

Christopher A. Lowenstein

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CURRENT	Postdoctoral Fellow University of Missouri - Columbia, Department of Economics <i>Faculty advisor:</i> Michael Pesko, PhD	Aug 2025 - present
RESEARCH AREAS	population health economics; health policy; labor economics; social epidemiology; health disparities	
EDUCATION	PhD, Health Policy (Health Economics track) University of California, Berkeley	2017–2022
	MPH, Epidemiology and Biostatistics University of California, Berkeley	2015–2017
	BA, Mathematical Economics, magna cum laude Colorado College	2008–2012
PUBLICATIONS	Weiss, D., Lowenstein, C. , Sund, E., Vethe, D., & Krokstad, S. (2024). Diverging mental health trends in the post-pandemic era: results from the HUNT study, Norway. <i>Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health</i> , 79(3), 165–168. Lowenstein, C. (2024). “Deaths of despair” over the business cycle: New estimates from a shift-share instrumental variables approach. <i>Economics & Human Biology</i> , 53, 101374. Innstrand, S. T., Banks, C., Maslach, C., & Lowenstein, C. (2023) Healthy Universities: Exploring the Relationship between Psychosocial Needs and Work-Related Health Among University Employees. <i>Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health</i> , 38(2), 103–126. Dow, W. H., Godøy, A., Lowenstein, C. , & Reich, M. (2020). Can Labor Market Policies Reduce Deaths of Despair?. <i>Journal of Health Economics</i> , 74, 102372. White, J. S., Lowenstein, C. , Srivirojana, N., Jampaklay, A., & Dow, W. H. (2020). Incentive-based interventions for smoking cessation: A cluster randomized controlled trial in workplaces in Thailand. <i>BMJ 371</i> . Lowenstein, C. , Dow, W. H., & White, J. S. (2020). Peer effects in smoking cessation: An instrumental variables analysis of a worksite intervention in Thailand. <i>SSM-Population Health</i> , 12, 100659. Lowenstein, C. , Vasco, K., Sarzosa, S., Salinas, L., Mosco, A. T., ... & Graham, J. P. (2020). Determinants of Childhood Zoonotic Enteric Infections in a Semirural Community of Quito, Ecuador. <i>The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene</i> . 102(6), 1269. Lowenstein, C. , Waters, W. F., Roess, A., Leibler, J. H., & Graham, J. P. (2016). Animal husbandry practices and perceptions of zoonotic infectious disease risks among livestock keepers in a rural parish of Quito, Ecuador. <i>The American journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene</i> , 95(6), 1450–1458.	

SELECTED WORKING PAPERS

Venkataramani, A., O'Brien, R., Bair, E.F. & **Lowenstein, C.** (2025). Political Power and Mortality: Heterogeneous Effects of the U.S. Voting Rights Act. NBER Working Paper N. 34421. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w34421>.

Rong, M., **Lowenstein, C.**, & Rehkopf, D. H. (2024). Effects of the 2015 California EITC Expansion on Colorectal Cancer Risk Factors. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4931575>.

Lowenstein, C., Godøy, A., Reich, M., Morin, P., Henk, H., & Dow, W. (2022). Do county-level employment changes affect the demand for prescription opioids? Evidence from a sample of commercially insured adults. Available at SSRN: <https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=4940683>.

SELECTED RESEARCH REPORTS

Woolf, S. H., Aron L., Chapman, D. A., Dubay, L., Zimmerman, E., Snellings, L. C., Hall, L., Haley, A. D., Holla, N., Ayers, K., **Lowenstein, C.**, & Waidmann, T. A. (2016) The Health of the States Summary Report: How US States Compare in Health Status and the Factors that Shape Health. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Simms, M., McDaniel, M., Fyffe, S. D., & **Lowenstein, C.** (2015). Structural Barriers to Racial Equity in Pittsburgh: Expanding Economic Opportunity for African American Men and Boys. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Mills, G. B. & **C. Lowenstein**. (2015). Assessing the Merits of Photo EBT Cards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Turner, M. A., Edelman, P., Poethig, E. C., Aron, L. Y., Rogers, M., & **Lowenstein, C.** (2014). Tacking Persistent Poverty in Distressed Urban Neighborhoods. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Edelstein, S., & **Lowenstein, C.** (2014). Characteristics and Impacts of Programs for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care, Issue Brief 2: Financial Literacy and Asset Building Programs. OPRE Report No. 2014-69. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Edelstein, S., & **Lowenstein, C.** (2014). Characteristics and Impacts of Programs for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care, Issue Brief 3: Employment. OPRE Report No. 2014-70. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Lowenstein, C., Golden, O., Emam, E., & McDaniel, M. (2013). Linking Depressed Mothers to Effective Services and Supports: A Policy and Systems Agenda for Improving Children's Development and Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

McDaniel, M., & **Lowenstein, C.** (2013). Depression in Low-Income Mothers of Young Children: Are they getting the treatment they need? Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

COMMENTARY Dow, W. H., Godøy, A., **Lowenstein, C.**, Reich, M. A way out from rock bottom: Economic policies can reduce deaths of despair. VOX CEPR Policy Portal (July 7, 2019)

Lowenstein, Christopher. "Adding photos to food stamp cards would not reduce benefit trafficking." Posted to Urban Institute's Urban Wire on March 26, 2015.

Lowenstein, Christopher. "Major Gaps In Treatment for Low-Income Mothers with

Depression Put Kids at Risk." Posted to Urban Institute's Urban Wire on April 17, 2013.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Scholar Department of Epidemiology and Population Health Stanford University School of Medicine <i>Faculty advisor:</i> David Rehkopf, ScD, MPH	2022–2025
Graduate Student Researcher Institute for Research on Labor and Employment University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)	2018–2022
Graduate Student Researcher Interdisciplinary Center for Healthy Workplaces University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)	2015–2017
Research Assistant/Research Associate II Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population The Urban Institute (Washington, DC)	2012–2015

FUNDING AND AWARDS

Rapid Response Research Award Family Policy to Reduce Racial Inequalities in Health Research Hub University of California, Berkeley	2025
Ethics, Society, and Technology Rolling Grant McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society, Stanford University (with Xuechao Qian and Mathew Kiang)	2023
Dissertation Fellowship Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, UC Berkeley	2021
Graduate Student Researcher Award Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, UC Berkeley	2020
NIH/NIAAA T32 Predoctoral Fellowship <i>Graduate Research Training in Alcohol-Related Disparities</i> Alcohol Research Group (Emeryville, CA)	2020–2021
NIH/NICHD T32 Predoctoral Fellowship <i>Interdisciplinary Training in Demography</i> Department of Demography, UC Berkeley	2017–2019
David Hoskinson Graduate Scholarship UC Berkeley School of Public Health	2017–2018
Block Grant Fellowship UC Berkeley School of Public Health	2016–2017
Public Health Alumni Association Scholarship UC Berkeley School of Public Health	2016–2017

TEACHING & MENTORING

Stanford Advancing Health Equity and Diversity (AHEaD) <i>Near peer mentor and project lead</i>	Summer 2024
UC Berkeley Data Discovery Program <i>Project lead for undergraduate data discovery project</i>	Fall 2023/2024

	Health Economics (Masters level) <i>Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Brent Fulton</i> UC Berkeley School of Public Health	Fall 2019
	Economic Demography (Undergraduate level) <i>Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Joshua Goldstein</i> UC Berkeley Department of Demography	Spring 2019
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)	June 2025
	- “Labor Market Shocks and Mental Health Among Adolescents in the Pandemic-Era” (panel presentation)	
	- <i>Treatment and Financial Incentives</i> (invited discussant)	
	Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting	April 2025
	- “Associations Between Area-Level Racial Equity in 1940 New Deal Emergency Employment and Later-Life Health” (poster presentation)	
	Association for Public Policy & Management (APPAM)	November 2024
	- “The Earned Income Tax Credit and Black-White income inequality across metro-area labor market contexts.” (panel presentation)	
	ASHEcon Annual Conference	June 2024
	- <i>Addressing Inequities in Health and Human Capital through State Policy: Impacts of the EITC and Minimum Wage</i> (panel organizer and chair)	
	- <i>COVID, Labor Markets, and Health</i> (panel chair)	
	- <i>Minimum Wages and Health</i> (invited discussant)	
	APPAM Fall Research Conference	November 2023
	- “COVID-19 Labor Market Shocks & Pediatric Mental Health: Evidence from Primary Care” (panel presentation)	
	- <i>Policy Drivers of Mental Health</i> (invited discussant)	
	ASHEcon Annual Conference	June 2023
	- “COVID-19 Labor Market Shocks & Pediatric Mental Health: Evidence from Primary Care” (panel presentation)	
	- “Economic Status Threat and Suicide among US Adults” (panel presentation)	
	Population Association of America (PAA) Annual Meeting	April 2023
	- “Health Effects of Exposure to the Aid to Dependent Children Program in Early Childhood” (poster presentation)	
	APPAM Fall Research Conference	November 2022
	- <i>Health Effects of Non-Health Policies</i> (invited discussant)	
	Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science	October 2022
	- “Perceptions of Racialized Economic Threat and Drug, Suicide, and Alcohol mortality in the United States” (poster presentation)	
	PAA Annual Meeting	April 2022
	- <i>Nonstandard Work Arrangements and their Consequences</i> (panel chair)	
	APPAM Fall Research Conference	November 2021
	- “Employment Attributable Mortality and Diseases of Despair: Findings from County-level Instrumental Variables Models” (panel presentation)	
	- <i>Income Sources, Financial Decisions, and Family Wellbeing</i> (invited discussant)	

- *Correlates of Suicidality* (invited discussant)
- IAPHS Annual Conference** October 2021*
 - “Diseases of Despair following the Great Recession: Trends, Economic Drivers, and the Role of Medicaid Expansion” (panel presentation)
- International Health Economics Association Annual Congress** July 2021*
 - “Cumulative and Dynamic Effects of Labor Market Conditions on Diseases of Despair” (panel presentation)
- ASHEcon Annual Conference** June 2021*
 - “Short-term effects of Labor Market Conditions on Diseases of Despair” (panel presentation)
- Academy Health Annual Research Meeting** June 2021*
 - “Employment Decreases Adverse Opioid-Related Outcomes: Evidence from US Counties” (poster presentation)
- APPAM Student Online Seminar Series** May 2021*
 - “Short term effects of Labor Market Conditions on Diseases of Despair” (panel presentation)
- Society for Epidemiological Research** May 2021*
 - “Using Instrumental Variables to Estimate Peer Effects in Health Behaviors” (panel presentation)
- PAA Annual Meeting** May 2021*
 - “Deaths of Despair and Employment Conditions” (poster presentation)
- PAA Annual Meeting** April 2020*
 - “Labor Market Policies and Deaths of Despair” (panel presentation)
- PAA Annual Meeting** April 2018
 - “Incentive-Based Interventions for Smoking Cessation: Findings from the SMILE Trial” (poster presentation)

* denotes virtual participation due to COVID-19

SERVICE

Peer review: *Demography, Journal of Demographic Economics, International Journal of Health Economics and Management, Journal of Regional Science, Social Science and Medicine - Population Health, Social Science and Medicine - Mental Health, BMJ-Public Health, International Journal of Mental Health Promotion, Journal of Gerontological Social Work, Journal of Applied Life Sciences and Environment, Tobacco Induced Diseases*

Conference abstract review: IAPHS Abstract Review Committee (2022), ASHEcon Scientific Review Committee (2022, 2023)

Grant review: US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (2023)

Service and volunteer: Co-instructor and tutor, Mount Tamalpais College at San Quentin State Prison (2020-current); Ambassador, UC Berkeley Graduate Recruitment and Diversity Services (GRADS) Program (2020-2021); Member, UC Berkeley Health Policy Admissions Committee (2020-2021)