

INRICH 6th Annual Workshop

**The effects of the economic crisis on child health
in a welfare policy perspective:
the case of Spain**

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chess

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Equity Studies

INRICH

International Network
for Research on Inequalities
in Child Health

Contents

- ✓ The economic crisis in Catalonia and Spain and a summary of austerity measures taken by governments
- ✓ Impact on poverty, material deprivation, and social determinants among children
- ✓ Impact on health and well-being: general population and vulnerable groups
- ✓ Comments / limitations /conclusions

Source of data

- ✓ Socioeconomic data: Eurostat, Spanish and Catalan Institutes of Statistics, NGOs
- ✓ Use of services and health status: Spanish Health Interview Survey 2006-2012 /Catalan Health Interview Survey 2006 and 2010-12
- ✓ Vulnerable groups: European project SOPHIE “Evaluating the Impact of Structural Policies on Health Inequalities” EU Seventh Framework Programme

3rd wave- Unequal recovery

- growth is back to trend but some areas not recovering
- unemployment starts to fall
- structural reforms remain

Some areas recover quickly but others have long term problems

Long term unemployment
Poverty becomes chronic on vulnerable groups

2nd wave- Social impact

- slow growth return?
- unemployment rises and stays high
- contra-structurals reforms

Mental health problems
Probable increase of suicides

Increase suicide attempts
Increase family stress

Physical problems
Long term ill-health and chronic conditions

Benefit dependency

Lack of aspirations

Impact on child nutrition

Increase alcoholism and addictions

Increase domestic violence and criminality?

1st wave – Economic impact

- negative growth
- rising unemployment
- starting austerity policy

Firm closure

↓ property development /construction

Fall in property prices

Housing losses-evictions

Job losses

Reducing household income

Budget cuts

Health exclusion ↑ copayments

Increase waiting list

↑↑ social inequalities

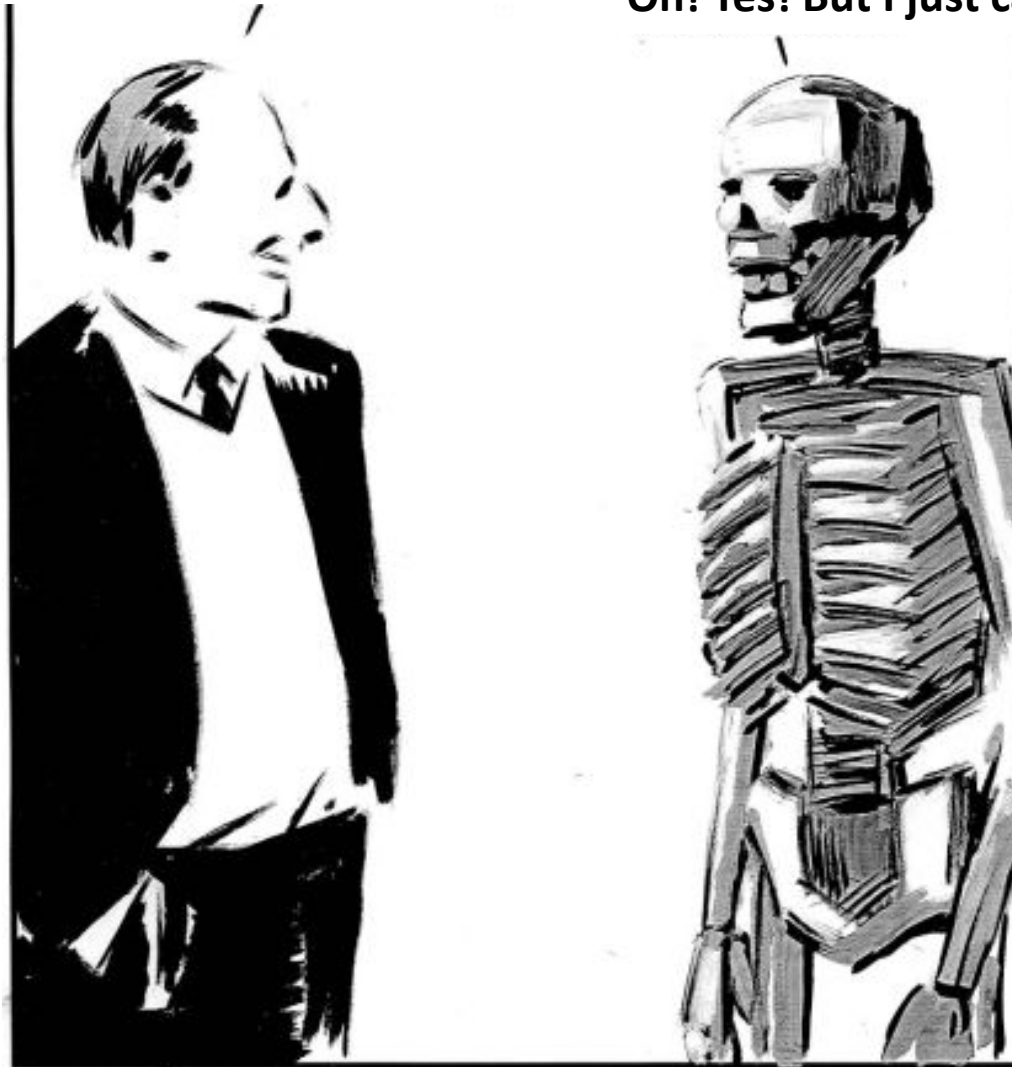
↑↑ Vulnerable groups (migrants, unemployed, children, etc)

↑↑ NEETs

RECESSION

**Cheer up, man, that we have emerged
from the crisis!**

Oh! Yes! But I just can't do it



Source: El Roto;
El Pais, 03/11/2014

Austerity measures taken by the Spanish (and Catalan) governments

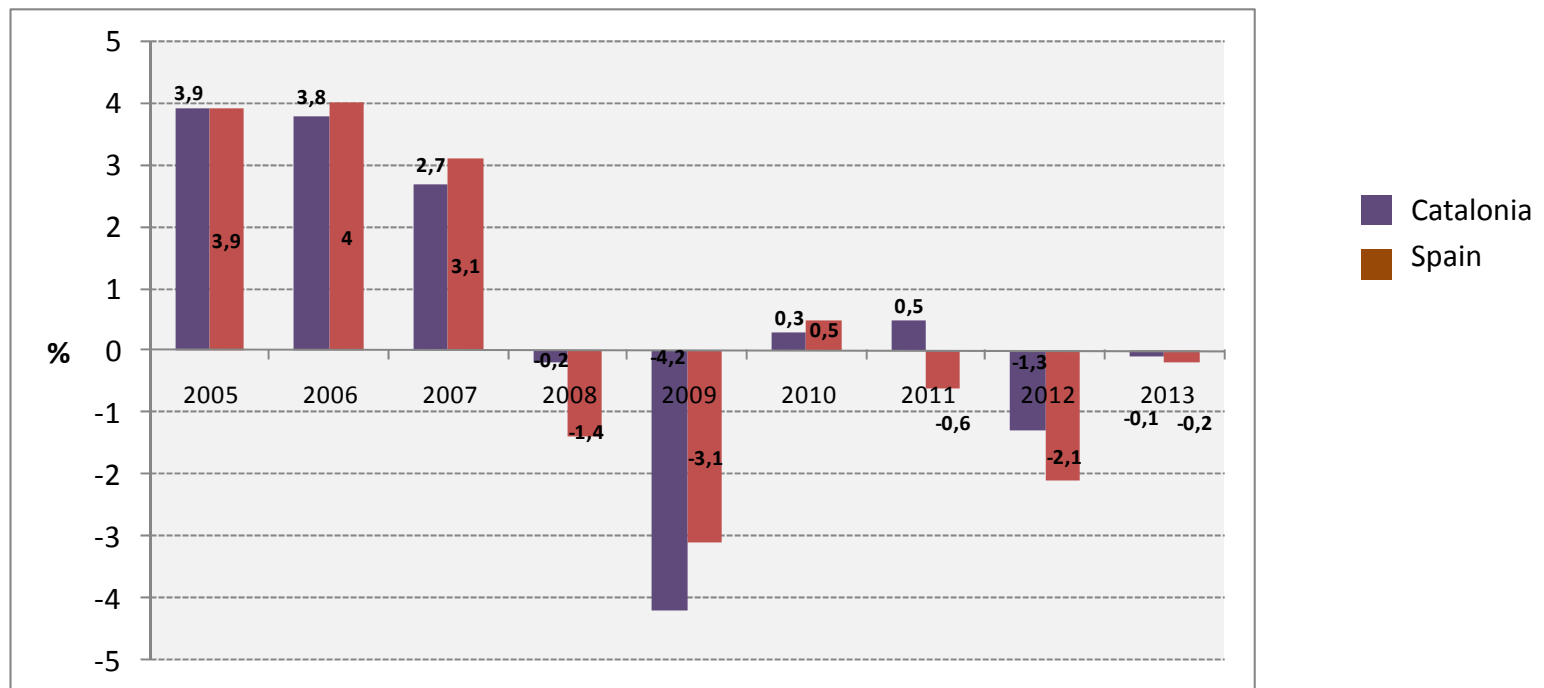
- ✓ Work force: facilitate and cheapen dismissal /promote work precariousness
- ✓ Other factors that increased previous inequalities: foreclosures, even after evictions families continue to have debt to banks (even worse: rescued banks are actively making evictions)
- ✓ Increasing VAT (not progressive VAT- affects more people in the lower level of income more than rich people)
- ✓ April 2012 (by a decree law): change the previous NHS model with universal healthcare coverage to (old-previous) Social Security System. Exclusion of irregular immigrants and barriers to some other specific groups
- ✓ Introduction (or increase) copayments (drugs, sanitary transport,...)
- ✓ Budget cuts mainly on public services plus privatization of service provision (progressive incorporation of for-profit companies on public healthcare area)

Gross National Product (GNP)

Catalonia and Spain

2005-2013

Annual variation

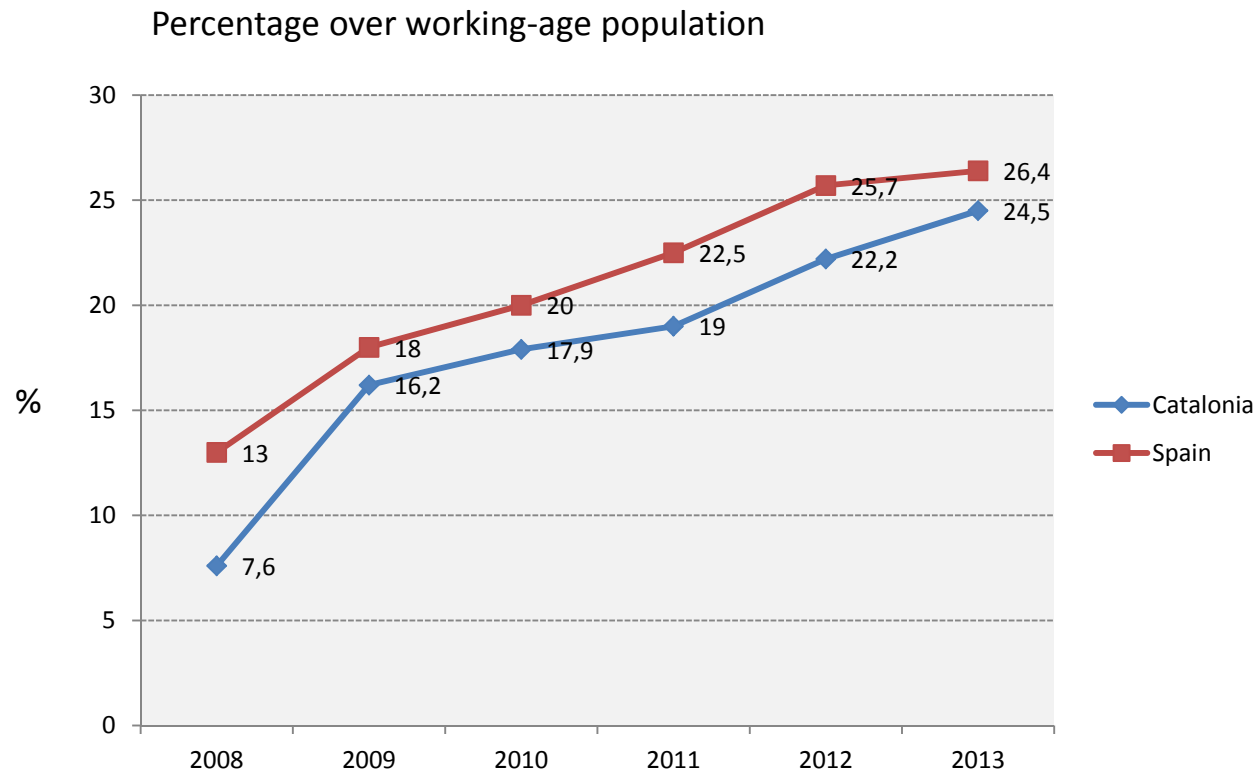


Source : Idescat and *Instituto Nacional de Estadística* (INE)

Unemployment rates

Catalonia and Spain

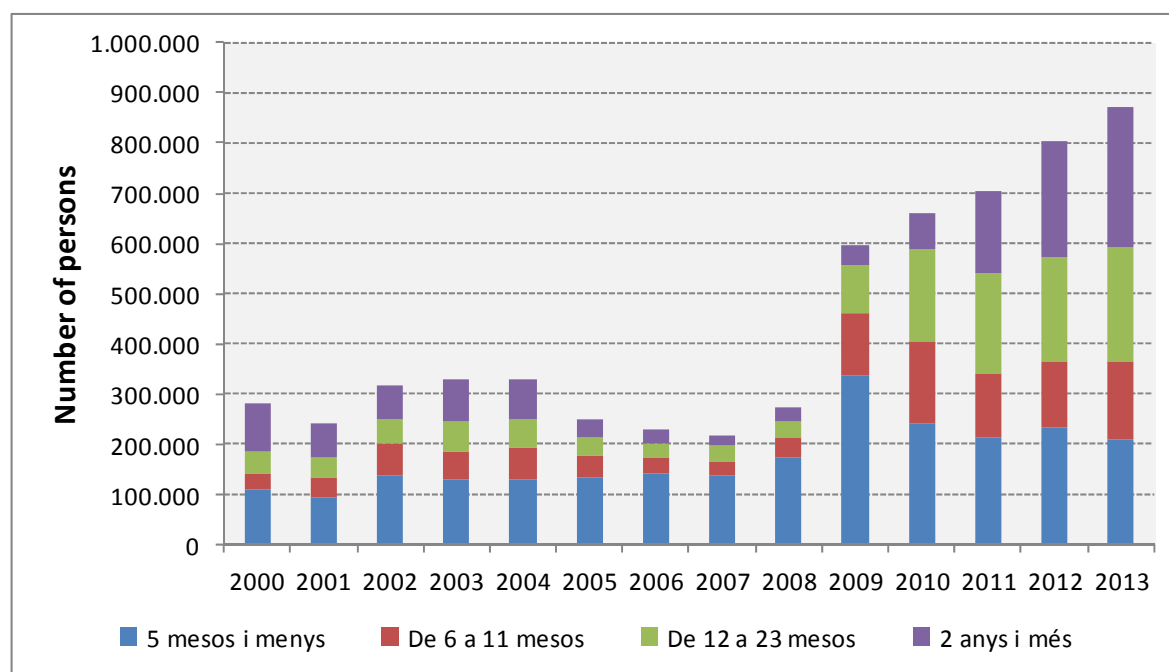
2008-2013



Source : Idescat

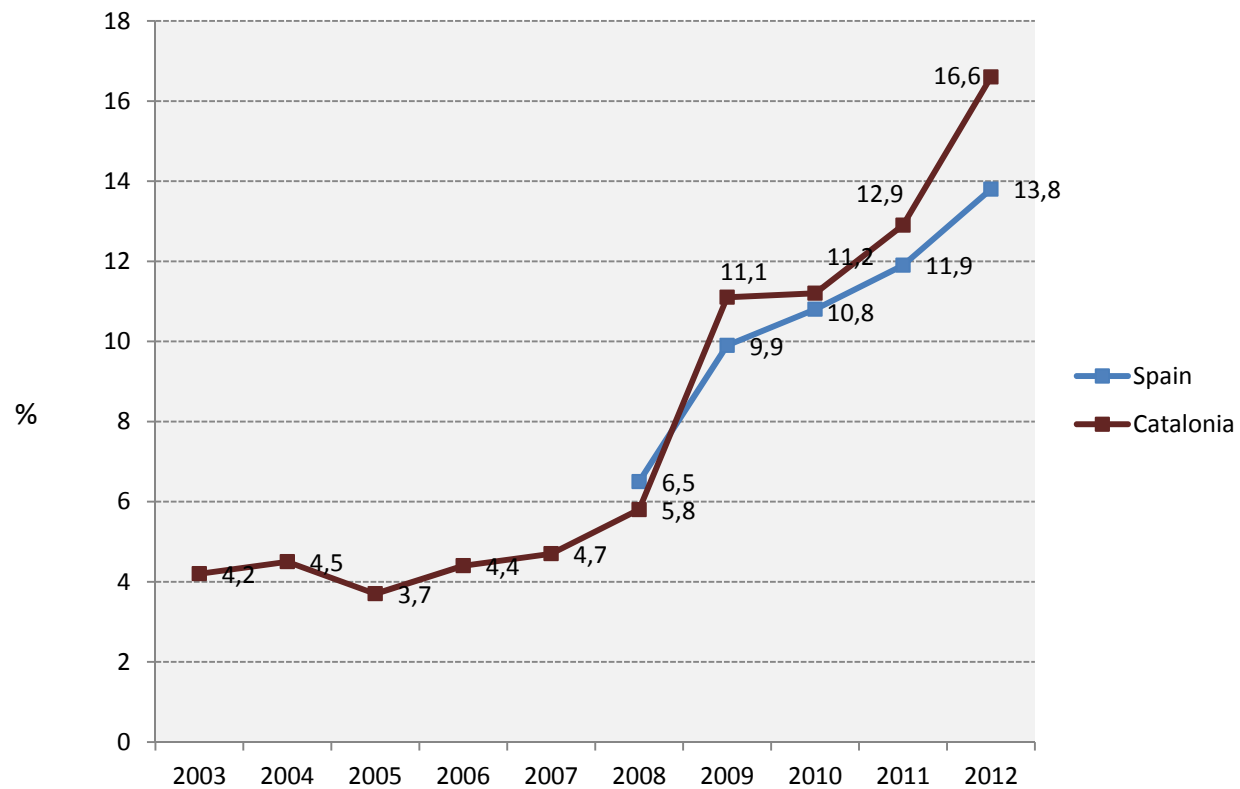
Number of unemployed persons according to time in unemployment

Catalonia 2008-2013



Source: Idescat

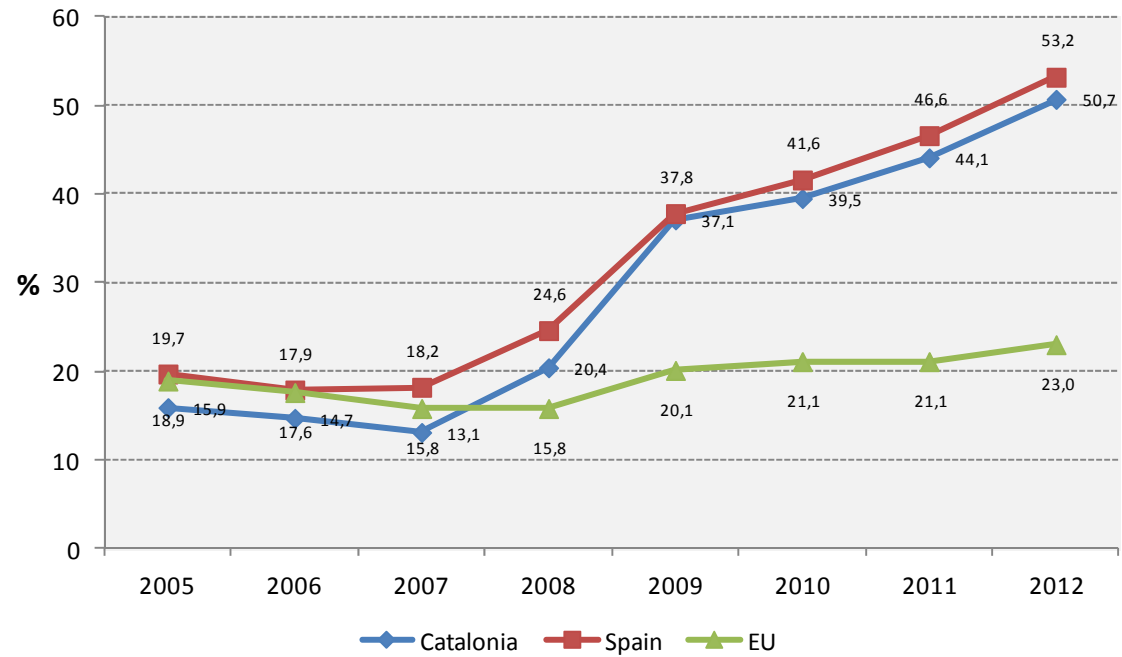
Percentages of 0-17y living in unemployed families Catalonia and Spain 2003-2012



Source: National Institute of Statistics and IDESCAT <http://www.idescat.cat/cat> 2013

Unemployment rates. Population <25y

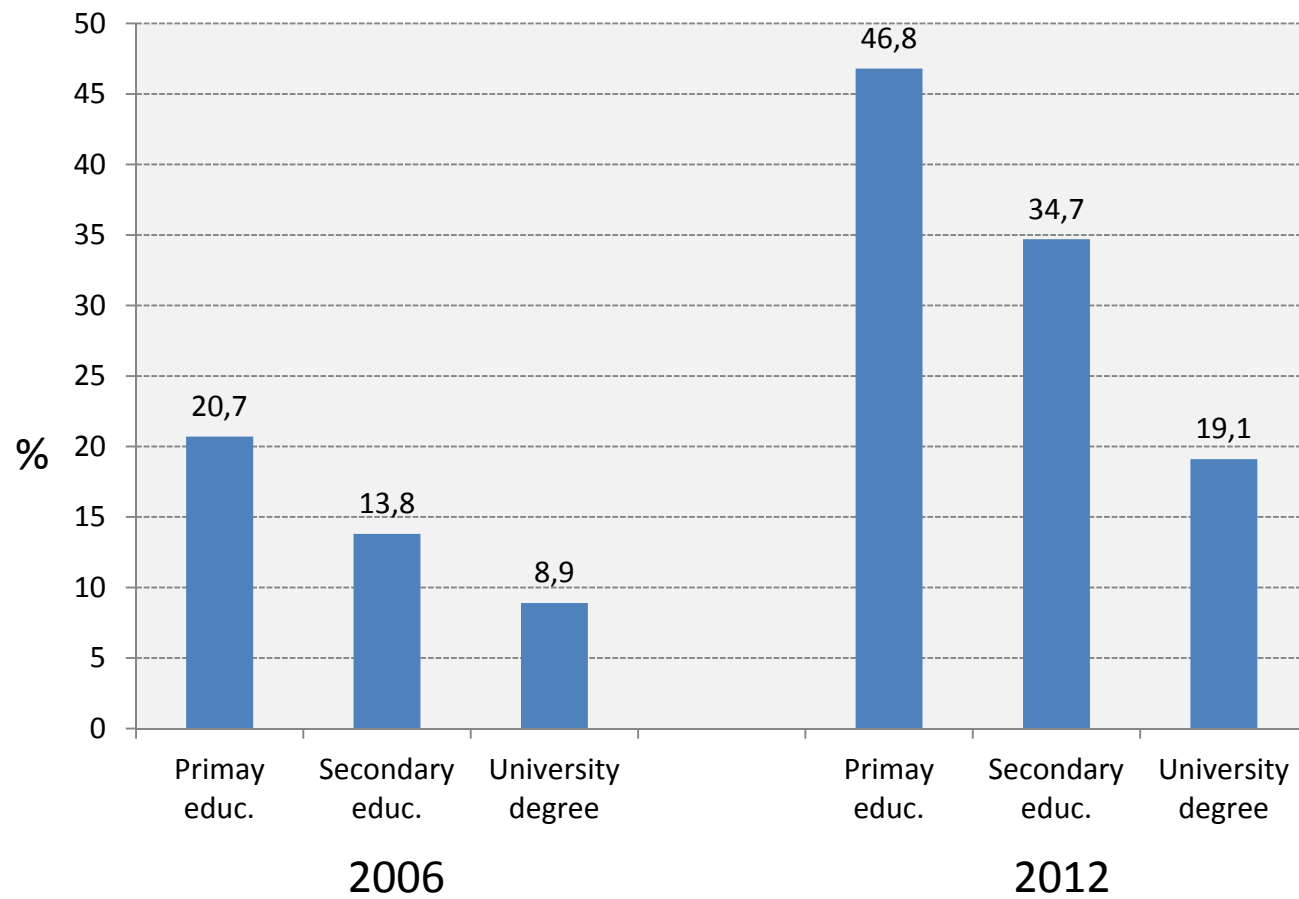
Catalonia, Spain and the European Union
2005-2013



Source: Eurostat

Percentages of families with at least one unemployed member according to the highest family education level

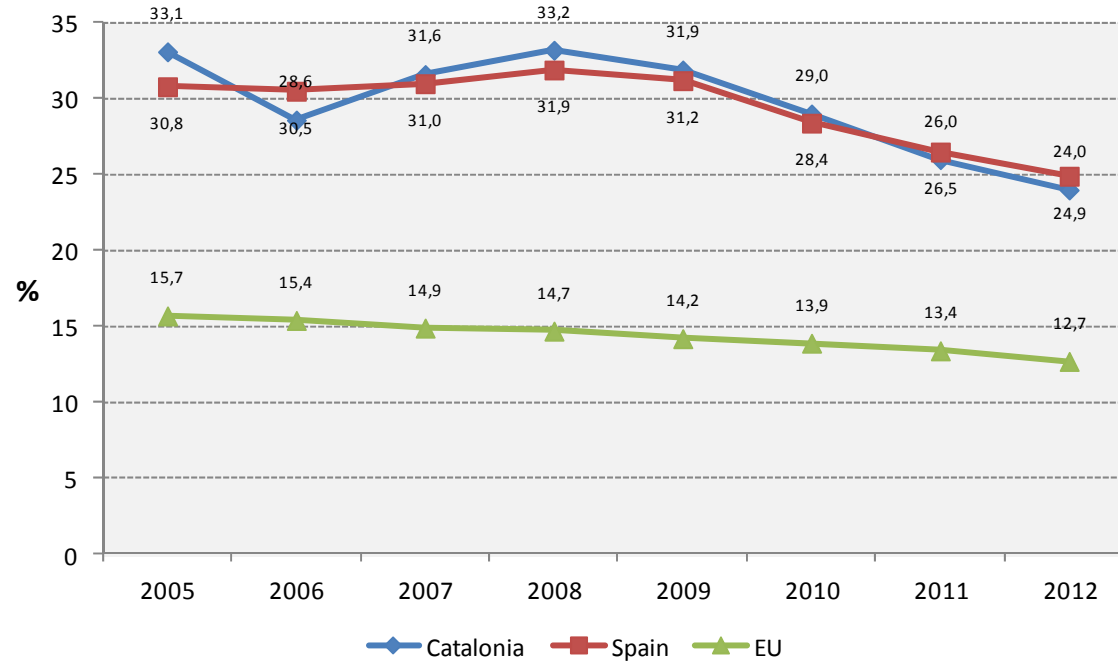
Spanish health interview survey 2006-2012 / children <15y



Source: INE

School leavers

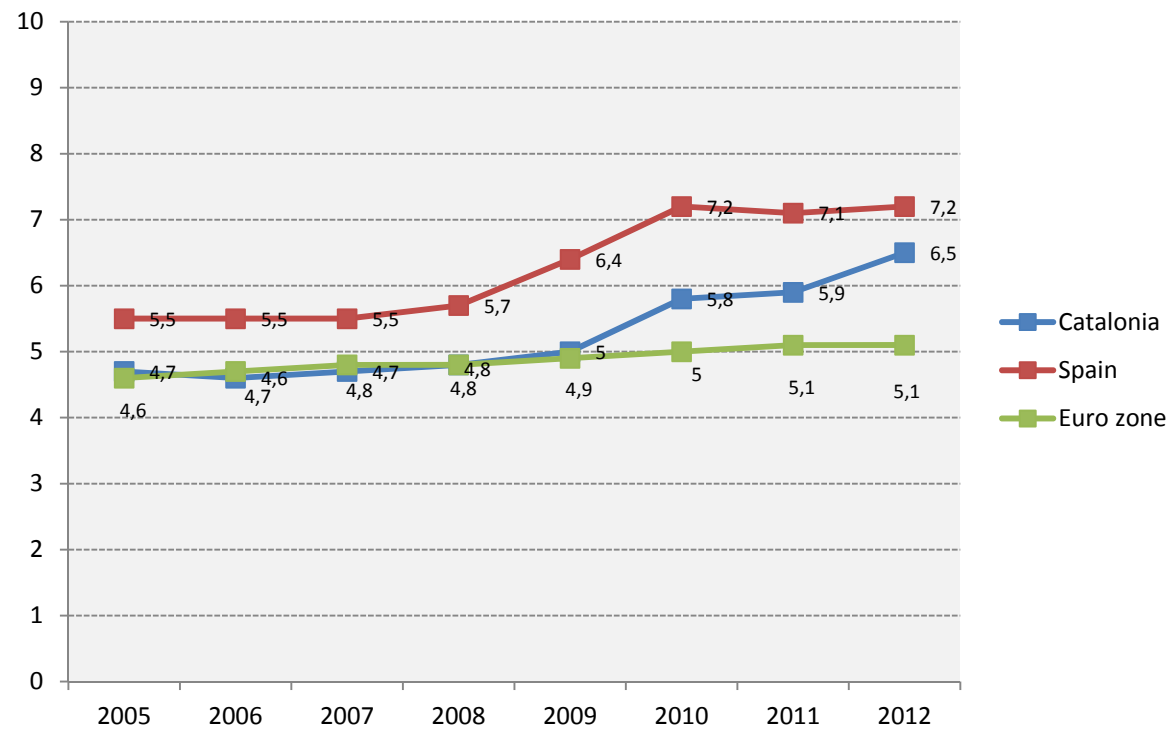
Catalonia, Spain and European Union 2005-2012



Source: Eurostat

Income inequalities (S80/20)

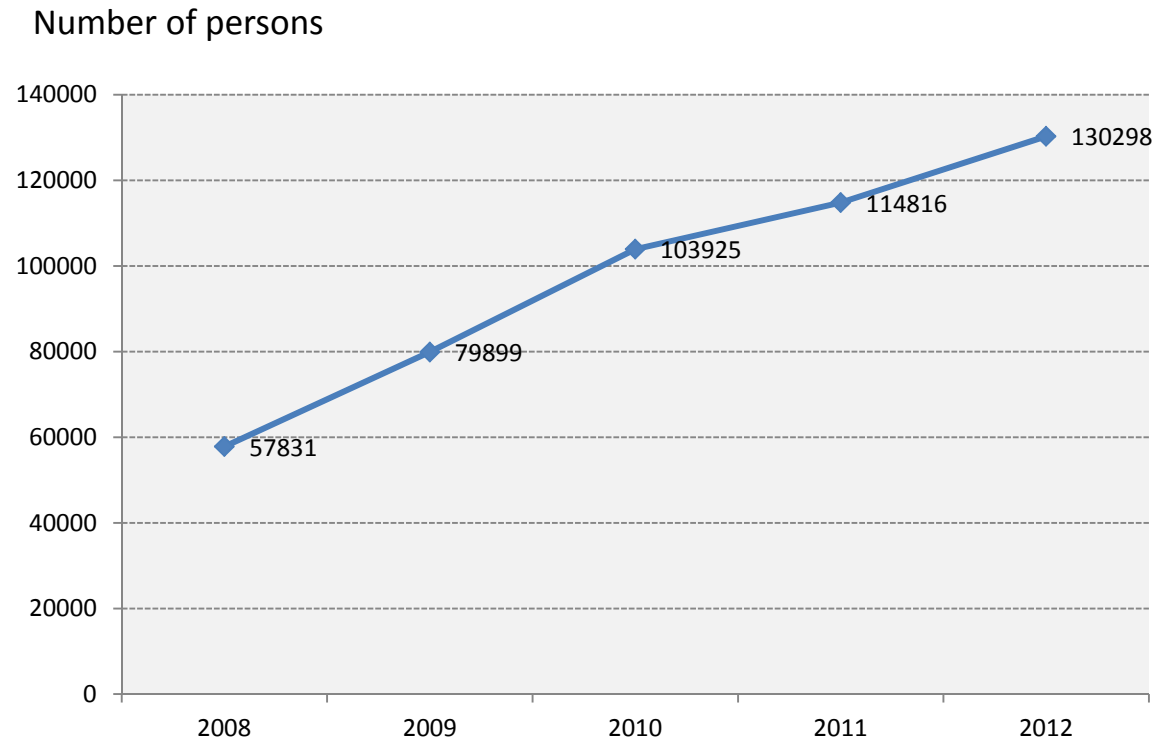
Catalonia, Spain, Euro zone 2005-2012



Source: Eurostat

Number of persons seeking help from food banks

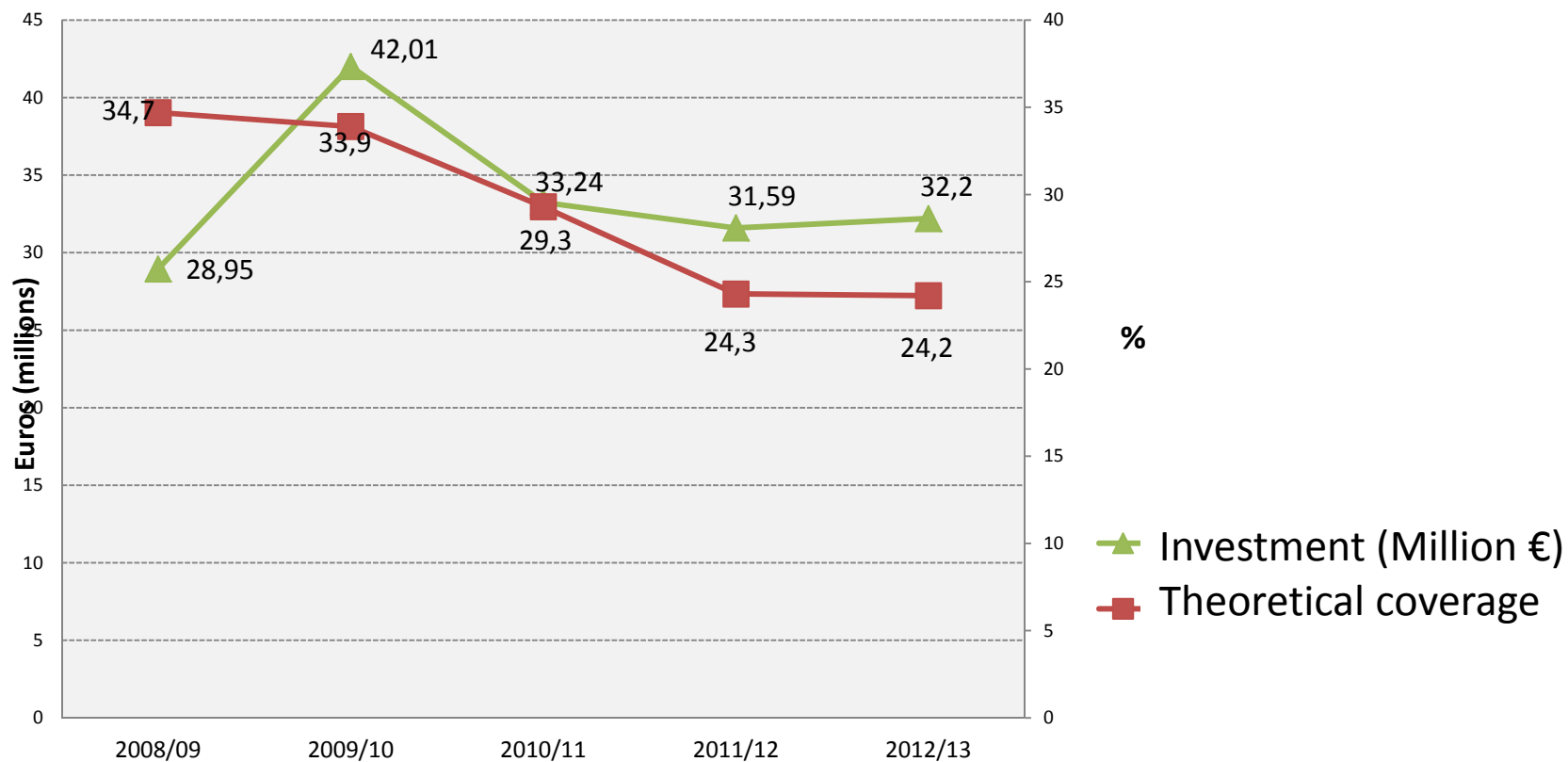
2008-2012



Source: Food Bank Foundation. Barcelona, report 2013

Theoretical food stamp coverage according to the risk of poverty

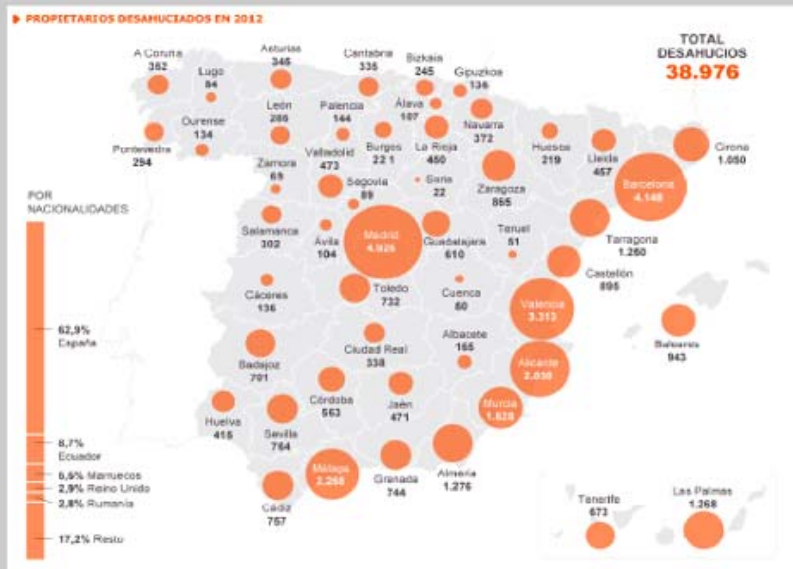
Academic courses 2008/9 – 2012/13. Catalonia



Source: Ombudsman report 2013. (EU-SILC) and Department of Education

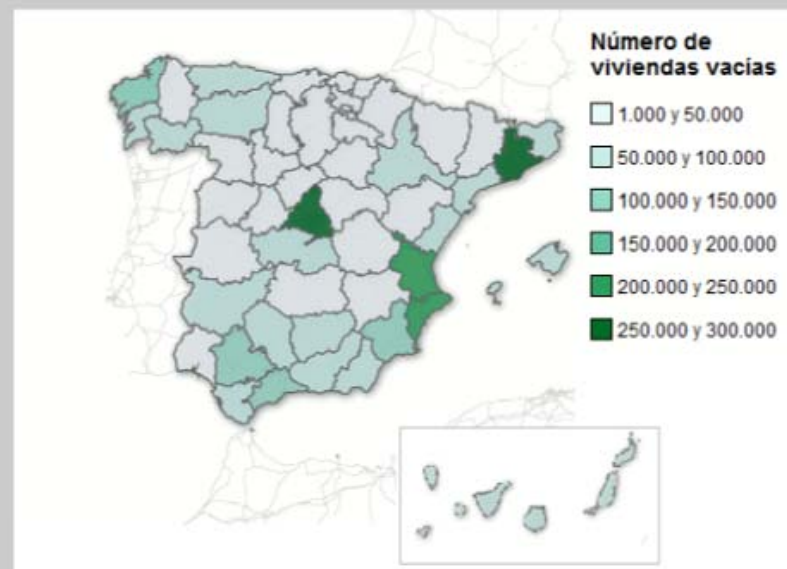
People without houses, houses without people

People without houses



FUENTE: EL PAÍS (15/03/2013)

Empty houses



DATOS: INE Censo de Población y Vivienda
GRÁFICO: Antonio Delgado (@adelgado)

It looks like the same picture but it isn't

People without houses, houses without people

✓ Since the start of the crisis, there have been 500,000 foreclosures, 184 evictions per day, and the situation of hundreds of thousands of families is critical. Many lives are at stake.

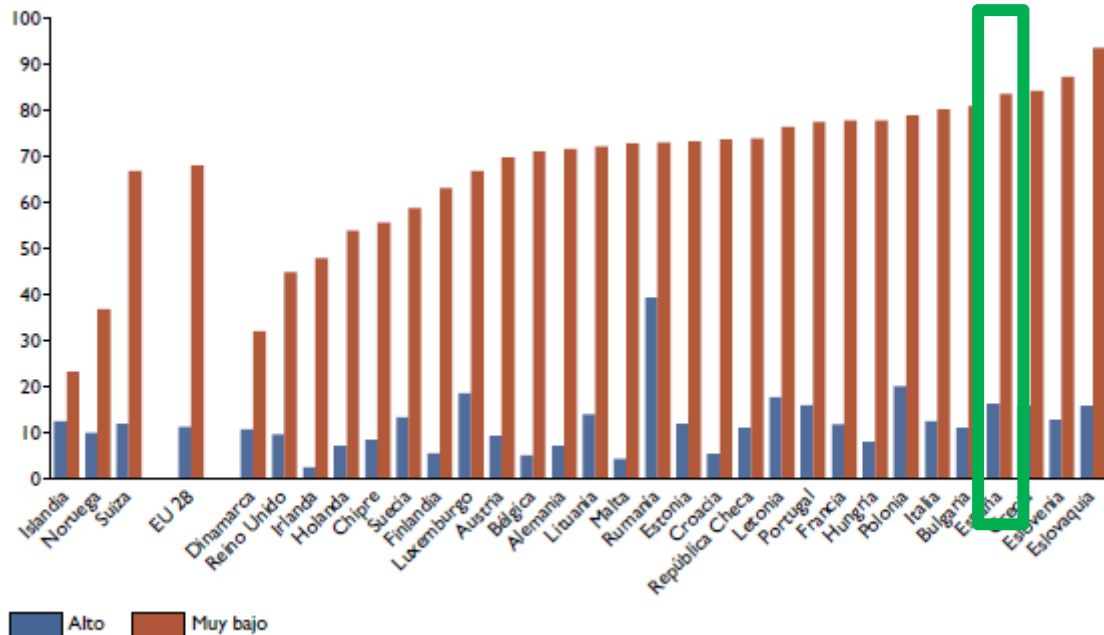
✓ There were 50000 evictions in 2013



Child poverty and social exclusion in Europe



Children at risk of poverty according to household work intensity



Fuente: EU-SILC 2013 (Extraído Enero 2014) – Datos de Irlanda referidos al 2011.
 Riesgo de pobreza referido únicamente al porcentaje de niños que viven en hogares con ingresos disponibles por debajo del 60% de la media nacional.

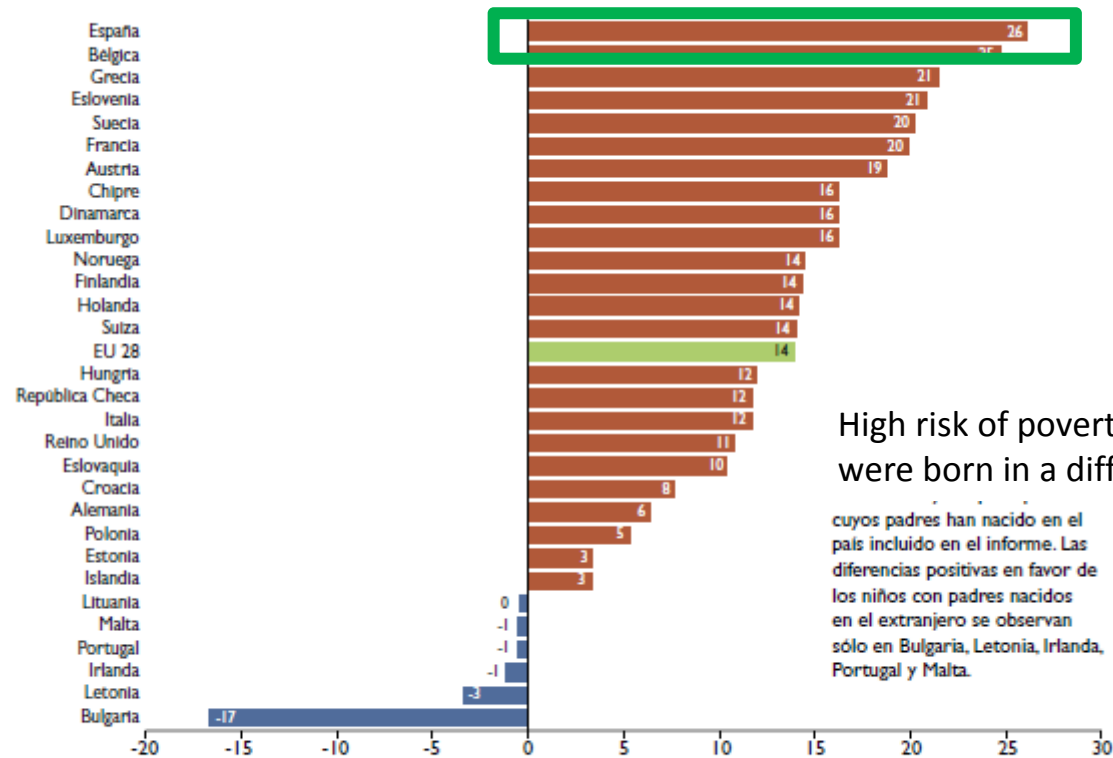
Risk of poverty according to household work intensity

Publicado por:
 Save the Children
 Rue du Trône 60
 1050 Bruselas
 Bélgica

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 © Save the Children 2014

Differences on the risk of poverty according to parental country of birth (foreigners vs natives)

Differences on the risk of poverty according to the country of birth of parents



High risk of poverty when parents were born in a different country

cuyos padres han nacido en el país incluido en el informe. Las diferencias positivas en favor de los niños con padres nacidos sólo en el extranjero se observan sólo en Bulgaria, Letonia, Irlanda, Portugal y Malta.

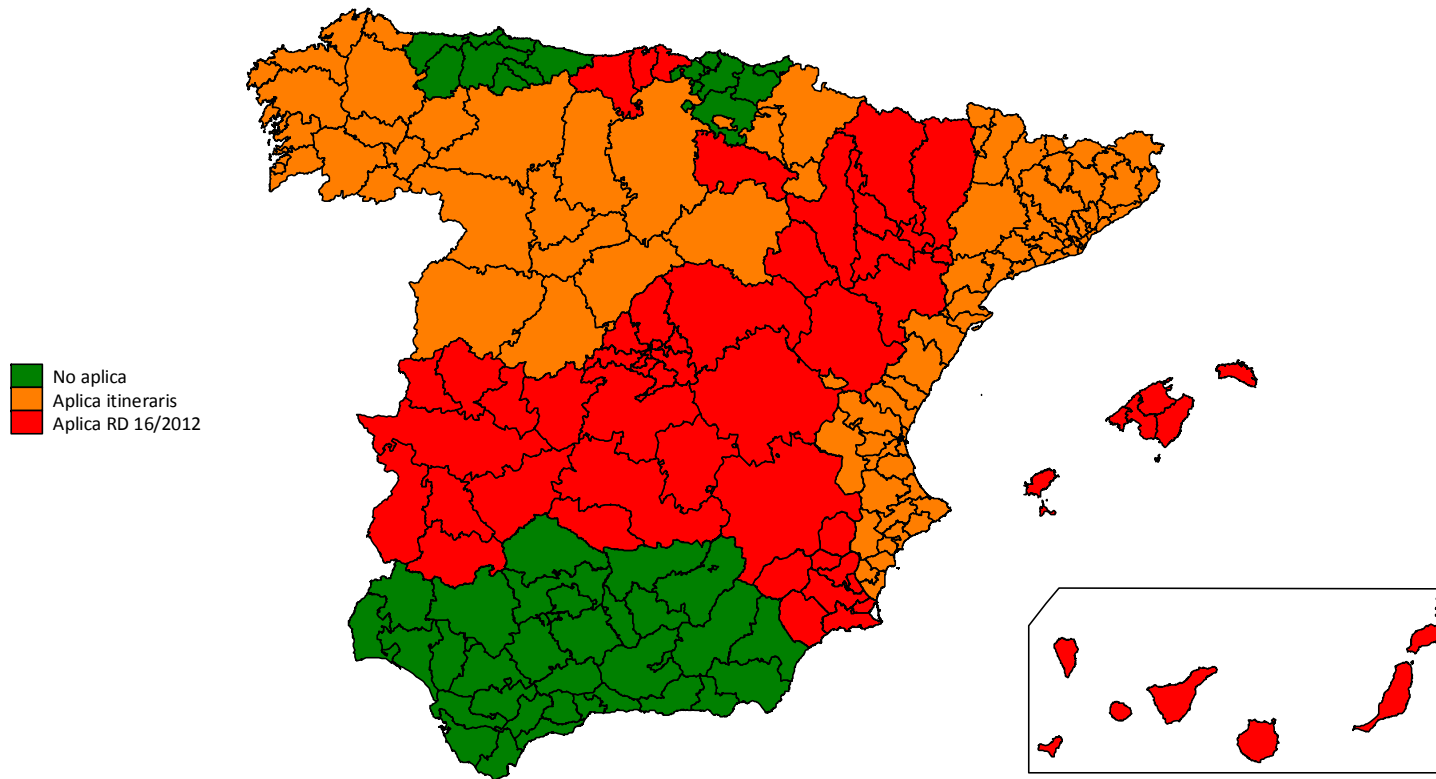
Fuente: EU-SILC 2013 (Extraído Enero 2014) – Datos de Rumania no disponibles / Datos de Bulgaria e Irlanda referidos al 2011. Riesgo de pobreza referido únicamente al porcentaje de niños que viven en hogares con ingresos disponibles por debajo del 60% de la media nacional.

**A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS AND AUSTERITY ON PEOPLE,
WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON
GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN**

A Caritas Report prepared by Social Justice Ireland
Ann Leahy, Seán Healy, and Michelle Murphy

Social Justice Ireland wishes to specially acknowledge the assistance it received from Caritas member organisations in Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain in the preparation of this study. The Trojan work they are doing in their countries in responding to this current crisis is clear to be seen in the following pages.

Variability on the application of the Decree law April/2012 of healthcare exclusion

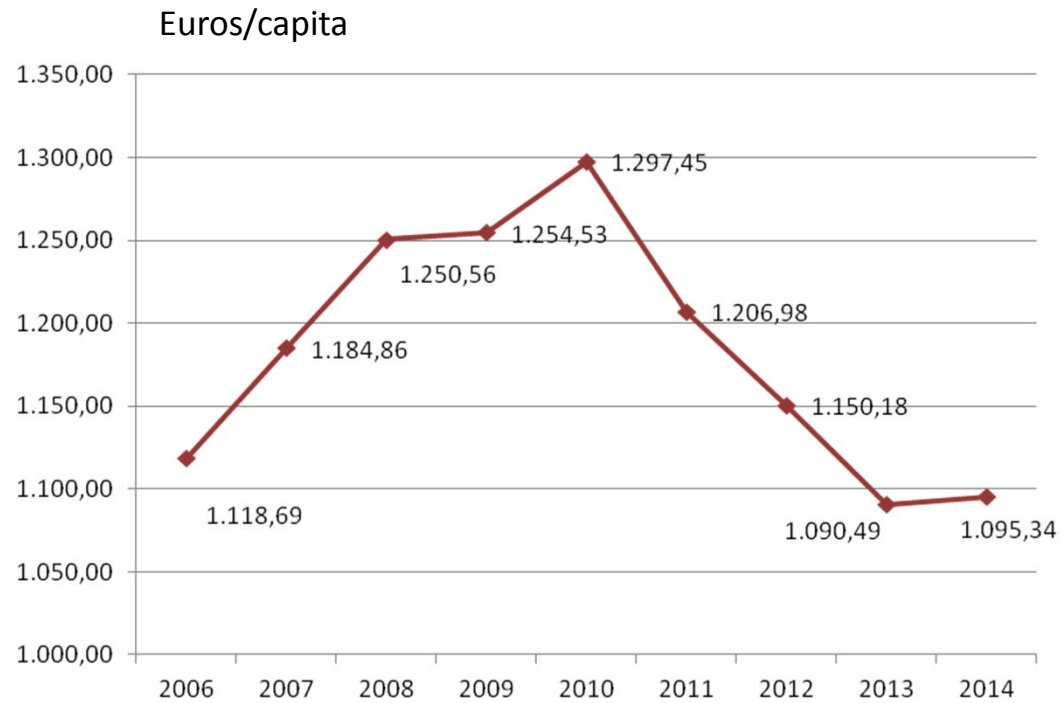


Structural changes to the healthcare system

- ✓ In theory children population have free access to the full healthcare system but a high variability exist in the application of rules at local level
- ✓ 53.000 persons in Catalonia have no access to healthcare according to a recent report

Catalan healthcare budget

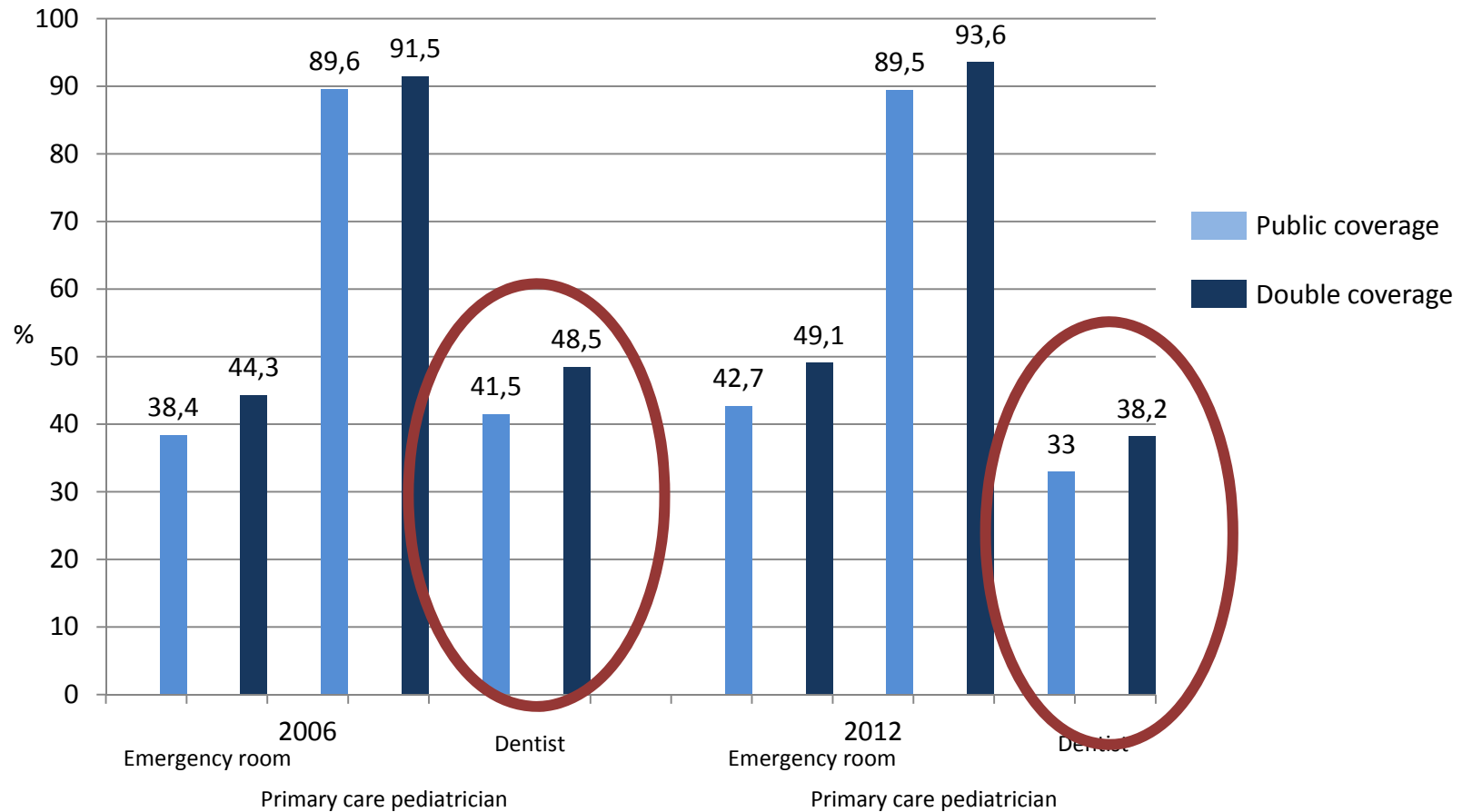
Catalonia 2006-2014



Source: CatSalut, Dt de Salut 2014

Use of healthcare services

Catalan health interview survey 2006- 2010/12



Visits to the dentist

Source : Catalan Health Interview Survey, Health Dt

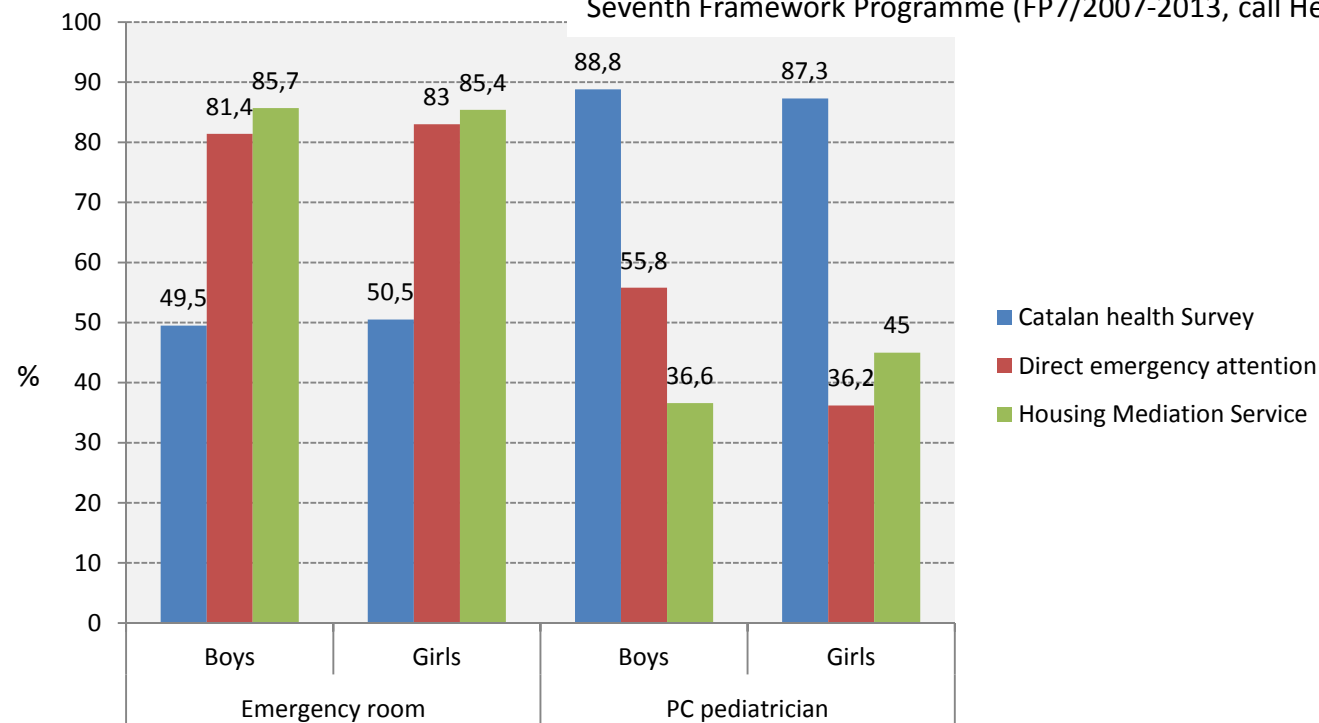
Healthcare service use in vulnerable population

Catalan Health Interview Survey 2010-12 and “Health and housing in vulnerable population (SOPHIE -Càritas)”

Case study on the effects of a rehousing program on the health of deprived families

Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013, call Health-2011)

N= 177 children 4-14y from Barcelona



Emergency and pediatric visits, last 12 months

Source : Novoa A, et al. 2013; Enquesta de salut de Catalunya, Dt de salut

Has there been a trend to deterioration in specific measures of health & well-being?

BMJ
open

Impact of the economic crisis on children's health in Catalonia: a before–after approach

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To analyse changes in the family living conditions of children in Catalonia between 2006 and the 2010–2012 period, and to study associations between these changes and health outcomes.

Design: A before–after analysis of two cross-sectional surveys.

Setting: Population younger than 15 years of age from Catalonia, Spain.

Participants: Representative samples of children in the 2006 Catalan Health Survey (ESCA), baseline, before the crisis; n=2200) and the first four waves of ESCA 2010–2012 (after start of the crisis, n=1967).

Main outcome measures: Overweight/obesity, health behaviour, mental health and health-related quality of life (HRQOL). Logistic regression and multiple linear regression models were used to analyse the influence of changes in family conditions on outcome measures, including interaction terms to describe the potential influence of the study period on the results.

Results: The percentage of unemployed families rose from 9.1% (2006) to 20.6% (2010–2012), with inequalities by level of education. Overweight/obesity increased from 18.4% (95% CI 16.5% to 20.4%) to 26.9% (24.6% to 29.2%) in 2010–2012, and inequalities related to maternal education and employment status persisted. Eating habits have improved in 2010–2012 in disadvantaged families (ie, junk food consumption improved in families with a maternal primary education level; beta (B)=2.85; 0.83 to 4.88, for the survey interaction by primary education level). An improvement in HRQOL was found in the second survey (B=6.07; 4.15 to 7.99), although children whose mothers had a primary education showed poorer HRQOL scores in this survey than in 2006 (B=−4.14; −7.17 to −1.12).

Conclusions: Although some health-related behaviour improved during the study period, childhood obesity increased and inequalities in HRQOL appeared. Policy measures that fight against these inequalities should be urgently implemented to avoid their negative impact on the health of future generations of Catalans.

ARTICLE SUMMARY

Article focus

- The current economic and financial crises have worsened the living conditions of children in Catalonia, Spain, comparing the 2006 and 2010–2012 periods.
- Worsening of socioeconomic conditions associated with the crisis would more specifically affect the children of disadvantaged families.
- An increase in unhealthy behaviour and in the inequalities related to obesity and mental health could also be expected.

Key messages

- An increase in social inequalities has occurred in Catalonia, with higher levels of unemployment in families with lower levels of education.
- Although some health-related behaviour improved in the overall population in the period studied, disparities in childhood obesity remained and inequalities in health-related quality of life appeared according to the level of education.

Strengths and limitations of this study

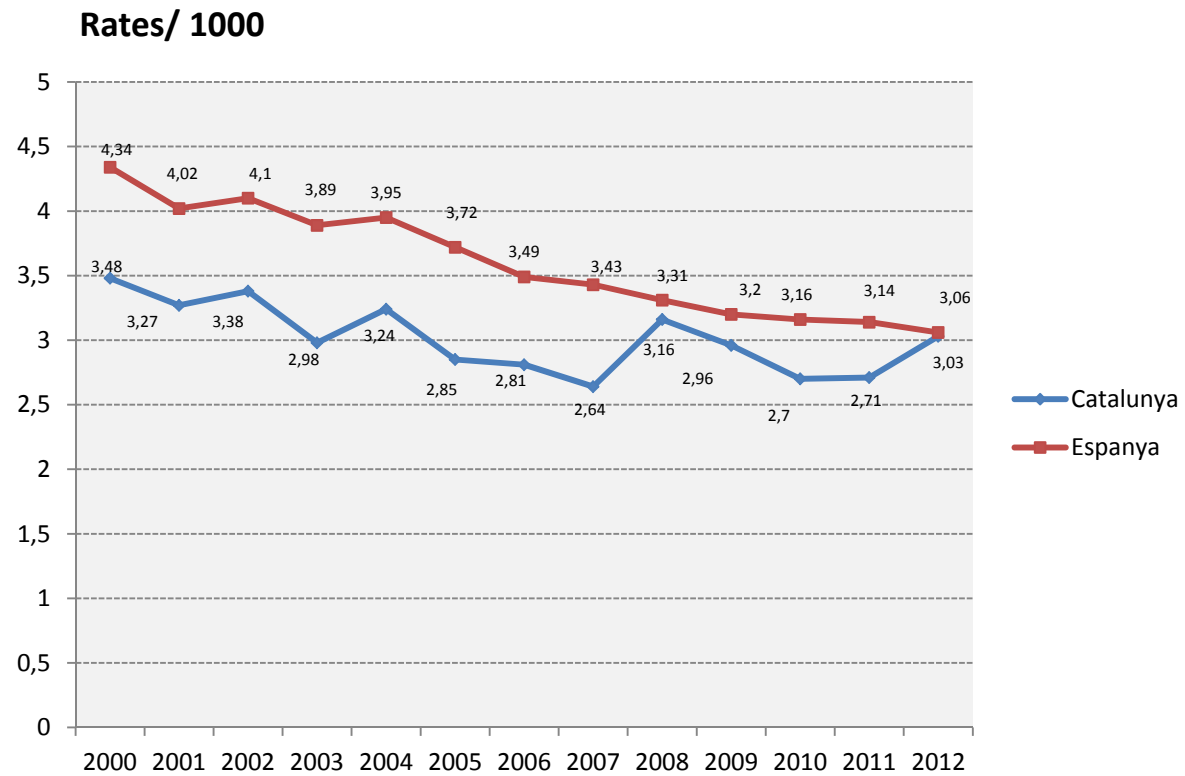
- The content of the questionnaire was similar in both surveys; the data are consistent and have proven to be valid and useful to analyse the impact of the crisis on child health.
- It is not possible to directly attribute changes found in the present study to the impact of the crisis. Nevertheless, it is clear that children's living conditions have worsened in this 6-year study period, and this change has had an impact on their health.
- The sample in the 2010–2012 Catalan Health Interview Survey was slightly younger and with a higher maternal education level than the 2006 sample. However, these differences may mask even greater disparities.

INTRODUCTION

The current economic and financial crisis has affected the whole of Europe's economy, although the impact in each country depends on the starting point, mechanisms of social protection and social transfers and the measures governments have adopted to fight the crisis.

Infant mortality

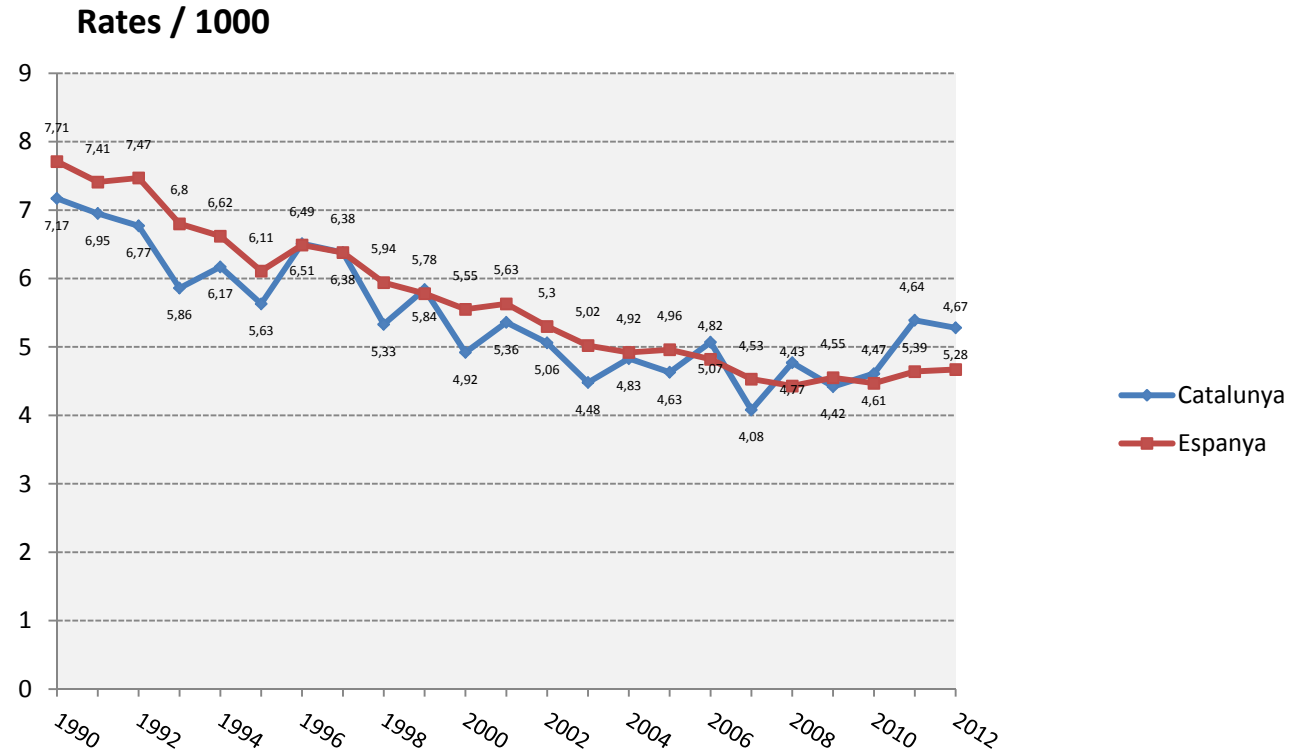
Catalonia and Spain 2000– 2012



Source INE

Perinatal mortality

Catalonia and Spain 1990– 2012



Source: Idescat

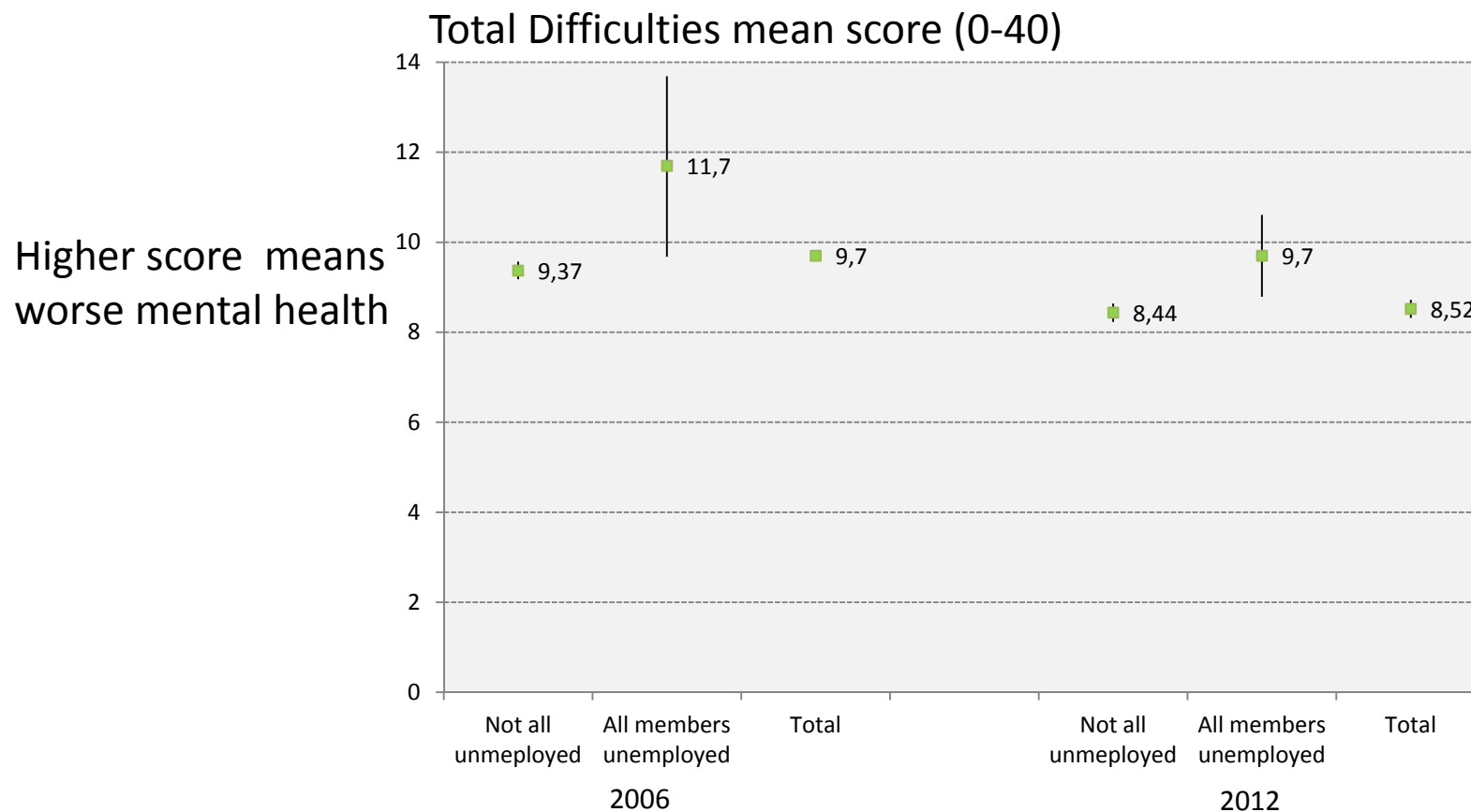
Health-related behaviors – comparison 2006 and 2012

Spanish health interview survey 2006- 12 (data from proxy-respondents)

- ✓ No significant changes were found on health-related behaviors such as daily fruit consumption, junk food consumption, physical activities or sedentary habits analyzing the whole population
- ✓ No valid data was collected to analyze obesity trends (too missing values)
- ✓ Percentages of fair-poor perceived health diminished from 11% in 2006 to 6% in 2012

Mental health (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, SDQ)

Spanish health interview survey 2006- 12 (proxy version) 4-14y



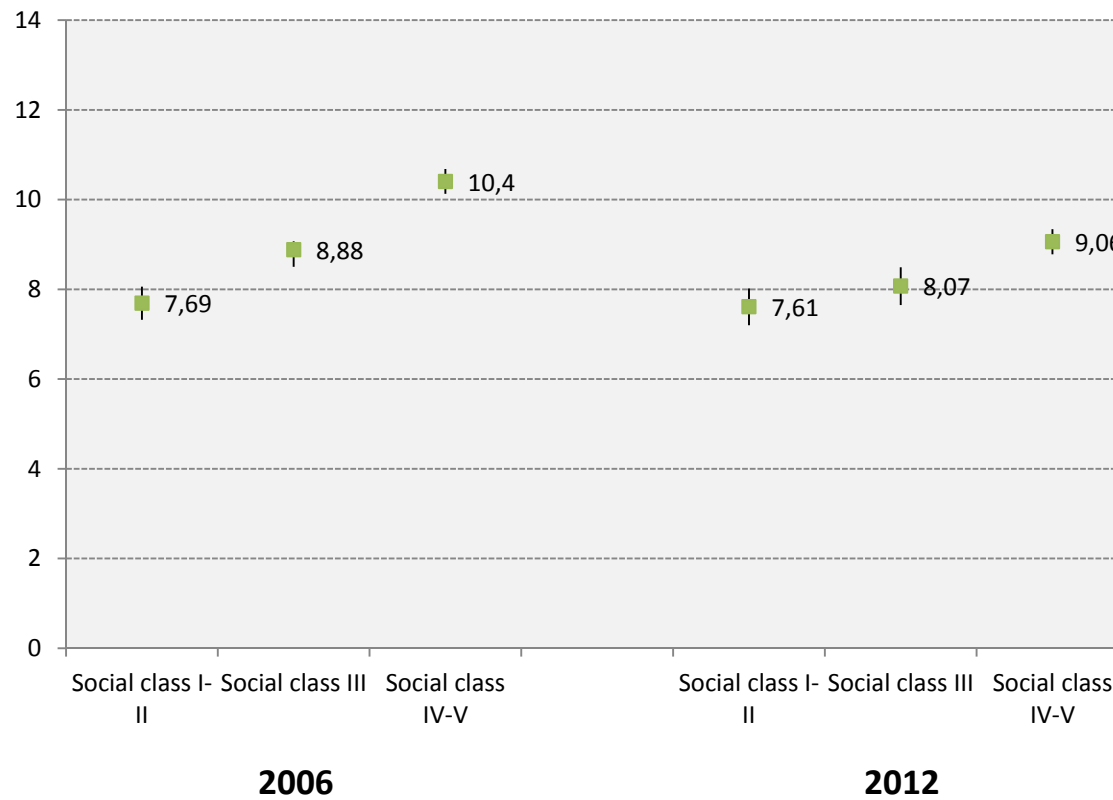
Source: Spanish Health Interview Survey

Mental health (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, SDQ)

Spanish health interview survey 2006- 12 (proxy version) 4-14y

Total Difficulties mean score (0-40)

Higher score means worse mental health

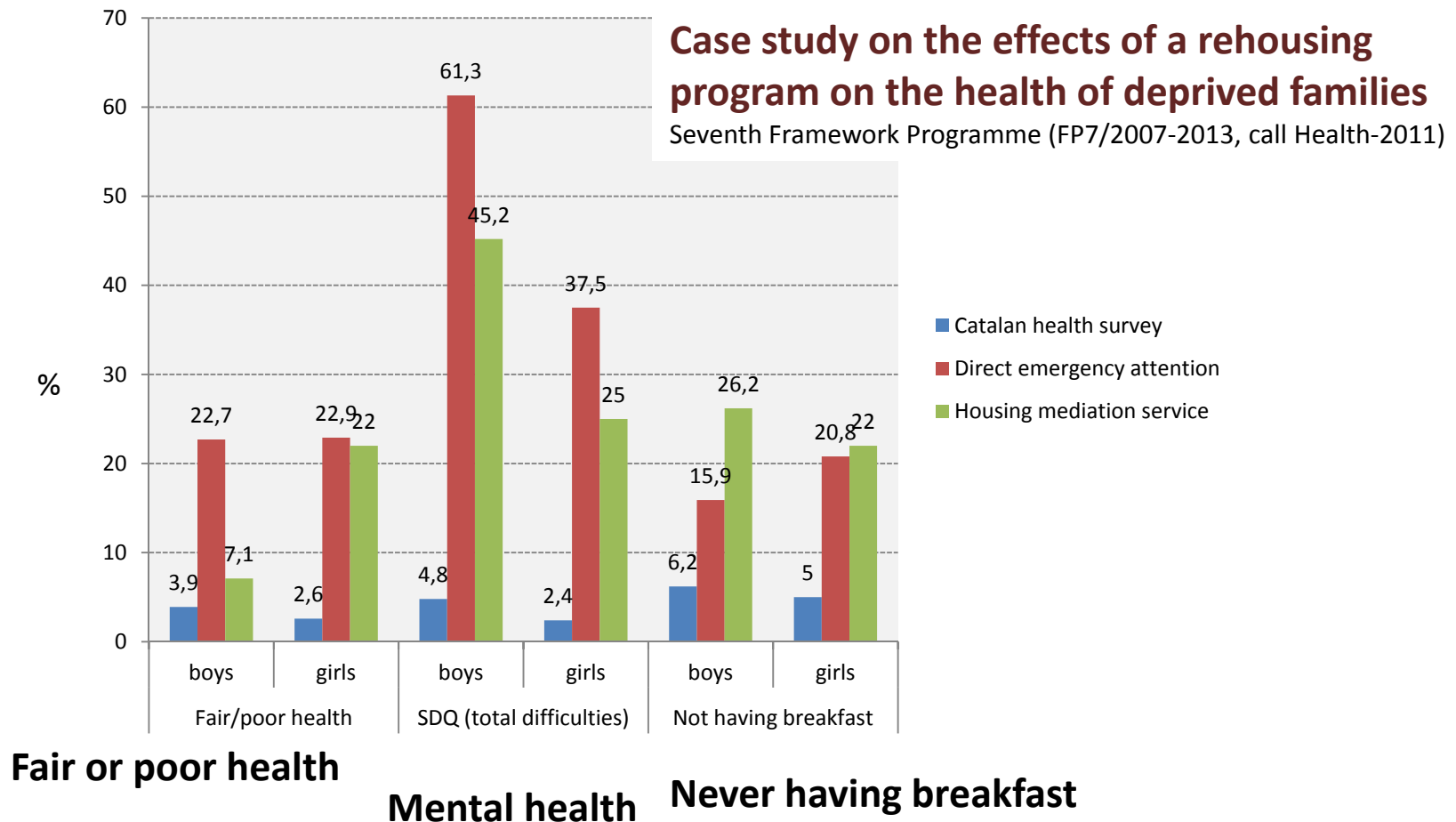


Source: Spanish Health Interview Survey

Comparisons with vulnerable childhood population

Catalan Health Interview Survey 2010-12 and "Health and housing in vulnerable population (SOPHIE -Càritas)"

N= 177 children 4-14y from Barcelona



Source: Novoa A, et al. 2013; Enquesta de salut de Catalunya, Dt de salut

Limitations

- ✓ Several sources of data on economic indicators are available but a lack of updated and specific data on health outcomes
- ✓ Difficulties to establish association between exposure and the outcomes
- ✓ Many studies are looking at averages in the general population (trends)
- ✓ Lack of specific data and studies analysing impact on child health

Conclusions

✓ The recession has caused great impact on the social determinants of child health:

Rising unemployment and especially youth unemployment

Increase in long-term unemployment

Worsening working conditions, precariousness and unstable

Increasing child social inequalities

Depth of child poverty

Increased access barriers to basic family items

Social catastrophe caused by evictions and housing policies

✓ The austerity measures have had a negative impact and have worsened the situation

✓ The evidence to date shows that policies that prioritize austerity are part of the problem not a solution and an alternative is needed urgently

Conclusions

- ✓ We found relatively few immediate effects on children's health
- ✓ It has been shown a negative impact on the health of vulnerable groups of children
- ✓ There is great likelihood of future deterioration in the health of the current cohort of children as a result of the economic crisis according to previous experiences and knowledge:
"The cohort of the Great Recession"

What next?

- ✓ Following Nick Spencer's proposal
- ✓ Waiting until updated data on health and well being will be available (i.e. HBSC and/or EU-SILC data)?
- ✓ Starts comparing austerity measures vs. other kind of measures and its impact on social inequalities?
- ✓?

Giving every child the best start in life

Thank you

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Source: Instituto Dædalos: <http://2.bp.blogspot.com>