

Kacie L Dragan, PhD, MPH

Kacie_Dragan@g.harvard.edu | Kacie.L.Dragan@dartmouth.edu
www.kaciedragan.com | [Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Dartmouth College

Provost's Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (PROF Fellow)

Lebanon, NH

Jul 2024-present

EDUCATION

Harvard University

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

Radcliffe Institute Graduate Fellow, 2023-2024

Dissertation: *Place, Policy, and Health: Essays on the Intersection of Health Policy and Social Policy*

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

Cambridge, MA

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

Safety net policies; quasi-experimental methods; social determinants of health; health economics; social epidemiology; Medicaid; child health; urban health; housing policy; "Health in All Policies"; administrative data

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Published or in press:

- Dragan KL** and Glied SA. (2024). Major Traffic Safety Reform and Road Traffic Injuries among Low-Income New York Residents, 2009-2021. *American Journal of Public Health*. 114(6): 663-641.
 - Covered in [The New York Times](#), the [NYT's Upshot](#), and [Streetsblog](#); recorded interviews for WNYC Morning Edition and ABC15 Phoenix
 - Awarded *Honorable Mention* by NYC's Vision Zero Task Force for best traffic policy research 2014-2024
- Chakraborty O, **Dragan KL**, Ellen IG, Glied S, Howland RE, Wang SS, and Neill D. (2024). Identifying Housing-Sensitive Health Conditions Using Machine Learning. *Health Affairs*. 43(2):297-304.
 - Covered in [WNYC \(Gothamist\)](#)
- Crook S, **Dragan K**, Woo JL, Neidell M, Nash KA, et al. (2024) Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Predictive Models for Outcomes after Congenital Heart Surgery. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 83(24):2440-2454.
- McGaughey P, Howland RE, and **Dragan KL**. (2024) Variation in Preterm Birth Rates Across Prenatal Care Sites in New York. *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic, & Neonatal Nursing*. 53(1):46-56.
- Crook S, **Dragan K**, Woo JL, Neidell M, 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.
- Woo JL, Nash KA, **Dragan KL**, Crook S, Neidell M, et al. (2023) Chronic Medication Burden for Pediatric Medicaid Beneficiaries after Cardiac Surgery. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 82(13):1331-1340
- 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](#)

8. 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.
9. Ellen IG, **Dragan KL**, and Glied SA. (2020) Renovating Subsidized Housing: The Impact on Tenants' Health. *Health Affairs*. 39(2):224-232.
10. **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](#)
11. 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.
12. **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](#)
13. 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**. The Impact of Health Shocks on Housing Instability: Evidence from Urban Medicaid Enrollees. **Under review**.
2. **Dragan KL**. Housing Quality Improvement and Health Care Utilization: A Regression Discontinuity Study. **Under review**.
3. Crook S, Sanchez CM, **Dragan KL**, Woo JL, Jiang P, Neidell M, Anderson BR. Days Alive and Out of Healthcare: A Novel Measure of Congenital Heart Disease Burden. **Conditional acceptance** at *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*.
4. 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.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

1. "How Do Neighborhoods Shape Pediatric Mental Health Utilization? Evidence from Within-State Movers in Medicaid," with Tim Layton and Jacob Wallace
2. "Linkage of Maternal-Infant Claims Facilitates Assessment of Prenatal Care and Congenital Heart Surgery Outcomes," with Joyce Woo, Brett Anderson, and the CHS-COLOUR collaborative
3. "Universal Pre-K, Maternal Health, and Fertility," with Kai Hong and Sherry Glied
4. "Validating a Mother-Child Linkage in NYS Medicaid Claims Against Electronic Medical Records," with Renata Howland, Katherine Piwnica-Worms, Ariel Charney, Mary McCord, Arthur H. Fierman, and John Billings

RESEARCH FUNDING AND FELLOWSHIPS

New York Health Foundation (\$178,469) 2025

Role: Co-PI (with John Billings)

Project title: The Relationship between Primary Care Spending and Medicaid Outcomes and Expenditures

Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellowship (\$39,270) 2023-2024

Role: Fellow

Description: 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
Role: PI	
Description: Internationally competitive research grant to “support emerging scholars and encourage projects that address contemporary issues in the social sciences”; Was additionally awarded the Eli Ginzberg Award for the “most outstanding policy-related project in health and welfare, particularly in urban settings”	
Fellowship in Health Policy and Insurance Research, Point 32 Health (\$40,620)	2022-2023
Role: Fellow	
Description: Awarded to one doctoral student to conduct an independently-led project in the area of health insurance	
Graduate Society Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Harvard University (\$3,000)	2021
Role: PI	
Description: Awarded to “outstanding Harvard GSAS doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences” for the purpose of summer preliminary dissertation research	
Athena Summer Leadership Fellow, Barnard College (\$4,000 + housing)	2013
Role: Fellow	
Description: Summer stipend and housing awarded to ten students to complete NYC public service internships	

HONORS AND AWARDS

Vision Zero Research Award - Honorable Mention, NYC Vision Zero Task Force	2024
Awarded <i>Honorable Mention</i> among papers published 2014-2024 that “advance understanding of road safety challenges or help evaluate road safety interventions”; Received an NYC Mayoral Citation for the contribution to NYC policy	
Joan P. Curhan Citizenship Award, Harvard University (\$500)	2024
Awarded to a PhD student in Health Policy who has “contributed in a significant way to the collegiality and team spirit among students and faculty in the program”	
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	
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)	

BOOK CHAPTERS, POLICY PUBLICATIONS, WHITE PAPERS, & COMMENTARIES

1. **Dragan, KL.** (2025). Case studies on gentrification and health: New York, USA. In *Routledge Geographies of Health: Gentrification and Public Health*. New York, NY: Routledge. Forthcoming.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. **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>
7. **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>
8. 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).
9. **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. “What is the Relationship Between Social Policy and Health Policy?” November 25, 2024. NYU’s undergraduate program in public policy, Topics in Health Policy: Policy, Politics, and Power. New York, NY.
2. “How Do Neighborhoods Shape Pediatric Mental Health Utilization in Medicaid?” November 14, 2024. Weill-Cornell Medicine Department of Population Health Sciences’ Health Policy & Economics Work-In-Progress Seminar. New York, NY.
3. “The Intersection of Social Policy and Health Policy: Emerging Evidence,” April 15, 2024. NYU’s undergraduate program in public policy, Topics in Health Policy: Policy, Politics, and Power. New York, NY.
4. “Using Medicaid Data for Housing Research: Health Shocks and Housing Instability Among Urban Medicaid Enrollees,” September 18, 2023. University of Pittsburgh’s Health Policy Institute, Medicaid Research Center Seminar Series. Pittsburgh, PA.
5. “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.
6. “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.
7. “Gentrification and Children’s Health,” November 7, 2019. Culture of Health: Housing and Health, Health Affairs Event. Washington, DC.
8. “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.
9. “RWJF Healthy Communities Session on Public Housing Interventions,” April 16, 2019. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “Foundation Forum” series. Princeton, NJ.
10. “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.
11. “Using Medicaid Data to Study the Effects of Public Policy,” November 11, 2018. Columbia University Medical

Center, Pediatric Fellows Research Seminar. New York, NY.

12. "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 (PEER-REVIEWED)

Oral presentations:

1. *Health Shocks and Housing Instability among Urban Medicaid Enrollees*. 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 for Health Equity*. NYC Epidemiology Forum; 2016 Feb 26; New York, NY.

TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS & ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Patients & Populations: Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth *Fall 2024*
Role: Small Group Instructor
Class size and content: 14 medical students; principles of epidemiology, biostatistics, and data interpretation
- Why is There No Cure for Health? (GenEd 1079), Harvard University *Fall 2022*
Role: Teaching Fellow (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*
Role: Teaching Fellow (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*
Role: Teaching Fellow (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
 Role: Teaching Fellow (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
 Role: Teaching Assistant (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
 Role: Fellow (Faculty: Dr. Pamela Cobrin)
 Class size and content: 20-40 undergraduates per semester; analytic writing (economics, history, literature)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard University – Department of Health Care Policy (PI: Tim Layton) Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant May 2020-May 2024
 • 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
Research Assistant Nov. 2020-Aug. 2021
 • 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
Consultant Oct. 2020-present
Lead Analyst (Associate Research Scientist) Apr. 2017-Aug. 2019
Assistant Research Scientist May 2016-Apr. 2017
 • 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
Graduate Researcher – Community Epidemiology Jan. 2015-Apr. 2016
 • Co-author of the 2015 Community Health Profiles and Atlas

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

Journal Referee

American Journal of Epidemiology (2022)
 American Journal of Public Health (2019-24)
 BMC Public Health (2024)
 Environmental Research (2023)
 Health Affairs (2021-23)
 Health & Place (2021)
 Housing Policy Debate (2023)
 Journal of Hospital Medicine (2024)
 Journal of Housing and the Built Environment (2019-20)
 Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology (2023-24)
 Social Science and Medicine (2020-23)
 Social Science and Medicine – Population Health (2021-24)

Harvard Medical School, Essentials of the Profession course (Health Policy Unit) Boston, MA
 Substitute Small Group Discussion Leader & Grader 2020-2023

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 2021-2023
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