

Grace (Hye-eun) Hwang

Office Address

Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
1945 N High St., 410 Arps Hall
Columbus, OH 43210

<https://sites.google.com/view/gracehwang>
hwang.377@osu.edu
(614) 397-3505

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 Coverage on Child Health: Evidence from the Children's Health Insurance Program Unborn Child Option." **(Job Market Paper)**

As the prenatal environment experienced by a fetus is critical to healthy development, several important public policies have aimed at enhancing the fetal environment to promote child health. However, the impact of in utero public health insurance on child health has been difficult to disentangle from the effects of public health insurance for children after birth. The implementation of the Unborn Child Option in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provides a unique opportunity to isolate the causal effects of prenatal coverage on child health. This reform allowed pregnant noncitizens to obtain public health insurance for prenatal care. Prior to the reform, these pregnant women would have been ineligible for prenatal insurance, but their children are eligible for public health insurance regardless of the reform, because they are US citizens upon birth. Using state-level variation in whether and when the Unborn Child Option was adopted, I find that female noncitizens in treatment states experienced an increase in public health insurance coverage and a substantial increase in the number of doctor's office visits. The additional visits are likely to be for prenatal care since the Unborn Child Option only covers pregnancy-related care. The reform caused an increase in the parent-reported health status of children by 0.180 on a five-point scale at ages 4–6 and a reduction in cognitive difficulties by 1.2 percentage points at ages 5–6.

"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" *Under Review*

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 unique opportunity 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, the WIC program provides pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children with a selected 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. I use county-level variation in WIC agency openings, and construct the state-by-year share of female (aged 15–44) and child (aged 0–4) population who live in counties where WIC is available in each year from 1974 to 1979 to study the impact of WIC program. 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

Professor David Blau
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
Phone: (614) 292-2009
Email: blau.12@osu.edu

Professor Kurt Lavetti
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
Phone: (614) 292-1148
Email: lavetti.1@osu.edu

Professor Daeho Kim
Department of Health Services,
Policy and Practice
Brown University
Phone: (401) 863-3375
Email: daeho_kim@brown.edu