

# PRESENTATION OF “THE TRADEOFF BETWEEN COVID-19 SAFETY REGULATIONS AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATES”

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# RESEARCH QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU ASKING IN THE PROJECT AND WHY THAT MATTERS

**What is the tradeoff between the strictness of COVID-19 safety regulations and unemployment rates across different states in the United States and what is the simple measure of the link between policy and unemployment?**

- ▶ Exploring the link between COVID-19 rules and unemployment: Looking at how strict safety measures affected job losses across different states.
- ▶ Comparing strict vs. relaxed policies: Seeing if stricter rules led to more unemployment compared to states with looser restrictions.
- ▶ Helping future policy decisions: Understanding this tradeoff can guide better choices in balancing health and the economy.

# WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW AND WHAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW

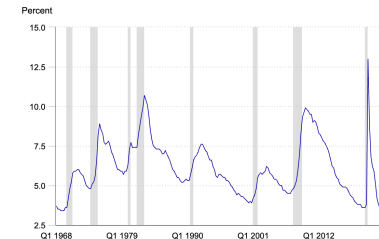
- ▶ **What we know:** Stricter COVID-19 rules, like lock-downs and business closures, led to higher unemployment, while states with looser restrictions saw lower job losses.
  - ▶ 'How COVID-19 Containment Measures Affected Unemployment' by Fernando Leibovici and Matthew Famiglietti
  - ▶ They concluded two things: Stricter COVID-19 measures led to higher unemployment spikes (March–June 2020). States with stricter measures recovered faster (July–October 2020).
- ▶ **What we don't know:** The exact trade-off between public health measures and economic impact across different states.
- ▶ **What we want to find out:** How strong the connection is between regulation strictness and unemployment rates, and what this means for future policy decisions.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: HOW YOU WILL ADDRESS THE RESEARCH QUESTION

- ▶ 1. Collect state-level COVID-19 regulations, unemployment rates, and death counts from 2020.
- ▶ 2. Create a scatter plot to compare unemployment rates with regulation strictness and death rates.
- ▶ 3. Use Stata to analyze how strongly COVID-19 safety measures impacted unemployment.
- ▶ 4. Identify patterns and draw conclusions about the trade off between public health policies and economic impact.

# OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOU HAVE SO FAR

Chart 1. Unemployment rate for people 16 years and older, quarterly averages, seasonally adjusted, 1968–2022



Hover over chart to view data.

Note: Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Turning points are quarterly. Q1 = first quarter, Q2 = second quarter, Q3 = third quarter, and Q4 = fourth quarter.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



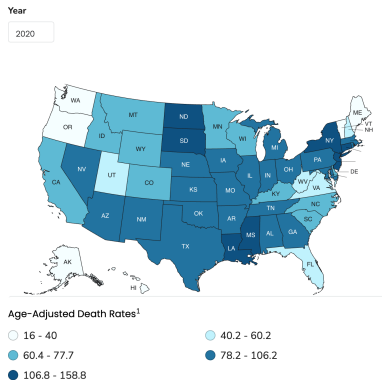
**Figure: Bureau of Labor Statistics**

I can get the unemployment rate by month for all 50 states ranging  
1968 - 2022

# OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOU HAVE SO FAR

## National Center for Health Statistics

- I can find the COVID-19 mortality by state for each year



# CONCLUSION: HURDLES AND NEXT STEPS

## ► **Next Steps:**

- Creating a scatter plot comparing unemployment rates and death rates.
- Running a regression in Stata to analyze the relationship between regulation strictness and economic impact.

## ► **Hurdles:**

- Data Reliability: State-reported data on COVID-19 deaths and unemployment may have inconsistencies due to reporting delays or differences in measurement methods.
- Causal vs. Correlation Issue: While we can identify trends, proving that stricter regulations directly caused higher unemployment is challenging due to other influencing factors.