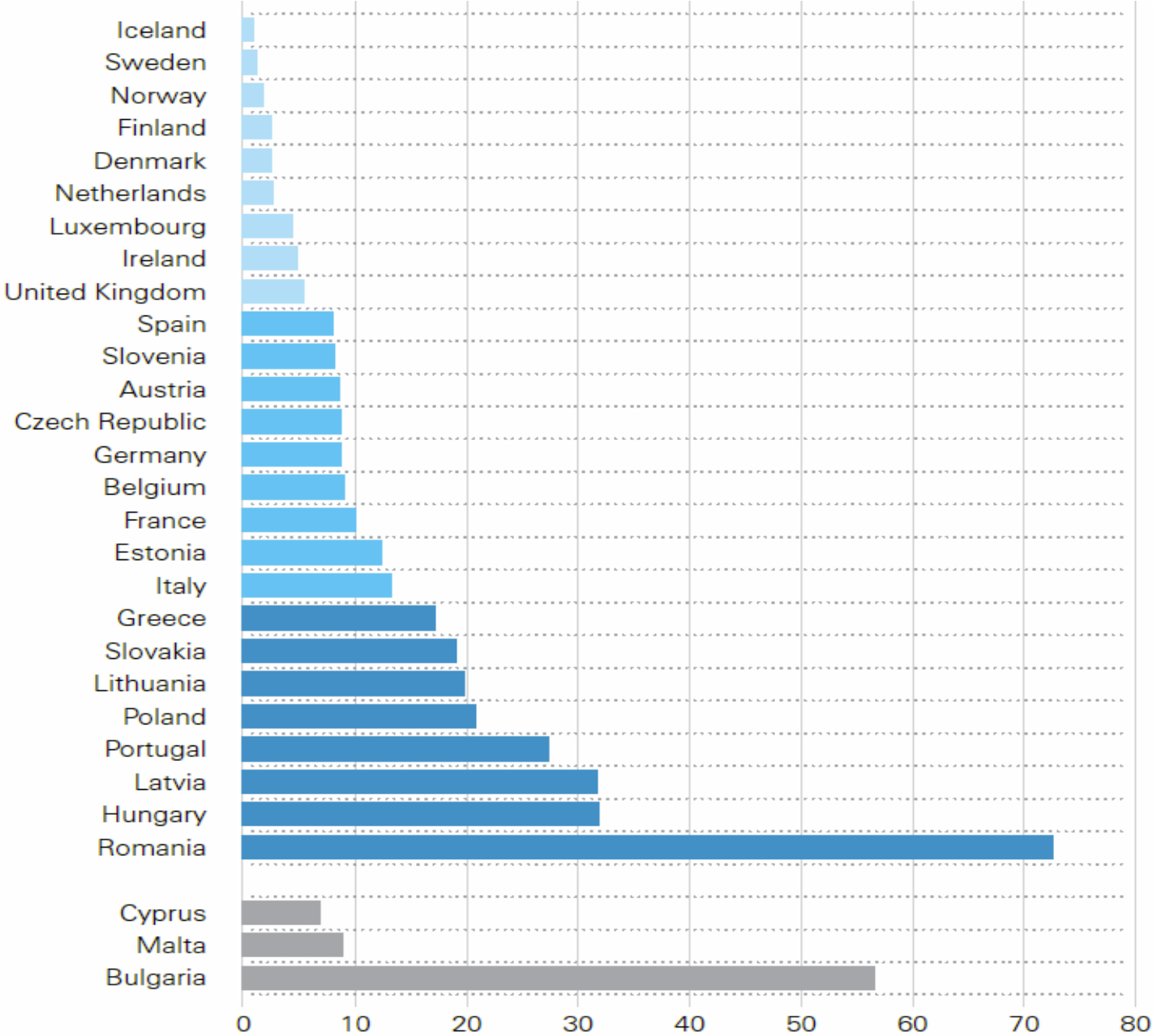
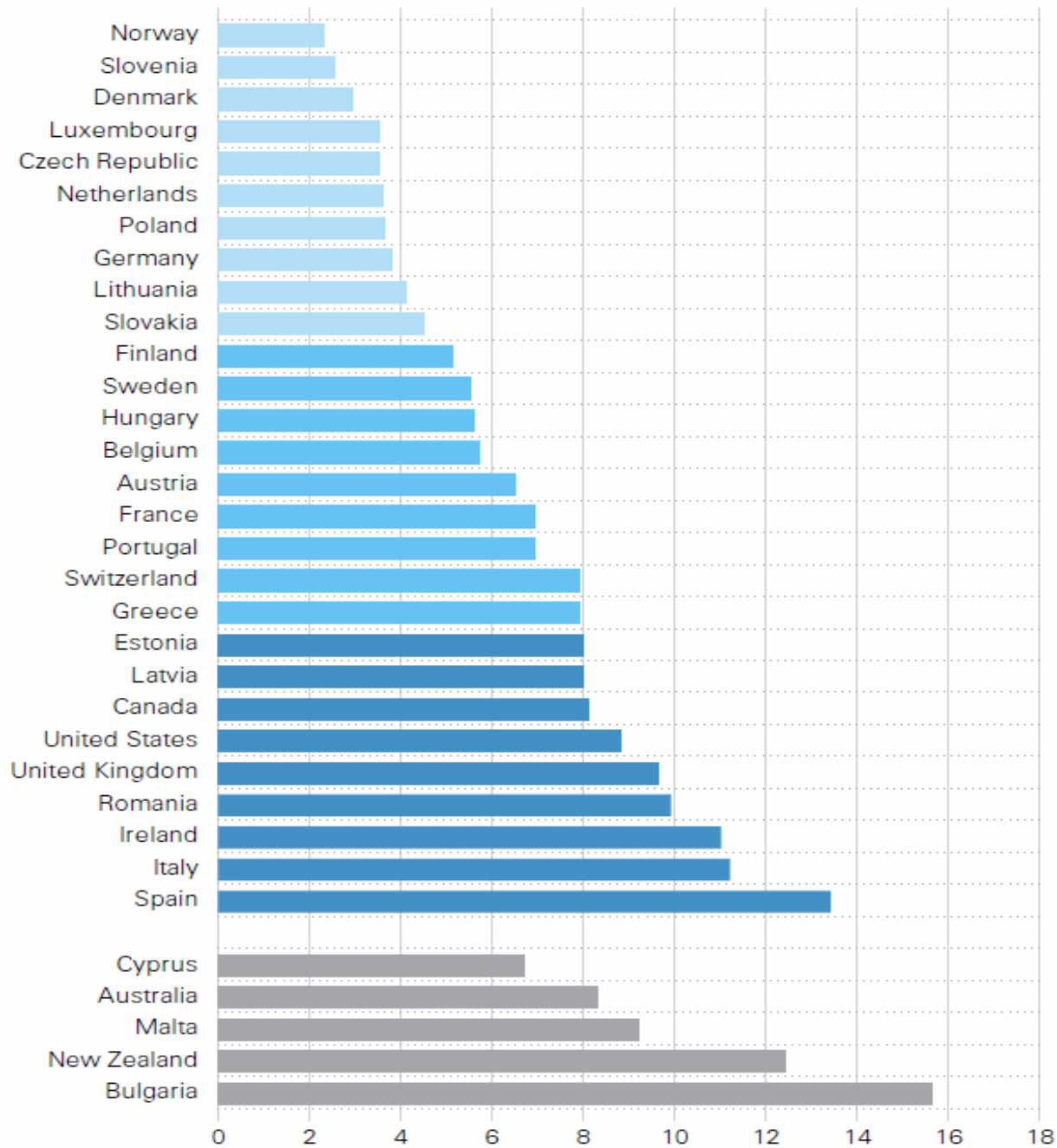


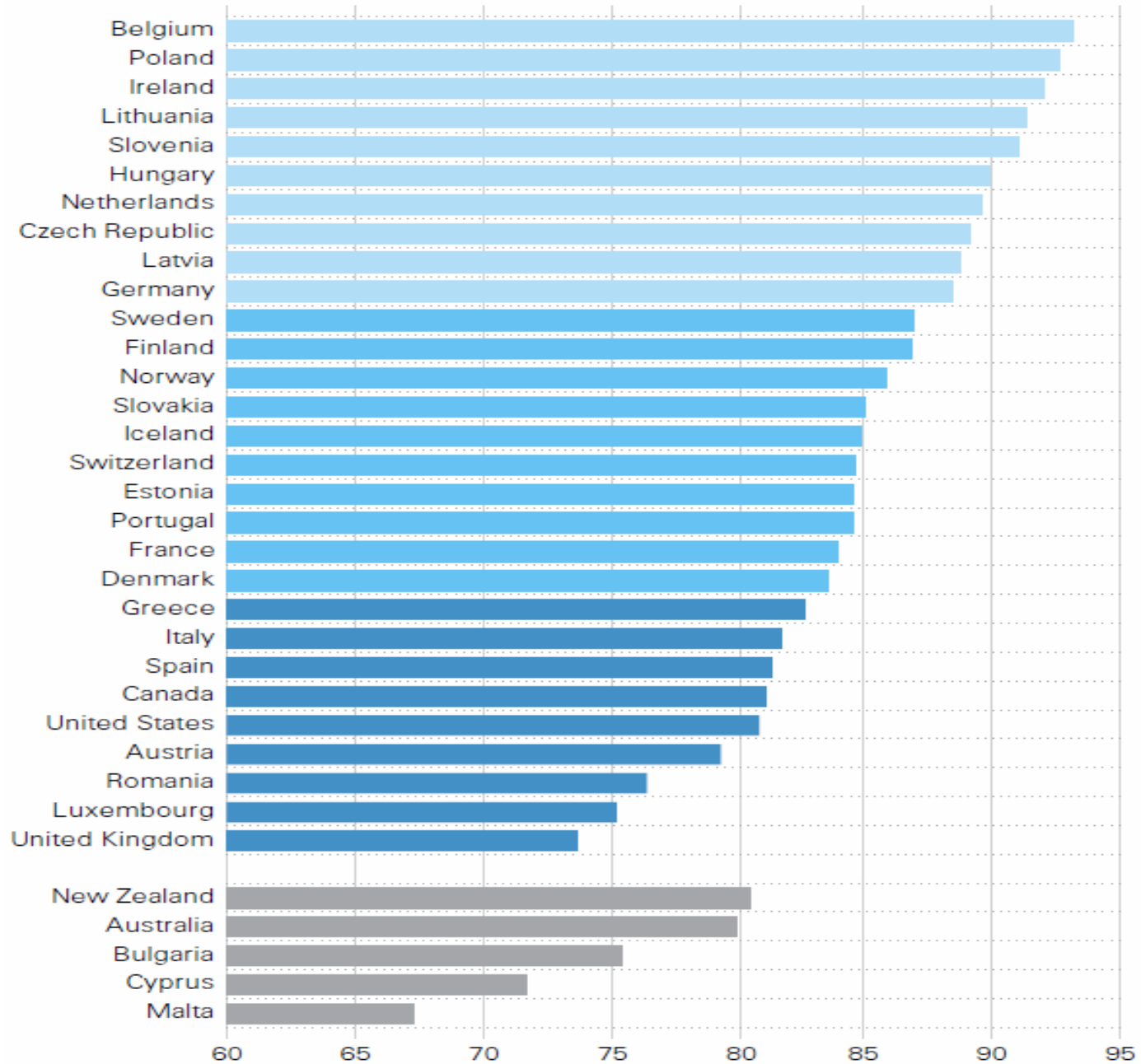
Figure 3.1c NEET rate

% of children aged 15 to 19 not in education, employment or training



The UK also fares badly in terms of the proportion of teenagers not in education, employment or training

Figure 3.1b Participation in further education
% of children aged 15 to 19 in education



The UK ranks bottom for participation in Further Education – a lack of significant policy effort produces bad results.



Impact of Austerity

Poverty projections

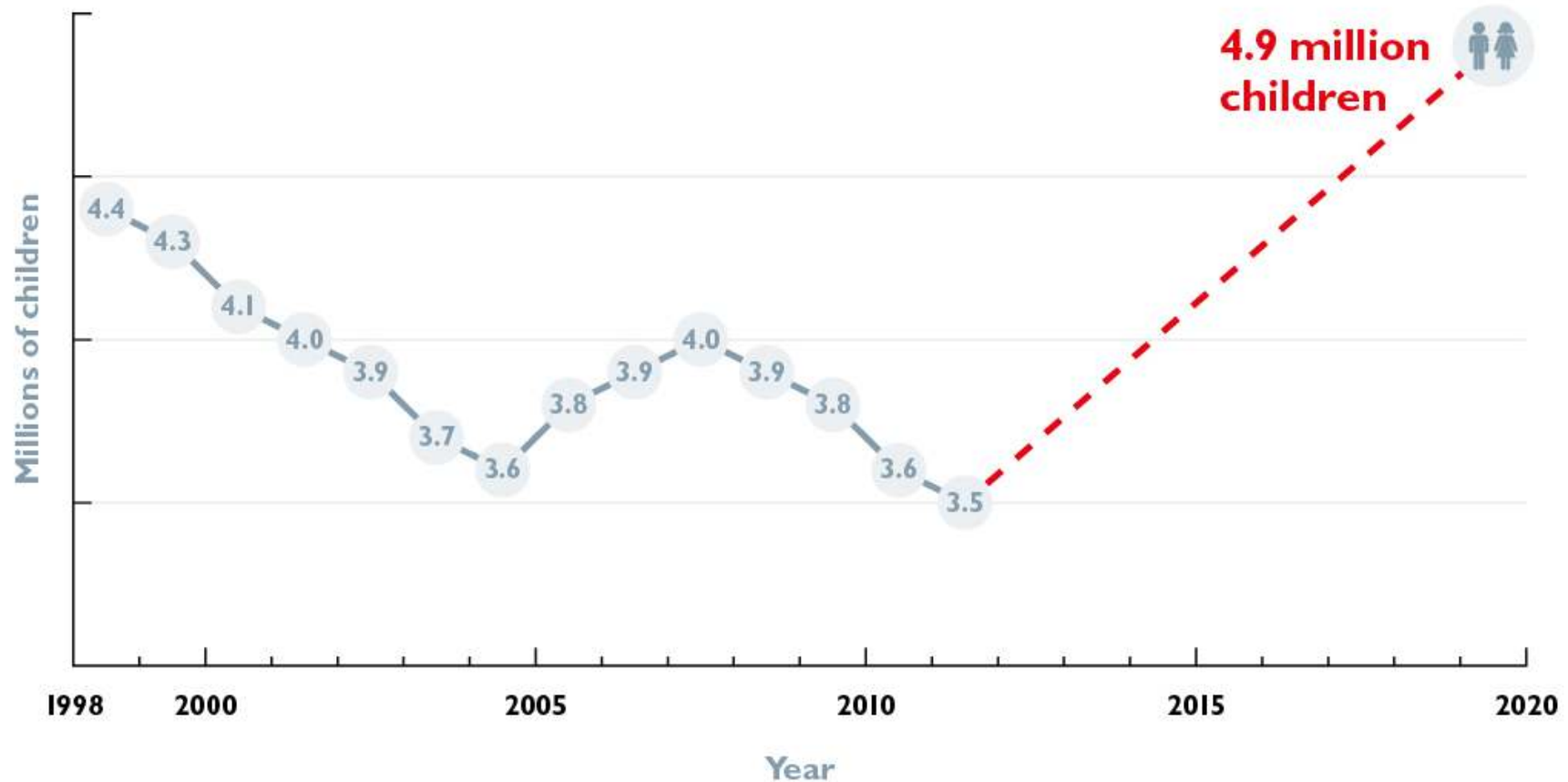
Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates of future trends in child and working age poverty (UK)*

	Child poverty rate %
	Relative
2010 (actual)	17.5
2016	21.6
2020	23.5
	Absolute
2010 (actual)	17.5
2016	24.0
2020	27.2

*IFS, 2013



UK children living in relative poverty



The graph shows changes in the numbers of children living in relative poverty (in millions) after housing costs since 1999. Figures up to 2011/12 from Households Below Average Incomes 1994/95 to 2011/12.

The red line shows projected figures by Save the Children and Landman Economics for numbers of children in relative poverty (in millions) after housing costs by 2020.

#fairstart

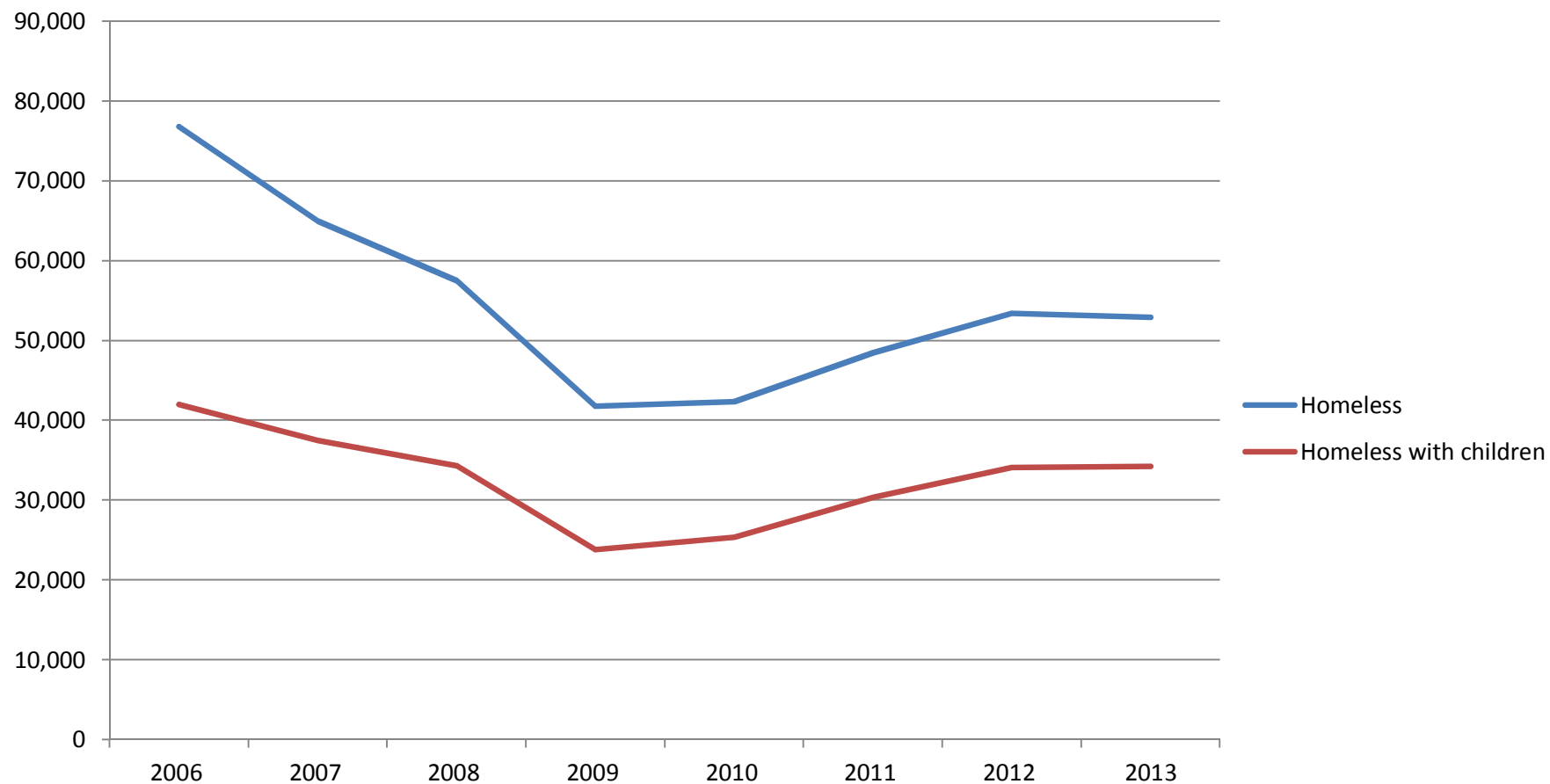
Income and Outcomes

- ❖ income affects variety of child outcomes
- ❖ cutting welfare/protecting education 'self-defeating' *

* JRF/LSE 2013



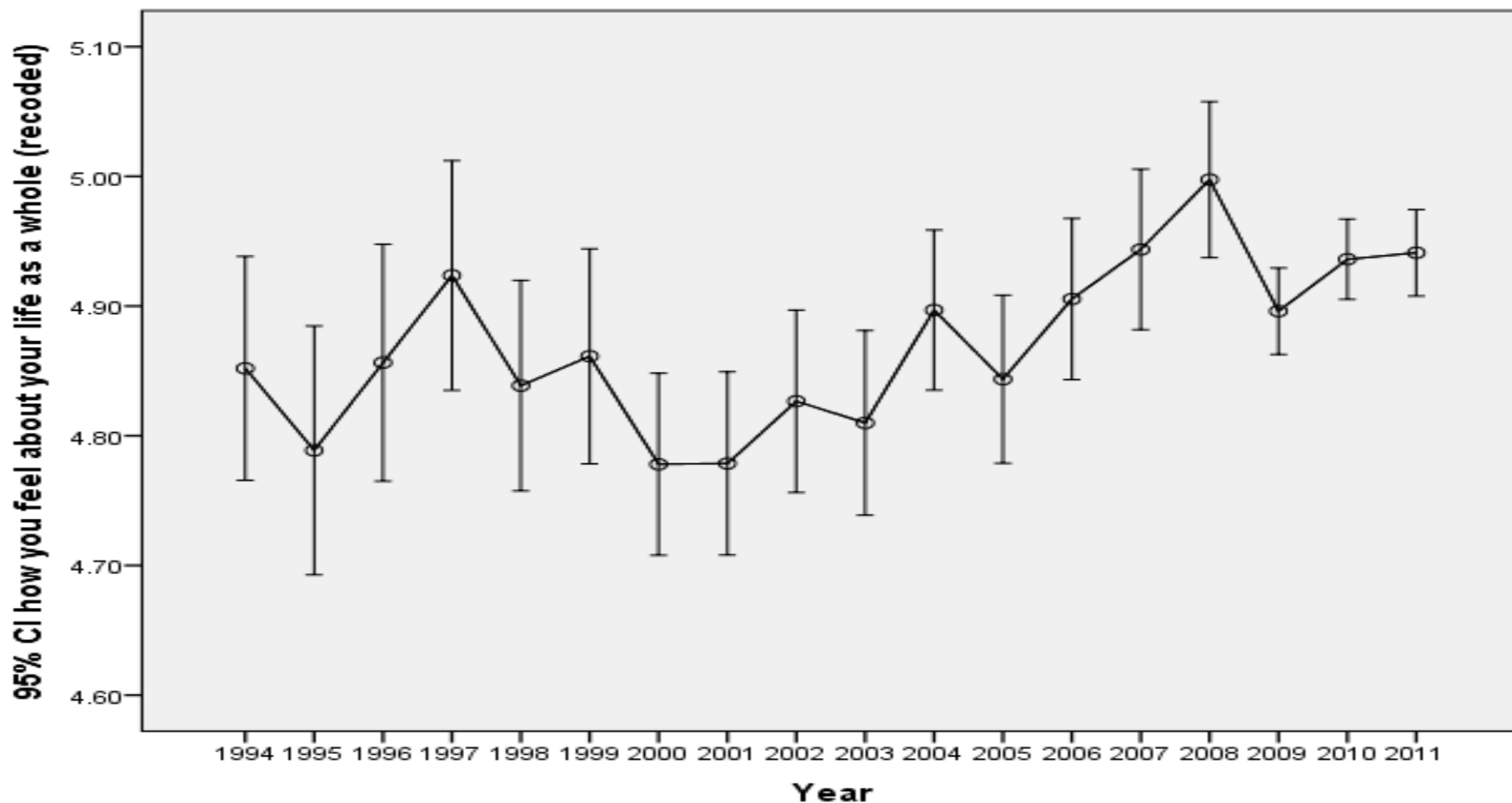
Homelessness



<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>



Happiness 11-15



Unweighted: BHPS 1994/95 – 2008/09; and USS 2009/10 – 2011/12 (5th Ed. Data released)



Impact Assessment

- ❖ Tax, benefit and tax credit system changes
- ❖ Families with children losing more income
- ❖ Most vulnerable losing proportionally the most

Children's Commissioner for England



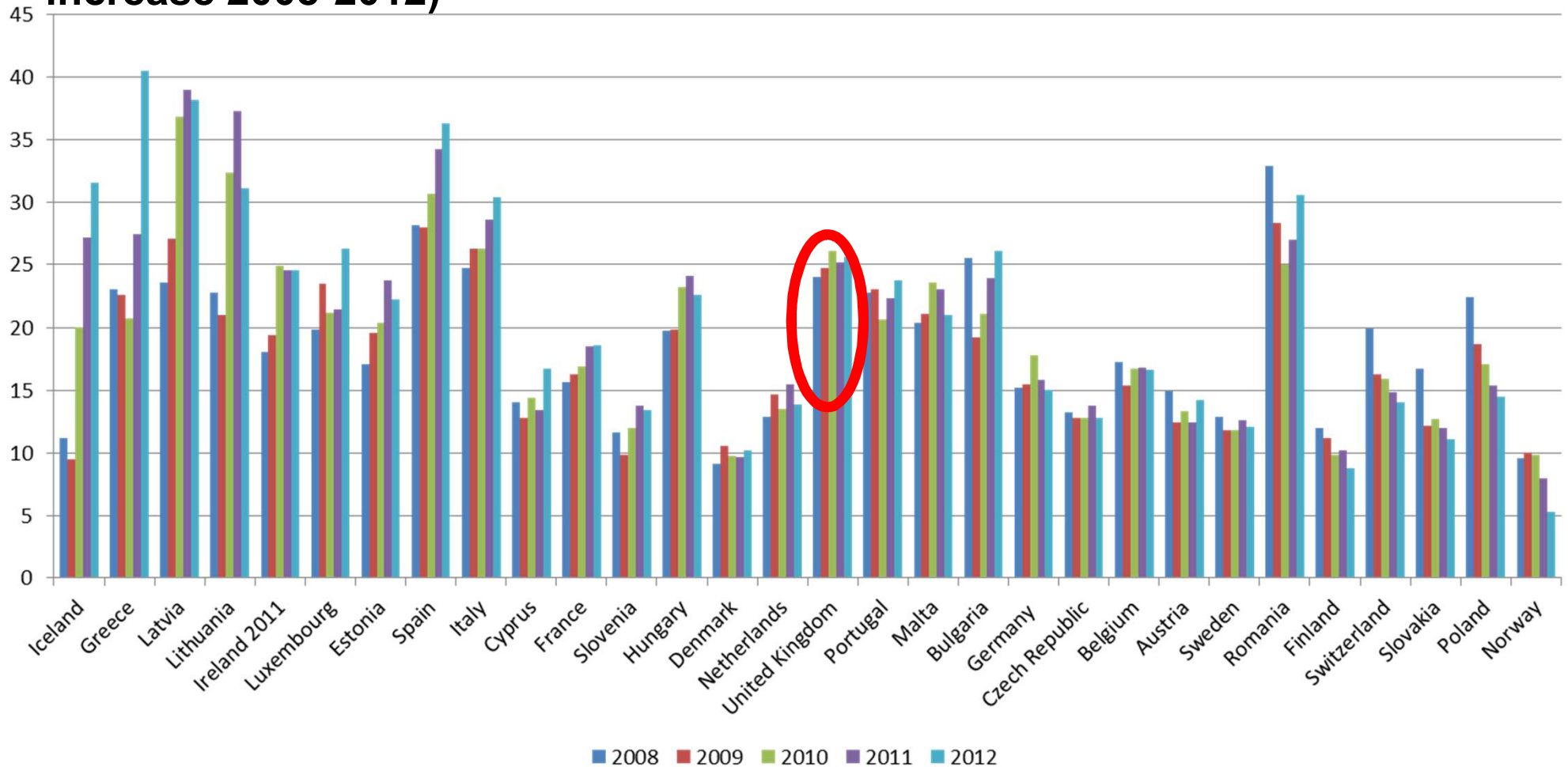
Child well-being and austerity – 2008-2012

- ❖ Report Card 12
- ❖ Autumn 2014
- ❖ data to 2011/12
- ❖ review of policy responses



Child well-being and austerity – 2008-2012

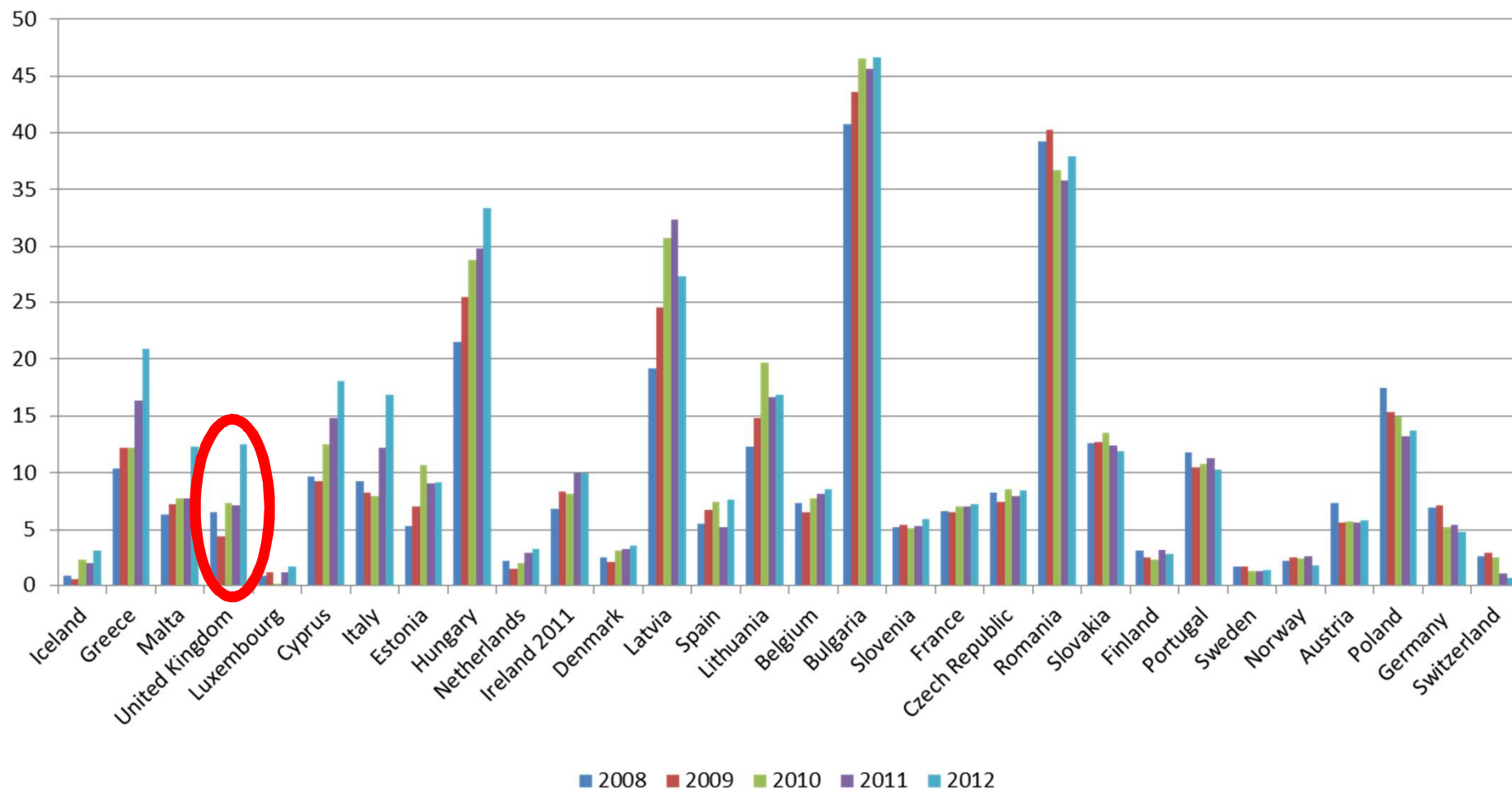
Child (<18) poverty rate. Threshold fixed at 2008 <60% median (ranked by % increase 2008-2012)



Source: Jonathan Bradshaw and Gill Main – Paper for FISS 2014



Severe Deprivation



Source: Jonathan Bradshaw and Gill Main – Paper for FISS 2014



Child well-being and austerity – 2008-2012

- ❖ economic crisis leading to clear deterioration in child well-being
- ❖ increases in child poverty, NEETs, other indicators
- ❖ worst in countries most affected by crisis e.g. Greece and Spain
- ❖ the bottom half increasingly left behind



“Childhood is a period of special susceptibility and delicate development of mind and body, but also a time when disadvantage can build on disadvantage. Protecting the years of childhood is essential for the well-being of children today and the well-being of the societies of tomorrow”





Thank You

Anita Tiessen, Deputy Executive Director

Links

An overview of child well-being in rich countries Report Card 7:

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc7_eng.pdf

Child Well-being in the UK, Spain and Sweden:

http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publications/IPSONS_UNICEF_ChildWellBeingreport.pdf

Child well being in rich countries Report Card 11

http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc11_eng.pdf