Title:

**[Long Commutes to Work during Pregnancy and Infant Health at Birth](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprA%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Long Commutes to Work during Pregnancy and Infant Health at Birth)**

Author: Wang, Yang; Yang, Muzhe
Author Affiliation: U of Wisconsin-Madison; Lehigh U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 1-17
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: We conduct the first empirical study to examine the health impact of long commutes to work during pregnancy on fetuses and infants at birth, using unique data that contain information on not only a woman's home address but also her employer's address during pregnancy, which allows us to calculate the maternal travel distance during pregnancy. Our study contributes to the literature on the relationship between maternal stress during pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes by focusing on the understudied chronic stress induced by long commutes, rather than the stress triggered by a one-time significant event, such as a natural disaster. We find that among long-distance commuters, increasing the maternal travel distance during pregnancy by 10 miles is associated with increases in the probabilities of low birth weight and intrauterine growth restriction by 0.9 and 0.6 percentage points, respectively. In addition to the maternal stress induced by long commutes being one potential biological mechanism, we find suggestive evidence showing that maternal long commutes during pregnancy are also associated with under-utilization of prenatal care.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.006
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808502

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Transportation: Demand, Supply, and Congestion; Travel Time; Safety and Accidents; Transportation Noise

Title:

**[Twins Are More Different Than Commonly Believed, but Made Less Different by Compensating Behaviors](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprE%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Twins Are More Different Than Commonly Believed, but Made Less Different by Compensating Behaviors)**

Author: Choi, Jin-young; Lee, Myoung-jae
Author Affiliation: Xiamen U; Korea U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 18-31
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Twin studies are popular, because twins are believed to be the same/similar in genes and environmental exposures. It is well documented, however, that the firstborns are healthier at birth. We use the entire U.S. record of twin births during 1995-2000 to show that the survival duration parameters differ between twins depending on the birth order. We also find that wiser (i.e., older or educated) or married (i.e., resource-richer) mothers take more care of the weaker, which is a "compensating" behavior reducing the twin difference, as opposed to "reinforcing (the twin difference)" behavior. The systematic survival pattern difference and the mother's intervention against nature send cautions to twin studies that regard twins homogeneous to interpret their findings accordingly. Since the survival duration in our data is 97% right-censored in one year, we devise a quantile-based 'fixed-effect' semiparametric estimator that can handle heavy censoring, which is our methodological contribution.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.007
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808503

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[The Long-Term Economic Effects of Polio: Evidence from the Introduction of the Polio Vaccine to Sweden in 1957](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Long-Term Economic Effects of Polio: Evidence from the Introduction of the Polio Vaccine to Sweden in 1957)**

Author: Serratos-Sotelo, Luis; Bengtsson, Tommy; Nilsson, Anton
Author Affiliation: Lund U and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research; Lund U; Lund U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 32-41
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: This study explores the impact an exogenous improvement in childhood health has on later-life outcomes. Using extensive and detailed register data from the Swedish Interdisciplinary Panel covering up to 2011, we follow individuals exposed to the introduction of the first vaccine against polio in Sweden (birth cohorts 1937-1966) until adulthood in order to quantify the causal effect of polio vaccination on long-term economic outcomes. The results show that, contrary to what has been found in the literature for other health-related interventions, including other vaccines, exposure to the vaccine against polio did not seem to have any long-term effects on the studied adult economic outcomes. Upon closer inspection of how the disease affects children, this might be explained by the fact that no scarring effects from exposure to high incidence of polio were found on adult income, educational achievement, or hospitalizations, which seems to suggest that those who contracted the illness but suffered only the milder symptoms of the disease made a full recovery and had no lifelong sequels as a consequence of the condition. The absence of scarring effects is hypothesized to be related to the pathology and epidemiology of the disease itself, which infects many, but scars only those who suffer the most recognizable paralytic symptoms.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.002
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808504

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[What Explains Cross-City Variation in Mortality during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic? Evidence from 438 U.S. Cities](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "What Explains Cross-City Variation in Mortality during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic? Evidence from 438 U.S. Cities)**

Author: Clay, Karen; Lewis, Joshua; Severnini, Edson
Author Affiliation: Carnegie Mellon U; U of Montreal; Carnegie Mellon U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 42-50
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Disparities in cross-city pandemic severity during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic remain poorly understood. This paper uses newly assembled historical data on annual mortality across 438 U.S. cities to explore the determinants of pandemic mortality. We assess the role of three broad factors: i) pre-pandemic population health and poverty, ii) air pollution, and iii) the timing of onset and proximity to military bases. Using regression analysis, we find that cities in the top tercile of the distribution of pre-pandemic infant mortality had 21 excess deaths per 10,000 residents in 1918 relative to cities in the bottom tercile. Similarly, cities in the top tercile of the distribution of proportion of illiterate residents had 21.3 excess deaths per 10,000 residents during the pandemic relative to cities in the bottom tercile. Cities in the top tercile of the distribution of coal-fired electricity generating capacity, an important source of urban air pollution, had 9.1 excess deaths per 10,000 residents in 1918 relative to cities in the bottom tercile. There was no statistically significant relationship between excess mortality and city proximity to World War I bases or the timing of onset. In a counterfactual analysis, the three statistically significant factors accounted for 50 percent of cross-city variation in excess mortality in 1918.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.010
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808505

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Measurement and Analysis of Poverty ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: U.S.; Canada: 1913- ; Economic History: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, and Extractive Industries: U.S.; Canada: 1913- ; Energy: Demand and Supply; Prices ; Air Pollution; Water Pollution; Noise; Hazardous Waste; Solid Waste; Recycling

Title:

**[Graduated Driver Licensing and Teen Fertility](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprQ%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Graduated Driver Licensing and Teen Fertility)**

Author: Deza, Monica
Author Affiliation: Hunter College, CUNY
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 51-62
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: This paper evaluates the effect of implementing nighttime driving curfews and passenger restrictions mandated by graduated driver licensing (GDL) on teen fertility. Both components of GDL potentially restrict the freedom and mobility of minor drivers by requiring adult supervision, and therefore reduces opportunities to become pregnant. Using birth data from the National Vital Statistics (NVSS) and a triple differences approach, I find that the implementation of "tough" GDL decreased fertility by 3-4% among mothers between the ages of 16 and 18. This effect is driven by the states that require driving curfews for at least a year before teenagers can obtain their unrestricted drivers license.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.005
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808506

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Transportation: Demand, Supply, and Congestion; Travel Time; Safety and Accidents; Transportation Noise

Title:

**[The Fertility-Inhibiting Effect of Mosquitoes: Socio-economic Differences in Response to the Zika Crisis in Colombia](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprU%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Fertility-Inhibiting Effect of Mosquitoes: Socio-economic Differences in Response to the Zika Crisis in Colombia)**

Author: Gamboa, Luis Fernando; Rodriguez Lesmes, Paul
Author Affiliation: Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano; Universidad del Rosario
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 63-72
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: We estimated the impact of the Zika virus outbreak on birth rates and demand for health care services in Colombia. Our analysis exploits the variation in the level of natural protection against mosquito-transmitted diseases across the country. This characteristic induced exogenous variation in Zika incidence, which allows us to construct a control group of municipalities with similar historical fertility trends but with differential exposure to the Zika crisis. We implemented a difference-in-differences model after matching, as well as synthetic control. We found a decrease in birth rates of approx. 10% in the last two quarters of 2019. The impact of the virus was similar irrespective of the women's education level, and we found no discernible impact on teenage pregnancy.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.001
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808507

**Subjects:** Analysis of Health Care Markets ; Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Linking Risk Attitudes, Time Preferences, and Body Mass Index in Catalonia](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprY%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Linking Risk Attitudes, Time Preferences, and Body Mass Index in Catalonia)**

Author: Dogbe, Wisdom; Gil, Jose M.
Author Affiliation: CREDA-UPC-IRTA, Barcelona; CREDA-UPC-IRTA, Barcelona
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 73-81
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Obesity is projected to increase in the coming years, despite the various socioeconomic policies implemented by governments and policy makers. As a result, some studies have suggested that obesity should be looked at from a psychological point of view, that is, individuals' propensity to become addicted to the consumption of fat-rich foods. Although previous studies have supported this, the results have been inconclusive: methodologically and geographically. This study uses a robust approach to elicit the risk and time preferences of food consumers. It goes further to ascertain the correlations between these parameters and obesity. Despite the methodological and geographical differences, our results support a strong relationship between body mass Index and risk aversion, but not for loss aversion. In addition, time discounting significantly influences individuals' propensity to increase body mass Index.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.005
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808508

**Subjects:** Consumer Economics: Empirical Analysis ; Health Behavior ; Food; Beverages; Cosmetics; Tobacco; Wine and Spirits

Title:

**[How Does Alcohol Access Affect Transitional Adults' Healthy Dietary Behaviors?](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzprc%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "How Does Alcohol Access Affect Transitional Adults' Healthy Dietary Behaviors?)**

Author: Nguyen, Hieu
Author Affiliation: U of Tennessee
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 82-95
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Despite the rich evidence of the negative effects of alcohol on health, educational, and labor market outcomes, less is known about whether or how lowering the cost of accessing alcohol affects youths' healthy dietary behaviors. Our study addresses this gap by employing individual-level data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). Exploiting the age cutoff in the US minimum legal drinking age law, we find that the transition to the age of 21 coincides with a discontinuous increase in the consumption of fruit and vegetables among the overall NLSY97 sample. One possible explanation for this seemingly counterintuitive result is that some youths re-optimized in response to an exogenous reduction in the cost of alcohol access. We separated the results by drinking status and gender, scrutinized the drinking subsample, and found suggestive evidence in support of this hypothesis. We also examined different sociodemographic subgroups to better understand the heterogeneous local average treatment effects of the universal MLDA policy.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.06.002
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808509

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Health: Government Policy; Regulation; Public Health ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Food; Beverages; Cosmetics; Tobacco; Wine and Spirits

Title:

**[The Reciprocal Relationship between Depressive Symptoms and Employment Status](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp64%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Reciprocal Relationship between Depressive Symptoms and Employment Status)**

Author: Bubonya, Melisa; Cobb-Clark, Deborah A.; Ribar, David C.
Author Affiliation: U of Sydney; U of Sydney; Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, U of Melbourne and IZA, Bonn
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 96-106
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: This paper analyzes the reciprocal lagged relationship between depressive symptoms and employment status. We find that severe depressive symptoms contribute to a 25.6% increase in subsequent non-employment rates, a 20.7% increase in non-participation rates and 34.2% increase in unemployment rates, for men. Similar, although weaker, marginal effects are found for women. However, we find no evidence for men and only limited evidence for women that unemployment, non-employment, or non-participation raises the risks of severe depressive symptoms. We observe an impact of labor market status on depressive symptoms only when using point-in-time measures.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.002
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808510

**Subjects:** Employment; Unemployment; Wages; Intergenerational Income Distribution; Aggregate Human Capital; Aggregate Labor Productivity ; Health Behavior ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Labor Force and Employment, Size, and Structure

Title:

**[Can Positive Income Anticipations Reverse the Mental Health Impacts of Negative Income Anxieties?](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp68%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Can Positive Income Anticipations Reverse the Mental Health Impacts of Negative Income Anxieties?)**

Author: Watson, Barry; Osberg, Lars
Author Affiliation: U of New Brunswick; Dalhousie U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 107-22
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Prospect theory suggests losses are more influential than equivalent sized gains in individual level decision-making. Extending this literature, we use longitudinal National Population Health Survey data (2000-01 to 2010-11) to investigate whether experienced psychological distress impacts of greater economic insecurity for working age Canadians can be fully reversed by equal sized increases in security. Economic insecurity (security) is defined as the probability of an annual income decrease (increase) of 25 percent or more. Our identification strategy employs fixed effects estimation and a set of instruments to control for unobserved heterogeneity and reverse causality. Results suggest that an initial one standard deviation increase in economic insecurity predicts a rise in psychological distress of about 0.57 standard deviations for males and 0.54 standard deviations for females. Good economic news of a similar magnitude has considerably less impact, reducing psychological distress by 0.16 and 0.35 standard deviations for males and females respectively.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.003
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808511

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Health Behavior ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[Valuing Health Damages Due to Groundwater Arsenic Contamination in Bihar, India](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7A%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Valuing Health Damages Due to Groundwater Arsenic Contamination in Bihar, India)**

Author: Thakur, Barun Kumar; Gupta, Vijaya
Author Affiliation: FLAME U; NITIE, Mumbai
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 123-32
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: This paper estimates the health damages due to arsenicosis among people residing in two districts of Bihar, India. A primary survey of 388 households' comprises 3469 individuals from two arsenic-contaminated districts namely Patna and Bhojpur from Bihar was conducted to collect the data. Arsenic field test kits was used to test the arsenic level in drinking water of the sample households. The water test results indicate that 18.3% of the sample contained 50 ppb of arsenic, and 5.12% of the sample contained the arsenic between 300 and 500 ppb. Water source, doctor visits, work loss, and arsenic concentration levels are significant and positively related to arsenicosis, and awareness is significant but negatively related to arsenicosis. The incidence rate of arsenicosis was found to be more among females than males and children. Per-capita income, sanitation, awareness, and depth of water sources are significant and positively related to defensive activities, i.e., water purification. The annual wage loss, cost of treatment, and cost of illness for sample households are estimated as INR 2437.92 ($45.83), INR 5942.40 ($111.72) and INR 8380.32 ($157.55), respectively. The annual cost of illness for the society is estimated as INR 265.97 million ($5 million). Finally, the paper suggests policy implications of providing safe drinking water in the arsenic-affected areas in the State of Bihar, India, which can help reduce arsenicosis in sustainable manner, improve well-being and potential productivity.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.06.005
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808512

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Gas Utilities; Pipelines; Water Utilities ; Economic Development: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Energy; Environment; Other Primary Products ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Renewable Resources and Conservation: Water ; Air Pollution; Water Pollution; Noise; Hazardous Waste; Solid Waste; Recycling

Title:

**[Does Point-of-Sale Nutrition Information Improve the Nutritional Quality of Food Choices?](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7E%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Does Point-of-Sale Nutrition Information Improve the Nutritional Quality of Food Choices?)**

Author: Melo, Grace; Zhen, Chen; Colson, Greg
Author Affiliation: Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile; U of Georgia; U of Georgia
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 133-43
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Point-of-sale nutrition information has been adopted by numerous grocery stores to respond to the demand for easy-to-understand nutrition labeling by consumers. Although there is conflicting evidence regarding the effectiveness of providing nutrition information, previous research indicates simplified shelf nutrition labels may lead to healthier choices. However, these studies have not examined how different consumer segments respond to these labels, nor the differential impacts across foods. Using household purchase data from a store that voluntarily adopted the (now defunct) NuVal shelf nutrition labels (a 1-100 numeric score derived from a nutrition-profiling algorithm), we assess NuVal impacts across different consumers and foods. NuVal scores potentially influence not only purchase quantity but also likelihood of buying. Thus, the effect of NuVal was measured by estimating a two-part model and predicting consumers' unconditional purchase responses. We found evidence of heterogeneous impacts of NuVal across consumers and foods. High-income households and households with children shifted their yogurt and frozen dinner purchases to more healthful items. In contrast, households with children and households headed by heads with college education slightly shifted their canned soup purchases to less healthful options. Our findings suggest that specific foods and consumer segments are influenced by simplified shelf nutrition information and further research is necessary to better understand its effect on consumer dietary quality.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.07.001
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808513

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Information and Product Quality; Standardization and Compatibility ; Food; Beverages; Cosmetics; Tobacco; Wine and Spirits ; Retail and Wholesale Trade; e-Commerce

Title:

**[Ex-Ante Inequality of Opportunity in Child Malnutrition: New Evidence from Ten Developing Countries in Asia](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7I%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Ex-Ante Inequality of Opportunity in Child Malnutrition: New Evidence from Ten Developing Countries in Asia)**

Author: Aizawa, Toshiaki
Author Affiliation: U of York
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 144-61
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: This study explores the inequality of opportunity in child malnutrition in ten developing countries in Asia, where a high proportion of children still remain vulnerable to food insecurity. This study takes account of multidimensional aspects of household and parental socio-economic status, and partitions children into distinct types through a data-driven clustering method. This is followed by a comparison of the malnutrition rates between types. Next, we decompose the observed disparity into the factors that are associated with the between-type disparity in malnutrition rates through a non-linear decomposition method. The results indicate that in all 10 countries, significant between-type disparities are found. We find the largest difference in Pakistan as 21.7 percentage points and the smallest difference in Maldives as 5.9 percentage points. In five of the ten countries, the difference in household affluence explains the largest part of the observed between-type disparity. All the results suggest that priority should be given to protecting children from marginalised households in order to mitigate the inequality in child health.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.06.003
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808514

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic Development: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Energy; Environment; Other Primary Products ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Agricultural Policy; Food Policy

Title:

**[Studying the Impact of the Eurozone's Great Recession on Health: Methodological Choices and Challenges](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7M%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Studying the Impact of the Eurozone's Great Recession on Health: Methodological Choices and Challenges)**

Author: Thompson, Kristina; Ophem, Johan van; Wagemakers, Annemarie
Author Affiliation: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Wageningen U; Wageningen U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 162-84
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Europe's Great Recession provides an opportunity to study the impact of increased financial insecurity on health. A number of studies explored the impact of the Recession on health, but they often reached different conclusions. To understand the root of this debate, we undertook a systematic literature review. Articles were analysed thematically based on: geography, data type, operationalisations of wealth and health, and study design. A critical appraisal was also undertaken. Forty-two studies, published from January 2010 to October 2018, were included in our review. Twenty-six of the forty-two studies found that the Great Recession worsened physical health indicators in the Eurozone. In terms of geography, a large concentration of studies focussed on Spain and Greece, indicating that there may be a gap in understanding the health consequences for EU countries with less severe experiences of the Recession. Regarding data type, nearly all studies used secondary datasets, possibly meaning that studies were constrained by the data available. In terms of operationalisations of wealth and health, a majority of studies used single/simple measures of both, so that these multi-faceted concepts were not fully reflected. Further, fewer than half included studies used panel data, with the remaining studies unable to undertake more causal analyses. The results of the critical appraisal showed that lower-quality studies tended to not find a negative impact of the Recession on health, whereas higher quality studies generally did. In future, we recommend conducting cross-country comparisons, using (inter)nationally-representative panel data conducted over a minimum of a ten-year time horizon, and employing multi-faceted operationalisations of wealth and health. This could provide more common ground across studies, and a clearer indication of whether the Recession impacted health.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.06.004
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808515

**Subjects:** Business Fluctuations; Cycles ; Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Agricultural Policy; Food Policy

Title:

**[Living Standards and Inequality in the Industrial Revolution: Evidence from the Height of University of Edinburgh Students in the 1830s](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7Q%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Living Standards and Inequality in the Industrial Revolution: Evidence from the Height of University of Edinburgh Students in the 1830s)**

Author: Blum, Matthias; McLaughlin, Eoin
Author Affiliation: U College Cork; U College Cork
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 185-92
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Trends in living standards during the Industrial Revolution is a core debate in economic history. Studies using anthropometric records from institutional sources have found downward trends in living standards during the first half of the nineteenth century. This paper contributes to this literature by utilising an overlooked source of middle and upper class anthropometric data: the height and weight of university students. Combined with more traditional anthropometric sources these data give us a snapshot into the range of living standards experienced by different sections of society in the United Kingdom. Our findings suggest that inequality was most pronounced in Ireland, followed by England. Height inequality in Scotland was still substantial, but somewhat lower in comparison.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.07.004
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808516

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913

Title:

**[Health and Transitions into Nonemployment and Early Retirement among Older Workers in Canada](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7U%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Health and Transitions into Nonemployment and Early Retirement among Older Workers in Canada)**

Author: Chen, Wen-Hao
Author Affiliation: Statistics Canada
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 193-206
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: Extending working lives is considered a viable solution to fiscal and macroeconomic challenges related to population ageing. Opportunities for sustained employment, however, are not experienced equally among older population, particularly among those with a health problem. This study aims to examine the longer-term effect of health on employment trajectories in later part of working life using a unique survey-administrative linked dataset for Canada. Specifically, we apply competing-risks models to analyze whether different aspects of health conditions at baseline predict subsequent exit routes, including nonemployment and early retirement. The nonparametric findings of the paper show that only about 33% of workers aged 50-62 with a health problem at baseline remained employed at age 64, compared to 55% of healthy workers. Exiting into nonemployment seemed more common among leavers with activity limitations, while early retirement was more likely among healthy leavers. These results are robust even when individuals' preferences for work and financial factors were controlled for. Moreover, we identify differential impacts of specific chronic diseases on early work exit. Not all symptoms affect employment transitions to a similar extent. Older workers who reported the comorbidity of mental and musculoskeletal disorders faced an increased risk of nonemployment, while the presence of diabetes and cardiovascular problems at baseline were more predictive of early retirement.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.06.001
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808517

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economics of the Elderly; Economics of the Handicapped; Non-labor Market Discrimination ; Retirement; Retirement Policies

Title:

**[On the Measurement of Health and Its Effect on the Measurement of Health Inequality](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2burlCzp7Y%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "On the Measurement of Health and Its Effect on the Measurement of Health Inequality)**

Author: Nesson, Erik T.; Robinson, Joshua J.
Author Affiliation: Ball State U; U of Alabama at Birmingham
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, December 2019, v. 35, pp. 207-21
Publication Date: December 2019
Abstract: We examine the extent to which self-reported health measures suffer from income-related reporting heterogeneity and then characterize how this reporting heterogeneity affects the estimation of income-related health inequality. We run a comprehensive set of tests of reporting heterogeneity using several self-reported health measures and several clinical measures of health from the National Health and Nutritional Examination Surveys. We propose the use of a multidimensional measure using clinical indicators of health in the context of measuring income-related health inequality, and we examine the extent of income-related health inequality, as measured by the concentration index, using both self-reported measures of health and the multidimensional clinical measure. Our results confirm the existence of significant, positive, income-related reporting heterogeneity and also suggest that higher income individuals react more strongly to a change in clinical health measures. Using self-assessed health suggests that income-related health inequality is about three times larger than when using more objective, self-reported health measures and ten times larger than when using the multidimensional clinical measure of health.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.07.003
Update Code: 20200109
AN: 1808518

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior

Title:

**[Introduction to the Special Issue in Honor of John Komlos, the Founding Editor of Economics and Human Biology](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Introduction to the Special Issue in Honor of John Komlos, the Founding Editor of Economics and Human Biology)**

Author: Kelly, Inas; Baten, Joerg
Author Affiliation: Embrapa Pecuaria Sudeste, Sao Carlos; Eberhard-Karls-Universitat Tuebingen and CESifo, Munich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 1-4
Publication Date: August 2019
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.07.002
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782044

**Subjects:** Introductory Material

Title:

**[Decomposing Adult Obesity Trends in China (1991-2011)](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Decomposing Adult Obesity Trends in China (1991-2011))**

Author: Nie, Peng; Ding, Lanlin; Sousa-Poza, Alfonso
Author Affiliation: Xi'an Jiaotong U and Institute for Health Care and Public Management, U of Hohenheim; Xi'an Jiaotong U; Institute for Health Care and Public Management, U of Hohenheim
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 5-15
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Using data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey, this study analyses two decades (1991-2011) of change in adult obesity in China with a focus on whether rising obesity rates result from all population cohorts becoming more obese across time (intra-cohort change) or recent cohorts being more obese than their earlier counterparts (inter-cohort change or cohort replacement). To do so, we decompose changes in the body mass index (BMI), waist circumference (WC), general obesity and abdominal obesity of adults aged 20+ using both Firebaugh's linear decomposition and Das Gupta's non-linear technique. Our analysis not only reveals significant increases in both general and abdominal obesity (8.1 and 32 percentage points, respectively) in the two decades studied but shows that the rising means in all four measures are mostly attributable to intra-cohort change. In fact, contrary to findings for the U.S., inter-cohort change for the Chinese sample is actually negative, implying that cohort replacement attenuates intra-cohort change over time. Given that intra-cohort change is the central force for the increase in BMI, WC and obesity with individual increases in obesity widely distributed across all cohorts and age groups over time, policy interventions should focus more broadly on all age groups and birth cohorts.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.001
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782045

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Socialist Institutions and Their Transitions: Consumer Economics; Health; Education and Training: Welfare, Income, Wealth, and Poverty

Title:

**[Understanding Recent Trends in Childhood Obesity in the United States](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrQ%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Understanding Recent Trends in Childhood Obesity in the United States)**

Author: Anderson, Patricia M.; Butcher, Kristin F.; Schanzenbach, Diane Whitmore
Author Affiliation: Dartmouth College; Wellesley College; Northwestern U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 16-25
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: The prevalence of childhood obesity in the United States has more than tripled over the last four decades from 5 percent in 1978 to 18.5 percent in 2016. There is evidence for a break in trend in recent years: after growing from 0.4 to 0.7 percentage point per year between 1978 and 2004, the rate of increase has slowed to 0.1 percentage point per year from 2004 to 2016. To better understand these trends, in this paper we analyze a range of datasets that collect information on childhood obesity. We analyze the data overall, across the age distribution, across birth cohorts, and for subgroups of interest. We find steady increases in cohort-level obesity prevalence through approximately age 10, with levels unchanged thereafter, suggesting a need for additional interventions at early ages. We find that the prevalence of obesity has diverged by race and gender in recent years, especially among children entering kindergarten. Compared with 5-year-olds in 1997, 5-year-olds in 2010 were 2 percentage points more likely to be obese overall. Black and Hispanic 5-year-olds were 5 and 3 percentage points more likely to be obese, respectively, while whites had a 1 percentage point increase in obesity. However, overall and among all subgroups the rate of growth in obesity from kindergarten through 3rd grade has declined in recent years. Together, these findings can inform a future research literature that aims to target obesity interventions where they will be most impactful.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.002
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782046

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[Late 19th, Early 20th Century US, Foreign-Born Body Mass Index Values in the United States](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrU%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Late 19th, Early 20th Century US, Foreign-Born Body Mass Index Values in the United States)**

Author: Carson, Scott Alan
Author Affiliation: U of Texas of the Permian Basin
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 26-38
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Little work exists that compares the BMIs of 19th century foreign-born and US-born natives. Russian, Italian, German, and French BMIs were 5.1, 3.9, 2.9, and 1.8 percent higher than that of North Americans; Asians were nearly 4.2 percent lower. African-Americans and multiracial/multiethnic individual BMIs were 4.9 and 3.8 percent greater than fairer complexioned whites, indicating there was no multiracial/multiethnic BMI advantage. Farm laborers and ranchers had BMIs that were 2.9 percent and 2.2 percent greater, respectively, than that of workers with no occupations.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.003
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782047

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economics of Minorities, Races, Indigenous Peoples, and Immigrants; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: U.S.; Canada: Pre-1913

Title:

**[The Price of Ultra-processed Foods and Beverages and Adult Body Weight: Evidence from U.S. Veterans](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrY%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Price of Ultra-processed Foods and Beverages and Adult Body Weight: Evidence from U.S. Veterans)**

Author: Powell, Lisa M.; Jones, Kelly; Duran, Ana Clara; Tarlov, Elizabeth; Zenk, Shannon N.
Author Affiliation: U of Illinois at Chicago; U of Illinois at Chicago; Center for Food Studies, U of Campinas; U of Illinois at Chicago and Center of Innovation for Complex Chronic Healthcare, Edward Hines, Jr VA Hospital; U of Illinois at Chicago
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 39-48
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: The consumption of ultra-processed foods in the U.S. and globally has increased and is associated with lower diet quality, higher energy intake, higher body weight, and poorer health outcomes. This study drew on individual-level data on measured height and weight from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical records for adults aged 20 to 64 from 2009 through 2014 linked to food and beverage price data from the Council for Community and Economic Research to examine the association between the price of ultra-processed foods and beverages and adult body mass index (BMI). We estimated geographic fixed effects models to control for unobserved heterogeneity of prices. We estimated separate models for men and women and we assessed differences in price sensitivity across subpopulations by socioeconomic status (SES). The results showed that a one-dollar increase in the price of ultra-processed foods and beverages was associated with 0.08 lower BMI units for men (p <= 0.05) (price elasticity of BMI of -0.01) and 0.14 lower BMI units for women (p <= 0.10) (price elasticity of BMI of -0.02). Higher prices of ultra-processed foods and beverages were associated with lower BMI among low-SES men (price elasticity of BMI of -0.02) and low-SES women (price elasticity of BMI of -0.07) but no statistically significant associations were found for middle- or high-SES men or women. Robustness checks based on the estimation of an individual-level fixed effects model found a consistent but smaller association between the price of ultra-processed foods and beverages and BMI among women (price elasticity of BMI of -0.01) with a relatively larger association for low-SES women (price elasticity of BMI of -0.04) but revealed no association for men highlighting the importance of accounting for individual-level unobserved heterogeneity.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.006
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782048

**Subjects:** Consumer Economics: Empirical Analysis ; Health Behavior ; Food; Beverages; Cosmetics; Tobacco; Wine and Spirits

Title:

**[Peer Effects of Obesity on Child Body Composition](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquqrc%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Peer Effects of Obesity on Child Body Composition)**

Author: Strombotne, Kiersten L.; Fletcher, Jason M.; Schlesinger, Mark J.
Author Affiliation: American Institute for Research, Washington, DC; U of Wisconsin-Madison; Yale U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 49-57
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This study investigates whether peer obesity is a driver of individual weight changes in public school children and whether the impact of peer effects changes as children age. Quantifying peer effects is important for understanding the social determinants of obesity and for planning effective school wellness policies. However, the extant empirical research on peer effects is limited due to difficulties in separating causal influences from confounding factors. This study overcomes some of these difficulties by using a within-school, across-cohort empirical design to separate confounding factors at the individual, school and school-grade level for over one million public school children. The results show that increases a one standard deviation increase in average classmate body mass index (BMI) leads to a modest but meaningful increase of 0.395 standard deviation increase in a child's own BMI. Peer-effects are highest (0.813) for children in Kindergarten and decline with age. These findings suggest that the critical time for school-grade level intervention may be in the earliest ages of childhood development.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.003
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782049

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[How Does Body Mass Index Affect Economic Growth? A Comparative Analysis of Countries by Levels of Economic Development](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq64%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "How Does Body Mass Index Affect Economic Growth? A Comparative Analysis of Countries by Levels of Economic Development)**

Author: Kelly, Inas R.; Doytch, Nadia; Dave, Dhaval
Author Affiliation: Loyola Marymount U; Brooklyn College, CUNY and CUNY Graduate Center; Bentley U and IZA, Bonn
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 58-73
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: The WHO views obesity as a significant risk to population health. Evidence suggests that obesity reduces labor-market attachment, worker productivity, and earnings. This link at the micro level may translate into adverse effects on economic growth at the macro level. Few studies have evaluated how body mass index impacts economic growth across and within countries. This sparse evidence base reflects the lack of consistent data across a broad spectrum of countries and timespan, as well as the empirical difficulties in bypassing endogeneity bias relating to unobserved selection and potential reverse causality between bodyweight and GDP. We address both of these challenges by first assembling a comprehensive panel of data spanning 116 countries over 25 years (1984-2008), and then presenting, to the best of our knowledge, the first empirical study of economic growth and obesity correcting for endogeneity. Our GMM estimates indicate that, in developed countries, a higher level of BMI has direct negative effects on economic growth in a fully saturated model that controls for levels of **human** capital. In particular, we predict that the increase in BMI over the time period of analysis may have reduced potential economic growth over this period by between 3.5-5.8 percentage points.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782050

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Macroeconomic Analyses of Economic Development ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Empirical Studies of Economic Growth; Aggregate Productivity; Cross-Country Output Convergence

Title:

**[Length of Residence and Obesity Risk among North African Immigrant Women in Italy](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq68%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Length of Residence and Obesity Risk among North African Immigrant Women in Italy)**

Author: Toselli, Stefania; Rinaldo, Natascia; Gualdi-Russo, Emanuela
Author Affiliation: U of Bologna; U of Ferrara; U of Ferrara
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 74-79
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Obesity is one of the major risks for chronic health conditions. Immigrants from low- and middle-income to high-income countries show a tendency to weight gain, with the country of origin, lifestyle habits, socioeconomic status and length of residence as the main factors involved. Thus, the aim of this study was to analyze the association between fat distribution and obesity with length of residence and other socio-demographic variables in a sample of North African women migrated to Italy. Socio-demographic variables were collected by structured face-to-face interview. For the assessment of weight status and body composition, various anthropometric traits were directly measured by an expert anthropometrist. Data were analyzed using ANCOVA adjusted for age to test the differences between length of residence (divided into three groups) and logistic regression models adjusted for covariates to test the association between overweight and/or obesity and length of residence. Significant differences between the three groups were observed in waist circumference (p = 0.004), waist-to-hip ratio (p = 0.001), and upper arm muscularity (p = 0.025), with higher values in those with longer duration of residence. In the crude logistic regression model length of residence resulted positively associated with obesity with the odds of being obese increased by 2.4 times in long term immigrants [OR 2.364 (0.766; 7.296)]. After adjusting for covariate the association remained significant [OR 3.584 (0.779; 16.480)], and being poorly educated [OR 5.737 (0.641; 51.363)], unemployed [OR 6.892 (0.940; 50.528)] and not practicing regular physical activity [OR 17.736 (1.569; 200.418)] increased the odds ratio of being obese. In conclusion, length of residence, socioeconomic status, and physical activity were significantly correlated with obesity, with a longer duration of residence being positively associated with central fat adiposity and upper arm muscle area in North African migrant women.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.008
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782051

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economics of Minorities, Races, Indigenous Peoples, and Immigrants; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[The Double Burden of Malnutrition among Youth: Trajectories and Inequalities in Four Emerging Economies](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7A%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Double Burden of Malnutrition among Youth: Trajectories and Inequalities in Four Emerging Economies)**

Author: Schott, Whitney; Aurino, Elisabetta; Penny, Mary E.; Behrman, Jere R.
Author Affiliation: Population Studies Center, U of Pennsylvania and AJ Drexel Autism Institute, Drexel U; Imperial College London and U of Oxford; Instituto de Investigacion Nutricional, Lima; U of Pennsylvania
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 80-91
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: As part of the nutritional transition, undernutrition is globally declining while changes brought by economic development have ushered in increases in overweight and its related economic costs and health consequences around the world. We examine trajectories in stunting and overweight from age one year to mid-adolescence and from mid-childhood to early adulthood among two cohorts from Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam using data from the Young Lives study. We examine descriptive data and then model trajectories in stunting and overweight status over age. Group-based trajectory analysis with five ages of overweight and stunting for each country-cohort reveals (1) trajectories of catch-up growth for a subset of study children between the ages of 12 and 19 in the older cohort in Ethiopia (20.1% of the cohort), India (20.5%), Peru (16.9%), and Vietnam (14.0%); (2) trajectories of increasing probabilities of stunting as children age from 12 to 22 in the older cohort in India (22.2%) and Peru (30.7%); (3) trajectories of early (childhood) increases in overweight probabilities (younger cohort: India, 3.4%, Peru, 19.4%, and Vietnam, 8.1%), and of later (adolescence) increases in overweight probabilities (older cohort: Ethiopia, 0.5%, India, 6.3%, Peru, 40.9%, and Vietnam, 9.4%). Multinomial logit prediction of membership in trajectory categories reveals that higher wealth quartiles and maternal schooling are protective against high stunting probability trajectory group membership, but higher wealth and urban residence predict high overweight probability trajectory group membership. This evidence suggests a window of opportunity for interventions to reduce stunting and to avert overweight development in adolescence, in addition to the often-emphasized first 1000 days after conception. A life-course approach to policies and programs to target both undernutrition and overweight should be considered.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.009
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782052

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic Development:

Title:

**[The Biological Wellbeing of the Working-Poor: The Height of Prisoners in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, 1885-1939\*](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7E%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Biological Wellbeing of the Working-Poor: The Height of Prisoners in Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, 1885-1939*)**

Author: Salvatore, Ricardo
Author Affiliation: Universidad Torcuato Di Tella
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 92-102
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: As a way to contribute to the debate on social inequality, poverty, and well-being in Argentina's long-term development, this article presents new evidence on the stature of prisoners in Buenos Aires province, the richest province in the Pampa region. The evidence shows very modest gains in the stature of prisoners for the period 1885-1939. This finding clearly indicates the persistence of early childhood malnutrition and poor health among families of the working-poor in the small towns of Buenos Aires province. Five decades of modest stature growth underscores the limitation of state policies of education, sanitation, and social reform in elevating the health and nutrition conditions of the working-poor. At the heart of the pampas, in the context of a successful food exporting economy, a working-class population cursed by the combination of low **human** capital and social vulnerability failed to attained a substantial improvement in their biological wellbeing.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.007
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782053

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Measurement and Analysis of Poverty ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Latin America; Caribbean ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Adult Body Height as a Mediator between Early-Life Conditions and Socio-economic Status: The Case of the Dutch Potato Famine, 1846-1847](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7I%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Adult Body Height as a Mediator between Early-Life Conditions and Socio-economic Status: The Case of the Dutch Potato Famine, 1846-1847)**

Author: Thompson, Kristina; Lindeboom, Maarten; Portrait, France
Author Affiliation: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Tinbergen Institute; Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 103-14
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Adult body height appears to be a relatively accurate summary variable of early-life exposures' influence on health, and may be a useful indicator of health in populations where more traditional health-related indicators are lacking. In particular, previous studies have shown a strong, positive relationship between environmental conditions in early life (particularly nutritional availability and the disease environment) and adult height. Research has also demonstrated positive associations between height and socioeconomic status. We therefore hypothesize that height mediates the relationship between early-life conditions and later-life socio-economic outcomes. We also hypothesize that the period of exposure in early life matters, and that conditions during pregnancy or the first years of life and/or the years during puberty have the largest effects on height and socio-economic status. To test these relationships, we use a sample of 1817 Dutch military conscripts who were exposed during early life to the Dutch Potato Famine (1846-1847). We conduct mediation analyses using structural equation modelling, and test seven different time periods in early-life. We use potato prices and real wages to proxy early-life environmental conditions, and occupational status (using the HISCAM scale) to proxy socioeconomic status. We find no evidence of mediation, partial or full, in any models. However, there are significant relationships between potato prices in adolescence, height and socio-economic status. To determine causality in these relationships, further research is needed.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.006
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782054

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, and Extractive Industries: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Environmental Economics: General

Title:

**[Do You Have to Be Tall and Educated to Be a Migrant? Evidence from Spanish Recruitment Records, 1890-1950](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7M%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Do You Have to Be Tall and Educated to Be a Migrant? Evidence from Spanish Recruitment Records, 1890-1950)**

Author: Juif, Dacil; Quiroga, Gloria
Author Affiliation: Universidad Carlos III de Madrid; Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 115-24
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: We use Spanish military records stemming from the late-19th to the mid-20th century to assess internal migrants' self-selection. We find that migrants were, on average over the whole period, around one centimeter taller than non-migrants, and in the booming 1920s, the height advantage of movers reached three centimeters. The positive self-selection was larger for migrants originating in poorer provinces and traveling longer distances. A further finding is that migrants were positively selected in terms of literacy and socio-economic status according to their occupation. Professionals were most likely to have migrated internally and farmers least.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.006
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782055

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Economics of Minorities, Races, Indigenous Peoples, and Immigrants; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: 1913-

Title:

**[Inequality among Industrial Workers in the Late 19th Century United States](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7Q%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Inequality among Industrial Workers in the Late 19th Century United States)**

Author: Haines, Michael R.
Author Affiliation: Colgate U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 125-37
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This paper uses the large cross sectional survey of 8544 workers in nine industries (pig iron, bar iron, steel, coal, coke, cottons, woolens, and glass) in the United States and five European countries (Belgium, Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Switzerland) to examine inequality in the industrial working class in the late nineteenth century. The paper looks at incomes, the food budget share (estimated using the Almost Ideal Demand System), and home ownership. The results show regular gradients with the unskilled workers doing less well than semi-skilled and skilled workers. Despite the lack of proprietors, farmers, and other groups with significant income from property, such surveys can be useful in the study of the historical aspects of inequality.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.005
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782056

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Human Capital; Skills; Occupational Choice; Labor Productivity ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: U.S.; Canada: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913

Title:

**[Health and Wealth in the Roman Empire](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7U%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Health and Wealth in the Roman Empire)**

Author: Jongman, Willem M.; Jacobs, Jan P. A. M.; Klein Goldewijk, Geertje M.
Author Affiliation: U of Groningen; U of Groningen; U of Groningen
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 138-50
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Ancient Rome was the largest and most populous empire of its time, and the largest pre-industrial state in European history. Recent though not universally accepted research suggests that at least for the most populous central periods of its history standard of living was also rather higher than before or after. To trace whether this is also reflected in Roman biological standard of living, we present the first large and more or less comprehensive dataset, based on skeletal data for some 10,000 individuals, covering all periods of Roman history, and all regions (even if inevitably unequally). We discuss both the methodologies that we developed and the historical results. Instead of reconstructing heights from the long bones assuming fixed body proportions or from one individual long bone, we apply exploratory factor analysis and calculate factor scores for 50-year periods. Our measure of the biological standard of living declined during the last two centuries B.C. and started to improve again, slowly at first, from the second century A.D. It correlated negatively with population, but also with other aspects of standard of living such as wages or diets.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.005
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782057

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913

Title:

**[Development of Regional Variety of the Biological Standard of Living in the Netherlands, 1812-1913](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7Y%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Development of Regional Variety of the Biological Standard of Living in the Netherlands, 1812-1913)**

Author: Tassenaar, Vincent
Author Affiliation: U of Groningen
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 151-61
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This study focuses on regional patterns in stature in Dutch society during the 19th and early 20th century (1813-1913). To analyze regional patterns and transitions the HSN Database Giants is used. Results confirm that in the first period (1830-1860) differences in the biological standard of living were substantial. The less market-oriented inland provinces had the highest level. This is in line with the Komlos-hypothesis. The modernization of the Dutch economy in the second half of the 19th century was accompanied by a substantial increase in average height and a reversal of the spatial pattern of living standards as modernization was more important in the market oriented regions. Nevertheless, regional differences remained substantial and there was no pattern of convergence. Conscripts from the market-oriented coastal provinces took over the lead from the inland provinces. I tested for an urban premium during the last period (1890-1913). This was confirmed, although it did not manifest itself in cities like Amsterdam and Rotterdam, but rather in medium-sized and small cities.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782058

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Regional and Urban History: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Regional Economic Activity: Growth, Development, Environmental Issues, and Changes

Title:

**[Between the Great War and the Great Depression: Preliminary Observations on the 'Missing Link' in the History of Human Stature in Poland](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkquq7c%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Between the Great War and the Great Depression: Preliminary Observations on the 'Missing Link' in the History of Human Stature in Poland)**

Author: Kopczynski, Michal
Author Affiliation: Institute of History, U of Warsaw
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 162-68
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: The paper traces the secular trend in stature in Poland in the interwar period. On the basis of individual measuring cards created by military authorities for Krosno and Sarny districts, the author states that the secular trend in stature that started in the mid-1860s continued between the two world wars with the velocity of at least 0.7 cm per decade, i.e. at a similar rate as in the second half of the 19th century. Although regional differences inside the Second Polish Republic were clearly visible, cohorts born during the Great War were able to make up the lost ground in their teens despite the hardships caused by the Great Depression of the 1930s.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.001
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782059

**Subjects:** Financial Crises ; National Security and War ; Economic History: Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics; Industrial Structure; Growth; Fluctuations: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics; Industrial Structure; Growth; Fluctuations: Europe: 1913- ; Economic History: Government, War, Law, International Relations, and Regulation: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Government, War, Law, International Relations, and Regulation: Europe: 1913-

Title:

**[Height Development of Men and Women from China, South Korea, and Taiwan during the Rapid Economic Transformation Period of the 1960s-1980s](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurK4%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Height Development of Men and Women from China, South Korea, and Taiwan during the Rapid Economic Transformation Period of the 1960s-1980s)**

Author: Schwekendiek, Daniel; Baten, Joerg
Author Affiliation: Sungkyunkwan U and U of Oxford; U of Tuebingen and CESifo, Munich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 169-80
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: We study height trends among Chinese, South Korean, and Taiwanese groups during the rapid economic growth period of the 1960s to the 1980s. Heights rose strongly as income grew. Did rapid income growth also cause a decline in gender inequality? Or did it rise because the gains were unevenly distributed? Gender inequality is particularly interesting given the traditionally strong son preference in the region. For mainland China, we find that gender inequality was relatively modest in the pre-reform period (before the 1980s). Especially in comparison to the early 20th century, female heights grew faster than male heights. In contrast, the 1980s transition period to an economic system with market elements was characterized by increasing gender inequality in China. This was the case to an even greater extent in South Korea, where gender dimorphism noticeably increased during the 1980s, paralleling a similar increase in sex-selective abortions. Moreover, we also study other inequality patterns in the three countries, focusing on socioeconomic, regional, and educational differences between groups.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.005
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782060

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Socialist Institutions and Their Transitions: Consumer Economics; Health; Education and Training: Welfare, Income, Wealth, and Poverty

Title:

**[Valkyries: Was Gender Equality High in the Scandinavian Periphery since Viking Times? Evidence from Enamel Hypoplasia and Height Ratios](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurK8%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Valkyries: Was Gender Equality High in the Scandinavian Periphery since Viking Times? Evidence from Enamel Hypoplasia and Height Ratios)**

Author: Maravall Buckwalter, Laura; Baten, Joerg
Author Affiliation: U of Tuebingen; U of Tuebingen and CESifo, Munich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 181-93
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Scandinavian countries currently have very high values of female autonomy. Was this already the case in Viking Times? In this study, we trace the roots of gender equality in the Scandinavian periphery over the past two millennia. We evaluate and recommend a new measure of early gender equality: relative enamel hypoplasia values of males and females. This new indicator allows us to trace relative health and nutritional equality, using archaeological evidence. We find that Scandinavian women in the rural periphery already had relatively good health and nutritional values during the Viking era and the medieval period thereafter. The corresponding value is 0.8 equality advantage for Scandinavian women, whereas in the rest of Europe most values fall in a band around 1.2 ratio units. This suggests that the currently high gender equality had a precedence during the Middle Ages.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.007
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782061

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[Homemakers and Heights: Intra-household Resource Allocation and Male Stature in the Netherlands, 1860-1930](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLA%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Homemakers and Heights: Intra-household Resource Allocation and Male Stature in the Netherlands, 1860-1930)**

Author: Quanjer, Bjorn; Kok, Jan
Author Affiliation: Radboud U; Radboud U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 194-207
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: In this article we test the hypothesis that the secular increase in heights in the course of the second half of the nineteenth century was associated with the rise of the breadwinner-homemaker household. In these 'modern' households, women raised the living standards (quality and quantity of food, hygiene and care) for all members, especially the children. We model the assumed contributions to the family budget by age and gender of household members, and find that a strong imbalance between consumers and producers in the household put severe strains on effective resource allocation, leading to lower net nutrition and lower young adult heights. We suggest a carefully calibrated consumer/producer ratio as an indicator to capture these effects. The ratio is not meant to replace others, and we show that sibling rank order as well as gender preferences also played a role in intra-household resource allocation. For our research, we have used a database with reconstructed life histories (including co-residence) of 3003 Dutch army recruits. Our results indicate that the consumer/producer ratio as experienced by recruits in their early life indeed had a strong impact (-1,8 cm) on their heights. However, this effect differed by social class, which can be explained by differences in acceptance of the income pooling model.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.003
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782062

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Health Behavior ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: 1913-

Title:

**[Household Wealth and Gender Gap Widening in Height: Evidence from Adolescents in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLE%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Household Wealth and Gender Gap Widening in Height: Evidence from Adolescents in Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam)**

Author: Duc, Le Thuc
Author Affiliation: Centre for Analysis and Forecasting, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 208-15
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This study investigates the relationship between household wealth and child height utilizing longitudinal data on 7150 children from Ethiopia, India, Peru, and Vietnam. The concept of conditional wealth is applied to separate the influence of wealth in early childhood. Conditional wealth is the change in wealth that was unpredicted at the age of 5 years. This study finds two dimensions of heterogeneity in the wealth-gradient of adolescent height: gender and stunting status at the age of 5 years. For all four countries in the study, the effect of conditional wealth on adolescent height is stronger for boys than for girls. The estimates for the pooled sample indicate that after the age of 5 years, the growth of children who were stunted at that age is significantly more responsive to conditional wealth than the growth of non-stunted children. The analysis results show that for boys in Ethiopia, a one-standard-deviation increase in preadolescence wealth is associated with an increase of 1 cm (standard error [SE]: 0.3) in height at the age of 15 years. For boys in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, Peru, and Vietnam, the corresponding figures are 1.1 cm (SE: 0.4), 1.8 cm (SE: 0.4), and 1.2 cm (SE: 0.4), respectively. The effect of preadolescence wealth on adolescent height is not statistically significant for girls, except in some regions. Overall, the results suggest that household wealth in preadolescence disproportionately benefits the male population in these countries when using height as a proxy for health.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.008
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782063

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[The Biological Standard of Living in Indonesia during the 20th Century: Evidence from the Age at Menarche](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Biological Standard of Living in Indonesia during the 20th Century: Evidence from the Age at Menarche)**

Author: van der Eng, Pierre; Sohn, Kitae
Author Affiliation: Australian National U; Konkuk U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 216-24
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This article analyses long-term changes in the mean age at menarche (MAM) as a biological indicator of changes in the standard of living in Indonesia. It finds that MAM was about 15.5 for birth cohorts in the late-19th century, decreasing to 14.5 by the 1930s, at which level it stagnated until the gradual decrease resumed since the early 1960s to around 12.5 in the mid-2000s. The article considers that long-term improvements in nutrition, educational attainment and health care explain these trends. An international comparison of long-term changes finds that MAM in Indonesia was much lower than in Korea and China until respectively 1970 and 1990, but comparable to Japan until 1950 and to Malaysia until 1930. The article presents reasons why these differences are unlikely to be related to dissimilarities in climate and ethnicity, and concludes that they are indicative of relative standards of living.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.11.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782064

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Asia including Middle East ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[The Aggregate Income Losses from Childhood Stunting and the Returns to a Nutrition Intervention Aimed at Reducing Stunting](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Aggregate Income Losses from Childhood Stunting and the Returns to a Nutrition Intervention Aimed at Reducing Stunting)**

Author: Galasso, Emanuela; Wagstaff, Adam
Author Affiliation: World Bank; World Bank
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 225-38
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: We undertake two calculations, one for all developing countries, the other for 34 developing countries that together account for 90% of the world's stunted children. The first asks how much lower a country's per capita income is today as a result of having a fraction of its workforce been stunted in childhood. We use a development accounting framework, relying on micro-econometric estimates of the effects of childhood stunting on adult wages through their effects on years of schooling, cognitive skills, and height, parsing out the relative contribution of each set of returns to avoid double counting. We estimate that, on average, the per capita income penalty from stunting is between 5-7%, depending on the assumption. In our second calculation we estimate the economic value and the costs associates with scaling up a package of nutrition interventions using the same methodology and set of assumptions used in the first calculation. We take a package of 10 nutrition interventions that has data on both effects and costs, and we estimate the rate-of-return to gradually introducing this program over a period of 10 years in 34 countries that together account for 90% of the world's stunted children. We estimate a rate-of-return of 12%, and a benefit-cost ratio of 5:1-6:1.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.010
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782065

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Human Capital; Skills; Occupational Choice; Labor Productivity ; Wage Level and Structure; Wage Differentials ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Identifying the Limits to Socioeconomic Influences on Human Growth](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLQ%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Identifying the Limits to Socioeconomic Influences on Human Growth)**

Author: Hruschka, Daniel J.; Hackman, Joseph V.; Stulp, Gert
Author Affiliation: Arizona State U; Arizona State U; U of Groningen and Inter-university Center for Social Science Theory and Methodology, Groningen
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 239-51
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Contemporary humans occupy the widest range of socioeconomic environments in their evolutionary history, and this has revealed unprecedented environmentally-induced plasticity in physical growth. This plasticity also has limits, and identifying those limits can help researchers: (1) parse when population differences arise from environmental inputs or not and (2) determine when it is possible to infer socioeconomic disparities from disparities in body form. To illustrate potential limits to environmental plasticity, we analyze body mass index (BMI) and height data from 1,768,962 women and 207,341 men (20-49 y) living in households exhibiting 1000-fold variation in household wealth (51 countries, 1985-2017, 164 surveys) across four world regions--sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Latin America, and North Africa and the Middle East. We find that relationships of environmental inputs with both mean height and BMI bottom out at roughly 100-700 USD per capita household wealth (2011 international units, PPP), but at different basal BMIs and basal heights for different regions. The relationship with resources tops out for BMI at around 20 K-35 K USD for women, with growth potential due to environmental inputs in the range of 6.2-8.4 kg/m^{2}. By contrast, mean BMI for men and mean height for both sexes remains sensitive to environmental inputs even at levels far above the low- and middle-income samples studied here. This suggest that further work integrating comparable data from low- and high-income samples should provide a better picture of the full range of environmental inputs on **human** height and BMI. We conclude by discussing how neglecting such population-specific limits to **human** growth can lead to erroneous inferences about population differences.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.005
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782066

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic Development: Agriculture; Natural Resources; Energy; Environment; Other Primary Products ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Environmental Economics: General

Title:

**[Talented but Lazy: The Height-School Premium among Cracow's Schoolboys in the Interwar Period](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLU%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Talented but Lazy: The Height-School Premium among Cracow's Schoolboys in the Interwar Period)**

Author: Ogorek, Bartosz
Author Affiliation: Pedagogical U of Cracow
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 252-56
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: This study finds that a positive association between stature and academic performance measured by the grades for various subjects, the height-school premium, was present in a historical sample of 147 school boys attending a gymnasium (public secondary school) in Cracow, Poland, between the wars. This effect persists when controlling for a set of demographic and socio-economic variables, though the strength of the relationship is modest (0.018 higher average grade for Polish, 0.014 for mathematics, 0.016 for art, and 0.013 for the combined subjects with each centimetre of height). The differences found between the magnitude and significance of the height-premium in different school subjects could be a marker of unequal association between stature, and cognitive, social, and physical skills, suggesting at least a partial role of cognitive ability in this relationship. However, the effect visible at the school level is not consistent between different teachers of the same subjects, hence the mechanism behind the height-school premium in the analysed population to a large extent relied on the subjective judgment of the teachers, who could reward social skills but also discriminate against shorter students.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782067

**Subjects:** Analysis of Education ; Human Capital; Skills; Occupational Choice; Labor Productivity

Title:

**[Selective Mortality and the Anthropometric Status of Children in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLY%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Selective Mortality and the Anthropometric Status of Children in Low- and Middle-Income Countries)**

Author: Harttgen, Kenneth; Lang, Stefan; Seiler, Johannes
Author Affiliation: ETH Zurich; U of Innsbruck; U of Innsbruck
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 257-73
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: Despite a close relationship between the childrens' anthropometric status and mortality rates, the highest mortality rates are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, while the lowest anthropometric indicators, in particular the height-for-age z-scores, are concentrated in South Asia. This discrepancy should, however, be expected to decrease when one accounts for the survivorship bias, i.e. selective mortality. We analyse whether the survivorship bias can explain these observed differences in three standard anthropometric indicators (stunting, underweight and wasting) by using individual data of children from six waves of Demographic and Health Surveys for a large cross-section of 37 low- and middle-income countries between 1991 and 2016. We use both a matching approach and semi-parametric regression to estimate the values for the anthropometric status of deceased children. The results are twofold: first, both methods reveal that the imputed values for the anthropometric indicators are, on average, between 0.10 and 0.25 standard deviations lower than the observed anthropometric indicators. Second, since the share of deceased children in our sample is below ten per cent, the contribution of the anthropometric status of deceased children to overall anthropometric indicators is small and therefore only influences it marginally.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.001
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782068

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Does Adult Height Predict Later Mortality? Comparative Evidence from the Early Indicators Samples in the United States](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqurLc%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Does Adult Height Predict Later Mortality? Comparative Evidence from the Early Indicators Samples in the United States)**

Author: Wilson, Sven E.
Author Affiliation: Brigham Young U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 274-85
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: In this paper, I supplement widely used demographic data on white veterans of the Union Army with large and newly collected data on blacks and urban white veterans to explore the question of whether adult height predicts late-life mortality at the individual level. The data are partitioned into four demographic groups based on individual characteristics at the time of enlistment: white veterans enlisting in rural areas, mid-size cities, and large cities, and African-American veterans of the U.S. Colored Troops (USCT). Across the three groups of white veterans, mean height is positively associated with life expectancy at age 60, while both mean height and life expectancy for black veterans are very close to levels measured among the highly urbanized white veterans. I examine whether these group-level differences are robust to individual-level analysis by estimating two types of models, separately for each group: 1) 10-year mortality at age 60 using a linear probability model with company-level fixed effects and 2) a Cox proportional hazard that tracks veterans from age 60 to death. For rural whites, I find a significant U-shaped relationship between height and 10-year mortality, with both the short and the tall at significantly higher risk of death. This pattern becomes more pronounced when excluding younger recruits (under aged 24) from the analysis. But this relationship does not extend to urban whites or to blacks, where no significant height effects are found, and in which the height-mortality relationship among the highest mortality groups (whites from the largest cities and blacks) appears to be a generally positive one. Overall, the robust positive relationship between height and life expectancy at the group level does not exist at the individual level.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.05.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782069

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economics of Minorities, Races, Indigenous Peoples, and Immigrants; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[The Effects of Employment on Influenza Rates](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttkqura4%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Effects of Employment on Influenza Rates)**

Author: Markowitz, Sara; Nesson, Erik; Robinson, Joshua J.
Author Affiliation: Emory U; Ball State U; U of Alabama at Birmingham
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, August 2019, v. 34, pp. 286-95
Publication Date: August 2019
Abstract: The seasonal influenza virus afflicts millions of people in the U.S. population each year, imposing significant costs on those who fall ill, their families, employers, and the health care system. The flu is transmitted via droplet spread or close contact, and certain environments, such as schools or offices, promote transmission. In this paper, we examine whether increases in employment are associated with increased incidence of the flu. We use state-level data on the prevalence of the flu from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In our preferred specification, we find that a one percentage point increase in the employment rate increases the number of influenza related outpatient health care visits by 19%, and these effects are highly pronounced in the retail sector and healthcare sector, the sectors with the highest levels of interpersonal contact.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.04.004
Update Code: 20190822
AN: 1782070

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Labor Force and Employment, Size, and Structure

Title:

**[Relative Concerns and Sleep Behavior](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLE%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Relative Concerns and Sleep Behavior)**

Author: Akay, Alpaslan; Martinsson, Peter; Ralsmark, Hilda
Author Affiliation: U of Gothenburg and IZA, Bonn; U of Gothenburg and Linkoping U; U of Gothenburg
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 1-14
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: We investigate the relationship between relative concerns with respect to income and the quantity and quality of sleep using a 6-year panel dataset on the sleep behavior of people in Germany. We find a substantial negative association between relative income and number of hours of sleep and satisfaction with sleep, i.e., sleep quality, whereas there is no particular association between absolute level of income and sleep quantity and quality. A 10-percent increase in the income of relevant others is associated with 6-8 min decrease in a person's weekly amount of sleep on average, yet this effect is particularly strong among the relatively deprived, i.e., upward comparers, as this group shows a corresponding decrease in sleeping time of 10-12 min/week. These findings are highly robust to several specification checks, including measures of relative concerns, reference group, income inequality, and local price differences. The heterogeneity analysis reveals that the relationship is mainly driven by people with relatively fewer working hours, a higher demand for household production and leisure activities, and lower physical health and well-being.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.002
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767723

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Time Allocation and Labor Supply

Title:

**[Estimating the Educational Consequences of Teenage Childbearing: Identification, Heterogeneous Effects and the Value of Biological Relationship Information](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Estimating the Educational Consequences of Teenage Childbearing: Identification, Heterogeneous Effects and the Value of Biological Relationship Information)**

Author: Heiland, Frank; Korenman, Sanders; Smith, Rachel A.
Author Affiliation: Baruch College, CUNY; Baruch College, CUNY; Baruch College, CUNY
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 15-28
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Understanding the contribution of childbearing to social disadvantages of teenage mothers requires estimates that control for unobservables and generalize to teenage mothers. Sibling-differences and Instrumental Variables (IV) are common approaches to this end. Using the "Add Health" data, which oversampled siblings, and building on IV specifications from a widely-cited study, we compare various estimates of the consequences of teenage childbearing for schooling attainment. These IV-based estimates suggest moderate to large adverse impacts of teenage births (point estimates of -0.7 years of schooling or larger). However, the IV estimates are highly sensitive to choice of instrument and model specification. Estimates based on sibling and twin differences are consistently near zero--e.g., an estimated difference of -0.1 years between a teen mother and her biological full sister who did not have a teen birth--and are estimated with sufficient precision to exclude effects larger than -0.5 years. We review concerns about sibling methods and conclude that, despite their limitations, sibling estimates should be admitted along with other evidence on the consequences of teenage childbearing. Appreciation of the sensitivity of IV estimates and their other limitations would reinforce this conclusion.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.003
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767724

**Subjects:** Analysis of Education ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[The Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Ramadan on Stature during Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from the Indonesian Family Life Survey](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Effects of Prenatal Exposure to Ramadan on Stature during Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from the Indonesian Family Life Survey)**

Author: Kunto, Yohanes Sondang; Mandemakers, Jornt J.
Author Affiliation: Wageningen U and Research and Petra Christian U; Utrecht U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 29-39
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Many pregnant Muslim women fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. A number of studies have reported negative life outcomes in adulthood for children who were prenatally exposed to Ramadan. However, other studies document minimal to no impact on neonatal indicators. Using data from the Indonesian Family Life Survey consisting of 45,246 observations of 21,723 children born to 9771 mothers, we contribute to the current discussion on prenatal exposure to Ramadan by examining the effects on stature (height-for-age Z-scores, weight-for-age Z-scores, and body-mass-index-for-age Z-scores: HAZ, WAZ, and BAZ, respectively) from early childhood to late adolescence (0-19 years of age). We introduce an objective mother's religiosity indicator to improve the intention-to-treat estimations. Children were classified into three groups based on their mother's religion-religiosity: religious Muslims, less-religious Muslims, and non-Muslims. Using cluster-robust mother fixed-effects, we found negative effects on stature for children born to religious Muslim mothers. The effects were age-dependent and timing-sensitive. For example, children born to religious Muslim mothers were shorter in late adolescence (15-19 years of age) compared to their unexposed siblings if they were prenatally exposed in the first trimester of pregnancy (HAZ difference = -0.105 SD; p-val. <0.05). Interestingly, we found positive effects on stature for exposed less-religious Muslim children that peak in early adolescence (10-14 years of age) and negative effects on stature for exposed non-Muslim children that occur only in early childhood (0-4 years of age). We nuance our discussion of health and socioeconomic factors to explain these surprising results.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.001
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767725

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Cultural Economics: Religion

Title:

**[Inequality in Body Mass Indices across Countries: Evidence from Convergence Tests](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLQ%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Inequality in Body Mass Indices across Countries: Evidence from Convergence Tests)**

Author: Duncan, Roberto; Toledo, Patricia
Author Affiliation: Ohio U; Ohio U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 40-57
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: This study examines the long-term inequality in body mass index (BMI) based on convergence tests applied to a database of 172 countries recently published by the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration. First, we find that countries converge in clubs, which indicates that country disparities in BMIs will persist over time. Second, there are three and six convergence clubs in BMIs for female and male individuals, respectively. That is, we would not observe a single convergence pattern in body weights as the nutrition transition theory and the dietary convergence hypothesis seem to suggest. Females have only one healthy club (18.5 <= BMI < 25) and two overweight clubs (BMI >= 25). Males have three healthy clubs and three overweight clubs. Third, the analysis of club convergence indicates that BMI inequality has increased due to the BMI growth observed in club 1 (the one with the highest average BMI and led by the US) in each gender group. Finally, potential determinants of BMI such as globalization, **human** capital, income, and urbanization are relevant to understand differences across clubs. We interpret the club convergence as the result of a heterogeneous integration of countries into the global economy, which is probably related to strong domestic preferences, policies designed to manage the impacts of globalization, and shifts in productive structures.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.10.003
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767726

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Health Behavior ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Labor Market Engagement and the Body Mass Index of Working Adults: Evidence from India](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLU%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Labor Market Engagement and the Body Mass Index of Working Adults: Evidence from India)**

Author: Dang, Archana; Maitra, Pushkar; Menon, Nidhiya
Author Affiliation: U of Delhi; Monash U; Brandeis U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 58-77
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Galvanized by rapid income growth, labor market transitions in the nature of jobs, and lifestyle factors, there has been an increase in rates of obesity in many developing countries. This paper examines the relationship between BMI and sector and physical intensity of work among urban adults in India. We document that BMI is positively and significantly associated with labor market inactivity. Women in white-collar work have about 1.01 kg/m^{2} higher BMI than women in blue-collar work. For working men, the comparable estimate is approximately 1.18 kg/m^{2}. We find that the increase in overall BMI originates from those who are already at high levels of BMI. Further, relative to the non-working sample, employment in a blue-collar occupation is associated with a BMI penalty for men and women. We find suggestive evidence that the increase in BMI for women is driven by a decline in energy expenditure, while both a decrease in energy expenditure and an increase in energy intake are important in explaining BMI dynamics for men. These results are robust to a variety of specification and methodological checks, and suggest that the increasing trend in BMI may be attributed to the transition towards a more sedentary occupational structure. Overall our research underlines the important role played by occupational engagement in determining the general health of populations in developing countries.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.006
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767727

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Human Capital; Skills; Occupational Choice; Labor Productivity ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Supermarket Access and Childhood Bodyweight: Evidence from Store Openings and Closings](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLY%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Supermarket Access and Childhood Bodyweight: Evidence from Store Openings and Closings)**

Author: Zeng, Di; Thomsen, Michael R.; Nayga, Rodolfo M., Jr.; Bennett, Judy L.
Author Affiliation: U of Adelaide; U of Arkansas; U of Arkansas and Korea U; Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 78-88
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Retail food environment is increasingly considered in relation to obesity. This study investigates the impacts of access to supermarkets, the primary source of healthy foods in the United States, on the bodyweight of children. Empirical analysis uses individual-level panel data covering health screenings of public schoolchildren from Arkansas with annual georeferenced business lists, and utilizes the variations of supermarket openings and closings. There is little overall impact in either case. However, supermarket openings are found to reduce the BMI z-scores of low-income children by 0.090 to 0.096 standard deviations. Such impact remains in a variety of robustness exercises. Therefore, improvement in healthy food access could at least help reduce childhood obesity rates among certain population groups.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.004
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767728

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Retail and Wholesale Trade; e-Commerce

 Title:

**[Socioeconomic Differences in the Associations between Diabetes and Hospital Admission and Mortality among Older Adults in Europe](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qLc%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Socioeconomic Differences in the Associations between Diabetes and Hospital Admission and Mortality among Older Adults in Europe)**

Author: Rodriguez-Sanchez, Beatriz; Cantarero-Prieto, David
Author Affiliation: U of Castilla la Mancha; U of Cantabria
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 89-100
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: The aim of this study is to explain the trends in socioeconomic inequality and diabetes outcomes in terms of hospital admission and death in old European people. The sample includes 73,301 individuals, across 16 European countries taken from the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE). People being diagnosed of diabetes were more likely to be admitted to hospital than those without diabetes, although its effect dropped after controlling for clinical and functional complications. Largest associations were observed in women, people aged 50-65 years old, with medium educational level and medium household income. Diabetes was significant and positively related to mortality in the whole sample. Diabetes is significantly associated with mortality risk especially in males, oldest old people, low education and medium income people. These findings have important implications for public policies to reduce socioeconomic-related health inequalities.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.12.007
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767729

**Subjects:** Equity, Justice, Inequality, and Other Normative Criteria and Measurement ; Analysis of Health Care Markets ; Health Behavior ; Economics of the Elderly; Economics of the Handicapped; Non-labor Market Discrimination ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[Incentive Design to Boost Health for Juveniles with Medicaid Coverage: Evidence from a Field Experiment](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qa4%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Incentive Design to Boost Health for Juveniles with Medicaid Coverage: Evidence from a Field Experiment)**

Author: Edberg, Dana; Mukhopadhyay, Sankar; Wendel, Jeanne
Author Affiliation: U of Nevada; U of Nevada and IZA, Bonn; U of Nevada
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 101-15
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Augmenting incentives for juveniles with separate incentives for parents could boost juvenile efforts to reduce BMI. However, financing a parent incentive by reducing the incentives offered to adolescents could attenuate the juvenile response. In a field experiment, Medicaid-covered juveniles enrolled in a cardiac wellness program were randomly assigned to two groups: juveniles in the focused-incentive group received all earned points; juveniles in the split-incentive group split earned points with a parent. The focused-incentive group was 12.8 percentage points more likely to achieve their stipulated goals compared to the split-incentive group at the end of the 3-month active phase of the program. In contrast, members of the split-incentive group outperformed their peers in the focused-incentive group during the second quarter, and the two incentives structures were equally effective at the year-end session. Additional quasi-experimental data indicates that members of both incentivized groups significantly outperformed (focused-incentive group by 8.48 percentage points and split-incentive group by 11.0 percentage points) a pre-experiment (non-incentivized) set of juveniles enrolled in the same program at year-end.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.002
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767730

**Subjects:** Field Experiments ; Health Behavior ; Health Insurance, Public and Private ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[Retirement and Unexpected Health Shocks](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qa8%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Retirement and Unexpected Health Shocks)**

Author: Apouey, Benedicte H.; Guven, Cahit; Senik, Claudia
Author Affiliation: CNRS, Paris School of **Economics**; Deakin U; Sorbonne U and Paris School of **Economics**
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 116-23
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Is retirement good for your health? We complement previous studies by exploring the effect of retirement on unexpected health evolution. Using panel data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey (2001-2014), we construct measures of the mismatch between individual expected and actual health evolution (hereafter "health shocks"). In our approach, reverse causation running from health shocks to retirement is highly unlikely, because we look at shocks that happen after retirement, and those shocks are, by definition, unanticipated. We find that retirement decreases the probability of negative shocks (by approximately 16% to 24% for men and 14% to 23% for women) while increasing the likelihood of positive shocks (by 9% to 14% for men and 10% to 13% for women). This result is robust to the use of different lead-lag structures and of alternative measures of health change. Our findings are thus consistent with a positive impact of retirement on health.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.009
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767731

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Retirement; Retirement Policies

Title:

**[Do Fast Food Restaurants Surrounding Schools Affect Childhood Obesity?](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbA%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Do Fast Food Restaurants Surrounding Schools Affect Childhood Obesity?)**

Author: Asirvatham, Jebaraj; Thomsen, Michael R.; Nayga, Rodolfo M., Jr.; Goudie, Anthony
Author Affiliation: Southern Illinois U Carbondale; U of Arkansas; U of Arkansas; Arkansas Center for Health Improvement
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 124-33
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: In this study, we estimate the effect of fast food environment surrounding schools on childhood body mass index (BMI). We use two methods that arrive at a similar conclusion, but with different implications. Using school distance from the nearest federal highway to instrument for restaurant location, we find the surrounding restaurants to only marginally affect a student's BMI measure. The effect size also decreases with increasing radial distances from school, 0.016 standard deviations at one-third of a mile and 0.0032 standard deviations at a mile radial distance. This indicates the decreasing influence of restaurants on a child's BMI as its distance from school increases. On a subset of students who were exogenously assigned to different school food environment, we find no effect of the fast food restaurants. An important contextual aspect is that nearly all schools in this sample observed closed campus policy, which does not allow students to leave campus during lunch hours.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.011
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767732

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Sports; Gambling; Restaurants; Recreation; Tourism

Title:

**[Early Life Environment and Adult Height: The Case of Chile](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbE%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Early Life Environment and Adult Height: The Case of Chile)**

Author: Borrescio-Higa, Florencia; Bozzoli, Carlos Guillermo; Droller, Federico
Author Affiliation: Universidad Adolfo Ibanez; Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and Fundacion Bunge y Born; Universidad de Santiago de Chile
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 134-43
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: In this paper, we analyze the relationship between adult height and early-life disease environment, proxied by the infant mortality rate (IMR) in the first year of life, using cohort-region level data for Chile for 1960-1989. IMRs show a remarkable reduction of 100 points per thousand over this thirty-year period, declining from 119.4 to 21.0 per thousand. We also document a 0.96 cm increase in height per decade. We find that the drop in IMRs observed among our cohorts explains almost all of the long-term trend in rising adult heights, and that per capita GDP does not appear to have any predictive power in this context. Results are robust in a variety of specifications, which include area and cohort dummies, an adjustment for internal migration, and urbanization rates. Our results point to the long-term effect of a public health policy.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.11.003
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767733

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Health: Government Policy; Regulation; Public Health ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[Overweight and Obesity Standards and Subjective Well-Being: Evidence from China](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Overweight and Obesity Standards and Subjective Well-Being: Evidence from China)**

Author: Zeng, Qiyan; Yu, Xiaohua
Author Affiliation: Renmin U of China and U of Goettingen; Renmin U of China and U of Goettingen
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 144-48
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: The adult BMI cutoffs for overweight and obesity standards set by the Working Group on Obesity in China are exerting growing influence over daily life. Using the regression discontinuity design method, this paper confirms the existence of a statistically significant discontinuity in subjective well-being at the overweight and obesity cutoffs, respectively. The overweight standard causes a significant decrease in subjective well-being (SWB) by approximate 0.10 units, and the obesity standard by 0.14 units, both sizable. Thus the standard setting has profound social, economic and welfare impacts beyond the health scope.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.006
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767734

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; General Welfare; Well-Being ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Socialist Institutions and Their Transitions: Consumer Economics; Health; Education and Training: Welfare, Income, Wealth, and Poverty

Title:

**[Climate Change, Demographic Pressures and Global Sustainability](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Climate Change, Demographic Pressures and Global Sustainability)**

Author: Bhargava, Alok
Author Affiliation: U of Maryland
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 149-54
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: This article emphasizes the need for broader approaches for formulating policies for mitigating the effects of climate change especially in the contexts of agricultural decisions, and population health and migration. Constraints imposed by rapid population growth in developing countries for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals are discussed and evidence is presented on "unwanted" fertility from India. Second, comparisons are made for India during 2002-2016 for average well depths in 495 districts and terrestrial water storage anomalies assessed via GRACE satellites for 274 1 degree x 1 degree grids using estimated parameters from dynamic random effects models. Lastly, migration patterns especially of the highly educated from 39 sending countries to OECD countries during 2000-2010 are analyzed using dynamic random effects models and total fertility rates were significantly associated with higher migration rates for the highly educated. Implications of the empirical evidence for enhancing global sustainability are discussed.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.007
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767735

**Subjects:** Demographic Trends, Macroeconomic Effects, and Forecasts ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Sustainable Development ; Land Ownership and Tenure; Land Reform; Land Use; Irrigation; Agriculture and Environment ; Climate; Natural Disasters and Their Management; Global Warming ; Environment and Development; Environment and Trade; Sustainability; Environmental Accounts and Accounting; Environmental Equity; Population Growth

Title:

**[The Smoking Epidemic across Generations, Genders, and Educational Groups: A Matter of Diffusion of Innovations](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbQ%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Smoking Epidemic across Generations, Genders, and Educational Groups: A Matter of Diffusion of Innovations)**

Author: Di Novi, Cinzia; Marenzi, Anna
Author Affiliation: U of Pavia and National Research U Higher School of **Economics**; Ca' Foscari U of Venice
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 155-68
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: This study determines whether the temporal variations in smoking habits across generations and genders and among groups with differing levels of education fit the pattern proposed by the theory of the diffusion of innovations (TDI) (Rogers, 2003). We focus on the Italian case and employ a pseudo-panel derived from repeated cross-sections of the annual household survey, "Aspects of Daily Life," that was part of the Multipurpose Survey carried out by the Italian National Statistical Office (ISTAT) for the period 1997 to 2012. The results confirm Rogers' TDI and show that smoking prevalence has declined over time and across age cohorts: Younger men of all educational levels and women with higher education are less likely to smoke than are those in other cohorts, while less-educated women who entered the smoking-diffusion process later than others are more likely to smoke. Hence, socio-economic differences in smoking continue to persist, especially for women. According to Rogers' TDI, smoking prevalence is expected to continue to decline, particularly among little-educated women.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.003
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767736

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Analysis of Education ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination ; Innovation and Invention: Processes and Incentives

Title:

**[The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Nutrition Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Mexico](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbU%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfers on Nutrition Outcomes: Experimental Evidence from Mexico)**

Author: Kronebusch, Natalie; Damon, Amy
Author Affiliation: Compass Lexecon, Washington, DC; Macalester College
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 169-80
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: In this paper, we study the effect of Progresa, a conditional cash transfer program in Mexico, on the micronutrient and macronutrient consumption levels of program participants. Overall, we find that Progresa has a complicated effect on nutrition outcomes. We find that treatment households increase their vitamin consumption by 15 percent and mineral consumption by 7 percent. Our results indicate that conditional cash transfers may have important positive effects on vitamin A, iron, and possibly calcium, which are under-consumed by a vast majority of the Mexican population. We also find that Progresa increases consumption of processed carbohydrates by 23 percent and saturated fat by about 5 percent. These findings suggest that Progresa has a dual effect on the nutrition outcomes of Progresa eligible households, likely improving macro- and micronutrient consumption levels, but also increasing the consumption of food categories that likely lead to increased prevalence of overweight and obesity.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.01.008
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767737

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration

Title:

**[The Legacy Lead Deposition in Soils and Its Impact on Cognitive Function in Preschool-Aged Children in the United States](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbY%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "The Legacy Lead Deposition in Soils and Its Impact on Cognitive Function in Preschool-Aged Children in the United States)**

Author: Clay, Karen; Portnykh, Margarita; Severnini, Edson
Author Affiliation: Carnegie Mellon U; Carnegie Mellon U; Carnegie Mellon U and IZA, Bonn
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 181-92
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Surface soil contamination has been long recognized as an important pathway of **human** lead exposure, and is now a worldwide health concern. This study estimates the causal effects of exposure to lead in topsoil on cognitive ability among 5-year-old children. We draw on individual level data from the 2000 U.S. Census, and USGS data on lead in topsoil covering a broad set of counties across the United States. Using an instrumental variable approach relying on the 1944 Interstate Highway System Plan, we find that higher lead in topsoil increases considerably the probability of 5-year-old boys experiencing cognitive difficulties such as learning, remembering, concentrating, or making decisions. Living in counties with topsoil lead concentration above the national median roughly doubles the probability of 5-year-old boys having cognitive difficulties. Nevertheless, it does not seem to affect 5-year-old girls, consistent with previous studies. Importantly, the adverse effects of lead exposure on boys are found even in counties with levels of topsoil lead concentration considered low by the guidelines from the U.S. EPA and state agencies. These findings are concerning because they suggest that legacy lead may continue to impair cognition today, both in the United States and in other countries that have considerable lead deposition in topsoil.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.001
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767738

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth

Title:

**[How Did the 2008-11 Financial Crisis Affect Work-Related Common Mental Distress? Evidence from 393 Workplaces in Great Britain](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qbc%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "How Did the 2008-11 Financial Crisis Affect Work-Related Common Mental Distress? Evidence from 393 Workplaces in Great Britain)**

Author: Kronenberg, Christoph; Boehnke, Jan R.
Author Affiliation: CINCH, Essen; U of Dundee
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 193-200
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: This paper analyses how the 2008-11 financial crisis relates to work-related common mental distress of those with continuous employment during the crisis. The literature connecting the 2008-11 financial crisis to common mental distress (anti-depressant drug use, suicide, etc.) generally estimates a negative effect. We used a sample of 393 workplaces from the 2011 Work and Employment Relations Study (WERS) for which employers and worker representatives agreed on that the crisis affected the workplace. WERS then provides detailed questions about how the financial crisis affected the workplace. We use these questions to show which crisis-induced work-changes are important for work-related common mental distress. In the British-context, increased workload and changes in nonfinancial benefits of work are most relevant worsening work-related common mental distress by 1.8 and 0.9 on a scale from 0-30 respectively.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.02.008
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767739

**Subjects:** Financial Crises ; Health Behavior ; Time Allocation and Labor Supply ; Nonwage Labor Costs and Benefits; Retirement Plans; Private Pensions

Title:

**[Have Swiss Adult Males and Females Stopped Growing Taller? Evidence from the Population-Based Nutrition Survey MenuCH, 2014/2015](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qq4%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Have Swiss Adult Males and Females Stopped Growing Taller? Evidence from the Population-Based Nutrition Survey MenuCH, 2014/2015)**

Author: Vinci, Linda; Floris, Joel; Koepke, Nikola; Matthes, Katarina L.; Bochud, Murielle; Bender, Nicole
Author Affiliation: Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich and Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health, ETH Zurich; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich; Institute of Social and Preventative Medicine, Lausanne U; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 201-10
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: Data from the National Nutrition Survey for adults (menuCH) allow for the assessment of recent trends in measured height by year of birth for adult men and women from a population-based sample. The aim of the present study was to test if--similarly to conscripts and schoolchildren--the Swiss adult population stopped growing taller in recent birth cohorts, and if so, when the change occurred. We found that--when self-reported--height was overestimated on average by about 1 cm in both men and women, with an increasing tendency with older age and with shorter height. Average measured height increased by 4.5-5.0 cm for adult men and women between the birth years 1937-1949 and 1990-1995. However, this increase was not linear, and starting with the 1970s birth years, average height plateaued on a level of about 178 cm for men and 166 cm for women. Being born outside of Switzerland or adjustment for potential shrinkage with increasing age did not change this temporal pattern. We also found shorter average height among participants from the Italian part of Switzerland and those with lower educational level. It remains unclear if the phenomenon of stabilisation affects all subgroups of the Swiss population. Future studies should combine a larger number of population-based surveys to enhance the sample size, for example, for people with a migration background or with different educational levels. Continuing growth monitoring needs to be performed to assess if environmental and demographic changes with an impact on body growth (adverse trends in nutrition, increasing social inequality in health, ethnic composition of the population) positively or negatively influence future trends in average height.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.009
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767740

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Economics of Gender; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[Does Austerity Really Kill?](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bttE%2b1qq8%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Does Austerity Really Kill?)**

Author: Toffolutti, Veronica; Suhrcke, Marc
Author Affiliation: 'Carlo F Dondena' Centre for Research on Social Dynamics and Public Policies, Bocconi U and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Centre for Health **Economics**, U of York and Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, May 2019, v. 33, pp. 211-23
Publication Date: May 2019
Abstract: A growing body of the literature has argued that austerity has been bad for health, though without directly measuring austerity. This paper explicitly distinguishes the association of mortality with macroeconomic fluctuations from that with fiscal policy measures, using data for 28 European Union (EU) countries covering the period 1991-2013. The main results present a nuanced, complex picture about the mortality impact of fiscal policies. We confirm the mortality decreasing (increasing) effect of recessions (booms), with the exception of suicide mortality, which shows the opposite effects. Austerity regimes are associated with an increase in all-cause mortality (0.7%). At the same time, fiscal stimuli tend to significantly increase death rates due to cirrhosis or chronic liver disease (3%) and those due to vehicle accidents (4.3%). Our results are sensitive to the set of countries included: when excluding the Baltics, Romania and Hungary, austerity policies turn out to significantly increase suicide-related mortality (2.8%), while the effect on all-cause mortality remains unaffected (0.7%). Overall, however it appears that the austerity-increasing effects are mostly compensated by the (mostly) mortality-decreasing effects of recessions. A notable exception appears to be suicides, which receive a 'double-boost' from both recessions and austerity.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2019.03.002
Update Code: 20190509
AN: 1767741

**Subjects:** Business Fluctuations; Cycles ; Fiscal Policy ; Health Behavior

Title:

**[Closing the Rural-Urban Gap in Child Malnutrition: Evidence from Paraguay, 1997-2012](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bts062prA%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Closing the Rural-Urban Gap in Child Malnutrition: Evidence from Paraguay, 1997-2012)**

Author: Ervin, Paul A.; Bubak, Vit
Author Affiliation: Centro para la Economia y el Desarrollo Humano, Luque; Instituto Desarrollo, Asuncion
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, January 2019, v. 32, pp. 1-10
Publication Date: January 2019
Abstract: Between 1997 and 2012, Paraguay achieved not only remarkable improvements in child nutrition, but also a surprising elimination of the rural-urban differential in child height-for-age Z score (HAZ) and stunting. Our decomposition analysis, applied to four rounds of Paraguayan National Household Surveys, allows us to directly infer not only the contributions of changes in determinants of child nutritional status to the improvements in child nutritional status in rural and urban areas, but also their contribution to closing the rural-urban gap. We find that while common determinants of child nutritional status such as income, maternal education, sanitation, and access to piped water are strongly associated with improvements in child nutrition, they have contributed little to reducing the rural-urban gap (10%, p < 0.05). Improvements in health care utilization, family planning, and demographics have been the main drivers in closing the rural-urban gap in child nutritional status in Paraguay (32%, p < 0.05). The results highlight the potential need for multipronged nutritional strategies that consider the distinct needs of rural and urban communities.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.11.001
Update Code: 20190228
AN: 1756802

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic Development: Human Resources; Human Development; Income Distribution; Migration ; Economic Development: Urban, Rural, Regional, and Transportation Analysis; Housing; Infrastructure ; Regional Economic Activity: Growth, Development, Environmental Issues, and Changes

Title:

**[Autopsing History: The Mummy of Charlemagne (C. 747 - 814 AD), Father of Europe](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bts062prE%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Autopsing History: The Mummy of Charlemagne (C. 747 - 814 AD), Father of Europe)**

Author: Schleifring, Joachim H.; Galassi, Francesco M.; Habicht, Michael E.; Ruhli, Frank J.
Author Affiliation: Weilmunster, Germany; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich; Institute of Evolutionary Medicine, U of Zurich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, January 2019, v. 32, pp. 11-17
Publication Date: January 2019
Abstract: In this article, a complete history of Charlemagne's mortal remains is outlined, including the first publication reporting on the most recent tomb opening in 1988. Besides exclusive bioarchaeological details--namely that his body was indeed mummified--a full clinical interpretation of the Emperor's final illnesses and death is given: a likely combination of osteoarthritis, gout and a recurrent fever caused by an infectious disease.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.11.002
Update Code: 20190228
AN: 1756803

**Subjects:** Analysis of Health Care Markets ; Health Behavior ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: Europe: Pre-1913

Title:

**[Sunshine, Fertility and Racial Disparities](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bts062prI%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Sunshine, Fertility and Racial Disparities)**

Author: Conway, Karen Smith; Trudeau, Jennifer
Author Affiliation: U of New Hampshire; Sacred Heart U
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, January 2019, v. 32, pp. 18-39
Publication Date: January 2019
Abstract: This research investigates the effect of sun exposure on fertility, with a special focus on how its effects and consequences for birth outcomes may differ by race. Sun exposure is a key mechanism for obtaining Vitamin D, but this process is inhibited by skin pigmentation. Vitamin D has been linked to male and female fertility and risk of miscarriage, and Vitamin D deficiency is more prevalent among blacks than whites. Using 1989-2004 individual live births data from the Natality Detail Files, county-level, monthly conceptions are estimated as a function of monthly solar insolation, temperature and humidity, as well as month, time and location fixed effects and controls. Insolation has positive, statistically significant effects on fertility for both non-Hispanic blacks and whites, but the effects are stronger and the pattern of effect different for black mothers than white mothers. Poisson estimates from the main model suggest that a 1kWh increase in average daily insolation in the conception month--approximately the difference in sunshine experienced in the typical September vs. October--increases non-Hispanic black conceptions by 1% and non-Hispanic white conceptions by 0.6%. Allowing insolation's effect to differ by maternal characteristic suggests that the racial differences are not being driven by differences in socioeconomic status (SES). Models that allow for more complicated timing of insolation's effect further suggest that insolation pushes black (white) conceptions into the unfavorable (favorable) season of birth. These estimated effects and our decomposition analyses suggest that insolation--and the implied Vitamin D deficiency underlying its effect-helps explain why black conceptions are more likely to display a seasonal pattern that is disadvantageous to birth outcomes.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.10.002
Update Code: 20190228
AN: 1756804

**Subjects:** Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economics of Minorities, Races, Indigenous Peoples, and Immigrants; Non-labor Discrimination

Title:

**[Shrinking in a Growing Economy Is Not So Puzzling after All](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/viewarticle/render?data=dGJyMPPp44rp2%2fdV0%2bnjisfk5Ie46bdNr6iwT7Ck63nn5Kx95uXxjL6prUq0pbBIsKaeSa%2bwrku4prY4v8OkjPDX7Ivf2fKB7eTnfLussUu3rbdJtKykhN%2fk5VXj5KR84LPje%2byc8nnls79mpNfsVa%2bts062prM%2b5OXwhd%2fqu37z4uqM4%2b7y&vid=7&sid=c176bf88-4338-4518-a959-cf39c77078dc@sdc-v-sessmgr01" \o "Shrinking in a Growing Economy Is Not So Puzzling after All)**

Author: Komlos, John
Author Affiliation: U of Munich
Source: **Economics** and **Human** **Biology**, January 2019, v. 32, pp. 40-55
Publication Date: January 2019
Abstract: Bodenhorn, Guinnane, and Mroz (2017) argue that the diminution of heights during the Industrial Revolution and in the Antebellum U.S. is an artefact of the biased nature of the samples analyzed. We demonstrate that it would be an unfathomable coincidence if men and women all self-selected into scores of completely independent samples in such a way as to bias them in the identical direction. Instead, We show that BGM's periodization is flawed and that their statistical models are misspecified, because they fail to consider the extent to which they introduce severe multicollinearity into their regressions. In addition, they fail to specify how they selected the samples they included in their analysis. In contrast, we argue that the economic transition from a predominantly agricultural to an increasingly industrial society was not a smooth process and lags in adjustment led to nutritional stresses. Height of a typical man in the U.S. decreased by 0.75 inches at a time when incomes were growing at a rate of 1.2% per annum. The developing **human** body of children and youth was sensitive enough to these nutritional stresses to register their effect better than monetary measures could. While nutritional status did decline during the Industrial Revolution in Europe and at the onset of modern economic in the U.S., by the second half of the 19th century agricultural productivity caught up with the increased demand for foodstuffs and height reversals became a rarity. Thus, although markets adjusted, they did not do so instantaneously. Consequently, physical stature declined during this adjustment process although the wealthy were shielded from the increased price of nutrients. So, the divergence in average incomes and average heights at the threshold of the modern age is not so puzzling after all.
ISSN: 1570677X
Publication Type: Journal Article
Digital Object Identifier: 10.1016/j.ehb.2018.11.005
Update Code: 20190228
AN: 1756805

**Subjects:** Personal Income, Wealth, and Their Distributions ; Health Behavior ; Fertility; Family Planning; Child Care; Children; Youth ; Economic History: Labor and Consumers, Demography, Education, Health, Welfare, Income, Wealth, Religion, and Philanthropy: U.S.; Canada: Pre-1913 ; Economic History: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment, and Extractive Industries: U.S.; Canada: Pre-1913 ; Empirical Studies of Economic Growth; Aggregate Productivity; Cross-Country Output Convergence ; Agriculture: Aggregate Supply and Demand Analysis; Prices

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# Volume 31 September 2018

## The health care costs of childhood obesity in Australia: An instrumental variables approach

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 1-13

Publication Date Received 25 January 2018, Revised 16 July 2018, Accepted 16 July 2018, Available online 23 July 2018

Abstract The effect of childhood obesity on medical costs incurred by the Australian Government is estimated using five waves of panel data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, which is linked to public health insurance administrative records from Medicare Australia. Instrumental variables estimators are used to address concerns about measurement error and selection bias. The additional annual medical costs due to overweight and obesity among 6 to 13 year olds is about $43 million (in 2015 AUD). This is driven by a higher utilisation of general practitioner and specialist doctors. The results suggest that the economic consequences of childhood obesity are much larger than previously estimated.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.003

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300224

Keywords Medical costs, Child, Ren, Overweight, Obesity, BMI, Instrumental variable

## The value of education to health: Evidence from Ireland

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 14-25

Publication Date Received 27 February 2018, Revised 18 July 2018, Accepted 19 July 2018, Available online 23 July 2018

Abstract Does education have a causal impact on health? The existing literature presents mixed results. More evidence is required from contexts that have not been explored in the literature, and using clinically-measured health outcomes. Using data from the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), and exploiting a policy change in the 1960s that eliminated public secondary school fees, we investigate whether additional years of schooling for those with lower socio-economic status (SES) have a causal effect on the prevalence of cardiovascular disease in later life. We find significant sizable effects of education on the prevalence of both hypertension and diabetes. An additional year of schooling decreases the probability of having hypertension by approximately 3% points, and decreases the probability of having diabetes by approximately 1% point, effects that are large given existing prevalence. Further analysis of possible mechanisms shows that additional schooling increases the probability of engaging in high levels of physical activity and refraining from smoking. In the context of an increasing focus on strategies to prevent chronic disease, evidence such as this provides important insights for policymakers tasked with designing public health interventions targeting risk factors for chronic disease.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.006

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300674

Keywords Education, Hypertension, Diabetes, Instrumental variables, Ireland

## Long-run overweight levels and convergence in body mass index

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 26-39

Publication Date Received 14 December 2017, Revised 25 April 2018, Accepted 21 June 2018, Available online 29 July 2018

Abstract We evaluate the hypothesis of convergence to an optimal long-run body weight worldwide. We formulate a simple rational non-addiction eating model to derive a testable equation that allows us to verify the existence of a long-run body weight as well as its estimation. We use a database of body mass index (BMI) estimates across countries over four decades published by the NCD Risk Factor Collaboration. We find that BMIs converge among European countries but not in the rest of the world. Consistent with the theoretical model, our long-run estimates suggest that European nations will show an average BMI above healthy levels. In particular, females and males will show average BMIs classified as overweight levels (BMI = 28.3). Confidence intervals and sensitivity analysis suggest that males might reach long-term BMI levels associated with obesity (BMI > 30). We discuss the implications of our findings from the perspectives of health economics and economic development.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.06.005

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17303155

Keywords Obesity, Overweight, Body mass index, Convergence, Rational eating model

## The effects of chronic non-communicable diseases on labour force outcomes: Quasi experimental evidence from Sri Lanka

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 40-53

Publication Date Received 13 March 2018, Revised 29 June 2018, Accepted 6 August 2018, Available online 13 August 2018

Abstract We investigate the effects of experiencing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) on labour force outcomes of working-age individuals and their households in Sri Lanka. For this, quasi-experimental evidence, including average treatment effects on those treated (ATT), are generated by using the self-reported health survey of the labour force of Sri Lanka. According to the analysis, individuals with at least one NCD account for approximately 19.15% of the working-age population. On average, employment probability, labour supply, and labour earnings of them are significantly lower than those of non-NCD individuals by 9.5% (ATT=−0.102, P < 0.001), 44.6% (ATT=−0.590, P < 0.001), and 47.9% (ATT=−0.652, P < 0.001), respectively. The negative impacts on labour force outcomes are notably larger in the cases of paralysis and mental illness. These NCDs reduce individual labour supply by more than 80% and labour earnings by more than 90%. The employment probability of individuals with paralysis and mental illnesses is also relatively lower by more than 60%. Apart from these individual-level effects, the paper provides evidence on how labour force outcomes at the household level are influenced by NCDs. Our findings demonstrate that the association between individuals’ NCD-prevalence and labour force outcomes is relatively stronger for males, informal sector employees, and elderly people. The results suggest several social inclusion policies.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.002

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300789

Keywords Labour force outcomes, Non-communicable diseases, Propensity score matching, Sri Lanka, Household surveys

## Perceived health risk, environmental knowledge, and contingent valuation for improving air quality: New evidence from the Jinchuan mining area in China

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 54-68

Publication Date Received 19 June 2018, Revised 23 July 2018, Accepted 23 July 2018, Available online 27 July 2018

Abstract This study examined people’s willingness to pay (WTP) for improving air quality obtained through contingent valuation method (CVM) in the context of the theory of planned behaviour. Following this theory, four indicators were developed to measure people’s behavioural intentions for improving air quality; two of these indicators were correlated with contingent valuation survey. Structural equation modelling (SEM) was employed to estimate our Perception-based Behavioural Intention Model (PBIM) by using a cross-sectional data set of 759 residents of the Jinchuan mining area in Gansu Province, China. We found that Jinchuan residents’ WTP for improving local air quality was significantly influenced by the perceived health risk of hazardous pollutants, environmental knowledge, socioeconomic status, current health condition, gender, work environment, and proximity to the pollution source. This study shows that SEM outperforms conventional CVM econometrically and in terms of the provision of relevant policy information.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.007

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301442

Keywords Contingent valuation method, Behavioural intention, Perceived health risk, Environmental knowledge, Air pollution, China

## Fracking and risky behaviors: Evidence from Pennsylvania

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 69-82

Publication Date Received 15 February 2018, Revised 29 June 2018, Accepted 6 August 2018, Available online 10 August 2018

Abstract In the past decade, the technological developments in the oil and natural gas extraction industry made the extraction of shale gas economically feasible and prompted local economic booms across the US. Anecdotal evidence suggests that areas with unconventional gas development experience a disproportionate increase in the young male population who are more likely to be involved in risk-taking behavior. Moreover, the sudden income gains or demographic shifts might increase the demand for various goods and services, including entertainment and illegal activities provided by the adult entertainment industry. We investigate the relationship between unconventional gas development and a variety of risk-taking outcomes such as sexually transmitted infections, and prostitution-related arrests. Our identification strategy exploits the variation in shale gas or unconventional well drilling across time and counties in conjecture with a number of datasets that allow us to investigate the potential mechanisms. Our findings indicate that Pennsylvania counties with fracking activities have higher rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia infections (7.8% and 2.6%, respectively), as well as higher prostitution related arrests (19.7%). We posit that changes in the labor market and associated impacts to income or composition of workers may play a role in the estimated effects, but we do not find evidence in support of these hypotheses.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.001

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300534

Keywords Fracking, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Prostitution, Pennsylvania, Risky behavior

## Intergenerational transmission of nicotine within families: Have e-cigarettes influenced passive smoking?

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 83-93

Publication Date Received 26 April 2018, Revised 5 July 2018, Accepted 6 August 2018, Available online 16 August 2018

Abstract Using an objective biomarker of active and passive smoking, we estimate Galtonian regressions of nicotine transmission and test whether the use of new nicotine delivery products (NDP) by parents had an influence on the transmission to children through passive smoking. We find evidence of a strong intergenerational transmission through passive smoking and that this is around four times larger for mothers compared to fathers. Moreover, we estimate an intention to treat difference-in-differences (DiD) model using parental cotinine as a continuous measure of exposure to the treatment and we find that the level of transmission of cotinine from parents was reduced to 51 per cent of the previous level just after the spread in the use of e-cigarettes in England and to 77 per cent when considering transmission from mothers. This is confirmed also by a DiD model which considers interaction between cotinine levels and self-reported use of NDP by parents and suggests that lower taxation of these devices may be justified on externality grounds.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.003

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18301187

Keywords Nicotine, Passive smoking, Intergenerational mobility, Galtonian regression, Electronic cigarettes, Tobacco taxes

## The Impact of Education on Health Outcomes and Behaviors in a Middle-Income, Low-Education Country

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 94-114

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Abstract Although the impact of education on health is important for public policy everywhere, the overwhelming majority of research identifying the health returns to education has focused on developed countries. We use data from multiple waves of nationally-representative Health and Tobacco Surveys in Turkey, and exploit an education reform that increased the mandatory years of schooling from 5 to 8 years in 1997. Using exposure to the reform as an instrument for completing at least eight years of schooling, we examine the impact of education on health indicators and smoking among young adults. We find that extending schooling on this margin impacts men and women differently. Our results indicate that while a one-year of extra schooling increases the likelihood of being obese among males by 9.9 percentage points, the same increase in schooling improves the probability of women being in the healthy weight range by 15.5 percentage points. Consistent with this result, an extra year of education increases women’s propensity to self-evaluate their health as excellent by 4.3 percentage points. Additional analyses reveal that education makes men (but not women) more likely to spend time on computers, using the internet, and to spend time on social media, suggesting that differential time allocation between men and women, triggered by enhanced education, may be a mechanism behind the differential results between the sexes. Education has no impact on smoking for men or women regardless of the measure of smoking.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.004

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302319

Keywords Compulsory schooling, Health outcomes, Health behaviors, BMI, Obesity, Smoking

## Has the growth in “fast casual” Mexican restaurants impacted weight gain?

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 31, pp. 115-124

Publication Date Received 27 November 2017, Revised 23 May 2018, Accepted 11 Augsut 2018, Available online 24 August 2018

Abstract The United States is witnessing a boom in fast casual restaurants owing to the recent growth of ethnic restaurants throughout the country. This study examines the effects of proximity to a Mexican restaurant—the dominant type of ethnic fast casual restaurant—on maternal and child health. I match data on the complete residential addresses of all mothers who gave birth in the Miami metropolitan area between 1990 and 2009 to a time series of all establishments (restaurants and stores) selling food and drink. This unique data set allows me to use mother fixed effects and to exploit the variation over time of the food environment to identify the effects on maternal weight gain and childbirth outcomes. The results show that living in proximity to a Mexican restaurant is associated with an 8% lower likelihood of excessive weight gain among US-born mothers. These effects are concentrated in low-income neighborhoods and among members of disadvantaged groups (e.g., low-skilled, young, and African-American individuals). However, the results show no protective effect for foreign-born mothers. Lastly, there is no evidence of significant effects on other maternal outcomes or on various child health metrics at birth.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.08.005

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17303015

Keywords Restaurant proximity, Food environment, Maternal weight gain

# Volume 30 – September 2018

## Why are women slimmer than men in developed countries?

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 1-13

Publication Date Received 24 September 2017, Revised 30 January 2018, Accepted 8 April 2018, Available online 22 April 2018

Abstract Women have a lower BMI than men in developed countries, yet the opposite is true in developing countries. We call this the gender BMI puzzle and investigate its underlying cause. We begin by studying time trends in Japan, where, consistent with the cross-country puzzle, the BMI of adult women has steadily decreased since the 1950s, whereas the BMI of adult men has steadily increased. We study how changes in energy intake and energy expenditure account for the over-time gender BMI puzzle using the Japanese National Nutrition Survey from 1975 to 2010, which provides nurse-measured height and weight and nutritionist-assisted food records. Because long-term data on energy expenditure do not exist, we calculate energy expenditure using a steady-state body weight model. We then conduct cross-country regression analysis to corroborate what we learn from the Japanese data.

We find that both energy intake and energy expenditure have significantly decreased for Japanese adult men and women and that a larger reduction in energy expenditure among men than women accounts for the increasing male-to-female BMI gap. Trends in BMI and energy expenditure vary greatly by occupation, suggesting that a relatively large decrease in physical activity in the workplace among men underlies the gender BMI puzzle.

The cross-country analysis supports the generalizability of the findings beyond the Japanese data. Furthermore, the analysis suggests the increasing male-to-female BMI gap is driven not only by a reduction in the energy requirements of physically demanding work but also by weakening occupational gender segregation. No support is found for other explanations, such as increasing female labor force participation, greater female susceptibility to malnutrition in utero, and gender inequality in nutrition in early life.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.04.002

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302435

Keywords Body mass index, Steady-state body weight, Physical activity, Energy intake, Energy accounting, Occupational gender segregation

## Zika virus incidence, preventive and reproductive behaviors: Correlates from new survey data

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 14-23

Publication Date Received 11 April 2018, Accepted 28 April 2018, Available online 1 May 2018

Abstract During the outbreak of the Zika virus, Brazilian health authorities recommended that pregnant women take meticulous precaution to avoid mosquito bites and that women in general use contraceptive methods to postpone/delay pregnancies. In this article, we present new estimates on the Zika virus incidence, its correlates and preventive behaviors in the Northeast of Brazil, where the outbreak initiated, using survey data collected between March 30th and June 3rd of 2016. The target population were women aged 15–49 in the capital cities of the nine states of the Northeast region of Brazil. We find that more educated women were less likely to report suffering from Zika (or its symptoms) and more likely to report having taken precaution against Zika, such as having used long and light-colored clothes, having used mosquito repellent or insecticides, having used mosquito protective screens or kept windows closed, and having dumped standing water where mosquitoes can breed. In addition, more educated women were more likely to report being informed about the association between Zika and microcephaly and to avoid pregnancy in the last 12 months. Finally, we also find that women who reported experiencing sexual domestic violence in the last 12 months were more likely to report suffering from Zika.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18301060

Keywords Zika, Education, Domestic violence, Information, Prevention, Survey data

## Sexual identity, same-same relationships, and health dynamics: New evidence from Australia

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 24-36

Publication Date Received 6 March 2017, Revised 7 February 2018, Accepted 8 February 2018, Available online 13 February 2018

Abstract Prior research has found that opposite-sex marital and cohabiting relationships are associated with improvements in health. However, studies examining the health dynamics of same-sex relationships are sparser because few nationally representative longitudinal datasets collect information on adults’ sexual identity. Using newly available data on sexual minorities from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, we estimate the effects of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual (LGB) identification and same-sex relationships on health dynamics. We document two key findings. First, sexual minorities in Australia are more likely to engage in risky health behaviors and report worse health than their heterosexual counterparts. Second, after exploiting the longitudinal nature of the HILDA and accounting for selection into relationships using the dynamic panel approach of Kohn and Averett (2014), we find that while opposite-sex partnerships are associated with a 3 to 7 percentage-point decline in risky health behaviors and improved physical and mental health, the health benefits of same-sex relationships are weaker, particularly for men.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17300631

Keywords Sexual identity, Same-sex relationships, Health dynamics

## Smoking ban and health at birth: Evidence from Hungary

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 37-47

Publication Date Received 19 January 2018, Revised 20 April 2018, Accepted 31 May 2018, Available online 13 June 2018

Abstract In 2012, smoking restrictions were extended to hospitality venues in Hungary. Women working in bars and restaurants were primarily affected by the intervention. In this research, we analyze the effect of this smoking ban on the outcomes of their pregnancies. Using individual live birth, fetal loss, and infant mortality registry data, we examine the probability of live birth, indicators of health at birth, and the probability of death in the first year of life. We apply a difference-in-differences framework and show that the smoking ban has improved health at birth. We observed birth weight to increase by 56 g (95% CI: 4.2 to 106.8) and gestation length by 0.19 weeks (95% CI: 0.02 to 0.36). Due to the ban, the probability of being born with very low and low birth weight has decreased by 1.2 and 2.2 percentage points, respectively (95% CI: −0.2 to −2.2 and 0.06 to −4.4), and we see a 0.9 percentage points reduction in the chance of being born very preterm (95% CI: −0.03 to −1.9). We also observe a decrease in the probability of being born with a low Ponderal index (decrease of 4.1 percentage points, 95% CI: −0.7 to −7.5). Performing a series of robustness and placebo tests, we provide evidence that supports the causal interpretation of our results. We also show that the ban was more beneficial for newborns of parents with low educational attainment and at the bottom of the fetal health endowment distribution.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.05.003

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300194

Keywords Smoking ban, Health at birth, Policy evaluation

## “Do I look fat?” Self-perceived body weight and labor market outcomes

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 48-58

Publication Date Received 20 October 2017, Revised 17 May 2018, Accepted 18 May 2018, Available online 28 May 2018

Abstract Research reporting that greater body weight is associated with lower wages and employment, particularly among women, focuses on how employers perceive workers. In contrast, we examine whether workers’ own perceptions of body weight influence labor market outcomes. Numerous studies find that misperception of body weight influences health behaviors and health, both mental and physical. For example, anorexia nervosa involves the over-perception of weight and raises the risk of cardiovascular disease. Do the health consequences of inaccurate self-perceived weight carry through to the labor market? We use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97) to investigate patterns in weight misperception and three labor market outcomes. We find little evidence that either over-perception or under-perception of weight is associated with wages, weeks worked, or the number of jobs held for women and men.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302617

Keywords BMI, Weight misperception, Wages, Employment

## The effects of in utero exposure to the 1918 influenza pandemic on family formation

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 59-68

Publication Date Received 12 December 2017, Revised 19 April 2018, Accepted 11 June 2018, Available online 26 June 2018

Abstract A growing literature ties in utero conditions to life course outcomes, including education, earnings, and adult health and mortality. A smaller literature has begun to examine the intergenerational impacts of in utero conditions. A link between these two literatures—the impacts of in utero conditions on family formation—has had few examinations but offers a potential set of mechanisms for the intergenerational reach of early conditions. This paper draws from the 1960 US Decennial Census to examine whether individuals exposed in utero to the 1918/19 influenza pandemic had different family formation patterns than adjacent unexposed cohorts. The findings suggest small overall effects on marriage rates, number of children, and several measures of “type” of spouse for men, but moderate effects for women. For example, women with in utero exposure during their first trimester marry men with 0.2 fewer years of schooling than those not exposed. The findings show that exposed individuals have spouses with lower schooling than unexposed counterparts, this effect is particularly large for women, and it increases the likelihood of marrying spouses with very low levels of schooling.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X1730312X

Keywords In utero exposure, Life course analysis, Family formation, 1918 influenza pandemic

## The effect of prenatal exposure to Ramadan on children’s height

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Publication Date Received 28 November 2017, Revised 30 March 2018, Accepted 14 May 2018, Available online 25 June 2018

Abstract We examine the effect of prenatal exposure to Ramadan on children’s height by sex, age, region, and the degree of religiosity. Since Ramadan rotates on solar calendars, we pool demographic and health survey data from numerous developing countries to increase the number of birth years and fairly control for potential seasonal effects. Our results suggest that Ramadan-induced nutritional stress during early- and mid-gestation may negatively affect the height of 3 and 4 years old Muslim male children. The effect tends to be stronger in West Africa and Central Asia. It also tends to be stronger in more religious countries. We do not detect consistent negative effects on height in female children.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.05.001

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17303039

Keywords Prenatal exposure to Ramadan, Children, Height, Height-for-age Z-Score, Religiosity

## There is no such thing as a (gluten-)free lunch: Higher food prices and the cost for coeliac consumers

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 84-91

Publication Date Received 9 January 2018, Revised 30 May 2018, Accepted 4 June 2018, Available online 30 June 2018

Abstract A lifelong gluten-free diet is the only available treatment for coeliac disease at present. However, the high price of gluten-free substitute foods is likely to generate a welfare loss for consumers who drop gluten from their diet. Using original data on retail prices in four major UK supermarkets and consumption data from the UK Living Cost and Food Survey, we simulate the welfare change associated to a switch to the gluten-free diet. Within the “Bread and Cereals” category, retail price data show that the average price of gluten-free products is £1.12/100g relative to £ 0.59/100g of gluten-containing products. Our estimates indicate that on average in the UK coeliac consumers have to pay an extra £ 10 per week to maintain their utility levels prior to the dietary switch. This correspond to 29% of the weekly food budget. Results by income quartile are suggestive of regressive effects and the welfare loss for low-income consumers is estimated at 36% of their food budget compared to 24% of high-income consumers.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.06.001

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300030

Keywords Coeliac disease, Compensating variation, Welfare, Food prices, Disparities

## The effect of unemployment insurance on alcohol use and abuse following job loss

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 92-103

Publication Date Received 16 June 2017, Revised 8 June 2018, Accepted 9 June 2018, Available online 30 June 2018

Abstract We investigate whether unemployment insurance (UI) policy affects the drinking behavior of the unemployed. Using NLSY data supplemented with Geocode data, we estimate the effect of benefit replacement rates on changes in individual alcohol consumption following job loss. Identification relies on variation in replacement rates across states and over time. Results indicate that a 100% increase in benefit replacement rate, roughly equivalent to a state moving from the lowest to the highest replacement rate, would, on average, result in unemployed individuals consuming 19.1 additional drinks a month. Looking at the change in an individual's binge drinking upon job loss, individuals receiving the highest level of benefits are 14.7% more likely to increase their binge drinking than those receiving the least generous benefits. We find that individuals’ responsiveness to changes in replacement rates vary based on drinking history, industry labor market conditions, education, and age.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300480

Keywords Alcohol consumption, Job loss, Unemployment insurance

## The effects of school desegregation on infant health

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 104-118

Publication Date Received 25 January 2018, Revised 2 June 2018, Accepted 4 June 2018, Available online 3 July 2018

Abstract This paper examines the effects of school desegregation on infant health using birth certificate data from 1970 to 2002 and a multiple difference-in-differences approach that exploits variation in the timing of desegregation across counties. Using cohort fixed effects and county fixed effects, I find that among black mothers in Southern regions, school desegregation reduces preterm births by 1.7 percentage points. These results are robust to county-specific cohort trends, county-specific year trends, and state-specific cohort fixed effects. In addition, school desegregation increases maternal education and prenatal care in the first trimester and decreases the likelihood of the child having a teenage father. These may be important pathways to improved infant health. This paper adds to the growing literature on the importance of school desegregation in areas beyond academic achievement.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300248

Keywords School desegregation, Infant health, Mother's education

## Altruism in preventive health behavior: At-scale evidence from the HIV/AIDS pandemic

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 119-129

Publication Date Received 13 February 2018, Revised 18 April 2018, Accepted 31 May 2018, Available online 3 July 2018

Abstract Preventive behavior with regards to disease transmission offers a promising context in which to provide empirical evidence on altruism in human populations. I examine the association between HIV status, own knowledge about status, and preventive health behavior using household survey data from over 200,000 individuals in 25 sub-Saharan African countries. I find that individuals who are HIV positive and have taken a standard HIV test are much more likely to engage in efforts to prevent HIV transmission than are individuals who are HIV negative and have taken a standard HIV test. Moreover, this difference is greater than the difference between HIV positives and HIV negatives for individuals who have not taken a standard HIV test. Consistent with an altruistic motivation, this double-difference is larger for individuals who are married than for individuals who are not married. These results appear to be the first evidence on the change in risky sexual behavior associated with HIV testing at scale and are consistent with altruism dominating any self-interested response to HIV testing.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.05.004

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X18300509

Keywords Altruism, HIV/AIDS, Preventive health, Sub-Saharan Africa

## Parental human capital and child health at birth in India

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 130-149

Publication Date Received 22 September 2017, Revised 24 June 2018, Accepted 25 June 2018, Available online 30 June 2018

Abstract Health at birth shapes an individual's well-being over her life cycle. We categorize the Indian states into high and low infant mortality regions to capture the diverse disease environment and analyze the nature of the association between parental human capital and child survival and nutrition measures at birth. We restrict our analysis only to firstborns to avoid confounding from a number of factors including sex-selective abortions in the higher birth orders. We broadly find that parental human capital, especially maternal health, is a strong and significant predictor of a child's birth outcomes under adverse disease environment. In the rural areas of the high infant mortality states, a 10-centimeter increase in maternal height is associated with 1.7% lower probability of a child dying as a neonate and 5% increase in birth weight around the mean. These estimates suggest that an investment in human capital of the mothers from this region could accompany large gains in survival and nutrition outcomes of their children.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302411

Keywords Birth endowments, Intergenerational Transmission, Human Capital, Disease Environment, Trivers-Willard Hypothesis

## Household dairy production and child growth: Evidence from Bangladesh

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 150-161

Publication Date Received 18 January 2018, Revised 25 June 2018, Accepted 11 July 2018, Available online 17 July 2018

Abstract Research from richer countries finds that dairy consumption has strong positive associations with linear growth in children, but surprisingly little evidence exists for developing countries where diets are far less diversified. One exception is a recent economics literature using the notion of incomplete markets to estimate the impacts of cattle ownership on children’s milk consumption and growth outcomes in Eastern Africa. In addition to external validity concerns, an obvious internal validity concern is that dairy producers may systematically differ from non-dairy households, particularly in terms of latent wealth or nutritional knowledge. We re-examine these concerns by applying a novel double difference model to data from rural Bangladesh, a country with relatively low levels of milk consumption and high rates of stunting. We exploit the fact that a cow’s lactation cycles provide an exogenous source of variation in household milk supply, which allows us to distinguish between a control group of households that do not own cows, a treatment group that own cows that have produced milk, and a placebo group of cow-owning households that have not produced milk in the past 12 months. We find that household dairy production increases height-for-age Z scores by 0.52 standard deviations in the critical 6–23 month growth window, though in the first year of life we find that household dairy supply is associated with a 21.7 point decline in the rate of breastfeeding. The results therefore suggest that increasing access to dairy products can be extremely beneficial to children’s nutrition, but may need to be accompanied by efforts to improve nutritional knowledge and appropriate breastfeeding practices.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X1830011X

Keywords Livestock, Dairy production, Animal-sourced foods, Stunting

## Economic downturns and infant health

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 162-171

Publication Date Received 8 November 2017, Revised 8 June 2018, Accepted 18 July 2018, Available online 19 July 2018

Abstract We study the gender-specific impact of macroeconomic conditions around birth on infant health. We use a sample of over 50,000 respondents born between 1950 and 1994 from Lifelines—a cohort and biobank from the northern Netherlands. Our results show that high provincial unemployment rates decrease fertility and lead to a lower birthweight in boys. The negative impact of high unemployment on birthweight is particularly strong for boys born to older mothers and for babies born to smoking mothers.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.005

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302769

Keywords Birthweight, Unemployment, Cohort studies

## The 2D:4D ratio does not always correlate with economic behavior: A field experiment with African-Americans

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Source Economics and Human Biology, September 2018, v. 30, pp. 172-181

Publication Date Received 3 October 2017, Revised 7 July 2018, Accepted 11 July 2018, Available online 21 July 2018

Abstract Several studies present evidence of correlations between prenatal testosterone exposure measured with the 2D:4D ratio and behaviors such as pro-social behavior, risk and patient attitudes, and self-employment. Individuals exposed prenatally to higher levels of testosterone have lower levels of risk aversion, higher levels of patience and invest more in others, and in themselves, therefore have higher individual financial wellbeing. We test these hypotheses with a sample of 115 African-Americans who live in a low-income urban area in the U.S. The 2D:4D ratio in our sample of males and females does not have a consistent and robust correlation with risk, patient attitudes, pro-social behavior and self-employment in contrast to previous studies.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.07.002

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302496

Keywords Risk, Time preferences, Patience, Pro-social behavior, Self-employment, 2D:4D ratio, Prenatal testosterone exposure

# Volume 29 – May 2018

## Decision-making, financial risk aversion, and behavioral biases: The role of testosterone and stress

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp.1-16

Publication Date Received 14 June 2017, Revised 13 January 2018, Accepted 13 January 2018, Available online 4 February 2018

Abstract We examine the relation between testosterone, cortisol, and financial decisions in a sample of naïve investors. We find that testosterone level is positively related to excess risk-taking, whereas cortisol level is negatively related to excess risk-taking (correlation coefficient [r]: 0.75 and −0.21, respectively). Additionally, we find support for the dual-hormone hypothesis in a financial context. Specifically, the testosterone-to-cortisol ratio is significantly related to loss aversion. Individuals with a higher ratio are 3.4 times more likely to sell losing stocks (standard error [SE]: 1.63). Furthermore, we find a positive feedback loop between financial success, testosterone, and cortisol. Specifically, financial success is significantly related to higher post-trial testosterone and cortisol by a factor of 0.53 (SE: 0.14). Finally, we find that in a competitive environment, testosterone level increases significantly, leading to greater risk-taking than in noncompetitive environment. Overall, this study underscores the importance of the endocrine system on financial decision-making. The results of this study are relevant to a broad audience, including investors looking to optimize financial performance, industry human resources, market regulators, and researchers.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.01.003

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301466

Keywords Testosterone, Cortisol, Stress, Risk aversion, Disposition effect

## Health and health inequality during the great recession: Evidence from the PSID

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp.17-30

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Abstract We estimate the impact of the Great Recession of 2007–2009 on health outcomes in the United States. We show that a one percentage point increase in the unemployment rate resulted in a 7.8–8.8% increase in reports of poor health. In addition, mental health was adversely impacted. These effects were concentrated among those with strong labor force attachments. Whites, the less educated, and women were the most impacted demographic groups.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.01.001

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Keywords Great recession, Health behaviors, Health outcomes, Inequality

## Smoking and early retirement due to chronic disability

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp.31-41

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Abstract This paper considers the long-term effects of smoking on disability retirement in Sweden. Smoking is known to have damaging effects on health, but there is limited evidence on how the effects of smoking translate into worse labour market outcomes, such as the inability to work. In contrast to the few previous studies on smoking and disability retirement, we use a large population sample with registry information on smoking, which is recorded for all women who give birth in Sweden. Thanks to these comprehensive data, we are able to account for a much broader range of potential confounders. In particular, by the use of sibling and twin fixed effects, we account for unobserved heterogeneity in childhood environment and family characteristics. Given that smoking is often initiated in adolescence, one would suspect such factors to play important roles.
Among individuals aged 50–64 in 2011, a simple model suggested smokers to have a 5 percentage point higher probability of receiving (full) disability pension, making them more than twice as likely as non-smokers to receive this. However, in a model with sibling fixed effects, the size of the effect was reduced by more than a third. The results point to the importance of confounders, such as childhood circumstances or behaviours, which were not accounted for by previous studies. We also consider effects on disability due to different health conditions. In relative terms, effects are the largest for circulatory conditions and tumours. Results are largely driven by health problems severe enough to merit hospitalization, and there is no evidence of a role played by financial incentives.

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Keywords Smoking, Disability retirement, Specific conditions, Siblings, Twins

## Family size effects on childhood obesity: Evidence on the quantity-quality trade-off using the NLSY

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 42-55

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Abstract In this study, we use matched mother-child data from the National Longitudinal Surveys to study the effects of family size on child health. Focusing on excess body weight indicators as children’s health outcome of interest, we examine the effects of exogenous variations in family size generated by twin births and parental preference for mixed sex composition of their children. We find no significant empirical support in favor of the quantity-quality trade-off theory in instrumental variable regression analysis. This result is further substantiated when we make use of the panel aspects of the data to study child health outcomes of arrival of younger siblings at later parities. Specifically, when we employ child fixed effects analysis, results suggest that birth of a younger sibling is related to a decline in the likelihood of being overweight by 4 percentage points and a drop in the probability of illness by approximately 5 percentage points.

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Keywords Family size, Children, Overweight, Obesity, Instrumental variables, Fixed effects

## Childhood obesity in China: Does grandparents’ coresidence matter?

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 56-63

Publication Date Received 7 November 2017, Revised 26 January 2018, Accepted 2 February 2018, Available online 17 February 2018

Abstract Childhood obesity in China has been increasingly cited as a major public health issue in recent decades. The effect of grandparents on grandchildren’s weight outcome is under-analyzed. Using data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey, we examine the effect of grandparents’ coresidence on childhood weight outcome with a sample of 2–13-year-old children in China. We use instrumental variables to address the potential endogeneity of grandparents’ coresidence. We show that the effect of grandparents’ coresidence on childhood weight outcome is significantly positive. Grandparents’ coresidence affects a grandchild’s weight outcome through changes in dietary patterns and physical activity. The effects on dietary patterns exist in urban areas and significantly lower in rural areas. Grandparents’ coresidence decreases physical activity more in rural areas than in urban areas. Furthermore, the effects of coresidence on protein intake and physical activities of children above 6 are significantly higher for males than females. A robustness check, including an ordered logit model with a body mass index category and estimation with additional data, validates our findings.

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.02.001

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302733

Keywords Childhood obesity, Grandparent, Coresidence, Nutrition intake, Physical activity

## Sex selection and health at birth among Indian immigrants

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 64-75

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Abstract I use birth-certificate data for Spain to document extremely son-biased sex ratios at birth among Indian immigrants (122 boys per 100 girls), especially at higher parities. I also show that the children of Indian immigrants display poor health outcomes during infancy. For instance, almost 10% of boys with Indian parents are born prematurely, compared with 6% of boys with native parents. However, there is no evidence of a gender gap in infant health among the children of Indian immigrants. I provide evidence suggesting that the poor outcomes of Indian children at birth may be attributed to the low endowments of Indian mothers, while the absence of a gender gap may be driven by the fact that the parents who would invest less in girls are less likely to carry the pregnancies of girls to term (more likely to practice sex-selective abortion), combined with the lower cost of prenatal investments in Spain (compared with India).

Digital Object Identifier https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ehb.2018.02.003

Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17300527

Keywords Fertility, Sex ratio, Abortion, Sex selection, Son preference, Infant health, Immigration, India, Spain

## Ladies first: Female and male adult height in Switzerland, 1770–1930

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Abstract When investigating the well-being of a society, the living conditions of females are of special importance, not only due to the immediate impact for those directly involved, but also because of the potential intergenerational effects. Studying the dimorphism in the mean height helps to depict variation in the basic biological sex difference due to gender-related factors that potentially determine net nutrition.

To expand knowledge of diachronic development in Swiss well-being conditions we investigate changes in the height of adult females born 1770–1930, and compare the series with data on contemporary males from the same sources: We employ a sample of N = 21′028 women and N = 21′329 men from passport-, convict-, maternity hospital-, and voluntary World War II army auxiliary records.

The secular height trend is found both in males, from the 1870s/1880s, and in females starting with the 1840s/1850s birth cohorts. During the decades under study, mean height increased from 157 cm to 164 cm in female and 167 cm to 172 cm in male passport applicants, 154 cm to 159 cm in female and 167 cm to 169 cm in male convicts, 159 cm to 163 cm in female auxiliaries, and 155 cm to 159 cm in females giving birth in the maternity hospital of Basel. Because females seem to have started the secular trend in height earlier than their male contemporaries, the height dimorphism decreased during the second half of the 19th century.

Differences between socio-economic status (SES) and data sources are found in both females and males: Women with low SES were significantly shorter than those of the other SES groups in all sources (on average 1.40 cm, p-values between 0.00 and 0.03). In men we found individuals of upper SES to be significantly taller (on average 1.96 cm, p-value = 0.00–0.10). Concerning differences between the sources, overall, passport applicants were the tallest for men as well as women; in females the individuals measured at the maternity hospital and in prison were the shortest. The variances across the datasets highlight the importance of considering different sources to depict average living conditions. Noteworthy is the finding that the diverse sources under study all show the same trajectory of increasing mean height over the course of the 19th century. In the long run, the improving net nutritional status of Swiss females may have been one of the contributors behind the general rise in well-being of the country’s population from the later 19th century onwards.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17303179

Keywords Net nutritional status, Height dimorphism, Gender aspects, SES differences, Switzerland, 19th century

## The educational impact of shocks in utero: Evidence from Rwanda

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 88-101

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Abstract Research on the impact of violence and conflict on education typically focuses on exposure among a cohort of school-aged children. In line with the fetal origins hypothesis, this paper studies the long-run effect of exposure to adverse maternal health shocks while still in the womb. Exploiting the sudden and discrete nature of the Rwandan genocide and an identification strategy based on temporal and spatial variation, we find that the cohort in utero during the genocide reported on average 0.3 fewer years of schooling in the 2012 Rwanda. Population and Housing Census and was 8% points less likely to finish primary school relative to the cohort in utero just a couple of months later.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301909#!

Keywords Conflict, Genocide, Education, Pre-natal exposure, Fetal origins hypothesis, Rwanda

## Hybrid marriages and phenotypic heterosis in offspring: Evidence from China

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Abstract In genetics, heterosis refers to the phenomenon that cross-breeding within species leads to offspring that are genetically fitter than their parents and exhibit improved phenotypic characteristics. Based on the theory of heterosis and existing genetic evidence, offspring of “hybrid” marriages (spouses originating from different states/provinces/countries/areas), though relatively rare due to physical boundaries, may exhibit greater genetic fitness in terms of intelligence, height, or physical attractiveness (the “distance-performance” hypothesis). This study explores whether heterosis is a contributing factor to offspring’s educational attainment in China by applying a high-dimensional fixed effects (HDFE) modelling framework to the unique 0.1% micro-sample of the 2000 Chinese Population Census data. Concerning potential endogeneity of hybrid marriages, we conduct a series of robustness checks. Reassuringly, the estimated heterosis effect remains significantly positive across various measurements, after controlling for parental educational attainments/height, environmental influences, and over a thousand region and region-by-year fixed effects. The effects in male and higher-educated offspring are found to be stronger. Results are replicated when analyzing body height using data from the China Health and Nutrition Survey. Although endogeneity of “hybrid marriages” may not be completely ruled out, the current study sheds light on the potentially beneficial effects of interprovincial migration on population-level human capital accumulation, and we hope that this paper can intrigue future studies that further address endogeneity. The implied heterosis effect could, therefore, be profound for Homo sapiens as a species from an evolutionary point of view. An additional important implication is that the overall genetic influences of parents on offspring’s performance may be further decomposed into a conventional heredity effect and a heterosis effect that has been neglected previously.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17300825

Keywords Heterosis, Hybrid marriage, Genetic distance, Educational attainment, Height

## Employment and weight status: The extreme case of body concern in South Korea

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Abstract For an industrialized nation, obesity rates in South Korea are extremely low. Yet, reflecting an extremely fat-averse, thin-positive society, efforts to lose weight are now reportedly very common. Since the 1980s, South Korea has experienced an increasingly flexible and insecure labor market which was exacerbated by the 1997 economic recession. In this social and economic setting, body shape and weight status, as human capital, may have gained significant bargaining power in the labor market. Consequently, we propose that Koreans, particularly those who are employed in “stable” jobs (i.e., non-manual and regular jobs), would increasingly engage in intense weight management and reduction activities even when not technically overweight or obese as a means to job security and upward mobility. Using nationally-representative data from the Korean Nutrition and Health Examination Survey (KNHANES), we identify the changing role of weight concerns versus actual body weight in predicting South Korean efforts to lose weight between 2001 (KNHANES-phase 1) and 2007–2009 (phase 4). The patterns were examined by occupation type (manual and non-manual jobs) and status (regular and non-regular jobs). Oaxaca decomposition analysis supported that people’s perception of being “fat,” rather than actual weight status, was crucial to explaining accelerated weight management efforts in South Korea over the decade (coef. = 0.062 and p-value < .0001 for male with regular work; coef. = 0.031 and p-value = .002 for female with regular work). Occupation status, rather than employment in itself, mattered. Job stability predicted increased effort; the pattern of change through time suggests efforts to invest high levels of effort in appearance positively impacts both employment opportunity and stability.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301892

Keywords Weight management, Employment, Obesity, Body image, South Korea

## Craniofacial asymmetry as a marker of socioeconomic status among undocumented Mexican immigrants in the United States

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Abstract This study examines levels of fluctuating asymmetry (FA) in Mexican residents, U.S. residents, and undocumented border crossers (UBCs) from Mexico to the United States. Craniofacial structures develop symmetrically under ideal circumstances; however, during periods of developmental stress random deviations from perfect symmetry, or FA, can occur. It is hypothesized that the UBC sample would represent individuals of a lower socioeconomic status (SES) who experienced higher stress levels during development, and that these individuals would consequently have higher levels of FA. Three-dimensional cranial landmarks were collected from 509 individuals representing the three resident groups. Geometric morphometric methods were used to calculate an FA score for each individual. The FA score provides a distance measure that is a scalar measure of the magnitude of FA in each individual. The results show that the difference in the means of the FA scores between UBCs and U.S. residents is 0.43 (p = 0.02), with UBCs showing significantly higher levels of FA compared to U.S. residents. Moreover, Mexican residents’ FA levels are intermediate between and not significantly different from the other two samples. These results suggest that levels of FA may prove useful for reconstructing individuals’ social and economic circumstances, and that craniofacial asymmetry provides a suitable biological marker for analyzing differences in SES among different groups.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X1830042X

Keywords Developmental stress, Undocumented border crossers, Migration, Fluctuating asymmetry

## Can we increase organ donation by reducing the disincentives? An experimental analysis

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Abstract Our research utilizes the experimental economics laboratory to investigate the impact that reducing disincentives has on organ donation. The experiment consists of four treatments across different levels of donation related costs, which reflect the disincentives associated with being an organ donor. Our experimental results indicate that sizable increases in the organ donation rate are achievable if we reduce the level of disincentives present. The largest observed donation rates arise when a financial return is offered for being an organ donor, which is prohibited under the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), but nearly 80% of the gains observed under the positive financial incentives can be achieved if all of the disincentives are eliminated.

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Keywords Organ donation, Disincentives, Laboratory experiment

## Smoking and local unemployment: Evidence from Germany

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Abstract In this paper, we use data from the German Socio-Economic Panel to investigate the effect of macro-economic conditions (in the form of local unemployment rates) on smoking behavior. The results from our panel data models, several of which control for selection bias, indicate that the propensity to become a smoker increases significantly during an economic downturn, with an approximately 0.7 percentage point increase for each percentage point rise in the unemployment rate. Conversely, conditional on the individual being a smoker, cigarette consumption decreases with rising unemployment rates, with a one percentage point increase in the regional unemployment rate leading to a decrease in consumption up to 0.8 percent.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302186

Keywords Business cycle, Smoking, Unemployment

## Persisting patterns of human height? Regional differences in living standards in the Early Middle Ages

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Abstract Proximity to protein production’ has recently been identified as an important determinant of regional variation of biological standards of living, as evidenced by average heights. The number of cows per person turned out to be a useful proxy where milk consumption had not been documented. Re-analyses of agricultural production and average male heights in early 19th-century central Europe show that indicators of agricultural suitability and potential for food production constructed from modern agro-ecological data are strongly correlated with historical agricultural specialisation. This paper uses a dataset of estimated heights and evidence on circumstances of the burial of about 2200 individuals who had lived in southwestern Germany during the 5th–8th centuries to assess the usefulness of modern proxy variables for explanations of regional differences in living standards in the distant past. Assuming some continuity in the relative suitability of smaller areas, the results suggest similar responses to environmental and climatic constraints, even though population density, agricultural technology, market integration, and consumption patterns of subsistence farming were very different from 19th-century conditions.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17300400

Keywords Biological standard of living, Skeletal evidence, Early Middle Ages, Conscripts, Proximity to protein production, Suitability for agriculture

## Height in eighteenth-century Chilean men: Evidence from military records, 1730–1800s

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 168-178

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Abstract This article provides the first height estimates for the adult population for any period of Chilean history. Based on military records, it gives an analysis of the average heights of male soldiers in the last eight decades of the colonial period, c.1730–1800s. The average height of Chilean men was around 167 centimetres, making them on average taller than men from Mexico, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Venezuela, but of a similar height to men from Sweden. However, Chilean men were clearly shorter than men in neighbouring Argentina, the USA and the UK. Chilean height remained stable during the 1740–1770s, but it declined by some 2–3 centimetres between the 1780 s and the 1800s, in line with a fall in real wages due to increasing food prices and population growth.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X1730165X

Keywords Biological standard of living, Physical stature, Height, Chile, Anthropometric history, Eighteenth century

## Inequality in old age cognition across the world

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Abstract Although cohort and country differences in average cognitive levels are well established, identifying the degree and determinants of inequalities in old age cognitive functioning could guide public health and policymaking efforts. We use all publicly available and representative old age surveys with comparable information to assess inequalities of cognitive functioning for six distinctive age groups in 29 countries. We document that cognitive inequalities in old age are largely determined by earlier educational inequalities as well as gender differential survival rates. For example, a one percentage point increase in the Gini index of past education is associated with an increase of 0.45 percentage points in the Gini index of delayed recall and 0.23 percentage points in the Gini of immediate recall. Results are robust to a variety of alternative explanations and persist even after controlling for gender-related biases in survival rates. Furthermore, we find evidence that unequal opportunities for education −captured by differences in parental background and gender- also have significant effects on inequality of old age cognition.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301806

Keywords Cognition functioning, Inequality, Old age, Education, Inequality of opportunity

## Why do very unattractive workers earn so much?

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Source Economics and Human Biology, May 2018, v. 29, pp. 189-197

Publication Date Received 18 August 2017, Revised 16 March 2018, Accepted 16 March 2018, Available online 22 March 2018

Abstract Kanazawa and Still (2018) showed that very unattractive workers earned more than unattractive workers, sometimes more than average-looking or attractive workers, because they had higher levels of intelligence and education, but they did not explain why very unattractive workers had higher intelligence and education. There are both theoretical and empirical reasons to expect that some intelligent men may prefer to marry very unattractive women. The analysis of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (Add Health) shows that very unattractive women were significantly more likely to be married at Age 29 than unattractive or average-looking women, and their spouses or partners earned significantly more than those of unattractive or average-looking women. If intelligent men have historically preferred to marry very unattractive women generation after generation, then, because both general intelligence and physical attractiveness are highly heritable, this can explain why very unattractive workers are more intelligent and achieve higher education, thereby earning more. It can also explain why the positive correlation between intelligence and physical attractiveness is not larger despite assortative mating of intelligent men of higher status and physically attractive women over many generations.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302204

Keywords The Savanna-IQ Interaction Hypothesis, The intelligence paradox, Mate preferences, Evolutionary psychology

## Public health and multiple-phase mortality decline: Evidence from industrializing Japan

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Abstract A growing body of literature shows the mitigating effects of water-supply systems on the mortality rates in large cities, yet the heterogeneities in the effects have been understudied. This study fills in the gap in existing knowledge by providing evidence for non-linearity in the effects of clean water using semiparametric fixed effects approach with city-level nationwide longitudinal dataset between 1922 and 1940, which covers 91% of total city population. According to our baseline estimate, the clean water accounts for approximately 27% of the decrease in the crude death rate in this period. Our results also indicate the heterogeneities in the improving effects of clean water with respect to the coverage of tap water among citizens. We found evidence that the installation of the water-supply system itself decreased waterborne infections and infant mortality but did not substantially improve the overall mortality rate in the initial phase. However, the subsequent expansion of tap water could result in a continuous decline in the overall risk of deaths in the second phase.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302721

Keywords Water-supply system, Semi/nonparametric estimation, Panel data analysis, Piped water, Public health

## Hungry children age faster

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Abstract We analyze how childhood hunger affects human aging for a panel of European individuals. For this purpose, we use six waves of the Survey of Health, Aging, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) dataset and construct a health deficit index. Results from log-linear regressions suggest that, on average, elderly European men and women developed about 20 percent more health deficits when they experienced a hunger episode in their childhood. The effect becomes larger when the hunger episode is experienced earlier in childhood. In non-linear regressions (akin to the Gompertz-Makeham law), we obtain greater effects suggesting that health deficits in old age are up to 40 percent higher for children suffering from hunger. The difference of health deficits between hungry and non-hungry individuals increases absolutely and relatively with age. This implies that individuals who suffered from hunger as children age faster.

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Keywords Health, Aging, Health deficit index, Hunger episodes, Childhood health

# Volume 28 – February 2018

## The rise in obesity in Cuba from 2001 to 2010: An analysis of National Survey on Risk Factors and Chronic Diseases data

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Abstract Using two waves of the National Survey on Risk Factors and Chronic Diseases in Cuba, we identify demographic and socioeconomic characteristics associated with obesity among urban adults aged 18+ and decompose the change in obesity within this 9-year period using both the mean-based Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition and a nonlinear approach. Our results reveal significant increases in overweight and obesity (2.3, 3.1, and 7.6 percentage points for BMI-based overweight, BMI-based obesity, and abdominal obesity, respectively). Depending on the decompositional approach and obesity measure, our analysis explains between 13% and 51% of the rise in overweight and obesity, with most part attributable to changes in risky behavior, age, and education. Of particular importance are the large decline in smoking and the population’s changing age structure.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17300242

Keywords Obesity, Decomposition, Cuba

## Food insecurity and child behavior problems in fragile families

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Abstract Food insecurity remains a persistent problem in the United States. Several studies have shown that food insecurity is associated with child externalizing and internalizing behavior problems. However, some potential methodological limitations remain. For example, most studies use a household measure of food insecurity while there is evidence that children, especially younger ones, tend to be shielded by their parents from experiencing food insecurity. In addition, the mechanisms through which food insecurity affects children are not well understood. This study uses longitudinal data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study to address these limitations. Fixed-effects models show that the association is even larger using a measure of child food insecurity instead of a household one. Correlated-random effects models show a large difference in child behavior problems between food secure and food insecure children due to unobserved heterogeneity. In addition, the association between child food insecurity and child externalizing behaviors remains largely unexplained while food insecurity among adults explains almost all the variation in the association with child internalizing behaviors. Food insecure children and parents are at risk of micronutrient deficiencies, which may lead to behavior problems in young children. These findings underscore the need for greater focus on reducing the risk of food insecurity, especially for children in fragile families, in order to reduce behavior problems and improve their educational attainment.

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Keywords Food insecurity, Child behavior problems, Externalizing behaviors, Internalizing behaviors, Economic hardship

## Age at menarche in Polish University students born before, during and after World War II: Economic effects

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Abstract Although the relationships between economic conditions and biological variables over the past two centuries in Poland are reasonably well-documented, the influence of economic and political disruptions, including nutritional privation, during the years immediately before, during and shortly after World War II (WWII) has received less attention. This paper considers the association between age at menarche and body size of university students born before, during and after WWII and father’s level of education, a commonly used indicator of family economic status in Poland. Subjects were 518 university students surveyed between 1955 and 1972, birth years 1931 through 1951. The sample was divided into three birth cohorts: before (n = 237), during (n = 247) and after (n = 34) WWII. Age at menarche was compared among birth cohorts, and by weight status and father’s level of education. Age at menarche increased slightly but significantly among women born during WWII (14.4 yrs) compared to those born before (14.2 yrs) and after (13.9 yrs) the war. Controlling for year of birth and age of the student, age at menarche was significantly earlier in overweight (13.42 ± 0.35 yrs) than in normal weight (14.33 ± 0.06 yrs) and thin (14.54 ± 0.21 yrs) women. Adjusted mean ages at menarche in small samples of overweight women did not differ by father’s level of education, and were earlier than corresponding ages of thin and normal weight women. Adjusted mean ages at menarche did not differ between thin and normal weight women with fathers having primary or no education, but were slightly later in thin than in normal weight women with fathers having a vocational, secondary or higher education. Although age at menarche was associated with father’s level of education, young adult weight status was a somewhat more important correlate.

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Keywords Economy, Weight status, Standard of living, BMI, Father’s education

## Macroeconomic conditions and health: Inspecting the transmission mechanism

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Abstract We study the relationship between macroeconomic conditions and self-reported health in a large sample of Italian individuals, focusing on the mediating role played by health behaviors (smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity, eating habits) and economic stress. Our findings indicate that, overall, higher local unemployment is negatively related to individuals’ health conditions. A one percentage point increase in the province-level unemployment rate is associated with a significant increase in the probability of experiencing diabetes (0.03 percentage points), infarction (0.01), ulcer (0.06), cirrhosis (0.01) and nervous disorders (0.07), with a time lag that differs across individual health conditions. Employment status and educational level play a significant role as moderators of these relationships. Eating habits, in addition to economic stress, play a key role as mediators, by enhancing the negative relationship between macroeconomic conditions and health outcomes, while physical exercise is found to play a dampening role.

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Keywords Economic conditions, Unemployment, Health behaviors, Health outcomes

## Do employers reward physical attractiveness in transition countries?

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Abstract This paper studies the labour market returns to physical attractiveness using data from three transition countries of the Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. I estimate a large positive effect of attractive looks on males’ probability of employment. Results from the most comprehensive model suggest a marginal effect of 11.1 percentage points. Using a partial identification approach, I show that this relationship is likely to be causal. After accounting for covariates, particularly measures of human capital, there is no evidence for a statistically significant link between females’ attractiveness and employment.

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Keywords Attractiveness, Employment, Former Soviet Union

## Two by two, inch by inch: Height as an indicator of environmental conditions during childhood and its influence on earnings over the life cycle among twins

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Abstract Adult height is a function of genetic predispositions and environmental influences during childhood. Hence, any variation in height among monozygotic twins, who share genetic predispositions, is bound to reflect differences in their environmental exposure. Therefore, a height premium in earnings among monozygotic twins also reflects such exposure. In this study, we analyze the height premium over the life cycle among Swedish twins, 10,000 of whom are monozygotic. The premium is relatively constant over the life cycle, amounting to 5–6% higher earnings per decimeter for men and less for women, suggesting that environmental conditions in childhood and youth affect earnings over most of the adult life course. The premium is larger below median height for men and above median height for young women. The estimates are similar for monozygotic and dizygotic twins, indicating that environmentally and genetically induced height differences are similarly associated with earnings.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301715

Keywords Height, Life cycle earnings, Childhood environment, Genetics, Twins

## Fertility and the health of children in Indonesia

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Abstract We analyse the heights of children aged 2 to 12 in the Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS) focusing on the effect of the number of children in the family. Previous studies of the trade-off between the quantity of children and some measure of their quality have been much concerned with the endogeneity of fertility choices. Here we use the IFLS for 1993, 1997 and 2000 to exploit some unique institutional features that have influenced fertility. We find evidence that family size is influenced both from the supply side, as represented by components of the Indonesian family planning programme, and on the demand side, as represented by exposure to modern media. We use these variables as instruments for family size in regressions for the height z-scores. We find evidence for a significant negative effect of family size on height in the presence of a range of other influences. An increase of one sibling is associated with a decrease of one third of a standard deviation in the z-score of height. This effect is stronger among families with low-educated mothers and is present in both urban and rural settings.

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Keywords Height, Child health, Family economics

## Does integrating AIDS treatment with food assistance affect labor supply? Evidence from Zambia

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Abstract In low income settings, food assistance is increasingly becoming part of AIDS treatment and care programs with the aim of improving adherence to AIDS treatment, enhancing household food security and strengthening economic wellbeing. Yet, evidence of its economic impact is sparse. This paper uses primary data to examine the short term impact of a food assistance program on labor supply as measured by the hours worked, labor market participation rates and transitions to employment within HIV/AIDS affected households in Zambia. We find that food assistance is generally a labor supply disincentive to HIV-infected patients receiving treatment as it reduced their hours worked by up to 54%, transitions to employment by up to 70% and also reduced the labor market participation rates of male patients by 72%. Among non-infected adult family members, there were no significant effects on labor market participation. However, propensity score estimates show that food assistance generally increased the intensity of work by males regardless of the length of AIDS treatment, but for females there was a disincentive effect that disappeared when the patient had spent a longer time on AIDS treatment and was therefore healthier and less likely to be cared for. These findings suggest that food assistance can inadvertently reduce the labor supply of HIV-infected individuals, but this is compensated for by the increased labor supply among other family members.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301107

Keywords AIDS treatment, Food assistance, Labor supply, HIV/AIDS, Zambia

## The intergenerational transmission of obesity: The role of time preferences and self-control

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Abstract Previous research has found that impatient time preferences and self-control problems (present bias) are related to increased obesity risk. However, scant evidence exists pertaining to whether parents’ impatience and self-control problems impact the obesity status of their children, too. Accordingly, we explore this study question among a large national sample of US adults and their children. Study results confirm previous findings indicating that intertemporal preferences are related to adults’ obesity status. Moreover, these results extend the literature by finding that children of impatient or present-biased parents have a significantly higher likelihood of being obese, too. Specifically, parents’ low levels of patience and present bias were each independently related to a five-percentage point increase in the likelihood of obesity of their children. These findings were more pronounced when all children were combined in analyses and for the first child; however, they varied for the second and third child. Thus, findings suggest that parents’ time preferences and self-control problems likely affect not only their own weight status but that of their children.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302678

Keywords Obesity, Time preferences, Present bias, Intergenerational effects

## Growth and maturity: A quantitative systematic review and network analysis in anthropometric history

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Abstract This paper reviews the current wealth of anthropometric history since the early efforts of Robert Fogel in the 1970s. The survey is based on a quantitative systematic review of the literature and counts a total of 447 peer-reviewed articles being published in the main leading journals in economic history, economics and biology. Data are analysed using network analysis by journal and author and the main contributions of anthropometric history are highlighted, pointing to future areas of inquiry. The contributions of books and book chapters are also quantified and analysed.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17302149

Keywords Height, BMI, History, Anthropometric history, Economic history, Systematic review

## The ‘healthy worker effect’: Do healthy people climb the occupational ladder?

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Abstract The association between occupational status and health has been taken to reveal the presence of occupational health inequalities. However, that interpretation assumes no influence of health status in climbing the occupational ladder. This paper documents evidence of non-negligible returns to occupation status on health (which we refer as ‘healthy worker effect’). We use a unique empirical strategy that addresses the problem of reverse causality. That is, an instrumental variable strategy using the variation in average health in the migrant’s country of origin, a health measure plausibly not determined by the migrant’s occupational status. Our findings suggest that health status exerts significant effects on occupational status in several dimensions; including having a supervising role, worker autonomy, and worker influence. The effect size of health is larger than that of an upper secondary education.

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Keywords Occupational status, Self-reported health, Immigrants, Work autonomy, Supervising role

## Parental alcohol consumption and adult children's educational attainment

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Abstract This study analyses whether an excessive parental alcohol consumption during childhood can affect long run children's educational attainments. Using 19 waves of the Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS), where individuals and their families are followed from childhood to adulthood, this study analyses parental alcohol consumption during childhood (between 1994 and 2001) and its relation with children's educational attainment about twelve years later (from 2005 to 2014). Panel estimations show that mother's excessive alcohol consumption during childhood is consistently negatively associated with children educational outcomes, as years of education, the highest education grade achieved and the probability of having a tertiary education degree, a finding that is robust to possible endogeneity issues. In particular, while moderate drinking is not an issue, an additional standard glass of vodka (15.57 g of pure alcohol) consumed by the mother per day, reduces years of education by almost one year (0.88), and by 5.8 percentage points (or about 27%) the probability of having a university degree. The study also explores the transmission mechanisms suggested by the literature, identifying a significant role for prenatal exposure to alcohol and, to a lesser extent, for intergenerational transmission of drinking habits.

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Keywords Alcohol consumption, Children education, Parents problem-drinking, RLMS, Russia

## The effect of social fathers on the cognitive skills of out-of-wedlock children in the U.S.

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Abstract There are two competing views regarding the presence of social fathers on childrens’ cognitive ability: (1) either the social father provides more financial resources which benefit the children or (2) the mother with new partners may shift the focus away from the children. Previous research focused on older children or adolescents and ignored the self-selection problem. We use data from the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS), and a sample of younger children. Using propensity score matching method (nonparametric methods), we find that children with social fathers scored around three points less in a cognitive ability test than children living only with biological mothers (assuming that self-selection is based on observables). The result remains robust when using a control-function analysis (parametric method).

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X16302106

Keywords Child welfare, Family structure, Fragile families, Non-marital childbearing

## On the distributional and evolutionary nature of the obesity wage penalty

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Abstract The economics literature supports a link between labor market measures, such as earnings, and health conditions, such as obesity. There is reason to believe the effects of obesity on wages may vary for high- and low-earning individuals and that obesity wage effects may evolve over a lifecycle or from generation to generation. Drawing on data from two longitudinal surveys, we estimate quantile and fixed effect quantile regressions, among others, to further examine the obesity wage effect. Results suggest an increasingly severe penalty across the wage distribution for females. Specifically, the highest-earning women may be penalized as much as five times that of the lowest earners. Results for males suggest that penalties may be present at select wage levels, while prior research has generally found no male obesity penalty. We also provide evidence that the obesity penalty has increased across generations and limited evidence that it may slow earnings growth over one’s lifetime.

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Availability https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1570677X17301089

Keywords Obesity, Earnings, Wage penalty, Longitudinal quantile regression, NLSY79, NLSY97

## Revisiting the impact of macroeconomic conditions on health behaviours

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Abstract This paper estimates the average population effect of macroeconomic conditions on health behaviours accounting for the heterogeneous impact of the business cycle on individuals. While previous studies use models relying on area-specific unemployment rates to estimate this average effect, this paper employs a model based on area-specific unemployment rates by gender and age group. The rationale for breaking down unemployment rates is that the severity of cyclical upturns and downturns does not only significantly vary across geographical areas, but also across gender and age. The empirical analysis uses microdata from the Italian Multipurpose Household Survey on Everyday Life Issues. The estimates suggest that models employing aggregated and disaggregated unemployment rate measures as a proxy for the business cycle produce similar findings for some health behaviours (such as smoking), whereas different results are obtained for others. While using unemployment rates by gender and age group, fruits and/or vegetables consumption turns out to be procyclical (a 1pp increase in this unemployment rate decreases the probability of consuming at least five daily fruit and/or vegetable servings by 0.0016pp), the opposite effect, though statistically insignificant, is observed once general unemployment rates are used. While both models conclude that physical activity declines during economic downturns, the size of the procyclical effect is much smaller when employing disaggregated rather than aggregated unemployment rates (a 1pp increase in the unemployment rate by gender and age group decreases the probability of doing any physical activity by 0.0017pp).

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Keywords Health behaviours, Unemployment, Business cycle, Italy