

Deprived Children in Ireland:

Characterising those who are deprived but not income poor

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Motivation & Poverty Definitions

Motivation I

- Child Poverty has **wide-ranging** and **long-lasting impacts**
- Irish policy recognises **multidimensional** nature of poverty **consistent poverty** by combining:
 - Income measure - at-risk-of-poverty (AROP)
 - Material deprivation
- Social policy primarily addresses income and consistent poverty, less attention on deprivation

Measurement

At Risk of Poverty

A household is At Risk of Poverty (AROP) if their equivalised disposable income is less than 60% of the national median

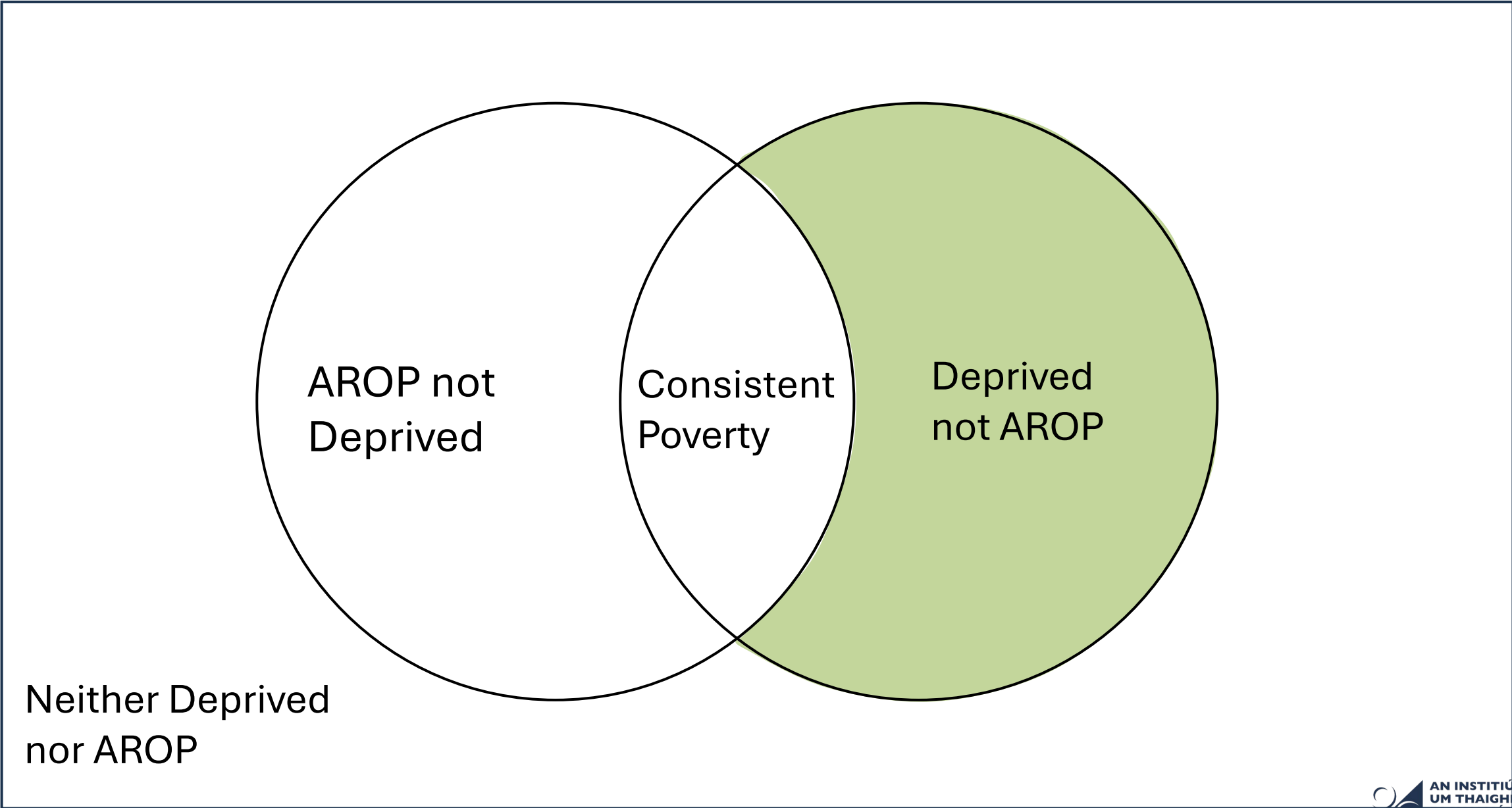
Deprivation

A household is deprived if they cannot afford 2 or more goods and services from a list of 11 items which are considered the norm for other people in society

Consistent Poverty

A household is consistently poor if they are both AROP and deprived

All Children



Motivation II

- Why might individuals be **deprived but not AROP**
 - Household income just above income threshold
 - Increased needs or costs (e.g. disability or high housing costs)
 - Debt or lack of savings/wider resources
- Vulnerable group – lacking basic necessities for adequate standard of living

Research Questions

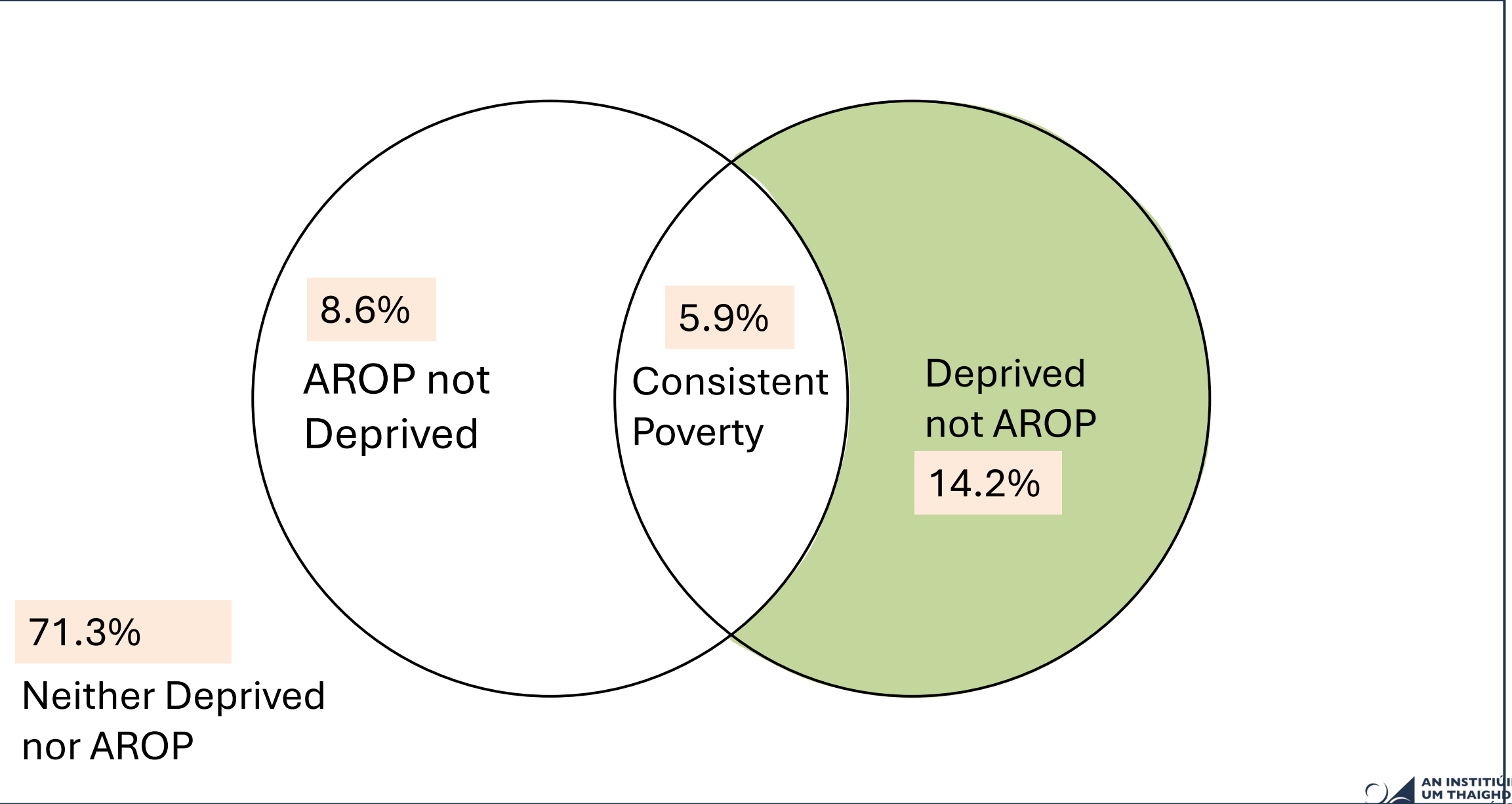
- **Which children** are deprived but not income poor?
- How does the size of this group change if we **alter the measurement of income poverty?** (e.g. changing threshold or adjusting for housing costs)
- Do the **outcomes** of children in this group differ from those that are consistently poor?

Data & Methods

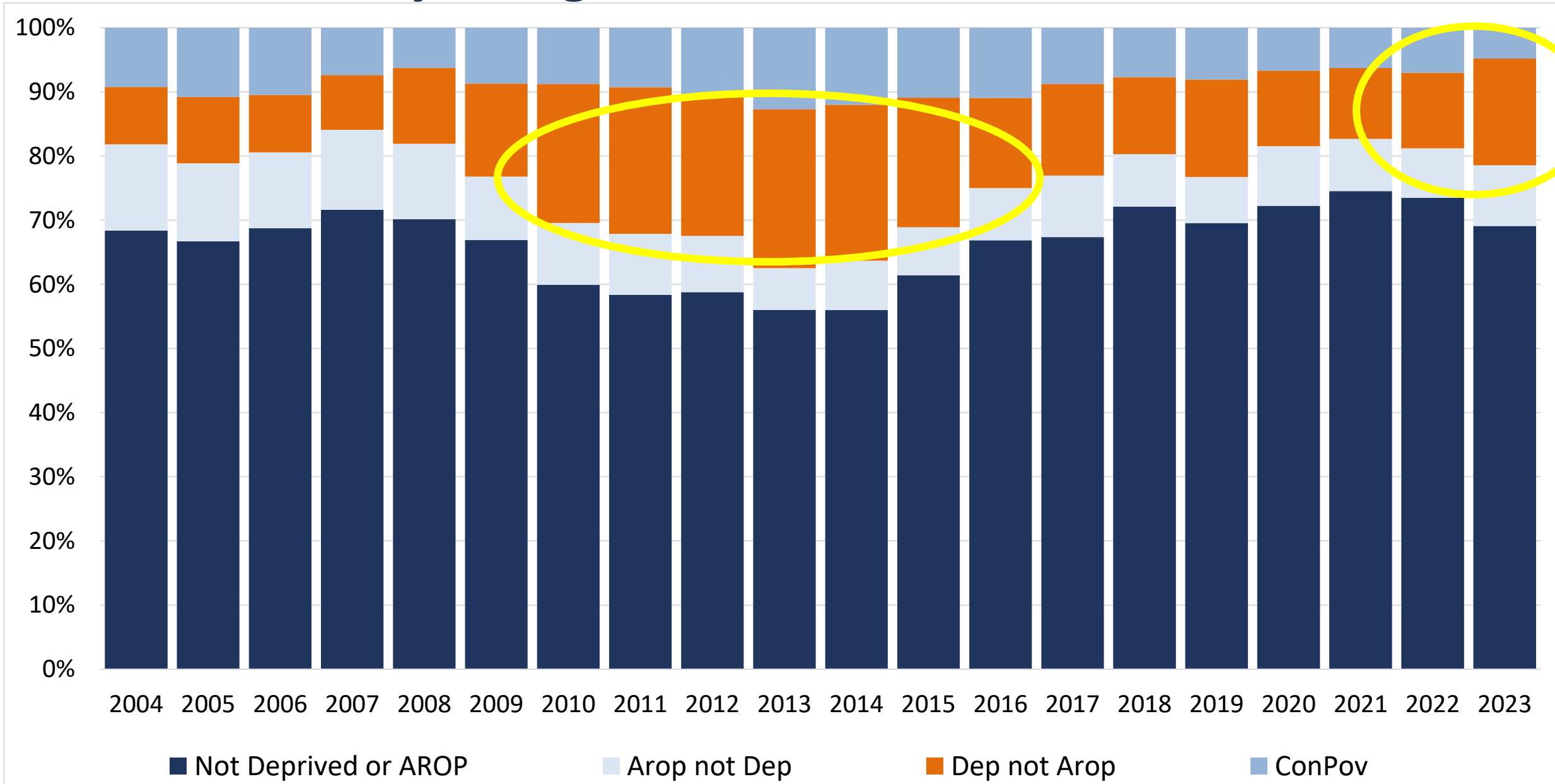
Data & Methods

- **Survey of Income and Living Conditions**
 - ~ 5,000 private households per year
 - 2022 & 2023 combined*
 - 4,827 children in 2022 & 2023
- **Cross Sectional Analysis**
 - Multinomial logistic regression

Key Findings

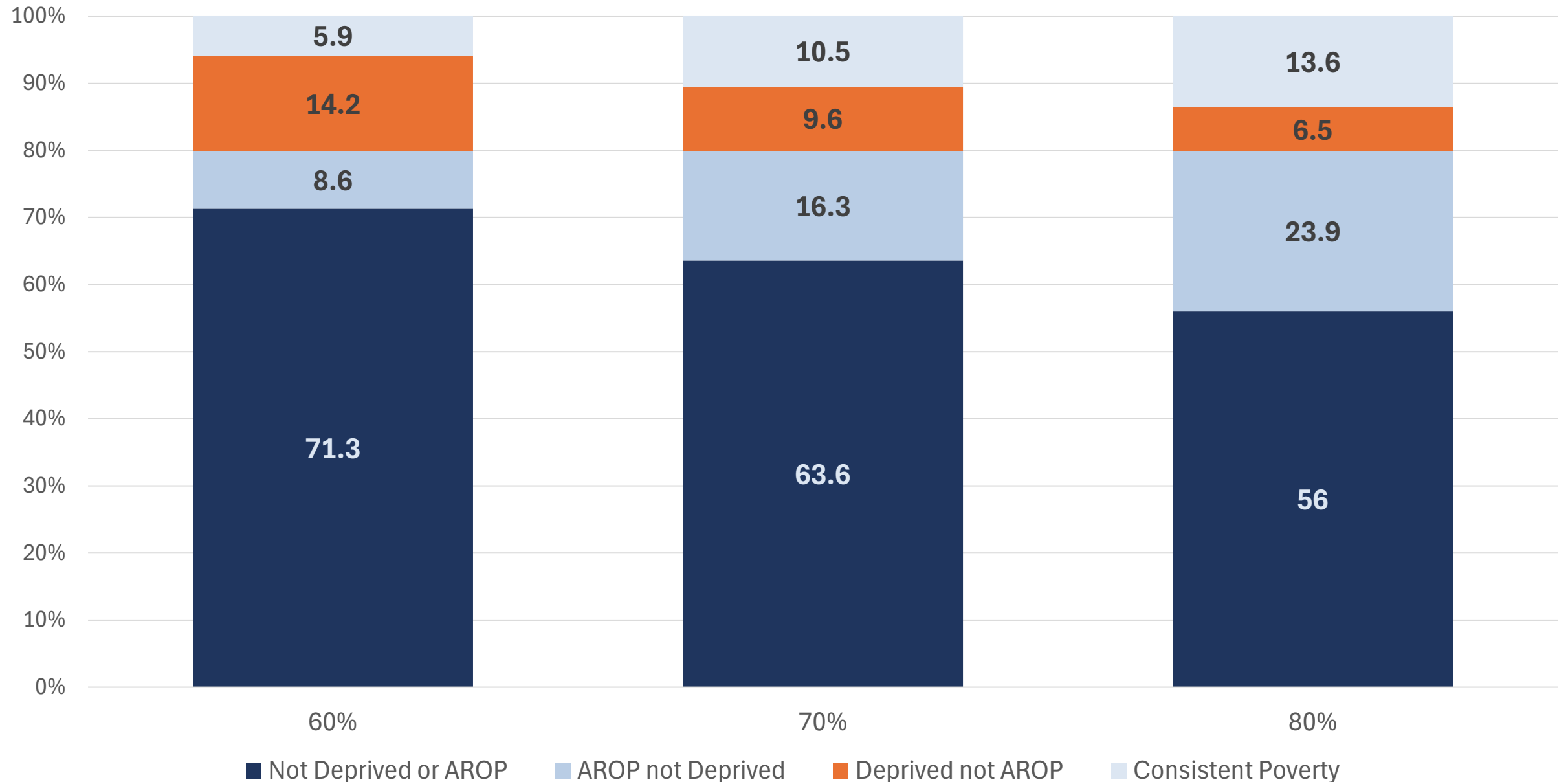


Child Poverty Categories over Time, 2004-2023

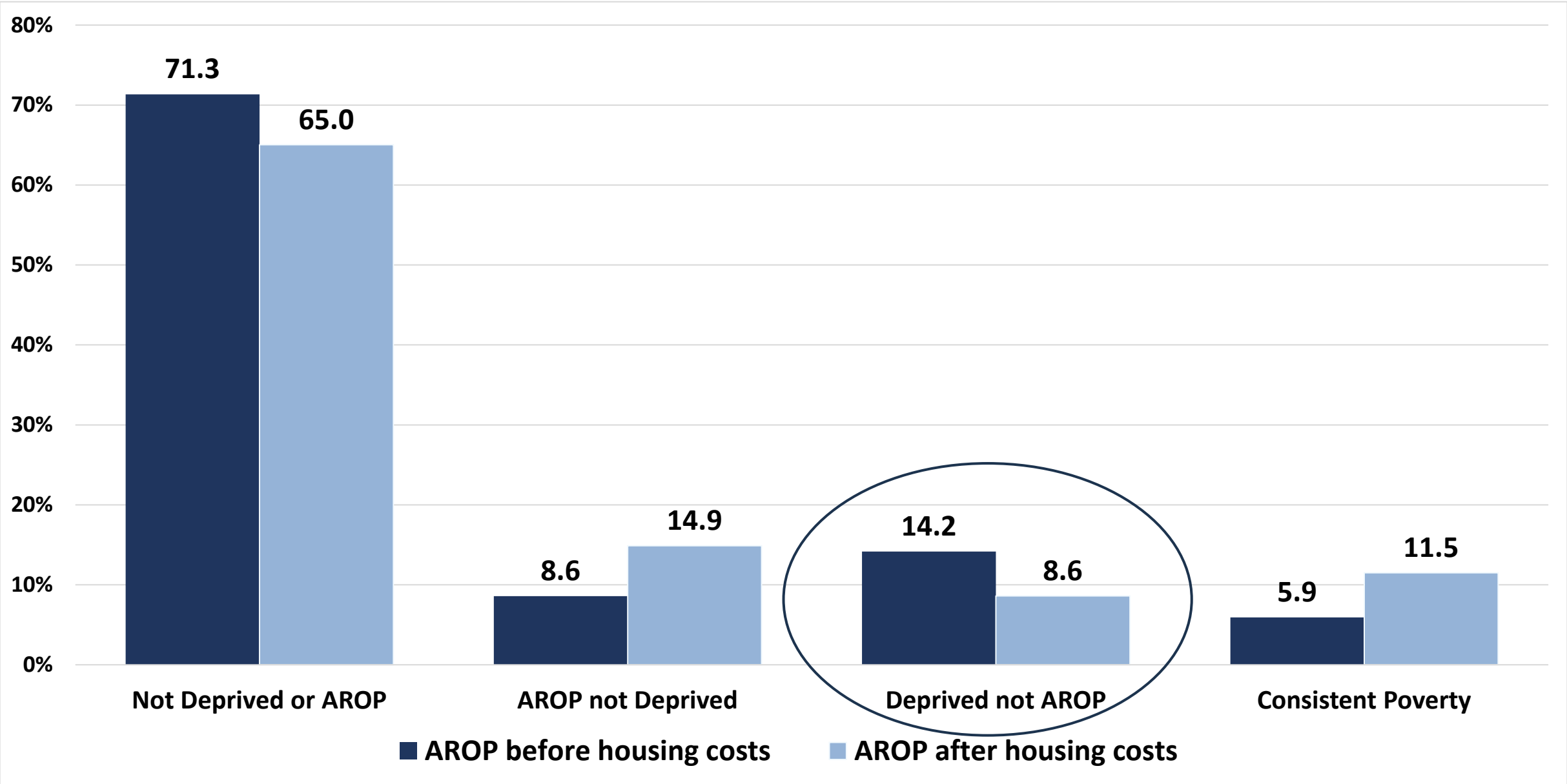


Changing measurement thresholds

Impact of changing income thresholds, SILC 2022-2023 (<18yrs)

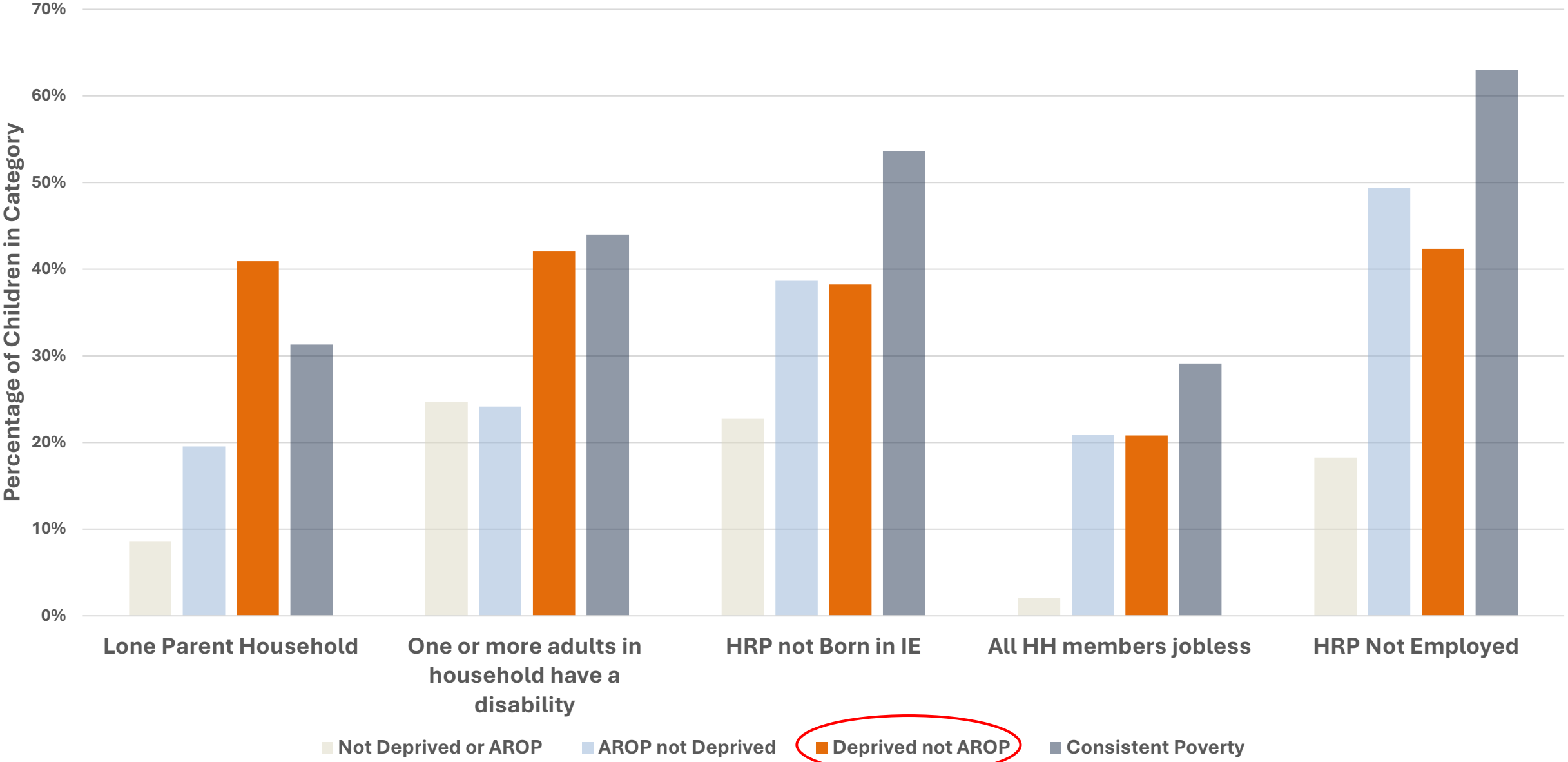


Using income after housing costs to calculate AROP, SILC 2022-2023



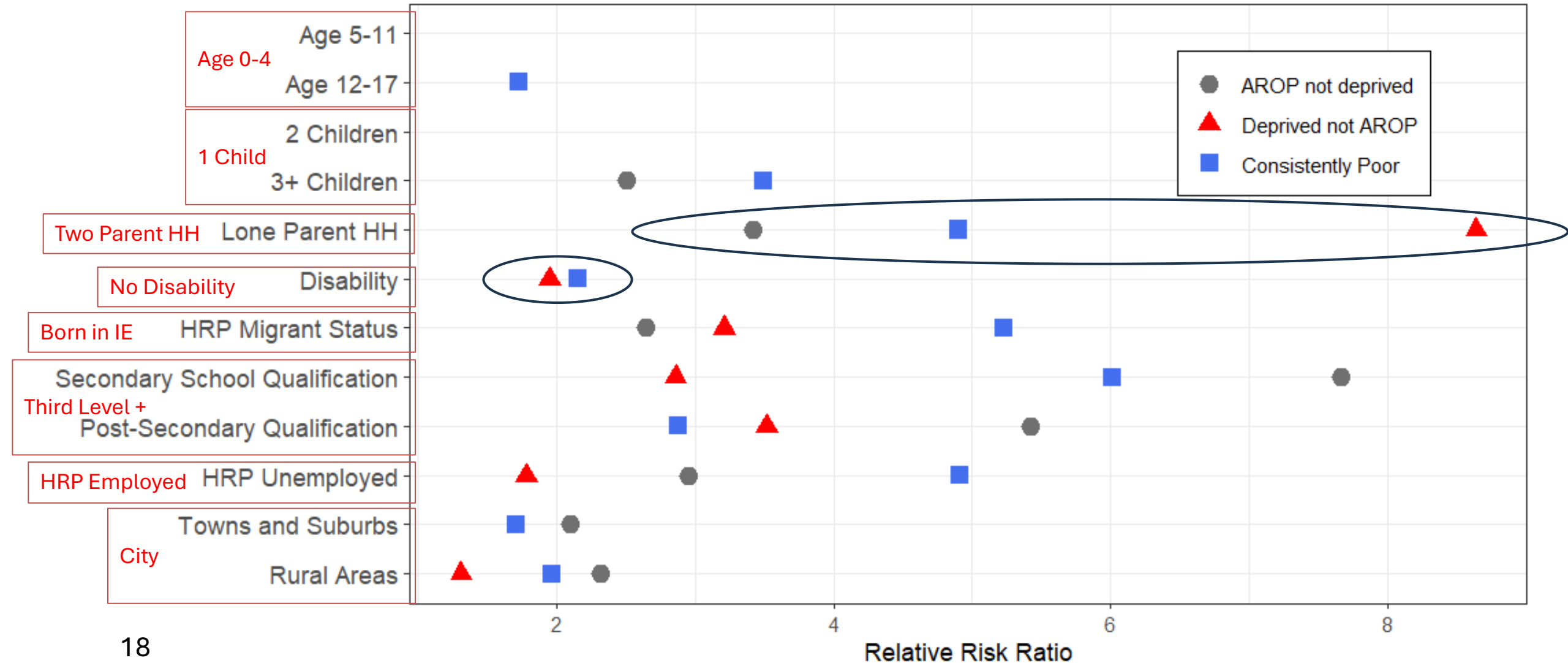
Characteristics of Children in Poverty Categories

Key characteristics by poverty category, SILC 2022-2023



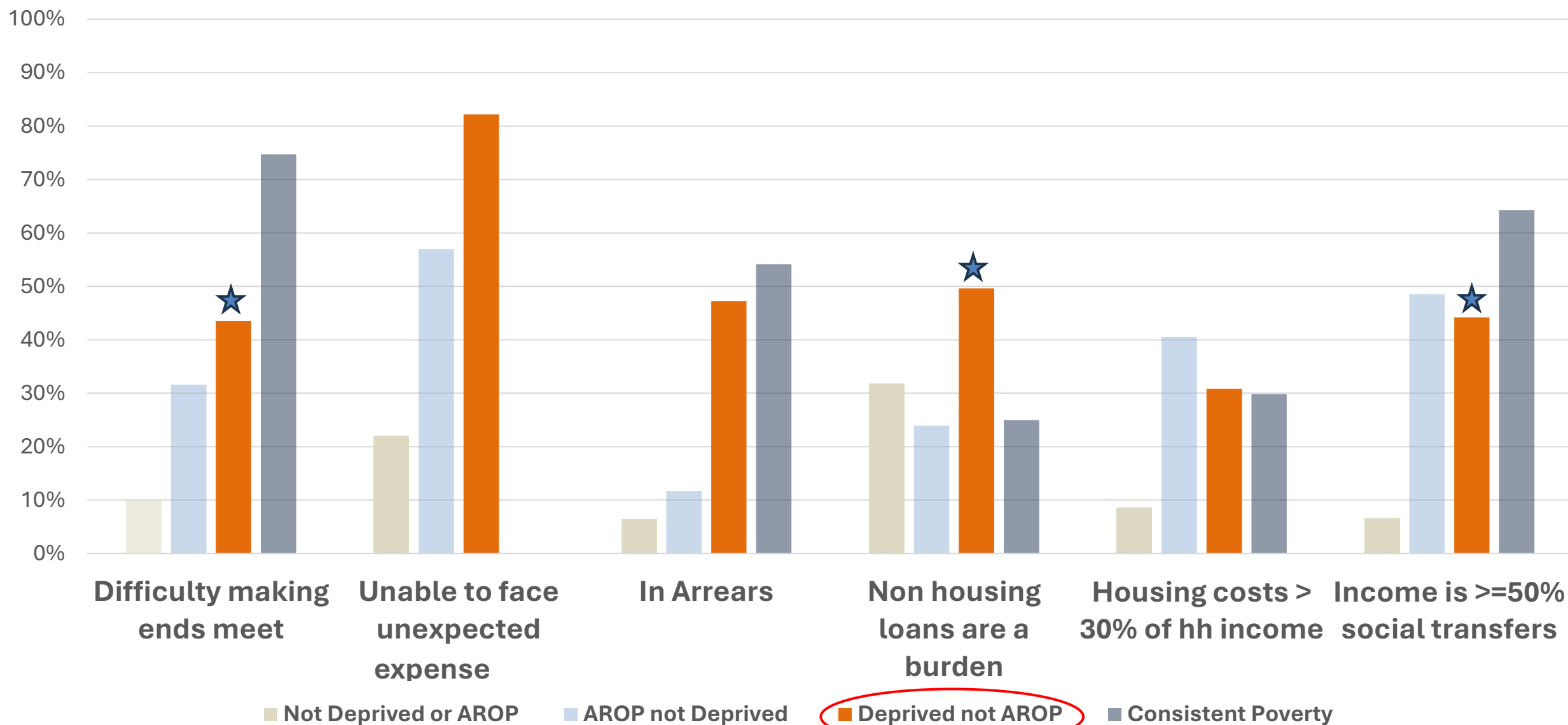
Relative Risk Ratios of being in different poverty categories

Children <18 (ratio of 1 means same as risk as reference group)

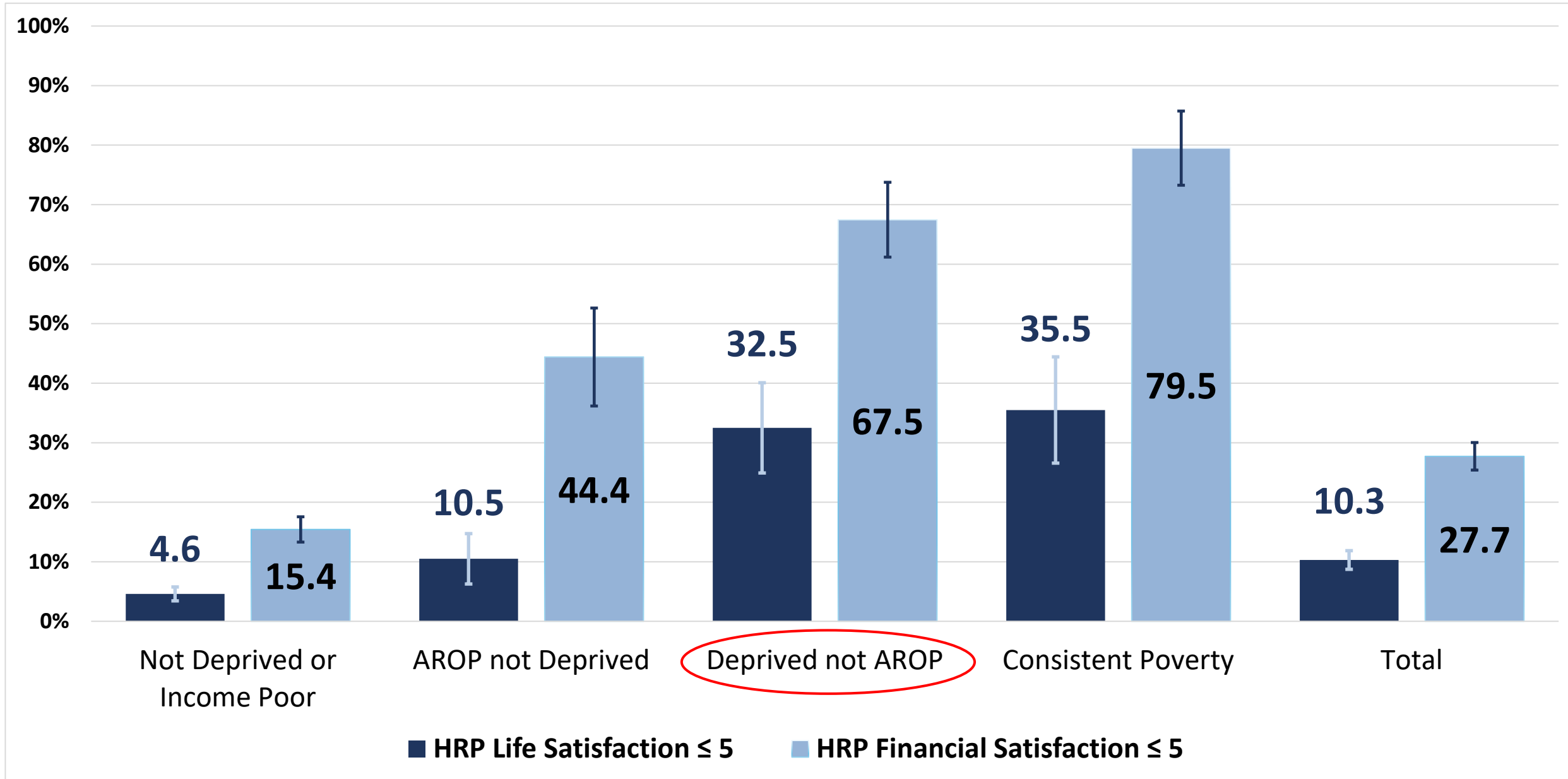


Experiences of deprived not AROP children

Financial strain by poverty category, SILC 2022-2023



Outcomes – Financial and Life Satisfaction of the HRP



Summary & Conclusions

Key Takeaways

- Number of deprived not AROP children **increasing** in recent period
- Many just above poverty line. One-third of the group have incomes between 60 & 70% of median income
- High proportion have **high housing costs** (40% move into the consistently poor group AHC) and have **arrears** and **non-housing debts**
- Deprived not AROP group **share risk factors** with consistently poor
 - Especially one parenthood and disability
- Many similar experiences to consistently poor → **vulnerable group**

Measurement Implications

- Future poverty measurement should consider a **range of income thresholds**
 - Highlights the implications of different choices
 - Identifies those at risk of becoming consistently poor
- **Adjusting income measures for housing costs** can better reflect the impact of the current housing crisis on the standard of living of Irish households.

Policy Implications

- Targeting often based on low income
 - universal services and policies targeted at deprived areas will reach deprived not income poor group
- Need to avoid cliff-edges in payment (tapering of income supports to support those slightly above thresholds)
- Efforts to address child poverty need to address the substantial risks faced by **lone parents**, and **people with a disability**.
- A multi-faceted policy approach is required to reach children experiencing deprivation.

Thank you

Questions/Comments?



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extras

BREAKDOWN OF POVERTY CATEGORIES BY HOUSING TENURE

