

JOSEPH BATTLES

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Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D. Economics 2020–2026 (*expected*)
Yale University, B.A. Economics (with Distinction) and Statistics & Data Science 2014–2018

References

Professor Manasi Deshpande (Chair)
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Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Public Economics, Health Economics

Job Market Paper

Do Pharmacies Matter?

Abstract: Despite potential health benefits of prescription drugs, many patients do not take them as prescribed. While prior work has emphasized the role of prices and insurers in patients' drug consumption decisions, this paper provides novel evidence on a non-price driver of drug consumption: pharmacies. Using a staggered event study design, I find that pharmacy closures cause Medicare patients' drug use to decline in the short-run—especially among low-income patients—but increase in the long run. To explain the long-run increase in drug consumption following a pharmacy closure, I model three potential mechanisms driving the reduced-form effect: temporary disruption/switching frictions, permanent changes in patient costs (e.g., copays or travel distance), and permanent shifts to higher- or lower-dispensing pharmacies. To quantify the relative impacts of these mechanisms, I estimate a two-way-fixed-effects model in the style of Abowd, Kramarz, and Margolis (1999) of pharmacies' effects on low-income patients' drug use. Combining the pharmacy effects from the AKM model with my reduced-form closure analyses, I find that the long-run increase in drug consumption following

a pharmacy closure is explained by patients switching from lower-dispensing pharmacies (which are disproportionately likely to close) to higher-dispensing pharmacies. More generally, the variation in pharmacy fixed effects is about half that of prescriber fixed effects, indicating that pharmacies matter for drug consumption.

Work in Progress

The Incidence of “MediScam”: Impacts of Medicaid Provider Taxes (with Michelle Zheng)

Patient Medication Use After the Patent Cliff: Who Responds and Why?

Do Small Copays Matter?

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

University of Chicago Frank H. Knight and ImMasche Fellowship	2025 - present
AHRQ T32 UCANU Health Services Research Fellowship, National Institutes of Health	2023 - 2025
University of Chicago Social Science Division Fellowship	2020-2025
Becker Friedman Public Economics Grant	2024
Becker Friedman Institute Data Acquisition Grant	2023

Teaching Experience

Elem. of Econ. Analysis II: Hon. (undergrad)	TA for Prof. Fang	Winter 2024
Elem. of Econ. Analysis I (undergrad)	TA for Prof. Pieters	Fall 2023
Causal Inference (masters)	TA for Prof. Tartari	Fall 2023
Empirical Topics in Social Insurance (Ph.D.)	TA for Prof. Deshpande	Spring 2023
Ineq. and the Social Safety Net (Undergrad)	TA for Prof. Deshpande	Spring 2023
Price Theory I (Ph.D.)	TA for Profs. Murphy & Mulligan	Fall 2022

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Professional for Profs. Zwick and Zidar, UChicago Booth	2018–2020
Research Assistant for Prof. Esty, Writer on Environmental Performance Index, Yale	2017–2018

Professional Experience

Co-Organizer Public/Labor Lunch, UChicago	2024–2025
Co-Organizer Student Applied Microeconomics Lunch, UChicago	2023–2024
Co-Organizer Environmental and Energy Economics Workshop, UChicago	2022–2023
Peer Mentor / Graduate Student Liaison, UChicago	2022–2023, 2024–2025

Refereeing Activity *Journal of Public Economics*

Additional Information

Citizenship United States

Programming Skills R, Stata, Python, SAS, Make, Bash, L^AT_EX