

Poverty Research in Ireland: North and South  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013

# What counts as deprivation? Conventions and controversies

Mike Tomlinson

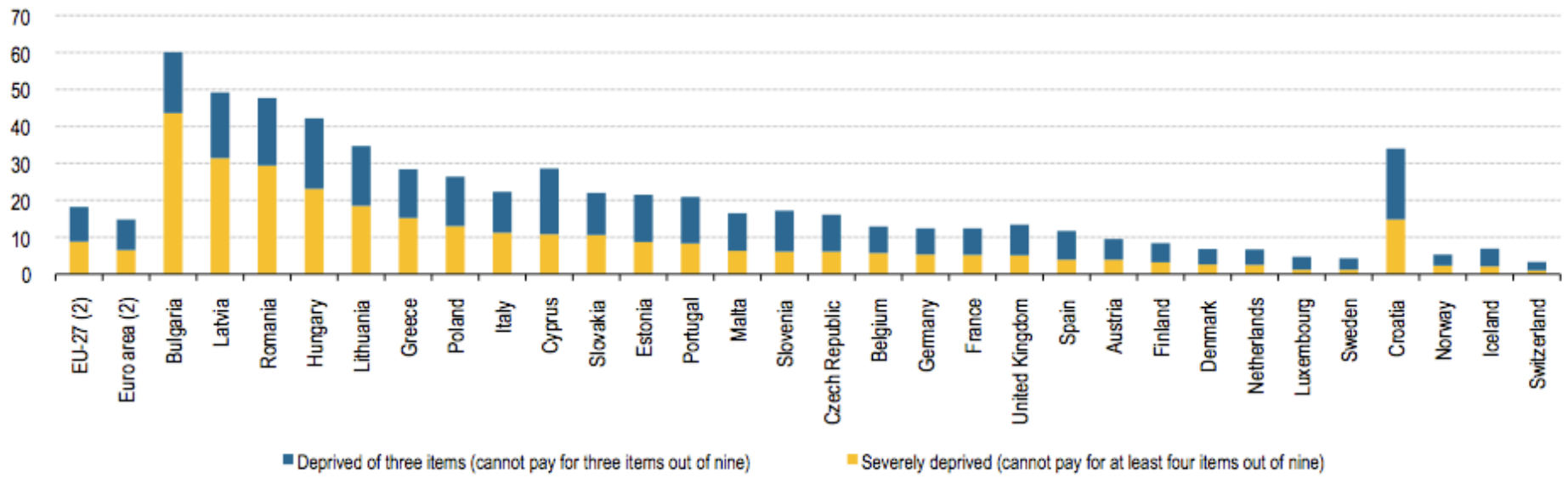
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# Euro Stat

Deprivation = 3 of 9 items

Severe deprivation = 4 of 9 items

- to pay their rent, mortgage or utility bills;
  - to keep their home adequately warm;
  - to face unexpected expenses;
  - to eat meat or proteins regularly;
  - to go on holiday;
  - a television set;
  - a washing machine;
  - a car;
  - a telephone.
-



(1) Countries sorted in descending order by severe material deprivation rate

(2) Eurostat estimates

Note: 2011 IE data not available

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc\_sip8)

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# Euro Stat

Deprivation = 5 of 13 items

Severe deprivation = 7 of 13 items

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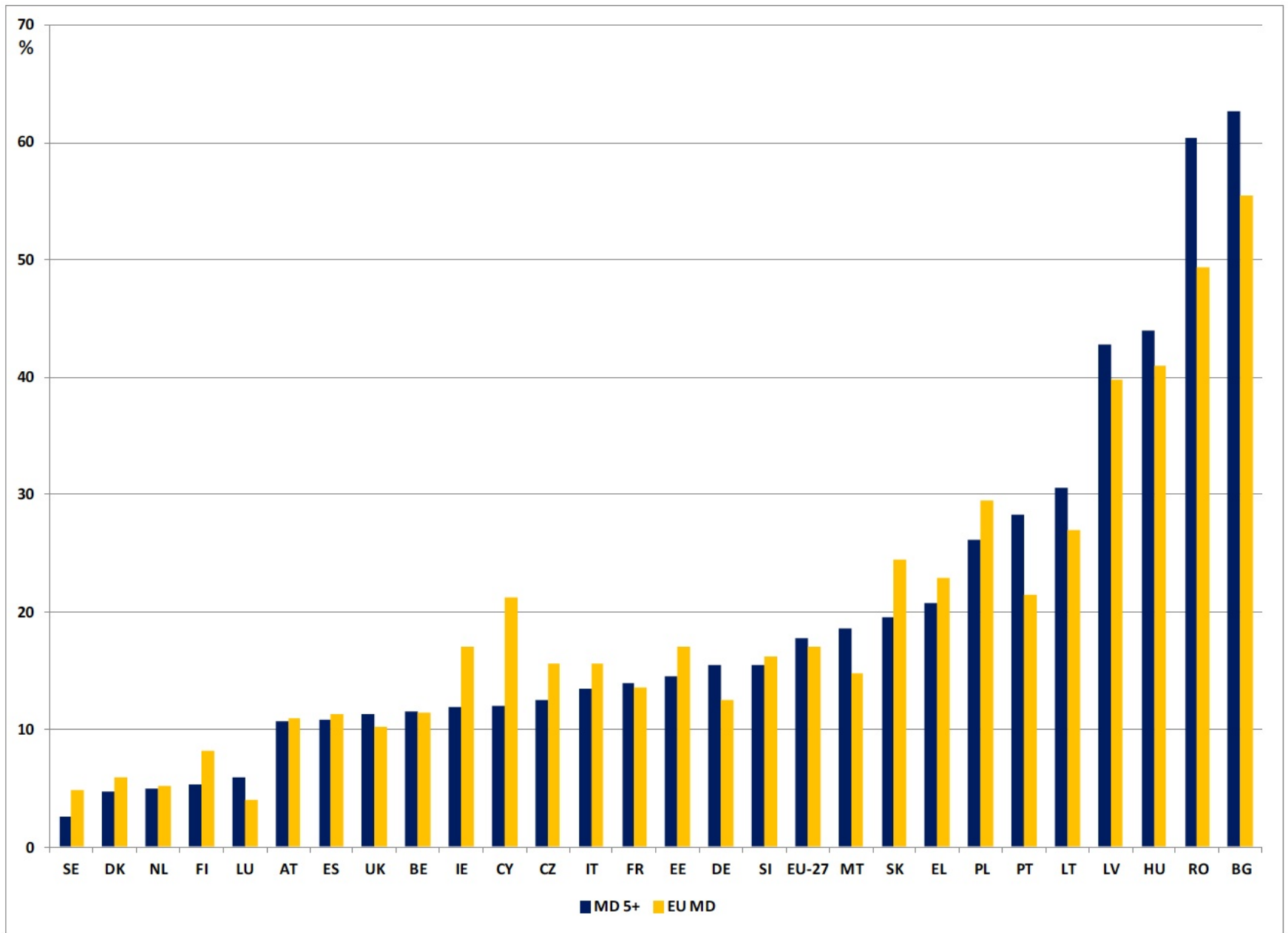
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Severe deprivation = 7 of 13 items

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  - to keep their home adequately warm;
  - to face unexpected expenses;
  - to eat meat or proteins regularly;
  - to go on holiday;
  - a car;
- +
- replace worn-out clothes by some new ones;
  - have two pairs of properly fitting shoes;
  - spend a small amount of money each week on him/herself;
  - have regular leisure activities;
  - get together with friends/family for a drink/meal at least monthly.
  - replacing worn-out furniture;
  - both a computer and an internet connection (enforced lack).



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# Ireland

## Deprivation = 2 out of 11 items

- unable to afford two pairs of strong shoes
- unable to afford a warm waterproof overcoat
- unable to afford new (not second-hand) clothes
- unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish (vegetarian equivalent) every second day
- unable to afford a roast joint or its equivalent once a week
- without heating at some stage in the last year through lack of money
- unable to afford to keep the home adequately warm
- unable to afford to buy presents for family or friends at least once a year
- unable to afford to replace any worn out furniture
- unable to afford to have family or friends for a drink or meal once a month
- unable to afford a morning, afternoon or evening out in the last fortnight for entertainment.



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Eurostat items

# UK

Deprivation, pensioners = score of 20	Weights	Score
• At least one filling meal a day	0.989	7.27
• Go out socially at least once a month	0.763	5.61
• See friends or family at least once a month	0.951	6.99
• Take a holiday away from home	0.569	4.18
• Able to replace cooker if it broke down	0.894	6.57
• Home kept in a good state of repair	0.969	7.12
• Heating, electrics, plumbing and drains working	0.983	7.22
• Have a damp-free home	0.950	6.98
• Home kept adequately warm	0.963	7.07
• Able to pay regular bills	0.969	7.12
• Have a telephone to use, whenever needed	0.971	7.13
• Have access to a car or taxi, whenever needed	0.898	6.60
• Have hair done or cut regularly	0.890	6.54
• Have a warm waterproof coat	0.981	7.21
• Able to pay an unexpected expense of £200	<u>0.872</u>	<u>6.40</u>
	<b>13.610</b>	<b>100</b>

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# UK

## Deprivation, children = score of 25 (2011/12 FRS)

### For children

Outdoor space or facilities nearby to play safely	0.910	5.81
Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom	0.903	5.76
Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals	0.949	6.06
Leisure equipment such as sports equipment or a bicycle	0.859	5.48
A family holiday away from home for at least one week a year	0.583	3.72
A hobby or leisure activity	0.711	4.54
Friends around for tea or a snack once a fortnight	0.666	4.25
Go on school trips	0.878	5.61
Toddler group/nursery/playgroup at least once a week	0.651	4.15
Attends organised activity outside school each week	0.644	4.11
Fresh fruit and vegetables eaten by children every day	0.887	5.66
Warm winter coat for each child	0.960	6.13

### For adults

Enough money to keep home in a decent state of decoration	0.743	4.74
A holiday away from home for at least one week a year, whilst not staying with relatives at their home	0.518	3.31
Household contents insurance	0.714	4.56
Regular savings of £10 a month or more for rainy days or retirement	0.539	3.44
Replace any worn out furniture	0.521	3.32
Replace or repair major electrical goods such as a refrigerator or a washing machine, when broken	0.643	4.11
A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family	0.602	3.84
In winter, able to keep accommodation warm enough	0.880	5.62
Keep up with bills and regular debt payments	0.907	5.79

### Sum of all weights

15.669 100

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# What deprivation questions for PSE Omnibus survey?

## Considerations:

- Comparisons with other surveys
- Standards and expectations change
- Expert views not always same as popular views
- Spectrum of living standards

## Main innovations:

- ✓ ‘all recommended dental work’
- ✓ ‘hair done or cut regularly’
- ✓ ‘table with chairs at which family can eat’
- ✓ ‘taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes’

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## PSE items and activities (number)

<b>Domains</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
Food	4	3
Clothing	5	7
Housing	4	2
Information	4	
Durable goods	12	
Personal finances	4	
Social	13	7
Developmental		10
Environmental		1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>

## PSE items and activities (number)

Domains	Adults	Children	Adult deprivation
Food	4	3	3
Clothing	5	7	3
Housing	4	2	3
Information	4		0
Durable goods	12		3
Personal finances	4		4
Social	13	7	6
Developmental		10	
Environmental		1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>TOTAL &gt;50%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>

# Consensus on Deprivation?

[Adult necessities](#)

[Child necessities](#)

[www.poverty.ac.uk](http://www.poverty.ac.uk)

# PSE adult deprivation items, >50%, valid, reliable

<i>Ireland</i>	<i>twomeal</i>	Two meals a day
	<i>vegfruit</i>	Fresh fruit and vegetables everyday
✓	<i>meatfish</i>	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day
✓	<i>shoes</i>	Two pairs of all weather shoes
✓	<i>warmcoat</i>	A warm waterproof coat
	<i>jobfrock</i>	Appropriate clothes for job interviews
	<i>nodamphh</i>	Damp-free home
✓	<i>heating</i>	Heating to keep home adequately warm
	<i>decorate</i>	Enough money to keep home in a decent state of decoration
	<i>elec</i>	Enough money to replace or repair broken electrical goods such as a fridge or washing machine
	<i>tablechhh</i>	Table and chairs at which all the family can eat
	<i>Curtainshh</i>	Curtains or window blinds
	<i>savings</i>	Regular savings (of at least £20) for rainy days
	<i>pension</i>	Regular payments into an occupational or private pension
	<i>Insurancehh</i>	Home Insurance
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	<i>hobby</i>	A hobby or leisure activity
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	<i>wedding</i>	Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions
	<i>hospital</i>	Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions
	<i>sportex</i>	Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes
	<i>dental</i>	All recommended dental work/treatment

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× Excluded from PSE measure

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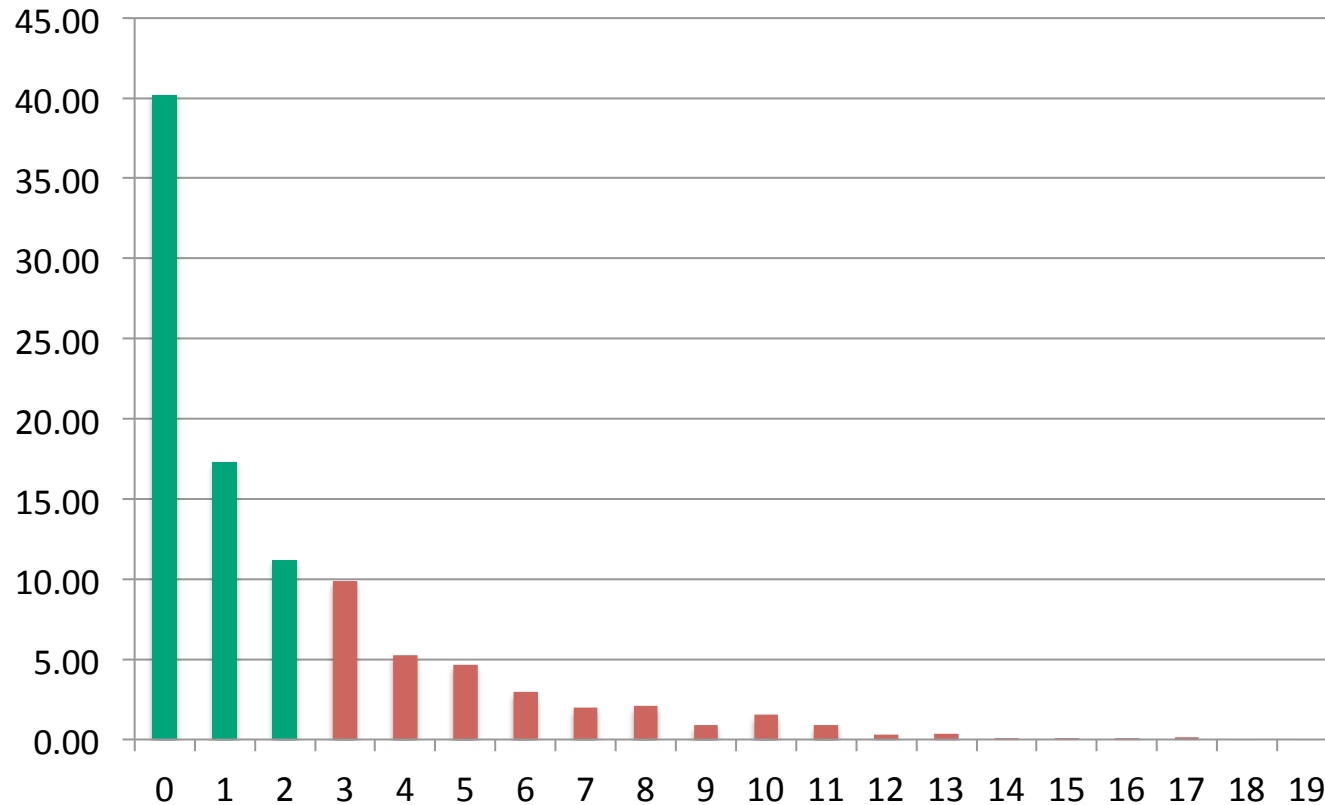
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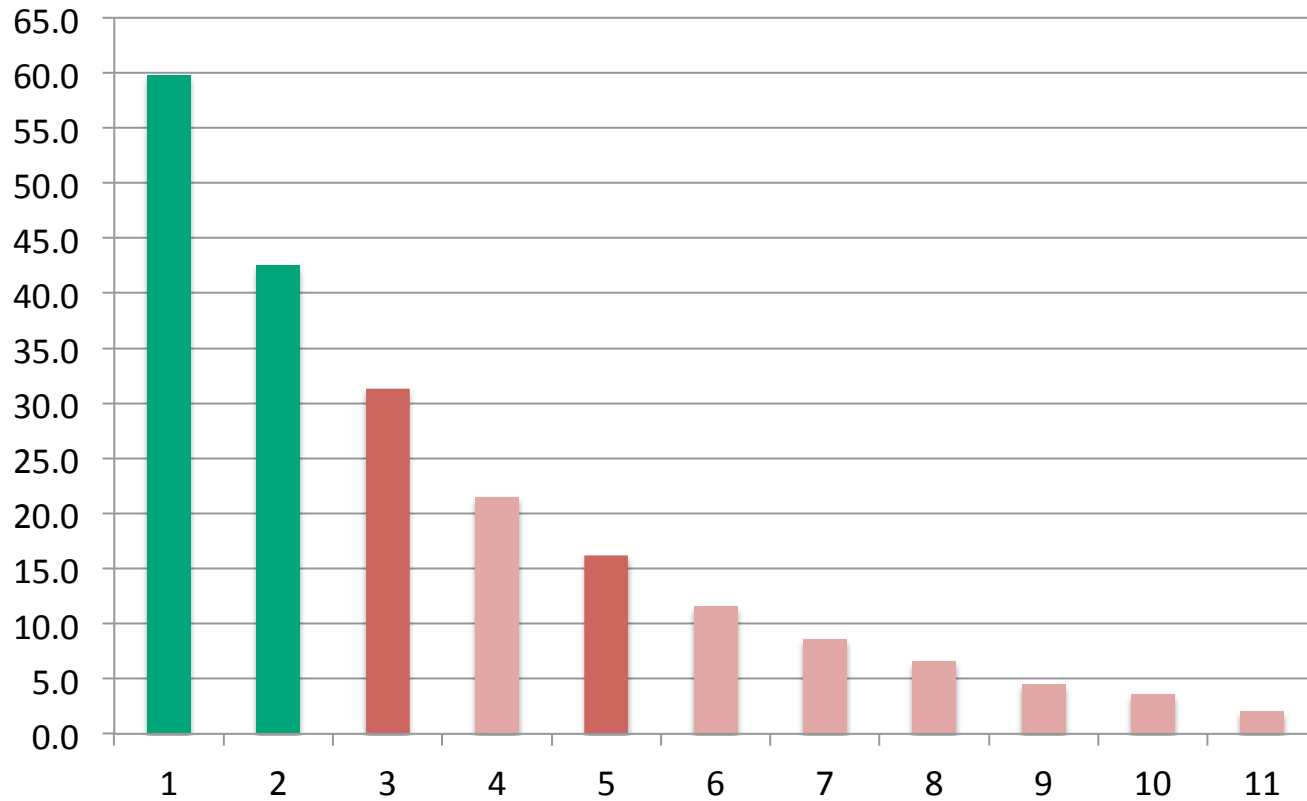
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## Proportion of NI population lacking 'n' of 22 necessities PSE2012

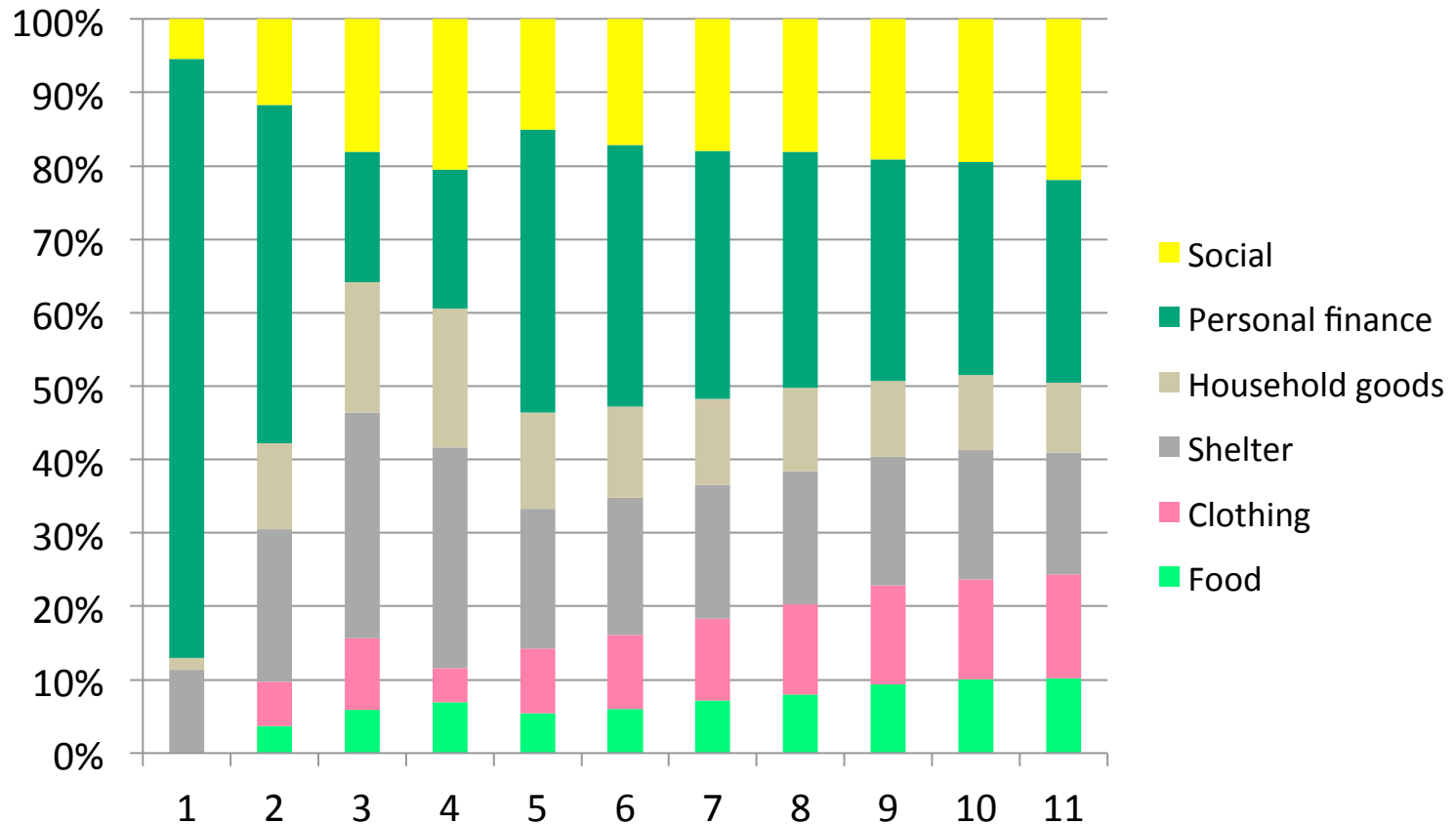




## Proportion of NI population lacking 'n' or more of 22 items PSE2012



## Domain composition of 'n' or more of 22 items lacking

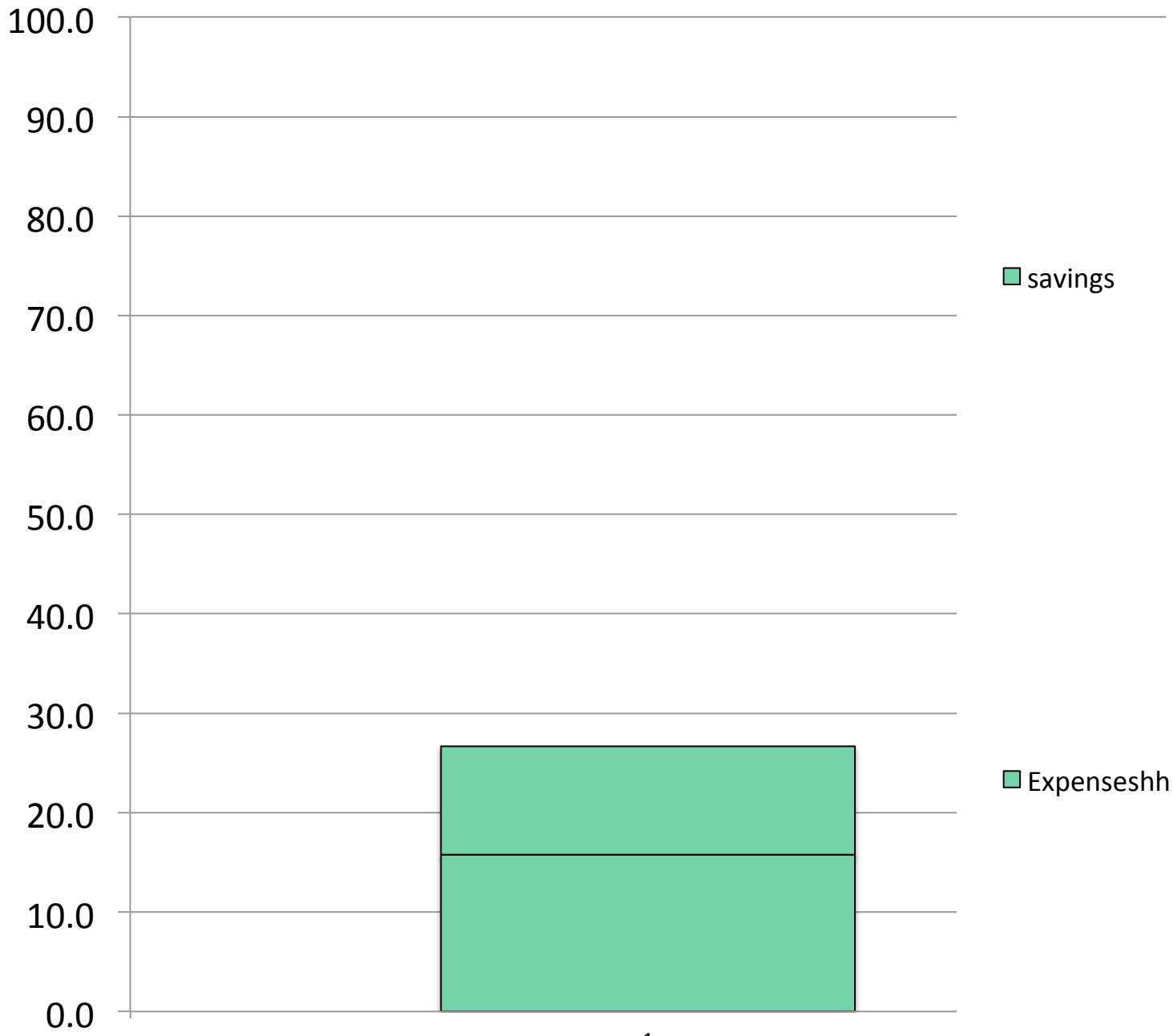


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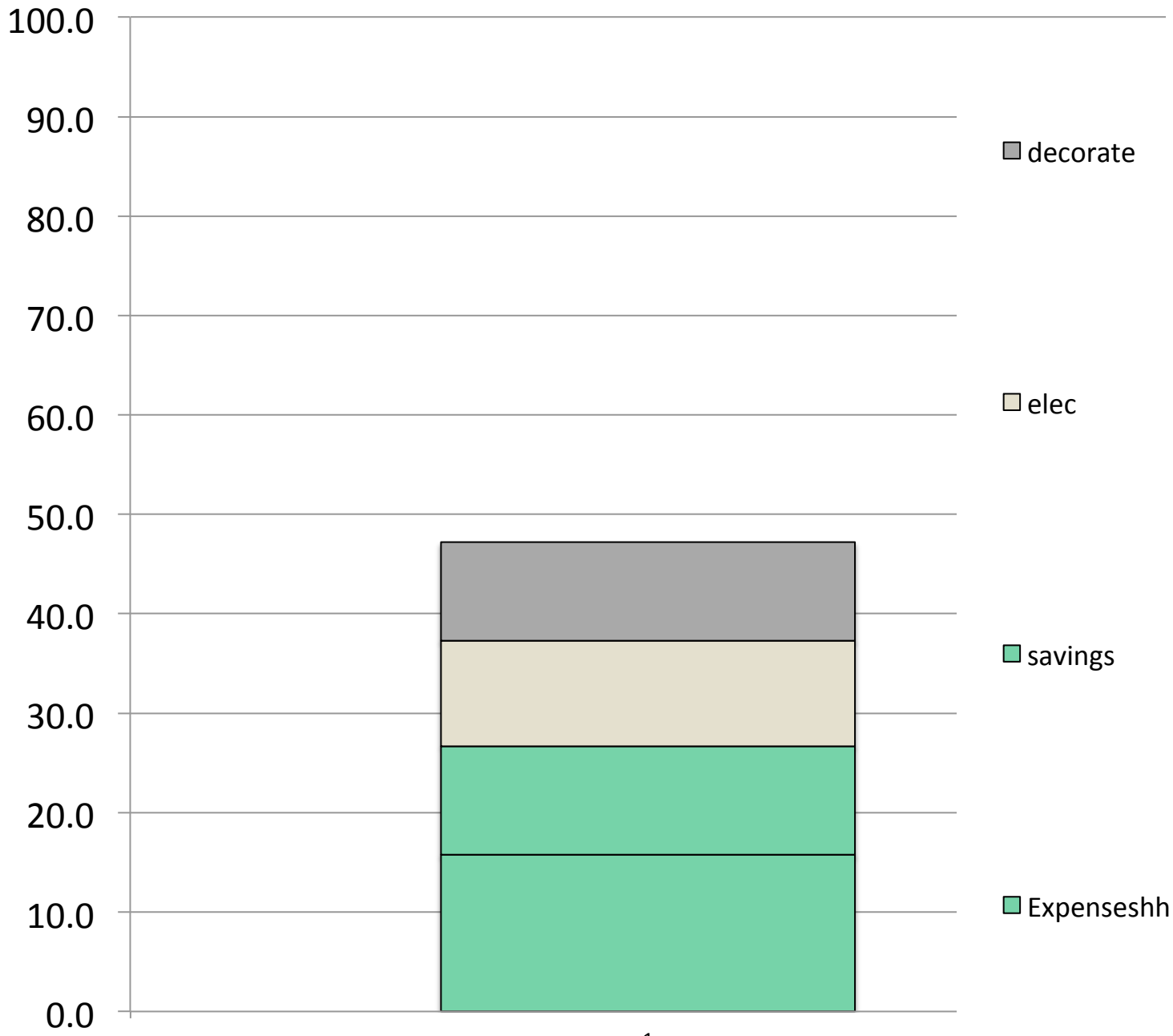
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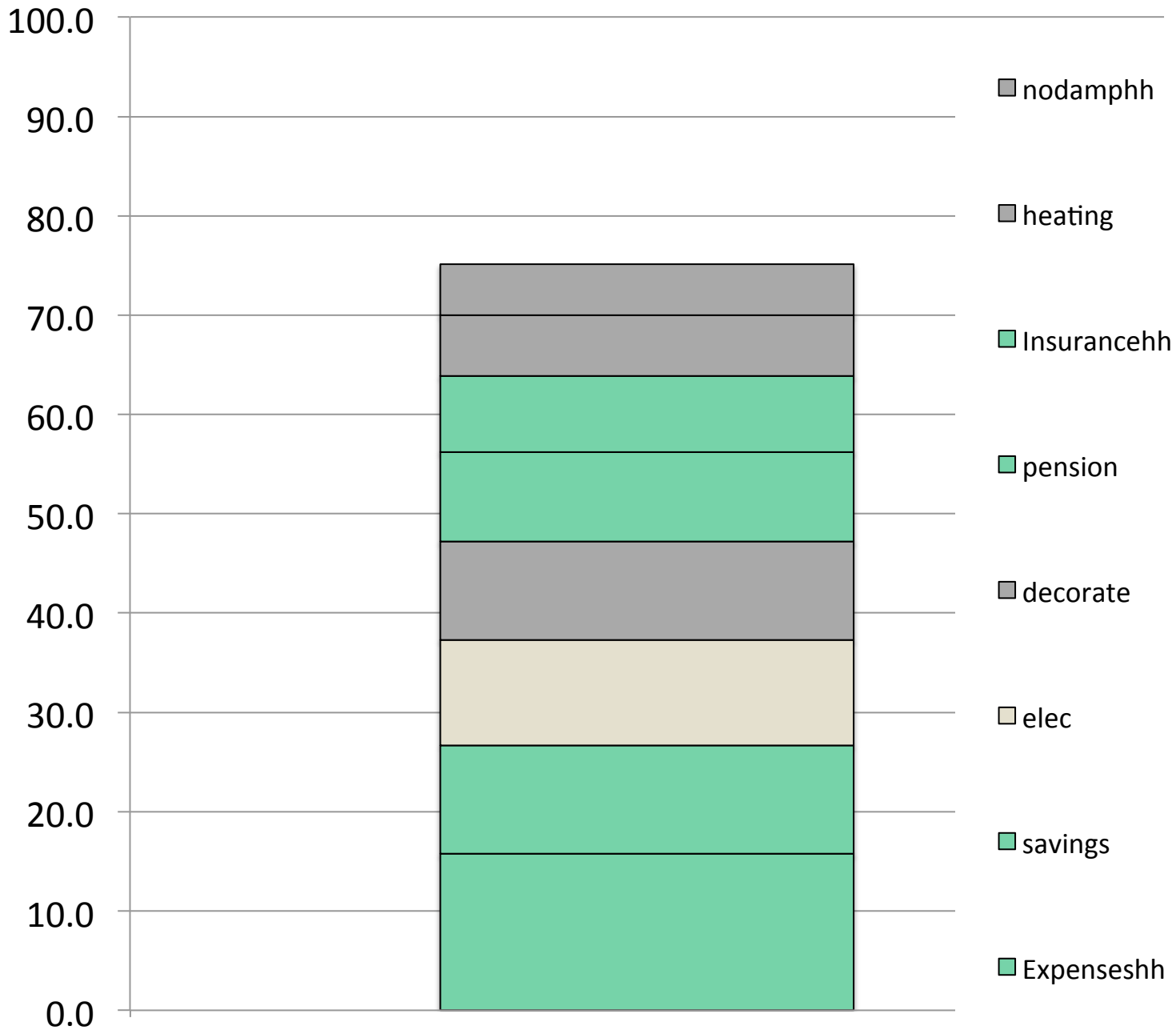




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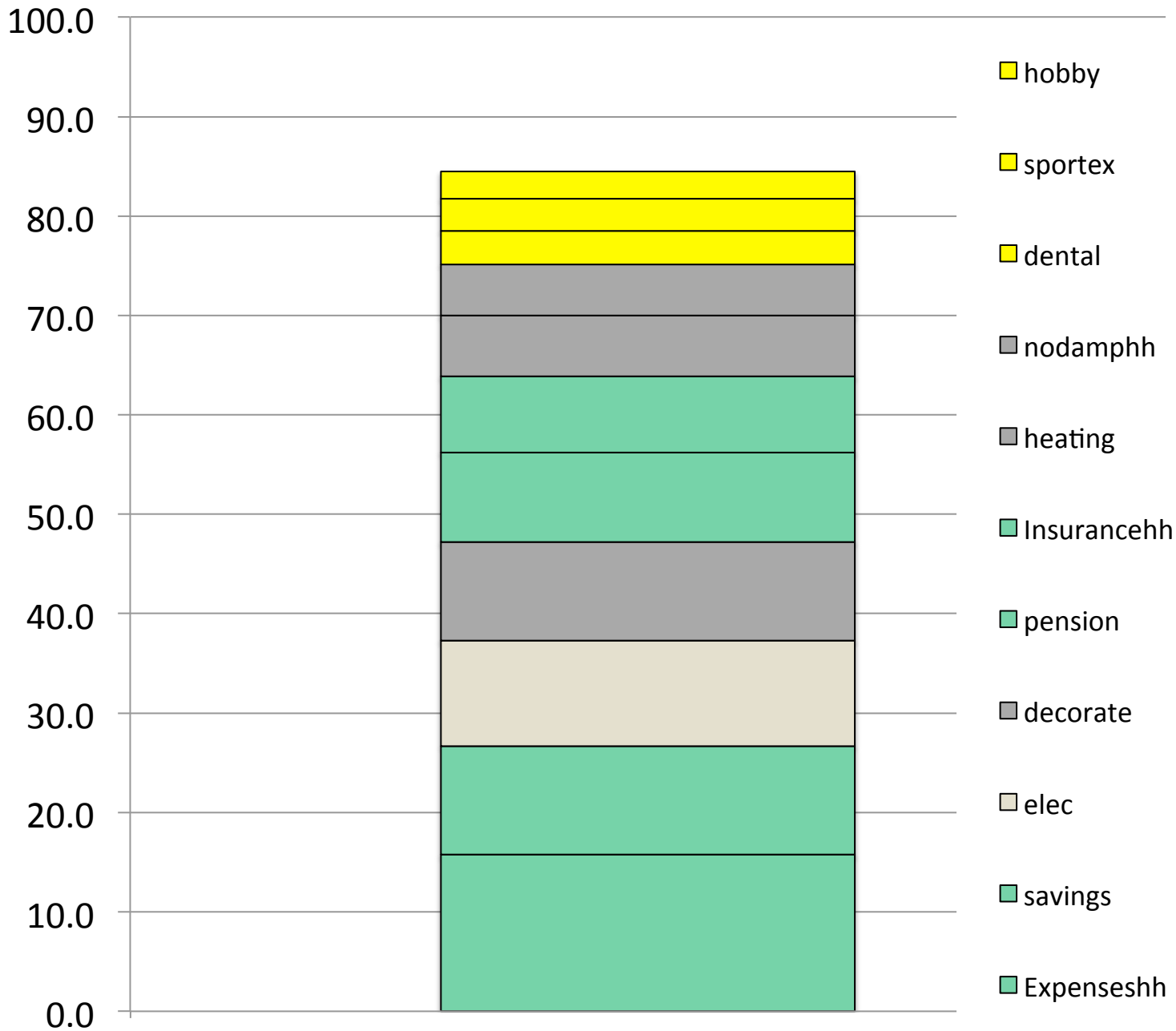


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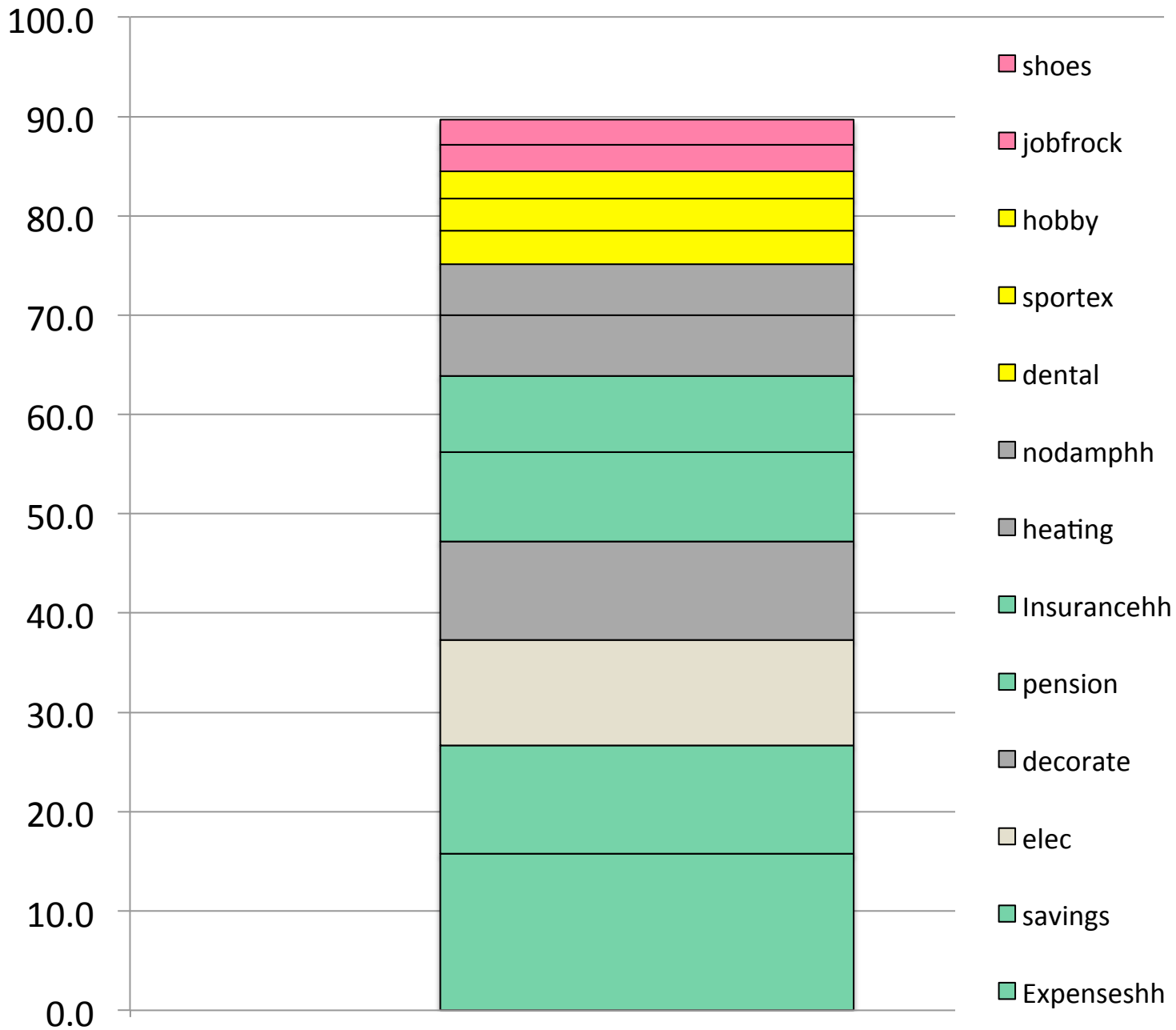




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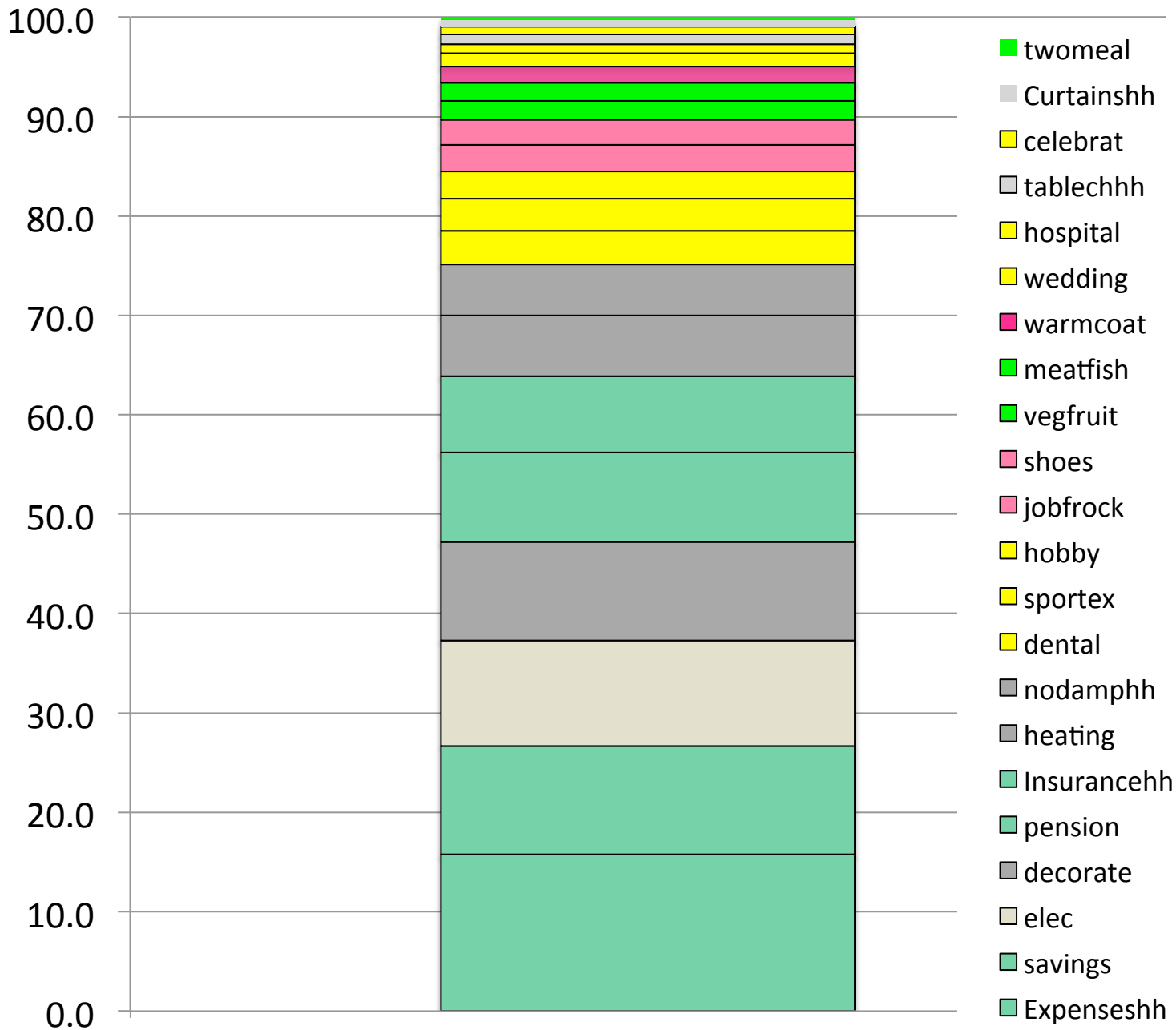
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- nodamphh
- heating
- Insurancehh
- pension
- decorate
- elec
- savings
- Expenseshh

1





1

***N Ireland  
individuals  
deprived of  
five items***

No. of Items (rank on 3 items)	Item	%
22 (22)	twomeal	100.0
21 (19)	tablechhh	99.7
20 (21)	Curtainshh	98.9
19 (18)	hospital	98.2
18 (20)	celebrat	97.2
17 (17)	wedding	96.1
16 (16)	warmcoat	94.4
15 (15)	meatfish	92.3
14 (14)	vegfruit	89.8
13 (13)	shoes	87.2
12 (12)	jobfrock	83.9
11 (11)	hobby	80.4
10 (10)	sportex	76.9
9 (9)	dental	73.1
8 (8)	nodamphh	69.1
7 (6)	Insurancehh	64.9
6 (7)	heating	59.0
5 (4)	decorate	53.1
4 (5)	pension	44.2
3 (2)	savings	35.1
2 (3)	elec	23.7
1 (1)	Expenseshh	12.1

## ISSUES:

More or less items?

Do we need child items?

Prevalence weighting vs counts

Item selection informed by consensus?

Should N Ireland go it alone?

What do we need for North/South comparison?