
Education

August 2016	Ph.D., Economics , University of Florida
May 2013	M.A., Economics , University of Florida
May 2006	B.S., Economics & Political Science , Loyola Marymount University

Research Interests

Primary: Applied Microeconomics, Public Economics, Health Economics

Secondary: Applied Econometrics, International Economics

Research

Under Review

Race, Gender, and Opioid Treatment Admissions: The Effect of PDMPs on the Most Afflicted
with Alberto Ortega

Opioid abuse has been nationally recognized as an epidemic. To reduce the rapid increase in prescription opioid abuse, diversion, and mortality, state governments have enacted Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) to track all prescribing and dispensing data. Moreover, the opioid epidemic has disproportionately affected some demographic groups more than others (Case and Deaton, 2015); however, research on demographic differences resulting from targeted opioid-reduction policies are seldom examined. This paper uses a difference-in-differences approach to estimate the effect of PDMP implementation on admissions into drug treatment facilities for opioid abuse across race, gender, and ethnicity. We find that the implementation of PDMPs significantly decreased the probability of admission into substance abuse treatment facility for opioid abuse. This finding is not consistent across racial or ethnic lines, and is overwhelmingly driven by White individuals, particularly White women.

Flipping the Script: The Effect of PDMPs on Prescribing Behavior
with Alice Ellyson & Alberto Ortega

The debilitating effects of the opioid epidemic have been well documented and many public policies have been aimed at curbing the epidemic at a common point of initiation of opioid abuse, the prescription. We consider the effect of one of these policies, Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), on opioid prescribing trends for a given provider in various medical specialties. PDMPs enable healthcare providers to access a patients opioid use history in an effort to reduce the abuse and misuse of opioids. Specifically, we assess PDMP program characteristics and differential effects by provider specialty using the CMS Part D Public Use File, and a differences-in-differences approach. We find that providers in states implementing a PDMP with a mandatory query significantly reduce the rate at which they prescribe opioids compared to those without a mandatory query. We also find this effect varies across specialty type.

Working Papers

Substance Abuse in Vulnerable Populations: Implications of ACA *with Alberto Ortega*

Prior to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) substance abuse treatment was not included in all medical coverage. As of 2014 the ACA mandated that such treatment be included in the ten essential health benefits (EHBs). At this time ACA also rolled out the Medicaid expansion which 32 states have adopted. In this paper, we exploit the timing of the Medicaid Expansion in conjunction with ACAs EHBs, to estimate the impact on Americans access to drug treatment facilities and overdose related deaths. We find expanding Medicaid had a statistically significant effect on Medicaid admissions into substance abuse treatment facilities. While substance abuse is on the rise, states which have expanded Medicaid have begun to see an increase in the use of some of the benefits for substance abuse

Has TRIPS Caused Greater Inequitable Access to Pharmaceuticals?

The Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) details minimum standards for which an international patent system must adhere by. The paper uses the dates countries were required to enforce the WTO's TRIPS to help determine whether it limited a country's access to pharmaceutical drugs and in turn the public health of their nation.

TRIPS and Diseases of the Developing World

The World Health Organization estimates that over thirty percent of the less-developed world are unable to get adequate access to essential medicines. Has the actualization of TRIPS caused greater inequality in the gap between incidence rates of various specific diseases in developing and least developed countries?

Works in Progress

The Effect of State Party Affiliation on Substance Abuse: A Regression Discontinuity Approach
with Alberto Ortega

Has Expanding Medicaid Impacted Wait Times for Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities
with Alberto Ortega

Not Quite a Pill Mill: Effects of PDMPs on Over-prescribing Providers
with Alice Ellyson & Alberto Ortega

Switching the Script: Post PDMP Pain Prescribing Substitution Effects
with Alice Ellyson & Alberto Ortega

Has the Supply of Behavioral Health Treatment Kept Up With Demand? The Impact of the Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage and Opioid Epidemic on Treatment Facilities
with Alberto Ortega

Research Experience

August 2016 – Present	<i>Senior Fellow</i> , Comparative Health Outcomes Policy & Economics Institute (formerly PRORP), University of Washington
Fall 2011 – Spring 2012	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Professor Sarah Hamersma, University of Florida
Fall 2010 – Spring 2011	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Professor Mira Farka, California State University at Fullerton
April 2009 – June 2011	<i>Legal and Data Analyst</i> , Grass Valley
May 2006 – May 2008	<i>Development and Research Associate</i> , Veterans Park Conservancy
Fall 2005 – Fall 2006	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Dr. Linda Simril, Loyola Marymount University
Summer 2004, 2005	<i>Researcher</i> , National Council of Churches of Kenya, Eldoret, Kenya

Teaching Experience

Summer 2017	<i>Visiting Assistant Professor</i> , Microeconomics (pre-doctoral), AEASP Michigan State University
Spring 2017	<i>Co-Instructor</i> , Pharmaceutical Policy Methods (doctoral), University of Washington
Summer 2016	<i>Visiting Instructor</i> , Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Beijing Jiaotong University, China
Fall 2015 – Spring 2016	<i>Visiting Instructor</i> , Health Economics, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Pomona College
Fall 2014	<i>Instructor</i> , Economics of Sports, University of Florida
2012 – 2015	<i>Instructor</i> , Algebra Nation, Florida Department of Education

Guest Lectures and Teaching Assistantships

October 2017	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> , U.S. Air Force Academy
Winter 2017	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> , Health Economics (doctoral), University of Washington
Winter 2017	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> , Global Health Pharmacy (doctoral), University of Washington
Summer 2016	<i>Teaching Fellow to J. Wooldridge</i> , Econometrics (pre-doctoral), AEASP, Michigan State University
2012 – 2015	<i>Head Teaching Assistant</i> , Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, University of Florida

Paper Presentations and Invited Talks

Nov. 2017	Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Research Conference
October 2017	U.S. Air Force Academy Seminar Series, Colorado Springs, CO
July 2017	International Health Economics Association Conference
June 2014, 2015, 2017	Western Economic Association International Annual Conference
June 2017	Vancouver Health Economics Methodology Meeting, Vancouver, BC
May 2017	Program in Health Economics and Outcomes Methodology, UW
Jan. 2017	American Economic Association Annual Meeting
Nov. 2014, 2015, 2016	Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting
Nov. 2016	McKnight Florida Educational Fund Annual Conference
Feb. 2016	Seminar Series Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy, UW
Jan. 2016	The Impact of Poverty on Health, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Dec. 2015	Social Science Research Confab, Pomona College
Oct. 2015	Seminar Series Economics Department, Pomona College
Oct. 2015	Seminar Series Economics Department, Loyola Marymount University

Scholarships, Honors and Fellowships

Spring 2017 – Present	Diversity Initiative for Tenure in Economics, National Science Foundation
Summer 2016	AEA Summer Program Outstanding Teaching Fellow, MSU
Fall 2011 – Summer 2016	McKnight Doctoral Fellow
Fall 2013 – Summer 2016	AEA Mentoring Fellow, National Science Foundation
Summer 2011	Board of Education Fellow
2006	Wall Street Journal Award, Economics Departmental Graduating Award, LMU
2006	Arthur Ashe Sports Scholar, LMU
2002 – 2006	Full Athletic Scholarship, Women's Division I Basketball, LMU

Grants

Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and Prescribing Behavior Among the Elderly (**\$10,000**)

Co-Principle Investigator, *Elmer M. Plein Endowed Research Grant*, University of Washington, (under review)

Referee

The Journal of Human Resources, The Review of Black Political Economy

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, National Economic Association, Western Economic Association International, International Health Economics Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, American Society of Health Economics

Programs

STATA, SPSS, SAS, LaTeX, Microsoft Suite

References

Anirban Basu

Stergachis Family Endowed Professor and Director
Comparative Health Outcomes Policy & Economics Institute
(formerly Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy Program)
University of Washington
basua@uw.edu

Thomas D. Jeitschko

Professor of Economics
Dean of Graduate Studies and
Associate Provost for Graduate Education
Michigan State University
jeitschko@msu.edu

Jonathan Hamilton

Professor
Economics Department
University of Florida
hamilton@ufl.edu

Eleanor Brown

James Irvine Professor of Economics
Economics Department
Pomona College
ebrown@pomona.edu
