

Partner Unemployment, the Economy & Mental Health

A Register-Based Study in Finland from 2005-2018.

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Objective This study investigates the mental health effects of partner unemployment across different economic contexts for men and women in Finland.

Methodology

Data Finnish linked individual population registers

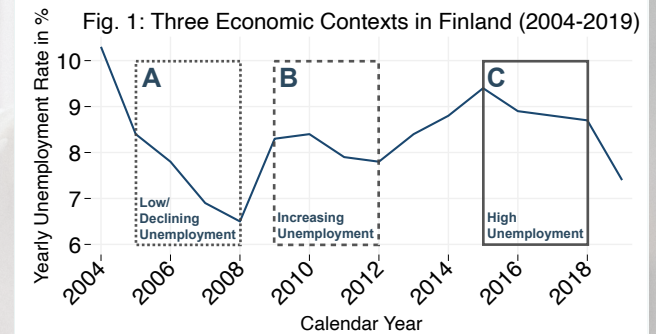
Sample Cohabiting different-sex couples, aged 18-63, in employment (N=89,252,460)

Analysis Linear probability regression of Incident Partner Unemployment on Psychotropic Medication Use (PMU)

Conclusion

- Partner unemployment harms mental health more in adverse economic contexts.
- Heterogeneity in gendered effects, household structure & across socioeconomic strata.

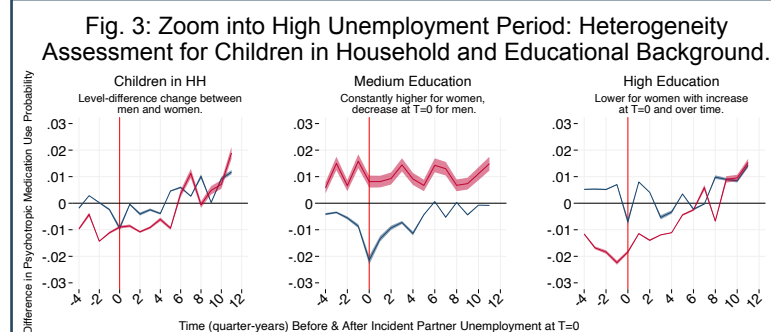
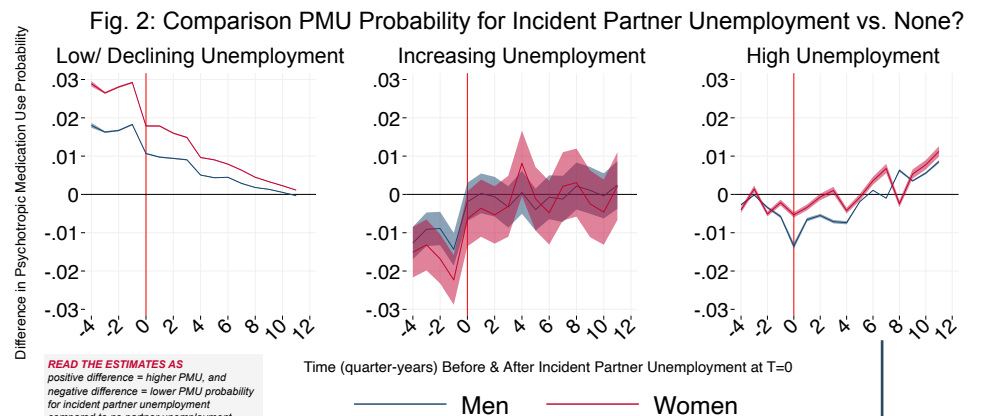
Research suggests that **partner unemployment** harms individuals' **mental health**. What remains unknown is a population-based perspective, and the role of the economic context.



Mechanisms in mental health effects of partner unemployment across different economic contexts:

Table 1	Economic Context		
Mechanism:	A	B	C
1. Selection into unemployment	++	-	--
2. Stigma of unemployment	+	-/+	-
3. Poor reemployment chances	-	+	++
4. Economic stress/ worries	-	+	++

Note: Read Table 1 as "Mechanism strengthen (+) or weaken (-), which is likely to positively (green) or negatively (red) affect mental health."



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