

Nelís Soto-Ramírez, MS, MPH, PHD

University of South Carolina

Office Phone Number: 803-777-7225

Email: sotorami@mailbox.sc.edu**EDUCATION**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Epigenetic Epidemiology University of Memphis, School of Public Health	2012-2014
Ph.D. in Epidemiology University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, USA <i>*Dissertation: Maternal immune markers in serum during late gestation and in breast milk and the risk of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study</i>	2008-2012
Master in Microbiology University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR	2004-2007
Master in Public Health Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR	2002-2004
Bachelor in Science in Microbiology University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR	1998-2002

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aug 2024 – Present	<i>Clinical Assistant Professor</i> , Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Aug 2016 – Aug 2024	<i>Senior Research Associate</i> , The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Mar 2015 - Aug 2016	<i>Bio-Statistician III</i> , South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology, Columbia, SC
Dec 2014 - Mar 2015	<i>Program Coordinator</i> , South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology, Columbia, SC
Sept 2014 - Oct 2014	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Environmental Health, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Jul 2012 - Jun 2014	<i>Postdoctoral Research Fellow</i> , Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Environmental Health, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
Aug 2008 - May 2012	<i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> , Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Nov 2007 - Jul 2008	<i>Laboratory assistant and interviewer</i> , Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
Aug 2004 - May 2007	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR

- Aug 2004 - Dec 2006 *Laboratory Instructor*, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR
- Aug 2002 - May 2004 *Research Assistant*, Department of Public Health, Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR
- 2014 – 2018 *Consultant* to faculty at the University of Memphis, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Environmental Health
- 2018 *External Examiner*, University of Cape Town, Faculty of Health Sciences, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Practice (Aug 2010 - May 2011)

University of South Carolina, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics
EPID 741 - Epidemiological Methods I

Instructor (Aug 2004 - Dec 2006)

University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Biology Department
BIOL 3010 - Cell Physiology
BIOL 3770 - General Microbiology
BIOL 3051 - General Biology I
BIOL 3052 - General Biology II

GUEST LECTURER

- SOWK 341-001&002: Theories for understanding individuals, families, and groups; Hispanic and Latinx Culture; University of South Carolina, College of Social Work
- EPID 745: Doctoral Seminar; F32 Application Process and Tips; University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health
- Faculty Seminar: Maternal immune markers in serum during late gestation and in breast milk and the risk of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study
University of Memphis, Seminar Guest Speaker in Memphis, TN

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

- Aug 2016 - Aug 2024 The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Senior Researcher and Project Manager
- Mar 2015 - Aug 2016 Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of Acute Disease Epidemiology Columbia, SC *Bio-Statistician III*
- 2011-2012 Consulting Practicum - South Carolina (SC) Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in Columbia, SC

ORAL/POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Picturing and Improving Telemental Health Services for Vulnerable Children in Rural China: Informed by Research Conducted Among Foster Children in a Rural State in the United States. Poster presentation at the 2024 Asian & Pacific Islander Social Work Educators Association (APISWEA) International Conference, Chengdu, China. Xu, Y., Pace, S., Soto-Ramírez N., Martin, T., Hung, P., & Weist, M. (2024, June).
- 2024 Examining Telemental Health Services For Children In Foster Care in Rural Areas in a Southeastern State: Perspectives From Telemental Health Providers. 2024 Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference. Xu, Y., Pace, S., Soto-Ramírez N., Martin, T., Hung, P., & Weist, M.
- 2024 The impact of COVID-19 on foster children's use of mental health services and placement stability: Foster parents' and child welfare workers' perspectives. Oral presentation at the Virtual Symposium Mini-Series at the Association of Social Workers-South Carolina (NASW-SC) Annual Conference, Columbia, South Carolina. Babalola, O., Xu, Y., & Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2024 Association of Mental Health Service Utilization and Mental Health Diagnosis with Placement Instability among Foster Children in a Southeastern State. 5th National Big Data Health Science Conference. Columbia, SC. Best overall poster presentation. Soto-Ramírez N, Xu, Y, Martin, T. Babalola, O, Weist, M., Flynn, C.
- 2024 Navigating Mental Health Services in Foster Care: Insights from Foster Parents on Facilitators and Barriers in a Southeastern State in USA. Poster presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington DC, USA. Soto-Ramírez N, Xu, Y, Babalola, O, Weist, M.
- 2024 Predisposing, Enabling, and Need Factors Associated with Psychotropic Medication and Mental Health Service Use among Children in Out-of-Home Care in the United States: A Scoping Review Poster presentation at the 28th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Washington DC, USA. Xu, Y, Winters, A., Soto-Ramírez N, McCarthy, L.
- 2023 Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health Service Utilization Among Foster Children in South Carolina. 2023 Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC. Xu, Y., Babalola, O., Soto-Ramírez N, Weist, M.
- 2022 Application of Latent Class Analysis for Adverse Youth Outcomes Transitioning Out of Foster Care and Early Risk Factors; American Evaluation Association; Poster Presentation
- 2021 Mental health services use by kinship children: An application of Andersen's model of health care utilization. Oral presentation at the 25th Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference Xu, Y., Jedwab. M., Soto-Ramirez, N., Weist, M, & Flynn, C. (2021, January). (Virtual Meeting).
- 2021 Material hardship and child neglect during COVID-19 in grandparent-headed families: The role of financial assistance. Oral presentation at the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children's 28th Annual Colloquium, New York, NY (Virtual Meeting). Xu, Y., Jedwab, M., Soto-Ramirez, N., Levkoff, S., & Wu, Q. (2021, July).
- 2021 Applying Time Series Modeling to Assess the Dynamics and Forecast Monthly Reports of Abuse, Neglect and/or Exploitation Involving a Vulnerable Adult. Virtual Poster presentation at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2021 Mental Health Services Use By Kinship Children: An Application of Andersen's Model of Health Care Utilization. Virtual Poster presentation at the 25th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR). Xu, Y., Soto-Ramírez N
- 2021 Highlights of the GAP Study Findings, National CASA/GAL Association, Webinar (online-Zoom)

- 2021 Fatherhood H2O program evaluation, South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Columbia, SC, USA
- 2020 & 2018 Applying time series modeling to forecast monthly reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation involving an adult in the state of South Carolina; Modern Modeling Methods Conference (M3), University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut & 25th Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference
- 2020 Working with federal reporting systems and state level data to inform local practice and policy; College of Social Work, Columbia, SC, USA
- 2017 Modes of infant feeding and eczema in children in the first 6 years of life. In-Flame International Conference, New York, USA
- 2016 CDC site visit; Quality Assurance of Electronic Surveillance System, Columbia, SC
- 2016 Comparison of Statistical Software Applications *Epi-Info*, *SPSS*, *Stata*, *SAS*, *R*, Convocation of Southern State Epidemiologists (CSSE), Columbia, SC
- 2015 Plague – a simulation model; DHEC Epidemiology Seminar in Columbia, SC
- 2015 Maternal immune markers in serum during late gestation and in breast milk and the risk of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study University of Memphis, Seminar Guest Speaker in Memphis, TN
- 2014 Genetic variation in NFkB1 is associated with wheezing, onset of asthma, and lung function in children European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress in Copenhagen, DK
- 2013 The interaction of breastfeeding, DNA methylation, and genetic variants in 17q12 locus and the risk of asthma at age 18 years American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference in Philadelphia, PA
- 2011 Epidemiologic methods to assess disease occurrence in longitudinal studies: Transition as a measure of change. Society for Epidemiologic Research, 1st Annual eMAC Web Meeting
- 2011 Breastfeeding is associated with increased lung function at age 18 years: a cohort study, American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference in Denver, Colorado
- 2011 Breastfeeding Initiation Among WIC Participants in South Carolina, 2004-2008, DHEC Epidemiology seminar-webinar in Columbia, SC
- 2010 Breastfeeding Research and Benefits, Mary Black Hospital Conference in Spartanburg, SC
- 2009 Breastfeeding and Immune Markers in Breast Milk, SC Breastfeeding Coalition Meeting in Columbia, SC

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS

- 2024 DaiR Summer Workshop 2024. SCINBRE. Bioinformatics and Data Science Summer Workshop. College of Engineering and Computing, University of South Carolina
- 2024 Team Dynamics – Managing high performing teams, Office of Organizational and Professional Development, University of South Carolina

- 2024 RedCap Training, Office of Research Training, University of South Carolina
- 2023 Carolina Intercultural Training, Office of Organizational and Professional Development, University of South Carolina
- 2022 Summer Workshop on Medical and Administrative Claims Data at University of South Carolina.
- 2020 Summer Research Institute (SRI) sponsored by National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN) at Cornell University.
- 2019 LEAD Certificate - Supervisory Essentials, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
- 2018 7 Steps to Advance Race Equity and Inclusion Training, Children's Trust South Carolina, Columbia
- 2017 Basics of multilevel modeling: Handling grouped data in research and evaluation, Percontor LLC, Delivered by Professor Paul Umbach, American Evaluation Association, e-Study
- 2017 Placement Needs Assessment Interview Protocol Training, The Center for Child & Family Studies, University of South Carolina, 5.5 Social Work Degreed Hours
- 2016 Interpreter Qualification (IQP) Training, Written Knowledge, Oral Skill, Small Text Translation, The Center for Child & Family Studies, University of South Carolina
- 2016 Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Annual Conference 2016– Participated on roundtable sessions on electronic case reporting, public health informatics, NNDSS Modernization Initiative (NMI), syndromic surveillance, and meaningful use.
- 2015 SQL Training, Introduction – ETG518, Midlands Technical College, Continuing Education, 24 hours of training, 2.4 CEUs
- 2015 Epi Info 7 Train the Trainer Workshop at the Center of Disease Control, Atlanta, GA
- 2013 Advanced Training in Epigenetics at the University of Southampton, UK; Human Genetics and Genomic Medicine Department (2 months training; Feb & March 2013)
- 2013 National Institute of Health grants-writing workshop, Bethesda, MD

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 5th National Big Data Health Science Conference; Best overall poster presentation *Association of Mental Health Service Utilization and Mental Health Diagnosis with Placement Instability among Foster Children in a Southeastern State*
- 2017 In-FLAME Travel Award
- 2014 EAACI Congress Scholarship
- 2012-2014 Transgenerational epigenetic inheritance of allergy in a multigenerational cohort, University of Memphis, Research Support: R01 AI091905-02S1 (Dr. Wilfried Karmaus; PI) NIAID/NIH; Role: Postdoctoral Investigator
- 2011 & 2013 ATS Minority Trainee Travel Award (MTTA)

- 2011 Poster Presentation Winner in the Graduate Student Day; University of South Carolina; First place in Health & Life Sciences; <http://www.asph.sc.edu/news/gsaawards.htm>
- 2009-2011 Arnold Doctoral Fellowship, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
- 2005 Scholarship José M. Berrocal for Environmental Studies in Puerto Rico, Sponsor by Ford Motor Co <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?ald=6638>

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Society for Social Work and Research
- American Evaluation Association
- In-FLAME – International Inflammation Network
- Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research
- The American Association for the Advancement of Science
- American Society of Microbiology
- American Thoracic Society
- Society for Epidemiologic Research
- European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

SERVICE

Professional Community

Peer reviewer:

- Clinical and Experimental Allergy
- Archives of Public Health
- BMC Pediatrics
- BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth
- Breastfeeding Medicine
- Gene Journal
- World Journal of Pediatrics
- Canadian Medical Association Journal
- The Journal of the American Medical Association
- Journal of Asthma
- Journal of Human Lactation
- Expert Review of Clinical Immunology
- Pediatric Research
- American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine
- Clinical Microbiology and Infection
- Current Nutrition & Food Science
- BMJ: Respiratory Research
- BMC Medical Genomics
- European Respiratory Journal

Grant reviewer:

- 2017 & 2019 Reviewer panel member at the Department of Health and Environment Control, Columbia South Carolina

Conference abstract reviewer:

2022 Disaster and Emergency Management Evaluation (DEME) Topical Interest Group (TIG) proposals for the American Evaluation Association (AEA) 2022 conference

Community Service

December 2021 & 2022 - Midlands Foundation For Foster Children – Christmas Project

April 2021 - Palmetto Place Supply Drive/Pinwheels for Prevention Volunteer

December 2019 & 2020 - Harvest Hope Food Drive Volunteer

March 2004 – Volunteer at a community vaccination for dogs and cats, Ponce Health Sciences University, Puerto Rico

February 2004 – Volunteer at a Health Fair, Ponce, Puerto Rico

December 2003 – Volunteer at a Skilled Nursing Facility, Ponce, Puerto Rico

November 2003 - Volunteer at a Group Home for Foster Children, San Germán, Puerto Rico

November - December 2003 - Volunteer with Homeless Population, Ponce, Puerto Rico

September 2003 - November 2003 – Volunteer at Damas Hospital, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Volunteer for Student Camp:

June 2005 - Biotech summer camp experience for high school students; University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus

June 2006 - AlaCiMa students for professional and research experience; University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus

ASSOCIATIONS/COALITIONS

2021 – Present Member, Advocacy and Policy Subcommittee, Provost Advisory Committee for Women's Initiatives

2017 – 2019 Member, Diversity and Leadership Subcommittee, Provost Advisory Committee for Women's Initiatives

2017 - Present Member, Hispanic Caucus, University of South Carolina

2017 – Present Member, South Carolina Child Well-Being Coalition

SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE

Statistical Analysis System (SAS) software, SAS/SUDAAN software, MPlus, SPSS software, Tableau, Qualtrics, NVivo, Epi Info, R statistical software, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word

LARGE DATA EXPERIENCE

1. SC Administrative Data –
 - South Carolina Department of Social Services CHIP database (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) – relational database

- Child Protective Service and Adult Protective Service (CAPSS) database – relational database
 - SC Medicaid Claims – Hospital, pharmacy, eligibility, provider, hic files
 - SC Department of Mental Health
2. CASA/GAL survey - National Volunteer Retention Assessment Study
 3. CASA/GAL Annual Survey – National CASA/GAL Organizations and Local Programs Annual Surveys
 4. South Carolina National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
 5. National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
 6. Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) database
 7. Carolina’s Health Electronic Surveillance System (CHESS/NEDSS) – relational database
 8. South Carolina’s Infectious Disease and Outbreak Network (SCION) – relational database
 9. SC Syndromic Surveillance System
 10. SC Outbreak database
 11. South Carolina (SC) Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
 12. Large DNA methylation (DNA-M) dataset of the loW birth cohort
 13. Infant Feeding Practice Study (IFPS) II dataset and 6 Years follow-up dataset

MENTORING RESEARCH ASSISTANT STUDENTS

University of South Carolina, Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work (2016-2024)

Amari Polite (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant)

Traci Brookie (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant)

Michael Currie (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant)

Sultan Alsallum (Graduate student, PhD in Epidemiology, Graduate Research Assistant)

Heyam Ardab (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant)

Janet Odeku (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant)

University of Cape Town, Faculty of Health Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa

Kathryn Manning - External examiner for PhD Candidate Dissertation

University of Memphis, School Public Health (2013-2014); Dr. Wilfried Karmaus

Nandini Mukherjee (Graduate student, PhD in Epidemiology, Graduate Research Assistant)

Kranthi Guthikonda (Graduate student, MPH in Epidemiology, Graduate Research Assistant)

University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health (2008-2012); Dr. Wilfried Karmaus

Jessica Merrit (Undergraduate student, BS in Biology, Research Assistant)

Alycia Albergottie (Undergraduate student, BS in Biology, Graduate Research Assistant)

University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus (2004-2007); Dr. Rafael Montalvo’s Microbiology Lab

Karina Almodovar (Undergraduate student, BS in Microbiology; Research Assistant)

Agnes Martinez (Undergraduate student, BS in Microbiology; Research Assistant)

Patricia Sanchez (Undergraduate student, BS in Microbiology; Research Assistant)

Gina Jimenez (Undergraduate student, BS in Microbiology; Research Assistant)

Zenaida Castro (Graduate student, MS in Microbiology; Graduate Research Assistant)

Carol Lopez (Graduate student, MS in Microbiology student; Graduate Research Assistant)

Cynthia Esquerre (Graduate student, MS in Microbiology student; Graduate Research Assistant)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1. Telemental Health (TMH) Services Among Foster Children in Rural South Carolina. To gain an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to using/providing TMH as perceived by foster parents who raise foster children in rural SC and TMH providers who serve foster children in rural SC. To describe the rate of TMH use, examine disparities in using TMH services, and investigate factors associated with the use of TMH among foster children in rural SC from January 2020 to January 2023 Role: Co-PI
2. Implementation and impact evaluation using a quasi-experimental design of Home to Ownership Program of the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families. A QED with propensity score matching (PSM) to assess the impact of the H2O enhancement on a participant's economic mobility (housing stability, employment, earned wages, savings, financial literacy, and financial well-being). Role: Co-PI
3. Material hardship and grandparent headed household on the risk of child maltreatment during COVID 19 pandemic. This study aimed to examine (1) the association between material hardship and child neglect risk; and (2) whether financial assistance moderates this association in a sample of kinship grandparent-headed families during COVID-19.
Link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34419900/>
4. Nationwide gap analysis for eligible children served and to better understand the gaps between community needs and current CASA/GAL program coverage. The main purpose is to expand service to children across the nation and better support the effective growth of organizations and programs.
Role: Principal Investigator
5. SNAP Participation by Children in Kinship Care: use administrative data from the South Carolina Department of Social Services and survival analysis techniques to study SNAP participation by children in relative headed cases and compare these results to results for children in parent-headed cases. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis shows higher survival probabilities for parent headed spells compared to relative caregivers. Role: Co-PI
6. Applying time series modeling to forecast monthly reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation involving an adult in the state of South Carolina
Links: https://modeling.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1188/2018/06/Soto_Ramirez-2.pdf
<https://ccfs.sc.edu/who-we-are/news/520-center-researcher-predicts-calls-reporting-mistreatment-of-vulnerable-adults.html>
7. Assist the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) with the analysis of economic services and human services data and supports federal and state funded research and evaluations of social services programs. Collaborate with internal and external customers to effectively carry out evaluations of social services programs. Role: Principal Investigator
Link: <http://ccfs.sc.edu/57-staff-directory/431-nelis-del-c-soto-ramirez-phd-ms-mph.html>
8. Transgenerational epigenetic inheritance of allergy in a multigenerational cohort, University of Memphis Research Support: R01 AI091905-02S1 (Dr. Wilfried Karmaus; PI) NIAID/NIH;
Role: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Links: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3544634/pdf/1868-7083-5-1.pdf>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5639882/pdf/nihms909263.pdf>
9. Consulting Practicum - South Carolina (SC) Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in Columbia, SC

Link: https://www.scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/docs/Health/docs/SP_DEL_WIC_BF_initiation_FINAL.pdf

10. Breastfeeding and Child Health (BACH) Study; Dr. Wilfried Karmaus, Principal Investigator (PI)
Role: Graduate Research Assistant
Links: <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1186%2F1710-1492-8-11.pdf>
<https://doi.org/10.3109/02770903.2012.719251>
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4878041/pdf/13223_2016_Article_129.pdf
11. Infant Feeding Practice Study (IFPS) II
Links: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/cea.12998>
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/cea.12998>
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5712088/pdf/13006_2017_Article_139.pdf
12. The Isle of Wight (IoW) birth cohort study; Dr. Wilfried Karmaus, Principal Investigator (PI)
Role: Graduate Research Assistant
Link: <http://erj.ersjournals.com/content/erj/39/4/985.full.pdf>
Participated in analyses of the IOW study; a birth cohort study conducted in United Kingdom to examine the relationship between early exposures during infancy and the development of allergies in children.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=soto-ramirez+n>

1. Xu, Y., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Babalola, O. (2024) Facilitators and Barriers of Using Mental Health Services among Children in Foster Care: Insights from Foster Parents in a Southeastern State. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*. In press
2. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Xu, Y., Martin, T., Babalola, O., Weist, M., Flynn, C. (2024) Associations of Mental Health Service Utilization and Mental Health Diagnosis with Placement Instability Among Foster Children in a Southeastern State. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10560-024-00962-3>
3. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Baughman, A.V., Martin, T., & Alsallum, S. (2024) Latent Class Analysis of Adverse Outcomes for Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care and Early Risk Factors. Submitted for publication to the *Children and Youth Services Review*
4. Christopher A. Swann & **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**. (2024) SNAP Participation by Children in Kinship Care, In preparation for submission to *Children and Youth Services Review*
5. Xu, Y., Winters, A., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, McCarthy, L. (2023) Predisposing, Enabling, and Need Factors Associated with Psychotropic Medication and Mental Health Service Use Among Children in Out-of-Home Care: A Scoping Review. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2023, 20(18), 6769; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20186769>
6. Xu, Y., Jedwab, M., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Levkoff, S., & Wu, Q. (2021). Material hardship and child neglect risk in grandparent-headed kinship families amidst COVID: The role of financial assistance. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2021.105258>
7. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Odeku, J. Flynn, C., Tester, D. Applying time series modeling to forecast monthly reports of abuse, neglect and/or exploitation involving an adult in the state of South Carolina, *Archives of Public Health*, 2020; 78: 53, doi: 10.1186/s13690-020-00431-0
8. Mathias JG, Zhang H, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Karmaus W. The association of infant feeding patterns with food allergy symptoms and food allergy in early childhood. *Int Breastfeed J.*, 2019. 14:43.
9. Sherwood WB, Bion V, Lockett GA, Ziyab AH, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Mukherjee N, Kurukulaaratchy RJ *et. al.* Duration of breastfeeding is associated with leptin (LEP) DNA methylation profiles and BMI in 10-year-old

children *Clin Epigenetics*. 2019 Aug 29;11(1):128. doi: 10.1186/s13148-019-0727-9.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31464656>

10. Wilfried Karmaus, **Nelís Soto-Ramírez** and Hongmei Zhang. Infant feeding pattern in the first six months of age in USA: a follow-up study. *Int Breastfeed J*. 2017 Dec 2;12:48. doi: 10.1186/s13006-017-0139-4
11. Soto-Ramírez N, Kar S, Zhang H2, Karmaus W Infant feeding patterns and eczema in children in the first 6 years of life. *Clin Exp Allergy*. 2017 Oct;47(10):1285-1298. doi: 10.1111/cea.12998
12. Chen PL, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Zhang H, Karmaus W. Association Between Infant Feeding Modes and Gastroesophageal Reflux: A Repeated Measurement Analysis of the Infant Feeding Practices Study II. *J Hum Lact*. 2017, May;33(2):267-277. doi: 10.1177/0890334416664711
13. **N. Soto-Ramírez**, K. Boyd, H. Zhang, V. Gangur, L. Goetz, W. Karmaus. Maternal serum but not breast milk IL-5, IL-6, and IL-13 immune markers are associated with scratching among infants. *Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol* 2016; 12: 25, DOI: 10.1186/s13223-016-0129-x
14. Victoria Bion, Gabrielle A Lockett, **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Hongmei Zhang, et.al. Evaluating the efficacy of breastfeeding guidelines on long-term outcomes for allergic disease. *Allergy* 2015, DOI: 10.1111/all.12833
15. **N. Soto-Ramírez**, W. Karmaus, A. Ziyab, H. Zhang, G. Lockett, J. Holloway, V Patil, et al. Conference Paper: Genetic variation in NFKB1 is associated with allergic diseases and lung function in children. *Allergy*, 2014
16. Lockett, G.A., Patil, V.K., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Ziyab, A.H., Holloway, J.W., Karmaus, W. (2013b) Epigenomics and allergic disease. *Epigenomics*. 2013 5:6, 685-699.
17. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Karmaus W, Zhang H, Davis S, Agarwal S, Albergottie A. Modes of infant feeding and the occurrence of coughing/wheezing in the first year of life. *J Human Lactation* 2013;29:71-80.
18. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Ziyab AH, Karmaus W, Zhang H, Kurukulaaratchy RJ, Ewart S, Arshad SH. Epidemiologic Methods of Assessing Asthma and Wheezing Episodes in Longitudinal Studies: Measures of Change and Stability. *J Epidemiol*. 2013. PMID: 23994864
19. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Arshad SH, Holloway J, et al. The interaction of genetic variants and DNA methylation of the interleukin-4 receptor gene increase the risk of asthma at age 18 years. *Clinical Epigenetics* 2013;5:1.
20. **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Wilfried Karmaus, Hongmei Zhang, Jihong Liu, Deborah Billings, et.al. Fatty acids in breast milk and asthma-like symptoms and atopy in infancy: a longitudinal study. 2012 *Journal of Asthma* 2012 Nov;49(9):926-34. doi: 10.3109/02770903.2012.719251.
21. **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Wilfried Karmaus, Mitra Yousefi, Hongmei Zhang, Jihong Liu and Venugopal Gangur. Maternal immune markers in serum during gestation and in breast milk and the risk of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study. *Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology* 2012 Jul 17;8(1):11.
22. **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Melannie Alexander, Wilfried Karmaus, Mitra Yousefi, Hongmei Zhang, et al. Breastfeeding is associated with increased lung function at age 18 years: a cohort study. (2011) *Eur Respir J*.

FUNDED RESEARCH

July 1st 2023 – Present. The Use of Telemental Health Services Among Foster Children in Rural South Carolina: A Mixed-Methods Study.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Purpose: To gain an understanding of the barriers and facilitators to using/providing TMH as perceived by foster parents who raise foster children in rural SC and TMH providers who serve foster children in rural SC during phase 1 of this study. To describe the rate of TMH use, examine disparities in using TMH services, and investigate factors associated with the use of TMH among foster children in rural SC from January 2020 to January 2023 during phase 2 of this study.

March 1st 2021 – Present. Fatherhood FIRE/H2O Program Evaluation

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Purpose: The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families will contract with the Center for Child and Family Studies (CCFS) at the University of South Carolina, a research and training center with over 30 year of experience in conducting federal evaluations and special studies, to conduct an implementation study and an impact evaluation using a quasi-experimental design.

July 1st 2022 – August 2024. Quality Assurance, Other Research and Evaluation, and National Youth in Transition

Database Services (National Youth in Transition Survey) for South Carolina Department of Social Services;
Role: Principal Investigator

July 1st 2022 – August 2024. The Purchase of ADVANCED CHILD WELFARE TRAINING for the South Carolina

State Department of Social Services
Role: Principal Investigator

July 1st 2021 – June 30th 2023. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Mental Health Service Utilization and Placement Stability among Foster Children Before and During COVID-19 in South Carolina

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Purpose: To conduct an explanatory sequential mixed-methods study to examine racial/ethnic disparities in Mental Health service utilization and placement stability among foster children in South Carolina.

June 2022- October 2022. 2021 National CASA/GAL Annual Survey Data Analysis and Reporting Project

Role: Principal Investigator

Purpose: To create 48 individual state-level annual reports, one report summarizing the findings of the 48 state-level organizations, and one report summarizing the findings of the 902 local programs of National CASA/GAL.

March 2021- October 2021. National CASA/GAL GAP Project

Role: Principal Investigator

Purpose: To conduct a nationwide gap analysis for eligible children served and to better understand the gaps between community needs and current CASA/GAL program coverage. The main purpose is to expand service to children across the nation and better support the effective growth of organizations and programs.

March 2021- July 2021. 2020 CASA/GAL Annual Survey Data Analysis and Reporting Project

Role: Principal Investigator

Purpose: To create 48 individual state-level annual reports, one report summarizing the findings of the 48 state-level organizations, and one report summarizing the findings of the 902 local programs of National CASA/GAL.

June 2020-August 2020. 2019 CASA/GAL Annual Survey Data Analysis and Reporting Project

Role: Principal Investigator

Purpose: To create 48 individual state-level annual reports, one report summarizing the findings of the 48 state-level organizations, and one report summarizing the findings of the 902 local programs of National CASA/GAL.

November 2018- July 2019. National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator. Volunteer Retention Assessment Study

Purpose: To survey employees and volunteers of the National CASA Association's various regional, state, and local offices. Using the information gained through our data collection plan, we will develop data-based recommendations to improve volunteer retention and refine recruitment and training to meet the ever-rising need for child advocates.

July 2017- June 2019. USDA under cooperative agreement 58-4000-5-0056. Dr. Christopher Swann, UNC Greensboro;

PI; **Role:** Co-Principal Investigator; **Subcontract:** Relative Caregivers in SNAP and Child-Only TANF Cases: Evidence from South Carolina Administrative Data; Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Programs (FANRP)

Purpose: To improve understanding of how relative caregivers use SNAP and TANF programs including whether the involvement of child welfare services affects their use.

July 2012 – June 2014. R01 AI091905-02S1; Dr. Wilfried Karmaus; PI; NIAID/NIH. Transgenerational epigenetic inheritance of allergy in a multigenerational cohort – Research Supplement

Role: Postdoctoral investigator

Purpose: To analyze the impact of specific polymorphisms of selected candidate genes and their gene x environment interaction on child health outcomes. In addition, to explore whether DNA methylation of the candidate genes is in the “casual pathway” between both genetic polymorphisms and past exposures and disease outcomes. The main health outcomes include asthma, eczema, lung function [forced vital capacity (FVC) and forced expiratory flow in one second (FEV1)], skin prick tests – SPTs (atopy), and total serum IgE at age 18.