Funding the Future

# The real cost of allostatic loading

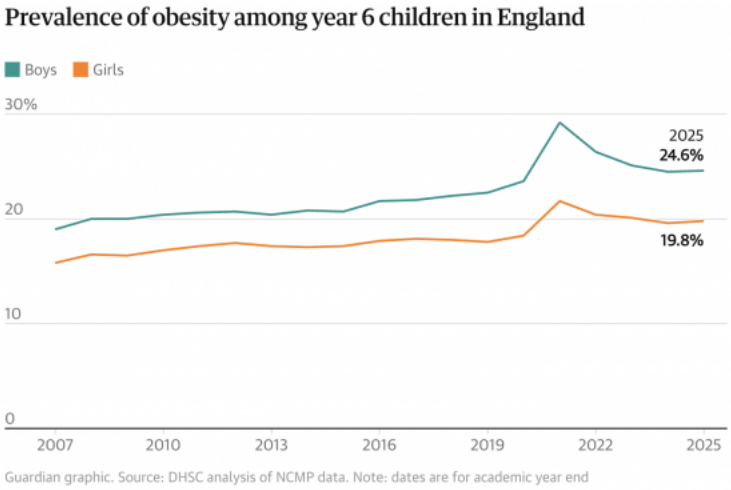
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The Guardian notes this morning that:

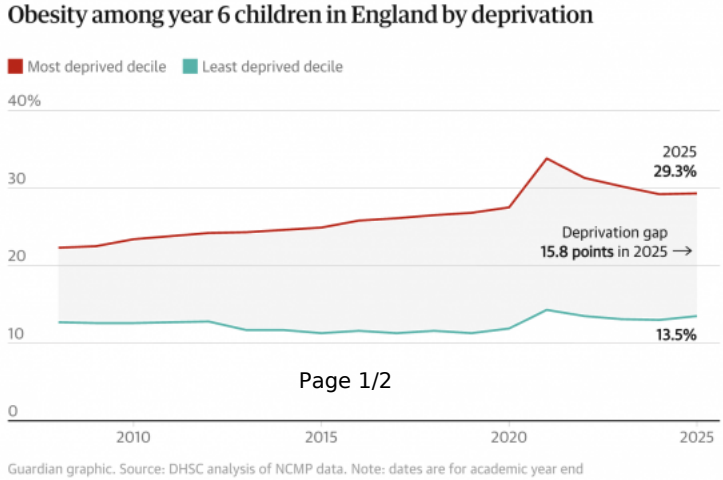
*Children in the UK will grow up to be one of the unhealthiest generations in decades, with child health outcomes having declined or stalled completely across all areas, a group of leading paediatricians has said.*

They note this trend in obesity data:




The trend is remarkable, clear, and decidedly uncomfortable to note.

Then they added this data:



Yesterday I (or rather, Jacqueline and I) wrote about the problem of allostatic loading and the inequality that differing epigenetic experiences created by differing social circumstances, most of them chosen by those with privilege, can create. This graphic provides clear evidence of this.

Those with privilege carry half the risk of childhood obesity that those in deprived groups have.

This is the real cost of the toleration of income and wealth inequality, discrimination, and the failure to recognise the impact of neurodivergence, since all those subject to these are more likely to be in the deprived groups.

When we treat the causes of these real human costs by tackling inequality, ending discrimination and rebuilding institutions to recognise the real needs and diversity of people, we will solve this problem. We have the option of doing that. Doing so would be the politics of care in action. It would end grievances. So, why aren't we doing that? Ask Andy Burnham.