

**U-M SSW
RESEARCH OFFICE**

2024

**RESEARCH
ANNUAL REPORT**

DATE
February 2025

Matthew J. Smith
Associate Dean for Research



A MESSAGE FROM **THE ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH**



In 2024, the U-M SSW faculty made significant strides in advancing social work research across several domains, including art installations, child welfare, criminal justice reform, health equity, mental health, poverty alleviation and racial and social disparities to name a few. Our faculty's focus on interdisciplinary research and a commitment to evidence-based practices have led to influential contributions (e.g., art, community-engagement, conference presentations, key note lectures, 300+ publications) that shape social policies and improve community well-being.

In the spirit of continuing to build our research infrastructure, the research office has implemented several opportunities for our colleagues to come together and support one another. The Michigan Momentum: Showcasing the Cutting Edge of Social Work Science event shared our emerging innovations. The Half-Baked research presentations elevated peer support and feedback for early stage research ideas across trainees and faculty. Our new grant repository provides a place to share one's funded research grants to serve as templates for future successful grant submissions. Finally, the Grand Rounds are elevating pressing topics from the field where our school can come together and envision innovating ways to grow our research and educational programs.

As our faculty and trainees continue the legacy of our School's impactful research and scholarship, we are positioned to further advance the field of social work in the coming years. Our commitment to addressing complex social challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative methodologies ensures that the work remains at the forefront of the profession.

In summary, the 2024 scientific advancement of the University of Michigan School of Social Work faculty reflects our dedication to improving lives through rigorous research, policy advocacy, and community engagement. Our contributions continue to shape the future of social work practice and influence policies that promote social justice and equity that will enrich our communities.

Matthew J. Smith, PhD, LCSW
*Associate Dean for Research
and Professor of Social Work,
School of Social Work*



TRANSFORMING SOCIAL WORK THROUGH **INNOVATIVE RESEARCH**

Front Cover: U-M School of Social Work Atrium, a vibrant gathering place for social work students, faculty, and staff, fostering collaboration, connection, and community within the heart of the school.

2024 FACULTY AWARDS & HONORS

2024 Innovation in Research and
Teaching Award from the University of
Michigan School of Social Work



Associate Professor
Lindsay Bornheimer



Professor
Todd I. Herrenkohl

2024 Distinguished Faculty Award from
the University of Michigan School of
Social Work



Professor
Linda Chatters

2024 LEAD Global Health Fellowship
from Washington University in St. Louis



Clinical Associate
Professor
Daicia R. Price



Associate Professor
Camille R. Quinn



Assistant Professor
Ashley E. Cureton

2024 Distinguished Faculty Award from
the University of Michigan School of
Social Work



Assistant Director of
Field Education
Yatesha Robinson



Clinical Associate
Professor
Beth A. Sherman



Associate Professor
Odessa Gonzalez Benson

2024 Society for Social Work and
Research Social Policy Award



Associate Professor
Anao Zhang



Professor
Trina R. Shanks

2024 University of Michigan School of Social Work DEI Impact Award (Team)



Associate Professor
Lisa Fedina



Professor Emeritus
Lorraine M. Gutiérrez



Associate Professor
Anao Zhang

2024 University of Michigan School of Social Work DEI Impact Award (Individual)



DEI Program
Manager
Ronda L. Halsey



Clinical Associate
Professor
Dacia Price



Executive Director of
Development &
Alumni Relations
Halla Jomaa-Jouney

University of Michigan Public Engagement Faculty Fellowship

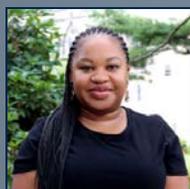


Professor
Richard M. Tolman



Associate Professor
M. Candace
Christensen

University of Michigan School of Social Work Curtis Center Early-Sage Investigator Health Equity Accelerator Award



Assistant Professor
Greer Hamilton

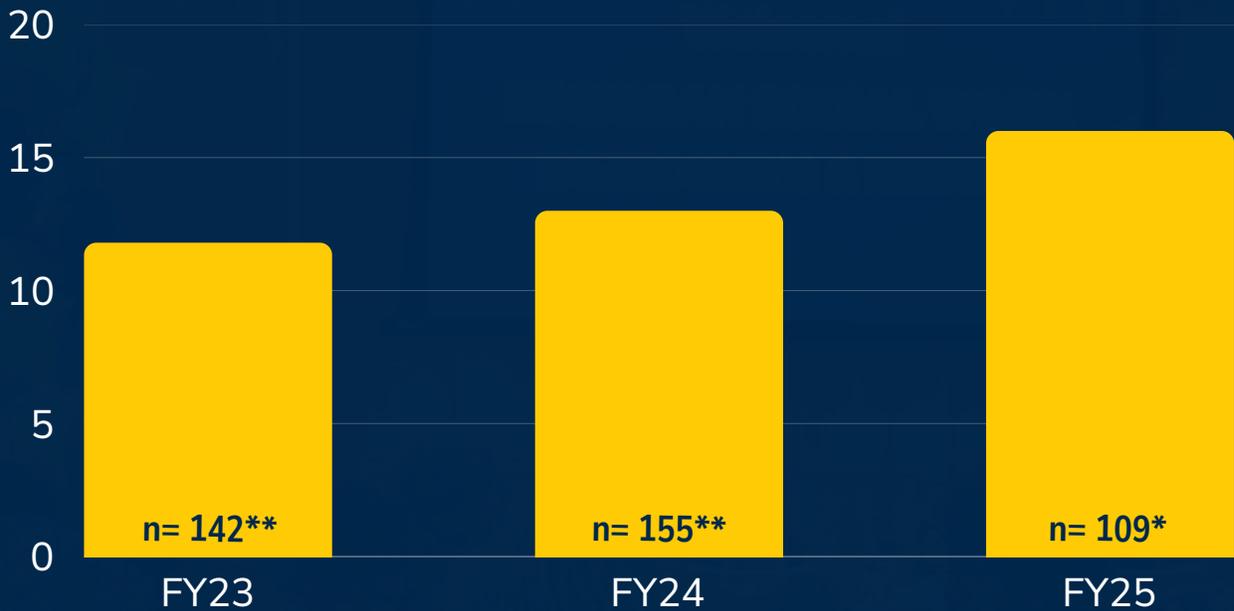
University of Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research Distinguished Clinical & Translational Research Mentor Award



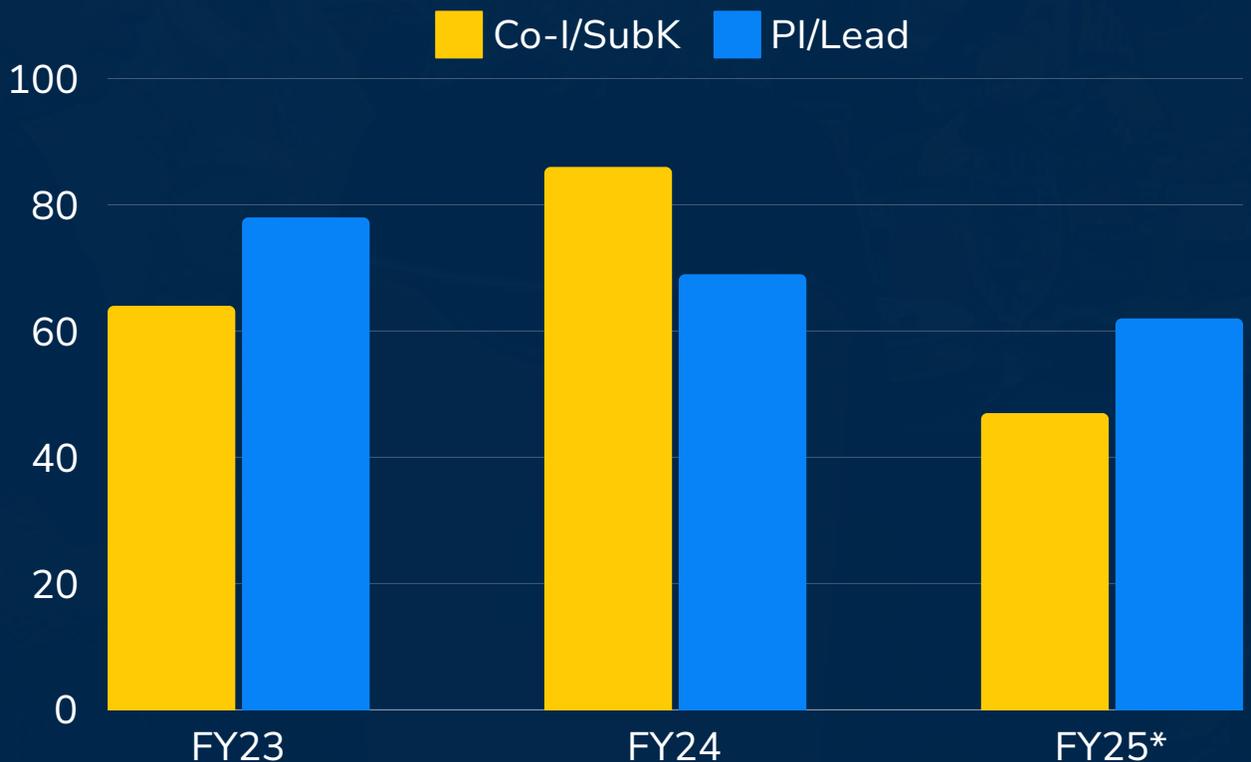
Associate Dean of
Research
Matthew J. Smith

RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS

Average # of proposals submitted monthly per fiscal year (FY)



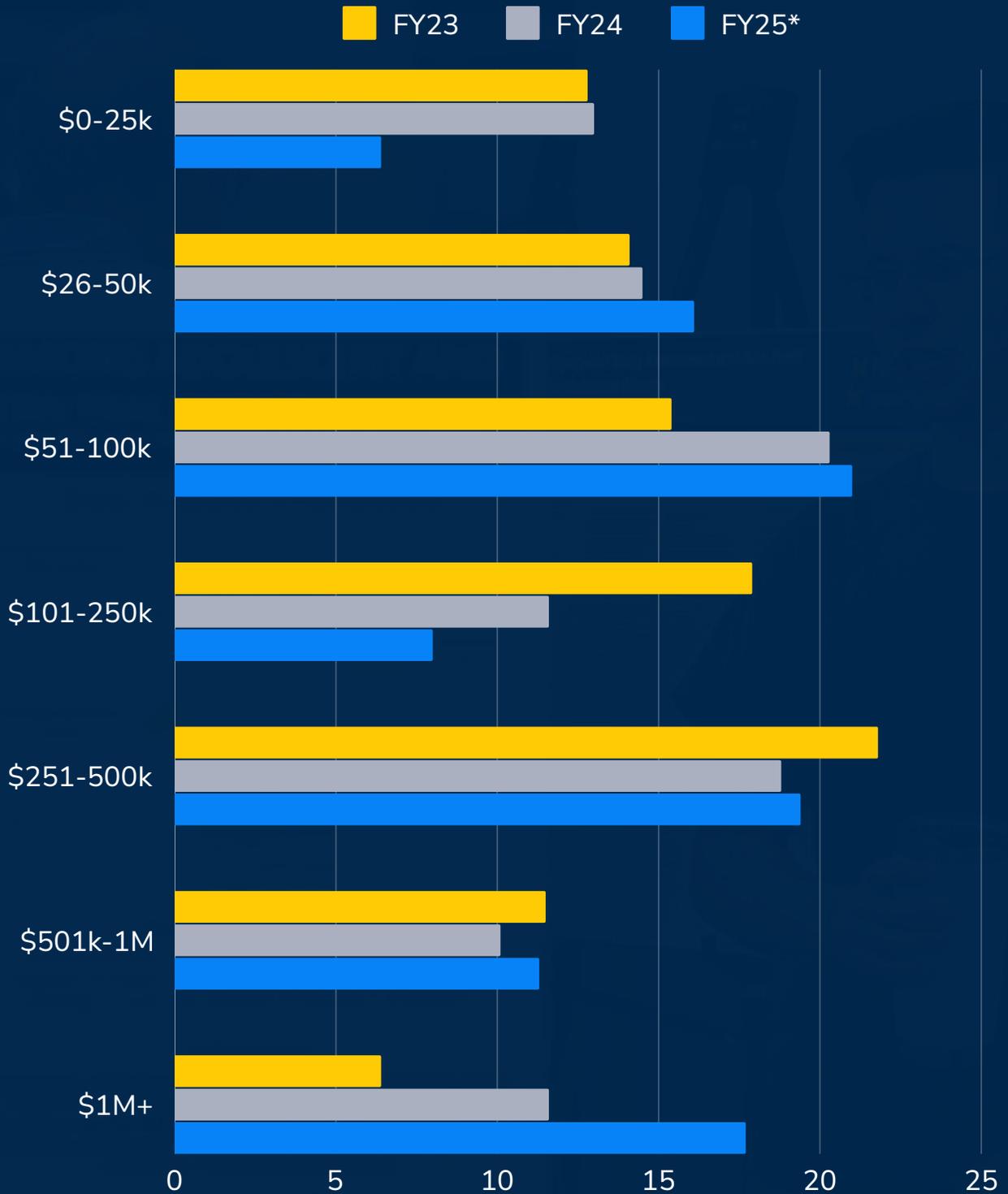
Total number of proposals submitted per FY



**Reflecting the total number of proposals for that year

*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.

Percentage of grants submitted per FY by size (in US dollars)

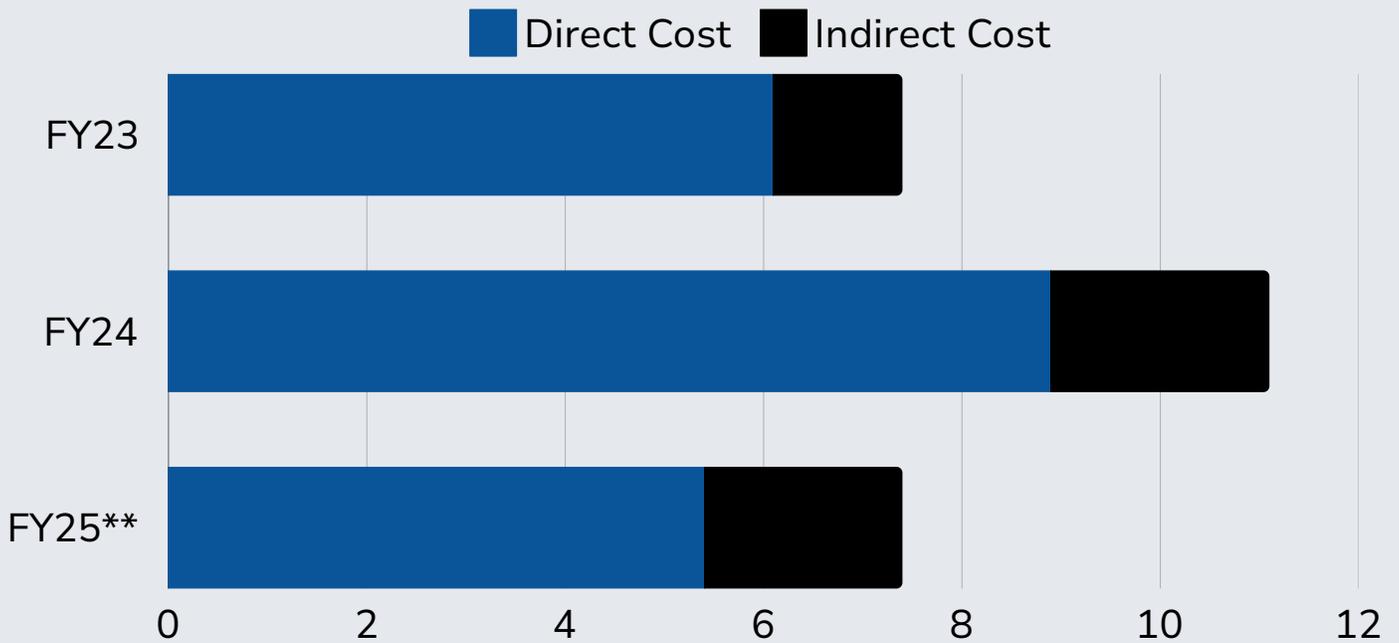
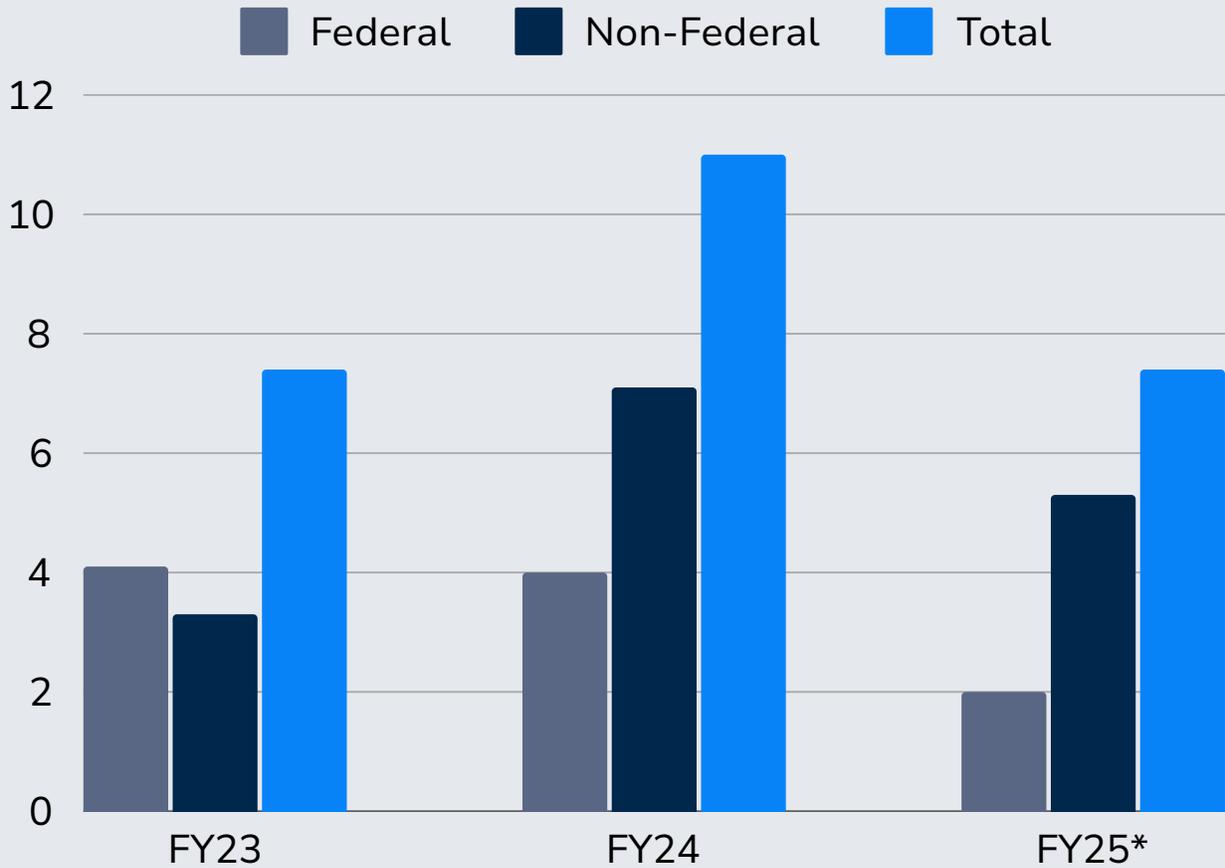


*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.

RESEARCH

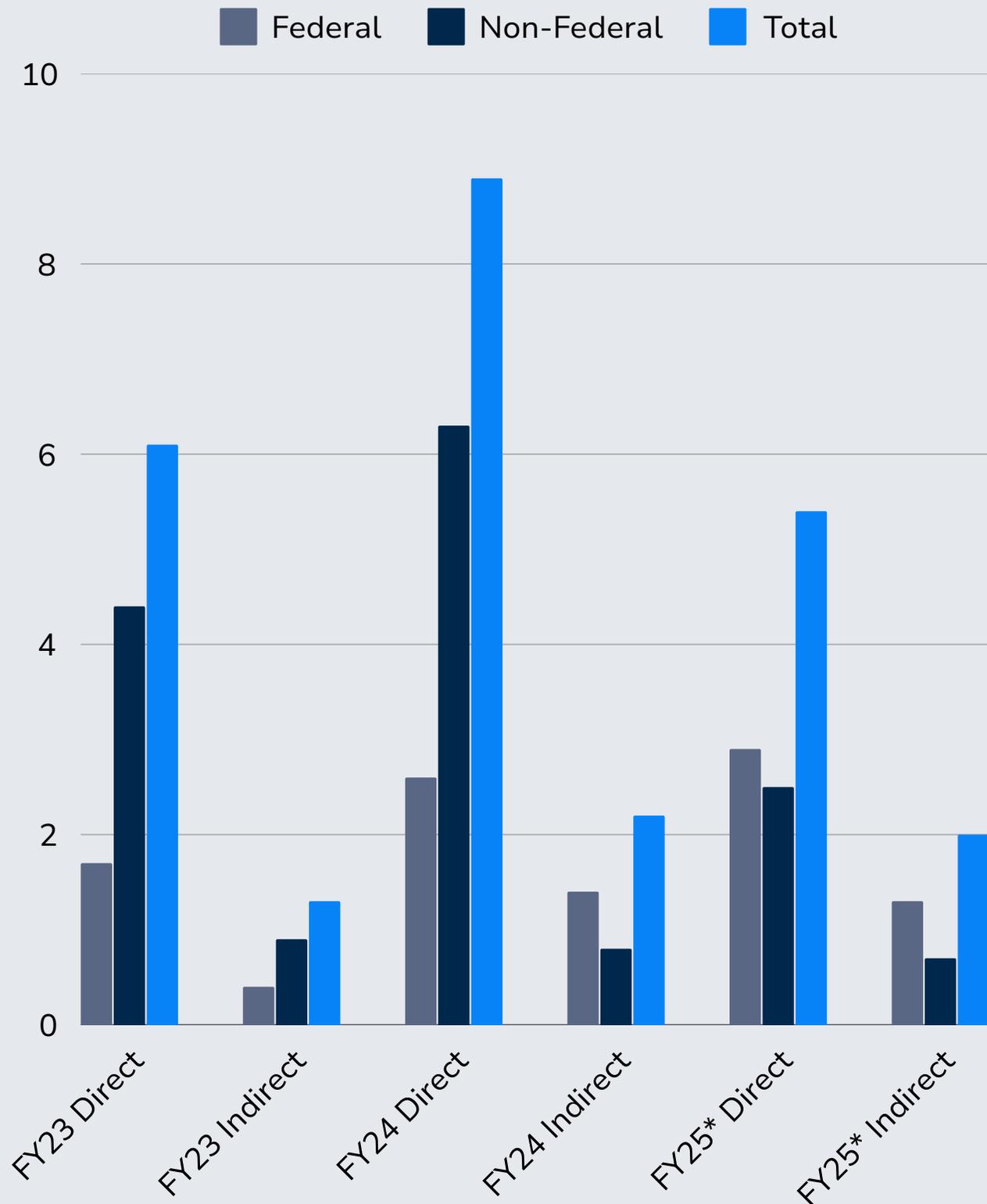
BY THE NUMBERS

Total funding awarded by FY in million US dollars



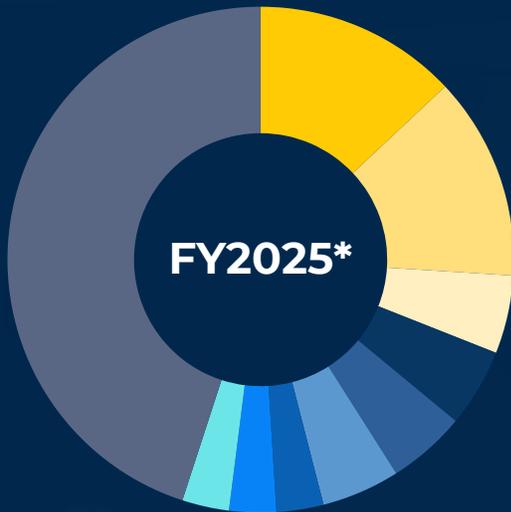
*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.

Total funding composition by FY in million US dollars

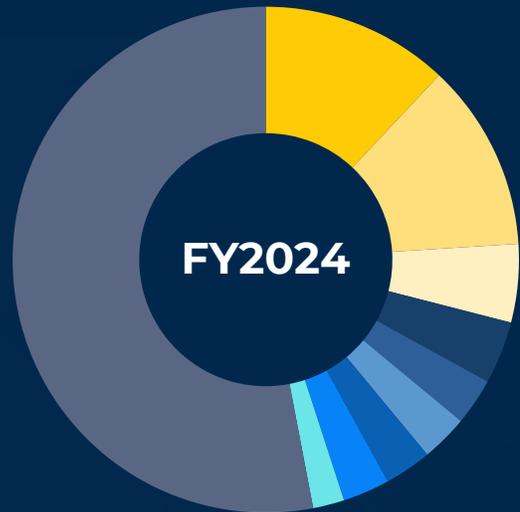


*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.

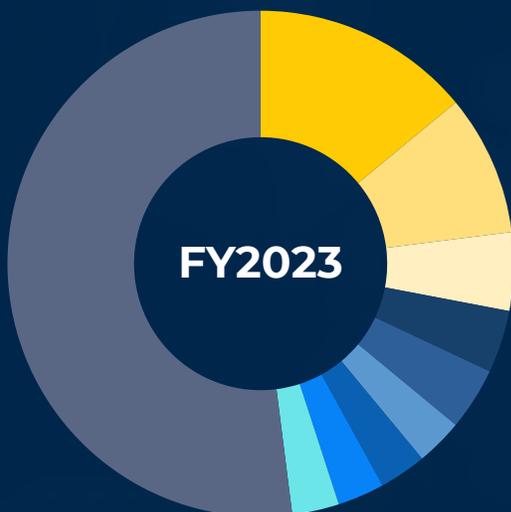
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY SPONSOR (SSW PI)



● NIH	13%
● MDHHS	13%
● Nat. Science Foundation (NSF)	5%
● Univ. of California-Berkley	5%
● Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln	5%
● Univ. of Washington	5%
● Department of Education	3%
● Nationwide Children's Hospital	3%
● Ohio State University	3%
● Other	45%



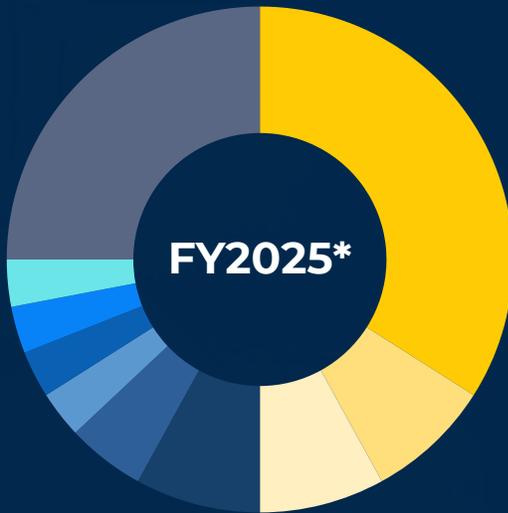
● NIH	12%
● MDHHS	12%
● The Immigrant Edu. Society	5%
● Ohio State Univ	4%
● Dept of Justice	3%
● Mich. Health Endowment Fund	3%
● St. Paul & Minneapolis Foundation	3%
● Univ. of Washington	3%
● BCBS of Michigan	2%
● Other	53%



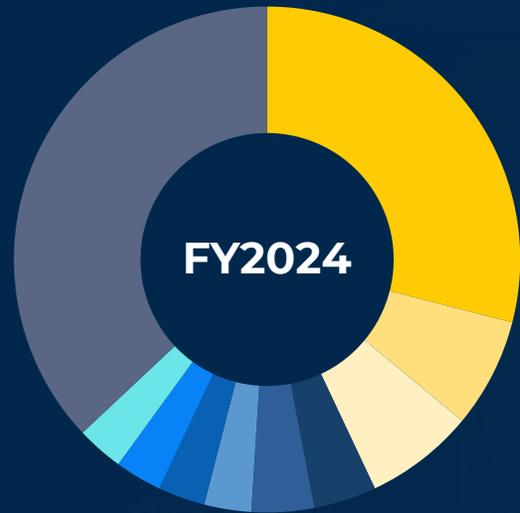
● NIH	14%
● MDHHS	9%
● Dept of Justice	5%
● Nationwide Children's Hospital	4%
● University of Illinois	4%
● Mich. Health Endowment Fund	3%
● Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	3%
● Triple P America, Inc.	3%
● Univ. of Chicago	3%
● Other	52%

*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.

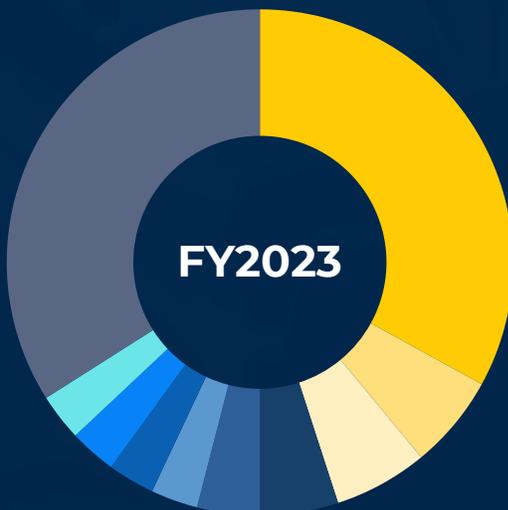
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION COMPOSITION BY SPONSOR (SSW SUBK/CO-I)



● NIH	34%
● CDC	8%
● MDHHS	8%
● NSF	8%
● HHS - Medicaid/Medicare	5%
● William T. Grant Foundation	5%
● Arnold Ventures, LLC	3%
● Department of Education	3%
● HHS - Children & Families	3%
● Other	23%



● NIH	29%
● Govt. of Canada	7%
● MDHHS	7%
● HHS	4%
● Mich. Health Endowment Fund	4%
● C. S. Mott Foundation	3%
● CDC	3%
● MacArthur Foundation	3%
● Dept of Justice	3%
● Other	37%



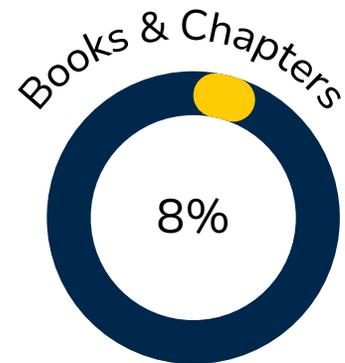
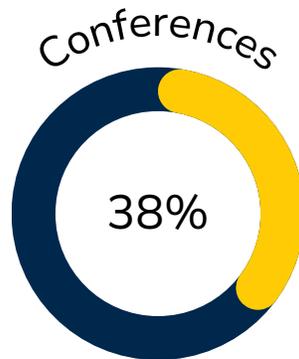
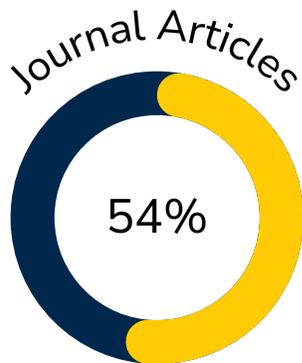
● NIH	33%
● Dept of Justice	6%
● MDHHS	6%
● Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	5%
● CDC	4%
● HHS - Admin Children/Families	3%
● Kellogg Foundation	3%
● Mich. Health Endowment Fund	3%
● State of Ohio	3%
● Other	34%

*These numbers are only for the first 6 months of the fiscal year since we are currently in FY25.
Note: the 'other' category represents many sources with one proposal submission

SSW FACULTY

PUBLICATION TRENDS

Types of scholarly contributions since 2000



Type of Contribution	2023	2024
Peer Reviewed Papers	269	316
Conference Presentation	174	144
Chapters in Books	27	34
Books	3	2
Artistic Performance/ Products	8	6

Top 10 journal outlets among U-M SSW faculty

Publications

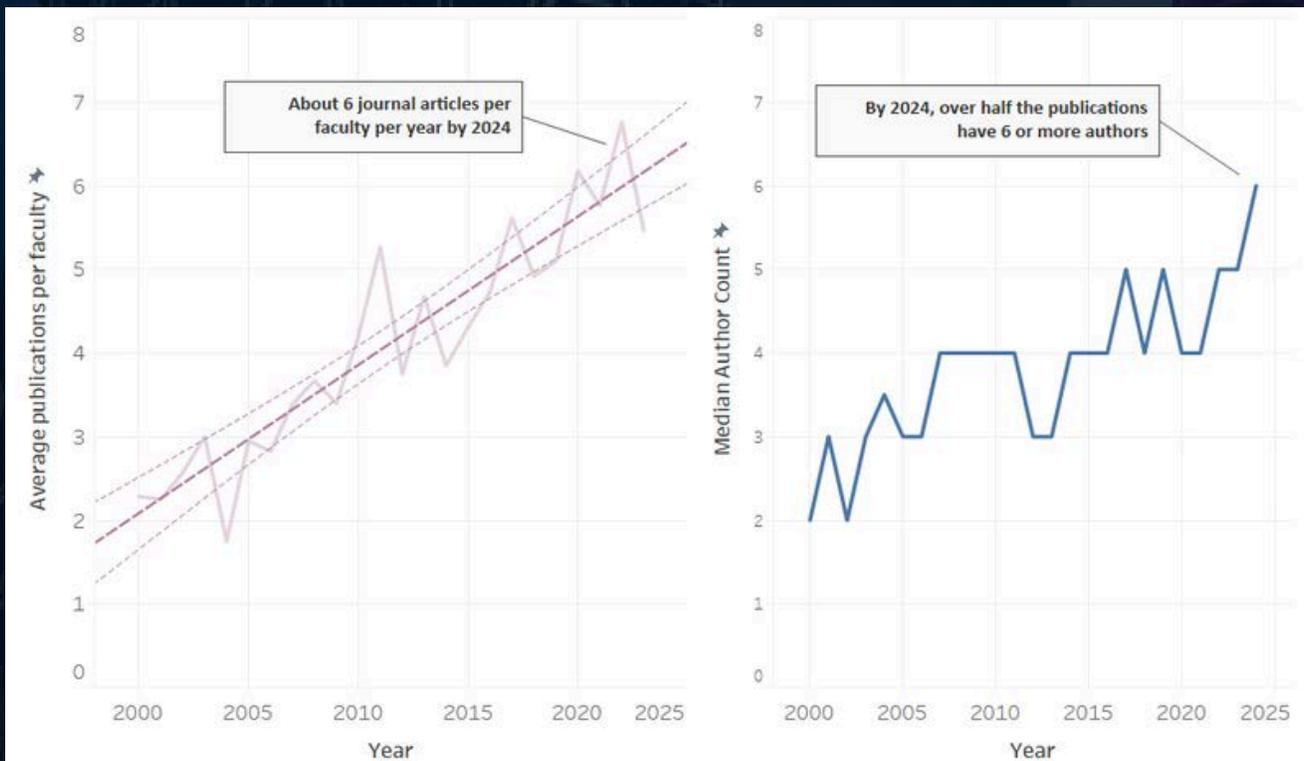
Children & Youth Services Review	168
Journal of Interpersonal Violence	134
Child Abuse & Neglect	103
Journal of Community Psychology	65
Research on Social Work Practice	52
Journal of the Society for Social Work & Research	49
Violence Against Women	45
Qualitative Social Work: Research & Practice	45
Psychiatric Services	39
Social Work Research	38

Publications since 2023

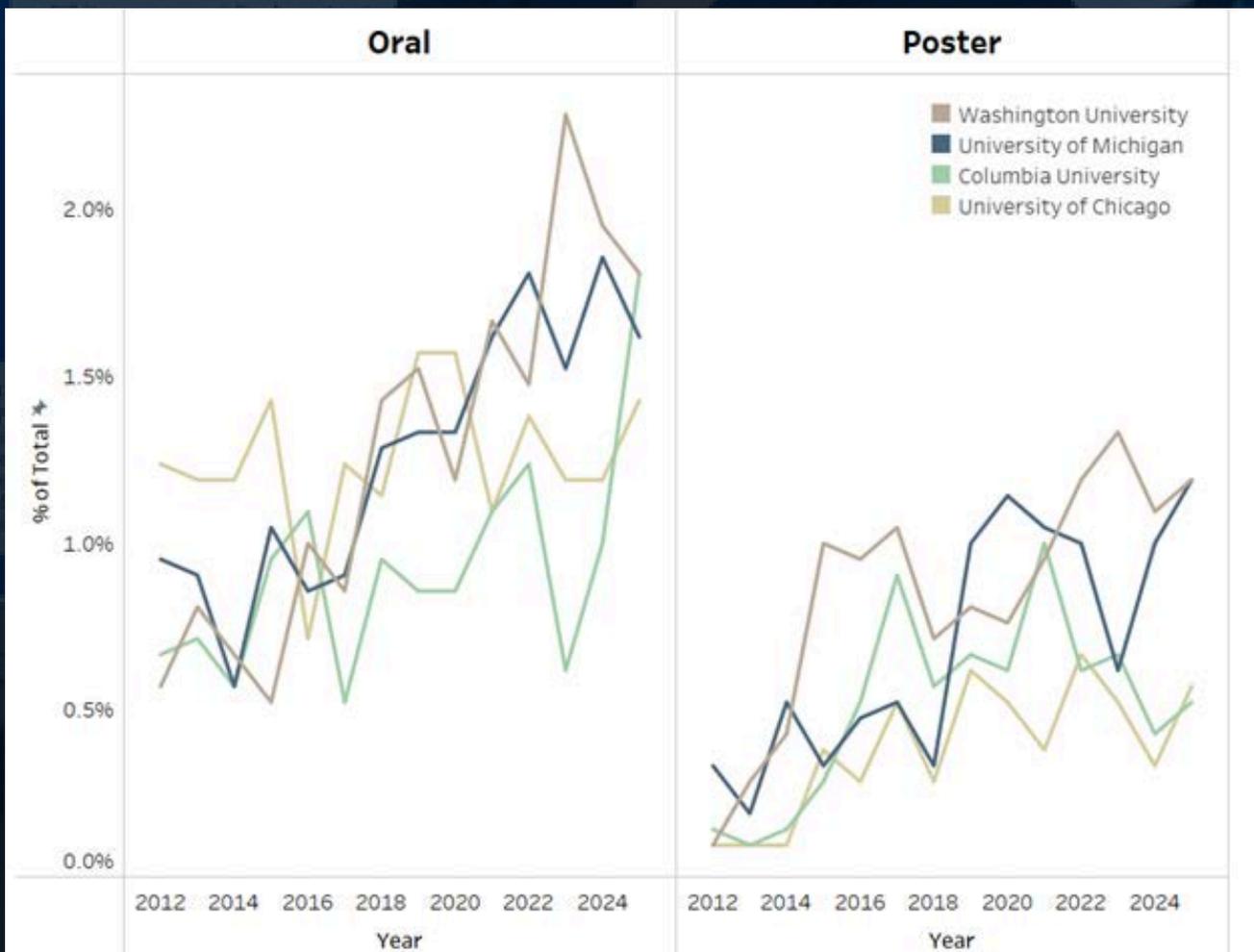
Research on Social Work Practice	16
Journal of the Society for Social Work & Research	16
Child Abuse & Neglect	16
Journal of Interpersonal Violence	13
Violence Against Women	8
Journal of Community Psychology	7
Social Work Research	4
Psychiatric Services	3
Children & Youth Services Review	3
Qualitative Social Work: Research & Practice	1

SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS

U-M SSW faculty publication rate with median author count since 2000



U-M SSW representation at the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR) conference



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

The role of art in social justice

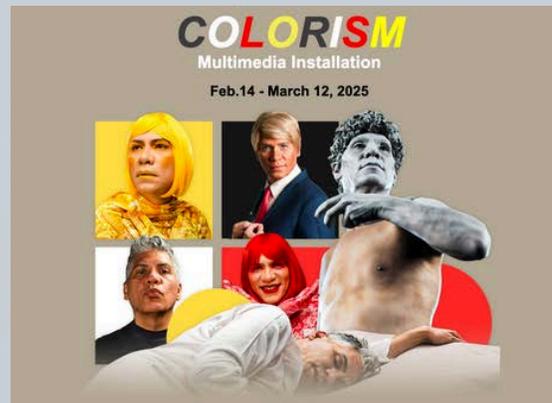
Professor Rogerio Pinto's "Colorism" exhibit inspires the development of critical consciousness – our capacity to critique oppressive socioeconomic and political conditions and to take personal and collective action against oppression. <https://www.rogeriompinto.com/colorism>

Infant Mental Health Home Visiting (IMH-HV) & children's socioemotional outcomes

Clinical Professor Julie Ribaud has been studying the Michigan Model of Infant Mental Health Home Visiting (Michigan IMH-HV) through her work with the **Zero to Thrive** team in the department of psychiatry and the Michigan Collaborative for Infant Mental Health Research. Their work is now listed on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare Registry.



Recently, they examined the impact of the intervention on the relationship between NR3C1 methylation and child socioemotional health. Methylation regulates gene transcription and can be altered by environmental changes, making it a strong candidate for understanding how early exposure to stress affects risk for physical and mental health outcomes over the lifetime and across generations. **They found that IMH-HV treatment appears to buffer the effect of NRC31 methylation on children's socioemotional outcomes.**



Health equity & implementation

Curtis Center Director and Associate Professor Jackie Hawkins will be the guest editor for a forthcoming special issue on *Health Equity and Implementation Science* that will highlight the application of implementation science frameworks to improve health equity in chronic disease care.

The issue will feature manuscripts on diabetes, kidney disease, nutrition and obesity, and NIDDK infrastructure needs, offering actionable strategies to enhance the reach, effectiveness, and sustainability of interventions in historically marginalized communities.

The Curtis Center is internally piloting a systematic review and meta-analysis program and if successful, we will plan to offer this as a service to the larger faculty starting later this year or early next year.



An evaluation of Empower@Home

Empower@Home is an online CBT program shown to reduce depression in older adults. **Associate Professor Xiaoling Xiang** is now bringing it from controlled academic settings to real-world community environments by training aging service providers and partnering with aging service organizations to implement and evaluate its impact.

Financial justice

Professor Terri Friedline and her school of social work colleagues published a study titled “**Fintech as Invasive Infrastructure**”, which develops a theoretical framework to analyze nearly three decades of corporate newswires and press releases describing their new financial products and services. Friedline also spent the last year interviewing organizers and activists involved in public banking coalitions, which are active in 35 U.S. cities and states. These organizers and activists are challenging the power of private finance and endeavoring to establish new, democratic models of banking that are capable of redistributing money and investing equitably in local communities.



Cancer research in social work

Professor Bradley Zebrack is leading a National Cancer Institute R01-funded study aimed at identifying molecular pathways that represent potential targets for interventions to protect cancer survivors against the adverse biological effects of social isolation, socioeconomic disadvantage, and other psychological and social determinants of health in the highly stressful context of cancer.

Historical tracing of social work theories & concepts

Associate Professor Odessa Gonzalez Benson recently published “**Shifting Interorganizational Relations and the COVID-19 Pandemic as External Shock: An Analysis of Organizational Fields, Capital, and Habitus**” in the journal *VOLUNTAS*. Gonzalez Benson is pursuing a new line of research on epistemology and knowledge production in social work, specifically a historical tracing of theories and concepts.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

DEI in Washtenaw County

Program Evaluation Group (PEG) is supporting nearly 40 nonprofits in the Washtenaw County region to conduct a equity self-study assessment process, in which organizations conduct a self study to identify their DEI goals, and develop a plan to implement those goals, and measure progress toward those goals. **This project seeks to promote equity in human services throughout the nonprofit ecosystem within our county.**



Research on child wellbeing

Associate Professor Katie Maguire-Jack has announced a new research finding that demonstrates providing parents with information about earned income tax credits (EITC) and financial empowerment is associated with increased knowledge of and receipt of EITC, as well as a reduction in child neglect.

Additionally, Maguire-Jack is embarking on a new research project in partnership with Triple P America and Nationwide Children's Hospital. **The project aims to build a free parenting app for parents of children aged 0-5 to decrease adverse childhood experiences.** This initiative is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Community building with PC CARES

Professor Lisa Wexler, along with **Drs. Coughlin, Evans**, and others, are utilizing the **PC CARES (Promoting Community Conversations About Research to End Suicide)** model with support from the State of Alaska. The ultimate goal is to form communities of practice that innovate to promote wellness in self-determined ways.

Cannabis & child maltreatment

Professors Joe Ryan and **Brian Perron** have a new paper coming out titled "**Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and the Risk of Subsequent Maltreatment.**" It will be published in *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

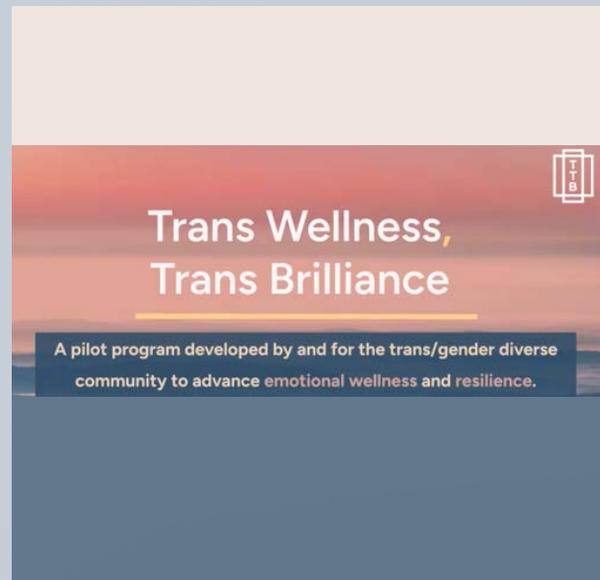
The purpose of this study was to assess racial bias in newborn drug testing and to investigate the association between prenatal tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) exposure and subsequent child maltreatment. They designed a brief video to help disseminate the results: <https://vimeo.com/910911764>

The Trans Wellness/Trans Brilliance (TWTB) Program

Associate Professor Shanna Kattari, in collaboration with community partner Transcend the Binary and feminist psychology doctoral student **Cecil McGhee**, has recently completed a pilot for the “Trans Wellness/Trans Brilliance” peer support specialist-led virtual wellness program. **The pilot yielded promising results and demonstrated community acceptability.** Kattari recently published their findings <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399241311287> and seeking additional funding to replicate the program on a larger scale.



Additionally, Kattari is working on an emerging mixed methods study focusing on gender refugees. This study involves parents, guardians, and caregivers of transgender children from medically "hostile" states—those banning gender-affirming care for young people. The study specifically examines three groups: 1) individuals who have already moved or will be moving from these states, 2) individuals who want to leave but cannot for various reasons, and 3) individuals who do not want to leave and wish to organize within their current state. So far, the team has conducted two dozen interviews and is currently analyzing the data to design a larger survey.



Collaborative intervention implementation effectiveness trial

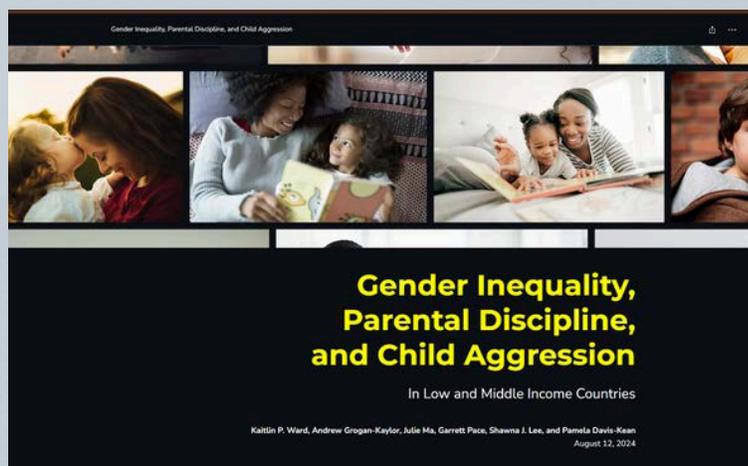
Associate Research Scientist Jennie Jester has a new research project with **Okeoma Mmeje**, an associate professor in the department of OB/GYN and the associate chief clinical officer for health equity with the University of Michigan Medical Group. This project is a multi-level hybrid type one effectiveness-implementation trial which will provide intervention at the level of the patient with provision of clinical services, the health system via program implementation and provider training and the community, with partnerships and clinical care coordination. Jennie is also a co-investigator on a grant proposal for a R01 submitted April, 2024.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Global Families Project

Professor Andrew Grogan-Kaylor has been working with global data on parenting and child development from UNICEF for several years. His recent research has focused on how macro-level factors, specifically gender inequality, influence parenting and child development. The website (<https://arcg.is/0m4qDb>) represents an effort to share this work in a more digestible, layperson-accessible, and social media-friendly format, beyond traditional academic articles.

The research, as represented in both the article (<https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14152>) and the website, is considered innovative. Most research on child development comes from North America, and there is limited understanding of the extent to which relationships between parenting and child development are universal across countries. The effect of macro-structural conditions on parenting and child development is particularly understudied in the Global South. Grogan-Kaylor's findings indicate that, across the countries in this UNICEF sample, gender inequality limits the impact of parenting on child development.



Exposure response prevention in adults & adolescents with OCD

Professor Joe Himle recently highlighted the main outcome paper of the first-ever randomized controlled trial comparing exposure and response prevention (ERP) to a stress management control condition, with both adults and adolescents receiving the same interventions within the same trial. Despite high treatment credibility and strong working relationships, the study found that stress management therapy, which is commonly given to people with OCD in the community, was not helpful for adults and adolescents with OCD. **In contrast, exposure and response prevention therapy was very effective for both groups.**

Himle's new research project involves the design and development of an entertaining, computer-assisted intervention for individuals with hoarding disorder. If funded, this project will compare entertaining versus non-entertaining versions of cognitive-behavioral therapy for this common and disabling condition.

Cohort comparison of two education savings plans

Professor William Elliott is leading a new project to assess the impact of the Kindergarten to College (K2C) children’s savings account (CSA) program on college enrollment and on-time high school graduation. The study involves a cohort comparison of K2C’s first phase of implementation. During the 2010-11 school year, K2C was launched, providing CSAs to all kindergarteners in 18 schools, which represent 25% of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) schools serving kindergarten students.

The study specifically compares the outcomes of students who enrolled in kindergarten in these 18 schools during the 2010-11 school year—the graduating class of 2023—who were the first cohort to receive a CSA from K2C (K2C cohort), with those who enrolled in kindergarten in these same schools during the previous year, 2009-10—the graduating class of 2022 (comparison cohort).

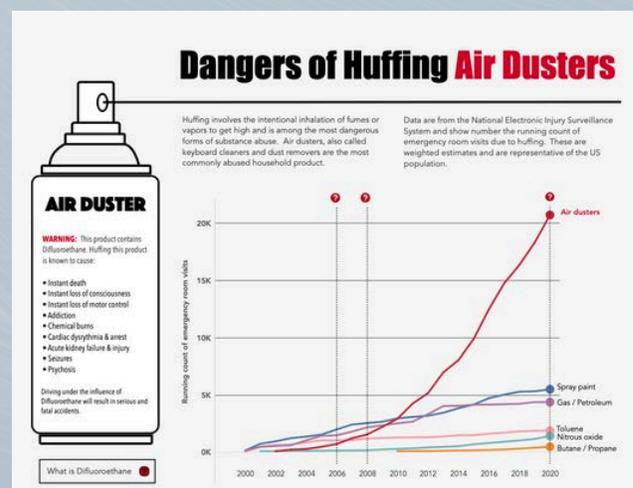
Changing Policy Through Research

Professor Brian Perron’s pioneering research on inhalant abuse and recent collaboration with **Robins Kaplan, LLC** helped influence Minnesota laws and is currently shaping federal rule-making around the dangers of huffing air dusters.



The role of nurses in addressing IPV

Professor Todd Herrenkohl is finalizing a book manuscript titled “**Pathways to Prevention: Connecting Research and Policy to Reduce Risk for Child Maltreatment**”, co-written with colleague **Bri Stormer**, which will be published by *Oxford University Press*. Herrenkohl is also a Co-Investigator on a newly funded R21 project, “Supporting the Implementation of Prevention Strategies by Public Health Nurses to Reduce Intimate Partner Violence in Alaska”, led by **Avantia Adhia** and **Betty Bekemeier** (Co-PIs).



RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Employment readiness & technology

Associate Dean for Research and Professor Matthew J. Smith's Level Up Lab (<https://leveluplab.org/>) completed two randomized controlled effectiveness-implementation trials. The first confirmed the effectiveness of virtual reality job interview training at improving employment outcomes for returning citizens engaged in prison-based employment readiness. The second tested the WorkChat: A Virtual Workday conversation skill builder among 273 autistic youth and adults. **A Level Up Lab initiative for 2025 is the development of a NIH Research Center Grant proposal focusing on employment for autistic youth and adults.**



Trans & gender diverse health research priorities in Canada

Associate Professor Ashley Lacombe-Duncan's Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) project entitled "**Building a National Network to Enhance Intersectional and Gender-affirming HIV/STBBI Prevention and Care Among Transgender and Gender Diverse People in Canada**" builds on the work of the community-based participatory "Trans Women and Gender Diverse People HIV/STBBI and Health Research Initiative" (TWIRI). The TWIRI is an interdisciplinary and community-based participatory research (CBPR) initiative that Lacombe-Duncan co-leads, to determine national TGD-health research priorities across Canada by holding virtual meetings, conducting a rapid environmental scan and stakeholder mapping through semi-structured individual interviews with TGD community and organizational leaders, followed by setting priorities utilizing a two-step online Delphi method.

Family synergy in cancer survivorship

With a pilot grant from the U-M Pepper Center called "**Family Synergy in Cancer Survivorship**", **Associate Professor Katrina Ellis** is working with her team to develop and test the feasibility of a new intervention for post-treatment older Black American cancer survivors and their families. The intervention will adapt an evidence-based psychosocial cancer intervention to also focus on promoting healthy lifestyle behaviors and disease management among cancer survivors and adult family members managing chronic health concerns.

ADR ADVISORY BOARD **THANK YOU!!**



Associate Professor
Lindsay Bornheimer



Professor
David Cordova



Associate Professor
Ashley Lacombe-Duncan



Professor
Brian Perron



Clinical Professor
Julie M. Ribaud



Professor
Daphne Watkins



Professor
Lisa M. Wexler

The Associate Dean for Research (ADR) Advisory Board was instrumental in supporting the vision for uplifting the research culture and climate of our school, from our events and pilot grants to ways that we can highlight our achievements. I want to thank them for their hard work during 2024 and look forward to their continued support in 2025 and beyond.



SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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A sincere thanks to Jodi Caviani from the Research Office and Brian Perron and Zia Qi from the Child & Adolescent Data Lab for their support in curating the data for this report.

A special thanks to Julia McClellan Presgrove from the Level Up Lab for designing the report.

