

Social Protection and Childhood Violence: Expert Roundtable

Know Violence in Childhood
UNICEF Office of Research – Innocenti

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The social safety net and
physical child abuse in the
United States

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Social protection in the US





United States Social Protection Programs (selection)

Program	Work requirements	Means tested	Age or disability requirements
TANF	x	x	
Child care subsidy	x	x	
Food stamps	Sometimes	x	
WIC		x	
Medicaid		x	
EITC	x	x	
Medicare	x		x
Social Security	x		x
Housing subsidies		x	



United States Social Protection Programs

- Each program has unique eligibility requirements
- Each program has a different process for obtaining benefits
- Emphasis on work present in many
- No single program is sufficient to bring a family out of poverty permanently





TANF

- Work-requirements (at least 30 hours per week)
- Sanctions
- Time-limited (60 months lifetime limit)
- State flexibility
 - Shorter time limits (1/3 of states have shorter)
 - Full family sanctions
 - Family caps



Poverty & parenting in the US





Child abuse and neglect in the US

- Approximately 3.4 million referrals involving 6 million children annually
- 700,000 child victims per year
- Child welfare/child protective services



Evidence

- Low-income families have increased probability of actual child abuse and involvement in the child welfare system¹
- Other correlates of low income (single parenthood, unemployment, residence in low-income neighborhoods) also associated with child abuse and other measures of substandard parenting²
- Among low-income populations, economic hardships (e.g. welfare sanctions, loss of employment) associated with increased child welfare involvement³



Social protection & child abuse in the US





Evidence

- Higher welfare and food stamp benefit levels associated with decreased likelihood of out of home care placement⁴
- Sanctions (loss of benefits for failing to follow rules) related to increased likelihood of abuse⁵



Evidence

- Family caps (denying additional benefits for additional children while using TANF) related to more physical abuse⁶
- Lifetime limits of fewer than 60 months associated with higher rates of abuse⁶



Child Support Income and Maltreatment

- Tested whether random increase in income via full child support pass-through was associated with decreased CPS involvement
- All TANF entering mothers of nonmarital children (N=13,652) assigned to T or C groups, with the T group receiving full pass-through of child support payments and the C group receiving the greater of \$50 or 41% of child support payments
- Experimental group families were 10-11 percent less likely to have a screened-in report ($p < .05$)



Project GAIN (Getting Access to Income Now)



Principal Investigators:

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Question of interest

How much child maltreatment prevention can we “buy” with economic support interventions alone?



Population target:
Families whose CPS
case closed after an
investigation

Linking to benefits
and economic or
material resources

Financial decision-
making assistance

One-time emergency
assistance with
economic needs

Economic support for families at risk for maltreatment

Referrals for other “non-
economic” needs



Menu of services

- Employment – job search, licenses, resume building, practice interviews
- Housing – eviction prevention, homelessness, referrals for foreclosure prevention, home-ownership
- Benefit Advocacy – W2, Social Security, FoodShare, landlords
- Education – GED, CNA, MATC, UWM
- Financial Decision Making – taxes, credit repair, bill paying, reducing financial fees, debt and bankruptcy, banking, budgeting, legal issues, financial goal-setting

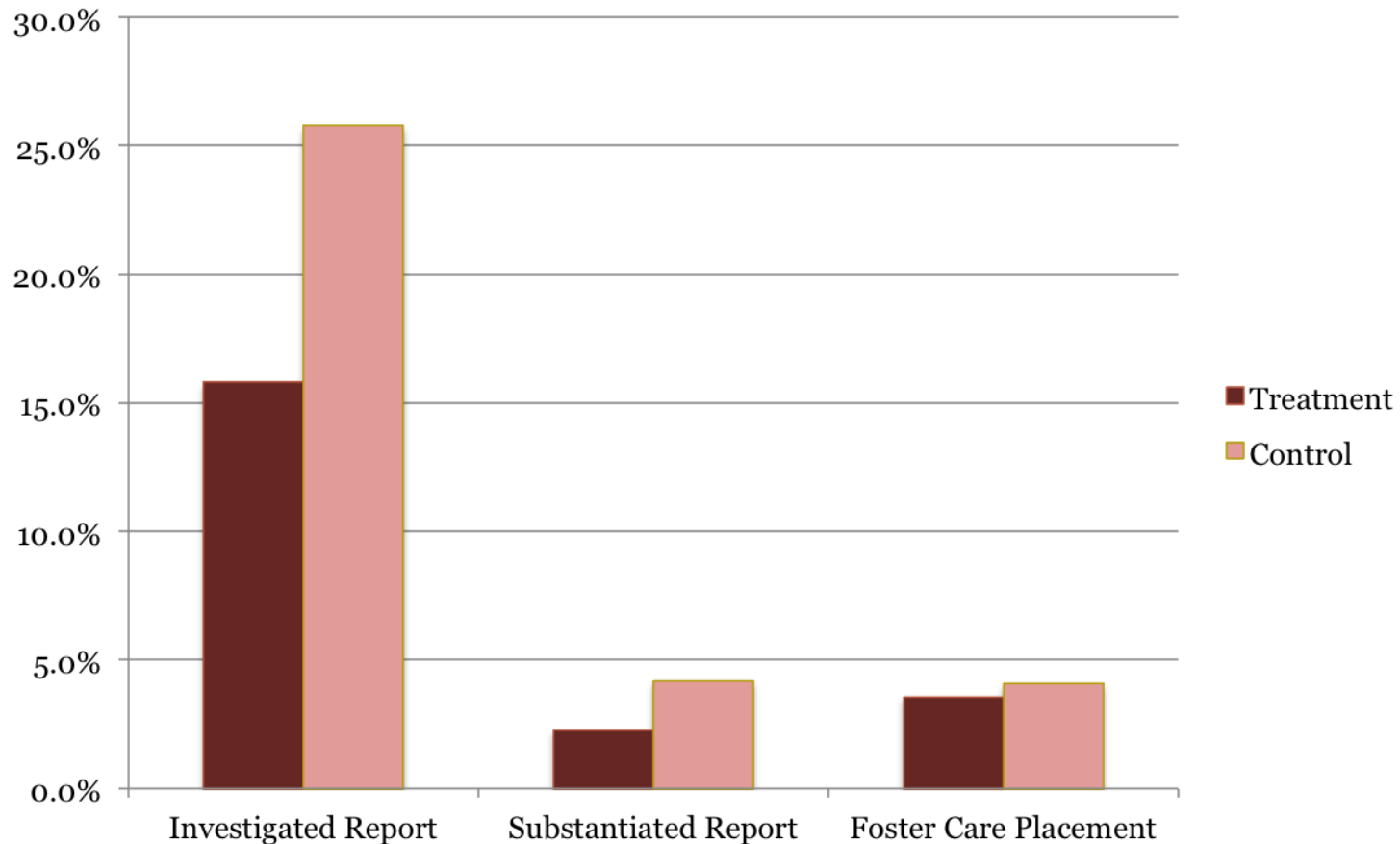


Evaluation parameters

- Approximately 4,200 families have been randomized into T and C groups since mid-2012
- Approximately 40% of families cannot be located at the point of case closure following an investigation
- Preliminary analyses followed families through December 2013
 - ITT effects null
 - TOT effects not finalized
 - Large subgroup effect: Families with a prior history of CPS involvement



Preliminary Findings for Families with History of CPS Involvement (~15%)





US in Global Context





“Family violence is common,
consequential, and changeable.”



- Kenny Steinman



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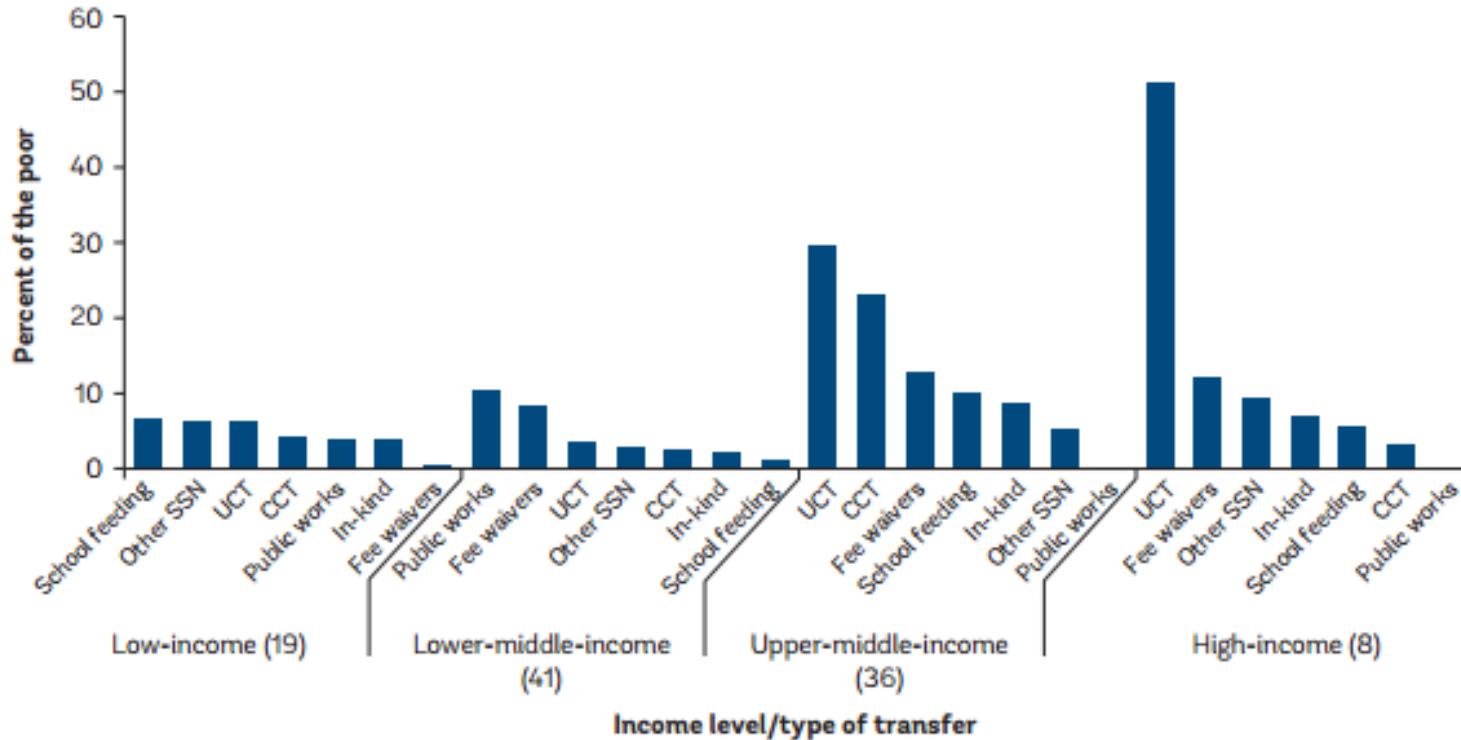
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Figure 4.2 Coverage of the poor differs greatly by different types of safety nets and income groups

Coverage of the poor (poorest quintile)

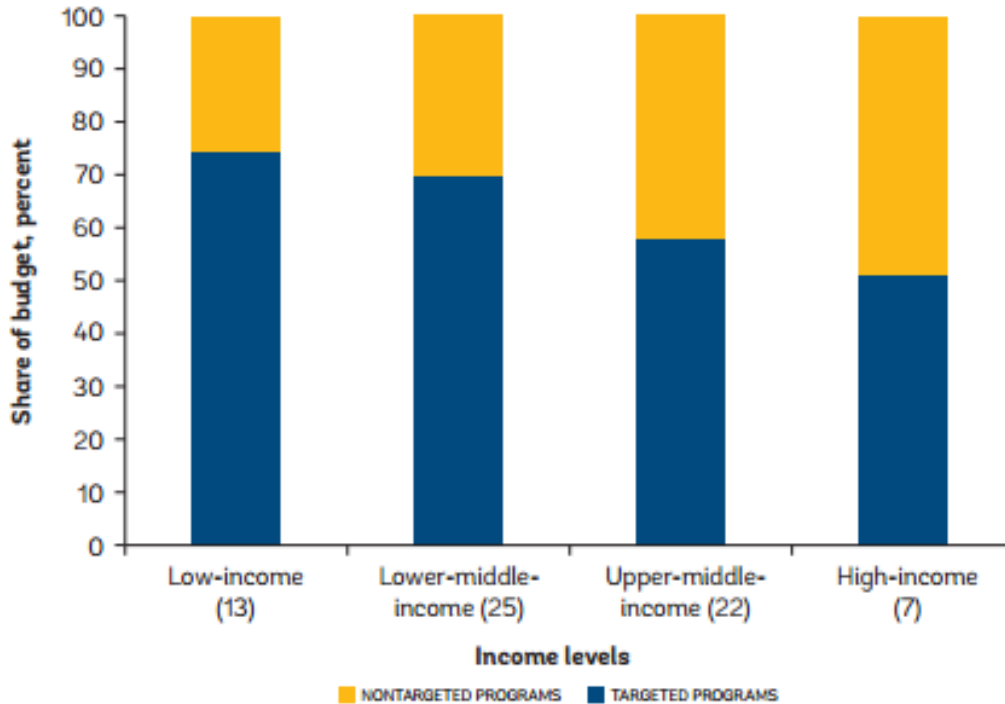


Sources: ASPIRE; see appendix G. Coverage rates are derived from household survey data, for the most recent year available per country.
 Note: Coverage rates refer to the percent of poor receiving any social safety net transfer. Poor households are defined as those in the poorest quintile of countries' respective consumption/income distribution. The number of countries with available survey data for at least one program category in each income group is indicated in parentheses. CCT = conditional cash transfer; SSN = social safety net; UCT = unconditional cash transfer.

Source: World Bank Group, 2015; Original Source: ASPIRE



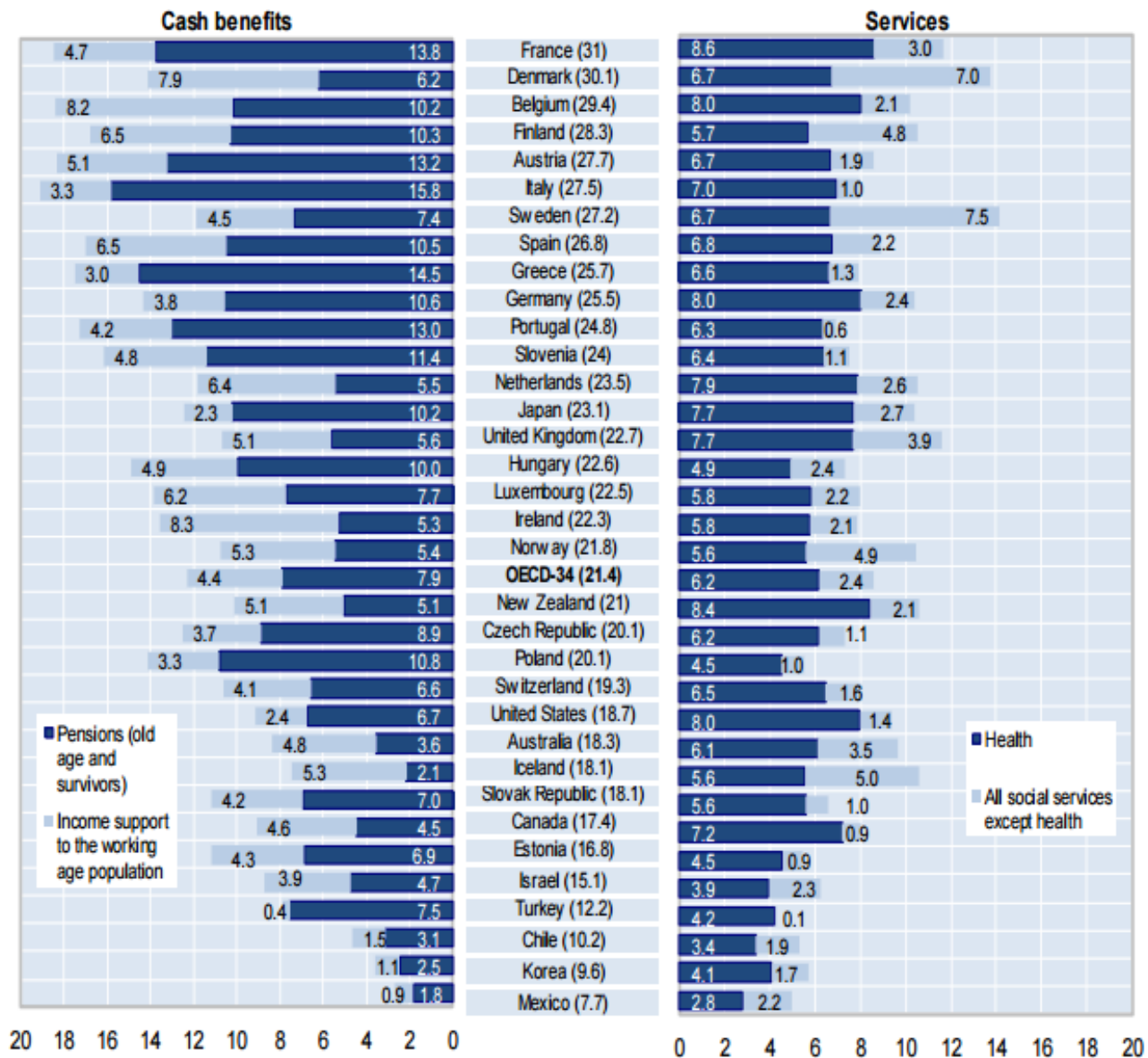
Figure 2.8 Lower-income countries devote a higher share of their social safety net budgets to targeted programs



Source: ASPIRE.

Note: Targeted programs refer to programs that by design select beneficiaries using means-tested, proxy-means-tested, community-based, geographical targeting, and self-targeting approaches. Nontargeted programs refer to universal and categorical programs. The number of countries for which data are available is indicated in parentheses.

Public social expenditure by broad social policy area, as a percent of GDP, in 2012 or latest year available¹



Source: OECD Social Expenditure Update, Nov 2014