

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Public Health
Department of Health Management and Policy

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Daniel Eisenberg, assistant professor of health management and policy, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of health management and policy, with tenure, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	Economics, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California
B.A.	1997	Economics, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California

Professional Record:

2004 to present	Assistant Professor of Health Management and Policy, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2002-2004	Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of California-Berkeley School of Public Health

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Eisenberg has emerged as a strong, successful and committed teacher. His didactic teaching has included four different courses in the health management and policy masters program and one course in the doctoral program. His teaching focuses on methods for cost-effectiveness/cost-benefit analysis in public health, behavioral economics, and mental health policy. Professor Eisenberg has also been very involved with doctoral-level advising and mentoring, including service on seven dissertation committees. He has involved numerous doctoral students in his own research, participating in all aspects of the research process from conception to writing. Eight students have co-authored at least one published paper with him (for a total of ten papers), and six students have participated in writing successful grant proposals. Professor Eisenberg's contributions to the HMP doctoral program have been significant and impressive, and he is viewed as having great leadership potential in this area.

Research: Professor Eisenberg's research as a behavioral economist primarily focuses on mental health among young people, particularly adolescents and young adults. His research uses population-based samples and sophisticated analytic approaches to increase understanding of key public health problems and to elucidate/evaluate potential policy levers and interventions. To date, he has had 25 peer-reviewed publications, 13 of which he is first author. He has also been very successful in garnering external funding for his work.

His largest project to date is the Healthy Minds Study, a web-based survey of college student mental health, focusing on mental health status (particularly depression, anxiety, and eating disorders), treatment utilization, and potential barriers/facilitators to help-seeking behavior. Professor Eisenberg conceived of and began this important work in 2005 with a pilot survey of University of Michigan students, expanding the study to include 13 campuses around the nation in 2007 and 15 in 2009. The results are making major contributions to the understanding of mental health among college students, which has been a relatively understudied population. Descriptive manuscripts have begun to broaden the base of knowledge about mental health and help-seeking among college students, including such topics as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation; utilization of and barriers to mental health care; self-injury; and eating disorders. Professor Eisenberg has also begun to build on this descriptive work by addressing more analytical questions. For example, he has examined the role of *mental illness stigma* as a barrier to help-seeking among college students, finding somewhat surprisingly that an individual's *perceptions* of public stigma do not predict help-seeking behavior whereas an individual's *own* stigmatizing attitudes are strongly

predictive of help-seeking behavior. Professor Eisenberg has also started a line of research investigating the relationship between mental health and academic outcomes, finding that depression, anxiety, and eating disorders are significant predictors of lower grade point average, and depression is also a significant predictor of dropping out of college.

A second major thread of research investigates the determinants of health-related behaviors, particularly tobacco and alcohol use. Many of Professor Eisenberg's studies in this area are based on natural experiments that make it possible to identify causal estimates. For example, he used the natural experiment arising from the Vietnam draft lottery to examine smoking behavior during adulthood, finding that military service during the early 1970s caused an approximate 30 percent increase in the probability of smoking during young adulthood, but this large differential dissipated to zero by middle adulthood. Additional work has focused on alcohol-related policies and programs aimed at reducing traffic fatalities from drinking and driving, and the policy implications of the impact of weather on traffic accidents and fatalities. A third stream of research focuses on measuring societal preferences for health at different ages. In a seminal paper published in the leading health policy journal (*Health Affairs*, 2007), Professor Eisenberg reanalyzed recent cost-effectiveness studies of vaccine interventions for children using alternative assumptions based on evidence from studies related to the valuation of health by age group. The important conclusion from this study is that standard cost-effectiveness studies greatly understate the relative value of many interventions for young people.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Hunt, J, Eisenberg, D. (2010). Mental Health Problems and Help-Seeking Behavior among College Students. *Journal of Adolescent Health* 46(1): 3-10.
- Eisenberg, D., Golberstein, E., Hunt, J. (2009). Mental Health and Academic Success in College. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 9(1) (*Contributions*): Article 40.
- Eisenberg, D., Downs, M., Golberstein, E., Zivin, K. (2009). Stigma and Help-seeking for Mental Health among College Students. *Medical Care Research and Review* 66(5): 522-541.
- Eisenberg, D, and Rowe, B. (2009). The Effects of Smoking in Young Adulthood on Smoking and Health Later in Life: Evidence based on the Vietnam Era Draft Lottery. *Forum for Health Economics and Policy* 12(2): Article 4.
- Eisenberg, D, Golberstein, E, Gollust, S, Hefner, J. (2007). Help-seeking and Access to Mental Health Services in a University Student Population. *Medical Care* 45(7): 594-601.
- Eisenberg, D, Freed, G. (2007). Reassessing How Society Prioritizes the Health of Young People. *Health Affairs* 26(2): 345-354.
- Eisenberg, D, Schneider, H. (2007). Perceptions of Academic Skills of Children Diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. *Journal of Attention Disorders* 10: 390-397.
- Eisenberg, D, Quinn, B. (2006). Estimating the Causal Effect of Smoking Cessation on Weight Gain: An Instrumental Variables Approach. *Health Services Research* 41(6): 2255-2266.
- Eisenberg, D, Warner, K. (2005). The Effects of Snowfalls on Motor Vehicle Collisions, Injuries, and Deaths. *American Journal of Public Health* 95: 120-124.

Service: Professor Eisenberg has supported the development of doctoral students as researchers by serving as the faculty advisor to their seminar series for work in progress and professional development (Workshop on Integrating Disciplines and Topics in Health, or WIDTH), and by initiating and organizing "dissertation groups" in which students are grouped together based on research area and stage in the program. They meet regularly with each other and with faculty mentors attached to each group. Professor Eisenberg's service to the doctoral program has greatly enhanced mentoring and the intellectual environment for doctoral students. Professor Eisenberg has also played an integral role in the planning and organization of the University of Michigan's annual Depression on College Campuses conference, rising to the leadership position of co-chair from 2007-2009. As his publication record has grown, Professor Eisenberg has also begun to emerge as a mental health policy expert on the national scene.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "I suspect strongly that Prof. Eisenberg will become quickly the "go to" scholar in the field of mental health policy and economics."

Reviewer (B): "He is broad in his perspectives and range of interests, asks important questions, and is clever and thorough in how he frames and addresses questions."

Reviewer (C): "I was impressed by the thoroughness of the statistical approach, and his concern to test the robustness of his findings rather than just accepting them at face value...I was also impressed that his papers went beyond simply stating the policy implications of the findings; each one included an attempt to quantify those policy implications."

Reviewer (D): "Professor Eisenberg has built an impressive research record, mainly focused on the determinants of substance abuse and other healthy behaviors, and on mental health among young people. He is a sophisticated user of applied econometrics."

Reviewer (E): "Eisenberg has produced a set of thoughtful and well crafted papers on a number of key issues in mental health, substance abuse and related issues such as motor vehicle accidents."

Reviewer (F): "Daniel obviously could be successful in any line of health services or policy research. He has excellent training, a curious mind and strong analytical skills...(His) work is already providing key insights into the mental health of college students."

Reviewer (G): "In addition to being econometrically sophisticated, Dr. Eisenberg's research has also contributed to several 'real world' policy debates...(He) will continue to be, a highly respected and productive health economist and health services researcher."

Reviewer (H): "His scholarship has been prolific and, in some ways, highly innovative. He has stretched well beyond the bounds of his disciplinary training in seeking to understand important public health problems."

Reviewer (I): "Dr. Eisenberg has a very solid record of research with both excellent breadth and depth in his research interests...Dr. Eisenberg's research portfolio is complemented by excellent teaching reviews and mentoring of graduate students."

Reviewer (J): "His work is of very high quality and will go a long way towards advancing the field of mental health economics."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Eisenberg's policy-focused research is thoughtful, executed with methodological sophistication, and is making significant marks on important areas of public health concern, including the mental health of young adults and substance abuse. He has been very productive both in terms of publications and in garnering external support for his research. Professor Eisenberg has also shown significant leadership in terms of the mentoring and professional development of doctoral students. I enthusiastically recommend Daniel Eisenberg for promotion to associate professor of health management and policy, with tenure, School of Public Health.



Kenneth E. Warner, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Public Health

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