

CUPC Day 2021 Research in Health Disparities and Behaviors

Presenter of all the great reasearch: Tania Barham

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 - Effects/correlation of [fill in the blank] on health outcomes/behaviors
 - Also effect of health outcomes/behaviors/interventions on many aspects of a person's live over the life course
 - Many different types of outcomes
 - All ages
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- Researchers from many backgrounds
 - Economics, Geography, Health and Behavioral Science, Sociology ...

Colleen Reid: Geography

CU Boulder



Areas of research: How environmental and social exposures affect health

- Focuses on exposures caused by global climatic changes and society's responses to those changes.
 - Wildfires, extreme heat events, proximity to urban vegetation, and hurricanes
 - Review articles: **timely review articles to better understand current exposures**
 - How exposure to PM can adversely affect the immune system, through inflammatory responses and oxidative stress; and how existent inflammation from exposure to wildfire smoke could lead to the development of more severe COVID-19 illness in wildland firefighters

Outcomes: Various aspects of health: respiratory health, self-reported health, mortality, cardiovascular health, ...

Ryan Brown: Economics

CU Denver

Areas of research: How changes in the social, physical, and/or economic environment can have a persistent impact on health, preferences, and human capital accumulation.

Persistent Impact of Access to Clean Water on Cognition and Health

Outcomes: Cognition, health (height)

Age of sample: 10-16 and 19-27

Country: Mexico

Key Finding:

- Experiencing a one SD reduction in childhood diarrhea mortality rates from access to clean water leads to
 - ~6% increase in cognitive assessment score ; 0.11 increase in height in adolescence
 - effects persist to at least early adulthood and lead to increased hourly earnings



Karen Spencer: Health and Behavioral Sciences CU Denver



Areas of research: Medical decision making, health disparities, patient-provider relationships, and patient adherence.

How people make end of life healthcare decisions

Outcomes:

- New Research: End of life quality of care, hospice utilization
- Past Research: issues across various medical and psychiatric conditions such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, schizophrenia, and depression

Age of sample: 50+

Country: USA

Fernando Riosmena: IBS/Geography

CU Boulder



Areas of research: Aging and health

Examines aging and health of the Mexican-origin population on both sides of the border, with an eye on understanding the roles of cumulative disadvantage and (immigrant) social inclusion in the US on both older adults in the US and those living in Mexico with migrant children.

- Project in Yr1 of 5 for NIH RO1

Outcomes: Mortality, disability, depressive symptoms, cognitive functioning

Country: Mexico & US

Age of sample: 50+

Preliminary Finding:

- Mexican immigrants experience more rapid aging/deterioration than comparable individuals in both the US and Mexico, suggestive of cumulative disadvantage.

Stephanie Mollborn: IBS/Sociology Stockholm University



Areas of research: Understanding health and development of children and youth.

- Teenage childbearing and its consequences for young people and their children.
- Inequalities in early childhood development and health.
- Health Lifestyles among children and youth
 - How do young children's health lifestyles form, and how do they change as children get older and start to make their own behavioral choices?

Outcomes: cognition, social distancing behavior, digital technology use, health as cultural capital,

Mixed methods approach: statistical analyses and qualitative research

Hani Mansour: Economics

CU Denver



Areas of research: Gender, development, labor, and political economics

What is the effect of family size on education?

Outcomes: Education Attainment

Country: Denmark

Key Finding:

- The average child's education decreases as family size increases, even after taking birth order effects into account



Jane Menken

Areas of research: family planning/fertility, aging, HIV, health systems

- Natural experiment with decentralization examining if the type of administration of health system matter in maternal and child health?
- Understanding HIV prevalence at older ages

Countries: Honduras, South African, Bangladesh

Main findings:

- Decentralization: NGO-led municipality decentralization relative to centralized municipalities
 - 15% decrease in home delivery
 - 12.5% increase in MCH facility delivery
 - 7% increase in the use of a skilled birth attendant.

Laura Argys, Economics

CU Denver



Areas of research: Examines the impact of family, social and education policies on child well-being

Does exposure to noise and light pollution contribute to adverse birth outcomes?

Outcomes: Low birthweight and pre-term birth

Age of sample: all US births

Country: US

Key Finding:

- Exposure to aviation noise above 55 dB is associated with a 1.6 percentage point increase in low birthweight.
- Exposure to increased artificial outdoor lighting at night is associated with increased incidence of preterm births and low birth weight.
 - Adverse effects larger for births to African-American mothers than to white mothers.