

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE

Literature review to identify relevant child disadvantage indicators

A review of the literature was undertaken to identify salient indicators relevant to childhood disadvantage, in order to inform the operationalisation of Figure 1. The aim was not to create a complete synthesis of the literature or catalogue of all relevant studies, but to identify the types of indicators relevant across the bio-ecological levels and social determinant lenses.

A narrative approach was adopted that used snowballing, author expertise on the subject, and multiple search terms (e.g., “disadvantage”, “poverty”) to identify relevant literature. To be included, each study needed to be relevant to the Australian context, and to the childhood period (i.e., the developmental period from birth to eight years of age). The literature search was discontinued when a point of saturation was reached and no new indicators could be identified.

Results are summarised in Table 1, where each identified indicator is categorised according to bio-ecological levels and social determinant lenses. For the sake of parsimony, where multiple indicators were identified in the literature that related to the same construct, or fell within a higher-order construct already identified, only one is listed. The results highlight the wide range of relevant disadvantage indicators across lenses and ecological settings.

Table 1. Indicators relevant to childhood disadvantage identified in the literature, according to lens (sociodemographic, geographic environments, health conditions, risk factors) and ecological context (child, family, community).

	Sociodemographic	Geographic environments	Health conditions	Risk factors
Child	Race/ethnicity[1-4] Gender[1, 3-6] Age[1, 4] Disability[1] Language background[7-10]	Child perceptions of neighbourhood[11-13]	Disease/medical condition[1, 6, 14, 15] Injuries[14, 16]	Diet, weight[1, 14, 16] Birth weight[6, 17, 18] Prematurity[6] Not breastfed[6, 14] Exposure to violence[1, 19] Physical activity[14, 19] Low resilience, coping[19] Immunisation[14, 16]
Family	Socioeconomic position[1, 6, 20, 21] Income[2-5, 7, 16, 17, 19, 22-26] Family size[22] Family structure[2, 3, 5, 6, 19, 20] Maternal education[3, 20, 22] Parent education[2, 4, 6, 7, 17] Parent employment[3, 4, 6, 17, 20, 26] Language background[4, 20] Receive income support (welfare)[4, 17]	Parent perceptions of neighbourhood[27-29]	Disease/medical condition[1, 17, 30] Parent mental illness[1, 3, 5, 6, 20-22] Parent physical health[15, 31]	Substance abuse[1, 6, 19, 22] Violence/criminal behaviour[1, 4, 6, 22] Drug/alcohol use[20, 22] Smoking[17, 30] Parenting style[3, 5, 6, 19-22] Relationship between parents[20] Home learning environment[3, 4, 6, 21] Stressful life events[5, 20] Child abuse and neglect[16] Family social network/support[4, 16] Experience of economic hardship[17, 20] Housing instability[6]
Community	Socioeconomic position[1, 8-10, 17, 20, 21, 32, 33] Education levels[4, 32] Occupations[4, 34] Unemployment[4, 21] Race/ethnicity[4, 6, 32] Language background[4] Residential mobility (e.g. number of times child moved house)[33] Family composition/structure[4, 21, 34] Age/age diversity[4]	Rural or remote[1] Physical characteristics of buildings (e.g. measures of quality, and density of high/low-rise buildings)[35] Housing ownership or renting (e.g. measures of rental housing, full ownership housing, part ownership housing, and public housing per capita)[4, 34, 35] Parks or leisure facilities[35, 36] Walkability (at small area and suburb level)[35] Transport (e.g. availability, quality)[35] Neighbourhood mobility (e.g. % that moved in last year)[32, 35] Housing conditions (e.g. number of family housing units in poor condition)[36] Hazards or toxins[6, 36] Neighbourhood built environment[19]		Access to health care [1, 35, 36] Quantity of services[35] Quality of services[35] Crime/safety[35, 36] Early childhood education and care[3, 6, 14, 16, 20, 34, 37] Community cohesion[19, 21, 35] Social support/social networks[6, 19] School environment (e.g. whole school achievement)[19] Immunisation rates[34] Child friendliness (e.g. perceptions of child friendliness of the community, proportion of households with children aged 0-4 years)[35]

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