

Micheltmore/Rich:

A long line of research finds that poor children have lower test scores and are less likely to complete high school and go to college compared to their higher-income peers. Less is known about how variation in the experience of disadvantage across childhood is associated with these outcomes. This study will use both administrative and survey data to 1) illustrate the dynamics of disadvantage a child experiences throughout primary and secondary school, 2) understand the common household factors associated with transitions on and off of disadvantage, and 3) analyze how patterns of disadvantage are associated with education outcomes. Importantly, this project develops a toolkit for educational researchers to describe student socioeconomic background even with limited administrative data. Results from the analysis will inform researchers and policymakers on common patterns of childhood disadvantage, the factors associated with transitions in and out of disadvantage, and how these patterns are associated with educational outcomes.

Hamersma/Brown:

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is one of the most broadly-targeted anti-poverty programs in the U.S. It is possible for an individual to be a SNAP participant across the life course, beginning as a child and continuing to late in life. However, the availability of food assistance may play a distinct role in labor market decisions at different points in the life cycle. In early adulthood, SNAP may play a role in improving the feasibility of time-intensive educational investments by limiting the hours of work needed for meeting basic needs. In mid-life, SNAP may affect decisions about labor-leisure tradeoffs in the presence of children. Later in life, access to SNAP may play a role in the timing of retirement. In this project, we explore some of these possibilities using a unique matched data set consisting of New York State SNAP administrative data linked to both the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and the American Community Survey (ACS). These data will give us the opportunity to explore SNAP access and participation patterns and, ultimately, their relationship to labor market decisions at different points in the life course. This work will also improve the research community's understanding of the nature of underreporting of SNAP participation in survey data, with a particular emphasis on whether certain age groups are more reliable in their survey reporting than others.

Silverstein/Dunifon:

This pilot project will examine religiosity as a coping resource that protects the physical and mental health of grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and/or living in skipped generation households in the United States. We take a multi-method approach that makes use of in-depth interviews of custodial grandparents and their families in New York State and multiple waves of quantitative data on this sub-population from the Health and Retirement Study. We will produce a mixed methods paper on the topic that will form the basis for a

wider project on other resilience factors among custodial grandparents, with the eventual goal of applying for external (NIH and foundation) funding.