

Melissa A. Knox

Curriculum Vitae

University of Washington
Seattle, WA 98195-3330
✉ knoxm@uw.edu
melissaknox.net

Employment

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- 2025 - **Teaching Professor**, Department of Economics
- 2014 - **Research Affiliate**, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
- 2020 - 2025 **Associate Teaching Professor**, Department of Economics
- 2018 - 2020 **Senior Lecturer**, Department of Economics
- 2011 - 2018 **Lecturer**, Department of Economics
- 2011 **Visiting Instructor**, Department of Economics
- 2009 - 2010 **Research Associate**, Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy & Governance

Education

- 2008 **Ph.D., Economics**, University of California, Berkeley.
Title: Essays in the Economics of Health and Education. Chair: Edward Miguel
- 2003 **B.A., Economics**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, *cum laude*.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 Jessica C. Jones-Smith, Jamie Wallace, Anna M. Localio, **Melissa A. Knox**, Janne Boone-Heinonen, Aileen Ochoa, and Anirban Basu. Losing Access to Universal Free School Meals and BMI in Children. *JAMA Network Open* [In press], 2026.
- 2026 Leah R. Neff Warner, **Melissa A. Knox**, Amanda M. Fretts, Brian E. Saelens, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Investigation of Spillover Effects of a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax on Beverage Purchasing in a Nearby, Non-Taxed Area: A Quasi-Experimental, Difference-in-Differences Analysis. *PLOS One*, volume 21, page e0340577, 2026.
- 2025 **Melissa A. Knox**, Jamie Wallace, Barbara Baquero, KeliAnne Hara-Hubbard, and Jessica Jones-Smith. Healthy Food Benefit Programs, Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, and Food Security. *JAMA Network Open*, volume 8, pages e2527601–e2527601, 2025.
- 2025 **Melissa A. Knox** and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Consumption Responses to Sweetened Beverage Taxes by Household Income in Four U.S. Cities. *Health Economics*, volume 34, 2025.
- 2025 Abby Schamp, Hem Nalini Morzaria-Luna, **Melissa Knox**, and Christopher M. Anderson. Tourist Preferences for Whale Watching and Rule Changes in the Salish Sea. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, volume 269, page 107830, 2025.
- 2025 Anna M. Localio, **Melissa A. Knox**, Paul L. Hebert, Jennifer Sonney, Tom Lindman, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Participation in the Community Eligibility Provision – A Universal Free School Meals Policy in the United States in 2014–2020. *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 2025.

- 2025 Anna M. Localio, Paul L. Hebert, **Melissa A. Knox**, Wyatt P. Bensken, Aileen M. Ochoa, Jennifer Sonney, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. School Provision of Universal Free Meals and Blood Pressure Outcomes Among Youths. *JAMA Network Open*, volume 8, page e2533186, September 2025.
- 2025 Jessica C Jones-Smith, Anna M Localio, **Melissa A Knox**, Tom Lindman, Janne Boone-Heinonen, Aileen M Ochoa, and Anirban Basu. Universal Free School Meals and Child Body Mass Index: Impact Among Children in Community-Based Healthcare Organizations. *Health Affairs Scholar*, volume 3, 2025.
- 2024 Anna M. Localio, **Melissa A. Knox**, Anirban Basu, Tom Lindman, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Universal Free School Meals Policy and Childhood Obesity. *Pediatrics*, 2024.
- 2024 Jessica C. Jones-Smith, **Melissa A. Knox**, Suman Chakrabarti, Jamie Wallace, Lina Walkinshaw, Stephen J. Mooney, Jessica Godwin, David E. Arterburn, Joanna Eavey, Nadine Chan, and Brian E. Saelens. Sweetened Beverage Tax Implementation and Change in Body Mass Index Among Children in Seattle. *JAMA Network Open*, volume 7, 2024.
- 2023 Vanessa M. Oddo, Jessica C. Jones-Smith, and **Melissa A. Knox**. Changes in Precarious Employment and Health in the United States Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, volume 31, page 102113, 2023.
- 2023 Alicia Atwood, Tisha L. N. Emerson, **Melissa A. Knox**, and Mahjuja M. Taznin. Online platforms for classroom experiments: A primer for new adoptees. *The Journal of Economic Education*, volume 54, 2023.
- 2023 Nicole Asa, **Melissa Knox**, Vanessa Oddo, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Brian Saelens, Nadine Chan, and Jessica Jones-Smith. Seattle's sweetened beverage tax implementation and changes in interior marketing displays. *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 2023.
- 2022 Leah Neff Warner, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Vanessa Oddo, **Melissa A. Knox**, Philip Hurvitz, Anita Rocha, Nadine Chan, Brian E. Saelens, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. The Availability and Price of Healthy Food in Seattle by Neighborhood Sociodemographic Characteristics. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, volume 19, 2022.
- 2022 Lauren Sawyer, Vanessa M. Oddo, Amanda Fretts, **Melissa A. Knox**, Nadine Chan, Brian E. Saelens, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Impacts of the Seattle Sweetened Beverage Tax on the Perceived Healthfulness of Sweetened Beverages. *Nutrients*, volume 14, 2022.
- 2022 Vanessa M. Oddo, **Melissa Knox**, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Brian E. Saelens, Nadine Chan, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Evaluation of Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax on Tax Support and Perceived Economic and Health Impacts. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, volume 27, 2022.
- 2022 Jessica C. Jones-Smith, **Melissa A. Knox**, Norma B. Coe, Lina P. Walkinshaw, John Schoof, Deven Hamilton, Philip M. Hurvitz, and James Krieger. Sweetened Beverage Taxes: Economic Benefits and Burdens According to Household Income. *Food Policy*, volume 110, 2022.
- 2020 **Melissa A. Knox**, Vanessa M. Oddo, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, and Jessica Jones-Smith. Is the Public Sweet on Sugary Beverages? Social Desirability Bias and Sweetened Beverage Taxes. *Economics and Human Biology*, volume 38, 2020.
- 2020 Jessica C. Jones-Smith, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Vanessa M. Oddo, **Melissa Knox**, Marian L. Neuhouser, Philip M. Hurvitz, Brian E. Saelens, and Nadine Chan. Impact of a Sweetened Beverage Tax on Beverage Prices in Seattle, WA. *Economics and Human Biology*, volume 39, 2020.

- 2019 Vanessa M. Oddo, James Krieger, **Melissa Knox**, Brian E. Saelens, Nadine Chan, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Mary Podrabsky, and Jessica C. Jones-Smith. Perceptions of the Possible Health and Economic Impacts of Seattle's Sugary Beverage Tax. *BMC Public Health*, volume 19. BMC Public Health, 2019.
- 2018 **Melissa Knox**. Creating a Preference for Prevention: The Role of Universal Health Care in the Demand for Preventive Care among Mexico's Vulnerable Populations. *Health Policy and Planning*, volume 33, 2018.
- 2013 Raymundo M. Campos-Vázquez and **Melissa A. Knox**. Social Protection Programs and Employment: The Case of Mexico's Seguro Popular Program. *Economia Mexicana, Nueva Epoca*, volume 22, 2013.

Other Publications

- 2021 **Melissa Knox**. Evidence on Sweetened Beverage Taxes Points the Way for Future Policy and Research. (Invited Editorial) *American Journal of Public Health*, volume 14, 2021.
- 2019 **Melissa Knox**. Could a Tax on Stock Trades Pay Off the Nation's Student Debt? *The Conversation* (Republished by *Chicago Tribune*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *SF Gate*, *The Motley Fool*, *Houston Chronicle*, and others.)
- 2019 **Melissa Knox** and Lina P. Walkinshaw. City of Seattle Food Access Spending Farm Economy Analysis. *Report prepared for the City of Seattle*.

Completed Working Papers

- 1 M. Pia Chaparro, Jong Min Jung, Jamie Wallace, Jessica Jones-Smith, Barbara Baquero, **Melissa Knox**. Factors Associated with Discontinued Participation in a Citywide Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program: The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Engaging Non-English Speakers. (Status: Accepted)
- 2 Jamie Wallace, M. Pia Chaparro, Jessica Jones-Smith, **Melissa Knox**, KeliAnne Hara-Hubbard, and Barbara Baquero. Redemption Patterns of the Seattle Fresh Bucks Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program. (Status: Revise and Resubmit)
- 3 Jamie Wallace, M. Pia Chaparro, Nadine Chan, Barbara Baquero, **Melissa Knox**, Jessica Jones-Smith. Association between Household Characteristics and Fruit and Vegetable Consumption, Food Security and Utilization of a Nutrition Incentive Program (Status: Revise and Resubmit)
- 4 **Melissa Knox**, Lina Pinero Walkinshaw, Vanessa Oddo, Leah Neff Warner, Nadine Chan, Brian Saelens, Jessica Jones-Smith. Retailer Heterogeneity in Excise Tax Pass-Through: Evidence from Seattle's Sweetened Beverage Tax. (Status: Under Review)

Funding

Current Funding

- 2026 - 2028 **UW Population Health Initiative Tier 3 Pilot Research Grant (Role: Lead Co-Investigator)** Project Title: "From Implementation to Impact: A Process Evaluation of King County's Medicaid-Funded Nutrition Support Program" Total Direct Costs: \$186,413. Principal Investigators: Melissa Knox, M. Pia Chaparro, Jessica Jones-Smith, Jing Li, Elizabeth Kimball.
- 2023 - 2027 **National Institutes of Health, NHLBI (Role: Multiple-PI)** Project Title: "The FRESH Study: The Fresh Bucks Racial Equity, Socioeconomic & Health Outcomes Study" Total Direct Costs: \$1,995,854. Principal Investigators: Jessica Jones-Smith, Barbara Baquero, Melissa Knox.

Past Funding

- 2024 - 2025 **University of Illinois Chicago and Bloomberg Philanthropies (Role: Co-Investigator)** Project Title: "Impact of Loss of Universal Free School Meals on Childhood BMI" Total Costs: \$162,018. Principal Investigator: Jessica Jones-Smith
- 2023 - 2025 **Social Science Research Council and the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession Women in Economics and Mathematics Research Consortium (Role: Co-Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Does Including Gender-Related Material in Economics Classes Improve Outcomes for Women Students?" Total Direct Costs: \$173,269. Principal Investigator: Rachel Heath.
- 2021 - 2025 **National Institutes of Health, NICHD (Role: Co-Investigator)** Project Title: "Impact of Universal Free Meals on Childhood Obesity" Total Direct Costs: \$1,396,228. Principal Investigator: Jessica Jones-Smith.
- 2022 - 2023 **UW Royalty Research Fund (Role: Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Measuring Consumer Response to Sweetened Beverage Taxes Using Household Data" Total Direct Costs: \$31,352.
- 2017 - 2023 **City of Seattle (Pass-through from Public Health Seattle & King County) (Role: Co-Investigator)** Project Title: "Evaluation of Seattle's Sugary Beverage Tax" Total Direct Costs: \$2,173,913. Principal Investigators: Jessica Jones-Smith, Nadine Chan, Brian Saelens.
- 2019 - 2021 **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Role: Co-Investigator)** Project Title: "Analyzing the Progressive and Regressive Impacts of Taxes on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages" Total Direct Costs: \$200,000. Principal Investigator: Jessica Jones-Smith.
- 2020 - 2021 **Washington Sea Grant (Project #: R/HCE-25) (Role: Co-Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Evaluating the Effects of Southern Resident Orcas Recovery Actions and External Threats in the Marine Ecosystem of Puget Sound" Total Costs: \$279,981. Principal Investigator: Hem Morzaria Luna.
- 2020 **UW Population Health Initiative COVID-19 Economic Recovery Grant (Role: Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Employment Quality and Health Behaviors in the Aftermath of COVID-19" Total Costs: \$18,000.
- 2018 - 2019 **Seattle Human Services Dept. and Public Health-Seattle and King County (Role: Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Economic Evaluation of City of Seattle-Funded Food Access Programs on the Washington Farm Economy" Total Costs: \$28,132.
- 2018 **University of Washington Diversity and Inclusion Seed Grant Program (Role: Principal Investigator as Department of Economics DEI Committee Chair)** Project Title: "Diversifying Economics Through Introductory Coursework" Total Costs: \$2700.
- 2017 - 2018 **Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology Seed Grant (Role: Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Measuring Modal and Socio-Economic Differences in Responses to Health and Behavioral Surveys: Using the Seattle Sugary Beverage Tax as a Case Study" Total Costs: \$10,000.
- 2016 - 2017 **Center for Health Trends and Forecasts Pilot Grant for Research on Sub-national Burden of Disease (subaward of NIA Grant P30AG047845) (Role: Principal Investigator)** Project Title: "Demand for Preventive Care Services and Health Disparity among Mexico's Vulnerable Populations in the Era of Universal Health Care" Total Costs: \$16,130.

Recent Presentations

- 2025 **APPAM Fall Research Conference**, *Seattle, WA.*
- 2025 **ASSA Annual Meetings**, *San Francisco, CA.*
- 2024 **American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference**, *San Diego, CA.*
ASSA Annual Meetings, *San Antonio, TX.*
- 2023 **Diabetes and Metabolism Seminar**, *University of Washington, Seattle, WA.*
J-PAL Design within Reach Workshop, *Virtual.*
- 2022 **ASSA Annual Meetings**, *Virtual.*
- 2021 **American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference**, *Virtual.*
Population Association of America Applied Demography Conference, *Virtual.*
- 2020 **American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference**, *Virtual.*
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, *Virtual.*

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

- 2025 Henry T. Buechel Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Service, UW Economics
- 2024 University of Washington Course Redesign Clinic (Competitive Selection)
- 2022 University of Washington Evidence-Based Teaching Fellow
- 2021 University of Washington Data Science Course Development Award
- 2021 University of Washington Technology Teaching Fellow
- 2019 Poster Award Winner at PAA Annual Meeting (Health and Mortality Session)
- 2017 Henry T. Buechel Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching, UW Economics
- 2015 UC Berkeley Workshop in Formal Demography Award (NICHD R25HD083136)
- 2007 UC Berkeley Demography Training Grant
- 2006 UC Berkeley Dean's Normative Time Fellowship
- 2003 UC Berkeley Graduate Opportunity Fellowship

Service

Departmental Service, University of Washington Department of Economics

- 2021 - **Co-Director**, *Undergraduate Program.*
- 2021 - **Member**, *Executive Committee.*
- 2026 **Co-Chair**, *Teaching Professor Promotion Committee.*
- 2023 - 2024 **Co-Chair**, *Assistant Teaching Professor Search Committee.*
- 2016 - 2022 **Chair**, *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee.*

University Service, University of Washington

- 2025 - 2026 **Member**, *University Strategic Planning Committee.*
- 2024 - 2026 **Member**, *Royalty Research Fund Review Committee.*
- 2024 - 2026 **Member**, *University Committee on General Education*, Social Sciences Board.
- 2022 - 2024 **Member**, *Advisory Council for Technology-Enhanced Teaching.*
- 2020 **Member**, *President's COVID-19 Caregiver Task Force.*
- 2018 - 2022 **Member**, *Teaching and Learning Technologies Oversight Committee.*

Professional Service

- 2016 - **Organizer and Founder**, *Pacific Northwest Labor Day Workshop*.
2023 **Program Committee**, *Pacific Conference for Development Economics*, Seattle, WA.
2021 **Program Committee**, *PAA Applied Demography Conference*, Virtual.
2021 **Scientific Review Committee**, *American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference*, Virtual.
2019 **Local Organizing Committee**, *8th Annual Northwest Development Workshop*, Seattle, WA.

Referee Service

American Journal of Preventive Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, Applied Economics Letters, BMC Public Health, Economics and Human Biology, Food Policy, Health Economics, Health Policy and Planning, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Education, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Latin America Economic Review, PLOS Medicine, PLOS ONE, Population and Development Review, Public Health Nutrition, Social Science and Medicine, The BMJ

Graduate Student Advising

Name (Degree & Year, Post-Graduation Position, Committee Position):

Eui Ran Chon (Ph.D. 2020, Korean Financial Supervisory Service, Member), Luis Diego Granera (Ph.D. 2022, Villanova University, Member), Nicole Asa (M.P.H. 2022, Epidemiology Ph.D. Program, Member), Ana Localio (Ph.D. 2024, UW Post Doc, Member), Dadmehr Didgar (Ph.D. 2024, Ernst & Young, Member), Theresa Henry (Ph.D. 2024, Member), Lucy Hong (Ph.D. 2025, Member), Mahtab Karimi (Ph.D. 2025, Member), Cheng Chen (Ph.D. 2026, T-Mobile, Member), Bocheng Zhang (Ph.D. Pending, Member), Zahra Khanalizadeh (Ph.D. Pending, Member), Austin Craig (Ph.D. Pending, Member), Jong Min Jung (Ph.D. Pending, Co-Chair)

Teaching

Department of Economics, University of Washington

Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate)

Population and Development (Undergraduate)

Advanced Microeconomic Theory (Undergraduate)

Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington

Economics for Policy Analysis and Management (Graduate)

Urban Economics and Public Policy (Graduate)

Health Economics (Graduate)

Department of Economics, University of California

Development Economics (Undergraduate, as Instructor)

Industrial Organization (Undergraduate, as TA)