Insurance Mandates and Mammography

Recently adopted federal health reform requires insurers to cover mammograms without cost-sharing. We examine similar state insurance mandates that vary substantially in the timing of adoption and in specifying the ages of women eligible for different mammography benefits. In triple differences models we find that mandates requiring coverage of annual mammograms significantly increased past year mammography screenings by about 8 percent, representing over 800,000 additional women screened from 1987-2000. Mandates that explicitly prohibit deductibles are especially effective at increasing screenings among high school dropouts, suggesting that federal health reform is likely to further increase use of screening mammography.

Christopher (Kitt) Carpenter, PhD
Associate Professor and Area Coordinator, Economics/Public Policy The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine Managing Editor and Co-Editor, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

Christopher “Kitt” Carpenter is Associate Professor and Area Coordinator in the Economics/Public Policy area at The Paul Merage School of Business at UC Irvine (with courtesy appointments in the UCI Economics and Education Departments); Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in the programs on Health Care, Health Economics, and Children; Managing Editor and Co-Editor at the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; and Chair of NIAAA’s standing review committee on health services research (AA-2). He holds a PhD in economics from UC Berkeley and a BA in mathematics and economics from Albion College in Michigan. His research interests include health economics, economic demography, and public policy evaluation. He has studied the effects of insurance mandates for preventive cancer screenings, domestic partner health insurance laws, alcohol-control policies, and a range of child health regulations. His research has been supported by the American Cancer Society, the National Institutes of Health, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and has appeared in American Economic Journal - Applied Economics, American Economic Journal - Economic Policy, Journal of Health Economics, Demography, American Journal of Public Health, Health Services Research, Medical Care, and others.