

Child poverty and social exclusion in Scotland

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Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland and
the UK





PSE method – Attitudes survey

Selection of indicators

- Previous PSE

- Comparability with FRS

- Focus groups

- Items identified by children

Adults (aged 16+) asked to indicate whether item/s activities were necessities for children

Items deemed necessities if 50%+ of adults say children need them

Scotland surveys

- 2011 Scotland survey: 465 respondents

- 2012 Britain survey: 111 respondents



Perceptions of necessities: Scotland vs. RoUK

Child items

17 out of 22 selected as necessities overall
Identical list selected by 2011 Scottish sample
15 of these 17 selected by 2012 Scottish sample

Child activities

7 out of 8 selected as necessities overall
All 8 selected as necessities by 2011 Scottish sample
Identical list to overall selected as necessities by 2012 Scottish sample

Only two significant differences between Scottish and RoUK respondents in % seeing items/activities as necessities

Computer and internet: 67% (RoUK), 56% (Scotland 2011), RRR:0.8
Children's clubs/activities: 74% (RoUK), 80% (Scotland 2011),
RRR:1.1

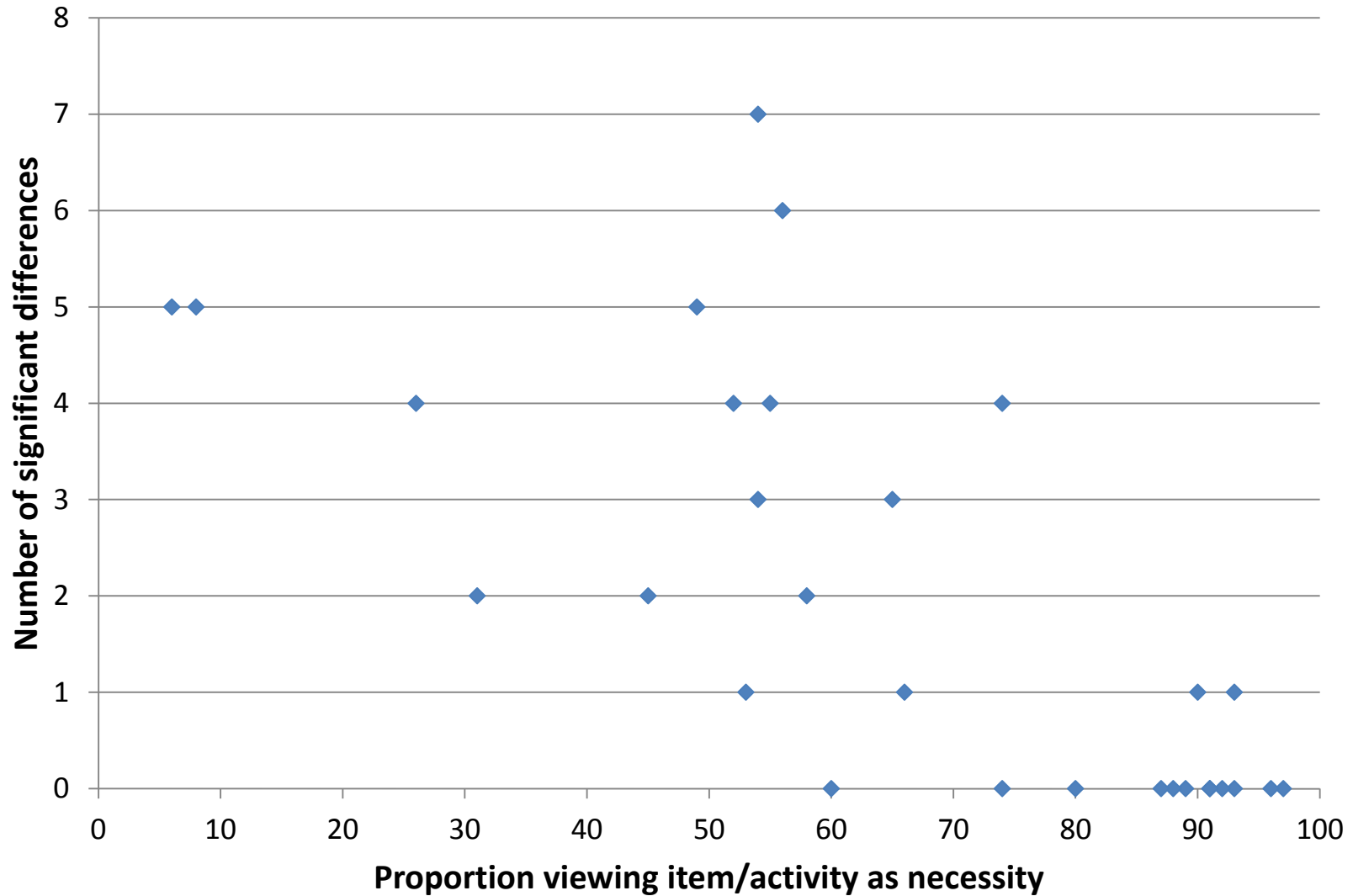
Perceptions of necessities: Scotland vs. RoUK

Items	RoUK	Scotland (2011)	Scotland (2012)
Warm winter coat	97	95	98
Fresh fruit/veg once a day	96	93	96
New, properly fitting shoes	93	91	93
Three meals a day	93	91	92
Garden or outdoor space	93	89	84
Books at home suitable for their age	92	90	88
Meat, fish or equivalent once a day	90	90	87
Suitable place at home to study	89	88	89
Indoor games	81	78	81
Bedroom for every child over 10 of a different sex	74	75	75
Computer/internet for homework	67	56	64
Some new, not second hand, clothes	65	72	67
Outdoor leisure equipment	58	59	61
At least four pairs trousers/similar	57	55	52
Money to save	55	57	49
Pocket money	54	56	57
Construction toys	54	53	48

Perceptions of necessities: Scotland vs. RoUK

Activities	RoUK	Scotland (2011)	Scotland (2012)
Celebrations on special occasions	91	92	93
Hobby or leisure activity	88	91	90
Playgroup/nursery/toddler group once a week	86	88	91
Children's clubs/activities	74	80	77
Day trips with family once a month	60	58	57
School trip once a term	55	58	52
Holiday away from home once a year	53	54	51
Friends round for tea/snack once a fortnight	49	53	50

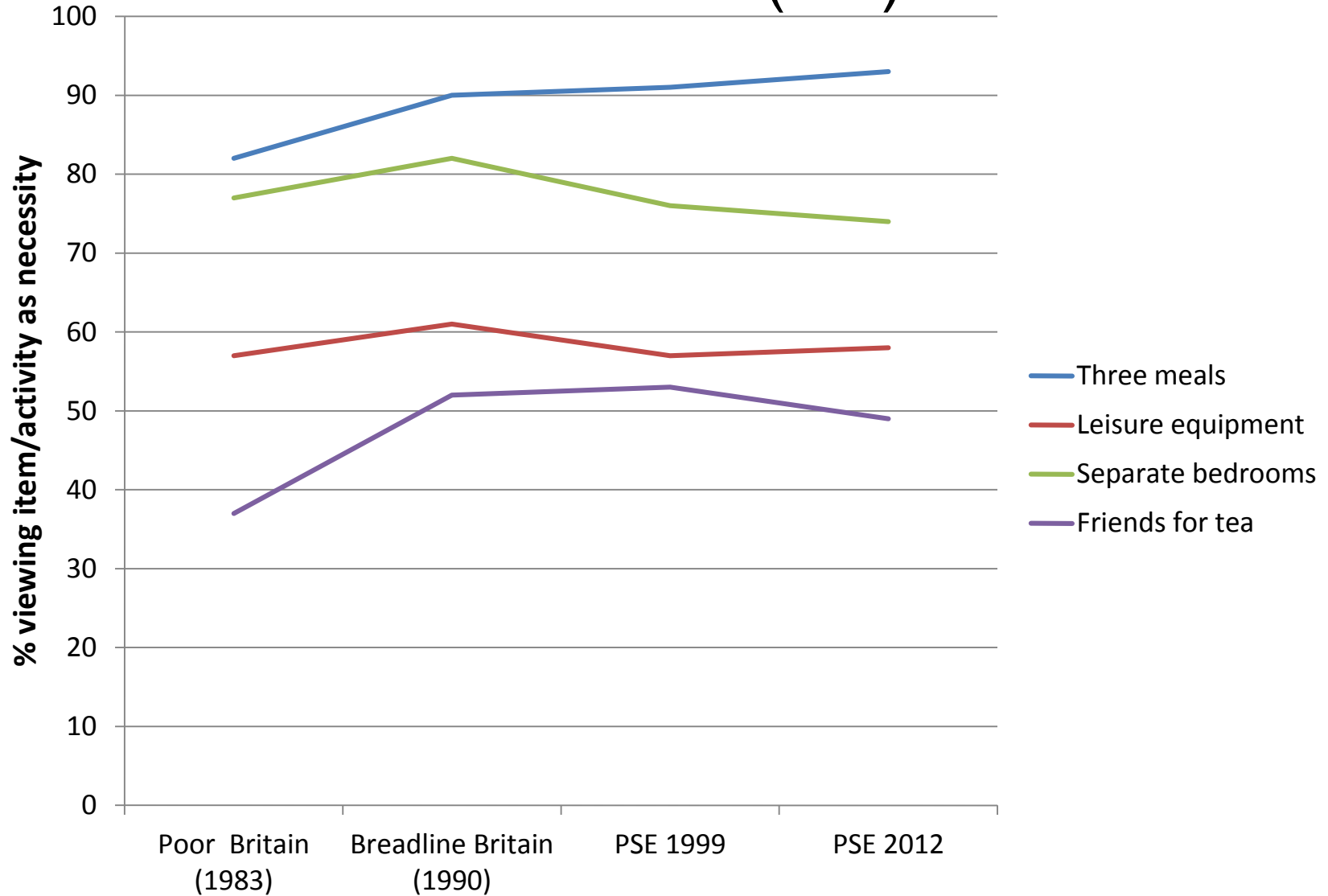
Differences by sub-group (UK)



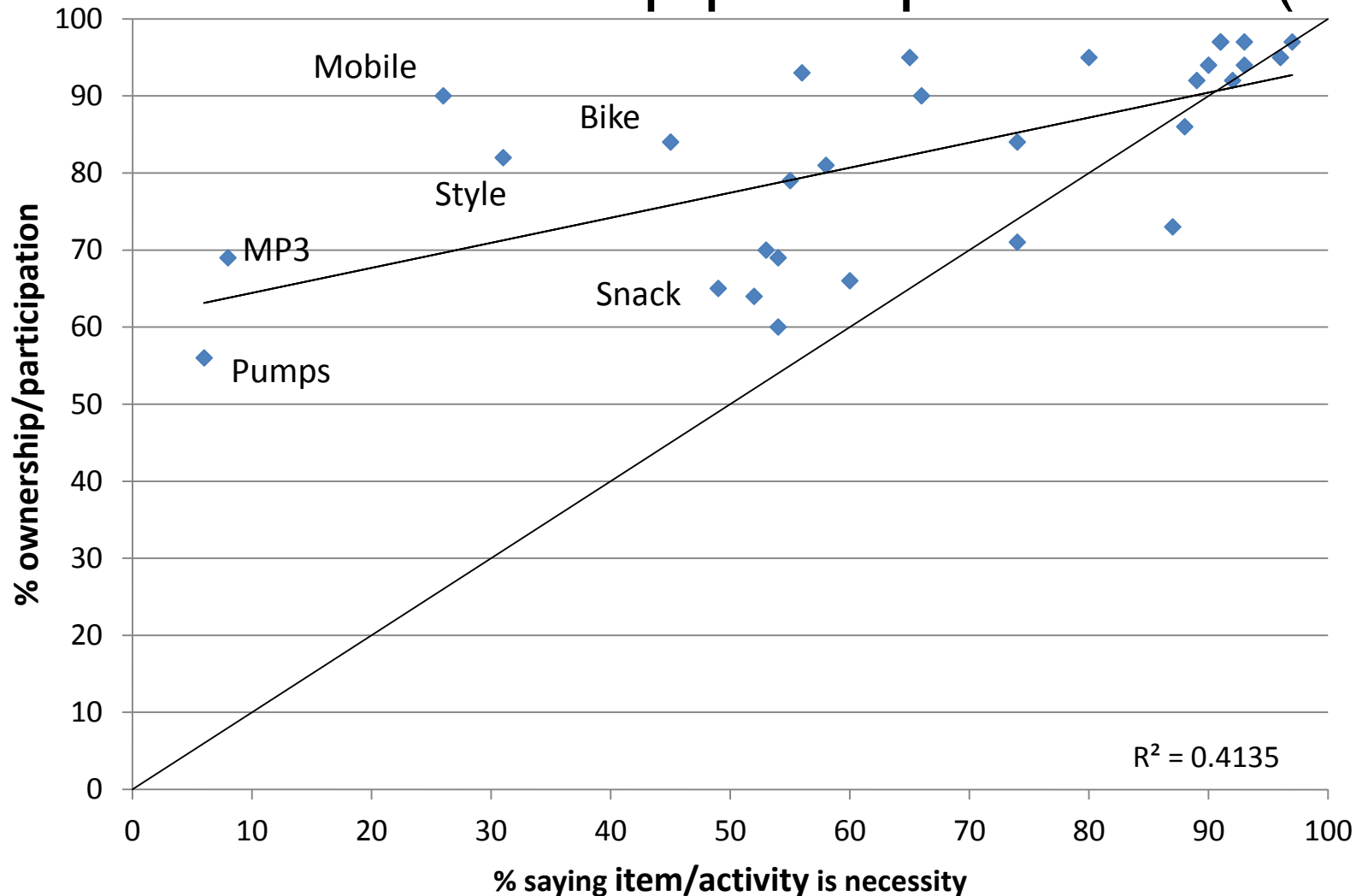
Changes in perceptions over time (UK)

Item/activity	2012	1999
Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day	96	93
A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely	92	(68)
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day	90	77
Computer and internet for homework	66	(41)
Some new, not second hand, clothes	65	70
At least four pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms	56	69
Going on a school trip at least once a term	55	74
Construction toys	53	62
A holiday away from home for at least one week a year	52	70
Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight	49	59
A bicycle	45	54

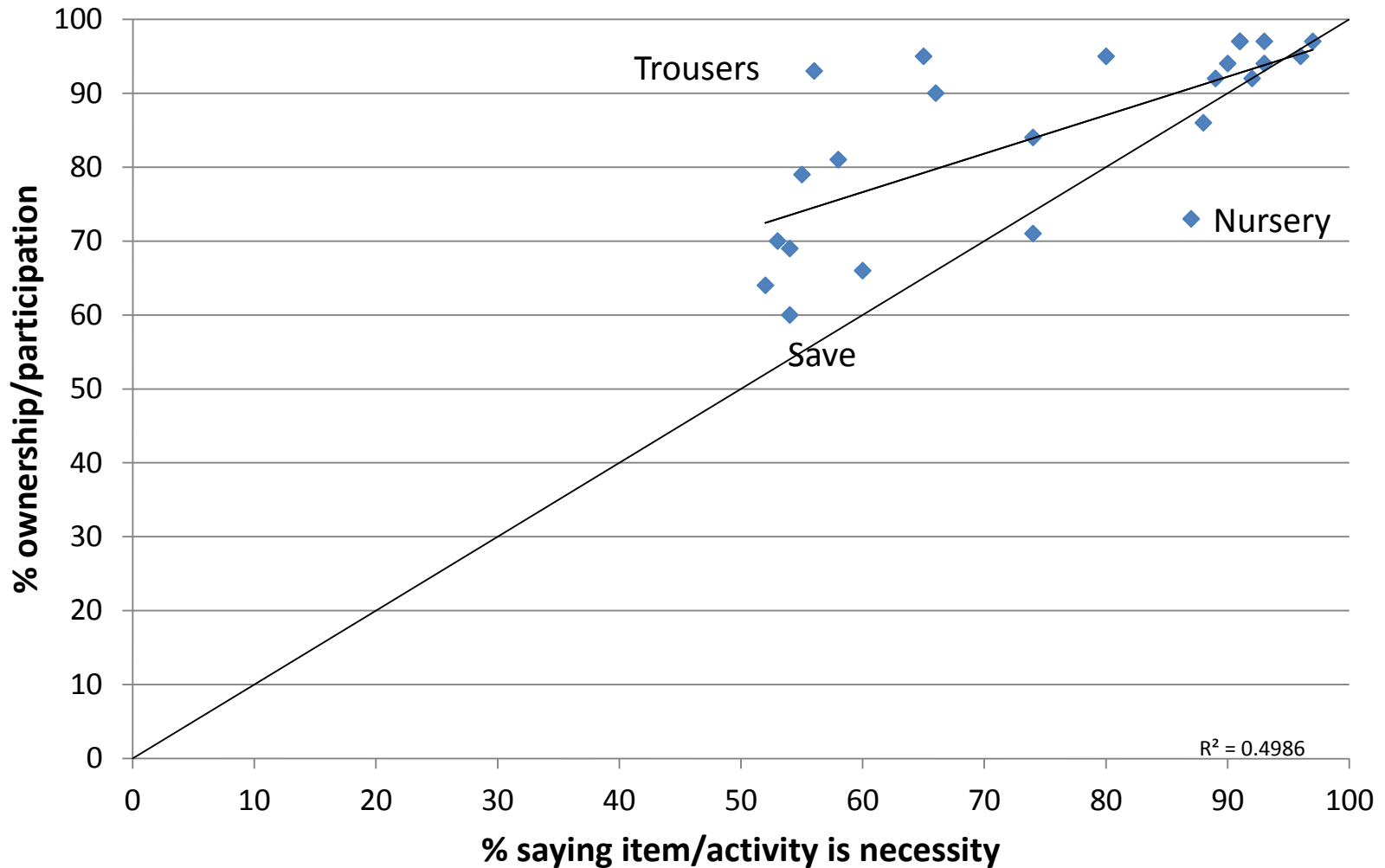
Changes in perceptions over time (UK)



Perceptions of necessity by ownership/participation – all (UK)



Perceptions of necessity by ownership/participation – just necessities (UK)





PSE method – Main survey

618 children living in Scotland

One adult in household asked to indicate whether any child in their household lacks items/activities

Only items lacked through being unable to afford included

All children considered deprived if any child lacks and can't afford

Age adjustments for some items/activities

Items/activities subject to validity, reliability and additivity tests

Along with income data, used to produce indicators of:

Deprivation (separate child and adult indices)

Low income (household, applied to all individuals within hh)

PSE Poverty (single indicator drawing on individual deprivation and low income)

Individual items/activities

Very similar rates of lacking items/activities through being unable to afford Scotland vs RoUK

Very similar patterns in terms of what is most/least likely to be lacked

Item least likely: three meals (Scotland: 0%; RoUK: 1%)

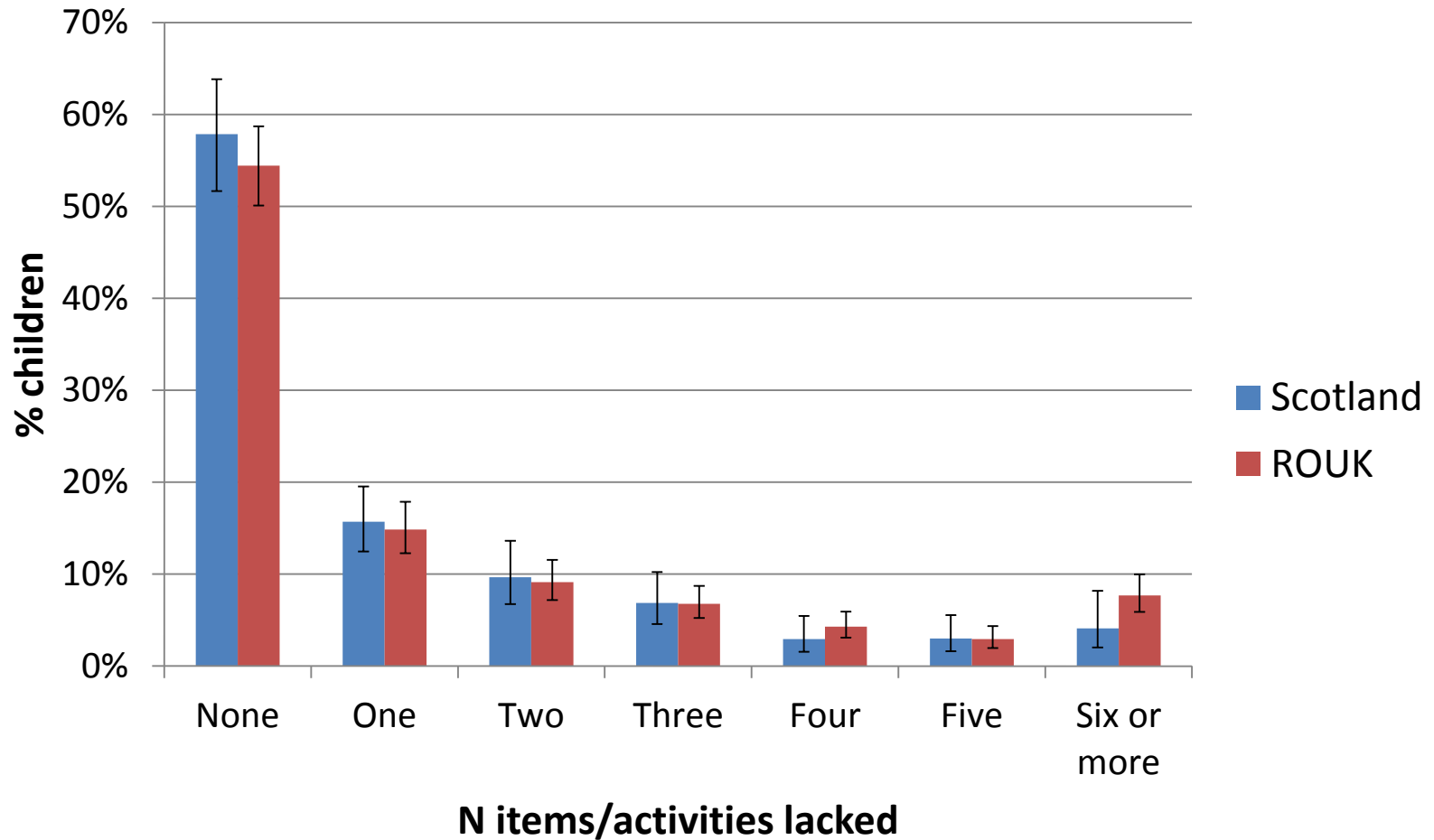
Items most likely: Pocket money (Scotland: 12%; RoUK: 16%);

Bedrooms (Scotland 13%; RoUK 11%); Money to save (Scotland: 30%; RoUK 32%)

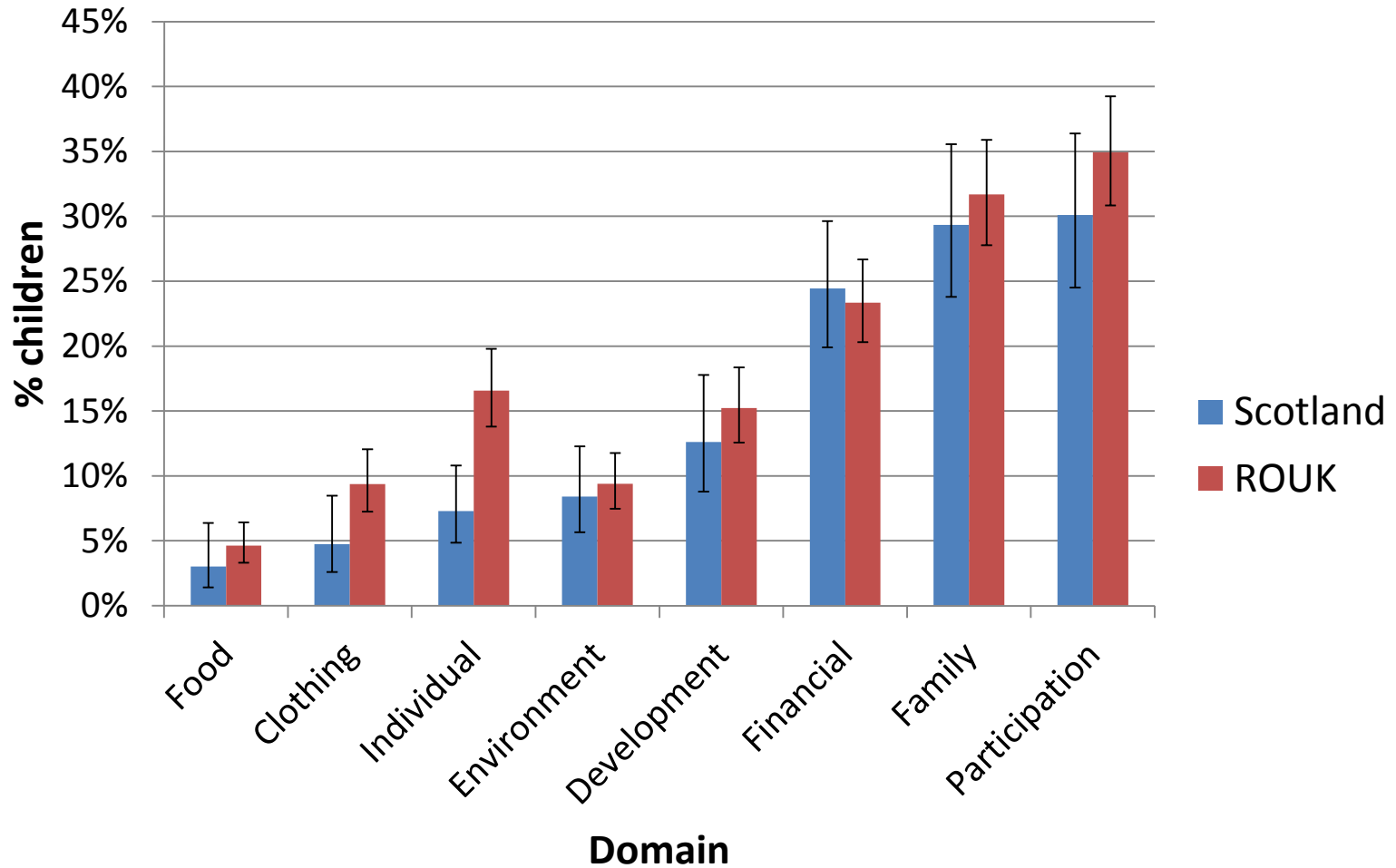
Activity least likely: celebrations on special occasions (Scotland: 1%; RoUK: 2%)

Activities most likely: Day trips with family (Scotland: 17%; RoUK: 21%); Annual holiday (Scotland: 26%; RoUK: 26%)

Deprivation - overall



Deprivation - domains



Low income (<60% median, PSE equivalised)

	Scotland	ROUK	Relative risk	
Individuals	20%	26%	.7	*
Adults	18%	24%	.7	*
Children	27%	33%	.8	NS
Households	20%	25%	.8	*
Households without children	19%	23%	.8	NS
Households with children	24%	31%	.7	NS

PSE poverty (3+ deprivations, below income threshold)

	Scotland	ROUK	Relative risk	
Individuals	18%	23%	.8	*
Adults	17%	21%	.7	*
Children	23%	28%	.8	NS
Households	19%	22%	.8	NS
Adult-only households	16%	18%	.9	NS
Households with children	27%	34%	.8	NS

Risk factors and characteristics

Higher rates of PSE poverty associated with:

Living in a workless household (odds: 4.8)

Living in lone-adult households (odds: 4.0)

Living in socially-rented accommodation (odds: 18.7)
or 'other' (not owner or social rented) (odds: 16.7)

Characteristics of PSE poor children:

Living in households with at least one adult in full-time work (43%)

Living in two-adult households (53%)

Living in socially rented accommodation (62%)

Intra-household sharing (deprivation)

	Children not deprived	Children deprived
No adults deprived	51%	0%
Any adults deprived	32%	18%
Any adults not deprived	58%	1%
All adults deprived	24%	17%

Characteristics of adults who go without when children do not:

Parents (composition: 95%; rate: 81%; odds: 5.3)

Women (composition: 68%; rate: 88%; odds: 4.6)

Main carer (composition: 61%; rate: 98%; odds: 40.6)

No significant differences by age group, employment status, ethnicity.

Intra-household sharing - economising

Economising behaviour	Adults in households with poor children		Households containing poor children (at least one adult)	
	%	Odds	%	Odds
Skimped on food so others could have enough	76	9.6	82	9.3
Bought second hand clothes instead of new	50	2.8	57	2.2
Continued to wear worn-out clothes	93	10.6	92	5.8
Cut back on visits to hairdresser/barber	89	8.3	91	7.1
Postponed visits to dentist	49	3.1	53	2.3
Spent less on hobbies	90	5.8	89	2.9
Cut back on social visits, going to the pub, eating out	94	16.3	98	12.2

Poverty and social exclusion

PSE poor children more likely to:

Be injured or have an accident at home requiring A&E treatment; odds: 4.6

Have been bullied; odds: 2.3

Have special educational needs; odds: 5.1

PSE poor children more likely to live with adults who:

Lack social support; odds: 4.1

Are all workless; odds: 6.4

Are all unemployed; odds: 14.1

At least one is unemployed; odds: 7.9

Excluded from social participation; odds: 4.3

Excluded from political participation; odds: 3.1

PSE poor children no more likely to live with adults lacking daily contact with family/friends

Conclusions

Strong consensus on necessities of life for children – Scotland vs RoUK and other sub-groups

Minimal differences in deprivation, low income and PSE poverty between Scotland and RoUK for children or households with children, but lower overall rates

Public perception of necessities is relative – but not just relative

Worklessness and lone parenthood increase risk of poverty, but most poor children in households with at least one adult in full time work and with two adults; no evidence of ‘skivers’ or ‘broken’ families as root causes of poverty

No evidence of parental ‘fecklessness’ or prioritising of own needs – rather, adults living with children go without to protect children

Child poverty associated with a range of negative outcomes for children, and children living in poverty likely to live with adults experiencing social exclusion