
Benjamin D. Sommers, M.D., Ph.D.

Huntley Quelch Professor of Health Care Economics
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Professor of Medicine
Brigham & Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School

EMPLOYMENT & EXPERIENCE

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Boston, MA

Faculty Member, Department of Health Policy & Management

2010 – Present

Professor conducting research and teaching related to health insurance markets, affordability of medical care, Medicaid policy, and health disparities. Published over 120 peer-reviewed research studies and 50 commentaries, reports, and book chapters. Supervised over \$7 million in research grants from foundations and the federal government. Provided expert testimony before Congress and state legislators.

Brigham & Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School

Boston, MA

Faculty Member / Staff Physician, Department of Medicine

2010 – Present

Professor and practicing primary care physician at Brookside Community Health Center, a neighborhood health center in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston, part of Brigham & Women's Hospital.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

Washington, DC

Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

2011 – 2016

Conducted real-time policy evaluation, implementation planning, and regulatory review for the Health Policy team in ASPE, focused on Medicaid expansion and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Authored 9 HHS reports and helped design the data infrastructure and analytical approach for measuring the coverage effects of the ACA. (*Full-time 2011-2012, part-time from 2012-2016*).

Brigham & Women's Hospital

Boston, MA

Resident Physician

2007 – 2010

Residency training program in Internal Medicine and Primary Care. Served as Primary Care Chief Resident at the Boston VA.

EDUCATION

Harvard Medical School

Boston, MA

M.D., *Cum Laude*

2007

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Ph.D. in Health Policy; Concentration in Economics

2005

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

B.A. in English, *Summa Cum Laude*; Minor in Jewish Studies

2000

SELECTED HONORS

Member, National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

2019

AcademyHealth Health Services Research Impact Award

2017

AcademyHealth Article of the Year Award

2015

Member, National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI)

2015

Alice Hersh New Investigator Award, AcademyHealth

2015

Outstanding Junior Investigator, Society for General Internal Medicine (SGIM)

2015

NIH Health Disparities Loan Repayment Award

2012-2013

AcademyHealth National Dissertation Award

2006

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Economics

2001

Princeton University Pyne Prize – Princeton's highest undergraduate award

2000

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Research Articles:

Figueroa, J.F., Wadhera, R.K., Lee, B., Yeh, R.W., **Sommers, B.D.** (2020). “Community-Level Factors Associated with Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Rates in Massachusetts.” *Health Affairs*.

Agarwal, S., **Sommers, B.D.** (2020). “Insurance Coverage after Job Loss — The Importance of the ACA during the COVID-Associated Recession.” *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Sommers, B.D., Goldman, A.L., et al. (2019). “Medicaid Work Requirements: Results from the First Year in Arkansas.” *New England Journal of Medicine*. 381(11): 1073-1082.

Sommers, B.D., Clark, K.L., Epstein, A.M. (2018). “Early Changes in Health Insurance Coverage under the Trump Administration.” *New England Journal of Medicine*. 378(11):1061-1063.

Gonzales, S., **Sommers, B.D.** (2018). “Intra-Ethnic Coverage Disparities among Latinos and the Effects of Health Reform.” *Health Services Research*. 53(3) 1373-1386.

Sommers, B.D., Gruber, J. (2017). “Federal Funding Insulated State Budgets From Increased Spending Related To Medicaid Expansion.” *Health Affairs*. 36(5):938-944.

Frean, M., Gruber, J., **Sommers, B.D.** (2017). “Premium Subsidies, the Mandate, and Medicaid Expansion: Coverage Effects of the Affordable Care Act.” *J Health Economics*. 53: 72-86.

Sommers, B.D., Maylone, B., et al. (2017). “Three-Year Impacts of the Affordable Care Act: Improved Medical Care and Health Among Low-Income Adults.” *Health Affairs*. 36(6):1119-1128.

Mensah, M.O., **Sommers, B.D.** (2016). “The Policy Argument for Healthcare Workforce Diversity.” *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. 31(11):1369-1372.

Sommers, B.D., Gunja, M.Z., et al. (2015). “Changes in Self-reported Insurance Coverage, Access to Care, and Health Under the Affordable Care Act.” *JAMA*. 314(4):366-374.

Sommers, B.D., Long, S.K., Baicker, K. (2014). “Changes in Mortality after Massachusetts’ Health Care Reform.” *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 160(9):585-593.

Sommers, B.D., Oellerich, D. (2013). “The Poverty-Reducing Effect of Medicaid.” *J Health Econ*. 32(5):816-832.

Sommers, B.D., Baicker, K., Epstein, A.M. (2012). “Mortality and Access to Care Among Adults After State Medicaid Expansions.” *New England Journal of Medicine*. 367(11):1025-1034.

Sommers, B.D., Kronick, R. (2012). “The Affordable Care Act and Insurance Coverage for Young Adults.” *JAMA*. 307(9):913-914.

Reviews / Book Chapters:

Baicker, K., **Sommers, B.D.** (2020). “Insurance Access and Health Care Outcomes.” In E.J. Emanuel, A.R. Gluck (Eds.), *The Trillion Dollar Revolution* (pp. 209-224). New York: Public Affairs.

Sommers, B.D., Gawande, A., Baicker, K. (2017). “Health Insurance Coverage and Health – What the Recent Evidence Tells Us.” *New England Journal of Medicine*. 377(6):586-593.

Op-Eds:

STAT. “The Trump administration’s ‘public charge’ rule: bad policy at the worst time.” Aug 2020.

Washington Post. “The GOP health-care plan would quietly kill the Medicaid expansion..” Mar 2017.

USA Today. “Obamacare is a lifeline that's doing enormous good.” June 2017

Boston Globe. “Repealing the Affordable Care Act — Fact vs. Fiction.” Dec. 2016.

Media Coverage:

CNN, MSNBC, NPR, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, USA Today, LA Times