

CODY TUTTLE

University of Maryland
Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, expected May 2020
M.A. Economics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2014-2016
B.A. Economics, Centre College, 2008-2012

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: Public Economics
Secondary: Political Economy, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

Racial Disparities in Federal Sentencing: Evidence from Drug Mandatory Minimums, 2019

I test for racial disparities in the criminal justice system by analyzing abnormal bunching in the distribution of crack-cocaine amounts used in federal sentencing. I compare cases sentenced before and after the Fair Sentencing Act, a 2010 law that changed the 10-year mandatory minimum threshold for crack-cocaine from 50g to 280g. First, I find that after 2010, there is a sharp increase in the fraction of cases sentenced at 280g (the point that now triggers a 10-year mandatory minimum), and that this increase is disproportionately large for black and Hispanic offenders. I then explore several possible explanations for the observed racial disparities, including discrimination. I analyze data from multiple stages in the criminal justice system and find that the increased bunching for minority offenders is driven by prosecutorial discretion, specifically as used by about 20-30% of prosecutors. Moreover, the fraction of cases at 280g falls in 2013 when evidentiary standards become stricter. Finally, the racial disparity in the increase cannot be explained by differences in education, sex, age, criminal history, seized drug amount, or other elements of the crime, but it can be almost entirely explained by a measure of state-level racial animus. These results shed light on the role of prosecutorial discretion and potentially racial discrimination as causes of racial disparities in sentencing.

PUBLICATIONS

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism, 2019, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11(2), 301-327.

Rules Versus Home Rule—Local Government Responses to Negative Revenue Shocks, 2019, *National Tax Journal*, 72(3), 543-574, with D. Shoag & S. Veuger.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. John Haltiwanger, Pathways Internship, U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-present
Research Assistant, Profs. Daniel Shoag & Erich Muehlegger, Harvard Kennedy School, 2013-2014
Research Assistant/Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research, 2012-2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Current Issues in American Economic Policy, University of Maryland, Winter 2018

AWARDS & HONORS

Roger and Alicia Betancourt Fellowship in Applied Economics, University of Maryland, 2018
Economics Department Third Year Paper Prize, University of Maryland, 2017

Allan G. Gruchy Graduate Fellowship in Economics, University of Maryland, 2017
Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, University of Maryland, 2017
Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2017
BSOS Research Interaction Day for Graduate Students Grant, University of Maryland, 2017
Graduate Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2014-2015
The Harry Landreth Economics Prize, Centre College, 2012

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019:

Racial Disparities in Federal Sentencing: Evidence from Drug Mandatory Minimums

Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting (planned)
Western Economic Association International (WEAI) Graduate Student Workshop
Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Conference
Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism

American Economic Association (AEA) Annual Meeting

2018:

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism

SEA Annual Meeting

Racial Disparities in Federal Sentencing: Evidence from Drug Mandatory Minimums

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference
APPAM DC Student Conference

2017:

Snapping Back: Food Stamp Bans and Criminal Recidivism

APPAM Fall Research Conference

Rules Versus Home Rule—Local Government Responses to Negative Revenue Shocks

Spatial Economics Research Centre Conference

2016:

Rules Versus Home Rule—Local Government Responses to Negative Revenue Shocks

SEA Annual Meeting

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee for *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*