

Early Childhood Inequalities

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STUDIES



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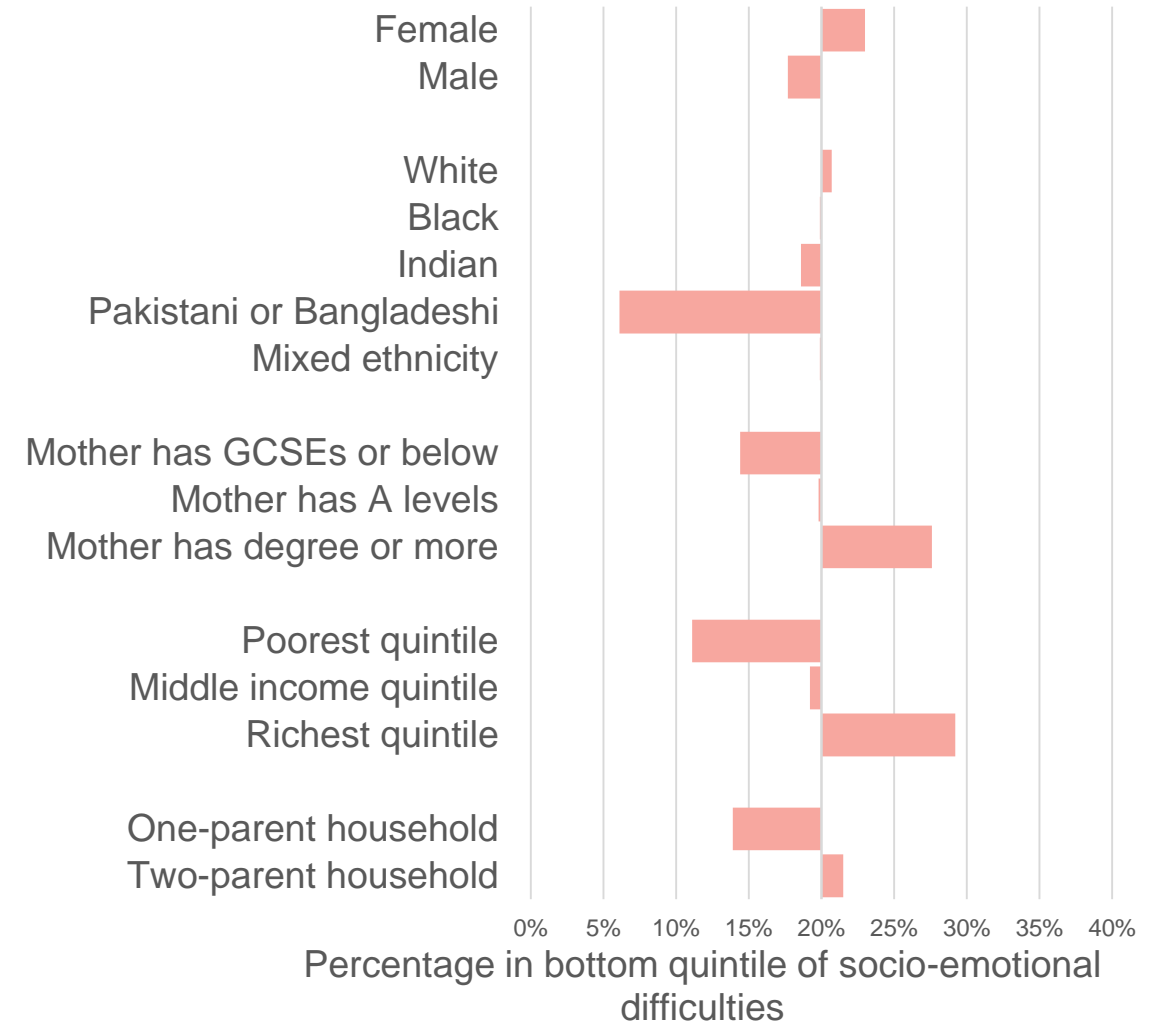
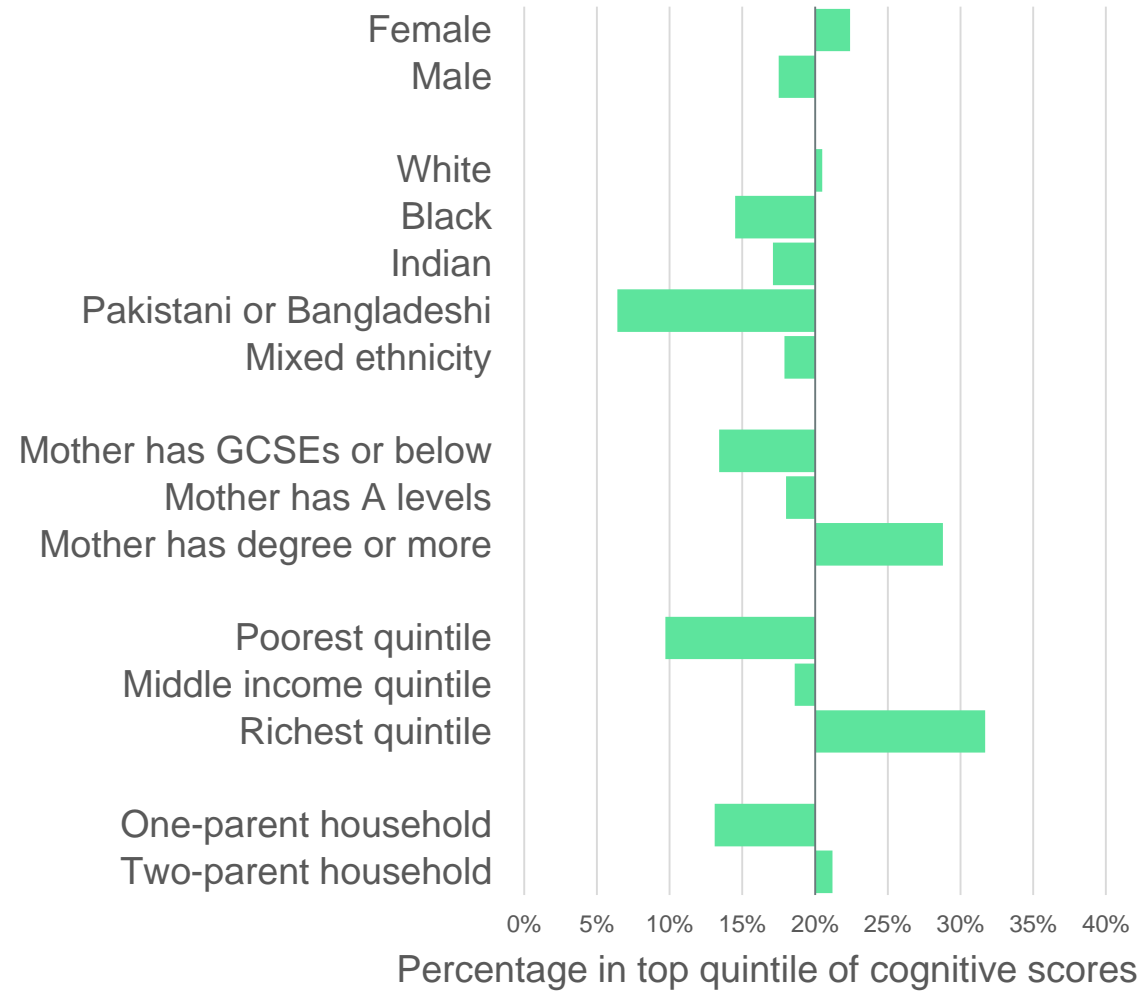
The IFS Deaton Review

Inequalities in early years matter



Inequalities in development at age 3

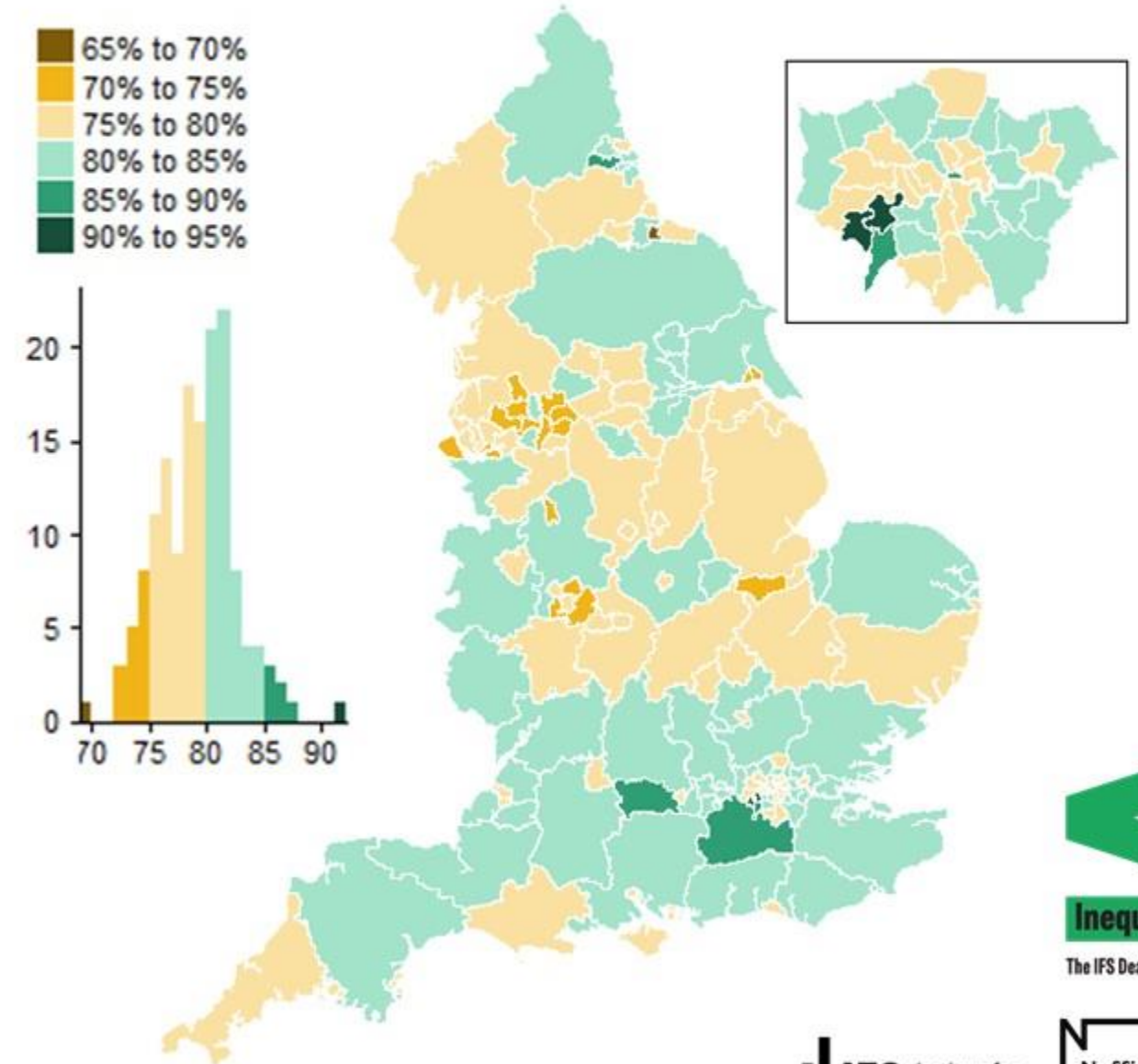
Source: Millennium Cohort Study



In the South East of England, around 82% of children reach the expected level of development at age 5.

In the North West, just 76% of children reach the expected level of development at age 5.

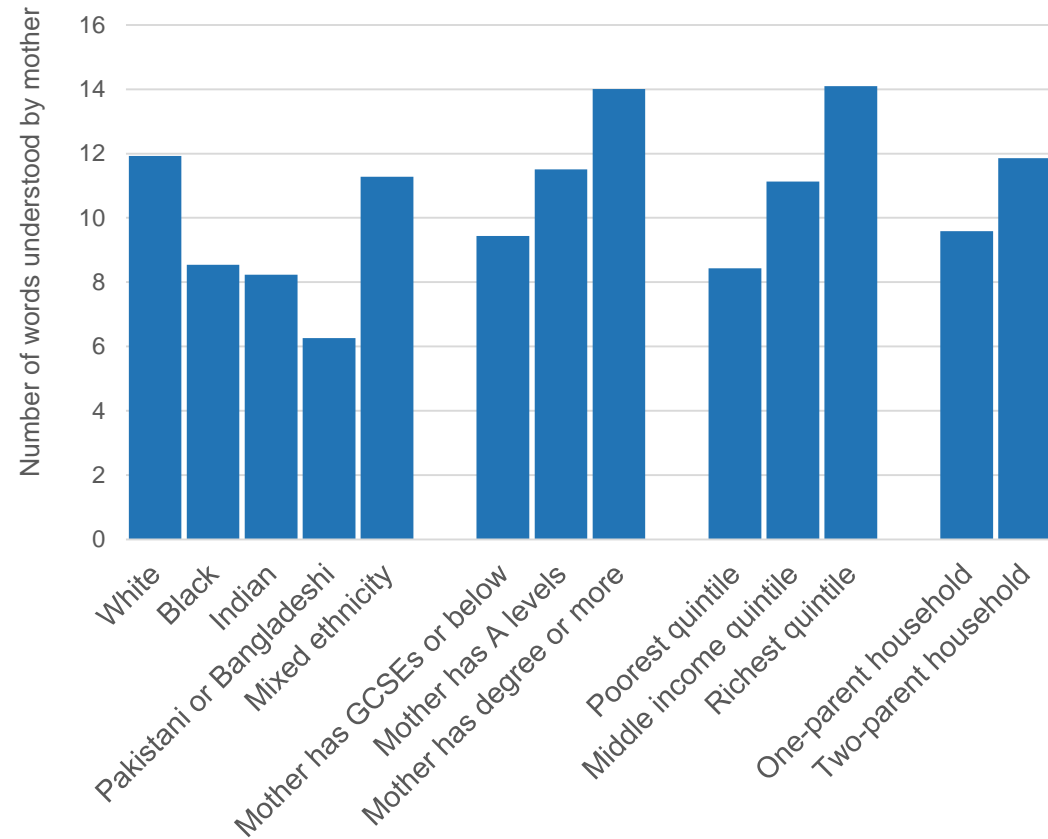
Percentage of children reaching at least expected level of development at age 5, Early Years Foundation Stage Profile 2018/19



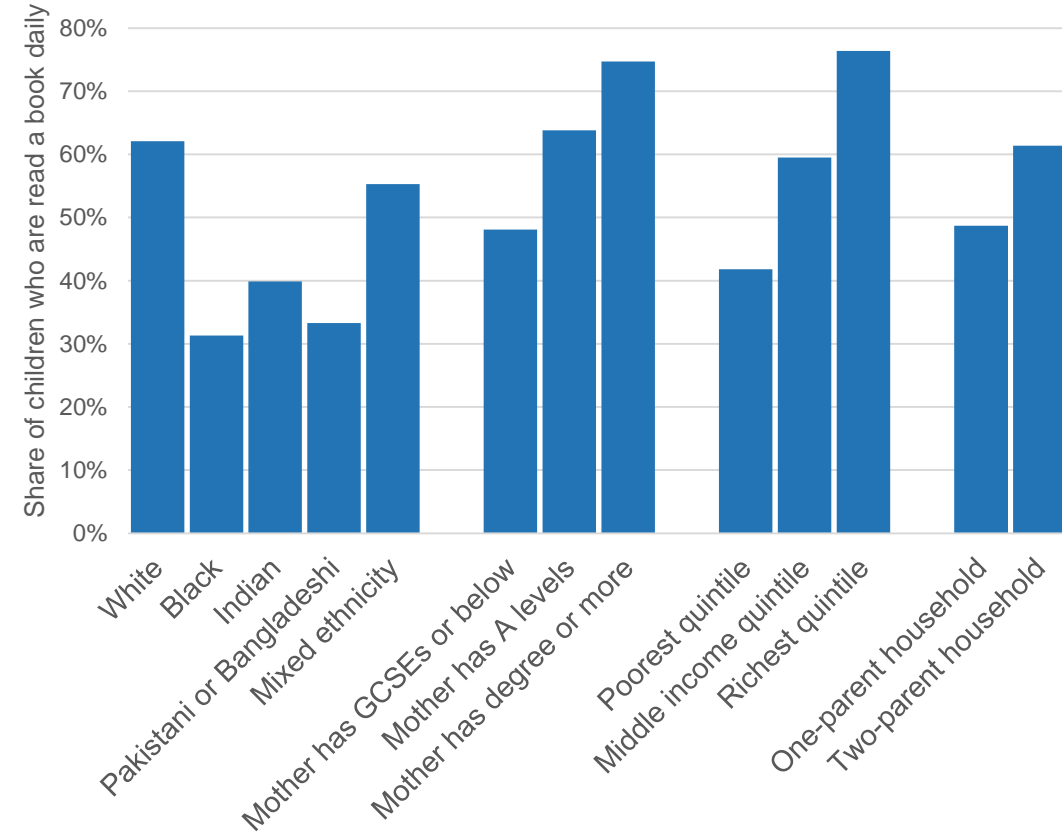
Inequalities in environments at age 3

Educational environments

Maternal vocabulary score (in English)



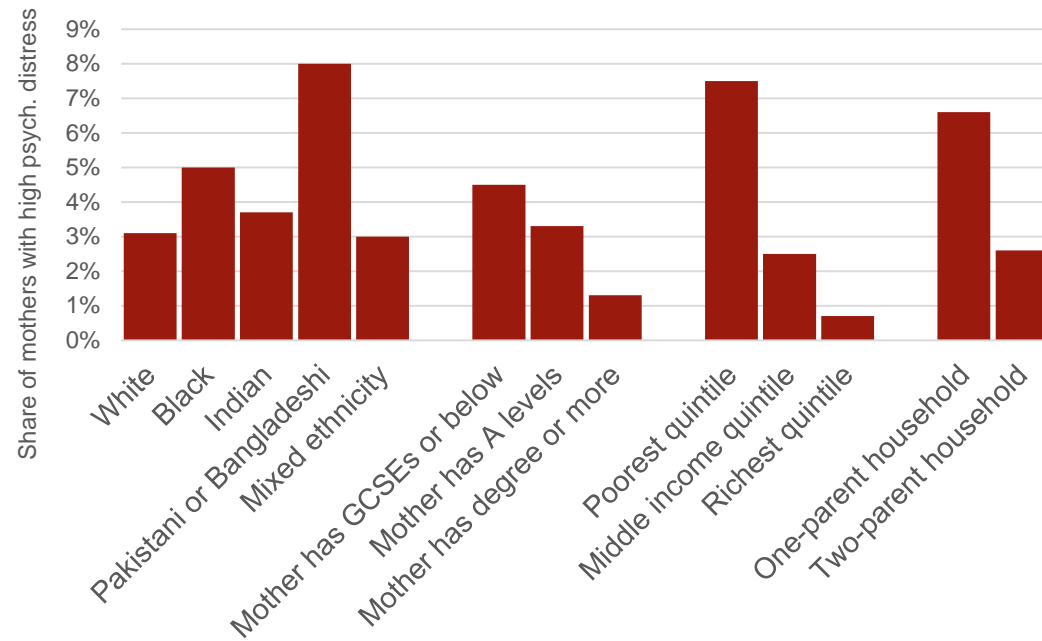
Read a book to daily



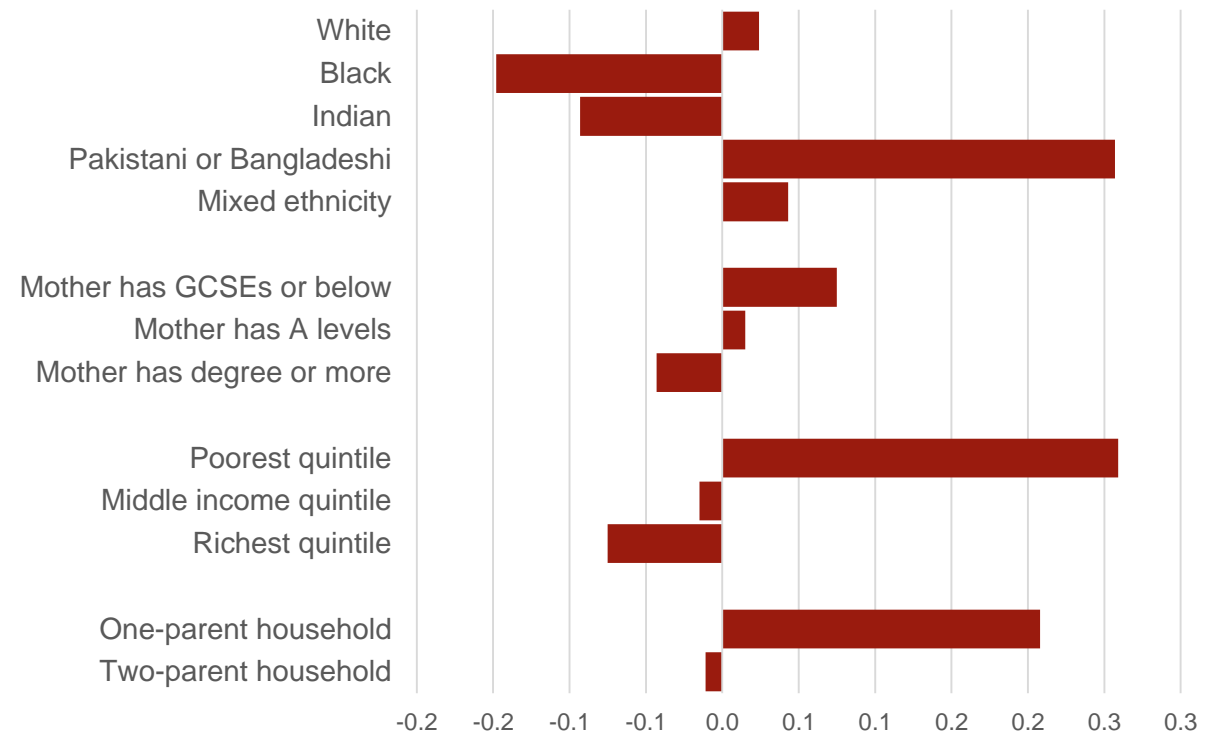
Inequalities in environments at age 3

Emotional environments – ‘relational aspects’ of family home

High maternal psychological distress



Parent child relationship – conflict



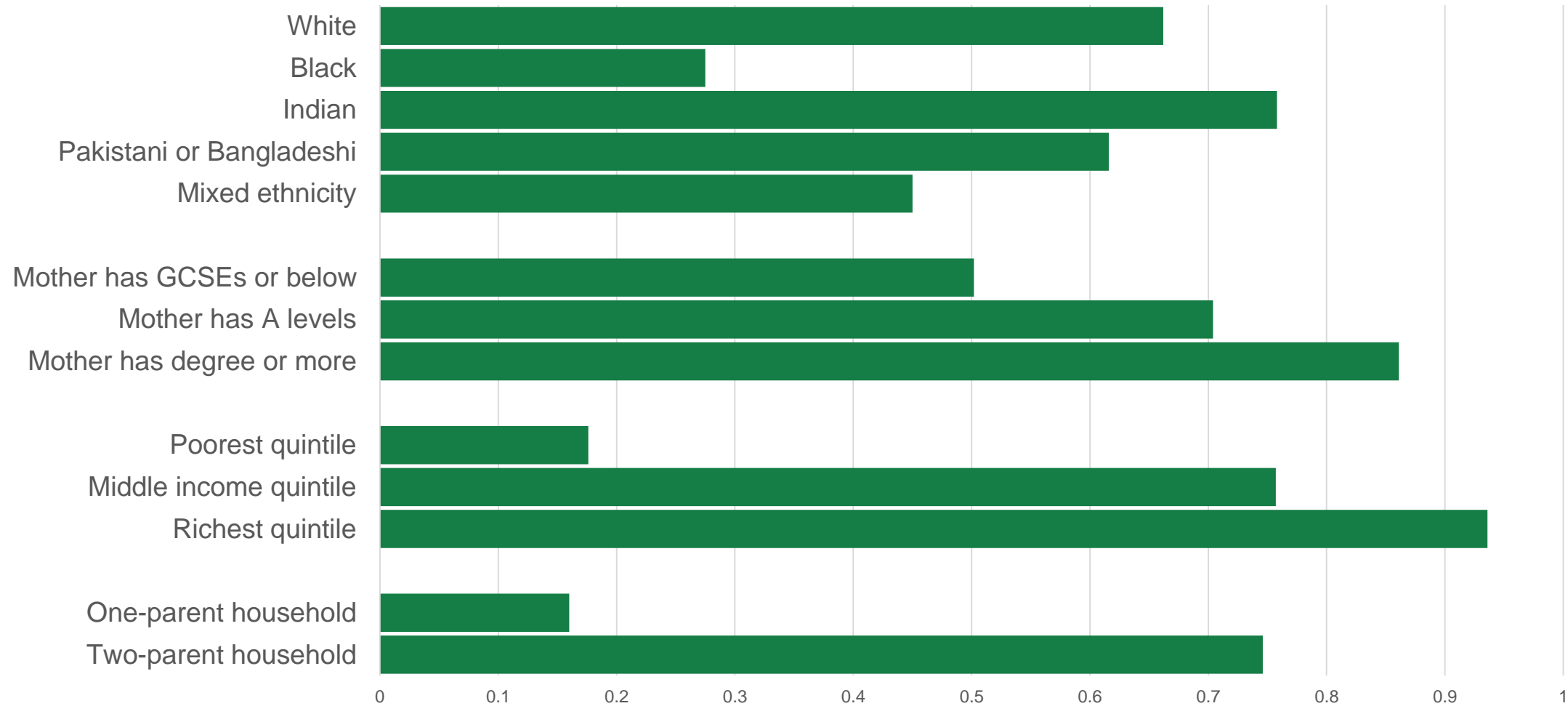
Inequalities in environments at age 3

Material environments – home ownership

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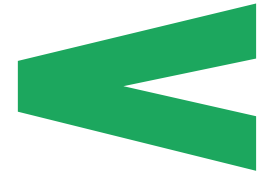


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Contributions to inequality in development at age 3

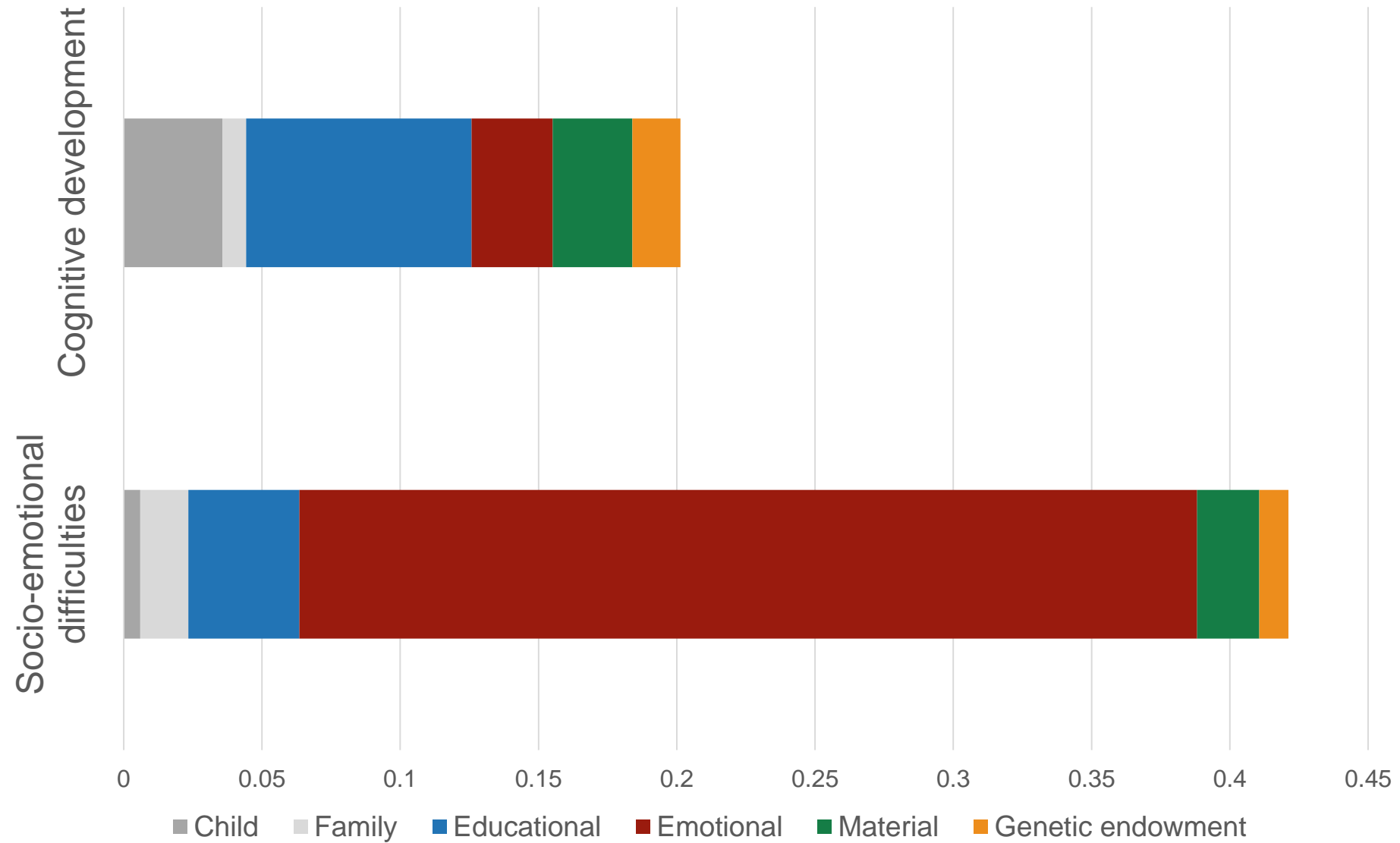
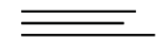
Decomposition of R^2



Inequality

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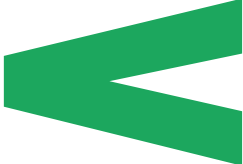
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Crucible of early development, ages 0-3 is the family home environment: especially the emotional and nurturing aspects of the environment but also cognitive stimulation and educational inputs

BUT policy has re-focused towards in-work childcare subsidies, while cutting benefits and family programmes (as Sarah will discuss...)

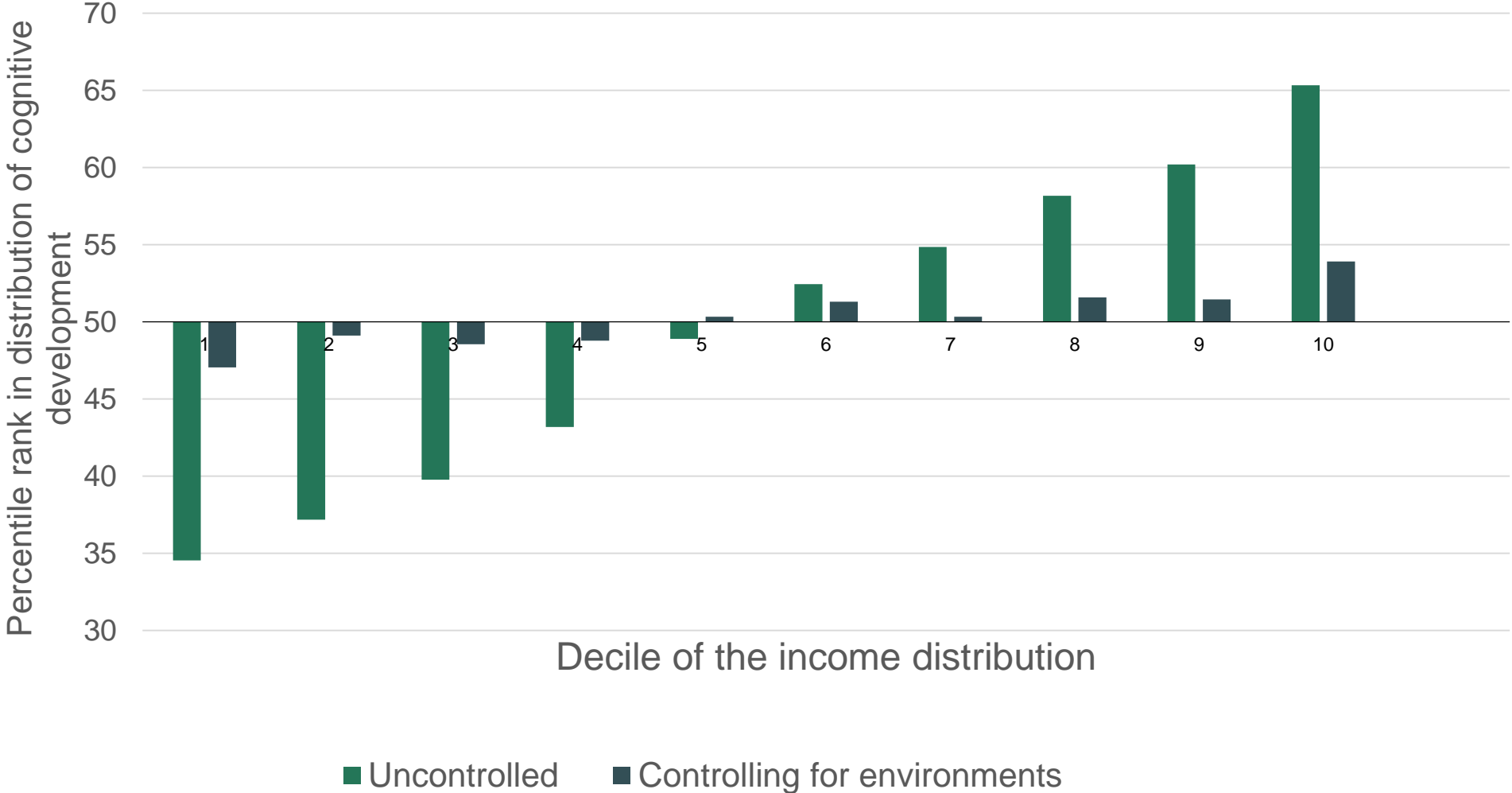
Income gradient in early development



Inequality

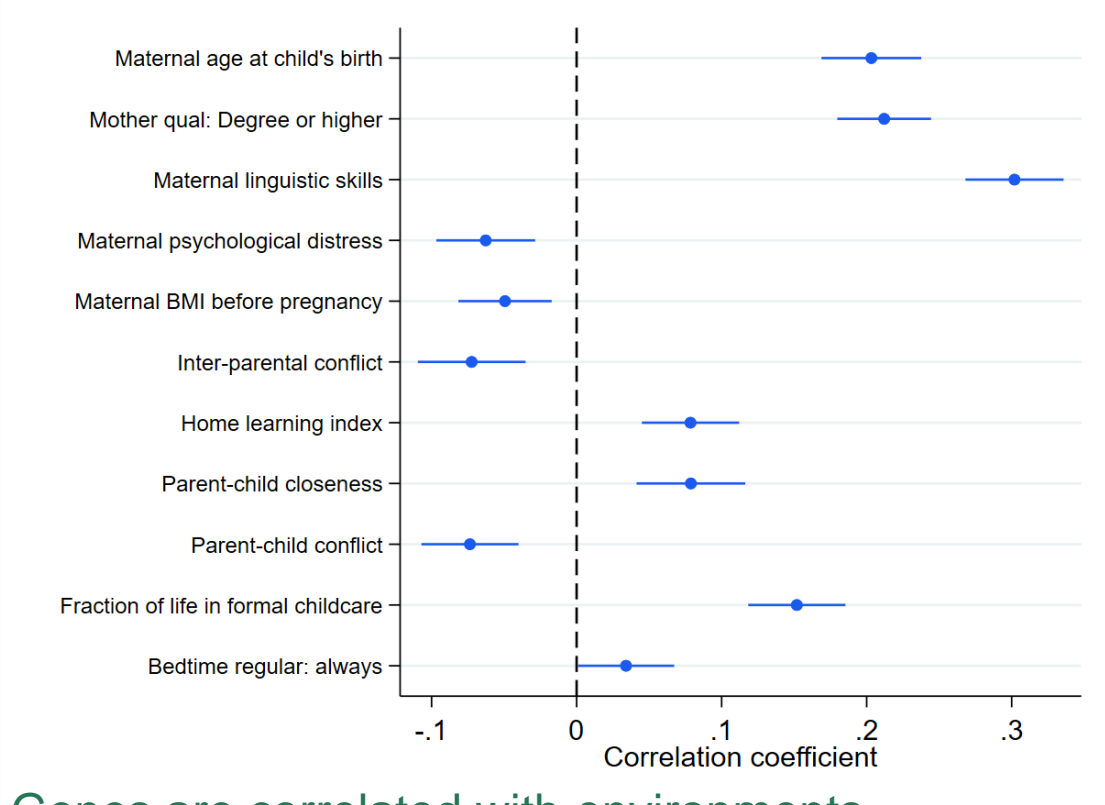
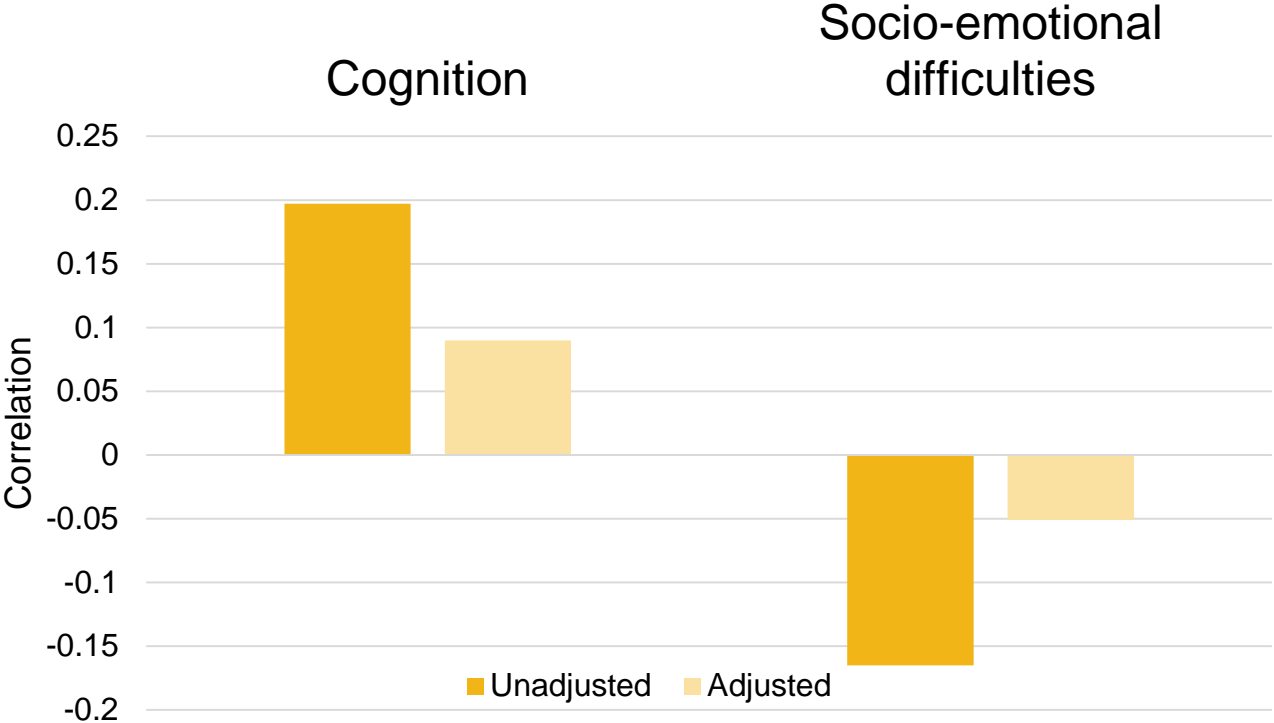
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→ Policy should target BOTH income and environments

Genetic associations with early development



Genes are associated with early child development and adolescent outcomes

Genes are correlated with environments

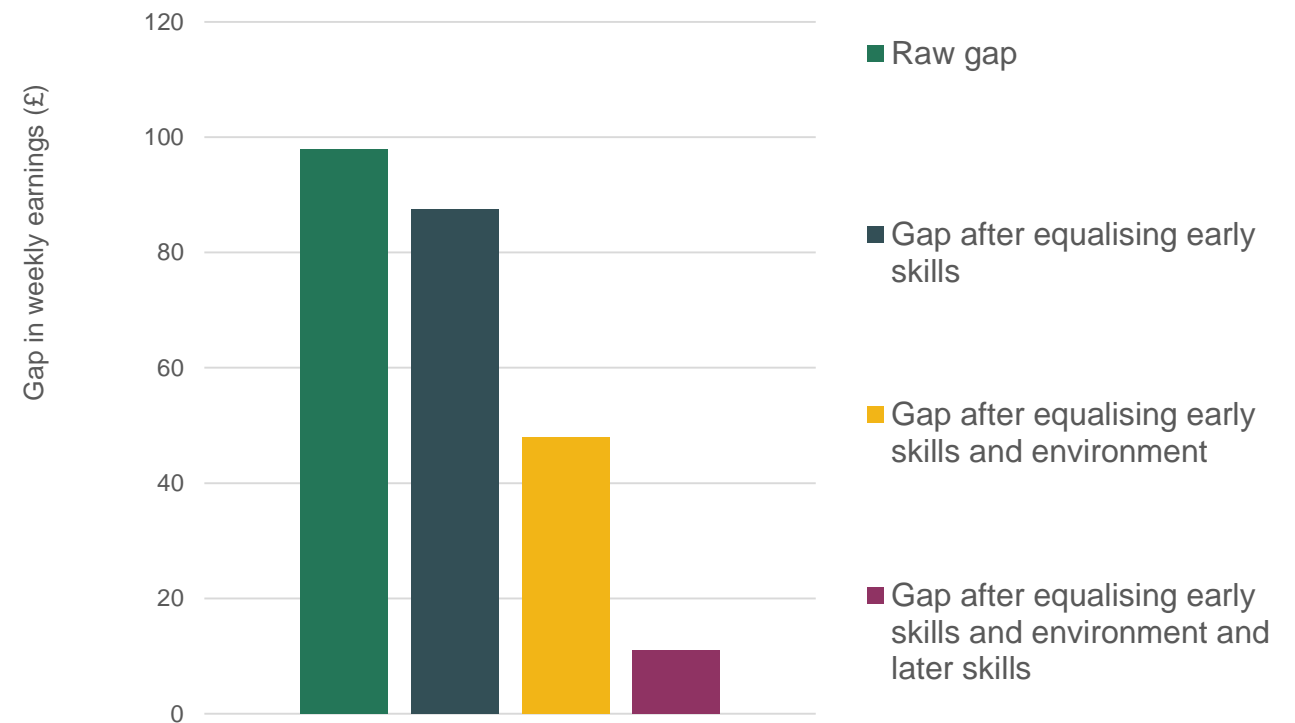
→ There is an imperative to intervene on environments whatever its origin

Early development has lasting consequences

Adjusted associations between development at age 5 and age 42 outcomes (controlling for early skills and environments only)

	Degree	Earnings
Cognitive skills	0.078*** (0.006)	38.522*** (4.592)
Socio-emotional difficulties	-0.011* (0.006)	-12.245** (4.975)
R-squared	0.181	0.204
N	5,938	5,444
Mean	0.29	£377.40

Maternal education gap in weekly earnings at 42



Source: 1970 British Cohort Study

→ Policy should also target later skills

