

Edward N. Okeke

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CURRENT POSITIONS

Senior Economist, RAND

Professor of Policy Analysis, RAND School of Public Policy

PAST POSITIONS

2015-2015: Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, University of Sussex

2011-2017: Policy Researcher, RAND

2010-2011: Assistant Professor of Health Economics and Policy, Department of Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

2024-present: Affiliated Professor, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

2022-2025: Selection Committee for the Kenneth J. Arrow Award

2020-present: Editorial Board, American Journal of Health Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Health Policy (Economics), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, December 2009

M.A. Applied Economics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2007

MPH, Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2007

M.B.B.S (MD) Medicine and Surgery, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nigeria, 2000

RESEARCH FIELDS

Health Economics, Development Economics, Global Health, Health Policy

AWARDS AND HONORS

32nd Kenneth J. Arrow Award (2024)

RAND Mentor of the Year (2018)

RAND Medal (Bronze, 2021; Silver, 2016)

RAND Bing Center for Health Economics Award (2012)

Finalist, Best Student Paper Award, American Society of Health Economists (2010)

Rackham Dissertation Grant (2009)

Ernest M. Hammel Award (2008)

Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowship (2008)

Yossi Schiff Memorial Scholarship (2007)

University of Michigan International Institute Individual Fellowship (2007)

University of Michigan Global Health Research and Training Initiative Travel Fellowship (2007)

PUBLICATIONS (* denotes alphabetical order)

Okeke, Edward (2025). “Making Bricks from Straw: Resources and Productivity in Health Care.” Forthcoming, *American Economic Review*.

Okeke, Edward (2023). “When a Doctor Falls from the Sky: The Impact of Easing Physician Supply Constraints on Mortality.” *American Economic Review*, 113(3): 585-627, 2023. [Lead Article].

Okeke, Edward (2022). “Playing Defense? Health Care in the Era of Covid.” *Journal of Health Economics*, 85(102665). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2022.102665>. Previously circulated as a Working Paper under the title: “Pan[dem]ic! Rational Risk Avoidance During a Health Pandemic.”

Okeke, Edward, Isa Sadeeq Abubakar, and Rebecca De Guttry (2021). “In Nigeria, Stillbirths and Newborn Deaths Increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Health Affairs*, 40(11): 1797–1805. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2021.00659>.

Okeke, Edward (2021). “Money and My Mind: Maternal Cash Transfers and Mental Health” *Health Economics*, 30(11): 2879-2904. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4398>.

Okeke, Edward (2021). “Working Hard or Hardly Working: Health Worker Effort and Health Outcomes.” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 70(1): 1-39. DOI: 10.1086/706823.

Okeke, Edward, Zachary Wagner, and Isa Sadeeq Abubakar (2020). “Maternal Cash Transfers led to Increases in Facility Deliveries and Improved Quality of Delivery Care in Nigeria.” *Health Affairs*, 39(6): 1051-1059. [Editor's Picks: Top 10 Health Affairs Articles in 2020].

Okeke, Edward and Isa Sadeeq Abubakar (2020). “Healthcare at the Beginning of Life and Child Survival: Evidence from a Cash Transfer Experiment in Nigeria.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 143:102426. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2019.102426>.

* Chari, Amalavoyal, Peter Glick, **Edward Okeke**, and Sinduja Srinivasan (2019). “Does Workfare Worsen Infant Health? Evidence from India’s Public Works Program.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 138: 116–134. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2018.12.004>.

Peet, Evan and **Edward Okeke** (2019). “Utilization and Quality: How the Quality of Care Influences Demand for Obstetric Care in Nigeria.” *PLoS ONE*, 14(2): e0211500. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0211500>.

O’Hanlon, Claire, Anne Walling, **Edward Okeke**, Sharon Stevenson, and Neil Wenger (2018). “Framework to Guide Economic Analysis of Advance Care Planning” *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 21(10): 1480-1485. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jpm.2018.00>.

Wynn, Barbara, Andrew Mulcahy, Harry Liu, Rosalie Malsberger, and **Edward Okeke** (2018). “Medical Care Provided to California's Injured Workers: Monitoring System Performance Using Administrative Data.” Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Okeke, Edward and Amalavoyal Chari (2018). “Health Care at Birth and Infant Mortality: Evidence from Nighttime Deliveries in Nigeria.” *Social Science and Medicine*, 196:86–95. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.11.017.

Okeke, Edward, Emma Pitchforth, Josephine Exley, Peter Glick, Isa Sadeeq Abubakar, AV Chari, Usman Bashir, Kun Gu, and Obinna Onwujekwe (2017). “Going to Scale: Design and Implementation Challenges of a Program to Increase Access to Skilled Birth Attendants in Nigeria.” *BMC Health Services Research*, 17(356): 1-12. DOI: 10.1186/s12913-017-2284-2.

* Godlonton, Susan and **Edward Okeke** (2016). “Does a Ban on Informal Health Providers Save Lives? Evidence from Malawi.” *Journal of Development Economics*, 118:112–132. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2015.09.001>.

Okeke, Edward, Amalavoyal Chari, and Clement Adepiti (2016). “Does Price Affect the Demand for Information about New Health Technologies? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Nigeria.” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 64(3):437-469. <https://doi.org/10.1086/684934>.

Okeke, Edward, Peter Glick, Amalavoyal Chari, Isa Sadeeq Abubakar, Emma Pitchforth, Josephine Exley, Usman Bashir, Kun Gu, and Obinna Onwujekwe (2016). “The Effect of Increasing the Supply of Skilled Health Providers on Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes: Evidence from the Midwives Service Scheme in Nigeria.” *BMC Health Services Research*, 16(425):1-9.

Exley, Josephine, Emma Pitchforth, **Edward Okeke**, Peter Glick, Isa Sadeeq Abubakar, Amalavoyal Chari, Usman Bashir, Kun Gu, and Obinna Onwujekwe (2016). “Persistent barriers to care. A qualitative study to understand women’s experiences in areas served by the Midwifery Service Scheme, Nigeria.” *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 16(1):1–10.

Okeke, Edward, Peter Glick, Isa Sadeeq Abubakar, Amalavoyal Chari, Emma Pitchforth, Josephine Exley, Usman Bashir, Claude Messan Setodji, Kun Gu, and Obinna Onwujekwe (2015). “The Better Obstetrics in Rural Nigeria (BORN) Study: An Impact Evaluation of the Nigerian Midwives Service Scheme.” Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation.

Wynn, Barbara, Lane Burgette, Andrew Mulcahy, **Edward Okeke**, Ian Brantley, Neema Iyer, Teague Ruder, and Ateev Mehrotra (2015). Development of a Model for the Validation of Work Relative Value Units for the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. *RAND Health Quarterly*, Jul 15;5(1):5.

Okeke, Edward and Susan Godlonton (2014). “Doing Wrong to do Right? Social Preferences and Dishonest Behavior.” *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 106:124–139. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2014.06.011>

Stein, Bradley, Emily Leckman-Westin, **Edward Okeke**, Deborah Scharf, Mark Sorbero, Qingxian Chen, Ka Ho Brian Chor, Molly Finnerty, and Jennifer P Wisdom (2014). “The Effects of Prior Authorization Policies on Medicaid-Enrolled Children’s Use of Antipsychotic Medications: Evidence from Two Mid-Atlantic States.” *Journal of Child and Adolescent*

Psychopharmacology, Sep;24(7):374-381.

Okeke, Edward (2014). “Do Higher Salaries Lower Physician Migration?” Health Policy and Planning, Aug;29(5):603-14.

Wynn, Barbara, Harry Liu, Andrew Mulcahy, **Edward Okeke**, Neema Iyer, and Lawrence Painter (2014). Implementing a Resource-Based Relative Value Scale Fee Schedule for Physician Services: An Assessment of Policy Options for the California Workers' Compensation Program. RAND Health Quarterly, Jun 1;4(2):7.

Okeke, Edward, Clement Adepiti, and Kayode Ajenifuja (2013). “What is the Price of Prevention? New Evidence from a Field Experiment.” Journal of Health Economics, 32:207-218.

* Buchmueller, Thomas, Kyle Grazier, Richard Hirth, and **Edward Okeke** (2013). “The Price Sensitivity of Medicare Beneficiaries: A Regression Discontinuity Approach” Health Economics, 22(1):35-51.

Okeke, Edward (2013). “Brain Drain: Do Economic Conditions “push” Doctors out of Developing Countries?” Social Science and Medicine, 98:169-178, 2013. Previously circulated as an SSRN Working Paper under the title, “African Doctor Migration: Are Economic Shocks to Blame?”

Gonzalez Morganti, Kristy, Sebastian Bauhoff, Janice Blanchard, Mahshid Abir, Neema Iyer, Alexandria Smith, Joseph Vesely, **Edward Okeke**, and Arthur Kellermann (2013). “The Evolving Role of Emergency Departments in the United States.” RAND Health Quarterly, Jun 1;3(2):3.

Okeke, Edward and Glenn Wagner (2013). “AIDS Treatment and Mental Health. Evidence from Uganda.” Social Science and Medicine, 92:27-34.

Okeke, Edward, Richard Hirth, and Kyle Grazier (2013). “Workers on the Margin: Who Drops Health Coverage when Prices Rise?” Inquiry, 47(1): 33-47. DOI: 10.5034/inquiryjrnl_47.01.33.

Berry, Sandra, Thomas Concannon, Kristy Gonzalez Morganti, David Auerbach, Megan Beckett, Peggy Chen, Donna Farley, Bing Han, Katherine Harris, Spencer Jones, Harry Liu, Susan Lovejoy, Terry Marsh, Grant Martsof, Christopher Nelson, **Edward Okeke**, Marjorie Pearson, Francesca Pillemer, Melony Sorbero, Vivian Towe, and Robin Weinick (2013). “CMS Innovation Center Health Care Innovation Awards: Evaluation Plan.” RAND Health Quarterly, 2013 Sep 1;3(3):1.

Watkins, Katherine, M. Audrey Burnam, **Edward Okeke**, and Claude Messan Setodji (2012). “Evaluating the Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention Activities on the Mental Health of California’s Population.” RAND Health Quarterly, Feb 28;2(4):1.

Eisenberg, Daniel and **Edward Okeke** (2009). “Too Cold for a Jog? Weather, Physical Activity and Socioeconomic Status.” The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, 9(1) (Contributions), Article 25. DOI: 10.2202/1935-1682.2104.

Hirth, Richard and Kyle Grazier, Michael Chernew, and **Edward Okeke** (2008). “Insurer Competitive Strategy and Enrollment in Newly Offered Preferred Provider Organizations (PPO).” Inquiry, 44(4): 400-11. https://doi.org/10.5034/inquiryjrnl_44.4.400.

WORKING PAPERS

Okeke, Edward and Isa Sadeeq Abubakar (2025). “Right-sizing Incentives.” Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Development Economics.

Okeke, Edward and Isa Sadeeq Abubakar (2025). “Defying Hades: The Effects of Early-Life Medical Intervention.”

Okeke, Edward, Adeyemi Okunogbe and Isa Sadeeq Abubakar (2025). “Long Run Effects of Maternal Incentives.” (with Isa Abubakar and Adeyemi Okunogbe)

Okeke, Edward and Italo Gutierrez (2023). “Incentivizing Productivity when Teamwork Matters: Evidence from a Worker Experiment in Nigeria.”

WORK IN PROGRESS

SKILLS: Supporting Knowledge Improvement and Learning by mid-Level practitionerS. A Randomized Trial.

Local Spillovers in Health Care Production

Maternal Beliefs and Impacts on Behavior

PERMANENT WORKING PAPERS

Okeke, Edward and Amalavoyal Chari (2018). “Home and Dry? Bad Weather, Place of Birth, and Birth Outcomes.”

Okeke, Edward and Amalavoyal Chari (2015). Can Institutional Deliveries Reduce Newborn Mortality? Evidence from Rwanda. RAND Working Paper Series WR-1072.

GRANT FUNDING (≈ \$10M)

2021-2026 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01HD102412)
“Long Term Effects of an Intervention on Maternal Behavior, Child Health, and Community Influence”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$2.7M

2017-2025 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01HD09023)
“Improving Perinatal Outcomes Using Conditional and Targeted Transfers”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$2.8M

2015-2022 National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01HD083444)
“Estimating the Returns to Provider Human Capital”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$3M

- 2013-2016: National Cancer Institute (R21CA173621)
“The Demand for Cancer Screening: Peer Effects or Learning”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$374,855
- 2013-2016: International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (OW4/1122)
“Skilled Attendance at Birth: A Natural Experiment in Nigeria”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$405,000
- 2013-2015: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R03HD075981)
“Quantifying the Health Benefits of Hospital Births”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$194,486
- 2013-2015: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R03HD075943)
“Constrained Provider Choice: The Effect of a TBA Ban on Mortality”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$190,000
- 2012-2014: State of California
“Implementing a Resource-Based Relative Value Scale Physician Fee Schedule in California”
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Barbara Wynn)
\$498,795
- 2012-2014: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
“Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: Development of a Model for the Valuation of Work Relative Value Units”
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Barbara Wynn)
\$930,822
- 2010-2011: DFID/Partnerships for Transforming Health Systems (PATHS 2)
“A Randomized Evaluation of Community Involvement in Health Care Delivery”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$300,000
- 2008-2009: University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center
“An Empirical Investigation of the Demand for Prevention: An Analysis of Cervical Cancer Screening”
Role: Principal Investigator
\$25,000
- 2008-2009: Russell Sage Foundation
“An Empirical Investigation of the Demand for Prevention: An Analysis of Cervical Cancer Screening”
Role: Principal Investigator

\$5,000

2006-2007: Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation
“Retiree Health Benefits: The Role of Premiums and PPOs”
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Kyle Grazier)
\$99,986

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Economic Analysis for Management and Policy (Graduate)

University of Michigan (Graduate Student Instructor)

The Health Services System I (Graduate)

Health Economics (Graduate)

Microeconomic Theory (Graduate)

Cost Effectiveness and Cost Benefit Analysis in Health (Graduate)

CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2025: Department of Economics, Princeton University

2024: Center for Development Economics, Williams College; IHEA Global Health Economics Seminar; University of Pennsylvania Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics

2022: University of Maryland, AREC

2021: Center for Global Development, Washington DC; IDInsight, San Francisco CA; 20th Journées Loius-André Gérard-Varet International Conference in Public Economics, Marseille, France; International Health Economics Association Congress (virtual)

2020: NBER Health Economics Fall Meeting

2019: American Society of Health Economists, Washington DC; International Health Economics Association Congress, Basel, Switzerland

2018: Northeast Universities Development Consortium, Cornell University

2017: International Health Economics Association Congress, Boston University; Centre for the Study of African Economies, St Catherine's College, Oxford (paper accepted but could not attend)

2016: Royal Economic Society Conference, University of Sussex, Brighton; University of California, Irvine, Program in Public Health

2015: International Health Economics Association Congress, Bocconi University, Milan; Centre for the Study of African Economies, St Catherine's College, Oxford

2014: Northeast Universities Development Consortium, Boston University; University of Pennsylvania, Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy

Prior to 2014: Northeast Universities Development Consortium, Harvard University (2013); Population Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans (2013); Centre for the Study of African Economies, St Catherine's College, Oxford (2013); American Society of Health Economists, University of Minnesota (2012); University of Michigan, Department of Health Management and Policy (2012); University of Pittsburgh, Department of Health Policy and Management (2011); American Society of Health Economists, Cornell University (2010); Academy Health, Boston (2010); Annual Health Economics Conference, Lehigh University, PA, (2010); Northeast Universities Development Consortium, Tufts University (2009); Academy Health, Chicago, (2009); Unite for Sight 5th Annual International Health Conference, Yale University (2008); European Science Days, Steyr Austria (2008)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

2006-2011: Consultant, Trust for America's Health, Washington DC
2004-2009: Research Assistant/Associate, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI
2003-2004: Emergency Care Physician, Critical Rescue International, Nigeria
2002-2003: Medical Officer, State Ministry of Health, Lagos, Nigeria
2001-2002: House Officer, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nigeria

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee: American Economic Journal: Applied; American Economic Journal: Policy; American Journal of Health Economics, BMC Health Services Research, BMJ, BMJ Global Health, Economic Development and Cultural Change, European Economic Review, Health Affairs, Health Economics, Health Services Research, Health Policy and Planning, Human Resources for Health, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Lancet Global Health, PLoS One, Review of Economics and Statistics, Social Science and Medicine, World Development

Grant Reviewer:

NIH Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section (SSPB), 2018, 2024
NIH Special Emphasis Panel: Member Conflict: Health Services and Systems, 2023
NIH Organization and Delivery of Health Services (ODHS), 2021
NIH Director's Early Independence Award (DP5), 2020
NIH Health Services Organization and Delivery Study Section (HSOD), 2019
NIH Special Emphasis Panel ZHD1 DSR-W (ED), 2017
NIH Special Emphasis Panel ZRG1 HDM-J, 2016
NIH Special Emphasis Panel ZHD1 DSR-W, 2015
NIH Social Sciences and Population Studies Study Section (SSPA), 2015
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), 2014, 2017

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), United Kingdom, 2013

MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association

American Society of Health Economists

International Health Economics Association