

GRACE MCCORMACK

CURRICULUM VITAE

Price Schaeffer Center
635 Downey Way, VPD Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90089-3333
Updated: December 2022

Tel: 217-433-8473
Web: www.graceamccormack.com
Email: gracemcc@usc.edu

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Southern California Schaeffer Center
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, 2022 – present

RESEARCH and TEACHING FIELDS

Primary Fields: Health Economics, Public Economics
Secondary Field: Industrial Organization

EDUCATION

Harvard University
PhD in Public Policy, 2022
Dissertation Title: “Essays in Applied Microeconomics”
Advisers: David Cutler, Mark Shepard, Timothy J. Layton

University of Notre Dame
BA in Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2016
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Epsilon

WORKING PAPERS

[Firm Consolidation and Labor Market Outcomes](#)

with Sabien Dobbelaere, Daniel Prinz, and Sándor Sóvágó

Using rich administrative data from the Netherlands, we study the consequences of firm consolidation for workers. For workers at acquired firms, takeovers are associated with a 8.5% drop in employment at the consolidated firm and a 2.6% drop in total labor income. These effects are persistent even four years later. We show that the primary mechanism for this job loss is labor restructuring at consolidating firms. Specifically, workers with higher-than-expected pay relative to their human capital and workers with skills that are likely already present at acquirers are less likely to be retained.

PUBLISHED ACADEMIC PAPERS

Economics Journals:

[The Two Margin Problem in Insurance Markets](#)

with Mike Geruso, Tim Layton, Mark Shepard

Forthcoming, Review of Economics and Statistics

Insurance markets often feature consumer sorting along both an extensive margin (whether to buy) and an intensive margin (which plan to buy). We present a new graphical theoretical framework that extends a workhorse model to incorporate both selection margins simultaneously. A key insight from our framework is that policies aimed at addressing one margin of selection often involve an economically meaningful trade-off on the other margin in terms of prices, enrollment, and welfare. Using data from Massachusetts, we illustrate these trade-offs in an empirical sufficient statistics approach that is tightly linked to the graphical framework we develop.

Health Policy Journals:

[Association of ACA Medicaid Expansion with Medicaid Receipt and Health Care Use in Low-Income Older Adults with Chronic Conditions](#)

with Melissa McInerney, Jan Mellor, and Lindsay Sabik

JAMA Health Forum

Was the expansion of Medicaid to working-age adults under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) associated with changes in Medicaid enrollment and health care use among older adults with low income and chronic condition limitations? In this cross-sectional study of 7153 US adults 65 years or older with low income, ACA Medicaid expansion was associated with significant increases in the likelihood of Medicaid enrollment and outpatient health care use among those with chronic condition limitations. No associations were found between ACA Medicaid expansion and Medicaid enrollment and health care use among those without such limitations. In this study, expansion of Medicaid to working-age adults was associated with increased Medicaid enrollment and outpatient health care use among older adults with low income and chronic condition limitations who were enrolled in Medicare.

[Immigrant Essential Workers Likely Avoided Medicaid And SNAP Because Of A Change To The Public Charge Rule](#)

with Sharon Touw, David U. Himmelstein, Steffie Woolhandler, and Leah Zallman

Health Affairs

During the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, essential workers have provided health care, food, and other necessities, often incurring considerable risk. At the pandemic's start, the federal government was in the process of tightening the "public charge" rule by adding nutrition and health benefits to the cash benefits that, if drawn, could subject immigrants to sanctions (for example, green card denial). Census Bureau data indicate that immigrants accounted for 13.6 percent of the population but 17.8 percent of essential workers in 2019. About 20.0 million immigrants held essential jobs, and more than one-third of these immigrants resided in US states bordering Mexico. Nationwide, 12.3 million essential workers and 18.9 million of their household members were at risk because of the new sanctions. The rule change (which was subsequently revoked) likely caused 2.1 million essential workers and household members to forgo Medicaid and 1.3 million to forgo Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program assistance on the eve of the pandemic, highlighting the potential of immigration policy changes to exacerbate health risks.

[Economic Vulnerability of Households with Essential Workers](#)

with Christopher Avery, Ariella Kahn-Lang Spitzer, Amitabh Chandra

JAMA Letter

The label of “essential worker” reflects society’s needs but does not mean that society has compensated those workers for additional risks incurred on the job during the current pandemic. When an essential worker contracts severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), they pose a risk to the other members of their household. These members may be elderly or lack health insurance, and the household may have limited resources to care for a sick family member. We assessed the proportion of essential workers in the US population and described the economic vulnerability of their households

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE and OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Tufts University	2018-2020
<i>Research Assistant for Melissa McInerney</i>	
Harvard University	2017-2018
<i>Research Assistant for Mark Shepard</i>	
Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunity	2014-2016
<i>Research Assistant for William Evans</i>	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Health Policy Options, Undergraduate Level Harvard University, Spring 2020
Econometrics I, PhD Level Harvard University, Fall 2018

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

NBER Fellow for Aging and Health, 2019-2020, 2020-2021
Taubman Center Dissertation Fellow, 2018

AWARDS

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning,
Harvard University (Fall 2018)
2016 Bernoulli Award for Statistical Research
2015 Bernoulli Award for Statistical Research

PERSONAL

United States Citizen