

Conclusions

Adverse socioeconomic conditions in childhood are related to poor general health in adulthood. Unhealthy psychological attributes (personality factors and coping styles) are more common in people who reported low childhood social class. Specific psychological attributes contribute substantially to the association between childhood social class and adult health. Perceived control may be the underlying psychological characteristic. When the influence of childhood socioeconomic conditions on adult health is examined the role of specific psychological attributes is worth further exploration, in addition to factors related to fetal development, early growth, and biological and behavioural mechanisms.

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Endpiece Gide's solution

There is no psychological truth unless it be particular; but on the other hand there is no art unless it be general. The whole problem lies in just that—how to express the general by the particular—how to make the particular express the general. (André Gide)

Alice Heim, *Intelligence and Personality* (1970)

Submitted by Nicholas Steel, health services research fellow, University of East Anglia