Emmaline Keesee, MSPH

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804.832.5785

Research Interests

Long-term services and supports, caregiving, health workforce, rural health, health economics

Education

2023—2028 [Anticipated] **PhD in Health Policy & Health Services Research**
Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Dissertation Chair: Laura M. Keohane, PhD
Dissertation Title: *Sustaining the Unsustainable: Immigration Policy and the Home Care Workforce*

2021 – 2023 **Master of Science in Public Health**
Department of Health Policy and Management,
Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

2016 – 2020 **Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences**
Public Health Concentration, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

Peer Reviewed Publications

1. **Keesee, E.,** Keohane, L.M. Medicaid Home- and Community-based Services Rebalancing is Concentrated in Large Urban Areas. *Journal of the American Medical Director's Association.* 2026. Doi: 10.1016/j.jamda.2026.106208
2. **Keesee, E**., Fabius, C., Kim, J.L., Stevenson, D., Keohane, L.M. Medicaid HCBS Initiation and Acute Services Use. *JAMA Health Forum.* 2025. Doi: 10.1001/jamahealthforum.2026.0206.
3. **Keesee, E.,** Malone, T., Gurzenda, S., Pink, G.H. Rural Hospital Closures and Nursing Home Outcomes. *Journal of Rural Health.* 2025. Doi: 10.1111/jrh.70026.
4. **Keesee, E.,** Kent, K. Mentally Unhealthy Days and Frequent Mental Distress Among Caregivers in North Carolina. *North Carolina Medical Journal.* 2025. Doi: 10.18043/001c.142245
5. **Keesee E.**, Gurzenda S., Thompson K.W., Pink G.H. Uncompensated Care is Highest for Rural Hospitals, Particularly in Non-Expansion States. *Medical Care Research and Review*. 2023. doi: 10.1177/10775587231211366
6. Keohane, LM., **Keesee,** E., Fabius, CD., Stevenson, D. Identifying Dual-eligible Beneficiaries with Long-term Services and Supports Use in Medicare Enrollment Data. *Medical Care Research and Review.* 2025. Doi: 10.1177/10775587251394772.
7. McFayden, L., **Keesee, E.**, Pink, G., Stearns, S. Medicaid Expansion and Nursing Homes Through the Lens of US Rural Communities. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved.* 2025. Doi: 10.1353/hpu.2025.a975593.
8. Kent, K., Deaton, S., **Keesee, E.** North Carolina Caregiver Listening Study: Caregiver Experiences and Perspectives on Services and Supports in an Aging U.S. State. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work.* 2024. Doi: 10.1080/01634372.2024.2351072

Other Publications

1. **Keesee, E.,** Gurzenda, S., Thompson, K.W., Pink, G.H. The Low-Volume Hospital Adjustment Before and During COVID-19. *NC Rural Health Research Program*, *UNC Sheps Center.* 2024. (Findings Brief)
2. **Keesee, E.**, Gurzenda S., Thompson K.W., Pink, G.H. A Comparison of 2017-19 Uncompensated Care of Rural and Urban Hospitals by Net Patient Revenue, System Affiliation, and Ownership. *NC Rural Health Research Program, UNC Sheps Center.* 2024. (Findings Brief)

3. **Keesee, E.**, Gurzenda S., Pink, G.H. COVID-19 Affected Rural and Urban Hospital Uncompensated Care. *UNC Sheps Center*. 2024. (Fact Sheet)

Submitted and Works in Progress

1. **Keesee, E.,** Stevenson, D., Fabius, C., Keohane, L. What Comes Next? When and How Medicaid Home- and Community-based Services End (Submitted).
2. **Keesee, E.,** Watson, T., Dusetzina, S., Graves, J. The Potential of Gravity Models: A Deeper Understanding of Healthcare Access (In progress).

Research Presentations

1. **Keesee, E.,** Keohane, L.M. Work-Related Travel of Home Care Workers (Presented 06/2026). American Society of Health Economics Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
2. **Keesee, E.** & Keohane, L.M. Diabetes, Dementia, and Long-term Services and Supports. (Presented 10/2025) Community Catalyst: Bi-weekly Center Staff Meeting, remote.
3. **Keesee, E.** Watson, T. Gravity Modeling: Existing Methods and Opportunities to Incorporate Real Patient Data. (Presented 12/2024). Health Policy Seminar, Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville TN.

Research Posters

1. **Keesee, E.,** Stevenson, D., Fabius, C., Keohane, L. Circumstances of Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Initiation and Duration of Service Use. (Presented 06/2026). American Society of Health Economics Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
2. **Keesee, E.,** Stevenson, D., Fabius, C., Keohane, L. Circumstances of Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Initiation and Duration of Service Use. (Presented 06/2026). Academy Health 2026 Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA.
3. **Keesee, E.,** Keohane, LM. Work-Related Travel of Home Care Workers. (Presented 06/2026). Academy health 2026 Annual Research Meeting, Seattle, WA.
4. **Keesee, E.,** Keohane, LM. Work-Related Travel of Home Care Workers. (Presented (02/2026). Vanderbilt University Translational Research Forum, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN.
5. **Keesee, E.,** Stevenson, D., Fabius, C., Keohane, L. Circumstances of Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services Initiation and Duration of Service Use. (Presented 06/2025). Academy Health 2025 Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
6. **Keesee, E.**, Fabius, C., Stevenson, D., Keohane, L. Relating Medicaid HCBS Initiation to Service Use and Medication Management. (Presented 07/2025). 2025 American Society of Health Economics Conference, Nashville TN.
7. **Keesee, E.**, Fabius, C., Stevenson, D., Keohane, L. Relating Medicaid HCBS Initiation to Service Use and Medication Management. (Presented 06/2025). Academy Health 2025 Annual Research Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
8. **Keesee, E.**, Fabius, C., Stevenson, D., Keohane, L. Relating Medicaid HCBS Initiation to Service Use and Medication Management. (Presented 02/2025). Vanderbilt Translational Research Forum, VU, Nashville TN.
9. **Keesee, E.,** Kent, E. Mentally Unhealthy Days and Frequent Mental Distress Among Caregivers in North Carolina. (Presented 09/2024) 3rd Biennial Conference on Family Caregiving Research, Pittsburgh PA.
10. **Keesee, E.,** Malone, T., Gurzenda, S., Pink, G.H. The Effect of Rural Hospital Closures on Nursing Homes. (Presented 06/2024) Academy Health 2024 Annual Research Meeting, Baltimore MD.

11. **Keesee, E**., Malone, T., Gurzenda, S., Pink, G.H. The Effect of Rural Hospital Closures on Nursing Homes. (Presented 01/2024) The Population and Public Health Colloquium, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN.

12. **Keesee, E**., Malone, T., Gurzenda, S., Pink, G.H. The Effect of Rural Hospital Closures on Nursing Homes. (Presented 02/2024) The Vanderbilt Translational Research Forum, Vanderbilt University, Nashville TN.

Professional Experience

Jan 2024 – Present	**Graduate Student Research Assistant** Principle Investigator: Laura Keohane, PhD Department of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville TN
May 2022 – May 2023	**Graduate Student Research Assistant** Principle Investigator: George Pink, PhD, UNC-CH NC Rural Health Research Program The Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-CH
May 2022 – Nov 2022	**Graduate Student Research Assistant** North Carolina Caregiver Listening Sessions Study Principle Investigator: Erin Kent, PhD, UNC-CH Department of Health Policy, UNC-CH
Sep 2021— May 2022	**Solo Agers Project Graduate Intern** Partnership in Aging Program, UNC-CH
Aug 2020 – Aug 2021	**AmeriCorps Service Member** Valley CARE Coalition, Vally County Health Department, Montana

Teaching

Ad Hoc Lectures

Apr 2026	**Economics of Long-term Care** HPOL 8525 *Health Economics,* Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Mar 2026	**Long-term Care Policy in the United States** MHS 2140 *Health care in the United States: Politics and Policy* Department of Medicine, Health, and Society, Vanderbilt University
Nov 2025	**Long-term Care Policy in the United States** MHS 2140 *Health care in the United States: Politics and Policy* Department of Medicine, Health, and Society, VU
Oct 2025	**Telling a Story with Your Thesis** PUBH 5599 *Protocol Development (MPH Thesis*) Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Oct 2025	**Long-Term Care in the US** HPOL 8520 *Introduction to Health Policy* Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Apr 2025	**Economics of Long-term Care** HPOL 8525 *Health Economics,* Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Apr 2025	**Long-term Care Policy in the United States** MHS 2140 *Health care in the United States: Politics and Policy* Department of Medicine, Health, and Society, VU
Nov 2025	**Telling a Story with Your Thesis** PUBH 5599 *Protocol Development (MPH Thesis)* Department of Health Policy, VUMC

Teaching Assistantships

Jan – May 2026	*Health Economics (HPOL 8525)* Instructor: Kevin Griffith, PhD Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Sep – Dec 2025	*Protocol Development (MPH Thesis, PUBH 5599)* Instructor: Lucy Spalluto, MD, MPH Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Jan – May 2025	*Health Economics (HPOL 8525)* Instructor: Kevin Griffith, PhD Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Sep – Dec 2024	*Protocol Development (MPH Thesis, PUBH 5599)* Instructor: David Stevenson, PhD Department of Health Policy, VUMC
Dec 2022 – May 2023	*Operations Research Methods* Instructor: John Catalano, DrPH, MPA Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC-CH
Sep 2021 – Mar 2022	**Co-instructor:** *Ethical Service* Buckley Public Service Scholars, UNC-CH
Mar 2019 – May 2020	**Co-instructor** *Community Engagement & Leading Alternative Breaks* Office of Community Engagement, The College of William & Mary – Williamsburg, Virginia

Honors and Awards

July 2026	**AWARD Network Summer Training Institute Attendee** University of California – San Francisco
May 2023	**Jean G. Yates Health Policy Award** Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC—CH
May 2023	**Delta Omega Honorary Society Member** Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC—CH
Aug 2021	**Public Health Award** Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC—CH
Sep 2018 – May 2020	**Dean's List** The College of William and Mary

Professional Service

Jan 2026	**Abstract Judge** American Society of Health Economics 2026 Conference
Jan 2026	**Abstract Judge** Academy Health 2026 Annual Research Meeting
Oct 2025	**Abstract Judge** 2025 Population and Public Health Colloquium Vanderbilt University

June 2025	**Paper Discussant** McGarry, Brian. *Medicare Coverage Decisions in the Presence of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias*. ASHEcon. June 2025.
Jan 2025	**Abstract Judge** Academy Health 2025 Annual Research Meeting
Sep 2024	**Abstract Judge** 2024 Population and Public Health Colloquium Vanderbilt University
Sep 2023 – May 2024	**MSPH Thesis Reader** Thesis: Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Rural Nursing Homes Student: Laura McFayden, MSPH Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC—CH
Nov 2022—Mar 2023	**MSPH & MHA Admissions Committee Member** Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, UNC—CH
Ad Hoc Reviewer	*Journal of the American Medical Directors Association* *Journal of Rural Health* *Journal of Hospital Medicine* *Health & Social Care in the Community*

Funding

May 2026	**AEGA Graduate Student Travel Fund** Biomedical Research Education and Training, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
May 2026	**Graduate School Travel Grant 2025—2026** Vanderbilt University
Sep 2024	**National Caregiving Dataset Training Scholarship** University of Pittsburgh 3rd Biannual Conference on Caregiving
Sep 2024	**Graduate School Travel Grant 2024—2025** Vanderbilt University
May 2024	**Graduate School Travel Grant 2023—2024** Vanderbilt University

Memberships

2025—present	**American Society of Health Economics**
2024—present	**National Rural Health Association**
2023—present	**Academy Health**

In the Media

McKnights Home Care News: Rural residents less likely to receive HCBS than urban counterparts, study finds. May 8th, 2026.

McKnights Long-Term Care News: Nowhere to go? Nursing home resident hospitalizations fall when rural hospitals close. April 29, 2025.

Doctoral Program Courses

Microeconomic Theory
Epidemiologic Theory and Methods

Health Policy Research Seminar
Introduction to Health Policy
Introduction to Health Policy Lab
Statistical Methods
Health Economics
Health Economics Lab
Health Policy Research Seminar
Program and Policy Evaluation
Healthcare Database Research
Independent Study – Dual Eligible Beneficiaries
Regression Analysis
Wages, Employment, and Labor Markets
Health Economics Seminar
Advanced Program and Policy Evaluation
Regression Analysis II
Public Economics: Expenditure
Health Policy II
Health Policy II Lab

Submission to *Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research,* 05/28/2026

To the Selection Committee,

I am a health services researcher and current doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Policy at Vanderbilt University. By applying advanced econometric methods, I hope to inform strategies that improve access to quality and affordable long-term care for older adults while maintaining the well-being of their caregivers – paid or otherwise – as the population ages. I am particularly interested in the potential of home care to improve quality of life and support aging in place. As such, I pursue research questions related to the care economy, including exploring the interaction between paid and unpaid caregiving, direct care workforce policy, and Medicaid-funded home- and community-based services delivery and access. Informed by prior experience working and living within rural communities, I aim to prioritize projects that benefit rural and low-income areas where access challenges are felt most acutely.

My current dissertation work examines the relationship between immigration policies and caregivers. Specifically, I examine how the centrality of travel within home care relates to home care worker retention and recruitment given the sector's high reliance on immigrants that, on average, have more limited transportation options than their US-born counterparts. As an extension of this, I will analyze the effect of state laws granting driving privileges to undocumented immigrants on home care supply across geographies. My final aim will study surges in federal immigration enforcement and its downstream impacts on unpaid family caregiver employment outcomes and cohabitation.

As I am housed in a health policy department, I receive excellent mentorship and support on subject matter expertise and policy. However, my primary mentors (Drs. Laura Keohane and David Stevenson) are not economists and there are areas of my research and career development that would benefit from more direct collaboration with health economists that have similarly aligned expertise in aging and health. In attending this workshop, my hope is to receive mentorship on the following:

1. Causal inference methods: My dissertation will include a staggered difference-in-differences study and a continuous difference-in-differences study. Both designs have come under scrutiny in recent years, with flaws in traditional approaches coming to light and a variety of suggested solutions. My intent is to better understand how economists are applying new methods in the day-to-day and considerations that may be specific to my topic area.

2. Data management and workflow: As with causal inference methods, the norms for data management and workflow are evolving quickly as AI is increasingly used within research. I will benefit from exposure to how economists are organizing their largescale projects broadly and when incorporating AI.

3. Publishing within the economics literature: I have historically published in health policy and health services journals. However, as a researcher that relies on a mix of clinical, policy, and economics literature to inform my work, I aim to be capable of publishing across disciplines. I would appreciate mentorship on navigating the publishing process within economics literature, including differences in expectations and preparation for shorter form health services papers relative to longer form economics papers.

Beyond these 3 areas, I look forward to forming new relationships with economists that have similar research interests to my own and to building opportunities for future collaborations. I appreciate the time taken to review my application. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Warmly,
Emmaline Keesee
Dept. of Health Policy, Vanderbilt University