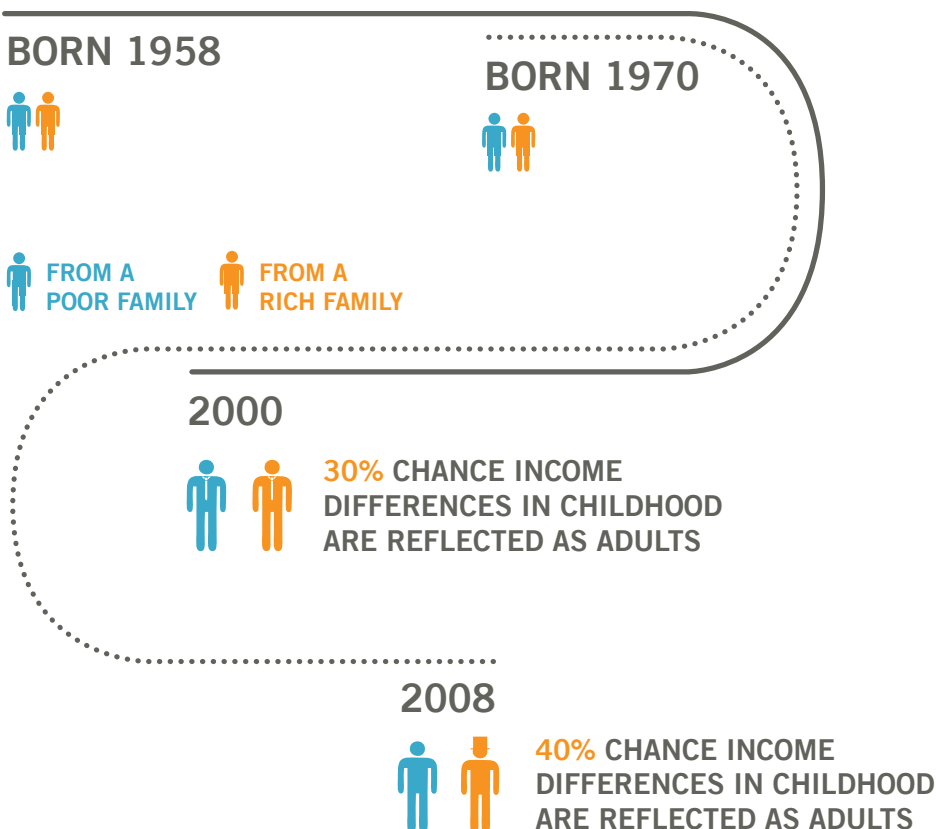


What people in the UK earn depends on what their parents earned

SOCIAL MOBILITY HAS WORSENERED OVER TIME IN THE UK



What does this mean?

Differences in income between children who grew up in the 70s and 80s were more likely to be reflected as adults than for those who grew up in the 50s and 60s. How well we do in society should not be determined by our circumstances in childhood. Equality of opportunity is an important aspect of any fair society: if life chances are determined by childhood circumstance then there is little incentive to strive to succeed in life.

Explaining the data

The Institute of Education used data from the National Child Development Study (NCDS) of children born in 1958 and the British Cohort Study (BCS) of children born in 1970 to compare the association between parental income and adult income for each of the cohorts. For the children born in 1958, the IoE found that just under 30% of the differences in incomes in childhood are mirrored in what they earn around the age 40. For those born in 1970 this has gone up to around 40% of childhood circumstances being reflected in what they earn in adulthood. There is no more recent data, because funding to study a cohort of children born in the 1980s was scrapped, but findings from a cohort born in 1991 should emerge in 2020. To see the full report visit <http://repec.ioe.ac.uk/REPEc/pdf/qsswp1401.pdf>