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# Cultural and economic differences in television viewing in early childhood



## Introduction

TV viewing is the most prevalent sedentary behaviour<sup>1</sup>

Established adverse outcomes for:

- cardio-metabolic disease
- gross-motor
  development
- cognition development
- language development<sup>2</sup>



1284 children from BIB cohort

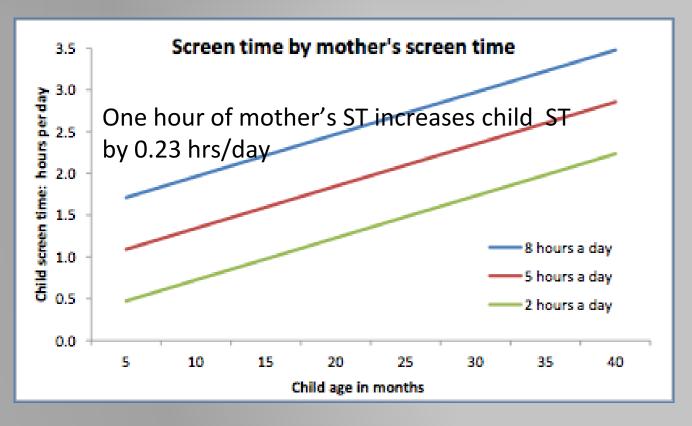
Child TV/DVD viewing reported by Mother at approx. 6,12,18,24 and 36 months old- EPIC Norfolk EPQ-2 questionnaire<sup>3</sup>

Estimated trajectories of TV viewing using multi level modelling

Aim of research: to describe TV viewing trajectories from age 5 to 40 months

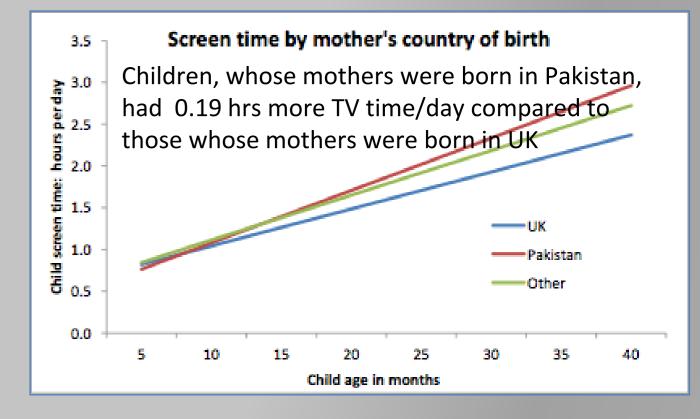


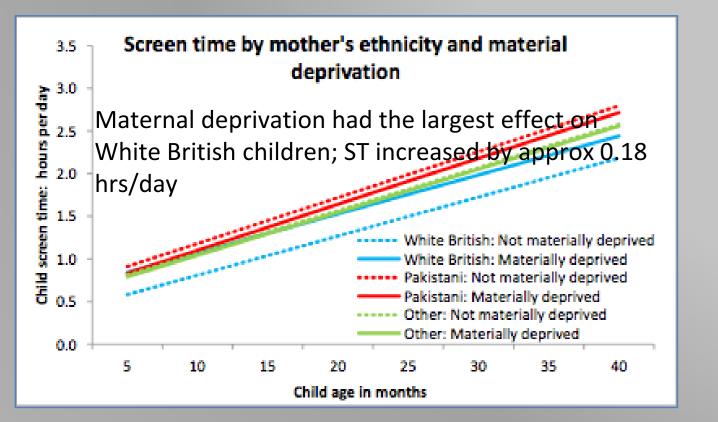
Explanatory factors: mother's TV viewing, age, self reported ethnicity, country of birth and material deprivation

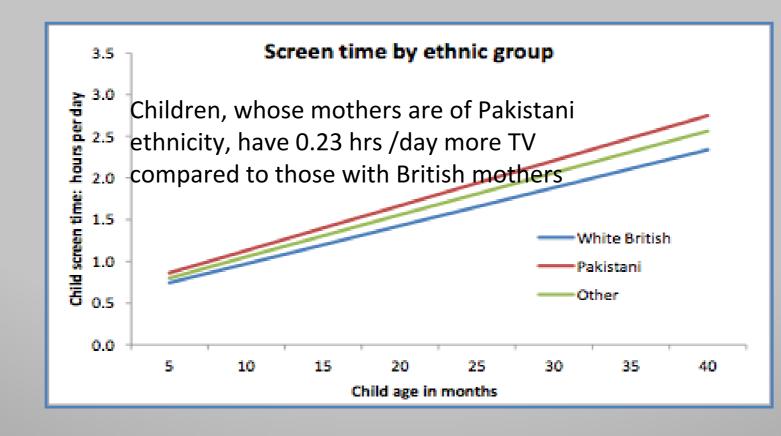


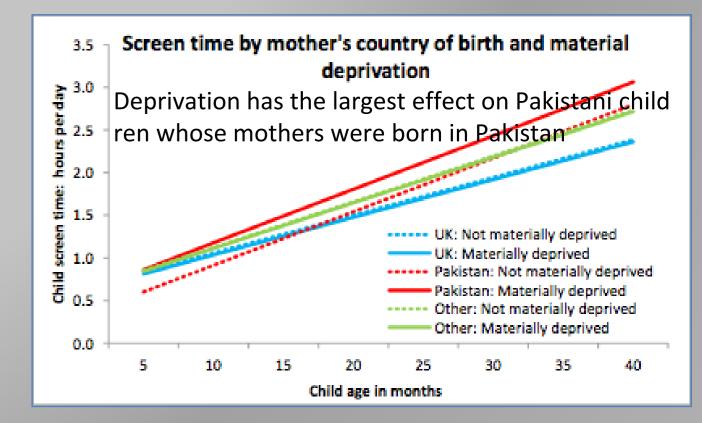
## Results

- The average screen time (ST) for children aged 19.9 months is 1.38 hrs/day
- Mother's ST, mean centred at 2.8.hrs/day (0-9)
- ST increases with 0.4 hrs/day with every month above 19.9m and decreases with 0.4hrs/day with every month below 19.9m
- Similar baseline ST despite ethnicity or deprivation
- Differences in ST are greater as children get older









## **Discussion & Conclusions**

- Largest substantive factors in children's TV viewing is mother's screen time
- Interventions to reduce children's screen time need to incorporate reducing mother's screen time
- Interventions need to be tailored for different cultural and socioeconomic groups
- Interventions should start before the critical time when the shift in screen time occurs
- Further research should focus on identifying the critical point of shift in screen time

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