

Why are poorer children at higher risk of obesity?

Yvonne Kelly

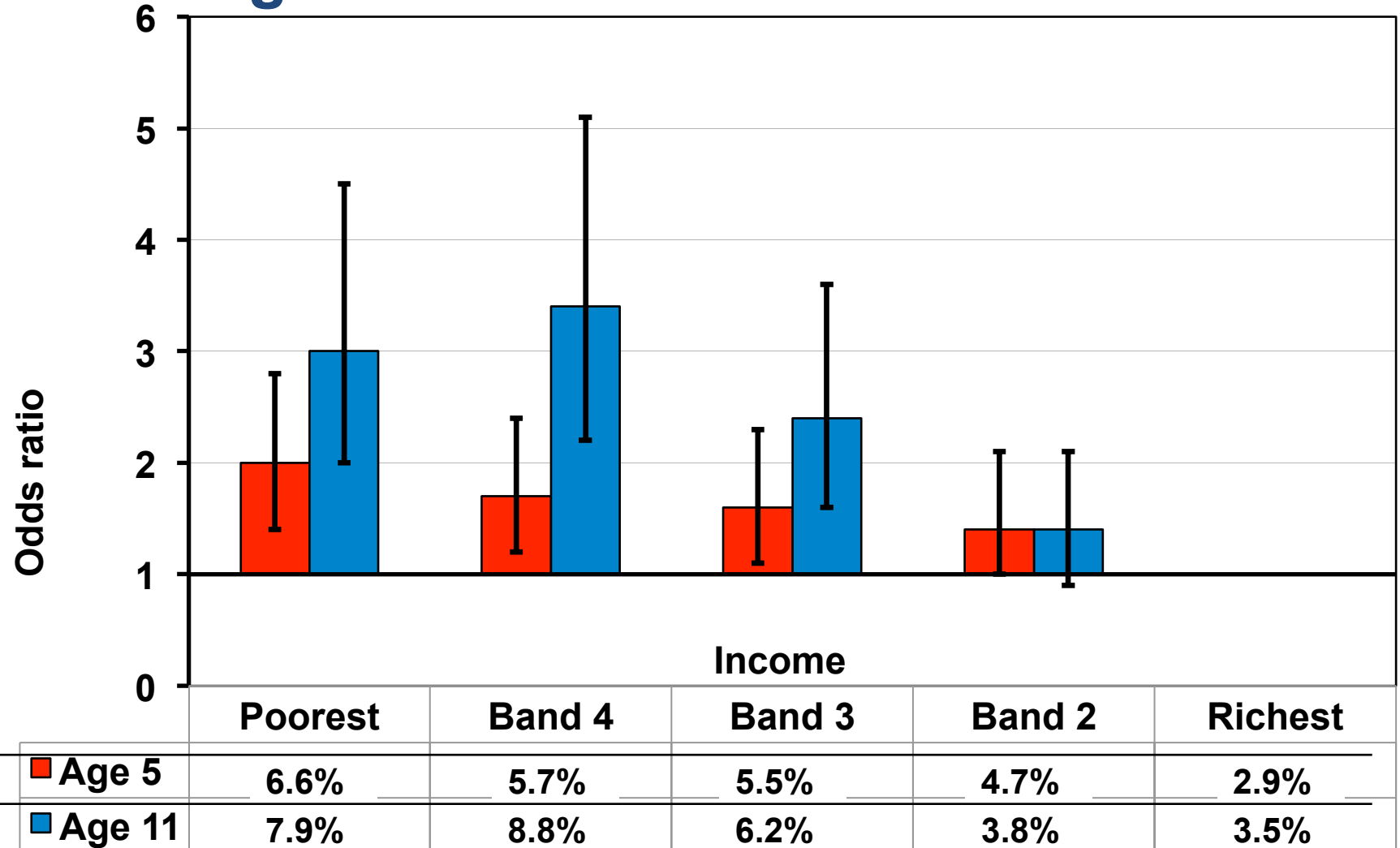
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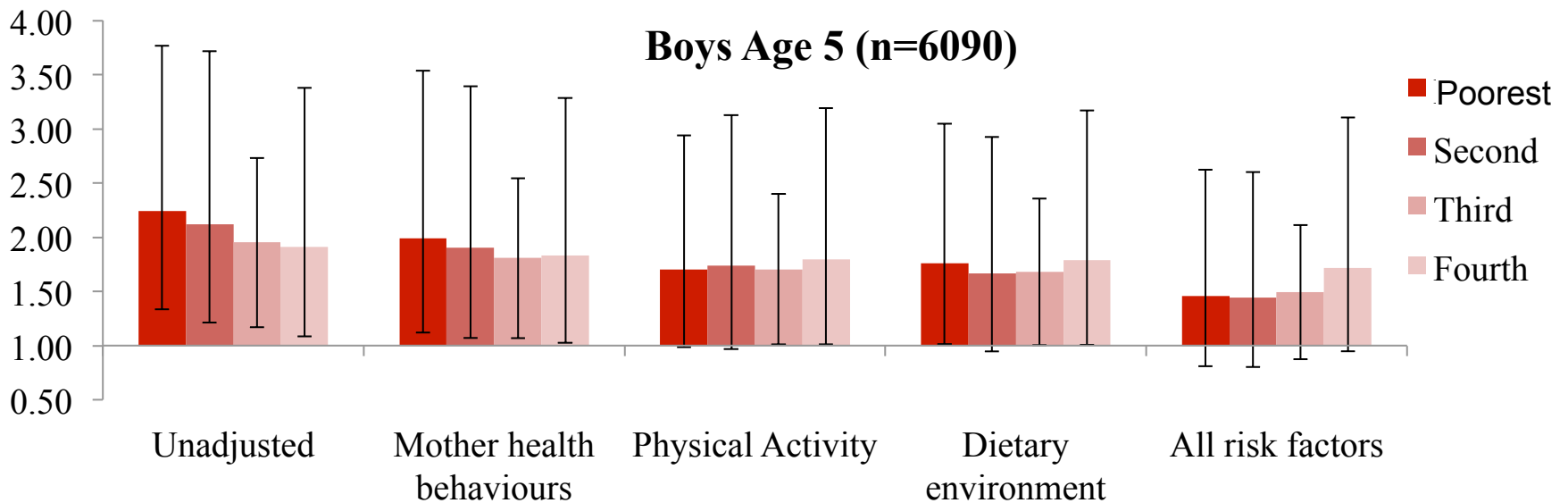
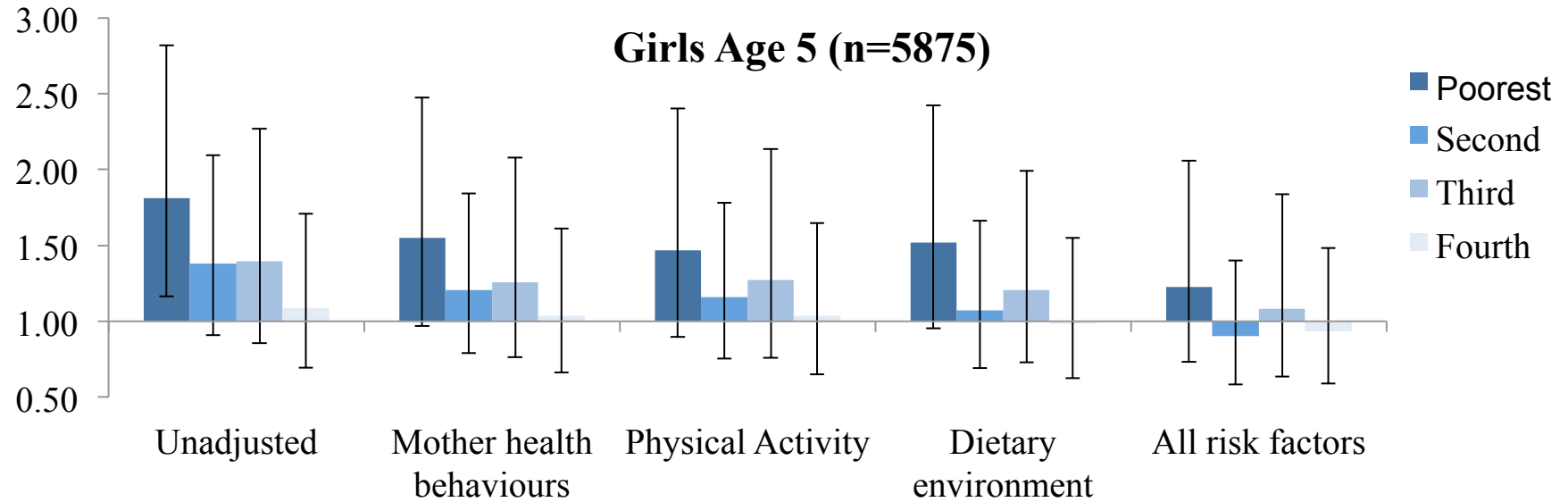
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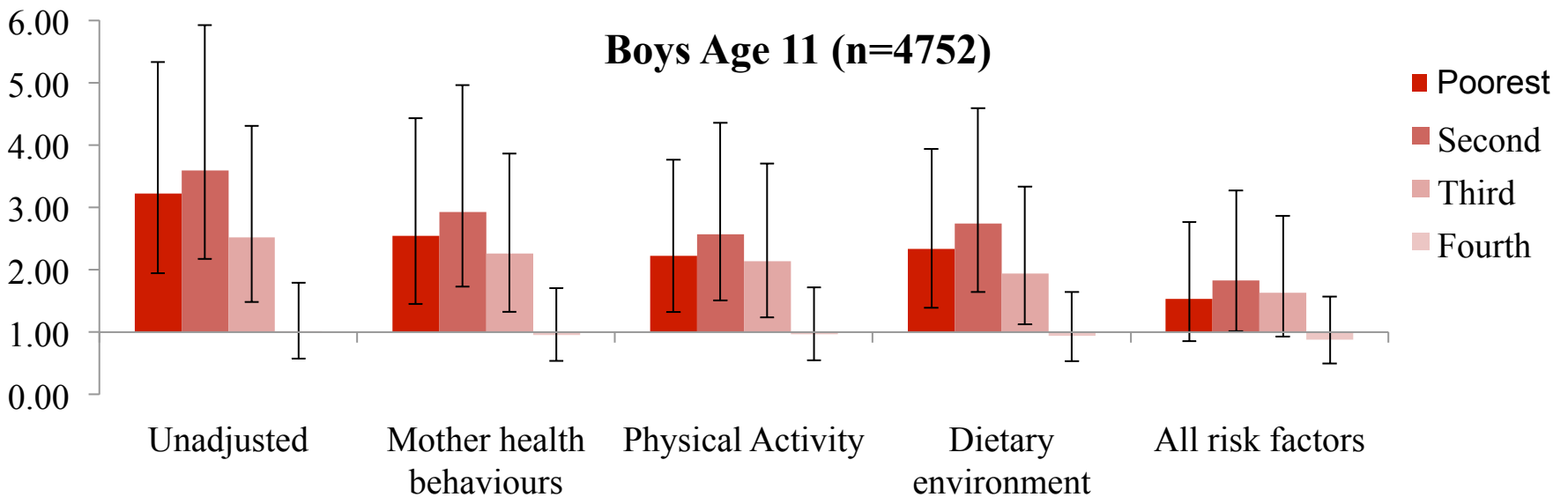
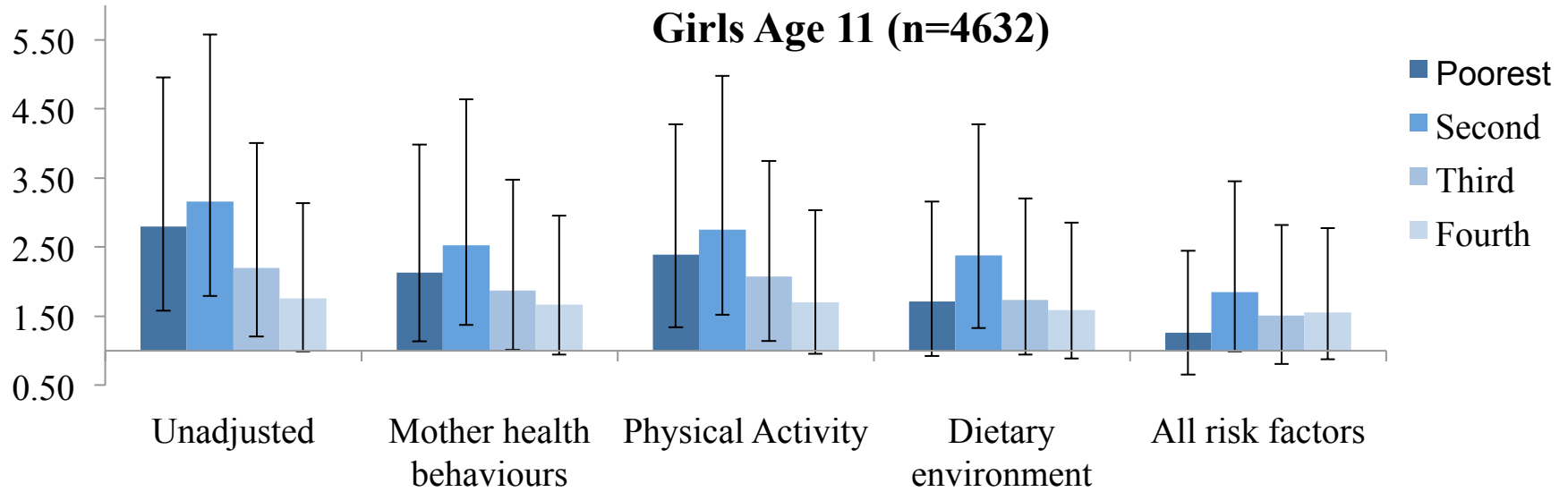
Income gap in the risk of obesity at 5 & 11 years of age



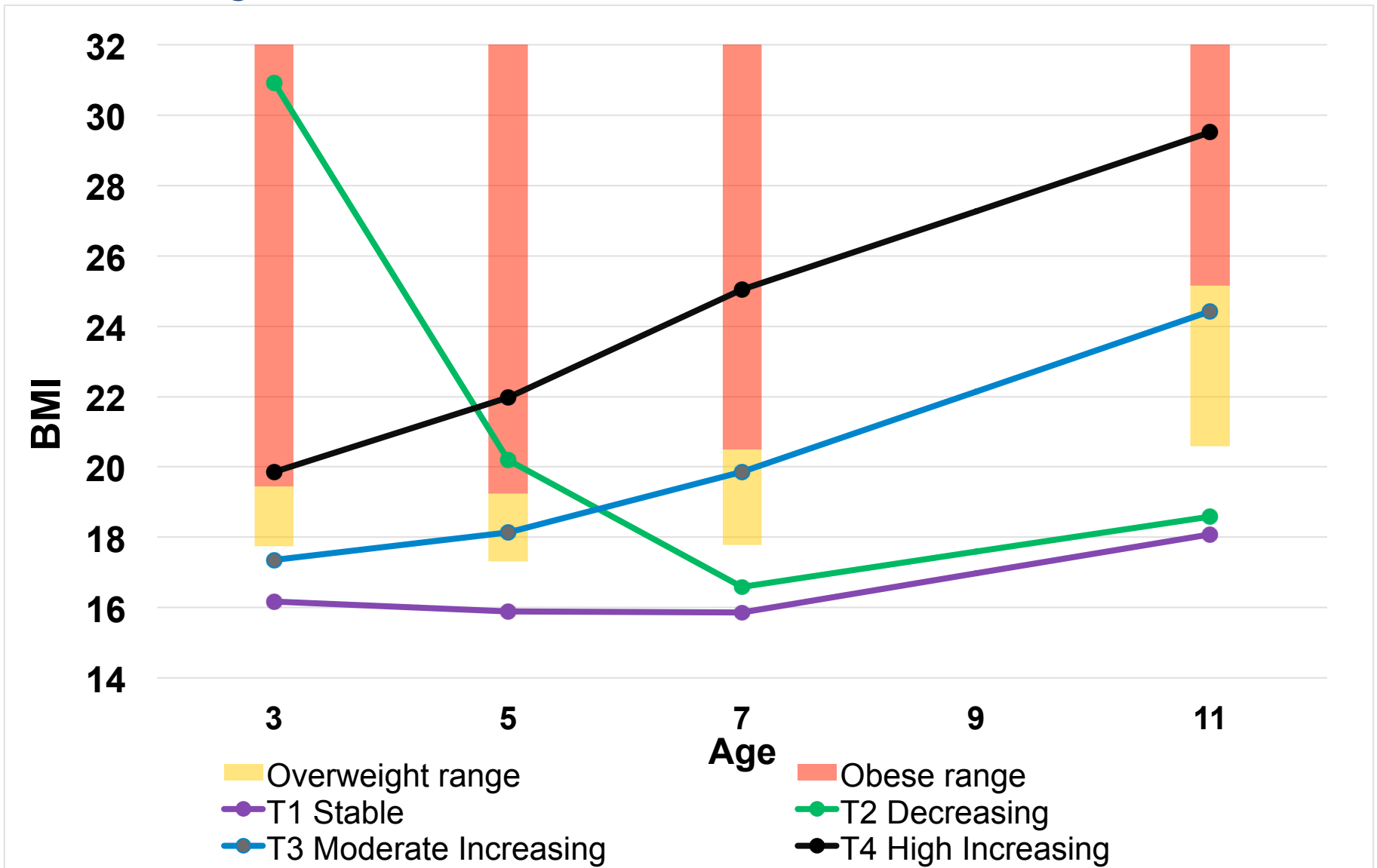
Obesity Age 5



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



Bridging social and biological sciences

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