



FIG. 1.—Heights across occupations, men. U.S. evidence is based on data from the National Health Interview Survey, and British evidence is based on data from the 1970 British Cohort Study.

TABLE 1
LOG EARNINGS AND HEIGHT

DEPENDENT VARIABLE	MEN		WOMEN	
	Height Coefficient	Observations	Height Coefficient	Observations
A. NCDS				
Log weekly gross earnings	.026 (.004)	4,927	.024 (.007)	5,033
Log average hourly gross earnings	.023 (.004)	4,860	.019 (.005)	4,995
B. BCS				
Log weekly gross earnings	.014 (.003)	2,265	.029 (.006)	2,136
Log average hourly gross earnings	.010 (.003)	2,253	.015 (.004)	2,127
C. PSID				
Log weekly earnings	.023 (.004)	23,465	.014 (.006)	21,271
Log average hourly earnings	.019 (.004)	23,465	.012 (.003)	21,271

NOTE.—Ordinary least squares (OLS) regression coefficients reported for height in inches, with standard errors in parentheses. The NCDS and PSID regressions use multiple observations per person, and unobservables are clustered at the individual level. The NCDS and BCS samples are restricted to those for whom we have test scores at ages 7 and 11 (NCDS) or 5 and 10 (BCS). The PSID sample consists of white household heads or wives between the ages of 25 and 60, inclusive, between 1988 and 1997. NCDS and BCS regressions include indicators for ethnicity, and the NCDS regressions also include an age indicator. The PSID regressions include a set of age and year indicators.

TABLE 4
TEST SCORES AND HEIGHT IN CHILDHOOD: NCDS AND BCS

DEPENDENT VARIABLE	CONTROLS FOR SEX, ETHNICITY, AND AGE			EXTENDED CONTROLS:
	Boys and Girls (1)	Boys (2)	Girls (3)	BOYS AND GIRLS (4)
A. 1970 BCS Coefficient on Age 5 Height for Age z-Score				
EPVT (receptive language) score at age 5	.132 (.008)	.129 (.012)	.134 (.012)	.078 (.009)
Human figure drawing score at age 5	.070 (.009)	.057 (.012)	.083 (.012)	.041 (.009)
Copy designs score at age 5	.115 (.008)	.116 (.012)	.116 (.012)	.057 (.009)
BAS word score at age 10	.131 (.010)	.125 (.014)	.133 (.013)	.064 (.010)
BAS similarities score at age 10	.123 (.010)	.117 (.014)	.126 (.013)	.060 (.010)
BAS digit score at age 10	.067 (.010)	.056 (.014)	.075 (.014)	.033 (.011)
BAS matrices at age 10	.084 (.010)	.077 (.014)	.089 (.014)	.028 (.010)
B. 1958 NCDS Coefficient on Age 7 Height for Age z-Score				
Reading score at age 7	.154 (.008)	.158 (.012)	.150 (.011)	.109 (.009)
Math score at age 7	.123 (.008)	.124 (.012)	.121 (.012)	.081 (.009)
Drawing score at age 7	.112 (.008)	.111 (.012)	.111 (.012)	.076 (.009)
Verbal language score at age 11	.170 (.009)	.151 (.013)	.189 (.012)	.109 (.009)
Nonverbal language score at age 11	.179 (.009)	.175 (.013)	.184 (.012)	.117 (.009)
Math score at age 11	.184 (.009)	.182 (.013)	.185 (.012)	.120 (.009)
Copy designs score at age 11	.077 (.009)	.076 (.013)	.077 (.012)	.047 (.010)

NOTE.—Samples sizes are 11,360 for the BCS at age 5 and 8,747 at age 10; and 12,449 for the NCDS at age 7 and 11,232 at age 11. All regressions control for the age of the child at measurement, a set of ethnicity indicators, and (for regressions in which boys and girls are pooled) an indicator for sex. For the BCS, regressions with extended controls also include an indicator of low birth weight, prenatal smoking, the height of each of the child's parents, indicators for the parents' school-leaving ages, the mother's and father's social class at the time of the child's birth, and indicators for family income category at age 10. The NCDS includes the same extended controls, except mother's social class at birth is replaced by her father's social class, and the logarithm of family income at age 16 is used in place of indicators for income at age 10.

TABLE 5
TEST SCORES AND HEIGHT IN CHILDHOOD: CHILDREN OF THE NLSY AND FRAGILE
FAMILIES

Dependent Variable	Limited Controls (1)	Extended Controls (2)	Extended Controls (3)	Observations (4)
A. Children of the NLSY, Coefficient on Age 5–6 Height for Age z-Score				
PIAT mathematics	.067 (.007)	.052 (.007)	.031 (.010)	13,834
PIAT reading recognition	.059 (.007)	.044 (.007)	.028 (.010)	13,702
PIAT reading comprehension	.061 (.008)	.051 (.008)	.025 (.012)	9,605
PPVT	.068 (.011)	.050 (.011)	0.027 (.016)	5,227
Digit span	.056 (.010)	.048 (.011)	.018 (.016)	7,042
B. Fragile Families Coefficient on Age 3 Height for Age z-Score				
PPVT	.089 (.020)	.052 (.020)		2,150
Mother fixed effects?	No	No	Yes	

NOTE.—Panel A shows coefficients and standard errors from OLS regressions on the Children of the NLSY, whose cognitive function was evaluated multiple times between ages 5 and 10. Each coefficient comes from a separate regression, where the reported coefficients are those on the age 5–6 height for age z-score. All regressions include controls for age at the time of the assessment at ages 5–6; a quartic in age at the time of each assessment; and indicators for race, sex, and year. Extended controls include an indicator for low birth weight and indicators for the number of packs of cigarettes the mother smoked during pregnancy, mother’s height in 1985, mother’s AFQT score in 1989, total household income in the previous calendar year, indicators for the highest grade completed by the mother, and indicators that the mother’s partner lives in the household and indicators that the child’s maternal grandmother and grandfather live in the household. For the Fragile Families results, all regressions include indicators for gender and age in months at the time of measurement. The extended controls include an indicator for low birth weight, the heights of both parents, indicators for the educational attainment of both parents, indicators for the maternal grandfather’s education, the logarithm of family income at age 3, the mother’s score on the PPVT, and an indicator of whether the mother took the Spanish-language version of the PPVT (i.e., the Test de Vocabulario en Imagenes Peabody).

TABLE 6
LOG AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS, TEST SCORES, AND THE RETURNS TO HEIGHT

	MEN				WOMEN			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
A. British Cohort Study (1970)								
Height at age 30	.010 (.003)	.004 (.003)	.002 (.003)	.000 (.003)	.015 (.004)	.006 (.004)	.008 (.004)	.003 (.004)
Tests scores ages 5 and 10 <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)	. . .	31.11 (.000)	. . .	16.04 (.000)	. . .	38.52 (.000)	. . .	21.19 (.000)
Extended controls <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)	. . .	. . .	5.39 (.000)	3.00 (.000)	. . .	. . .	4.39 (.000)	2.01 (.000)
Marginal contributions to R^2 of:								
Test scores				.274				.352
Extended controls				.322				.225
Observations	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,253	2,127	2,127	2,127	2,127
B. National Child Development Study (1958)								
Height at age 33	.023 (.004)	.013 (.004)	.018 (.004)	.012 (.003)	.019 (.005)	.011 (.005)	.012 (.005)	.007 (.005)
Tests scores ages 7 and 11 <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)	. . .	66.53 (.000)	. . .	50.30 (.000)	. . .	46.45 (.000)	. . .	31.63 (.000)
Extended controls <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)	. . .	. . .	5.14 (.000)	2.11 (.000)	. . .	. . .	6.90 (.000)	3.10 (.000)
Marginal contributions to R^2 of:								
Test scores				.373				.279
Extended controls				.053				.106
Observations	4,860	4,860	4,860	4,860	4,995	4,995	4,995	4,995

NOTE.—OLS regression coefficients presented with standard errors in parentheses. The dependent variable is log average hourly gross earnings at age 30 for the BCS and at age 33 or 42 for the NCDS. Included in all regressions are indicators for ethnicity. The regressions with extended controls include indicators for mother's and father's school-leaving ages, mother's father's social class (NCDS) or mother's social class at the time of the birth (BCS), low birth weight, and controls for mother's and father's heights and log family income in childhood. The NCDS regressions also include an age indicator. NCDS unobservables are clustered at the individual level.

TABLE 8
LOG AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS, TEST SCORES, AND THE RETURNS TO HEIGHT: 1958 NCDS

	MEN				WOMEN			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Height at age 7	.022 (.007)	.007 (.007)	.018 (.007)	.006 (.007)	.011 (.008)	.001 (.008)	.006 (.008)	−.001 (.008)
Height at age 11	−.001 (.007)	−.001 (.006)	−.003 (.007)	−.003 (.006)	.006 (.006)	.002 (.005)	.005 (.006)	.002 (.005)
Height at age 16	.017 (.005)	.013 (.005)	.016 (.005)	.013 (.005)	−.004 (.008)	−.005 (.008)	−.008 (.008)	−.007 (.008)
Height at age 33	.001 (.005)	.002 (.004)	.001 (.005)	.002 (.004)	.011 (.007)	.011 (.007)	.009 (.007)	.010 (.007)
<i>F</i> -test: height variables (<i>p</i> -value)	18.24 (.000)	6.04 (.000)	12.32 (.000)	5.11 (.000)	6.34 (.000)	1.49 (.204)	2.39 (.049)	.73 (.569)
Tests scores ages 7 and 11 <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)		61.83 (.000)		48.00 (.000)		46.78 (.000)		32.11 (.000)
Extended controls <i>F</i> -test (<i>p</i> -value)			4.91 (.000)	2.06 (.000)			6.72 (.000)	3.06 (.000)
Observations	4,860	4,860	4,860	4,860	4,995	4,995	4,995	4,995

NOTE.—OLS regression coefficients presented with standard errors in parentheses. The dependent variable is log average hourly gross earnings at age 33 or 42. The standard errors are clustered at the level of the individual. Included in all regressions are indicators for ethnicity and an indicator for whether the individual was 33 or 42 at the date earnings were measured. The regression with extended controls includes indicators of mother's and father's school-leaving ages, mother's father's social class, low birth weight, and controls for mother's and father's heights and log family income in childhood. To be included in the sample, individuals had to have height measurements at ages 7 and 33 and nonmissing test scores at ages 7 and 11. Height values at age 11 or 16 that are missing were set equal to the sample mean. Indicators for whether height was missing at ages 11 and 16 were included.