

# CHEPS

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS  
& POLICY STUDIES



## INSIDE:

### **Applied Economics & Public Policy Research:**

Cutting-Edge Scholarship on Recreational Marijuana Laws,  
E-Cigarette Access, Minimum Wage Laws, Teenage Suicide,  
COVID-19 Schooling Policies, and Much More

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VOLUME 6

CHEPS

2023-2024

# Letter from the Director

Dear Friends of CHEPS,

The 2022-2023 academic year was one of the strongest for the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) since its founding in 2017. Center affiliates attained publications in leading peer-reviewed journals in economics, public policy, and medicine, including the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Health Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *Journal of Policy*



*Analysis & Management*, *JAMA: Pediatrics*, and *JAMA: Health Forum*. Our scholarship was amplified by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and covered by major media outlets, including *The Economist*, *Forbes*, the *Washington Post*, and *National Review*. And the Center's educational and scholarly activities received grant and research support from the National Institutes of Health

(NIH), The Ohio State University, the Charles Koch Foundation, the Troesh Family Foundation, and San Diego State University. All in all, not bad. Not bad at all.

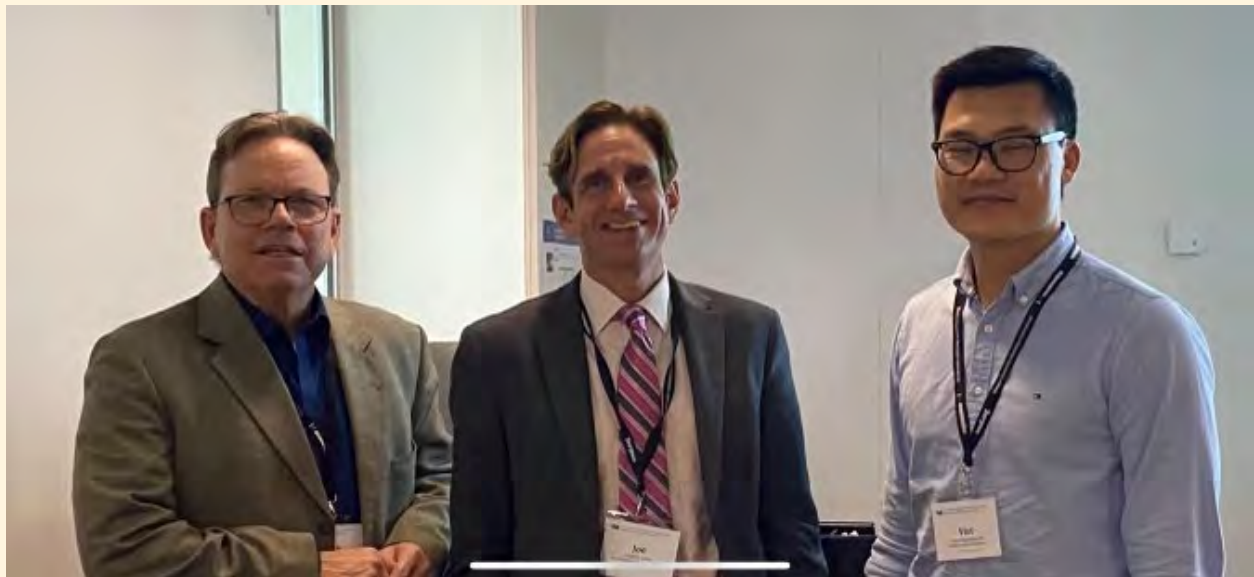
This year, the Center welcomed a new Postdoctoral Fellow, Caterina Muratori, who received her doctorate in Economics from the University of Turin in 2022. Along with Dr. Yang Liang, the Center's Assistant Director, Caterina has helped to provide new leadership to the Center's applied econometrics team. Two of the Center's students will pursue graduate degrees in the Fall of 2023: (1) Sama Aziz will attend a predoctoral master's program in Economics at Peking University, with plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Economics (with a focus on international trade policy) thereafter; (2) Yiying Yang will matriculate at Fordham University as a first-year Ph.D. student in Economics. In addition, one of our former students, Sam Safford, will begin a Ph.D. program in Sociology at Cornell University, our second student to join the "Big Red."

CHEPS holds one of the nation's best weekly Applied Microeconomics seminar series. During the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 period, the Center held 26 seminars, hosting leading scholars in public economics, health economics, labor economics, and environmental economics from all over the United States. This year, we hosted speakers from such institutions as Harvard University, Yale University, Dartmouth College, the University of California-Berkeley, Brigham Young University, the University of Notre Dame, American



University, and the University of Georgia. These events provided important opportunities for our faculty and students to learn, network, and come together as a community.

In addition, this year, the Center held an Applied Economics Research Workshop for the very first time. Led by Mark Anderson (Montana State University) and Dan Rees (Universidad Carlos III of Madrid), this professional development workshop attracted undergraduate and graduate students from SDSU, Ph.D. students from the University of California-Irvine, the University of California-Riverside, and Claremont Graduate University, and several faculty members. Among the topics covered included: (1) how to develop a research agenda, (2) how to “pitch” (and write) a research article, (3) optimal targeting of journals, (4) translation of research to policymakers and funders, (5) productive use of conferences and workshops, and (6) effective point-by-point responses on revise-and-resubmits. The event was a rousing success, and we hope to offer opportunities like this in the future for students.



This year’s Magazine highlights a wide set of research projects on which our faculty and students have been engaged in during the last academic year. Included among the many policy-relevant topics under study are: (1) the unintended effects of limiting access to tobacco harm reduction products, (2) the socioeconomic and health impacts of in-person schooling, (3) the health effects of limiting access to reproductive health services, (4) the health effects of liberalizing trade, (5) the spillover effects of legalization of recreational marijuana, and (6) whether minimum wage increases effectively deliver income to the working poor. In addition to reading about these studies in this issue of CHEPS Magazine, I encourage you also to view the CHEPS Working Paper Series, available on our website: [cheps.sdsu.edu](http://cheps.sdsu.edu).

Finally, here are some key statistics on what CHEPS has accomplished since our founding:

- 147 Research Seminars have been held by researchers visiting from institutions such as Harvard University, Yale University, Dartmouth College, Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California-Berkeley, Vanderbilt University, Brigham Young University, the University of Tennessee, American University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas-Austin, the University of

Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Kentucky, the University of California-Santa Barbara, the University of California-Davis, and George Washington University.

- 38 graduate, undergraduate, and postdoctoral students have received funding for research-related activities.
- 16 former M.A. and Undergraduate Economics students have been accepted to Ph.D. programs (14) or Predoctoral Programs (2) at such institutions as Cornell University, University of California-Irvine, the University of Minnesota, the University of Notre Dame, the University of California-Santa Barbara, Colorado State University, the University of Oregon, Fordham University, the University of California-Davis, Peking University, and Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium).
- 101 peer-reviewed publications have been achieved at high quality economics, medical, and policy journals such as the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *JAMA: Health Forum*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Human Resources*, and the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
- 28 working papers published by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and 17 working papers at the Institute of Labor Economics (IZA).
- 51 academic research conferences and workshops at which CHEPS Affiliates have presented their cutting-edge scholarship.



I wish to thank all of you for your support in the past and for your continued support of CHEPS. We could not accomplish our goals without you! Please consider donating to our cause or come out and join us for a Thursday afternoon seminar. I hope you will enjoy reading about the impressive research accomplishments of our faculty and graduate students in the 2023-24 issue of *CHEPS Magazine*!

Sincerely,

*Joseph J. Sabia*

Joseph J. Sabia  
Director, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS)  
Professor of Economics

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**SDSU**

College of Arts and Letters

Center for  
Health Economics and  
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# CHEPS Applied Economic Workshop



CHEPS hosted an Applied Economic Research Workshop on April 7th, 2022. The event, presented by **Drs. Mark Anderson** and **Dan Rees**, aimed to provide graduate students with practical tips and insights to help them start and successfully complete their research projects. The workshop was divided into several sessions, each of which focused on a specific area of applied economic research. The first session was titled "Starting Your Research

Project" and covered the key steps that students need to take to initiate their research. This included selecting a topic, conducting a literature review, identifying data sources, and establishing a research question.

The second session was titled "Practical Tips for Writing Your Applied Paper" and focused on the skills needed to write a successful applied research paper. The presenters discussed the importance of developing a clear argument, structuring the paper effectively, and using evidence to support claims. They also emphasized the need to use clear and concise language, avoid jargon, and write for a broad audience. The next session focused on "The Publication Process" and covered the key steps in publishing a paper. This included selecting a suitable journal, preparing a manuscript that meets the journal's guidelines, and navigating the peer review process. The presenters also discussed the importance of responding to reviewer feedback constructively and ensuring that the paper is well-presented and engaging.

The final session, "Refereeing," focused on the role of referees in the publication process. The presenters discussed the importance of providing constructive feedback to authors, maintaining anonymity, and meeting deadlines. They also highlighted the importance of ensuring referee reports are well written, clear, and objective. Overall, the Workshop provided valuable insights and practical tips for graduate students embarking on applied research projects. The sessions covered all aspects of the research process, from developing a research proposal to navigating the publication process, and emphasized the importance of effective communication, networking, and collaboration. The workshop was a valuable resource for graduate students and will help them produce high-quality research that impacts applied economics.





# Reaction to CHEPS Workshop

"This was excellent – it was informative and I appreciate how honest it was about the writing/publishing process. The examples of papers to look at were helpful and the presentation was engaging."



"It was a great workshop. I wish I would have attended sooner/earlier in my career. Regardless, I am highly motivated and feel ready to take on the challenge head on."

"Mark and Dan bring such great energy to accompany their expertise and knowledge and kept the material engaging all day."



"This workshop was incredibly insightful. As a Master's student, this workshop will help me develop strong papers early on and is a great starting point for my final year. I am extremely grateful to have had this opportunity."

"I really enjoyed the details, enthusiasm, and friendly environment... I gained a lot of new knowledge and feel even more inspired to pursue academia & research as my career."



# CHEPS 2022-23 Seminar Series

During the 2022 Fall and Spring 2023 semesters, CHEPS hosted 27 economists presenting scholarly research on various sub-fields, including labor, health, and development economics. These external speakers come from a variety of different research institutions and universities, including Harvard University, Montana State University, Columbia University, George Washington University, Brigham Young University, University of Tennessee, University of Georgia, University of California-Irvine, Texas A&M University, Duke University, the RAND Corporation, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Georgia Institute of Technology, American University, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame, University of Hawaii, University of California-Berkeley, Yale University, University of Kansas, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Dartmouth University, and the University of California-Davis. Zoom options were also available for in-person seminars, allowing the opportunity for all who wished to attend.

The weekly seminars were attended by CHEPS affiliates, professors across disciplines, and both undergraduate and graduate students. The virtual component of the seminars allowed students and academics from institutions nationwide to attend, including many co-authors and leading scholars in their fields. Additionally, the seminars served to introduce students to a variety of research interests and allowed professors affiliated with CHEPS to network with faculty from other universities.



Importantly, presenters met with CHEPS affiliates in small group sessions to discuss their research and academic experience. Several invited speakers discussed the relative quality of various economics and public policy Ph.D. programs with students. They advised on how to stand out among the growing fields of applicants and how to find the best match for their interests. Affiliated Ph.D. students were also given the opportunity to

meet with seminar speakers to discuss their current and future research and solicit advice on how to best progress through their programs. The Seminar Series offered an invaluable experience for both faculty and students to be exposed to several novel research projects.





In the first seminar of the Spring 2023 semester, **Dr. Jamie Mullins** from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst presented a new working paper that explores the relationship between environmental factors and mental health. The first set of results explored the impact of extreme temperatures and air pollution on depression in India's aging population. The results showed that higher temperatures and poor air quality were both linked to increased symptoms of depression. The paper's second inquiry focused on the effects of wildfire smoke on suicide rates in the United States. The researchers found that exposure to

particulate matter from the smoke was associated with higher suicide rates.

Lastly, Dr. Mullins discussed how high temperatures can impact the demand for crisis services among younger populations in the United States. Data from the Crisis Text Line showed an increase in demand for these services during periods of unusually high local temperatures. This research emphasizes the importance of considering environmental factors when addressing mental health challenges. These findings also highlight the need to factor in mental health effects when assessing the costs of air pollution and increasing temperatures. So, it's not just about taking care of our bodies but also our minds by paying attention to the environment.

**Dr. Mayra Pineda Torres** presented a new research paper focused on a study that found that laws aimed at regulating abortion providers, known as Targeted Regulations of Abortion Providers (TRAP laws), negatively affected women's fertility and fertility education. These laws are the fastest-growing form of abortion restriction in the United States often resulting in clinic closures, making it more difficult for women to access abortion services. The study analyzed the legal history of all TRAP laws ever implemented and examined how exposure to these laws during adolescence affected women's fertility and educational attainment.



The results showed that states that implemented TRAP laws had an increase in teen births of more than 3 percent, compared to states without these restrictions. Dr. Torres and her colleagues also found that reductions in abortion access and use drove these impacts. The study further documented that adolescent exposure to TRAP laws had downstream impacts on education, particularly for Black women. The findings showed that Black women who were first exposed to TRAP laws before age 18 were 2.1 percent less likely to initiate college and 5.8 percent less likely to complete college. For White women, the impacts were only on college completion, were less than half as large, and were not robust. These findings suggest that TRAP laws significantly negatively affect women's reproductive health and educational opportunities. Advocates for reproductive rights argue that laws that limit access to abortion services disproportionately impact marginalized communities, particularly people of color and those with lower incomes. This study adds to the growing body of research that supports these concerns and underscores the need for policies that promote reproductive justice and equitable access to healthcare services for all.

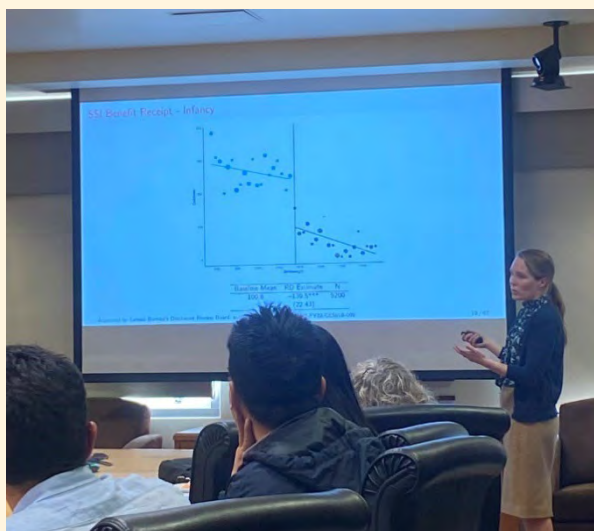


Firearm violence is a significant problem in the United States, with over 19,000 people dying from firearm homicides in 2020. This includes incidents such as mass shootings, which are rare but receive much media attention and cause significant public concern. While much research has been done on the determinants of firearm violence and policies to reduce it, little is known about its effects beyond those directly victimized. This includes the

impact on vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and their children.

A new paper, written by **Dr. Erdal Tekin** of American University, aims to examine the causal effect of maternal stress induced by the fear of gun violence on newborn health. The researchers used two sources of data to investigate this. The first approach involved using the 2002 “Beltway Sniper” attacks as a natural experiment and comparing the birth outcomes of children of mothers whose pregnancy coincided with the period of the shootings and who lived near the location of one of the shootings to the birth outcomes of children who were not exposed to these attacks in utero. The second approach involved a nationwide investigation of the effect of exposure to mass shootings on birth outcomes in the United States using data from 2005 to 2017.

The results presented have important policy implications. If there are costs imposed on newborn children by the prenatal stress and anxiety triggered by firearm violence, then existing estimates of the cost of firearm violence need to be revised upward. This information can also influence considerations of the costs and benefits of policies

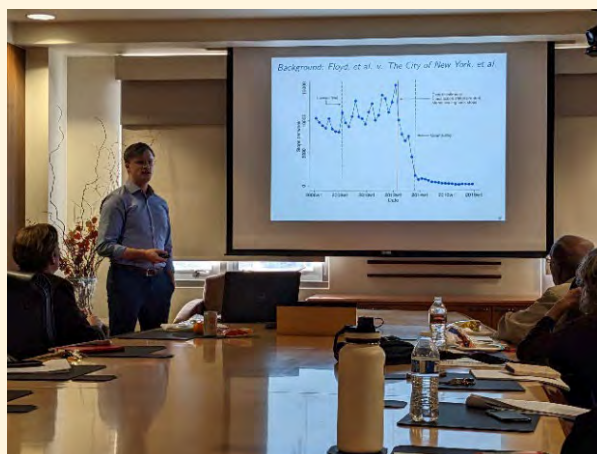


designed to reduce firearm violence and its consequences, as well as the optimal targeting of public resources following incidents of firearm violence.

**Dr. Sarah Miller** from the University of Michigan presented her paper that explores whether providing low-income families with financial assistance early in a child's life can "undo" some of the long-term disadvantages associated with poor health at birth. Specifically, the authors investigate the effects of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which provides cash benefits

to families of low birthweight infants. Dr. Miller examined a birth weight cutoff of 1200 grams, which determines SSI eligibility, and found that families of infants born just below this cutoff experience a significant increase in cash benefits for the first three years of the child's life, equaling about 19% of family income. The benefits continue at lower amounts until the child turns 10. Eligible infants also experience a slight increase in Medicaid enrollment during childhood. She then investigated whether this financial support affects health care use, mortality, educational performance, and adult human capital, earnings, public assistance use, and mortality using data in young adulthood for all infants born in California to low-income families whose birth weight puts them near the cutoff. However, despite the comprehensive nature of the SSI program, Dr. Miller found no improvements in any of these outcomes, nor do they find improvements among the siblings of these infants, who may have also benefited from the increase in family resources. This research suggests that providing financial assistance to low-income families of low birthweight infants does not affect health, education, and economic outcomes long-term. Despite the large increase in cash benefits, no improvements in any of the outcomes studied were made. It's important to note that her findings persist across several subgroups and alternative model specifications.

**Dr. Jonathan Tebes** from the University of Notre Dame explores the impact of police stops on crime rates and high school dropout rates in New York City. Every year, millions of people are stopped by police while walking on the street. The paper investigates whether stopping more people in high-crime neighborhoods reduces crime and whether frequent stops affect high school dropout rates in those neighborhoods.





The study uses data from before and after a reform in 2012 that significantly reduced the number of pedestrian stops. The researchers compare neighborhoods with similar crime rates but different levels of police stops before the reform. They find that reducing police stops does not increase crime rates in those neighborhoods. However, when police stops are combined with increased patrols, serious crime rates decrease.

The study also examines how changes in police stops affect high school dropout rates. The researchers found that the reform reducing police stops reduced the probability of high school students dropping out by about 660 students per year. This decrease in dropout rates represents a social value of over \$205 million annually.

Overall, the study suggests that reducing the number of police stops does not increase crime rates and can positively affect high school dropout rates. The findings provide insights into the effectiveness of police strategies for reducing crime and improving education outcomes in communities.

**Dr. Jaerim Choi** of the University of Hawaii presented new research investigating the long-term environmental impacts of trade liberalization on US manufacturing and the underlying mechanisms by studying the effect of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) being granted to China, which reduced US trade policy



uncertainty. He and his co-authors, Jay Hyun, Gueyon Kim, and Ziho Park use data on establishment-level pollution emissions and business characteristics from 1997 to 2017 and find that establishments reduce toxic emissions in response to a reduction in trade policy uncertainty. The authors show that emission abatement is mainly driven by a decline in pollution emission intensity rather than establishment exits or a decrease in production scale. Emission reduction is more pronounced for establishments with foreign sourcing networks, those under more stringent environmental regulations, those operating in more upstream industries, and those that belong to a multi-sector firm. They provide further evidence supporting the pollution haven hypothesis, which suggests that offshoring is central to the mechanism. US manufacturers, especially those that emit pollutants more intensely, begin to source from abroad and establish more subsidiaries in China after PNTR. Granting PNTR to China led to a reduction in trade policy uncertainty, which caused US manufacturing establishments to reduce toxic emissions, mainly by decreasing pollution emission intensity. The decline in emissions was more

pronounced for establishments with foreign sourcing networks, operating under more stringent environmental regulations, operating in more upstream industries, and belonging to a multi-sector firm. The findings also support the pollution haven hypothesis, where offshoring plays a crucial role in reducing emissions.

**Dr. Joe Shapiro** from the University of California, Berkeley, explores how pollution impacts human health. By combining data on health outcomes with information on public investments made to tackle pollution, the researchers found that these investments significantly positively impact people's health. The study used a special method to estimate these effects, which showed that the investments were effective and had many benefits. However, these benefits were not evenly distributed among different groups of people.

The researchers found that the investments made to reduce pollution were a good use of public funds because they were cost-effective and produced more benefits than their costs. These findings have important implications for policymakers currently considering public investments in environmental goods as part of the Infrastructure Bill.

Overall, this study highlights the urgent need for action to address pollution and its impact on public health. The findings prove that targeted public investments can make a real difference in improving the health of communities affected by pollution. By investing in measures to reduce pollution, policymakers can help create a healthier and more equitable society.





**Dr. Abigail Friedman**, assistant professor of Public Health at Yale University, presented her paper on the effects of restricting flavored tobacco product sales in the US. The use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) has become more prevalent than traditional cigarettes among young people in the US. Concerns have been raised about flavored ENDS products enticing young people, and laws have been implemented in six states and hundreds of localities to restrict the sales of non-tobacco-flavored ENDS.

However, there is limited research on the effects of these policies, which tend to focus on a single policy or policies within a single state. The results are mixed, especially regarding the use of more lethal combustible tobacco products such as cigarettes and cigars. Existing research also overlooks variations in the policies' details, such as whether they include retailer exemptions, and the concurrent flavor restrictions on other tobacco products like flavored cigars and menthol cigarettes.

To accurately evaluate the costs and benefits of these policies and determine which ones best protect public health, policymakers need to understand their effects. In response, her team collected data on all state and local tobacco product flavor restrictions and matched it with state-by-month retail sales data for 44 states from 2018 to January 2023. They assessed how the percentage of a state covered by flavored ENDS, flavored cigars, and menthol cigarette sales restrictions affected per capita sales of ENDS, cigarettes, and cigars, overall and by flavor-type.

The authors also examined how these policies affected the sales of cigarette brands that are favored by youth versus adults and how their effects differed when policies included retailer exemptions. This study provides valuable insights into the effects of flavor policies on tobacco product sales and highlights the importance of understanding the details of these policies. Policymakers can use this information to create regulations that protect public health effectively while minimizing unintended consequences.

**Dr. David Slusky** from the University of Kansas and his coauthors presented new research examining the effect of abortion access during the COVID-19 pandemic on abortion and birth rates. During the pandemic, many states in the US temporarily banned elective medical procedures to save hospital resources for COVID-19 patients. Some states classified abortions as elective procedures, which resulted in substantially reduced access to reproductive health services.





Dr. Slusky and his colleagues examined anonymized smartphone data from abortion clinics nationwide to see how these restrictions affected the number of visits to these clinics. They found that overall, there was a 6% decrease in visits to abortion clinics in 2020 compared to the previous year. In states that banned elective procedures, there was an additional 18.5% decrease in visits to abortion clinics. And in states that banned surgical abortions, there was a 12.7% decrease in visits to clinics that provide surgical abortions.

Even in states where abortion is generally supported, the bans on elective procedures impacted abortion clinics. The results suggest 32,000 fewer abortions in 2020 than in 2019, which is a 7% drop. Based on provisional birth data, they also found that the restrictions led to 6,400 additional births. Overall, the study shows that temporary bans on elective medical procedures can greatly impact access to abortion, even in states where it is generally supported. It also provides important information for policymakers to consider in the future when making decisions about healthcare during a pandemic.



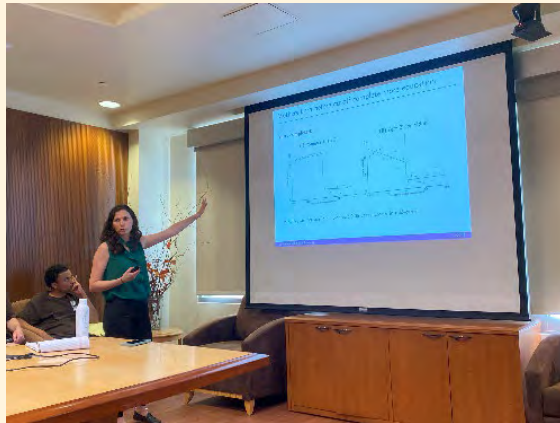
**Dr. Mark Anderson** from Montana State University presented his latest work examining the impact of enforcing minimum quality standards between 1880-1910. In the late 1800s, the milk supply in urban areas was often diluted with water and additives like dyes, caramel, and salt, making it difficult for consumers to determine its quality. To protect

consumers, milk inspectors were employed to enforce minimum quality standards (MQSs). Using city-level data from 1880-1910, the study finds that milk inspections reduced mortality from waterborne and foodborne diseases by 12-19 percent. This is the first study to provide evidence that MQSs can improve consumer health when applied directly to an experience or credence good, such as milk. The findings of this study are significant as they demonstrate the importance of enforcing MQSs to protect public health. The study shows that MQSs can effectively reduce mortality rates from waterborne and foodborne diseases, significant public health concerns during the late 1800s.

The study's results are particularly relevant today as minimum quality standards are still enforced to ensure consumer safety in various industries. The findings provide evidence

that MQSs can be an effective tool to protect public health when applied to products that are difficult for consumers to evaluate, such as food and beverages.

Overall, this study provides valuable insights into the importance of enforcing MQSs to protect public health and highlights the need for continued efforts to ensure that MQSs are maintained and enforced effectively in various industries.



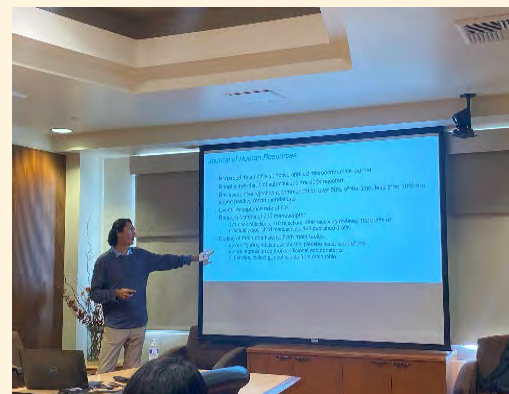
**Dr. Na'ama Shenhav** from Dartmouth College examined how education affects the nature of work and its status and how it benefits the next generation. She used a "regression discontinuity" method to analyze data from California birth records and survey supplements. The results show that education significantly impacts women's employment and professional status, as well as job benefits like better working conditions. Women with more education are more likely to identify as workers,

have professional jobs, and socialize with higher-educated peers. Additionally, these benefits grow over time and become more apparent in mid-career rather than early on.

Her study also finds that education positively impacts maternal and child health behaviors. Overall, the results suggest that increasing education can lead to greater social mobility in the professional sphere and improve health outcomes for both mothers and children. This means that investing in education can significantly benefit future generations and create positive externalities that last for years to come.

This study highlights the transformative impact of education on the nature and status of work and how it can benefit the next generation. Investing in education can create opportunities for social mobility and improve health outcomes for mothers and children.

**Dr. Lester Lusher** from the University of Hawaii presented his work "Unpacking P-hacking and Publication Bias," which explores the issue of bias in scientific research. Scientists conducting studies often use statistical tests to determine if their results are significant. However, sometimes researchers can manipulate their data or methods to make their results look more significant than they actually are. This is called "p-hacking" and can lead to publishing misleading or false results.

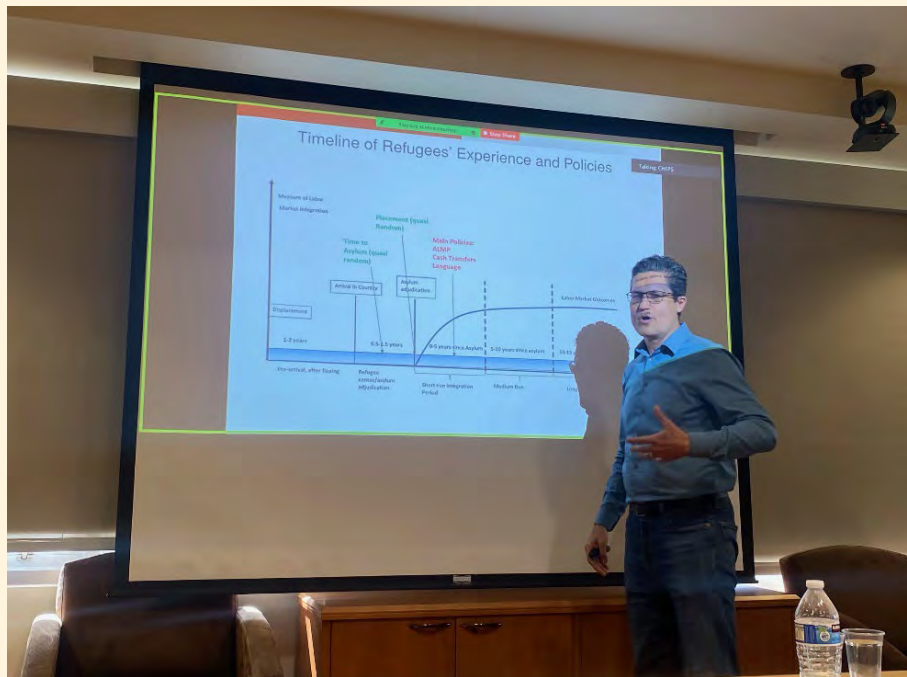


The study looks at data from scientific journals to see how common p-hacking and publication bias are. The researchers found that there is a tendency for researchers to submit papers with statistically significant results, suggesting a bias toward publishing

these kinds of papers. However, the study also found that rejected papers tend to have more marginally significant results, meaning they were less likely to be published.

Interestingly, the study found that the peer review process, where experts in the field review papers before they are published, did not affect the distribution of test statistics. This means peer review is ineffective at catching biased or misleading research.

**Dr. Giovanni Peri** from the University of California, Davis presented a working paper co-authored with Dr. Mette Foged, and Dr. Linea Hasager that looks at the impact of migrant integration policies on the employment and earnings of refugees in Denmark over the past three decades. They review previous studies that evaluated the effects of four types of policies on the assimilation of refugees in developed countries and then analyze individual longitudinal data from Denmark to estimate the results of these policies on refugees' labor market outcomes.



The study finds that improved language training and initial placement of refugees in strong labor markets significantly improve their long-term labor market outcomes. On the other hand, cutting initial welfare payments and housing refugees near other refugees does not seem to improve their long-term

outcomes. Active labor market policies focused on matching refugees with simple jobs in high-demand occupations may have positive short-term effects, but they cannot yet assess their long-term effects.

This analysis is unique because Denmark is the only country where the number and design of policy changes and the availability of individual longitudinal data make this type of analysis possible. The results suggest that integration policies can significantly impact refugees' labor market outcomes, and that targeted investments in language training and initial placement in strong labor markets can lead to better long-term outcomes.



This study highlights the importance of evidence-based policies for successfully integrating refugees into the labor market. By providing refugees with the right support and opportunities, we can help them achieve long-term economic success and contribute positively to their host communities.



The weather can greatly impact how we feel and enjoy outdoor activities, like going to a baseball game. We all know that really hot or cold days can make us uncomfortable and even discourage us from going outside. But have you ever wondered how much people are willing to pay for a more pleasant temperature?

**Dr. Melissa LoPalo** from Montana State University looked into this question by studying 50 years of attendance data from Major League Baseball games. They found that fewer people show up to the games when the weather is very hot or cold. This is true even when you consider other factors that might affect attendance, like how well the teams are doing.

By analyzing this data, the researchers were able to estimate how much people value mild weather. They found that, on average, people are willing to pay an extra \$1-2 per game to avoid extreme temperatures. This might not seem like a lot, but considering how many people attend outdoor events like baseball games can add up to a significant amount of money.

This research helps us understand how much people care about the weather and how it affects our lives. It also shows that extreme temperatures can have a real economic impact, not just on individuals but on entire communities.

**Roman Rivera**, a 5<sup>th</sup>-year Ph.D. candidate from Columbia University, presented his job market paper that investigated the impact of pretrial electronic monitoring (EM) as an alternative to pretrial release or detention in Cook County, Illinois. EM involves defendants wearing an ankle bracelet that tracks their movements to prevent pretrial misconduct. Using the random assignment of bond court judges, the study estimates the effects of EM versus release or detention on pretrial misconduct, case outcomes, and recidivism.

The study finds that compared to release, EM increases pretrial violations due to bond violations but reduces new cases for low-level crimes and failures to appear in court. Compared to detention, EM increases low-level pretrial misconduct, but it improves defendant case outcomes and reduces future recidivism. However, the study concludes that it is



not clear if EM prevents enough high-cost crime to justify its use compared to release, particularly for defendants who are more likely to be released.

His findings are crucial as they provide insights into the effectiveness of pretrial electronic monitoring as an alternative to pretrial release or detention. The study shows that while EM may not prevent high-cost crimes, it is still an adequate substitute for pretrial detention, reducing cost-weighted future recidivism and improving case outcomes for defendants.

The results also have practical implications for the criminal justice system. The findings suggest that EM could be a viable alternative to pretrial detention, particularly for low-level offenders, reducing costs associated with pretrial detention while still providing effective monitoring. However, policymakers must carefully consider the costs and benefits of EM when compared to pretrial release. Overall, Roman's analysis provides valuable insights into pretrial electronic monitoring in the criminal justice system, highlighting its potential as an alternative to pretrial detention and its impact on pretrial misconduct, case outcomes, and recidivism.



**Dr. Alessandra Fenizia** from George Washington University examines how organized crime affects the economy of Italian municipalities and the impact of dismissing corrupt city councils. The findings show that getting rid of corrupt city councils leads to a 16.9% increase in employment over a nine-year period. This increase is primarily due to newly elected politicians who enforce tax compliance and allocate more money to infrastructure projects. The positive effects of the dismissal are reflected in higher real estate prices for industrial properties in the area. These results suggest that targeting organized crime is an effective way to boost economic growth in affected regions.

In simpler terms, this study looks at how organized crime can harm a city's economy and how getting rid of corrupt politicians linked to organized crime can lead to job growth and better infrastructure. The study found that when new politicians are elected, they make sure people pay their taxes and invest more in building roads and other projects. This leads to more businesses and jobs, which makes real estate more valuable. Overall, the study shows that taking action against organized crime can greatly benefit a city's economy.

Student loans have become a major concern in the United States. Many students rely on these loans to finance their education, but paying them back can be challenging. This has led to worries about a student debt crisis. However, little is known about the long-term effects of borrowing on students' financial well-being.

To understand these effects, **Dr. Jeffrey Denning** from Brigham Young University studied data on students who received federal loans. They found that students were more likely to complete their degree when loan limits were increased. This is good news, because having a degree can lead to higher earnings later in life. In fact, the researchers found that students with access to more loans had higher earnings and were more likely to repay their loans.





The study also found that borrowing more did not lead to more debt in other areas, such as credit card debt or mortgages. So, taking out student loans is a good investment in your future. Of course, it's important to be careful and not borrow more than you need. But for many students, loans are necessary for getting an education and can ultimately pay off in the long run.

Overall, the study suggests that student loans can be a valuable tool for students who need financial help to complete their education. With higher earnings and better loan repayment rates, taking out loans can lead to a brighter financial future.



**Daniel Firoozi**, a Ph.D. student from the University of California, Irvine, presented a new working paper that investigates how attending a research university affects a student's political beliefs and voting behavior. The researchers used data from over 250,000 students who applied to the University of California and a change in the admission rules to determine the impact of attending a research university on political beliefs and voting behavior.

The study found that attending a research university significantly impacts a student's political beliefs. Students who are admitted to the university are less likely to identify as Republicans and more likely to identify as independents or Democrats. The study also found that attending a research university increases participation in primary elections, particularly Democratic primaries. Firoozi showed how attending a research university affects political beliefs and voting behavior. His results suggested that the effect is not due to intentional efforts by faculty to influence their students but rather through long-term mechanisms and on-campus peer socialization.

**Dr. Georg Schaur** from the University of Tennessee presented a new paper co-authored with his colleagues that focuses on trade facilitation policy, which aims to reduce the time and cost of importing goods by making shipment processing faster and more transparent.

One common way to measure these frictions is by looking at the time it takes to import goods. In this paper, he and his colleagues take this approach further by translating import processing times into costs. They do this by considering the fact that



shipment processing times at ports of entry are random and that firms choose lead times to buffer processing shocks. The authors used detailed data on import processing dates, instrumental variables, and firm-product-origin level import data to estimate import processing costs. They found that, on average, import processing is equivalent to a 20 percent import tariff, meaning that it can significantly add to the costs of importing goods. However, the import processing cost drops to about 12 percent for experienced importers. They also show that their time cost estimate is a more accurate and useful approach than existing methods for determining import processing costs, predicting who would benefit from trade facilitation, and interpreting existing data on the time it takes to import. This study provides valuable insights into the costs of importing goods and the importance of reducing processing frictions to make trade more efficient and affordable. By understanding the economic impact of import processing costs, policymakers can make more informed decisions about trade facilitation policy and help to reduce trade barriers for businesses.

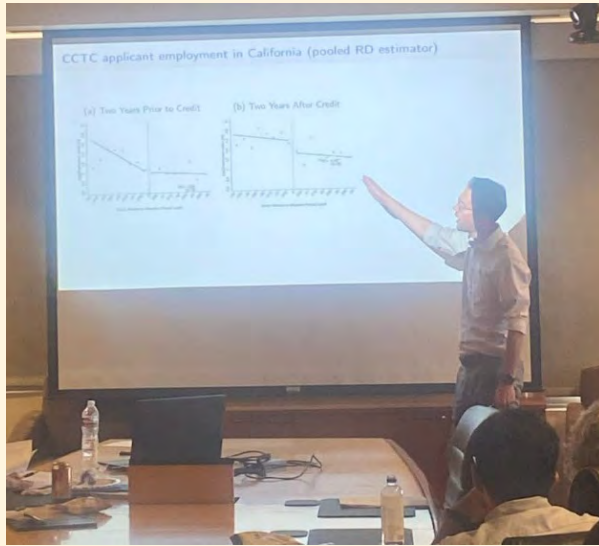


**Dr. Emily Lawler** from the University of Georgia presented new work examining how state hospital regulations affect breastfeeding rates and how much time new mothers spend caring for their babies. These regulations require hospitals to provide certain standards of care immediately after a baby is born to encourage more mothers to breastfeed. The study found that these regulations did have a positive impact, with a 3.8

percentage point increase in the number of mothers who started breastfeeding and a 7 percent increase in the number of mothers who continued to breastfeed at 3 and 6 months after giving birth.

The study also found that these regulations impacted how much time new mothers spent caring for their babies. Mothers who followed these regulations spent more time on child care but less time on formal work, and this effect was particularly noticeable for mothers with infants aged between 0 and 3 months.

Overall, this study suggests that state regulations can be effective in promoting breastfeeding and that this can have an impact on how much time new mothers spend taking care of their babies. By encouraging more mothers to breastfeed, these regulations may be helping to support the health and well-being of both mothers and babies.



**Dr. Matthew Freedman** from the University of California, Irvine presented a new study examining how businesses respond to location-based hiring subsidies. Specifically, he and his co-authors focus on the California Competes Tax Credit (CCTC) program, which incentivizes businesses to create jobs in California. Using a combination of formula-based and discretionary criteria to select recipients, the program is designed to be more effective than previous job creation policies. They use a regression discontinuity design to analyze the effects of the CCTC program, comparing

firms that were just above or below the program's eligibility cutoff. The study finds that firms that receive CCTC awards are more likely to expand their activities in California, particularly in disadvantaged areas of the state. The results suggest that targeted and audited hiring subsidies can effectively promote local business expansions. They also investigate whether the program leads to displacement effects in other states, but they do not find strong evidence. The findings of this study have important implications for policymakers considering ways to encourage businesses to create jobs in their regions. The results suggest that targeted incentives can be effective, especially when they are designed to address specific challenges faced by companies in disadvantaged areas. By providing businesses with financial support to expand their activities in these areas, policymakers can help to boost local economies and create jobs.

**Dr. Desmond Ang** from Harvard University presented "Vanguard: Black Veterans and Civil Rights after World War I," which examined the experiences of Black soldiers who returned home from World War I in 1919, facing discrimination and violence. Using newly-digitized records, the study finds that despite the lack of economic benefit from their military service, these soldiers pioneered civil rights in the following decades.

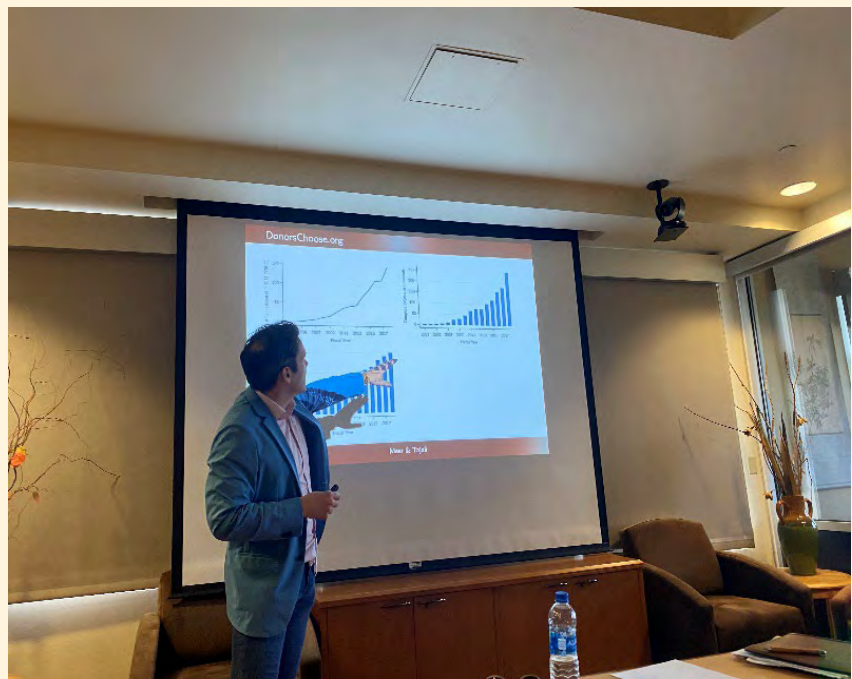
The study shows that Black men who were randomly drafted into the U.S. Army were significantly more likely to join the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a leading civil rights organization at the time. The effects were most substantial for men from higher-skilled occupations and those who served in combat roles. The study also highlights the experiences of the first African-American officer candidate class, finding that commissioned officers were more likely to become civil rights leaders and prominent members of civil society. Overall, the study sheds light on the critical role that Black veterans played in advancing civil rights in the United States.



Despite facing discrimination and violence upon their return, these soldiers used their experiences to become leaders in the fight for equality and justice.



**Dr. Jonathan Meer** presented his paper co-authored with Hedeih Tajali, which looks at whether changes in government spending on K-12 education affect private donations to teachers. They used data from DonorsChoose.org, a crowdfunding platform where public school teachers can raise money for their classrooms. They analyzed a panel of district-year data and used instruments to address the endogeneity of budgets. The study found evidence of "crowd-out" of private giving, which means that when government spending on education increased, private donations to teachers decreased slightly. However, the magnitude of this effect was small and did not offset a large proportion of the budget change. They also found that the crowd-out effect was driven by the teachers' posting of requests on DonorsChoose.org, highlighting the importance of considering the demand side of the charitable giving market. Overall, the study suggests that changes in government spending on education may affect private donations to teachers. Still, this effect is relatively small and does not entirely offset the increase in government spending.



**Dr. Giuseppe Ippedico** examined whether tax incentives can encourage highly educated individuals to return to their home country to address the brain drain issue. Brain drain happens when many highly educated people leave their home country to work in other countries. This can be a problem for the home country as it loses valuable skills and knowledge. Some countries, including Italy, have introduced tax schemes to attract highly skilled workers back to their home country. The study focused on

the Italian tax scheme, "Controesodo", introduced in 2010. This scheme offered a generous income tax reduction to highly skilled Italian expatriates who relocated to Italy. To be eligible for this tax incentive, individuals needed to have a college degree and be born in 1969 or later. The study used a "Diff-in-Diff" strategy and administrative data on return migration to investigate the impact of this tax incentive.



The results showed that eligible individuals were 22-31% more likely to move back to Italy after the tax incentive was introduced. Additionally, the study found that the tax incentive had a broad effect across all income levels, not just for top earners. The study's authors also conducted a cost-benefit analysis, which showed that the net fiscal impact of the 2010 reform was marginally positive, as the tax scheme targeted young individuals.

Overall, this study suggests that tax incentives can effectively encourage highly educated individuals to return to their home country. This can help address the issue of brain drain and bring valuable skills and knowledge back to the home country.

**Dr. Jonathan Cantor**, a policy researcher at the RAND Corporation, presented a new paper that looks at how the accessibility of COVID-19 vaccine distribution sites impacts vaccination rates and health outcomes in the United States. While the vaccine cost is free, other costs such as time and misinformation still apply. He and his co-authors analyzed data on COVID-19 vaccine administrations in 2021, and found that a participating retail pharmacy vaccination site in a county led to a 26% increase in the per-capita number of doses administered. The results suggest that proximity and familiarity play a substantial role in vaccine





take-up decisions. Furthermore, increases in participating retail pharmacies led to a rise in COVID-19 vaccination rates and a decline in the number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, with substantial heterogeneity based on county rurality, political leanings, income, and race composition. The study estimates that averting one COVID-19 case, hospitalization, and death requires approximately 25, 200, and 1,500 county-level vaccine total doses, respectively. These results imply a 9,500% to 22,500% economic return on the total costs of COVID-19 vaccination. The findings have important implications for the design of COVID-era and other public health interventions. They suggest increasing accessibility to vaccine distribution sites can substantially improve vaccination rates and health outcomes, particularly in disadvantaged communities. The study also highlights the importance of addressing factors such as misinformation and other costs that may deter individuals from getting vaccinated. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring equitable access to vaccines in order to combat the COVID-19 pandemic effectively.

**Dr. Lisa Gennetian** from Duke University and her coauthors developed a program where they gave money to families with newborns to help alleviate poverty and wanted to investigate how families used the money they were given. They conducted a study where they gave cash transfers to families with newborns and tracked how the money was spent. The study found that families who received the cash transfers spent more money on things specifically for their children and spent more time doing activities that would help their children learn. This means that the cash transfers helped families invest in their children's development, which is important for their future success.



Interestingly, the families did not reduce their earnings or spend less on other things in the household due to receiving the cash transfers. The study did not find any negative impacts on other important outcomes, such as how much time the infants spent in childcare or the mothers' well-being. Overall, this study shows that giving families with newborns unconditional financial support can lead to positive investments in their children's development without negative consequences.



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AUGUST 25

**Melissa LoPalo**  
Montana State University  
Labor Economics



SEPTEMBER 1

**Roman Rivera**  
Columbia University  
Economics of Crime



SEPTEMBER 8

**Alessandra Fenizia**  
George Washington University  
Labor Economics



SEPTEMBER 22

**Jeffrey Denning**  
Brigham Young University  
Education Economics



SEPTEMBER 29

**Carlos Dobkin**  
University of California  
Santa Cruz  
Health Economics



OCTOBER 6

**Georg Schaur**  
University of Tennessee  
International Economics



OCTOBER 13

**Emily Lawler**  
University of Georgia  
Health Economics

## THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES FALL 2022 SEMINAR SERIES

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

**Thursdays @ 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM**  
**Finch Conference Room (AL 660)**

OCTOBER 20

**Matthew Freedman**  
University of California  
Irvine  
Urban Economics



OCTOBER 27

**Desmond Ang**  
Harvard University  
Labor Economics



NOVEMBER 3

**Jonathan Meer**  
Texas A&M University  
Labor Economics



NOVEMBER 10

**Michael Anderson**  
University of California  
Berkeley  
Health Economics



DECEMBER 1

**Jonathan Cantor**  
RAND Corporation  
Health Economics



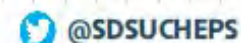
DECEMBER 8

**Lisa Gennetian**  
Duke University  
Family Economics



Out of town? Join us on Zoom!  
<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/81548195804>

The Fall 2022 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the SDSU Student Success Fee



**SDSU**College of Arts and Letters  
Center for  
Health  
Economics and  
Policy StudiesLEARN MORE AT [CHEPS.SDSU.EDU](https://CHEPS.SDSU.EDU)**January 19**  
**Jamie Mullins**  
*University of Massachusetts-Amherst*  
*Environmental Economics***January 26**  
**Mayra Pineda-Torres**  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*  
*Economic Demography***February 2**  
**Erdal Tekin**  
*American University*  
*Health & Labor Economics***February 9**  
**Sarah Miller**  
*University of Michigan*  
*Health Economics***February 16**  
**Jonathan Tebes**  
*University of Notre Dame*  
*Labor Economics***March 2**  
**Jaerim Choi**  
*University of Hawaii*  
*International Trade***March 9**  
**Joseph Shapiro**  
*University of California, Berkeley*  
*Environmental Economics*

## The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies

### Spring 2023 Seminar Series

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics  
Thursdays @ 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM  
Finch Conference Room (AL 660)**March 16**  
**Abigail Friedman**  
*Yale University*  
*Health Economics***March 23**  
**David Slusky**  
*University of Kansas*  
*Health Economics***April 6\***  
**Mark Anderson**  
*Montana State University*  
*Labor Economics & Economic History***April 6\***  
**Daniel Rees**  
*Universidad Carlos III de Madrid*  
*Labor Economics & Economic History***April 20**  
**Na'ama Shenhav**  
*Dartmouth University*  
*Labor & Gender Economics***April 27**  
**Lester Lusher**  
*University of Hawaii*  
*Labor & Education Economics***May 4**  
**Giovanni Peri**  
*University of California, Davis*  
*Labor Economics***SDSU**San Diego State  
UniversityOut of town? Join us on Zoom!  
<https://SDSU.zoom.us/j/81548195804>\*Drs. Anderson and Rees will be hosting a graduate student workshop  
on the SDSU campus

The Spring 2023 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the CHEPS &amp; the SDSU Student Success Fee

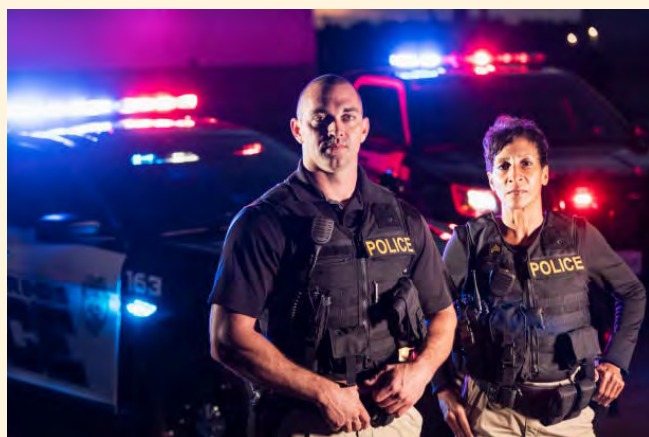
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# CHEPS Research Projects

## Racial Disparities, Policing, and Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

by Zachary Fone, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joseph J. Sabia



On October 6, 2022, President Biden requested that the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Attorney General “initiate the administrative process to review expeditiously how marijuana is scheduled under federal law. Federal law currently classifies marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, the classification for the most dangerous substances. This is the same schedule as for heroin and LSD,

and even higher than the classification of fentanyl and methamphetamine – the drugs that are driving our overdose epidemic.” (The White House 2022).

One important impetus for this policy change was the disproportionately negative impact of marijuana prohibition on Black and Hispanic individuals. A new study by Zachary Fone (US Air Force Academy), Gokhan Kumpas (CSU-Los Angeles), and Joseph Sabia (CHEPS & SDSU) provides recent estimates of the effects of state-level recreational marijuana laws on racial disparities in arrests, psychiatric health, and mortality.

Their findings show that adopting an RML leads to a decline in marijuana-related arrests among both Black and White adults. In absolute terms, the decline was greater for Black adults, but this was entirely a reflection of pre-treatment differentials in arrest rates between Blacks and Whites. They find that (lagged) arrests for violent offenses involving Black adults rose following RML adoption, particularly when open recreational dispensaries are permitted. This could suggest a reallocation of policing resources to fight violent crime is undertaken in a racially disparate manner. They also show that RML adoption is associated with a reduction in opioid-involved mortality. The finding appears largest (in absolute and statistical significance terms) for non-Hispanic Whites relative to Blacks and Hispanics.

Together, their findings suggest that RMLs did little to reduce racial inequalities in arrests, psychological health, or mortality. However, the failure of RMLs to reduce racial disparities (from a relative perspective) does not imply that racial/ethnic minorities do not achieve important absolute gains from RML adoption.



# Do Mandatory Seatbelt Laws Save Lives?

by Mark Anderson, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia  
*[Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Applied Econometrics]*



In 2020, traffic fatalities were the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths among 1- through 44-year-olds in the United States. Over the past 40 years, mandatory seatbelt laws have become one of the most prominent demand-side policies to curb traffic fatalities. These laws, which impose civil fines on violators, take two forms: primary seatbelt laws (PSLs) and secondary seatbelt laws (SSLs).

PSLs allow law enforcement officials to stop and cite violators independently of other traffic behavior. SSLs permit citations for not wearing a seatbelt only if drivers have been stopped for a separate traffic offense. Recently, the National Governors Association listed the implementation of primary seatbelt laws as their top strategy to improve driver and passenger safety. As of January 2022, 34 states and the District of Columbia had a PSL, while 15 states had an SSL.

In this study, D. Mark Anderson (Montana State University), Yang Liang (San Diego State University & CHEPS), and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS) examine the effect of mandatory seatbelt laws on occupant and non-occupant-related traffic fatalities. Their estimates suggest that PSLs are associated with a 5 to 9 percent reduction in fatalities among motor vehicle occupants. SSLs, on the other hand, are associated with markedly weaker effects. They conclude that strict seatbelt laws can potentially reduce vehicle occupant deaths without sizable “moral hazard” effects on non-occupants of vehicles.



# Minimum Wages are a Poor Way to Help the Working Poor

by Richard Burkhauser, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia

*[National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 31182]*

For nearly a century, advocates of minimum wage increases have argued that raising the minimum wage will reduce poverty. A new study by Richard Burkhauser (Civitas Institute, UT-Austin, and Cornell), Drew McNichols (CHEPS), and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS) uses data from the March Current Population Survey spanning four decades to study the effect of minimum wage increases on poverty. Their findings provide no evidence that minimum wage increases are an effective policy strategy to fight poverty.

Two important factors can explain the poor performance of past minimum wage increases in curbing poverty. First, most working-age individuals (ages 16-to-64) living in poor families are unemployed, and even fewer are steadily employed. Moreover, only 8 to 10 percent of working-age individuals living in poor or near-poor families earn minimum wages, so they are likely to be affected. Second,



minimum wage increases may cause adverse employment effects among some low-skilled workers, generating income redistribution rather than net income gains for individuals in poor and near-poor families. In addition, the authors note that their measures of poverty may understate the adverse effects of the minimum wage on family well-being to the extent that minimum wage hikes reduce fringe benefits and workplace amenities not captured by our resource measures.

The authors further find that a \$15 federal minimum wage would be a very target-inefficient means of delivering income to the working poor. Specifically, they find that just 5.9 percent of the benefits of a \$15 minimum wage will accrue to workers in poor households. In comparison, 62.7 percent of those affected live in households with incomes twice or more than the federal poverty line. In contrast to the minimum wage, expansions in eligibility criteria for benefits from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) may be more effective and more target-efficient policy strategies to deliver income to the families (households) of the working poor than the minimum wage.

# E-Cigarette Taxes and Teenage Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities

by Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Matthew Braaksma, Catherine Maclean, and Joseph J. Sabia

*[National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 30670]*



A new National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) study by Dhaval Dave (Bentley University), Yang Liang (SDSU & CHEPS), Matthew Braaksma (University of Minnesota), Catherine Maclean (George Mason University), and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS) offers the first causal evidence on the impact of ENDS taxes on teen alcohol misuse and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. ENDS use rates are high, and ENDS taxes cause a sizable reduction in the number of ENDS users, thus providing us the ability to

study the effect of ENDS taxes on an important secondary marketplace, alcohol, to provide a complete understanding of general equilibrium effects of public health policies targeting ENDS. Teen alcohol misuse remains high and imposes substantial costs on society — with estimated annual social costs of \$28 billion — and policy action by state and federal governments has largely stagnated.

This study combines a quasi-experimental difference-in-differences research design, applied to five survey and administrative databases, to bring much-needed evidence to bear on the relationship between ENDS taxes and teen alcohol misuse. The authors' results show that ENDS taxation has little impact on the extensive margin of teen drinking (any alcohol consumption). Still, it curtails use on the intensive margin, particularly metrics of misuse that likely correlate with social costs. Specifically, the study shows that the probability of teen binge drinking declines by one to two percentage points following a one-dollar increase in the ENDS tax. The study also documents that alcohol-related traffic fatalities — a particularly costly externality associated with teen alcohol misuse — decline by 0.4 to 0.6 fatalities per 100,000 16-to-20-year-olds following a one-dollar hike in the ENDS tax.



# Youth Bullying and Unhealthy Behaviors

by Caterina Muratori and Joseph J. Sabia



Federal policymakers, public health researchers, and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have argued for a broad public health approach to reduce school bullying. This recommendation is owed, in part, to a comprehensive epidemiological literature that has concluded “probable evidence” of a causal relationship between bullying victimization and a wide set of risky health behaviors. However, the empirical

methods used in these studies have made it difficult to disentangle the causal effect of bullying victimization from non-random targeting of victims based on difficult-to-measure traits associated with risky health behaviors.

This study, authored by Caterina Muratori (SDSU & CHEPS) and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS), circumvents these empirical challenges by exploiting geographic and temporal variation in the adoption of state ABLs to identify their effect on risky health behaviors. They find that while ABLs — particularly more comprehensive statutes — are effective at reducing bullying victimization, they do little to facilitate a broad set of risky health behaviors for the average U.S. high school student.

When they turn to demographic subgroups, however, an intriguing result emerges. For LGBTQ-identifying teenagers, they find that ABL adoption is associated with a significant (and large) reduction in binge drinking. These findings are consistent with prior evidence that LGBTQ students experienced the largest psychological health gains from ABLs and appear to have reduced engagement in some risky health behaviors as a coping mechanism.



In the main, the results of this study suggest that the margin of bullying victimization reduced by ABLs likely generates, at most, only slight declines in youth risky behaviors for the average teenager. However, it is important to put our null findings on risky behaviors (for the average teen) in the context of the broader literature on the impacts of ABLs. Recent studies point to important psychological benefits that flow from ABL adoption, including a reduction in suicidal behaviors and depression.

# Anti-Bullying Laws and Suicidal Behaviors Among LGBTQ Teens

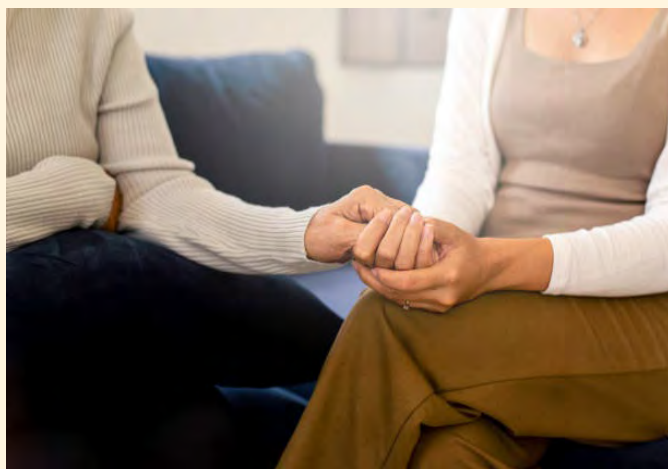
by Yang Liang, Daniel Rees, Joseph J. Sabia, and Cooper Smiley

[Published in *JAMA: Pediatrics*]

Approximately 30% of U.S. high school students who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual report having been bullied on school property, nearly twice the rate of bullying victimization reported by heterosexual youth. In an attempt to reduce bullying victimization, all 50 states (and D.C.) have enacted anti-bullying laws (ABLs). ABLs require school districts to train teachers to recognize bullying, impose graduated sanctions on perpetrators, and improve the recording and monitoring of bullying incidents.



This case-control study used updated state YRBS data from 2009-2019 and a difference-in-differences (DD) approach to explore the association between ABL adoption and changes in suicidal behaviors among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning (LGBQ) teens.



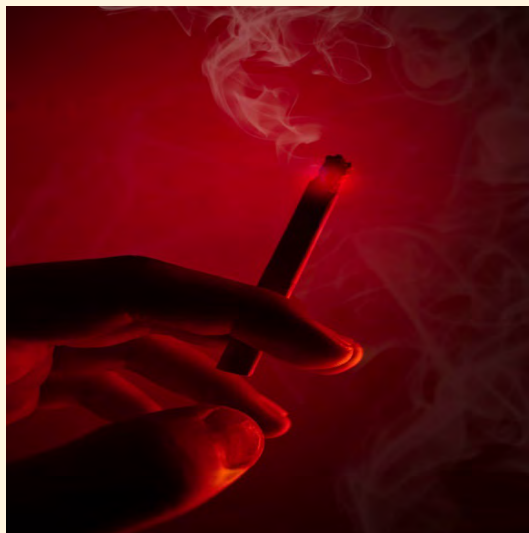
A new study by Yang Liang (SDSU & CHEPS), Daniel Rees (Universidad Carlos III of Madrid), Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS), and Cooper Smiley (SDSU), published in *JAMA: Pediatrics*, finds that ABLs protect lesbian and gay students from suicidal ideation and making suicide plans. The authors also provide evidence that students who are not sure of their sexual identity gain protection against attempting suicide after ABL adoption.

Bisexual-identifying students appear to gain less protection from ABLs. These results underline policy-relevant differences in preventing suicide behaviors among sexual minorities through anti-bullying policies.

# Does Legalizing Access to Marijuana Reduce Tobacco Use?

by Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Serena Phillips, Michael Pesko, and Joseph J. Sabia

*[Forthcoming at Journal of Health Economics]*



While public support for recreational marijuana has sharply risen in recent decades, public health experts have taken a more cautious approach, urging more research to assess the health benefits and costs of marijuana use and to understand potentially unintended consequences on other health behaviors. One important unintended consequence could be the renormalization of smoking, which could undermine the achievements of tobacco control policies over the last two decades.

This study, authored by Dhaval Dave (Bentley University), Yang Liang (SDSU & CHEPS), Serena Phillips (Georgia State University), Michael Pesko (GSU), and Joseph Sabia (CHEPS & SDSU) is the first to comprehensively examine the impact of recreational marijuana legalization on tobacco use. In doing so, they introduce a novel nationally representative longitudinal dataset —the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health (PATH) — to the recreational marijuana legalization literature. This study finds little empirical support for the hypothesis that RMLs increase the net consumption of tobacco, as measured across a broad set of combustible tobacco products and e-cigarettes, either at the extensive or intensive margin. Instead, the preponderance of the evidence points to slight, occasionally significant longer-run declines in adult tobacco use. Reductions in e-cigarette use are primarily concentrated among men and for RMLs that open recreational dispensaries accompany. These findings are consistent with the hypothesis that recreational marijuana and tobacco may be substitutes for some adults.



The potential healthcare cost savings from substitution away from cigarette consumption could be substantial. Scaling these estimates to the national level, our estimates suggest a reduction in smoking prevalence by as many as 5.1 million, translating into tobacco-related healthcare cost savings of about \$10.2 billion annually.



# A Lost Generation? COVID-19 on High School Students Academic Achievement

by Dalit Contini, Maria Laura Di Tommaso, Caterina Muratori,  
Daniela Piazzalunga, and Lucia Schiavon

The COVID-19 pandemic took a toll on many children's lives in poor and rich countries. Children experienced intensified poverty, increased malnutrition and mortality, worse health outcomes, mounting risks of violence, exploitation and abuse, and learning loss.



To date, only a minimal number of empirical studies have focused on learning loss in late adolescence. The impact on young individuals in their final year of high school is of particular interest because these students are about to enter the labor market or embark on a university career without the opportunity to recover.

The authors explore the effect of a full year of the COVID-19 pandemic

on students' school performance at the end of upper secondary school in Italy. The situation in Italy is particularly worrying because, even before the pandemic, adult literacy and numeracy levels were well below the average of OECD countries participating in the Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC), the proportion of young individuals with tertiary education is among the lowest in Europe, and the ratio of NEETs (young adults not in Employment, Formal Education or Training) is among the highest. Moreover, compared to other countries, Italy lacked digital skills and proper infrastructures for remote learning to replace face-to-face teaching.

Their results reveal that students at the end of high school suffered huge learning losses during the pandemic, about 0.4 standard deviations in mathematics and reading. On average, each week of school closure results in a loss of -0.013 s.d. in mathematics and Italian. The analysis also shows that low-achieving students suffered the most. Boys lost ground to girls in Italian (where girls were already doing better, meaning the gap widened) and, to some extent, in mathematics (where girls typically do worse, narrowing the gap in favor of boys). When comparing students with similar performance at Grade 10, the disadvantage between migrant and native students and between southern and northern students decreased significantly. However, because of the pre-existing gap in favor of native and northern students and the fact that low-achieving students lost the most, overall inequalities between these groups increased.

# Reproductive Health Access and Violence Against Women

by Caterina Muratori

On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, overruling *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992). The court decision ends the legalization of abortion nationwide and gives individual states the full power to regulate abortion. At the same time, in many other regions of the world, the debate on abortion has reignited, and restrictions on abortion access are now at the center of political agendas.

The right to abortion allows women to decide whether and when to have children. A possible consequence of the lack of choice in this domain may be a decrease in women's bargaining power in the private and public spheres, particularly among low-income individuals. The arrival of a child lowers women's socio-economic status, making them more vulnerable and raising their probability of suffering abuse. An unintended pregnancy may especially increase women's likelihood to suffer from intimate partner violence, as it also directly affects a woman's ability to leave a relationship.

Starting from studies that estimate a sharp reduction in the abortion rate and an increase in the fertility rate after the implementation of many state laws regulating abortion in the U.S., the author addresses the question of whether part of the aftermath of lower access to abortion services, with a consequent decrease in bargaining power, is an increase in the likelihood of women to be victims of violence. The focus of the study is on Texas since it experienced a dramatic cut in abortion facilities as a consequence of House Bill 2, a state policy targeting abortion providers implemented in July 2013.

Results show that, depending on the initial distance, a 25-mile increase to the nearest abortion clinic is estimated to increase the number of reported cases of gender violence per municipality by up to 1.9 percent. This impact persisted after one year. The relationship is non-linear, in the sense that the effect of distance on violence is lower for municipalities already far from their nearest abortion clinic, while it is more significant for women living relatively close to a clinic before the closure. The impact of an increase in distance is more significant among Hispanic and Black women, with the latter group experiencing an increase in violence against them by up to 4.8 percent.



# Unintended Effects of Minimum Wages on Crime

by Zachary Fone, Resul Cesur, and Joseph J. Sabia

*[Published in Journal of Public Economics]*



Local labor market conditions — especially low-skilled workers' expected wages and employment opportunities — have been shown to play an important role in criminal behavior. This study, authored by Zach Fone (US Air Force Academy), Resul Cesur (University of Connecticut), and Joseph Sabia (CHEPS & SDSU), examines the impacts of U.S. minimum wage laws, which are designed to impact low-skilled labor markets, on crime-related outcomes.

First, using data from the 1998-2016 Uniform Crime Reports, the authors find that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage led to increases in property crime arrests for those between the ages of 16-to-24 of approximately 2 to 3 percent. Supplemental analyses from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 show that self-reported property crime rises for workers who earn wages such that minimum wage increases directly bite (i.e., those earning between the old minimum and new minimum wage). them.

Estimates obtained using Current Population Survey data suggest that the labor market effects of minimum wage increases — increased wages but reduced employment and hours — play an essential role in its net crime effects for young adults.

Together, the study's findings are consistent with (1) minimum wage increase-induced employment declines, which reduce both the opportunity costs of crime as well as the incapacitation effects of employment, (2) minimum wage-induced increases in wages, which may increase durable goods purchases that increase the rewards to larceny by some teenagers and young adults, and (3) possible changes in policing practices in response to minimum wage hikes, that disproportionately affect the most vulnerable teenagers and young adults.





# Does In-Person Schooling Increase Teen Suicides?

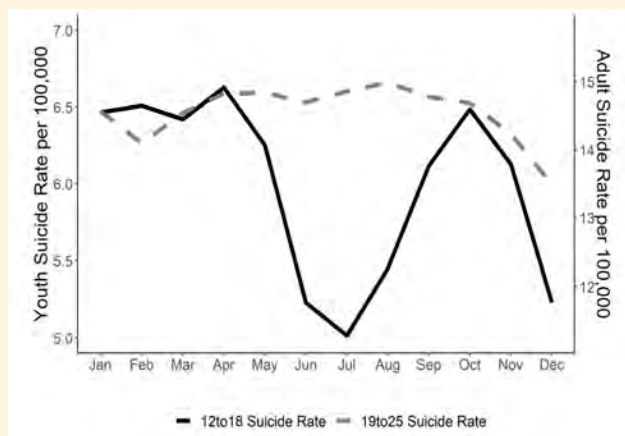
by Benjamin Hansen, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia

*[Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Human Resources]*

A new study by Benjamin Hansen (University of Oregon), Jessamyn Schaller (Claremont McKenna College), and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS) studies how in-person schooling affects teenage suicide. The findings of this study suggest that youth suicides decline when school does not meet in-person. The authors find evidence of this link based historic cross-sectional differences in school calendars and recent school closures and reopenings that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the mechanisms the authors test include: (1) the interrupted cycle of bullying and other stresses related to in-person schooling, and (2) protective effects from more frequent interactions with family members.

However, this interruption in the rise of youth suicides was short lived, as suicide levels have increased as schools have reopened. Moreover, this comes at a time when there has also been a consistent upward trend in youth suicide since 2006, which raises many concerns. Despite the promise that anti-bullying laws may have in reducing marginal bullying victimization, the seasonal pattern in youth suicide and bullying related queries existed prior the pandemic and have reemerged as schools have reopened.

The authors caution that their results should not be interpreted as supporting a policy of school closures to reduce youth suicide risks. There are substantial long-term benefits to education, including, but not limited to, higher earnings, improved health, and reduced criminality. A growing body of research shows school shutdowns had many other adverse spillover effects including decreases in human capital acquisition for children. This research shines a light on the continued need for more research on youth mental health and a deeper investigation into why it declines for some students when school is in session.



# Tobacco Sales Bans and Young Adult Tobacco Use

by Benjamin Hansen, Joseph J. Sabia, and Drew McNichols

*[Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Health Economics]*

A new study by Benjamin Hansen (University of Oregon), Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS), and Drew McNichols (CHEPS) provides among the first national estimates of the effect of statewide Tobacco 21 laws on youth and young adult tobacco use. Tobacco-21 laws ban the sales of all tobacco products (including e-cigarettes) to those under the age of 21.



First, using data drawn from the 2019-2019 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and the 2009-2019 State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS), the authors find strong evidence that T-21 laws reduce tobacco use among young adults. Difference-in-differences estimates from the BRFSS show that T-21 laws are associated with

a 2-to-4 percentage-point reduction in smoking participation among 18-to-20-year-olds. Event study analyses and falsification tests among older individuals ages 21-to-28 generate findings consistent with a causal interpretation of these results.

Turning to the YRBS, the authors find that T-21 laws are associated with a reduction in frequent and everyday cigarette use and an even larger reduction in e-cigarette use. The effects of T-21 laws appear to extend to minors ages 16-to-17, who also see a reduction in cigarette use following T-21 adoption, consistent with several hypotheses: T-21 laws may help to “dry up” the social market for tobacco, may create better “role modeling” of healthy behaviors by 18-year-olds, or make it harder for younger teens to use a false ID to successfully pass for a 21-year-old.

The authors also find some evidence that the informal social market for e-cigarettes may mute some of the effects of T-21 laws on e-cigarette use among 18-year-olds. Together, T-21 laws may be more effective than current tobacco taxation strategies, which appear to be much less effective than they were in the past, due to changes in the marginal smoker’s price sensitivity and relatively high cross-price elasticities among tobacco products.

# Recreational Marijuana Laws & the Labor Market

by Dhaval Dave, Caterina Muratori, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia

[National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 30813]

*"I'm not a regular smoker of weed... I don't find that it is very good for productivity."*

- Elon Musk (2018)

*"I smoke a lot of weed when I write."*

- Seth Rogan (2011)



Recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) legalize the possession, sale, and consumption of small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes for those ages 21-and-older. Since 2012, over 20 and the District of Columbia have adopted RMLs, resulting in over 158 million Americans living in a state with legal access to recreational marijuana. While 68 percent of the American public support marijuana legalization, the American Medical

Association (AMA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA) have stopped short of endorsing RMLs, citing many unanswered questions. Opponents of RMLs argue that the resultant increases in marijuana consumption may cause diminished cognition, increased risk of a motivational syndrome, and lethargy. Moreover, they claim that excessive marijuana use may lead to poorer physical and psychological health, as well as harder drug use and diminished educational attainment. If RMLs generate adverse health, human capital, and cognitive effects, these could have substantial negative impacts on adult labor market outcomes. On the other hand, RMLs could have positive effects on employment and wages. The introduction of a new legal industry — which may include cultivation and production of marijuana as well as legal marijuana sales at recreational dispensaries — may increase employment.

A new study by Dhaval Dave (Bentley University), Caterina Muratori, Yang Liang, and Joseph Sabia is the first to explore the impact of recreational marijuana legalization on labor market outcomes of working-age individuals. Using data from the monthly Current Population Survey Outgoing Rotation Group (ORG) data, they find little evidence that RML adoption has a statistically significant or economically important impact on the probability of employment or wages of all working-age individuals (ages 16-to-64). Instead, their findings show that RML adoption is associated with small *increases* in adult employment in the agricultural sector, consistent with opening of a new licit market to produce and cultivate marijuana.



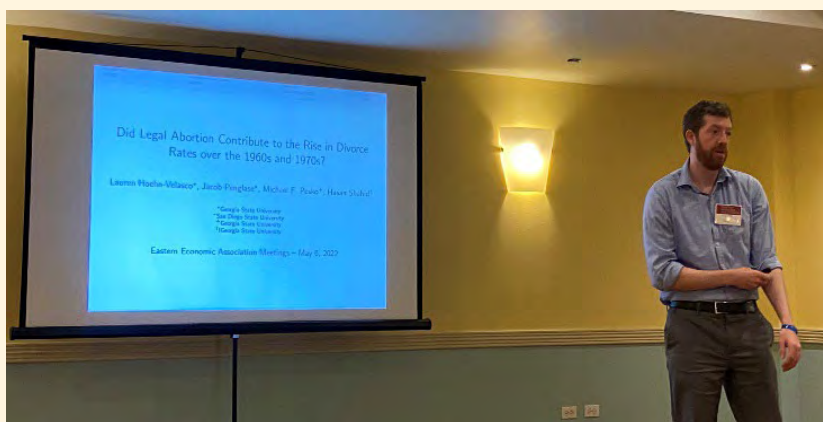
# Are Households Pareto Efficient? A Test Based on Multiple Job Holding

by Jacob Penglase and Omer F. Sozbir



Until recently, economists predominantly modeled the household as a single decision-making unit. This so-called "unitary" framework assumes that individuals within the same household have identical preferences, thus precluding any disagreement within the household. The unitary model further implies that individuals pool their income so that relative wages are irrelevant to the bargaining process. Given the restrictiveness of the unitary model, its assumptions have consistently been rejected. In response, economists have developed several alternative models of household behavior that avoid these drawbacks.

One such alternative is the collective model of Chiappori. The collective model treats the household as a group of individuals with their distinct preferences. Unlike the unitary framework, the collective model recognizes that relative incomes matter in the bargaining process, and factors that shift power within the household can affect household behavior. The flexibility of the model has enabled economists to examine better the design of policies and programs that have the potential to affect the inner workings of the household, such as laws governing marriage, cash transfer programs (e.g., the importance of who in the household receives the transfer), and the relative merits of joint versus individual taxation. The ability of the collective model to examine these topics has resulted in its widespread use as a framework for analyzing the inner-workings of the household.



In this paper, the authors test the validity of the collective model using data on individual labor supply decisions. They develop a novel test using multiple job holders to examine if couples behave efficiently in their decision-making. They fail to reject the model, which suggests that employing the collective model is a reasonable choice to analyze the consequences of policies that affect intra-household dynamics.

# Conservation and Insurance Policy Interactions

by Christophe Goemans, Dale Manning, Matthew R. Sloggy, and Cal Bryan

As climate change and population growth, both intensify at the global-, national-, and local levels, determining optimal allocations of natural resources within our global system is as important as ever. Policies targeting resource conservation have been passed at multiple levels of government, both in the United States and abroad. Prior research has shown that this can lead to interactive effects on resource use between policies at different levels of government.



In this research, the authors seek to understand whether groundwater conservation policies implemented at the local level can impact irrigation through the indirect channel of increased risk management costs.

Local governments on the Ogallala Aquifer have enacted restrictions over the last few decades on the amount of groundwater a farmer can withdraw over a given period. In this study, the authors merge information on the timing of conservation policy implementation with data from the USDA on policy rates for the Federal Crop Insurance Program at the county level.

The authors then estimate if groundwater policy implementation impacts the cost of traditional insurance. After finding that restrictions on irrigation lead to an increase in the unsubsidized crop insurance rate (i.e., risk is increased), they borrow other estimates from the literature (Drysdale & Hendricks; 2018, Sloggy et al. 2019) to find that a non-trivial portion of groundwater policy impacts on irrigation come through this increased cost of risk management. They then determine whether agricultural producers or the federal government bear the greater share of this cost increase, finding the financial burden is shared between the federal government through increased subsidy payment and agricultural producers through lower coverage levels.



# Do Alcohol Sales at College Football Games Increase Criminal Behavior?

by Zachary Fone

[Published in *Journal of Sports Economics*]



The presence of alcohol sales at college football games has been growing over the past decade, during a time of lower game attendance, with the addition of this game day amenity to enhance the game day experience and possibly increase attendance and revenues. However, given the linkages between alcohol availability and crime, considering the possible spillover effects to crime is relevant for properly

accounting the costs and benefits of game day alcohol sales.

This study, published in the *Journal of Sports Economics*, provides one of the first panel-based analyses of alcohol sales' impact on game-day crime. Overall, Dr. Zachary Fone (U.S. Air Force Academy) finds that alcohol sales are associated with declines of 83.5 percent for liquor law violations and 81.0 percent for disorderly conduct on home game days on college campuses. Although some of these results may seem somewhat "mechanical" in nature (especially for liquor law violations, as in-game possession/consumption of purchased alcohol for 21+ year-olds is now legal), they provide some evidence that the presence of alcohol sales does not lead to more alcohol-fueled crime.





# Monitoring Police with Body-Worn Cameras: Evidence from Chicago

by Toshio Ferrazares

*[Forthcoming in Journal of Urban Economics]*

Body-worn cameras have become commonplace for police officers, with the majority of officers in large departments equipped with one. However, whether or not these devices reduce excessive use-of-force instances between officers and civilians is still unknown. Toshio Ferrazares (University of California-Santa Barbara) finds that body-worn cameras are an effective technology for reducing use of force by police officers without increasing injury to officers or affecting civilian use of force. Using a combination of datasets that document police and civilian actions, he estimates the relationship between body-worn cameras and civilian-filed complaints, officer-reported force, civilian and officer injuries, and officer arrests.

Using a two-way fixed effects design, the author finds that Body-worn cameras are associated with a 29% reduction in use-of-force complaints, driven by a large reduction in white officer-black civilian complaints. Additionally, he finds a 34% reduction in officers reporting striking civilians and a large though less significant reduction in officer firearm usage, potential mechanisms for the reduction in complaints. Importantly, these reductions in officer actions are not seen in other categories, such as officers containing civilians, indicating that officers are reducing their level of force on the intensive margin rather than removing themselves from interactions entirely.



However, white arrests on average are unaffected by body-worn cameras. Ferrazares finds evidence of de-policing as officers make fewer drug-related arrests following body-worn camera adoption. These results together indicate that BWC is succeeding in its intended purpose, which is to improve the relations between officers and civilians without reducing the effort of officers to a large degree.

# Unintended Effects of Physician Conscience-Based Refusal to Perform Abortions

by Caterina Muratori

Conscientious objection is the “refusal to participate in an activity that an individual considers incompatible with his/her religious, moral, philosophical, or ethical beliefs.” The concept of conscientious objection was born in the military context during the mid-18th-century, and was expanded to healthcare provision about a century ago. Currently, 46 U.S. states and 21 European countries allow individual healthcare providers to refuse abortion services.



The very few studies on conscientious objection among health care providers suggest that the effect of objection on abortion access is conditional on the actual number of doctors declaring objection. High percentages of objectors may result in many women being denied a service that they legally qualify for, pushing them to resort to

homemade practices or clandestine abortion to terminate the unwanted pregnancy. According to a recent study, between 2011 and 2015, the number of Google searches using terms related to self-abortion increased from 119,000 to 700,000. These searches were more common in states with the highest number of abortion restrictions. In Texas, another study estimated that at least 100,000 Texas residents had attempted to end a pregnancy independently.

The study estimates the impact of the share of gynecologists who declare objection on the individual probability of illegal abortion in Italy. Italy constitutes a particular case since, among Western countries, it has one of the highest shares of gynecologists in public hospitals who deny performing abortions based on conscientious objection, and it is the only state collecting individual data on objection.

The empirical analysis reveals that a 10% increase in the share of objecting gynecologists is associated with a 4 to 5% increase in the individual probability of self-inducing an abortion.

# Determining Gentrification's Relationship to Low Birthweight in Metropolitan California

by Audrey N. Beck, Kyla Thomas, Brian K. Finch, and Joseph Gibbons

*[Published in Housing Policy Debate]*

There is inconsistent evidence whether gentrification, the increase of affluent residents moving into low-income neighborhoods, is detrimental to health. To date, there is no systematic evidence on how gentrification may matter for a range of birth outcomes across cities with varying characteristics. The authors utilize California's Birth Cohort File (2009–2012), decennial census data, and the American Community Survey (2008–2012) to investigate the



relationship of gentrification to outcomes of preterm birth, low birth weight, and small for gestational age across California. They find that socioeconomic gentrification is uniformly associated with better birth outcomes. Notably, however, the authors find that only places specifically experiencing increases in non-White gentrification had this positive impact. These associations vary somewhat by maternal characteristics and by type of gentrification measure utilized; discrepancies between alternative measurement strategies are explored. This study provides evidence that socioeconomic gentrification is positively related to birth outcomes and that the race-ethnic character of gentrification matters, emphasizing the continued need to examine how gentrification may impact a range of health and social outcomes.

## Title IX and Public Assistance

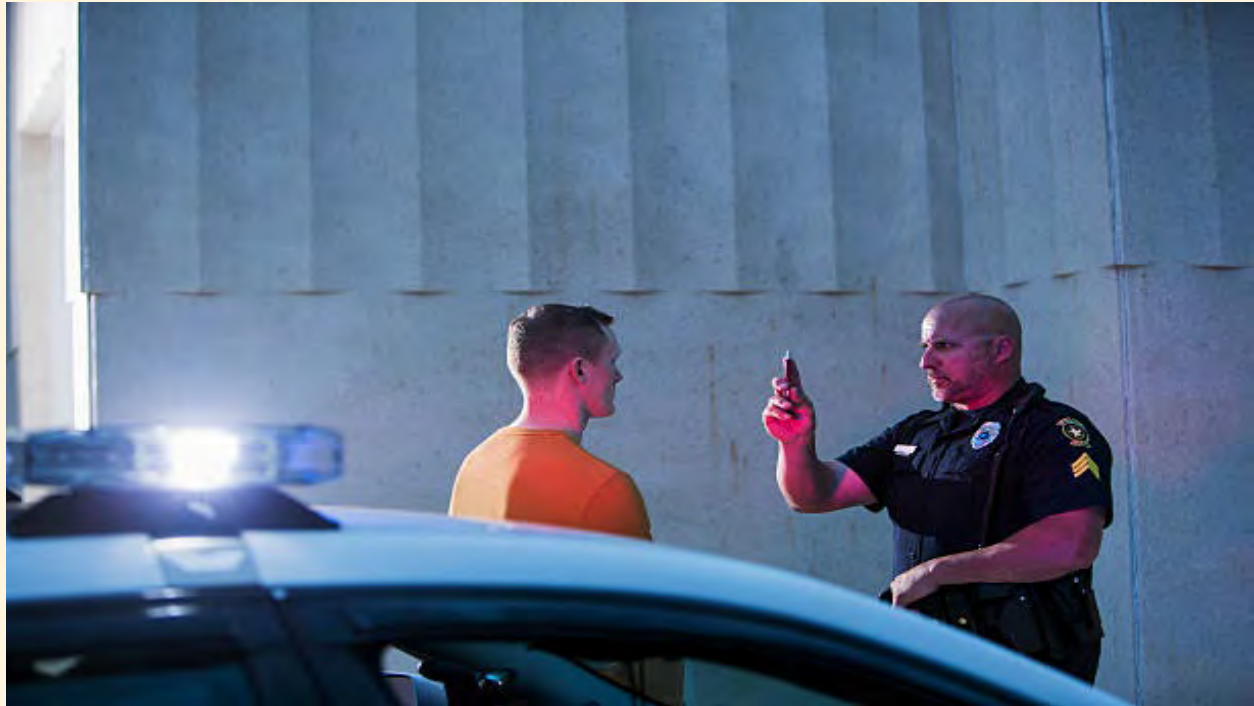
by Gokhan Kumpas

From a policy perspective, it is important to understand the factors leading to increased program participation, which may eliminate extreme poverty but may also increase the burden on federal and state governments' budgets. To understand the causal relationship between athletic participation and means-tested program participation, Gokhan Kumpas (CSU-LA) uses variation in the implementation of Title IX and find that a 30 percentage-point increase in female athletic participation increased program participation among 25- to 40-year-old females by 2.8 percentage-points. This effect persists across Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid program participation. Event study analysis and a variety of placebo tests give credibility to a causal interpretation of the results. Finally, descriptive analyses suggest that Title IX-induced increases in single motherhood and marital status are important channels through which athletic participation affects program participation.



# The Deterrent Effect of Targeted and Salient Police Enforcement: Evidence from DUI Checkpoint Bans

by Kyutaro Matsuzawa



Since drunk driving (DUI) checkpoints were introduced, policymakers have been arguing whether to allow them. DUI checkpoints are a salient and targeted approach to deter and detect drunk driving. However, despite the potential deterrence effect, they may violate Fourth Amendment rights, may not effectively catch drunk drivers, and may increase police discrimination. As a result, twelve states prohibit the use of DUI checkpoints, and some states are currently trying to introduce a bill to ban such checkpoints.

In his new working paper, Kyutaro Matsuzawa (University of Oregon) estimates the benefits of conducting a DUI checkpoint and the consequence of banning its use. By comparing states that ban DUI checkpoints before and after the ban to states that always allowed DUI checkpoints, he finds that traffic fatalities involving drunk driving increase by 12.5% in the short run (5 years after the ban). This increase suggests that a federal ban on DUI checkpoints may result in \$6.3 billion annual costs from lives lost. Investigating the effect of DUI checkpoint bans on DUI arrests and self-reported drunk driving behavior, he confirms that these increases are driven by changes in drunk driving behavior, which is consistent with the story of DUI checkpoints creating a general deterrence effect on drunk driving.

# State Medicaid and Private Telemedicine Coverage Requirements and Telemedicine Use, 2013-2019

by Brandy Lipton and Michael Pesko

*[Conditionally Accepted in Health Services Research]*

This study provides new evidence on the association between state Medicaid and private telemedicine coverage requirements and telemedicine use during 2013-2019. The authors also examine measures of healthcare access, providing some of the first evidence on the link between state Medicaid telemedicine policies and these outcomes using nationally representative survey data. Medicaid telemedicine coverage during 2013-2019 was associated with significant increases in telemedicine use and healthcare access. They did not detect any significant associations for private telemedicine coverage policies. Many states added or expanded telemedicine coverage policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, states will decide whether to maintain these enhanced policies now that the public health emergency is ending. Understanding the role of state policies in promoting telemedicine use may help to inform policymaking efforts in the future.



# How Are Workplace Injuries Affected by Legal Access to Recreational Marijuana?

by Ling Li, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia

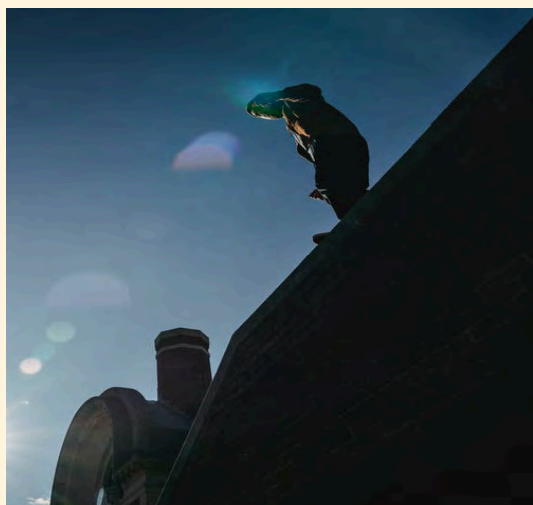
While public support for marijuana legalization has been on the rise over the last two decades, concerns are growing over the possible impact of marijuana legalization on worker safety. The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine recently stated that legalizing marijuana has "huge public and workplace health implications" and that "marijuana can cause impairment that will hinder safe and acceptable workplace performance." A new



working paper by Yang Liang, Ling Li, and Joe Sabia aims to comprehensively examine the impacts of state recreational marijuana laws on workplace injuries. On the one hand, increased marijuana consumption following the adoption of RMLs may inhibit short-term memory, cognitive processing, hand-eye coordination, and response time, all of which can decrease workplace safety; on the other hand, if legalization reduces the use of alcohol, opioids, and other narcotics, the net effect could be an improvement in public safety. Utilizing the injury data from Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the research team will use a difference-in-differences approach to explore how RMLs affect workplace injuries.

## Robotics Expansion and Family Well-being

by Ling Li, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia



Automation and robotics have radically transformed the role of workers in the modern production process (Acemoglu and Restrepo, 2020), sparking vigorous debates on their effects on labor markets. While technological advancements could drastically alter livelihoods, information on how automation may affect poverty and family well-being is largely understudied. This study aims to address this gap in research. Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the International Federation of Robots, Yang Liang, Joseph J. Sabia, and Ling Li will explore the impact of robotics expansion on poverty and means-tested public cash assistance receipt.



# CHEPS in the Media

Several CHEPS publications received widespread media coverage this academic year. In particular, a working paper from Toshio Ferrazares (University of California-Santa Barbara), Mark Anderson (Montana State University), and Joseph Sabia (SDSU & CHEPS) on the ineffectiveness of gun buyback programs, (2) a new study published in the *Journal of Health Economics* on the unintended consequences of e-cigarette taxation (co-author Joseph Sabia), and (3) a National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper on the spillover effects of electronic nicotine delivery taxes on alcohol (co-authors Yang Liang and Joseph Sabia), received coverage in a wide set of media outlets, including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Economist*, and the *Wisconsin Spotlight*.



# CHEPS in the Media



Menu

United States | Smoke and mirrors

## E-cigarette taxes may reduce teenage drink-driving deaths

But anti-vaping policies could also have unintended consequences

### The Effects of Minimum Wage on Productivity

A distortionary labor market is bad for productivity.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022



Image Credit: iStock

Michael Peterson

Economics Minimum Wage Productivity Fight for \$15 Unintended Consequen...

Academic Papers Walter Williams

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It's no secret that minimum wage laws **lower employment for low-skilled workers**, especially for teenagers seeking entry-level employment. The Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) **own projections** point to substantial losses in weekly employment given an increase in the national minimum wage. There are thousands of studies that seek to determine the effects of minimum wage hikes on employment outcomes, with **mixed results**.

<https://www.wired.com/articles/taxing-e-cigs-vaping-to-reduce-teen-drinking-6b29564>

JOURNAL REPORTS: HEALTHCARE

### Want to Reduce Binge Drinking Among Teens? Try Taxing E-Cigarettes

New research also found that a tax on electronic cigarettes reduced drunken-driving fatalities for teenagers



Vaping and binge drinking may go together for many teens, so a tax that reduces vaping could also reduce drinking.

PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES

By Lisa Ward

March 11, 2023 at 12:00 pm ET

NBER WORKING PAPER SERIES

DO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES REDUCE CRIME?

Zachary S. Fone  
Joseph J. Sabia  
Resul Cesur

Working Paper 25647  
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w25647>

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH  
1050 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
March 2019, Revised October 2020

This research was supported by a grant received from the Employment Policies Institute. We also acknowledge support from the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. The authors thank Kevin Schnepel, Melinda Pims, Dhaval Dave, Hope Corman, Tuan Nguyen, and participants at the 2018 Eastern Economic Association meetings and the 2018 Southern Economic Association meetings for useful comments and suggestions on earlier drafts of this paper. We thank Thanh Tam Nguyen for outstanding research assistance. The

### Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities

Dhaval M. Dave, Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Joseph J. Sabia & Matthew Braakmsa

WORKING PAPER 2021/10 DOI: 10.3386/w28110 ISSUE DATE November 2022

Teenage drinking is a big public health concern, generating social costs of over \$26 billion per year, including substantial external costs associated with alcohol-related traffic fatalities. At the same time, the high rate of electronic cigarette ("e-cigarette") use among teenagers has become a public health concern, with state and local policymakers turning to e-cigarette taxes as a tool to curb consumption. This paper is the first to explore the spillover effects of e-cigarette taxes on teenage drinking and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Using data from five nationally representative datasets (the state and national Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Family Analysis Reporting System) spanning the period 2013-2019, and a difference-in-differences approach, we find that a one-dollar increase in e-cigarette taxes is associated with a 1-to-2 percentage-point reduction in the probability of teenage binge drinking, and a 0.4 to 0.6 decline in the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 16-to-20-year-olds in a treated state-year. A causal interpretation of our estimates is supported by (1) event-study analyses that account for heterogeneous and dynamic treatment effects, and (2) null effects of e-cigarette taxes on non-alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

# CHEPS Student Affiliates



**Toshio Ferrazares** is in his fourth year of the Economics Ph.D. Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research focuses mainly on Public and Labor Economics. His current work focuses on the economics of policing and crime, where he studied body-worn cameras' effect on police and civilian safety. In 2021, he was awarded "Best Second Year Paper." Before attending UCSB, he obtained an M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University, where he was a CHEPS M.A. affiliate. Toshio is interested in researching macroeconomics, labor, and public finance. After obtaining his Ph.D., he hopes to pursue a career in teaching at the university level.

**Kyu Matsuzawa** received his B.A. and M.A. in economics and B.S. in statistics from SDSU. He is a third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Oregon and is working on several projects with CHEPS. The first set of projects includes re-examining the effects of minimum wage on poverty and public benefits assistance. The second project, joint with Benjamin Hansen at the University of Oregon, explores the impact of K-12 school reopenings/closings during the COVID-19 pandemic on arrests. Kyu's work has appeared in leading economics field journals, including *the Journal of Human Resources*, *the Journal of Law and Economics*, *the National Tax Journal*, and *the Journal of Urban Economics*.



**Niranjana Prasad** is a Ph.D. student at the Université catholique de Louvain, where she is an affiliate at their Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE Institute). She received her M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2018. She has previously worked with the World Bank, the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA), and the Belgian diplomatic mission in India. During her stint with the World Bank, she worked on the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) and with IRMA on survey design and quantitative research for academic papers. She has also completed a Master's in Economics and International Financial Economics from the University of Warwick. Her areas of interest are Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, and Public Policy.



**Calvin Bryan** is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Colorado State University. He received his undergraduate degree in 2013 with a B.S. in Bioenvironmental Sciences at Texas A&M University and minored in Economics. After graduation, he worked as a recreation technician and type 2 wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado for a few years. He received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2020. His interests include environmental policy, welfare economics, and the economics of outdoor recreation.



**Alicia Marquez** received her B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Economics and an M.A. in Economics from San Diego State University. She is a second-year Ph.D. student in the Policy Analysis and Management Ph.D. program at Cornell University. She chose this program because of its interdisciplinary nature, with strong faculty in fields ranging from health economics to demography to environmental economics. Her interests include natural resource economics, health economics, and public policy.

**Samuel Safford** received his B.A. in Applied Economics from California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), and his Master of Arts in Economics at SDSU. He will begin a Ph.D. in Sociology at Cornell University this year after completing doctoral coursework at Michigan State University. His interests include political economy, housing markets, economics of education, and public policy. Sam is particularly interested in studying the health outcomes of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning individuals.



**Rebecca Margolit** is a research associate at the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame. She is currently managing ten research projects, often supervising undergraduate research assistants and teaching them the same coding techniques that she learned at CHEPS. This has been a new step for her in her career and has sparked an interest in becoming an economics professor after completing her Ph.D.. Rebecca will be applying to Ph.D. programs next cycle. She has been very excited to work on a revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, along with her coauthors Dr. Joe Sabia and Dr. Dan Rees. Her major goal currently is to have that article published, as it will be the first in her career. "I can't wait!" she says.



**Russell Leonard is a** Ph.D. student in the Department of Economics at UC Irvine.

**Do you have any articles that have been accepted for publication or received a revise-and-resubmit?**

I have journal submissions pending on two articles. One examines the effects of broadband deregulation with Kangoh Lee. The other, joint with Joe Sabia:

**“Do Vertical Identification Laws Reduce Teenage Drinking and Smoking?”** (joint with Joe Sabia) is under review. The abstract of that paper is below:

### **Abstract**

With the goal of lowering the cost of identifying underage youth trying to purchase alcohol and tobacco, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted so-called vertical identification laws (VILs), which require state identification cards (drivers' licenses) issued to those under age 21 to be vertical in nature. In a recent study, Bellou and Bhatt (2013) used data from the 1991-2009 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and found that VILs adoption reduced alcohol consumption and cigarette use among 16-year-old high school students. This study uses new data, novel difference-in-differences approaches, and additional policy variation that were not available to previous scholars to re-examine this question.

In contrast to prior research, our findings show little evidence that VILs are effective at curbing teen drinking or smoking. Specifically, we find that the negative drinking and smoking effects of VILs disappear: (1) when the national YRBS data is extended through 2019, (2) when one uses the state YRBS or augmented state and national YRBS data from 1991-2009 or 1991-2009, and (3) use an alternate difference-in-differences estimator that accounts for heterogeneous and dynamic treatment effects. These results are consistent with (1) empirical evidence that few 16-year-olds directly purchased alcohol or cigarettes from a vendor but instead relied on social sources for these products and (2) the hypothesis that the supply of false IDs is relatively inelastic.

The cost of implementing VILs was not trivial. For instance, a 2002 analysis by the Michigan state legislature estimated that the implementation costs of Michigan's 2003 VIL would cost the state a one-time expenditure of about \$1 million for the “program conversion costs for the contractor producing Michigan's driver's license and ID cards.” Given that policymakers sought the adoption of VILs to reduce the supply of false IDs and public health costs of underage purchases of cigarettes and alcohol, our updated estimates suggest that this policy strategy was largely ineffective.

**Thanh Tam Nguyen** is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of New Hampshire. She earned her B.A. and M.A. in economics at San Diego State University. Her research examines the effects of government policies on labor market outcomes, health outcomes, risky behaviors, and crime. Tam is currently working on her dissertation examining the effects of public policies on vulnerable populations.



One of her essays examines the effect of state Medicaid nonpayment policies on early elective deliveries and infant health outcomes. Early elective deliveries are scheduled Cesarean sections or inductions performed during 37 and 38 weeks of gestation with no medical justifications. Early elective deliveries carry risks to both the mother and the newborn and may also increase the costs to the health care system. By 2019, 14 state Medicaid programs have refused or reduced payment to physicians for early elective deliveries that are not medically indicated. Using restricted-use data from the 2009-2019 Natality Detail Files, difference-in-differences estimates suggest nonpayment policies are associated with a 9 to 10 percent reduction in early elective deliveries among mothers ages 15-44 with no college degree. These laws are also associated with a small improvement in birthweight and full-term births, yet no change in APGAR score.



**Yiying Yang** will begin doctoral studies this Fall. During her research experience at CHEPS, she has been participating in research on the impact of using robots on welfare and poverty rate, as well as other projects related to international trade.

**What will you be doing next?**

I will go to Fordham University in New York for my doctoral studies. Currently, there is no confirmed research direction.

**How did CHEPS help you in your endeavor to be accepted to a Ph.D. program?**

My research experience at CHEPS has confirmed that I will continue my doctoral studies in economics and laid the foundation for my doctoral studies, giving me the confidence to complete my doctoral studies. This research experience has helped me gain a deeper understanding of economics and is my most valuable research experience.

**What skills have you acquired?**



Through the reproduction of Daron Acemoglu and Pascual Restrepo's Robots and Jobs: Evidence from US Labor Markets paper, I learned how to handle the data in a paper and how to build the model. I also helped the group to find the relevant variables through the IPUMS database, such as education level, race, poverty state, and so on.

From this experience, I know that many social phenomena and economic theorems await my exploration. In addition, I actively participate in the RA meeting discussion to exchange opinions with professors, striving to become a qualified candidate who contributes mightily to the overall learning community.

Through my studies in economics, I found that I could use my knowledge of economics to understand the essential causes of many social phenomena. However, due to my lack of exposure to research during my undergraduate and graduate studies, I was unclear about the research process, the steps for writing a paper, and the basic knowledge that needed to be mastered. During my studies at CHEPS, I made up for my shortcomings in these areas and realized as a researcher it is quite exciting since I can tackle a bunch of fun, insightful problems moving forward. In the future, I am looking forward to continuing to collaborate with CHEPS during my Ph.D. period and making meaningful research results together!



**Sama Aziz** is a recent San Diego State University graduate with a B.A. in economics and German. Through her studies and work with the American Civil Liberties Union, she became interested in public policy and international trade and development.

**Which Ph.D./Master program will you be attending and why did you choose it?**

I will attend the Master's of Chinese Economy program at Yenching Academy as part of Peking University in China. I selected this program due to its interdisciplinary and research-focused nature. I am also keenly interested in international economics, and studying in another country with esteemed faculty from around the world will aid me in my career and academic aspirations.

**What research do you intend to pursue as part of your dissertation?**

My goal is to write my master's thesis on growing economic trade and connectivity routes between China and the Middle East/North Africa, as well as the implications for existing global superpowers. The hope is to study the potential for bilateral trade agreements and assess the extent to which changes in international ties will result in sustainable economic growth across both regions.

### **What are the most important skills you acquired?**

The most important skill I got from my time with CHEPS was learning how to navigate different stages of the research process, from forming a hypothesis to revising the methodology, to working on R&Rs. Getting to see the stages simultaneously helped deepen my understanding of the entire publication process, as well as make me more confident going into research of my own.

### **During your time in CHEPS, you met with many researchers from our Seminar Series. Who was your favorite, and why?**

Lisa Gennetian's visit last Fall and her seminar surrounding her RCT was perhaps the most interesting to see since I have a background in public policy and am particularly interested in how we can use economic research in an applicable, real-world way. Her talk was also very engaging, and I enjoyed getting to chat with her as well.

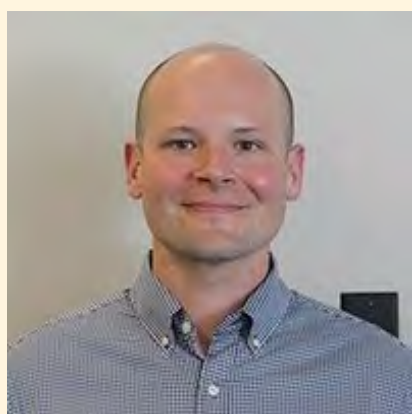


# CHEPS Postdoctoral & Faculty Affiliates



**Dr. Caterina Muratori** is a Postdoctoral Affiliate in Economics at the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. She received her MS from the University of Bologna in 2018 and her Ph.D. from the University of Torino and the University of Reading in 2022. She is an applied microeconomist whose research interests include women's health and abortion access, gender inequalities in the labor market, violence against women, substance use and regulation, and educational inequalities.

**Dr. Zach Fone** is an Assistant Professor and Analyst for the Office of Labor and Economic Analysis (OLEA), a newly formed research center at the United States Air Force Academy. He is helping to build OLEA's profile as a trusted and respected source of military manpower analysis and labor economics research more broadly. His research interests span the economics of crime and punishment, sports economics, labor economics, and health economics. His work has been published in the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Sports Economics*. Zach received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire and has been a CHEPS Research Affiliate since 2017.



**Dr. Alex Chesney** completed his Ph.D. in Economics at UC Davis in 2022 and now works full-time for the United States Air Force in Idaho. He received his master's degree in Economics from San Diego State University in 2012 and his bachelor's degree from the United States Air Force Academy in 2011. Alex is interested in Public and Labor Economics and studying policies that impact military personnel and their dependents. His current research focuses on how active-duty military members make education investment decisions, and how these investments augment human capital formation. Dr. Chesney's recent research was published in the *Economics*

*of Education Review*, and another paper is at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Journal of Public Economics*.





**Dr. Gokhan Kumpas** is an Assistant Professor of Economics at California State University, Los Angeles beginning in Fall 2022. He received his B.A. from Izmir University of Economics in Turkey and his Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire in 2021 in Economics with specializations in health economics and policy analysis from the University of New Hampshire. His dissertation focused on The Spillover Effects of Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Violence Policies. His research interests include applied microeconomics (specifically health, risky behaviors, crime, and education). Dr. Kumpas's recent research has been published in high-quality peer-reviewed

journals, including the *Journal of Human Resources* and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Gokhan has been a CHEPS Research Affiliate since the Fall of 2017.



**Dr. Jacob Penglase** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Boston College. Prior to joining SDSU, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bordeaux and an associate economist at Analysis Group. His research focuses on measuring poverty and individual well-being. His past work has examined consumption inequality among children in the context of child fostering in Malawi. More recent research studied the relationship between poverty and household size in Bangladesh. His work has appeared in *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of*

*Economic Behavior and Organization*, and *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

**Dr. Hao Fe** is an Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State University. Her research combines econometric models with emerging big data sources to create novel causal inference approaches. My areas of interest include child development, education policy, the economics of crime, social networks, and health economics. My recent project implements a newly developed identification strategy to estimate the effect of children's time allocation on their skill formation. I am currently investigating the causal impact of social networks on consumer behaviors and crime. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Applied Econometrics* and the *Journal of Urban Economics*.





**Dr. Audrey Beck** is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles and her Ph.D. in sociology with specializations in demography and stratification from Duke University. Following graduation, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Population Research and Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. While there, her primary focus was the impact of union formation and dissolution on child

health, parenting, and child school readiness. She first came to San Diego State University as a postdoctoral research associate before joining the Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor in 2015. Her work uses a variety of demographic methods to understand race, ethnic, and nativity disparities in health. Recent work, with colleagues at USC, explores a) the impact of neighborhood economic conditions and crime on birth outcomes and b) the collection of police-involved death data and the contextual and policy correlates of such deaths. Dr. Beck has received a number of grants and fellowships and has published her research in *Demography*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Sociology of Education*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, among others.

**Dr. Yang Liang** is an Assistant Professor of Economics and the Assistant Director of CHEPS. He is an applied economist specializing in labor and international economics. Recent projects examine the spillover effects of recreational marijuana legalization and e-cigarette taxes, as well as how workers and firms respond to trade policy and technological upgrading. He has served as lead applied econometrician at CHEPS and principal coding advisor to junior student researchers at the Center. He received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 2018. His work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including the *Journal of Health Economics*, *The World Economy*, and *China Economic Review*, as well as book chapters and policy briefs with the Upjohn Institute and Peter Institute for International Economics.





**Dr. Ed Balsdon** joined the SDSU faculty in 2000 after earning a Ph.D. in Economics from UC Santa Barbara. His scholarly work specializing in natural resource economics, public finance, and behavioral responses to risk has appeared in *Land Economics*, the *Journal of Urban Economics*, the *National Tax Journal*, and other publications. He has served as the SDSU Associate Dean of Graduate & Research Affairs from 2014–2020 and the Interim Dean of Graduate Studies from 2020–2021. During this administrative period, he contributed economic analysis to a large NSF grant project examining coastal flood risk in California. Ed rejoined the SDSU Economics Department in Fall 2021.



**Dr. Thiago de Lucena** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at San Diego State University. He joined the faculty at SDSU after completing his Ph.D. in Economics at the University of California, Davis. He is interested in development economics, labor economics, and political economy. His recent work seeks to understand the relationships between the gender of institutional leadership and the gender gap in top positions. He also studies the relationship between corruption and political participation.

**Dr. Shoshana Grossbard** is Professor Emerita of Economics at San Diego State University and Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics. She is also a member of the Family Inequality Network at the University of Chicago. Shoshana is a leading scholar in the economics of marriage and the family. Her work has been published in such journals as *the Journal of Political Economy*, *the Economic Journal*, and *the Journal of Population Economics*. She served as past-president of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO).





# State of the SDSU Economics Department

## Economics Department Chair Hisham Foad



This has been an exceptional year for the economics department, marked by the achievements of our faculty, staff, and students. We remain one of the largest departments in terms of enrollments in the College of Arts and Letters, with over 500 undergraduate majors. Total enrollment across economics courses this past academic year was over 7,000 students. At this year's commencement, we expect 212 undergraduate students and 15 graduate students to receive their degrees. I am very proud of all the hard work put in by our students and the support by staff and faculty to facilitate the successes of our students. Our graduates are moving on to a wide range of careers in fields like consulting, data analytics, finance, and public policy. A number of our undergraduates are moving on to graduate study, including a strong cohort entering our M.A. program. Our graduating M.A. students have also had excellent placements, with some moving into research positions in the public and private sectors, while others have been admitted to highly ranked Ph.D. programs in Economics and Public Policy. Our fully online degree completion program through SDSU Global Campus is growing, and we are celebrating our first cohort of graduates this year. This program is targeted towards students who have completed at least two years of coursework in the past and require the flexibility of a fully online program due to working full-time. All courses are taught by faculty from our department, and students that may have otherwise never completed their studies now have an opportunity to graduate with an economics degree.

Our 14 Tenure/Tenure Track faculty are continuing to enhance the research reputation of the department, with publications in top journals such as *Econological Economics*, *JAMA Pediatrics*, the *Journal of Development Economics*, and the *Journal of Health Economics*. I am especially proud that many of these studies represent collaborations between faculty and students, with several students having the opportunity to co-author published research. This reflects the close relationship between teaching and research in our department. Our faculty have also brought in over \$800,000 in external funding over the past year to support continued mentoring and research activity, a sizable increase over last year. Faculty have also been successful in securing internal funding, with our faculty being awarded two Critical Thinking Grants and six research grants from the Division of Research and Innovation. We also have four faculty participating in the Summer Undergraduate Research Program, which provides funding for faculty to work directly with undergraduate students.

I am proud of the department's growth over the past five years both in terms of student success and scholarly activity. The strong connections between the department and CHEPS have played a large role in this growth.

# CHEPS Website and Social Media

*Please learn more about CHEPS at our website: [cheps.sdsu.edu](http://cheps.sdsu.edu)  
and via Twitter @SDSUCHEPS*



The screenshot shows the top of the CHEPS website. The header is dark with the SDSU logo on the left, the center name 'CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES' in the middle, and navigation links 'Apply', 'Tour the Campus', and 'Contacts' on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: 'Advisory Board', 'Affiliates', 'Seminar Series', 'Working Papers', 'Student Publications', and 'Courses'. A large banner image of a building with palm trees is below the navigation bar. Underneath the banner is a 'Welcome from the Director' section with a paragraph of text and a circular profile picture of a man. The text describes the center's interdisciplinary research focus.

**SDSU** | San Diego State University  
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### Welcome from the Director

The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center that supports impactful, policy relevant scholarship in the areas of health economics and social policy analysis. Housed in the College of Arts & Letters, CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of national defense policy, economic demography, the economics of crime and punishment, and the economics of risky health behaviors. [Read more>>](#)



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of CHEPS. The header features a large banner image of a building with palm trees. Below the banner is the profile picture, which is a circular logo with the CHEPS name and a stylized building icon. The profile name is 'CHEPS' and the handle is '@SDSUCHEPS'. The bio reads: 'Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) @SDSU | New frontiers in applied microeconomics and public policy research | Director, Joseph J. Sabia'. The location is 'San Diego, CA', the website is 'cheps.sdsu.edu', and it says 'Joined September 2018'. There is a 'Follow' button and a three-dot menu icon.

**CHEPS**  
Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies at SDSU

**CHEPS**  
@SDSUCHEPS

Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) @SDSU | New frontiers in applied microeconomics and public policy research | Director, Joseph J. Sabia

San Diego, CA [cheps.sdsu.edu](http://cheps.sdsu.edu) Joined September 2018

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# CHEPS Affiliate Publications, 2022-2023

## Peer-Reviewed Publications & Revise-and-Resubmits

Abouk, Rahi, Charles J. Courtemanche, Dhaval Dave, Bo Feng, Abigail Friedman, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Michael F. Pesko, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford. 2023. "Intended and Unintended Effects of E-Cigarette Taxes on Youth Tobacco Use," *Journal of Health Economics* 87: 102720.

Anderson, D. Mark, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Mandatory Seatbelt Laws and Traffic Fatalities: A Reassessment," Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Bansak, Cynthia, Shoshana Grossbard, and Crystal Wong. 2022. "Labor Supply of Women, COVID, and Property Division Rules," *Economics and Human Biology* 47L 101170.

Beck, A. N., Thomas, K., Finch, B.K., & J. Gibbons. 2022. "Determining Gentrification's Relationship to Low Birthweight in Metropolitan California." *Housing Policy Debate*.

Calvi, Rossella, Jacob Penglase, Denni Tommasi, and Alexander Wolf. 2023. "The More the Poorer? Resource Sharing and Scale Economies in Large Families," *Journal of Development Economics* 160: 102986

Cesur, Resul, Joseph J. Sabia, and W. David Bradford. 2020. "Did the War on Terror Ignite a Veteran Opioid Epidemic?" NBER Working Paper No. 26264, Revise & Resubmit, *Health Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Andrew Friedson, Kyu Matsuzawa, and Drew McNichols. 2023. "Sudden Lockdown Repeals, Social Mobility, and COVID-19: Evidence from a Judicial Natural Experiment," NBER Working Paper No. 27322, Forthcoming, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

Dave, Dhaval, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford. 2023. "Black Lives Matter Protests and Risk Avoidance: The Case of Civil Unrest During a Pandemic," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Dave, Dhaval, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. "Political Violence, Risk Aversion, and Non-Localized Disease Spread: Evidence from the U.S. Capitol Riot," *Journal of Population Economics* 35: 1345–1384.

Dave, Dhaval, Yang Liang, Michael Pesko, Serena Phillips, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. "Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?" NBER Working Paper No. 29706, Forthcoming, *Journal of Health Economics*.

Decker S, Abdus S, Lipton BJ. 2022. "Eligibility for and enrollment in Medicaid among non-elderly adults after implementation of the Affordable Care Act," *Medical Care Research and Review* 79(1): 125-132.

Fe, Hao. 2023. "Social Networks and Consumer Behavior: Evidence from Yelp," Forthcoming, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.



- Ferrazares, Toshio. 2023. "Monitoring Police with Body-Worn Cameras: Evidence from Chicago," Forthcoming, *Journal of Urban Economics*.
- Foad, Hisham. 2022. "Birthright Granted and Revoked: The Effects of Irish Citizenship Policy on Migrant Fertility," *American Economic Review (Papers and Proceedings)* 112: 391-395.
- Fone, Zachary. 2023. "You Booze, You Lose? Spillovers to Crime from Alcohol Sales at College Football Games." *Journal of Sports Economics*. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15270025221114878>
- Fone, Zach, Brandy Lipton, Andrew Friedson, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Did the Dependent Coverage Mandate Reduce Crime?" Forthcoming, *Journal of Law and Economics*.
- Fone, Zachary, Joseph J. Sabia, and Resul Cetur. 2023. "The Unintended Effects of Minimum Wage Increases on Crime," *Journal of Public Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2022.104780>
- Grossbard, Shoshana and Lorena Hakak. 2023. "A Model of Demand for Health and Caregiving Incorporating Marriage Markets," Forthcoming, *American Economic Review (Papers and Proceedings)*.
- Grossbard, Shoshana, Matías Vernengo, Esteban Pérez Caldentey and J. Barkley Rosser Jr. 2023. Entry on "Economics of the Household," Forthcoming, *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*.
- Hansen, Benjamin, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. "In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings," Conditional Acceptance, *Journal of Human Resources*.
- Hansen, Benjamin, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. "Schools, Job Flexibility, and Married Women's Labor Supply: New Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic," NBER Working Paper No. 29660., Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Human Resources*.
- Li, Ling and Yang Liang. 2023. "Can Exports Be Pain Relievers? The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health," Revise and Resubmit, *Review of International Economics*.
- Liang, Yang, Daniel Rees, Joseph J. Sabia, Cooper Smiley. 2023. "Association Between Anti-Bullying Policies and Suicidal Behaviors Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Youth, *JAMA: Pediatrics*.
- Lipton BJ, Decker S, Seidemann BS, Manski R, Finlayson T. 2022. "Association between Medicaid payment rates to dentists and children's dental care use, oral health, and school absences," *JAMA Health Forum* 3(9): e223041-e223041.
- Lipton BJ, Pesko M. State Medicaid and private telemedicine coverage requirements and telemedicine use, 2013-2019. Conditionally accepted, Health Services Research.
- McNichols, Drew, Joseph J. Sabia, and Gokhan Kumpas. 2023. "Female Athletics, Human Capital and Crime: Evidence from a Natural Experiment," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Penglase, Jacob and Lauren Hoehn Velasco. 2022. "Changes in Assortative Matching and Educational Inequality: Evidence from Marriage and Birth Records in Mexico," *Journal of Demographic Economics* 1-21.

Prados, M., Baker, T., Beck, A. N., Burghart, D., Klinger, D., Johnson, R., Thomas, K., & Finch, B. 2022. "Do Sheriff-Coroners Under-Report Officer-Involved Homicides?" *Academic Forensic Pathology*.

Rees, Daniel, Joseph J. Sabia, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, and Rebecca Margolit. 2023. "Minimum Wages and Teen Fertility: A Reconsideration," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Sabia, Joseph J., Dhaval Dave, Fawaz Altaiohi, and Daniel I. Rees. 2022. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Laws on Drug Use and Crime," Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Public Economics*.

### **Released Working Papers**

Caetano, Carolina, Gregorio Caetano, Hao Fe, and Eric Nielsen. 2023. "A Dummy Test of Identification in Models with Bunching," San Diego State University Working Paper.

Dave, Dhaval M. Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings," National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper No. 30813.

Dave, Dhaval M., Yang Liang, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma. 2023. "Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities" National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper No. 30670.

Delucena-Coelho, Thiago. 2023. "Leadership & Gender Composition in Top Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector," Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) Working Paper No. 2023406.

Fe, Hao, Yang Liang, and Mary Lovely. 2023. "Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters," Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) Working Paper No. 2023405.

Matsuzawa, Kyu. 2023. "The Deterrent Effect of Targeted and Salient Police Enforcement: Evidence from DUI Checkpoint Bans," Working Paper, University of Oregon.

Muratori, Caterina. 2022. "Is TRAP a Trap? The Impact of Abortion Access on Violence Against Women," Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) Working Paper No. 20221204.

Muratori, Caterina. 2023. "Does Physician Conscience-Based Refusal to Perform Abortions Increase Self-Induced Abortion? Evidence from Italian Provinces," Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) Working Paper No. 20234012.

Muratori, Caterina, Dalit Contini, Maria Larua Di Tommaso, Daniela Piazzalunga, Lucia Schiavon. 2023. A Lost Generation? Impact of COVID-19 on High School Students' Achievements," Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) Working Paper No. 2023401.



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