# When private equity comes to town: The local economic consequences of rising healthcare costs

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#### Abstract

We examine the effect of increased healthcare costs on local economic conditions. We use private equity (PE) buyouts of U.S. hospital systems as a shock to the healthcare costs faced by firms in affected areas. Our primary identification strategy consists of the PE acquisition of a large-scale hospital chain, with hospitals dispersed across various communities in the U.S. We supplement this strategy with broader evidence including all PE buyouts of hospitals over a longer sample period. We provide evidence that PE buyouts of hospital systems result in higher healthcare insurance premiums paid by firms, and such rises in premiums lead to higher business bankruptcies, an increase in business loan volume, slower employment and establishment growth, and reduced innovative output. The results are stronger for areas with firms that are plausibly more exposed to the effects of PE hospital buyouts, such as areas where the PEacquired hospitals have a greater market share and areas with a greater degree of labor intensity. We additionally provide evidence that increases in healthcare costs result in firms being more vulnerable to the financial crisis, suggesting that the negative economic consequences of rising healthcare costs are due to weakened firm balance sheets which cause firms to be more susceptible to negative economic shocks.

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# 1 Introduction

Healthcare costs in the United States have increased precipitously in the past two decades. Indeed, healthcare insurance premiums averaged \$22,463 for family coverage in 2022, representing a 182% increase in the past two decades that substantially outpaced both wage growth and inflation.<sup>1</sup> The rapid growth in average premiums is illustrated in Figure 1 below. Employer-sponsored plans in the U.S. cover approximately 159 million people, leading businesses to absorb the bulk of these increases. Healthcare costs are also non-negligible for businesses; for example, a 1% decrease in premiums is estimated to increase profits by an average of 3.37% (Lara et al. (2022)). While the steep rise in healthcare costs and spending is well known, the effects of such heightened costs on local communities is not yet well understood.

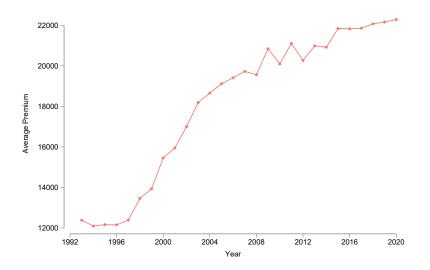
We investigate the role of rising healthcare costs on local economic outcomes, such as business bankruptcies, loans, establishment and employment growth, and innovation activity. Our empirical strategy exploits quasi-exogenous increases in healthcare costs in local economies induced by private equity (PE) acquisitions of hospitals. In recent years, there has been an increasing trend of PE acquisitions of both individual hospitals and hospital chains. However, as documented by Liu (2022), due to increased bargaining power by PE firms with health insurance companies, PE acquisition of a hospital typically results in a significant increase in negotiated prices with insurers. Prices increase not only for the PEacquired hospital, but for other hospitals within the locality as well. We show that higher reimbursement rates for hospital services by insurers are passed on to businesses (and their workers) in the form of higher insurance premiums. We therefore use such buyouts as a shock to healthcare costs, and we explore how this increase in costs affects local economic outcomes and the channels through which this occurs.

An empirical challenge with using PE buyouts as a shock is selection; PE firms may target particular hospitals because they anticipate changes in the local economy. To mitigate such concerns, in our primary empirical specification we run a difference-in-differences (DID) specification exploiting the effect of a large-scale PE acquisition of a hospital system: Community Health Systems (CHS). Since CHS owned 38 hospitals in 18 states (comprising 30 hospital referral regions) at the time of its acquisition by a PE firm in 1996, the acquisition is plausibly exogenous to any particular local economic area. Furthermore, we supplement

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>These statistics are drawn from Kaiser Family Foundation (2002) and Kaiser Family Foundation (2022). Premiums for family coverage averaged \$7,954 in 2002. Relatedly, total healthcare spending in the U.S. presently accounts for 18–20% of GDP.

#### Figure 1: Rise in Premiums

This figure depicts average healthcare insurance premiums for a family of four from 1993 to 2020. The numbers are inflation-adjusted to year 2020 dollars.



our results with a staggered DID specification including *all* PE buyouts of hospitals over our full sample from 1993 to 2020, in which we compare economic outcomes in local areas affected by a PE hospital buyout to areas that were not affected. This long-window analysis indicates that the patterns we document in our main specification hold more generally across a broader sample of PE hospital acquisitions.

Our main results are as follows. We begin by utilizing firm-level data on employersponsored healthcare insurance plan premiums to document that businesses indeed face a significant increase in healthcare insurance premiums following a PE acquisition of a hospital in the local area. In our primary specification, this increase is an economically significant magnitude of 7.5% in insurance coverage expenses, amounting to 10.4% of net income for a typical firm.

We then explore a host of local economic outcomes. First, we show that business bankruptcies—Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and total bankruptcies—significantly increase at the county level following PE buyouts of hospitals. For example, following the CHS acquisition, total business bankruptcies increase by 6.5% for counties affected by the acquisition compared to unaffected counties. This is equivalent to an additional 596 business bankruptcies per year across counties affected by the large-scale hospital system acquisition. Second, consistent with the notion that firms become more strained financially due to the rising healthcare costs (thus leading to more bankruptcies), we find that total business loan volume in affected areas significantly increases, particularly for smaller loan amounts. Finally, examining broader economic growth trends, we find that affected areas experience significantly lower employment growth, establishment growth, and innovation output.

We provide a number of supporting analyses. First, we leverage additional establishmentlevel micro-data to show that there is a reduced number of new establishments formed in affected counties compared to other counties. We further show that, at the establishment level, firms in affected areas are significantly more likely to exit and experience significantly lower employment growth compared to unaffected firms. These results are consistent with our previous county-level results. Second, we run a host of heterogeneity analyses to show that the main results we document are stronger for counties that are ex ante plausibly more exposed to PE acquisitions of hospitals. In particular, we show that our results are stronger for counties where the PE-acquired hospital has a greater market share, and counties where firms are more reliant on labor and thus more exposed to changes in healthcare premiums.

To further validate our results and explore the channels driving them, we exploit another large-scale hospital system acquisition: the 2006 PE buyout of HCA Healthcare. At the time of the buyout, HCA operated 162 hospitals in 67 hospital referral regions. Using a DID specification with this setting, we find results consistent with our previous results. However, a unique aspect of the HCA buyout is that it occurred immediately prior to the global financial crisis of 2007–2009. This allows us to further explore the consequences of the rise in healthcare costs, and how it may lead to a depression in local economic activity. In particular, we hypothesize that rising healthcare costs lead to a weakening of firm balance sheets, thus leaving firms more vulnerable to negative economic shocks (e.g., Kiyotaki and Moore (1997), Bernanke et al. (1999)).

To test this channel, we exploit heterogeneity in counties' exposure to the financial crisis to explore whether an increase in healthcare costs weakened firms and thus *amplified* the effect of the financial crisis. More specifically, it has been shown that areas with greater household debt-to-income (HDI) ratios experienced sharper declines in consumer expenditures and employment during the financial crisis (Mian and Sufi (2010), Mian et al. (2011), Mian and Sufi (2011)). We therefore use variation in household debt-to-income (HDI) ratios using a triple-differences specification to examine whether counties that were affected by the HCA buyout *and* had a greater exposure to the crisis experienced greater declines in economic outcomes relative to other counties. This is precisely what we find—HCA-affected counties with a higher pre-crisis HDI experienced greater declines in economic outcomes relative to HCA-affected counties with a lower HDI. Finally, we consider a number of robustness checks. The results are insensitive to employing different empirical specifications, a placebo test randomly assigning treated counties, and restricting our analysis to areas with for-profit hospitals.

Our study relates to several literatures. A number of papers examine the determinants of hospital prices, including insurer-provider bargaining (e.g., Gaynor et al. (2015), Ho and Lee (2017), Lewis and Pflum (2017)), hospital competition and mergers (e.g., Dranove and Satterthwaite (2000), Gowrisankaran et al. (2015), Dafny et al. (2019)), and private equity ownership (e.g., Liu (2022)), among other factors. Relatedly, a recent stream of literature examines negotiated hospital prices using insurance claims data, and finds variation both within and across hospitals (Cooper et al. (2022)) and the relation to quality of care (Cooper et al. (2022)). We contribute to this literature by documenting the spillover effects on businesses and local communities of increased hospital prices.

Our study is also related to the literature that examines the labor market and wage effects of increased healthcare spending and costs. Gruber (1994) finds that heightened costs following mandated maternity benefits were largely passed through to workers. In contrast, Baicker and Chandra (2006) find that a 10% increase in insurance premiums for employers is met with a 2.3% reduction in wages, indicating that businesses do not fully pass on the increase in premiums to workers. Related studies examine the wage effects following hospital mergers (Arnold and Whaley (2020), Prager and Schmitt (2021)) and employment shifts following government healthcare mandates, such as the Affordable Care Act (Kolstad and Kowalski (2016), Mulligan (2020), Almeida et al. (2022), Dillender et al. (2022)). Our study contributes to this literature as, in addition to employment, we investigate a broad set of economic outcomes within local communities, including business bankruptcies, borrowing activity, establishment growth, and business patent activity following plausibly exogenous increases in health insurance premiums. In contemporaneous work, Zeller (2023) and Gao et al. (2023) also example the effect of health insurance costs on firms. Zeller (2023) finds that PE hospital acquisitions in communities are followed by a decrease in employment shares among smaller businesses, along with lower entry and higher exit of startups or businesses with 20 or fewer employees.<sup>2</sup> Gao et al. (2023) instrument for healthcare premiums using insurance company losses, and find that firms reduce employment (particularly lowincome workers) and invest more in information technology. Our work varies as we use a large-scale buyout of a particular hospital system (CHS) for identification in our primary specification, which helps to assuage potential selection concerns, with a second large-scale

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ The latter result also holds for startups with 50 or fewer employees.

buyout (HCA) as additional evidence. Furthermore, as mentioned above, we examine a wide range of economic variables such as bankruptcies, borrowing activity, and innovation for businesses, including small and large businesses. Our second setting (HCA) around the financial crisis also allows us to provide evidence of a channel driving the effect of rising healthcare premiums.

Our paper is also related to the recent literature at the intersection of healthcare and finance (see Lo and Thakor (2022) for a review). A number of papers examine the effect of financial markets on hospitals, such as Adelino et al. (2015), Dranove et al. (2017), and Adelino et al. (2022). A more recent strand of this literature considers the interaction between healthcare providers and financial intermediaries (e.g., Aghamolla et al. (2021); Lo and Thakor (2023) provides a review), and specifically acquisitions of providers by private equity firms, focusing primarily on hospital services and patient health outcomes (e.g., Gondi and Song (2019), Gao et al. (2021), Gupta et al. (2021), Offodile et al. (2021), Cerullo et al. (2022), Zeller (2023)). Liu (2022) considers the effect of PE buyouts on hospital negotiated prices with insurers. We add to this literature by showing how PE acquisitions of hospitals can lead to a depression of local economic activity vis à vis increasing healthcare costs. We also show that increased hospital prices pass through to local businesses in the form of higher insurance premiums.

Finally, our study contributes to the broader literature that examines the costs and benefits of private equity ownership for acquired firms.<sup>3</sup> These include the effects of leveraged buyouts and private equity ownership on target firms' innovation activity (Lerner et al. (2011)), operational performance and outcomes (Boucly et al. (2011), Bernstein and Sheen (2016), Bernstein et al. (2019), Eaton et al. (2020), Fracassi et al. (2022), Johnston-Ross et al. (2021)), and employment (Davis et al. (2014), Davis et al. (2021)). Bernstein et al. (2017) conduct a cross-country and cross-industry analysis to explore whether greater PE activity affects industry performance. We contribute to this literature by documenting how private equity entry into a specific vital industry—hospitals—within a community can have significant spillover effects on the local economy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>For reviews, see Kaplan and Schoar (2005), Kaplan and Strömberg (2009), and Bernstein (2022).

# 2 Institutional setting and conceptual framework

# Private equity hospital acquisitions

Private equity has seen increasing involvement in the healthcare industry in recent years, with numerous acquisitions of both individual hospitals and hospital systems. Indeed, the value of private equity deals in the U.S. healthcare sector has witnessed a twentyfold increase between 2000 and 2018 (Offodile et al. (2021)), and private equity investments in healthcare exceeded \$151 billion in 2021 alone. Among the first of the major private equity acquisitions was of the large-scale, publicly-traded hospital system Community Health Systems (CHS) in a \$1.63 billion leveraged buyout on July 10, 1996. At the time, CHS owned 38 hospitals in 18 states (comprising 30 hospital referral regions), employing over 7,900 workers. CHS hospitals were located primarily in the southeast and southwest, with several hospitals in smaller communities of less than 75,000 residents, as well as hospitals in major metropolitan areas.

Forstmann Little & Co, the private equity firm behind the acquisition, took the publicly traded hospital system private following the acquisition. The deal was financed through \$1 billion from Frostmann Little and \$900 million in bank lending.<sup>4</sup> The debt was placed on CHS's balance sheet, resulting in total long-term liabilities of \$1.2 billion and a debt to equity ratio of 161.2% (Appelbaum (2019)). As is common in private equity deals, Frostmann Little orchestrated their (partial) exit from the acquisition four years later. In 2000, the company raised \$751 million for a 46% share in its return to public equity markets, with Frostmann Little maintaining a majority stake. Frostmann Little sold its shares completely in 2004.

As noted above, private equity companies seek a relatively quick return on their investments. This includes not just the higher valuation at the time of exit, but also through dividends (usually through asset sales of the acquired firm) as well as transaction and advisory fee payments to the private equity company. Moreover, sales of the acquired hospital's real estate mean that the hospital must make lease payments, tantamount to another debt obligation (Gupta et al. (2021)). Private equity-acquired hospitals are thus typically in considerable debt following the acquisition.

We additionally consider a second setting of a major hospital system buyout, HCA healthcare, to study the impact of rising healthcare costs during times of economic distress. We

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>As reported in the *Los Angeles Times* on June 11, 1996. See https://www.latimes.com/archives/ la-xpm-1996-06-11-fi-13844-story.html. Additionally, after all shares were purchased and debt refinanced, Forstmann assumed or refinanced \$270 million in debt, provided \$530 million to CHS to fund internal growth and the acquisition of additional hospitals.

discuss this setting further in Section 5.

#### Negotiated prices with insurers

In-network hospitals negotiate directly with insurance companies for reimbursement rates on services, both inpatient and outpatient, provided. Reimbursement schemes for treating privately insured patients are generally set either as a percentage of Medicare reimbursement rates or as a percentage of hospital charges (i.e., listed prices) (Cooper et al. (2019)).<sup>5</sup> Private equity acquisition of a hospital can lead to significantly higher negotiated prices and reimbursement rates with insurers for a number of reasons. First, private equity acquisitions, as in the case of CHS, are often financed through leveraged buyouts. The debt from the deal is placed on the hospital's balance sheet. The heightened leverage thus requires greater payments to service the debt. As a result, a hospital that is unable to meet its debt obligations faces a credible threat of bankruptcy and closure—particularly by private equity investors, who have a reputation for closing distressed businesses (Liu (2022)). Importantly, a hospital closure within a market can raise the bargaining power of other hospitals within a given region, thus eventually leading to higher negotiated prices with the remaining hospitals.<sup>6</sup> As such, insurance companies have an interest in preventing hospital closure and are therefore willing to provide higher reimbursement rates to lower the chance of hospital bankruptcy. Likewise, insurance companies have an interest in keeping current in-network providers within their plans, as the loss of a major provider can make the plan less attractive to businesses and can frustrate their employees who would prefer not to change providers.<sup>7</sup> As noted by Liu (2022), negotiated prices following private equity acquisitions increased by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>White and Whaley (2021) find that negotiated prices with insurers for employer-sponsored plans averaged 241% for hospital services in a sample of 25 states in 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>For example, as noted in recent media coverage, following private equity ownership of a prominent Philadelphia hospital, "the insurance companies had an incentive to compromise: if Hahnemann closed, the privately insured patients treated there would go to other city hospitals, where the cost of their care would rise. 'You go into Blue Cross and you say, 'We need some help, and it's in your best interest to help us,' [former Hahnemann CEO Mike] Halter explained. 'Give us ten million dollars more per year'—versus losing fifty million per year'" (*The New Yorker*, June 7, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Media reports provide anecdotal evidence of private equity-acquired hospitals aggressively renegotiating payment rates with insurers immediately following the PE acquisition. For example, in the case of HCA Healthcare, which was acquired by private equity firms in 2006, it was reported that "[Healthcare insurance company] United had claimed that HCA-HealthOne demanded a 35 percent reimbursement rate increase over four years in Colorado. HCA-HealthOne countered that its requested increase would translate into a 1.6 percent premium increase per year for employers and individuals. [...] United had strong motivation to ink a deal to prevent the loss of customers during the open-enrollment season, said Dr. Mark Linkow, a gastroenterologist at Rose Medical Center in Denver, an HCA-HealthOne facility. 'Other insurance carriers were having some success in getting business' from United, said Linkow" (*The Denver Post*, November 3, 2006).

an average of 32%, with most of this increase (88%) being paid by insurers.

Furthermore, neighboring (or rival) hospitals (which are not private equity-owned) can also raise their negotiated prices with insurers following private equity ownership of another hospital within the region (Liu (2022)). The loss of the rival hospital within the insurer's network can result in more patients utilizing services at the private equity-owned hospital, which is more costly for the insurer due to the higher reimbursement rates. Consequently, the bargaining posture of neighboring hospitals increases, and the insurer is willing to provide higher rates with neighboring hospitals to keep these hospitals within their network. Hence, the entrance of private equity ownership within a region can raise reimbursement rates, and thus the overall cost of care, for several hospitals within the region. (Payments for hospital services make up the largest percentage of costs for insurers.)

While insurance companies appear to bear the financial brunt of private equity entrance into a region, insurers in turn pass these cost increases on to the local communities in the form of higher premiums—the cost of an insurance policy—for businesses and individuals. Indeed, as discussed further in the following section, we observe significant increases in insurance premiums in areas following private equity acquisitions. Local businesses can respond to these increases by absorbing the costs or by scaling back benefits, raising deductibles, raising mandatory contributions by employees, or lessening wage increases, among other responses (Rosen (1986)).<sup>8</sup> However, passing these costs fully to employees can be difficult, as both skilled and unskilled workers generally find benefits, along with wages, to be an important component of their compensation. Moreover, an effective cut in wages through higher employee contributions can over time lead to greater worker turnover (Dale-Olsen (2006)) or worker migration, especially of talented employees, to neighboring localities which did not experience a rise in premiums. Furthermore, as noted by Baicker and Chandra (2005), we may not observe corresponding decreases in wages as premiums rise due to the presence of heterogeneous preferences for benefits among employees, as well as minimum wage laws that restrict the firm's ability to lower wages for lower-skilled workers. Hence, higher premiums can contribute to thinner profit margins to local businesses.

Nevertheless, if businesses are able to fully transfer the costs of higher premiums to employees through lower effective wages, then such responses are likewise detrimental to the local economy. Lower effective wages can depress spending within the community, leading to lower revenues and thus eventually lower profits for local businesses. These negative effects

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Businesses can also attempt to switch insurers. However, this can be costly as employers must hire lawyers and consultants when selecting a new plan, while also soliciting bids for insurance plans. Changing insurers can also dissatisfy employees who would prefer to continue with their current providers.

can further propagate and compound economic conditions; for example, local firms that are forced to close due to negative margins lead to lower overall employment and thus lower consumer spending (Bergman et al. (2020)).

# 3 Research design and data

#### 3.1 Empirical methodology

#### Main specification: PE acquisition of CHS hospital system

Our primary identification strategy consists of the acquisition of the CHS hospital system by private equity. A key part of this strategy is the large-scale nature of the acquisition, which mitigates selection concerns of private equity targeting specific localities. More specifically, we run differences-in-differences (DID) regressions that examine outcomes following the CHS acquisition on treated areas that contained a CHS hospital compared to control areas without a CHS hospital. We first establish that healthcare costs rise as a result of the PE acquisition by examining the effect on employer-sponsored health insurance premiums at the firm-year level via the following regression from 1993 to 1999:

$$\log(Avg Premium_{j,i,t}) = \alpha + \beta CHS Hospital_{j,i} \times Post_t + FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t}.$$
(1)

In equation (1),  $\log(Avg Premium_{j,i,t})$  is the average employer-sponsored health insurance plan premium for firm j which is located in county i.<sup>9</sup> CHS Hospital<sub>j,i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in a county i that was served by a CHS hospital as of 1995, and 0 otherwise. We define a county i as being served by a particular hospital if the county falls within the hospital referral region (HRR) of the hospital, a standard geographical unit in healthcare that tracks whether patients in an area can be referred by providers for emergencies or procedures to a particular hospital.<sup>10</sup> Post<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if year t is 1996, the year that CHS was acquired by the PE firm, or later, and 0 otherwise. The coefficient  $\beta$  thus tests whether health insurance premiums at the firm level increased following the CHS acquisition if the business was located in an area that contained

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>For all of the outcome variables in which we take logarithms, we add one to the variable before taking logs in order to account for potential zeroes. For the discrete variables we consider, we show in supplemental tests that our main results are robust to using count regression models.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>There are 306 HRRs in the United States. HRRs typically span multiple counties; our results are robust to only considering a county as treated if the county contains a CHS hospital or is within close geographical proximity to a CHS hospital.

a CHS hospital, relative to firms in unaffected areas. We include firm and industry-by-year fixed effects and cluster standard errors at the firm level. Our sample consists of 8,924 treated and 41,886 control businesses.<sup>11</sup>

After investigating the effect of private equity ownership of CHS on healthcare insurance premiums, we proceed to explore county-level local economic outcomes using the following regression specification:

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t + FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t}.$$
(2)

Equation (2) examines outcomes Y for treated counties i (counties that were served by a CHS hospital as of 1995, measured by  $CHS Hospital_i$ ) in time t compared to control counties before and after the PE acquisition of CHS. We include county and time fixed effects and cluster standard errors at the county level.

We run equations (1) and (2) from 1993 to 1999, a six-year window around the acquisition year of 1996. At the time of the PE acquisition, CHS owned 38 hospitals in 18 states (comprising 30 hospital referral regions), which provides a total of 598 treated counties for which *CHS Hospital*<sub>i</sub> = 1. In order to ensure that the treatment and control groups are comparable, we choose control counties using propensity score matching, resulting in a total of 937 control counties. We provide more details on our matching procedure in the following section.

#### Supporting specification: Full sample of hospital acquisitions by PE

To provide additional evidence that the effects we document with our main specification hold more generally and are not specific to the CHS acquisition, we also run specifications examining the effect of *all* PE buyouts of hospitals from 1993 to 2020:

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta PE Buyout_{i,t} + FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \tag{3}$$

where PE Buyout is an indicator variable that takes a value of one if county *i* is served by a PE-acquired hospital as of year *t*, and zero otherwise. As before, we first run equation (3) at the firm-year level (examining  $log(Avg Premium_{j,i,t})$ ) as the dependent variable and  $PE Buyout_{j,i,t}$  as the independent variable), and then examine outcomes at the county-year. Over our sample, a total of 26 hospital systems are bought out by private equity, comprising 341 individual hospitals. This provides us with a total of 74,079 treated and 58,312 control

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Our results are also robust to forming our control group based on propensity score matching.

firms for our firm-level regressions and 1,592 treated and 1,533 control counties for our county-level regressions.

Equation (3) is a staggered DID specification that compares outcomes for treated counties ones that were affected by a PE buyout of a hospital—to other control counties. As has been noted in the literature, accurate estimation of treatment effects in staggered DID designs can be problematic. To account for this, we estimate the average treatment effects in equation (3) using the procedure of Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021), over a window from t - 4 to t + 3 around the event date (t = 0). For robustness, we also provide estimation results for (3) using a "stacked" DID design (e.g., Cengiz et al. (2019), Deshpande and Li (2019)) with treatment-control cohorts for each event over a window from t-4 to t+3, and find consistent results.

#### **3.2** Data description and summary statistics

Our overall dataset runs from 1993 to 2020 and consists of data from a variety of different sources. For our firm-level regressions examining health insurance premiums, we obtain information from Form 5500 reports filed with the U.S. Department of Labor.<sup>12</sup> For every insurance contract with employer-sponsored plans, firms file individual Schedule A reports (as defined in the Department of Labor's Group Health Plan Research Files), which has information on the insurance carrier, premiums, and welfare benefit type. We only include insurance contracts that indicate the presence of health coverage, and exclude standalone dental, vision, life, and other ancillary insurance contracts. With this data on individual insurance plans offered by each firm, we then aggregate to the firm level. Specifically, in each year, we calculate *Avg Premium* as the sum of the individual health insurance plan premiums for the firm divided by the total number of insured, defined as the total number of persons that were covered by the health insurance contracts at the end of the policy or contract year.<sup>13</sup> Our overall sample includes information on 132,391 businesses from 1993 to 2020.

We use the PitchBook database to identify acquisitions of hospitals by private equity firms. We manually identify all buyouts of hospitals or hospital system chains where the purchaser is a PE firm and also obtain the locations of each of the affected hospitals. In total, we consider private equity buyouts over our sample period that comprise 362 individual

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>These reports are filed annually by employers maintaining welfare benefit plans covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and excludes firms with less than 100 plan participants.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>This includes employees and their dependents who might have had coverage through the firm and is aggregated across different health insurance contracts engaged by the firm.

hospitals across 125 hospital referral regions (HRRs). Figure 2 provides maps showing the HRRs affected by PE acquisitions of hospitals over our sample period. As the maps indicate, the affected regions are dispersed across the U.S. and are not confined to a particular geographical area.

To construct county-level economic outcome variables, we use data from Robert Dinterman's Historical Bankruptcy Repository, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Data Files, and various U.S. government sources. We construct measures of the number of business bankruptcies in a given county and year for our CHS specification from Robert Dinterman's Historical Bankruptcy Repository, which is sourced from data hosted by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Our data include the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and total business bankruptcies (which include any type of business bankruptcy filing).

We obtain the number of small business loans originated in each county, segmented by the size of the loan, from the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) data files. The CRA data files begin in 1996 and are available until 2021 (2020 for our sample); this precludes us from exploring loan outcomes for our CHS specification (equation (2)), but we are able to examine these outcomes for our full sample (equation (3)). We calculate establishment growth and employment growth as the yearly growth in total establishments and employment, respectively, in a county as of a given year using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Finally, to explore additional economic outcomes, we examine firm innovation activity in a local area from the U.S. Patents and Trademark Office (USPTO). Specifically, we construct data on patents filed by businesses in a given county from the USPTO's PatentsView database, and data on trademarks registered to businesses in a given county as another measure of innovation (e.g., Mendonça et al. (2004)). For supporting analyses, we supplement our county-level data with establishment-level on firm entry, exit, and employment using the National Establishment Time-Series (NETS) database.

Table 1 provides summary statistics for the various outcome variables that we study for the CHS sample from 1993 to 1999 (Panel A) and for the full sample from 1993 to 2020 (Panel B). As previously noted, for our main empirical tests around the PE acquisition of CHS, we choose control counties using propensity score matching. More specifically, we do 2-1 matching based on average county earnings in the pre-period from 1993 to 1995 and an indicator variable for whether the county has a low urban population, resulting in 598 treated and 937 control counties. Table 2 provides a balance test for our treatment and control groups in the 1993–1995 pre-period based on this matching procedure. In particular, we provide the means for our various outcome variables for the treatment and control groups, a *t*-test of the difference in means, and the normalized difference following Imbens and Rubin (2015).<sup>14</sup> As the table indicates, our matching procedure results in no significant differences between treated and control counties across the vast majority of our outcome variables. The exception is establishment growth; however, the absolute value of the normalized differences is less than the threshold of 0.20 suggested by Imbens and Rubin (2015), indicating a reasonable balance between the treatment and control groups.

# 4 Results

#### 4.1 Insurance Premiums

We begin by establishing our first-stage results, whereby private equity acquisitions of hospitals lead to an increase in healthcare costs. Table 3 provides the firm-level results for employer-sponsored health insurance premiums following PE acquisitions of hospitals. Columns (1) and (2) provide the estimation results for the CHS setting in specification (2). The results show that, relative to firms in unaffected control areas, firms in areas affected by the PE acquisition of the CHS hospital system experienced a significant increase in premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance plans. These results are very similar when including firm and year fixed effects, as well as firm and industry-by-year fixed effects. In particular, premiums increased by 7.5% for treated firms after the PE buyout of CHS hospitals relative to control firms.

To provide texture to these coefficient estimates, we gather summary data from the U.S. Census on business payroll expenses and income.<sup>15</sup> The 7.5% increase in premiums amounts to 10.4% of net income, indicating the economically sizable magnitude of the rise in healthcare costs.<sup>16</sup> Likewise, as a percentage of total payroll expenses for a given business (excluding fringe), the premium is equivalent to a 4.5% increase in payroll expenses.<sup>17</sup> For

<sup>17</sup>Average payroll expense is calculated by dividing total payroll expenses by the number of firms, resulting in a value of \$492,294. Payroll expense is taken fro the Census SUSB data and is for 1997 (this data is released

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>The normalized difference provides the difference in means between the treatment and control groups, divided by the square root of the average variance of the treatment and control groups.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>As most businesses in the U.S., and thus in our firm-level analysis, are private, we cannot directly observe financial statement information for these firms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>To calculate average profit or net income, we multiply total revenue by net profit margin and divide by the number of firms. This gives us a value of \$212,318 average profit. The median total premium payment by firms to insurers in our sample is \$420,486; an increase of 7.5% is therefore \$22,075, which is 10.4% of average profit. Revenue and the number of firms are for 1997 (as they are released every five years) and taken from the Census Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) dataset.

firms with less than 1000 employees, we find more pronounced effects, with the increase in premiums amounting to 7.2% of payroll expenses and 15.1% of net income.<sup>18</sup>

As supporting evidence, column (3) provides the estimation results for equation (3). The results are very similar to the CHS specification—relative to unaffected firms, treated firms in areas experiencing a PE buyout of a hospital faced on average 6.6% higher healthcare insurance premiums (with similar economic magnitudes as in the CHS sample). This provides evidence that the effects we document are not unique to the CHS acquisition.

A key assumption of the DID framework is that the treatment and control groups exhibit parallel trends prior to the shock. Figure 3 provides the parallel trend graphs for these specifications. Panel A provides parallel trends for the CHS buyout, while Panel B provides parallel trends for the full sample following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021).<sup>19</sup> For both specifications, there are no significant differences between treated and control firms and no discernible pre-trend; however, premiums for both specifications significantly jump for treated firms compared to control immediately after the PE acquisition of hospitals (CHS in Panel A and any hospital in Panel B).

Overall, the results provide validation for our use of PE buyouts of hospitals in a given local economic area as a positive shock to healthcare costs.

## 4.2 Business Bankruptcies and Loan Volumes

To explore the direct consequences of this increase in healthcare costs and whether they lead to depressed economic outcomes in an area, we begin by examining business bankruptcies. Table 4 examines the number of Chapter 7 (liquidation), Chapter 11 (reorganization), and total business bankruptcy filings in a given county and year. Panel A provides the results for the CHS buyout employed in specification (2). The results indicate an important negative spillover effect of heightened healthcare costs—communities which experienced a rise in healthcare costs through PE entry saw a significant rise in business bankruptcies following the acquisitions. In other words, the increase in healthcare costs for local firms within an area led to higher bankruptcies within that area. In particular, treated counties affected by the CHS buyout experienced 4.6% greater Chapter 7 and 4.8% greater Chapter 11 business bankruptcies relative to control counties. When examining combined business bankruptcies, treated counties experienced 6.5% greater bankruptcies relative to control counties. This

every five years).

 $<sup>^{18}</sup>$  The coefficient estimate for the increase in premiums for this subsample is 5.9%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>The parallel trends we present are for the full sample considering hospital system buyouts. The parallel trends including individual hospitals look similar and are available upon request.

equates to an additional 596 business bank ruptcies per year across affected counties due to rising health care costs.<sup>20</sup>

Panel B examines effects for the full sample of PE buyouts via estimating specification (3). We see that the results are consistent with those in Panel A—treated counties experienced significantly higher business bankruptcies than control counties. Moreover, due to the longer sample period and thus greater data availability, our full sample specification also allows us to dive deeper and explore what may be leading to this increase in bankruptcies. In order to do so, we examine business loan volumes as outcome variables.<sup>21</sup> Column (4) of Panel B examines the number of new business loans originated within a given county for loan amounts between \$100K and \$250K, and column (5) examines the number of larger business loans (amounts greater than \$250K) originated.

We find that the volume of business loans originated in treated areas *increases* relative to untreated areas. In particular, the effect is strongest, with an increase of 4.6%, for loans of smaller amounts—between \$100K and \$250K—which are likely for smaller businesses that are more cash constrained (we find positive but marginally insignificant effects for larger loans).<sup>22</sup> This implies an additional 474 small loans taken out per year across counties affected by rising healthcare costs due to PE entry.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, this increase in loans is consistent with firms in a local area requiring additional external financing following the rise in healthcare costs. The combination of higher costs and the resulting increase in leverage leaves businesses more susceptible to negative economic shocks, thus leading to an increase in bankruptcies.<sup>24</sup> In Section 5, we provide further evidence of this channel.

Figure 4 provides the parallel trends for total bankruptcies for both the CHS specification (Panel A) and the full sample (Panel B), and for loans for the full sample. There are no significant differences between treatment and control counties prior to PE buyouts of hospitals, but then an increase in bankruptcy and loans in the periods after. This provides justification that the parallel trends assumption holds for these outcomes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>As noted in Table 1, the mean number of business bankruptcies per year in CHS counties is 15.34. In the CHS sample, we have 598 treated counties. The total number of additional business bankruptcies due to PE entry across affected counties in a given year is therefore given as  $6.5\% \times 15.34 \times 598 = 596$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>As previously noted, our data on business loans from the CRA data files starts in 1996, and thus we cannot examine this as an outcome for our CHS specification. However, we are able to use this data for our HCA specification in Section 5.

 $<sup>^{22}\</sup>mathrm{In}$  untabulated tests, we also find that very small loans of less than \$100K increase for treated counties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>The average number of loans between \$100K and \$250K in our full sample is 71.55. The average number of affected counties in our full sample is 144 counties per year. The average increase in loans across counties in a given year is therefore  $71.55 \times 4.6\% \times 144 = 474$ .

 $<sup>^{24}</sup>$ This is in line with the effect documented by Bergman et al. (2020), where positive cash inflows in a strained economic environment lead to a decrease in loan delinquencies.

## 4.3 Effect on Economic Growth

We now proceed to examine whether rising healthcare costs, and their subsequent effect on business bankruptcies and leverage, lead to real effects in terms of economic growth in local economies. More specifically, in Table 5 we examine employment and business establishment growth at the county-level. Focusing first on the CHS specification in Panel A, both employment and establishment growth significantly decline in treated areas following the PE acquisition of CHS hospitals. The coefficients imply 5,363 *fewer* establishments launched per year aggregated across affected counties, relative to unaffected counties which did not experience PE entry into their healthcare systems.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, the rising healthcare costs result in 88,441 fewer jobs created per year across affected counties.<sup>26</sup> We see a similar pattern with the full sample in Panel B (albeit employment growth has a negative but insignificant coefficient).<sup>27</sup>

Figure 5 provides the parallel trends for these outcomes. In Panel A, treated and control counties are insignificantly different from one another prior to the PE buyout of CHS and exhibit no pre-trends, while employment and establishment growth for treated counties significantly drop relative to control counties following the CHS buyout. In Panel B for the full sample, while noisier, the treated and control counties do no exhibit any apparent trend prior to PE buyouts of hospitals; however, following the buyouts, there is a clear and significant drop for treated counties relative to control counties.

As additional evidence of the impact of the rise in premiums on economic outcomes, we explore innovation activity, as this outcome is also closely linked to economic growth (e.g., Grossman and Helpman (1993)). We examine the number of patents filed by businesses (column (3) in Panels A and B), and find a significant reduction in patents for treated compared to control counties after the PE buyout of CHS (we also find an insignificant reduction for the full-sample analysis). Another measure of innovation that has been posited in the literature is trademarks registered to firms (Mendonça et al. (2004)). Using this measure (column (4)), we find a significant reduction in trademarks for treated counties under

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>As noted in Panel A of Table 1, we have an average of 2,002 establishments per county in the CHS sample, with a decline in the growth rate of -0.448 as noted in column (2), and 598 treated counties. We therefore calculate  $2002 \times -0.448 \times 598$  and then divide this number by 100 to scale for the percentage embedded in the variable construction, giving us -5,363 across treated counties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Average employment in each county per year in our CHS sample is 28,448. Our calculation is therefore 28,488  $\times -0.514 \times 598$  and dividing by 100, giving us -87,441 across treated counties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>In Table A.1, we examine the number of business establishments following PE hospital buyouts. We find a decrease in the number of firms with more than 100 employees and a slight increase in the number of firms with less than 100 employees. This is consistent with a composition change, whereby firms in affected areas are not expanding and may be downsizing.

both specifications. In the CHS sample, these estimates amount to 296 fewer patents and 586 fewer trademarks filed per year across affected counties relative to unaffected counties.<sup>28</sup> Overall, these effects provide further evidence of a depression in economic activity due to rising healthcare costs induced by PE buyouts of hospitals.

## 4.4 Additional Firm-level Evidence

As additional supporting evidence for our main effects, we leverage firm-level data from the National Establishment Time-series (NETS) database, which tracks individual establishments (including private firms) across the U.S.<sup>29</sup> We utilize this data to examine three additional outcomes directly related to our main results.

First, we run our main specification at the county level examining entry of new businesses, i.e., the logarithm of the number of new establishments that appear in counties affected by PE acquisitions of hospitals compared to other counties. Second, we run our main specification but at the *establishment* level, examining outcomes for firms that are located in areas affected by PE buyouts of hospitals compared to other firms.<sup>30</sup> We examine firm exit as an outcome using a binary 0-1 variable that tracks if an establishment is no longer operating, and we also examine employment growth from year t - 1 to year t for a given establishment.

The results are provided in Table 6. Panel A provides the results for the CHS buyout, while Panel B shows results for the full sample of all PE hospital buyouts. Column (1) in Panel A shows that treated counties gained a significantly lower (4.4%) number of new establishments following the CHS buyout compared to control counties. The sign is also negative for the full sample, albeit insignificant. Column (2) in both panels look at the propensity of a given establishment to exit, and both sets of results show that firms are significantly more likely to exit when located in treated counties compared to control counties. Finally, column (3) in both panels shows that establishments in treated counties experience significantly lower employment growth versus establishments in control counties.

Overall, the results using the establishment-level data echo our main findings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Average patents per county in the CHS sample 15. We therefore calculate  $15 \times -3.3\% \times 598 = -296$  across treated counties. Similarly, average trademark filings per county is 20; this gives us  $20 \times -4.9\% \times 598 = -586$ .

 $<sup>^{29}</sup>$ Thus, each branch of a firm—e.g. each individual location of Domino's Pizza—is considered a separate establishment in the database. Barnatchez et al. (2017) show that the NETS database covers roughly 3/4 of U.S. private sector employment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>In these specifications, we include establishment and industry-by-year fixed effects.

#### 4.5 Heterogeneity

To further validate that our results stem from the economic forces that we discussed, we run a host of heterogeneity tests.

First, we noted that the rise in healthcare premiums stem from bargaining between the PE-acquired hospital and insurers, resulting in the hospital negotiating higher reimbursement prices and thus insurers passing along higher premiums to employers. If this is indeed the case, then one would expect that acquired hospitals with a greater local market share will have greater bargaining power, thus leading to stronger effects in those areas. To explore this possibility, we run a sub-sample split based on the market share of the PE-acquired hospital system, proxied by the proportion of total beds that the PE-acquired hospital system owns in an HRR. We then run sub-sample regressions based on whether treated counties have above- or below-median market share. The results are provided in Table 7; for brevity, we show results for total bankruptcies, employment growth, and establishment growth. Overall, our effects are stronger for treated areas with above-median market share, consistent with the hypothesis mentioned above.

Second, the rise in healthcare premiums represent an additional cost for labor. However, some areas may be more dependent on industries in which labor cannot be substituted away from and thus will be more affected, while other areas may be less reliant on labor. To explore this further, we do a sample split based on labor intensity in a given county. In particular, for each county, we calculate labor intensity as the weighted average of the labor shares of all industries present in that county, weighted by the proportion of establishments in the county comprised of that industry.<sup>31</sup> We then run our main specification on sub-samples for counties that are above- and below-median in terms of labor intensity. The results are provided in Table 8, and show that our results are generally stronger for counties with higher labor intensity.

In the Appendix, we provide three additional heterogeneity tests. First, we show in Table A.2 that our results are stronger for counties with a lower share of high-skilled labor.<sup>32</sup> Second, we show in Table A.3 that our results are stronger for counties with a higher share

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>More formally, define the weight of industry k in county c as  $weight_{k,c} = \#$  establishments in industry k in county c / Total # of establishments in county c. Labor intensity in county c is therefore  $\sum_{k} LaborShare_{k} \times weight_{k,c}$ . Labor shares are sourced from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Productivity and Technology, and represents the percentage of economic output that goes to workers as compensation.

 $<sup>^{32}</sup>$ We follow Belo et al. (2017) with our definition of high-skilled labor, and calculate the proportion of total employees in an industry that can be considered high-skilled (the jobs require over 2 years of preparation). We then construct a county-level measure by weighting each industry high-skill labor measure by the proportion of establishments in the county comprised of that industry, as described above.

of firms in the service industry. Finally, in Table A.4, we show that our results are stronger for counties with a larger share of small firms (defined as establishments with less than 10 employees), which would plausibly be more affected by rising premiums.

# 5 Resilience following negative economic shocks

In this section, we further shed light on the channels through which our effects operate. To do so, we utilize an additional setting featuring a large-scale hospital system buyout by private equity investors.

### 5.1 Framework and empirical approach

As previously noted, one conceptual channel through which we may see the decline in economic outcomes is due to a "financial accelerator" mechanism, as posited theoretically by Gertler and Gilchrist (1994), Bernanke and Gertler (1995), Kiyotaki and Moore (1997), and Bernanke et al. (1999), among others. The idea is that, in the presence of financial frictions, weakened firm balance sheets can cause negative shocks to propagate and amplify, thus further weakening firms and causing a contraction in economic activity. In our current setting, this mechanism would manifest due to the increase in healthcare costs weakening firm balance sheets in the local economy and causing them to take on more debt, which then amplifies any negative shocks these firms experience, in turn causing an increase in bankruptcies and dampened firm and employment growth.<sup>33</sup>

To provide evidence of this channel, we exploit another large-scale hospital acquisition by private equity: the buyout of the HCA Healthcare hospital system by a group of private equity investors in July 2006, relying largely on debt to finance the acquisition. Examining the HCA Healthcare buyout carries similar advantages to our previous CHS specification, in that it is large-scale—HCA operated 162 hospitals in 67 hospital referral regions at the time of the buyout—and thus can be viewed as plausibly exogenous to any particular local economy. Relatedly, like CHS, HCA Healthcare was a publicly-traded hospital system at the time of the leveraged buyout and was taken private by the PE investors. The shock

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>For example, an affected firm that must pay higher premiums can have a higher cost of labor and lower net income. As such, this firm must rely more on external funds, such as debt (rather than retained earnings), to finance its operations. Consequently, a negative macroeconomic shock that reduces revenues and net income can lead to covenant violations (which increase the cost of credit) or missed payments to creditors, pushing the business into financial distress. As a result, the presence of heightened healthcare costs through insurance premiums can accelerate and amplify poor outcomes for firms following negative economic shocks.

therefore serves as another laboratory in which we can validate our previous results. We consider specifications along the same lines as our main specifications for the HCA healthcare buyout. At the firm level, we run the following regression to explore the effect on average premiums:

$$\log(Avg Premium_{j,i,t}) = \alpha + \beta HCA_{j,i,2004} \times Post2006_t + FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t}.$$
(4)

In equation (4), as before,  $\log(Avg Premium_{j,i,t})$  is the average employer-sponsored health insurance plan premium for firm j which is located in county i.  $HCA_{j,i,2004}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of one if firm j is located in a county i in an HRR where HCA operated a hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise.<sup>34</sup> Post2006<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if year t is 2006, the date of the PE acquisition of HCA, or later, and 0 otherwise. We estimate equation (4) from 2002 to 2009. Our sample consists of a total of 18,305 treated and 40,363 control firms.

For our county-level outcomes, we first run the following regression:

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta HCA_{i,2004} \times Post2006_t + FEs + \varepsilon_{i,t}.$$
(5)

In equation (5),  $HCA_{i,2004}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of one if county *i* is in an HRR where HCA operated a hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. Equation (5) is estimated from 2002 to 2009 for our annual outcomes. As in the previous analysis, to ensure that the treatment and control groups are comparable, we choose control counties (and thus control firms located in those counties) using propensity score matching, resulting in a total of 848 treated and 1,130 control counties. Table 9 provides a balance test for our matched sample; there are no significant differences between treated and control counties across all outcomes except for employment and establishment growth. However, as before, the absolute value of the normalized differences is less than the threshold of 0.20 suggested by Imbens and Rubin (2015).<sup>35</sup>

An additional feature of the HCA buyout, which allows us to further shed light on our previous results, is that it occurred immediately prior to the global financial crisis of 2007–2009. The fact that the PE-induced increase in healthcare costs occurred just prior to the large negative shock of the crisis affords a test of the financial frictions-based channel described above. In particular, if the financial frictions channel is at play, then areas that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup>This allows us to consider HCA hospitals in 2006 that were also part of HCA in 2004, and precludes any hospital that was dropped or acquired just before or during the year of the buyout.

 $<sup>^{35}\</sup>mathrm{Appendix}$  Table A.5 provides summary statistics for the HCA sample.

experienced increases in healthcare costs which weakened firms should be *more* affected by the financial crisis. Put differently, we should find an amplified effect in areas hit hardest by the crisis that also previously experienced a PE acquisition of hospitals.

To test this channel, we exploit heterogeneity in counties' exposure to the financial crisis. Previous work has shown that areas with greater household debt-to-income (HDI) ratios suffered sharper declines in consumer expenditures and employment during the financial crisis (Mian and Sufi (2010, 2011), Mian et al. (2011)). We use variation in household debtto-income (HDI) ratios using a triple-differences specification to examine whether counties which had greater exposure to the crisis *and* were affected by the HCA buyout experienced greater declines in economic outcomes relative to other counties:

$$Y_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 H D I_{i,2006q4} \times H C A_{i,2004} \times Post2006_t + \beta_2 H C A_{i,2004} \times Post2006_t + \beta_3 H D I_{i,2006q4} \times Post2006_t + F E s + \varepsilon_{i,t},$$
(6)

where  $HDI_{i,2006q4}$  is the logarithm of county *i*'s average household debt-to-income ratio as of the fourth quarter of 2006.<sup>36</sup> The coefficient of interest is  $\beta_1$ , which estimates whether HCA-affected counties that were more exposed to the crisis were affected relatively more after the HCA buyout.

Under this research design, specification (5) examines the direct effect of rising healthcare costs following private equity entry on local economic outcomes, while specification (6) estimates the possible amplification effects of the financial crisis on rising healthcare costs in counties more affected by the crisis. If the amplification effect is present, we predict that counties which were more susceptible to the deleterious consequences of the financial crisis will exhibit more severe consequences of the increase in healthcare costs following PE entry.

#### 5.2 Results: HCA buyout

We begin with the estimation results for equations (4) and (5) as a validation of our main results. These are provided in Table 10, while Figure 6 provides parallel trends graphs for the main effects. We find similar results regarding our first stage, whereby we observe a 4.2% increase in insurance premiums for businesses in regions with PE entry. Moreover, we observe similar effects with regard to an increase in business bankruptcies and small business loan originations, and a decrease in employment and establishment growth in affected areas.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup>We obtain county-level household debt-to-income ratios from the FRNY Enhanced Financial Accounts. We show that our results are also robust to using an indicator variable for a high (top quartile) HDI rather than a continuous variable.

These findings using the second natural experiment of the HCA buyout provide further supporting evidence of the robustness of the phenomena we have documented in Section 4.

## 5.3 Results: HCA buyout and amplification of the crisis

Table 11 provides estimation results for equation (6). Across the various outcomes, we find evidence that greater exposure to the financial crisis amplifies the effect of the increase in healthcare costs. In particular, examining columns (1)–(3) of Panel A, we see that, among counties that were more exposed to the financial crisis, the counties that were also affected by the HCA buyout (and thus experienced an increase in healthcare costs) exhibit more business bankruptcies. Columns (4) and (5) indicate that the number of loans for these affected counties also declined (although not significantly), which is consistent with the sharp contraction in credit as the crisis unfolded.

Panel B of Table 11 shows that employment growth declined (marginally insignificant), and establishment growth declined for affected counties. Overall, these results are consistent with rising healthcare costs weakening business balance sheets and making firms more susceptible to the effects of negative economic shocks. Accordingly, the results indicate that rising healthcare costs can have stronger effects in counties or regions experiencing higher levels of economic distress.

# 6 Robustness and additional tests

In this section, we provide a number of robustness and additional tests. All of the results in this section are included in the Appendix.

#### Alternative specifications

Our results are robust to a number of alternative specifications. First, our full sample specification (equation (3)) estimates dynamic treatment effects using the procedure of Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). However, an alternative specification involves using a "stacked" DID design (e.g., Cengiz et al. (2019), Deshpande and Li (2019)), for which control counties are first matched to each county that is treated at a particular time (a "cohort"). The effects for the treated counties are then compared to the match control counties over a window from t - 4 to t + 3 around the PE buyout date of t = 0 for the treated county.<sup>37</sup> Appendix Table

 $<sup>^{37}</sup>$ More specifically, control counties are chosen among the set of counties that are either never-treated or are treated more than three years from the event date. For the premium regressions, we include firm-cohort

A.6 provides these results, which are very similar to our main results.

Second, in our specifications, we do not include county-level control variables, as many such variables may themselves be affected by the shock. Furthermore, we use propensity-score matching to closely align our treated and control counties along with county fixed effects, which control for time-invariant differences between counties. Nonetheless, we verify that our results hold when including county-level controls for county population and income per capita. Appendix Table A.7 provides the results for the CHS specifications (equations (1) and (2)), Appendix Table A.8 provides results with controls for the full sample (equation (3)), and Appendix Table A.16 provides results for the supporting HCA specifications (equations (4) and (5)). The results are very similar to those of our main specifications. Along similar lines, our results also hold when controlling for time-varying geographic trends; Appendix Tables A.9, A.10, and A.17 provide these results for the different specifications.<sup>38</sup>

Finally, some of our outcome variables—i.e., the number of bankruptcies, loans, and amount of innovation—are discrete count variables. As has been documented by the econometrics literature (e.g., Cameron and Trivedi (1986, 2013)), using linear regression models may introduce bias in estimates involving count variables. To address this potential concern, for robustness, we re-estimate our results for the appropriate count variables using Poisson regressions.<sup>39</sup> This analysis, provided in Appendix Table A.11 for the CHS and full sample specifications and Appendix Table A.18 for the HCA specifications, is similar to that of our earlier findings.

#### Sample selection

To show that our results are not driven by potential sample selection concerns, we run two additional robustness tests. First, we run a placebo test in which we randomly assign counties as "treated" counties, and the control counties are then selected among the remaining counties using the matching procedure described earlier. Appendix Tables A.12, A.13, and

and industry-year fixed effects, and cluster at the firm-cohort level. For the county-level regressions, we include county-cohort and time fixed effects and cluster at the county-cohort level.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup>We note that since our treatment is at the HRR level—and HRRs may extend across state lines with some states having only have a small number of HRRs—we do not have enough variation to be able to include state-by-year fixed effects. As a result, in these tables we instead include Census-region-by-year fixed effects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup>It has been noted that the validity of Poisson models hinge upon specific restrictions on the underlying distribution of the variables which may not hold if there is significant dispersion (see, e.g., Greene (2008)). Given significantly higher dispersion for our CHS sample for certain outcomes, we winsorize outcomes at the 1% level for that sample. We obtain similar results using a negative binomial model as an alternative specification.

A.19 provide this placebo test for the CHS specification, the full sample specification, and the HCA specification, respectively. Across all of the specifications and outcomes, we find insignificant results, providing evidence that our results are specific to our treatment effects and not due to spurious correlations in our sample.

Second, we show that our results continue to hold when we restrict our sample to counties with at least one for-profit hospital. While non-profit and for-profit hospitals generally have very similar financial motivations and behavior (Duggan (2000)), non-profit hospitals may be less aggressive in reimbursement rate negotiations following PE acquisitions of rival hospitals. Appendix Tables A.14, A.15, and A.20 provide these results, which are in line with our main specifications.

## HCA specifications

In our specification exploring the channel of amplification in the financial crisis (equation (6)), we run a triple-differences specification using a continuous variable for HDI to proxy for exposure to the crisis:  $HDI_{i,2006q4}$ . To show that this is mainly driven by areas with high HDI, we show that our estimation results for equation (6) hold if we instead use an indicator variable that takes a value of one if  $HDI_{i,2006q4}$  is in the top quartile, and zero otherwise. Appendix Table A.21 provides these results, which closely match our original specification.

# 7 Concluding remarks

This paper explores the economic consequences of increases in healthcare costs. We use the private equity acquisition of a large hospital chain—Community Health Systems—as a quasinatural experiment that increased premiums for employer-sponsored healthcare insurance plans in the areas affected hospitals operated in. The large-scale nature of the acquisition helps mitigate selection concerns that the acquisition was targeted towards a particular economic area. To provide supplemental evidence establishing the external validity of our setting, we also examine all PE acquisitions of hospitals over our sample period.

Utilizing detailed firm-level data, we first establish that the acquisition of hospitals by PE investors leads to an increase in healthcare insurance premiums faced by firms operating in an area served by the affected hospital. We then provide evidence that, following these acquisitions and the resultant increase in premiums, affected areas experience increases in business bankruptcies and greater business loan volume. Exploring additional economic outcomes, we find lower employment and establishment growth in these areas, as well as depressed in-

novation output. To establish the channels behind our results, we exploit another large-scale PE acquisition—HCA Healthcare—that occurred immediately prior to the financial crisis. We find evidence in line with our previous effects using this setting, but additionally find that the effects we document are larger for areas that were harder-hit by the financial crisis. These results are consistent with a channel of increasing healthcare costs causing firms to be weaker financially, and thus more vulnerable to negative economic shocks.

Our study sheds light on how healthcare costs, which have been rapidly rising over the past two decades, can impact local businesses and economic growth within local communities. Overall, our results point to negative consequences to local areas following rises in healthcare premiums, as well as negative spillovers that are associated with the recent trend of hospital acquisitions by private equity firms. The study also helps us to understand the broader consequences of private equity entry into the healthcare system, which has been a recent and growing concern in public policy discussions.

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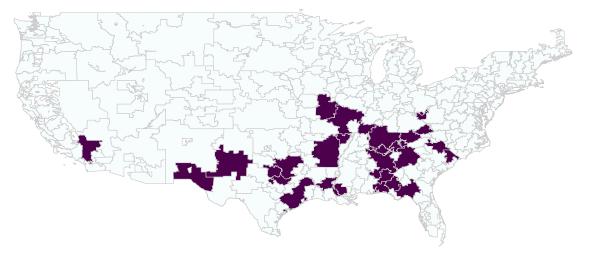
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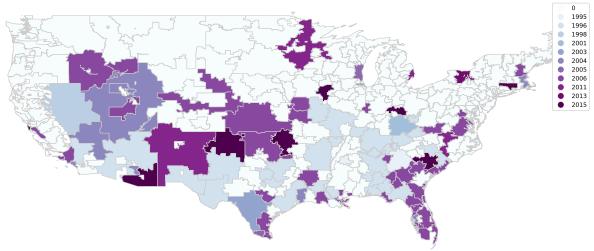
# Figure 2: Map of PE Buyouts of Hospitals

This figure provides a map of hospital referral regions (HRRs) affected by PE buyouts of hospitals across the US over our sample. Each shape represents an HRR, and the different shadings indicate the year in which a hospital in the HRR was acquired by a PE firm. The top map shows CHS hospitals, and the bottom map shows hospital system buyouts over the full sample.

Treated HRRs : CHS PE Buyout

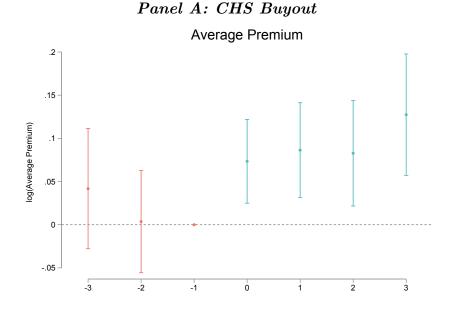


## Treated HRRs : All PE Buyouts

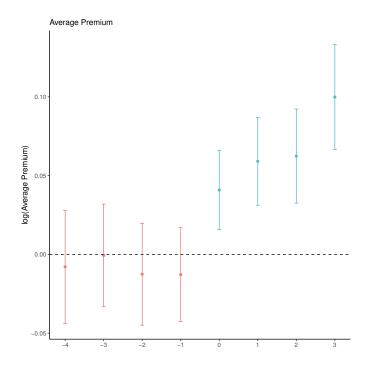


#### Figure 3: Parallel Trends: Average Premiums

This figure provides parallel trends for average premiums at the firm-year level for firms in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020. Treatment effects are estimated using dynamic treatment effects following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021) in Panel B, as indicated. Avg Premium is the average premium that a firm paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in a given year.



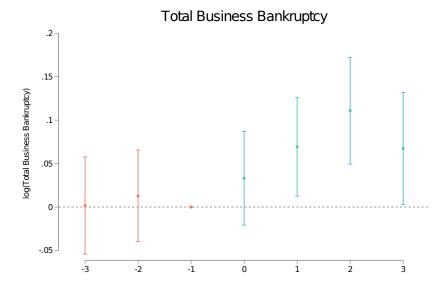
Panel B: Full Sample



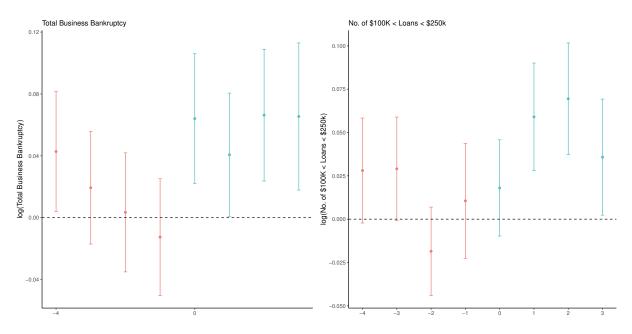
#### Figure 4: Parallel Trends: Business Bankruptcies and Debt

This figure provides parallel trends for county-level business bankruptcies and Debt for counties in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for total business bankruptcies for the CHS specification. Panel B provides full sample results for total business bankruptcies and county-level business loan volumes from 1993 to 2020. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021).

#### Panel A: CHS Buyout

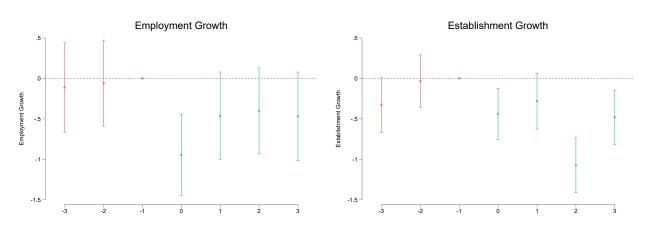






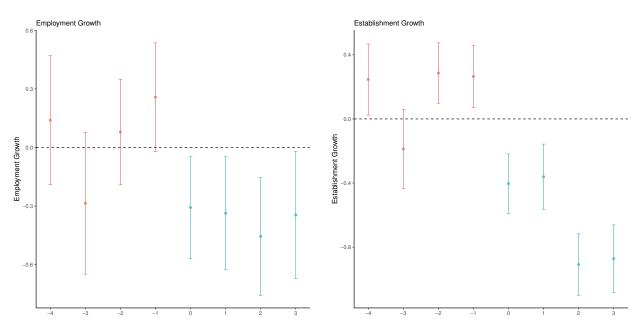
#### Figure 5: Parallel Trends: Employment and Establishment Growth

This figure provides parallel trends for employment and establishment growth for counties in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for total business bankruptcies for the CHS specification. Panel B provides full sample results for total business bankruptcies and countylevel business loan volumes from 1993 to 2020. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021).



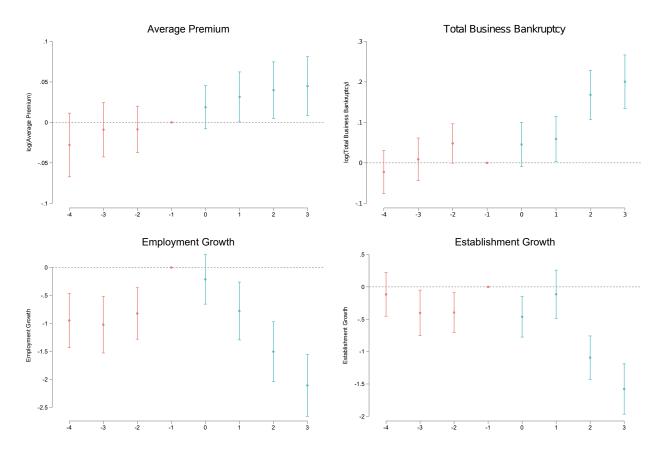
Panel A: CHS Buyout





## Figure 6: Parallel Trends: HCA Shock

This figure provides parallel trends examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE). Treatment effects are for HCA-affected firms/counties compared to control firms/counties.



### Table 1: Summary Statistics

This table provides summary statistics for the variables used in this study. Panel A provides summary statistics for the CHS sample from 1993–1999, and Panel B provides summary statistics for the full sample from 1993–2020. Average Premium is the total premiums for any health insurance contract at the firm-year level scaled by the number of insured, calculated using Schedule A of Form 5500 as defined in the Department of Labor's Group Health Plan Research Files. Total Insured is the total number of persons at the firm-year level that were covered by health insurance contracts at the end of the policy or contract year. Total Participants is the total number of employees at the firm-year level who are covered by a firm's welfare benefit plan. Business Ch7 Bankruptcy is the number of businesses filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, while Business Ch11 Bankruptcy is the number of businesses filing for any type of bankruptcy, at the county-year level. Establishment Growth is the annual growth in total establishments in a county. Employment Growth is the annual growth in total employment in a county. Patents is the number of patents filed in the county by businesses, and Trademarks is the number of trademarks registered in the county.

Panel A	: CHS	Sample
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					- <b>F</b>			
	Ν	Mean	SD	p10	p25	Median	p75	p90
Average Premium	70,269	$2,\!195.55$	1,978.72	110.18	645.31	1,769.36	$3,\!175.93$	4,628.61
Total Insured	70,269	805.44	2,507.10	50.00	117.00	222.00	503.00	1,354.00
Total Participants	70,269	915.96	2,377.95	74.00	134.00	242.00	588.00	1,803.00
Business Ch7 Bankruptcy	10,745	8.91	55.15	0.00	0.00	2.00	6.00	15.00
Business Ch11 Bankruptcy	10,745	2.98	21.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00
Total Business Bankruptcy	10,745	15.34	85.94	0.00	1.00	3.00	9.00	25.00
Employment Growth	10,388	2.45	4.75	-3.00	0.00	2.40	4.90	7.80
Establishment Growth	10,388	1.97	3.22	-1.80	0.00	1.80	3.80	6.10
Patents	10,745	15.16	99.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	12.00
Trademarks	$10,\!654$	19.80	132.24	0.00	0.00	1.00	5.00	22.00
Population	10,745	81,280.50	306,970.97	6,016.00	11,724.00	$23,\!576.00$	$57,\!383.00$	146,970.00
Establishment Count	10,388	2,002.28	8,853.87	121.00	227.00	497.00	$1,\!195.00$	3,257.00

Panel B: Full Sample

	Ν	Mean	SD	p10	p25	Median	p75	p90
Average Premium	879,334	4,865.75	4,029.28	435.13	1,852.25	4,174.90	6,671.18	9,972.28
Total Insured	879,334	644.03	1,473.11	85.00	137.00	243.00	497.00	1203.00
Total Participants	879,334	942.63	2,576.81	114.00	151.00	250.00	551.00	1,660.00
Business Ch7 Bankruptcy	77,784	7.08	32.63	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00	14.00
Business Ch11 Bankruptcy	77,784	2.62	15.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00
Total Business Bankruptcy	77,784	10.95	47.55	0.00	0.00	2.00	6.00	21.00
100K < No. of Loans < 250K	77,972	71.55	247.35	1.00	3.00	12.00	48.00	165.00
No. of Loans $>$ \$250K	77,972	67.48	244.23	0.00	2.00	9.00	38.00	148.00
Employment Growth	84,077	0.76	4.71	-4.70	-1.40	0.80	3.10	5.90
Establishment Growth	84,077	0.92	3.22	-2.80	-0.90	0.70	2.70	4.80
Patents	87,500	34.59	334.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	20.00
Trademarks	86,604	39.50	253.35	0.00	0.00	2.00	9.00	47.00
Population	85,732	$95,\!930.68$	30,9911.30	5,160.00	11,020.50	$25,\!266.00$	64,708.50	192,749.00
Establishment Count	$84,\!077$	2,539.58	$10,\!207.73$	118.00	235.00	553.00	$1,\!458.00$	$4,\!657.00$

### Table 2: Balance Test, CHS Treatment

This table provides differences between the control group and treatment group for the CHS specification sample in the pre-period from 1993–1995. The treatment group consists of counties that contain a CHS hospital as of 1995, while the control group consists of propensity-score-matched counties that do not contain a CHS hospital as of 1995. Control counties are matched based on average county earnings and an indicator variable for whether the county has a low urban population, yielding 598 treated and 937 control counties. Means of each variable for the treatment and control groups (columns (1) and (2)), a t-test of the differences (column (3)), and the normalized difference (column (4)) following Imbens and Rubin (2015) are provided.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Variable	Control group	Treatment group	Difference	Normalized Diff.
Business Ch7 Bankruptcy	7.803	11.991	4.188	0.060
	(19.209)	(96.056)	(3.954)	
Business Ch11 Bankruptcy	3.102	4.546	1.444	0.045
	(11.457)	(43.070)	(1.772)	
Total Business Bankruptcy	13.869	21.052	7.184	0.066
	(35.422)	(149.636)	(6.203)	
Employment Growth	3.510	3.519	0.009	0.001
	(5.521)	(5.660)	(0.207)	
Establishment Growth	1.923	2.452	$0.529^{***}$	0.152
	(3.741)	(3.150)	(0.131)	
Patents	14.087	14.904	0.817	0.008
	(72.968)	(117.240)	(5.319)	
Trademarks	15.102	19.127	4.026	0.033
	(59.025)	(158.567)	(6.724)	

### Table 3: PE Buyouts and Insurance Premiums

This table provides regression results examining average premiums at the firm-year level for firms in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Columns (1) and (2) provide results for the CHS specification. Column (3) provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Treatment effects are estimated using dynamic treatment effects following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). *PE Buyout*<sub>j,i,t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year t, and zero otherwise. *CHS Hospital*<sub>j,i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that contained a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. *Post*<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. *Avg Premium*<sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year t. Standard errors are clustered at the firm level, and firm and industry-by-year fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

Dependent Variable: $\log(Avg Premium)$					
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
$\overline{CHS Hospital_{j,i} \times Post_t}$	0.072***	0.075***			
	(0.026)	(0.026)			
$PEBuyout_{j,i,t}$			$0.066^{***}$		
			(0.021)		
			. ,		
Firm FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ		
Year FEs	Υ	-	-		
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	Ν	Υ	Υ		
N	155,928	$146,\!551$	919,471		
Adj. $R^2$	0.510	0.515	_		

### Table 4: Business Bankruptcies and Loans

This table provides regression results examining county-level business bankruptcies for counties in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). *PE Buyout*<sub>i,t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year *t*, and zero otherwise. *CHS Hospital*<sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. *Post*<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if *t* is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. *Ch* 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, *Ch* 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and *Total* is the total number of business bankruptcies in county *i* in year *t*. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

Dep. Variable:	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	$0.046^{**}$	$0.048^{***}$	0.065***
	(0.022)	(0.018)	(0.023)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	10,745	10,745	10,745
Adj. $R^2$	0.829	0.789	0.848

Panel A: CHS Buyout

Dep. Variable:	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log(Loans)}{100-250K}$	$\log(Loans)$ >250K)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	${(5)}$
$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	0.077***	0.020	0.059**	0.046***	0.013
	(0.021)	(0.015)	(0.022)	(0.016)	(0.015)
County FEs	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Y
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	61,700	61,700	61,700	$61,\!857$	$61,\!857$

Panel B: Full Sample

### Table 5: Economic Activity

This table provides regression results examining county-level establishment growth, and employment growth in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). *PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year *t*, and zero otherwise. *CHS Hospital<sub>i</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. *Post<sub>t</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if *t* is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. *Emp Growth* is the growth in total employment for county *i* in from year t - 1 to year *t*. *Estab Growth* is the growth in the number of businesses in county *i* in from year t - 1 to year *t*. log(Patents) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county *i* in year *t*. log(Trademarks) is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county *i* in year *t*. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

	1 0//01 1			
Dep. Variable:	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(Trademarks)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$\overline{CHSHospital_i \times Post_t}$	$-0.514^{***}$	$-0.448^{***}$	$-0.033^{*}$	$-0.049^{**}$
	(0.194)	(0.119))	(0.019)	(0.019)
County FEs	Y	Y	Y	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	10,388	10,388	10,745	$10,\!654$
Adj. $R^2$	0.185	0.265	0.921	0.912

Panel A:	CHS	<b>Buyout</b>
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	10		pie	
Dep. Variable:	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(Trademarks)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	$-0.362^{**}$	$-0.636^{***}$	-0.006	-0.028*
	(0.149)	(0.101)	(0.011)	(0.015)
County FEs	Y	Y	Y	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	$84,\!077$	$84,\!077$	87,500	86,604

### Panel B: Full Sample

### Table 6: Establishment-level Results: Entry, Exit, and Employment Growth

This table provides regression results using establishment-level data examining entry, exit, and employment growth in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts using a stacked cohort DID specification.  $PE Buyout_{i,t}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year t, and zero otherwise.  $CHS Hospital_i$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise.  $Post_t$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. Entry is the growth in total employment for county i in from year t-1 to year t. New Estabs is the number of new establishments in county i in year t. Exit is an establishment-level variable that takes a value of 1 if establishment j exited in year t, and 0 otherwise. EmpGrowth is the growth in employment at the establishment-level in from year t-1 to year t. Regressions are run at the county-year or establishment-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level in column (1) in both panels, at the establishment level in columns (2)-(3) in Panel A, and at the establishment-cohort level in Panel B. Fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

Dar Variable	l = r(N = E = L = L)	<b>E</b> : 4	Eth
Dep. Variable:	log(New Estabs)	Exit	EmpGrowth
	(1)	(2)	(3)
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	$-0.044^{*}$	0.014***	$-0.400^{***}$
	(0.025)	(0.000)	(0.031)
Regression Level	County	Establishment	Establishment
County FEs	Υ	-	-
Year FEs	Υ	-	-
Establishment FEs	-	Υ	Υ
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	-	Υ	Υ
N	$10,\!664$	$31,\!183,\!165$	$25,\!668,\!184$
Adj. $R^2$	0.913	0.163	-0.038

Panel A: CHS Buyout

		<b>I</b>	
Dep. Variable:	log(New Estabs)	Exit	EmpGrowth
	(1)	(2)	(3)
$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	-0.001	$0.001^{***}$	$-0.037^{***}$
	(0.010)	(0.000)	(0.006)
Regression Level	County	Establishment	Establishment
Year FEs	Υ	-	-
Establishment FEs	-	Υ	Υ
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	-	Υ	Y
N	$175,\!391$	$936,\!298,\!397$	$785,\!649,\!959$
Adj. $R^2$	0.951	0.494	0.247

### Panel B: Full Sample

This table provides heterogeneity results based on the market share of PE-acquired hospitals. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). Sample splits are based on whether treated counties are above- or below-median in terms of the market share of the PE-acquired hospital. <i>PE Buyouti</i> <sub>it</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year t, and zero otherwise. <i>CHS Hospital</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty i served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reved by a CHS system hospital so of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reveal by a CHS system hospital so of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reveal by a CHS system hospital so of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reveal by a CHS system hospital so of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reveal by a CHS system hospital so of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if townty is reveal by a CHS system hospital so otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is a post in the number of busine	vides heter om 1993 tr ots are esti pove- or be alue of 1 il i is an indic licator vari county $i$ in $\alpha$ the numb ered at the cance at th	ogeneity results $l$ o 1999. Panel B imated in Panel B slow-median in te f county <i>i</i> that e cator variable that iable that takes a i year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Gro</i> per of businesses in e county level, and e 5% level, and *	Is based on the second	ased on the market share of provides full sample results 3 following Callaway and Se rms of the market share of the rms of the market share of the cperienced a PE buyout of i takes a value of 1 if county $ivalue of 1 if t is year 1996 cwth is the growth in total emwth$ is the growth in total em total and year fixed effects significance at the 10% level significance at the 10% level	market share of PE-acqual sample results from 199 Callaway and Sant'Anna arket share of the PE-ac arket share of the PE-ac PE buyout of a hospital te of 1 if county <i>i</i> served by t <i>t</i> is year 1996 or later, a t <i>t</i> is year 1996 or later, a cowth in total employment from year $t-1$ to year <i>t</i> . year fixed effects are inclu- at the 10% level.	J-acquired h m 1993 to ( J Anna (2021 J E-acquired sepital or ho ved by a CH ved by a CH ter, and 0 c ter, and 0 c ment for co ment for co as t. Regre e included, a	to spitals. Parabolic states of the second second second second system house the system house of the system system second secon	provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). Sample splits are based on whether treated rms of the market share of the PE-acquired hospital. $PEBuyout_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable xperienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year $t$ , and zero otherwise. t takes a value of 1 if county $i$ served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. value of 1 if $t$ is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $Total$ is the total number of business with is the growth in total employment for county $i$ in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . Estab Growth a county $i$ in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard l county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% significance at the 10% level.	s results fo m buyouts. d on wheth an indicate an indicate 5, and zero al number o y-year level. significance	: the CHS Dynamic er treated or variable otherwise. of business <i>ab Growth</i> Standard at the 1%
			Above-	Above-median Market Share	et Share		Below-median Market Share	Market Share		
	Dep. Variable:	ariable:	loa(Total) E	EmpGrowth	Estab Growth	$\frac{1}{100} \frac{1}{100(Total)}$	ul) EmpGrowth	wth Estab Growth	$\frac{mth}{mth}$	
				(2)	(3)					
	$CHSH_{c}$	$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$		$-0.563^{**}$	$-0.473^{***}$			* -0.420***	***	
			(0.029)	(0.259)	(0.153)	(0.028)	(0.222)	(0.136)		
	County FEs	$FE_{S}$	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		
	Year FEs	Is	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		
	N		8,743	8,393	8,393	8,932				
	Adj. $R^2$	0	0.838	0.156	0.233	0.857	0.188	0.281		
				$Panel \ B$	Panel B: Full Sample	nple				
		Above-	Above-median Market Share	hare			Below-r	Below-median Market Share	ıare	
Dep. Variable:	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Loans$ 100–250 K)	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Loans$ 100–250K)	$\log(Loans > 250K)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PE Buyout_{i,t}$	$0.061^{*}$	$-0.471^{**}$	$-0.851^{***}$	$0.065^{***}$	0.024	0.003	-0.204	$-0.697^{***}$	0.037	0.004
	(0.033)	(0.232)	(0.155)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.036)	(0.203)	(0.141)	(0.026)	(0.025)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	48,200	56,576	56,576	48,306	48,306	43,753	57,534	57,534	43,896	43,896

Table 7: Heterogeneity: Market Share of PE-acquired Hospital

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takes a value of 1 if county i served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. Post<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a industry in the area weighted by the share of establishments in the area comprised of that industry. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic is above or below-median in terms of labor intensity.  $PEBuyout_{i,t}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i that county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated.  $^{***}$  indicates significance at the 1% level,  $^{**}$  significance at the 5% level, and  $^*$ This table provides heterogeneity results based on the average labor intensity of industries in an area, defined as the labor share of each treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). Sample splits are based on whether a county experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year t, and zero otherwise.  $CHSHospital_i$  is an indicator variable that value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. Total is the total number of business bankuptcies in county i in year t. Emp Growth is the growth in total employment for county i in from year t-1 to year t. Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year t-1 to year t. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and significance at the 10% level.

Dep. Variable:	log(Total)	log(Total) EmpGrowth EstabGrowth	EstabGrowth	log(Total)	log(Total) EmpGrowth EstabGrowth	EstabGrowth
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	$0.095^{***}$	$-0.849^{***}$	$-0.625^{***}$	0.043	-0.184	$-0.278^{*}$
	(0.034)	(0.292)	(0.176)	(0.032)	(0.245)	(0.151)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	5,082	5,082	5,082	5,173	5,173	5,173
Adj. $R^2$	0.806	0.164	0.238	0.866	0.230	0.307

Panel A: CHS Buyout

		Above-media	n Labor I	ntensity				Below-median Labor Intensity	ensity	
Dep. Variable:	log(Total)	Dep. Variable: $log(Total) Emp Growth Est$	EstabGrowth	log(Loans ] 100-250K)	og(Loans > 250K)	log(Total) = E	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth 1	$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	$\log(Loans > 250K)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PE Buyout_{i,t}$	$0.057^{*}$	$-0.611^{***}$	$-0.879^{***}$	0.025	-0.006	0.043	-0.180	$-0.399^{***}$	$0.102^{***}$	$0.041^{*}$
	(0.031)	(0.255)	(0.135)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.034)	(0.182)	(0.127)	(0.020)	(0.022)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	29,722	41,132	41,132	29,800	29,800	28,543	41,160	41,160	28,546	28,546

### Table 9: Balance Test, HCA Treatment

This table provides differences between the control group and treatment counties for the HCA specification sample over the pre-period from 2002–2005. The treatment group consists of counties that contained a HCA hospital as of 2004 (dropping hospitals that were sold off in 2005 and 2006), while the control group consists of propensity-score-matched counties that do not contain a HCA hospital as of 2004. The match is based on average county earnings and an indicator variable for whether the county has a low urban population, yielding 848 treated and 1,130 control counties. Means of each variable for the treatment and control groups (columns (1) and (2)), a t-test of the differences (column (3)), and the normalized difference (column (4)) following Imbens and Rubin (2015) are provided.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Variable	Control group	Treatment group	Difference	Normalized Diff.
100 < Loan Num < 250	83.768	86.089	2.321	0.009
	(227.204)	(284.350)	(11.832)	
Loan Num $> 250$	79.899	83.644	3.746	0.013
	(261.962)	(329.420)	(13.695)	
Business Ch7 Bankruptcy	6.795	$8.74\ 3$	1.948	0.063
	(20.244)	(38.541)	(1.420)	
Business Ch11 Bankruptcy	2.062	2.660	0.598	0.053
	(9.595)	(12.834)	(0.493)	
Total Business Bankruptcy	10.460	13.565	3.105	0.069
	(30.798)	(55.742)	(2.084)	
Employment Growth	0.333	1.064	$0.730^{***}$	0.133
	(4.912)	(5.989)	(0.143)	
Establishment Growth	0.736	1.996	$1.260^{***}$	0.190
	(5.907)	(7.340)	(0.163)	

the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level. $[-250K] = \log(Avg Prem) \log(ChT) \log(ChT1) \log(Total) \log(Total) \log(Loans) \log(Loans) EmpGrowth EstabGrowth - StabGrowth - StabGrowt$	: 1% level, ** signi log(Avg Prem)	$\log(Ch7)$	$5\%$ level, and $\log(Ch \ 11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\log(Loans - 100 - 250 K)$	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	EmpGrowth	$EmpGrowth \ EstabGrowth$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(2)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$HCA_{j_i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$ $HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$0.042^{***}$ (0.015)	$0.134^{***}$ (0.024)	$0.036^{**}$ (0.015)	$0.110^{***}$ (0.025)	$0.034^{*}$ (0.020)	0.015 (0.018)	$-0.453^{***}$ (0.168)	$-0.583^{***}$ (0.120)
Unit of Analysis County FEs Year FEs Firm FEs Industry × Year FEs	Firm-year - Y Y	County-year Y -	County-year Y -	County-year Y -	County-year Y -	County-year Y -	County-year Y -	County-year Y -
Adj. $R^2$	230,088 0.551	15,808 0.807	13,808 0.769	15,808 0.820	15,800 0.943	15,800 0.952	15,152 $0.243$	15,152 $0.241$

### Table 10: Additional Shock: HCA Buyout

This table provides triple-differences regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), and heterogeneity of the impact during the financial crisis. $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that was served by an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t county i that was served by an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $Post 2006_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $HDI_{i,2006/4}$ is the logarithm of county i's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4. $Ch 7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch 11$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county i in year t. Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county i in year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	sion results ex $A_{j,i,2004}$ is an ero otherwise. ro otherwise. county <i>i</i> 's ave cer 11 business he number of s to year $t$ . $Es$ svel. Standarc 1% level, ** s	camining outco indicator varié $HCA_{i,2004}$ is $Post 2006_t$ is grage househol is bankruptcies small business tab Growth is tab Growth is l errors are ch	omes following able that takes $\varepsilon$ an indicator id debt-to-incc $\varepsilon$ , and $Total$ is loans of a give the growth in ustered at the the 5% level, $\varepsilon$	results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equit <sup>2004</sup> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in otherwise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if atherwise. $Post 2006_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if aty $i$ 's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4. $Ch7$ is the n 1 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bank imber of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . $Emp$ fear $t$ . $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in count Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	out by privat f firm $j$ is loc takes a value akes a value 0.6644. Ch 7 i ber of busines ty $i$ in year $t.$ f businesses ir und county ar-	e equity (PE), ar ated in county $i$ t of 1 if county $i$ t of 1 if $t$ is year 2( s the number of 6 s bankruptcies in EmpGrowth is 1 t county $i$ in from d year fixed effec $\delta$ level.	results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), and heterogeneity of <sup>004</sup> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by otherwise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county $i$ that was served by therwise. $Post 2006_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 ity $i$ 's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4. $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business 1 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county $i$ in year $t$ . mber of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . $EmpGrowth$ is the growth in total ear $t$ . Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t-1$ to year Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as evel, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.
Dep. Variable:	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch7)  \log(Ch11)  \log(Total)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log(Loans}{100-250K})$	log(Loans > 250K)	EmpGrowth	$Emp\ Growth$ $Estab\ Growth$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)
$HDI_{i,2006a4} \times HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$0.114^{**}$	0.005	$0.125^{**}$	0.007	0.014	$-0.894^{*}$	$-1.166^{***}$
	(0.057)	(0.036)	(0.059)	(0.050)	(0.045)	(0.508)	(0.345)
$HCA_{i,2004}  imes Post2006_t$	0.005	0.029	-0.032	0.027	-0.001	0.602	$0.765^{**}$
	(0.063)	(0.039)	(0.066)	(0.061)	(0.055)	(0.586)	(0.388)
$HDI_{i,2006q4}  imes Post 2006_t$	$0.142^{***}$	$0.093^{***}$	$0.166^{***}$	0.018	0.049	$-1.460^{***}$	$-0.990^{***}$
•	(0.039)	(0.026)	(0.038)	(0.036)	(0.031)	(0.362)	(0.233)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ
N	15,792	15,792	15,792	15,790	15,790	15, 136	15, 136
Adj. $R^2$	0.808	0.769	0.821	0.943	0.952	0.234	0.230

### Table 11: Amplification: HCA Buyout and the Financial Crisis

### Appendix: Additional tables

### Table A.1: Additional Outcomes: Number of Establishments by Size

This table provides regression results examining the county-level number of establishments by size for counties in areas affected by private equity (PE) buyouts of hospital systems. CHS specification run from from 1993 to 1999, and full sample results run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment effects estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). *PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year *t*, and zero otherwise. *CHS Hospital<sub>i</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. *Post<sub>t</sub>* is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if *t* is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. log(Estabs, > 100 Emp) is the logarithm of the number of establishments in county *i* in year *t* which have more than 100 employees, and log(Estabs, < 100 Emp) is the is the logarithm of the number of establishments with less than 100 employees. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

	CHS Spe	cification	Full S	ample
Dep. Variable:	$\log(\overline{Estabs},$	$\log(Estabs,$	$\log(Estabs,$	$\log(Estabs,$
	$>100 \ Emp)$	$<100 \ Emp)$	$>100 \ Emp)$	$<100 \ Emp)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	$-0.033^{***}$	0.011*		
	(0.011)	(0.006)		
$PE Buyout_{i,t}$			-0.004	0.006
			(0.007)	(0.005)
County FEs	Υ	Y	Y	Y
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y
N	10,745	10,745	88,052	88,052
Adj. $R^2$	0.986	0.994	-	-

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and Sant'Anna (2021). Sample splits are based on whether a county is above- or below-median in terms of employment share in the services industry.  $PE Buyout_{i,t}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year t, and zero otherwise.  $CHSHospital_i$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county i served by a for county i in from year t-1 to year t. Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year t-1 to year This table provides heterogeneity results based on the share of the services industry in an area, defined as the percentage of establishments sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise.  $Post_t$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. Total is the total number of business bankuptcies in county i in year t. Emp Growth is the growth in total employment t. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are in an area comprised of the services industry. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

				T unter V	I and A. VIIJ Duyou	hout				
			Abov	Above-median Services Share	ces Share		Below-median Services Share	Services Share		
	Dep. Variable:	riable:	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\frac{1}{th} \frac{\log(Total)}{\log(Total)}$	(al) EmpGrowth	wth EstabGrowth	3rowth	
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		(9)	
	$CHSH_{c}$	$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	$0.098^{***}$	$-0.886^{***}$	$-0.755^{***}$	0.030	) -0.092		-0.187	
			(0.033)	(0.265)	(0.164)	(0.033)	3) (0.273)		(0.165)	
	County FEs	$FE_S$	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ		7	
	Year FEs	S	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		2	
	N		5,019	5,019	5,019	5,313	5,313		5,313	
	Adj. $R^2$		0.890	0.156	0.228	0.731	0.214		0.304	
				$Panel \ B$	Panel B: Full Sample	ıple				
		Above-n	Above-median Services Share	s Share			Below-r	Below-median Services Share	ss Share	
Dep. Variable:	log(Total)	Dep. Variable: $log(Total)$ Emp Growth	EstabGrowth		s	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth		$\log(Loans$
				100-250K)	>250K)				100-250K)	>250K)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)		(10)
$PE Buyout_{i,t}$	$0.076^{**}$	-0.317	$-0.857^{***}$	$0.043^{**}$	0.021	0.032	-0.319	$-0.396^{***}$	$0.077^{***}$	0.016

0.016(0.022)

 $0.396^{***}$ (0.131)

-0.319(0.199)

(0.031)

(0.020)

 $0.043^{**}$ (0.020)

 $-0.857^{***}$ (0.147)

(0.216)-0.317

(0.031)

(0.023)

28,075

28,075

41,468

41,468

28,050

30,696

30,696

41,440

41,440

30,636 アン

~ ~

County FEs Year FEs N

 $\geq$  $\geq$ 

 $\succ$ 

Y

Y

Y  $\geq$ 

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 $\succ$ 

Panel A: CHS Buvout

		Ĺ '	Table A.4: I	e A.4: Heterogeneity:	eity: Sha	re of Sm	Share of Small Firms			
This table provides heterogeneity results based on the share of small firms in an area, defined as the proportion of establishments in an area consisting of less than 9 employees. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full area consisting of less than 9 employees. Panel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full sample results from 1993 to 2020 for all hospital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). Sample splits are based on whether a county is above- or below-median in terms of proportion of firms that are small firms operating in an area. <i>PE Buyouti</i> , <i>t</i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>CHS Hospital</i> <sub><i>i</i></sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if <i>t</i> is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year <i>t</i> - 1 to year <i>t</i> . It oyear <i>t</i> - 1 to year <i>t</i> . Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year <i>t</i> - 1 to year t. Regressions are run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	vides hetero i of less the from 1993 the (2021). Se rating in a rating in a reating in a reat	ogeneity result an 9 employee to 2020 for all ample splits a un area. $PE E$ ystem as of ye ystem as of ye thospital as c Total is the in from year $t$ is are run at t is are run at t	ts based on the se. Panel A pr hospital syste re based on wl $uyout_{i,t}$ is an sar $t$ , and zero of 1995, and zero total number t - 1 to year $t$ . the county-yean ndicates signifi	e share of su ovides resul m buyouts. hether a cou indicator va otherwise. of business Estab Gro : level. Stan cance at the	ts for the ( bynamic t Dynamic t Dynamic t unty is abov uriable that CHSHosp CHSHosp CHSHosp CHSHosp apoly is bankuptcie dard errors vth is the dard errors vth level, "	n an area, CHS specifi ceatment ef ceatment ef ve- or below takes a val tali is an i an indicato an indicato s in county growth in t are clusten are clusten ** significa	defined as the ication from Tects are estin Tects are estin v-median in t lue of 1 if cou ndicator varia r variable the r variable the r in year $t$ . the number of red at the cou nce at the 5%	sed on the share of small firms in an area, defined as the proportion of establishments in an anel A provides results for the CHS specification from 1993 to 1999. Panel B provides full jital system buyouts. Dynamic treatment effects are estimated in Panel B following Callaway used on whether a county is above- or below-median in terms of proportion of firms that are $ut_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout and zero otherwise. <i>CHS Hospital</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county 95, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if <i>t</i> is year 1996 1 number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total to year <i>t</i> . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year numty-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed tes significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10%	f establishn Panel B pr l B following rtion of firm berienced a J s a value of e of 1 if $t$ is is the grow county $i$ in county $i$ in county and ignificance $i$	ents in an ovides full s Callaway us that are PE buyout l if county year 1996 th in total from year year fixed at the 10%
				Panel A:	Panel A: CHS Buyout	yout				
			Above-med	Above-median Share of Small Firms	Small Firms	Belc	w-median Shar	Below-median Share of Small Firms		
	Dep. Variable:	ariable:	log(Total) H	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\frac{1}{th} \frac{\log(Total)}{\log(Total)}$	(al) EmpGrowth)	wth EstabGrowth	wth	
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(2)	(9)		
	$CHSH_{c}$	$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	0.096***	-0.437	$-0.750^{***}$	* 0.049	$-0.541^{**}$	-0.154		
			(0.034)	(0.324)	(0.193)	(0.031)		(0.142)		
	County FEs	$FE_{S}$	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		
	Year FEs	<u>ls</u>	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ		
	N		5,383	5,243	5,243	5,362		5,145		
	Adj. $H^2$		0.703	0.143	0.238	0.877	0.264	0.308		
				$Panel \ B$	Panel B: Full Sample	nple				
		Above-median	edian Small Firm Share	ı Share			Below-me	Below-median Small Firm Share	Share	
Dep. Variable:	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Loans 100-250K)$	log(Loans > 250K)	log(Total)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth	$\log(Loans 100-250K)$	log(Loans > 250K)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	$0.064^{**}$	-0.270	$-0.741^{***}$	0.026	-0.005	0.036	$-0.470^{***}$	$-0.556^{***}$	$0.064^{***}$	0.029
	(0.030)	(0.248)	(0.161)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.030)	(0.159)	(0.106)	(0.022)	(0.020)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
${\rm Year}  \stackrel{\circ}{{ m FEs}}$	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	31,542	42,472	42,472	31,695	31,695	29,971	41,552	41,552	30,000	30,000

### Table A.5: Summary Statistics: HCA Sample

This table provides summary statistics for the HCA sample from 2002 to 2009. Average Premium is the total premiums for any health insurance contract at the firm-year level scaled by the number of contracts, calculated using Schedule A of Form 5500 as defined in the Department of Labor's Group Health Plan Research Files. Total Insured is the total number of persons at the firm-year level that were covered by health insurance contracts at the end of the policy or contract year. Total Participants is the total number of employees at the firm-year level who are covered by a firm's welfare benefit plan. Business Ch7 Bankruptcy is the number of businesses filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, while Business Ch11 Bankruptcy is the number of businesses filing for any type of bankruptcy, at the county-year level. Establishment Growth is the annual growth in total establishments in a county. Employment Growth is the annual growth in total employment in a county.

	Ν	Mean	SD	p10	p25	Median	p75	p90
Average Premium	156,601	4,738.40	3,779.93	492.29	2,120.10	4,056.71	6,489.76	9,367.93
Total Insured	156,601	708.01	1,643.20	94.00	141.00	253.00	530.00	1,345.00
Total Participants	156,601	1,074.45	2,928.04	120.00	161.00	275.00	625.00	1,952.00
Business Ch7 Bankruptcy	15,808	8.33	38.36	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00	16.00
Business Ch11 Bankruptcy	15,808	2.39	12.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	4.00
Total Business Bankruptcy	15,808	12.32	52.68	0.00	0.00	2.00	6.00	23.00
100 K < No. of Loans < 250 K	15,806	79.14	252.82	1.00	3.00	12.00	52.00	192.00
No. of Loans $>$ \$250K	15,806	78.40	287.69	0.00	2.00	9.00	40.00	176.00
Employment Growth	15,152	-0.06	5.09	-6.20	-2.80	0.10	2.60	5.60
Establishment Growth	15,152	0.85	3.52	-3.30	-1.30	0.70	2.70	5.20
Population	15,824	101,621.93	359,838.20	4,871.00	10,166.00	22,969.00	59,615.50	199,622.00
Establishment Count	$15,\!152$	2,706.02	$11,\!663.42$	109.00	214.00	493.00	1,339.00	4,935.00

levels, and fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the $10\%$ level.		$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log(Loans}{100-250K})$	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	Emp Growth	Emp Growth Estab Growth log(Patents)	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(TM)$
	ipt size Dep. Variable: log $(Avg \ Prem)$ log $(Ch7)$				•					( MT T) SOT
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
	$0.022^{**}$ (0.011)									
	~	$0.065^{***}$ (0.016)	$0.033^{***}$ (0.011)	$0.055^{***}$ (0.016)	$0.054^{***}$ (0.014)	0.016 (0.013)	-0.125 (0.098)	$-0.328^{***}$ (0.066)	0.001 (0.009)	$-0.022^{**}$ (0.010)
		~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
	1	X X	Y	×	× >	×	X X	YY	× >	× >
	Υ			- ı	- 1	- 1			- 1	- 1
	Y	ı	ı	,	,	,	ı	ı		ı
	1,433,989	153,690	153,690	153,690	153, 711	153, 711	170,516	170,516	175,576	173,869
	0.577	0.801	0.677	0.837	0.945	0.950	0.204	0.211	0.937	0.927

### Table A.6: Robustness: Full Sample, Stacked Cohort Specification

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE). Regressions run from from 1993 to 1999. $CHS Hospital_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Aug Premium</i> <sub>j,i</sub> is the average premium that firm $j$ paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year $t$ . $Ch_7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankuptcies, $Ch_1$ 1 is the growth in total employment for county $i$ in from year $t$ . <i>Ch</i> <sub>7</sub> is the growth in total employment for county $i$ in from year $t$ . <i>Ch</i> <sub>7</sub> is the growth in total employment for county $i$ in from year $t$ . <i>Listub Growth</i> is the growth in the number of Chapter 11 business bankuptcies, and $Total$ is the for an $t$ . I to year $t$ . Loan variables the logarithm of the number of pusiness bankuptcies in county $i$ in year $t$ . Log ( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log ( <i>Patents</i> ) is the county level, and year fired for premiums and at the county-revel controls include county level are county level, and county and year level for premiums and at the county-revel for other outcomes. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and year fixed fired as indicated. County-level controls include county i in year $t$ . log ( <i>Patents</i> ) and in the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log ( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log ( <i>Patents</i> ) is reall for other number of patent	Lable A.1: RODUSTIESS: CIID Specification with County-fevel Controls for results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE). Regressions r cator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by a CHS is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CH$ of 1 if county $i$ was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. $Avg$ . for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 busin business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies in county $i$ in y t for county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of business bles represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log( $TM$ ) is the logarithm of the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log( $TM$ ) is the logarithm of the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . log( $TM$ ) is the logarithm of the vel, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. County-level controls county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. County-level controls * indicates significance at the 1% level, $**$ significance at the 5% level, and $*$ significance at the	DULSTILLESS In g outcome takes a val- takes a val- takes a val- vas served 1 ored health ored health ored health ored health of to and $T$ on year $t$ – or garithm of e number o are run at the ounty and y	s CLLO 3 s following thue of 1 if firred akes a value of a value of a cHS sy insurance plinsurance plinsurance plinsurance plins the to otal is the to the number of the number firled efficient field efficient field of the firm-year fixed efficient (1% level, ***)	peculication in $j$ is locate of 1 if $t$ is y stem hospiti ans in year stal number f and $f$ number of small bus d in county level for pre- ects are inclu- significance	An when CO out by private ed d in county <i>i</i> th rear 1996 or lat al as of 1995, a t. $Ch 7$ is the n of business bar h is the growth iness loans of a <i>i</i> in year t. log( miums and at ded, as indicat, at the 5% level,	and $Y$ -IEVEL Control of the served by the number of the served by the	anturous essions run fron v a CHS system rise. $CHS Hosy$ se. $Avg Premiser 7 business bauty i in year t.f businesses in cfirms of a givenurithm of the nulevel for othercontrols includce at the 10% lo$	outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE). Regressions run from from 1993 to 1999. kes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, de that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CHS Hospital_i$ is an indicator served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. $Avg Premium_{j,t}$ is the average d health insurance plans in year t. $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch11$ is s, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county i in year t. $Emp Growth$ is the year $t-1$ to year t. $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year rithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county i umber of patents filed in county i in year t. $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks run at the firm-year level for premiums and at the county-level controls include county population it and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. County-level controls include county population at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\frac{\log(Ch7)}{(2)} \log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	EmpGrowth	$Estab Growth \log(Patents)$	log(Patents)	$\log(Trademarks)$
$CHSHospital_{si} \times Post_{t}$	$(1)$ $0.074^{***}$	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
0								
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$		$0.045^{**}$	$0.047^{***}$	$0.064^{***}$	$-0.426^{**}$	$-0.432^{***}$	$-0.040^{**}$	$-0.056^{***}$
		(0.022)	(0.018)	(0.023)	(0.197)	(0.118)	(0.019)	(0.019)
County Controls	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
County FEs	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	·	I	I	ı	ı	ı	ı
$\operatorname{Industry} \times \operatorname{Year} \operatorname{FEs}$	Υ	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı
N	143,921	10,745	10,745	10,745	10,388	10,388	10,745	10,654
Adj. $R^2$	0.515	0.829	0.789	0.848	0.192	0.266	0.921	0.912

Table A.7: Robustness: CHS Specification with County-level Controls

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from 1993 to 2020 using a stacked cohort DID specification with county-level controls. $PEBuyout_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>Avg Premium<sub>i,t</sub></i> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year <i>t</i> . <i>Ch</i> 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankruptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year <i>t</i> - 1 to year <i>t</i> . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of number of number of since educted. Standard errors are clustered at the firm-year registered in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . Regressions are run at the firm-year recoulty <i>i</i> as indicated. County-level controls population and in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . Regressions are run at the firm-year revel, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the firm-cohort (column (1)) or county-cohort level (other col	s regression resu z a stacked cohc rienced a PE buy ployer-sponsored ss bankruptcies, unty $i$ in from y unty $i$ in from y e logarithm of th t. Regressions a ort level (other $i$ *** indicates sig	lifts examini ort DID spe yout of a ho l health insu and $Total$ ear $t-1$ to garithm of t ar number c ar urn at th columns) le <sup>r</sup> sprificance at	ng outcomes cification wit spital or hosy urance plans is the total n year $t$ . $Esta$ he number of f patents file the firm-year o vels, and fixe the 1% leve	following all th county-lev pital system in year $t$ . $C$ , umber of bu b Growth is t f small busit d in county- vea ed effects are ed effects are l, ** significe	I buyouts of wel controls. as of year $t$ , h 7 is the nu siness bank the growth the growth is ness loans of i in year $t$ . i in year $t$ . i included, a in since at the $i$	<i>PE Buyow</i> <i>PE Buyow</i> and zero oth mber of Cha mber of Cha uptcies in co in the numb a given size $\log(TM)$ is t ddicated. Sta s indicated. Sta s indicated.	7 private equi $i_i, i_i$ is an indic erwise. Avg $F$ pter 7 busines punty $i$ in yea or for firms $c$ or for firms $c$ the logarithm ndard errors $i$ County-level * significance	g outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from fifcation with county-level controls. $PEBuyout_{i,t}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if joital or hospital system as of year $t$ , and zero otherwise. $Avg$ $Premium_{j,t}$ is the average premium that ance plans in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of the total number of business bankruptcies in county $i$ in year $t$ . $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total rear $t$ . $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year patents filed in county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered firm-year or county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered firm-year or county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered firm-year or county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the firm-cohort (column sh le 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	the full sample that takes a the average p s, $Ch 11$ is the wth is the grc in from year one in county nue in county nue in county the firm-col- de county pop- evel.	e from from value of 1 if temium that e number of wth in total t = 1 to year t in year $t$ . as registered ort (column oulation and
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem) \log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log (Loans}{100-250K})$	log (Loans > 250K)	Emp Growth	Emp Growth Estab Growth log(Patents)	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(TM)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PE \ Buyout_{j,i,t}$	$0.022^{**}$ $(0.011)$									
$PE \ Buyout_{i,t}$	~	$0.068^{***}$	$0.036^{***}$	$0.060^{***}$	$0.042^{***}$	0.003	-0.091	$-0.329^{***}$	-0.004	$-0.033^{***}$
		(0.016)	(0.012)	(0.016)	(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.097)	(0.066)	(0.00)	(0.009)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County Controls	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
County-cohort FEs		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm-cohort FEs	Υ	I	ı	ı	ı	ı	I	I	ı	ı
Industry×Year FEs	Υ	I	ı	ı	I	ı	I	I	ı	ı
N	1,400,549	150,547	150,547	150,547	150,655	150,655	167,755	167,755	171,821	170, 114
Adj. $R^2$	0.577	0.803	0.679	0.838	0.945	0.950	0.213	0.215	0.937	0.927

# Table A.8: Robustness: Full Sample, Stacked Cohort Specification with Controls

Table $_{I}$	Table A.9: Robustness: CHS Specification with Time-varying Region Fixed Effects	ess: CHS	Specifice	ation with	ו Time-vary	ing Region	Fixed Effect	ŝ
This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), including time-varying region fixed effects. Regressions run from from 1993 to 1999. <i>CHS Hospital</i> <sub>j,i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, was served by a CHS more than hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. <i>Aug Premium</i> <sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year $t$ . <i>Ch7</i> is the number of otherwise. <i>Aug Premium</i> <sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year $t$ . <i>Ch7</i> is the number of chapter 7 business bankruptcies, <i>Ch11</i> lis the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankruptcies in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . <i>Lano</i> variables the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . <i>Log(Patents)</i> is the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year level for premiums and at the county-year level for other under, we county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . log( <i>TM</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Bar for other outcomes. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Is county <i>i</i> as indicated with a the firm of the suminum $i$ is year $t$ . So the county-year level for other outcomes. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and Census region-by-time fixed affects are at the county-year level for other outcomes. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and Census the 10% level.	ion results examine m from 1993 to 19 m hospital as of 1! $pital_i$ is an indicat t is the average pro- ptcies, $Ch$ 11 is th Growth is the grount i in from yee given revenue in of the number of th other outcomes. S indicates significan	uing outcorr 995, $CHSH$ 995, and zer tor variable emium that emium that emium that is number of with in tota ar $t-1$ to county <i>i</i> in rademarks r ftandard err nce at the 1	tes following ospital <sub>j,i</sub> is o otherwise. that takes a firm j paid f Chapter 11 l employmer year t. Loar year t. log(, egistered in ors are clust, % level, ** s	the CHS by an indicator $Post_t$ is an value of 1 if for employer business ba it for county 1 variables ro Patents) is t county $i$ in y ered at the c ignificance a	uyout by priva variable that t indicator varia county $i$ was st county $i$ was st inkruptcies, and i in from year epresent the log the logarithm c rear t. Regressi ounty level, and t the 5% level,	c outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), including time-var, <i>CHS Hospital</i> <sub>j,i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if tim j is located , and zero otherwise. <i>Post</i> <sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is y variable that takes a value of 1 if county i was served by a CHS system hospital as , um that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year t. $Ch7$ umber of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of busi 1 in total employment for county i in from year $t-1$ to year t. <i>Estab Growth</i> is t -1 to year t. Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small bu uty i in year t. log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of small bu dry i myear t. log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of small bu uty i myear t. log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in co emarks registered in county i in year t. Regressions are run at the firm-year level fi dard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and Census region-by-time at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	including time- if firm $j$ is loca value of 1 if $t$ i system hospital ans in year $t$ . $C$ otal number of $t$ tal number of small <i>Estab Growth</i> number of small phe firm-year lev nsus region-by-t ce at the 10% le	g outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), including time-varying region fixed $CHSHospital_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1995, and zero time that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year t. $Ch7$ is the number of number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies h in total employment for county i in from year $t-1$ to year t. $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the $t-1$ to year t. Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a unty i in year t. $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county i in year t. learners are clustered in county i in year t. Regressions are run at the firm-year level for premiums and ndard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and Census region-by-time fixed effects are the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	EmpGrowth	$EstabGrowth \log(Patents)$	log(Patents)	log(Trademarks)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$CHSHospital_{j,i} \times Post_t$	$0.076^{***}$ (0.029)							
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	~	$0.052^{**}$	0.008	$0.055^{**}$	-0.309	$-0.584^{***}$	-0.019	-0.031
		(0.024)	(0.019)	(0.026)	(0.232)	(0.132)	(0.021)	(0.020)
County FEs	I	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Region×Year FEs	ı	Y	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	ı	ı	I	ı	ı	ı	I
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	Υ	I	ı	I	I	I	ı	ı
$\sim N$	146, 149	10,745	10,745	10,745	10,388	10,388	10,745	10,654
Adj. $R^2$	0.515	0.830	0.792	0.848	0.187	0.283	0.921	0.912

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from 1993 to 2020 using a stacked cohort DID specification with time-varying region fixed effects. <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>Aug Premium<sub>j,t</sub></i> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year <i>t</i> . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch11$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . Low variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in year $t-1$ to year $t$ . log ( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year ro county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year ro county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year ro county <i>i</i> is indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the firm-cohort (column (1)) or county-cohort level (other columns) levels, and fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 10% level.	$\begin{array}{c ccc} Ch7) & \log(Ch11) & \log(Total) & \log(Loans & \log(Loans Emp\ Growth\ Estab\ Growth\ \log(Patents) & \log(TM) & 100-250K) & >250K) & >250K) \end{array}$	(2) $(3)$ $(4)$ $(5)$ $(6)$ $(7)$ $(8)$ $(9)$ $(10)$		$59^{***}$ 0.030^{***} 0.051^{***} 0.043 $-0.061$ $-0.327^{***}$ 0.000 $-0.022^{**}$ 0.015) (0.011) (0.016) (0.014) (0.013) (0.099) (0.068) (0.009) (0.010)	ty-year County-year County-year County-year County-year County-year County-year County-year County-year V	Y Y Y Y Y Y Y		• • • •	153,690 $153,690$ $153,711$ $153,711$ $153,711$ $170,516$ $170,516$ $175,576$ $1$	804 0.680 0.838 0.946 0.950 0.210 0.238 0.937 0.927
g outcomes follow eation with time- of a hospital or ed health insuran s, and $Total$ is t n year $t - 1$ to y he logarithm of t m of the number gressions are run evel (other colum 1 * significance a						Y	I	ı		
alts examining t DID specific a PE buyout loyer-sponsor loyer-sponsor is bankruptcis sunty $i$ in fro es represent t s the logarith in year $t$ . Reg in year $t$ . Reg		(2)		$0.059^{***}$ (0.015)	County-year V	۲.	ı	ı	153,690	0.804
at experienced j paid for emp ployment for $cc$ t. Loan variabl $\log(Patents)$ i $\log(Patents)$ i red in county $i$ lumn (1)) or $cc$ nificance at the	$\log (Avg Prem)  \log(Ch7)$	(1)	0.012 (0.011)	х г	Firm-year -	1	Υ	Υ	1,425,290	0.577
the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptci growth in total employment for county $i$ in fro year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent $t$ county $i$ in year $t$ . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarith trademarks registered in county $i$ in year $t$ . Re the firm-cohort (column (1)) or county-cohort i the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, an	Dep. Variable:		$PE \ Buyout_{j,i,t}$	$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	Unit of Analysis County-cohort FFs	Region-Year FEs	Firm-cohort FEs	$Industry \times Year FEs$	N S = S	Adj. $R^2$

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### Table A.11: Robustness: Poisson Regressions

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), using a Poisson model. Panel A provides regressions for the CHS buyout from 1993 to 1999, while Panel B provides regressions for the full sample (using the stacked cohort specification) from 1993 to 2020. Post<sub>t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. CHS Hospital<sub>i</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year *t*, and zero otherwise. Ch 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, Ch 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and Total is the total number of business bankuptcies in county *i* in year *t*. Patents is the number of patents filed in county *i* in year *t*. TM is the number of trademarks registered in county *i* in year *t*. All variables are winsorized at the 1% level in Panel A to account for overdispersion due to extreme outliers. Regressions are run at county-year level, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

	Ch7	Ch11	Total	Patents	TM
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$	-0.006 (0.041)	$0.158^{***}$ (0.046)	$0.039 \\ (0.035)$	-0.019 (0.047)	$-0.084^{**}$ (0.038)
County FEs	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
N	10,416	8,596	$10,\!682$	6,783	8,848

		Pan	el B: Ful	l Sample			
	Ch7	Ch11	Total	<i>Loans</i> 100–250K	$Loans > 250 \mathrm{K}$	Patents	TM
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
$PE Buyout_{i,t}$	$0.166^{***}$ (0.055)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.155^{***} \\ (0.057) \end{array}$	$0.155^{***}$ (0.051)	$0.039^{**}$ (0.016)	$0.028^{**}$ (0.012)	0.007 (0.028)	0.022 (0.019)
County FEs Year FEs N	Y Y 144,326	Y Y 115,079	Y Y 149,843	Y Y 150,964	Y Y 149,426	Y Y 121,471	Y Y 154,139

This table provides placebo regression results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), randomly assigning counties as treated. Regressions are run from 1993 to 1999. $CHS Hospital'_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CHS Hospital'_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CHS Hospital'_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, otherwise. $Avg Premium_{j,t}$ is the average premium that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year t. $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies. $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies.	to regression result in from 1993 to the hospital as of spital $_i^{i}$ is an indicidative the average of the the transformed of the indicident of the transformation of transformatio	lts examining 1999. CHS H 1995, and zer 2ator variable premium that he number of	outcomes follc $ospital_{j,i}$ is ar ro otherwise that takes a v firm $j$ paid fc Chapter 11 bu	wing the CH indicator value $Post_t$ is an indicator value of 1 if contrast is contrast in the second structure of the second structure of the second structure second structur	S buyout by pr riable that take dicator variabl unty $i$ was serv ponsored health notcies, and $To$	ivate equity (PE as a value of 1 if e that takes a ve ed by a CHS syv i insurance plant t the total r	), randomly as firm $j$ is locat alue of 1 if $t$ is stem hospital $i$ s in year $t$ . $Cl$	mining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), randomly assigning counties as $CHS Hospital'_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that, and zero otherwise. $Post_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 1996 or later, until that takes a value of 1 if county i was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero um that firm j paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year t. $Ch7$ is the number of mber of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in
county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ to year <i>t</i> . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . log( <i>Trademarks</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . log( <i>Trademarks</i> ) is the logarithm of the number of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	rowth is the grow n from year $t-1$ e in county $i$ in y mber of trademar red at the county $\approx 5\%$ level, and $*$	th in total em to year $t$ . Lo ear $t$ . log( $Pat$ iks registered i r level, and cc significance a	polyment for c an variables re ients) is the lo in county <i>i</i> in ounty and year t the 10% leve	county $i$ in fro- opersent the la garithm of the year $t$ . Regree r fixed effects $\mathfrak{I}$ .	m year $t-1$ to ogarithm of the e number of pa ssions are run $\varepsilon$ are included, $\varepsilon$	year $t$ . Estab $Gr$ number of smal tents filed in cou at the firm-year as indicated. **:	outh is the gr ll business load mty <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> or county-year * indicates sig	owth in the number of a given size or $\log(Trademarks)$ level, as indicated. nificance at the 1%
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	EmpGrowth	$Emp\ Growth \ Estab\ Growth \ \log(Patents)$		log(Trademarks)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$CHSH ospital'_{j,i} \times Post_t$	0.019 (0.024)							
$CHSHospital'_i  imes Post_t$		0.001	0.004	0.017	0.030	-0.041	0.020	0.016
		(0.022)	(0.018)	(0.023)	(0.187)	(0.124)	(0.009)	(0.019)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County FEs		Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	·	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	ı	I	·	ı	I	ı	ı
$Industry \times Year FEs$	Υ		I			ı	ı	ı
N	146,551	10,388	10,388	10,388	10,010	10,010	10,372	10,388
Adj. $R^2$	0.516	0.846	0.811	0.862	0.149	0.226	0.985	0.934

## Table A.12: Robustness: CHS Placebo, Random Treatment Assignment

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from 1993 to 2020, randomly assigning counties as treated. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment effects are estimated following 1993 to 2020, randomly assigning counties as treated. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout'</i> <sub>(1,1</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>Aug Premium</i> <sub>i,t</sub> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year <i>t</i> . <i>Ch</i> 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in from year <i>t</i> - 1 to year <i>t</i> . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county <i>i</i> in year the 10% level.	is regression resu domly assigning c t'Anna (2021). $F$ al system as of ye r year t. $Ch 7$ is number of busines rowth is the grow all business loans county <i>i</i> in year nunty-year level, icates significance	If the examining the examining the counties as the counter of the the number of the number is bankupt: The number is the number of a given if the number of a given is the number of th	ng outcomes reated. Regr t is an indica rro otherwise $\cdot$ of Chapter ies in county umber of bu size or for fir is the logari is the logari level, ** sign	following al essions are r ttor variable <i>Avg Premu</i> <i>7</i> business t <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . sinesses in c ms of a give thm of the r trrors are clu inficance at t	I buyouts of that from 195 that takes a $ium_{j,t}$ is the pankruptcies Emp Growt, ounty $i$ in fr- in revenue in number of tr intered at th the 5% level,	hospitals by a to 2020 wi t value of 1 if t value of 1 if average pre- Ch 11 is th h is the grow om year $t -$ t county $i$ in ademarks re te county lev and * signif	g outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) ov eated. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment e is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that o o otherwise. Aug Premium <sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid f of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 1 as in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . Emp Growth is the growth in total employment umber of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year <i>t</i> . Loan variab ize or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in y Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year evel, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	g outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from reated. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment effects are estimated following is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a o otherwise. Avg Premium <sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and es in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . Emp Growth is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t-1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent the logarithm of ize or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . log( <i>Patents</i> ) is the logarithm of the number is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . Regressions are run at Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% level.	the full samp ts are estimate srienced a PE mployer-spon usiness banku usiness banku county $i$ in fro- county $i$ in fro- corresent the logarithm of t. Regression ed effects are	le from from ted following () buyout of a sored health uptcies, and om year $t-1$ logarithm of t the number is are run at included, as
Dep. Variable:	$\log (Avg  Prem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log (Loans}{100-250K})$	log (Loans > 250K)	Emp Growth	Emp Growth Estab Growth log(Patents)	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(TM)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PEBuyout'_{j,i,t}$	-0.006 (0.013)									
$PEBuyout'_{i,t}$		0.012	-0.000	0.013	0.004	0.004	-0.020	-0.132	0.012	-0.009
		(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.013)	(0.012)	(0.129)	(0.091)	(0.010)	(0.014)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County FEs	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year $FEs$	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	I	I	ı	ı	I	ı	I	I	ı
$Industry \times Year FEs$	Υ	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı
N	919, 471	73,472	73,472	73,472	73,663	73,663	84,077	84,077	87,500	86,604

### Table A.13: Robustness: Full Sample, Random Treatment Assignment

itals	ne sample to HRRs with at kes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is z that takes a value of 1 if $t1 by a CHS system hospital1 insurance plans in year t.otal is the total number ofto year t. Estab Growth isne number of small businesspatents filed in county i inm at the firm-year level fory$ and year fixed effects are 10% level.	ents) $log(Trademarks)$	(8)		$7^{**}$ $-0.051^{***}$	7) (0.019)	Y	Υ	I	ı	36 13,346	4 0.920
fit Hosp	stricting the le that table tor variable was served ored health vies, and $T$ year $t-1$ rithm of the number of number of sions are ru and county nuce at the	$n \log(Pat)$	(2)		$-0.037^{**}$	(0.017)	Υ	Υ	1	I	13,486	0.934
ness: CHS Specification, Counties with For-profit Hospitals	equity (PE), re- ndicator variab $st_t$ is an indicat of 1 if county $i$ mployer-sponsc iness bankrupt ounty $i$ in from present the loga garithm of the 1 year $t$ . Regress = county level, and * significa	$Estab Growth \log(Patents)$	(9)		$-0.330^{***}$	(0.121)	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	12,838	0.251
Counties w	out by private out by private $spital_{j,i}$ is an i southerwise. Poot t takes a value trun $j$ paid for e Chapter 11 busipolyment for complexity is the log ents) is the log in county $i$ in county $i$ in clustered at the the 5% level,	EmpGrowth	(5)		$-0.574^{***}$	(0.194)	Υ	Υ	ı	I	12,838	0.178
ification,	the CHS buy 20. $CHSHo$ 20. $CHSHo$ 2095, and zero 2095, and zero 2005, and zero 2005, and zero 2006, and that 2006, and that 2006, and 2006, and 2006, and	$\log(Total)$	(4)		0.036	(0.022)	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	13,486	0.857
CHS Spec	es following es following (1993 to 202 spital as of 1 an indicator average pre- average pre- is the growt is the growt m year $t-1$ ounty $i$ in ye of trademan- nes. Standar l% level, **	$\log(Ch11)$	(3)		$0.036^{**}$	(0.017)	Υ	Y	ı	ı	13,486	0.816
ustness: (	ning outcom n from from S system hos $Hospital_i$ is $um_{j,t}$ is the ankruptcies, Jmp Growth outly $i$ in fro revenue in co revenue in co the number other outcom ance at the l	$\log(Ch7)$	(2)		$0.038^{*}$	(0.021)	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	13,486	0.840
Table A.14: Robust	on results exami- . Regressions ru i served by a CH otherwise. $CHS$ rise. $Avg Premi$ oter 7 business b nty $i$ in year $t$ . I businesses in cc firms of a given 1 the logarithm o the logarithm o y-year level for $c$ indicates signific	$\log(Avg \ Prem)$	(1)	$0.086^{***}$ (0.028)			I	ı	Υ	Υ	89,850	0.565
Table	This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the CHS buyout by private equity (PE), restricting the sample to HRRs with at least one for-profit hospital. Regressions run from 1993 to 2020. $CHSHospital_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if the least one for-profit hospital. Regressions run from 1993 to 2020. $CHSHospital_{j,i}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if this located in county <i>i</i> that was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. $Post_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if to is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CHSHospital_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if to is year 1996 or later, and 0 otherwise. $CHSHospital_i$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county <i>i</i> was served by a CHS system hospital as of 1995, and zero otherwise. $Avg$ Premium <sub>j,i</sub> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year <i>t</i> . $Ch7$ 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $Emp$ Growth in those moment for county <i>i</i> in from year <i>t</i> - 1 to year <i>t</i> . $EstabGrowth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Trademarks)$ is the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Trademarks)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $EstabGrowth$ is the growth is the growth is the $5\%$ level, and $t$ is gravith and the firm-year level for other outcomes. Standard errors are clustered at the county <i>i</i> and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the $1\%$ level, ** significance at the $5\%$ level, and * significance at the $10\%$ level.	Dep. Variable:		$CHSHospital_{j,i} \times Post_t$	$CHS Hospital_i \times Post_t$		County FEs	Year FEs	Firm FEs	Industry $\times$ Year FEs	$\sim N$	Adj. $R^2$

	Table <sup>1</sup>	A.15: Rol		Full Sam	ıple, Cou	nties with	Table A.15: Robustness: Full Sample, Counties with For-profit Hospitals	t Hospitals	70	
This table provides regression results examining outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from 1993 to 2020, restricting the sample to HRRs with at least one for-profit hospital. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that effects are estimated following Callaway and Sant'Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout<sub>i,t</sub></i> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that experienced a PE buyout of a hospital or hospital system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>Avg Premium<sub>j,t</sub></i> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid for employer-sponsored health insurance plans in year <i>t</i> . <i>Ch</i> 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for business bankruptcies.	s regression rest icting the samf ed following Cal buyout of a hos ored health inst ies, and <i>Total</i> i	ults examini ple to HRRs llaway and St pital or hosp urance plans s the total nu	ng outcomes with at leasy ant'Anna (20 ital system a in year $t$ . $C$ imber of busi	following al t one for-pro (21). $PEBu$ is of year $t$ , is h7 is the nu iness bankup	Il buyouts of offt hospital. $uyout_{i,t}$ is an and zero oth mber of Chu otcies in coun	f hospitals by Regressions i indicator va nerwise. Avg apter 7 busir nty <i>i</i> in year	g outcomes following all buyouts of hospitals by private equity (PE) over the full sample from from with at least one for-profit hospital. Regressions are run from 1993 to 2020 with dynamic treatment m?Anna (2021). <i>PE Buyout</i> <sub>i,t</sub> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county <i>i</i> that tal system as of year <i>t</i> , and zero otherwise. <i>Avg Premium</i> <sub>j,t</sub> is the average premium that firm <i>j</i> paid in year <i>t</i> . <i>Ch</i> 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 mber of business bankuptcies in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment for	y (PE) over $t$ (1993 to 2020 kes a value of s the average th is the growt	the full sampl with dynam 1 if placebo c premium that the number of th in total em	e from from ic treatment ounty $i$ that i firm $j$ paid i Chapter 11 ployment for
county <i>i</i> m from year $t - 1$ to year <i>t</i> . Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year <i>t</i> . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size or for firms of a given revenue in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(Patents)$ is the logarithm of the number of patents filed in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . $\log(TM)$ is the logarithm of the number of trademarks registered in county <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> .	ear $t - 1$ to year ithm of the num imber of patents	t. L. Estab Gr nber of small s filed in cou	owth is the $\xi$ l business loa nty <i>i</i> in year	growth in the uns of a given $t$ . $\log(TM)$	e number of n size or for is the logar	businesses in firms of a gi ithm of the r	1 county <i>i</i> in the ven revenue in number of trac	rom year $t-1$ t county $i$ in y lemarks regist	to year $t$ . Lo rear $t$ . $\log(Pa$ ered in count.	an variables $tents$ is the $y$ <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> .
Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the $1\%$ level, ** significance at the $5\%$ level, and * significance at the $10\%$ level.	n at the firm-ye l, as indicated.	sar or county *** indicates	-year level, <i>ɛ</i> s significance	as indicated. at the 1% l	Standard e evel, ** sign	errors are clu nificance at tl	year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year significance at the $1\%$ level, ** significance at the $5\%$ level, and * significance at the $10\%$ level.	county level, ε nd * significan	and county an ice at the 10%	d year fixed 5 level.
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem) \log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	log(Loans 100-250K)	log(Loans > 250K)	$Emp \ Growth$	Emp Growth Estab Growth log(Patents)	$\log(Patents)$	$\log(TM)$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)	(6)	(10)
$PE  Buyout_{j,i,t}$	$0.057^{***}$ (0.017)									
$PEBuyout_{i,t}$	~	$0.106^{***}$ (0.024)	0.022 (0.019)	$0.094^{***}$ (0.027)	$0.089^{***}$ (0.020)	$0.065^{***}$ $(0.022)$	$-0.406^{***}$ (0.155)	$-0.617^{***}$ (0.106)	-0.0003 $(0.015)$	-0.003 (0.017)
Unit of Analysis County FEs	Firm-year -	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y	County-year Y
Year FEs	ı .	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FES	Y	I	I	ı	I	I	I	I	ı	ı
Industry×Year FES M		- 10	- 10	- 10	- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	- 10- 10-10-1	1 C C F	1 C C F	100 U	- C - L - L
N	555,711	37,561	37,561	37,561	37,581	37,581	53,815	53,815	56,367	55,764

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), including county-level control variables. $HCA_{j,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{j,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if form $j$ is located in county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $Post 2006_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total employment for county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . $Ch 7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch 11$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies in county $i$ in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county $i$ in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county $i$ level, as indicated. Compty-level controls include county population and income per-capita. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, significance at the 1% level.	ion results examin : variable that take i indicator variable variable that takes t-1 to year $t$ . $Earithm of the numlnumber of Chaptefirm-year or counicated. County-levevel, and * signific$	ing outcomes followin es a value of 1 if firm $j$ e that takes a value of s a value of 1 if $t$ is ye j stab Growth is the gr ber of small business lankrul er 11 business bankrul ty-year level, as indic vel controls include co vel controls include co	ollowing the H if firm $j$ is loca value of 1 if co t $t$ is year 2006 is the growth in siness loans of bankruptcies, $i$ is indicated. S lude county pc % level.	CA buyout by ted in county unty $i$ was serv or later, and a the number a given size in and $Total$ is th tandard errors opulation and i	r private equity i that containe ved by a HCA 0 otherwise. $E$ of businesses i n county $i$ in ye ne total numbe are clustered income per-cap	(PE), includir d an HCA syst system hospita system hospita imp $Growth$ is n county $i$ in tar $t$ . $Ch7$ is th r of business b at the county ita. *** indice	ag county-level ( cern hospital as a of 2004, an the growth in t from year $t - 1$ a number of Cl ankuptcies in co level, and count ates significance	outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), including county-level control variables. value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero int takes a value of 1 if county $i$ was served by a HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth in total employment bGrowth is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Loan of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business 1 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies in county $i$ in year $t$ . year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed controls include county population and income per-capita. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, se at the 10% level.
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch\ 11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log(Loans}{100-250K})$	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	EmpGrowth	$EmpGrowth\ EstabGrowth$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$HCA_{j,i,2004} \times Post\ 2006_t$	$0.038^{**}$ (0.018)							
$HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	~	$0.101^{***}$	0.024	$0.078^{***}$	0.028	0.000	-0.106	$-0.330^{***}$
×		(0.025)	(0.015)	(0.025)	(0.020)	(0.018)	(0.163)	(0.116)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County Controls	Ϋ́	Y ,	, Y	Ý	Ϋ́	Ŷ	Υ ̈́	Y ,
County FEs	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	ı	ı	I	ı	I	I	I
$Industry \times Year FEs$	Υ	ı	ı	ı		ı	I	ı
N	145,579	15,808	15,808	15,808	15,806	15,806	15,152	15,152
Adj. $R^2$	0.545	0.811	0.770	0.822	0.943	0.952	0.257	0.237

## Table A.16: Robustness: HCA Specification with County-level Controls

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), including time-varying region fixed effects. $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm <i>j</i> is located in county <i>i</i> that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if <i>t</i> is located in county <i>i</i> that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{j,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if <i>t</i> is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year <i>t</i> . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch11$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Ch7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch11$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county, <i>i</i> in year t. Regressions are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 10% level.	sion results exami- ndicator variable ( $_{2004}$ is an indicator i indicator variable i from year $t-1$ the logarithm of the logarithm of 11 is the number of at the firm-year of are included, as i	ning outcomes that takes a va or variable that e that takes a the number of the number of of Chapter 11 b or county-year 1 ndicated. ***	following the lue of 1 if firm t takes a value value of 1 if $t$ b Growth is th small business usiness bankru- evel, as indicat indicates signif	HCA buyout $j$ is located ir $j$ is located ir of 1 if county of sear 2006 o is year 2006 is year 2006, and the loans of a given precise, and $T$ the ded. Standard ded icance at the ficance at the search of the context of the search of the context of the search of the context of the search of t	by private eq t county $i$ that i was served 1 $\pi$ later, and 0 te number of b en size in coun stal is the tota errors are clus errors are clus	uity (PE), incl contained an $]$ y a HCA syst otherwise. $Em$ usinesses in co ty <i>i</i> in year <i>t</i> . I number of bu tered at the co gnificance at th	Inding time-var. HCA system ho em hospital as ( pGrowth is thu unty i in from y Ch7 is the num siness bankuptc unty level, and te 5% level, and	ng outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), including time-varying region fixed at takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, variable that takes a value of 1 if touth $i$ was served by a HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>EmpGrowth</i> is the growth in total year $t$ . <i>EstabGrowth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year t. <i>EstabGrowth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year t. Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies in county $i$ in county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county, year, and licated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at
Dep. Variable:	$\log(AvgPrem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch\ 11)$	$\log(Total)$	log(Loans 100-250K)	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	EmpGrowth	$EmpGrowth\ EstabGrowth$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$HCA_{j,i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	0.005 (0.018)							
$HCA_{i,2004}  imes Post 2006_t$	~	$0.096^{***}$	0.025	$0.077^{***}$	$0.038^{*}$	0.014	-0.206	$-0.730^{***}$
		(0.025)	(0.016)	(0.026)	(0.021)	(0.020)	(0.181)	(0.133)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County FEs	1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ϋ́	Y	Y
$\operatorname{Region} \times \operatorname{Year} \operatorname{FEs}$	ı	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Y
Firm FEs	Υ	I	ı	I	ı	ı	I	ı
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	Υ	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	
Ν	229,210	15,808	15,808	15,808	15,806	15,806	15,152	15,152
Adj. $R^2$	0.551	0.810	0.769	0.822	0.944	0.952	0.238	0.247

### Table A.18: Robustness: Poisson Regressions, HCA Buyout

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), using a Poisson model.  $HCA_{i,2004}$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if county *i* was served by a HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. Post  $2006_t$  is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if *t* is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. Ch 7 is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, Ch 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and Total is the total number of business bankruptcies in county *i* in year *t*. Regressions are run at the county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. \*\*\* indicates significance at the 1% level, \*\* significance at the 5% level, and \* significance at the 10% level.

	Ch7	Ch11	Total	<i>Loans</i> 100–250K	$Loans > 250 \mathrm{K}$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.240^{***} \\ (0.076) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.173^{**} \\ (0.077) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.216^{***} \\ (0.071) \end{array}$	$0.078^{**}$ (0.031)	$\begin{array}{c} 0.053^{***} \\ (0.016) \end{array}$
County FEs Year FEs N	Y Y 14,976	Y Y 11,416	Y Y 15,480	Y Y 15,638	Y Y 15,478

This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), randomly assigning counties as treated. $HCA'_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm <i>j</i> is located in placebo county <i>i</i> that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA'_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if <i>t</i> is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total employment for county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Estab Growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county <i>i</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Bark of the number of the number of the number of Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county <i>i</i> in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 10% level.	on results examin variable that tak variable that tak $^{2004}$ is an indicat $^{006_t}$ is an indicat inty <i>i</i> in from yea spresent the logar present the logar ptcies, <i>Ch</i> 11 is th essions are run at assions are included, as	ing outcomes as a value of 1 or variable tha or variable tha x t - 1 to year ithm of the m it number of ( the firm-year the firm-year s indicated. **	following the H if firm $j$ is loce th takes a value t takes a value t. Estab $Grouimber of smallChapter 11 busor county-yeau* indicates sig$	ICA buyout by ated in placebo 0 of 1 if placet of 1 if t is yea with is the grow business bankrup iness bankrup r level, as indiu nificance at th	r private equity o county <i>i</i> that o county <i>i</i> wa ar 2006 or late. Ath in the num s of a given siz treies, and $Tot$ cated. Standau e 1% level, **	i (PE), randon contained an s served by a 1 r, and 0 otherv ber of business is in county $i$ al is the total cd errors are cl significance at	ly assigning con HCA system ho HCA system ho vise. $Emp Grow$ ses in county <i>i</i> ii in year <i>t</i> . $Ch7$ number of busi lustered at the <i>c</i> the 5% level, a	ig outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), randomly assigning counties as treated. a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in placebo county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, variable that takes a value of 1 if placebo county $i$ was served by a HCA system hospital as of 2004, variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Emp Growth</i> is the growth t-1 to year $t$ . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in from year $t-1hm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county i in year t. Ch7 is the number oft$ number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankuptcies the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance
Dep. Variable:	$\log(Avg \ Prem)$	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch11)$	$\log(Total)$	$\frac{\log(Loans}{100-250K})$	$\log(Loans > 250K)$	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)	(8)
$HCA'_{j,i,2004}  imes Post 2006_t$	-0.005 (0.015)							
$HCA_{i,2004}^{\prime}  imes Post2006_t$	~	0.004	-0.010	-0.016	-0.013	-0.004	0.218	-0.129
		(0.025)	(0.014)	(0.025)	(0.019)	(0.017)	(0.154)	(0.111)
Unit of Analysis	Firm-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year	County-year
County FEs	I	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	I	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Firm FEs	Υ	ı	ı	ı			I	
Industry $\times$ Year FEs	Υ	ı	I	ı	ı	ı	I	ı
N	230,088	16,584	16,584	16,584	16,584	16,584	15,968	15,968
Adj. $R^2$	0.551	0.799	0.759	0.815	0.948	0.955	0.235	0.186

Assignment
Treatment
Random
Placebo,
HCA Pla
Robustness:
e <b>A.19</b> :
Table

RRs with at HCA system em hospital mp Growth county <i>i</i> in ar <i>t</i> . $Ch7$ is $\cdot$ of business $\epsilon$ the county level, and *	$EmpGrowth\ EstabGrowth$	(8)		$-0.520^{***}$	(0.115)	County-year	Υ	Y	ı	ı	17,660	0.211
aple to HI ained an F HCA syst erwise. $E$ inesses in y <i>i</i> in yea al number ustered at t the 5% ]	vth Esta				<u> </u>						1	
ing the sam it that contains that contains and 0 oth and 0 oth aber of bus ze in count l is the tota rrors are cl nificance a	EmpGron	(2)		$-0.282^{*}$	(0.159)	County-year	Y	Υ	ı	'	17,660	0.239
outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), restricting the sample to HRRs with at dicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that contained an HCA system hospital indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Emp Growth</i> in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in county $i$ in set the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . <i>Ch</i> 7 is <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of businesses recumple, as indicated. *** indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and **	log(Loans > 250K)	(9)		$0.047^{***}$	(0.017)	County-year	Υ	Υ	I	I	18,472	0.952
private equity if firm $j$ is loca j value of 1 if $cof 1 if t is yearwth$ is the gro wth is the gro the sindicat vel, as indicat cance at the 1	log(Loans 100-250K)	(5)		$0.061^{***}$	(0.018)	County-year	Υ	Υ	I	I	18,472	0.944
CA buyout by is a value of 1 is a value of 1 is le that takes a cakes a value $c$ akes a value $c$ and $t$ . $Estab Growumber of smahapter 11 busicounty-year ledicates signifi$	$\log(Total)$	(4)		$0.116^{***}$	(0.024)	County-year	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	18,506	0.810
ollowing the H iable that take dicator variable variable that $t$ x t - 1 to year withm of the r te number of C te firm-year or flicated. *** ii	$\log(Ch\ 11)$	(3)		$0.031^{**}$	(0.014)	County-year	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	18,506	0.754
ing outcomes f n indicator var $A_{i,2004}$ is an ir s an indicator i in from yea resent the logs resent the logs ies, $Ch$ 11 is th is are run at th ncluded, as in	$\log(Ch7)$	(2)		$0.125^{***}$	(0.023)	County-year	Υ	Υ	ı	ı	18,506	0.798
on results examin $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is a o otherwise. $HC$ rise. $Post 2006_t$ i syment for county oan variables rep oan variables rep tisiness bankruptc year $t$ . Regression fixed effects are i l.	$\log(AvgPrem)$	(1)	$0.028^{*}$ (0.017)			Firm-year		·	Υ	Υ	167, 463	0.554
This table provides regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), restricting the sample to HRRs with at least one for-profit hospital. $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that contained an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if the norm i was served by a HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $Emp Growth$ is the growth in total employment for county i in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . The growth is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . $Estab Growth$ is the growth in the number of businesses in county i in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county i in year $t$ . $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch_{11}$ is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and $Total$ is the total number of business bankruptcies in county i in year $t$ . Regressions are run at the firm-year or county-year level, as indicated. *** significance at the 10% level, ** significance at the 10% level.	Dep. Variable:		$HCA_{j,i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$		Unit of Analysis	County FEs	Year FEs	Firm FEs	Industry $\times$ Year FEs	N	Adj. $R^2$

Table A.20: Robustness: HCA Specification, Counties with For-profit Hospitals

This table provides triple-differences regression results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), and heterogeneity of the impact during the financial crisis. $HCA_{j,i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm j is located in county i that was served by an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{j,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t county i that was served by an HCA system hospital as of 2004, and zero otherwise. $HCA_{j,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if t is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. $HDI High_{i,2006_{q4}}$ takes a value of 1 if county i's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4 was in the top quartile, and 0 otherwise. $HDI High_{i,2006_{q4}}$ takes a value of 1 if county i's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4 was in the top quartile, and 0 otherwise. $HDI High_{i,2006_{q4}}$ takes a value of 1 if county i's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4 was in the top quartile, and 0 otherwise. $HDI High_{i,2006_{q4}}$ takes a value of 1 if county i's average household debt-to-income ratio in 2006q4 was in the top quartile, and 0 otherwise. $Ch7$ is the number of Chapter 7 business bankruptcies, $Ch$ 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and 7 other number of business bankuptcies in county i in year t. Loan variables represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county i in year t. Emp Growth is the growth in total employment for county i in from year $t - 1$ to year $t - 1$ to year t. Regressions are run at the county-year level. ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% year fixed effects are included, as indicated. *** indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10% hevel.	tesults examination of is an indicative. $HCA_{i,20}$ rise. $HCA_{i,20}$ Post 2006, is Post 2006, is average hout a verage hout $Ch$ 11 is the streng the for county <i>i</i> is a renumber of the round <i>i</i> indicates significates si	ning outcom- ttor variable 04 is an india an indicator schold debt-1 number of C number of C ne logarithm n from year he county-ye nificance at	es following th that takes a v :ator variable variable that voricome rati hapter 11 bus of the numbe t - 1 to year $tar level. Stanthe 1% level, '$	the HCA buyon alue of 1 if firr that takes a v takes a value o in 2006q4 w iness bankrup r of small bus r of small bus t <i>Estab Grow</i> dard errors ar ** significance	It by private In $j$ is located alue of 1 if $co$ of 1 if $t$ is ye as in the top tries, and $Toi$ iness loans of the grow e clustered at e the $5\%$ le	equity (PE), and in county $i$ that unty $i$ that was s ar 2006 or later quartile, and 0 tal is the total n a given size in $c$ wth in the numb- c the county leve vel, and * signif	results examining outcomes following the HCA buyout by private equity (PE), and heterogeneity of <sup>004</sup> is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if firm $j$ is located in county $i$ that was served by an HCA wise. $HCA_{i,2004}$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Post</i> 2006 $_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Post</i> 2006 $_t$ is an indicator variable that takes a value of 1 if $t$ is year 2006 or later, and 0 otherwise. <i>Ch</i> 11 is the number of Chapter 11 business bankruptcies, and <i>Total</i> is the total number of business as represent the logarithm of the number of small business loans of a given size in county $i$ in year $t$ . for county $i$ in from year $t - 1$ to year $t$ . <i>Estab Growth</i> is the growth in the number of businesses in a sace run at the county-year level. Standard errors are clustered at the county level, and county and $^{k}$ indicates significance at the 1% level, ** significance at the 5% level, and * significance at the 10%
Dep. Variable:	$\log(Ch7)$	$\log(Ch7)  \log(Ch11)  \log(Total)$	$\log(Total)$	$rac{\log(Loans)}{100-250K}$	log(Loans > 250K)	EmpGrowth	EstabGrowth
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)	(2)
$HDI High_{i,2006q4} \times HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$0.149^{***}$	0.009	$0.156^{***}$	-0.008	0.013	$-1.161^{***}$	$-1.055^{***}$
•	(0.054)	(0.033)	(0.055)	(0.042)	(0.037)	(0.372)	(0.277)
$HCA_{i,2004} \times Post 2006_t$	$0.091^{***}$	$0.032^{*}$	$0.064^{**}$	0.035	0.010	-0.086	$-0.245^{*}$
	(0.028)	(0.017)	(0.029)	(0.024)	(0.022)	(0.192)	(0.130)
$HDIHigh_{i,2006q4} imes Post2006_t$	$0.083^{**}$	$0.071^{***}$	$0.085^{**}$	$0.048^{*}$	$0.057^{**}$	$-0.826^{***}$	$-0.688^{***}$
	(0.037)	(0.021)	(0.036)	(0.027)	(0.025)	(0.229)	(0.157)
County FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
Year FEs	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	ı	ı
N	15,792	15,792	15,792	15,790	15,790	15, 136	15, 136
Adj. $R^2$	0.808	0.769	0.820	0.943	0.952	0.232	0.228

Table A.21: HCA Buyout and the Financial Crisis, High HDI