

**The Center for Outcomes Research at CHOP and
Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics (LDI)**

presents a Research Seminar featuring

Sara Markowitz, PhD

Associate Professor of Economics at Rutgers University &
Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research

speaking on:

**The Effectiveness of Cigarette Regulations in
Reducing Cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome**

Monday, February 5, 2007

12:00-1:30 PM

Colonial Penn Center Auditorium (3641 Locust Walk, 1st Floor)

A light lunch will be provided.

Biography:

Sara Markowitz is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at Rutgers University and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is a 1998 graduate of the Ph. D. program in economics from the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York.

Dr. Markowitz is a health economist with a particular interest in the economics of unhealthy and risky behaviors. Much of her research centers on children and teenagers. Dr. Markowitz publishes widely in general and specialty academic journals. Recent publications include research on alcohol and risky behaviors by adolescents; the social market for cigarettes; smoking and obesity; and the effects of public policies on mental health outcomes. Dr. Markowitz has been the recipient of numerous awards for her research and teaching.

Abstract:

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is a leading cause of mortality among infants and is responsible for thousands of infant deaths every year. Prenatal smoking and postnatal environmental smoke have been identified as strong risk factors for SIDS. Given the link between smoking and SIDS, this paper examines the direct effects of cigarette prices, taxes and clean indoor air laws in explaining changes in the incidence of SIDS over time in the United States. State-level counts of SIDS cases are generated from death certificates for 1973 to 2003. After controlling for some observed and unobserved confounding factors, the results show that higher cigarette prices and taxes are associated with reductions in SIDS cases. Stronger restrictions on smoking in restaurants and child care centers are also effective in reducing SIDS deaths.

