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## Swedish policies for preschool children

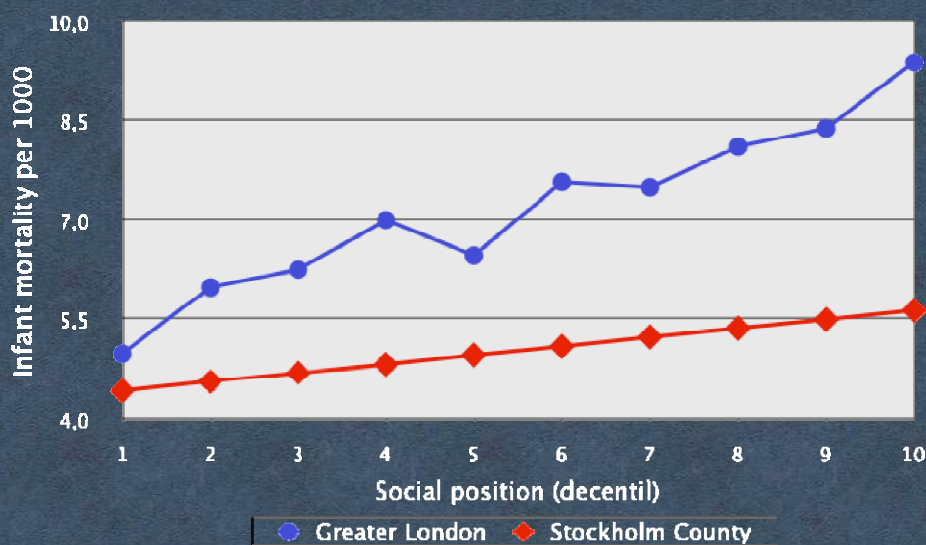


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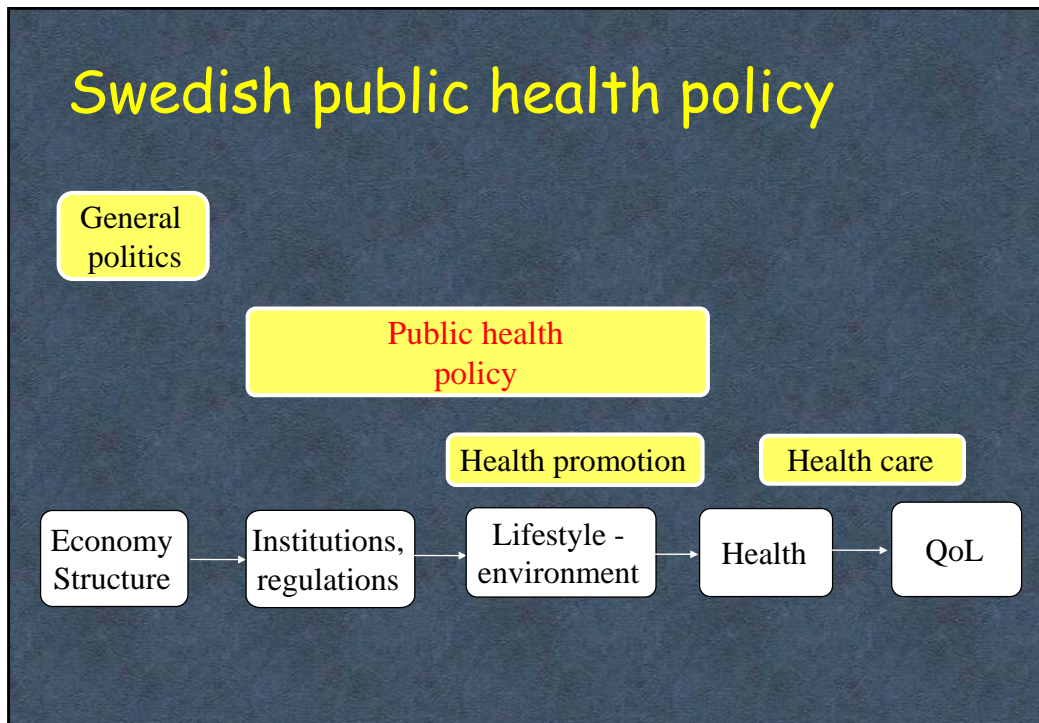


Swedish National Institute  
of Public Health

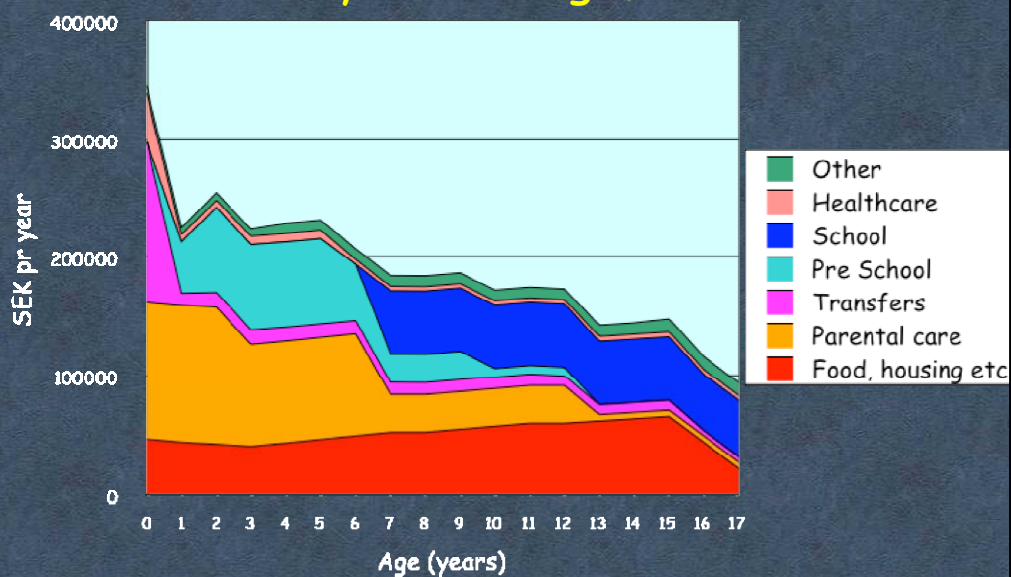
## Social gradient for infant mortality in Greater London and Stockholm county 1995



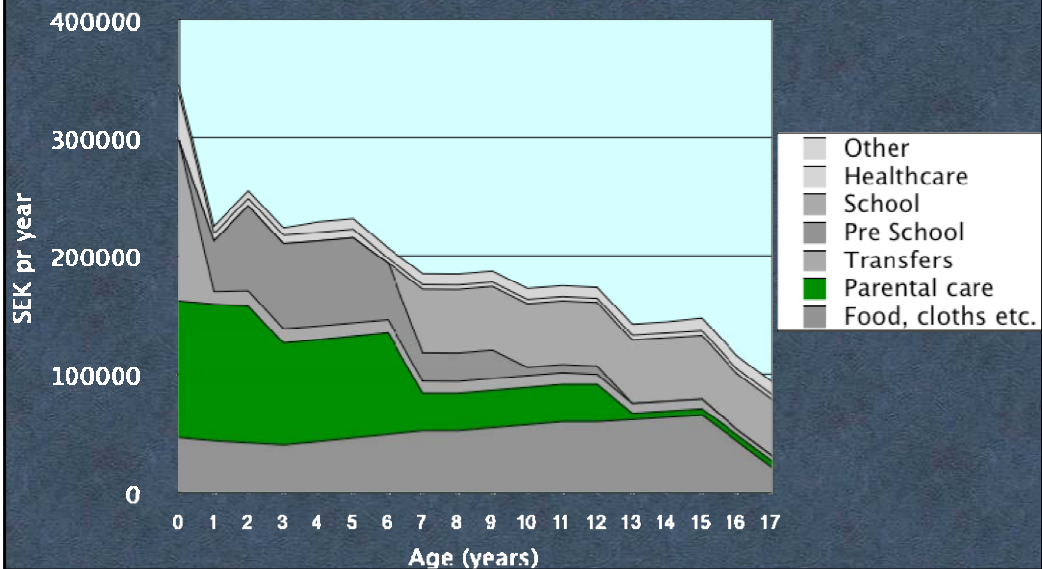
# Swedish public health policy



# Formal and informal expenditures for children 0-17 years of age, Sweden 1995



## Formal and informal expenditures for children 0-17 years of age, Sweden 1995



## Services during pregnancy and early childhood: two variations



- A. Separate services
  - 1. Maternal health centres (>99%)
  - 2. Child health centres (>99%)
  - 3. Open Preschools ≈ Family Resource Centres (≈40%)
  - 4. Social services
- B. Family centres
  - Includes all services 1-4 in a single building



## Infant mental health promotion - Attachment enhancing programmes



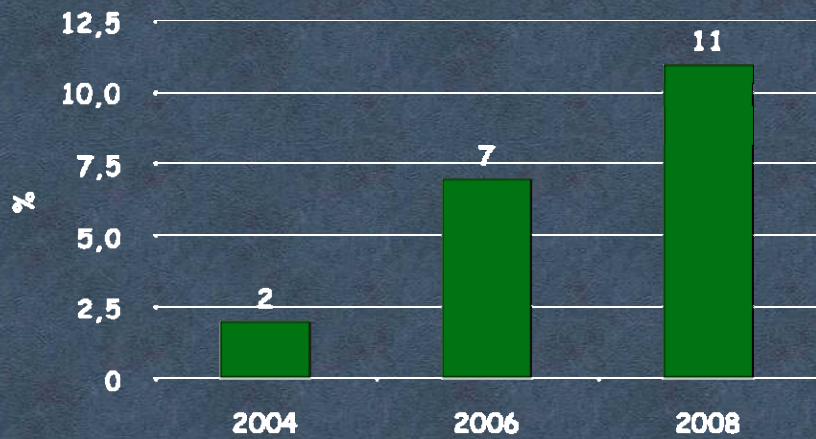
- In high income countries - 40% insecure attachment by age 18 months
- Structured programmes are effective - 70 RCTs
- Interpretation of infant signals use of photos or video clips
- Introduced in established parent support groups at CHC

## Structured methods for parents of children age 3-9 years, based on methods like PMT, COPE etc. adapted for universal use in Sweden...



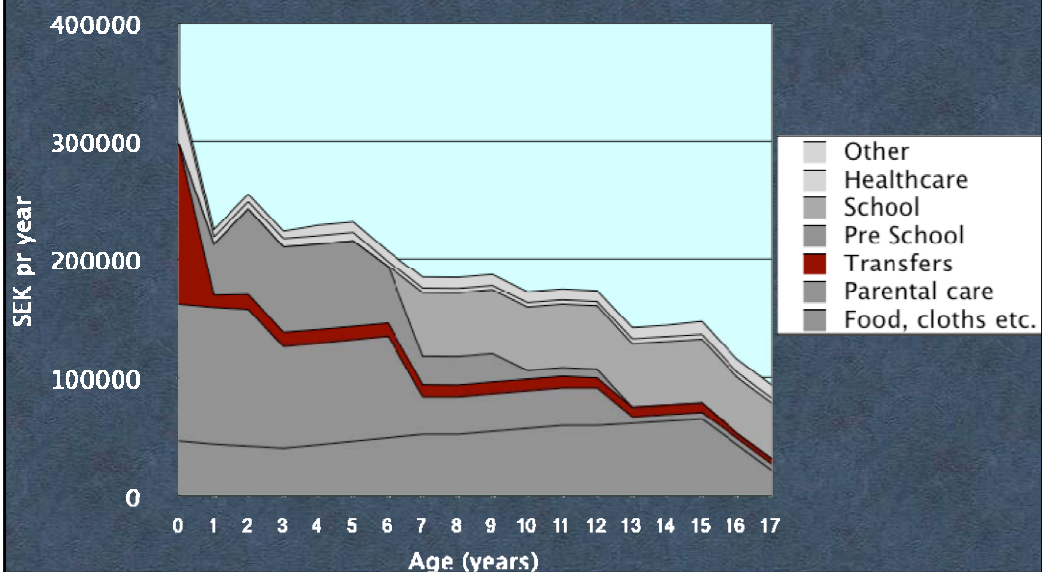
- Parental groups
- Starting with videotaped problem situations
- Modelling
- Role play

## Fraction of all first child parents who have participated in a parental group



9

## Formal and informal expenditures for children 0-17 years of age, Sweden 1995

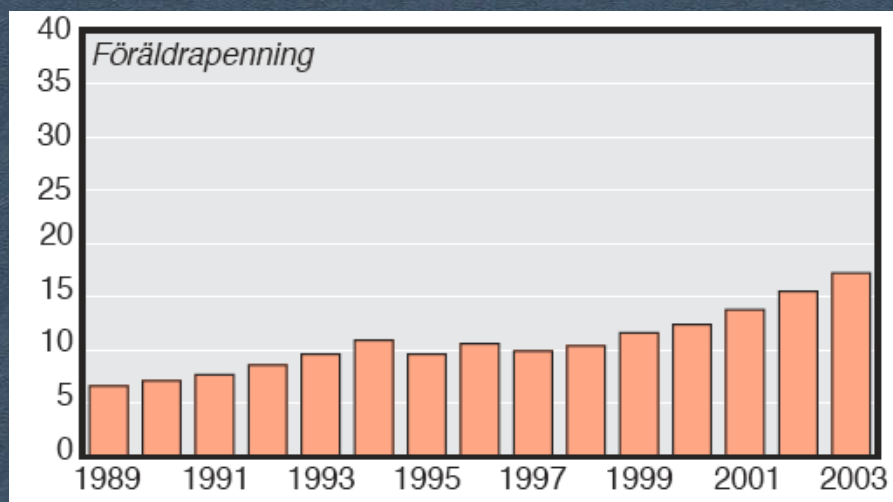




## Parental leave

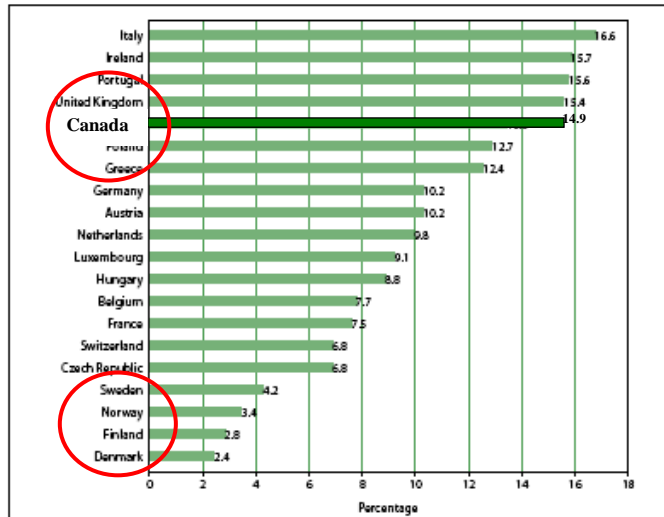
- Parental leave laws
  - 13 months fully paid parental leave
  - 3 months partly paid

## Parental leave allowances: fathers' percentage



## Child poverty rates 2005 (UNICEF)

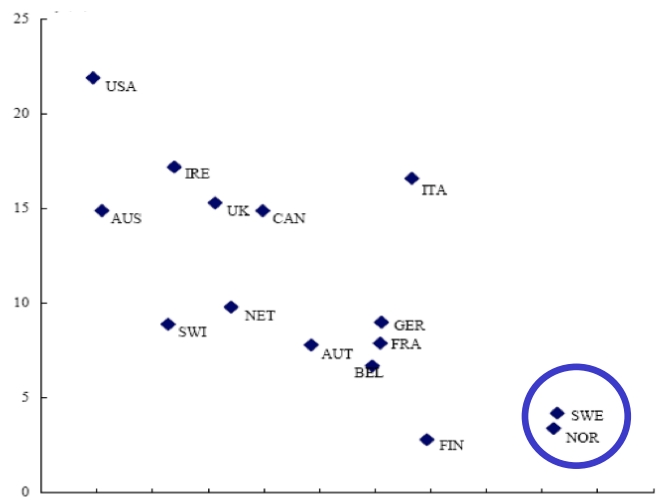
Fig. 11. Children living in relative poverty in selected affluent countries in the WHO European Region, 2005



Source: data from UNICEF Innocent Research Centre (2005).

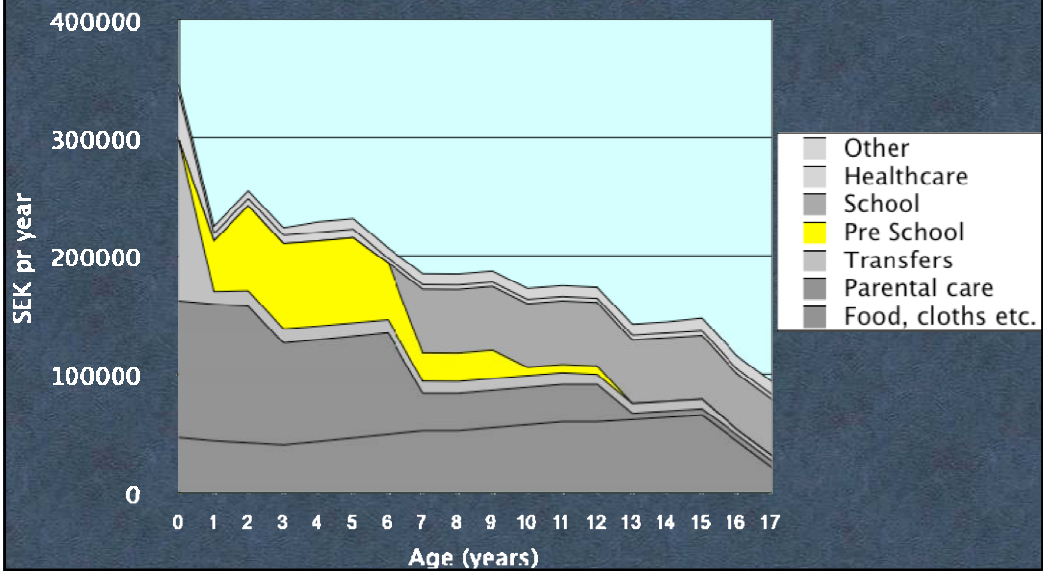
## Child poverty and family policy generosity

Poverty (%)

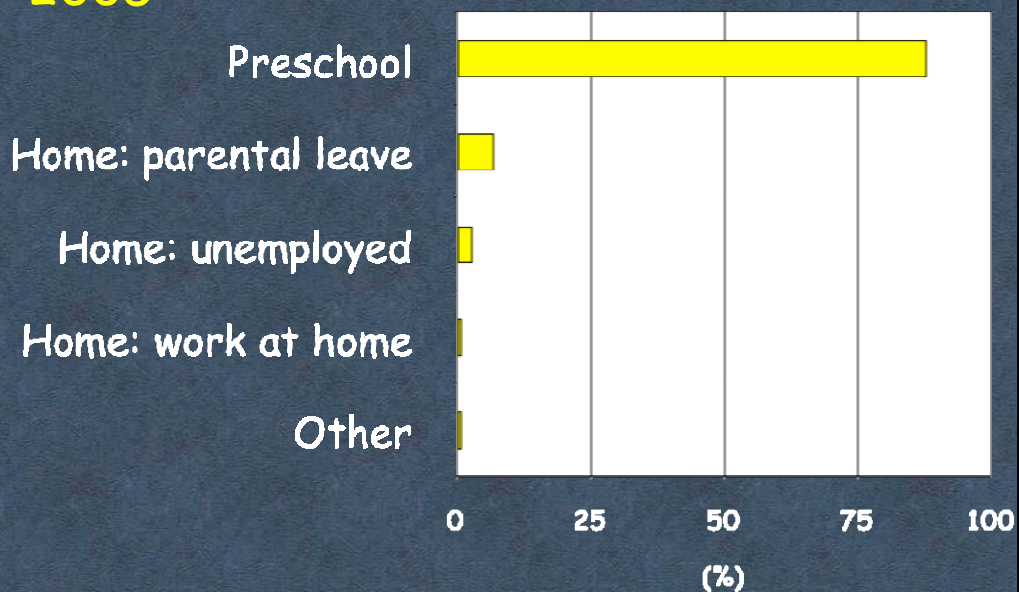


Family policy generosity (index)

## Formal and informal expenditures for children 0-17 years of age, Sweden 1995

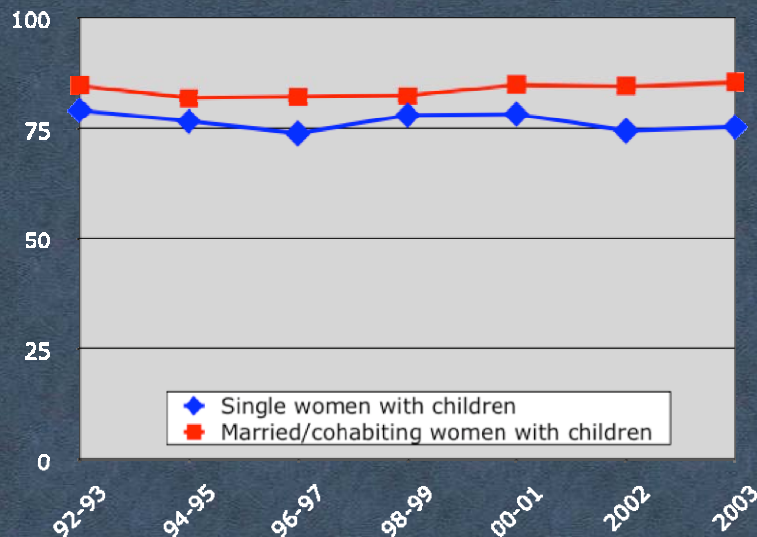


## Care of children age 1-5, Sweden 2005





## Female labour market participation in families with children - Sweden



## Effects on children of preschool/day care



- Cochrane systematic review: 8 RCT, (Zorich 2002)
- Increases children's IQ,
- Less behaviour problems
- Better school achievement
- Positive long-term effects in adult life, adjustment and employment

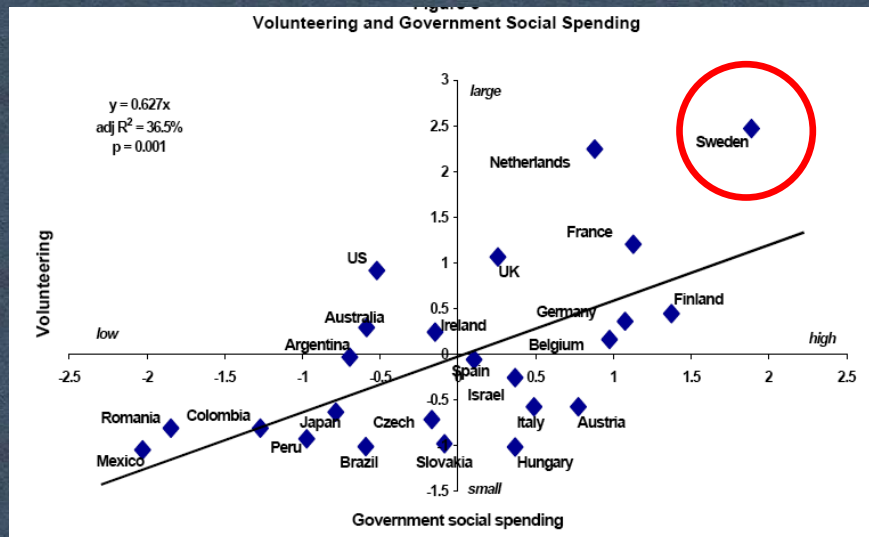
## Requirements for quality = advantageous long term effects of pre schools

- Child centred pedagogy
- High staff to child ration
- College trained teachers.

## Roots of Swedish child policies

- Marriage laws passed in the 1920s
  - Status of women in the preindustrial society
- Small middle class up until WWII
- Interplay between state and civil society

# Volunteering and government social spending (Salamond 2001)





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