

# Poverty and social exclusion in urban and rural areas of Scotland

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



# Poverty and social exclusion in urban and rural areas of Scotland

## Persistent urban bias?

- measuring rural poverty (undercounting)
- different nature/characteristics of rural poverty

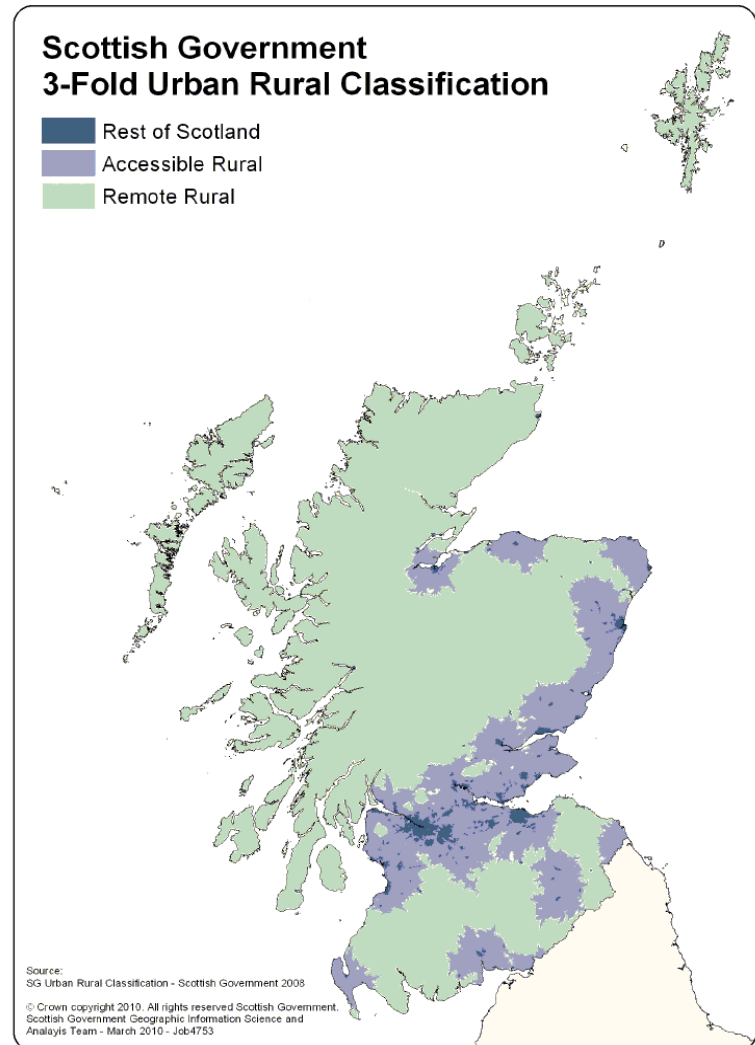
## Scotland

- Rural & remote areas



# Urban-rural classification for Scotland

Category	Share of population	% of sample
1 Large Urban Areas	39%	27%
2 Other Urban Areas	30%	26%
3 Accessible Small Towns	9%	13%
4 Accessible Rural	12%	4%
5 Remote Small Towns	3%	18%
6 Remote Rural	7%	12%
N	5,299,900	2,047



# 1 Rural poverty – do we have an accurate picture?

1. Do low income measures undercount rural poverty due to hidden costs of living?

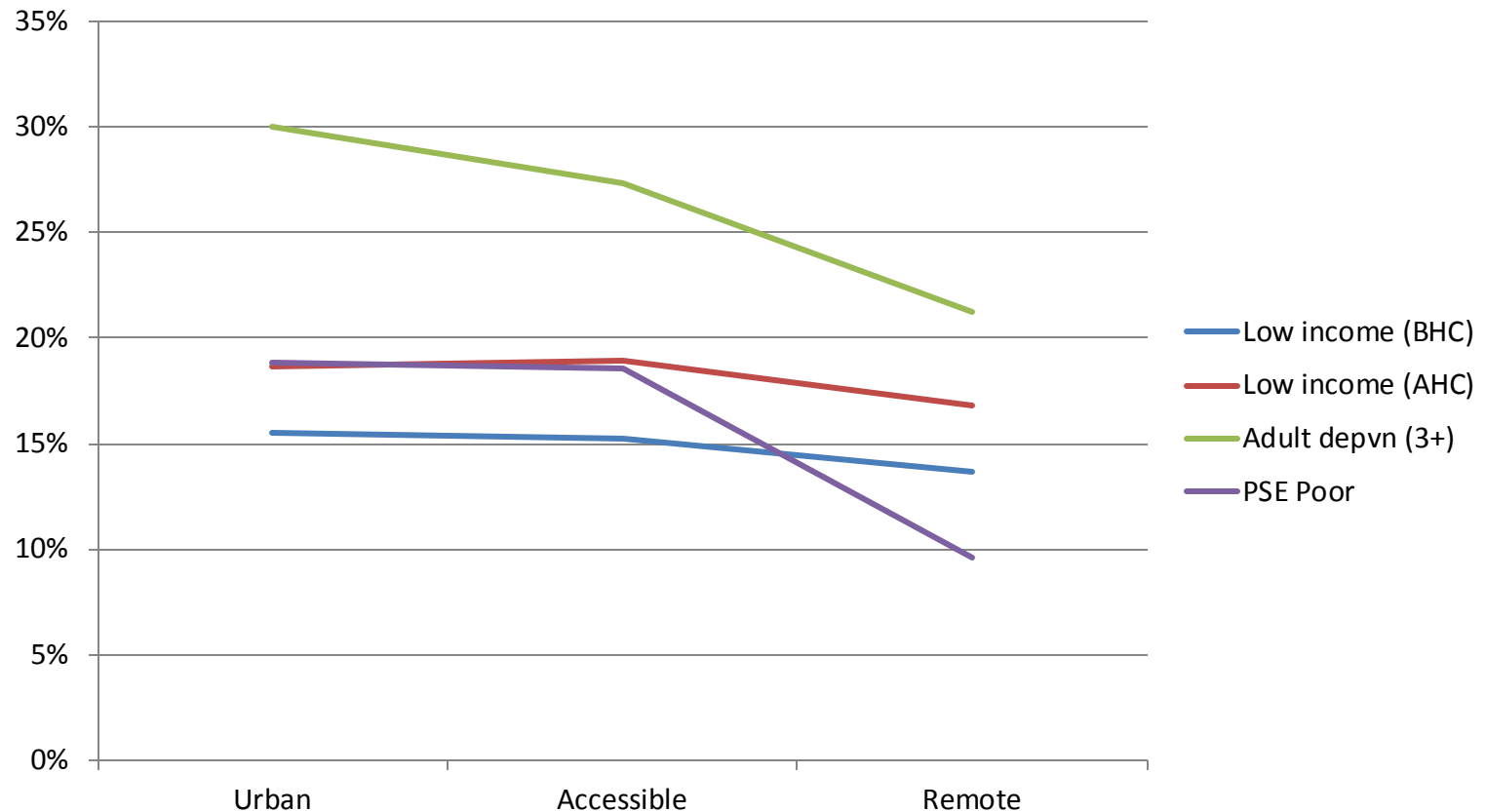
1. Low income BHC vs. AHC
2. Low income vs. deprivation

2. Do measures based on benefit /tax credit claiming undercount rural poverty

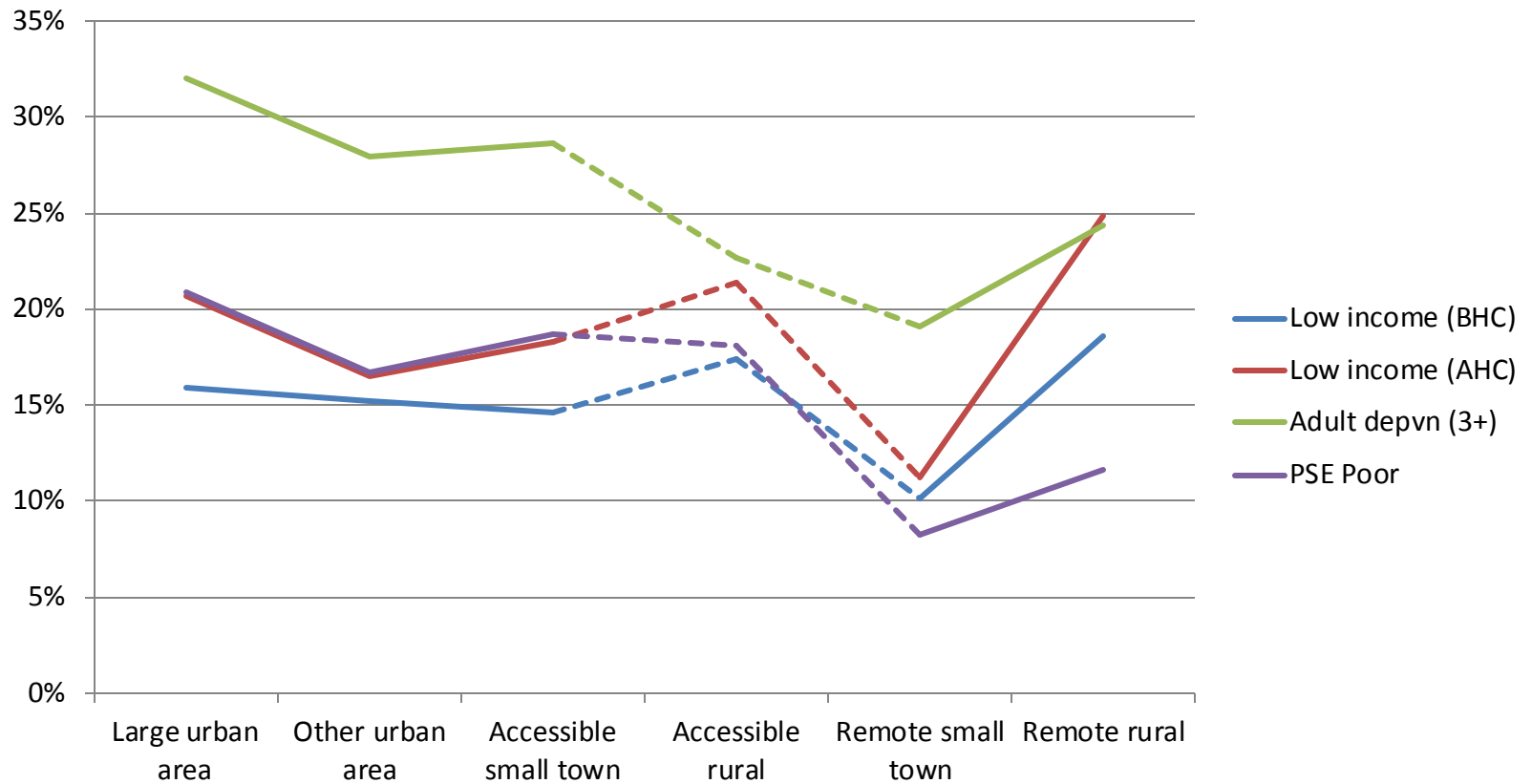
Low income and deprivation measures vs. SIMD Income deprivation score



# Low income poverty and deprivation rates by urban-rural location



# Low income poverty and deprivation rates by urban-rural location - detailed



# Summary

1. Do low income measures undercount rural poverty due to hidden costs of living?

Data do not support the idea that low income poverty measures lead to undercounting

2. Do measures based on benefit /tax credit claiming undercount rural poverty

Data shows no undercounting







# Exclusion in rural areas

## Family and social resources, social participation

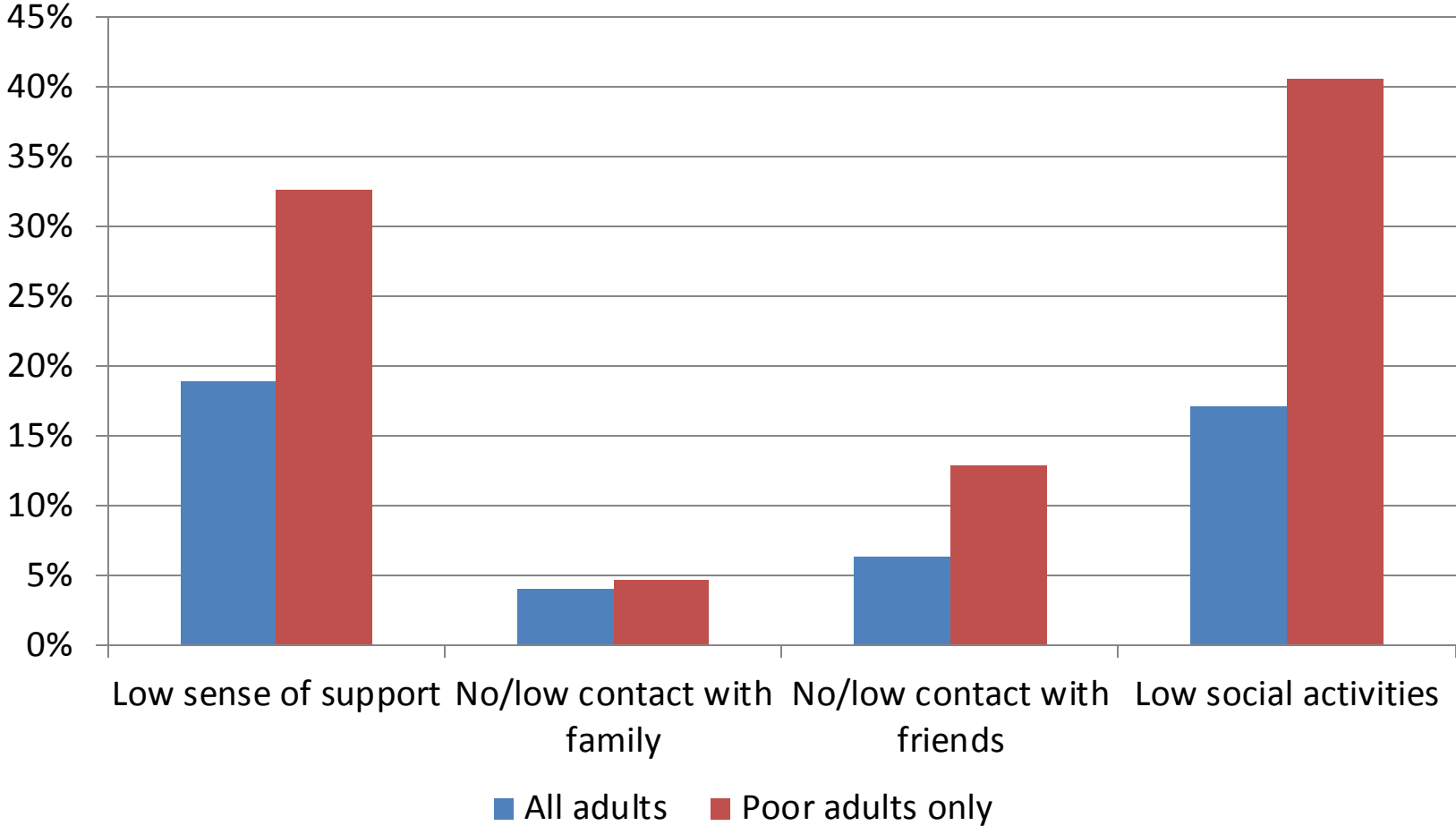
- greater stability, and stronger social connections and sense of community
- culture of 'self-reliance'

## PSE measures:

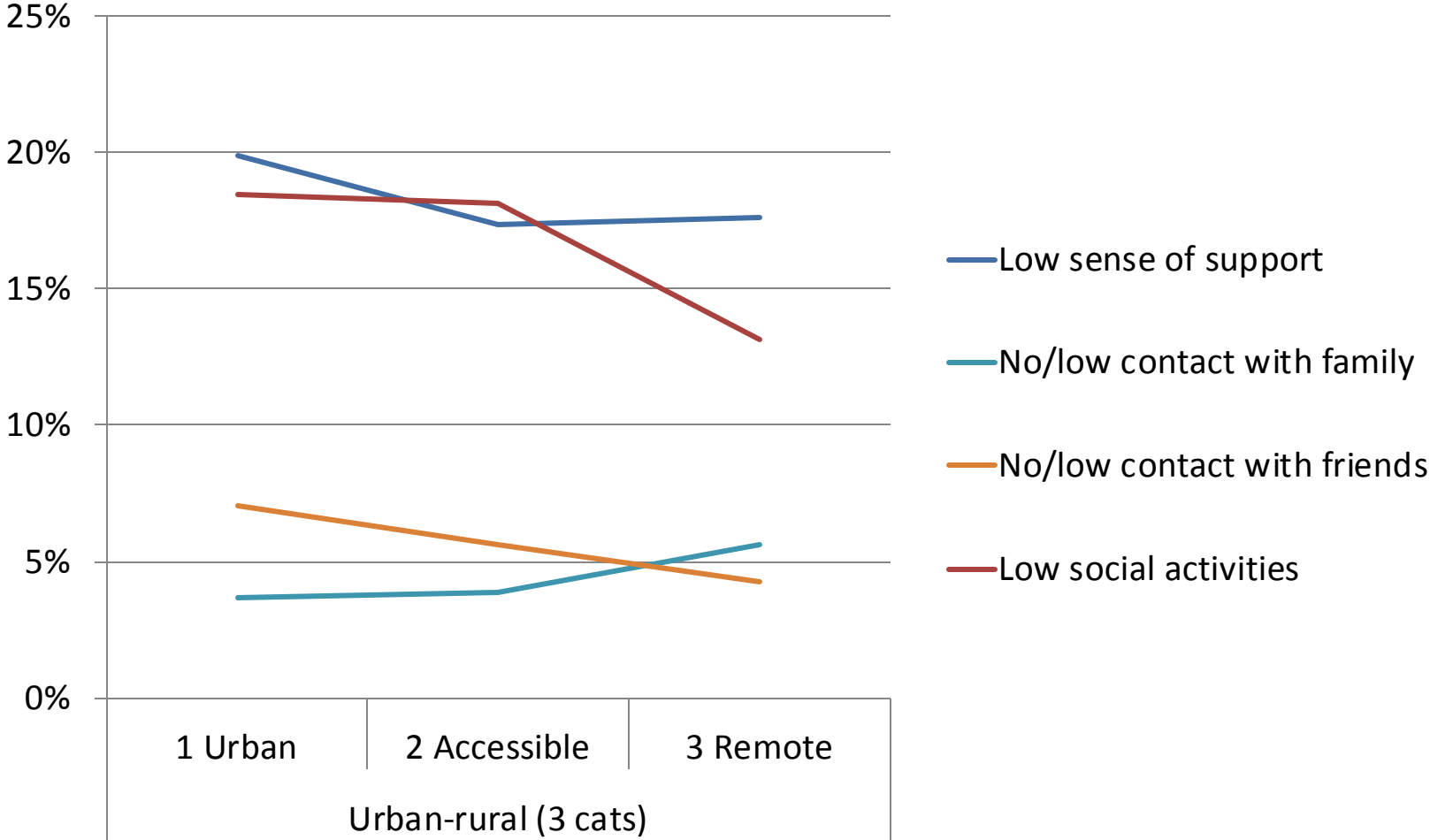
- Perceived levels of social support (7 questions)
- Contact with family (2 questions)
- Contact with friends (2 questions)
- Social activities (13 activities)



# Low social support, contact and participation – all adults vs. poor adults



# Low social support, contact and participation – all adults vs. poor adults



# Exclusion in rural areas

## Access to services and transport

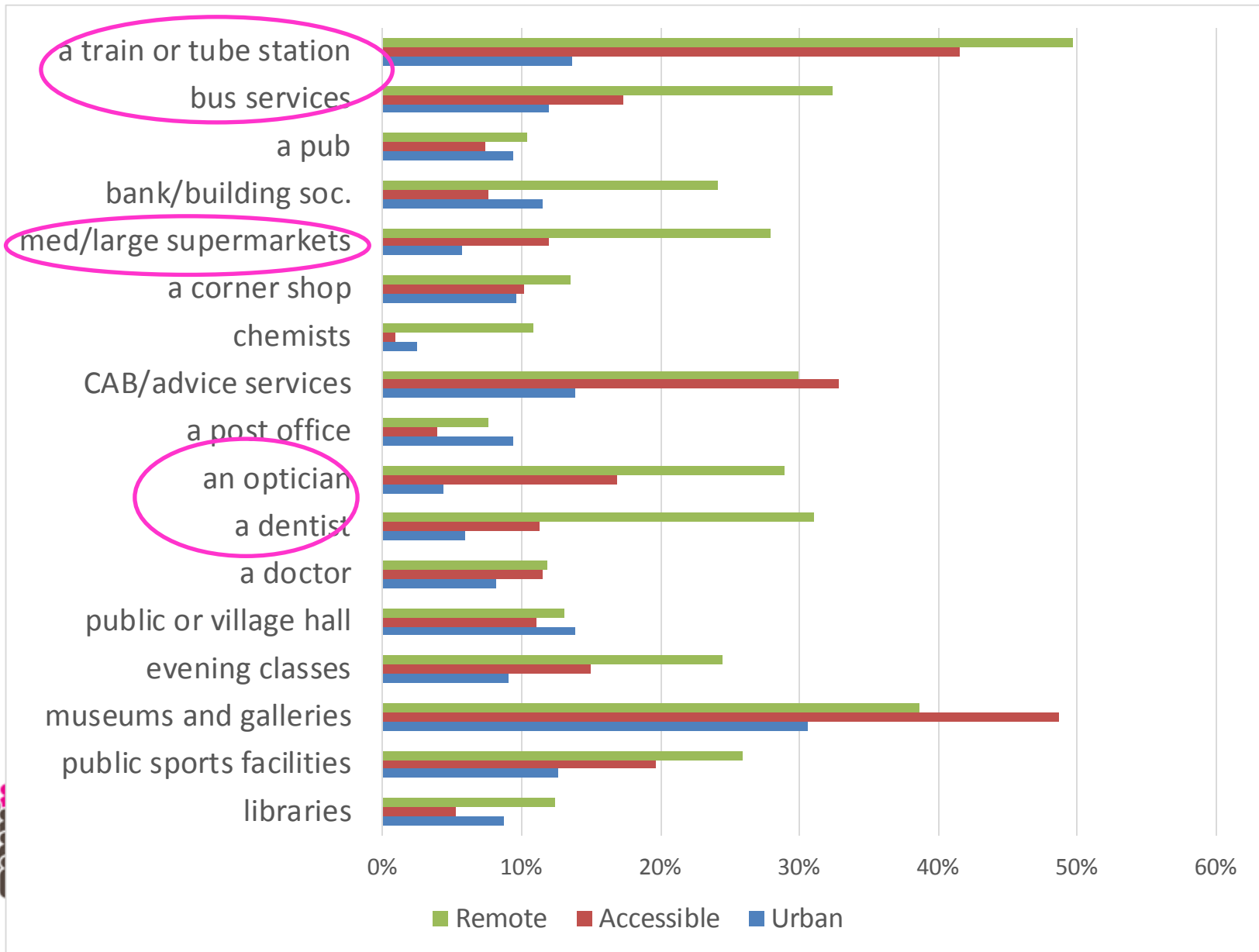
- Public transport not fit for purpose
- Access services

PSE data on seventeen general services used by the whole population, public and private, and including transport services

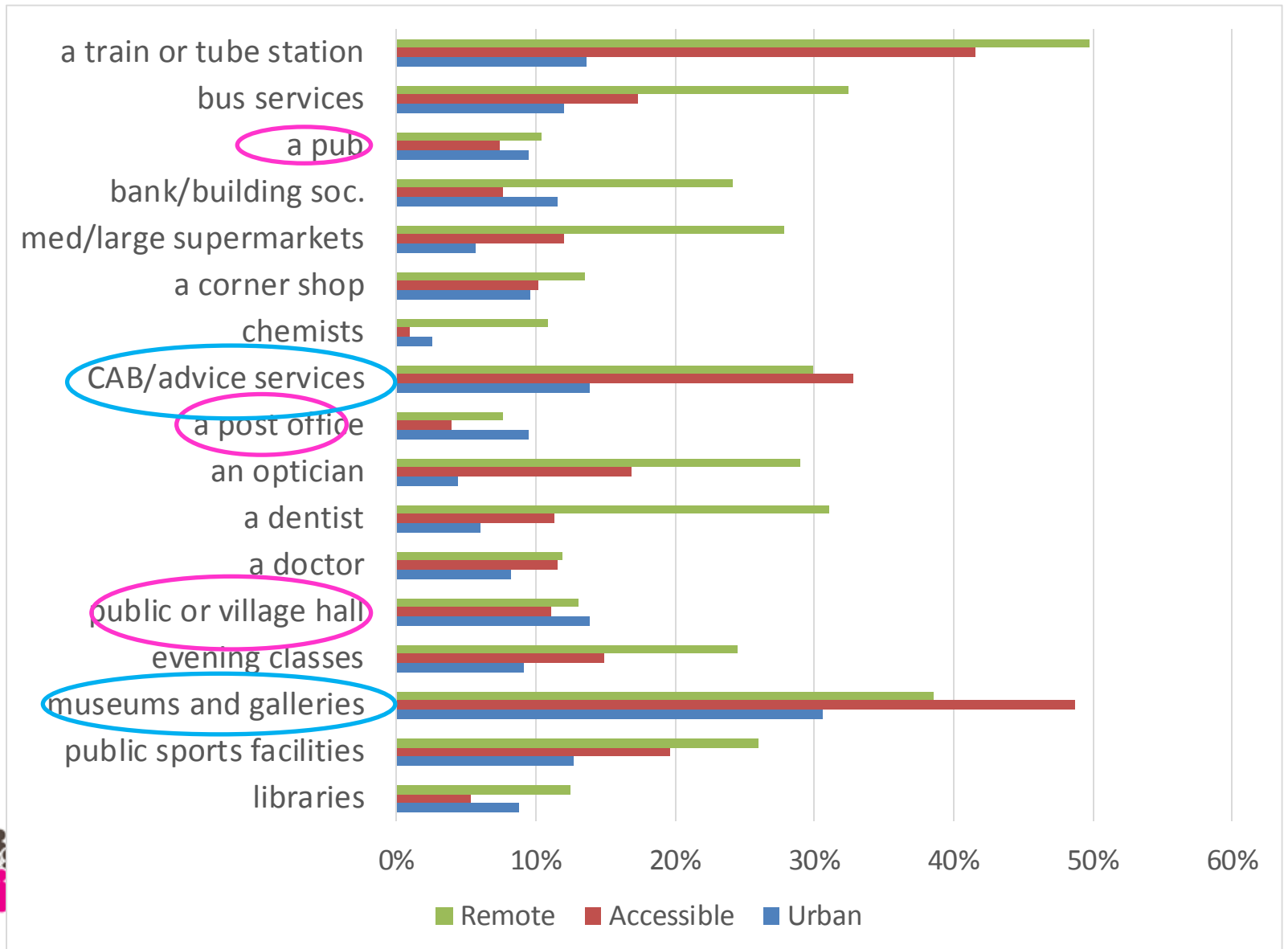
- Combined results for ‘use but inadequate’ with ‘don’t use – inadequate or inaccessible’



# Inadequate or inaccessible general services by urban-rural location



# Inadequate or inaccessible general services by urban-rural location



# Exclusion in rural areas

## Living environment

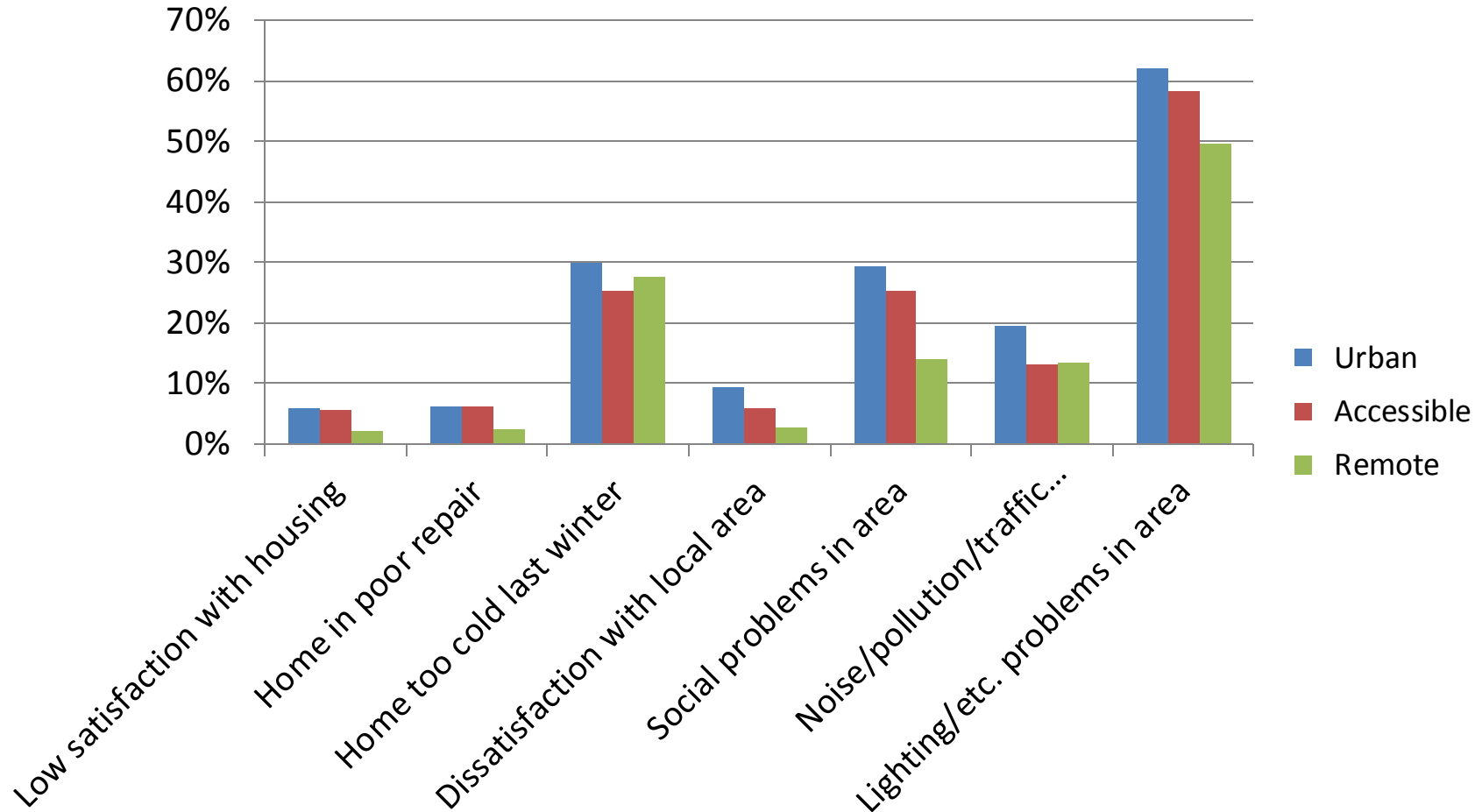
- housing (affordability, supply and quality)
- neighbourhood environment

## PSE data:

- Satisfaction with housing (1 question)
- Housing quality (score out of 8)
- Neighbourhood environment



# Housing and neighbourhood ratings by urban-rural category





# Exclusion in rural areas

## Health and well-being

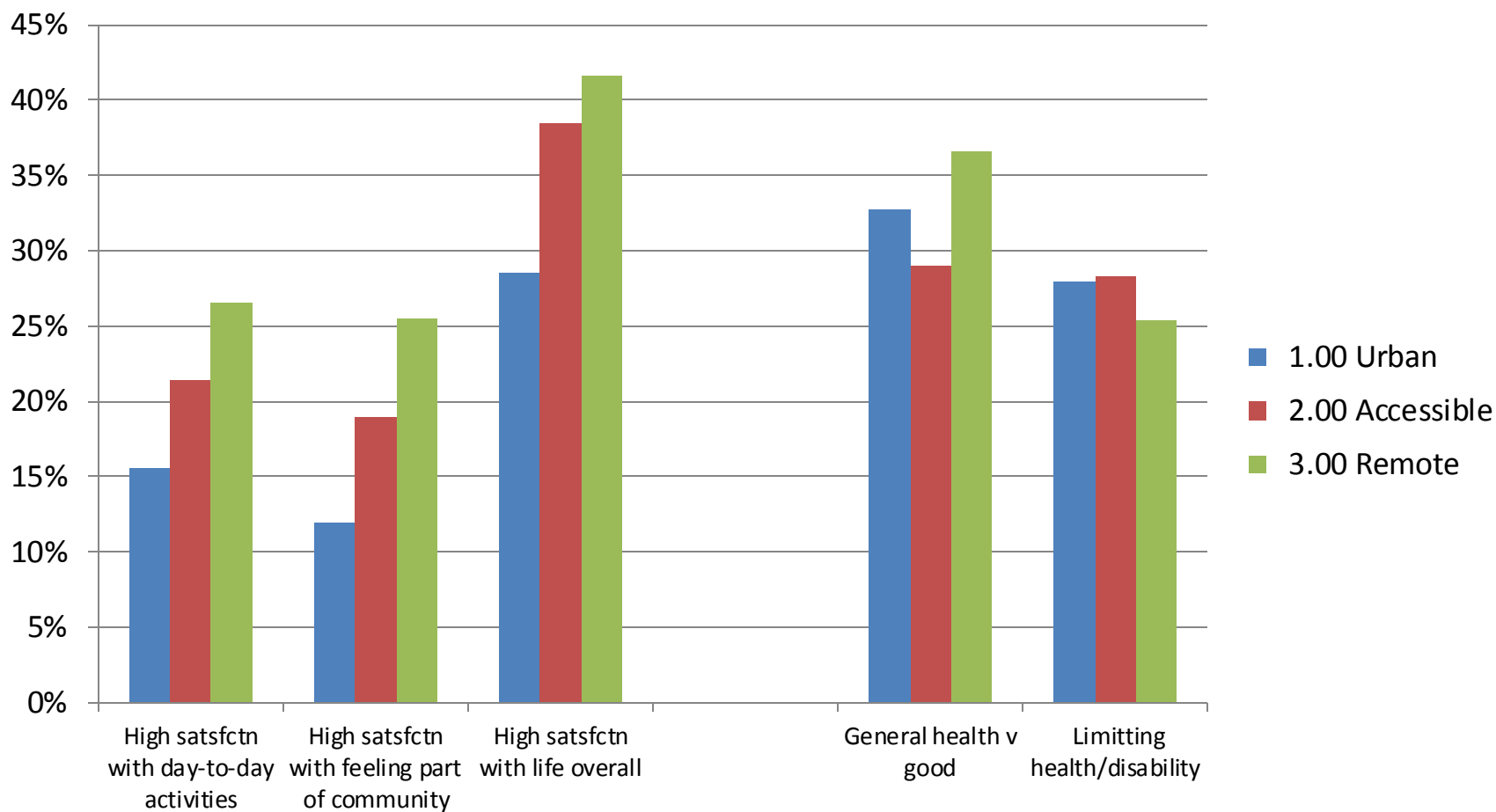
- greater sense of community and support vs. isolation
- environmental benefits (green space)

## PSE measures:

- General health
- Limiting health problem or disability
- Subjective well-being



# Measure of health and well-being by urban-rural classification



# Conclusions

Households in poverty across the urban-rural spectrum in Scotland

No clear bias in low income measures

Exclusion in rural areas similarities greater than differences

- Employment, social support & participation (no differences)
- Health and well-being, nhd environment (better in rural areas)
- Access to (certain) services, public transport (worse in urban areas)

