



interventions that enable successful learning and reduce gaps,” says Brownell.

One way researchers mapped school performance was to compare results from the Early Development Instrument, which measures vulnerabilities in children in Kindergarten, to outcomes for the same children in Grade 3. They found that with each additional vulnerability identified in Kindergarten, the likelihood of not meeting expectations in Grade 3 for reading and math increases in a step-like fashion.

Children from the lowest income areas were much more likely to be vulnerable in Kindergarten and not meet expectations in Grade 3. But they were also much more likely to change course over time. When looking at children who were vulnerable in Kindergarten, a higher percentage of children with poorer backgrounds went from being vulnerable to doing fine in Grade 3, than children from high income areas.

“These results demonstrate that although low income can have a negative effect on outcomes for some children, this impact does not have to be permanent,” says Brownell. “The right policies and programs can help to improve children’s health and well-being.”

*MCHP is a research unit in the department of community health sciences in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Manitoba. Research scientists and their collaborators at MCHP study health services, population and public health, and the social determinants of health using data from the entire population of Manitoba. Most of the research answers questions of interest to policy makers based on a formal association with Manitoba Health and input from other government departments.*



**Media note: Dr. Marni Brownell is available for interviews.**

**For more information, please contact Jack Rach, communications officer, Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, at: 204-789-3669.**

**The summary and full report will be available for download on October 11 from <http://mchp-appserv.cpe.umanitoba.ca/deliverablesList.html>**