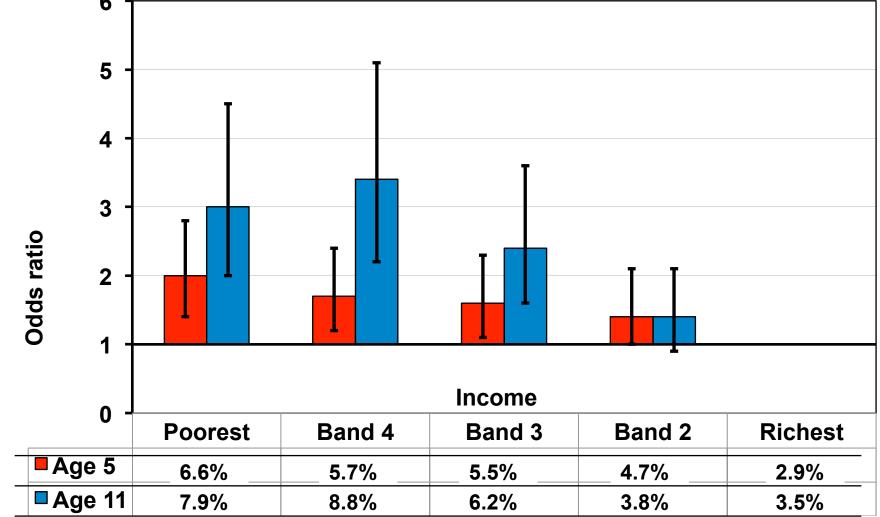


Why are poorer children at higher risk of obesity?

Yvonne Kelly International Centre for Lifecourse Studies in Society and Health (ICLS) <u>www.ucl.ac.uk/icls</u> @icls_info @childofourtime

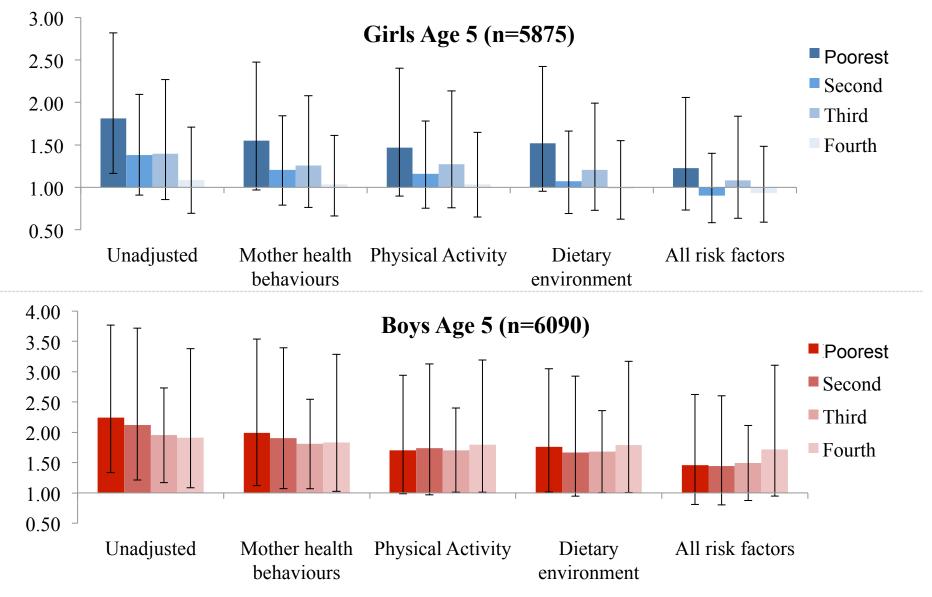


Income gap in the risk of obesity at 5 & 11 years of age



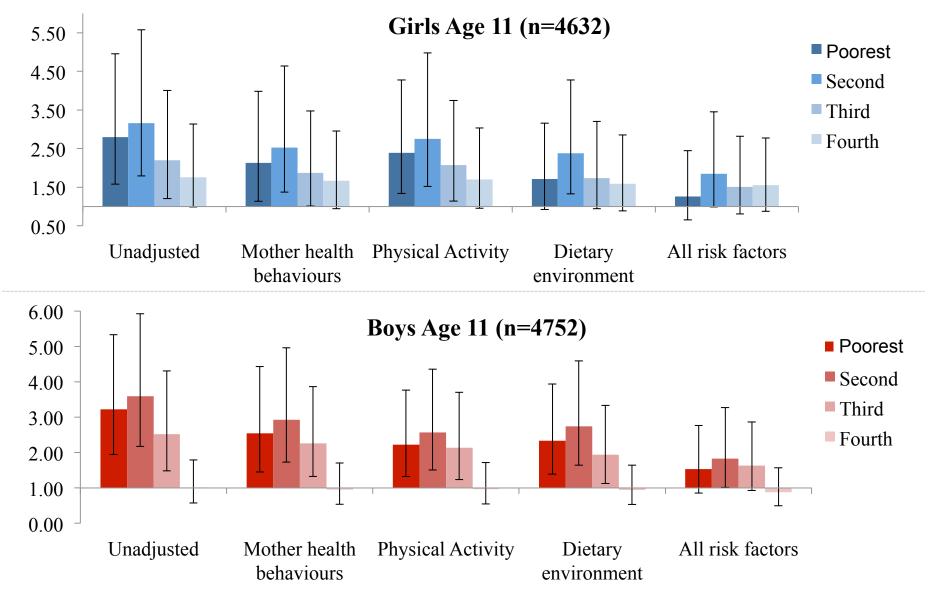


Obesity Age 5



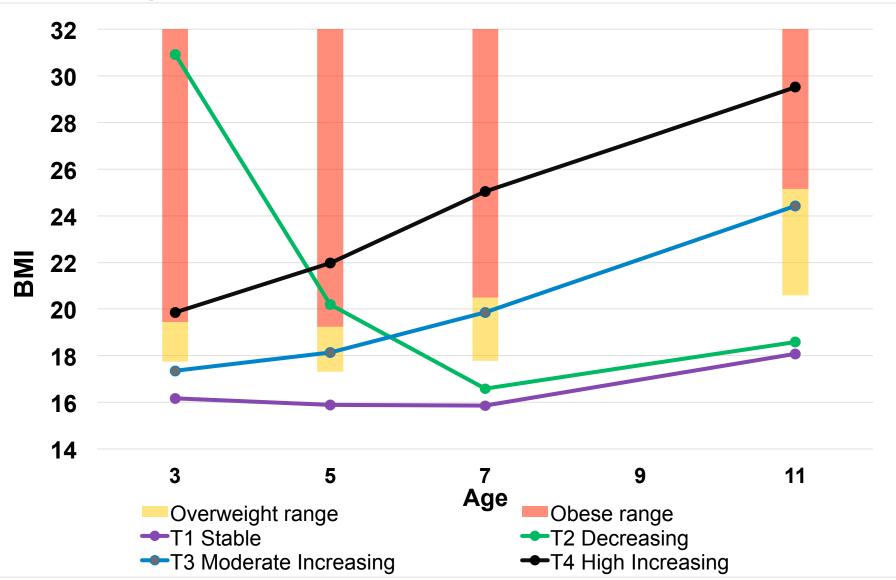


Obesity Age 11





BMI trajectories in childhood





Predictors of increasing BMI trajectories

- Smoking during pregnancy
- Maternal BMI
- Skipping breakfast
- Sleep schedules



Psychosocial correlates of *increasing* BMI trajectories

- Socioemotional difficulties
- Low self-esteem
- Exploratory behaviours (drinking, smoking)
- Unhappiness (including with appearance)



Summary

- Risk of child obesity is socially patterned
- Magnitude of inequalities **widened** across childhood
- A range of pathways link family socioeconomic circumstances to child obesity
 - Physical activity and dietary patterns most important, but markers of early health behaviours were not irrelevant
 - Pathways through early life potentially accumulate
- Unhealthy BMI trajectories are linked to worse
 psychosocial functioning





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