

This PowerPoint file contains 35 of the more important graphs shown on The Equality Trust web site and/or published in the book by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better* (Penguin, 2009). We hope you will use them in talks, lectures or discussion groups to help increase people's understanding of the effects of inequality.

These slides are provided on condition that you acknowledge their source. We strongly recommend that you use them in conjunction with the book, which explains the relationships shown in the graphs.

As these slides represent many years of work and thought, we would be very grateful for donations to help The Equality Trust continue its work.

The Equality Trust is working to build a better society. By gaining a wider public understanding of the damaging effects of large inequalities of income and wealth, we can build support for policies to reduce them. As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, our work depends on generous donations from individuals and trusts which share our vision. You can **donate online** at www.equalitytrust.org.uk, using PayPal to make a secure credit or debit card payment.

Or you can send a cheque payable to The Equality Trust to us at 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EH, UK.

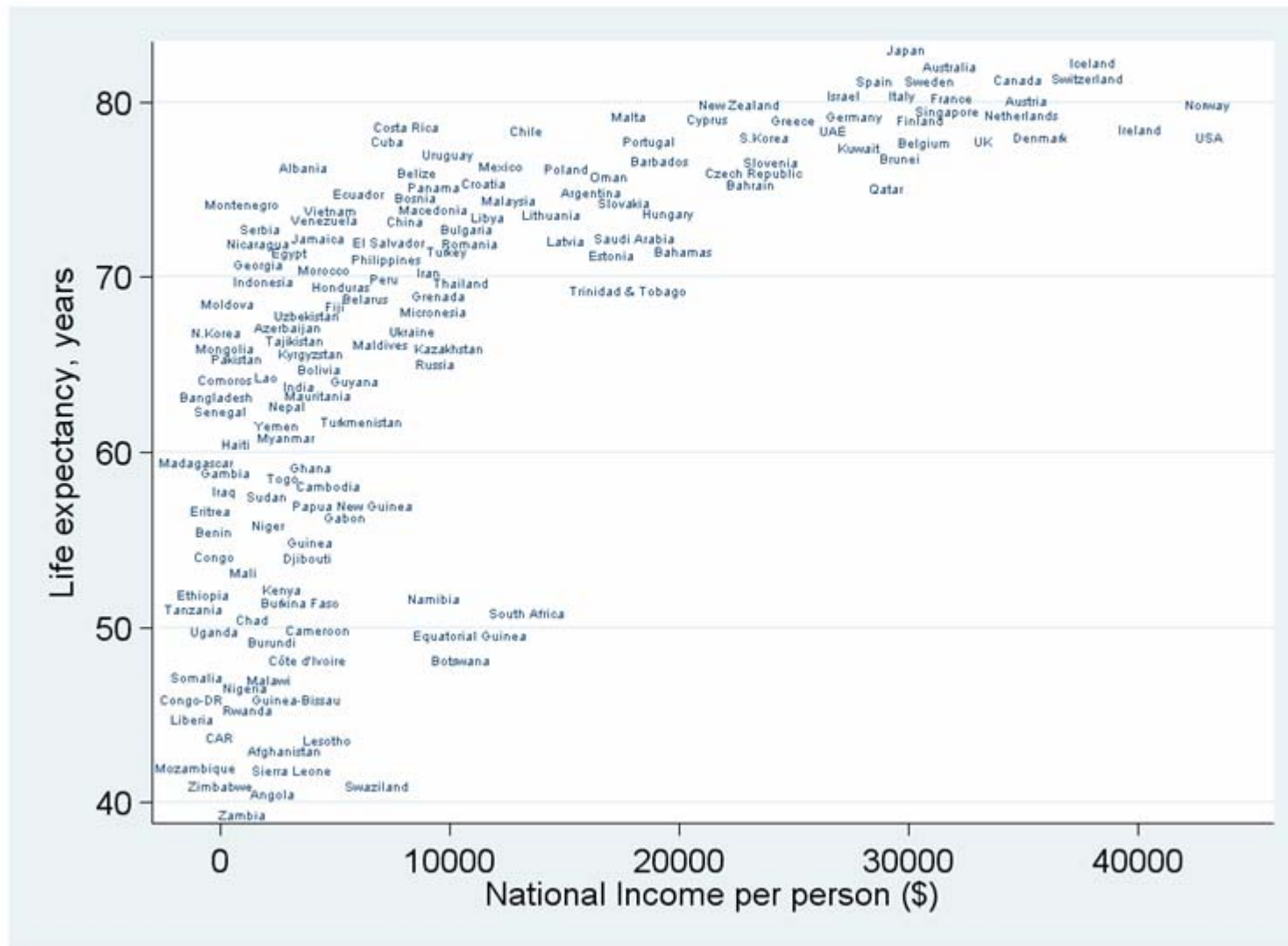
The Spirit Level

Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett



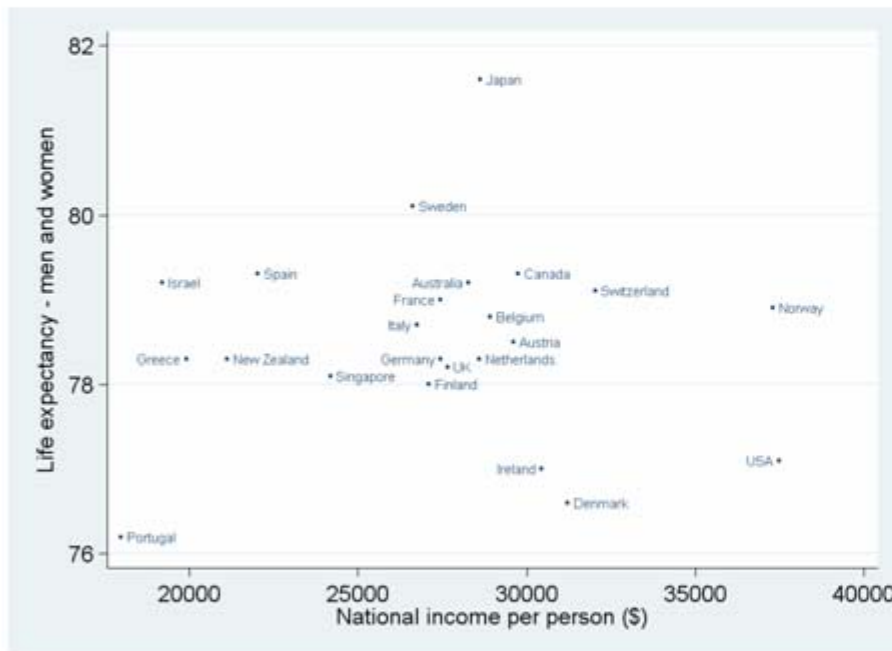
Income per head and life-expectancy: rich & poor countries



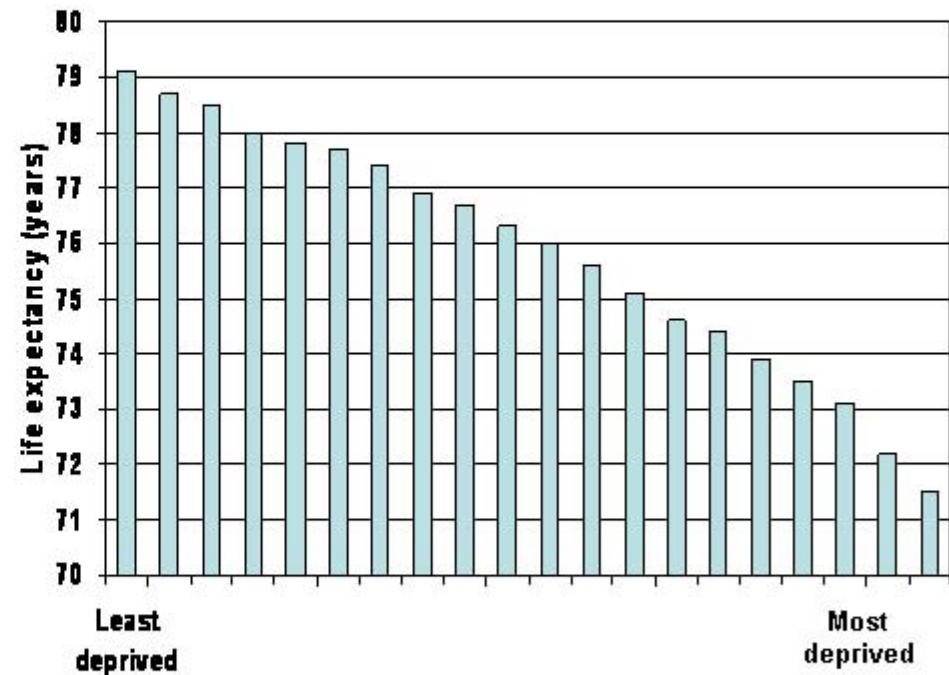
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Health is related to income differences *within* rich societies but not to those *between* them

Between (rich) societies

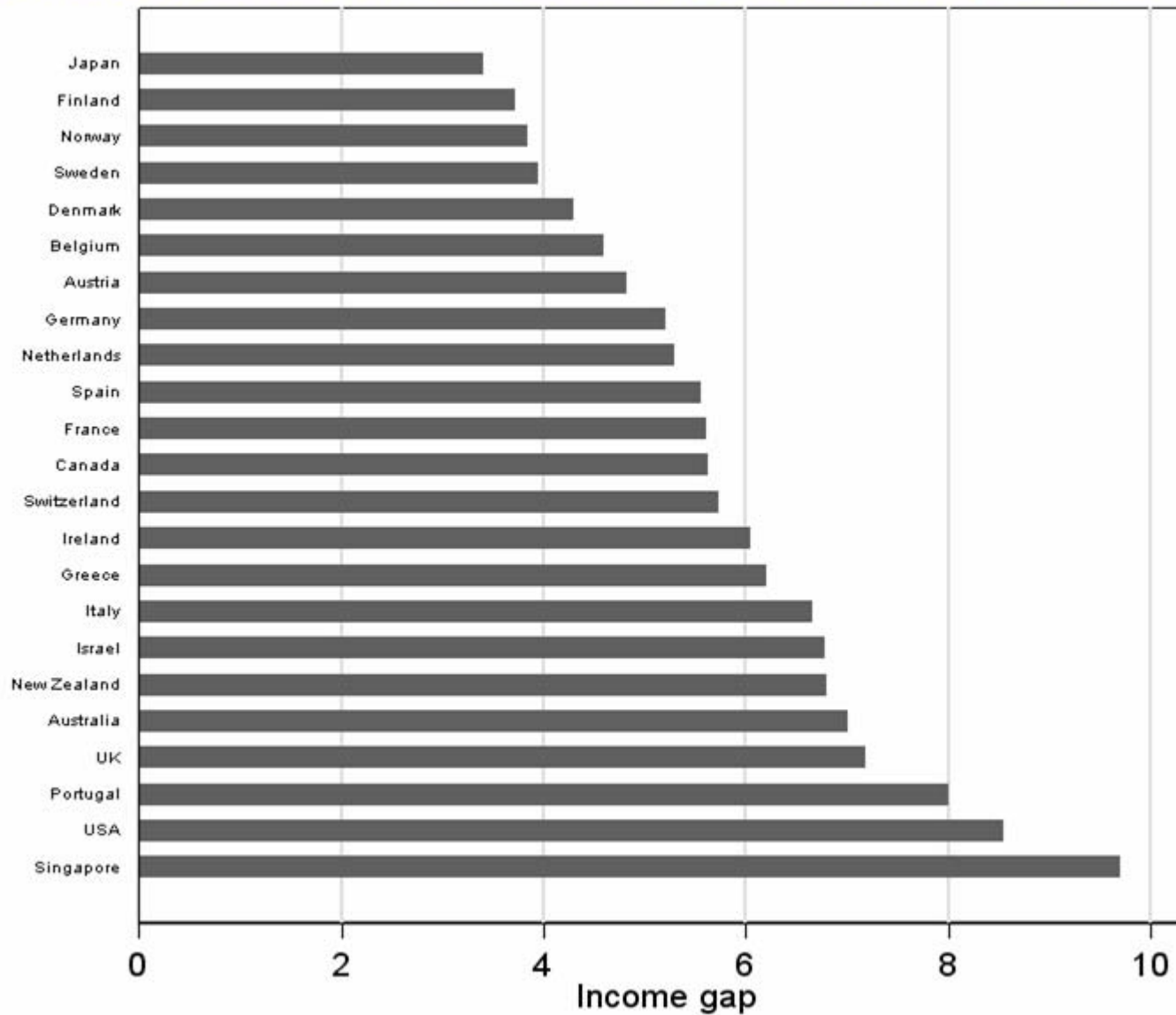


Within societies



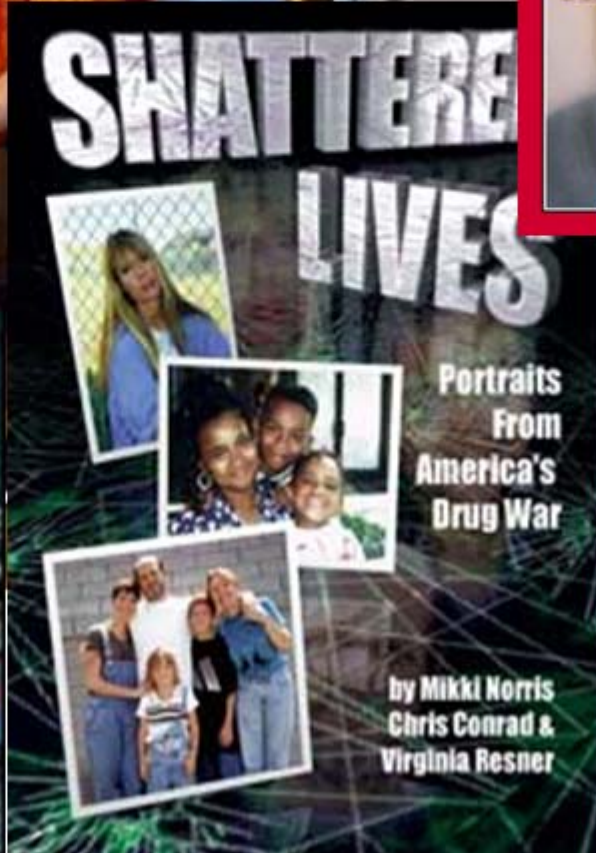
Electoral wards in England & Wales ranked by deprivation score

How much richer are the richest 20% than the poorest 20%?



Source: United Nations Development Program

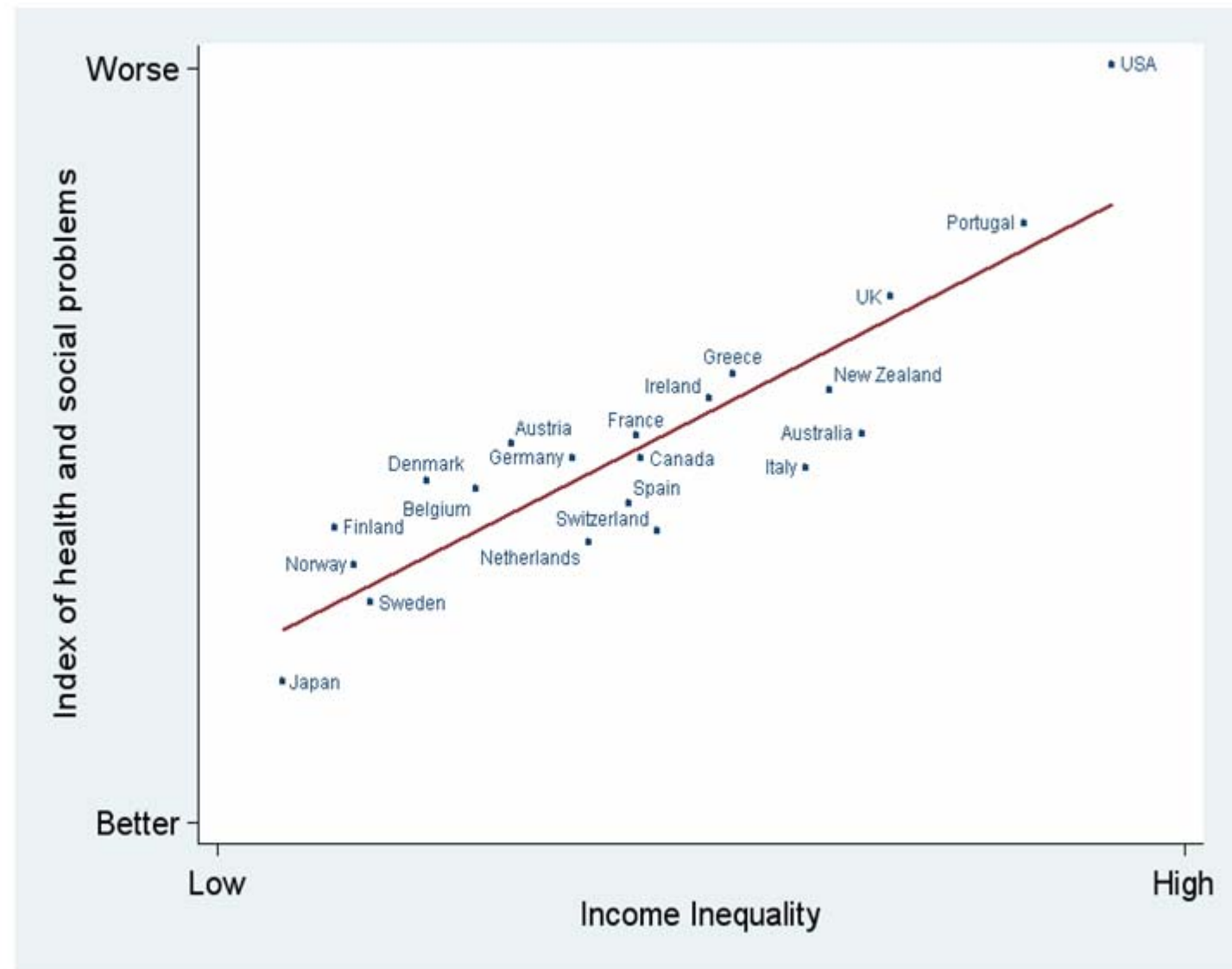
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)



Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal Countries

Index of:

- Life expectancy
- Math & Literacy
- Infant mortality
- Homicides
- Imprisonment
- Teenage births
- Trust
- Obesity
- Mental illness – incl. drug & alcohol addiction
- Social mobility

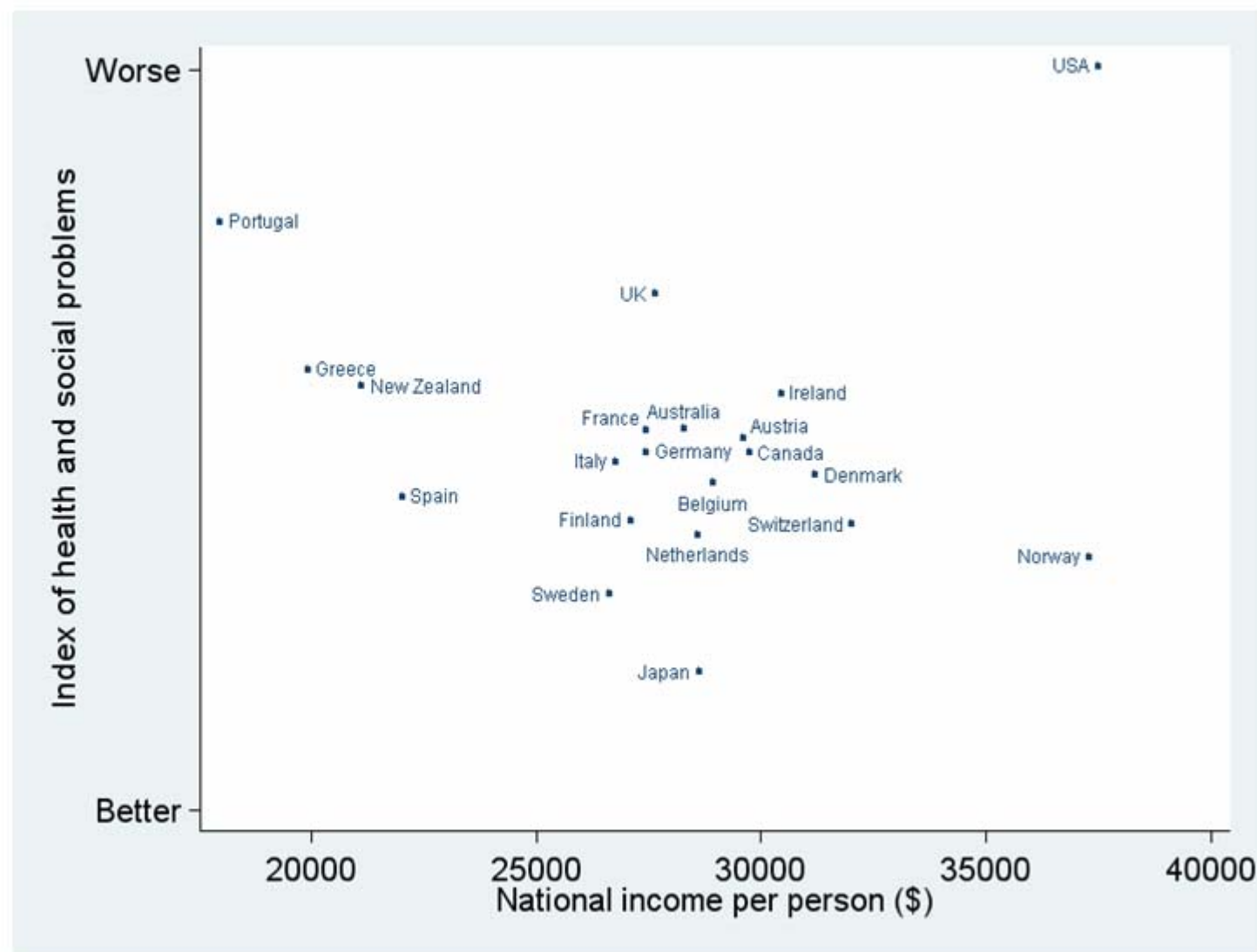


Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Health and Social Problems are not Related to Average Income in Rich Countries

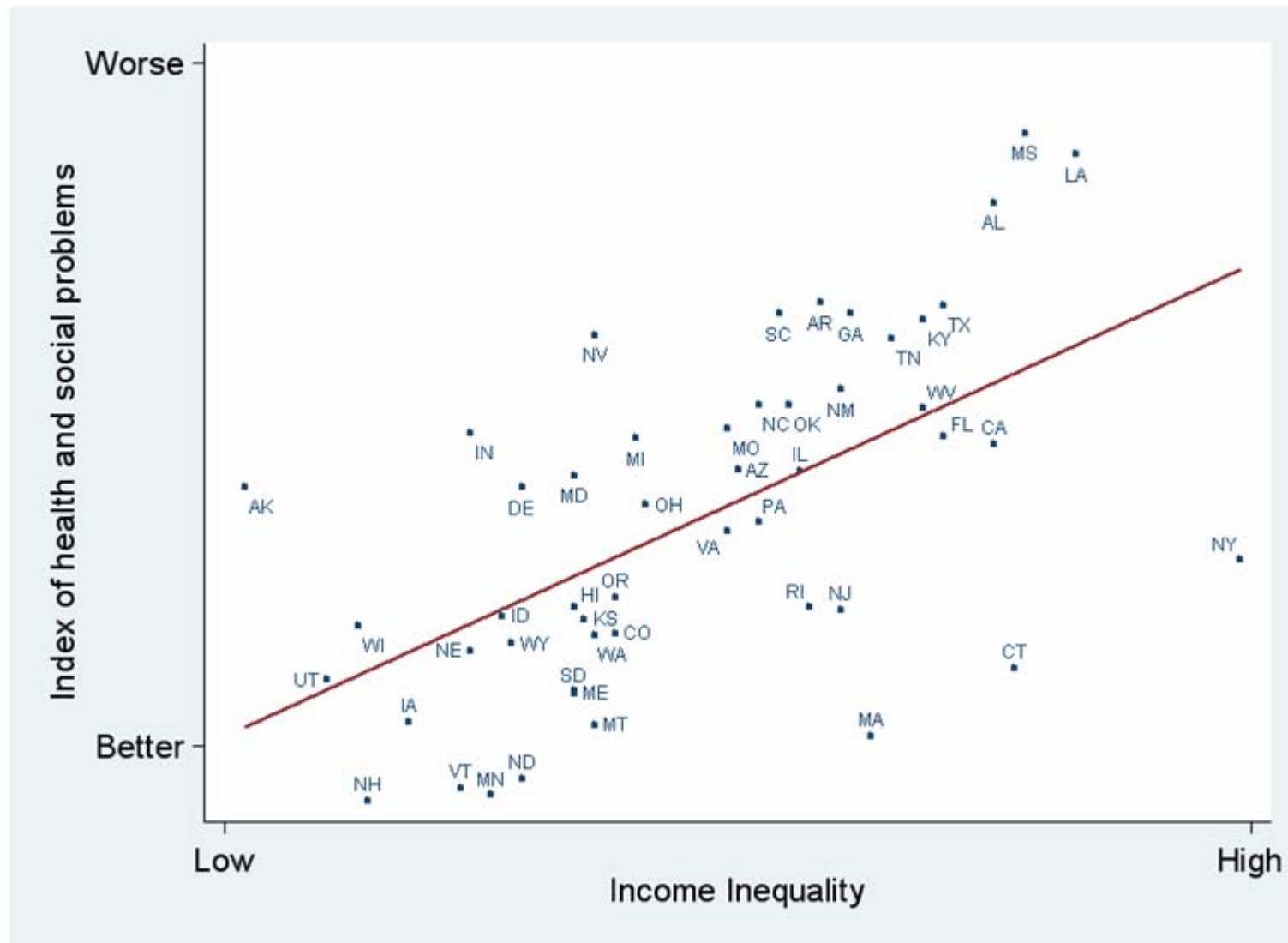
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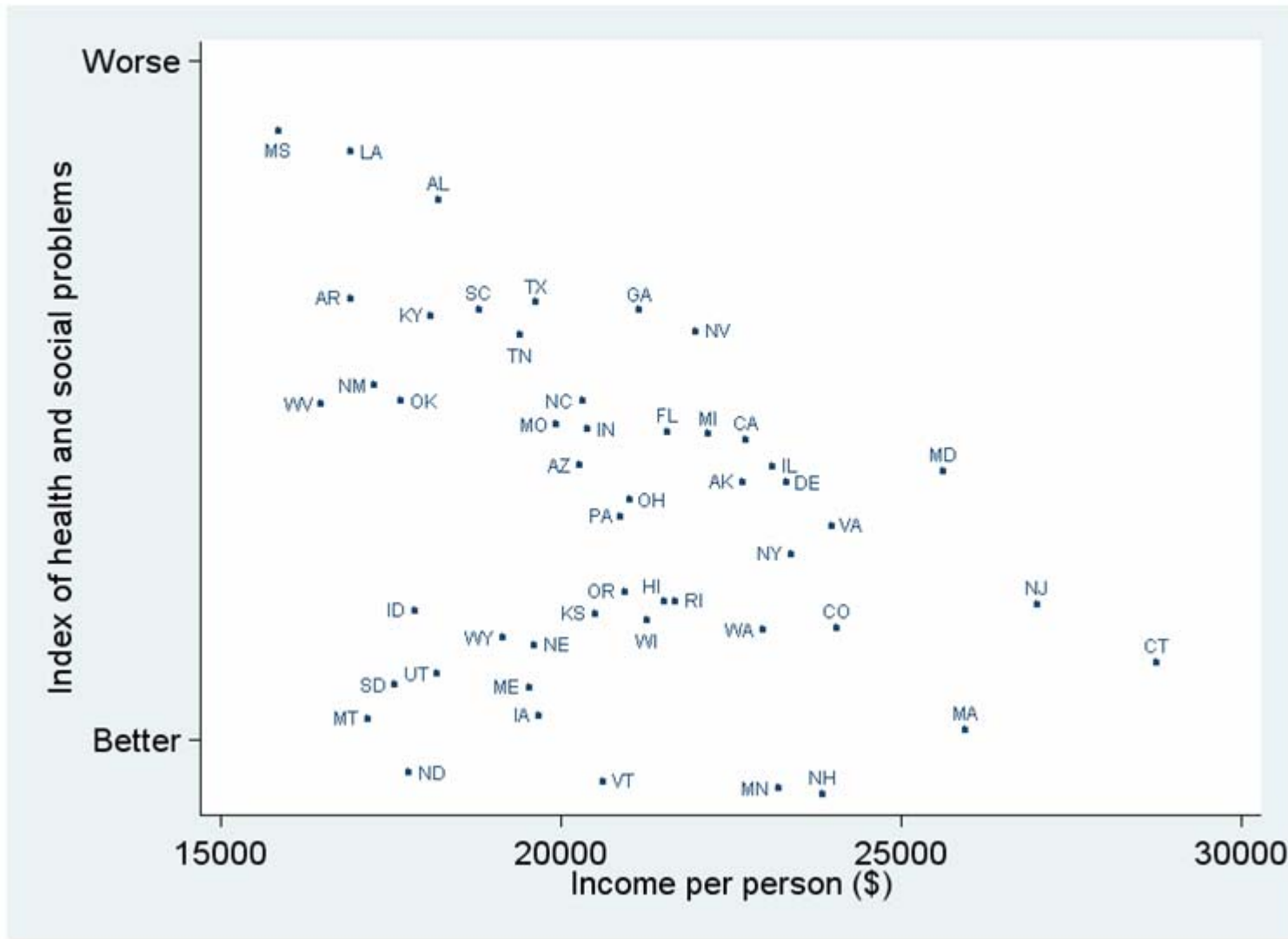
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal US States



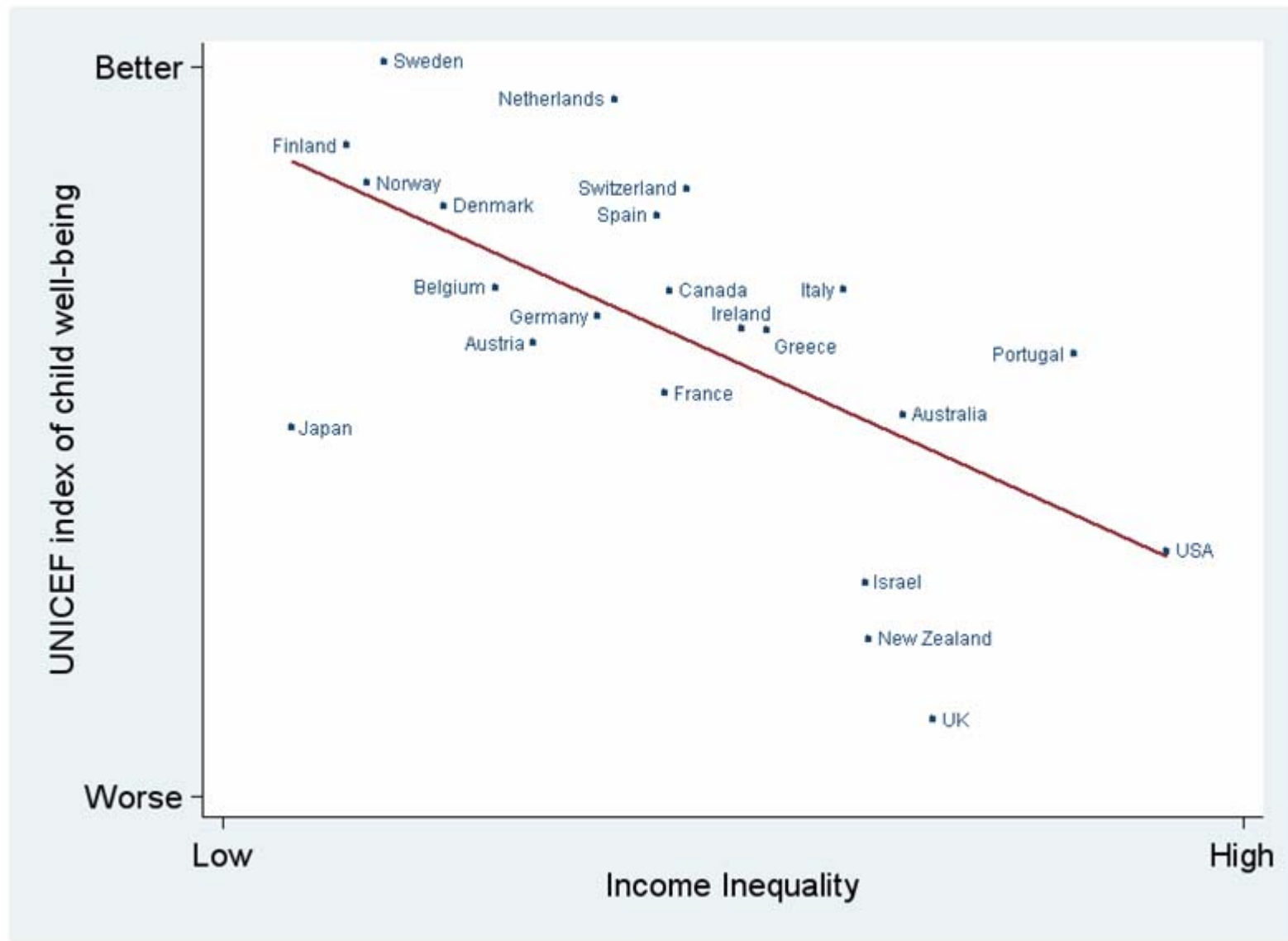
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Health & Social Problems are Only Weakly Related to Average Income in US States



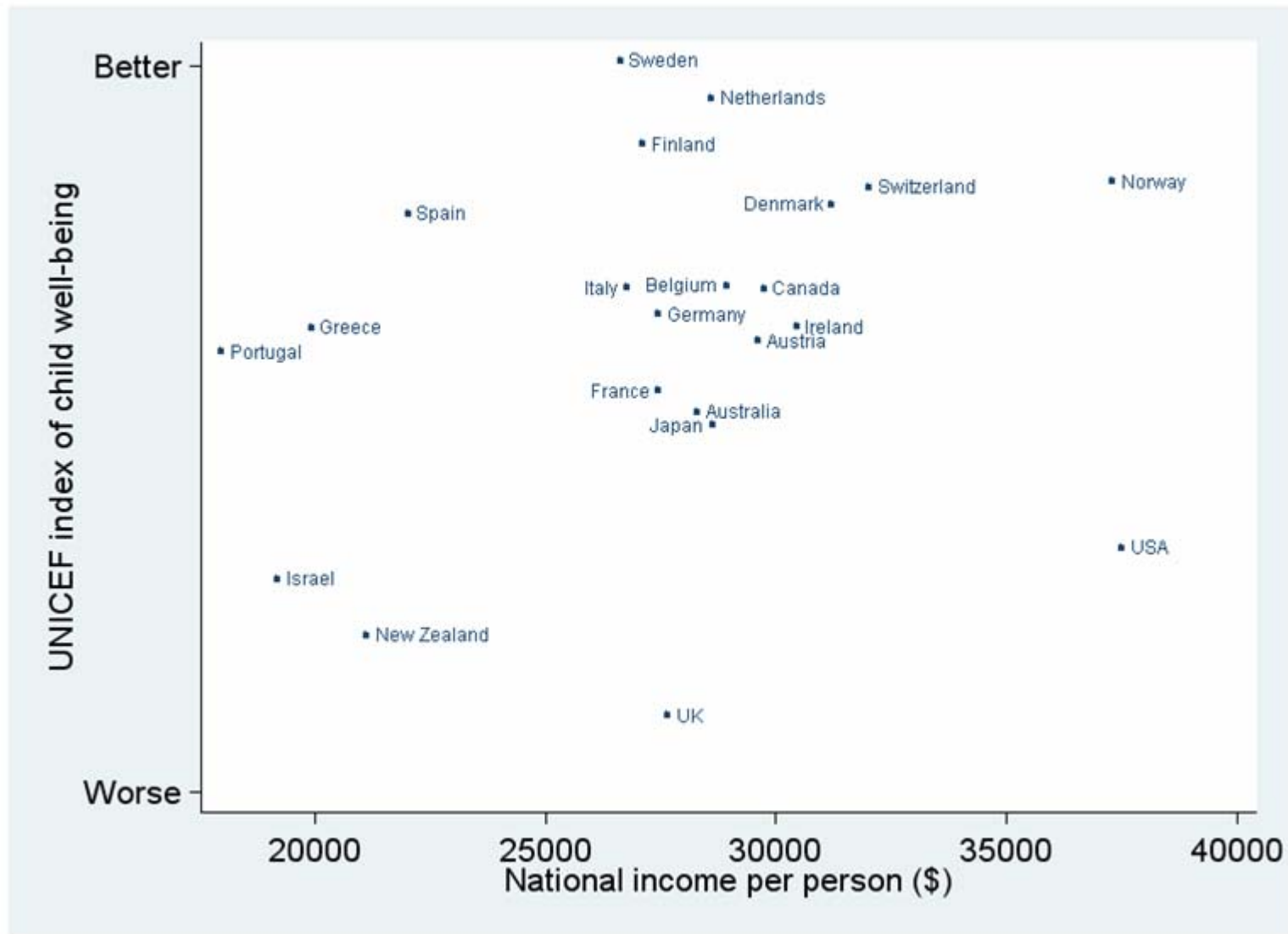
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Child Well-being is Better in More Equal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Child-Wellbeing is Unrelated to Average Incomes in Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Levels of Trust are Higher in More Equal Rich Countries



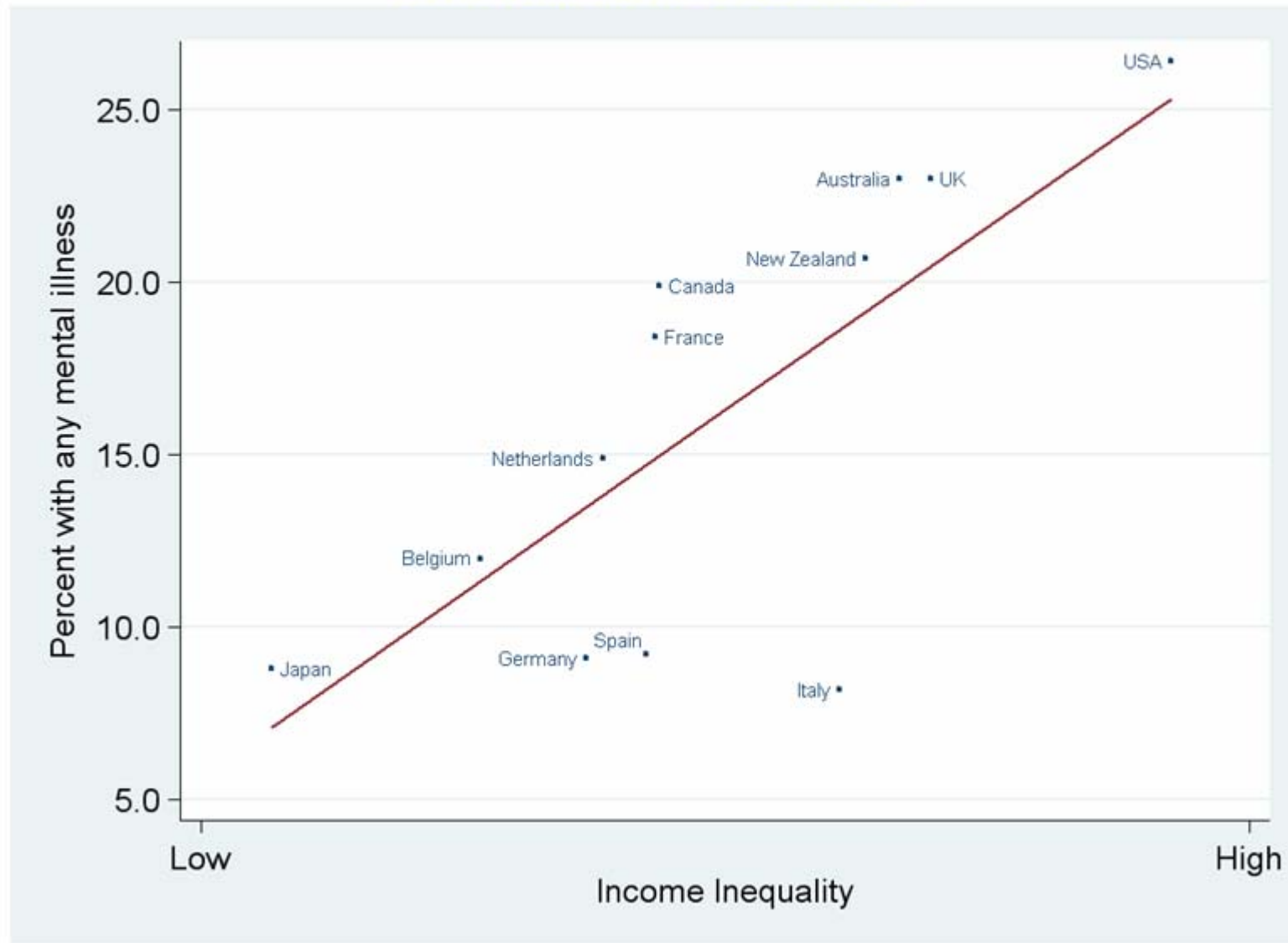
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Levels of Trust are Higher in More Equal US States



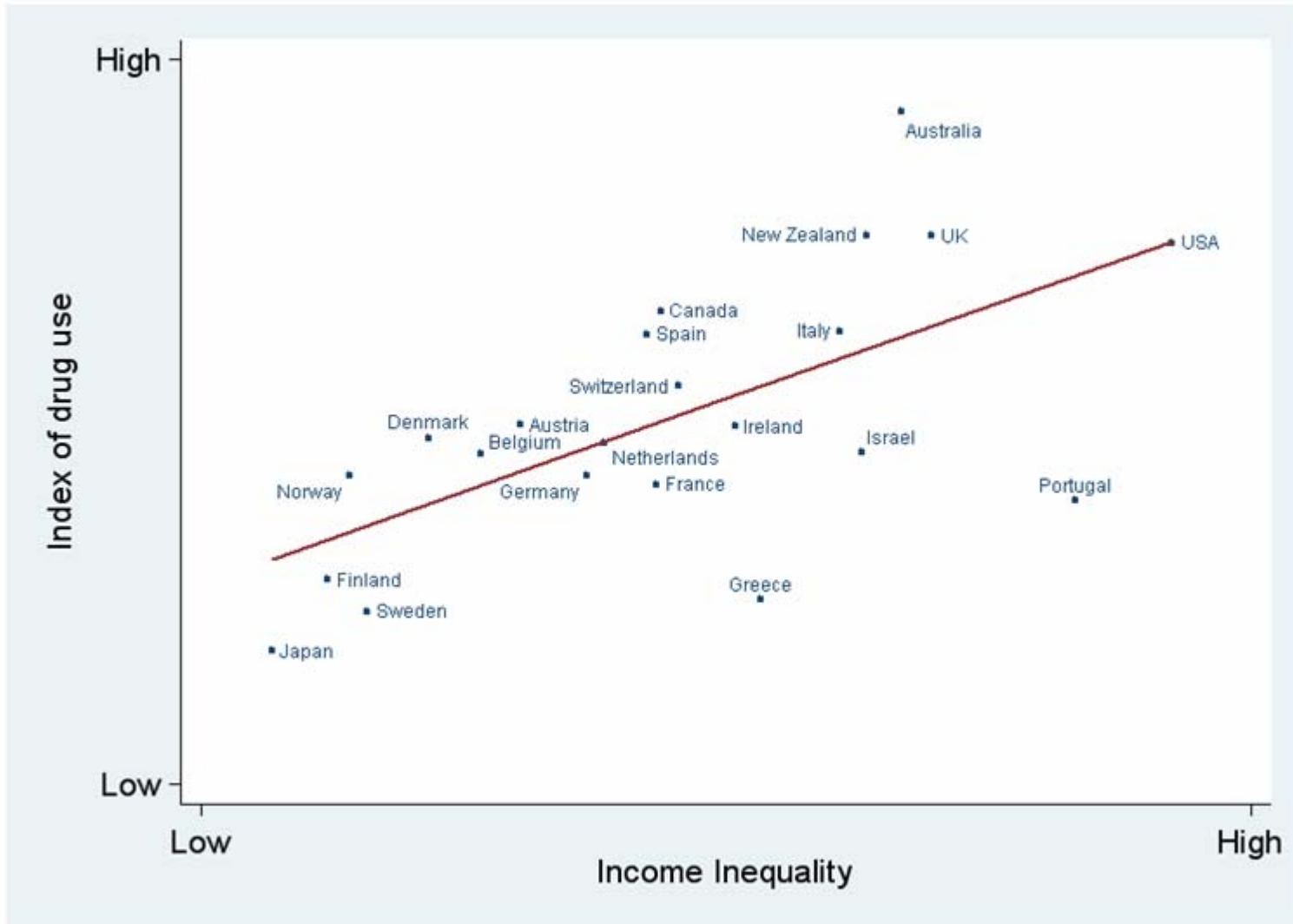
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

The Prevalence of Mental Illness is Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries



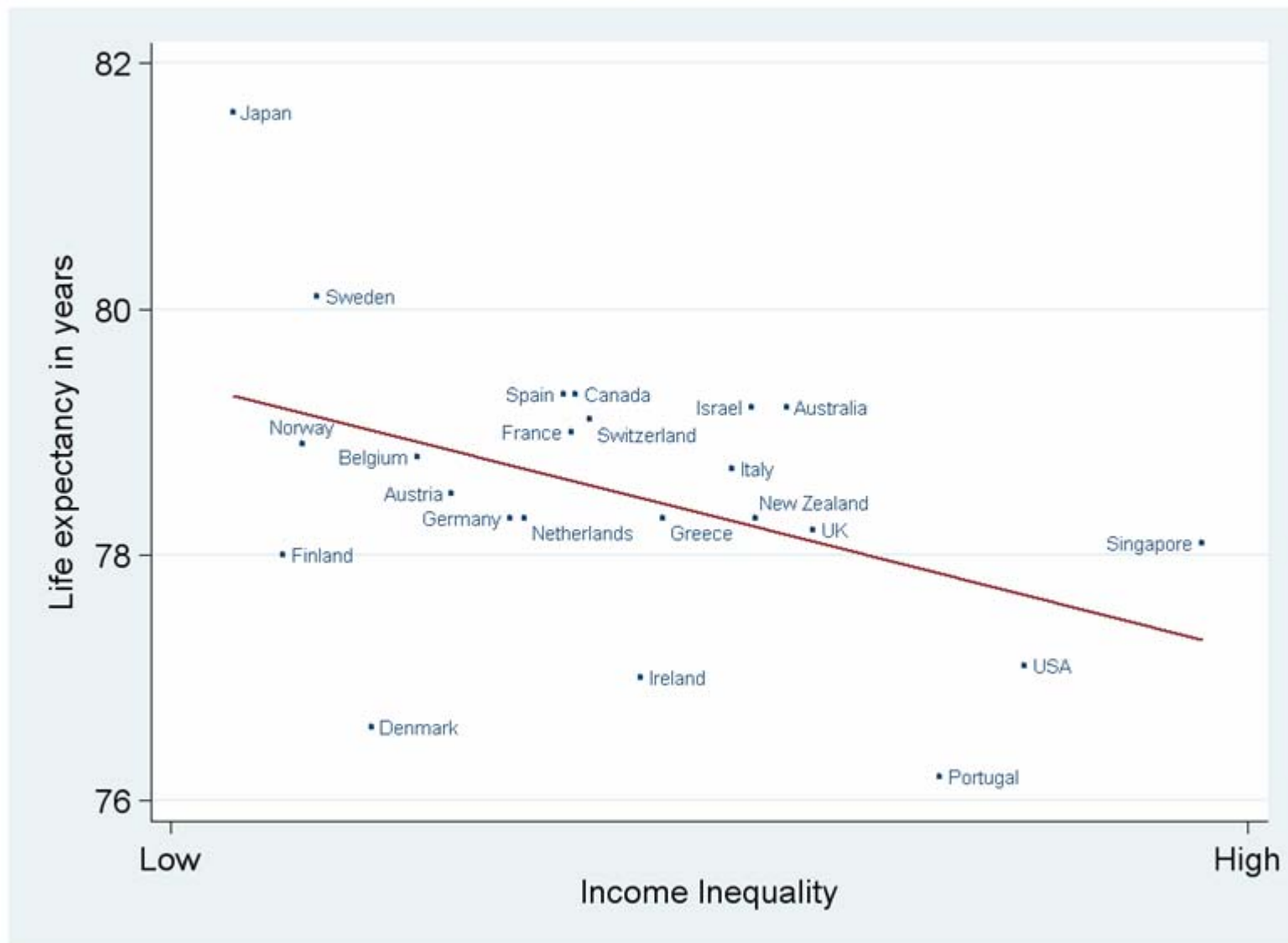
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Drug Use is More Common in More Unequal Countries



Index of use of: opiates, cocaine, cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines

Life Expectancy is Longer in More Equal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Infant Mortality Rates are Higher in More Unequal Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

More Adults are Obese in More Unequal Rich Countries



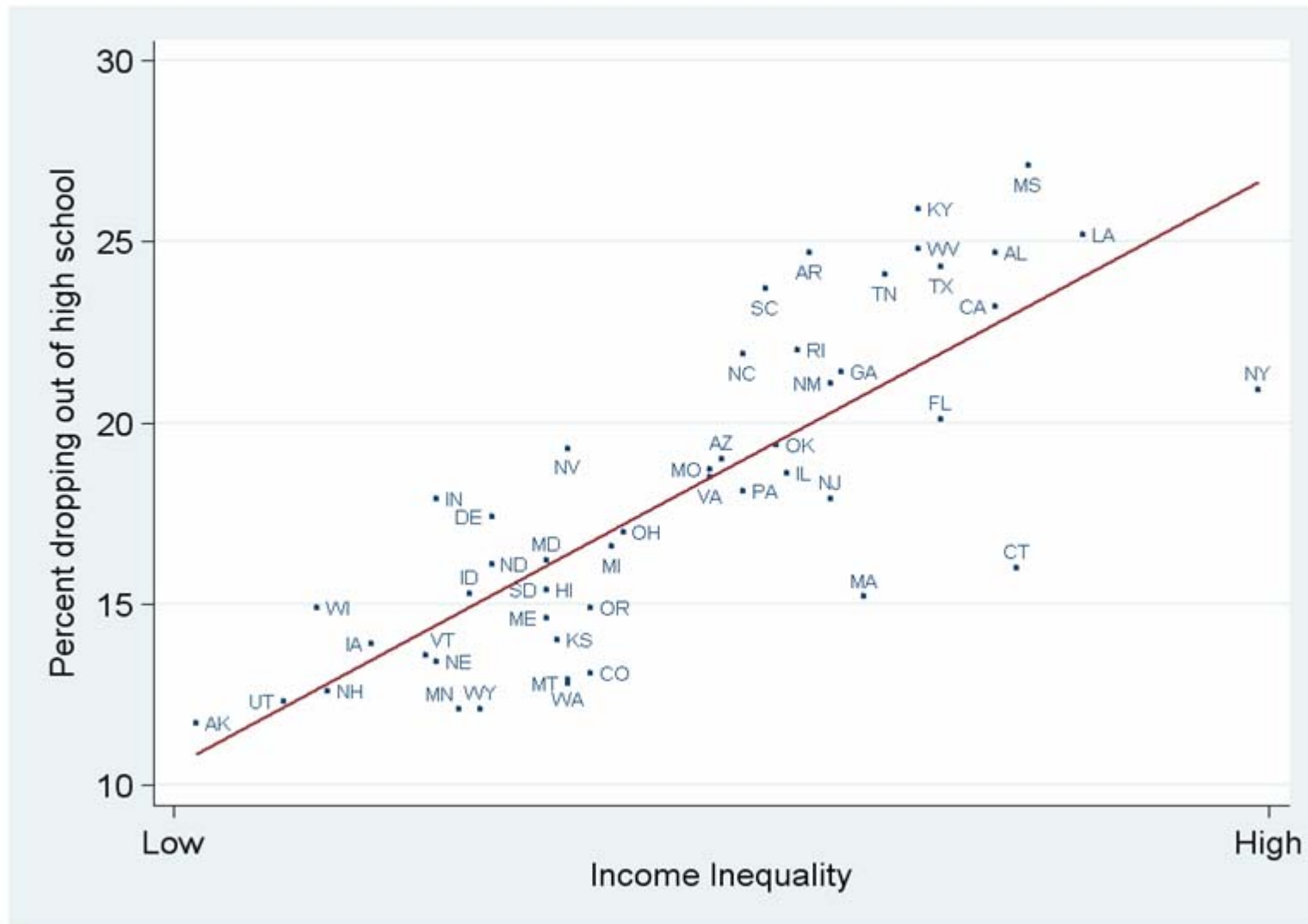
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Educational Scores are Higher in More Equal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

More Children Drop Out of High School in More Unequal US States



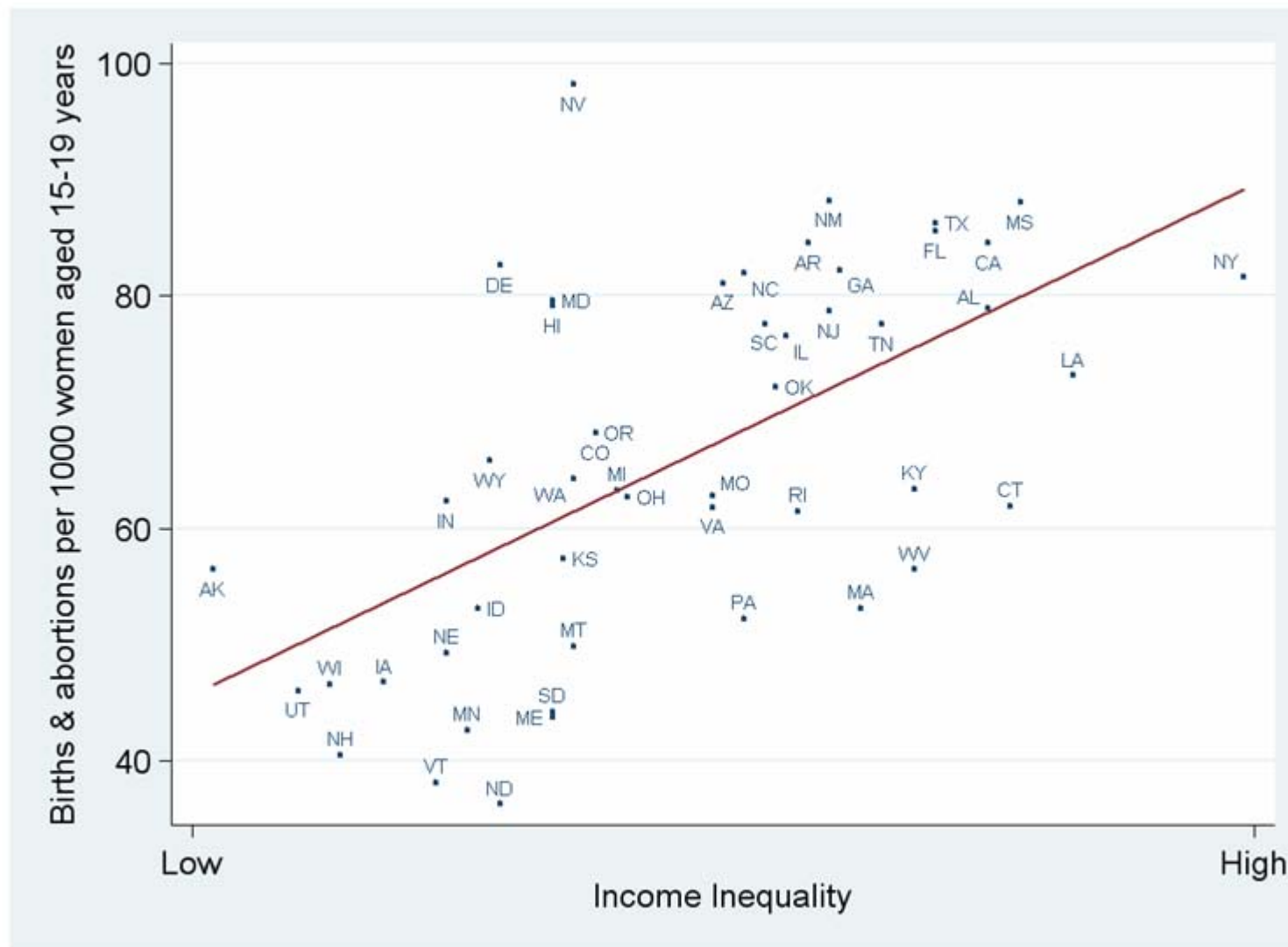
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Teenage Birth Rates are Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries



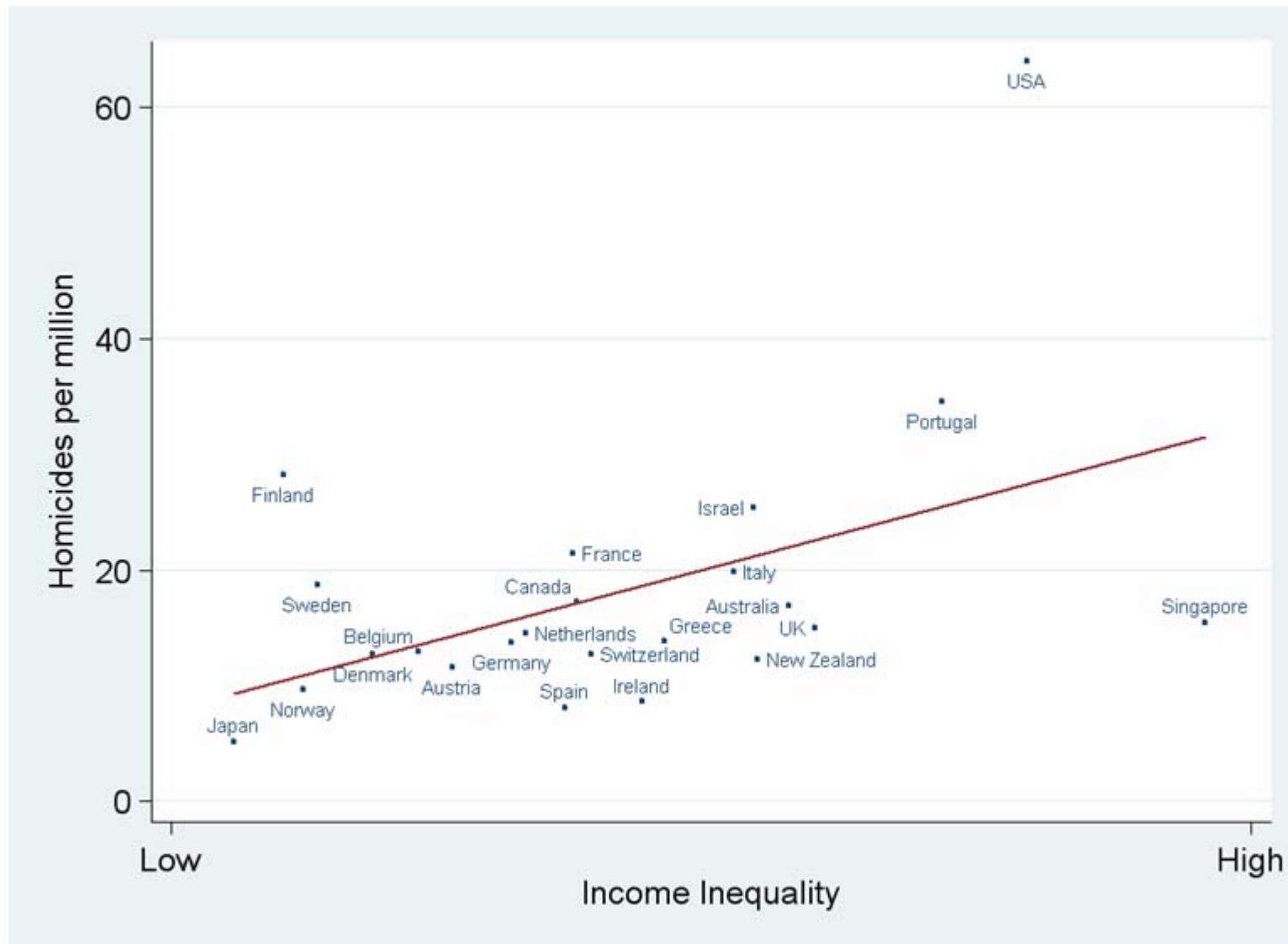
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Teen Pregnancy Rates are Higher in More Unequal US States



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Homicide Rates are Higher in More Unequal Rich Countries



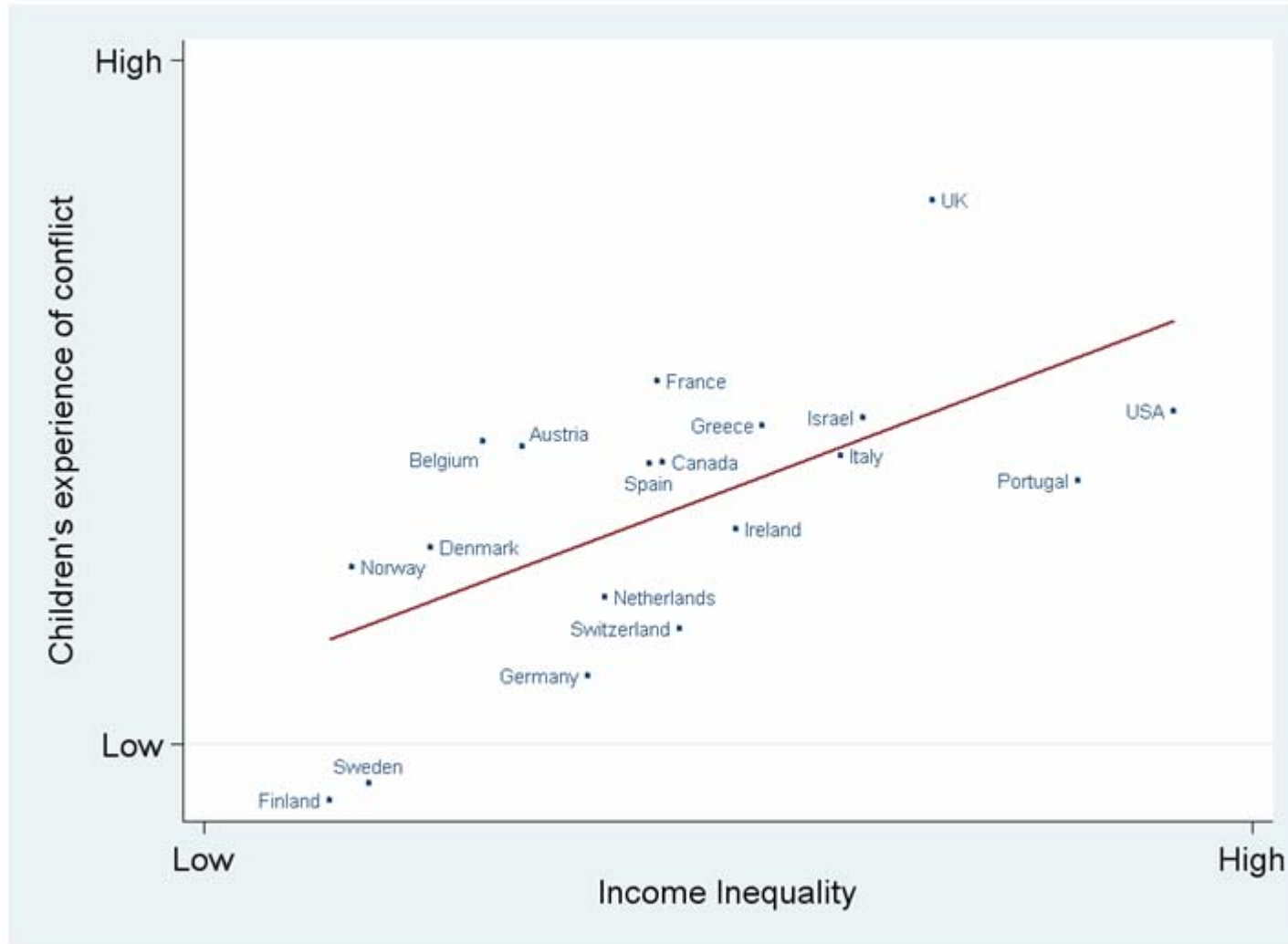
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Homicide Rates are Higher in More Unequal US States



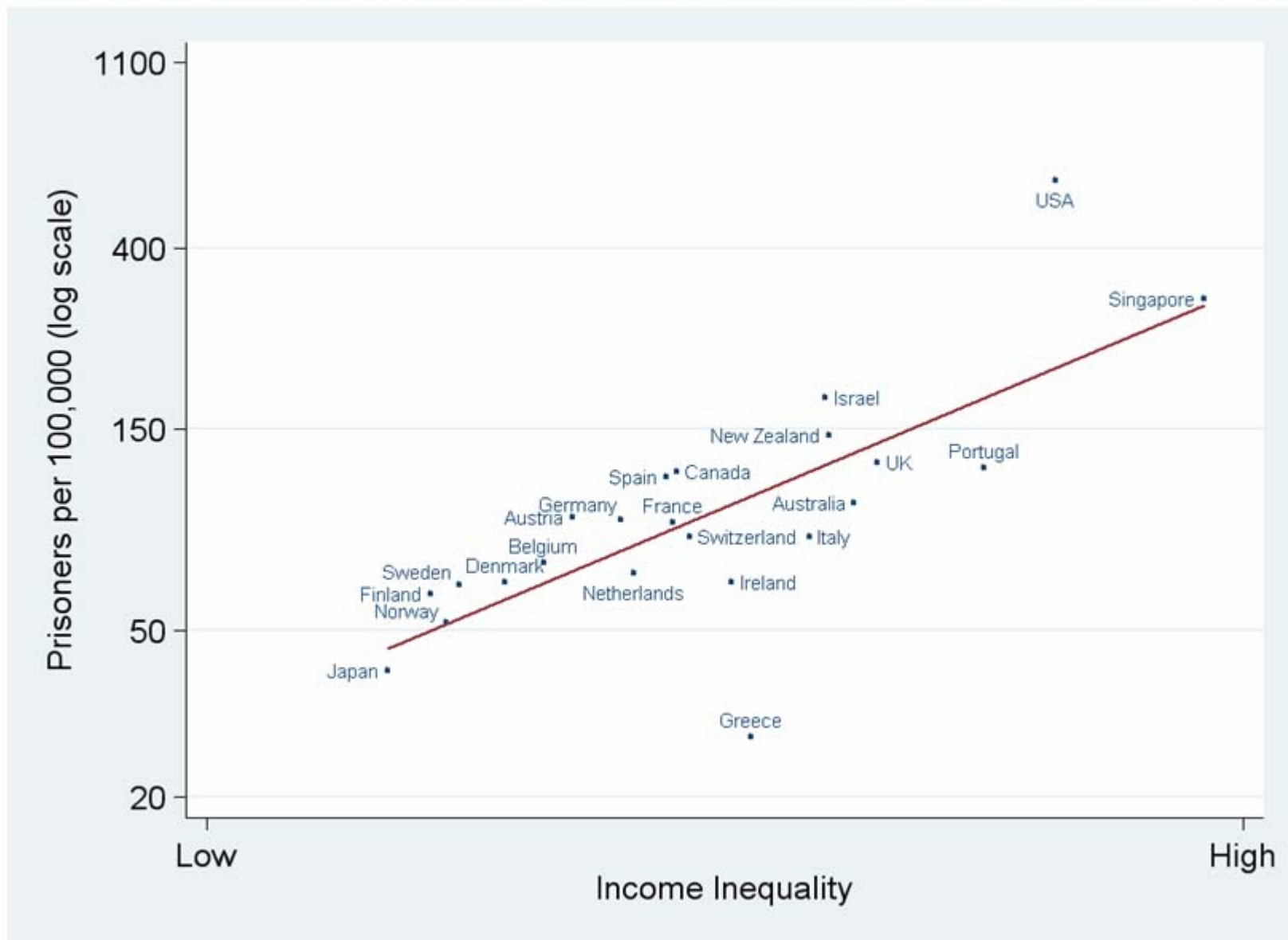
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Children Experience More Conflict in More Unequal Societies



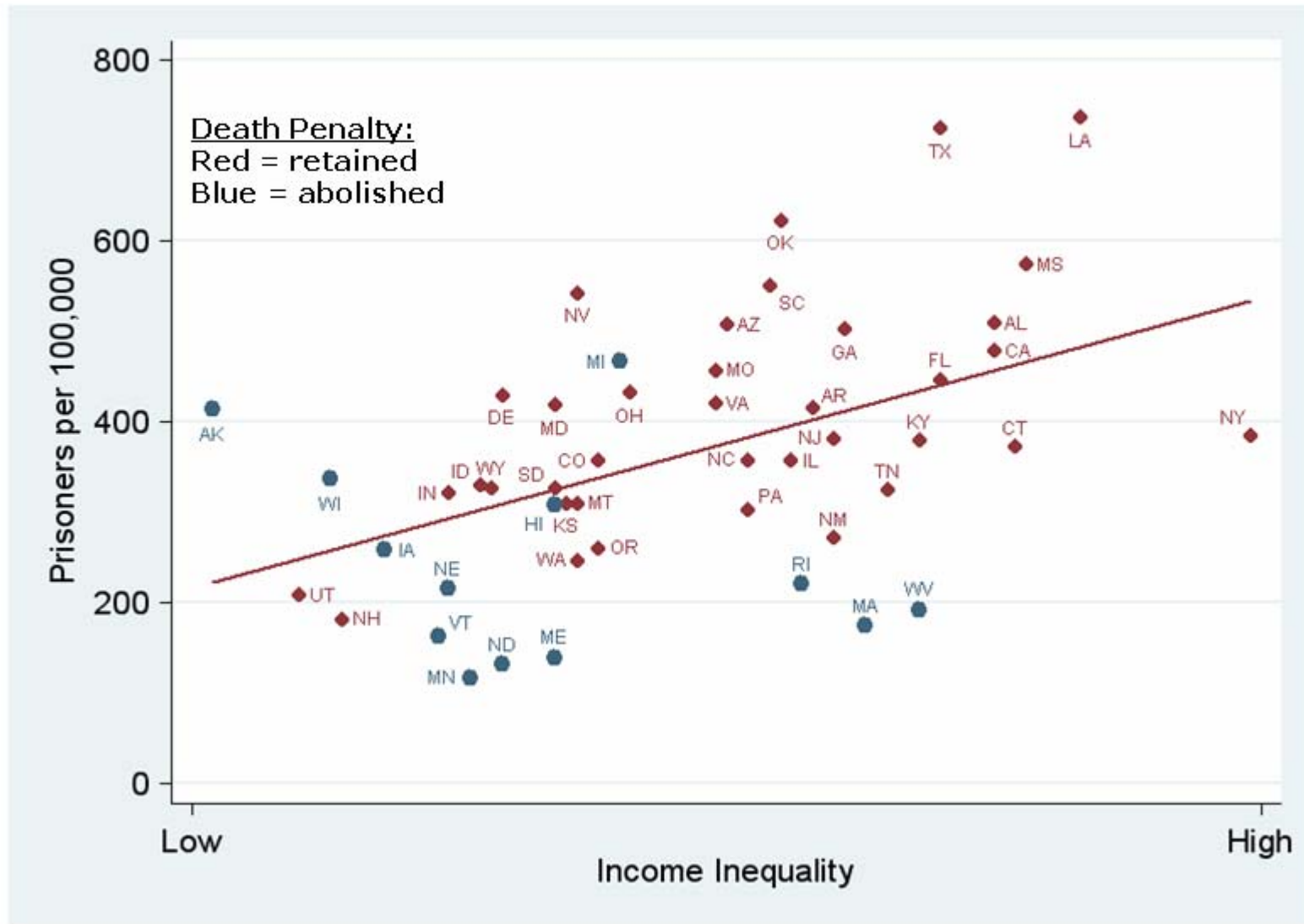
11, 13 & 15 yr olds fighting, bullying, and finding peers not kind & helpful

Rates of Imprisonment are Higher in More Unequal Countries



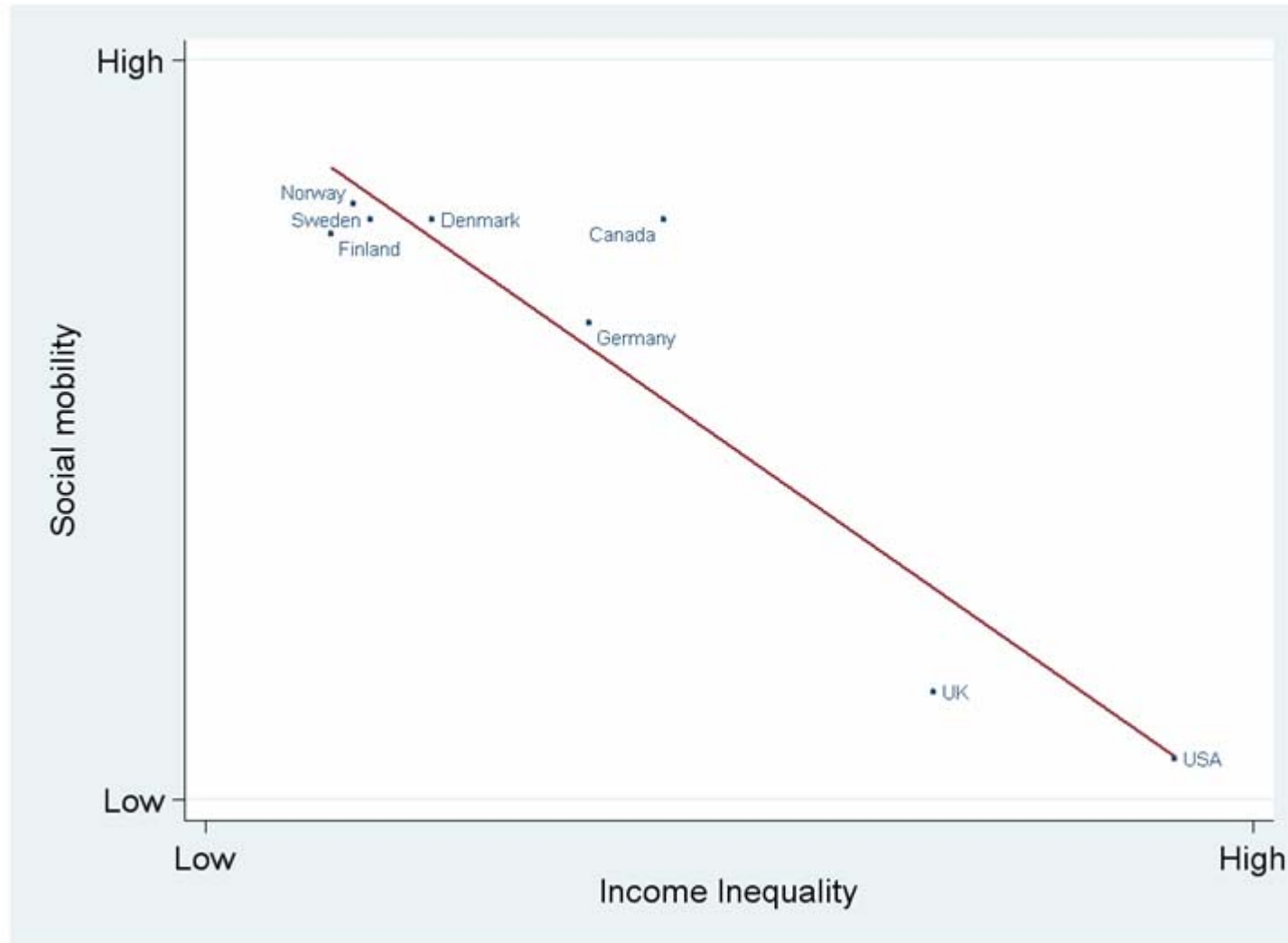
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Rate of Imprisonment are Higher in More Unequal US States



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

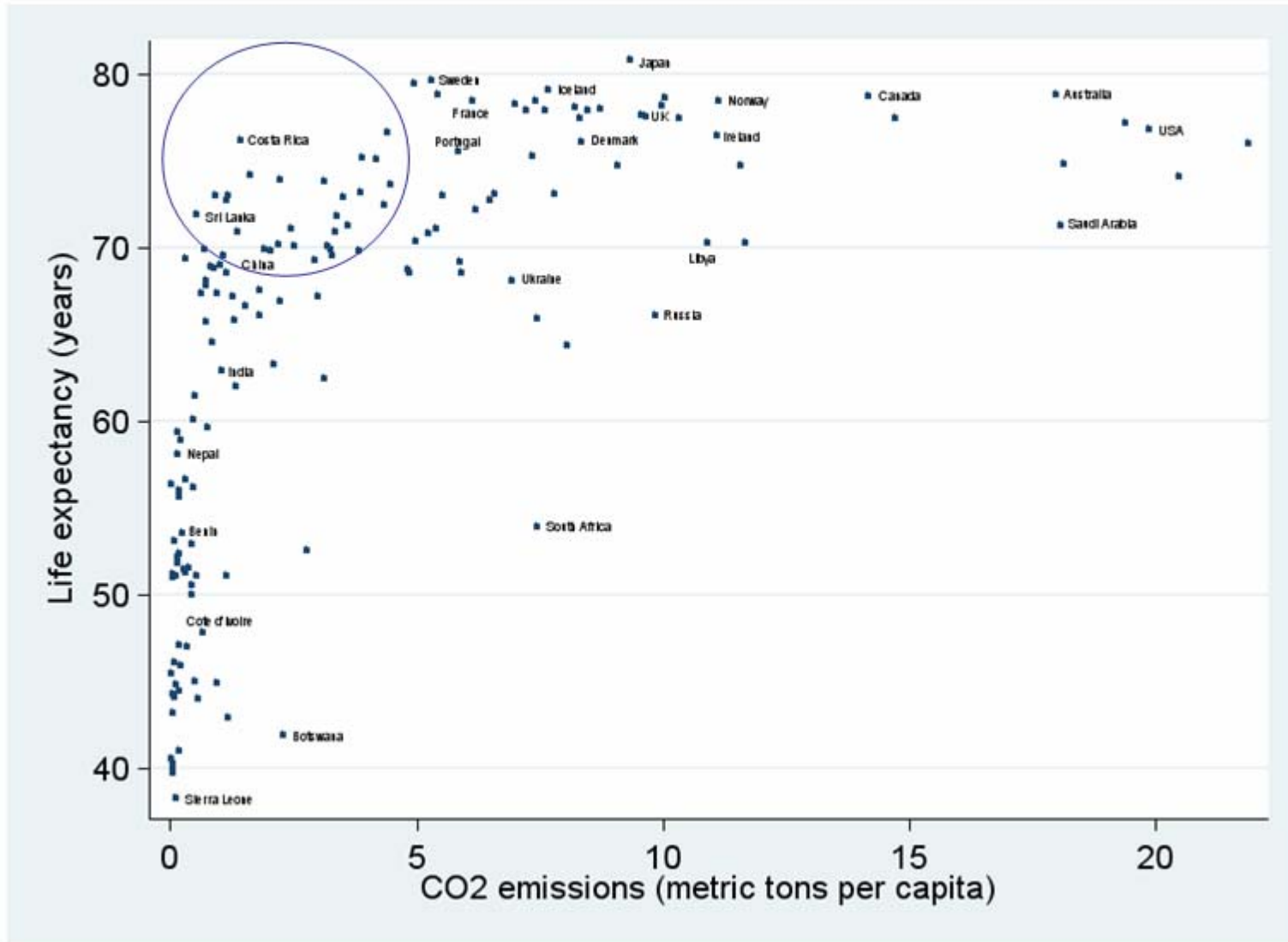
Social Mobility is Higher in More Equal Rich Countries



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Overdeveloped countries?

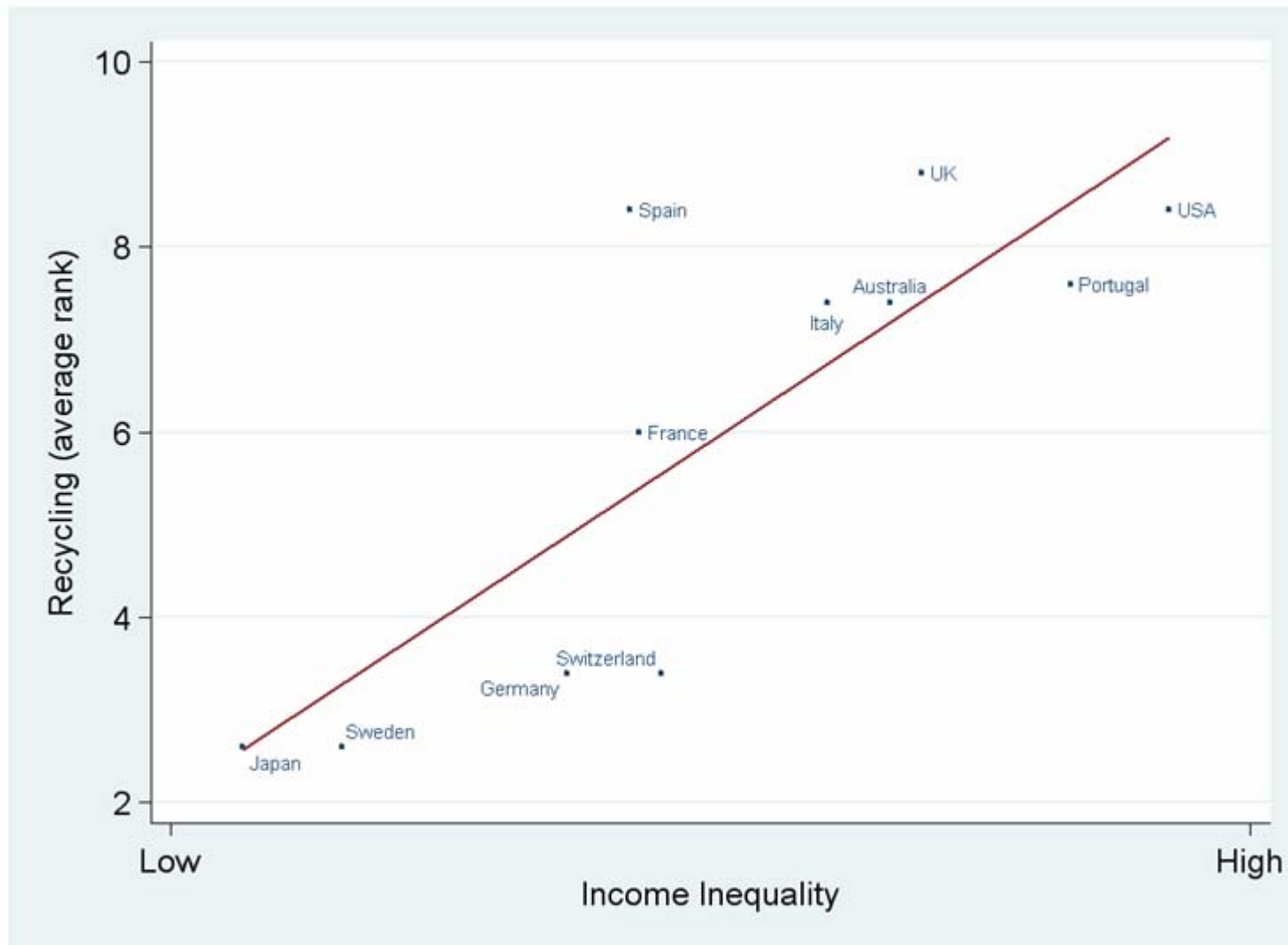
High life expectancy can be achieved with low CO₂ emissions



More equal societies are more innovative

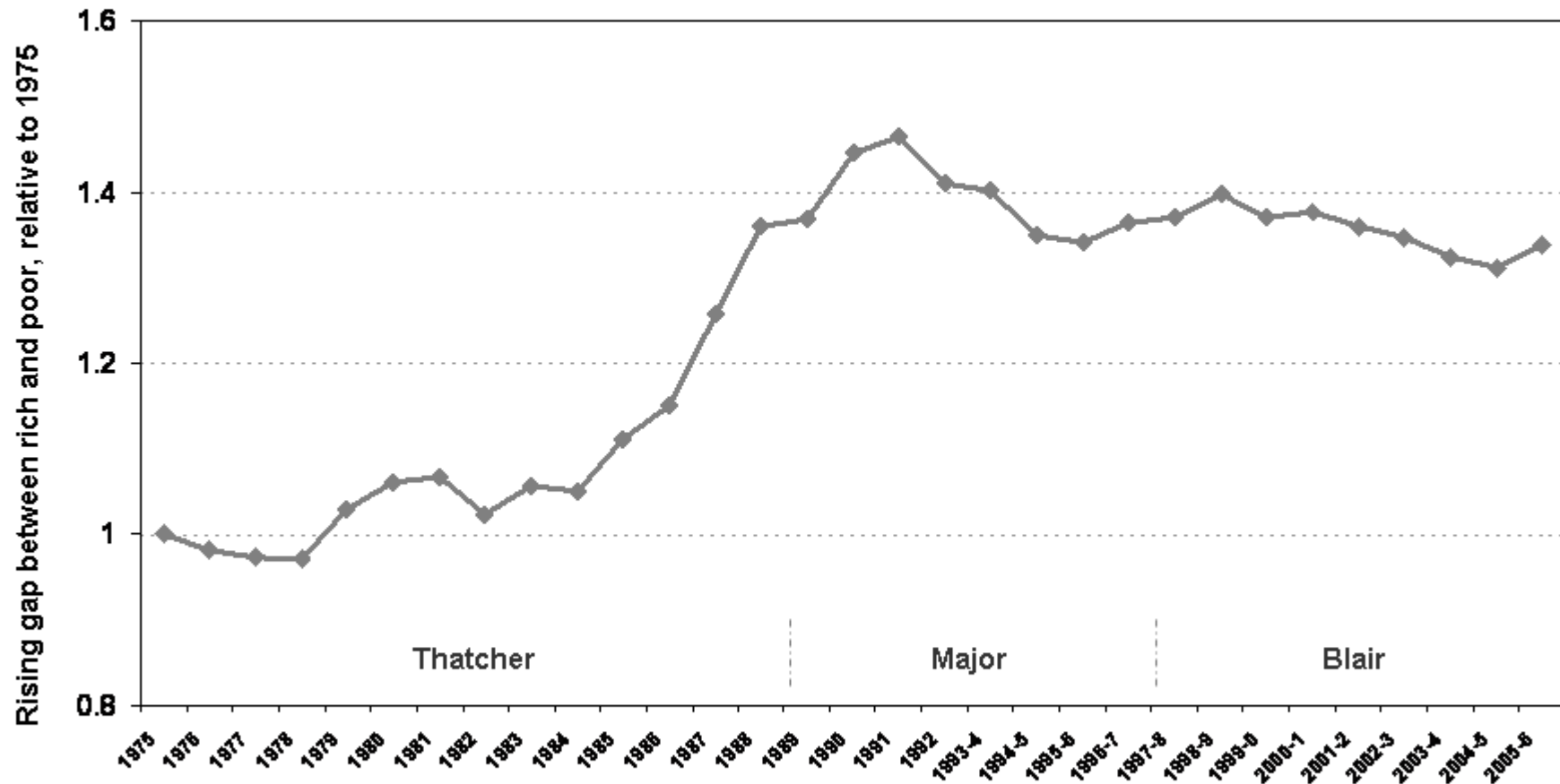


More Equal Countries Rank Better (1 is best) on Recycling



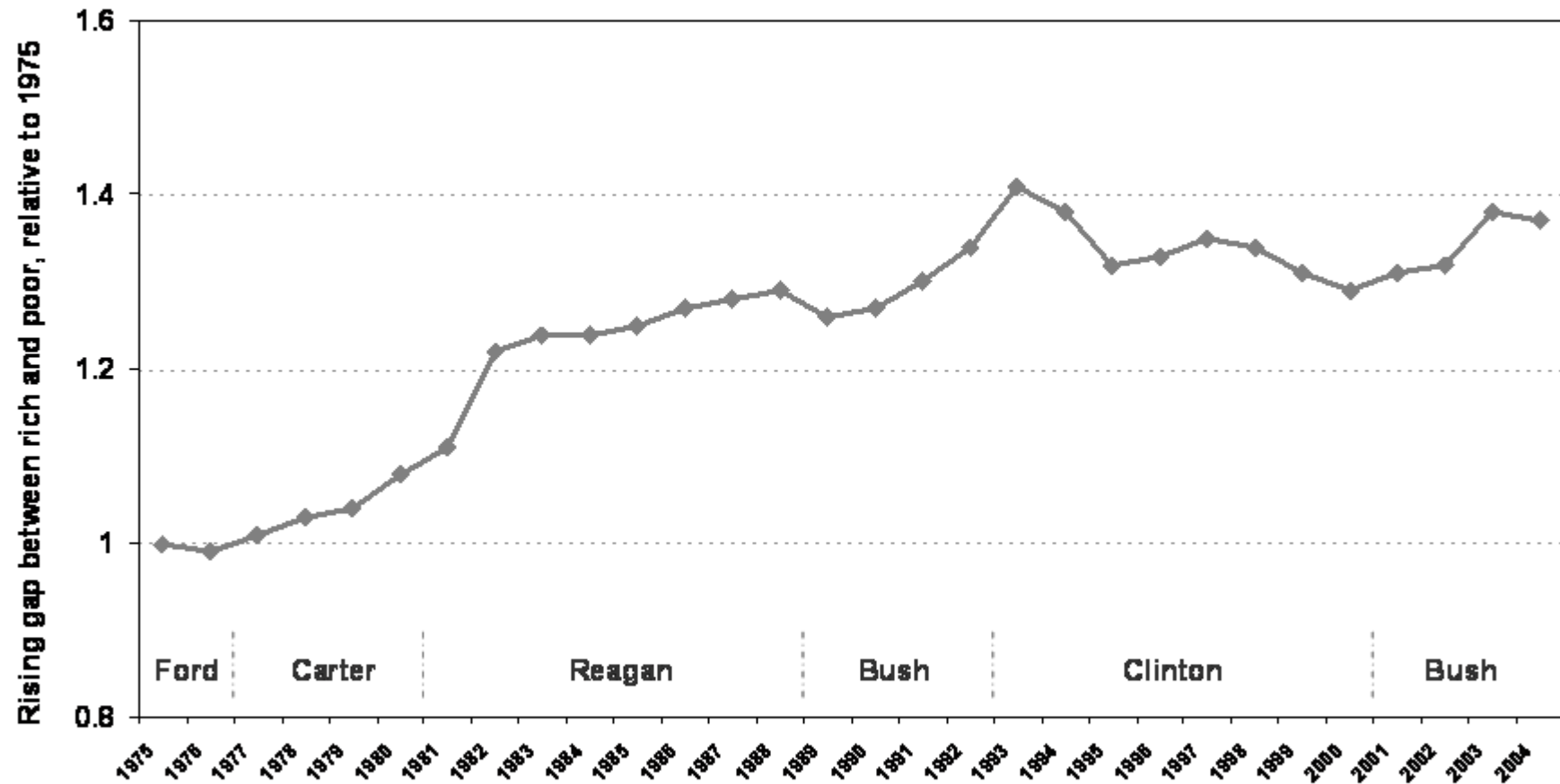
Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Trends in UK income inequality 1979-2005/6



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

Trends in US income inequality 1975-2005



Source: Wilkinson & Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (2009)

The rich developed societies have reached turning point in human history

Politics should now be about the quality of social relations and how we can develop harmonious and sustainable societies.



The **Equality Trust**



<http://www.equalitytrust.org.uk>

Sources of data for the Index of Health and Social problems

| Component | International data | US state data |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Trust | Percent of people who respond positively to the statement "most people can be trusted" 1999-2001 World Values Survey <i>Reverse-coded</i> | Percent of people who respond positively to the statement "most people can be trusted" 1999 General Social Survey <i>Reverse-coded</i> |
| Life expectancy | Life expectancy at birth for men and women 2004 United Nations Human Development Report <i>Reverse-coded</i> | Life expectancy at birth for men and women 2000 US Census Bureau, Population Division <i>Reverse-coded</i> |
| Infant mortality | Deaths in the first year of life per 1000 live births 2000 World Bank | Deaths in the first year of life per 1000 live births 2002 US National Center for Health Statistics |
| Obesity | Percentage of the population with BMI > 30, averaged for men and women 2002 International Obesity TaskForce | Percentage of the population with BMI > 30, averaged for men and women, 1999-2002 Estimates from Prof Ezzati, Harvard University, based on NHANES and BRFSS surveys |
| Mental health | Prevalence of mental illness 2001-2003 WHO | Average number of days in past month when mental health was not good 1993-2001, BRFSS |
| Education | Combined average of maths literacy and reading literacy scores of 15-year olds 2000 OECD PISA <i>Reverse-coded</i> | Combined average of maths and reading scores for 8+ graders 2003 US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics <i>Reverse coded</i> |
| Teenage birth rate | Births per 1000 women aged 15-19 years 1998 UNICEF | Births per 1000 women aged 15-19 years 2000 US National Vital Statistics |
| Homicides | Homicide rate per 100,000 Period average for 1990-2000 United Nations | Homicide rate per 100,000 1999 FBI |
| Imprisonment | Log of prisoners per 100,000 United Nations | Prisoners per 100,000 1997-8, US Department of Justice |
| Social mobility | Correlation between father and son's income 30-year period data from 8 cohort studies London School of Economics | N/A |