

JESSICA PAC

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Positions

Asst. Professor 2019-Present UW-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
Co-Director 2022-Present Center on Child Welfare Policy and Practice
Co-Director 2019-Present Inequality research area, Center for Demography and Ecology
Affiliate 2019-Present Center for Demography and Ecology
Affiliate 2019-Present Institute for Research on Poverty
Affiliate 2019-Present UW-Madison Prevention Research Center

Education

Ph.D. 2015-2019 Columbia University School of Social Work
Economics and Social Policy
M.Phil. 2018 Columbia University
Social Work
M.P.A. 2012-2014 Cornell University
Social Policy and Public Policy
B.A. 2003-2007 University of Colorado at Boulder
International and Public Affairs

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Pac, Jessica and Berger, Lawrence M. “Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Employment Effects of the 2021 Fully Refundable Monthly Child Tax Credit.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, forthcoming

Imm, Pam, **Pac, Jessica**. (2023) “Child maltreatment: a comparison of children identified in health care and child protective services (CPS) records” *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice (in print)*

Pac, Jessica, Sophie Collyer, Lawrence M. Berger, Kirk O’Brien, Elizabeth Parker, Peter Pecora, Whitney Rostad, Jane Waldfogel, and Christopher Wimer. (2023) “The Effects of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Protective Services Involvement” *Social Service Review* 97(1), 43-91.

Media mentions: [PACes in Education](#); [Imprint News](#); [Fostering Media Connections Podcast](#)

Pac, Jessica, Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and Ehrental, Deborah. “Opioid Use During Pregnancy and Infant Health and Wellbeing.” (2023) *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* Volume 703, Issue 1, September 2022, Pages 106-138
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162231154338>

Pac, Jessica. (2021) “Early Childhood Education and Care Programs in the United States: Does Access Improve Child Safety?” *Social Service Review*, 95(1), 66-109.

Pac, Jessica, Garfinkel, Irwin, Kaushal, Neeraj, Nam, Jaehyun, Nolan, Laura, Waldfogel, Jane, and Wimer, Christopher (2020) “Reducing poverty among children: Evidence from state policy simulations,” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 115

Pac, Jessica, Nam, Jae Hyun, Waldfogel, Jane, and Wimer, Christopher. (2017) “Young Child Poverty in the United States: Analyzing Trends in Poverty and the Role of Anti-Poverty Programs Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 74, 35-49

Pac, Jessica, Waldfogel, Jane, and Wimer, Christopher. (2017) “Poverty among Foster Children: Estimates Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure” *Social Service Review*, 91(1), 8-40

Pac, Jessica. (2017) “The Effect of Monthly Stipend on the Placement Instability of Youth in Out-Of-Home Care” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 72, 111-123

Under Review

Pac, Jessica, Bartel, Ann, Ruhm, Christopher, and Waldfogel, Jane. “Paid family leave and parental investments in infant health: Evidence from California” *previous version available as NBER Working Paper #25784, Economics and Biology, R&R*

Berger, Lawrence M., Durrance, Christine, Kuo, Daphne, **Pac, Jessica**, Wang, Yi, and Ehrenthal, Deborah. "Changes in Prenatal Prescription Opioid Use Among Medicaid Beneficiaries in Wisconsin, 2010-2019." *Pediatrics, R&R*

Berger, Lawrence M., Durrance, Christine, Kim, HeeJin, Kuo, Daphne, **Pac, Jessica**, and Ehrenthal, Deborah. “Estimating the Prevalence of Prenatal Opioid Exposure by Likelihood of Exposure and Potential Risk to Prenatal Development: Evidence from Medicaid-Covered Births in Wisconsin, 2010-2019” *Science Advances*

Working Papers

Pac, Jessica, Wimer, Chris, Waldfogel, Jane. “Heterogeneity in the financial benefits of ACA Medicaid expansions by health and disability status”

Pac, Jessica, Dudareva, Yulia, and Ros Pilarz, Alejandra. "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Infant Health"

Ros Pilarz, Alejandra, **Pac, Jessica**, and Anna Walther "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Maternal Employment"

Pac, Jessica. “The Effect of Medicaid on Child Maltreatment: Evidence from Early Expansions in California”

Pac, Jessica. “Heat and Child Maltreatment”

Pac, Jessica, Ouayogodé, Mariétou, and Tossou, Selidji. “Evaluating the Impact of Wisconsin’s First Foster Care Medical Home Model on Child Health, Safety, and Permanency”

Wang, Yi, Berger, Lawrence M., Durrance, Christine, Kirby, Russell, Kuo, Daphne, **Pac, Jessica**, and Ehrenthal, Deborah. “In Utero Opioid Analgesics Exposure and Birth Outcomes: Do Duration and Timing Matter?”

Peer-reviewed articles

Bartel, Ann, **Pac, Jessica**, Ruhm, Christopher, Waldfogel, Jane. “Paid Family Leave and Breastfeeding: Evidence from California” CEPR Policy Brief, VoxEU.org

Doran, Elizabeth, **Pac, Jessica**, Waldfogel, Jane “Paid Family and Medical Leave Improves Child and Family Well-Being” SCRDR Child Evidence Brief No. 5

Pac, J., Durrance, C., Berger, L.M., & Ehrenthal, D. (2023). What is the causal effect of opioid use during pregnancy on infant health and wellbeing at birth? A first look at Medicaid-funded births in Wisconsin. *Lerner Center Population Health Research Brief Series*. 215. <https://surface.syr.edu/lerner/215>

Policy Briefs

Pac, Jessica, Berger, Lawrence, Kim, HeeJin, “Child Protective Services Trends in Wisconsin during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Report to the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families” *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, May 31, 2021*

Laird, Jennifer, **Pac, Jessica**, and Wimer, Christopher. “Dimming the Lights: Eliminating Energy Assistance Would Move 200,000 People Into Poverty Hurting the Rural Poor the Most” *Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University, 1(1), May 4, 2017*

Laird, Jennifer, Hartley, Robert Paul, **Pac, Jessica**, Wimer, Christopher, and Waldfogel, Jane. “Taking Food off the Table: Understanding Who Would be Affected by Potential SNAP Cuts and How” *Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University, 2(1), January 22, 2018*

Nolan, Laura, **Pac, Jessica**, Wimer, Christopher, Nam, Jae Hyun, Garfinkel, Irwin, Kaushal, Neeraj, and Waldfogel, Jane. “Poverty in the 50 States: Long-Term Trends and the Role of Social Policies” *Center on Poverty and Social Policy, Columbia University, September 20, 2016*

Current funding

PI – “Infant and child mortality: understanding the causes and consequences of maltreatment,” UW-Madison Fall Competition Grant 2022-2023 (\$34,456)

Co-PI - Child Support Policy Research Agreement: Child support and child welfare system interactions (funded, \$241,070 out of \$5,348,176 total for grant)

Co-I – “Violence Prevention and Social Policy” CDC RFA-CE-21-001 with Derek Brown (PI), Lawrence Berger (Co-I), Brett Drake (Co-I) and Melissa Johnson-Reid (Co-I) (\$1,050,000)

Co-PI – Care4Kids evaluation, Medicaid Evaluation, Research, and Technical Assistance (MERTA), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), with Mariétou Ouayogodé and Donna Friedsam (\$376,410)

Co-PI – UW-Madison OVCERGE “Understanding and Reducing Inequalities During the Covid-19 Crisis” with Christine Durrance (PI) and Deb Ehrenthal (\$99,833)

Co-I – “Prenatal Opioid Exposure: Birth, health, social welfare, and educational outcomes of mothers and their children,” with MPIs Deb Ehrenthal and Lawrence Berger NIH R01 HD102125-01 (\$1,755,897)

PI – “A Machine Learning Approach to Understanding Physician Responses to Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect,” UW-Madison Fall Competition 2020-2021 (\$51,308) Extended to 2022-2023

Past Funding

Co-PI – UW-Madison Fall Competition “The Effects of Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Mothers’ Employment” with Alejandra Ros Pilarz (PI) (\$41,333)

PI – “Infant and child mortality: understanding the causes and consequences of maltreatment,” UW-Madison Center for Demography and Ecology Seed Grant 2021-2022 (\$6,000)

PI - Casey Family Programs, “Disseminating The Effects of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Maltreatment and Placement into Out-of-Home Care” (\$29,634)

Co-PI – Help for Children. (HFC), “Investigating the Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Child Abuse and Neglect” with Jane Waldfogel (PI) and Sherry Glied (\$28,822)

PI – “The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Maternal and Infant Health” UW Prevention Research Center Small Grant 2020-2021 (\$29,992)

MPI - Casey Family Programs, “The Effects of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Maltreatment and Placement into Out-of-Home Care” with Lawrence Berger (\$54,428) in partnership with Jane Waldfogel and Chris Wimer (MPI) 2019 - 2020

Co-I - Help for Children. (HFC), “Early Identification of Child Maltreatment using Machine Learning: A Medicaid Claims Application” with Jane Waldfogel (PI) and Sherry Glied 2019 – 2020 (\$37,896)

Invited and Peer-Reviewed Presentations

2023 CDE/CDHA Spring conference; CTC convening by Chapin Hall and Prevent Child Abuse America; The Child Tax Credit Expansion's Impact on Income and Poverty

2022 The Danish Center for Social Science Research, “VIVE,” invited seminar.
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) AME Labour Economics seminar series, invited seminar, "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Infant Health"

2021 Keynote. “The Case for Investing in Children: the Economic Perspective,” Parent Resource Center, Corning, NY
Invited speaker, “Using Data to Address Racial Disparities in Child Protective Services” Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program at the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work
Invited speaker, CASA speaker series, “Poverty and child maltreatment”

2019 “The Effect of Medicaid on Child Maltreatment: Evidence from Early Expansions in California,” Center for Demography and Ecology seminar, University of Wisconsin-Madison
“The Effect of Medicaid on Child Maltreatment: Evidence from Early Expansions in California,” University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work

2018 “Social Policy Solutions for Child Maltreatment Prevention,” Indiana University-Bloomington O’Neill School of Public Affairs

Conference presentations (peer-reviewed) organized by paper

Pac, Jessica and Berger, Lawrence M. “Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Employment Effects of the 2021 Fully Refundable Monthly Child Tax Credit.”

2022 Institute for Research on Poverty Seminar, UW-Madison

Pac, Jessica, Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and Ehrenthal, Deborah. “Opioid Use During Pregnancy and Infant Health and Wellbeing.”

- 2023 Community consequences of the opioid epidemic (2023) [AAPSS/IRP Webinar](#)
2022 The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science special issue conference
Danish Center for Social Science Research VIVE invited seminar

Pac, Jessica, Ros Pilarz, Alejandra, and Dudareva, Yulia. "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Infant Health"

- 2022 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) AME Labour Economics seminar
Health Economics group, University of Wisconsin-Madison
UW Prevention Research Center annual conference

Ros Pilarz, Alejandra, **Pac, Jessica**, and Walther, Anna "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Maternal Employment"

- 2022 Society for Social Work and Research
UW Prevention Research Center Annual Conference

Berger, Lawrence M., Durrance, Christine, Kim, HeeJin, Kuo, Daphne, **Pac, Jessica**, and Ehrenthal, Deborah. "Estimating the Prevalence of Prenatal Opioid Exposure by Likelihood of Exposure and Potential Risk to Prenatal Development: Evidence from Medicaid-Covered Births in Wisconsin, 2010-2019"

- 2022 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and **Pac, Jessica**. "The Causal Effect of LARC Access on Child Maltreatment."

- 2022 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
American Economic Association, Annual Meeting
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting

Pac, Jessica, Kim, HeeJin, and Berger, Lawrence M. "Child Protective Services Involvement and Child Maltreatment-Related Medicaid Claims Trends during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Wisconsin."

- 2022 Population Association of America

Pac, Jessica, Brown, Derek, Berger, Lawrence M., Drake, Brett, Johnson-Reid, Melissa, and Fowler, Patrick "Estimating the impact of SNAP, WIC, and UI on the primary prevention of multiple forms of family violence: a causal and computational approach"

- 2022 Reverse site visit grantee presentation, CDC (virtual)
2021 Center for Demography & Ecology, DemSem COVID-19 Research Symposium

Pac, Jessica, and Sattler, Kierra "Paid Family Leave and Foster Placement Stability"

- 2021 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (occurred in 2022)

Pac, Jessica, Glied, Sherry, and Waldfogel, Jane. "Early Identification of Child Maltreatment using Machine Learning: A Medicaid Claims Application"

- 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
2021 Virtual Research Workshop: "Children in out-of-home care" Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen

Pac, Jessica, Sophie Collyer, Lawrence M. Berger, Kirk O'Brien, Elizabeth Parker, Peter Pecora, Whitney Rostad, Jane Waldfogel, and Christopher Wimer. "The Effects of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Protective Services Involvement"

- 2022 National CASA annual speaker series
LA County Department of Human Services
Casey Family Programs National Partners
APHSAs Economic Security conference, Savannah, GA (virtual)
- 2021 Society for Social Work and Research
- 2021 Prevent Child Abuse America annual conference
- 2021 2021 Kempe International Virtual Conference
- 2021 Virtual Research Workshop: “Children in out-of-home care” Department of Economics,
University of Copenhagen
- 2020 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Pac, Jessica. “Temperature and Child Maltreatment”

- 2020 Society for Social Work and Research, Washington D.C.
- 2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO

Pac, Jessica, Waldfogel, Jane, and Wimer, Christopher. “Effects of Medicaid expansion on health insurance coverage and poverty among adults with health challenges”

- 2019 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO

Pac, Jessica “The Effect of Medicaid on Child Maltreatment: Evidence from Early Expansions in California”

- 2019 Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, Washington D.C.
- 2019 Population Association of America, Austin, TX
- 2019 Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA
- 2018 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, D.C.

Bartel, Ann, **Pac, Jessica,** Ruhm, Christopher, and Waldfogel, Jane. “Understanding the Effects of California’s Paid Family Leave Law on Infant and Child Health”

- 2019 FRDC Conference, Madison, WI
- 2018 Work Family Researchers Network Conference, Washington D.C.
- 2018 Population Association of America, Denver, CO
- 2017 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Chicago, IL

Pac, Jessica. “The Effect of Monthly Stipend on the Placement Instability of Youth in Out-Of-Home Care”

- 2015 Economic Causes and Consequences of Child Maltreatment, Children and Youth Services Review Special Issue Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Institute on Poverty

Affiliations

- 2019-Present Institute for Research on Poverty Affiliate
- 2019-Present Center for Demography & Ecology Affiliate, Research Area Co-Director on Inequality
- 2019-Present Prevention Research Center Affiliate
- 2016-Present U.S. Census Bureau Special Sworn Status Researcher
- 2019-Present Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University Affiliate
- 2015-Present Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University Fellow
- 2015-Present Columbia Population Research Center Fellow
- 2012-2014 Cornell Population Research Center Fellow

Member (asterisk indicates annual conference abstract reviewer)*

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management*, Society for Social Work and Research,

American Society of Health Economists, American Economic Association, and Population Association of America

Ad-hoc Reviewer

American Journal of Managed Care

Child Abuse and Neglect

Children and Schools

Children and Youth Services Review

Demography

Health Affairs

JAMA Pediatrics

JAMA Health Forum

Journal of Human Capital

Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

Scientific Reports

SSM Population Health