

Benjamin David Ukert

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Academic Appointments

2019 - present, Assistant Professor, Health Policy & Management, Texas A&M University

2016 - 2018, Postdoctoral Fellow, Wharton School of Business and Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Affiliations and Appointments

2019 - present, Member, Population Informatics Lab, Texas A&M University

2018 - present, Senior Researcher/Consultant, Health Economics Groups, Healthcore Inc.

2018 - present, Research Affiliate, The Center for Health Economics of Treatment Interventions for Substance Use Disorders, HCV, and HIV (CHERISH)

2016 - 2019, Associate Fellow, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, University of Pennsylvania

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Georgia State University, 2016

M.A. Economics, Georgia State University, 2013

B.B.A. Economics & Finance, University of North Florida, 2009

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A. and Zapata, D., 2017. "Early Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Health Insurance Coverage" NBER Working Paper No. 22182, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 36(1), 178-210.
2. Ukert, B., 2017. "The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Smoking Cessation on Alcohol Consumption" *International Journal of Health Economics and Management*, 17(4), 495-519.
3. MacDonald, J., Nicosia, N. and Ukert, B., 2017. "Do Schools Cause Crime in Neighborhoods? Quasi-experimental Evidence from the Growth of Charter Schools in Philadelphia" *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 34, 717-740.
4. Courtemanche, C., Tchernis, R. and Ukert, B., 2017. "The Effect of Smoking on Obesity: Evidence from a Randomized Trial" NBER Working Paper No. 21937, *Journal of Health Economics*, 57, 31-44.
5. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A. and Zapata, D., 2018. "Early Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Health Care Access, Risky Health Behaviors, and Self-Assessed Health" NBER Working Paper No. 23269, *Southern Economic Journal*, 84, 660-691.
6. Ukert, B., Andreyeva, E. and Branas, C., 2018. "Time-Series Robustness Checks to Test the Effects of the 1996 Australian Firearm Law on Cause-Specific Mortality" *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, 14, 141-154.

7. Morrison, C., Ukert, B., Palumbo, A., Dong, B., Jacoby, S. and Wiebe, D., 2018. "Assaults on Days of Campaign Rallies During the 2016 US Presidential Election" *Epidemiology*, 29, pp. 490-493.
8. Andreyeva, E., and Ukert, B., 2018. "The Impact of the Minimum Wage on Health" *International Journal of Health Economics and Management* 18 (4), 337-375.
9. Kennedy, G., Ukert, B., Predina, J., Newton, A., Kucharczuk, J., Polsky, D., and Singhal, S., 2018. "Implications of Hospital Volume on Costs Following Esophagectomy in the United States." *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, 22 (11), 1845-1851.
10. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A., and Zapata, D., 2018. "Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Self-Assessed Health after Three Years" *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing* 55,1-10.
11. Ukert, B., Humpheys, D., and Wiebe, D., 2018. "Regional Differences in the Impact of the Stand Your Ground Law in Florida" *Preventive Medicine* 115, 68-75.
12. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A., Zapata, D., and Fazul, I., 2019. "The Three Year Impact of the ACA on Disparities in Insurance Coverage" *Health Services Research* 54, 307-316.
13. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A. and Zapata, D., 2019. "Effects of the Affordable Care Act on Health Behaviors after Three Years" *Eastern Economic Journal*, 45 (1), 7-33.
14. David, G., Smith-McLallen, A., and Ukert, B., 2019. "The Effect of Predictive Analytics-Driven Interventions on Healthcare Utilization" *Journal of Health Economics* 64, 68-79, Best Paper Award at the Conference for Health IT and Analytics 2018.
15. Steinberg, M., Ukert, B., and MacDonald, J., 2019. "Schools as Places of Crime? Evidence from Closing Chronically Underperforming Schools" *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 77, 125-140., Ranked top 5 paper in Education in 2019 by Fordham Institute.
16. Andreyeva, E., and Ukert, B., 2019. "The Impact of Medical Marijuana Laws and Dispensaries on Self-Reported Health" *Forum for Health Economics & Policy*. 22 (2).
17. Pani, E., Kennedy, G., Zheng, X., Ukert, B., Jarrar, D., Gaughan, C., Pechet, T., Kucharczuk, J., Polsky, D., and Singhal, S., 2020. "Factors Associated with Nodal Metastasis in 2-centimeter or less non small Cell Lung Cancer" *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* 159 (3), 1088-1096.
18. David, G., Ukert, B., and Smith-McLallen, A., Chawla, R., 2020. "Analytics Driven Payer Outreach Intervention Reduces Hospital and Emergency Room Utilization" *Health Economics* 29 (6), 671-682.
19. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A. and Zapata, D., 2020. "The impact of the Affordable Care Act on Health Care Access and Self-Assessed Health in the Trump Era (2017-2018)" *Health Services Research* 55, 841-850.
20. Ukert, B., Huang, Y., Sennett, B. and Delgado, K., 2020. "State Level Variation in Opioid Prescribing after Knee Arthroscopy among the Opioid-Naive in the United States: 2015-2019" *BMJ Open* 10 (8), e035126.
21. Saynish, P., David, G., Ukert, B., and Agiro, A., 2021. "Model Homes: Evaluating Approaches to Patient-Centered Medical Home Implementation" *Medical Care*, 59 (3), 206.
22. Giannouchos, T. Ukert, B., Vozikis, A., Steletou, E., and Souliotis, K., 2021. "Informal Out-of-Pocket Payments Experience and Opinions towards their Legalization: Do They Influence Individuals Willingness-to-Pay for Healthcare Services in Greece?" *Health Policy*, 125 (6), 693-700.
23. Kasim, M., and Ukert, B., 2020. "The Impact of WIC Participation on Tobacco Use and Alcohol Consumption" *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 39 (3), 608-625.
24. Giannouchos, T., Biskupiak, J., Moss, M., Brixner, D., Andreyeva, E., and Ukert, B. 2021. "Trends in Outpatient Emergency Department Visits during the COVID-19 pandemic at a Large, Urban, Academic Hospital" *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 40, 20-26.

25. Courtemanche, C., Fazul, I., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A., and Zapata, D. 2021. "The Affordable Care Acts Coverage Impacts in the Trump Era" *INQUIRY: The Journal of Health Care Organization, Provision, and Financing*
26. Ukert, B., Pickett, S. Oza, M., DeVries, A. and Sylwestrzak, G. 2021. "The Association between Salary and Healthcare Utilization and Spending in High Deductible Health Plans" *Forthcoming American Journal of Managed Care*
27. Giannouchos, T., Brooks, J. Andreyeva, E., and Ukert, B., "Frequency and Factors Associated with Foregone and Delayed Medical Care due to COVID-19 Among Non-Elderly US Adults from August to December 2020" *Forthcoming Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*

Working Papers

1. Ukert, B., and Polsky, D., "How do "Must Access" Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs Address Opioid Misuse?" (under review)
2. Ukert, B., Fang, H., Frean, M., and Sylwestrzak, G., "Have We Met Before? Many Members Return to an Insurer Within Years of Departure" (under review)
3. Courtemanche, C., Fazul, I., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A., and Zapata, D., " The Impact of the ACA on Insurance Coverage Disparities After Four Years" *NBER Working Paper No. 26157*.
4. Ukert, B., Marton, J., Hoodin, D., "The Impact of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Individuals with and without Chronic Conditions" (R&R Southern Economic Journal)
5. Courtemanche, C., Marton, J., Ukert, B., Yelowitz, A. and Ozluk, P., "Impacts of the Affordable Care Act on Health Care Utilization"
6. Ukert, B., Kondo, M., and MacDonald, J., "The Impact of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit on Crime"
7. Ukert, B., David, G., and Smith-McLallen, A., "Using Predictive Analytics to Lower Healthcare Utilization and Cost" (under review)
8. Giannouchos, Andrews, C., and Ukert, B., "The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Emergency Department Visits by Medical Urgency" (under review)
9. Ukert, B., and Giannouchos, T., "The ACA's Impact on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Emergency Department Utilization" (under review)
10. Ukert, B., Kum, H., and Lawley, M., "Growth and Disparities in Mental Health, Telemedicine, and Telemedicine Mental Health Usage between 2013 and 2018 among Disabled Medicaid Clients in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Texas Counties" (under review)
11. Andreyeva, E., and Ukert, B., "Do Firearm Regulations Work? Evidence from the Australian National Firearms Agreement"
12. Ukert, B., "Misreporting Smoking Status and Consequences for Self-Reported Survey Data"

Work in Progress

13. Ukert, B., Fang, H., Frean, M., and Sylwestrzak, G., "Understanding Plan Selection and Turnover in Private Insurance After State Policy Changes"
14. Ukert, B., Andreyeva, E., and Sylwestrzak, G., "Do Employer Health Savings Account Contributions Affect Healthcare Utilization?"
15. Ukert, B., David, G., Laine, L., and Sylwestrzak, G., "Physician-Patient Attribution, Incentives and Consequences on Patient Care"
16. Andreyeva, E., Gupta, A., Ishitani, C., and Ukert, B. "The Corporatization of Hospital Care"

17. Pickett, S., and Ukert, B., "Changes in Health? Evidence from the Great Recession"
18. Ukert, B., "New Evidence on the Impact of Smoking on BMI"
19. Andreyeva, E., Civelek, Y., Ukert, B., "Implications of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on the Medical Risk Profile in the Medicaid Population and the Individual Market"

Book Chapters

Courtemanche, Charles, Ishtiaque Fazlul, James Marton, Benjamin Ukert, Aaron Yelowitz, and Daniela Zapata. 2020. The Impact of the ACA on Insurance Coverage Disparities after Four Years Ch. 3 in Current Issues in Medicaid: Enrollment, Eligibility, and Politics, ed. Daniel Lanford. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Grants

Texas A&M Presidents Excellence Fund, "Understanding the Impact of Expansion of Health Insurance Coverage in Texas on Financial Well-Being of Patients and Hospitals", Principal Investigator, \$324,769, 9/2021-08/2023

Texas A&M Presidents Excellence Fund, "Understanding care seeking behavior before and after the ACA", Principal Investigator, \$30,000, 9/2021-08/2022

2020 Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise Faculty Research Grant, "The Effect of the Affordable Care Act on Racial Disparities in Emergency Department Use", Principal Investigator, \$6,400 8/2020-8/2021.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission, "Texas Telehealth Medicaid Demonstration", Co-Principle Investigator (PI Kum), \$321,200, 3/2020-3/2021.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission, "Evaluation of the 1115 Medicaid Waiver Demonstration Renewal in Texas DY6-DY11", Co-Investigator (PI Kum), \$5,362,881 9/2019-8/2024.

AHRQ - R03 via National Bureau of Economic Research, "Impacts of the Affordable Care Act on Health Care Utilization", Co-Investigator (PI Courtemanche), \$100,000 2017-2019.

Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics Small Grant Program "Physician Variation in Opioid Prescribing and Patient Responses after Legalization of Medical Marijuana", Principal Investigator, \$7,971 2018.

National Institute on Drug Abuse - Penn CHERISH Pilot Grant "Opioid Prescribing after Common Surgeries", Principal Investigator, \$20,000, 2017.

Awards & Fellowships

Top 5 paper in Education in 2019 ranked by Fordham Institute 2020

Best Paper Award Conference for Health IT and Analytics (CHITA), 2018

George Malanos Economics Scholarship, 2016

Southern Economic Association Graduate Student Session Nomination, 2015

Western Economic Association International Graduate Student Workshop Invitation, 2015

CEAR Fellowship, Georgia State University, 2014-2016

Dean's List & Presidents Honor Roll, University of North Florida, 2006-2009

Jody and Layton Smith Scholarship, University of North Florida, 2008-2009

Finance & Investment Society Scholarship, University of North Florida, 2008-2009

International Student Scholarship, University of North Florida, 2006-2009

Teaching

Role (instructor), Data Science, Spring 2022
 Role (Instructor), Health Insurance and Managed Care, Spring 2020-present
 Role (Instructor), Health Economics and Insurance, Spring 2020-present
 Role (Instructor), Econometrics, Fall 2015
 Role (Instructor), Applied Microeconomic Analysis, MA Level, Spring 2015
 Role (Instructor), Principles of Microeconomics, Fall 2014
 Role (Guest Lecturer), Introductory Econometrics, Spring & Fall 2014
 Role (Teaching Assistant), Econometrics, Spring & Fall 2014
 Role (Teaching Assistant), Econometrics I: Stat. Foundations, Ph.D. Level, Fall 2013 & Fall 2015

Seminar and Conference Presentations

2022: American Society of Health Economists, Association for Public Policy and Management
 2021: George Washington University, Southern Economic Association
 2020: American Society of Health Economists, Association for Public Policy and Management
 2019: American Society of Health Economists, Association for Public Policy and Management, Texas Health Conference
 2018: American Society of Health Economists, Conference on Health IT and Analytics
 2017: Western Economic Association, International Health Economics Association, Policy Summit on Housing, Human Capital, and Inequality, Association for Public Policy and Management
 2016: Association for Public Policy and Management (2), Southern Economic Association (4)
 2015: Southern Economic Association (3), Western Economic Association
 2014: Southern Economic Association (2)

Professional Service

Referee Services:

The Journal of Risk and Insurance, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, International Journal of Health Economics & Management, Health Economics, Economic Inquiry, Southern Economic Journal, Economics and Human Biology, Health Services Research, Inquiry, JAMA Open, BMJ Open, Medical Care, Risk Management and Healthcare Policy, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Value in Health, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Applied Economics, Education Policy

Service:

Texas A&M, PhD Committee Member, 2021-present
 Texas A&M, MHA Committee Member, 2019-present
 Texas Health and Human Services IRB, 2020-present
 Scientific Review Committee ASHEcon Member, 2020

Advising

Nima Khodakarami (Co-Chair), graduated 2021

Thi Bich Thuy (Member), expected graduation 2023

Selected Media Coverage

Excessive Opioid Prescribing after Common Outpatient Procedure
Excessive Opioid Prescribing after Common Outpatient Procedure

Your Hourly Wage Affects Your Weight?

What the U.S. Could Learn from Australia's gun Control Laws

Australia has Nearly Eliminated Mass Shootings - Here's What the U.S. Can Learn

From C-Section and Knee Arthroscopy to Opioid Dependency: How Big A Problem?

Abuse Deterrent Opioids: A Hard Sell

Other

Languages: English (Fluent), German (Native)

Affiliations: American Society of Health Economists, American Economic Association, Western Economics Association, Southern Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

Citizenship: Germany, U.S. Permanent Resident

US Census Bureau: Special Sworn Status

References

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Prof. John MacDonald
Chair, Dept. of Criminology
University of Pennsylvania
483 McNeil Building
3718 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104
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