Add Health Data

INFO/STSCI/ILRST 3900: Causal Inference

10 Sep 2025

Course Project

- ▶ Opportunity to engage with the course content via a real-world example
- ▶ Students in class come in with different backgrounds and skills
- ▶ The project will require various skill sets
    - ▶ Asking a causal question
    - ▶ Reasoning about assumptions
    - ▶ Data Analysis
    - ▶ Communicating Results

Overview

Pieces of the project will be completed throughout the semester

Individual Tasks
- ▶ Task 1: Define a causal question
- ▶ Task 2: Draw and reason about a causal graph

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Group Tasks
- ▶ Task 3: Gather and process relevant data
- ▶ Task 4: Select an identification strategy and analyze the data
- ▶ Task 5: Communicate the results with short report

More details for each task will be posted on the course website

Add Health Exercise

Assessing Causality and Persistence in Associations Between Family Dinners and Adolescent Well-Being by Musick and Meir use Add Health data to examine the causal effect of eating family dinners on a variety of outcomes

As a group

- ▶ Read the Abstract
- ▶ Read first three subsections of Methods section
    - ▶ National Longitudinal Survey of Adolescent Health
    - ▶ Outcomes
    - ▶ Family Dinners
- ▶ Use Add Health Codebook Explorer to find the questions in the survey corresponding to the treatment and at least one of the outcomes
- ▶ Answer the question on the next slide

Add Health Exercise- In Class Assignment

As a group

- ▶ Read the Abstract and first three subsections of Methods section
- ▶ Use Add Health Codebook Explorer to find the questions in the survey corresponding to the treatment and at least one of the outcomes
- ▶ Answer the questions and submit your answers
    1. What is the most common response to the question corresponding to treatment?
    2. How many respondents buy recorded music that is not in English?
    3. Did the month in which most respondents were born change between the waves? (*Hint: birth date*)