

Sanket Kanekar Research Statement

I am an Applied Microeconomist, and my interest lies in the field of Health Economics, Public Policy, and Public Health. I am interested to study how public policy impacts different population groups, specifically lower-income families and racially and ethnically diverse populations. My current research explores education policy and its impact on high school students' health, with a particular focus on race. I am also interested in looking at the relationship between health disparities and healthcare access for different population groups. In light of recent events concerning the outbreak of Covid-19, there is a growing awareness of health disparities in the United States. It is, therefore, essential to find appropriate policy measures to combat these disparities. Ultimately, the goal should be to reduce health disparities in the United States and other countries so that everyone can achieve good health status.

My job market paper, ["Impact of High School Graduation Requirements in Math on Health of High School Students,"](#) explores the relationship between high school graduation requirements for math and high school students health, precisely chronic conditions such as obesity. This study provides evidence of a specific mechanism through which education can impact an individual's health, such as exposure to rigorous coursework. To conduct this research, I gather data on high school graduation requirements for math by contacting each state's education department and using reports from the National Center for Education Statistics. I use the two-way fixed effect model in this study, which relies on the exogenous variation in the timing of the change in high school graduation requirements of math across states. The results suggest that states with a higher high school graduation requirement for math observe a decrease in BMI and obesity prevalence for high school students. In addition, the results by race indicate that states with higher high school graduation requirements for math decrease white students' body weight. However, the estimated effect was not significant for minority high school students. These results provide evidence for the disparity in health by education among diverse population. Overall, the results suggest that the policy reform has positive benefits on health for high school students, specifically for white students. In the future, I want to participate in research that creates solutions for all people, especially those that have been disregarded.

My second paper ["Arthritis, Health Care Access, and Health Disparity in the Largest U.S. Cities,"](#) (co-authored with Tannista Banerjee) evaluates a unique joint relationship between U.S. cities' socio-economic factors, doctors' visits, and arthritis. This research enhances our understanding of how place characteristics is associated with chronic diseases such as arthritis. Further, the results suggest the importance of health care visits in mitigating health outcomes such as arthritis. The results also suggest health care visits as a channel through which future socio-economic health disparity in arthritis can be reduced. I would like to continue my research in this area in order to provide policymakers with a better understanding of place-based policy intervention to reduce health disparity in the future.

I look forward to continuing my research in policy evaluation and health disparity. The change in high school graduation requirements has provided an opportunity for researchers, including myself, to study the impact of education on health. I would like to extend this analysis in a broader domain of health studies, as it has not been studied before. Additionally, I am working with Dr. Tannista Banerjee to evaluate the impact of place-based interventions on health care

access during the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, I am trying to evaluate if there is a disparity in health among the LGBT community by race. Finally, I hope my research will help the policymakers in their efforts to improve the quality of life of the country's citizens.