

Brandyn F. Churchill
Curriculum Vitae, March 14th, 2023

University of Massachusetts Amherst
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Academic Appointments

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

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

Health Economics, Public Policy, Labor Economics, Economic Demography

Publications

- (9) "The Roles of Cost and Recommendations in Driving Vaccine Take-Up: Evidence from the Herpes Zoster Vaccine for Shingles Prevention," with Laura E. Henkhaus – Accepted at *American Journal of Health Economics*, doi: 10.1086/723541
- (8) "Bad Lighting: Effects of Youth Indoor Tanning Prohibitions," with Christopher S. Carpenter and Michelle M. Marcus (2023) *Journal of Health Economics*, 88: 102738, doi: 10.1016/j.jhealeco.2023.102738, Previously released as *NBER Working Paper No. 29443*
- (7) "The Effect of State E-Verify Mandates on Crime," with Andrew Dickinson, Taylor Mackay, and Joseph J. Sabia (2022) *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 75(5): 1294-1320, doi: 10.1177/00197939211044449, Previously released as *IZA DP No. 12798*
- (6) "Immigration Enforcement and Infant Health," with Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes and Yang Song (2022) *American Journal of Health Economics*, 8(3): 323-358, doi: 10.1086/718510, Previously released as *IZA DP No.13908*
- (5) "How Important is the Structure of School Vaccine Requirement Opt-Out Provisions? Evidence from Washington, DC's HPV Vaccine School Requirement," (2021) *Journal of Health Economics* 78: 102480, doi: 10.1016/j.jhealeco.2021.102480
- (4) "E-Verify Mandates and Unauthorized Immigrants' Access to Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance," (2021) *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 & Resubmitted to *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

I provide novel evidence on the role of imperfect information in shaping childhood obesity. From 2003-2017, 24 states began requiring schools to perform Body Mass Index assessments on students. Using the 1991-2017 National and State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys and a difference-in-differences identification strategy, I show that these 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 teens, suggesting that the assessments did improve awareness about BMI status. I do not detect meaningful changes in exercise, calorie-limiting behaviors, or BMI, which suggests 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, Revisions Requested at *Journal of Human Resources*

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.

“Information Shocks and Health Behaviors: Evidence from Breast Cancer Screening Recommendations” with Emily C. Lawler

We provide novel evidence on how health care decision-making responds to changes in information by studying the effects of the United States Preventive Service Task Force’s 2009 decision to stop recommended mammogram screenings for women aged 40-49. Using a difference-in-differences identification strategy, we find that after the update women aged 40-49 were 1.4-4.9 percentage points less likely to report ever receiving a mammogram than their 50-59-year-old counterparts. We also identify large spillovers onto women aged 35-39: post-2009 they were significantly less likely to receive a mammogram recommendation or a mammogram. Additional analyses suggest the revision reduced overdiagnosis of early-stage tumors.

Work in Progress

“Public Funding and Disease Prevention: Evidence from Funding Awards 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

2023 American Society of Health Economists*, Electronic Health Economics Colloquium*,
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2022 Southern Economic Association (× 2), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management,
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NBER Summer Institute Health Care Program, American
Society of Health Economists (× 3), NBER Program on Children, 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

Chaos Society Scholarship, Washington and Lee University, 2010-2014

Johnston Scholarship, Washington and Lee University, 2010-2014

Teaching Experience

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Managerial Economics (RES-ECON 428): Spring 2023 (2)

Washington and Lee University

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

Vanderbilt University

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 1010): Summer 2019

San Diego State University

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

American Journal of Health Economics, AJPM: Focus, BMC Public Health, Health Economics (2), Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society, International Migration Review, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Journal of Health Economics (8), Journal of Human Resources (2), Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Risky and Uncertainty, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society-Series A, Journal of Rural Health, North American Actuarial Journal, Public Choice

Conference Session Organizer

American Society of Health Economists (2022 × 2, 2022 × 3), Southern Economic Association (2022 × 2)

Conference Session Chair

Allied Social Science Association (2022, 2023), American Society of Health Economists (2022), Southern Economic Association (2022)

Conference Discussant/Abstract Reviewer

Allied Social Science Association (2023), American Society of Health Economists (2022 × 2, 2023), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2022); Southern Economic Association (2019, 2022)

Other Conference Attendance

NBER Health Economics Program (05/2019, 12/2020, 07/2021, 07/2022, 12/2022), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2021), 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)

Other Service

University of Massachusetts Amherst Undergraduate Studies Committee, Fall 2022
University of Massachusetts Amherst Computers Committee, Spring 2023
ASHEcon Newsletter Coeditor, 2022 - *Present*
UMass Amherst Health Economics Work-in-Progress Series Organizer, 2022 - *Present*
UMass Amherst Graduate Student Advising Group Organizer, 2023 - *Present*

Advising

Sparshi Srivastava '24 (committee member; in progress)

Media Coverage

Duluth News Tribune, February 2, 2023, *In Response: Expanding Driving Privileges Would Benefit All Minnesotans* (<https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/opinion/columns/in-response-expanding-driving-privileges-would-benefit-all-minnesotans>)
Boston Globe, August 22, 2022, *Fear and Loathing of Immigrants Drives License Ballot Question*

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/08/22/opinion/fear-loathing-immigrants-drives-license-ballot-question>)

Tradeoffs, January 14, 2022, *How Immigration Enforcement Can Affect Newborns' Health*
(<https://tradeoffs.org/2022/01/14/immigration-undocumented-newborns-infants>)

Tradeoffs, May 20, 2021, *Calling the Shots: Should Employers Mandate the COVID Vaccines?*
(<https://tradeoffs.org/2021/05/20/calling-the-shots-should-employers-mandate-covid-vaccines>)

References

Christopher S. Carpenter
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