Main Findings
Suriname Survey of Living Conditions
2016-2017

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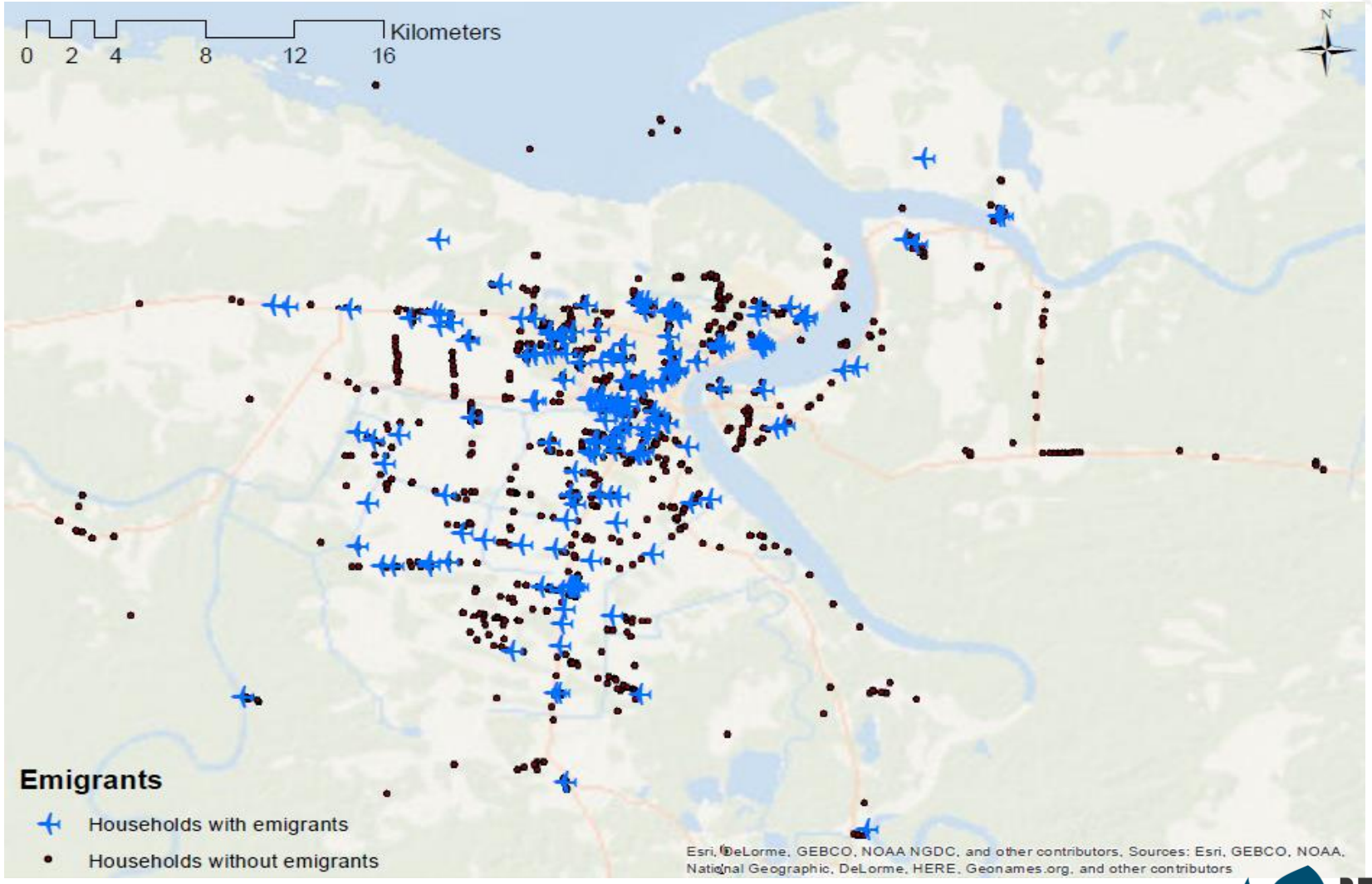
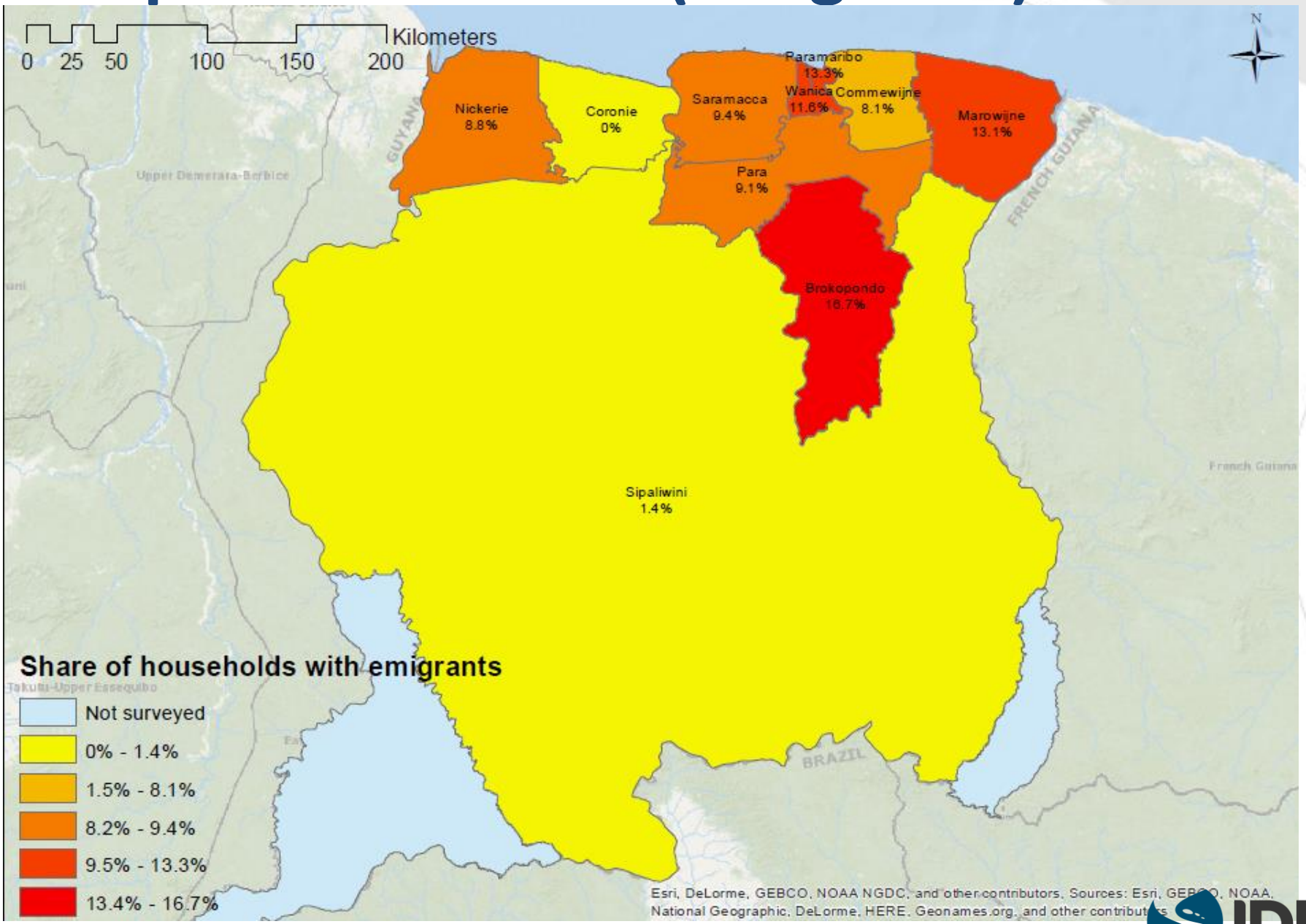
Survey Design

- A joint effort of
  - The Electricity Bureau of Suriname (EBS)
  - The Central Bank of Suriname
  - The Inter-American Development Bank
  - With technical assistance from Sistemas Integrales Ltd.
  - Fieldwork executed by DataFruit Suriname.
- Nationally representative sample (including the interior)
  - Two-stage sampling: Enumeration Areas + Households
  - Representative of an entire calendar year (national sample divided into 12 random monthly sub-samples): very important to account for seasonal intra-year variation
- Wide coverage of main indicators of living conditions
  - Education, Health, Fertility, and Early Childhood Development
  - Labour Supply and Farming
  - Housing, Personal Safety, and Migration
  - Consumption patterns, income and expenditures

Household Sample Distribution (Paramaribo Area)



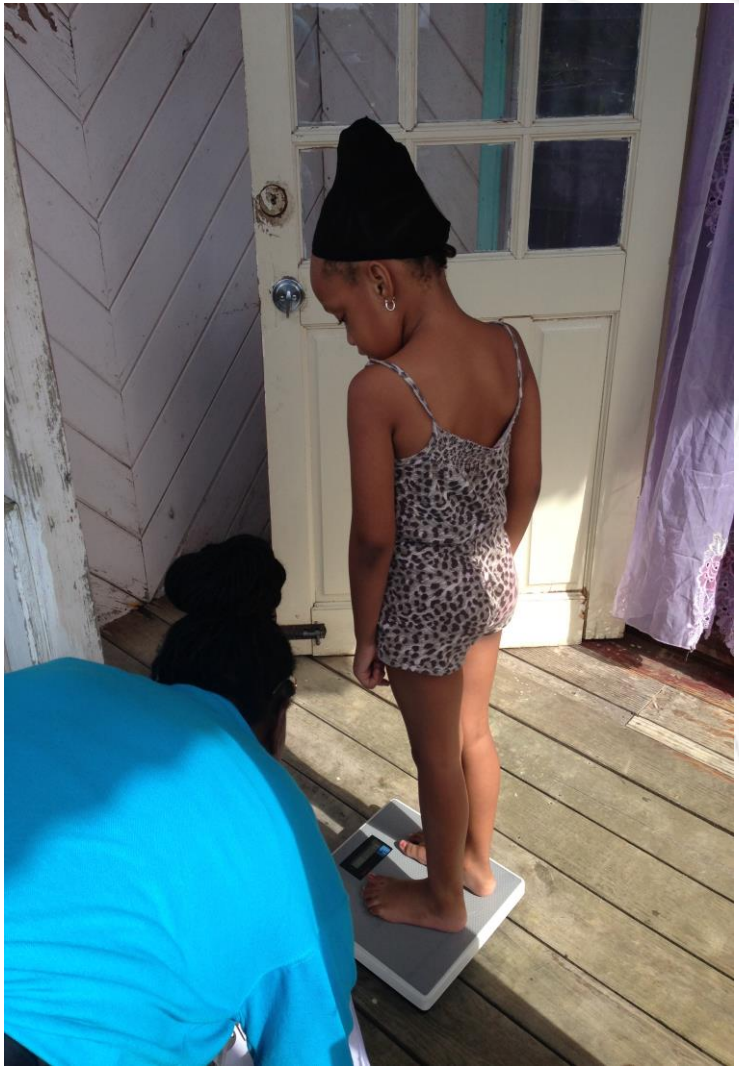
Sample Distribution (Emigrants)



11.2% of households have at least one emigrant

Face-to-Face Interviews

Anthropometric Measurement



Poverty Estimations

01

Main statistics derived from the data

- Consumption per capita
- Consumption based poverty lines

02

Extreme Poor (or Indigent Poor)

- Not able to meet WHO minimum caloric requirement
- Considering age, sex and pregnancy incidence distributions in Suriname: 2,098 kilocalories per day (average person)
- Valued at SRD 265.29 per month per person (extreme poverty line) in Paramaribo, SRD 250.48 for rest of coastal region, SRD 206.69 for the interior.
- Households with with monthly per capita consumption below such levels = extreme poor —1.7% (Paramaribo-0.5%; Coastal-1.8%; Interior-15.7%)

03

Non-Extreme Poor (or Non-Indigent Poor)

- Non-extreme poverty line = extreme poverty line + basic non-food consumption
- Valued at SRD 733.1 in Paramaribo, SRD 590.23 for rest of coastal region, SRD 533.27 for the interior.
- Non-extreme poor — 24.5% (Paramaribo-23.2%; Coastal-26.5%; Interior-32.2%)

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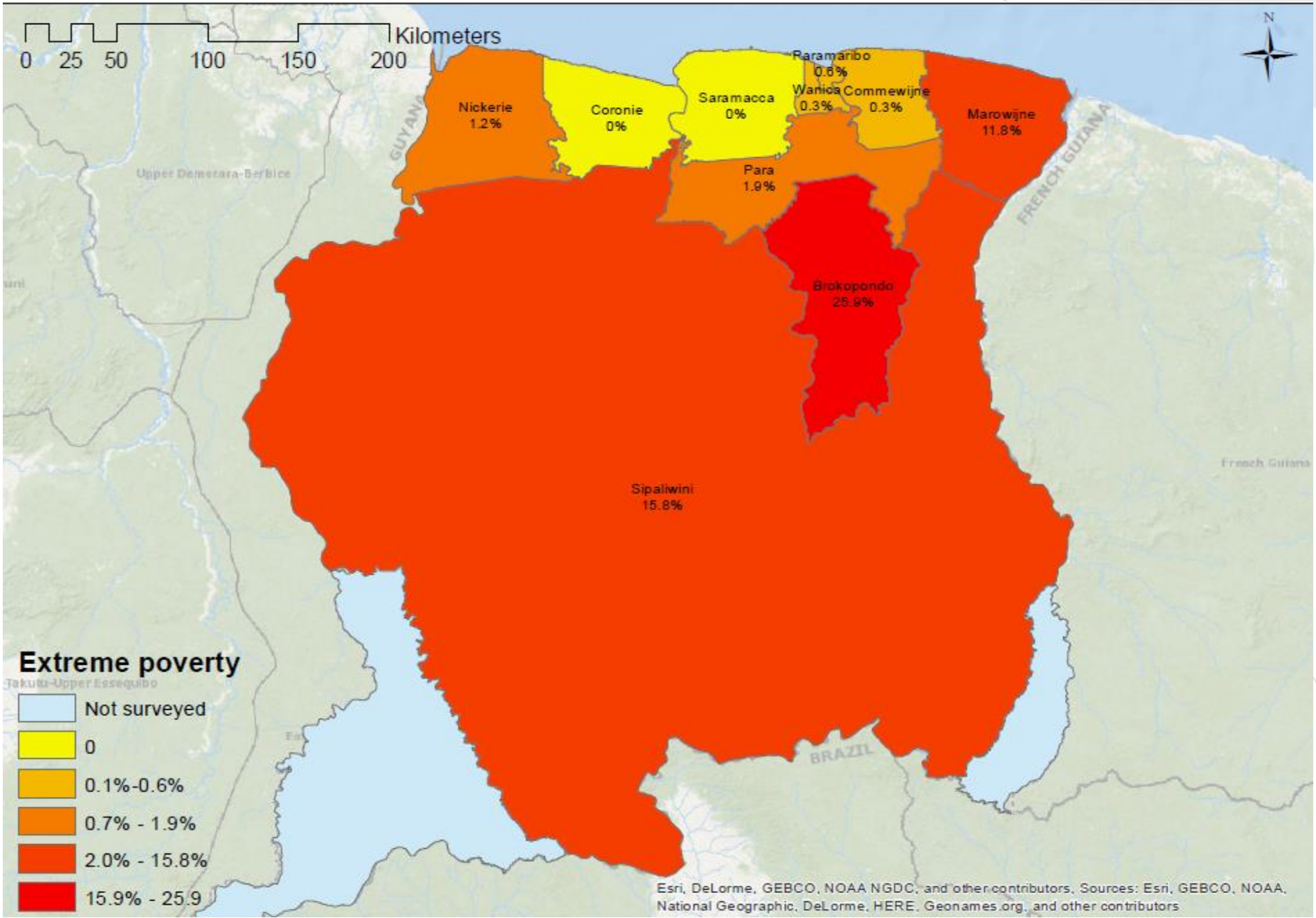
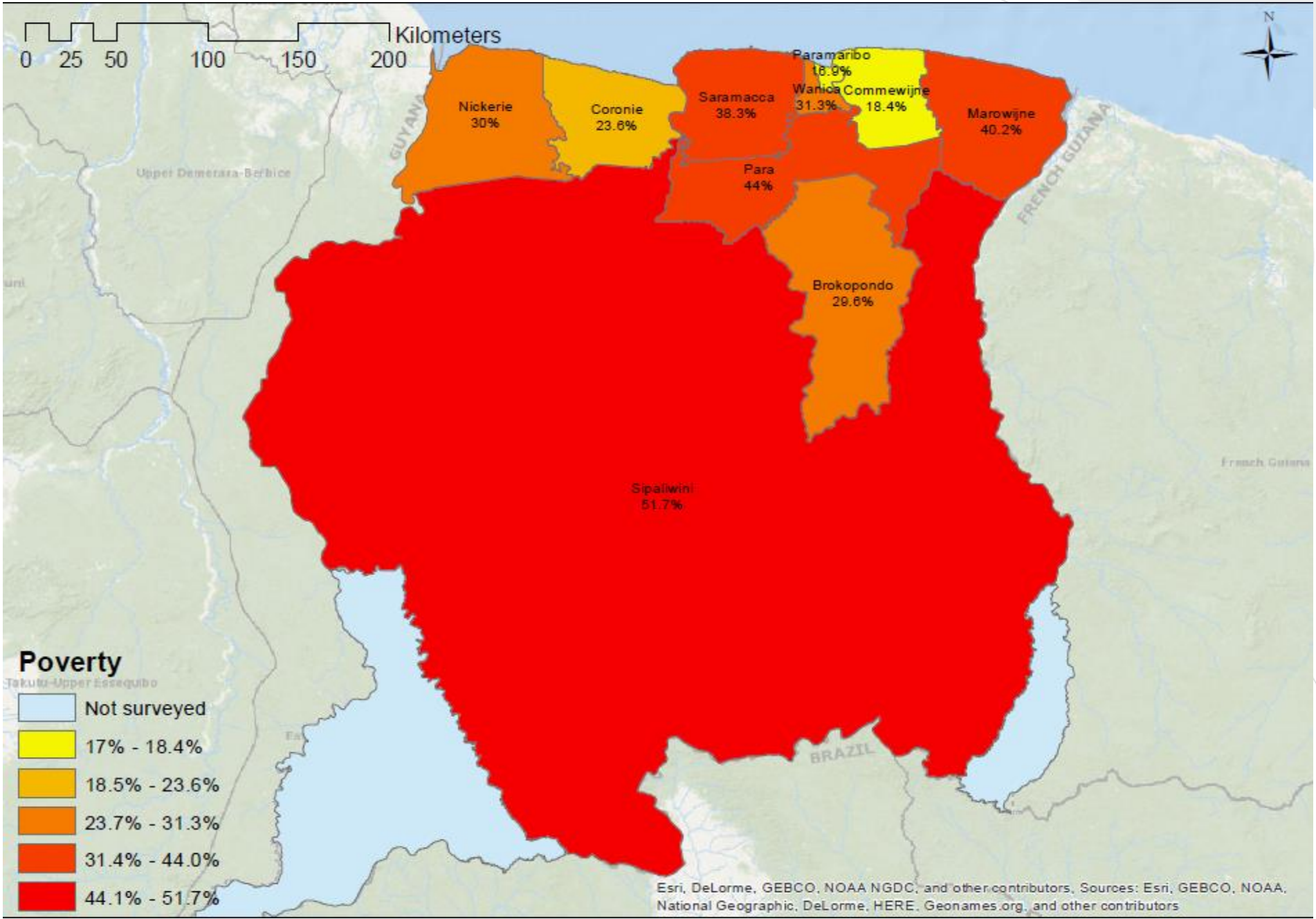
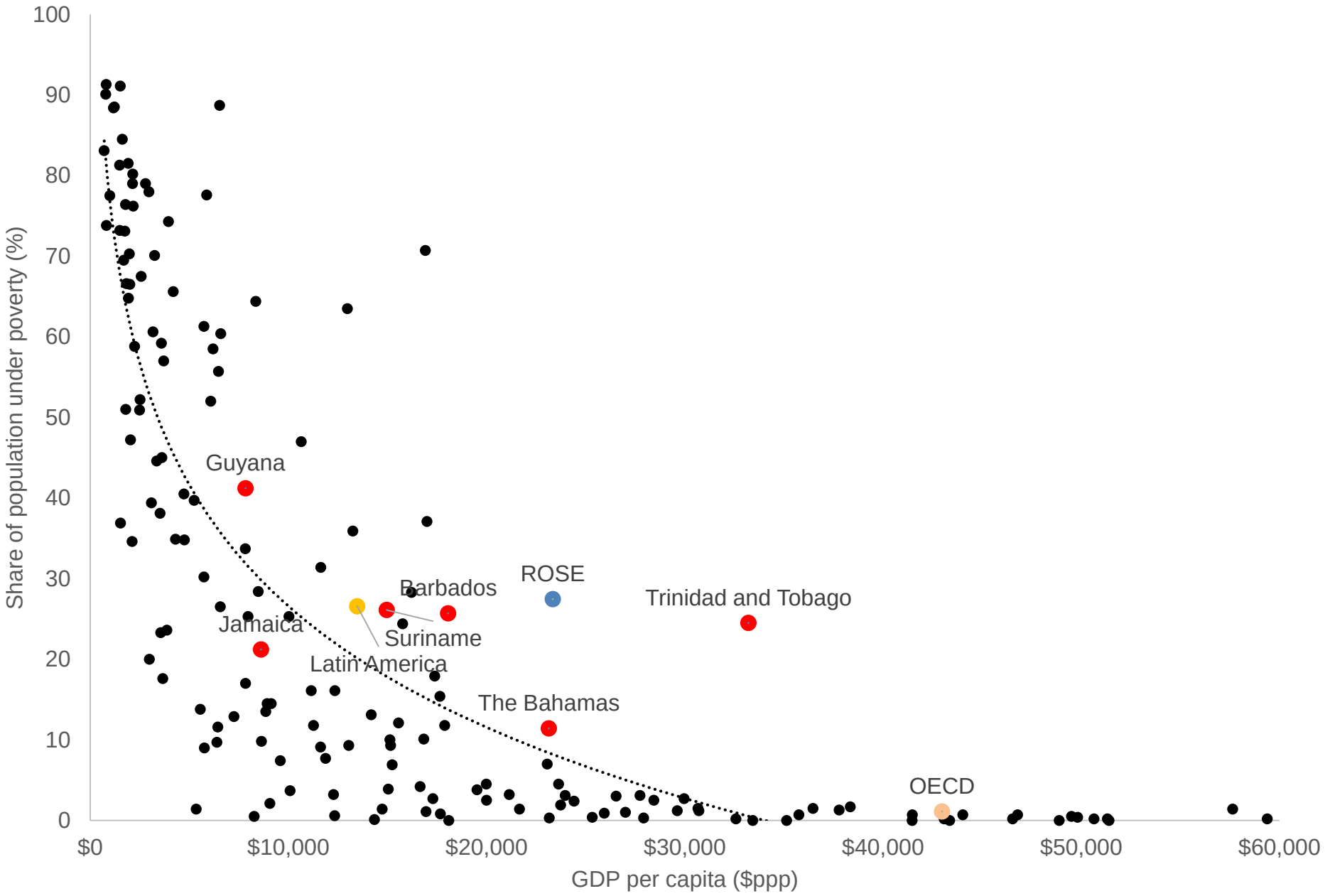
Extreme Poverty Rates (National=1.7%)



Overall Poverty Rates (National=26.2%)



Poverty Rates versus GDP per Capita



Vulnerability and Inequality

Vulnerable

Non-poor but at risk of poverty → **13.1%**

Households with with monthly per capita consumption above the non-extreme poverty line but below 1.25 times such line

Non-Vulnerable

Households with monthly per capita consumption above 1.25 times the non-extreme poverty line → **60.8%**

Inequality

- Gini coefficient: ranges between 0 and 1
- Extreme inequality (Gini=1): single household consumes all available goods and services in the country
- Total equality (Gini=0): every household consumes the same in per capita terms
- Suriname 2016/2017 → **0.44**

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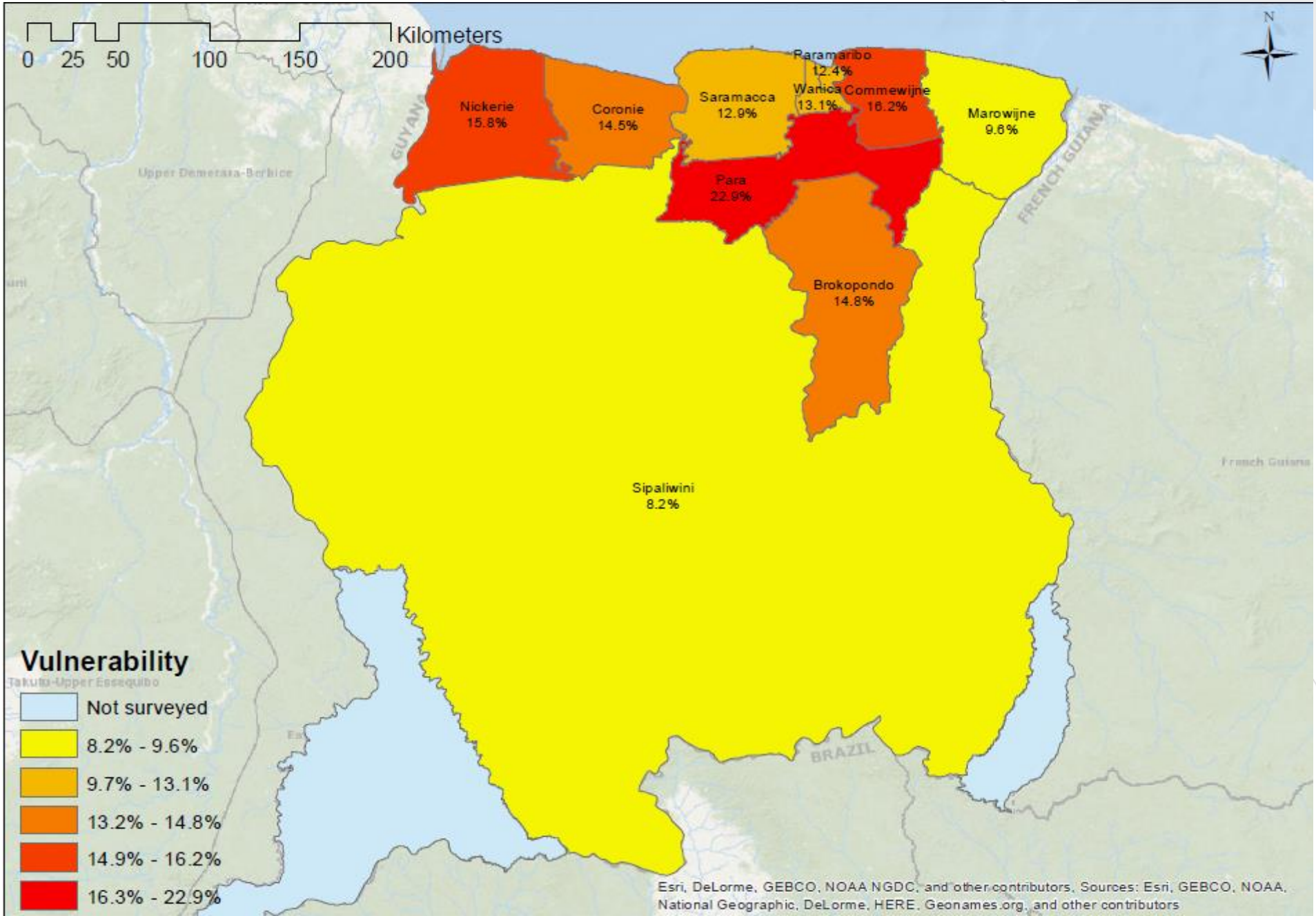
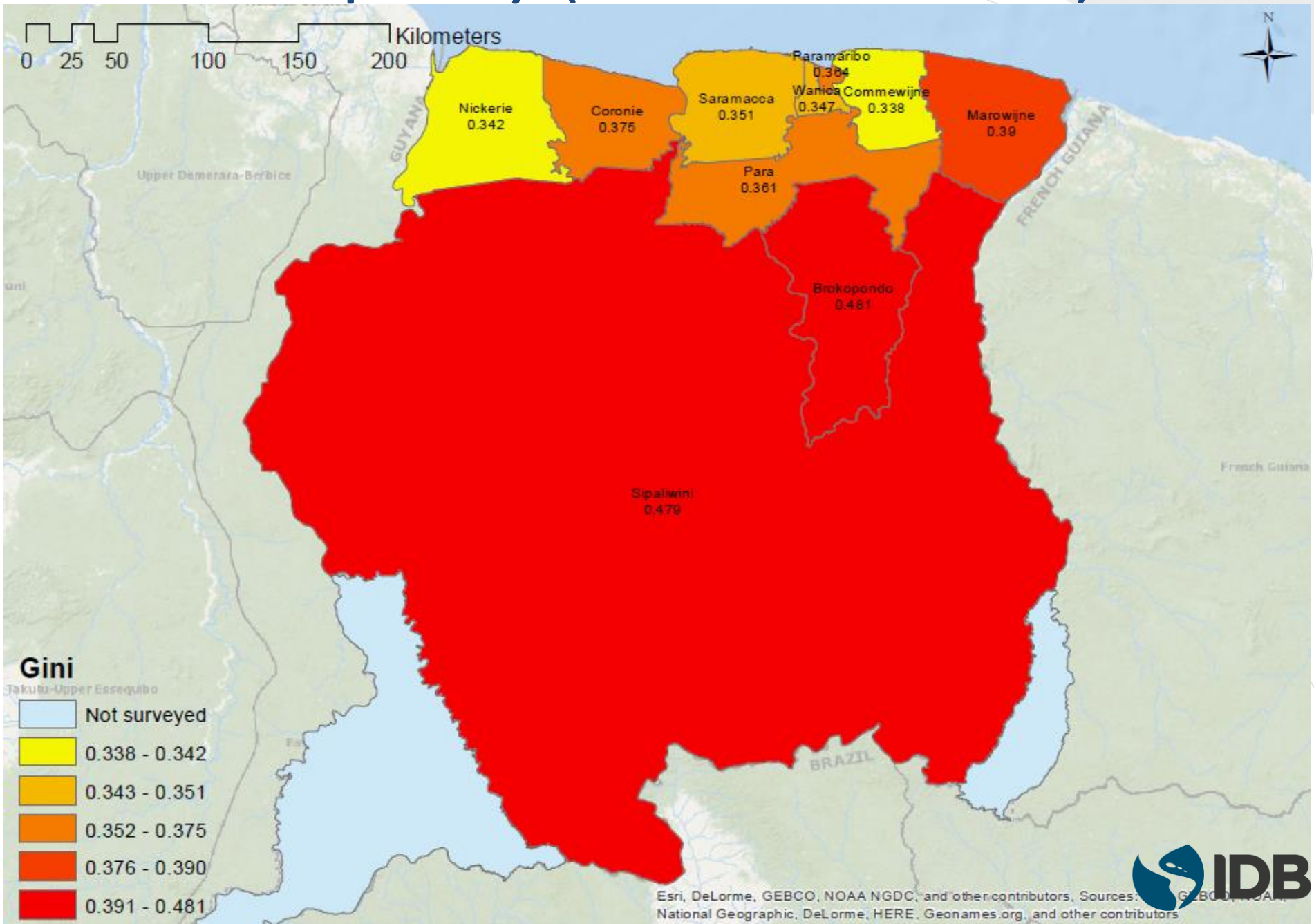
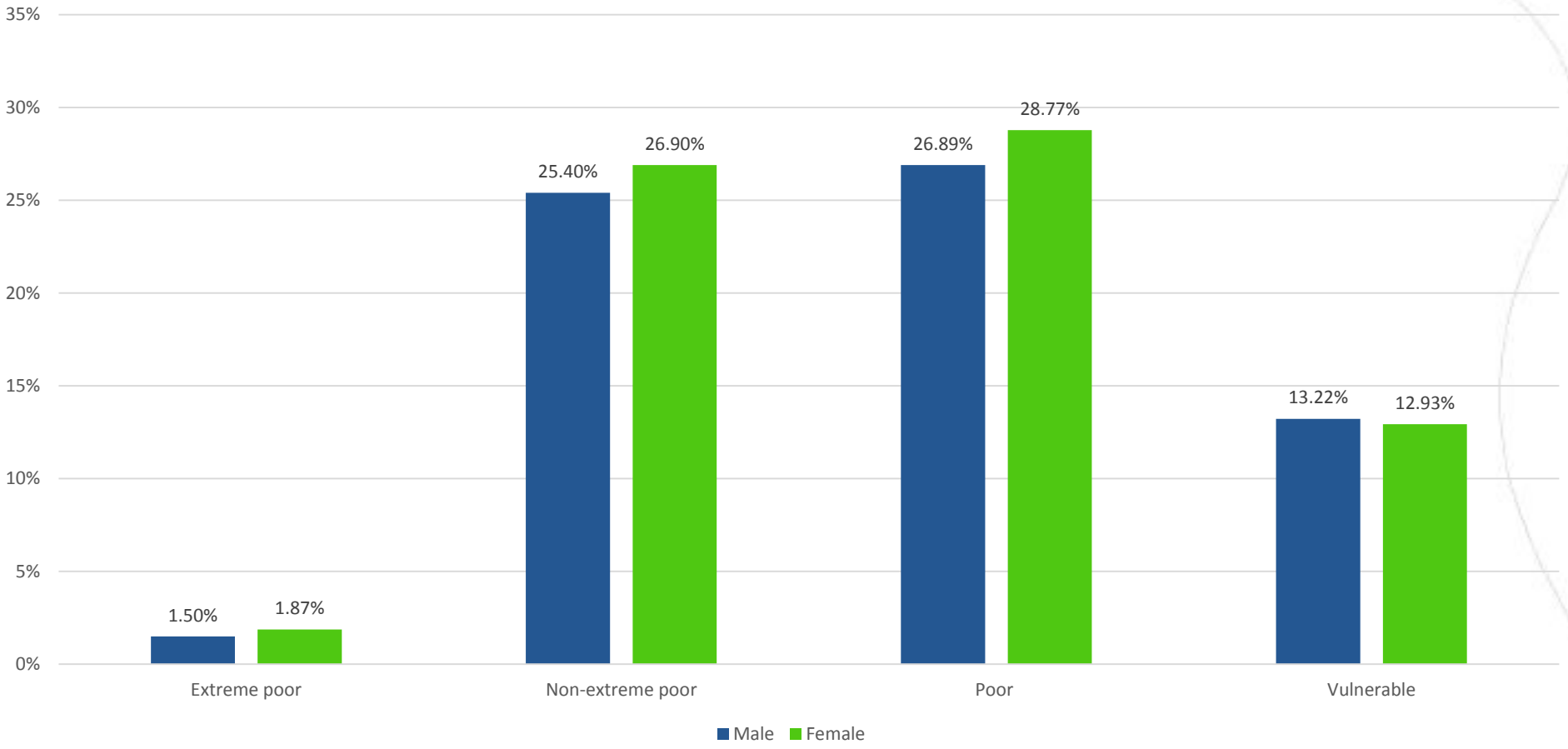
Vulnerability Rates



Inequality (Gini Coefficient)

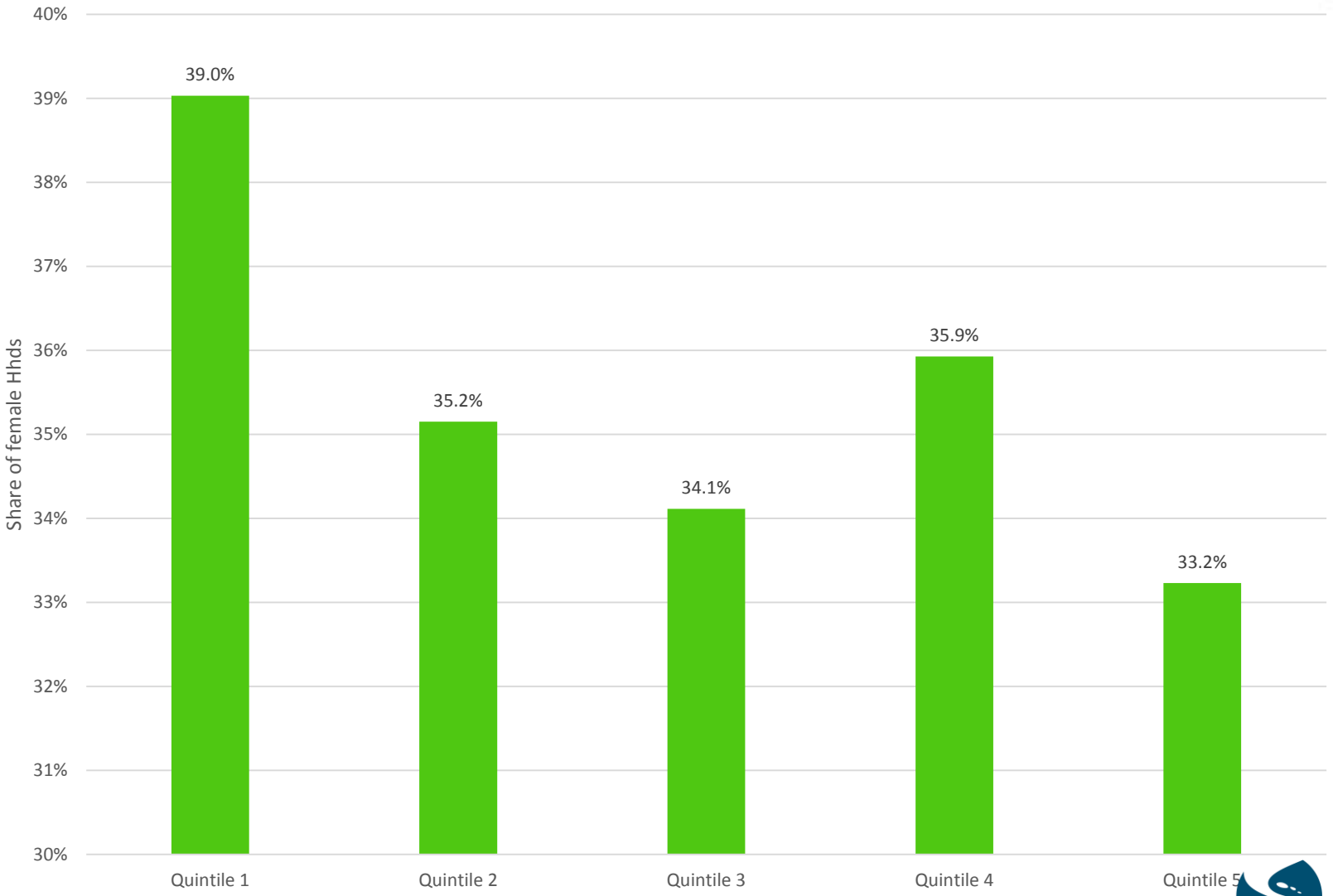


Poverty and Vulnerability by Gender

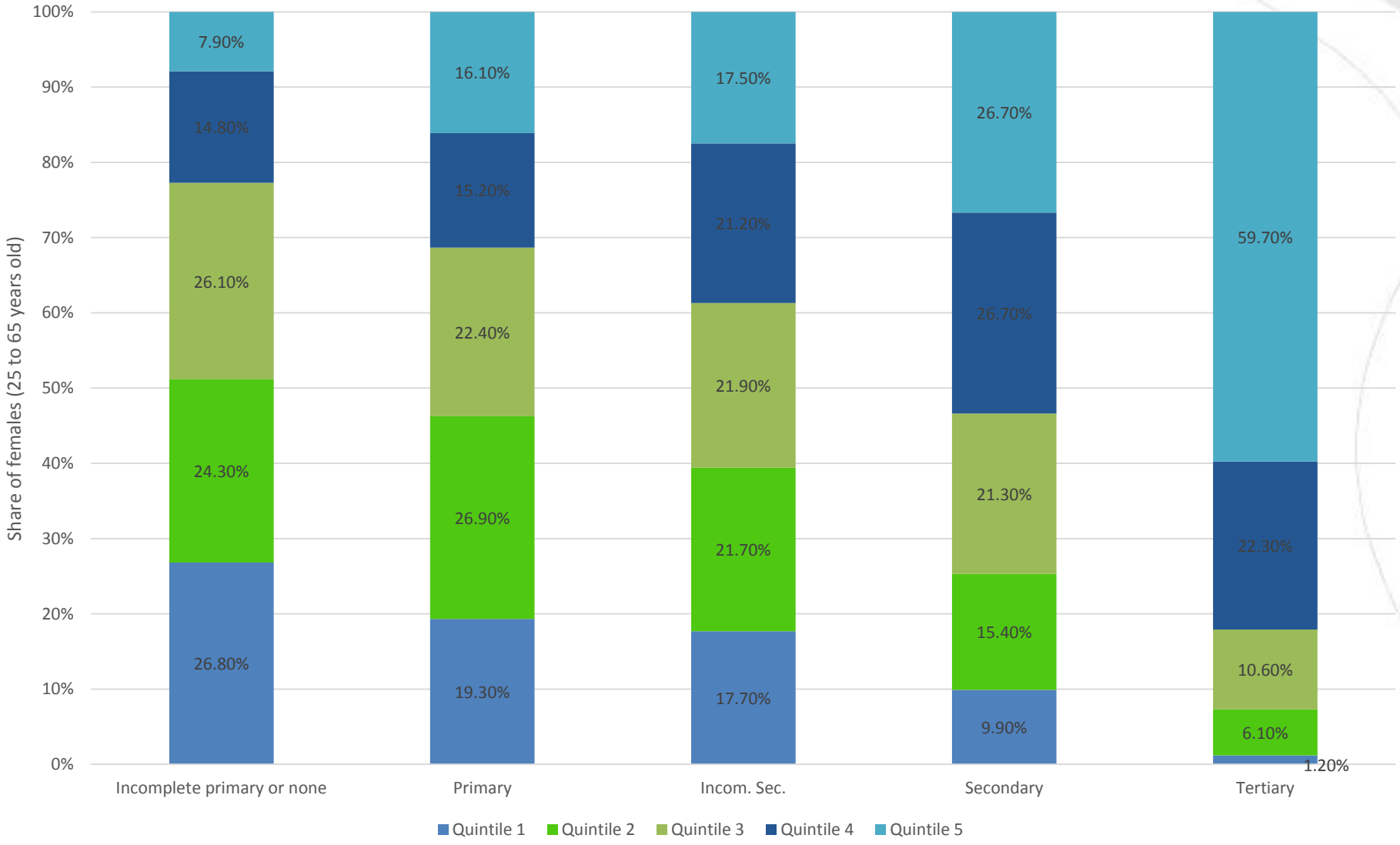


Women and Men are equally likely to be poor

Female headed households: Left tail of consumption

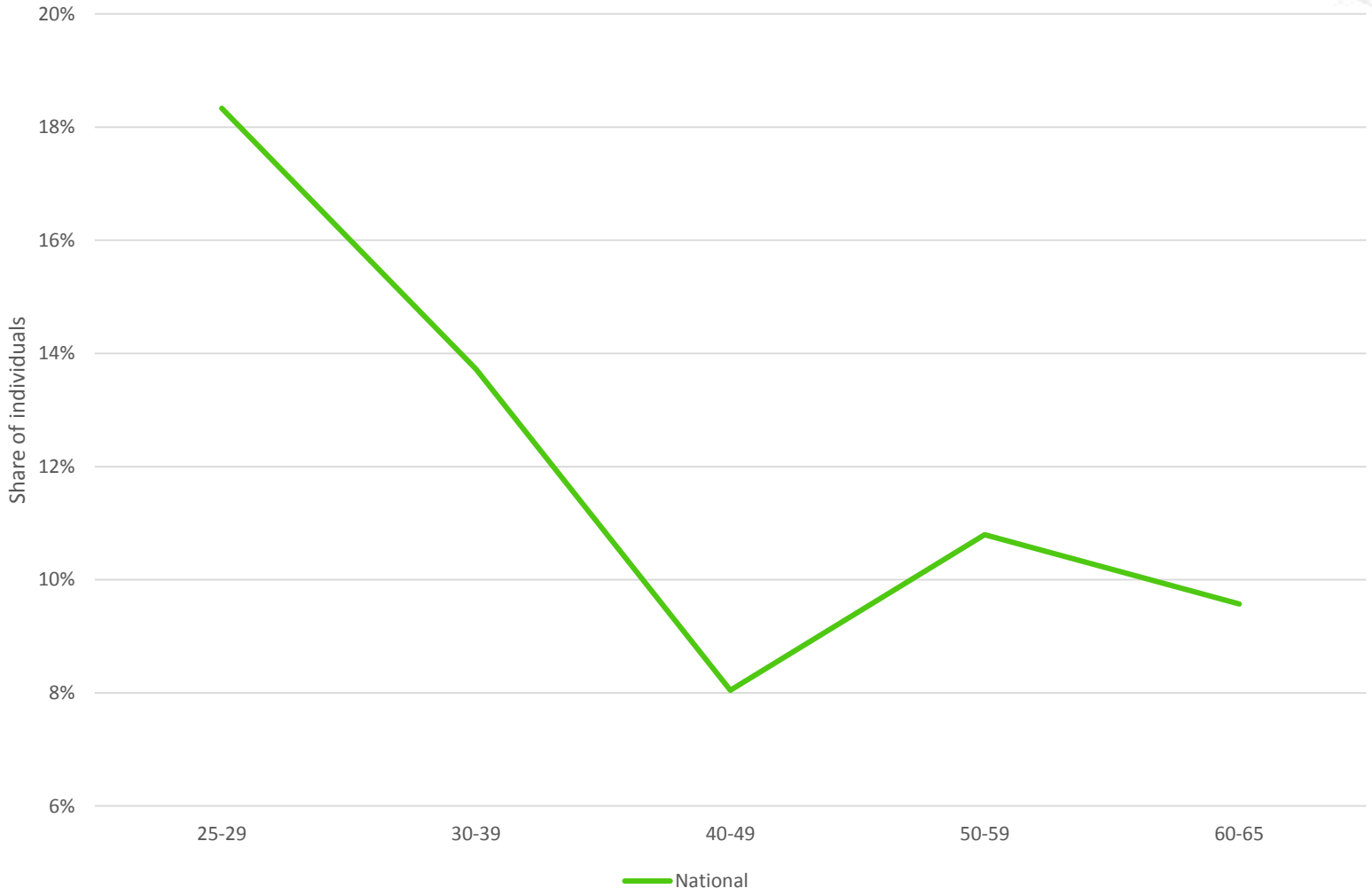


Returns to Education



-> Significant returns to education

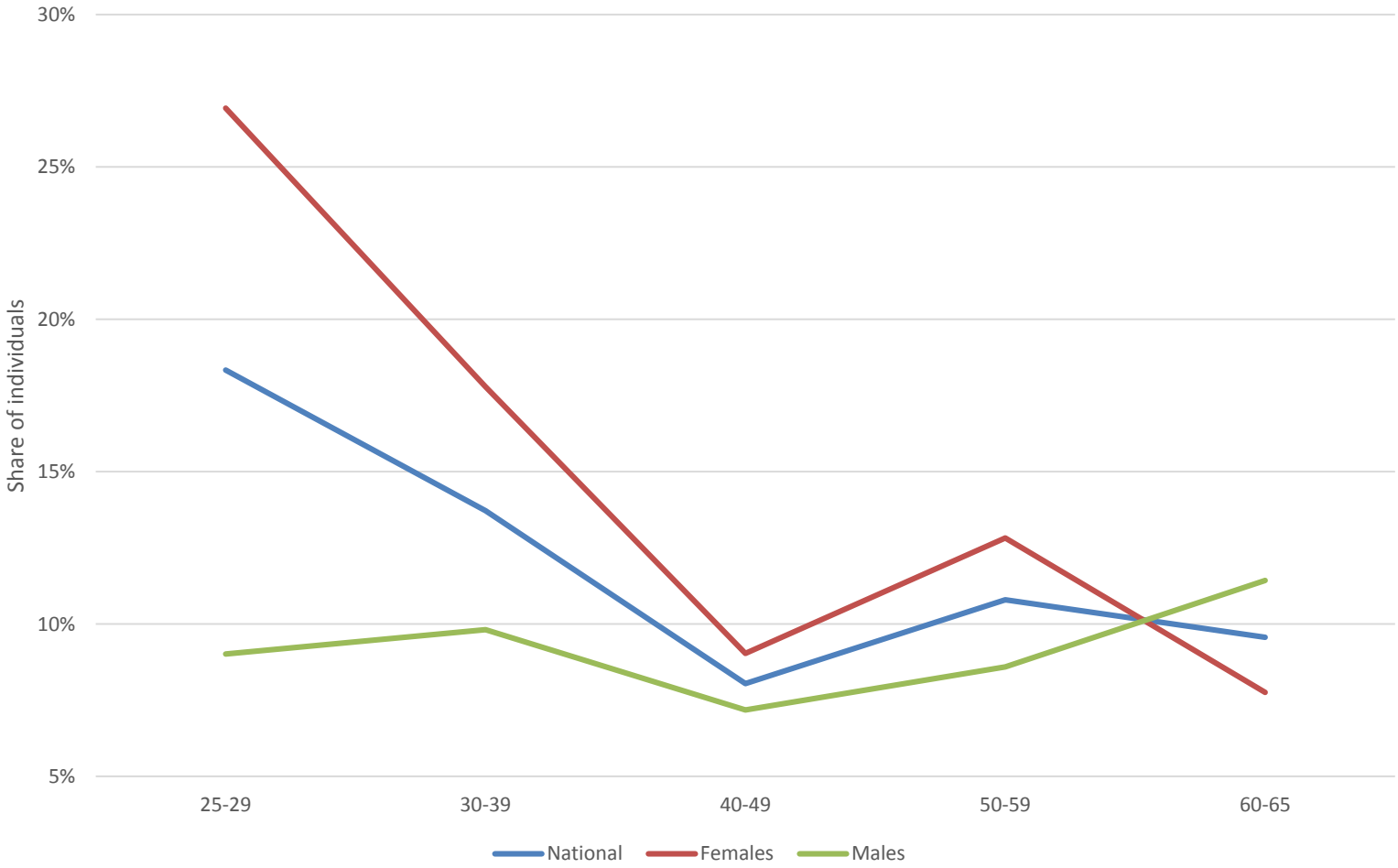
Tertiary education by Cohorts



Younger cohorts (below 40) are more educated

Are there any gender differences?

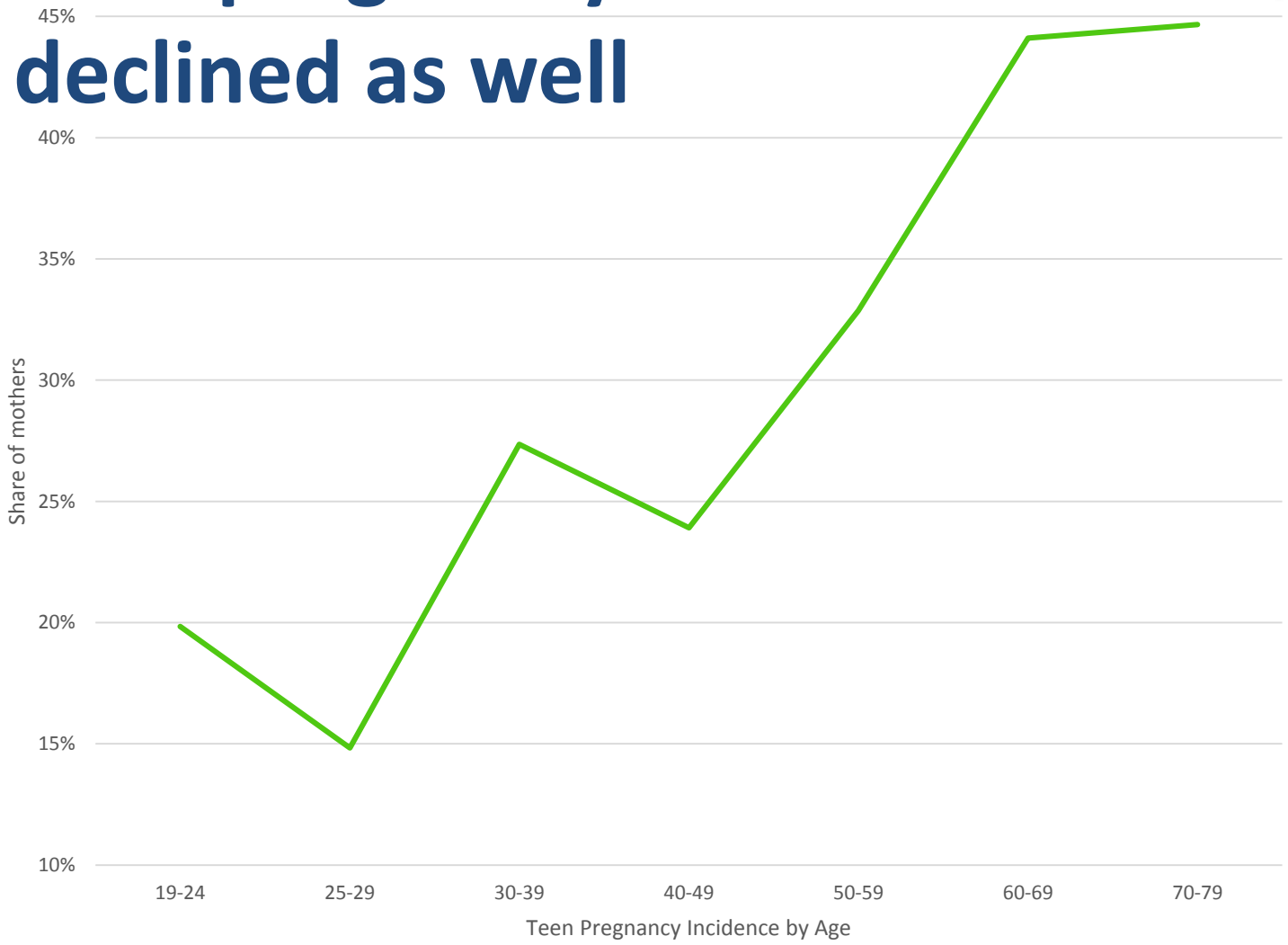
Tertiary education by Cohorts and Gender



Males mostly stable

Younger Females are driving the curve

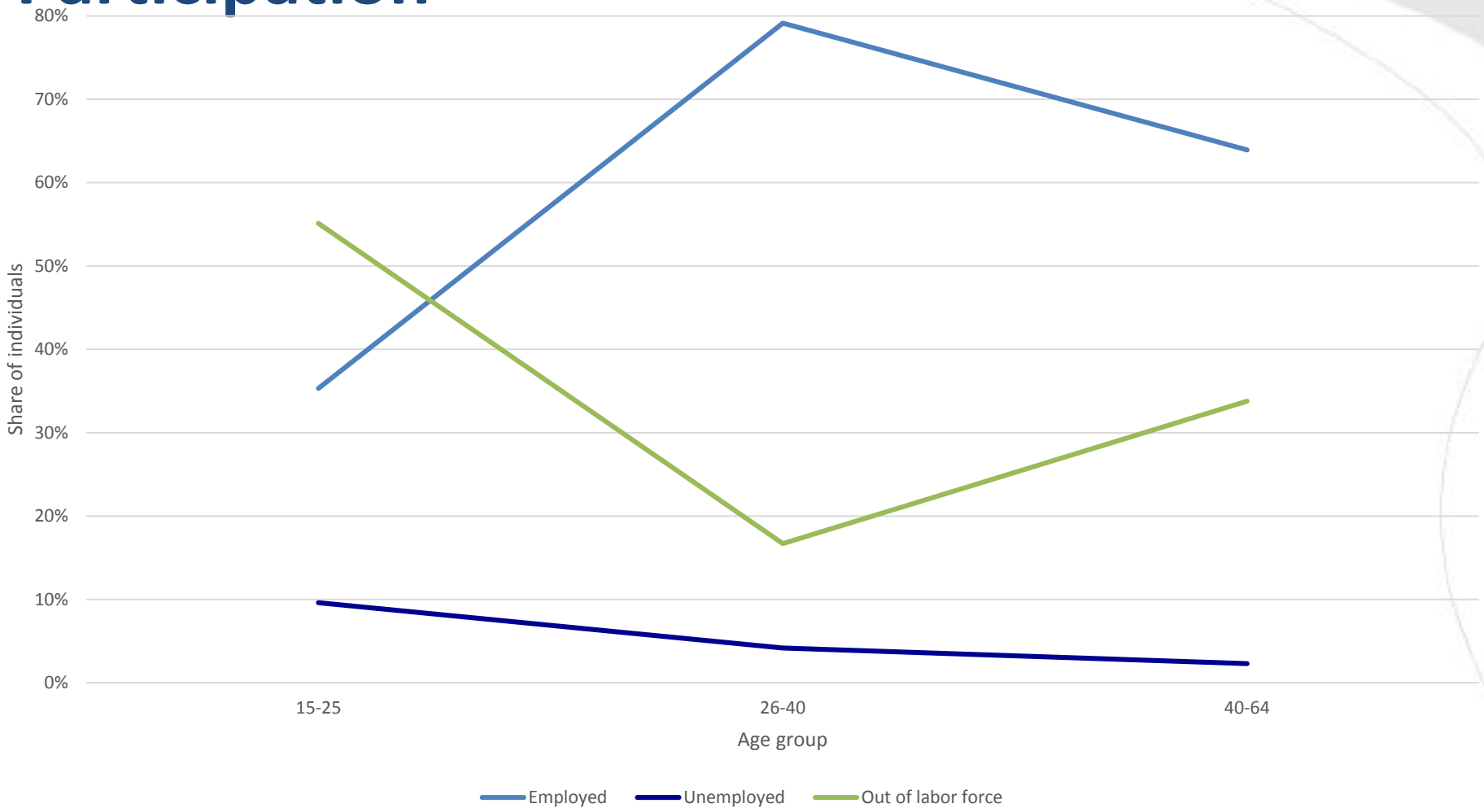
Teen pregnancy has declined as well



Perfectly consistent with increased educational attainment

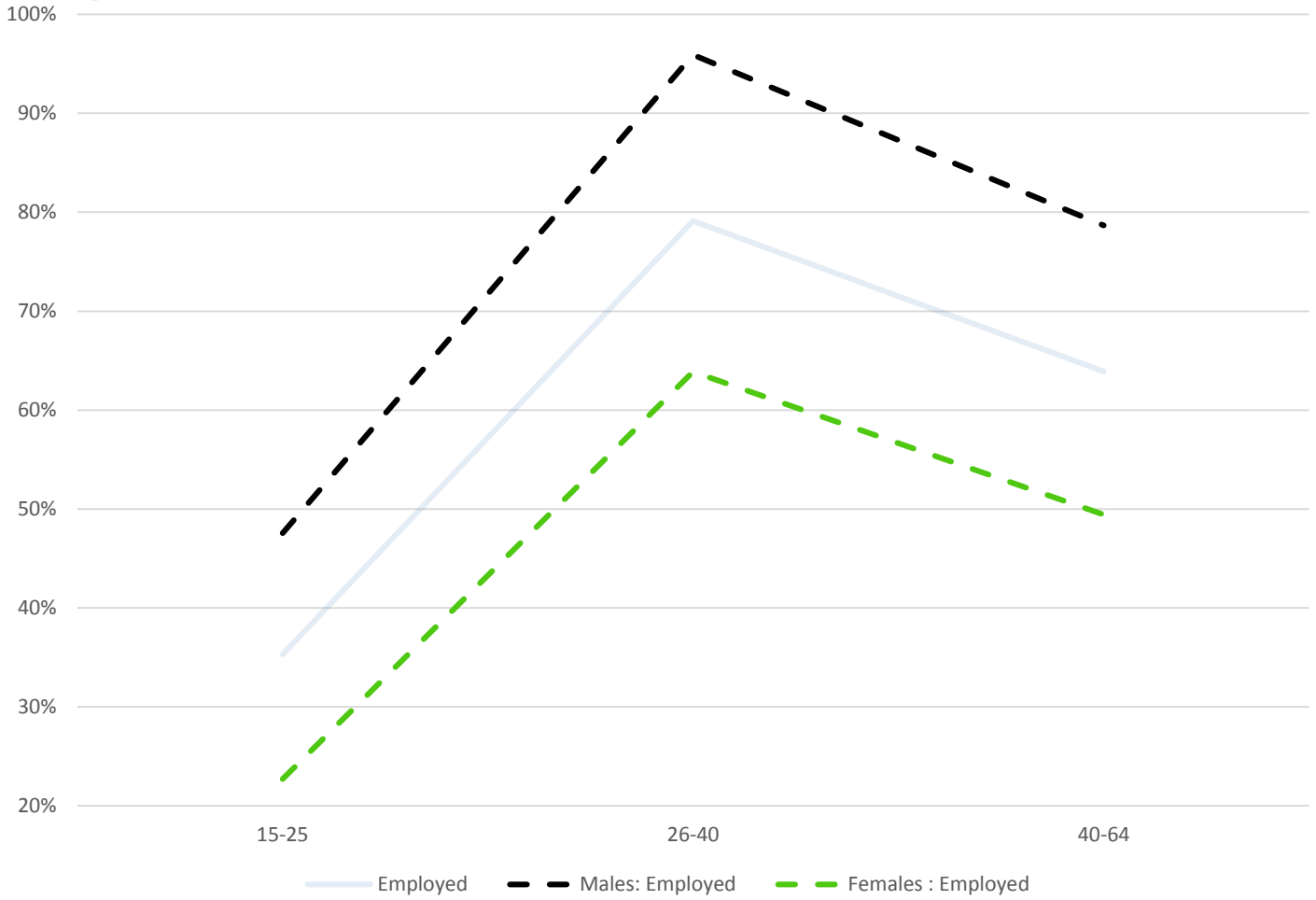
Consumption gender bias likely to revert in the medium term

Labour Market Participation



- Flattens out at 26 years old and beyond
- Younger segment still significantly out of labor force: continued education

Female employment lags Male ratios

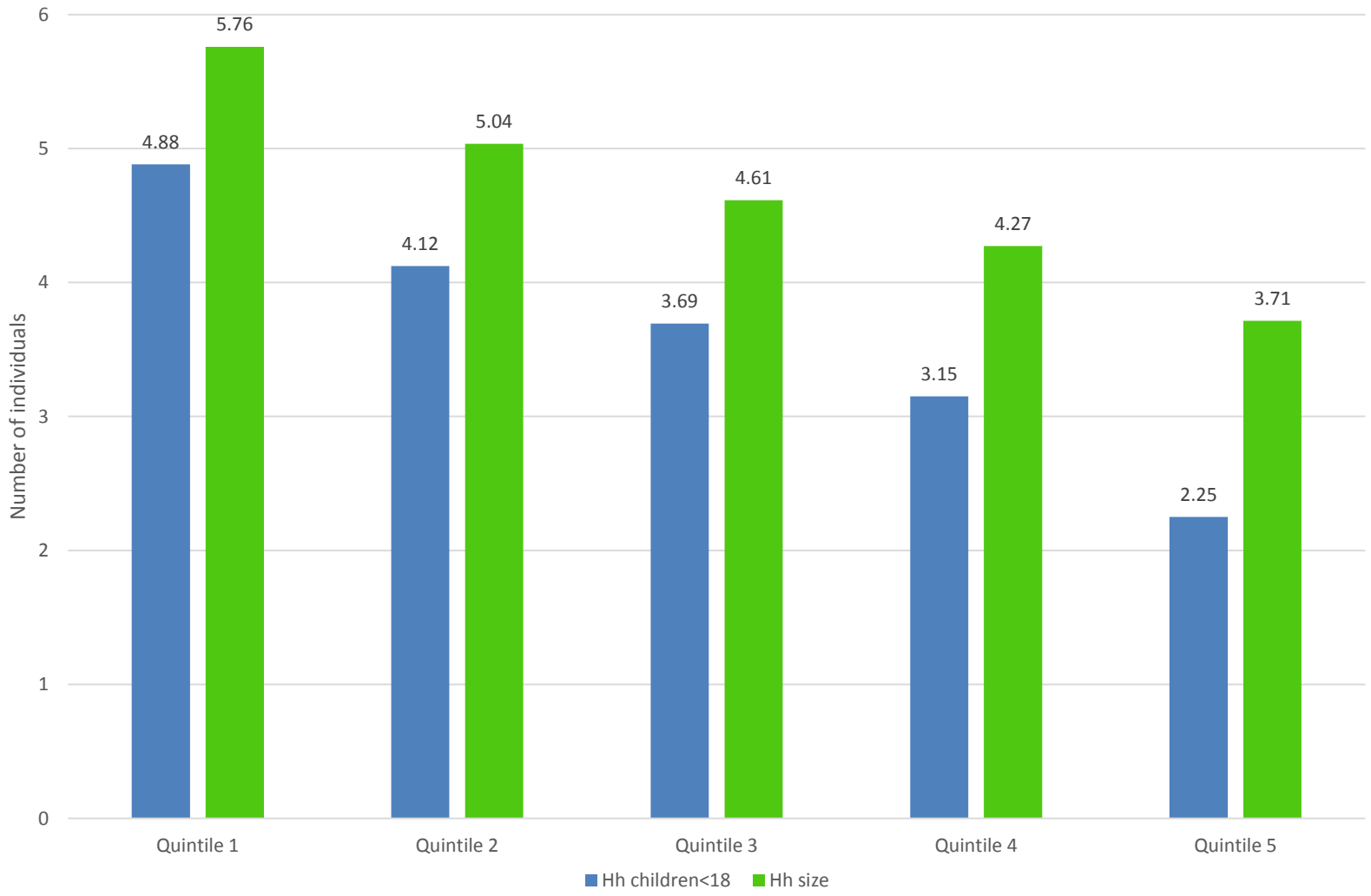


However, still to see if it will continue as persons in the 15-25 range still out of labour force and females have higher rates of tertiary education in this age range

What observable characteristics are prevalent among poor?

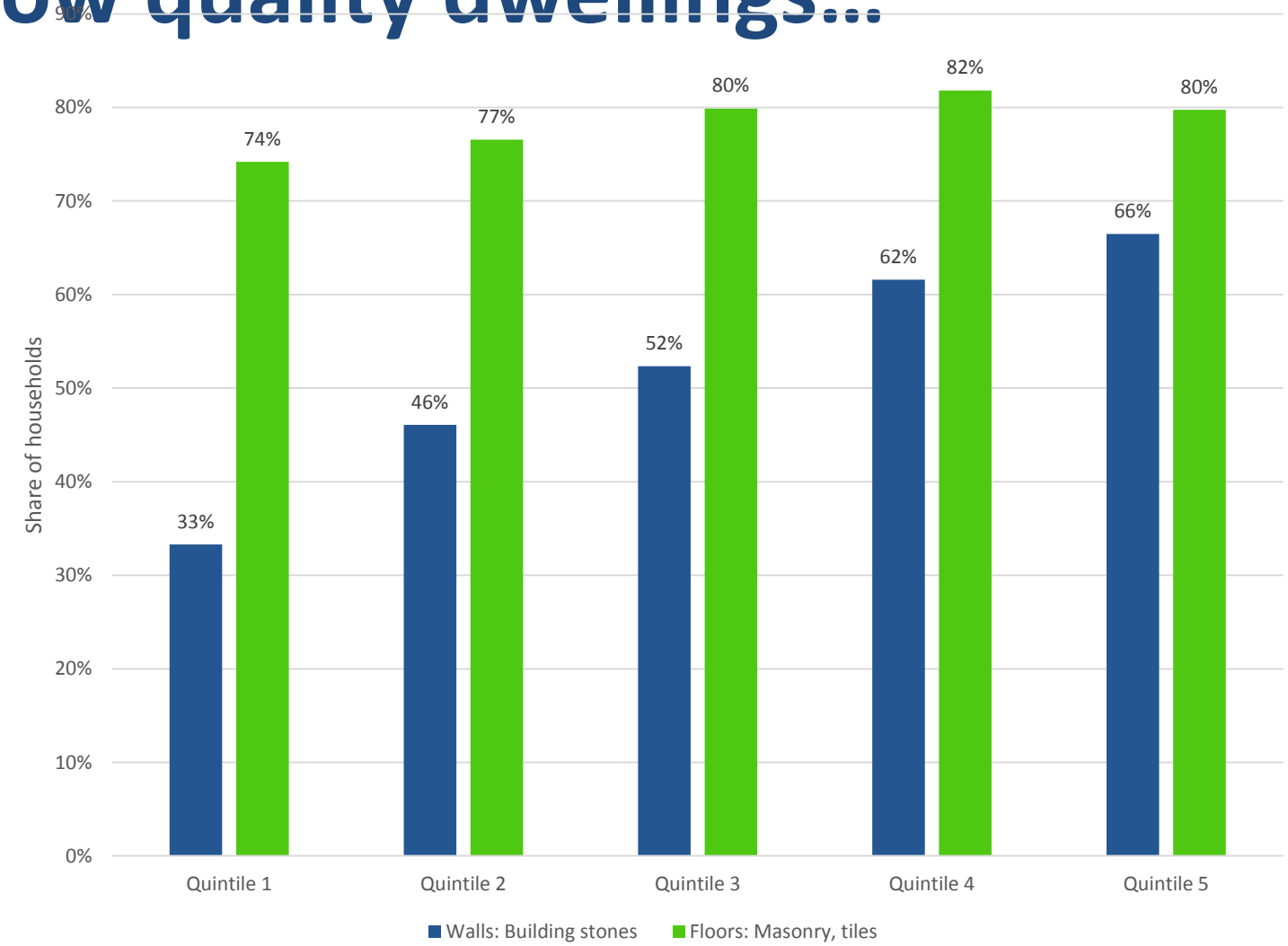
- Relevant to develop potential targeting mechanisms
- Can we identify an easily observable and verifiable indicator highly associated with poverty?

Lower consumption but more crowded…



Consistent larger households with lower consumption

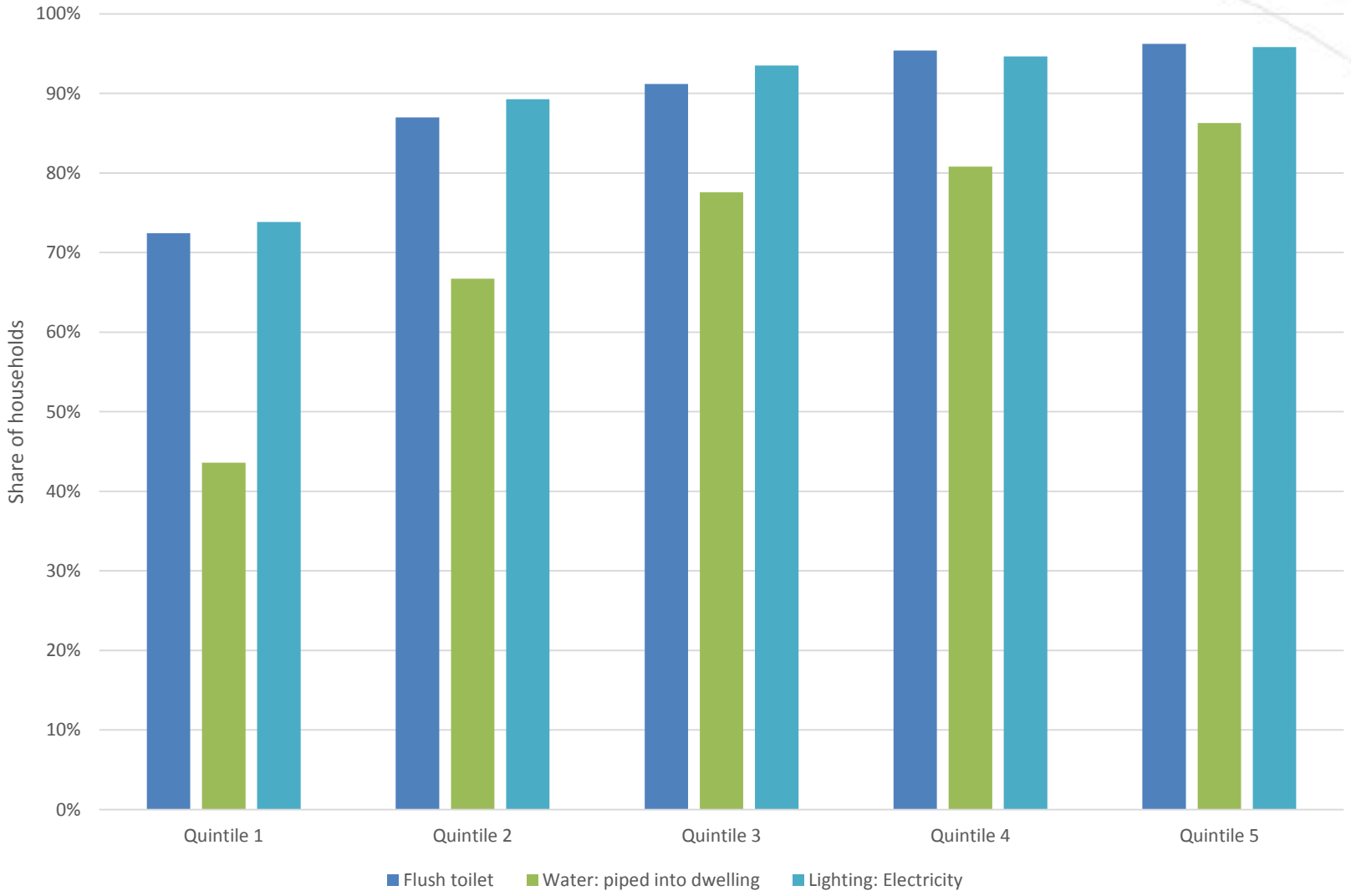
Lower consumption and low quality dwellings…



Good predictor of disadvantaged households

Observable characteristic useful for targeting social safety nets

Also utilities…

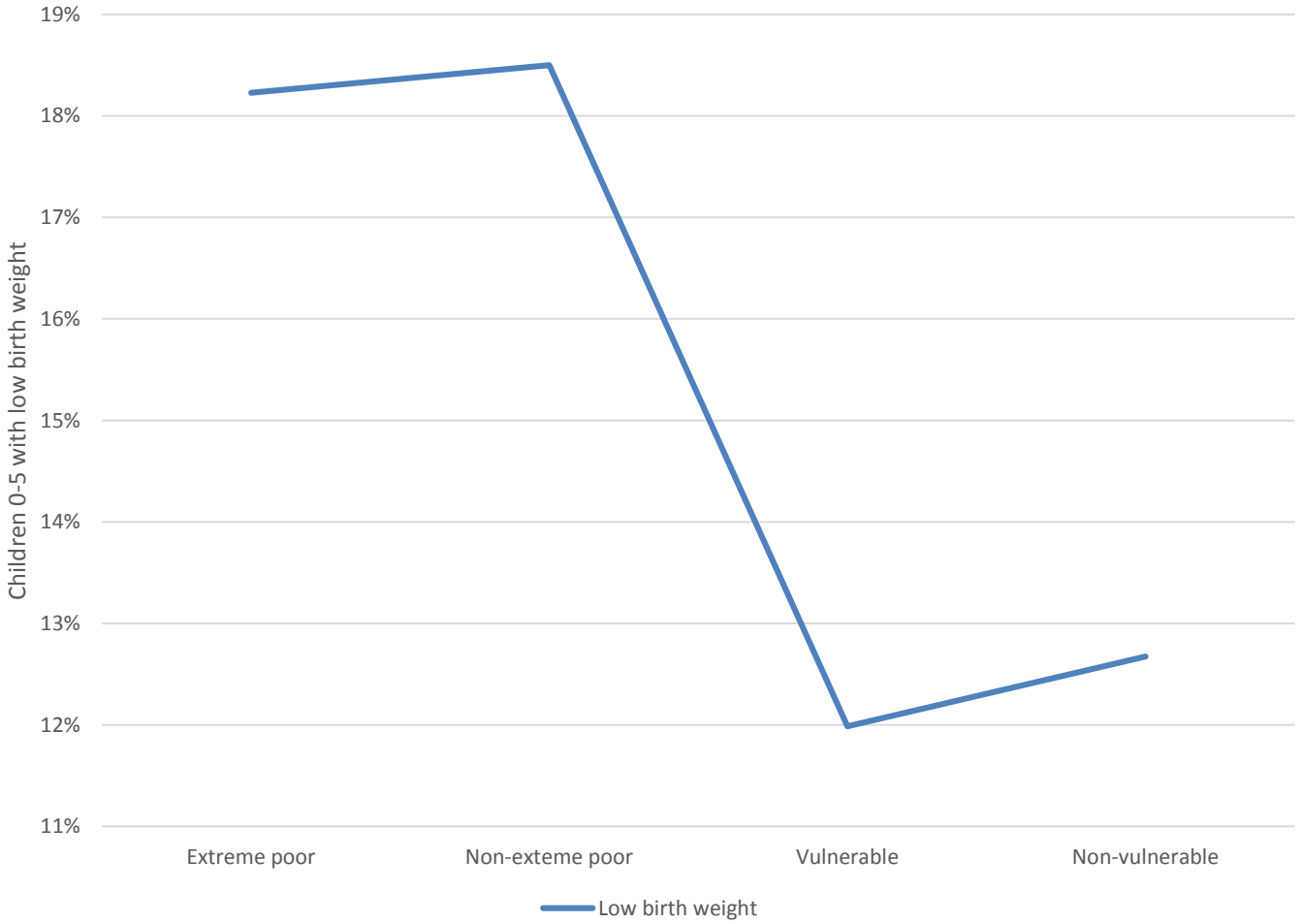


Another observable characteristic to identify poor households

- What are the chances of a child born to a poor household to scape poverty in the future?

- We can look at Early Childhood Development indicators that have been shown to be associated with long-term productivity

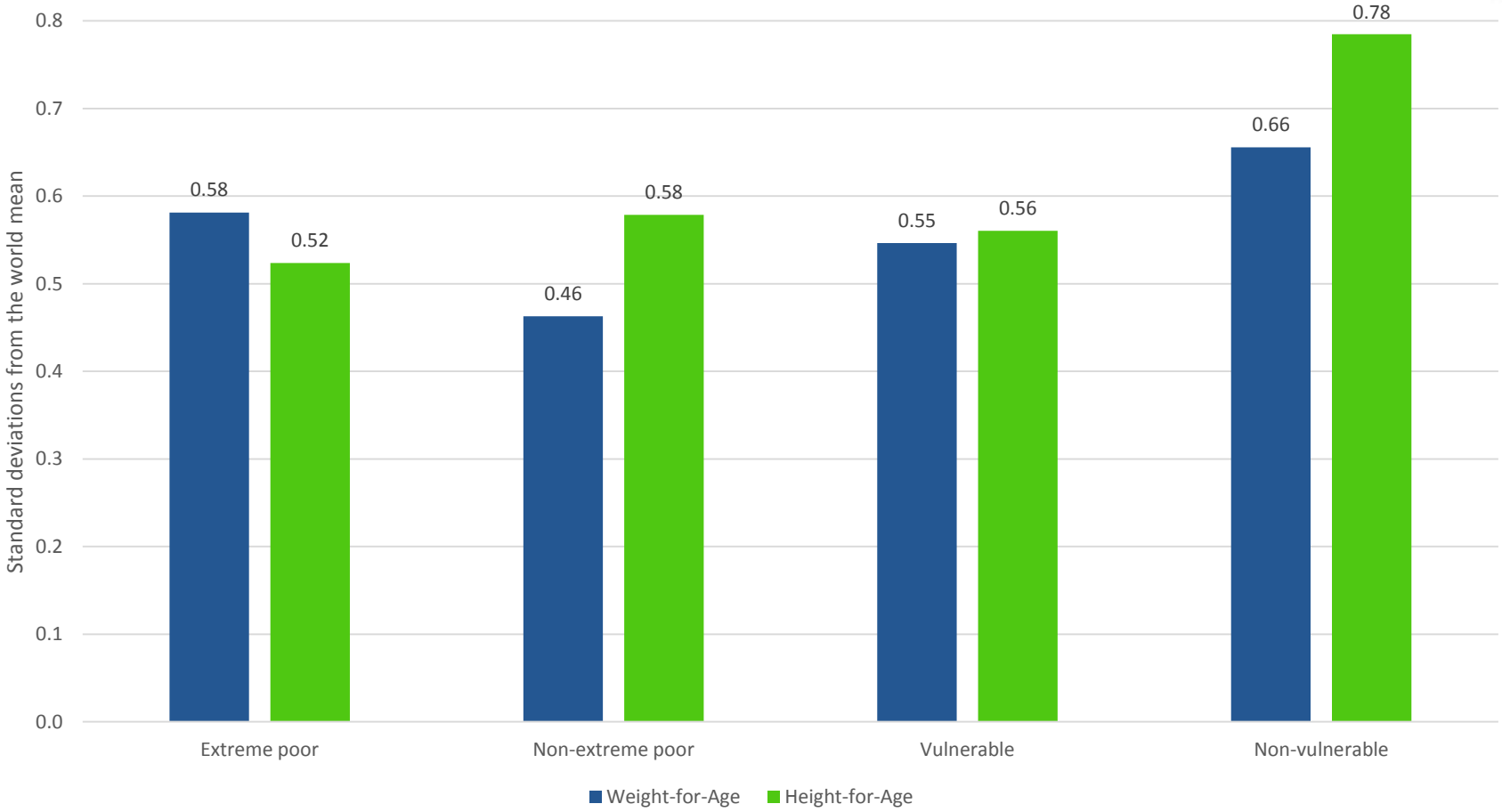
Low Birthweight (below 2.5 Kg) versus Poverty



Poor in clear disadvantage

Pregnancy: Important period for public policy intervention

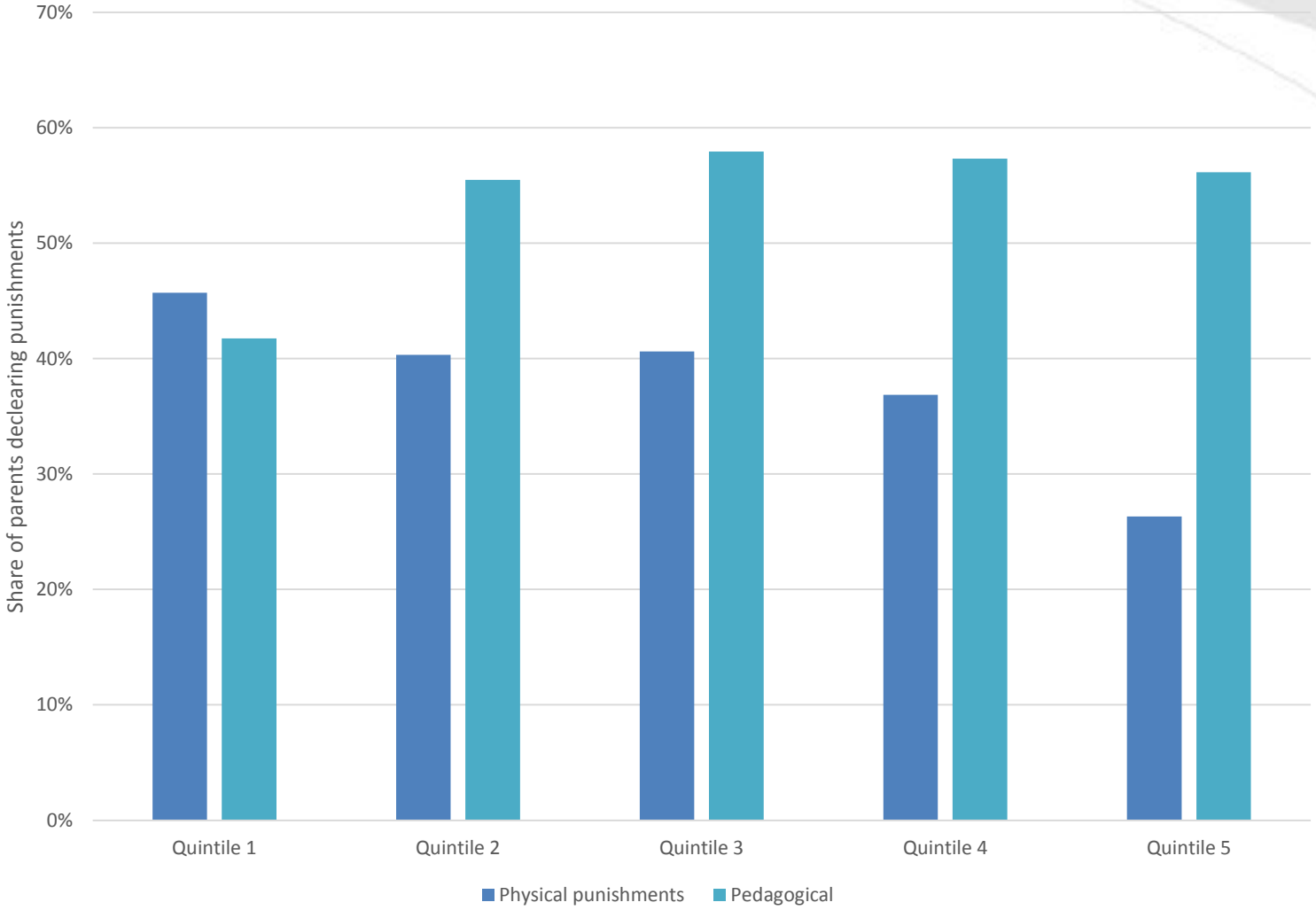
Physical Development within Early Years (0-5)



Above world average

Poor and vulnerable relatively disadvantaged

How do we “discipline” our children?

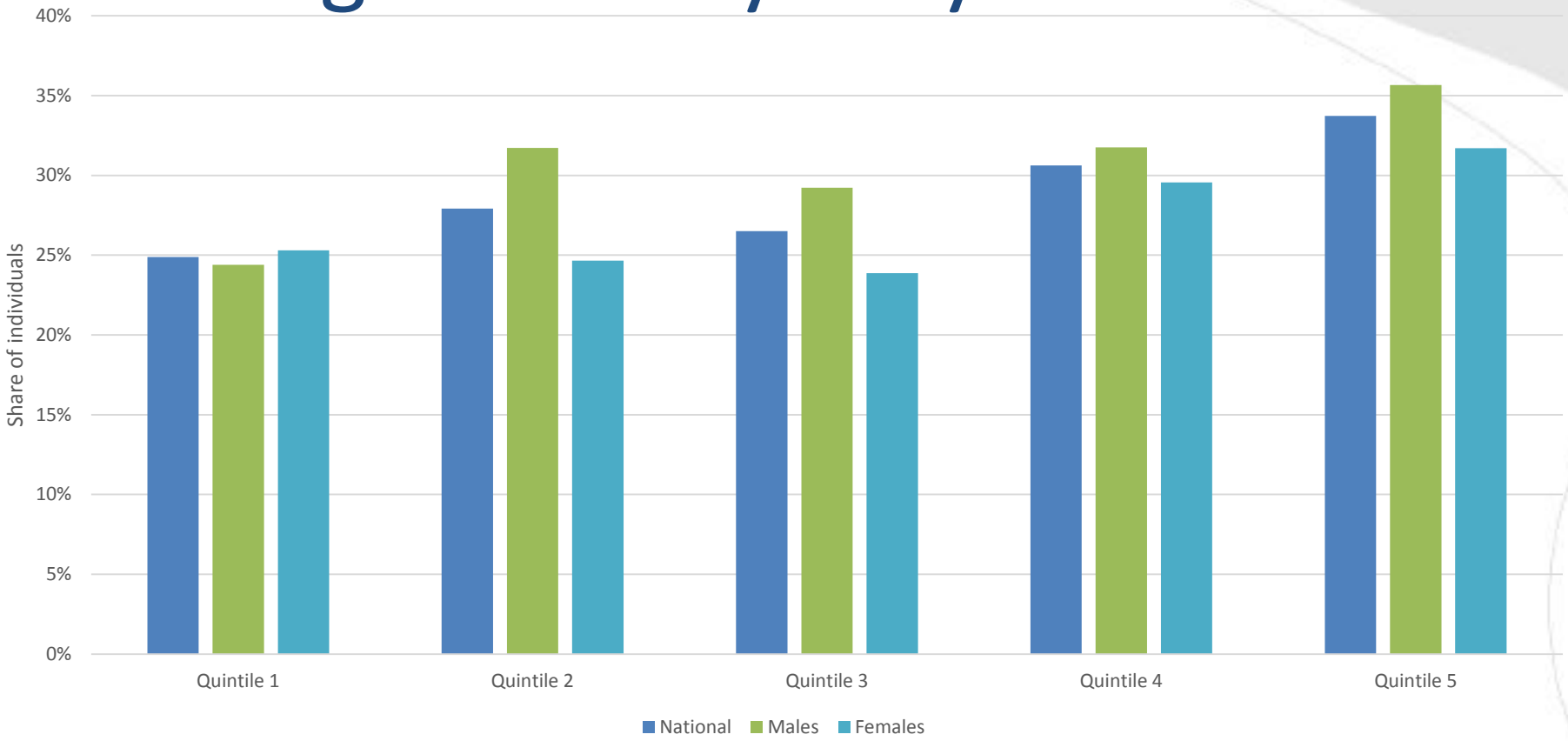


- Pedagogical practices more likely among relatively more advantaged

How are we doing in terms of objective Health Status?

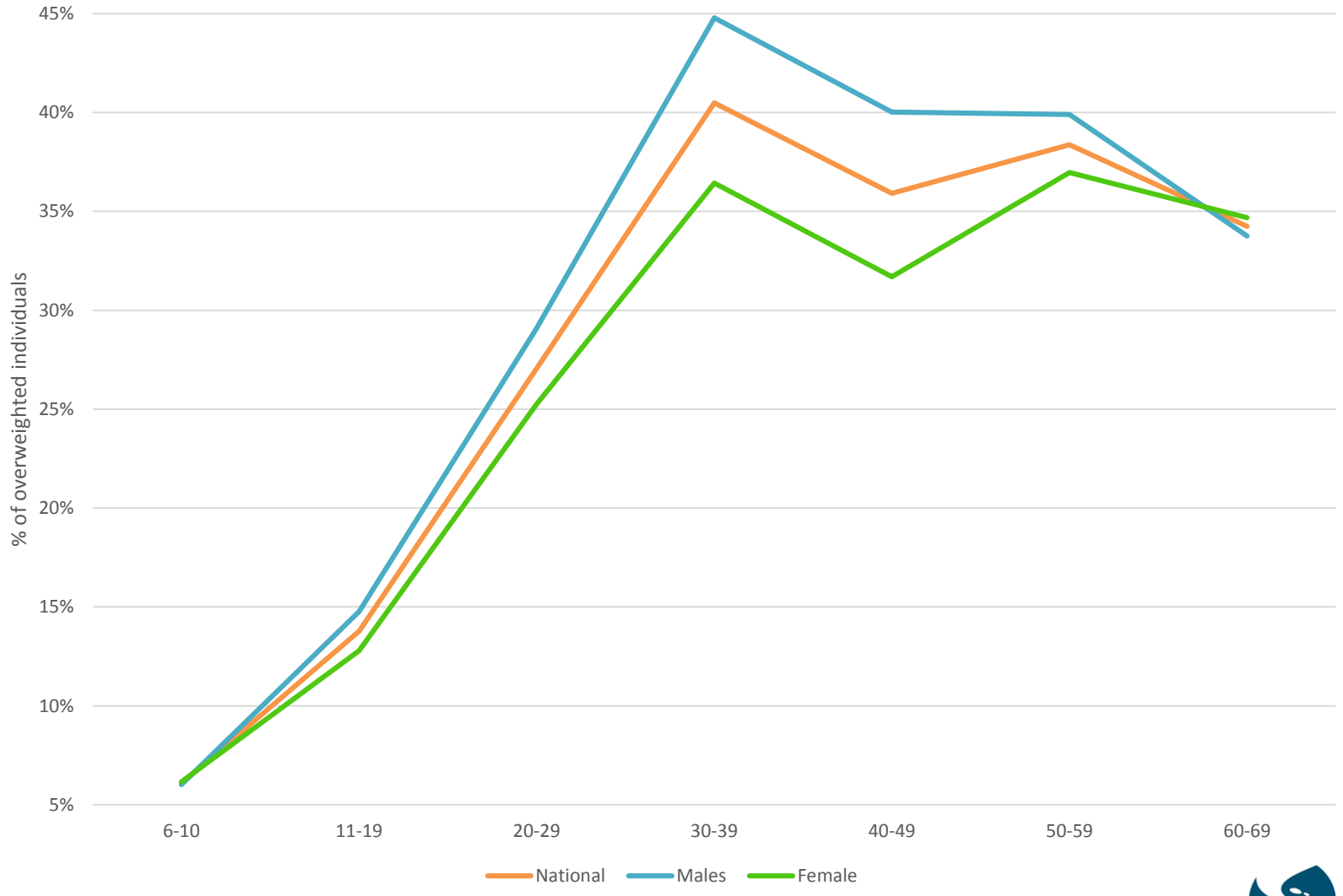
- We measured objective health by calculating individual level Body Mass Indexes (BMI)
- We then assess the incidence and dynamics of Overweight and Obesity

Overweight is Everybody's Problem

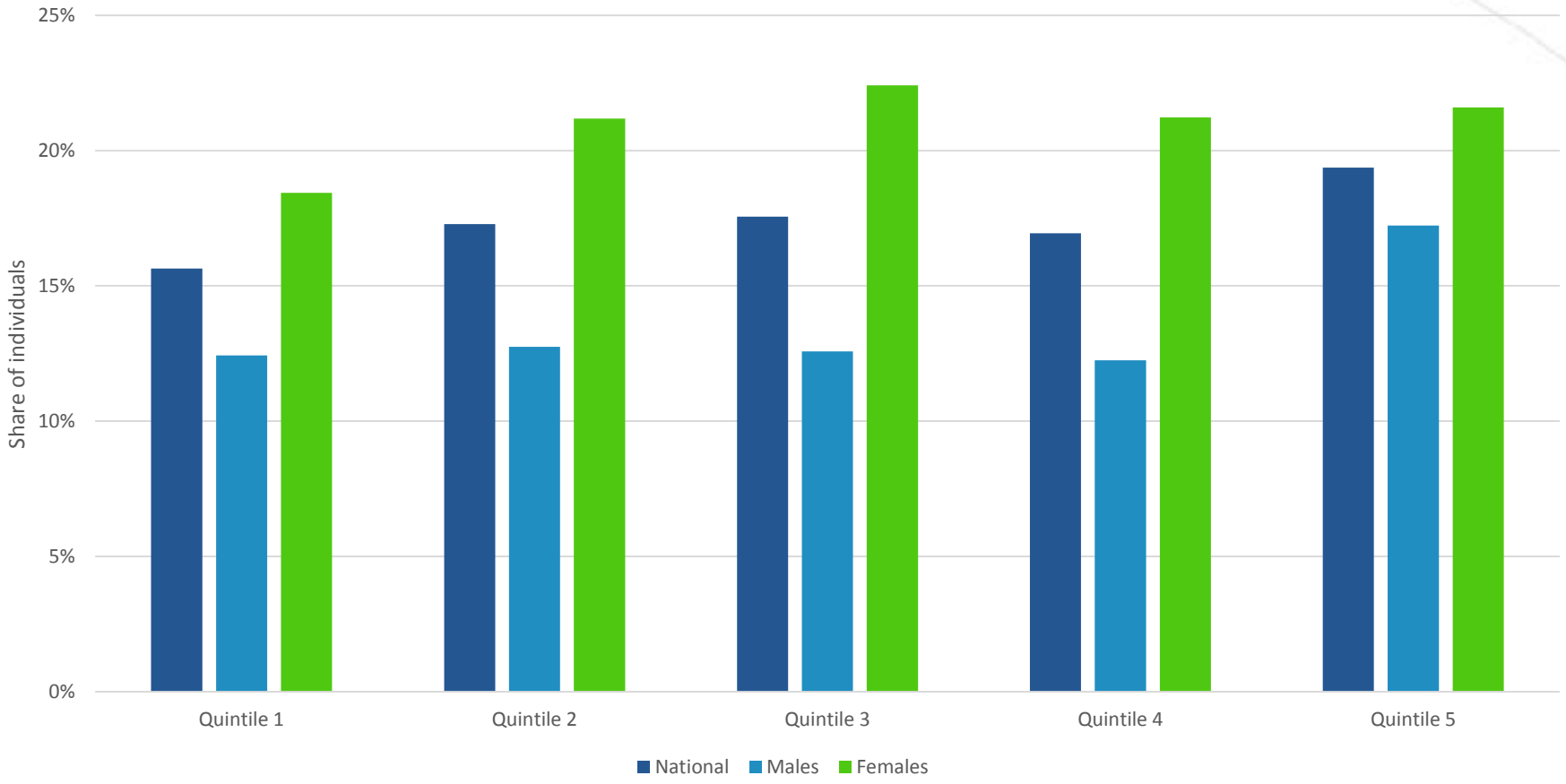


- Measured objectively with BMI [25, 30] → **Overall 29%**
- But relatively more serious for more advantaged households
- Even between genders across the consumption distribution

Overweight: increasing in age

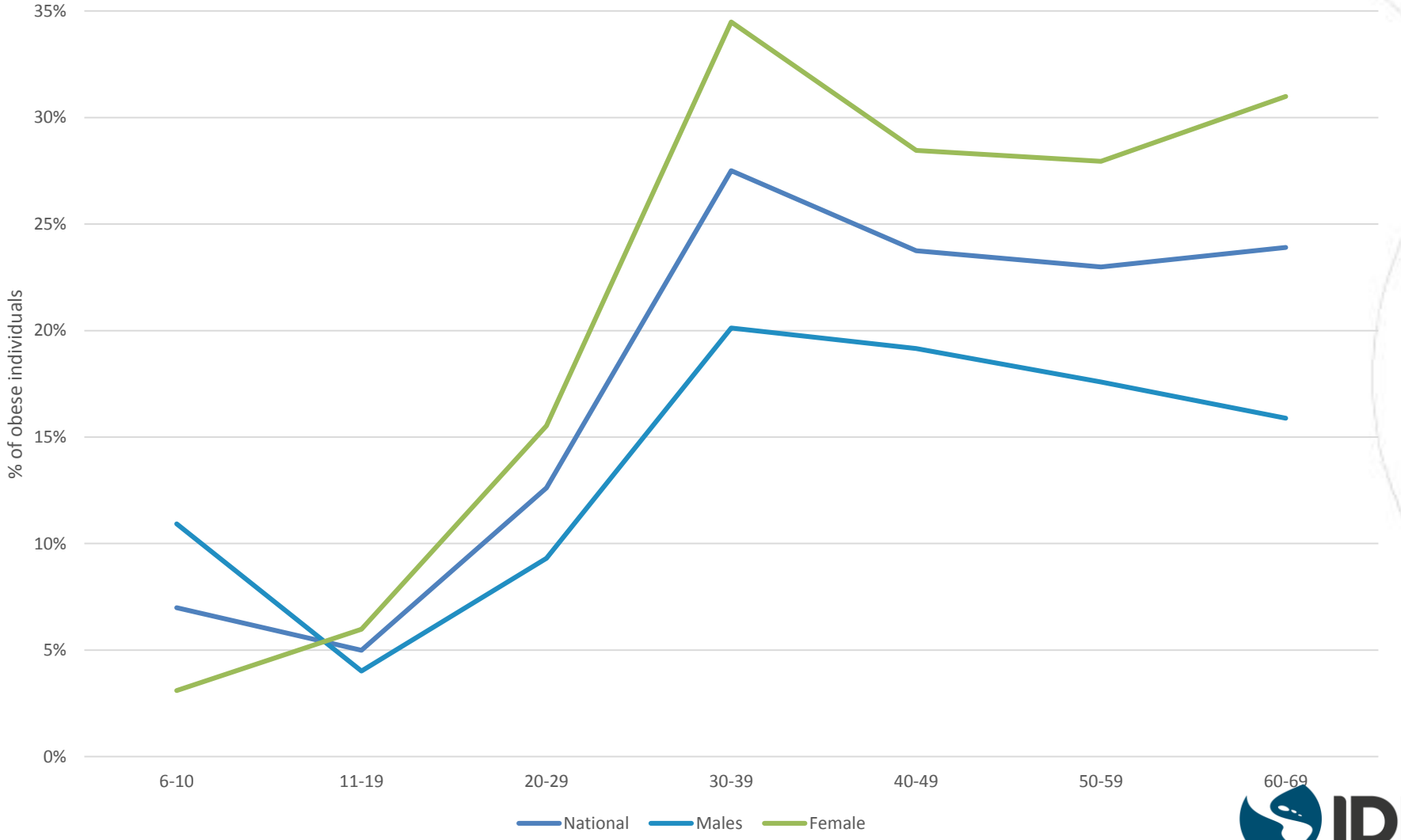


But Obesity is Higher for Females



- Measured objectively with BMI > 30 → **Overall 17%**
- Even obesity incidence across the consumption distribution
- But always significantly higher for females (21.0% vs 13.0%)

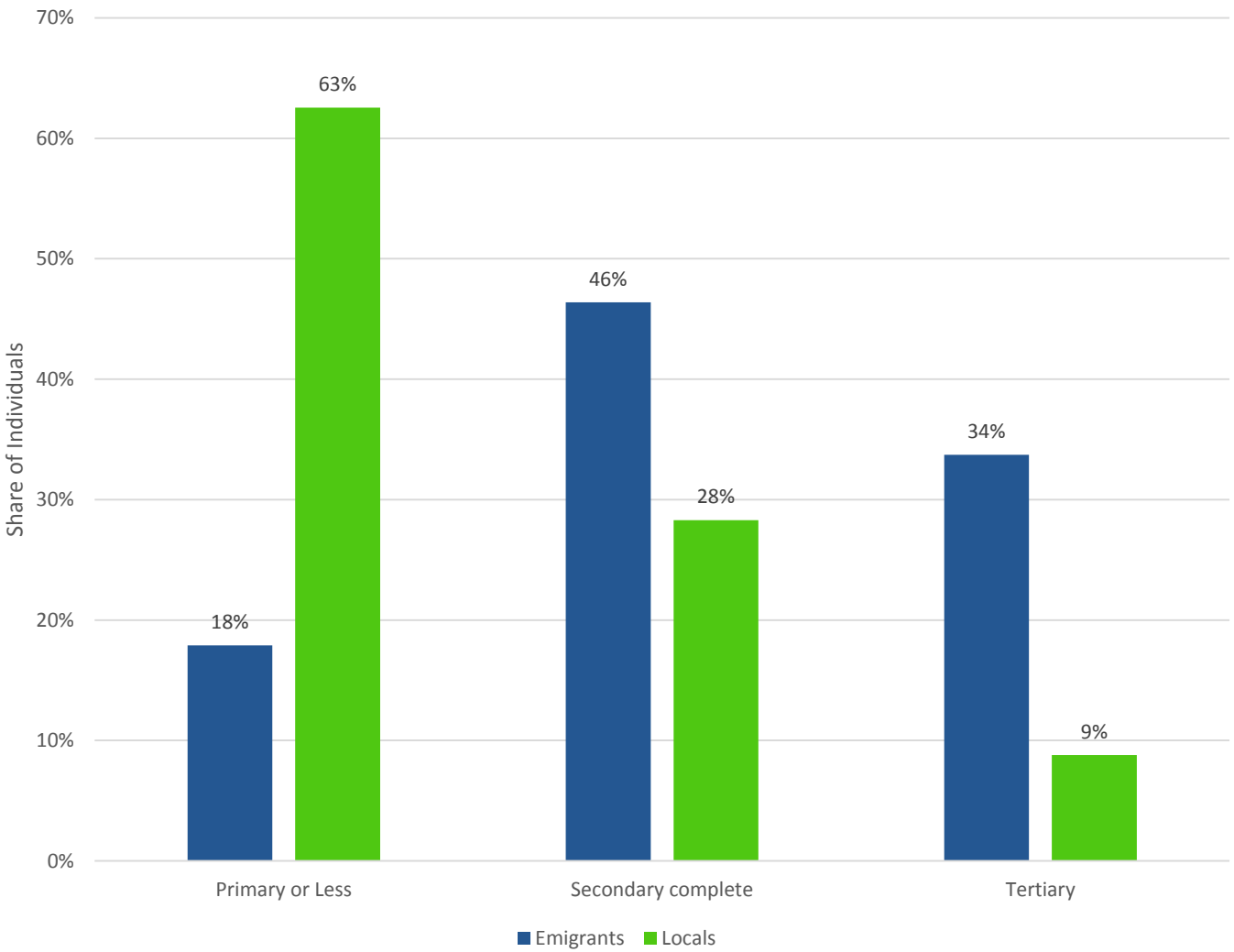
Obesity: higher for females at almost all ages



How different are emigrants from peers who currently live in Suriname?

- When a household reported at least one former member who emigrated
- We asked for the educational attainment of each emigrant
- We then compared the educational attainment distribution of emigrants vis-à-vis the distribution of Suriname residents

Brain Drain? Emigrants are more educated



34% of Emigrants with tertiary education (compared to 9% of local counterparts)

Summarizing

- SSLC is a powerful tool to understand several aspects of welfare in Suriname
- Today we have seen a snapshot of the results that can be obtained
- Objective data on poverty along with observable characteristics → input for targeting mechanisms based on observable characteristics
- Scarce public resources can now be objectively targeted to appropriate segments of the population
- Rich microdata to answer several policy relevant research questions