JULIAN MERCER

POLICY ANALYST

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Policy Analyst with 10 years in state government and national research organizations, focused on health and economic policy. Builds quantitative analyses, writes briefs for legislators and funders, and presents findings to non-technical audiences. Strong in Stata, survey data, and cost estimation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Policy Analyst Aug 2022 - Present
Urban Institute, Washington, DC

- Lead analysis for a three-year study of state Medicaid enrollment policies using Stata and linked administrative data on 2.4M records.
- Authored five research briefs read by state agency staff and cited in two legislative hearings.
- Built a microsimulation of eligibility changes with two colleagues and estimated coverage effects for 12 states within a funder timeline.
- Presented findings to state officials and advocates in six webinars of 150 to 400 attendees.
- Manage a $410,000 project budget and a research assistant, delivering all milestones on time.
- Developed a data-sharing agreement with two state agencies and built the data cleaning steps that handled linked records reproducibly.

Research Associate Jul 2019 - Jul 2022
The Pew Charitable Trusts, Washington, DC

- Analyzed state fiscal data to compare spending on safety net programs across 50 states for a flagship report.
- Created Tableau dashboards that reporters and state staff used to compare state results by year.
- Fact-checked 20 reports and issue briefs and corrected data discrepancies before publication.
- Interviewed 30 state officials and summarized implementation barriers in policy memos.
- Coordinated peer review for reports with outside academics and state experts and incorporated their comments into final drafts.
- Trained four new analysts on Stata coding standards and documentation so analyses could be replicated.

Policy Analyst Jun 2016 - Jun 2019
Maryland Department of Legislative Services, Annapolis, MD

- Wrote fiscal and policy notes on about 90 bills a session, estimating costs for the General Assembly.
- Briefed committee members on health and human services budgets before hearings and answered follow-up questions.
- Analyzed agency budget submissions and recommended reductions of $14M that legislators considered in budget markup.
- Tracked and summarized 40 pieces of health legislation each session for committee staff and flagged conflicting provisions.

CORE SKILLS

Quantitative analysis | Stata | Cost estimation | Microsimulation | Legislative analysis | Policy brief writing | Survey data analysis | Tableau | Program evaluation | Budget analysis | Stakeholder interviews | Presenting to officials | Medicaid policy

EDUCATION

Master of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Washington, DC

CERTIFICATIONS

Tableau Desktop Specialist