

Brandyn F. Churchill
Curriculum Vitae, July 22nd, 2022

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Vanderbilt University
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Academic Appointment

Assistant Professor, Resource Economics, University of Massachusetts Amherst, September 2022
Research Assistant Professor, Economics, Vanderbilt University, 2021-*Present*

Education

Vanderbilt University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2021, M.A. in Economics, 2018
Committee: Christopher S. Carpenter, 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

“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, Revisions Requested at *American Journal of Health Economics*

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.

“Mandated School-Based BMI Assessments and Health Behaviors” Revisions Requested at *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

I provide novel evidence on how youth-targeted anti-obesity policies affect health behaviors. From 2003 to 2017, 24 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 harm self-esteem. 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, suggesting that the assessments were successful in improving awareness about BMI status, though I cannot say if the change was due to children or parents reviewing the assessments or changes in weight-related social pressure. I do not detect meaningful changes in calorie-expending behaviors, calorie-limiting behaviors, or BMI, indicating that combating childhood obesity will require more than correcting imperfect information about clinical weight thresholds.

“‘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.

“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.

Work in Progress

“Recommendations and Health Behaviors: Evidence from Routine Breast Cancer Screenings” with Emily C. Lawler

“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

Research Presentations

2022 Southern Economic Association* (× 3), NBER Summer Institute Health Care Program*, American Society of Health Economists (× 3), NBER Children Program, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Oklahoma, Fordham University, University of Memphis, University at Buffalo, University of Washington CHOICE Institute, Vanderbilt University, Haverford College

2021 NBER Health Economics Program, Southern Economic Association, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Canadian Health Economics Study Group, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Carleton University, Mathematica, American Society of Health Economists, Vanderbilt University

2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Eastern Economic Association, San Diego State University CHEPS, Vanderbilt University Health Policy, Vanderbilt University, Population Association of America

* = 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
Special Sworn Status, US Census Bureau
Southern Economic Association

Referee Service

AJPM: Focus, BMC Public Health, Health Economics, Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society, International Migration Review, Journal of Health Economics (6), Journal of Human Resources, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society-Series A, North American Actuarial Journal

Conference Session Organizer

American Society of Health Economists (2022 × 2), Southern Economic Association (2022* × 2)

Conference Session Chair

Allied Social Science Association (2022), American Society of Health Economists (2022)

Conference Discussant/Abstract Reviewer

American Society of Health Economists (2022 × 2), Southern Economic Association (2019, 2022*)

Other Conference Attendance

NBER Health Economics Program (05/2019, 12/2020, 07/2021, 07/2022*) Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2022), Allied Social Science Association (2021), NBER: Improving Health Outcomes for an Aging Population (2021), Indiana University – Risky Health Behaviors Mini Conference (2019, 2021), American Society of Health Economists (2018, 2019, 2020), Southeastern Health Economics Study Group (2017, 2018, 2019), Southern Economic Association (2015, 2016)

References

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