

Kacie L Dragan, PhD, MPH

kld2128@cumc.columbia.edu | Kacie_Dragan@g.harvard.edu | Kacie.L.Dragan@dartmouth.edu
www.kaciedragan.com | [Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, Dept. of Health Policy and Management	New York, NY
Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management	<i>Effective Aug 2025</i>
The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice, Dartmouth College	Lebanon, NH
Provost's Post-Doctoral Research Fellow (PROF Fellow)	<i>Jun 2024-Aug 2025</i>

EDUCATION

Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
Ph.D. in Health Policy (concentration in Methods for Policy Research)	<i>May 2024</i>
Radcliffe Institute Graduate Fellow, 2023-2024	
Dissertation: <i>Place, Policy, and Health: Essays on the Intersection of Health Policy and Social Policy</i>	
Committee: David Cutler (chair), Jessica Cohen, Sherry Glied, Tim Layton	
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health	New York, NY
Master of Public Health	<i>May 2016</i>
Sociomedical Sciences Department (concentration in Public Health Research Methods)	
Barnard College of Columbia University	New York, NY
Bachelor of Arts with Honors, Sociology Human Rights	<i>May 2014</i>
Phi Beta Kappa, <i>summa cum laude</i>	

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:

1. Woo JL, **Dragan KL**, Crook S, Yee LM, Grobman WA, et al. (2025) Linkage of Parent-Infant Health Care Claims Reveals Prenatal Care Gaps. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Advances*. 4(7): 101871.
2. Crook S, Sanchez CM, **Dragan K**, Woo JL, Jiang P, Neidell M, et al. (2025) Days Alive Out of Health Care: A Novel Measure of Health Status After Congenital Heart Surgery. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 85(8):851-862.
3. **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
4. 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 \(Gothamist\)](#)

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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
9. **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](#)
10. 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.
11. Ellen IG, **Dragan KL**, and Glied SA. (2020) Renovating Subsidized Housing: The Impact on Tenants' Health. *Health Affairs*. 39(2):224-232.
12. **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](#)
13. 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.
14. **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](#)
15. 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**. Housing Quality Improvement & Health Care Utilization: A Regression Discontinuity Study. **Revise & resubmit**.
2. **Dragan KL**. The Impact of Health Shocks on Housing Instability: Evidence from Urban Medicaid Enrollees. **Revise & resubmit**.
3. Cusimano LD, **Dragan KL**, and Loehrer AP. Charity Care by Non-Profit Hospitals Following a State-wide Minimum Requirement. **Under review**.
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.
5. Hong K, **Dragan KL**, and Glied SA. Kids Give You Headaches? Universal Prekindergarten and Maternal Prescriptions for Pain-Relief and Hormone Medications. **Under review**.

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. "Validating a Mother-Child Linkage in Medicaid Claims Against Electronic Medical Records," with Renata Howland et al.
3. "Variation in Primary Care Provision in Medicaid Managed Care," with John Billings

RESEARCH GRANTS 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 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). Gentrification and Health: Evidence from New York City, USA. In A Riberio, JP Silva, P Gullon, & T Astell-Burt (Eds.), *Routledge Geographies of Health: Gentrification and Public Health*. New York, NY: Routledge.
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. "Research on Medicaid 1115 Demonstrations & SDOH Interventions" at *The Future of Medicaid Demonstrations: A Roundtable Discussion on Sect. 1115 Demonstrations and the Medicaid Crossroads of 2025*. May 31, 2025. George Washington Law School. Washington, DC.
2. "The Intersection of Social Policy and Health Policy" February 20, 2025. Dartmouth College Economics Department, undergraduate course in Health Economics & Policy. Hanover, NH.
3. "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.
4. "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.
5. "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.
6. "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.

7. “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.
8. “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.
9. “Gentrification and Children’s Health,” November 7, 2019. Culture of Health: Housing and Health, Health Affairs Event. Washington, DC.
10. “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.
11. “RWJF Healthy Communities Session on Public Housing Interventions,” April 16, 2019. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s “Foundation Forum” series. Princeton, NJ.
12. “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.
13. “Using Medicaid Data to Study the Effects of Public Policy,” November 11, 2018. Columbia University Medical Center, Pediatric Fellows Research Seminar. New York, NY.
14. “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. *How Do Neighborhoods Shape Child and Adolescent Mental Health Utilization? Evidence from within-State Movers in Medicaid.* American Society of Health Economists annual Conference; 2025 Jun 23. Nashville, TN.
2. *How Do Neighborhoods Shape Pediatric Mental Health Utilization? Evidence from within-State Movers in Medicaid.* Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2025 Jun 7. Minneapolis, MN.
3. *Health Shocks and Housing Instability among Urban Medicaid Enrollees.* Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2023 Jun 25. Seattle, WA.
4. *Universal Pre-K, Maternal Health, and Fertility.* Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference; 2020 Nov 11. Virtual due to Covid-19.
5. *Insurance Mix and Coding Practices in New York State Hospitals.* Academy Health National Health Policy Conference; 2020 Feb 11; Washington, DC.
6. *Subsidized Housing Renovation and Health.* Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference; 2018 Oct 4; Washington, DC.
7. *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.
8. *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.
9. *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:

10. *Housing Quality Improvement and Health Care Utilization: A Regression Discontinuity Study.* Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2025 Jun 7.

11. *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.
12. *Gentrification and Children's Wellbeing: Residential Mobility, Neighborhood Quality, and Health*. Academy Health Annual Research Meeting; 2018 Jun 24; Seattle, WA.
13. *Leveraging Neighborhood Data for Health Equity*. NYC Epidemiology Forum; 2016 Feb 26; New York, NY.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Analysis of Large-Scale Data, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health *Fall 2025*
 Role: Instructor
 Class size and content: 42 Masters students; Analytic & data management skills for large, real-world health care datasets
- Patients & Populations: Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth *Fall 2024*
 Role: Instructor
 Class size and content: 14 medical students; principles of statistics, research methods, and data interpretation
Course teaching evaluation: 4.9/5
- 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 II, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health *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** Cambridge, MA
Research Assistant *May 2020-May 2024*

Harvard University – Joint Center for Housing Studies*Research Assistant*Cambridge, MA
Nov. 2020-Aug. 2021**NYU Wagner School of Public Service***Consultant**Lead Analyst (Associate Research Scientist)**Assistant Research Scientist*New York, NY
Oct. 2020-May 2024
Apr. 2017-Aug. 2019
May 2016-Apr. 2017**NYC Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene – Bureau of Epidemiology Services***Graduate Researcher – Community Epidemiology*New York, NY
Jan. 2015-Apr. 2016**LEADERSHIP & SERVICE**

Journal Referee

American Journal of Epidemiology (2022)

American Journal of Public Health (2019-25)

BMC Public Health (2024)

Environmental Research (2023)

Health Affairs (2021-23)

Health & Place (2021)

Housing Policy Debate (2023)

Journal of Hospital Medicine (2024-25)

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)

Conference Abstract Reviewer

American Society of Health Economists (2025)

NYC “Research on the Road” Traffic Safety Research Symposium

Award Selection Committee Member

New York, NY
2025-present

Data2Go.NYC / Measure of America

Advisory Panel Member

New York, NY
2024-present

Harvard Medical School, Essentials of the Profession course (Health Policy Unit)

Substitute Small Group Discussion Leader & Grader

Boston, MA
2020-2023

Harvard University Ph.D. Program in Health Policy

Co-coordinator of the Health Policy Peer Mentoring program

Co-founder of the “How to PhD” seminar series for first-year PhD students

Co-representative, Graduate Student Mental Health Survey Working Group

Cambridge, MA
2020-2021
2021-2023
2023

MA Covid Vaccination Help and MA Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps

Volunteer

Cambridge, MA
2020-2021

Barnard College Alumnae Association

Alumna mentor and admissions interviewer/liaison

New York, NY
2015-2020

Barnard College Residential Life

Resident Assistant (RA) and Senior Experience staff member

New York, NY
2012-2014**SKILLS & LANGUAGES**

French (writing & reading: proficient; speaking: conversational), Spanish (elementary)

Software/programming: SAS, Stata, R, SQL, ArcGIS