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# *Doing Better for Families:* reducing family poverty across the OECD

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[www.oecd.org/social/family/](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/)

[www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter)

# Family policy in the OECD: a mix of outcomes and objectives beyond poverty

	Total fertility rate 2009	Employment to population ratio <i>Women 15-64, 2009</i>	Gender pay gap 2008	Childcare enrolment (aged <6) 2008	PISA reading scores 2009
OECD Average (intervals)	1.74 (+/- 0.183)	59.6 (+/- 5.52)	16 (+/- 4.1)	54.7 (+/- 7.55)	494 (+/- 11.4)
Australia	1.90	66.2	12	39.6	515
France	1.99	60.0	12	70.8	496
Germany	1.36	65.2	25	60.2	497
Japan	1.37	59.8	31	59.4	520
Korea	1.15	52.2	39	59.3	539
Mexico	2.08	43.0	-	43.0	425
Sweden	1.94	70.2	15	68.4	497
United Kingdom	1.94	65.6	21	64.4	494
United States	2.01	63.4	20	45.2	500

Above the OECD average

Around the OECD average

Below the OECD average

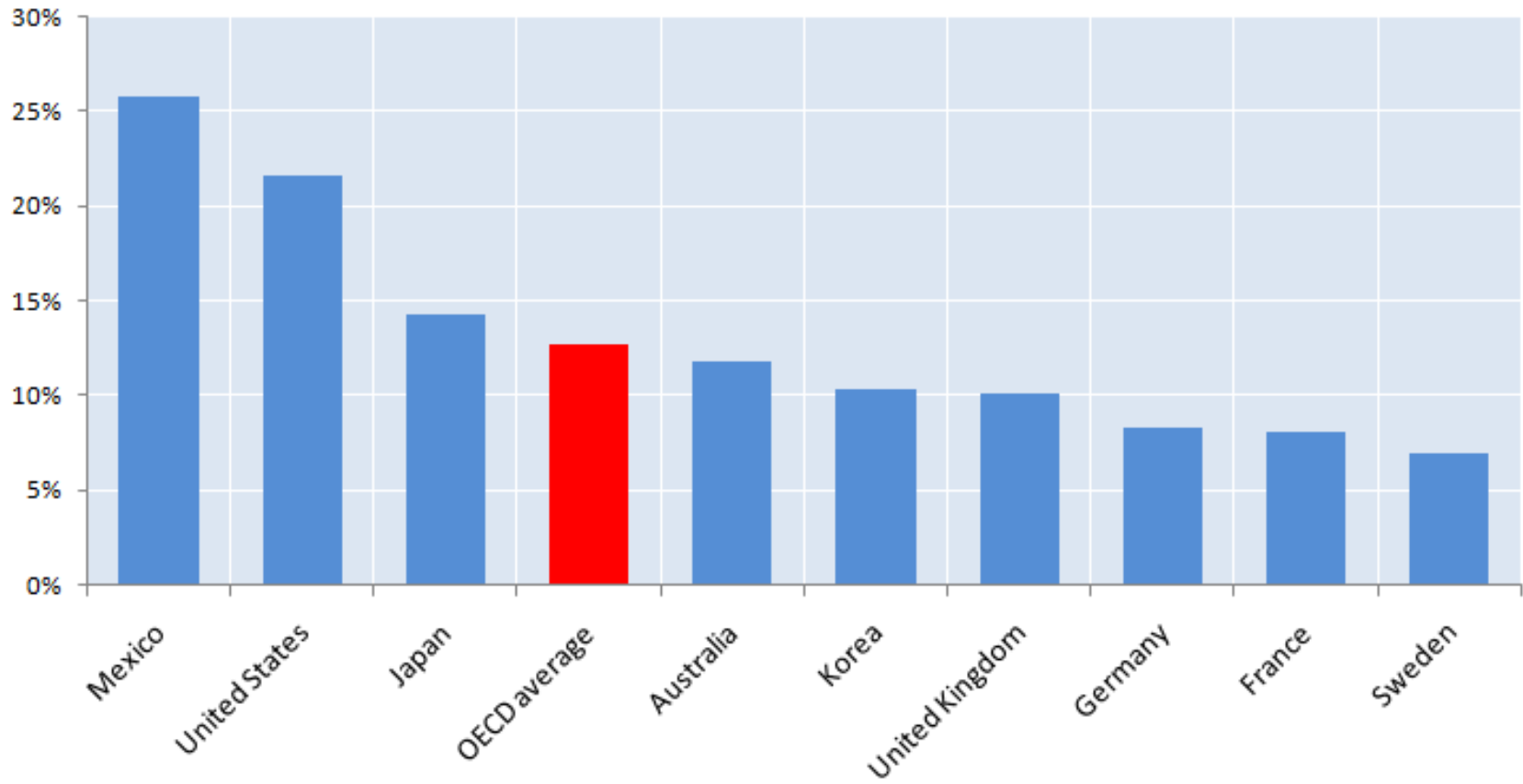
The OECD average is calculated as the unweighted average for OECD countries for which data is available; Countries are categorised in “above” or “below” groups if they are at least half a standard deviation above or below the OECD average

Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

# Across the OECD one in eight children are poor



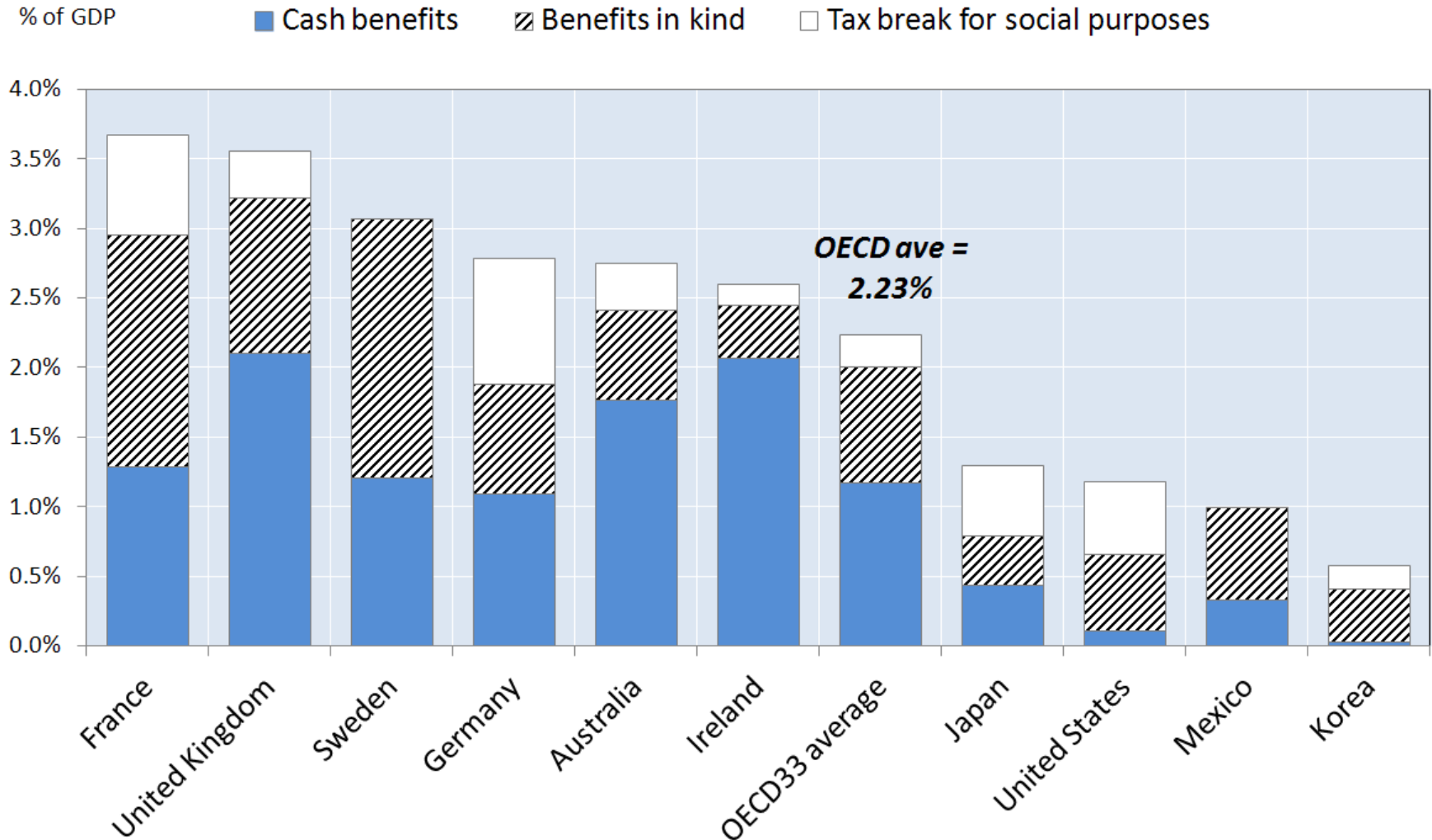
Proportion of children living in poor households\*



\*Poverty thresholds are set at 50% of the equivalised median household income of the entire population

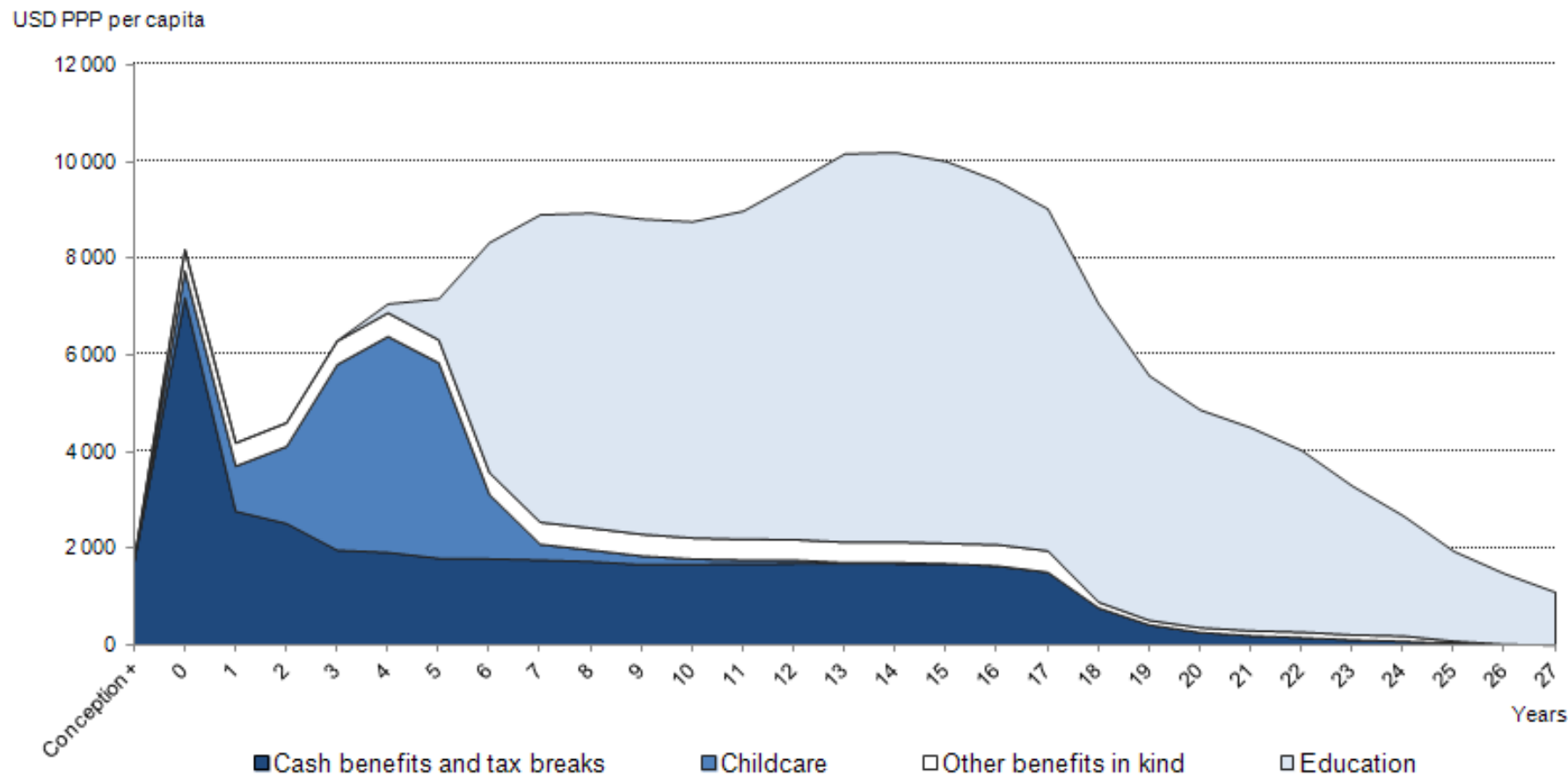
Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

# Public spending on family benefits can be as high as 3.5% of GDP



Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

# Public spending on children is largely concentrated on the years of compulsory schooling (OECD average)

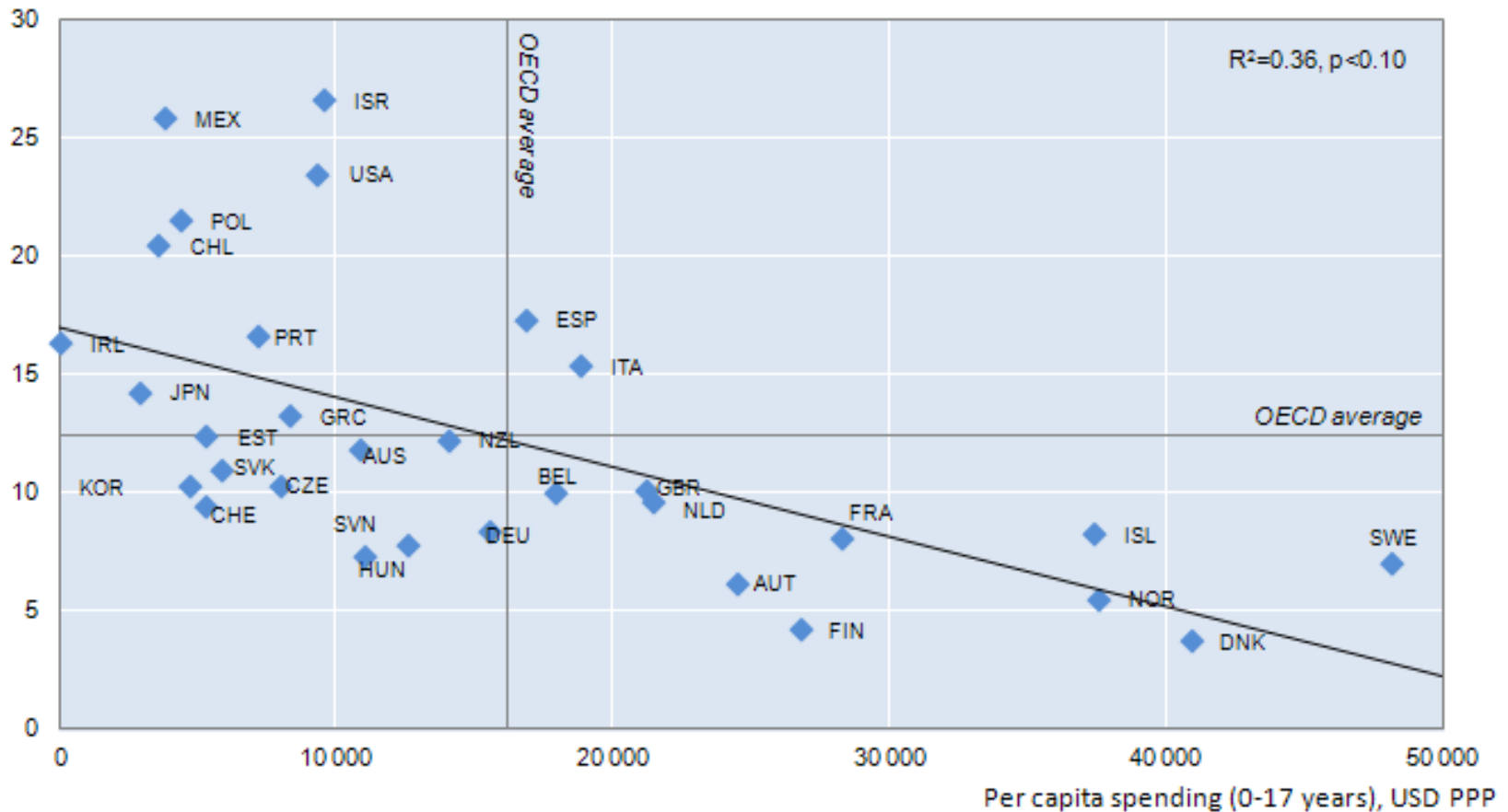


Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

# Most countries with above average spending on children have below average poverty rates

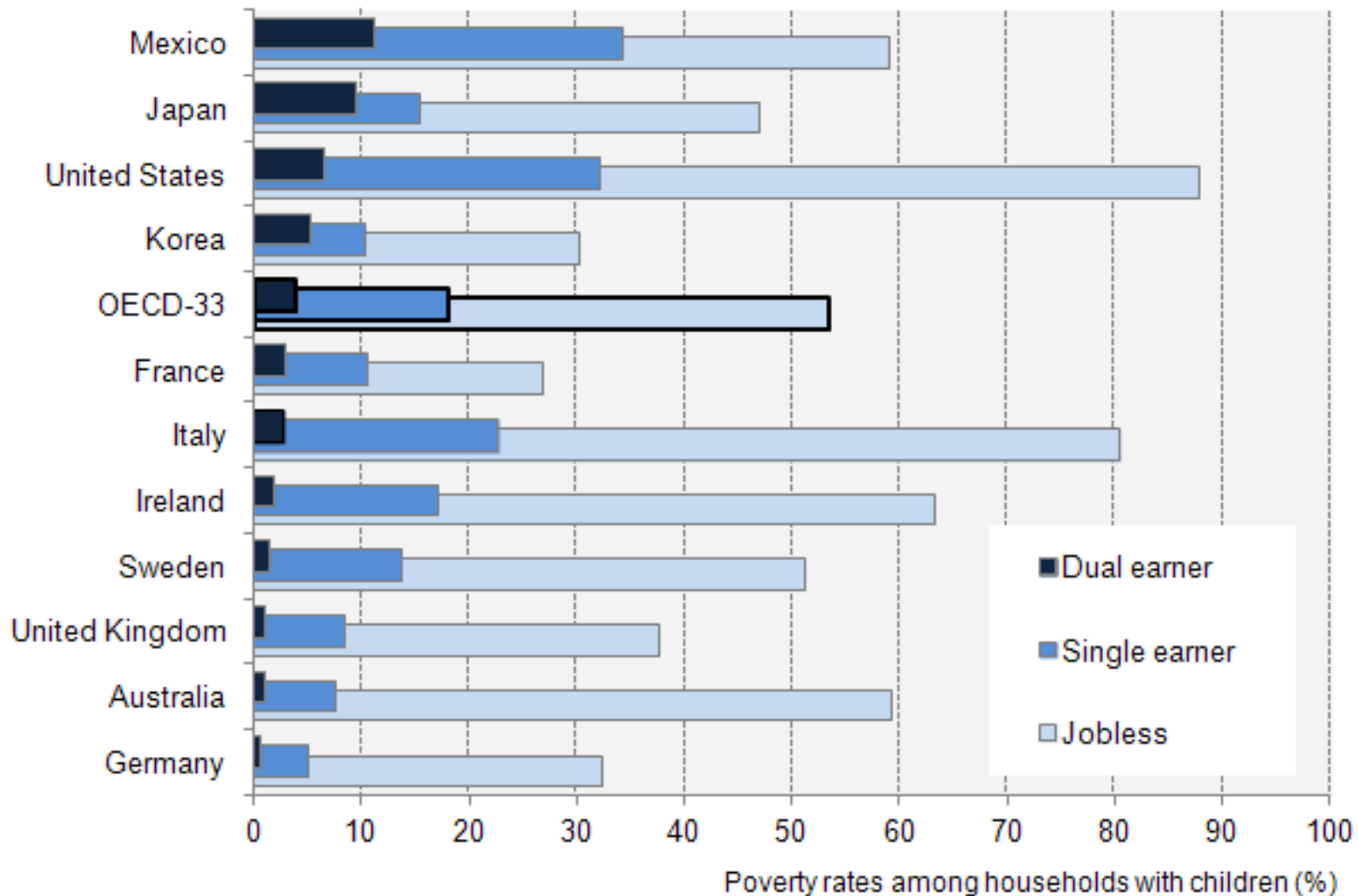


Child poverty rates (%)



Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

# Paid work is key to reducing poverty risks



Source: OECD (2011), *Doing Better for Families*, OECD, Paris. ([www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter))

## *Oportunidades (conditional cash transfers)*

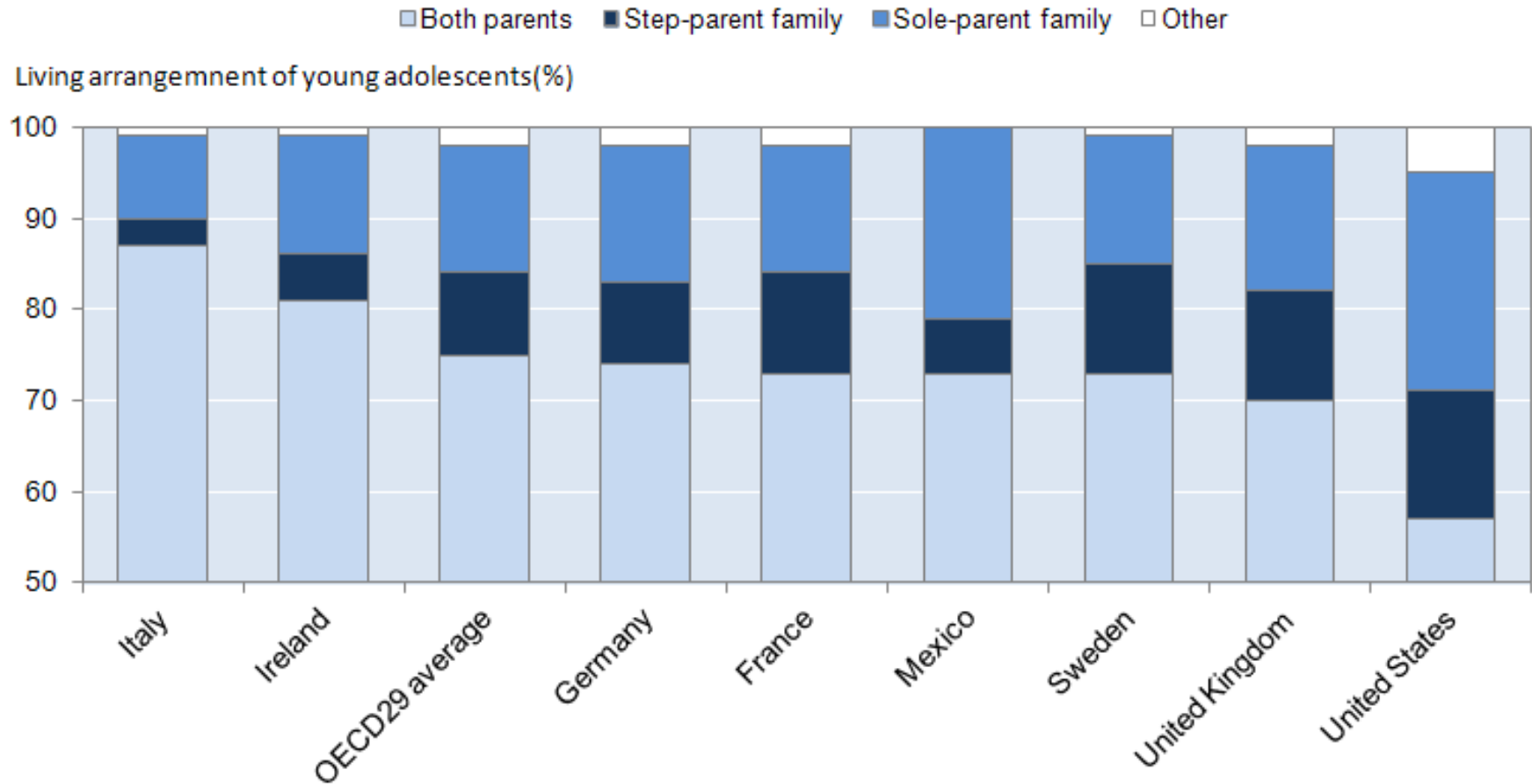
- Anti-poverty programme, which covers around 5 million families (and 1 out of 4 Mexicans), and which had largest effect on education in especially in rural areas.

## *Daycare Center Programme to Help Working Mothers (PEI)*

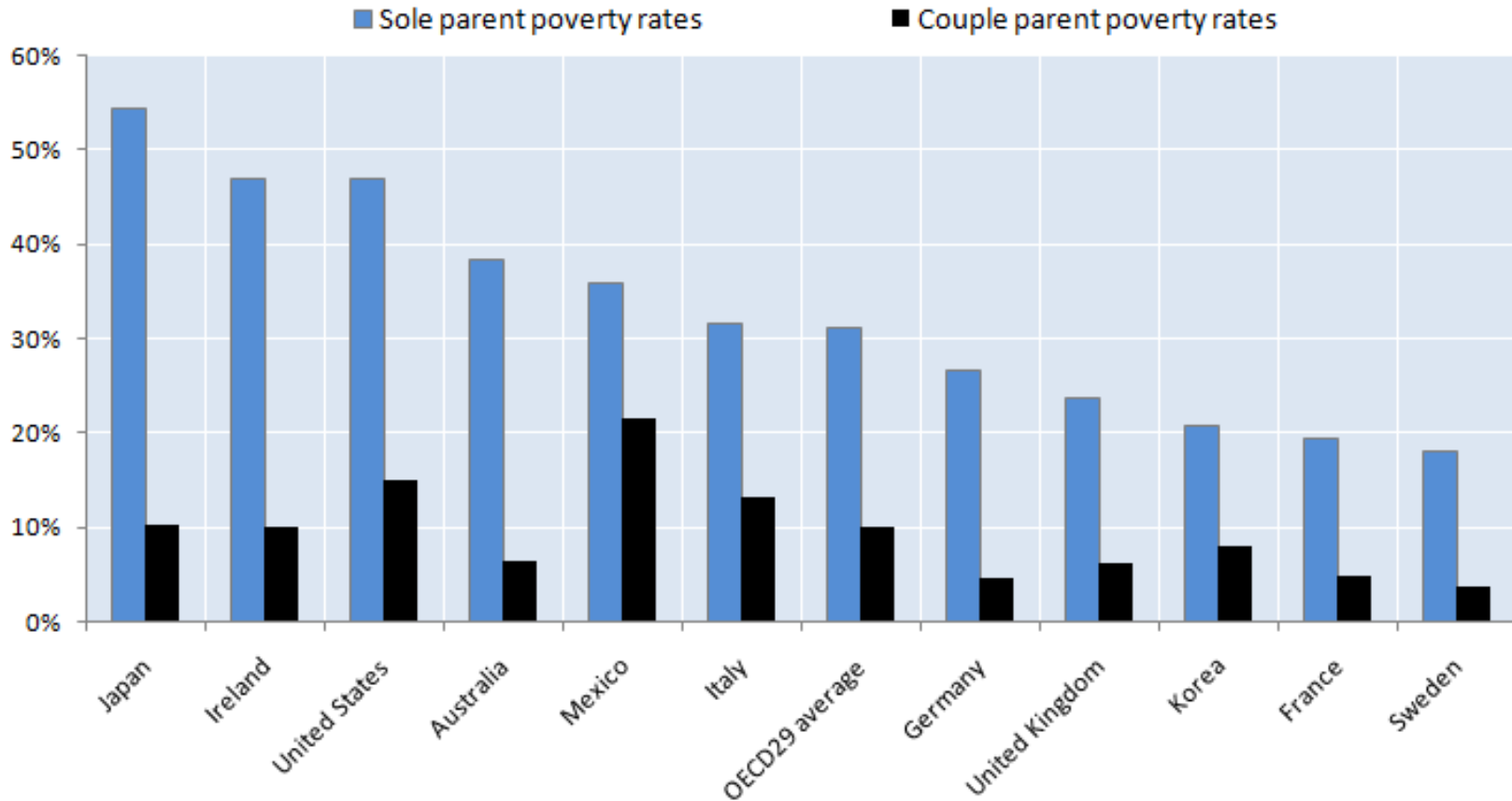
- Supporting supply and demand of formal childcare :
  - *Supply*: financial support to providers
  - *Demand*: monthly subsidies to eligible families towards fees
- Coverage: 9 000 day-care centres and 270 000 children



# Nowadays, many children live in sole-parent families

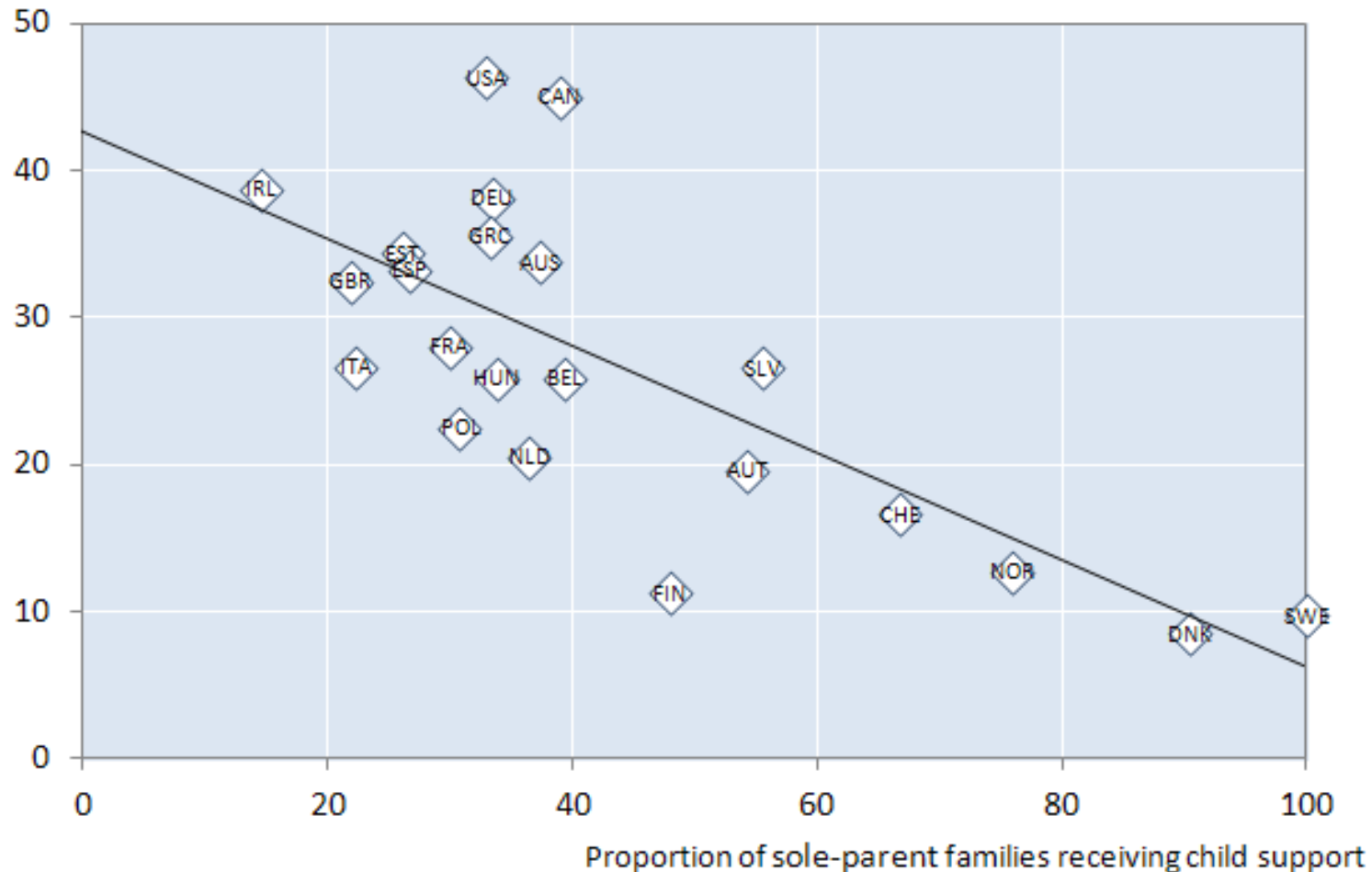


# Children in sole-parent households are more likely to be living in poverty



# Child support can help protect against poverty among sole-parent families

Child poverty in sole-parent families after child-support payments



# Supporting families is worth it!



- Start spending early and sustain it throughout childhood.
- Spend smart: Ensure that work pays for both parents and help parents to provide for their own children through a range of work/family supports.
- Fighting family poverty will help address a range of other issues as mobilising labour supply, promoting gender equity and enhancing child well-being and development.

# More information:

- [www.oecd.org/els/social](http://www.oecd.org/els/social)
  - OECD Family Database  
[www.oecd.org/social/family/database](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/database)
  - OECD (2011), Doing Better for Families, OECD, Paris  
[www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter](http://www.oecd.org/social/family/doingbetter)

