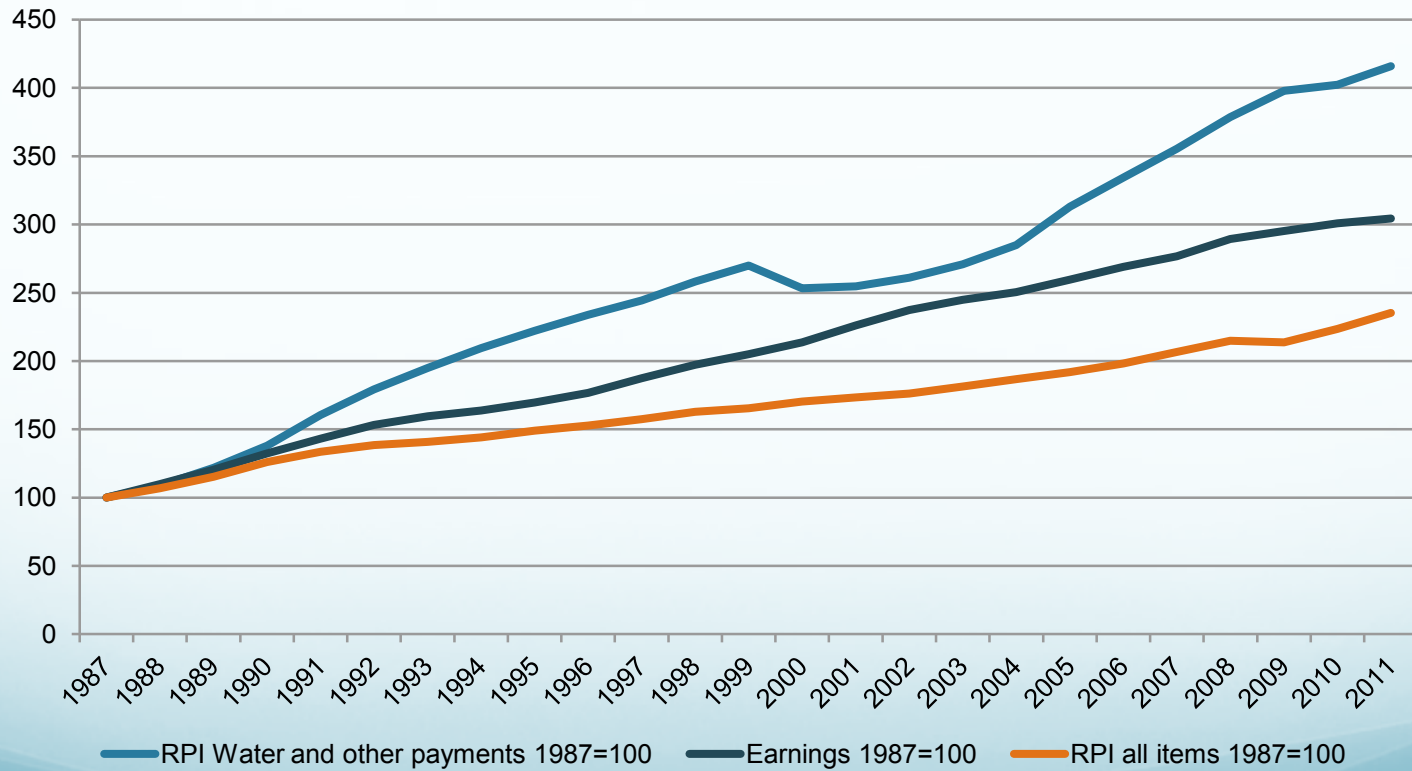


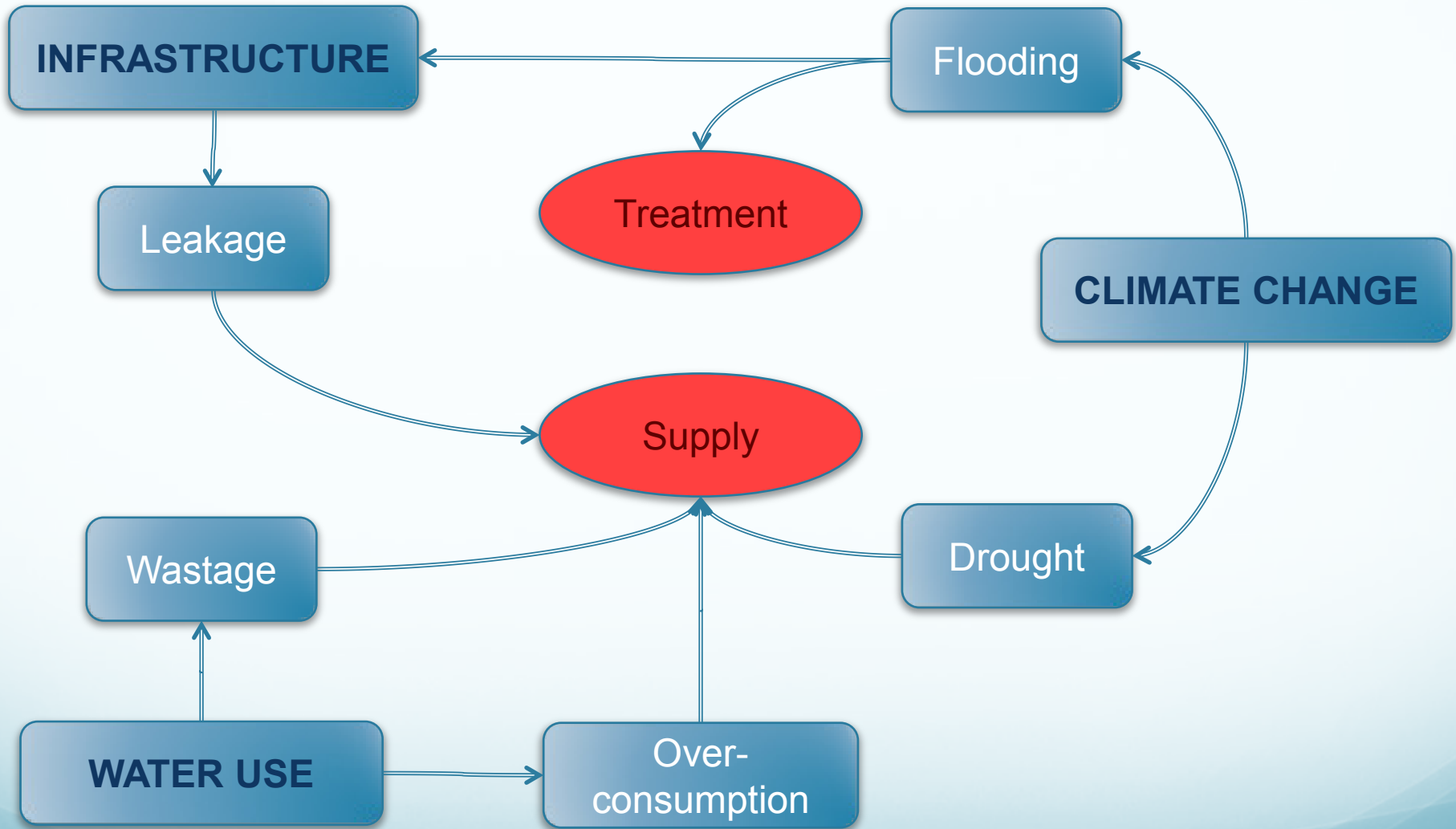
# Water Poverty in England and Wales

Jonathan Bradshaw and Meg Huby  
University of York

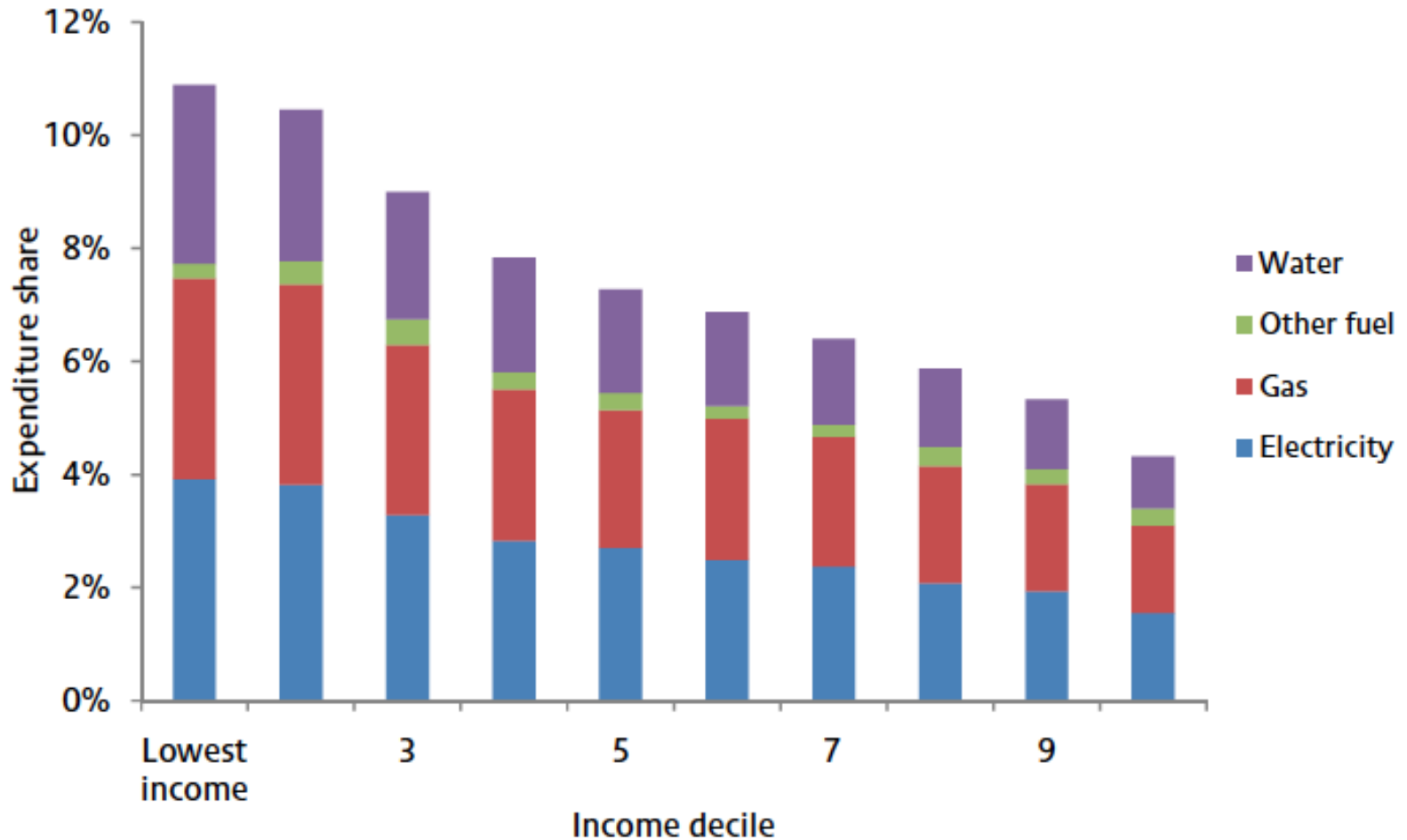
Family Resources Survey User Meeting  
Royal Statistical Society, London  
22 June 2012

# Movements in water prices, average earnings and overall RPI 1987-2011





Shares of spending on fuel and water in 2009 (Levell & Oldfield 2011)



# Use of the FRS 2009-10

## househol.sav

- *Household water payments:* WATERSEWRT
- *Metering:* WATERMET
- *Household composition:* HHCOMPS
- *Dependence on means-tested benefits:* HBINDHH2, CTCBU, LOW60BHC

## hbai0910

- *Household income:* ESAHCHH

# Water affordability indicator

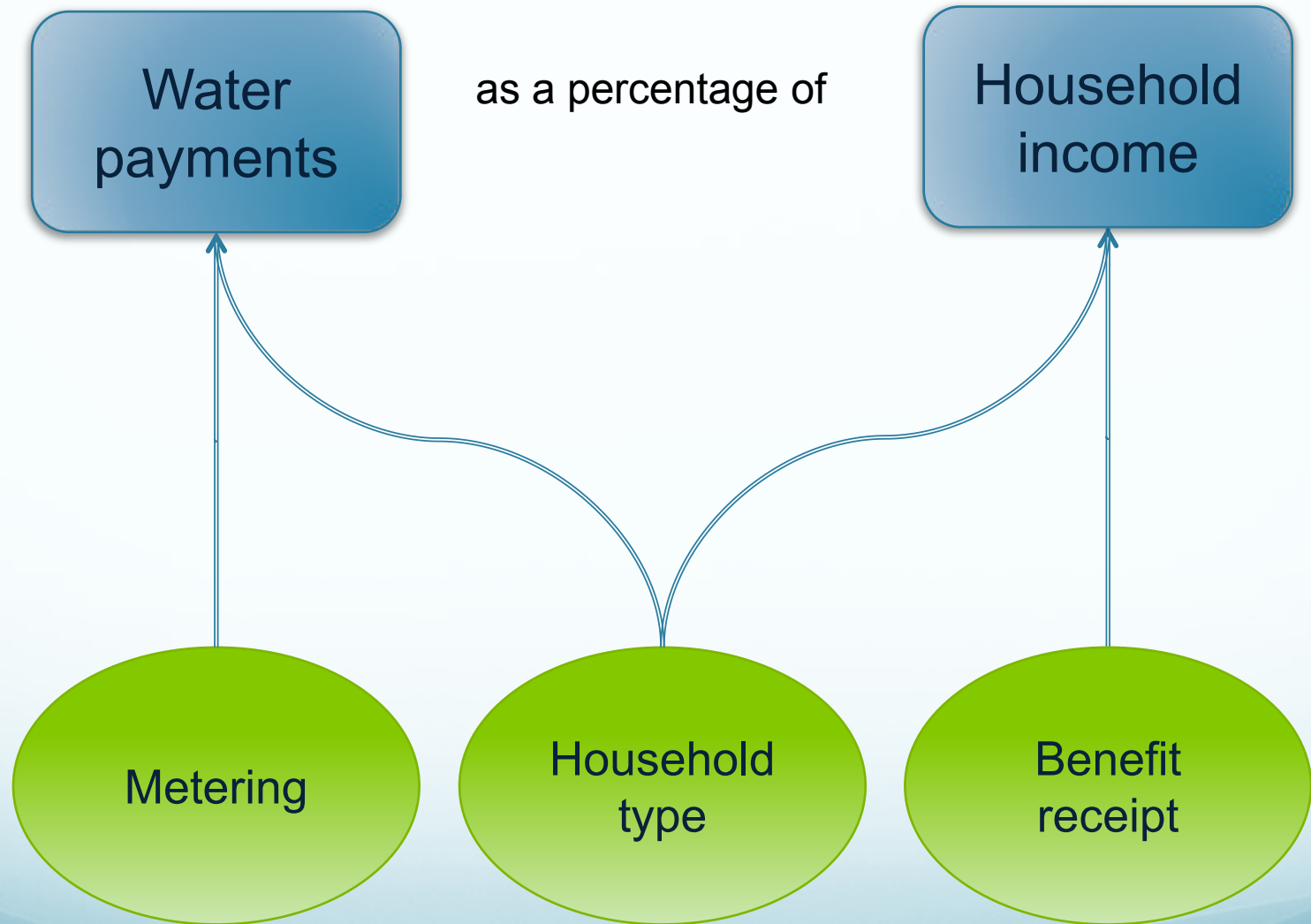
“the percentage of households spending more than 3% of their income on water charges”

- Does not capture true affordability as higher-income households may be able to afford higher bills
- Includes discretionary as well as essential use
- Influenced by bill increases other than water
  
- Enables the impact of different social tariffs to be evaluated
- Could be developed to support a cross-utility indicator
  
- **CAN BE MEASURED USING EXISTING DATA**

## Water poverty in England and Wales 2009-10

	3% threshold	5% threshold
% households in water poverty	23.6	11.5
Mean water poverty gap (£ per week)	3.46	3.62
Median water poverty gap (£ per week)	2.48	2.44

(FRS 2009-10)



Single adult household	% spending over 3% income on water	% spending over 5% income on water	% households in population
Yes	41.5	22.2	34.5
No	14.1	5.9	65.5
Total	23.6	11.5	100.0

(FRS 2009-10)

<b>Benefit dependent household</b>	<b>% spending over 3% income on water</b>	<b>% spending over 5% income on water</b>	<b>% households in population</b>
Yes	46.6	23.1	17.3
No	18.8	9.1	82.7
Total	23.6	11.5	100.0

(FRS 2009-10)

<b>Metered water payments</b>	<b>% spending over 3% income on water</b>	<b>% spending over 5% income on water</b>	<b>% households in population</b>
Yes	17.5	8.6	36.0
No	24.7	11.5	64.0
Total	22.1	10.5	100.0

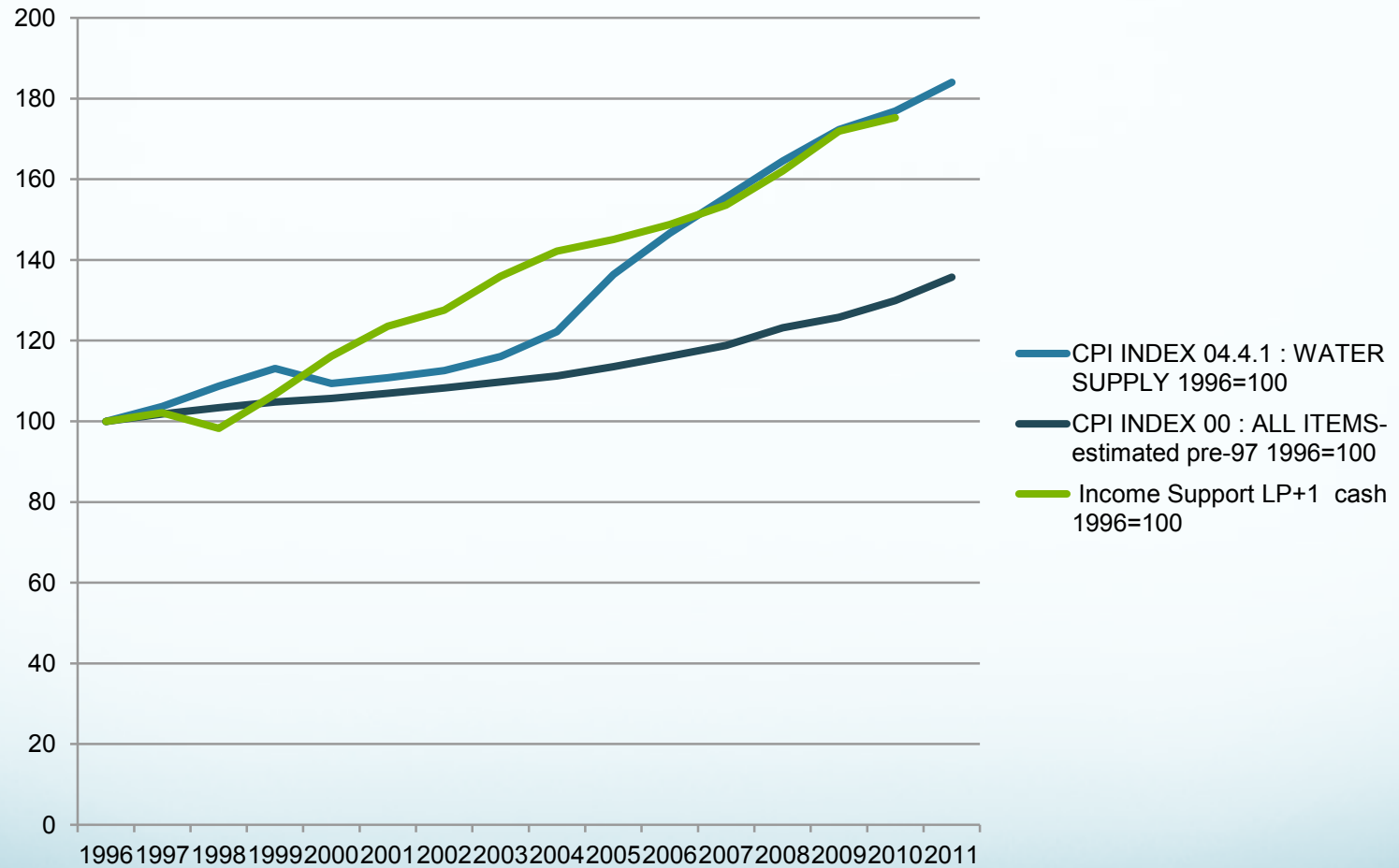
(FRS 2009-10)

95% CI for odds ratio				
	B(se)	Lower bound	Odds Ratio	Upper bound
One adult	1.36 (0.04)	3.62	3.91	4.23
Benefit receipt	1.14 (0.05)	2.85	3.12	3.41
Metered water	-0.53 (0.04)	0.54	0.59	0.64
Constant	-1.89			

(FRS 2009-10)

Metered water bills	Benefit receipt	One adult in household	% of total households	Probability of water poverty
0	0	0	38.3	0.13
0	0	1	14.1	0.37
0	1	0	6.3	0.32
0	1	1	5.4	0.67
1	0	0	20.6	0.08
1	0	1	10.8	0.26
1	1	0	1.9	0.22
1	1	1	2.7	0.52

## Movements in water prices, CPI and benefits



Water poverty rates in 2033 given various year on year changes in bills relative to income from 2010

Threshold	Water bills rise faster than average income by:				
	-1%	0%	1%	2%	3%
3%	17.2	23.6	32.4	42.3	53.7
5%	8.5	11.5	16.1	21.9	30.0

(FRS 2009-10)

### CLG household projections for England 2003-2033

