

Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland

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Third Peter Townsend Memorial Conference
Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK



The Scottish Question

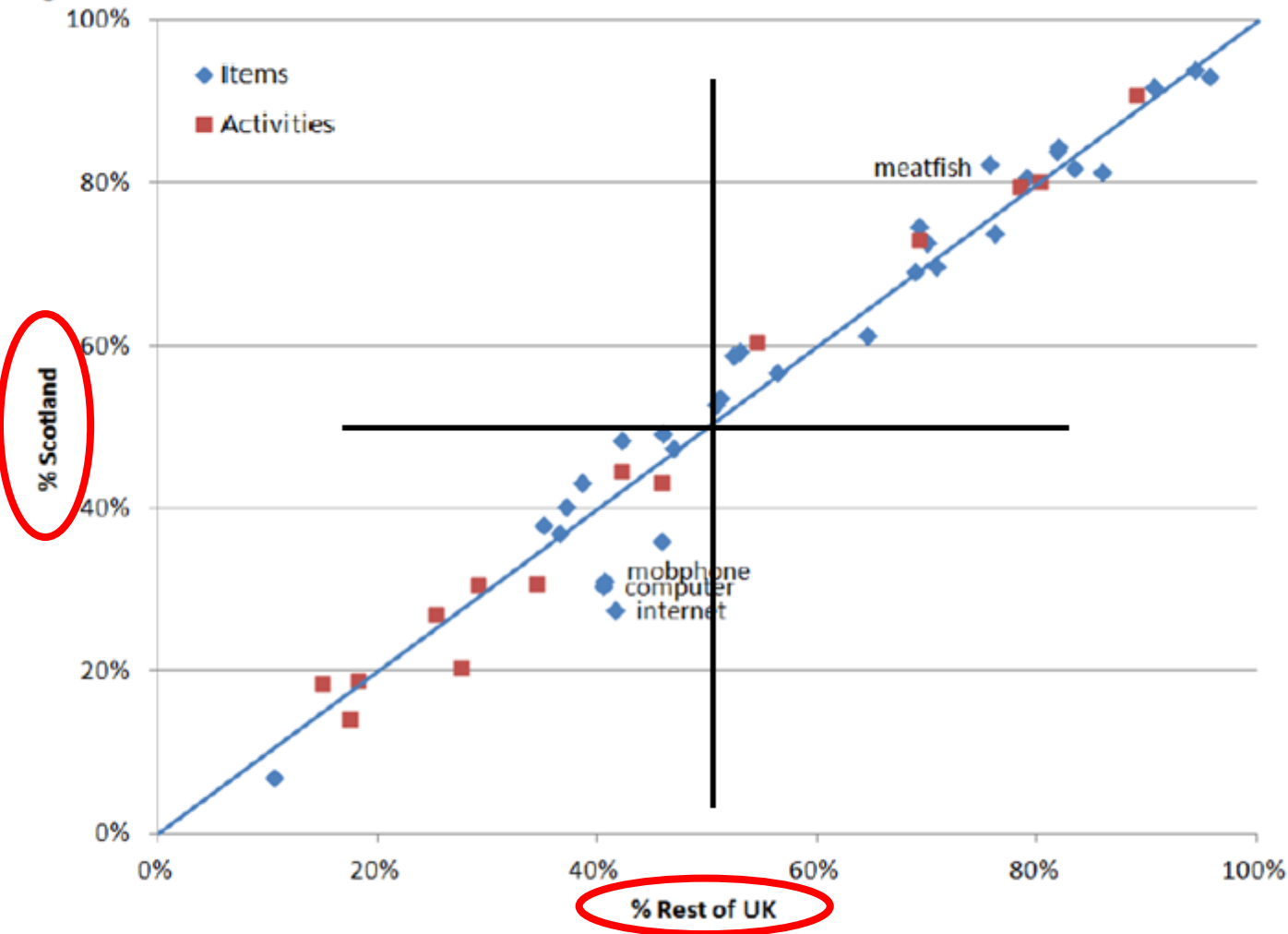
“Should Scotland be an independent country?”

1. Do Scots have a different view of the ***‘necessities of life’***?
2. Is ***poverty*** higher in Scotland and, if so, for who and why?
3. Is ***social exclusion*** more or less severe in Scotland – on which aspects or domains? Is the ***nature of exclusion*** different?



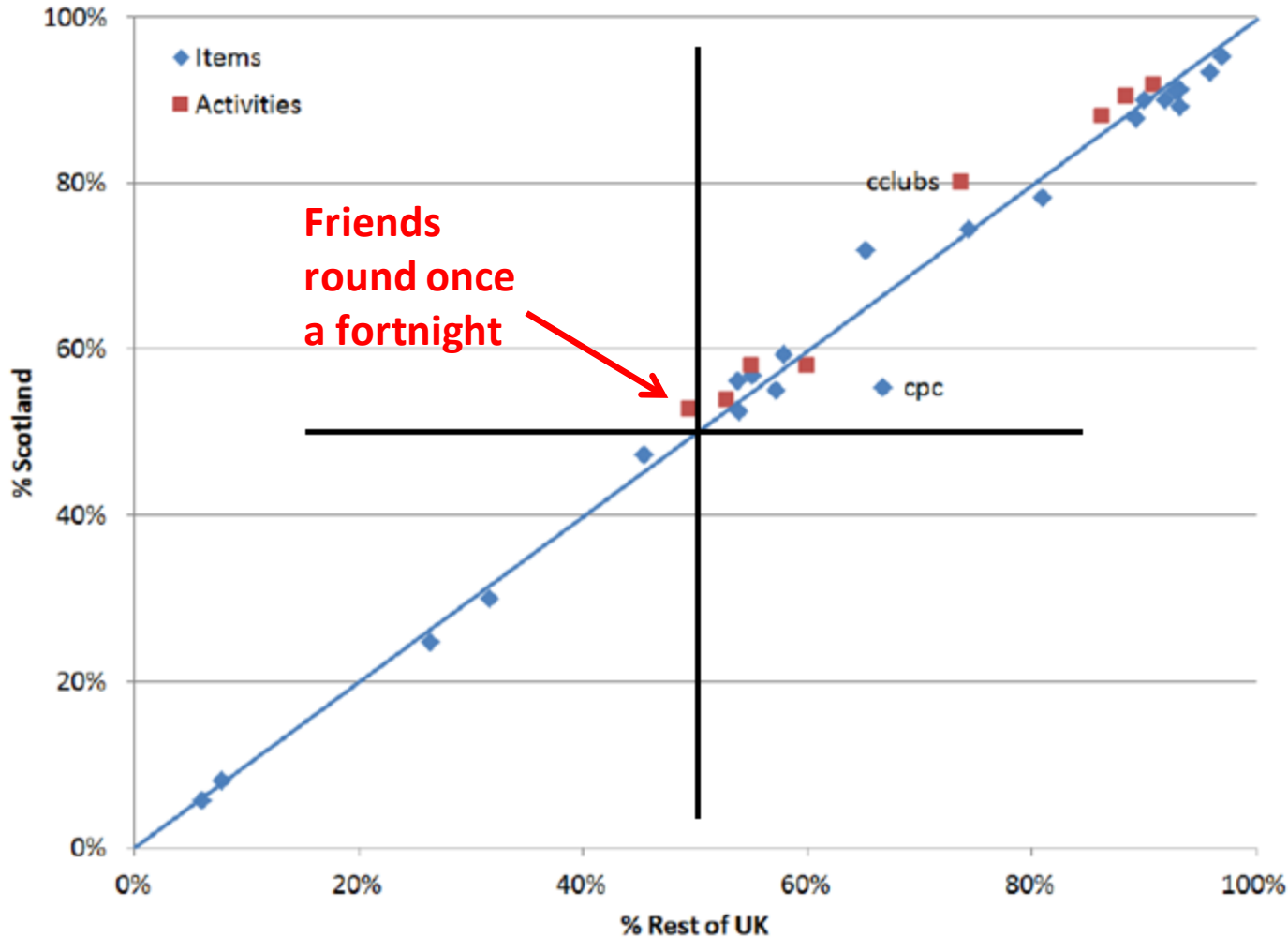
1. Setting the poverty standard

Figure 1: Adult items and activities – Scotland vs RoUK



1. Setting the poverty standard

Figure 2: Child items and activities – Scotland vs RoUK



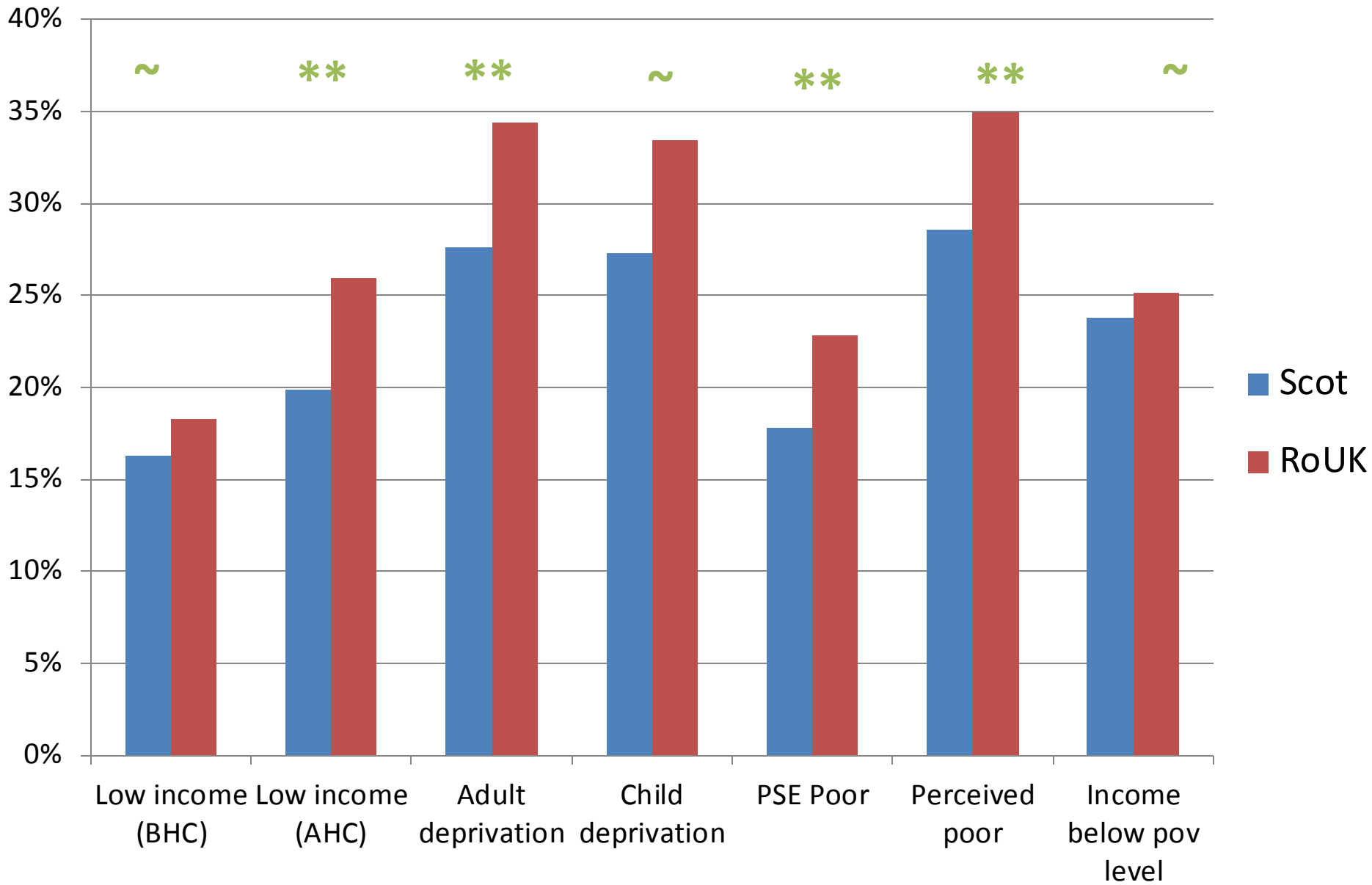
1. Setting the poverty standard

- Views about necessities virtually identical
 - Confirms results from 1999 (Pantazis *et al.*, 2006)
- Fits with wider research on social and political attitudes
 - Image of Scotland as more 'progressive' tends to be over-stated

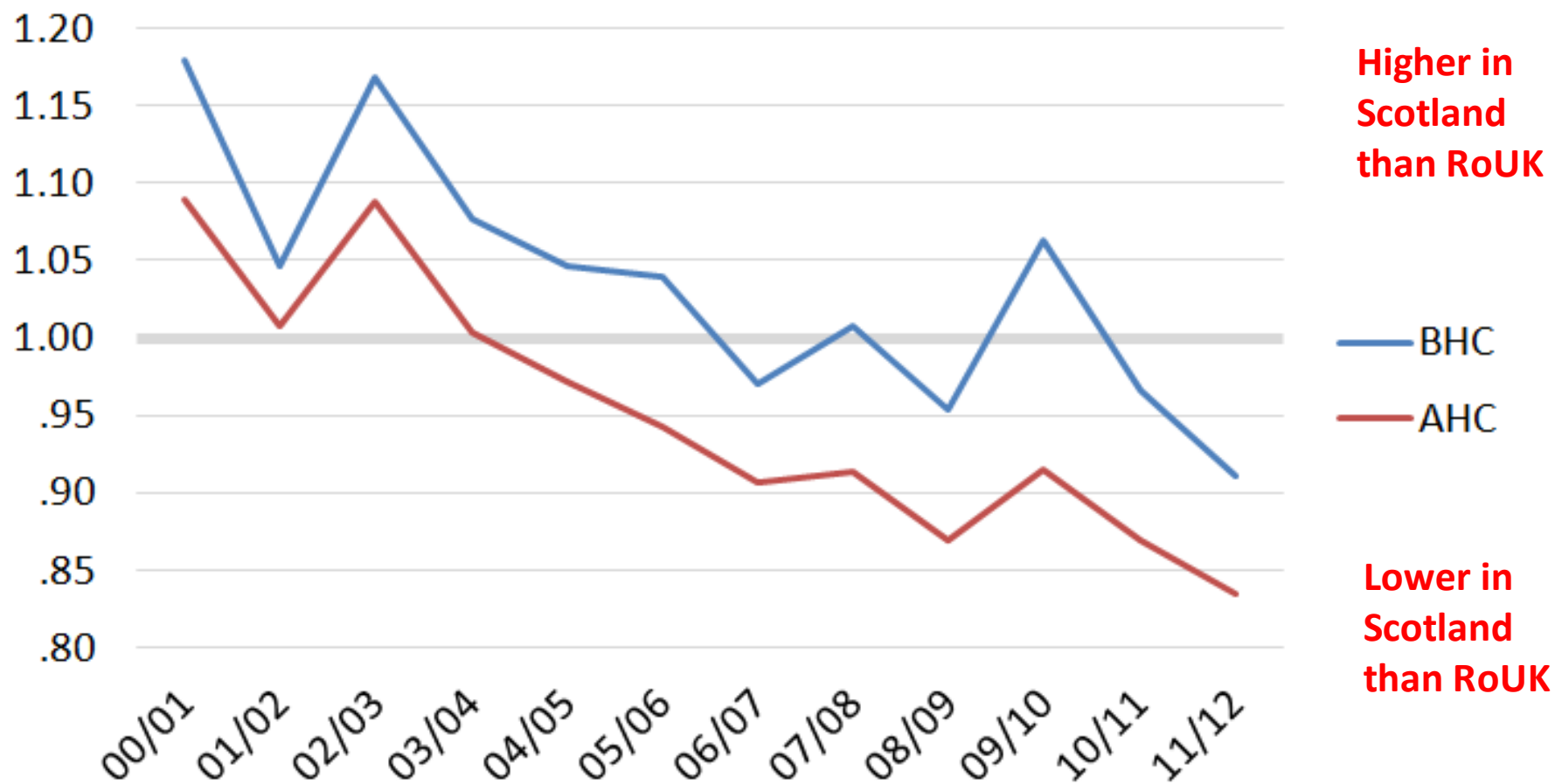
2. Poverty in Scotland

- Low income x 2
 - 60% of median, BHC and AHC
- Deprivation x 2
 - Adult (3+ from 22) and child (2+ from 22)
- PSE poverty
 - Deprived (3+) AND low income (below median)
- Subjective poverty x 2
 - Perceived poor; income below poverty level





Relative Risks of low income poverty – Scotland vs RoUK (BHC and AHC) – 2000/1 to 2011/12

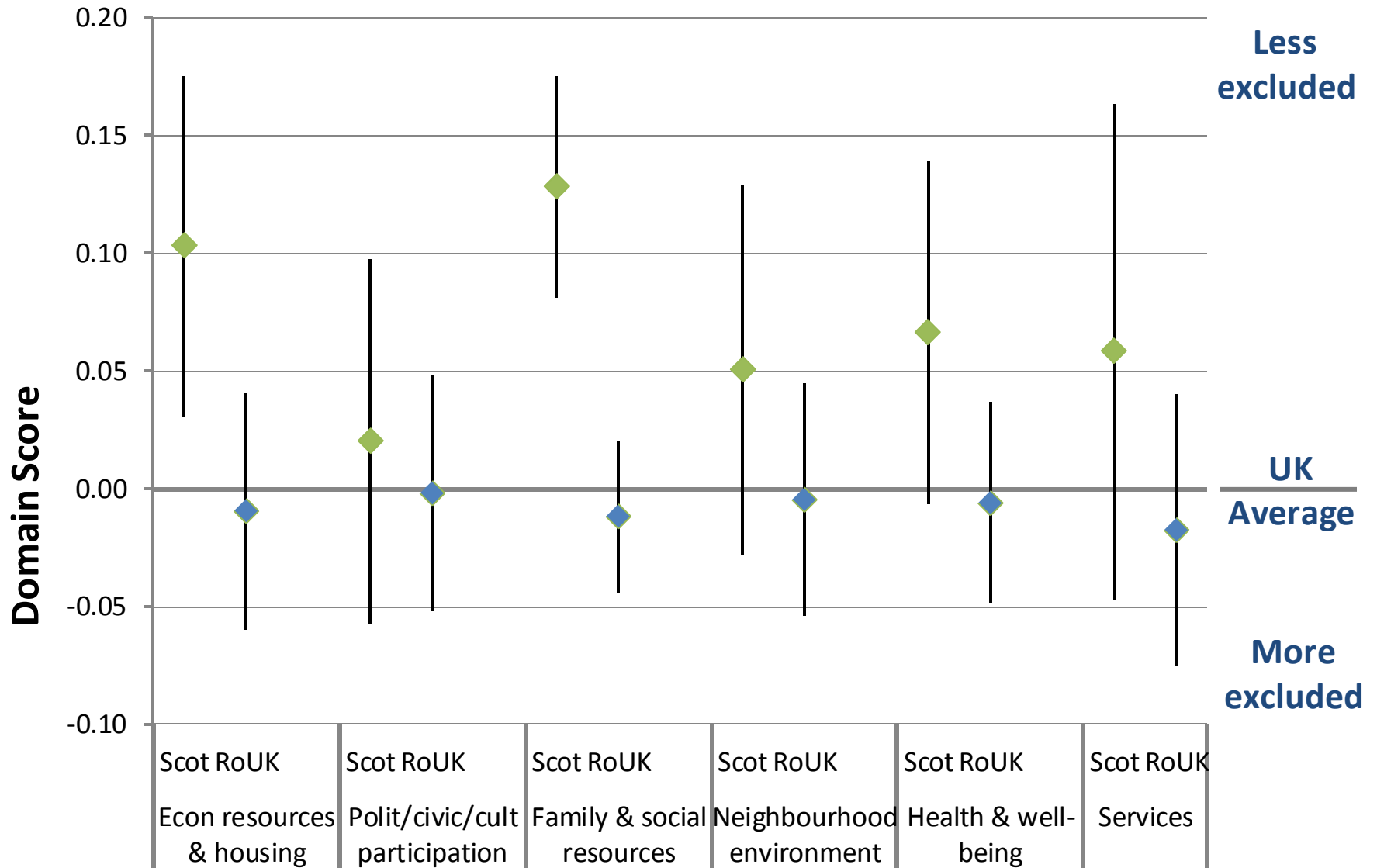


Source: Bailey (2014) - FRS/HBAI series.

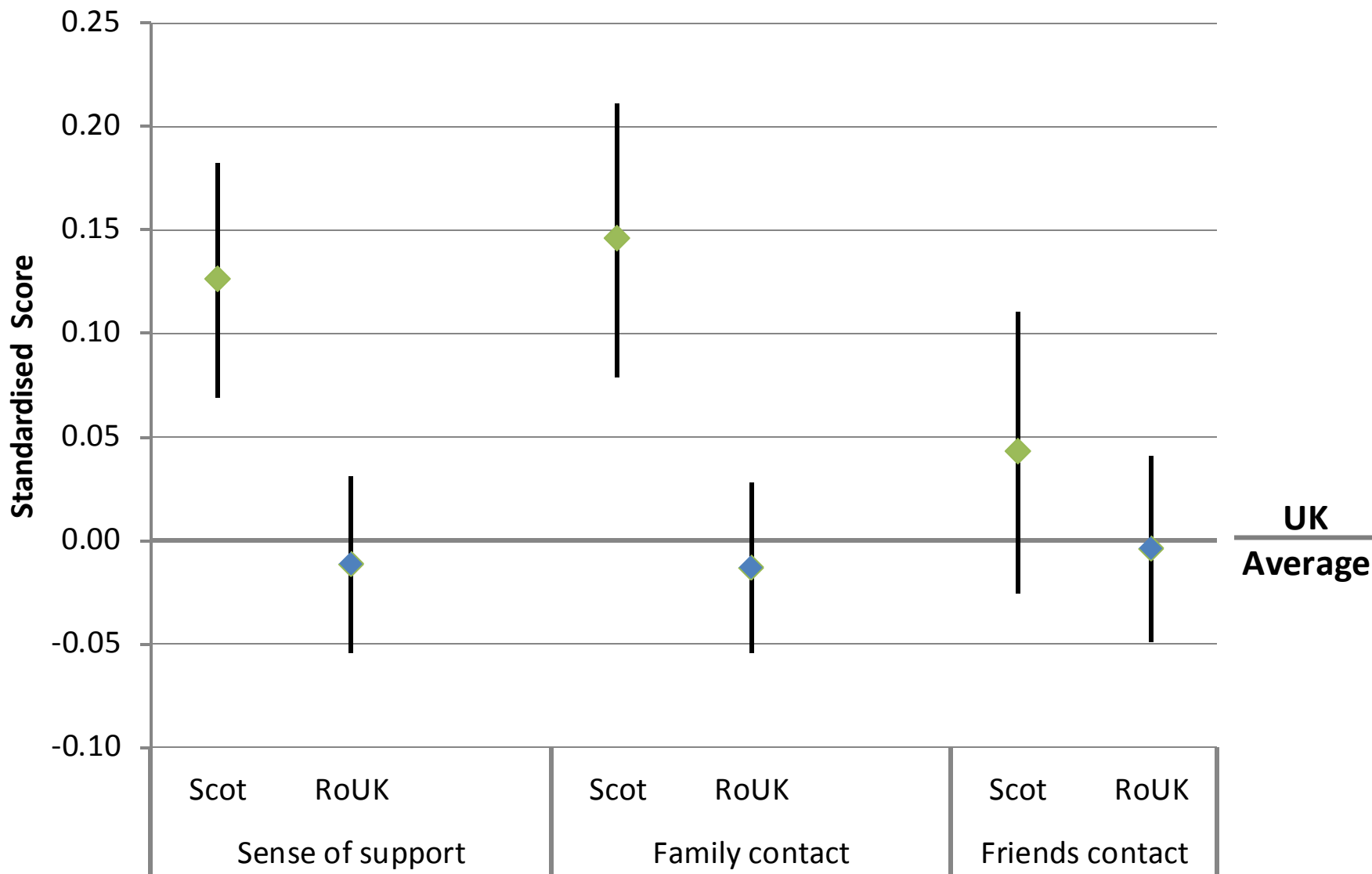
3. Social exclusion in Scotland

Domain Groups	Elements
Economic resources, housing	Income, quality of goods, deprivation, financial stress, housing problems.
Political, civic, cultural participation	Political activities, sense of political efficacy, civic organisations, activities, education, cultural activities
Family & social resources	Social networks – family & friends, sense of support
Neighbourhood environment	Neighbourhood problems
Health & Well-Being	General health, mental health, subjective well-being, limiting illness or disability
Access to services	Services unavailable/inadequate

Domain Group scores – Scotland vs RoUK



Family and Social Resources – Scotland vs RoUK



Conclusions

- UK consensual poverty measure can be applied to Scotland – attitudes no different
- In general, poverty and social exclusion in Scotland no different or a bit better
 - Poverty around one fifth lower in Scotland on several measures
 - 200,000 fewer in poverty than if UK rates had applied
- Poverty shift in last 10 years difficult to attribute to policy ‘made in Scotland’