



Winter Lyons

Research Associate, Rural Health Evaluation

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SUMMARY

Doctoral trained rural health and health services researcher with eight years of experience leading program evaluation, **implementation science**, quantitative analysis, and mixed methods studies across public health and healthcare delivery initiatives. Develops rigorous study designs, sampling plans, measures, collection procedures, and analytic strategies for complex rural health programs. Manages multi project evaluation portfolios, sensitive administrative and primary data, quality controls, data governance, IRB submissions, **Data Use Agreements**, and privacy documentation. Translates statistical findings into practical recommendations for providers, agencies, funders, community partners, and decision makers. Publishes **peer reviewed manuscripts**, technical reports, public briefs, and conference presentations while mentoring graduate researchers and analysts. Brings sustained focus on rural healthcare access, workforce outcomes, implementation results, **continuous quality improvement**, and evidence based decisions that improve care delivery.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Research Associate, Rural Health Evaluation

Prairie Health Research Institute 📅 July 2023 - Present 📍 Minneapolis, MN

Directs evaluation design and delivery for rural care access and workforce initiatives across provider and community settings. Leads analysts, mentors graduate researchers, manages sensitive data governance, and translates evidence into **continuous quality improvement** decisions for public sector and healthcare partners.

- Established **sampling** plans and measures for rural care access and workforce evaluations.
- Led R and **SAS** analyses using claims, survey, workforce, and implementation data.
- Built validation workflows supporting secure storage, discrepancy resolution, and analysis ready releases.
- Guided **rapid cycle evaluation** reviews that refined provider workflows and corrective actions.
- Prepared IRB amendments, **Data Use Agreements**, **privacy** records, and governance materials.
- Mentored graduate researchers on instruments, reproducible analysis, interpretation, and reporting.

Research Associate, Rural Health Services

Midwest Center for Health Services 📅 September 2020 - June 2023 📍 Iowa City, IA

Managed evaluations of telehealth, primary care access, and community health programs serving rural populations. Designed instruments, analyzed mixed data, produced clear decision products, and provided technical assistance across research, implementation, and community teams.

- Managed telehealth and primary care evaluations serving rural communities across multiple teams.
- Designed surveys and analysis plans using regression and descriptive methods in **STATA**.
- Synthesized **rural health** literature and implementation evidence for measure selection.
- Produced dashboards translating utilization and implementation measures for program leaders.
- Co authored reports, briefs, abstracts, manuscripts, and conference presentations for varied audiences.
- Provided **technical assistance** on definitions, collection procedures, missing data, and remediation.

Evaluation Analyst, Community Health Programs

Great Plains Public Health Collaborative 📅 August 2018 - August 2020 📍 Omaha, NE

Executed quantitative and **mixed methods** evaluation for community health programs across participating sites. Maintained linked data, supported literature based methods, prepared decision products, and coordinated meetings, milestones, deadlines, and proposal development.

- Maintained linked survey and administrative data across participating community health sites.
- Programmed cleaning, descriptive analysis, and statistical testing in R, **SPSS**, and **Excel**.

STRENGTHS

- 🔍 **Evaluation Design**
Built sampling plans, measures, and collection protocols for rural care initiatives. Stakeholders gained a clearer path from questions to evidence.
- ♥️ **Statistical Analysis**
Used R, SAS, STATA, SPSS, and Excel across mixed data sources. Colleagues often sought help resolving difficult analytic questions.
- 🔒 **Data Governance**
Created validation and secure storage workflows for sensitive health data. That discipline made analysis releases easier to trust.
- 👥 **Stakeholder Translation**
Turned complex findings into dashboards, briefs, and recommendations. Providers could see practical next steps rather than just numbers.
- 🎓 **Research Mentoring**
Guided graduate researchers and analysts through instruments, reproducible work, and reporting. Junior staff became more confident owners of their analyses.

SKILLS

Rural Health

Health Services Research

Program Evaluation

Implementation Science

Rapid Cycle Evaluation

Quantitative Analysis

[Mixed Methods](#) [Study Design](#)

[Sampling](#) [Measurement](#)

[Data Visualization](#) [Data Quality](#)

[Data Governance](#) [Grant Writing](#)

[Stakeholder Facilitation](#)

LANGUAGES

English Native

Spanish Intermediate

MY CAREER



● Senior Research Associate, Rural Health Evaluation at Prairie Health Research Institute (3.2 Years)

● Research Associate, Rural Health Services at Midwest Center for Health Services Research (2.8 Years)

● Evaluation Analyst, Community Health Programs at Great Plains Public Health Collaborative (2 Years)

● Research Analyst, Health Policy Evaluation at Heartland Policy Research Center (2.1 Years)

- Integrated quantitative results with qualitative evidence to interpret implementation barriers.
- Conducted **literature reviews** supporting protocols, measures, and evidence based recommendations.
- Prepared charts, one page summaries, and technical report sections for agencies.
- Coordinated research meetings, work plans, reporting deadlines, and **grant proposals**.

Research Analyst, Health Policy Evaluation

Heartland Policy Research Center 📅 June 2016 - July 2018 📍 Lincoln, NE

Supported evaluation studies of **healthcare access** and **population health** programs through primary data collection, analysis file development, literature review, confidentiality procedures, and coordinated delivery with investigators, agencies, and community organizations.

- Organized primary **data collection** and multi site documentation for access studies.
- Developed validated survey databases and analysis files in Excel and SPSS.
- Prepared descriptive tables and figures for reports, presentations, and research reviews.
- Reviewed academic and policy literature to identify validated measures and study designs.
- Maintained participant **confidentiality** procedures for sensitive research information.
- Prepared **IRB** support materials and study files for audit review.

PROJECTS

Statewide Rural Health Transformation Evaluation 📅 2026

Supported a five year evaluation model spanning population health, workforce, data and technology, and care transformation projects. Connected implementation measures, outcomes, sustainability evidence, and continuous quality improvement findings for statewide decision making.

Rural Telehealth Access Evidence Synthesis 📅 2023

Combined literature review, utilization analysis, stakeholder feedback, and implementation evidence into practical recommendations for rural telehealth access, service delivery, and future evaluation design.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Peer reviewed publication contributor in rural health services research and implementation science.
- Conference presenter translating evaluation findings for public health and healthcare audiences.
- Graduate research mentor recognized for practical guidance on analysis and reporting.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Health Services Research

University of Minnesota 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2020 📍 Minneapolis, MN

Coursework: Program evaluation, implementation science, quantitative methods, health services research

Master of Public Health

University of Nebraska Medical Center 🎓 GPA: 4.0 📅 2016 📍 Omaha, NE

Coursework: Epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy, community health assessment

CERTIFICATIONS

- Human Subjects Research, CITI Program 📅 2026
- Good Clinical Practice, CITI Program 📅 2025

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Statistical Programming:** R, SAS, SPSS, STATA
- **Data Management:** Microsoft Excel, administrative data, primary data
- **Study Design:** sampling, measurement, data collection
- **Evaluation Methods:** program evaluation, mixed methods, rapid cycle evaluation
- **Implementation Research:** implementation science, CQI, sustainability
- **Data Governance:** Data Use Agreements, IRB, privacy documentation

- **Research Compliance:** confidentiality, sensitive information protection, secure storage
- **Evidence Synthesis:** literature reviews, evidence synthesis, scientific terminology
- **Data Visualization:** dashboards, charts, one page summaries
- **Research Communication:** technical reports, public briefs, conference presentations
- **Grant Development:** grant proposals, work plans, milestone reporting
- **Health Research Domains:** rural health, health services research, population health

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, AcademyHealth, with focus on health services research and evaluation.
- Member, American Public Health Association, supporting rural and population health practice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST