

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES (CHEPS)

SDSU

College of Arts and Letters
Center for
Health
Economics and
Policy Studies

2022-2023 MID-YEAR REPORT



FALL 2022

*RESEARCH AND MENTORING EXCELLENCE IN APPLIED
MICROECONOMICS & HEALTH POLICY ANALYSIS*



CHEPS Mission

The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center conducting impactful, policy relevant scholarship in health economics, labor economics, law & economics, and social policy analysis. Housed in the College of Arts & Letters at San Diego State University, CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of health policy, the economics of national defense, economic demography, the economics of crime, and the economics of risky health behaviors. Thanks to generous support from the Charles Koch

Foundation and San Diego State University, the Summer and Fall Semesters of 2022 were periods of substantial research productivity and human capital development for our students.

Spotlight on Mid-Year (AY 2022-23) Accomplishments

- **Hosted 13 research seminars in applied economics and public policy** with leading applied microeconomists from such institutions as Harvard University, Columbia University, the University of Chicago, the University of Georgia, the University of Tennessee, Texas A&M University, Duke University, the RAND Corporation, George Washington University, Montana State University, the University of California, Davis, and the University of California, Irvine. *Weekly attendance at these research seminars, which occurred in hybrid fashion (both in-person and via Zoom) ranged from approximately 25 to 50 graduate and undergraduate students and faculty. Students were given dedicated meeting time with visitors for research mentoring, networking, and advice on doctoral applications.*
- **Awarded 9 graduate student research fellowships**, each of which generated public policy-oriented, high impact research projects in health economics, labor economics (including trade), immigration, and the economics of crime.
- **Welcomed the Center's second Postdoctoral Research Fellow**. With the support of the Division of Research and Innovation and the College of Arts & Letters Dean's Office, we welcomed Caterina Muratori as a new Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Caterina received her PhD in Economics from the University of Torino and the University of Reading in 2022.
- **Received national media coverage** (including in *The Economist*) for policy research on the ineffectiveness of gun buyback programs, the unintended consequences of e-cigarette taxes on combustible tobacco use, and the ineffectiveness of higher minimum wages in fighting poverty.
- **Received 35 acceptances, revise-and-resubmits, and high profile articles** in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Law & Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Ecological Economics*, and *Journal of Health Economics*, and released via the *National Bureau of Economic Research* and *CHEPS Working Paper Series*.
- **Presented research at conferences and workshops**. This included presentations at meetings of the Southern Economic Association, the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, the European Society of Population Economics, the Economics of Risky Behaviors, the American Society of Health Economists, and the Society of Economics of the Household.
- **Progressed on over 25 research projects** including (but not limited to) those examining: (1) the effects of legalizing recreational marijuana on racial disparities in arrests, labor market outcomes, and workplace injuries, (2) the impact of school opening/closing policies on maternal labor supply and teen suicide, and (3) the effects of electronic cigarette taxes on traffic fatalities.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Please learn more about CHEPS at our website: cheps.sdsu.edu

Welcome from the Director

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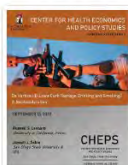


Read the CHEPS Magazine: [2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#)

CHEPS 2022 Pioneering Research



[Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence From E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities](#)



[Do Vertical ID Laws Curb Teenage Drinking and Smoking? A Reconsideration](#)



[Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?](#)



[Schools, Job Flexibility, and Married Women's Labor Supply: Evidence From the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)



NEW WORKING PAPERS

E-Cigarette Taxes & Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities

(Released as National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 30670)

This exciting new study, co-authored by Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Catherine Maclean, Joe Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma (and released by the National Bureau of Economic Research in November 2022), offers the first causal evidence on the impact of electronic nicotine delivery system (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 the ability to study the effect of ENDS taxes on an important secondary marketplace, alcohol, in order to provide a more complete understanding of general equilibrium effects of public health policies targeting ENDS. Increasingly more states are adopting ENDS taxes, though these policies are not without controversy as they appear to cause higher rates of both adult and teen smoking.



Teen alcohol misuse remains high and imposes substantial costs on society — with estimated annual social costs of \$28 billion dollars (CDC 2022c) — and policy action by state and federal governments has largely stagnated. State and federal alcohol tax rates have, in real terms, markedly declined over the past six decades because they are not indexed to inflation and are raised through legislative action infrequently. Therefore, in the context of limited policy action with respect to regulations that directly target problem alcohol use, it is important to consider how other substance use policies could be spilling over into the youth alcohol market.

The authors combine 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 results show that ENDS taxation has little impact at the extensive margin of teen drinking (any alcohol consumption), but curtails use on the intensive margin, in particular metrics of misuse that likely correlate with social costs. Specifically, the authors show that the probability of teen binge drinking declines by one to two percentage points following a one-dollar increase in the ENDS tax. They also document 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.

The authors conclude that if all states raised their ENDS tax by one-dollar, this policy change would generate 85 teen lives saved annually. Using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's value of a statistical life (\$14.35 million), the value of these saved lives is nearly \$878 million dollars per year. A one-dollar increase in the ENDS tax rate would lead to nearly \$1340 million in saving per year.

Recreational Marijuana & Racial Disparities in Arrests

“[W]hile white and Black and brown people use marijuana at similar rates, Black and brown people have been arrested, prosecuted, and convicted at disproportionate rates.”

-- U.S. President Joseph R. Biden, October 6, 2022

A new project co-authored by Zach Fone, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joe Sabia will study how recreational marijuana legalization affects racial minorities. Racial bias in law enforcement is both a major public policy concern and a contentious political issue in the United States. Policing reforms that are most likely to reduce disparities in arrests without unintentionally incentivizing criminal offenses with large social costs are viewed most favorably by policymakers. Among the most high-profile policing reforms include greater monitoring of interactions between suspects and law enforcement officials, greater racial diversity in police hiring, improved community policing, and increased investments in diversity training. In addition, criminal justice reformers have pursued the decriminalization (or depenalization) of non-violent criminal offenses with historically large racial disparities in arrests.

Between January 2012 and December 2022, 22 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) have adopted recreational marijuana laws (RMLs). RMLs legalize possession of a limited amount of marijuana (e.g., one or two ounces) by anyone 21 years of age or older. Purchases of marijuana can be made at recreational dispensaries simply by showing proof of age. Unlike most medical marijuana laws (MMLs), RMLs do not require registration (often on a state electronic database) nor do they require a doctor’s recommendation to treat an “allowable medical condition.” Nearly all states with an RML permit home cultivation, that is, marijuana to be grown at home. Proponents of RMLs point out that ending the prohibition on recreational marijuana can generate substantial social cost savings, as the annual costs associated with enforcing prohibition — including policing, court, and prison costs — total \$3.6 billion annually. In addition, they argue that legalization can also serve important racial equity-related ends given substantial racial disparities in enforcement of marijuana prohibition. Despite comparable marijuana usage rates, Blacks are 3.6 times more likely than Whites to be arrested for marijuana-related offenses. They are also far more likely to be incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses. The majority of marijuana-related arrests are for non-violent offenses. Marijuana arrests tend to be for street-level drug dealing and transport of small quantities of drugs for transactions. Less than a third of such arrests are related to higher-level offenses such as distribution of large quantities of drugs to dealers.



Having a criminal arrest record (including for a non-violent offense) generates substantial labor market penalties, which could exacerbate (1) racial/ethnic disparities in employment and earnings, and (2) the risk of recidivism. Thus, the adoption of RMLs could generate important longer-run economic benefits, particularly for those who have been disproportionately harmed by prohibition. Underlining this point, in October 2022, President Joseph R. Biden announced a “pardon of all prior Federal offenses of simple possession of marijuana,” noting that that there “are thousands of people who have prior Federal convictions for marijuana possession, who may be denied employment, housing, or educational opportunities as a result.” This study is the first to explore the impact of RML adoption on race-specific arrests and psychiatric health-related outcomes.

Labor Market Effects of Legalization of Recreational Marijuana in the United States

A new working paper, co-authored by Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, Joe Sabia, and Dhaval Dave studies how the newly legalized recreational marijuana market affects adults' employment and labor market outcomes. Recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) legalize the possession, sale, and consumption of small quantities of marijuana for recreational purposes for those age 21-and-older. Since 2012, 21 states 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 amotivation syndrome and lethargy, poorer physical and psychological health, and harder drug use. Each of these effects could have substantial

negative impacts on adults' 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 production of marijuana as well as legal marijuana sales at recreational dispensaries — may increase employment. Moreover, if legal access to marijuana induces substitution away from substances that have negative impacts on productivity, including opioids or problem drinking, labor market outcomes may improve (or at least be no worse off). In addition, if marijuana is effective at alleviating physical health ailments, relieving stress, or improving psychological health, these health effects could generate positive labor market spillovers. Finally, RMLs may improve labor market outcomes by reducing the likelihood that individuals have a criminal record for marijuana possession. This is especially true for young Black and Hispanic men, who have disproportionately suffered diminished labor market opportunities due to having a criminal record.

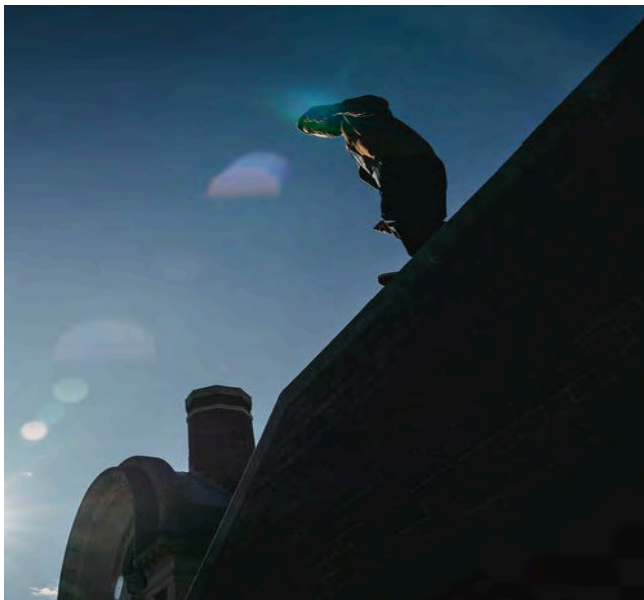
This project will make use of the National Study on Drug Use and Health and the Current Population Survey over the period 2002-2020 — and the staggered adoption of RMLs across states and time — to study the impacts of RML adoption on adults' employment and wages. Particular attention will be paid to heterogeneity in the impacts of RMLs on labor market outcomes by age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and industry. The team will also explore the role of recreational marijuana dispensaries as an important supply channel.

How Are Workplace Injuries Affected by Legalized Access to Recreational Marijuana?

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, Spencer Mueller, 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, Poverty, and Family Well-being



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 wellbeing 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.

Are Marijuana and E-Cigarettes Complements or Substitutes for Teenagers?

Youth e-cigarette (or electronic nicotine delivery system - ENDS) use is a major public health concern that has received widespread attention in the U.S. ENDS are devices that heat nicotine and other chemicals such as tastes into a vapor that is then inhaled ("ENDS use" or "vaping"). The products were initially introduced into the United States in 2006, and soon became popular among teenagers. The use of ENDS among high schoolers climbed from less than 1.5 percent in 2011 to 11.7 percent in 2017, and then to 28 percent in 2019. By 2014, they had already surpassed cigarettes as the most popular tobacco product among teenagers.



The subject has become even more complicated as it coincides with the rapid change in the marijuana regulatory landscape (medical and recreational marijuana legalizations) and increased marijuana access. According to the CDC's national YRBSS survey, co-use of marijuana and e-cigarettes rose from 11.8% to 15.7% over 2015-2019. Public health experts worry that increased youth e-cigarette use may re-normalize smoking and vaping, leading to an increase in marijuana use. Moreover,

availability of e-cigarette products —such as vaping pens and JUUL devices used for e-cigarette consumption — may be adapted to permit marijuana smoking. This would suggest that e-cigarettes and marijuana are dynamic or contemporaneous complements for youths. On the other hand, if e-cigarettes and marijuana both create euphoria ("high"), generate utility from a smoking experience, or serve the objectives of quitting smoking, then marijuana and e-cigarettes (or certain tobacco products in general) may be substitutes.

Meanwhile, in response to surging ENDS usage among youth, state and local governments have introduced regulations intended at limiting use, including sales bans on teenagers and the most current and increasingly popular policy: taxation of ENDS. By June 2022, 30 states and Washington DC tax ENDS products, offering substantial identifying variation among adopting states and not-yet/never adopters, which allows CHEPSters to conduct quasi-experimental designs to explore the relationship between ENDS and marijuana use among teens.

Do E-Cigarette Taxes Increase Tobacco-Related Public Health Harm?

(Released as National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 29216)

A new working paper, currently at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Journal of Health Economics*, by Catherine Maclean, Michael Pesko, Rahi Abouk, Charles Courtemanche, Abigail Friedman, Bo Feng, Samuel Safford, Joe Sabia, and Dhaval Dave studies the impact of electronic cigarette taxes on youth e-cigarette use and “traditional” cigarette consumption. Our study contributes to the literature by 1) using multiple large-scale youth survey datasets to provide some of the first national evidence of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) taxes’ effects on youth, and 2) studying the effect of ENDS taxes on youth using four types of outcomes: ENDS use, cigarette use, perceptions of the risk of ENDS, and source of ENDS.



sourced cannabis vaping products containing vitamin E acetate led to a rash of illnesses and deaths.

Using data from Monitoring the Future and the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, the results suggest that ENDS taxes are effective at deterring youth e-cigarette use. However, we also find that ENDS taxes generate concurrent costs: cross-tax elasticities are positive and particularly large for frequent cigarette use outcomes, suggesting that ENDS taxes encourage traditional cigarette use among youths. Moreover, sourcing results suggest that ENDS taxes shift youth towards social ENDS sources. The latter change may have implications for short- and long-run health outcomes, as observed during the 2019 outbreak of vaping-associated lung injuries, when use of informally

As of March 2022, 30 U.S. states had adopted an ENDS tax (Public Health Law Center 2022). However, if reducing ENDS accessibility increases combustible tobacco use, as suggested by this study, these taxes could potentially prove harmful to public health. That is, given current evidence suggesting smoking is substantially more dangerous than using ENDS, the health costs from greater youth smoking as a result of ENDS taxes may considerably undercut or even outweigh benefits from reduced youth ENDS use.

The last version of the Build Back Better (BBB) Act passed by the House of Representatives proposed setting an ENDS tax of \$50.33 per 1,810 milligrams (mg) of nicotine (House Rules Committee 2021). This study’s results suggest that the equivalent tax per fluid ml in a 5% JUUL cartridge—believed to be approximately equivalent to a pack of cigarettes (Truth Initiative 2019)—would reduce youth current ENDS use by 3.0 percentage-points and raise youth current cigarette use by 2.1 percentage-points. Moreover, the results of this study suggest the effects of the BBB’s ENDS tax provision on youth cigarette use may considerably undercut or even outweigh any public health gains of reducing youth ENDS use, assuming that ENDS are less risky products as determined by several government-commissioned reviews. This study’s research design provides an important and useful starting point for understanding the effect of ENDS taxes on youth tobacco product use. Future work should revisit these questions as more years of data and ENDS tax variation become available.

Abortion Access, Socioeconomic Well-being, and Domestic Violence



Caterina Muratori, a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at CHEPS, has generated a working paper that explores the effect of abortion access on domestic violence against women. On June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, overruling both *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992). The court decision eliminated the prior constitutional right to abortion and gave states the 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. Although there is an extensive piece of literature that investigates the impact of restrictions on abortion access on reproductive outcomes, many second-order effects have not been addressed yet.

In July 2013, Texas House Bill 2 (HB-2) took effect, which caused the closure of nearly half of the state's abortion clinics within the subsequent year. The change in clinics' accessibility started between the first and the second half of 2013, when the first major requirement of the bill went into effect. Caterina evaluates the effect of Texas House Bill 2 on violence against women of reproductive age.

She finds that, depending on the initial distance, a 25-mile increase in the distance to the nearest abortion clinic is estimated to increase the number of reported cases of gender violence per municipality up to 2.6%. This impact persisted after one year, although mainly driven by violence outside the family. 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 larger for women living relatively close to a clinic before the closure. The impact of an increase in distance is particularly strong among Black women, who experience an increase in violence against them up to 6.6%. Caterina hypothesizes that these effects may be caused by (1) a reduction in women's bargaining power caused by HB-2, and (2) increased financial (and other) stress that may occur due to unplanned births.

In-Person Schooling, School Calendars, and Teen Suicides

Until the mid-2000s, youth suicide consistently declined throughout the United States. Then the trend for both youth suicide and young adult suicide abruptly reversed, and rates have steadily increased year over year. The causes of the trend reversal and recent increase remain undetermined. While the evidence on the causes of the rapid upward trend in youth suicide is mixed, one aspect of national trends is remarkably stable: seasonality. Consistently year over year, youth suicides drop during summer months and during December holidays. Previous work by Hansen and Lang (2011) was the first to identify this consistent pattern. They also investigate several potential causes, including seasonal affective disorder (SAD), economic conditions, and geography. School calendar stability over time presents a challenge in studying how school calendars affect youth mental health outcomes.

The broad long-standing societal coordination of school calendars in the United States changed abruptly in March of 2020. When the novel coronavirus SarsCov2 became recognized as a global pandemic, schools closed across much of the world, including in essentially all of the U.S. While the public health trade-offs of these school closures remain uncertain, particularly with concerns around youth isolation and mental health, this represents the largest national deviation from normal school calendars ever seen. In the months and years that followed, the reopening of public schools to in person teaching varied considerably across the United States, driven by both state and local decisions.



A new working paper by Ben Hansen, Joe Sabia, and Jessamyn Schaller explores the effect of in-person schooling on suicides. Using national level suicide data from the United States, the authors document both the recent trend in suicides, and reproduce the same seasonality originally identified by Hansen and Lang (2011), showing generally youth suicides (those 18 and under) drop during summer months in all prior years up to and including 2019. As documented in Hansen and Lang, young adults (19 to 25) show no summer decline. Youth suicides dropped in March of 2020, which is the first time in decades that a drop in youth suicides began in the spring rather than in June.

Given that there is no unified federal tracking of school closures or reopenings, we focus on SafeGraph mobility data. SafeGraph foot traffic provides an extraordinary proxy for measuring when schools are opened or closed. This is evident using daily level data pre-pandemic (in which every Saturday and Sunday, foot traffic at schools plummets to 10 percent of the Monday-Friday average), and the data reveal a sudden and dramatic decline in school foot traffic beginning in the middle of March of 2020. The data consistently show that school foot traffic is associated with increases in teen suicides, while young adult suicides show no correlation with school foot traffic.

This decrease in teen suicides stands in contrast to some popular narratives about teen mental health during the pandemic. However, we note that suicide captures an extreme part of the *distribution* of youth mental health. It is entirely possible that on average youth mental health declined, while the mental health for those who were suffering the most extreme anxiety or depression in school improved. The authors investigated bullying in more depth as a potential mechanism using GoogleTrends related queries linked with our proxies for school reopenings.

Minimum Wages and Poverty: Past, Present, & Future

For nearly a century, advocates of minimum wage increases have argued that raising the minimum wage will reduce poverty. An important new study by Dube (2019) suggests that these claims have merit. During the period from 1983-2012, he finds that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage is associated with a 2 to 9 percent reduction in poverty.

A new study by Richard Burkhauser, Drew McNichols, and Joe Sabia asks three questions: (1) How sensitive are the large poverty-reducing effects of minimum wage increases found by Dube (2019) to empirical specification choice, the definition of poverty, and the sample period under study?, (2) Did minimum wage increases enacted during the decade following the Great Recession reduce poverty?, and (3) How well targeted are newly-proposed federal minimum wage increases to the working poor? The answers to these questions, respectively, are Very fragile, No, and Quite poorly.

While we are able to replicate Dube's results, we find that his estimates of poverty-reducing effects of minimum wage increases enacted between 1983-2012 are (1) quite fragile with respect to macroeconomic controls that may, in theory, capture adverse low-skilled employment effects of the minimum wage, thereby negatively biasing estimated poverty effects, and (2) require "close controls" (control states within the same census division as treatment states) which are often less observably similar to treatment states. In sharp contrast to Dube (2019), our preferred regression estimates show that minimum wage increases enacted over the 1983-2012 period had no effect on net poverty, including for demographic subgroups.



Moreover, using data from the post-Great Recession era (2010-2019), we find that recent, frequent, and large minimum wage increases had no effect on the probability that an individual lives in poverty. The estimated poverty effect is economically small, relatively precisely estimated, and nowhere near statistically distinguishable from zero across non-elderly individuals, all individuals, lower-skilled subgroups, and children. The result is robust to the choice of resource sharing unit (household versus family), model specification, event-study analyses, and newly developed difference-in-differences estimators

that account for heterogeneous and dynamic treatment effects. Finally, turning to the 1983-2019 full panel, we continue to show relatively robust evidence of a null effect of minimum wages on poverty.

The poor performance of the minimum wage in curbing poverty can be explained by two important factors. First, many poor and near-poor families do not have steady minimum wage workers living in them and thus are unlikely to be substantially helped by minimum wage increases, and second, minimum wage increases may cause adverse employment effects among some low-skilled workers, generating income redistribution rather than net income gains for the poor and near-poor. Importantly, we also note that our 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.

Finally, we explore the target efficiency of the central provision of the *Raise the Wage Act of 2021*, which would raise the federal minimum wage paid to untipped workers to \$15 per hour by 2025. We find that even in the absence of adverse employment effects of minimum wage increases, a \$15 (or \$11) federal minimum wage would be a very target inefficient means of delivering income to the working poor. Specifically, we find that just 5.9 percent of the benefits of a \$15 minimum wage will accrue to workers in poor households, while 62.7 percent of those affected live in households with incomes twice or more than the federal poverty line and 20.9 percent live in households with incomes three or more times the federal poverty line.

While it is important to exercise caution in predicting the poverty effects of a \$15 federal minimum wage — which would, on average, increase the effective minimum wage faced by the average U.S. worker by over \$5 per hour — our findings on prominent increases, in conjunction with new evidence on the employment effects of large minimum wage increases suggest that the poverty-reducing effects of a \$15 minimum wage is likely to be smaller than proponents hope, and certainly less target efficient. In contrast to the minimum wage, expansions in eligibility criteria for and benefits from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) may be more effective and target efficient policy strategies to deliver income to the poor than the minimum wage.

Do Predictive Scheduling Laws Reduce Labor Market Opportunities for Affected Workers?

Predictive scheduling sometimes called "fair scheduling" can be simplified as policies that aim to give more flexibility to employees by deterring employer's ability to create more unpredictable schedules, such as penalties to changes in schedules within 14 days.



These laws mostly target retail and food services, require written schedules further in advance of an employee's shift, where cancellations or additions to worker's hours on short notice result in cost to employers. A main interest in these laws is the employer's response. Some concentrations in the literature examine if employers reduce part-time or make are more resistant to employee scheduling preferences, or even less jobs, and a variety of other responses. As of 2020, four cities and one state-wide have enacted predictive scheduling laws: include San Francisco, CA, New York City, Oregon (statewide), Seattle, WA, and Emeryville, CA. Using data

from the "March supplement" of the Current Population Survey (CPS), as well as standard basic monthly CPS, for years ranging from 2000-2020, CHEPS investigates the effect predictive scheduling laws have on a variety of labor market outcomes such as employment-to-population ratios, raw employment, industry-specific employment, part-time employment, and others. Using Differences-in-differences and synthetic control models, and variation at the Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA) where predictive scheduling laws were in place, causal estimates on labor market outcomes are estimated.

Primary Seatbelt Laws Reduce Traffic Fatalities

Traffic fatalities are the fourth leading cause of death for those ages 18 to 65 and were responsible for over 28,034 fatalities in 2019 (National Vital Statistics System). One of the most prominent demand-side policy strategies to curb traffic fatalities over the last 40 years is the adoption of mandatory seatbelt laws. Mandatory seatbelt laws impose civil fines on drivers who fail to wear seatbelts while operating a motor vehicle. Primary seatbelt laws (hereafter PSLs) allow law



enforcement officials to stop drivers and issue civil fines based exclusively on drivers' failure to wear a seatbelt. Secondary seatbelt laws (SSLs) permit citations for failure to wear a seatbelt only if drivers have been stopped for a non-seatbelt-related traffic violation. As of January 2022, 35 states are enforcing a PSL and 15 states are enforcing an SSL.

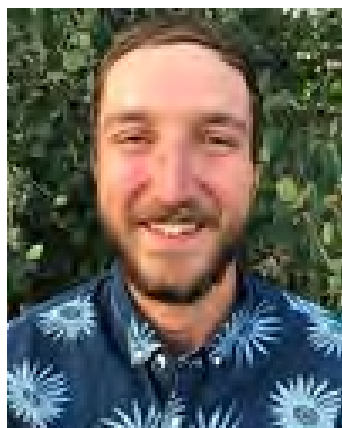
While mandatory seatbelt laws were designed to increase seatbelt usage and reduce fatalities resulting from automobile accidents, unintended consequences could undermine policymakers' objective of reduced mortality. The "Peltzman effect" suggests that in response to increased seatbelt usage, drivers may engage in risk compensating behavior, including riskier driving (i.e., driving at higher speeds, taking driving routes that are more dangerous, driving under perilous weather- or lighting conditions), resulting in higher accident probabilities (Peltzman 1975). The net result of such risk compensation could increase in traffic accidents and, perhaps, redistribute mortality toward non-occupants of vehicles, including pedestrians.

A new study by Mark Anderson, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia replicates a study by Cohen and Einav (2003) and then expands their work by: (1) employing newly-developed dynamic difference-in-differences estimators using the approaches of Sun and Abraham (2021) and Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021), (2) expanding their analysis period to include 22 additional years of data, which contributes 24 more changes in state mandatory seatbelt laws, and (3) conducting event-study analyses to test for parallel pre-treatment trends and explore dynamic post-treatment effects.

The authors successfully replicate the results of Cohen and Einav (2003) and further find that their estimated effects of PSLs on occupant traffic fatalities are robust to the inclusion of additional post-treatment data and greater policy variation, analyses of event studies, and use of newly developed dynamic difference-in-differences estimates. In contrast, the effect of SSLs appears much weaker, reverting to zero following a very short-run impact in the two years following adoption. Finally, we find some inconsistent evidence of a small "Peltzman effect," particularly for PSLs that were preceded by a weaker seatbelt statute.

CHEPS Graduate & Post-Graduate Affiliates

Calvin Bryan



“I am currently in the third year of my PhD in Natural Resource Economics at Colorado State University; where I also work as a research assistant and will be teaching the Introduction to Microeconomics course this upcoming Spring. This last August I presented some work I’ve done on crop insurance and groundwater management at the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) meetings in Anaheim, CA. I hope to present some different work at the 2023 AAEA meetings in Washington, D.C. or the Association of Environmental and Resource Economics in Portland, ME. This past month I completed the first draft of the first chapter of my dissertation, so my next big goal will be completing the whole dissertation. I also hope to tailor the first chapter of my dissertation into a high-quality job market paper to take on the academic job market in two or three years!”

Alexander Chesney

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

“I completed my PhD in Economics at UC-Davis in 2022 and am now working full-time for the United States Air Force in Idaho. I will hopefully join the faculty in the Department of Economics and Geosciences (DFEG) at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs around 2025.



In terms of my publications, I received an acceptance at the *Economics of Education Review* in December 2022 for this article:

“Should I get a master’s degree? Evaluating peer effects on education investment decisions in the workplace”

Abstract

This paper examines workplace peer effects on advanced education attainment. Using administrative data from the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and conditional exogenous assignment of employees to workplace, I provide empirical evidence that coworkers’ education investment behavior increases the likelihood of using Employer-Provided Educational Assistance (EPEA) benefits to start and eventually complete a graduate degree. I find a 10-percentage point (p.p.) increase in the proportion of peers using Tuition Assistance (TA) increases the probability of starting a master’s degree by 4.99 p.p. Additionally, a 10 p.p. increase in the proportion of coworkers that have finished an advanced degree increases completion rates by 2.71 p.p. within eight years in the organization.

I also received an R&R at the *Journal of Public Economics* with Scott Carrell in September 2022:

“Brains Versus Brawn: Ordinal Rank Effects in Job Training”

Abstract

This paper analyzes ordinal rank across cognitive and physical ability within an initial job training program. Using a rich administrative dataset and conditional random assignment of trainees to peer groups, we test whether rank effects vary across contemporaneous training and long-term career outcomes. We find cognitive ordinal rank, measured by an individual’s score on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), has a meaningful impact on completing initial training into the U.S. Air Force (USAF). This ranking also affects job specialization for trainees that arrive without a preassigned occupation. We also show physical ordinal rank, measured by an individual’s initial fitness score, also affects job training performance. Both sets of ranking effects impact behavioral misconduct outcomes and vary by gender. Finally, the interaction between cognitive and physical ordinal ranking has multiplicative effects on a limited set of outcomes.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

September 2022: Presented at the Department of Economics and Geosciences at the United States Air Force Academy

November 2022: Presented at the Southern Economic Association

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

Continue to publish high quality research.



Toshio Ferrazares

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am in my 4th year of the PhD at University of California, Santa Barbara.

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

Yes, “Monitoring Police with Body-Worn Cameras: Evidence from Chicago,” which was accepted at the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I will be advancing to candidacy In December 2022, one step closer to graduation.

Zach Fone



Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

Started position as an Assistant Professor and Analyst for the Office of Labor and Economic Analysis (OLEA) at the United States Air Force Academy in June 2022.

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

I have had three accepted articles since July 2022. Title/journal/abstract are listed below:

“You Booze, You Lose? Spillovers to Crime from Alcohol Sales at College Football Games.”
Journal of Sports Economics. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15270025221114878>

Abstract

In recent years, many schools have lifted their alcohol sales bans at college football games, possibly as a tool to increase attendance and revenues. However, spillovers to crime deserve consideration, given the research that links alcohol consumption and availability to crime. Alcohol sales may spill over to crime through their impacts on attendance, preferences for alcohol consumption among fans, and endogenous changes to policing and enforcement, although the net effect on crime is theoretically ambiguous. Using data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) over the 2005 to 2016 period for law enforcement agencies that serve 33 Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) schools, and utilizing difference-in-differences (DD) and triple-differences empirical strategies (leveraging variation in pre-vs. post-sales periods, home vs. away game days, and sales-adopting vs. non-adopting schools), I find that alcohol sales are associated with reductions in arrests for liquor law violations (83.5 percent) and disorderly conduct (81.0 percent) on home game days.

“Did the Dependent Coverage Mandate Reduce Crime?” – with Andrew I. Friedson, Brandy J. Lipton, and Joseph J. Sabia. *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Abstract

The Affordable Care Act’s Dependent Coverage Mandate (DCM) induced approximately two million young adults to join parental employer-sponsored health insurance (ESI) plans. This study is the first to explore the impact of the DCM on crime, a potentially important externality. Using data from the National Incident-Based Reporting System, we find that the DCM induced a 2-to-5 percent reduction in property crime incidents involving young adult arrestees ages 22-to-25 relative to those ages 27-to-29. This finding is supported by supplemental analysis using data from the Uniform Crime Reports. An examination of the underlying mechanisms suggests that declines in large out-of-pocket expenditures for health care, increased educational attainment, and increases in parent-adult child cohabitation may explain these crime declines. Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that the

DCM generated approximately \$371 to \$512 million in annual social benefits from crime reduction among young adults.

“The Unintended Effects of Minimum Wage Increases on Crime” – with Joseph J. Sabia and Resul Cesur. *Journal of Public Economics*.

Abstract

The availability of higher-paying jobs for low-skilled individuals has been documented to reduce crime. This study explores the impact of one of the most prominent labor policies designed to provide higher wages for low-skilled workers — the minimum wage — on teenage and young adult arrests. Using data from the 1998-2016 Uniform Crime Reports and a difference-in-differences approach, we find that a 1 percent increase in the minimum wage is associated with a 0.2 to 0.3 percent increase in property crime arrests among 16-to-24-year-olds, an effect driven by an increase in larceny-related arrests. The magnitudes of our estimated elasticities suggest that a \$15 federal minimum wage, proposed as part of the Raise the Wage Act, could generate approximately 309,000 additional larcenies. Job loss emerges as an important mechanism to explain our findings, and supplemental analyses of affected workers in the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 show that this effect is concentrated among workers bound by minimum wage increases. Finally, we find no evidence that minimum wage hikes impact violent crime arrests.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

Presented most recently at the Southern Economic Association annual meeting in November 2022. Aiming to present at the Western’s in Summer 2023.

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

In my capacity as an analyst for OLEA – a newly formed research center at the Air Force Academy – I look forward to helping build OLEA’s profile as a trusted and respected source of military manpower analysis and labor economics research more broadly.



Gokhan Kumpas

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am currently working at California State University - Los Angeles as a tenure track Assistant Professor of Economics.

Do you have any articles that have been accepted for publication or that received a revise-and-resubmit (since May 2022)?

Director Sabia, Daniel Rees and I have a publication in *JPAM* titled “Anti-Bullying Laws and Suicidal Behaviors Among Teenagers”

Abstract

The CDC reports that the association between bullying and suicides among teenagers has generated “concern, even panic,” but policies aimed at combating bullying have received little attention from researchers. Using a difference-in-differences estimation strategy, we find that state-level anti-bullying laws (ABLS) reduce bullying victimization, depression, and suicidal ideation, with the largest estimated effects for female teenagers and teenagers who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or questioning. In addition, ABLs are associated with a 13 to 16 percent reduction in the suicide rate of female 14-through 18-year-olds. Event-study analyses and falsification tests provide evidence that these estimates can be interpreted causally.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

I attended last virtual STATA conference in November, it was very beneficial learning about cutting edge estimation strategies and new STATA modules. I am planning to attend the Eastern Economic Association meetings in NYC (February 2023).

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I am planning to bring two of my working papers to the finish line and submit academic journals. In addition to that, I plan to start a new project on winter break.



Russell Leonard

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am a 1st year PhD student at UC Irvine!

Do you have any articles that have been accepted for publication or that 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 at the *American Journal of Health Economics*.

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 to reduce public health costs of underage purchases of cigarettes and alcohol, our updated estimates suggest that this policy strategy was largely ineffective.

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I am looking forward to finishing my first-year coursework and hopefully advancing to candidacy in the next year and a half.



Alicia Marquez

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am currently in my second year in the Ph.D. program in Public Policy at Cornell University.

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

The following article of mine was published in June of 2022:

Bui, Linda TM, Ron Shadbegian, Alicia Marquez, Heather Klemick, and Dennis Guignet. "Does short-term, airborne lead exposure during pregnancy affect birth outcomes? Quasi-experimental evidence from NASCAR's deleading policy." *Environment International* 166 (2022): 107354.

Abstract

There is evidence of a weak placental-fetal barrier to lead, suggesting that maternal lead exposure could affect the fetus. The health consequences for newborns from in-utero lead exposure are not

well understood. We estimated the effects by trimester, of short-term (<1 week), airborne lead exposure during pregnancy on birth outcomes. We use quasi-experimental variation in airborne lead exposure during pregnancy, based on NASCAR's deleading of racing fuel in 2007, in a difference-in-differences model, to estimate the effect of deleading on the birth outcomes of all live births ($n = 147,673$) in the Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia Metropolitan Statistical Area between 2004 and 2009. After deleading, children born to mothers residing <4000 m of Charlotte Motor Speedway (relative to those residing >10,000 m) experienced an average increase in birthweight (BW) of 102.50 g [$P < 0.001$]. The probability of low birthweight (LBW) declined by 0.045 [$P = 0.001$], preterm (PRE) births by 0.03 [$P = 0.04$], and small for gestational age (SGA) by 0.04 [$P = 0.002$]. We find that benefits accrue primarily in preterm LBW and SGA babies, and from decreased lead exposure in the first trimester. Short-term exposure to airborne lead during pregnancy adversely affects birth outcomes. Reducing even very brief exposure to airborne lead during pregnancy may improve birth outcomes.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work?

I presented my work at the 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) meetings.

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I am entering the phase of graduate school where I am transitioning my focus from coursework to research. As I wrap up courses during this academic year, I will be starting to write my second-year paper - an independent research paper intended to mark our progress in the program and set a foundation for our future work. My next major goal is to complete that and present it as much as I can on campus and at upcoming conferences.



Rebecca Margolit

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am currently working as a research associate at the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame. I am currently managing 10 research projects which often includes supervising undergraduate research assistants and teaching them the very same coding techniques that I learned at CHEPS. This has been a new step for me in my career and has sparked an interest in becoming an economics professor after completing my PhD. I will be applying to PhD programs next cycle.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

I presented virtually at the Western Economic Association Meeting in June, but I don't have any plans to present in the future at this time - although that is a goal for myself while here at Leo, so more to come on that!

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I have been very excited to work on a revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, along with my coauthors Dr. Joe Sabia and Dr. Dan Rees. My major goal currently is to have that article published as it will be the first in my career - I can't wait!



Kyutaro Matsuzawa

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am a third-year PhD candidate at University of Oregon. I am at a stage where I am almost completing my first chapter of dissertation and starting to think about potential job market paper.

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

My paper with Dhaval Dave, Andrew Friedson, Drew McNichols, and Joseph Sabia examining the effect of terminating stay-at-home orders using a natural experiment got a R&R at the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

Abstract

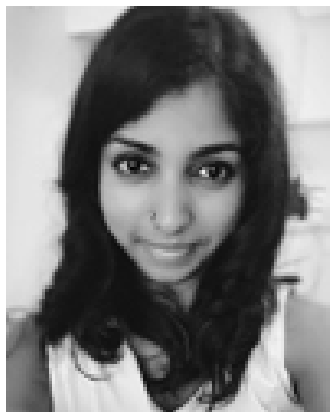
Policymakers have explicitly linked sustained reductions in COVID-19 case growth to reopening policies, including the lifting of lockdown orders. This hardwired policy endogeneity creates challenges in isolating the causal effects of lifting of lockdown orders on social mobility and public health. To overcome simultaneity bias, we exploit a unique natural experiment generated by the Wisconsin Supreme Court when it abolished Wisconsin's "Safer at Home" order on separation-of-powers grounds. We capitalize on this sudden, dramatic, and largely unanticipated termination of a statewide lockdown order to estimate its effect — relative to a more gradual scaling back of restrictions — on social mobility and COVID-19 case growth. First, using anonymized smartphone data from SafeGraph Inc. and a synthetic control design, we find that termination of COVID-related restrictions had small and short-lived negative impacts on social distancing. Then, using data on COVID-19 case and mortality rates, we find no evidence that the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision impacted COVID-19 growth up to a month following the repeal. We conclude that the impacts of lockdown and reopening are likely not symmetric, and this asymmetry sheds new light on the potential mechanisms underlying the effectiveness of initial lockdown orders.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

I just presented at Westerns Economic Association International (WEAI) meeting last summer, and I am planning to present at the next WEAI meeting.

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I am planning to have a solo-authored paper completed as a working paper and submitted to a journal by early next year!



Niranjana Prasad

Where are you currently working/attending school and at what stage of your professional development are you?

I am a 4th-year Economics PhD at Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium. I am currently on a short research visit to *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD) and Paris School of Economics in France.

At which professional conference, workshop, or seminar did you last present your work? And at which will you present next?

Last presented at the European Health Economics Association Conference, Oslo, Norway. Presenting next at Aix-Marseille School of Economics Seminar (April 2022).

What is the next major goal you are looking to achieve in your professional development?

I hope to defend my thesis in June 2023.

SDSU Undergraduate and MA Student Affiliates

Yiyang Yang

MA Graduate, Managerial Economics, Nanyang Technological University

Yiyang Yang recently graduated from Nanyang Technological University with an M.A. in Managerial Economics. She graduated from Sichuan University with B.A. in Finance. She used to be an exchange student at San Diego State University and currently doing research in Economics there. She is interested in applying a Ph.D. program focusing on Economics. Her research interests include labor, international and public economics. In her free time, she likes reading, watching movies and traveling, and she has travelled to Italy, Greece, Spain, and Switzerland this year. When asked about her experience conducting research at the Center, she offered:



“Through this semester's research with the CHEPS team, I have been exposed to research in more fields of economics and gained a deeper understanding of economics. What needs to be described in complicated language can be summarized by a formula and a model in economics, and even a formula can show its dynamic development. In terms of research skills, I learned and acquired many basic skills related to empirical research. At the same time, I have read many papers in the field of labor economics, improved my ability to read papers, and learned a lot of frontier theories in the field of economics. And I can better use Stata for data processing, which laid a very useful foundation for me to complete scientific research projects. I also realized that as a researcher, this is quite exciting since I can tackle a bunch of fun, insightful problems moving forward.”



Daichi Siegrist

MA Graduate, Economics, San Diego State University

Daichi Siegrist received his B.A. in Economics from UC Davis in 2012 and his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University in 2019. He has worked in the energy industry as a market settlements analyst since 2014. He is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. and his research interests include energy and environmental economics. In his capstone course for the M.A. Economics program, Daichi used a difference-in-differences approach (two-way fixed effects) in which he exploited the staggered adoption of state renewable portfolio standards (RPS) laws, which provided an incentive for renewable energy investments, on (1) renewable Daichi has joined the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies as a Graduate Student Research Affiliate in December 2022.



Sama Aziz

4th Year Undergraduate, Economics, San Diego State University

Sama Aziz is a recent graduate of San Diego State University, 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, as well as international trade and development. Within the next year she hopes to continue her academic journey into graduate school, including international economics oriented master's and PhD programs, and enter the field of consulting. As a polyglot she enjoys traveling, cooking, and foreign literature.

Cassidy Eiler

4th Year Undergrade, Economics, San Diego State University

Cassidy is a first-generation college student graduating this semester with her bachelor's degree in Economics and a specialization in quantitative analysis. She transferred from Grossmont community college, and she has an associate's degree in business administration and economics. For fun, she enjoys playing piano and playing at her local pool hall. She also has a six-year-old labrador named Charlie. She's planning to start her Masters degree in the fall of 2023 while working as a research assistant for CHEPS. Her areas of interest include a wide range of topics such as underdeveloped countries, comparative systems, labor economics, education, and health economics. Her goal is to soak up as much knowledge as she can from all of her amazing mentors at CHEPS.





Kate Mahoney

4th Year Undergrade, Economics, San Diego State University

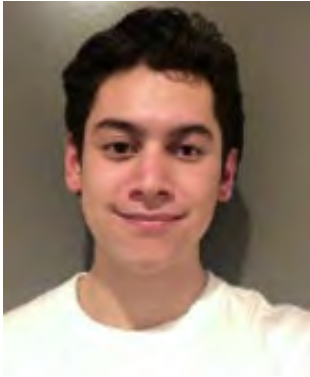
“My name is Kate Mahoney, and I graduated from SDSU with a BA in Economics and a minor in Sustainability in the fall of 2022. During my stay at SDSU, I took International Trade Theory with Professor Liang and attended numerous CHEPS seminars. Taking a theoretical course inspired me to construct economic models that can influence policy changes to better our economic system and increase societal welfare. In the meantime, the applied seminars exposed me to the fact that economists are constantly attempting to refine and test the models we employ. I am currently applying to the Master of Science in Quantitative Economics degree at California Polytechnic University in order to acquire the quantitative abilities essential to contribute to this innovation. In the future, I hope to work in the public sector as an economist.”

Yik Ching Tam

“I was a golf student-athlete at SDSU. I received my Bachelor of Arts in International Economics from SDSU in 2019. During my study at SDSU, I attended several CHEPS-hosted seminars. I valued the seminar's opportunity to delve deeply into the themes of Economics and Policy Research, as well as its exposure to the rigorous analysis of economic and business data. I picked the international aspect of my study because it helped me to obtain a comparative and international view of the economy, which I consider essential. Now, I want to take another substantial step in this direction by pursuing a Master's degree in real estate economics in Hong Kong.”



Research Assistants



Isaiah Valencia

MA Candidate, Statistics, San Diego State University

Isaiah Valencia received his undergraduate in Statistics at the University of California, Davis. He is currently pursuing his M.S. in Statistics at San Diego State University. His primary research interest is causal inference, particularly in the economics of risky health behaviors and poverty. In reaction to his research activities in the Fall of 2022, he offered the following:

"Doing research at CHEPS has offered a variety of practical research skills. For example, data management care and careful thought about what estimates precisely mean. Using the Current Population Survey (CPS) for research on predictive scheduling effects on labor markets was a valuable research experience to learn this important aspect of research. The seminars also provide a model and end goal for research. My personal favorite talk was from Lisa Gennetian, Professor of Public Policy and Pritzker Professor of Early Learning Policy Studies at Duke University. She used an experimental research design to examine how unconditional cash transfers affect family well-being. Her evidence showed evidence that the intervention increased time spent on children and it has motivated me to research policy with a focus on poverty reduction."



Cooper Smiley

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Cooper Smiley graduated from San Diego State University in 2021 with a B.A. in Economics with an emphasis in International Economics. Prior to attending SDSU, he was a Civil Affairs Medic in the United States Army. Working in remote, third-world countries sparked his interest in economics. He is currently pursuing an M.A. in Economics at SDSU. His interests include development economics, health economics, and labor economics.

In his free time, Cooper likes to cook, workout, and play with his dog, Tess. When asked about his experiences during the Fall 2022 semester, he stated:

"It has been another exciting semester for me at CHEPS! Recently my work has been more focused on robotics/automation and the possible avenues that effects labor markets and potentially crime. This project has involved quite a few new and interesting econometric techniques that I look forward to utilizing in future work. I can certainly say that CHEPS has put me in a position for future success due to the technical skills and work ethic that I've developed over my time here."

First-Year MA Students Describe Valuable Assistantship Experiences at CHEPS

Alex Marvin

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Alex Marvin is a first-year master student at SDSU. He received his B.A. in economics from CSU Channel Islands in 2022. During his time in undergrad Alex developed an appreciation for statistics and quantitative analysis. After graduation, his interest in diversifying and expanding his breadth of knowledge motivated his decision to pursue graduate studies at SDSU. Upon completion of his master program Alex intends on being positioned to enter an industry aligned with his major. Subjects that are of particular interest to Alex include econometrics and statistical modeling. His research interests include health, international, and equity in shared resources. When asked about his experience at the Center, Alex said:



“While working on the Drug Testing Law research project, I have become familiar with government benefit programs such as TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid. I have also become aware of the debate regarding drug testing in order to receive these benefits. I searched and found documents dating when drug testing laws for TANF passed, became effective, and in some cases repealed. Using Stata and Excel, I organize and update control variables so that econometric models can be estimated. I create and present event studies and regression tables to illustrate the effect of drug testing laws on TANF receipt and spillover effects on other benefits. This experience has given me a better understanding of what it means to conduct research and to do so accurately and efficiently.”



Briana Verdugo

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Briana Verdugo is a recent graduate of the University of San Diego. She graduated with a B.A. in Economics with an emphasis on data analytics. Prior to her college career, she was an Aviation Electrician in the United States Navy. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University. Her research interests include labor, public and urban economics. Some of her hobbies include reading, rock climbing and biking around San Diego. When asked about her experience in the program, Briana wrote:

“My time with CHEPS this semester was an awesome experience. Working closely with professors as an undergraduate is a rare occurrence, and I am grateful for the research opportunities CHEPS has provided me. Exposure to advanced public health topics and methodologies used at CHEPS has certainly improved my quantitative skills.”

Where are They Now?

2016 SDSU MA Economics Funded Research Cohort



Taylor Mackay

MA Economics 2016, SDSU; PhD Economics 2022, UC Irvine

Taylor is now an Assistant Professor of Economics at California State University, Fullerton.



Usamah Wasif

MA Economics 2016; PhD Economics, 2022, University of New Mexico

Usamah is now a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative at Michigan State University.



John Westall

MA Economics 2016; PhD Economics 2021, North Carolina State University

John is now a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative at Michigan State University.

Highlights of Journal Acceptances

Unintended Effects of Minimum Wages on Crime

(Forthcoming, *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, by Zach Fone, Joseph J. Sabia, and Resul Cesur 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, we 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 show that self-reported property crime rises for workers who earn wages such that they are directly bound by minimum wage increases. 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 important role in its net crime effects for young adults.

Together, 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. In contrast to evidence of increased property crime arrests for those under age 25, we find no evidence that either property or violent offenses among the entire working-age population (ages 16 and older) is responsive to changes in minimum wages.

Back-of-the-envelope calculation suggests that a 10 percent increase in the minimum wage between 1998 and 2016 led to around 80,000 additional larcenies committed by 16-to-24-year-olds. This would correspond annual crime costs of approximately \$200 million (2020\$). These costs may be considered lower-bound to the extent that boredom-induced delinquency related crimes (i.e., vandalism and disorderly conduct) also rise in response to minimum wage increases. On the other hand, if the marginal larceny affected is less costly than the average larceny committed, then these costs may be considered upper-bound. In either case, the crime-related costs are not trivial.

The *Raise the Wage Act of 2021* would raise the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 per hour by 2025, eliminate the “tip credit” and raise the minimum wage paid to tipped workers from \$2.13 to \$15 per hour by June 2026, and eliminate subminimum wages that could be paid to younger teenagers and workers with disabilities. Focusing on the 107 percent increase in the Federal minimum wage for non-tipped workers, our estimated larceny arrest elasticities suggest that this legislation could generate approximately 309,000 additional larcenies. This study estimates a social cost of \$766 million in additional larceny costs.

Black Lives Matter Protests and Risk Avoidance: The Case of Civil Unrest During a Pandemic

(Forthcoming, Journal of Human Resources)

This study, authored by Dhaval Dave, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford, demonstrates that the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests were associated with substantial increases in behavior consistent with risk avoidance. Event-study analyses show that following BLM protests (i) stay-at-home behavior among local residents increased in response to perceived threats of violence (i.e., from police or protesters) and infectious disease spread, and (ii) rallies supplanted activities that were higher risk for infectious disease spread than attending an outdoor protest, i.e., foot traffic at restaurants, bars, and retail establishments.



These findings provide strong evidence of risk avoidance behaviors in response to BLM protests. The findings are, in the main, consistent with evidence of behavioral responses to perceived safety risks amongst the general population, who in the presence of crime or violence choose to remain home more often. While BLM protests were constitutionally protected speech and not criminal activities, they may still be viewed as dangerous by non-attendees due to the occasional presence of violence, including police response to these protests, and elicit avoidance behavior. Additionally, non-attendees may have perceived a higher risk of COVID-19 infection due to the protests, which could also have generated avoidance behavior.

There are other hypotheses consistent with our findings as well. For example, non-attendees may have increased stay-at-home behavior in order to avoid additional traffic congestion or street closures, or due to lack of available activities from businesses closures near protest sites. It is also possible that the protests lowered foot traffic at business locations by directly siphoning off customers who participated the protest in lieu of engaging in economic activity.

The results of this study also demonstrated that the protests had little effect on the spread of COVID-19 for the entire population of the counties with protests during the more than five weeks following protest onset. The key conclusion from this research is that understanding of human behavior, in particular with regards to how humans behave in the presence of risk needs to be included in public health and public policy discussions. The net change in behavior in this case was substantial, and failure to account for the general equilibrium effects would lead to skewed benefit-cost analyses. The findings thus highlight the importance of understanding the behavior of all relevant populations when conducting analysis in the realm of social science in general, and public health in particular: the most visible portion of the population is not always the primary driver of the outcome of interest.

Female Athletics, Human Capital and Crime: Evidence from a Natural Experiment

(Forthcoming, Journal of Human Resources)

Advocates of youth sports programs, including the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, argue that sports participation may generate positive externalities by reducing crime. While there is emerging evidence that high school sports participation generates private benefits to participants through enhanced human capital acquisition and improved labor market outcomes, very little is known about the external benefits of sports participation. Moreover, while the impacts of human capital investments on criminal behavior have been widely studied among males, females are a vastly understudied demographic group in the economics of crime literature. Studying the determinants of female criminal behavior is important given that (i) females comprise a rising share of total arrestees and (ii) emerging evidence that female criminal behavior may be more sensitive to human capital investments than male criminal activity (Cano-Urbina and Lochner 2019).



This study, co-authored by Drew McNichols, Joseph J. Sabia, and Gokhan Kumpas, uses a natural experiment generated by the educational amendments to Title IX to study the causal impact of high school sports participation on adult female arrests. Using state-level arrest data between 1980 and 2000 from the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), reduced form estimates show that a 10 percentage-point higher pre-Title IX state male sports participation rate is associated with an approximately 2 percent reduction in total female arrests. 2SLS (IV) estimates show that a Title IX-induced 10 percentage-point increase in exposure to female sports participation in high school is associated with a 10.7 percent decline in adult female arrests. The magnitudes of lower-bound 2SLS estimates suggest that the approximately 25 percentage-point increase in female sports participation induced by Title IX generated \$6.7 billion in social benefits from adult property and violent crime reductions for the average affected cohort of females observed during our 1980-2000 analysis period. This could be a lower-bound estimate of crime-related cost savings to the degree to which Title IX also had contemporaneous crime-reducing effect on teens and young adults under age 25 due to more immediate incapacitation or human capital effects.

In summary, the findings of arrest-reducing effects of Title IX adds to the literature on the human capital and labor market-related benefits of Title IX. Moreover, the results suggest an important efficiency rationale for public spending on youth sports programs in general and an important social benefit associated with the enactment of Title IX in particular. Back-of-the envelope calculations of the average per-female athlete cost of \$295 to \$886. At the upper bound, this could suggest that the 25 percentage-point rise in female sports participation generated approximately \$1.6 billion in implementation costs (2018\$). The findings suggest that the social benefits of crime reduction exceed these costs.

Political Violence, Risk Aversion, and Non-Localized Disease Spread: Evidence from the U.S Capitol Riot

(Forthcoming, Journal of Population Economics)



On January 6, 2021, one of the most dramatic political events in modern American history took place when supporters of outgoing President Donald J. Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol Building to protest the certification of the elections of President Joseph R. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. In addition to the threats posed to the nation's democracy, some public health experts, including the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, argued that the Capitol Riot could cause a resurgence of COVID-19 in

Washington, D.C. and nationwide. This study is the first to explore this question.

Using data from SafeGraph, authors Dhaval Dave, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia document that non-resident smartphone presence at the Ellipse, National Mall, and U.S. Capitol Building rose substantially on January 6, 2021. Moreover, they find evidence that local residents of Washington, D.C. engaged in risk avoidance behavior in response to this event. Stay-at-home behavior at the extensive margin (full-time stay at home behavior) and the intensive margin (percent of time spent at home) rose in response to the event. This result is consistent with risk-averting behavior in response to, perhaps, risks of violence and COVID-19 spread. Risk aversion may also rise in response to congestion effects as, during and after the protests, many streets were closed, and traffic rerouted as the Capitol police regained control of the city and the National Guard was called out. Moreover, some of the stay-at-home behavior induced by the Riot appeared to continue long past the event itself, owed to the “virtual lockdown” of Washington, D.C. in the period leading up to President Biden's inauguration.

Perhaps in part because of this increase in social distancing, evidence from synthetic control models provide no evidence of local COVID-19 spread in Washington, D.C. in the month following the event. However, when we explore whether there were non-localized spillover effects of the Capitol Riot, our dose response models suggest that counties that contributed higher inflows to Washington, D.C. on January 6 saw larger increases in daily COVID-19 case growth. This result is consistent with Center for Disease Control and Prevention warning that large gatherings of non-household members who do not engage in mitigation generates the conditions for substantial risk for community-level COVID-19 spread. Descriptive evidence suggests that there may be an important role for policy in blunting the adverse public health consequences of risky large gatherings. Restrictions in Washington, D.C. and in counties that contributed relatively higher inflows to the Capitol may have helped curb COVID-19 spread following the Riot, moderating interactions outdoors and risky activities (for instance, going to restaurants and bars) once protesters traveled back to their resident communities. Moreover, averting behaviors, particularly in the District of Columbia, which may include increases in stay-at-home behavior as well as enhanced mask-wearing may have helped cap COVID-19 growth.

Did the Dependent Coverage Mandate Reduce Crime?

(Forthcoming, Journal of Law and Economics)

An important efficiency rationale for enacting the Affordable Care Act's DCM was to increase health insurance coverage among a healthy, often uninsured population to ameliorate social welfare losses due to adverse selection. However, there may have been other important efficiency gains if increased health insurance coverage among young adults generated positive externalities. This study is the first to explore whether the DCM generated spillovers to crime. Given important effects of the DCM on living arrangements, financial resources, and access to health care services — as well as the fact that the DCM targets an age demographic responsible for a disproportionate share of all criminal arrests — the externality effects from crime may be important for a full cost-benefit analysis of the DCM.



Using data from the 2008-2013 NIBRS and a difference-in-differences approach, authors Zach Fone, Brandy Lipton, Andrew Friedson, and Joseph J. Sabia find that the DCM is associated with a 2-to-5 percent decline in property crime among 22-to-25-year-olds. These estimates imply an elasticity that is a quarter to an eighth of the magnitude of the crime reduction benefits from increasing the size of the police force, a policy that explicitly targeted crime. These findings suggest that health insurance has the potential to decrease crime (at least for certain populations) as

an added benefit to its primary goal, though effects in our context were smaller than for major anti-crime interventions.

The findings suggest that the DCM led to reductions in young adult property crime arrests, but less evidence of a violent crime effect. The nature of the policy may explain these results as the motivations for perpetrating property and violent crimes likely differ. To the extent that the policy affects more “permanent” situations (i.e., living modality, school enrollment, economic wellbeing), including financial health, we might expect a larger effect of the DCM on property as compared to violent crime, given that the latter may be more affected by situational circumstances such as stress or weather.

Back-of-the-envelope calculations suggest that this reduction corresponds to an annual social cost reduction of approximately \$371 million to \$512 million per year (2020 dollars) based on per crime cost estimate. These estimates suggest a more modest reduction in crime from the DCM as compared to the results found in studies of ACA Medicaid expansions.

While the total social benefits from crime reductions of the DCM are smaller in magnitude, it is important to recognize that the DCM and the ACA's Medicaid expansions targeted different populations and resulted in enrollment effects of vastly different magnitudes. Moreover, the cost of implementation was not the same for the DCM and Medicaid expansions. We conclude that by targeting a younger and healthier population using a policy with relatively lower marginal premiums, the DCM generated important social benefits in crime reduction at a relatively modest cost.

Mothers' caregiving during COVID: The impact of marital property laws on women's labor force status

(Forthcoming, Economics & Human Biology)

When COVID-19 hit, schools closed. Within the following year, millions of women with school-age children living in couples opted out of the labor force to care for their children. Mothers were more likely to do so in states where property-division rules regarding marital dissolution would better protect the financial interests of those who became stay-at-home parents. First, this applies to the nine U.S. states that have community property laws, a legacy from colonial America. After the pandemic started, a woman's probability of non-participation due to caregiving increased by 3.4–3.6% points more if she resided in one of these states than if she lived in an equitable-division state with no homemaking provision. Second, just looking at the states that have equitable-division property laws after the onset of COVID-19, in the thirty-seven states with homemaking provisions the probability that a given woman with school-age children was out of the labor force was 2.1–2.7% points higher than in states with equitable division but no homemaking provision.



These findings, from Cynthia Bansak, Shoshana Grossbard, and Ho-Po Crystal Wong, suggest that financial considerations affecting care-giving mothers played a role when the sudden closing of schools placed a new burden on parents, many choosing to opt out of the labor force to care for their children. From here the authors infer a causal link: having more rights over marital property incentivized mothers of school-age children to supply more caregiving of their children when schools suddenly closed due to COVID-19. Living in a country with high divorce and separation rates, and with the more remote prospect of widowhood hanging over them, mothers of school-age children seem to have felt more secure leaving the labor force if laws related to marital property and dissolution were more favorable to those opting out of the labor force to supply at-home caregiving. Furthermore, based on the dynamic study, it appears that presence of a homemaking provision was most influential between the third and sixth month of COVID-19. This may mean that financial considerations motivating mothers to opt out of the labor force in order to care for their children were relatively more important soon after the onset of an exogenous shock, COVID-19, than they were many months later. Mothers' likelihood to opt out of the labor force after the start of the pandemic varied more with laws regarding division of marital property in states with higher homeownership rates than in states with lower homeownership.

This research is important: it points out to a connection between laws regarding the division of marital property and labor force participation of mothers of school-age children. Further research may also uncover links between these laws and other measures of labor supply, such as hours of work and long-term commitment to the labor force. Again, the onset of COVID-19 may be interpreted as an unexpected shock causing behavioral changes. This research also carries implications for labor force re-entry of mothers living in couples as COVID-19 becomes less of a threat to society.

Highlights of Revise and Resubmits

Minimum Wage and Teenage Childbearing

(R&R, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*)

Minimum wage increases have proven to be very popular. All 7 of the most recent ballot initiatives to raise the state minimum wage have been approved by voters. Recent initiatives in the “red” states of Missouri, Florida, and Arkansas have passed with 60 to 68 percent of the popular vote. While a long literature in labor economics has studied the impact of minimum wages on teenage labor market outcomes, recent high-profile research suggests that there may be important public health benefits from increases in the minimum wage.



If enacted, the *Raise the Wage Act of 2021* would raise the effective minimum wage for teenagers in the United States by \$5.28 per hour (in 2021 dollars) and more than double the nominal minimum wage in approximately 20 states. Taken at face value, recent estimates in the literature suggest that, if passed, the *Raise the Wage Act of 2021* would reduce the teen birth rate by 21.5 percent, generating short-run cost savings (for direct medical care and economic support) of as much as \$665 million per year.

This study reassesses a growing consensus in the public health literature that minimum wages are an effective policy tool to combat teenage pregnancies. It does this by (i) exploiting new econometric tools to more fully assess the parallel trends assumption and expunge bias caused by heterogeneous dynamic treatment effects, (ii) using recent, large increases in minimum wages to identify policy impacts, and (iii) empirically exploring the potential mechanisms through which minimum wages could have impacted teenage fertility.

The findings, from Daniel Rees, Joseph J. Sabia, and Rebecca Margolit, provide no support for the hypothesis that raising the minimum wage is an effective policy tool for reducing teenage childbearing. Dynamic models show that teenage birth rates were already declining prior to the enactment of minimum wage increases, which strongly suggests that the common trends assumption is violated.

Using data for the period 2003 through 2019, difference-in-differences regression and dynamic models provide no evidence that minimum wages are, in a causal sense, related to teenage childbearing. An exploration of prominent minimum wage increases (of \$1 or more) using the approach pioneered by Callaway and Sant’Anna confirms that teenage births do not respond to minimum wage hikes. Finally, we find little evidence that minimum wages are related to the hypothesized mechanisms: difference-in-difference analyses using data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Current Population Survey, and the Guttmacher Institute show no evidence that minimum wage increases result in economically important or statistically significant changes in teenage sexual behavior, contraceptive use, marriage rates, abortion rates, or pregnancy rates.

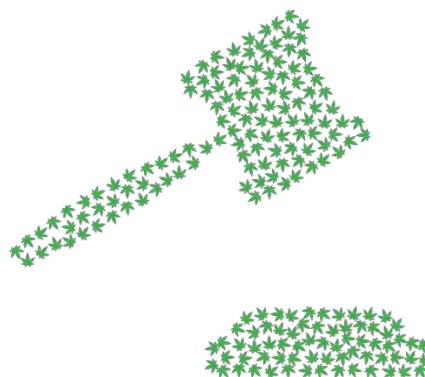
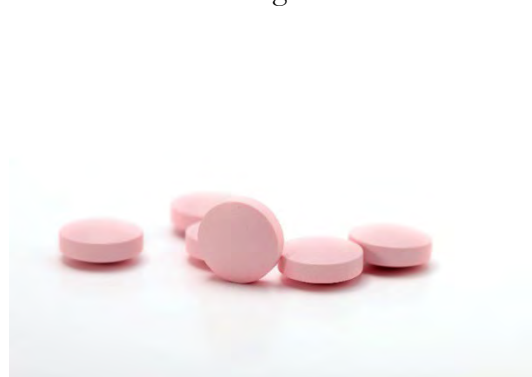
Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Increase Harder Drug Use and Crime?

(Re&R, *Journal of Public Economics*)

One of the most prominent arguments offered by opponents of recreational marijuana laws is that they will generate adverse spillover, or “gateway” effects. This study, by Joseph J. Sabia, Dhaval Dave, Fawaz Alotaibi, and Daniel Rees, comprehensively explores potential gateway effects of legalizing recreational marijuana on a variety of outcomes related to harder drug use and crime. Across analyses of four national datasets (the NSDUH, the UCR, the NVSS Mortality Files, and the TEDS) we find little consistent evidence, at least thus far, of important gateway effects of RMLs. While RMLs are associated with increases in adult marijuana use and a reduction in marijuana-related arrests, we find little compelling evidence to suggest that RMLs result in increases in illicit drug use, arrests for part I offenses, drug-involved overdoses, or drug-related treatment admissions for addiction. In contrast, the paper finds some evidence that RML-adoption may be associated with a reduction in opioid-related mortality. In the main, a causal interpretation of our findings is supported by event study analyses, including those that account for heterogeneous policy effects over time.

With regard to limitations of our analyses, the estimates represent average treatment effects over the post-treatment windows available for our RML states. On average, this is approximately three to four years. If gateway effects take longer to unfold, future research will be necessary to detect them. Nonetheless, our synthetic control analyses of Washington and Colorado suggest that such long-run gateway effects have not materialized in the eight years following their adoption. In addition, it is certainly possible that nuisance crimes, those not captured by type I offenses could themselves be impacted by RMLs, which could be a useful path for future work. Finally, an important area of scholarship in this space includes whether RMLs generate adverse effects on marijuana use to minors. While early evidence is mixed on the impact of marijuana liberalization on youth use, this question remains open for researchers to tackle. The research design we follow in this study provides an important and useful starting point for extending these analyses as more data become available and marijuana markets in legalized states evolve and mature.

The findings of our study are of clear importance to policymakers and the public. The making of sound public policy depends, in part, upon carefully weighing the explicit costs of legalizing recreational marijuana against the utility gains from consumption and any savings from, for instance, reductions in crime or non-rational addiction. The results provide important evidence on both sides of this social welfare ledger.



Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?

(R&R, *Journal of Health Economics*)



While public support for recreational marijuana has skyrocketed 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, as well as 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. Indeed, since 1964 when the

first Surgeon General report was released, cigarette smoking rates among male adults have declined from 55 percent to 16 percent and female smoking rates have declined from 35 percent to 12 percent. While the causes of these declines are the subject of much debate, most public health experts seek to preserve the health gains related to anti-smoking efforts of the previous half-decade.

This study, by Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Michael F. Pesko, Serena Phillips, and Joseph J. Sabia, is the first to comprehensively examine the impact of legalizing recreational marijuana on tobacco use, and in doing so, use novel econometric tools that permit us to estimate dynamic consumption effects of RMLs. Using data from four, large, nationally representative datasets (National Survey of Drug Use and Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, Current Population Survey Tobacco Use Supplements, and Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health) and a generalized difference-in-differences approach, the study finds very little evidence that recreational marijuana and tobacco are complements among adults. Rather, the preponderance of the evidence points to small, occasionally significant longer-run declines in adult tobacco use, more consistent with the hypothesis that recreational marijuana and tobacco may be substitutes. Effects are particularly pronounced from younger adults ages 18-20, who are under the legal marijuana purchase age for recreational use; these adults appear to significantly increase their marijuana use, and substitute away from cigarette use – including more frequent, everyday cigarette use – in response to more liberalized recreational access to marijuana.

The potential health care cost savings from substitution away from cigarette consumption, which our study points to, could be substantial. Scaling our estimates to the national level, our estimates indicate a reduction in smoking prevalence by as many as 5.1 million, translating into tobacco-related healthcare cost savings of about \$10.2 billion per year.²⁸ These cost-savings, of course, need to be balanced against the public health costs and benefits associated with increased marijuana use, and against effects on marijuana use and tobacco use realized for youth. This study underscores the importance of quantifying and incorporating policy-driven spillovers when attempting to evaluate the benefits and costs of liberalized access to recreational marijuana.

The Effectiveness of Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements

(R&R, Journal of the European Economic Association)

This paper, authored by Ryan Abman, Clark Lundberg, and Michele Ruta evaluates the effectiveness of forest-related RTA provisions at limiting deforestation arising from trade liberalization. Finding no changes in net annual deforestation following implementation of agreements that include provisions aimed at protecting forest and/or biodiversity while agreements without these provisions see substantial increases in net forest loss, i.e., provisions reduce forest loss relative to RTAs that do not include them. Back-of-the-envelope calculations from our triple difference estimates indicate that the forest and biodiversity provisions studied in this paper prevented approximately 7,500 square



kilometers of deforestation from 2003–2014. The authors find evidence that reductions are driven by countries with more sensitive ecosystems.

Results indicate that this effect is at least partially attributable to (relative) reductions in agricultural land expansion following RTA enactment, while we find no evidence that these provisions operate through timber product markets. Finally, the impact of environmental provisions does not appear to hinge on the inclusion of “special” dispute settlement channels for the environmental

provisions, but rather on general enforceability and broad-scope dispute settlement mechanisms. Treatment of the selection bias issue provides a roadmap for future studies on the effects of trade agreement content. The authors also address an artifact of our empirical approach by developing an extension to standard clustered covariance matrices that allows for sparse cross-cluster correlation.

This work provides critical insights into the effectiveness of environmental provisions in mitigating forest loss arising from trade liberalization. The inclusion of such provisions on average offsets forest loss increases observed in trade agreements without environmental provisions. While environmental provisions appear to be an effective tool for mitigating environmental harm arising from trade liberalization, the costs and benefits are not born equally by all signatories. In particular, the study finds evidence that these provisions function, at least partially, by mitigating growth in agricultural land area. Encouragingly, provision inclusion does not appear to preclude agricultural gains from trade at the intensive margin. These findings suggest potential avenues forward in negotiation of future trade agreements to encourage sustainable growth.

Sudden Lockdown Repeals, Social Mobility, & COVID-19

(R&R, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies)



Isolating the causal effect of Shelter in Place Order (SIPO) repeal on COVID-19-related health is quite difficult due to policymakers' explicit linking of COVID-19 case growth to SIPO lifting. The sudden and largely unanticipated removal of Wisconsin's SIPO by the Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm decision created a unique opportunity to examine removal of a SIPO that was not explicitly contingent on pre-existing trends in COVID-19 caseloads. The laboratory provided by Wisconsin is perhaps the best opportunity to-date to credibly study the effects of lifting a SIPO.

This study by Dhaval Dave, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia find that the removal of the SIPO had only modest effects on measures of social distancing behavior, causing individuals to venture outside of their homes more often. These increases in mobility were somewhat larger in more densely populated areas, and in locations that disproportionately supported President Trump in the 2016 presidential election. These findings were not due to some counties enacting their own SIPOs after the statewide order was struck down.

This is evidence that the effect of lifting a SIPO is not necessarily symmetric to that of first enacting the order. SIPOs may have been enacted during a time where people perceived little risk and knew little about proper protective behavior (such as wearing masks), binding in a powerful way to curb socially driven infection. Then, SIPOs might be lifted at later times after perceptions and behavior have had a chance to adjust, meaning that individuals might engage in more social distancing behavior even without the presence of the policy. Thus, in the case of Wisconsin, it is possible that the policy may have been far less binding at the time it was struck down. There are of course other factors that could be at play, such as outside options for economic and noneconomic activity worsening due to the outbreak.

The authors also do not find any discernible or substantial increase in COVID-19 cases or acceleration in the growth of cases due to the Wisconsin Legislature v. Palm decision during the fortnight following its issuance. This is due at least in part to the lack of large change in social distancing behavior and may also be explained by individuals successfully engaging in avoidance behaviors on other margins (such as maintaining 6 foot distances from other when out in public or wearing masks). These findings cast doubt on the assertion that reopening states by lifting SIPOs will necessarily cause substantial erosion in the containment of the virus. Lifting SIPOs only means that individuals regain the right to engage in certain public behaviors. This does not mean that individuals will exercise that right, and does not mean that if they do, that they will not do so responsibly.

Center Affiliate Publications, Summer/Fall 2022

Between Summer 2022 and December 2022, the Center reported production of 35 research publications, including accepted peer-reviewed articles, conditional accepts/revise-and-resubmits, CHEPS Working Papers, and National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Papers:



Abouk, Rahi, Charles J. Courtemanche, Dhaval Dave, Bo Feng, Abigail Friedman, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Michael F. Pesko, Joseph J. Sabia and Samuel Safford. 2022. "Intended and Unintended Effects of E-Cigarette Taxes on Youth Tobacco Use," Forthcoming, *Journal of Health Economics*.

Abman, Ryan. and Foad, Hisham. 2022. Border walls and crime: Evidence from the Secure Fence Act. *Eastern Economic Journal* 48(2): 167 - 197.

Bansak, Cynthia, Crystal Wong, and Shoshana Grossbard 2022. "Labor supply of women, COVID, and property division rules." *Economics and Human Biology* 47: 101170.

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

Calvi, Rossella, Denni Tommasi, Jacob Penglase, and Alexander Wolf. 2022. "The More the Poorer? Resource Sharing and Scale Economies in Large Families." Forthcoming, *Journal of Development Economics*.

Cesur, Resul, Joseph J. Sabia, and W. David Bradford. 2020. "Did the War on Terror Ignite a Veteran Opioid Epidemic?" National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 26264, Revise-and-resubmit, *Health Economics*.

Chesney, Alexander. 2022. "Should I get a master's degree? Evaluating peer effects on education investment decisions in the workplace," Forthcoming, *Economics of Education Review*.

Chesney, Alexander and Scott Carrell. 2022. "Brains Versus Brawn: Ordinal Rank Effects in Job Training," Revise-and-Resubmit, *Journal of Public Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford. 2022. "Black Lives Matter Protests and Risk Avoidance: The Case of Civil Unrest During a Pandemic," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Dave, Dhaval M., Yang Liang, Michael F. Pesko, Serena Phillips, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. "Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?" National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 29706, Revise-and-resubmit, *Journal of Health Economics*.

Dhaval Dave, Andrew Friedson, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Drew McNichols, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. “Sudden Lockdown Repeal, Social Mobility, and COVID-19: Evidence from a Judicial Natural Experiment,” Revise-and-resubmit at *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*.

Dave, Dhaval, Joseph J. Sabia, and Samuel Safford. 2022. “The Limits of Reopening Policy to Alter Economic Behavior: New Evidence from Texas,” Forthcoming, *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*.

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



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

Fe, Hao. 2022. “Social Networks and Consumer Behavior: Evidence from Yelp. Revise-and-resubmit, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Ferrazares, Toshio. 2022. “Monitoring Police with Body-Worn Cameras: Evidence from Chicago,” Revise-and-Resubmit, *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*.

Fone, Zachary. 2022. “You Booze, You Lose? Spillovers to Crime from Alcohol Sales at College Football Games.” Forthcoming, *Journal of Sports Economics*.

Fone, Zachary, Andrew Friedson, Brandy Lipton, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. “Did the Dependent Coverage Mandate Reduce Crime?” Forthcoming, *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Fone, Zachary, Resul Cesur, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2022. “The Unintended Effects of Minimum Wage Increases on Crime,” Forthcoming, *Journal of Public Economics*.

Grossbard, Shoshana and Lorena Hakak. 2022.. “The Economics of Care Work in January 2023: A model of demand for in-family and institutional caregiving incorporating marriage markets,” Forthcoming, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*.

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



Hansen, Benjamin, Joseph J. Sabia, and Jessamyn Schaller. 2022. "In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicide: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic School Closures," Under Review for Special Issue, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Li, Ling and Liang, Yang "Can Exports Be Pain Relievers? The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health", Revise and Resubmit at *Review of International Economics*

Lipton, Brandy, 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.



McNichols, Drew, Joseph J. Sabia, and Gokhan Kumpas. In press. "Female Athletics, Human Capital and Crime: Evidence from a Natural Experiment," Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

Rees, Daniel I. Joseph J. Sabia, and Gokhan Kumpas. 2022. "Anti-Bullying Laws and Suicidal Behaviors Among Teenagers," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

Rees, Daniel I., Joseph J. Sabia, and Rebecca Margolit. 2022. "Minimum Wages and Teenage Childbearing: New Estimates Using a Dynamic Difference-in-Differences Approach," NBER Working Paper No. 29334, Revise-and-resubmit, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

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

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*.

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

Abman, Ryan, Clark Lundberg, Michele Ruta. 2022. "The Effectiveness of Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements" Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of the European Economic Association*.

Abman, Ryan and Gabriel Longbrake. 2022. "Resource development and governance decline: The case of the Chad-Cameroon petroleum pipeline," Forthcoming, *Energy Economics*.

Sabia, Joseph J. Sabia and Russell Leonard. 2022. "Do Vertical Identification Laws Reduce Teenage Drinking and Smoking? A Reconsideration," CHEPS Working Paper No. 2022901.

Fall 2022 CHEPS Research Seminar Series



During the 2022 Fall semester, CHEPS hosted 13 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, and the RAND Corporation. 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 groups 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 own interests. Affiliated PhD 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 Fall 2022 Seminar Series offered an invaluable experience for both faculty and students to be exposed to several novel research projects; a few of the seminars are outlined below.

Emily Lawler from the University of Georgia presented her new working paper “The Effect of Hospital Postpartum Care Regulations on Breastfeeding and Maternal Time Allocation”. As a large body of research already exists, breastfeeding is widely considered to contribute to positive health benefits to children during postnatal care. Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend breastfeeding for the first year of a newborn’s life in order to achieve associated health benefits for both the infant and the mother. United States policymakers have designated breastfeeding a public health priority, with an explicit goal of improving breastfeeding rates set by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Additionally, state-level policies aimed at deconstructing barriers to breastfeeding including workplace accommodations, insurance coverage of lactation-related services, and information-based interventions have been implemented to support and increase rates of breastfeeding. In this paper the authors discuss hospital-level postpartum care regulations’ effect on breastfeeding rates. By using data from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) and the Current Population Survey (CPS) they show that the hospital breastfeeding support regulations were successful at increasing both the initiation and duration of breastfeeding. Compared



with other initiatives (mandated insurance coverage of lactation support service, paid family leave, and employment-based policies) hospital-level initiatives are found to be more successful at increasing initiation of breastfeeding. However, continuance of breastfeeding throughout the first year of a child’s life was more comparable (in some cases smaller) with results of other policy initiatives. Change in maternal time allocation was greatest in Hispanic and Black mothers who were

already 17% less likely to initiate breast feeding than white mothers– suggesting that hospital-level policy initiatives in support of breastfeeding may reduce disparities in breastfeeding initiation and duration. Mothers who breastfeeding support were also found to reduce their labor force participation and employment with the greatest reductions withing 0 to 3 months of childbirth.



Dr. Desmond Ang of the Harvard Kennedy School presented his working paper “Black Military Service and the Civil Rights Movement”, coauthored with PhD student, Sahil Chinoy. Using records from the World War I draft and newly digitized records, Dr. Ang examined the effect of military service and Black veterans’ civil participation. He found Black men who were randomly inducted into the U.S. Army, were more likely to register with the NAACP. NAACP participation increased drastically after WWI despite the steep fee to join. Through heterogeneity analysis, it was concluded the effects were largest for men from higher-skilled occupations and combat units. Through detailed analysis of the first African American officer candidate class, he found commissioned officers were more likely to be civil rights leaders.



Dr. Alessandra Fenizia from George Washington University presented her on-going work “Organized Crime and Economic Growth: Evidence from Municipalities Infiltrated by the Mafia”, coauthored with Raffaele Saggio. While previous studies have documented the

origin and spread of organized crime, much less is known about which policies can effectively combat widespread corruption of governments by criminal organizations. The Italian government’s city council dismissal (CCD) policy was designed to dispense with individuals who are identified as corrupt who are working at a municipal level within the Italian government in an attempt to clean house and boost economic performance.

By replacing entire city councils and mayoral offices with teams of trusted commissioners appointed by an external authority for a duration of two years, the Italian government was largely successful in their efforts. In their paper, the authors use matched difference-in-differences design to estimate the effect that CCD events have in terms of workers, firms, public finances, and real estate prices. Placebo tests between CCD-affected municipalities and similar municipalities (not subject to a CCD) are also run to show that no evidence of differential pre-trends between treated and control units exist over a variety of outcomes. In their findings they show that (relative to their counterfactual municipalities) CCD- affected municipalities saw an increase in employment of 16.9% as well as an increase of 9.4% in the number of firms over nine years on average. They also find a degree of heterogeneity in the geospatial instances of treated municipalities with greater concentration of treated municipalities in South of Italy.



Roman Rivera, a 5th year PhD candidate from Columbia University, presented his job market paper “Release, Detain, or Surveil? The Effect of Electronic Monitoring on Defendant Outcomes.” Using data from Cook County, Illinois, a marginal treatment effect framework and a quasi-random assignment of bond court judges, he explored the effects of using pretrial electronic monitoring (EM) as an alternative to pretrial release and detention. He found EM effectively reduces failures to appear in court and while results suggest it can lead to better outcomes with minimal costs for most defendants, it can also lead to more pretrial arrests relative to release or detainment.



The Center is incredibly excited about the Spring 2023 lineup, which will feature applied economists in the areas of health economics, labor economics, public economics, and environmental economics. They will visit us from such institutions as Yale University, Dartmouth University, the University of Notre Dame, American University, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The lineup for Spring 2023 appears below.



LEARN MORE AT 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
University

Out 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



@SDSUCHEPS

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

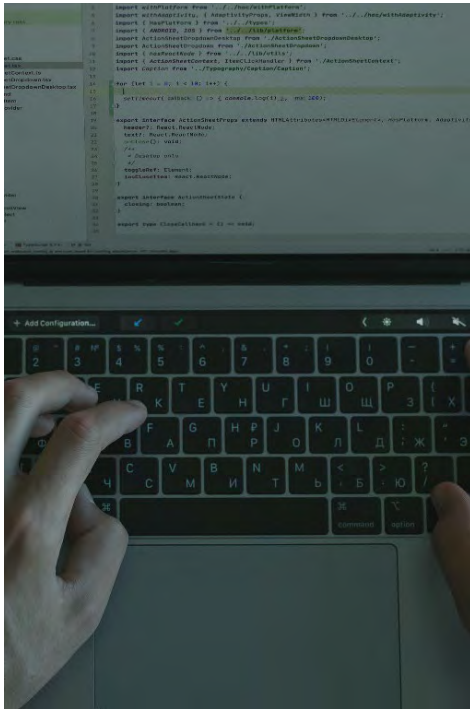
CHEPS Research Assistant (RA) Meetings

CHEPS student affiliates are exposed to cutting-edge research at the seminars and learn how to carry out research projects themselves. Still, one of the most valuable components of CHEPS is the weekly meeting of the student affiliates with Dr. Sabia. Each week, those working on each project share with Dr. Sabia and the rest of the affiliates updates and questions arising from their research. These ongoing conversations allow all of the master's students to receive support from Dr. Sabia on their own research while also benefitting from hearing how other students are carrying out their projects. The conversation is beneficial in understanding the ebbs and flows of research and the perseverance required to be a successful researcher. Through these meetings, the student affiliates become acutely aware of the necessary qualities and attitudes needed to carry out research while also gaining clarity on how their research will advance. All this will undoubtedly be incredibly valuable as the student affiliates prepare to enter the next stage of their life—be it pursuing a Ph.D. or entering the industry.

These meetings have also been indispensable in developing a sense of camaraderie among everyone affiliated with CHEPS. These ongoing conversations create a sense of collectiveness in which everyone is interested in and concerned about all of the projects affiliates are working on, not just their own. Furthermore, this sense of camaraderie also manifests in everyone helping one another in their educational and professional aspirations. These meetings have played an invaluable role in making those associated with CHEPS into a family.



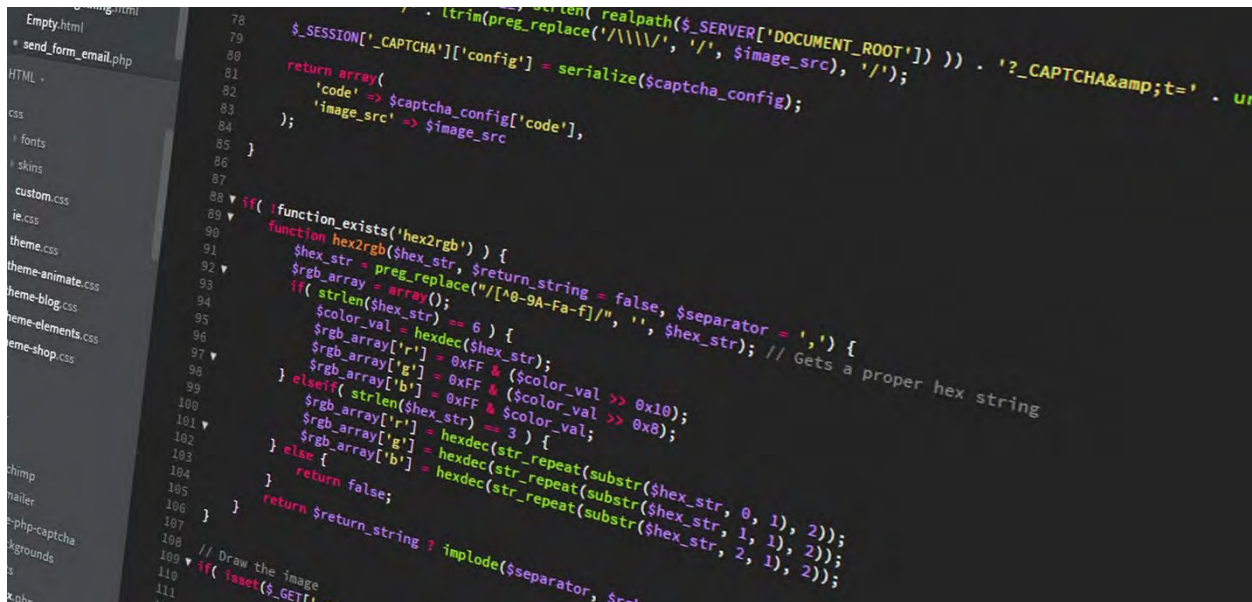
2022 CHEPS STATA/R Bootcamp



CHEPS hosted its annual STATA and R Bootcamp in August 2022, returning to an in-person format after hosting last year's bootcamp virtually. Led by University of New Hampshire PhD candidate and SDSU alumni Tam Nguyen, this intensive 6-day bootcamp introduced new student affiliates to empirical research methods in STATA and R. Training in these statistical software programs equips affiliates with the tools necessary to succeed at CHEPS research. Still, coding knowledge alone doesn't define a quality researcher. Careful attention to detail, especially when managing large datasets, was a major emphasis of the bootcamp. Small mistakes in the coding process can lead to major issues down the road. Affiliates were trained to identify and avoid common errors.

The bootcamp also introduced affiliates to popular public datasets used in many CHEPS research projects, such as the Current Population Survey (CPS), the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BFRSS). Many affiliates currently work with data introduced during the bootcamp, and

familiarity with these large survey datasets enhances both student learning outcomes and CHEPS research output.



FACULTY RESEARCH UPDATES



Ryan Abman

Abman, Ryan, Clark Lundberg, and Michele Ruta. 2022. “The Effectiveness of Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements” Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of the European Economic Association*

“The Effectiveness of Environmental Provisions in Regional Trade Agreements”

Abstract

Trade liberalization can spur environmental degradation. Concerns over these adverse impacts have led to a debate over the need for environmental provisions in regional trade agreements (RTAs), however the effectiveness of such provisions is unknown. This paper provides new causal evidence that environmental provisions are effective in limiting deforestation following the entry into force of RTAs. It exploits high-resolution, satellite-derived estimates of deforestation and identify the content of RTAs using a new dataset with detailed information on individual provisions. Accounting for the potential endogeneity of environmental provisions in RTAs, the paper finds that the inclusion of specific provisions aimed at protecting forests and/or biodiversity entirely offsets the net increases in forest loss observed in similar RTAs without such provisions. The inclusion of these provisions limits agricultural land expansion, but does not completely offset increases in total agricultural production. The effects are concentrated in tropical, developing countries with greater biodiversity.

Other publications:

Abman, Ryan and Gabriel Longbrake. 2022. “Resource development and governance decline: The case of the Chad-Cameroon petroleum pipeline,” Forthcoming, *Energy Economics*.

New working papers:

Abman, Ryan and Clark Lundberg. 2022. “Market Access and Deforestation.”

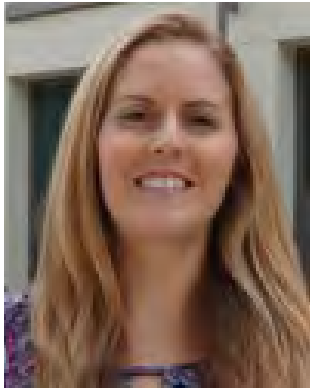
Abman, Ryan, Clark Lundberg, and Dan Szmurlo. 2022. “Trade, Emissions, and Environmental Spillovers: Issue linkages in Regional Trade Agreements.”

Abman, Ryan, Clark Lundberg, Michele Ruta, and John McLaren. 2022. “Child Labor Standards in Regional Trade Agreements: Theory and Evidence.”

Grants under review:

USDA NIFA, Economics, Markets and Trade: Trade Policy and the International Market for Agricultural Land with Clark Lundberg and Frederik Noack (UBC)

International Growth Centre: *Allocation, Efficiency and the Political Economy of Decentralization: Evidence from District Proliferation in Uganda* with Clark Lundberg - \$70k



Audrey Beck

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*.

Beck, A. N., Thomas, K., Finch, B.K., & J. Gibbons. (2022). “Determining Gentrification’s Relationship to Low Birthweight in Metropolitan California.” *Housing Policy Debate*.

Abstract

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. We 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. We find that socioeconomic gentrification is uniformly associated with better birth outcomes. Notably, however, we 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.



Jake Penglase

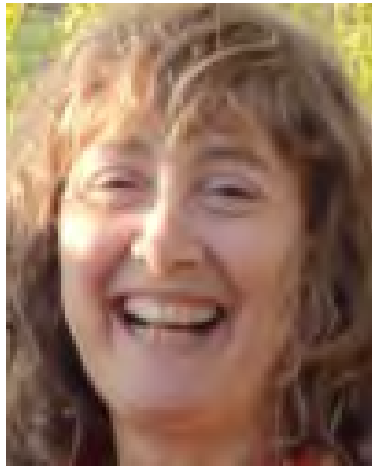
“Are Households Pareto Efficient? A Test Based on Multiple Job Holding”

Abstract

The collective household model requires that household decisions result in Pareto efficient outcomes. While this assumption is falsifiable, these tests are often difficult to implement due to data limitations or insufficient statistical power. We identify a novel setting—multiple job holding—where these issues are less of an obstacle. Using data from Bangladesh, we estimate the leisure demand of households where members are engaged in multiple occupations and use the parameter estimates to test the collective model. We are unable to reject Pareto efficiency but do find evidence against the unitary model. The results support the use of the collective model as a framework to study the inner workings of the household.

Calvi, Rossella, Denni Tommasi, Jacob Penglase, and Alexander Wolf (2022). “The More the Poorer? Resource Sharing and Scale Economies in Large Families”. Accepted at the *Journal of Development Economics*

Lauren Hoehn Velasco and Jacob Penglase (2022). “Changes in Assortative Matching and Educational Inequality: Evidence from Marriage and Birth Records in Mexico.” Accepted at the *Journal of Demographic Economics*



Shoshana Grossbard

Grossbard, Shoshana and Lorena Hakak. 2023. “The Economics of Care Work in January 2023: A model of demand for in-family and institutional caregiving incorporating marriage markets,” Forthcoming, *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*.

Bansak, Cynthia, Crystal Wong, and Shoshana Grossbard (2022). “Labor supply of women, COVID, and property division rules.” *Economics and Human Biology* 47: 101170.

Abstract

If mothers take care of children more than fathers, then after the onset of COVID-19 mothers’ employment is expected to drop more than that of fathers. This gender gap is likely to be larger where women are less concerned about the financial repercussions of opting out of the labor force, and therefore the gender gap in employment is likely to grow more where community property or homemaking provisions give more protection to homemakers in case of union dissolution. Difference-in-differences and dynamic study estimations applied to CPS data for 2019-2020 show that after the onset of COVID-19 the labor force participation of mothers of school-age children—but not of fathers—dropped more in states with marital property laws more generous to parental caregivers. These results stand in contrast to how these groups’ labor force participation changed after the Great Recession, compared to pre-recession levels.

Other Publications and Events

“Women and Economics Workshops Run by Becker and Mincer at Columbia University and the University of Chicago,” (by Andrea H. Beller, Ana Fava Shoshana Grossbard and Marouane Idmansour), Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of History of Economic Thought*

Invited to prepare an entry on economics of the household for the Palgrave

Keynote Lecture: Household Economics Gathering, ECARES, Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Dec 8, 2022.



Hisham Foad

Foad, Hisham. 2022. "Birthright Granted and Revoked: The Effects of Irish Citizenship Policy on Migrant Fertility" in *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*.

Abstract

I examine Ireland's experiment with birthright citizenship between 1999 and 2004. Critics argue that birthright citizenship may induce higher migrant fertility and threaten national identity. I find that migrants arriving during birthright citizenship had lower fertility rates than those arriving before the policy was implemented and after it was revoked. These migrants were better educated and more likely to be employed, suggesting that birthright citizenship made Ireland a more attractive destination for high-skill migrants. I find evidence that non-UK migrants already in Ireland before 1999 increased fertility in response to birthright citizenship, though their fertility was still below that of natives.

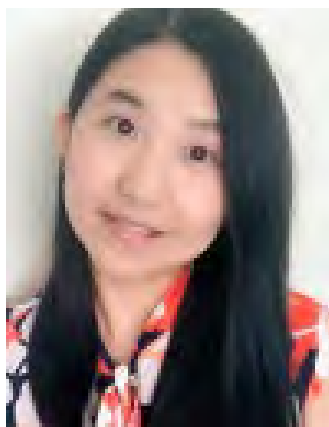


Thiago de Lucena

"Leadership & Gender Composition in Top Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector"

Abstract

Despite major progress in fighting gender inequality over the past sixty years, women remain heavily underrepresented at the top of the status distribution in both the public and private sectors. Surprisingly, little evidence exists about how female leaders may curb the underrepresentation problem at top positions. Only a few studies have evaluated this relation, presenting mixed results on general effects and scarce evidence on mechanisms. Using a Regression Discontinuity Design on close elections in Brazil, I analyze how the election of a female mayor affects the gender composition gap of top municipal executives. I show that electing a female mayor on a close race increases the share of female managers by 17 %. This increase doesn't come at the cost of observed quality of employees. I also present evidence that public sector-specific and supply-side channels are unlikely to explain my findings; instead, an increase in gender-inclusive policies within female-led governments suggests that homophily may be a driver of the results.



Yang Liang and Hao Fe

Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters (joint with Hao Fe and Mary E. Lovely)

Abstract

Exporting provides new opportunities for learning but breaking into foreign markets is costly and risky. To reduce the uncertainty, foreign entry firms usually learn from

neighboring firms that are geographically close. Identification is a common challenge to studies of spatial spillovers. We adopt a research design from the peer effects literature to offer novel evidence of local export spillovers across firms at fine spatial scales. Geo-coding firms in the Chinese Customs Transaction Database, we study the spillover effect of a new exporter (defined as a newly formed seller-market) on neighboring firms' likelihood of exporting to the same market. The granular geographical data allows us to exploit variation across firms located in nearby places while controlling for a sophisticated set of fixed effects to address selection biases. For groups of firms in the same neighborhood (median area is 1 square mile), estimates suggest the probability of foreign export entry by a neighbor increase by 0.014 percentage points, which is about 38% of the mean exporting probability for peer firms. This spillover effect is stronger between firms of the same ownership type and declines with distance.

Other Working Papers

"Have Recreational Marijuana Laws Undermined Public Health Progress on Adult Tobacco Use?" (with Dhaval M. Dave, Michael F. Pesko, Serena Phillips, and Joseph J. Sabia) NBER WP 29706. -- R&R at *Journal of Health Economics*.

"Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities" (with Dhaval Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma) NBER WP 30670, *Under Review*.



CHEPS in the Media

Three publications generated particularly widespread impact this semester. First, our research project on the ineffectiveness of gun buyback programs at deterring gun crime continues to make waves, both in the media and among policymakers interested in fighting gun violence. CHEPS Advisory Board member and my co-author Mark Anderson has spoken to numerous media sources about this research. Our National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper, soon to be under review at the *Journal of Law and Economics*, has been the subject of national media articles, including most recently at Pew:

Stateline

Gun Buybacks Are Popular. But Are They Effective?

STATELINE ARTICLE | August 30, 2022 | By: [Matt Vasilogambros](#) | Read time: 5 min



A New York City official inspects an illegal handgun obtained in a buyback event held in Brooklyn in 2021. Many cities host these events to get guns off the street.

Bebeto Matthews/The Associated Press

Two weeks ago, more than 160 gun owners in Richmond, Virginia, turned in 474 firearms in the city's first-ever gun buyback event. City officials offered Walmart, Amazon and Kroger gift cards in various amounts for different unwanted firearms: \$250 for assault-style weapons, \$200 for handguns, \$150 for rifles and \$25 for non-functioning guns. No questions asked.

The event's organizer, community activist Pati Navalta, knows all too well that guns that are

AUTHORS



Matt Vasilogambros
Staff Writer
Stateline



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Stateline Daily

Daily update — original state policy, plus the day's news reads from around the world

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The Center's research on gun buyback programs was also covered in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Virginia Mercury*, the *Houston Spotlight*, CNN, and *Wisconsin Spotlight*.

OPINION

Should Philadelphia continue gun buyback Pro/Con

For years, the city has held gun buybacks, but the events have had limited success. Should they



AUG 19TH, 2022 | 5:28 AM |

STUDIES: GUN BUYBACKS DON'T WORK

COMMENTARY

No solution, but gun buybacks can be a small part of overall crime prevention



ROGER CHESLEY

SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 10:00 AM



© iStockphoto

Gun buybacks take weapons out of circulation, but experts say there's no evidence the programs reduce violence

By Peter Hain, CNN
Published 4:00 AM EDT, Sat April 16, 2022



More than 400 weapons were handed over in a Chicago gun buyback program in June 2020.

CNN — Chicago officials launched a fundraising campaign to support the city's largest ever gun buyback program, with the goal of raising \$1 million to entice people to turn in guns during two large events this year. Mayor Lori Lightfoot called it a "bold new initiative" and said it would get "guns out of the hands of dangerous people." Chicago and other cities have been running these programs for decades, often trading gift cards of \$300 or so for guns and some lesser amount for medicine guns.

Second, our National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper on the unintended consequences of e-cigarette taxes on youth cigarette use has been covered in a variety of outlets. One of our co-authors, Michael Pesko (at Georgia State University) recently discussed the unintended consequences of e-cigarette taxation, a large part of his and our scholarly agenda, at National Public Radio:

Houston purchased 800+ guns in buyback program. Will gun crimes go down?

Mayor Sylvester Turner hailed the program as a success, but research shows that gun buyback programs have not been effective.

Houston purchased 800+ guns in buyback program. Will gun crimes go down?

August 9, 2022

TEXAS STANDARD

By Sean Gohmert | August 9, 2022 5:07 PM

Updated 5:07 PM | August 9, 2022



More than 800 guns were collected at the end of July during a gun buyback event held at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston.



Third, the Center's research on the ineffectiveness of the minimum wage in spurring on economic growth has been cited by the *Foundation for Economic Education*:

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



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.

NBER WORKING PAPER SERIES

DO MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES REDUCE CRIME?

Zachary S. Fone
Joseph J. Sabia
Resul Cezar

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 Pitts, 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

Finally, Catherine Maclean from George Mason University, a fantastic co-author of CHEPS Affiliates, sat down with *The Economist* to discuss a new CHEPS working paper examining the impacts of e-cigarette tax increases on teenage binge drinking and alcohol-related traffic fatalities.



Menu

United States | Smoke and mirrors

E-cigarette taxes may reduce teenage drink-driving deaths

But anti-vaping policies could also have unintended consequences

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 Brakmsa

RESEARCH PAPER 2021 | DOI: 10.1080/1080701.2021.1911111 | ORIGINAL DATE: November 2021

Teenage drinking is a top public health concern, generating social costs of over \$25 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 Involvement Reporting System) spanning the period 2003-2018, and a difference-in-differences approach, we find that a one-dollar increase in e-cigarette taxes is associated with a 1.6 to 2.0 percentage point reduction in the probability of teenage binge drinking, and a 7.4 to 8.0 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 analysis that accounts for heterogeneous and dynamic treatment effects, and (2) null effects of e-cigarette taxes on non-alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

CHEPS Research Affiliates



Ryan Abman

San Diego State University

Ryan Abman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at San Diego State University. He joined the faculty at SDSU after completing his PhD in Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research lies in the areas of environmental and natural resource economics as well as political economy. Recent work has aimed to improve our understanding of the relationship between agricultural productivity and deforestation, trade and deforestation, and governance and forest conservation.



Brittany E. Bass

University of California, Los Angeles

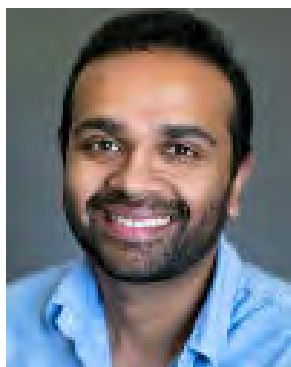
Brittany Bass received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine in 2019. She is currently an Economist for the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs in the Semel Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining UCLA, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics at Sacramento State University. Brittany is a health economist, primarily researching the impact of policies related to substance use disorder treatment on youth and adult health and economic outcomes. Her past research has focused on examining the impact of sex education mandates, maternity leave laws, minimum wages, and technology funding. Brittany's research has appeared in peer-reviewed economics and policy journals including *Economics of Education Review*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, and *Journal of Population Economics*.



Audrey Beck

San Diego State University

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.



Prashant Bharadwaj

University of California, San Diego

Prashant Bharadwaj is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He received his PhD in Economics from Yale University. Prashant's research interests are in development and labor economics, focusing on the interactions between early childhood health, gender, and education. He is also a Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and holds research affiliations at the Center for Effective Global Action, the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. Prashant is co-editor at *the Journal of Human Resources* and an associate editor at the *Journal of Development Economics*.



Alona Bilokha

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Business, Fordham University

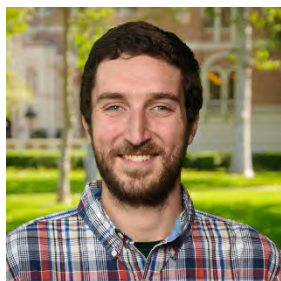
Alona Bilokha received her MA in Economics from San Diego State University in 2018. She earned Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and graduated with Honors in Advanced Business Analysis from Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College (CUNY). She has worked in Strategy and Policy (NYC Department of Education), Financial Strategy (Kenneth Cole), Investment Banking (UBS), and Credit Risk (Société Générale). Her research interests include public economics in the areas of health, education, and labor, among others. Additional interests include data science, predictive modeling, and machine learning. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Business at Fordham University.



Ryan Brown

University of Colorado Denver

Ryan Brown is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Colorado Denver. His research interests span multiple fields of applied microeconomics including development economics, labor economics, health economics, economic demography, and political economy. Dr. Brown's work has primarily focused on applying econometric techniques to population representative data in both developed and developing country settings, to examine how changes in the social, physical, and/or economic environment can have a persistent impact on health, preferences, and human capital accumulation. Recently, he has also begun to explore the relationship between the success of women competing for positions in entry-level positions and its subsequent impact on the gender gap at the top of the career ladder.



Calvin Bryan

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Colorado State University

Cal graduated in 2013 with a B.S. degree in Bioenvironmental Sciences at Texas A&M University, and minored in Economics. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a recreation technician and type 2 wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado. He received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2020. His interests include environmental policy, welfare economics, and the economics of outdoor recreation. After he finishes his degree he would like to pursue a Ph.D. or work in a government agency.



Jeffrey Clemens

University of California, San Diego

Jeffrey Clemens is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research and an affiliate of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Policy Research Institute at the University of California, Irvine. He is currently an associate editor at the Journal of Health Economics and American Economic Journal: Economic Policy. He has previously held visiting positions at Stanford University and the University of Texas at Austin. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 2011 and his BA from Harvard College in 2005.



Andrew Dickinson

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Andrew Dickinson received his MA in Economics at San Diego State University in 2019. He is currently a fourth-year graduate student at the University of Oregon. He is interested in researching a wide range of applied microeconomics including health and public economics. Upon completion of his degree, he plans to one day become a university professor.



Hao Fe

San Diego State University

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*.



Toshio Ferrazares

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara

Toshio Ferrazares received his MA and BA. in Economics from San Diego State University (SDSU). He is currently a fourth year PhD student in Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is interested in researching macroeconomics, labor, and public finance. After obtaining his PHD, he hopes to pursue a career in teaching at the university level.



Travis Freidman

University of Pittsburgh

Travis Freidman is an Economist at the U.S. Energy Information Administration, specializing in applied macroeconomics. His research focuses on the effects of trade policy both historical and current. His research has been published in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.



Shoshana Grossbard

Scholar in Residence

San Diego State University

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).



Gokhan Kumpas

California State University, Los Angeles

Gokhan Kumpas is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Los Angeles. He received his B.A. in Economics at Izmir University of Economics and his Ph.D. and M.A. in Economics at 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, education. His work has been published by the *Journal of Human Resources*

and the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.



Yang Liang

San Diego State University

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 received his Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 2018. His work has been published in peer reviewed journals including *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.

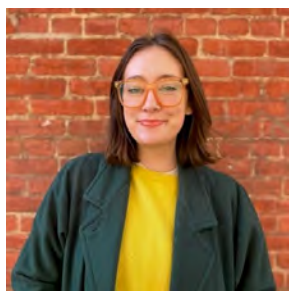


Brandy Lipton

University of California, Irvine

Dr. Brandy Lipton is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health at UC Irvine and an applied microeconomist specializing in health economics and public policy. Her core interests lie in exploring the connections between health care policies and both health and economic outcomes. The majority of her work leverages state-level variation in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program policies. For example, recent research has explored the effects of optional benefits in Medicaid on adult health and labor market outcomes. Ongoing work is examining whether adult Medicaid benefits affect outcomes among children of adult enrollees.

After completing her graduate studies in economics at Northwestern University, Dr. Lipton spent several years working for health agencies within the federal government. Her work involved analysis of nationally representative household surveys fielded by these agencies to address a variety of health and public policy topics. This work was published in high quality peer-reviewed economics and policy journals including *the Journal of Health Economics* and *Health Affairs*.



Alicia Marquez

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Alicia Marquez received her BS degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Economics and an MA degree in Economics from San Diego State University. She is a second-year PhD student in the Policy Analysis and Management PhD 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 specific interests include natural resource economics, health economics, and public policy.



Kyutaro Matsuzawa

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Kyutaro, also known as Kyu, received his B.A. and M.A. in economics and B.S. in statistics from SDSU. He is currently a third-year Ph.D. student at University of Oregon and is working on several projects with CHEPS. The first set of projects include re-examining the effects of minimum wage on poverty and public benefit 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-

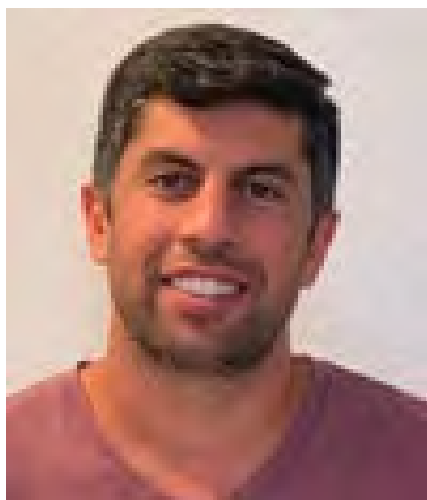
19 pandemic on arrests. Kyu's work has appeared in leading economics field journals, including *the Journal of Human Resources*, *the Journal of Law and Economics*, *the National Tax Journal*, and *the Journal of Urban Economics*.



Drew McNichols

PhD, Economics, University of Oregon

Drew McNichols received his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. He is an applied microeconomist specializing in labor economics and public economics. His most recent work studies the impact of policies related to gender pay inequality. In other work, he studies topics such as youth criminality and the impacts of marijuana legalization. Drew was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of California San Diego, and the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University and is currently employed at Amazon.



Cameron Milani

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Claremont Graduate University

Cameron Milani received his BA in economics from University of California, Los Angeles and his MA in economics from SDSU. He is currently attending Claremont Graduate University as a PhD student in Economics. His interests include labor economics, economic development and housing markets.



Caterina Muratori

PhD, Economics, University of Torino

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 and her research interest includes women's health and abortion access, gender inequalities in the labor market, violence against women, substance use and regulation, and educational inequalities.



Thanh Tam Nguyen

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of New Hampshire

Thanh Tam Nguyen is a Ph.D. student in Economics at the University of New Hampshire. She received her BA and MA in Economics at San Diego State University and is trained as an applied microeconomist. Her research examines the effects of public policies (including minimum wages, medical marijuana laws, and physical education laws), the effect of the business cycle on religiosity, and the relationship between sexual identity and labor market outcomes among Australian sexual minorities. Tam has presented her work at the Western Economic Association, Eastern Economic Association, American Society of Health Economics, and Population Association of America annual conferences. In May 2015, she won an award for "Best Poster" at the Population Association of America meetings.



Jacob Penglase

San Diego State University

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*.



Niranjana Prasad

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Université catholique de Louvain

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 MA in Economics from SDSU in 2018. She has previously worked with the World Bank, 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 Masters in Economics and International Financial Economics from the University of Warwick. Her areas of interest are Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, and Public Policy. She is currently a PhD student at Université catholique de Louvain.



Samuel Safford

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Sociology, Michigan State University

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 is currently attending Michigan State University's PhD program in Sociology. His interests include political economy, housing markets, economics of education, and public policy.



