Neighbourhood poverty dynamics and residential mobility among families in the Millennium Cohort

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Our ESRC project

Home moves in the early years: the impact on children in UK and US

- A comparison of two housing policy regimes

- Using two child cohort studies

- UK Millennium Cohort USA Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study

- Followed for first 5 years, from ca 2000

Home Moves and Neighbourhood Change

- How far and in which direction do moves result in a change in the local environment?

- How much do local areas change for stayers?

- Do objective and subjective measures of area give the same answers ?

- Are areal outcomes of a move related to the reason for it?

Order of Presentation

- Data and Methods
- Ranking of GB small areas by poverty indicator, 2001-2006
- Extent and locale of change in areas
- The MCS stayers and movers, by location, subjective and objective measures of change and movers' reasons

- This is still work in progress

DATA AND METHODS

Millennium Cohort Study (MCS)

- About 19,000 children born between 2000 and 2001

- Sampled from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

- Interviews with baby's mother when the child was 9 months, 3, 5, 7, and 11 years

- Oversample ethnic minority and high poverty areas

MCS data we used

- Sweep 1, 2 and 3 – up to when children were age 5
- Linked the end-user dataset to geo-coded data and to area measure of poverty
- Analyses subject to disclosure control
- Used GB data only

➔ Analytical sample: 11900 children

Objective measures of neighbourhood disadvantage

- Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)
  - Published separately for each UK country: for LSOA in England and Wales, Datazone in Scotland

- Unadjusted Means-Tested Benefit Rate (UMBR)
  - Created by Alex Fenton, LSE
  - Covers GB
  - Rate of claiming means tested benefits per number of households in LSOA/Datazone

Objective measures of neighbourhood disadvantage

- **Income Support**
- **Job Seeker's Allowance (Income-Based and Contribution-Based)**
- **Pension Credit, Guarantee Element (2003 onwards)**

- Unadjusted Means-Tested Benefit Rate (UMBR)
  - Created by Alex Fenton, LSE
  - Covers GB
  - Rate of claiming means tested benefits per number of households in LSOA/Datazone

Objective measure of neighbourhood change

- IMD: problematic for tracking absolute change over time and for comparing UK countries

- UMBR: captures yearly changes in poverty from 2001 to 2008, suitable for comparisons within the whole GB, but not available for NI

- Typology of within-area change from between 9 month to age 5 interview based on:
  - Change in UMBR, 2001-2006
  - Change in number of households, 2001-2006

Objective measure of neighbourhood change

- Typology of within-area change:

1. UMBR rising, household population falling

2. UMBR rising, household population NOT falling

3. UMBR stable, household population falling

4. UMBR stable, household population NOT falling

5. UMBR falling, household population NOT rising

6. UMBR falling, household population rising

NB limits to the number of categories we can use to prevent disclosure

Subjective reports in MCS

- Subjective measures of neighbourhood quality:

  - General satisfaction with area, $\longleftarrow$ 'within about a mile or 20 minutes walk'
    asked at MCS1 & MCS2

  - Good area for bringing up children,
    asked at MCS2 & MCS3

- Reasons for move
  - Multi-coded: area, housing, family, job, etc. Any area-related reason selected

- Housing conditions, tenure and networks

RESULTS for NEIGHBOURHOODS

Rank correlation IMD/UMBR

Dates nearest	MCS1 (2001)			MCS3 (2006)		
	ρ	IMD published	UMBR observed	ρ	IMD published	UMBR observed
England	0.93	2004	2001	0.94	2007	2005
Scotland	0.95	2004	2002	0.96	2006	2005
Wales	0.93	2004	2003	0.94	2008	2007

Correlation between UMBR and IMD, by country
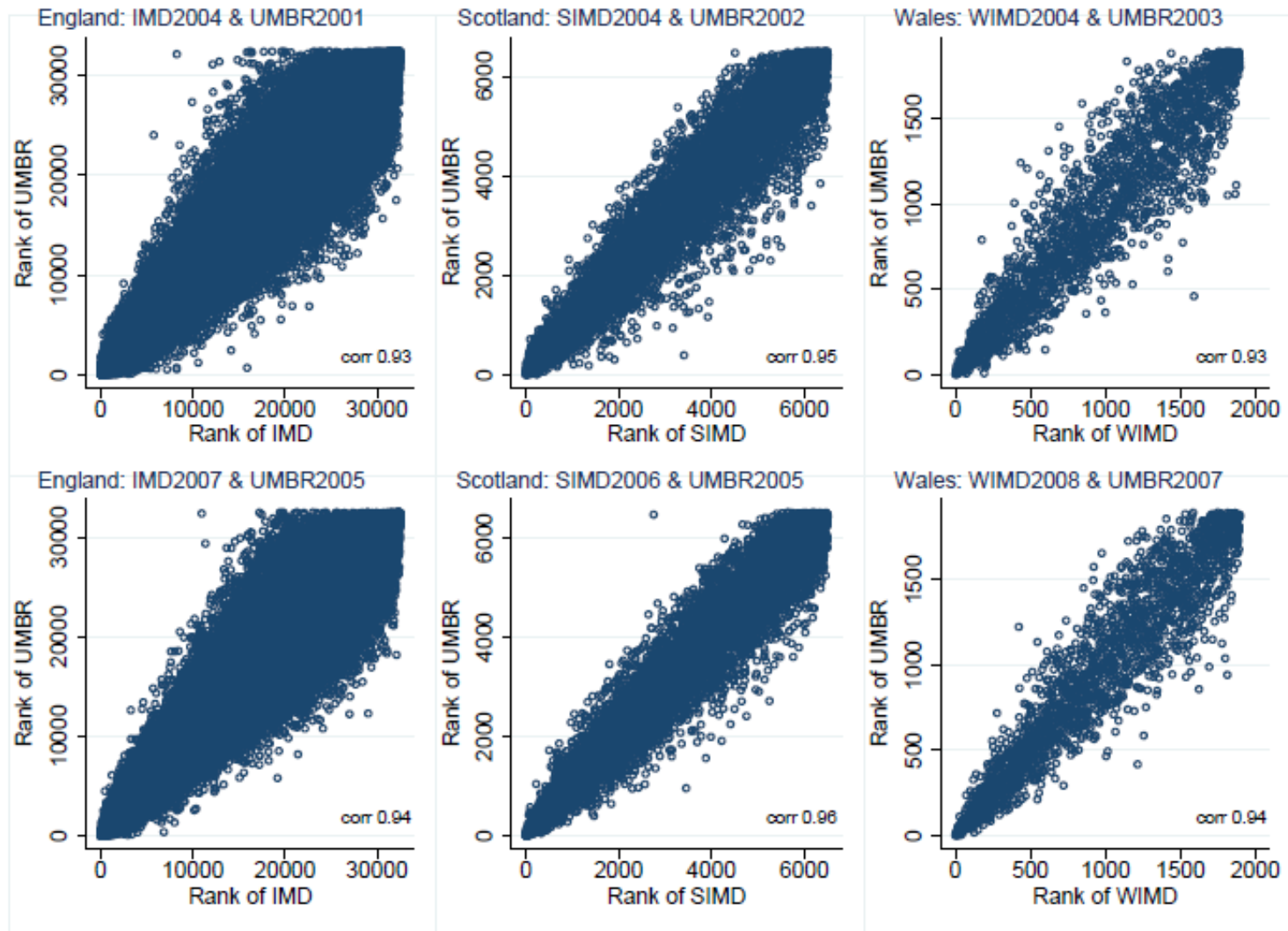
UMBR by IMD decile, by country

Neighbourhood change: objective measure

Chart showing percentage of areas and benefit recipient rates across six neighbourhood change categories:

- **6. UMBR down, pop up**
- **5. UMBR down, pop NOT up**
- **4. UMBR =, pop NOT down**
- **3. UMBR =, pop down**
- **2. UMBR up, pop NOT down**
- **1. UMBR up, pop down**

Horizontal axis: 0, 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%

Legend:
- Percentage of areas (LSOAs & Datazones)
- 2001 Benefit recipients (%) - UMBR
- 2006 Benefit recipients (%) - UMBR
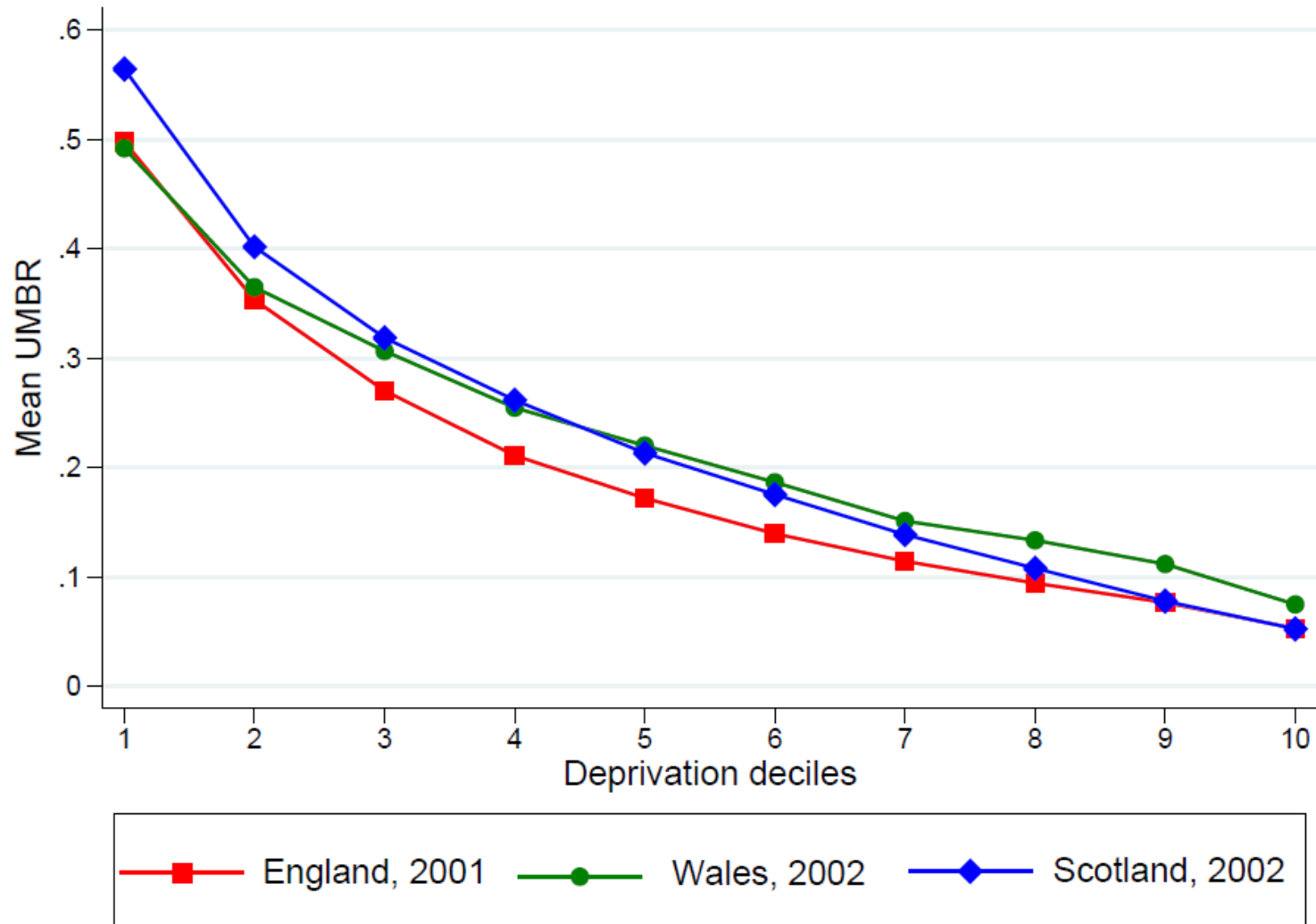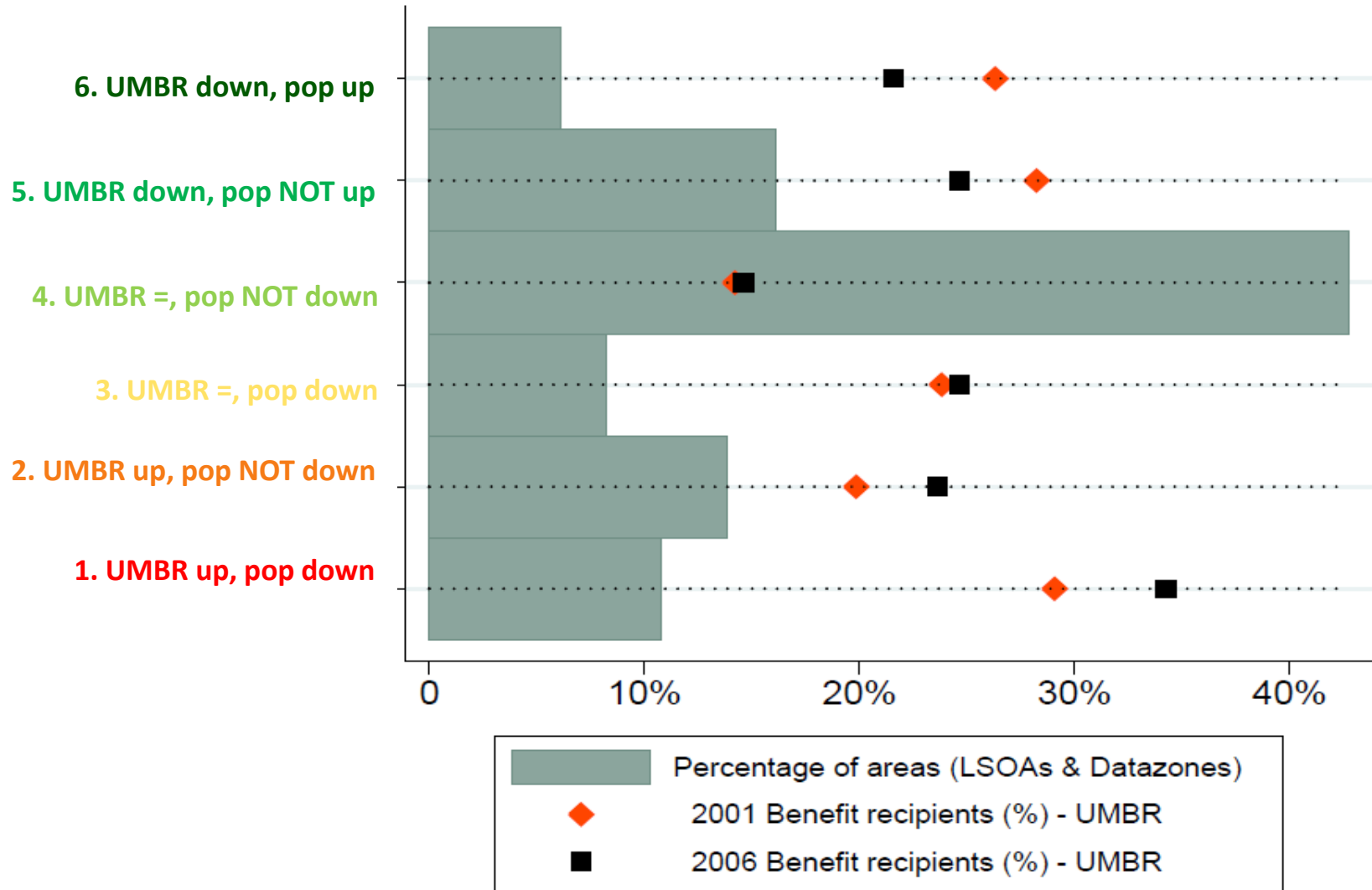
Neighbourhood change: objective measure, by area-type

Percentage of areas (LSOAs & Datazones)

2001 Benefit recipients (%) - UMBR

2006 Benefit recipients (%) - UMBR
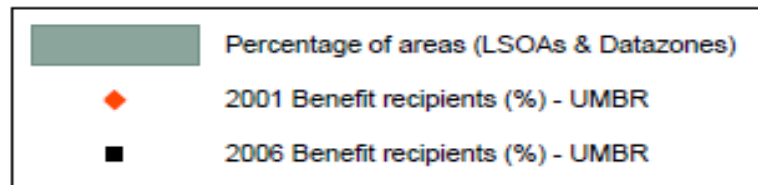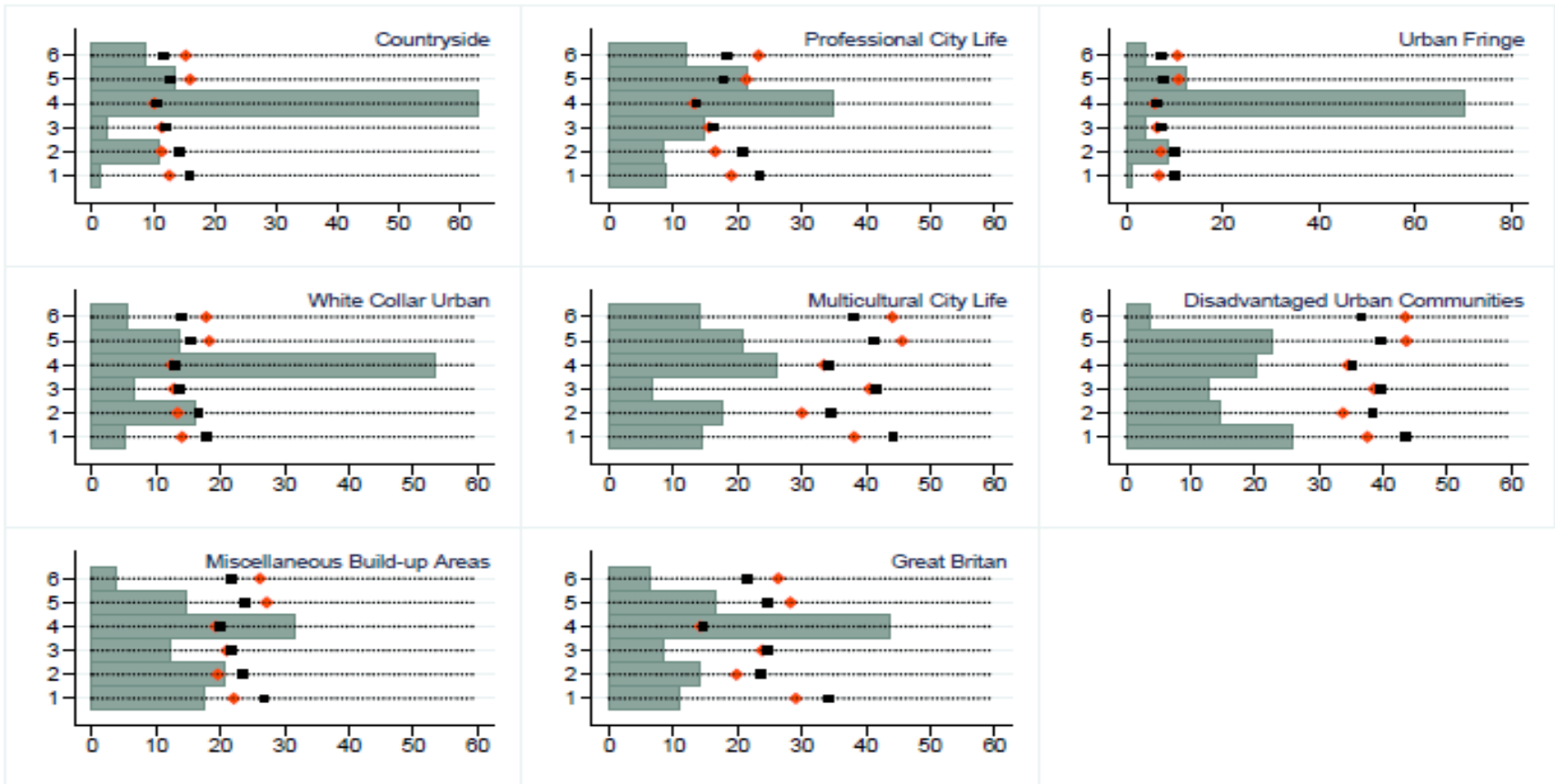
Illustration of area change in Wales 2001-6

1 umbr rising, pop falling
2 umbr rising, pop NOT falling
3 umbr steady, pop falling
4 umbr steady, pop NOT falling
5 umbr falling, pop NOT rising
6 umbr falling, pop rising
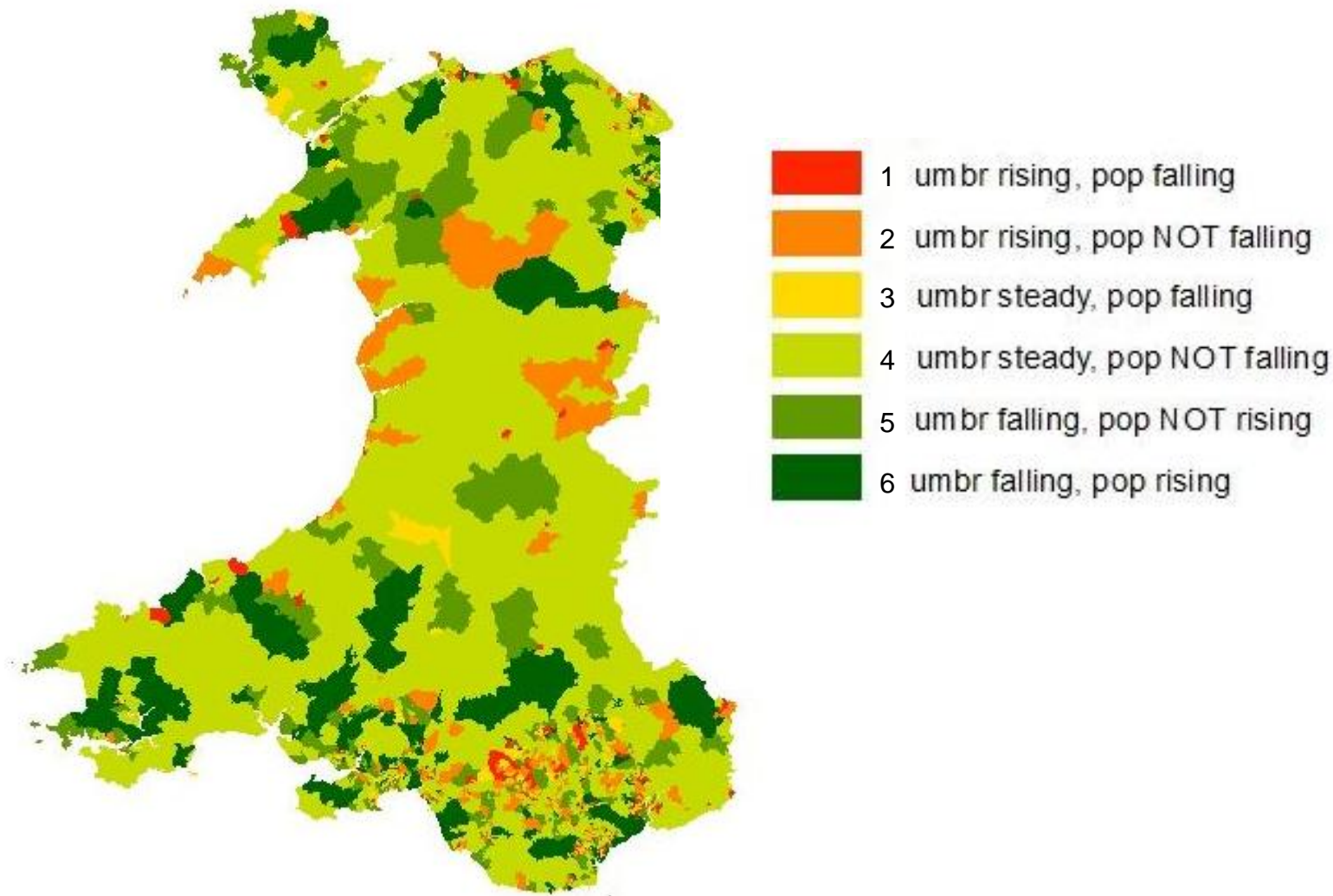
RESULTS FOR MCS

Numbers moving or not between MCS1 and MCS3
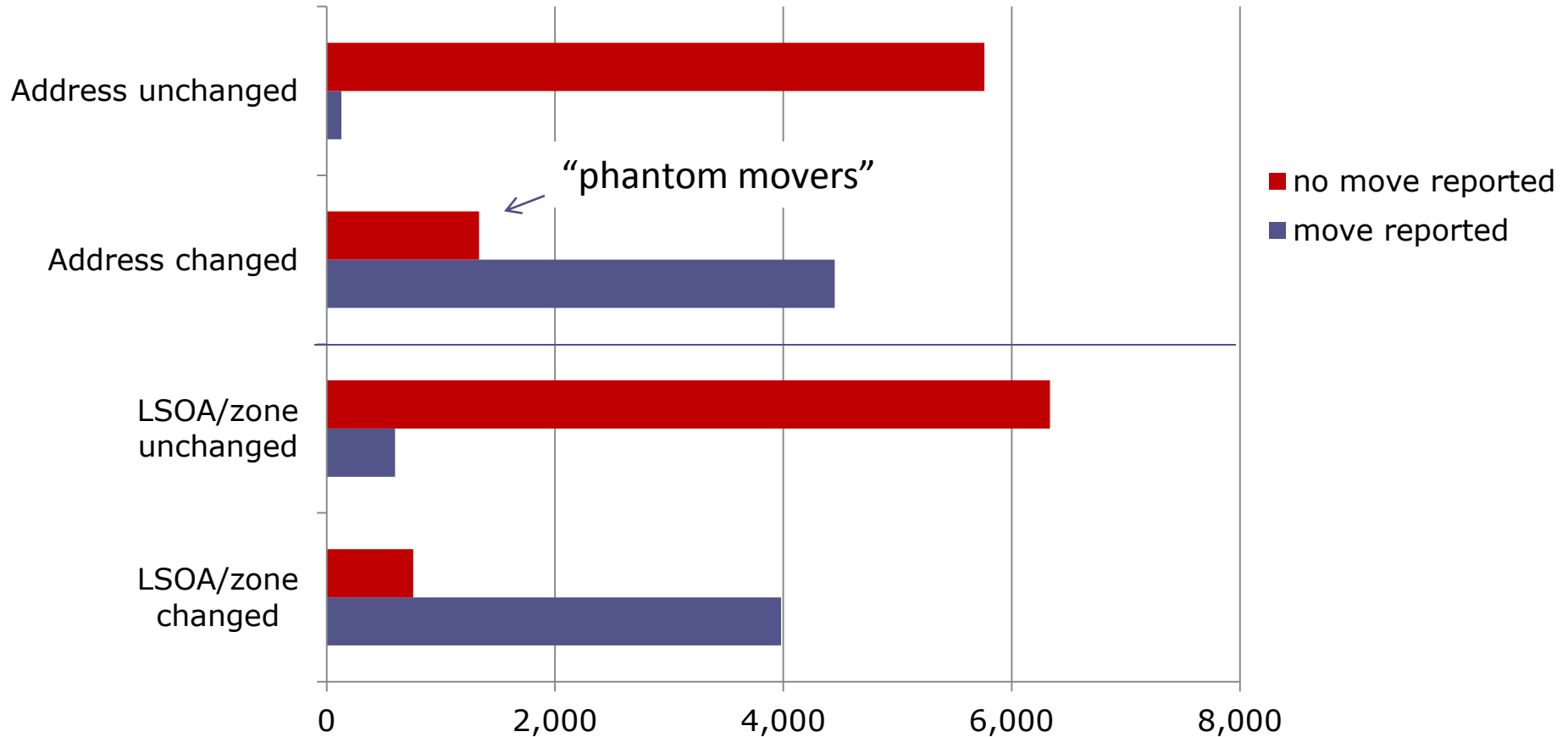
UMBR change in area of origin: Stayers and Movers
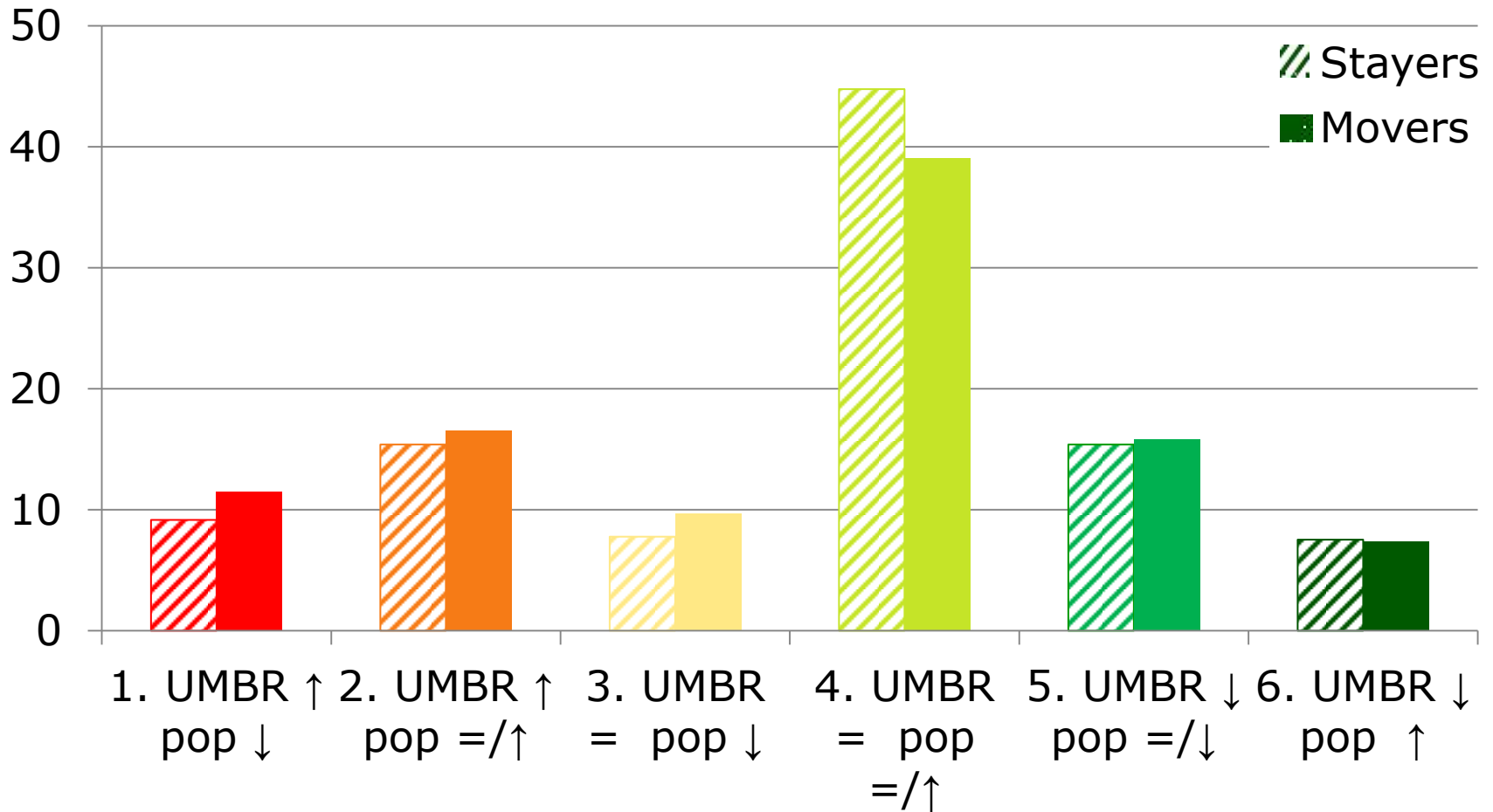
UMBR change in area of origin: Movers
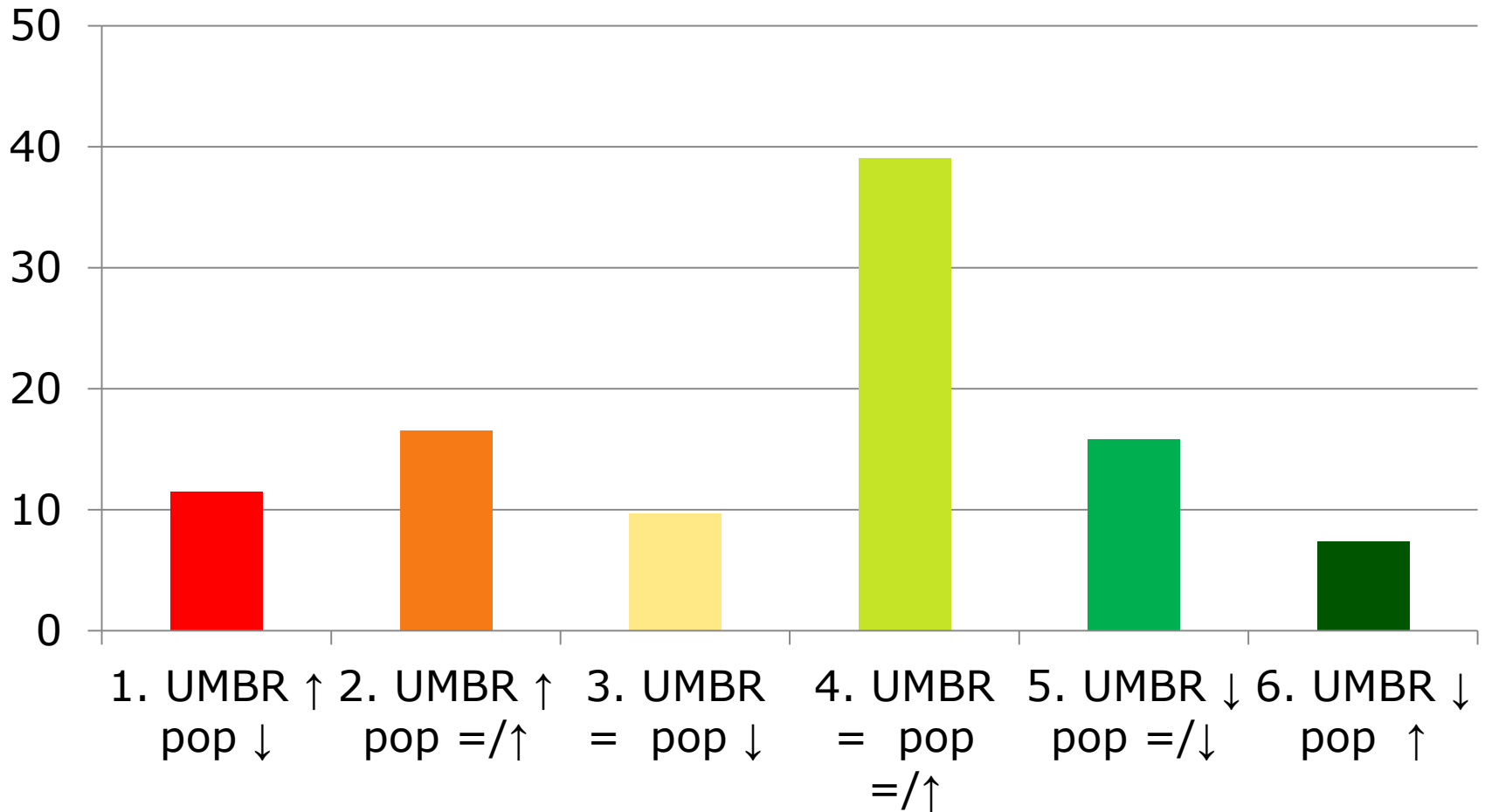
UMBR change in area of destination by area of origin: Movers
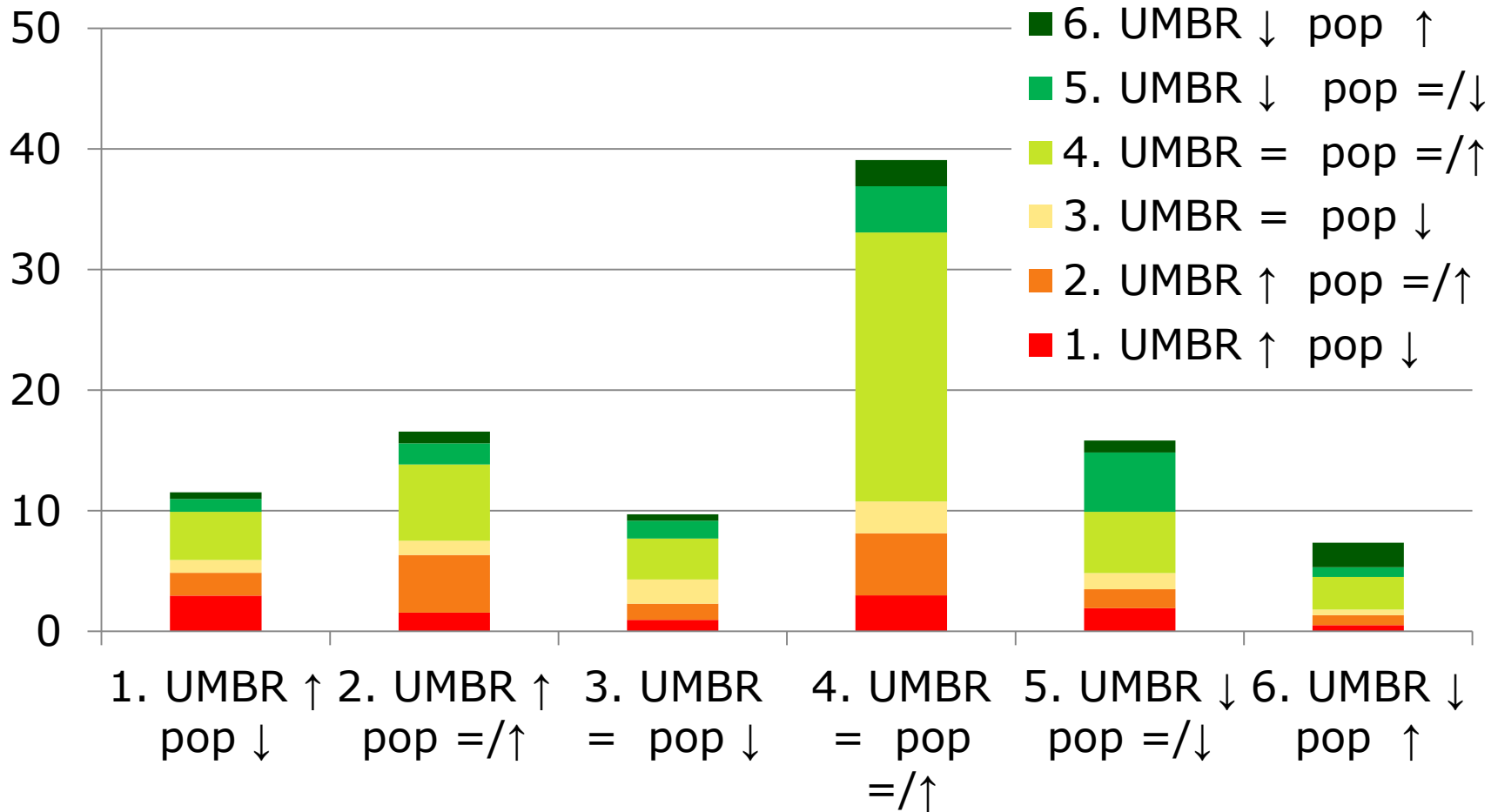
"Area good for bringing up children" at MCS2, by UMBR level
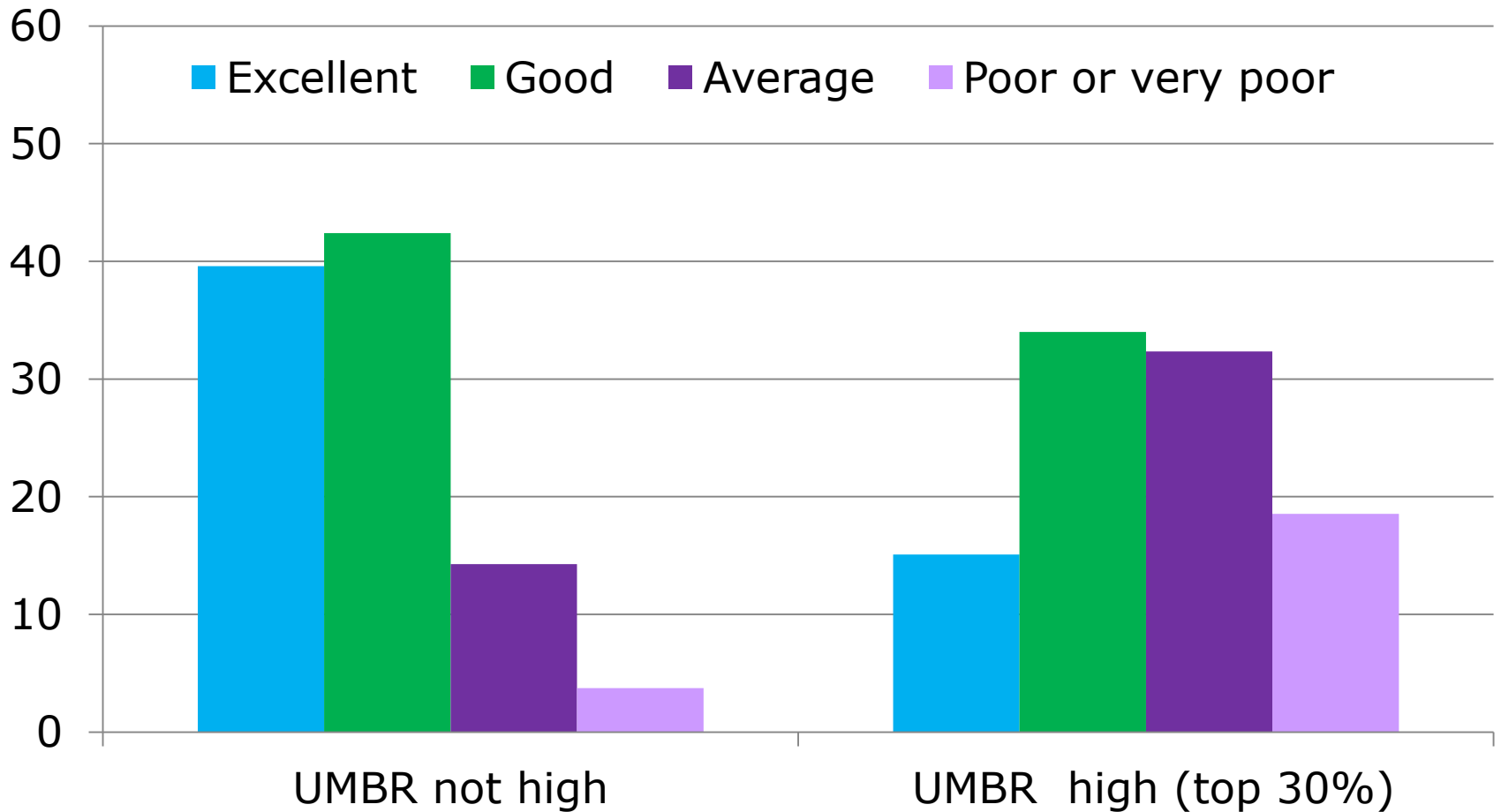
"Area good for bringing up children" at MCS2, by UMBR area change
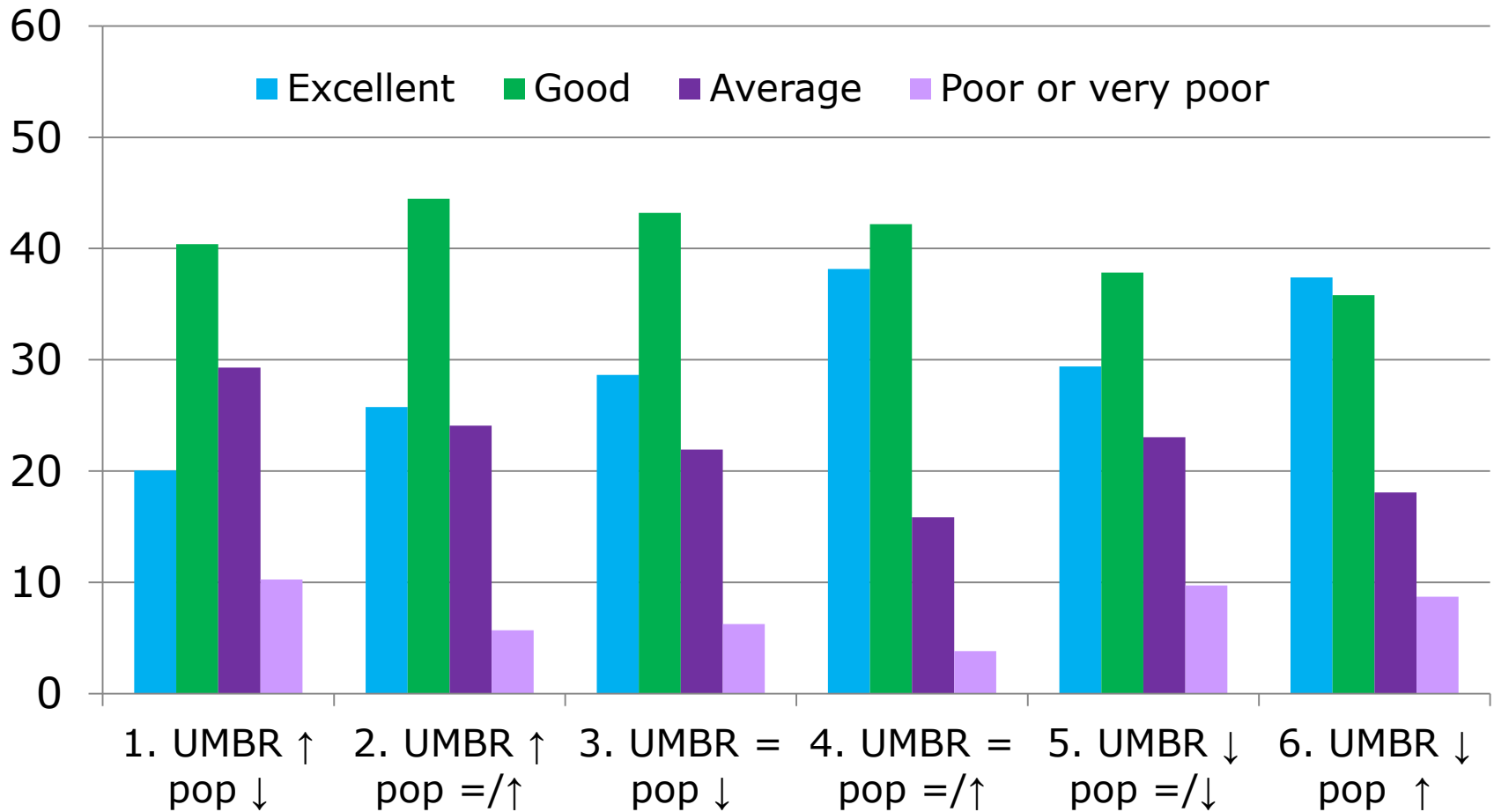
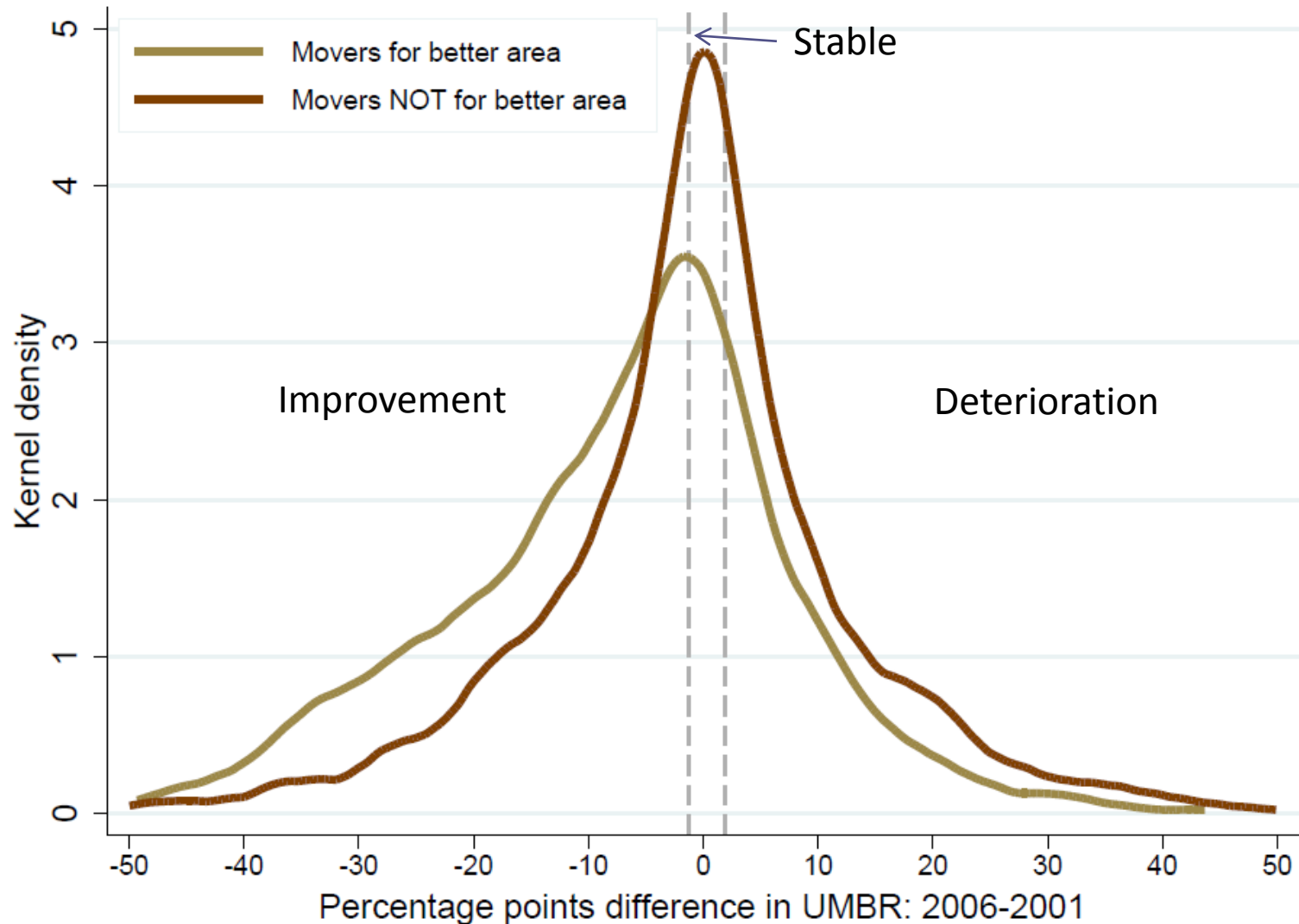# "Area good for bringing up children" at MSC2 & MCS3, by stayers and movers
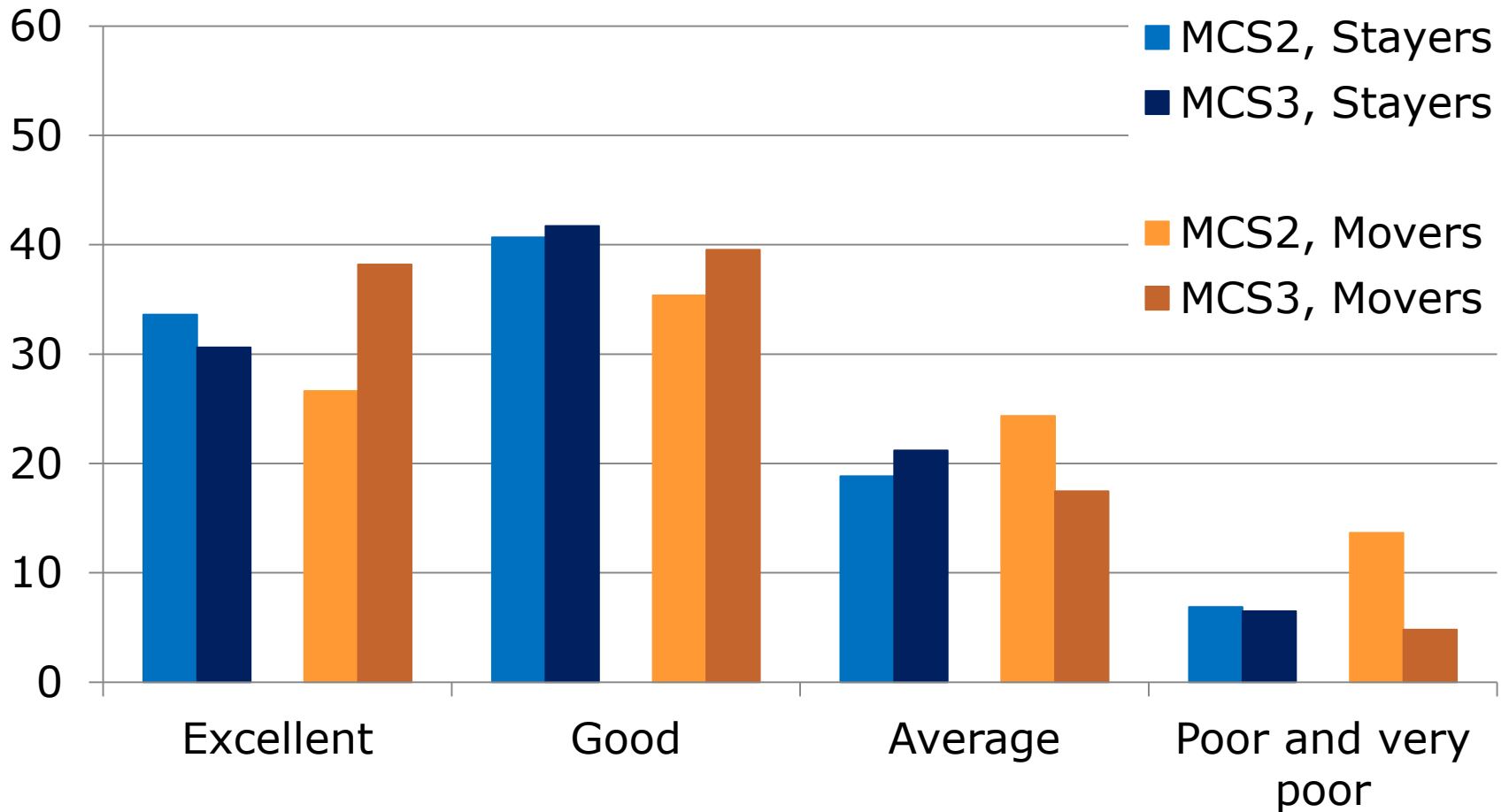
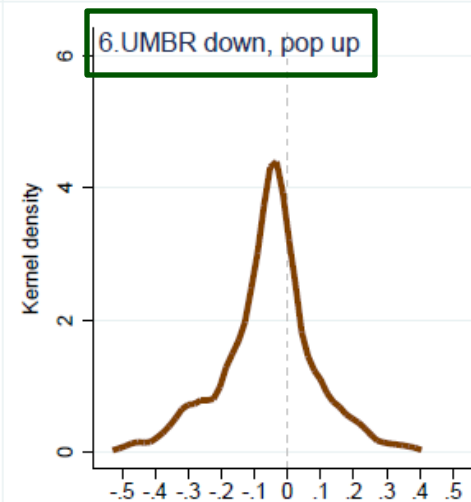# "Area good for bringing up children" at MSC2 & MCS3, by stayers and movers
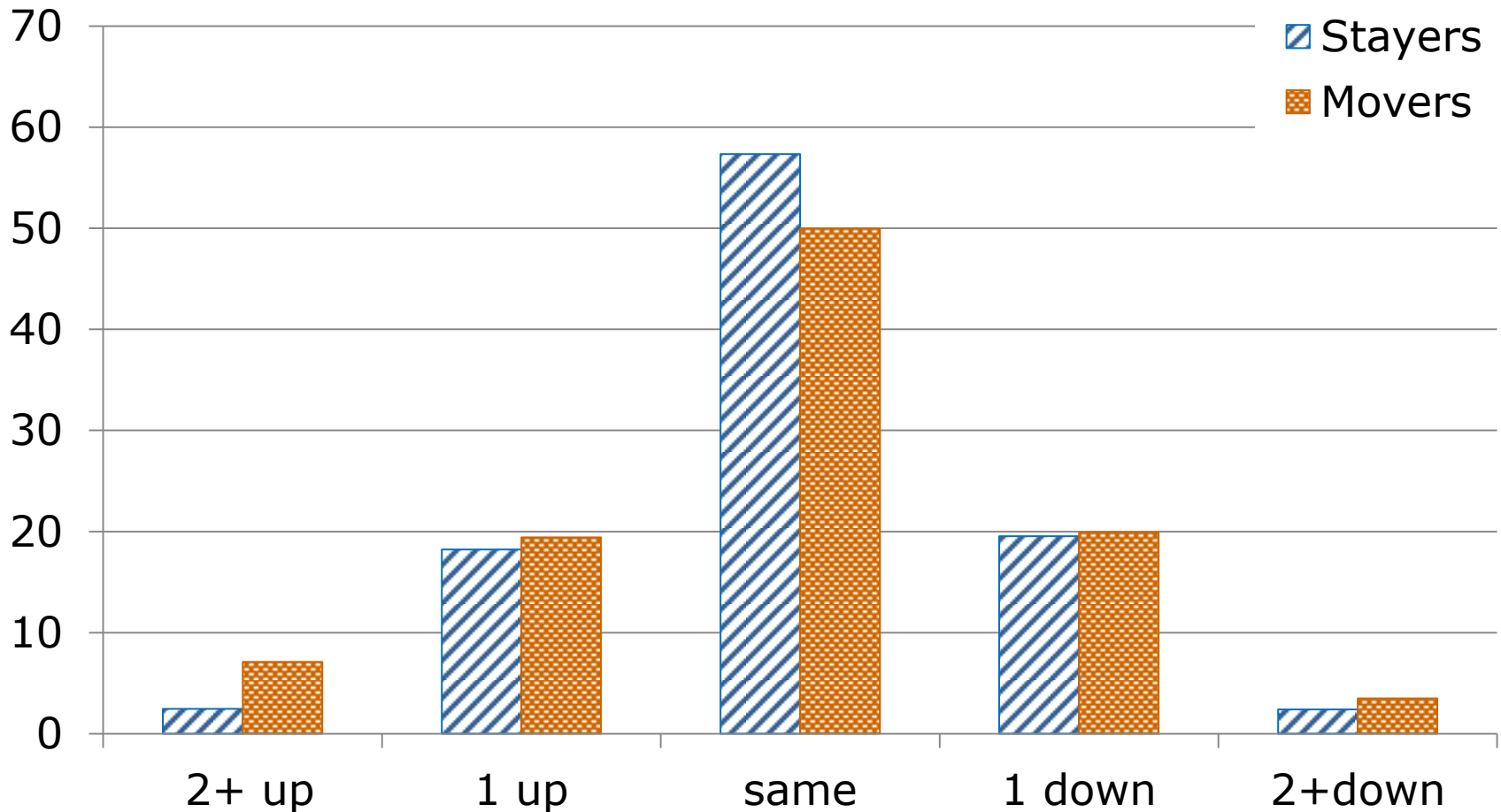
"Area good for bringing up children" at MCS3, by movers and reasons for moving
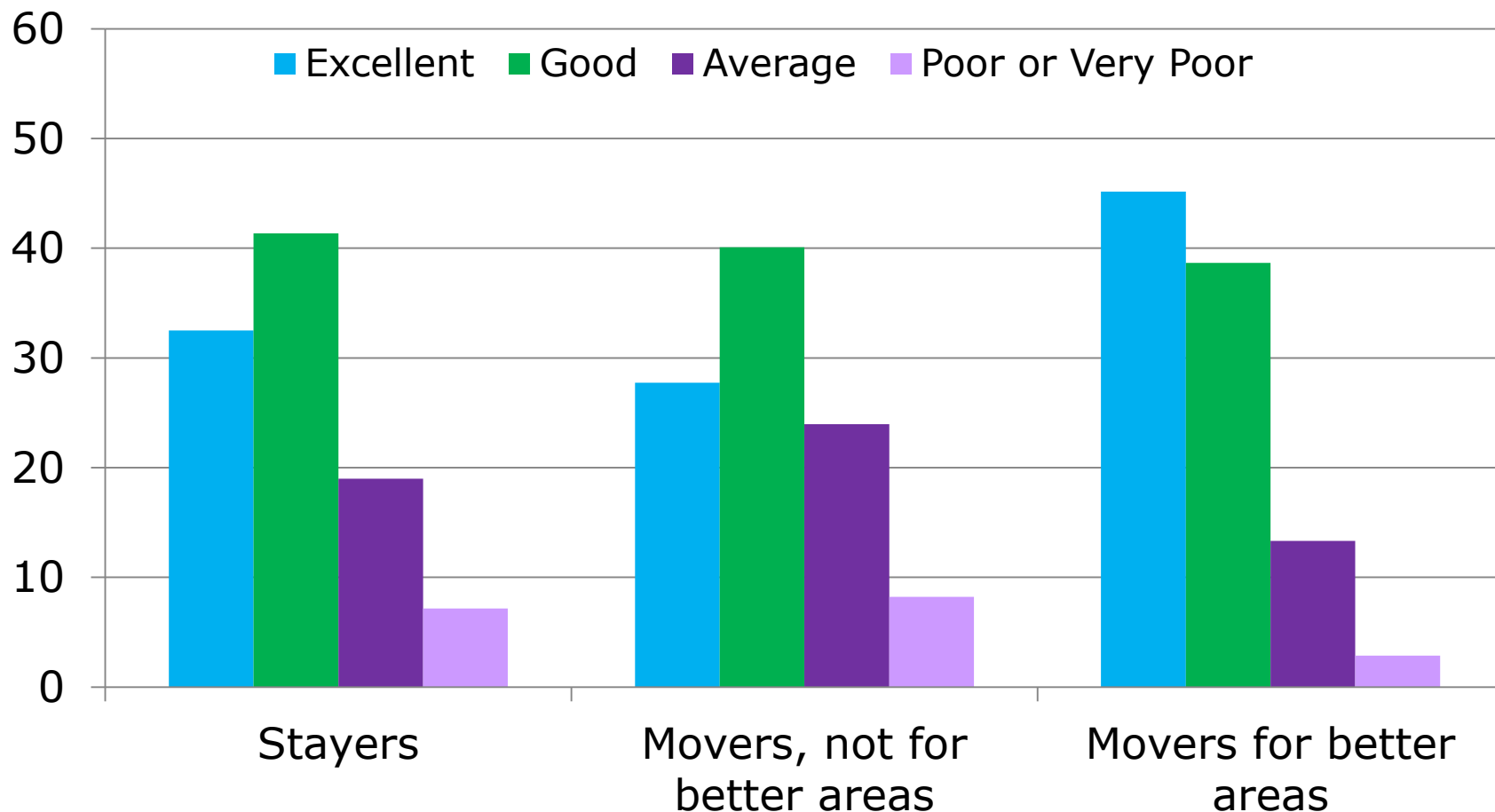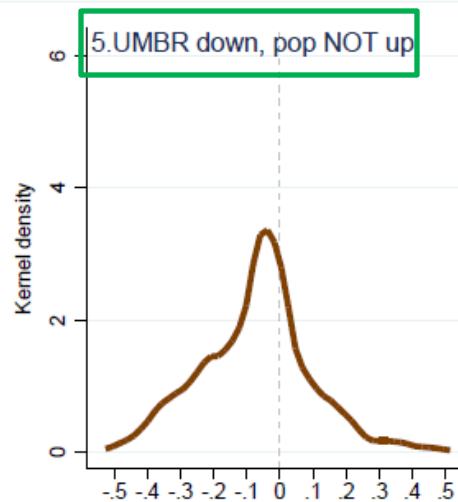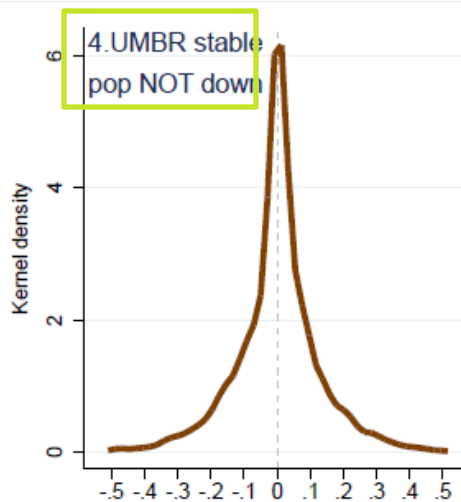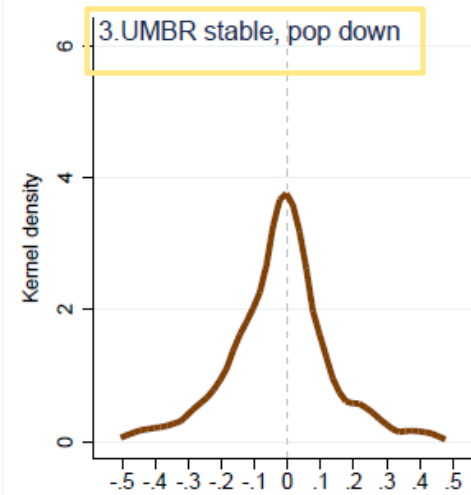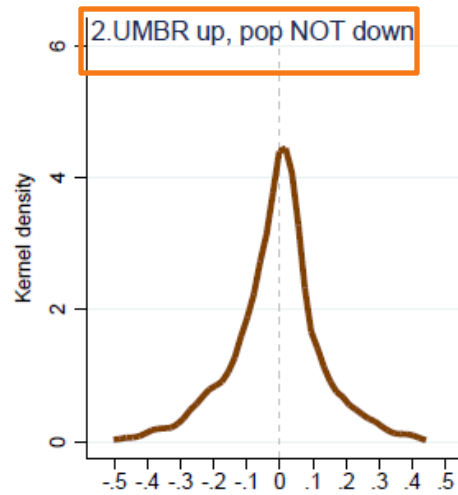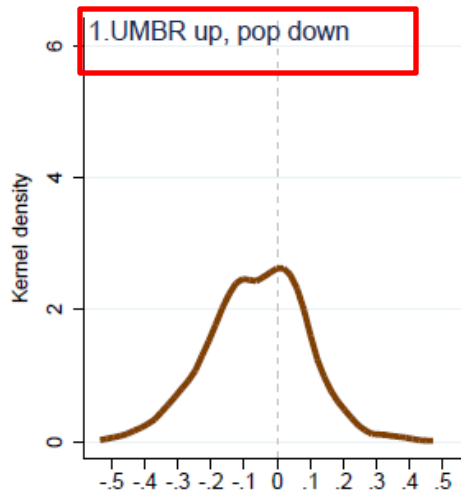
Change in UMBR experienced by movers and stayers
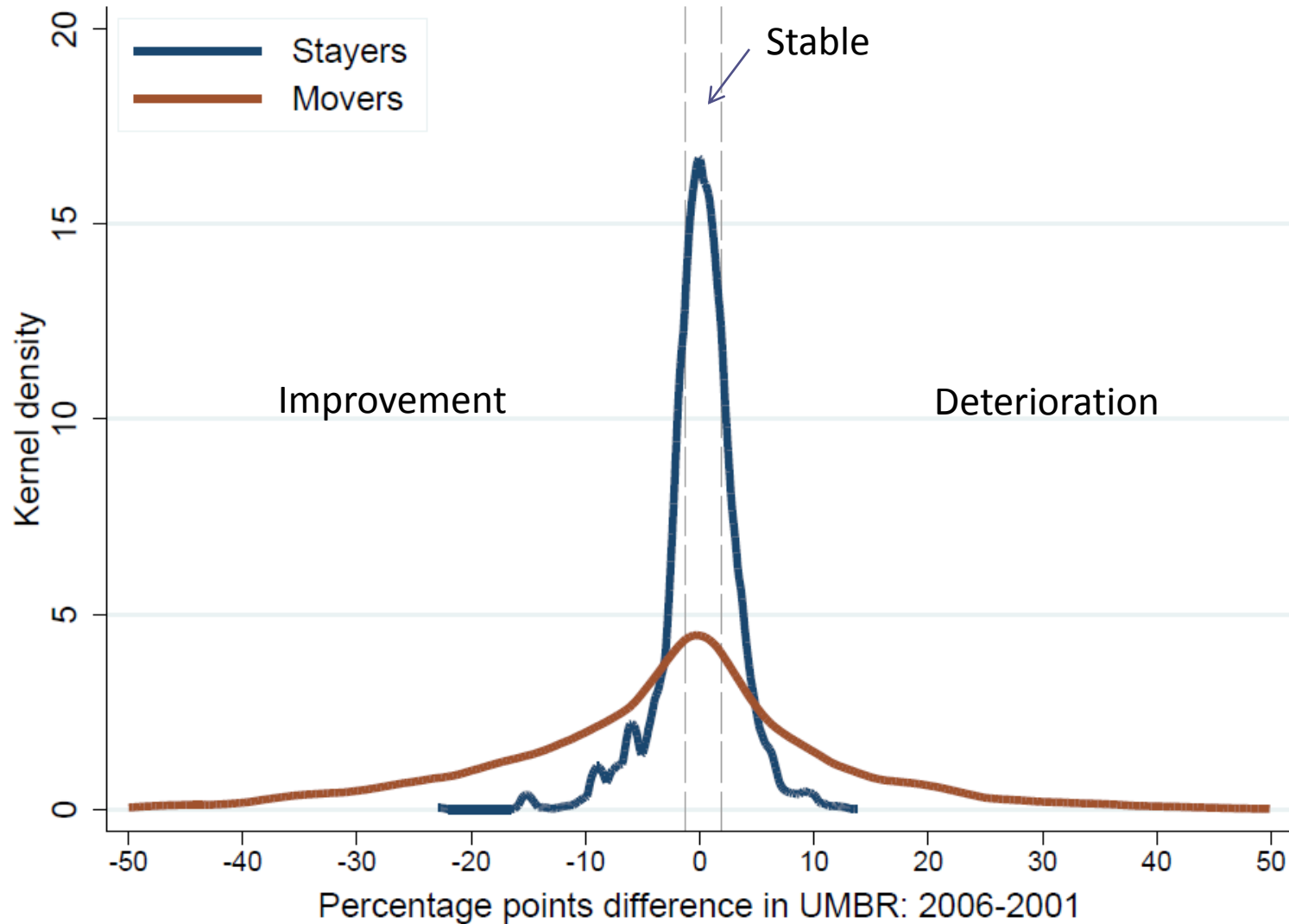
Change in UMBR experienced by movers, by reason of moving

Change in UMBR experienced by movers, by type of original area

Conclusions I
area-level change

- UMBR is a straightforward index of neighbourhood poverty:
  - lines up well with IMD
  - reveals change over time
  - comparable across 3 countries

- Change non-negligible in certain areas
- Others conform to 'not much change'

Conclusions II individual-level change

- Movers experience larger changes in both area poverty and subjective evaluations

- Movers are more likely to rate their area as excellent if the reason they moved was for a better area

- Movers (especially those moving for a better area) are more likely to arrive in areas with lower poverty than where they came from

- Objective and subjective measures give similar results

Next steps

- Examine measures of housing conditions (e.g., tenure, number of rooms)

- Evaluate other reasons for moving in relation to change in both objective and subjective measures

- Explore the counterfactual: what level of area poverty would movers have experienced if they had stayed put?

The home and the place

"You're moving into a place where all the parents
live well and all the kids test well."

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Acknowledgements

Thank you!
Comments welcome