The impact of an Economic Collapse on Child Health in Iceland

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Since late 2008, many high-income European countries have experienced the consequences of a steep economic downturn. Under economic hardship, children and families are the ones most likely to suffer the consequences. The aim of the lecture is to identify and discuss child health in Iceland before and after an economic crisis when more than nine tenths of the Icelandic banking system collapsed within two weeks in October 2008. In the lecture, child poverty rates, and the impact of the crisis on commonly used indicators on health and wellbeing of children and adolescents will be presented and analysed. The results will be discussed in the context of the Icelandic healthcare system and the social protection network for children and families in place in Iceland, with universal health coverage and easy access to health and educational services.