

Introduction to Health Services Research
Population Health 796
University of Wisconsin-Madison

SYLLABUS

Spring 2009

Wednesday 1:30 p.m. - 3:55 p.m.
Room 758 WARF Building (610 N. Walnut St.)

Course Organizer:
Professor Thomas DeLeire

Course Instructors:
Professor Thomas DeLeire
Professor John Mullahy
Professor Whitney Witt
Professor Ana Martinez-Donate
Professor Bobbi Wolfe
Professor Patrick Remington

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Introduction:

This course will provide an introduction to the research topics covered and empirical methods used in the field of health service research. What is health services research? Health services researchers focus on some of the most complex and challenging issues currently affecting health care in the United States. Findings from health services research inform the health care policymaking process, lead to improvements in clinical practice, and help shape the manner in which health care will be delivered and paid for in the future. Health services researchers examine health care quality and effectiveness, patient outcomes, access to care, health care costs and financing, primary and managed care, new technologies, and other critical topics. Researchers trained in health services research are pursuing careers in many settings, including academia, professional organizations, health policy groups, clinical settings, and in Federal, State, and local agencies.

Readings and Software:

All readings and handouts will be available on the course webpage at learn@uw.

All students should have access to an advanced statistical software package such as SAS or STATA. Student SAS is available for purchase at doit.wisc.edu. STATA is also available for purchase on campus via the STATA “Grad Plan.” Please see <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-campus.html> for details. Note that I recommend against purchasing “small” STATA, though “Intercooled” STATA should be sufficient. There may be some circumstances in which you need Special Edition” STATA, but this version is substantially more expensive. If you are indifferent between purchasing SAS and STATA, I recommend STATA.

Requirements:

Class participation and attendance is required. Students must complete all of the readings *prior* to the week’s class in order to participate in class discussions. There will also be 4 problem sets, based on the readings. These problem sets will involve empirical explorations of the data sets provided in class, many of which are directly based on the readings. Each student will also make a 30 minute class presentation based on an empirical investigation using one of the data sets provided in class.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following:

Problem sets, 40%

Final Presentation, 30%

Class Participation, 30%

Both the problem sets and the final presentation will involve empirical analysis of existing datasets, which will be provided to you.

Course Outline and Reading List:

Week	Date	Instructor	Topic	Readings	Data
1	21-Jan	Thomas DeLeire	Introduction to health services research. Course requirements, logistics. Example (Heat or Eat?).	Bhattacharya, Jayanta, Thomas DeLeire, Steven Haider, and Janet Currie (2003). "Heat or Eat? Cold Weather Shocks and Nutrition in Poor American Families." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 93(7):1149-1154.	N/A
			Methods: OLS, Omitted Variable Bias, Fixed Effects, Difference in Difference	Methods Handout for Week 1	Available
2	28-Jan	Thomas DeLeire	Health Insurance	Levy H. and DeLeire T. (2008). "What Do People Buy When They Don't Buy Health Insurance" <i>Inquiry</i> .	Available
				DeLeire T., Levine J. and Levy H. (2006). "Welfare Reform and Health Insurance" <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> .	Available
3	4-Feb	Whitney Witt	Mental health services	Witt, WP, Kasper, JD, and Riley, AW. Mental Health Services Use Among School-Aged Children with Disabilities: The Role of Socio-demographics, Functional Limitations, Family Burdens and Care Coordination. <i>Health Services Research</i> . 2003; 38(6), Part 1: 1441-1466.	N/A
			Methods: Propensity scores	Dehejia R, and S. Waba. (1998). "Causal Effects in Non-experimental Studies: Re-evaluating the Evaluation of Training Programs." NBER Working Paper No. 6586.	Available
				Dehejia, R. (2005). "Practical propensity score matching: a reply to Smith and Todd" <i>Journal of Econometrics</i> 125 (2005) 355–364	Available

4	11-Feb	Thomas DeLeire	Smoking	Bedard, K and O. Deschenes (2008). "The Long-term Impact of Military Service on Health: Evidence from World War II and Korean War Veterans" <i>American Economic Review</i>	Available
5	18-Feb	Ana Martinez-Donate	Smoking	Martinez-Donate AP, Hovell MF, Hofstetter CR, Gonzalez-Perez GJ, Kotay A, Adams MA. Crossing borders: Impact of the California Tobacco Control Program on both sides of the US-Mexico border. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> Feb 2008; 98: 258 - 267.	N/A
				Preventive Medicine: Martinez-Donate AP, Kozlow-Johnson M, Hovell MF, Gonzalez-Perez, GJ. Home smoking bans and secondhand smoke exposure in Mexico and the U.S. (In Press) <i>Preventive Medicine</i>	N/A
6	25-Feb	Thomas DeLeire	Smoking	Adda J., and F. Cornaglia. (2005). "Taxes, Cigarette Consumption, and Smoking Intensity." IZA Discussion Paper No. 1849.	Available
7	4-Mar	John Mullahy		TBD	N/A
8	11-Mar	Bobbi Wolfe		TBD	N/A
9	18-Mar	Spring Break			
10	25-Mar	Thomas DeLeire	Health Disparities	Case, Anne; Lubotsky, Darren and Paxson, Christina. "Economic Status and Health in Childhood: The Origins of the Gradient. <i>American Economic Review</i> , December 2002, 92(5): 1308-34.	N/A

				Currie, Janet and Stabile, Mark. "Socioeconomic Status and Child Health: Why is the Relationship Stronger for Older Children?" <i>American Economic Review</i> , December 2003, 93(5): 1813-23.	N/A
				Condliffe, Simon, and Charles R. Link. 2008. "The Relationship between Economic Status and Child Health: Evidence from the United States." <i>American Economic Review</i> , 98(4): 1605–18.E9	Available
11	1-Apr	Pat Remington	Health Disparities	Byrd DR , Katcher ML, Peppard P, Durkin M, Remington PL. Infant mortality: explaining Black/White disparities in Wisconsin . <i>Maternal and Child Health Journal</i> 2007; 11(4):319-326.	N/A
12	8-Apr	John Mullahy	Health Care Expenditures	"Estimating Log Models: To Transform or Not to Transform?" <i>Journal of Health Economics</i> 20: 461-494 (2001) (W. Manning and J. Mullahy).	TBD
13	15-Apr	Thomas DeLeire	HIV	Thornton R. (2008). "The Demand for and Impact of Learning HIV Results: Evidence from a Field Experiment" <i>American Economic Review</i> .	Available
14	22-Apr	Thomas DeLeire	Disability	DeLeire T. (2000). "The Wage and Employment Effects of the Americans with Disabilities Act" <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> .	Available
				Acemoglu J. and Angrist J. (2001). "The Consequences of Employment Protection: The Case of the Americans with Disabilities Act" <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> .	Available
15	29-Apr	Thomas DeLeire	Student project presentations	TBD	

16	6-May	Thomas DeLeire	Student project presentations	TBD
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