

Brandyn F. Churchill
Curriculum Vitae, May 2019

Email: brandyn.f.churchill@vanderbilt.edu
Cell phone: 540.817.9499
Website: brandynchurchill.com
Twitter: @bf_churchill

Vanderbilt University
Department of Economics
VU Station B 351819, 2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235-1819

Education

Vanderbilt University
Ph.D. in Economics, 2021 (*Expected*)
M.A. in Economics, 2018

San Diego State University
M.A. in Economics, 2016
San Diego, CA 92182

Washington and Lee University
B.A. in Economics, 2014
Lexington, VA 24450

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Health, Labor
Secondary: Human Migration, Demography

Honors and Fellowships

Household International Award for Best Research Paper, 2019
Kirk Dornbush Summer Research Grant, Vanderbilt University, 2017
Graduate Student Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, 2016-2021
Center for Public Economics Scholarship, San Diego State University, 2016
McCuen Endowed Economics Scholarship, San Diego State University, 2014-2016

Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University, Instructor
Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 1010): Summer 2019

Vanderbilt University, Teaching Assistant
Poverty and Discrimination (ECON 3110/5240): Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
Wages, Employment, and Labor Markets (ECON 3100/5100): Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
Economic Statistics (ECON 1500): Spring 2018
Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 1010): Spring 2019

San Diego State University, Instructor
Principles of Economics (ECON 101) Fall 2015, Spring 2016

San Diego State University, Teaching Assistant
Labor Economics (ECON 380): Summer 2015
Principles of Economics (ECON 102): Spring 2015, Spring 2016
Principles of Economics (ECON 101): Fall 2014

Publications

“The Effects of Minimum Wages on Low-Skilled Immigrants’ Wages, Employment, and Poverty”
(with Joseph J. Sabia) *Industrial Relations* 58(2): 275-314.

Raising the minimum wage has been advanced as complementary policy to comprehensive immigration reform to improve low-skilled immigrants’ economic well-being. While adverse labor demand effects could undermine this goal, existing studies do not detect evidence of negative employment effects. We re-investigate this question using data from the 1994 to 2016 Current Population Survey and conclude that minimum wage increases reduced employment of less-educated Hispanic immigrants, with estimated elasticities of around -0.1 . However, we also find that the wage and employment effects of minimum wages on low-skilled immigrants diminished over the last decade. This finding is consistent with more restrictive state immigration policies and the Great Recession inducing outmigration of low-skilled immigrants, as well as immigrants moving into the informal sector. Finally, our results show that raising the minimum wage is an ineffective policy tool for reducing poverty among immigrants.

Working Papers

“E-Verify Mandates and Immigrant Insurance Coverage”

Non-citizen immigrants are less likely than natives to have health insurance, especially if they are unauthorized. Due to eligibility restrictions for public programs, these individuals rely on the labor market for access to private insurance. Recently, the Trump administration has called for a nationwide E-Verify mandate as part of a broader effort to reshape US immigration policy. By cutting off unauthorized immigrants’ access to the formal labor market, this policy has the potential to exacerbate their low rate of insurance coverage. Using both the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey, this paper finds that state-level E-Verify mandates reduce the probability that a likely-unauthorized immigrant has health insurance by approximately 5 percentage points. This decline is driven by worsened labor market prospects and, consequently, a loss of private health insurance. There is also evidence that E-Verify mandates chill Medicaid take-up among certain those likely to qualify for public insurance, including native children with likely-unauthorized mothers.

Research Presentations

“E-Verify Mandates and Immigrant Insurance Coverage”

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management California Student Conference, April 2019
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, March 2019

Other Research Experience and Employment

San Diego State University

Research Assistant for Professor Amuedo-Dorantes (Economics), 2014-2016

Research Assistant for Professor Gilles (Math), 2015

Professional Affiliations

American Society of Health Economists

Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies

Southern Economic Association

Referee

Journal of Health Economics

Conference Attendance

NBER Health Economics Program, May 2019

Southeastern Health Economics Study Group, 2017, 2018
American Society of Health Economists, 2018
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, 2017
Southern Economic Association, 2015, 2016