

Economic Insecurity as a Socioeconomic Determinant of Mental Health

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Paper Abstract:

Economic insecurity has been the topic of an emerging body of literature that is increasingly relevant to the labour markets of developed economies. This paper uses data from the British Household Panel Survey to assess the causal effect of various aspects of economic insecurity on mental health in the UK. The results support the idea that economic insecurity is an emerging socioeconomic determinant of mental health, although the size of the effect varies across measures. In particular, it appears that perceived future risks are more damaging to mental health than realised volatility.