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Title:

**The lasting damage to individual mortality of dearth and disease experienced early in life: Evidence from the Population History of England**

Abstract:

Famine and famine-related epidemics cause instant death. But what about those who survive a famine? Do they come out stronger and more persistent to later exposure? Or do they suffer lasting damage to their health? This work analysis the effect to individual mortality of being infant or *in utero* during the English famine of 1727-29. The lasting damage is substantial: compared to their control group counterparts (those born in the five-year period after the famine), the life expectancy at age five of the famine cohort was up to 10 years shorter, and they suffered increased death risk until age 70. Remarkably, children of more than two years of age when exposed to the famine suffered much less damage to mortality. This should urge policy makers and help organizations to allocate more resources to pregnant women and families with infants than to child families in general.