

Kacie L Dragan

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Health Policy (concentration in Methods for Policy Research)

Radcliffe Institute Graduate Student Fellow, 2023-2024

Dissertation: *Place, Policy, and Health: Essays on the Intersection of Health Policy and Social Policy among Low-Income Populations*

Committee: David Cutler (chair), Jessica Cohen, Sherry Glied, Tim Layton

Cambridge, MA

Expected May 2024

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Master of Public Health

Sociomedical Sciences Department (concentration in Public Health Research Methods)

New York, NY

May 2016

Barnard College of Columbia University

Bachelor of Arts with Honors, Sociology | Human Rights

Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude*

New York, NY

May 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

Health impacts of safety net policies; health policy evaluation methods; low-income populations; Medicaid policy; children with chronic illnesses; urban health; housing-related health outcomes; social determinants of health; administrative data

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published or in press:

1. Crook S, **Dragan K**, Woo JL, Neidell M, Jiang P, Cook S et al. (2023) Long-Term Health Care Utilization After Cardiac Surgery in Children Covered Under Medicaid. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 81(16):1605-1617.
2. **Dragan KL**, Desai SM, Billings J, and Glied SA. (2022) Association of Insurance Mix and Diagnostic Coding Practices in New York State Hospitals. *JAMA Health Forum*. 2;3(9):e222919.
 - Covered in [Medscape](#)
3. Anderson BA, **Dragan K**, Crook S, Woo JL, Cook S, Hannan EL, et al. (2021) Improving Longitudinal Outcomes, Efficiency, and Equity in the Care of Patients With Congenital Heart Disease. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 78(17):1703-1713.
4. Ellen IG, **Dragan KL**, and Glied SA. (2020) Renovating Subsidized Housing: The Impact on Tenants' Health. *Health Affairs*. 39(2):224-232.
5. **Dragan KL**, Ellen IG, and Glied S. (2020) Does gentrification displace poor children and their families? New Evidence from Medicaid Data in New York City. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. 83:103481.
 - Covered in [New York Magazine](#), [Bloomberg News \(CityLab\)](#), and [VoxEU](#)
6. Kang JX, Levanon Seligson A, and **Dragan KL**. (2020) Identifying neighborhoods at risk of being overlooked for interventions in New York City: A practical approach. *Preventing Chronic Disease*. 17(E32):1-6.
7. **Dragan KL**, Ellen IG, and Glied SA. (2019) Gentrification and The Health of Low-Income Children in New York City. *Health Affairs*. 38(9):1425-1432.
 - Covered in [Bloomberg News \(CityLab\)](#) and [VoxEU](#)

8. Hong K, **Dragan K** and Glied S. (2019) Seeing and Hearing: The Impacts of New York City’s Universal Prekindergarten Program on the Health of Low-Income Children. *Journal of Health Economics*. 64:93-107.
 - Covered in [Business Insider](#), [Vox](#), [ChalkBeat](#), and [Public Health Post](#)

Under review or in revision at journals:

1. **Dragan KL** and Glied SA. The Impact of Major Traffic Safety Reform on Road Traffic Injuries among Low-Income New Yorkers. **Revise and resubmit.**
2. Scheckler S, **Dragan KL**, Molinsky J, and Herbert C. Health Spending Among Older Adults Before and After Mortgage Payoff. Under review. Working paper [available](#) on the Center for Financial Security’s website.
3. McGaughey P, Howland RE, and **Dragan KL**. Variation in Preterm Birth Rates among New York Prenatal Sites Caring for Medicaid Beneficiaries. Under review.
4. Woo JL, Nash KA, **Dragan KL**, Crook S, Neidell M, Cook S et al. Chronic Medication Burden for Pediatric Medicaid Beneficiaries after Cardiac Surgery. **Revise and resubmit.**

WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. “Health Shocks and Housing Instability among Urban Medicaid Enrollees” (Job Market Paper)
2. “The Impact of a Low-Quality Housing Remediation Program on Acute Care Use”
3. “Neighborhood Economic Characteristics and Performance of the Medicaid Program,” with Tim Layton
4. “Understanding Variation in Access to Care among Medicaid-Enrolled Children with Congenital Heart Disease,” with Brett Anderson and the New York State CHS-COLOUR team
5. “Evaluation of On-Site Community Health Worker Intervention in New York City,” with John Billings, Kelly Doran, Ingrid Gould Ellen, Amy Freeman, Marc Gourevitch, Sue Kaplan, and Kelly Terlizzi.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS, WHITE PAPERS, & COMMENTARIES

1. Baquero M, Caramanica Zweig K, Meropol S, Vasan A, Delany-Brumsey A, Veras M, Chaitoo N, Vidal G, Demyan A, Davis C, Wang SS, **Dragan K**, Billings J. (2021). *Health Care Needs and Utilization Among New Yorkers With Criminal Justice System Involvement*. New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, and NYU Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York, NY.
2. Sharp M, **Dragan K**, Billings J. (2018). *The Right Prescription: Assessing Potentially Inappropriate Use of Antibiotics Among New York’s Medicaid Population*. United Hospital Fund, New York, NY.
3. Allen J, **Dragan K**, Dubay L, Pruitt S, Scally C, Shafer MS. (2018). Promises and Pitfalls of Cross-Sector Research Collaboration. In A.L. Plough (Ed.), *Advancing Health and Well-Being: Using Evidence and Collaboration to Achieve Health Equity*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
4. Farley S, **Dragan K**, Hinterland K, Stalvey L. (2018). *Secondhand Smoke and Smoke-Free Housing in New York City*. NYC Vital Signs, 17(1); 1-4.
5. **Dragan, K.** (2018 Oct 31). *Perspectives on Cross-Sector Collaboration from Academia and Government*. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Policies for Action Blog. <https://www.policiesforaction.org/blog/perspectives-cross-sector-collaboration-academia-and-government>

6. **Dragan, K.** (2018 Jul 18). *Partnerships Inspire Us to Ask the Next Big Question*. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Policies for Action Blog. <https://www.policiesforaction.org/blog/partnerships-inspire-us-ask-next-big-question>
7. King L, Hinterland K, **Dragan KL**, Driver CR, Harris TG, Gwynn RC, Linos N, Barbot O, Bassett MT. (2015). *New York City Community Health Profiles 2015*; 13(1-59).
8. **Dragan KL**, King L, Hinterland K, Gwynn RC. (2015). *New York City Community Health Atlas 2015*; New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

INVITED LECTURES

1. “How Social Policies Shape Health: Methods, History, and Emerging Evidence,” April 17, 2023. NYU’s undergraduate program in public policy, Topics in Health Policy: Policy, Politics, and Power. New York, NY.
2. “Health in All Policies: The Health Impacts of Non-Health Policies,” April 18, 2022. NYU’s undergraduate program in public policy, Topics in Health Policy: Policy, Politics, and Power. New York, NY.
3. “Gentrification and Children’s Health,” November 7, 2019. Culture of Health: Housing and Health, Health Affairs Event. Washington, DC.
4. “How the Health Care System Is Organized,” June 6, 2019. NYU Wagner Master of Health Administration Program, Current Issues in Health Policy course. New York, NY.
5. “RWJF Healthy Communities Session on Public Housing Interventions,” April 16, 2019. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “Foundation Forum” series. Princeton, NJ.
6. “Large-scale Community Needs Assessments,” February 21, 2019. Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health Master of Public Health Program, Health Promotion: Theory, Research, and Practice course. New York, NY.
7. “Using Medicaid Data to Study the Effects of Public Policy,” November 11, 2018. Columbia University Medical Center, Pediatric Fellows Research Seminar. New York, NY.
8. “Using Big Data for Policy Research,” April 18, 2018. NYU Master of Public Administration Program, Current Issues in Health Policy course. New York, NY.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations:

1. *Health Shocks and Housing Instability among Urban New Yorkers*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2023 Jun 25. Seattle, WA.
2. *Universal Pre-K, Maternal Health, and Fertility*. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference; 2020 Nov 11. Virtual due to Covid-19.
3. *Insurance Mix and Coding Practices in New York State Hospitals*. Academy Health National Health Policy Conference; 2020 Feb 11; Washington, DC.
4. *Subsidized Housing Renovation and Health*. Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference; 2018 Oct 4; Washington, DC.

5. *Big Data for Housing and Health: Leveraging Administrative Data to Produce Evidence for Upstream Policy Sectors*. Academy Health National Health Policy Conference; 2018 Feb 6; Washington, DC.
6. *Evidence from NYU's Policies for Action Hub: Universal Pre-K & Neighborhood Economic Change*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2017 Jun 26; New Orleans, LA.
7. *Cross-Sector Collaboration in Research: Implications for Study Design and Approach*. RWJF Sharing Knowledge to Build a Culture of Health Conference; 2017 Feb 24; Louisville, KY.

Poster presentations:

8. *Do High Administrative Costs Generate High Prices or Do High Prices Generate High Administrative Costs?: Insurance Mix and Coding Practices in New York State Hospitals*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2020 Jul 28.
9. *Gentrification and Children's Wellbeing: Residential Mobility, Neighborhood Quality, and Health*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2018 Jun 24; Seattle, WA.
10. *Leveraging Neighborhood Data to Advance Health Equity*. NYC Epidemiology Forum; 2016 Feb 26; New York, NY.

TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

Why is There No Cure for Health? (GenEd 1079), Harvard University Fall 2022

Faculty: Dr. David Cutler

Class size and content: 11 undergraduates; principles of epidemiology, health economics, and health policy

Course teaching evaluation: 4.7/5

Doctoral Core Course in Health Policy, Harvard University Fall 2021 & Spring 2022

Faculty: Dr. Meredith Rosenthal

Class size and content: 12 first-year doctoral students; fundamentals of health policy research and theory, including economics, political analysis, ethics, research design, and decision science

Course teaching evaluation: 4.7/5

Economics of Health Care: Public vs. Market Resolutions, Harvard University Spring 2021

Faculty: Dr. Tim Layton

Class size and content: 25 public health graduate students; fundamentals of health economics, focused on publicly-financed U.S. insurance programs

Course teaching evaluation: 4.9/5

Quantitative Data Analysis: Service-Based Research II, Columbia University Spring 2016

Faculty: Dr. Debra Kalmuss and Dr. Samantha Garbers

Class size and content: 35 public health graduate students; data cleaning & statistical analysis using various software

Social Psychology and Personality Psychology labs, Barnard College Spring 2012 & Fall 2012

Faculty: Dr. Joshua Davis

Class size and content: 25 undergraduates per semester; experimental design & statistical interpretation

Head Writing Fellow, The Erica Mann Jong Writing Center, Barnard College Fall 2011-Spring 2014

Faculty: Dr. Pamela Cobrin

Class size and content: 20-40 undergraduates per semester; analytic writing (economics, history, literature)

HONORS, COMPETITIVE FUNDING, & AWARDS

Harvard Radcliffe Institute Graduate Student Fellowship (\$39,270)	2023-2024
One of three Harvard doctoral students selected from across all schools and programs; awarded one year of funding to complete dissertation research among the interdisciplinary Radcliffe Institute community	
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research Grant (\$9,000)	2023
Competitive research grant to support emerging scholars and encourage projects that address contemporary issues in the social sciences	
Fellowship in Health Policy and Insurance Research, Harvard Medical School (\$40,620)	2022-2023
Awarded to one Harvard doctoral student to conduct an independently-led project in the area of health insurance	
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University	2021; 2022
Awarded to instructors who have received a score of 4.5 or higher (out of 5) in course evaluations	
Graduate Society Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Harvard University (\$3,000)	2021
Awarded to outstanding GSAS doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences for the purpose of summer preliminary dissertation research	
Distinguished Master's Thesis, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health	2016
Voted by faculty in the Sociomedical Sciences Department as the top Master's Thesis of 2016	
Title: <i>"Measuring quality & utility of NYC parks: a mixed methods approach using crowdsourced and public data"</i>	
Alpha Zeta Club Graduate Scholarship, Barnard College (\$1,500)	2014
Awarded to outstanding recent Barnard graduates who are candidates for higher degrees	
Phi Beta Kappa, Barnard College	2013
Elected in junior year (early inductee)	
Athena Summer Leadership Fellow, Barnard College (\$4,000 + housing)	2013
Summer stipend and housing awarded to ten rising seniors to complete NYC public service internships	

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard University – Department of Health Care Policy (PI: Tim Layton)	Cambridge, MA
<i>Research Assistant</i>	May 2020-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project examining geographic variation among Medicaid enrollees using a “movers” design to assess potential geographic drivers of differences in access and outcomes within cities and states	
Harvard University – Joint Center for Housing Studies (PIs: Jennifer Molinsky, Chris Herbert)	Cambridge, MA
<i>Research Assistant</i>	Nov. 2020-Aug. 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project examining changes to prescription drug spending following mortgage payoff among older adults	
NYU Wagner School of Public Service (PIs: Sherry Glied, John Billings, and James Knickman)	New York, NY
<i>Consultant</i>	Oct. 2020-present
<i>Lead Analyst (Associate Research Scientist)</i>	Apr. 2017-Aug. 2019
<i>Assistant Research Scientist</i>	May 2016-Apr. 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Served as primary analyst for a RWJF Policies for Action research hub using a New York State Medicaid claims database of over 13M enrollees to evaluate the health impacts of non-health policies and interventions	
NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene – Bureau of Epidemiology Services	New York, NY
<i>Graduate Researcher – Community Epidemiology</i>	Jan. 2015-Apr. 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-author of the 2015 Community Health Profiles and Atlas	

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Journal Referee

American Journal of Epidemiology (2022); American Journal of Public Health (2019-20, 2022); Health Affairs (2021-23); Health & Place (2021); Housing Policy Debate (2023); Journal of Housing and the Built Environment (2019-20); Social Science and Medicine (2020-21, 2023); Social Science and Medicine – Population Health (2021-23)

Harvard Medical School, Essentials of the Profession course (Health Policy Unit)	Boston, MA
Substitute Small Group Discussion Leader	2020-present

Harvard University Ph.D. Program in Health Policy	Cambridge, MA
Co-coordinator of the Health Policy Peer Mentoring program	2020-2021
Co-founder of the “How to PhD” seminar series for first-year PhD students	2021-2022
Co-representative, Graduate Student Mental Health Survey Working Group	2023

MA Covid Vaccination Help and MA Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps	Cambridge, MA
Volunteer	2020-2021

Barnard College Alumnae Association	New York, NY
Alumna mentor and admissions interviewer/liaison	2015-2020

Barnard College Residential Life	New York, NY
Resident Assistant (RA) and Senior Experience staff member	2012-2014

SKILLS & LANGUAGES

French (writing & reading: proficient; speaking: conversational), Spanish (elementary)
Software/programming: SAS, Stata, R, SQL, ArcGIS