

ANWAR ASSAMIDANOV

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EMPLOYMENT

UC Irvine Joe C. Wen School of Population & Public Health <i>Postdoctoral Scholar in Health Economics</i>	Summer 2024 - Present Irvine, CA
Chime Financial <i>Research Analyst in Consumer Economics</i>	Summer 2023 - Fall 2023 San Francisco, CA
211 LA County <i>Data Scientist in Data and Research Team</i>	2021-2022 Los Angeles, CA

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Health Policy, and Labor Economics

EDUCATION

Claremont Graduate University <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	2020-2024 Claremont, CA
Claremont Graduate University <i>M.A. in Economics</i>	2019 - 2020 Claremont, CA
Nazarbayev University <i>B.S. in Mechanical Engineering</i>	2011 - 2015 Astana, Kazakhstan

WORKING PAPERS

Impact of Medicaid Pregnancy Dental Benefits on Prenatal Dental Care and Birth Outcomes (*Job Market Paper*) [\[PDF\]](#)

Despite elevated risks for oral health problems, more than half of pregnant women do not receive any dental care during pregnancy. Medicaid covers over 40% of US births and represents a key source of pregnancy dental coverage. This paper examines the effects of state-level pregnancy dental benefits using a difference-in-differences design and data from the 2012–2019 Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring System (PRAMS). Providing dental coverage to pregnant Medicaid recipients increases dental cleaning rates by 7.16 percentage points (29% relative to baseline). Using linked birth certificate data, I find reductions in small-for-gestational-age births and very low birth weight, though magnitudes vary across specifications and data sources. Evidence on mechanisms suggests that Medicaid dental benefits increase dental insurance coverage, receipt of dental counseling, and self-reported general health status.

Impact of Medicaid Dental Coverage Expansion on Dental Care Utilization and Smoking Behavior Among Reproductive-Age Women [\[PDF\]](#)

Dental care utilization among reproductive-age women not only affects their oral and overall health but also influences other health behaviors, with potential intergenerational implications. This study examines the effects of Medicaid dental coverage expansion for non-pregnant adults on dental care utilization and behavioral outcomes among reproductive-age women (21-44 years old) using data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2000-2022). Exploiting state-level variations in dental benefit policies, we employ a difference-in-differences strategy to estimate the impact of expanded coverage. Our findings indicate that Medicaid dental benefit expansions increase the likelihood of dental care utilization by 4.8 percentage points, an 8.6% increase from the baseline rate. However, we also find evidence of potential moral hazard, as expanded coverage is associated with higher probabilities of smoking initiation and frequent smoking.

The Effect of Paid Sick Leave Mandates on Social Security Disability Claims [\[PDF\]](#)

Paid sick leave mandates, which have been adopted by 18 states and the District of Columbia, require employers to provide regular wages when workers take short-term leave for their own or a family member's medical needs. This study is the first to explore the impacts of PSL adoption on participation in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) programs. We find that statewide PSLs are associated with a 6-9 percent increase in initial claims for SSI or both SSI and SSDI. These applications translate to an increase in beneficiaries, which is strongest among children under age 18. An exploration of the mechanisms suggests reduced labor market activity on the intensive margin, increased informal caregiving, and improvements in health status among adults and children with disabilities. We conclude that PSL mandates likely increase access to disability benefit programs.

When Parents Can Take Time: Paid Sick Leave and Child Mental Health [\[PDF\]](#)

Children's mental health challenges have risen sharply in the United States, yet structural barriers such as parental work constraints continue to limit access to timely care. This paper provides new causal evidence that Paid Sick Leave (PSL) mandates improve children's and adolescents' mental health. Following the adoption of PSL laws, the likelihood that a child receives any mental health care increases by 1.2 percentage points (a 10% rise relative to the baseline mean), while parent-reported depression diagnoses increase by 0.4 percentage points (7%). Complementary evidence shows that PSL mandates reduce youth depressive symptoms by 1.6 percentage points (5.3%) and suicidal ideation by 1.1–1.4 percentage points (7–10%). Mechanism analyses suggest that these improvements operate primarily through enhanced parental time flexibility. Overall, the findings highlight the broader public health benefits of labor protections that enable working parents to support their children's mental health.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Impact of Telehealth Policy Expansion on Substance Use Treatment: A State-Level Longitudinal Analysis (with Masoumirad M)

Policy Implications of Hearing Aid Coverage in Medicaid Managed Care Plans (with L. Tonti, M. Arnold, and B. Lipton)

Statewide Transparency of Medicaid Vision Benefits: An Assessment of Adult Managed Care Plans in 2024 (with Patel N, Hsieh T, and Lipton B)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Computational Tools for Economists (Master's), <i>California State University, Fullerton</i>	Spring 2023
Python Programming (Undergraduate), <i>Cal Poly Pomona</i>	Spring 2023
Introduction to Statistics (Undergraduate), <i>Pitzer College</i>	Fall 2022, Spring 2023
Machine Learning in Economics (Master's), <i>California State University, Fullerton</i>	Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant

Advanced Applied Econometrics, <i>Claremont Graduate University</i>	Spring 2023
Machine Learning in Asset Pricing (Master's), <i>Claremont Graduate University</i>	Fall 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

14th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists	Summer 2025
<i>Effects of Medicaid Dental Coverage for Pregnant and Reproductive-Age Women</i>	Nashville, TN
2025 Annual Research Meeting	Summer 2025
<i>Poster Session: Medicaid, Coverage, and Access</i>	Minneapolis, MN
93rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association	Fall 2023
<i>Economics of Crime; Economics of Gender</i>	New Orleans, LA

17th Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies <i>Pre-trial and Post-conviction</i>	Fall 2023 Chicago, IL
16th All-California Labor Economics Conference <i>Technology and Labor Decisions</i>	Fall 2023 Santa Barbara, CA
98th Annual Conference, Western Economic Association International <i>Gender Discrimination</i>	Summer 2023 San Diego, CA

HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024 Maldonado Graduate Fellowship Award (\$3000)	Spring 2024
Prize Winner in “Recidivism Forecasting Challenge” (\$19,500) <i>Machine Learning Contest hosted by National Institute of Justice</i>	Summer 2021
NBER Grant on Women, Victimization, and COVID-19 <i>with S. Cunningham, R. Thorton, G. DeAngelo, and Y.Le</i>	Fall 2020
Criminal Justice Reform Fellowship <i>Claremont Graduate University</i>	Spring 2020
Blaisdell Economics Fellowship <i>Claremont Graduate University</i>	2019-2021
CGU Fellowship - Economics <i>Claremont Graduate University</i>	2019-2021

MISCELLANEOUS

Technical Skills:	Python, Stata, R, SQL, LaTeX, Tableau, Github, Git, Web Scraping, GIS
Languages:	English (fluent), Kazakh (native), Russian (fluent) and Turkish (fluent)
Citizenship:	Kazakhstan (US Visa: F-1 STEM OPT)

REFERENCES

Professor Brandy Lipton Department of Health, Society, and Behavior University of California, Irvine E-mail: blipton@uci.edu	Professor Fernando Lozano Department of Economics Pomona College E-mail: Fernando.Lozano@pomona.edu
Professor Scott Cunningham Department of Economics Baylor University E-mail: scunning@gmail.com	Professor Radha Bhattacharya (Teaching) Department of Economics California State University, Fullerton E-mail: rbhattacharya@fullerton.edu