

Research Statement

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I am an applied microeconomist with research interests in labor and health economics. My work focuses on identifying the causal effects of health-related policies on individual labor market outcomes. I have examined a range of policies that influence workers' behavior in areas such as employment, job switching, and the choice between full-time and part-time work. Across my research, I apply econometric techniques and, when appropriate, modern methods for identifying staggered policy implementations to estimate causal impacts on the populations of interest.

In my job market paper, I examine the effect of Medicaid expansion on job switching among low-income, non-parent adults. When workers rely on employer-sponsored insurance, they may hesitate to switch jobs for fear of losing their coverage, a phenomenon known as job lock. On the other hand, workers without employer-sponsored insurance may actively seek jobs that offer coverage, known as job push. Expanding public insurance reduces reliance on employer-based coverage and can therefore affect job mobility decisions.

I focus on non-parent adults because they became newly eligible for Medicaid under the 2014 expansion, making their labor market behavior more likely to respond to the policy than that of other groups who already had access to Medicaid. Using monthly data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), I find that Medicaid expansion decreases monthly job switching by 0.5 percentage points, representing an 18.3 percent decline relative to the pre-expansion mean. This pattern is consistent with a reduction in job push. I also find that the effect is stronger among older workers (ages 55–64), suggesting a differential impact between them and prime-age workers (ages 25–54).

In my work in progress, I study the effect of Paid Sick Leave (PSL) mandates on employment, full-time and part-time work, hours of work, and annual earnings. I focus on California, Massachusetts, and Oregon because their PSL laws are similar and were among the earliest enacted, providing a long post-treatment period to observe the dynamic effects of the policy. The hypothesis is that part-time workers, who typically have fewer non-wage benefits, will respond to the policy by increasing their hours to accumulate more paid sick time, which could raise their annual earnings. In contrast, full-time workers are less likely to adjust since they often already have access to paid leave through their employers. The results show that PSL mandates have no effect on employment or work status but lead part-time workers to work about 40 additional hours per year, which corresponds to roughly \$1,600 in higher annual earnings. The study finds no significant effect on the hours or earnings of

full-time workers.

In another work in progress, I collaborate with Kosy Madu to examine whether E-Verify, a program designed to confirm the work eligibility of employees and prevent the hiring of unauthorized workers, affects the employment outcomes of likely native workers in the United States. We also investigate whether the policy shifts employment across industries that traditionally rely on unauthorized labor, such as agriculture, construction, private households, retail trade, and food services.

In the future, I plan to publish these research works in reputable journals. I also intend to use the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP), which contains detailed questions that make it possible to distinguish between job lock and job push, and allows individuals to be followed longitudinally. Using this dataset, I plan to further study the effect of Medicaid expansion on job switching.