

**Brandyn F. Churchill**  
*Curriculum Vitae, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022*

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**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

“Mandated School-Based BMI Assessments and Health Behaviors” Revised and Resubmitted to *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

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.

“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.

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

We provide novel evidence on how pharmaceutical companies and consumers respond to government-endorsed health recommendations. In 2014, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended that elderly adults receive the pneumococcal vaccine Prevnar 13. Using a difference-in-differences identification strategy, we first show that the manufacturer (Pfizer) responded by increasing direct-to-consumer advertising. We then show that the recommendation increased Prevnar 13-related information-seeking behavior and pneumococcal vaccination. Overall, our analyses suggest that the recommendation directly increased Medicare Part B drug expenditures by over \$14 per beneficiary and Pfizer product sales by approximately \$1 billion annually, with little to no observable health benefits.

“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 increasing 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.

“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**

“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**

“Market Responses to Vaccine Recommendations”

American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting, June 2022\*  
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, February 2022  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, January 2022  
Fordham University, January 2022  
University of Memphis, January 2022  
State University of New York at Buffalo, January 2022  
University of Washington CHOICE Institute, January 2022

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

American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting, June 2022\*  
NBER Children Program, May 2022\*  
Haverford College, January 2022  
Vanderbilt Empirical Applied Microeconomics Group, September 2021

“State-Mandated School-Based BMI Assessments and Self-Reported Adolescent Health Behaviors”

American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting, June 2022\*

“Bad Lighting: Effects of Youth Indoor Tanning Prohibitions”

University of Oklahoma, January 2022  
NBER Health Economics Program, December 2021  
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2021  
Canadian Health Economics Study Group Meeting, May 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

\* = Scheduled

### **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

Southern Economic Association

### **Referee Service**

BMC Public Health

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)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting, 2022  
NBER: Improving Health Outcomes for an Aging Population, December 2021  
American Society of Health Economists, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 (Abstract Reviewer, Organizer × 2)  
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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