



Impact of Poverty and Income Inequity on Child/Youth Health in Canada

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CHEO Housing Check-up

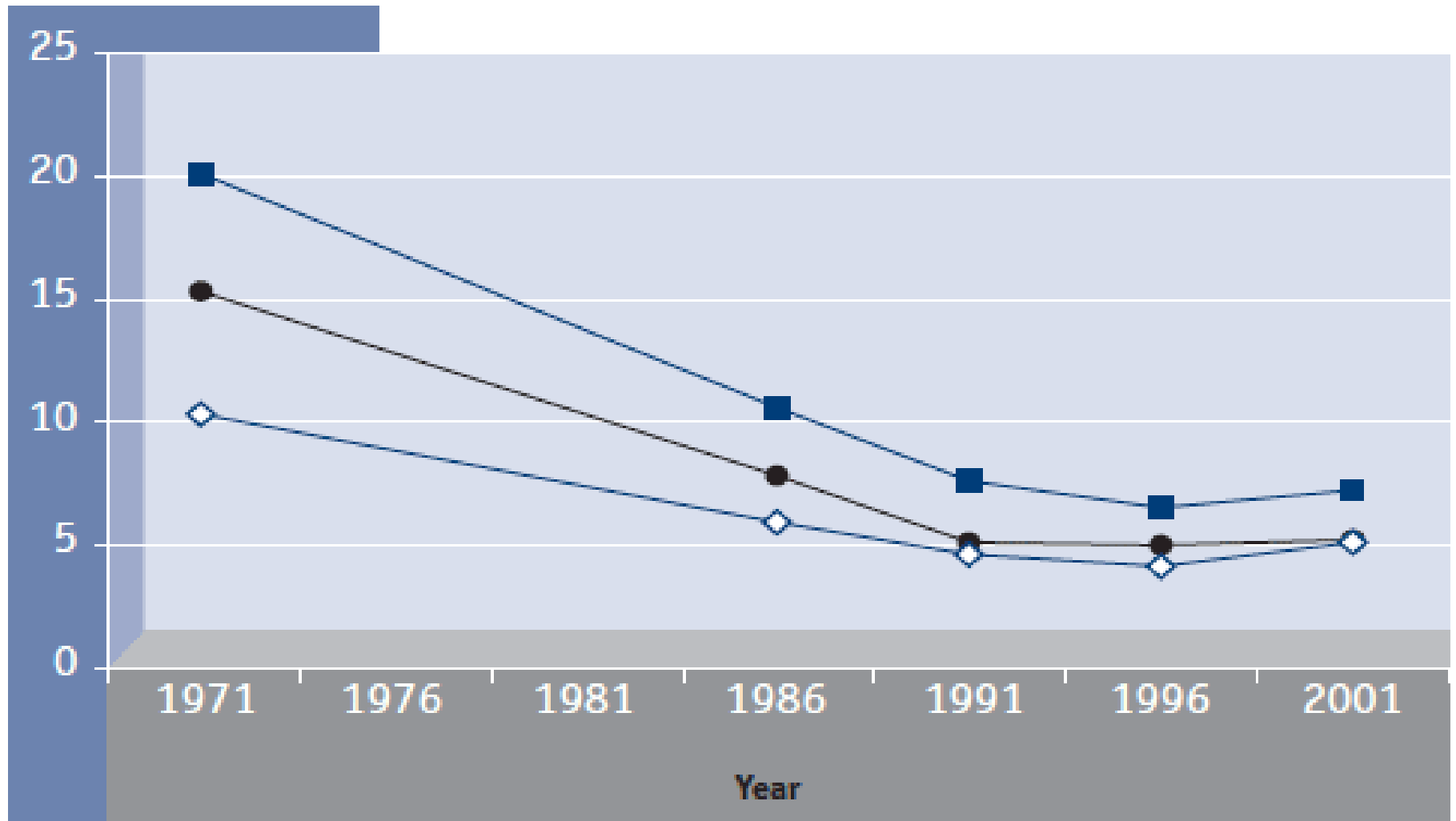
- 33% households spending >50% of income on housing
- >50% of families lived in housing that was crowded or in need of major repairs or were paying more than 50% of their income for shelter
- housing need was associated with lack of access to primary health care



Health Impacts of poverty

- Increased infant mortality rates
- Shorter life expectancy
- Decreased overall health indicators
- Poor health that persists across the lifespan

Figure 3.7 Infant mortality rate by neighbourhood income, urban Canada, 1971-2001



- Q5 - Poorest
- Q3
- ◇ Q1 - Richest

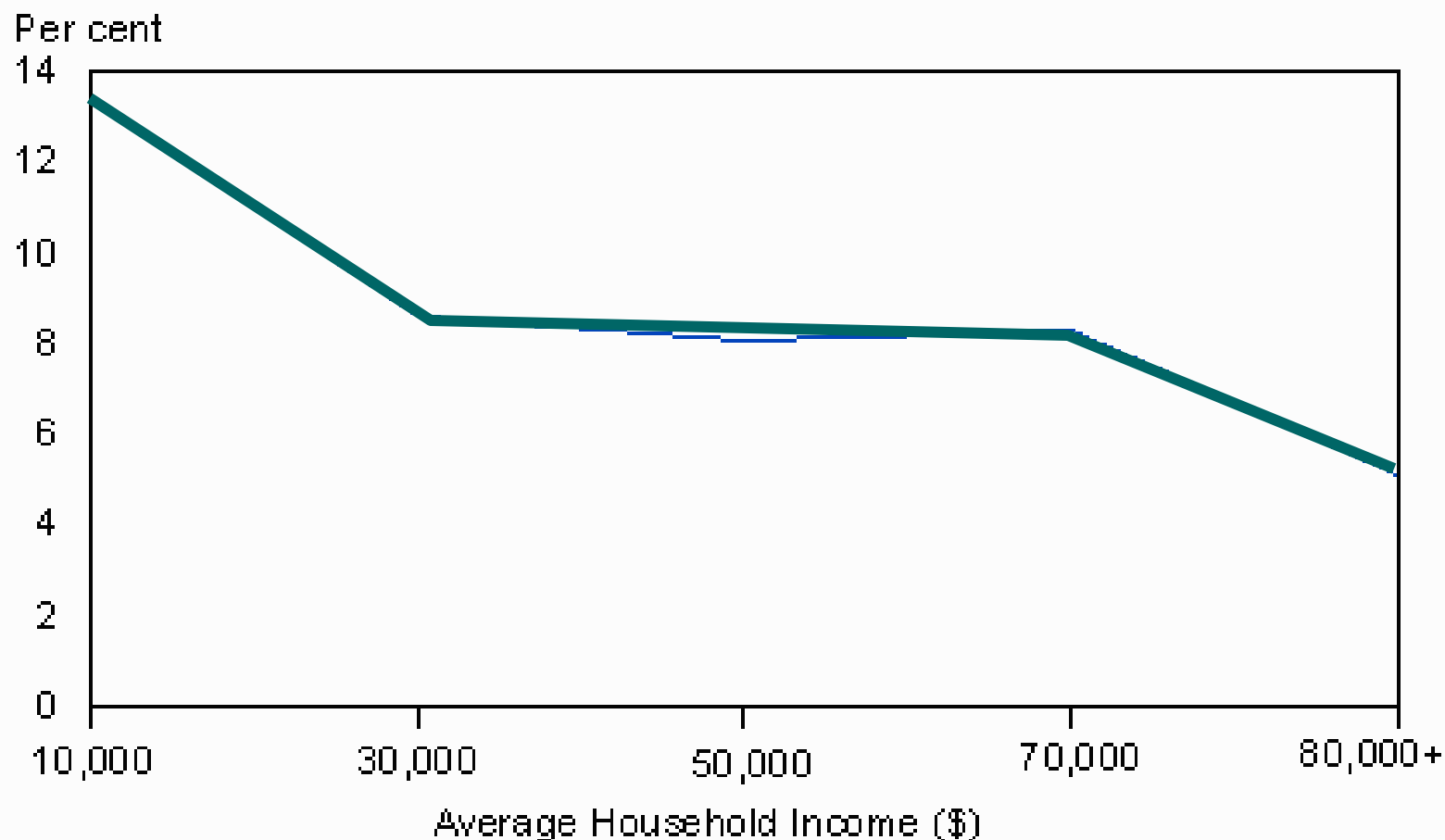


What are the Impacts of Child Poverty on Health?

- Low birth weight
- Malnutrition
 - Food insecurity
- Asthma/allergies
- Physical disability
- Injuries
- Dental problems
- Suboptimal early childhood development

Chart 2

Children with Lower Functional Health*



* Statistics Canada has based functional health on 8 attributes: vision, hearing, speech, mobility, dexterity, cognition, emotion and pain and discomfort.

Note: Two-parent families with children aged 4-11 years.

Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1994-95.



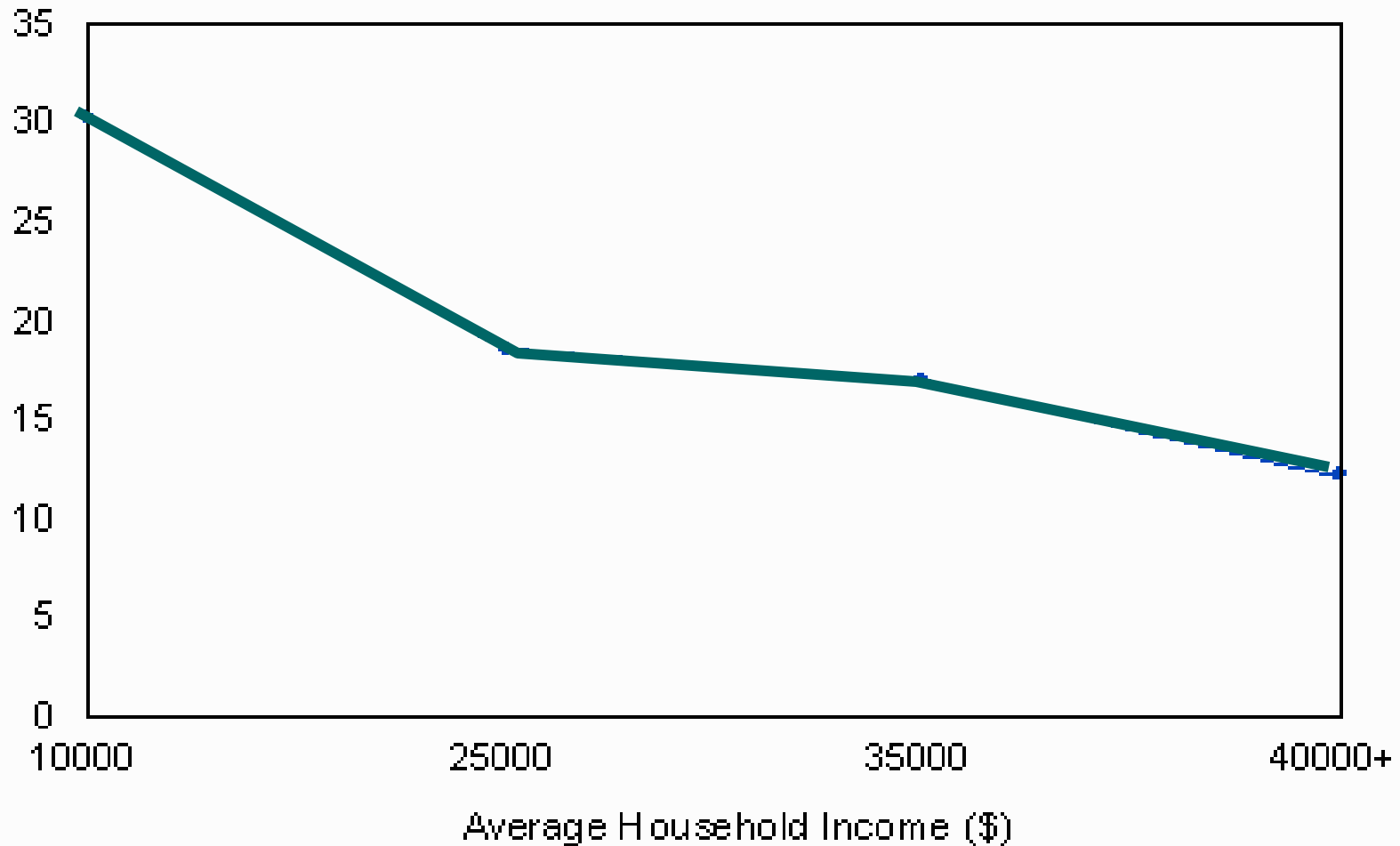
What are the Impacts of Child Poverty on Health?

- Emotional difficulties
- Behaviour problems
- Attention deficit disorder
- Mental illness
- Decreased ability to participate in school
- Poor school performance
- Learning disabilities

Chart 4

Children with Delayed* Vocabulary Scores

Per cent



* Note: Children scored less than 85 on the PPVT scale, 4-5 year-olds only.

Source: Prepared by the Canadian Council on Social Development using the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth, 1994-95.



Equality means better health

- As the gap between rich and poor in a country increases, the overall health of **all** of its citizens decreases
 - including the richest members of society

Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal Countries

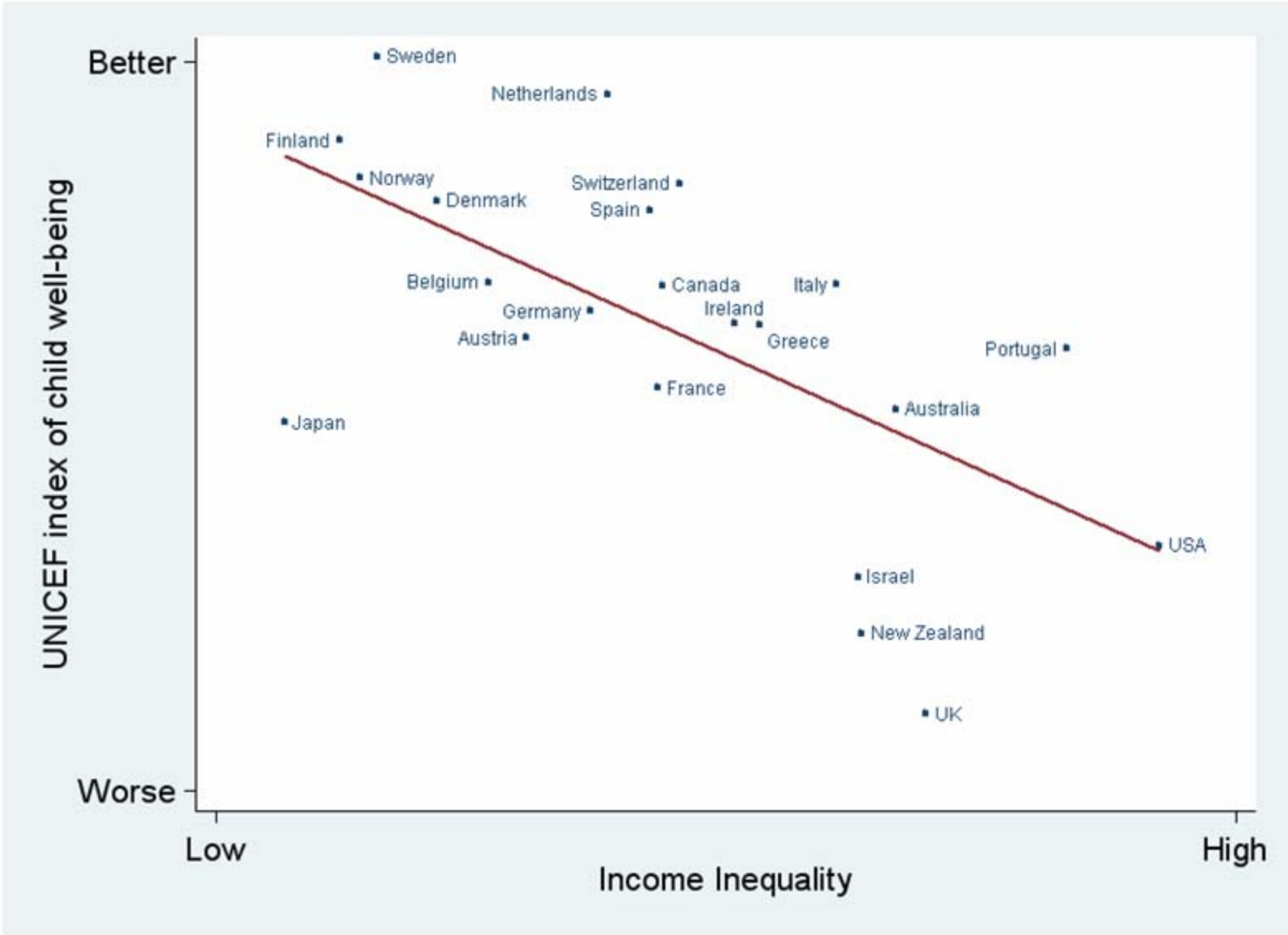
Index of:

- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Child Well-being is Better in More Equal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)



Poverty means less access to health care

- Children living in poverty have:
 - lower rates of primary health care providers
 - lower immunization rates
 - increased admissions to hospital for vaccine preventable illnesses
 - increased visits to physicians
 - decreased visits to specialists
 - less likely to receive preventative health services
 - less able to access medications



How do we move forward?

- We have had repeated all party commitments to ending child poverty in Canada
- We have had ongoing work from many sectors over many years
- Our approach to date has not worked



How do we move forward?

- View poverty as an issue that impacts and crosses many sectors
 - Health
 - Legal/justice
 - Economic
 - Social services
 - Security
 - Education
 - Political



Everyone owns the issue of child poverty

- Poverty impacts our entire society and our entire population
- Every sector must create a piece of the solution
- Need to work collaboratively, collectively and immediately
- We have much to gain by addressing it and ...
- ... our children and youth have too much to lose



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CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD POVERTY
It's a matter of conscience

For more information, contact the Campaign Against Child Poverty by visiting www.childpoverty.com or by calling 416-590-8226, ext. 222

Can we afford for
this to happen?