

Wenhui Feng

136 Harrison Ave M&V 127
Boston, MA 02111

wenhui.feng@tufts.edu
(617) 636-3904

EDUCATION

2014 – 2019 PhD in Public Administration and Policy

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany
Concentration: Public policy

2011 – 2013 Master of Public Policy, Arizona State University

Major: Public Policy Analysis

2007 – 2011 Bachelor of Management Science, South China University of Technology

Major: Public Administration

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

2023 - present Secondary Assistant Professor, Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston, MA

2021-present Tufts Health Plan Professor of Health Care Policy Research

2019-present Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, School of Medicine, Tufts University

RESEARCH CENTER AFFILIATIONS

2020-present Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research, *Faculty Fellow*

2019-present Center for Health Systems and Policy, *Faculty Fellow*

2019-present Equity in Health, Wealth and Civic Engagement Priority Research Cluster, *Faculty Fellow*

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Feng, W.**, Page, E. T., & Cash, S. B. (2023). Dollar Stores and Food Access for Rural Households in the United States, 2008–2020. *American Journal of Public Health, 113*(3), 331–336. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2022.307193>
2. **Feng, W.**, Lischko, A., Martin, E. G., Skeer, M., Kaplan, A., Wang, Y., & Stopka, T. J. (2022). Who Are the Local Policy Innovators? Cluster Analysis of Municipal Tobacco Control Policies in Massachusetts. *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice: JPHMP*. <https://doi.org/10.1097/PHH.0000000000001649>
3. Acevedo, A., **Feng, W.**, Corlin, L., Allen, J., Levine, P., Stopka, T. (2022) Experiences with and Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United States Differences by Substance Use Disorder Status, 2020. *PLOS One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0271788>
4. Fox, A., **Feng, W.**, Reynolds, M. (2022) The Effect of Administrative Burden on State Safety-Net Participation: Evidence from SNAP, TANF and Medicaid. *Public Administration Review*. 1– 18. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13497>
5. Stopka, T. J., **Feng, W.**, Corlin, L., King, E., Mistry, J., Mansfield, W., Wang, Y., Levine, P., & Allen, J. D. (2022). Assessing equity in health, wealth, and civic engagement: a nationally representative survey, United States, 2020. *International Journal for Equity in Health, 21*(1), 12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-021-01609-w>
6. Fox, A., Choi, Y., **Feng, W.** Is Ideology Bad for Our Health? Why Political Partisanship Should be Routinely Asked on Population Health Surveys. *Health Affairs Forefront*. <https://doi.org/10.1377/forefront.20220118.990519>
7. **Feng, W.**, & Fox, A. M. (2022). What’s the Hold Up? The FDA’s Delayed Implementation of Menu-Labeling Policy. *Administration & Society, 54*(6), 1045–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00953997211050308>
8. Allen, J. D., **Feng, W.**, Corlin, L., Porteny, T., Acevedo, A., Schildkraut, D., King, E., Ladin, K., Fu, Q., & Stopka, T. J. (2021). Why are some people reluctant to be vaccinated for COVID-19? A cross-sectional

survey among U.S. Adults in May-June 2020. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 24, 101494.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2021.101494>

9. Schmall, A., Kinney, R., Gozdoff, A., Reid, M., Folta, S., **Feng, W.**, & Cash, S. (2021). Food Shopping Experiences Among Dollar Store Shoppers in Fresno and Boston During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Current Developments in Nutrition*, 5(Supplement_2), 246–246. https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzab029_047
10. **Feng, W.** (2022). The Effects of Changing SNAP Work Requirement on the Health and Employment Outcomes of Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents. *Journal of the American Nutrition Association*, 41(3), 281–290. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07315724.2021.1879692>
11. Dong, K. R., & **Feng, W.** (2021). SNAP Restrictions that Punish People Formerly and Currently Under Correctional Supervision. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 32(2), 654–663. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2021.0094>
12. Fox, A. M., Feng, W., Zeitlin, J., & Howell, E. A. (2020). Trends In State Medicaid Eligibility, Enrollment Rules, And Benefits. *Health Affairs*, 39(11), 1909-1916. [doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01350](https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2019.01350)
13. **Feng, W.**, & Martin, E. G. (2020). Fighting obesity at the local level? An analysis of predictors of local health departments’ policy involvement. *Preventive Medicine*, 133, 106006. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2020.106006>
14. Fox, A., Stazyk, E., **Feng, W.** (2020) Administrative Easing: Rule Reduction and Medicaid Enrollment. *Public Administration Review*, 80:1. doi.org/10.1111/puar.13131
15. Fox, A., **Feng, W.**, Asal, V. (2019) What is Driving Global Obesity Trends? Globalization or “Modernization”? *Globalization and Health*, 15:32. doi.org/10.1186/s12992-019-0457-y
16. **Feng, W.** & Fox, A. (2018). Menu labels, for better, and worse? Exploring socio-economic and race-ethnic differences in menu label use in a national sample. *Appetite*, 128223-232. [doi:10.1016/j.appet.2018.06.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2018.06.015)
17. Gasco-Hernandez, M., **Feng, W.**, & Gil-Garcia, J. R. (2018). Providing Public Value through Data Sharing: Understanding Critical Factors of Food Traceability for Local Farms and Institutional Buyers. [doi:10.24251/HICSS.2018.285](https://doi.org/10.24251/HICSS.2018.285) (Refereed conference proceeding).
18. Johnson, B., Tesoriero, J., **Feng, W.**, Qian, F., Martin, E.G. (2017). Cost Analysis and Performance Assessment of Delivering Integrated Partner Services for Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Sexually Transmitted Diseases in New York State. *Health Services Research*, Special Issue: Public Health Services and Economics. [doi: 10.1111/1475-6773.12748](https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.12748)
19. Fox, A., **Feng, W.**, Yumkham, R. (2017). Political Ideology, Policies and Health Behaviors: The Case of Tobacco. *Social Science & Medicine*, 181139-147. [doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.03.056](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.03.056)
20. Martin, E.G., **Feng, W.**, Qian, F., Johnson, B. (2017). Delivering partner services to reduce transmission and promote linkage to care: process outcomes varied for chlamydial infection, gonorrhea, HIV, and syphilis cases. *Journal Of Public Health Management And Practice*, 23(3), 242-246. [doi:10.1097/PHH.0000000000000351](https://doi.org/10.1097/PHH.0000000000000351)

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Paper under Review

Fox, A., **Feng, W.**, Ingram, M. Diffusion or Ideology? Predictors of Safety-Net Generosity across U.S. States

Working Papers

Feng W., Shrestha S., Fox A., Siegel M., Acevedo A., Allen J., Schildkraut D., Stopka T. Is Everything Politicized? Exploring Associations Between Health Behaviors and Political Ideology

Feng, W., Mazure, M., Page, E., and Cash, S. Role of Dollar Stores in the Food Retail Landscape: A Systematic Review

Feng, W., Page, E., Sun, B., and Cash, S. The Healthfulness and Mix of Foods Purchased at Dollar Stores, 2008-2020

Schmall, A., Kinney, R., Gozdoff A., Reid, M., Folta, S., **Feng, W.**, and Cash, S. Dollar Store Shopping during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from Fresno and Boston Shoppers

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

*Denotes presenter

- Feng, W.***, Zhan, Y., Pan, Y., Page, E., and Cash, S. (2023, July) Household Food Purchasing Behavior in Dollar Stores and Body Mass Index, 2010-2018. Presented at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- Chomitz, V.*, Dang, P., **Feng, W.** (2023, March) Evaluating a Novel Pipeline Program: Volunteer experience in the Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps. Presented at Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health annual meeting, Arlington, VA.
- Feng, W.***, Page, E., Sun, B., and Cash, S. (2022, August) The Healthfulness and Mix of Foods Purchased at Dollar Stores, 2008-2020. Presented a poster at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, Anaheim, CA.
- Feng, W.***, Mazure, M., Elliott, P. Greece, J. Blinn, A., Chomitz, V. (2021, October) Local health departments' role in health equity: A systematic review. Presented at American Public Health Association annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Chomitz, V.*, Blinn, A., Elliott, P., Greece, J., Maniar, N., **Feng, W.** (2021, October) Collaboration to mitigate public health workforce shortage in pandemic: An initial SWOT assessment of Massachusetts academic health departments' volunteer response. Presented at American Public Health Association annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Elliott, P.*, **Feng, W.**, Chomitz V., Blinn, A., Greece, J. Evaluating local public health needs: Perceptions of the academic public health volunteer corps during COVID-19. (2021, October) Presented at American Public Health Association annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Feng, W.***, Page, E., and Cash, S. (2021, September) Household Food Expenditures at Dollar Stores and Implications for Health, 2008-18. Presented at Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Food Environment, and Nutrition Health Disparities: State of the Science, National Institutes of Health, Virtual workshop.
- Feng, W.**, Page, E., Saravana, D., and Cash, S.* (2021, August) Household Food Expenditures at Dollar Stores and Implications for Health, 2008-18. Presented at Agricultural & Applied Economics Association and Western Agricultural Economics Association annual meeting, Austin, TX.
- Schmall, A.*, Kinney, R., Gozdoff A., Reid, M., Folta, S., **Feng, W.**, and Cash, S. (2021, June) Dollar Store Shopping during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Insights from Fresno and Boston Shoppers. Presented at American Society for Nutrition annual meeting, virtual.
- Feng, W.***, Lischko, A., Martin, E., Skeer, M., Kaplan, A., Wang, Y., and Stopka, T. (2020, October) Who are the local policy innovators? cluster analysis of current municipal tobacco control policies in Massachusetts. Presented at American Public Health Association annual meeting, virtual.
- Feng, W.*** (2019, November) The Effect of Removing SNAP Benefits on the Health Outcomes of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents. Presented at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.**, Ingram, M. (2019, November) Diffusion or Ideology? Predictors of Safety-Net Generosity across US States. Presented at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.**, Howell, E. (2019, November) An Index of State Medicaid Generosity: Description and Predictors. Presented a poster at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Feng, W.***, Martin, E.G. (2019, June) Fighting Obesity at the Local Level? An Analysis of Predictors of Local Health Department Policy Adoption. Presented a poster at AcademyHealth annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- Fox, A., **Feng, W.***, Howell, E. (2019, June) An Index of State Medicaid Generosity: Description and Predictors. Presented at AcademyHealth annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.**, Howell, E. (2019, June) Which US States are Most Generous in their Medicaid Policies and Why. Presented at International Conference on Public Policy, Montreal, Canada.
- Feng, W.*** (2019, June) The Effect of Removing SNAP Benefits on the Health Outcomes of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents. Presented a poster at American Society of Health Economists, Washington, DC.

- Feng, W.***, Martin, E.G. (2019, February) Fighting Obesity at the Local Level? An Analysis of Predictors of Local Health Department Policy Adoption. Presented a poster at Population Health Summit, Albany, NY.
- Feng, W.***, Martin, E.G. (2018, August) Local Health Departments, Federalism, and Nudging to a Healthier Community. Presented a poster at American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.**, Stazyk, E. (2018, May) Administrative Easing: The Diffusion of Red Tape Reduction in Medicaid Enrollment Procedures across the States. Presented at Public Administration Review Symposium on Behavioral Approaches to Bureaucratic Red Tape and Administrative Burden, Washington, DC.
- Feng, W.*** (2018, April) Local Health Departments, Federalism, and Nudging to a Healthier Community. Presented at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management DC Regional Student Conference, Washington, DC.
- Feng, W.*** (2017, November) Effects of SNAP Benefits on Food Purchasing Behavior and Body Weight at the Margin. Presented a poster at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Feng, W.*** (2017, August) The Politics of Menu Labeling: Historical Evolution & Implementation Challenges. Presented a poster at American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Feng, W.***, Fox, A. (2017, June) Menu Labels, for Better, AND Worse? Exploring Socio-Economic and Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Menu Label Use in a National Sample. Presented at International Public Policy Association Conference, Singapore.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.** (2017, June) Variations in state welfare generosity and birth outcomes in the US: Can it explain our low international infant mortality rankings? Presented at International Public Policy Association Conference, Singapore.
- Feng, W.***, Fox, A. (2017, June) Menu Labels, for Better, AND Worse? Exploring Socio-Economic and Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Menu Label Use in a National Sample. Presented a poster at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Fox, A., **Feng, W.*** (2017, June) Variations in state welfare generosity and birth outcomes in the US: Can it explain our low international infant mortality rankings? AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Feng, W.***, Fox, A. (2017, April) Menu Labels, for Better, AND Worse? Exploring Socio-Economic and Racial-Ethnic Disparities in Menu Label Use in a National Sample. Presented a poster at Population Association of America Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Fox, A.*, **Feng, W.**, Meier, B., Scruggs, L., Zeitlin, J., Howell, E. (2017, April) Variations in State Welfare Generosity and Preterm Birth in the US: Can It Explain Our Low International Infant Mortality Rankings? Presented at Population Association of America Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Fox, A.*, Meier, B., Kim, Y., **Feng, W.**, Scruggs, L., Zeitlin, J., Howell, E. (2016, November) Constructing an Index of State Safety Net Generosity, 1996-2012: Approach, State Rankings and Predictive Validity. Presented a poster at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference, Washington, DC.
- Fox, A., Howell, E., Meier, B.*, Scruggs, L., **Feng, W.**, Kim, Y. (2016, November) Ideology and Safety-Net Generosity: Can Differences in State Medicaid Eligibility Generosity Help to Explain Persistent Health Inequalities across US States? Presented at American Public Health Association Conference, Washington, DC.
- Fox, A., **Feng, W.***, Asal, V. (2016, April) Obesity, Openness and Women's Empowerment: An Empirical Test. Presented at Population Association of America Conference, Washington, DC.
- Johnson, B.* , **Feng, W.**, Qian, F., Martin, E. (2015, December). Is data to care different? Exploring time allocation between new HIV partner services and out of care relinkage investigations: empirical findings from New York State. Poster session presented at the National HIV Prevention conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Johnson, B.* , **Feng, W.**, Qian, F., Martin, E. (2015, April) Evaluating the time spent to process different HIV/STD cases to model return on investment. Poster session presented at the Keeneland Conference for Public Health Services and Systems research, Lexington, KY.

INVITED TALK

- 2023 Spring Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research and Tufts Equity in Health, Wealth, and Civic Engagement Spring 2023 Research Symposium, titled “The Role of Dollar Stores on Food Access and Obesity Inequities in the United States”, Boston, MA.
- 2023 Spring The Council on Food, Agricultural & Resources Economics (C-FARE) webinar series, titled “Food Shopping at Dollar Stores: The Changing Face of Food Retail, and What It Means for Consumers”, virtual.
- 2022 Summer Health Equity Seminar Series, Tufts University Office of the Chief Diversity Officers, titled “Is Everything Politicized? Exploring Associations Between Health Behaviors and Political Ideology”, virtual.
- 2022 Summer Research Workshop on Food Access at Dollar Stores and its Implications for Public Health, entitled “The Healthfulness of Foods Purchased at Dollar Stores, 2008 – 2020”, Boston, MA.
- 2021 Fall Friedman School Speaker Series, panel discussion titled “Does it matter that people are buying more food than ever at dollar stores?”, Boston, MA.
- 2021 Fall The Equity in America National Survey: Examining our Definition of Equity symposium, titled “Is Everything Politicized? Exploring Associations Between Health Behaviors and Political Ideology”, virtual.
- 2021 Spring Tufts Data Intensive Studies Center Forum, titled “Equity in Health, Wealth, and Civic Engagement”, virtual.
- 2021 Spring Tufts CTSI Translational Research Day, titled “Factors associated with COVID-19 vaccine intentions: A cross-sectional survey among U.S. adults (May-June 2020)”, virtual.
- 2021 Spring Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research (TIGOR) Grant Writing Workshop, titled “The Role of the Dollar Store in Rural Food Access”, virtual.
- 2020 Fall Tufts CTSI COVID Symposium Plus, titled “Academic Collaboration to Mitigate Public Health Workforce Shortage in Pandemic: An Initial Assessment of Massachusetts”, virtual.
- 2019 Spring Albany County Strategic Alliance for Health, titled “Fighting Obesity at the Local Level? An Analysis of Predictors of Local Health Department Policy Adoption”. Albany, NY.
- 2019 Spring Health Policy, Management, and Behavior Brown Bag Series, titled “Fighting Obesity at the Local Level? An Analysis of Predictors of Local Health Department Policy Adoption”. Albany, NY.
- 2018 Fall Rockefeller Brown Bag Series, titled “The Effect of Removing SNAP Benefits on the Health Outcomes of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents”. Albany, NY.
- 2018 Spring American Political Science Association Brown Bag Speaker Series, titled “Local Health Departments, Federalism, and Nudging to a Healthier Community”. Washington, DC.
- 2017 Spring Thursday Policy Lunch Series, titled “Bureaucratic Politics and the FDA’s Menu Labeling Policy”. Albany, NY.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Poster Award, Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Food Environment, and Nutrition Health Disparities: State of the Science
- 2019 Best Poster on Public Policy, American Political Science Association Public Policy Section
- 2018 – 2019 Fred Tickner Memorial Scholarship, University at Albany
- 2018 – 2019 Rockefeller College Scholarship, University at Albany
- 2017 – 2018 Rockefeller College Steve Jackson Graduate Student Scholarship, University at Albany
- 2017 – 2018 Rockefeller College Dissertation Research Award, University at Albany
- 2016 – 2017 University at Albany Dissertation Research Fellowship Award, University at Albany
- 2016 – 2017 Rockefeller College Advisory Board Scholarship, University at Albany
- 2012 – 2013 Pfster Family Scholarship, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University

SERVICE

Professional Services

Panelist National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities:
Market and Trade panel

Editor *Frontiers in Nutrition, Food Policy and Economics*

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Applied Geography, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Economics and Business Letters, Economics and Human Biology, Food Policy, JAMA Network Open, Journal of Adolescent Health, Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior, Journal of Nutrition, Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, Public Administration Review, Social Science and Medicine

Member Healthy Eating Research (A national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation), Early Stage Investigator Work Group

Discussant Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

American Public Health Association, Food and Nutrition Section

2023-2026 Section Councilor

2021-2022 Co-Chair, Boston Networking Committee

University-wide Services

Reviewer Tufts Springboard award

Reviewer Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research (TIGOR) pilot grant award

Member Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) pilot studies program scientific training and review committee

Member Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA) search committee

Department Services

Chair Honos Civicus Society Award Committee

Co-organizer Tufts Public Health Student Writing Workshop

Member Department Research Committee, Public Health and Community Medicine

Member H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award Committee

Member Academic Review Committee (ad hoc)

Previous Services

Co-organizer Rockefeller College Thursday Policy Lunch Series

Member Rockefeller College Doctoral Student Involvement Committee

Member Rockefeller College Doctoral Program Review Committee

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2019 Research Assistant, Center for Policy Research, University at Albany, Albany NY

2018 Centennial Center Visiting Scholar, American Political Science Association, Washington DC

2018 Program Coordinator, Semester in Washington Program, University at Albany, Washington DC

2017-2019 Instructor, Department of Public Administration and Policy, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY

2016 – 2017 Research Assistant, Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany, Albany NY

2014 – 2015 Research Assistant, Rockefeller Institute of Government, Albany NY

2013 Intern Analyst, Office of Accountability, Arizona Department of Economic Security, Phoenix AZ

2012 – 2014 Data management intern, Hope VI project, City of Phoenix Housing Department, Phoenix AZ

2012 Intern, Lion Rock Institute, Hong Kong

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Agricultural & Applied Economics Association
American Public Health Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Mentions and Quotes

Roush T. (January 19, 2023) More Homes In The U.S. Are Purchasing Food From Dollar Stores Over Past 15 Years, Study Finds. *Forbes* ([link](#))
Udasin S. (January 19, 2023) Dollar stores rising in popularity as food retailers in rural America. *The Hill* ([link](#))
Abraham R. (January 20, 2023) Dollar Stores Are the ‘Fastest-Growing’ Food Retailers In US, Study Finds. *VICE* (quote) ([link](#))
Reinl J (January 20, 2023) Bad value: As dollar stores sweep rural America, doctors warn that their cheap, ultra-processed food WILL drive up obesity, diabetes and heart disease. *DailyMail* (quote) ([link](#))
Ruder K (February 1, 2023) Study Finds US Households, Especially in Rural Areas, Increasingly Shop at Dollar Stores for Food. *JAMA*. (quote) ([link](#))
Salai S. (February 3, 2023) More Americans buying food at dollar stores, surge seen in rural areas, study shows *The Washington Times*. (quote) ([link](#))

Radio and TV

Michals S. (January 25, 2023) Dollar stores are the fastest-growing food retailers, new study finds. *WXYZ Detroit*. ([link](#))
Nordquist C. (January 25, 2023) Study: Dollar stores are the fastest-growing food retailers *Scripps News*. (quote) ([link](#))
Warren J (February 17, 2023) Study finds dollar stores are fastest growing food retailer in U.S. *ABC15* (quote) ([link](#))
Bisaha S. (April 10, 2023) Advocates warn of a ‘dollar store invasion.’ Researchers are still figuring out the consequences. *WBHM*. (quote) ([link](#))

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Active Funding

Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) 59-4000-2-0123

\$75,000

6/1/2023-11/30/2024

Did Pandemic- EBT Benefits Improve Dietary Quality?

COVID-19 disrupted many aspects of the nutritional environment that may affect healthy eating for children. The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program reimbursed families with the value of meals they missed due to COVID-related school closures. This study will use the IRI Consumer Network, a nationwide panel that provides a detailed account of retail food purchases, to evaluate the effects of the P-EBT.

Role: PI

Tufts Springboard

\$15,000

1/1/2023-12/31/2023

Examining the interconnections between neighborhood-level discrimination and mental health on childhood racial and ethnic obesity disparities

Centuries of economic and social marginalization policies have systematically pushed minoritized children in the U.S. into neighborhoods devoid of opportunity. This study investigates the relationship between depression and objectively measured neighborhood discrimination in children and adolescents.

Role: Co-Investigator

PI: Danielle Krobath

Gifford Center for Population Studies 58-4000-1-0130. A22-2490-S005

\$75,000

7/1/2022-8/31/2024

Is Dollar Store the Enemy or the Savior for Low-Income Households' Access to Nutritious Foods? An Investigation Through the SNAP Cycle

Households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) may experience a monthly cycle of having abundant and healthier foods at the beginning of the month, but insufficient and less nutritious foods at the end of their benefit month. In this study, we will evaluate the role of dollar stores in mediating the SNAP cycle, and its implications in the healthfulness of foods purchased by SNAP participants.

Role: PI

Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research \$20,000

6/1/2022-5/31/2024

Dollar Store Shopping, Obesity, and Dietary Quality

Dollar stores are increasingly becoming a major source for grocery purchases for many Americans. However, the foods and beverages sold in dollar stores are less healthy. Increased access to healthy foods is associated with better health outcomes, including lower levels of obesity. In this study, we explore the relationship between obesity and household purchasing behaviors, especially those in dollar stores.

Role: PI

National Institute of Food and Agriculture \$50,000

1/1/2022 – 1/31/2024

Despite dollar stores' growing importance for the Americans, little scholarship exists on their effect. Through this grant, we hold a 2-day workshop in Boston, MA in June 2022 to bring together leading economic, public health, and nutrition researchers. The goal is to foster collaboration and collectively set research priorities that will lead to a better understanding of how dollar stores shape the food retail landscape, diets, and well-being.

Role: Co-Project Director

Project Director: Sean Cash

Massachusetts Department of Public Health \$725,000

9/1/2021 – 6/30/2023

Academic Public Health Corp

The APHC is a novel model of collaboration that harnesses the energy and expertise of public health students, alumni, faculty, and staff to strengthen local health departments' capacity to respond to COVID-19. Building upon the effective partnership, the APHC and Massachusetts Health Officers Association (MHOA) will leverage this program to respond to the needs of local public health and advance health equity throughout the Commonwealth.

Role: Lead in subcontract

PI: MHOA

Completed Funding

Tufts Springboard \$25,000

1/1/2021 – 6/30/2022

Is the dollar store the new grocery store? Analysis of dollar stores' geographic distribution and role in household expenditures

Dollar stores are increasingly becoming the primary source for grocery purchases for many American households. However, the foods sold in these stores are generally less nutritious than conventional grocery stores. The impact of dollar store expansion on food purchasing patterns in these areas remains unclear. This study will support an emerging team to investigate dollar stores' impact on the food retail landscape.

Role: PI

USDA Cooperative Agreement 58-4000-0-0021 \$30,000

7/1/2020 – 6/30/2022

Household Expenditures at Dollar Stores and Implications for Health, 2008-18

Dollar stores are increasingly becoming the primary source for grocery purchases for many American households. However, the foods sold in these stores are generally less nutritious than grocery stores. This study aims to characterize household expenditures at dollar stores over the past decade (2008-2018).

Role: PI

CTSI Research Symposium Plus Award, Tufts University \$5,000

1/1/2021 – 4/30/2022

Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps Study (APHVC)

This supplemental grant supports the APHVC grant below, sponsored by the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine. Through this award, we received consultation from researchers across the CTSI network, and strengthened our mix-methods approach.

Role: PI

Public Health and Community Medicine Bucket Grant, Tufts University

\$2,500

7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps Study (APHVC)

The COVID-19 outbreak has imposed great challenges to the public health system, especially its ability to rapidly adjust to the needs of public health emergencies. One of those challenges is the shortage of public health workers. Efforts by the APHVC sets a model for rapid response. This study focuses on describing the early Volunteer Corps' COVID-response process and evaluating its effects.

Role: PI

Data Intensive Studies Center, SEED Grant, Tufts University \$15,000

7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021

The Priority Area Research Group on Equity

We built a database of a representative sample of Americans with more than 450 variables per respondent, covering socio-demographics, health, discrimination, civic engagement, and other topics. It is a platform for collaboration across a whole research university on the salient issue of equity. This study builds a robust system for integrating new data and making the data maximally available to Tufts for collaborative research.

Role: Team Lead

PI: Tom Stopka

Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

\$39,660

1/1/2020 – 3/31/2020

Jurisdiction-level Opioid-Related Vulnerability Analysis

The opioid crisis has been one of the most intense public health challenges in the U.S. during the past two decades. Through secondary analysis of existing surveillance data, we compile, map, and analyze core opioid-related indicators and create a composite index of opioid-related vulnerability.

Role: Co-Investigator

PI: Tom Stopka