

Research Statement

I am an applied microeconomist, and I have diverse interests in a wide array of topics in labor and public economics. My existing work focuses on domestic violence, labor market discrimination, housing, and social safety net programs, and I have additional new projects in development in these areas.

My job market paper, “Do Shelters Reduce Domestic Violence?” estimates the effect of local shelter availability on intimate partner violence. Using data on intimate partner homicides from the FBI UCR’s Supplementary Homicide Reports and data on the number of shelters in each county from the US Census Bureau’s County Business Patterns data, I employ state-of-the-art difference-in-differences methods and find that the opening of a new shelter in a county that did not previously have one can reduce female intimate partner homicide rates by approximately one homicide per 100,000 people every three to four years. This paper contributes to literatures on homeless services and on domestic violence interventions, and, to my knowledge, is the first to find that shelters can reduce intimate partner violence.

In an additional co-authored paper in this area, “Domestic Violence Injuries During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Medical Records,” we use a unique dataset from a medical claims aggregator to investigate assault-related emergency room visits during the COVID-19 pandemic. This work is motivated by an emerging literature finding that domestic violence 911 calls increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we hope to add context to this finding by showing how this increase, along with the general conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, affected health care utilization for assault injuries.

I plan to develop additional future projects related to this work. I am interested in expanding my work on shelter availability to include non-fatal measures of domestic violence similar to the assault-related emergency room visits used in the estimation of increases in domestic violence injuries during the pandemic. I also plan to expand my work to include additional community effects of shelters as well as housing policy more broadly; I have a project currently in development exploring the effects of eliminating single-family zoning on rental prices and commuting times, and plan to begin work shortly on another project using synthetic control methods to evaluate the effects of Massachusetts’ “Right to Shelter” law on homelessness, violence, and labor market outcomes. Additionally, I currently have a new coauthored project in development studying the effects of the Secure Communities immigration enforcement program on intimate partner violence in Hispanic/Latinx communities.

Another strand of my research agenda focuses on labor market discrimination and labor market conditions for economically disadvantaged populations. In my paper “Supervisor Demographics and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from the NLSY97” I find that, conditional on a rich set of observable characteristics, workers with a supervisor of the same race/ethnicity or gender in their first job after finishing their education are no more likely to remain in the same job or a better job a year after starting that job. This finding is in contrast with other single-firm studies in the literature using individual fixed effects models, and suggests that effects of same-race or same-

gender supervisor-employee matches may vary by firm. Additionally, in joint work with Brian Cadena and Tania Barham, we evaluate a subsidized employment and job training program for TANF recipients and find that clients who received a transitional job in which their wage was subsidized for approximately 3 months were 12 percentage points more likely than other TANF clients to be employed and earn on average about \$1000 more per quarter up to a year after exiting the transitional job.

I also have plans to expand my work in labor economics. I have begun data collection for a new project using a staggered difference-in-differences design to estimate the effects of state-level legislation strengthening penalties and remedies for wage theft violations, and I hope to develop additional projects at the intersection of labor markets, poverty, and crime.

Overall, my work in these areas has allowed me to use tools on the frontier of applied econometrics methods and to answer questions that have traditionally been difficult to answer due to data limitations. I believe my experience adapting to rapid methodological changes and creativity in leveraging unique data sources has prepared me well to continue contributing to under-studied areas of economics in the future.