

# The Impact of the Republic of Ireland Food Poverty Indicator

*Bertrand Maître*



*All-Island Food Poverty Network*

*Belfast 21<sup>th</sup> April, 2015*

# *Outline*

- Motivation and background
- Methodology
- Descriptive and analytical results & impact of the economic recession
- Conclusion

# *Motivation*



- Commissioned by Department of Social Protection (Social Inclusion Division)
- Exploratory study into measuring food poverty & develop a food poverty indicator
- Characteristics of population in food poverty
- Predictive factors of food poverty

# *Background*



- Food poverty has been defined as the inability to have an **adequate and nutritious diet** due to issues of **affordability** or **accessibility** (Dowler, 1998).
- This can also include the social and cultural participatory aspect of food poverty (Friel and Conlon, 2004)
- Different approaches to food poverty exist within Ireland and internationally – cost of adequate and healthy diet; nutritional intake of deprived and low income groups
- Rise in proportion of population reporting deprivation
- Interest in quantitative and comparable measure of food poverty

# *Methodology*



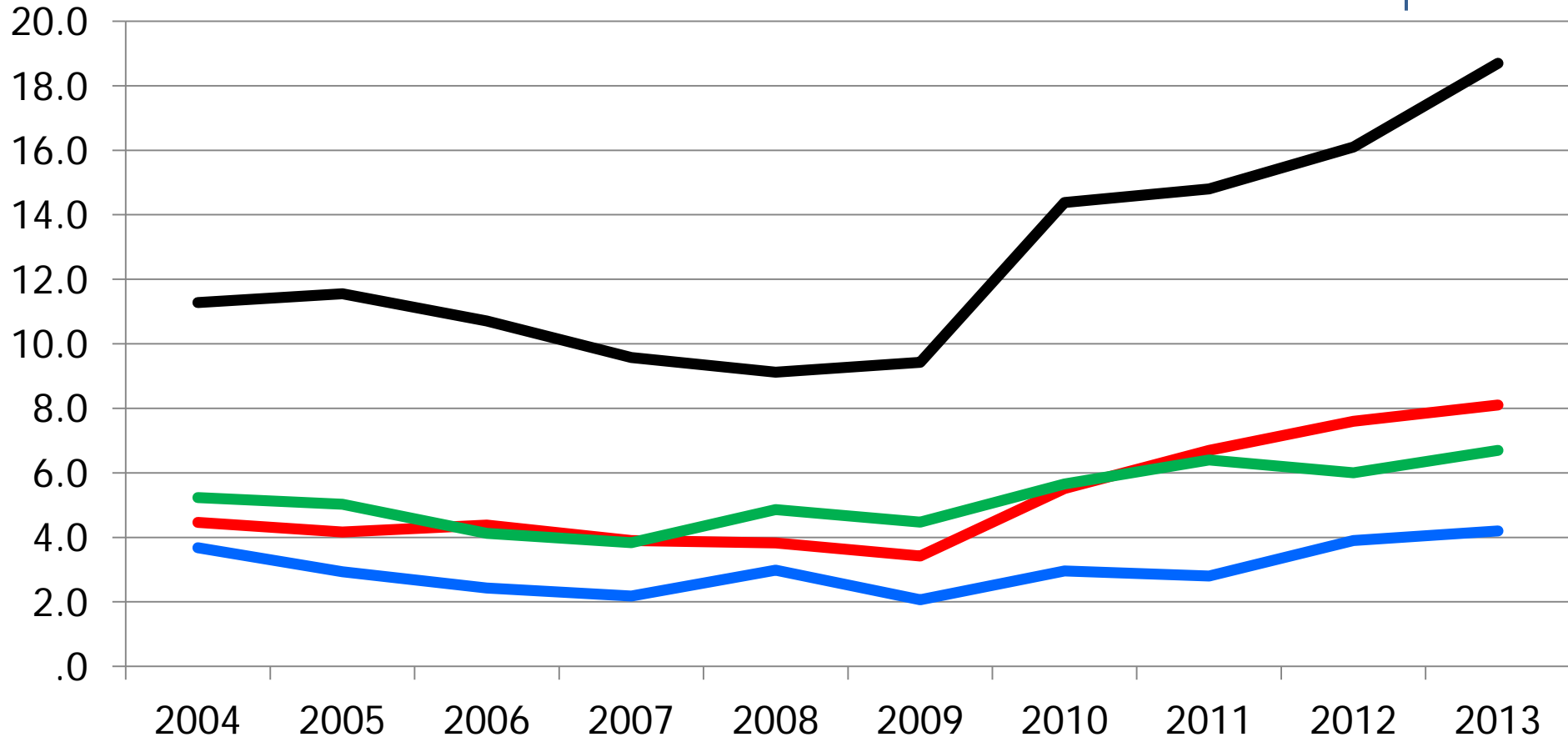
- The Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)- Since 2004
  - 4,000 to 5,000 households (11,000 to 13,000 individuals)
  - Income & living conditions (demographic, education, labour, health, housing, social exclusion-income poverty-deprivation)
- Use of food deprivation items to create composite food poverty index
- Socio demographic profile of population reporting food poverty
- Regression analysis to identify predictive characteristics of food poverty

# *Food deprivation items*



- Inability to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day
- Inability to afford a roast (or vegetarian equivalent) once a week
- Inability to afford to have family or friends for a meal or drink once a month
- Respondent did not have a substantial meal in one day over the last fortnight due to lack of money

# *Trends in food deprivation (%), 2004 to 2013*



- Unable to afford meal with meat
- Unable to afford a roast
- HRP missed a substantial meal because of lack of money
- Unable to have friends or family for a meal or drink

# *Indicator of Food Poverty*

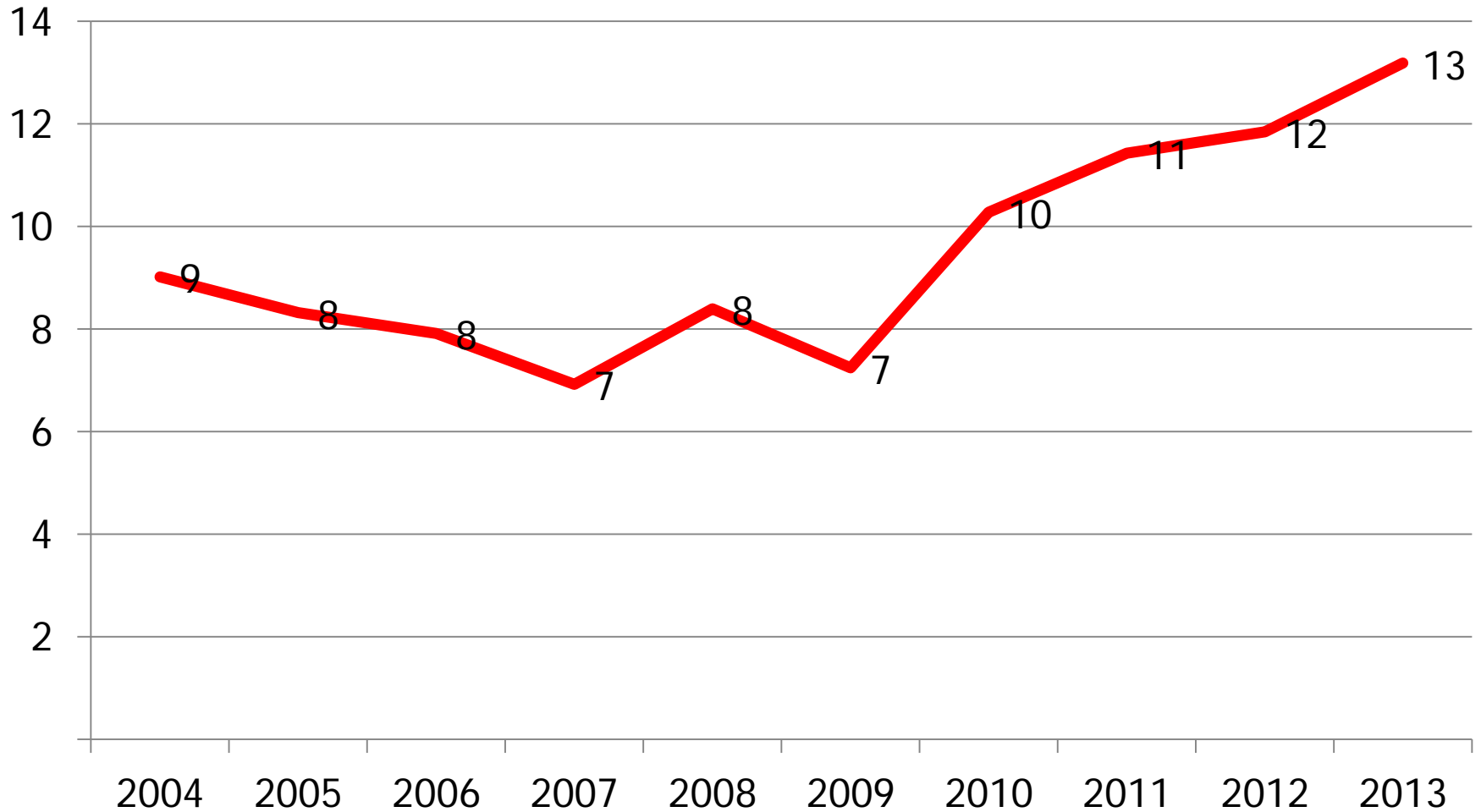
- Selection of deprivation items for a composite measure
- Exclusion of inability to afford to have family and friends for a meal or drink
  - Inclusion of reference to drink
  - Larger proportion of the population reporting this item
- Social class and income profile of population reporting deprivation items
- Relationship between income poverty, deprivation items and economic stress



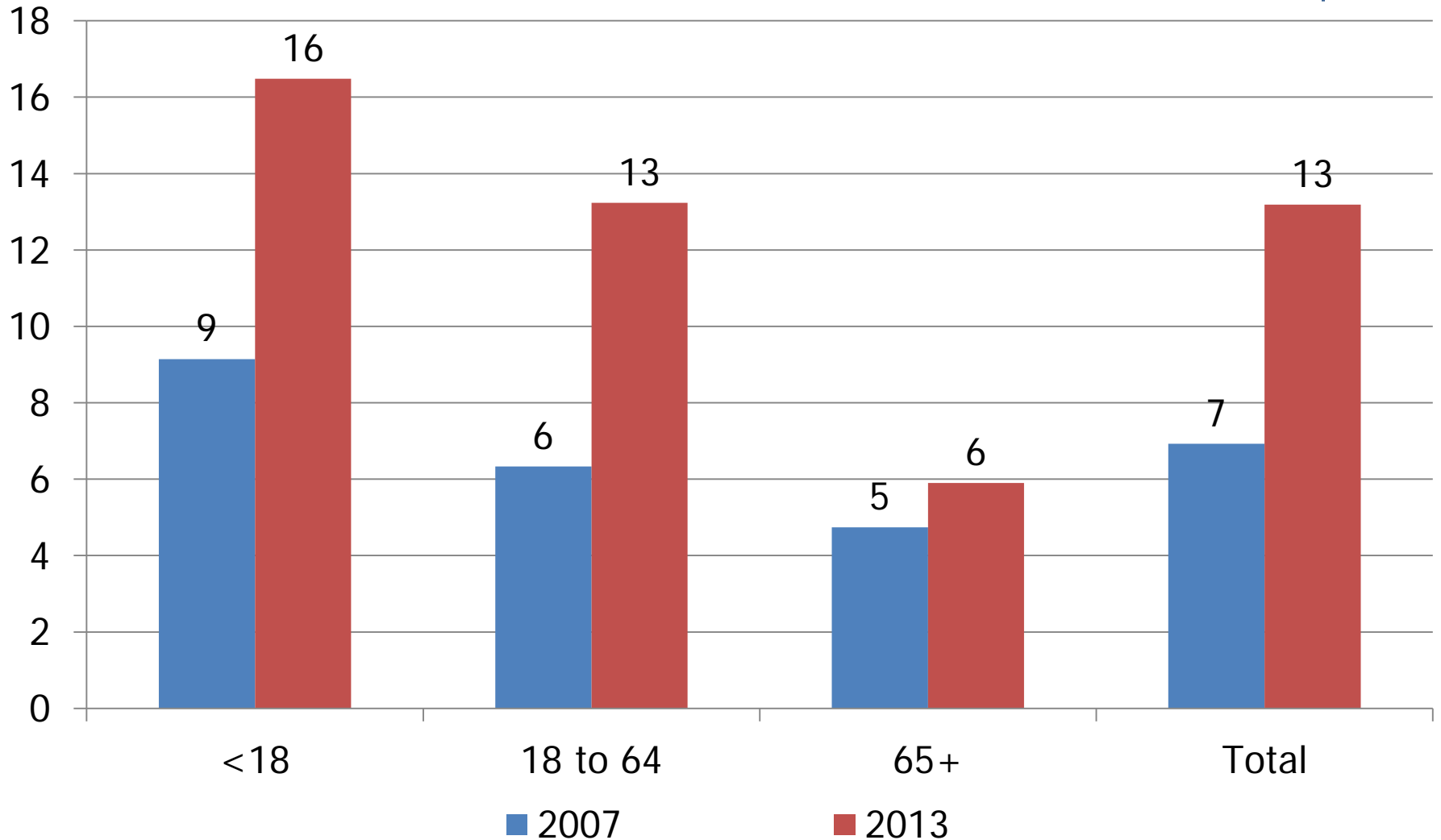
# *Trend in Food Poverty, 2004-2013*



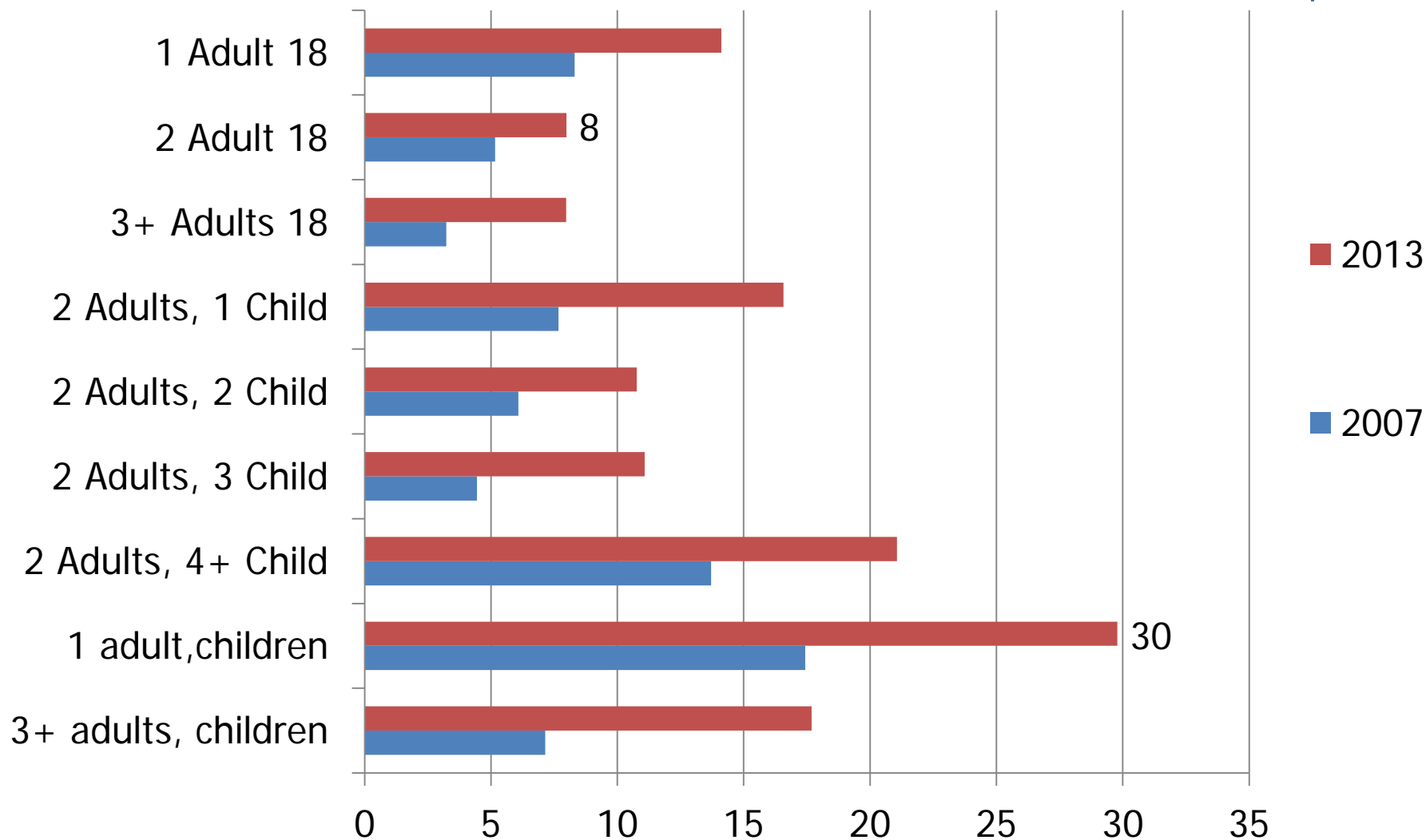
**1 + out 3**



# *Risk of Food Poverty by Age (%), 2007-2013*



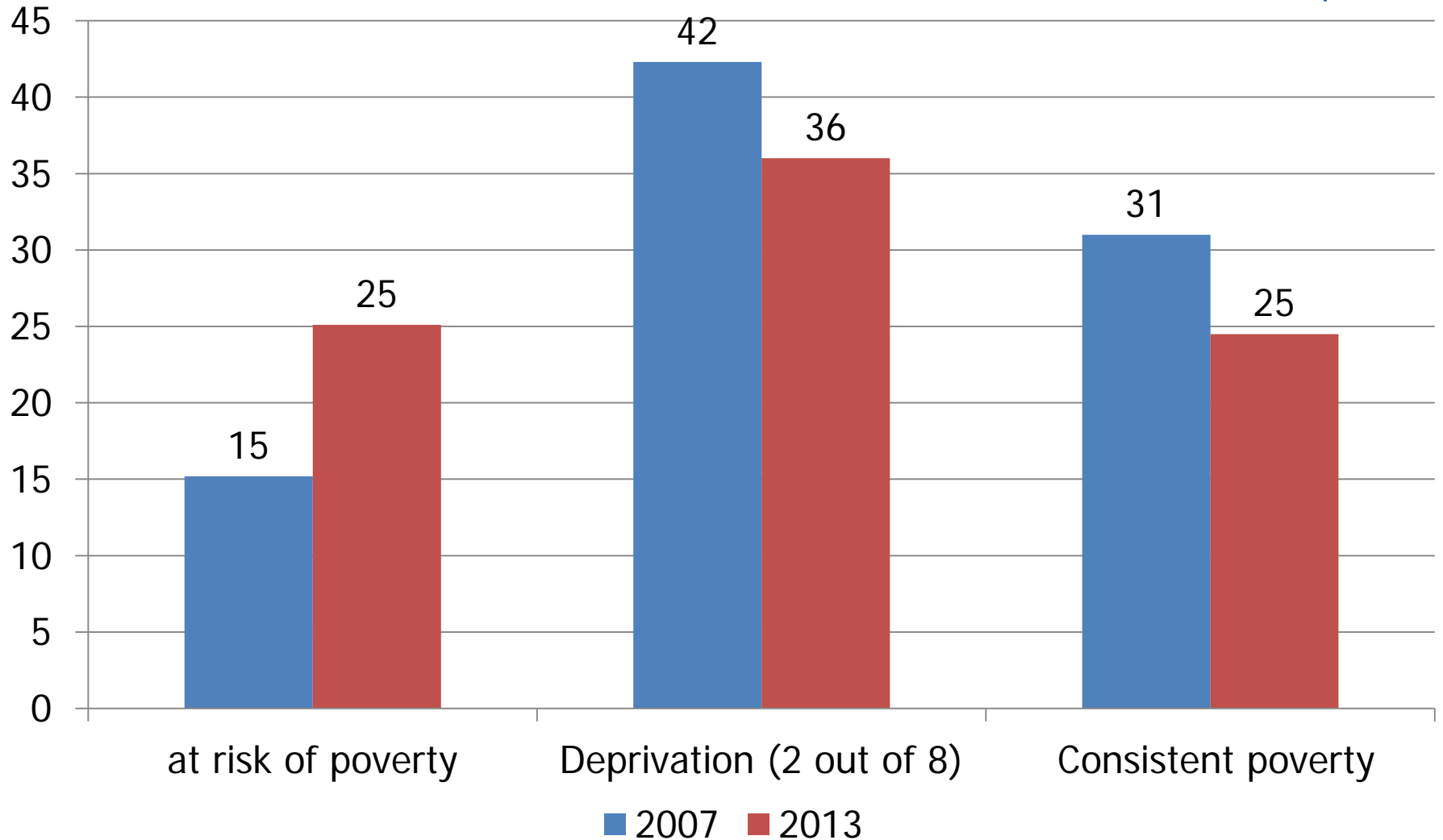
# *Risk of Food Poverty* *by Household Type (%), 2007-2013*



# *Risk of Food Poverty by HRP Principal Economic Status (%), 2007-2013*

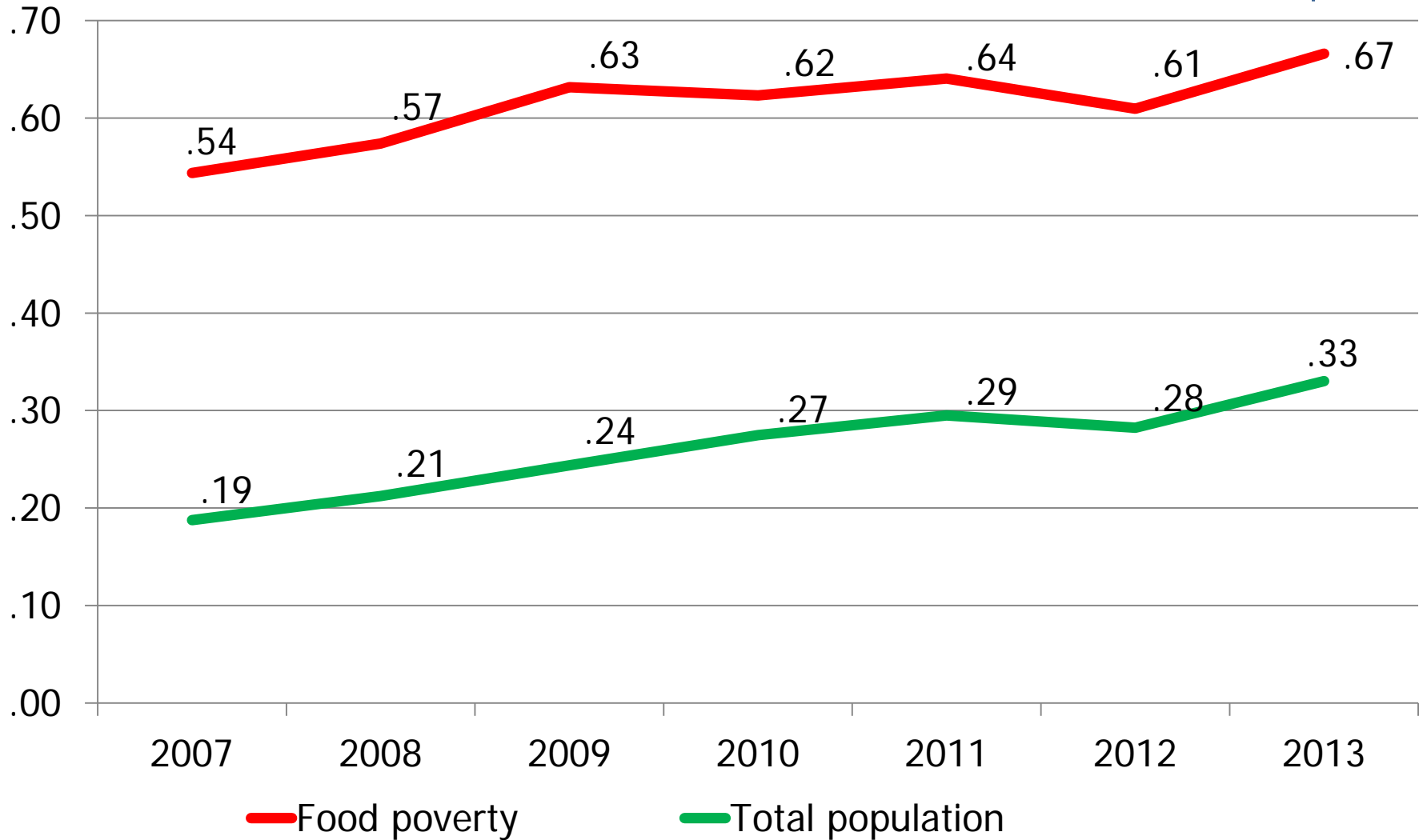


# *Income Poverty, Deprivation, Consistent Poverty by Food Poverty (%), 2007-2013*

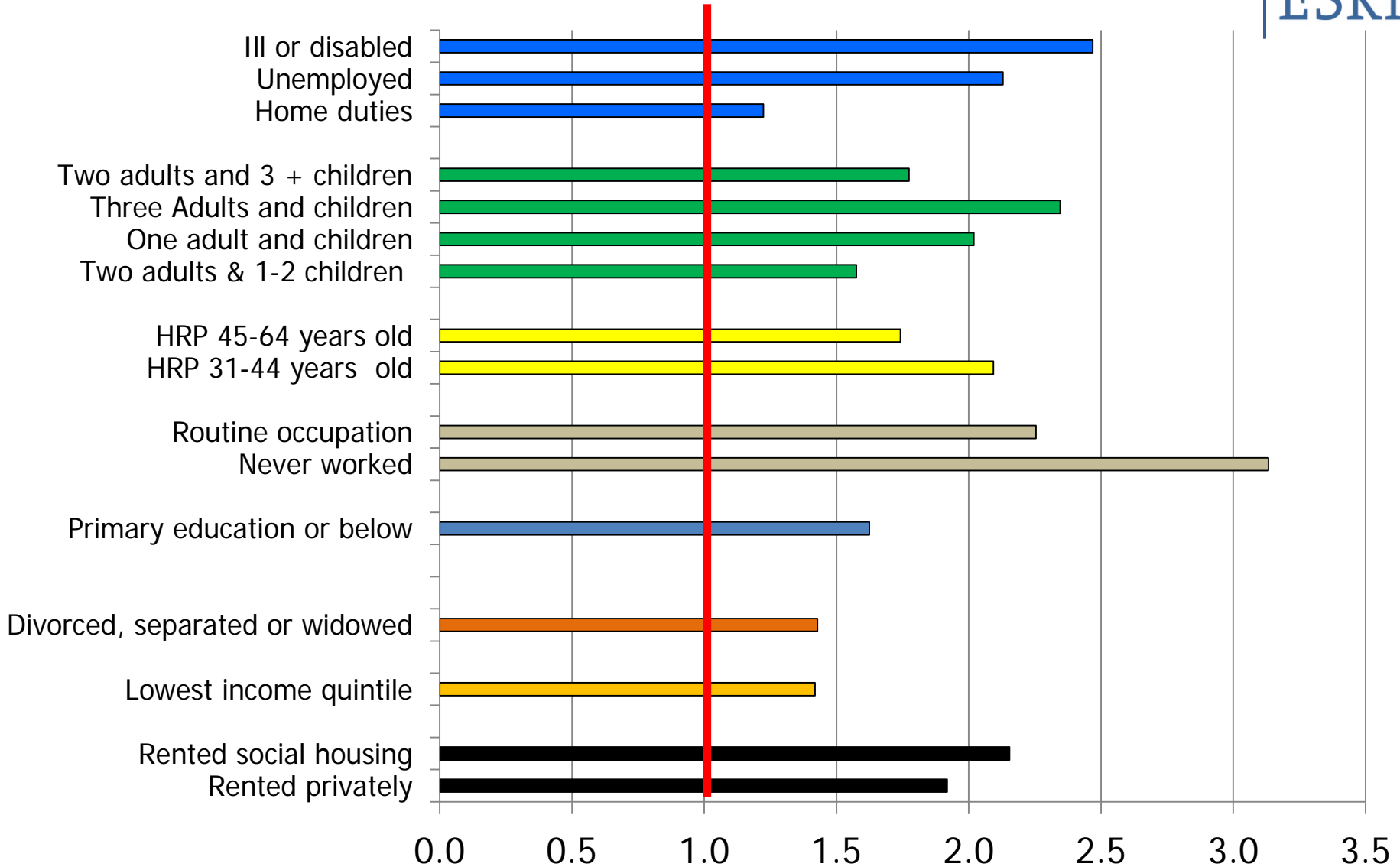


# *Economic Stress by Food Poverty*

## *2007-2013*



# Predictive Factors of Food Poverty, Odds Ratios, 2013



# *Conclusion*

- Rise of food poverty since recession
- Food poverty was particularly associated with:
  - Low income and experiencing other forms of deprivation
  - Younger working age households
  - Labour market inactivity; unemployed or ill / disabled
  - Large households with large numbers of children
- Social Policy: Food poverty as a contextual indicator (SIM)-  
general action with current poverty target reduction &  
shared items with consistent poverty measure
- Limits of the study





**Thank you!**