**Introduction**

- Medical education system determines the supply of the healthcare professionals.
- Hypothesis 1: expanded access to medical education and training improves local healthcare manpower.
- Hypothesis 2: exposure to the expansion of medical education and training improves health and human capital.
- Investigated the long-term consequences of childhood exposure to a unique federal medical education reform: the Area Health Education Center program (AHEC).

**Key findings:** Childhood exposure to the opening of a local Area Health Education Center leads to:

- Better health status
- Improved health behaviors
- Higher education attainment

**Institutional Background**

- The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program
  - initiated to tackle nationwide health professional shortage
  - proposed by the Carnegie Commission In 1970
  - authorized by the Comprehensive Health Manpower Training Act in 1971
  - start to be established in states since 1972
  - aimed to make health care education locally available

**Data & Methodology**

- **Data**
  - Hand-collected opening dates of AHECs
  - National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY 79, 79 youth, and 97)
  - County Business Patterns (CBP)

- **Event study specifications**
  - Pre-/ Post- opening of the local AHEC
  - Counties with/ without a local AHEC
  - Controls: individual characteristics, county characteristics, year F.E., county F.E, state-year time trends

**Main Results**

**Fig 2:** Short-run Impacts on County Healthcare Employment

**Fig 3:** Long-term Impacts of Childhood Exposure to AHEC on Health Status (e.g., obesity)

**Fig 4:** Long-term Impacts of Childhood Exposure to AHEC on Health Behaviors (e.g., smoking)

**Fig 5:** Long-term Impacts of Childhood Exposure to AHEC on Education (e.g. enrollment 16-27)

**Conclusions**

- Opening a local AHEC increases local healthcare workforce.
- People with childhood exposure to a local AHEC:
  - less likely to be overweight, especially obese, and have health limitations; more likely to feel healthy and not depressed
  - consume less alcohol and fewer cigarettes
  - achieve higher education degrees