

Project Part 1

INFO/STSCI/ILRST 3900: Causal Inference

1 Oct 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

- ▶ Define a causal question
- ▶ Draw and reason about a causal graph

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Group Tasks

- ▶ Gather and process relevant data
- ▶ Select an identification strategy and analyze the data
- ▶ Communicate the results with short report

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

Project: Part 1

- ▶ Part 1 due Oct 20
- ▶ After completing the individual part of the project, you will be placed in groups based on selected topic areas
- ▶ See document on course website for Part 1 specific action items

Potential Ideas

- ▶ Previously looked at [Assessing Causality and Persistence in Associations Between Family Dinners and Adolescent Well-Being](#) by Musick and Meir
- ▶ Goal of today is to see the range of topics that can be studied using Add Health
- ▶ Generate potential ideas for the project
- ▶ Go to <https://addhealth.cpc.unc.edu/publications> to see a list of other publications which have used the Add Health data

Potential Ideas

- ▶ In small groups of 2-3, pick a paper that sounds interesting
- ▶ Take 10 minutes to read
- ▶ Present to class
 - ▶ Main idea of the paper
 - ▶ What is the treatment? (if there is one)
 - ▶ What is the treatment outcome? (if there is one)
 - ▶ One interesting or surprising finding from the paper