

**THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS VISITING LECTURER SERIES  
WELCOMES**



**Daniela Zapata  
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Presenting

**“Health Insurance Coverage and Children’s Cognitive Outcomes”**

Thursday, January 24, at 3:30 in the Rasmussen Library (OSH 336)

Abstract:

Using data from the Children of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, this paper finds evidence that health insurance coverage at ages 0-4 has a positive effect on test scores in mathematics, reading recognition, reading comprehension, and vocabulary at ages 5-14. The observation that children without health insurance have worse health than their insured counterparts is one of the motivations behind the efforts to increase health insurance coverage for children, including the recent Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This paper provides evidence that the benefits of insurance coverage for children go beyond improvements in health and include lasting effects on children’s cognitive outcomes.

