

SARAH KOTB

Curriculum Vitae

PhD Candidate in Health Policy (Economics Track)

sarahkotb@g.harvard.edu | 802-349-2988



Placement Director: Nicole Maestas; maestas@hcp.med.harvard.edu

Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Health Policy, Economics Track, 2019-2025.

Stanford University

IvyPlus Visiting Student, Department of Health Policy, 2022-2025.

Middlebury College

Bachelor of Arts, Economics major, Math minor, *summa cum laude*, 2016.

References

-- Tim Layton (Chair)

Batten School at the
University of Virginia

timothyjlayton@virginia.edu

-- Anna Sinaiko (Co-Chair)

Harvard Chan School of
Public Health

Asinaiko@hsph.harvard.edu

-- Marcella Alsan*

Harvard Kennedy School

Marcella_alsan@hks.harvard.edu

* For letter requests to Dr. Alsan: please contact Allison Baroni (allison_baroni@hks.harvard.edu) and Jeongmook Lim (jlim@hks.harvard.edu)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Retirement and Disability Policy Research (\$26,352). 2023-2024.
- Horowitz Foundation Grant Trustees Special Award (\$10,000). 2022.
- The Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Merit Fellowship (\$16,925). 2022.
- COVID-19 Database Research Accelerator Grant, with Jessica Cohen (\$65,249). 2021-2022.
- Alison Fraker Writing Award Honorary Mention. 2016.
- Shelby Davis Undergraduate Four-Year Scholarship. 2012-2016.

Teaching

- *Economics of Health Policy* at the Harvard School of Public Health. Instructor: Anna Sinaiko. Summers 2020 and 2021.
- *Econometric Methods for Applied Research II* at the Harvard Kennedy School. Instructor: Tim Layton. Spring 2022.

Job Market Paper

Separated at Birth: The Fragmentation of Health Insurance and Underinvestment in Preventative Care

Abstract: Health insurance in the United States is fragmented. Americans, and especially low-income groups, receive their insurance coverage through numerous plans throughout their lives and even at one point in time, their coverage benefits can be outsourced to different insurers. This study presents empirical, causal evidence showing that such fragmentation reduces the incentives for any one plan to invest in preventative health. Specifically, I study a policy in New York's Medicaid that carved out very low birthweight newborns from the responsibilities of private plans and placed them under the public state insurance program. Once the carve-out ended in 2012 and private plans became liable for the costs of very low birthweight newborns, pregnant enrollees covered by these plans experienced more preventative care that is specifically targeted towards monitoring and reducing the risk of preterm and low birthweight newborns. These increases were above and beyond secular changes in care experienced by pregnant enrollees in the public program. Moreover, the largest gains appear among African American enrollees and enrollees with a high risk of delivering a preterm and a low birthweight newborn, suggesting that the fragmented regime had not just under-allocated prevention but also misallocated it.

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Papers Under Review	“Supplementary Insurance in Medicare: A Ten-Year Update on Take-Up of the Medicare Savings Program.” With Amanda Su and Anna D. Sinaiko. Under review at <i>Health Affairs</i> . November 2024.
Papers in Progress	“Social Risk Adjustment: Evidence from Medicare.” With Tim Layton and Mark Shephard. “Pay-As-You-Go Healthcare: The Effects of Ungated Healthcare on Formal Insurance Markets.” With Amanda Su.
Publications	Taylor Cranor, Jacob Goldin, Sarah Kotb . 2019. “Does Informing Employees about Tax Benefits Increase Take-Up? Evidence From EITC Notification Laws.” <i>National Tax Journal</i> 72(2): 397-434. Hao Xue, Yaojiang Shi, Lei Huang, Hongmei Yi, Huan Zhou, Chengchao Zhou, Sarah Kotb , Joseph D Tucker, Sean Y Sylvia. 2018. “Diagnostic Ability and Inappropriate Antibiotic Prescriptions: A Quasi-Experimental Study of Primary Care Providers in Rural China.” <i>Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy</i> . 74(1): 256-263.
Invited Class Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PM 431-1 <i>Advanced Methods in Health Services Research</i> at the School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Rochester, October 2024• HRP 200 <i>Health Policy PhD Seminar</i> at the Department of Health Policy, Stanford University, September 2024
Conference Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southern Economic Association Conference, November 2024.• APPAM, November 2024.• Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Conference, November 2024.• American Society of Health Economists Conference, June 2024.• Warwick Economics PhD Conference, May 2024.• Essen Health Economics Conference, May 2024.• All-CA Labor Economics Conference, UC Santa Barbara (Poster). September 2023.• Western Economic Association Conference, July 2023.• American Society of Health Economists Conference, June 2023.
Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organized the Health Economics Seminar Series at Harvard Medical School Department of Healthcare Policy, 2021-2022.• Student member of the Faculty and Student Mental Health Working Group, Summer 2021.• Contributed to designing the Health Policy Student Mental Health Survey, Fall 2020.
Prior Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvard Medical School, Department of Health Care Policy. Research Assistant, Supervisor: Tim Layton. Summer 2020 – Summer 2022.• Stanford Law School, Empirical Research Fellow, Supervisor: Jacob Goldin. April 2018 – July 2019.• Rural Education Action Program, Research Assistant. July 2016 – March 2018.• Middlebury College Economics Department, Research Assistant. February 2015 – May 2016.• World Bank Poverty Unit. Summer Intern. June – August 2015.
Languages	English (fluent); Arabic (native); Spanish (limited working proficiency).
Software skills	Stata (proficient); R (limited).
Personal	Citizenship: Egypt