

# RAHEEM CHAUDHRY

## CONTACT

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## EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley, PhD in Public Policy	Exp 2025
University of Texas, Austin, Master of Public Affairs	2016
University of Maryland, College Park, BA in English	2012

## FIELDS

Housing Policy, Social Policy, Public Economics, Urban Economics

## WORKING PAPERS

1. “The Effects of Minority Enfranchisement on Local Preferences for Public Goods: Evidence from the Voting Rights Act of 1965”

Abstract: Previous research finds the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) increased the political power of Black communities. I analyze the broader effects of minority enfranchisement on local public finances by exploiting spatial discontinuities in the application of special provisions of the VRA. I find that among counties targeted by these special provisions, those with larger non-white population shares exhibited relative declines in revenues and expenditures, and relative increases in government fragmentation. The findings suggest that declines in revenues were not mechanical responses to changes in the tax base, but were instead likely due to changing preferences for public goods.

2. “Minimum Lot Sizes, Housing Markets, and Neighborhood Change” [Draft available upon request]

Abstract: In 1998, Houston reformed its subdivision ordinance to relax minimum lot sizes in parts of the city. I exploit the spatial discontinuity in where the reform was targeted and use a difference-in-differences design to analyze the effects of the reform on housing markets. I find that, where minimum lot sizes were relaxed, housing supply increased and average lot sizes decreased. Despite this increase in development, I find that prices increased. Relatedly, the resident population becomes more advantaged over time.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. “Public Housing, Neighborhood Quality, and Children’s Long-Run Outcomes” (with [Amanda Eng](#))
2. “Safety Net Access and Criminal Justice Involvement” (with [Jessie Harney](#))
3. “School Tracking and Educational Attainment” (with [Gaby Lohner](#) and Justine Weng)
4. “SNAP Asset Limits and Low-Income Households’ Savings Decisions”

## SELECT POLICY WRITING

“Many Working People Could Lose Health Coverage Due to Medicaid Work Requirements” (with Aviva Aron-Dine and Matt Broaddus)

“Most Working-Age SNAP Participants Work, But Often in Unstable Jobs” (with Brynne Keith-Jennings)

“Poverty Reduction Programs Help Adults Lacking College Degrees the Most” (with Isaac Shapiro and Danilo Trisi)

Other work at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

## RESEARCH

Professor Hilary Hoynes, Graduate Student Researcher 2020-23

Professors Michael Findley and Catherine Weaver, Graduate Research Fellow 2015-16

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Research Assistant 2016-19

## TEACHING

*University of California, Berkeley*

Statistics for Program Evaluation (Prof Avi Feller), Goldman School of Public Policy, Graduate Student Instructor (Overall: 4.91/5) 2023

Quantitative Methods, Public Policy & International Affairs Program, Instructor 2021, 2023

*University of Maryland, College Park*

Writing Center Internship (Prof Heather Lindenman), Teaching Assistant 2011

## PRESENTATIONS

UC Berkeley Law, Economics, and Policy Center, RUSH Graduate Student Brown-bag, UC Berkeley Opportunity Lab, APPAM, UC Berkeley Public Finance Seminar 2023

UC Berkeley Opportunity Lab, Mount Tamalpais College 2022

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

APPAM, Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship 2023

UC Berkeley, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Graduate Student Research Award 2023-24

UC Berkeley, Law, Economics, and Politics Center, Graduate Research Fellow 2022-23

UC Berkeley, Opportunity Lab, Initiative on Racial Equity in the Labor Market 2021-22

UC Berkeley, Goldman School of Public Policy, Departmental Fellowship 2019-20

AidData, Summer Fellow 2016

UT Austin, Innovations for Peace and Development, Graduate Research Fellow 2015-16

UT Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Englert Fellowship 2014-16

UMD, College Park, President’s Scholarship 2008-12

## SOFTWARE

`getcensus`: Stata package to load ACS estimates from Census API

`getbls`: Stata package to load estimates from BLS API

## SKILLS

Python, R, Stata, SQL

OTHER

Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau  
Citizenship: USA

*Updated January 18, 2024*