**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

1. Department of Environment, Texas Tech University, 2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409; ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3435-9914>, Email: hossein.shahri@ttu.edu; Phone: +1-409-454-7711 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)