



More Money, More Grades?

Private Tuition and Educational Outcomes: Evidence from the *Growing Up in Ireland* Study

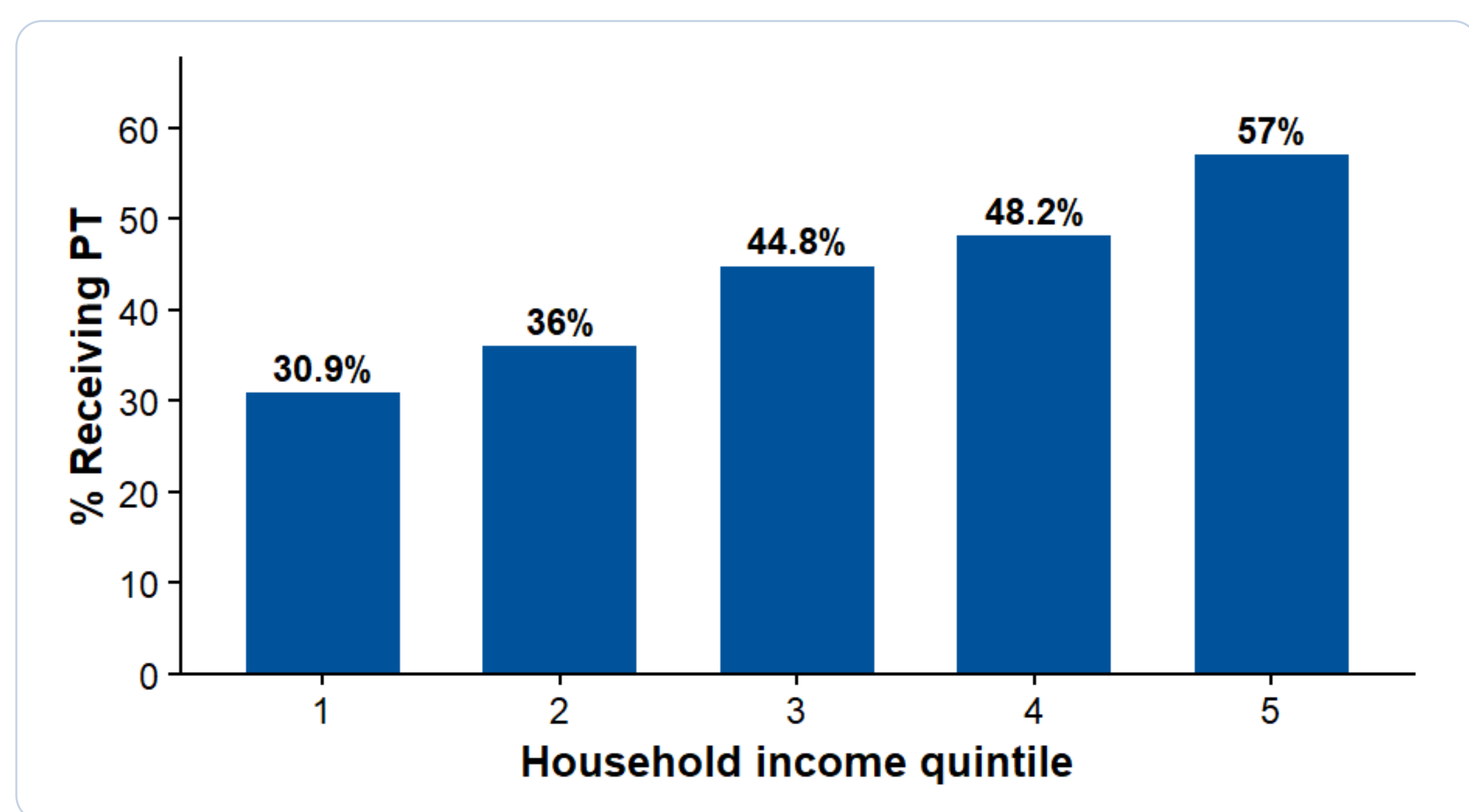
Lochlann Cawley
Supervisor: Dr. Barra Roantree



Introduction

57% of students from the highest income households receive private tuition (PT).

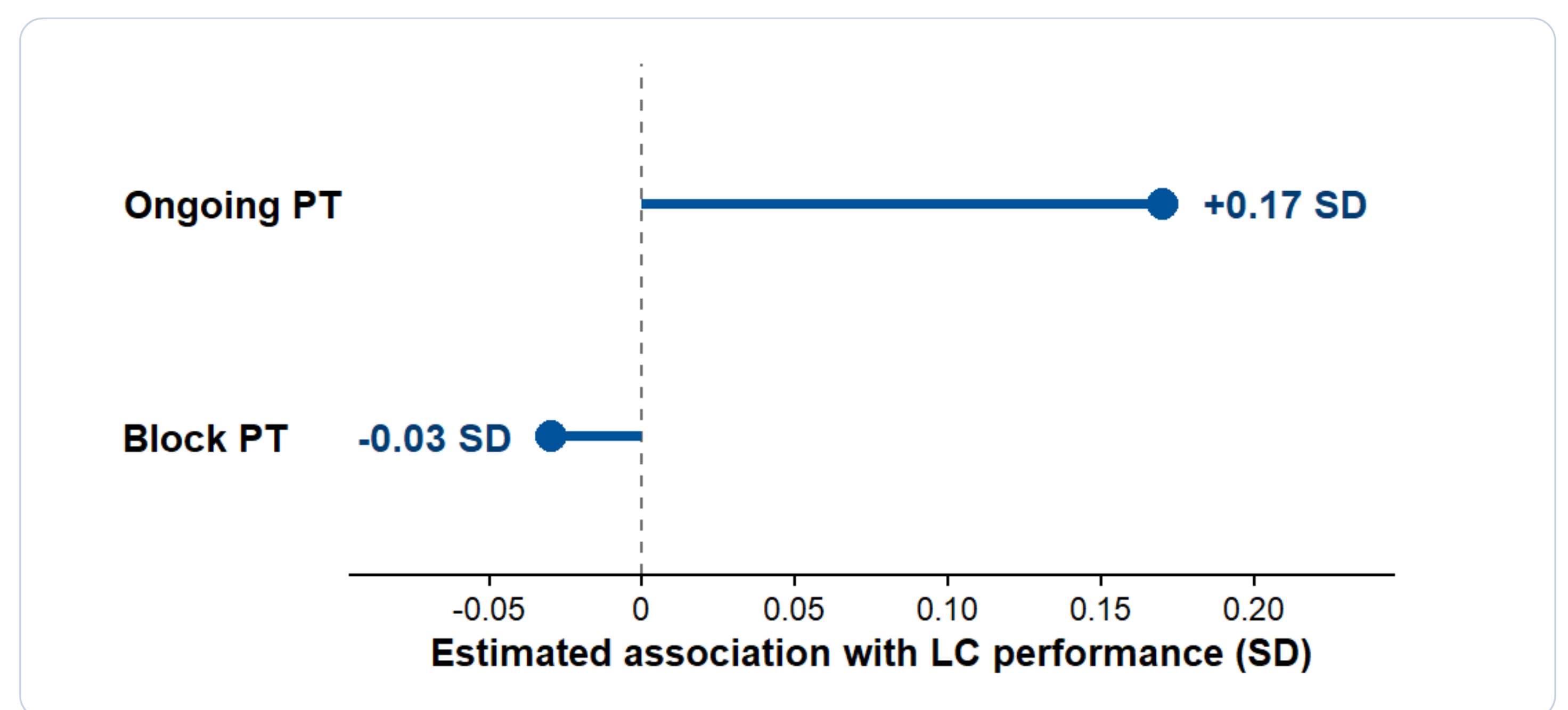
- This study asks whether students receiving PT achieve better educational outcomes after accounting for background differences.
- International evidence is mixed, while contemporary Irish evidence remains limited.



Results

Ongoing private tuition (or PT) associated with 11 additional Leaving Certificate points

- Ongoing PT was positively associated with Leaving Certificate performance ($\beta = 0.17, p < 0.01$).
- Block PT during holiday periods was not significantly associated with Leaving Certificate performance.
- Limited evidence ($p < 0.10$) that the positive association with ongoing PT was larger among students with lower prior ability.



Methodology

- **OLS regression** with Leaving Certificate performance as the dependent variable.
- **Controls:** household income, prior academic ability, gender, school type, ongoing and block private tuition.
- **Analytic sample:** $n = 2,851$
- Interaction terms tested whether the association between grinds and attainment differed by household income, prior academic ability, and school type.

Conclusions/Implications

- Ongoing PT is independently associated with higher educational outcomes.
- As participation is concentrated among higher-income households, unequal access to PT may contribute to educational inequality.
- This evidence can inform policy discussions on equality of educational opportunity and access to academic support.

