

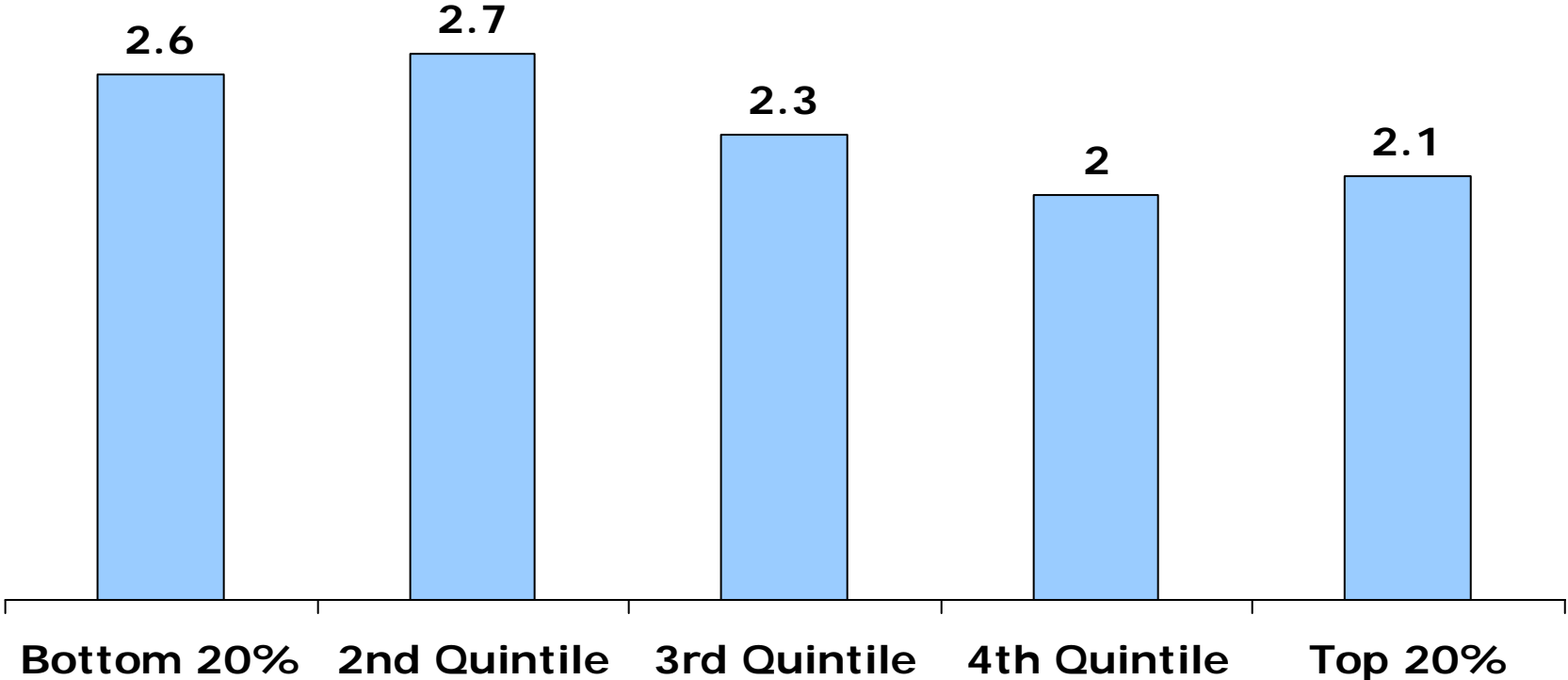


Families at Risk: Background on families with multiple disadvantage

March 2007

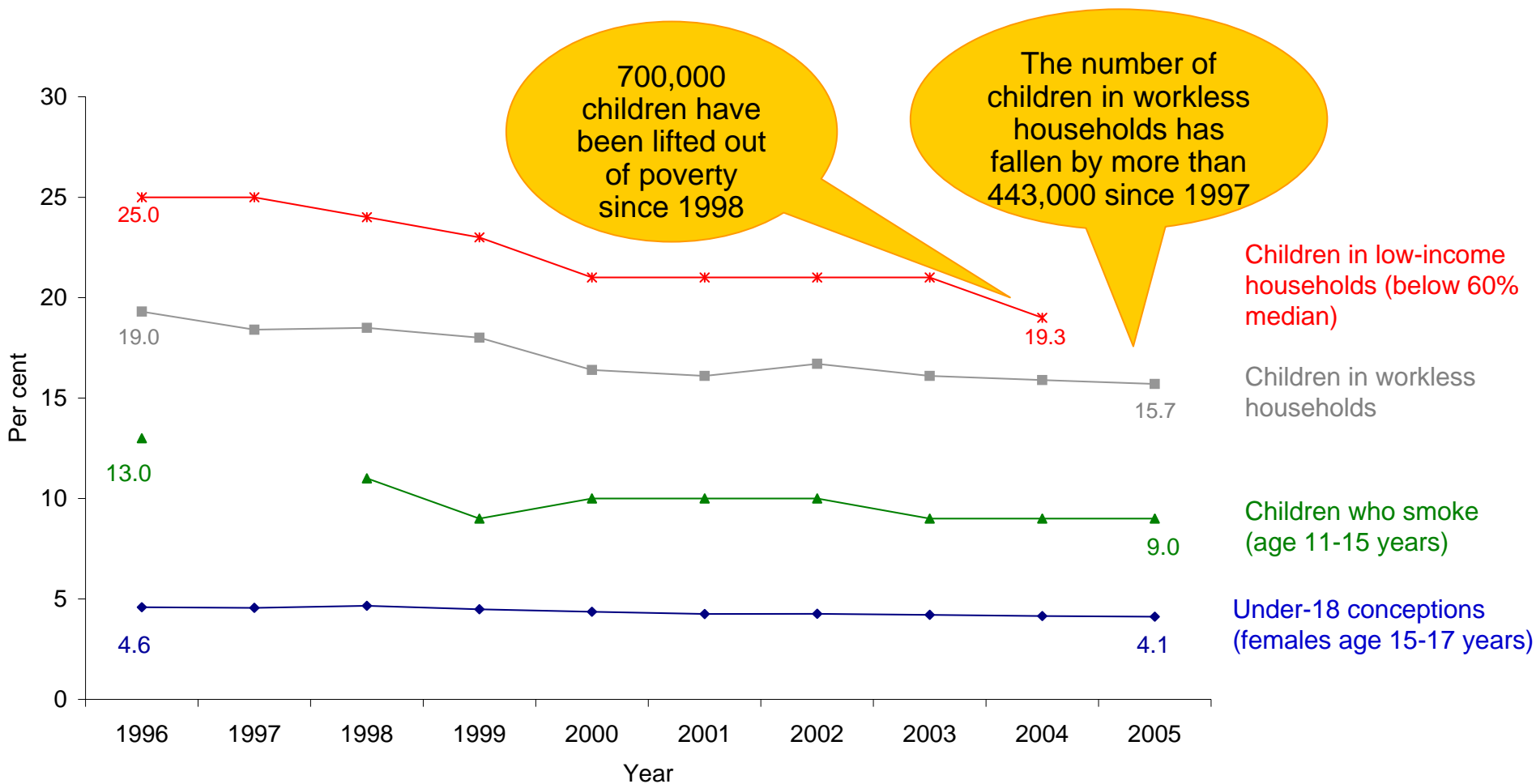
Since 1997/8 families in the bottom fifth of the population have seen their incomes grow faster than those at the top

Average annual percentage income growth
1997/98-2004/05



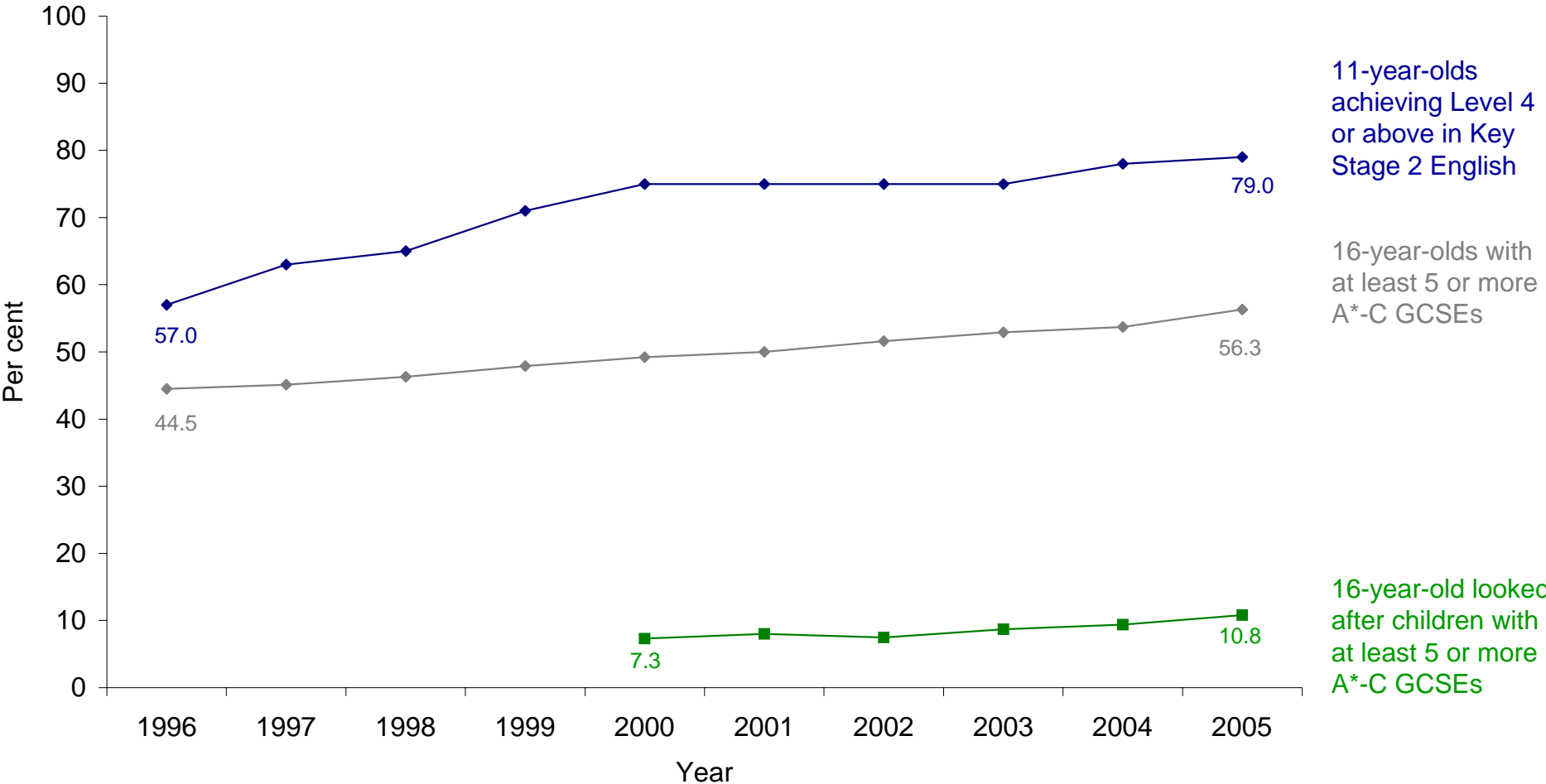
Source: DWP Households Below Average Income

There has also been good progress in improving other outcomes for families with children



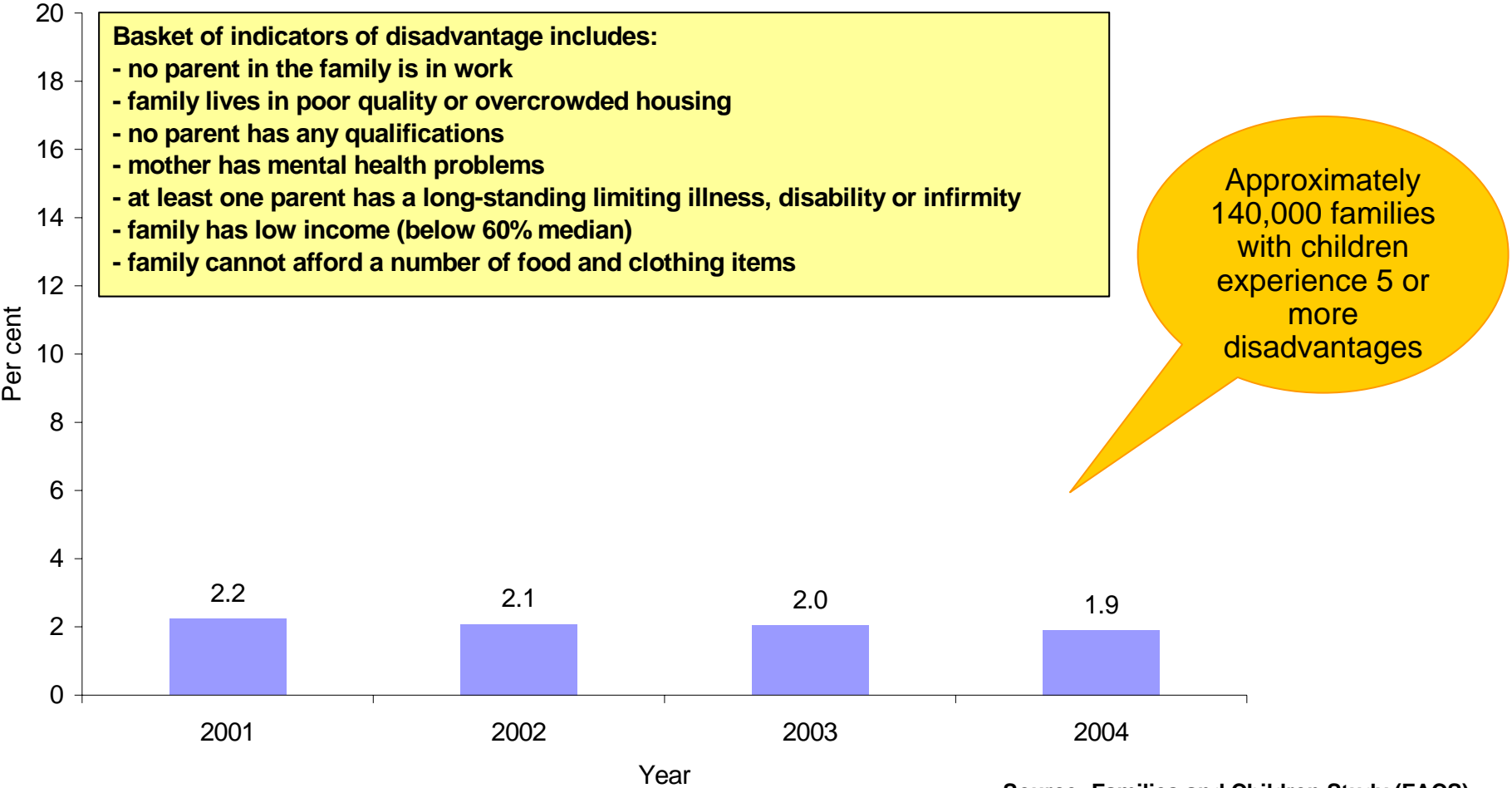
Source: Opportunity for All

There have also been significant improvements in children's educational outcomes



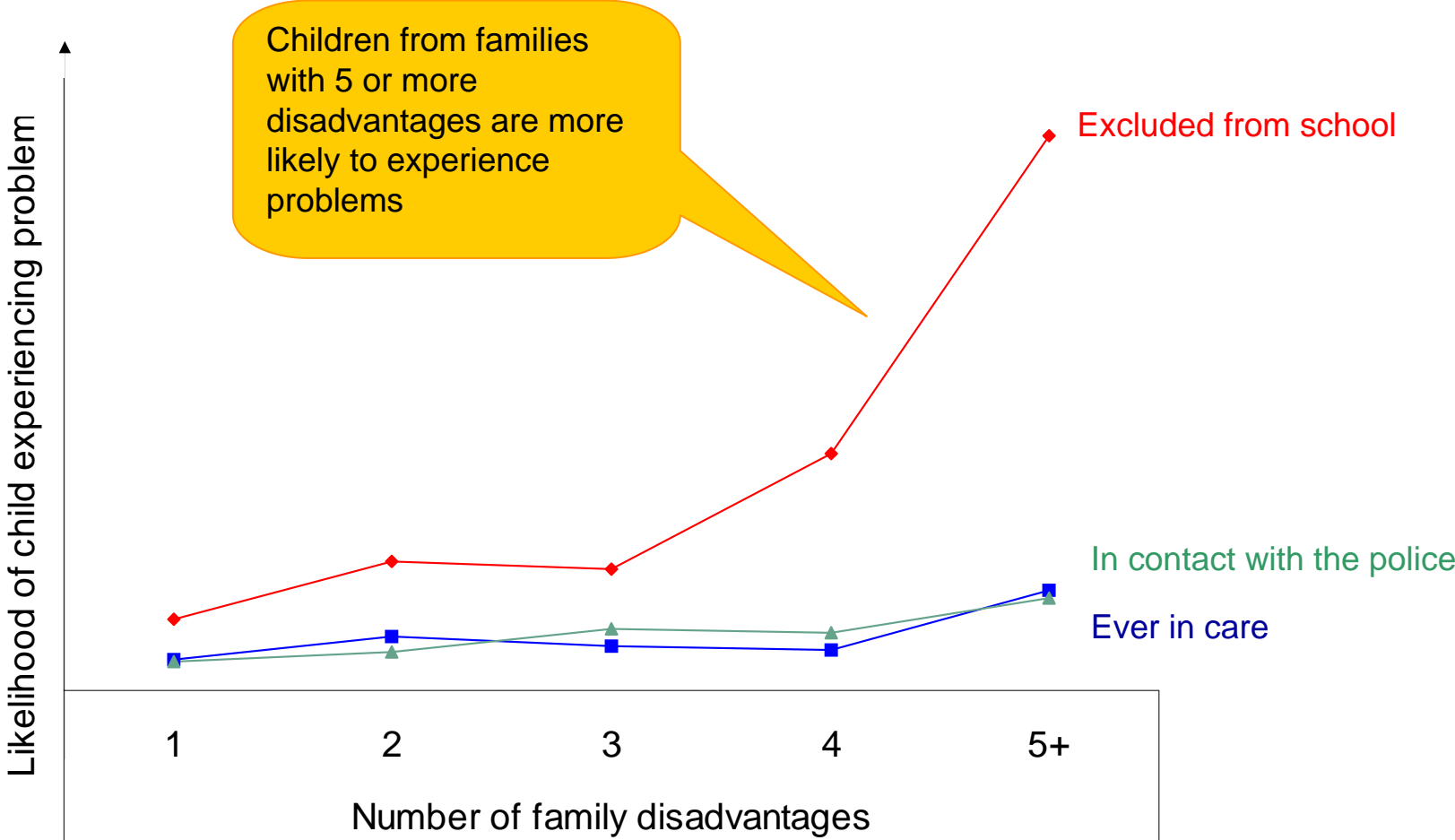
Source: Opportunity for All

However, there are around 2% of families with children that experience 5 or more disadvantages



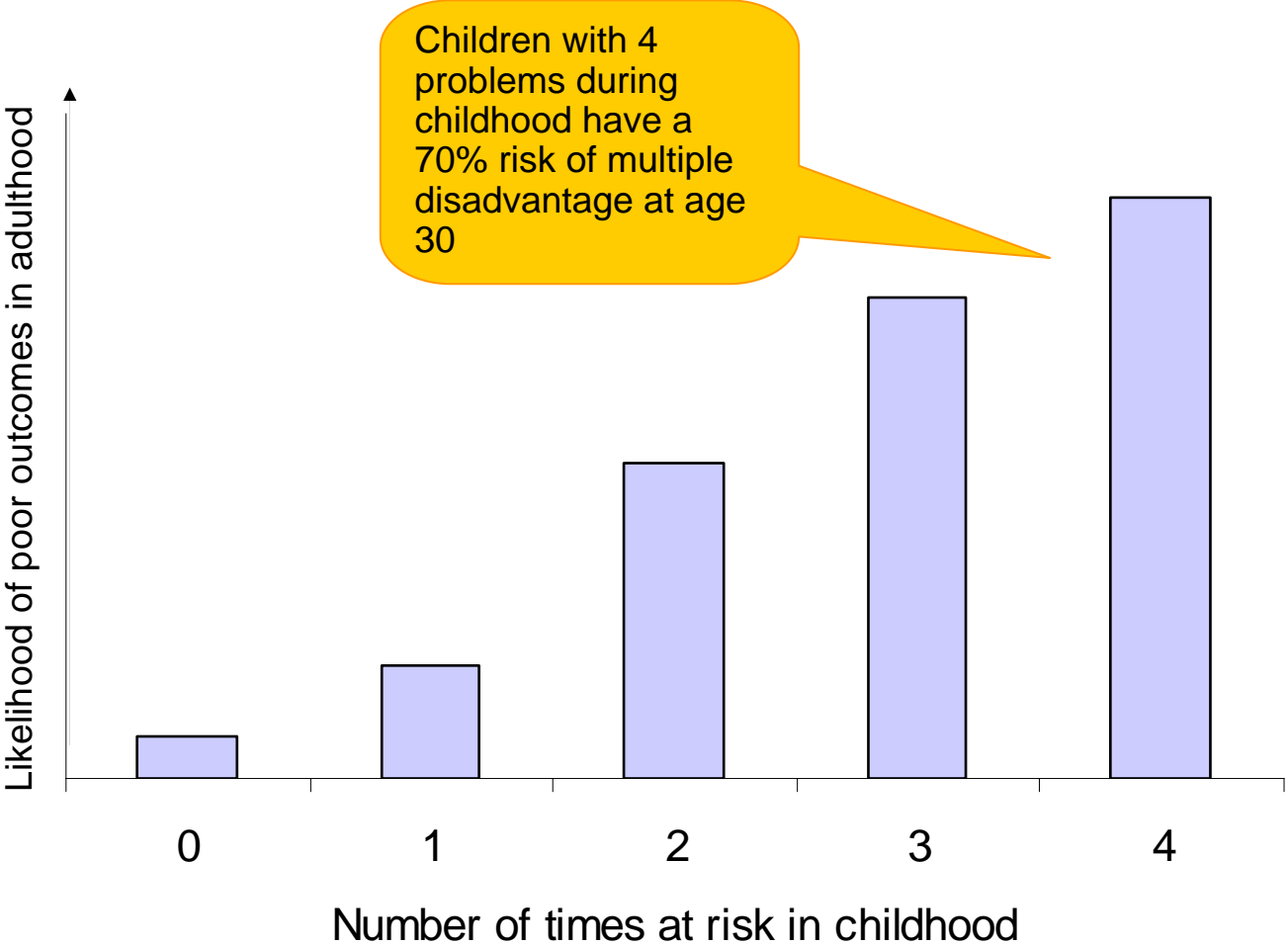
Source: Families and Children Study (FACS)

Children who experience many family disadvantages are at most risk of social exclusion



Source: Extract from HMT/DfES *Policy Review of Children and Young People: A Discussion Paper*, based on commissioned analysis by Feinstein and Sabates (2006).

Children who experience many family disadvantages during childhood are also at risk of social exclusion during adulthood



Source: HMT/DfES *Policy Review of Children and Young People: A Discussion Paper*, based on commissioned analysis by Feinstein (2006).

There are significant costs to both the child and society of children living in families that experience disadvantage

Costs to child

Exposure to parent-based risk factors can be devastating for children's life chances:

- Children from the 5% most disadvantaged households are more than 100 times more likely to have multiple problems at age 30 than those from the top 50% of households
- 60% of boys whose fathers go to prison are eventually convicted themselves
- 61% of children in workless households live in poverty
- 60% of children in the lowest reading attainment group at age 10 had parents with low literacy scores
- Children who experience parental conflict and domestic violence are more likely to be delinquent and to commit violence and property offences

Costs to society

The negative consequences of exclusion inflict huge costs on the economy and society:

- Antisocial behaviour costs the public £3.4bn a year
- Annual cost of school exclusion is estimated at £406m
- The additional costs of being not in education, employment or training at age 16-18 have been estimated at around £8.1 billion in terms of public finance costs
- We could save £300m over three years if care leavers had the same rates of going into education, employment and training as their peers
- If one in ten young offenders received effective early intervention it would save in excess of £100m a year

The Social Exclusion Task Force will continue to investigate the complex issues surrounding the social exclusion of families with children

- The Social Exclusion Task Force has recently published a research report looking at strategies for measuring the most severe forms of social exclusion. See http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/publications/research/multidimensional.asp
- The next stage of this research programme is to undertake analytical work to investigate the circumstances of the most excluded families and what drives social exclusion for these families
- The SETF is leading a cross-Whitehall review on at-risk families that includes action to better integrate adult, child and community services around the needs of excluded families in order to tackle the drivers of deep seated exclusion
- You can contribute to the call for evidence by visiting the website: <http://survey.cesi.org.uk/setf/MainPage.htm>