

The Minimum Income Standard (MIS) – methods and outcomes

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The approach

- Compiling household budgets to represent a **minimum acceptable standard of living**
- Consensus built in **deliberative focus groups**, supported by some expert knowledge
- Launched in 2008, research repeated in the UK every two years: shows evolution of the socially defined minimum
- Teams have used a similar approach in Ireland, Portugal, Japan, Austria, France

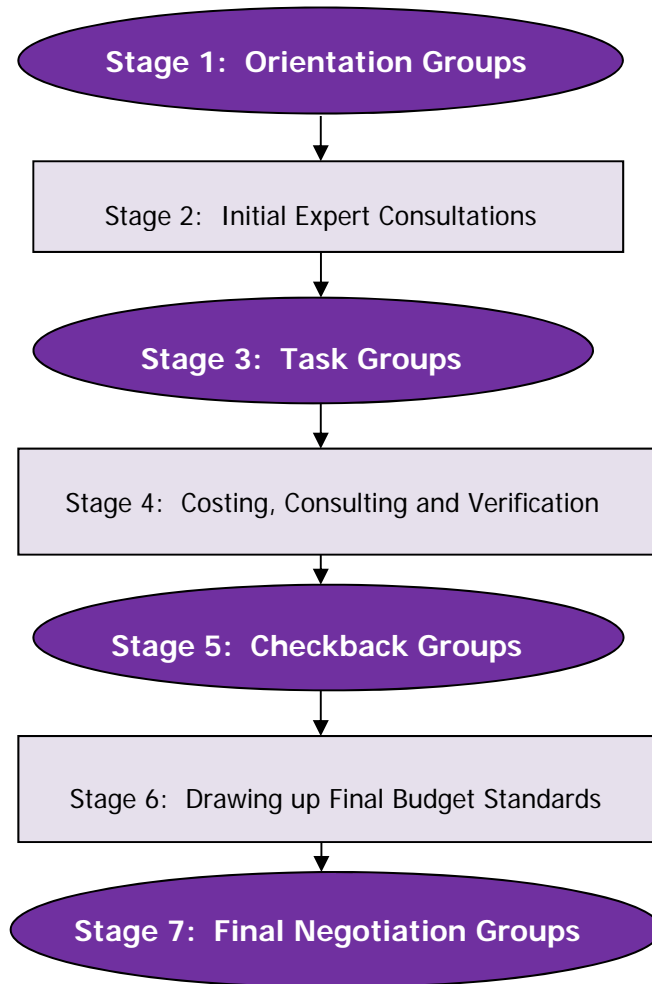
Identifying social consensus

- Socially mixed, demographically similar groups
- Projection rather than preferences
- Collaborating to build a case study around what is needed in a home
- Negotiation and discussion where initial differences
- Check-back and resolution of differences by subsequent groups

Distinguishing needs from wants

'A minimum standard of living in Britain today includes, but is more than just, food, clothes and shelter. It is about having what you need in order to have the opportunities and choices necessary to participate in society.'

An iterative process

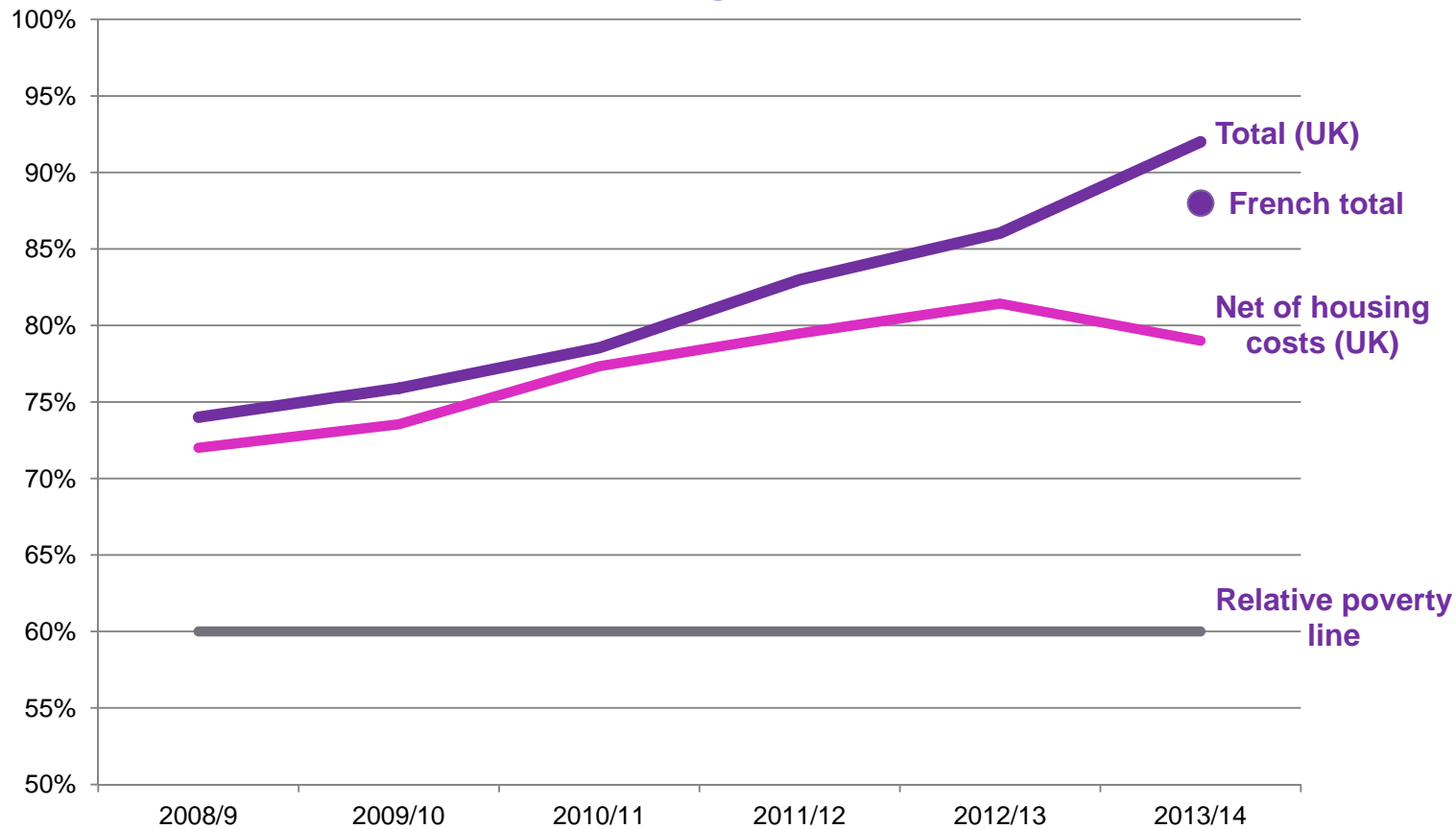


Change over time

- 2008 original research
- Updated annually with inflation – figures every July
- Review every two years – what items need to be added or subtracted?
- Full ‘rebasings’ every 4 years (fresh research starting from scratch)

What level is MIS compared to the poverty line?

Minimum budgets as % of median equivalised income, single person

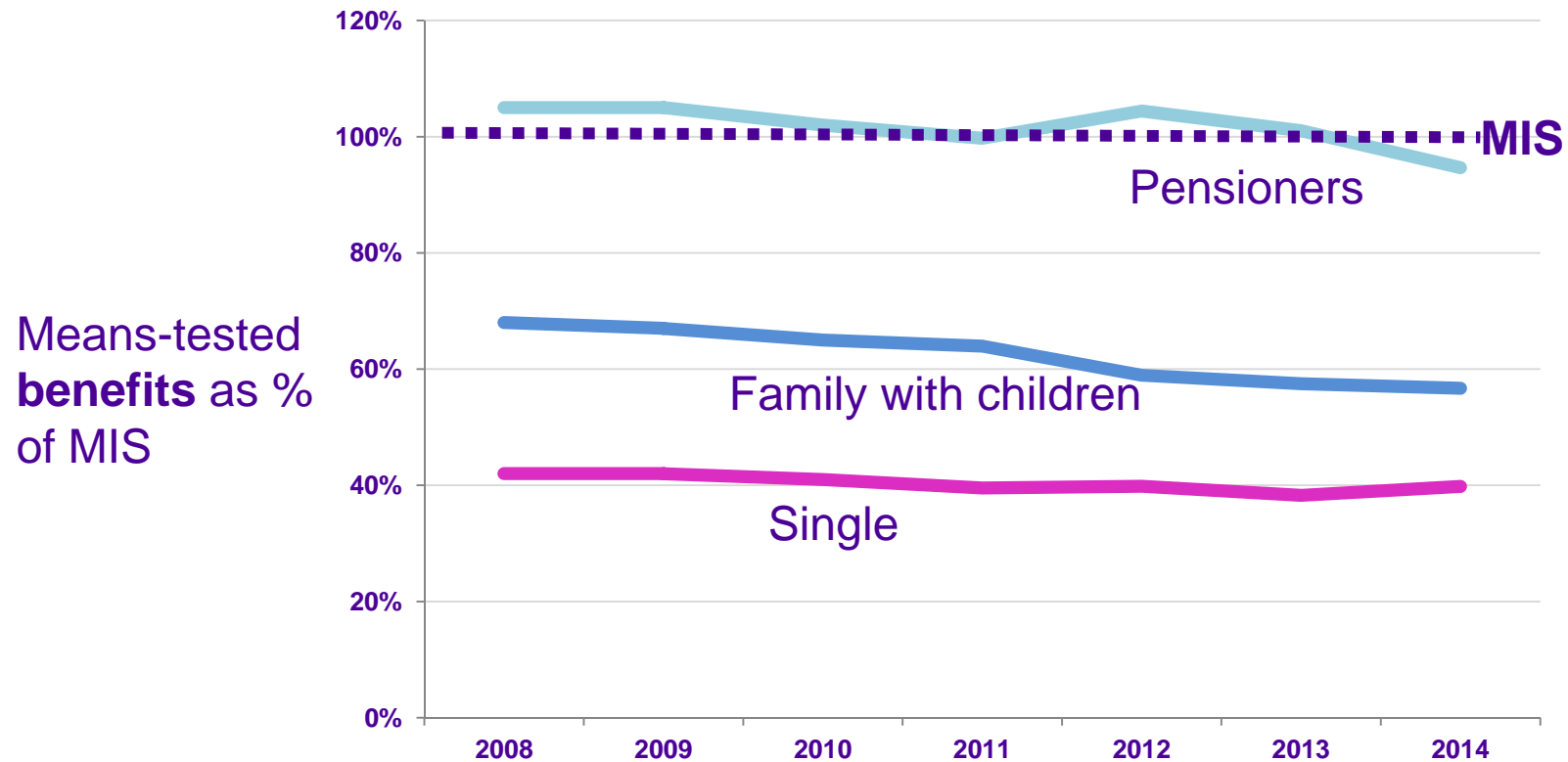


Used for

- Debate about trends in living standards
- To set a voluntary UK Living Wage
- Charities giving financial aid

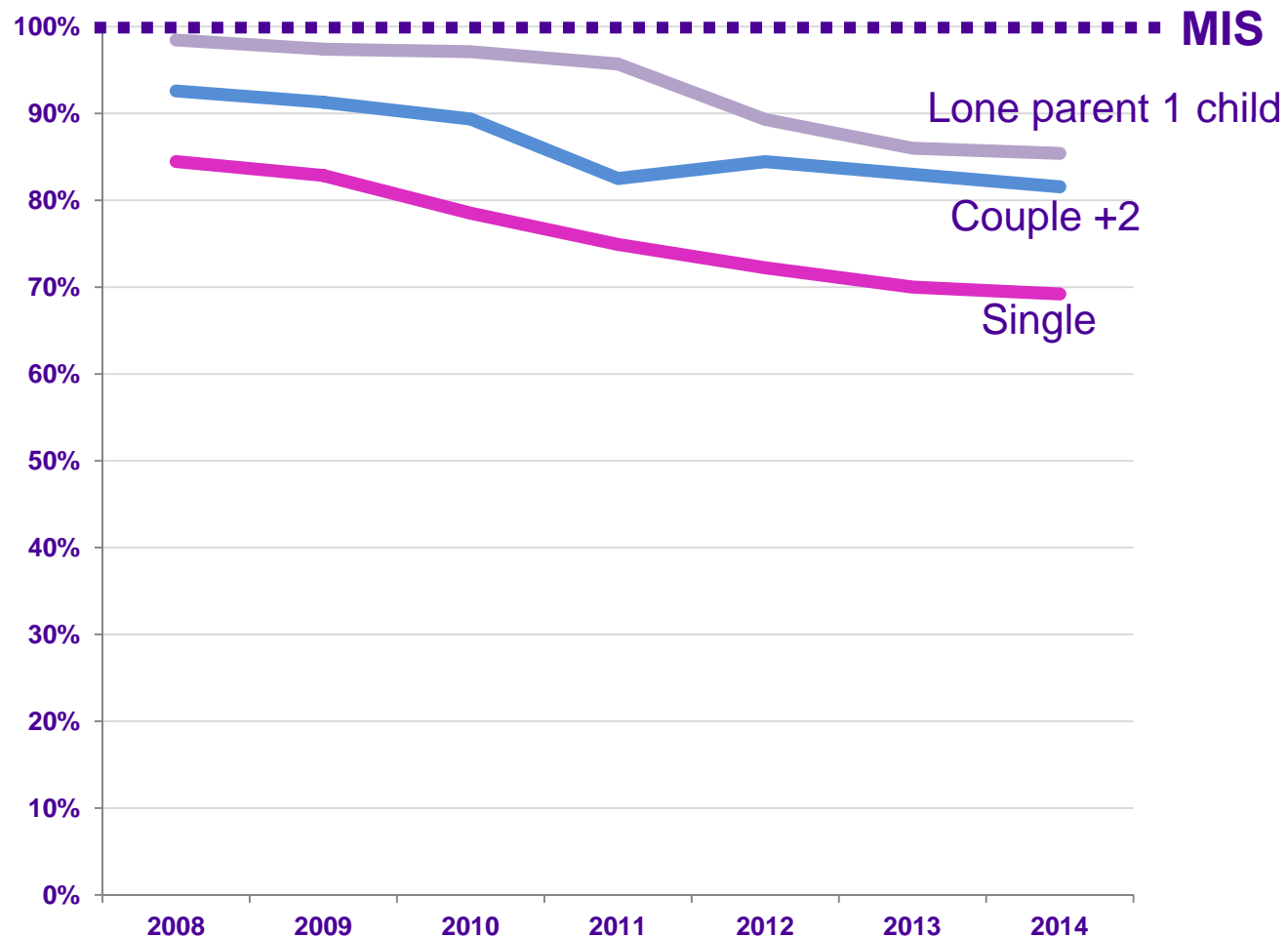
Trend in safety-net support

Key finding: benefit support varies greatly by group and across time



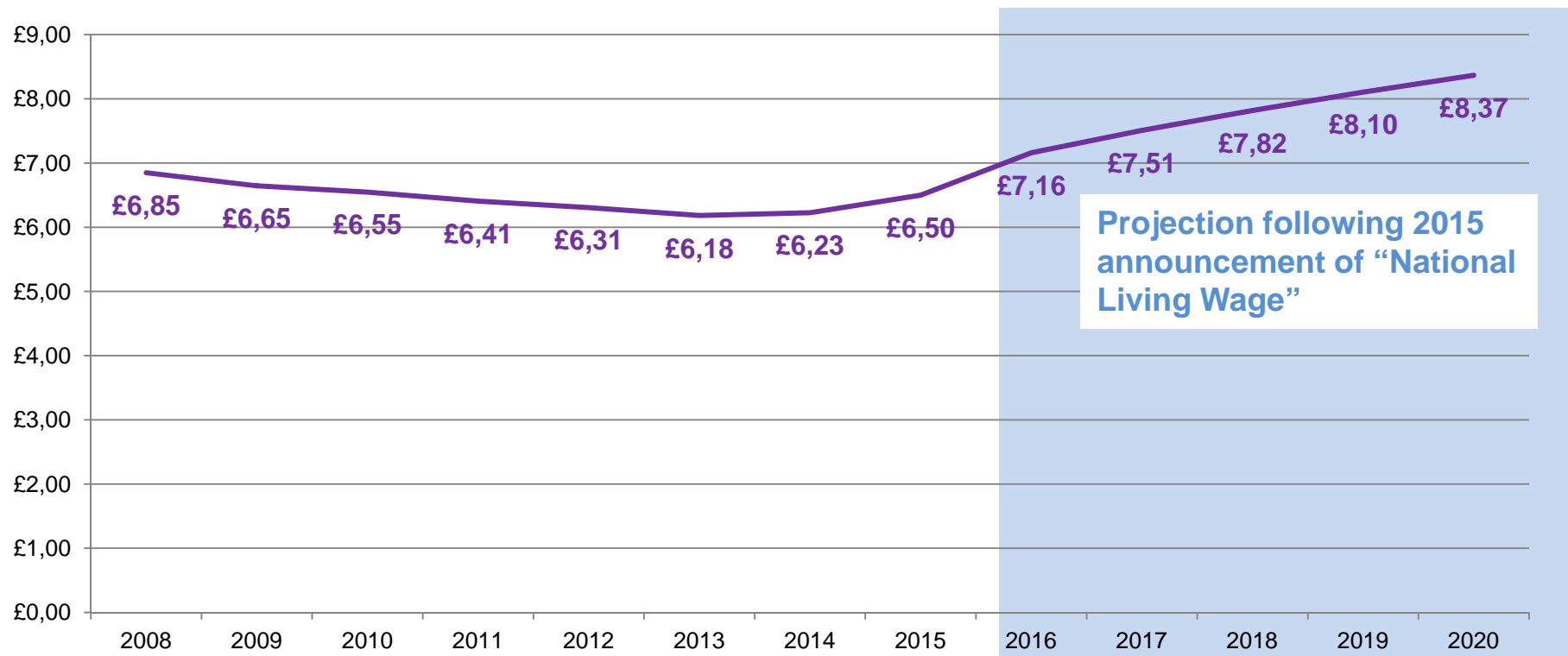
Trend in adequacy of full-time working income

Disposable income working full time on **National Minimum Wage**, as % of MIS



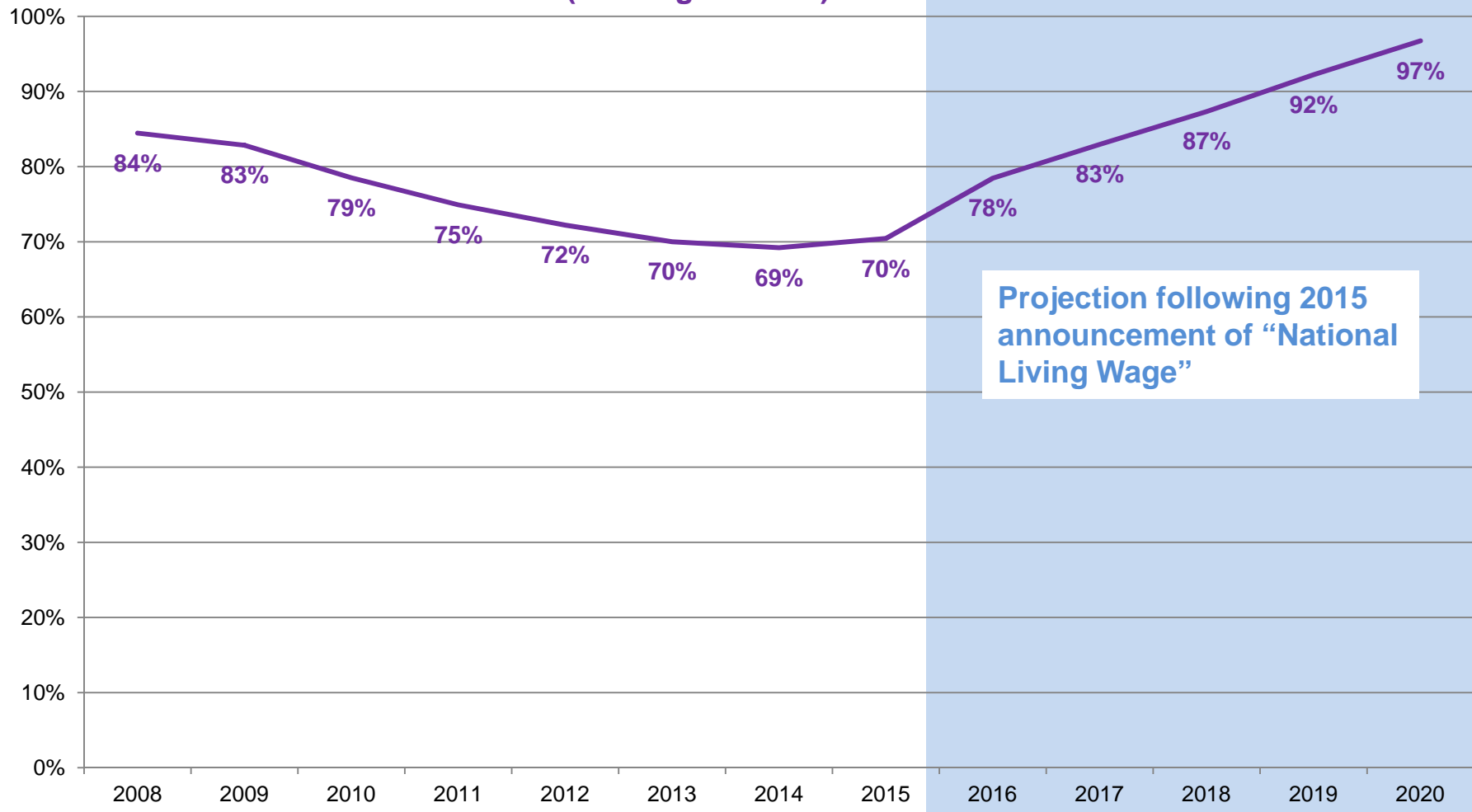
Impact?

National Minimum Wage in 2015 prices
(April, adult rate)



Impact?

Income of single adult on National Minimum Wage as % of MIS
(working full time)



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