

Lauren BlTESTair Wilner

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EDUCATION

- 2010 - 2014 **BA, International Relations, Community Health, Studio Art**, Tufts University
- 2014 - 2015 **Master's in Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics**, Tufts University School of Medicine
- Thesis:** Sustained use in a relief-to-recovery household water chlorination program in Haiti: comparing external evaluation findings with internal supervisor and community health worker monitoring data
- Mentor:** Dr. Daniele Lantagne
- 2022 - present **PhD, Epidemiology**, University of Washington
- Thesis:** Assessing the impact of floods and federal policies on older adult mortality: leveraging Bayesian, quasi-experimental, and agent-based modeling techniques
- Mentor:** Dr. Joan Casey

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Research Assistant** 2023 - present
University of Washington, Seattle WA
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
- Research assistant with Dr. Joan Casey leading projects on climate change and health, working with collaborators in various industries and across different universities. Collaborating on projects on wildfires, power outages, extreme heat, and climate disasters and their impacts on human health.
- Research Assistant** 2025
University of Washington, Seattle WA
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
- Research assistant with Drs. Sara Curran and Ann Bosworth leading research on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs and procedures as they relate to climate disaster preparedness and response, with a particular focus on their impacts on health.
- Research Assistant** 2022 - 2024
University of Washington, Seattle WA
Department of Epidemiology
- Research assistant with Professor Steve Mooney leading various research projects surrounding built environment and health, including studies on physical activity, traffic safety, and data privacy practices. Developed an R package now hosted on CRAN and have led the analyses, reports, and presentations for three different projects.
- Research scientist, disease expenditures (DEX) project** 2022-2023
University of Washington, Seattle WA
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)
- Statistical modeler for the Disease Expenditure (DEX) team. Led the Skilled Nursing Facility and Dental care envelope estimation.
- Managing research scientist, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)** 2022
- Research scientist, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)** 2019-2022

Researcher, Global Burden of Disease (GBD)

2017-2019

*University of Washington, Seattle WA**Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)*

- Statistical modeler for all congenital birth defects for the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study.
- Reviewed articles from systematic literature reviews and extracted data. Formatted, transformed, reviewed, and assessed data sources to determine their relevance and utility for ongoing analysis; Developed and managed large datasets to be used in epidemiological and statistical analyses via a cluster computing system.
- Ran and interpreted results from advanced statistical models including: ensemble models testing all combinations of covariates to maximize out-of-sample predictive validity, Bayesian hierarchical meta-regression models estimating the prevalence and incidence, and other novel meta-regression tools.
- Designed and ran entire modeling pipeline from data processing to statistical modeling to design/generation of diagnostic tables and figures, primarily in both R and Python.
- Led a team of researchers and data professionals modeling birth defects, blood disorders, and cerebral palsy; Led and co-lead peer-reviewed publications; presented at internal and external meetings and conferences.

ASPPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellow

2015 - 2017

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**Division of Global Health Protection/Center for Global Health (DGHP/CGH)**Field Epidemiology Training Programs (FETP)*

- Assistant program manager for FETP (FETPs are Ministry of Health – CDC partnerships globally to establish epidemiology training programs for host country doctors and public health professionals.) implementation across Francophone West Africa (approximately 75% travel to countries in the region); acting Public Health Advisor for implementation of FETP Senegal.
- Provided technical support for FETP implementation in Zika-affected countries of Central/South America.
- Assisted with conducting monitoring and evaluation of FETPs worldwide.

Data Analyst

2014 - 2017

International Nutrition Foundation (INF) TRUMF Ghana Study

- Performed statistical analysis for USAID-funded field study at Friedman School of Nutrition.

Data Analyst/GIS Specialist

2014-2015

Research Assistant/Intern

2013 - 2014

Food Aid Quality Review (FAQR) Study

- Co-created data collection instruments and templates for USAID-funded field studies in Malawi, Sierra Leone, and Burkina Faso on effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of supplementary feeding programs.
- Led and performed all required literature reviews and statistical and GIS analyses for three FAQR field studies; prepared methods and results for manuscripts and presentations.

Mobile Health Education Intern

2015 - 2017

Rubenstein Ecosystems Science Laboratory

Research Assistant/Data Analyst <i>Harvard Business School Zambian Water Project</i>	2014 - 2015
Field Human Resources Intern <i>Doctors without Borders (MSF)</i>	2013
Consulting Intern <i>Partners Senegal</i>	2013
Administrative Intern <i>Village Health Works (VHW)</i>	2012
Grants & Research Manager <i>Zimbabwe Orphans Fund (ZOF)</i>	2012 - 2017
Research Assistant <i>Tufts University, Medford MA</i> <i>Global Development and Environment Institute (GDAE)</i>	2011 - 2014
Intern <i>Humanity in Action (HIA)</i>	2011

HONORS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award <i>University of Washington Graduate School</i> Selected to receive a travel award to present at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) annual conference in Atlanta, GA.	2025
ARCS Scholar <i>Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation Seattle Chapter</i> Selected to be a scholar in the ARCS fellowship program based on academic achievement.	2022-2025
UW Top Scholar Award <i>University of Washington Graduate School</i> Awarded doctoral funding as a top prospective student.	2022-2025
Dean's list <i>Tufts University</i>	2010-2014
Cum Laude <i>Tufts University</i>	2014

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

<u>Society memberships</u>	
Member, American Geophysical Union	2025
Member, International Society for Environmental Epidemiology	2023 - present
Member, Society for Epidemiologic Research	2022 - present
Member, American Public Health Association	2015 - 2017
<u>Peer review</u>	
Nature	2025
Environmental Health Perspectives	2025

Professional development

Introduction to Bayesian Statistics: Likelihoods, Priors & Posteriors 2024

University of Washington

Agent Based Modeling in R 2024

University of Washington

Using Text as Data 2025

University of Washington

PUBLICATIONS

FUNDING HISTORY

Assessing the impact of floods and federal policies on older adult mortality: leveraging Bayesian, quasi-experimental, and agent-based modeling techniques

Role on Project: Principal Investigator

Dates: September 2025 - August 2027

Funding Agency: NIH/NIA F31-AG094267

Funding: \$99,076 direct costs

Description: The overarching goal of this training award is to use novel methods to first assess whether FEMA programs buffer against flood-related mortality and then evaluate the short- and long-term mortality impacts of floods in the US.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

Wilner LB, McBrien H, Flores N, Casey JA. PopExp: An open-source Python package to quickly and efficiently estimate populations exposed to environmental hazards. *International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)*. Atlanta, GA 2025

Wilner LB, Dieleman JL, Casey JA. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): spatial distribution of who can be covered and who is covered across the United States. *Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)*. Boston, MA 2025

Wilner LB, Jones-Ngo C, Benmahrnia T, Casey JA. Dual exposure to power outages and wildfire PM_{2.5} in California among vulnerable populations. *The Workshop in Environmental Economics and Data Science (TWEEDS)*. Portland, OR 2025

Wilner LB, Dieleman JL, Casey JA. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): spatial distribution of designations, policies, and claims across the United States. *Cascadia Annual Symposium on Environmental Occupational and Population health*. Blaine, WA 2025

Wilner LB, Jones-Ngo C, Benmahrnia T, Casey JA. Dual exposure to power outages and wildfire PM_{2.5} in California among vulnerable populations. *International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)*. Santiago, Chile 2024

Wilner LB, Zhou W, Youngbloom A, Mooney SJ. A shift in data sharing paradigms: a case study of the ways in which big data and complex algorithms allow for increased data sharing while preserving privacy. *Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)* Portland, OR 2023

Wilner LB, Kassebaum NJ. Global, Regional, and National Levels and Trends in Congenital Birth Defects, 1990-2019. *International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities*. Colombo, Sri Lanka 2020

Wilner LB, Suri DJ, Langlois B, Walton S, and Rogers BL. Effective delivery of social-behavioral change communication through a care group model in a supplementary feeding program: A descriptive analysis. *Experimental Biology* Chicago, IL 2017

Wilner LB, Passarelli S, Suri DJ, Maganga G, Langlois B, Marcus S, Chui KKH, Boiteau JM, Rosenberg I, Webb P, and Rogers BL. The Price of Oil: Assessing Behavior Change Communication & Increased Oil Ration on improving Oil Use in Food Aid Preparation for Children Malawi. *Experimental Biology* Boston, MA 2015

SOFTWARE

walkboutr

R: The goal of [walkboutr](#) is to process GPS and accelerometry data into walking bouts.

popexposure

Python: [popexposure](#) is an open-source Python package providing fast, memory-efficient, and consistent estimates of the number of people living near environmental hazards.

TEACHING HISTORY

Workshops

1. Dr. Joan Casey's research lab at University of Washington, Workshop Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." November 2025. Seattle, WA
2. Dr. Joan Casey's research lab at University of Washington, Workshop Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." September 2024. Seattle, WA
3. Dr. Tarik Benmahrnia's research lab at University of California San Diego, Workshop Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." April 2025. Virtual
4. Society for Epidemiologic Research, Workshop Co-Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." June 10, 2025. Boston, MA
5. Society for Epidemiologic Research, Workshop Co-Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." June 18, 2024. Austin, TX
6. California Department of Public Health, Workshop Co-Instructor, "Git and GitHub for Public Health." May 3, 2025. Sacramento, CA

Teaching Assistant Positions

1. SHARP Bootcamp (2-day short course)—Environmental Justice Boot Camp: Theory and Methods to Study Environmental Health Disparities, Teaching Assistant. August 12-13, 2025. Virtual.
Facilitated discussion and co-led lab
2. EPI 560: Data Management for Public Health, Teaching Assistant. Spring 2024. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
Co-led 20 labs lasting 110 minutes for 15 person course; provided written feedback and graded all labs
3. EPI 560: Data Management for Public Health, Teaching Assistant. Winter 2024. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
Developed course and lab materials for lab-based class
4. TA Principles of Biostatistics. Fall 2014. Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Led labs; graded all labs
5. TA Principles of Biostatistics Tufts. Spring 2015. Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Led labs; graded all labs

6. TA Intro to SAS Programming Tufts. Spring 2015. Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
Led labs; graded all labs

TECHNICAL AND LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficient R, SQL, Git, GitHub, *LaTeX*, French (fluent)
Competent Python, Stata, ArcGIS
Familiar HTML, SAS

SERVICE

UW Department of Epidemiology Peer Mentor Program <i>Peer mentor</i>	2023 - present
UW Department of Epidemiology Curriculum Committee <i>Student representative</i>	2023 - 2024
IHME Staff Feedback Improvement Group <i>Researcher representative</i>	2019