

State-Level Factors that Shape the Long Arm of Childhood

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CAPS-CPR 2024 Conference



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Geographical Variation in the Long Arm of Childhood

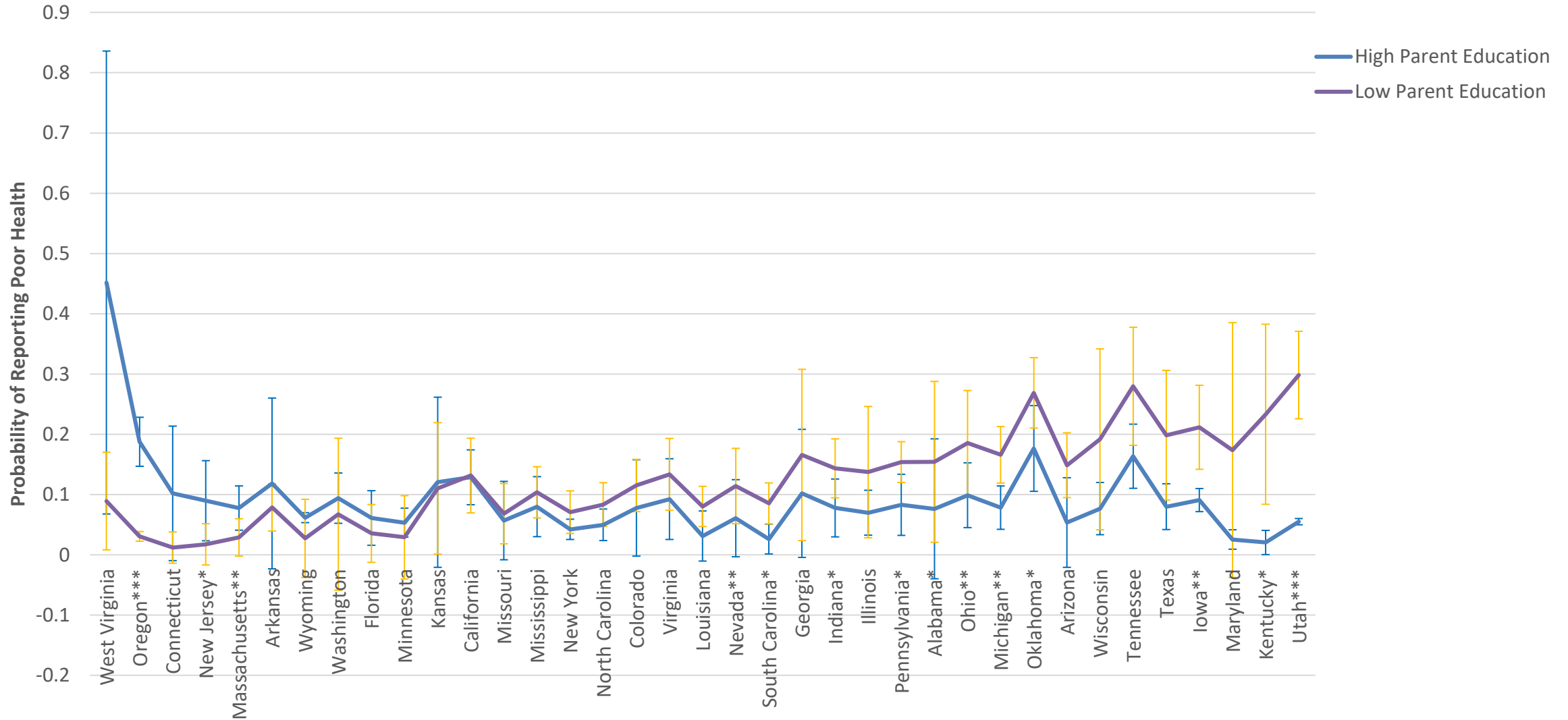
Research Questions:

1. Does the relationship between childhood SES and poor health in adulthood differ across states?
2. Does state-level welfare generosity or state-level income inequality moderate this relationship?
3. Does education mediate the relationship differently across states?



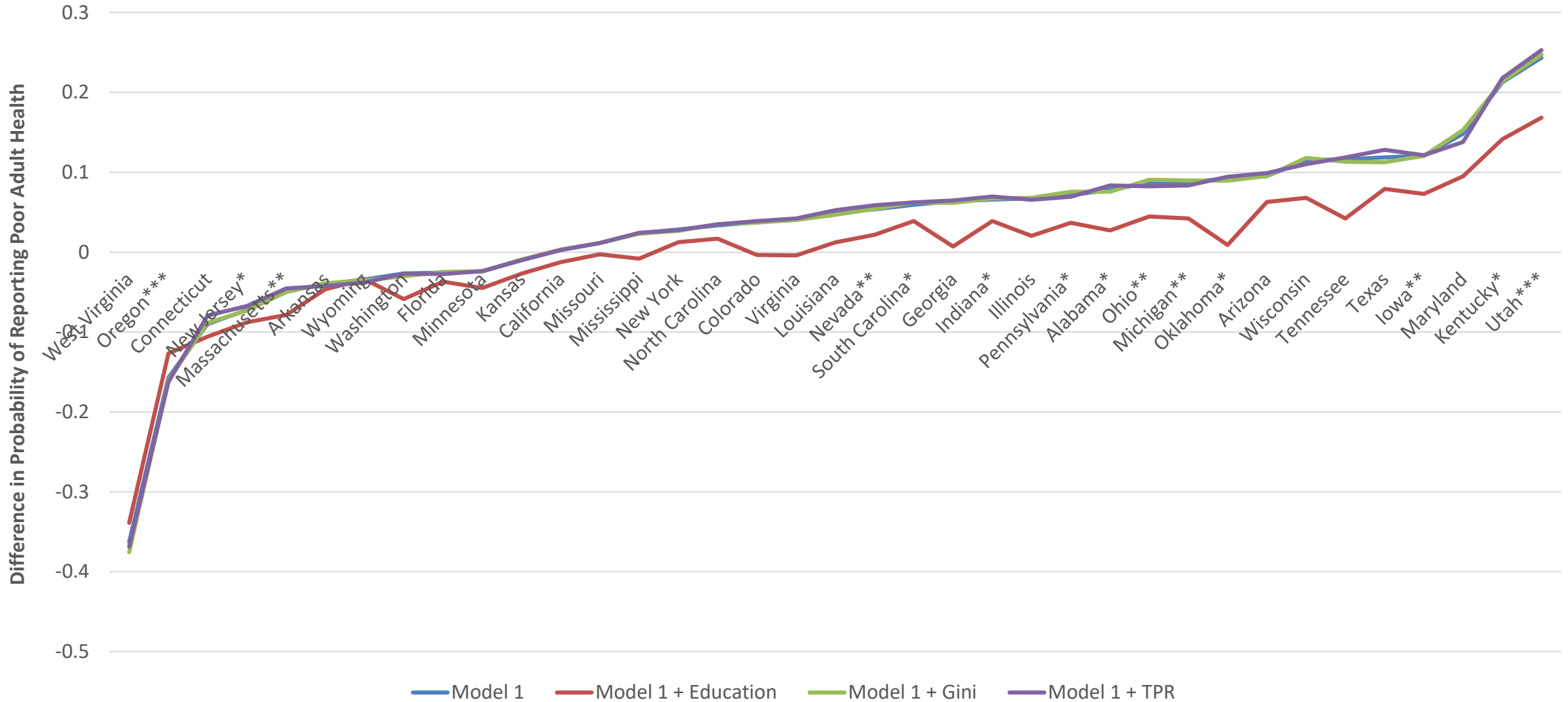
Results

Probability of Reporting Poor Health by Parental Education and State



Results

Difference in the Probability of Reporting Poor Health by Parental Education and State



The Long-Term Health Effects of Welfare Reform

Research questions:

1. How does childhood exposure to TANF (compared to AFDC) impact self-rated poor health and levels of psychological distress in adulthood?
2. Do these effects differ by race and ethnicity?



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Results

Table 2. Estimated Effects of Welfare Reform in Childhood on Adult Health

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2
	Poor Self-Rated Health		Psychological Distress	
Welfare reform exposure	-0.01 (0.005)	-0.01 (0.01)	0.02 (0.07)	0.002 (0.06)
Participation	0.09** (0.03)	0.09** (0.03)	0.93 (0.48)	0.92 (0.49)
Welfare reform×Participation	-0.004 (0.002)	-0.004 (0.002)	-0.06 (0.04)	-0.06 (0.04)
Sample size		13,415		12,723

***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05

^aModel 1 controls for childhood state fixed effects, year of interview fixed effects, time-varying state-level characteristics, and individual demographics

^bModel 2 also controls for state-specific linear time trends



Results

Table 3. Estimated Effects of Welfare Reform in Childhood on Adult Health by Race/Ethnicity-Welfare Participation Groups

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 1	Model 2
	Poor Self-Rated Health		Psychological Distress	
Welfare reform exposure	-0.005 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.01)	0.04 (0.07)	0.02 (0.07)
Race	0.11* (0.05)	0.12* (0.05)	-1.47** (0.50)	-1.54** (0.49)
Participation	0.05 (0.03)	0.05 (0.03)	0.26 (0.46)	0.24 (0.46)
Welfare reform×Race	-0.01 (0.004)	-0.01 (0.004)	0.12* (0.05)	0.13* (0.05)
Welfare reform×Participation	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.001 (0.003)	-0.004 (0.04)	-0.004 (0.04)
Participation×Race	0.08 (0.06)	0.08 (0.06)	2.72*** (0.72)	2.77*** (0.72)
Welfare reform×Race×Participation	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.24*** (0.06)	-0.24*** (0.06)
Sample size	13,146		12,462	

***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05

^aModel 1 controls for childhood state fixed effects, year of interview fixed effects, time-varying state-level characteristics, and individual demographics

^bModel 2 also controls for state-specific linear time trends



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Challenges

- Large, publicly available data sets with measures of childhood conditions
- Historical state-level data pre-1980
- Identifying relatively small state-level effects
- Isolating the effect of the policy of interest from other policies and contexts



Thank you!

Research reported in this presentation was supported by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number F31MD017935. The content is solely the responsibility of the author and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.



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