



Nutritional injustice? Mothers' work and child health in the context of obesity

BSA Food Group Conference 2017

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1970s

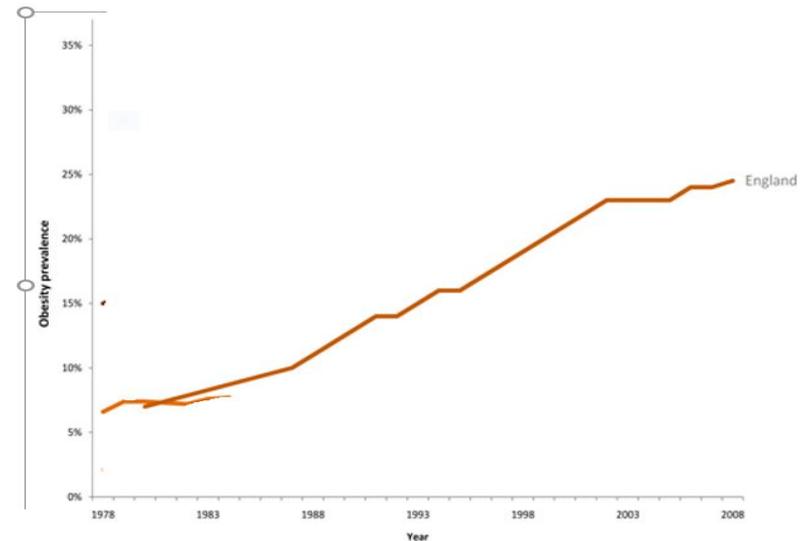
Neoliberal capitalism: intensification of work, austerity, privatisation of services, obesogenic changes in food system

2017

Employment rates for women in England, %



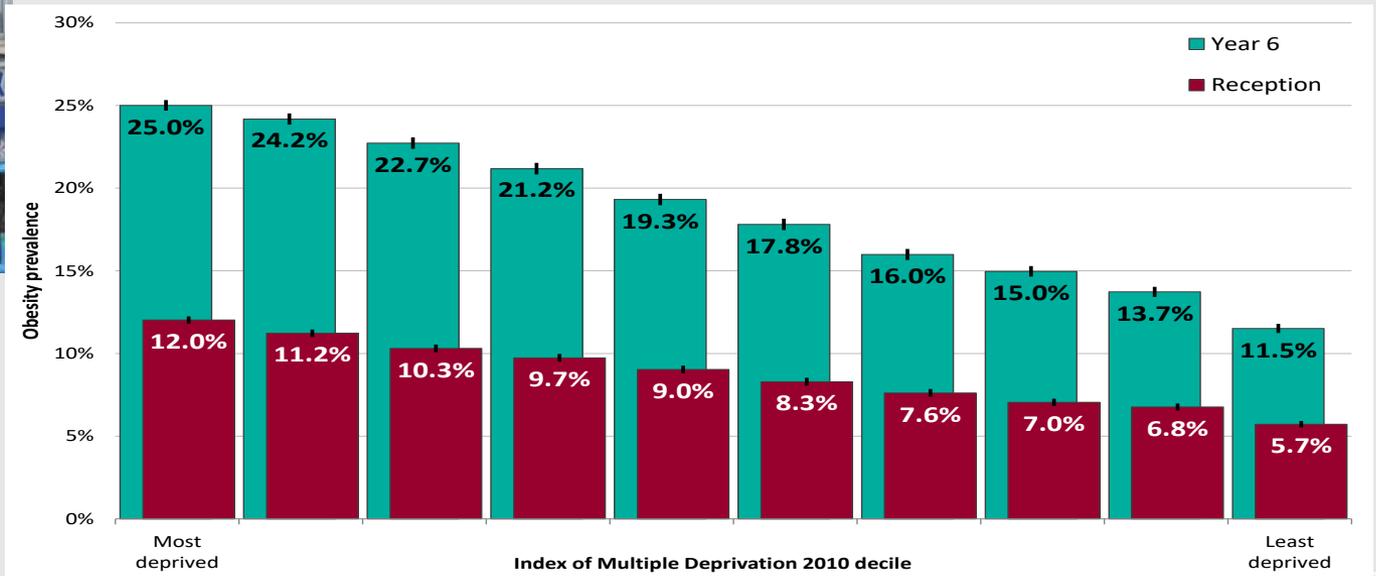
Child obesity trends 1971-2008





*Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hoqail M.D.
"Skin Diseases caused by Diabetes"
Consultant & Assoc. Professor in Dermatology*

Child health & social gradient in obesity prevalence



Healthy Lives, Healthy People:

A call for action on obesity in England



Is there a disconnect?

Absent voices ??

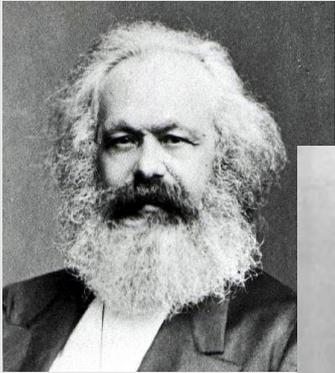
‘Study reveals parents’ poor eating habits are to blame for childhood obesity, NOT fast food’



PhD Critical Policy
Analysis
Food related obesity
policy

Absent voice of
parents

35 policy actors
including parents of
children with 'obesity'



Key theorists drawn upon



Change life

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Interested? Want to know more?
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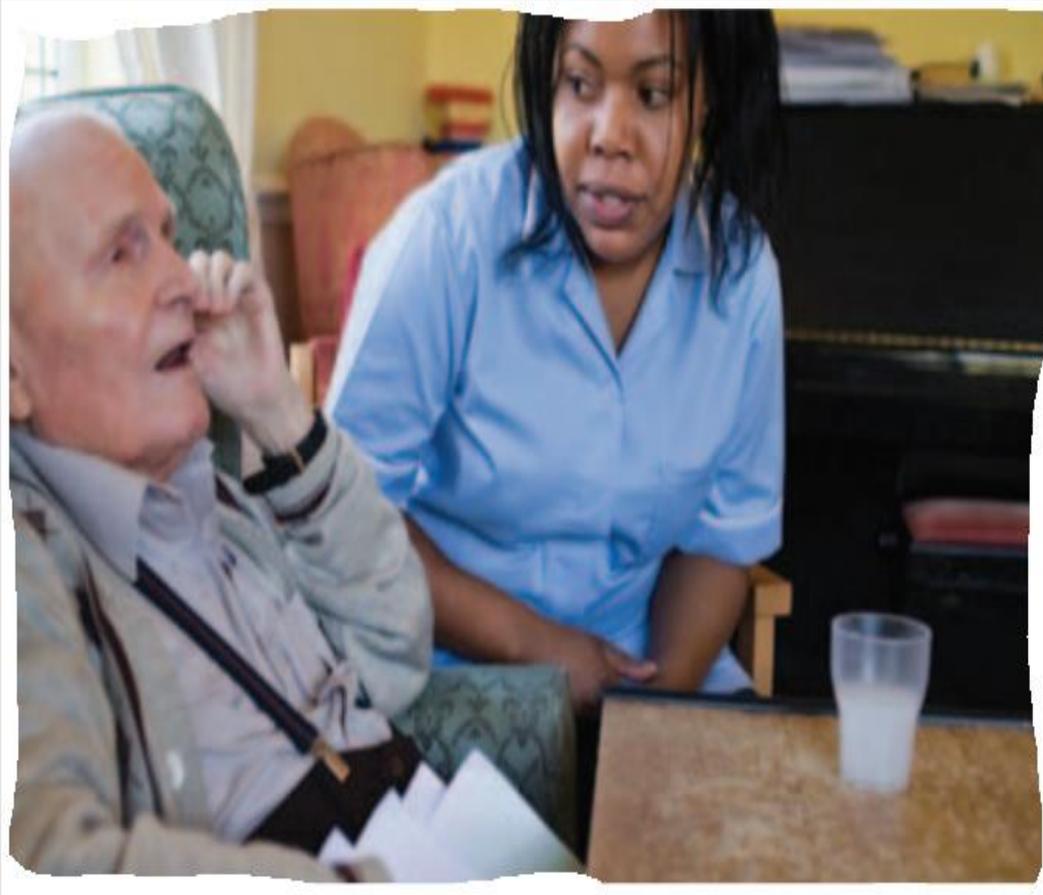


fostering & adoption
 Family Based Care Recruitment



www.alamy.com - BEP5YY

Zero hours contracts deleterious on family food practices

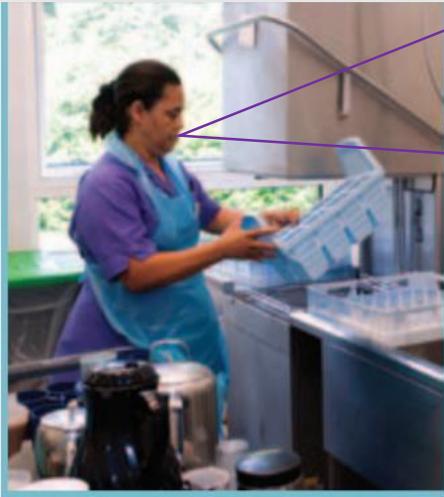


Liz (bus driver)

*....I think it's a case of, **it's the hours.** If I didn't have to work the hours that I do or my husband the hours he did the kids would be eating healthily.*

..the children are bored (and) maybe parents are stressed...depressed, you know. It's just an ongoing battle.

*Whereas the **higher class, the nannies** can say 'it's all prepared'. They say **what time snacks** will be (and) they can give them something healthier'*



The 'nanny'



Local government cuts £162million



Andrea (admin worker)

... government has closed down the Children Centres, so they're not supporting local children and parents a standard run-down high street with no real support mechanism for local children and their parents

Liz, bus driver

...not everyone has got the time to feed their kids...

We try to teach them (kids) about healthy

eating....but it's us... who are doing it, who are

volunteers. When parents used to be able to do

things with their kids because they had the time to

do it...I think that's the biggest problem is just

haven't got time anymore because too busy

working, yeh

Andrea (admin worker)

*I think we are **getting the message** but **they** still don't seem to be doing anything about it....still **allowing** all these products to be sold because you want the revenue from them*



Leyla, childcare worker

'...it's keeping the adults on their liquor, the kids on the sweets and then the take-aways for dinner... It's what we're seeing everyday. So all we think about is sweets and drinks...It's like the betting shops. We've got so many betting shops... a lot more people are doing it... it's not good'



Kerry, dad, bus driver

... health has to come first ... last thing you want is for your child to have any health problems ... diabetes or high blood pressure

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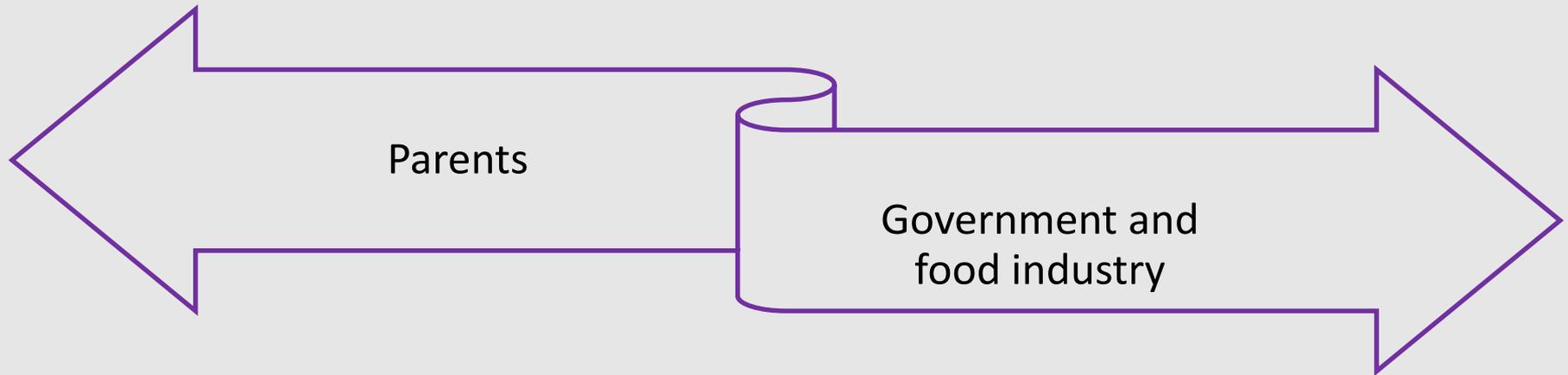
Liz, bus driver

*'There are **people on benefits** ...who've got a **good quality of life** with their kids because they **are at home and are able to cook**...it's more the working parents that are suffering and the kids of working parents'*

Felecia, on welfare benefits,

‘...you want to women to have children and go back to work. Who’s going to raise their children.... Why should you have them? Why should you pay other people to raise your children that doesn’t make sense...’

*Yes I was on benefits...I don’t want my children to go to someone for childcare, and then the government helps me pay for it. Why? I don’t need them to do that. **I will do my bit and look after my children ...***



- Improving material conditions: employment and welfare
- Greater control of the food companies
- Community level participation in food environments, and food-policy making.

