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# Associations among Maternal Socioeconomic Status in Childhood and Pregnancy and Hair Cortisol in Pregnancy

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**Highlights**

- First study to link life course SES to maternal hair cortisol in pregnancy.
- Lower maternal SES in childhood and pregnancy linked to higher cortisol levels.
- Childhood SES effects on pregnancy cortisol were mediated through SES in pregnancy.
- Effects were independent of race/ethnicity and pregnancy health measures.
- Maternal life course SES may have intergenerational effects via prenatal cortisol.