

Brandyn F. Churchill
Curriculum Vitae, November 22th, 2021

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Vanderbilt University
Department of Economics
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Nashville, TN 37235

Academic Appointment

Research Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University, 2021-*Present*
Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau, 2021-*Present*

Education

Vanderbilt University
Ph.D. in Economics, 2021
M.A. in Economics, 2018
Committee: Christopher S. Carpenter (Chair), Lesley J. Turner, Analisa Packham,
and Carolyn J. Heinrich

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

Washington and Lee University
B.A. in Economics, 2014

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Health Economics, Public Policy, Labor Economics, Economic Demography

Publications

- (7) "Immigration Enforcement and Infant Health," with Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Yang Song
Accepted at *American Journal of Health Economics*, IZA DP No.13908
- (6) "How Important is the Structure of School Vaccine Requirement Opt-Out Provisions? Evidence from Washington, DC's HPV Vaccine School Requirement," Accepted at *Journal of Health Economics* 78: 102480, doi: 10.1016/j.jhealeco.2021.102480
- (5) "The Effect of State E-Verify Mandates on Crime," with Andrew Dickinson, Taylor Mackay, and Joseph J. Sabia – Accepted at *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, IZA DP No. 12798, doi: 10.1177/00197939211044449
- (4) "E-Verify Mandates and Unauthorized Immigrants' Access to Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance," *Southern Economic Journal*, 88(2): 487-526, doi: 10.1002/soej.12535
- (3) "Insurance Coverage, Provider Contact, and HPV Vaccination," (2021) *American Journal of Health Economics* 7(2): 222-247, doi: 10.1086/713037
- (2) "Driver's Licenses, Unauthorized Immigrants, and Auto Insurance," with Taylor Mackay and Bing Yang Tan (2021) *Contemporary Economic Policy* 39(1): 107-125, doi: 10.1111/coep.12492

- (1) “The Effects of Minimum Wages on Low-Skilled Immigrants’ Wages, Employment, and Poverty” with Joseph J. Sabia (2019) *Industrial Relations* 58(2): 275-314, doi: 10.1111/irel.12232

Working Papers

“Bad Lighting: Effects of Youth Indoor Tanning Prohibitions,” with Christopher S. Carpenter and Michelle M. Marcus *NBER Working Paper No. 29443*

Indoor tanning beds (ITBs) emit harmful UV light at high intensity and have been classified as carcinogenic to humans by the World Health Organization since 2009. In that same year, more one in three white high school girls reported using an indoor tanning bed; by 2019 that figure had fallen to fewer than one in ten. We are the first to study the role of state laws prohibiting youths from indoor tanning on many tanning-related outcomes using difference-in-differences models and staggered adoption of ITB prohibitions across states. We find that youth ITB prohibitions reduced search intensity for tanning-related information and reduced self-reported indoor tanning participation and intensity among teen girls. We also find that youth ITB prohibitions significantly reduced the size of the indoor tanning market by increasing tanning salon closures and reducing tanning salon sales. We find little evidence of unintended consequences on other youth risky behaviors, and in fact we find evidence that youth ITB prohibitions increased sun protective behaviors. Our results demonstrate the effectiveness of youth ITB prohibitions and provide novel evidence on how public health policies affect private market outcomes.

“‘There She Is, Your Ideal’: Negative Social Comparisons and Health Behaviors,” with Christopher S. Carpenter

We provide novel evidence on the role of negative social comparisons in population health behaviors by exploiting variation in Miss America and Miss USA beauty pageant winners. We show that there was more front-page newspaper coverage and more pageant-related internet search behavior following a home-state win. Teen girls and pageant-aged women with home-state winners were more likely to report that they were trying to lose weight, and pregnant women gained less gestational weight. We do not detect meaningful changes for teen boys, young adult men, or older women for whom social comparisons were plausibly less salient.

“Mandated School-Based BMI Assessments and Health Behaviors”

I provide novel evidence on how youth-targeted anti-obesity policies affect health behaviors. From 2003 to 2017, 32 states passed laws requiring schools to perform annual Body Mass Index (BMI) assessments on students. Though intended to correct imperfect information by providing teens and their parents with a report stating whether the child is overweight or obese, there is concern that these assessments may induce body dysmorphia and increase the incidence of eating disorders. Using the 1991-2017 National and State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, I show that mandated school-based BMI assessments increased the likelihood that teen girls described themselves as overweight and reported that they were trying to lose weight. These changes were driven by overweight and obese girls holding more accurate views of their body types, suggesting that the assessments were successful in improving awareness about BMI and overweight status. While I do not detect changes in exercise, I show that teen girls with a negative body image were more likely to report calorie-limiting behaviors, such as dieting, fasting, and using diet pills. I do not detect changes in BMI, indicating that combating childhood obesity will require more than correcting imperfect information about clinical weight thresholds.

“The Roles of Cost and Recommendations in Driving Vaccine Take-Up: Evidence from the Herpes Zoster Vaccine for Shingles Prevention” with Laura E. Henkhaus

Vaccination has been called one of the greatest public health success stories, and policymakers have adopted a variety of strategies to increase and keep coverage rates at socially optimal levels. While researchers have documented successful strategies for increase coverage rates in children and adolescents, little is known about how to successfully increase adult vaccination rates – a fact that has been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using data from the 2008-2019 National Health Interview Survey, we show that 60-year-olds – who were recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to receive the shingles vaccine – were no more likely to be vaccinated than their 59-year-old counterparts prior to the Affordable Care Act. After the ACA’s preventive services provision required insurance plans to cover recommended vaccines without patient cost-sharing, adults 60 or older were more likely to receive the vaccine, and we document a similar increase for 50-59-year-olds after the recommendation age was lowered to 50. Using both difference-in-differences and regression discontinuity identification strategies, we estimate that the ACA increased vaccine take-up of the shingles vaccine by 3.0-5.2 percentage points. Back-of-the-envelope calculations imply that the coverage gains were welfare neutral, in part because of the relatively low cost of treating shingles and the high cost of the vaccine.

“Vaccine Exemptions and Coverage”

Falling vaccination rates, the re-emergence of previously eradicated diseases, and the COVID-19 pandemic have raised important questions regarding the degree to which parents can opt their children out of receiving required school vaccines. This paper provides novel evidence on how laws repealing these exemptions affect claimed exemptions, coverage rates, and information seeking behavior. First, I show that laws repealing non-medical exemptions reduced the share of kindergartners receiving an exemption by 2-3 percentage points, and this reduction was pronounced in states prohibiting all exemptions compared those continuing to allow religious objections. Indeed, these latter states experienced increased internet search activity for the phrase ‘religious exemption.’ Next, I show that while policies prohibiting all non-medical exemptions increased coverage of four school-entry vaccines (MMR, DTP, hepatitis B, and polio) by 1.7-2.9 percentage points, the estimates for laws repealing personal exemptions but allowing for religious objections were smaller in magnitude and often statistically insignificant.

Work in Progress

“Market Responses to Vaccine Recommendations” with Laura E. Henkhaus and Emily C. Lawler

“Pharmacists’ Scope-of-Practice Laws and Vaccine Take-Up: Evidence from Pharmacists’ Authority to Prescribe the HPV Vaccine”

“New Evidence on Policies to Promote HPV Vaccination” with Christopher S. Carpenter and Emily C. Lawler

“Sanctuary City Policies and Infant Health,” with Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Yang Song

“Immigration Enforcement and Nursing Home Outcomes” with Bing Yang Tan

Research Presentations

“Bad Lighting: Effects of Youth Indoor Tanning Prohibitions”

NBER Health Economics Program, December 2021 (*Scheduled*)

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2021

Canadian Health Economics Study Group Meeting, May 2021

“‘There She Is, Your Ideal’: Negative Social Comparisons and Health Behaviors”

Haverford College, January 2022 (*Scheduled*)

Vanderbilt University, September 2021

“Pharmacists’ Scope-of-Practice and Vaccine Take-Up: Evidence from Pharmacists’ Authority to Prescribe the HPV Vaccine”

American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting, June 2021

“How Important is the Structure of School Vaccine Requirement Opt-Out Provisions: Evidence from Washington, DC’s HPV Vaccine School Requirement”

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, January 2021

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, January 2021

Mathematica, January 2021

Carleton University, January 2021

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2020

Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies, San Diego State University, October 2020

Vanderbilt University Medical Center Department of Health Policy, September 2020

Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, September 2020

“Insurance Coverage, Provider Contact, and HPV Vaccination”

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 2020

Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, April 2020

“The Effect of E-Verify Laws on Crime”

Population Association of America, April 2020 (Poster)

Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting, February 2020

“E-Verify Mandates and Immigrant Insurance Coverage”

Indiana University Health Economics Mini Conference, December 2019 (Speed Presentation)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management California Student Conference, April 2019

Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, March 2019

“Driver’s Licenses, Unauthorized Immigrants, and Auto Insurance”

Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, October 2019

Honors and Fellowships

APPAM Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, 2021

Walter B. Noel Dissertation Fellowship, 2020

Center for Growth and Opportunity, 2019

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

Washington and Lee University, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Applied Statistics (INTR 202): Winter 2020, Fall 2020 (2), Winter 2021 (2)

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

San Diego State University, Instructor
Principles of Economics (ECON 101) Fall 2015 (2), Spring 2016

Professional Affiliations

American Economic Association
American Society of Health Economists
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies
Southern Economic Association

Referee Service

Health Economics
Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society
International Migration Review
Journal of Health Economics (5)
Journal of Human Resources
Journal of the Royal Statistical Society-Series A
North American Actuarial Journal

Other Conference Attendance

Allied Social Science Association, 2021, 2022 (Chair, *Scheduled*)
NBER: Improving Health Outcomes for an Aging Population, December 2021 (*Scheduled*)
American Society of Health Economists, 2018, 2019, 2020
Indiana University—Risky Behaviors Mini Conference, 2019, 2021
Southern Economic Association, 2015, 2016, 2019 (Discussant)
Southeastern Health Economics Study Group, 2017, 2018, 2019
NBER Health Economics Program, May 2019, December 2020, July 2021
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, 2017

References

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