

# Claire R. McNellan, M.P.H.

School of Social Work  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
325 Pittsboro Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Email: [clairerm@email.unc.edu](mailto:clairerm@email.unc.edu)

## EDUCATION

Expected 2024	<b>Ph.D. candidate</b> , The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Social Work <b>Dissertation:</b> Using Unsupervised Machine Learning to Advance Understanding of Child Maltreatment Report Dispositions <b>Committee:</b> Emily Putnam-Hornstein (chair), Ramona Denby-Brinson, Rebecca Rebbe, Todd Jenson, Shabbar Ranapurwala
2017	<b>M.P.H.</b> , University of Washington Health Metrics and Evaluation
2014	<b>B.A.</b> , Colorado College Neuroscience ( <i>with distinction</i> ), Minor: Bioethics

## MAJOR RESEARCH INTERESTS

Child- & family-serving systems; child maltreatment; decision-making; maternal/child health disparities; administrative data; public health surveillance; population health.

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2020-	<b>Doctoral Research Assistant</b> Children's Data Network The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Los Angeles, CA & Chapel Hill, NC
2020-2020	<b>Research Scientist</b> Global Center for Integrated Health of Women, Adolescents, & Children University of Washington Seattle, WA
2018-2019	<b>Associate Director of Data Analysis and Governance</b> National Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem Association for Children Seattle, WA
2017-2018	<b>Data Governance and Evaluation Specialist</b> National Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardians ad Litem Association for Children Seattle, WA

- 2016-2016     **Visiting Research Fellow**  
Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)  
Gurgaon, India
- 2014-2017     **Post-Bachelor Fellow**  
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)  
University of Washington  
Seattle, WA

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

9. **McNellan, C. R.**, Tayler, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E. Child care as a tool to prevent child protection involvement: Findings from Douglas County, Colorado.
8. Sattler, K., **McNellan, C. R.**, Foust, R., Putnam-Hornstein, E.. Learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from California.
7. **McNellan, C.R.**, Putnam-Hornstein, E. Using Bayesian methods to understand mortality risk among foster care youth in transition.
6. Ahn, E., **McNellan, C.R.**, Prindle, J., Foust, R., Putnam-Hornstein, E. Kindergarten matriculation patterns among public school children in California: A pre- and post-COVID comparison.
5. Prindle, J., **McNellan, C.R.**, Ahn, E., Foust, R., Putnam-Hornstein, E. Beating the odds: Characterizing resilient students using linked administrative data.
4. **McNellan, C. R.**, Palmer, L., Font, S., Putnam-Hornstein, E., & McCroskey, J. Using a predictive risk model to assess disparities in service referrals following a child protection investigation.
3. **McNellan, C. R.**, Prindle, J., & Eastman, A. L, Putnam-Hornstein, E. Mortality in a California cohort of emerging adults exiting foster care.
2. Prindle, J., **McNellan, C. R.**, Foust, R., & Putnam-Hornstein, E. Modeling academic achievement among maltreated children: Implications for policy.
1. Gibbs, D. J., **McNellan, C. R.**, Dawes, H., & Forte, A. Outcomes associated with child participation in United States dependency court proceedings: A systematic review.

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

2. Gibbs, D. J., Lanier, P., **McNellan, C. R.**, Bryan, K., Identifying children at risk for maltreatment fatalities: Assessing the current landscape of birth match policies in the United States.

(Revise and resubmit). Preprint available at SSRN:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4484401>

1. Flor, L. S., et al. [including **McNellan, C.R.**] Endline assessment of community-based program on hypertension and diabetes management in Brazil. (Submitted September 27, 2021). Preprint available at medRxiv: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.05.22.22275385>

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

20. Fullman, N., et al. [including **McNellan, C.R.**] (2023) Assessing the impact of community-based interventions on hypertension and diabetes management in three Minnesota communities: Findings from the prospective evaluation of US HealthRise programs. *PLoS ONE*, 18(2). <https://doi-org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.1371/journal.pone.0279230>
19. **McNellan, C. R.**, Gibbs, D. J., Knobel, A. S., & Putnam-Hornstein, E. (2022) The evidence base for risk assessment tools used in U.S. child protection investigations: A systematic scoping review. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 134. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105887>
18. Foust, R., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2022) The Children's Data Network: Harnessing the scientific potential of linked, administrative data to inform children's programs and policies. *International Journal of Population Data Science*, 6(3). <https://doi.org/10.23889/ijpds.v6i3.1702>
17. Flor, L. S., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2020) Community-based interventions for detection and management of diabetes and hypertension in underserved communities: A mixed-methods evaluation in Brazil, India, South Africa and the USA. *BMJ Global Health*, 5(6). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-001959>
16. **McNellan, C. R.**, Dansereau, E., Wallace, M. C., et al. (2019) Antenatal care as a means to increase participation in the continuum of maternal and child healthcare: An analysis of the poorest regions of four Mesoamerican countries. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 19(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-019-2207-9>
15. Duber, H. C., **McNellan, C. R.**, Wollum, A., et al. (2018) Public knowledge of cardiovascular disease and response to acute cardiac events in three cities in China and India. *Heart*, 104(1). <https://doi.org/10.1136/heartjnl-2017-311388>
14. Mokdad, A. H., et al. [including **McNellan, C.R.**] (2018) Supply-side interventions to improve health: Findings from the Salud Mesoamerica Initiative. *Plos One*, 13(4). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0195292>
13. Wollum, A., Gabert, R., **McNellan, C. R.**, et al. (2018) Identifying gaps in the continuum of care for cardiovascular disease and diabetes in two communities in South Africa: Baseline

- findings from the HealthRise project. *Plos One*, 13(3).  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0192603>
12. El Bcheraoui, C., Zuniga-Brenes, P., Rios-Zertuche, D., Palmisano, E. B., **McNellan, C. R.**, et al. (2018) Health systems strategies to increase HIV screening among pregnant women in Mesoamerica. *Population Health Metrics*, 16(5). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12963-018-0162-8>
  11. Vos, T., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2017) Global, regional, and national incidence, prevalence, and years lived with disability for 328 diseases and injuries for 195 countries, 1990–2016: A systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *The Lancet*, 390, 1211-1259. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)32154-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)32154-2)
  10. Gabert, R., Ng, M., Sogarwal, R., Bryant, M., Deepu, R. V., **McNellan, C. R.**, et al. (2017) Identifying gaps in the continuum of care for hypertension and diabetes in two Indian communities. *BMC Health Services Research*, 17(846). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-017-2796-9>
  9. Hernandez, B., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2017) Barriers and facilitators for institutional delivery among poor Mesoamerican women: a cross-sectional study. *Health Policy and Planning*, 32(6), 769-780. <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapol/czx010>
  8. **McNellan, C. R.**, Dansereau, E., Colombara, D., et al. (2017) Uptake of antenatal care, and its relationship with participation in health services and behaviors: An analysis of the poorest regions of four Mesoamerican countries. *Annals of Global Health*, 83(1), 193-194. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aogh.2017.03.482>
  7. Barber, R. M., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2017) Healthcare access and quality index based on mortality from causes amenable to personal health care in 195 countries and territories, 1990-2015: A novel analysis from the global burden of disease study 2015. *The Lancet*, 390, 231-266. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)30818-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30818-8)
  6. Kulikoff, X. R., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2016) Health metrics priorities in the SDG era and beyond: a perspective from young researchers. *The Lancet*, 388(10058) [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)32134-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)32134-1)
  5. Lim, S. S., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2016) Measuring the health-related Sustainable Development Goals in 188 countries: A baseline analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015. *The Lancet*, 388, 1813-1850. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(16\)31467-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(16)31467-2)
  4. Dansereau, E., **McNellan, C. R.**, Gagnier, M. C., et al. (2016) Coverage and timing of antenatal care among poor women in 6 Mesoamerican countries. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 16(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-016-1018-5>

3. Colombara, D.V., et al. [including **McNellan, C. R.**] (2016) Institutional delivery and satisfaction among Indigenous and poor women in Guatemala, Mexico, and Panama. *PLOS ONE*, 11(4), e154388. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0154388>
2. Colombara, D. V., Hernandez, B., **McNellan, C. R.**, et al. (2016) Diarrhea prevalence, care, and risk factors among poor children under 5 years of age in Mesoamerica. *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 94(3), 544-552. <https://doi.org/10.4269/ajtmh.15-0750>
1. Colombara, D. V., Hernandez, B., Gagnier, M. C., Johanns, C., Desai, S. S., Haakenstad, A., **McNellan, C. R.**, et al. (2015) Breastfeeding practices among poor women in Mesoamerica. *Journal of Nutrition*, 145(8), 1958-1965. <https://doi.org/10.3945/jn.115.213736>

## GRANTS & RESEARCH SUPPORT

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2021-2022 | Douglas County Department of Human Services (\$40,000)<br>Research Contract<br><i>A Retrospective Population-Based Study of Child Protective System Involvement</i><br><b>Researcher</b>   |
| 2021-2022 | Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy, Research, & Training at Washington University in St. Louis (\$20,000)<br>Pilot Project Award<br><i>Assessing the Utility of a Risk-Stratification Model to Increase Equitable Service Connection</i><br><b>Co-Investigator</b><br>Faculty Co-Investigator: Emily Putnam-Hornstein, PhD |

## HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 2023      | <b>Comprehensive Oral Substantive Examination Passed with Distinction</b><br>UNC School of Social Work |
| 2022      | <b>Fulbright Student Program Semi-Finalist</b><br>U.S. Department of State                             |
| 2022      | <b>Comprehensive Methods Examination Passed with Distinction</b><br>UNC School of Social Work          |
| 2021-2022 | <b>Injury and Violence Prevention (IVP) Fellowship</b><br>UNC Injury Prevention Research Center        |

- 2021            **Best Student Presentation**  
UNC Injury Prevention Research Center's conference, "Intersectional Approaches to Injury and Violence Prevention in a Post-COVID World"
- 2014-2017    **Post-Bachelor Fellowship**  
Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
- 2014-           **Psi Chi International Honors Society**
- 2011-           **Alpha Lambda Delta National Honors Society**
- 2010-2014    **Women's Educational Society Scholarship**  
The Colorado College

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** (\*= presenting author)

2023

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Ahn, E.\*, Noll, J.\*, Miyamoto, S.\* Community-Based Services for the Prevention and Detection of Child Abuse and Neglect. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) 2023 International Congress. *Edinburgh, United Kingdom*. (accepted)

**McNellan, C.R.**, Putnam-Hornstein, E. (Poster) Using a Multi-State Markov Model to Estimate Mortality Risk Among Foster Youth During Transition. Population Association of America (PAA) 2023 Annual Meeting. *New Orleans, LA*.

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Gibbs, D., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Knobel, A. The Evidence for Risk Assessment Tools Used in Child Protection Investigations: A Scoping Review. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. *Phoenix, AZ*.

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Palmer, L., Putnam-Hornstein, E., McCroskey, J. Risk, Race, and Community-Based Service Referrals in Los Angeles County, California. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. *Phoenix, AZ*.

Putnam-Hornstein, E.\*, Vaithianathan, R., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., McCroskey, J., Ahn, E., **McNellan, C.R.** Developing and Implementing a Predictive Risk Model to Support Child Protection Supervisors: Results from Los Angeles County Risk Stratification Pilot. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. *Phoenix, AZ*.

2022

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Eastman, A., Prindle, J., Putnam-Hornstein, E. Mortality During Transitions Out of Foster Care: Evidence from California. Population Association of America (PAA) 2022 Annual Meeting. *Atlanta, GA* (presented remotely due to COVID-19).

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Eastman, A., Prindle, J., Foust, R., Herd, T. Leveraging Linked, Administrative Data to Inform Policy and Practice for Adolescents who have Child Protective Services (CPS) Involvement. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) 2022 International Congress. *Tallinn, Estonia* (withdrawn due to COVID-19).

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Prindle, J., Putnam-Hornstein, E., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., Palmer, L. Risk Assessment Tools to Support Child Welfare Practice. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) 2022 International Congress. *Tallinn, Estonia* (withdrawn due to COVID-19).

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Palmer, L., Putnam-Hornstein, E., McCroskey, J. Assessing the Utility of a Predictive Risk Model to Increase Service Connections in Los Angeles, California. The International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (ISPCAN) 2022 International Congress. *Quebec City, Quebec* (withdrawn due to COVID-19).

Prindle, J.\*, Foust, R., **McNellan, C.R.**, Putnam-Hornstein, E. Modeling Academic Achievement Among Maltreated Children: Implications for Policy. Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference (APPAM). *Austin, TX*.

**McNellan, C.R.\***, Palmer, L., McCroskey, J., Putnam-Hornstein, E. Using a Predictive Risk Model to Assess Racial Disparities in Service Referrals Following a Child Protection Investigation. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. *Washington, DC*. (withdrawn due to COVID-19).

2021

Prindle, J., Eastman, A.L., **McNellan, C.R.**, Putnam-Hornstein, E. Cohort Study of Mortality Among Youth in Foster Care. Society for Social Work and Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. *Virtual*. (Withdrawn due to COVID-19).

Gibbs, D.\*, **McNellan, C.R.** The Empirical Evidence for Child Participation in Dependency Court Proceedings: Results of a Systematic Review of the Literature. National Child Welfare Law Conference (NACC). *Denver, CO*. (Withdrawn due to COVID-19).

2017

**McNellan, C.R.** (Poster) Uptake of Antenatal Care and its Relationship with Participation in Health Services and Behaviors: An Analysis of the Poorest Regions of Four Mesoamerican Countries. The Consortium of Universities for Global Health Annual Global Health Conference. *Washington, DC*.

## TEACHING

2022 (Fall)      SOWO 570: Social Work Practice with Organizations and Communities  
Teaching Assistant

*McNellan*  
*Current as of: July, 2023*

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Peer Reviewer

BMJ Open (2020)  
Reproductive Health (2021, 2022)  
Child Maltreatment (2022)

### Member

Population Association of America  
Society for Social Work and Research  
American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children  
International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2022-	<b>Co-Director</b> Child Maltreatment Research and Practice Network UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate Student Networks
2020-2022	<b>Member</b> Child Maltreatment Research and Practice Network UNC-Chapel Hill Graduate Student Networks
2020-2021	<b>Student Representative</b> Doctoral Program Committee UNC School of Social Work

## SELECTED TRAINING

2022	<i>Interdisciplinary Research Institute: Challenges in Child Maltreatment Research</i> The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
2020	<i>Data Matters: Intro. to Big Data and Machine Learning for Social Scientists</i> UNC Odum Institute for Research in Social Science
2019	<i>Interdisciplinary Research Institute: Challenges &amp; Opportunities in Child Maltreatment Research</i> The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
2018	<i>Court Appointed Special Advocate Training</i>



National Court Appointed Special Advocates/Guardian ad Litem Association for  
Children

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

**Statistical Languages:** R, Stata, SPSS (limited proficiency), ATLAS.ti (limited proficiency), MPlus

**Survey and Data Management Programs:** Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, RedCap, KeySurvey

**Data Visualization:** R Markdown, Tableau (limited proficiency), Power BI

**Reference Management:** Zotero, RefWorks, Mendeley