



# HUNGARY

## Leave policy and early childhood services

Marta Korintus

National Institute for Family  
and Social Policy, Hungary



# Early childhood services

- Divided system:
  - „bölcsőde” for children under 3
    - about **8-9%** of the age group in centers
  - „óvoda” for children between 3-6
    - about **92%** of the age group in centers
- Services under the auspices of Welfare and Education, respectively



# Brief history of bölcsőde

- First center established in 1852
  - Aim was: to look after children of poor mothers while they worked
- Extensive development after the Second World War
  - Aims were to support women's equality and right to study, to work and to motherhood



# Brief history of óvoda

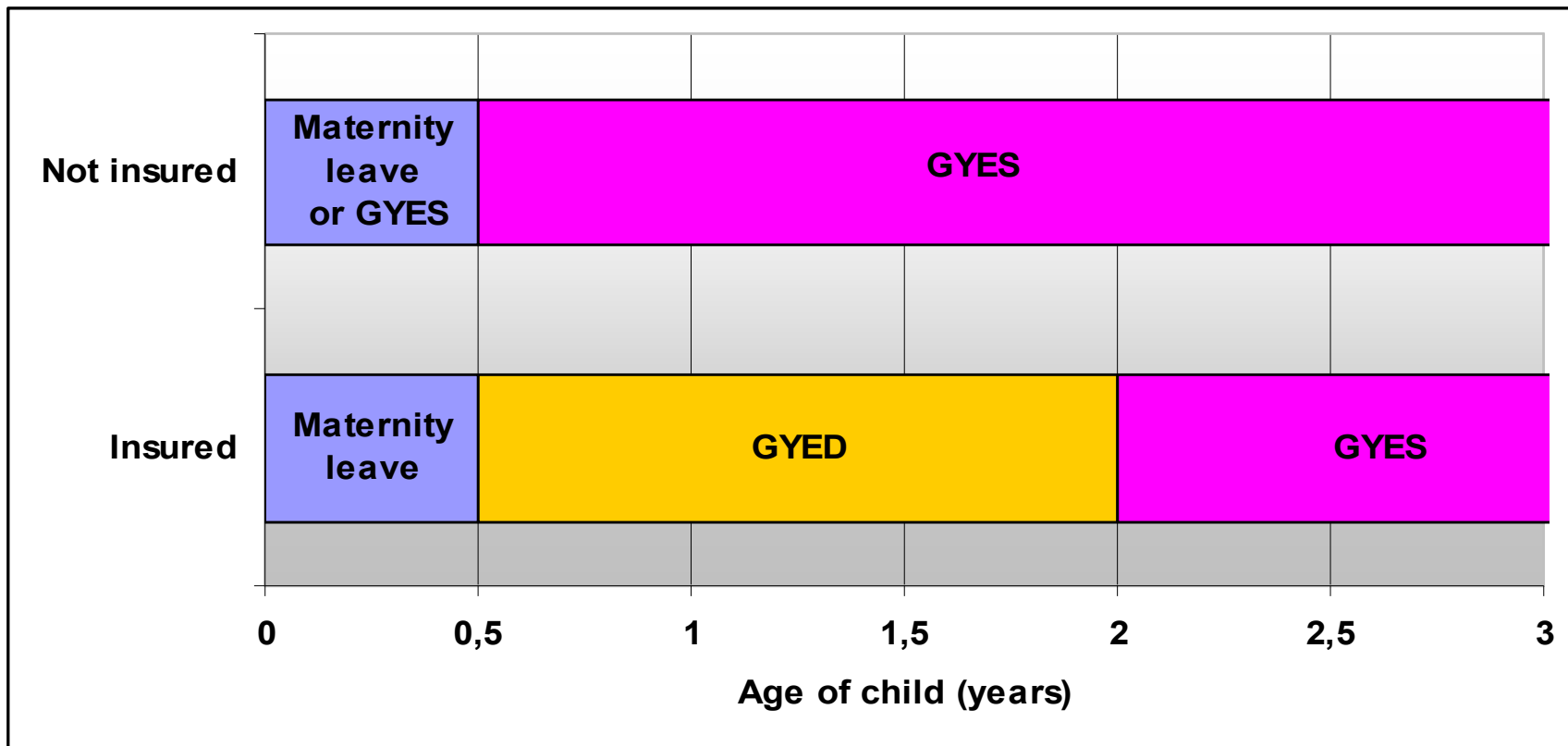
- First center established in 1828
  - Aim was: to provide protection for children from poor families
- Extensive development after the Second World War
  - Aim was: „upbringing”, to support children’s development



# Types of leave

- Maternity leave: 24 weeks, up to 4 weeks before birth. 70% of earnings.
- GYES: Until the child's 3rd birthday. Flat rate payment.
- GYED: from the end of the maternity leave period until the child's 2nd birthday. 70% of earnings up to a ceiling.
- GYET

# Types of leave

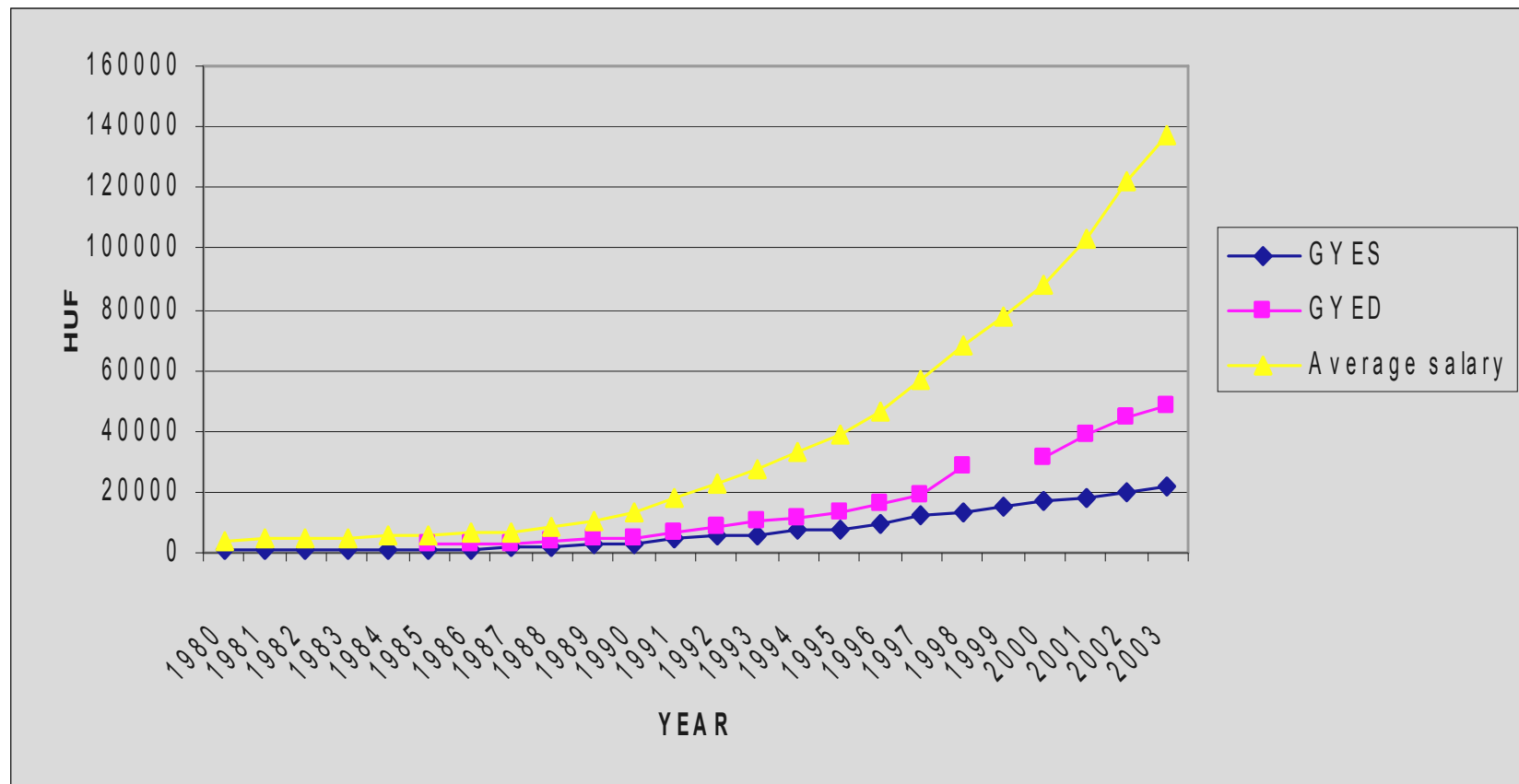




# Brief history of GYES and GYED

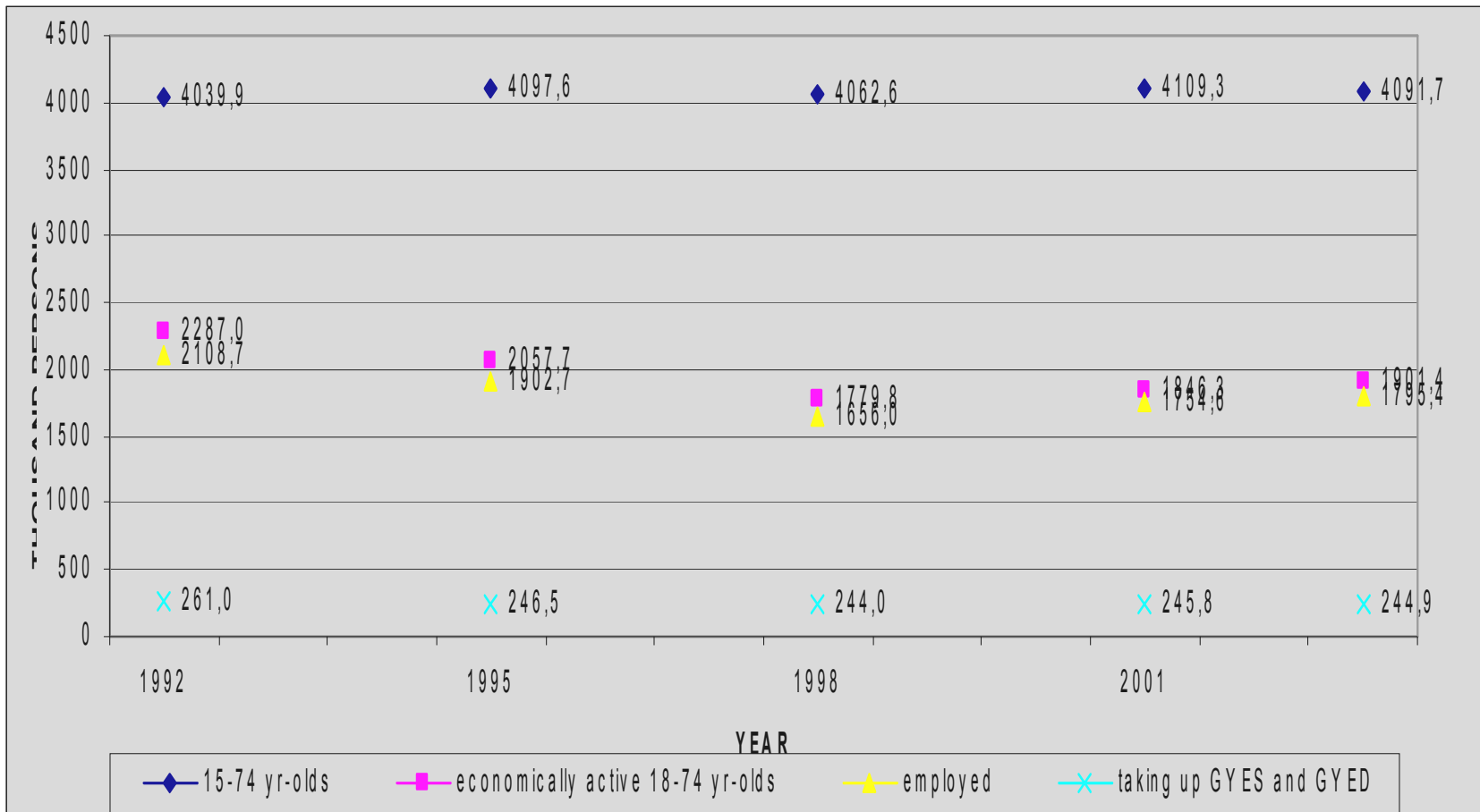
- Maternity leave 1884, 1927, 1953
- GYES and GYED aimed to promote births
  - GYES was introduced in 1967
  - GYED was introduced in 1985, abolished between 1996 and 2000

# Average HUF / month / person for leaves and average salary

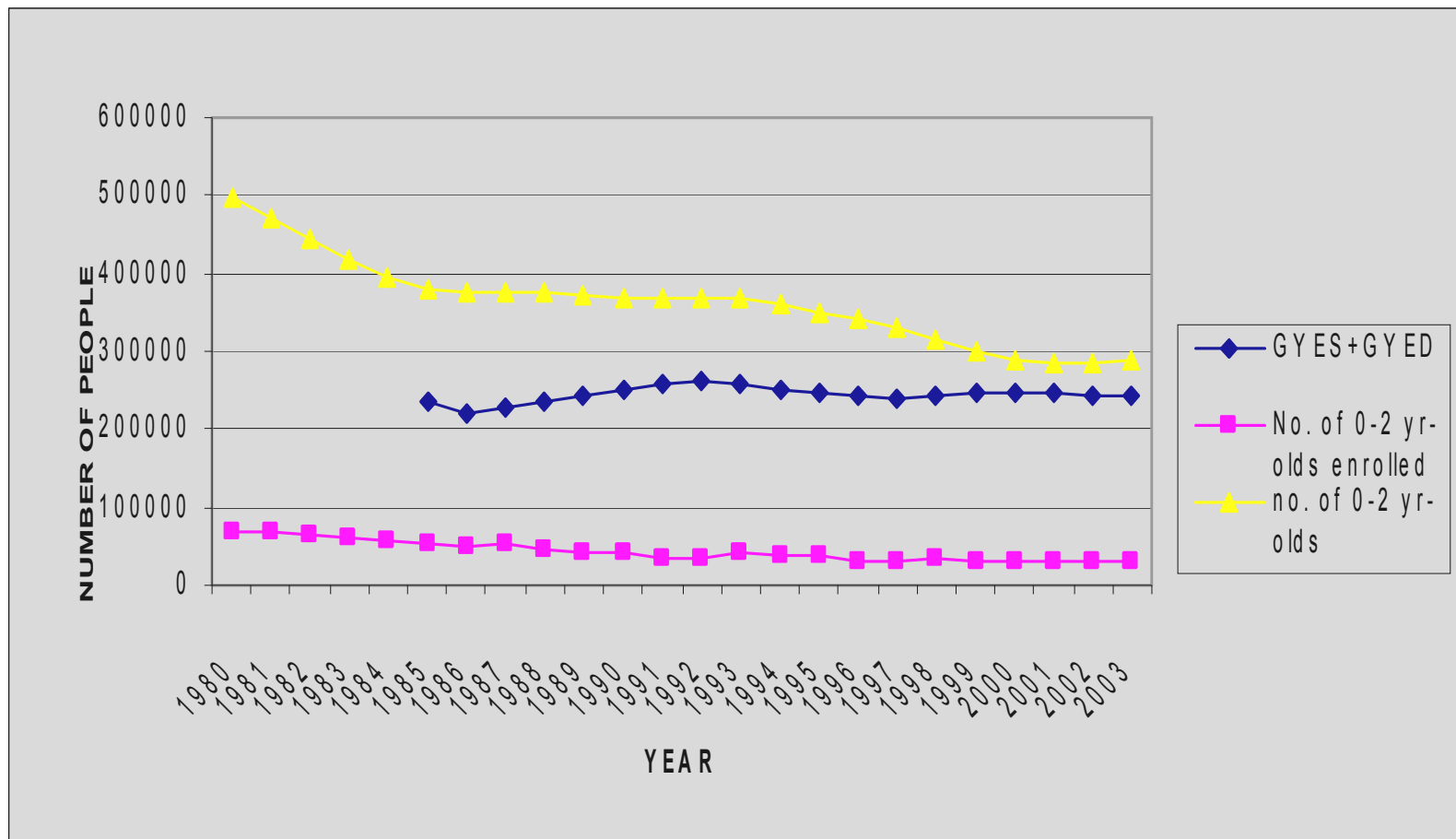




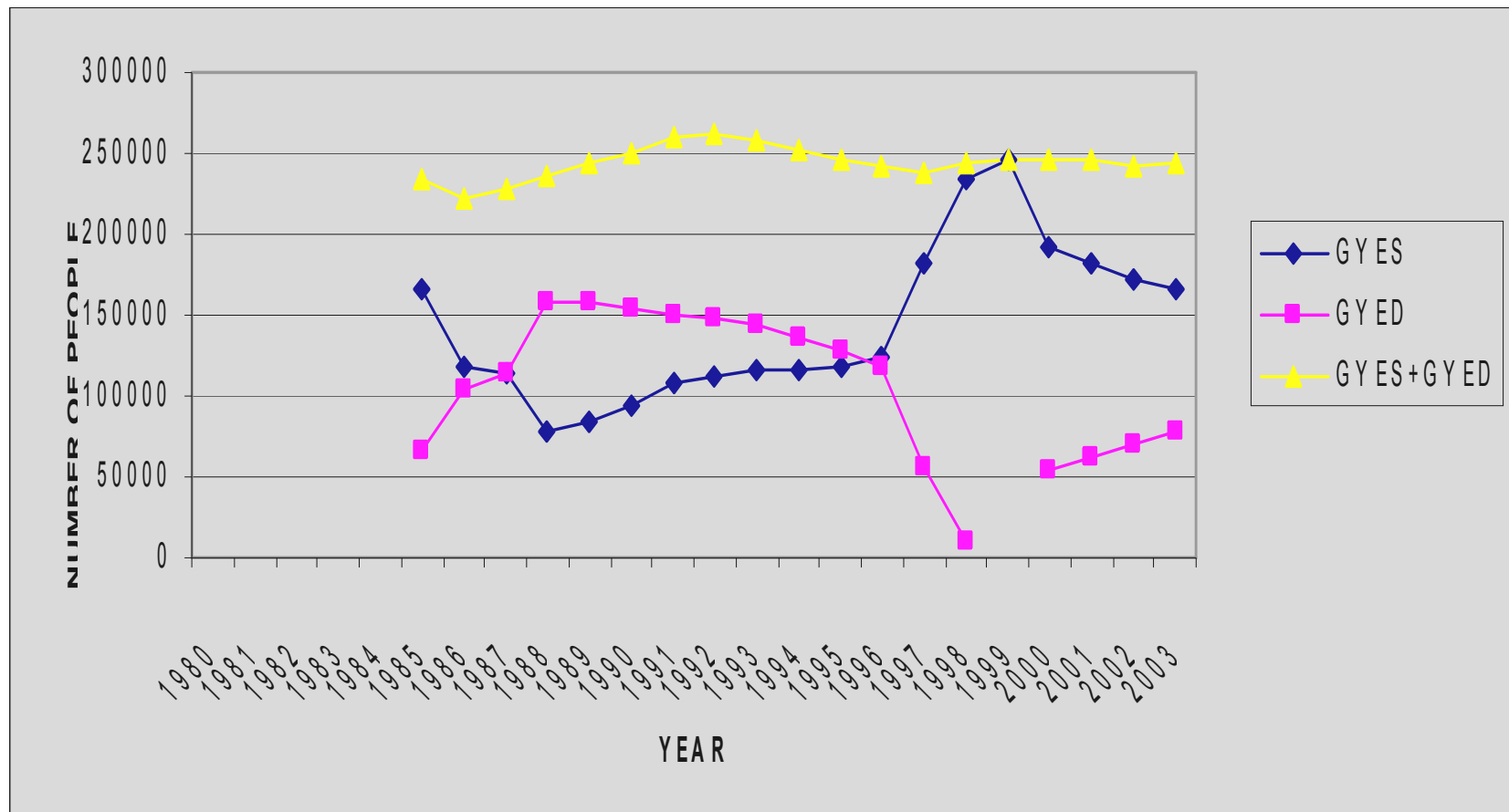
# Number of women employed and taking up leave



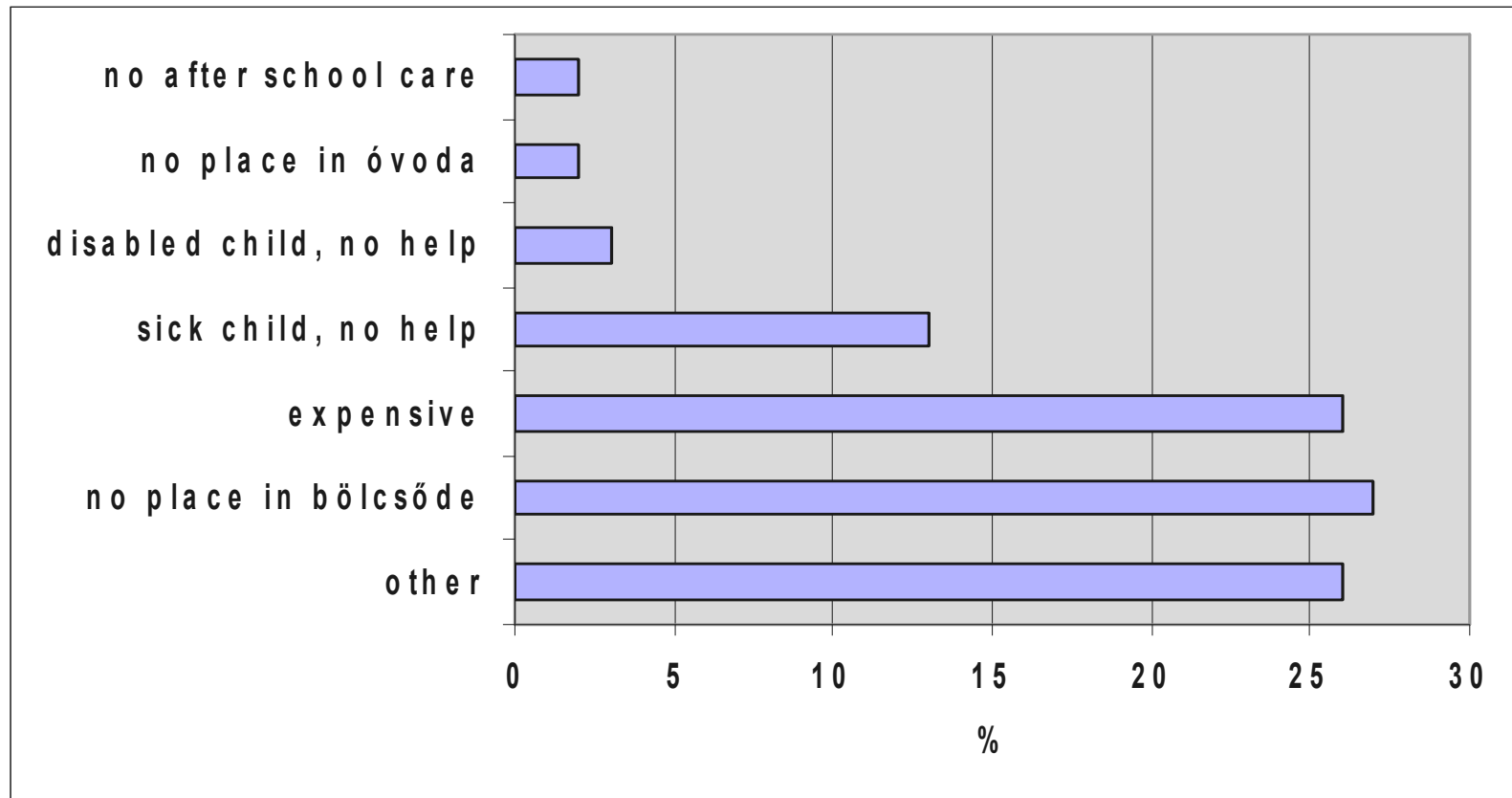
# Number of children enrolled in nurseries and of people on leave



# Average number of people taking up GYES and GYED



# Reasons for unmet childcare need





# Discussion points

- Need- or supply-driven services?
- Influences on bölsöde places
  - Financing
  - Attitudes / ideology
  - Leave policies
  - Difficulties returning from leave