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Correlates of child wellbeing

Praveetha Patalay

25.Nov.2016

CENTRE FOR LONGITUDINAL STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

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Childhood correlates of mental health at age 11: Millennium Cohort Study

Patalay, P., & Fitzsimons, E. (2016). Correlates of mental illness and wellbeing in children: are they the same? Results from the UK Millennium Cohort Study. *JAACAP*, *55*, 771-783.

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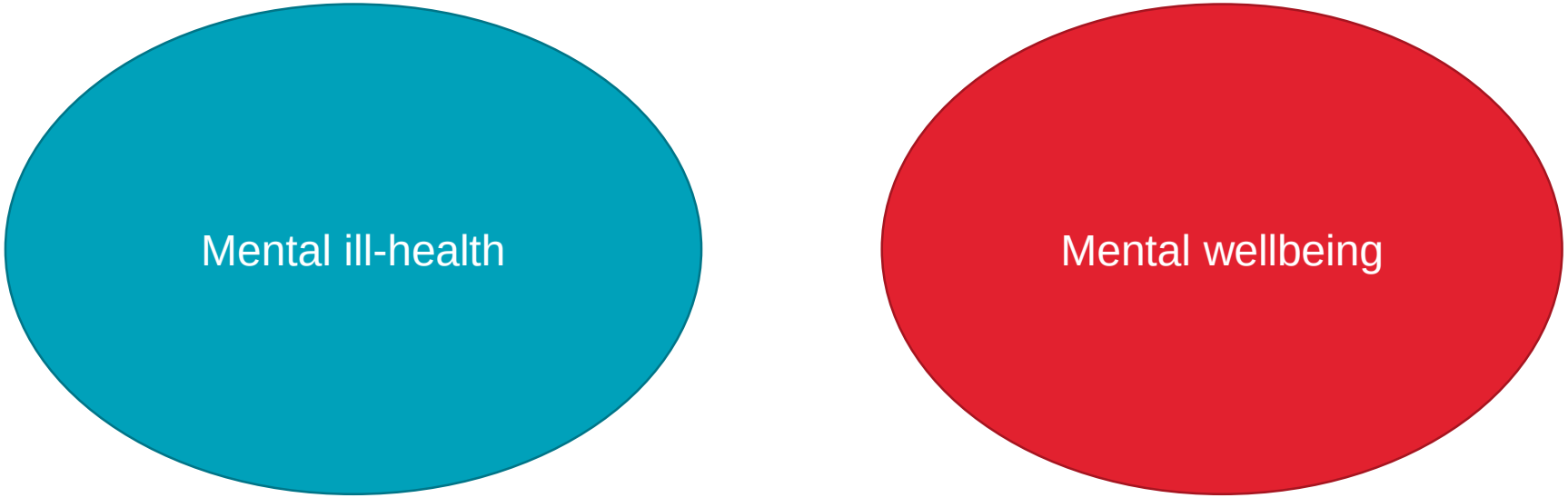
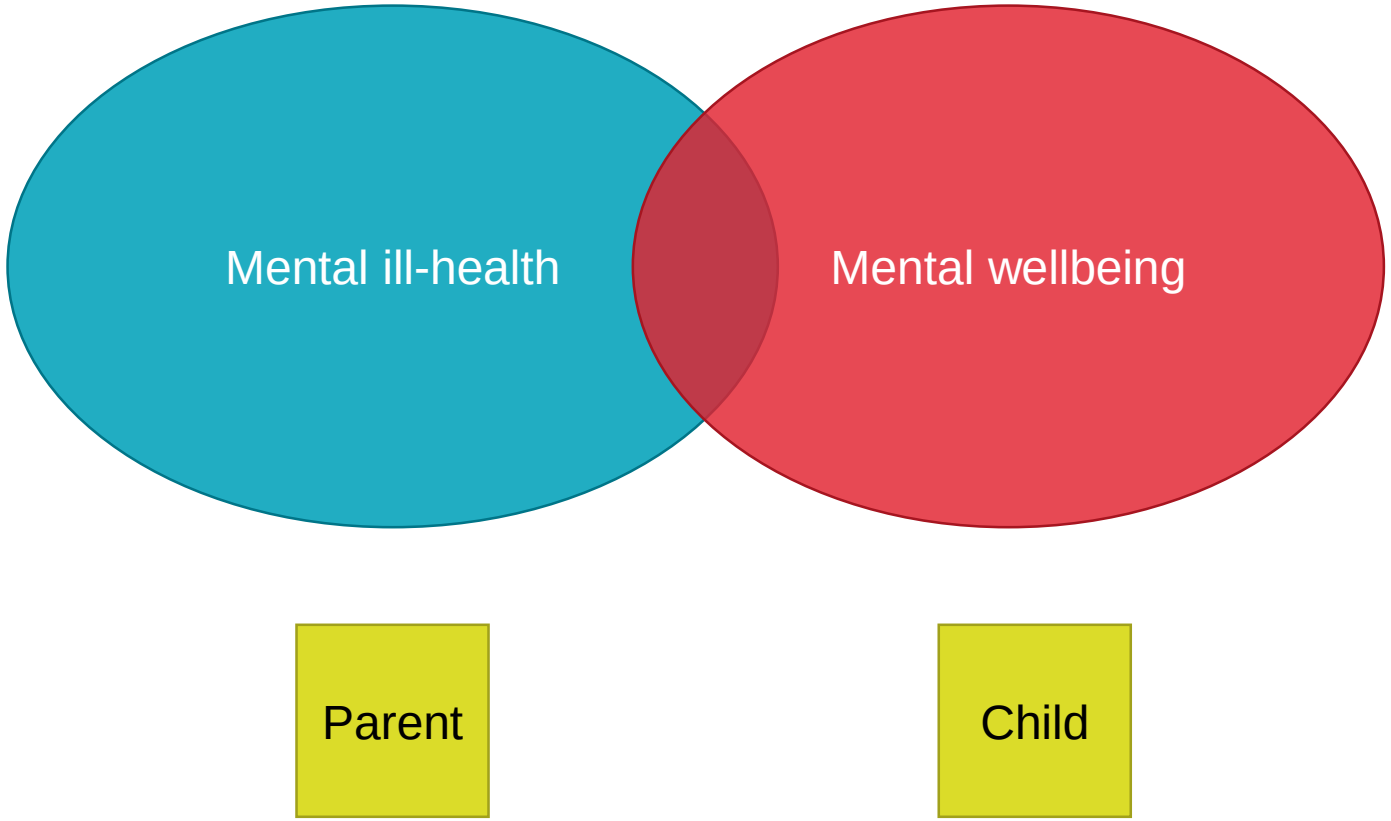
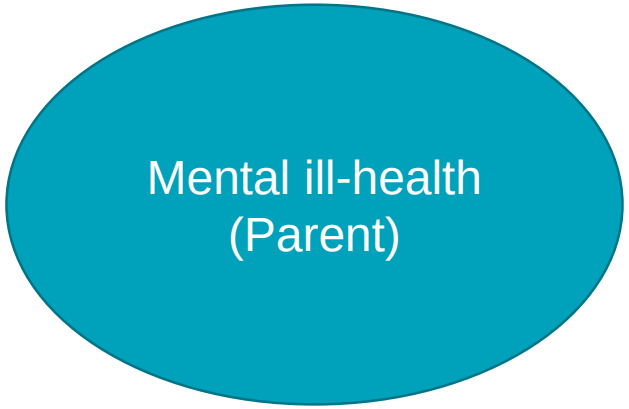

Mental ill-health
Mental wellbeing

r= -0.2





r=0.2

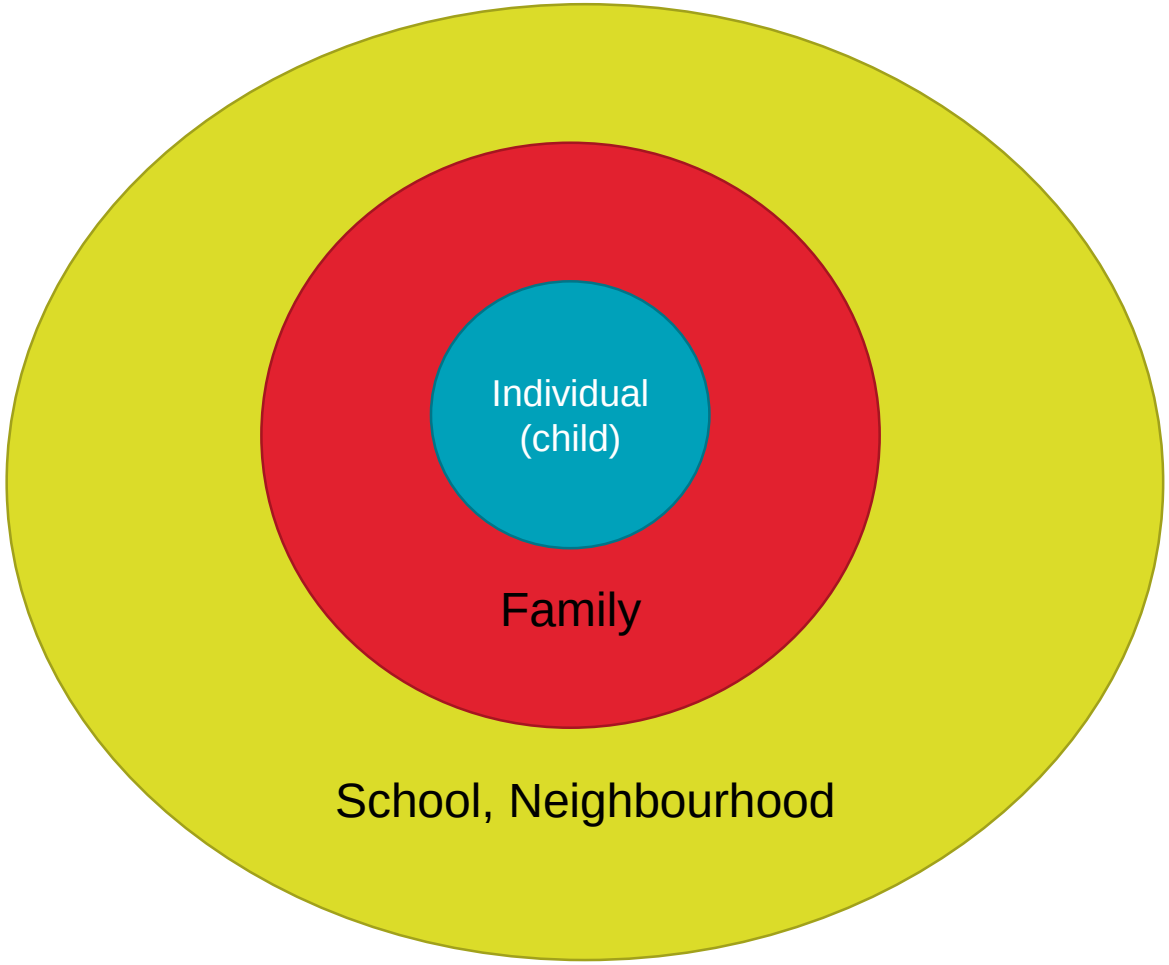
r=0.2

Sharpe et al. 2015, ECAP

r=0.2

Achenbach et al, 1987

Ecological Systems



Child socio-demographic	Human capital	Family	Social-environmental
Child demographic characteristics (sex, age, ethnicity) SES (parent employment, Household Income, parent education, home ownership) Perceived SES (Family material position, relative wealth)	Cognitive factors (cognitive ability, SEN, communication difficulties) Health factors (chronic illness, motor delay, overweight)	Family Structure (single parent, number of siblings, birth parity) Home environment (argue with parent, talk with parent, sibling bullying, smoking household, safe home envt) Parent health (physical, mental health, life satisfaction, long term illness)	Social relationships (peer problems, bullied, time spent with friends) Wider environment (school connectedness, likes school, neighbourhood safety, urban-rural, country)

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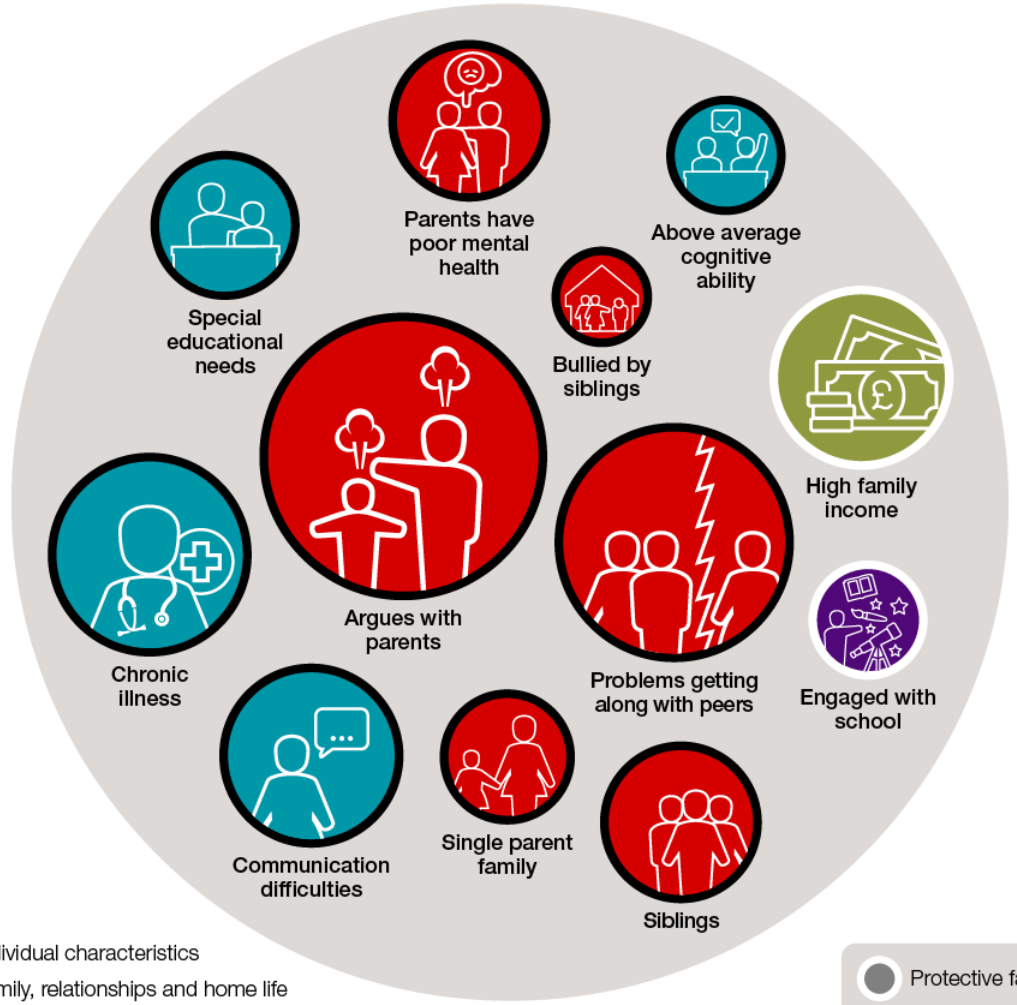
Factors associated with children's mental illness at age 11

Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study



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Factors sized according to relative importance. • All factors included in the infographic are statistically significant at (at least) the 5% level. • Findings from Patalay, P. and Fitzsimons, E. (2016) Correlates of mental illness and wellbeing in children: are they the same? *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* 55(9), pp. 771-783.

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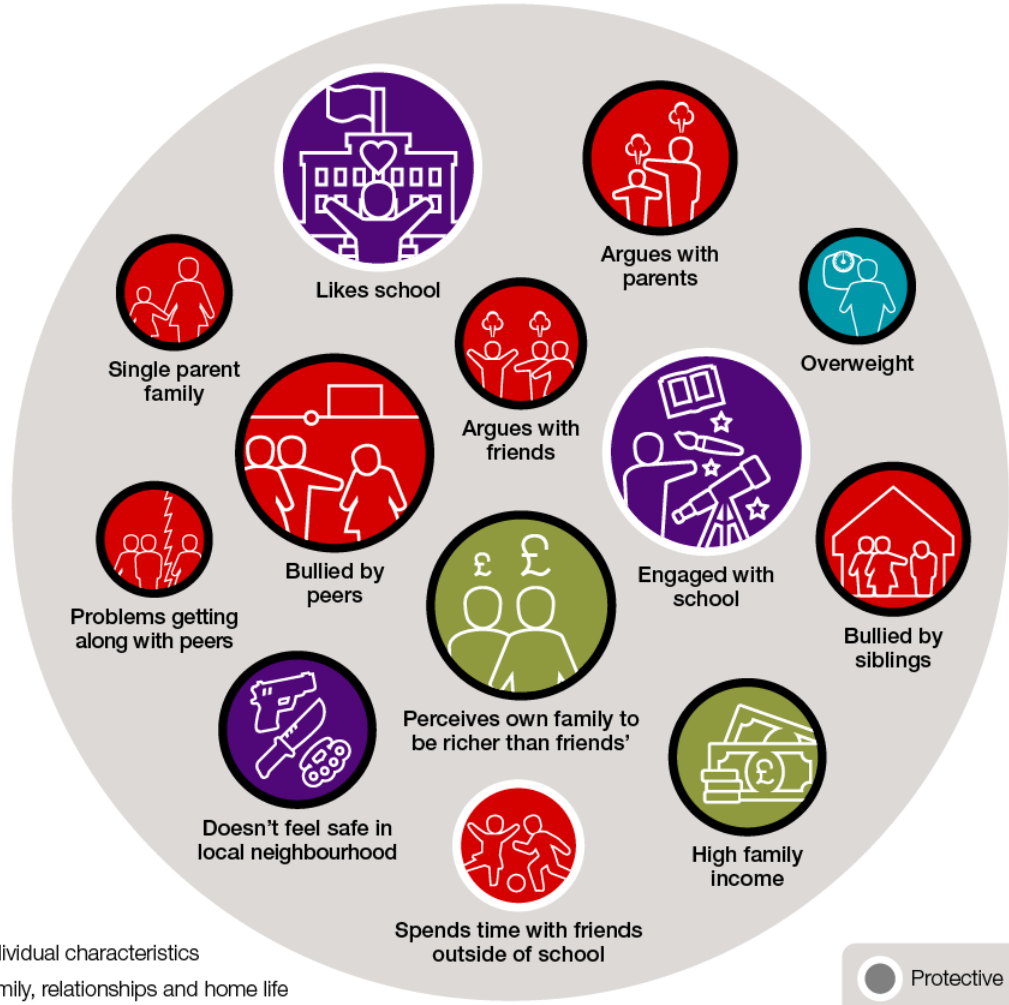
Factors associated with children's wellbeing at age 11

Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study



- Individual characteristics
- Family, relationships and home life
- Socioeconomic circumstances
- Wider school and neighbourhood environment

- Protective factor
- Risk factor

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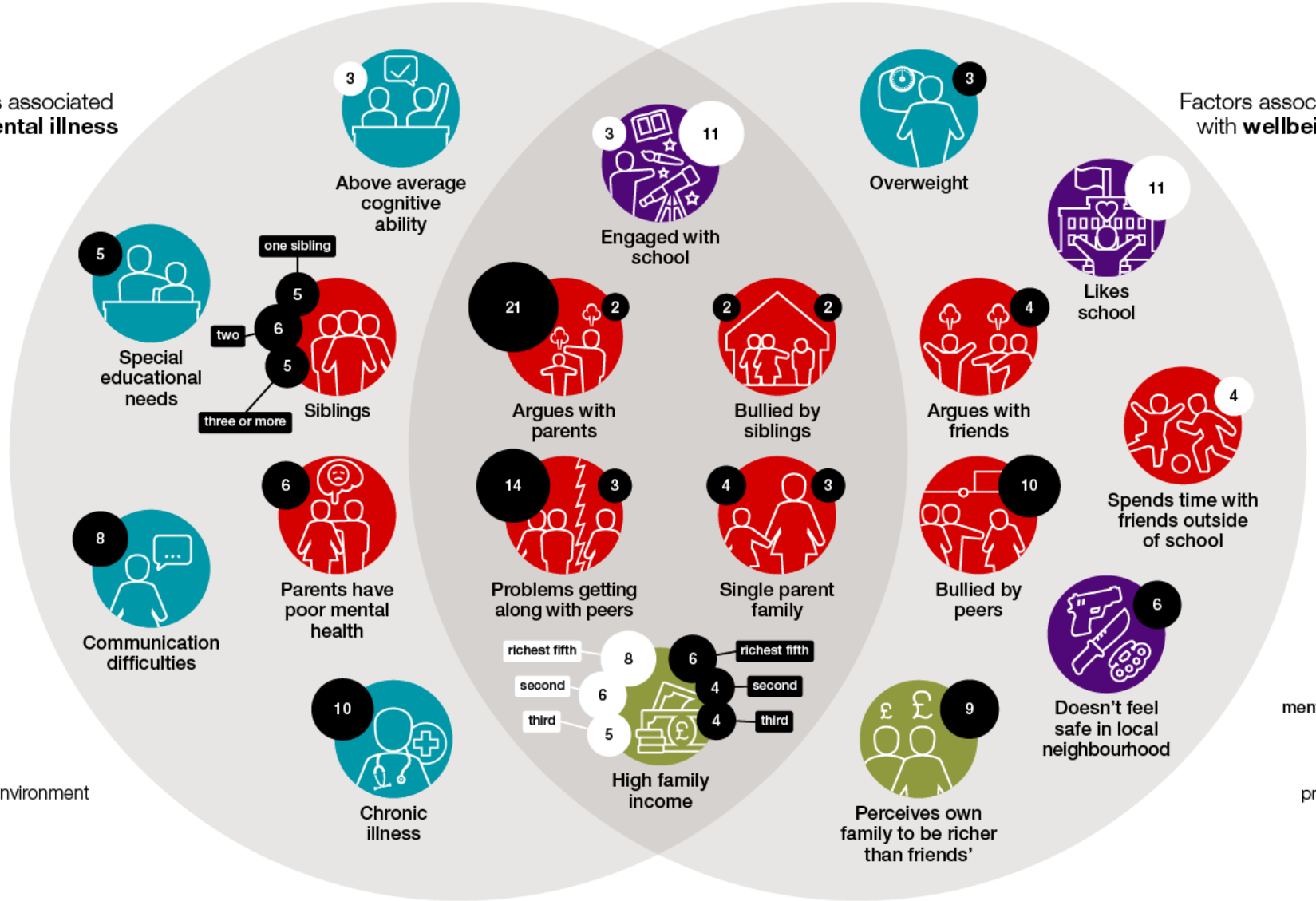
Children's mental illness and wellbeing at age 11

Findings from the Millennium Cohort Study



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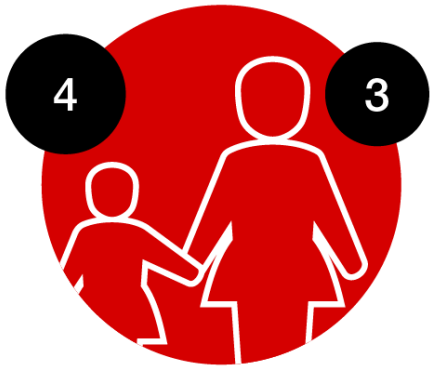
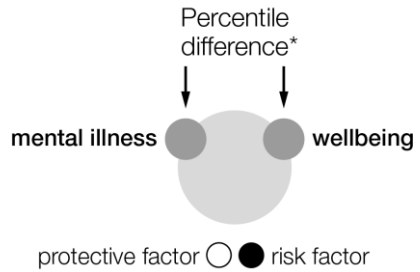
*'Percentile difference' is the change in rank position between 1 and 100 away from the median or reference category.

Bullied by siblings



Single parent family



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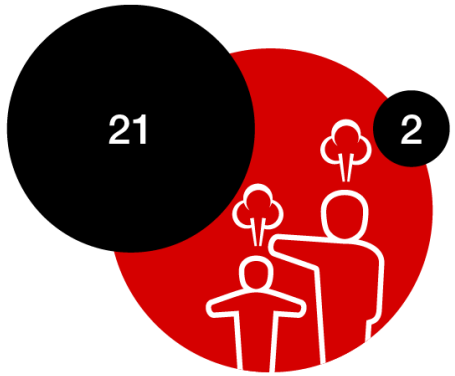
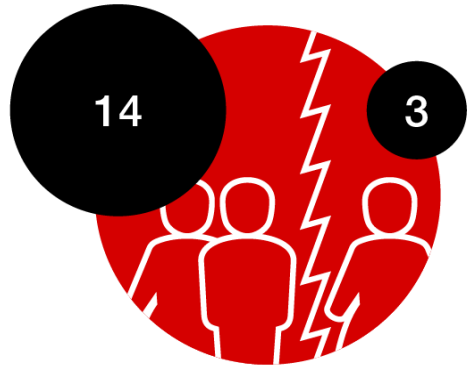
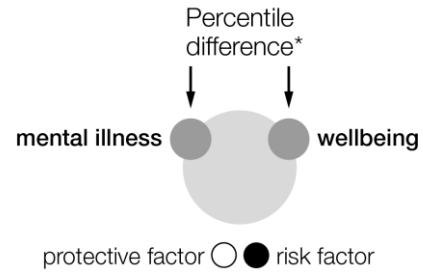


Argues with parents



Problems getting along with peers

Engaged with school



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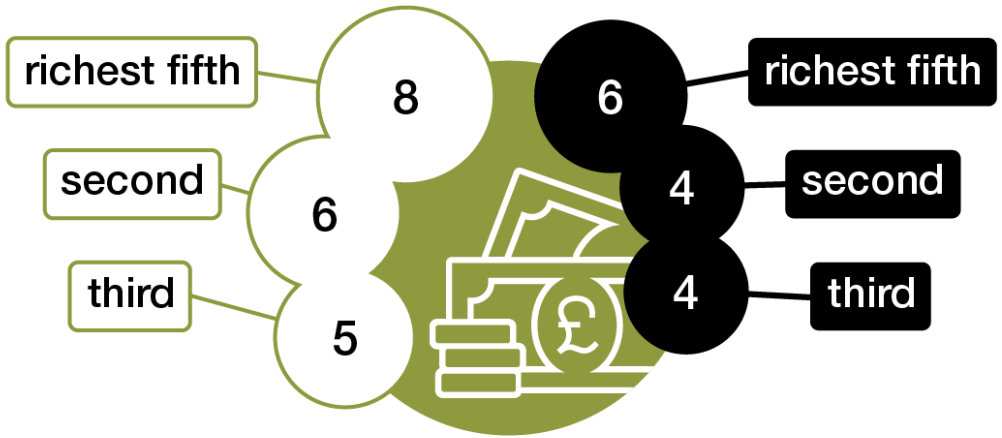
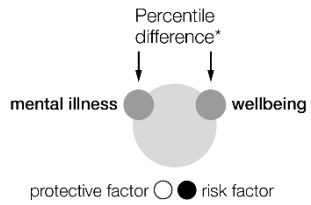


High family income

Perceives own family to be richer than friends'



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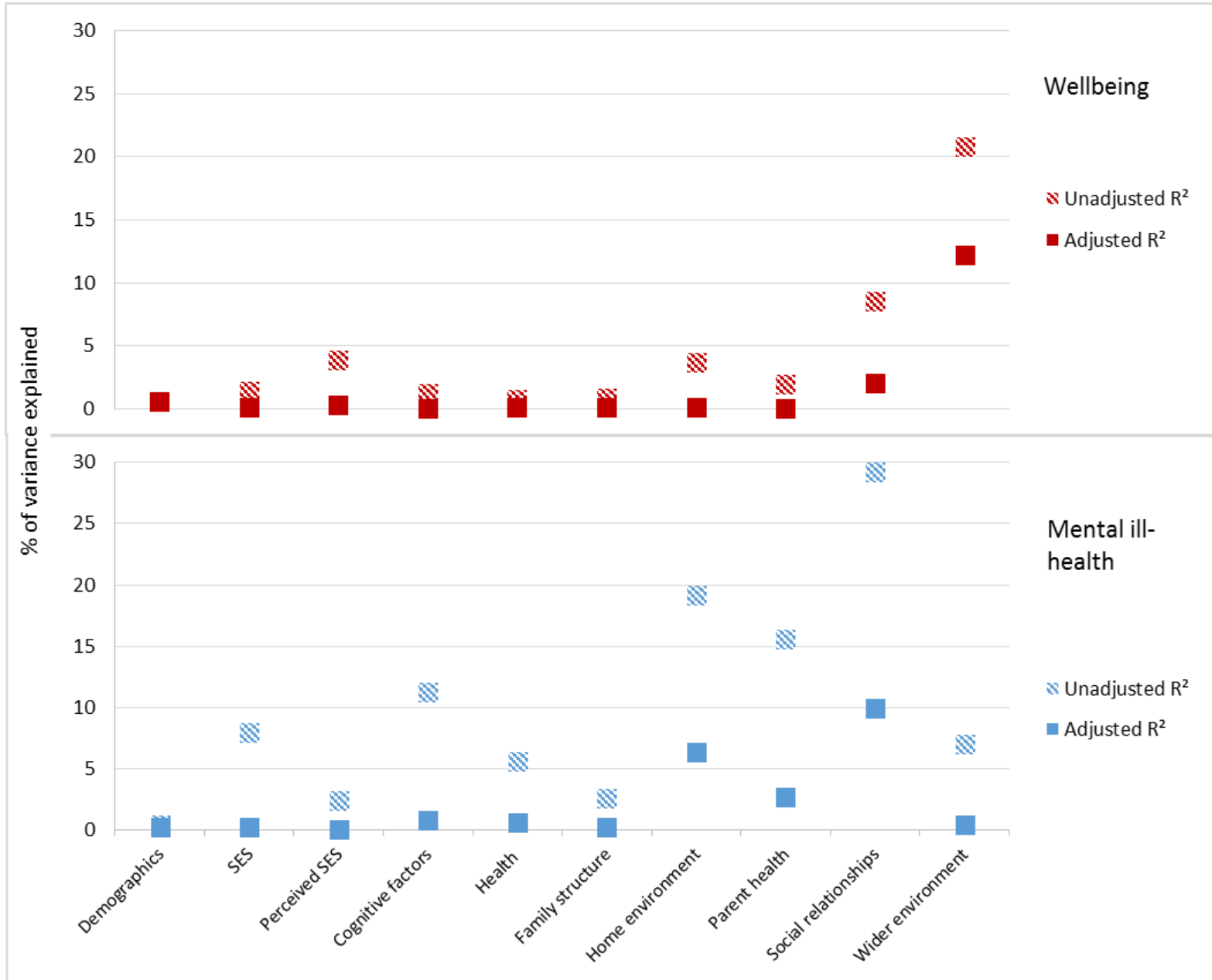
The income gradient…

This study

Parent reported mental illness	Expected gradient	Parent reported mental illness	Expected gradient		
Child self reported wellbeing	Counter intuitive gradient	Child self reported mental illness	No gradient	Child self reported mental illness	Counter intuitive gradient
		Johnston et al (2014) The income gradient in childhood mental health: all in the eye of the beholder? *RSS A*		LSYPE 2, 2016	


% of variance explained
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Wellbeing
Unadjusted R²
Adjusted R²
Mental ill-health
Unadjusted R²
Adjusted R²
Demographics
SES
Perceived SES
Cognitive factors
Health
Family structure
Home environment
Parent health
Social relationships
Wider environment

26%

50%

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Thank you

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