

Nelis 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 2012-2014
University of Memphis, School of Public Health

Ph.D. in Epidemiology 2008-2012

University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, USA

**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*

Master in Microbiology 2004-2007

University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR

Master in Public Health 2002-2004

Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR

Bachelor in Science in Microbiology 1998-2002

University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR

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 2024 – Dec 2025	<i>Research Consultant</i> , The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work, 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>Graduate Research Assistant</i> , Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR
Aug 2004 - Dec 2006	<i>Laboratory Instructor</i> , Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, PR
Aug 2002 - May 2004	<i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> , Department of Public Health, Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, PR
2014 – 2018	<i>Consultant</i> to faculty at the University of Memphis, Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, & Environmental Health
2018	<i>External Examiner</i> , University of Cape Town, Faculty of Health Sciences, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor (August 2024 – present)

University of South Carolina, Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Fall 2025, 2026

EPID 730J – Public Health Surveillance Systems online

PUBH 724 – Quantitative Methods for Public Health Practice I

PUBH 724J – Quantitative Methods for Public Health Practice I online

EPID 798 – Applied Practice Experience

Fall 2025

EPID 799 - Thesis Preparation

Spring 2025, 2026

EPID 796J – Integrated Learning Experience online

PUBH 725 – Quantitative Methods for Public Health Practice II

PUBH 725J – Quantitative Methods for Public Health Practice II online

EPID 799 - Thesis Preparation

Spring 2025

EPID 799 – Thesis preparation: Christina Bhola

Fall 2024

EPID 730J – Public Health Surveillance Systems online

Fall 2024

SOWK 889 - Doctoral Social Work Practicum: Oluranti Babalola

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**Fall 2025**

EPID 730

South Carolina Infectious Diseases Surveillance Systems, University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; November 15th 2025

Spring 2025

Departmental Talk

Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs: Teacher's mental health, family engagement, and child outcomes

Fall 2024

EPID 730

South Carolina Infectious Diseases Surveillance Systems, University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics; October 15th 2024

Fall 2020

SOWK 341-001&002:

Theories for understanding individuals, families, and groups; Hispanic and Latinx Culture; University of South Carolina, College of Social Work

Fall 2014

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

Spring 2012

EPID 745:

Doctoral Seminar; F32 Application Process and Tips; University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Aug 2024 – Dec 2025

The Center for Child and Family Studies, College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Consultant for Research and Evaluation Division

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

2026

V. Zambrano, N. Soto-Ramirez (2026). Multi-level determinants of caregiver depression in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start families. Poster Presentation. APHA 2026 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

2026

N. Soto-Ramirez, T. Giles, A. Baughman. (2026). Supporting Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Children: The Role of Teacher Professional Development in Early Learning and Development. Poster Presentation. APHA 2026 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.

- 2026 N. Soto-Ramírez, T. Giles, A. Baughman, Y. Xu, S. Pace. (2026). Adapting Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for System-Involved Youth: A Scoping Review in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. Roundtable Presentation. APHA 2026 Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas.
- 2026 Xu, Y., Soto-Ramírez, N., Perkins, K., Dinovo, R., Penney, P., & Chowdhury, S. (2026). *Trauma-informed telemental health for providers serving children and youth in child welfare/juvenile justice systems* [Training session].
- 2026 Relations between Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs and Children's Cognitive and Academic Outcomes, Parent Engagement, and Teachers' Mental Health, Oral presentation at the FY24 Secondary Analyses of Head Start Grant Recipient Online Webinar, Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Amber Baughman, PhD
- 2026 Risk and Protective Factors of Suicidal Behavior Profiles Among U.S. High School Students: A Latent Class Analysis of YRBSS Data, Poster presentation at the Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, Greenville, SC, USA. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Yanan Zhang, PhD; Amber Baughman, PhD, Taylor Giles, MA
- 2026 Strengthening Mental Health Provider Capacity to Serve System-Involved Students: A Trauma-Informed Telemental Health Training Program with AI Integration, Poster presentation at the Southeastern School Behavioral Health Conference, Greenville, SC, USA. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, Yanfeng Xu; Katie Perkins, Patrice Penney; Rhonda DiNovo, Shreekrishna Chowdhury
- 2026 Developing and evaluating the use of AI clients to train clinicians in a components-based intervention for complex trauma in children and adolescents [Conference presentation]. AI Research Showcase and Collaborative Discussion, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Perkins, K., Xu, Y., Soto-Ramírez, N., Penney, P., DiNovo, R., & Chowdhury, S. (2026, February 27).
- 2025 Enhancing Parent Engagement through Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs, Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Conference, Washington, DC, USA. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Amber Baughman, PhD, Christina Bhola, Taylor Giles, MA
- 2025 Relations between Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs and Teachers' Job Satisfaction and Mental Health, Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Conference, Washington, DC, USA. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Amber Baughman, PhD, Christina Bhola, Taylor Giles, MA
- 2025 Telemental health service utilization among children in foster care in a southeastern state: The roles of child race/ethnicity, urban/rurality, and mental health diagnoses. Poster presentation at the 6th National Big Data Health Science Conference, Columbia, SC, USA. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Yanfeng Xu, PhD; Taylor Giles, MA; Peiyin Hung, PhD
- 2025 Latent Class Analysis of Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in a National Sample of High School Students. Poster presentation at the 6th National Big Data Health Science Conference, Columbia, SC, USA. Taylor Giles, MA; Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Amber Baughman, PhD
- 2025 Telemental Health Service Utilization and Mental Health Emergency Room (ER) Visits Among Children in Foster Care in a Southeastern State: Evidence from Statewide Linked Administrative Data. Oral presentation at the 6th National Big Data Health Science Conference, Columbia, SC, USA. Yanfeng Xu, PhD; Nelís Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Peiyin Hung, PhD
- 2025 Usefulness of Telemental Health Services for Children in Foster Care in Rural Areas: Insights from Foster Parents on Facilitators and Barriers in a Southeastern State. Poster presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Seattle WA, USA. Nelís

Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Yanfeng Xu, PhD; Taylor Giles, MA; Sarah Pace, LMSW; Peiyin Hung, PhD, & Mark Weist, PhD

- 2025 Telehealth Service Utilization Among Children Involved in the Child Welfare System in the United States: A Scoping Review. Poster presentation at the 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR), Seattle WA, USA. Yanfeng Xu, PhD; Sarah Pace, LMSW; Nelis Soto-Ramírez, PhD; Taylor Giles, PhD; Peiyin Hung, PhD
- 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. (co-presenters)
- 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. (co-presenters)
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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 28 th 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) Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2021 Fatherhood H2O program evaluation, South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families, Columbia, SC, USA. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2020 Working with federal reporting systems and state level data to inform local practice and policy; College of Social Work, Columbia, SC, USA. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2017 Modes of infant feeding and eczema in children in the first 6 years of life. In-Flame International Conference, New York, USA. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2016 CDC site visit; Quality Assurance of Electronic Surveillance System, Columbia, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2016 Comparison of Statistical Software Applications *Epi-Info*, *SPSS*, *Stata*, *SAS*, *R*, Convocation of Southern State Epidemiologists (CSSE), Columbia, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2015 Plague – a simulation model; DHEC Epidemiology Seminar in Columbia, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2012 The Interaction of Genetic Variants and DNA Methylation of the Interleukin-4 Receptor Gene Increase the Risk of Asthma at Age 18 Years. 2012 NIH Roadmap Epigenomics Program Investigators' Meeting, Bethesda, Maryland. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 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. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2011 Breastfeeding is associated with increased lung function at age 18 years: a cohort study, American Thoracic Society (ATS) International Conference in Denver, Colorado. Soto-Ramírez N.

- 2011 Breastfeeding Initiation Among WIC Participants in South Carolina, 2004-2008, DHEC Epidemiology seminar-webinar in Columbia, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2011 Immune markers in breast milk and maternal blood before delivery and the occurrence of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study, Graduate Student Day 2011, Columbia, SC, & 3rd Congress of Epidemiology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2010 Breastfeeding Research and Benefits, Mary Black Hospital Conference in Spartanburg, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2010 Effects of Breastfeeding Education on Initiation Among Caucasian and African American Mothers in South Carolina. Building a Healthy, Equitable Future for Communities Through Research and Practice, Columbia, SC
- 2009 Breastfeeding and Immune Markers in Breast Milk, SC Breastfeeding Coalition Meeting in Columbia, SC. Soto-Ramírez N.
- 2009 Breastfeeding continues to increase lung function at age 18 years: a birth cohort study, Carolina Women's Health Research Forum in Columbia, SC. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, Wilfried Karmaus
- 2009 Breastfeeding continues to increase lung function at age 18 years: a birth cohort study. 22nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) in Anaheim, California. Nelís Soto-Ramírez , Wilfried Karmaus
- 2008 The Use of Oral Contraceptive before Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Duration: A Cross-Sectional Study with Retrospective Ascertainment. Carolina Women's Health Research Forum in Columbia, SC. Nelís Soto-Ramírez, Wilfried Karmaus
- 2007 A survey of halophilic aerobic prokaryotes associated to the leaf surface of *Avicennia germinans* at the Solar Salterns of Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico. American Society of Microbiology 107th annual meeting in the Toronto Convention Center in Toronto, Canada. Nelís Soto-Ramírez,
- 2006 Moderately Halophilic Aerobic Prokaryotic Diversity Present in the Leaf surface of *Avicennia germinans*. American Society of Microbiology 106th annual meeting in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL. Nelís Soto-Ramírez
- 2005 Moderately Halophilic Aerobic Prokaryotic Diversity Present in the Salt Crystals on *Avicennia germinans*'s leaves. AAAS Division del Caribe. Nelís Soto-Ramírez
- 2005 Moderately Halophilic Aerobic Prokaryotic Diversity Present in the Salt Crystals on *Avicennia germinans*'s leaves. VIII Sigma Xi Student Poster Day. Nelís Soto-Ramírez
- 2004 Virus de Inmunodeficiencia Humana Tipo-I. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Nelís Soto-Ramírez

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAININGS

- 2026 PH - GLIDE Leadership Development; Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
- 2025 Propel Research Mentorship Program - NIH track, for academic year 2025-2026. University of South Carolina
- 2025 Entering Mentoring – Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina

2025	Teaching and Learning with Generative Artificial Intelligence – Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
2025	Fostering Proactive Learning Environments – Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
2025	New Faculty Academy – Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
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

2026	PH - GLIDE Leadership Development; Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
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2026	ANCHOR - MCH Scholar; Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina
2025	AI Teaching Fellowship; Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina
2025	PROPEL Research Mentorship Program, University of South Carolina
2025	Certificate for Career Influencer; Career Center, University of South Carolina
2024	5 th National Big Data Health Science Conference; Best overall poster presentation <i>Association of Mental Health Service Utilization and Mental Health Diagnosis with Placement Instability among Foster Children in a Southeastern State</i>
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

- American Public Health Association
- 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

University of South Carolina

- August 2026 – Present: Fulbright committee, Discipline expert
- July 2026 – Present: Chair, Latino and Hispanic Faculty Caucus, University of South Carolina
- 2025 – Present: USC Center for School Behavioral Health, McCausland College of Arts and Sciences - **Leadership position representing ASPH**
https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/centers_and_institutes/school_behavioral_health/

- April 24, 2026: Discover USC at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center (CMCC); Session Title: GS: Health Sciences , J: **Judge**
- 2025: Discovery USC – **Judge**
- 2025- 2026: **Vice-Chair**, Latino and Hispanic Faculty Caucus, University of South Carolina

ASPH Committees

- 2024- Present: MPH in Epidemiology Admissions Committee
- 2026 – Present: Fun and Frolic Committee

Professional Community

- **2025:** Committee Member, SSWR MIMH SIG

Mentor:

- January 2025 - Coffee with a Scholar Program, SSWR; Mentee: Nicole Kim, Doctoral Student, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin

Peer reviewer:

- European Respiratory Journal
- BMC Public Health
- Scientific Reports
- 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

Grant reviewer:

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

Conference abstract reviewer:

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

Community Service

- March 9, 2026 - High School Science and Engineering Fair: Behavioral and Social Science Judging Team at the USC Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Monday, March 9th at the Pastides Alumni Center, USC - Judge
- 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

2026 - Present	Chair, Latino and Hispanic Faculty Caucus
2025 – 2026	Vice-Chair, Latino and Hispanic Faculty Caucus
2024 – Present	Member, Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium (CCEEPRC)
2021 – 2025	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 – 2024	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. National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program (MSHS) database
2. National Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
3. National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)
4. 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
5. CASA/GAL survey - National Volunteer Retention Assessment Study
6. CASA/GAL Annual Survey – National CASA/GAL Organizations and Local Programs Annual Surveys
7. South Carolina National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
8. National Youth Transition Database (NYTD)
9. Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) database
10. Carolina's Health Electronic Surveillance System (CHESS/NEDSS) – relational database

11. South Carolina's Infectious Disease and Outbreak Network (SCION) – relational database
12. SC Syndromic Surveillance System
13. SC Outbreak database
14. South Carolina (SC) Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)
15. Large DNA methylation (DNA-M) dataset of the IoW birth cohort
16. Infant Feeding Practice Study (IFPS) II dataset and 6 Years follow-up dataset

MENTORING RESEARCH ASSISTANT STUDENTS

Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

2026 – Present

Faculty Mentor: Maternal and Child Health Student Association

Graduate Students

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

2024 – Present

Anzlee Studenc (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor

Quinn Manley (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor & Applied Practice Experience Mentor

Rachel Knight (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor & Applied Practice Experience Mentor, Topic: Implementation of the Prehospital Assisted Treatment and Healthcare Services (PATHS) Program: A Mixed Methods Analysis

LaTeesha Johnson (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor & Applied Practice Experience Mentor

Davyia Burgess (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor

Cedrick Belton (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor & Applied Practice Experience Mentor, Topic: Heart Failure Surveillance System

2025 – 2026

Lucy Mwenda (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: Integrated Learning Experience and Applied Practice Experience Mentor, Topic: Unmet Dental Care Needs Among Pregnant Women enrolled on Medicaid

2024 – 2026

Parker Byrd (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor & Applied Practice Experience Mentor, Topic: A Survey of Microplastics in the Waterways Near Savannah, Georgia

Katrina Acree (MPH Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: MPH Academic Advisor

Oluranti Babalola (Graduate student, PhD in Social Work); Role: Mentor. Topic: Advance Care Planning During Crisis: Trends in Older Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Post Covid-19.

2024-2025

Christina Bhola (MS Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics); Role: Faculty Thesis Chair. Topic: The effect of household income dependency on postpartum depression among women in the United States: Evidence from the pregnancy risk assessment monitoring system

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

Amari Polite (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant); Role: Mentor
 Traci Brookie (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant); Role: Mentor
 Michael Currie (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant); Role: Mentor
 Sultan Alsallum (Graduate student, PhD in Epidemiology, Graduate Research Assistant)
 Heyam Ardab (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant); Role: Mentor
 Janet Odeku (Graduate student, MSW, Graduate Research Assistant); Role: Mentor

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)

Undergraduate Students

University of South Carolina, Arnold School of Public Health

2026 – Present

Emily Staton – South Carolina Honors College; Role: Thesis Director
 Addison Bohrer – South Carolina Honors College; Role: Research Mentor

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

Jessica Meritt (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. Relations between Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs and Children's Cognitive and Academic Outcomes, Parent Engagement, and Teachers' Mental Health. To understand whether professional development opportunities and support for MSHS teachers predict

positive outcomes for the children they serve. This research will assist these programs in making evidence-based decisions in tailoring a professional development approach that will result in the greatest developmental and academic gains for their students. Role: Principal Investigator

2. Impact of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) on High-risk Youth in South Carolina With Consideration for Factors Impacting Attrition. To understand the factors contributing to MST attrition in South Carolina, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities and rural youth. Role: Co-Principal Investigator
3. Strengthening mental health provider capacity to provide trauma-informed, resiliency-based, and family-centered telemental health services to children and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in rural South Carolina: An artificial intelligence (AI)-integrated training program. This proposed project seeks to strengthen mental health provider capacity by enhancing providers' competencies in delivering trauma-informed, resiliency-based, and family-centered telemental health services to children and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in rural South Carolina. Ultimately, the project seeks to reduce rural-urban disparities in access to mental health care for children and youth in these systems via telemental health. Role: Co-Principal Investigator
4. 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
5. 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
6. 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/>
7. 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
8. 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
9. 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>
10. 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>

11. 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>
12. 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
13. 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
14. 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
15. 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.

DATA REPOSITORIES

Baughman, Amber, **Soto-Ramírez, Nelís**, and Giles, Taylor. Evaluation of Housing to Home Ownership (H2O) in South Carolina, 2021-2025. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2026-05-26. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR39668.v1>

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3404-2092>

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

1. Babalola, O., Fabrice Julceus, E., **Soto-Ramírez N.**, Levkoff, S. S56. Advance Care Planning During Crisis: Trends in Older Adults with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Post Covid-19. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jagp.2026.03.231>
2. **Soto-Ramírez N.**, Giles T., Baughman A., Xu Y, Pace P. Exploring Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Beyond Schools: Scoping Review in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* (Under Review)
3. Xu Y, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Chowdhury S, Giles T, Ayovi-Pace S. Telehealth for children involved in the child welfare system and their families in the United States: A scoping review. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 2026 May; :109061-. doi: 10.1016/j.childyouth.2026.109061.
4. **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Taylor Giles, Amber Baughman, Christina Bhola (2025) Enhancing Parent Engagement through Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* (Under Review)

5. **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Taylor Giles, Amber Baughman, Christina Bhola (2025) Relations between Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs and Teachers' Job Satisfaction and Mental Health. *Children and Youth Services Review* (Under Review)
6. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Xu, Y., Hung, P. & Giles, T. (2026). Telemental health service utilization among children in foster care in a southeastern state: The roles of child race/ethnicity, urban/rurality, and mental health diagnoses. *Children and Youth Services Review* (Under Review)
7. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Xu, Y., Hung, P. & Giles, T. (2025). Telemental health service utilization among children in foster care in a southeastern state: The roles of child race/ethnicity, urban/rurality, and mental health diagnoses, *BMC Proceedings*, 19(13):P53
8. Yanfeng Xu, **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Peiyin Hung, Mercy Somhayin Namateng (2025) Telemental health service utilization and mental health emergency room visits among children in foster care in a Southeastern state: evidence from statewide linked administrative data. *BMC Proceedings* 2025, 19(13):O26
9. Giles, T., **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Baughman, A. (2025) Latent class analysis of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in a national sample of high school students. *BMC Proceedings* 2025, 19(13):P16
10. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Xu, Y., Pace, S., Giles, T., Hung, P., & Weist, M. D. (2025). Foster caregiver perceptions of facilitators and barriers of telemental health services for children in foster care: a qualitative study. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2025.2528016>
11. Xu, Y., Ayovi-Pace, S., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Redke, S, Giles, T, Hung, P., & Weist, M. Benefits and challenges of providing telemental health services for children in foster care in a southeastern state: perspectives from telemental health providers. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*. <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/735580>
12. 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*. 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2024.2381112>
13. **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>
14. **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. *Children and Youth Services Review* 166, 107996, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2024.107996>
15. 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>
16. Xu, Y., Jedwab, M., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, & Weist, M. D. (2022). The use of mental health services among children in kinship care: an application of Andersen's Behavioral Model for Health Services Use. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 17(3), 669–694. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2022.2092809>
17. 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>
18. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Odeku, J. Flynn, C., Tester, D. (2020) 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*; 78: 53, doi: 10.1186/s13690-020-00431-0
19. 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.

20. 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>
21. 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
22. 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
23. 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
24. **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
25. 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
26. Devasmitha Venkataraman, **Nelís Soto-Ramírez**, Ramesh J Kurukulaaratchy, John W Holloway, Wilfried Karmaus, Susan L Ewart, S Hasan Arshad, Mich Erlewyn-Lajeunesse. Filaggrin loss-of-function mutations are associated with food allergy in childhood and adolescence. *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. 2014; DOI: 10.1016/j.jaci.2014.07.033
27. **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
28. Zhang H, Tong X, Holloway JW, Rezwan FI, Lockett GA, Patil V, Ray M, Everson TM, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Arshad SH, Ewart S, Karmaus W. The interplay of DNA methylation over time with Th2 pathway genetic variants on asthma risk and temporal asthma transition. *Clinical Epigenetics*. 2014, 15;6:8
29. Patil, V.K., Holloway, J.W., Zhang H., **Soto-Ramírez**, N., Ewart S, Arshad S.H., Karmaus, W. Interaction of prenatal maternal smoking, Interleukin 13 genetic variants and DNA methylation influencing airflow and airway reactivity. *Clinical Epigenetics*. 2013, 5:22 doi:10.1186/1868-7083-5-22
30. 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.
31. **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.
32. **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
33. **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.
34. **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.
35. **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.
36. Burch J, Karmaus W, Gangur V, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Yousefi M, Goetzl LM. Pre- and perinatal characteristics and breast milk immune markers. *Pediatric Research* 2013; doi: 10.1038/pr.2013.141.

37. **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*.
38. **N.Soto-Ramírez**, W. Karmaus, H. Zhang, J. Liu, and D. Billings. Immune markers in breast milk and maternal blood before delivery and the occurrence of asthma-like symptoms at ages 6 and 12 months: a longitudinal study. 3rd North American Congress of Epidemiology, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, June 21-24, 2011. *Am. J. Epidemiol.* 2011 Jun; 173(Suppl 11): 1-331. 576-S
39. J. Burch, **N. Soto-Ramírez**, W. Karmaus. Breast Milk Cytokines And Maternal Allergy. AAAI Congress of Epidemiology, 2011 Jun; 173(Suppl 11): 1-331. 576-S
40. Plenge-Bönig A, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Karmaus W, Petersen G, Davis S, Forster J. Breastfeeding protects against acute gastroenteritis due to rotavirus in infants. (2010) *Eur J Pediatr*. DOI: 10.1007/s00431-010-1245-0
41. Sánchez-Porro C, de la Haba RR, **Soto-Ramírez N**, Márquez MC, Montalvo-Rodríguez R, Ventosa A. Description of *Kushneria aurantia* gen. nov., sp. nov., a novel member of the family Halomonadaceae, and a proposal for reclassification of *Halomonas marisflavi* as *Kushneria marisflavi* comb. nov., of *Halomonas indalinina* as *Kushneria indalinina* comb. nov. and of *Halomonas avicenniae* as *Kushneria avicenniae* comb. nov. *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol.* (2009) 59(Pt 2):397-405.
42. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Karmaus W. The use of oral contraceptive before pregnancy and breastfeeding duration: A cross-sectional study with retrospective ascertainment. (2008). *Int Breastfeed J.* 16;3:29.
43. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Sánchez-Porro C, Rosas-Padilla S, Almodóvar K, Jiménez G, Machado-Rodríguez M, Zapata M, Ventosa A, Montalvo-Rodríguez R. *Halobacillus mangrovi* sp. nov., a moderately halophilic bacterium isolated from the black mangrove *Avicennia germinans*. (2008) *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol.* 58(Pt 1):125-30.
44. **Soto-Ramírez N**, Sánchez-Porro C, Rosas S, González W, Quiñones M, Ventosa A, Montalvo-Rodríguez R. *Halomonas avicenniae* sp. nov., isolated from the salty leaves of the black mangrove *Avicennia germinans* in Puerto Rico. (2007) *Int J Syst Evol Microbiol* 57, 900–905.

DISSERTATION

Nelís Soto-Ramírez. 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. 2012. Editor ProQuest LLC, Ann Arbor, MI. pages 176.

TECHNICAL REPORTS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Baughman, A.V., Giles, T., **Soto-Ramírez, N.** (2025) *Descriptive Evaluation of Housing to Homeownership (H2O) in South Carolina*. Center for Child and Family Studies, University of South Carolina.
2. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Baughman, A., Giles, T. ICPSR-217102– Data Archive - *Evaluation of Housing to Home Ownership (H2O) in South Carolina*
3. **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Baughman, A., Bailey, M. (2021) Service GAP Analysis for the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.
4. Rosemond, T., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Baughman, A., Bailey, M., & Flynn, C (2019) Volunteer Retention Assessment Study for the National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association.
5. Luke Robinson, P., **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, & Flynn, C. (2016). South Carolina Department of Social Services employee satisfaction survey: Summary reports. University of South Carolina Center for Child and Family Studies
6. Flynn, C, **Soto-Ramírez, N.**, Jones, T., Pham, B. et al. (2016). Placement Need Assessment Study for the SC Department of Social Services. University of South Carolina Center for Child and Family Studies

FUNDED RESEARCH

January 2026 – Present. Intersections of Social, Behavioral, and Environmental Determinants on Maternal and Child Health Among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Families. ANCHOR - MCH Scholar; Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina.

Role: Principal Investigator and Mentor

Purpose: To investigate how social, behavioral, and environmental determinants interact to influence maternal and child outcomes among Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Families enrolled in the Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs, and to identify protective factors promoting resilience and equity.

July 1st 2025 – Present. **Strengthening Trauma-informed Access through Resilient Telementalhealth Training with AI in South Carolina.** S.T.A.R.T. AI. Funded: Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare through the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Purpose: To strengthen mental health provider capacity by enhancing providers' competencies in delivering trauma-informed, resiliency-based, and family-centered telemental health services to children and youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in rural South Carolina. Ultimately, the project seeks to reduce rural-urban disparities in access to mental health care for children and youth in these systems via telemental health.

February 1st 2025 – Present. Impact of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) on High-Risk Youth in South Carolina with Considerations for the Impact of Attrition on Disadvantaged Youth. USC Educational Foundation/The Duke Endowment

Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Purpose: To understand the factors contributing to MST attrition in South Carolina, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities and rural youth.

September 30th 2024 – April 30, 2026. Relations between Teachers' Professional Development in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs and Children's Cognitive and Academic Outcomes, Parent Engagement, and Teachers' Mental Health; ACF/OPRE

Role: Principal Investigator

Purpose: (1) To assess whether professional development and support for MSHS staff classroom teachers are associated with teachers' depression indicators and job satisfaction; (2) To determine whether professional development and support for MSHS staff classroom teachers are associated with increased parent engagement at a center level; (3) To investigate whether professional development and support for MSHS classroom teachers are associated with more positive outcomes for children, such as child's cognitive-academic development and language and literacy development.

March 1st 2021 – 2025. 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 2023 – June 30th 2025. The Use of Telemental Health Services Among Foster Children in Rural South Carolina: A Mixed-Methods Study; Funded: Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare through the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

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.

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 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 × 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.