

Julia Berenson, M.Sc., M.Phil.

Columbia School of Social Work 1255 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10027

Tel: 206-605-8804 | Email: jab2362@columbia.edu

RESEARCH PROGRAM

My research program focuses on the social determinants of health from a policy lens. My work spans broad areas of health and social policy, identifying the social determinants of health that impact health and health equity, and the social policies that can create healthier and more equitable communities. In my dissertation, I am examining relative inequalities in health across U.S. states, and assessing the impact of state-level, evidence-based social policies on relative inequalities in health across U.S. states.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	Columbia University School of Social Work, May 2020 (expected): New York, New York. Concentration: Social Policy, Planning, and Policy Analysis Behavioral Science: Economics. Dissertation topic: Disparities in Health Across the United States (U.S.) and the Role of Social Policies to Close Health Gaps.
Masters in Philosophy (M.Phil.)	Columbia University School of Social Work, May 2018: New York, New York.
Masters in Science (M.Sc.)	London School of Economics and Political Science & London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, September 2009: London, United Kingdom. Concentration: Health Policy, Planning, and Financing (Honors).
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences, May 2007: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Major: International Relations (Honors).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH

December 2018 - July 2019	Senior Research Consultant. World Health Organization (WHO): Phnom Penh, Cambodia. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided strategic guidance and technical support for research and policy to the WHO Cambodia Office and the Cambodia Ministry of Health and its research arm the National Institute of Public Health.• Led the conceptualization and execution of research to measure and track health inequalities across Cambodia and identify governance structures and evidence-based policies to close identified health gaps.• Conducted extensive literature reviews on health inequality monitoring and evidence-based policies to achieve health equity, facilitated key stakeholder and expert interviews across WHO programs and government and partner agencies, and collected and statistically analyzed national survey data on health and social determinants of health.• Authored WHO publications, which present the state of health equity in Cambodia—across a wide selection of health outcomes and social determinants of health measures and dimensions of equity— and describes multi-sector institutional mechanisms and evidence-based policies to advance health equity across the country.
August 2017 - December 2018	Senior Research Consultant. U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH): Rockville, Maryland. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oversaw the development, review, and dissemination of research, peer reviewed publications, blogs, newsletters, and other communications products for the U.S. HHS OMH and its initiative, the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA), a partnership based, multi-sector approach to addressing health disparities across the U.S.
June 2016 - August 2017	Senior Research Associate.

Center for Health Innovation, New York Academy of Medicine: New York, New York.

- Spearheaded efforts to integrate the social determinants of health into the Center's research portfolio, overseeing research and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data from national health and social surveys to examine the impacts of the social determinants of health on health care access and health outcomes and to estimate the effects of evidence-based social policies on improving population health and health equity.
- Authored publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, reports, data and policy briefs, and blog posts.
- Drafted, reviewed, and submitted grant proposals, including to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

June 2015 – June 2016

Graduate Research Assistant.

Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania; Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- Executed research, statistical analysis, and writing for peer-reviewed journal articles and other publications on the politics of health inequalities and public opinion of inequalities in income, education, and health care in the US and Europe.

September 2013 – June 2015

Graduate Research Assistant.

Columbia Population Research Center (CPRC), Columbia University School of Social Work: New York, New York.

- Provided research support to faculty for multiple CPRC studies, including the: (1) Poverty Tracker, a long-term study of well-being and disadvantage in New York City funded by the Robin Hood Foundation; (2) Oregon Health Insurance Experiment (OHIE) studying the effect of expanding Medicaid insurance coverage to low-income adults; and (3) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded study evaluating the health and socioeconomic impacts of early elective caesarian sections on health outcomes and health care costs.

March 2011 – June 2013

Senior Research Associate.

The Commonwealth Fund: New York, New York.

- Provided research and programmatic support to the Executive Vice President for Programs and other senior program staff with a focus on vulnerable populations.
- Executed research and analysis of national surveys and other primary data sources to study the effects of health policies and interventions on health care access, quality, and outcomes for vulnerable populations.
- Informed the design of national surveys and scorecards that assess U.S. health system performance at the national and state levels in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, including identifying survey questions and selecting scorecard measures.
- Collaborated with senior program staff to author policy reports, issue briefs, scorecards, and other publications to inform health policymaking with a focus on policy solutions that can expand access to affordable, high-quality health care and reduce health disparities for vulnerable populations.

October 2009 – March 2011

Research Associate.

Center for Health Care Strategies: Hamilton, New Jersey.

- Provided programmatic support on initiatives and projects that test innovations in publicly financed health care with a focus on delivery system and payment reforms that reward value as opposed to volume and support improvements in population health.
- Conducted policy research on best practices in Medicaid across the nation, focusing on strategies to improve quality of health delivery systems and encourage value-based payment reforms, and authored policy briefs that disseminated findings to a broad national audience, including policy experts and representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), state Medicaid agencies, and Medicaid health plans.

September 2008 – September 2009

Graduate Research Assistant.

London School of Economics (LSE) Health: London, United Kingdom.

- Assisted in research, analysis, and writing of publications for the European Commission on incentive mechanisms to encourage research and development (R&D) investment for novel antibiotics and for the

European Health Technology Institute for Socio-Economic Research on the socio-economic value of medical technology in Europe.

- January 2006 – September 2008 Research Assistant.
Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Executed research, analysis, and writing on the politics of health inequalities, with a focus on comparing European and American policymakers' discourse surrounding health inequalities.

TEACHING

- September 2015 – December 2015 Teaching Assistant.
Social Work Research Methods. Columbia University School of Social Work: New York, New York.
- January 2016 – May 2016 Teaching Assistant.
Social Welfare Policy. Columbia University School of Social Work: New York, New York.

HONORS, AWARDS, & VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- June 2018 Awardee of the Alice S. Hersh Student Scholarship.
2018 Annual Research Meeting, Academy Health: Seattle, Washington.
- November 2017 – Current Selected reviewer.
Health Affairs: Washington, District of Columbia.
- May 2012 – May 2015 Selected member.
World Economic Forum Global Shapers Community: New York, New York.
- June 2007 – August 2007 Selected volunteer.
Project Health Care, Bellevue Hospital Emergency Department of Medicine, New York University (NYU): New York, New York.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications:

R. Hadler, J. Lynch, **J. Berenson**, L. Fleisher. Limited Public Support for Team-Based Care Models: Survey Results. *Health Management Policy and Innovation*. 2018;3(2).

J. Berenson, Y. Li, J. Lynch, and J. Pagan. Identifying Policy Levers and Opportunities for Action across States to Achieve Health Equity. *Health Affairs (Millwood)*. 2017;36(6):1048-1056. Doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2017.0004

Y. Li, **J. Berenson**, A. Moran, and J. Pagán. Who does not reduce their sodium intake despite being advised to do so? A population segmentation analysis. *Preventive Medicine*. 2017;99:77-79. Doi: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.01.017

Y. Li, **J. Berenson**, and J. Pagan. Leveraging the Food Environment in Obesity Prevention: The Promise of Systems Science and Agent-Based Modeling. *Curr Nutr Rep*. 2016;5:245. Doi:10.1007/s13668-016-0179-1

Other Publications:

J. Berenson, K. Rasanathan, and I. Por. Regional Governance for Health Equity with a Focus on Cambodia: Country Situation Assessment on Health Equity. World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Region (WPRO) Report. *Forthcoming, 2019*.

C. Schoen, D. C. Radley, P. Riley, J. A. Lippa, **J. Berenson**, C. Dermody, A. Shih. Health Care in the Two Americas: Findings from the Scorecard on State Health System Performance for Low-Income Populations, 2013. The

Commonwealth Fund, September 2013. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Fund-Reports/2013/Sep/Low-Income-Scorecard.aspx?page=1>

J. Berenson and A. Shih, Higher Readmissions at Safety-Net Hospital and Potential Policy Solutions, The Commonwealth Fund, December 2012. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2012/Dec/Higher-Readmissions-and-Potential-Policy-Solutions.aspx?omnicid=20>

J. Berenson, M.M. Doty, M.K. Abrams, and A. Shih. Achieving Better Quality of Care for Low-Income Populations: The Role of Health Insurance and the Medical Home for Reducing Health Inequities. The Commonwealth Fund, May 2012. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Issue-Briefs/2012/May/Achieving-Better-Quality-of-Care-for-Low-Income-Populations.aspx>

A. Shih, **J. Berenson**, and M. K. Abrams. Preventive Health Services under the Affordable Care Act: Role of Delivery System Reform. Medscape Public Health, April 2012. Available at: <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/761599>

E. L. Schor, **J. Berenson**, A. Shih, S. R. Collins, C. Schoen, P. Riley, and C. Dermody. Ensuring Equity: A Post-Reform Framework to Achieve High Performance Health Care for Vulnerable Populations. The Commonwealth Fund, October 2011. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Fund-Reports/2011/Oct/Ensuring-Equity.aspx>

K. Stremikis, **J. Berenson**, A. Shih, and P. Riley. Health Care Opinion Leaders' Views on Vulnerable Populations in the U.S. Health System. The Commonwealth Fund, August 2011. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Data-Briefs/2011/Aug/Opinion-Leaders-Vulnerable-Pops.aspx>

N. Highsmith and **J. Berenson**. Driving Value in Medicaid Primary Care: The Role of Shared Support Networks for Physician Practices. The Commonwealth Fund, March 2011. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Publications/Fund-Reports/2011/Mar/Driving-Value-in-Medicaid-Primary-Care.aspx>

T. McGinnis, **J. Berenson**, and N. Highsmith. Increasing Primary Care Rates, Maximizing Medicaid Access and Quality. Center for Health Care Strategies, January 2011. Available at: http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/PCP_Rate_Increase_Issue_Brief_FINAL.pdf

D. Hasselman and **J. Berenson**. Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs for Medicaid Providers: How are States Preparing? Center for Health Care Strategies, January 2010. Available at: http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/Medicaid_EHR_Incentive_Program_Brief.pdf

A. Lind, **J. Berenson**, and N. Highsmith. Performance Measurement in Fee-for-Service Medicaid. Center for Health Care Strategies, October 2010. Available at: http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/CA_FFS_Performance_Measures_Final_102610.pdf

D. Bachrach with S. Somers, M. Bella, and **J. Berenson**. Payment Reform: Creating a Sustainable Future for Medicaid. Center for Health Care Strategies, May 2010. Available at: http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/Medicaid_Payment_Reform_Brief.pdf

E. Mossialos, C. Morel, S. Edwards, **J. Berenson**, M. Gemmill-Toyama, and D. Brogan. Policies and Incentives for Promoting Innovation in Antibiotic Research. World Health Organization, European Observatory of Health Systems & Policies, 2010. Available at: http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/120143/E94241.pdf

Blog Posts (authored as a ghost writer):

Culturally Appropriate Mental Health Care to Address American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Mental Health Disparities. Posted on 10/15/2018. Available at: <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4147>

Mental Health Awareness among Communities of Color: A Cornerstone of Health and Wellness. Posted on 7/27/2018. Available at: <https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/Blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=1236>

Fostering Partnerships to Advance Health Equity Across the Heartland Regional Health Equity Council (RHEC VII): Interview with RHEC VII Partnership Committee Co-chair Janelle Ali-Dinar, PhD. Posted on 7/12/2018. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4134>

Addressing Oral Health Disparities in Urban Settings: Applying the NPA Framework to Advance Access to Oral Health Care. Posted on 6/11/2018. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4121>

Partnering for Health Equity: Interview with Daniel E. Dawes, JD. Posted on 4/30/2018. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4108>

Supporting Families Impacted by Incarceration. Posted on 4/12/2018. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4095>

Untangling the Link between Housing and Health: An Interview with Veronica Helms, Social Science Analyst, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FIHET member. Posted on 2/21/2018. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4082>

The Role of Funding and Other Capacity Needs in Improving Organizational Capacity to Address Health Equity. Posted on 12/22/2017. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4056>

Using Data to Better Serve Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities. Posted on 10/03/2017. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4043>

Closing the Gap on Cardiovascular Disease among African Americans. Posted on 9/18/2017. Available at: <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/npa/blog/BlogPost.aspx?BlogID=4030>

Presentations:

J. Berenson. “Do Poor Fetal Conditions Increase the Risk of Health Problems Later in Life? The Khmer Rouge Rule in Cambodia as a Natural Experiment”. Panel presentation for the Health Economics Interest Group at Academy Health 2019 Annual Research Meeting, June 1-4, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

J. Berenson. “Examining Changes in Health Inequities and the Social Determinants of Health Inequities in Cambodia: Lessons for Taking Action to Promote Health Equity”. Poster presentation at Academy Health 2019 Annual Research Meeting, June 1-4, 2019 in Washington, D.C.

J. Berenson. “Scorecard on State Policies to Promote Health Equity”. Panel presentation at Academy Health 2018 Annual Research Meeting June 25-27, 2017 in Seattle, Washington.

J. Berenson. “Policy Levers for Action to Promote Health Equity” Health Equity panel presentation at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Invest Health meeting December 7, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

J. Berenson. “Identifying the Impact of Food Insecurity on Hospitalizations Among Senior Adults”. Panel presentation at Academy Health 2017 Annual Research Meeting June 25-27, 2017 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

J. Berenson. “Identifying Policy Levers and Opportunities for Action across States to Achieve Health Equity” Health Affairs Health Equity Briefing, June 6, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

J. Berenson. “Public Opinion toward Gated Access to Physician-level Providers,” Poster presentation at Academy Health 2016 Annual Research Meeting, June 25 – 28, 2016 in Boston, MA.

J. Berenson. “Readmissions among Safety Net Hospitals in New York City: Implications for Policy Efforts to Reduce Readmissions,” Poster presentation at the 23rd Annual Symposium on Health Care Services in New York: Research and Practice, sponsored by GNYHA Foundation & the United Hospital Fund, October 24, 2012 in New York, NY.

J. Berenson. “Readmissions among Safety Net Hospitals: Implications for Policy Efforts to Reduce Readmissions,”

Poster presentation at Academy Health 2012 Annual Research Meeting, June 24 – 26, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

J. Berenson. “Achieving Better Quality of Care for Low-Income and Uninsured Populations – The Role of the Medical Home for Reducing Health Inequities,” Panel presentation at Academy Health 2012 Annual Research Meeting, June 24 – 26, 2012 in Orlando, Florida.

J. Berenson. “The Role of the Medical Home for Vulnerable Populations: Opportunities to Reduce Health Disparities in New York City,” Poster presentation at the 22nd Annual Symposium on Health Care Services in New York: Research and Practice, sponsored by GNYHA Foundation & the United Hospital Fund, October 12, 2011 in New York, NY.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Academy Health

Member, American Public Health Association (APHA)