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**Childhood Predictors of Type 2 Diabetes in Late Life—  
Evidence from the Health and Aging Study (MHAS)**

**Iliana Kohler and Beth J. Soldo**

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# **Childhood Predictors of Type 2 Diabetes in Late Life--Evidence from the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS)**

**Iliana Kohler and Beth J. Soldo  
(2004)**

## **Abstract**

We investigate the interplay between early life events, childhood and current socioeconomic conditions and health, focusing specifically on type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) in mid and late-life in Mexico. The analysis uses data from baseline of the Mexican Health and Aging Study (MHAS), a nationally representative, prospective panel study of Mexican born prior to 1950. The central issue we address is to which extent antecedents in childhood before age 10 such as exposure to infectious diseases, the family's social and economic background and parental education determine disease patterns above age 50 in Mexico, and specifically the onset of type 2 diabetes. Our results show that if a person has experienced serious health problems before age 10 such as tuberculosis, polio etc., she is at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes after age 50. Moreover, there is a strong inverse relationship between maternal education and diabetes mellitus in late life of the off-springs. A person with a better educated mother has lower odds to have type 2 diabetes after age 50, and this relationship remains after controlling for other childhood and current socioeconomic characteristics.