

**Brandyn F. Churchill**  
*Curriculum Vitae, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

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### **Appointments**

American University, Assistant Professor of Public Administration & Policy, 2024 - *Present*  
National Bureau of Economic Research, Faculty Research Fellow, 2025 - *Present*  
IZA – Institute of Labor Economics, Research Affiliate, 2026 - *Present*  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, Assistant Professor of Resource Economics, 2022 - 2024  
Vanderbilt University, Research Assistant Professor of Economics, 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**

- (17) “‘There She Is, Your Ideal’: Negative Social Comparisons and Health Behaviors,” with Christopher S. Carpenter, (2026), *Journal of Human Resources*, 61(1): 274-296, <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.0522-12347R1>, previously released as *NBER Working Paper No. 31156*.
- (16) “Supply-Side Opioid Restrictions and the Retail Pharmacy Market” with Anne M. Burton, (2025), *Journal of Health Economics*, 105: 103071, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2025.103071>, previously released as *NBER Working Paper No. 34281*
- (15) “Anti-Bullying Laws and Weight-Based Disparities in Suicidality” with Bijesh Gyawali and Joseph J. Sabia, (2025), *Health Economics*, 34(11): 1977-2003, <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.70015>
- (14) “Social Comparisons and Adolescent Body Misperception: Evidence from School Entry Cutoffs” with Christopher S. Carpenter, (2025), *Health Economics*, 34(9): 1691-1730, <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4980>, previously released as *NBER Working Paper No. 32629*
- (13) “Effects of Environmental Exposures on Weight-Related Behaviors and Outcomes” with Sparshi Srivastava, (2025), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 131: 103138, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeem.2025.103138>
- (12) “Effect of Vaccine Recommendations on Consumer and Firm Behavior,” with Laura E. Henkhaus and Emily C. Lawler, (2025), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 44(1): 125-150, <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22586>
- (11) “State-Mandated School-Based BMI Assessments and Self-Reported Adolescent Health Behaviors,”

- (2024), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 43(1): 63-86, <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22523>
- (10) “The Roles of Cost and Recommendations in Driving Vaccine Take-Up: Evidence from the Herpes Zoster Vaccine for Shingles Prevention,” with Laura E. Henkhaus, (2023), *American Journal of Health Economics*, 9(4): 523-551, <https://doi.org/10.1086/723541>
  - (9) “State SUNucate Laws, the Popularity of Google Searches for Terms Related to Sun Protection, and Youth Sunscreen Use,” with Christopher S. Carpenter, Michelle M. Marcus, and Mary-Margaret Chren, (2023), *Health Behavior and Policy Review*, 10(4): 1324-1332, <https://doi.org/10.14485/HBPR.10.4.1>
  - (8) “Bad Lighting: Effects of Youth Indoor Tanning Prohibitions,” with Christopher S. Carpenter and Michelle M. Marcus, (2023), *Journal of Health Economics*, 88: 102738, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2023.102738>, previously released as *NBER Working Paper No. 29443*
  - (7) “The Effect of E-Verify Mandates on Crime,” with Andrew Dickinson, Taylor Mackay, and Joseph J. Sabia, (2022), *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 75(5): 1294-1320, <https://doi.org/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, <https://doi.org/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, <https://doi.org/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, <https://doi.org/10.1002/soej.12535>
  - (3) “Insurance Coverage, Provider Contact, and Take-Up of the HPV Vaccine,” (2021), *American Journal of Health Economics* 7(2): 222-247, <https://doi.org/10.1086/713037>
  - (2) “Unauthorized Immigrants’ Access to Driver’s Licenses and Auto Insurance Coverage,” with Taylor Mackay and Bing Yang Tan, (2021), *Contemporary Economic Policy* 39(1): 107-125, <https://doi.org/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, <https://doi.org/10.1111/irel.12232>

### Working Papers

“Government Recommendations and Health Behaviors: Evidence from Breast Cancer Screening Guidelines” with Emily C. Lawler, Conditionally Accepted at *Economic Journal* (Pending Replication Package Review)

We provide novel evidence on how healthcare decision-making responds to changes in government recommendations by studying the United States Preventive Services Task Force’s 2009 decision to stop recommending mammogram screenings for women aged 40-49. Using a difference-in-differences identification strategy, we find that the guideline revision reduced mammography among 40-49-year-old women by 6-10 percent (from a baseline rate of 48.8 percent) relative to their older

counterparts. We also identify large spillovers onto women aged 30-39 who were subsequently 25 percent less likely to receive a mammogram recommendation (from a baseline rate of 22.8 percent) and up to 60 percent less likely to receive a mammogram (from a baseline rate of 12.6 percent). These reductions were most pronounced for groups that had higher screening rates in the pre-period (i.e., non-Hispanic white women, women with health insurance, and women with a college degree). Additional analyses suggest the revision reduced overdiagnosis of early-stage tumors. Finally, we find that the 2009 update increased confusion about recommendations for preventing cancer.

“Health Care Reform and Firm Dynamics: Evidence from Medicare Part D and the Retail Pharmacy Industry” with Georgina Cisneros

Retail pharmacies fill over 4 billion prescriptions each year and are the most frequent healthcare touchpoint in the U.S., yet relatively little is known about the factors driving pharmacy access. We examine how Medicare Part D shaped the retail pharmacy industry using 2000-2009 National Establishment Time-Series data and a difference-in-differences strategy leveraging pre-period variation in the share of individuals likely enrolled in Medicare. The two-year period between Part D’s passage and implementation was marked by substantial uncertainty about its financial implications for pharmacies. Though Part D increased prescription utilization, it lowered drug prices and raised administrative costs. We develop a conceptual model where increased uncertainty following Part D’s passage discourages entry, and the lower margins following implementation prevent entry from fully recovering. Consistent with these predictions, we find that Part D was associated with a 5-percent reduction in the number of pharmacies, driven by a reduction in openings in the years between Part D’s passage and implementation. Finally, we find suggestive evidence that the mortality reduction attributable to Part D was smaller in counties that experienced a reduction in pharmacy access.

“Do Physical Characteristics Influence How People Evaluate Non-Physical Traits? Evidence from the Excess Bodyweight Penalty in the Online Dating Market”

I use two online experiments to test whether physical characteristics affect how people evaluate non-physical traits. I find that participants scored dating profiles displaying overweight/obese photos 19% lower than profiles displaying healthy-weight photos. This penalty was driven by a reduction in the scores assigned to both the photos and the same profile text; participants who viewed heavier photos perceived the text as less indicative of work ethic and intelligence. There is no evidence that participants imposed smaller penalties on profiles reporting higher-earning occupations, suggesting that individuals are limited in their ability to compensate for excess bodyweight with higher socioeconomic status.

“Internet Access and Adolescent Self-Image,” with Kathryn Johnson, *NBER Working Paper No. 34614*

Broadband internet has become a critical component of U.S. infrastructure, but policymakers are increasingly concerned that the widespread adoption of this technology has adversely affected adolescent mental health. To test this hypothesis, we use 2009–2019 National and State Youth Risk Behavior Survey data and leverage the nationwide rollout of broadband internet. First, we show that adolescents in states with greater broadband internet access reported spending more time online. Next, we find that a one-standard-deviation increase in broadband internet access was associated with a 9.3–16.5-percent increase in adolescent suicide ideation. While we document increases in suicide ideation for both girls and boys, the results are most pronounced for adolescent girls. Exploring potential mechanisms, we show that greater broadband internet access was associated with increases in cyberbullying and body dissatisfaction among adolescent girls and a reduction in the likelihood that adolescent boys reported getting an adequate amount of sleep.

### **Work in Progress**

“The Vaccines for Children Program and the Health of Low-Income Children” with Emily C. Lawler and Samuel J. Mann

### **External Research Grants**

“New Evidence on the Role of Federal Funding in Reducing the Prevalence of Obesity” (Principal Investigator), National Institutes of Health / National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, R01DK140192, 09/01/2024 - 08/31/2029, \$1,451,719

### **Internal Research Grants**

American University SPA Junior Faculty Summer Research Grant, 06/01/2025-08/31/2025, \$5,000

UMass Amherst Health Economics Work-in-Progress Series, 09/01/2023-05/31/2024, \$10,000

UMass Amherst Health Economics Work-in-Progress Series, 01/01/2023-05/31/2023, \$3,000

### **Research Presentations**

- 2026 NBER Geography and Health: Exploring Urban-Rural Disparities\*, Allied Social Science Associations Annual Meeting
- 2025 Southern Economic Association, Virginia Tech, Washington & Lee University, American Society of Health Economists (× 2), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), University of Pittsburgh, American University (× 2)
- 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Southern Economic Association (× 2), Southeastern Health Economics Study Group, DC Health Economics Seminar Series, American University, Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior, NBER Program on Children, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2023 American University, Southern Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, London School of Economics and Political Science, Tufts University, Western Economic Association, 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**

American University  
Health Policy (PUAD 685): Spring 2025, Spring 2026  
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 Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (2), *American Journal of Health Economics* (3), *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *AJPM: Focus*, *Applied Economic Letters*, *BMC: Health Services Research*, *BMC Public Health*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Forum for Health Economics & Policy*, *Health Affairs*, *Health Economics* (7), *Health Economics Review*, *Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society*, *International Migration Review*, *JMIR: Formative Research*, *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Health Economics* (11), *Journal of Human Resources* (5), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (3), *Journal of Regulatory Economics*, *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society-Series A*, *Journal of Rural Health*, *North American Actuarial Journal*, *Population Research and Policy Review*, *Public Choice*, *Vaccine* (2)

Note: Counts only include first-round reviews and not subsequent revisions

## **Conference Session Organizer**

American Society of Health Economists (2022 × 2, 2023 × 3, 2025), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2022, 2023), Southern Economic Association (2022 × 2, 2024 × 2)

**Conference Session Chair**

Allied Social Science Association (2022, 2023), American Society of Health Economists (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 × 2), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2023), Southern Economic Association (2022)

**Conference Discussant**

Allied Social Science Association (2023), American Society of Health Economists (2022, 2023 × 3, 2024 × 2, 2025 × 2), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2022, 2023 × 2); Southern Economic Association (2019, 2022, 2023)

**Conference Abstract Reviewer**

American Society of Health Economists (2022, 2023, 2024), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2025)

**Other Conference Attendance**

NBER Health and Healthcare Variations Across the Population\* (05/2026), NBER Economics of Chronic Disease\* (03/2026), NBER Economics of Health Program (05/2019, 12/2020, 07/2021, 07/2022, 12/2022, 07/2023, 12/2023, 07/2024, 02/2025), National Academy of Sciences Societal Experts Action Network (11/2024), NBER Longer-Term Economic and Health Effects of COVID-19 (02/2024), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2021), Allied Social Science Association (2021, 2024), 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**

ASHEcon Program Chair (Diet, Physical Activity, and Obesity): 2024 - *Present*  
ASHEcon Newsletter Coeditor: 2022 - *Present*  
DC Health Economics Seminar Series AU Organizer 2025 - *Present*  
American University Master of Public Policy Admission Committee: Fall 2024  
University of Massachusetts Amherst Undergraduate Studies Committee: Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024  
University of Massachusetts Amherst Hiring Committee: Fall 2023  
University of Massachusetts Amherst Computers Committee: Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024  
ASHEcon Newsletter Coeditor: 2022 - *Present*  
UMass Amherst Health Economics Work-in-Progress Series Organizer: 2022 - *Present*  
UMass Amherst Graduate Student Advising Group Organizer: Spring 2023

**Advising**

Sparshi Srivastava '24 (UMass Amherst, Committee Member; in progress)

**Selected Media Coverage**

ABC 7NewsDC, October 7, 2025, *Senate Stalemate Continues Over Extension of ACA Subsidies*, <https://wjla.com/news/local/senate-stalemate-government-shutdown-federal-affordable-health-care-act-aca-democrats-republicans-politics-income-arpa-reconciliation-pediatrician-impact-premiums-children-adults-budget-congress-tax-credits-pandemic-people-hospitals>.  
Spectrum News, June 19, 2025, *988 Suicide Prevention Hotline for LGBTQ+ Youth to be Shut Down on July 17* (<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2025/06/18/988--lgbtq-youth--shut-down--suicide-prevention>)

- CNBC, April 20, 2025, *RFK Jr. Is Gutting Minority Health Offices Across HHS That Are Key to Reducing Health Disparities* (<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/04/30/rfk-jr-hhs-job-cuts-minority-health-offices.html>)
- Spectrum News, March 7, 2025, *Will Trump Take Action to Stop Daylight Saving Time?* (<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/us/national/news/2025/03/07/daylight-saving-standard-time-trump>)
- The National News Desk, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, *Popular Weight-Loss Drugs Could Shift the Economy, Create Healthier Workforce*, (<https://thenationaldesk.com/news/americas-news-now/popular-weight-loss-drugs-could-shift-the-economy-boost-gdp-ozempic-wegovy-mounjaro-goldman-sachs-trillions-of-dollars-gross-domestic-product-healthier-workforce#>)
- TF1 (France's most popular domestic network), December 11, 2024, *Patron Tué en Pleine Rue : L'intrigant Profil de Son Meurtrier*, (<https://www.tf1info.fr/international/videos/video-patron-tue-en-pleine-rue-l-intrigant-profil-de-son-meurtrier-9940-2339020.html>)
- USA Today, May 8, 2024, *Miss USA, Miss Teen USA Resignations: A Reminder of Beauty Pageants' Controversial History*, (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/05/08/more-beauty-pageant-troubles-miss-usa-miss-teen-usa-resign/73612165007/>)
- New England Public Media, May 25, 2023, *Research Suggests Beauty Pageant News Coverage Worsens Body Image Among Teens, Young Women* (<https://www.nepm.org/regional-news/2023-05-25/research-suggests-beauty-pageant-news-coverage-worsens-body-image-among-teens-young-women>)
- 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>)