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# Health-related quality of life: Population epidemiology and concordance in 11-12 year old Australians and their parents

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Health-related quality of life: Population epidemiology and concordance in 11-12 year old Australians and their parents

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**Keywords:** health-related quality of life, well-being, reference values, parents, children, inheritance patterns, correlation studies, epidemiologic studies, cross-sectional studies.

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**Abbreviations:** AQol8D: Assessment of Quality of Life 8 Dimension; BMI: Body Mass Index; CheckPoint: Child Health CheckPoint; CHU9D: Child Health Utility 9 Dimension; DOB: Date of Birth; HRQL: Health-Related Quality of Life; IRSD: Index of Relative

Socioeconomic Disadvantage; LSAC: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children; PedsQL: Pediatric Quality of Life; QALYs: Quality Adjusted Life Years; SD: Standard Deviation; SEIFA; Socioeconomic Indexes for Area.



#### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To describe the distribution of health-related quality of life (HRQL) in a national sample of 11-12 year old Australian children and their parents, and examine associations within parent-child dyads.

**Design:** The Child Health CheckPoint, a population-based cross-sectional study nested between waves 6 and 7 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

**Setting:** Assessment centres in seven Australian cities and eight regional towns, or home visit; Feb 2015-Mar 2016.

**Participants:** Of all participating CheckPoint families (n=1874), 1853 children (49.0% girls) and 1863 parents (87.7% mothers) with HRQL data were included (1786 pairs).

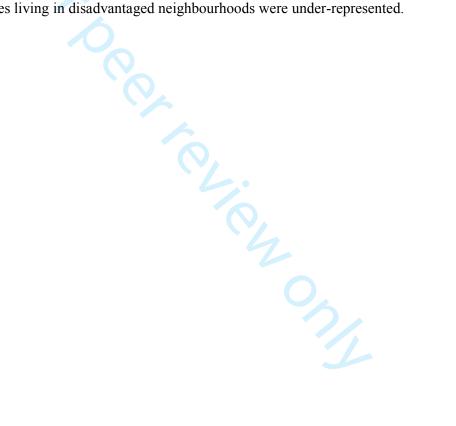
**Outcome measures:** HRQL was self-reported using preference-based (Child Health Utility 9D, CHU9D) and non-preference-based (Pediatric Quality of Life, PedsQL 4.0) measures for children and preference-based measures for parents (CHU9D; Assessment of Quality of Life, AQoL8D). Utility scores from preference-based measures were calculated using existing Australian algorithms to present a score on a 0-1 scale, where 1 represents full health. Parent-child concordance was assessed using Pearson's correlation coefficients and adjusted linear regression models. Survey weights and methods were applied to account for LSAC's complex sample design, stratification and clustering within postcodes.

**Results:** Children's means and standard deviations (SD) were 0.81 (SD 0.16) for CHU9D and 78.3 (SD 13.03) for PedsQL. In adults, mean HRQL for AQoL8D and CHU9D were 0.78 (SD 0.16) and 0.89 (SD 0.10) respectively. Mean HRQL was similar for boys and girls, but slightly higher for fathers than mothers. The Pearson correlation coefficient for parent-child CHU9D values was 0.13 (95% confidence interval 0.09 to 0.18). Percentiles and concordance are presented for both samples for males and females separately and together.

**Conclusions:** We provide Australian paediatric population values for HRQL measures, and the first national CHU9D values for mid-life adults. At age 11-12 in this relatively healthy sample, parent-child concordance in health-related quality of life was small.

#### Strengths and limitations of this study

- This large cross-sectional study provides Australian reference data for future studies investigating health-related quality of life.
- This is first study to identify the distribution of HRQL values using the CHU9D in pre-adolescent children and mid-life adults in Australia.
- This is also the first study to investigate concordance of preference-based healthrelated quality of life in parent-child dyads, including both mother-child and fatherchild estimates.
- Our adult study sample contained a large proportion of mothers, limiting the precision of descriptive and concordance estimates for fathers.
- Families living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods were under-represented.



#### INTRODUCTION

Measurements of health-related quality of life (HRQL) using patient-rated questionnaires are commonly used when assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of healthcare interventions. HRQL can be summarised as a multidimensional construct that measures the impact of health or disease on physical and psychosocial functioning. Various HRQL instruments exist, their main differences being the way in which they describe health, the number and types of dimensions and whether they are preference or non-preference based. Non-preference-based measures provide equal weight to each dimension or weight dimensions simply by the number of items included within them.<sup>2</sup> Preference-based measures use preference weights to assign relative importance to different items and/or dimensions.<sup>2</sup> The weights are calculated based on the preferences of a representative sample of the general population. A single number is calculated and represents the respondents' health status at that point in time. Preference-based measures generally produce an overall score that ranges from a state of health equivalent to full or perfect health (1) to a state of health equivalent to death (0), and often to states considered worse than death (<0). Generic preference-based measures are the most widely used mechanism to calculate quality-adjusted life years (QALYs).<sup>3</sup> QALYs express the benefits of healthcare treatment and preventative programs in a common metric and guide healthcare resource allocation decisions. The underlying strength of the QALY is that it facilitates comparison across diseases and conditions.

Most preference-based HRQL measures have been developed for adults. Multiple measures are available for use in adult populations, many with preference weights developed for Australia. The child HRQL literature is less developed, and researchers have been reluctant to transfer the principles and definitions of adult HRQL to child HRQL. Measuring HRQL in childhood is difficult due to the dynamic nature of physical, emotional and cognitive changes with development. The language and content of children's HRQL measures need to apply to a range of developmental stages.

A recent review conducted by Chen and Ratcliffe (2015) identified nine generic preference-based instruments available internationally for use in paediatric populations.<sup>7</sup> Among these instruments, the Child Health Utility Nine Dimension (CHU9D) is a newly developed paediatric generic preference-based measure of HRQL.<sup>8</sup> It was developed in England, and has preference weights available for multiple countries, including Australia.<sup>9</sup> The nine dimensions were derived from qualitative interviews with 7-11 year old children with a wide range of acute and chronic health conditions.<sup>9</sup> These dimensions (worried, sad, pain, tired,

annoyed, schoolwork, sleep, daily routine, and ability to join in activities) encapsulate attributes of health most relevant to children. The CHU9D can also be adapted for adult completion by rephrasing the school work domain as work. Since the development of Australian preference weights, the CHU9D's use in Australian children has mostly been limited to validation and condition specific studies. <sup>10-13</sup> Its use in adult samples is still preliminary in Australia and elsewhere (Katherine Stevens, pers. comm.). No national studies have reported CHU9D values for the entire Australian population. Population norms of HRQL are important as they provide a base level and can be used for comparison purposes with other samples.

Observational studies have shown that the HRQL of parents of children with chronic conditions are significantly below population norms. <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> Intervention studies have shown that paediatric interventions that improve child health can also improve parental HRQL. <sup>16</sup> However, these studies have measured child and parent HRQL with different instruments and in disease specific contexts; the association between child and parent HRQL in the general population is yet to be explored using comparable measures (Catchpool Major Report Master of Health Economics, Deakin University, 2016). To determine concordance for HRQL the same instrument and scoring algorithm must be applied, otherwise any differences could be attributed to the different scoring techniques. If an association exists between child and parental HRQL, then this could provide useful information for health professionals and researchers in terms of increasing the focus on parental HRQL in child and adolescent health and on children's HRQL in adult health services.

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children's (LSAC) Child Health CheckPoint offers a unique opportunity to examine these associations. We aimed to describe the distribution of HRQL in a population-representative sample of 11-12-year-old Australian children and their parents, and the concordance between parents and children.

#### **METHODS**

**Study Design and Participants:** Details of the initial LSAC study design and recruitment are outlined elsewhere. <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> Briefly, LSAC recruited a nationally-representative sample of 5107 Australian infants <u>ENREF</u> 19 <sup>19</sup> using a two-stage random sample design with postcode as the primary sampling unit, and has since conducted a further six biennial data collection waves. The initial recruitment rate in 2004 was 57.2%, of whom 73.7% (n=3764) were

retained to LSAC wave 6 in 2014. During the wave 6 visit, families were introduced to the upcoming detailed cross-sectional biophysical assessment (the Child Health CheckPoint), and 3513 families consented to their contact details being shared with the CheckPoint team for the purpose of recruitment into the module. CheckPoint took place between February 2015 and March 2016 at child age 11-12 years. Participants were included in the current analyses if they contributed any HRQL data that could be scored (figure 1). Non-biological child-parents pairs were excluded from the concordance analyses. A more detailed description of the CheckPoint study design is available elsewhere. <sup>20 21</sup>

Ethics and Consent: The CheckPoint data collection protocol was approved by The Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne, Australia) Human Research Ethics Committee (33225D) and The Australian Institute of Family Studies Ethics Committee (14-26). The attending parent/caregiver provided written informed consent for themselves and their child to participate in the study.

**Procedure:** Child and parent participants attended a 'pop-up' assessment centre for a 3½ hour (capital and large cities) or 2½ hour (smaller regional centres) visits; those that were unable or declined to attend the centre were offered a 1½ hour home visit (figure 1). At the assessment centres, participants rotated through various data collection stations every 15 minutes. Throughout the visit, each participant carried an iPad on which to complete a detailed questionnaire during waiting periods. This included the HRQL measures that are the topic of this paper.

**Outcome Measures:** Each respondent completed two HRQL measures as part of a larger questionnaire. The children's questionnaires were the preference-based CHU9D and the non-preference-based PedsQL 4.0 measures. The adult measures were both preference-based measures, the CHU9D and the AQol8D.

The CHU9D is a paediatric generic preference-based measure of HRQL. It consists of a nine-item descriptive system and a set of preference weights, giving utility values for each health state described by the descriptive system, allowing the calculation of QALYs for use in cost utility analysis. Scoring algorithms for the CHU9D have been updated between publications and differ between countries. Although the CHU9D descriptive system was developed for young people, the original scoring algorithm for the CHU9D was based on adult general population values using the standard gamble method. More recently, Australian adolescent and adult scoring algorithms were developed using best worst scaling methods. Both

techniques generate a score that is on the range of equivalence from perfect health (1) to death (0). To assess the distribution of HRQL data using the CHU9D, the adolescent scoring algorithm was applied to child data and the adult scoring algorithm on the adult data. However, to assess concordance of HRQL among child-parent dyads using the CHU9D, a common scoring algorithm needed to be applied. If this does not occur, any differences between children and their parents may be because of the different scoring methods used. Therefore, the adolescent algorithm was also applied to the parent CHU9D data, solely for the purposes of the concordance analysis of this study.

The PedsQL is a standardised generic assessment instrument with versions that assess children's and parent's perception of child HRQL.<sup>22</sup> Children aged 5-18 years can complete the child self-report section of the questionnaire and parents can complete a proxy-report for children as young as two years old. Unlike the CHU9D, the PedsQL is not preference-based and each of its 23 items have an equal weight in calculating the total score.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, the PedsQL cannot be used directly in the calculation of a QALY. US population normative data indicate high levels of internal consistency.<sup>23</sup> In this study, the Generic Core Scale score from the PedsQL 4.0 is reported.

The AQOL-8D contains 35 items and comprises eight separately scored dimensions, consisting of independent living, relationships, mental health, coping, pain, senses, self-worth and life satisfaction.<sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> Like the CHU9D, the AQOL-8D is a multi-attribute utility instrument. This means that there is a separate utility scoring algorithm allowing the calculation of utility values for each participant and QALYs. The utility algorithm used in the current study is derived from the Australian general population.<sup>24</sup>

#### **Potential Confounders:**

Body Mass Index (BMI): Recent evidence indicates that primary school students' adjusted mean utilities for HRQL are lower for overweight or obese students than healthy-weight students.<sup>12</sup> BMI was calculated from measured height and weight values (kg/m<sup>2</sup>). For children, Z score was calculated according to US Centers for Disease Control reference values,<sup>26</sup> using the Stata "zanthro" function (Stata Corp., College Station, TX).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA): Neighbourhood socioeconomic position is a potential confounder of HRQL.<sup>27</sup> We used the SEIFA Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (disadvantage index) score, a standardised score by geographic area (in this case, postcode of residence) compiled from 2011 Australian Census data. The disadvantage

index numerically summarises the social and economic conditions of Australian neighbourhoods (national mean of 1000 and a standard deviation (SD) of 100, where higher values represent less disadvantage).<sup>28</sup>

Child date of birth (DOB) and sex were imported into LSAC from Medicare Australia's enrolment database. Attending parent DOB was self-reported by parent questionnaire. Age was calculated to nearest week from the participant's DOB and date of assessment. Parent sex was self-reported.

**Statistical Analysis:** Data were analysed using Stata version 14.2. HRQL measures were described for all children and adults (ie regardless of relationship to child) for males and females separately and combined, using means and standard deviations, percentiles and density plots. Population summary statistics and proportions were estimated by applying survey weights and survey procedures that corrected for sampling, participation and non-response biases, and took into account clustering in the sampling frame. Standard errors were calculated taking into account the complex design and weights.<sup>29</sup> More detail on the calculation of weights is provided elsewhere.<sup>20 30</sup>

Concordance between parents and children for the CHU9D was assessed using 1) Pearson's correlation coefficients with 95% confidence intervals; and 2) linear regression with the child variable as the dependent variable and parent variable as the independent variable, adjusted for parent age, child age, disadvantage index, as well as parent and child sex in models including both sexes. These same analyses were repeated using weighted multi-level survey analyses. As these results were similar, only the unweighted results are reported for concordance. As a sensitivity analysis, we repeated all analyses using child and adult CHU9D data valued with the adult algorithm.

## RESULTS

**Sample characteristics:** Of the 1874 families who participated, at least one HRQL measure was available for 1853 children (98.9%) and 1863 parents (99.4%) (figure 1), and 1786 parent-child dyads. There were slightly more boys (n=945, 51%) than girls (n=908, 49%) and the parent sample was predominantly mothers (n=1634, 87.7%) from a relatively socioeconomically advantaged position. The sample average disadvantage index score was slightly above the national average and showed a narrower distribution, reflecting a lower representation of socioeconomically disadvantaged families in this sample (table 1).

Table 1. Sample characteristics, stratified by sex; values are weighted mean (standard deviation), except where specified as %.

Characteristic	All	Male	Female
Child			
n	1853	945	908
Age, years	12.0 (0.4)	12.0 (0.4)	12.0 (0.4)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	19.5 (3.7)	19.3 (3.8)	19.7 (3.7)
BMI z-score	0.37 (1.09)	0.34 (0.99)	0.39 (0.99)
Disadvantage index	1009 (62)	1007 (62)	1010 (62)
Parent			
n	1863	229	1634
Age, years	43.6 (5.6)	46.4 (7.1)	43.3 (5.3)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.4 (6.4)	28.9 (4.9)	28.3 (6.6)

BMI, body mass index; Disadvantage Index: Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage; n: number of participants in cohort with this measure.

Other participant characteristics were broadly representative of the Australian population.

## Distributions of HRQL (tables 2 and 3, figure 2):

*Children:* The mean CHU9D score for children was 0.81 (standard deviation, SD 0.16) (table 2). Extended percentile values (from 5<sup>th</sup> to 95th) are provided for all measures in table 3, showing a median of 0.85 (IQR 0.73 to 0.92).

Values for boys and girls were largely similar. The mean PedsQL was 78.3 (SD 13.0), with a slight variation between boys (77.6, SD 12.7) and girls (79.1, SD 13.4). The distribution of HRQL was skewed, with most children reporting high HRQL and smaller numbers in worse health states (figure 2). This distribution was similar for boys and girls and similar across preference-based and non-preference-based measures.

Adults: The mean score of CHU9D in Australian mid-life adults was 0.89 (SD 0.10). Values using the CHU9D adolescent algorithm (as required for concordance analysis) were somewhat lower, due to the difference in item weights between the adult and adolescent scoring algorithms, with a mean CHU9D score for adults of 0.81 (SD 0.18). The AQol-8D had a mean score across all parents of 0.78 (0.16). For all HRQL measures in adults, scores were slightly higher in men than women. The distribution of HRQL was skewed to the left for both the preference-based measures used with parents, with slight differences between men and women (figure 2).

Table 2. HRQL measures in Australian children and parents

IIDOL magazina			All				Males			]	Females	6
HRQL measure	n	Mean	SD	95% CI	n	Mean	SD	95% CI	N	Mean	SD	95% CI
Children												
CHU9D												
Adolescent algorithm	1827	0.81	0.16	0.81 to 0.82	931	0.81	0.16	0.80 to 0.83	896	0.82	0.15	0.81 to 0.83
PedsQL	1847	78.3	13.0	77.6 to 79.0	942	77.6	12.7	76.6 to 78.6	905	79.1	13.4	78.0 to 80.2
Parents												
CHU9D												
Adult algorithm	1843	0.89	0.1	0.88 to 0.90	227	0.91	0.08	0.90 to 0.92	1616	0.89	0.1	0.88 to 0.89
Adolescent algorithm	1843	0.81	0.18	0.80 to 0.82	227	0.84	0.16	0.82 to 0.87	1616	0.8	0.18	0.79 to 0.82
AQoL-8D	1861	0.78	0.16	0.77 to 0.79	229	0.8	0.14	0.78 to 0.83	1632	0.78	0.16	0.77 to 0.79

n, number of participants in cohort with this measure (denominator); SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval; CHU9D, child health utility nine dimension; PedsQL, pediatric quality of life.

Table 3. Percentile values for HRQL.

Chavastavistis	Child								Parent							
Characteristic	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95		
CHU9D - Adolescent Algorithm																
Male	0.49	0.59	0.72	0.85	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.58	0.79	0.89	0.97	1.00	1.00		
Female	0.52	0.60	0.73	0.85	0.94	0.97	1.00	0.45	0.56	0.71	0.85	0.95	1.00	1.00		
All	0.51	0.60	0.73	0.85	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.46	0.57	0.71	0.86	0.96	1.00	1.00		
CHU9D – Adult Algorithm																
Male	-	<b>U-</b> /-	-	-	-	-	-	0.73	0.77	0.88	0.93	0.97	1.00	1.00		
Female	-	_	<b>/</b>	-	-	-	-	0.69	0.76	0.84	0.91	0.97	1.00	1.00		
All	-	-		-	-	-	-	0.69	0.76	0.84	0.92	0.97	1.00	1.00		
PedsQL																
Male	54.4	58.7	70.7	79.4	87.0	92.4	95.7	-	_	-	_	-	-	-		
Female	54.4	59.8	69.6	81.5	90.2	94.6	96.7	-	_	-	_	-	-	-		
All	54.4	59.8	70.7	80.4	88.0	93.5	96.7	-	_	-	_	-	-	-		
AQoL-8D																
Male	-	-	_	-	-	-	6	0.53	0.60	0.70	0.84	0.91	0.96	0.98		
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-		0.43	0.54	0.70	0.81	0.90	0.95	0.97		
All	-	-	_	-	-	-		0.44	0.55	0.70	0.82	0.90	0.95	0.97		

PX: value of Xth percentile, eg P50 = median; CHU9D: child health utility 9 dimension; PedsQL, pediatric quality of life; AQoL-8D, assessment of quality of life 8 dimension.

Intergenerational concordance of HRQL (table 4): A weak positive correlation was present between child and parent HRQL as measured by the CHU9D (CC 0.13, 95% CI 0.09 to 0.18) (table 4). Results from the sensitivity analysis (using adult instead of adolescent algorithm for the parent CHU9D) were similar (0.15, 95% CI 0.10 to 0.19). This mainly reflected mother-child concordance; there was no convincing evidence of father-child concordance. Coefficients were also very similar in the adjusted linear regression models after adjusting for potential confounders and demographic characteristics.



Table 4. Child-parent concordance on the CHU9D adolescent version

		Parent-child			Mother	-child	Father-child			
Pearson's Correlation	N	CC	95% CI	N	CC	95% CI	N	CC	95% CI	
Adolescent algorithm for parents	1786	0.13	0.09 to 0.18	1570	0.14	0.10 to 0.19	216	0.04	-0.09 to 0.18	
Sensitivity Analysis										
Adult algorithm for parents	1786	0.15	0.10 to 0.19	1570	0.16	0.11 to 0.20	216	0.06	-0.08 to 0.19	
Adjusted Linear Regression	N	RC	P value	N	RC	P value	N	RC	P value	
Adolescent algorithm for parents	1783	0.12	< 0.001	1569	0.13	< 0.001	214	0.04	0.53	
Sensitivity Analysis										
Adult algorithm for parents	1783	0.13	< 0.001	1569	0.14	< 0.001	214	0.05	0.42	

Non-biological caregivers were excluded from these analyses (n=16). Covariates in adjusted linear regression models include parent and child age, SEIFA Disadvantage Index, BMI and parent and child sex in models including both sexes. CC: correlation coefficients for Pearson; RC: estimated regression coefficient; CI: confidence interval; N: number of biological child-parent pairs with this measure; CHU9D: child health utility 9 dimension

#### DISCUSSION

**Principal findings:** We have described HRQL values for Australian 11-12 year old children and their parents, together with the first reported concordance within parent-child dyads. The results of our study provide normative data for three separate HRQL instruments that we hope will be useful to researchers who intend to use these instruments. In this generally healthy population, there was only a weak intergenerational concordance for HRQL.

**Strengths and limitations:** Strengths of the Child Health CheckPoint study include the large sample size and the multi-stage, clustered survey methodology that together allow for the derivation of accurate population estimates. This is the first study to provide HRQL concordance data between children and their parents within a large cohort study. This is also the first study to identify the distribution of HRQL values using the CHU9D in preadolescent children and mid-life adults in Australia.

The population-based sampling of this cohort make the findings more relevant to the wider Australian child population than previous HRQL studies focused on children with particular health conditions. However, there was an under-representation of socio-economically disadvantaged participants in both child and adult cohorts, which limits generalizability to disadvantaged groups. The over-representation of mothers in the adult cohort also reduces the precision around estimates for fathers.

The CheckPoint study targets multiple Australian health priorities. Measurements were collected on each child and their accompanying parent over a three-and-a-half hour session. The length and the range of data that needed to be collected restricted the number of HRQL measures that could be used. HRQL scores are known to vary according to the particular instrument<sup>4</sup> and, for preference-based measures, the scoring algorithm used. Therefore, the results in this study for HRQL distributions and for intergenerational concordance may well be dependent on the particular HRQL measures used.

**Findings in relation to other studies:** When comparing the HRQL results from this study to others it is important to consider the scoring algorithms applied in each study. Scoring algorithms for the CHU9D have been updated over time and differ between countries. As mentioned previously, the scoring algorithm applied in this analysis is the most recent Australian version. An Australian trial conducted on first graders (mean age 6.9 years) by Roberts et al used the CHU9D as an outcome measure with the same scoring algorithm as we used.<sup>31</sup> The mean score recorded was 0.8.<sup>31</sup> This is consistent with the CHU9D values

presented in table 2. Chen et al compared HRQL (measured by the CHU9D) and BMI in Australian children (mean age 10.6 years). Their study population had a mean CHU9D score of 0.87, which is higher than the means in the CheckPoint; however, they applied an older adolescent scoring algorithm (G Chen, Research Fellow, Flinders University, email, 2016). HRQL results from the PedsQL non-preference-based measure are similar to previously reported values from child samples in the US (mean score 79.6, SD 15.3).

This is also the first study to report the distribution of CHU9D values in Australian adults, and as such we are unable to determine the comparability of this result. The CheckPoint mean of 0.78 for the adult AQoL-8D was lower than Richardson et al's population norms, which reported a mean score of 0.86 for 35 to 44 year old adults, <sup>24</sup> and also lower than the mean adult score of 0.83 reported in a multi-country study. <sup>4</sup> This difference could be attributed to our adult sample being made up entirely of parents, given that adults are known to experience a dip in life satisfaction in the years following childbirth. <sup>32</sup> Future research could explore the influence child age has on parental quality of life.

The difference in CHU9D values between adults and adolescents are expected and are in line with previous research.<sup>33</sup> This supports the fact that adolescents do have different health preferences to adults and that it is important that adolescent values are used.

Meaning and implications for clinicians and policymakers: Our results add to the child HRQL literature and provide estimates of the distribution of HRQL to be expected in Australian population samples. These results can be used for comparison purposes with other populations and samples.

A rapid review of the literature surrounding intergenerational concordance for HRQL found that this study was the first of its kind in both an Australian and international setting (Catchpool Major Report Master of Health Economics, Deakin University, 2016). The results in this study suggested that there is a small intergenerational concordance for HRQL when measured at the same point in time. This clear evidence of the association between child and parental (especially maternal) HRQL supports the need to consider all individuals as a member of a wider family<sup>6</sup> and to consider the impact of child and adolescent health services on the HRQL of parents and the impact of adult health services on the HRQL of patients' children.

Unanswered questions and future research: This is the first study to explore the intergenerational concordance for HRQL at the population level. The strength of the

concordance found in this study reflects the population-based nature of the sample; concordance may be higher in groups of children and/or parents with chronic health conditions, in which case it would be even more important to consider impacts of health services on the broader family. Concordance results are also limited to the single HRQL instrument used in both child and parent groups (CHU9D), and future research should examine how concordance varies across HRQL measures.



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Some study data were collected and managed using REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) electronic data capture tools. REDCap is a secure, web-based application designed to support data capture for research studies.<sup>34</sup>

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Max Catchpool and Anneke Grobler contributed interpretation of results, performed the statistical analysis, drafted the initial manuscript, critically revised further drafts and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

**DATA SHARING STATEMENT:** Dataset and technical documents available from *Growing Up in Australia*: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children via low-cost license for bone fide researchers. More information is available at <a href="https://www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au">www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au</a>

#### FIGURE CAPTIONS AND FOOTNOTES:

# Figure 1. Participant flow chart.

n=number of families, c=number of children, p=number of attending adults,

MAC=Main assessment centre, mAC=Mini assessment centre, HV=Home visit assessment,

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^Data from 16 non-biological child-parent pairs and 43 pairs for incomplete data in CHU9D utility measure excluded from concordance analyses

## Figure 2. Distribution of HRQL in children and parents

Red line: girls/mothers; Blue line: boys/fathers; Black, dotted line: all

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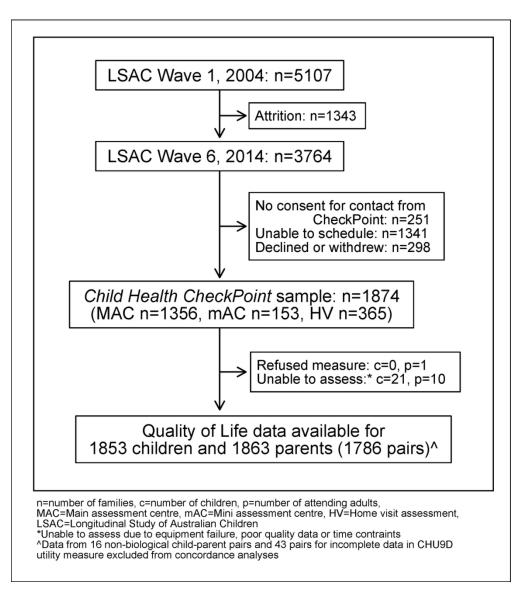


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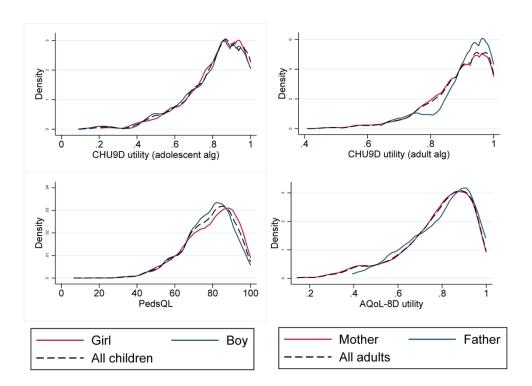


Figure 2. Distribution of HRQL in children and parents Red line: girls/mothers; Blue line: boys/fathers; Black, dotted line: all

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# STROBE 2007 (v4) Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

Section/Topic	Item #	Recommendation	Reported on page #
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	3
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	5,6
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	6
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	7
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	7
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	7
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	NA
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	7-9
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	7-9
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	9
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	7, Figure 1
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	7-9
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	9
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	9
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	9
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	NA
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	9
Results			

Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed	Figure 1
		eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Figure 1
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 1, page 11
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Figure 1,
		(b) indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Table 1, page 11
			Table 1, page 11 Table 2, page 13
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	NA
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 2, page 13
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence	Table 2, page 13
		interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Table 2, page 13
			Table 3, page 15
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Table 4, page 17
		10,	Page 16, 18
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	18
Limitations		U <sub>A</sub> .	
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from	18-20
		similar studies, and other relevant evidence	
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	18, 19
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on	21, 22
		which the present article is based	

<sup>\*</sup>Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.



# **BMJ Open**

# Health-related quality of life: Population epidemiology and concordance in 11-12 year old Australians and their parents

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Health-related quality of life: Population epidemiology and concordance in 11-12 year old Australians and their parents

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**Keywords:** health-related quality of life, well-being, reference values, parents, children, inheritance patterns, correlation studies, epidemiologic studies, cross-sectional studies.

Word count: 3538

**Abbreviations:** AQol8D: Assessment of Quality of Life 8 Dimension; BMI: Body Mass Index; CheckPoint: Child Health CheckPoint; CHU9D: Child Health Utility 9 Dimension; DOB: Date of Birth; HRQL: Health-Related Quality of Life; IRSD: Index of Relative

Socioeconomic Disadvantage; LSAC: Longitudinal Study of Australian Children; PedsQL: Pediatric Quality of Life; QALYs: Quality Adjusted Life Years; REDCap: Research Electronic Data Capture tool; SD: Standard Deviation; SEIFA; Socioeconomic Indexes for Area.



#### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** To describe the distribution of health-related quality of life (HRQL) in a national sample of 11-12 year old Australian children and their parents, and examine associations within parent-child dyads.

**Design:** The Child Health CheckPoint, a population-based cross-sectional study nested between waves 6 and 7 of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children.

**Setting:** Assessment centres in seven Australian cities and eight regional towns, or home visit: Feb 2015-Mar 2016.

**Participants:** Of all participating CheckPoint families (n=1874), 1853 children (49.0% girls) and 1863 parents (87.7% mothers) with HRQL data were included (1786 pairs).

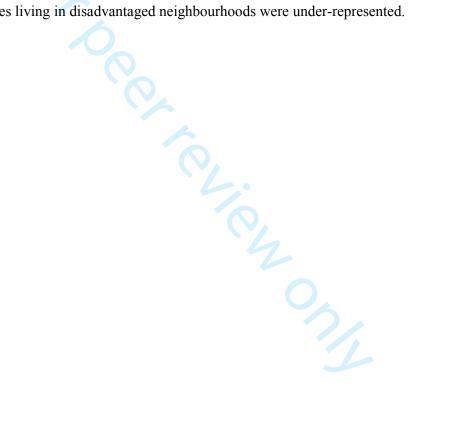
**Outcome measures:** HRQL was self-reported using preference-based (Child Health Utility 9D, CHU9D) and non-preference-based (Pediatric Quality of Life, PedsQL 4.0) measures for children and preference-based measures for parents (CHU9D; Assessment of Quality of Life, AQoL8D). Utility scores from preference-based measures were calculated using existing Australian algorithms to present a score on a 0-1 scale, where 1 represents full health. Parent-child concordance was assessed using Pearson's correlation coefficients and adjusted linear regression models. Survey weights and methods were applied to account for LSAC's complex sample design, stratification and clustering within postcodes.

**Results:** Children's means and standard deviations (SD) were 0.81 (SD 0.16) for CHU9D and 78.3 (SD 13.03) for PedsQL. In adults, mean HRQL for AQoL8D and CHU9D were 0.78 (SD 0.16) and 0.89 (SD 0.10) respectively. Mean HRQL was similar for boys and girls, but slightly higher for fathers than mothers. The Pearson correlation coefficient for parent-child CHU9D values was 0.13 (95% confidence interval 0.09 to 0.18). Percentiles and concordance are presented for both samples for males and females separately and together.

**Conclusions:** We provide Australian paediatric population values for HRQL measures, and the first national CHU9D values for mid-life adults. At age 11-12 in this relatively healthy sample, parent-child concordance in health-related quality of life was small.

## Strengths and limitations of this study

- This large cross-sectional study provides Australian reference data for future studies investigating health-related quality of life.
- This is first study to identify the distribution of HRQL values using the CHU9D in pre-adolescent children and mid-life adults in Australia.
- This is also the first study to investigate concordance of preference-based healthrelated quality of life in parent-child dyads, including both mother-child and fatherchild estimates.
- Our adult study sample contained a large proportion of mothers, limiting the precision of descriptive and concordance estimates for fathers.
- Families living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods were under-represented.



#### INTRODUCTION

Measurements of health-related quality of life (HRQL) using patient-rated questionnaires are commonly used when assessing the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of healthcare interventions. HRQL can be summarised as a multidimensional construct that measures the impact of health or disease on physical and psychosocial functioning. Various HRQL instruments exist, their main differences being the way in which they describe health, the number and types of dimensions and whether they are preference or non-preference based. Non-preference-based measures provide equal weight to each dimension or weight dimensions simply by the number of items included within them.<sup>2</sup> Preference-based measures use preference weights to assign relative importance to different items and/or dimensions.<sup>2</sup> The weights are typically calculated based on the preferences of a representative sample of the general population. A single number is calculated and represents the respondents' health status at that point in time. Preference-based measures generally produce an overall score that ranges from a state of health equivalent to full or perfect health (1) to a state of health equivalent to being dead (0), and often to states considered worse than death (<0).<sup>3</sup> Generic preference-based measures are the most widely used mechanism to calculate quality-adjusted life years (QALYs).<sup>3</sup> QALYs express the benefits of healthcare treatment and preventative programs in a common metric and guide healthcare resource allocation decisions. The underlying strength of the QALY is that it facilitates comparison across diseases and conditions.

Most preference-based HRQL measures have been developed for adults. Multiple measures are available for use in adult populations, many with preference weights developed for Australia.<sup>4</sup> The child HRQL literature is less developed, and researchers have been reluctant to transfer the principles and definitions of adult HRQL to child HRQL.<sup>5</sup> Measuring HRQL in childhood is difficult due to the dynamic nature of physical, emotional and cognitive changes with development.<sup>6</sup> The language and content of children's HRQL measures need to apply to a range of developmental stages.

A recent review conducted by Chen and Ratcliffe (2015) identified nine generic preference-based instruments available internationally for use in paediatric populations.<sup>7</sup> Among these instruments, the Child Health Utility Nine Dimension (CHU9D) is a relatively newly developed paediatric generic preference-based measure of HRQL.<sup>8</sup> It was developed in England, and has preference weights available for multiple countries, including Australia.<sup>9</sup> The nine dimensions were derived from qualitative interviews with 7-11 year old children

with a wide range of acute and chronic health conditions. These dimensions (worried, sad, pain, tired, annoyed, schoolwork, sleep, daily routine, and ability to join in activities) encapsulate attributes of health most relevant to children. The CHU9D can also be adapted for adult completion by rephrasing the school work domain as work. Since the development of Australian preference weights, the CHU9D's use in Australian children has mostly been limited to validation and condition specific studies. <sup>10-13</sup> Its use in adult samples is still preliminary in Australia and elsewhere (Katherine Stevens, pers. comm.). No national studies have reported CHU9D values for the entire Australian population. Population norms of HRQL are important as they provide a base level and can be used for comparison purposes with other samples.

Observational studies have shown that the HRQL of parents of children with chronic conditions are significantly below population norms. <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> Intervention studies have shown that paediatric interventions that improve child health can also improve parental HRQL. <sup>16</sup> However, these studies have measured child and parent HRQL with different instruments and in disease specific contexts; the association between child and parent HRQL in the general population is yet to be explored using comparable measures (Catchpool Major Report Master of Health Economics, Deakin University, 2016). To determine concordance for HRQL the same instrument and scoring algorithm must be applied, otherwise any differences could be attributed to the different scoring techniques. If an association exists between child and parental HRQL, then this could provide useful information for health professionals and researchers in terms of increasing the focus on parental HRQL in child and adolescent health and on children's HRQL in adult health services.

The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children's (LSAC) Child Health CheckPoint offers a unique opportunity to examine these associations. We aimed to describe the distribution of HRQL in a population-representative sample of 11-12-year-old Australian children and their parents, and the concordance between parents and children.

## **METHODS**

**Study Design and Participants:** Details of the initial LSAC study design and recruitment are outlined elsewhere. <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> Briefly, LSAC recruited a nationally-representative sample of 5107 Australian infants <sup>19</sup> using a two-stage random sample design with postcode as the primary sampling unit, and has since conducted a further six biennial data collection waves.

The initial recruitment rate in 2004 was 57.2%, of whom 73.7% (n=3764) were retained to LSAC wave 6 in 2014. During the wave 6 visit, families were introduced to the upcoming detailed cross-sectional biophysical assessment (the Child Health CheckPoint), and 3513 families consented to their contact details being shared with the CheckPoint team for the purpose of recruitment into the module. CheckPoint took place between February 2015 and March 2016 at child age 11-12 years. Data completeness was high and participants were included in the current analyses if they contributed any HRQL data that could be scored (figure 1). The scoring algorithm of each instrument specify how missing data are treated. The CHU9D required no missing data for a total score to be calculated. The AQoL8D scoring algorithm allows a limited number of missing values be imputed within each of its dimensions. The PedsQL allows two to four missing values in each subscale for a mean score to be calculated. Non-biological child-parents pairs were excluded from the concordance analyses. A more detailed description of the CheckPoint study design is available elsewhere. <sup>20-22</sup>

Ethics and Consent: The CheckPoint data collection protocol was approved by The Royal Children's Hospital (Melbourne, Australia) Human Research Ethics Committee (33225D) and The Australian Institute of Family Studies Ethics Committee (14-26). The attending parent/caregiver provided written informed consent for themselves and their child to participate in the study.

**Procedure:** Child and parent participants attended a 'pop-up' assessment centre for a 3½ hour (capital and large cities) or 2½ hour (smaller regional centres) visits; those that were unable or declined to attend the centre were offered a 1½ hour home visit (figure 1). At the assessment centres, participants rotated through various data collection stations every 15 minutes. Throughout the visit, each participant completed a detailed questionnaire administered on an iPad using the Research Electronic Data Capture (REDCap) tool<sup>23</sup> during waiting periods. This included the HRQL measures that are the topic of this paper.

**Outcome Measures:** Each respondent completed two self-rated HRQL measures as part of a larger questionnaire. The children's questionnaires were the preference-based CHU9D and the non-preference-based PedsQL 4.0 measures. The adult measures were both preference-based measures, the CHU9D and the AQol8D.

The CHU9D is a paediatric generic preference-based measure of HRQL. It consists of a nineitem descriptive system and a set of preference weights, giving utility values for each health state described by the descriptive system, allowing the calculation of QALYs for use in cost utility analysis. Scoring algorithms for the CHU9D have been updated between publications and differ between countries. Although the CHU9D descriptive system was developed for young people, the original scoring algorithm for the CHU9D was based on adult general population values using the standard gamble method. More recently, Australian adolescent and adult scoring algorithms were developed using best worst scaling methods. Both techniques generate a score that is on the range of equivalence from perfect health (1) to being dead (0). To assess the distribution of HRQL data using the CHU9D, the adolescent scoring algorithm was applied to child data and the adult scoring algorithm on the adult data. However, to assess concordance of HRQL among child-parent dyads using the CHU9D, a common scoring algorithm needed to be applied. If this does not occur, any differences between HRQL of children and HRQL of their parents may be because of the different scoring methods used. Therefore, the adolescent algorithm was also applied to the parent CHU9D data, solely for the purposes of the intergenerational concordance analysis of this study.

The PedsQL is a standardised generic assessment instrument with versions that assess children's and parent's perception of child HRQL.<sup>24</sup> Children aged 5-18 years can complete the child self-report section of the questionnaire. Unlike the CHU9D, the PedsQL is not preference-based and each of its 23 items have an equal weight in calculating the total score.<sup>24</sup> Therefore, the PedsQL cannot be used directly in the calculation of a QALY. US population normative data indicate high levels of internal consistency.<sup>25</sup> In this study, the Generic Core Scale score from the PedsQL 4.0 is reported.

The AQOL-8D contains 35 items and comprises eight separately scored dimensions, consisting of independent living, relationships, mental health, coping, pain, senses, self-worth and life satisfaction.<sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> Like the CHU9D, the AQOL-8D is a multi-attribute utility instrument. This means that there is a separate utility scoring algorithm allowing the calculation of utility values for each participant and QALYs. The utility algorithm used in the current study is derived from the Australian general population.<sup>26</sup>

## **Potential Confounders:**

Body Mass Index (BMI): Recent evidence indicates that primary school students' adjusted mean utilities for HRQL are lower for overweight or obese students than healthy-weight students.<sup>12</sup> BMI was calculated from measured height and weight values (kg/m<sup>2</sup>). For

children, Z score was calculated according to US Centers for Disease Control reference values, <sup>28</sup> using the Stata "zanthro" function (Stata Corp., College Station, TX).

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA): Neighbourhood socioeconomic position is a potential confounder of HRQL.<sup>29</sup> We used the SEIFA Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (disadvantage index) score, a standardised score by geographic area (in this case, postcode of residence) compiled from 2011 Australian Census data. The disadvantage index numerically summarises the social and economic conditions of Australian neighbourhoods (national mean of 1000 and a standard deviation (SD) of 100, where higher values represent less disadvantage).<sup>30</sup>

Child date of birth (DOB) and sex were imported into LSAC from Medicare Australia's enrolment database. Attending parent DOB was self-reported by parent questionnaire. Age was calculated to nearest week from the participant's DOB and date of assessment. Parent sex was self-reported.

**Statistical Analysis:** Data were analysed using Stata version 14.2. HRQL measures were described for all children and adults (ie regardless of relationship to child) for males and females separately and combined, using means and standard deviations, percentiles and density plots. Population summary statistics and proportions were estimated by applying survey weights and survey procedures that corrected for sampling, participation and non-response biases, and took into account clustering in the sampling frame. Standard errors were calculated taking into account the complex design and weights.<sup>31</sup> More detail on the calculation of weights is provided elsewhere.<sup>20 32</sup>

Concordance between HRQL of parents and HRQL of children for the CHU9D was assessed using 1) Pearson's correlation coefficients with 95% confidence intervals; and 2) linear regression with the child HRQL as the dependent variable and parent HRQL as the independent variable, adjusted for parent age, child age, disadvantage index, as well as parent and child sex in models including both sexes. These same analyses were repeated using weighted multi-level survey analyses. As these results were similar, only the unweighted results are reported for concordance. As a sensitivity analysis, we repeated all analyses using child and adult CHU9D data valued with the adult algorithm.

**Patient and Public Involvement:** Because LSAC is a population-based longitudinal study, no patient groups were involved in its design or conduct. To our knowledge, the public was not involved in the study design, recruitment or conduct of LSAC study or its CheckPoint

module. Parents received a summary health report for their child and themselves at or soon after the assessment visit. They consented to take part knowing that they would not otherwise receive individual results about themselves or their child.

## **RESULTS**

Sample characteristics: Of the 1874 families who participated, at least one HRQL measure was available for 1853 children (98.9%) and 1863 parents (99.4%) (figure 1), and 1786 parent-child dyads. There were slightly more boys (n=945, 51%) than girls (n=908, 49%) and the parent sample was predominantly mothers (n=1634, 87.7%) from a relatively socioeconomically advantaged position. The sample average disadvantage index score was slightly above the national average and showed a narrower distribution, reflecting a lower conomically representation of socioeconomically disadvantaged families in this sample (table 1).

Table 1. Sample characteristics, stratified by sex; values are weighted mean (standard deviation), except where specified as %.

Characteristic	All	Male	Female
Child			
n	1853	945	908
Age, years	12.0 (0.4)	12.0 (0.4)	12.0 (0.4)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	19.5 (3.7)	19.3 (3.8)	19.7 (3.7)
BMI z-score	0.37 (1.09)	0.34 (0.99)	0.39 (0.99)
Disadvantage index	1009 (62)	1007 (62)	1010 (62)
Parent			
n	1863	229	1634
Age, years	43.6 (5.6)	46.4 (7.1)	43.3 (5.3)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	28.4 (6.4)	28.9 (4.9)	28.3 (6.6)

BMI, body mass index; Disadvantage Index: Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage; n: number of participants in cohort with this measure.

Other participant characteristics were broadly representative of the Australian population.

# Distributions of HRQL (tables 2 and 3, figure 2):

*Children:* The mean CHU9D score for children was 0.81 (standard deviation, SD 0.16) (table 2). Extended percentile values (from 5<sup>th</sup> to 95th) are provided for all measures in table 3, showing a median of 0.85 (IQR 0.73 to 0.92).

Values for boys and girls were largely similar. The mean PedsQL was 78.3 (SD 13.0), with a slight variation between boys (77.6, SD 12.7) and girls (79.1, SD 13.4). The distribution of HRQL was skewed, with most children reporting high HRQL and smaller numbers in worse health states (figure 2). This distribution was similar for boys and girls and similar across preference-based and non-preference-based measures.

Adults: The mean score of CHU9D in Australian mid-life adults was 0.89 (SD 0.10). Values using the CHU9D adolescent algorithm (as required for concordance analysis) were somewhat lower, due to the difference in item weights between the adult and adolescent scoring algorithms, with a mean CHU9D score for adults of 0.81 (SD 0.18). The AQol-8D had a mean score across all parents of 0.78 (0.16). For all HRQL measures in adults, scores were slightly higher in men than women. The distribution of HRQL was skewed to the left for both the preference-based measures used with parents, with slight differences between men and women (figure 2).

Table 2. HRQL measures in Australian children and parents

IIDOI maganna	All							Females					
HRQL measure	n	Mean	SD	95% CI	n	Mean	SD	95% CI	N	Mean	SD	95% CI	
Children													
CHU9D													
Adolescent algorithm	1827	0.81	0.16	0.81 to 0.82	931	0.81	0.16	0.80 to 0.83	896	0.82	0.15	0.81 to 0.83	
PedsQL	1847	78.3	13.0	77.6 to 79.0	942	77.6	12.7	76.6 to 78.6	905	79.1	13.4	78.0 to 80.2	
Parents													
CHU9D													
Adult algorithm	1843	0.89	0.1	0.88 to 0.90	227	0.91	0.08	0.90 to 0.92	1616	0.89	0.1	0.88 to 0.89	
Adolescent algorithm	1843	0.81	0.18	0.80 to 0.82	227	0.84	0.16	0.82 to 0.87	1616	0.8	0.18	0.79 to 0.82	
AQoL-8D	1861	0.78	0.16	0.77 to 0.79	229	0.8	0.14	0.78 to 0.83	1632	0.78	0.16	0.77 to 0.79	

n, number of participants in cohort with this measure (denominator); SD, standard deviation; CI, confidence interval; CHU9D, child health utility nine dimension; PedsQL, pediatric quality of life.

Table 3. Percentile values for HRQL.

Characteristic				Child				Parent							
Characteristic	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	P5	P10	P25	P50	P75	P90	P95	
CHU9D - Adolescent Algorithm															
Male	0.49	0.59	0.72	0.85	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.58	0.79	0.89	0.97	1.00	1.00	
Female	0.52	0.60	0.73	0.85	0.94	0.97	1.00	0.45	0.56	0.71	0.85	0.95	1.00	1.00	
All	0.51	0.60	0.73	0.85	0.92	1.00	1.00	0.46	0.57	0.71	0.86	0.96	1.00	1.00	
CHU9D – Adult Algorithm															
Male	-	<b>U</b> -/-	-	-	-	-	-	0.73	0.77	0.88	0.93	0.97	1.00	1.00	
Female	-	_	<b>/</b>	-	-	-	-	0.69	0.76	0.84	0.91	0.97	1.00	1.00	
All	-	-		-	-	-	-	0.69	0.76	0.84	0.92	0.97	1.00	1.00	
PedsQL															
Male	54.4	58.7	70.7	79.4	87.0	92.4	95.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Female	54.4	59.8	69.6	81.5	90.2	94.6	96.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All	54.4	59.8	70.7	80.4	88.0	93.5	96.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
AQoL-8D															
Male	-	-	-	-	-	-		0.53	0.60	0.70	0.84	0.91	0.96	0.98	
Female	-	-	-	-	-	-		0.43	0.54	0.70	0.81	0.90	0.95	0.97	
All	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	0.44	0.55	0.70	0.82	0.90	0.95	0.97	

PX: value of Xth percentile, eg P50 = median; CHU9D: child health utility 9 dimension; PedsQL, pediatric quality of life; AQoL-8D, assessment of quality of life 8 dimension.

**Intergenerational concordance of HRQL (table 4):** A weak positive correlation was present between child HRQL and parent HRQL as measured by the CHU9D (CC 0.13, 95% CI 0.09 to 0.18) (table 4). Results from the sensitivity analysis (using adult instead of adolescent algorithm for the parent CHU9D) were similar (0.15, 95% CI 0.10 to 0.19). This mainly reflected mother-child concordance; there was no convincing evidence of father-child concordance. Coefficients were also very similar in the adjusted linear regression models after adjusting for potential confounders and demographic characteristics.



Table 4. Child-parent concordance on the CHU9D adolescent version

		Parent-c	child		Mother	-child	Father-child			
Pearson's Correlation	N	CC	95% CI	N	CC	95% CI	N	CC	95% CI	
Adolescent algorithm for parents	1786	0.13	0.09 to 0.18	1570	0.14	0.10 to 0.19	216	0.04	-0.09 to 0.18	
Sensitivity Analysis										
Adult algorithm for parents	1786	0.15	0.10 to 0.19	1570	0.16	0.11 to 0.20	216	0.06	-0.08 to 0.19	
Adjusted Linear Regression	N	RC	P value	N	RC	P value	N	RC	P value	
Adolescent algorithm for parents	1783	0.12	< 0.001	1569	0.13	< 0.001	214	0.04	0.53	
Sensitivity Analysis										
Adult algorithm for parents	1783	0.13	< 0.001	1569	0.14	< 0.001	214	0.05	0.42	

Non-biological caregivers were excluded from these analyses (n=16). Covariates in adjusted linear regression models include parent and child age, SEIFA Disadvantage Index, BMI and parent and child sex in models including both sexes. CC: correlation coefficients for Pearson; RC: estimated regression coefficient; CI: confidence interval; N: number of biological child-parent pairs with this measure; CHU9D: child health utility 9 dimension

#### DISCUSSION

**Principal findings:** We have described HRQL values for Australian 11-12 year old children and their parents, together with the first reported concordance within parent-child dyads. The results of our study provide normative data for three separate HRQL instruments that we hope will be useful to researchers who intend to use these instruments. In this generally healthy population, there was only a weak intergenerational concordance for HRQL.

**Strengths and limitations:** Strengths of the Child Health CheckPoint study include the large sample size and the multi-stage, clustered survey methodology that together allow for the derivation of accurate population estimates. This is the first study to provide HRQL concordance data between children's HRQL and the HRQL of their parents within a large cohort study. This is also the first study to identify the distribution of HRQL values using the CHU9D in pre-adolescent children and mid-life adults in Australia.

The population-based sampling of this cohort make the findings more relevant to the wider Australian child population than previous HRQL studies focused on children with particular health conditions. However, there was an under-representation of socio-economically disadvantaged participants in both child and adult cohorts, which limits generalizability to disadvantaged groups. The over-representation of mothers in the adult cohort also reduces the precision around estimates for fathers.

The CheckPoint study targets multiple Australian health priorities. Measurements were collected on each child and their accompanying parent over a three-and-a-half hour session. The length and the range of data that needed to be collected restricted the number of HRQL measures that could be used. HRQL scores are known to vary according to the particular instrument<sup>4</sup> and, for preference-based measures, the scoring algorithm used. Therefore, the results in this study for HRQL distributions and for intergenerational concordance may well be dependent on the particular HRQL measures used.

**Findings in relation to other studies:** When comparing the HRQL results from this study to others it is important to consider the scoring algorithms applied in each study. Scoring algorithms for the CHU9D have been updated over time and differ between countries. As mentioned previously, the scoring algorithm applied in this analysis is the most recent Australian version. An Australian trial conducted on first graders (mean age 6.9 years) by Roberts et al used the CHU9D as an outcome measure with the same scoring algorithm as we used.<sup>33</sup> The mean score recorded for child HRQL was 0.8.<sup>33</sup> This is consistent with the

CHU9D values presented in table 2. Chen et al compared HRQL (measured by the CHU9D) and BMI in Australian children (mean age 10.6 years). Their study population had a mean CHU9D score of 0.87, which is higher than the means in the CheckPoint; however, they applied an older adolescent scoring algorithm (G Chen, Research Fellow, Flinders University, email, 2016). HRQL results from the PedsQL non-preference-based measure are similar to previously reported values from child samples in the US (mean score 79.6, SD 15.3).

This is also the first study to report the distribution of CHU9D values in Australian adults, and as such we are unable to determine the comparability of this result. The CheckPoint mean of 0.78 for the adult AQoL-8D was lower than Richardson et al's population norms, which reported a mean score of 0.86 for 35 to 44 year old adults, and also lower than the mean adult score of 0.83 reported in a multi-country study. This difference could be attributed to our adult sample being made up entirely of parents, given that adults are known to experience a dip in life satisfaction in the years following childbirth. Future research could explore the influence child age has on parental quality of life.

The difference in CHU9D values when applying adult and adolescent scoring algorithms to participants' self-rated CHU9D health states are expected and are in line with previous research.<sup>35</sup> This supports the fact that adolescents do have different health preferences to adults and that it is important that studies of adolescent health not only allow adolescents to provide their own responses to measures but also use adolescent values in any scoring applied to those measures.

Meaning and implications for clinicians and policymakers: Our results add to the child HRQL literature and provide estimates of the distribution of HRQL to be expected in Australian population samples. These results can be used for comparison purposes with other populations and samples.

A rapid review of the literature surrounding intergenerational concordance for HRQL found that this study was the first of its kind in both an Australian and international setting (Catchpool Major Report Master of Health Economics, Deakin University, 2016). The results in this study suggested that there is a small intergenerational concordance for HRQL when measured at the same point in time. This clear evidence of the association between child and parental (especially maternal) HRQL supports the need to consider all individuals as a member of a wider family and to consider the impact of child and adolescent health services

on the HRQL of parents and the impact of adult health services on the HRQL of patients' children.

Unanswered questions and future research: This is the first study to explore the intergenerational concordance for HRQL at the population level. The strength of the concordance found in this study reflects the population-based nature of the sample; concordance may be higher in groups of children and/or parents with chronic health conditions, in which case it would be even more important to consider impacts of health services on the broader family. Concordance results are also limited to the single HRQL instrument used in both child and parent groups (CHU9D), and future research should examine how concordance varies across HRQL measures.



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Some study data were collected and managed using REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture; www.project-redcap.org) electronic data capture tools. REDCap is a secure, webbased application designed to support data capture for research studies.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS:** Max Catchpool, Lisa Gold, Susan Clifford and Melissa Wake contributed to study conception and interpretation of results, drafted the initial manuscript, critically revised further drafts and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

Max Catchpool and Anneke Grobler contributed interpretation of results, performed the statistical analysis, drafted the initial manuscript, critically revised further drafts and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

**DATA SHARING STATEMENT:** Dataset and technical documents available from *Growing Up in Australia*: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children via low-cost license for bone fide researchers. More information is available at www.growingupinaustralia.gov.au

## FIGURE CAPTIONS AND FOOTNOTES:

### Figure 1. Participant flow chart.

n=number of families, c=number of children, p=number of attending adults,

MAC=Main assessment centre, mAC=Mini assessment centre, HV=Home visit assessment,

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\*Unable to assess due to equipment failure, poor quality data or time contraints

^Data from 16 non-biological child-parent pairs and 43 pairs for incomplete data in CHU9D utility measure excluded from concordance analyses

## Figure 2. Distribution of HRQL in children and parents

Red line: girls/mothers; Blue line: boys/fathers; Black, dotted line: all

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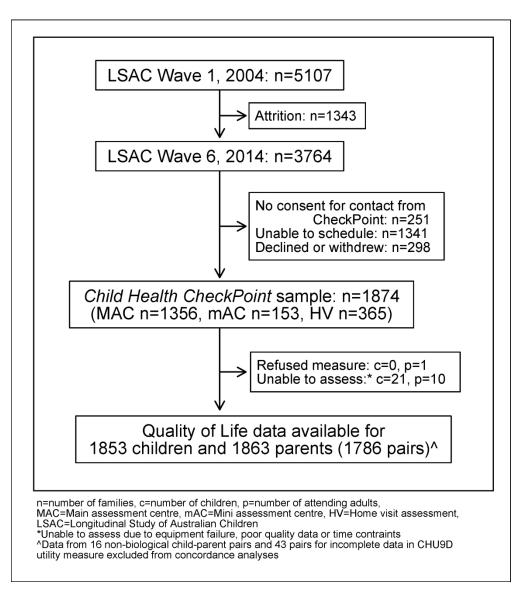


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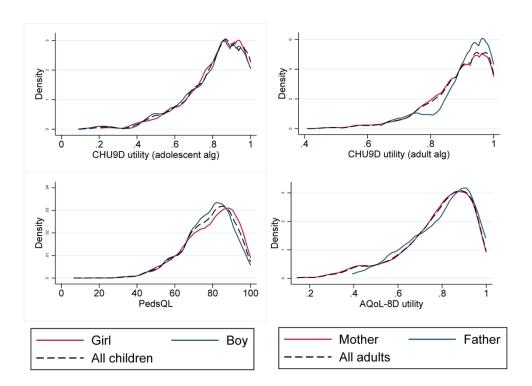


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# STROBE 2007 (v4) Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

Section/Topic	Item #	Recommendation	Reported on page #
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	3
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	5,6
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	6
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	7
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	7
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	7
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	NA
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	7-9
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	7-9
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	9
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	7, Figure 1
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	7-9
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	9
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	9
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	9
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	NA
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	9
Results			

Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed	Figure 1
		eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Figure 1
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Figure 1
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Table 1, page 11
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Figure 1,
		(b) indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Table 1, page 11
			Table 1, page 11 Table 2, page 13
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	NA
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Table 2, page 13
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence	Table 2, page 13
		interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Table 2, page 13
			Table 3, page 15
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	NA
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Table 4, page 17
		10,	Page 16, 18
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	18
Limitations		U <sub>A</sub> .	
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from	18-20
		similar studies, and other relevant evidence	
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	18, 19
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on	21, 22
		which the present article is based	

<sup>\*</sup>Give information separately for cases and controls in case-control studies and, if applicable, for exposed and unexposed groups in cohort and cross-sectional studies.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at www.strobe-statement.org.

