

Sarah A. Bainn

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	2021 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation: "Essays on the Economics of Reproductive Health, Disability, and Public Policy"Committee: Profs. Adriana Corredor-Waldron (co-chair), Raymond Guiteras (co-chair), Zheng Li & Jane Cooley-Fruhwirth	
M.Sc. in Economics, Baylor University, Waco, TX	2019 – 2021
B.A. in Economics, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana	2014 – 2018

RESEARCH FIELDS

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

"The Effects of Reproductive Health Laws on Maternal and Infant Health"

Abstract: In 2013, Texas implemented House Bill 2 (HB2), a law imposing strict operational requirements on abortion providers, which led to the closure of numerous clinics across the state. This policy created cross-county variation in access to abortion services, which I exploit to estimate the effects of restricted access on maternal and infant health. I find that a 100-mile increase in distance to the nearest abortion clinic is associated with a 31% increase in maternal morbidity, driven by large rises in severe obstetric complications, including third and fourth degree perineal lacerations and ruptured uterus cases. These adverse outcomes are not explained by general declines in healthcare access, such as maternity ward closures or reductions in prenatal care. Instead, these outcomes reflect a compositional shift in the birthing population, whereby restricted abortion access increases the share of births among women with preexisting or pregnancy-related health conditions, including chronic hypertension, diabetes, and prior preterm birth, as well as among teenagers, less educated, unmarried, older, and White women, thereby raising both the medical and socioeconomic risk of the birthing population. A counterfactual simulation suggests that if all counties had an abortion facility within 50 miles, approximately 952 cases of maternal morbidity, including 771 severe perineal lacerations and 24 ruptured uterus cases, could have been avoided. Infant outcomes show mixed effects, with Hispanic infants experiencing disproportionate adverse outcomes, and Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) admissions rising in counties most affected by clinic closures. These findings demonstrate that restrictions on abortion access not only limit reproductive choice but also meaningfully increase maternal health risks, highlighting the broader public health consequences of policies that impose travel barriers to abortion services.

WORKING PAPERS

"Medicaid Expansion and Disability Employment,"

Abstract: The Affordable Care Act (ACA), enacted in 2010, sought to expand Medicaid eligibility to low-income individuals with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). This policy could affect employment outcomes among individuals with disabilities through multiple channels. On one hand, providing access to health insurance independent of employment requirements might reduce the incentive to work, potentially lowering employment rates within the disabled population. On the other hand, the higher income threshold for Medicaid eligibility could encourage labor force participation by allowing individuals to seek employment without the risk of losing health coverage. Using data from the American Community Survey (ACS) and a staggered Difference-in-Differences (sDID) research design, I find that the ACA had a negative, though statistically insignificant, effect on employment among individuals with disabilities, and a positive but also statistically insignificant effect on labor force participation. Results from a Two-Way Fixed Effects (TWFE) model yield similar results, though with differences in magnitude. The discrepancy between the

TWFE and sDID estimates highlights potential endogeneity bias in the TWFE approach, underscoring the importance of using more robust quasi-experimental methods when evaluating staggered policy interventions.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Family Planning Budget Cuts and Sexually Transmitted Infections

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Instructor, NC State University	2024 – Present
• Principles of Microeconomics: Spring 2024, Spring 2025	
Head Lab Instructor, NC State University	2022 – Present
• Fundamentals of Economics: Fall 2022	
• Principles of Economics: Fall 2025	
Lab Instructor, NC State University	2021 – 2024
• Fundamentals of Economics: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023	
• Principles of Macroeconomics: Fall 2024	
Graduate Assistant, Baylor University	2019 – 2021
• Macroeconomics: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021	
Teaching Assistant, University of Ghana	2018 – 2019
• Economics: Fall 2018, Spring 2019	
• Statistics: Fall 2018, Spring 2019	

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Consultant, World Bank	2024 – Present
• Assisted with survey design, survey weighting and sampling for Enterprise Surveys.	
• Assisted with cleaning and standardizing datasets and data quality control for Enterprise Surveys.	
Data Analytics Fellow, Chief Evaluation Office, Department of Labor	Summer 2023
• Collaborated with the research team at the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) to identify registered provider deserts	
• Analyzed data using R to identify counties in the U.S with provider deserts	
Summer Intern, PricewaterhouseCoopers,	Summer 2017
• Collaborated with a staff of 6 to complete audit processes	
• Conducted risk analysis to determine the viability of a merge between 2 companies	
• Reconciled bank statements with payments in general account ledger totaling \$100,000 using Microsoft Excel	

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Poole Economics Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, NC State University	2024
ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship, ASHEcon	2024

PRESENTATIONS

Student BrownBag Seminar, NC State University (Raleigh, NC)	2023
CEnREP Welcome Back Presentation, NC State University (Raleigh, NC)	2025

WORKSHOPS

NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research (Boston, MA)	2024
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SERVICE

Treasurer (EGSA), NC State University
Communication Strategist, Research in Color
Graduate Academic Mentor (Kokernot Hall), Baylor University
Economics Representative (Graduate Business Association), Baylor University

OTHER INFORMATION

Programming: Python, STATA, MATLAB, R
Sadie Collective Member
The Black Economists Network Member
American Society of Health Economists Member
Language: English(fluent), Twi(native), French(beginner)
Citizenship: Ghana

REFERENCES

Prof. Adriana Corredor-Waldron (co-chair)
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