

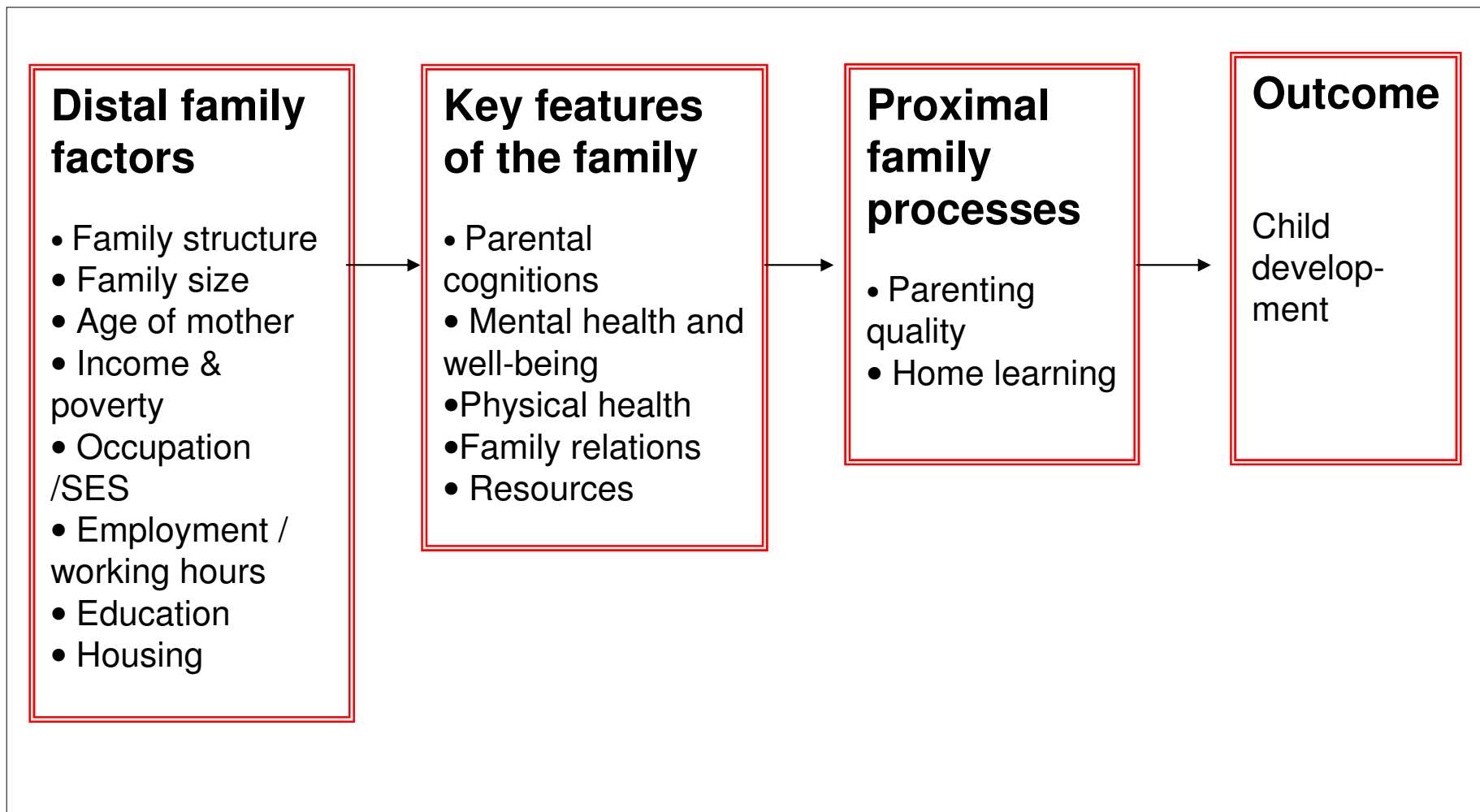


The “early years” since WW2: The fall and rise of children’s inequality?

Leon Feinstein

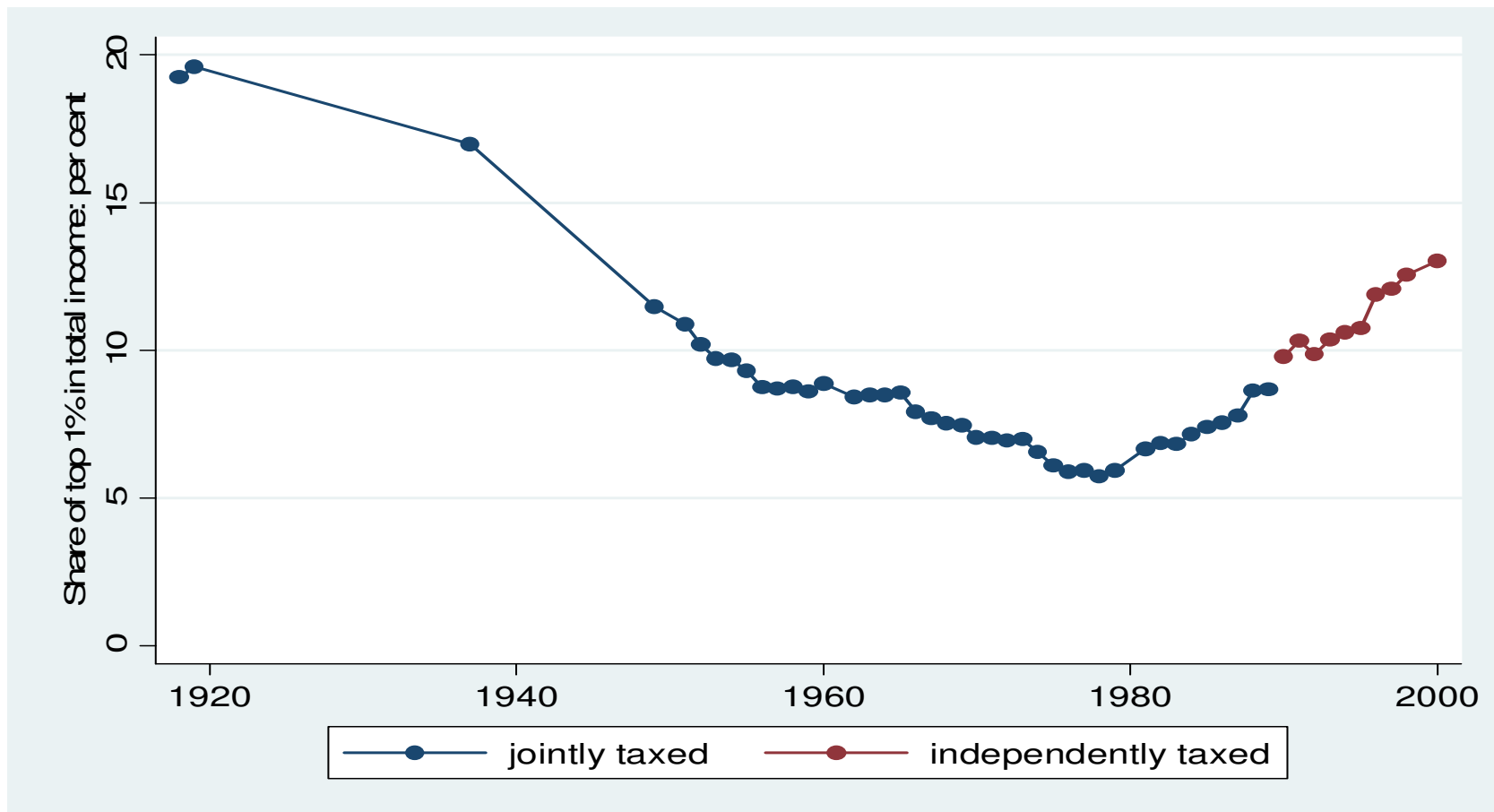
Institute of Education, London
Feb 2007

Conceptual model for social influences on child development



1. Changing distal conditions

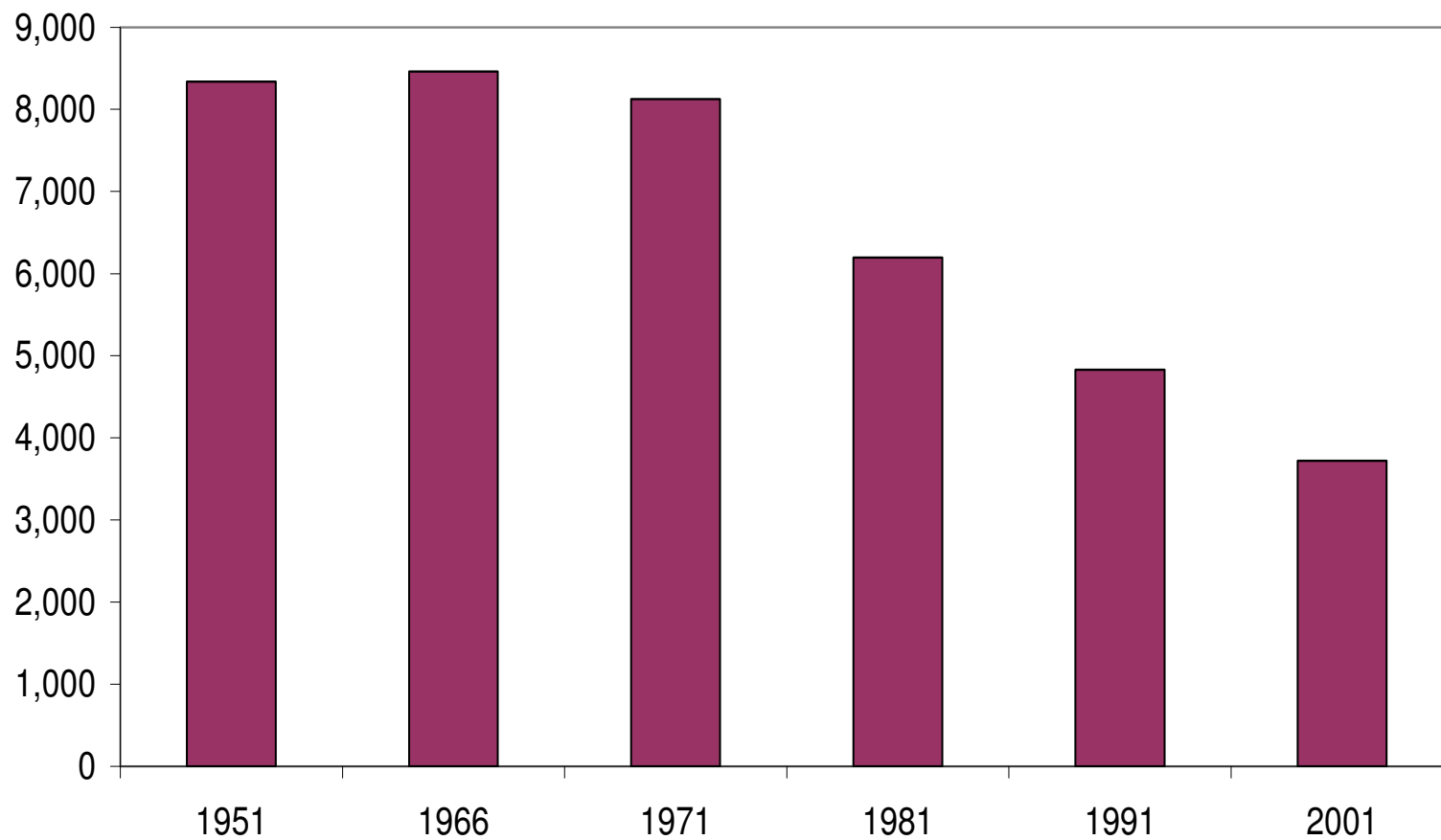
Figure 1: Share of top one per cent in total income:
per cent, 1918 to 2000



Source: Atkinson. *JRSS series A 2005*, 162/2, 325-343

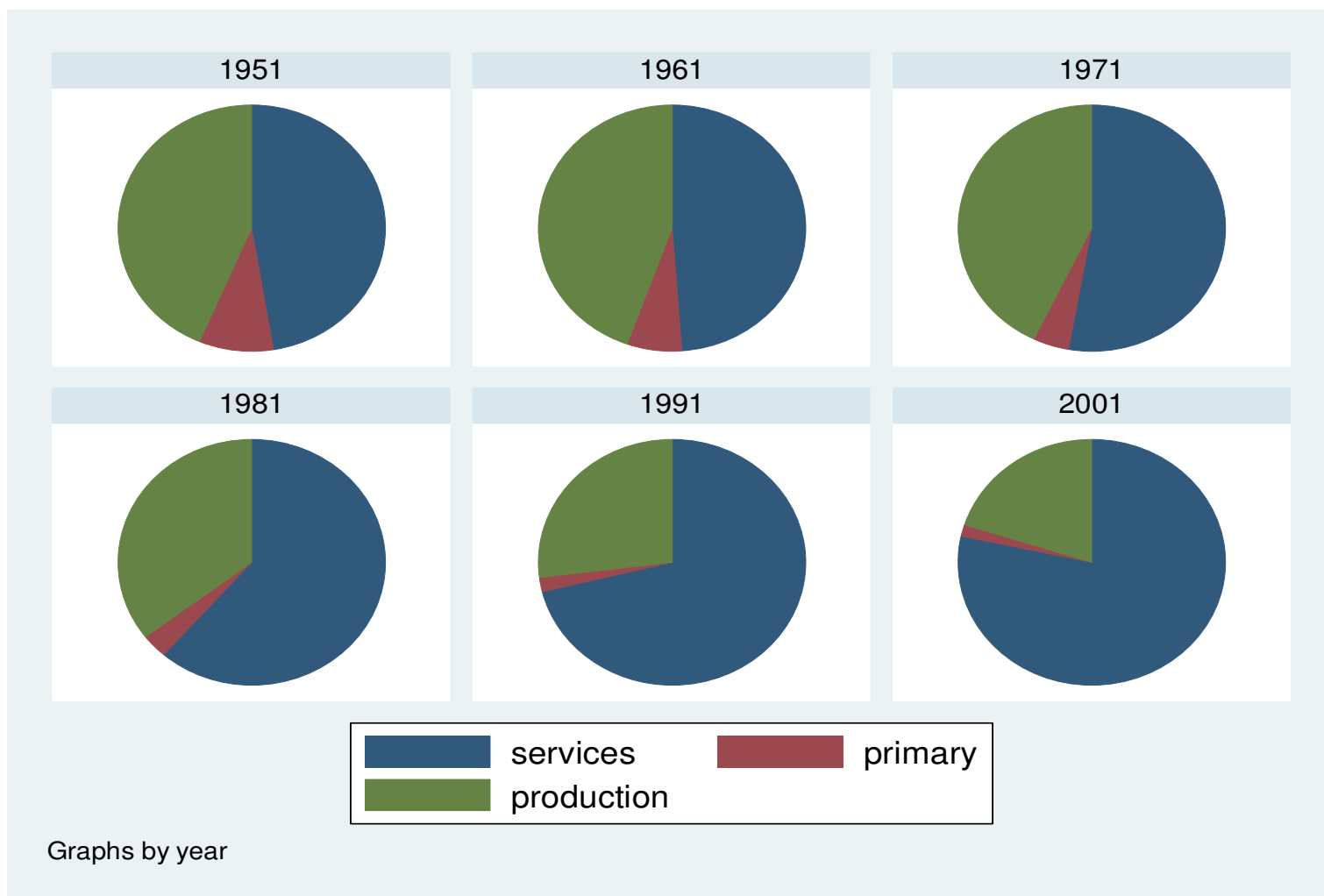
Fig 2.

Manufacturing Employment, Great Britain, Selected Years Thousands



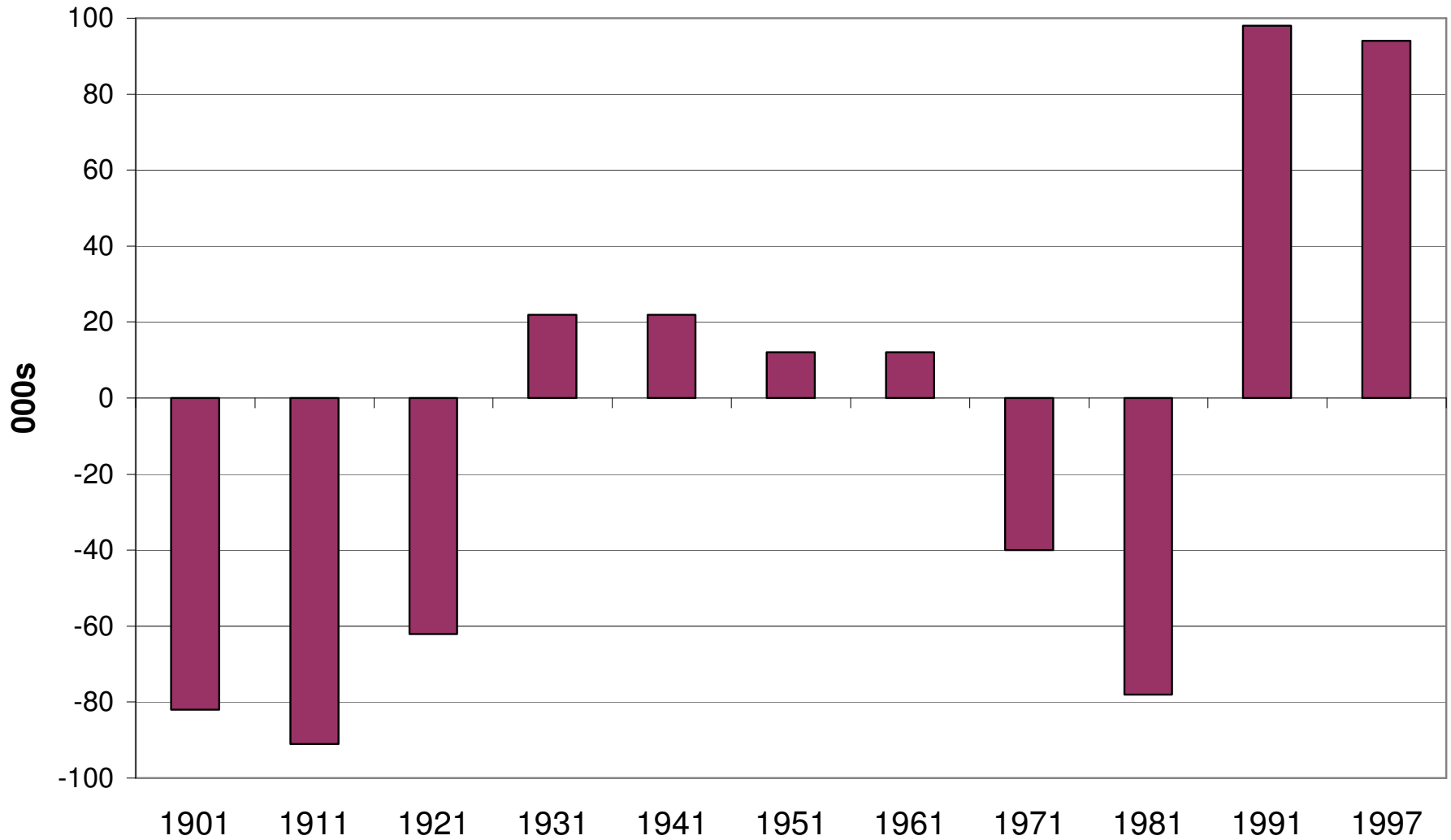
Source: Halsey and Webb, Twentieth Century British Social Trends

Fig 3: Proportions of the British Workforce Employed by Sector, 1951 to 2001



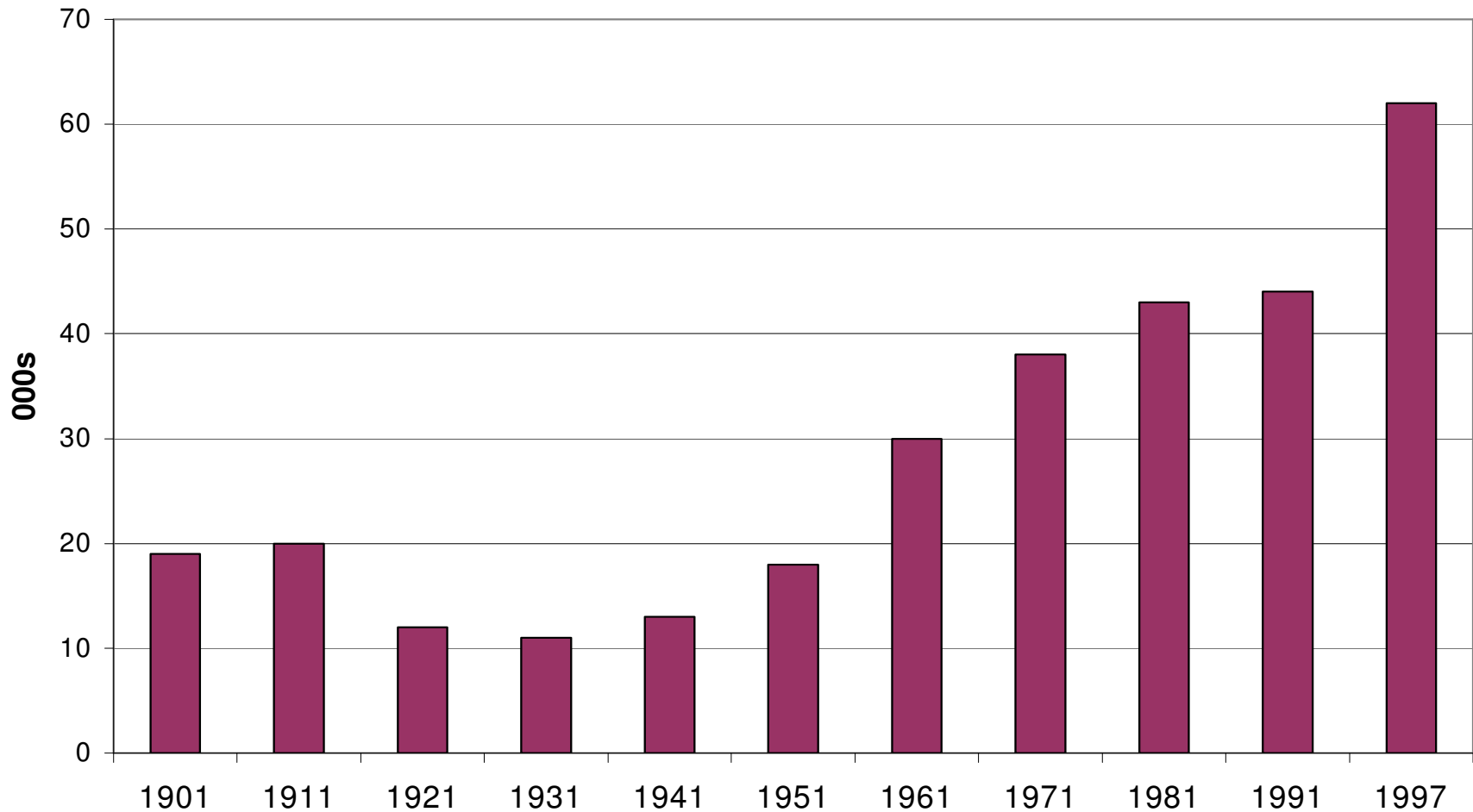
Source: Annual Abstract of Statistics

Fig: UK annual net international migrations 1901 to 1997.



Source: *British Social Trends*

Prison population, England & Wales



Source: *Prison statistics, England and Wales, 1998*

2. Cross-cohort analysis

Measures and descriptive stats

5 UK Birth Cohort Studies

- NSHD (1946)
- NCDS (1958)
- BCS (1970)
- ALSPAC (1990/1)
- MCS (2000)

11 Distal variables common across cohorts

1. Father's SEG
2. Father's Education
3. Mother's Education
4. Income
5. Housing tenure
6. Housing space
7. Mother working
8. Mother's age
9. Father's age
10. Number of sibs
11. Family structure

Housing tenure

Cohort	Social housing	Private rental	Owner occupier
46	0.186	0.598	0.215
58	0.312	0.357	0.331
70	0.221	0.394	0.386
90	0.087	0.404	0.509
00	0.258	0.180	0.562

Housing space (people per room)

Cohort	% <1	% >2
46	54.7	9.2
58	68.0	4.7
70	82.1	0.7
0	87.9	0.8

Mothers in paid work

Cohort	%	Age of measurement
46	6.3	Age 2
58	44.7	During pre-school
70	42.4	Age 5
90	55.2	47 months
0	52.8	Birth

Parents/carers with degrees

Cohort	Mothers	Fathers
46	1.7	3.1
58	6.0	11.2
70	2.6	10.6
90	13.7	20.3
0	33.6	37.9

Socio-economic group

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3nm</i>	<i>3m</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
'46	5.8	16.6	18.3	31.6	21.0	6.7
'58	5.3	14.7	10.0	45.5	17.9	6.6
'70	5.2	12.1	12.2	47.8	15.7	7.0

Tests of cognitive development

1946 (Age 8)	1958 (Age 7)	2000 (Age 3)
Non-verbal: Picture	Maths	Bracken School Readiness
Verbal: Comprehension	Reading	British Ability Scale
Verbal: Reading	Draw man	
Verbal: Vocab	Mispronounced words (speech test)	
	Teacher-rated ability: oral, world, read, creativity, number	
	ESN: "Backwardness"	

Tests of cognitive development, cont...1970 Cohort

22m	42m	5 years
Cube stacking	Counting	Copying test
Language	Speaking	Reading
Personal dev	Copying test	Human figure
Copying test		Profile drawing
		Vocabulary

Tests of cognitive development, ALSPAC

Language (38m)
Fine motor (6m, 30m, 42m)
Gross motor (6m, 30m, 42m)
School entry assessment
Key Stage 1 scores (7)
Verbal ability (age 7)
IQ and attention (age 8)

3. Cross-cohort analysis

Preliminary findings on the family
resource effect

Two approaches to assessing the family resource gap

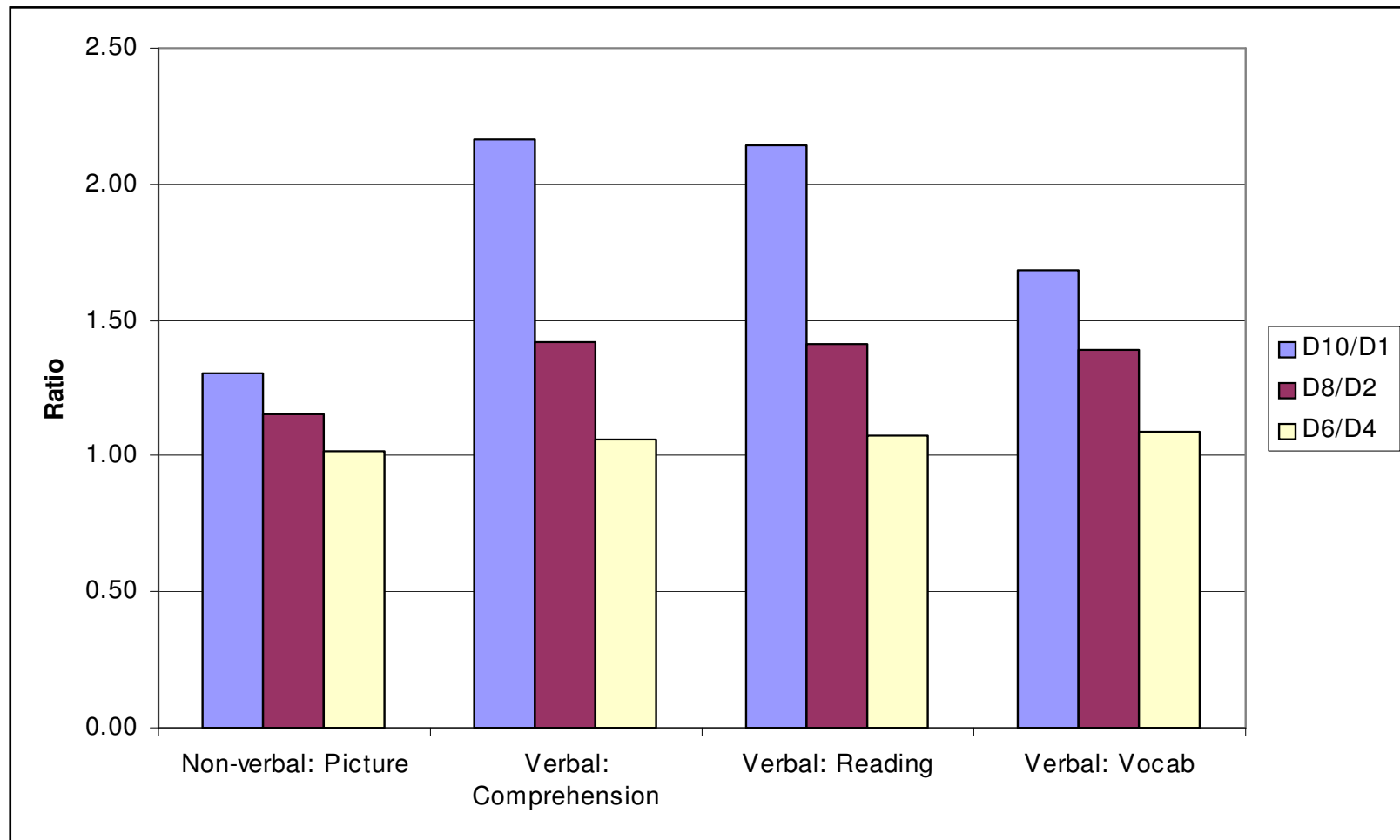
1. Relative position in underlying “fixed factor” from SEG, education, income, housing
2. Relative position in “propensity score” from regression of outcome on the 11 distal factors (features of family advantage)

Housing tenure by decile of family resources fixed factor

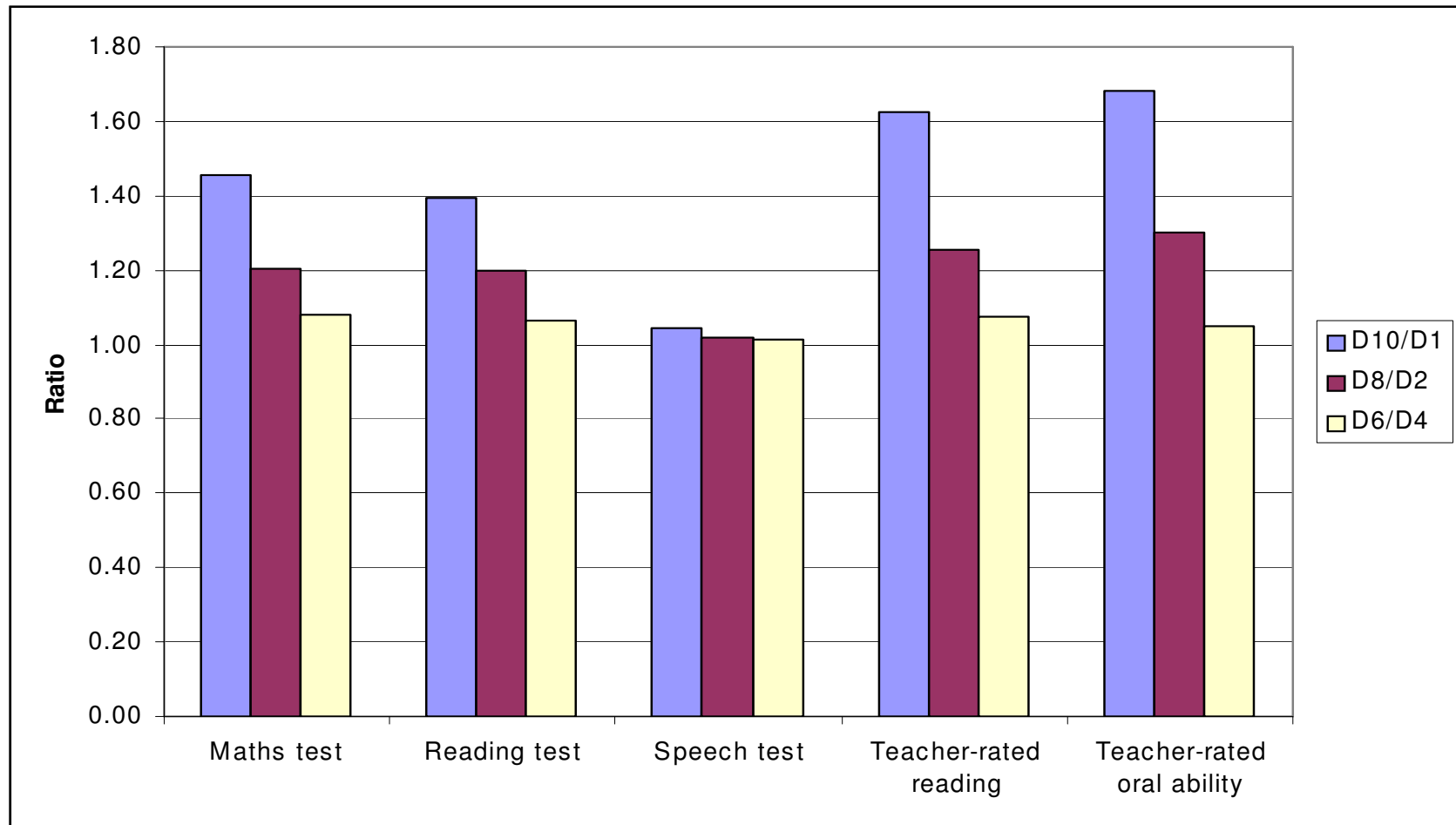
Cohort	Q2	Q5	Q8
1946	1.67	1.93	2.40
1958	1.31	2.03	2.43
1970	1.49	2.01	2.83
ALSPAC	1.90	2.66	2.82
2000	1.28	2.46	2.90

3a. Within cohort analysis

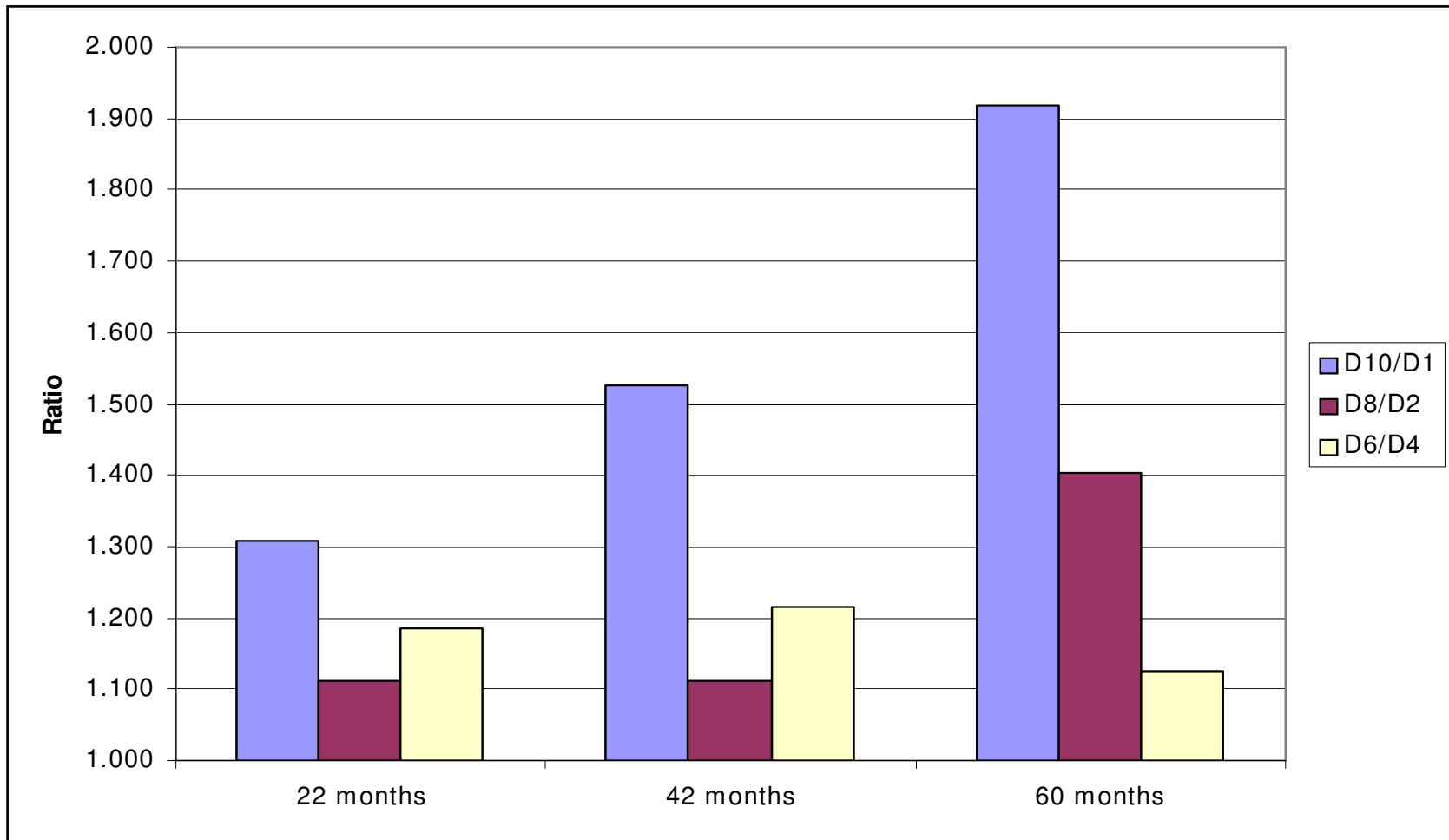
Disparity in Cognitive Achievement: 1946 Cohort (Fixed factor), males



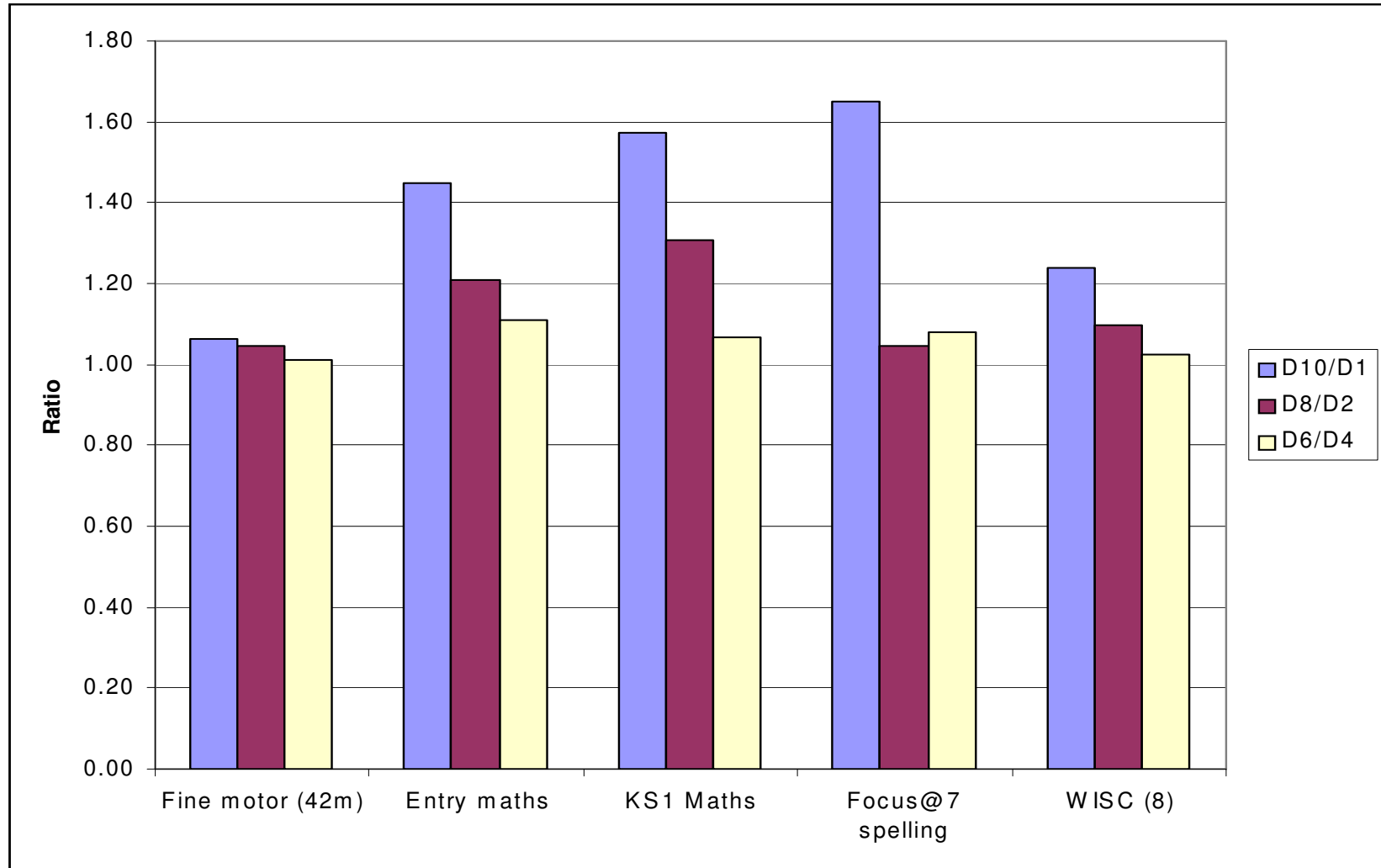
Disparity in Cognitive Achievement: 1958 Cohort (Fixed factor), males



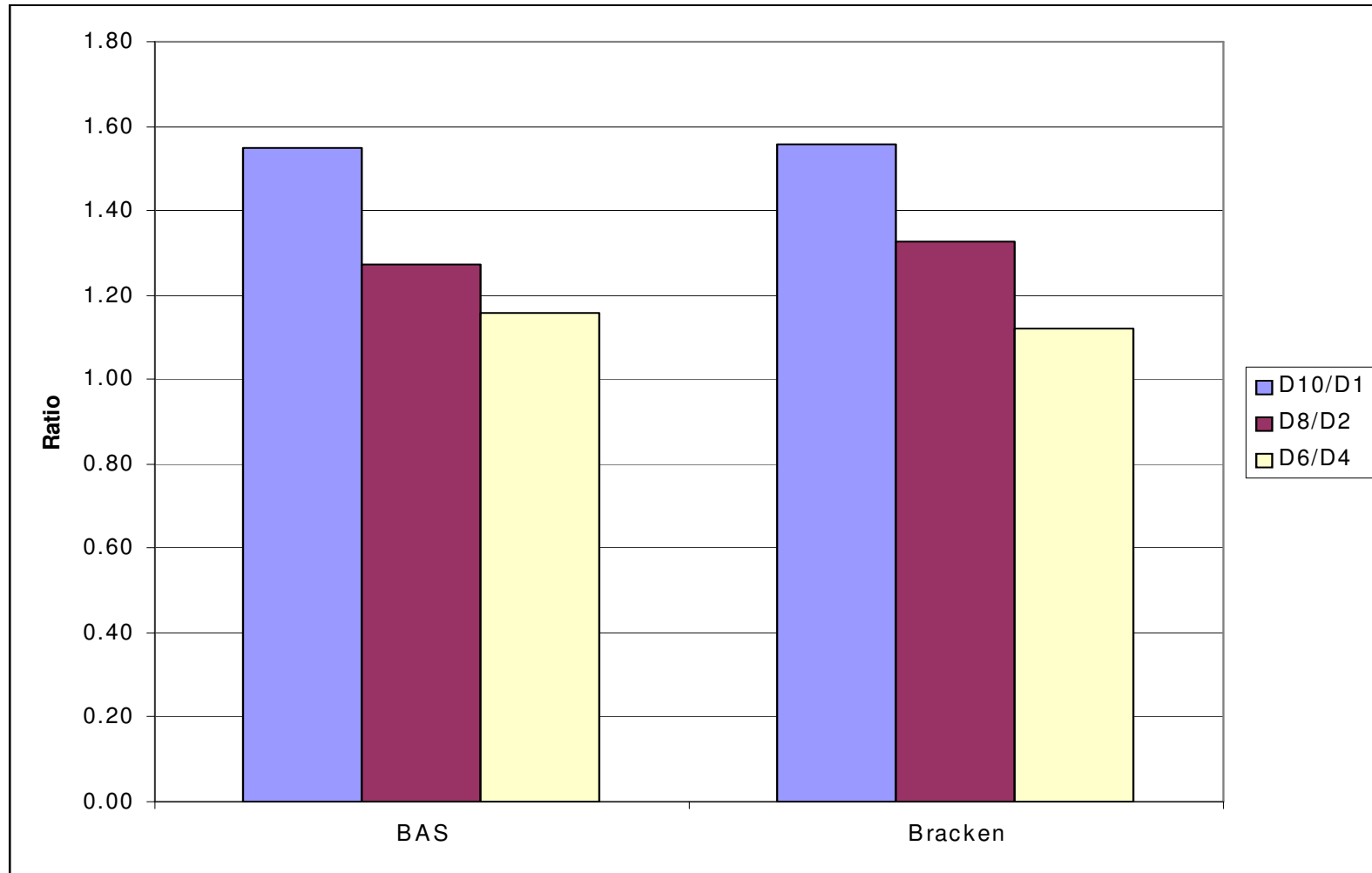
Disparity in Cognitive Achievement: 1970 Cohort (Fixed factor), females



Disparity in Cognitive Achievement: ALSPAC (Fixed factor), females

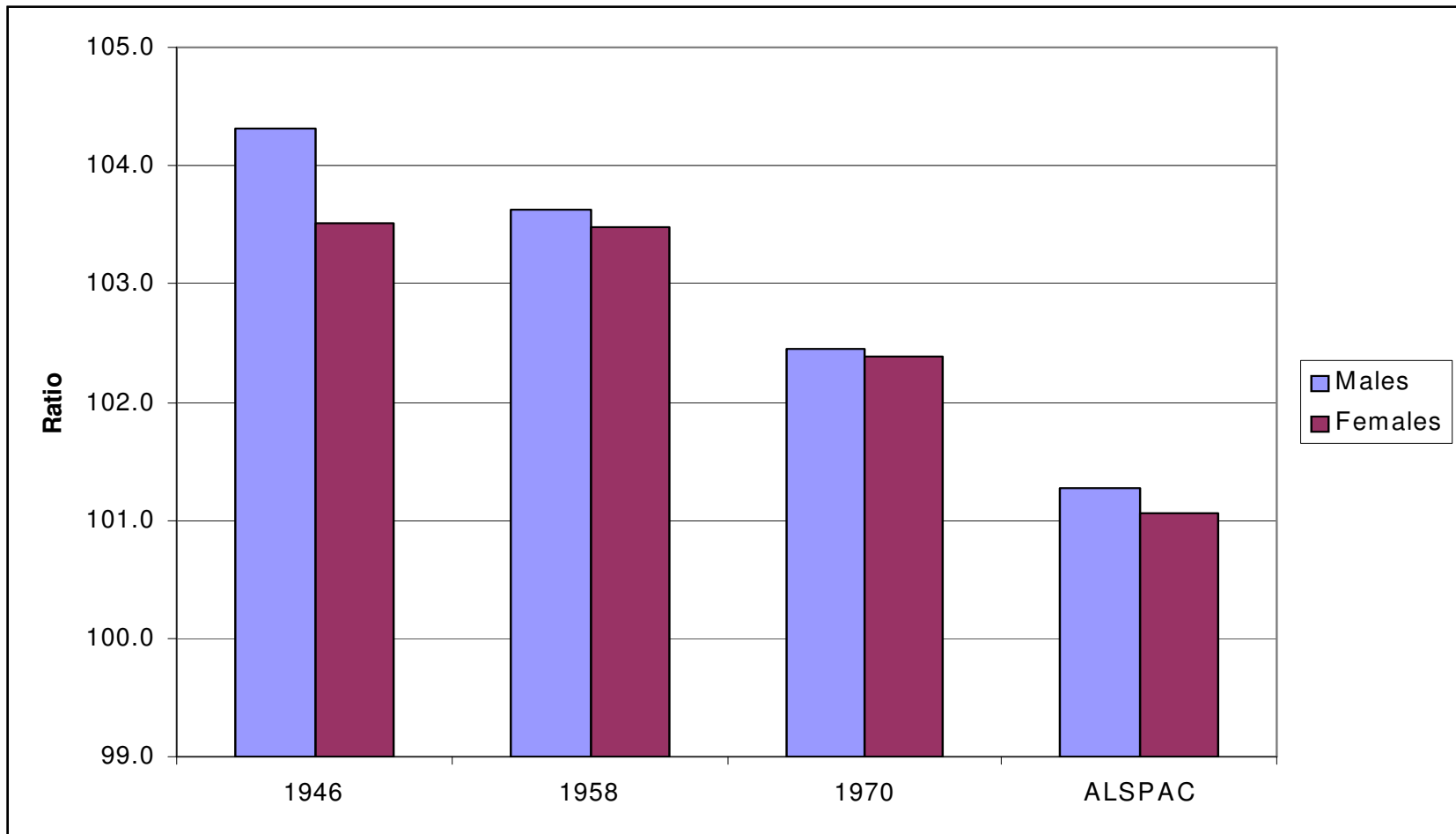


Disparity in Cognitive Achievement: MCS (Fixed factor), males

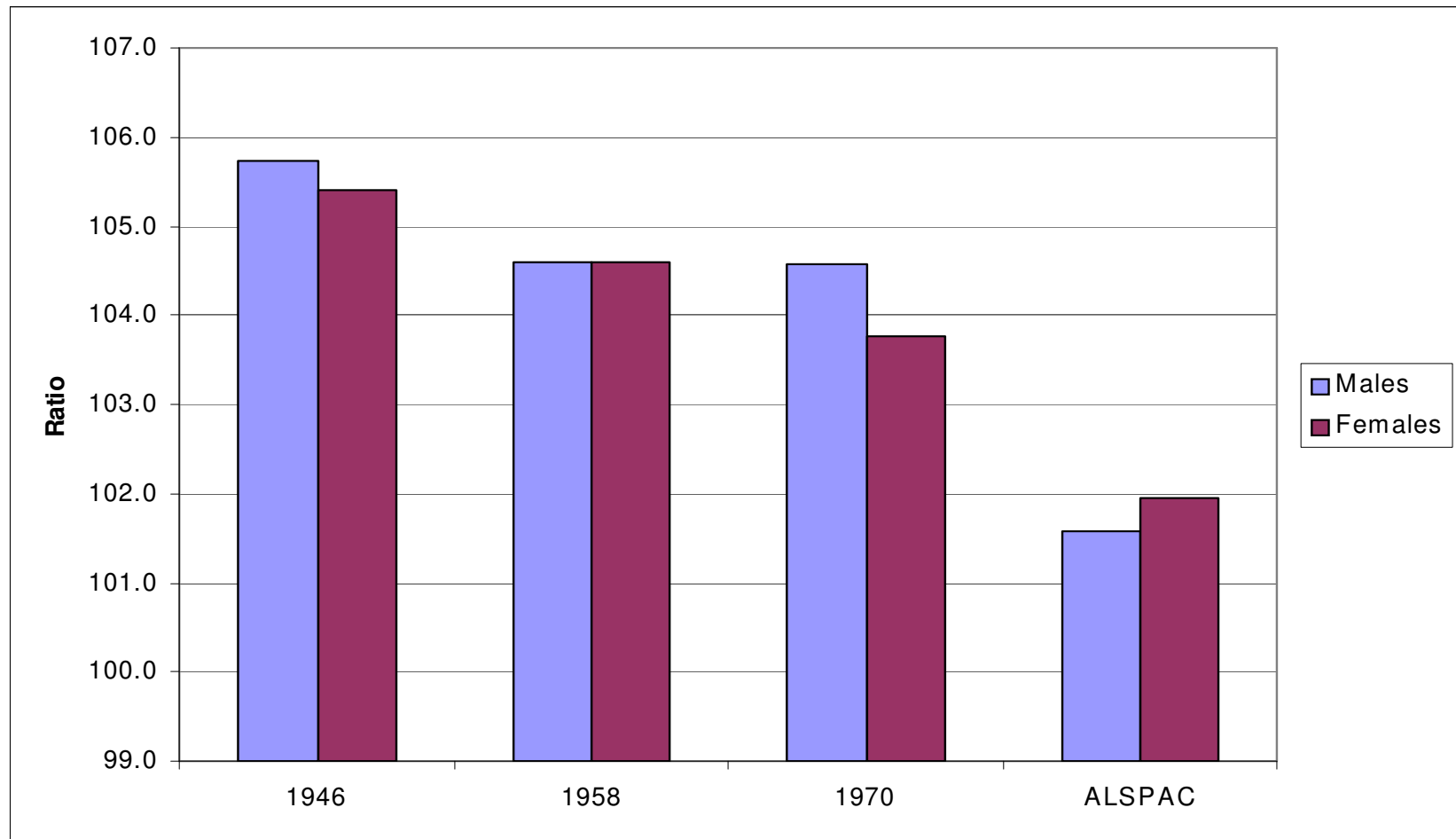


3b. Between-cohort comparison
(of within cohort differences)

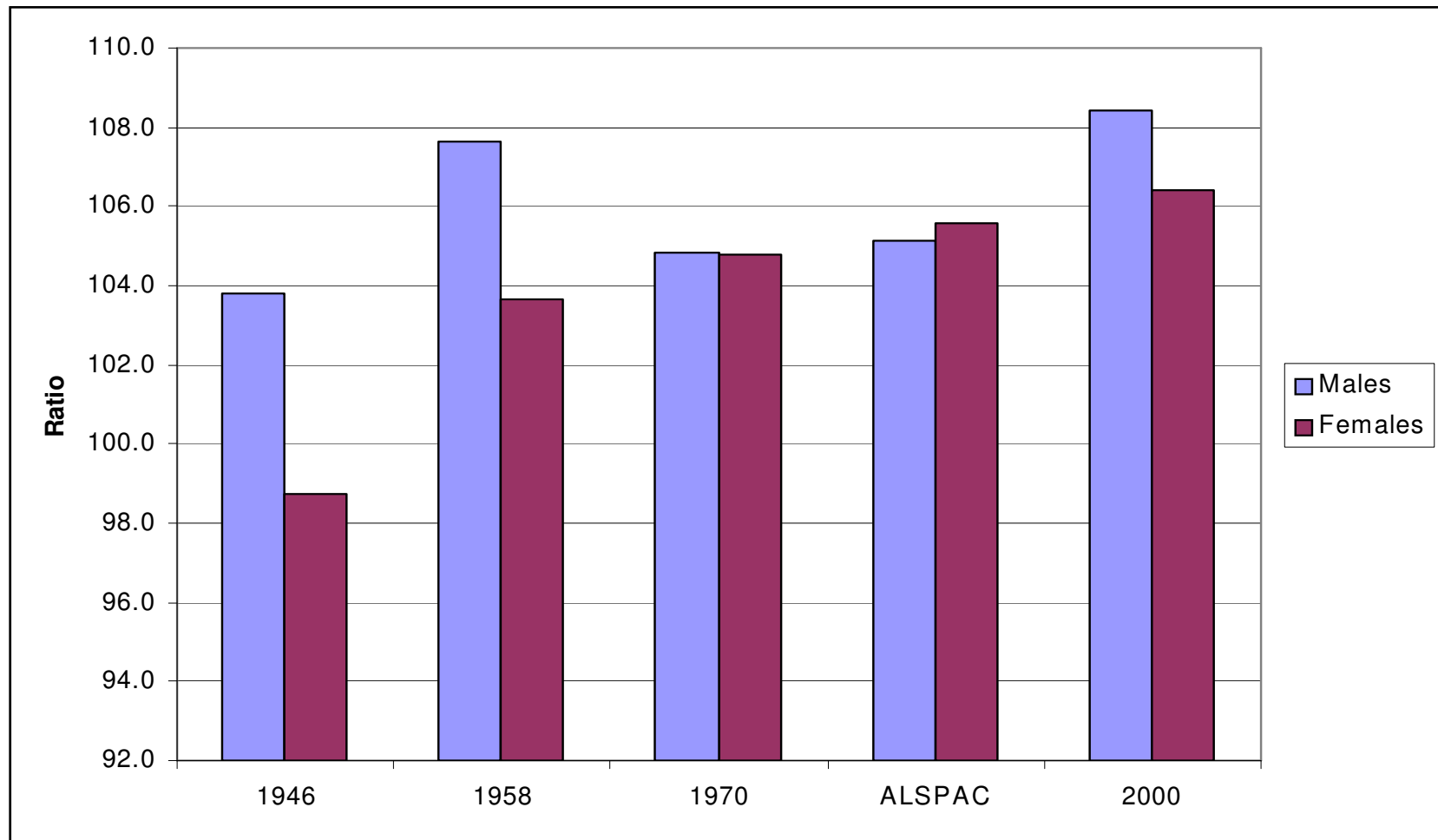
Height (age 7): Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Fixed factor)



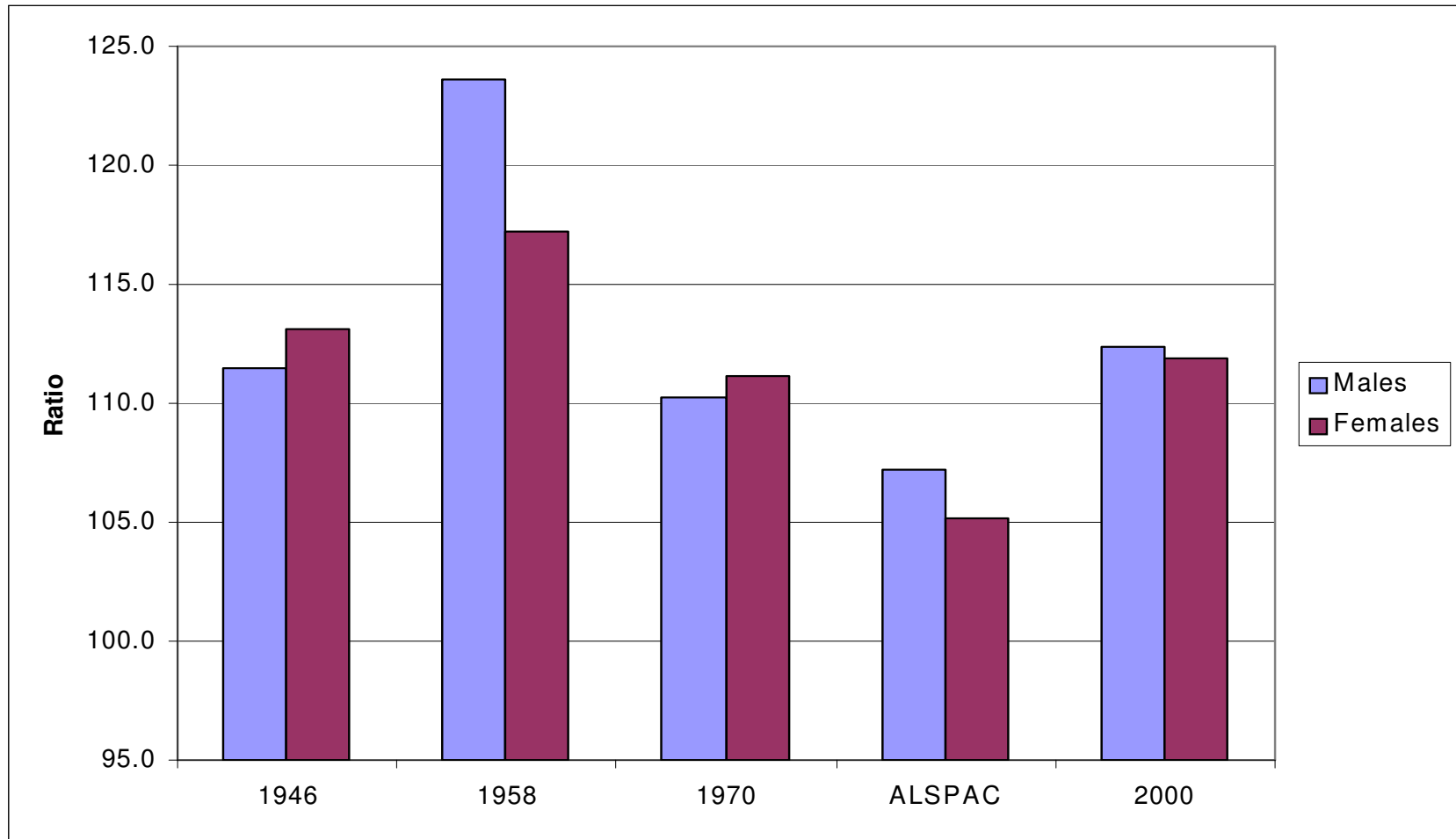
Height (age 7): Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Propensity)



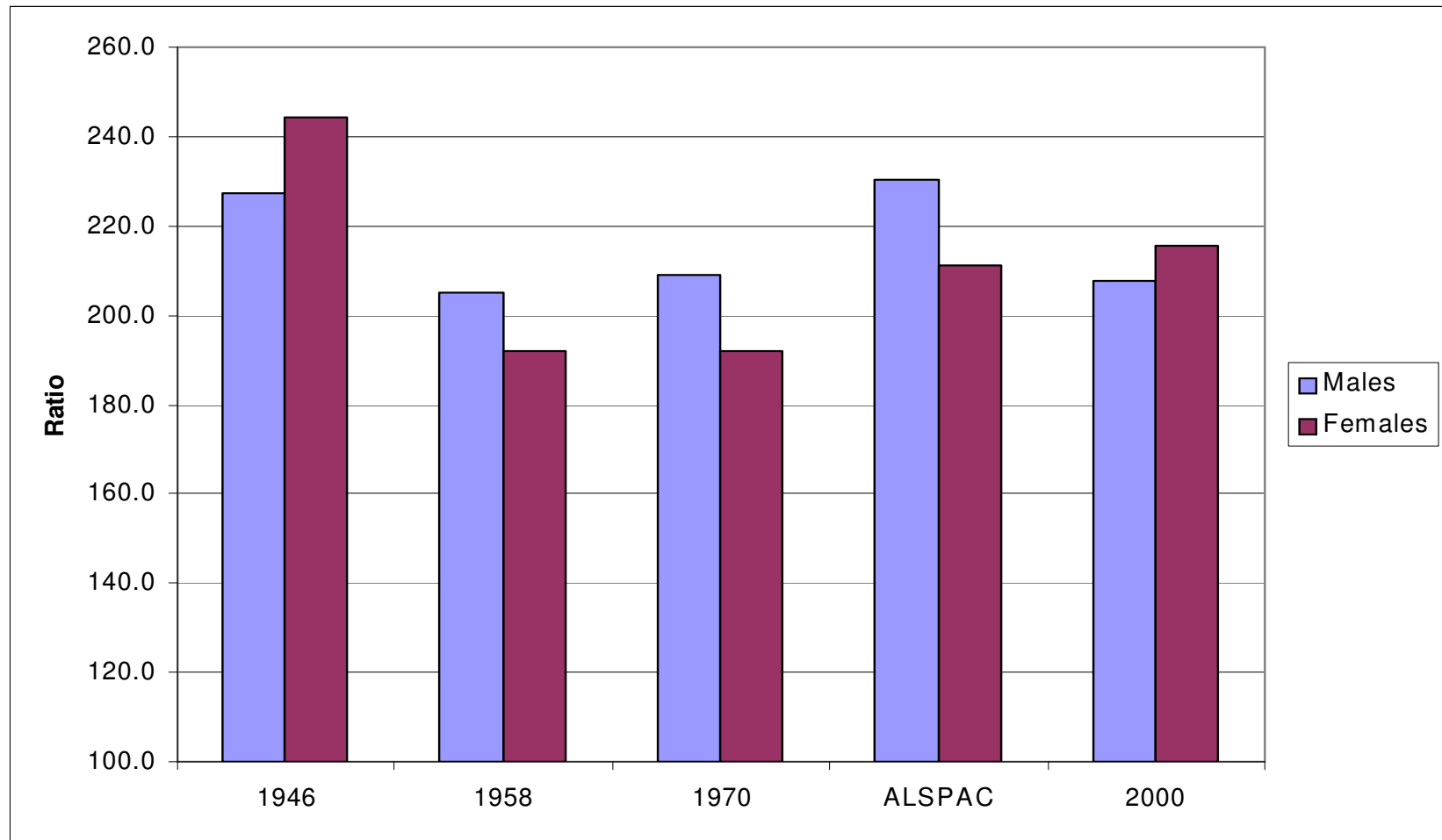
Birthweight: Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Fixed factor)



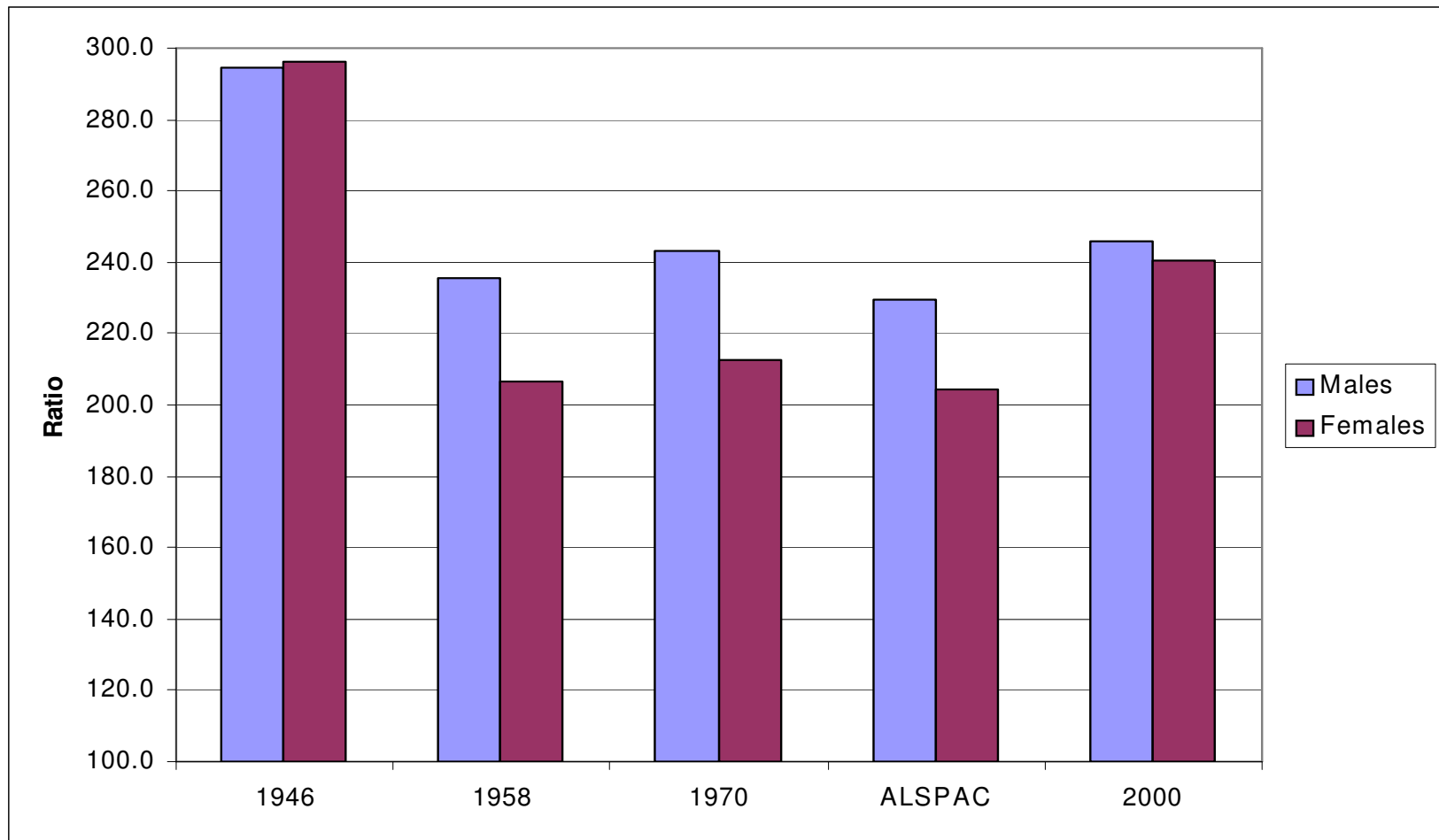
Birthweight: Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Propensity)



Cognitive Percentile: Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Fixed factor)



Cognitive Percentile : Decile 10 / Decile 1 (Propensity)



Conclusion.

These results are:

1. Very preliminary
2. Subject to change
3. Badly in need of further scrutiny, robustness checking
4. Depressing
5. Politically sensitive