



# **How equitably are income, expenditure and personal well-being distributed in GB society?**

**Lucy Tinkler  
Office for National Statistics  
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# Aim of research

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Regression analysis from ONS Effects of Taxes and Benefits dataset April 2011/12 examining the relationship between personal well-being and:

**Household Income**

**Household Expenditure**

**The proportion of household income received in cash benefits from the state**

# ONS Personal well-being questions

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**Overall, how satisfied are you with your life nowadays?**

**Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?**

**Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?**

**Overall, to what extent do you feel the things you do in your life are worthwhile?**

Scale 0-10

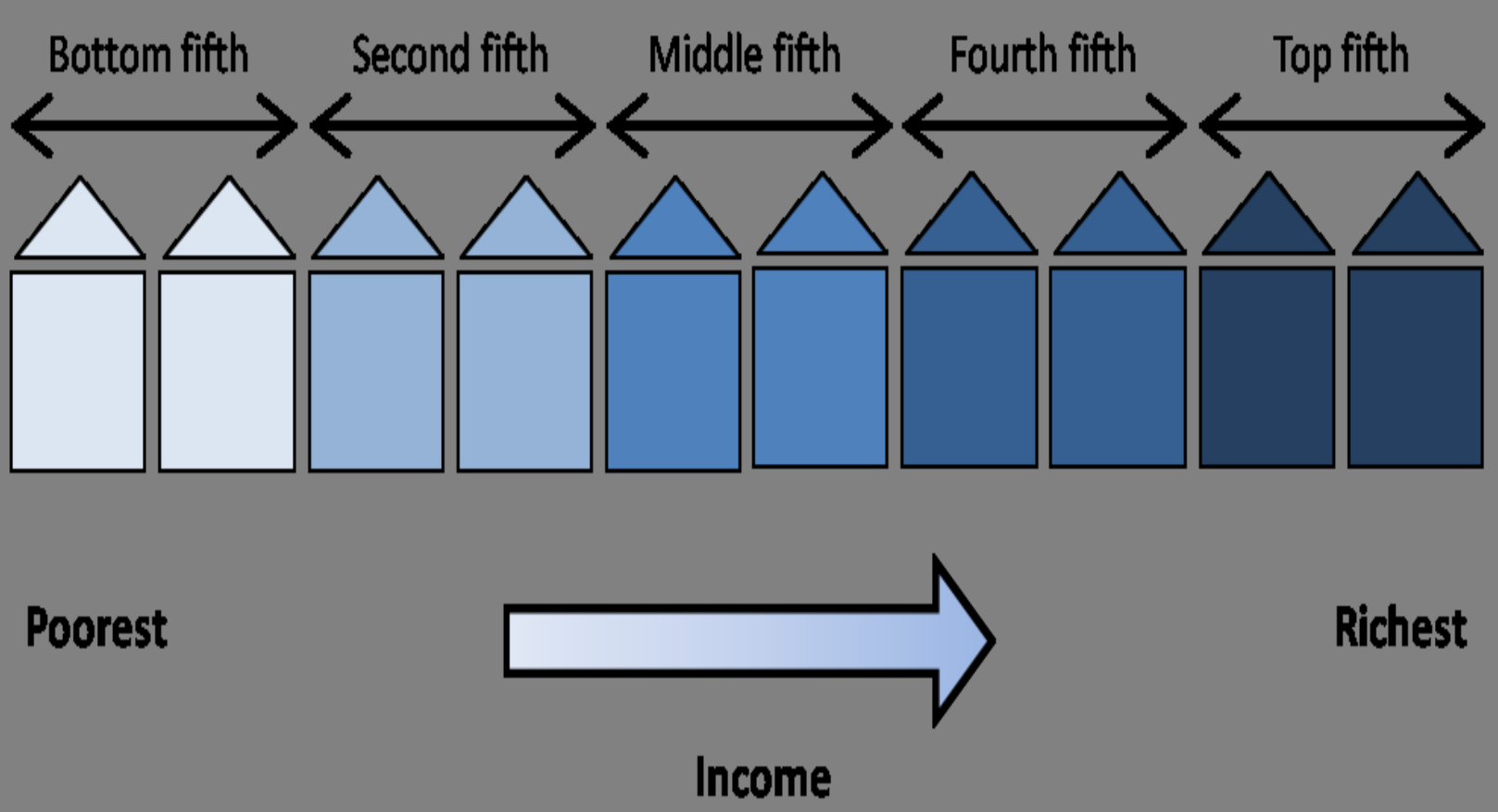
# Household Income and Expenditure

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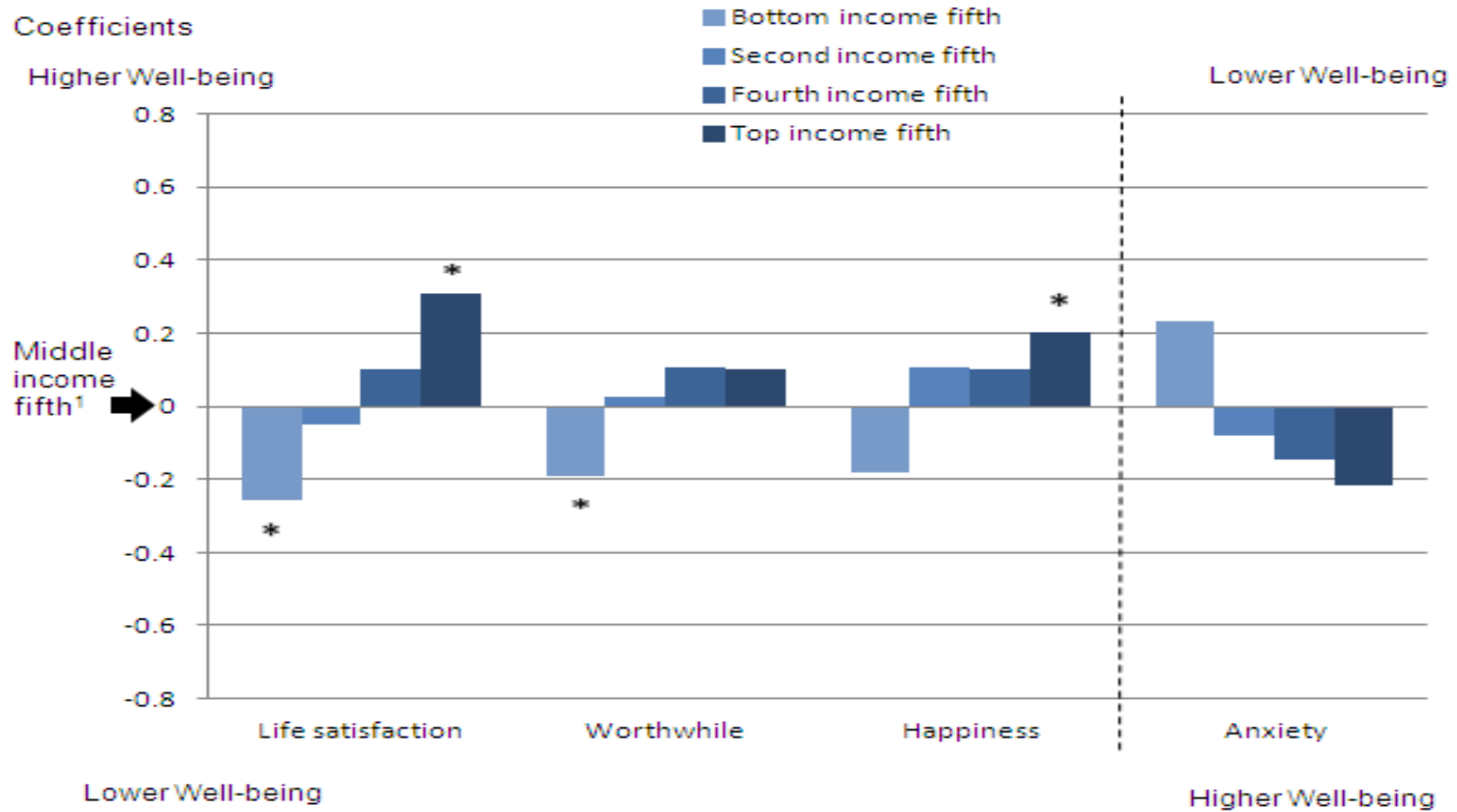


# Household income groups

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# Personal well-being and income



# Does it matter to personal well-being if income is received from state benefits?



- A higher proportion of income from cash benefits is associated with lower well-being
- Anxiety levels most strongly affected

Retired people excluded from this analysis

# Does receipt of benefits affect men's and women's well-being differently?

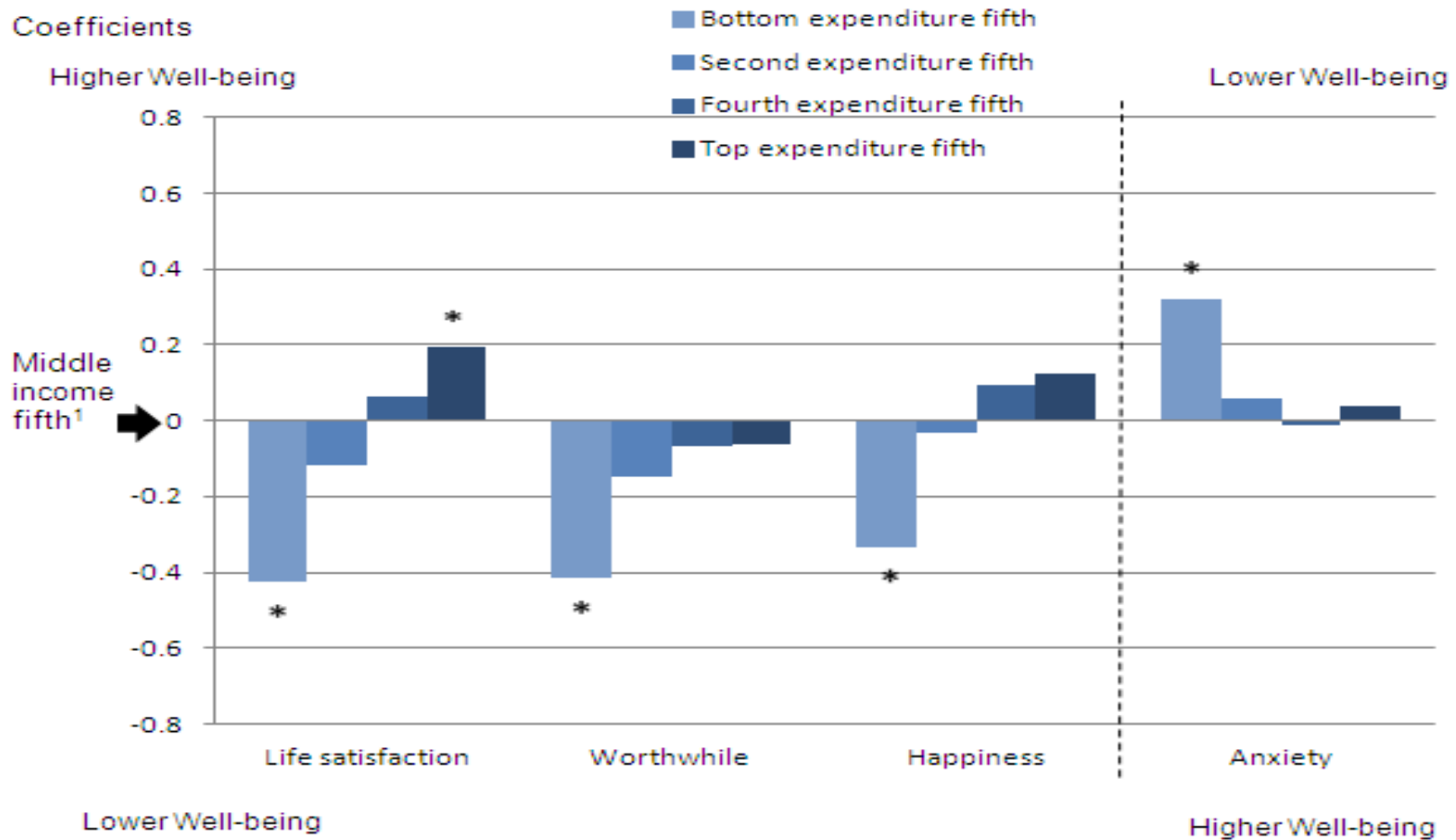
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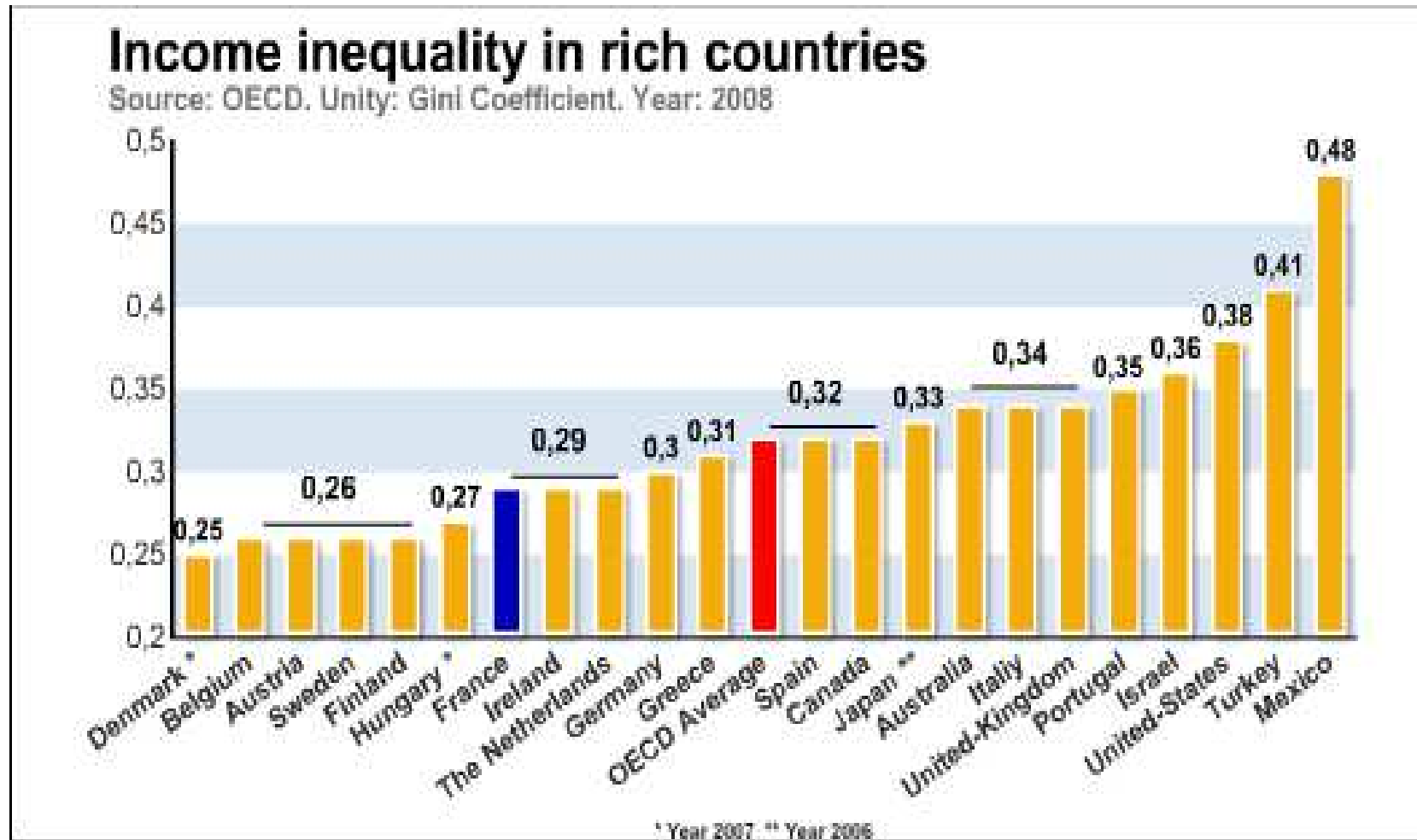
Retired people excluded from this analysis



# Personal well-being and expenditure



# International contact: income inequality



# In Summary

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- **People in the bottom income group have substantially lower well-being than people in the top**
- **The higher the proportion of income that people get from benefits the lower their well-being tends to be**
- **Expenditure raises people's well-being more than income**
- **Both Household income and expenditure should be considered in policy**

# Further Research & Policy Implications

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New area of investigation for ONS. Further work should be carried out to:

- **Explore the tipping point between spending and debt in relation to well-being & savings**
- **Explore how the receipt of benefits affects people's well-being**

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Questions?