

## APARNA SONI

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Indiana University  
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### RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Health economics, Health policy, Applied microeconomics

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Business Economics and Public Policy, Indiana University, 2019 (expected)  
Dissertation: Essays on the Effects of Prescription Drug Insurance  
Committee: Kosali Simon (Chair), Jeffrey Prince (Chair), Haizhen Lin, Daniel Sacks  
M.A. in Economics, Boston University, 2011  
B.A. in Economics and Journalism, Boston University, 2011

### JOB MARKET PAPER

**Soni, Aparna.** “Health Insurance, Price Changes, and the Demand for Pain Relief Drugs”

*Overdose deaths from prescription opioids are on the rise, and policymakers seek solutions to curb opioid misuse. Recent proposals call for price-based solutions, such as opioid taxes and removal of opioids from insurance formularies. However, there is limited evidence on how opioid consumption responds to price stimuli. This study addresses that gap by estimating the effects of prices on the utilization of opioids as well as other prescription painkillers. I use nationally representative individual-level data on prescription drug purchases to exploit the introduction of Medicare Part D in 2006 as an exogenous change in out-of-pocket drug prices. I find that new users have a relatively high price elasticity of demand for prescription opioids, and that consumers treat over-the-counter painkillers as substitutes for prescription painkillers. My results suggest that increasing out-of-pocket prices of opioids, through formulary design or taxes, may be effective in reducing new opioid use.*

### RESEARCH

#### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Decker, Sandra, Asako Moriya, & **Aparna Soni**. (2018). “Coverage For Self-Employed and Others without Employer Offers Increased After 2014.” *Health Affairs*, 37(8), 1238-1242.
- Cawley, John, **Aparna Soni**, & Kosali Simon. (2018). “Third Year of Survey Data Shows Continuing Benefits of Medicaid Expansions for Low-Income Childless Adults in the U.S.” *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 33, 1495-1497.

**Soni, Aparna**, Kosali Simon, John Cawley, & Lindsay Sabik. (2018). “Effects of ACA Insurance Expansions on Cancer Diagnoses.” *American Journal of Public Health*, 108(2), 216-218.

**Soni, Aparna**, Lindsay Sabik, Kosali Simon, & Benjamin Sommers. (2018). “Changes in Insurance Coverage Among Cancer Patients After the Affordable Care Act.” *JAMA Oncology*, 4(1), 122-124.

**Soni, Aparna**, Marguerite Burns, Laura Dague, & Kosali Simon. (2017). “Medicaid Expansion Status and State Trends in Supplemental Security Income Program Participation.” *Health Affairs*, 38(8), 1485-1488.

**Soni, Aparna**, Michael Hendryx, & Kosali Simon. (2017). “Medicaid Expansions under the Affordable Care Act and Insurance Coverage in Rural and Urban Areas.” *Journal of Rural Health*, 33(2), 217-226.

Simon, Kosali, **Aparna Soni**, & John Cawley. (2017). “The Impact of Health Insurance on Preventive Care and Health Behaviors: Evidence from the First Two Years of the ACA Medicaid Expansions.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 36(2), 390-417.

#### Papers under Review

Hollingsworth, Alex, **Aparna Soni**, Aaron Carroll, John Cawley, & Kosali Simon. “Gains in Health Insurance Coverage Explain Variation in Democratic Vote Share in the 2016 Presidential Election.”

**Soni, Aparna**, Cong Gian, Kosali Simon, & Benjamin Sommers. “Levels of Employment and Community Engagement among Medicaid-Eligible Adults: Implications for Work Requirements.”

Woroncovicz, Joanna, **Aparna Soni**, Seth Freedman, & Kosali Simon. “How Have Recent Health Insurance Expansions Affected Coverage Among Artist Occupations?”

#### Works in Progress

Lin, Haizhen, **Aparna Soni**, & Yaying Zhou. “The Impact of Market Concentration on Premiums in the Employer Sponsored Insurance Market.”

**Soni, Aparna**. “Consumption Effects of Health Insurance Expansions: Evidence from Scanner Data.”

**Soni, Aparna**. “Drugs and Diet: Ex-Ante Moral Hazard Effects of Prescription Drug Insurance.”

**Soni, Aparna**. “Impacts of Increased Pharmaceutical Access on Health Outcomes and Long-Term Care Utilization: Evidence from Medicare Part D.”

**Soni, Aparna**, Seth Freedman, Alex Hollingsworth, & Kosali Simon. “The Impacts of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs on Opioid Hospitalizations.”

### Conference Presentations

- 2019 American Economic Association (forthcoming)
- 2018 American Society of Health Economists  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (forthcoming)  
Southern Economic Association (forthcoming)
- 2017 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting  
AcademyHealth Health Economics Interest Group (poster)  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
Eastern Economic Association  
International Health Economics Association  
IU/UofL/VU Health Economics and Policy Workshop  
Population Health Science Research Workshop (poster)
- 2016 American Society of Health Economists (poster)  
IU/UofL/VU Health Economics and Policy Workshop

### Research Assistance

- 2017 **National Bureau of Economic Research, Disability Research Center**  
RA for Kosali Simon, Bradley Heim, and Kathleen Mullen's NBER-funded project on "Impact of Affordable Care Act on Social Security Disability Benefits"
- 2016 **National Bureau of Economic Research, Retirement Research Center**  
RA for Kosali Simon and Bradley Heim's NBER-funded project on "Effect of the Affordable Care Act on Retirement"
- 2014-18 **Indiana University**  
RA for Professor Kosali Simon (School of Public and Environmental Affairs)  
RA for Professor Haizhen Lin (Dept of Business Economics and Public Policy)
- 2011 **Boston University**  
RA for Professor Peter Doeringer (Department of Economics)

### Media Coverage of Research

US News & World Report, ABC News, Los Angeles Times, Reuters, MSN News, Philadelphia Inquirer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Indiana Public Radio, West Virginia Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio

### **GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

- Under review R36, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and National Institutes of Health (\$27,932) – Pending council review  
"Health Insurance, Price Changes, and the Demand for Pain Relief Drugs"
- 2018 Research Grant, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy. (\$7,500)  
"Reducing Health Disparities Among People Diagnosed with Cancer: The Role of Public Health Insurance Expansions"

- 2018      Doctoral Student Research Productivity Award, Indiana University (\$3,700)
- 2018      Associate Instructor Teaching Award, Indiana University
- 2018      Panschar Teaching Award Finalist, Indiana University
- 2017      Doctoral Student Research Productivity Award, Indiana University (\$3,700)
- 2017      Doctoral Research Travel Award, Indiana University (\$750)
- 2017      Best Poster Award, AcademyHealth – Health Economics Interest Group (\$50)
- 2017      Panschar Teaching Award Finalist, Indiana University
- 2016      Doctoral Student Research Productivity Award, Indiana University (\$3,700)
- 2016      Travel Award, IU Graduate and Professional Student Government (\$500)
- 2016      Clements & Clements Scholarship Essay Contest Winner (\$1,000)
- 2007-11   Legacy Scholarship, Boston University (\$4,000)
- 2007-11   Trustee Scholarship, Boston University (\$148,694)

**TEACHING**

Instructor of Record

**G300: Intro to Managerial Economics; Indiana University**

- Summer 2018 (19 students; instructor rating – 6.7 / 7)
- Summer 2017 (33 students; instructor rating – 6.6 / 7)
- Spring 2016 (47 students; instructor rating – 6.5 / 7)
- Fall 2015 (39 students; instructor rating – 6.6 / 7)

**G202: Business, Government, and Society; Indiana University**

- Summer 2018 (69 students; instructor rating – 6.7 / 7)

Teaching Assistant

- 2016      G350: Business Econometrics; Indiana University (1 term)
- 2016-18   G202: Business, Government, and Society; Indiana University (5 terms)

Guest Lectures

- 2018      P303: Health Psychology (“Health Care Reform and the Affordable Care Act”)

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Journal Reviewing

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Journal of Health Economics | Annals of Internal Medicine     |
| Health Economics            | Journal of Rural Health         |
| Health Affairs              | World Medical and Health Policy |

Conference Abstract Reviewing

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| American Society of Health Economists | AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting |
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Conference Discussant

- 2018      Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2017 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
International Health Economics Association  
Eastern Economic Association

#### University Service

2017-18 Mentor for Indiana University summer health research scholars program  
2017 University representative for “PhD Project” conference to support  
underrepresented minorities in pursuing graduate degrees  
2016-17 Coordinator for weekly Indiana University health policy workshop

#### Professional Affiliations

AcademyHealth	Association of Public Policy Analysis & Management
American Economic Association	Eastern Economic Association
American Society of Health Economists	Midwest Economic Association
International Health Economics Association	

#### **NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

2012-14 Economist, IHS Global Insight, Lexington, MA  
2010 Analyst, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC

#### **REFERENCES**

##### **Professor Kosali Simon (Chair)**

Herman B. Wells Endowed Professor  
School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University  
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##### **Professor Jeffrey Prince (Chair)**

Chairperson and Professor  
Business Economics & Public Policy  
Kelley School of Business  
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##### **Professor John Cawley**

Professor  
Department of Policy Analysis and  
Management and Department of Economics  
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##### **Professor Haizhen Lin**

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