The Sutton Trust

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University work with schools to raise HE participation

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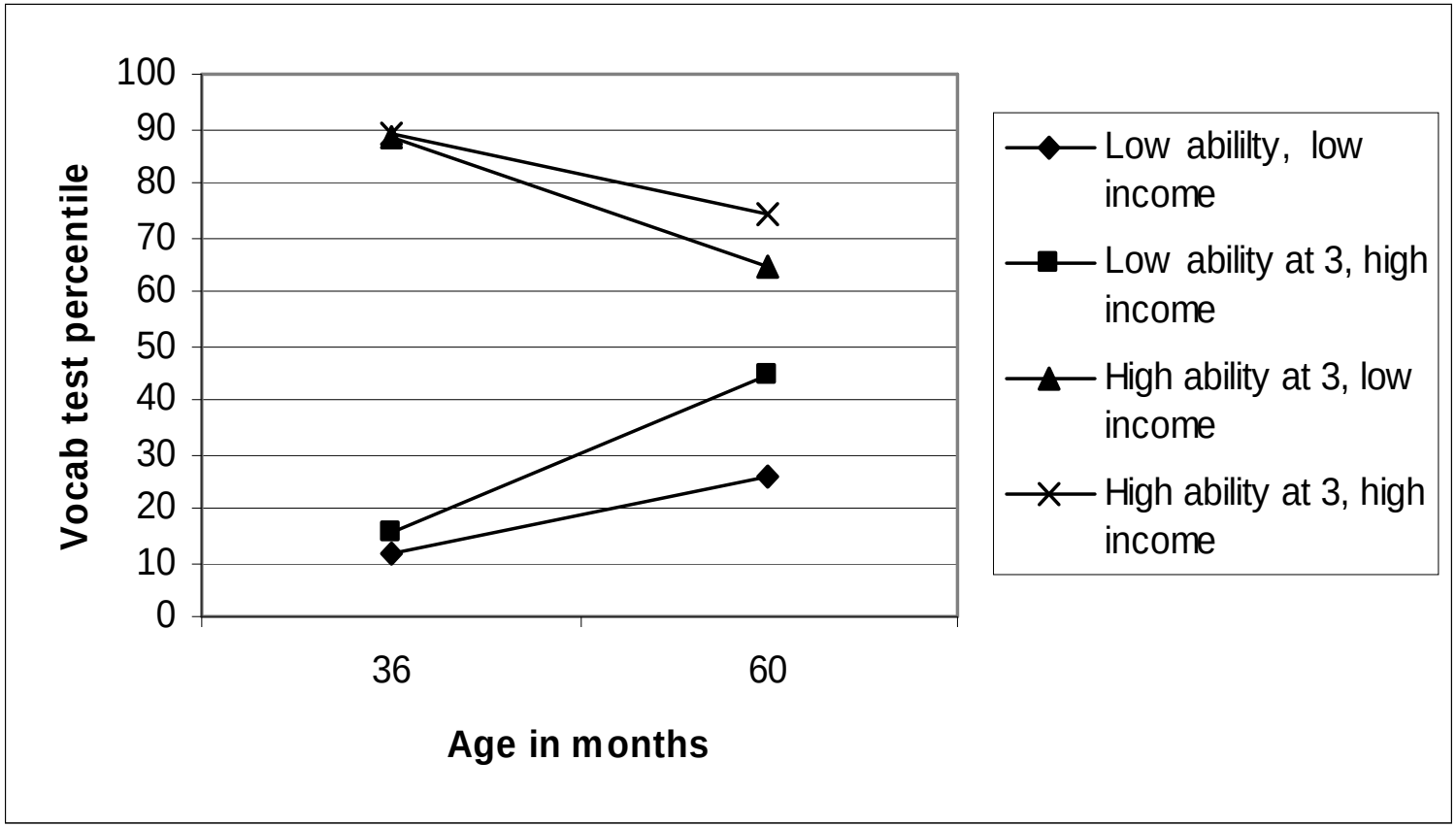
Social Mobility is Low in the UK

- LSE Study - Relative Income for Previous Generations
- Found UK, US low compared with Nordic countries and Canada
- Overwhelming weight of evidence - OECD, Corak, Jantti, Unicef, Hertz

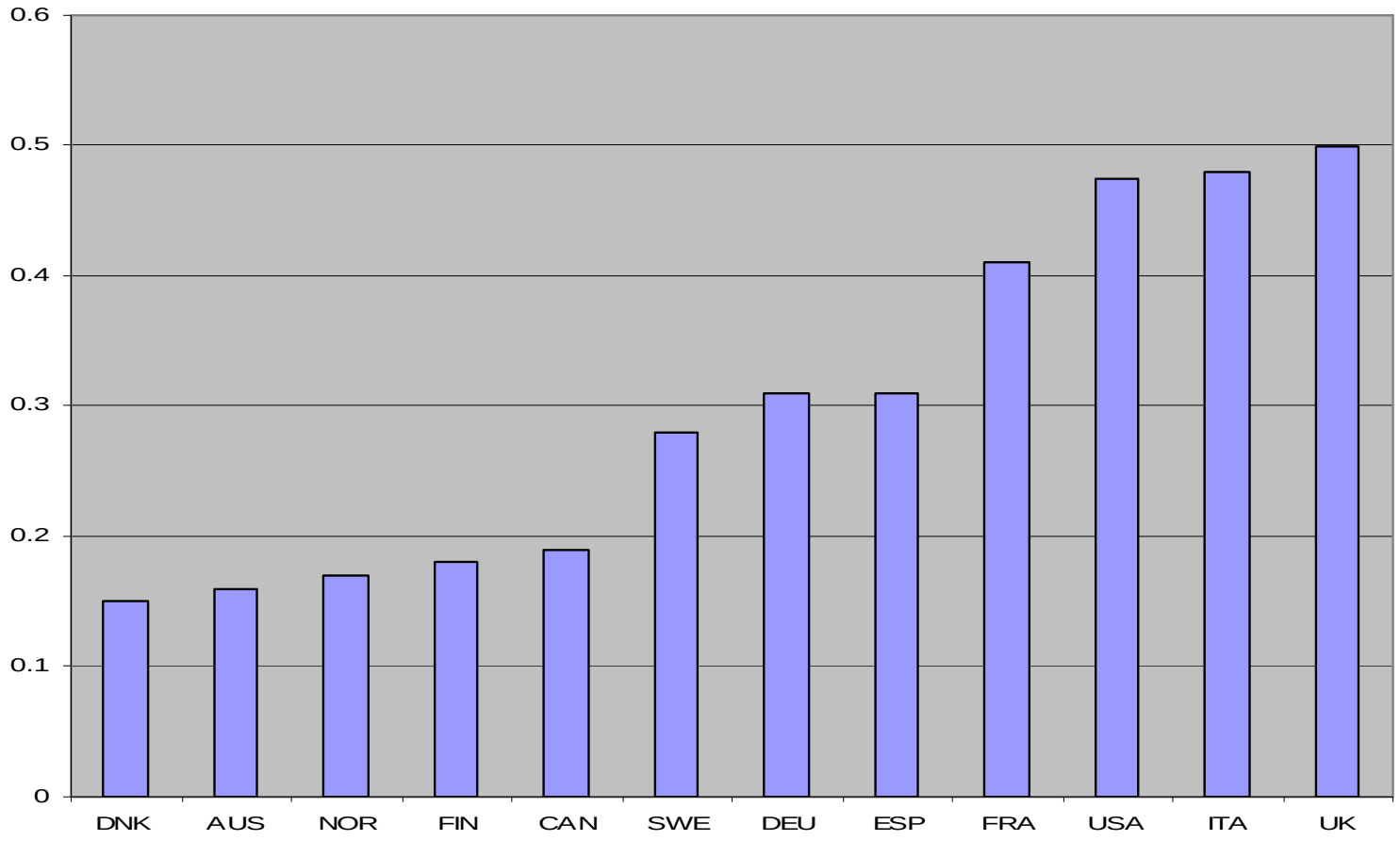
Education Mobility is Low in the UK

- Poor, talented age two overtaken by age six by middle class children
- Parental link strongest in England (Books at home and test scores at 11)

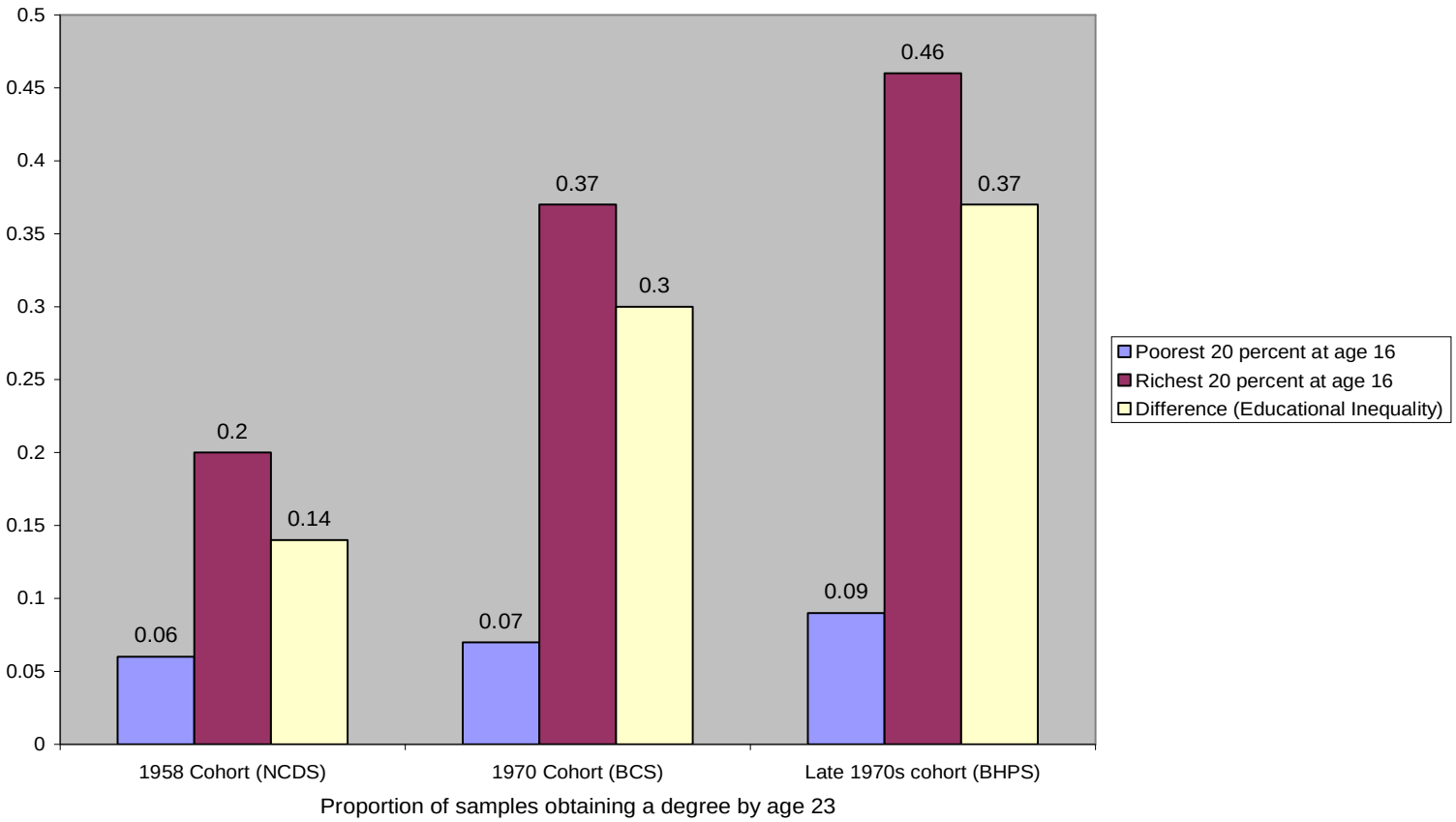
Education Mobility



Link between parent's earnings and children's earnings as adults

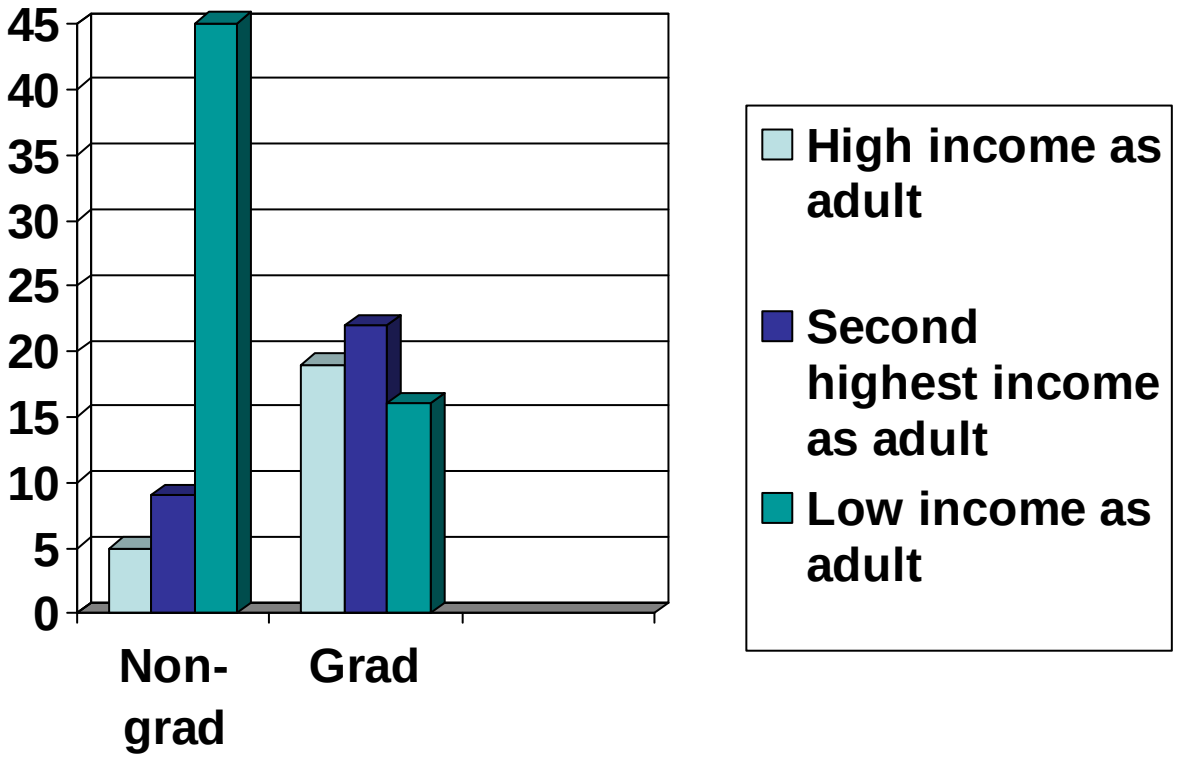


Degrees for different income groups



Source: Blanden, Gregg and Machin (2005)

Chances of low income children climbing social ladder with and without degrees (USA)



NCEE report -- ‘Increasing HE participation amongst disadvantaged young people’

- Evidence and research
- Policy and project proposals

Evidence: attainment

- 60,000 top performers at 11-16 in English schools don’t go on to higher education

- BUT poorer students who reach A-levels are as highly likely to go on to higher education as their better off peers.

- BUT ‘Missing 3000’

Evidence: advice

- Only half of 16/17 year olds said the support they had received had been helpful
- 60% of uni applicants had not received enough information about the relationship between higher education courses and employment
- 73% reported they had received either not enough or no information on the implications of subject choices on future pathways

Evidence: aspirations

- children with graduate parents always thought they would attend university from an early age, while those without graduate parents considered higher education much later -- at the time of GCSEs onwards
- 74 percent of young people from two working parent households say they are likely to go into to HE, compared with 60 percent of those from households where no parent works.

Proposals (primary schools)

- Every primary school to include university aspiration work for years 5 and 6 (include parents)
- Aspirations toolkit for poorest primary schools
- Resources for parents

Proposals (secondary schools)

- Lead teachers responsible for advice
- Advice packages before age 14 (including elite HE, subjects)
- Uni summer schools for career advisers
- Talent spotting pre-16?
- Destination indicators

Proposals (applications and admissions)

- Simplify university admissions
- More proven outreach work rather than bursaries; simplify bursary offer?
- Consider innovative admissions
- Links with low progression schools
- Marketing financial costs and returns