

Poverty in Scotland

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Poverty in Scotland

1. Do Scots have a different view of the '*necessities of life*'?
 - Can we use the same consensual standard for judging poverty in Scotland as in RoUK?
2. Is poverty higher in Scotland and, if so, for whom and why?
3. What about broader picture of economic resources or financial stress?



1. Setting the poverty standard

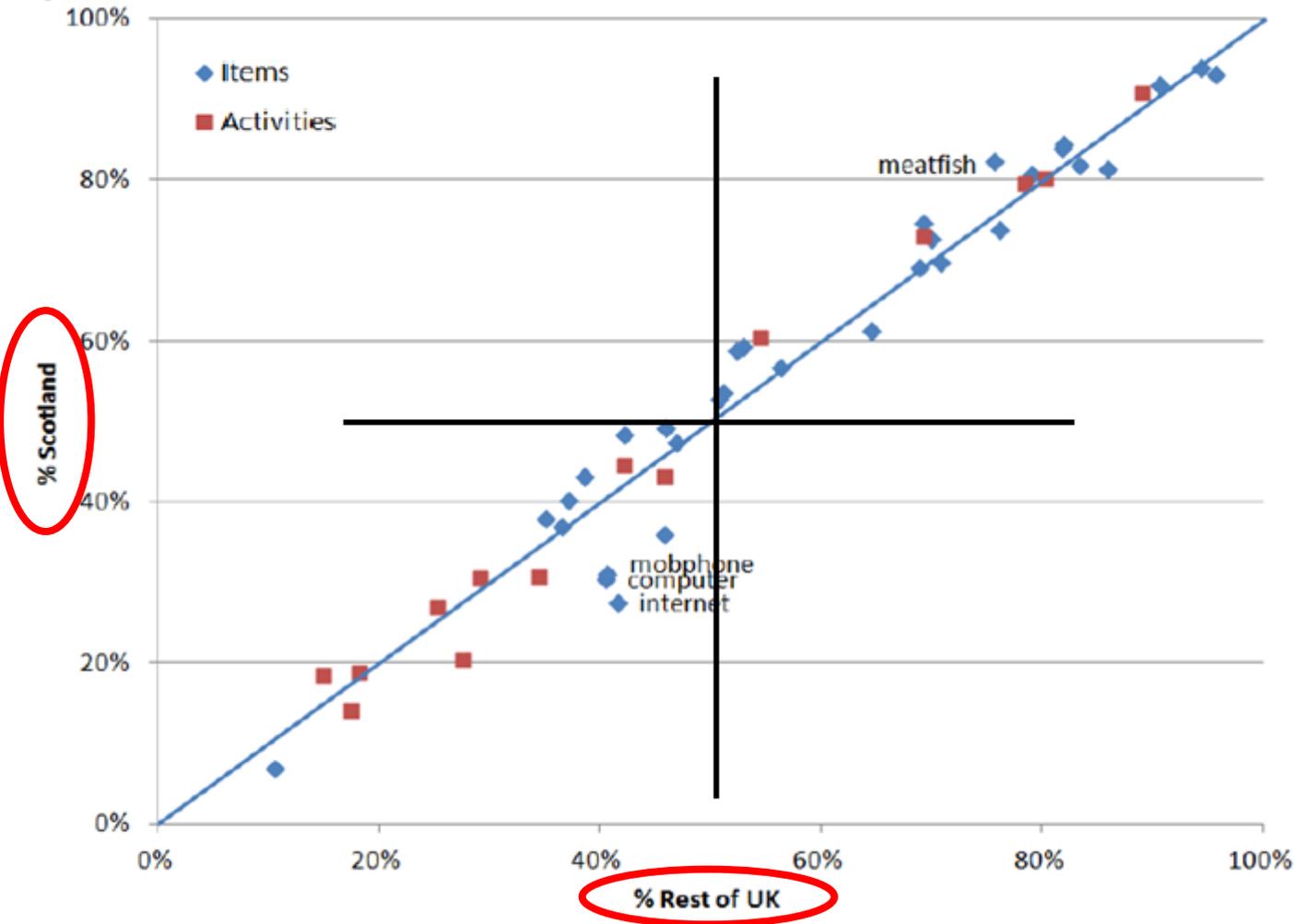
Views about which items are “necessities” (at least 50% support)

	Initial list
Adult items	32
Adult activities	14
Child items	22
Child activities	8
ALL	76

Gannon & Bailey
(2014) *Social
Policy & Society*
13 (3), 321-36

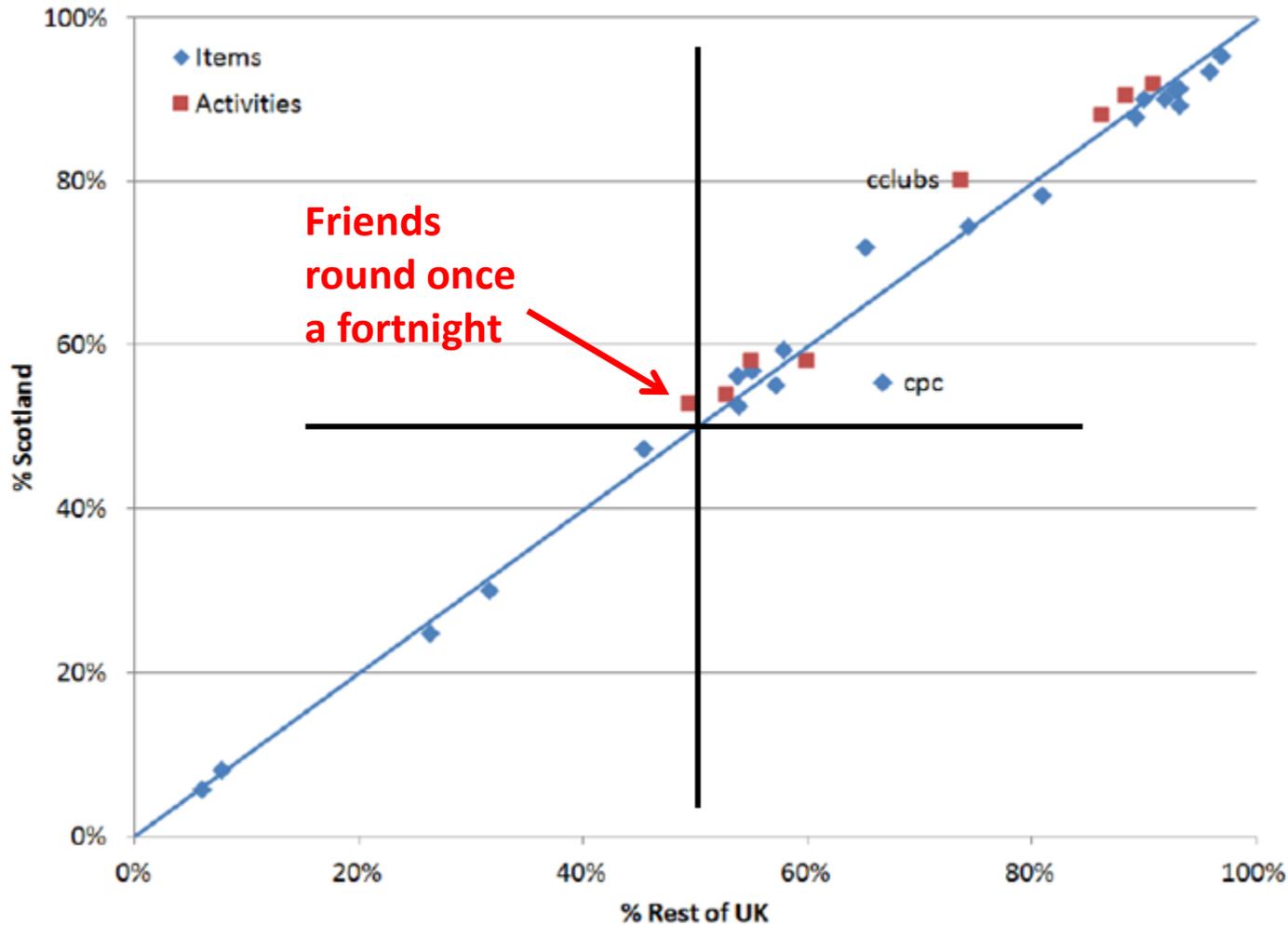
1. Setting the poverty standard

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 – appropriate to use single ‘UK’ standard
 - Confirms results from 1999 (Pantazis *et al.*, 2006)
- Fits with wider research on social and political attitudes
 - Image of Scotland as ‘distinct’ or more ‘progressive’ in this regard tends to be overstated

2. Poverty in Scotland

Adults suffering deprivations ('000s)

Food & diet	240	7%	Housing	740	18%
Fresh fruit/veg. daily	180		Home in a decent state of decor	530	
Meat, etc. every other day	130		Damp-free home	280	
Two meals a day	60		Home adequately warm	230	
Clothing	410	12%	Household goods	950	23%
Appropriate clothes for job interv.	260		Curtains or window blinds	20	
Two pairs of all weather shoes	210		Replace/repair broken elec goods	840	
A warm waterproof coat	120		Home Insurance	300	
Financial	1,650	46%	Table/chairs for all family to eat	200	
Unexpected expense of £500	1,370		Social activities	350	10%
Regular savings (of at least £20)	1,020		A hobby or leisure activity.	240	
Regular payments into pension	830		Celebrations on special occasions	60	
Health	580	16%	Visit friends/family in hosp. etc.	70	
Recommended dental work	270		Attend weddings, funerals etc.	90	
Sport/exercise classes	310				

2. Poverty in Scotland

- Almost one million people cannot afford adequate housing conditions
 - More than 200,000 children live in homes that are damp.
 - Almost one in three people (30%) cannot afford to heat their homes adequately in the winter.
 - Around 350,000 children live in cold homes in winter
- 800,000 too poor to engage in common social activities
- Over quarter of a million children and adults not properly fed
- Over 400,000 adults go without essential clothing.
- One in five adults had to borrow in last year to pay for day to day needs.

2. Poverty in Scotland

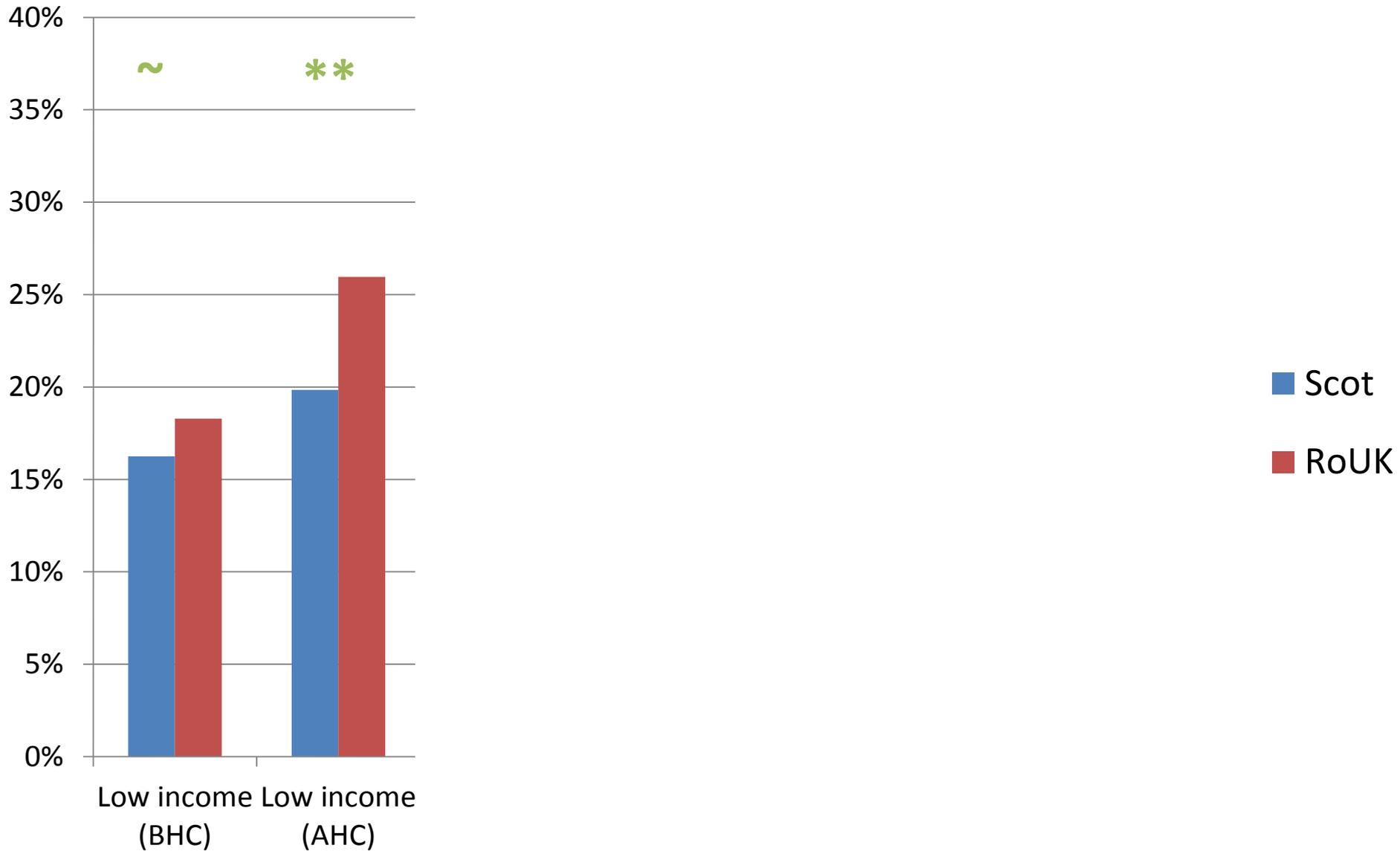
	1999	2012
Regular savings (of at least £20)	22%	25%
Home in a decent state of decor	12%	13%
Replace/repair broken elec goods	11%	20%
Home Insurance	7%	7%
Two pairs of all weather shoes	6%	5%
Damp-free home	5%	7%
Appropriate clothes for job interviews	5%	6%
A hobby or leisure activity.	4%	6%
A warm waterproof coat	4%	3%
Fresh fruit/veg. daily	3%	4%
Visit friends/family in hosp. etc.	3%	2%
Attend weddings, funerals etc.	3%	2%
Celebrations on special occasions	2%	1%
Home adequately warm	2%	5%
Meat, etc. every other day	1%	3%
Two meals a day	1%	2%

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

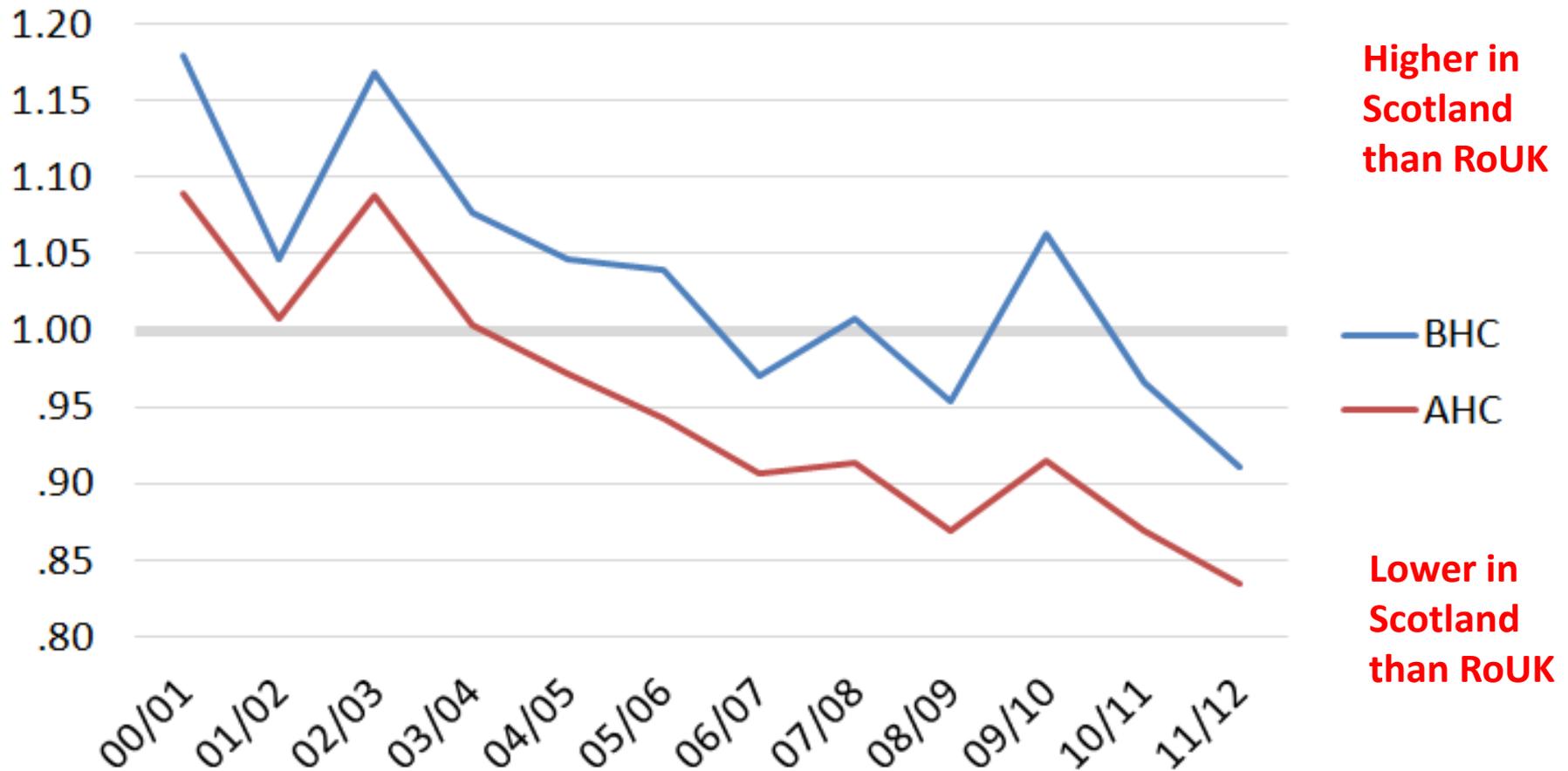


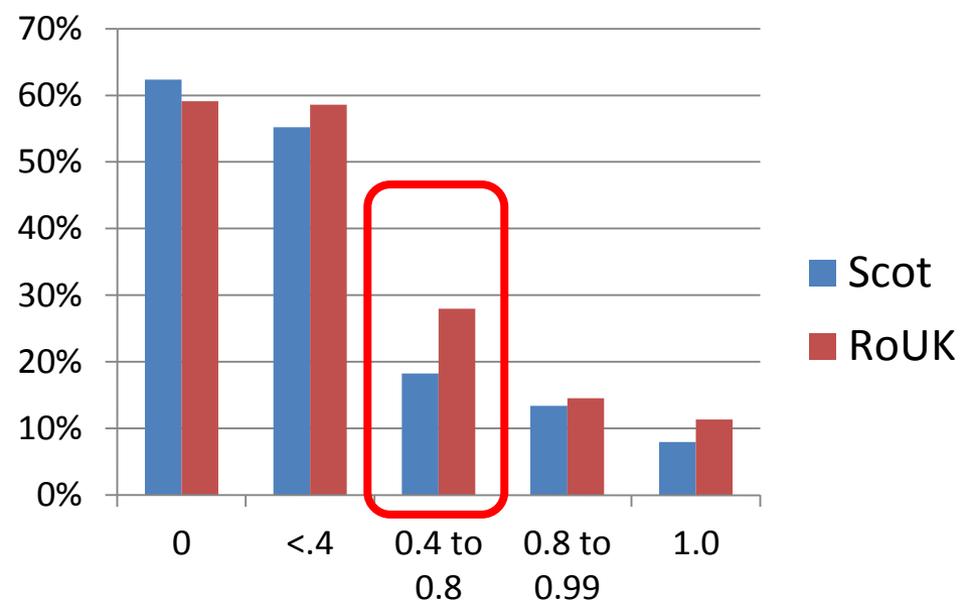
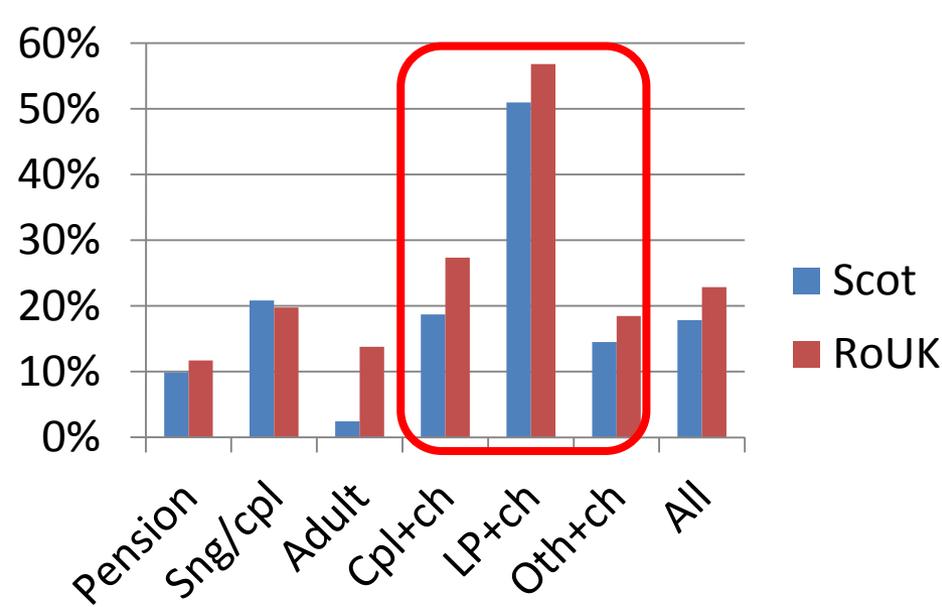
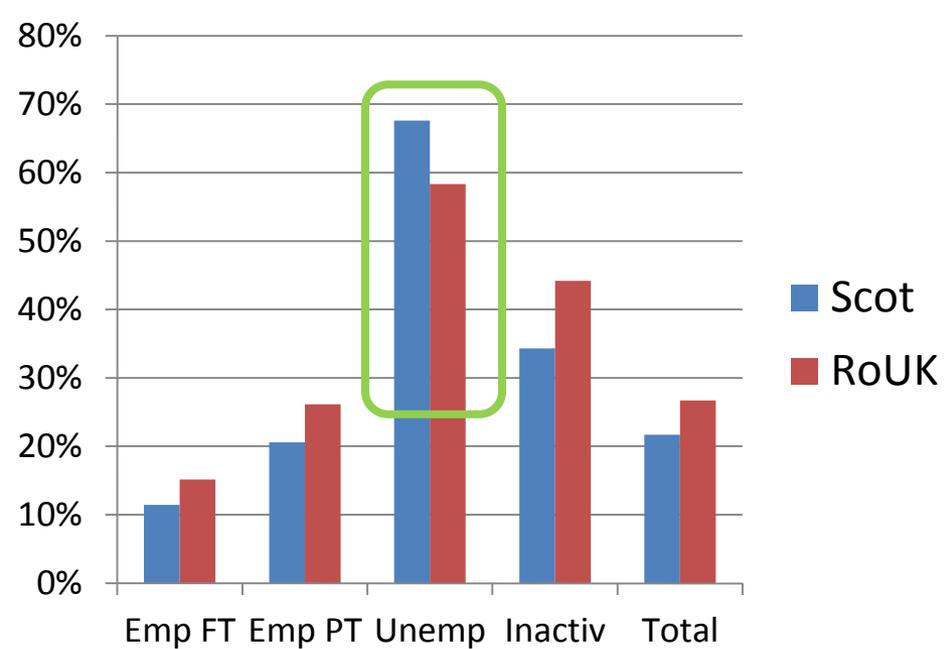
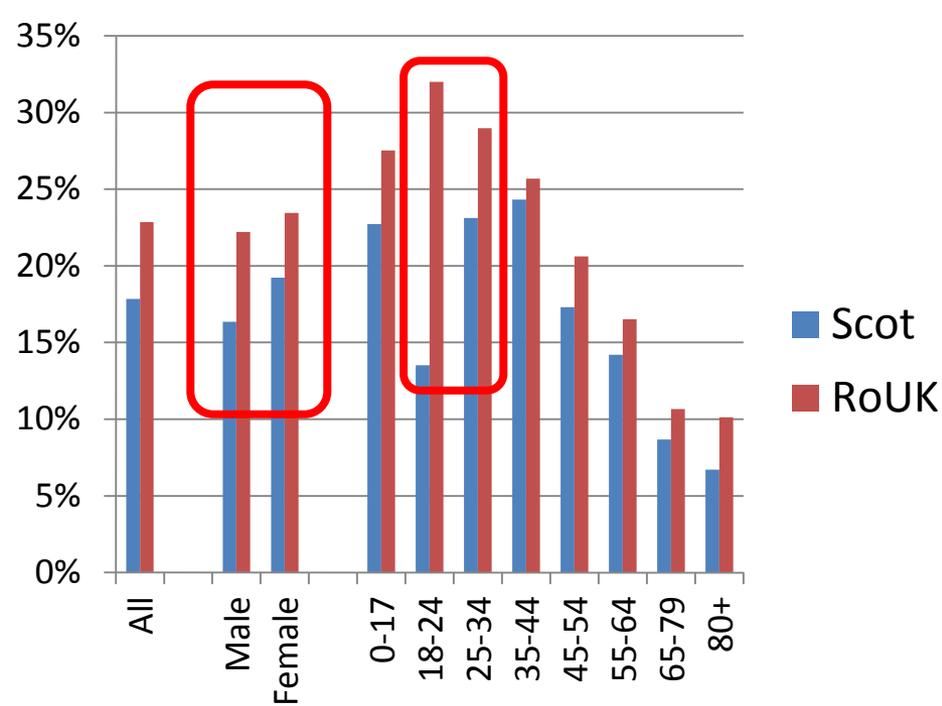
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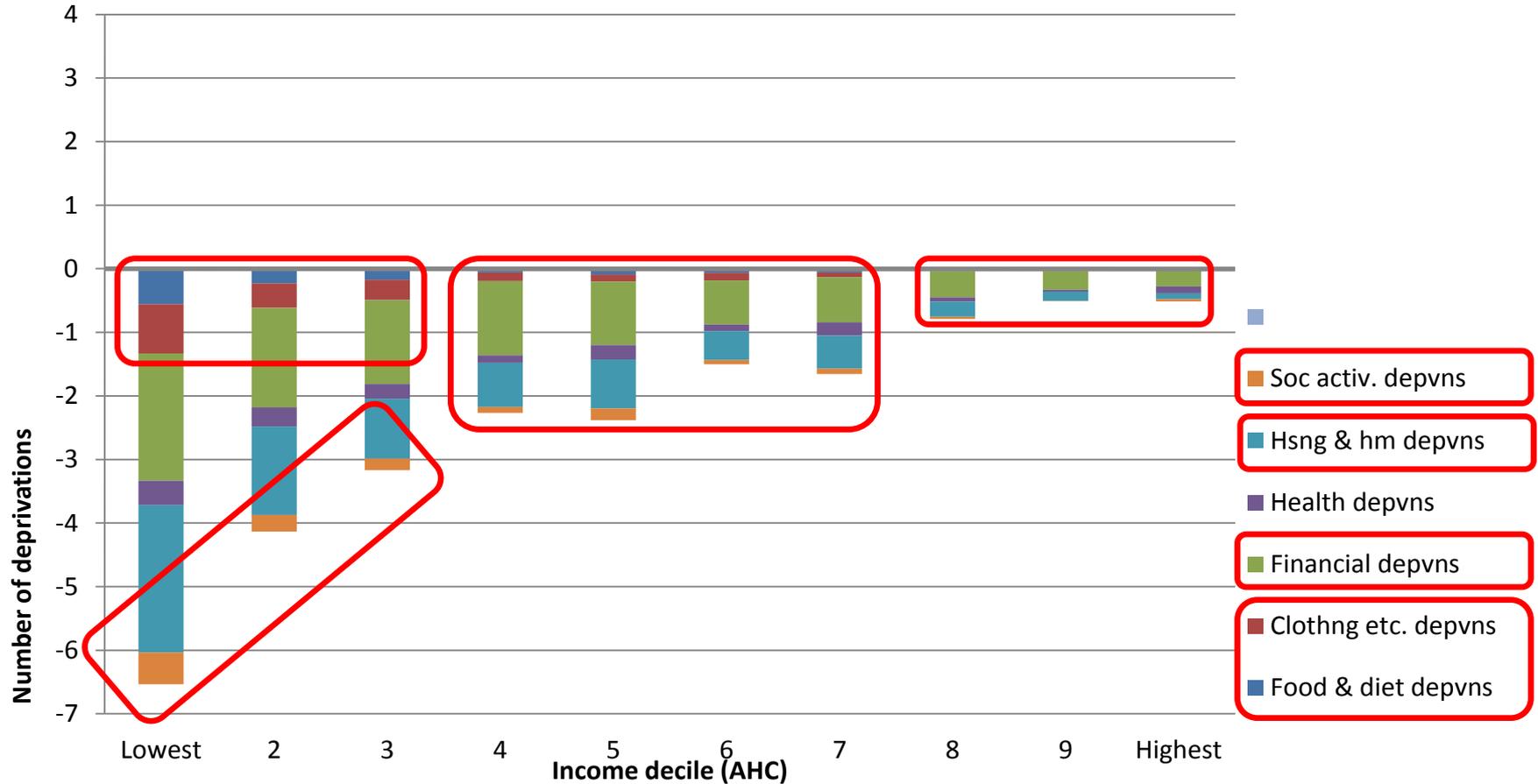
Relative Risks of low income poverty

Scotland vs RoUK (BHC and AHC) – 2000/1 to 2011/12

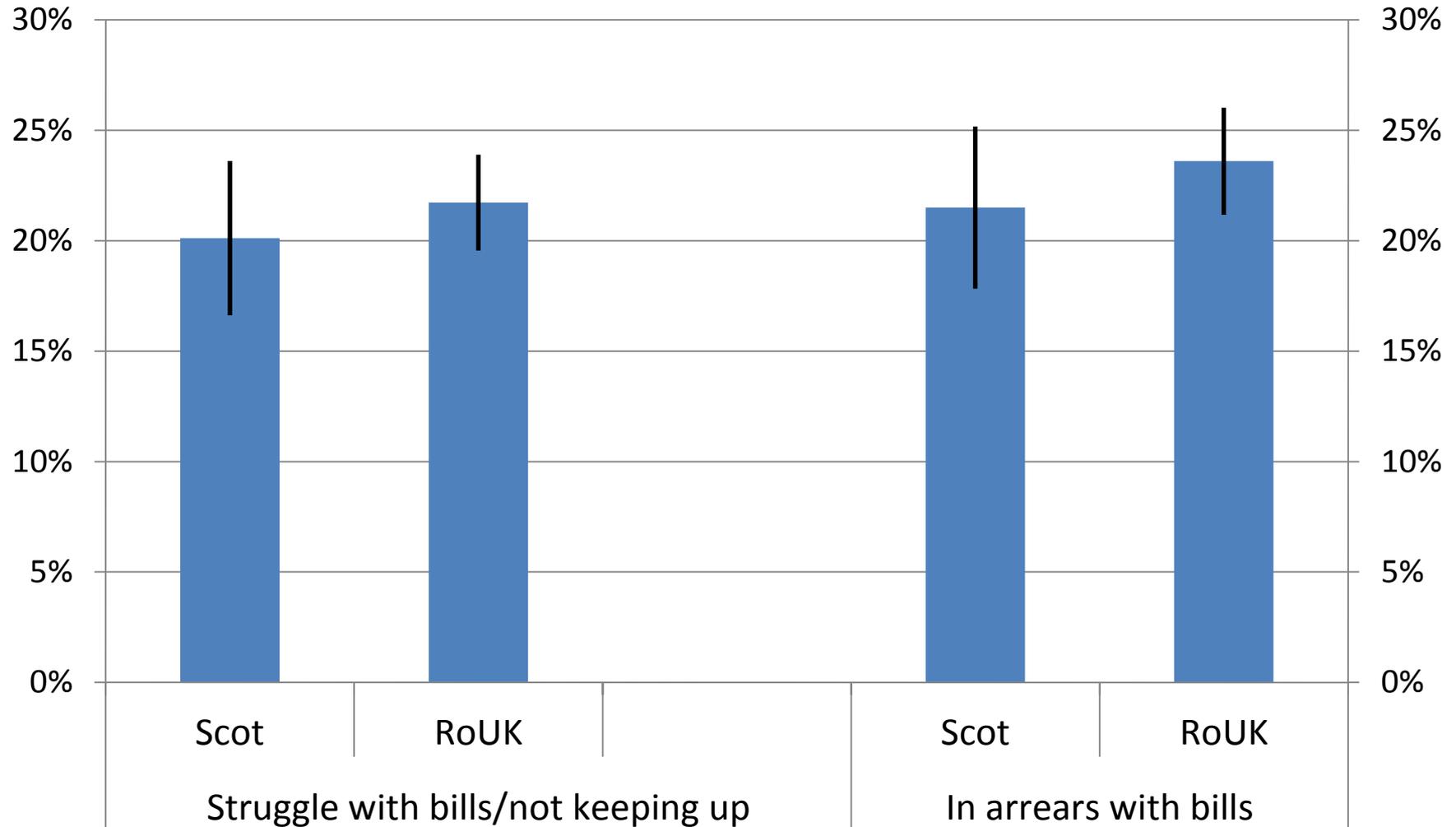




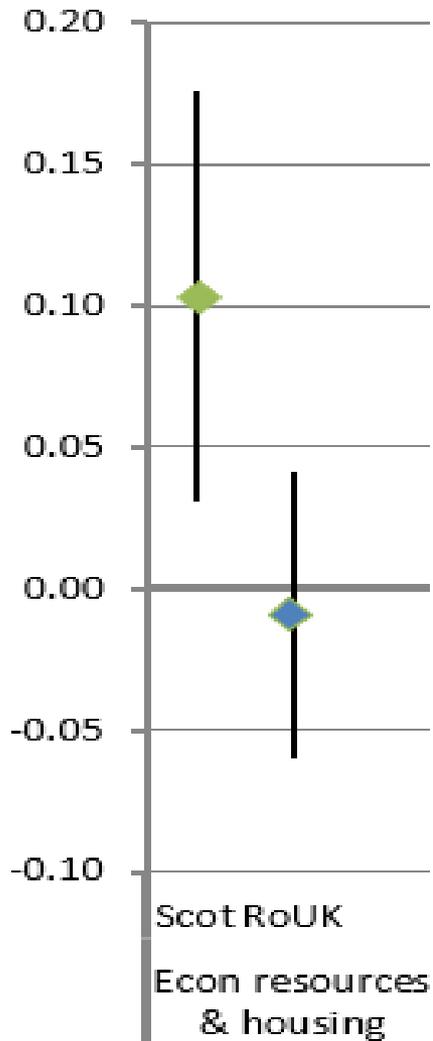
3. Economic resources & financial stress



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Combined factor score based on:

- Income (AHC – PSE and FRS)
- Deprivation (22 items)
- Quality of goods (seven ratings)
- Financial stress (multiple qns on keeping up with bills, debts, borrowing)
- Housing problems (multiple qns on: physical conditions; heating affordability; satisfaction and space)

Conclusions

- UK consensual poverty measure can be applied to Scotland – attitudes no different
- Poverty in Scotland around one fifth lower than RoUK on several measures
 - c.200,000 fewer in poverty than if UK rates had applied
- Still very large in absolute terms and relative to other EU countries
 - 900k poor on PSE measure
- Poverty shift over last 10 years – difficult to attribute to policy ‘made in Scotland’

