

Elizabeth J. Gifford, PhD
Research Scientist

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Research Interests:

My primary research interests involve evaluating programs and policies that are designed to improve health outcomes for vulnerable children. These populations include children who are poor, in the juvenile justice system, in foster care, in special education or who have emotional and or behavioral problems. I am particularly interested in applying the best research methodology to inform decision makers as they balance goals of cost, quality and access in providing health care.

Education:

2005	PhD Joint Degree in Health Policy and Administration & Demography	Penn State University, College of Health and Human Development, State College, PA
2000	M.S. Health Policy and Administration	Penn State University, College of Health and Human Development, State College, PA
1997	B.S. Biology with a minor in Nutrition	Cornell University, College and Agriculture and Life Sciences, Ithaca NY

Contracts

“Monitoring Substance Abuse in Durham County”. The goal of this project is to establish a substance abuse surveillance system in Durham County. Data sources include administrative data from law enforcement, hospitals and the state medical examiner (PI: Elizabeth Gifford \$12,000)

Applications Under Review

“Examining racial/ethnic variation in outcomes for youth in the child welfare system” to be submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This project uses Oaxaca decomposition in a multilevel framework to partition variation in child welfare experiences. This study examines the extent to which racial/ethnic variation is determined by differences in characteristics of children and the agencies which serve these children. (PI: E. Michael Foster and Elizabeth Gifford)

“Multilevel modeling of inpatient care: Comorbid youth” currently under review at NIDA as an R03. This project has three components related to applying multilevel models to inpatient care for youth with substance abuse, mental health problems and comorbidities. The first component models length of stay using a Bayesian cross-classified model, taking into account the fact that individuals are not perfectly nested with facilities. The second focuses on two measures of quality of care: receipt of timely follow-up services and probability of being readmitted soon after discharge. Duration until readmission and follow-up service is modeled using a multi-state competing risk model. The third uses Geographic Information Systems to incorporate county-level factors as well as distance to providers into the models. (PI: Elizabeth Gifford; Co-investigator: E. Michael Foster)

Journal Articles

Gifford, Elizabeth J., Weech-Maldonado, R. and Short, P. (2005) Low-Income Children's Preventive Services Use: Implications of Parents' Medicaid Status. *Health Care Financing Review*. 26(4) 81-94.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapter

Foster, E. M. and Gifford, E. (2004). “The transition to adulthood for youth leaving public systems: Challenges to policies and research” in R. A. Settersten, F. Furstenberg, and R. Rumbaut (Eds), *On the Frontier of Adulthood: Theory, Research, and Public Policy*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Reports

Bhandari, S. and Gifford, E. (2003). Children with Health Insurance in the United States: 2002. United States Census Bureau. P60-224.

Foster, E. Michael and Gifford, E. (2003). An economic evaluation of Philadelphia's Safe Streets Program.

Papers under review

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. Understanding provider influences on residential length of stay among youth with mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders: A Bayesian cross-classified approach. Under review at *Social Science and Medicine*.

Gifford, Elizabeth J. and E. Michael Foster. “Provider-level Influences on Receipt of Aftercare Services: A Multilevel Hazard Model”. Under review at *Psychiatric Services*.

Working Papers

Gifford, Elizabeth J. and Foster, E. Michael. “Liar, Liar Pants on Fire—Reconciling Divergent Reports of Police Contact”. To be submitted to the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

Gifford, Elizabeth J., and E. Michael Foster. Race and space—Community-level variation in the racial disparity in the use of therapeutic psycho-stimulant medications by youth.

Presentations at Conferences

Gifford, E., Reed, S. and Kevin A. Schulman "Comparison of Three Regression Approaches to Model Resource Use in Multinational Clinical Trials," 27th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making in San Francisco, California 2005.

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. Understanding provider influences on residential length of stay among youth with mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders: A Bayesian cross-classified approach, was presented at the 24th Biennial Conference of the Society for Multivariate Analysis in Behavioral Sciences at the Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany in July 2004 and at Investing in Health, 5th World Congress, International Health Economics Association in Barcelona Spain in July 2005.

Gamm, L, Gifford, E., and Benson, K. Environmental Support for Community Health Partnerships: State Level Organizations' Perspectives on the Value and Sustainability, was presented at "Putting the Public back in Public Health" the 130th Annual Conference of the American Public Health Association in November 2002.

Gifford, E., Weech-Maldonado, R. and Short, P. Encouraging preventive services for low-income children: The effect of expanding Medicaid coverage to parents, was presented at the Academy for Health Services Research Annual Research Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in June 2001.

Invited Presentations

Gifford E. "Using multilevel modeling in Psychological Research" to be present at the Department of Psychology Brown Bag in November 2005.

Gifford, E. "Consequences of Ignoring Clustering in Social Science Research" to be presented to Spencer Fellows at Duke University in October 2005.

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. Combining information from multiple informants was presented at Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University in June 2004 and Chapin Hall Center for Children in June 2004.

Enderlein, T. and Gifford, E. An introduction to Geographic Information System methods and resources, to be presented at Penn State University's Health Policy and Administration Colloquium in January 2004.

Foster, E.M. and Gifford, E. What is the value of Safe Streets? A economic evaluation of the Philadelphia Safe Streets Program, was presented for the Mayor of Philadelphia in April 2003 and at Penn State University's Sociology and Crime, Law and Justice Colloquium in March 2003.

Foster, E. M. and Gifford, E. The transition to adulthood for youth in special populations was presented to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Network on the Transition to Adulthood in Philadelphia in March 2002.

Poster Presentations

Gifford, Elizabeth J. and E. Michael Foster. Race and space–Community-level variation in the racial disparity in the use of therapeutic psycho-stimulant medications by youth, to be presented at “Investing in Health, 5th World Congress, International Health Economics Association” in Barcelona Spain in July 2005.

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. The transition to adulthood for youth leaving public systems: Challenges to policies and research, to be presented at “The conference on Emerging Adulthood” in Miami, Florida in February 2005.

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. Understanding provider influences on residential length of stay among youth with mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring disorders: A Bayesian cross-classified approach, to be presented at “Complexities of Co-Occurring Conditions: Harnessing services research to improve care for mental, substance use, and medical/physical disorders” in Washington, DC in June 2004.

Gifford, E. and Foster, E.M. Developmental and administrative transitions among special populations: Policies, outcomes and research challenges, was presented at the Population Association of America in Minneapolis, MN in May 2003.

Gifford, E. A spatial analysis of use of mental health services among children enrolled in TennCare, was presented at "A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base" the 15th Annual Research Conference in Tampa, Florida, in March, 2002.

Bhandari, S. and Gifford, E. Children with Health Insurance in the United States: 2002, was presented at the Population Association of America Meeting in Minneapolis, MN in May 2003.

Gifford, E., Weech-Maldonado, R. and Short, P. Encouraging preventive services for low-income children: The effect of expanding Medicaid Coverage to parents, was presented at the Academy for Health Services Research Annual Research Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia in June 2001.

Ongoing Collaborations

“Neighborhood Variation in the Effects of Prevention Programs on Positive Youth Outcomes”. Position: Data analyst. Funded by The William T. Grant Foundation. PI: Sean Reardon, Douglas Coatsworth, Kenneth Dodge, John E. Lochman.

“Great Schools and Families” Position: Data analyst. Funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PI: David Rabner.

Teaching and Mentoring

- Instructor for Multilevel Modeling (Spring 2006) Duke University Department of Psychology (Psych 370)

- Mentoring undergraduate Duke Psychology and Public Policy students
- Mentor for North Carolina School of Science and Math (Spring 2005)

Teaching Assistantships

Health Policy for Children, Youth and Families. Responsibilities: Lecturing to a class of about 30 students. January 2001-May 2001.

An Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System. Responsibilities: Lecturing to a class of 300 undergraduate students, preparing and grading exams. August 1999-December 2000.

Health Systems Management. Responsibility: grading class paper. August 1998-December 1998.

Undergraduate Research

Enduring effects of prenatal cocaine exposure on long term memory using a rat model.

Professional Membership

- International Health Economics Association
- Population Association of America
- AcademyHealth

Professional Service

- Manuscript reviewer for The Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics
- Manuscript reviewer for Developmental Psychology
- Strategist for the North Carolina 0-5 School Readiness Project, Think Tank coordinated by the NC Department of Health and SPARK
- Member of the Durham County Subcommittee on Substance Abuse
- Chair of the Community Service Committee for the Graduate Student Assembly at Penn State

Academic and Athletic Honors

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| 1996 | All Ivy Academic Squad (Two male and two female athletes from each of the Ivy League schools are honored with this distinction each semester); Recipient of William Feurst Book Scholarship through School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell (\$500), Cornell Field Hockey Best Offensive Player, All Ivy Second Team |
| 1994 | Academic All American nominated by the National Field Hockey Coaches Association, Class of 1991 Cup |
| 1993 | Recipient of the Rita Murphy Memorial & Paru Patel Scholarships (\$500 each) |