

# Post-Pandemic Fertility: Lessons from the Great Recession

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Expert Group Meeting on the Impact of the COVID-19  
Pandemic on Fertility

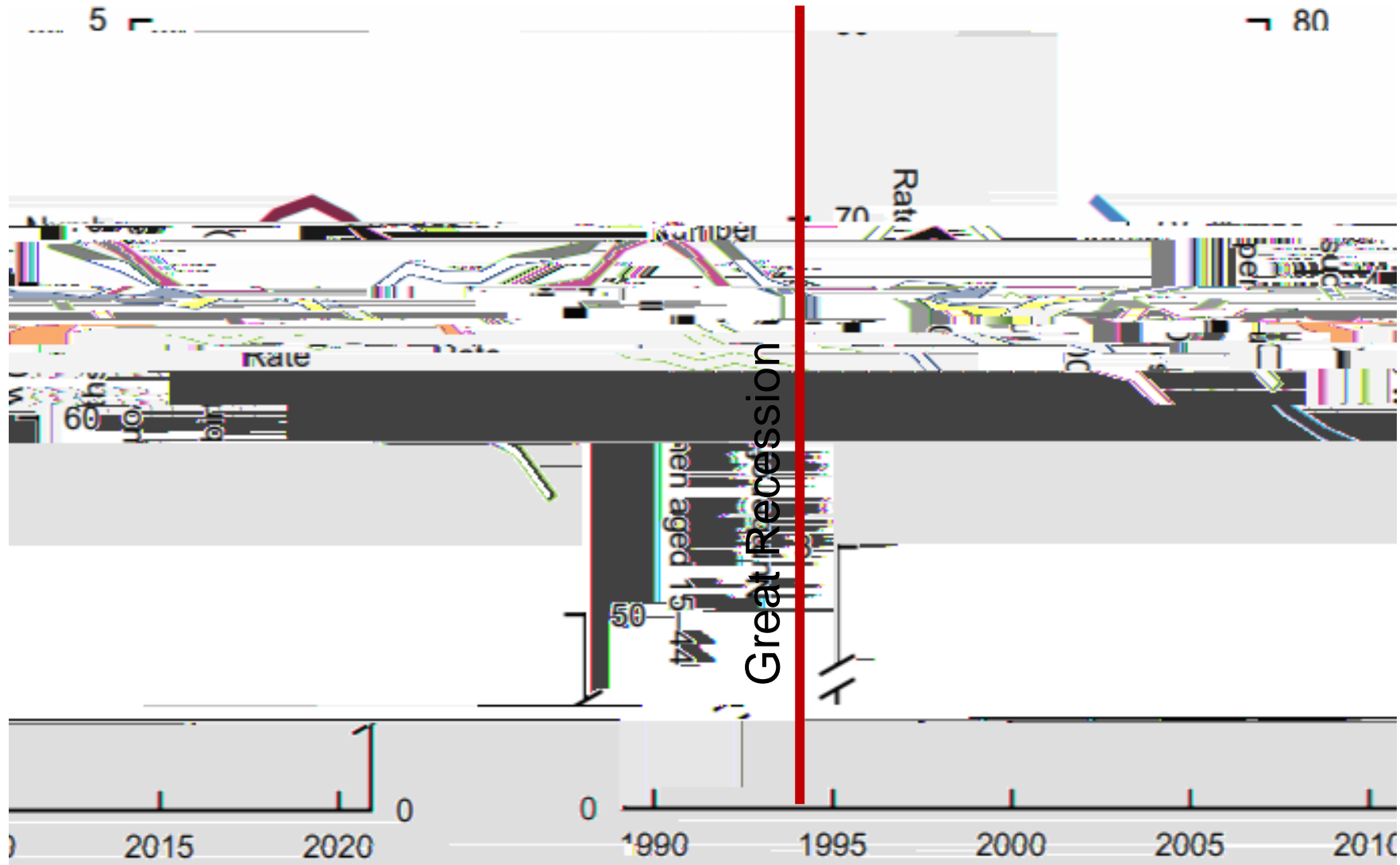
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# Beyond the Great Recession: Labor Market Polarization and Ongoing Fertility Decline in the United States. **Demography**2019.

- Research Question: Why did fertility rates continue to decrease after the Great Recession despite improving economic conditions?

# Fertility Rates Continued to Decrease after the Great Recession



# Beyond the Great Recession: Labor Market Polarization and Ongoing Fertility Decline in the United States. **Demography**2019.

- Research Question: Why did fertility rates continue to decrease after the Great Recession despite improving economic conditions?
- Hypothesis

Jobs in goods-producing industries have decreased



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- Finding 1 Loss of good-producing businesses had a larger effect on total fertility rates than the unemployment rate
- Finding 2 The effect of structural change on fertility was larger for racial/ethnic subgroups with more employment in good-producing industries

# Three Hypothetical Scenarios

Based on:

- a) Different forecasts of the pace and character of economic recovery
  - b) Potential government interventions put in place to stabilize the economy
- Economic considerations only
  - Medium shortterm, not the immediate impact of COVID-19 on fertility rates





# Scenario 1: Swift Recovery

- Swift reductions in the unemployment rate
- Creation of new jobs
- Yet, decline in goods production industries continues at similar pace prior to Covid19 pandemic
- Other preCovid economic trends (e.g. contingent work, gig economy, reduction of union covered manufacturing jobs) also continue apace

WFertility rates continue to decline as they did prior to November 2020

# Scenario 2: Slow Recovery

- Economic recovery takes longer (same pace as Great Recession recovery)
- Consumption of goods falls globally
- Labor force participation rate does not recover
- Increased parttime work at expense of fulltime work
- Reduction of “good jobs”

WFertility rates decline at a greater rate than scenario 1

# Scenario 3: Swift Recovery aided by policy interventions

- Government policy interventions promote swift recovery

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# Thank you!

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