

Interpersonal Dynamics and Its Long-Term Consequences

What are the causes and long-term consequences of suboptimal social development?

How does an impaired social development get under the skin in animals and humans?

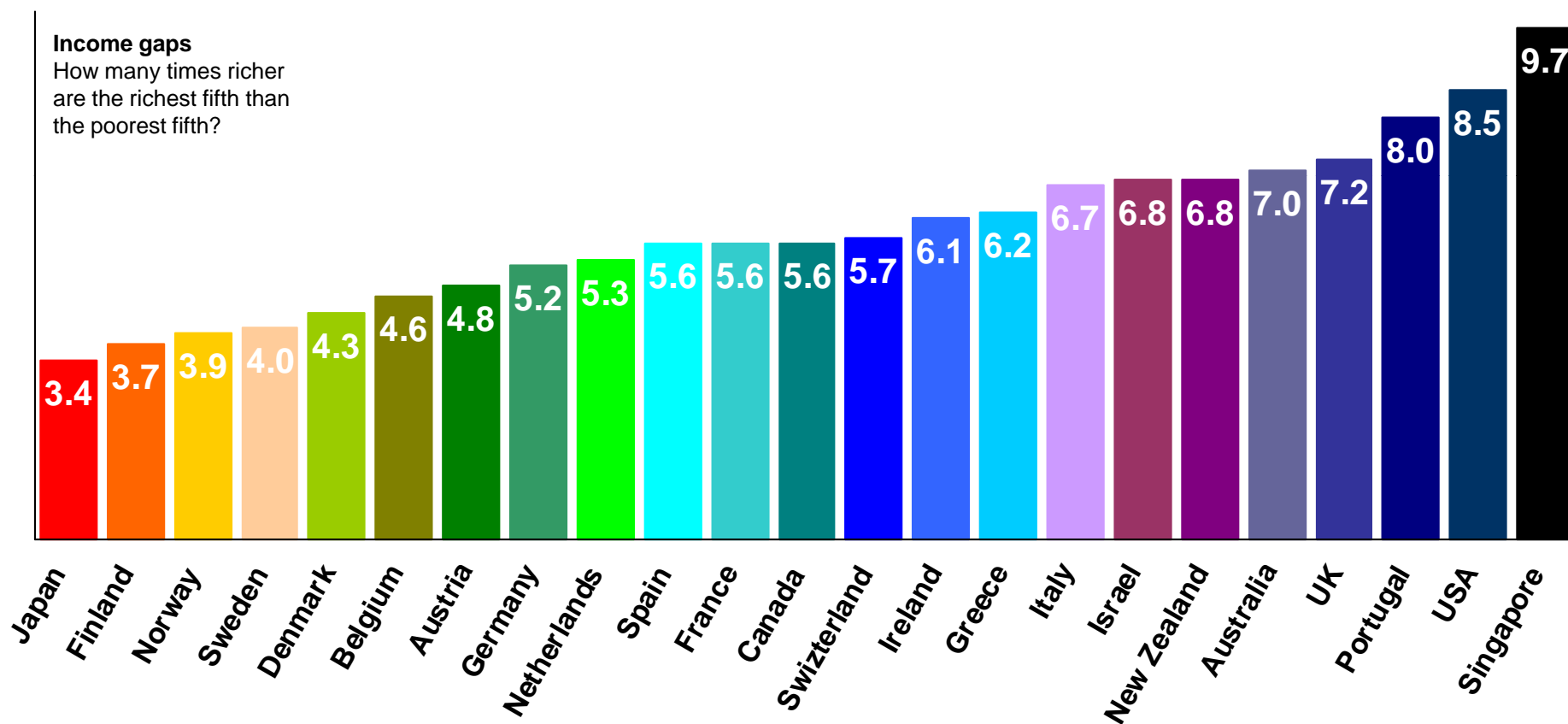
Kate Pickett
University of York

Child well-being is better in more equal countries



Inequality...

How much richer are the richest 20% in each country than the poorest 20%?



The UNICEF Index of Child Wellbeing is not related to National Income per head

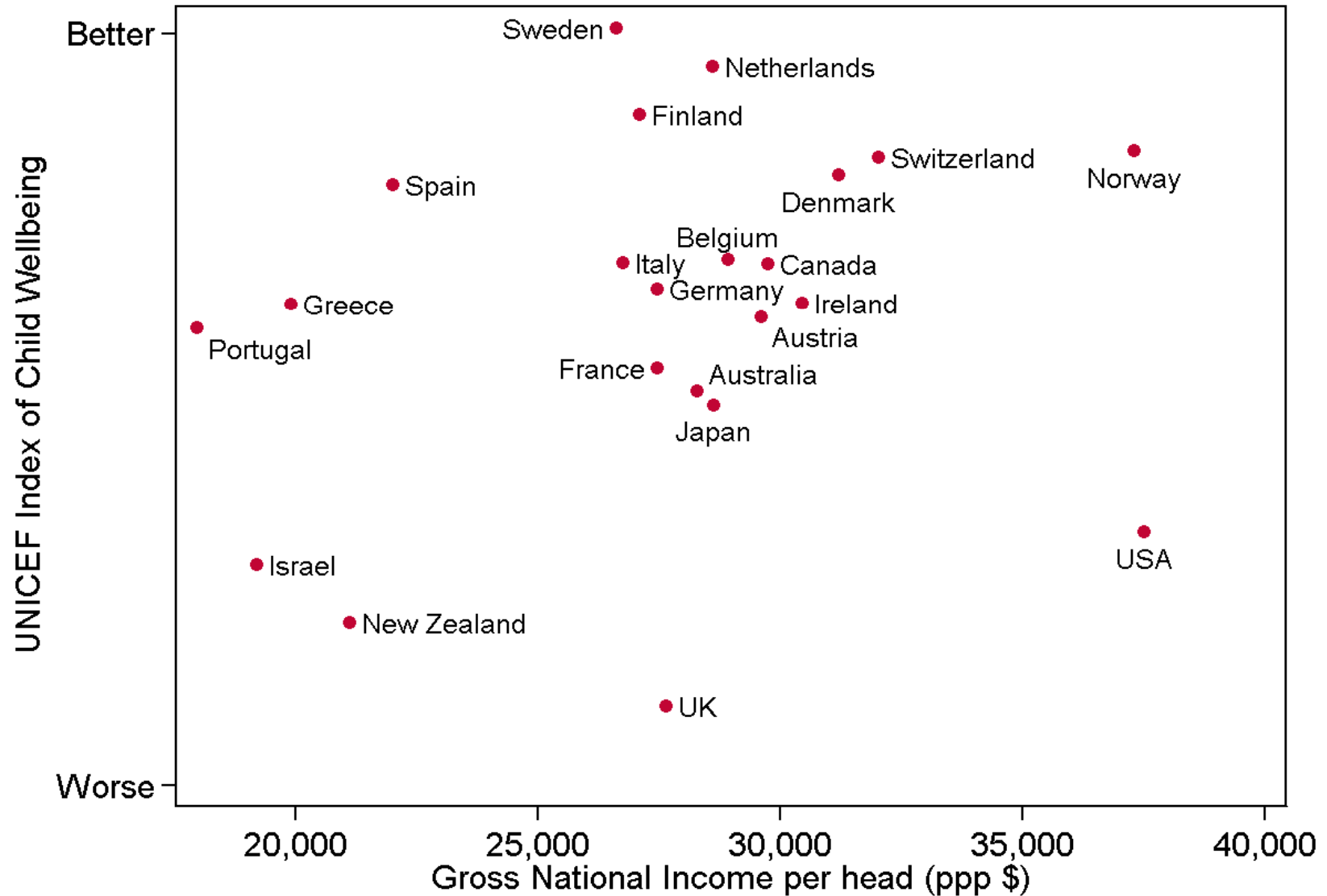


Table 2 | Correlations of measures of child wellbeing with income inequality, and average income across the 50 US states (including District of Columbia)

Measure of child wellbeing	Income inequality		Average income	
	<i>r</i>	P value	<i>r</i>	P value
Teenage births ¹²	0.72	<0.001	-0.55	<0.001
Juvenile homicides ¹²	0.31	0.03	0.00	0.99
Infant mortality*	0.55	<0.001	-0.20	0.15
Low birth weight*	0.65	<0.001	-0.01	0.99
Educational performance (combined maths and reading scores for 15 year olds)† ⁴	-0.69	<0.001	0.08	0.58
Dropping out of high school† ⁴	0.66	<0.001	-0.28	0.04
Overweight	0.64	<0.001	-0.07	0.63
Mental health problems	0.37	0.01	-0.14	0.33

*Similar findings have been reported elsewhere.^{11 40}

†Similar findings have been reported elsewhere.¹¹

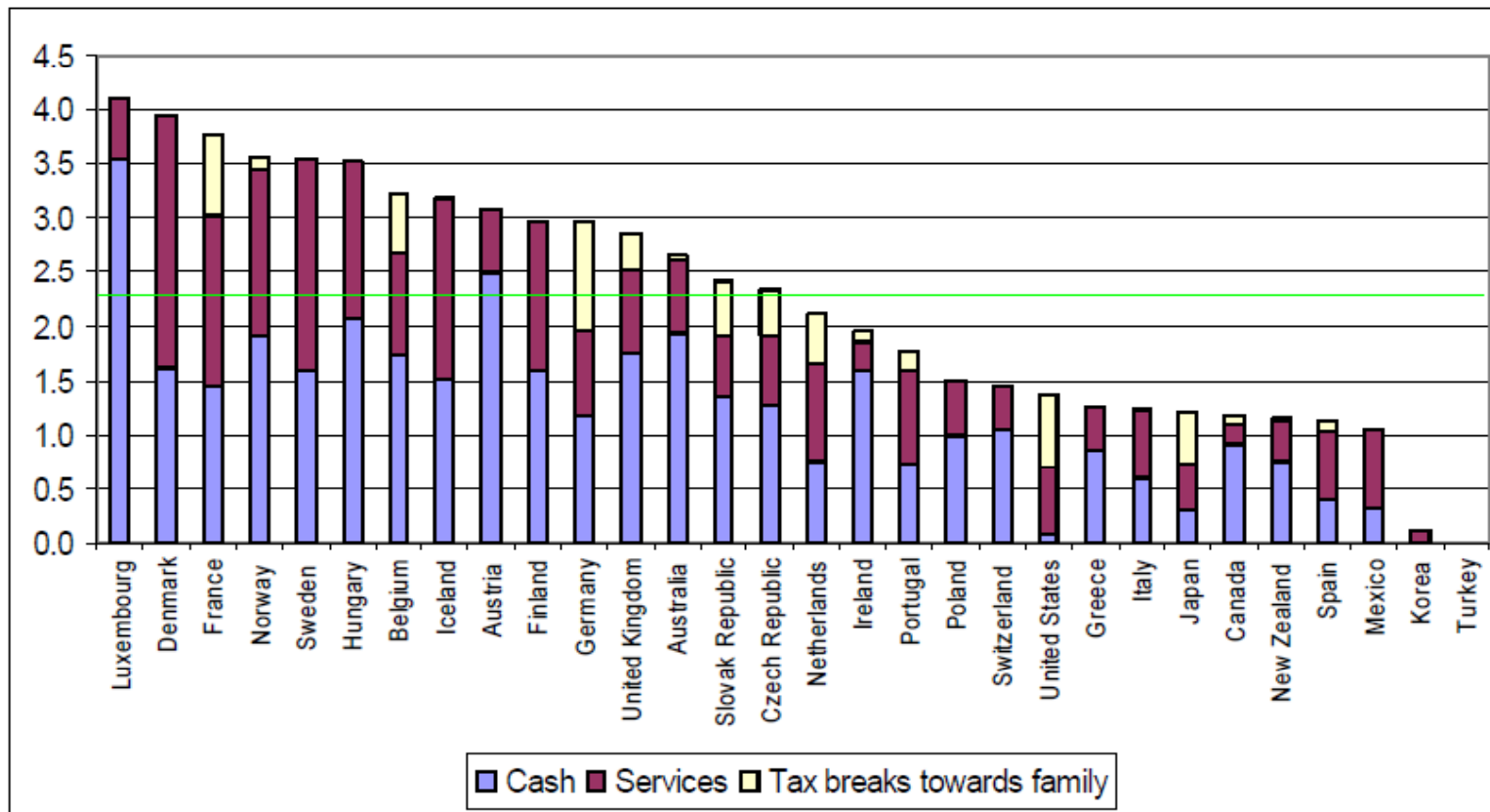
Why is child well-being and attainment related to greater equality?



Dave Coverly

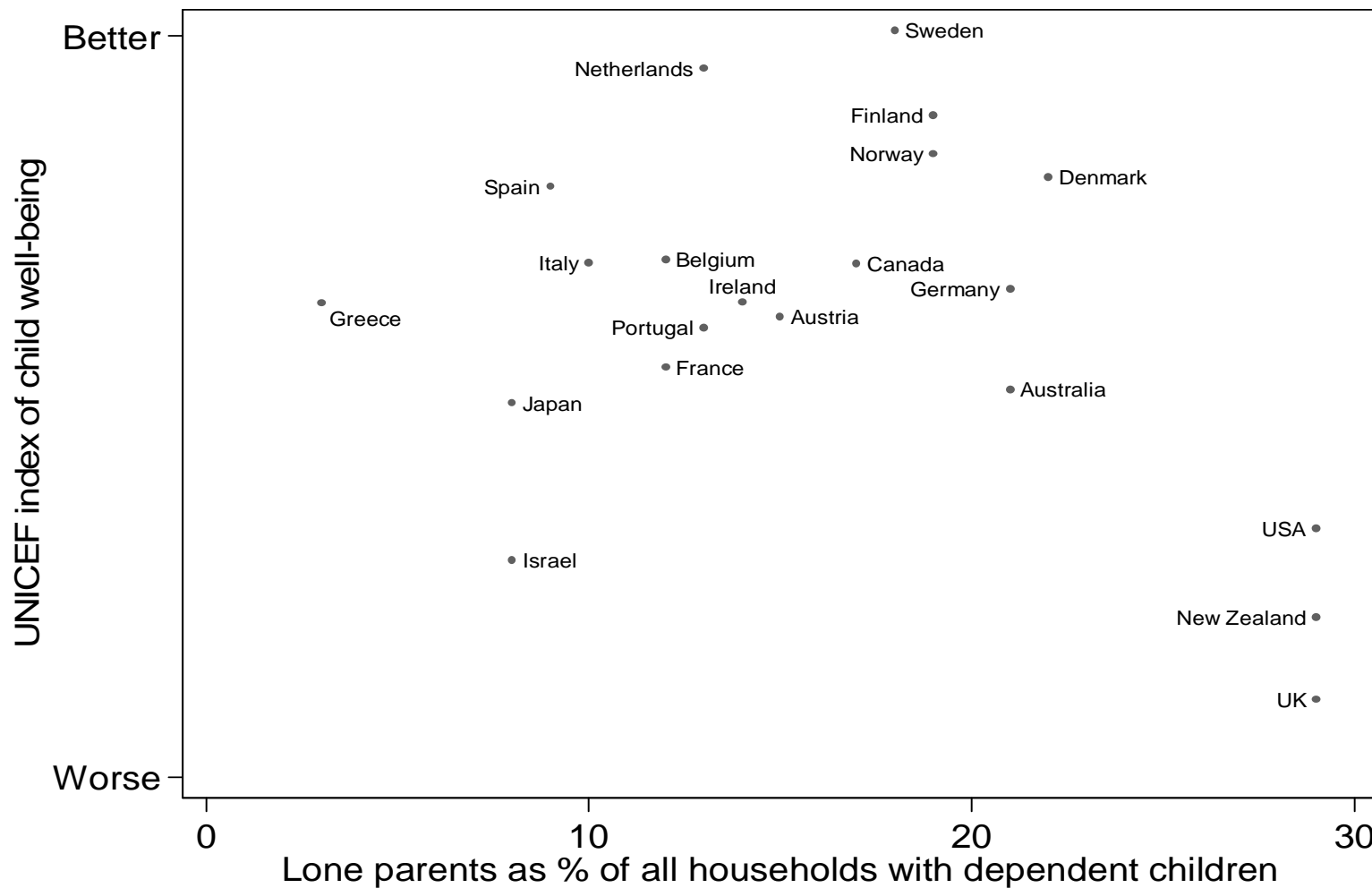
"WITH JESSE CALDWELL'S FAMILY MOVING OUT OF TOWN, I'VE BEEN PROMOTED IN THE PLAYGROUND PECKING ORDER."

Figure 1 Public spending on family benefits in cash, services and tax measures Percentage of GDP, in 2003. Average OECD 24 2.3%



Source: OECD.

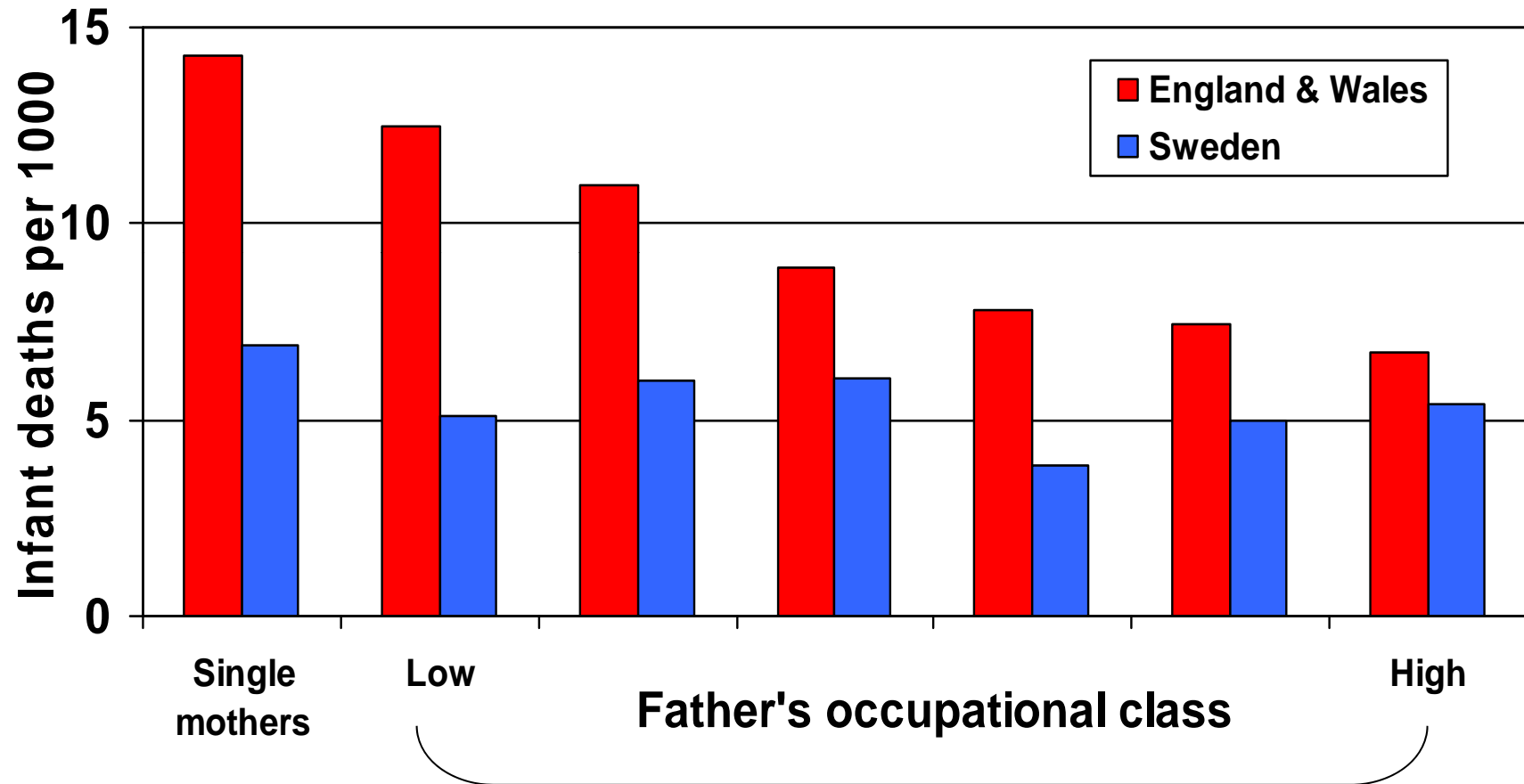
Single parenthood is not related to child wellbeing in rich countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

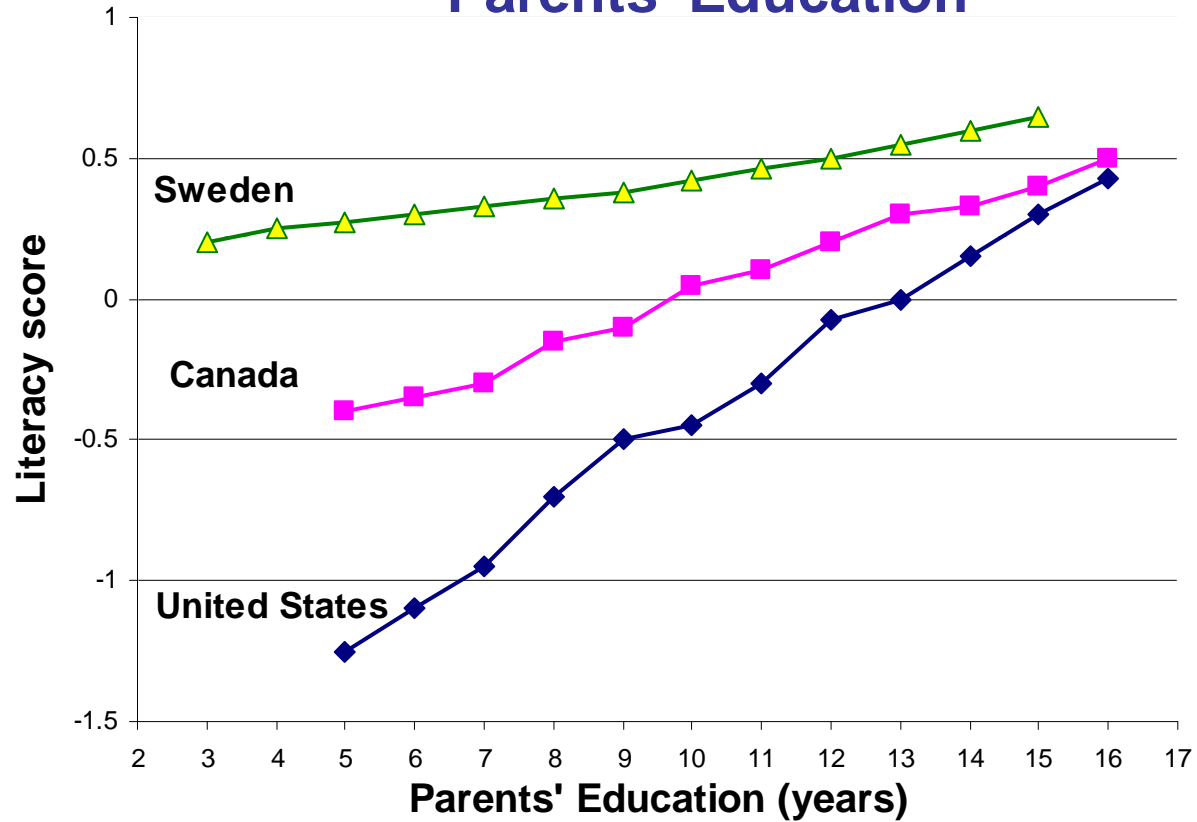
The benefits of greater equality are not confined to the poor but extend to all social classes

Infant mortality by class: Sweden compared with England & Wales



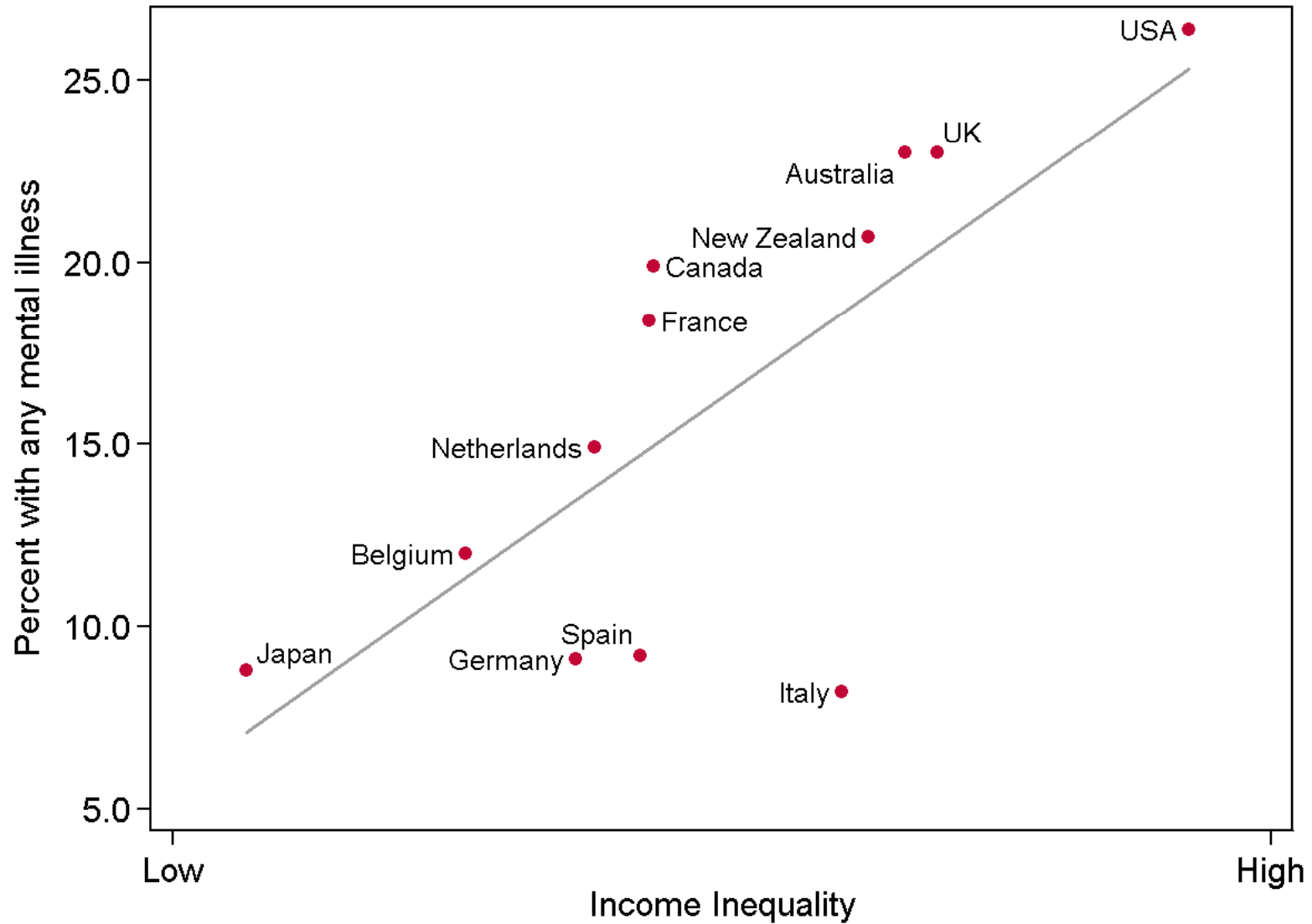
Leon, D. A., D. Vagero, et al. (1992). "Social class differences in infant mortality in Sweden: comparison with England and Wales." Brit Med J 305(6855): 687-91.

Literacy Scores of 16-25 year olds by Parents' Education

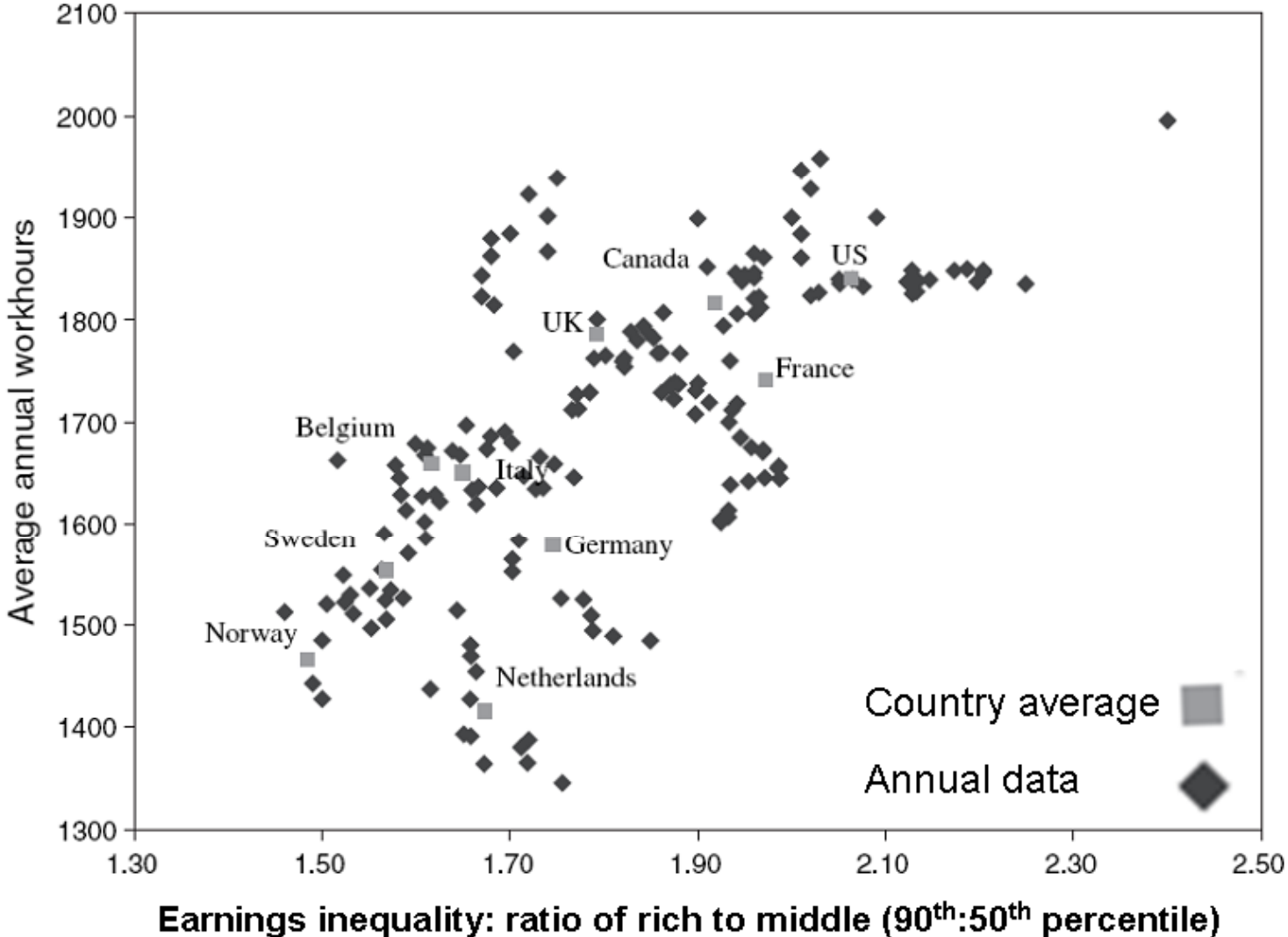


Source: Willms JD. 1997. Data from OECD Programme for International Student Assessment.

Mental illness is more common in more unequal societies

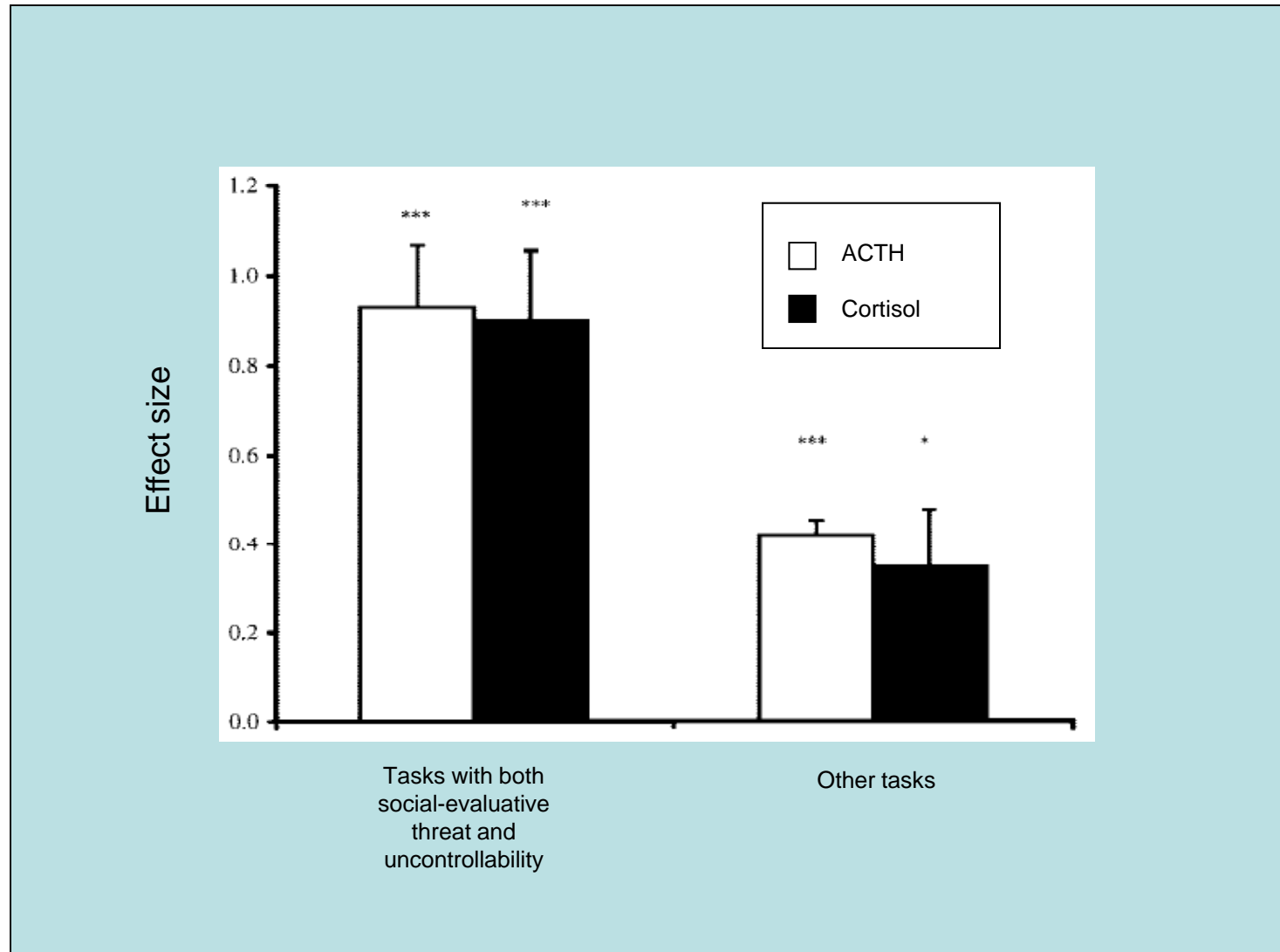


Working hours are longer in more unequal countries



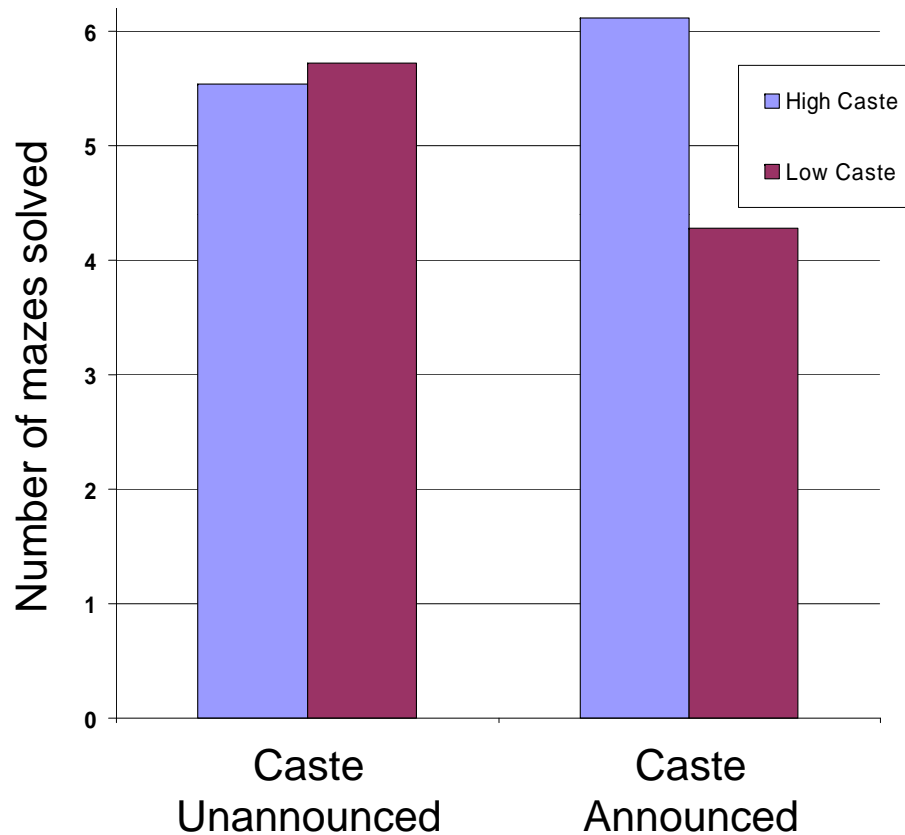
Source: Bowles S, Park Y. *Economic Journal* 2005; 115 (507): F397–F412. 2005.

What kind of stress most reliably raises cortisol levels?



Stereotype Threat

The effect of caste identity on children's performance



Social mobility is lower in more unequal countries



More Children Drop Out of High School in More Unequal US States



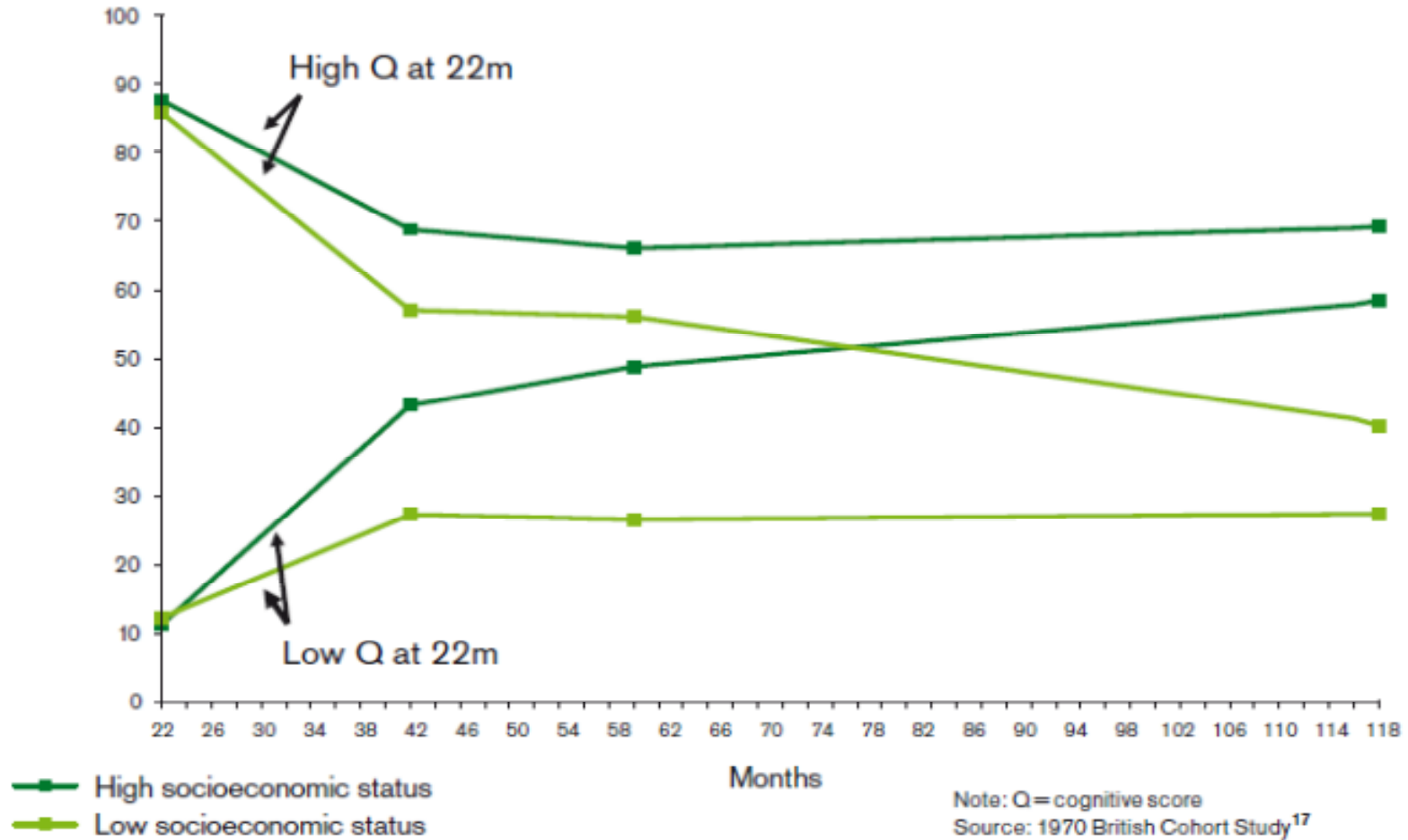
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

www.equalitytrust.org.uk

The Equality Trust

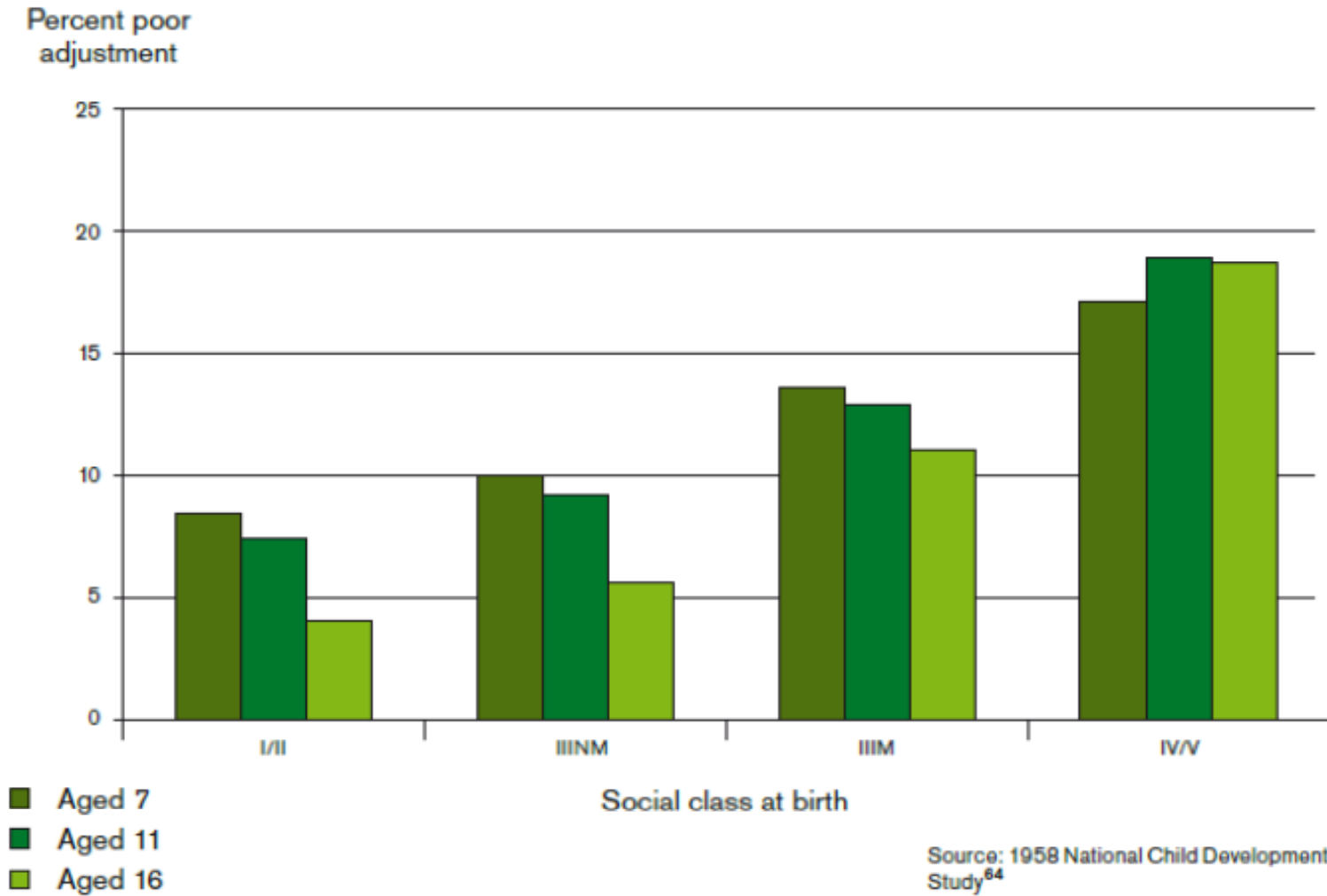
Inequality in child cognitive development

Average position
in distribution



Source: Marmot Review of Health Inequalities (2010)

Inequality in child behavioural development



Source: Marmot Review of Health Inequalities (2010)



Ipsos MORI
Social Research Institute



In partnership with Dr Agnee Naim

Children's Well-being in UK, Sweden and Spain: The Role of Inequality and Materialism

A Qualitative Study

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