

Abstract for “Intergenerational Predictors of Poverty in the UK and EU”

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Previous research has shown that children who grow-up in socio-economic disadvantage are more likely to experience income poverty and other related problems when they themselves are adults and parents, in turn affecting subsequent generations (see e.g. d’Addio, 2007 for a review). Better understanding the factors associated with future life changes is therefore a key priority for policy makers working to break this intergenerational cycle of poverty.

This paper adds to the evidence base available for policy makers by using EU Statistics on Income & Living Conditions (EU-SILC) data to analyse the predictors of poverty in later life. EU-SILC is the main source of data available across the EU for analysis of poverty, material deprivation and other aspects of well-being. In 2011, it included a module on the intergenerational transmission of disadvantage. A series of variables were collected of adults aged 25-59, relating to their circumstances when they were aged 14. These variables covered various aspects of the household composition; their parents’ education level, economic status and country of birth/citizenship; and the economic situation of the household.

This paper presents multivariate analysis conducted to analyse the extent to which such childhood factors might be associated with future life chances, examining their relationship with educational attainment, as well as future income poverty and material disadvantage. Analysis is presented both for the UK and other EU countries in order to examine the extent to which intergenerational transmission of disadvantage varies across different welfare regimes.