

Family policy work in the OECD

Seminar presentation:

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(www.oecd.org/els/social/family
www.oecd.org/els/social/family/database)

Presentation outline

- What is the OECD?
 - What do we produce?
 - Past work on Family policies
 - Ongoing work on child well-being
- The Family database
 - Structure
 - Some example indicators
 - The way ahead
 - Data gaps, how to fill them?
 - New indicators to be developed?

What is the OECD and what does it do?

- The OECD promotes policies designed “to achieve the highest sustainable economic growth and employment and a rising standard of living”.
- To identify best practice, the OECD develops indicators focused on internationally comparable datasets which illustrate some vital differences in experience, across countries, over time and across different groups.
- Work on social policy at the OECD includes research on public pensions, social expenditure, tax/benefit systems, income distribution and poverty, disability policies, and policies related to families and children.

Recent OECD work

Babies and Bosses RECONCILING WORK AND FAMILY LIFE



- *Babies and Bosses* reviews of 13 OECD countries ; Synthesis issue in November 2007
- Fertility studies
- Employment Outlook chapters
- Starting Strong

A SYNTHESIS OF FINDINGS FOR OECD COUNTRIES



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Work on Child well-being for release 2008/2009

- The under three policy package
- The impact of sole parent family structure on child development
- Investing in children from an early life course perspective
- The possible use of longitudinal surveys

Family database structure

- The Structure of Families
- The Labour Market Position of Families
- Public Policies for Families and Children
- Child Outcomes

The Structure of Families

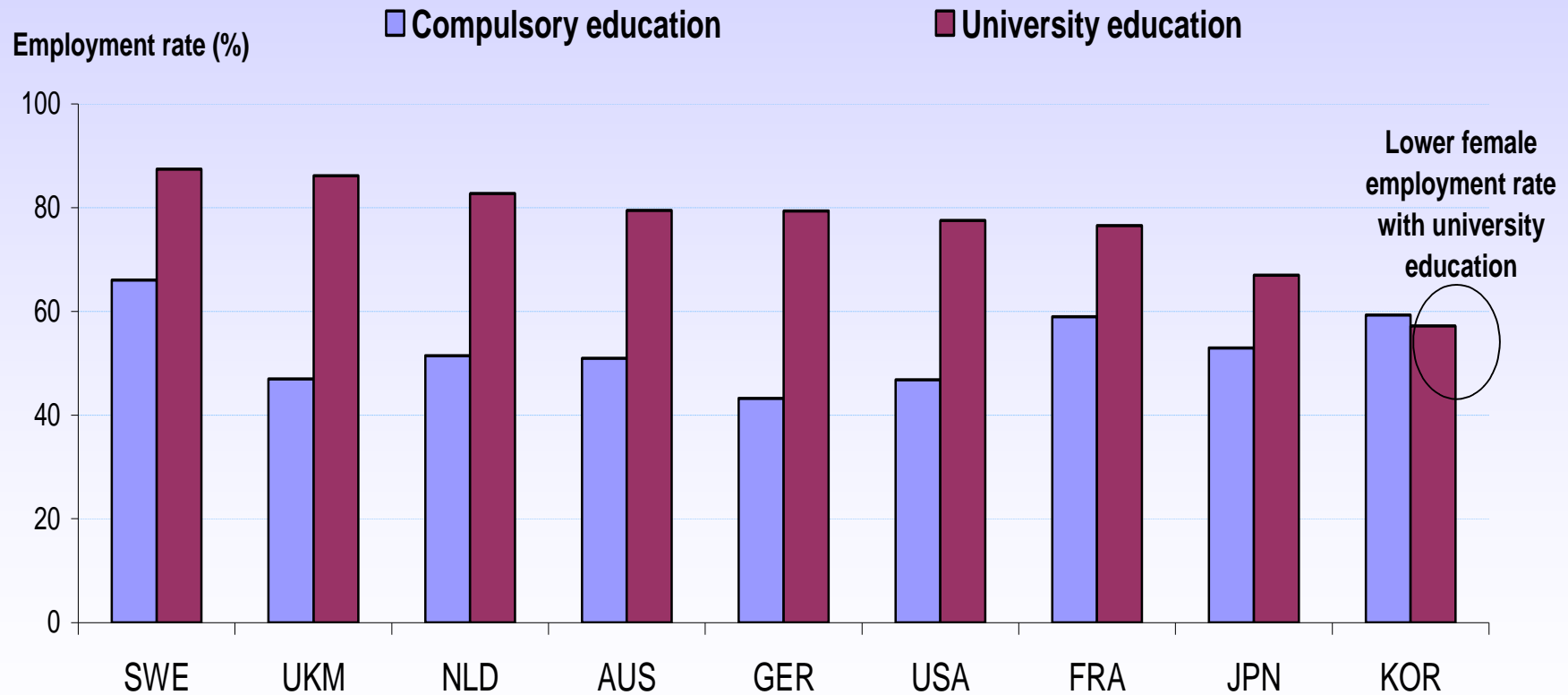
- Families and children:
 - Size and composition
 - Types of families: proportion of sole parents and couple families
 - Living arrangements of children: reconstituted families etc
- Fertility:
 - Fertility rates,
 - Mean age of mother at first birth,
 - Share of births outside marriage,
 - Teenage pregnancy
 - Childlessness
- Marital and partnership status
 - Marriage and divorce rates
 - Prevalence of cohabitation

Labour Market Status of Families

- Families, children and employment status
 - Children in families by employment status
 - Maternal employment
 - Maternal employment rates by family status
- Employment conditions for men and women
 - Gender pay gaps
 - Gender differences in employment outcomes
 - Sectoral/occupational concentration of workers by gender
- Workplace hours and time for caring
 - Distribution of weekly working hours by gender
 - Differences in weekly working hours by family status
 - Family-friendly workplace practices
 - Time-used for work, care and daily household chores

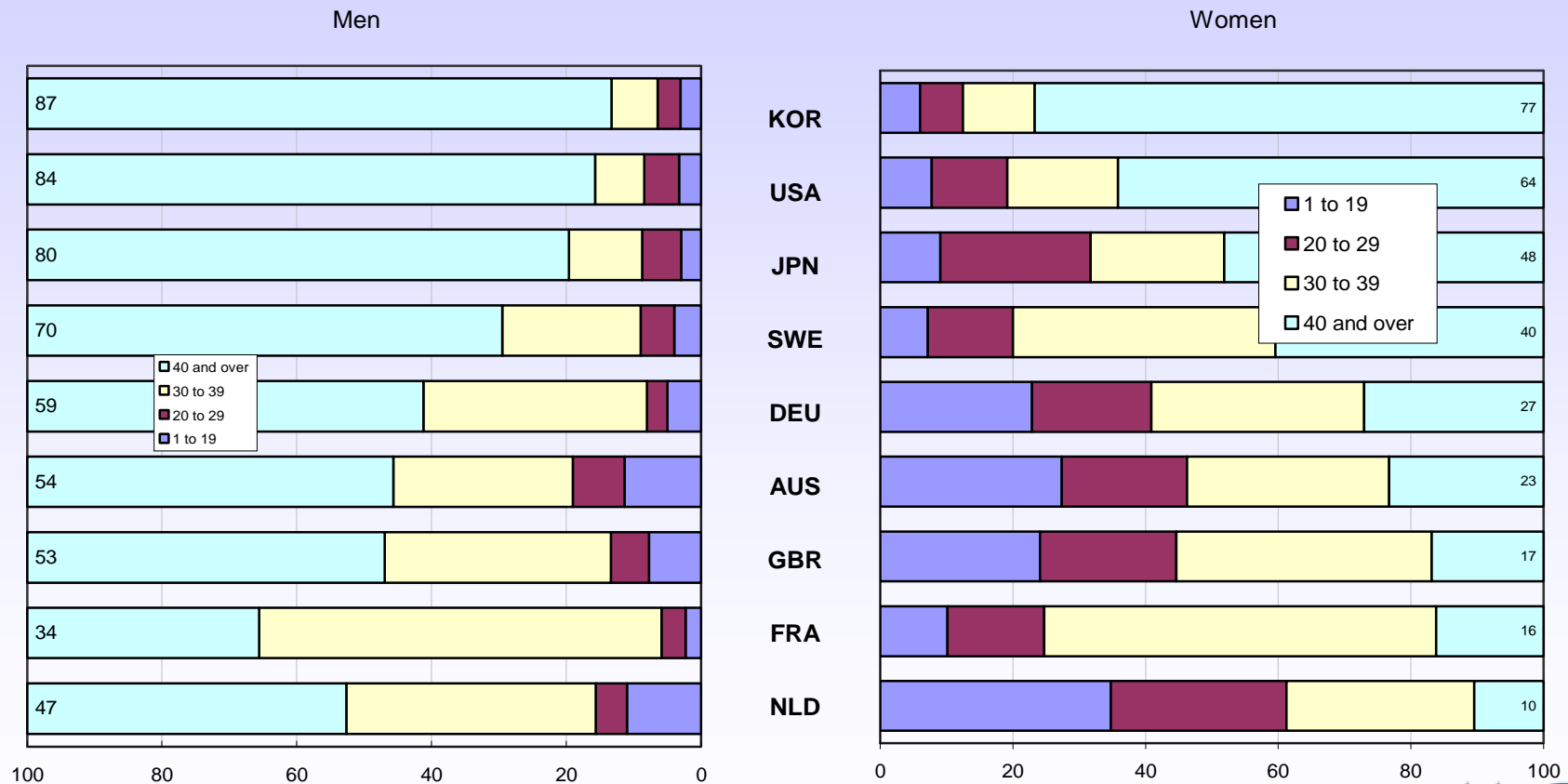
Female employment rates usually increase with higher educational attainment

Female employment rates by educational attainment, 2004



Huge difference in working hours across the OECD leaving little time for family commitments in some countries.

Share of workers by distribution of usual working hours, by gender, 2005

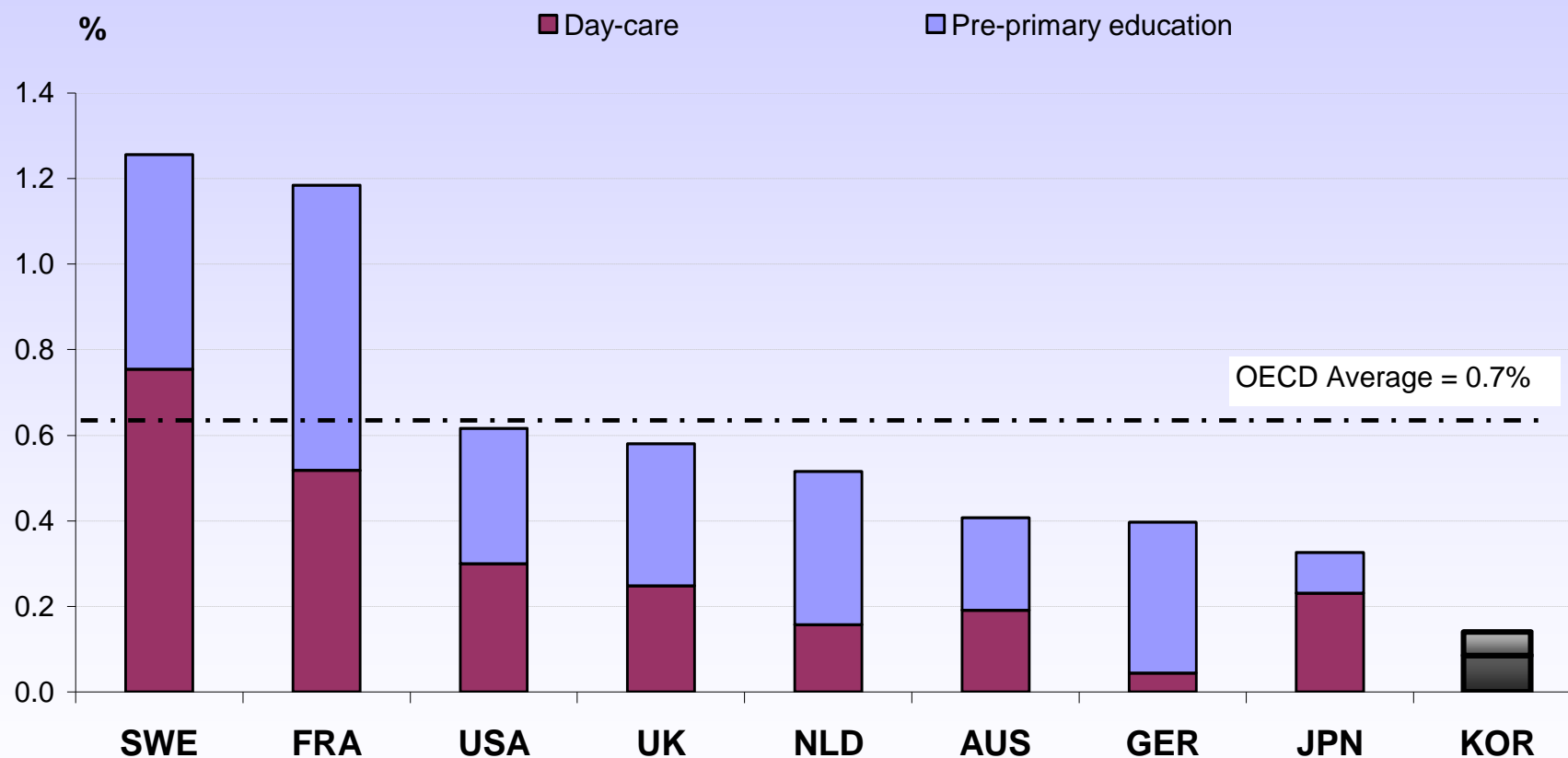


Public Policies for Families and Children

- General tax/benefit support for families with children
 - Public spending on family benefits/education
 - Types of family benefits
 - Gender neutrality of tax/benefits system
 - Child support/parenting support
- Child-related leave
 - Key characteristics of parental leave systems
 - Take-up of leave benefits, by mothers and fathers
 - Additional leave entitlements of working parents
- Formal care and education for very young children
 - Spending and enrolment in childcare and early education
 - Childcare support
 - Typology/ Quality of childcare and early education
 - Out-of-school-hours care

Public spending on childcare is highest in Nordic countries and France

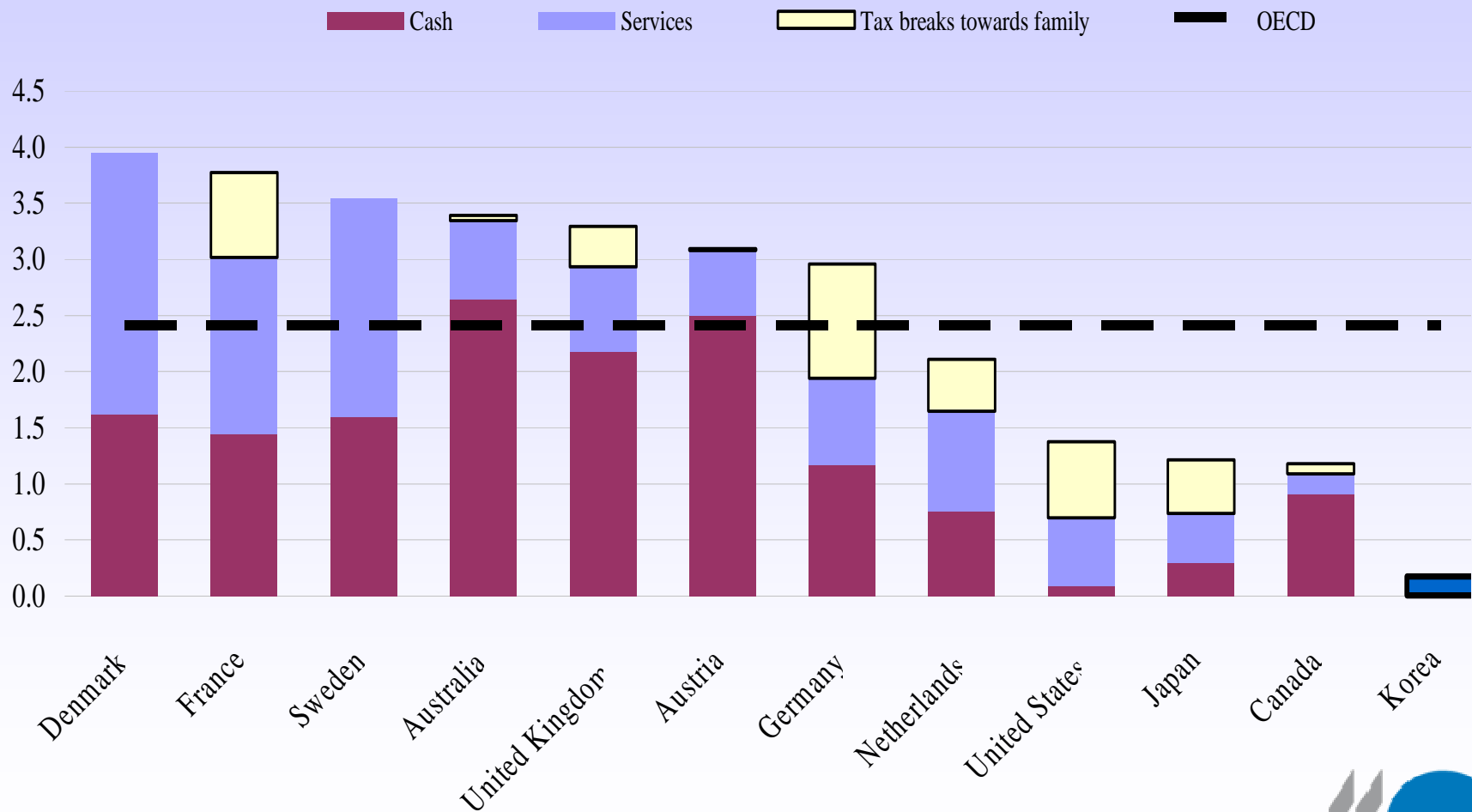
Public spending on childcare including pre-primary education, 2003



OECD (2007), Social Expenditure database 1980-2003.

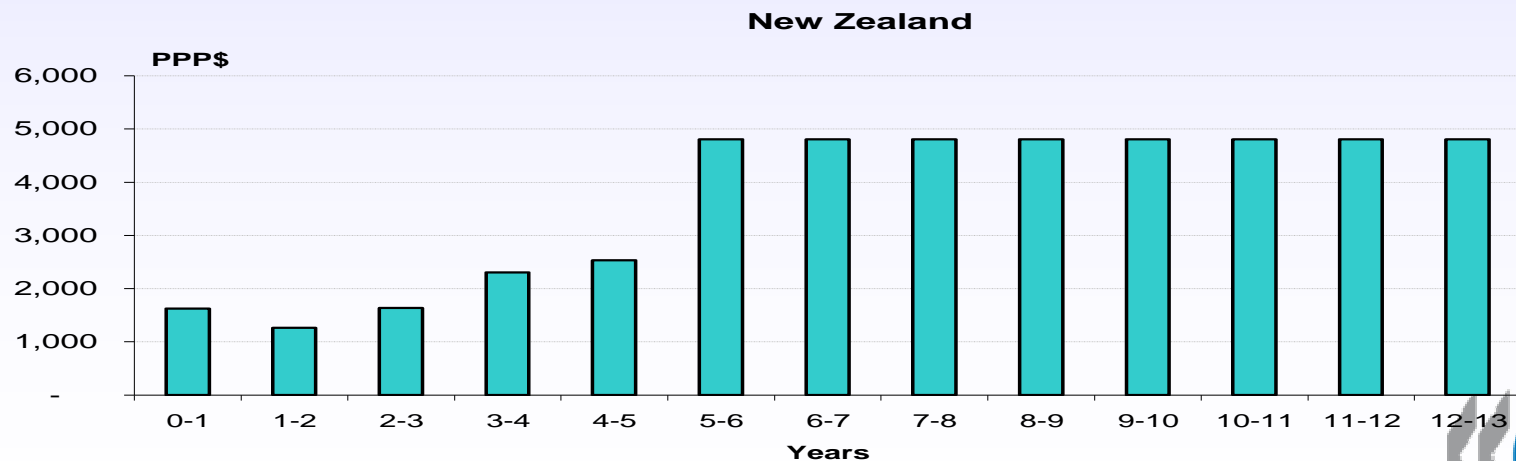
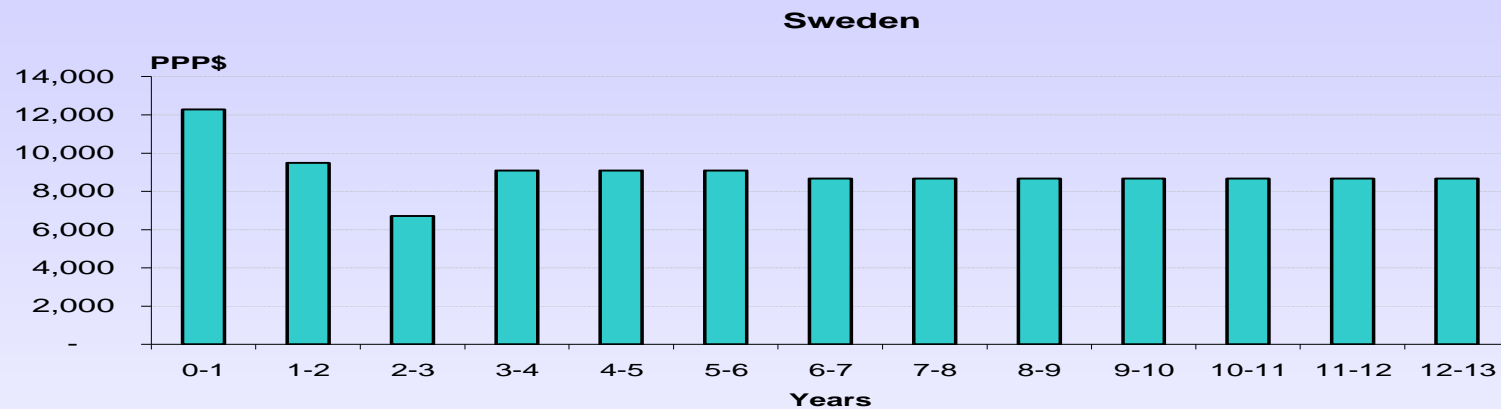
as is overall public spending on family benefits

Public spending on family benefits, per cent of GDP, 2003

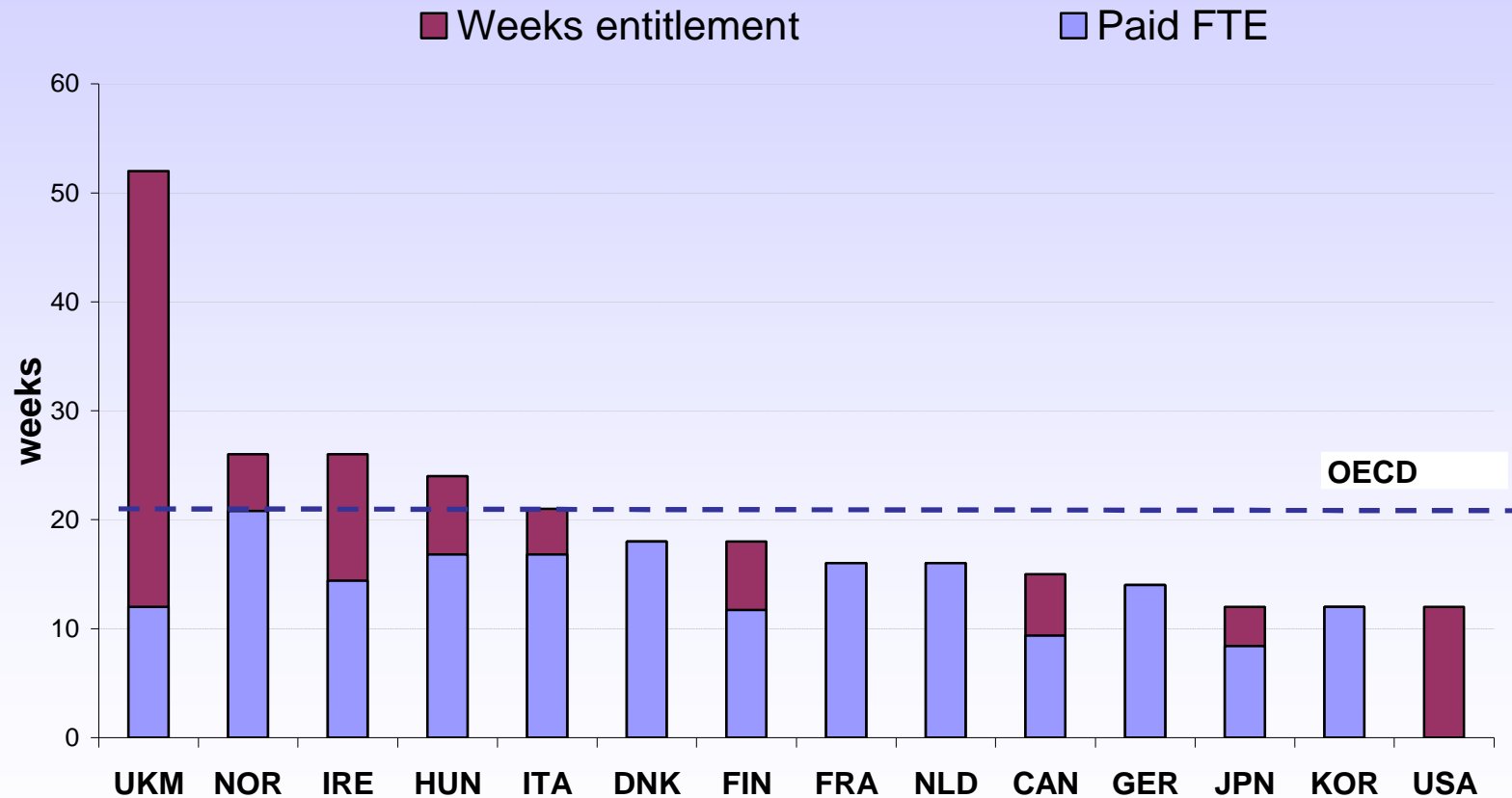


Public support included here only concerns items that are exclusively for families (e.g. child payments and allowances, parental leave benefits and childcare support). Spending recorded in other social policy areas as health and housing support also assist families, but not exclusively, and is not included here.

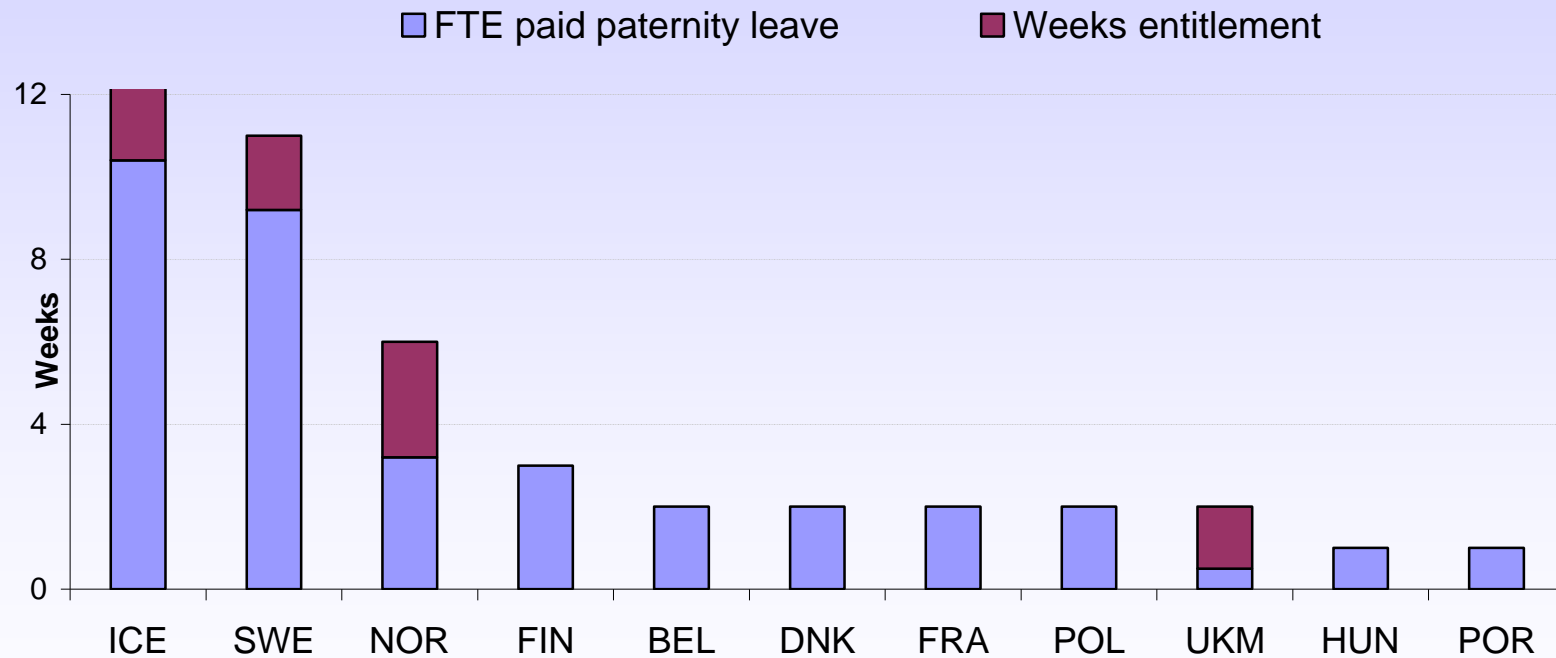
Spending profiles across the early life cycle differ considerably.



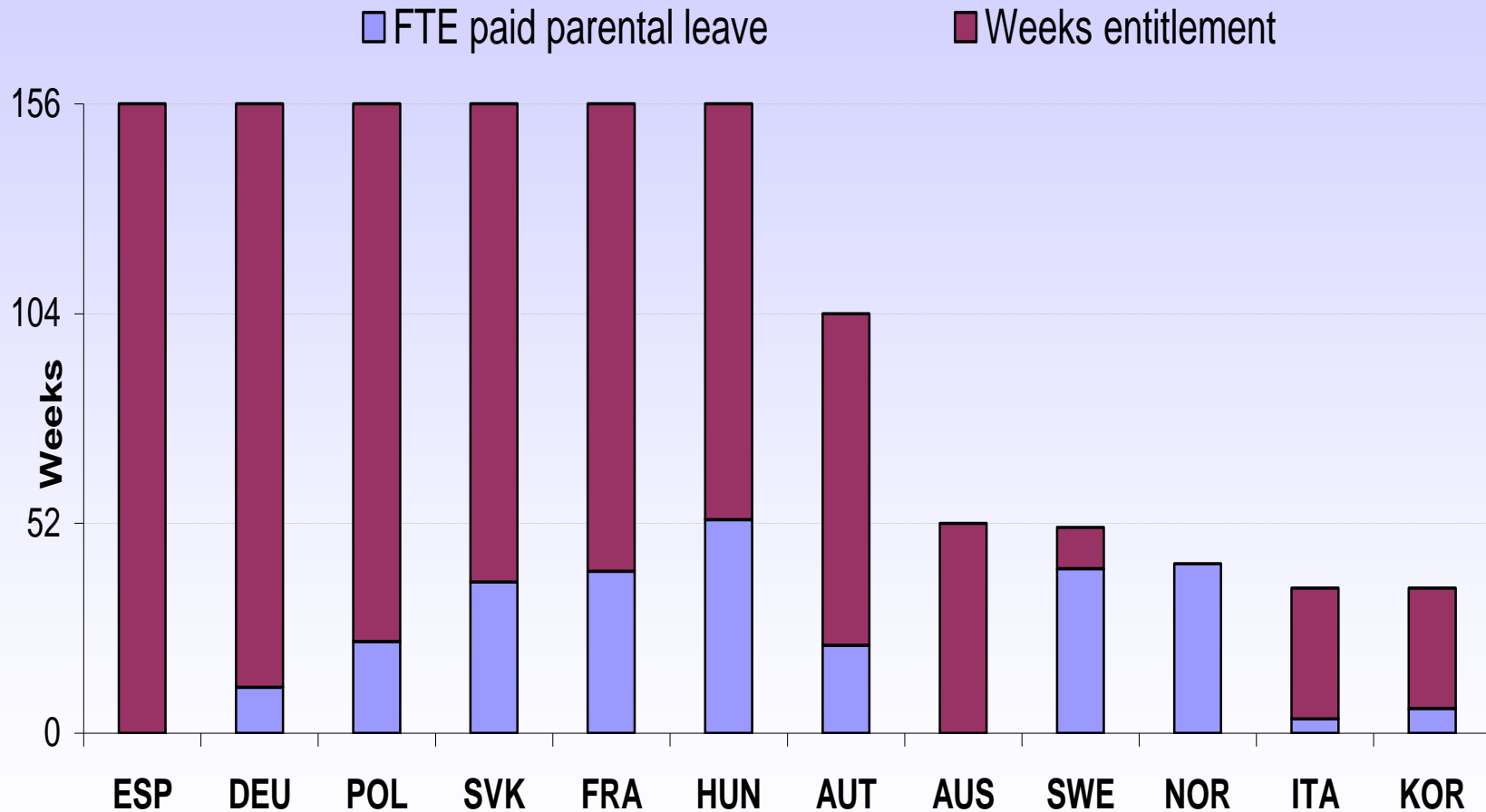
Maternity leave in weeks expressed as a per cent of maternity leave at last earnings



Paternity leave in weeks expressed as a per cent of paternity leave at last earnings

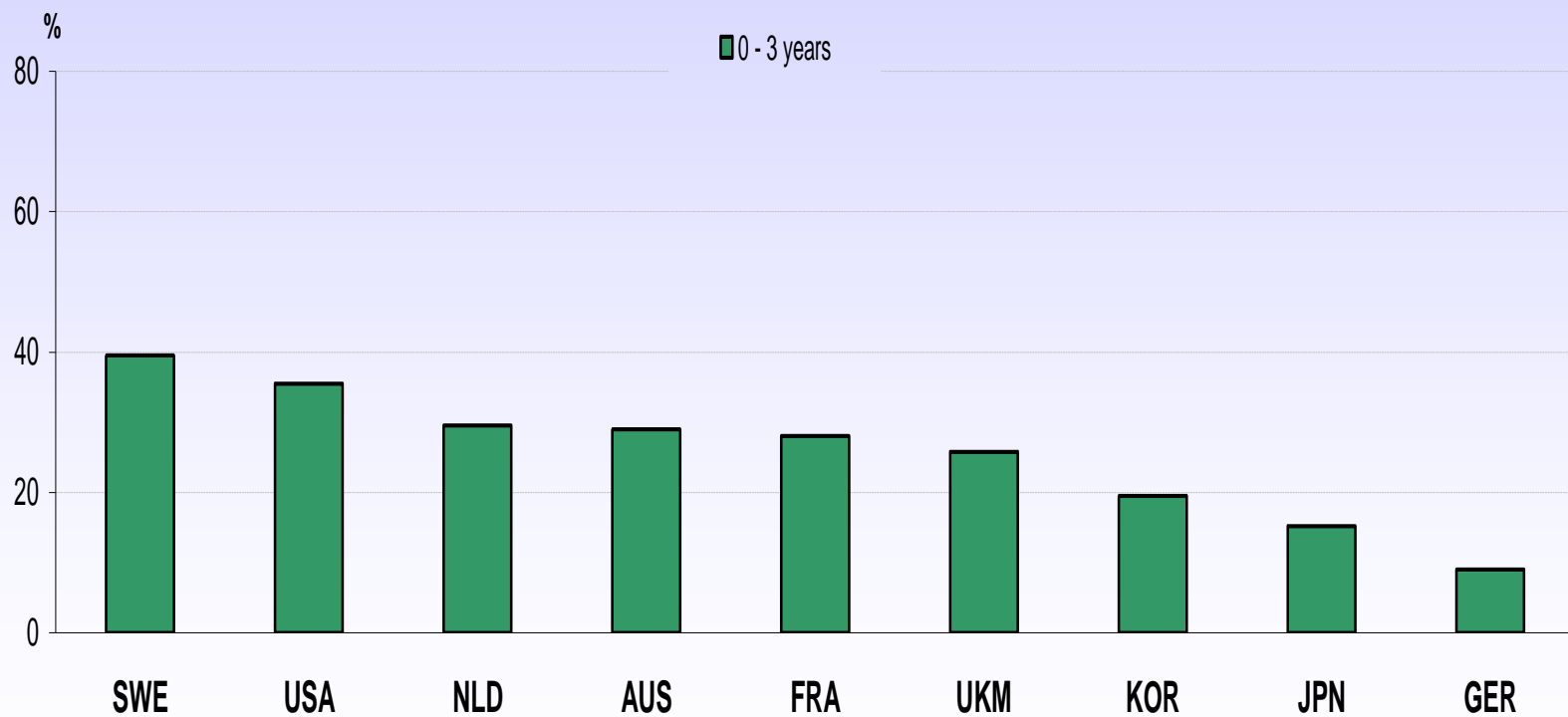


Most parental leave is unpaid



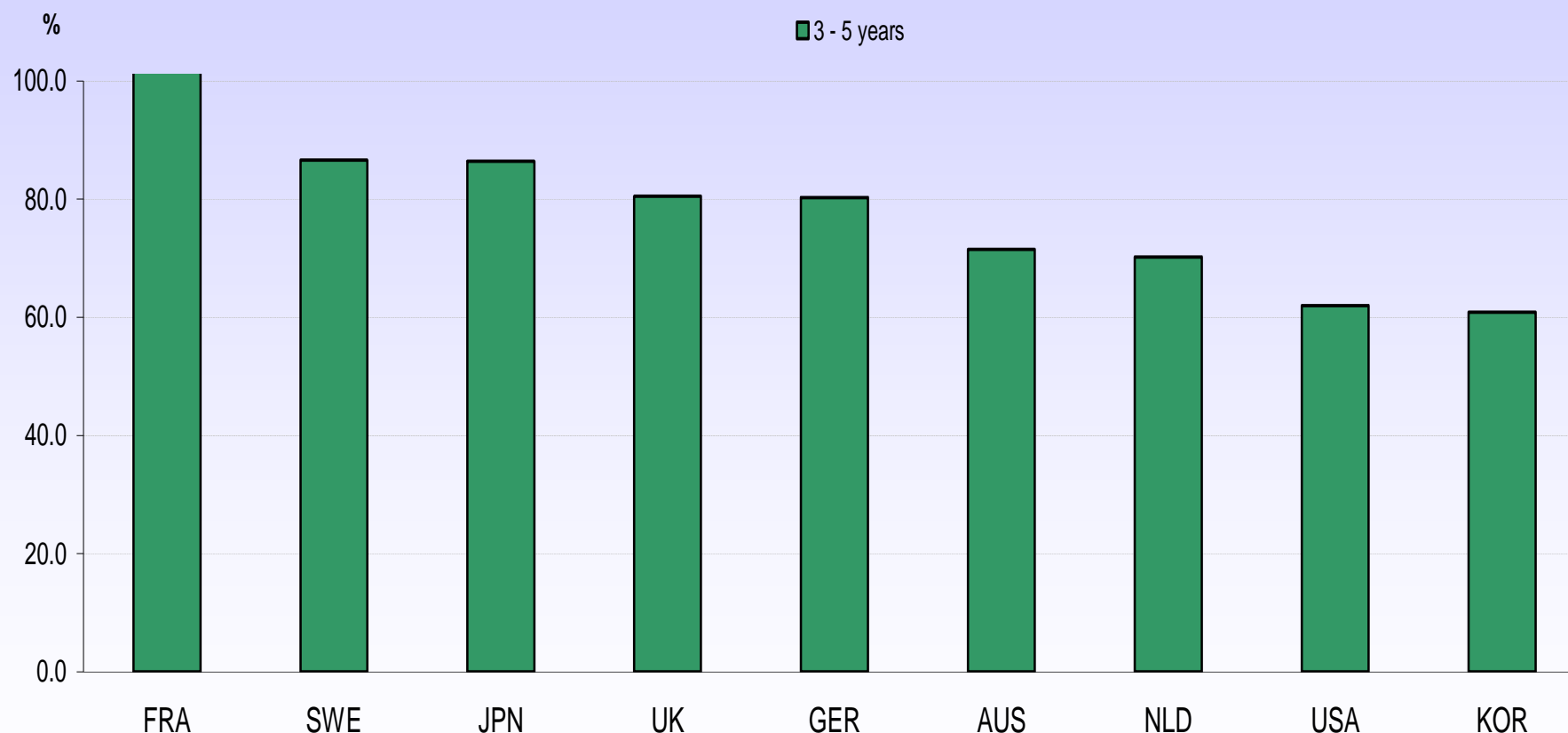
Enrolment in childcare (age 0 – 3) varies considerably across countries

Panel A: Average enrolment rate of children aged under three years of age in formal childcare (2004)



More so than participation rates for older children, which are particularly high in France

Average enrolment rate of children aged three to five years of age in pre-school educational programmes (2004)

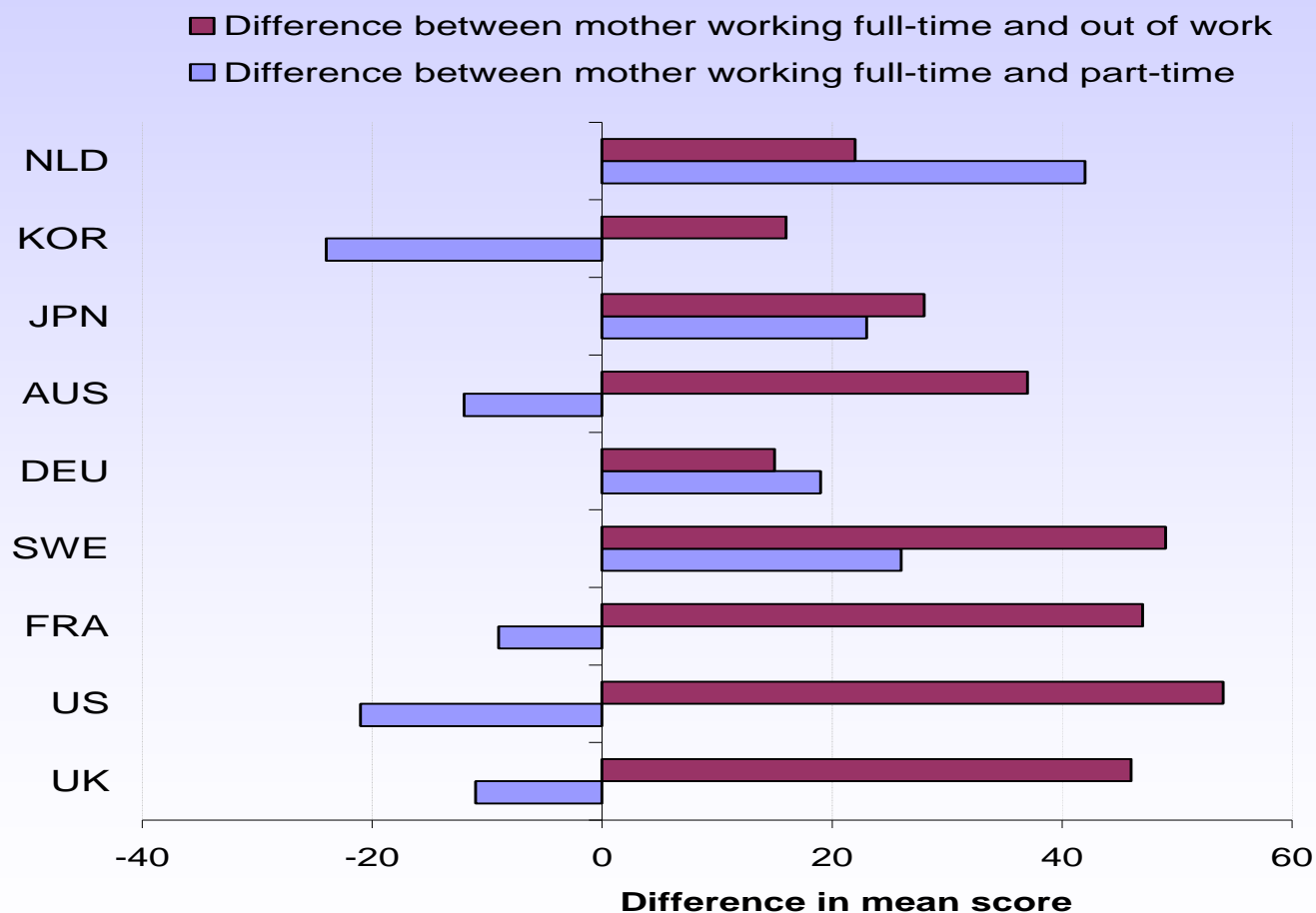


Source: OECD Family database and OECD Education database.

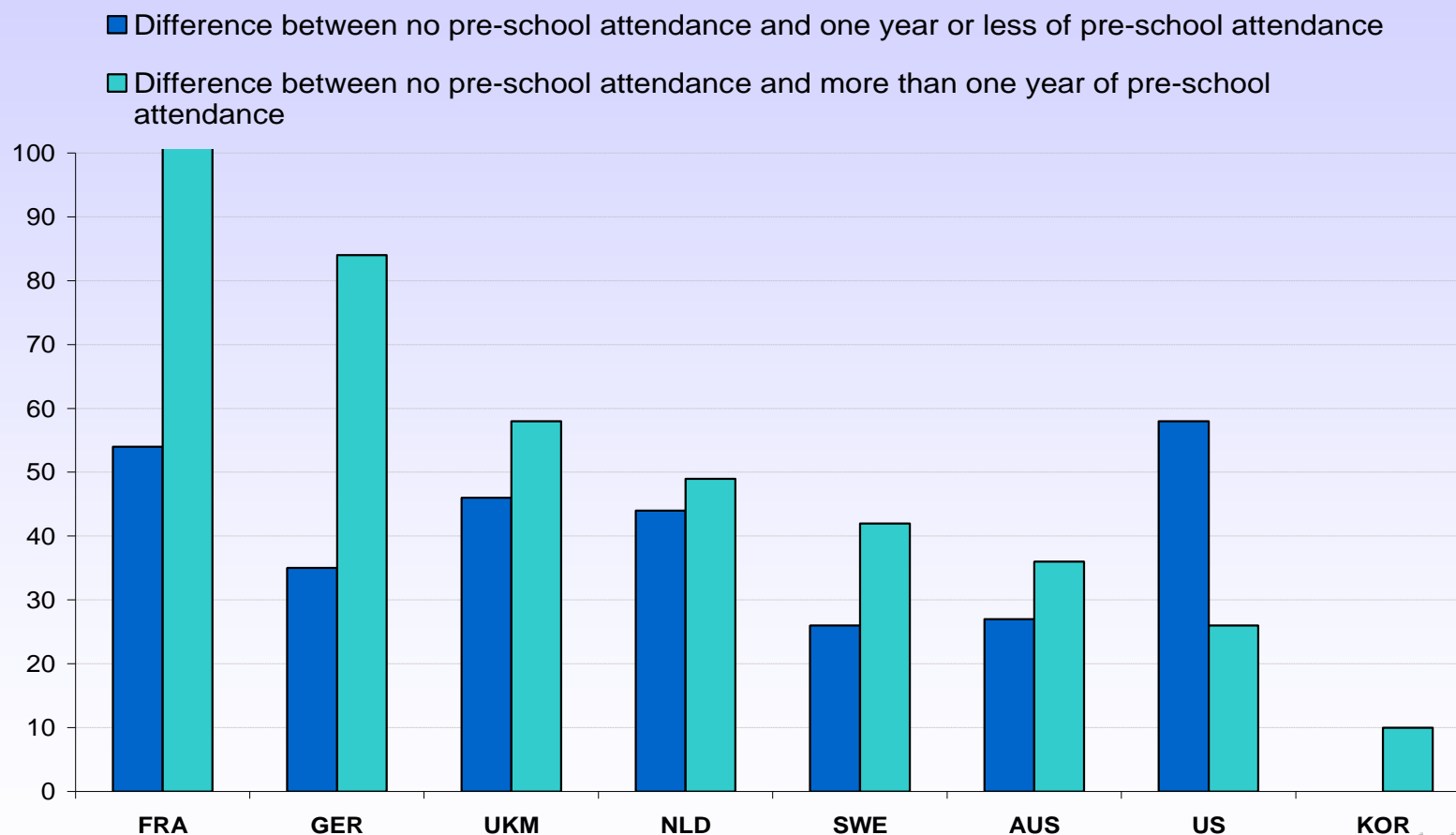
Child Outcomes

- Child health
 - Infant mortality
 - Early health: Immunisation and birth weight
 - Breastfeeding
 - Child obesity and rates of childhood smoking
- Child poverty
 - Trends
 - Child poverty by household composition
- Education/literacy
 - Educational attainment by level of education, (Fields of study by gender)
 - Literacy scores
 - Inactive youths
- Societal participation
 - Participation in voluntary work
 - Participation rates of first-time voters
 - Substance abuse by young people

The relationship between maternal employment and literacy scores, PISA 2003



The relationship between pre-school attendance and literacy scores, PISA 2003



Next Steps:

- Questionnaire sent out requesting information on:
 - Living arrangements of children
 - Parental employment patterns
 - Take-up of child related leave
 - Out-of-School Hours Care
- Other sources of data eg.
 - PISA 2006
 - OECD Income Distribution Study (2007)
 - Indicators from OECD Child well-being project



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OECD Family database

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Following up on the *OECD Babies and Bosses* reviews on the reconciliation of work and family life in selected Member States, and in view of the strong demand for cross-national indicators on the situation of families and children, the OECD has developed an on-line database on family outcomes and family policies with indicators for all OECD countries.

The database brings together information from different OECD databases (for example, the OECD Social Expenditure database, the OECD Benefits and Wages database, or the OECD Education database, and databases maintained by other (international) organisations.

Development of the Family database is an ongoing process and release or updating of indicators is not linked to any particular point in time. Not all indicators can already be presented on cross-national basis. The first batch of indicators was released by the end of 2006, but work is ongoing on the preparation of new indicators for release throughout 2007. We also intend to update existing indicators on OECD Education database a regular basis.

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