



Child Poverty in Scotland

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Child Poverty in Scotland



- Setting the scene
 - Levels of child poverty
 - Commitments to eradicate child poverty
 - Progress?
 - Impact of poverty on children
 - Children at greatest risk
- What needs done: a manifesto for success
- Housing policy and child poverty



Child Poverty in Scotland



- **“Our historic aim, that ours is the first generation to end child poverty forever ...It’s a 20-year mission, but I believe it can be done”**

Tony Blair, March 1999

- Targets to reduce child poverty by one quarter by 2004-05...by half by 2010...and eradicate it by 2020

- “We have made clear our commitment...to doing all within the powers available to us to help achieve the milestone to halve child poverty by 2010...and eradicating child poverty by 2020”

Scottish Government, January 2008

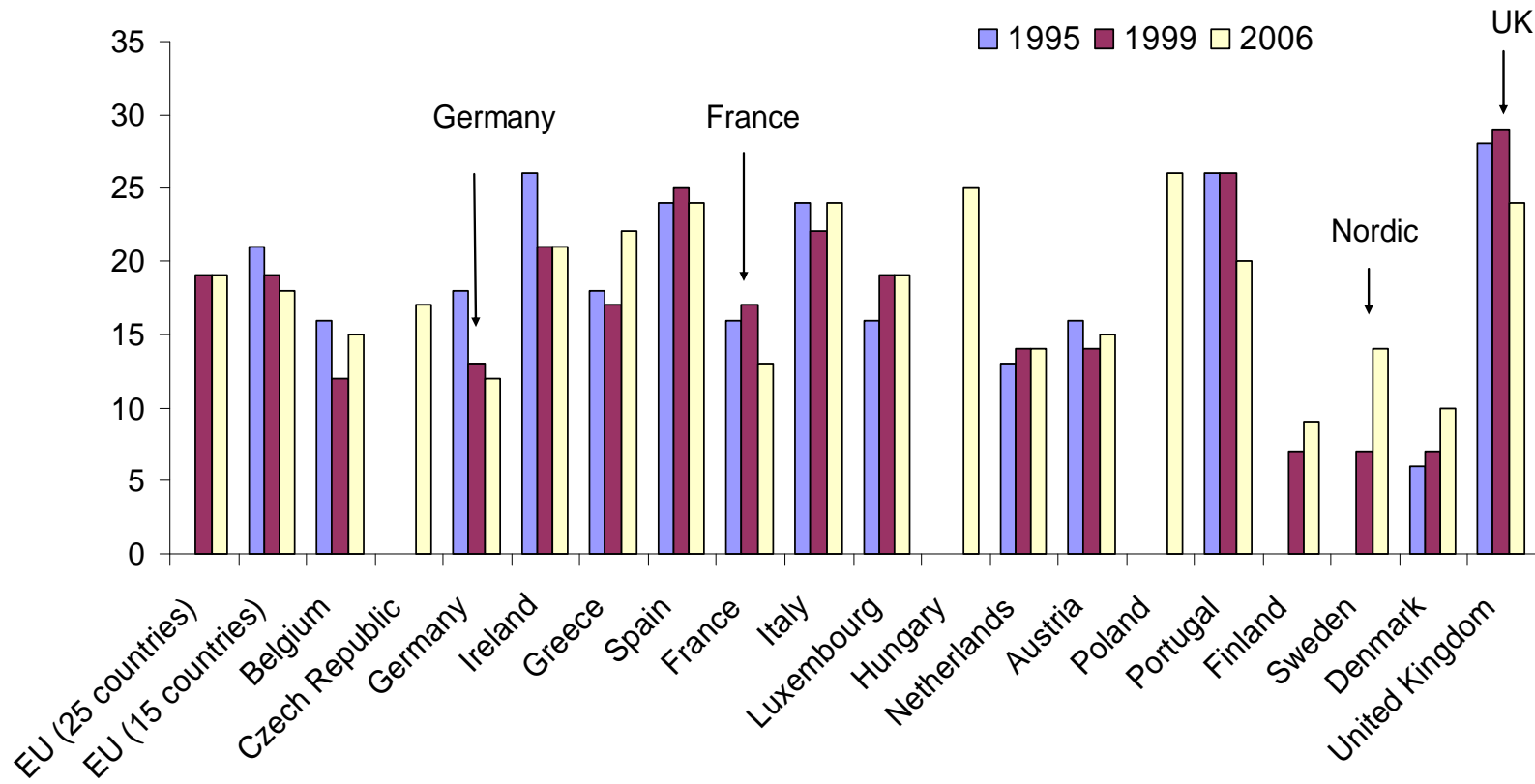


Ten Years On

- 250 000 children living in poverty (1in4)(ahc)
- (across UK 1 in 3, 3.9 million children)
- twice 1979 rate
- over twice rate of many other European countries
- children still at greater risk than population as a whole
- Key measure of poverty - below 60% median income, measured both before and after costs taken into account
- Less than £312 a week for a couple with two children after housing costs (£231 for a lone parent with two children)



Our place in Europe

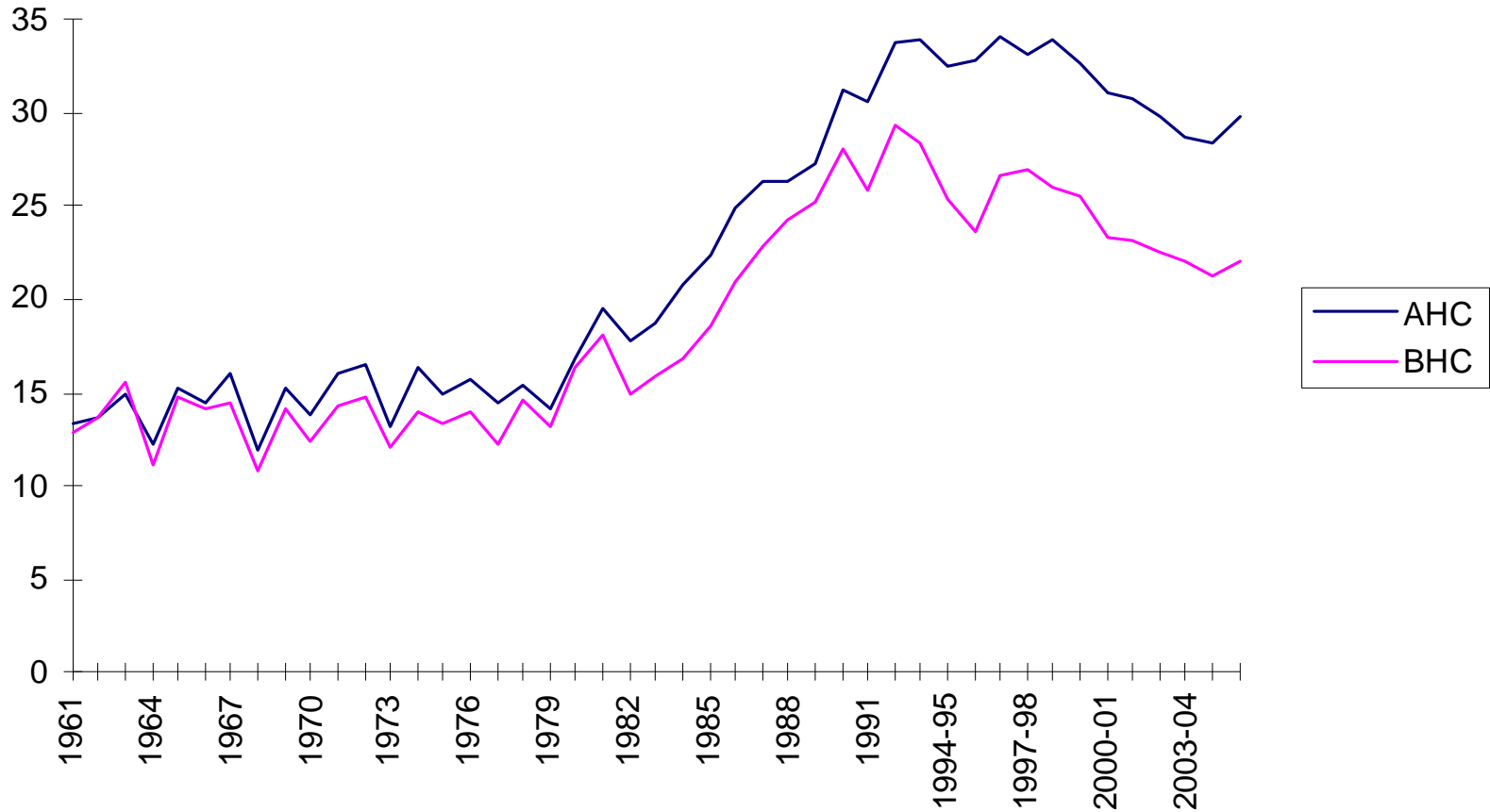




Progress?

- Policy works: first target to reduce child poverty by a quarter by 2004-05 met in Scotland (though not in UK)
 - over 80 000 children lifted out of poverty in Scotland
 - Child benefit, tax credits, advice and information, increasing parental employment, improving earnings from employment
- Subject on political agenda across political parties and at different levels of government
- but child poverty in UK increased by 200,000 children in 2005-07, and standstill in Scotland
- Not on track to meet the target for 2010 without extra investment – 2009 Budget last chance

UK Child Poverty trends



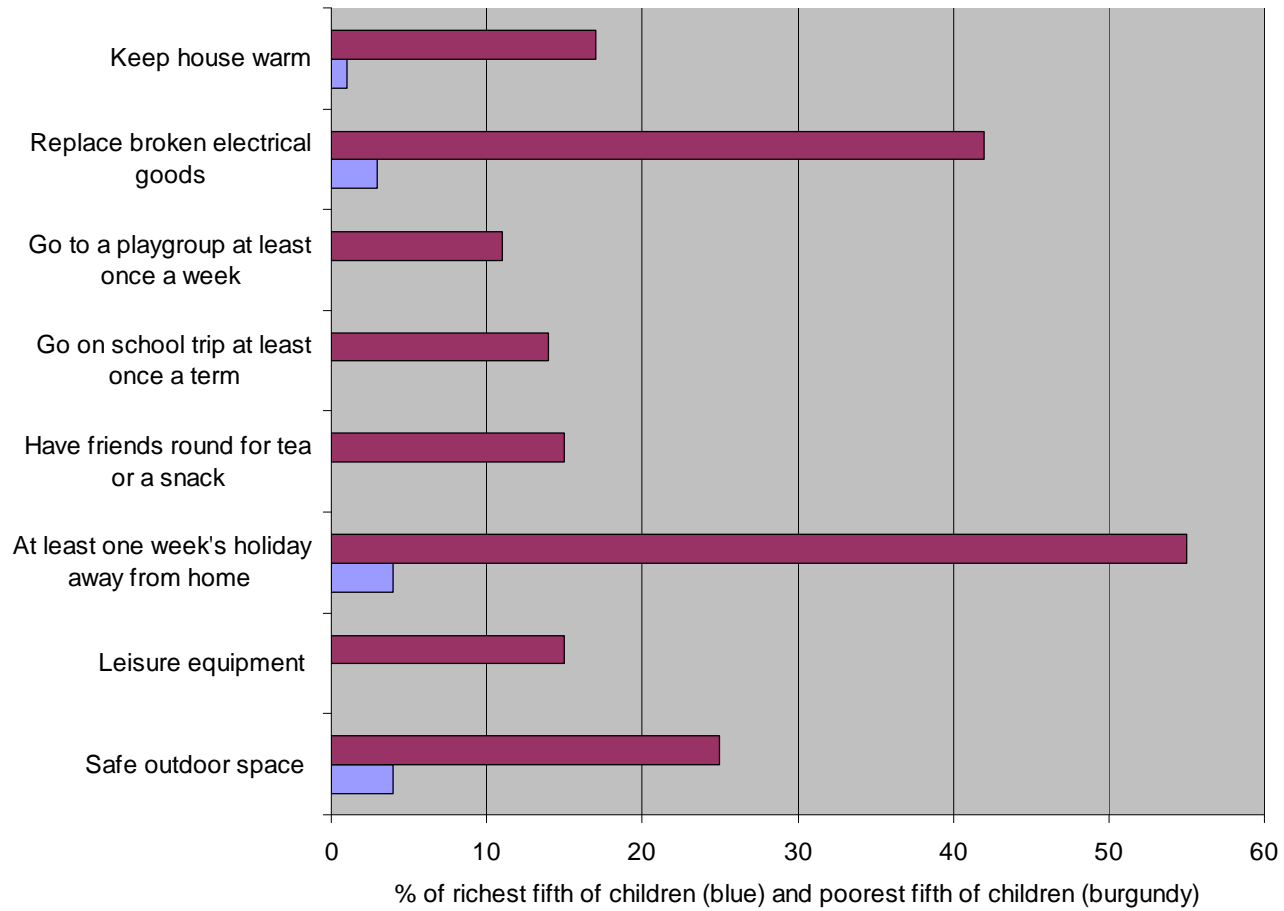


Impact of Child Poverty

- By age 3, children in poverty 9 months behind in ‘school readiness’
- birth-weight – children born in the poorest fifth of areas average weigh 200g less than richest fifth
- cost to society – estimate at £1.5 - £1.75 billion (Scotland alone – £25billion across the UK),
- also loss of social cohesion/wellbeing.



Impact of Child Poverty – material deprivation





At Greatest Risk

– children most vulnerable

	Risk (%)	Composition (% of all children in poverty)
Lone parent	52	42
Couple with children	23	58
One or more parent in work	22	59
Workless households	81	41
Large families (3+ children)	42	40
Affected by disability of family member	38	28
Not affected by disability of family member	28	72
White children	27	79
Pakistani and Bangladeshi children	63	8
Home owners	17	37
Social rented sector tenants	61	43



What's needed?

CPAG's *Manifesto for Success*

- **Protect jobs**
- **Mend the benefit and tax credit safety net**
- **Move away from means test**
- **Remove barriers to work**
- **Stop in work poverty**
- **A child first strategy for childcare**
- **End the classroom divide**
- **Fair public services for those that need them most**
- **End poverty premiums in taxes and services**
- **Ensure a decent home for every family**



What's needed?

Ensure a decent home for every family

The Problem

Poor quality housing:

- Damages health
- Undermines education
- Increases fuel poverty

High housing costs:

- Impact heavily on families and sap disposable incomes
- After housing costs are taken into account child poverty rises by a million (across UK)
- 15% non-pensioner households don't get HB entitled too
- Impact of 65% HB taper undermines gains from work

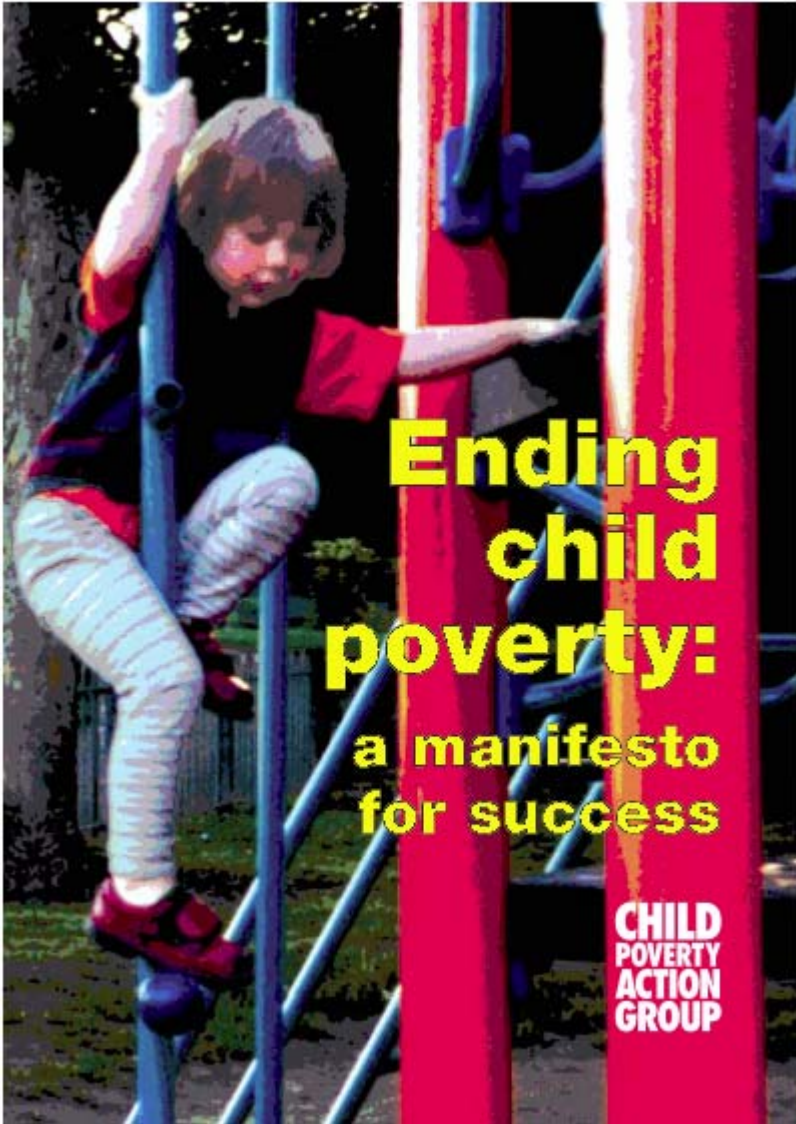


What's needed?

Ensure a decent home for every family

Towards some solutions

- Build more homes
- Houses for children – safe, spacious, energy efficient, with access to play
- Build on Energy Assistance Package to tackle fuel poverty
- Reverse decision to time limit mortgage interest payments in new claims for JSA
- HB – maximise take up, improve admin, extend run on to six months, examine fixed awards; reduce high marginal deduction rates.
- Scrap proposals to cap the maximum number of rooms for a HB claim.



**Ending
child
poverty:
a manifesto
for success**

**CHILD
POVERTY
ACTION
GROUP**