

# Key Findings



## Persistent Child Poverty in Northern Ireland

*Marina Monteith, Katrina Lloyd and Patricia McKee*

# Introduction

- NI Child Poverty Research to date – point in time research
- Severe child poverty
- GB and Ireland research on duration of child poverty
- NIHPS – panel survey and dynamic analysis of child poverty

# Depth of poverty – severity

- **No poverty** – households living on incomes 60% and over the median
- **Non-severe poverty** – 40% or more but less than 60% of median
- **Severe poverty** – less than 40% of median

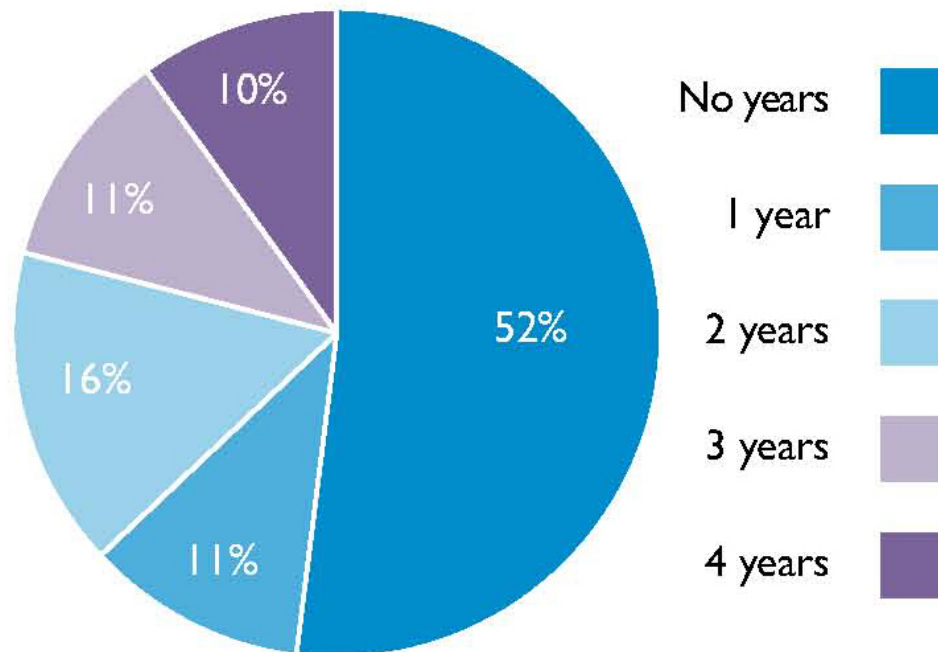
(median net equivalised household income)

# Poverty rates by year

Row%	Proportion of children in:		
	No poverty	Non-severe poverty	Severe poverty
2001	73	18	9
2002	66	25	9
2003	72	17	11
2004	72	20	8

# Number of years in poverty

Figure 1: Number of years in poverty



# Duration of poverty

- No Poverty
- Short-term, no severe, poverty
- Short-term and severe poverty (1+ years severe)
- Persistent, no severe, poverty
- Persistent and severe poverty (1+ years severe)

(short term 1 or 2 years, persistent = 3 or 4 years)

# Poverty type – NI and GB

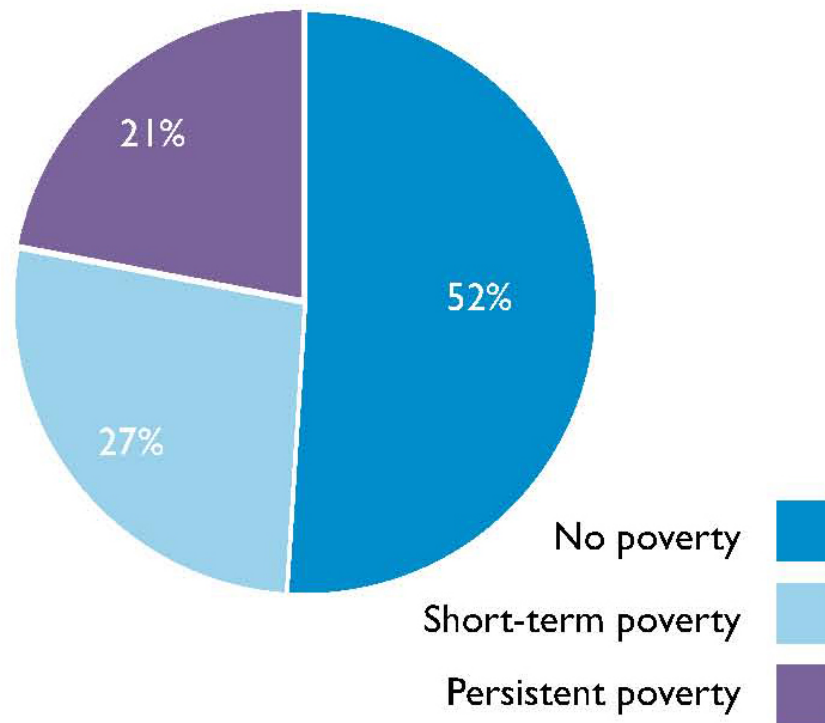
Table 2: Poverty type over four years (Northern Ireland and Great Britain)

Col%	Northern Ireland	Great Britain
	%	%
<b>Poverty type</b>		
No poverty	52	68
Short-term no severe	15	14
Short-term and 1+ severe	12	8
Persistent no severe	9	4
Persistent and 1+ severe	13	5
	100	100

Base: NI- 550; GB-2385

# Poverty type over four years

Figure 2: Poverty type over four years





# Number of workers in household

Table 3: Number of workers in household (at wave 1)

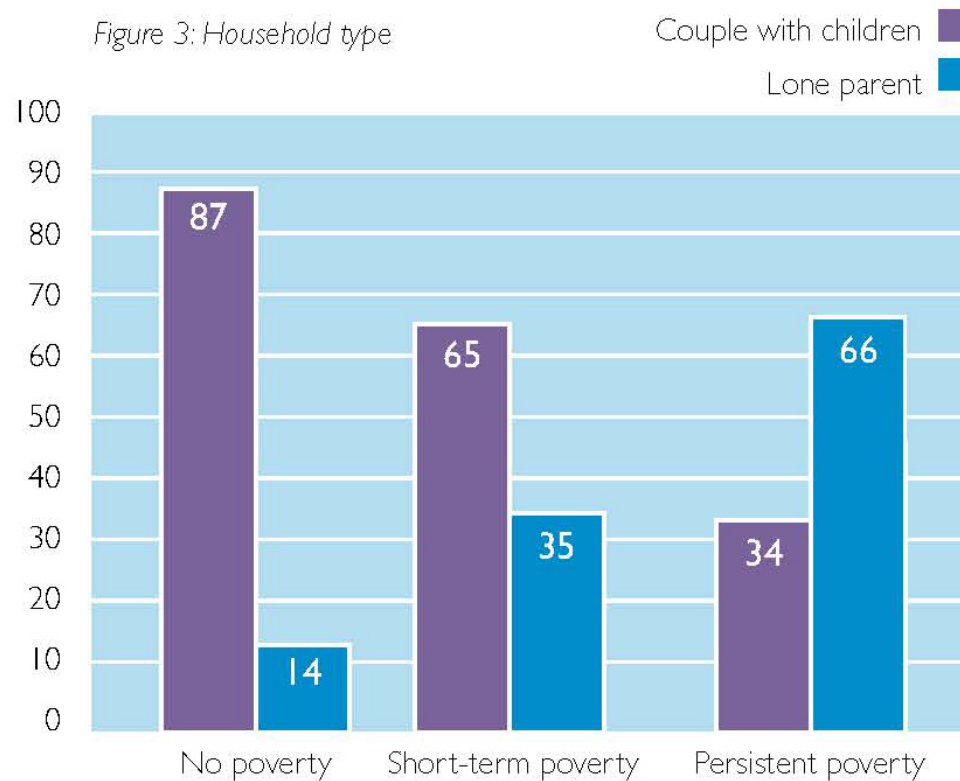
Col%	Types of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
No workers	4	33	80
1 Worker	32	40	15
2+ Workers	64	27	5
All children	100	100	100

# Changes in number of workers

Table 4: Changes in number of workers in household

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
Always no workers	2	18	53
Always 1 worker	16	16	5
Always 2+ workers	53	21	5
Between 1 and 2+ workers	26	22	0
Between workers and no workers	3	23	37
All children	100	100	100

# Household type



# Household type/persistent and severe poverty

Table 5: Household type and persistent and severe poverty

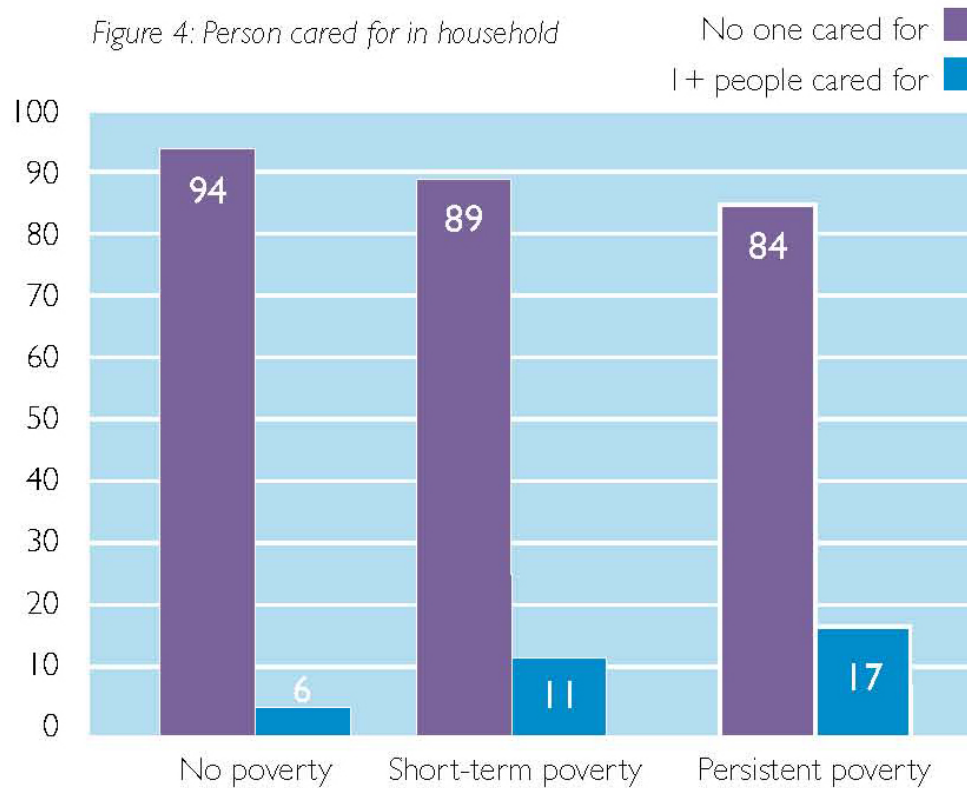
Col%	Types of poverty				
	No poverty	Short-term no severe	Short-term & 1+ severe	Persistent no severe	Persistent & 1+ severe
Couple with children	87	52	83	44	28
Lone parent	14	48	18	56	72
All children	100	100	100	100	100

# Transitions between household types

Table 6: Transitions between household types

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
Always a couple	81	57	26
Always a lone parent	12	28	56
Transitions between couple and lone parent	6	15	18
All children	100	100	100

# Person cared for in household

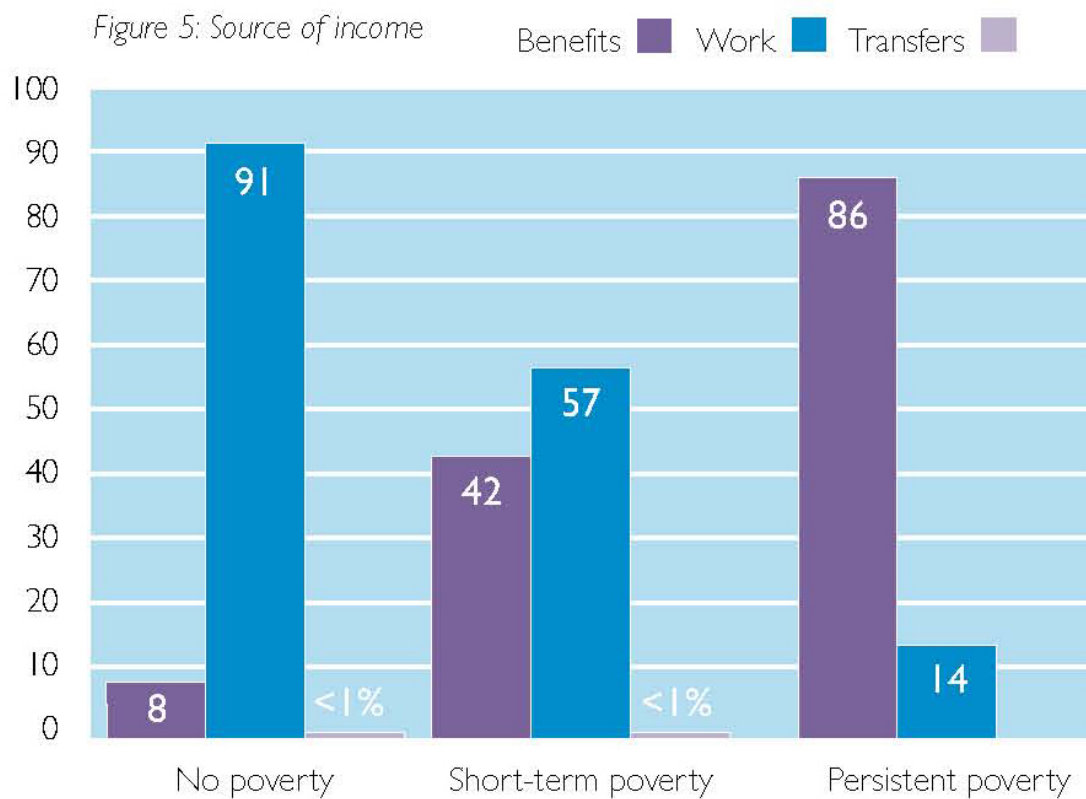


# Person cared for in household & persistent and severe poverty

Table 7: Person cared for in household

Col%	Types of poverty				
	No poverty	Short-term no severe	Short-term & 1+ severe	Persistent no severe	Persistent & 1+ severe
No one cared for	94	84	97	93	77
1+ people cared for	6	16	4	7	23
All children	100	100	100	100	100

# Source of income





# Transitions between sources of income

Table 8: Transitions between the main source of household income

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
Always benefits	5	25	74
Always work/transfers	86	41	5
Benefits to work/transfers	3	12	12
Work/transfers to benefits	3	9	5
2+ transitions	3	13	4
All children	100	100	100

*Note: there were a very small number of families who had income transferred from other sources and these were combined with work as a main source of income here*

# Highest parental educational qualification

Table 9: Highest parental educational qualification

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
Degree	48	16	5
A-level or equivalent	21	11	7
O-level or equivalent	25	52	41
None of these	6	21	47
All children	100	100	100

# Number of children in household

Table 10: Number of children in household

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
1 child	27	13	15
2 children	47	44	32
3 children	19	28	24
4+ children	7	15	29
All children	100	100	100

# Transitions between numbers of children

Table 11: Transitions between numbers of children

Col%	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
No change	85	78	79
Increase	12	19	13
Decrease	2	3	5
Other*	1	1	4
All Children	100	100	100

*\* note this category included those children who lived in families where an increase and a decrease was experienced over the four year period and also a small number of young people who moved from their family home to independent living*

# Mental health and wellbeing

- NIHPS uses the GHQ12
- Scores run from 0 to 36 with higher mean scores indicating poorer mental health
- Previous research has shown link between poverty and mental health
- Previous research has shown that females have higher scores than males

# Parents' average GHQ12 score over four years

Table 12: Parents' average GHQ12 score over four years

Average GHQ12 score	Type of poverty		
	No poverty	Short-term poverty	Persistent poverty
Mothers	11.36	12.92	14.08
Fathers	10.14	11.23	11.78

# Conclusions

- Point in time measurement v dynamic analysis
- Exit from poverty – do current policies sustain an exit?
- Prevention from entering poverty – supports if employment loss, increasing family size, family breakdown
- Persistent poverty – to what extent do real opportunities exist for families? What barriers are there and where are opportunities lacking?
- Need to better understand persistence in Northern Ireland

# Key Findings



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