

# Grace (Hye-eun) Hwang

## Office Address

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## Citizenship and Visa Status

Dual citizenship: U.S. and Republic of Korea

## Education

Ph.D. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2019 (expected)  
Dissertation: "The Impact of Early Life Access to the Public Programs on Health Outcomes"  
Committee: David Blau (chair), Kurt Lavetti, Daeho Kim  
M.A. Economics, The Ohio State University, 2014  
B.A. Economics, Yonsei University, South Korea, 2012

## Teaching and Research Fields

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## Research Papers

"The Impact of Access to Prenatal Health Insurance on Child Health: Evidence from the Children's Health Insurance Program Unborn Child Option." (**Job Market Paper**)

There has been a lack of evidence on the causal impact of *in utero* public health insurance on child health beyond the neonatal period, mainly due to difficulties in disentangling the effect of *in utero* coverage from that of early childhood coverage. The implementation of the Unborn Child Option (UCO) as part of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides a unique opportunity to isolate the causal effects of prenatal coverage on child health beyond the neonatal period. This federal reform allowed pregnant noncitizens to obtain public health insurance for prenatal care. Prior to the reform, the majority of pregnant noncitizens were ineligible for public health insurance, but their children were eligible for insurance regardless of the reform because they were U.S. citizens upon birth. Using state-level variation in whether and when the UCO was adopted, I find that female noncitizens of childbearing age experienced an increase in public health insurance coverage, number of doctor's office visits, and a reduction in the incidence of feeling depressed, providing suggestive evidence on a possible mechanism. For child health and development outcomes, the reform caused improvement in parent-reported health status and cognitive ability among children at ages four to six.

"The Effects of Public Health Intervention in Prenatal Period on Health Outcomes in Early Childhood: Evidence from the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) of 2009"

This paper studies the effects of public health insurance *in utero* on children's health outcomes. The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA) new option eliminated the five-year waiting period for Medicaid and CHIP eligibility that had been imposed on pregnant noncitizens since the 1996 welfare reform. This provides a useful research setting to isolate the effects of *in utero* coverage from early childhood coverage because US-born children of noncitizens were already eligible for public health insurance before the CHIPRA. Thus, the policy change only affected the coverage *in utero*. The results show that CHIPRA new option caused an improvement in children's health. Children who were eligible in utero have a 13% better parent-reported health status compared

to those who were not. Additional analysis shows that this improvement was due to the take-up of CHIPRA new option.

### **Research in Progress**

"Long-run Impacts of Early Life Nutrition Program: Evidence from the introduction of the WIC program " (*With Kichan Kim*)

This paper measures how an early life nutrition program affects individual's long-run health outcomes in adulthood, using the introduction of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. Compared to other food supplement programs, which can be used to purchase almost any food item, the WIC program provides pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children with a select list of essential food items. Thus, the WIC program allows researchers to clearly distinguish the treatment of giving vital nutrition to pregnant women and young children from other determinants such as income transfers. To study the impact of the WIC program, I use county-level variation in WIC agency openings and construct the state-by-year share of female (ages 15–44) and child (ages 0–4) populations living in counties where WIC was available each year from 1974 to 1979. My key finding is a decrease in the incidence of asthma and obesity for cohorts at ages 18–43 who were exposed to WIC program during *in utero* and early childhood. This finding suggests that a public program which prompts people to consume healthy food during pregnancy and early childhood generates long-lasting benefits.

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

2018	JMCB Research Travel Grant, The Ohio State University
2018	Graduate Associate Teaching Award, The Ohio State University
2017	JMCB Research Travel Grant, The Ohio State University
2012	Brain Korea 21 Scholarship, National Research Foundation of Korea
2011	Excellence Award at TESAT, Korea Economic Daily
2008 & 2011	Yonsei Honors Student, Yonsei University

### **Conference & Seminar Presentation**

2017	The 2017 H2D2 Research Conference, Ann Arbor, MI The Midwest Economics Association 2017 Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH The Micro Lunch Seminar, Economics Department, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH RSAI 10th Annual Midwest Graduate Student Summit on Applied Economics and Regional Science (AERS), Columbus, OH The 22nd Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting 2017 (SOLE Conference 2017), Raleigh, NC The 3rd Workshop on Applied Health Economics and Policy Evaluation, Paris, France
2018	The Midwest Economics Association 2018 Annual Meeting, Evanston, IL The 7th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Economics and Public Health, Atlanta, GA The 2018 North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Davis, CA The 2018 Micro Lunch Seminar, Economics Department, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (Scheduled)

## Teaching Experience

### Independent Teaching:

AU 2017 & SP 2018      Intermediate Microeconomics  
& SU 2018 & AU 2018

### Teaching Assistant:

AU 2015 & AU 2016      Principles of Microeconomics, Ida Mirzaie  
& SP 2017  
SP 2016      Labor Economics, Daeho Kim  
SP 2015      Health Economics, Kurt Lavetti  
AU 2014      Principles of Microeconomics, Hajime Miyazaki

## Skills & Languages

### Package Skills:

Stata, SAS, Matlab, Microsoft Office, LaTeX

### Languages:

Bilingual -English, Korean

## References

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