

KATHERINE G. YEWELL
Curriculum Vitae, November 2020

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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Ph.D. in Economics	<i>Nashville, TN</i> August 2020
Vanderbilt University M.A. in Economics	<i>Nashville, TN</i> May 2014
Rhodes College B.A. in Economics and Mathematics <i>Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa</i>	<i>Memphis, TN</i> May 2012

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary Fields: Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Additional Fields: Industrial Organization, Labor Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Visiting Assistant Professor, *Washington and Lee University, 2020-present*
Principles of Economics, *Fall 2020, Winter 2021*
Health Economics, *Winter 2021*

Visiting Instructor, *University of Memphis, 2019-2020*
Introduction to Microeconomics, *Fall 2019, Spring 2020*
Introduction to Microeconomics (Honors Section), *Fall 2019*
Microeconomic Theory (Intermediate Microeconomics), *Fall 2019*
Introduction to Macroeconomics (online), *Spring 2020*

Instructor, *Vanderbilt University*
Labor Economics, *Fall 2018*
Intermediate Microeconomics, *Summer 2015*

Teaching Assistant , <i>Vanderbilt University, 2013 – 2018</i>	
Microeconomics Theory II (Ph.D. level)	Law and Economics
Intermediate Microeconomics	Social Choice Theory
Economics of Health	International Finance
Game Theory and Applications	Public Finance
The Economics of Risk	

Teaching Affiliate, *Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, 2016 – 2018*

- Designed and facilitated day-long orientation seminar for new graduate TAs
- Discussed practical advice for the varied teaching duties assumed by TAs
- Modeled effective techniques for promoting student learning
- Emphasized the importance of inclusive teaching
- Provided information on campus policies and resources available to TAs

Certificates and Awards for Teaching

- Rendigs Fels Award for Excellence in Teaching, *Economics Department, Vanderbilt University*, 2015
- Certificate in College Teaching, *Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching*, 2015

PUBLICATION

Yewell, Katherine, Steven Caudill, and Franklin Mixon, Jr. (2014) “Referee Bias and Stoppage Time in Major League Soccer: A Partially Adaptive Approach,” *Econometrics*. 2(1): 1 – 19.

WORKING PAPERS

“The Effect of Free School Meals on Household Food Purchases: Evidence from the Nielsen Consumer Panel” (*with Michelle Marcus*) [**Job Market Paper**]

Abstract: Designed to increase access to meals for low-income students, the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) eliminates applications for free and reduced-price school meals and allows high poverty schools to provide free meals for all students, regardless of their family income. This paper considers the effects of access to free school meals through CEP on household grocery spending, diet composition, and food security for households with school-aged children using the Nielsen consumer panel data from 2004-2016 and the Current Population Survey from 2001-2018. We find that household spending on grocery purchases decreases after children gain access to free school meals by about \$22 per month or 11% of all food spending. Overall diet quality of purchases decreases by about 12.9% from the mean. Evidence that previously eligible households experience large effects on grocery spending, combined with evidence of large reductions in food insecurity from CEP, suggest that application and stigma costs of free school meals may have prevented already-eligible households from participating prior to the adoption of CEP.

“The Effect of Baby Friendly Hospital Laws on Breastfeeding and Health” (*with Emily Lawler*)

Abstract: Breastfeeding is widely considered to be the best method of infant feeding and both the World Health Organization and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend breastfeeding through at least one year of age. We study the effects of state hospital breastfeeding support laws, which are intended to increase breastfeeding by requiring certain care standards for new mothers and their babies during their postpartum hospital stay. We find that these laws significantly increased breastfeeding initiation by 4.1 percentage points (5.4 percent), and also significantly increased the probability of breastfeeding at 6 months and 1 year postpartum by 7 to 9 percent. Our results additionally show that the laws had unintended consequences on other maternal behaviors. Following state law adoption there is a significant reduction in maternal smoking (consistent with recommendations not to smoke if breastfeeding), and a substantial reduction in maternal employment, offset by an increase in time spent on child care and unpaid domestic work. Overall, our results suggest that there are significant unintended costs and benefits that may result from policies aimed at increasing breastfeeding.

“The Effect of Universal Access to Free School Meals on Teen Health”

Abstract: Food insecurity is associated with several adverse health outcomes, including anemia, asthma, depression, and diabetes. With over 14 million households facing food insecurity every year, these health issues are of policy importance. This paper leverages the

roll out of a novel program that provides universal free school meals for school-aged children to study the impact of increased access to food on teen health behaviors and outcomes. I use data from the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) for 2001-2017 to examine teen access to food, asthma, sleep, and mental health. I supplement this with the National Immunization Survey of Teens (NIS-Teen) for 2008-2017 which has information on teen doctor visits, and the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) for 2003-2018 which has information on how much time respondents spend on food-related activities. Using a difference-in-differences design and event studies that leverage plausibly exogenous variation in program availability, I find that high school students go to the doctor less, have fewer incidences of asthma, are more likely to get 8 or more hours of sleep, and report improved mental health following the increased access to meals at school. I also show additional evidence that the incidence of teens going hungry because of a lack of food in the household decreases after universal free school meals become more available, and that households with school-aged children report spending more time eating and drinking.

“The Effects of Consolidation on Inpatient Safety and Mortality”

Abstract: This study analyzes the effect of hospital consolidation on inpatient safety indicators and mortality as a clinical measure of hospital quality. To study the effect on quality, I analyze within-hospital changes in mortality rates and rates of adverse safety events for various patient subsets, before and after consolidation. Fixed effects estimates reveal mixed results on the effect of hospital acquisitions on quality of inpatient health care and outcomes.

“Quantifying Travel Costs: A Case Study Analyzing the Welfare Effects of a Hospital Merger in South Carolina”

Abstract: This study analyzes the predicted effects of a proposed hospital merger in South Carolina, examining the change in consumer welfare that results from counterfactually removing each of the relevant hospitals from the consumer choice sets. I compare the travel cost model predictions to those generated in a model that does not use time in determining the consumer choice and calculate the predicted merger effects. I find that features of the travel cost model account for about 52% of the explained change in willingness to pay that drives bargaining and market power for merging hospitals.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Effect of Food Insecurity on Emergency Department and Hospital Inpatient Discharges: Evidence from the Community Eligibility Provision” (*with Michelle Marcus and Carmen Astorne-Figari*)

“State Education Requirements for Substance Use Prevention and Household Purchases of Alcohol and Tobacco”

“Academic Benefits of Universal Access to Free School Meals: Evidence from the Community Eligibility Provision”

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- Methodist Le Bonheur Center for Healthcare Economics Research Grant, *Memphis, TN*, 2020
- Kirk Dornbush Research Assistantship, *Vanderbilt University*, 2016
- College of Arts and Science Summer Research Award, *Vanderbilt University*, 2015
- Kirk Dornbush Summer Research Grant, *Vanderbilt University*, 2014, 2016

- Morelle Legg International Internship for Women, *Rhodes College*, 2011
- Rhodes Institute for Regional Studies Fellow, *Rhodes College*, 2010

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference and Seminar Presentations

“The Effect of Free School Meals on Household Food Purchases: Evidence from the Nielsen Consumer Panel”, *with Michelle Marcus*

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference, November 2020
- American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference Poster Session, June 2019

“The Effect of Baby Friendly Hospital Laws on Breastfeeding and Health”, *with Emily Lawler*

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference, November 2020

“Quantifying the Effects of Consolidation on Hospital Inpatient Quality”

- IU/VU Health Economics and Policy Conference, December 2015
- Tennessee Empirical Applied Micro Fest, student session, May 2016

Service and Affiliations

- Referee, *Southern Economic Journal*
- Member, *American Economic Association, American Society of Health Economists, Southern Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management*
- President, Vanderbilt Counsel of Economic Graduate Students, 2014-2015
- Officer, Vanderbilt Counsel of Economic Graduate Students, 2012 - 2015

Professional Enhancement

- Summer Institute Participant, “Topics in the History of Economics”, *Duke University*, 2014
- Wolfram Mathematica Certification, 2012

REFERENCES

Michelle Marcus, Ph.D. (advisor)
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 Department of Economics, Vanderbilt University
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