
Mallory Dreyer
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EDUCATION

Indiana University Bloomington, O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Ph.D. Public Affairs Expected May 2026
Policy Analysis (major) and Public Finance (minor)

University of Notre Dame
B.B.A. in Economics and Accountancy May 2017

RESEARCH FIELDS

Health Economics and Health Policy; Public Finance

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Indiana University, O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
Research Assistant for Kosali Simon Aug 2021–Present
Research Assistant for Coady Wing Aug 2021–Jul 2023
Research Assistant for Alex Hollingsworth Aug 2021–Jul 2023

Yale Program on Financial Stability, Yale University Aug 2019–Jul 2021
Research Associate, New Bagehot Project
Research Assistant to Andrew Metrick and Daniel Tarullo

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:
V379 Program Evaluation and Public Management Fall 2023

Graduate Teaching Assistant:
V706 and V707 PhD Econometrics Fall 2023–Present

Lab Manager:
V506 Statistical Analysis for Effective Decision Making Fall 2022, Spring 2023

JOB MARKET PAPER

The Impact of Fiscal Policies to Promote Healthy Diets on Birth Outcomes: Evidence from the Navajo Nation (with Cawley J. & Simon K.)

Abstract: In light of widespread increases in diet-related chronic disease, numerous intergovernmental and public health organizations have advocated for fiscal policies to improve diets. One of the most comprehensive such policies in the world was adopted by the Navajo Nation, which has a high prevalence of food insecurity and gestational diabetes. Their Healthy Diné Nation Act (HDNA) of 2014-15 consists of two parts: 1) an exemption from sales tax for healthy foods

and beverages; and 2) a tax increase on unhealthy foods and beverages. This study estimates the impact of the HDNA on birth outcomes. We examine CDC birth certificate data for the U.S. for 2010-2018; i.e. for more than 4 years before to 3 years after the HDNA. We estimate difference-in-difference models and event studies that estimate the effect of the HDNA on a variety of outcomes concerning the health of newborns (e.g. birth weight, premature births) and mothers (e.g. pre-pregnancy weight, weight gain during pregnancy, and gestational diabetes). The treatment group consists of mothers whose self-reported race is American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) and who live in the counties of the Navajo Nation. The comparison group consists of mothers whose self-reported race is also AIAN but who live in a county with a reservation or tribal land but outside the three states that include the Navajo Nation (AZ, NM, UT). We hypothesize that the HDNA, given that it was designed to promote healthy diets, improved health outcomes for newborns and mothers. In general, however, the HDNA had no detectable impacts on these outcomes. The comprehensive nature of the HDNA, as well as the prevalence of diet-related chronic disease and maternal and infant health conditions among the Navajo Nation population, make this an important contribution to the evidence base.

PUBLICATIONS

Dreyer, M., McGuire, C., Silva, J., Simon, K., Wing, C., & Ziedan, E. Racial Disparities in Infant Drug Testing: A Research Note. *Accepted at Demography*.

Wing, C., & **Dreyer, M.** (2024). Making sense of the difference-in-difference design. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2024.4135>

Dreyer, M., Shukla, A., Sabadee, J., et al. (2023). Opioid prescriptions prior to emergency department dental visits: A comparison of dental HPSAs and non-HPSAs using EHR data. *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*, 60. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00469580231218440>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Dreyer, M. Family Spillovers of Serious Pediatric Illness: Evidence from Linked Claims Data.

Choi, J., **Dreyer, M.**, Shone, H., Siegal, N., Simon, K. & Wing, C. Contraception Responses to Abortion Bans.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025: 14th Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior, ASHEcon Annual Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference

2024: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference, ASHEcon Annual Conference (Discussant)

2023: ASHEcon Annual Conference

GRANT EXPERIENCE

Co-Investigator (applied September 2025), NBER Coordinating Center on the Economics of Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) READ Award (not funded)
Letter of Intent submitted, Arnold Ventures (not funded)
Contributed to NIH R01 proposal on postpartum Medicaid continuous coverage (initial submission not funded; resubmitted)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Capgemini Consulting, Chicago Aug 2017-Jul 2019
Consultant in the Operations Management practice

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

O'Neill School Merit Fellowship 2025
Irsay Fellowship, Indiana University 2023
Best Research Paper, O'Neill PhD Student Conference 2023

SERVICE

O'Neill School Fischer Fellowship Review Committee Spring 2025
APPAM Annual Conference Abstract Reviewer Spring 2025
Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor 2022–Present
IU Supercomputing Resources Workshops Spring 2025
IU Research Data Commons: EHR Data Fall 2023
Health Policy Workshop Coordinator 2022-2023

REFERENCES

Kosali Simon (Chair)
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Indiana University Bloomington
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John Cawley
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Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University
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