

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Currie, Janet

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (agency login): Currie2

POSITION TITLE: Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Toronto – Ontario, Canada	B.A.	06/1982	Economics
University of Toronto – Ontario, Canada	M.A.	08/1983	Economics
Princeton University – Princeton, NJ	Ph.D.	08/1988	Economics

A. Personal Statement

In the 30 years since my Ph.D., I have published over 150 articles and book chapters and four books on the economics of families and children. I now direct the Center for Health and Wellbeing at Princeton University. A strong theme in my work has been the examination of sources disparities in health: For example, I recently published a paper in *Science* examining disparities in infant health outcomes, how they have evolved over time, and how they have responded to changes in public policy regarding low income women and children. As the roots of many diseases are in childhood, my research focuses on how childhood health and circumstances interact to affect the health trajectory over the life course.

Citations:

1. Aizer, A. and Currie, J. (2014). The Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality: Maternal Disadvantage and Health at Birth, *Science*. v344, p. 856. PMID: PMC4578153
2. Currie, J. (2011). Inequality at Birth: Some Causes and Consequences. *American Economic Review*, May 2011, 101(3), 1-22. (Ely lecture).
3. Currie, J. and Rossin-Slater, M. (2015). Early-Life Origins of Life-cycle Well-being: Research and Policy Implications. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, v34(1) p208-242. PMID: PMC4773906
4. Inequality in Mortality Over the Life Course: Why Things Are Not as Bad as You Think, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, v36 #1, January 2018, 7–23.

Research Support

NOMIS Foundation

1/1/19-12/31/24

Harnessing Big Data to Improve Children's Mental Health Treatment

PI: Janet Currie

This project examines the effects of child mental health conditions on child and adult outcomes. It also examines heterogeneity in treatment, and the relationship between treatment and outcomes. The project focuses on “big data” in the form of health care claims, vital data, and hospitalization records.

2R01 HD036916-16A1

7/1/19-6/30/24

Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing in Adolescence

PI: Sara McLanahan

This project extends the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFS), a nationally representative, birth cohort study of approximately 4900 children born in large US cities (populations of 200,000 or more) between 1998 and 2000, by collecting data from mothers and adolescents when the children are 15 years old on children's health and health risk behavior, school performance, and anti- and pro-social behavior; on contextual

factors, including families, neighborhoods, schools, and peers; and on methylation using saliva samples from 3600 children at age 15. Adolescence is a critical period in human development when children engage in both positive and negative behaviors that are known to have lasting consequences for future health and wellbeing. The new data will dramatically increase our knowledge of how children's experiences in early and middle childhood influence adolescent behaviors and, ultimately, health and wellbeing in adulthood.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1988	Assistant Professor, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
1991	Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
1993	Associate Professor, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
1996-2005	Full Professor, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA
2005-2008	Full Professor, Columbia University, New York, NY
2006-2009	Chair, Dept. of Economics, Columbia University
2010-present	Editor, Journal of Economic Literature
2009-2011	Sami Mnaymneh Professor of Economics, Columbia University, New York, NY
2009-present	Director, National Bureau of Economic Research's Program on Children
2011-present	Henry Putnam Professor of Economics and Public Affairs, Princeton University
2011-present	Director, Princeton's Center for Health and Wellbeing
2014-2018	Chair, Department of Economics, Princeton

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

1998-1999	National Research Council Committee on the Health and Adjustment of Immigrant Children and Families
1999-2001	National Science Foundation Review Panel for Economics
2001	National Institutes of Health Demographic and Behavioral Sciences, Long Range Planning Committee
2000-2002	National Research Council Committee on Estimating Eligibility and Participation in the WIC program
2001-2004	Member, National Academy of Sciences Committee on Population
2002-2004	Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Public Economics</i>
2006-present	National Longitudinal Surveys Technical Review Committee
2008	National Health Interview Survey review panel
2006-2010	Member, Advisory Board of the NIH National Children's Study
2012-2014	Member IOM Board on Children Youth and Families
2013-2014	Member Institute of Medicine National Research Council's Committee on Standards for Benefit-Cost Analysis of Preventive Interventions for Children, Youth, and Families
2016-	Member National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics (CNStat)
2017-	Member National Academy of Sciences Committee on Reducing Child Poverty
2013-2018	Board of Reviewing Editors of Science

Honors

1993-1995	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Research Fellowship
1995-present	Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research
2002	Senior Research Affiliate, National Poverty Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2004-2006	American Economic Association Executive Committee
2006	Fellow, Society of Labor Economists
2006-2007	Faculty Mentoring Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
2010	Vice President, American Economic Association
2011	Ely Lecturer, American Economic Association
2012/13	Phi Beta Kappa lecturer
2013	Elected to the Institutes of Medicine
2014	Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences

2014	Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
2015	President of the Society of Labor Economists
2016	Carolyn Shaw Bell Award for furthering the status of women in the economics profession
2016	Docteur Honoris Causa de l'Université Jean Moulin Lyon III
2017	Honorary Doctorate, University of Zurich
2018-2019	President Elect, American Society of Health Economics
2019	Elected to the National Academy of Sciences
2022-2023	President Elect American Economic Association

C. Contributions to Science

1. Some of my most influential work has been concerned with evaluating the effects of expansions of public health insurance under Medicaid and the State Child Health Insurance Program on maternal, infant, and child health. Expansions of insurance to low income women occurred mainly in the late 80s and early 90s, while expansions to additional groups of children continued through the 1990s. My work showed that these expansions reduced infant and child death, though they may also have increased unnecessary hospitalizations. I have also examined the transition to Medicaid managed care, and mandates for charity care.
 - a. Chorniy, A., Currie, J., and Sonchak, L., (2018). Exploding Asthma and ADHD Caseloads: The Role of Medicaid Managed Care. *Journal of Health Economics*, v60, 1-15 (lead article). NIHMS 978532
 - b. Almond, D., Currie, J., and Simeonova E. (2011). Public vs. Private Provision of Charity Care? Evidence from the expiration of Hill-Burton requirements in Florida, *Journal of Health Economics*, 30(1), 189-199. PMID: PMC3809144
 - c. Currie, J., Decker, S., and Lin, W. (2008). Has Public Health Insurance for Older Children Reduced Disparities in Access to Care and Health Outcomes? *Journal of Health Economics*, 27(6), 1407-1652.
 - d. Currie, J., and Gruber, J. (1996). Health Insurance Eligibility, Utilization of Medical Care, and Child Health. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111 (2), 431-466.

2. A large literature documents the association between socioeconomic status and health. However, it is less well understood how low socioeconomic status impacts health. In a series of studies focusing on the fetal period and very early childhood, I have shown that gaps in health are present at birth and grow over time, and that this occurs in part because poor children are subject to more frequent and more severe shocks. In particular, my work shows that economic shocks such as unemployment may also have negative health effects.
 - a. Schwandt, H. Currie, J. et al. (2021) Inequality in Mortality between Black and White Americans by Age, Place, and Cause, and in Comparison to Europe, 1990-2018, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, October 5, 2021 118 (40), <https://www.pnas.org/content/118/40/e2104684118>
 - b. Currie, J., Schwandt, H. (2016). Inequality in mortality decreased among the young while increasing for older adults, 1990–2010. *Science*, 352(6286), 708-712, PMID: PMC4879675.
 - c. Currie, J., Schwandt, H. (2014). Short and Long-Term Effects of Unemployment on Fertility. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 111(41), 14734-9. PMID: PMC4205620
 - d. Currie, J., Schwandt, H. (2013). Within-Mother Analysis of Seasonal Patterns in Health at Birth. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 110(30), 12265-70. PMID: PMC3725083
 - e. Currie, J., Stabile, M., Manivong, P., and Roos, L. (2010). Child Health and Young Adult Outcomes. *Journal of Human Resources*, 45(3), 517-548.

3. Given that children do not start on a “level playing field” many interventions have been proposed to try to improve the life chances of poor children. A large part of my research career has been devoted to trying to

evaluate the effectiveness of government early intervention programs. A few examples over 20 years include:

- a. Currie, J. and Chorniy, A. (2021) Medicaid and CHIP Improve Child Health and Reduce Poverty but Face Threats, *Academic Pediatrics*, Nov.-Dec.;21:S146–S153.
 - b. Currie, J., (2009). Policy Interventions to Address Health Disparities: Moving Beyond Health Insurance. *Pediatrics*, 124, (Suppl 3), S246-254 (PMID: 19861476).
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/124/Supplement_3/S246
 - c. Currie, J., Gahvari, F. (2008). Transfers in Cash and In-Kind: Theory Meets the Data. *Journal of Economic Literature*. 46(2), 333-383.
 - d. Currie, J., Thomas, D. (1998). Does Head Start Make A Difference?. *The American Economic Review*. 85(3), 341-364.
4. It has been known for many years that some pollutants are toxic in large doses. That is why they are monitored by governments. However, there is increasing evidence that common pollutants can have harmful effects on fetal health even at levels below current thresholds for concern. In several large-scale studies I have shown convincing evidence that low levels of pollution can have measurable harmful effects on the developing fetus which is reflected in outcomes such as prematurity and low birth weight. These studies include some of the papers listed in Section A above as well as:
- a. Currie, J., Nilsson, P. Simeonova, E., Walker, R. (2021). Congestion Pricing, Air Pollution, and Children's Health, *Journal of Human Resources*, Fall.
<http://jhr.uwpress.org/content/early/2019/10/07/jhr.56.4.0218-9363R2.full.pdf+html>
 - b. Alexander, D., Currie, J. (2017). Is It Who You Are or Where You Live? Residential Segregation and Racial Gaps in Childhood Asthma. *Journal of Health Economics*, 55, 186-200. NIHMS 978527
 - c. Currie, J., Schwandt, H. (2016). The 9/11 Dust Cloud and Pregnancy Outcomes: A Reconsideration. *Journal of Human Resources*, 51(4), 805-831.(lead article). PMID:PMC5421999
 - d. Currie, J., Davis, L., Greenstone, M., Walker, R. (2015). Environmental Health Risks and Housing Values: Evidence from 1,600 Toxic Plant Openings and Closings. *American Economic Review*, 105(2), 678-709, PMID: PMC4847734

List of Published Work in NCBI:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/janet.currie.1/bibliography/47546008/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending>