

Revathy Suryanarayana

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Education

Ph.D., Public Policy 2018 - 2024 (expected)

Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell University

Dissertation Committee: Seth Sanders, Michael Lovenheim, Nicolas Bottan

M.Sc., Economics 2014 - 2016

University of Warwick

B.A., Economics 2011 - 2014

Lady Sri Ram College, Delhi University

Research Interests

Health Economics, Health Policy Analysis, Labor Economics, Economics of Crime

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- (1) Suryanarayana, R., Chaudhuri, K., Nilayamgode, M., & Jha, N. (2023). "Alcohol Ban and Crime: The ABC's of the Bihar Prohibition". *Forthcoming at the Economic Development and Cultural Change*. [\[Link to paper\]](#)

Working Papers

- (1) Opioid Supply, Trade Liberalization Shocks, and Infant Health. *Job market paper*
This paper examines the interaction of factors affecting opioid supply and opioid demand and their impact on neonatal health outcomes. I exploit variation in the triplicate status of states in 1996 and a county-level trade liberalization shock as natural variations for opioid supply and demand, respectively. The results indicate that the counties that experienced high opioid demand and supply had an increase in the incidence of preterm births and births with low birth weight. Specifically, relative to the baseline mean, the preterm birth rate increased by 3.8%, and the rate of births with low birth weight increased by 5% in those counties experiencing high opioid supply and increased economic distress. I also find that trade liberalization shocks independently led to a significant decrease in the incidence of preterm births and births with low birth weight suggesting that there might be positive maternal selection into fertility. In contrast, the triplicate status of states, by itself, does not significantly explain infant health outcomes. My findings indicate that the triplicate laws had a protective effect on infant health in counties experiencing higher economic distress and therefore, higher opioid demand.
- (2) Long-run Impact of Federal Income Support on Criminal Involvement and Risky Health Behavior of Adults.
There is now a good deal of evidence that conditional and unconditional cash transfers benefit individuals and families in a number of ways. But, could cash transfers to families pay for themselves over time by lowering crime and the ensuing high public costs of incarceration of the next generation? I study this question within the context of the Earned Income Tax credit, an anti-poverty tax credit program in the US that resulted in a substantial transfer of income to low- and moderate-income working families. I use a reduced-form instrumental variable strategy that exploits tax credit variations arising out of federal and state EITC policies to study the impact of total EITC exposure during childhood on adult outcomes. I find that a \$1000 increase in total instrumented EITC between the ages of 0 and 18 leads to a 1.2 percent decrease in the probability of engaging in criminal behaviors during adulthood. I also observe substantial reductions in an individual's propensity to engage in other risky health behaviors. Further, I find evidence that not only are individuals less likely to commit crimes but

more likely to engage in productive work activities during adulthood and experience better neighborhood attributes when they were growing up.

- (3) Comprehensive PDMP Mandates, Naloxone Access Laws, and Home Removals, with Sarah Beth Barnett, Mary Blain Grist, and Yuhua Bao. *Preparing for submission to JAMA Pediatrics.*

Work in Progress

- (1) Out-of-Pocket Costs and Initiation of HCV Treatment among Medicare Beneficiaries, with Hao Zhang, Shashi Kapadia, and Yuhua Bao.
- (2) Opioid policies and Adverse Childhood Experiences: A Systematic Review, with Sarah Beth Barnett, Mary Blain Grist, and Yuhua Bao.
- (3) Recreational Marijuana Laws and Intimate Partner Violence, with Alberto Chong and Michele Baggio
- (4) Gender Differences in Tertiary Healthcare Utilization: Evidence from India, with Tarun Jain and Natasha Jha.
- (5) Like Mother, Like Daughter? The Impact of Mother's Work Experience on Daughter's Educational and Employment Aspirations: Evidence from WWII, with Natasha Jha, Giulia Olivero, and Meredith Welch

Research on Tobacco Harm Reduction

- (1) Fear or Knowledge? The Impact of Graphic Cigarette Warnings on Tobacco Product Choices, with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, Grace Phillips, Hua Wang, and Sen Zen. *Under Review at the Journal of Law and Economics*
- (2) Understanding the Demand-Side of an Illegal Market: Prohibition of Menthol Cigarettes, with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, Grace Phillips, Hua Wang, and Sen Zen.
- (3) COVID and Smoking: Evidence from India, with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, and Hua Wang.
- (4) Just What the Doctor Ordered? The Benefits and Costs of E-Cigarette Regulation in Australia, with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, Grace Phillips, Hua Wang, and Sen Zen.
- (5) Cigarette and Heated Tobacco Product Use in Japan: The Role of Flavored Products, with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, Grace Phillips, Hua Wang, and Sen Zen.

Research Grants

Principal Investigator,

The Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions of

Substance Use Disorder, HCV, and HIV (CHERISH) Pilot Grant, NIDA (P30DA040500)

2022

Project title: *Out-of-Pocket Costs and Initiation of HCV Treatment among Medicare Beneficiaries*

Collaborators: Hao Zhang, Shashi Kapadia, and Yuhua Bao

Fellowships and Awards

Brooks School PhD Student Award for Outstanding Research Paper, Cornell University

2023

Sage Fellowship

2018

Indian School of Business Best TA Award

2018

Warwick India Fellowship

2014

Policy Writing

[Fear or knowledge: The impact of graphic cigarette warnings on tobacco product choices](#) with Donald Kenkel, Alan Mathios, Grace Phillips, Hua Wang, and Sen Zeng. VoxEu Column, September 2023.

[The Aarogyasri Health Insurance Program](#) with Tarun Jain and Sisir Debnath. India Public Finance and Policy Report: Health Matters. Oxford University Press, 2019.

[Designing India's national healthcare protection: Challenges and opportunities](#) with Sisir Debnath, Tarun Jain, and Dibya Mishra. Ideas for India, August 27, 2018.

[Common Tongue? How Mother Tongue Instruction Influences Education](#) with Tarun Jain. Ideas for India, February 27, 2017.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant - Behavioral Economics and Public Policy 2023
Prof. Brandon Tripp, Cornell University

Teaching Assistant - Race and American Labor Market in Historical Perspective 2020, 2021
Prof. Seth Sanders, Cornell University

Teaching Assistant - Information Economics 2018
Prof. Tarun Jain, Indian School of Business

Teaching Assistant - Managerial Economics 2016, 2017
Prof. Tarun Jain, Indian School of Business

External Conference Presentations

2023: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (upcoming), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Conference (upcoming), American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting

2022: American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting

2021: Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics, Southern Economic Association Meeting

2020: Population Association of America Annual Meeting

2019: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Conference

Professional Service

Journal Referee

Economic Modelling, Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Human Resources, Plos One, Contemporary South Asia

Department and University Service (Cornell University)

Mentor, Policy Analysis and Management Mentorship Program 2022
Graduate Students in Policy Analysis and Management, Seminar Coordinator 2019, 2020

Technical Skills

Languages/Software: STATA, R, Python

Tools: Panel Data Econometrics, Causal Inference, Applied Statistics, Machine Learning

References

Seth Sanders (Dissertation Chair)
Ronald G. Ehrenberg Professor of Economics
Department of Economics
Cornell University
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Donald Kenkel
Andrew Dickson White Professor
Brooks School of Public Policy and Department of Economics
Cornell University
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Nicolas Bottan
Brooks School of Public Policy
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Email: nlb75@cornell.edu

Michael F. Lovenheim
Donald C. Opatrny '74 Chair
Department of Economics
Cornell University
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Alan Mathios
Brooks School of Public Policy and Department of Economics
Cornell University
Email: adm5@cornell.edu

Yuhua Bao
Population Health Sciences
Weill Cornell Medicine
Email: yub2003@med.cornell.edu