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**Introduction**

- The measurement and monitoring of health inequalities is an important public health issue that comes very high on the European political agenda.
- This is driven by the fact that a great number of European studies have highlighted the widening gap between countries, and socio-economic groups
- Despite the substantial improvements in life expectancy and the life gains of more than 11 years in the EU-27, over the last half century, major health inequalities persist. .
- The health gap remained stable in the 80s and 90s in Europe but increased in the decades of 2000’s and 2010’s and 2020’s

**Objective**

- The objective of this study was to investigate Health Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) Inequalities in Greece and assess the effects of the financial crisis on the health status of the Greek Citizens.

**Methods**

- The EQ-5D-5L instrument was administered to a sample of 5100 randomly selected individuals (53% women, 46.7 % men) in Greece.
- The Greek version of the EQ-5D-5L instrument was used in a web based structural questionnaire to assess the magnitude of Health Related Quality of Life Inequalities .
- The impact of the crisis was examined on the EQ-5D-Index and the five dimensions of the EQ-5D-5L instrument i.e.: i) Mobility, ii) Self Care iii) Usual Activities iv) Pain/Discomfort v) Anxiety/Depression. (Figure 1)
- The diagrammatic approach was used to portray the Gap in Health Related Quality of Life Indexes (EQ-5D Index Before and During the Economic Crisis in Greece

**Results**

- The economic crisis has brought a significant deterioration on the health status and the quality of life of the Greek Population.
- The EQ-VAS mean scores Before and During the Crisis, indicated a significant deterioration by 10 points. From 86.06 to 76.72 (decline by 11%) . The EQ-5D Index was also reduced from 0.84 to 0.67 (decline by 20%). This reduction was also associated with greater inequalities in the distribution of health.
- The Health Gap by educational status was much greater among the low educated (primary education) compared to university graduates (Figure 2)
- The health Gap among the poor was much greater in comparison to richer classes. This finding was recorded both in a qualitative scale i.e. measuring income in subjective terms (see Figure 3) as well as a quantitative scale i.e. measuring income in income brackets ((see Figure 4)
- In addition low-income individuals declared losses of jobs, fears of long unemployment and a significant deterioration of their psychological and emotional status at it was depicted in the dimensions of Anxiety –Depression and Pain –Discomfort.
- Low-income people confronted greater difficulties to have access to health services and expressed their greater mistrust to health system.

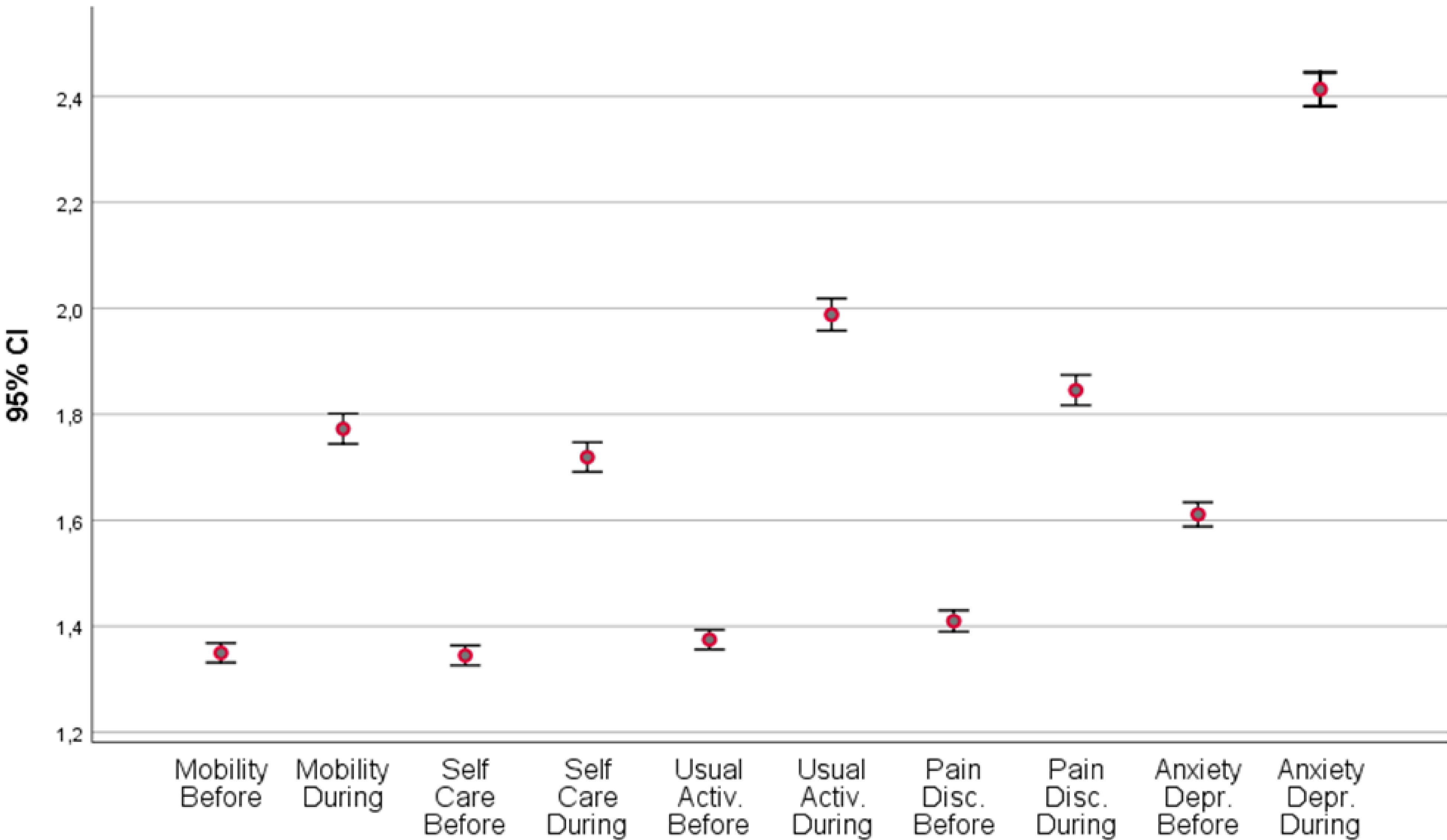
**Conclusions**

- Tackling health inequalities is a prime public health objective among the European Governments as well as among the recently elected government in Greece.

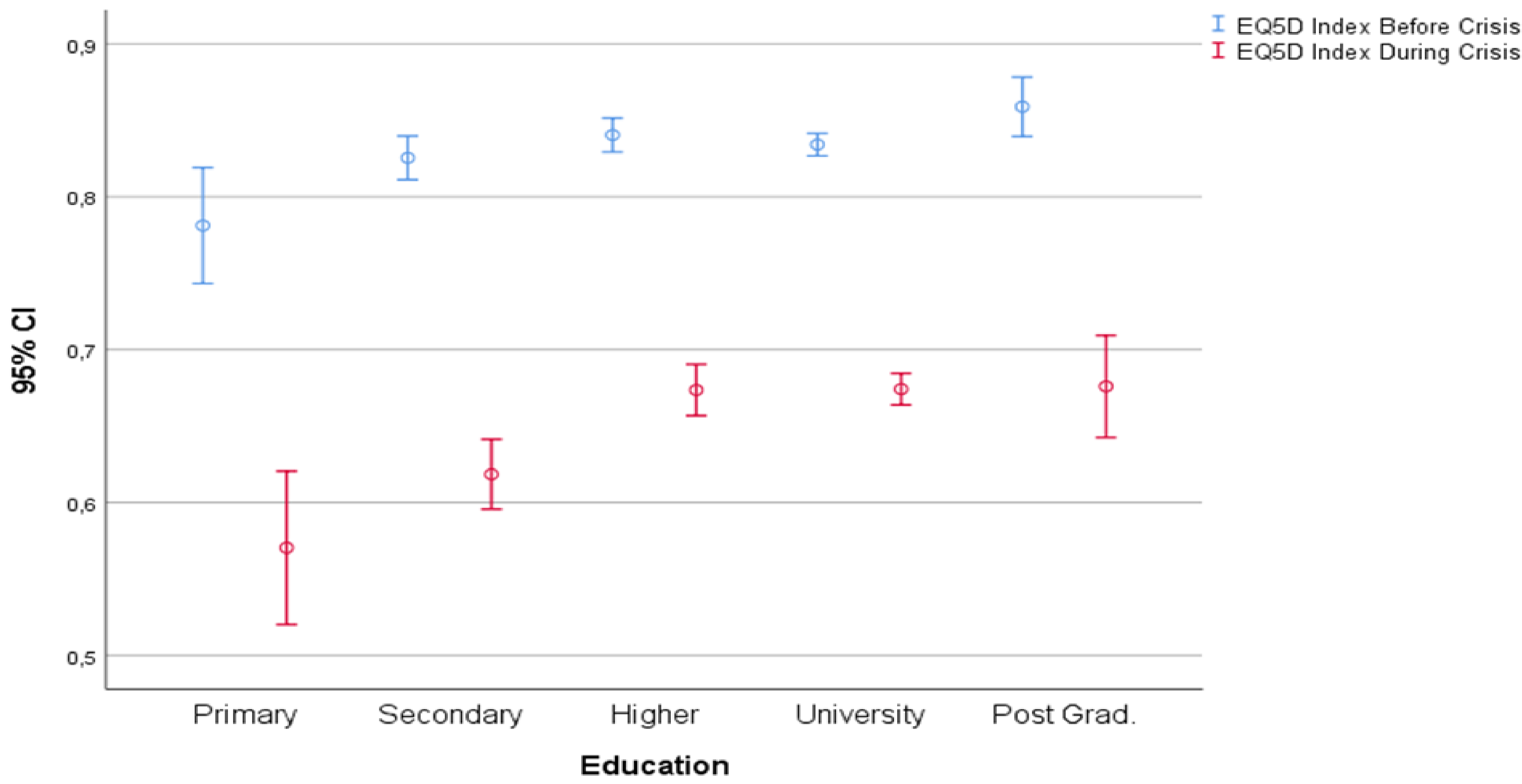
Growing health and socio-economic inequalities undermine the goals expressed by the founders of the Greek NHS. The economic and the Covid-19 crisis had a tremendous impact on the economy and the health sector.

**Results**

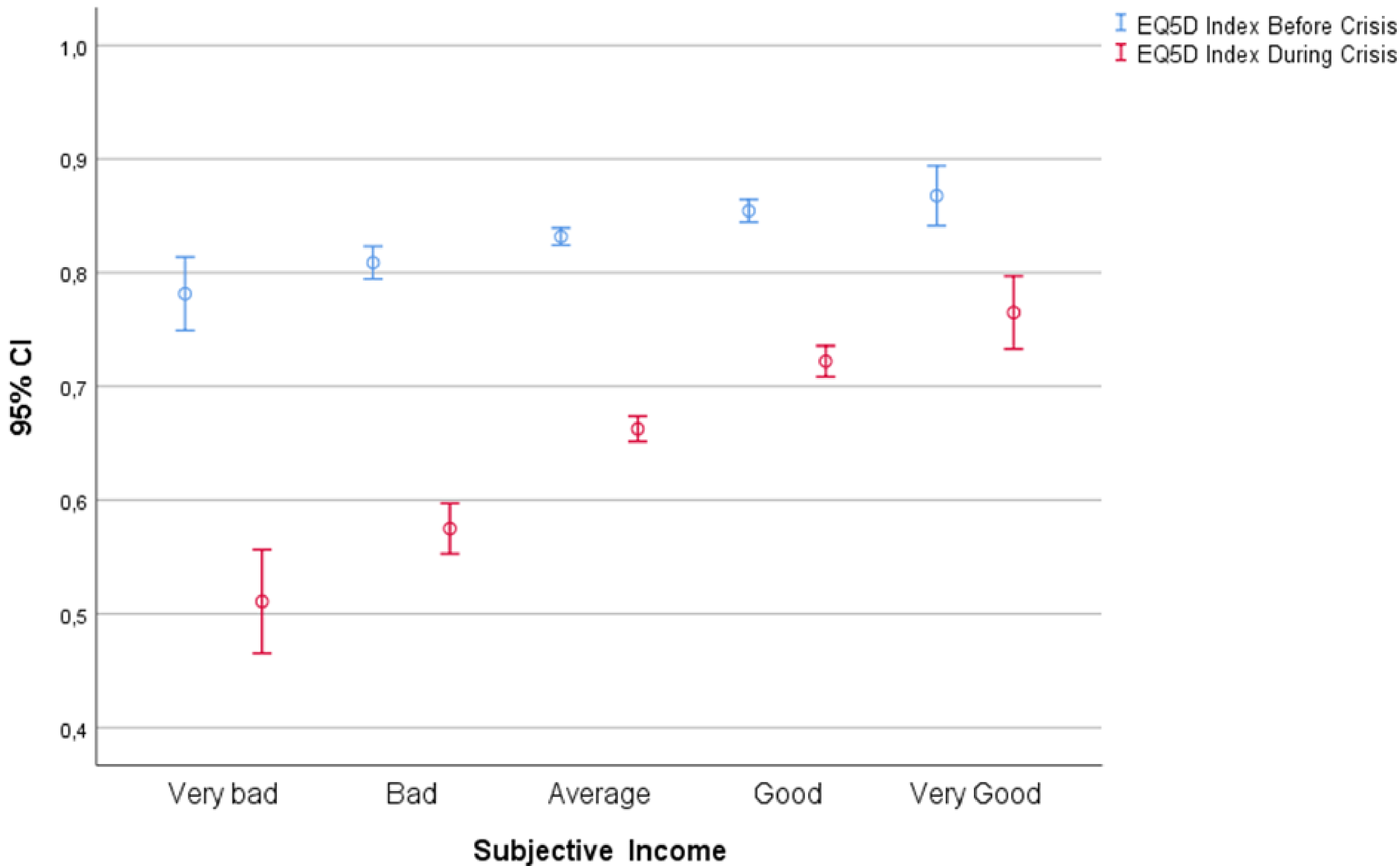
**Figure 1. Changes in the 5 Dimensions of the EQ-5D-5L Before and During the Economic Crisis in Greece**



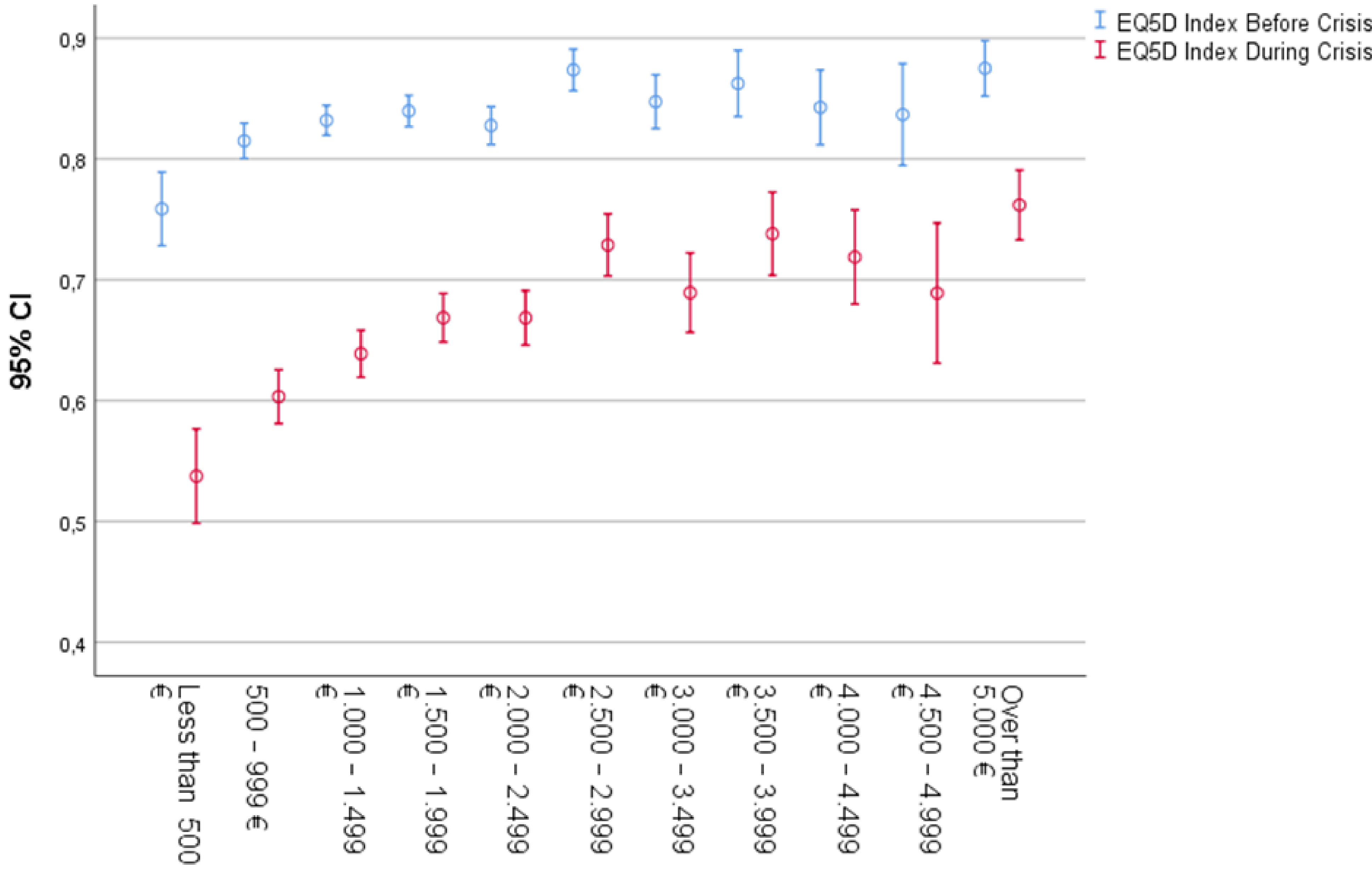
**Figure 2. Health Inequalities by Educational Status Before and During the Economic Crisis in Greece**



**Figure 3. Health Inequalities by Subjective Income Before and During the Economic Crisis in Greece**



**Figure 4. Health Inequalities by Income Before and During the Economic Crisis in Greece**



**References**

[1] GDecision No 1786/2002/EC European Parliament and the Council (23 September, 2002): Programme of Community Action in the Field of Public Health, 2003-2008).  
[2] J. Yfantopoulos , A Chantzaras, P Yfantopoulos. The health gap and HRQoL inequalities in Greece before and during the economic crisis Frontiers in Public Health 11, 113898