

Neighbourhood characteristics, lifestyle factors, and child development.

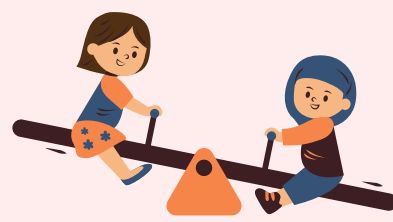
MacKinnon et al. (2022)
DOI: TBD



Key Findings:



Neighbourhood deprivation was negatively associated with parent-child reading and community resource use.



Neighbourhood deprivation and neighbourhood disorder were each positively associated with child physical activity at age 3.

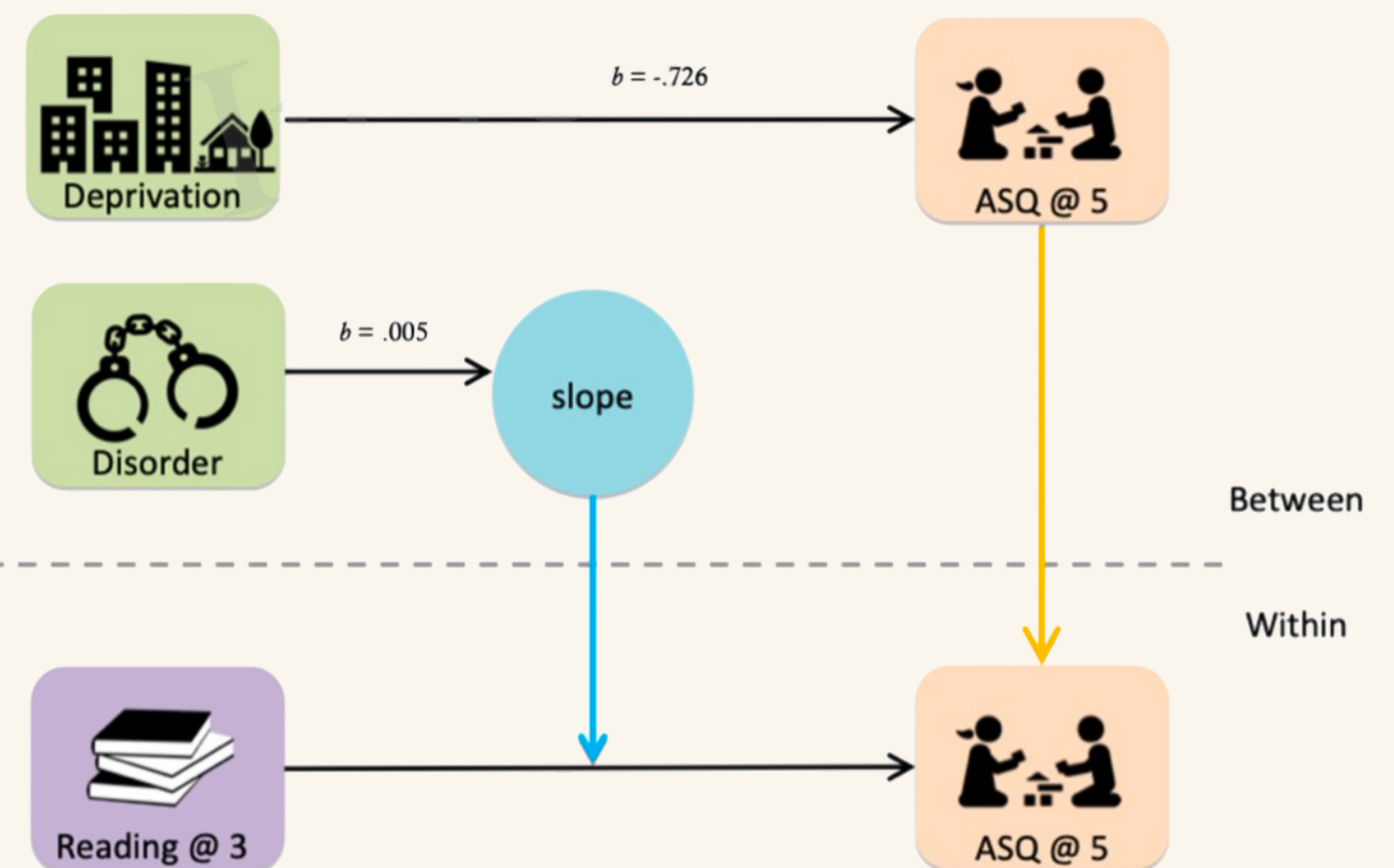


Higher levels of neighbourhood deprivation during pregnancy were associated with poorer child development at age 5.

Background:

- Neighbourhood characteristics, including population density, access to green space, noise and air pollution, crime and violence, neighbourhood stability, and community wealth, impact child development.
- Children in disadvantaged neighbourhoods are at higher odds of experiencing obesity, having poor peer relations, lower cognitive development, and mental health concerns that impact health into adulthood.
- Child development, including motor skills and vocabulary, is impacted by physical activity, parent-child reading, and community resource use (e.g., gyms, libraries, parenting groups).

Study Goal: to determine to what extent neighbourhood characteristics during pregnancy are associated with child development at age 5, and how lifestyle factors including physical activity and parent-child reading may impact this association.



Key Methods:

- Women with a singleton pregnancy (N=2444, age 26-35 years) completed self-report questionnaires at <25 weeks gestation, 4 months, 3 years and 5 years postpartum (All Our Families Study Cohort).
- Neighbourhood deprivation used postal codes from early pregnancy to determine community socioeconomic status, and neighbourhood disorder used community crime reports (e.g., noise, threats, robbery).
- Child outcomes included 3 or more hours of daily physical activity at age 3, 20 minutes or more of daily parent-child reading at age 3, and child development at age 5 (Ages and Stages Questionnaire).
- Community resource use at 3 years postpartum assessed how many (3 or more) resources had been accessed by mothers in the past year.

Conclusions:

- A negative association was observed between neighbourhood deprivation during pregnancy and overall child development, indicating a modifiable factor that community development agencies can target to promote child development and maternal well-being.
- Parent-child reading was found to moderate effects of neighbourhood disorder, suggesting that parent-child reading may function as a protective factor in the presence of high neighbourhood disorder.
- **Reading to young children and getting to know the community can help children learn and thrive.**