

From Parent to Child: Emerging Inequality in Outcomes for Children in Canada and the U.S.

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Parallel Session 4B: Intergenerational Disadvantage

Abstract

In this paper, we investigate the extent to which early-life differences in family income are associated with differences in outcomes between low- and high-income children ten years later. Separate, but comparable analyses are first conducted for rich compared to poor children living in Canada and the United States. We then also ask whether any rich/poor child outcome gaps that have emerged are greater (or smaller) in Canada compared to the U.S. To address these questions, we construct comparable samples of adolescents and young adults for whom we have current information about outcomes as well as information about family income ten years ago. Our data source for Canada is the Statistics Canada National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth and for the U.S. we use the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, Child-Young Adult supplement.