

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [The Rise in American Pain: The Importance of the Great Recession](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.nber.org/papers/w31455>

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**Tweet:** The increase in reported pain among Americans wasn't a linear trend over decades but was almost entirely concentrated in the 2007-2010 period among the less educated. @ramoffitt4

**Summary:** We show that, rather than resulting from a smooth upward trend, the increase was almost entirely concentrated in the 2007-2010 period, the time of the Great Recession, a result not uncovered in prior work. The disproportionate increase in pain among the less educated is also shown to have occurred primarily at the time of the Recession, with either little or no trend before or after. The Recession jump occurred only at older ages and primarily only at the points during each cohort's lifetime when they experienced the Recession. However, we too find the jump difficult to explain, for while there is necessarily a temporary decline in employment during a Recession, why there should be a permanent increase in pain as a result is unclear.

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**Primary Topic:** Poverty/Crime

**Topics:** Business Cycle, GDP, Poverty/Crime, Unemployment/Participation, Workforce

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