

Children, Social Housing and Neighbourhoods: A PATHS Equity for Children Project

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Background

Social housing provides individuals and families with affordable housing. Of the approximately 30,000 people living in social housing managed by Manitoba Housing, 50% are under the age of 20.

In Winnipeg, social housing is located in neighborhoods with varying socio-economic status, indicated by 'community centre area income' (CCAI). We used the 72 community centre areas in Winnipeg to investigate whether the location of social housing is associated with different outcomes for children. Using data available through the Repository at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, we look at whether there is a connection between the neighborhood in which the social housing is located and five health and education outcomes.

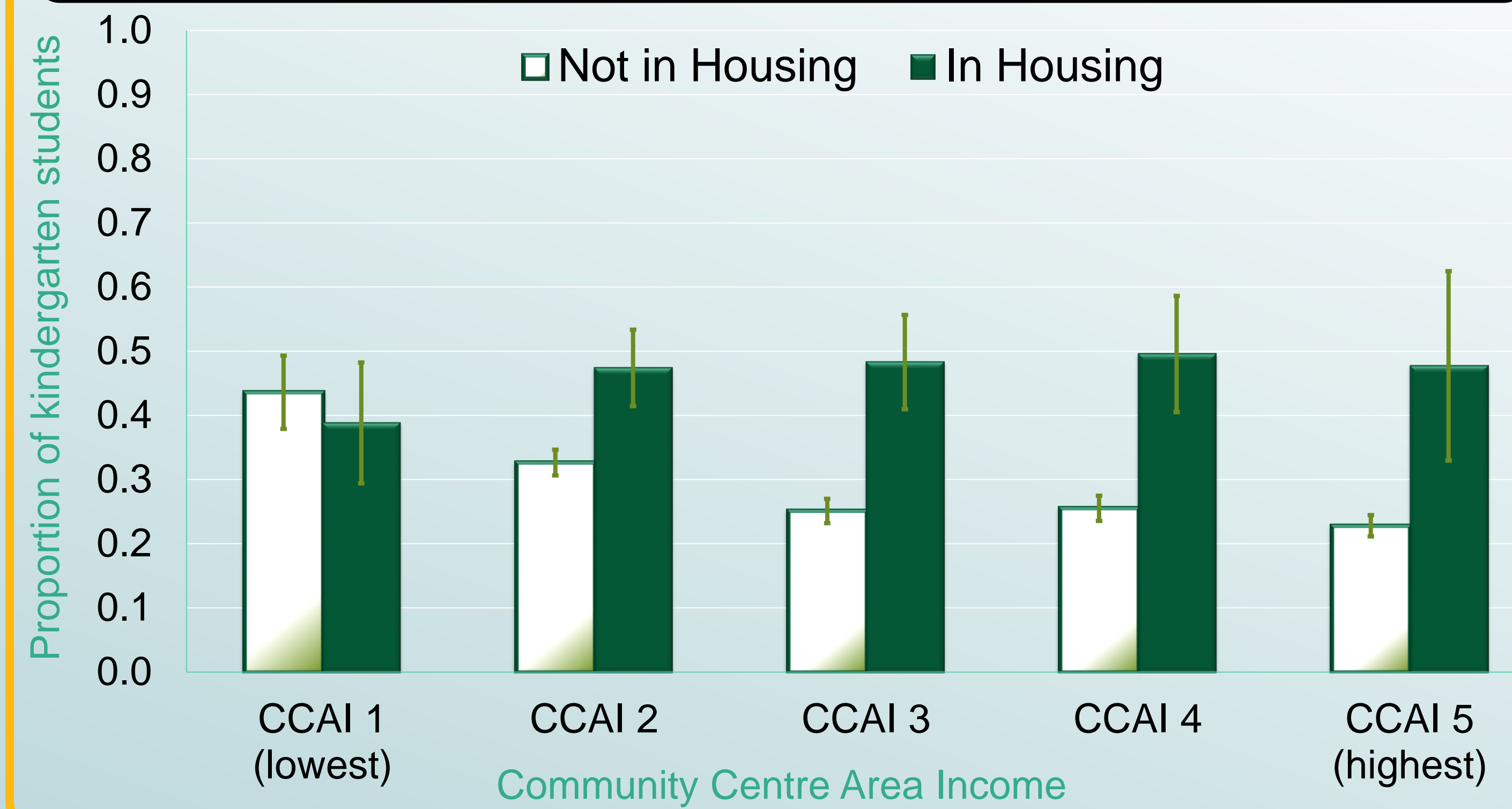
Objectives

To examine the association between the neighbourhood in which social housing is located and health and educational outcomes of children.

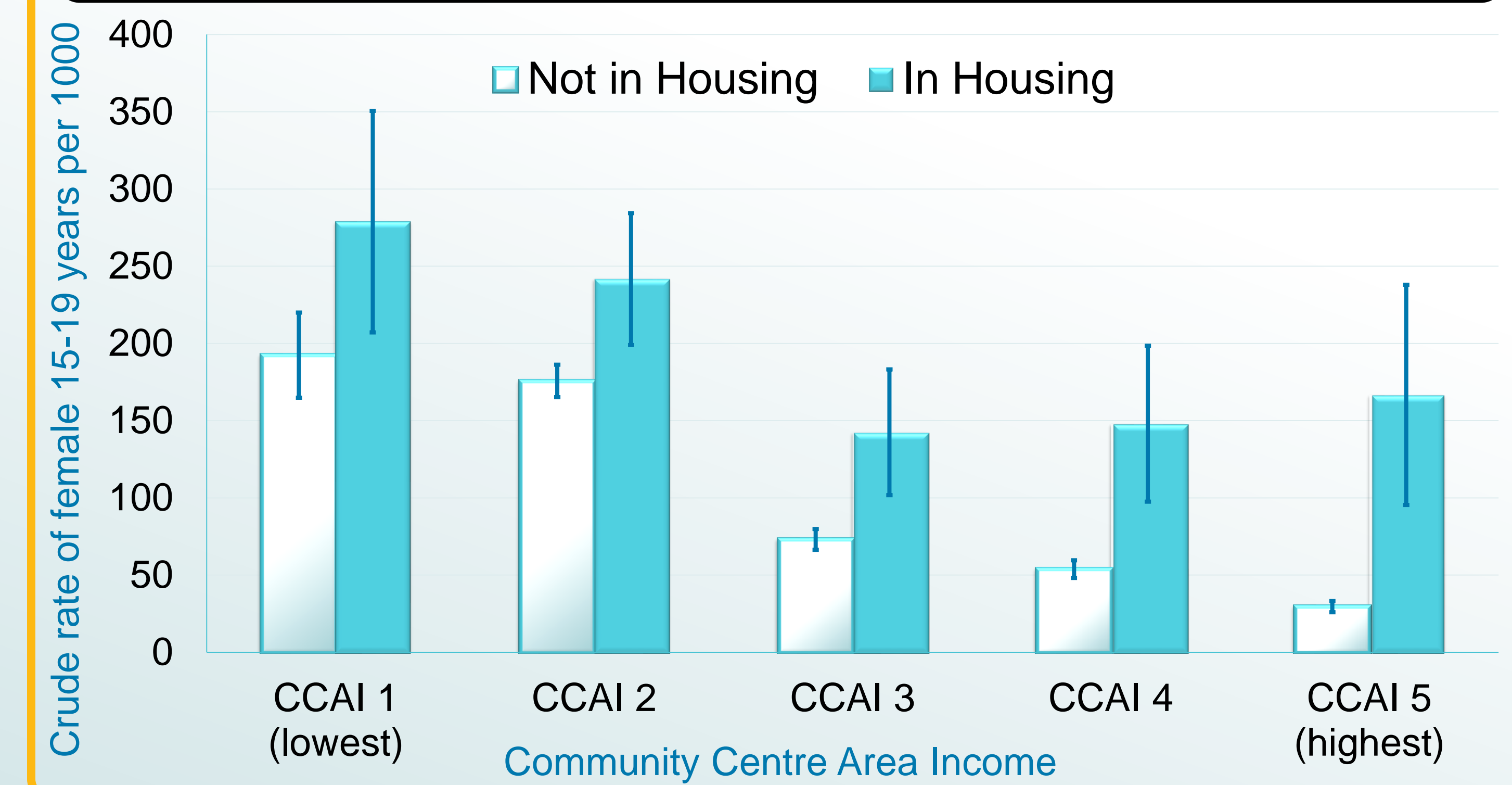
Methods

- Uses the world-class data housed at the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy to enable identification of all children who reside in provincially owned social housing
- Uses matched cohort comparisons of health and education outcomes for children under age 20 – comparisons are made between children living in social housing (i) by the neighborhood (i.e., CCAI) in which the housing is located, and (ii) children living in the same neighborhood who are not in social housing
- Uses multi-level modeling to test individual and neighborhood effects

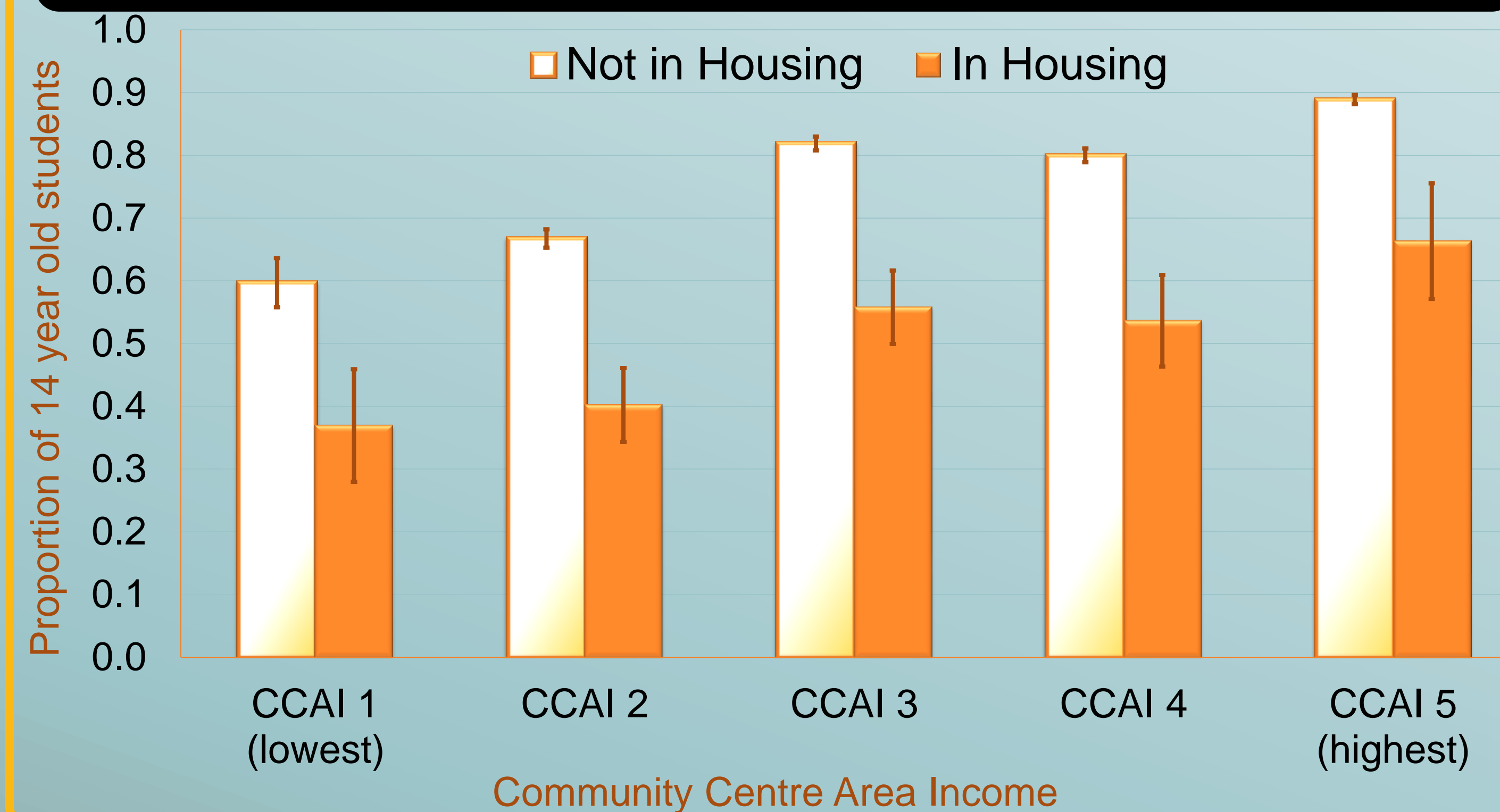
Not Ready in 1+ Early Development Instrument Domains by Community Centre Area Income, 2005/06 - 2006/07



Teen Pregnancy by Community Centre Area Income, 2006/07 - 2008/09



Students with 8+ Grade 9 Credits Passing on Time by Community Centre Area Income, 2006/07-2008/09



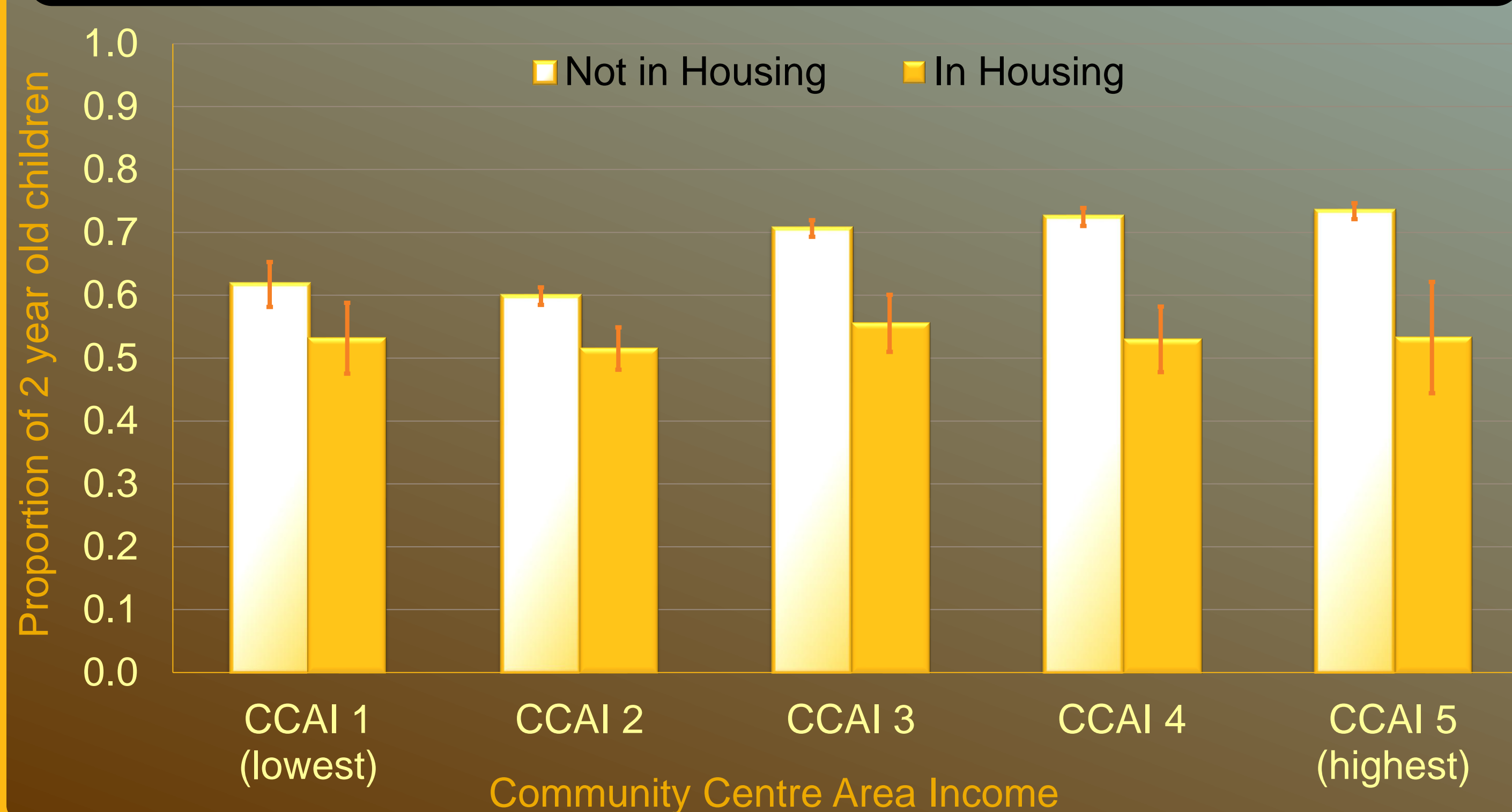
Results

Early childhood indicators (i.e., immunizations and readiness for school) are not associated with neighbourhood, but school-age indicators are: children living in social housing located in higher socio-economic status neighbourhoods have higher rates of passing grade 9 on time, higher rates of high school completion, and lower rates of teen pregnancy. However, children living in social housing consistently have poorer outcomes than those not living in social housing, regardless of neighbourhood.

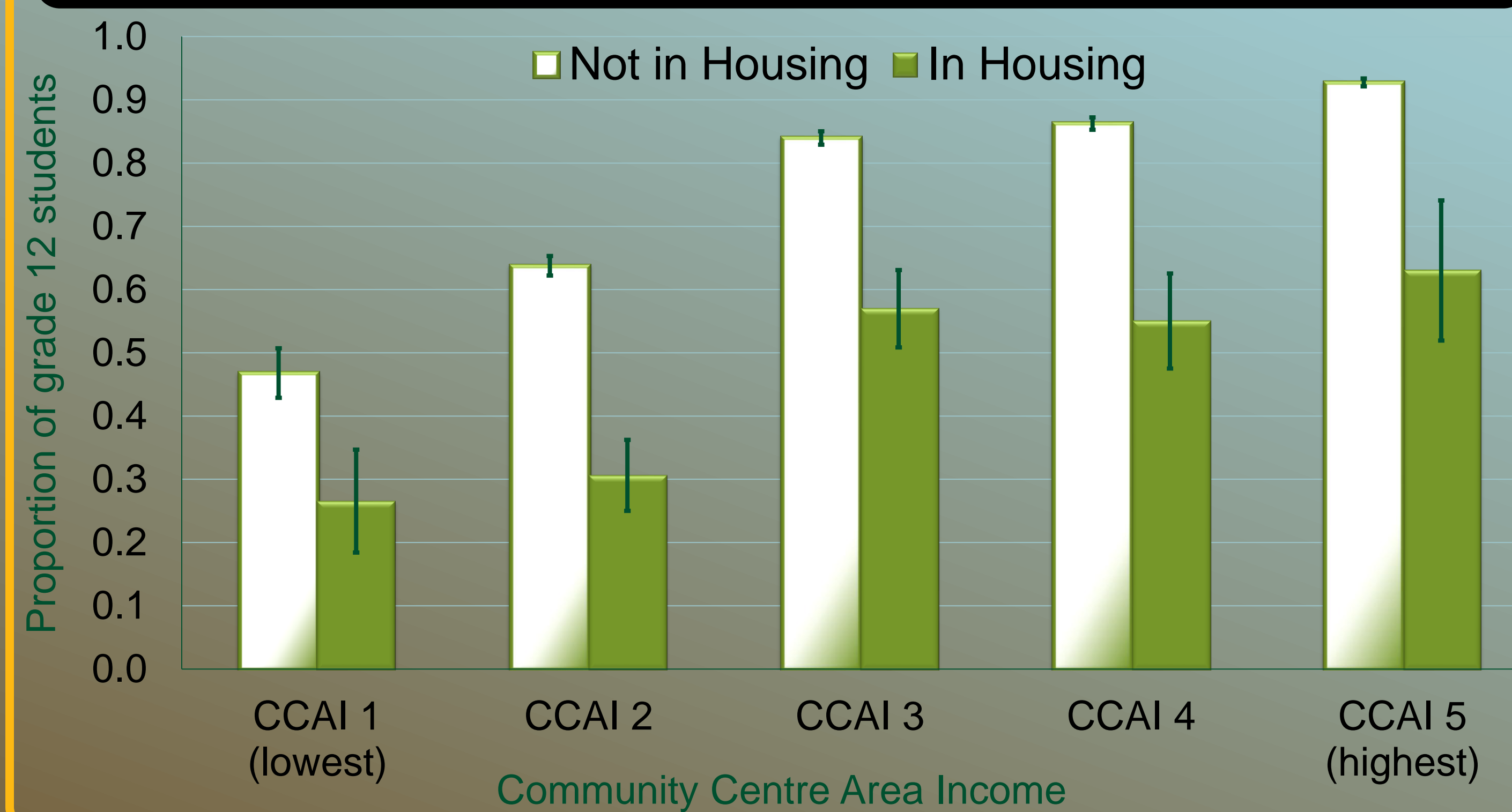
Conclusion

Where social housing is located matters – neighbourhood has no effect prior to entering school, but as children get older and have been in school for a period of time, those living in social housing in higher income areas have better outcomes than their counterparts in lower income areas.

Complete Immunization at Two Years Old by Community Centre Area Income, 2006/07 - 2008/09



High School Completion by Community Centre Area Income, 2006/07 - 2008/09



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