

Jessica E. Pac  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work  
Institute for Research on Poverty  
1350 University Ave Ste. 314 Madison, WI 53706  
[pac@wisc.edu](mailto:pac@wisc.edu)  
<https://socwork.wisc.edu/staff/pac-jessica/>

### Positions

Asst. Professor 2019-Present UW-Madison Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work  
Co-Director 2019-Present Inequality Research Area Director, 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. 2016-2018 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

1. Pac, Jessica. 2017. "The Effect of Monthly Stipend on the Placement Instability of Youths in Out-of-Home Care." *Children and Youth Services Review* 72:111–23. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2016.10.019.
2. Pac, Jessica, Jane Waldfogel, and Christopher Wimer. 2017. "Poverty among Foster Children: Estimates Using the Supplemental Poverty Measure." *Social Service Review* (March). doi: 10.1086/691148.
3. Pac, Jessica, Jaehyun Nam, Jane Waldfogel, and Chris Wimer. 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. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.01.022.
4. Pac, Jessica, Irwin Garfinkel, Neeraj Kaushal, Jaehyun Nam, Laura Nolan, Jane Waldfogel, and Christopher Wimer. 2020. "Reducing Poverty among Children: Evidence from State Policy Simulations." *Children and Youth Services Review* 115(January). doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2020.105030.
5. 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. doi: 10.1086/713077.
6. Pac, Jessica, Christine Durrance, Lawrence Berger, and Deborah B. Ehrenthal. 2022. "The Effects of Opioid Use during Pregnancy on Infant Health and Well-Being." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 703(1):106–38. doi: 10.1177/00027162231154338.
7. Pac, Jessica, Sophie Collyer, Lawrence 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. doi: 10.1086/723219.

2024 Frank R. Bueul Memorial Prize, ["Best Paper of 2023"](#)

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

8. Imm, Pamela, and Jessica Pac. 2023. "Child Maltreatment: A Comparison of Wisconsin Children Identified in Health Care and Child Protective Services (CPS) Records, 2018-2019." *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice* 29(5):E181–89. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0000000000001743.
9. Pac, Jessica, and Lawrence M. Berger. 2023. "Quasi-Experimental Evidence on the Employment Effects of the 2021 Fully Refundable Monthly Child Tax Credit." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 1–22. doi: 10.1002/pam.22528.

Media mentions: [Cap Times](#)

10. Wang, Yi, Lawrence Berger, Christine Durrance, Russell S. Kirby, Daphne Kuo, Jessica Pac, and Deborah B. Ehrenthal. 2023. "Duration and Timing of In Utero Opioid Exposure and Incidence of Neonatal Withdrawal Syndrome." *Obstetrics and Gynecology* 142(3):603–11. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000005289.
11. Pac, Jessica, Ann Bartel, Christopher Ruhm, and Jane Waldfogel. 2023. "Paid Family Leave and Parental Investments in Infant Health: Evidence from California." *Economics and Human Biology* 51(October 2022):101308. doi: 10.1016/j.ehb.2023.101308.

Media mentions: [Cap Times](#); [Washington Free Beacon](#)

12. Ros Pilarz, Alejandra, Jessica Pac, and Anna Walther. 2024. "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Maternal Employment" *Social Service Review*, *in press*

#### *Under Review*

13. 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*, *revise and resubmit*.
14. Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and Pac, Jessica. "The Causal Effect of LARC Access on Child Maltreatment." *Demography*, *revise and resubmit*.
15. 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." *Journal of Perinatology*, *revise and resubmit*.
16. Ros Pilarz, Alejandra, Pac, Jessica " How does work during pregnancy impact maternal and infant health and development?" *Child Development Perspectives*, *revise and resubmit*.
17. Pac, Jessica, Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and Ehrenthal, Deborah. "The Causal Effect of Prenatal Opioid Exposure on Early Child Development" *Nature Human Behaviour*

#### *Peer-reviewed briefs*

1. Bartel, Ann, Pac, Jessica, Ruhm, Christopher, Waldfogel, Jane. "Paid Family Leave and Breastfeeding: Evidence from California" CEPR Policy Brief, VoxEU.org
2. Doran, Elizabeth, Pac, Jessica, Waldfogel, Jane "Paid Family and Medical Leave Improves Child and Family Well-Being" SCRD Child Evidence Brief No. 5

3. Pac, J., Durrance, C., Berger, L.M., & Ehrental, 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. Research Brief #93.*

#### *Policy Briefs*

1. Drazden, Yonah, Berger, Lawrence, Pac, Jessica, and Shager, Hilary "2021 Shares Eligible Families in Wisconsin Analysis" *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 1, 2023*
2. Choi, Taehwan, Berger, Lawrence, and Pac, Jessica "State Economic Support Efforts to Reduce Entry into the Child Welfare System" *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 29, 2023*
3. Ko, Anna, Berger, Lawrence, and Pac, Jessica "Literature Review of Wisconsin Shares" *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, June 23, 2023*
4. Hoffmeister, Michael, Berger, Lawrence, and Pac, Jessica "Child Welfare Professional Turnover in Wisconsin" *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, July 25, 2023*
5. Sintim, Daniel, Ploch, Katarina, Berger, Lawrence, and Pac, Jessica "Literature Review of Expulsion and Suspension in Early Child Care and Education" *Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, January 23, 2023*
6. 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*
7. 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*
8. 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*
9. 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*

#### *Grants Under Review*

PI – "Unconditional cash income and involvement with child protective services: Evidence from the expanded child tax credit," with Co-I Lawrence Berger NIH R21 (\$414,305)

#### *Current funding*

PI – UW-Madison Fall Competition "Unconditional cash income and involvement with child protective services: Evidence from the expanded child tax credit," (\$75,627)

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-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)

Co-I – “Cash Payments and Infant Health: A Natural Experiment,” with Naomi Zewde (PI), Christopher Wimer (Co-PI), and Elizabeth Ananat (Co-I) Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity (\$344,916)

*Past Funding*

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

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

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

Co-PI – Foster Care Medical Home (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 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 Presenter, CDE/CDHA Spring conference  
Panelist, Chapin Hall and Prevent Child Abuse America, “The Child Tax Credit Expansion's Impact on Income and Poverty”  
Panelist, La Follette School of Public Affairs, “Improving lives through tax credits?”
- 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*

- Zewde, Naomi, Ananat, Liz, Pac, Jessica, and Wimer, Christopher. “The 2021 expanded Child Tax Credit and Infant Health”
- 2024 American Economic Association Annual Meeting
- Pac, Jessica, Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., and Ehrenthal, Deborah. “The Causal Effect of Prenatal Opioid Exposure on Neurodevelopmental Outcomes”
- 2023 The American Society of Health Economists annual conference
- Durrance, Christine, Jessica Pac, Lawrence Berger, Aaron Reilly, and Deborah Ehrenthal. “Prenatal Opioid Exposure, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Diagnosis, and Child Welfare Involvement”
- 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- 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
- 2023 La Follette School of Public Affairs, Improving lives through tax credits?  
CFS Webinar - The Child Tax Credit Expansion's Impact on Income and Poverty
- Pac, Jessica, Dudareva, Yulia, and Ros Pilarz, Alejandra. "The Effects of State Pregnancy Accommodation Laws on Maternal Health"
- 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Pac, Jessica, Durrance, Christine, Berger, Lawrence M., Nobles, Jenna, and Tang, Augustine. “The Causal Effect of Child Protective Services Investigations on Infant Health and Mortality: Evidence from Pediatricians”
- 2023 ISPCAN Congress, Edinburgh, Scotland
- 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 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

Luosa, Lauri, Brown, Derek, Berger, Lawrence M., and Pac, Jessica. "A Comprehensive Look at the Prevalence of and Trends in Child Maltreatment using Multiple Data Sources."

- 2023 American Public Health Association 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"

- 2023 National Child Abuse Coalition  
IRP Webinar  
CDE/CDHA Spring conference  
Chapin Hall and Prevent Child Abuse America, “The Child Tax Credit Expansion's Impact on Income and Poverty”
- 2022 National CASA seminar series  
LA County Department of Human Services  
Casey Family Programs National Partners  
APHSa Economic Security conference, Savannah, GA
- 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”
- 2023 Center for American Progress
- 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

*Honors and Awards*

2024 Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for “Best Paper of 2023,” *Social Service Review*  
2023 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*  
2018 Doctoral Dissertation Award, Institute for Research on Poverty  
2015 Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia University School of Social Work (4 years)  
2018 Travel Award, Columbia Population Research Center  
2017 Travel and Participation Award, SIPP Workshop  
2012 CIPA Fellowship, Cornell University Policy Analysis and Management

*Positions and Scientific Appointments*

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

**Service**

*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  
American Journal of Health Economics  
Child Abuse and Neglect  
Children and Schools  
Children and Youth Services Review  
Demography  
Early Childhood Research Quarterly  
Health Affairs  
JAMA Pediatrics  
JAMA Health Forum  
Journal of Human Capital  
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management  
Scientific Reports  
SSM Population Health

*Internal Reviewer*

Community Impact Grant Program of the Wisconsin Partnership Program, National Poverty Fellowship of the Institute for Research on Poverty, National Dissertation Award for Research on Poverty and Economic Mobility of the Institute for Research on Poverty, Research Forward Award

*Mentorship*

*PhD Students*

Marissa Abbott  
Michael Hoffmeister  
Aaron Riley  
HeeJin Kim  
Daniel Sintim

Anna Ko  
Katarina Ploch  
Taehwan Choi  
Lauri Luosta

*Undergraduate Students*

Kayla Wells  
Yujun Che

*Professional Service*

2023 Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC)  
2023 Scholar Strategy Network