

SARAH E. PETRY

123 West Franklin St., Suite 210, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 | spetry@unc.edu

APPOINTMENTS

2023- **Postdoctoral Trainee, Population Science Training Program**
Carolina Population Center, UNC Chapel Hill

EDUCATION

2023 **Ph.D., Public Policy (Sociology Concentration)**
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University
Affiliate Student at the International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPRS-PHDS)

2023 **Certificate in College Teaching**
Duke University Graduate School

2018 **B.S., Sociology, magna cum laude**
Western Washington University
B.A., Political Science, magna cum laude
Western Washington University

RESEARCH FIELDS

Aging; Demography; Health Disparities; Health Policy; LGBTQ+ Health; Medicaid

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles in Scholarly Journals & Book Chapters

2025 Thompson, A.D., **Petry, S.E.**, Hauser, E.R., Boyle, S.H., Upchurch, J., Press, A., Sims, K.J., Williams, C.D., Gifford, E.J. (2025). Longitudinal Patterns of Multimorbidity in Gulf War Era Veterans with and without Gulf War Illness. *Journal of Health & Aging*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08982643241245163>

2024 **Petry, S.E.** (2024). “You've got a lot to prove”: A Mixed Methods Analysis of How Older Adults and their Families Navigate Medicaid Enrollment. *Social Policy & Administration*.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13111>

Petry, S.E., Hauser, E.R., Thompson, A.D., Lynch, S.M., Boyle, S.H., Upchurch, J., Press, A., Sims, K.J., Williams, C.D., Gifford, E.J. (2024). Characterizing Deficit Accumulation Among Gulf War Era Veterans. *Journal of Frailty & Aging*.
<https://doi.org/10.14283/jfa.2024.44>

2023 **Petry, S.** (2023). Policy, inequity, and the life course in the US. In R. Hoffman (Ed.), *Handbook of Health Inequalities Across the Life Course* (pp. 366-381). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781800888166>

2022 **Petry, S.E.**, Lara, L., & Boucher, N.A. (2022). Older caregivers: who they are and how to support them. *Journal of Aging & Social Policy*, 1–14.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2022.2051683>

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- 2021 Barnes, C., & **Petry, S.** (2021). "It Was Actually Pretty Easy": COVID-19 Compliance Cost Reductions in the WIC Program. *Public Administration Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13423>
- Kaufman, B. G., Van Houtven, C. H., Greiner, M. A., Hammill, B. G., Harker, M., Anderson, D., **Petry, S.**, Bull, J., & Taylor, D. H. (2021). Selection bias in observational studies of palliative care: lessons learned. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 61(5), 1002-1011.e2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.09.011>
- Petry, S.E.**, Hughes, D., & Galanos, A. (2021). Grief: the epidemic within an epidemic. *The American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Care*, 38(4), 419-422. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049909120978796>
- 2020 Kaufman, B., Greiner, M., Harker, M., Cross, S., **Petry, S.**, Anderson, D., Bull, J., & Van Houtven, C. (2020). Compared to what? comparing counterfactuals in an observational study of palliative care (RP504). *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*, 60(1), 230-231. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.04.096>

Articles For a Broad Audience, Op-Eds, etc.

- 2024 **Petry, S.** (2024). "NC legislators must continue to increase nursing home residents' personal needs allowance." *NC Newsline*. <https://ncnewsline.com/2024/01/19/nc-legislators-must-continue-to-increase-nursing-home-residents-personal-needs-allowance/>
- 2020 Boucher, N.A., & **Petry, S.E.** (2020). White Paper: Recalibrating for Caregivers. In partnership with Roslyn Carter Institute. https://www.rosalynncarter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/RCI_Recalibrating-for-Caregivers_2020.pdf

Data Products

- 2025 Hargrove, T., Frizzelle, B., **Petry, S.**, Dennis, A., & Hummer, R.A. (2025). "Add Health as a Resource for the Science of the Exposome: Health Context Measures User Guide." <https://doi.org/10.17615/vyhc-w565>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Petry, S.E. Living and Dying with Public Health Insurance: Medicaid Churn and Life Expectancy. [Revise & Resubmit.](#)

Petry, S.E. Structural Determinants of Medicaid Enrollment in Late Life. [Revise & Resubmit.](#)

Petry, S.E., Halpern, C.T., & Harris, K.M. Longitudinal Patterns of Uninsurance Among Sexual Minority Populations: Implications for Health Disparities. [Revise & Resubmit.](#)

Anderson, D.M., McEnany, M., **Petry, S.E.**, & Anderson, K.E. Assessing Medicare Part D Plan Design Changes Following Inflation Reduction Act Changes in 2025. [Revise & Resubmit.](#)

Petry, S.E. The Years Before Medicare: Expected Health Insurance Transitions. [Under Review.](#)

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RESEARCH SUPPORT

Active Research Support

PCMA Foundation 12/2024 – 11/2025
PI: Kelly Anderson \$11,000 (subaward budget)
Measuring Changes in Medicare Part D Plan Offerings and Enrollment
We will examine changes in Part D plan benefit configuration and generosity between 2021-2025 and measure the effects of enrollment shifts due to changes in premiums and plan offerings on clinical outcomes.
Role: UNC Subcontract Principal Investigator

National Institutes of Health (T32 HD007168) 7/2023 – 7/2026
Population Research Infrastructure Program
CPC's Population Science Training Program trains the next generation of population scientists to conduct critical research on the causes and consequences of population change and the implications for health and well-being across the globe. Cross-disciplinary collaboration and hands-on involvement in innovative population science research are defining features of our program.
Role: Postdoctoral Trainee

Pending Research Support

National Institutes on Aging (K22: Career Transition Award) Submitted 10/13/2025
PI: Sarah Petry
Redefining Healthy Life Expectancy: Integrating Older Adults' Experiences and Policy Contexts
Healthy life expectancy, the years Americans can expect to spend in good health, has declined over the past two decades, while measures of "health" used to inform these estimates have not been updated to account for the complex aging process as it experienced today. Findings from this study will provide evidence of current trends in HLE among aging Americans, identify possible policy interventions to promote healthy aging across care types, and lay the groundwork for future studies of HLE across the life course. Dr. Petry's long-term goal is to examine policy determinants of health and aging at earlier ages to inform interventions to extend healthy life years across the life course.
Role: Principal Investigator

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2022-2023 **Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Gifford**
Project: Characterizing Accelerated Aging in Veterans of the Gulf War

2020-2021 **Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Carolyn Barnes**
Project: Social Service Program Participation

2017-2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant**
Western Washington University Office of Survey Research

TEACHING RECORD

The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC

2024 MHCH690: Special Topics in Maternal and Child Health
Elective public health course, Health Inequities: Policies and Pathways
Instructor, 1 master's student, 4 undergraduate students, 40 contact hours

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The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Carolina Population Center, Chapel Hill, NC

2024 Population Science Research Methods
8-week course for CPC summer interns
Instructor, 10 undergraduate students, 20 contact hours

SOCI826: Health Trajectories
Topic: SOGI-SES Data Introduction and Ongoing Projects
Guest Lecturer, 8 PhD students, 3 contact hours

Duke University, Durham, NC

2023 PUBPOL165: Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System
Topic: Medicaid & Long-Term Care
Guest Lecturer, 60 undergraduate students, 3 contact hours

PUBPOL270/SOC270: Health Inequities: Policies and Pathways
Elective course in public policy and sociology
Instructor, 18 undergraduate students, 40 contact hours

2022 PUBPOL165: Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System
Topics: Medicaid's Role for Aging Americans, Social Care and Health Care
Guest Lecturer, 60 undergraduate students, 6 contact hours

2021 PUBPOL165: Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System
Topics: Health Care Reform, Health Care Financing, Health Care Quality
Guest Lecturer and Graduate Teaching Assistant, 60 undergraduate students, 40 contact hours

PUBPOL301: Political Analysis of Public Policy
Core course in public policy
Lead Graduate Teaching Assistant, 60 undergraduate students, 40 contact hours

2020 PUBPOL890: Qualitative Methods
Topics: Using Theory in Qualitative Research, Coding and Analysis, Access and Recruitment
Guest Lecturer and Graduate Teaching Assistant, 20 graduate students, 40 contact hours

2019 PUBPOL690: Health Policy
Elective course in health policy
Graduate Teaching Assistant, 20 graduate students, 40 contact hours

2016 SOC304: Statistics for Sociology
Core course sociology
Teaching Assistant, 30 undergraduate students, 40 contact hours

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

2025 **Petry, S.E.** "Navigating the U.S. Academic Job Market in Uncertain Times." Invited presentation at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) Graduate Workshop. Rostock, Germany.

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Petry, S.E. “55andMe: Medicaid’s Uncertain Future.” Invited presentation at the UNC Postdoctoral Association Research Café Series. Chapel Hill, NC.

2024 **Petry, S.E.** “Longitudinal Patterns of Uninsurance Among Sexual Minority Populations: Implications for Health Disparities.” Invited presentation at the Vanderbilt University LGBTQ+ Policy Lab Training Seminar. Nashville, TN.

Petry, S.E. “Teaching Your Research: A Workshop Featuring Bass Instructional Fellows.” Invited Panel for Duke Centennial Research & Innovation Week 2024. Durham, NC.

2022 **Petry, S.E., Gifford, E.J., Hauser, E.R.** “Deficit Accumulation among Gulf War Era Veterans.” Invited Presentation at the Durham VA HSR&D Research Seminar 2022. Durham, NC.

Conference Presentations

2025 **Petry, S.E., Halpern, C.T., Harris, K.M.** “Determinants of Sexual Minority Mental Health Disparities: A Decomposition Analysis.” Poster Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2025. Washington, DC.

2024 **Petry, S.E., Halpern, C.T., Harris, K.M.** “Characterizing Health Insurance Coverage among Sexual Minority Populations.” Presented at the Add Health Users Conference 2024. Chapel Hill, NC.

Petry, S.E. “Health Insurance and Care Transitions in Older Adulthood: Policy, Marginalization, and Life Expectancy.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2024. Columbus, OH.

Petry, S.E., Halpern, C.T., Harris, K.M. “Sexual and Gender Minority Policy Context and Health: The Role of Health Insurance.” Poster Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2024. Columbus, OH.

2023 **Petry, S.E.** “The Years Before Medicare: Expected Health Insurance Transitions.” Presented at the 2023 Association of Public Policy and Management Fall Research Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Thompson, A.D, **Petry, S.E.,** Boyle, S. Upchurch, J., Sims, K.J., Williams, C.D., Hauser, E.R., Gifford, E.J. “Is deployment associated with health and aging outcomes for veterans of the Persian Gulf War?” Poster Presented at the Million Veterans Program Science Meeting 2023. Washington, DC.

Petry, S.E., Thompson, A.D, Lynch, S., Boyle, S. Upchurch, J., Sims, K.J., Williams, C.D., Hauser, E.R., Gifford, E.J. “Characterizing Aging Among Gulf War Era Veterans.” Poster Presented at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting 2023. Seattle, WA.

2022 **Petry, S.E.** “Policy Context, Intersectionality, and Medicaid Enrollment in Late Life.” Presented at the 2022 Association of Public Policy and Management Fall Research Conference. Washington, D.C.

Petry, S.E. “‘You’ve got a lot to prove’ or ‘It’s not a hard process’: Experiences Gaining Access to Medicaid in Older Adulthood.” Poster Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2022. Atlanta, GA.

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Petry, S.E. “Transitions in Older Adulthood and Life Expectancy: A Life Course Approach.” Poster Presented at the 2021 Association of Public Policy and Management Fall Research Conference. Austin, TX.

2021 **Petry, S.E.** “Dually Eligible Life Expectancy by Nursing Home Residency.” Poster Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2021. Online due to COVID-19.

2020 **Petry, S.E.** “Barriers to Medicare-Medicaid Dual Eligibility: A North Carolina Case Study.” Presented at the 2020 Association of Public Policy and Management Fall Research Conference. Online due to COVID-19.

Petry, S.E. “Medicare-Medicaid Dual Eligibility and Variations in Life Expectancy.” Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America 2020. Washington, DC. Cancelled due to COVID-19.

2017 **Petry, S.E.** “Planned Parenthood Social Movement Activities and Outcomes: 100 Years of Progressive Organizational Activism.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association. Portland, OR.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2024 Center for the Integration of Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) Course, online, “Mindset to Mastery: The Inclusive Teaching Course”

2022 Duke University Graduate School Course, Durham, NC, “College Teaching and Visual Communication”

2021 Duke University Graduate School Course, Durham, NC, “College Teaching and Course Design”

2020 International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPR-PHDS) Course, online, “Demographic Methods”

International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPR-PHDS) Course, online, “Population Health”

International Max Planck Research School for Population, Health and Data Science (IMPR-PHDS) Course, online, “Digital and Computational Demography”

Duke University Graduate School Course, Durham, NC, “Fundamentals of College Teaching”

2019 Duke University Population Research Institute (DUPRI) Workshop, Durham, NC, “Social Networks and Health”

AFFILIATIONS

Association of Public Policy and Management

Population Association of America

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024-2025	UNC Postdoctoral Association Co-Chair
2024	Association of Public Policy and Management Program Committee Reviewer
2023-2024	UNC Postdoctoral Association Campus Health Advisory Board Representative
2021-2023	Sanford PhD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member
2021-2023	Sanford PhD Peer Mentor
2019-2020	Graduate and Professional Student Council Representative, Public Policy
2019-2020	Sanford PhD Program Social Chair
2017-2018	Western Washington University Demography Club President

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2025	UNC Postdoctoral Association Research Café Flash Talk Competition Winner
2022	Bass Instructional Fellowship, Instructor of Record
2019-2022	Sanford School of Public Policy PhD Small Grant Award
2019-2020	Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University
2018	Western Washington University Commencement Speaker
2018	Outstanding Graduating Senior in Sociology, Runner Up
2018	Outstanding Graduating Senior in Political Science, Runner Up
2018	Alpha Kappa Delta Honor Society Member
2018	Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society Member

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2018-2021	Head Coach, Progression Climbing Recreational Youth Team
2014-2018	Coach, North Coast Gymnastics Academy Recreational and Competitive Team

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Computing: R, Stata, NVivo, Qualtrics, Tableau

Methods: Demographic Methods, Qualitative Interviews, Mixed Methods