

K R I T E E G U J R A L

Economist | VA Palo Alto | Stanford University | kgujral@stanford.edu | [Google Scholar](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Florida (UF), Economics Dec '16
Master of Arts, UF, Economics Dec '13
Bachelor of Arts, UF, Mathematics & Economics (*summa cum laude*) May '10
Minor in Statistics

SKILLS

Methods: Exploratory Data Analyses, Advanced Statistical Analyses, Econometrics, Quasi-Experimental Analyses/Causal Inference (e.g. difference-in-difference (DID), synthetic control, instrumental variables, propensity score matching), Randomized Controlled Experiments, Forecasting & Machine Learning (e.g. random forests, neural networks, and explainable/causal ML)
Programming: SQL, Stata, Python (e.g. pandas, keras, tensorflow, scikit-learn, xgboost, ARIMA, prophet), & R

EXPERIENCE

Economist & Data Scientist, Veterans Affairs (VA), Menlo Park, CA Jul '20 – Present

- Over 25 statistical analyses of the impact of VA's health and cash benefit programs on patients, health care use, and costs.
- Worked with VA leaders and clinical staff to identify relevant economics & patient care questions to inform VA policies.
- Used causal inference to show video telehealth increased therapy by 32%, and reduced costly emergency visits by 20%.
- Used causal inference to show regional hubs offering telehealth increased preventive care by 20% with no cost increases.
- Used random forests & neural networks to improve prediction of video telehealth users by 12%, for patient outreach.
- 15 publications, VA Best Paper Award (2022), Pacific Region & National Awards (2023 & 2024); Grant Lead, > \$2 mill.
- Findings presented to VA leaders who briefed the [U.S. Congress](#) and covered by the press, e.g. [NYT](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Politico](#), & [Reuters](#).

Researcher (part-time), Center for Responsible & Effective AI, Stanford University, CA Oct '25 – Present

- Conducted economic evaluations of large language model (LLM)-based tools for mental health care.

Instructor Affiliated (part-time), Stanford University, Dept. of Psychiatry, Stanford, CA Mar '24 – Present

- Mentored students in economics, causal inference methods, statistical modeling, & predictive modeling.
- Mentored students in translating ambiguous policy & operational questions into data analyses that can provide answers

Consultant (part-time), Firearm Policy Research, University of Washington, Seattle, WA Jun '20 – Dec '21

- Used causal inference to show that areas with shootings had 7-14% more stress-related emergency visits post-shooting.
- Published an economics policy paper with extensive sensitivity analyses. Findings covered by the press.

Post-Doctoral Research Analyst, University of Washington, Seattle, WA May '18 – Jun '20

- Used a difference-in-difference study design to show that hospital closures in rural areas increased mortality by 6-8%. Findings covered by several news outlets, e.g. [NBC News](#), [Fox News](#), & [TIME Magazine](#).
- Showed bias due to randomized controlled experiments if dynamic population distribution changes are overlooked.
- Conducted multivariate regression analyses to show mis-pricings in the 2016 & 2020 election prediction markets.

Consultant/Senior Analyst, International Tax, Ernst & Young, San Jose, CA May '17 – May '18

- Consulted with technology firms, conducted economic valuations of tangible & intangible assets, & developed tax reports.
- Conducted data analyses of technology industry trends to set company prices for international product transfers.

Economics Instructor (part-time), UF Gainesville, FL Summer '14, Spring '15, & Fall '15

- Taught Public Economics & Intermediate Microeconomics as the sole instructor for three semesters.
- Economics Graduate Teaching Award (2014 & 2015); Overall Rating 4.9/5.

Pre-Doctoral Research Analyst, State of Karnataka's Food Subsidy Program, India Nov '10 – Jul '11

- Analyzed & quantified corruption in the state's food subsidy program at \$396 mill. in losses to the state government.
- Designed & analyzed surveys of subsidized food grain sellers to examine economic viability.
- Project report submitted to the government, highlighted in national news (e.g. [NDTV](#), [The Economic Times](#), & [Deccan Herald](#)), and led to data digitization policies in the state.

PUBLICATIONS

Gujral, K., Scott, J. Y., Dismuke-Greer, C. E., Jiang, H., Illarmo, S., Wong, E., Chow, A., & Yoon, J. (2025). Impact of VA's Clinical Resource Hub Primary Care Telehealth Program on Health Care Use and Costs. *Medical Care*.

Gujral, K., Illarmo, S., Jacobs, J., Wagner, T.H. (2025). The Economics of Telehealth: An Overview. *Telemedicine and e-Health*.

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Gujral, K., Esmacili, A., Leonard, S.A., Shaw, J.G., Joyce, V.R., Panelli, D.M., Schmitt, S.K., Kimerling, R., Main, E.K., Phibbs, C.S. (2025). Severe maternal morbidity and potential disparities by race and rurality among VA-covered births, 2010 to 2020. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Tran, LD., Wagner, TH., Bahraini, N., Brenner, LA., & **Gujral, K.** (2025). Patient-Provider Race Concordance and Primary Care Suicide Risk Screening in the Veterans Health Administration. *Health Services Research*.

Panelli, D.M., Esmacili, A., Joyce, V.R., Chan, C., **Gujral, K.**, Schmitt, S.K., Murphy, N.F., Kimerling, R., Lockett, M., Leonard, S.L., Shaw, J.G., Main, E.K., Phibbs, C.S. (2025). Association Between Mental Illness and Risk of Severe Maternal Morbidity in Pregnant Veterans. Forthcoming in *The Green Journal - Obstetrics & Gynecology*.

Jacobs, JC., Greene, L., SooHoo, S., Slightam, C., **Gujral, K.**, Zulman, D. (2024). The role of social support in bridging the digital divide for older Veterans. *Medical Care*.

Yoon, J., **Gujral, K.**, Dismuke-Greer, L., Scott, J., Jiang, H. (2024). Growth of Community Outpatient Care in the Veterans Affairs System after the MISSION Act. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

Gujral, K., Scott, J. Y., Dismuke-Greer, C. E., Jiang, H., Wong, E. & Yoon, J. (2023). The Clinical Resource Hub telehealth program and use of primary care, emergency, and inpatient care during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

Gujral K., Van Campen J, Jacobs J, Lo J, Kimerling R, Blonigen DM, Wagner TH, & Zulman DM (2023). Sociodemographic Differences in the Impact of VA's Video Telehealth Tablets on Psychotherapy Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Psychiatric Services*.

Gujral, K., Van Campen, J., Jacobs, J., Kimerling, R., Zulman, D. M., & Blonigen, D. (2023). Impact of VA's video telehealth tablets on substance use disorder care during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*.

Gujral, K., Bahraini, N., Brenner, L.A., Van Campen, J., Zulman, D.M., Illarmo, S., & Wagner, T.H. (2023). VA's Implementation of Universal Screening and Evaluation for Suicide Risk Identification Program in November 2020 – implications for Veterans with prior mental health needs. *PLOS One*.

Gujral, K., Ellyson, A., Rowhani-Rahbar, A., & Rivara, F (2023). The community impact of school shootings on stress-related emergency department visits. *Contemporary Economic Policy*.

- Highlighted by news outlets: Science Magazine, [Physician's Weekly](#), [HealthDay News](#), & [Mirage News](#).

Dismuke-Greer, C., Esmacili, A., Mukoso, O., **Gujral, K.**, Garcia, C., Del Negro, A., Davis, B., & Egede, L. (2023). Racial/Ethnic and Geographic Disparities in Comorbid Traumatic Brain Injury-Renal Failure in US Veterans and Associated Veterans Affairs Resource Costs, 2000-2020. *Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*.

Gujral, K., Van Campen, J., Jacobs, J., Kimerling, R., Blonigen, D., & Zulman, D. M. (2022). Mental health service use, suicide behavior, and emergency department visits among rural US veterans who received video-enabled tablets during the COVID-19 pandemic. *JAMA Network Open*.

- **Received the National VA 2022 Best Paper Award.**
- Presented VA leaders who briefed the U.S. Congress on several occasions (e.g. [05/2024 Congressional testimony 1:21:00](#)).
- Highlighted by news outlets: [The New York Times](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Reuters Health](#), & [Politico](#).

Wagner, T.H., Hattler, B. Stock, E.M., Biswas, K., Bhatt, D.L., Bakaeen, F.G., **Gujral, K.**, & Zenati, M.A. (2022). Costs of Endoscopic vs Open Vein Harvesting for Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting. *JAMA Network Open*.

Gujral, K., Scott, J. Y., Dismuke-Greer, C. E., Jacobs, J., Chow, A., & Yoon, J. (2022). A Primary Care Telehealth Pilot Program to Improve Access: Associations with Patients' Health Care Utilization and Costs. *Telemedicine and e-Health*.

Oh, A., Scott, J. Y., Chow, A., Jiang, H., Dismuke-Greer, C. E., **Gujral, K.**, & Yoon, J. (2022). Rural and urban differences in the national implementation of Virtual Integrated Patient-Aligned Care Teams (V-IMPACT). *Journal of Rural Health*.

Sabin, J., Guenther, G., Ornelas, I. J., Patterson, D. G., Andrilla, C. H. A., Morales, L., **Gujral, K.**, & Frogner, B. K. (2022). Brief online implicit bias education increases bias awareness among clinical teaching faculty. *Medical Education Online*.

Basu, A., & **Gujral, K.** (2020). Evidence generation, decision making, and consequent growth in health disparities. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Gujral, K. (2020). Rural hospital closures increase mortality. *Vox EU Centre for Economic Policy Research*, available at [VoxEU](#).

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Gujral, K., & Basu, A. (2019). Impact of rural and urban hospital closures on inpatient mortality (No. w26182). *National Bureau of Economic Research*.

- Highlighted by news outlets, e.g. [NBC News](#), [TIME Magazine](#), [Fox News](#), [The Daily Yonder](#), [The Brookings Institution](#), [Center for American Progress](#), [Wisconsin Public Radio](#), [Becker's Hospital Review](#), [North Carolina Health News](#), [DotMed](#), [Bustle](#), & [VoxEU](#).

Stershic, A., & **Gujral, K.** (2020). Arbitrage in political prediction markets. *The Journal of Prediction Markets*.

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Gujral, K. et al (2025). Impact of VA's annual suicide screening requirement on health care use and mortality.

Gujral, K. et al (2025). Impact of VA's Clinical Telehealth Suicide Prevention Program.

Gujral, K. et al (2025). Trends in VA disability-related benefits, 2010-2024.

Gujral, K. et al (2025). Health impacts of VA's disability-related compensation and unemployment benefits.

Tran, L., Wagner, T., Bahraini, N., & **Gujral, K.** (2025). Prevalence of positive mental health screens within VA, 2021-2024.

SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

Seminar, <i>Instrumental Variables</i> , Health Economics Resource Center, VA Palo Alto, virtual	Apr '25
Seminar, VA Data Boot Camp: Overview of VA Mental Health Data, virtual	Oct '24
Seminar, Options for Evaluating VA Programs, VA Cost Effectiveness Series, virtual	April '24
Seminar, Suicide Prevention, VA Spotlight on Suicide Prevention, virtual	May '23
Seminar, <i>Instrumental Variables</i> , Health Economics Resource Center, VA Palo Alto, virtual	Feb '23
Seminar, VA Data Boot Camp: Overview of VA Mental Health Data, virtual	Oct '22
Presentation, VA Substance Use Disorder Disparities Workgroup Meeting, virtual	Sep '22
Seminar, VA National Center for PTSD: Tech into Care Lecture Series, virtual	Sep '22
Poster Presentation, Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Washington D.C., USA	Jun '22
Guest Lecture, Health Services Research (HSERV 592), UW, virtual	May '22
Seminar, VA Data Boot Camp: Overview of VA Mental Health Data, virtual	Oct '21
Presentation, Mental Health Care CORE Meetings, VA Palo Alto, virtual	Sep '21
Presentations, American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Conference, virtual	Jun '21
Seminar, <i>Instrumental Variables</i> , Health Economics Resource Center, VA Palo Alto, virtual	Mar '21
Guest Lecture, Health Services Research (HSERV 592), UW, virtual	Dec '20
Guest Lecture, <i>Economics of Hospitals</i> , Health Econ. (PHARM568), UW, Seattle, WA, USA	Feb '20
Presentation, Southern Economic Association Conference, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA	Nov '19
Presentation, Health Resources & Services Admin. (HRSA) Journal Club, virtual	Nov '19
Presentation, Health Economics ("PHEnOM") Seminar at UW, Seattle, WA, USA	Sep '19
Presentation, Vancouver Health Economics Meeting, Vancouver, BC, Canada	Jun '19
Presentation, Health Economics ("PHEnOM") Seminar at UW, Seattle, WA, USA	Mar '19
Presentation, Public Choice Society Meetings, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, USA	Mar '16
Presentation, Southern Economic Association Meetings, Atlanta, GA, USA	Nov '14

GRANTS & FUNDING

Principal Investigator, VA's Career Development Award, <i>VA's virtual care initiatives and suicide prevention – machine learning and mixed methods</i> , Veterans Health Administration (VA) Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D)	Oct '24- Sep '29
Principal Investigator, VA VISN 21 Pacific Region Early Career Award, <i>VA's virtual care initiatives and suicide prevention – machine learning methods</i>	Oct '23- Sep '24
Principal Investigator, <i>Impact of VA-issued telehealth tablets on suicide deaths</i> , HSR&D-funded Suicide Prevention Research Impact Network (SPRINT)	Oct '23- Sep '24
Principal Investigator, <i>Impact of VA-issued telehealth tablets on VA's suicide prevention for high-risk rural veterans</i> , VA Office of Rural Health (ORH)	Oct '21 - Sep '22
Principal Investigator, Researcher/Evaluator-in-Residence with Office of Connected Care, <i>Synthesis of Telehealth Costs Literature – Economic Perspective</i> , VA's HSR&D	Oct '21 - Sep '22

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Principal Investigator, <i>Impact of VA-issued telehealth tablets on suicide deaths</i> , HSR&D SPRINT Planning Award	Oct '21 - Sep '22
Principal Investigator, <i>Impact of VA-issued telehealth tablets on substance use disorder outcomes among rural and urban veterans</i> , Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i), VA Palo Alto Healthcare System	Oct '21 - Sep '22
Co-Investigator, <i>Enhancing Veterans' Access to Care through Video Telehealth Tablets (P.I.: Donna Zulman)</i> , VA ORH	Jan '21 – Sep '23
Co-Investigator, <i>Pregnancy Outcome Indicators (P.I.s: Ciaran Phibbs and Susan Frayne)</i> , VHA Office of Women's Health Services	Jan '21 – Sep '23
Co-Investigator, <i>Clinical Resource Hub National Program Evaluation (P.I.: Jean Yoon)</i> , VA Primary Care Analytics Team (PCAT)	Jun '20 – Sep '23
Co-Investigator, <i>Virtual Care and COVID-19 (P.I.: Jean Yoon)</i> , VA PCAT	Jun '20 – Sep '22
Research Consultant, <i>Firearm Injury and Policy Research Program (P.I.: Frederick Rivara)</i> , State of Washington	Jun '20 – Oct '20
Co-Investigator, <i>Cooperative Agreement for a Regional Center for Health Workforce Studies: Health Equity (P.I.: Bianca Frogner)</i> , Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	Jan '20 – Jun '20
Post-doc investigator, <i>Value of Information Methods for NHLBI Trials (P.I.: Anirban Basu)</i> , National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	May '18 – Mar '20
Grantee, Madelyn Lockhart Travel Funding, University of Florida	Jan '16
Grantee, R.F. Lanzillotti Graduate Fellowship in Public Policy, University of Florida	Apr '14
Grantee, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Government.	Aug'08 - May '10
Grantee, National Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant, Federal Government.	Aug'08 - May '10
Grantee, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, State of Florida	Aug'06 - May '10

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Referee, Journal of Health Economics
Referee, Journal of American Medical Association
Referee, Health Affairs
Referee, American Journal of Health Economics
Referee, Medical Care
Referee, Medical Decision Making
Referee, Medical Care Research and Review
Referee, Psychological Services
Referee, Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation
Referee, Digital Health
Member, Electronic Health Economics Colloquium
Member, American Society of Health Economists
Member, American Economic Association
Member, Southern Economic Association
Member, National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity