

CHIEN-TZU CHENG
www.chien-tzucheng.com
chien-tzu_cheng@brown.edu

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Placement Director: Toru Kitagawa	toru_kitagawa@brown.edu	401-863-3836
Graduate Administrator: Angelica Spertini	angelica_spertini@brown.edu	401-863-2465

Office Contact Information

70 Waterman Street
Providence, RI 02912
+1 (202) 615-0666

Personal Information: Female, Taiwanese Citizen

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Public Finance- Japanese Literature, National Chengchi University, Taiwan, 2013

Graduate Studies:

M.A., Economics, Brown University, 2018
M.A., Public Finance, National Chengchi University, Taiwan, 2015

Brown University, 2017 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “*Essays in Health Economics*”

Expected Completion Date: May 2023

References:

Professor Anna Aizer
Department of Economics, Brown University
anna_aizer@brown.edu
+1 (401) 863-9529

Professor Andrew Foster
Department of Economics, Brown University
andrew_foster@brown.edu
+1 (401) 863-2537

Professor Neil Thakral
Department of Economics, Brown University
neil_thakral@brown.edu
+1 (401) 863-6297

Professor Kenneth Chay
Department of Economics, Brown University
kenneth_chay@brown.edu
+1 (401) 863-6296

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Health Economics, Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Children and Families, Economics of Population

Professional Activities:

2022	<i>Presentations:</i> American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, Applied Micro Lunch Seminar (Brown), Applied Young Economist Webinar (Monash University), Data Science Initiative Fair (Brown), Guttman Institute Research Brownbag, Population Association of America (PAA) Conference
2021–present	Trainee, Population Studies and Training Center (PSTC), Brown University

Research Papers:

“The Impact of Home Pregnancy Testing on Fertility and Women's Later-Life Outcomes” (Job Market Paper)

Home pregnancy tests give early fertility information and help women make timely family-planning decisions. This paper studies how the introduction of home pregnancy tests in the US in 1977 impacted fertility, early prenatal care, and later-life outcomes. Using county-level drugstore accessibility to approximate test availability, I document significant trend breaks in fertility rates after 1977 among women who had access to drugstores. The effects are the strongest for those aged 15–29 and concentrated among those with access to abortion services. In the long run, women exposed to home pregnancy tests were more likely to delay childbirth, participate in the labor force, and never marry; these women were also less likely to divorce.

“The Benefits of Prenatal Care: Evidence from the SARS Epidemic in Taiwan” (with Shin-Yi Chou, Hsien-Ming Lien)

This paper overcomes the challenge of estimating the benefits of prenatal care by exploring a 20% reduction in prenatal care use during the 2003 SARS epidemic in Taiwan. Adopting social learning effects in response to the widespread panic, we instrument a mother's reduction in prenatal visits with the change in average visits among their peer groups. Using administrative data, we find that prenatal care significantly lowered the likelihood of low birth weight, preterm birth, and neonatal and infant mortality. When stratifying samples by parity, the effects on mortality only persist among the firstborn, suggesting that information is especially important for first-time mothers. However, we find no impact on maternal complications during delivery.

“Hospital Response to Financial Incentives: Evidence from Emergency Departments in Taiwan”

This paper studies a plausibly exogenous policy change in the Taiwanese universal healthcare system and tests hospital responses to financial incentives. A subsidy policy increased diagnostic fee bonuses for night emergency department admissions by 30% in 2010. Using an event study, I find evidence of manipulation—the night admission share increased by 36% among the least urgent patients but not the most urgent ones. The increase implies that hospitals delayed the least urgent admissions in order to increase profits. However, this policy led to insignificant improvements in care provision and health outcomes.

Research Papers in Progress:

“The Long-Term Impact of Healthcare Accessibility in Middle Childhood: Evidence from Medicaid Expansion in the 1990s” (with Assaf Kott)

“Why are Women Not Hiring Women? A Non-Bayesian Social Learning Experiment” (with Alex Zhou)

Teaching Experience:

Summer, 2019	Economania, Summer@Brown Program, Teaching Assistant
Summer, 2018	Econometrics: Statistical Tools to Understand Economic Data, Summer@Brown Program, Teaching Assistant
2013–2015	Principle of Economics (in English), National Chengchi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Wen-Chieh Wu
Fall, 2014	Econometrics (Graduate Level; in English), National Chengchi University, Teaching Assistant to Professor Hsien-Ming Lien

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2018–2020	Brown University, Research Assistant, Professor Anna Aizer
2016	National Health Insurance Administration of Taiwan, Full-time Research Assistant

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2022	Conference Travel Fund, Graduate School, Brown University
2022	Taubman Center Graduate Research Fellowship Award, Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy, Brown University
2021–2022	National Institutes of Health T32 Fellowship, Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University
2019	Doctoral Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Brown University
2019	International Travel Fund, Graduate School, Brown University
2017–2020	Government Fellowship for Studying Abroad (\$42,000 per year), Ministry of Education, Taiwan
2015	Thesis of the Year Award in Education and Health Economics, Taiwan Economics Association

Other Information:

Languages	Taiwanese Hokkien (native), Mandarin Chinese (native), English (fluent), Japanese (intermediate)
-----------	--