

Sooa Ahn

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The Ohio State University
389 Arps 1945 N. High St.
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EDUCATION AND WORK EXPERIENCE

The Ohio State University

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics Expected May 2026
M.A. in Economics May 2023

Bank of Korea

Junior Economist 2013-2020

Yonsei University

B.A. in Economics Feb 2013

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2024- Special Sworn Status Researcher, U.S. Census Bureau

RESEARCH AREAS

Health Economics, Public Economics, Labor Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“The Impact of Nurse Practitioner Autonomy on Patient Sorting and Health Outcomes”

States have expanded nurse practitioners’ (NPs) autonomy from physician oversight to increase access to care, but this raises concerns about health outcomes under independent practice. I study how patients sort between NPs and physicians as primary care providers when NPs gain full practice authority, using state-level changes in NP scope of practice and data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. I find that when NPs can practice independently of physicians, patients with multiple chronic conditions visit NPs more than physicians, and diagnoses of common chronic diseases increase. However, self-reported health declines, and evidence suggests limited adherence to antibiotic prescribing guidelines by NPs. These results suggest that full NP practice authority enhances utilization of care among higher-risk patients and increases detection of chronic diseases, but improvements in overall health are limited.

Presented at: Ball State University, IN; Economics Graduate Student Conference, St.Louis, MO; Association of Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Seattle, WA; Annual Meeting of Southern Economics Association, Tampa, FL

PUBLICATIONS

“How Do US Adults Who Vape Choose among Different E-cigarette Models and Cigarettes in Response to Prices and Taxes” with Shaoying Ma, Hojin Park, Qian Yang, Lei Xu, John Bridges, and Ce Shang. Accepted, *Health Economics*

“Cost Comparison and Spending on Tobacco Products: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Sample of Adult E-cigarette Users” with Shaoying Ma, Qian Yang, Hojin Park, Yanyun He, John FP Bridges, and Ce Shang. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* (2025)

“The Association Between Product Attributes and Oral Nicotine Pouch Preference—Evidence From Online Stores” with Andrew Hardin, Shaoying Ma, Veronica Thai, Micah Berman, Darren Mays, Jian Chen, Electra D Paskett, Theodore L Wagener, Ce Shang. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* (2025)

“Where Do E-cigarette Users Buy Their E-cigarette Products? Results From a Nationally Representative Sample of Adult E-cigarette Users in the United States” with Shaoying Ma and Ce Shang. *Nicotine and Tobacco Research* (2025)

“Features of Disposable E-cigarettes and their Association with Pricing and Consumer Preference: Evidence from Web Data of US Online Stores” with Shaoying Ma, Aadeeba Kaareen, Qian Yang, Zefeng Qiu, Jian Chen, Micah Berman, Theodore Wagener, and Ce Shang. *Addiction*, 120(3):514-523 (2025)

WORKING PAPERS

“Impact of Physician Supply on Health Outcomes of Underserved Populations” (*Presented at BGSU-OSU Graduate Student Conference on Population 2023; Midwest Economics Association 2024*)

“Attention vs Choice in Welfare Take-Up: What Works for WIC?” with Bill Wang (*Presented at World Congress of Econometric Society 2025; ASSA 2026; MEG2025; Applied Young Economist Webinar 2025*)

“Does Student Loan Debt Affect Post-Baccalaureate Education?”

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

2025-2026 Department of Economics, The Ohio State University (PI: Professor Bruce Weinberg)

2023-2024 Center for Tobacco Research, Comprehensive Cancer Center (PI: Professor Ce Shang)

PRESENTATIONS

2025 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, The Ohio State University.

2024 Tobacco Centers of Regulatory Science Grantee Meeting Poster Session, Bethesda, MD; Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance, Prague, Czech Republic; Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, The Ohio State University; Midwest Economics Association 88th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL; Tobacco Online Policy Seminar ([Link to Video](#)).

2023 Applied Microeconomics Lunch Seminar, The Ohio State University; BGSU-OSU Graduate Student Conference on Population, Columbus, OH.

FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS

2025 Tom Kniesner and Debbie Freund Award (in recognition of high-quality research in health economics); Larry and Shelia Kantor Award

2024 Larry and Shelia Kantor Award (in recognition of the service to the graduate student population)

2020-2022 Doctoral Studies Scholarship, Bank of Korea

2015 1st Prize, Bank of Korea Paper Competition

TEACHING

AU 2022, SP 2023, SU 2023 Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics
SP 2022 Recitation Leader, Principles of Microeconomics

SERVICE

2023-2025 President & Treasurer, Graduate Women in Economics at The Ohio State University
– Founded the Annual Research and Networking Forum

SKILLS

Software and programming: Stata, R, Python, Matlab, \LaTeX , SQL
Language: English (Fluent), Korean (Native), Japanese (Intermediate), French (Basic)

REFERENCES

Professor Kurt Lavetti
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
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Professor Meta Brown
Department of Economics
The Ohio State University
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Professor Tamar Ostrom
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