



# Housing and children's socio-emotional and behavioural development

Presentation to the National Housing Conference 2017

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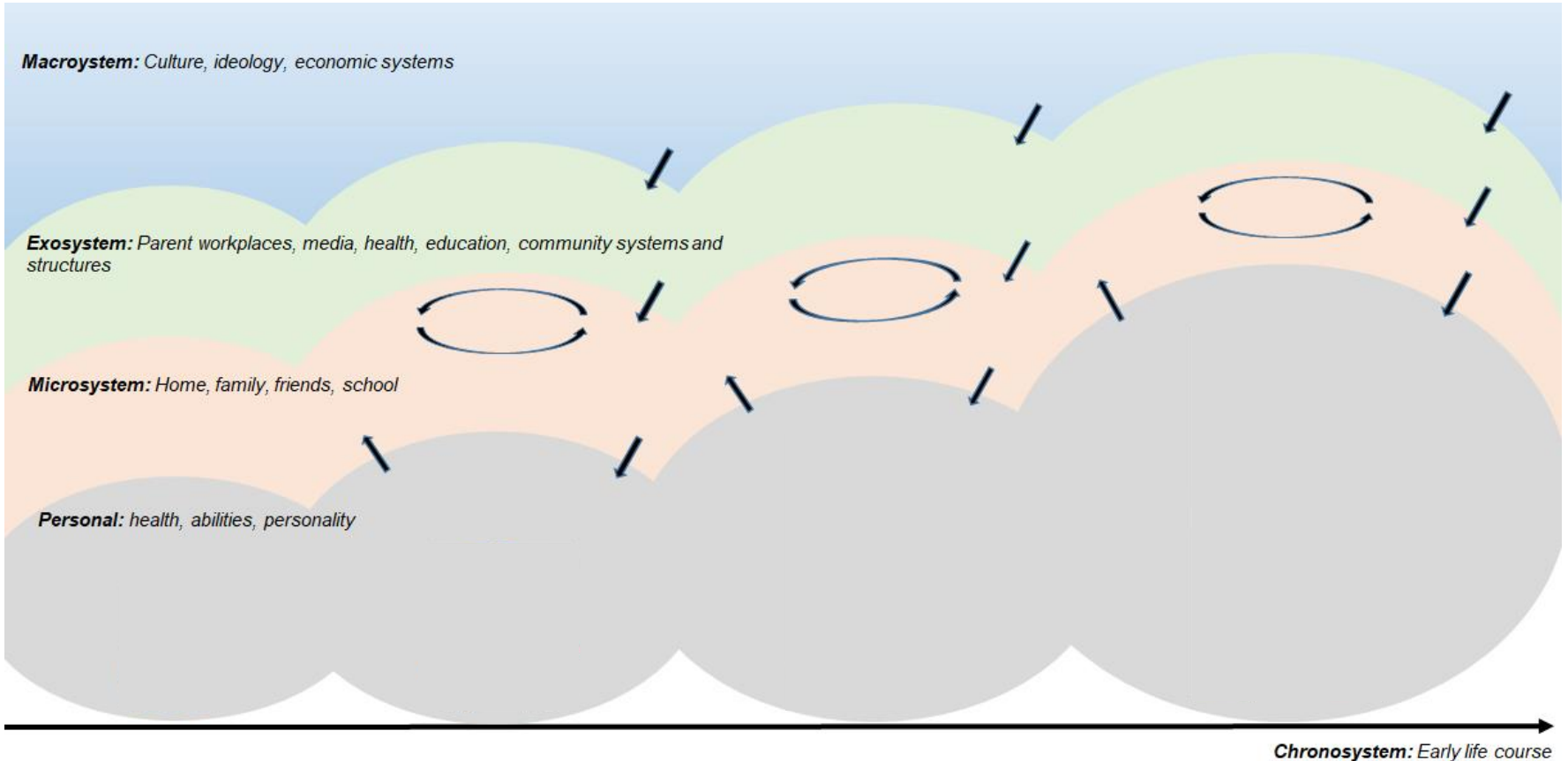
# Acknowledgement

- This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.
- This presentation uses unit record data from Growing Up in Australia, the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children. The study is conducted in partnership between the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The findings and views reported in this presentation are those of the author and should not be attributed to DSS, AIFS or the ABS.

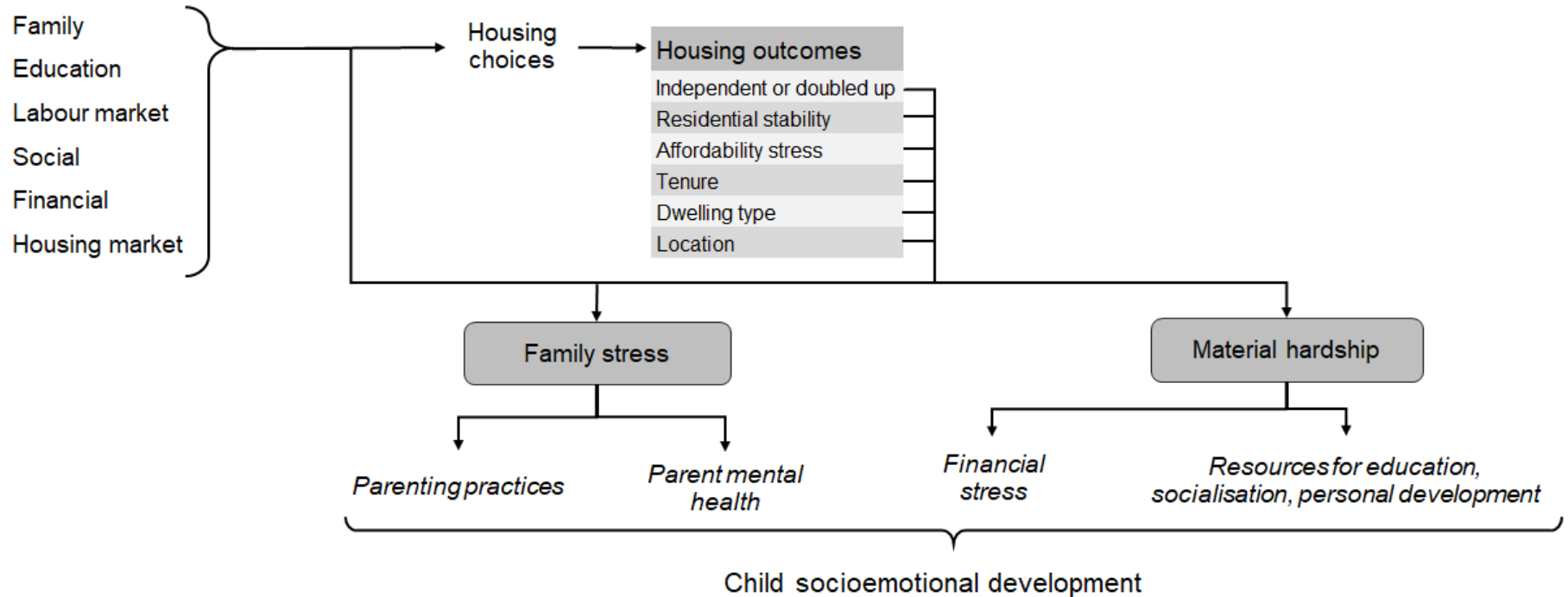
# Introduction

- Child socio-emotional development shaped by personal, interpersonal, material and structural factors
- Attributes of housing and households impact on children directly and indirectly
- Child development impacts on wellbeing now and into adulthood

# Ecological model of child development



# Housing and child development



# Data

- *Growing Up in Australia: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children* (Australian Institute of Family Studies 2015)
  - Waves 1 (2004) to 6 (2013-14)
- B & K-cohorts, ages 4-15 (9,363 children)
- Unbalanced panel: 38,208 child-year observations

# Socioemotional problems: Strengths and Difficulties

## Emotional problems

e.g. worried, depressed, clingy,  
easily scared, fearful

## Peer problems

e.g. plays alone, not liked by other  
children, picked on

## Conduct problems

e.g. often loses temper, fights,  
bullies, lies, steals

## Hyperactivity problems

e.g. restless, overactive, easily  
distracted, short attention span

# Methods

- *Regression*: multi-level mixed effects growth curve model
- Model 1:

*Socioemotional problems*

$$= a_i + b_{1i}age_i + b_2moves + b_3type + b_4quality \\ + b_5household + b_{11}controls$$



# Methods

- *Regression*: multi-level mixed effects growth curve model
- Model 2:

*Socioemotional problems*

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_i + b_{1i}age_i + b_2moves + b_3type + b_4quality \\ &+ b_5household + b_{11}controls \\ &+ b_6tenure \end{aligned}$$

# Methods

- *Regression*: multi-level mixed effects growth curve model
- Model 3:

*Socioemotional problems*

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_i + b_{1i}age_i + b_2moves + b_3type + b_4quality \\ &+ b_5household + b_{11}controls \\ &+ b_6tenure \\ &+ b_7income + b_8hardship \end{aligned}$$

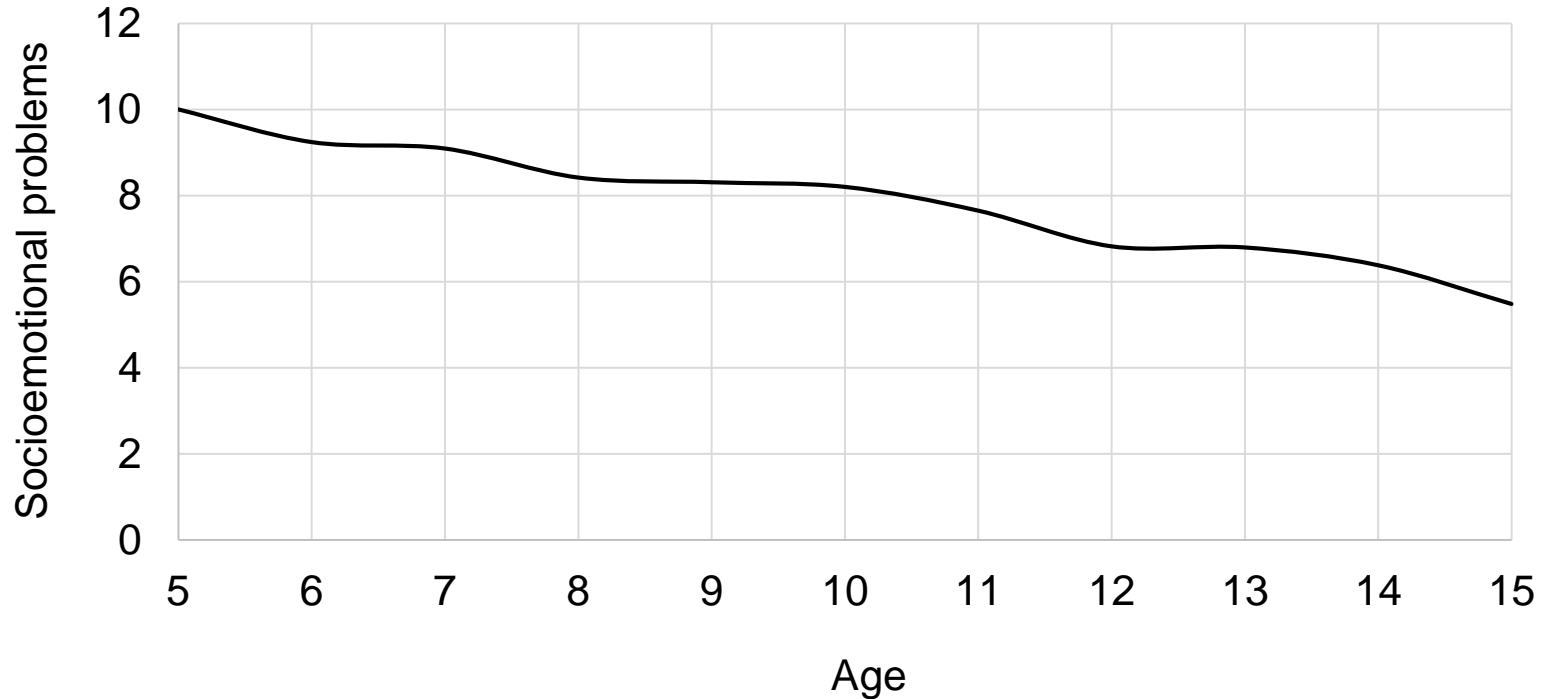
# Methods

- *Regression*: multi-level mixed effects growth curve model
- Model 4:

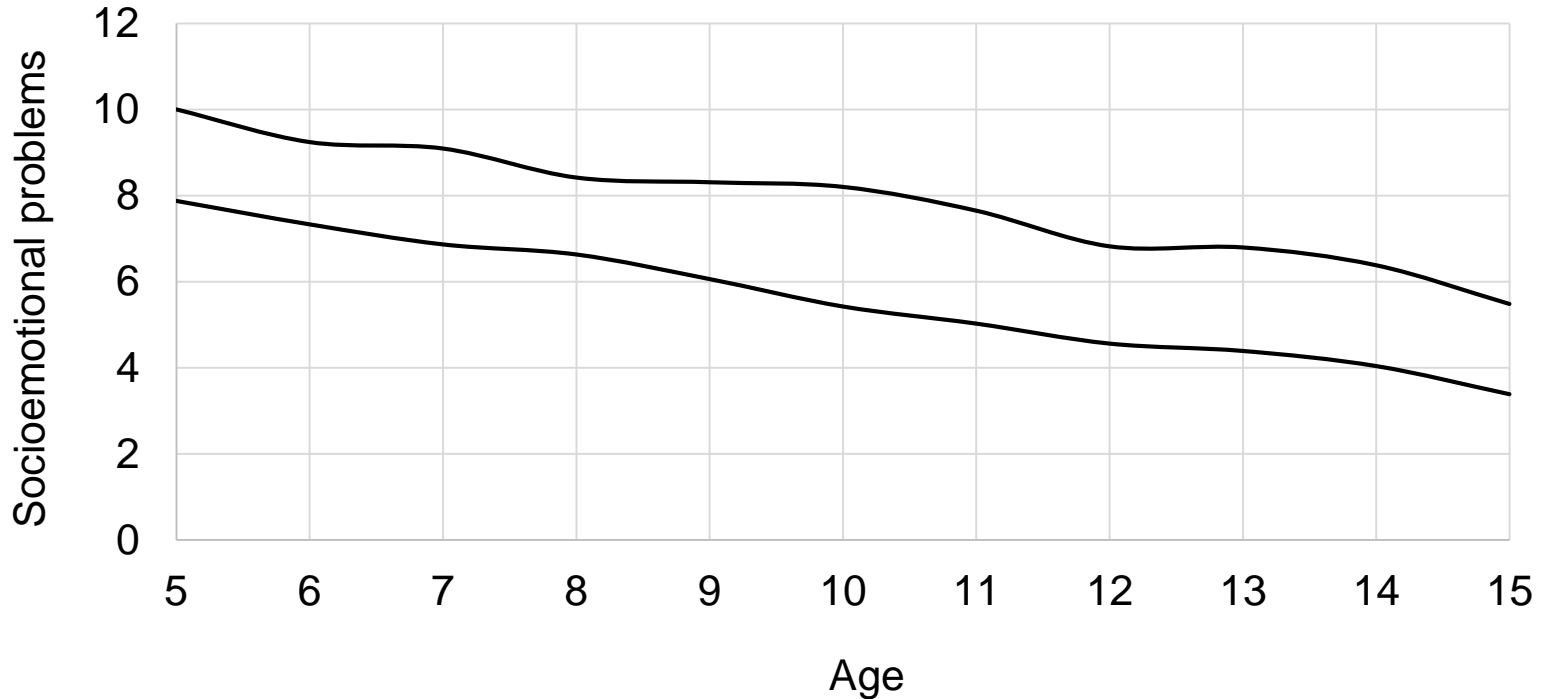
*Socioemotional problems*

$$\begin{aligned} &= a_i + b_{1i}age_i + b_2moves + b_3type + b_4quality \\ &+ b_5household + b_{11}controls \\ &+ b_6tenure \\ &+ b_7income + b_8hardship \\ &+ b_9parenting + b_{10}distress \end{aligned}$$

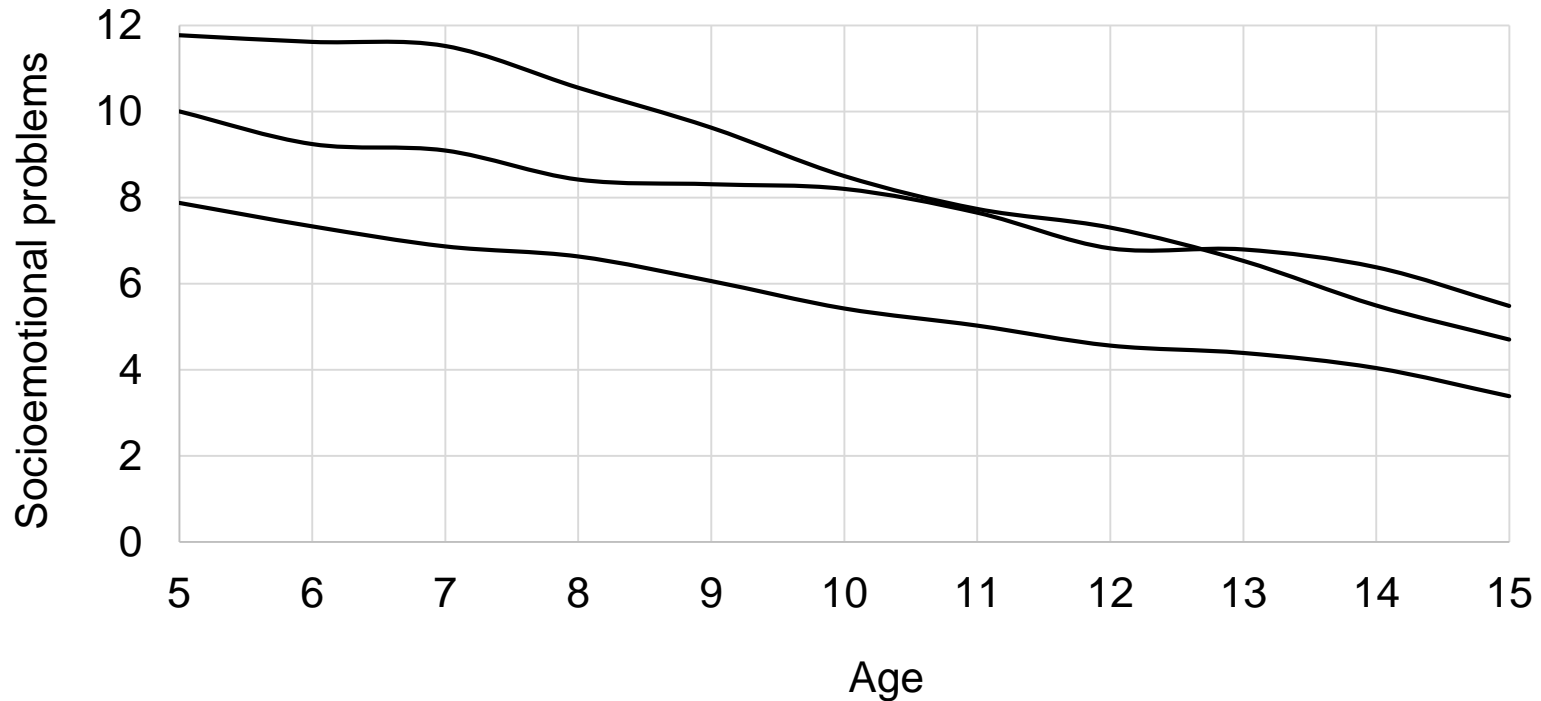
# Growth curves



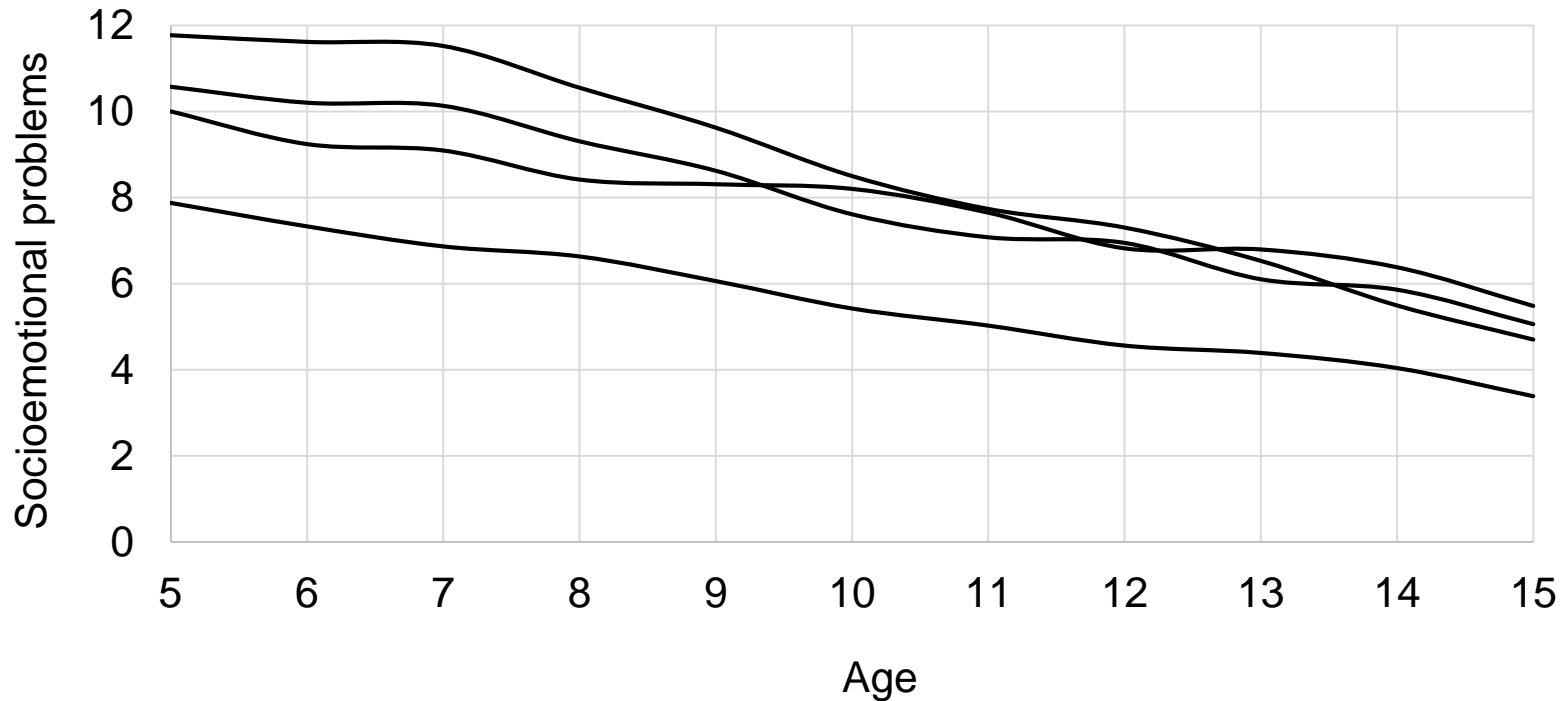
# Growth curves



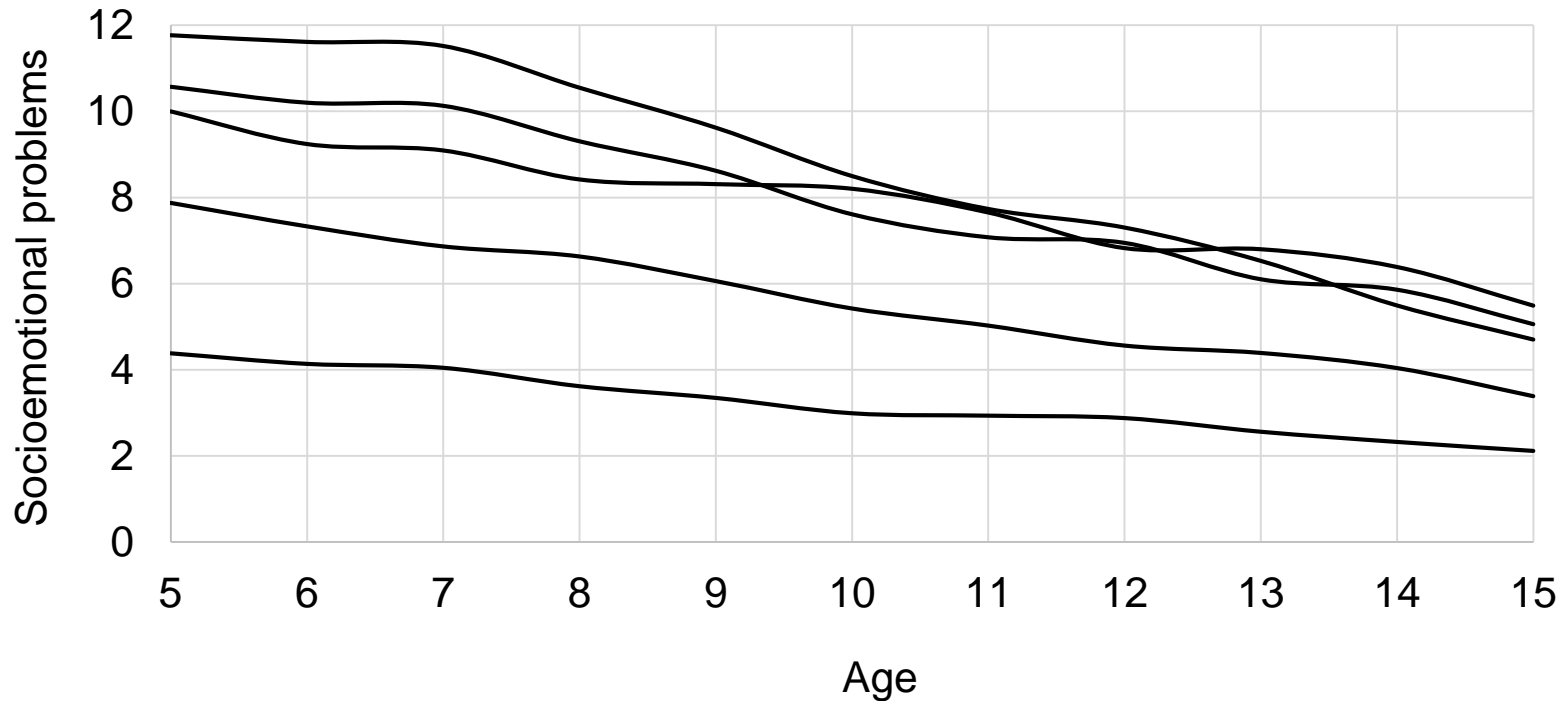
# Growth curves



# Growth curves

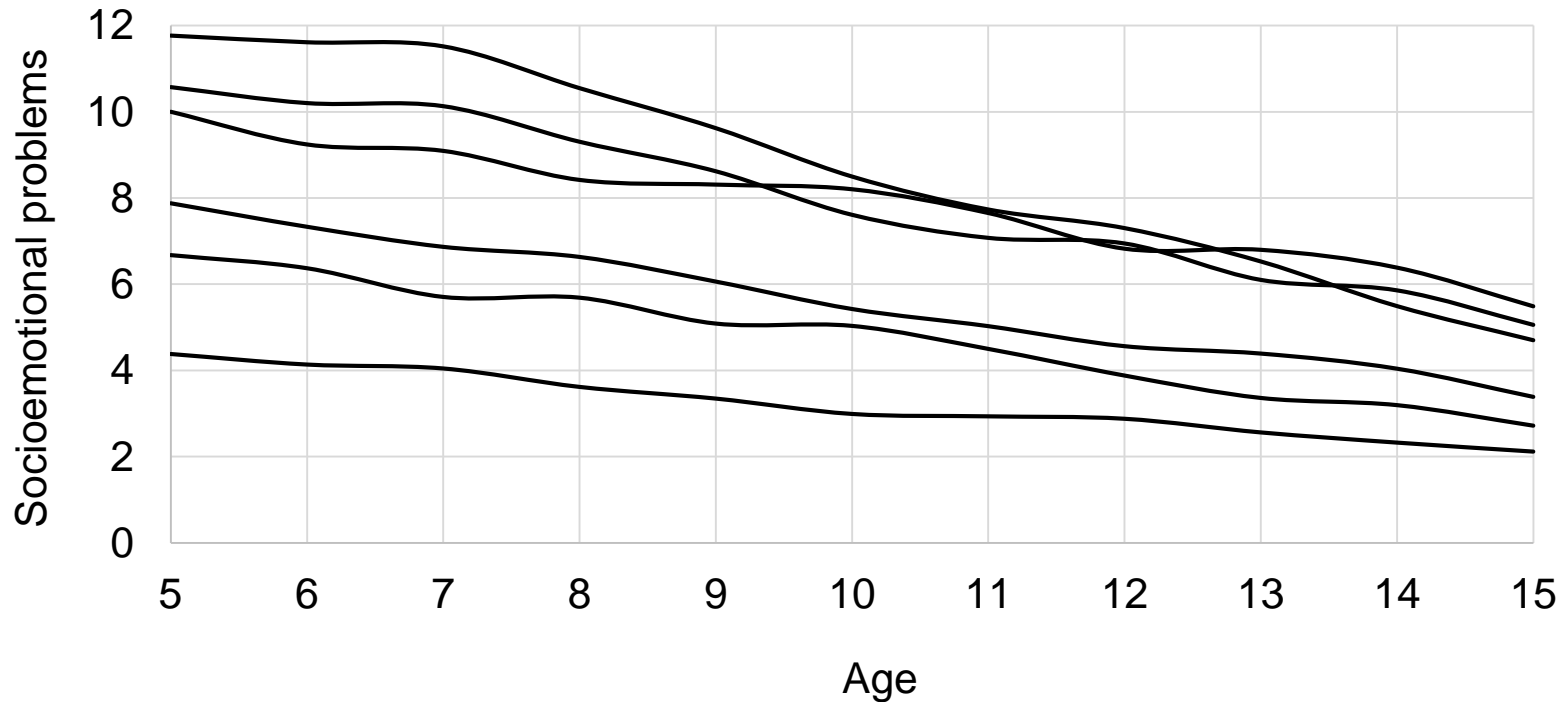


# Growth curves

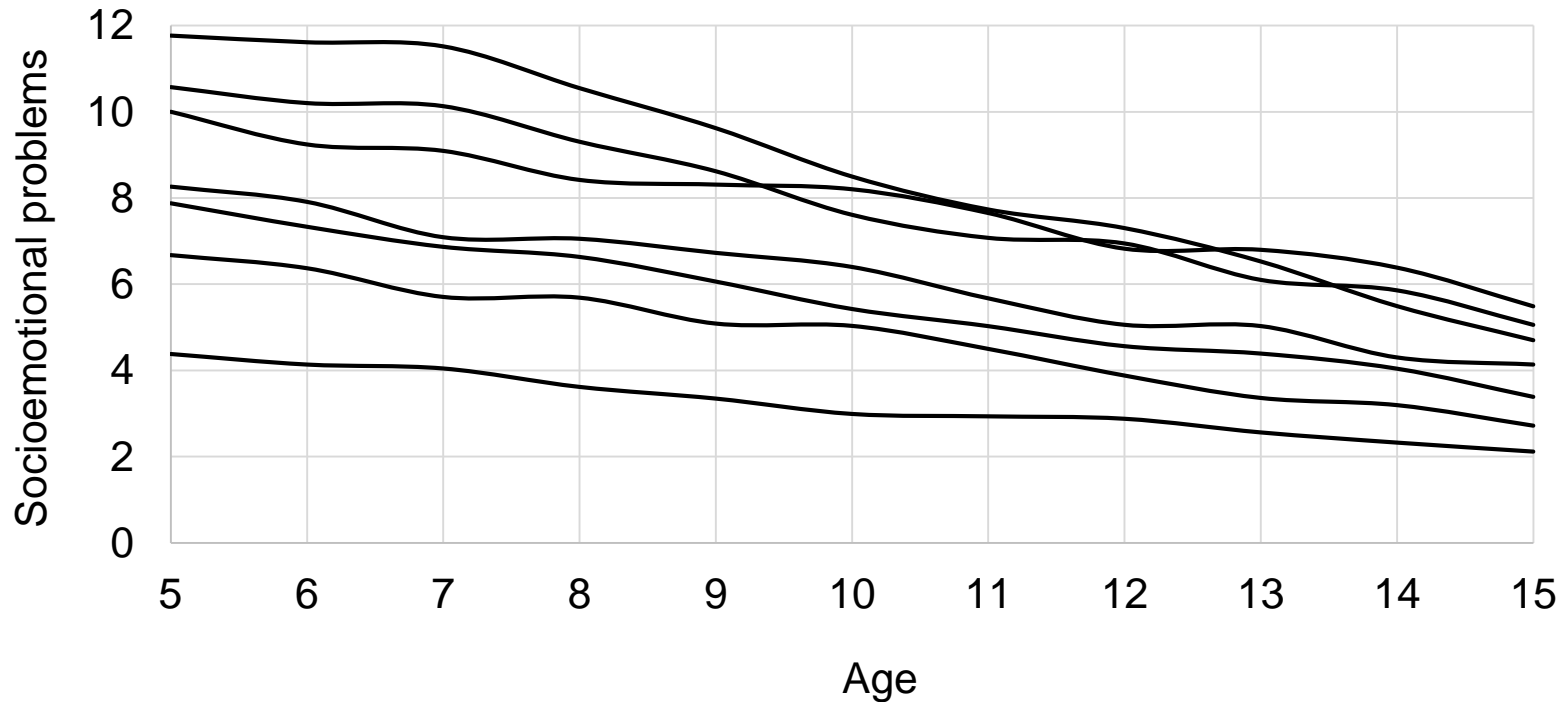




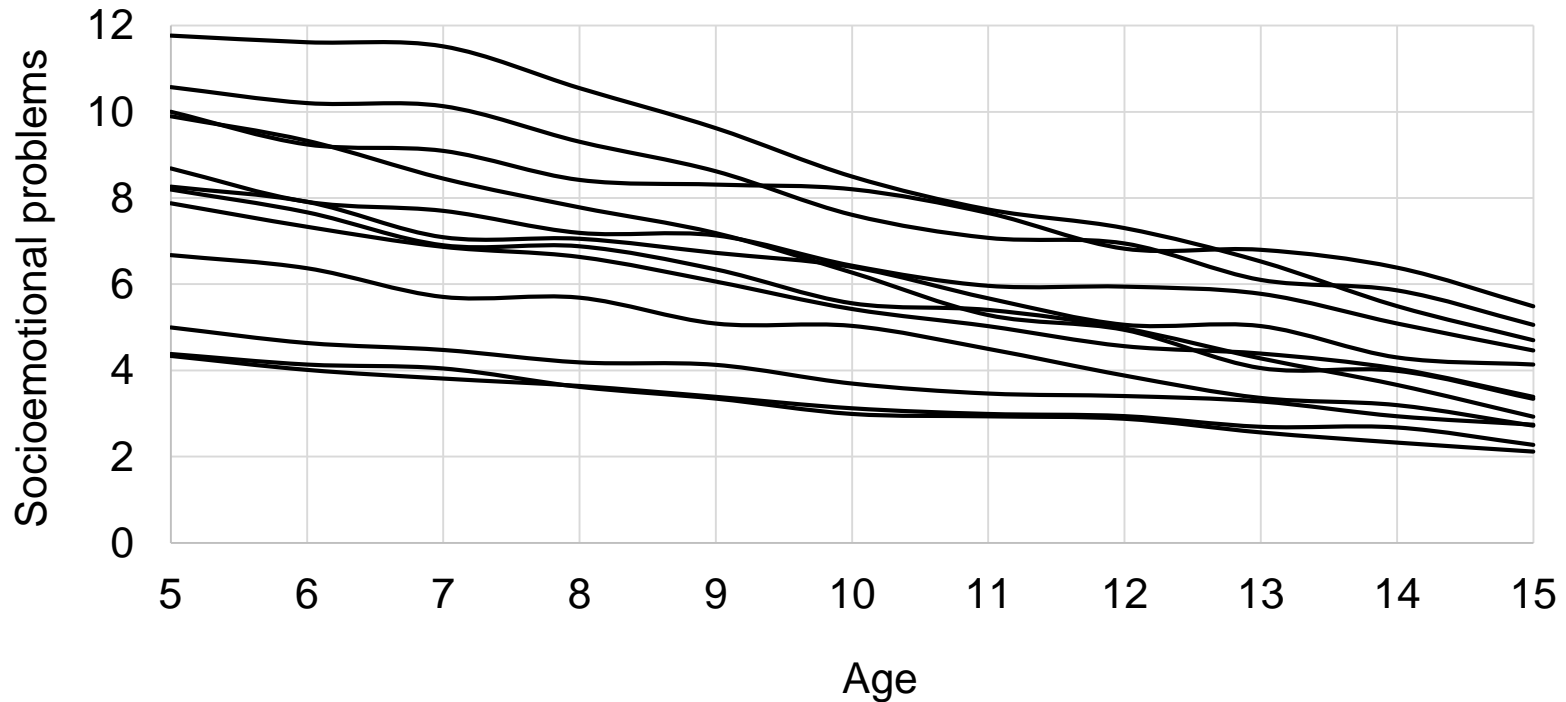
# Growth curves



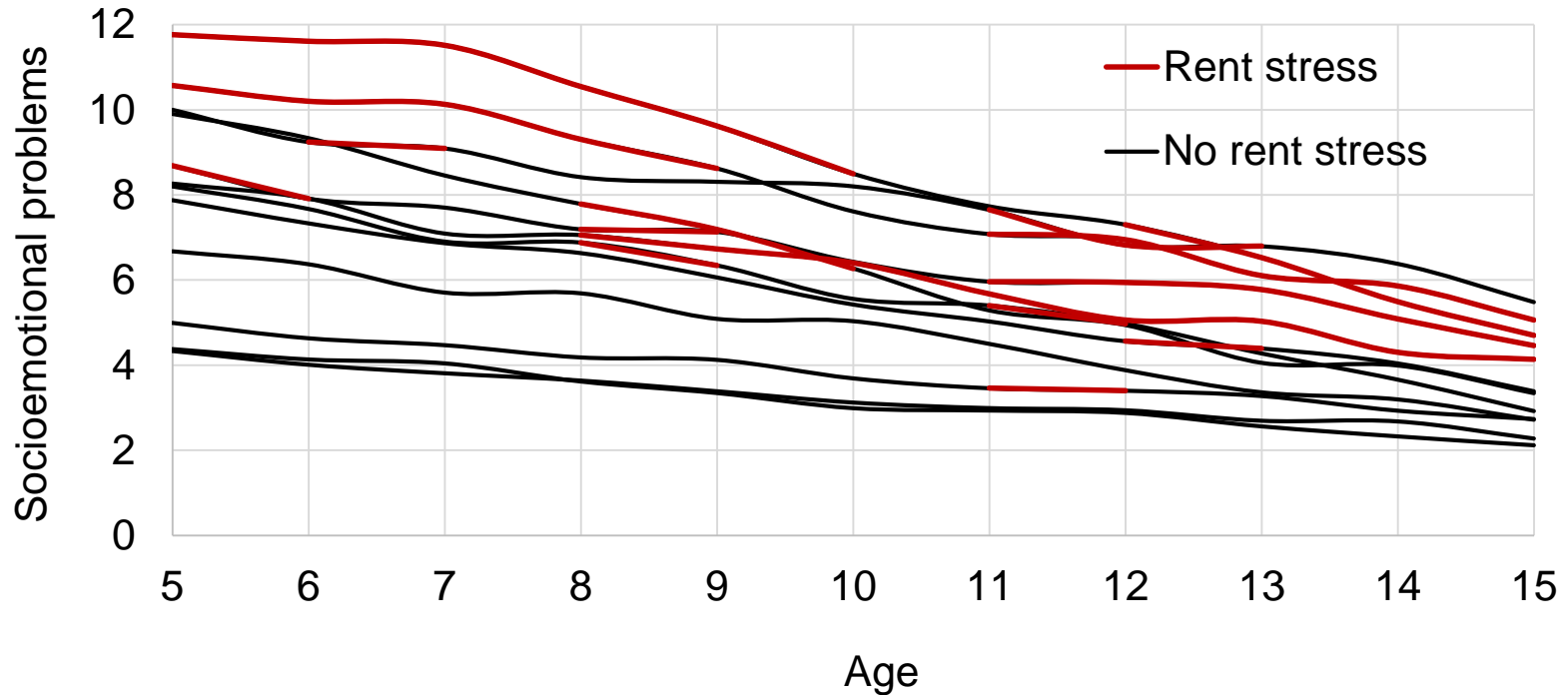
# Growth curves



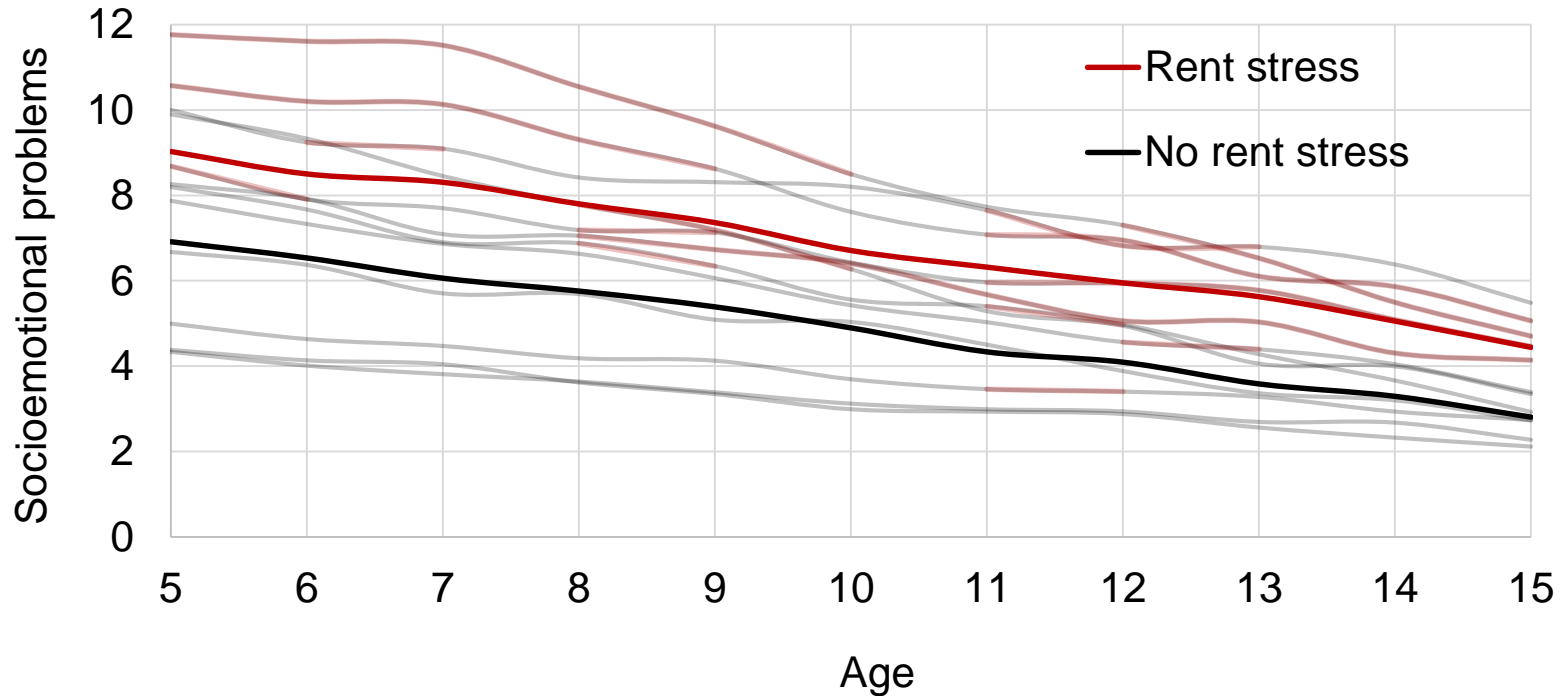
# Growth curves



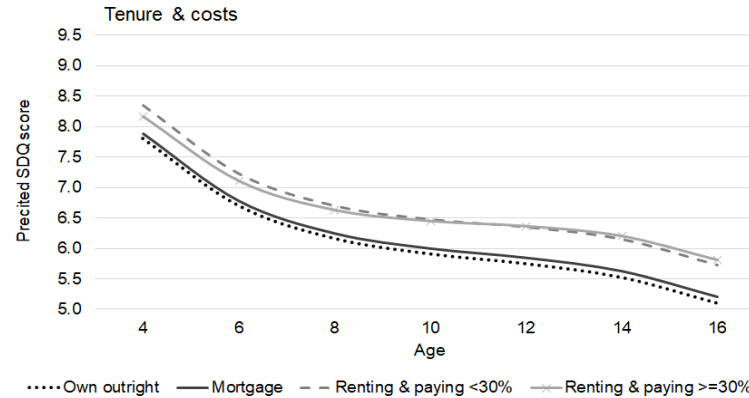
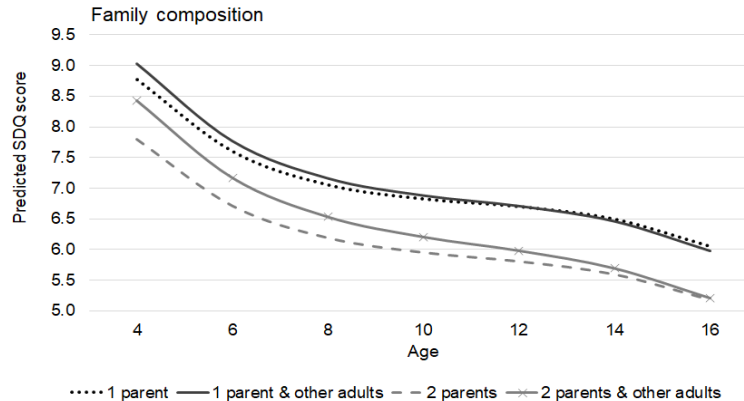
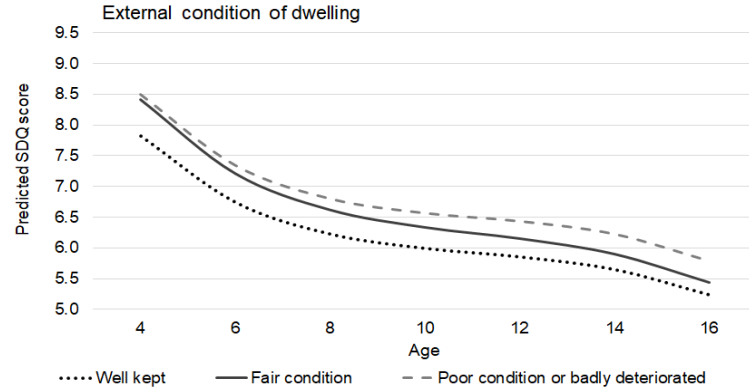
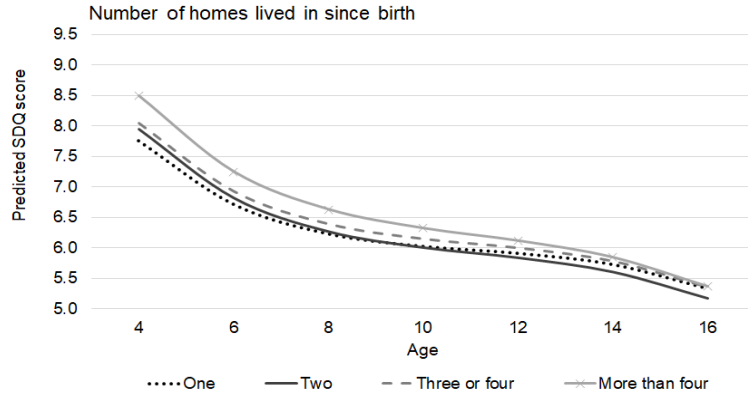
# Growth curves



# Growth curves

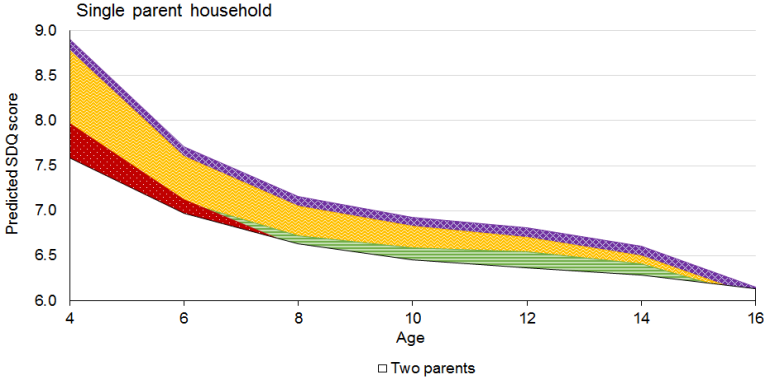
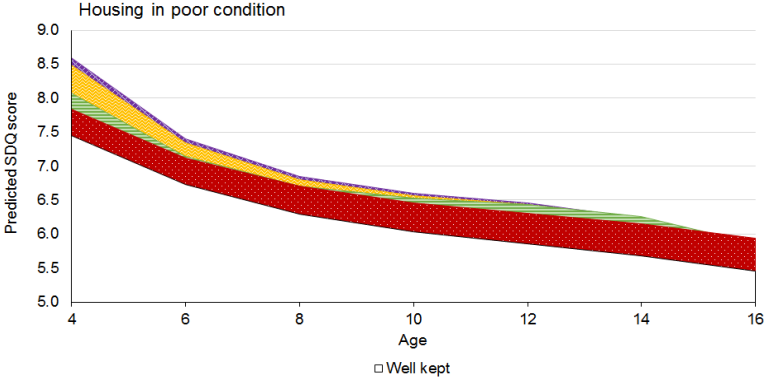
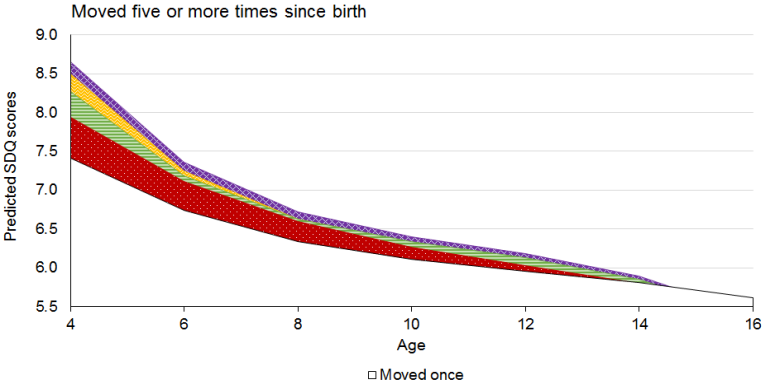


# Results



Source: Authors' calculations from AIFS (2015)

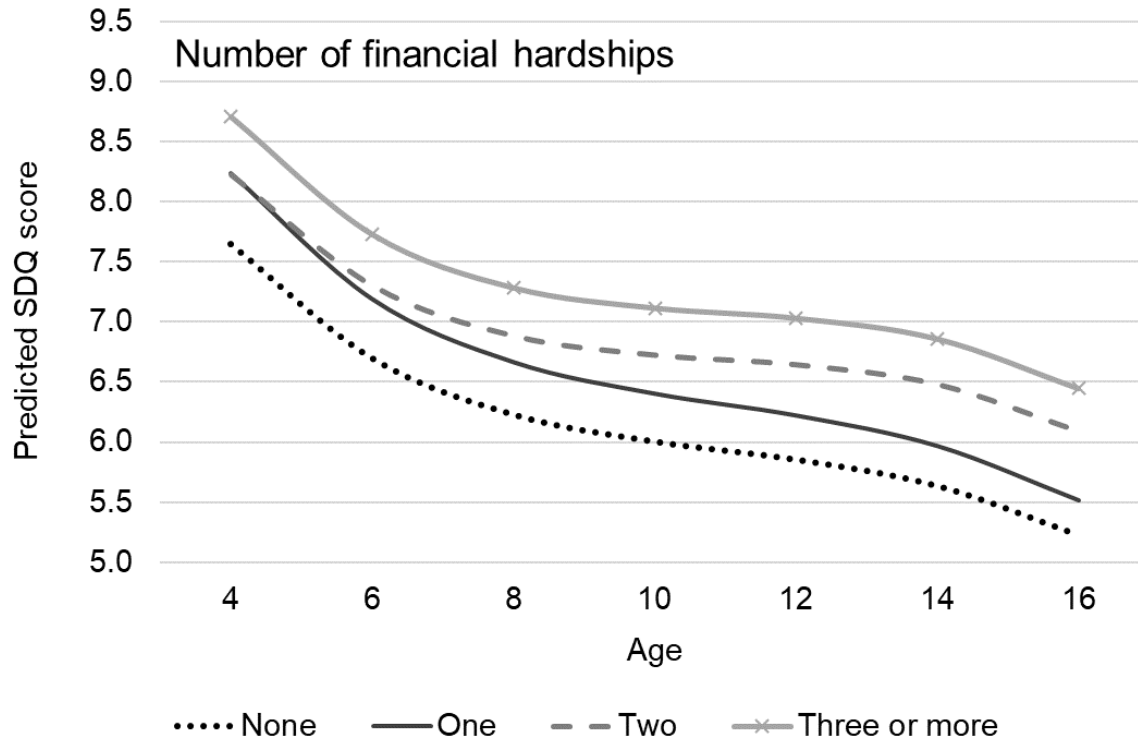
# Explaining housing effects



■ Housing stress    
 ■ Income and financial stress    
 ■ Parenting    
 ■ Independent

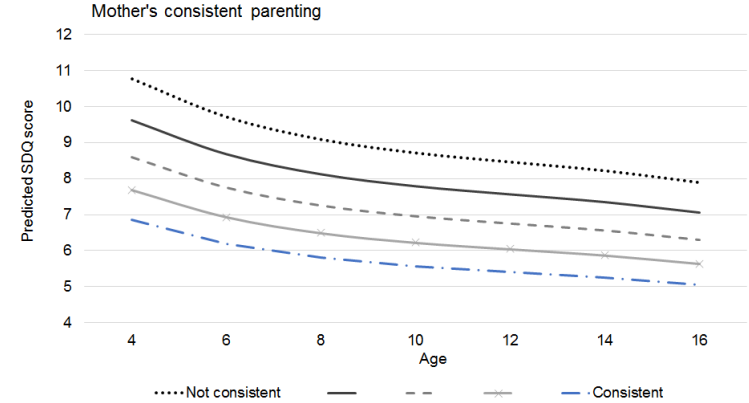
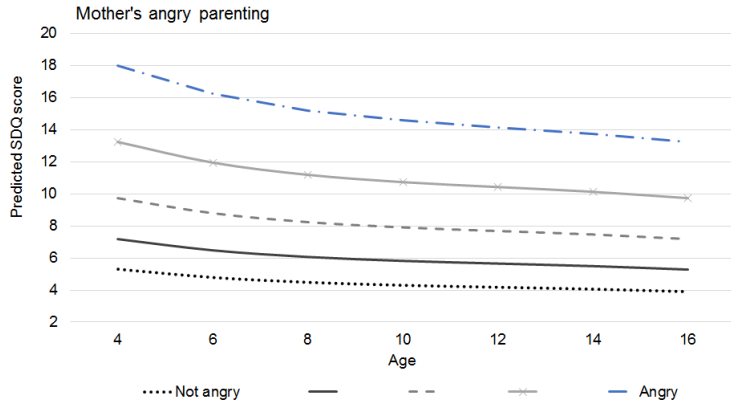
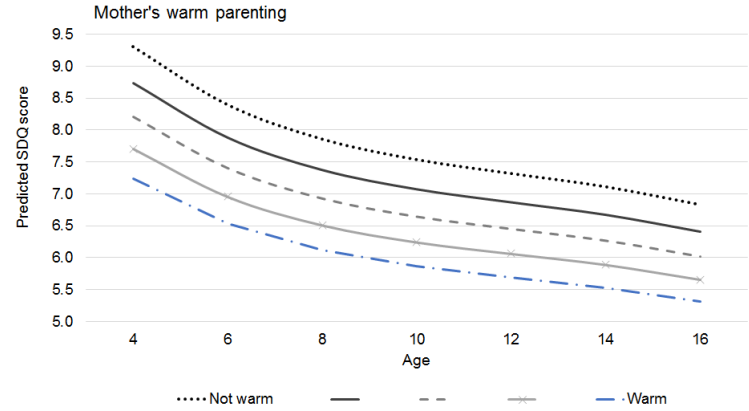
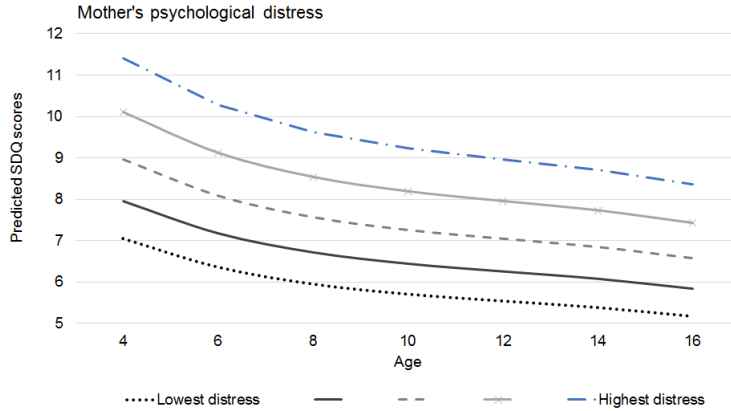
Source: Authors' calculations from AIFS (2015)

# Financial stress





# Parenting



Source: Authors' calculations from AIFS (2015)

# Findings

- Housing and household characteristics have modest, significant effects on socioemotional wellbeing
- Income and financial stress explain some of these effects
  - Effect of parenting later in childhood
- Independent/unexplained effects
- Financial position and parenting have larger effects on children

# Conclusion

- Housing outcomes interact with personal, interpersonal, material and societal factors
- Support for ecological view of child development
- Development across the early life course important to consider
- Future work to identify causal mechanisms across time



Thank you

# References

- Australian Institute of Family Studies (2015). *Longitudinal Study of Australian Children Data User Guide – November 2015*. Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne.
- Bronfenbrenner, U. (1977) Toward an Experimental Ecology of Human Development. *American Psychologist*, 32(7), pp.513-531