Introduction

- The arrival of a newborn can have significant financial implications for mothers and families.

- First-time mothers may be less likely to be employed in positions with the flexibility needed for child rearing.

- Mothers from minority backgrounds are more likely to be low-income and to be employed in positions without maternity leave.

Research Objective
To estimate poverty status in the six months before and after the arrival of a newborn for all mothers and by birth parity and race, and assess the extent to which current social supports mitigate economic losses surrounding a birth.
Data and Methods

Data
- 2014 and 2018 panels of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
  - Detailed monthly information on income, program participation, demographic characteristics, household composition, and fertility

Sample
- Women with a birth during SIPP panel years
  - 966 mothers

Outcome Measure
- Poverty Status (Supplemental Poverty Measure)

Findings
- Poverty rates among mothers significantly increase after birth and rates with government support is consistently lower.
- Increase in poverty rate is lower after childbirth with government support.
Findings

• First time mothers have consistently lower poverty rates than mothers with previous children, but sharper increase in poverty after birth.

• Sharp increase in poverty immediately after childbirth even with government support.

Findings

• Similar trend in poverty rates as with all mothers.

• Increase in poverty rate is lower after childbirth with government support.
Findings

- Black mothers had the highest poverty rate of all racial groups.

- Government support important both before and after birth.

- Substantial increase in poverty immediately after childbirth even with government support.

Findings

- Higher poverty rate than White mothers, but lower than Black mothers.

- Similar trend in poverty rates as with all mothers.

- Government support particularly important after childbirth.
Discussion and Conclusion

- Government support helps reduce poverty among mothers with newborns, but additional help still needed.

- Additional Supports:
  - Family Leave Policy
  - Child Tax Credit
  - Birth Grants

- Future research to explore the impact these policies can have on the poverty rate of women around the time of birth.

Thank You

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