

# Change in self-esteem in Canadian young people 1994- 2004

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# This talk

- A bit of background on self-esteem
- My StatCan dataset: the NLSCY
- My sample
- My methods for investigating change in self-esteem

# Self-esteem...a summary

- A useful definition of self-esteem is...  
“an evaluative attitude towards the self.”  
Morris Rosenberg (1965)
- Differences in self-esteem are associated most strongly with...
- Self-esteem is a major antecedent risk factor for...
- Gaps in self-esteem research are...

# NLSCY key facts

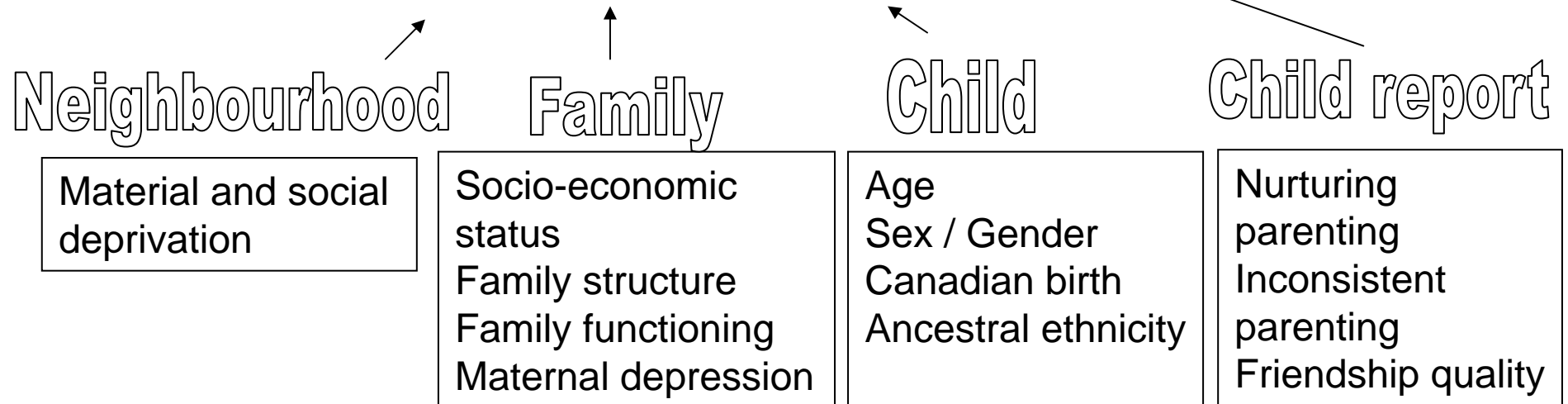
- Nationally representative longitudinal sample of Canadian children and youth.
- Longitudinal component sampled 22,831 young people aged 0-11 in 1994.
- Biennial follow-ups to age 25, sample in cycle 6 aged 10-21.
- Multi-source, data reported by person most knowledgeable (PMK) and child.

# My sample within the NLSCY

1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004
Age					
0	2	4	6	8	10
1	3	5	7	9	11
2	4	6	8	10	12
3	5	7	9	11	13
4	6	8	10	12	14
5	7	9	11	13	15
6	8	10	12	14	16
7	9	11	13	15	17
8	10	12	14	16	18
9	11	13	15	17	19
10	12	14	16	18	20
11	13	15	17	19	21

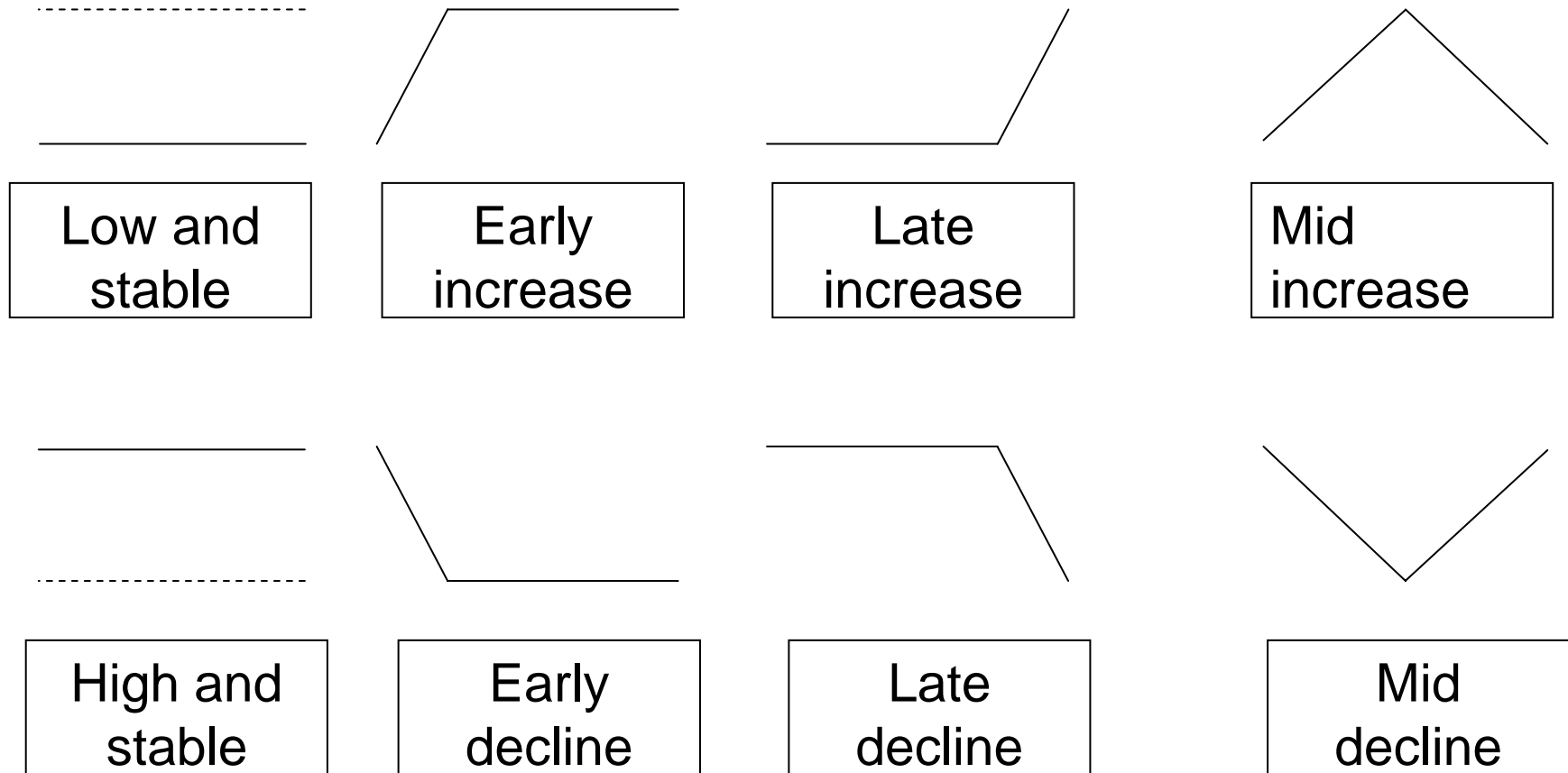
# Change in self-esteem

Membership of explicit change trajectories  
Variation in self-esteem over time



Self-esteem change = child report + child + family + neighbourhood

# What trajectories of self-esteem do Canadian adolescents follow?



# Modelling membership of trajectories

- Multinomial model (mlogit)

Trajectory membership = child-report + child + household + neighbourhood

Like 7 logistic regressions, all with the same baseline (high and stable trajectory ( ))

Girls have 1.4 odds of reporting low and stable ( ) relative to high and stable trajectories ( ).



# Modelling subject specific variation in self-esteem

- Random effects logistic regression (xtlogit)

Individual self-esteem<sub>ij</sub> = child-report<sub>ij</sub> + child<sub>j</sub>  
+ family/household<sub>ij</sub> + neighbourhood<sub>ij</sub>

# Design considerations

- Weighting
- Multi collinearity
- Clustering of observations

# A little bit of context

Qualitative comparison of results with those from BHPS

Extension from small school and community based samples to large scale, nationally representative samples

For contemporary young people over the last decade

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