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Employment and Mental Health Status: The Impact of the COVID Labor Market on Youth and Older Workers in Canada.

This paper employs representative data from the Canadian Association for Mental Health and Labour Force Surveys to compare the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and labour force transitions of younger and older workers. I examine how employment outcomes vary between youth and non-youth, and show that employment status has had significant causal impacts on mental health outcomes. I use OLS modelling to show that non-youth who have lost their job as a result of COVID are more likely to feel depressed, lonely and worry about their financial situation relative to the older population. I then employ an event-history analysis to show that the youth population was far more likely to have been newly unemployed during the first wave of the pandemic compared to their aged counterpart. The results suggest that policies which address youth employment challenges may have strong additional benefits for the mental health of this population.

Date: Monday, August 16th, 2021

Time: 12:00pm

Room: Zoom