

22ND FISS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
SOCIAL SECURITY EAST AND WEST: COMMON CHALLENGES,
DISTINCTIVE SOLUTIONS?



Poverty and Social Disadvantages in Hong Kong

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Acknowledgment

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Outline

- Profile about Poverty and Social Disadvantages in Hong Kong
- Study on the Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Hong Kong (HKCSS Study 2011)
- Trends and Implications of Poverty and Social Disadvantages in Hong Kong: A Multi-disciplinary and Longitudinal Study (SPPR Study 2012-2017)
- The Work of the Commission on Poverty (CoP)



POVERTY & SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE IN HONG KONG



Poverty & Social Disadvantage in Hong Kong



Single Elderly live in cramped room in old urban area

- People living in low-income households soared from 0.84 M to 1.26M from 1996 to 2010. Poverty rate stood at 18.1% in 2010 (HKCSS)
- Official poverty rate (pre-intervention) is 19.9% in 2013, with 1.3M people or 555,000 households living in poverty (CoP)



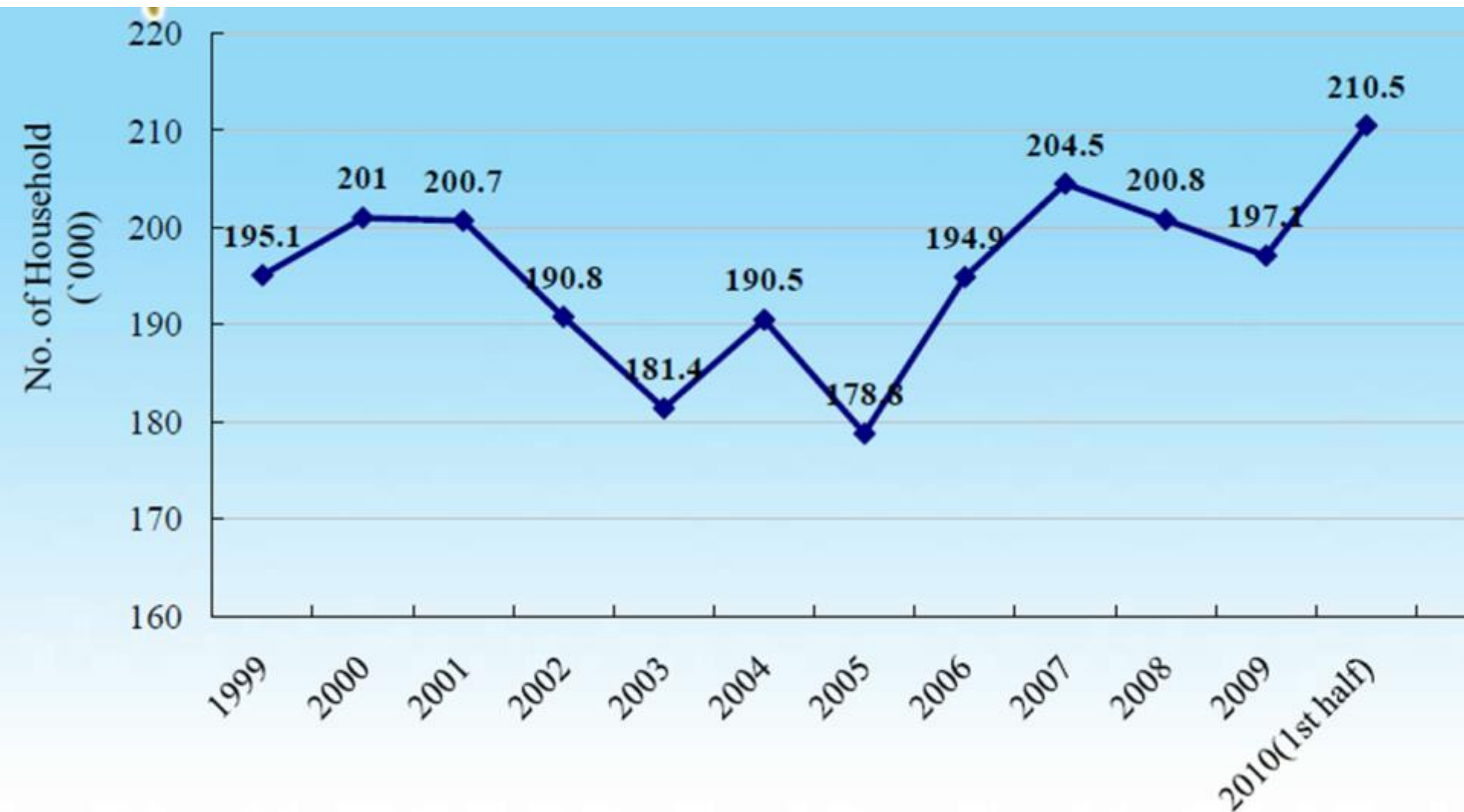
No. of poor people and poverty rate, 1999 to 2010 (HKCSS, 2011)



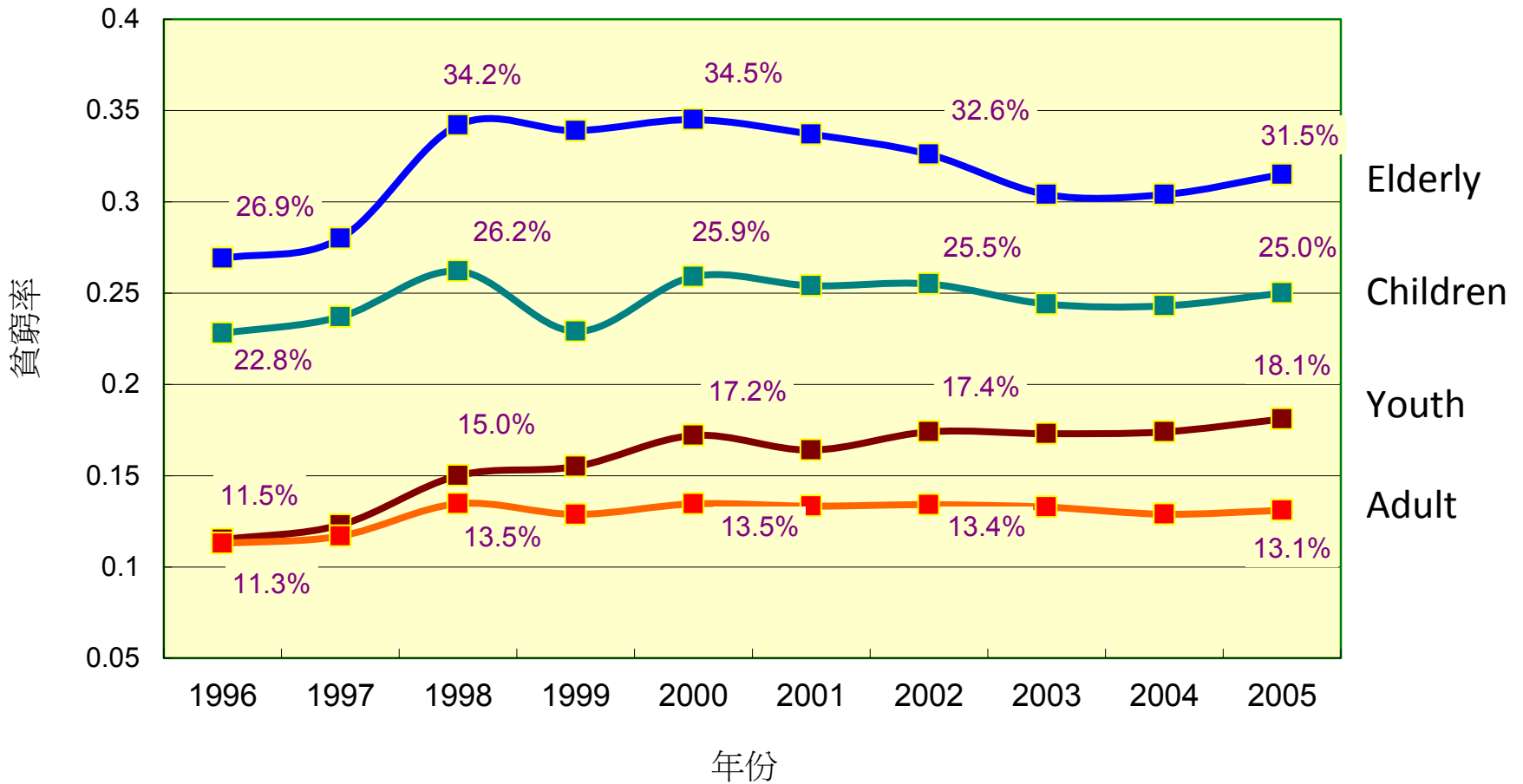
Source: Census and Statistics Department

凝聚力量 共建社會

No. of working poor households, 1999-2011 (HKCSS, 2011)



Poverty Rate by Age Group, 1996-2005 (HKCSS)



People in Absolute Poverty



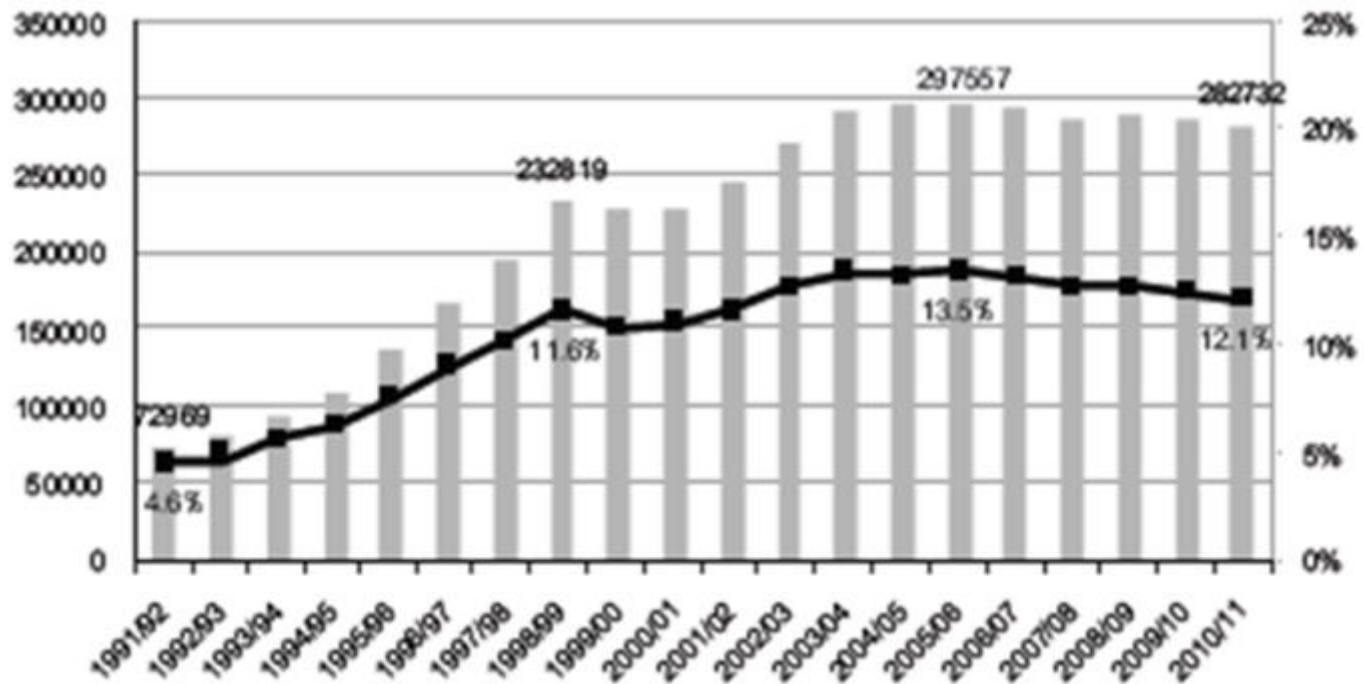
Elderly waste-collectors on the street

In March 2014, there are 259,442 households receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme, the main income support scheme in Hong Kong.

151, 183 (58%) of CSSA cases are elderly cases.

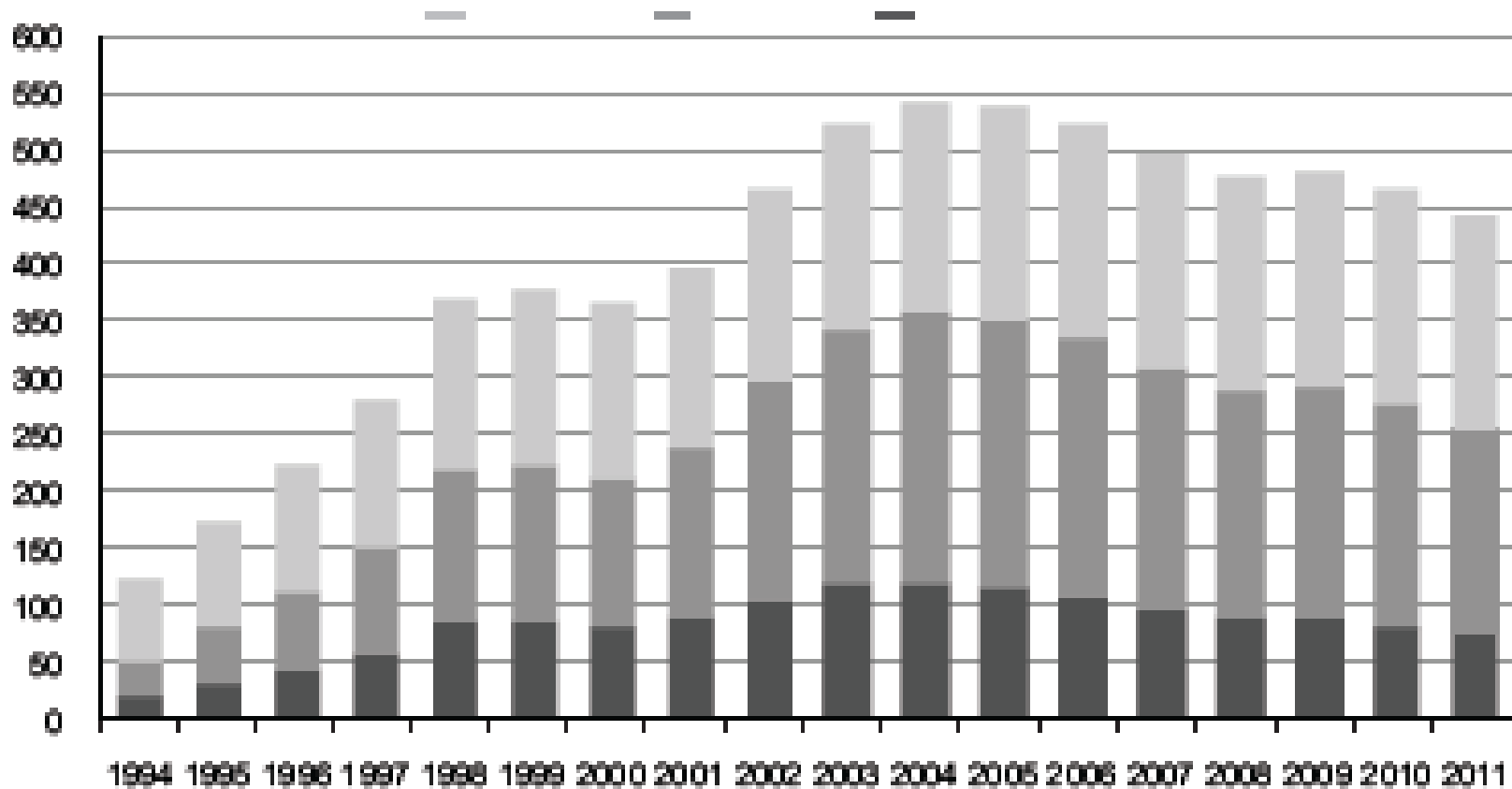


No. of CSSA cases & % of household receiving CSSA (1991 -2010)



No. of CSSA recipients by Age Group (<15, 15-59, 60+)

Thousand



The Unsafe Safety Net

- Owing to budget constrain and stress on self-reliance, the benefit of CSSA recipients was cut in 1999 & 2004 review.
- The first and the only one study using budget standard approach to determine the basic need of CSSA recipients was conducted by the Government in 1996.
- No update on the list of goods and service of the “Basic Need” since 1996, just adjust the level of CSSA according to price changes.

% of CSSA recipients cannot afford necessities items (HKCSS, 2012)

Have safe living environment without structural dangers.	11.5%
Have sufficient living space at home, with no need to stay in bed all day.	15.5%
Have fresh fruits at least once a week.	7.3%
Can have one set of decent clothes.	32.7%
Have enough warm clothes for cold weather.	5.1%
Able to have dental check-up periodically.	59.3%
Can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service.	54.2%

CSSA ≠ fulfill Basic Need



Children have to finish their home work on the bed

- Lots of CSSA recipients are seeking help from Food Assistance Schemes of NGOs,
- Many CSSA households living in private rental housing need to use money from the standard rate to supplement the inadequate rent allowance ◦



Disadvantaged Children & Youth



2013: Youth (aged 15-19) unemployment rate 14.5%;
overall unemployment rate 3.4%



Disadvantaged Children & Youth



Percentage of total income of all households in Hong Kong by the lowest 10% and highest 10% income-band households

Year	Lowest 10 % household	Highest 10 % household	Multiples
1986	1.6%	35.5%	22
1991	1.3%	37.3%	29
1996	1.1%	41.8%	38
2001	0.9%	41.2%	46
2006	0.8%	41.4%	52
2011	0.7%	41.0%	59

Source: various census reports



Gini coefficient of different countries (2011)

Countries / Regions	Year	Gini Coefficient	Multiples of income of the highest 20% to lowest 20% income households
Mexico	2011	0.517	14.4
Malaysia	2011	0.462	11.4
Hong Kong	2011	0.434	9.6
China	2011	0.415	8.4
USA	2011	0.408	8.5
Indonesia	2011	0.368	5.9
Australia	2010	0.352	7.0
Canada	2011	0.326	5.5

**STUDY ON THE DEPRIVATION AND
SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN HONG KONG
(HKCSS 2012)
WONG, SAUNDERS, WONG, CHAN &
CHUA**



Method

- Focus groups to determine list of necessities
- Survey conducted during Feb2011 to Mar 2011
- Random sampling of population, household face-to-face survey
- 1037 respondents (age 18 & +)



How to determine list of necessities and deprivation items

From Literature Review and Focus Groups select items of necessities (37 items)

More than half of the respondents in the survey agree that item is a necessity (35 items)

Respondents are asked whether they do not have that item and they cannot afford it



Deprivation Index and Social Exclusion Index

45 Items in total

37 Items Deprivation Index (35
Items pass the 50% test)

16 Social Exclusion Index

(8 Items used in both index)



The majority support test

- Table below lists the 35 items that exceeded the majority support threshold for being regarded in Hong Kong and shows the percentage support that each item attracted.
- Only two items failed to attract majority support for being essential.
 - ‘Able to take part in charged activities organised by a neighbourhood or social service organisation’ (48.6 % support)
 - ‘Can leave Hong Kong for a vacation once a year’ (45.4% support)



DEPRIVATION ITEMS



Identified items	Support for item being essential	Does not have	Does not have and cannot afford
	Weighted percentages:		

Accommodation, Food, and Clothing

Has safe living environment without structural dangers	99.4	2.4	1.8
Has sufficient living space at home, with no need to stay in bed all day	97.3	6.5	5.4
Has bathroom inside a self-contained apartment, with no need to share with other families	93.3	5.5	3.7
Has at least one window at home	98.7	0.2	0.2
Can go to teahouse sometimes in leisure time	73.8	13.7	7.0
Has breakfast every day	95.0	3.0	0.5
Has fresh fruit at least once a week	96.5	1.3	0.3
Can buy one or two pieces of new clothes in a year	89.9	5.5	3.7
Has one set of decent clothes	86.7	9.0	6.3
Has enough warm clothes for cold weather	99.5	1.1	1.1

Identified items	Support for item being essential	Does not have	Does not have and cannot afford
	Weighted percentages:		

Medical Care

Weak elderly can receive adequate care services if needed	94.6	62.3	9.0
Can travel to and back from hospital by taxi when needed	80.1	18.5	14.3
Able to have dental check-up periodically	66.7	51.0	29.2
Able to consult Chinese medicine practitioner when needed	81.5	27.3	8.6
Can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service	89.9	17.8	14.3
Able to purchase medicines prescribed by a doctor	86.8	37.3	17.4

Identified items	Support for item being essential	Does not have	Does not have and cannot afford
Weighted Percentages:			

Social Connections

Can take transport for visiting relatives and friends	95.5	8.2	1.4
Able to visit hometown if needed	87.1	23.9	6.4
Can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	88.3	15.1	7.2
Can give lucky money to friends and relatives during Chinese New Year	91.0	9.7	4.5
Has a mobile phone	88.8	4.3	2.2
Has leisure activities in holidays	71.9	49.3	6.1



Identified items	Support for item being essential	Does not have	Does not have and cannot afford
	Weighted Percentages:		

Training and Education

Has the opportunity to learn computer skills	82.5	36.6	7.6
Able to attend vocational training	72.1	63.9	4.2
Students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises	76.6	58.6	4.7
Students have school uniforms of proper size every year	75.4	58.0	2.3
Students have access to computer and Internet at home	76.4	54.5	1.0
Students can participate in extra-curricular activities	74.2	59.6	5.4
Working parents can use child care service when needed	65.9	79.4	2.7

Identified items	Support for item being essential	Does not have	Does not have and cannot afford
	Weighted Percentages:		

Basic Amenities

Can have hot shower in cold winter	99.2	0.3	0.3
Can pay for spectacles if needed	96.9	5.2	1.3
Has a refrigerator at home	98.9	0.4	0.3
Has a television at home	95.9	0.6	0.4
Has air-conditioner at home for cooling in hot weather	87.9	5.5	4.5
Has a camera in the family	57.9	19.9	11.3



SOCIAL EXCLUSION ITEMS



Exclusion Indicators	Is it essential? (% who say Yes)	Incidence of social exclusion
Social status and identity:		
To be treated with respect by other people	95.5	6.9
To be accepted by others for who you are	94.0	6.6
Has basic English speaking and reading skills	82.6	48.0
Social support and connectedness:		
Has someone to look after you and help you the housework when you are sick	89.4	20.5
Has someone to give advice about an important decision in your life	90.2	13.0
Has someone to turn to for money (up to HKD3,000) in case of emergency	80.4	21.2
Has a mobile phone	88.7	4.3
Has access to convenient public transportation in the neighbourhood	95.3	10.5
Can take transport for visiting relatives and friends	95.0	8.2

Exclusion Indicators	Is it essential? (% who say Yes)	Incidence of social exclusion
Participation in social customs:		
Can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	87.9	9.2
Can give lucky money to friends and relatives during Chinese New Year	90.4	9.7
Has one set of decent clothes	86.9	9.0



Exclusion Indicators	Is it essential? (% who say Yes)	Incidence of social exclusion
Participation in leisure and social activities:		
Has leisure and sports facilities in the neighbourhood	84.2	21.7
Has public place to gather with neighbours and friends in the neighbourhood	84.4	17.5
Can go to teahouse sometimes in leisure time	73.8	13.7
Has leisure activities in the holiday	72.1	21.2



Social Consensus about “Is it essential?”

- Before discussing the deprivation results themselves, it is useful to briefly examine how the responses to the ‘Is it essential?’ question vary across different social groups.
- provides greater insight into whether or not there is a *social consensus* (as opposed to a *numerical majority*) about the identification of essential items. The approach adopted follows that used by Pantazis, Gordon and Townsend (2006) and Saunders, Naidoo and Griffiths (2008) in using bivariate scatter plots to illustrate how the views of different social groups vary.

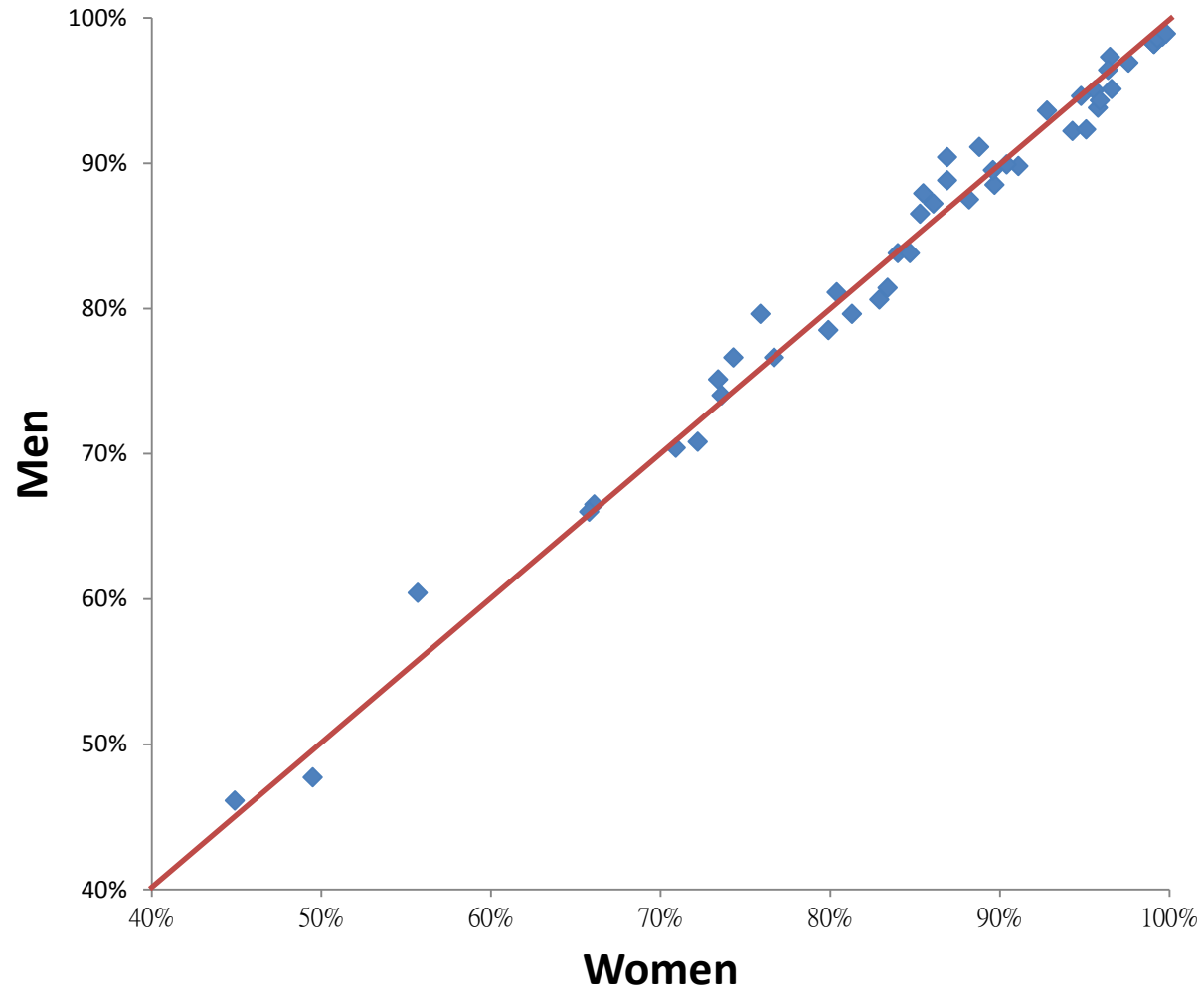


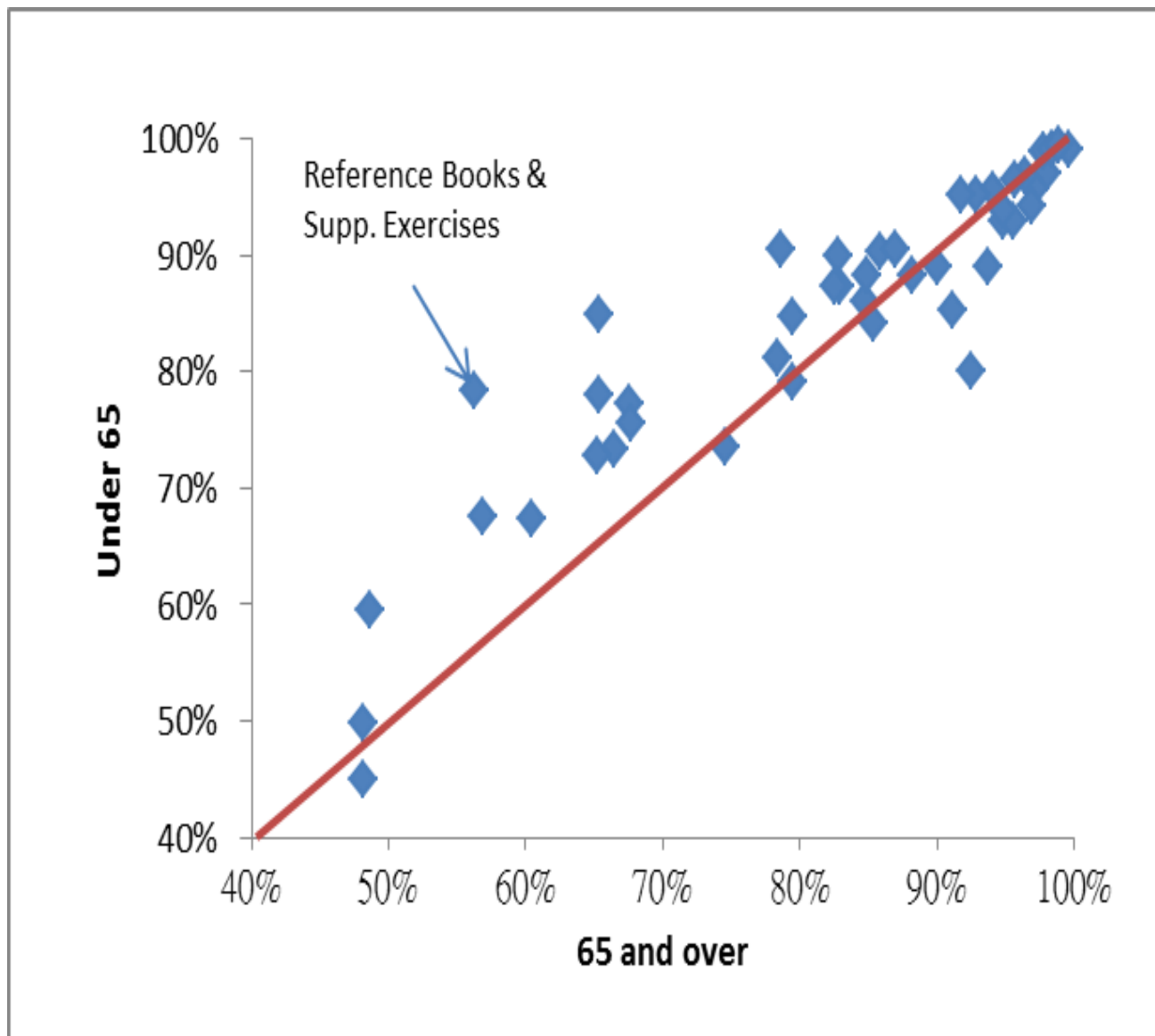
Visual inspection

- The scatter plots based on dividing the sample by the gender, age, income and with/without children are shown in the following figures.
- Each figure plots the percentages of the two groups (defined here to be mutually exclusive) that think that each item is essential.
- If all of the plotted points would lie along the 45° line, this would indicate that there is perfect agreement between the two groups about every item, and the degree of divergence from the diagonal thus provides an indication of how much the views of the two groups diverge.

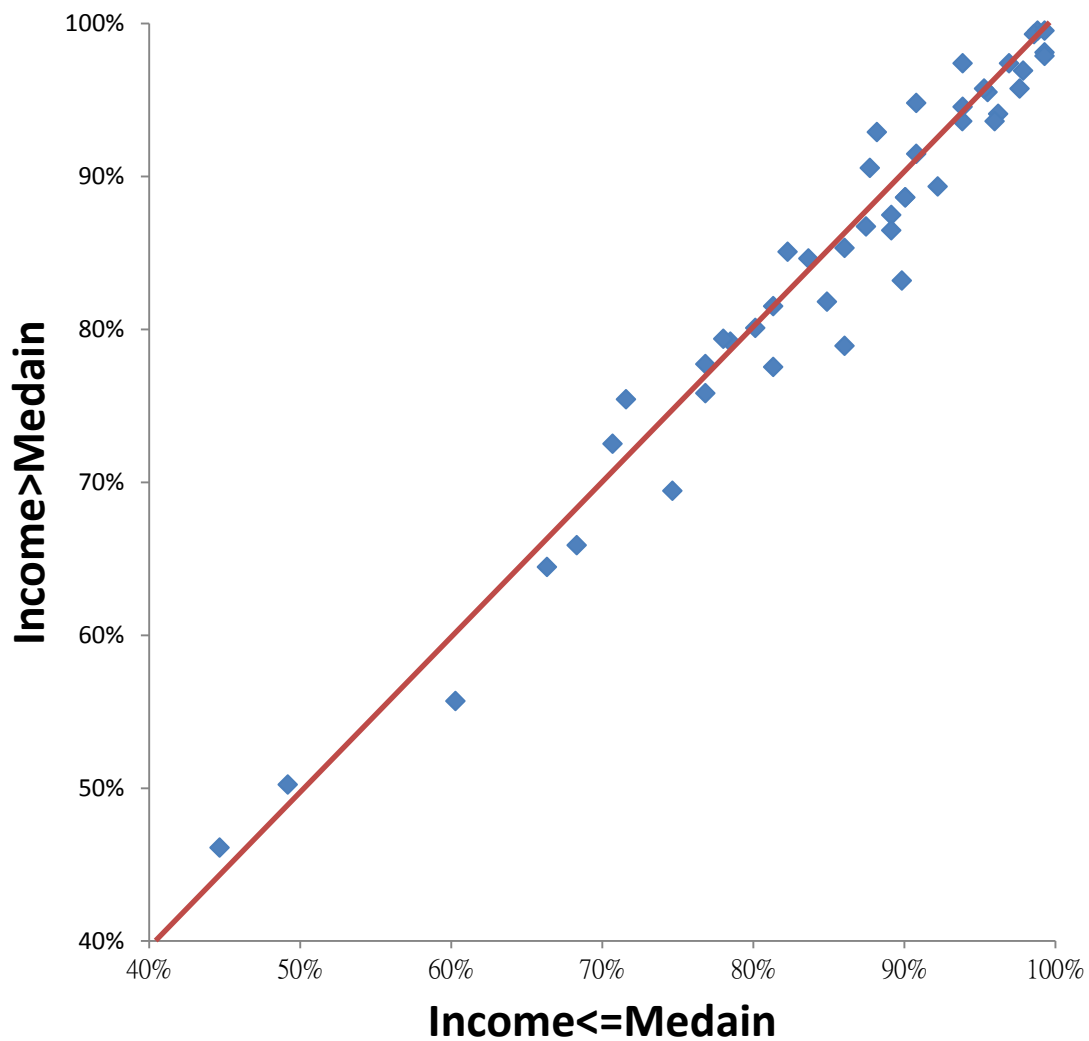


Gender

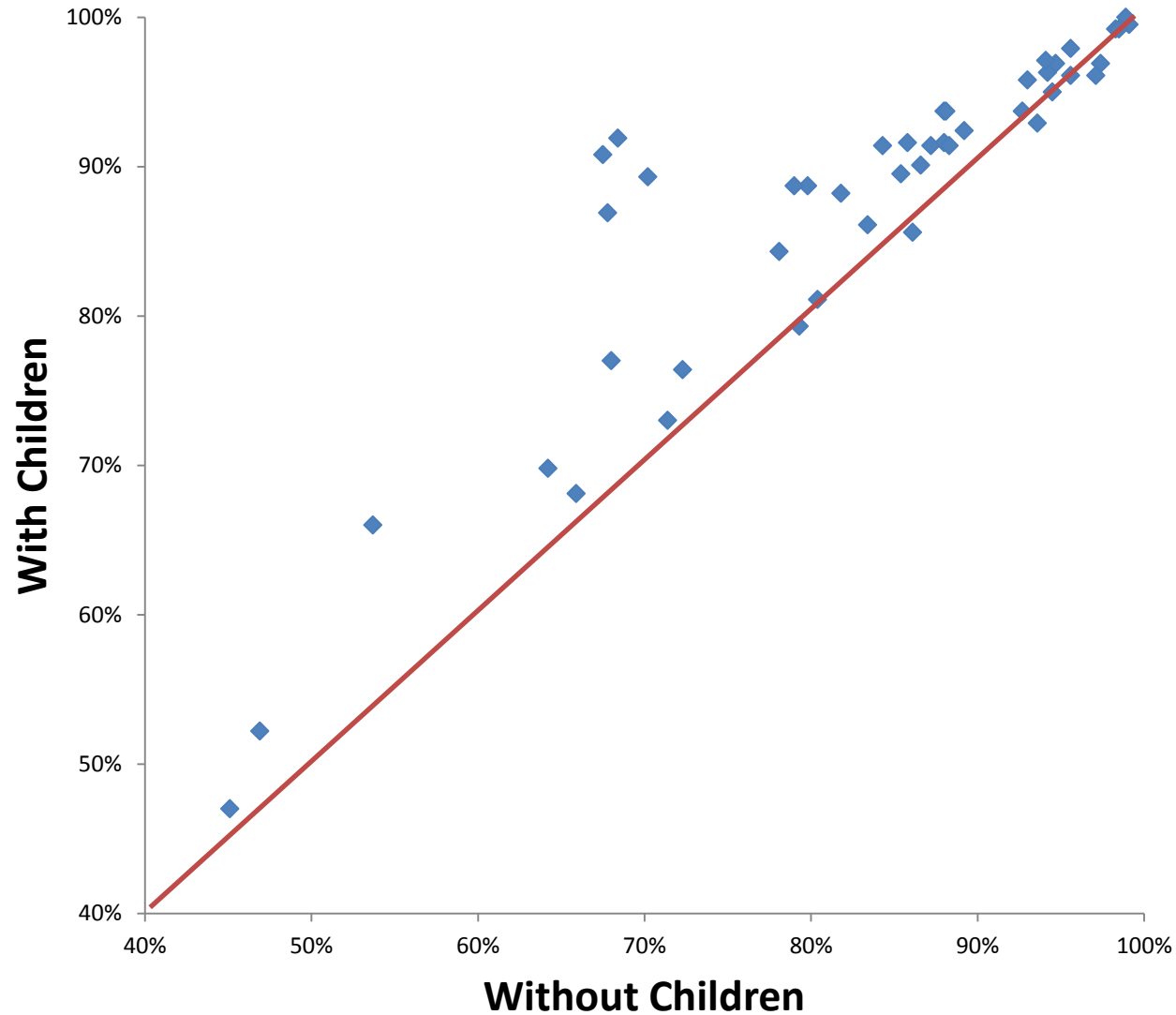




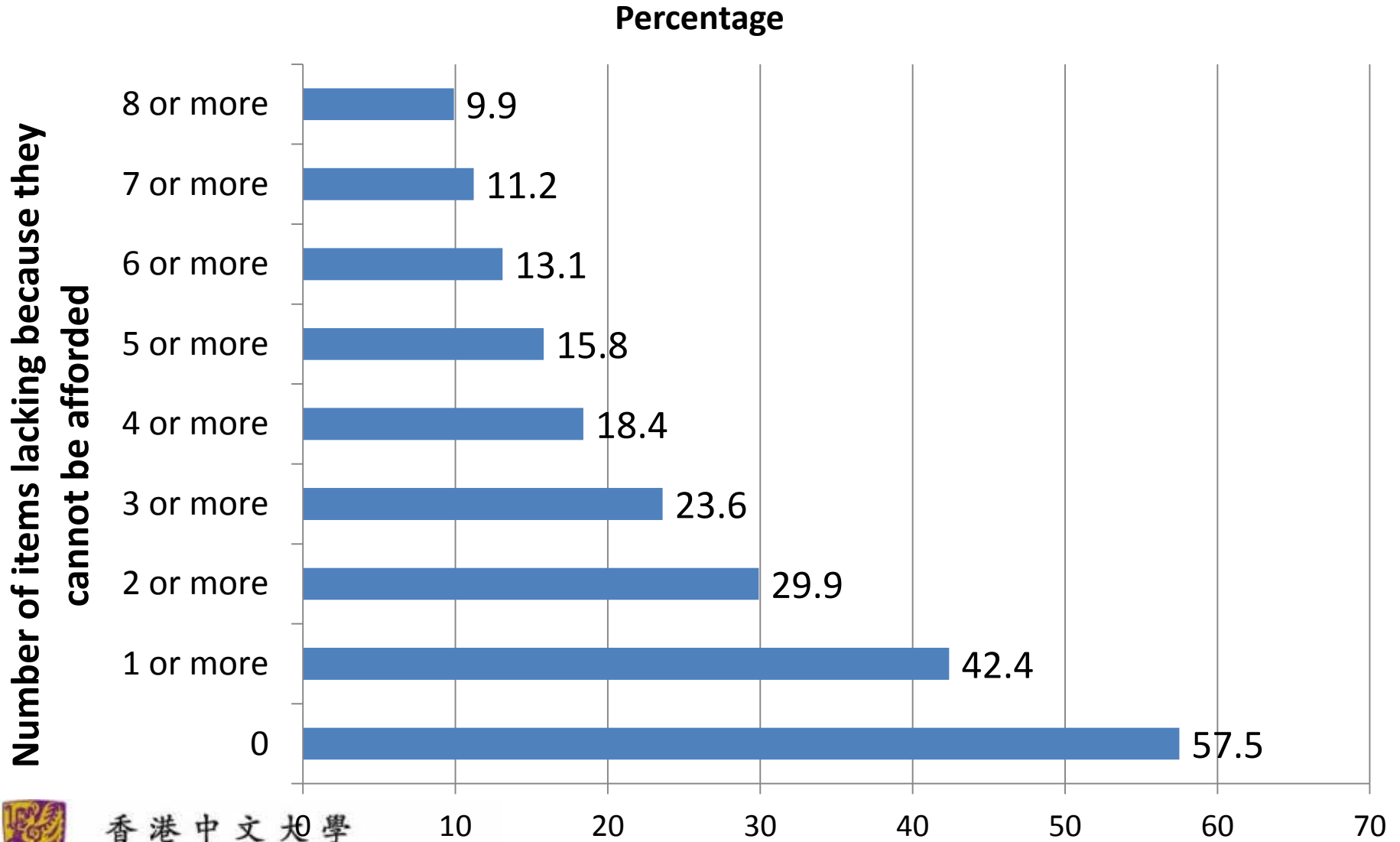
Income>Median , Income<=Medain



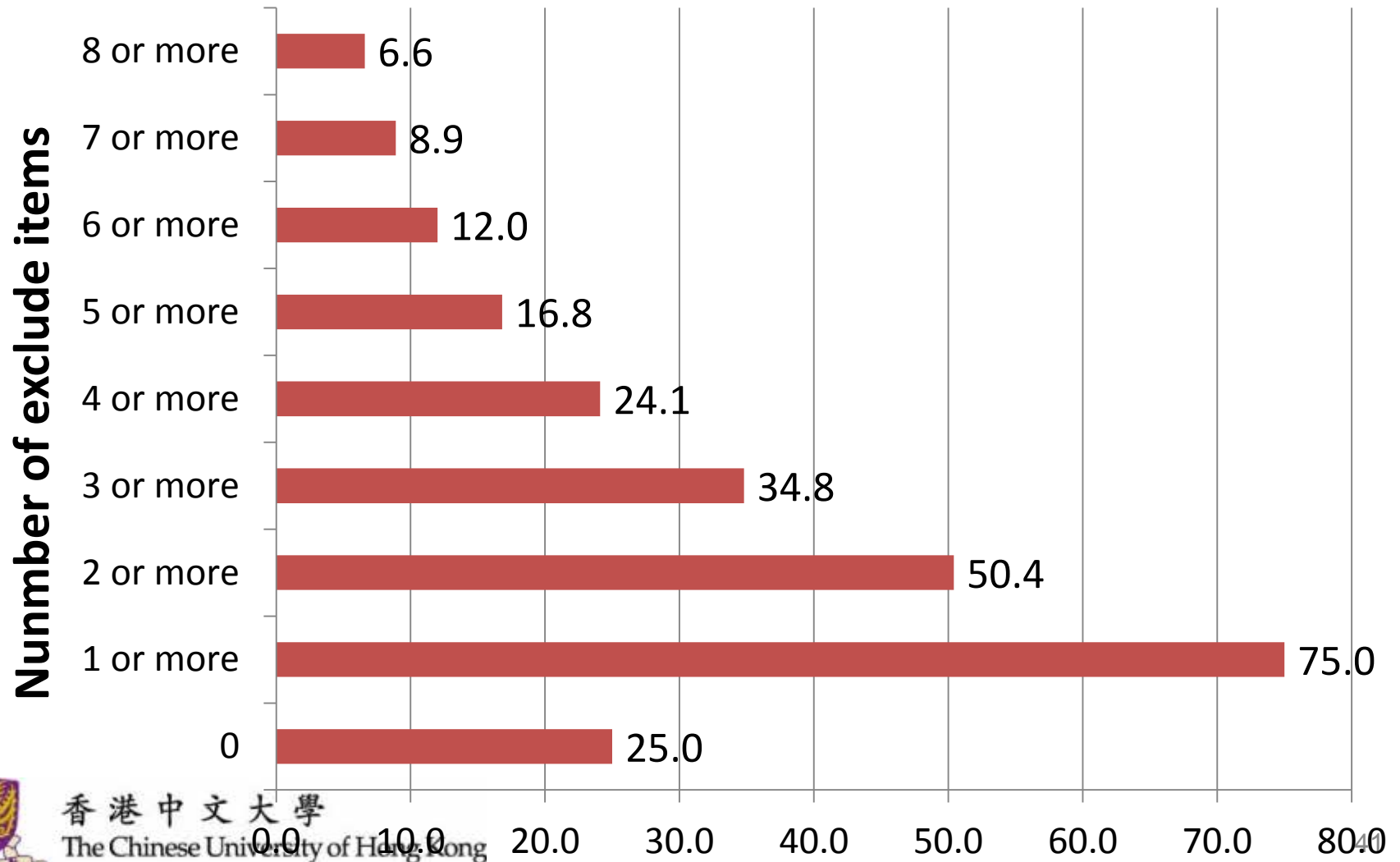
With/ Without children



The Incidence of Multiple Deprivation



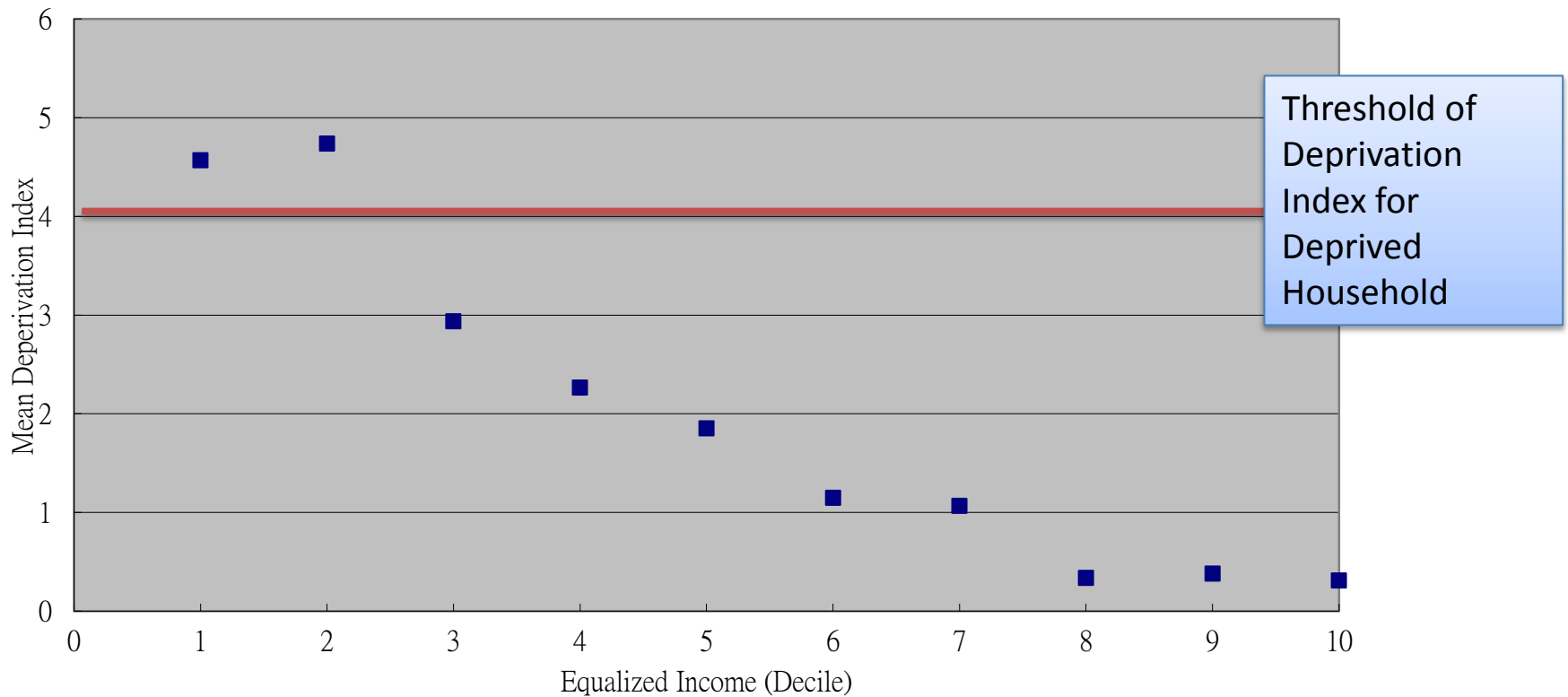
Social Exclusion Incidence Rate (%)



Income Declie	Equalized Income Range	Mean Deprivation Index
1	\$1-\$3,425	4.6
2	\$3,426-\$4,722	4.7
3	\$4,723-\$5,667	2.9
4	\$5,668-\$6,701	2.3
5	\$6,702-\$7,667	1.9
6	\$7,668-\$8,956	1.1
7	\$8,957-\$10,000	1.1
8	\$10,001-\$12,381	0.3
9	\$12,382-\$15,238	0.4
10	\$15,239 or above	0.3

*Equalized Income is estimated using the 'OECD-modified scale' under which the first adult= 1.0, all other adults =0.5 and children (aged 0-14 years) =0.3

Mean Deprivation Score of Equalized Income Groups (Decile)

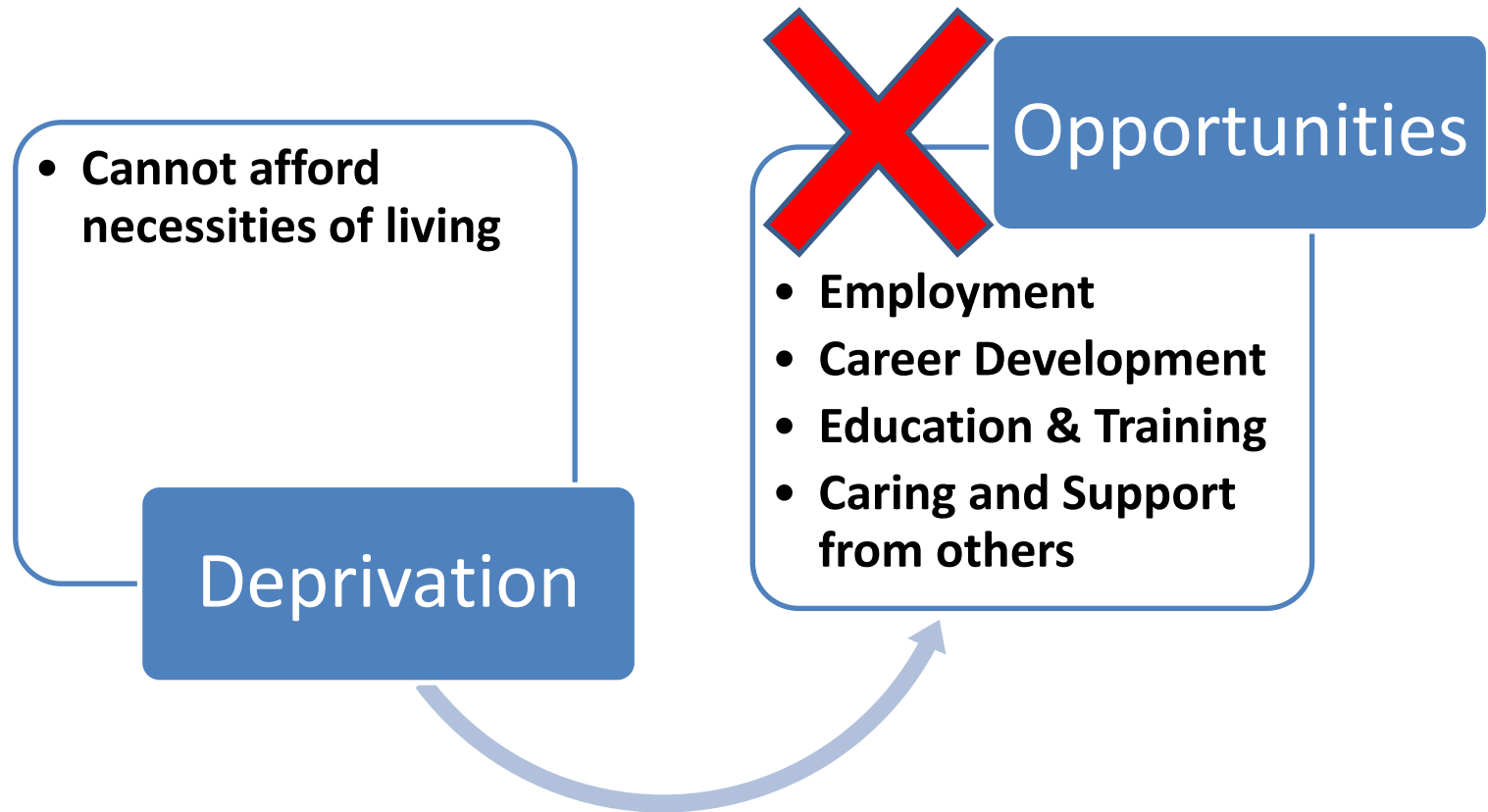


Living condition of Deprived

Items	Deprived % of cannot affordable (estimated no. of people (aged 18+))	Non-Deprived % of cannot affordable
Medical		
Able to have dental check up periodically	85.8% (940,000)	15.7%
Can consult private doctor in case of emergency without waiting for public outpatient service	67.2% (740,000)	2.2%
Able to purchase medicines prescribed by doctors	65.8% (720,000)	6.3%
Education (% of household have children in school age)		
Students can buy reference books and supplementary exercises	54.7% (270,000)	1.4%
Students can participate in extra-curricular activities	61.3% (300,000)	1.8%

Items	Deprived % of cannot affordable (estimated no. of people (aged 18+))	Non-Deprived % of cannot affordable
Accommodation, Food, and Clothing		
Have sufficient living space at home, with no need to stay in bed all day	20.3% (220,000)	2.1%
Have enough warm clothes for cold weather	6.0% (70,000)	0%
Social Connection		
Can offer a gift of money on occasion of wedding	37.2% (410,000)	0.4%
Can give lucky money to friends and relatives during Chinese New Year	23.5% (260,000)	0.2%
Training and Education		
Have the opportunity to learn computer skill	32.9% (360,000)	2.0%

Less Opportunities for the Deprived



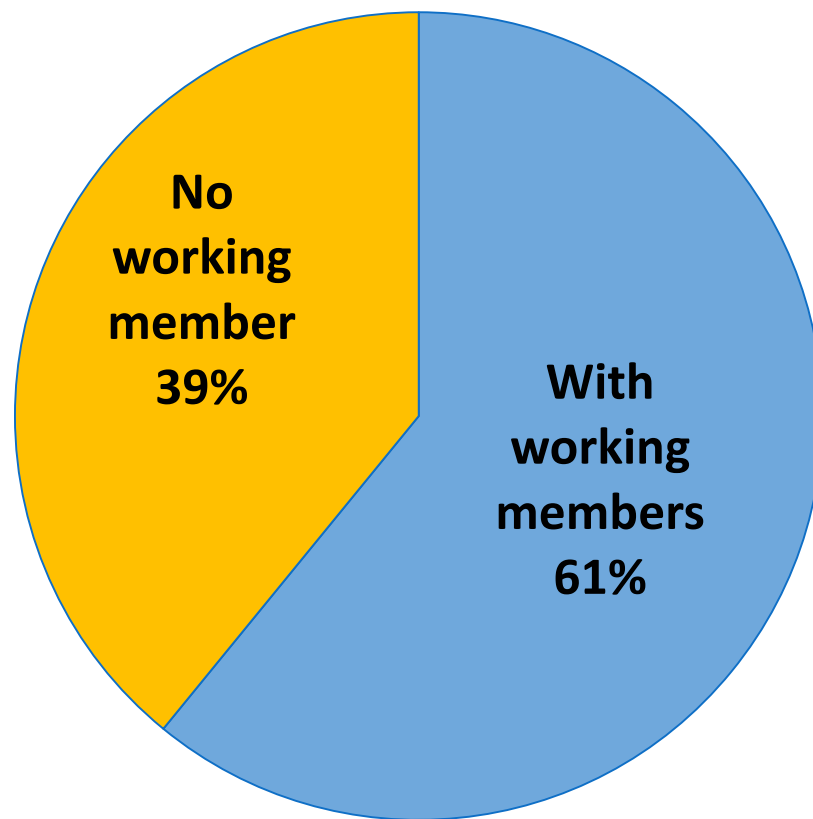
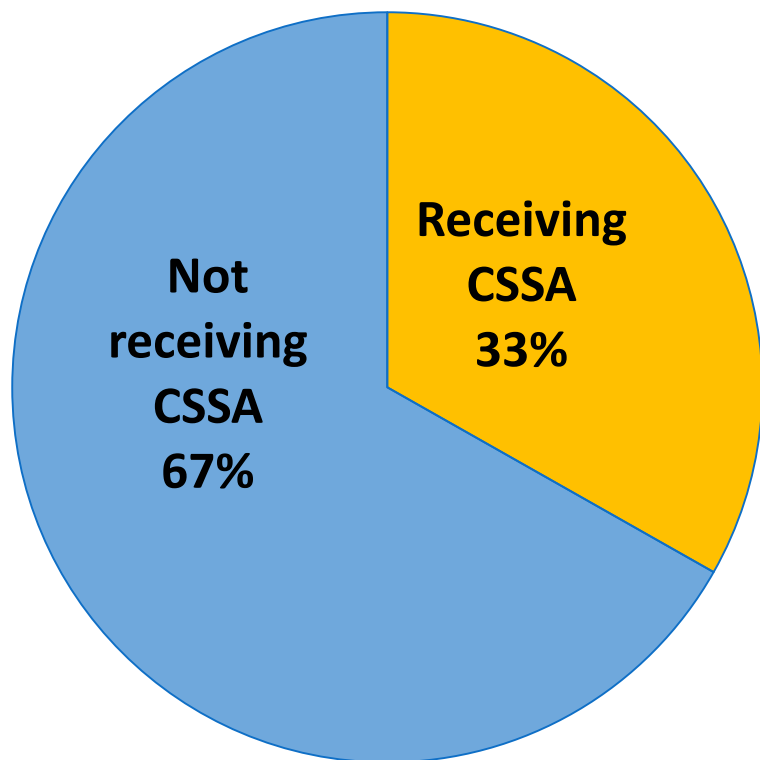
	% of the Deprived	% of the Non-deprived
Lack of education and training opportunities	66.9%	35.7%
Lack of employment opportunities	57.9%	25.9 %
Lack of career development opportunities	69.2%	33.2%
Lack of government support opportunities	31.6.%	30.7 %
Lack of support and caring from others opportunities	37.8%	12.6%



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Most of the deprived households do not received CSSA , and with working members



Some vulnerable groups are more easily being deprived and with deeper deprivation

	Single and couple elderly	With Disabled & Chronic Illness	New Immigrants	All
% of being deprived	39.2%	40.7%	36.6%	18.3%
Deprivation Index	4.1	4.2	4.4	1.9



With more children in the family, it is more easily to be deprived.

No. of Children in the family	0	1	2	3 & over
% of being deprived	17.0%	19.1%	23.8%	33.3%



Income
Poverty

10.5%

2.9%

1.2%

5.5%

4.5%

5.5%

4.6%

Deprivation

Social
Exclusion



TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL DISADVANTAGES IN HONG KONG: A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY AND LONGITUDINAL STUDY



Background



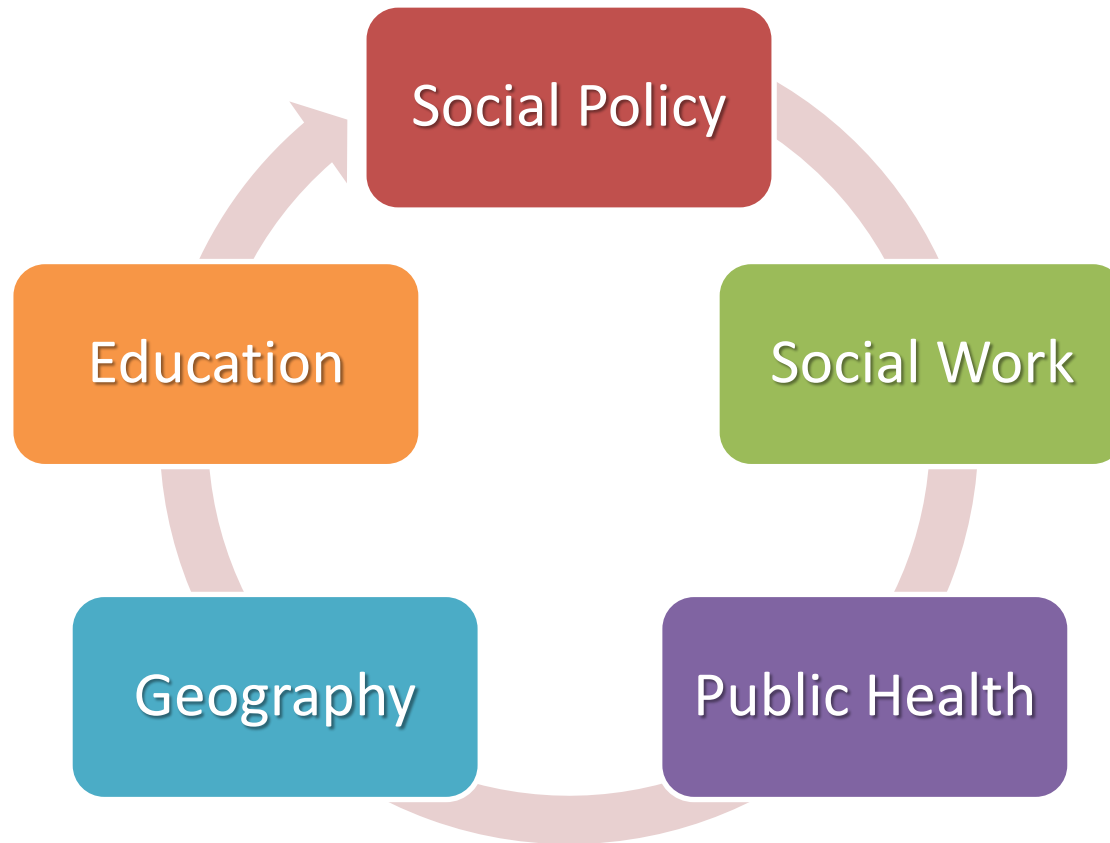
Poverty is a complex problem, and it is closely linked to disadvantage and inequality.

Effective policies to alleviate poverty remain of global and local concern.

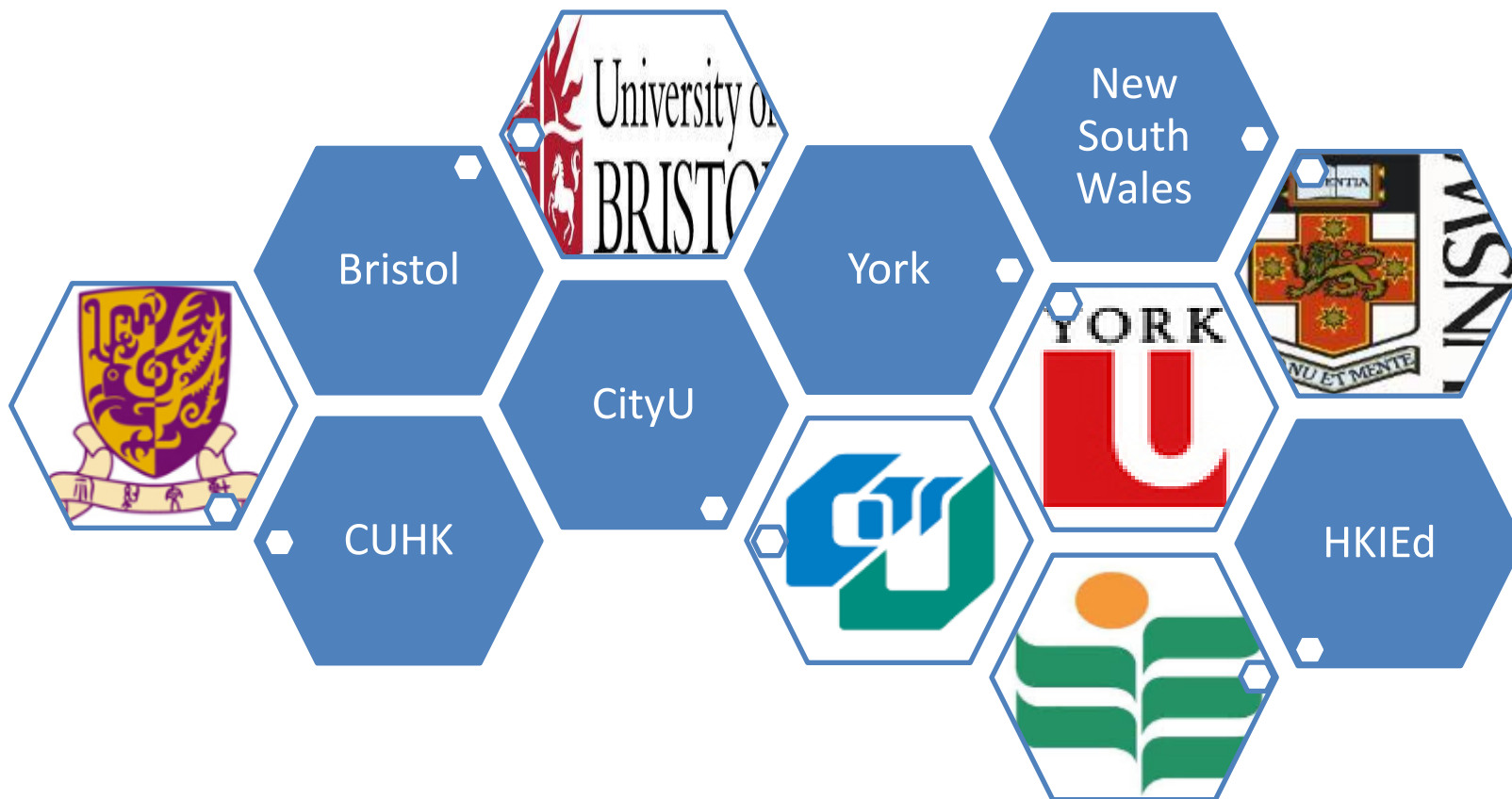
Measuring and alleviating poverty are not easy tasks for academics and policy-makers.



Inter-disciplines



Inter-institutions



Research Team

PI:	Wong, Hung (CUHK)	
Co-I:	Bradshaw, Jonathan (York)	Lau, Ka Wai Maggie (CityU)
	Chen, Ji-kang (CUHK)	Lee, Joanna Wai Ying (CUHK)
	Chung, Yat Nork, Roger (CUHK)	Mok, Ka Ho (HKIEd)
	Gordon, David (Bristol)	Pantazis, Christina (Bristol)
	Griffiths, Sian Meryl (CUHK)	Saunders, Peter (UNSW)
	Huang, Bo (CUHK)	Wong, Martin (CUHK)
	Lau, Chun Hong, Johnson (CUHK)	Wong, Samuel (CUHK)



Poverty

- Absolute poverty is defined in terms of severe deprivation of basic human needs.
- Overall poverty is a wider measure, including not just lack of access to basics but also lack of participation in decision-making and in civil and to social and cultural life



Deprivation

- Low standards of living are by looking at *deprivation indices*, based on items that people are deprived of because they cannot afford them.
- whether people lack items that the majority of the population perceive to be necessities, and whether they have incomes too low to afford them.



Social Exclusion

- Social exclusion is the process by which individuals and groups are wholly or partly closed out from participation in their society, as a consequence of low income and constricted access to employment, social benefits and services, and to various aspects of cultural and community life .



Strategic Focus

- **Socially perceived necessities and a scientific definition of deprivation**
- **Comprehensive measuring tools for : Poverty Deprivation and Social Exclusion (PDSE)**
- **Measure and gauge the trends of Poverty Deprivation and Social Exclusion (PDSE) in Hong Kong (2011-2015)**
- **Identify & examine causes and influential factors of PDSE**



Social Impacts Analysis of Policies

- Analyze social impacts of major poverty alleviation policies (minimum wage, Community Care Fund) on
 - working poor,
 - elderly,
 - CSSA recipients



Synergy Efforts

- **Synergy with education experts focus on the intergenerational poverty problem**
- **Analyze the relationship of well-being of children and youth with the PDSE situation of their parents.**
- **Synergy with public health experts to examine dynamics between PDSE and **health inequality**.**



Theoretical Impact

- Leading-edge international research developments of world leaders in the field
- Theory building and conceptualization to combine three dimensions of social disadvantages: **Poverty, deprivation, and exclusion (PDSE)**
- Systematic measurement and calibration of PDSE



Youth Well-being in the Chinese Context

- Theory and measurement on young people's **well-being** in Hong Kong.
- Build on recent scientific advances in the United Kingdom, other European countries, the US and Australia, and it will adapt these instruments to **measure youth well-being in the Chinese context.**



Impact of Social Inequality on Health

- To study the impact of **social inequality on the health of people in Hong Kong**.
- Limited research has been conducted to study this area in Hong Kong. This is in stark contrast to the amount of research devoted to studying this issue in other developed countries such as the UK, the USA or Canada.



Policy Implication

- First **comprehensive and longitudinal** data set to measure changes in ‘Poverty’, ‘Deprivation’ and ‘Social Exclusion’ in Hong Kong.
- By means of **comparing panel data** collected in HKCSS 2011, ESRC/RGC 2012 & SSPR 2013 and 2015.



Policy implications on Poverty Alleviation

- This longitudinal research will provide data to **measure impacts of important poverty alleviation initiatives** by the HKSAR Government
 - the Statutory Minimum Wage (SMW) Legislation (enforced in May 2011),
 - the Community Care Fund (CCF) (launched in 2011) in poverty alleviation.



Policy Implication on Youth Development

- Provide policy makers, NGOs and the public with up-to-date scientific evidence on the **state of young people** in Hong Kong;
- To identify which **particular groups have benefited from government policy initiatives** and help them to identify any **additional groups who are in need of new policy attention.**



Policy Implication on Reducing Health Inequality

- To **target resources to reduce health inequality** with the aim of improving the health status of the population;
- Understand the strength of the **relationships between social factors and health**; and
- Recommend **the role of the health sector to address the social determinants of health**.



Three Research Streams



Poverty, Social Disadvantages and Exclusion
(PSDE)



Poverty, Disadvantages and Health Inequality
(PDHI)



Poverty, Disadvantages and Children's Well-being
(PDCW)





POVERTY, SOCIAL DISADVANTAGES AND EXCLUSION (PSDE) STREAM



PSDE Stream

- New combined measurement on poverty, deprivation and exclusion
- Necessary measurement to **gauge the impacts of poverty alleviation policies** upon social disadvantages
 - **working poor, elderly, and CSSA recipients**
- Theoretical base and measurement tools for other two streams

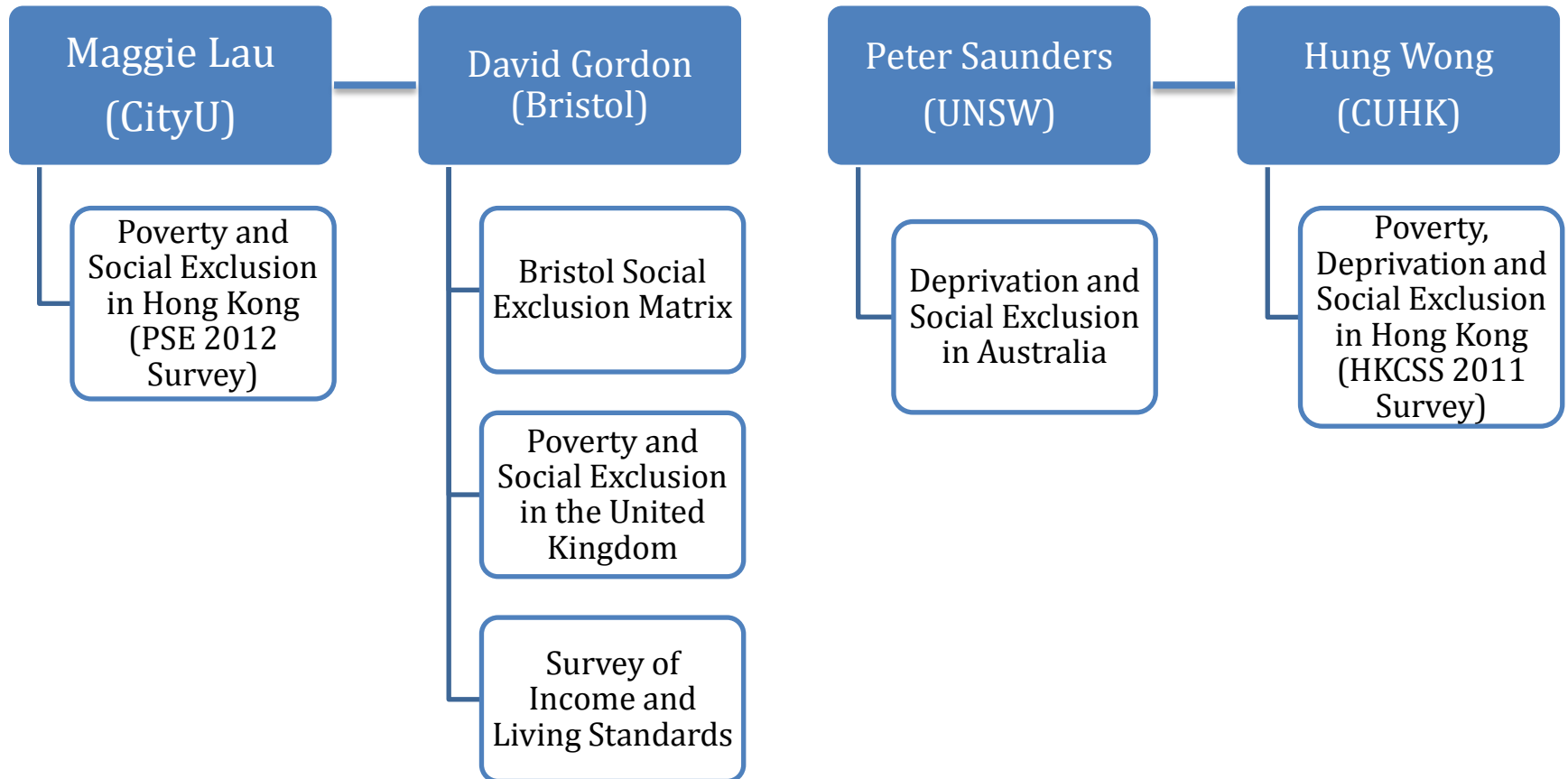


Our Relevant Research Experience

- This research will build on **previous methodological innovations by our team members** in the light of current policy concerns as well as subsequent theoretical developments in the measurement of poverty and social exclusion.



Measurement of Poverty and Social Exclusion



POVERTY, DISADVANTAGE AND CHILDREN'S WELL- BEING (PDCW) STREAM



Poverty, Disadvantage and Children's Well-being Stream

- Children face tremendous challenges and opportunities in a rapid socioeconomic transformation which affects both their **material** (including income poverty and material deprivation) and **non-material** (including education, physical health, overall life satisfaction, exposure to risk and risk behaviour) well-being.



Child Poverty, Well-being & Health Behaviours

- Associations between **child poverty** and **well-being, adolescents' health behaviours** and their parental socioeconomic status, family and peer relationships and adolescents' health and risk behaviours, **influence of family and community social capital and children's and young people's educational achievement.**



State of Children and Young people

- There is a strong case for a routinely produced and comprehensive report on the **state of children and young people** in Hong Kong.
- The effects of **globalization and the financial and economic crises** on the labour market have had a marked impact on young people's material standards of living in low-income households.





POVERTY, DISADVANTAGE AND HEALTH INEQUALITY (PDHI) STREAM



Poverty, Disadvantage and Health Inequality Stream

- People with poorer socio-economic status have **poorer health outcomes** that include **higher morbidity and mortality**, poorer **access** to health services and poorer health **behaviour**.



People in Deprived Areas

- People living in **deprived areas** are more likely to smoke, to eat less nutritious meals, take less physical exercise, and be more susceptible to drugs and alcohol abuse.



Living in Deprived Areas

- Many populations, particularly those living in areas of high socio-economic deprivation, suffer on three counts:
 - (1) they **use poor-quality services**;
 - (2) they have relative **difficulty in securing access to services**; and
 - (3) they **suffer from multiple external disadvantages**.



Work Done by Us

- Using **Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping**, our team members shows that geographical and socio-economic disparity exists both in health status and health service utilization in Hong Kong.



Our Relevant Research Experience

- Team members from the **School of Public Health and Primary Care** have received funding from the **Research Grant Council, the Health and Health Service Research Fund and the Hospital Authority (Commissioned Funding)** to conduct projects with themes in primary care and health policy



Research Plan

- A series of **large-scale, comprehensive and longitudinal studies**
- **Large-scale population representative surveys** was carried out in **2014** and **2016**
- Both **qualitative and quantitative methods** will be included
- Duration Apr. 2012 to Mar. 2017



Research Plan (Survey)

2011	2012	2014	2016
Poverty & Deprivation Survey (HKCSS)	Poverty & Social Exclusion 2012 Survey (ESRC/RGC)	PSDE (Time 1) Survey	PSDE (Time 2) Survey
1000 Adults (18+)	800 Adults	800 (previous) + 1,200 (new) = 2,000 Adults 1,000 (new) Children & Youth (age 10-17)	1,100 Adults (Age18+) & 550 Children & Youth (Age 10–17)



Research Coordination

- Each stream will work in a team in conceptualization and research design by means of meeting (local) and e-mail communication (overseas)
- **Team meetings in the format of teleconferencing** each in Year one to four.
- **A workshop** will be organized in the fifth year, in order to invite all overseas expert to finalize data analysis, report writing and knowledge building



Sample Design & Selection

- **Two-stage cluster random sample:** the frame of quarters firstly stratified by geographical area and type of quarters.
- **Systematic random sampling :** fixed sampling intervals and non-repetitive random numbers.



Sample Size

- all **land-based non-institutional population aged 10 and above, excluding domestic helpers,** residing in Hong Kong.
- **2,000 adult respondents and 1,000 C&Y respondents** will be enumerated



Measurement Instruments on Poverty and Social Exclusion

- **Poverty and Social Exclusion Survey of Britain (PSE)**
- **Deprivation and Social Exclusion in Australia,**
- **HKCSS 2011 survey** developed a list of 35 items of deprivation and 16 activities of exclusion.



Measurements Instruments on C&Y Well-being

- Adapted survey **well-being instruments** developed by Prof **Bradshaw** (for UNICEF),
- Localized measurement will be developed and validated in the focus group interview, cognitive interviewing and pilot interviews



Multiple Level Analysis & GIS systems

- **Multiple level analysis** of **individual, household, community and district** will be analysed by using MLA software
- **Geographical data** of poverty, deprivation, exclusion, and health outcomes will be analysed by using the **GIS system**.



Structural Equation Modeling

- **Structural Equation Modeling (SEM)** will be proposed to analyze the casual effect relationship between variables such as poverty well-beings and health outcomes.



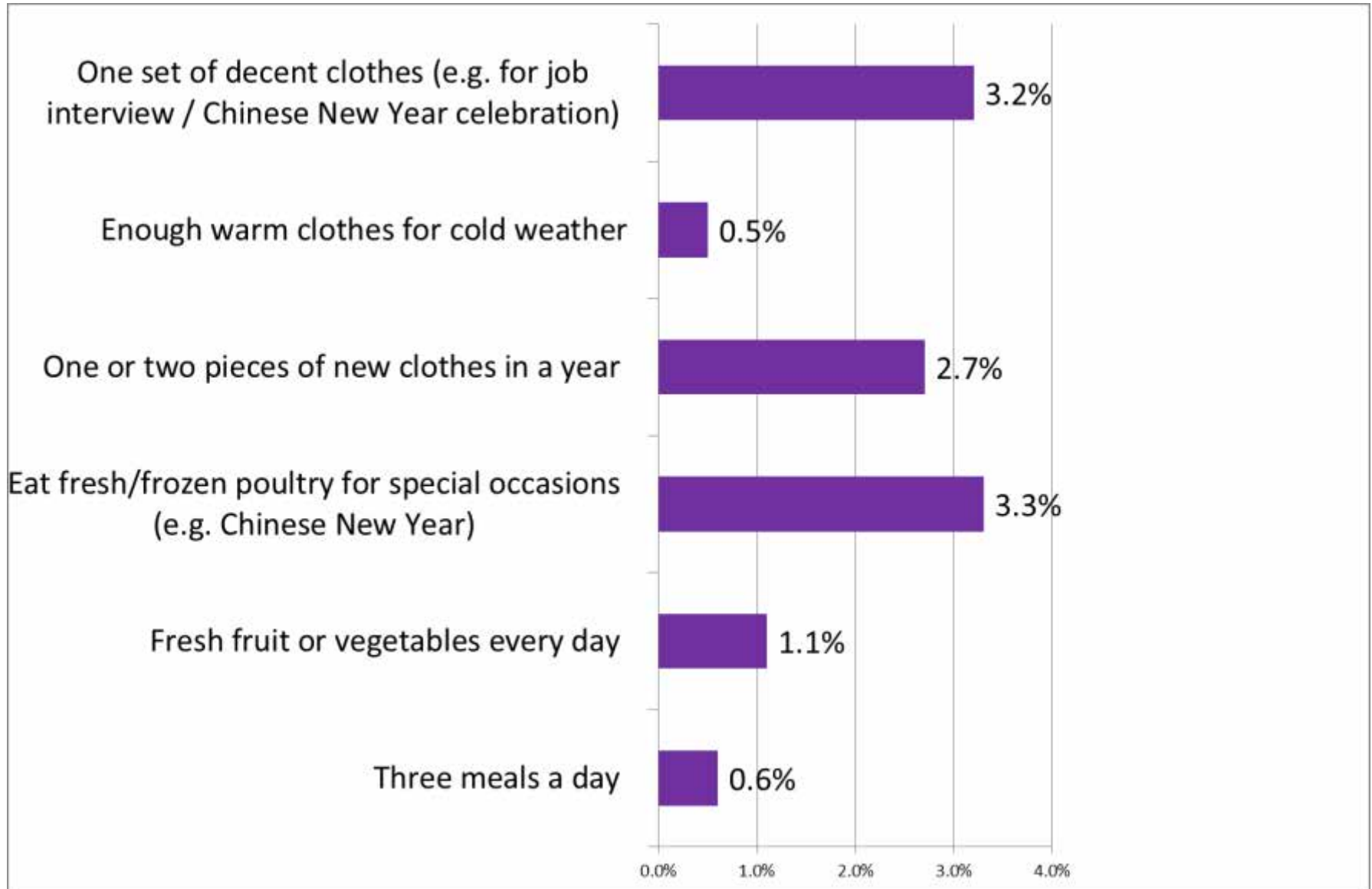
RESULT OF PART OF THE FIRST WAVE SURVEY



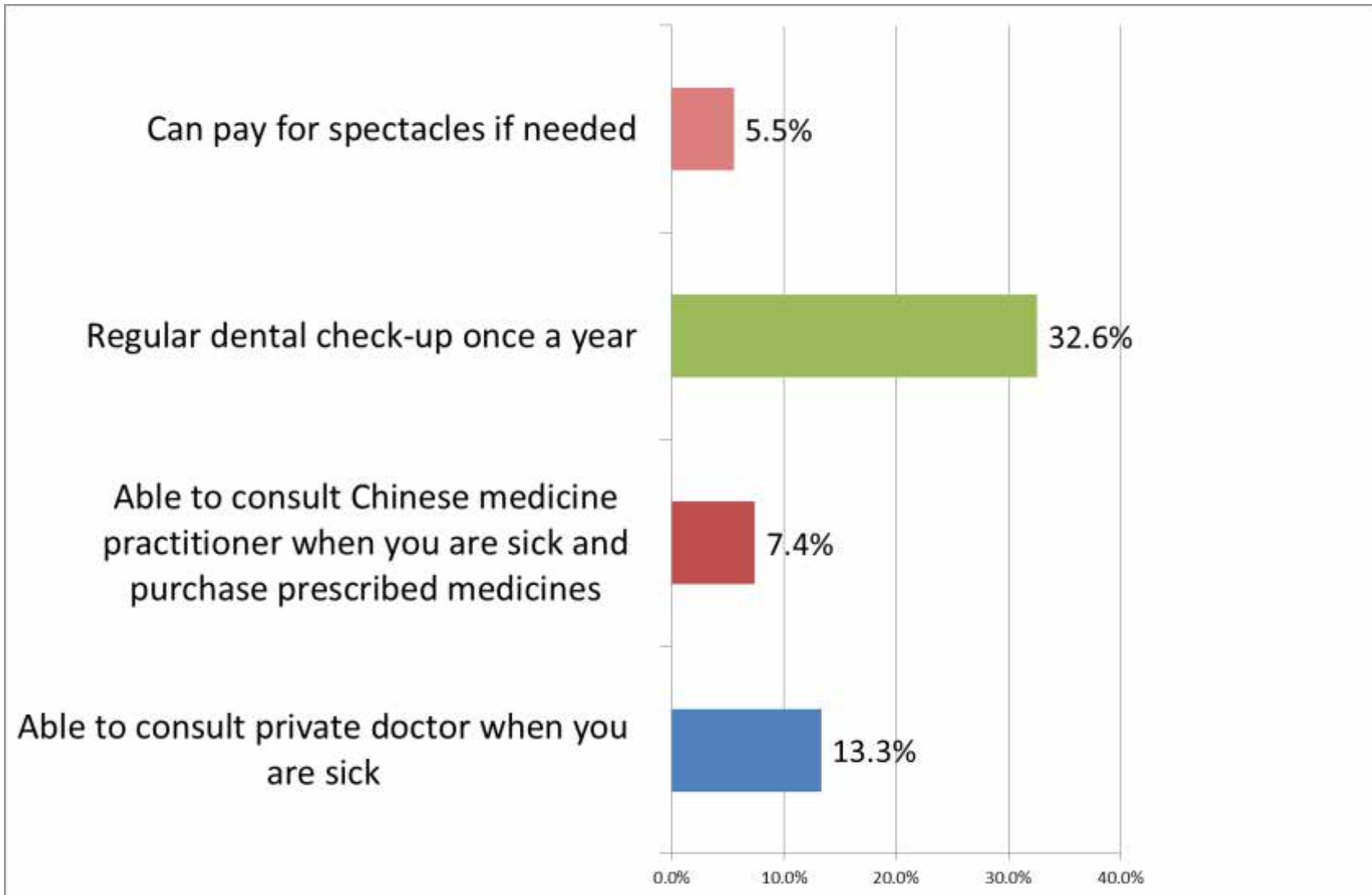
DEPRIVATION (DON'T HAVE AND CAN'T AFFORD)



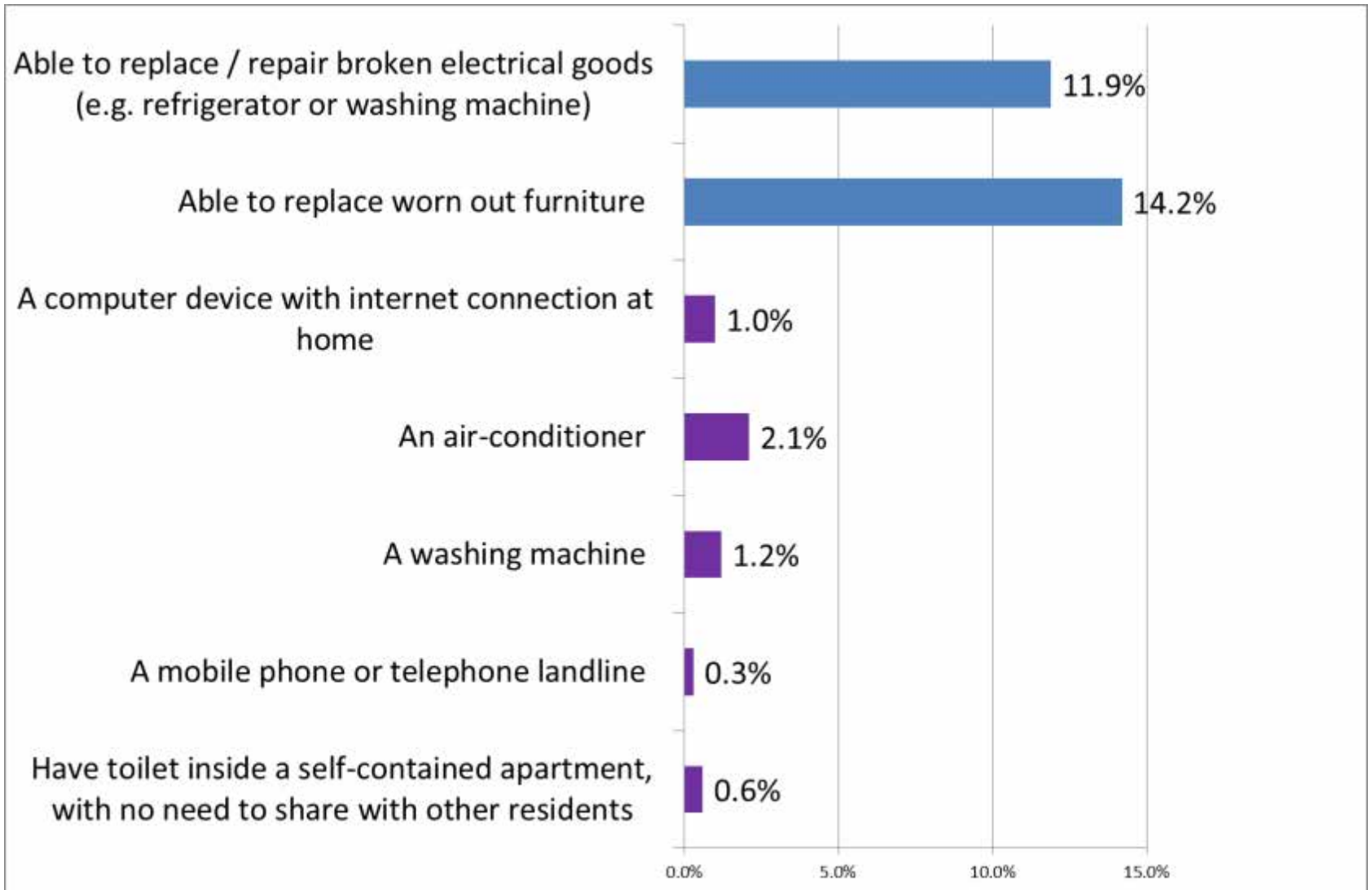
Adult Deprivation (Diet and Clothing)



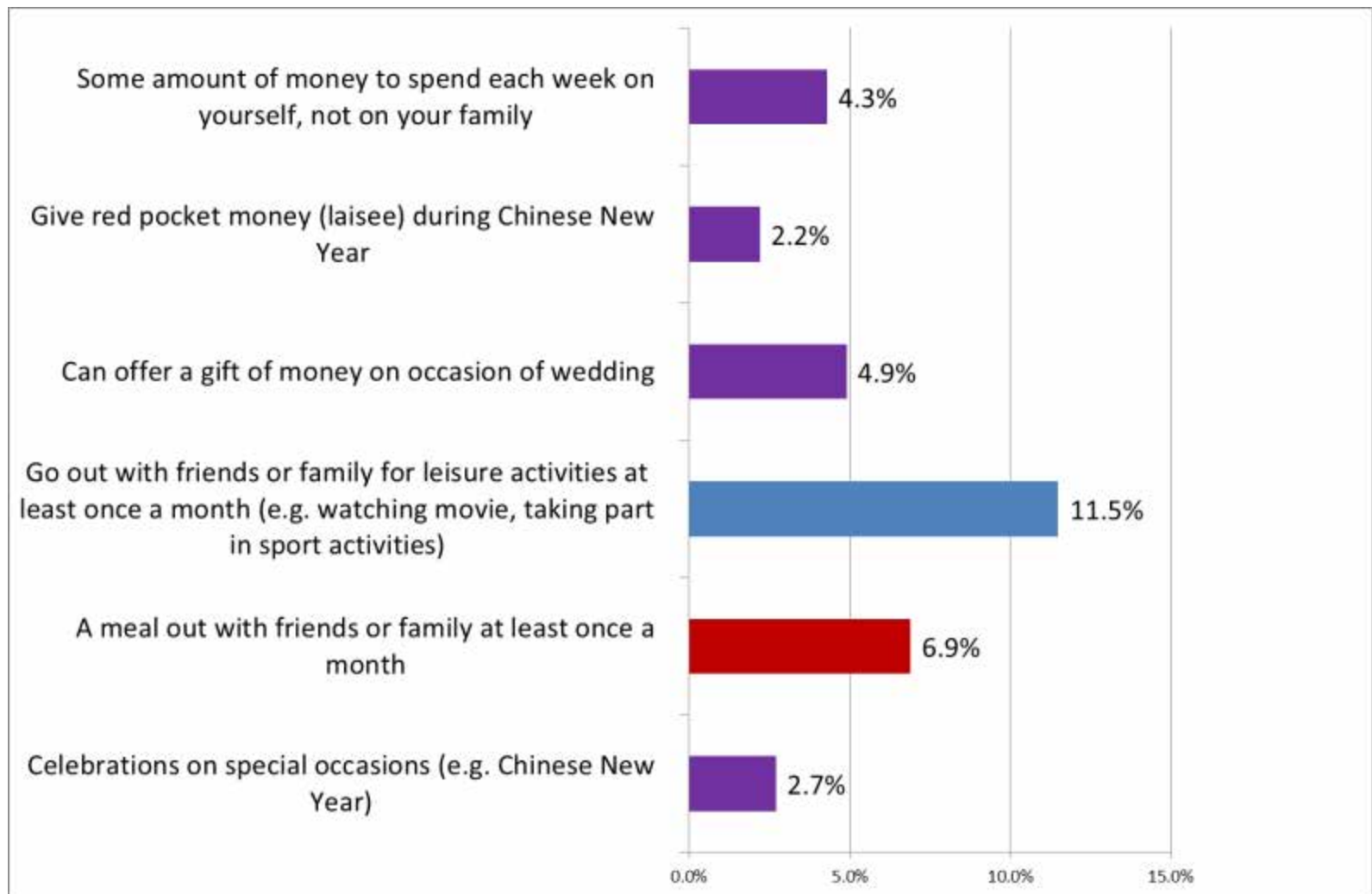
Adult Deprivation (Medical, Dental and Optical Care)



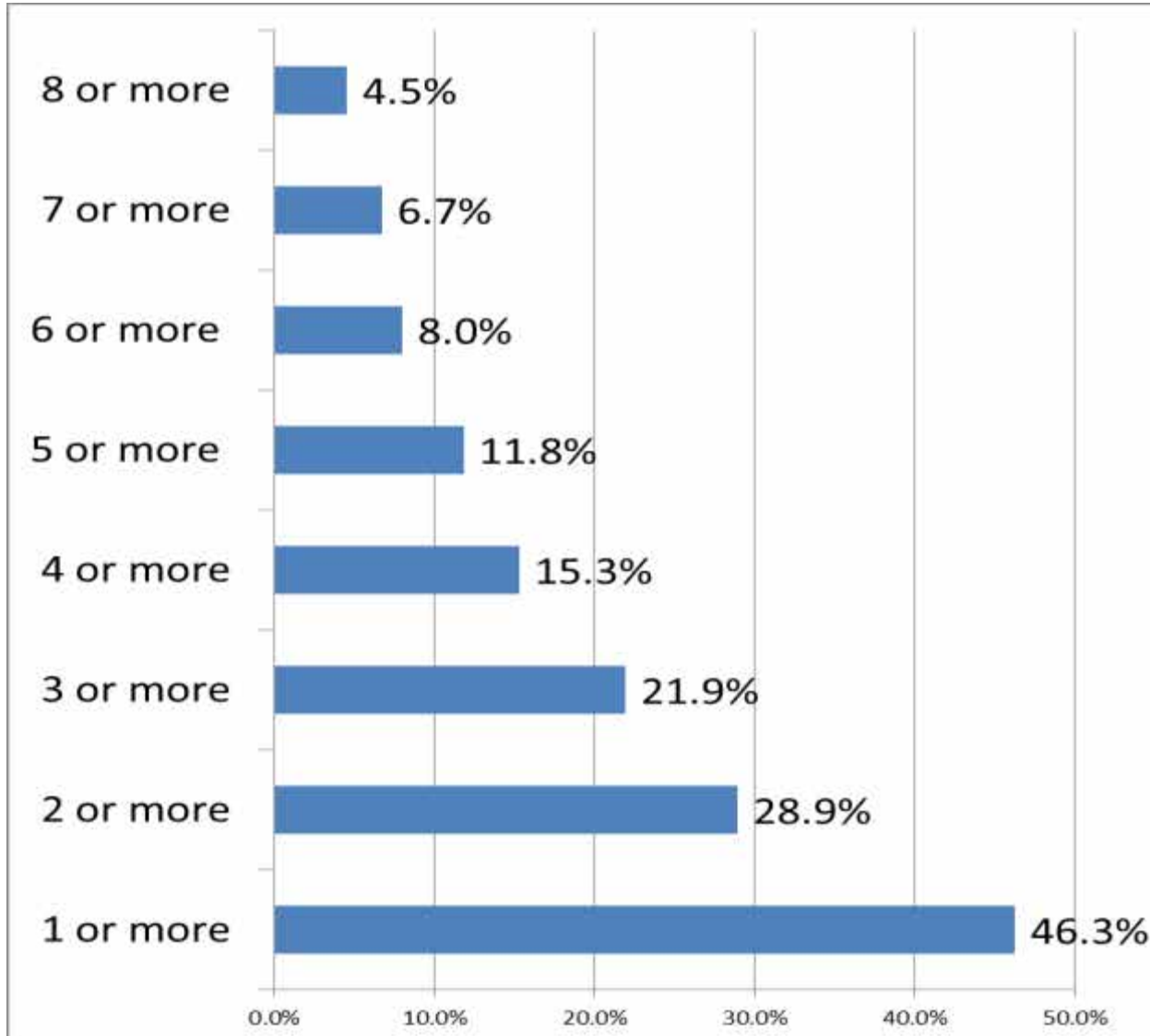
Adult Deprivation (Household Facilities and Items)



Adult Deprivation (Own Money, Social and Family Life)



% of respondents with number of deprivation items





Thank you!

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Thank You!

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