



# Inequality: the enemy between us

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## What World Leaders are saying...

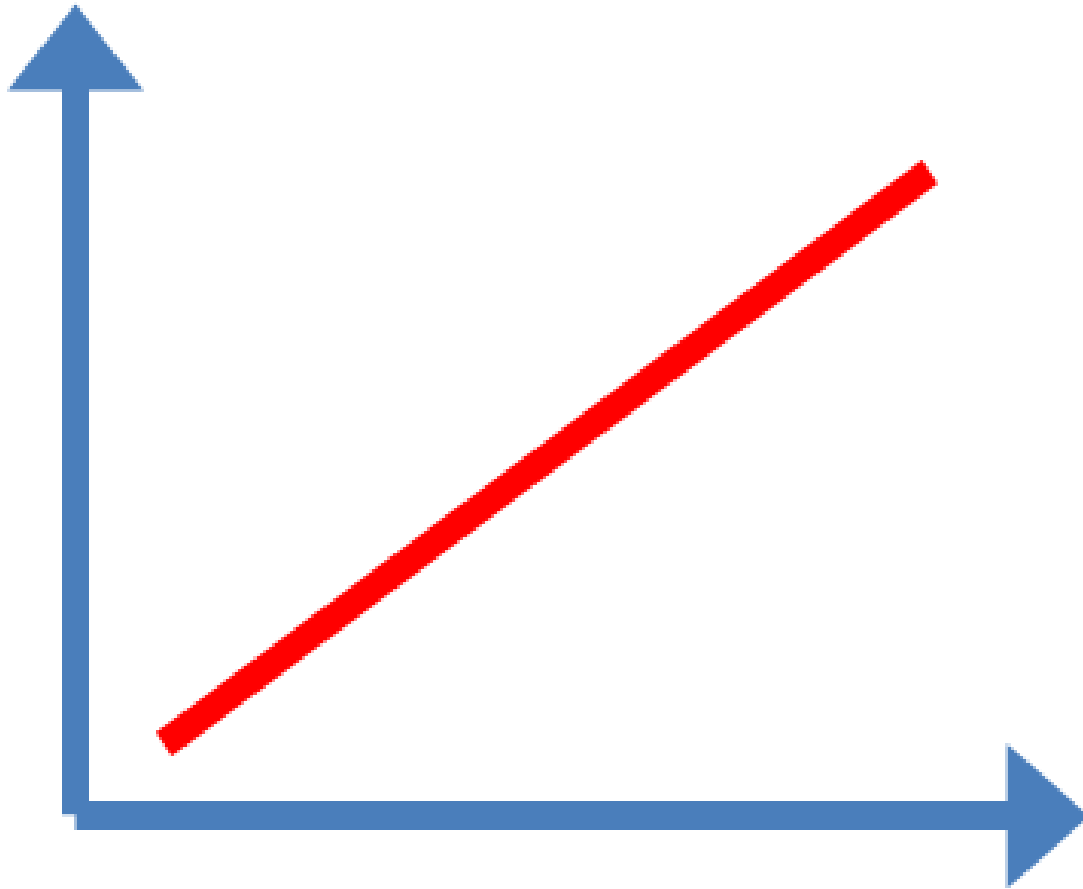
***Income inequality is the “defining challenge of our time”. “...rising inequality and declining mobility are also bad for our families and social cohesion – we...trust our institutions less (and) trust each other less when there’s greater inequality. And greater inequality is associated with less mobility between generations.” President Barak Obama, 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013***

***“Inequality is the root of social ills.” Pope Francis, 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013***

***“...the economics profession (has) downplayed inequality for too long. Now all of us have a better understanding that a more equal distribution of income allows for more economic stability, more sustained economic growth, and healthier societies with stronger bonds of cohesion and trust.” Christine Lagarde, Director, IMF, 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2013***

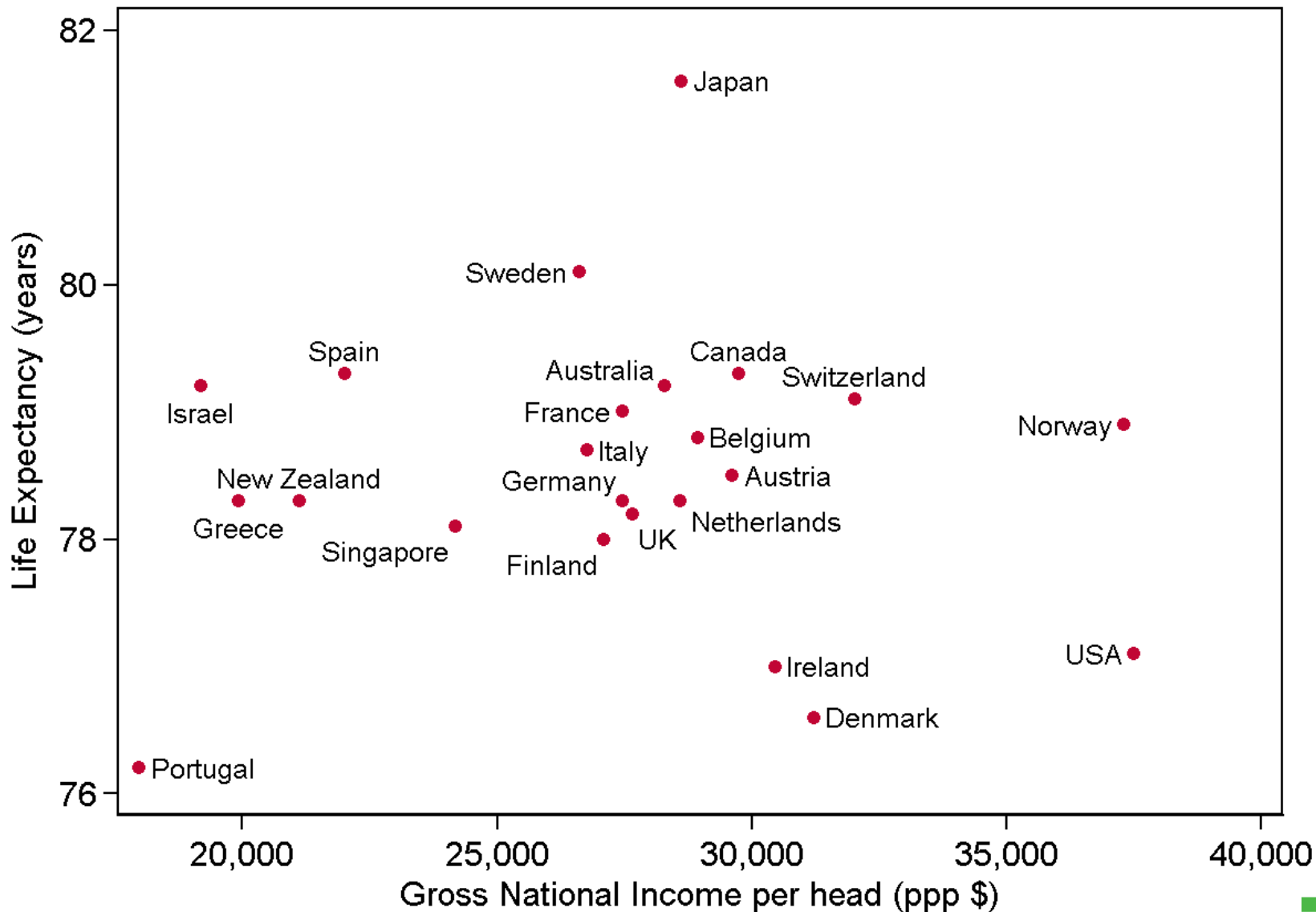
***“Social and economic inequalities can tear the social fabric, undermine social cohesion and prevent nations from thriving. Inequality can breed crime, disease and environmental degradation and hamper economic growth.” Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013***

**Problems**

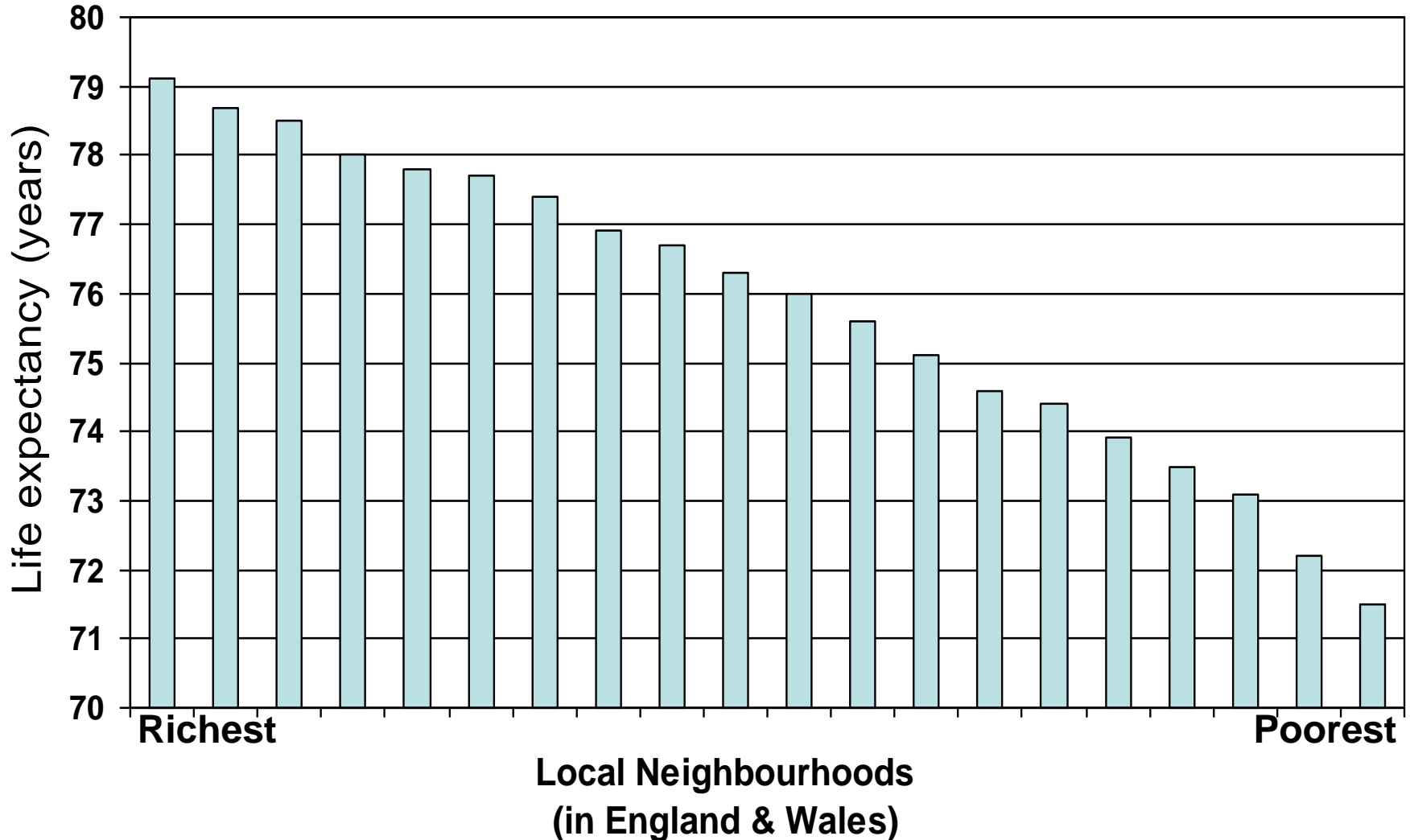


**Income  
inequality**

# Life Expectancy in Rich Countries is no longer related to National Income per head

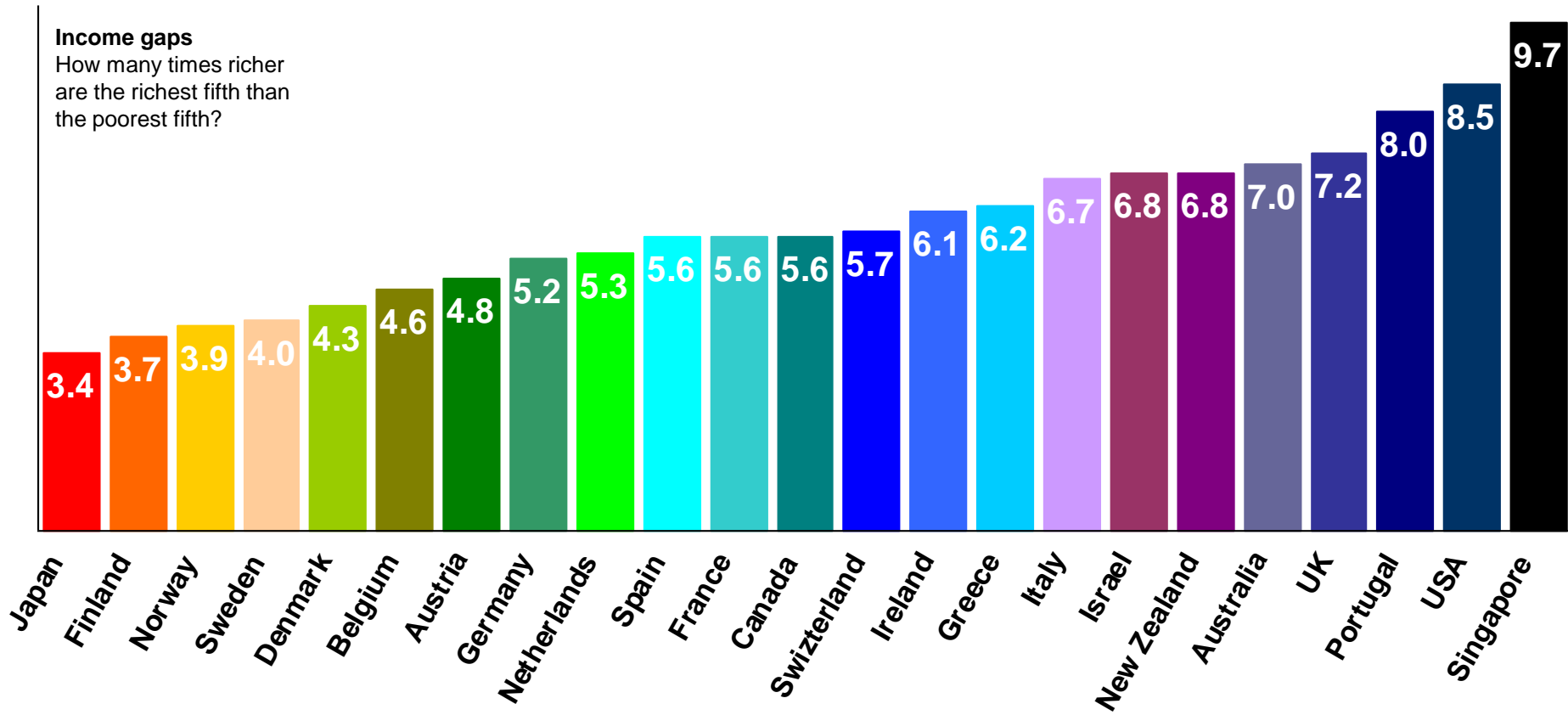


# Life Expectancy is strongly related to Income within rich Countries



# Inequality...

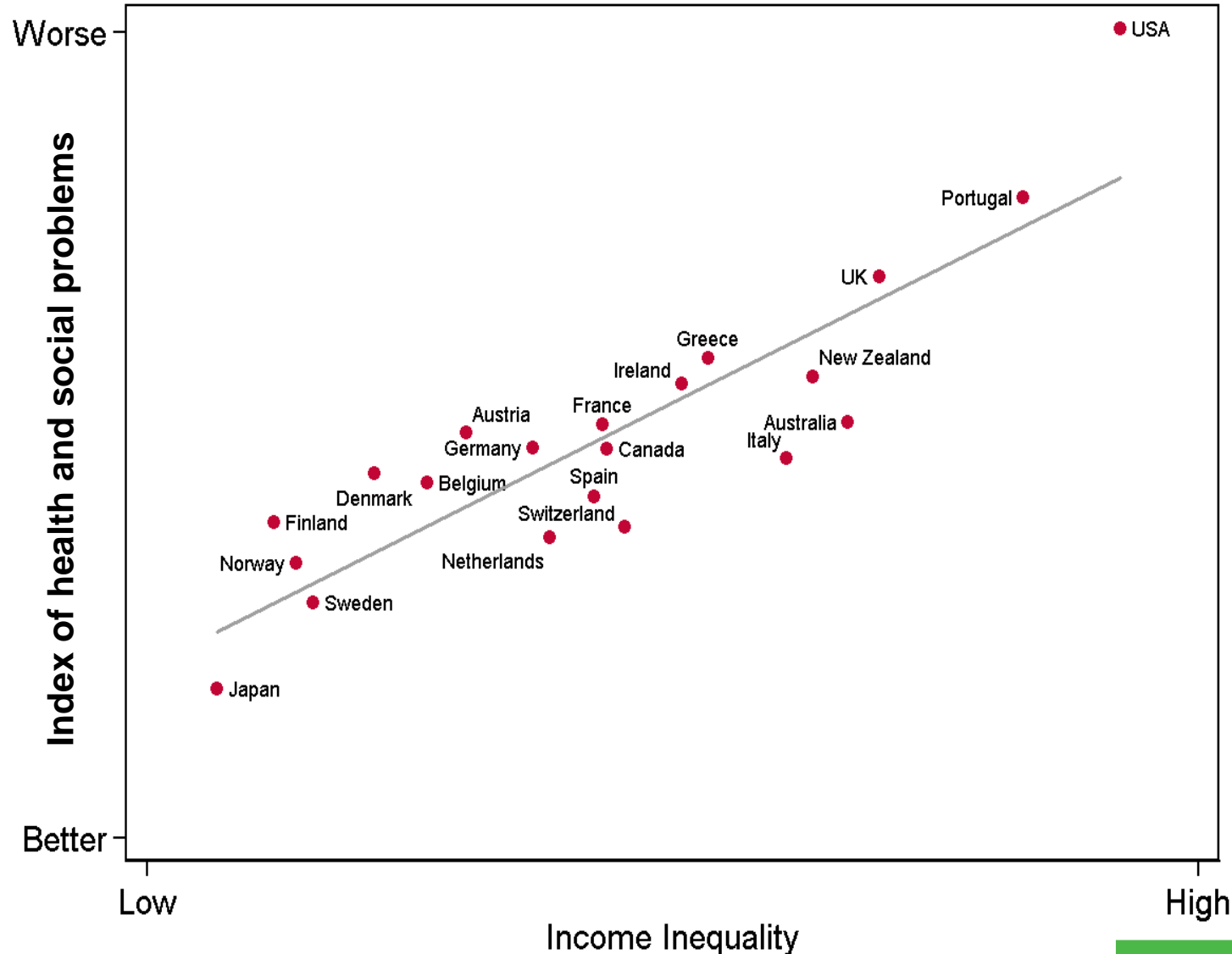
## How much richer are the richest 20% in each country than the poorest 20%?



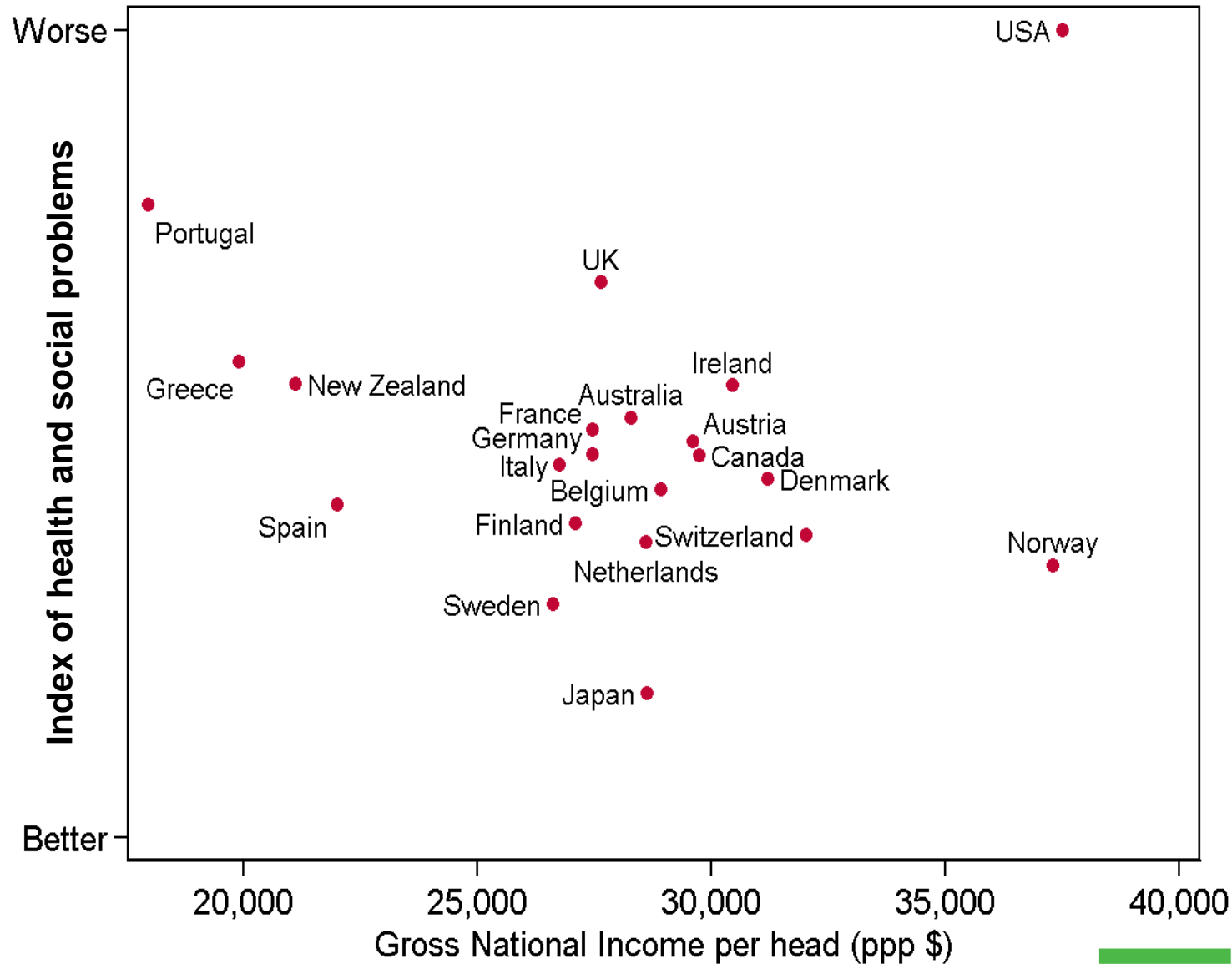
# Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal Countries

Index of:

- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility



# Neither Health nor Social Problems are related to National Income per head



## Index of:

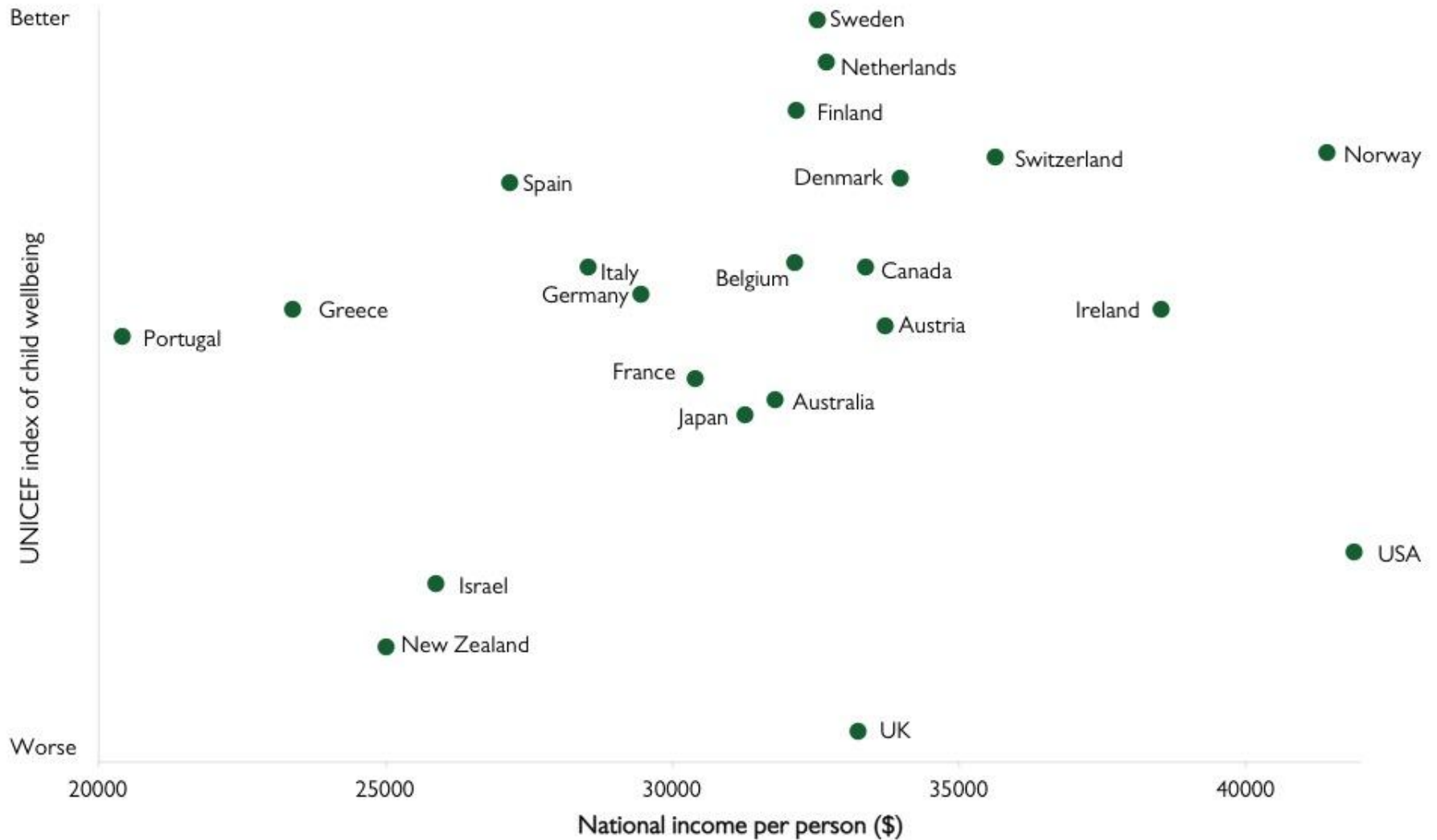
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# Child Well-being is Better in More Equal Rich Countries



# Child wellbeing is unrelated to average incomes in rich countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

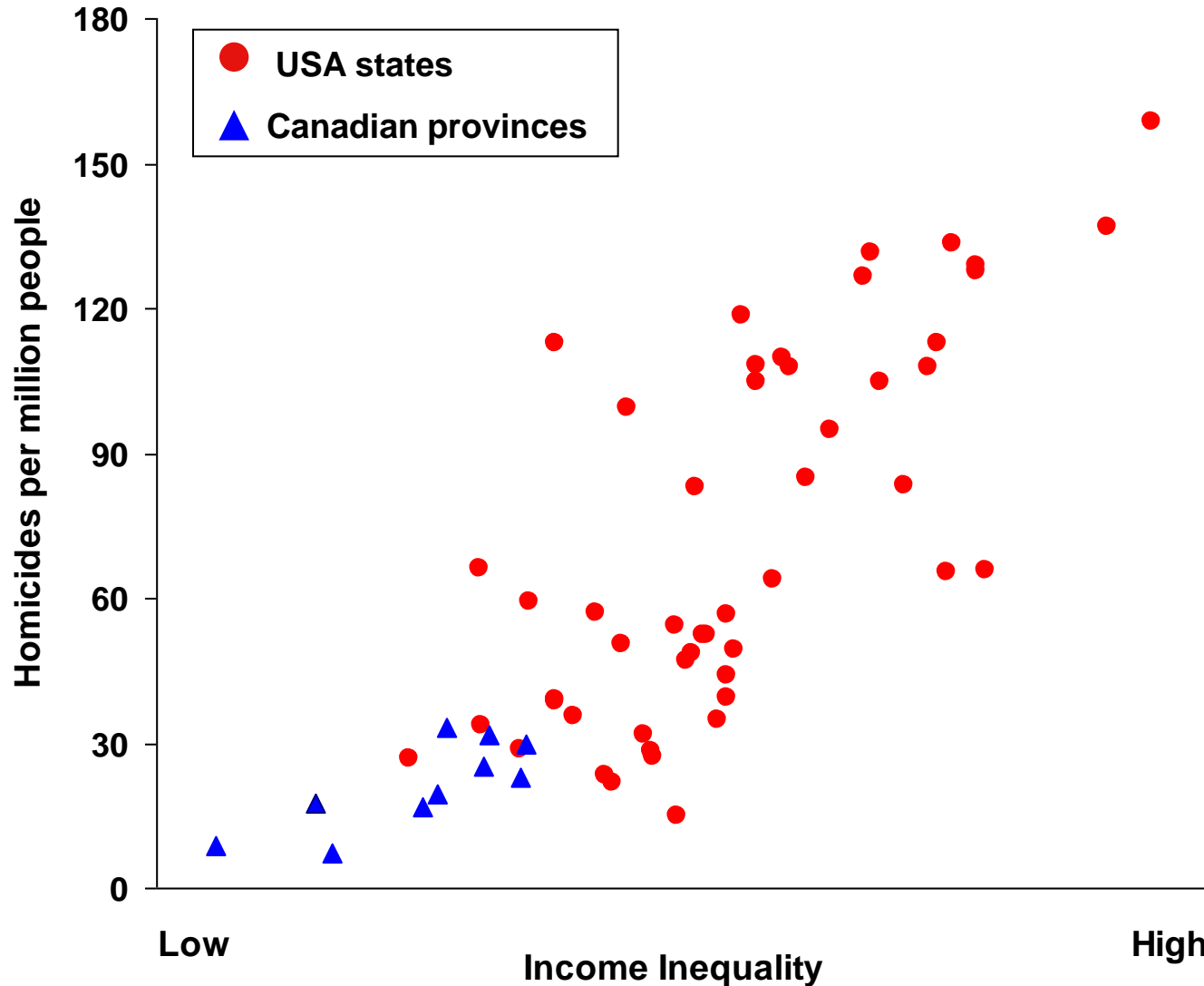
# People in more unequal countries trust each other less



# Mental illness is more common in more unequal societies



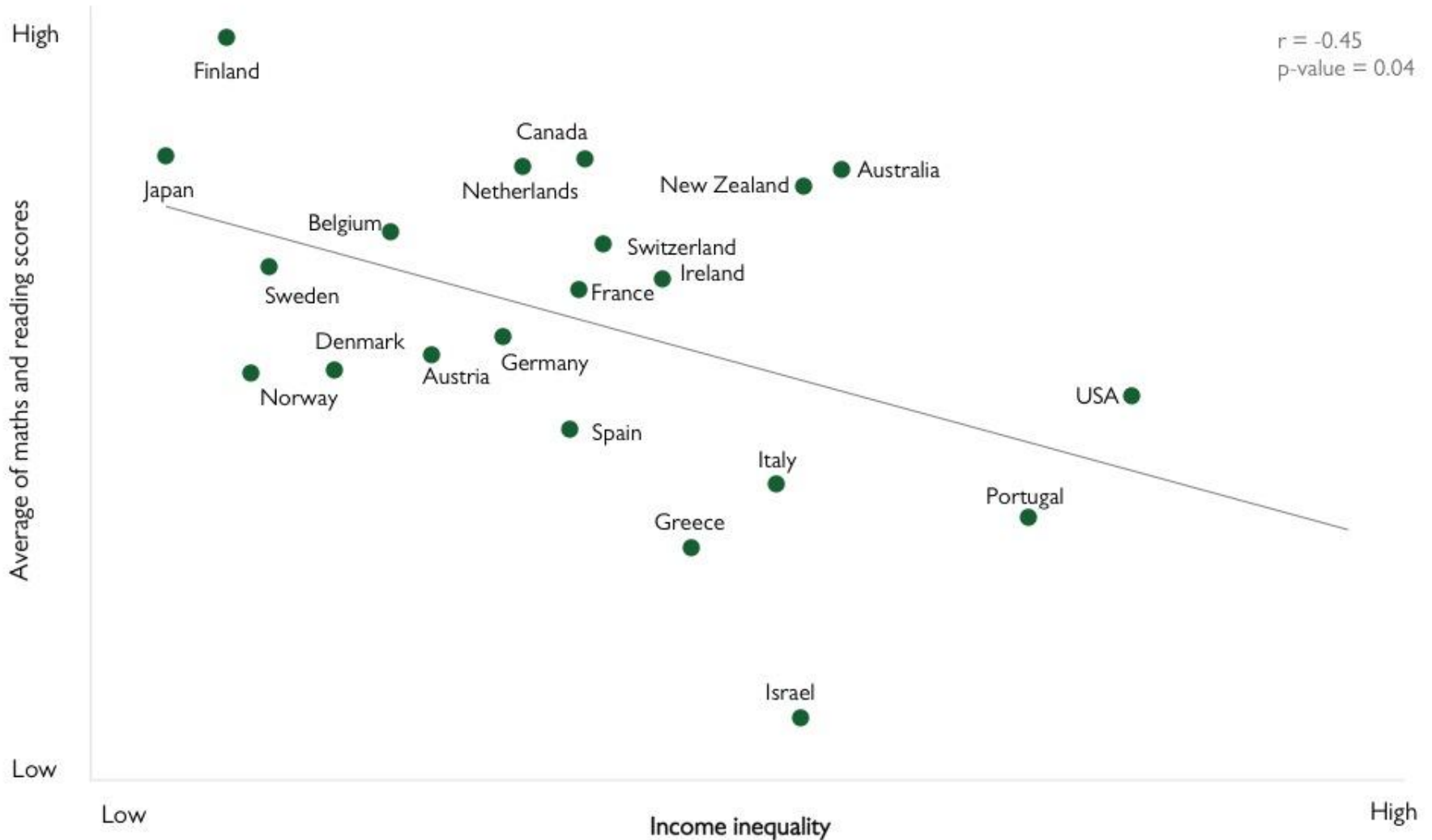
# Homicide rates are higher in more unequal US states and Canadian provinces



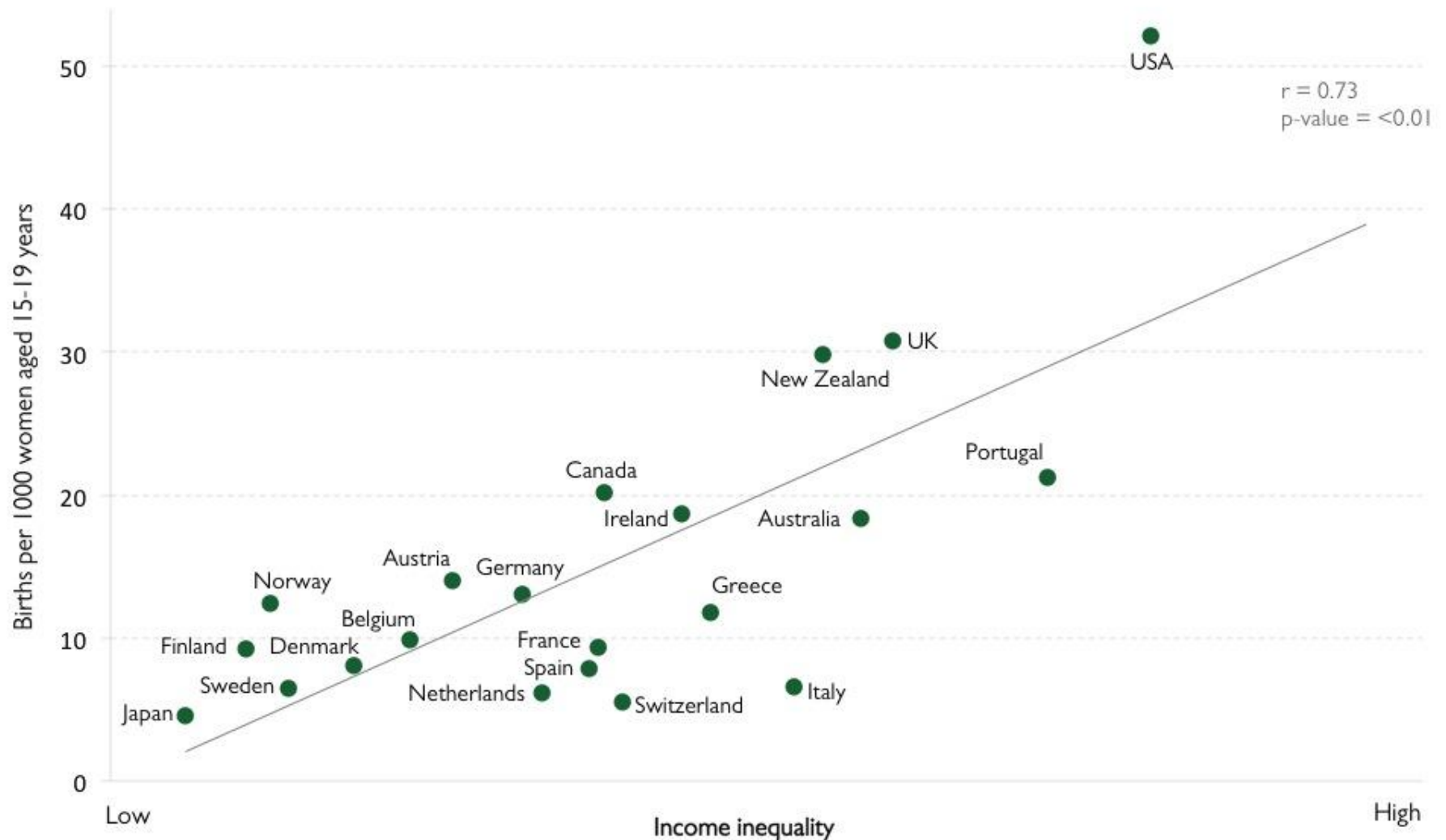
# Imprisonment rates are higher in more unequal countries



# Educational scores are higher in more equal rich countries

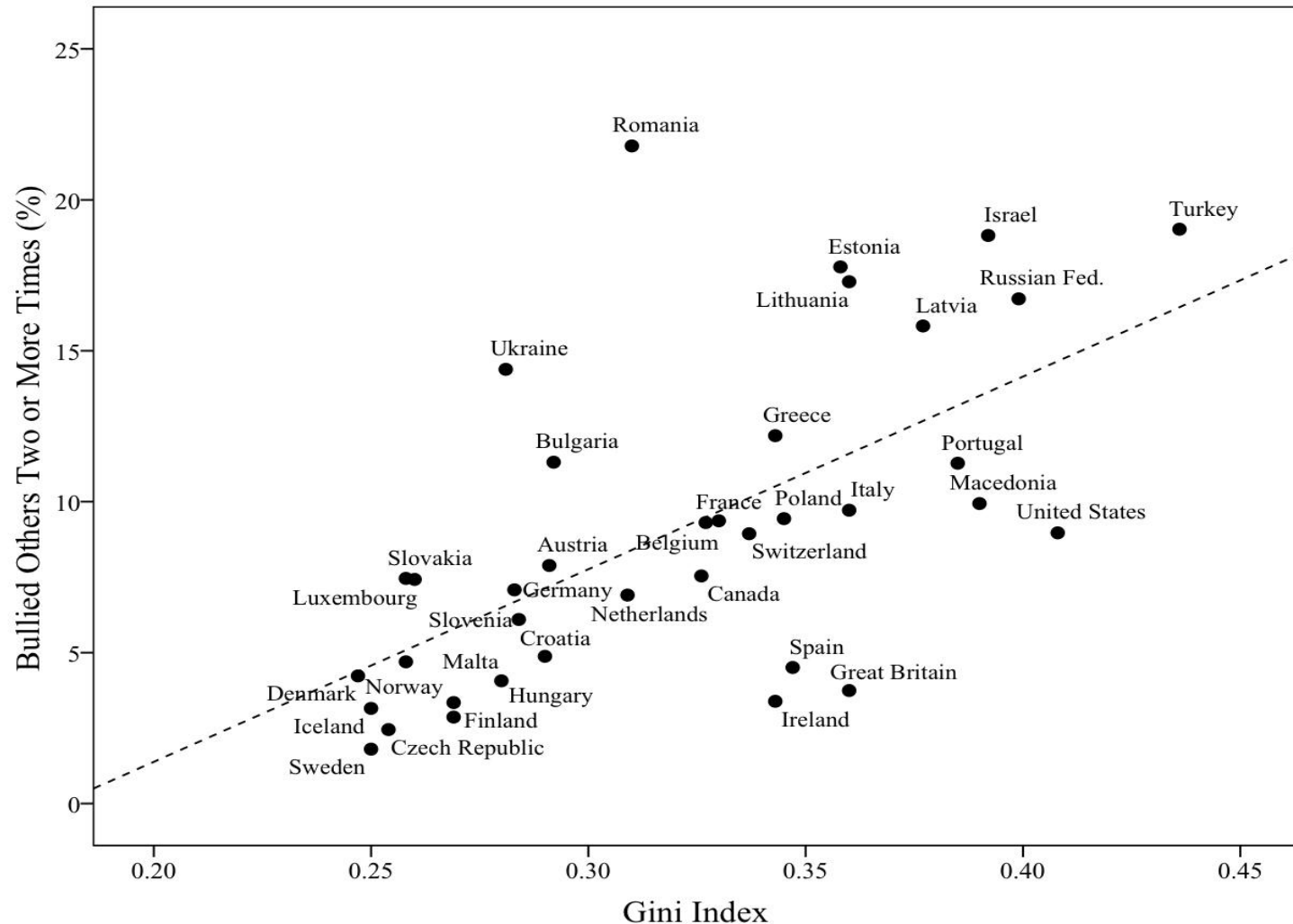


# Teenage birth rates are higher in more unequal rich countries





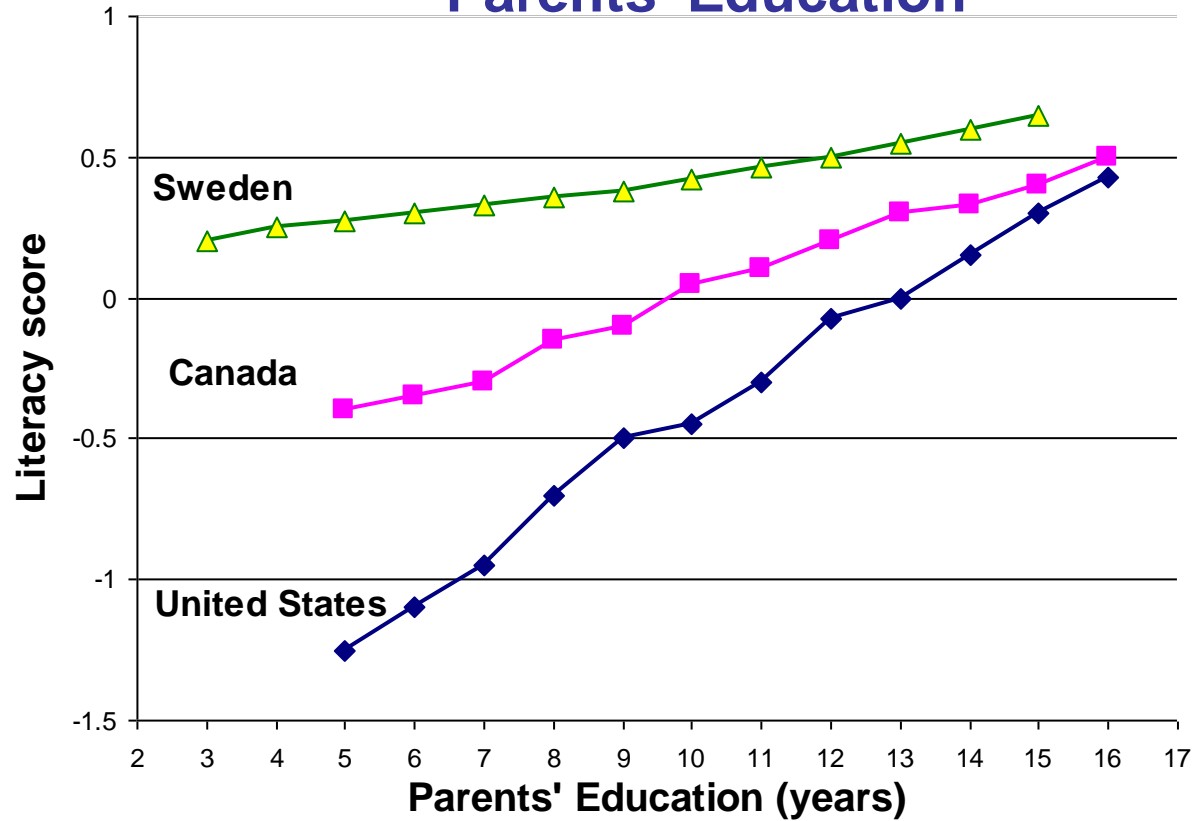
# Income inequality and school bullying by 11-year-olds in 37 countries ( $r = .62$ )



## Social mobility is lower in more unequal countries

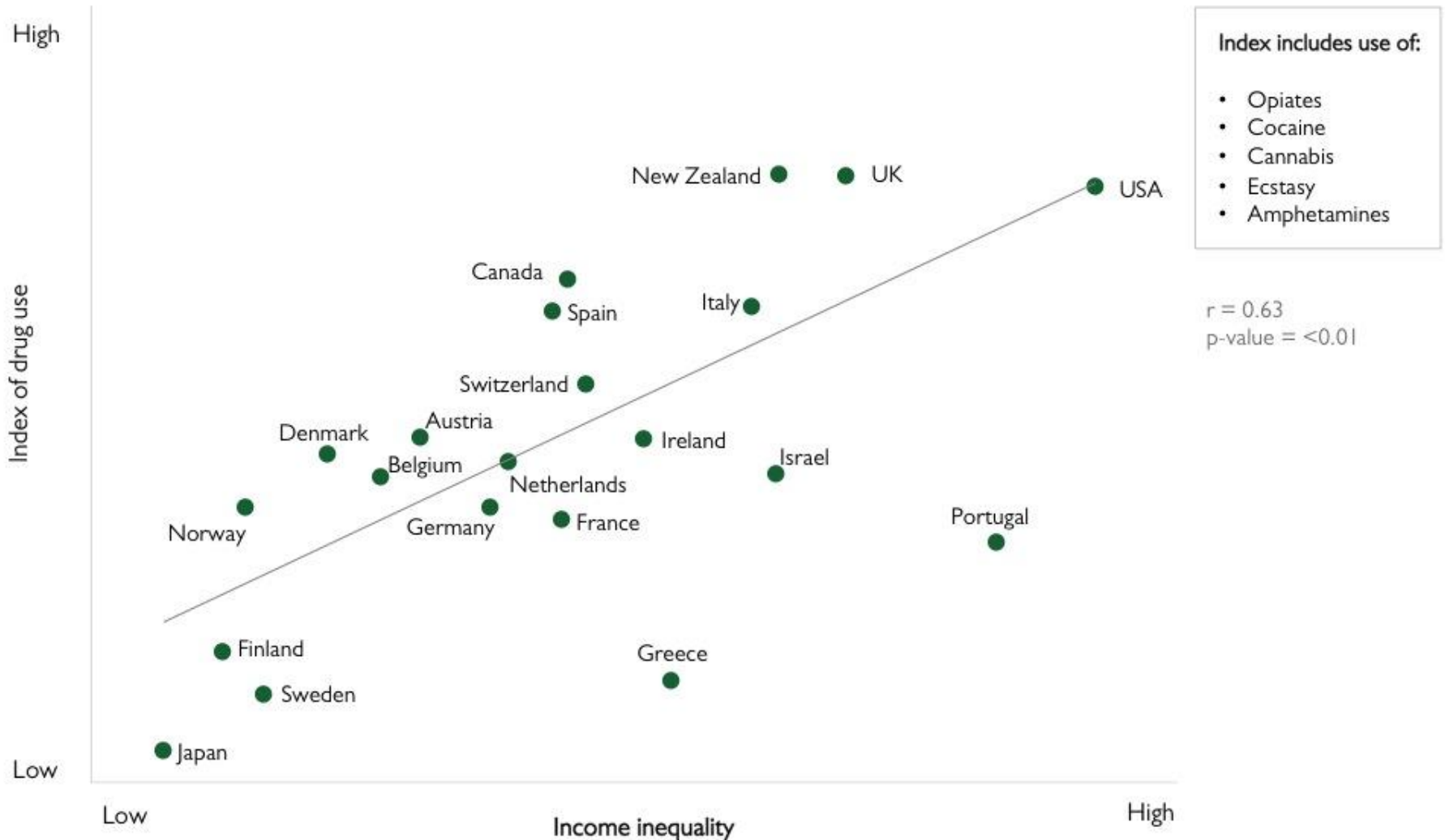


## Literacy Scores of 16-25 year olds by Parents' Education

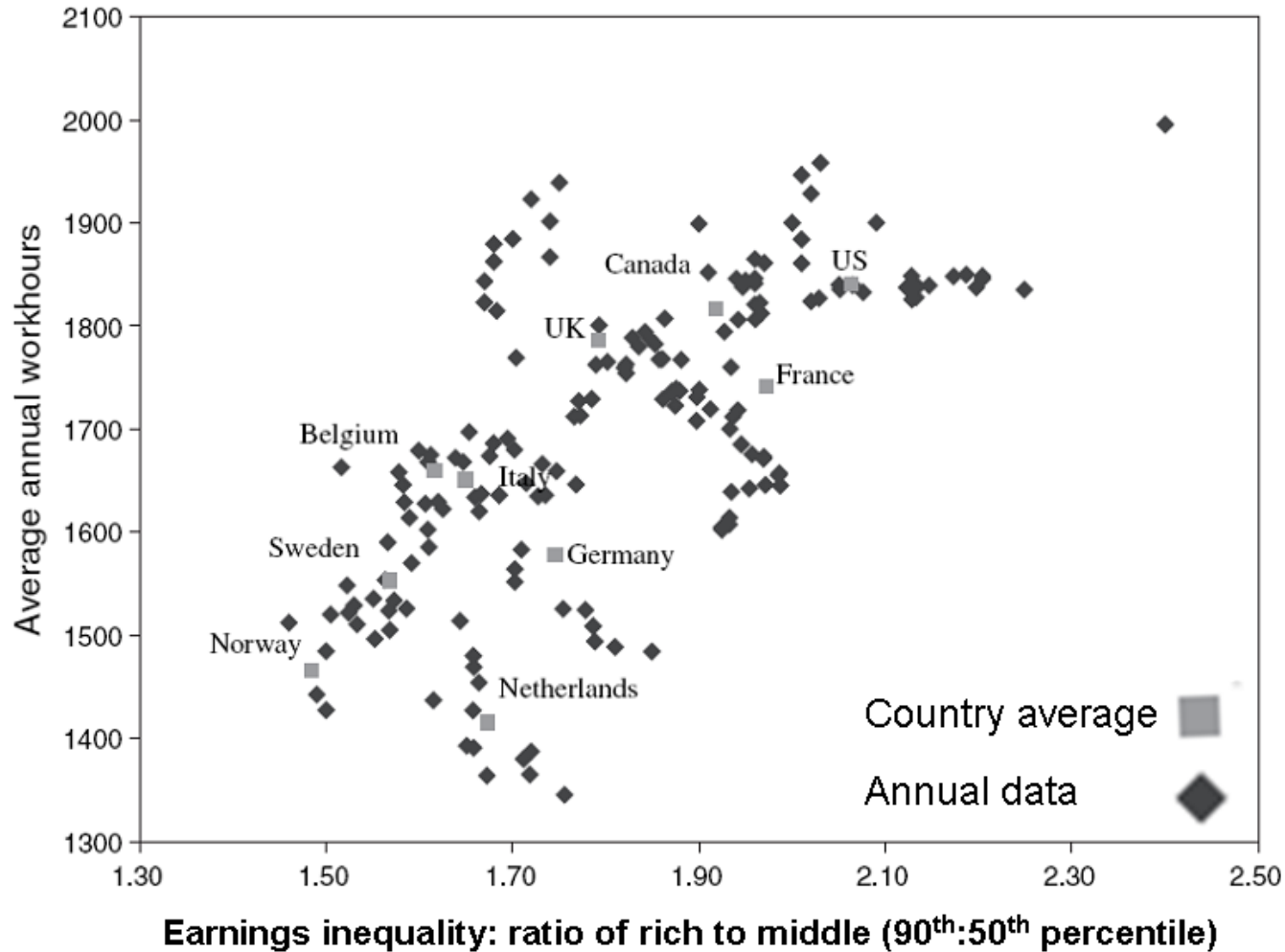


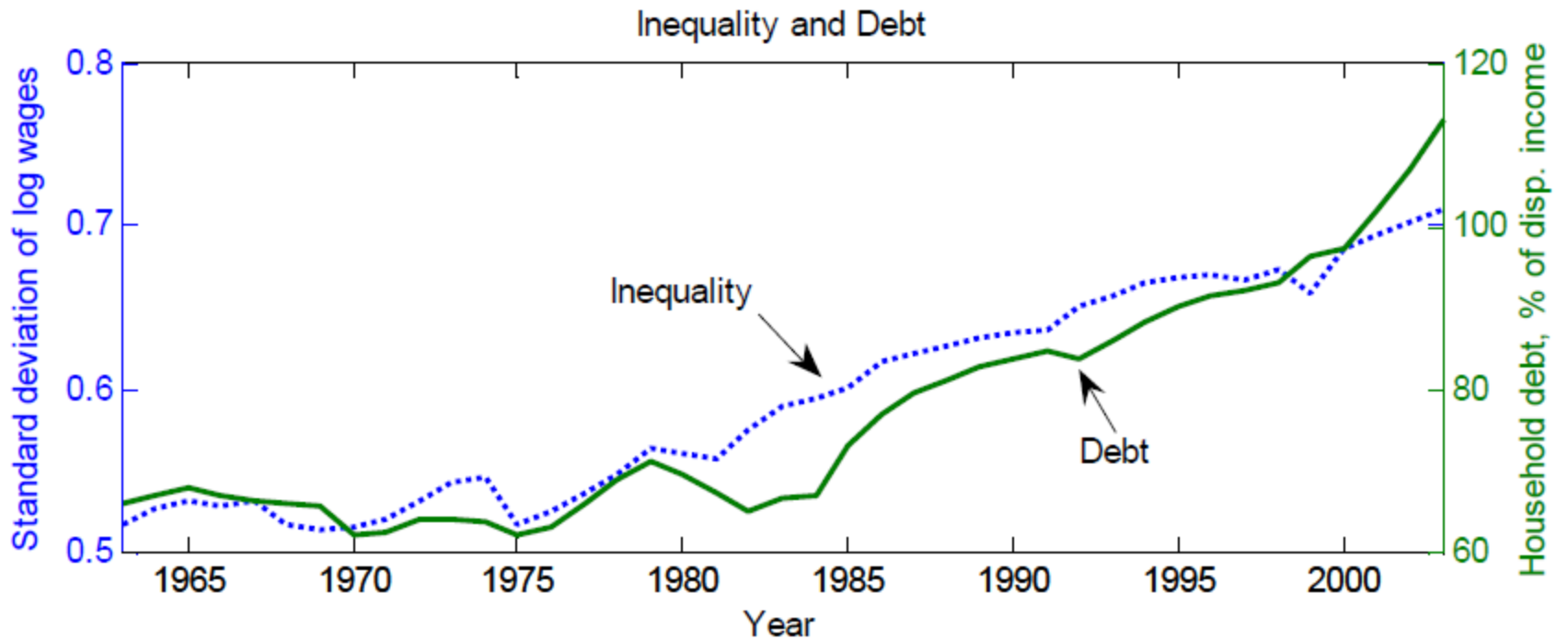
Source: Willms JD. 1997. Data from OECD Programme for International Student Assessment.

# Drug use is more common in more unequal countries



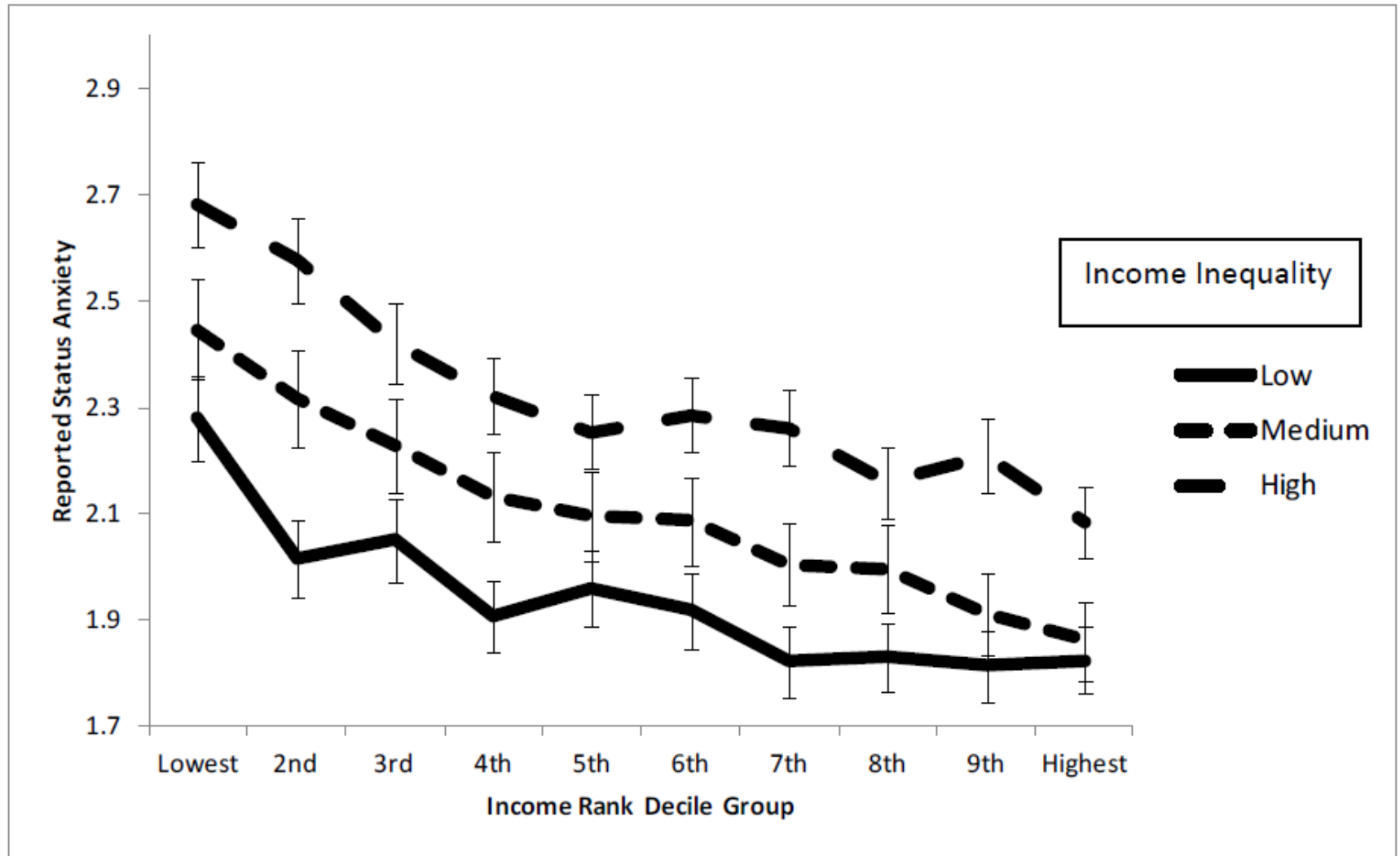
# Inequality affects work-life balance



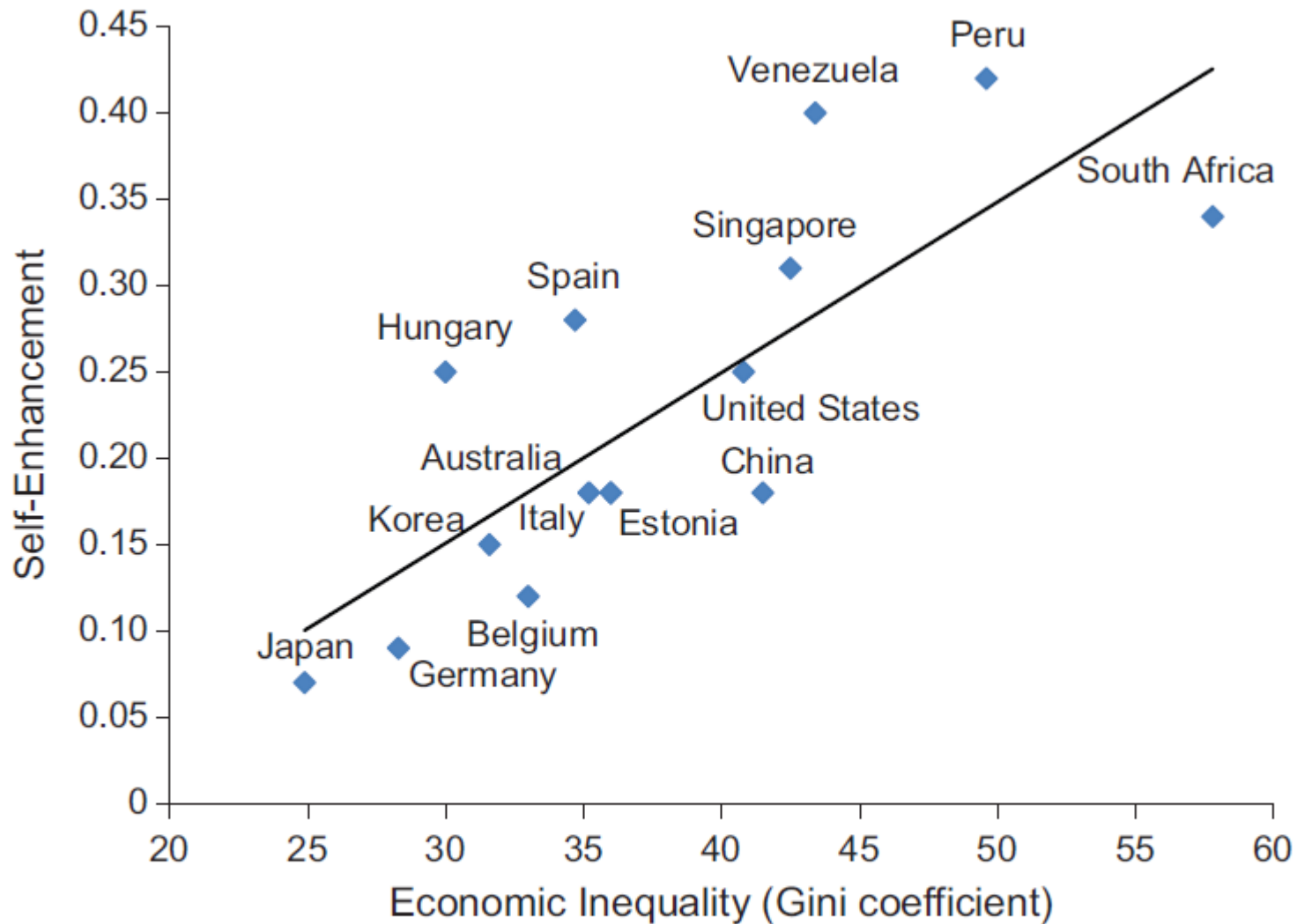


Iacoviello M. Household Debt and Income Inequality, 1963–2003. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking* 2008;40(5):929-65.

Figure 4: Mean Status Anxiety by Country GINI, Individual Income Rank and Reported Status Anxiety



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

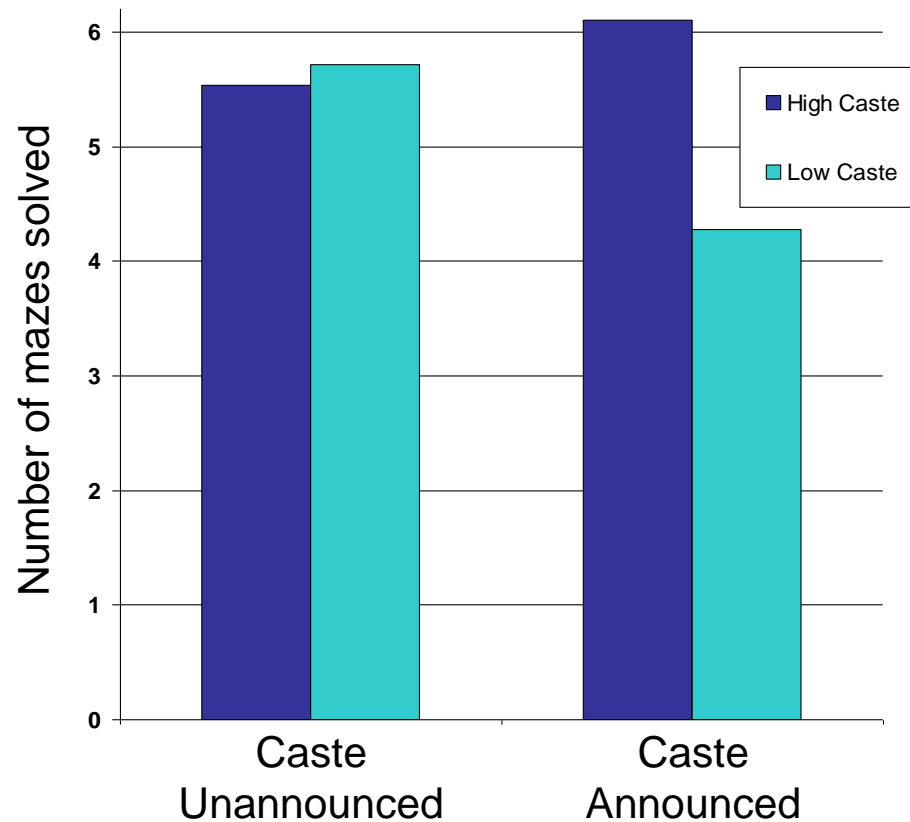


**Fig. 1.** Scatter plot (with best-fitting regression line) showing self-enhancement (as indexed by beta weights from a two-level model) as a function of economic inequality (as indexed by the Gini coefficient) across nations. The data points for Australia and Italy are very close and overlap on the graph.



# Status differentiation has a direct effect on cognitive performance

## The Effect of Caste Identity on Children's Performance



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