



Addressing strategic determinants to reduce health inequality: Early childhood development



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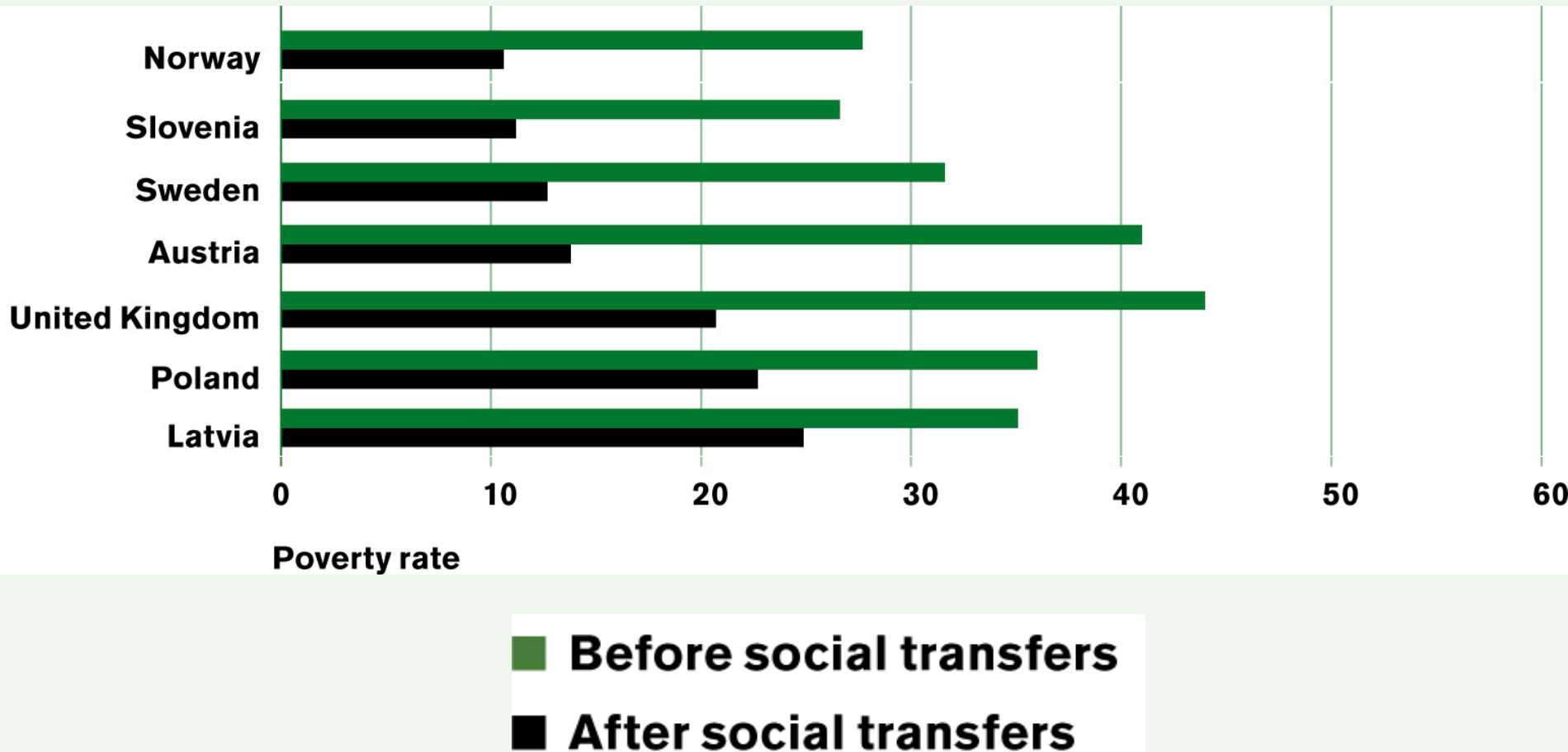
Addressing the strategic determinants to reduce health inequality via

- 1) Early childhood development
- 2) Realising fair employment
- 3) Social protection.

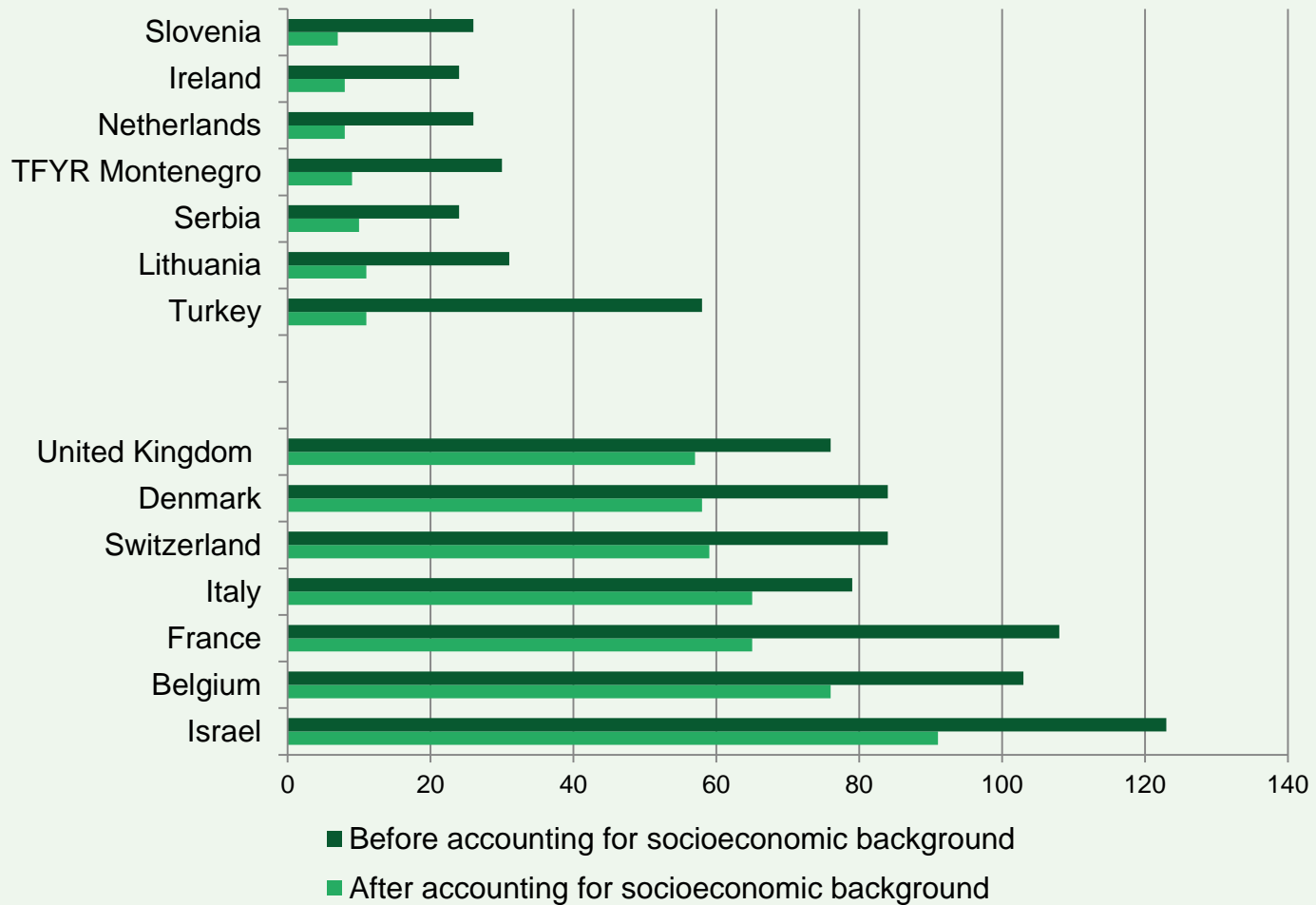
Improving health equity through action across the life course.



Child poverty rates before and after transfers, ranked by after-transfer rate, EU-SILC 2009

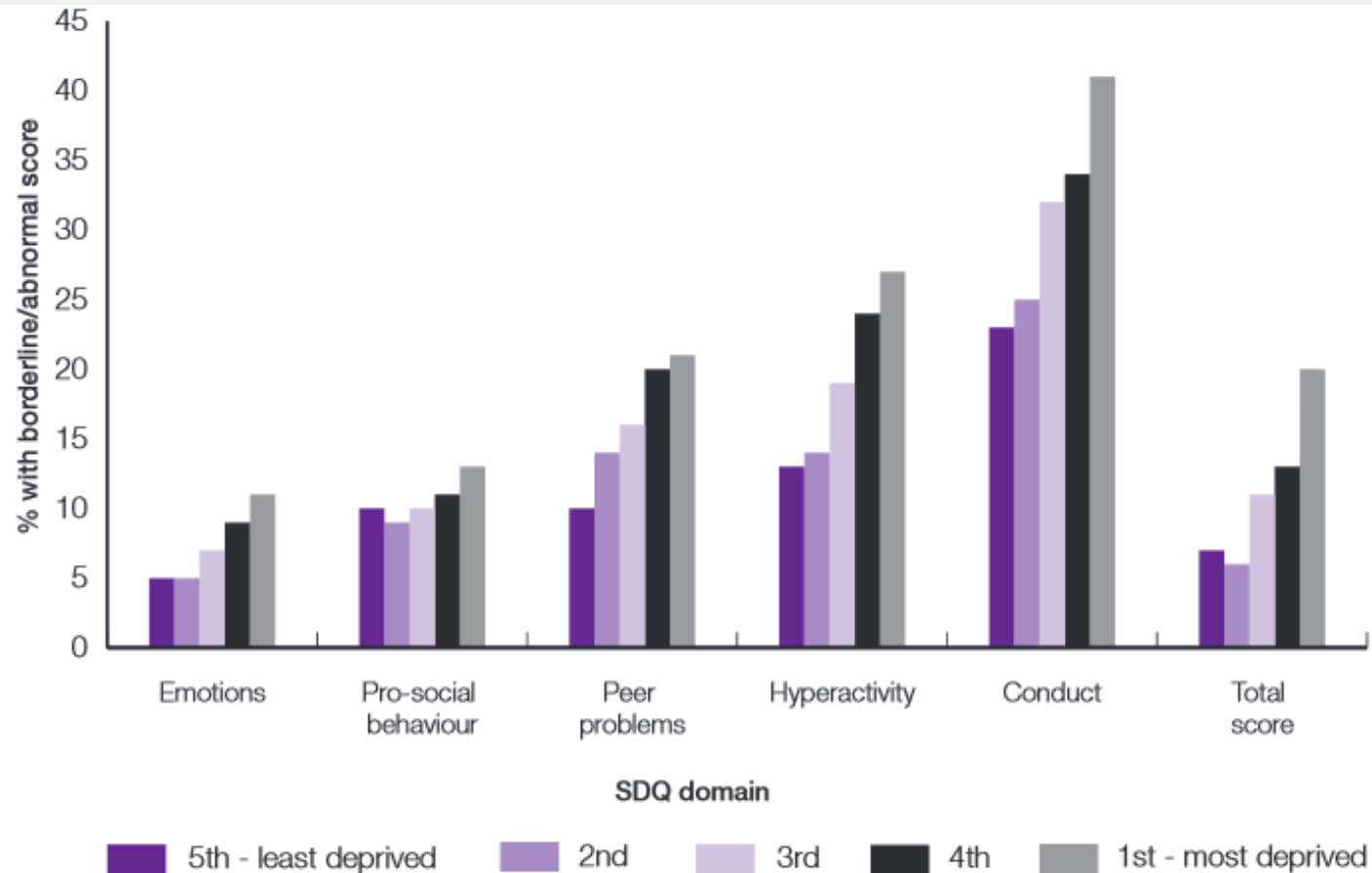


Differences in PISA scores by attending preschool for more than one year before and after accounting for socioeconomic background





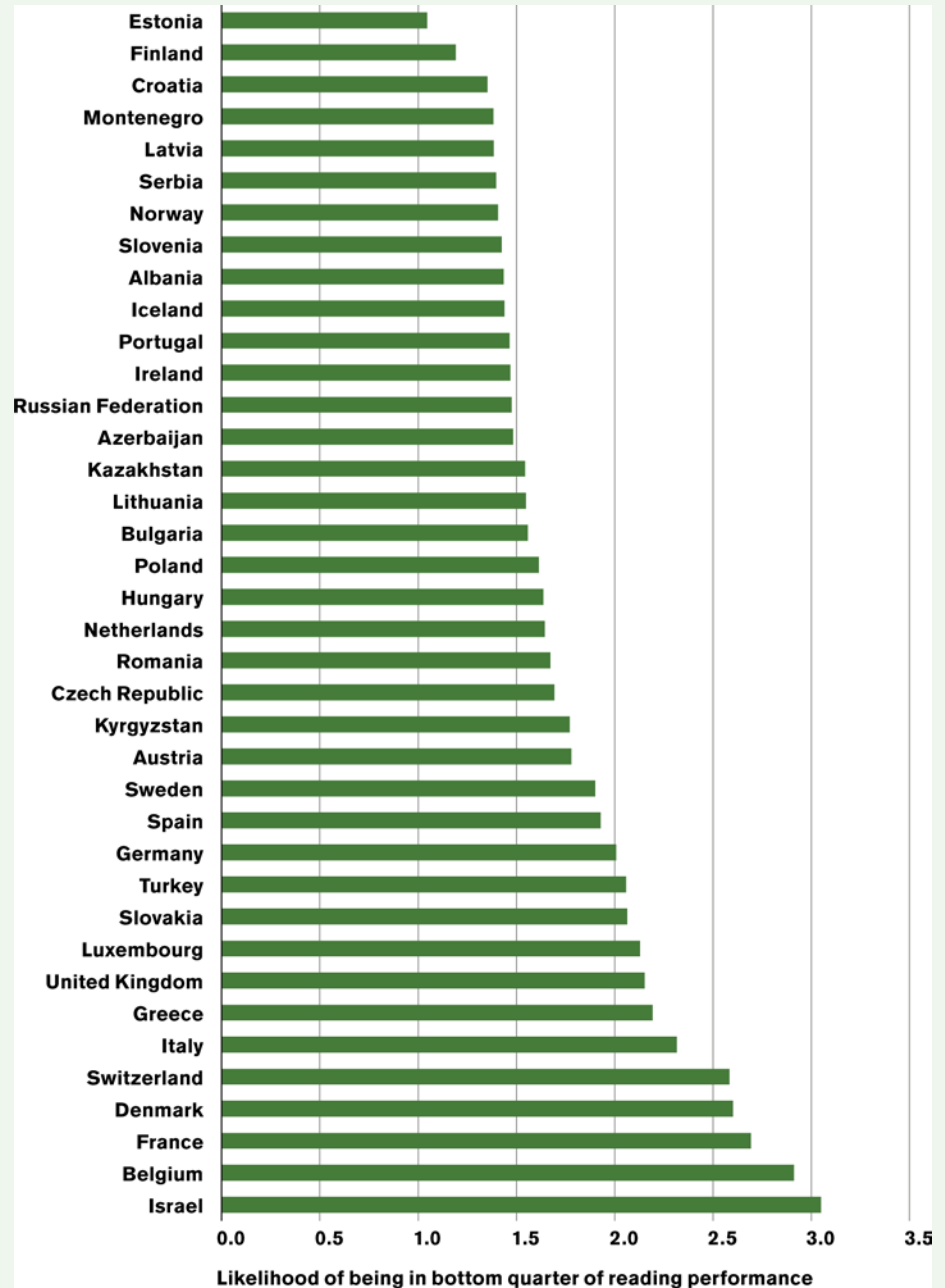
Inequalities in Scotland - Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire individual domain scores, by SIMD quintile (46 months)



- Source: Bromley, C. and Cunningham-Burley, S (2010) *Growing Up in Scotland: Health inequalities in the early years* Edinburgh: Scottish Government



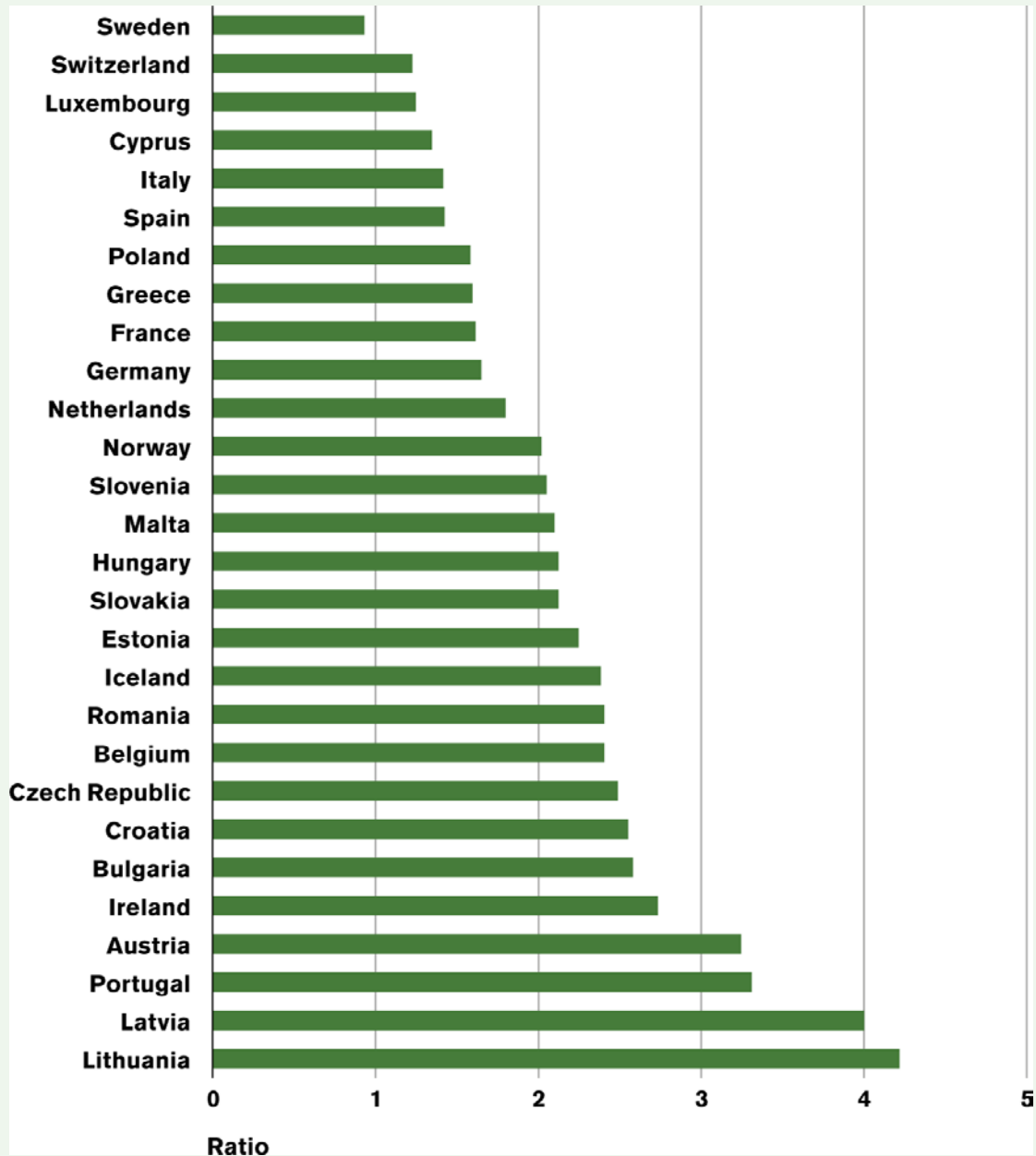
Likelihood of a child who did not attend preschool being in the lowest reading quintile at age 15, PISA 2009



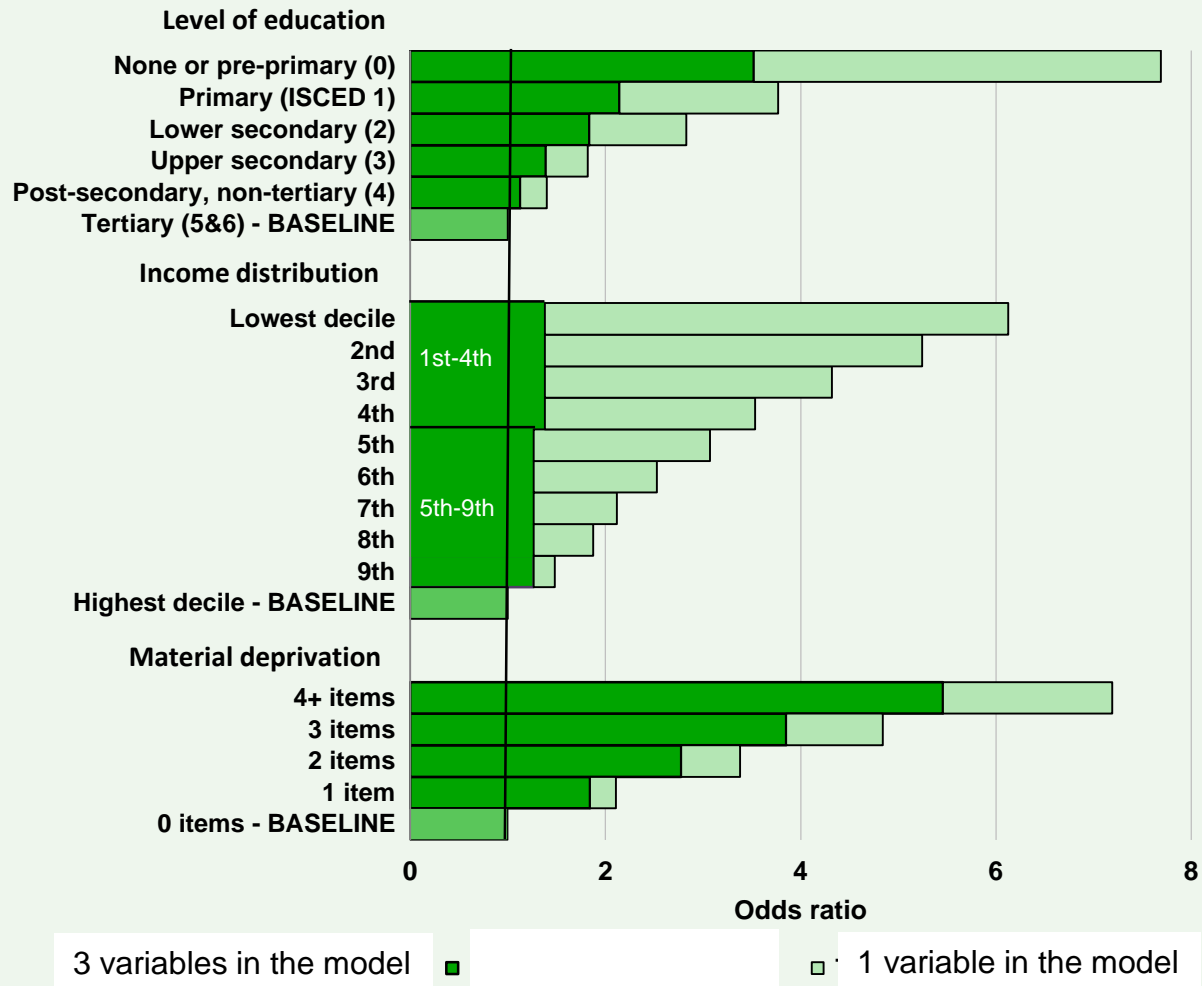
Source: OECD 2010



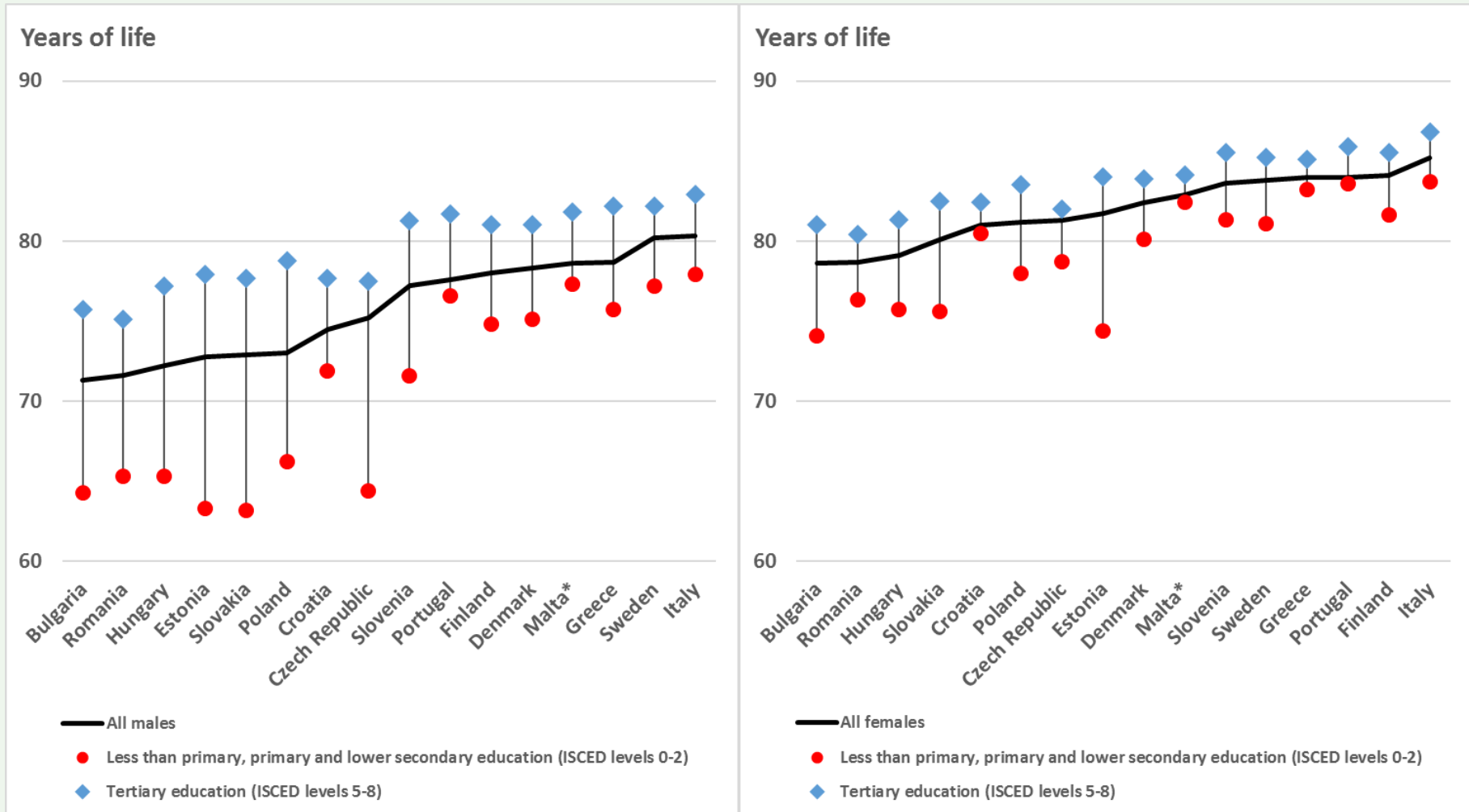
Ratio of poor health among people with primary-level education (level 1) to poor health among those with basic tertiary education (level 5) in selected European Region countries, 2010



Estimated odds of reporting poor or very poor general health by socioeconomic characteristics, 25 EU Member States*, 2010



Life expectancy at birth by education and sex, 2013



* Figures for Malta 2011



Existing ECD programmes

- The majority aim to improve parenting capacities by supporting both parents.
- Some have additional components - day-care provision, improving housing and speech or psychological therapies for children.
- Most are targeted.



Key elements for effective early years interventions

- For both parents and children
- Begin during early pregnancy
- Include home visits by specialised staff
- Non-prescriptive
- Build on children's and parents capacities
- Provide them with support
- Based on intersectoral collaboration



Key Messages

- Invest in universal quality services related to social needs
- This has the potential to prevent the transmission of inequality between generations.