

Child poverty as children see it

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- Some findings from an article under publication in CHILDHOOD
- Topic: child poverty as experienced by children
- Different forms of deprivation

- Data: from the survey "Children's level of living", carried out by NOVA for the Norwegian Women's Public Health Association
- Data collected in 2003. A low-income sample (N=1627) and a control sample (N=310) were drawn, using register data on household incomes.
- Families with children aged 6-9 (N=1158) and 10-12 (N=779)
- Both parents and children were interviewed in families with children aged 10-12. This is the sample used here.

Measures of deprivation: indicators

- Housing problems
- Lack of consumer durables
- Subjective experience of financial hardship
- These must be operationalised differently for adults and children

- Housing problems - adults:

”Do you have any of the following problems with your current housing: (1) the dwelling is too small, (2) damp, draft, cold, (3) poor material standard, (4) noise from neighbours, (5) noise from traffic”.

- Lack of consumer durables – adults:

Lacks one or more of the key consumer durables: washing machine, freezer and/ or dishwasher

- Experienced financial hardship - adults

“If you suddenly were in a situation where you had to raise NOK 10.000 in one week, how would you get the money?” [NOK 10.000 = app. 1250 EURO]

”How would you say the current financial situation is for your household/ family? Would you say that (a) Money is insufficient, (b) We have to use savings to manage, (c) We just about manage, (d) We manage well enough to save a little, (e) We manage well enough to save quite a lot.”

- Housing problems – children

”Do you have your own room?”

”Do you bring friends home (a) every day (b) several days a week (c) once a week (d) rarely or (e) never?”

■ Consumption poverty – children

Do you have your own

- CD-player/ discman
- mobile phone
- ski/ snowboard
- bike
- TV
- Computer
- pet

■ Experienced financial hardship - children

”Has it ever happened that your parents could not afford to give you money for

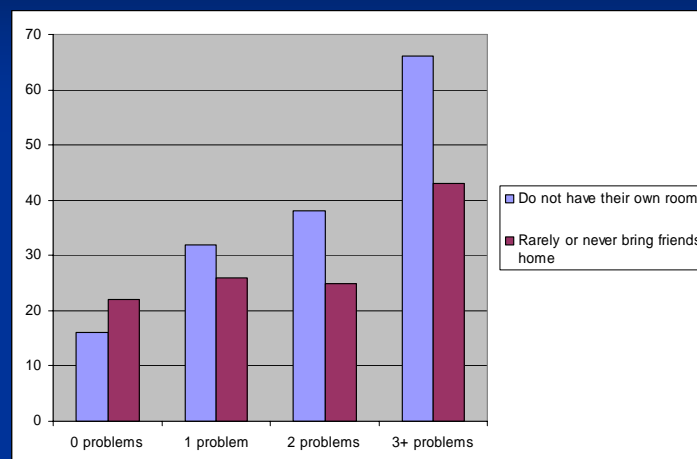
- (a) events at school such as school parties, trips etc.
- (b) activities with friends, such as movies, concerts etc.
- (c) birthdays where you would need to bring a gift,
- (d) leisure activities where one needs to pay entry or fees,
- (e) trips with the sports team or similar?”

”Do you feel that your family is (a) very well off, (b) well off, (c) neither well off nor bad off, (d) bad off, (e) very bad off.”

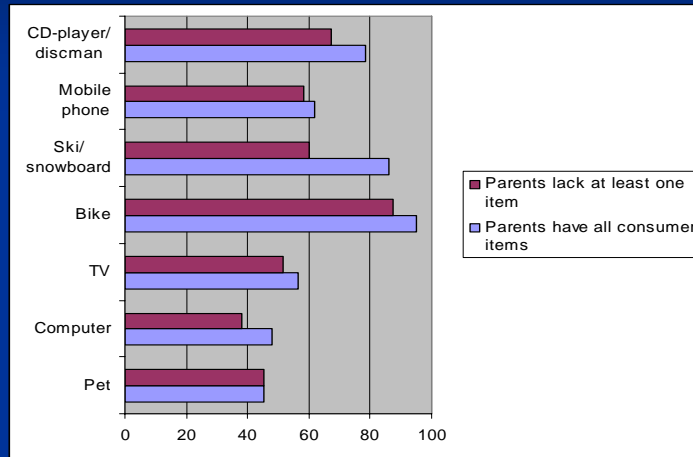
Parallel patterns of deprivation?

- IF SO:
 - Housing deprived adults have housing deprived children
 - Consumption deprived adults have consumption deprived children
 - Parents who report (subjective) financial hardship have children who are frequently not given money for events, and who feel that the family is financially bad off

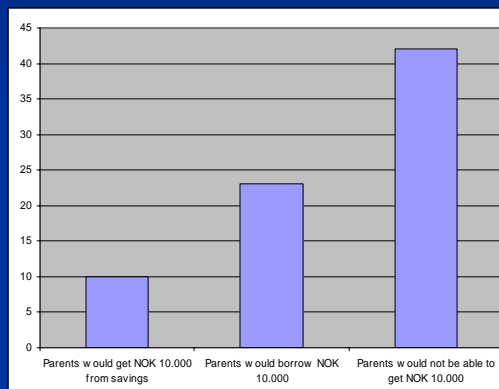
Housing-related indicators of deprivation among children, by the number of housing problems mentioned by their parents



Proportion of children who own various objects, by whether or not their parents own all three key consumer durables.



Proportion of children who have experienced not to be given money for activities with friends, by parents' experience of subjective deprivation.



Do children with poor parents feel that their families are bad off?

Of the children in families where the parents said money was insufficient :

- 20 per cent said the family was badly off,
- 42 per cent said the family was "neither badly nor well off", while
- 38 per cent of these children said the family was well off

Conclusions

- Children are more at risk for experiencing deprivation in families where parents report deprivation. There are parallels between "child deprivation" and "adult deprivation"
- BUT: the links are not very strong, and associations are not necessarily linear.
- If we want to know how children are doing, we have to ask them – conclusions made on the basis of parents' statements are unreliable.