

Poverty and Gender: Initial Findings PSE 2012

Esther Dermott
Christina Pantazis
University of Bristol

Esther.Dermott@bristol.ac.uk



Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland and the UK
20th August 2014



Overview

- Gender and Poverty
- Economic and Political Context
- Data Analysis
 - PSE poverty (by age and household type)
 - Deprivation scores (by age and household type)
 - Economising behaviour
 - Change over time
 - Multivariate analysis
- Conclusions



Gender and Poverty

- Feminisation of poverty

Focus on lone parents and older single women (e.g. Goldberg et al.2010)

Lack of attention to men and couple+ households

- Previous research

Poverty rates – women have slightly higher level than men

Experience of poverty – women more likely to go without



Economic and Political Context

- Recession - ‘Mancession’?

Loss of male jobs / rise in male unemployment

Construction and manufacturing initially hardest hit

- Austerity - ‘Womancecession’?

Loss of female public sector jobs / rise in female unemployment

Public sector pay freeze

Cuts in public services

- Welfare Reform

Wide-ranging cuts - including freezing of child benefits, reduced eligibility for child tax credit and working tax credit, reduction in childcare element of Working Tax Credit. But, increased eligibility childcare support for parents and extended nursery provision



Headline Findings

- Women are marginally poorer and more deprived than men
- Women economise more than men
- Over the last decade the gendered pattern of poverty has declined
- Looking at the broad categories of men and women disguises the extent of within group differences
- Since 1999 the situation of older women has improved; the position of lone parents has remained the same; the position of male single adults has declined.



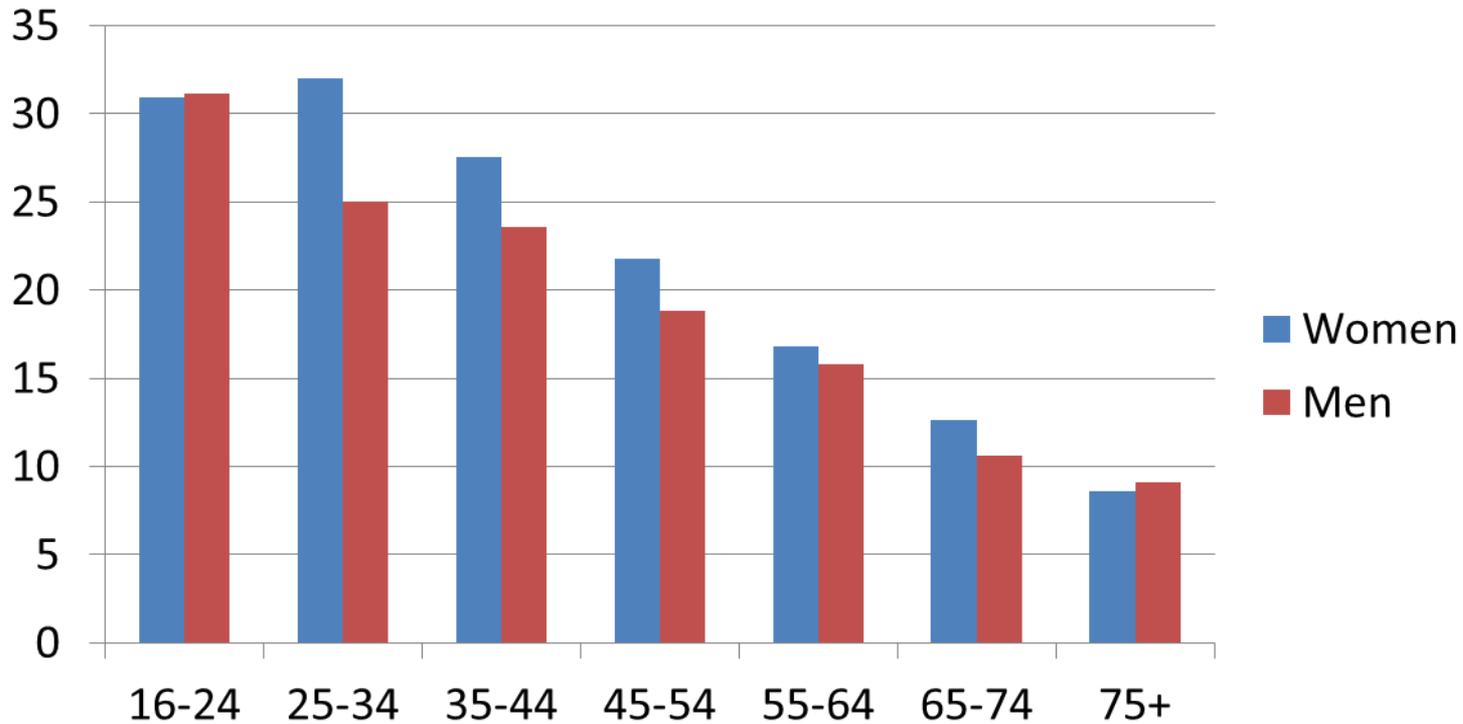
Poverty

- Women are marginally poorer than men (but not significant differences)
- PSE Poverty
Men 20% Women 22%
- Income Poverty
Men 25% Women 26%
- Subjective Poverty
Men 33% Women 36%
(always & sometimes feel poor)



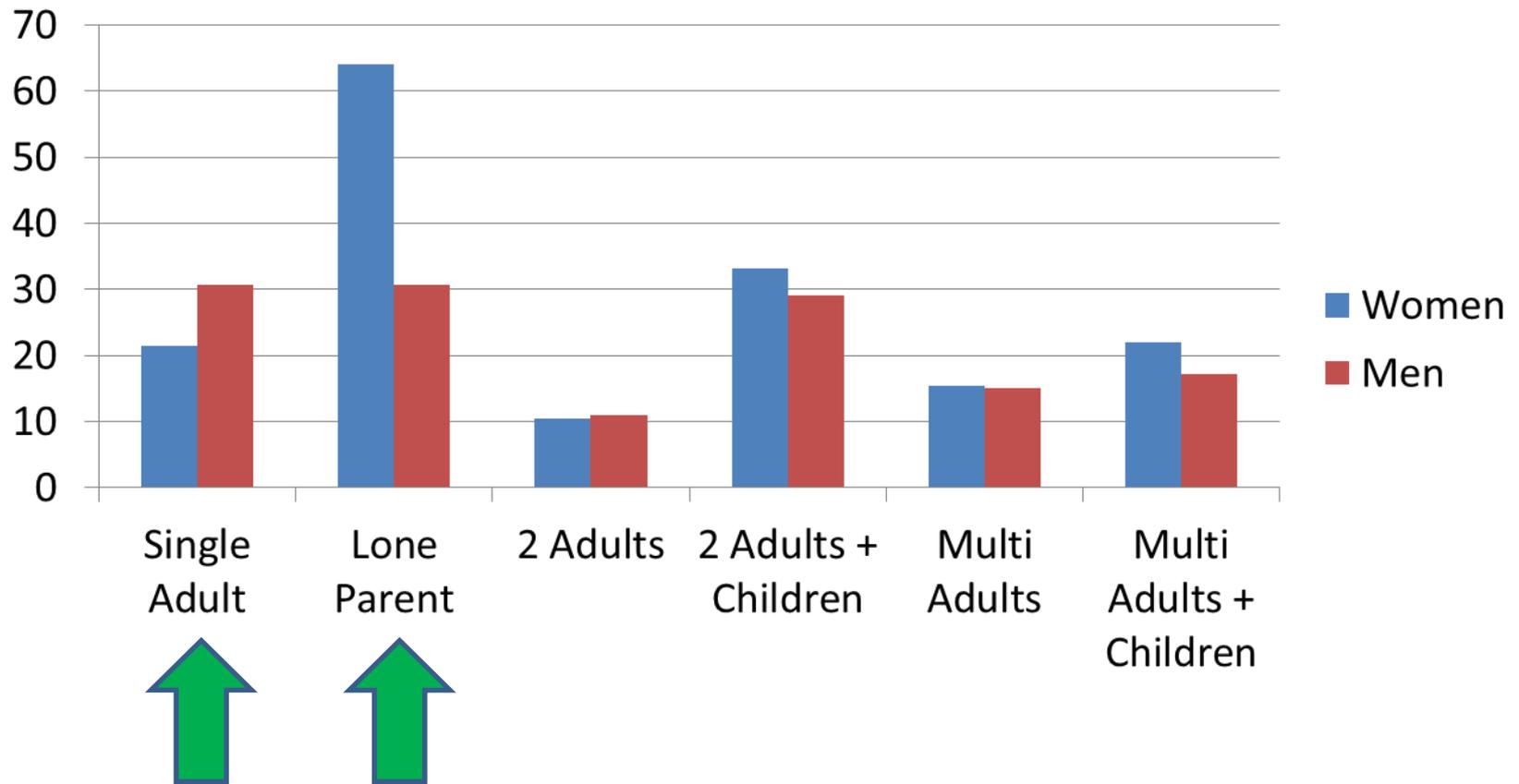
PSE Poverty and Gender: significance of age

Percentage of women and men experiencing poverty (PSE measure) by age group



PSE Poverty and Gender: significance of household composition

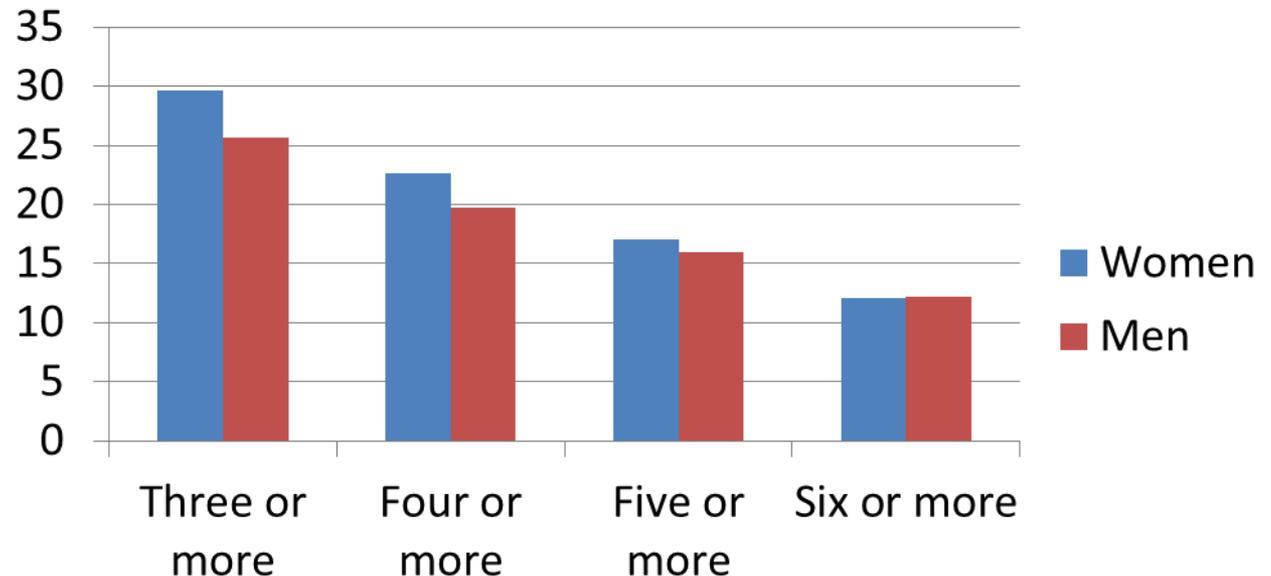
Percentage of women and men experiencing poverty
(PSE measure) by household composition



Deprivation Thresholds

- Looking at consensually agreed necessities, women are slightly more likely to experience deprivation (2.1 compared to 1.9 items)
- The gender gap narrows as deprivation increases

Percentage of women and men lacking necessities due to affordability

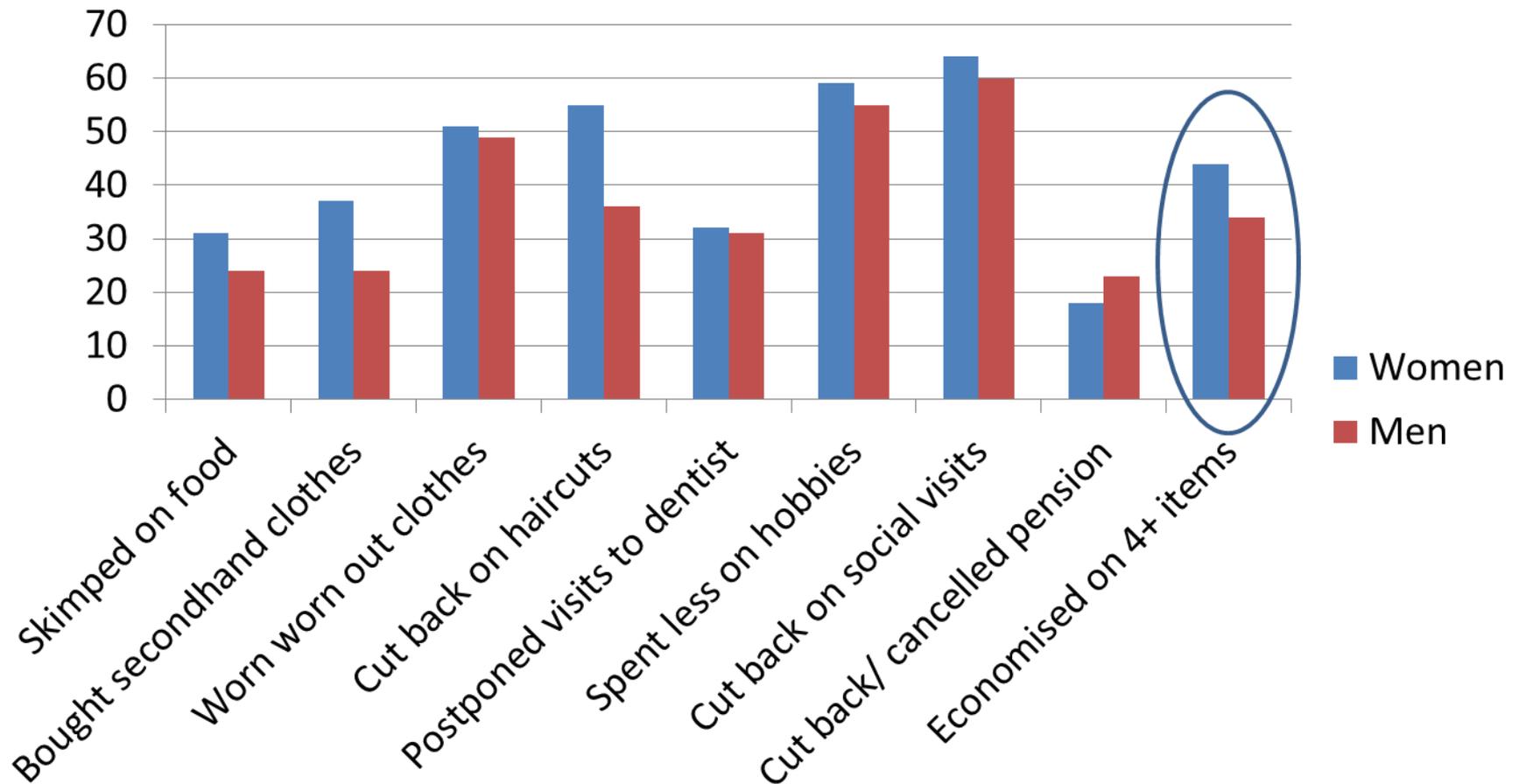


Deprivation Thresholds

- Significance of age and household composition
- For *men* and *women* deprivation is similar for all age groups from 16 up to 54, and then decreases
- The oldest age groups have the lowest levels of deprivation (among men and women)
- *Women* in lone parent households have the highest levels of deprivation averaging 5 (compared to 2.1 for all women)
- *Men* in single adult households have the second highest level of deprivation averaging 2.9 (compared to 1.9 for all men)

Economising Behaviour

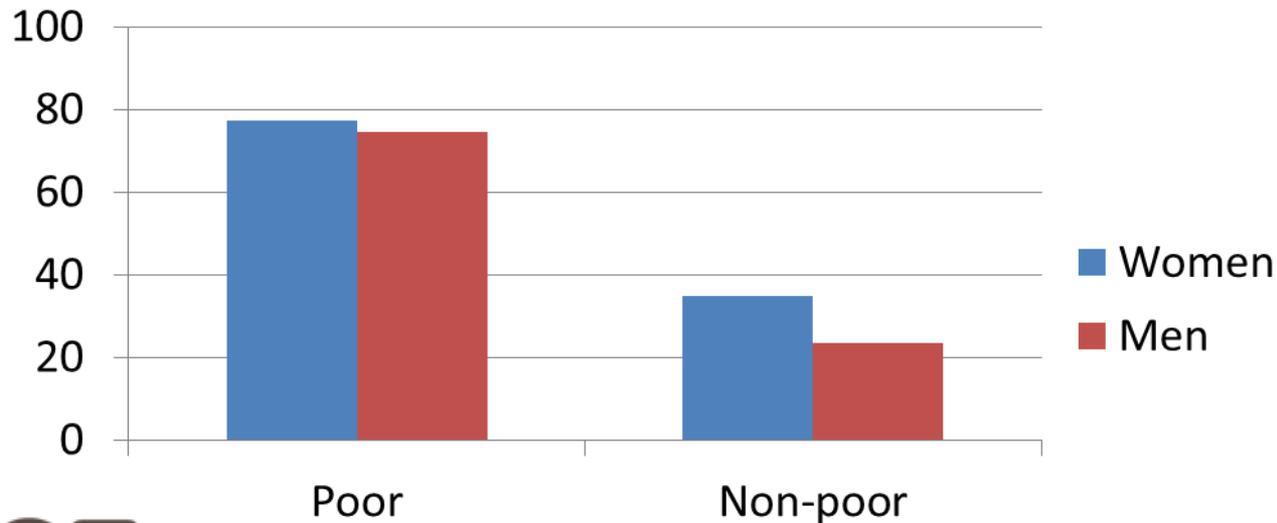
Percentage of women and men who had economised on items to keep living costs down in the previous year



Economising

- The gender gap in economising behaviour emerges largely among the *non-poor*

Percentage of women and men who had economised on items to keep living costs down in the previous year



Changes Over Time – Older Women

- PSE poverty rates for older women have improved

| | |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 2012 | 13% of 65-74 and 9% of 75+ were poor |
| 1999 | 21% in 65-74 and 28% of 75+ were poor |
- Deprivation scores for older women have improved

| | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 2012 | 1.1 for 65-74 and 0.7 of 75+ |
| 1999 | 1.5 for 65-74 and 1.6 for 75+ |



Changes Over Time – Solo-Living Men

- Solo living adult men have emerged as a poor group
- PSE poverty
 - 2012 31%
 - 1999 27%
- Deprivation scores
 - 2012 2.9
 - 1999 1.7
- Subjective poverty
 - 2012 16%
 - 1999 7%



Conclusions

- Women are marginally poorer and more deprived than men, and economise more
- Looking at the broad categories of men and women disguises the extent of within group differences
- Over the last decade the gendered pattern of poverty has declined
- The situation of older women has improved; the position of male single adults has declined.

Poverty and Gender: Initial Findings PSE 2012

References

Bennett, F. and Daly, M. (2014) *Poverty Through a Gender Lens: Evidence and Policy Review on Gender and Poverty*. Joseph Rowntree Foundation: York.

Dermott, E. and Pantazis, C. (forthcoming 2014) 'Gender and Poverty in Britain: changes and continuities between 1999 and 2012' in *Poverty and Social Justice*.

Fawcett Society (2012) *The Impact of Austerity on Women*. Fawcett Society Policy Briefing. Fawcett Society: London.

McKay, A. Campbell, J., Thomson, E. and Ross, S. (2013) 'Economic Recession and Recovery in the UK: What's gender Got To Do with It', *Feminist Economics* 19(3): 108-123



Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland and the UK
20th August 2014

