

Department of Political Science  
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**EDUCATION*****University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill***

Ph.D., Political Science Expected 2011  
 ABD., Political Science 2009  
*Major Field:* American Politics  
*Minor Fields:* Social Psychology and Methodology

M.A., Political Science 2008  
*Thesis:* A Framework for Understanding the Role of Self-Interest in Attitude Formation  
*Committee:* Thomas M. Carsey (Chair) Melanie Green Virginia Gray

***American University***

B.A., Political Science & Economics 2003  
 Summa Cum Laude

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE*****NORC at the University of Chicago***

Principal Research Analyst 2009 - Current  
 Health Policy Analyst 2003 - 2006  
 Conducted all aspects of health services research, including: large and small “n” surveys, interview and focus group protocol development, data collection and analysis, OMB and IRB clearance packages, report and memo writing, and graphics creation for presentations and reports. Clients included DHHS/AHRQ, CDC, ODPHP, CMS, ASPE, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Project work focused on program evaluations, prevention programs, health care coverage, and issues in primary care. Conducted business development activities including strategic reviews of RFPs, proposal writing, and budgeting.

***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***

Externally Funded Research Fellow 2003  
 Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation/Performance Track Program  
 Assisted the program’s Implementation Team with research into innovative economic and regulatory incentives, performed program evaluation research through quantitative analysis, and contributed to various large team writing assignments including annual reports and Federal Register notices. Developed and maintained a website designed to facilitate communication between the national program office and its state counterparts.

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health Care Politics and Policy  
Attitude Formation and Expression  
State Policy Innovation

Health Services Research  
Public Opinion on Health Care  
Organized Interests

## BOOKS

Politics, Interests, and Health Policy in the American States. With Virginia Gray and David Lowery.  
Under contract with Georgetown University Press.

## SELECT POLICY REPORTS, PAPERS, & PRESENTATIONS

Infante, A., Meit, M., Briggs, T., Benz, J., Oppenheimer, C. Evaluation of the USPSTF Recommendations for Clinical Preventive Services. Submitted to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Feb. 2007.

Oppenheimer, C., Infante, A., Cheung, K., Benz, J. Assessment of the Healthy People Objective-Setting Framework and Process. Submitted to the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. December 2006.

Benz, J., Morrison, H., Gaylin, D., Tilkin, M., Evaluation of Contractor Customer and Technical Assistance under Medicare Part D. Submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. November 2006.

Benz, J., Gaylin, D., Oppenheimer, C., Hudson, B., Lanier, D. The Use of the USPSTF Guidelines in Community Primary Care Practices. Presented at American Association of Health Plans-Health Insurance Association of America 2005 Building Bridges Conference, Santa Fe April 6-8, 2005, Santa Fe, NM.

Schur, C. Sutton, J. Hargrave, E., Benz, J., et al. Evaluation of the Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP). Report to Congress. July 2005.

Gaylin, D., Oppenheimer, C., Benz, J., Hudson, B., Finn, A., Lanier, D., Kiely, M., Scheidt, P. and Balsam, M. 2005. Pilot Study: Feasibility of Primary Care Sites Performing Subject Observation and Data Collection for the National Children's Study. Submitted to the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development. December 2005.

Tierney, W., Hudson, B., Oppenheimer, C., Finn, A., Benz, J., Zafar, A., Lanier, D., Gaylin, D. A National Survey of Primary Care Practice-based Research Networks. J Gen Intern Med 2004; 19 (Suppl 1): 111.

Benz, J., Gaylin, D., Hoadley, J., Ketchel, A., Rogers Mathieu, S., Moiduddin, A., O'Brien, E. Employer and Health Plan Transitions to New Pharmacy Benefit Managers: Lessons for Medicare. Submitted to MedPAC. May 2004.

Benz, J., Gaylin, D., Goldman, S., Ketchel, A., Moiduddin, A., Patel, S., Tilkin, M., Williams, J. Patient Safety, Information Technology and the Health Information Infrastructure in the State of Florida. January 2004.

## **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Benz, Jennifer. "An Integrated Model of Self-Interest in Policy Attitude Formation." Under review.

Lowery, David, Virginia Gray, Jennifer Benz, Mary Deason, Justin Kirkland, and Jennifer Sykes. 2009. "Understanding the Relationship between Health PACs and Health Lobbying in the American States." *Publius*.

Benz, Jennifer, Pamela Conover, and Donald Searing. "Placing Political Socialization in Context: The Role of Communities in Molding Citizens." Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston.

Benz, Jennifer, Mary Deason, Justin Kirkland, Jennifer Sykes, Virginia Gray, and David Lowery. "The Interest Group and PAC Connection: How Characteristics of the Policy Space Influence PAC Formation." Paper presented at the 2008 annual State Politics and Policy Conference, Philadelphia.

Benz, Jennifer. "A Framework for Understanding the Role of Self-Interest in Attitude Formation." Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

Lowery, David, Virginia Gray, Jennifer Benz, Mary Deason, Justin Kirkland, and Jennifer Sykes. "Understanding the Relationship between Health PACs and Health Lobbying in the American States." Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

Uhlman Summer Research Funding, UNC, 2009

Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Fellowship, UNC Chapel Hill, 2008

UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate School Travel Grant, 2008

American Politics Research Group, UNC, Summer Funding, 2007

American University Award for Outstanding Scholarship at the Undergraduate Level, 2003

## **METHODOLOGICAL & PROGRAMMING SKILLS**

Multivariate Regression Models

Focus Group Moderation

Stata & SAS

Structured Interviewing

Cognitive Interviewing

Sampling Statistics

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Reviewer, *American Politics Research*