

# The Fierce Urgency of Now

Key Features of Racial/Ethnic Inequities in the U.S.

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# Issue 1

**Racial Gaps in Economic Status are Persistent**

**A national disgrace!**

# Median Household Income and Race, 2015

For every dollar of income whites have

1 dollar

1.23 dollar

72 cents

62 cents\*

59 cents



**Whites**

**Asians**

**Hispanics**

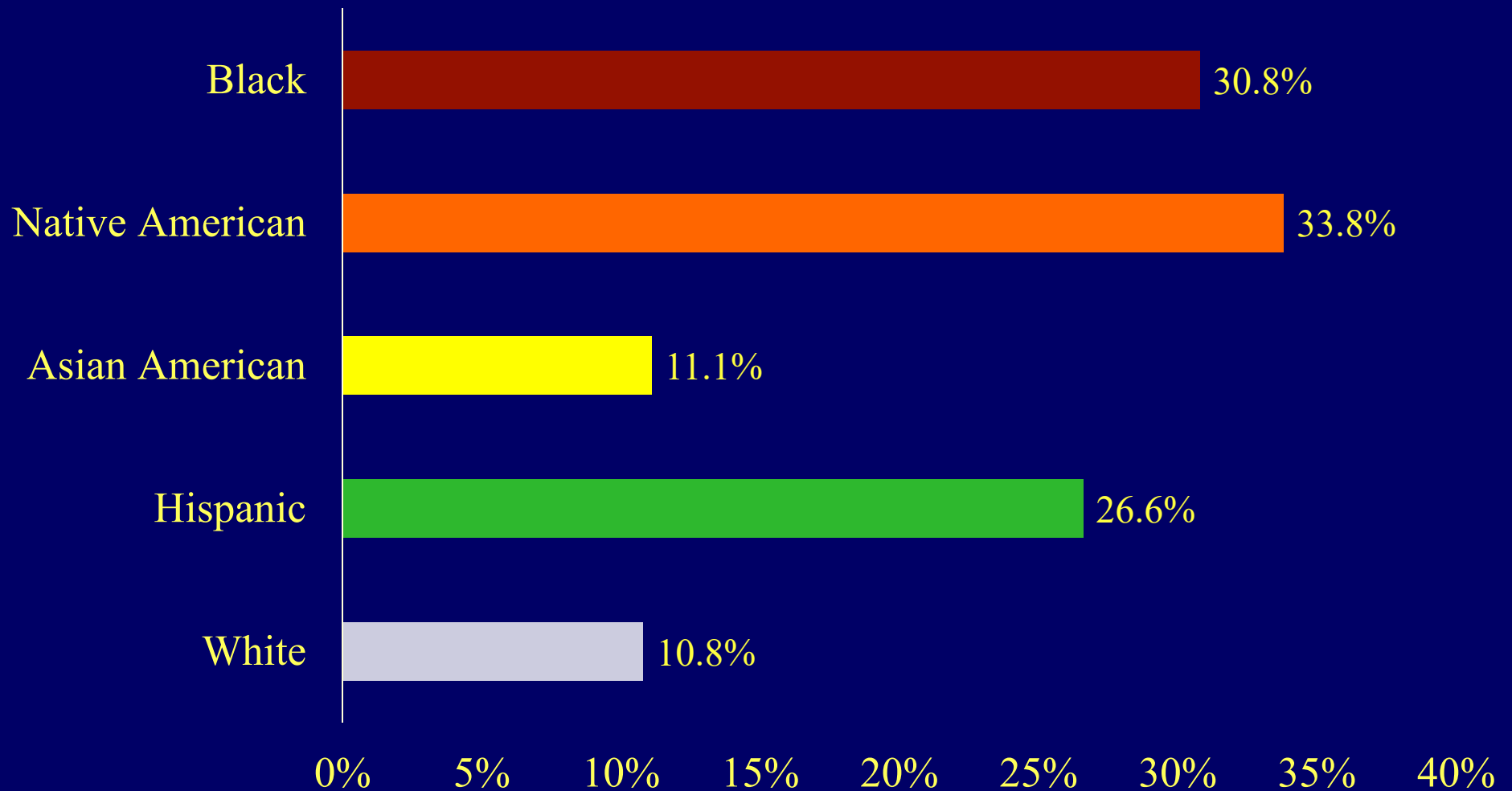
**AI/ANs**

**Blacks**

U.S. Census Bureau: Proctor, Semega, Kollar, 2016; \*2013, Native Her. Month, 2014

# Childhood Poverty and Race, 2016

Percent



Am Comm Survey, 2015-2016; Economic Policy Institute, 2017

# Median Wealth and Race, 2011

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For every dollar of wealth that Whites have,



Asians have 81 cents



Blacks have only 6 cents



Latinos have only 7 cents



## Issue 2

Early Childhood Problems are not  
equally Distributed in the Population

# New Study: Who is at Risk?



- 95,677 children, birth to 17 years
- >1,800 per state
- 9 adverse child and family experiences
- How they vary by race/ethnicity, income level and immigration history

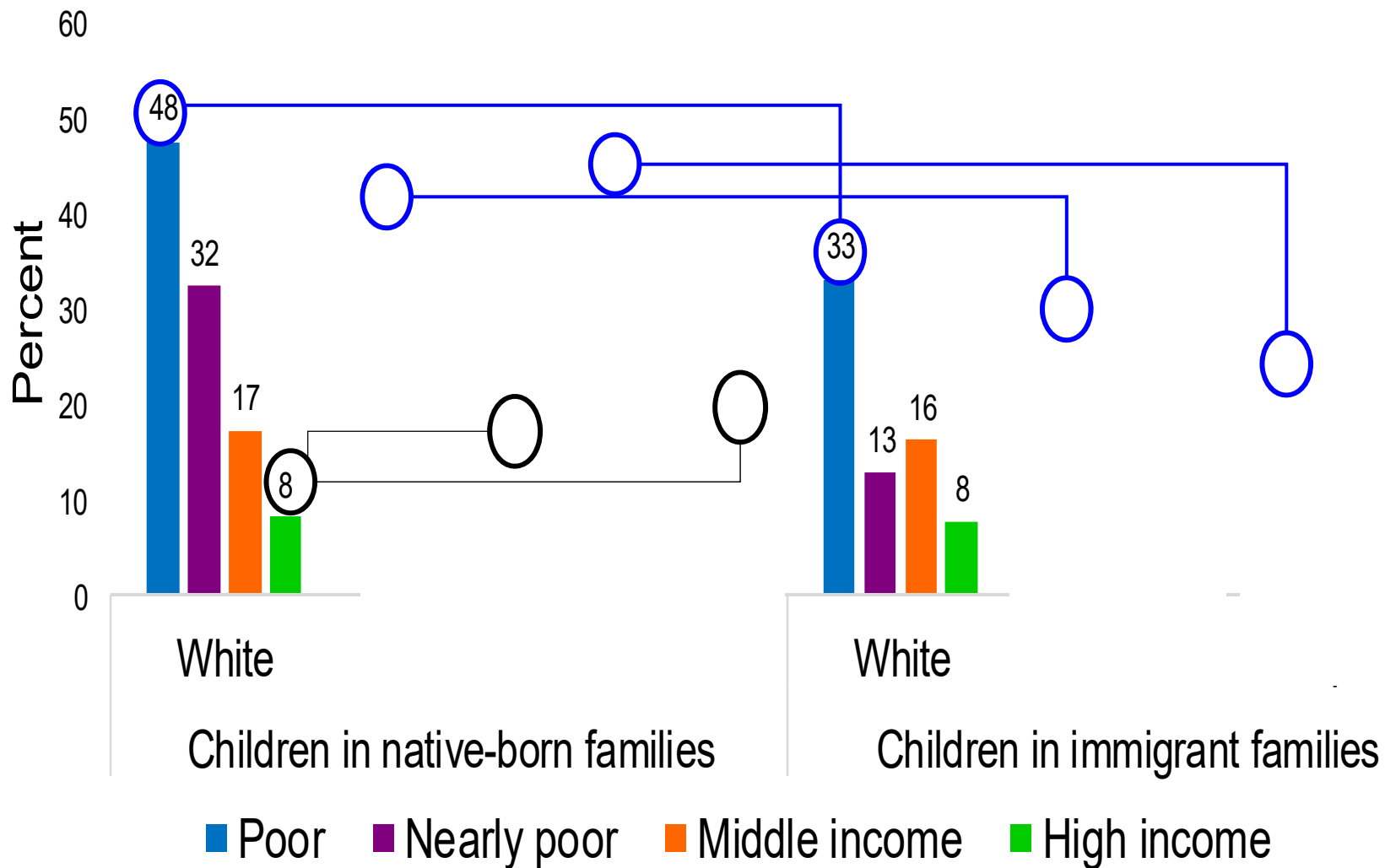
# Adverse child and family experiences

## National Survey of Children's Health, 2011-2012

Death of a parent	3%
Parent served time in jail	7%
Domestic violence witness	7%
Lived with someone who was mentally ill or suicidal	9%
Victim or witness of neighborhood violence	9%
Lived with one with a drug/alcohol problem	11%
Divorce/parental separation	20%
Financial hardship	26%



# % of children with $\geq 2$ adversities



# Summary of findings

Greater exposure to adversity is present among:

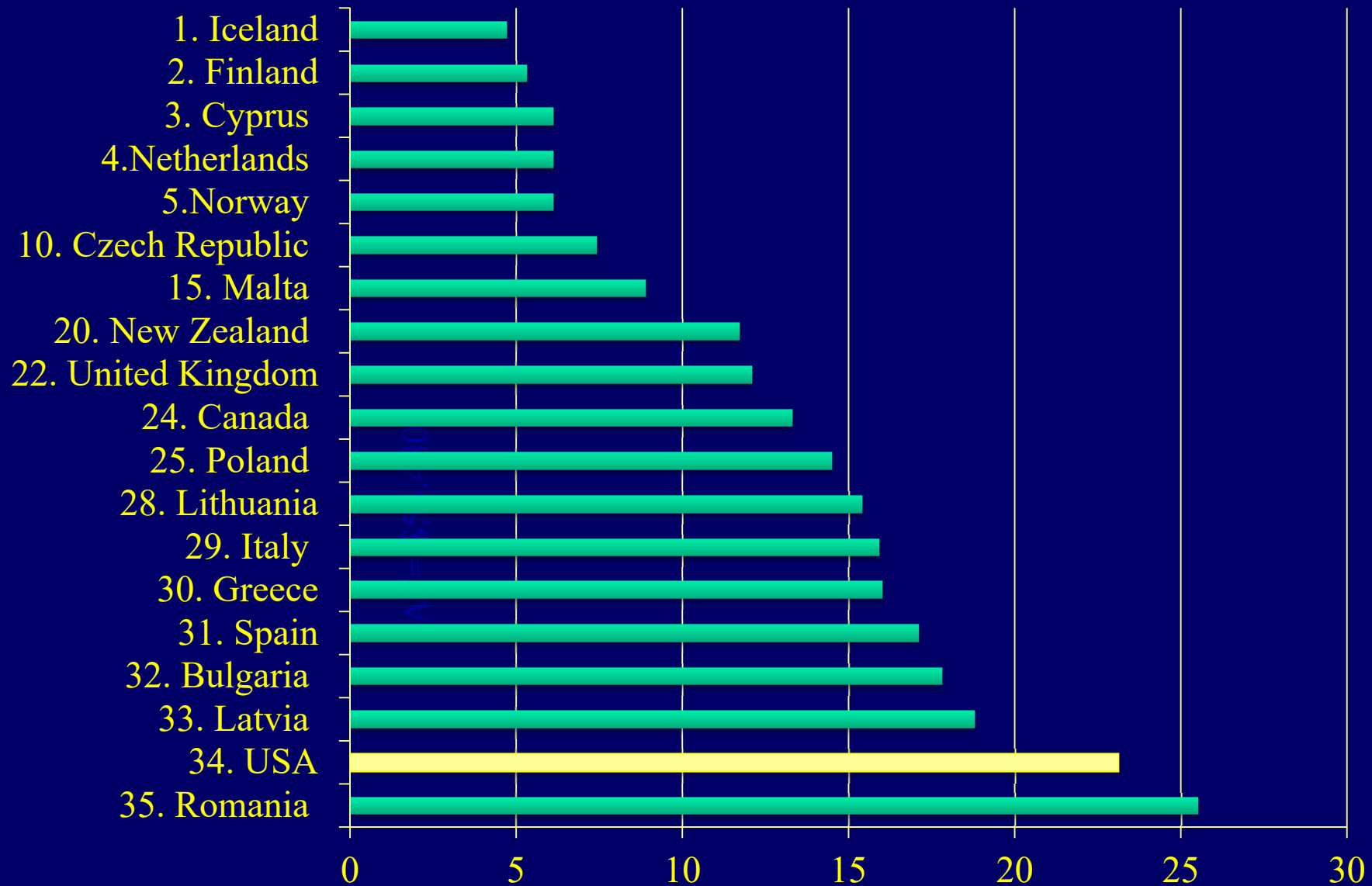
1. Black and Hispanic children compared to White children
2. Poor children compared to wealthier children
3. Children of US-born parents compared to children of immigrants, despite more financial strain in immigrant families
4. Poor white children compared to other poor children



# Issue 3

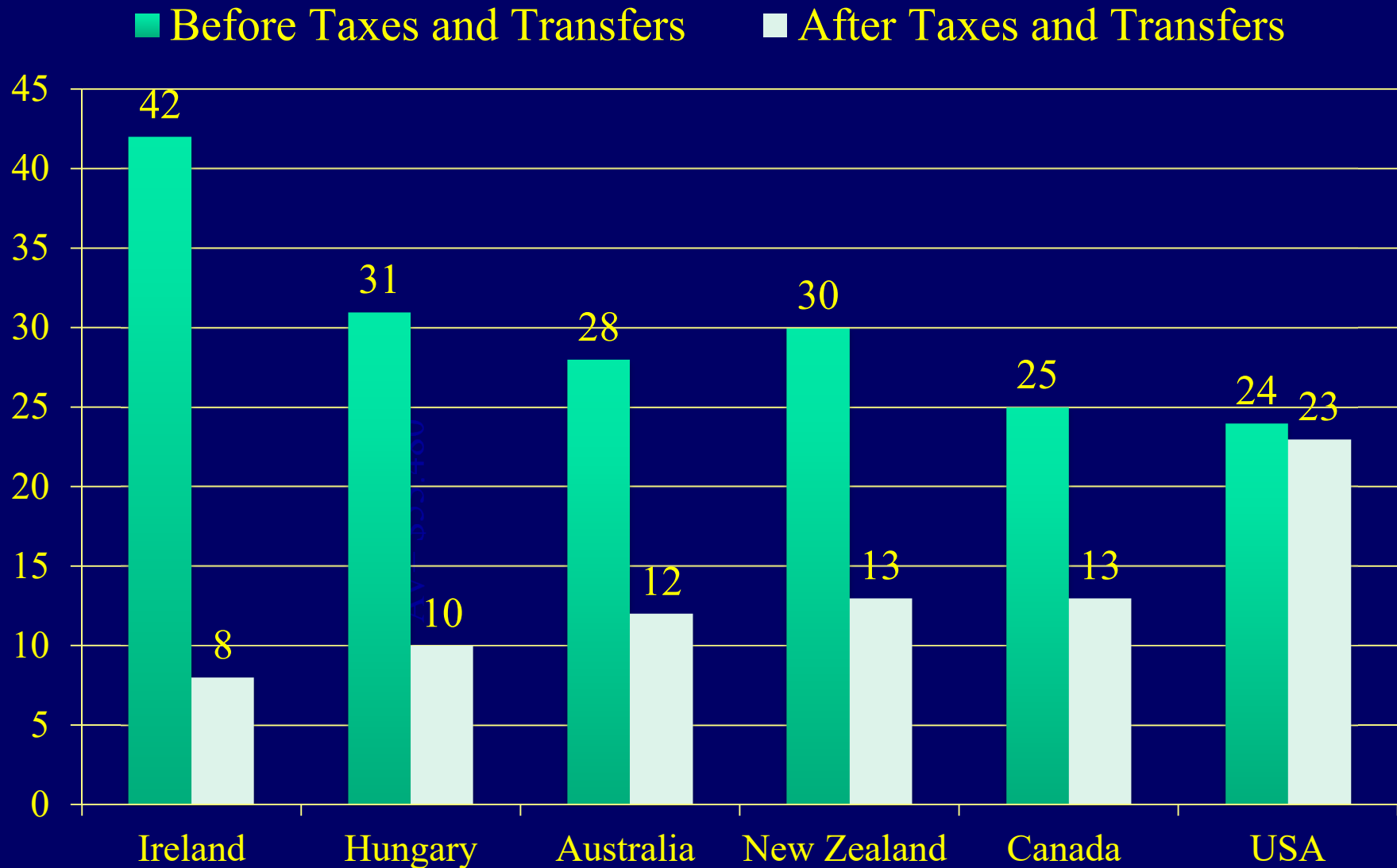
## Policy Matters

# Child Poverty Rate



UNICEF, Measuring Child Poverty, 2012

# Child Poverty Rate



UNICEF, Measuring Child Poverty, 2012

# Issue 4

Improving health and reducing  
disparities are not the same thing

# Obesity in Adolescents

Headline: Good News! We are making Progress!

- Obesity in 12-17- yr olds, 1990 to 2010
- Obesity increased in teens from 1988 to 2004,
- but was stable from 2004 to 2010



[https://farm5.staticflickr.com/4090/5047513218\\_7f658bdc9b\\_b.jpg](https://farm5.staticflickr.com/4090/5047513218_7f658bdc9b_b.jpg)

# Obesity in Adolescents

Headline: Good News! We are making Progress!

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- Obesity in 12-17- yr olds, 1990 to 2010
- Obesity increased in teens from 1988 to 2004, but was stable from 2004 to 2009
- However.....
- Adolescent obesity declined for children of parents with college degree or more education
- But obesity continued to increase for children of parents with a high school education or less
- Caloric intake declining for all but steeper for high SES
- Physical activity increased for high SES but stable or declining for low SES





# Our Challenge

We need to better identify how to develop interventions that improve the health of the disadvantaged more rapidly than the rest of the population so that we can narrow disparities in health