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Education

Degree/Position	*Completed*	*Institution*
Postdoctoral fellow	2016	University of Texas at Austin
Ph.D. in Social Welfare	2014	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Master of Social Work	2008	Western Michigan University
Bachelor of Social Work	2007	Western Michigan University

Employment

2025-present Professor of Social Work
Washington University in St. Louis, The Brown School

2021-2025 Associate Professor of Sociology and Public Policy
The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)
Department of Sociology and Criminology
Child Maltreatment Solutions Network

2024-2025 Liberal Arts Endowed Fellow, Penn State

2021-2023 Associate Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology and Criminology, Penn State

2016-2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Penn State

2008-2010 Child Protective Services Specialist, Michigan Department of Human Services

Current Funded Projects

2025-2028 Kinship Diversion: An Analysis of Prevalence and Impacts on Crime
Funder: Arnold Ventures (Co-PI)

2024-2027 *Lives Cut Short*: A Project to Identify and Understand Child Maltreatment Fatalities (Co-PI)
Funder: American Enterprise Institute

2023-2027 Capstone Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Child Abuse and Neglect; Dissemination and Outreach Core (MPI)

Funder: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (P50HD089922) NICHD

2022-2027 Implications of Parental Incarceration for Child Health and Wellbeing (PI)
Funder: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (R01 HD107154)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

(*author was student at time of original submission; ^ author was postdoctoral fellow at time of original submission)

1. Fernandez Escobar, Renzo* and Sarah **Font.** 2026. Children's Educational Outcomes: Variation By Children's Living Arrangements and Exposure to Maternal Criminal Legal System Involvement. *Social Science Research* (forthcoming).
2. Palmer, Lindsey, Caitlin Lau, Anthony Gómez, Rebecca Rebbe, Sarah **Font**, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. "Beyond Permanency: Subsequent Maltreatment Referrals and Removals Among Children Exiting Foster Care to Guardianship." *Child Maltreatment*.
3. Jones, Dylan, Sarah **Font**, Melissa Jonson-Reid, Jesse Helton, and Brett Drake. 2026. "Understanding the Decline in Foster Care Entries in the United States." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
4. Jones, Dylan M., Sarah **Font**, and Brett Drake. 2026. "The Decline of Congregate Care in the United States Foster Care System, 2004–2024." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
5. **Font**, Sarah, Renzo Fernandez Escobar*, and Kristin Turney. 2026. "Care Arrangements for Children Exposed to Maternal Incarceration: Evidence From Wisconsin." *Journal of Marriage and Family*.
6. Chen, Wan-Ting^, Christian M. Connell, and Sarah A. **Font.** 2026. "Child Welfare Involvement and Health Outcomes in Infants With Prenatal Substance Exposure." *JAMA Health Forum*.
7. Shelton, Jenna^ and Sarah **Font**. 2026. "Different Reporters, Different Futures? Child and Parent Outcomes after Child Protection Reports." *Child Maltreatment.*
8. **Font**, Sarah, Ann Swanson*, Renzo Fernandez Escobar*, and Lawrence Berger. 2026. "Short-Term Consequences of Parents' Criminal Legal System Involvement for Children's Academic Performance." *Children and Youth Services Review*.
9. **Font**, Sarah A., Kristin Turney, and Christopher Wildeman. 2026. "Does Paternal Criminal Legal System Involvement Increase Children's Risk of Child Protective Services Contact? Evidence from Wisconsin Linked Administrative Data." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
10. Kurpiel, A., Dylan M. Jones^, Christian M. Connell, and Sarah **Font**. 2026. "Is concurrent child welfare intervention associated with recurrent juvenile justice contact? Evidence from Pennsylvania." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
11. Lowenthal, Gabrielle*, and Sarah **Font**. 2026. "Adverse Childhood Experiences in the Context of Maternal Criminal Justice System Involvement." *Child Protection and Practice*.
12. Jones, Dylan^ and Sarah **Font.** 2026. "Siblings Split between Foster Care and Home: Prevalence, Nature, and Outcomes." *Child Maltreatment*.

13. Palmer, Lindsey, Eunhye Ahn, Sarah **Font**, Caitlin Lau, and Andrea Lane Eastman. 2026. "A Call for Help? Adolescent Neglect Reports as Indicators of Mental and Behavioral Health Struggles." *Journal of Adolescent Health.*
14. Jones, Dylan M.^, Christian M. Connell, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2026. "Are In-Home and Foster Care Services Associated With Risk of Maltreatment-Related Fatality and Near Fatality Following a Child Protection Case? Evidence From Pennsylvania." Child Maltreatment.
15. **Font**, Sarah, Christian M. Connell, Ezra G. Goldstein, and Dylan Jones^. 2026. "The Intersection of Prenatal Substance Exposure and Child Protection: Evidence from Pennsylvania." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.*
16. Jones, Dylan^, Sarah **Font**, Ezra Goldstein, and Marcy Cross*. 2026. "Substance Use Treatment Accessibility and Uptake among Child Welfare-Involved Mothers." *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.
17. **Font**, Sarah, Beatriz De Araujo Silva*, and Dylan Jones^. 2025. "Pregnancy and Reproductive Healthcare among Adolescent Girls in the Child Welfare System." *Frontiers in Pediatrics*.
18. Connell, Christian M., Ezra G. Goldstein, Ziyu Huang*, and Sarah **Font.** 2025. "The Role of Child Welfare in the Detection and Treatment of Early Childhood Developmental Concerns", *JAMA Health Forum.*
19. Sattler, Kierra M. P., Sarah **Font**, and Carlo Panlilio. 2025. "Foster Care Entry and Later Academic Achievement among Infants Involved with Child Protective Services". *Child Development.*
20. Jones^, D., Sarah **Font**, and Ezra Goldstein. 2025. "Congregate Care and Risk of Delinquency: A Reexamination Accounting for Preexisting Youth Behavioral Health Risk." *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
21. **Font**, Sarah, Melissa Jonson-Reid, and Peter Siriprakorn.* 2025. "Who Should Respond to Substance-Exposed Infants? Reflections on U.S. Policies Limiting the Role of Child Protective Services." *Child Protection and Practice*.
22. Font, Sarah and Christopher Mills. 2025. "Safe from Harm? Peers and Criminal Capital Formation in Congregate Foster Care." *Journal of Human Resources. Note: Authors alphabetical.*
23. Palmer, Lindsey, Sarah A. **Font,** Eunhye Ahn, Rebecca Rebbe, and Julia Reddy. 2025. "Infants in the Child Welfare System: Exposure and Risks of Parental Alcohol and Drug Misuse." *Maternal and Child Health*.
24. Jones^, Dylan M., Sarah A. **Font**, Minjoo Lee, Rebecca Orsi-Hunt, and Hyunil Kim. 2025. "Sometimes, Only Some Siblings Go to Foster Care: Exploring Split Sibling Groups in a Nationwide Sample." *Child Maltreatment*.
25. Goldstein, Ezra and Sarah **Font.** 2025. "Prevalence and Treatment of Maternal Substance Use Disorder in Child Welfare." *JAMA Health Forum*.
26. Swanson, Ann S.*, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2026. "Receipt and Timeliness of Mental Health Assessment, Treatment, and Acute Services Following Foster Care Entry." *Child Maltreatment*.
27. Goldstein, Ezra, Sarah **Font**, Christian Connell, Reeve Kennedy, and Allison Kurpeil*. 2024. "Do Foster Youth Face Harsher Juvenile Justice Outcomes? Re-investigating Child Welfare Bias in Juvenile Justice Processing". *Criminology and Public Policy*.

28. **Font**, Sarah, and Lindsey Palmer. 2024. "Left Behind? Educational Disadvantage, Child Protection, and Foster Care." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
29. Littleton, Tenesha, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2024. "Racial Residential Segregation and Disparities in Child Protective Services: A Study of Large U.S. Counties." *International Journal on Child Maltreatment: Research, Policy and Practice*.
30. Kurpiel, Allison*, Sarah A. **Font**, and Christian M. Connell. 2024. " Juvenile Offending among Maltreated Youth: Assessing Type-Specificity and Offense Specialization in the Cycle of Violence." *Crime & Delinquency*.
31. **Font**, Sarah A., Reeve Kennedy^, and Tenesha Littleton. 2023. "Child Protective Services Involvement and Exclusionary School Discipline." *Child Development*.
32. Sattler, Kierra, Sarah A. **Font**, and Toria Herd^. 2023. "Foster Care, Kinship Care, and the Transition to Adulthood: Do Child Welfare System Processes Explain Differences in Outcomes?", *Children & Youth Services Review*
33. Palmer^, Lindsey, Toria Herd^, Ann Shun Knobel*, and Sarah A. **Font.** 2023. **"**A Longitudinal Analysis of Concerning Psychotropic Medication Regimens among Adolescents in Foster Care." *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
34. Drake, Brett, Dylan Jones, Hyunil Kim, John Gyourko, Antonio Garcia, Richard P. Barth, Sarah A. **Font**, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Jill Duerr Berrick, Johanna K. P. Greeson, Victoria Cook, Patricia L. Kohl, and Melissa Jonson-Reid. 2023. "Racial/Ethnic Differences in Child Protective Services Reporting, Substantiation and Placement, With Comparison to Non-CPS Risks and Outcomes: 2005–2019." *Child Maltreatment.*
35. **Font,** Sarah A. & John Fluke. 2024. "Understanding and Promoting Child Wellbeing After Child Welfare System Involvement: Progress Made and Challenges Ahead". *International Journal of Child Maltreatment. [Special issue]*.
36. Lindsey Palmer^, Sarah A. **Font**, Rebecca Rebbe, John Prindal, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2023. "Lifetime rates and types of subsequent child protection system contact following a first report of neglect: An age-stratified analysis." *PLOS One.*
37. Herd^, Toria, Lindsey Palmer^, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2023. "Prevalence and Change in Mental Health Diagnoses for Adolescents in Foster Care: A Longitudinal Analysis." *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics/*
38. Potter, Marina H.*, Tenesha Littleton^, and Sarah **Font.** 2022. "State Support Policies and Children's Living Arrangements". *Child Abuse & Neglect.*
39. Palmer, Lindsey^, Sarah **Font,** Toria Herd^, John Prindle, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2022. "Rates of Emotional Disturbance Among Children in Foster Care: Comparing Federal Child Welfare Data and Medicaid Records in Two States." *Child Maltreatment*.
40. Kennedy, Reeve^, Marina H. Potter*, and Sarah A. **Font.** 2022. "Meta-analysis of race disparities in outcomes of foster children", *Journal of Violence, Trauma, & Abuse.*
41. Palmer Lindsey^, Sarah A **Font,** Andrea Eastman, Lillie Guo, and Emily Putnam-Hornstein."What Does Child Protective Services Investigate as Neglect? A Population-Based Study" *Child Maltreatment.*
42. **Font,** Sarah A., Michael C. Caniglia*, Reeve Kennedy^, and Jennie G. Noll. 2022. "Child Protection Intervention and the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Females Ages 13-17." *JAMA Pediatrics*.

43. Potter, Marina*, Reeve Kennedy^, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2022. "Rates and Predictors of Child Maltreatment Re-Perpetration against New Victims and Prior Victims" *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
44. **Font,** Sarah A. and Reeve Kennedy^. 2022. "The Centrality of Child Maltreatment to Criminology." *Annual Review of Criminology*.
45. Russotti, Justin, Sarah A. **Font**, Sheree L. Toth, and Jennie G. Noll. 2022. "Developmental Pathways from Child Maltreatment to Adolescent Pregnancy: A Multiple Mediational Model." *Development and Psychopathology*.
46. Kennedy, Reeve S^., Sarah A. **Font**, Ann-Christin Haag, and Jennie G. Noll. 2021. "Childhood Sexual Abuse and Exposure to Peer Bullying Victimization." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
47. **Font,** Sarah A., and Hyun Woo Kim. 2021. "Sibling Separation and Placement Instability for Children in Foster Care." *Child Maltreatment*.
48. **Font**, Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, Jessie Slepicka*, and Maria Cancian. 2021. "Foster Care, Permanency, and Risk of Prison Entry." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.
49. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn., Sarah A. **Font**, Rebecca Dillard, Daji Dvalishvili, and Sheila Barnhart. 2021. "Neighborhood Poverty and Adverse Childhood Experiences over the First 15 Years of Life." *International Journal of Child Maltreatment.*
50. DiGiovanni, Anna*, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2021. "Revisiting Conventional Wisdom: What Do We Know from 30 Years of Research on Sibling Placement in Foster Care?" *Children & Youth Services Review*.
51. **Font**, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2021. "The Scope, Nature, and Causes of Child Maltreatment." *Annals of the American Academy of Social and Political Sciences.*
52. Guastaferro, K., Sarah A. **Font**, Sheridan Miyamoto, Kathleen M. Zadzora, Katie Walters, K. O'Hara, Allison Kemner, and Jennie G. Noll. 2023. "Provider Attitudes and Self-Efficacy when Delivering a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Module: An Exploratory Study." *Health Education & Behavior*.
53. Guastaferro, Kate, John M. Felt^, Sarah A. **Font**, Christian Connell, Sheridan Miyamoto, Allison Kemner, Kathleen M. Zadzora, and Jennie G. Noll.2021. "Parent-Focused Sexual Abuse Prevention: Results from a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial." *Child Maltreatment.*
54. Sattler, Kierra M. P.^ and Sarah A. **Font**. 2021. "Predictors of Adoption and Guardianship Dissolution: The Role of Race, Age, and Sex among Children in Foster Care." *Child Maltreatment*.
55. **Font,** Sarah A. and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2020. Foster Care: How We Can, and Should, Do More for Maltreated Children. *Social Policy Report.*
56. Ruiz, Andrea L.* and Sarah A. **Font**. 2020. "Role of Childhood Maltreatment on Weight and Weight-Related Behaviors in Adulthood." *Health Psychology.*
57. Hanrath, Lily*, and Sarah A. **Font**. 2020. "Gender Disparities in Criminal Sentencing for
58. Child Physical Abuse and Neglect." *Crime & Delinquency.*
59. **Font,** Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2020. It's not "Just poverty": Educational, social, and economic functioning among young adults exposed to childhood neglect, abuse, and poverty. *Child Abuse & Neglect.*

60. **Font,** Sarah A., Maria Cancian, Lawrence M. Berger, and Anna DiGiovanni*. 2020. Patterns of intergenerational child protective services involvement. *Child Abuse & Neglect.*
61. **Font**, Sarah A. and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2020. "The Organizational Context of the Decision to Substantiate in Child Protective Services Cases." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
62. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, Sarah A. **Font**, and Rebecca Dillard*. 2020. Child protective services decision-making: The role of children's race and county factors. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry.*
63. **Font**, Sarah A., Maria Cancian, and Lawrence M. Berger. 2019. Prevalence and Risk Factors for Early Motherhood among Low-Income, Maltreated, and Foster Youth. *Demography*.
64. **Font,** Sarah A., and Marina H. Potter*. 2019. "Socioeconomic Resource Environments in Biological, Kinship, and Non-Relative Family Care and Children's Cognitive Performance." *Sociological Inquiry*.
65. Panlilio, Carlomagno C., Sheridan Miyamoto, Sarah A. **Font**, and Hannah Schreier. 2019. "Assessing Risk of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Youth Involved with the Child Welfare System." *Child Abuse and Neglect*.
66. Potter*, Marina H. and Sarah A. **Font**. 2019. "Parenting Influences on Sexual Risk-taking in Adolescents: Differences by Child Welfare Placement Status." *Children & Youth Services Review.*
67. **Font,** Sarah A., Kierra M. P. Sattler*, and Elizabeth Gershoff. 2018. "When Home is Still Unsafe: From Family Reunification to Foster Care Reentry." *Journal of Marriage and Family*.
68. **Font,** Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, Maria Cancian, and Jennifer L. Noyes. 2018. "Permanency and the Educational and Economic Attainment of Foster Youth in Early Adulthood." *American Sociological Review*.
69. **Font,** Sarah A., Kierra Sattler*, and Elizabeth Gershoff. 2018. Measurement and Correlates of Foster Care Placement Changes. *Children & Youth Services Review*.
70. Gershoff, Elizabeth T., Sarah A. **Font**, Catherine A. Taylor, Ann Budzak Garza, Denyse Olson-Dorff, and Rebecca H. Foster. 2018. "A Short-Term Evaluation of a Hospital No Hit Zone Policy to Increase Bystander Intervention in Cases of Parent-to-Child Violence." *Children and Youth Services Review*..
71. Sattler*, Kierra M. P., Sarah A. **Font**, and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2018. "Age-Specific Risk Factors Associated with Placement Instability among Foster Children." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
72. **Font,** Sarah A., and Jamie Cage*. 2018. "Dimensions of Physical Punishment and Their Associations with Children's Cognitive Performance and School Adjustment." 2017. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
73. Slack, Kristen S., Sarah A.**Font**, Kathryn Maguire-Jack, and Lawrence Berger. 2017. "Predicting Child Protective Services (CPS) Involvement among Low-Income US Families with Young Children Receiving Nutritional Assistance." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.*

74. **Font**, Sarah A., and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2017. "Contextual Factors Associated with the Use of Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools." *Children and Youth Services Review.*.
75. Sattler*, Kierra M. P. and Sarah A. **Font**. 2017. "Resilience in Young Children Involved with Child Protective Services." *Child Abuse and Neglect.*
76. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn and Sarah A. **Font.** 2017. "Community and Individual Risk Factors for Maltreatment." *Child Maltreatment*.
77. Berger, Lawrence M., Sarah A. **Font,** Kristen S. Slack, and Jane Waldfogel. 2017. "Income and Child Maltreatment in Unmarried Families: Evidence from the Earned Income Tax Credit." *Review of Economics of the Household*.
78. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, and Sarah A. **Font.** 2017. **"**Intersections of Individual and Neighborhood Disadvantage: Implications for Child Maltreatment." *Children & Youth Services Review.*
79. **Font**, Sarah A., Elizabeth T. Gershoff, Catherine A. Taylor, Ann Budzak Garza, Denyse Olson-Dorff, Rebecca H. Foster, Amy Terrero, Monica Nielson-Parker, and Lisa Spector. 2016. "Staff Responses to Parents Hitting Children in a Hospital Setting." *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.*
80. Gershoff, Elizabeth T., Sarah A. **Font**, Catherine A. Taylor, Amy Terrero, Monica Nielson-Parker, Lisa Spector, Rebecca H. Foster, Ann Budzak Garza, and Denyse Olson-Dorff. 2016. "Medical Center Staff Attitudes about Spanking." *Child Abuse & Neglect.*
81. Gershoff, Elizabeth T. and Sarah A. **Font.** 2016. "Corporal Punishment in U.S. Public Schools: Prevalence, Disparities in Use, and Status in State and Federal Policy." *Social Policy Report.*
82. **Font,** Sarah A, and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2016. "Pathways from Childhood Abuse and Other Adversities to Adult Health Risks: The Role of Adult Socioeconomic Conditions." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
83. Kim Hirsch, Bomi, MiYoun Yang, Sarah **Font**, and Kristen Slack. 2016. "Physically Hazardous Housing and Risk for Child Protective Services Involvement." *Child Welfare.*
84. **Font**, Sarah A. 2015. "Child Protection Investigations in Out-Of-Home Care: Perpetrators, Victims and Contexts." *Child Maltreatment*.
85. **Font,** Sarah A, and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2015. "Decision-Making in Child Protective Services: Influences at Multiple Levels of the Social Ecology." *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
86. **Font,** Sarah A. 2015. "Is Higher Placement Stability in Kinship Care By Virtue or Design?" *Child Abuse & Neglect*.
87. **Font**, Sarah. A., and Lawrence M. Berger. 2015. "Child Maltreatment and Children's
88. Developmental Trajectories in Early to Middle Childhood." *Child Development*.
89. **Font**, Sarah. A. 2015. "Are Children Safer with Kin? A Comparison of Maltreatment Risk in Out-Of-Home Care." *Children & Youth Services Review*.
90. Berger, Lawrence M., and **Font,** Sarah A. 2015. "The Role of Families in Children's Health." *Future of Children*.
91. Berger, Lawrence M., J. Michael Collins, Sarah A. **Font,** Leah Gjertson, Kristen Slack, and Timothy Smeeding. 2015. "Home Foreclosure and Child Protective Services Involvement." *Pediatrics*.

92. Warren, Emily J., and Sarah A. **Font**. 2015. "Housing Insecurity, Maternal Stress, and Child Maltreatment: An Application of Family Stress Theory." *Social Service Review*.
93. **Font,** Sarah A. 2014. "Kinship and Nonrelative Foster Care: The Effect of Placement Type on Child Well-Being." *Child Development.*
94. Maguire-Jack, Kathryn, and Sarah A. **Font.** 2014. "Predicting Recurrent Maltreatment among High-Risk Families: Applying the Decision-Making Ecology Framework." *Children and Youth Services Review.*
95. **Font**, Sarah A. 2013. "Service Referral Patterns among Black and White Families Involved with Child Protective Services." *Journal of Public Child Welfare*.
96. **Font**, Sarah A., and Kathryn Maguire-Jack. 2013. "Academic Engagement and Performance: Estimating the Impact of Out-of-Home Care for Maltreated Children." *Children & Youth Services Review.*
97. **Font,** Sarah A., and Emily J. Warren. 2013. "Inadequate Housing and the Child Protection System Response." *Children & Youth Services Review*.
98. **Font,** Sarah A. 2012. "Burnout in Child Welfare: Examining the Role of Employment Characteristics and Workplace Opportunities." *Social Service Review*.
99. **Font**, Sarah A., Lawrence M. Berger, and Kristen S. Slack. 2012. "Examining Racial Disproportionality in Child Protective Services Case Decisions." *Children & Youth Services Review*.
100. Unrau, Yvonne A., Sarah A. **Font**, and G. Rawls. 2012. "Readiness for College Engagement among Students Who Have Aged Out of Foster Care." *Children & Youth Services Review*.

Select Invited Committees and Policy Working Groups

2025- Bipartisan Policy Center Workgroup on Termination of Parental Rights

2024 - Research Consortium on Child Welfare and Medicaid Research
Sponsored/led by: U.S. Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

2024 - Bipartisan Policy Center Workgroup on Child Welfare Financing and Accountability
Blueprint for Reform
Chairs: Wendell Primus and Cassie Statuto-Bevan

2023 - Advisory Committee on the Review of Pennsylvania Policies Affecting Adverse Childhood Experiences
Sponsored/led by: Pennsylvania General Assembly, Joint State Government Commission

2023 - Child Abuse Registry Project
Led by: Cathleen Palm, Center for Children's Justice
Sponsored by: Annie E. Casey Foundation

2023 - Maltreatment in Out-of-Home Care, Advisory Board
Led by: Amy Dworsky, Chapin Hall
Sponsored by: US Administration for Children and Families
HHS-2022-ACF-OPRE-FA-0149

2022 - National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Board
Led by: NDACAN Director Christopher Wildeman

2022 - Research Advisory Committee, Pennsylvania Office of Children Youth and Families

2021 Child Welfare Analytics Roundtable: Towards an Analytic Framework to Address Economic-Related Risk Factors in Child Welfare
Sponsored/led by: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Policy Papers

1. **Font**, Sarah. 2026. Let's Prioritize Children's Best Interests in Our Kinship Care Policies. *American Enterprise Institute.* [Position Paper for the Child Welfare Innovation Working Group]
2. **Font,** Sarah A. 2026. When Parental Substance Use Endangers Children: Defining Imminent Risk for Child Protection Systems. *Center for the Rights of Abused Children.*
3. **Font**, Sarah A. and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2025. Does cash prevent child abuse and neglect? A critical review of the evidence. *American Enterprise Institute.*
4. **Font** Sarah, et al. 2024. The US is failing substance-exposed infants. *American Enterprise Institute.* [Position Paper for the Child Welfare Innovation Working Group]
5. **Font**, Sarah. 2023. How Long Do States Let Children in Foster Care Wait for Permanent Families? Timely Permanency Report Cards. *American Enterprise Institute.*
6. **Font**, Sarah A. and Lindsey Palmer. 2022. Timely Permanency for Children in Foster Care: Revisiting Core Assumptions about Children's Options and Outcomes. *Court Review* [Journal of the American Judges Association]. Special issue on the Adoption and Safe Families Act.
7. Schaefer Riley, Naomi, Brett Drake, Sarah **Font,** and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2021. What Child Protection Is For. *American Enterprise Institute.* [Position Paper for the Child Welfare Innovation Working Group]
8. **Font,** Sarah A. January 19, 2021. What Lessons Can the Child Welfare System Take from the COVID-19 Pandemic? *American Enterprise Institute.* [Position Paper for the Child Welfare Innovation Working Group]
9. **Font,** Sarah A. 2020. Data Challenges and Opportunities in Child Welfare. *American Enterprise Institute.* [Position Paper for the Child Welfare Innovation Working Group]

Editorials

1. **Font,** Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. The case against RxKids. *Detroit News.*

2. Putnam-Hornstein, Emily, and Sarah **Font.** 2026. The Family First Bet on Prevention Hasn't Paid Off. *Imprint News*
3. **Font,** Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. The False Promise of "Kin-First" Foster Care. *City Journal. [*rerun in the *Daily Wire]*
4. **Font,** Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. Opinion | An anonymous abuse report targeted Buttigieg, but Michigan CPS did its job. *Bridge Michigan.*
5. **Font,** Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. Opinion: Foster care, in CT and elsewhere, is getting a bad rap. *The Connecticut Mirror.*
6. **Font,** Sarah and Cathleen Palm. 2026. State tracks child abuse deaths but critical gaps remain | Opinion. *Erie Times-News.* [rerun in *The Sentinel*].
7. **Font,** Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2026. Professors: Children are being harmed by Illinois' tepid response to abuse and neglect. *Chicago Tribune.*
8. Bendell, Lindsay and Sarah **Font.** 2026. Why Missouri should stop shielding police misconduct from public view. *Missouri Independent*.
9. Putnam-Hornstein, Emily and Sarah **Font**. 2026. How harm reduction fails families. *The Imprint.*
10. Putnam-Hornstein, Emily and Sarah **Font**. 2026. Op-Ed: Louisiana needs more transparency when children die due to abuse, neglect. *Center Square.*
11. **Font**, Sarah A. and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2025. Professors: Does providing money to parents who have mistreated their kids actually improve child welfare? *Chicago Tribune.*
12. **Font**, Sarah A. and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2025. The odd bipartisan effort to oversell home visiting. *The Imprint.*
13. Font, Sarah and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2025. Opinion | Will a New Law Really Give Minnesota a Gold Standard in Child Protection Policies? *Minnesota Star Tribune.*
14. **Font**, Sarah A. 2025. Protecting kids in foster care requires a bigger, better-trained workforce. *City Journal.*
15. **Font**, Sarah A. 2025. Welfare policies don't prevent harm. *Arkansas Democrat Gazette.*
16. **Font**, Sarah A. and Emily Putnam-Hornstein. 2025. Indiana DCS cuts foster care in half -- and now claims children are safer. *Indianapolis Star.*
17. Schaefer Riley, Naomi and Sarah **Font.** 2025. New York's Child Services Says It's Saving Lives—Count Us Skeptical. *City Journal.*
18. Schaefer Riley, Naomi and Sarah **Font.** 2025. Opinion: How did torture of man in Waterbury go on for so long? *Stamford Advocate.*
19. Emily Putnam-Hornstein and Sarah **Font.** 2024. Why is national child welfare leadership silent on child deaths? *Imprint News.*
20. Font, Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2023. The problem with lived experience. *Quillette.*
21. **Font,** Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2023. Op/Ed: DCS has failed children it was supposed to protect. This lawsuit shows why. *Indianapolis Star.*
22. **Font,** Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2023. Foster Kids Need Permanent Homes. *Wall Street Journal.*
23. Herd, Toria and Sarah **Font**. How parents can play a key role in the prevention and treatment of teen mental health problems. 2022. *The Conversation.*
24. **Font,** Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2022. Massachusetts policies failed Harmony Montgomery. *Boston Globe.*

25. **Font,** Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2022. Longer stays in foster care can harm Illinois children. *Chicago Tribune.*
26. Herd, Toria and Sarah A. Font. 2022. How parents can play a key role in the prevention and treatment of teen mental health problems. *The Conversation.* [rerun in *Lake County News.*]
27. **Font,** Sarah A. and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2021. Opinion: Why are states putting child sex abuse victims back in the home of their abusive parents? *USA Today.*
28. **Font,** Sarah Anne and Naomi Schaefer Riley. 2021. Child welfare after the pandemic. *New York Daily News***.**
29. ***Font,** Sarah A. July 30, 2020. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children in Foster Care [Blog Post]. Penn State Social Science Research Institute: Insights from Experts.
30. **Font,** Sarah A. & Elizabeth Gershoff. 2016. Gershoff and Font: School corporal punishment should be banned *Houston Chronicle*

Public Presentations

1. Rethinking "Kin-First": Placing Children's Interests at the Center of Foster Care Policy. Public event, American Enterprise Institute. (2026).
2. Testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations, LHHS subcommittee. Advancing Permanency in Child Welfare: Leveraging Federal Funding for Adoption Programs. (2026).
3. Clarity on the Clearinghouse: Does the Tool That Tells Us What Works Really Work? Public event, *American Enterprise Institute* (2026).
4. Protection is Prevention: New Insights on Reducing Child Maltreatment Fatalities. Public event, *American Enterprise Institute.* (2026).
5. Children, Parents, and the "Carceral State": Revisiting Conventional Wisdom. [Oral Presentation] Ohio State University Institute for Population Research. (2026).
6. Bipartisan Blueprint for Modernizing Federal Child Welfare Financing. Webinar, *Bipartisan Policy Center.* (2025).
7. Is Less Better? Revisiting the Role of Child Protection and Justice Systems within Vulnerable Families. [Oral Presentation] Duke University Population Research Institute (2024).
8. Supporting Youth Exiting Foster Care: What Works And What Is Still Needed. Institute for Research on Poverty [Webinar] (2023).

Podcast and TV/Radio Interviews

1. Remembering Their Names. *One in Ten Podcast [National Children's Alliance].* (2025).
2. The Future of Child Welfare Reform: Taking Incremental Steps on the Path to Big Changes. [Podcast] James Bell Associates on behalf of the Children's Bureau (2024).

3. Were you ready to be home alone at 13? St. Louis on the Air, St. Louis Public Radio (2023).
4. Invisible Kids: America's Journey From Orphanages To Foster Care. The Lost Debate [podcast], Branch Media (2023).
5. Project PA | The process of investigating child abuse Local 21 Harrisburg [Television] (2020).

Print Media Interviews and Media Mentions

1. Staff Report. 2026. Report Warns Fentanyl in Homes Poses Growing Threat to Young Children. *Fingerlakes1.com*
2. Senate bill aims to expose abuse at residential treatment centers for children. *NBC news (2025).*
3. Toothless 'child advocate' position should be replaced by empowered abuse watchdog, former officeholder says. *Spotlight PA* (2025).
4. 4-year-old Harlem boy's death raises questions about child services' response. CBS NY [television](2024).
5. They sleep on cots, travel for showers. Why are kids living in DCS offices, sometimes for weeks? *Indianapolis Star* (2024).
6. How Minnesota's child protection system exposes kids to more abuse, neglect. Minneapolis Star Tribune (2023).
7. Missouri school district reinstates spanking if parents OK. *Associated Press* (2022).
8. Cassville policy needs to be abandoned. *Yahoo News* (2022).
9. Use of Foster Care Went Down During the First Pandemic: Did Maltreatment? *The Imprint* (2022).
10. State handling of child abuse records and appeals process criticized in new report. *The Tribune-Democrat [Harrisburg, PA]* (2020).
11. Destiny was 15 when her outcry sparked a #MeToo reckoning in Texas foster care. Now, the trial. *San Antonio Express News* (2020).
12. 'The perfect storm:' How COVID-19 has multiplied the risk for children in abusive households *Pennsylvania Capital-Star* (2020).
13. Wisconsin Study Finds Foster Care Besting Reunification on Education Outcomes *Chronicle of Social Change* (2018).
14. Opinion: Stop beating black children. *New York Times* (2017).
15. Black Children Are More Likely To Get Hit By School Teachers, Report Says. *Huffington Post* (2016).

Peer-Reviewed Commentaries

(* Invited)

1. ***Font,** Sarah A. Book review of "Set to see us fail: Debating inequities in the child welfare system of New York." *Contemporary Sociology, 53*(3), 236-238.

2. Drake, Brett, Dylan Jones, Jun-Hong Chen, Sarah **Font**, Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Richard P. Barth, and Melissa Jonson-Reid. 2024. Poverty or Racism? A Re-Analysis of Briggs et al. 2022. *Research on Social Work Practice*.
3. ***Font**, Sarah A. Reflections on the Use of Evidence in Child Welfare. 2022. *Research on Social Work Practice.*
4. ***Font,** Sarah. 2021. Making Meaning of Cumulative Child Welfare System Involvement. *American Journal of Public Health*.
5. **Font,** Sarah A. 2016. A Defense of "Soft Coercion" in the Child Welfare System and Targeted Programs - A Response to Pelton (2016). *Child Abuse and Neglect.*

Books, Book Chapters, and Reports

1. **Font,** Sarah A., and Elizabeth T. Gershoff. 2020. *Foster Care and "Best Interests of the Child": Integrating Research, Policy, and Practice.* Springer Advances in Child and Family Policy and Practice.
2. **Font,** Sarah A., Kathryn Maguire-Jack, and Rebecca Dillard. 2020. "The Decision to Substantiate Allegations of Child Maltreatment", in *Decision Making and Judgment in Child Welfare and Protection: Theory, Research, and Practice* [Editors John D. Fluke, Monica Lopez, Rami Benbenishty, Erik J. Knorth, and Donald J. Baumann]. Oxford University Press.
3. **Font,** Sarah A., Sheridan Miyamoto, and Casey Pinto. 2020. Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation in Pennsylvania. PA: Center for Rural Pennsylvania.
4. **Font,** Sarah A. 2017. "Psychological, Economic, and Physical Health Consequences of Child Maltreatment." In L. Dixon, D. Perkins, L. A. Craig, and C. Hamilton-Giachritsis (Eds.), *What works in child protection: An evidence-based approach to assessment and intervention in care proceedings*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Service on Grant Review Panels (2022-2026)

- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE)
- Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin - Madison (IRP)
- William T. Grant Foundation (WTG)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Israel Science Foundation (ISF)

Prior External Grants

2018-2025 R01 HD095946, NICHD (PI)
System and Social Determinants of the Health of Foster Children

2021-2025 R01 HL158577, NHLBI (Co-I)

Child maltreatment and cardiovascular disease risk: examining psychosocial and immunological pathways in a prospective, longitudinal cohort

2017-2022 P50 HD551411, NICHD (Co-I, Dissemination and Outreach Core [DOC])
Capstone Center for Multidisciplinary Research in Child Abuse and Neglect

2017-2019 R21 HD091459, NICHD (Site PI/Co-I)
Emerging Adulthood for Maltreated and Foster Youth
Total Funding: $423,000

2018-2019 Center for Rural Pennsylvania (Co-PI)
Incidence Rates and Risk Factors for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Rural and Urban Counties in Pennsylvania
Total Funding: $49,953

2013 Population Health Dissertation Grant
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Program

Awards and Honors

2026 Provost's Research Excellence Award, Washington University in St. Louis

2023 Liberal Arts Endowed Fellow, College of Liberal Arts, Penn State

2014 Honorable mention—Outstanding Social Work Doctoral Dissertation
Society for Social Work and Research

2013 Irving Piliavin Award
University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Social Work

2012 Doctoral Student Research Paper Award
University of Wisconsin – Madison, School of Social Work

Teaching

At Washington University in St. Louis
SWSP6001 Policy and Services for Children and Youth (Spring 2026)

At Penn State
HDFS 553 Child Maltreatment Policy and Interventions (Fall 2024)
SOC513 Graduate Research Methods (Fall 2021, Fall 2022)
SOC497 Public Policy & Social Welfare (Spring 2019, Fall 2020)
CMAS 258 / HDFS 258 / HDFS 297J Introduction to Child Maltreatment & Advocacy Studies (Fall 2016, 2017, 2019)

CRIM 537 Crimes Against Children (Spring 2018)

At University of Wisconsin - Madison
SW534 Introduction to Social Statistics (Summer 2012, 2013)