



**Are all Irish Children Cherished Equally? Measuring Structural Inequality and its Effect on Children's Outcomes**  
**Niamh Kelly**





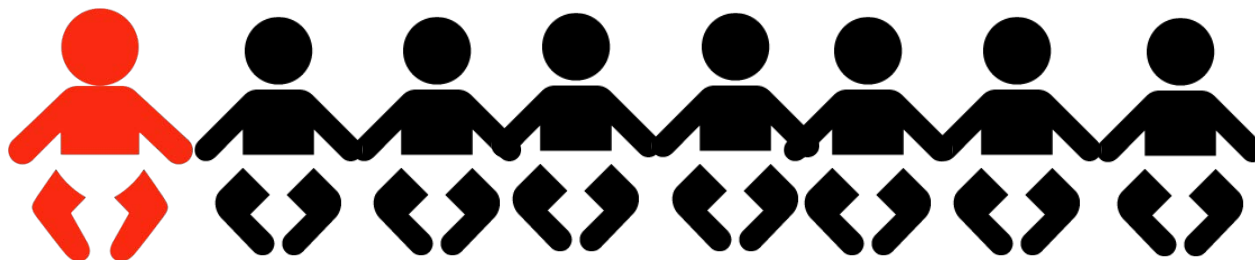
# Introduction

- Inspiration
- Context
- Research Overview
- Growing Up in Ireland
- Rise Up for Children



# Why Measure Child Inequality?

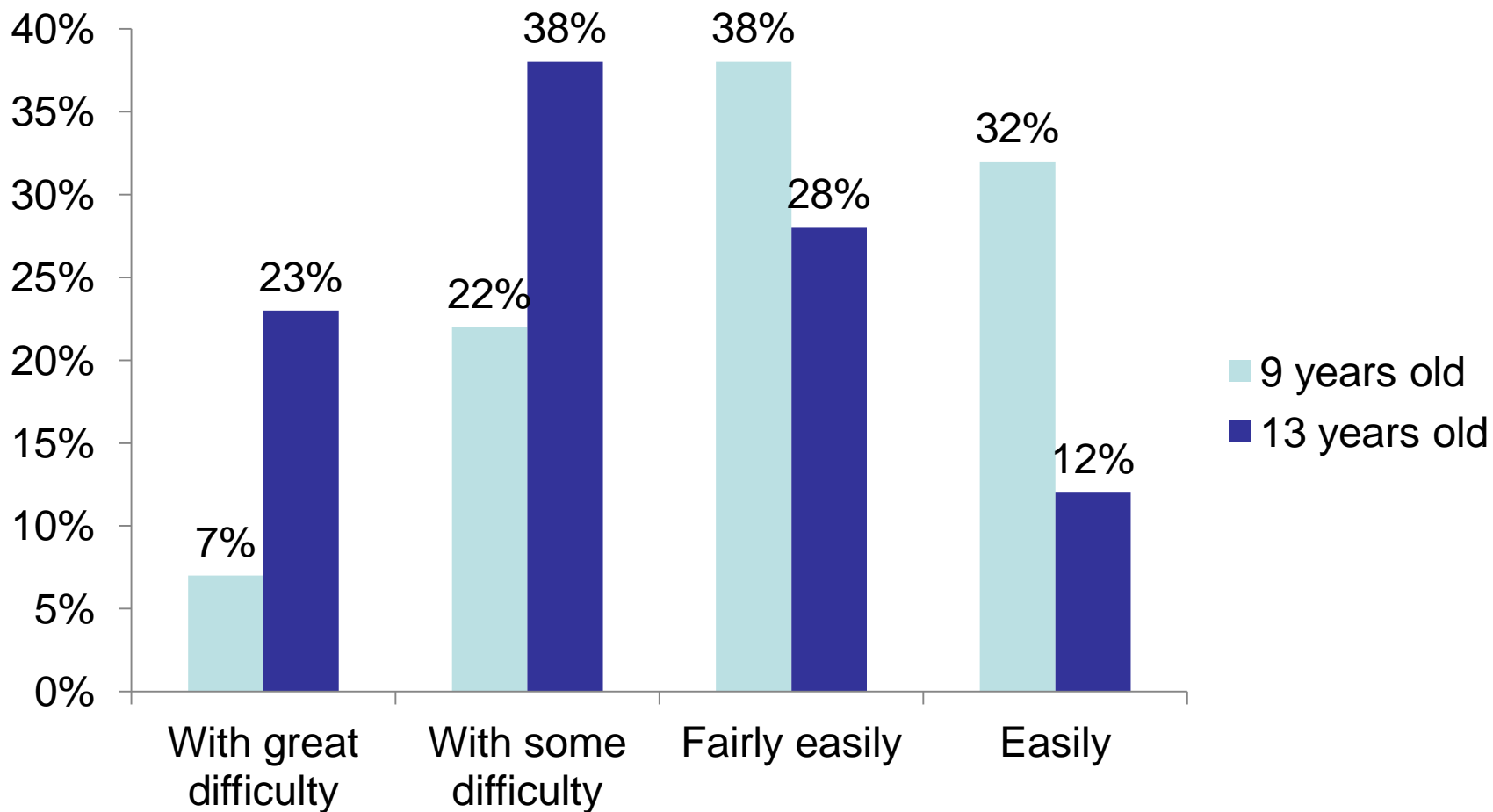
- 138,000 children living in consistent poverty



- Boom to Bust- Impact of austerity?



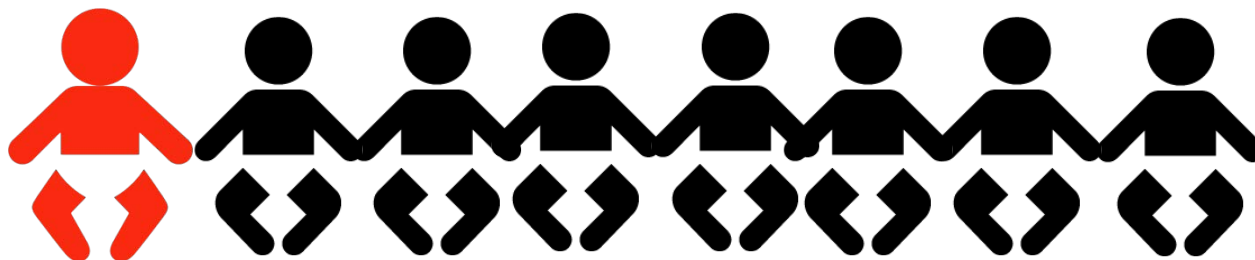
# Making Ends Meet 2008 v's 2012





# Why Measure Child Inequality?

- 138,000 children living in consistent poverty



- Boom to Bust- Impact of austerity?
- Timely



# 2016





# 2016



*“...cherishing all of the children  
of the nation equally....”*



# RISE **U** P

**Cherish All Children Equally**







# RISE UP

Cherish All Children Equally

- Public campaign
- Political campaign
- International conference
- Researching child inequality in Ireland



# Public Campaign

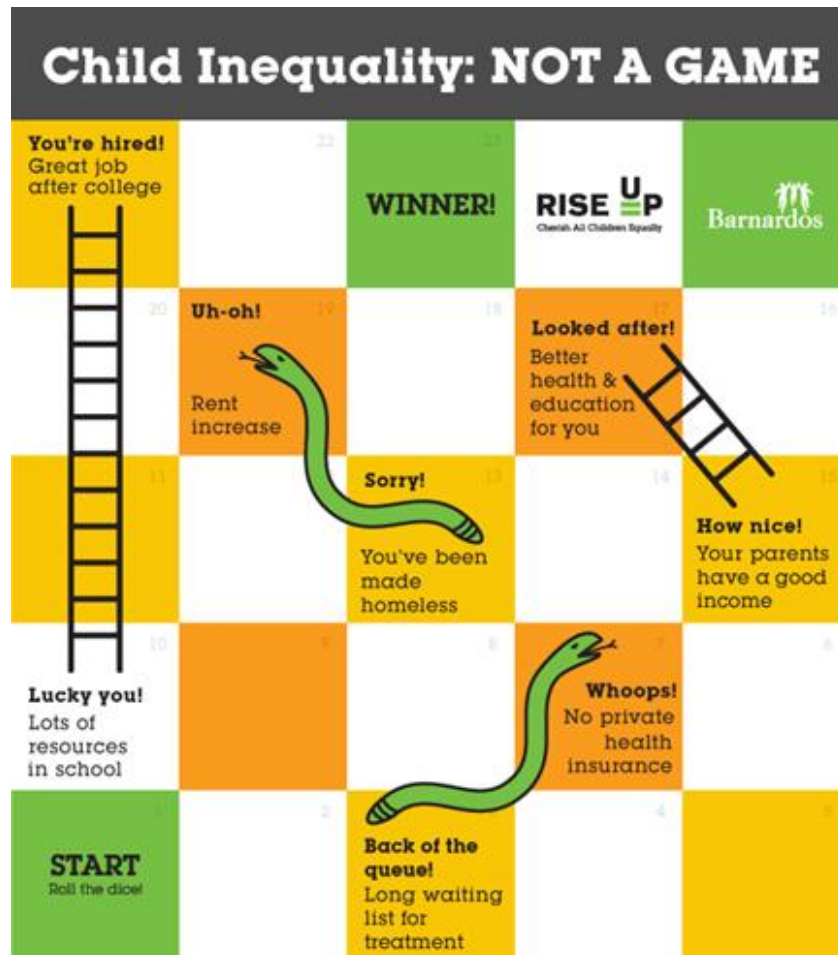


HOME CHILD INEQUALITY TAKE ACTION YOUR STORY





# Public Campaign





# Political Campaign



[HOME](#) [CHILD INEQUALITY](#) [TAKE ACTION](#) [YOUR STORY](#)

## ENDA KENNY

YOU ARE HERE: [HOME](#) [WHO CAN CHANGE THIS?](#) [ENDA KENNY](#)

Party Affiliation: Fine Gael

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**Name:** Enda Kenny

**Position:** Taoiseach

**Constituency:** Mayo

[TWEET ENDA NOW](#)

Barnardos contacted key politicians and asked them whether they will make **ending child inequality a priority in 2016**.

**Enda's Response:** Awaiting Response

**In Enda's Own Words:**

No response to date



### CAMPAIGN UPDATES

- › Child Inequality is Not a Game
- › Nearly 1,500 Children Made Homeless in Ireland
- › Deep inequality in children's special needs support

[TAKE ACTION](#)

### ABOUT RISE UP

[What Is Rise Up?](#)  
[Child Inequality: Here & Now](#)



# Research

1. Research with Young People
2. Economic Research
3. Rise Up for Children Report



# Research with Young People

- Commissioned market research
- Surveyed nationally representative sample of 11-17 year olds
- Held in depth conversations with young people.



# Aspirations and Expectations

“All of us should be treated equally no matter who we are”



# Aspirations and Expectations

- Children from well-off households are more likely to feel lucky compared with children from less well-off households
- Children from well-off households are around a fifth more likely to be happy with the way they look compared with children from less well-off households
- Children from more well off backgrounds are 25% more likely to have parents with strong expectations for their future compared with those from less well-off households
- More than three-quarters of young people in the Connacht / Ulster region believe that all children do not have the same opportunities compared to just three in five young people in Dublin
- More than half of the whole sample picked a family member as their hero, with two in five girls choosing their mother





# Realities

“I don’t think all children in Ireland have the same opportunities. Some people live in mansions and some people live on the side of the road”



# Realities

- Children in less well-off households are a quarter less likely to feel teachers understand them than those from well-off households
- Children in less well-off households are a fifth less happy to ask questions in school
- Boys are more confident asking questions in school, with more than two-thirds of them happy to ask questions in school compared to just over half of girls
- More than two-thirds of children from well-off households receive parental help with homework compared with about half children from less well-off households
- Young people living in Leinster Area (excluding Dublin) are a third less likely to like where they live compared with young people in Connacht / Ulster



# Economic Research

- Barnardos commissioned Indecon International Economic Consultants
- “....examine the scale and depth of inequality in Ireland and its impact on children”

## Data Sources

- CSO Household Budget Survey, EU SILC, **GUI**, CSO Census, CSO QNHS, HEA, HP Pobal, CSO Statbank, Existing Indecon Research



# Economic Inequality

- The average disposable income of the top 1% of households in Ireland is 100 times more than the bottom 1%
- One in three households in Ireland is now experiencing deprivation- a 158% increase since 2007
- Families in the lowest income bracket spend a fifth of their disposable income on VAT.



# Economic Inequality

- Households with children are more likely to experience deprivation than those without
- One in six children living in households experiencing food poverty
- Households with children are 56% more likely to experience food poverty in Ireland.



# Housing

- Families in the poorest households spend one in every five euro on rent
- Households with children are 89% more likely to be in mortgage arrears
- 93% decline in the number of social housing built between 2007 and 2014.

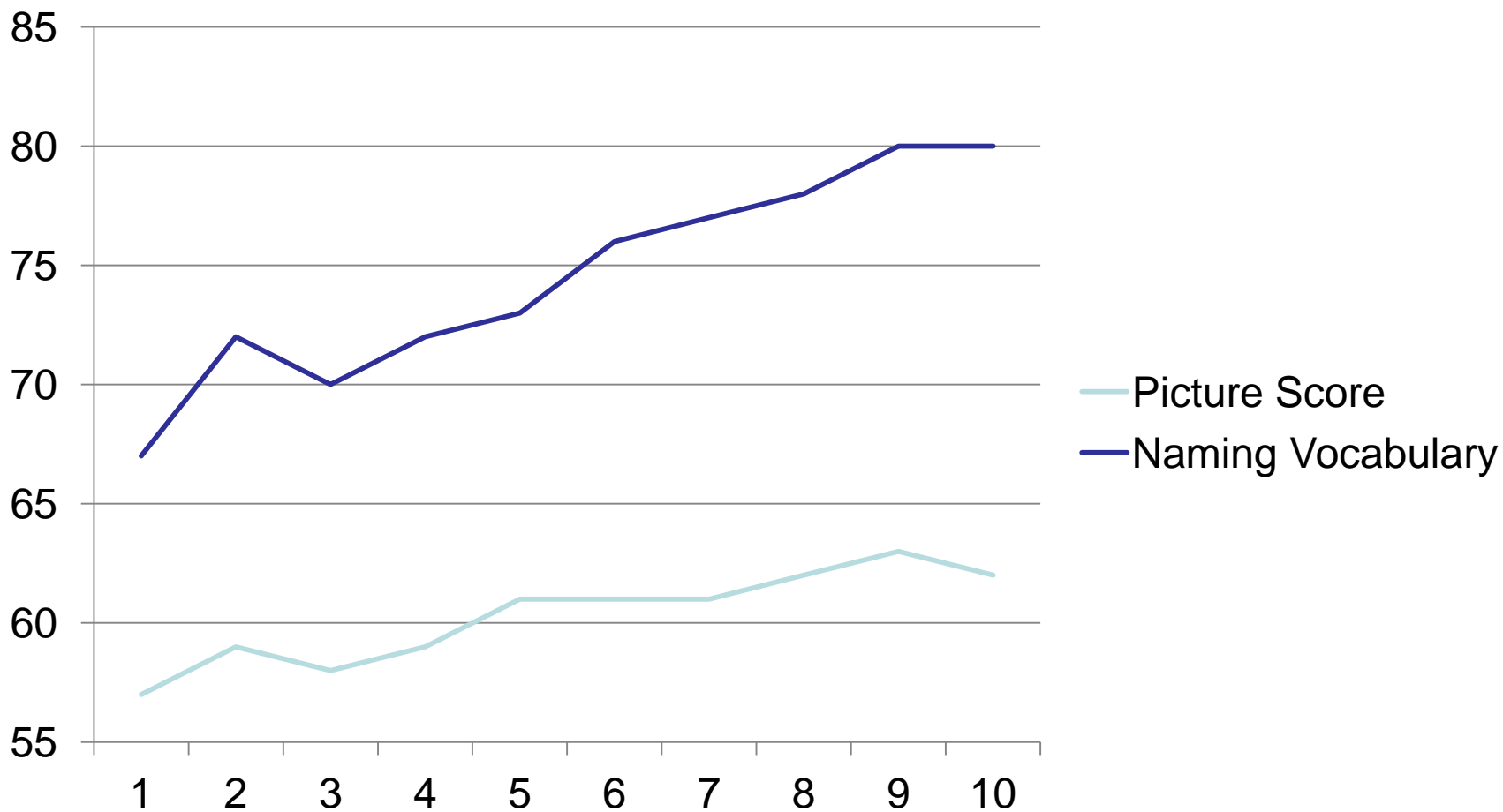


# Early Years

- No difference in test scores at 8 months
- By age three, children from lower income families demonstrate weaker vocabulary and picture skills than those from better of families



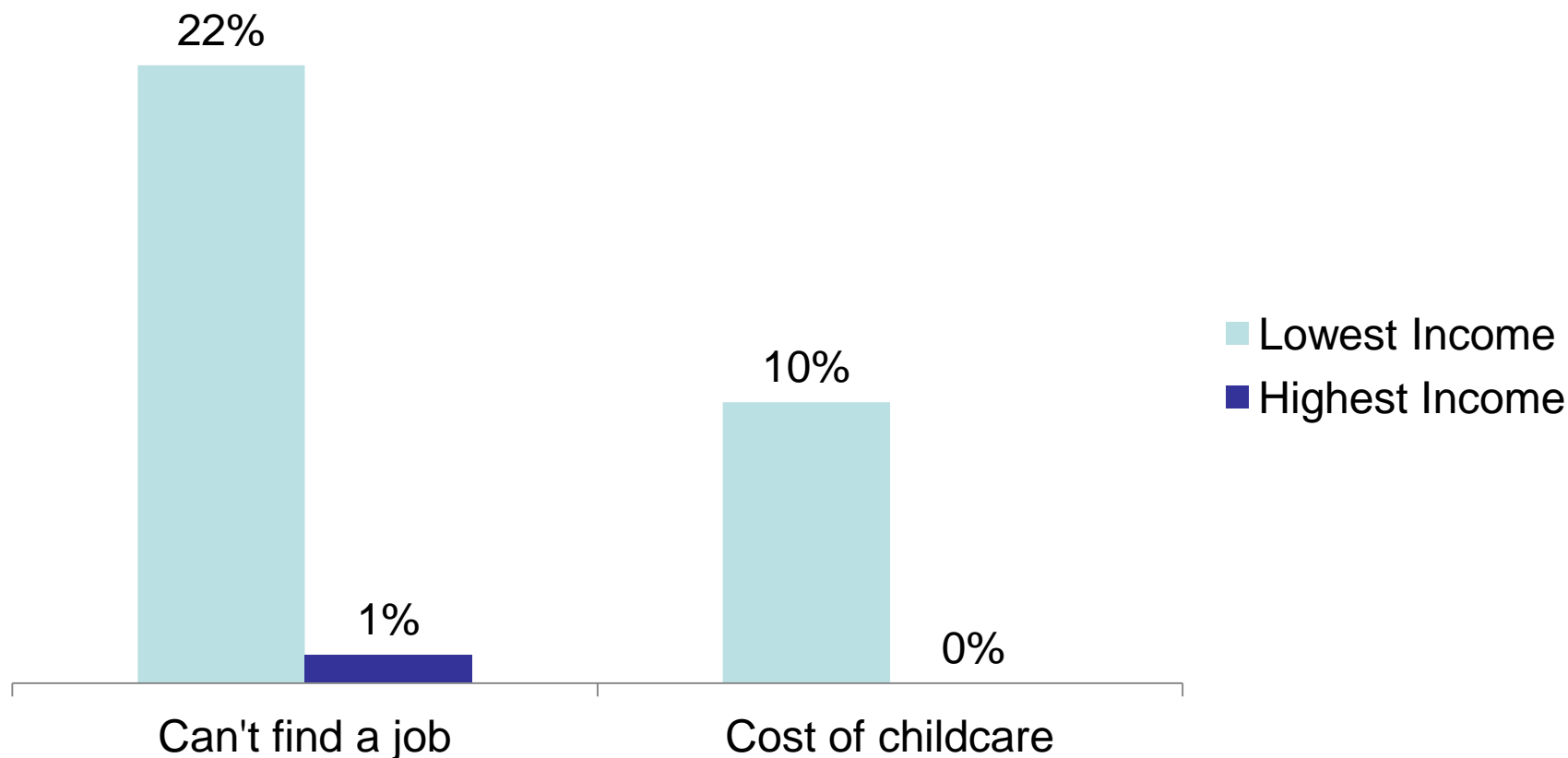
# Impact of parental income by age 3





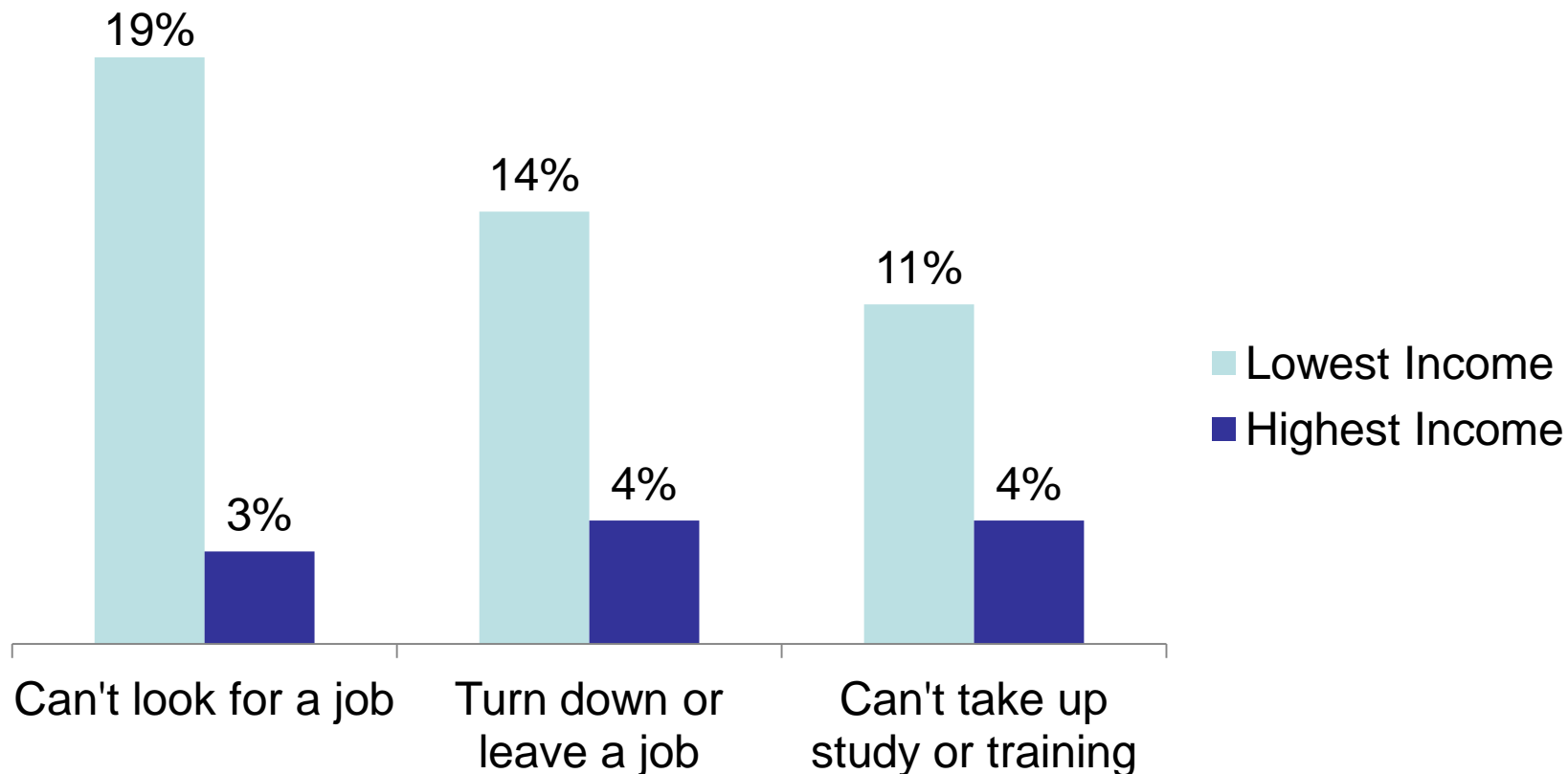


# Reason for not working outside the home, Infant Cohort – 3 yrs



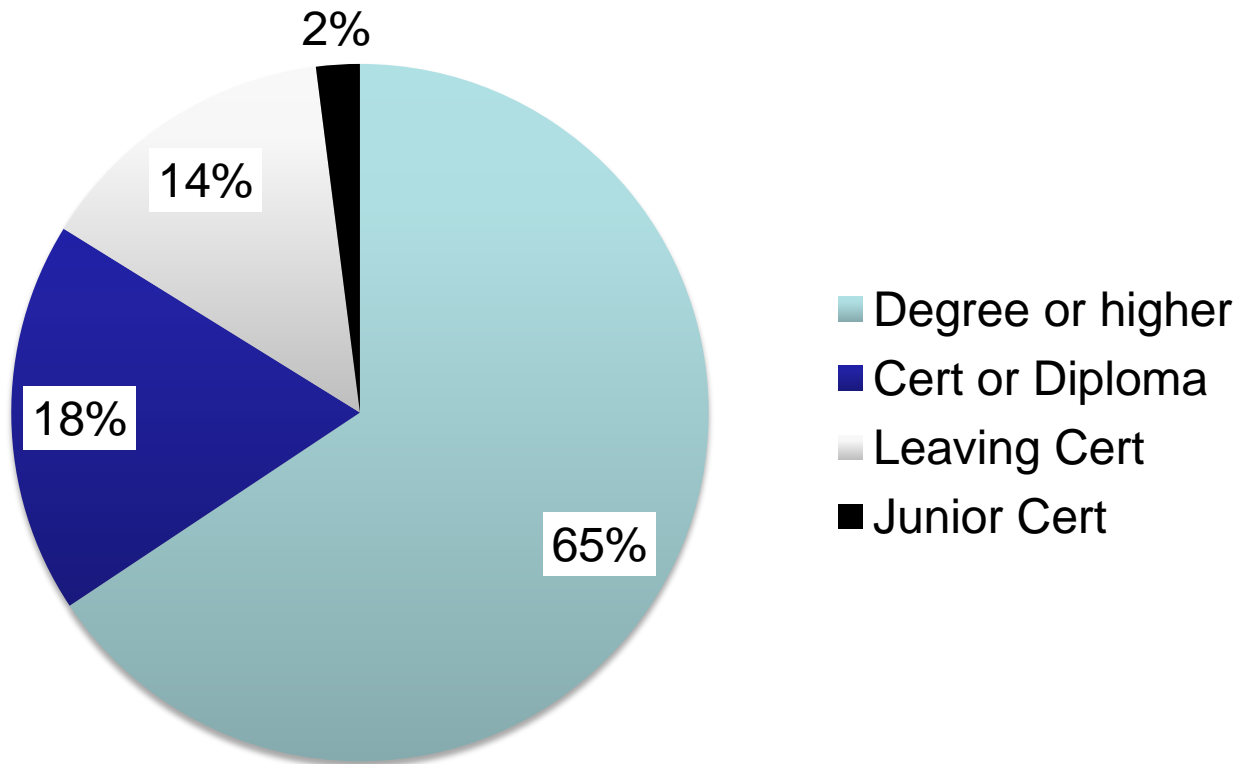


# Outcomes of Poor Childcare Provision

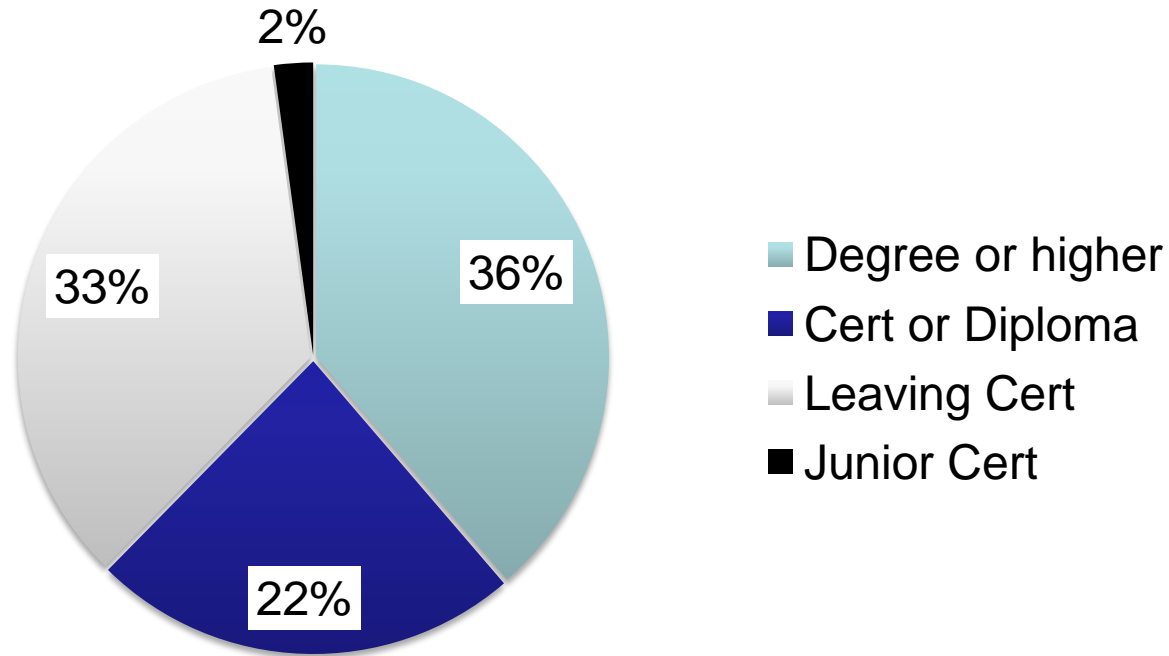


# Education

## Children in highest income decile households



## Children in lowest income decile households



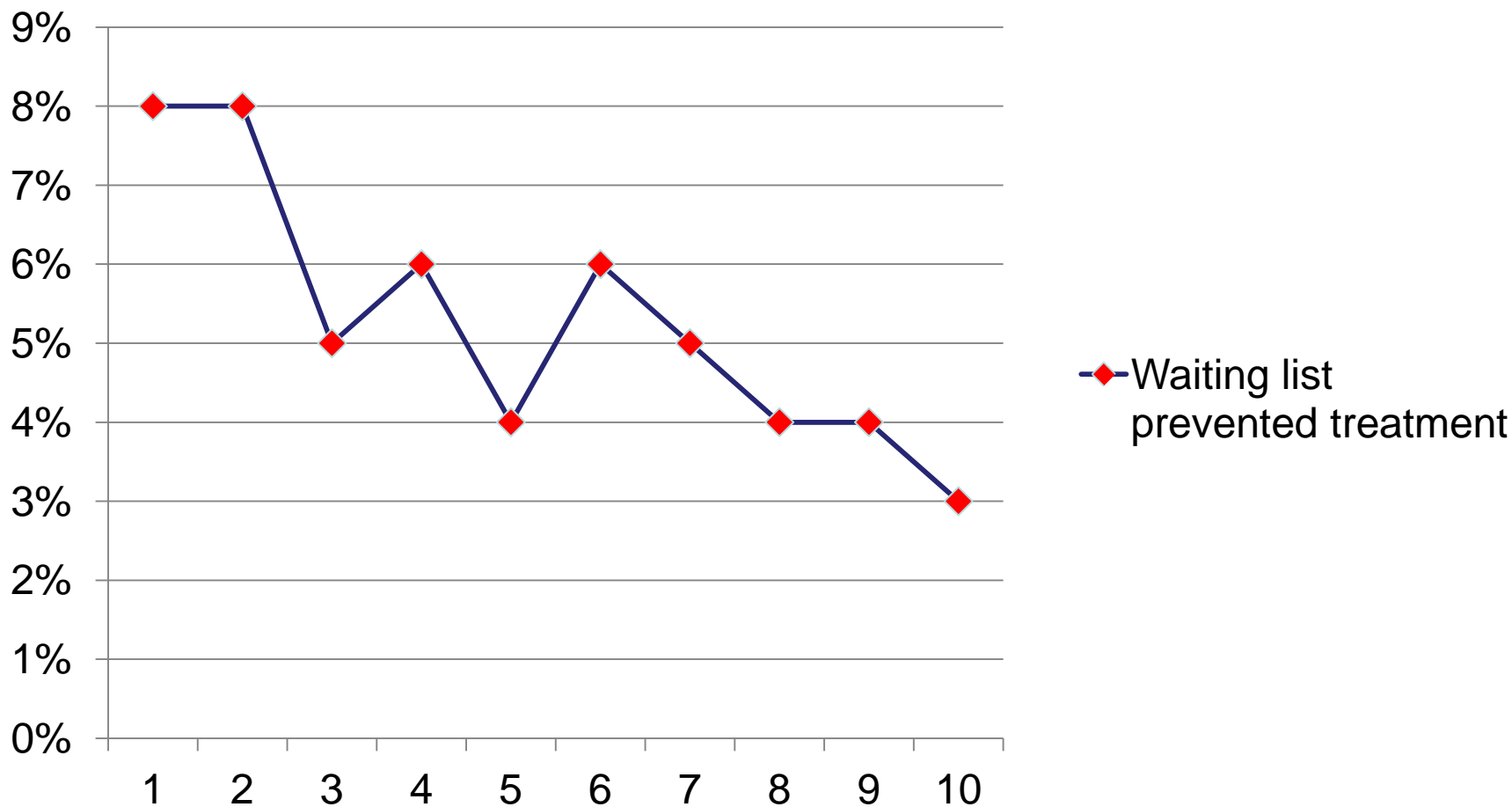


# Health

- Children in poorer households are more likely to experience learning difficulties such as dyslexia, ADHD or speech and language problems.
- Children from the poorest households are twice as likely to have low birth weight as children from better off households.
- Obesity is twice as likely to affect children from the lowest income households than those in the highest.



# Reason for not getting treatment





# Rise up for Children Report





# First Year

Give Tusla the authority and resources it requires to fulfil its remit and to ensure quality services for children and families in the first year of life

*“ It’s a revolving door. It doesn’t just start at 17 or 18 it starts much earlier on. Kids need intervention early on.”*





# Early Years Care

Increase spending on early years care and education to 0.8% of GDP

*“ I tried to get childcare for my daughter but I couldn't afford it- it would mean I was working for nothing.”*



# Education

Invest €103.2m in providing free primary education for all children

*“The price of sending kids to school is ridiculous. It’s financially impossible for families like mine, the burden is just too much to deal with- going to bed worrying about it, waking up worrying about it, deciding which bill I miss this week to buy a book.”*



# Health

Provide fully operational primary care team for every 1,500 children

*“The health system in this country is a joke. My daughter was told she had to wait 9 months for treatment but then it turned out to be more than a year”*



# Housing

Link rents to CPI to give tenants a fair rent and greater security and raise Rent Supplement rates to realistic levels

*“ There are nine of us plus a baby in a three bedroom house but the corporation told us we’d be years waiting for less crowded accommodation.”*



# Thank You



**Cherish All Children Equally**

[www.barnardos.ie/riseup](http://www.barnardos.ie/riseup)

**#RiseUp4Children**