

# ONLINE REPORT LAUNCH: The Dynamics of Child Poverty in Ireland: Evidence from GUI 31.5.2021 @ 10.30am

Report launch by Minister Roderic O'Gorman, DCEDIY



A new report using  
Growing Up in Ireland data  
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Register via link on  
[www.esri.ie/events](http://www.esri.ie/events)

# Dynamics of Child Poverty: Context

- Children and young people more likely than adults to be at risk of income poverty and experience material deprivation.
- Poverty impacts on children and young people's lives in a multiplicity of ways: health, education, social/emotional etc.
- Effects of child poverty may be influenced by its **timing** (eg, critical periods of development) and **persistence** (cumulative effects)
- Panel studies show poverty is not a static state. Often transitory

# Research Questions

- What are the longitudinal patterns of poverty for each GUI cohort?
- Which families were most at risk of (persistent) poverty?
- What triggers transitions into or out of poverty? (e.g. labour market; family change)
- How does persistent/transient poverty affect child outcomes?
- Policy implications?

# The Growing Up in Ireland Infant Cohort

**WAVE 1**  
Age 9m



2008 (11,134)

**WAVE 2**  
Age 3



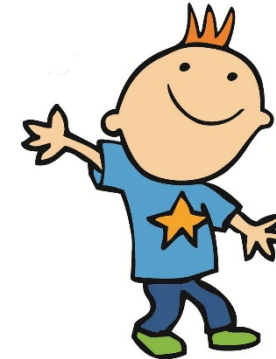
2011 (9,793)

**WAVE 3**  
Age 5



2013 (9,001)

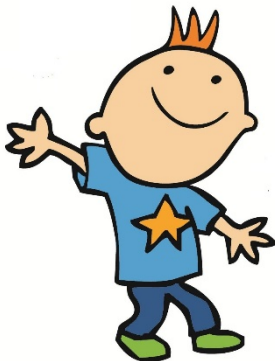
**WAVE 4**  
Age 9



2017 (7,563)

'08 COHORT

**WAVE 1**  
Age 9



2007 (8,570)

**WAVE 2**  
Age 13



2011 (7,400)

**WAVE 3**  
Age 17/18



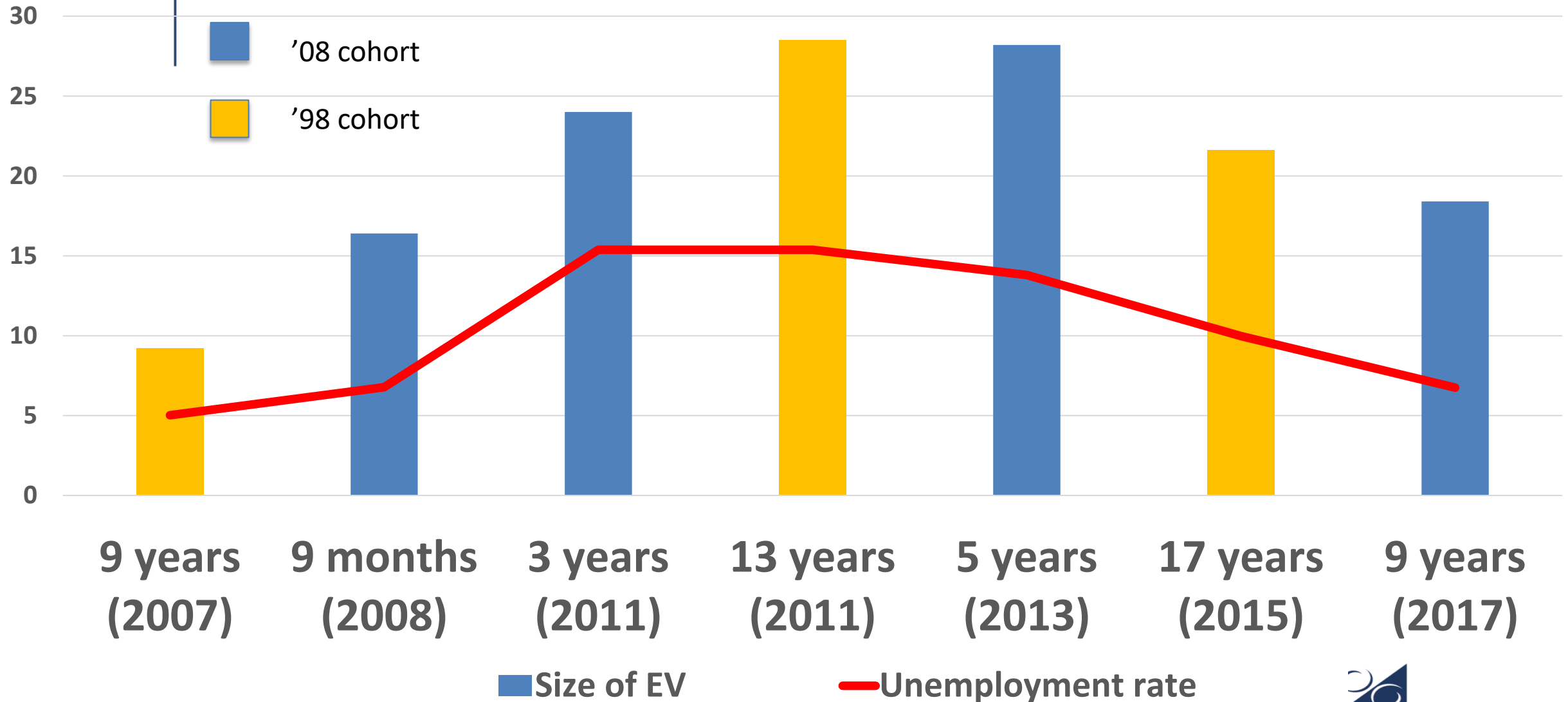
2015 (6,039)

'98 COHORT

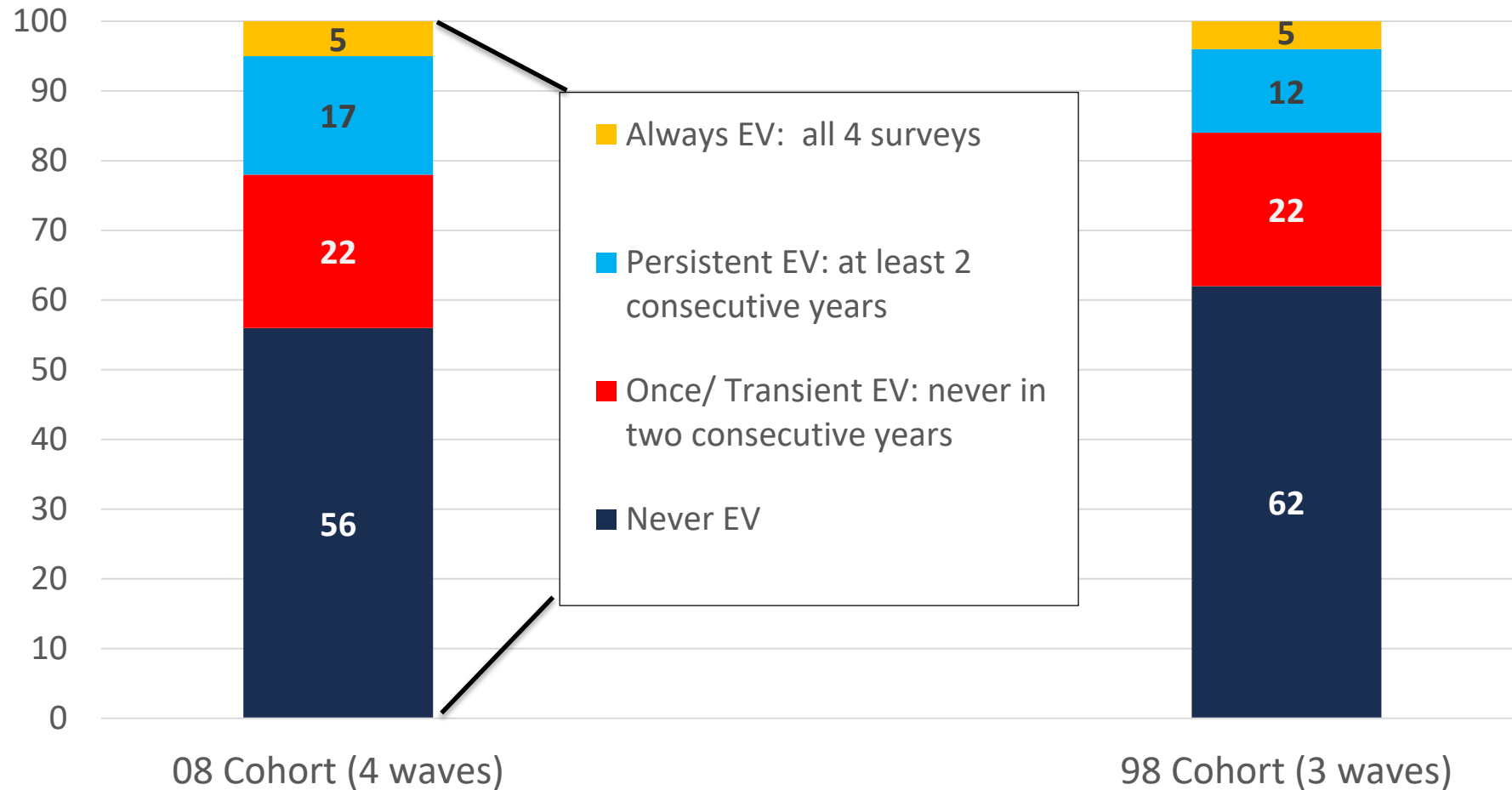
# Measuring Poverty - Economic Vulnerability (EV)

- Multidimensional approach to poverty with Latent Class Analysis
  - Watson et al. (2014) Bradshaw & Holmes (2016)
- Economic vulnerability measure:
  - Economic stress: great difficulty & difficulty making ends meet=1, some difficulty to very easily=0
  - Low household income, bottom quintile household equivalised income
  - Material deprivation, 11 items capturing enforced lack for essential items/activities. Mean deprivation.

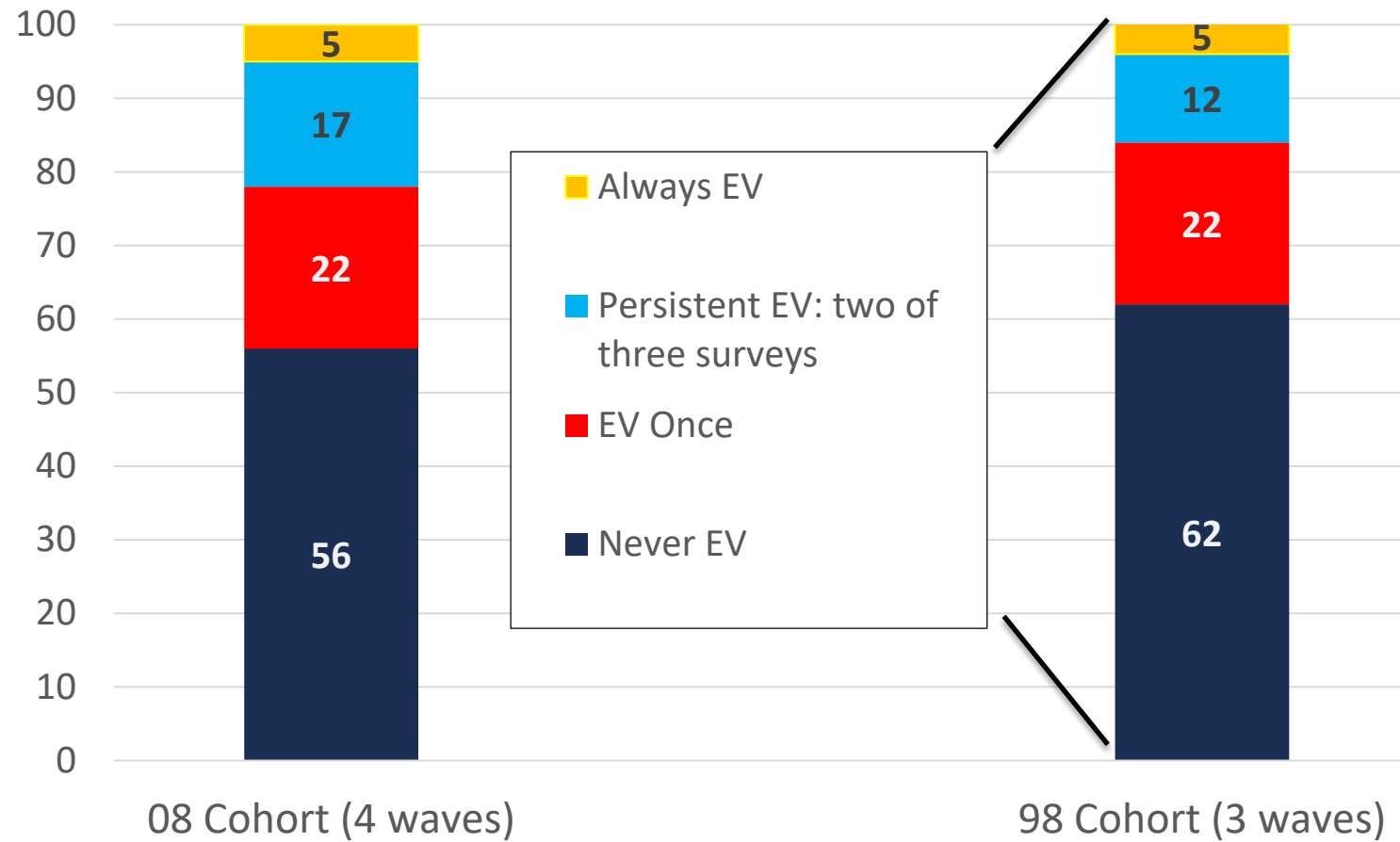
# Level of Economic Vulnerability (%)



# Longitudinal Exposure to EV/Poverty (%)



# Longitudinal Exposure to EV/Poverty (%)





# Transitions into and out of EV 2008 cohort

- Method – logit models
- Examine pairs of waves/years :
  - ‘08 cohort: 9 months to 3 years; 3 years to 5 years; 5 years to 9 years
  - ‘98 cohort: 9 years to 13 years; 13 years to 17/18 years
- **Exit Model** restricted to those EV one of the years: 4,413 pairs of years
- **Entry Model** restricted to those not EV in one of the years, i.e. excludes those who are *always* EV: 18,067 pairs of years

# Transitions into and out of EV: '08 Cohort

|                              |                                       | Enter EV | Exit EV |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| <b>Period</b>                | <b>Ref: 2008-11 (9mon-3yr)</b>        |          |         |
|                              | 2011-13 (3-5years)                    | =        | -       |
|                              | 2013-17( 5-9years)                    | -        | +       |
| <b>Fixed Characteristics</b> | <b>Ref: PCG Degree w1</b>             |          |         |
|                              | PCG lower secondary or less           | ++       | -       |
|                              | PCG Leaving Certificate               | ++       | -       |
|                              | PCG sub-degree                        | +        | =       |
|                              | <b>PCG disability w1</b>              | +        | -       |
|                              | <b>N children w1</b>                  | +        | -       |
| <b>Life Events</b>           | New baby between waves                | =        | =       |
|                              | <b>No change in partnership (ref)</b> |          |         |
|                              | Partner moved in                      | ++       | =       |
|                              | Partner moved out                     | ++       | -       |

- OR<1    + 1<OR<2    ++ OR >2 and <5    = same as reference group

# Contd. Transitions into and out of EV:'08 Cohort

|                                       | Labour Market Events                 | Enter EV | Exit EV |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|
| <b>PCG (Mother)</b><br>Ref: no change | PCG unemp/Inactive to full-time work | -        | ++      |
|                                       | PCG unemp/inactive to part-time work | =        | =       |
|                                       | PCG exit employment                  | +        | =       |
|                                       | PCG full-time to part-time           | =        | =       |
|                                       | PCG part-time to full-time           | -        | +       |
| <b>SCG (Father)</b><br>ref: no change |                                      |          |         |
|                                       | SGC unemp/inactive to full-time emp  | -        | ++      |
|                                       | SGC unemp/inactive to part-time emp  | +        | =       |
|                                       | SCG exit employment                  | +        | =       |
|                                       | SCG full-time to part-time emp       | ++       | =       |
|                                       | SCG part-time to full-time emp       | =        | ++      |

- OR<1 + 1<OR<2 ++ OR >2 and <5

# Longitudinal Poverty and Child Outcomes

|   | Never EV | EV once/transient | Persistently EV | Always EV |
|---|----------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <b>Health outcomes %</b>                        |          |                   |                 |           |
| Illness/disability at 9 years                   | 10.4     | 13.0**            | 18.1***         | 21.2***   |
| Illness/disability at 17 years                  | 9.9      | 12.4**            | 16.5***         | 26.5***   |
| <b>SDQ % problematic score</b>                  |          |                   |                 |           |
| At 9 years old                                  | 4.9      | 10.9***           | 12.9***         | 15.4***   |
| At 17 years old                                 | 3.3      | 6.5***            | 10.1***         | 17.2***   |
| <b>Education</b>                                |          |                   |                 |           |
| Drumcondra reading test (Logit score, mean=100) | 102.38   | 98.03***          | 97.23***        | 91.80***  |
| Maths score (mean) at 17                        | 2.5      | 2.1***            | 2.1***          | 1.5***    |
| Vocabulary test (mean) at 17                    | 9        | 8.3***            | 8.2***          | 6.9***    |

\*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.001

# Implications

- Over 9 year window, EV/poverty common but half of cases transitory
- Persistent poverty strongly socially structured (low ed, lone parent & large families, ethnic minority, parental disability)
- Role of maternal & paternal employment in predicting persistent poverty and *transitions* into and out of poverty
- Entry to part-time employment not enough to exit poverty
- Relationship breakdown and re-partnering
- Policies needed to mitigate these risks, income supports (including in-work benefits), services, ALMP, education.
- Even transitory poverty linked to negative outcomes but longer exposure worse
- Duration of exposure during early and later childhood relevant for outcomes, interventions for older children also important.

**Thanks for listening – comments/questions welcome!**