

**Thinking about “child poverty”:  
Concepts, frameworks, measures, trends  
and targets**

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# Material wellbeing – part of wider wellbeing

- Starting point for “child poverty” thinking is wellbeing more generally
- Many (child) wellbeing frameworks
  - OT framework (Daniel)
  - others
- Material wellbeing impacts on most other wellbeing domains / outcomes
  - correlation / causation / confounding variables
  - not deterministic

# “Child” poverty?

- “The child income poverty rate is 15% [on a certain measure]” is shorthand for:
  - “15% of children live in families / households whose total income is less than ....”
- “The child hardship rate is 13% [on a certain measure]” is shorthand for:
  - “13% of children live in families / households that are identified as in hardship [on the measure used]”

# Poverty is about resources being inadequate to meet basic material needs...

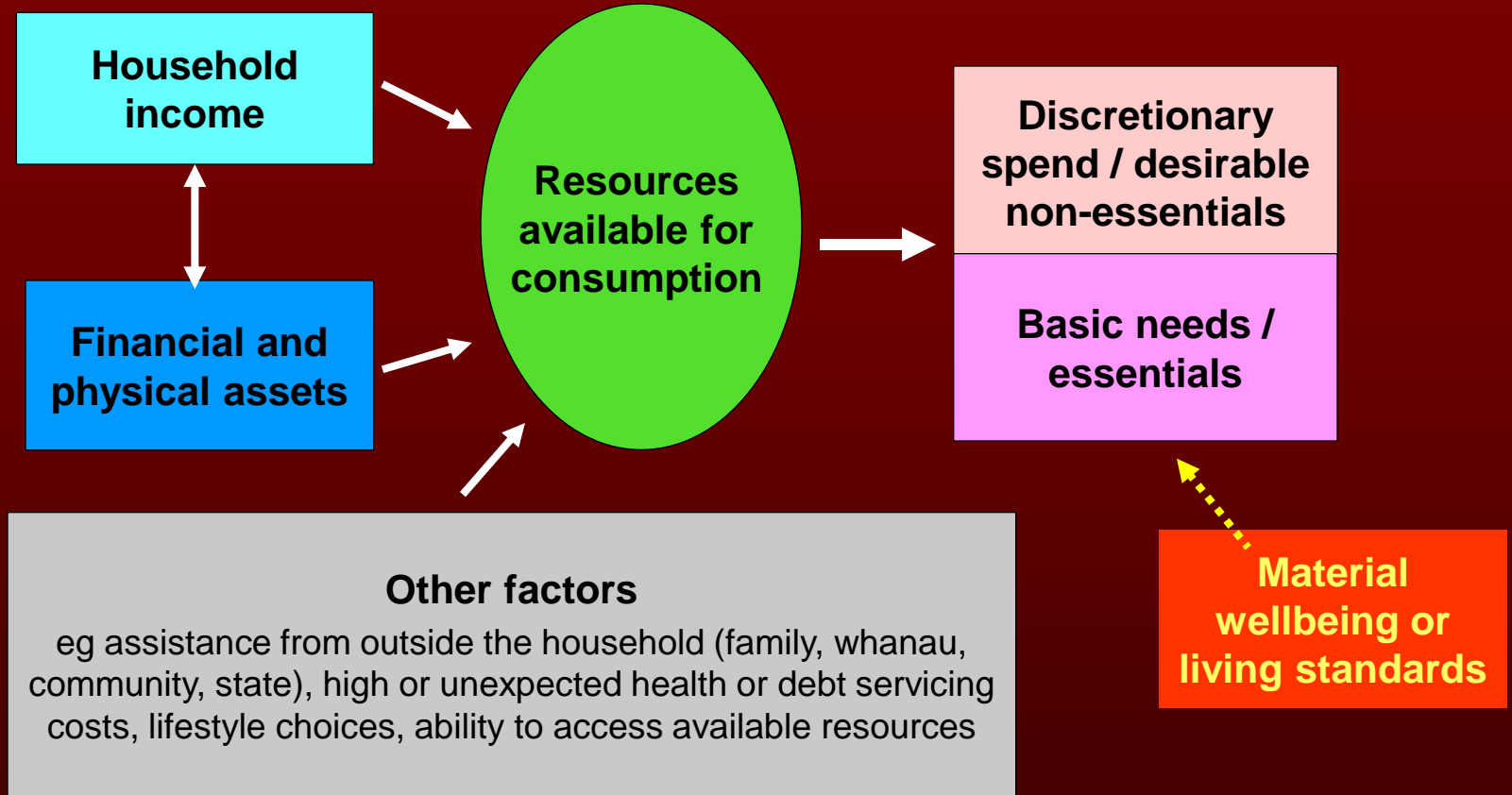
- “Exclusion from a minimum acceptable standard of living (level of MWB) because of inadequate household financial and material resources”
- An unacceptable state-of-affairs .... a moral imperative to take action ...because of:
  - here and now suffering, commitment to care for those unable to care for themselves, international commitments
  - potential negative impact on other aspects of wellbeing in childhood
  - potential negative impact on outcomes in adulthood

- Basic material needs?
- Minimum acceptable SoL?
- Inadequate resources?

# “Basic material needs”

- clean drinking water
- sanitation and waste disposal
- adequate food
- hot running water
- suitable clothes and shoes
- adequate housing – shelter / warmth
- dental and medical care as required
- mains electricity or equivalent
- household durable goods
  - food storage and cooking, sleeping, cleaning and maintenance, having people around, .....
- transport (for employment, supplies, ‘helping’, children ....., leisure)
- minimum ICT
- social engagement that involves financial cost
- financial resources to cope with unexpected essential expenses
- [freedom to purchase desired non-essentials]

# A framework for measurement



# MSD poverty & hardship measurement

- **primary**
  - AHC income, 50% and 60% of median, anchored 2007
  - two levels of material hardship, using the MWI / DEP-17
  - accommodation conditions (warm, dry, not crowded)
- **secondary**
  - AHC income, 40%, 50% & 60% of contemporary median
  - BHC income, 50% & 60% of contemporary median
  - AHC 60% crossed with MWI
- **international**
  - EU-13
  - BHC 50% and 60% of median ... with great reluctance

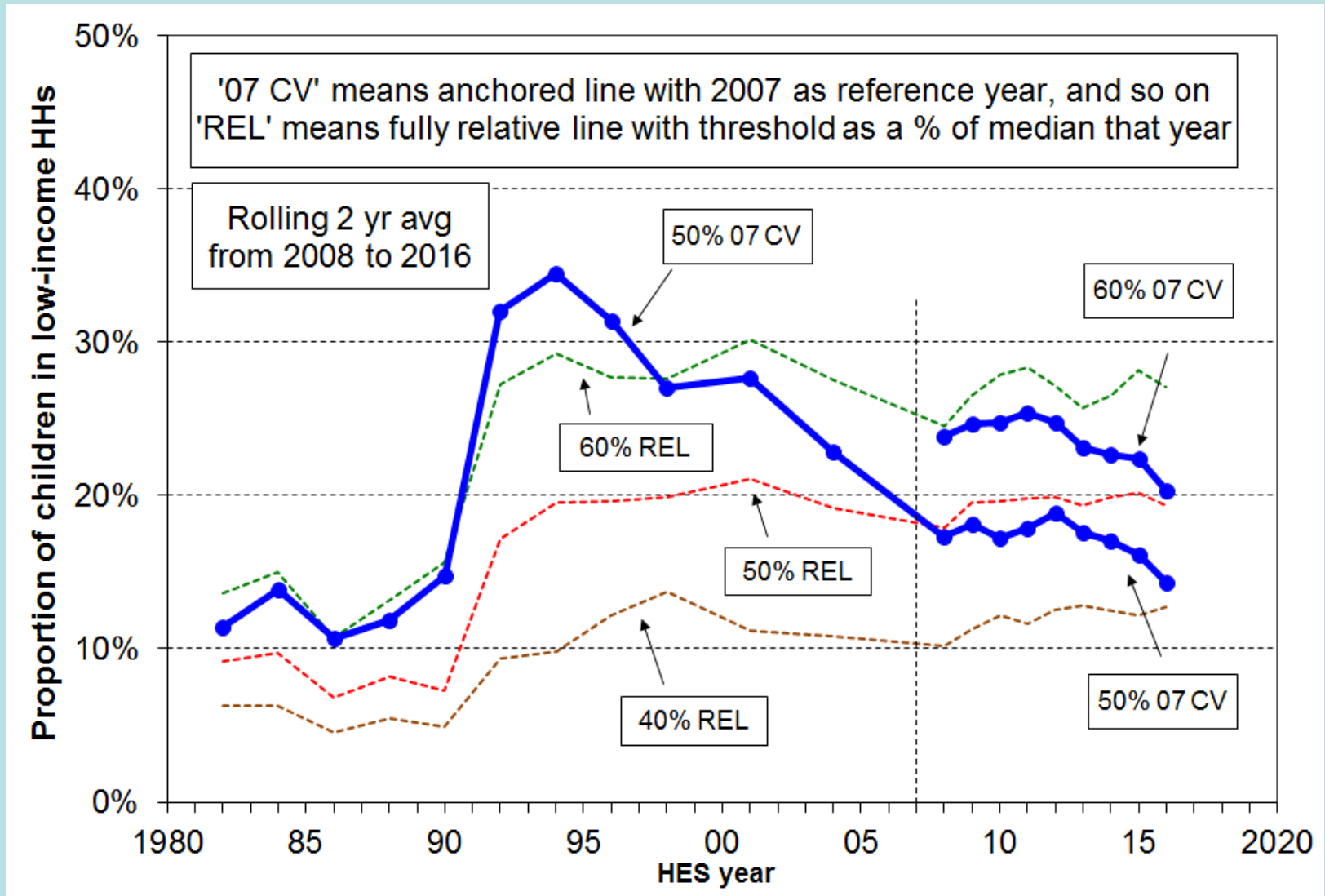


## ... but we need to monitor causes as well

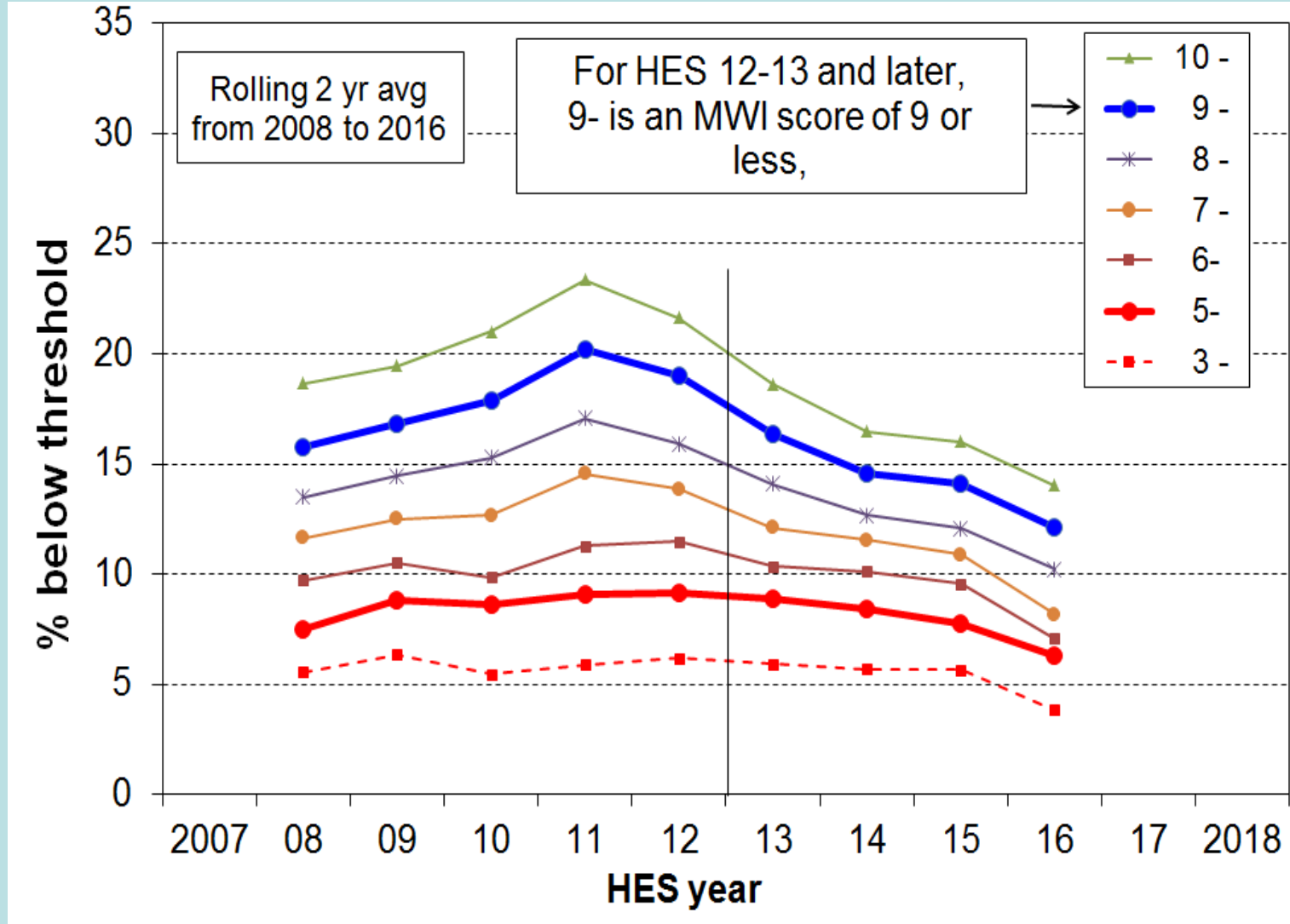
- Economy / labour market
  - % children in workless households
  - % poor children in households with at least one in FT employment
  - wage rates
- Safety net / policy settings
  - levels of main benefits and minimum wage
  - other income support
  - in-kind support / subsidies
- Health of parent(s) / adults and children in household
- Other household dynamics and adult 'behaviour'
- Wider support networks

**... and look to the future ...**

# Low income rates (AHC) – children



# Material hardship rates – children



# UN Sustainable Development Goals?

- “reduce by at least half on national measures”
- an example for children (0-17 yrs)
  - BHC 50% moving line currently ~14-15% (~160,000)
  - current and former PM committed to reducing by 100,000
  - this is around 5%