

## Susan L. Averett

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**Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Lafayette College**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Easton, PA 18042**

**Voice: (610) 330-5307**  
**Mobile: (484) 505-0030**  
**Fax: (610) 330-5715**  
**Email: averetts@lafayette.edu**

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### Education

B.S. Economics, Colorado State University, 1986, Phi Beta Kappa

M.A. Economics, University of Colorado, 1989

Ph.D. Economics, University of Colorado, 1991

Doctoral Dissertation: "Child Care Costs and Female Labor Supply: An Empirical Investigation of the Effects of the Child Care Tax Credit on Female Labor Supply and Demand for Child Care"

### Academic Positions Held at Lafayette College

July 2009-Present-Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

July 2006-July 2009-Charles A. Dana Professor of Economics and Business and Department Head, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

September 2003-July 2006. Professor and Department Head, Department of Economics and Business, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

January 2003-September 2003. Associate Professor and Acting Department Head.

August 2000-January 2003: Associate Professor and Associate Department Head.

August 1997-January 2003: Associate Professor

August 1991-August 1997: Assistant Professor

### Other positions

Research Fellow, IZA Bonn 2012-present

### Research Interests

I conduct research on the economic causes and consequences of obesity, the relationship between marriage and health, and the economics of adolescent health and risky behaviour.

### Refereed Journal Articles: (\* denotes Lafayette College student coauthor)

Averett, Susan, Laura Argys and Jennifer Kohn. 2012. "Immigration, obesity and labor market outcomes in the UK" has now been published in *IZA Journal of Migration*, (1)1. Available at: <http://www.izajom.com/content/1/1/2>

- Averett, Susan and Yang Wang. "The Effects of EITC Payment Expansion on Maternal Smoking" (with Yang Wang). Forthcoming, *Health Economics*
- Averett, Susan, Laura Argys and Julia Sorkin\* "In Sickness and In Health: An Examination of Relationship Status and Health using Data from the Canadian National Public Health Survey" *Review of Economics of the Household*. 2012. Available at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/a1j0787m4523158j/fulltext.pdf>
- Averett, Susan and Yang Wang. "Identification of the Effect of Depression on Risky Sexual Behavior: Exploiting a Natural Experiment" (with Yang Wang). *American Economic Review*. Papers and Proceedings. May 2012.
- Averett, Susan, Hope Corman and Nancy Reichman. "Effects of Overweight on Risky Sexual Behavior of Adolescent Girls." forthcoming, *Economic Inquiry*. Previously distributed as NBER Working Paper 16172. 2010.
- Averett, Susan, Laura M. Argys, Daniel I. Rees. 2011. "Older siblings and adolescent risky behavior: does parenting play a role?" *Journal of Population Economics*. 24(3): 957-978.
- Averett, Susan L. and David C. Stifel. 2010. "Race and gender differences in the cognitive effects of childhood overweight." *Applied Economics Letters*, First published on: 24 March 2010 (iFirst)
- Ruebeck, Christopher S., Susan L. Averett, and Howard N. Bodenhorn. 2009. "Acting white or acting black: Mixed-race adolescents' identity and behavior." *B E Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 9 (1): 9.
- Sen, Bisakha, Susan Averett, Laura Argys, and Daniel I. Rees. 2009. "The effect of substance use on the delinquent behaviour of adolescents." *Applied Economics Letters* 16 (17): 1721-9.
- Stifel, David C., and Susan L. Averett. 2009. "Childhood overweight in the United States: A quantile regression approach." *Economics & Human Biology* 7 (3) (DEC): 387-97.
- Averett, Susan L., Asia Sikora, and Laura M. Argys. 2008. "For better or worse: Relationship status and body mass index." *Economics & Human Biology* 6 (3): 330-49.
- Rees, Daniel I., Elizabeth Lopez, Susan L. Averett, and Laura M. Argys. 2008. "Birth order and participation in school sports and other extracurricular activities." *Economics of Education Review* 27 (3): 354-62.
- Argys, L. M., D. I. Rees, S. L. Averett, and B. Witoonchart. 2006. "Birth order and risky adolescent behavior." *Economic Inquiry* 44 (2): 215-33.
- Averett, S., H. Bodenhorn, and J. Stasiunas. 2005. "Unemployment risk and compensating differentials in New Jersey manufacturing." *Economic Inquiry* 43 (4): 734-49.
- Averett, S. L., L. A. Gennetian, and H. E. Peters. 2005. "Paternal child care and children's development." *Journal of Population Economics* 18 (3): 391-414. Reprinted in *Fatherhood: Research Interventions and Policies*, edited by H. Elizabeth Peters, Gary W. Peterson, Suzanne K. Steinmetz, and Randal D. Day, NY: Haworth Press, 2000.
- Averett, S. L., D. I. Rees, and L. M. Argys. 2002. "The impact of government policies and neighborhood characteristics on teenage sexual activity and contraceptive use." *American Journal of Public Health* 92 (11): 1773-8.

- Averett, S., and S. Dalessandro.\* 2001. "Racial and Gender Differences in the Returns to Two-Year and Four-Year Degrees." *Education Economics*, 9(3):281-292.
- Averett, S. L. 2001. "Moonlighting: Multiple motives and gender differences." *Applied Economics* 33 (11): 1391-410.
- Averett, S. L., and L. A. Whittington. 2001. "Does maternity leave induce births?" *Southern Economic Journal* 68 (2): 403-17.
- Rees, D. I., L. M. Argys, and S. L. Averett. 2001. "New evidence on the relationship between substance use and adolescent sexual behavior." *Journal of Health Economics* 20 (5): 835-45.
- Argys, L. M., S. L. Averett, and D. I. Rees. 2000. "Welfare generosity, pregnancies and abortions among unmarried AFDC recipients." *Journal of Population Economics* 13 (4): 569-94.
- Averett, S., M. McLennan, and M. Young.\* 2000. "Do Higher Returns to College Education Encourage College Enrollments? An Analysis by Race." *Research in Labor Economics*. 19: 63-82.
- Averett, S. L., L. A. Gennetian, and H. E. Peters. 2000. "Patterns and determinants of paternal child care during a child's first three years of life." *Marriage and Family Review* 29 (2-3): 115-36.
- Whittington, L., S. Averett, and D. Anderson. 2000. "Choosing children over career? Changes in the postpartum labor force behavior of professional women." *Population Research and Policy Review* 19 (4): 339-55.
- Averett, S., R. Warner, J. Little and P. Huxley. 1999. "Labor Supply, Disability Benefits and Mental Illness: A Structural Model." *Eastern Economic Journal*. 25.3
- Averett, S., and S. Korenman. 1999. "Black-white differences in social and economic consequences of obesity." *International Journal of Obesity* 23 (2): 166-73.
- Averett, S. L., and J. L. Hotchkiss. 1997. "Female labor supply with a discontinuous, nonconvex budget constraint: Incorporation of a part-time/full-time wage differential." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 79 (3): 461-70.
- Averett, S. L., H. E. Peters, and D. M. Waldman. 1997. "Tax credits, labor supply, and child care." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 79 (1): 125-35.
- Averett, S., and S. Korenman. 1996. "The economic reality of the beauty myth." *Journal of Human Resources* 31 (2): 304-30.
- Averett, S. L., and M. L. Burton. 1996. "College attendance and the college wage premium: Differences by gender." *Economics of Education Review* 15 (1): 37-49.
- Averett, S. L., and J. L. Hotchkiss. 1996. "Discrimination in the payment of full-time wage premiums." *Industrial & Labor Relations Review* 49 (2): 287-301.
- Averett, S. L., and J. L. Hotchkiss. 1995. "The probability of receiving benefits at different hours of work." *American Economic Review* 85 (2): 276-80.
- Averett, S. L., and H. M. Hochman. 1994. "Addictive behavior and public-policy." *Public Finance-Finances Publiques* 49 : 244-58. Reprinted in The Economics of Corruption and Illegal Markets, Gianluca Fiorentini and Stefano Zamagni, eds., Edward Elgar Publishing Limited. 1999).

### **Other Publications (book reviews, non-peer reviewed articles)**

Averett, Susan, Edward Gamber and Sheila Handy. 2003. William E. Simon's Contribution to Tax Policy. *Atlantic Economic Journal* 31(3): 233-41.

Review of "Obesity among Poor Americans. Is Public Assistance the Problem? By Patricia K. Smith. Pp. 197. (Vanderbilt University Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 2009.) Published in *Econ. Hum. Biol.* (2010), doi:10.1016/j.ehb.2010.08.001

### **Working Papers (Under review at peer-reviewed journals)**

"Indebted and Overweight: The Link between BMI and Household Debt" (With Julie K. Smith) Presented at the 2011 meetings of the Southern Economic Association.

"Is it Necessary to Walk the Talk? The Effects of Parental Experiences and Communication on Adolescent Sexual Behavior" (with Sarah Estelle). Presented at the 2010 meetings of the Population Association of America and the 2010 meetings of the Eastern Economic Association

"Sample Selection for Endogenous Dummy Variables in a Dynamic Panel Data Model: An Application to Marriage and Health" (with Jennifer Kohn). Presented at the 2009 Health Econometrics Workshop, Chicago.

"Can't We Just Live Together? New Evidence on the Effect of Relationship Status on Health from the British Household Panel Survey." (with Jennifer Kohn). Presented at the 2009 Southern Economic Association meetings and the 2010 meetings of the Population Association of America.

### **Work in Progress**

"Identifying the Causal Effect of Alcohol Abuse on Intimate Partner Violence Using a Natural Experiment" (with Yang Wang) Presented at the 2011 International Health Economics Association meetings and at the 2011 Southern Economic Association annual meetings.

"Sororities and Eating Disorders" (with Yang Wang and Sabrina Terrizzi). Presented at the 2012 Meetings of the Southern Economic Association.

"The Impact of State Level Anti-Immigrant Legislation on Pregnancy Rates Among Hispanic Women" (with Cynthia A. Bansak and Catalina Amuedo-Dorantes) To be presented at the 2012 Meetings of the Southern Economic Association.

"Obesity and Socioeconomic Status in South Africa: Decomposing Gender and Race Differentials." (With Nicholas Stacy\* and Yang Wang). Presented at the 2011 meetings of the Eastern Economic Association.

They May Not Choose Abstinence: Do Parental Involvement Laws have Unforeseen Effects on Teen Sexual Behavior? (With Bisakha Sen). Presented at the 2012 meeting of the Eastern Economic Association and the 2012 meetings of the American Society of Health Economics.

"The Marriage Myth" (with Jennifer Kohn). Poster at the 2010 meetings of the American Society of Health Economists. Presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association and the 2012 meetings of the American Society of Health Economists.

“Siblings, BMI and Body Image: An Analysis of Birth Order and Adolescent Weight Outcomes” (with Laura M. Argys). Presented at the 2008 meetings of the American Society of Health Economists

“Is a Walk Down the Aisle Worth It? Cohabitation and Marriage Wage Premia and Penalties” (with Laura Argys and Asia Sikora). Presented at the 2006 Southern Economic Association meetings.

The Depth of Obesity in South Africa: A Two Part Model” (With Nicholas Stacy\*). Presented at the 2011 meetings of the Eastern Economic Association.

Food for Thought: The Cognitive Effects of Childhood Malnutrition in the United States” (with David C. Stifel). Presented at the 2006 Population Association of America annual meetings.

[http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~stifeld/papers/averett\\_stifel\\_obesity\\_june\\_2007.pdf](http://ww2.lafayette.edu/~stifeld/papers/averett_stifel_obesity_june_2007.pdf)

“The Relevance of Religious Adherence to Mother-Daughter Communication and Adolescent Sexual Risky Behavior” (with Sarah M. Estelle). (Presented at the 2011 meetings of the Southern Economic Association)

Did the 2008 Food Stamp Program Change Reduce Obesity among SNAP beneficiaries? (With Donka Mirtcheva). (Presented at the 2011 meetings of the Southern Economic Association)

## **Book Chapters**

“Immigrants, Wages and Obesity: The Weight of the Evidence” With Laura Argys and Jennifer Kohn. Edward Elgar Publishing. (In press).

"Labor Market Consequences: Employment, Wages, Disability, and Absenteeism" in *The Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Obesity* Edited by John Cawley. 2011. pp:531-552. New York: Oxford.

“The Economics of Title IX Compliance in Collegiate Athletics” *The Handbook of the Economics of Women’s Sports* with Sarah M. Estelle. (In press)

“Non Marital Childbearing and Poverty.” *The Economics of Inequality, Poverty and Discrimination in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (With Laura M. Argys) edited by Robert S Rycroft. (In press).

<http://www.amazon.com/Economics-Inequality-Poverty-Discrimination-Century/dp/0313396914>

“Obesity, Poverty and the Ability to Pay for Calories.” *The Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Poverty* to be published in July 2012 (in press).

“Fertility, Public Policy, and Mothers in the Labor Force.” 2002. in *The Economics of Work and Family*, Emily Hoffman and Jean Kimmel, eds. Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. UpJohn Institute for Employment Research

“Exploring the Effect of Class Size on Student Achievement: What Have We Learned Over the Past Two Decades?” (with Michele C. McLennan) 2004. in *International Handbook on the Economics of Education*, Geraint Johnes and Jill Johnes, eds. Edward Elgar Publishers.

## **Textbook**

*Women and the Economy – Family, Work, and Pay*. (with Saul D. Hoffman). Addison-Wesley. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 2010. <http://www.buec.udel.edu/hoffmans/textbook/index.htm>

## **Recent Research Grants**

NIH Grant Number 1 RO# HD047661-01 (Older Peers and Adolescent Behavior). 9/1/04-8/31/06

## **Courses Taught (all undergraduate)**

Principles of Economics  
Intermediate Microeconomic Theory  
Econometrics  
Health Economics  
Labor Economics  
Women and the Economy  
Introduction to Women's Studies

## **Honors and Awards**

Mary Louise Van Artsdalen Prize for outstanding scholarly achievement, spring 2012.  
Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Award for superior teaching and scholarly contributions to discipline, spring 2009.  
James Lennertz Award for Exceptional Teaching, Lafayette College, spring 2004.  
Marquis Distinguished Teaching Award, Lafayette College, spring 2003.  
Omicron Delta Epsilon, Department of Economics and Business Teaching Award, 1998, 2000, 2003.  
Jones Lecture Award for Distinguished Teaching and Scholarship, Lafayette College, 1997.  
Student Government Superior Teaching Award, Lafayette College. 1996, 1998.  
Theta Chi Board of Governors Teaching Award, 1998.  
Michael E. Borus Dissertation Award: December 1991. Presented by the Ohio State University and the Center for Human Resources Research for outstanding dissertation using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth database.  
Visiting Scholar, Policy Research Center, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA. June 1991.  
Minority Scholarship, University of Colorado, 1986-1987.  
Presidential Scholarship, Colorado State University, 1983-1985.

## **Editorial Positions**

Co-Editor: *Eastern Economic Journal*. July 1, 2010-present  
Guest Editor for special issue on Health Economics in the *Eastern Economic Journal*. Fall 2003/Spring 2004.

## **Professional Service**

Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession: Eastern Representative for National Board of Directors, January 2010-present.

*Referee/Reviewer:* Journal of Family Issues, Journal of Human Resources, Southern Economic Journal, Journal of Economics, Economic Inquiry, Eastern Economic Journal, Demography, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Financial Practice and Education, Social Services Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Public Economics, Applied Economics, Health Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Public Finance and Management, UpJohn Institute for Employment Research, BE Journals, Labour Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Social Science and Medicine, Canadian Council of the Arts, NIH, NSF

*Easton Hospital*, Member, Board of Trustees, January 2009 to present

## **Media**

Guest on the *Today Show*, May 4, 2006 and on *Your Morning on CN8* May 16, 2006 to discuss research on older siblings and adolescent risk taking. Research has been featured in articles in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Boston Globe* and other news outlets. Various interviews on *WFMZ TV*, *Lehigh Valley PA* (local news media).

## **Selected Previous Service on Lafayette College Committees**

Promotion, Tenure and Review Committee, College Governance Committee (chair), Faculty Representative to the NCAA, Athletics Working Group, Technology Task Force, Appeal and Grievance Committee, Academic Research Committee (chair), Student Life Committee (chair), Student Conduct Committee (chair).

## **Current Committee Assignments at Lafayette College**

Chair, Student Conduct Committee  
Member, Women and Gender Studies Advisory Committee  
Member, Appeal and Grievance Committee

## **Professional Memberships**

American Economic Association, Eastern Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Population Association of America, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, American Society of Health Economists, Southern Economic Association

## **Senior Honors Thesis Students Supervised**

2012:

Clarissa Brown "Childhood Obesity"  
Morgan Reibman "Hospital Rankings"  
Samantha Smith "Sororities and Eating Disorders"

2011:

Hannah Klein "The Effect of Federally Funded Afterschool Care Programs on Juvenile Crime Rates"  
Stephanie Artigliere "Thanks, Mom! Measuring Secondary Educational Achievement in Teenage Girls with Career Professional Mothers"  
Christina DeSalva  
Clarissa Brown (independent study)  
Christopher Diamond (independent study)

2010:

Katherine Reeves "Environmental Quality and Wellbeing"  
Smariddhi Malla "The impact of economic development and gender disparities on the transnational sex trafficking of women"  
Michael Gruner "Do expansions in public health care crowd out the private sector?"  
Maire Newton "The Effects of Reduced-Fat Package Labeling on Food Consumption: A Behavioral

Economics Approach”

Michael Bellantoni “Violence in Mexico: Does the Production of Marijuana Promote Violent Crime?”

2009:

Jeffrey Beavan “Is Green Design Really Worth It?” (Joint with David Veshosky)

Quinn Taurmann, “Law & Economic Order: An Empirical Analysis of the Effect of Abortion Laws on the Adoption Rate”

2008:

Lauren Moulder “How Much Would it Cost the U.S. to Institute a Universal Health Care System?”

Leah Schachar “The Effects of Mood and Visceral Cues on Risky Decision Making: A Behavioral Economics Approach.” (Joint with John Shaw)

Lauren Steinitz “Does Abstinence Pay?”

2007:

Anthony Badillo “Out of the Barrio: A Generational Analysis of Hispanic Labor Market Progress”

2006:

Maurice Bennett “Racial Wealth in America: Why Whites Build It and Blacks Don’t”

2004:

Christine Bender “Medicaid Benefits: Factors Influencing Take-Up and Use Among Easton Pennsylvania's Indigent Population”

2002:

Alison Purcell “The Economic Determinants of Teenage Abortions”