

# The Relationship between Social Capital and the Health and Educational Outcomes of Children: the Role of Parental Education

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## Abstract

### Background

Area-level social capital has been found in numerous studies to be related to the health of both adults and children. However, it is currently unknown whether the level of parental education modifies the relationship between social capital and children's health and it is unknown whether parental education moderates any effects that social capital may have on children's educational outcomes.

### Objective

To determine whether social capital is positively associated with the health and educational outcomes of children and whether these associations are moderated by parental education levels

### Data and Methods

We use five waves of the nationally representative Early Childhood Longitudinal Study – Kindergarten Class of 1998-1999 (ECLS-K), which includes 11,820 children who were followed between kindergarten and fifth grade. The data includes information on parental demographics, including educational level, as well as numerous health measures including general health status and behavioral health status. It also includes standardized mathematics and reading achievement scores. We use a first-differenced regression model to estimate the association between changes in social capital (interacted with parent's education) and changes in children's health and educational outcomes.

### Discussion

The results of this study will inform the research community on how social capital is related to children's health and educational achievement, and whether this relationship is moderated by parental education levels. This information will provide a better understanding of the pathways through which social capital works.