

Hersens in armoede; wat kunnen we doen?



The neuroscience of inequality: does poverty show up in children's brains?

There is increasing evidence that growing up poor diminishes the physical development of a child's brain. A landmark US study is attempting to establish a causal link - and unlock new ways to help our poorest children

The Inequality Project is supported by



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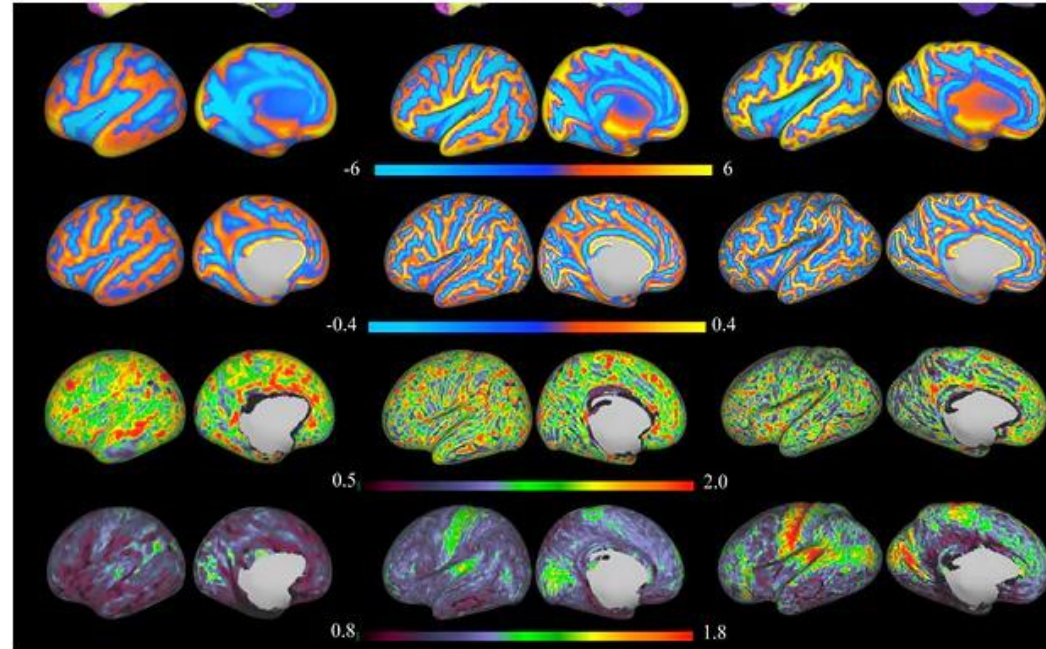
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6,847 | 102



▲ MRI brain scans of babies aged seven to nine months. Image: [The Developing Human Connectome Project](#)

With its bright colours, anthropomorphic animal motif and nautical-themed puzzle play mat, Dr Kimberly Noble's laboratory at Columbia University in New York looks like your typical day-care centre - save for the team of cognitive neuroscientists observing kids from behind a large two-way mirror.

The Neurocognition, Early Experience and Development Lab is home to cutting-edge research on how poverty affects young brains, and I've come here to learn how Noble and her colleagues could soon definitively prove that growing up poor

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Study Finds Association Between Poverty And Brain Development During Childhood

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Education

New brain science shows poor kids have smaller brains than affluent kids

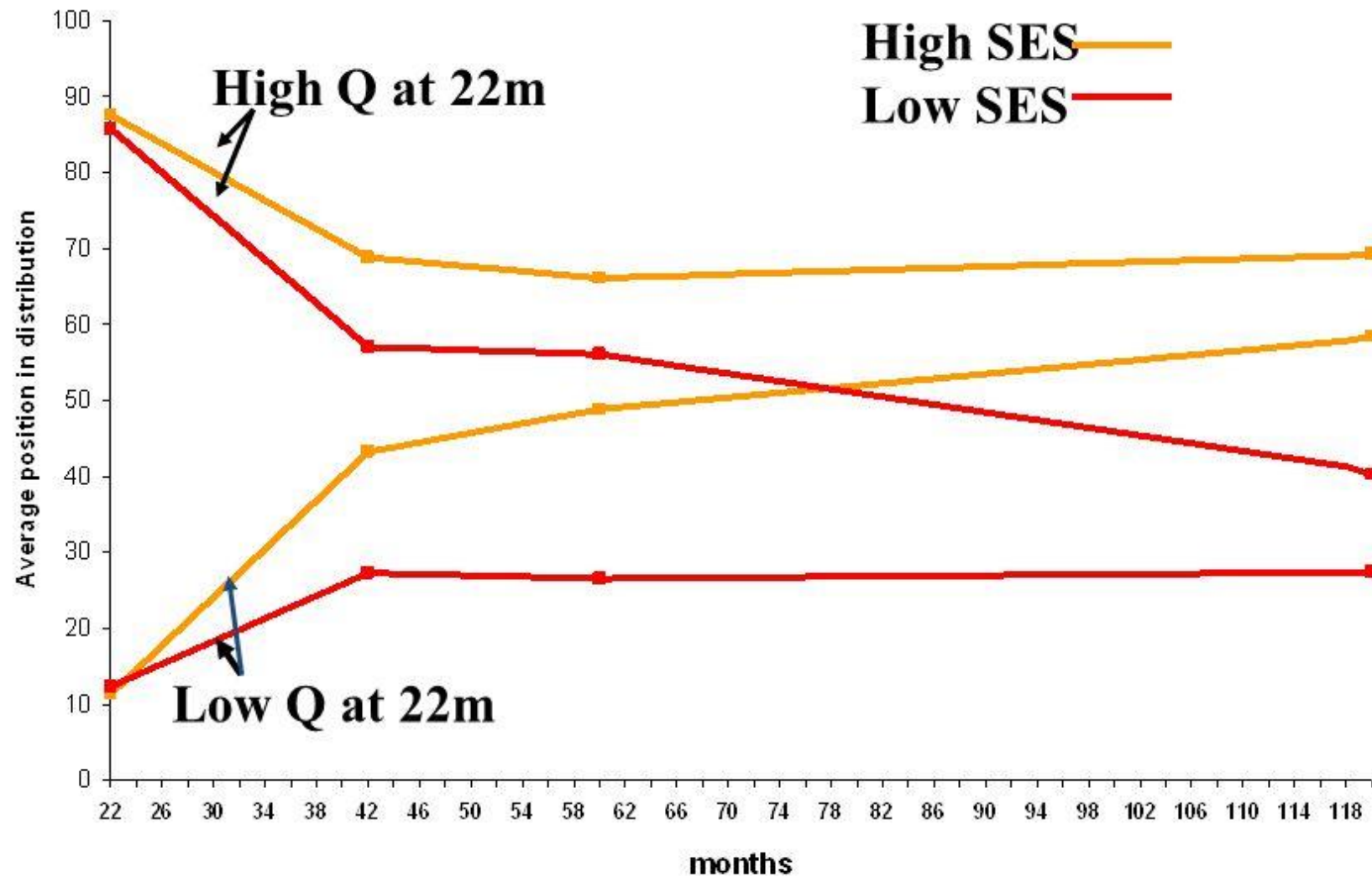
By **Lyndsey Layton** April 15, 2015 [✉ Email the author](#)

[New research](#) that shows poor children have smaller brains than affluent children has deepened the national debate about ways to narrow the achievement gap.

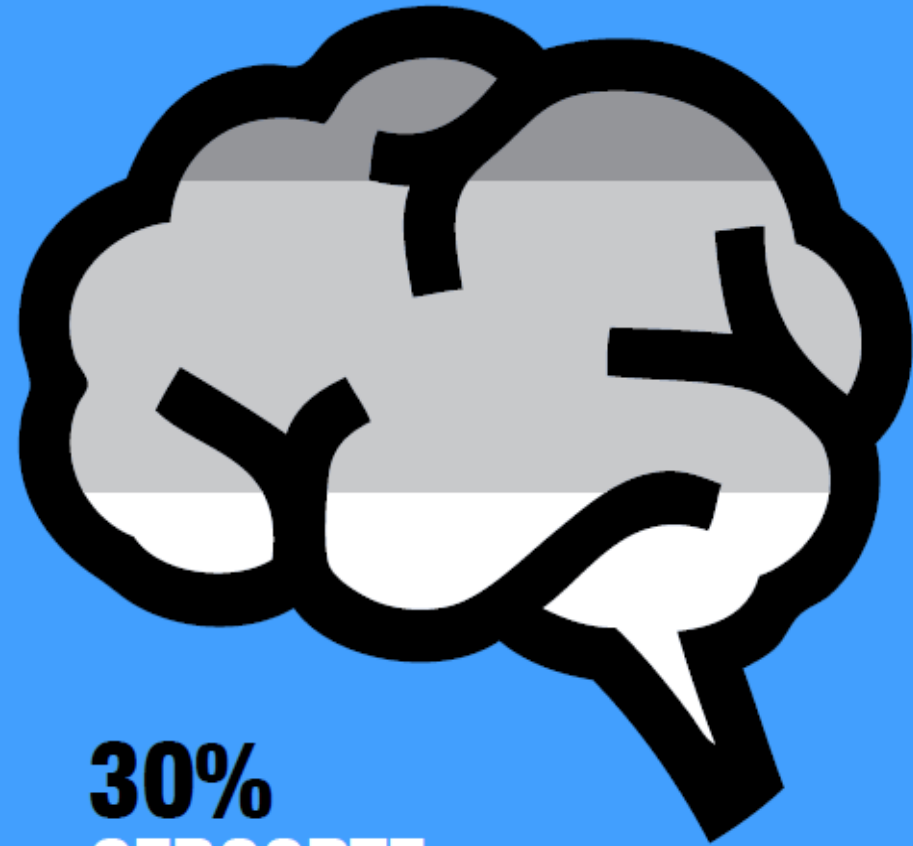
Neuroscientists who studied the brain scans of nearly 1,100 children and young adults nationwide from ages 3 to 20 found that the surface area of the cerebral cortex was linked to family income. They discovered that the brains of children in families that earned less than \$25,000 a year had surface areas 6 percent smaller than those whose families earned \$150,000 or more. The poor children also scored lower on average on a battery of cognitive tests.

The region of the brain in question handles language, memory, spatial skills and reasoning, all important to

Inequality in Early Cognitive Development of British Children in the 1970 Cohort, 22 months to 10 years



ONTWIKKELING VAN HET BREIN



20%
2-22 JAAR

50%
0-2 JAAR

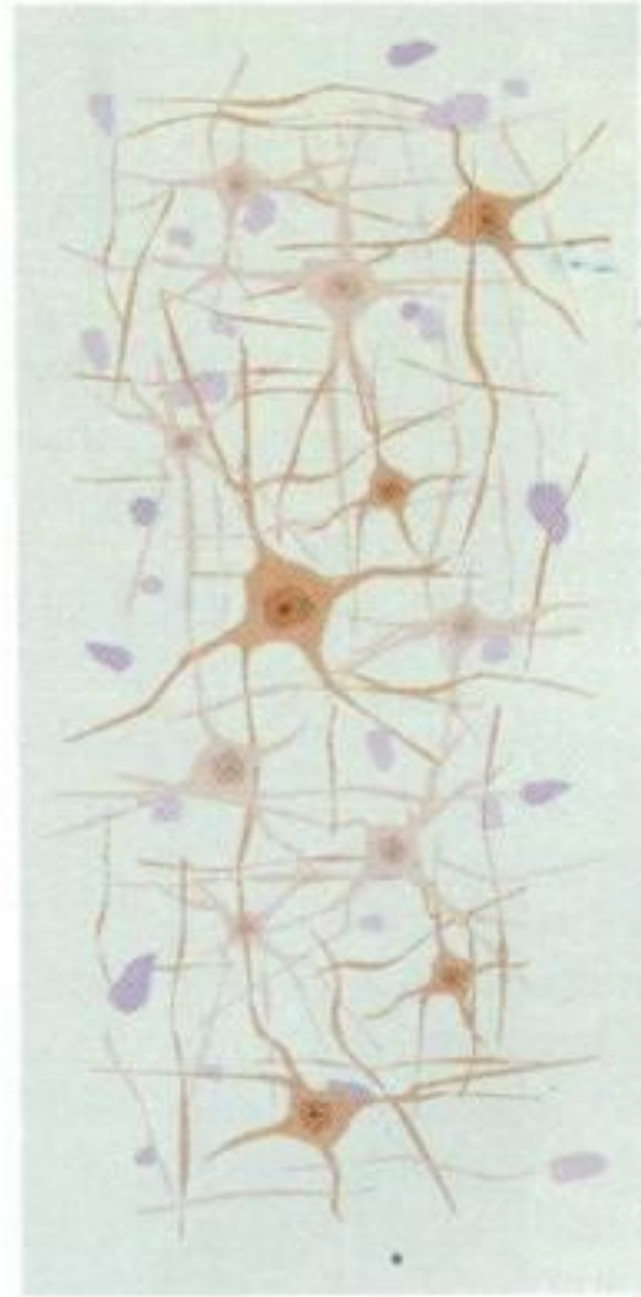
30%
GEBOORTE

A. Enriched environment

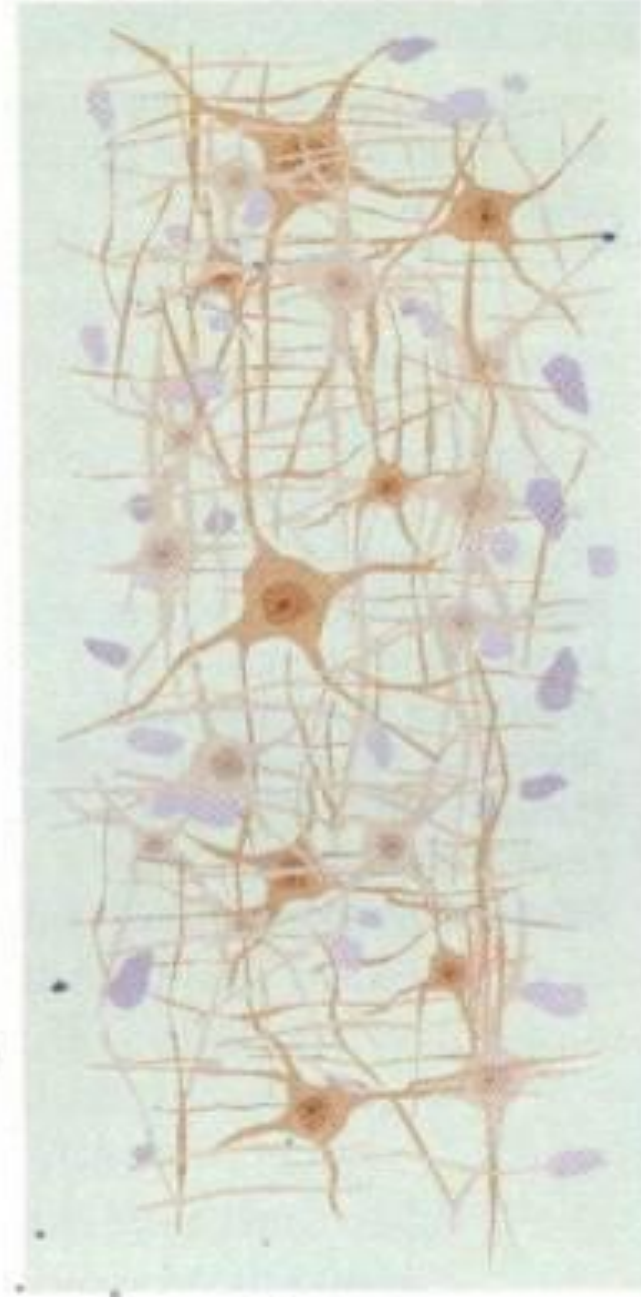




Birth



6 months



2 years



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return

