NEW PUBLICATIONS

March 2012

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ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


GLOBAL ECONOMICS


**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**


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NEW GRANTS

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Ann Bookman and Walter Leutz (Co-PIs)
Funder: AARP Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)
ABCD trainers will provide a six-week course that links nutritional and financial literacy information so that participants, elders from some of Boston’s poorest neighborhoods, can engage in healthy eating on a low budget. The Heller team will provide a rigorous evaluation of the impact of the classes on the health and economic security of participants, as well as their social connectedness and ability to be proactive about an important aspect of their health.

ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES

Janet Boguslaw (PI), Tatjana Meschede, Thomas Shapiro
“Middle Class Economic Security 2000-2010”
Funder: AARP
This work will update the IASP/Demos Middle Class Economic Security Index with more recent data and depict trends over a 10-year period (2000-2010) for the overall index and its five factors for all middle class households, as well as for households examined by race/ethnicity and age.

Thomas Shapiro (PI), Janet Boguslaw, Tatjana Meschede, Hannah Thomas
“Assets, the Racial Wealth Gap and Family Well-Being Over Time”
Funder: Ford Foundation
This project will complete the interview database from the study examining the racial wealth gap that comprised the foundation of Professor Shapiro’s book, The Hidden Cost of Being African American, continue the data analysis of both the family interviews and Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and begin reporting the major findings.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Mary Brolin (PI), Margot Davis
“Massachusetts Department of Public Health Family Intervention and Support Services Evaluation”
Funder: Massachusetts Department of Public Health
The project team will evaluate five Family Intervention and Support Services programs designed to increase opportunities for family members and concerned significant others to take an active role in helping their loved ones enter and engage in treatment. The five programs use either the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (ACR-A), ARISE (A Relational Intervention Sequence for Engagement), and/or Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT).
Peter Kreiner (PI), Tom Clark, Meelee Kim, Ruslan Nikitin, Lee Panas, Gail Strickler, Cindy Thomas
“Prescription Behavior Surveillance System (PBSS)”
Funder: Bureau of Justice Assistance
The PBSS is a two-year project to (1) develop a multi-state database of prescription monitoring program data, to serve as an early warning surveillance tool in efforts to address prescription drug abuse; and (2) inventory prescriber education efforts nationally, and use the multi-state database to evaluate at least one such initiative.

Maureen Stewart (PI), Laura Lorenz, Stan Wallack
“Comparative Effectiveness of Economic Incentives and Decision Aids for Heart Disease Prevention in Diabetes Mellitus”
Funder: National Institute on Aging; subcontract to Brandeis from Tufts Medical Center
The researchers will examine the comparative effectiveness of financial incentives and patient-centered decision aids to improve care for patients with diabetes. In addition the researchers will explore factors that influence behavior change in response to decision aids and to financial incentives.

CATHY BURLACK (PI), Susan Lanspery
“Evaluation of Nine Community Colleges with Campus Compact”
Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Campus Compact
The team will evaluate Connect2Complete (C2C) pilot projects, which will engage low-income students who experience significant barriers to obtaining post-secondary credentials, at nine community colleges in Florida, Ohio, and Washington. Campus Compact seeks to prove that colleges that utilize peer-to-peer advocacy in combination with community engagement learning activities can positively impact retention and persistence, and produce more civically engaged students.

Della Hughes (PI)
“Implementation and Outcome Evaluation”
Funder: Artists for Humanity (AFH)
CYC is conducting an evaluation of AFH, which pairs youth with professional artists/designers to design, create and sell art products. With fully equipped studios in seven artistic media, youth and mentors collaborate on creative projects. Young artists develop entrepreneurial skills, and introduce audiences to their voice, vision and virtuosity.

Alan Melchior (PI), Susan Lanspery
“Implementation Evaluation of the Expansion of YouthBuild’s Post-Secondary Education Initiative”
Funder: Federal Social Innovation Fund Program and New Profit, Inc.
YouthBuild’s Post-Secondary Education initiative is designed to help 12 YouthBuild sites around the country develop the educational supports and partnerships with local community colleges needed to help program participants enter college and attain a post-secondary credential. The evaluation will include site visits; interviews and focus groups with staff, participants, and college partners; participant surveys; and analysis of data collected through YouthBuild’s national reporting system.

Susan Parish (PI)
“Consumer Direction and People with Disabilities”
Funder: Public Partnerships, Inc.
This study will examine workers’ and care recipients’ perspectives and experiences with consumer direction. Consumer direction is a relatively new trend in which people with disabilities hire and manage the direct support workers who provide care.

Susan Parish (Co-PI)
“Health Care Access and Financial Impacts of the Transitions of Children with Autism”
Funder: Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); subcontract to Brandeis from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kathleen Thomas, PI
This study will examine the health care access and costs as children with autism transition into elementary school, into middle school, into high school and out of high school.
Marji Erickson Warfield (Co-PI)
“Transition to Adult Health Care for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)”
Funder: Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts General Hospital, Karen Kuhlthau, PI
This project will (1) describe and understand the transition services available to youth with ASD; (2) understand the services desired by youth and families and identify how internists and adult specialists are successfully serving young adults with ASD, and (3) create and test an intervention that will improve services.

Robert Mechanic (PI), Ellen Grody, Jennifer Perloff, Moaven Razavi, Darren Zinner
“Evaluation of Health and Human Services Delivery System Reform Efforts and Affordable Care Act Mandates”
Funder: US Department of Health and Human Services, Program Support Center; subcontract to Brandeis from State of Vermont
The researchers are assisting the State of Vermont to design a system that better integrates the financing and delivery of health and supportive services for Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries.

Robert Mechanic (PI), Elen Grody, Jennifer Perloff, Moaven Razavi, Darren Zinner
“Evaluation of Health and Human Services Delivery System Reform Efforts and Affordable Care Act Mandates”
Funder: US Department of Health and Human Services, Program Support Center; subcontract to Brandeis from CDM Group
This project will develop a framework for evaluating the Accountable Care Act (ACA) legislation. The framework needs to include both environmental and organizational factors affecting the success of ACA demonstrations, as well as quantitative evaluation design considerations.

Robert Mechanic (PI), Palmira Santos
“Evaluation of the Alternative Quality Contract: Phase II”
Funder: The Commonwealth Fund
The second evaluation of the organizations participating in the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Alternative Quality Contract will assess medical groups’ perceptions of their initial performance improvement strategies and how they have modified or expanded these strategies in the contract’s fourth year.

Jennifer Perloff (Co-PI), Jennifer Gaudet
“Analyzing the Potential of Nurse Practitioners to Strengthen the Primary Care Workforce”
Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; subcontract to Brandeis from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Peter Buerhaus, PI
The study will use Medicare claims data to better understand service delivery patterns across time for nurse practitioners who bill independently. Nurse practitioner patterns will be compared to primary care physicians and specialists.

Donald Shepard (PI), Jeffrey Prottas
“Increasing the Use of Donated Frozen Embryos: A Demonstration”
Funder: Office of Population Affairs, US Department of Health and Human Services; subcontract to Brandeis from Boston IVF
Transfer of frozen embryos created by one woman to another with fertility problems may help the recipient build a family and the donor to perform a powerful altruistic act. The researchers are collaborating with Boston IVF to implement and evaluate an information and counseling demonstration program for this valuable but underused service.

Darren Zinner (PI)
“Data Sharing and Data Withholding among Academic Scientists”
Funder: National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute; subcontract to Brandeis from Massachusetts General Hospital
Open data sharing is a major ideal in the conduct of academic science. Failure to share data is believed to have negative effects on innovation and the efficiency of science, as well as the education of the next generation of scientists. This study of data-sharing attitudes and practices will employ a large national survey of 3,000 academic life scientists.

Donald Shepard (PI)
“Cost-effectiveness of Alternative Malaria Control Approaches in Tanzania”
Funder: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Insecticide-treated wall liners are a promising new technology for the prevention of malaria. In collaboration with other partners, this study will evaluate the cost-effectiveness of this and other preventive technologies in Tanzania using a cluster randomized design.

Wu Zeng (PI), Aaron Beachton-Blakeman, Jean De Dieu Rusatira, Donald Shepard
“Design and Evaluation of Performance-Based Financing in Republic of the Congo”
Funder: World Bank; subcontract to Brandeis from EPOS Health Management
The Republic of the Congo is planning to implement performance-based financing (PBF) among health facilities in three departments, paying health facilities based on their achievement. This project will design and implement a study to evaluate the effectiveness of PBF on utilization and quality of health services.
AGING


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH


Constance Horgan also served as session chair for this session.
Horgan, C. Session chair, “Measuring Performance to Improve the Quality of Substance Abuse Treatment.” Presented at Addiction Health Services Research Annual Conference, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, October 2011.


Stewart, M. “Integration of Substance Abuse Services into Primary Care Settings: What Are Health Plans Doing?” Presented at Addiction Health Services Research Annual Conference, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, October 2011.


CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES


DISABILITIES


EVALUATION


GLOBAL ECONOMICS

Erbil, C. “Policy Modeling.” Lecture co-led with Professor Ali Bayar, Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey, November 2011.

Erbil, C. “Turkey 2000-10: A Decade of Transition – Turkey’s Export Performance and Competitiveness.” Presented at one-day workshop sponsored by Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, Washington, DC, October 2011.

GLOBAL ECONOMICS (CONT.)


HEALTH


Mechanic, R. “Episode-Based Payment: Are You Ready for Medicare’s New Wave of Provider Payment Reform?” Presented at Estes Park Institute, San Diego, CA, October 2011.


Mechanic, R. “Medical Group Responses to Global Payment in Massachusetts.” Presented at Medical Group Management Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, October 2011.


HEALTH (CONT.)


INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT


INTERNATIONAL HEALTH


INTERNATIONAL HEALTH (CONT.)


LABOR MARKETS


PHILANTHROPY


SOCIAL POLICY

Christine Bishop gave a presentation to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Working Group on Adult Day Health in Boston on November 8, 2011.

Ann Bookman gave a lecture on “Communities for Healthy Aging” at the Newton, MA Free Library in October. The lecture was the second program in a series, co-sponsored by the City of Newton Department of Senior Services, on “Life’s Transitions: Future Focus” and explored common dilemmas and decisions facing those who are approaching or are in transition regarding their living situation.


ASSETS AND INEQUALITIES


Thomas Shapiro discussed rising poverty rates, the top 1% of wealth, and the widening racial wealth gap on the September 27, 2011 edition of WGBH’s The Callie Crossley Show, entitled “Minding the Wealth Gap.” http://www15.wgbh.org/programs/episode.cfm?featureid=31852

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

In their role as Co-PIs and evaluation and learning partners with the Gates Foundation’s “Post-Secondary Success Initiative,” Susan P. Curnan and Alan Melchior were invited to participate in the November 2011 Capitol Hill Briefing for policy makers – including Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) – “Drop-Out Recovery is National Recovery.”

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (CONT.)

As Co-PI (with Andrew Hahn) of the Corporate Coalition to End Hunger, Susan P. Curnan also participated in the White House conference on “Building a Healthier Future” in November 2011, and had the opportunity to meet briefly with First Lady Michelle Obama who was there as keynote speaker and creator of “Let’s Move” – the national program she developed to solve the epidemic of childhood obesity within a generation.

DISABILITIES

To better reflect its activities and the population it studies, the Nathan and Toby Starr Center has changed its name to the Nathan and Toby Starr Center on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.


GLOBAL ECONOMICS

Can Erbil facilitated the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Heller School and Bahcesehir University in Turkey on strategic collaboration in health policy research and academic programs.

HEALTH


Stuart Altman talked about a new plan for slowing the growth in health care spending in the November 4, 2011 Boston Globe article, “Proposal may reduce health cost increases.”


HUNGER

Donald Shepard and his colleagues presented “Hunger in America: Suffering We All Pay For,” at a press conference held by Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) at the House Office Building in Washington, DC, on October 6, 2011.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT


Rajesh Sampath presented “Spiritual Renewal and Sustainable Development in Ghana” to the Committee on Religion and Faith in the Public Square, St. Paul's Church, Cambridge, MA, in September 2011.

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH


PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (CONT.)

PUBLIC FINANCE

Robert Tannenwald presented “The Influence of Taxation on Interstate Migration (Especially of the Elderly),” as testimony before the Commission on State Taxation and Financing Policy, Indiana General Assembly, on October 3, 2011 via teleconference from the Heller School to Indianapolis.

Robert Tannenwald was quoted and his research was cited in several articles and on radio shows concerning state film tax credits:


SERVICE LEARNING

As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Service Alliance, Lawrence Balls delivered the opening remarks at the 2011 AmeriCorps Opening Day to over 1200 youth and program staff at the Reggie Lewis Arena on November 4, 2011.

OTHER

Susan P. Curnan was a presenter at the “Eleanor Roosevelt’s 127th Birthday” event held at the Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, NY, on October 11, 2011.

Lawrence Bailis was elected clerk of the Waltham Partnership for Youth in November 2011.

Christine Bishop served as Chair of the National Academy of Social Insurance Heinz Dissertation Award Committee.

Can Erbil was appointed Director of Economic and Financial Research at IKSara, a Turkey-based data analysis and research start-up company, in September 2011. In this role he will support the data needs of Turkey-related research and the strategic collaboration of Heller and Bahcesehir University.

Susan Holcombe was appointed Contributing Editor of Development in Practice, a peer-reviewed journal offering “practice-related analysis and research on development and humanitarianism.”

Claudia Jacobs was named to the Grants Committee of the Massachusetts Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

In association with the Catalan Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (Institut Català de Recerca en Patrimoni Cultural) in Girona, Spain, where Nina Kammerer was a Visiting Investigator for the summer and fall semester, she received a Research Grant from l’Agència de Gestió d’Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca (AGUAR) of the Government of Catalonia.

Margie Lachman was appointed to the National Institute on Aging Health and Retirement Survey Data Monitoring Committee in December 2011.

Alain Lempereur was appointed a Member of the Executive Committee of the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School.

Lisa Lynch received an honorary degree from Regis College on October 5, 2011 as part of the presidential inauguration of Antoinette M. Hays, PhD ’90.

Susan Parish was appointed to the Rutgers School of Social Work Alumni Council.

Jasmine Waddell was appointed to the Presidential Search Committee for Brown University.

Marji Erickson Warfield served on a review panel for the Maternal and Child Health Bureau.
MPP student **Jeff Gross**, along with Franklin Peralta of Massachusetts' English Works campaign, designed and carried out a survey in the spring and summer of 2011 of 835 students from 18 community-based ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programs in Boston. An overview of the final report, “Learning English, Talking Jobs: Lessons from the English Works Student Workplace Survey” was presented at a meeting with Boston Mayor Thomas Menino in November 2011.

**Tanya Kubas-Meyer** received a dissertation grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for her dissertation, “Impact of Rental Housing on Asset Development: Low Income Female-Headed Households.”

**Cynthia Tschampel**, PhD student, was elected Chair of the Delivery Models Subcommittee of the Medical Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Tuberculosis, starting September 2011.

**Cynthia Tschampel** was chosen to participate in the American Public Health Association (APHA) Graduate Student Delegation to Cuba, December 12-17, 2011. She was invited to submit a paper based on findings for the 2012 Annual APHA Meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Acevedo, A. “Treatment Engagement as a Quality Indicator for the Treatment of Alcohol and Other Drugs.” Presented at the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcoholism (NIAAA) 2011 NIAAA T32 Directors and Trainees Workshop, Providence, RI, September 2011.


**PUBLICATIONS**


The Health Industry Forum, under the leadership of Robert Mechanic, held a conference in Washington, DC, on October 19, 2011, entitled “Advancing Comparative Effectiveness Research Under Health Care Reform.” The program was co-sponsored by the National Pharmaceutical Council. This forum began by examining how the goals of health care reform interact with real-world decision-making, guided by three case studies of comparative effectiveness research (CER) in action. Next, it convened a panel of “CER customers” — including providers and payers — to identify the characteristics of research likely to have meaningful impacts on decision making. In the final panel, pharmaceutical industry representatives discussed how the expanded focus on CER may affect industry business practices and future product development.

The Health Industry Forum held a senior policy roundtable, “How Will Deficit Reduction Impact the Health Care System?” in Washington, DC, on November 8, 2011. Former Congressional Budget Office director Robert Reischauer began the meeting with a review of the long-term budget outlook and the characteristics of recently introduced deficit reduction proposals. John Rowe, MD, professor of health policy and management at Columbia University, then presented a view of the potential long-run impact of significant deficit reduction on the health insurance industry, including the industry’s likely future investment in core and related health care businesses.

Director A.K. Nandakumar and the Institute for Global Health and Development hosted a talk on December 5, 2011, “Market Design for Kidney Exchange,” by Utku Ünver, an economist from Boston College. The talk demonstrated how mechanisms have been developed to improve the efficiency of donor matching and lead to a greater number of successful matches by accounting for immunological incompatibility and legal and ethical constraints.

The Institute for Global Health and Development held its first meeting of the Research Incubation and Exchange Forum on December 6, 2011. The goal of this new initiative, led by Rajesh Sampath, is to foster research by junior faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and PhD students in the advanced stages of their dissertations. Heath Prince, a PhD candidate, presented his paper entitled “Macro-level Drivers of Multidimensional Poverty in Developing Countries: Measuring Change in the Human Poverty Index.”

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy, led by director Susan Parish, co-sponsored a workshop by Elizabeth Bostic on “Special Education Rights and Advocacy” on November 29, 2011. Ms. Bostic is a Client Project Manager at Global Novations, Inc. in Boston, and is the founder of the Parent Coach, which offers special needs advocacy and consulting services to parents. The Arc of Massachusetts served as the event’s cosponsor.

The Lurie Institute for Disability Policy held its first annual Lurie Distinguished Lecture in honor of Nancy Lurie Marks on September 19, 2011. The inaugural lecture, “Psychosocial and Biological Markers of Stress in Mothers of Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders,” was delivered by Marsha Malick Seltzer, PhD ’78. Mrs. Marks was presented with an award by Brandeis President Fred Lawrence for her long-term commitment to Brandeis University and her important contributions to improve the quality of life for people with autism.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, led by executive director Michael Doonan, presented “Beyond Parity: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Care Under Payment and Delivery System Reform,” in Boston on October 26, 2011. Over 250 people attended the forum, which was also hosted by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. The forum examined how major policy initiatives will impact care for individuals with mental health and addiction disorders. Speakers gave recommendations on how to move into the next phase of health reform in Massachusetts with the goal of improving mental health and addiction care, discussed best practices from experts around the country, and gave reactions from state leaders in this field.

The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum held a forum on “Substance Exposed Newborns: Addressing Social Costs Across the Lifespan” in Boston on September 27, 2011. The forum examined the implications of prenatal substance exposure through the lifespan and considered policies and initiatives for prevention and treatment. Prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco, misused prescription medication, and illegal drugs can seriously impact the child and family and result in substantial cost to society. Even in a time of significant budgetary constraints, it is essential to consider options that will, over time, save taxpayer money, improve lives, and build a healthier and more productive Commonwealth. Constance Horgan was the panel moderator. This forum was made possible with the support of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

In October 2011, 36 Fellows of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program came together for their annual weekend of leadership development and community building activities. Managed by Toni Schwarzenbach, MPP ’09, of the Center for Youth and Communities, activities were facilitated by Segal Program Founders, including Massachusetts State Representative Jay Kaufman, Co-Founder of City Year, Michael Brown, Vice President of City Year, and Vice President at Civic Ventures and Heller Overseer Phyllis N. Segal. Prior to the weekend activities, 75 members of the Segal Network came together for a reception hosted by Segal Founder Rosabeth Moss Kanter.