
Lauren A. Peterson

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2026 – Assistant Professor
Human Behavior, Research, and Policy Department
Boston University School of Social Work, Boston MA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of Chicago**
2026 Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Chicago, IL
Dissertation: *The Role of State Medicaid Waiver Policy Design in Home and Community-Based Services Utilization and Outcomes for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*
Committee: Colleen Grogan, Ph.D. (chair), R. Tamara Konetzka, Ph.D., Harold Pollack Ph.D., Margaret Thomas, Ph.D.

A.M. **University of Chicago**
2020 Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, Chicago, IL
Concentration: Social Service Administration (*Master of Social Work equivalent degree*)

M.P.H **Columbia University**
2017 Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY
Concentration: Health Policy and Management

B.A. **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**
2010 College of Arts and Sciences, Chapel Hill, NC
Majors: Public Policy with *Highest Honors*, International Studies
Minor: Hispanic Studies (Spanish Language)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

U.S. Health and Social Policy; Medicaid; Medicare; Long-term Services and Supports; Disability Policy; Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; Substance Use Disorders; Maternal & Child Health

CLINICAL, POLICY, AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

2020 – 2026 **University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**
Graduate Research Assistant, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Medicine

2018 – 2019 **University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL**
Clinical Social Work Intern, Department of Medicine, Section of Nephrology

2016 – 2018 **US Dept. of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General, New York, NY**
Social Science Research Analyst, Office of Evaluation and Inspections

2015 – 2017 **Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY**
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Health Policy and Management

2011 – 2015 **Abt Associates, Bethesda, MD**
Analyst, International Health Division

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

1. Fetus, S., Andrews, C., **Peterson, L.**, Grogan, C., Abraham, A., Hinds, O., & Stewart, M. (2026). Medicaid Managed Care Plan Alignment with State Substance Use Disorder Treatment Coverage Requirements. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 104(2), 508-533.
2. Pollack, H., Tabman, B., Brown, D., Wen, H., Berg, K., **Peterson, L.**, Cliff, B., Ances, B., & Johnston, K. (2025). Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities with Mental Health and Neurologic Disorders. *Psychiatric Services*. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.2024060>
3. DiSipio, M., Goldschmidt, Lewis, C., McGinley, J., Morris, M., **Peterson, L.**, Tichá, R., Traci, M., Wilson, J. (2025). Social Determinants of Health Strand: Recommendations of the National Goals on Health Equity Working Meetings. *Inclusion* 13(3), <https://doi.org/10.1352/2326-6988-13.3.222>
4. Estrada M. A. G., Steuart, S. R., Andrews, C., Grogan, C., Hinds, O., Lawler, E., **Peterson, L.**, Lozano-Rojas, F., Westlake, M., Wing, C., & Abraham, A. J. (2025). Relationship Between Medicaid Coverage Design and Receipt of Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder (MAUD): Probability of Receipt Increases Based on Comprehensives of Plan. Accepted at *Drug and Alcohol Dependence Reports*, 16. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2025.100374>
5. Steuart, S. R., Estrada M. A. G., Andrews, C., Grogan, C., Hinds, O., Lawler, E., **Peterson, L.**, Lozano-Rojas, F., Westlake, M., Wing, C., & Abraham, A. J. (2025). Medicaid MCO Plan Coverage and Diagnosis and Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder: Evidence from Plan Assignment in Kentucky Medicaid. *Health Affairs Scholar* 3(7), 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.1093/haschl/qxaf119>
6. **Peterson, L.**, Andrews, C., Abraham, A., Westlake, M., & Grogan, C. (2024). Most States Allow Medicaid Managed Care Plans Broad Discretion to Restrict Substance Use Disorder Treatment Benefits. *Health Affairs*, 43(7), 1038-1046. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2023.01023>
***Featured in A Health Podyyssey and Behavioral Health News.**
7. Thorndike, A., **Peterson, L.**, Spitzer-Shohat, S., Patel, S., Smithey, A., Moore, J., & Chin, M. H. (2023). Advancing Health Equity Through Partnerships of State Medicaid Agencies, Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, and Health Care Delivery Organizations. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 11, 720. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1104843>
8. **Peterson, L.**, Murugesan, M., Nocon, R., Hoang, H., Bolton, J., Laiteerapong, N., Pollack, H., & Marsh, J. (2022). Health Care Use and Spending for Medicaid Patients Diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder Receiving Primary Care in Federally Qualified Health Centers Compared to Other Primary Care Settings. *PLOS One*, 17(10), e0276066. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0276066>
*** Featured in testimony submitted for the record for a United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing on “Community Health Centers, Saving Lives, Saving Money”, March 2023.**
9. Eliason, E.L., MacDougall, H., & **Peterson, L.** (2022). Understanding the Aggressive Practices of Nonprofit Hospitals in Pursuit of Patient Debt. *Health & Social Work*, 47(1), 36-44. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/hsw/hlab034>
10. **Peterson, L.**, Comfort, A., Hatt, L., & van Bastelaer, T. (2018). Extending Health Insurance Coverage to the Informal Sector: Lessons from a Private Micro Health Insurance Scheme in Lagos, Nigeria. *International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, 33(3), 662-676. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpm.2519>

11. Rodríguez, D. & **Peterson, L.** (2016). A Retrospective Review of the Honduras AIN-C Program Guided by a Community Health Worker Performance Logic Model. *Human Resources for Health*, 14(1), 1-11. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12960-016-0115-x>
12. Comfort, A., Chankova, S., Juras, R., Hsi, C.N., **Peterson, L.**, & Hathi, P. (2016). Providing Free Pregnancy Test Kits to Community Health Workers Increases Distribution of Contraceptives: Results from an Impact Evaluation in Madagascar. *Contraception*, 93(1), 44-51. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2015.09.011>
13. Comfort, A., **Peterson, L.**, & Hatt, L. (2013). Effect of Health Insurance on the Use and Provision of Maternal Health Services and Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Health, Population, and Nutrition*, 31(4 Suppl 2), S81-S105.

Book Chapters and Other Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. Traci, M.A., Disipio, M., Ticha, R., Lewis, C., **Peterson, L.**, Meshesha, H.S., Wilson, J.T., & Morris, M. (2026). Social Determinants of Health for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Silver Spring, MD: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).
2. **Peterson, L.** & Grogan, C. (2020). Health Care Politics in the United States. In L.S. Maisel (Ed.). *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. New York: Oxford University Press.
3. Churchill, C. & **Peterson, L.** (2014). Insurance. In L. Salamon (Ed.). *New Frontiers of Philanthropy: A Guide to the New Tools and New Actors that Are Reshaping Global Philanthropy and Social Investing*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Grants and Fellowships Submitted

- 2025 **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) R36 Dissertation Grant**
 February 2025 Study Section Impact Score: 18 (fundable range)
No new grant awards issued by AHRQ in 2025. AHRQ R36 funding notice canceled in 2026.

Grants and Fellowships Awarded

- 2024 **AAIDD Annual Meeting Scholarship**
 American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)
Awarded \$550 from the AAIDD Health Interest Network to support conference travel.
- 2023 **Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research Grant**
Awarded \$9,000 for internationally competitive dissertation research grant. Received the Martinus Nijhoff Award for the most outstanding project in Science, Technology, and Medicine.
- 2020 – 2023 **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) T32 Predoctoral Training Grant**
 University of Chicago and Northwestern University (UCANU)
 Pre-Doctoral Health Services Research Program, PI: R. Tamara Kontezka, Ph.D.
Full tuition fellowship and stipend, up to three years.
- 2020 – 2025 **Center for Health Administration Studies (CHAS) Graduate Student Research Stipend**
 University of Chicago
Awarded \$3,000 per year (\$15,000 total) to support original, student-led health policy and services research collaborations with University of Chicago faculty member.

Honors and Awards

- 2024 **Simon Doctoral Teaching Award**
University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
Awarded for outstanding teaching in the master's program.
- 2015 – 2017 **Health Policy & Management Academic Merit Scholarship**
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health
- 2010 **Highest Honors and Best Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award**
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Department of Public Policy
- 2010 **Best Undergraduate Poster in the Social Sciences**
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, University Research Day
- 2010 **Public Service Scholar**
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Oral Presentations

1. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Hendricks, M., Ne'eman, A., & Johnston, K. *Medicaid Eligibility Pathways among Adults and Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Accepted for Oral Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting. November 2026. Boston, MA.
2. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, *Associations between State Medicaid Waiver Policy Design and Use of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Among Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)*. Oral presentation at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. January 2026, Washington, DC.
3. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, *State Politics and Priorities in Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver Design*. Oral presentation at the American Political Science Association Annual (APSA) Meeting. September 2025. Vancouver, Canada.
4. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, *The Role of State Medicaid Waiver Policy Design in Access to Home and Community Based Services among Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.
 - Oral Presentation at the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) Annual Conference. June 2025. Nashville, TN.
 - Oral Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting. November 2024. Baltimore, MD.
5. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, *Unwinding Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Data for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*. Oral Presentation at the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) 148th Annual Meeting. June 2024. Louisville, KY.
6. **Peterson, L. (presenter)** *Variation in Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Policy Design for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.
 - Oral Presentation at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) Annual Conference. January 2024, Washington, DC.
 - Oral Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting. November 2023, Atlanta, GA.

7. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Andrews, C., Abraham, A., Westlake, M., & Grogan, C. *State Coverage and Oversight Policies for Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Medicaid Managed Care*.
 - Oral Presentation at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference. October 2023, New York, NY.
 - Plenary Podium Presentation at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) National Service Research Award (NRSA) Trainees Research Conference. April 2023, Virtual.
8. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Jung, D., Pollack, H., & Koneztka, R.T. *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Utilization and Outcomes Among Non-Elderly Adults with Disabilities*. Plenary Podium Presentation at Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) National Research Service Award (NRSA) Trainees Research Conference. May 2022, Virtual.
9. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Spitzer-Shohat, S., Patel, S., Martin, J., Chin, M., Smithey, A., & Glenn, N. *Advancing Health Equity through State, Managed Care, and Health Care Inter-Organizational Medicaid Data Alignment*. Oral Presentation at the AcademyHealth 14th Annual Conference on the Science of Dissemination and Implementation in Health. December 2021, Virtual.
10. Eliason, E., MacDougall, H., & **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. *Extraordinary Collection Actions Among Nonprofit Hospitals in the United States*. Oral Presentation at the Association for Public Policy and Management Annual Meeting. November 2020, Virtual.
11. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Comfort, A., Hatt, L., & Van Bastelaer, T. *Extending Health Insurance Coverage to Informal Sector Workers in Urban Settings*. Oral Presentation at the 10th Annual International Microinsurance Conference. November 2014, Mexico City.

Poster Presentations

12. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. *Politics of State Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver Design*. Accepted for poster presentation at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Health Politics and Policy Research Conference. June 2024, Hanover, NH.
13. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Morris, R., Hinds, O., Grogan, C., Abraham, A., & Andrews, C. *Partisanship and Medicaid Managed Care Restrictions on Substance Use Disorder Treatment*. Accepted for poster presentation at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference. October 2024, San Francisco, CA.
14. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Jung, D., Pollack, H., & Koneztka, R.T. *Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Utilization and Outcomes Among Non-Elderly Adults with Disabilities*. Poster presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting. June 2022, Washington, DC.
15. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Murugesan, M., Nocon, R., Hoang, H., Bolton, J., Laiteerapong, N., Pollack, H., & Marsh, J. *Health Care Use and Spending for Medicaid Patients Diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder Receiving Primary Care in Federally Qualified Health Centers Compared to Other Primary Care Settings*. Poster presented at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting. June 2021, Virtual.
16. **Peterson, L. (presenter)** *The Impacts of Microfinance over Time: Examining the Household Consumption Patterns of Female Microfinance Clients in Mexico from 2007-2009*. Poster presented at UNC-Chapel Hill University Research Day. March 2010, Chapel Hill, NC.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

1. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. The “Content” of Medicaid Waivers: How State Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers Vary and Why It Matters. Michael Davis Lecture Series. University of Chicago, Center for Health Administration Studies, Chicago, IL, May 2025.

2. **Peterson, L. (presenter)** & Marsh, J. The Role of Care Setting in Access to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment. Health Policy Innovation and Reform Workshop, Sciences Po and University of Chicago, Paris, France. November 2024.
3. **Peterson, L. (presenter)** & Marsh, J. Gender Differences in Health Care Use for Medicaid Enrollees Diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder by Principal Care Setting. Health Policy Innovation and Reform Workshop, Sciences Po and University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. September 2023
4. **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. United States Disability Policy. Presentation at Comprehensive, Care, Community, and Culture Program, University of Chicago, Department of Medicine. Chicago, IL. April 2022.
5. **Peterson, L. (presenter)** & Marwell, N. Governing through Evaluation: Bridging Policy Formulation and Program Implementation. Presentation at Governance Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. February 2021.
6. Nakhimovksy, S. (presenter) & **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. The Role of Evidence in the Design of Health Benefit Plans: Lessons Learned from 25 Countries. Presentation at the Center for Global Development. Washington, DC. July 2015.
7. Nakhimovksy, S. (presenter), **Peterson, L. (presenter)**, Hatt, L., & Holtz, J. A Tisket, A Tasket, is Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) in your Benefits Basket? Presentation at USAID Global Development Mini University. Washington, DC. March 2015.
8. van Bastelaer, T. (presenter) & **Peterson, L. (presenter)**. Health Microinsurance in 2013: An Update and Discussion. Presentation at Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), World Bank. Washington, DC. May 2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

Course: United States Health System & Policy

Academic Terms: Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026

University of Chicago, Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy

Co-taught interdisciplinary, graduate-level course for students from six schools (Business, Divinity, Law, Medicine, Public Policy, Social Work) with Professor Colleen Grogan as Co-Instructor of Record. Responsible for delivering four of nine lectures and leading all course administration, in-class activities, grading, and office hours.

Graduate Teaching Apprentice & Lecturer:

Course: United States Health System & Policy

Academic Term: Spring 2022

University of Chicago, Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy

Co-created interdisciplinary course with Professor Colleen Grogan.

Doctoral Student Tutor:

Course: Doctoral-Level Statistical Research Methods I

Academic Term: Winter 2023

University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice

Provided one-to-one tutoring for doctoral-level course led by Professor Aaron Gottlieb.

Teaching Assistant:

Course: Data for Policy Analysis and Management

Academic Term: Spring 2021

University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice

Graded assignments, guest lectured, and held office hours for course led by Professor Sean Hudson.

Course: Policy Analysis: Methods and Applications
Academic Term: Winter 2021
University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
Graded assignments, guest lecture, and held office hours for course led by Professor Harold Pollack.

Course: Philosophical Foundations of Public Policy
Academic Term: Spring 2020
University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy
Graded assignments and held office hours for course led by Professor Scott Ashworth.

Course: Research Methods II: Program Evaluation
Academic Term: Spring 2017
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health
Graded assignments and held office hours for course led by Professor Bhaven Sampat.

Course: Health Systems
Academic Term: Fall 2016
Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health
Graded assignments and held office hours for core course led by Professor Michael Sparer.

Course: Introduction to Public Policy
Academic Terms: Fall 2009, Spring 2010
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, Department of Public Policy
Graded assignments for course led by Professor Daniel Gitterman.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

External

2025 – 2026	American Political Science Association, Health Policy and Politics Section Executive Committee, Graduate Student Representative
2024 – 2025	National Goals on Health Equity, Social Determinants of Health Working Group American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
Ad Hoc	Abstract Reviewer AcademyHealth Annual Meeting, Addiction Health Services Research Conference
Ad Hoc	Journal Reviewer <i>BMJ Public Health, Community Mental Health Journal, International Journal of Health Planning and Management, Health Affairs Scholar, PLOS One</i>

Internal

2023 – 2024	Graduate Teaching Consultant University of Chicago, Center for Teaching and Learning
2021 – 2023	Doctoral Student Peer Mentor University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
2020 – 2022	Doctoral Student Organization (DSO) Co-Chair University of Chicago, Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice
2009 – 2010	Undergraduate Peer Mentor University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, Department of Public Policy

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AcademyHealth

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)

American Political Science Association (APSA)

Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM)

Medicaid Data Learning Network (MDLN)

Society for Social Work Research (SSWR)

SKILLS

Quantitative analysis software: Stata, Python, SAS

Qualitative analysis software: Dedoose, NVivo

Languages: Spanish (proficient)