ANDRÉS RAMASCO

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Research Interests

Health Economics, Public Economics, Labor and Demographic Economics

Education

- **Ph.D. in Economics**, University of Notre Dame *(expected)* 2027
- **MA in Economics**, University of Notre Dame 2022
- **BA in Economics**, Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, Argentina. *Summa Cum Laude* 2019

Job Market Paper

Sinaloa Cartel Presence and Its Impact on Fentanyl Mortality in the United States [LINK]

Illicit fentanyl opened the deadliest phase of the U.S. opioid epidemic, but some places were hit much earlier and harder than others. This paper shows that the distribution network the Sinaloa Cartel already had in the country determined where those deaths concentrated. To measure that network, I build a county-level dataset of cartel presence from the DEA's 2015 *National Drug Threat Assessment*, in which each field office reports the share of its cases attributed to each Mexican trafficking organization. I classify counties as Sinaloa-dominated when their field office attributes the majority of cases to Sinaloa, and I validate this classification against an independent measure built from local newspaper archives. I link this dataset to CDC mortality microdata and compare Sinaloa counties with counties dominated by rival cartels in an event-study difference-in-differences design. Because both groups are established trafficking hubs, the design isolates the identity of the wholesale supplier. After 2014, Sinaloa presence raises fentanyl mortality by 5.5 deaths per 100,000 residents, about 30% of the increase in the sample through 2020. The effect is specific to fentanyl and splits roughly evenly between deaths from fentanyl alone and deaths combining it with heroin, cocaine or methamphetamine. It is concentrated among working-age adults without a college degree and, unlike earlier waves of the epidemic, reaches all racial and ethnic groups, with the largest increase among Hispanic residents. I find no effect on violent or property crime, consistent with expansion through established networks rather than territorial conflict.

Peer-reviewed Publications

- **Ramasco, A.** (2026). Not a Sip: Effects of Zero Tolerance Laws on Traffic Fatalities. *Health Economics*, 35(2), 377–393. [LINK]

Work in Progress

- Health Impact of Medicaid Coverage for GLP-1s on Type II Diabetes Patients.

Research Experience

- **Research Assistant** for Innovating Green Pathways to Prosperity (University of Notre Dame) 2024
- **Research Assistant** for Ethan Lieber (University of Notre Dame) Spring 2024
- **Research Assistant** for Alejandro Estefan (University of Notre Dame) Fall 2023

Teaching Experience

University of Notre Dame

- **Instructor of Record**:
  - Introduction to Linear Regression (Fall 2025)

- **Teaching Assistant**:
  - Stats for Economics (Fall 2024, Spring 2026)
  - Principles of Microeconomics, Real Estate Fundamentals (2022–present)

Universidad Nacional de Tucuman

- **Teaching Assistant**:
  - Public Finance (2019)
  - Impact Evaluation of Public Projects (2019)

Professional Experience

- **Economics Intern**, Amazon, New York City June 2025 - Sept 2025
- **Financial Analyst**, UNIBER Group 2020-2021
- **Junior Analyst**, OEPET, Ministry of Productive Development, Government of Tucumán 2019-2020

Referee Experience

- *Economic Modelling*

Pre-Ph.D. Research

- Danón, A., Mena, A. S., & Ramasco, A. (2021). COVID-19 at the Local Level: SEIR+, a Model to Project Epidemiological Scenarios and Demands to the Healthcare System. *Ensayos de Política Económica, 3(3)*, 1-24.
- Ramasco, A. (2019). Intergenerational Mobility and Equality of Opportunities: The Case of Northwestern Argentina. *Ciencias Económicas, 16(2)*, 9-28.
- Iajya, V. D., & Ramasco, A. (2019). Victimization and Insecurity Perception in Northwestern Argentina (No. 4155). *Asociación Argentina de Economía Política*.

Conferences and Presentations

- Applied Micro Brown Bag, Economics Department, University of Notre Dame. October 2026.
- 15th Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon), Minneapolis. June 2026.
- Applied Workshop at Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, July 2024.
- 88th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Economics Association, March 2024.
- Development Lunch Seminar, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame. September 2023.
- 55th Annual Meeting of the Argentine Association of Political Economy, Online Edition, November 2020.
- Online International Conference *Covid-19 in the Americas – The Regional Economics Perspective*, LARSA, 2020.
- 54th Annual Meeting of the Argentine Association of Political Economy, Universidad del Sur, Bahía Blanca, Argentina, November 2019.
- 27th Conference of Young Researchers of AUGM Group, Universidade Federal de Sao Carlos, Brazil, November 2019.

Scholarships and Distinctions

- Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award, Kaneb Center & The Graduate School, University of Notre Dame, 2026.
- Conference Travel Grant - Kellogg Institute, 2024 and 2026.
- Highest Overall Class GPA (Rank 1/261), Universidad Nacional de Tucumán, 2020.
- 1st Prize - National Award for Young Researchers in Economic Sciences, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, 2019.

Service

- Treasurer, Latin American Graduate Student Unidos (LASU), Notre Dame, 2022-2024.
- Volunteer Educational Assistant, Fundación Dale Tu Mano, 2018-2019.

Languages

- Spanish: (Native), English: (Fluent), French (Intermediate)

Software Skills

- Stata, LaTeX, SQL, Matlab, R, Python

Citizenship

- Argentinian and Italian

References

Ethan M.J. Lieber (Chair)
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