Early life and adult socioeconomic influences on mortality risk: Preliminary Report of a 'Pauper Rich' Paradox in a Chilean Adult Cohort

Koch, Elard

Romero, Tomás

Romero, Camila X.

Aguilera, Hernán

Paredes, Mario

Vargas, Miguel

Ahumada, Carlos

Purpose: The inverse relationship between early life and adult socioeconomic measures and mortality risk has been well established in developed countries, but remains practically unexplored in Latin American societies. The setting was Chile; the study included 11,600 adults living in the urban center of San Francisco de Mostazal. This was a prospective cohort study of a weighted random sample of 795 subjects followed up during 8 years. Methods: Education (elementary, high school and college), height (percentiles 50 and 75), and income (population quartiles) were assessed at baseline. Relative risks of all-cause mortality were computed in Cox regression models adjusting for age, gender, body mass index, smoking status, and joint effects of the socioeconomic measures. Results: A graded inverse relationship with all-cause mortality was observed for education (risk: 1.0, 0.67, and 0.30, p for trend < 0.01) and height (risk: 1.0, 0.75, and 0.56, p for trend < 0.01), but not for income (p fo