

# Child poverty:

## Measurement, trends and policy directions

Katharine Hall

ASSAf workshop, Misty Hill, Muldersdrift

*“Measuring deprivation in order to promote human development”*

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# Child-focused poverty measurement

- Important to distinguish poverty rates for children (vs general population), across a range of dimensions.
- The child population is differently distributed to the adult population – extent of deprivation is 'lost' in generalised population and household-level analysis.
- Childhood deprivation contributes to cycles of poverty and inequality.

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Children's Institute

Welcome to the Children Count-Abantwana Babalulekile site

On this site you will find information on children in South Africa: their living conditions, care arrangements, health status, and access to schools and other services. The data is based on the best available national data. The website includes downloadable fact sheets on 40 indicators as well as an interactive tool that enables you to compare data for different years and provinces.

Children Count-Abantwana Babalulekile is an advocacy project of the Children's Institute. To find out more about the work of the Children's Institute, please visit the menu bar.

Enjoy your visit!

- Demography & care (population, orphaning, co-residence)
  - Income poverty & social grants
  - Living conditions
  - Nutrition & hunger
  - HIV & Health
  - Education & early childhood development
- **40 indicators, clustered in 6 domains**

2.7  
million

children live in households where there is child hunger

tell me more

Find statistics on:

Demography

Over 18 million children live in South Africa. It is important to understand where children live and the circumstances in which they live because this helps

Income and Social Grants

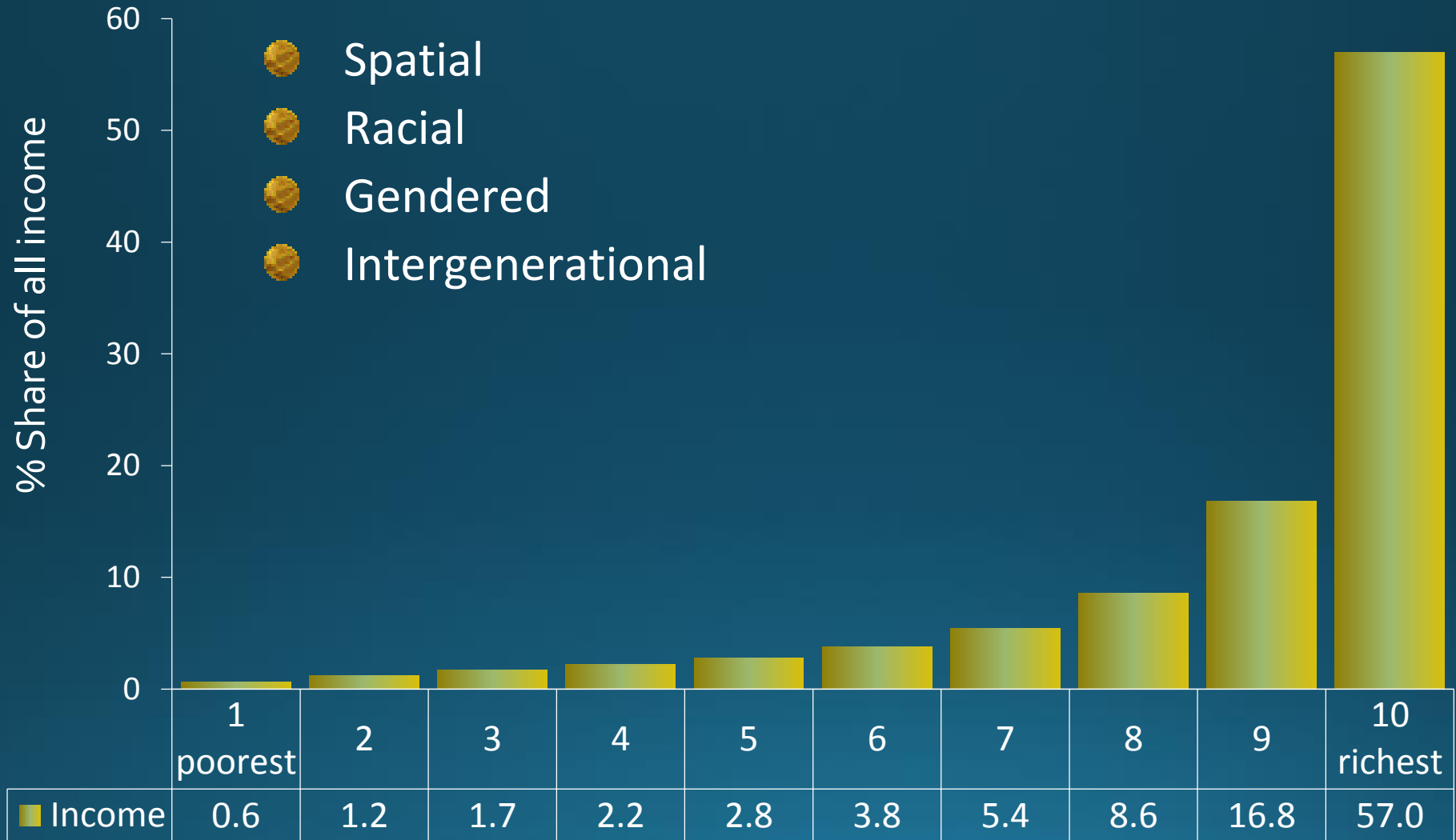
Children in South Africa bear a huge burden of poverty because they are disproportionately represented in households situated in poor



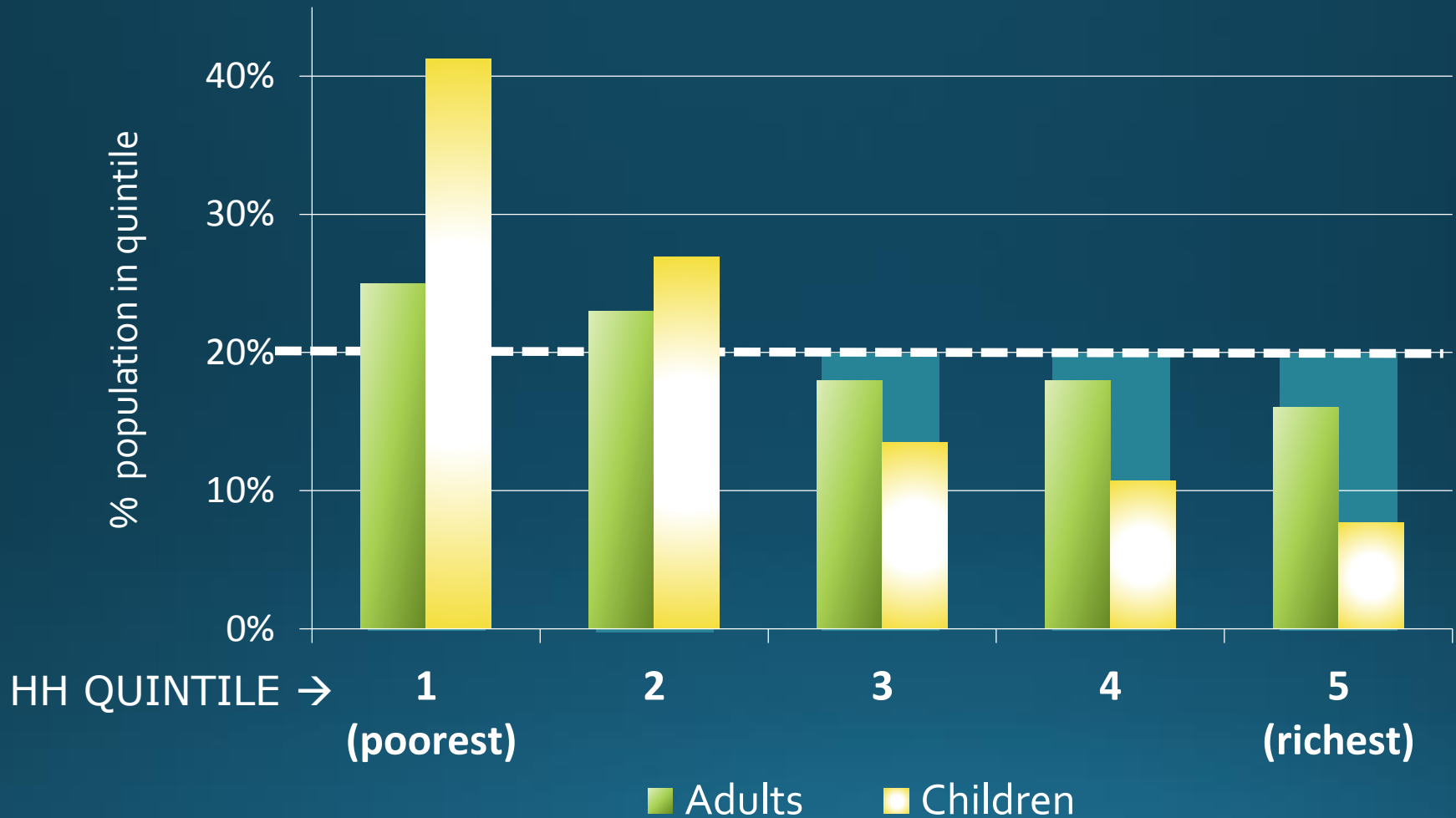
# What do we count? – defining indicators

- Selection of indicators linked to international & constitutional rights (using concept of the ‘minimum core’) – requires legal analysis
- Indicators also informed by policy targets / norms and standards – eg:
  - overcrowding (CESCR / National housing code)
  - adequate sanitation & water (WHO guidelines, DWAF policy framework)
  - income poverty lines (link to national / common / int lines)
- Work with a reference group; consult experts; refer to literature
- Data availability:
  - Appropriate questions or suitable proxies – or leave it out
  - Nationally representative, allow for identification of children
  - Standard disaggregations (province, race, sex, age group, income quintile, geotype)
  - Frequency – must be regular, to allow for monitoring
  - Consistent – check question formulation in each round, and do sensitivity checks. Subtle differences can have huge effects on the results.

# Inequality context matters for children

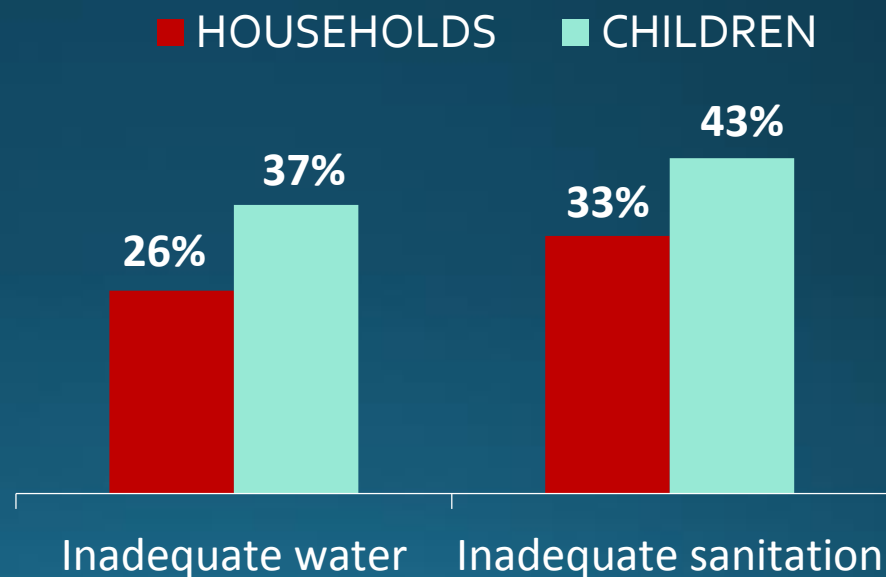
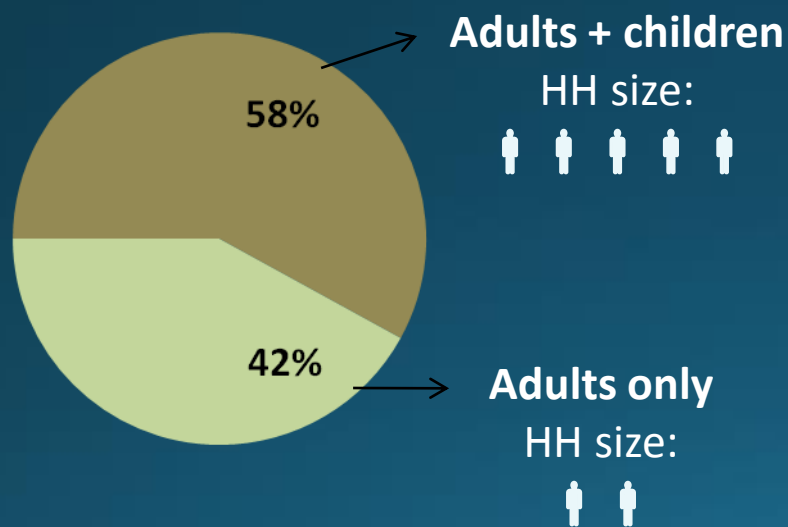


# Children – disproportionately poor



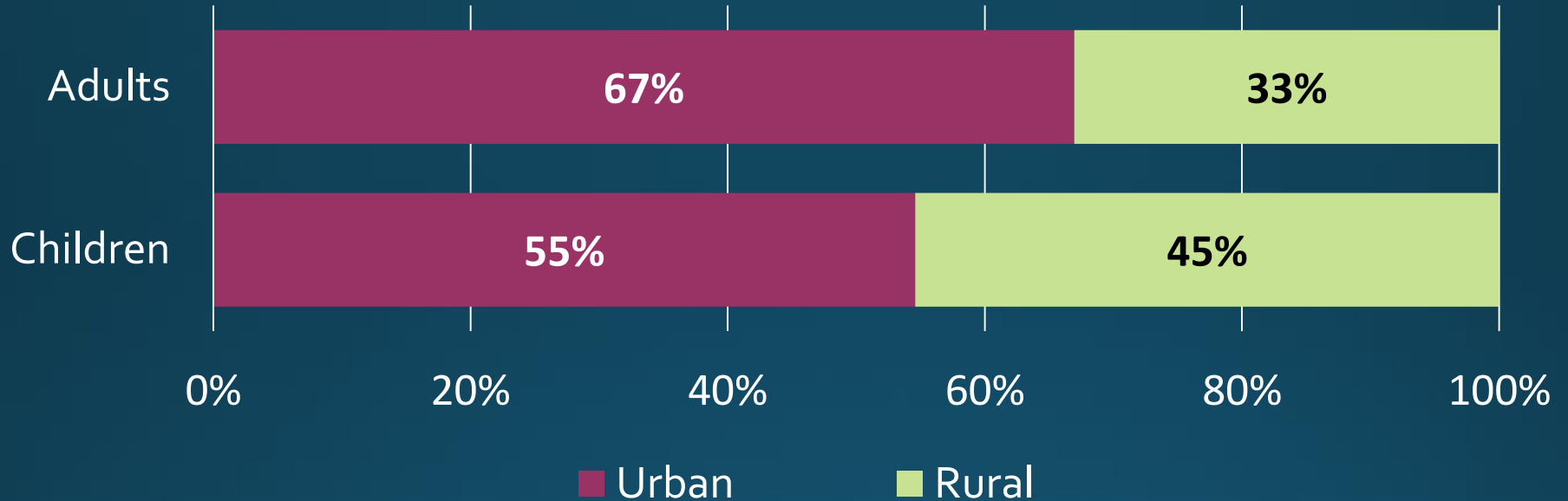
# Household structure / clustering

- Mixed-generation households (with children) are larger than national average; household-level measures undercount children and their deprivation.
- 2012 poverty headcounts: Children – 57%; Adults – 43%



Source: NIDS Wave 1

# Children: disproportionately rural

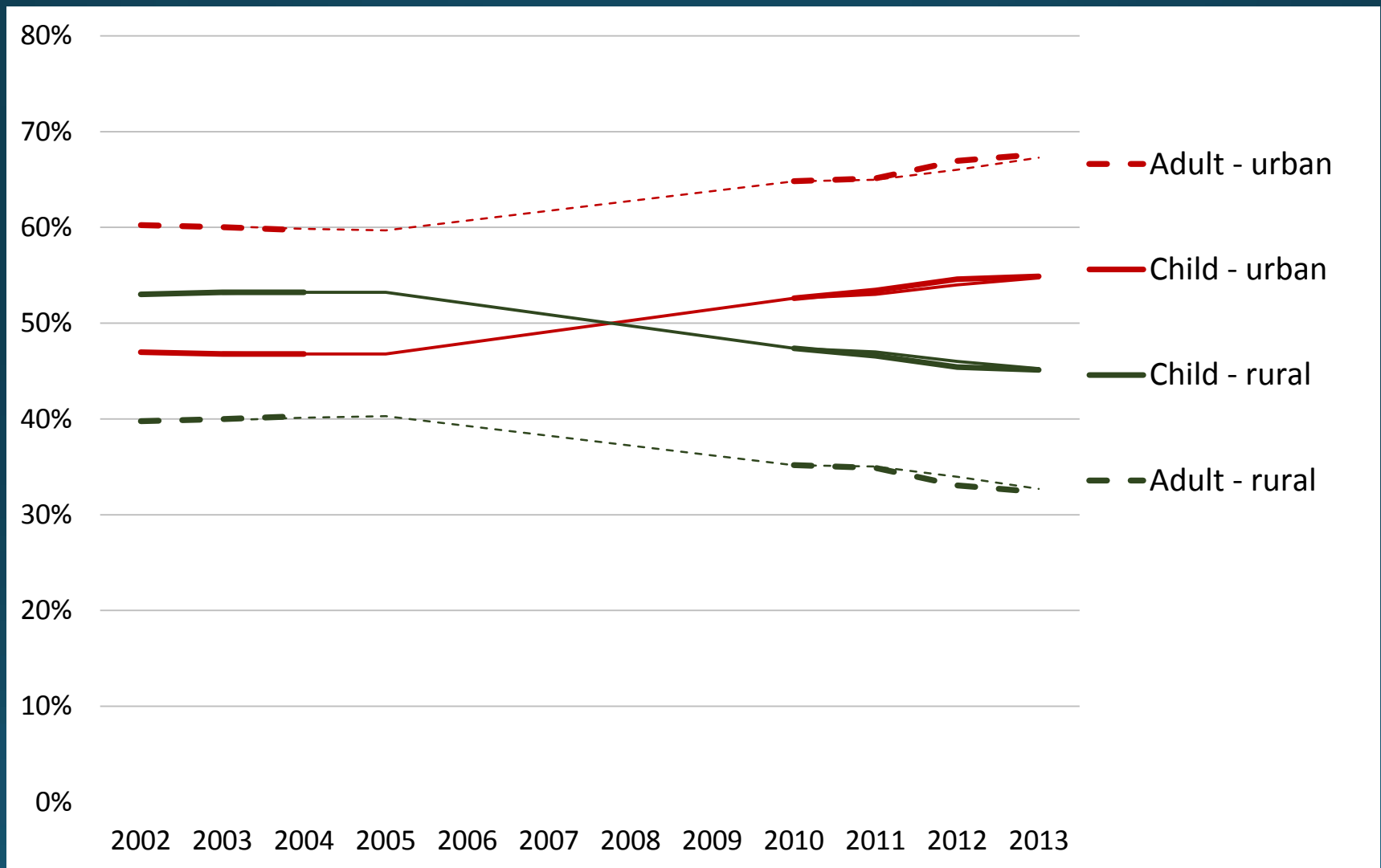


Children are also...

- Over-represented in inadequate housing with poor services
- Over-represented in unemployed households



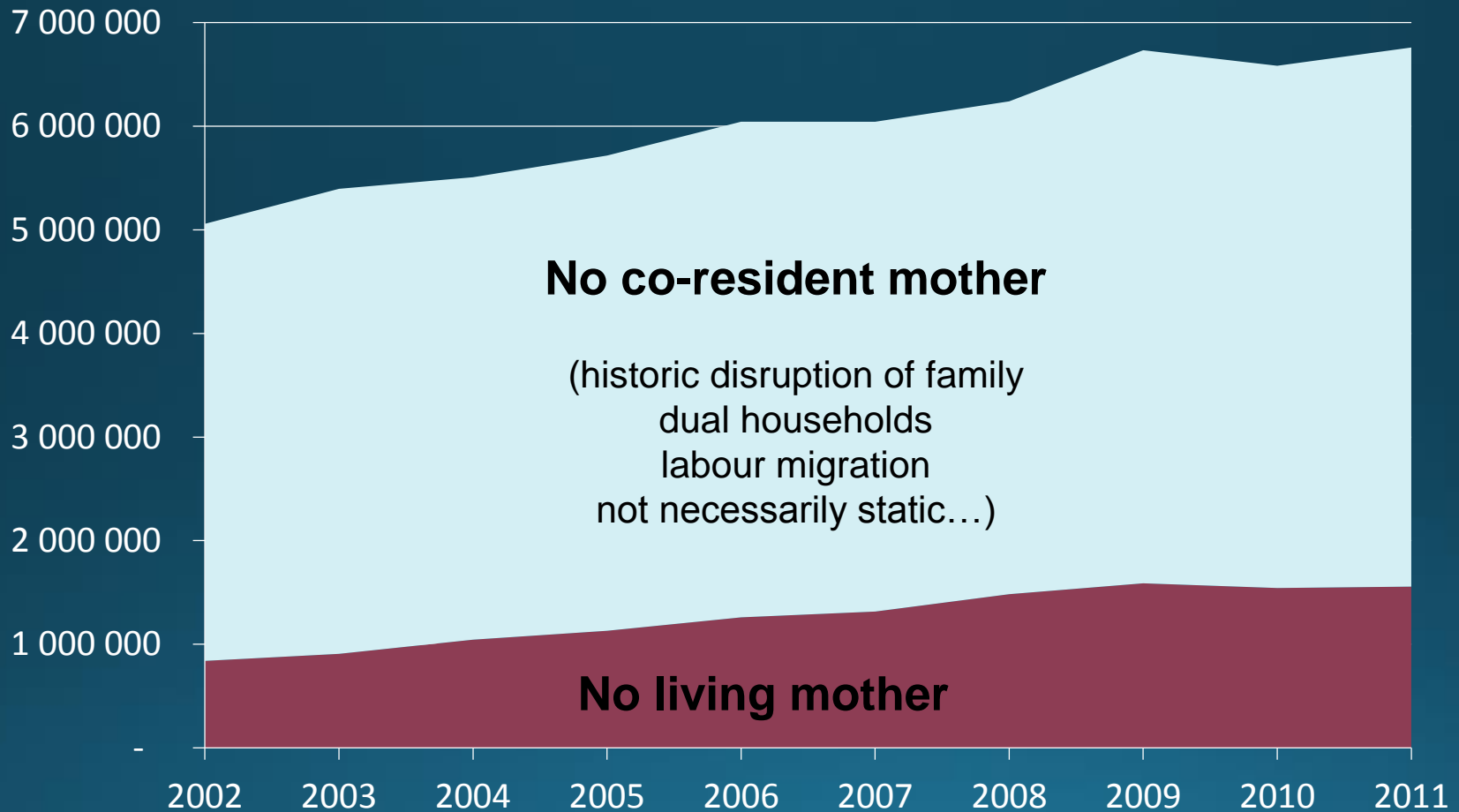
# Urban-rural transitions



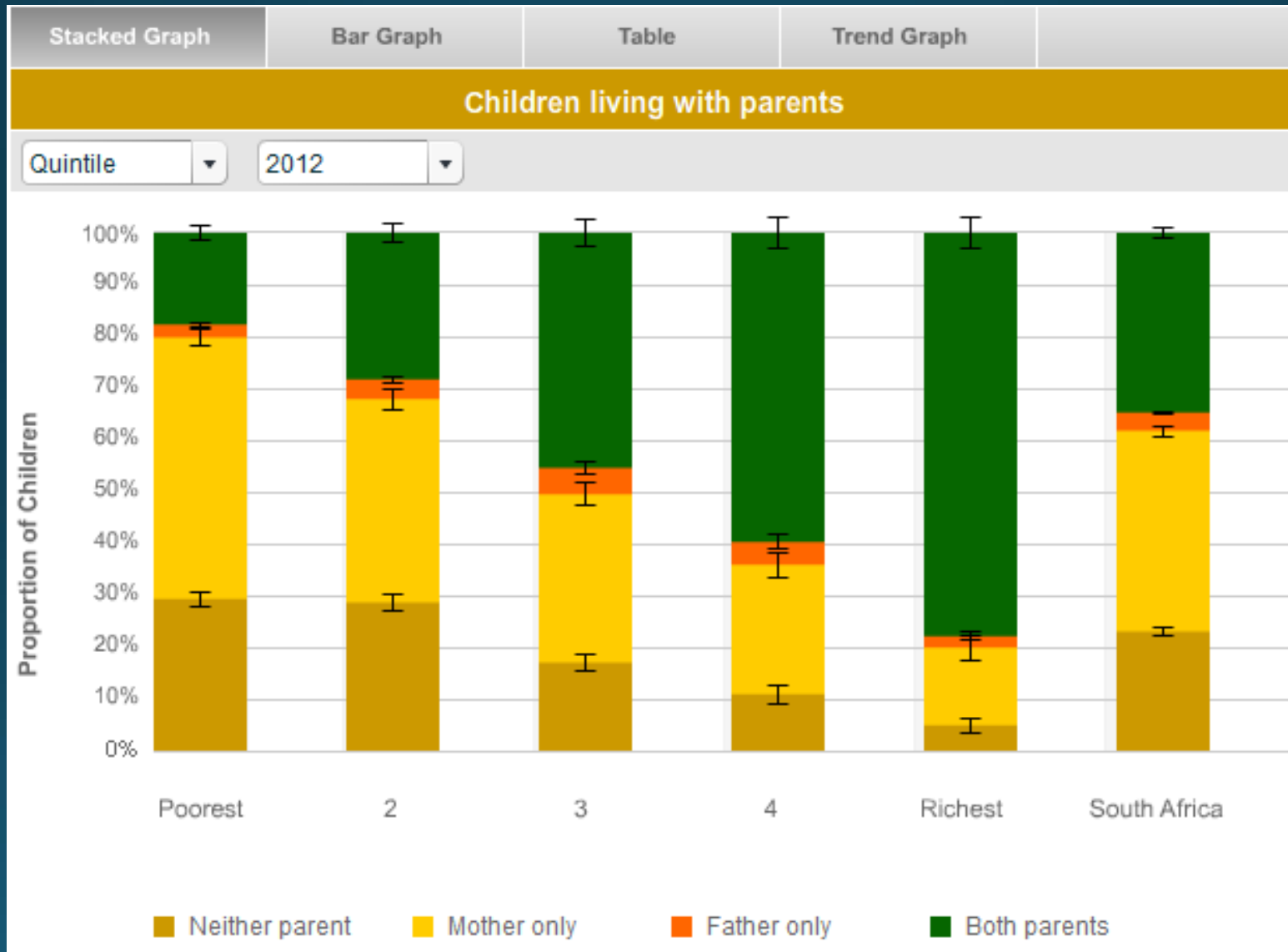
# Household & family contexts

- Shifts in the rural-urban economy: rural poverty persists and deepens alongside growing urban poverty and food insecurity.
- Declining remittances – may be linked to increased access to social grants; increased permanence of migrants.
- Declining marriage rates & paternal support to children.
- Women increasingly bear economic, household and child care responsibilities. Migration can remove women and accompanying children from chains of care.
- Large (and increasing) numbers of children do not have co-resident parents... Burden of care (and financial support) on grandparents.

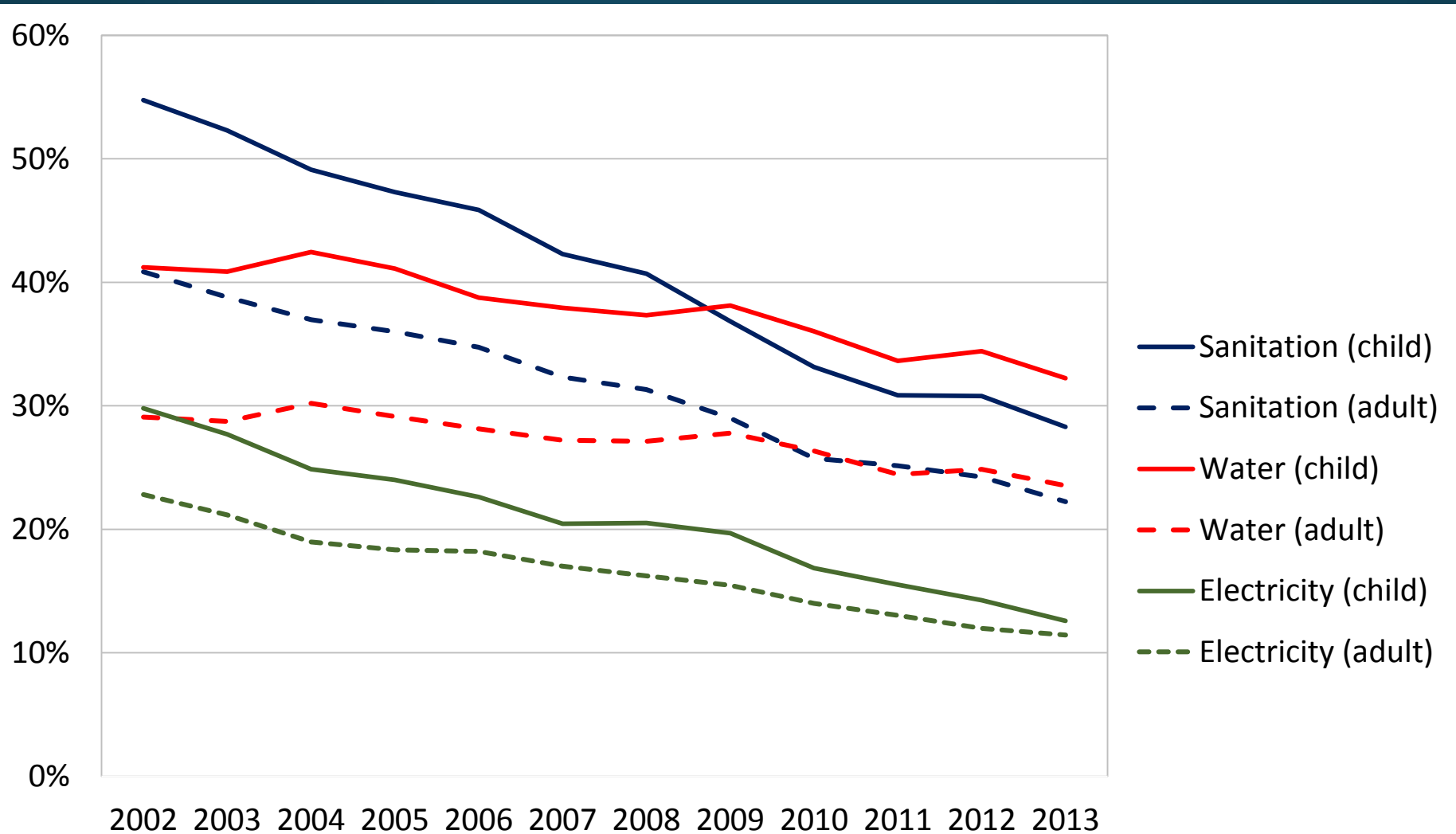
# Declining child-mother co-residence



# Inequalities in child-parent co-residence



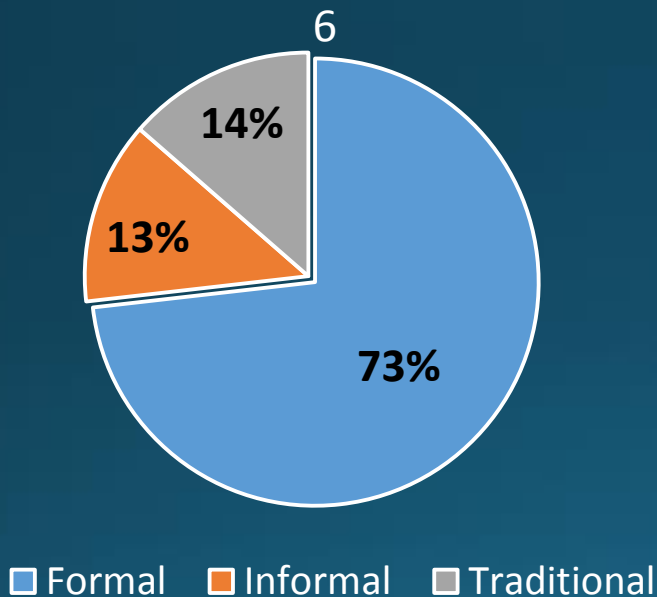
# Living environment deprivations



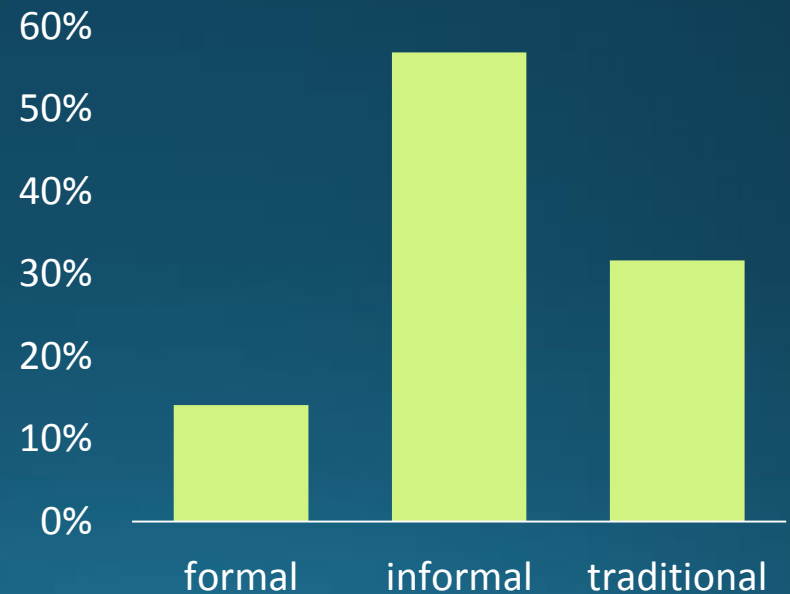
# Overcrowding – a health issue

- 22% of children under 6 years live in overcrowded conditions

Dwelling type for children under 6



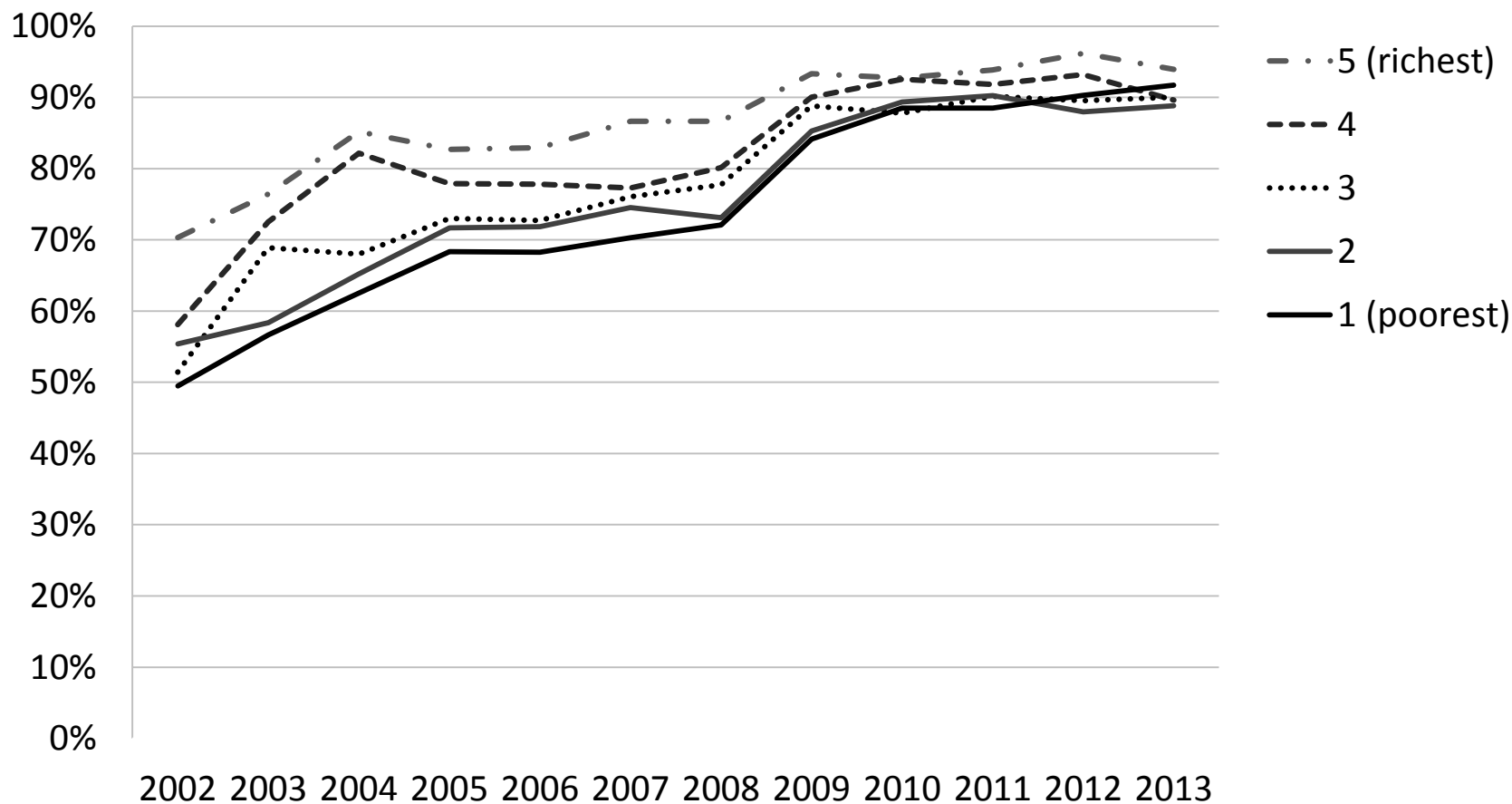
Children under 6 years living in overcrowded conditions



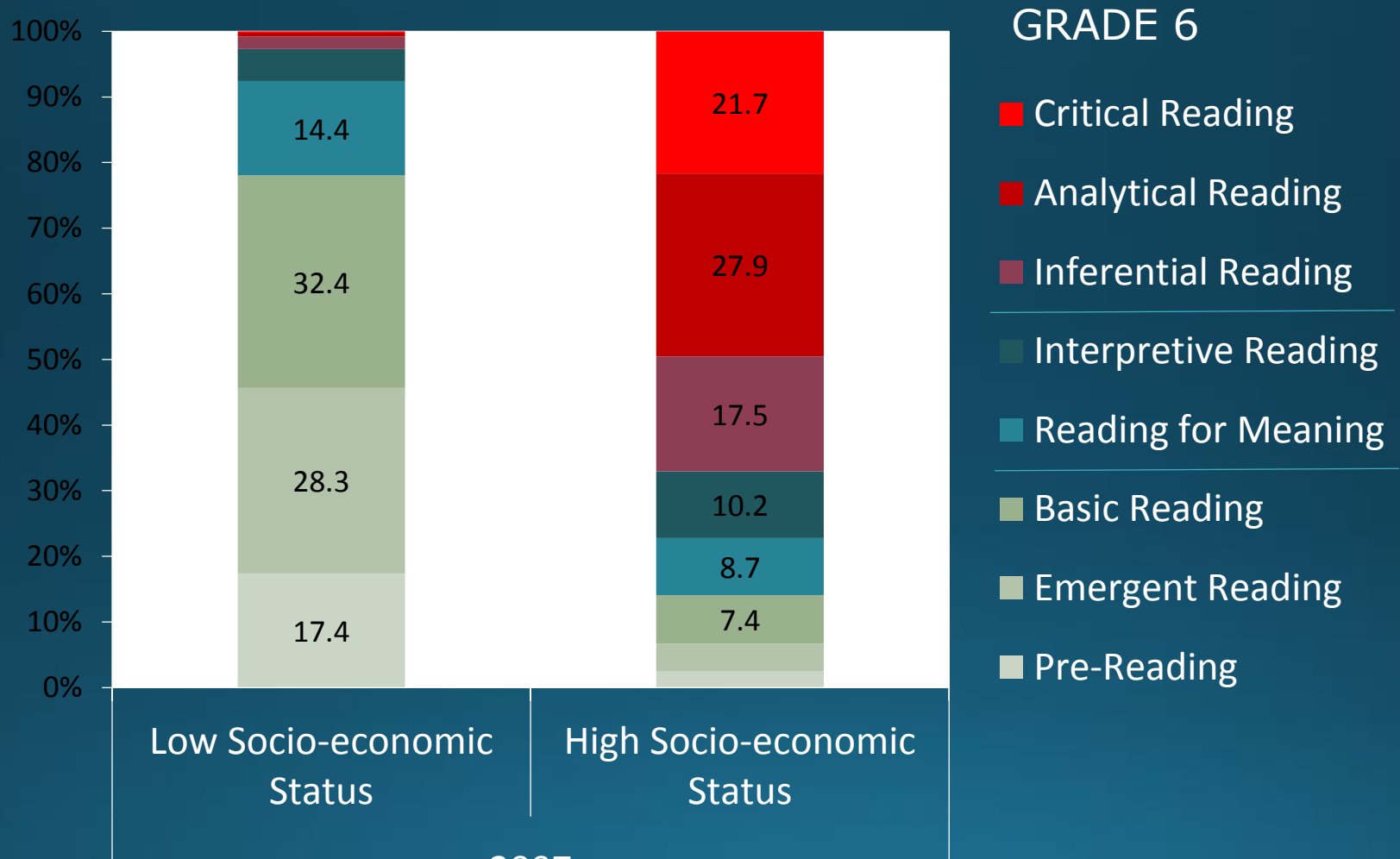
Source: Statistics South Africa (2004; 2014) General Household Survey 2003; General Household Survey 2013. Pretoria: Stats SA. Analysis by Katharine Hall & Winnie Sambu, Children's Institute, UCT.

# Access to early learning

Children aged 5-6 attending school or pre-school



# Unequal learning outcomes: reading competence

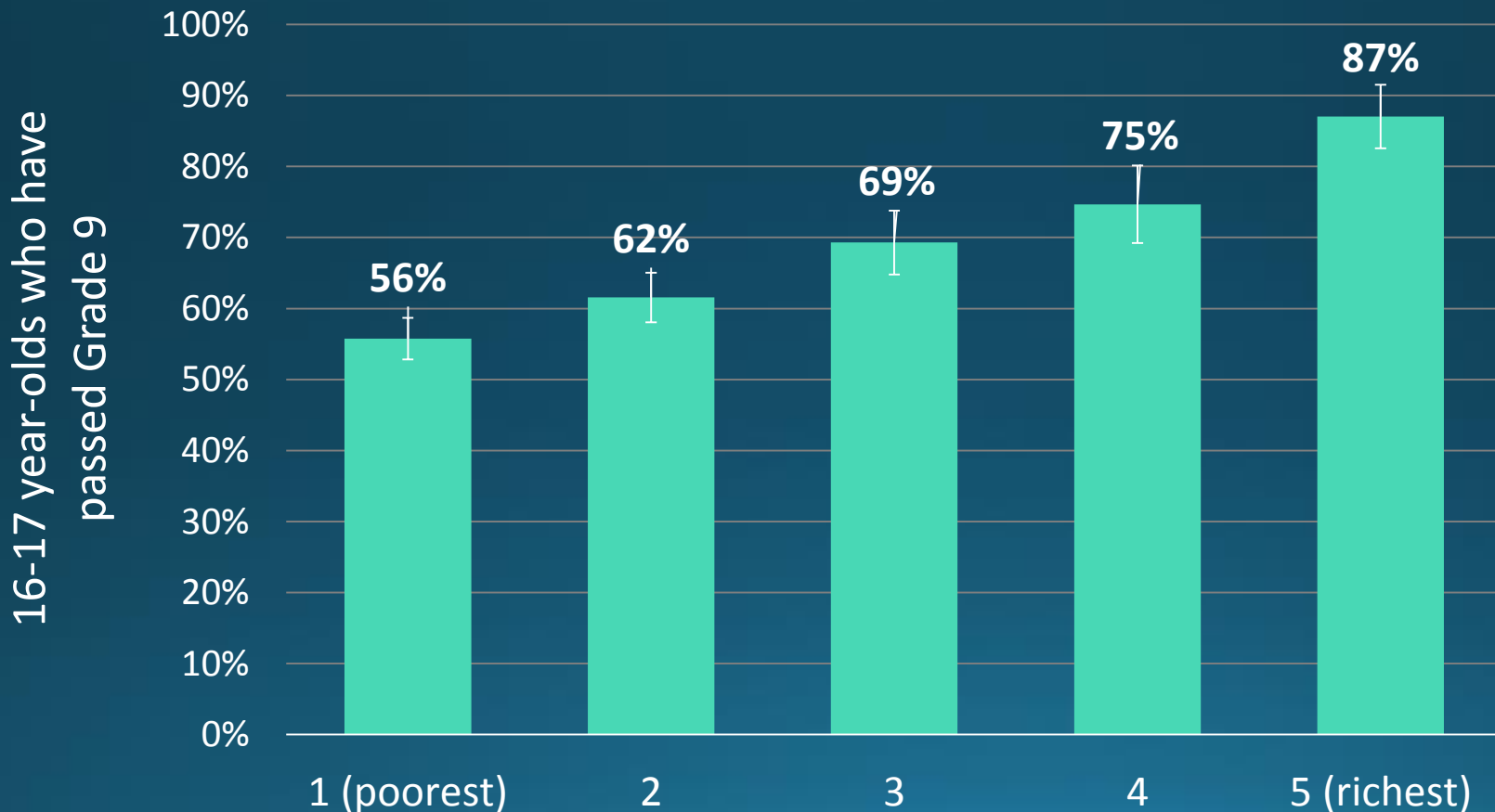


SACMEQ results in Branson & Zuze 2012



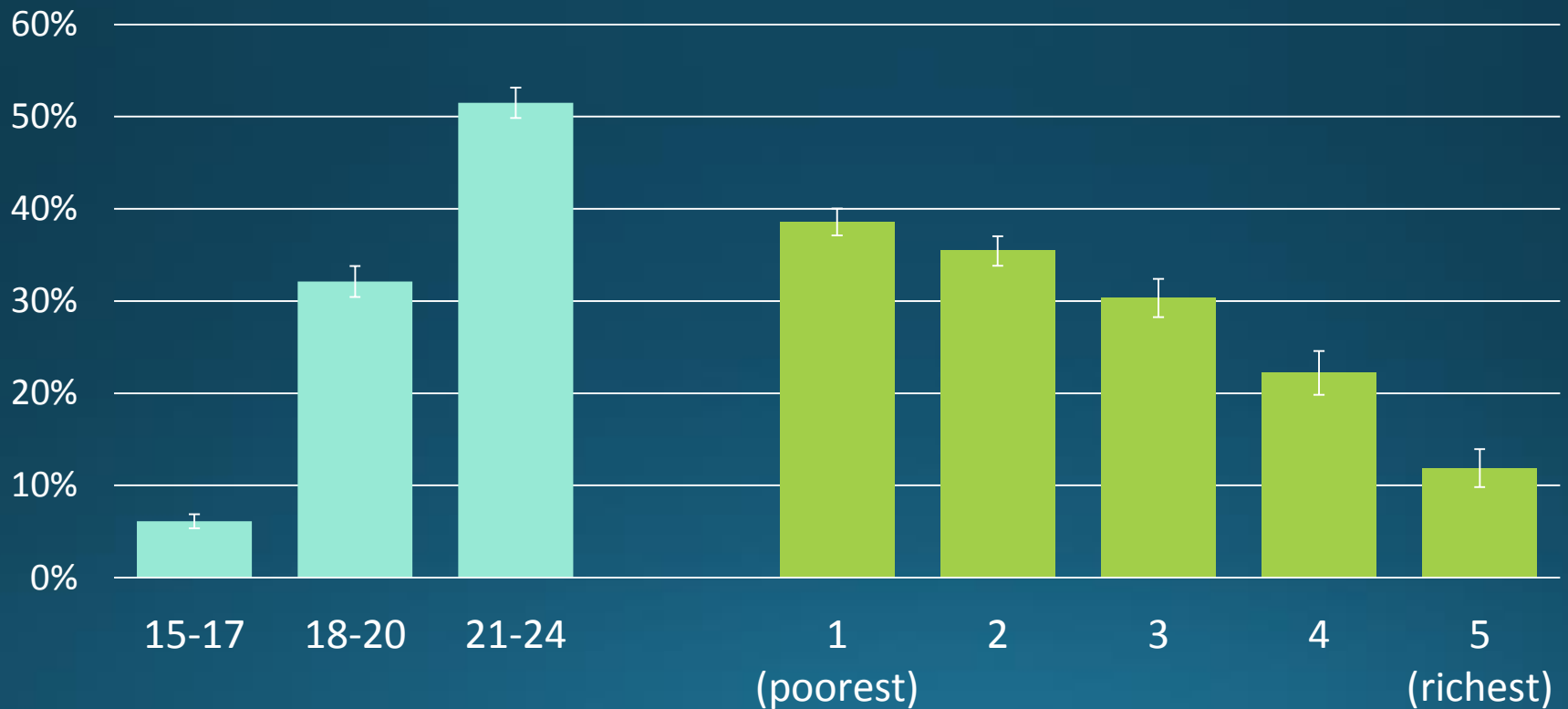
# Inequalities in school progress

- Inequalities in education mean that children who are better off progress quicker and have better outcomes.



# “NEETS”

- 35% of young people aged 15-24 are “Not in Employment, Education or Training”



# Child poverty trends

- Trends show declining child poverty rates, when measured by income poverty headcount, depth and severity.
- These achievements are not matched by changes in other areas of deprivation.
- Income poverty reduction is driven more by social grants than by changes in employment – but income poverty reduction effect of child grants is small (although human capital effects are significant)
- A range of policy options for scaling up the CSG...

# Data

Bar Graph

Table

Trend Graph

## Children living in poverty

Lower

Race

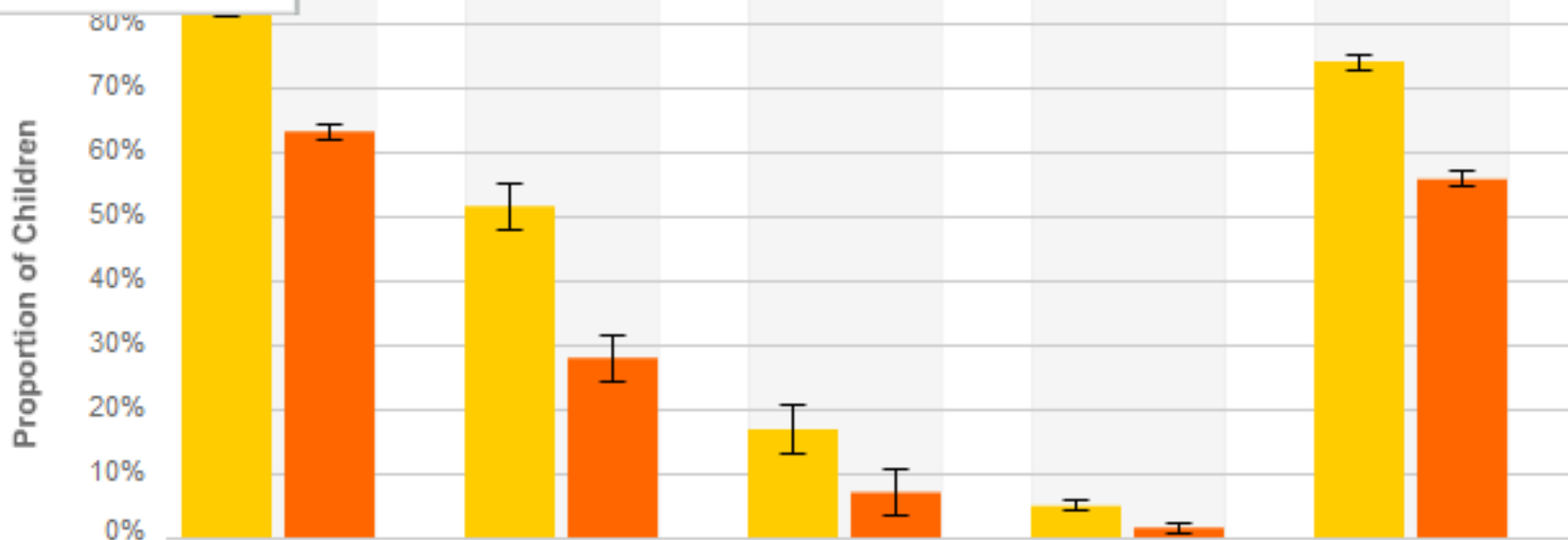
2003

2012

Lower

Upper

\$1.25-a-day



African

Coloured

Indian

White

South Africa

2003

12,880,000

766,000

60,000

55,000

13,760,000

82.4%

51.5%

16.8%

4.9%

74%

2012

9,867,000

441,000

24,000

15,000

10,347,000

63.1%

27.9%

7%

1.5%

55.7%

# Data

Bar Graph

Table

Trend Graph

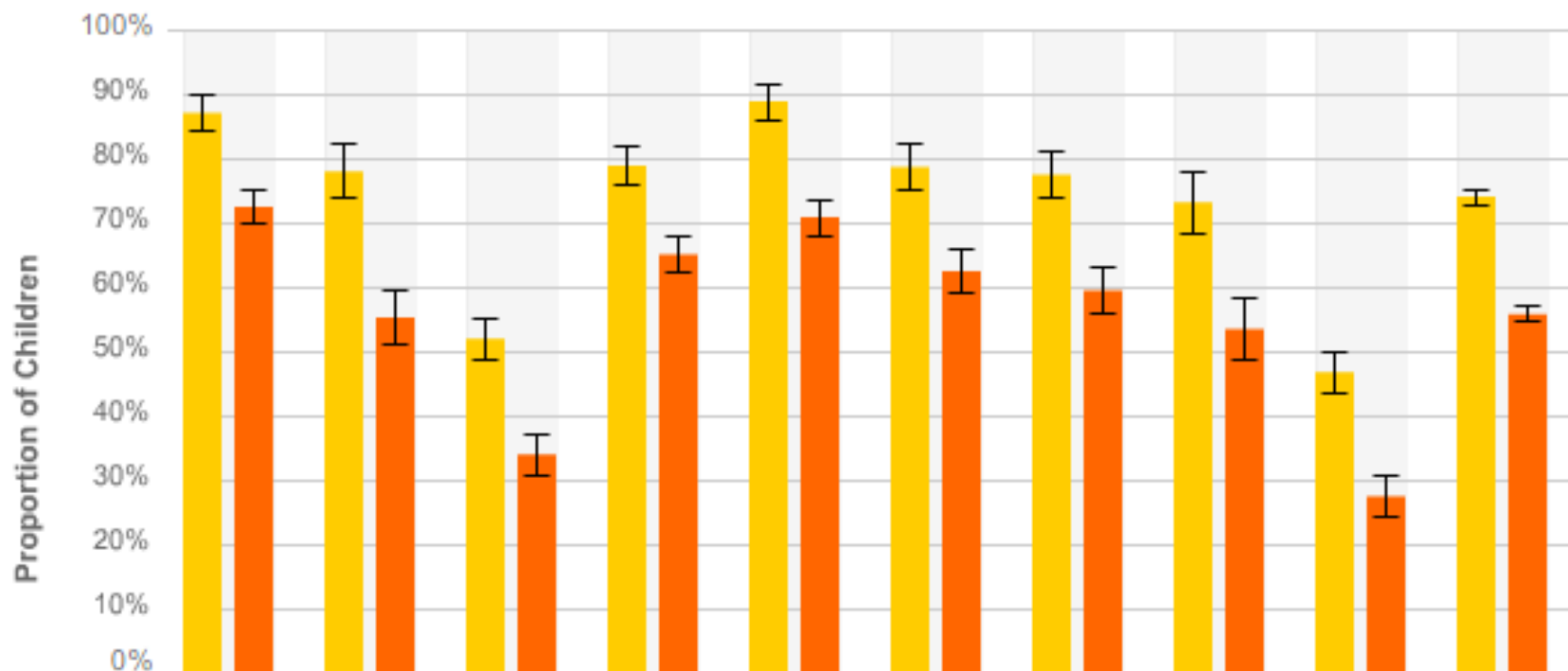
## Children living in poverty

Lower

Province

2003

2012



	EC	FS	GP	KZN	LP	MP	NW	NC	WC	SA
<b>2003</b>	2,581,000	857,000	1,526,000	3,344,000	2,183,000	1,202,000	977,000	316,000	776,000	13,760,000
	87%	77.9%	51.9%	78.8%	88.8%	78.6%	77.4%	73.1%	46.7%	74%
<b>2012</b>	1,951,000	511,000	1,196,000	2,648,000	1,578,000	972,000	756,000	223,000	512,000	10,347,000
	72.4%	55.2%	33.9%	65%	70.8%	62.4%	59.4%	53.4%	27.4%	55.7%

# Poverty rates and headcounts

	1993 poverty rates			2011 poverty rates		
	Adults	Children		Adults	Children	
<b>POVERTY LINE</b>	%	%	Number	%	%	Number
<b>H &amp; Ö Upper bound</b>	65.3	82.3	13 282 000	56.5	75.0	13 906 000
<b>H &amp; Ö Lower bound</b>	48.3	67.9	10 951 000	37.7	56.4	10 449 000
<b>Stats SA Upper</b>	49.7	69.0	11 137 000	38.9	58.2	10 789 000
<b>Stats SA Lower</b>	40.1	59.5	9 596 000	28.3	44.4	8 230 000
<b>\$2-a-day</b>	34.1	52.6	8 496 000	16.9	27.1	5 022 000

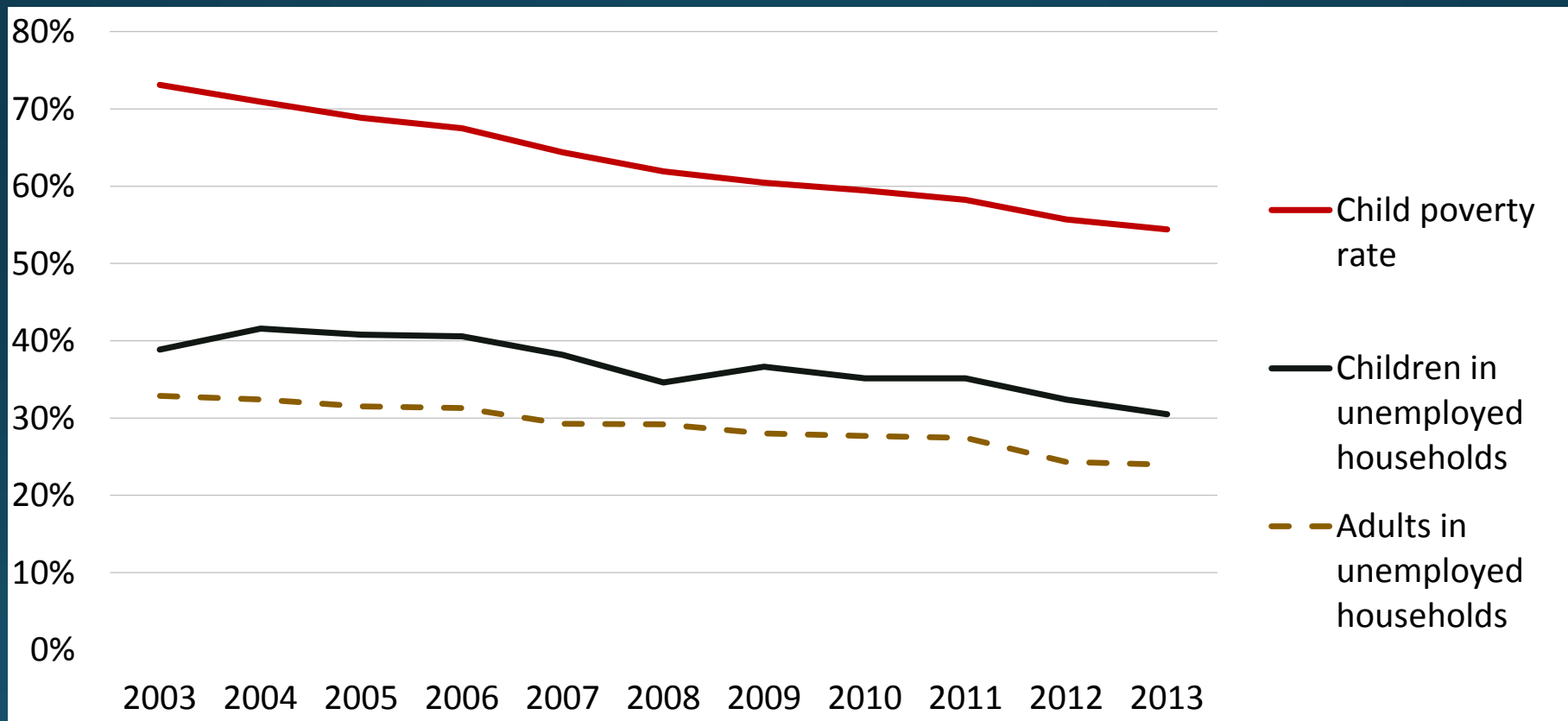
# Poverty measures for children 1993-2011

Source		CHILDREN			ADULTS		
		P0	P1	P2	P0	P1	P2
<b>1993</b>	PSLSD	0.679	0.407	0.291	0.483	0.267	0.183
<b>2008</b>	NIDS	0.673	0.366	0.241	0.461	0.233	0.152
<b>2011</b>	GHS	0.563	0.261	0.152	0.377	0.168	0.097
<b>% decrease 1993-11</b>		17%	36%	48%	22%	37%	47%

\* Hoogeveen & Özler lower bound line

# Tracking poverty and unemployment

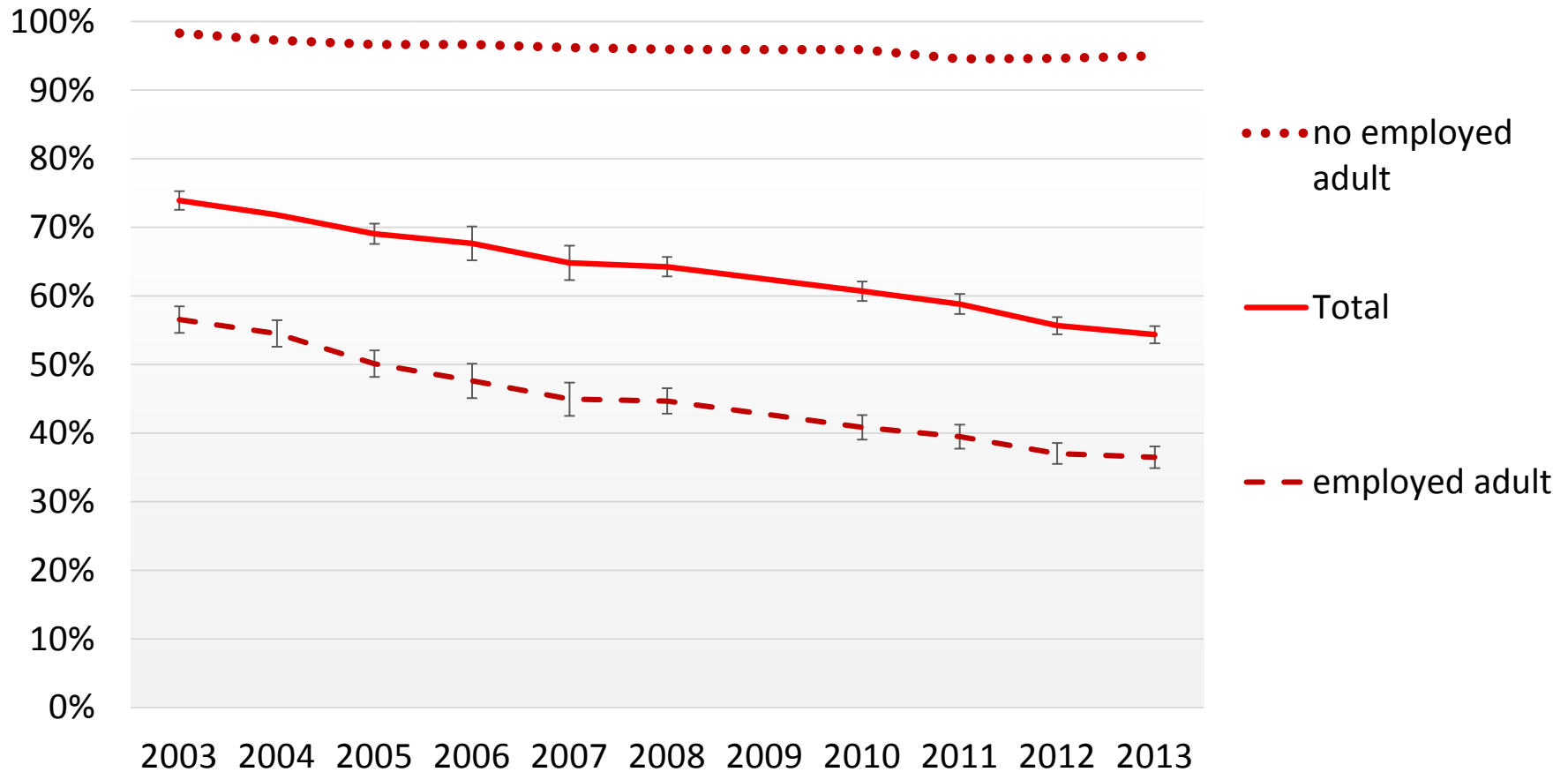
- Child poverty rates have fallen by 19 percentage points over the last decade.
- Household unemployment rates (from perspective of children) have fallen only 9 percentage points; remain above HH unemployment for adults





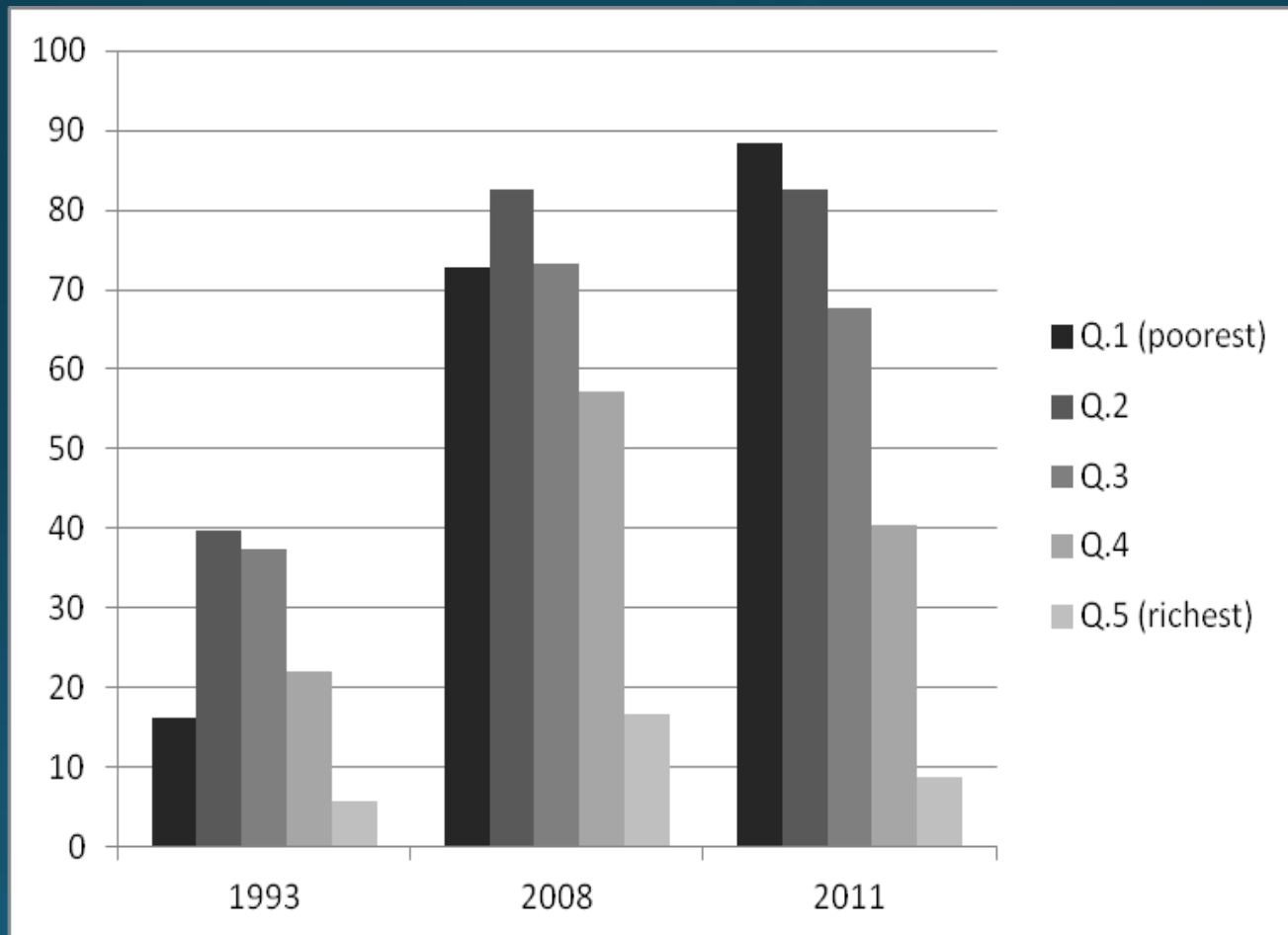
# Unemployment & child poverty

Child poverty rate (H&O lower bound), by HH employment status



# Pro-poor targeting of grants

Any income from social grants in households where children live – by income quintile

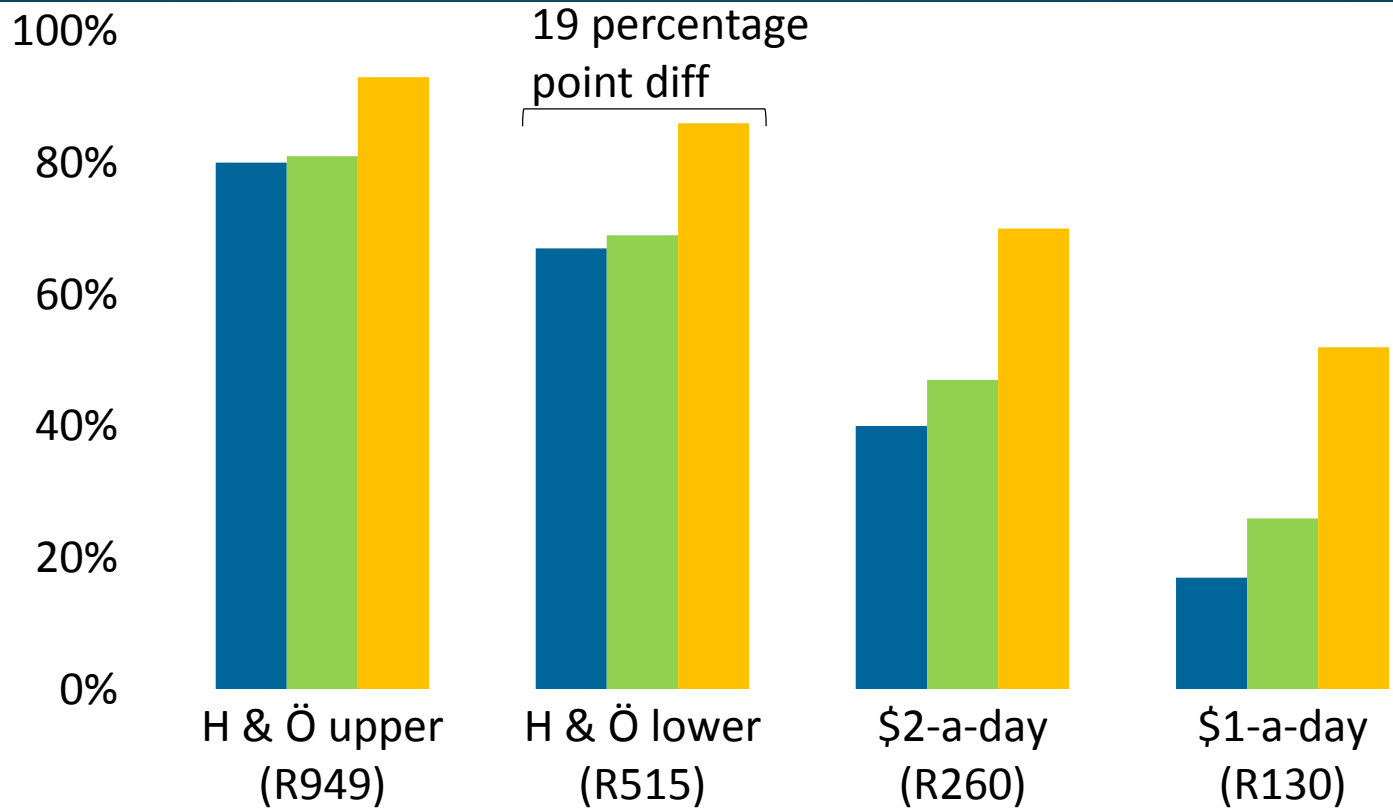


# Options for CSG expansion / reform

In light of established human development benefits, where to next with the expansion of the CSG?

- Increase the amount?
- Universalise?
- Extend to older children / youth?
- Extend to pre-birth (pregnant women)?
- Extended CSG for orphans in kinship care?

# Increase the amount?



■ Headcount

■ Excluding CSG

■ Excluding all grants

80%

81%

93%

67%

69%

86%

40%

47%

70%

17%

26%

52%

# Poverty lines and grant amounts

PER CAPITA POVERTY LINE	VALUE in 2014 (per month)	
H&Ö Upper poverty line	R1312	OAP R1410
StatsSA Upper poverty line	R734	FCG R860
H&Ö Lower poverty line	R712	
StatsSA Lower poverty line (NPC)	R525	
StatsaSA Food poverty line	R380	
\$2-a-day (ultra-low)	R353	CSG R330

Poverty lines set in 2000 Rands and inflated for each year using headline CPI

Poverty lines set in dollars calculated using PPP as published by World Bank

# Universalise?

Around 75% of children eligible for the CSG.

- Exclusion errors > 2 million
  - Older children (previously not eligible)
  - Children without birth certificates & caregivers without ID
  - Mobile children (internal migration)
  - Very young children (first year of life)
  - Those unlawfully excluded by social security officials
- “Savings” on universalisation:
  - Recovery from the wealthy through the tax system
  - Savings on implementing the means test & verification procedures
  - Effort and opportunity costs for applicants
  - Elimination of exclusion errors – better outcomes in long term

# Extend to older children / youth?

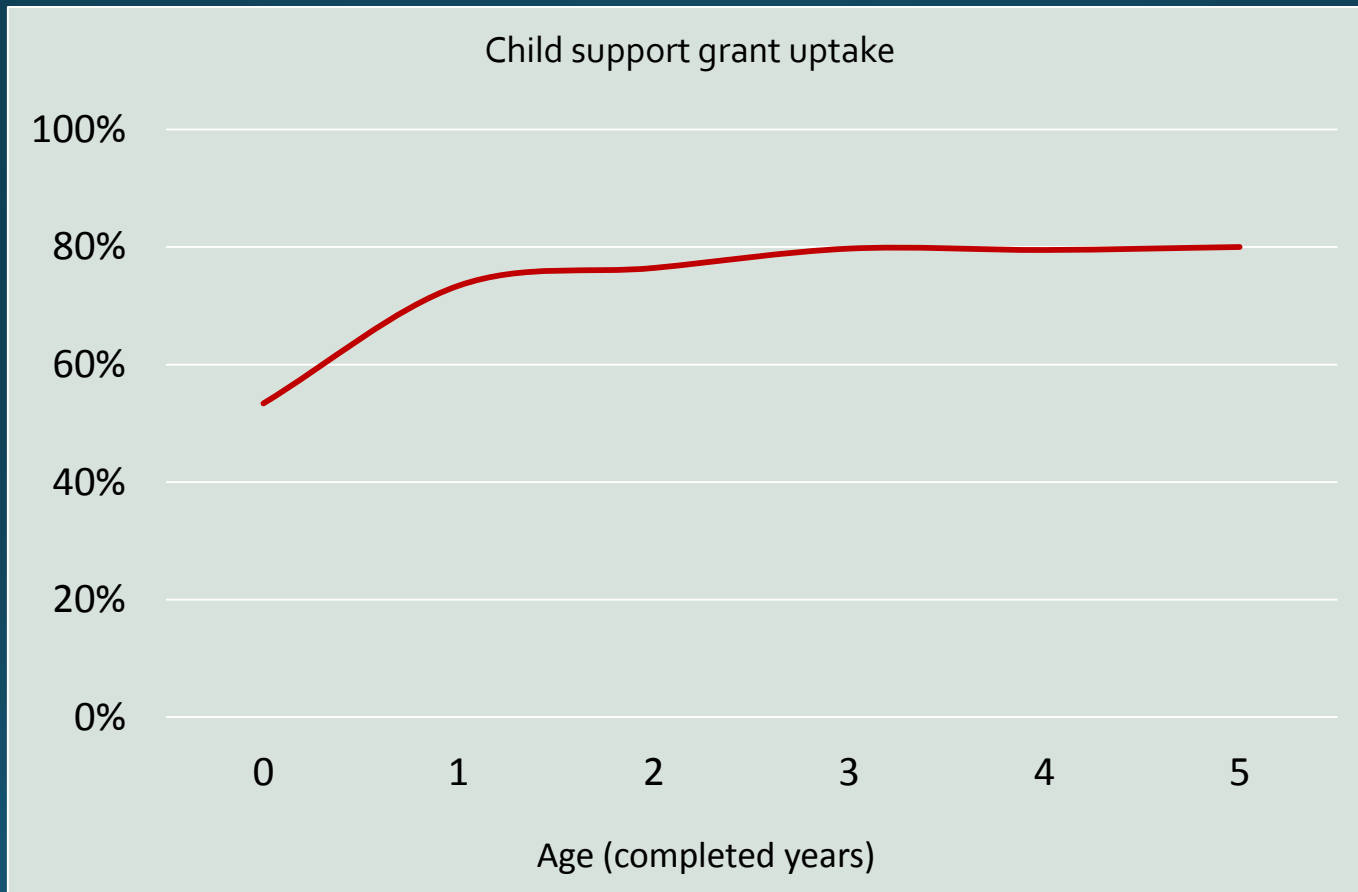
- The right to social assistance applies to all who are unable to provide for themselves and/or their dependants.
- No social assistance available for those between the ages of 18 and 60 years.
- Youth (and their families) face financial shock when children turn 18 and are no longer eligible for the grant.
- High rates of youth unemployment; low access to further education.

# Extend to pre-birth?

- Young mothers, declining marriage rates, high unemployment (especially for women)
- Ante-natal clinic attendance increasing. 44% of those attending have first visit before 20 weeks.
- High stunting rates – around 29% for children under 5: pregnancy grant would address maternal and early childhood nutrition.
- An opportunity to enrol women in the social grants system, and keep babies on the grant once born – addressing exclusion errors in the early years



# Delayed access to the child support grant



# Ongoing research and policy debate...

- Bring in all the available evidence.
- Do new research where there are gaps.
- Do the budget work.
- Engage with researchers, civil society groups and govt policy makers to examine relative merits and trade-offs.

## Contact details:

[Kath.Hall@uct.ac.za](mailto:Kath.Hall@uct.ac.za)

Children's Institute at University of Cape Town:  
[www.ci.org.za](http://www.ci.org.za)

For more indicators on children, see  
[www.childrencount.ci.org.za](http://www.childrencount.ci.org.za)