**Children's Well-Being: The Research & Policy Challenges**

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**Poster abstract**

**International comparisons of socioeconomic gradients in child health and wellbeing: methodological issues**

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**Background:**

Comparisons of health and wellbeing in more and less equal societies suggest that the benefits of greater equality are widespread across the social gradient. For example, infant mortality rates are lower across all social classes in (more equal) Sweden compared with (less equal)England and Wales. Although the least well-off benefit the most from greater equality, the most well-off also benefit.

However the extent to which these differences are an artefact of differences in the measurement of health and wellbeing indicators is unclear. Furthermore, evidence remains limited, especially for children, and there are counter-examples.

**Study aim:**

To examine the independent and interactive effects of relative socioeconomic position and income inequality on childhood indicators of wellbeing.

**Methods:**

This poster will present the methods for the study, focussing on measurement issues in existing literature and the study datasets.

Study methods include:

1. A review of literature on differences in the social gradient of child health and wellbeing in more and less equal societies;
2. International comparisons of child health and wellbeing by family socioeconomic status, in relation to the level of inequality. Datasets include cohort studies and surveys from countries with different levels of inequality. Indicators of child health and wellbeing that are predictors of later health will be selected (initially height and cognition).

Key methodological issues include: the comparability of measures of child health and wellbeing across countries, both in relation to existing evidence and the indicators and datasets for the study; and equivalising measures of socio-economic status across datasets.