Access to Childcare and Home Care Services Across Europe

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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VENUE
ESRI, Whitaker Square,
Sir John Rogerson's Quay,
Dublin 2

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Background

- Social exclusion "…depends not only on income but **also on access to services**." (UN declaration, 1995); "service exclusion" (Fisher & Bramley, 2007).

- Poverty and social exclusions connected to **barriers** to full participation in the labour market, including presence of

  - Children in need of care; Labour supply effect, 10% increase in CC cost=> ½ hour weekly reduction maternal work (Russell, 2018).

  - People who need help – physical or mental ill-health conditions; Mixed results in terms of labour market outcomes. Hours in care (+20) reduce likelihood to work(Carmichael and Charles, 1998). Australian data found no effect (Leigh, 2010).

- Positive effect on child development, quality of life for recipient & carer, cost to society.

- We focus on two services throughout

  - Childcare
  - Home care for those needing help

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Research questions

- What is the distribution of unmet need for care services across countries?

- Which vulnerable groups have the least access to care services?

- Is there evidence that lack of access to care services leads to deprivation when other characteristics are controlled?

- Is there evidence that lack of access to care services inhibits access to the labour market when other characteristics are controlled?

Data and analysis

- Data
    - EU-SILC 2016. Module on access to services
    - 11 countries into 4 welfare regimes

- Sample definition
    - **Childcare**: all individuals in households with children aged 12 or younger.
    - **Home care**: all individuals in households with people who need help (long-term physical or mental ill-health, infirmity or because of old age)

- Implications for causality
    - Cross-sectional data can show us associations, but cannot establish direction of cause.

Vulnerable groups

Social risk groups: differences in access to the market because of non-market factors such as

- Personal resources (disability, illness)
- Non-work caring responsibilities (parents, esp. mothers & lone parents)
- Life-cycle stage (children, those beyond retirement age)
- 4 groups (lone parents; households with someone with a disability; working age households; older households)

Social class groups: differences in resources.

- Discussed in detail in the report, omitted here

Childcare
(in households with children 12 years old or younger)

Childcare types

At least 1 hour of childcare per week (more than one type possible)

Formal childcare:

- Childcare at crèche etc.

- After school centre based care

Childminder:

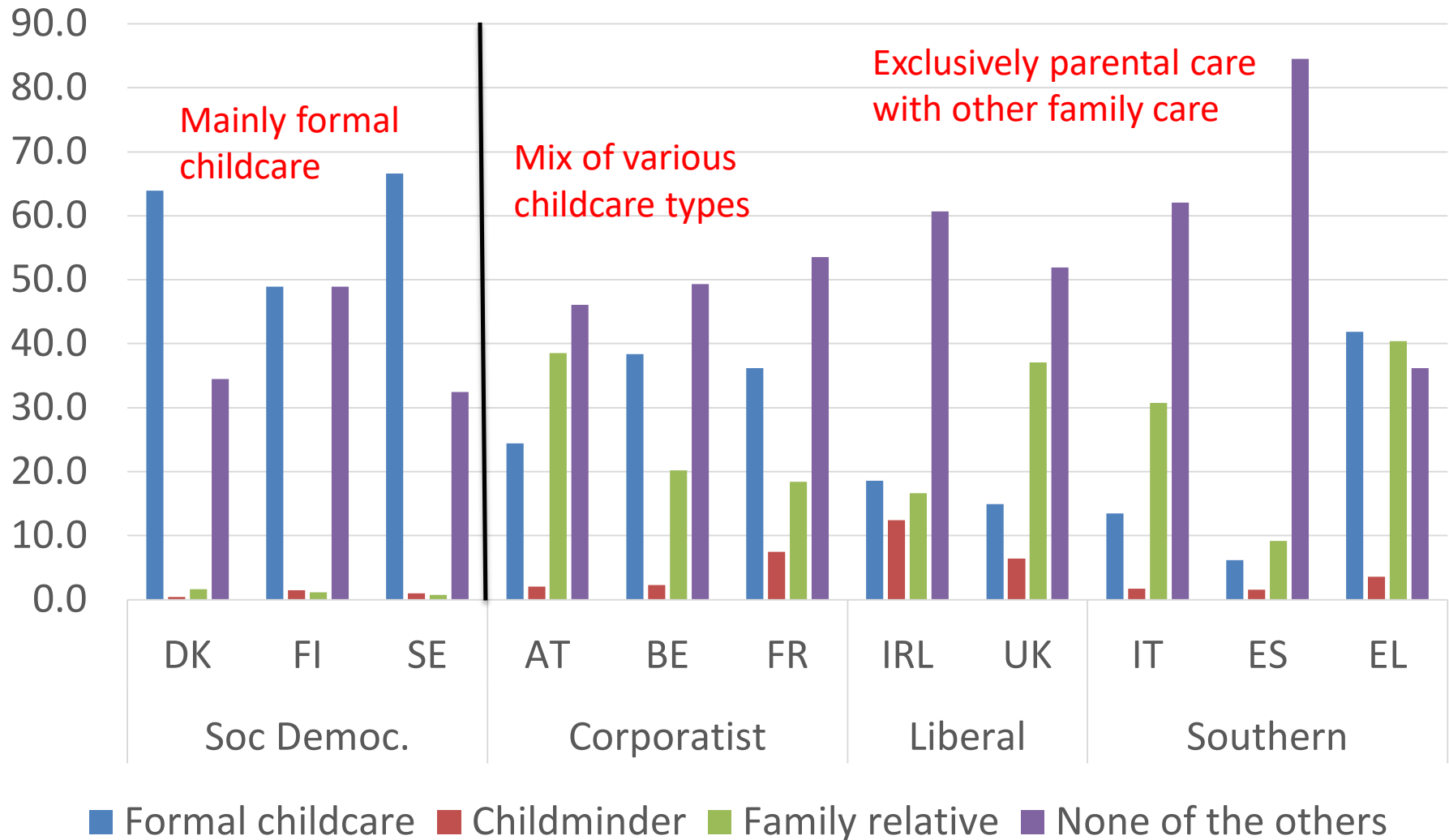- Childcare by a professional child-minder at child-minder's home or at child's home

Family relative:

- Childcare by grand-parents, other relatives (not parents), friends or neighbours *(unpaid)*

None of the above

- Care provided **exclusively** by parents in the home.

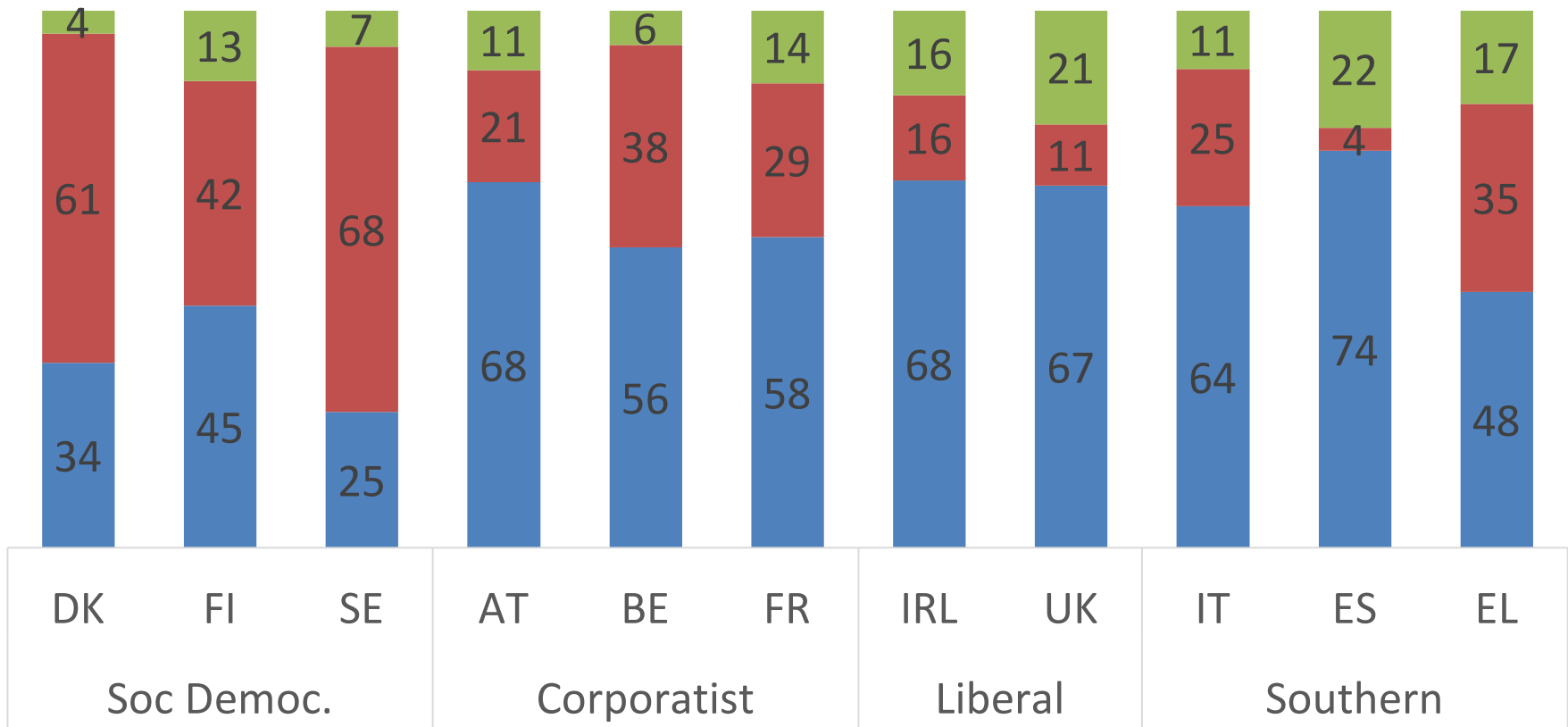# Types of childcare used by households with children under 12 (%)
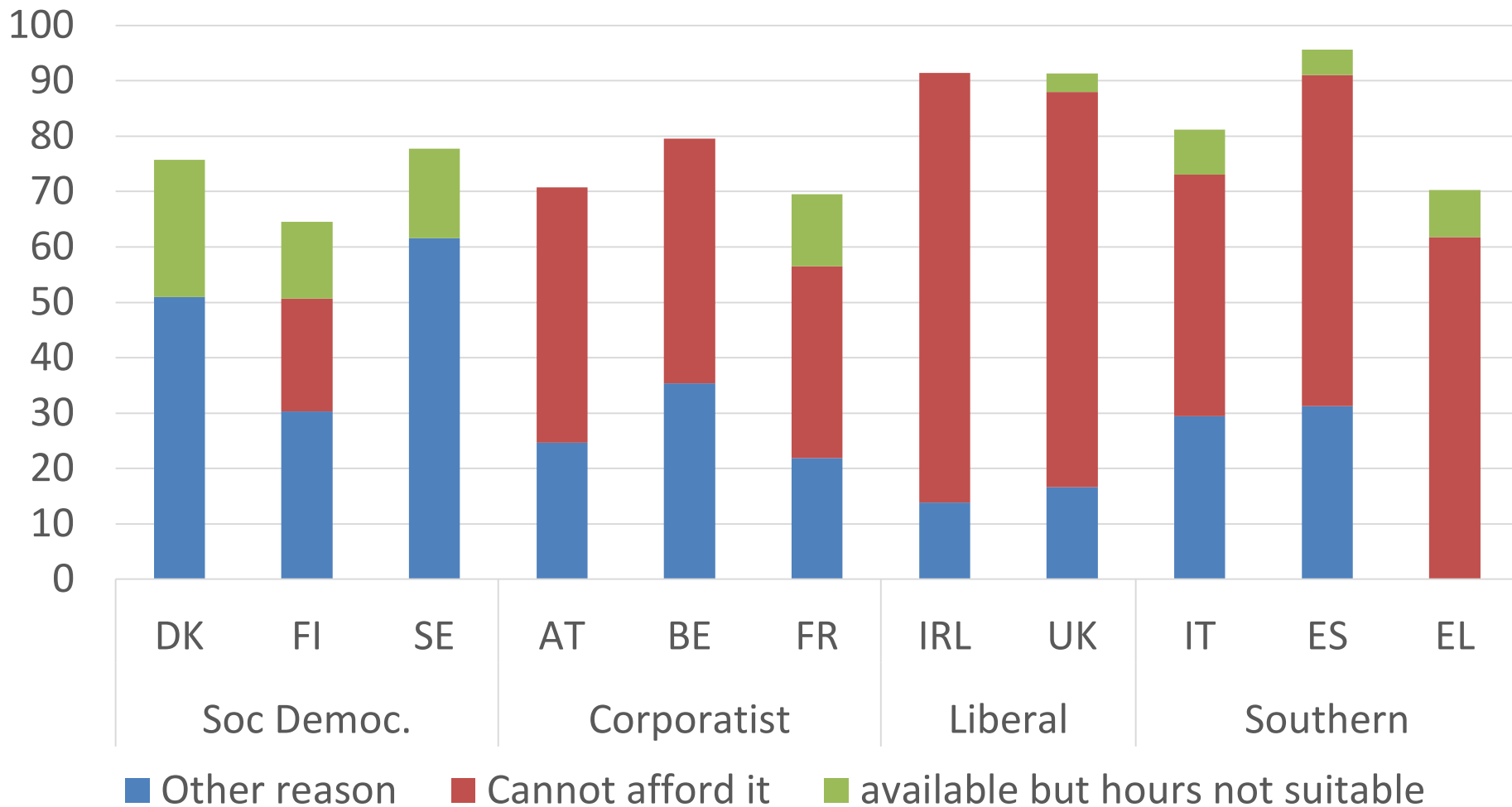

Mainly formal childcare

Mix of various childcare types

Exclusively parental care with other family care

Legend: Formal childcare ■ Childminder ■ Family relative ■ None of the others

Categories: DK, FI, SE (Soc Democ.); AT, BE, FR (Corporatist); IRL, UK (Liberal); IT, ES, EL (Southern)

Formal childcare need (%)

Main reason for unmet need (%)

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Predicting "Unmet need" vs "Met need for care" (odds ratios)

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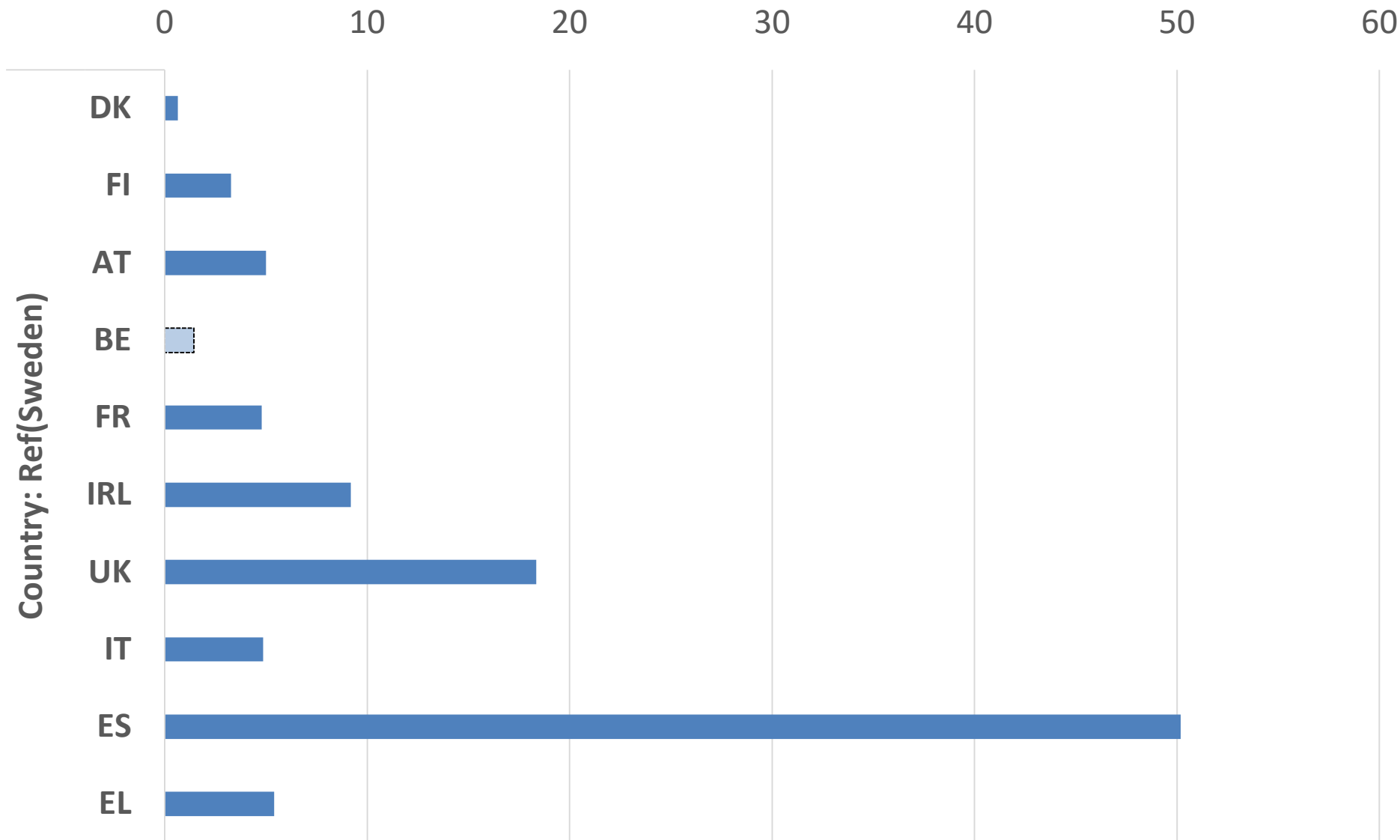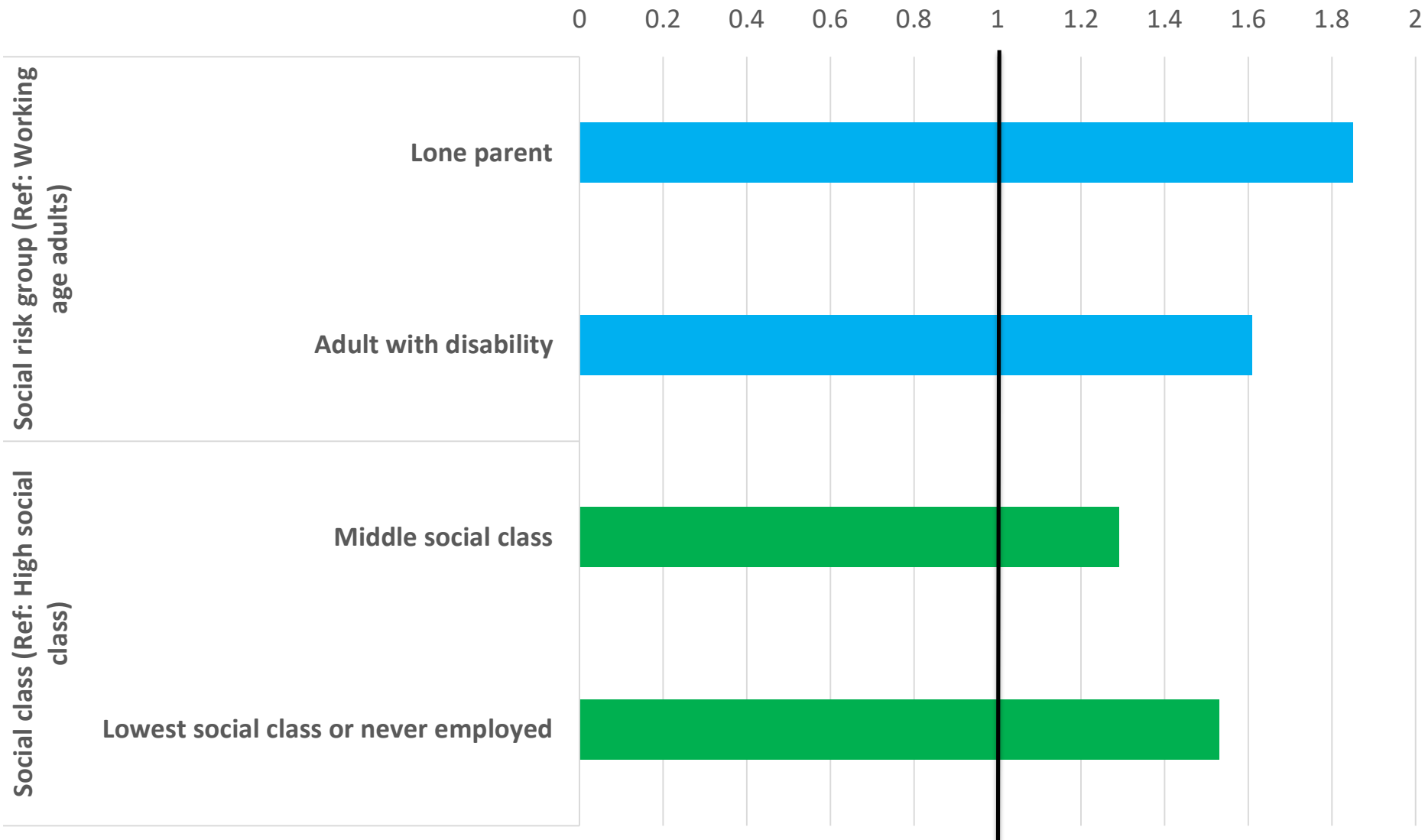
Predicting material deprivation (odds ratios; controlling for country differences, not shown)

Chart axis: 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5

Childcare need (Ref: Need met)
- No need
- Unmet need

Social risk (Ref: Other adults)
- Lone parent
- Parent with disability

Social class (Ref: high soc class)
- Middle social class
- Lowest social class

Household
- Number of kids under 12
- Youngest child 5+
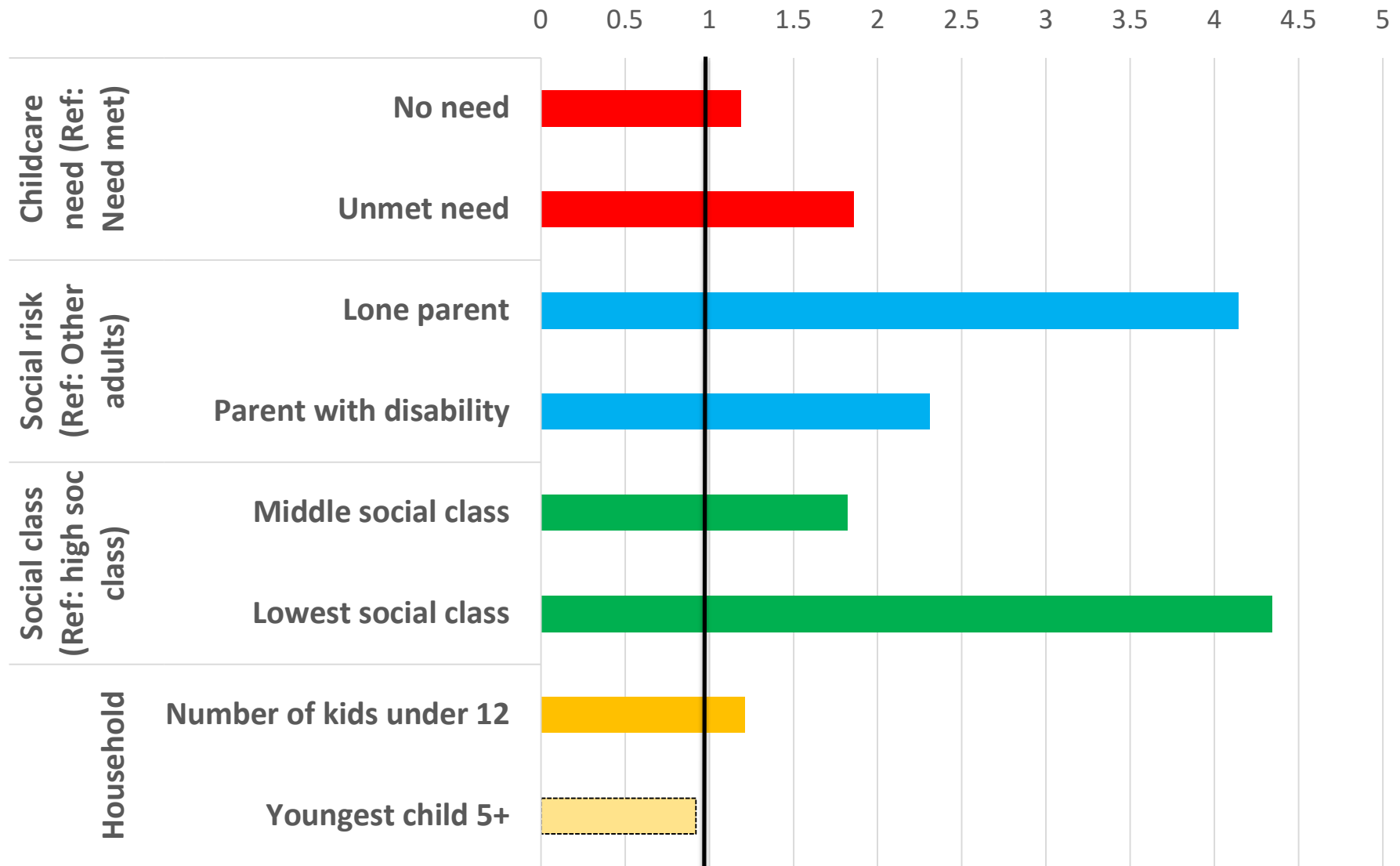
Predicting mothers' non-employment (odds ratios; controlling for country differences, not shown)

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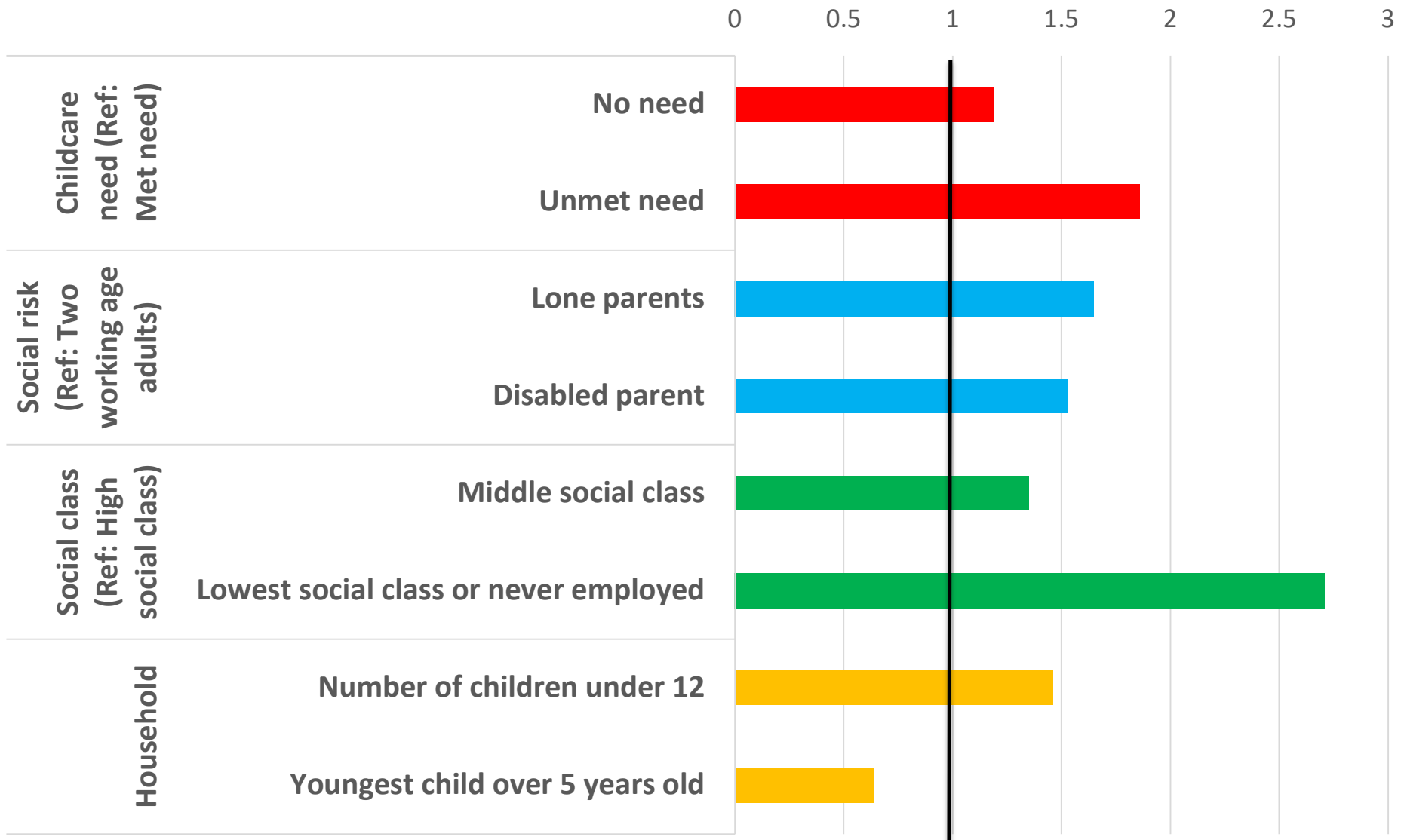
Professional home care

(in households with someone who needs help)

Professional home care needs

Focus on households with **people who need help** due to long-term physical or mental ill-health, infirmity or old age

We find 3 groups among those in households containing a member who needs help:

- Don't need professional care (**Don't need**)

- Need professional care and have (**Need and have**)

- Need professional care and don't have (**Unmet needs**)

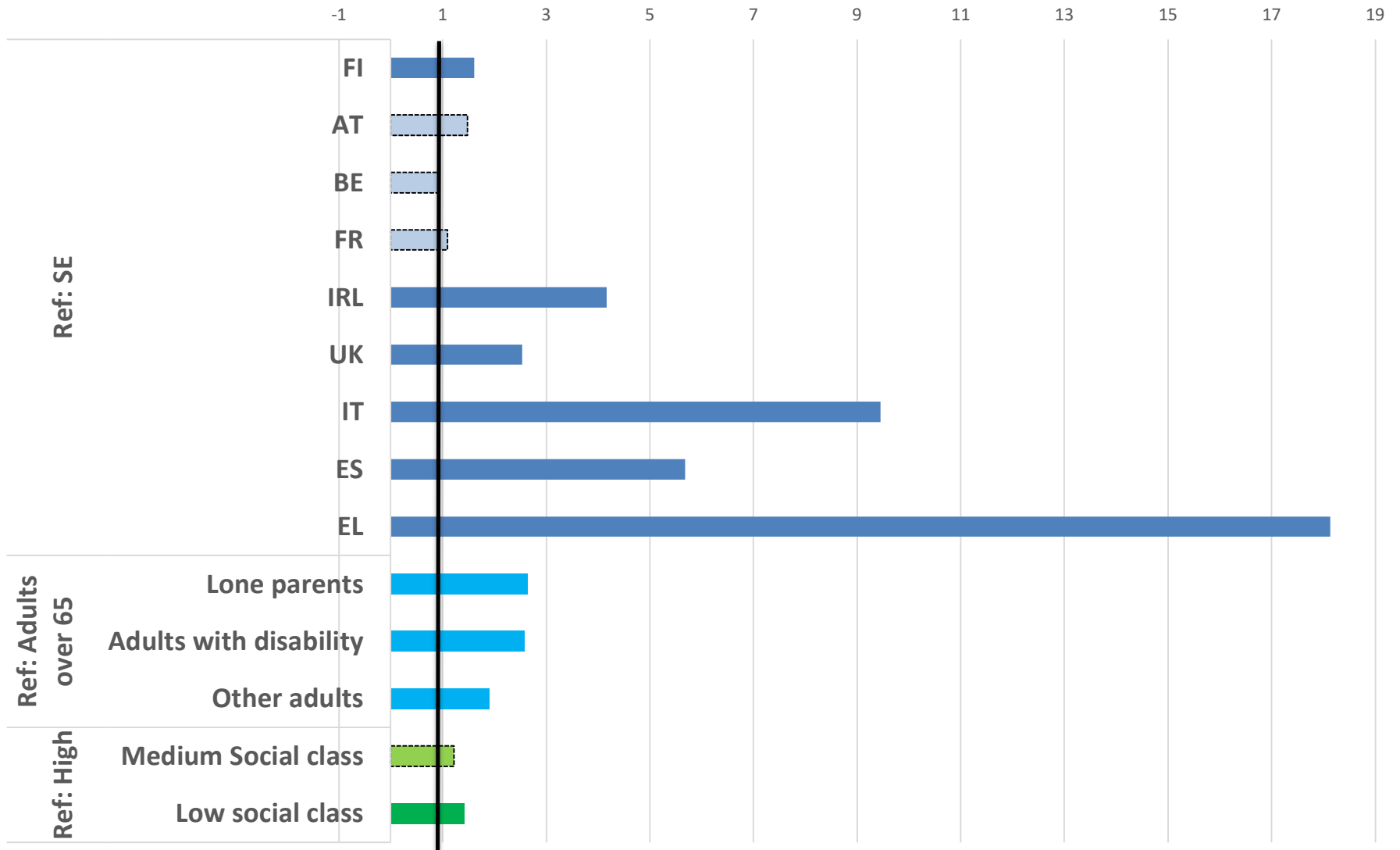- A need of help ≠ the need for professional home care

Homecare need by country (%)
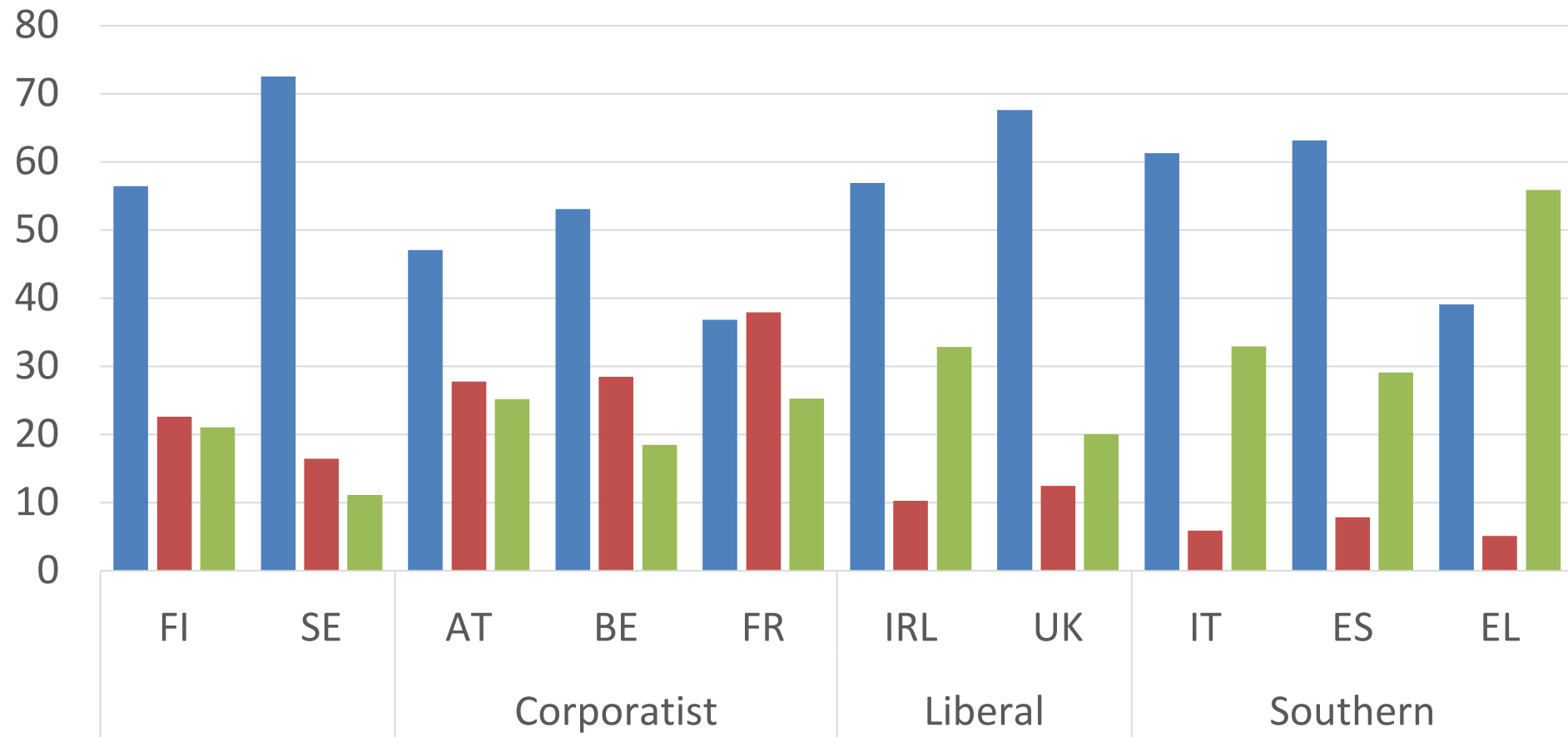
■ Don't need formal care   ■ Met need for formal care   ■ Unmet need for formal care

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Reason for unmet home care need (%)
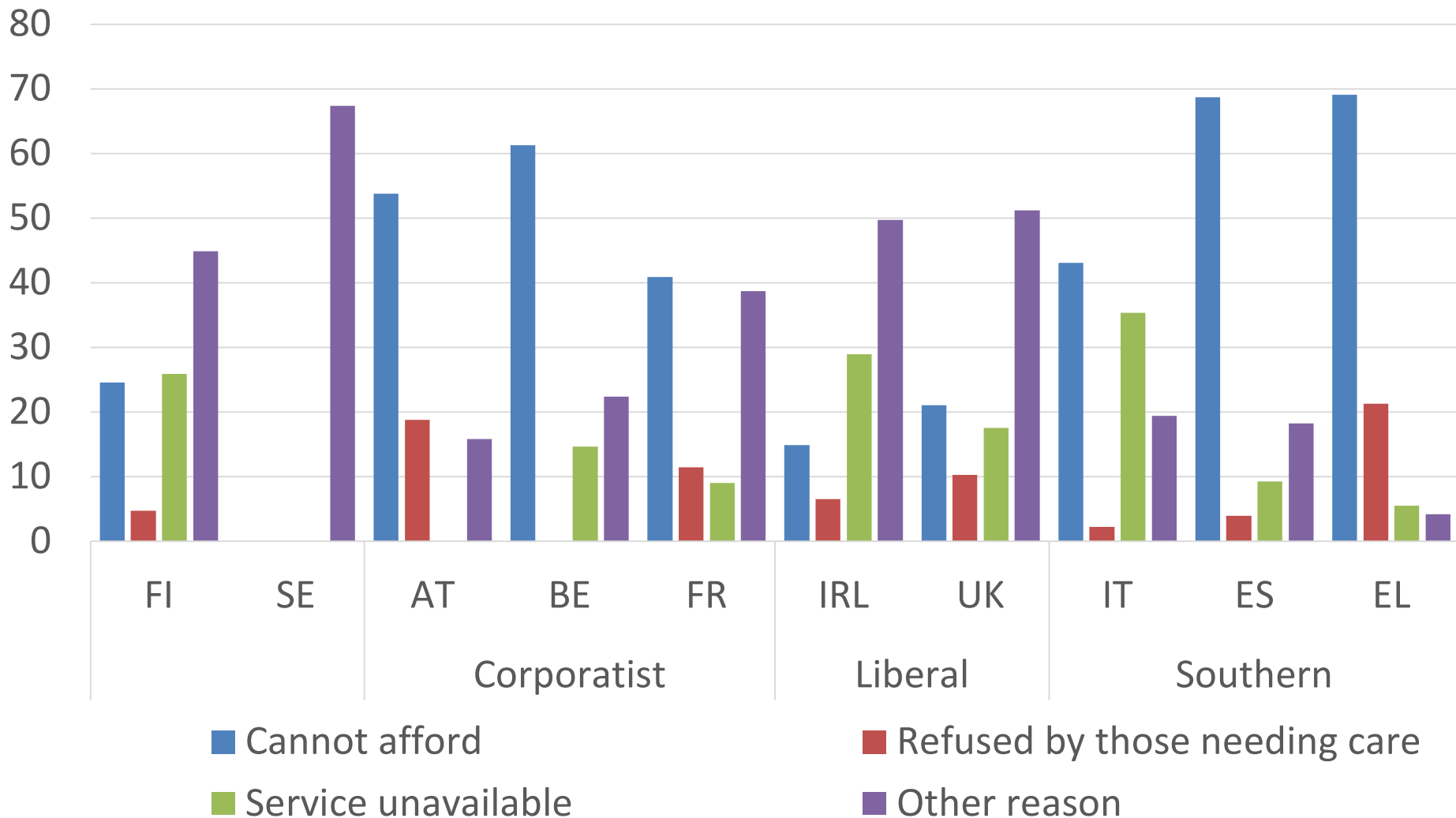
Predicting "Unmet Need for Home Care" Vs "Met Need for Care" (Odd ratios)

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Predicting material deprivation by home care need (Odds ratios; controlling for country differences, not shown)
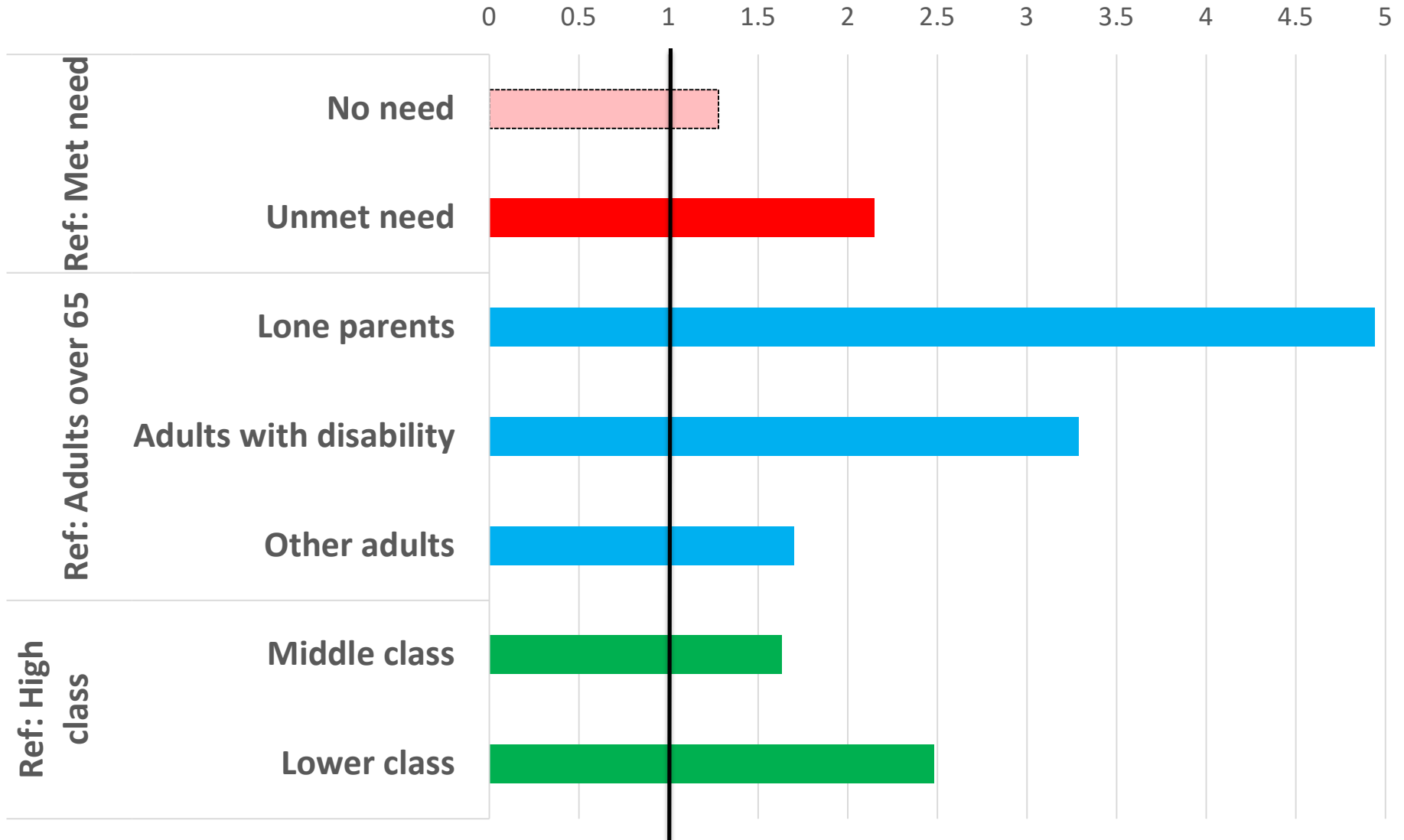
Predicting employment by home care need (odds ratios; controlling for country differences, not shown)

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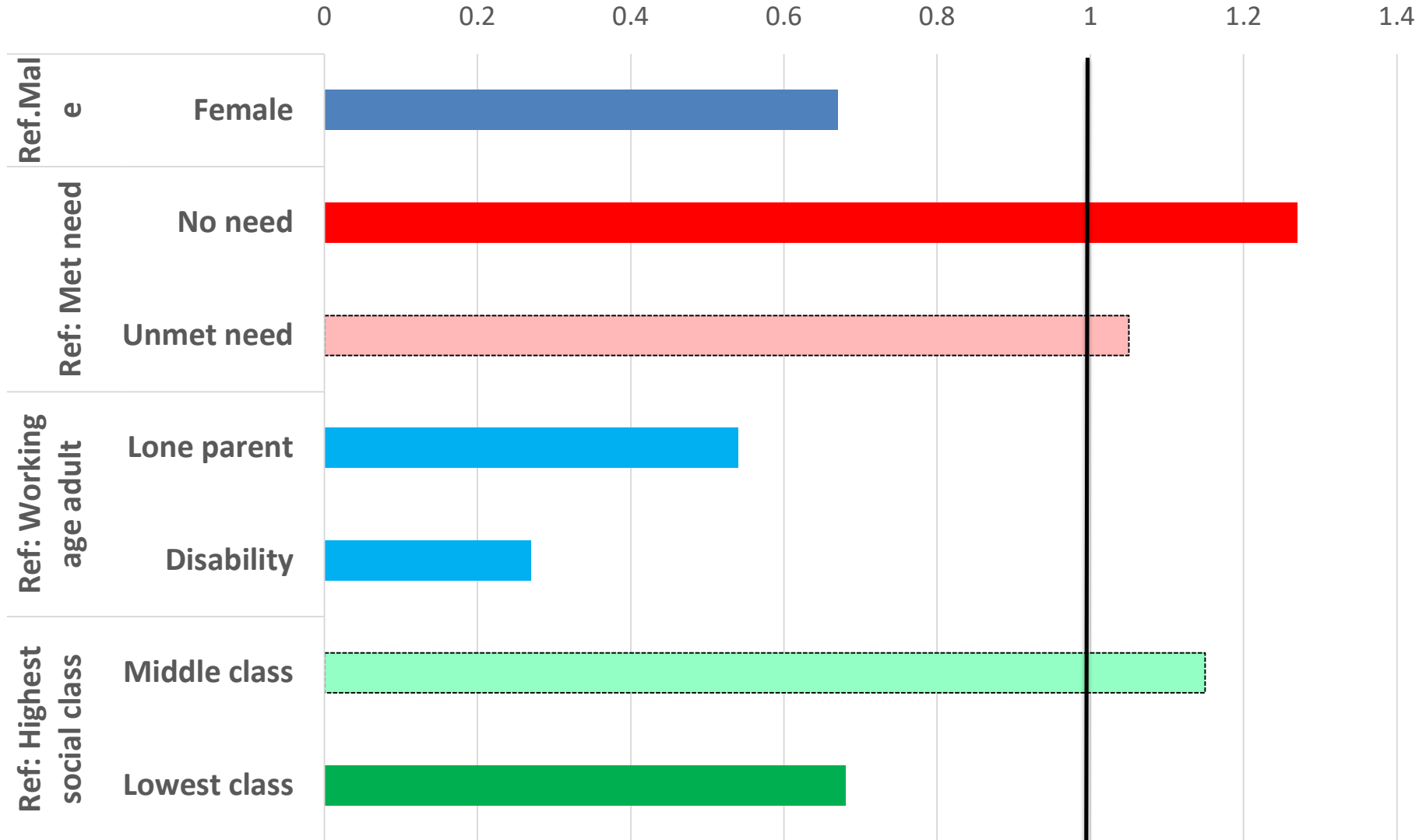
Summary (I): Child Care

- Children most often cared for exclusively by parents/guardians. The Social Democratic states are an exception, they rely on formal childcare.

- Very few differences in formal childcare use between risk groups. Country differences are more important (not shown).

- Regarding Unmet need for childcare.
  - Ireland, UK, and Spain have the highest odds of reporting unmet childcare need when other factors are controlled
  - Lone parents and adults with a disability have higher odds of unmet need when compared to working age adults

- Unmet need associated with poverty/deprivation risks & maternal non-employment.

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Summary (II): Home Care

- The majority of those needing help do not receive formal home care (not shown).
  - Formal home care mostly provided to respondents over 65 who need help (not shown)
- The vast majority of those who need help do not need formal home care, likely because they receive this care from relatives or family
  - However, a core group of respondents with unmet need for home care exist.
  - Unmet need is highest in the Southern states and Ireland and among people under 65.
- Unmet need for home care is associated with material deprivation but not non-employment
- Those with care obligations may combine care and work in all countries.

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Thank You!