

Changes in food poverty over time

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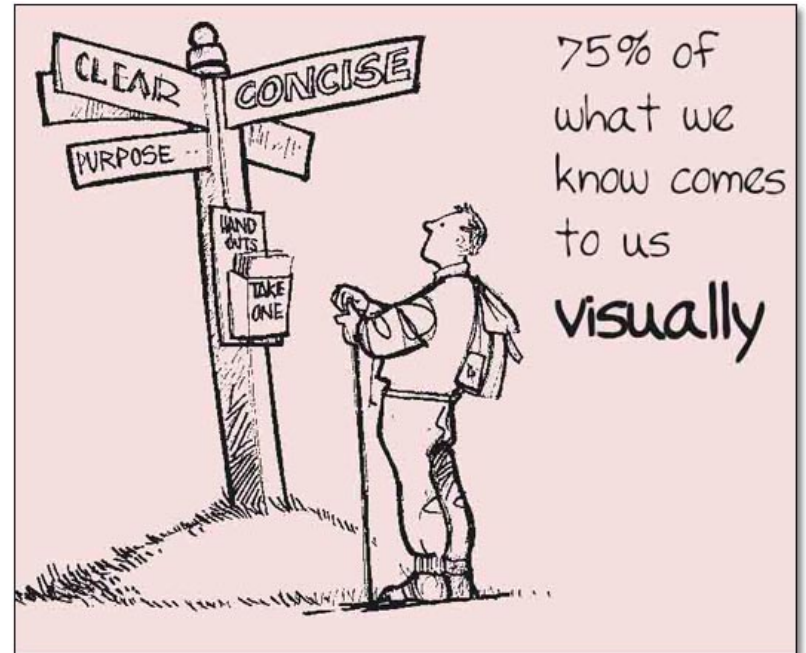
Food Poverty Network event '*Food poverty - Information for action*'

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Presentation outline

- Developing a food poverty indicator
- Top level findings from RoI & NI
- Findings from RoI between 2004/05 and 2009/10
- Conclusions and recommendations



Developing a food poverty indicator





Spending measures

The food and non-food spending indicators are based on a household's food spending:

A household has “**inadequate food spending**” if its per person food spending is less than 60% of the national median value

$$\text{ppFS} = \frac{\text{Household's Food Spending}}{\text{Household size}}$$

A household has “**inadequate non-food spending**” if its per person non-food spending is less than 60% of the national median value

$$\text{ppNFS} = \frac{\text{Household's Non-food Spending}}{\text{Household size}}$$

Food and non-food spending

Food spending	Non-food spending	Description
Inadequate food spending	Inadequate non-food spending	Food spending and non-food spending both relatively low
	Adequate non-food spending	Food spending relatively low but non-food spending acceptable
Adequate food spending	Inadequate non-food spending	Food spending acceptable but non-food spending relatively low
	Adequate non-food spending	Both food spending and non-food spending acceptable

**Top level findings from
Republic of Ireland
2009/10
and
Northern Ireland 2009**





Top level findings from 2009/10

- **RoI 2009/10**

- CSO Household Budget Survey 2009/10
- 16.3% of households had inadequate food spending
- 23.2% of households had inadequate non-food spending

- **Northern Ireland 2009**

- Living Costs and Food Survey 2009
- 14.8% of households had inadequate food spending
- 23.4% of households had inadequate non-food spending
- sample size too small in later rounds LCF to look at trends in NI

**Findings from
Republic of Ireland
between 2004/05
and 2009/10**





Methods

- Republic of Ireland – Central Statistics Office Household Budget Survey (2004/05 and 2009/10); n=12,772
- **Household socio-demographic variables:**
 - Gross household income
 - Household tenure
 - Household composition
 - Principal Economic Status (HoH)
 - Social Class (HoH)
 - Being at risk of poverty
 - Urban/rural classification

Changes in HBS sample over time

Household characteristic	Change between 2004/05 and 2009/10
Single older person households	Decreased by over 40%
Lone parent households	Increased by approximately 145%
Households that were owned outright	Decreased by 31%
Households renting privately	Increased by 100%
Households where the reference person was unemployed	Increased by over 300%
Student households	Increased by approximately 80%



Methods

Binomial logistic regression models:

- Changes in prevalence of *inadequate food spending*
- Changes in prevalence of *inadequate non-food spending*
- Changes in prevalence of *inadequate non-food spending* in households with *inadequate food spending*
- Changes in prevalence of *inadequate non-food spending* in households with *adequate food spending*

Initial unadjusted findings RoI

Measure	2004/05	2009/10	Change
Prevalence of inadequate food spending	13.7% (95% CI: 12.8% to 14.5%)	16.3% (95% CI: 15.3% to 17.4%)	Significantly increased by 19%
Prevalence of inadequate non-food spending	26.4% (95% CI: 25.1% to 27.6%)	23.2% (95% CI: 22.0% to 24.5%)	Significantly decreased by 12%

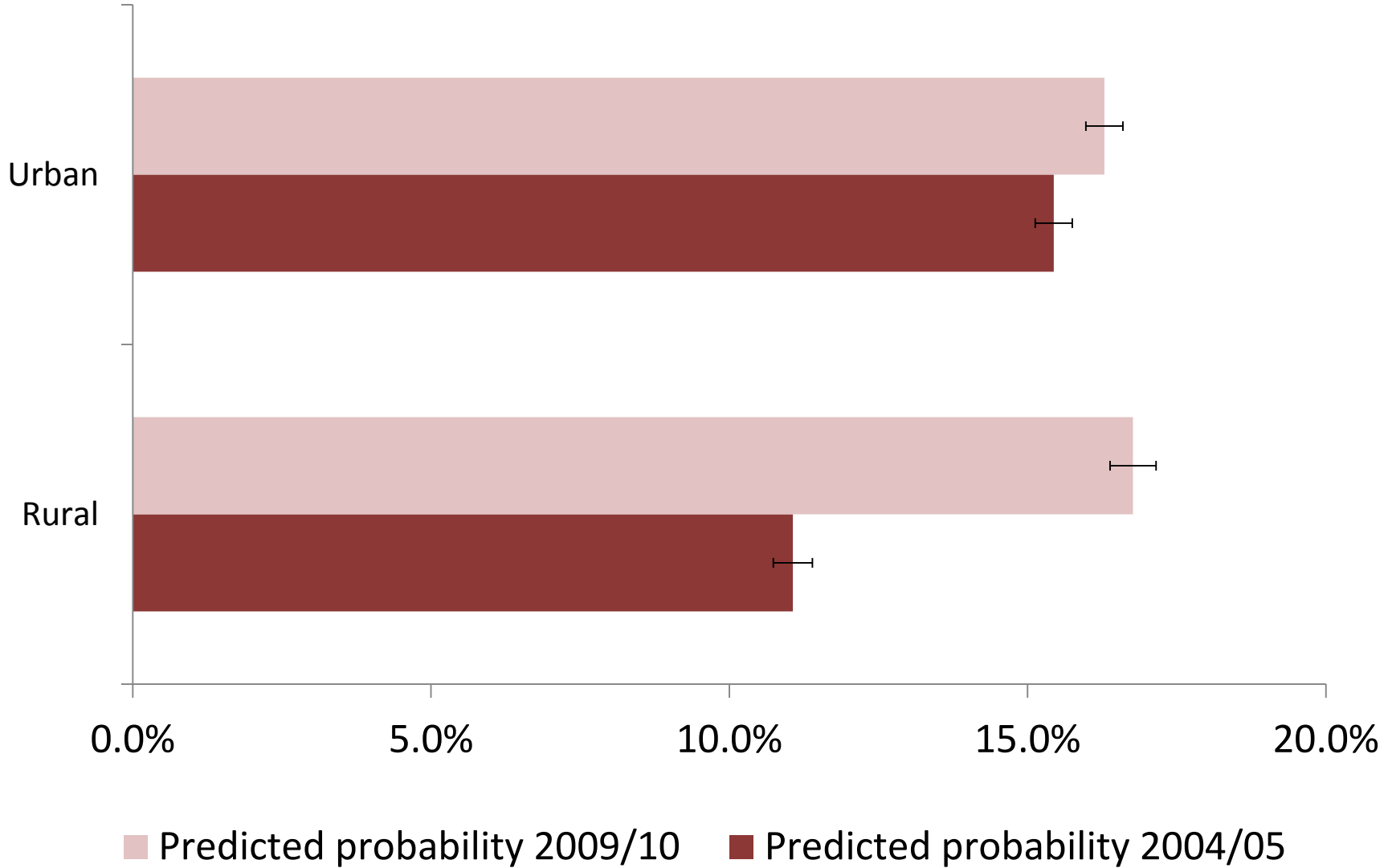


Modelling inadequate food spending

- Five of the seven household characteristics were found to be significant independent predictors
- After adjustment
 - no significant change in the prevalence of inadequate food spending over time
- However
 - Evidence that change in prevalence of inadequate food spending over time varied with Area



Changes in the adjusted prevalence of inadequate food spending by Area between 2004/05 and 2009/10



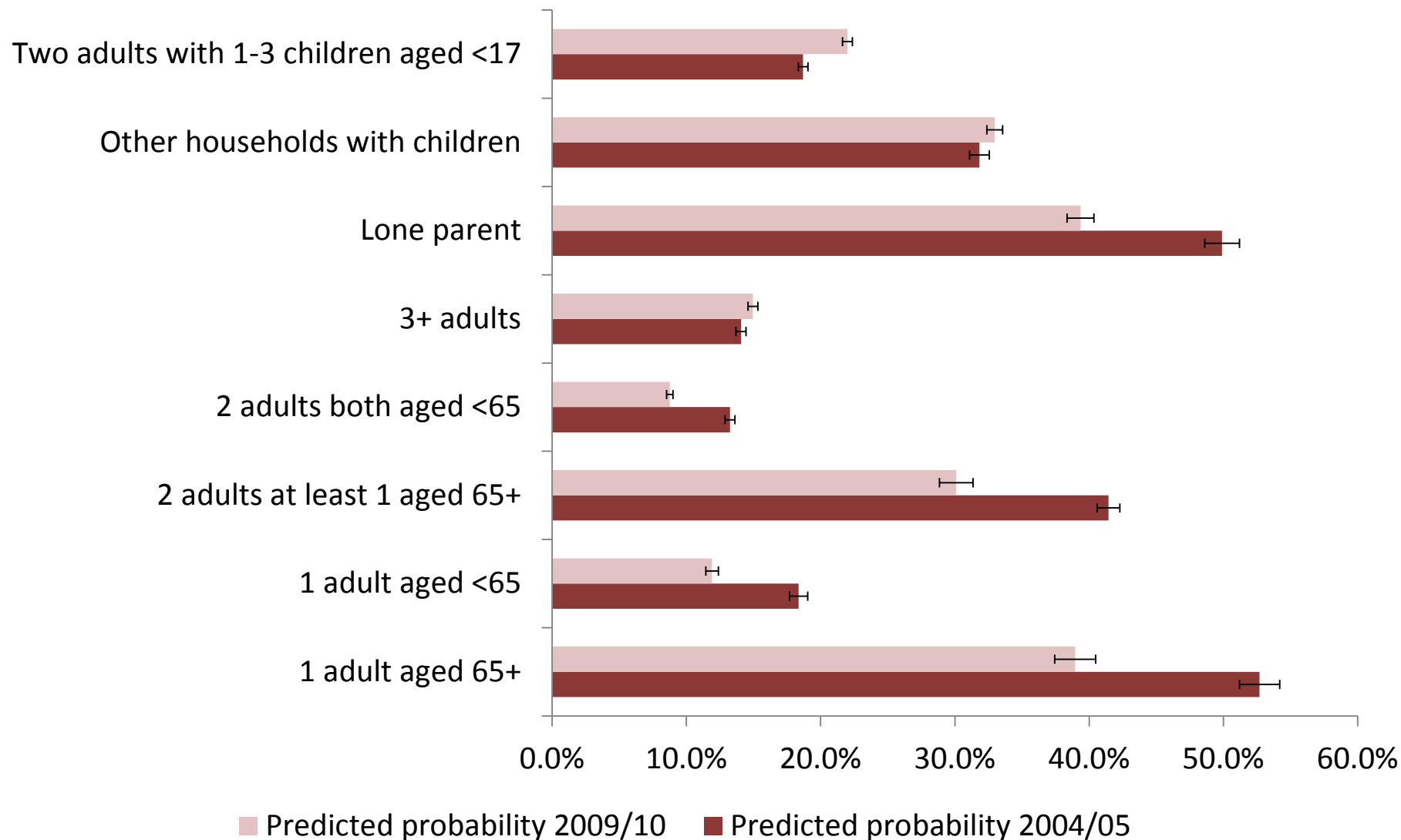


Modelling inadequate non-food spending

- Six of the seven household characteristics were found to be significant independent predictors
- After adjustment
 - no significant change in the prevalence of inadequate non-food spending over time
- However
 - evidence that change in prevalence of inadequate non-food spending over time varied with household composition, income, PES, tenure

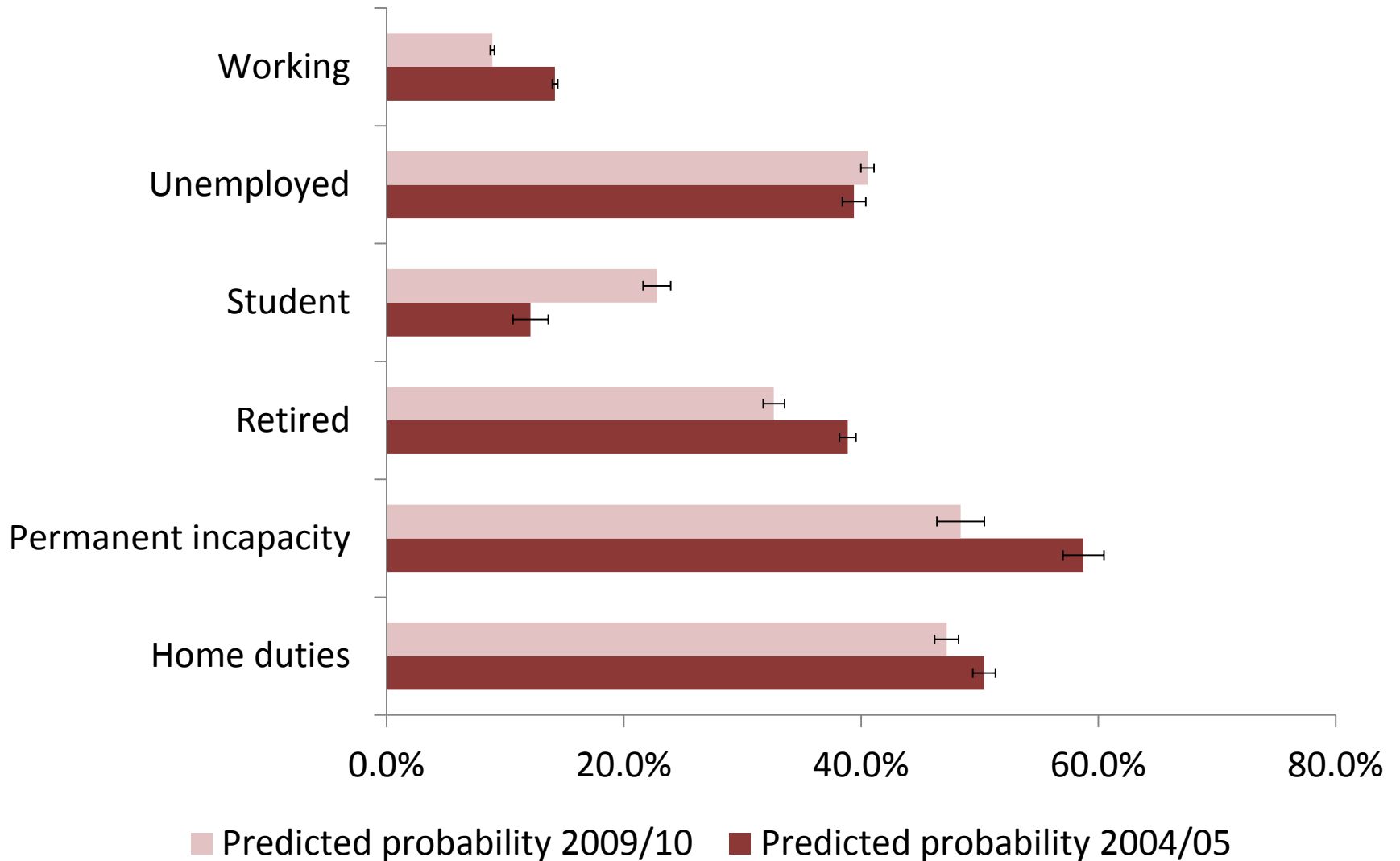


Changes in the adjusted prevalence of inadequate non-food spending by Household Composition between 2004/05 and 2009/10

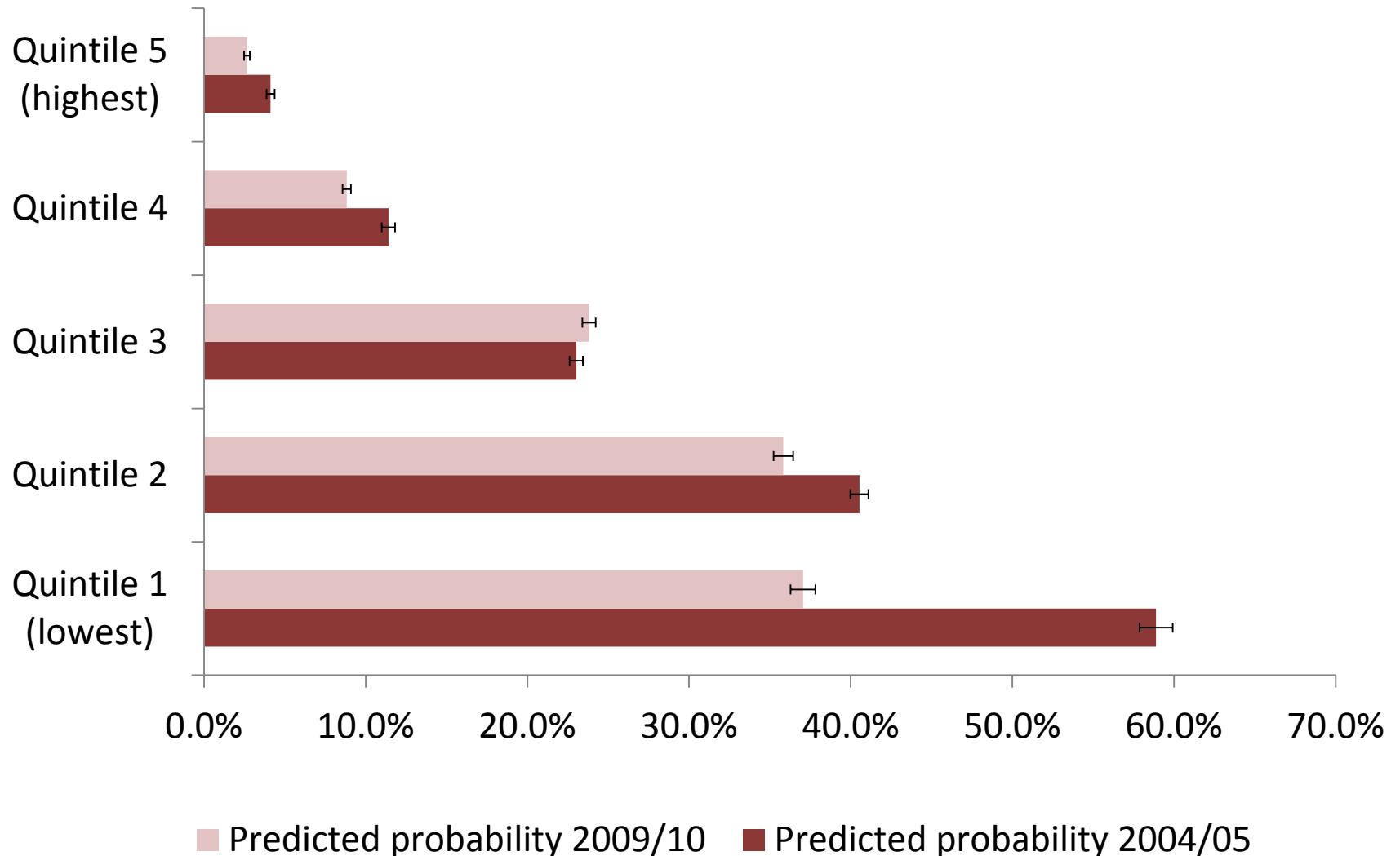




Changes in the adjusted prevalence of inadequate non-food spending by PES between 2004/05 and 2009/10

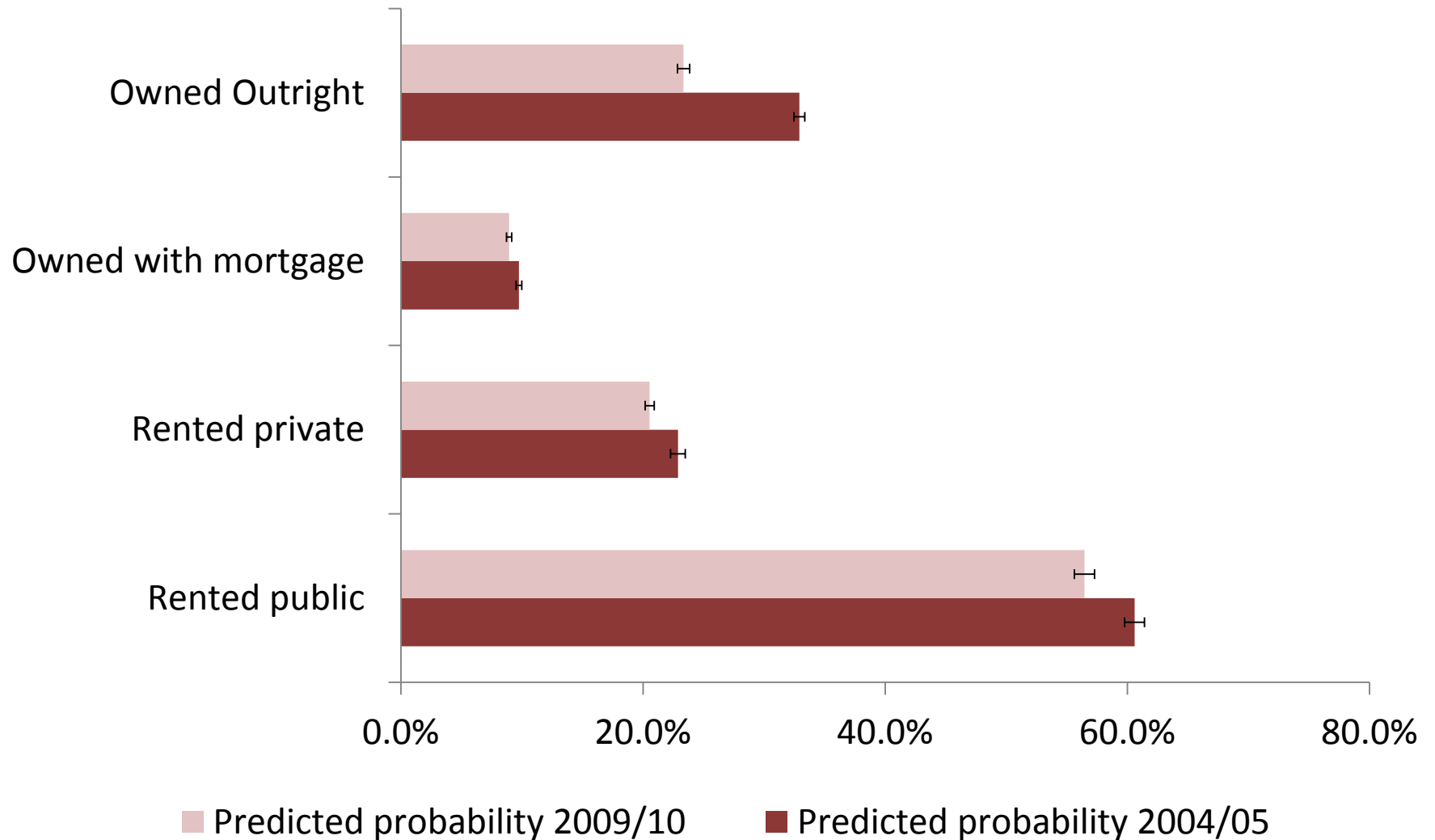


Changes in the adjusted prevalence of inadequate non-food spending by Gross Household Income between 2004/05 and 2009/10





Changes in the adjusted prevalence of inadequate non-food spending by Tenure between 2004/05 and 2009/10



**Role and
importance of
non-food
spending**



The role of non-food spending

- Evidence that change in prevalence of *inadequate non-food spending* amongst households with *adequate food spending* varied with household composition, PES and tenure
- No evidence that change in prevalence of *inadequate non-food spending* amongst households with *inadequate food spending* varied with any of the household characteristics

Importance of non-food spending

- adjusted changes in prevalence of inadequate non-food spending more complex compared with inadequate food spending
- affordability of food better understood when you consider entire household budget (food and non-food spending)
- If food spending alone was used
 - underestimate the financial burden on many households with inadequate food spending
 - financial burden of some households with adequate food spending would have been ignored



Conclusions

- In developing a food poverty indicator, important to look at entire household budget
- Inadequate non-food spending was more common than inadequate food spending and its predictors were more complex
- We don't know which households are 'balancing' food and non-food spending but some are prioritising bills over food and vice versa



Limitations

- Cross-sectional nature of HBS – less scope to suggest true cause-and-effect relationships
- Change observed over time may not truly reflect impact of recession (HBS 2015/16 better inform)
- Other issues at play
 - Cannot consider quality of diet
 - Cannot look at social impacts (as with food deprivation indices)
- Small sample size in NI



Recommendations

- Being able to measure and monitor poverty and food poverty is vital
- Having complete household budget data is fundamental
- Combining food deprivation (food experiences) and affordability (financial risk of food poverty) in the same survey

End

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