

Catria Gadwah-Meaden

PhD Candidate, RAND School of Public Policy

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Contact Information

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Personal Information

U.S. Citizen

Education

RAND School of Public Policy

Ph.D. Policy Analysis (concentration: Economic Analysis)

Expected June 2026

M.Phil. Policy Analysis

March 2023

Colgate University

B.A. Mathematical Economics (with honors)

May 2020

References

Philip Armour
RAND Corporation
RAND School of Public Policy
parmour@rand.org

Stephanie Rennane
RAND Corporation
RAND School of Public Policy
srennane@rand.org

Christine Mulhern
RAND Corporation
RAND School of Public Policy
cmulhern@rand.org

Ashley Kranz
RAND Corporation
akranz@rand.org

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary: Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Health Economics, Poverty and Inequality

Teaching Experience

Fall 2021 & Fall 2022	Understanding Economic Systems: Microeconomics I, RAND School Teaching Assistant for Christine Mulhern <i>Pardee RAND Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award</i>
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Winter 2022 & Winter 2023	Understanding Economic Systems: Microeconomics II, RAND School Teaching Assistant for Philip Armour <i>Pardee RAND Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award</i>
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Fall 2019 & Spring 2020	Applied Econometrics, Colgate University Teaching Assistant for Daniel Ludwinski
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Research Experience

2020-Present	RAND Corporation <i>Assistant Policy Researcher</i>
2021-2022	Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice <i>Research Assistant</i>
2020	Hudson Headwaters Health Foundation <i>Colgate University Upstate Institute Fellow</i>

Working Papers

“Work Requirements under Review: Impacts of SNAP Time Limits on Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents” *Job Market Paper*

Work requirements for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) participating in public benefit programs have long been a hot-button topic and are particularly relevant following the recent passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which expands SNAP’s ABAWD work requirement. This paper leverages counties’ staggered reinstatement of SNAP work requirements following the Great Recession to estimate their causal impact on household SNAP participation and individual labor supply using a heterogeneity-robust difference-in-difference estimator. Using ten years of data from the American Community Survey, I identify a statistically significant reduction in SNAP receipt for the full sample of ABAWDs, without corresponding changes in extensive or intensive measures of labor supply. Subgroup analyses suggest heterogeneous effects and reveal particularly large declines in receipt among older ABAWDs and those with dependent adult-children, while veterans exhibit modest increases in labor supply. These results point to potentially substantial implications of OBBBA’s work requirement expansion for benefit access and limited expected gains in labor supply among affected groups.

“The Impact of the 2013 SNAP Benefit Reduction on Veteran Households” (with Philip Armour)

Despite recent investigations into veterans’ use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), there is limited understanding of whether veterans are differentially impacted by SNAP policy changes. This paper examines the late-2013 expiration of an across-the-board increase in SNAP benefits to estimate how benefit reductions differentially impact veterans and non-veterans. We leverage long-standing state-level policy-induced variation in the take-up of SNAP benefits to implement a continuous difference-in-differences research design, where “dosage” is defined according to the state policy environment. We find that veterans households experience a larger effect on participation and average benefit amounts relative to non-veteran households, and that effects are more pronounced in states with more accommodating SNAP policies.

“Impacts of California School Based Health Centers on Adolescent Well-Being” (with Christine Mulhern, Ashley Kranz, Laura Faherty, Jessica Richard and Randy Reback)

There is increasing concern about the mental health and well-being of adolescents. School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are one strategy for addressing students’ physical and mental health needs, improving education experiences by making physical and mental healthcare more accessible to school-aged children. While there is some evidence of a correlation between SBHCs and higher attendance, access to mental health services, and improved mental health outcomes, there are a limited number of large-scale and rigorous studies that have examined SBHC impacts. This paper provides some of the first causal evidence on the impacts of SBHC openings on adolescent well-being in California. Leveraging the openings of over two hundred SBHCs in California between 2007 and 2023, we examined impacts of student access to SBHCs on student mental health, substance use, and school attendance using a difference-in-differences design. We find that opening a SBHC leads to lower rates of self-reported depression and substance-use for 11th graders, and lower rates of absence due to illness or mental health concerns for both 9th and 11th graders. When we focus on SBHCs offering mental health services, we also find a lower rate of reported suicidality among 11th graders.

“Association Between Perceived Racial Discrimination, Socioeconomic Status, and Oral Health among Children: Evidence from the National Survey of Children’s Health 2016-2022” (with Linnea Evans, Ashley Kranz, and Kimberley H. Geissler) *Accepted for Publication in the Journal of Public Health Dentistry*

We used the National Survey of Children’s Health (2016-2022) to examine the relationship between perceived racial discrimination (caregiver-reported child exposure) and two outcomes: a child’s receipt of a dental visit and the presence of any oral health problem in the past year. We estimated logistic regression models, stratified by race-ethnicity (Black, Hispanic, White), and adjusted for SES using family poverty level (FPL). We also interacted perceived racial discrimination and FPL to observe how associations differ by SES. Perceived racial discrimination was associated with lower rates of dental visits for White and Hispanic children, with no significant association for Black children. Perceived discrimination was associated with a higher likelihood of having an oral health problem for all three racial-ethnic groups. In models that interacted perceived discrimination and FPL, there were inconsistent associations with dental visits. The association between perceived discrimination and having an oral health problem in the past year was primarily isolated to the lowest SES strata (<200% FPL), with higher likelihoods of having an oral health problem for all three racial-ethnic groups among those who experienced discrimination.

Publications

Armour, Philip, and **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**. "Veteran Affairs disability compensation: Likely the US’s largest disability program, but what do we know about its impacts on service-disabled veterans?." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 44, no. 1 (2025): 304-314. [\[Link\]](#)

Kranz, Ashley M., Linnea. A. Evans, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, and Kimberley H. Geissler. "State-Level Structural Racism and Children’s Dental Care Access and Oral Health." (2024) *JDR Clinical & Translational Research*: 23800844241308149. [\[Link\]](#)

Policy Reports

Dalzell, Stephen, Rachel Slama, Alexis Gable, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, Lauren Kelly, Benjamin Trachik, Michael T. Wilson, Kate Giglio, and Carrie M. Farmer. (Forthcoming). “Meeting the Needs of Massachusetts Veterans: An Assessment and Draft Strategy for the Commonwealth” RAND Report.

Calkins, Avery, Samuel Absher, Paul Emslie, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, Ashley Gromis, Thomas Light, Anna C. Morgan, Alice Nguyen, Nicolas M. Robles, Stephanie Williamson, Carlos Calvo Hernandez, Barbara Bicksler, and Kimberly J. Lichte. (September 2024). “Recruiter Management in the Department of the Air Force.” RAND Report. [\[Link\]](#)

Karney, Benjamin R., Melanie A. Zaber, Molly G. Smith, Samuel J. Mann, Marwa AlFakhri, Jessie Coe, Jamie L. Ryan, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, Christy Mallory, Brad Sears, and Chandra Garber. (May 2024). “Twenty Years of Legal Marriage for Same-Sex Couples in the United States: Evidence Review and New Analyses.” RAND Report. [\[Link\]](#)

Brooks Holliday, Stephanie, Andrew Scruggs, Allyson D. Gittens, Samantha Matthews, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, Rebecca L. Wolfe, Jack Kroger, Alina I. Palimaru. (November 2023). “Intellectual, Developmental, and Physical Disabilities in U.S. Legal Settings: A Scoping Review.” RAND Report. [\[Link\]](#)

Olaniyan, Motunrayo, Sarah Magnelia, Vanessa Coca, Melissa Abeyta, Marissa C. Vasquez, Frank Harris III, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**. (October 2023) *Two Pandemics: Racial Disparities in Basic Needs Insecurity Among College Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic*. The Hope Center at Temple University. [\[Link\]](#)

Dubowitz, Tamara, Andrea Richardson, Teague Ruder, and **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**. (September 2023). "Food Insecurity Among Veterans: Examining the Discrepancy Between Veteran Food Insecurity and Use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)." RAND Report. [\[Link\]](#)

Asch, Beth J., Stephanie Rennane, Thomas E. Trail, Lisa Berdie, Jason M. Ward, Dina Troyanker, **Catria Gadwah-Meaden**, and Jonas Kempf (January 2023). “Food Insecurity Among Members of the Armed Forces and Their Dependents.” RAND Report. [\[Link\]](#)

Works in Progress

“Veterans’ Participation in Social Safety Net Programs: A Comparison Across Data Sources” (with Philip Armour and LeeAnn Stevens)

“Quality of Life Trajectories among Post-9/11 Veterans” (with Philip Armour and LeeAnn Stevens)

“Understanding the Impact of Proposed Federal Changes on Veterans’ Health Care in New York” (with Claire O’Hanlon, Carrie Farmer, Jonathan Cantor, Ensheng Dong, and Heather Salazar)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

2024-25	Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Grant (\$10,000)
2024-25	University of Wisconsin-Madison RDRC JSIT Research Award (\$6000)
2024-25	Dissertation Award (\$9500), Pardee RAND Graduate School
2023-24	James Q. Wilson Dissertation Award (\$7000), Pardee RAND Graduate School
2023	Pardee RAND Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (for Microeconomics)
2022	Pardee RAND Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (for Microeconomics)
2020	J. Melbourne Shortliffe Prize (for outstanding graduating seniors in economics)

Conferences & Workshops

APPAM Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA

Presenting “The Impact of the 2013 SNAP Benefit Reduction on Veteran Households” in the panel “Access and Obstacles: Policy in Practice for Individuals with Disabilities”	Nov 2025
Presenting “Impacts of California School Based Health Centers on Adolescent Well-Being” in the panel “The Role of School-based Health in Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Underserved and At-risk Children”	
Discussant for Student Research Panel “SNAP Work Requirements and Their Impact on Health and Financial Well-Being Outcomes”	

VPRI Open House, Washington DC

Poster for “Veterans’ Participation in Social Safety Net Programs: A Comparison Across Data Sources” in an open house on RAND’s veteran research for veteran policymakers, advocates, service-providers, and researchers	Sept 2025
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ASHEcon Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN

Presented “Impacts of California School Based Health Centers on Adolescent Well-Being” in the panel “Emerging Scholars Session: Health by the Bell: School Age Health Interventions”	June 2025
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APPAM Annual Meeting, Washington DC

Poster for “Work Requirements under Review: Impacts of SNAP Time Limits on Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents” (JMP)	Nov 2024
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Junior Scholar Intensive Training, Madison, WI

2024 Cohort Member of the Junior Scholar Intensive Training Program at the University of Wisconsin’s Retirement and Disability Research Center	June 2024
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PSID Data User Workshop (Virtual)

ICPSR Data User Workshop	June 2022
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Community and Professional Service

Congressional Staffer Briefings

Briefed staffers from the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs on “Veteran Affairs disability compensation: Likely the US’s largest disability program, but what do we know about its impacts on service-disabled veterans?”	Fall 2024
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Microeconomics Tutor – RAND School of Public Policy

Worked with students in individual and small-group tutoring sessions to identify and overcome barriers to their understanding of key topics in microeconomic theory, mathematical economics, and calculus.	Fall 2021 - Summer 2023
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RAND Tiger Team on Inequity and Inequality

Member of tiger team tasked with developing a plan for staffing, analytic methods, budget, funding prospects, and potential partnering organizations to advance RAND research in the area of inequity and inequality	Winter 2023
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