Occupations and Health

Budget Perspectives 2023

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Date
10th June 2022

Presenters
Brendan Walsh
Karina Doorley

Background

Relationship between health and work is nuanced

- Poor health can reduce employment or productivity
- Barriers and stigma may prevent people working
- Mental health problems in particular can impose large earnings penalties

Less is known about health across workers

- Some jobs can have direct effects on health
- Injury, stress, shift work more common in some occupations
- Workers with different health status may select into different jobs

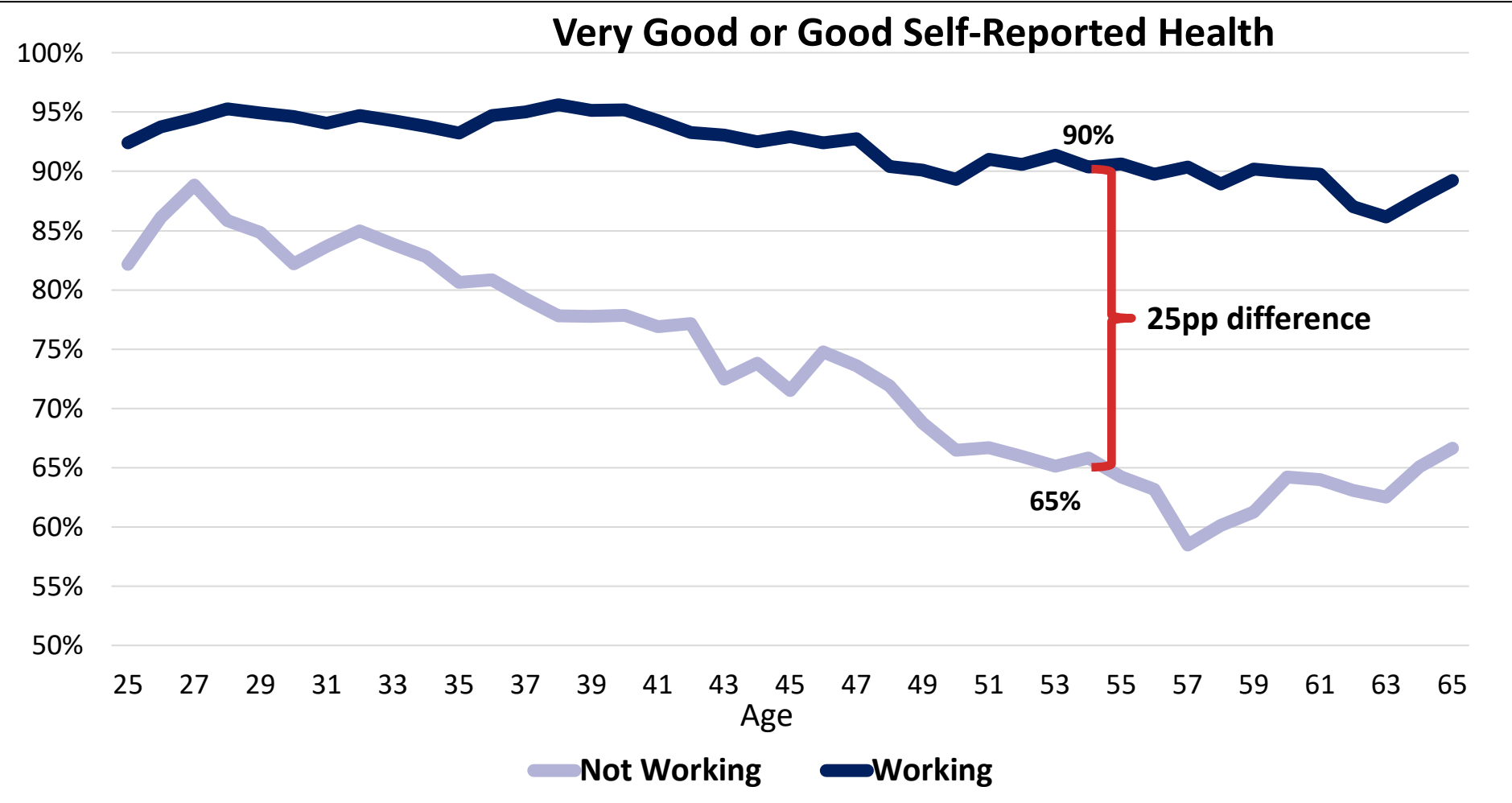ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Questions and Data

Does subjective and objective health differ across workers, non-workers, and workers with different occupations?

What about healthcare coverage?

Healthy Ireland Survey (2015-2020)

- 25,040 adults aged 25-65 years
- <u>Self-reported health:</u> *"How is your health in general?"*
- <u>Multimorbidity:</u> 2+ long-term health conditions
- <u>Mental illness:</u> *"Any emotional, nervous or psychiatric problems, such as depression or anxiety"*
- <u>Healthcare coverage:</u> Medical Card, GPVC, PHI

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Workers have higher self-reported health

Very Good or Good Self-Reported Health

90%

25pp difference

65%

Not Working   Working

Age

Source: See Figure 2.1 in "Self-reported health and multimorbidity"

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Workers have lower morbidity rates

Multimorbidity
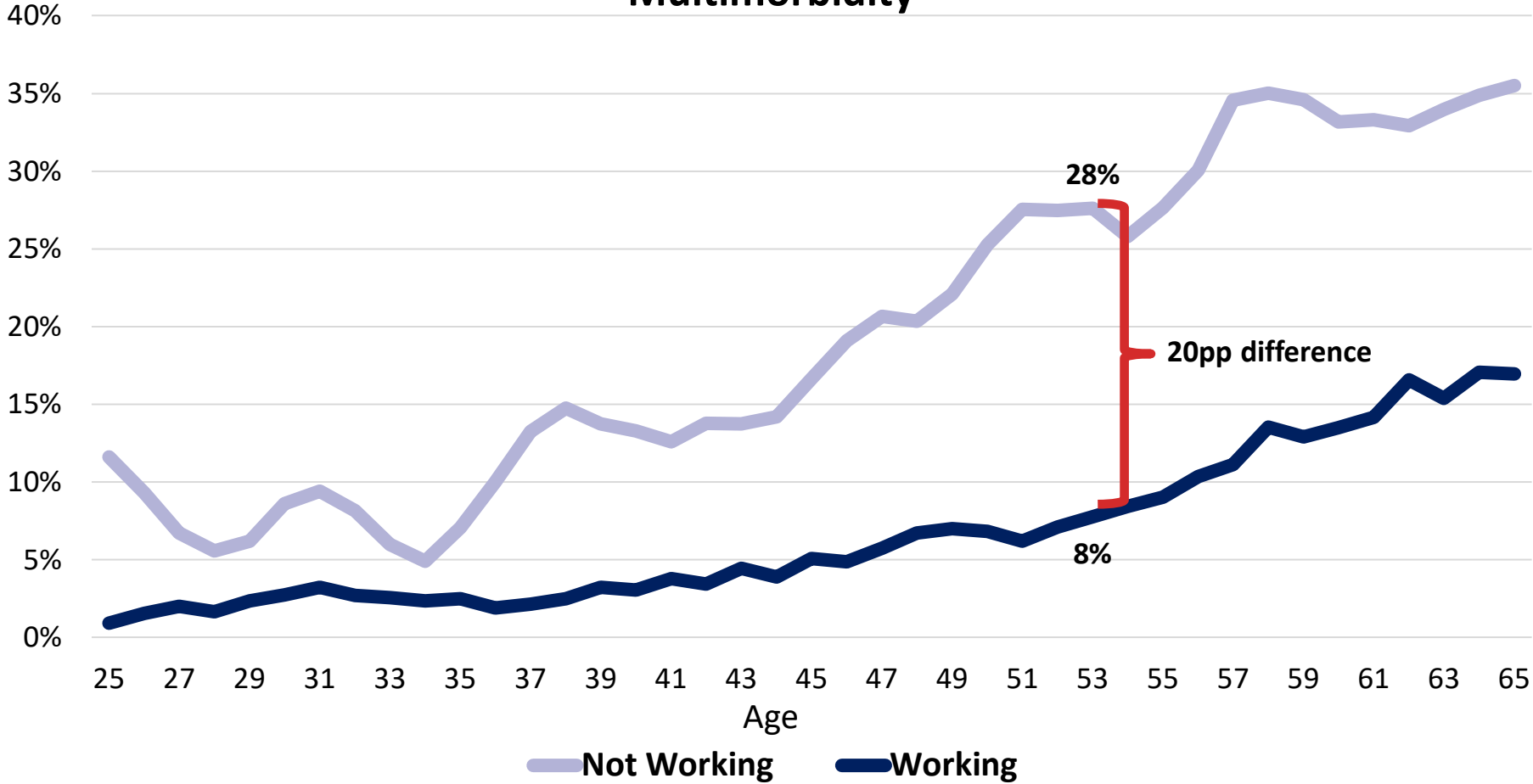
Legend: Not Working — Working

Annotations: 28%, 20pp difference, 8%

X-axis: Age (25 to 65)
Y-axis: 0% to 40%

Source: See Figure 2.1 in "Self-reported health and multimorbidity"

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

5

Education gradient exists for non-workers

Very Good or Good Self-Reported Health

- ■ Good Health Working, Non-Degree
- ● Good Health Working, Degree

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Education gradient exists for non-workers

Very Good or Good Self-Reported Health

Legend:
- ◇ Good Health Not Working, Non-Degree
- ✕ Good Health Not Working, Degree
- ■ Good Health Working, Non-Degree
- ● Good Health Working, Degree

X-axis categories: Age 25-34, Age 35-44, Age 45-54, Age 55-65

Y-axis: 60% to 100%

34pp

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Education gradient exists for non-workers

Multimorbidity

Legend:
- ◇ Multimorbidity Not Working, Non-Degree
- ⊠ Multimorbidity Not Working, Degree
- ■ Multimorbidity Working, Non-Degree
- ● Multimorbidity Working, Degree

X-axis: Age 25-34, Age 35-44, Age 45-54, Age 55-65

Y-axis: 0% to 40%

24pp (annotation at Age 55-65)

ESRI | ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
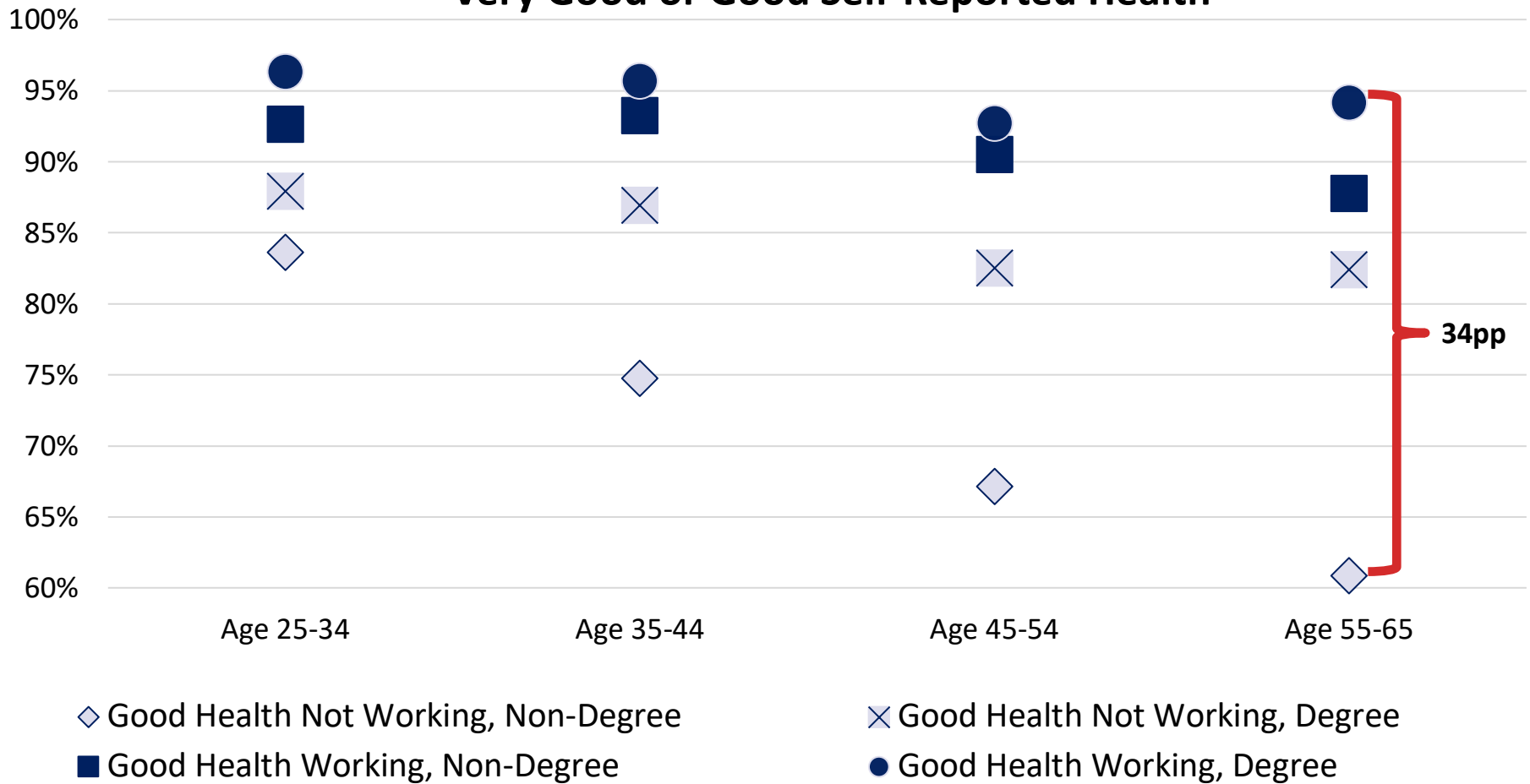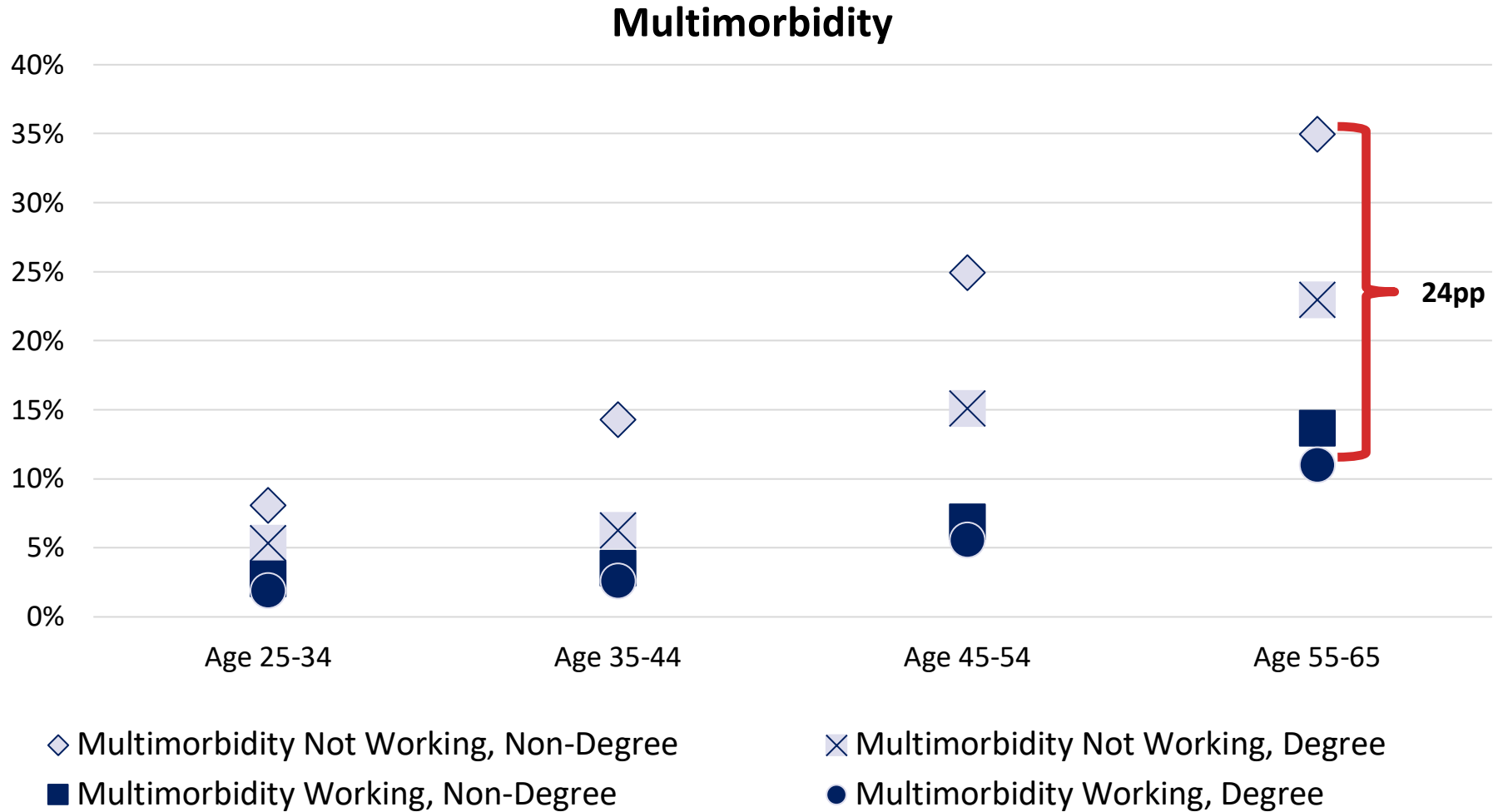
Mental Illness higher in non-workers
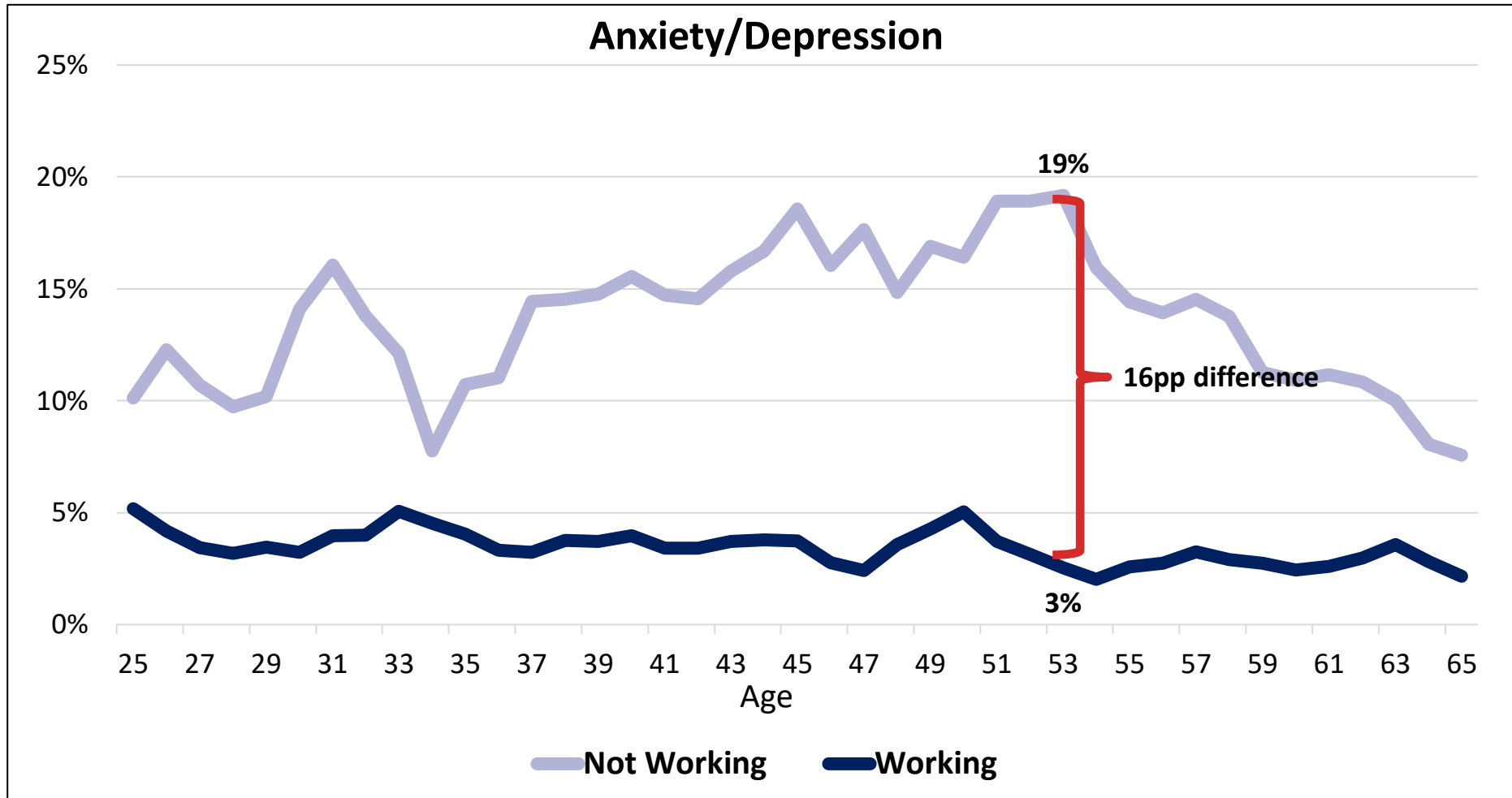
Anxiety/Depression

19%

16pp difference

3%

Not Working   Working

Age

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Education gradient exists for non-workers

Anxiety/Depression

Legend:
◇ Anxiety/Depression Not Working, Non-Degree
⊠ Anxiety/Depression Not Working, Degree
■ Anxiety/Depression Working, Non-Degree
● Anxiety/Depression Working, Degree

15pp difference

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
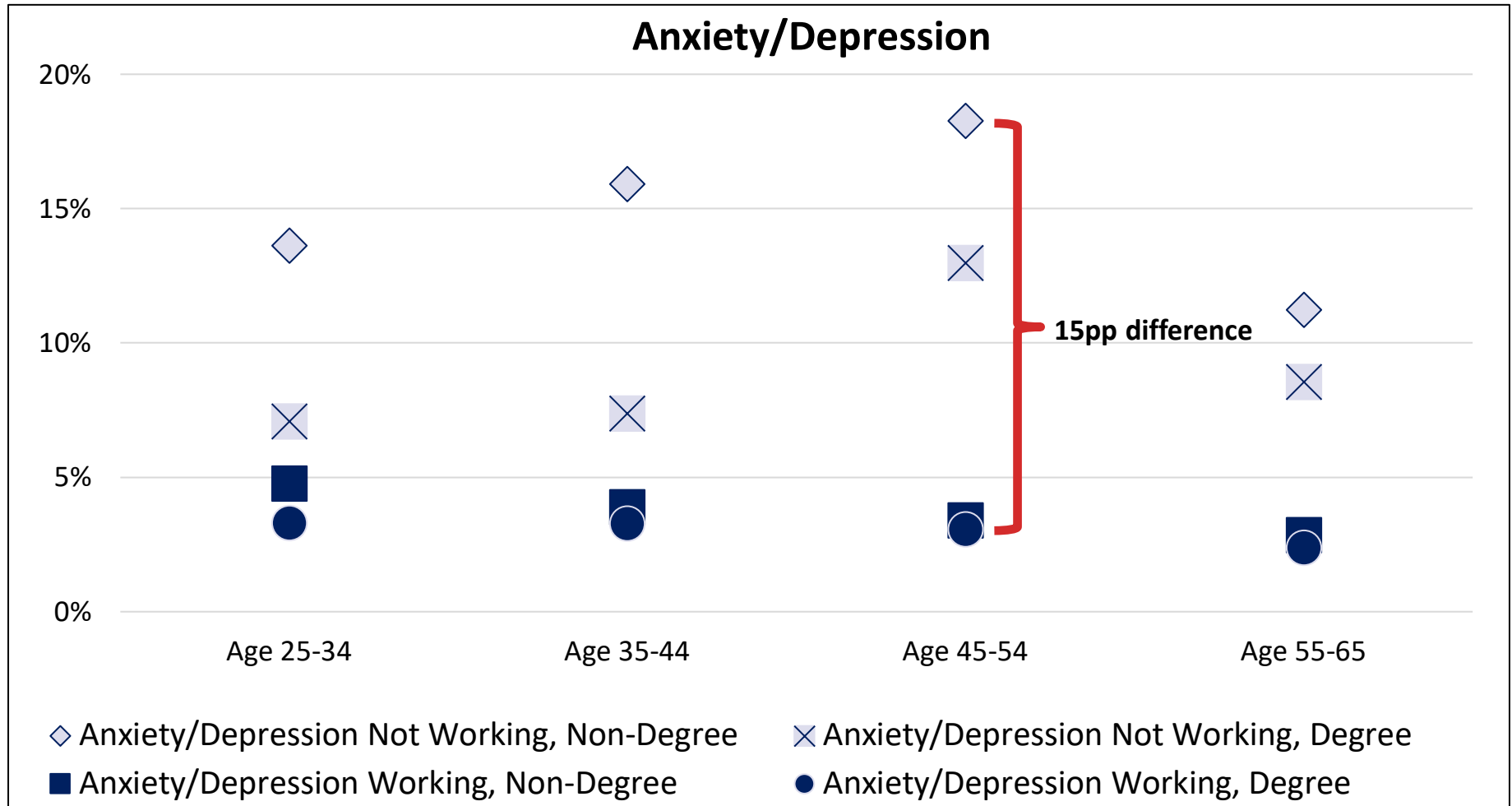
Smalls differences in health across occupations

Multimorbidity

Larger differences for mental health across occupations

Anxiety/Depression
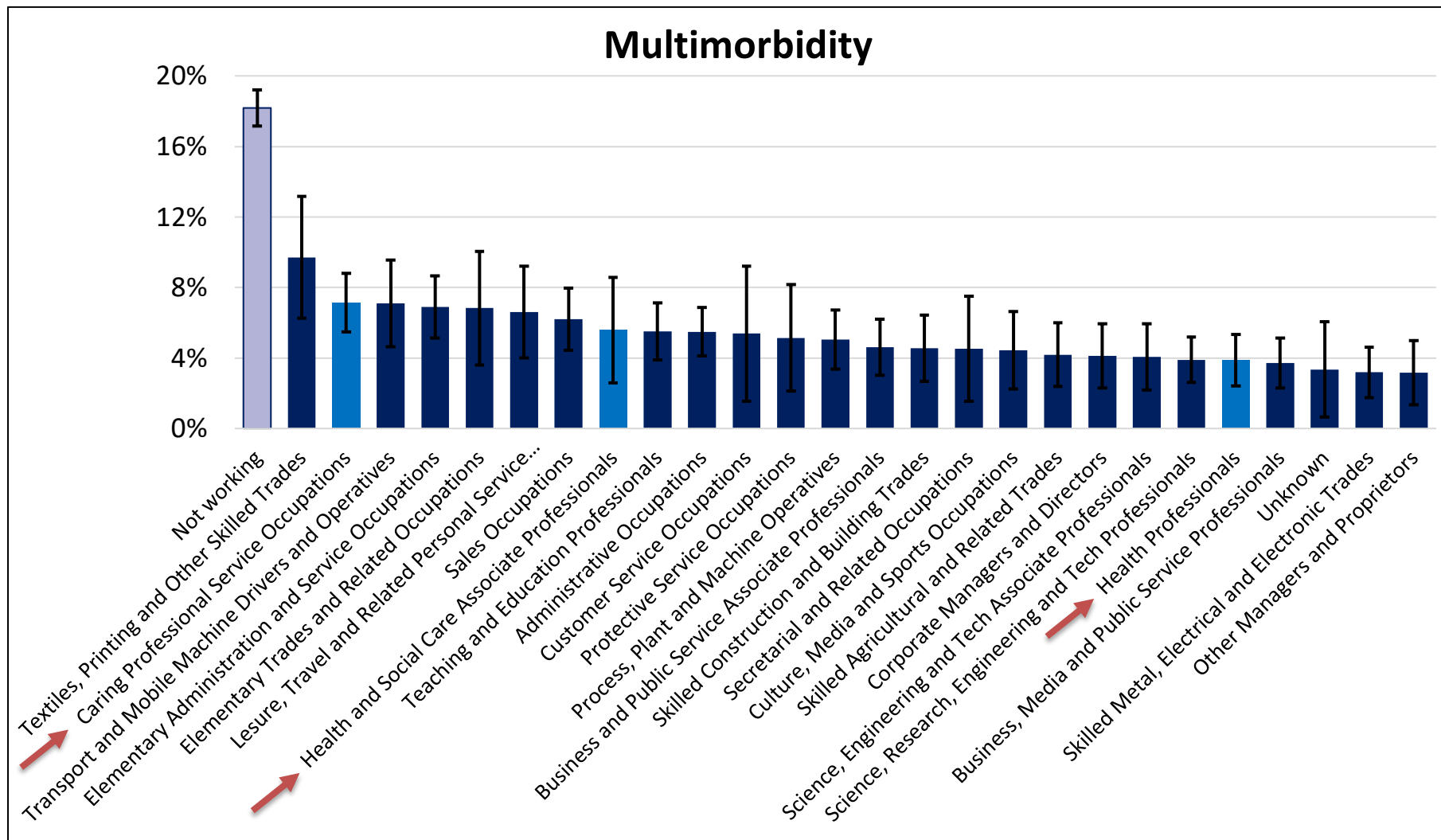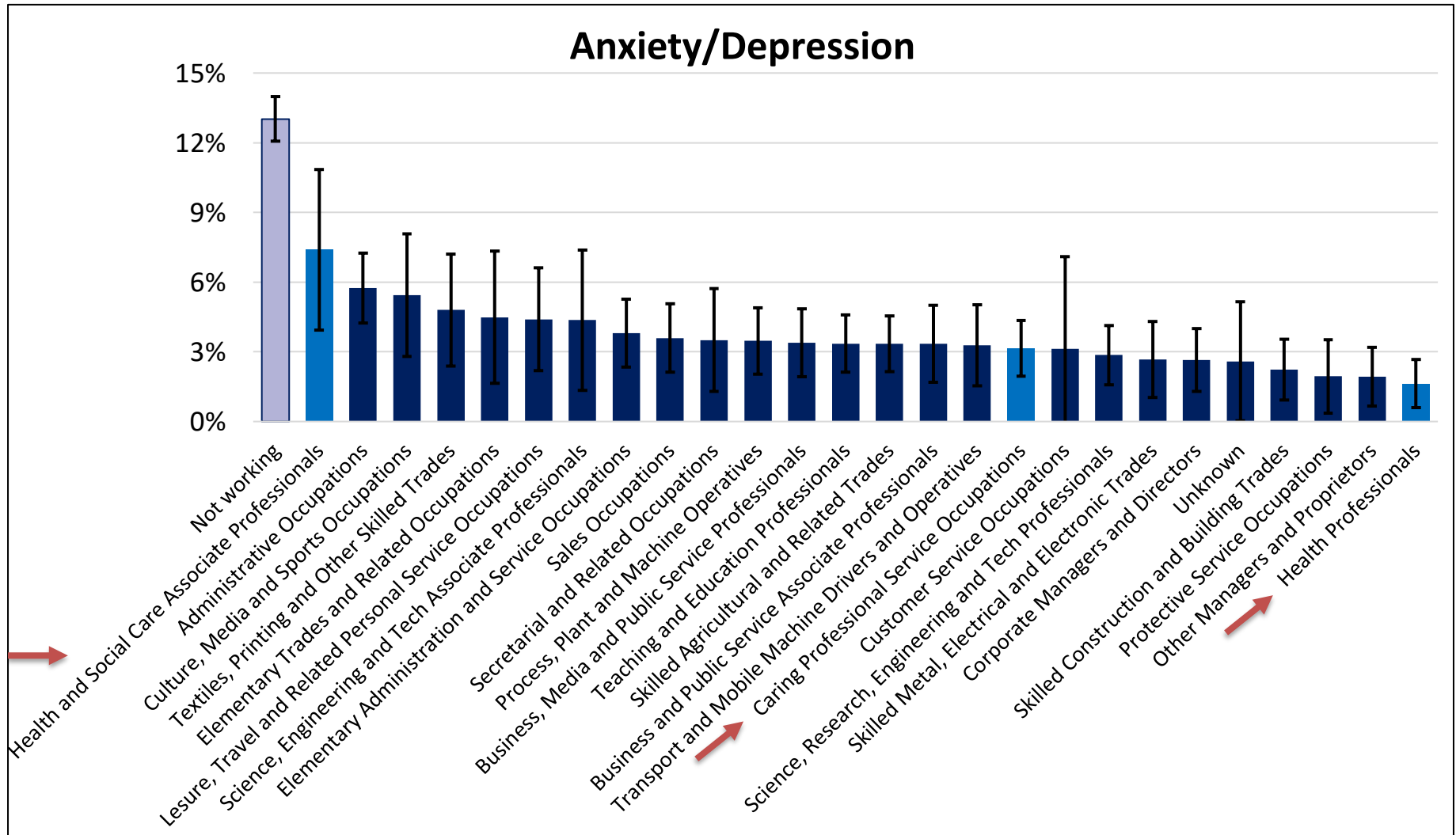
Source: See Figure 4.2 in "Health in workers"

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Healthcare coverage

Ireland lacks universal access to free public healthcare

Many workers have no public (Medical Card) or private health insurance

- Coverage/costs can impact healthcare use for sick workers
- Workers may work when ill
- Spread illness (Covid-19), presenteeism, long-term health

Workers entitled to Illness Benefit

- New law likely to require 3 days sick leave for all workers
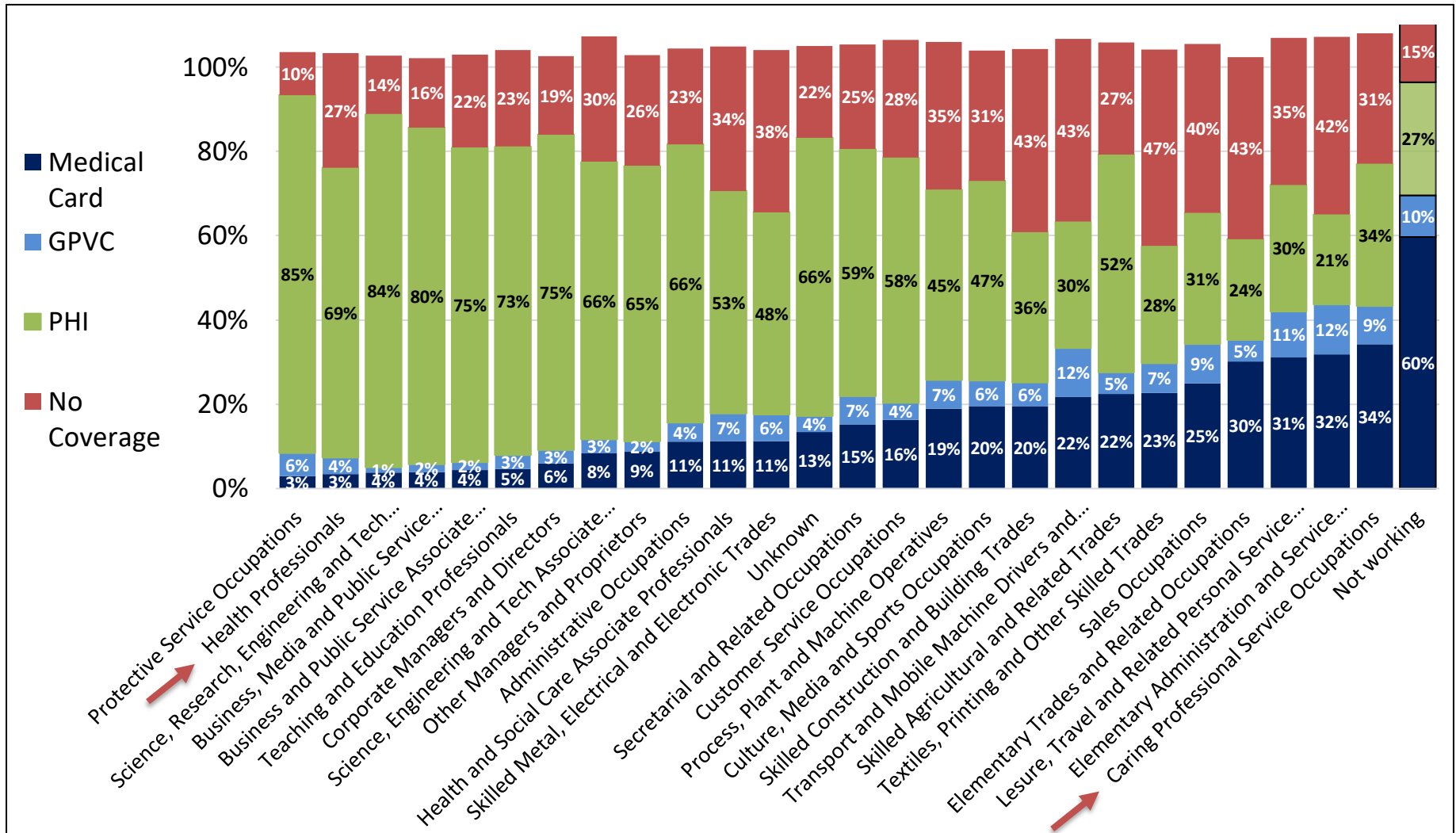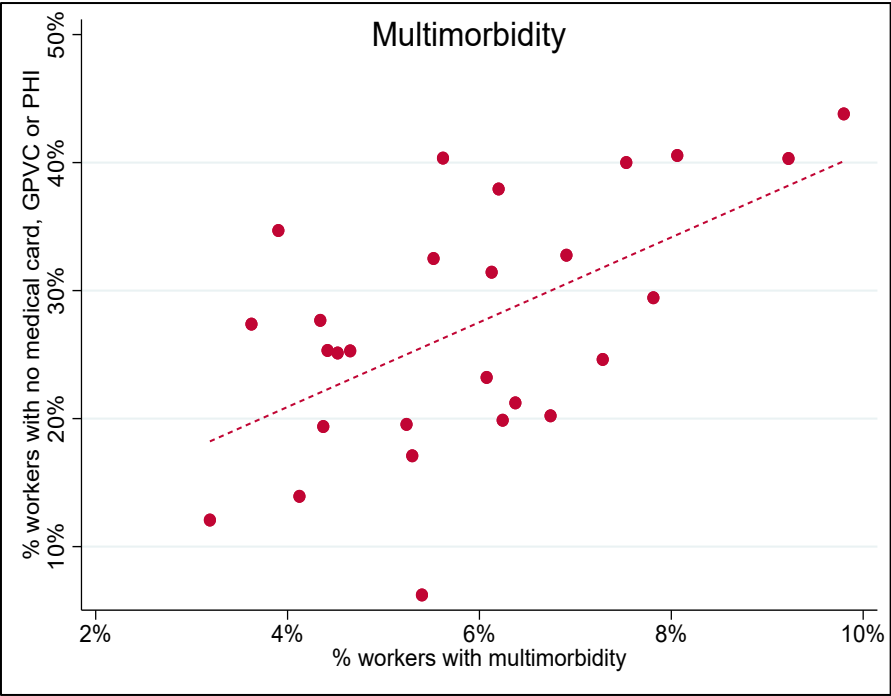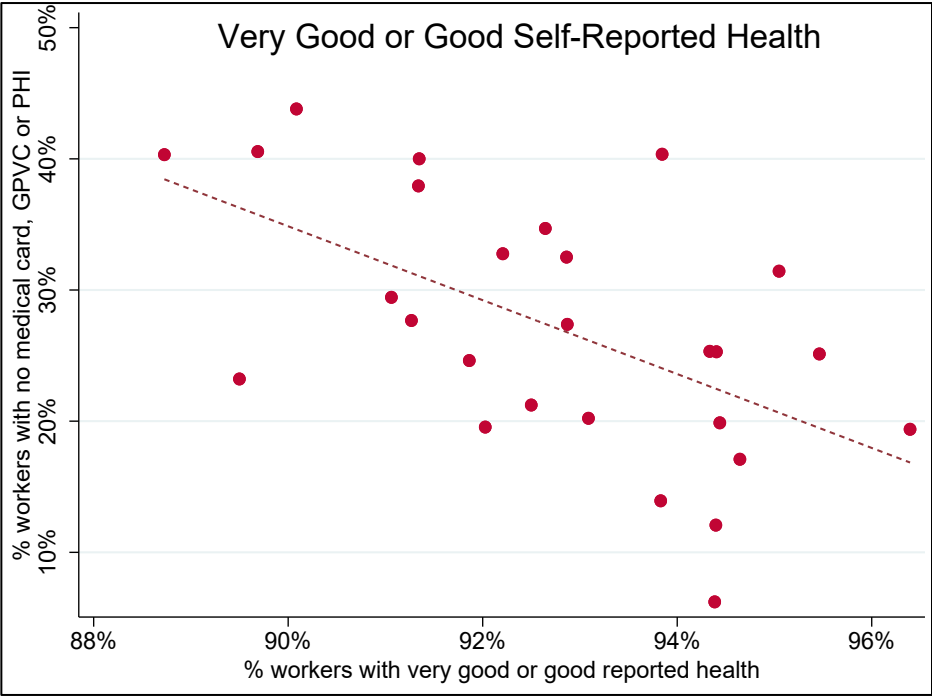
ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Large difference in healthcare coverage

Legend:
- Medical Card (dark blue)
- GPVC (light blue)
- PHI (green)
- No Coverage (red)

Occupation	Medical Card	GPVC	PHI	No Coverage
Protective Service Occupations	3%	6%	85%	10%
Health Professionals	3%	4%	69%	27%
Science, Research, Engineering and Tech...	4%	1%	84%	14%
Business, Media and Public Service...	4%	2%	80%	16%
Business and Public Service Associate...	4%	2%	75%	22%
Teaching and Education Professionals	5%	3%	73%	23%
Corporate Managers and Directors	6%	3%	75%	19%
Science, Engineering and Tech Associate...	8%	3%	66%	30%
Other Managers and Proprietors	9%	2%	65%	26%
Administrative Occupations	11%	4%	66%	23%
Health and Social Care Associate Professionals	11%	7%	53%	34%
Skilled Metal, Electrical and Electronic Trades	11%	6%	48%	38%
Unknown	13%	4%	66%	22%
Secretarial and Related Occupations	15%	7%	59%	25%
Customer Service Occupations	16%	4%	58%	28%
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	19%	7%	45%	35%
Culture, Media and Sports Occupations	20%	6%	47%	31%
Skilled Construction and Building Trades	20%	6%	36%	43%
Transport and Mobile Machine Drivers and...	22%	12%	30%	43%
Skilled Agricultural and Related Trades	22%	5%	52%	27%
Textiles, Printing and Other Skilled Trades	23%	7%	28%	47%
Elementary Trades and Related Occupations	25%	9%	31%	40%
Sales Occupations	30%	5%	24%	43%
Leisure, Travel and Related Personal Service...	31%	11%	30%	35%
Elementary Administration and Service...	32%	12%	21%	42%
Caring Professional Service Occupations	34%	9%	34%	31%
Not working	60%	10%	27%	15%

Health and healthcare coverage are negatively correlated

Conclusions

Health status worse in non-workers

- This may reduce ability of some people to join workforce

- Reducing barriers within workplace may help integrate some workers

- Mental Illness rates in non-workers high – labour market participation and policies needed beyond current legislation

Health amongst workers

- Many occupations, with higher rates of multimorbidity and mental illness, have lower levels of healthcare coverage

- Illness benefit/sick pay may reduce healthcare cost concerns

- Sláintecare/universal healthcare may remedy cost concerns

ESRI ECONOMIC & SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE