Poverty, Parenting and Education: Findings from PSE 2012

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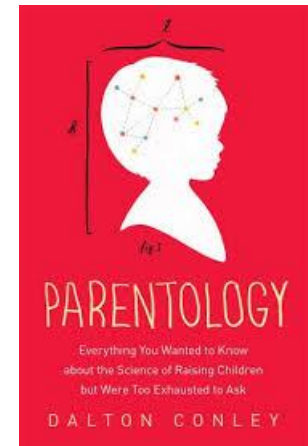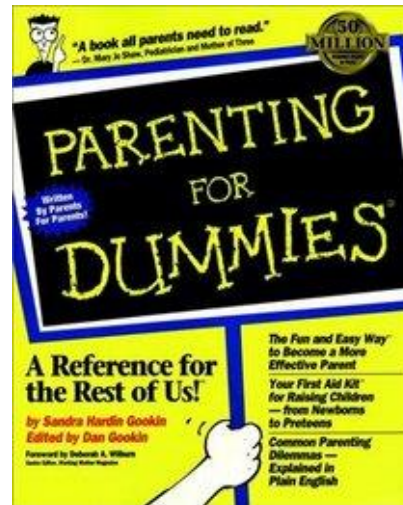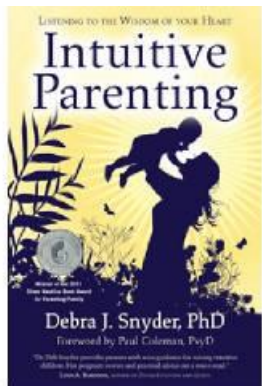20th August 2014

Overview

- Context
- Parenting and Poverty
- Measures of parenting
- Data - Relationship with poverty, education and time
- Conclusions

Parenting Culture

- Increased profile of parenting:

- 'tiger mothers' feckless fathers', 'helicopter parents'

Political Context

- Cycle of deprivation (1970s)
- Focus on family structure (1980s)
- Shift to parenting practices (1990s)
- Individualised discourse (current)

Parenting *versus* Poverty

- "the right kind of parenting is a bigger influence on their [children's] future than wealth, class, education or any other common social factor" (Allen 2011: pxiv)

- "It is family background, parental education, good parenting and the opportunities for learning and development...that together matter more to children than money" (Field 2010:p5)

- *Troubled Families* programme (launched 2011). Directed at 120,000 families with 'troubled and chaotic lives'

Measuring Parenting

- "We all know what good parenting looks like" (David Cameron 2010)

- Parenting includes:

    Parenting style

    Quality of parent-child relationship

    Direct parent-child activities

    General caring activities

Parenting Practices

Education: Reading

Homework

Attend school parents' evenings

Leisure: Television

Sports

Games

Food: Family meals
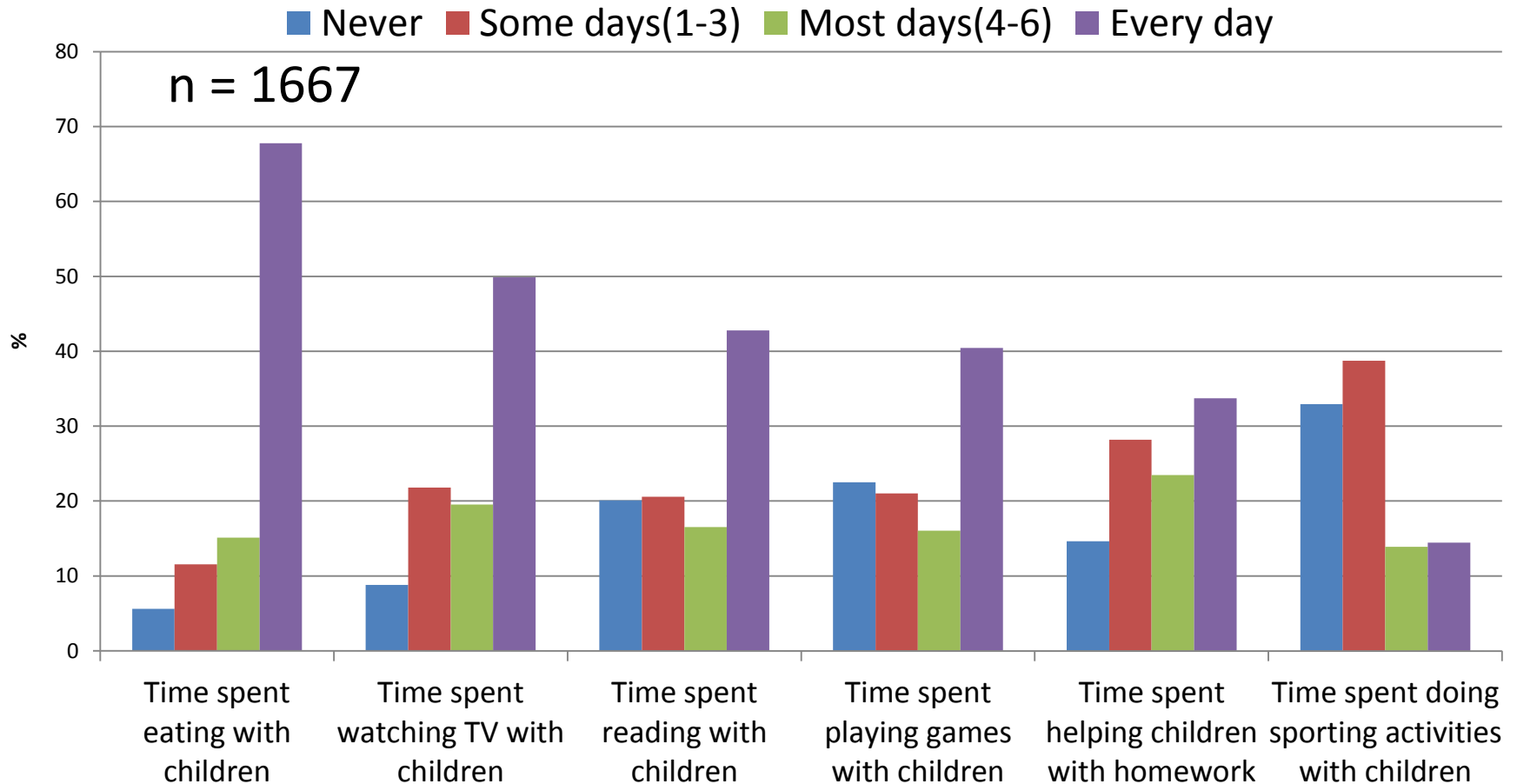
| Every Day | Most Days | Some Days | Never |

Influences on Parenting Practices
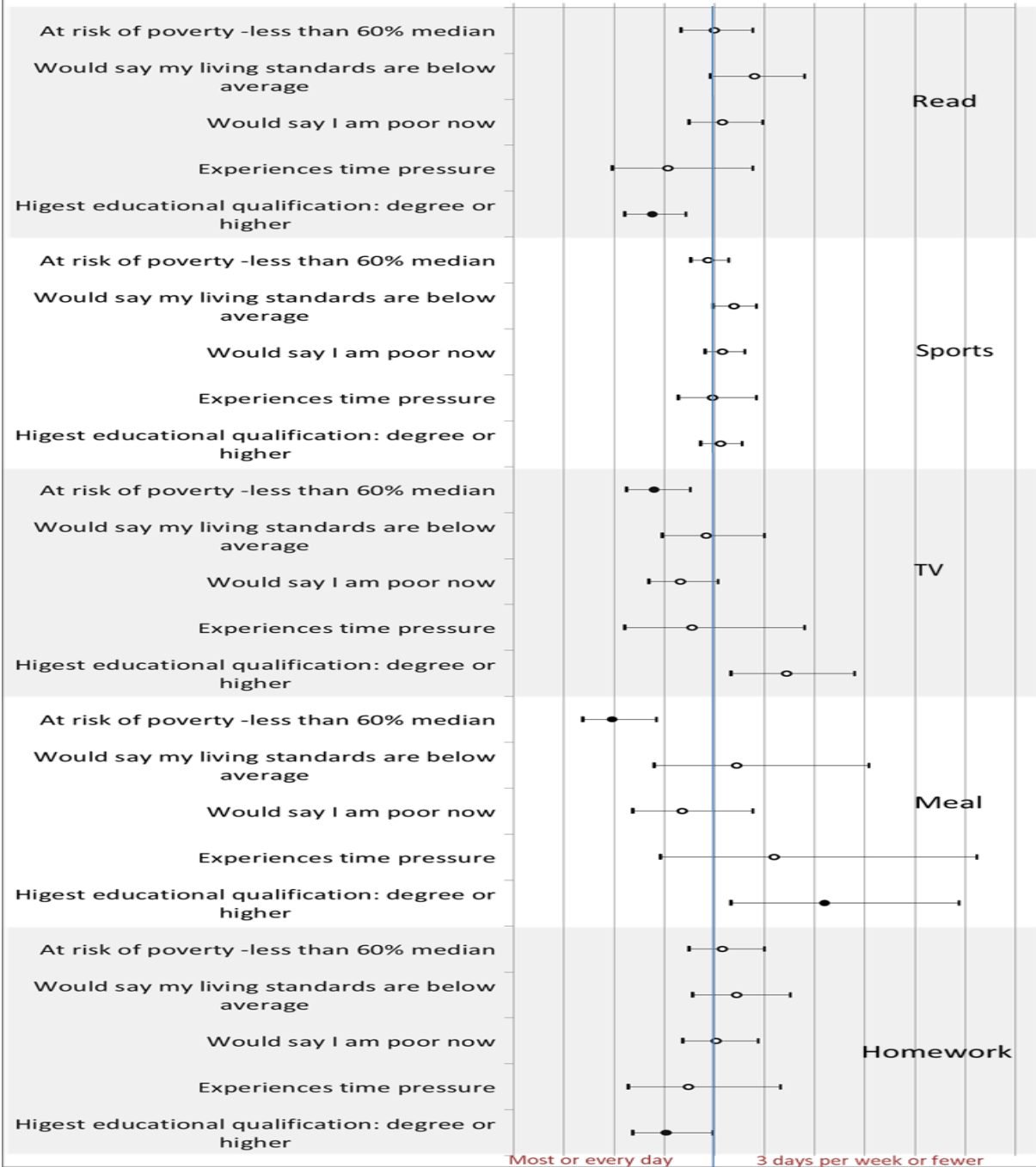
- Poverty

    Income poverty (< 60% median)

    Subjective assessment of poverty

- Education

    Educational qualifications

- Time

    Employment status (anyone unemployed / all adults in employment)

    Perceived time pressure
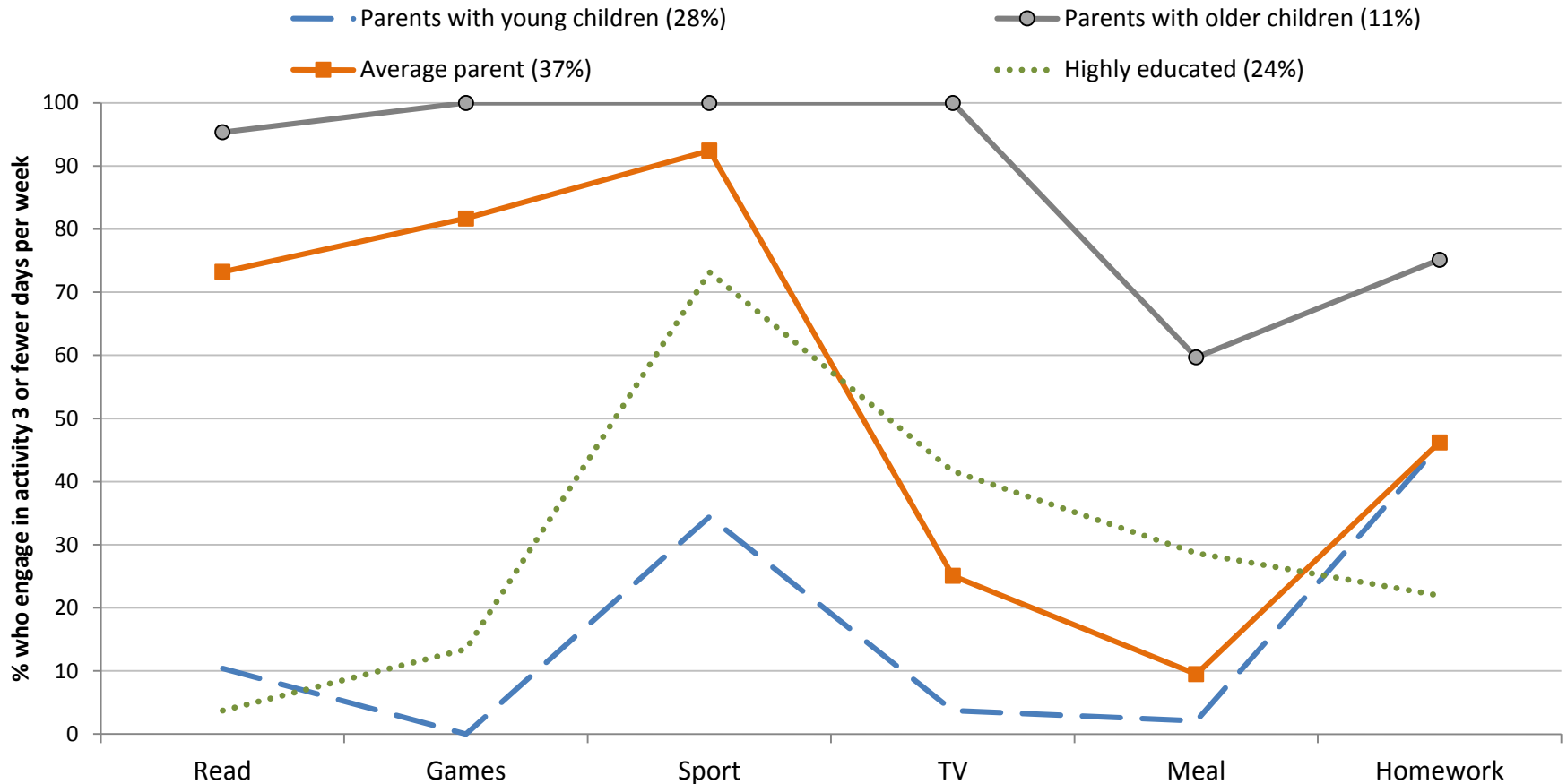
Frequency of Parenting Practices

	Relative Risk	
	0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 2.25 2.5	

Read
- At risk of poverty -less than 60% median
- Would say my living standards are below average
- Would say I am poor now
- Experiences time pressure
- Higest educational qualification: degree or higher

Sports
- At risk of poverty -less than 60% median
- Would say my living standards are below average
- Would say I am poor now
- Experiences time pressure
- Higest educational qualification: degree or higher

TV
- At risk of poverty -less than 60% median
- Would say my living standards are below average
- Would say I am poor now
- Experiences time pressure
- Higest educational qualification: degree or higher

Meal
- At risk of poverty -less than 60% median
- Would say my living standards are below average
- Would say I am poor now
- Experiences time pressure
- Higest educational qualification: degree or higher

Homework
- At risk of poverty -less than 60% median
- Would say my living standards are below average
- Would say I am poor now
- Experiences time pressure
- Higest educational qualification: degree or higher
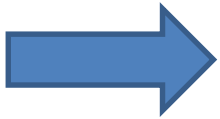
Most or every day   3 days per week or fewer

Latent Class Profiles

Conclusions

- No evidence for group of parents who fail to participate in high profile parent-child activities

- Rethink assumptions about existence of group of 'poor parents' doing 'poor parenting'

- Focus analysis on the top of the social scale and the 'unusual' practices of these parents

Poverty and Parenting:
Initial Findings PSE 2012

References

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