

# ELI KOCHERSPERGER

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## Education

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**Ph.D.** Economics, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV USA, Expected: May 2024.

- **Dissertation:** *Three Essays on Misinformation, Mistrust and their Influence on Public Health Policy*
- **Committee:** Daniel Grossman (Chair), Jane Ruseski, Alicia Plemmons

**M.A.** Economics, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV USA, 2023.

**B.S.** Economics, California University of Pennsylvania, California, PA USA, *Summa cum laude*, 2019.

## Fields of Specialization

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- *Primary:* Health Economics; *Secondary:* Urban & Regional Economics.

## Research

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### Job Market Paper

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- **Quantifying the Effects of Fentanyl Exposure Misinformation on Overdose Deaths**

I identify the influence of the oft-reported, though erroneous claim that incidental contact with the opioid fentanyl is harmful on overdose death rates. I employ restricted-use mortality data to observe changes in opioid-related mortality within media markets following reporting on an early, well-covered fentanyl exposure event. Exploiting regional variation in this reporting within a differences-in-differences framework, I observe marked increases to opioid mortality in treated media markets. I also observe declines in the likelihood for overdose victims to die within hospital settings in these same regions, and argue this demonstrates an increased hesitancy among first responders to render aid.

### Working Papers

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- **Fentanyl on My Mind: Perceived Opioid Exposure Risk and its Influence on Naloxone Administration Rates**
- **Insurance Barrier Impacts on Vaccine Hesitancy: Administrative Burden and COVID-19 Vaccination within the Medicaid Population**

## Teaching Experience

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### West Virginia University, Department of Economics

#### Instructor:

- *Principles of Macroeconomics*, Summer 2021, Fall 2021
- *Principles of Microeconomics*, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023
- *Health Economics* (Undergraduate), Spring 2024

#### Teaching Assistant:

- *Business and Economics Statistics*, Spring 2019
- *Principles of Microeconomics*, Spring 2019
- *Principles of Macroeconomics*, Fall 2020, Spring 2021

## Conference Proceedings

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### Quantifying the Effects of Fentanyl Exposure Misinformation on Overdose Deaths

- American Society of Health Economists Annual Conference, June 2023, St. Louis, MI.
- Pennsylvania Economics Association Annual Meeting, June 2023, Washington, PA.

### Insurance Barrier Impacts on Vaccine Hesitancy: Administrative Burden and COVID-19 Vaccination within the Medicaid Population

- Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2022, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

## Workshops

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### WEAI Graduate Student Workshop

- Western Economic Association International Annual Meeting, July 2023, San Diego, CA.

## Honors and Awards

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- Outstanding Honors Program Graduating Senior Award 2019, Honors College, California University of Pennsylvania.
- Wall Street Journal Award for Excellence in the Study of Economics 2019, Department of Business & Economics, California University of Pennsylvania.
- Distinguished Research Recognition, California University of Pennsylvania Awarded at the 2018 Strike a Spark research conference, California, PA, April 2018.

## Service

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- Reviewer, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Pennsylvania Economic Review*

## Miscellaneous

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**Computer Skills** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Matlab

**Languages** English (native), Polish (basic)

**Citizenship** United States, and married to dual US-EU citizenship holder.

## References

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