Title:

"Changes in Adolescent Employment in the United States, 1870-2010"

Abstract:

Approximately 1 in 5 children in the world today are economically active. These children are overwhelming concentrated in countries where GDP per capita is below $10,000 per person per year. While a vast microeconomic literature aims to understand the determinants of child labor in today’s developing economies, there is strikingly little empirical evidence informative about the changes in child employment that have occurred over time in today’s high income economies. This study has two aims. First, we document how adolescent employment has changed in the United States from 1870 to present. Second, we apply a simple supply and demand framework to analyze these changes in adolescent employment.