

# Wenhui Feng

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## 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 APPOINTMENTS

- 2025-Current** Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, College of Health Sciences, University of Rhode Island
- 2025-Current** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, School of Medicine, Tufts University
- 2025-Current** Adjunct Assistant Professor, Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Polity, Tufts University, Boston, MA
- 2023-2025** Secondary Appointment, Assistant Professor, Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Polity, Tufts University, Boston, MA
- 2021-2025** Tufts Health Plan Professor of Health Care Policy Research
- 2019-2025** Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, School of Medicine, Tufts University

## RESEARCH CENTER AFFILIATIONS

- 2019-2025** Center for Health Systems and Policy, *Faculty Fellow*
- 2019-2025** Equity in Health, Wealth and Civic Engagement Priority Research Cluster, *Faculty Fellow*
- 2020-2024** Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research, *Affiliated Faculty*

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Underline denotes current or former student

1. Fox, A.; **Feng, W.**; Reynolds, M. Which US States are Most Generous in their Medicaid Policies and Why? (In press) *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*.
2. **Feng, W.**, Page, E. T., Sun, B., & Cash, S. B. (2025). The Healthfulness of Foods Purchased at Dollar Stores: Insights from Household Scanner Data from 2008 to 2020. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 125(11), 1736-1745.e6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2025.07.001>
3. **Feng, W.**, Barry, N., Mazure, M., Page., E., Blumenthal, C., Cash, S. B. Dollar Stores as Food Retailers in the United States: A Scoping Review. *Preventive Medicine*, 196 (2025) 108295. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108295>
4. **Feng, W.**, Fromkin, H., Harney, J. B., Evans, R., Gerrity, C. M., & Cash, S. B. (2024). Perspective: Food Access at Dollar Stores and its Implications for Public Health: Report of a Workshop on Identifying Research Priorities. *Advances in Nutrition*, 100319. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.advnut.2024.100319>
5. **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>
6. **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>

7. 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>
8. 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>
9. 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>
10. Fox, A., Choi, Y., **Feng, W.** (2022) 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>
11. **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>
12. 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>
13. **Schmall, A.**, **Kinney, R.**, **Gozdif, 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](https://doi.org/10.1093/cdn/nzab029_047)
14. **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>
15. 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>
16. 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)
17. **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>
18. 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](https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13131)
19. 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](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-019-0457-y)
20. **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*, 128:223-232. [doi:10.1016/j.appet.2018.06.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2018.06.015)
21. 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).
22. 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)
23. Fox, A., **Feng, W.**, **Yumkham, R.** (2017). Political Ideology, Policies and Health Behaviors: The Case of Tobacco. *Social Science & Medicine*, 181:139-147. [doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.03.056](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.03.056)
24. 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

## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Underline denotes current or former student

1. Schneider, K., Sun, B., Cash, S. B., **Feng, W.**, Thorne-Lyman, A., Love, D.C. What happens to diet quality when food prices rise? Revealed preference from national household scanner data, 2015-2018. In the process of revise and resubmit.
2. **Feng, W.**, Shrestha, S., Allen, J., Fox, A., Wei, A., Siegel, M., Schildraut, D., Stopka, T. Is Everything Political? Investigating Associations Between Health Behaviors and Political Identity
3. Chrisinger, B., **Feng, W.** Longitudinal Trends in the SNAP Food Retail Environment.
4. Grossman, A., Bayly, R., Dong, K., **Feng, W.**, Scudder, P., Must, A. Associations of socioeconomic status, its proxies, and race with food addiction: a systematic review and narrative analysis.

## EXTERNALLY-FUNDED RESEARCH REPORTS

1. **Feng, W.**, Benvenuto, A., Dang, P., and Chomitz V. Impact of The Academic Public Health Corps Model on Operations of Local Public Health. Fall 2023.
2. Dang, P., **Feng, W.**, Benvenuto, A., and Chomitz V. Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps (APHVC) Alumni Survey: Implications for Workforce Development. Summer 2023.
3. Liu, Y., **Feng, W.**, Wang, Y., Murray, M., Chomitz, V. Academic Public Health Volunteer Corps (APHVC) Evaluation from 2020 Team Leads' Interview Framework Analysis Results. May 2022.
4. Shrestha, S., Pustz, J., **Feng, W.**, Bayly, R., Lingwall, C., Stopka, T. Opioid Overdose Vulnerability in Alaska, April 2021.
5. Kaplan, A., **Feng, W.**, Shrestha, S., Pustz, J., Van Handel, M., Stopka, T. Florida Opioid Vulnerability Assessment, March 2021.
6. Bayly, R., Shrestha, S., Pustz, J., **Feng, W.**, Lingwall, C., and Stopka TJ. Texas Opioid Vulnerability Assessment, March 2021.
7. Laforce, H., Pustz, J., Shrestha, S., **Feng, W.**, Sawyer, J., Kaplan, A., Bayly, R., Jacque, E., Stopka, T. Opioid-Involved Overdose Vulnerability Assessment: Massachusetts, January 2021.
8. Bayly, R., Shrestha, S., Pustz, J., Sawyer, J., **Feng, W.**, Lingwall, C., and Stopka TJ. Opioid Vulnerability in Idaho: A Mixed Methods Assessment, December 2020.
9. **Feng, W.**, Pustz, J., Shrestha, S., Kaplan, A., Sawyer, J., Jacque, E., Bayly, R., Laforce, H., Stopka, T. Hawai'i Opioid Vulnerability Assessment, 2020, June 2020.
10. Shrestha, S., Pustz, J., Jacque, E., Sawyer, J., **Feng, W.**, Lingwall, C., and Stopka, T. Kansas Opioid Vulnerability Assessment, June 2020.

## PRESENTATIONS

\*Denotes presenter. Underline denotes current or former student

- Feng, W.\***, Zhan, Y., Page, E., Loomis, S., Pan, Y., Cash, S. (2025, November) Household Food Purchasing Behavior in Dollar Stores and Obesity Status, 2010-2022. Presented at American Public Health Association annual meeting, Washington, DC.
- Feng, W.\***, Sun, B., Zhan, Y., Cash, S. (2025, July) Did Pandemic-EBT Benefits Increase Food Purchases? Going to present at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Chrisinger, B., **Feng, W.\*** (2025, July) Characterizing the dynamic nature of SNAP food environments in the United States. Going to present at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, Denver, CO.
- Feng, W.\***, Pan, Y., Sun, B., Zhan, Y., Cash, S. (2024, November) Are Dollar Stores the Enemy or the Savior for Low-Income Households' Access to Nutritious Foods? An Investigation Through the SNAP Cycle, 2017-2018. Presented at Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management annual meeting, National Harbor, MD.

- Feng, W.\***, Pan, Y., Sun, B., Page, E., Zhan, Y., and Cash, S. (2024, July) Dietary Quality of Food Acquired Across Retail Channels, Moderated by Obesity Status and the SNAP Cycle. Presented at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Feng, W.\***, Pan, Y., Sun, B., Zhan, Y., Cash, S. (2024, July) Are Dollar Stores the Enemy or the Savior for Low-Income Households' Access to Nutritious Foods? An Investigation Through the SNAP Cycle, 2017-2018. Presented at Agricultural and Applied Economics Association annual meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- 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 TALKS

- 2025 Fall Food & Nutrition Innovation Institute, Tufts University, virtual.
- 2024 Fall University of California Davis Institute for Global Nutrition seminar series. Tentative title “Are Dollar Stores the Enemy or the Savior for Low-Income Households’ Access to Nutritious Foods? An Investigation Through the SNAP Cycle, 2017-2018”, virtual.
- 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

- 2025 Best Poster in which the lead author as a doctorate degree, American Agricultural & Applied Economics Association, Food and Agricultural Marketing Policy Section
- 2023 Top 5 Most Shared *AJPH* Articles in 2023, *American Journal of Public Health*, Recognition received for article *Dollar Stores and Food Access for Rural Households in the United States, 2008–2020*, *AJPH*

- 2021 Poster Award, Food Insecurity, Neighborhood Food Environment, and Nutrition Health Disparities: State of the Science, NIH
- 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

## TEACHING

### University of Rhode Island

- Public Health Policy (HLT 504). Master level. One semester (online)
  - Developed the course for the department
- Your Money or Your Life: Public Health Policies and the Economics Theories behind Them (HLT 350). Undergraduate level. One semester (in-person)
  - Developed the course for the department
- Grant Writing for Public Health Professionals (HLT 508). Master level. One semester (online)

### Tufts University

- Health Economics (PH 255). Master level. Four semesters (3 in-person, 1 online)
  - Developed the course for the department
- Policy Analysis (PH 249). Master level. Two semesters (in person)
  - Developed the course for the department
- Public Health Action (PH 203). Master level. Eight semesters (6 in-person, 2 online)
  - Jointly designed the course for the department

### University at Albany, SUNY

- Statistics for Public Managers and Policy Analysts (RPAD505). Master level. Three semesters (in-person)

## SERVICE

### Professional Service

American Public Health Association, Food and Nutrition Section

- 2023 – 2026 Section Councilor
- 2025 – 2026 Chair, Webinar Committee
- 2023 – 2024 Co-Chair, Membership Committee
- 2021 – 2022 Co-Chair, Boston Networking Committee

### *Frontiers in Nutrition, Food Policy and Economics*

- 2025-present Associate Editor
- 2023-2025 Review Editor
- 2023-2025 Guest Editor, Special Issue: Consumer Behavior, Nutrition and Policy in Novel Food Retail Environments

### Ad Hoc Reviewer

*Advances in Nutrition: an International Review Journal; Applied Geography, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, Economics and Business Letters, Economics and Human Biology, Economic Inquiry, 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, Public Performance & Management Review, Social Science and Medicine*

National Institute of Food and Agriculture, member of the Economics, Market, and Trade grant review panel (2 grant application cycles)

#### University-wide Service

2022 Reviewer, Tufts Institute for Global Obesity Research (TIGOR) pilot grant award  
2020 Reviewer, Tufts Springboard award  
2021 Reviewer, Tufts Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) pilot studies program scientific training and review committee  
2021 Member, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (HNRCA) health equity position search committee

#### Department Service, Public Health and Community Medicine

2024-present Vice Chair, Department Research Committee  
2022-present Chair, Honos Civicus Society Award Committee  
2021-present Member, H. Jack Geiger Public Health Advocacy Award Committee  
2020-present Member, Academic Review Committee (ad hoc)  
2021-2022 Co-organizer, Tufts Public Health Student Writing Workshop

#### Department Service, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs, SUNY-Albany

2018-2019 Co-organizer, Thursday Policy Lunch Series  
2018-2019 Member, Doctoral Student Involvement Committee  
2018-2019 Member, 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  
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 MEMBERSHIPS**

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

#### **MEDIA COVERAGE (SELECTED)**

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](#))

Smyton, R., & McAndrew, J. (2020). College graduates, high income earners most likely to feel helped by government during pandemic. Tufts Now. ([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](#))

**MENTORING**

**Doctoral Student Mentoring**

Dissertation Committee Member, Anna Grossman 2023-Present

**Graduate Student Advising**

Graduate Research Advisor, Shiavangi Patel 2025-Present

Graduate Research Advisor, Joseph Yeb 2025-Present

Graduate Research Advisor, Andrea Wei 2025-Present

Graduate Research Advisor, Sage Loomis 2024-Present

Graduate Research Advisor, Yongyi Pan 2022-2025

Graduate Research Advisor, Ishmam Khan 2024

Graduate Research Advisor, Yue Zhan 2022-2024

Graduate Research Advisor, Nicole Barry 2023-2024

Graduate Research Advisor, Becket Harney 2023-2024

Graduate Research Advisor, Andria Benvenuto 2023

Graduate Research Advisor, Shannon Fain 2023

Graduate Research Advisor, Hailey Fromkin 2022-2023

Graduate Research Advisor, Preston Dang 2022-2023

Graduate Research Advisor, Charlotte Blumenthal 2021-2022

Graduate Research Advisor, Yanxi Liu 2021-2022

Graduate Research Advisor, Morgan Murray 2020-2021

Graduate Research Advisor, Michella Mazure 2020-2021

Graduate Research Advisor, Divya Saravana 2020-2021

**Undergraduate advising**

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Bangyao (Jerry) Sun 2021-2022,2024  
 Jerry received the Nadine Aubry Grand Challenges Prize from Tufts Academic Awards Committee in recognition of our dollar store study

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Yihua (Evon) Wang 2019-2021

**Independent Studies**

Andria Benvenuto Spring 2023

Preston Dang Fall 2022

Michaela Mazure Fall 2020

**RESEARCH SUPPORT****Active Funding**

Tufts Springboard \$35,000 1/16/2025-1/15/2026

Welfare Generosity Effects on Adverse Diet-Related Health Outcomes Among Patients with Type II Diabetes  
This project leverages a rich healthcare dataset to explore how the social safety net might mitigate poor health outcomes among patients with Type II Diabetes. This study answers questions about how the social safety net supports health among disadvantaged populations, and builds a fundable, multi-year research pipeline.

Role: Co-PI

PI: Chrisinger

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Data Access Award 9/1/2024-3/31/2026

Welfare Generosity Effects on Adverse Diet-Related Health Outcomes Among Patients with Type II Diabetes  
Many Americans struggle to reliably and regularly procure the foods needed to maintain a healthy diet, posing a risk for many adverse diet-related health outcomes. In this study, we will investigate how welfare generosity affects diet-related health outcomes among patients with Type II Diabetes. We will leverage a new measure of welfare generosity (including SNAP) and capitalize on the unique opportunities afforded by the Komodo data to better understand this structural dimension of health equities.

Role: Co-PI

Co-PI: Chrisinger

Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics (RIDGE) 104620-00006

\$75,000 7/1/2024-2/28/2026

Does welfare generosity affect SNAP food environments? A longitudinal assessment of retailer responses to changes in income supports

Traditional measures of the food environments tend to be static and do not capture changes in communities. In this study, we summarize patterns and trends of SNAP-accepting food environment and neighborhood characteristics. We also investigate associations between the SNAP food environment and shopping behavior, measured with geographically linked scanner data. We leverage state-level variation in social safety net programs to examine how policy decisions might lead to different kinds of food environment outcomes.

Role: Co-Investigator

Chrisinger (PI)

**Completed Funding**

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

\$75,000 6/1/2023-5/31/2025

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

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

\$75,000 7/1/2022-12/31/2024

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  
 A Workshop to Explore the Expansion of Dollar Stores and its Implications for Public Health  
 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
- 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
- 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: Massachusetts Health Officers Association
- 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

**Pending Funding**

Rhode Island Foundation

\$25,000

5/1/2026-10/31/2027

SNAP Work Requirement, SNAP Participation, and the Healthfulness of Food Purchases

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has long required able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) to meet work requirements. During the pandemic, these work requirements were waived, only to be reinstated during the post-pandemic unwinding process. Building on the novel SNAP ABAWD Waiver Database and using an innovative dataset that captures detailed food purchase records, this study aims to examine the effects of the reimplementation of SNAP ABAWD work requirements following the Great Recession and the COVID-19 pandemic on SNAP participation, food spending, and dietary quality.

Role: PI

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

\$300,000

7/1/2026-6/30/2028

Stretching Food Dollars at the Dollar Store: Uncovering Shopping Patterns to Promote Healthier Choices

Little scholarship exists on the effect dollar stores have on the dietary health of the communities they enter, and existing nutrition and health education materials do not reflect the increased role that dollar stores play in many households' decision-making. In this project, we will gather data from key informant interviews with dollar store shoppers and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Supervisors/Coordinators across New England; and use machine learning cluster analysis to categorize households on their purchase habits and reliance on dollar stores (and other small-format retailers) for food access.

Role: Project Director

National Institute of Food and Agriculture      \$650,000

7/1/2026-6/30/2029

Beyond the Storefront: Investigating the Social, Economic, and Nutritional Role that Dollar Stores and Ultra-Processed Foods Play in Rural Communities

Dollar stores and Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) are ubiquitous features in rural food environments. Using a mixed-methods approach, this research aims to understand what rural residents buy, and how they perceive and why they utilize dollar stores and UPFs. We will: (1) use qualitative methods to develop a grounded theory of how rural shoppers utilize dollar stores and UPFs for food access and other social and economic needs; (2) use detailed, nationally representative scanner data to test hypotheses regarding rural households' food production and consideration of convenience and price; and (3) develop a toolkit to inform policymakers and planners.

Role: Co-PD

Project Director: Ken Kolb