This project will be using longitudinal data from the Fragile Families (FF) to investigate the impact of economic recession on the health of mothers and newborn children. FF covers a wide range of physical and mental health outcomes, as well as health behavior. This project intends to find that increases in unemployment rate will affect health behaviors and health outcomes.

Project plans:

1. Replicate Currie et al (2015)’s paper on mother’s health, by adding one more wave of the survey and adding children’s health outcome as dependent variables. As Currie et al study the short term effect of rising unemployment rate, the author will be able to capture some new findings about long term health outcome of rising unemployment.
2. Apply for restricted dataset which contains private GIS locations. By incorporating location data, the author will be able to study how the recession impact geographically on mothers. According to the “fruit dessert” story by Diamond et al (2019), recession might affect health of fragile families by re-shaping their surrounding areas.
3. Dollar-tree data: available online by xxx. He collected the opening of many dollar store in the US, which we believe is the accelerator of nutrition inequality. I intend to use this and look for evidence in FF Data.

Literature Review

1. Currie et al. The Great Recession and Mothers’ Health
2. Diamond et al. Food Dessert and the Causes of Nutrition Inequality

Diamond et al. rejects that neighborhood environments contribute meaningfully to nutritional inequality by exploiting supermarket entry and household moves to healthier neighborhoods. Their structural model shows that nutrition inequality is mainly driven by demanding while low-income households can only gain 10 percent reduction in nutrition inequality by exposure to the same goods and prices that are available for high income families.

Model

* Currie’s model:
* My model:

Data

1. Fragile Families (FF) – Longitudinal Data