# Marissa Rurka, PhD

## Research and Evaluation Project Manager

Education

### BA, Sociology, Elon University

### MS, Sociology, Purdue University

**Ph.D, Sociology and Gerontology, Purdue University**

Professional experience

### Research and Evaluation Project Manager, Center for Health and Research Transformation, Ann Arbor, MI (01/2022-Present)

* Leads the design and implementation of program evaluations, with a focus on programs that address social determinants of health.
* Manages the implementation of a statewide survey of physicians, including survey development, sampling, survey administration, data cleaning, data analysis, and report development.
* Collaborates with colleagues to develop project proposals and grant applications.
* Works with diverse stakeholder groups to identify research needs, establish data sharing agreements, coordinate and implement evaluation activities, and accomplish project goals.
* Develops deliverables to disseminate research and evaluation findings, including briefs, webinars, data dashboards, presentations, and peer-reviewed publications.
* Implements qualitative and quantitative research methods; provides methodological and statistical guidance to colleagues.

### Research and Evaluation Senior Analyst, Center for Health and Research Transformation, Ann Arbor, MI (03/2021-12/2021)

* Employed qualitative and quantitative research methods to collect and analyze project data.
* Prepared briefs and other deliverables for stakeholders on a variety of topics, including family caregiving, COVID-19, and telehealth.

### Research Assistant, Evaluation of Minnesota’s Value-Based Reimbursement System, MN (8/2020-1/2021)

* + An evaluation of Minnesota’s Value-Based Reimbursement (VBR) system for Medicaid nursing facility reimbursement.
  + Conducted statistical analyses to evaluate measures of long-stay resident quality of life (software: Mplus, Stata).
  + Presented and interpreted research findings for the Minnesota Department of Human Services.
  + Prepared a legislative report and other deliverables outlining policy recommendations based on research findings.

### Research Assistant & Graduate Project Coordinator, Within-Family Differences Study, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN (8/2014-7/2020)

* + A panel survey exploring the implications of family caregiving for well-being using data from over 500 families.
  + Planned and conducted data analyses (software: SPSS, R, Stata).
  + Developed research articles and presentations to disseminate findings.
  + Assisted with the preparation of grant applications for funding from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health.
  + Trained and supervised junior research assistants regarding data management and analysis.

### Healthcare Delivery and Disparities Research Intern, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Washington, DC (6/2019-8/2019)

* + Developed and organized datasets of PCORI-funded studies related to advanced illness and caregiving.
  + Analyzed, synthesized, and visualized characteristics of PCORI’s caregiving research portfolio (software: Excel); created and presented a poster describing the portfolio to researchers, health care providers, caregivers, and other stakeholders.
  + Developed reports for PCORI leadership highlighting how PCORI’s investments in advanced illness and caregiver research related to national priorities and policy.

### Instructor of Record-Introduction to Research Methods; Social Problems; Sociology of Family, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN (Summer 2016-Summer 2018)

* + Developed syllabi, presentations, activities, and assessments.
  + Facilitated discussion among students from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines.
  + Articulated expectations, responded to questions, and provided constructive feedback to students regarding course assignments and projects.

### Research Fellow, Elon University, Elon, NC (Fall 2012-August 2014)

* + A qualitative study on the mental health of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) older adults.
  + Prepared grant applications to support the research project (awarded 2 grants totaling $4,000).
  + Developed the study design, created the interview protocol, conducted interviews, and analyzed qualitative data (software: ATLAS.ti).
  + Networked with university- and community-based LGBTQ organizations to receive feedback on the study design and share findings.

Select Work

***Peer-Reviewed Publications***

* **Rurka, M.**, Suitor, J. J., Gilligan, M., & Frase, R. (2022). How do own and siblings’ genders shape caregivers’ risk of perceiving care-related criticism from siblings? *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences.* doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbac188 ([Link to publication](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9985314/pdf/gbac188.pdf))
* Xu, D., Lewis, T., **Rurka, M.**, & Arling, G. (2022). Approach to systematically examine the usefulness of quality measures in practice: Minnesota’s nursing home quality indicators and scoring approach. *BMJ Quality & Safety.* doi: 10.1136/bmjqs-2021-014384
* **Rurka, M.**, Suitor, J. J., & Gilligan, M. (2020). The caregiver identity in context: The consequences of identity threat from siblings. *Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences.* doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbaa099 ([Link to publication](https://watermark.silverchair.com/gbaa099.pdf?token=AQECAHi208BE49Ooan9kkhW_Ercy7Dm3ZL_9Cf3qfKAc485ysgAAAuIwggLeBgkqhkiG9w0BBwagggLPMIICywIBADCCAsQGCSqGSIb3DQEHATAeBglghkgBZQMEAS4wEQQMyH3FsAgNEbT-OOkaAgEQgIIClU4nM3N7Q1SBqrzLHXHFRqFSttQhN2epyqwPSteD5e36uEBTPpJfxuKKiVb7uc627ANX0s6KyHzz7usmn6WcFpkEXmyjqU1cq5RGQxGUtsB1MHrZNrmSPF0eBhZmPC5MrfJ052sDEXn_h1ab_5DO8tzpHP1alErpbHaSM04Dc474OgOKkusrWtbFTnnpVBAWBeINfNxiOtM_g7RRD54eD70_MNc6f8H36E_cpOlXZisR4rzDr4G405KViR-7eFsni9IRQ-e4kSJ0G7RDOhTKEkm4idgk8qnbSsnU2qJlPqwQWMArLXdl4x9eVRp06I4VjXAgoipjQ-TSzzcRqeUxmQUBDzPzBs0hgN1sRx1YdHRSa5GyeCKXPd_FTY2OsWcyVJ8k322VCaXmeIK8prxqbAutqUFrzFher76KdHbRRz7d7ELNvAq4QcdTH4Vm059p1-NCFHN9huuVQ72TbJ-O3yMp-N1zGJfVzKL2L4vDEw2MyVhjmx_U-qwRL7vCXN6F9-dGoNf9SmDomEqseF-hol5-ijiKWj_u8sboY1sWF9XJYACaP3CnLDC3Q319HxXc6SqObdauVmdPE3PkMp7FDR-ptmDXQDS1wN8Tu_dw9Iwy7_qeSlQ9eJ_eKUsaWYVneztGz9XjlrJckZ6ncGmEawKgk6iYb1D-w2oiwG227KPBS2hGokvck42O6ZQIOWKfgYxwy_7iU6M3r_1M7lUCwbtzVdWrEjQZiwbcgANqeaHx-WcPSbhJSIMyqGXJAvhVgIurx00w6Eauw41Bx7TLDIZUWIeWTMzSXhEalkDzlW7GI1zO-qHBRrB_og8U_rVf_WQ20r3afIREYH2FdvWNaYl13M3zxM6nD70KW6fqoE3DGbINkyM))

***Briefs and other Reports***

* **Rurka, M.**, Teske, K., Riba, M., & Des Jardins, T. (2022). Michigan physicians’ knowledge of where to refer patients for social needs has increased, but opportunities for growth remain. ([Link to report](https://chrt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SDOH-brief_6-30-2022.pdf))
* **Rurka, M.**, Teske, K., Riba, M., Des Jardins, T. (2022). Much can be learned from physicians’ experiences with telehealth expansion in Michigan. ([Link to report](https://chrt.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MichiganPhysicianSurvey_TelehealthFindings.pdf))
* Hass, Z., Xu, D., **Rurka, M.**, Cai, K., Abrahamson, K., & Arling, G. (2021). Evaluation of the Nursing Facility Payment Reform Legislation: 2021 Report to the Legislature. Prepared for the Minnesota Department of Human Services. ([Link to report](https://mn.gov/dhs/assets/2021-Nursing-facility-payment-reform-recommendations_tcm1053-488894.pdf))

***Presentations***

* **Rurka, M.,** & Riba, M. (2023). Screening and referring patients for food and housing insecurity: Findings from a survey of Michigan Physicians. Presented at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Social Determinants of Health Virtual Summit, January. ([Link to recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiDW-Keqnog))
* **Rurka, M.**, Xu, D., & Arling G. (2021). A quantitative evaluation of the Minnesota Long-Stay Resident Quality of Life survey. Presented at the Academy Health Annual Meeting, Virtual Meeting, June.
* **Rurka, M.**, Khan, C. P., Witsaman, R., Susana-Castillo, S., Gummi, S., Moscou-Jackson, G., Clauser, S. B., Arora, N. K. (2019). Caregivers of older adults: An analysis of the PCORI funded research portfolio. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, Austin, TX, November.

***Webinar***

* Riba, M., & **Rurka, M.** (2023). Serving those aging with a long-term physical disability during the COVID-19 pandemic: Challenges, successes, and innovations. Investigating Disability Factors and Promoting Environmental Access for Healthy Living (IDEAL RRTC), Quarterly Webinar Series. ([Link to recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bI15TIBAmY4))

***Podcast Appearance***

* Guest appearance on the podcast “Food First Michigan,” hosted by Phil Knight (executive director of the Food Bank Council of Michigan) and Gerry Brisson (president and CEO of  the Gleaners Community Food Bank). The episode aired September 25, 2022. (Listen to Episode 91- Data Driven Decisions [here](https://www.wjr.com/food/))

Skills & Software

Stata; SPSS; Mplus; R; Nvivo; Qualtrics; Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint