**Nutritional Deficiency and Infants’ Health Outcomes**

**Hossein Shahri[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Abstract**

Previous studies show that prenatal shocks to embryos could have adverse impacts on health endowment at birth. Using US Natality files and a difference-in-difference-in-difference strategy, I find that exposure to Ramadan during prenatal development has negative birth outcomes. Exposure to a full month of fasting is associated with 96 grams lower birth-weight. These results are robust across specifications and do not appear to be driven by mothers’ selective fertility.

**Keywords**: Birth weight, Fetal Origin Hypothesis, Nutrition, Ramadan, Health, Religion

**JEL Codes**: I12, J13, Z12, D13

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