

# Chelsea J. Crain

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Research Interests	Health Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics
Education	<b>University of Iowa</b> Ph.D., Economics, (expected) 2019 M.A., Economics, 2016  <b>Coe College</b> B.A., Mathematics, Economics, 2014
Working Papers	“Price and Quality Responses of the Restaurant Industry to Increases in the Minimum Wage”  “The Pass-Through of the Largest Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: The Case of Boulder, Colorado” (with John Cawley, David Frisvold and David Jones, NBER Working Paper)
Works in Progress	“Labor Market Effects of a Health Shock on the Aging Population: Evidence from Trans Fat Bans”  “The Effects of the ACA Menu Labeling Requirement on Restaurant Menus” (with David Frisvold, Charles Courtemanche, and Michael Price)  “The Impact of School Year Calendar Structure on Childhood Weight Gain”
Awards and Fellowships	Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa, Oct 2018 NBER Summer Institute, Invited Attendee, Jul 2018 Outstanding Research Paper Award, University of Iowa, Apr 2018 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Summer Award, University of Iowa, Apr 2018 Conference Travel Grant, Department of Economics, University of Iowa, Oct 2017 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Summer Award, University of Iowa, Apr 2017
Presentations	Cornell University Institute on Health Economics Seminar, Ithaca, New York, September 2018 7th Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Atlanta, Georgia, June 2018 13th IZA Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation, Bonn, Germany, October 2017
Teaching Experience	Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Iowa, Summer 2016 Head Teaching Assistant, Business Statistics, University of Iowa, Fall 2015 Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics, University of Iowa, Fall 2014 - Spring 2015
Other	Graduate Research Assistant, David Frisvold, Spring 2016 - Fall 2018
Computation	Languages: Python, C/C++, Statistical Software: R, Stata

## References

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## Abstracts of Working Papers

### **Price and Quality Responses of the Restaurant Industry to Increases in the Minimum Wage**

(Job Market Paper)

Using a novel dataset comprised of online menu item and restaurant quality information from thousands of primarily non-chain establishments across three states, I estimate the price and quality responses to varying levels of minimum wage increases enacted at the start of 2017. I find that prices rise 0.3% to 0.8% in response to a 10% increase in the minimum wage. These results are consistent with previous estimates in the literature, as well as what is predicted by the textbook model of competitive factor markets and monopolistically competitive firms. Building on this, I then extend the literature to more broadly understand the price pass-through as well as provide the first estimates of responses on quality. I find heterogeneity in pass-through across restaurant characteristics, with higher pass-through among small firms, and lower pass-through for restaurants near the border of a minimum wage policy region. At the menu item level, pass-through is higher for sides and sandwiches, and options with organic or gluten-free ingredients. I find no evidence of higher pass-through for popular items. Finally, I find significant changes in restaurant quality due to an increase in the minimum wage. Specifically, I find that for low quality restaurants, quality decreases after an increase in the minimum wage, but that quality increases for high quality restaurants.

### **The Pass-Through of the Largest Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages: The Case of Boulder, Colorado**

(with John Cawley, David Frisvold and David Jones, NBER Working Paper 25050)

We estimate the incidence of a relatively new type of excise tax, a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs). We examine the largest such tax to date, which is two cents per ounce, implemented in Boulder, CO on July 1, 2017. As in other communities, Boulder levies this tax on distributors. This paper estimates the extent to which this tax on distributors is passed through to consumers in the form of higher retail prices. To do so, we examine how the retail prices of SSBs changed after the tax in Boulder relative to a control community, using hand-collected data from retailers and internet data of restaurant menus. We find that 50.9 % of the tax was passed through to retail prices 5-7 weeks after the implementation of the tax. Some retailers add the tax only at the register, indicating that estimates solely from posted prices would result in an underestimate of pass-through. Including the taxes that were charged at the register, we find that 78.9 % of the tax was passed through to consumers.

### **Labor Market Effects of a Health Shock on the Aging Population: Evidence from Trans Fat Bans**

(Work in Progress)

I add to the growing literature on the relationship between health status and labor market outcomes by providing estimates of how a ban on the use of trans fatty acids in food away from home establishments, a nutrition based health shock, affected labor market outcomes for the aging population. I estimate that four and more years after implementation of a trans fat ban, the percent of those employed increases by 3.4 percentage points, and that average hours worked per week increases by 1.5 hours. In addition, I find that these increases are driven by a decrease in the percent of people unable to work, not by a decrease in retirement. Further, I find evidence that a decrease in cardiovascular disease incidences is the driving health mechanism behind these labor market effects.

## Summary of Teaching Evaluations

This section provides a summary of my teaching evaluations. Table 1 shows aggregated, anonymous teaching evaluations from four semesters of teaching. I was a teaching assistant for two semesters of Principles of Microeconomics and a head teaching assistant for Business Statistics for one semester. I was an instructor for one semester of Principles of Microeconomics. Students were asked to rate my performance from 1 to 6, where 1 = strongly disagree and 6 = strongly agree. Reported in the table are combined means across semesters. Results are separated by teaching assistant and instructor, and department means are included for comparison. Original evaluations are available upon request.

Table 1: Teaching Evaluations

Topic	TA	Instructor	Dept
Overall, this instructor is an effective teacher	5.74	5.38	4.34
Concepts are presented in a manner that helps me learn	5.77	5.42	4.45
The instructor seems interested in teaching this course	5.83	5.54	4.59
Help is available outside class if I have questions	5.83	5.46	4.84
This course is well planned and organized	5.65	5.38	4.49
I would recommend this instructor to other students	5.42	5.80	4.31
I learned a great deal in this class	5.59	5.25	4.28
I am encouraged to apply new knowledge and skills	5.51	5.33	4.47
Assignments contribute to my learning	5.50	5.29	4.51
My critical thinking skills have improved	5.19	5.33	4.36
	N=121	N=24	