



Ireland's Market Model Today

Sources

National data

- Pobal
- GUI
- Government publications

Interviews

- 22 managers
- 45 services
- Varied, not representative

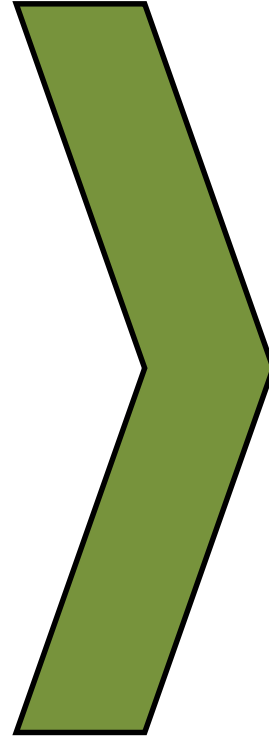


Key messages

Market model

Not seen as a profession

Low public investment



Variable quality

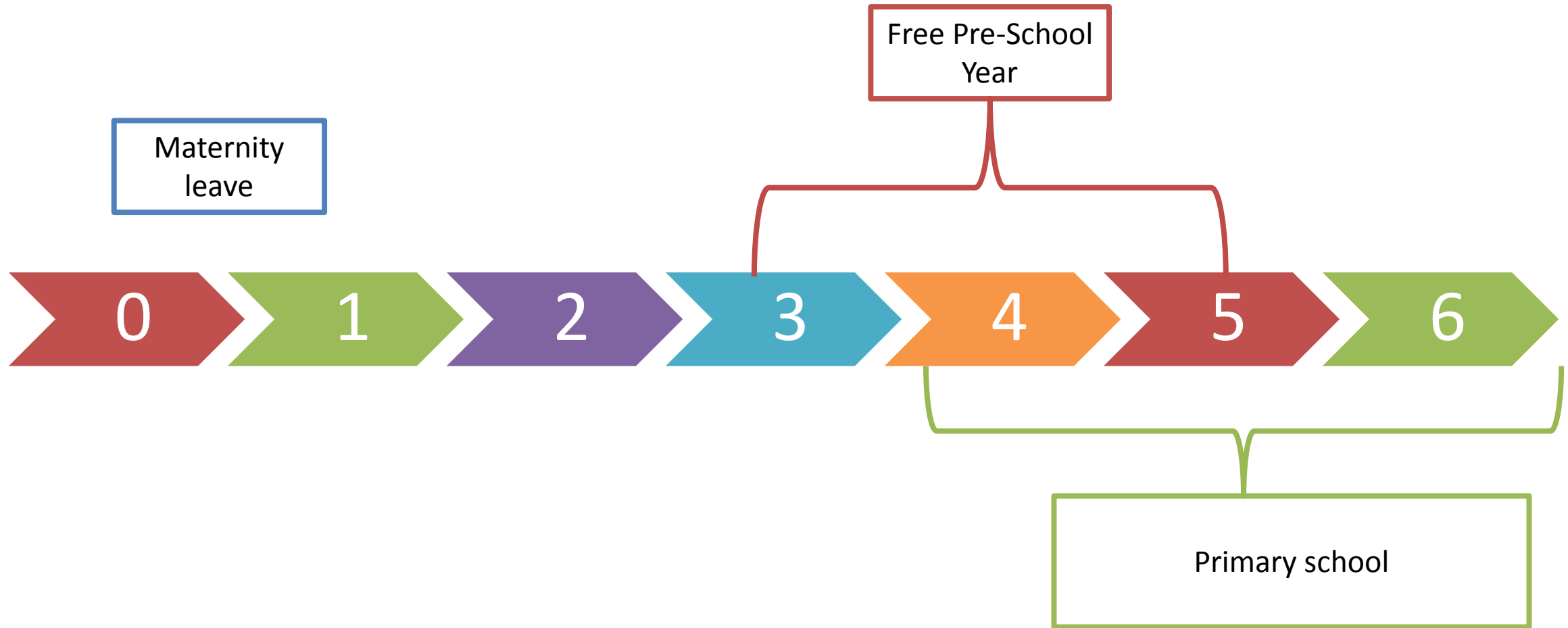
High parental fees

Unequal access

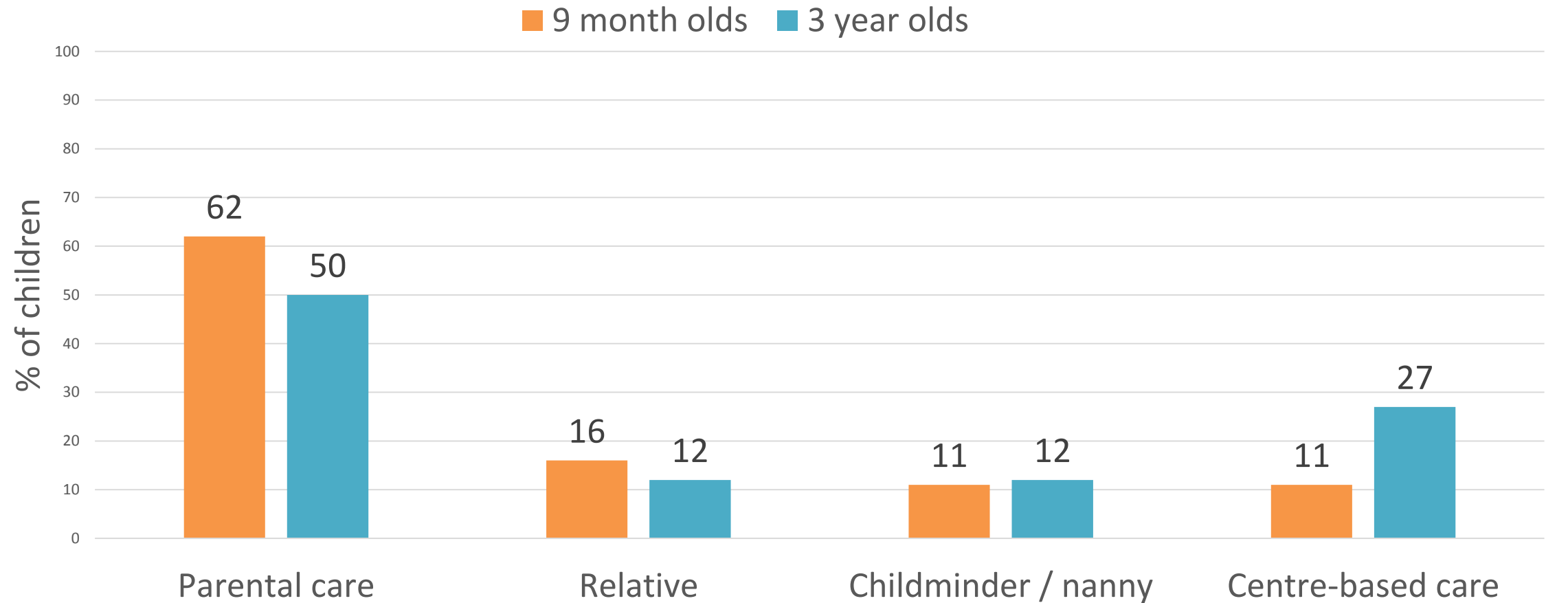
BUT Free Pre-School Year has changed relationship of Government and providers



Settings – by age of the child



Main 'childcare' at 9 months and 3 years



How many early years providers?

Centre-based

4,500 services (some
now in primary schools)

24,000 educators

135,000 children

Childminders

194 notified

19,000 ?
non-regulated

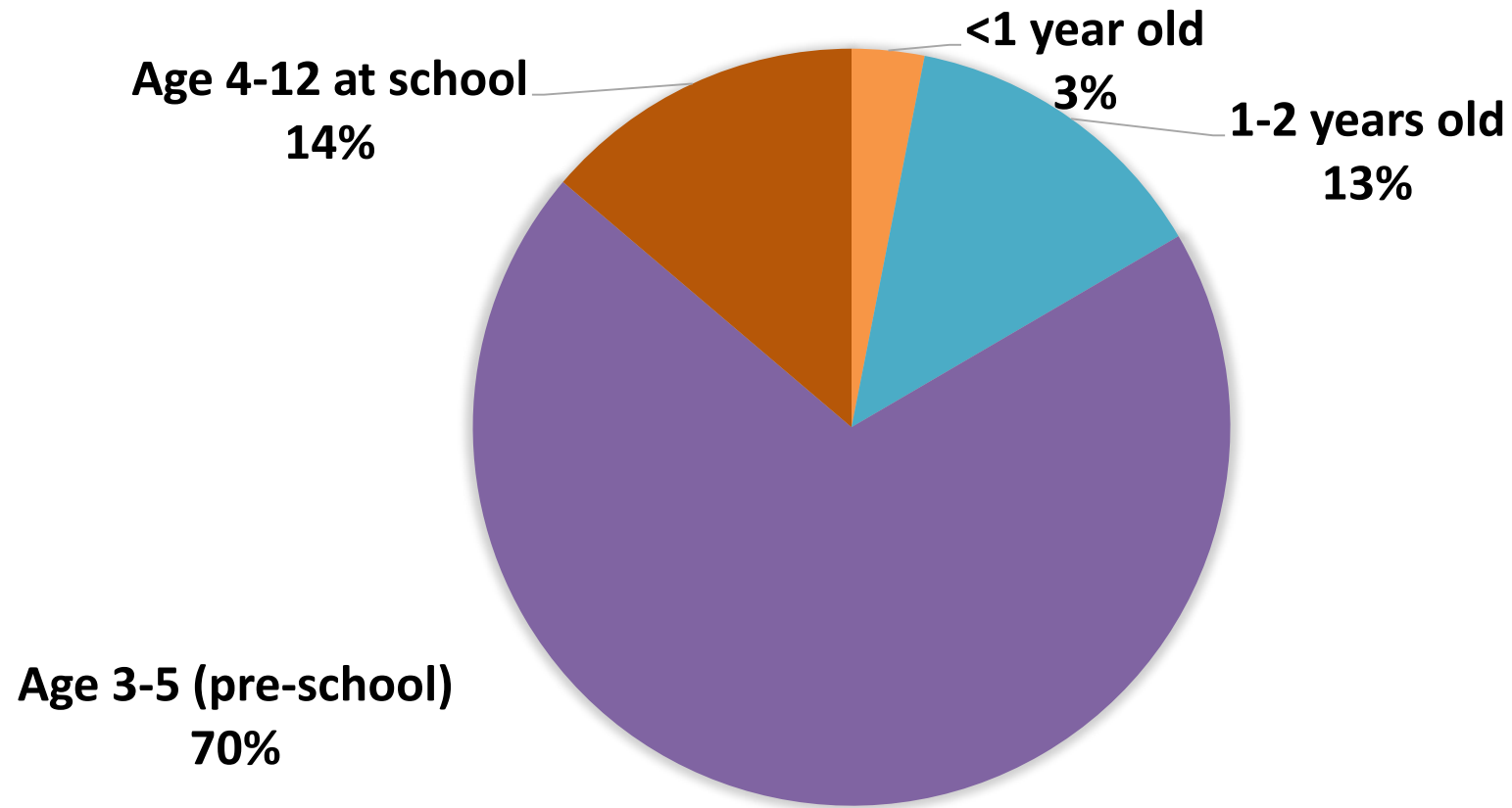
50,000 ? children
aged 0-6

Primary schools

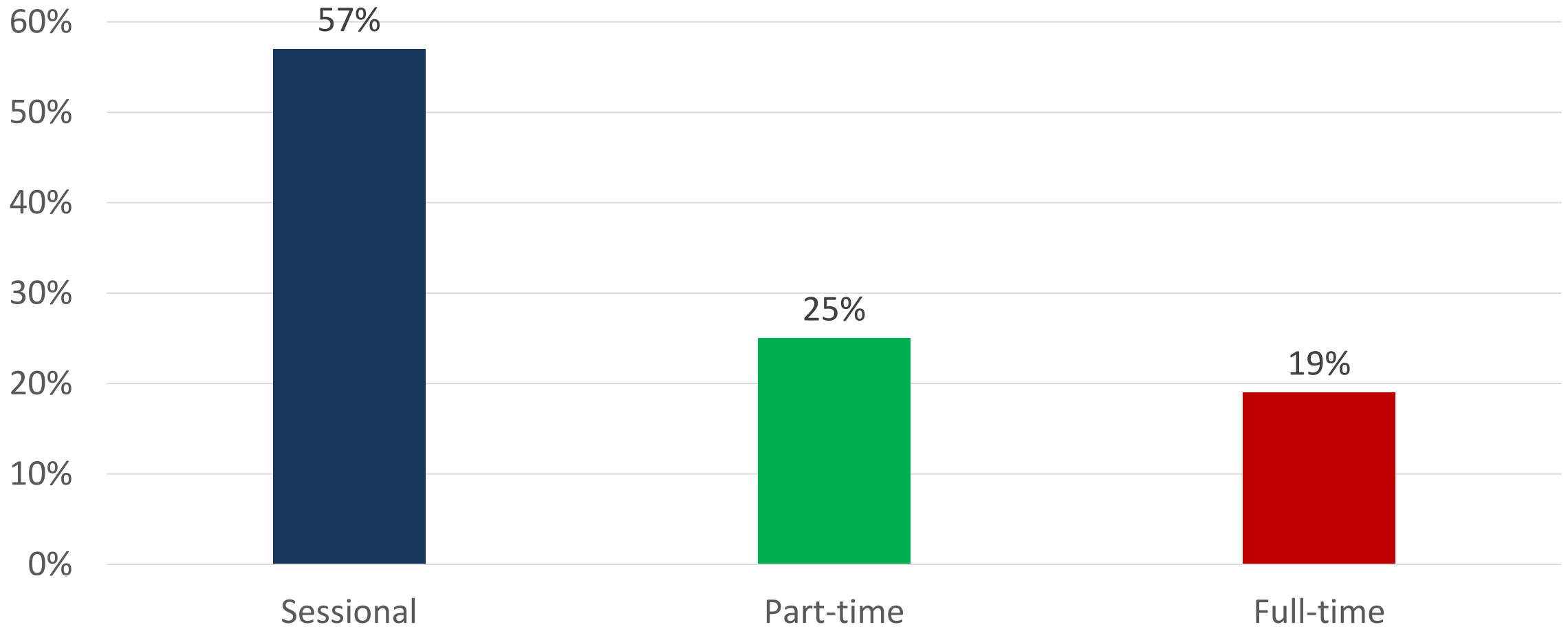
100,000 children
aged 4 - 5



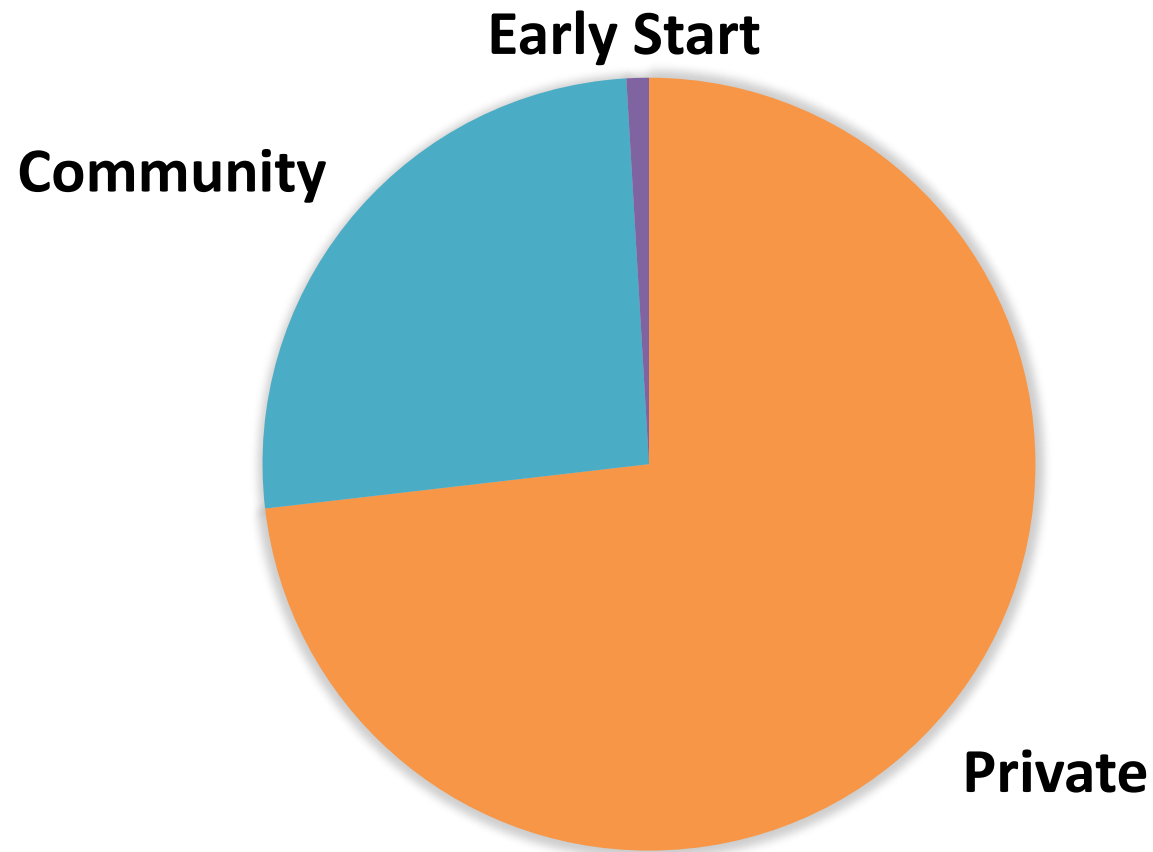
Age of children in centre-based services



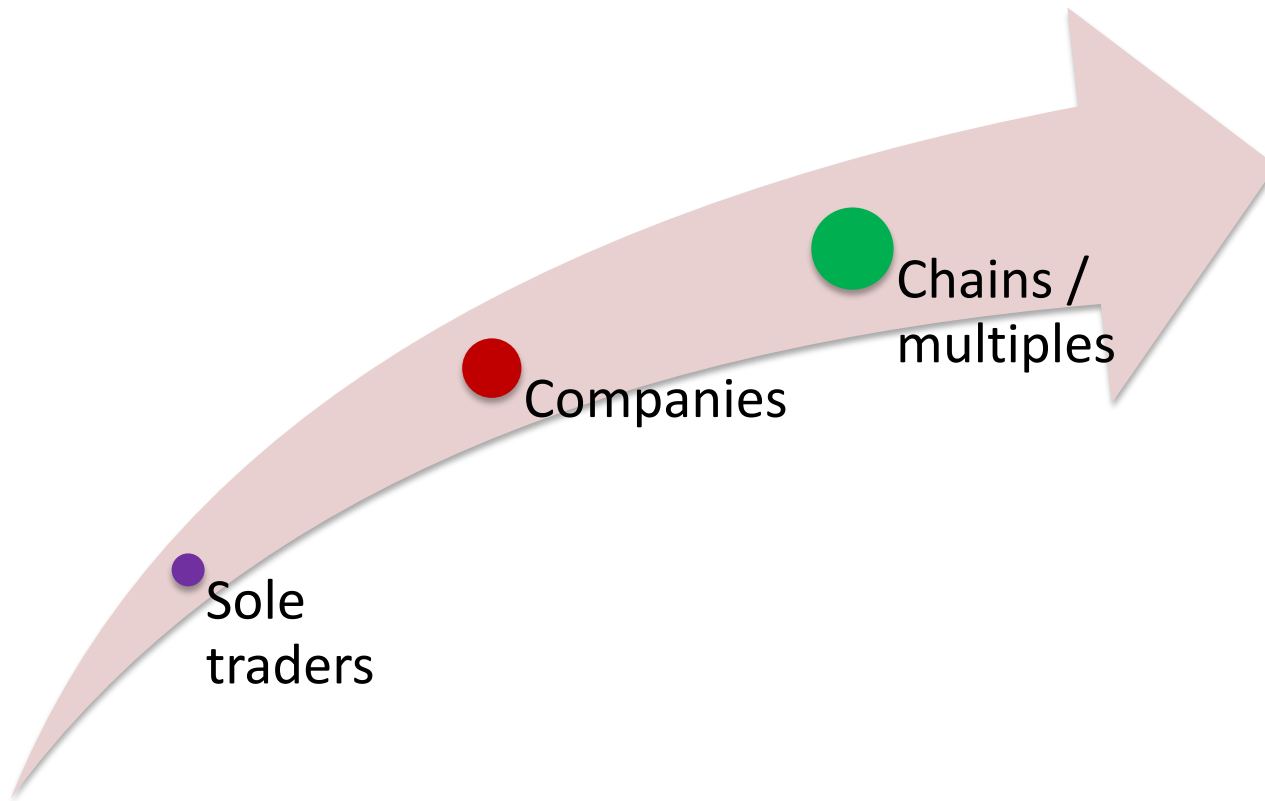
Time per day in centre-based care



Centre-based care: management



Size of services / companies



Case studies

Sole trader – 22 children – Free Pre-School Year only – Owner/manager + 2 sessional staff

Community service – 47 children – 22 in Free Pre-School Year, 10 full-time, 15 after-school – 4 full-time staff, 5 part-time

Private company – chain with 4 sites – 594 children, but 394 on any day, and 311 places – 78 staff

From 22 to 167 children



Sources of funding

Private

Free Pre-School Year

Parental fees

TEC (CETS)

Community

Free Pre-School Year

CCS

Parental fees

CWO, CE scheme

TEC (CETS)

Early Start

Wages paid by
Government

Capitation grant
paid by Government



Affordability

Access

Coordination

No limits set –
fees highest
in EU

No entitlements
to places

No coordination
of service
provision

except in FPSY
and CETS

Community
services –
patchy coverage

Childminders
invisible



Wages for staff

Level 5 starting
€9 - €10.50 / hr
Many laid off in
summer


More senior staff
€11-€17 / hr

Service managers
€28,500-38,000

Primary school / Early Start
STARTING salary for teachers = € 30,700




Profits for owners / owner-managers

- 
- Some draw no wage at all
 - Case study: €13,000 for 38 weeks

Case study:

Owners draw salaries comparable to service managers, with max. annual profit €42,000



Case study:
Income
€500,000
Expenditure
€350,000



Variable quality

Limited data on
quality -

Neylon (2014)
study,
observations

Inspection
reports

No quality
audit / monitor

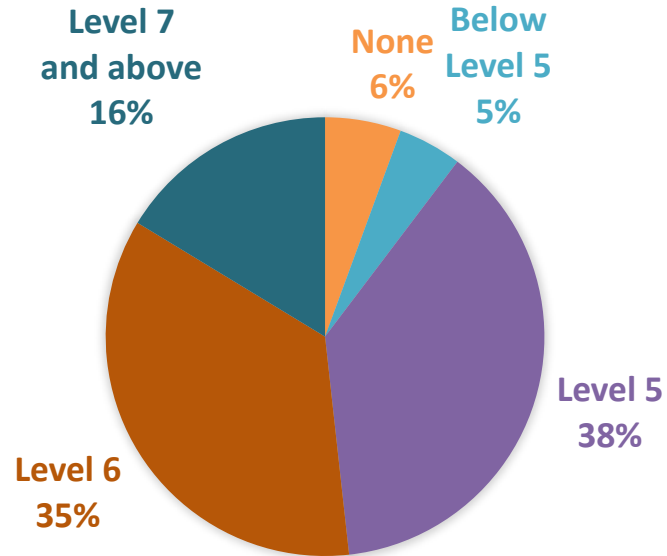
Ratios

Qualification
levels

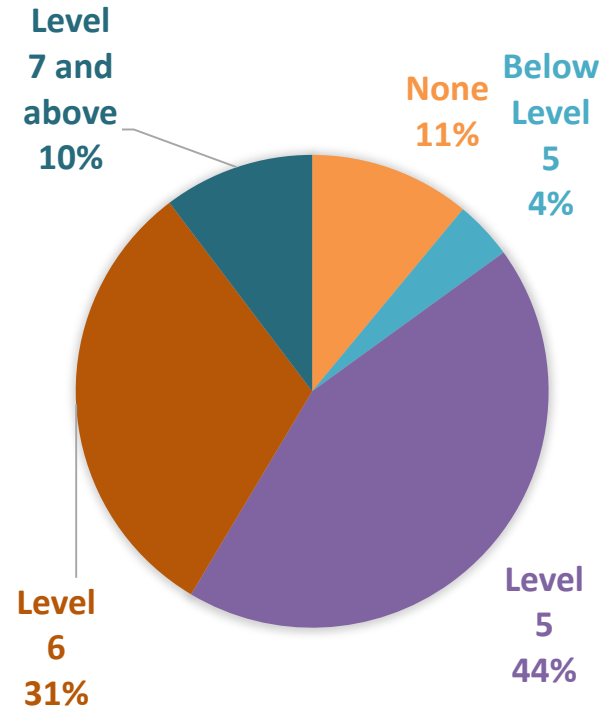


Staff qualifications

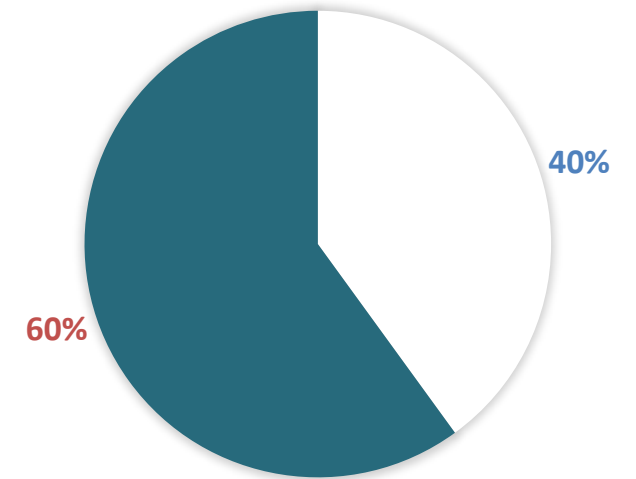
Private



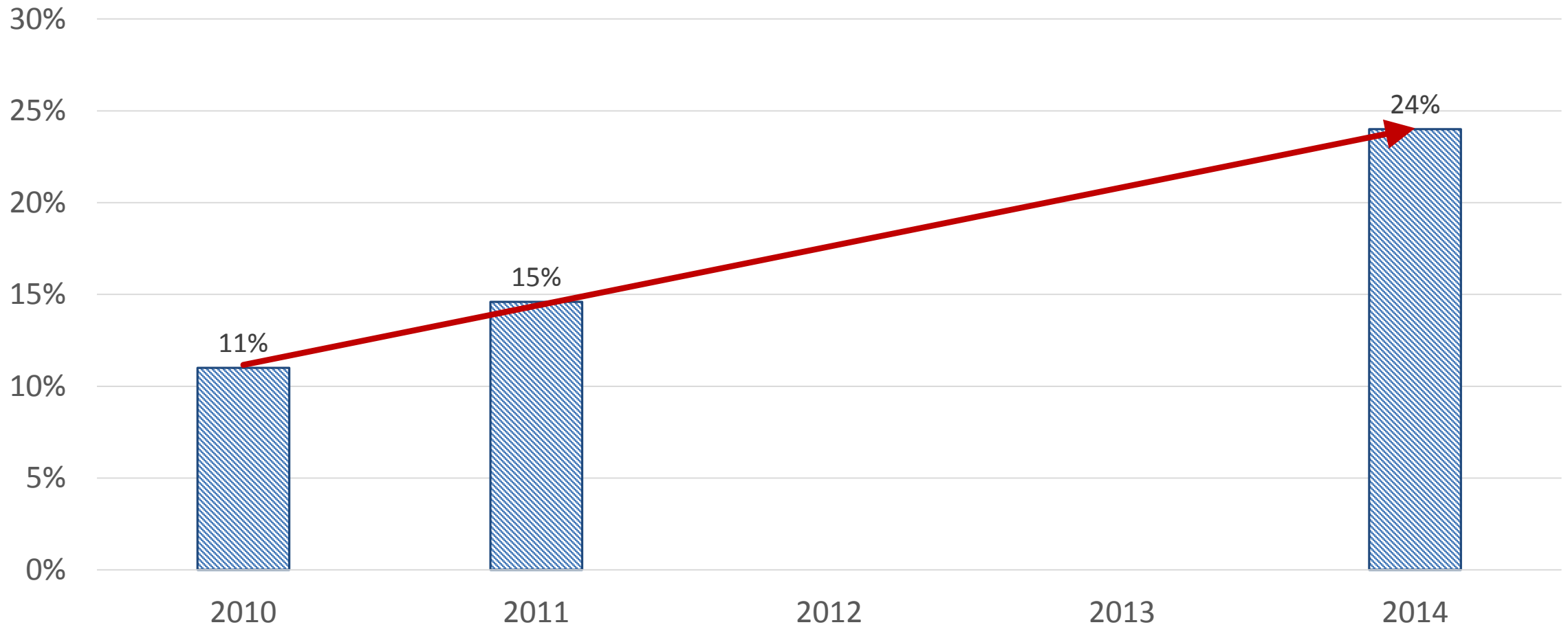
Community



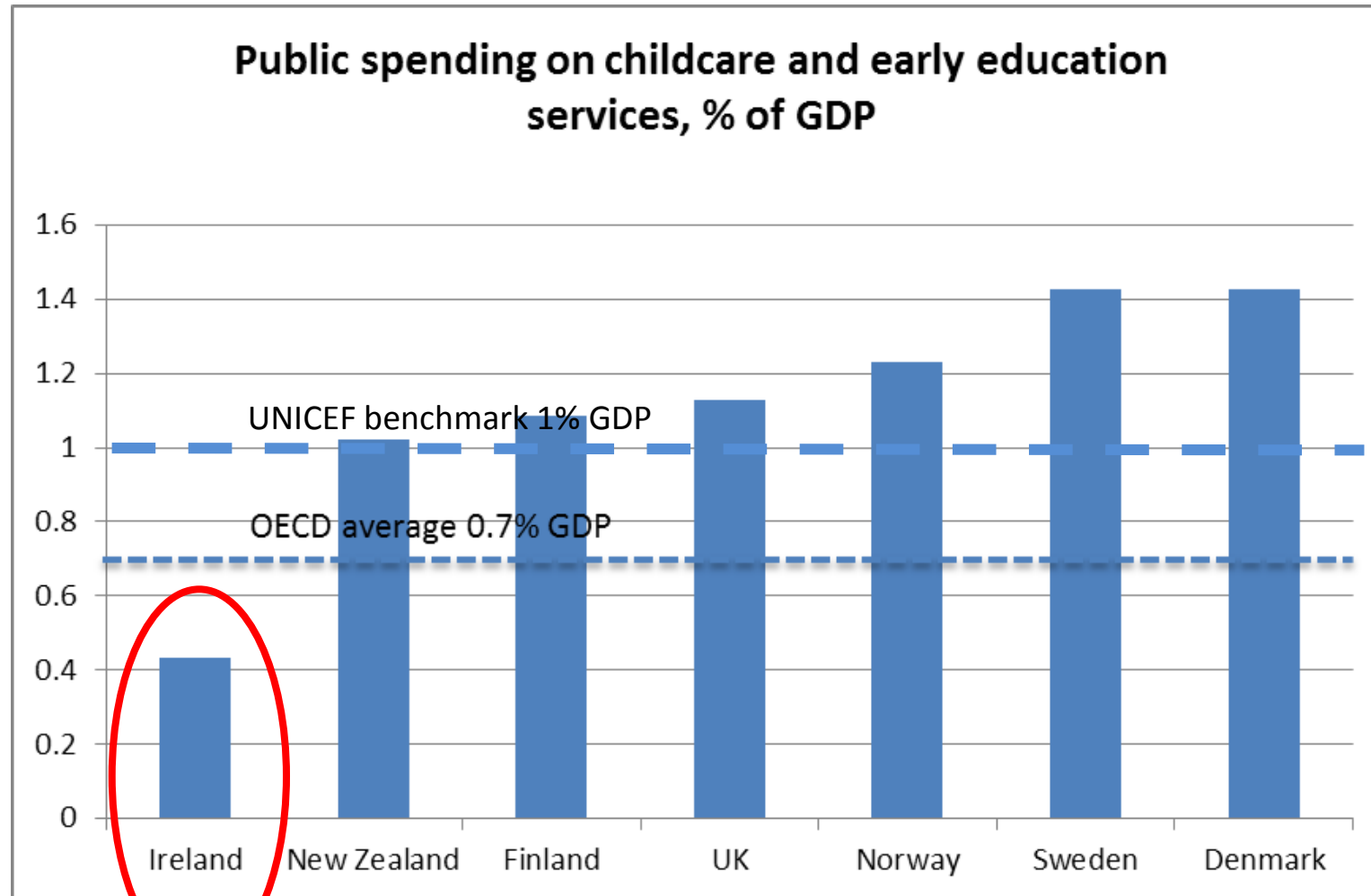
EU - CoRe



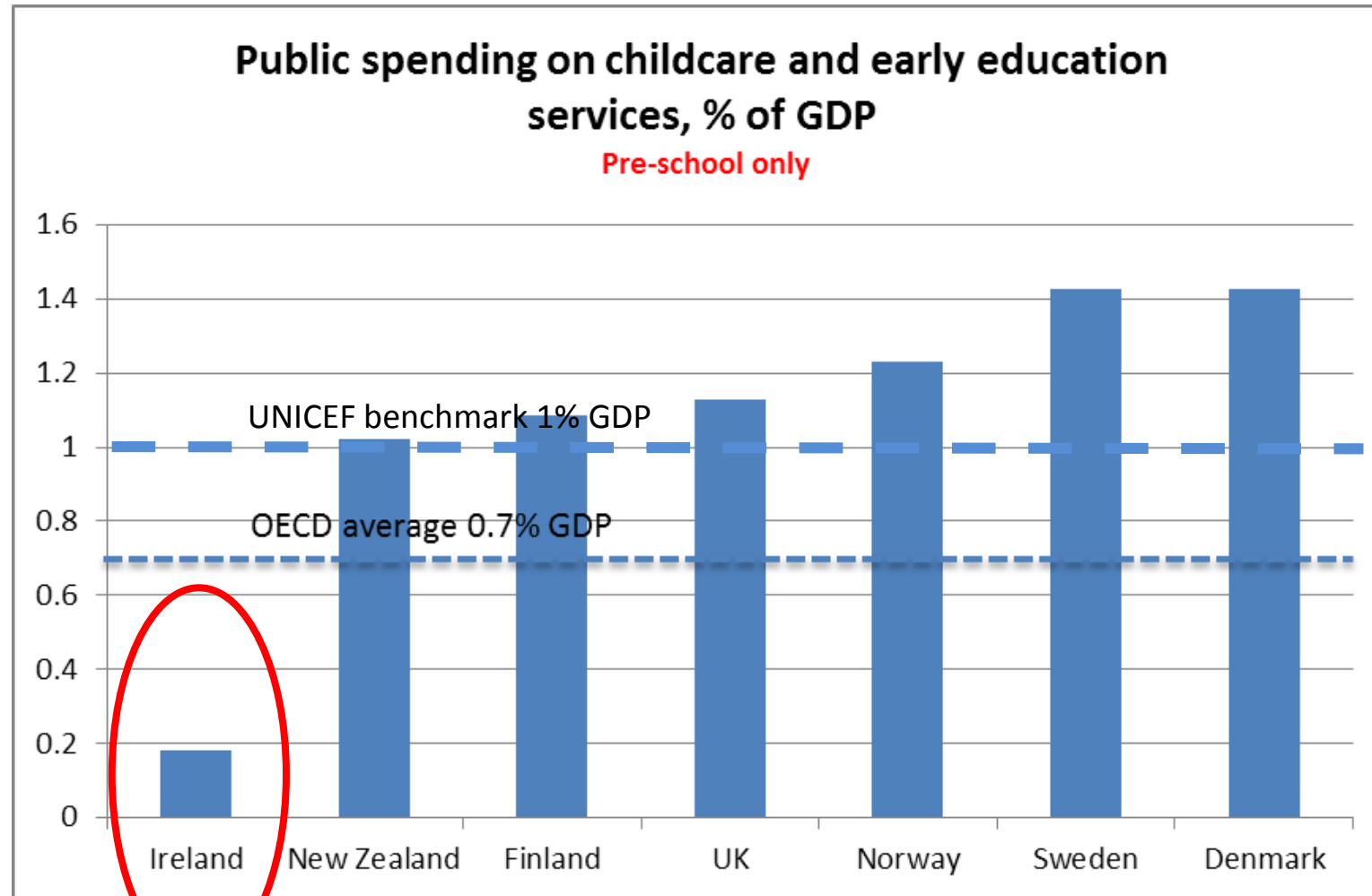
Rising % of services receiving Higher Capitation Grant



Public investment in ECEC



Public investment – *pre-school only*

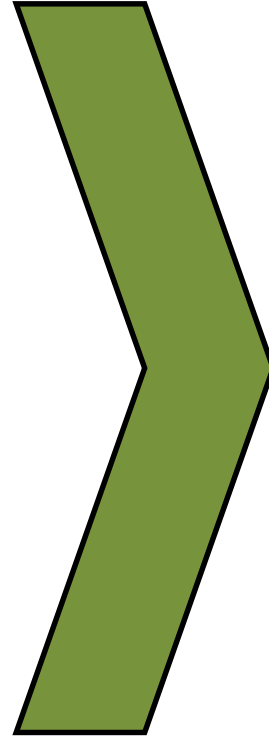


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