



*“PROTECTING THE
VULNERABLE”: IDENTIFYING
ECONOMICALLY VULNERABLE
GROUPS AS THE ECONOMIC
CRISIS EMERGED IN IRELAND*

**Christopher T. Whelan & Bertrand Maître,
School of Sociology, UCD & ESRI**



Introduction

- Protecting the vulnerable
- Defining the vulnerable
- Limitations of income poverty – inability to participate due to lack of resources
- Social Exclusion – dynamics & multidimensionality
- The life cycle perspective & the dynamics of interrelated risks



Deprivation & Social Exclusion

- Deprivation & accurate identification of the poor
- Deprivation & capturing multidimensionality – poverty is about “more than money”
- Consistent poverty - restricted form of multidimensionality
- Current poverty 60% line + basic deprivation 2+ of 11

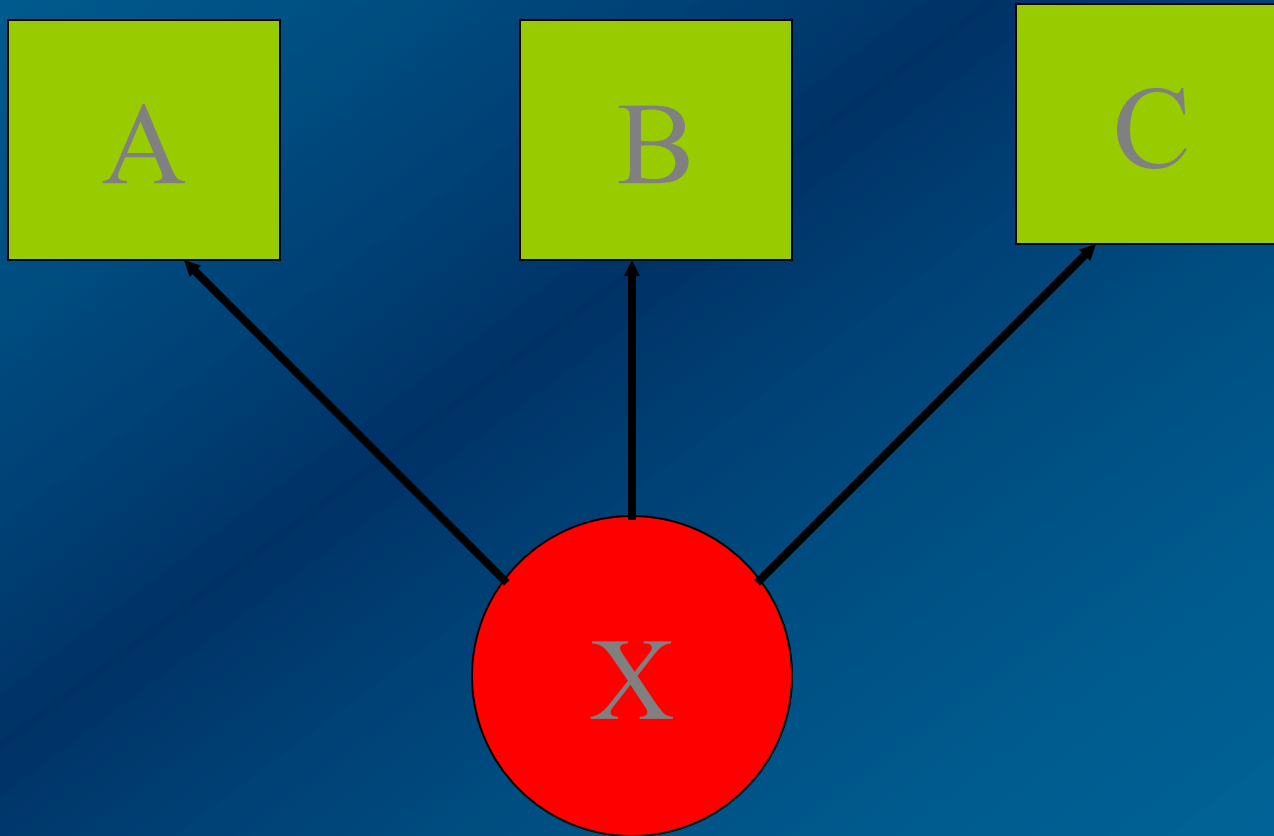


5 Dimensions of Deprivation

- Basic (11 items=items into Cst pov measure, 2+):
 - *Without heating, 2 pairs shoes, friends/family meal out, buying presents,....
- Consumption (4+):
 - *telephone,Pc, car, washing machine
- Housing facilities (1+):
 - *Bath/shower, hot water...
- Neighbourhood Environment (2+):
 - *pollution, crime, noise...
- Health status of HRP (1+):
 - *assessment of health, chronic illness, mobility restriction



Latent Class Model



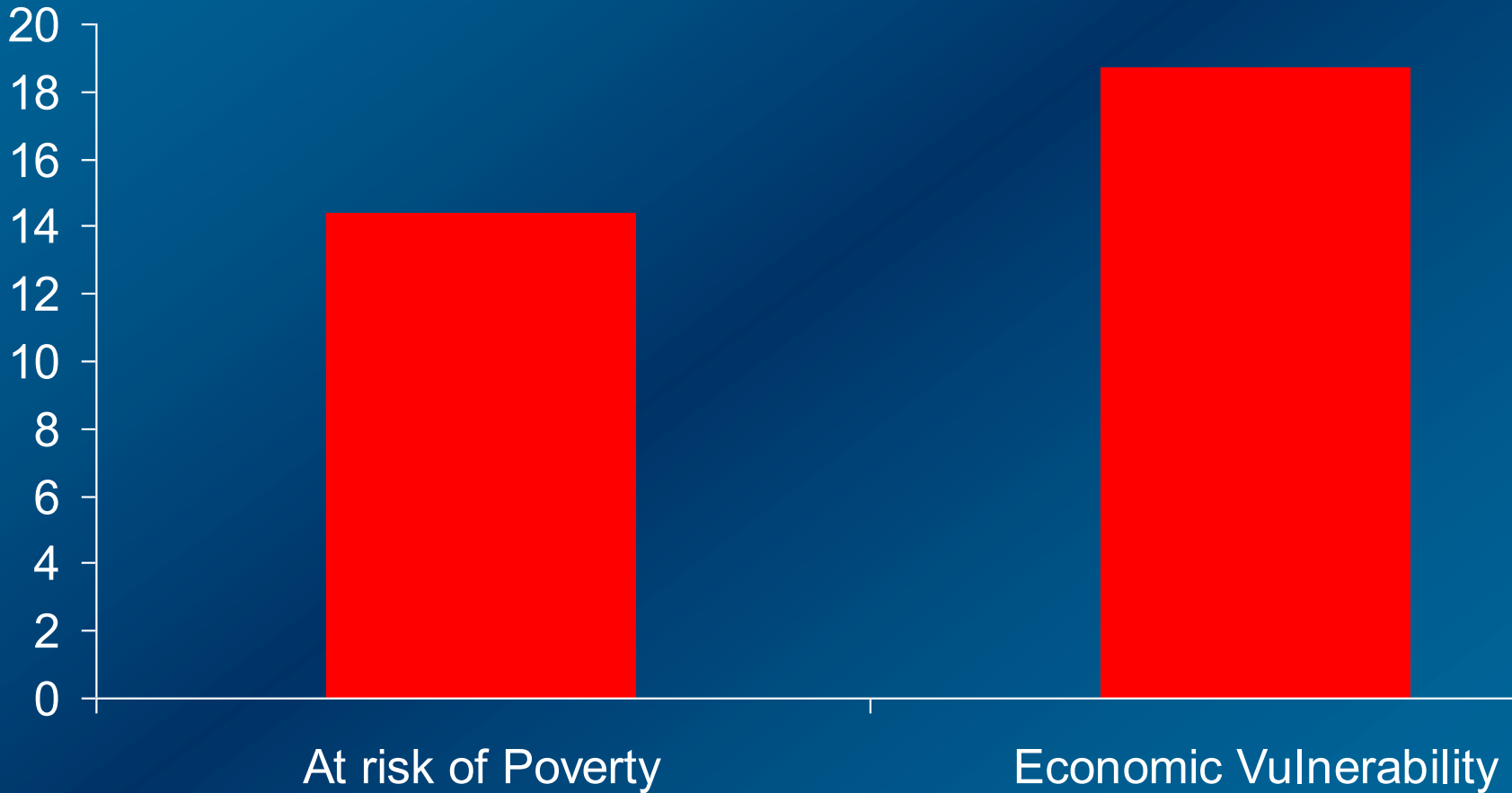


Economic Vulnerability

- From deprivation to insecurity & exposure to risk
- Latent Class Analysis
- Poverty, basic deprivation & economic stress
- Social Exclusion & “Deep Exclusion”?
- “Risk factors” & “Triggers” – resources v underclass explanations

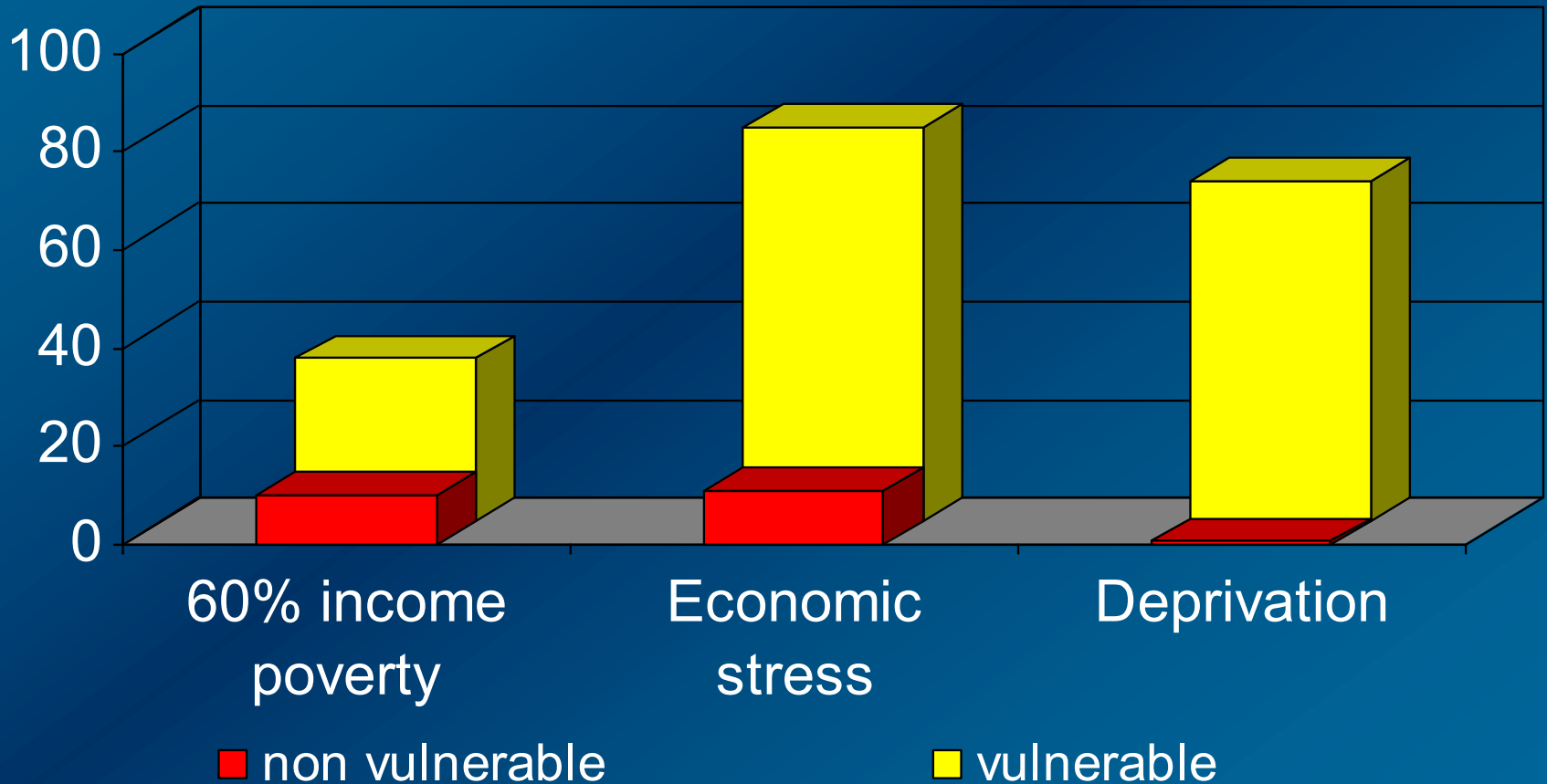


At Risk of Poverty (at 60% of Median) & Economic Vulnerability Risk



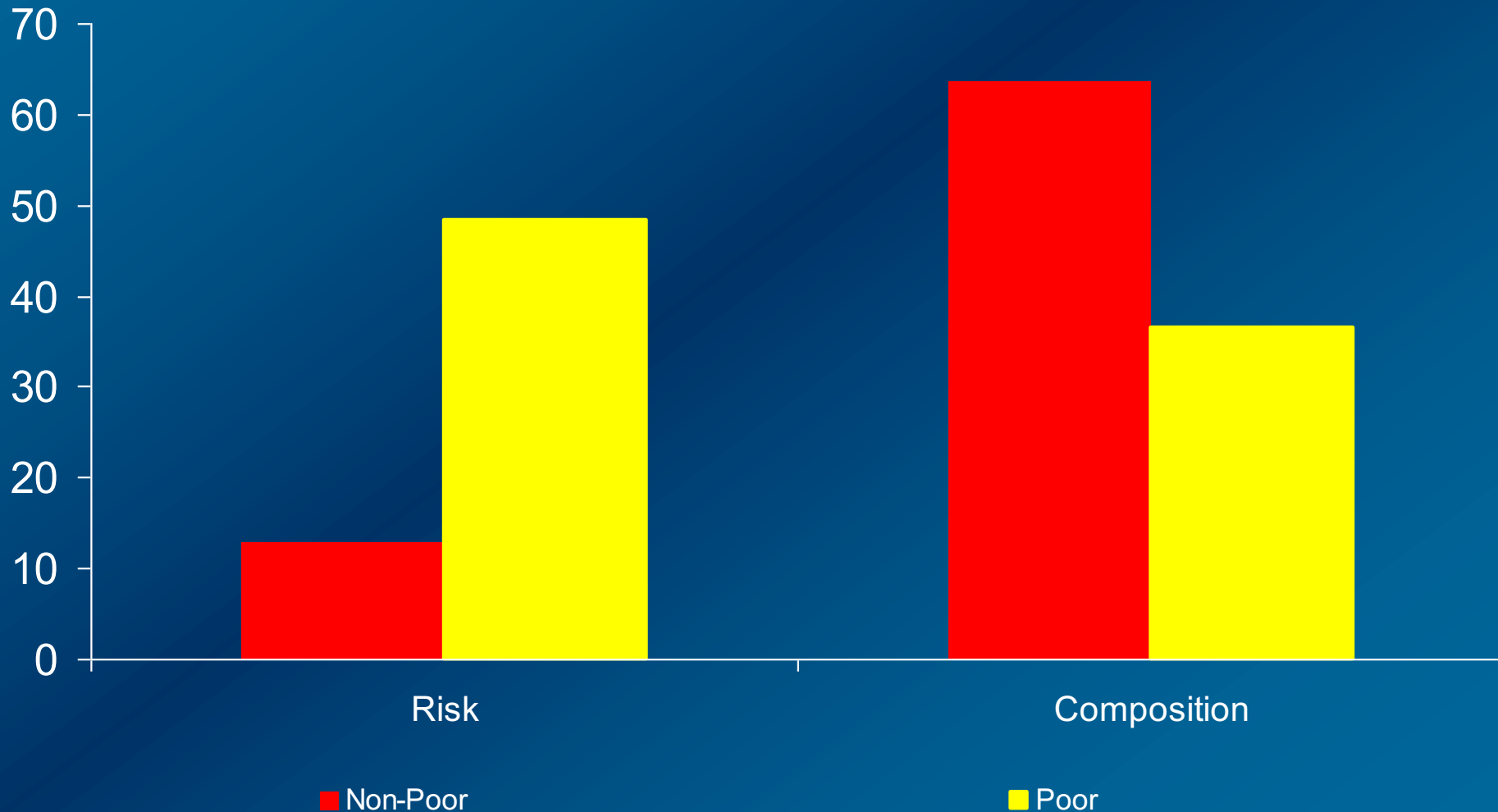


Vulnerability to Economic Exclusion



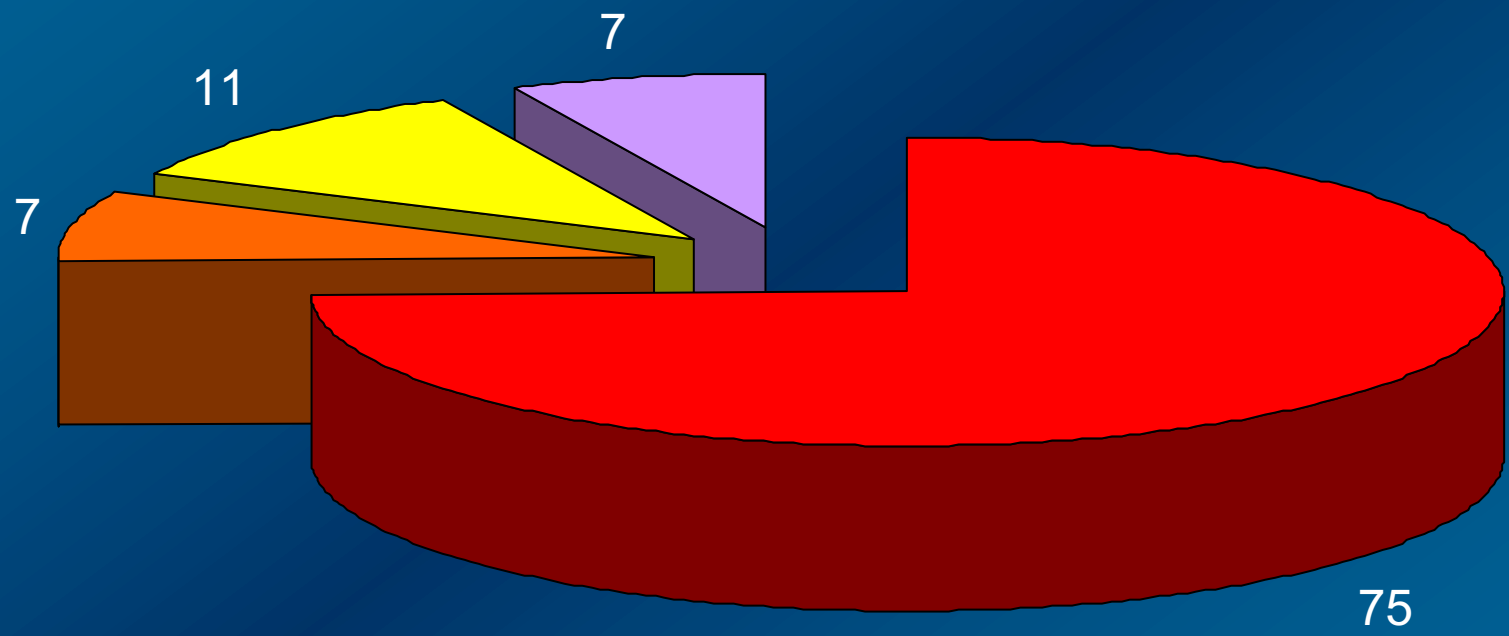


Risk & Composition of Economic Vulnerability by Income Poverty at 60% of Median





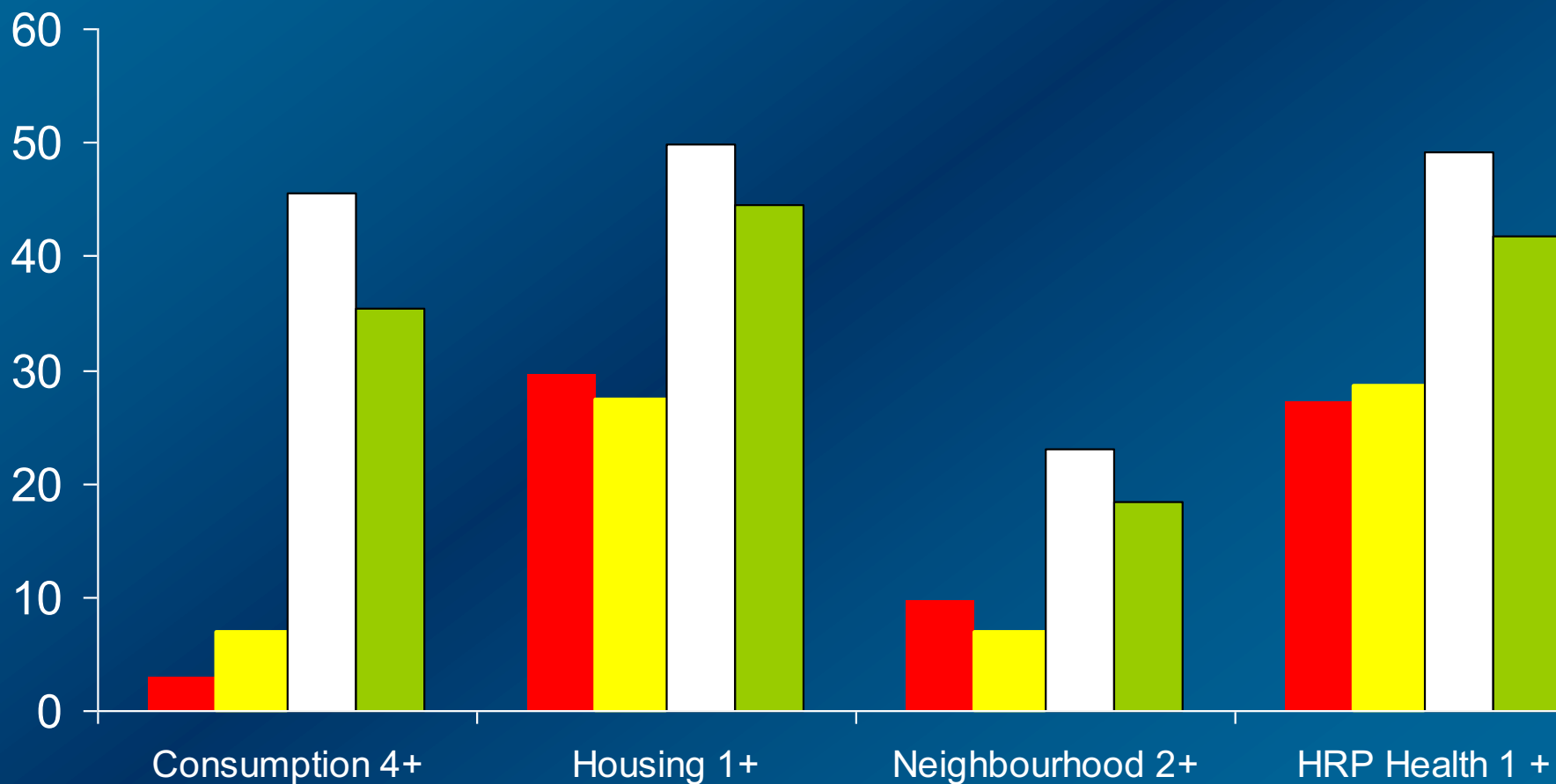
Distribution Across Categories of Poverty & Economic Vulnerability Profile (%)



- Non-Poor & Non-Vulnerable
- Non-Poor & Vulnerable
- Poor & Non-Vulnerable
- Poor & Vulnerable



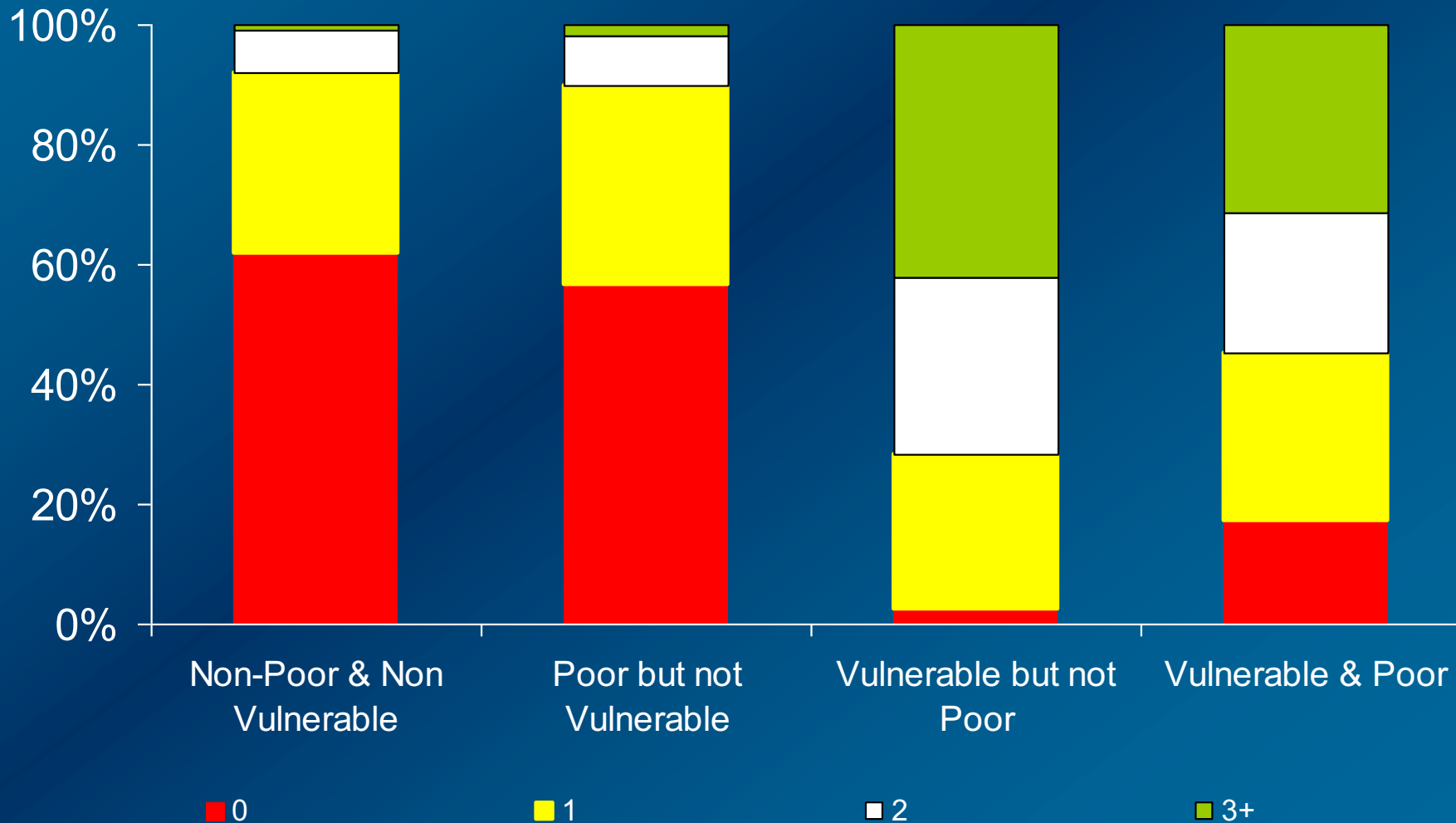
Deprivation Dimensions by Poverty & Vulnerability Typology



■ Non-Poor & Non Vulnerable ■ Poor but not Vulnerable ■ Vulnerable but not Poor ■ Vulnerable & Poor

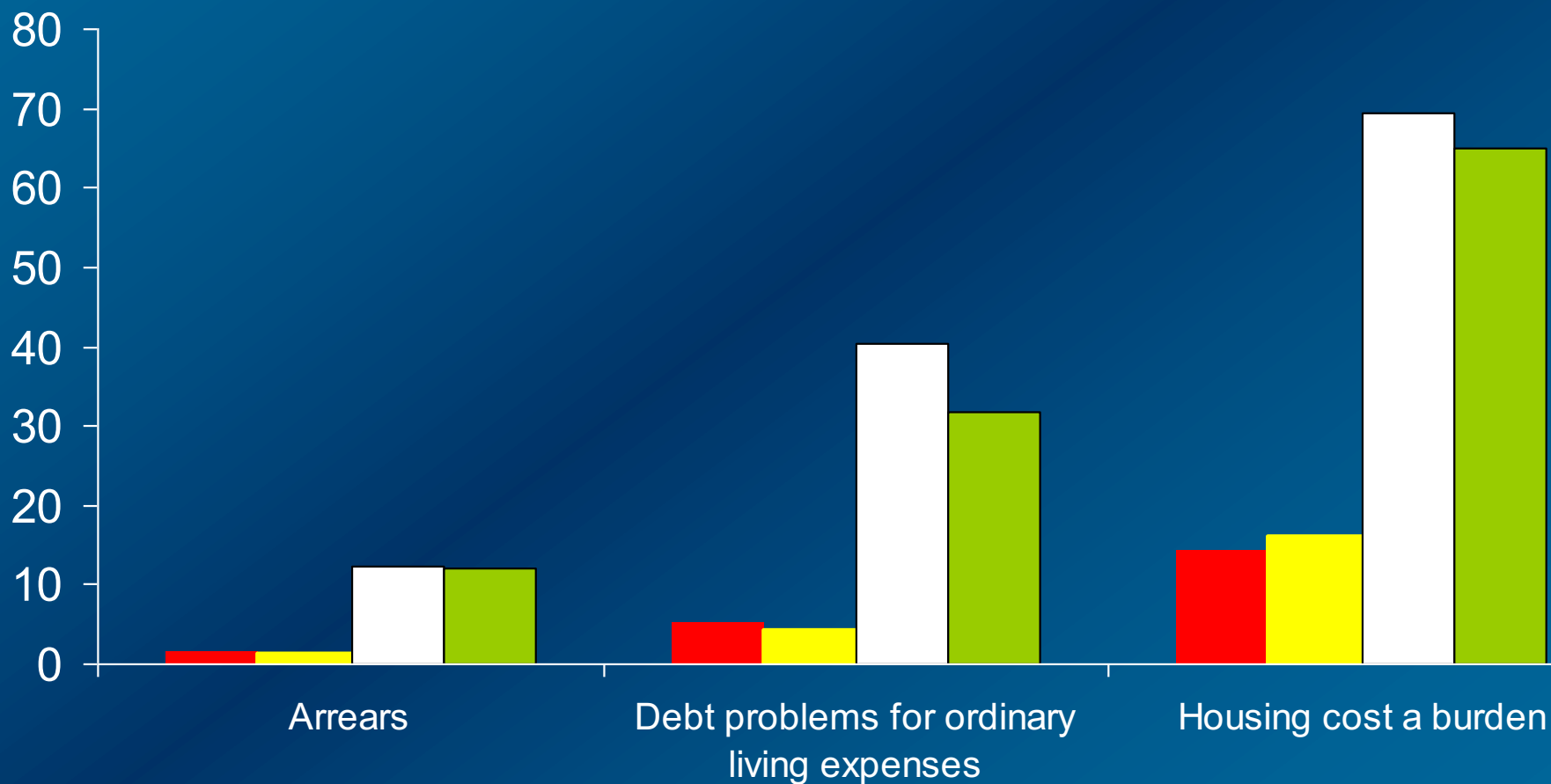


Multiple Deprivation by Poverty & Economic Vulnerability Profile





Financial Pressures by Poverty & Vulnerability Typology



■ Non-Poor & Non Vulnerable ■ Poor but not Vulnerable ■ Vulnerable but not Poor ■ Vulnerable & Poor



Perceptions of Past & Next Year by Poverty & Vulnerability Typology



■ Non-Poor & Non Vulnerable ■ Poor but not Vulnerable ■ Vulnerable but not Poor ■ Vulnerable & Poor



Multinomial Regression of Poverty and Vulnerability Typology on Household & Household Reference Person Characteristics with being neither poor nor vulnerable as the reference category

	Poor & Vulnerable	Vulnerable not Poor	Poor not Vulnerable
HRP Labour Force Status			
Employee (reference)			
Retired	1.6*	1.5*	3.1
Self-employed with employees	2.0	0.2	3.2
Self-employed without employees	5.1	1.6*	8.3
Famer	7.1	0.5*	4.6
Home Duties	7.9	3.0	4.3
Unemployed	15.0	6.8	4.2
Ill/Disabled	15.0	7.9	6.5
In Education	20.2	3.2	10.7
Tenure			
Mortgage Holder (Reference)			
Outright Owner	1.8	0.7*	2.8
Private Tenant	2.7	2.3	4.3
Local Authority Purchaser	5.9	4.2	7.9
Local Authority Tenant	8.0	4.2	4.0
Separated	1.4	2.2	2.3
Divorced	2.6	3.1	0.8*
Lone Parent	4.3	1.9	2.5

* not significant



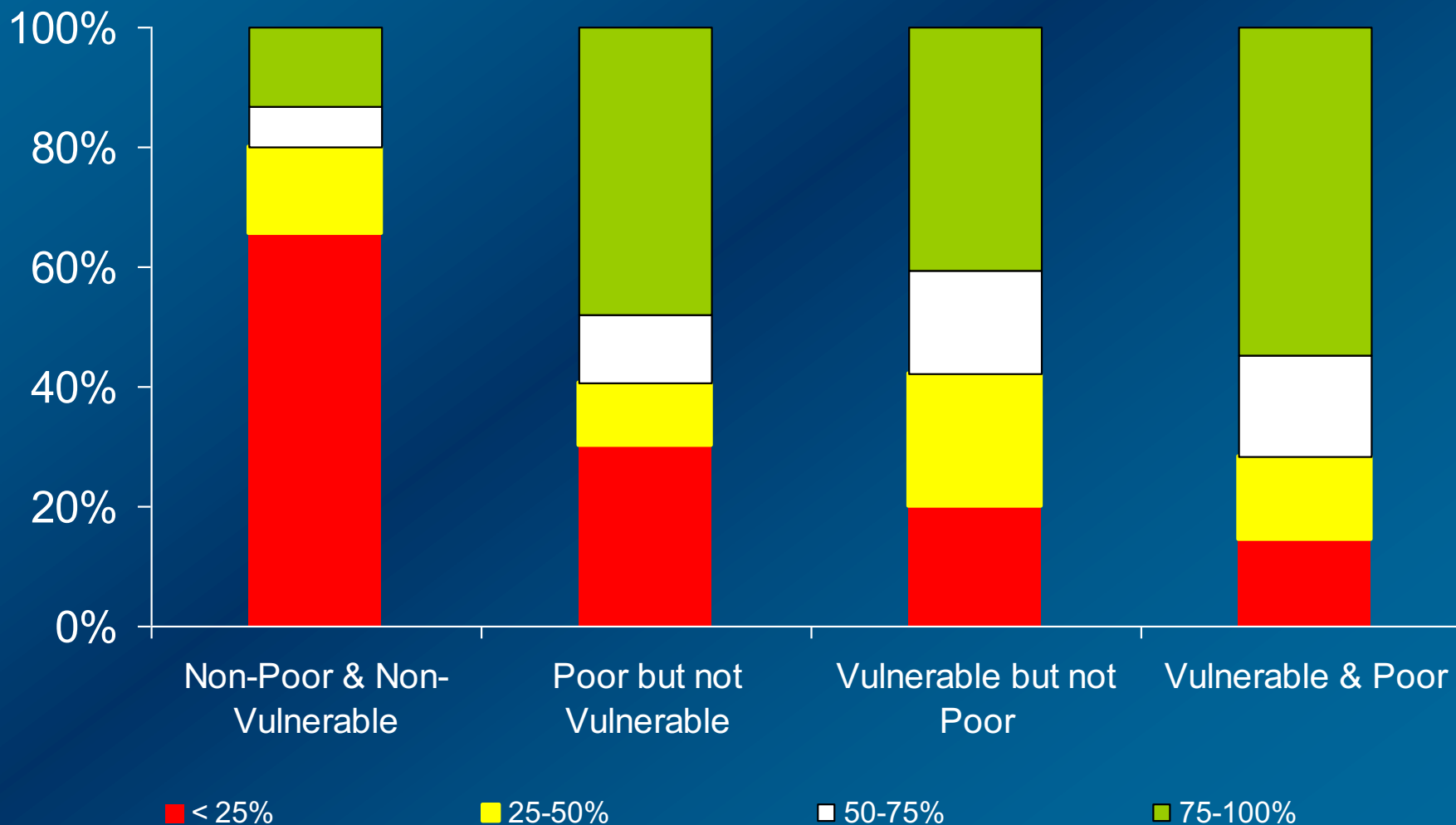
Multinomial Regression of Poverty and Vulnerability Typology on HRP Social Class

HRP Social Class	Poor & Vulnerable	Vulnerable not Poor	Poor not Vulnerable
Higher Salariat (ESeC Class 1) Reference Category			
Lower Salariat (ESeC Class 2)	1.8*	3.5	1.9*
Higher Grade white & blue collar (ESeC classes 3 & 6)	5.0	7.8	2.5
Petit Bourgeoisie (ESeC Class 4)	13.1	5.0	8.8
Farmers (ESeC Class 5)	15.9	0.7	8.1
Lower Grade white & blue collar (ESeC classes 7 & 8)	11.6	10.9	4.3
Semi & non-skilled workers (ESeC class 9)	19.3	12.1	7.9

* not significant

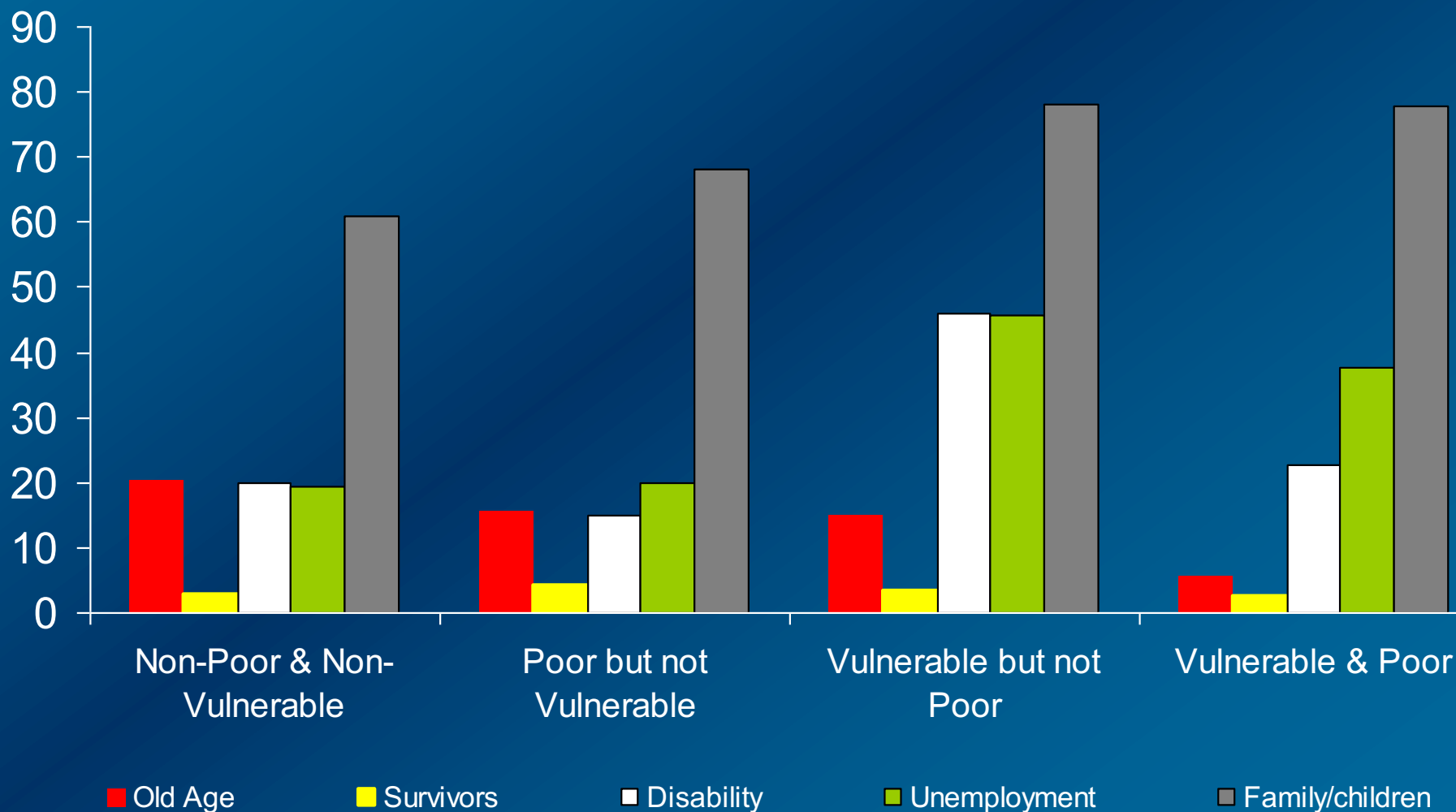


Social Welfare Dependence by Poverty & Vulnerability Typology





Types of Welfare Benefit Income by Vulnerability Typology





Conclusions (i)

- Limitations of income poverty
- Value of consistent poverty indicator
- Highly restricted form of multidimensionality
- Poverty “about something more than money” but resources an essential part of the picture



Conclusions (ii)

- **Poverty & Vulnerability** -short & long term resources & additional needs
- **Vulnerability without Poverty** - absence of longer term resources and additional needs
- **Poverty without Vulnerability** - limitations of current disposable income as an indicator
- Above reflected in socio-economic patterning



Conclusions (iii)

- Vulnerability perspective allows us to deal with “false negatives” as well as “false positives”
- Limitations of both income & consistent poverty
- Prospects for the **Poor & Non Vulnerable & Vulnerable and Non-Poor** in the recession