

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Health Policy, political analysis track

2022 – 2027 (expected)

Dissertation committee: Meredith Rosenthal (Chair), Nicole Maestas, Haiden Huskamp, and Alex McDowell

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

2017

B.S. *cum laude*, Neuroscience

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

Medicaid; Medicare; dual-eligibles; quasi-experimental methods; safety net policies; administrative data; pharmaco-economics; survey analysis; transgender health

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Koma JW**, Yang Z, Price M, Cheng D, Marcondes F, Khong K, Hsu J, Alegria M, Newhouse JP, Fung V. *Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program: Enrollment Trends and Characteristics of Low-Income Beneficiaries*. Health Affairs. 2025. In Press.

*Media coverage: interview with Health Affairs Podyssey
2. Bleich SN, **Koma JW**, Jernigan VBB. *The Worsening Problem of Food Insecurity*. JAMA Health Forum. 2023;4(11):e234974.
3. Agénor M, **Koma JW**, Pérez AE, McDowell A, Gonzales G. *Differences in Health Insurance and Usual Source of Care Among Racial/Ethnic and Sexual Orientation Subgroups of U.S. Women and Men*. Popul Res Policy Rev 42, 33 (2023).
4. **Koma JW**, Fugelsten Biniek J, Cubanski J, Neuman T. *Access Problems and Cost Concerns of Younger Medicare Beneficiaries Exceeded those of Older Beneficiaries in 2019*. Health Affairs. 2023. Apr;42(4):470-478. PMID: 37011311
5. **Koma JW**, Vercammen KA, Jarlenski MP, Frelrier JM, Bleich SN. *Sugary Drink Consumption among Children by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Status*. Am J Prev Med. 2020 Jan;58(1):69-78. PMID: 31761517.
6. Agénor M, Pérez AE, **Koma JW**, Abrams JA, McGregor AJ, Ojikutu BO. *Sexual Orientation Identity, Race/Ethnicity, and Lifetime HIV Testing in a National Probability Sample of U.S. Women and Men: An Intersectional Approach*. LGBT Health. 2019 Aug/Sep;6(6):306-318. PMID: 31314667.
7. Vercammen KA, **Koma JW**, Bleich SN. *Trends in Energy Drink Consumption Among U.S. Adolescents and Adults, 2003-2016*. Am J Prev Med. 2019 Jun;56(6):827-833. PMID: 31005465.
8. Jarlenski M, **Koma JW**, Zank J, Bodnar L, Tarr JA, Chang JC. *Media Portrayal of Prenatal and Postpartum Marijuana Use in an Era of Scientific Uncertainty*. Drug Alcohol Depend. 2018 Jun 1;187:116-122. PMID: 29655873.
9. Bleich SN, Vercammen KA, **Koma JW**, Li Z. *Trends in Beverage Consumption Among Children and Adults, 2003-2014. Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2018 Feb;26(2):432-441. PMID: 29134763.

*Selected as “Best of Obesity 2019”

*Selected as “Top Cited Obesity Article 2018-2019”
10. **Koma JW**, Donohue JM, Barry CL, Huskamp HA, Jarlenski M. *Medicaid Coverage Expansions and Cigarette Smoking Cessation Among Low-income Adults*. Med Care. 2017 Dec;55(12):1023-1029. PMID: 29068908.
11. Jarlenski M, **Koma JW**, Zank J, Bodnar LM, Bogen DL, Chang JC. *Trends in Perception of Risk of Regular Marijuana Use among US Pregnant and Nonpregnant Reproductive-aged Women*. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2017 Dec;217(6):705-707. PMID: 28843740.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate Society Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Harvard University

2024

- **Role:** Fellow
- **Description:** Awarded to “outstanding Harvard GSAS doctoral students in the humanities and social sciences”

for the purpose of summer preliminary dissertation research

Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh	2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role: PI• Description: Undergraduate award to conduct independent research with Professor Marian Jarlenski	
Berner International Corporation Private Research Grant, University of Pittsburgh	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role: PI• Description: Awarded private corporation grant to pursue independent research with Professor Marian Jarlenski	
Brackenridge Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role: PI• Description: Undergraduate award to conduct independent research with Professor Marian Jarlenski	
Community-Based Undergraduate Research Fellowship	2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role: PI• Description: Undergraduate award to conduct independent research with Professor Marian Jarlenski	
Fostering Advancement and Careers Through Enrichment Training in Science (FACETS) Fellowship	2015 – 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Role: Fellow• Description: Selected for a 3-year summer research fellowship for low-income and under-represented undergraduate students at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Worked with a team of faculty in the Department of Health Policy and Management on a variety of projects related to health reform and payment policy	

HONORS AND AWARDS

LGBTQ Health Center of Excellence Graduate Student Conference Award, Harvard University	2025
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention, Harvard University	2024
AcademyHealth Conference Funding, NORC at the University of Chicago	2018
University Honors College Scholar Designation, University of Pittsburgh	2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED)

Oral Presentations

1. **Koma JW**, McElroy J, Liu P, Ranganathan K, Landrum MB, Fung V, McDowell A. Effect of Medicaid Coverage Changes on Transgender Enrollees' Mental Health. *American Society for Health Economics*. 2025.
2. **Koma JW**, McElroy J, Liu P, Ranganathan K, Landrum MB, Fung V, McDowell A. Effect of Medicaid Coverage Changes on Transgender Enrollees' Mental Health. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2025.
3. Koma JW, Freitas Dias A, Babbs G, Rosenthal M, Fung V, McDowell A. Rates of insurance coverage of gender-affirming care and utilization among transgender adults by insurance type in 2022. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2024.

Poster Presentations

1. **Koma JW**, Yang Z, Cheng D, Patel T, Marcondes F, Price M, Alegria M, Hsu J, Newhouse JP, Fung V. Enrollment in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program and Access to Care for Low-income Medicare Beneficiaries. *Society for General Internal Medicine*. 2024.
2. **Koma JW**, Yang Z, Cheng D, Patel T, Marcondes F, Price M, Alegria M, Hsu J, Newhouse JP, Fung V. Enrollment in the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program and Access to Care for Low-income Medicare Beneficiaries. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2024.
3. **Koma JW**, Jarlenski M, Vercammen KA, Bleich SN. Trends in sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among children in the United States by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program eligibility status. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2018.
4. **Koma JW**, Agénor M. Sexual orientation disparities in HIV testing among white, black, Latina/o, Asian, and Native young adult U.S. women and men. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2018.

5. **Koma JW**, Donohue J, Barry CL, Huskamp HA, Jarlenski MP. Cigarette smoking cessation among low-income adults without dependent children after Medicaid expansion. *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*. 2017.
6. **Koma JW**, Donohue J, Barry CL, Huskamp HA, Jarlenski MP. Cigarette smoking cessation among low-income adults without dependent children after Medicaid expansion. *ACC Meeting of the Minds*. 2016.
7. **Koma JW**, Jarlenski M, Rosenthal MB. Trends in insurance and access to health care among low-income adults before and after the ACA Medicaid expansion. *Science Conference*. 2015.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS, WHITE PAPERS, AND COMMENTARIES:

1. **Koma JW**, Cubanski J, Neuman T. *FAQs on Medicare Coverage of Telehealth*. Kaiser Family Foundation. May 2022.
2. **Koma JW**, Freed M, Cubanski J, Neuman T. *Seven in Ten Medicare Beneficiaries Did Not Compare Plans During Past Open Enrollment Period*. Kaiser Family Foundation. October 2021.
3. **Koma JW**, Cubanski J, Neuman T. *Medicare and Telehealth: Coverage and Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Options for the Future*. Kaiser Family Foundation. May 2021.
4. **Koma JW**, Cubanski J, Neuman T. *A Snapshot of Sources of Coverage Among Medicare Beneficiaries in 2018*. Kaiser Family Foundation. March 2021.
5. **Koma JW**, Fugelsten Biniek J, Ochieng N, Neuman T, Smith K. *Does Education Narrow the Gap in Wealth Among Older Adults, by Race and Ethnicity?* Kaiser Family Foundation. February 2021.
6. Freed M, **Koma JW**, Cubanski J, Fugelsten Biniek J, Neuman T. *More Than Half of All People on Medicare Do Not Compare Their Coverage Options Annually*. Kaiser Family Foundation. October 2020.
7. **Koma JW**, Rae M, Ramaswamy A, Neuman T, Kates J, Dawson L. *Demographics, Insurance Coverage, and Access to Care Among Transgender Adults*. Kaiser Family Foundation. October 2020.
8. **Koma JW**, True S, Fugelsten Biniek J, Cubanski J, Orgera K, Garfield R. *One in Four Older Adults Report Anxiety or Depression Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Kaiser Family Foundation. October 2020.
9. Claxton G, Levitt L, Garfield R, Kamal R, Neuman T, Kates J, Michaud J, **Koma JW**, Rae M. *How Many Teachers Are at Risk of Serious Illness If Infected with Coronavirus?* Kaiser Family Foundation. July 2020.
10. True S, Ochieng N, Cubanski J, **Koma JW**, Neuman T. *Under the Radar: States Vary in Regulating and Reporting COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities*. Kaiser Family Foundation. June 2020.
11. Claxton G, Levitt L, Garfield R, Kamal R, Neuman T, Kates J, Michaud J, **Koma JW**, Rae M. *Almost One in Four Adult Workers is Vulnerable to Severe Illness from COVID-19*. Kaiser Family Foundation. June 2020.
12. **Koma JW**, Artiga S, Neuman T, Claxton G, Rae M, Kates J, Michaud J. *Low-Income and Communities of Color at Higher Risk of Serious Illness if Infected with Coronavirus*. Kaiser Family Foundation. May 2020.
13. Cubanski J, Neuman T, **Koma JW**. *Older Adults Are Hit Hard by COVID-19 – and Also Losing Jobs*. Kaiser Family Foundation. May 2020.
14. Neuman T and **Koma JW**. *Retirement Insecurity in the Time of COVID-19: The Next Shoe to Drop?* Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.
15. **Koma JW**, Neuman T, Jacobson G, Smith K. *Medicare Beneficiaries' Financial Security Before the Coronavirus Pandemic*. Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.
16. **Koma JW**, Neuman T, Claxton G, Rae M, Kates J, Michaud J. *How Many Adults Are at Risk of Serious Illness If Infected with Coronavirus? Updated Data*. Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.
17. Orgera K, McDermott D, Rae M, Claxton G, **Koma JW**, Cox C. *Urban and Rural Differences in Coronavirus Pandemic Preparedness*. Kaiser Family Foundation. April 2020.
18. Neuman T, **Koma JW**, Pollitz K, Tolbert J, True S. *Where do the Democratic Candidates Stand on Health Reform and Prescription Drug Prices?* Kaiser Family Foundation. February 2019.
19. **Koma JW**, Cubanski J, Jacobson G, Damico A, Neuman T. *No Itch to Switch: Few Medicare Beneficiaries Switch Plans*

During the Open Enrollment Period. Kaiser Family Foundation. December 2019.

20. Neuman T, Pollitz K, Tolbert J, Rudowitz R, **Koma JW**. *10 Key Questions on Public Option Proposals*. Kaiser Family Foundation. December 2019.
21. Cubanski J, **Koma JW**, Damico A, Neuman T. *How Much Do Medicare Beneficiaries Spend Out of Pocket on Health Care?* Kaiser Family Foundation. November 2019.
22. Cubanski J, **Koma JW**, Neuman T. *The Out-of-Pocket Cost Burden for Specialty Drugs in Medicare Part D in 2019*. Kaiser Family Foundation. February 2019.
23. Cubanski J, **Koma JW**, Damico A, Neuman T. *How Many Seniors Live in Poverty?* Kaiser Family Foundation. November 2018.
24. **Koma JW**, Jarlenski M, Casnoff Austein C. *Smoking in America: Medicaid, Quitting, and Income*. The Medical Care Blog. November 2017.
25. **Koma JW** and Jarlenski M. *The Political Context of Medicaid Expansion*. The Medical Care Blog. March 2017.

INVITED LECTURES

1. *How does Medicaid Coverage of Gender-affirming Care Impact Utilization and Adverse Mental Health Outcomes among Medicaid Enrollees?* Boston Children's Hospital, March 2025, Boston, MA.
2. *Rates of Insurance Coverage of Gender-affirming Care and Utilization among Transgender Adults by Insurance Type in 2022*, Boston Children's Hospital, March 2024, Boston, MA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Research in Global Health and Health Policy, Harvard College Spring 2025
- Role: Teaching Fellow (Faculty: Professor David Cutler)
 - Class size and content: 13 Undergraduate students; Taught the principles of policy-writing and analysis through a 50-page policy proposal developed over the semester with each student
- The Changing Landscape of Hospitals in America, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Spring 2024
- Role: Teaching Fellow (Faculty: Professor Alecia McGregor)
 - Class size and content: 30 public health graduate students; Principles and history of hospital care payment and reform, with particular focus on mergers and acquisitions and hospital ownership structures
- The Health Care Safety Net & Marginalized Populations, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Fall 2023
- Role: Teaching Fellow (Faculty: Professor Ben Sommers)
 - Class size and content: 30 public health graduate students; History and analysis of health care safety net and reform in U.S.
- Introduction to Health Policy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Spring 2022
- Role: Teaching Assistant (Faculty: Professor Andrea Campbell)
 - Class size and content: 35 undergraduate students; Introduction to health policy with a focus on payers, providers, and enrollees and their health outcomes through a political science and health economics focus

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Harvard University – Dept. of Health Care Policy 2022 – Present
Research Assistant
- Massachusetts General Hospital – Mongan Institute for Health Policy 2022 – Present
Research Assistant
- Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) – Program on Medicare Policy 2020 – 2022
Policy Analyst
- Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) – Program on Medicare Policy 2018 – 2020
Research Assistant
- NORC at the University of Chicago – Dept. of Health Care Evaluation 2017
Research Assistant

University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health – Dept. of Health Policy and Management 2015 – 2017
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Harvard T.H Chan School of Public Health – Dept. of Health Policy and Management Summers 2015, 2016, 2017
Fostering Advancement and Careers Through Enrichment Training in Science (FACETS) Intern

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Conference Abstract Reviewer

- AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting Women and Gender Health Interest Group 2025

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

- Substitute Small Group Discussion Leader & Grader 2025

Harvard University Ph.D. Program in Health Policy

- Co-representative, Graduate Student Mental Health Survey Working Group 2025
- Co-coordinator of the Health Policy LGBTQ+ Student Group 2023 – Present

Harvard College, Pfozheimer House

- Non-resident Tutor 2023 – 2025