



Alethia Picciola, L.M.S.W.

OVERVIEW

Alethia Gregory is a Senior Research Analyst at PRG. Ms. Gregory has worked at PRG since 2012 and has served as a senior/lead analyst and project manager of five federally funded teen pregnancy prevention grants, including an accelerator innovation hub supporting multiple cohorts of innovation development teams with existing prototypes to rigorously test, refine, and prepare for future impact evaluations; and a multi-state network project to pilot and evaluate promising teen pregnancy prevention interventions for juvenile justice-involved youth. She has over 10 years of experience with partner recruitment, including intervention developers, youth, and community agencies; coordinating collaboration between developers, stakeholders, and subject-matter experts; convening expert panels and advisory groups; and managing projects and partners to meet grant requirement deadlines.

EDUCATION

M.S.W., Louisiana State University, 2012
B.A., Loyola University, 2006

LICENSURE

Licensed Master Social Worker

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2016 – Present Lead Research Analyst, *The Policy & Research Group*, New Orleans, LA
2012 – 2016 Research Analyst, *The Policy & Research Group*, New Orleans, LA
2007 – 2008 Neighborhood Liaison, *Neighborhoods Partnership Network*, New Orleans, LA

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2023-2028, Theory and Innovation Support Hub, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs Role: Senior Research Analyst. Duties: Senior analyst for an accelerator innovation hub supporting multiple cohorts of innovation development teams with existing prototypes that demonstrate feasibility, appropriateness, and desirability to rigorously test, refine, and prepare for future impact evaluations. Recruits intervention developers.

School Health Education Professional Development Study, 2019-2024, ICF International, Inc., funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health. Role: Lead Research Analyst. Duties: Provides evaluation support for a project that is developing and testing the effectiveness of a professional

development package intended to strengthen instructional competencies among health education teachers in schools. Conducted evaluability assessments with school systems to determine possible study sites. Conducted cognitive interviews with students and teachers as part of survey instrument development process. Developed data collection protocols.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2020-2023, Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth Innovation and Impact Network, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs. Role: Lead Research Analyst. Duties: Lead analyst for a multi-state network project involving the implementation and evaluation of five new trauma-informed teen pregnancy prevention interventions for juvenile justice-involved youth. Recruited new partners, including intervention developers, youth, and community agencies. Introduced the study to project partners and staff working in the justice system across sites in New Mexico and West Virginia. Monitored progress of intervention developers and implemented pilot testing and evaluation of interventions. Worked closely with intervention developers and study coordinators to ensure interventions were implemented to fidelity. Managed project to meet all deadlines and coordinated the efforts of multiple project partners. Submitted and maintained IRB packages. Managed data monitoring and quality assurance procedures.

Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, 2018-2023, Fairbanks Native Association, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Role: Lead Research Analyst. Duties: Lead analyst for a rigorous evaluation of a tribal home visiting program in Fairbanks, Alaska. Managed project to meet all deadlines. Submitted IRB package. Completed Year 1 Community Needs and Readiness Assessment and reported results back to the program partner and funder to inform future programming. Oversaw development of evaluation plan and interview and focus group protocols. Conducted stakeholder interviews and focus groups and grounded theory analysis of qualitative data to identify key themes. Managed project communication. Monitored reporting of performance measure data. Provided training and technical assistance to project partner on performance measure data entry and reporting. Oversaw preparation of final evaluation report.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2015-2021, Practice Self-Regulation, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health. Role: Lead Research Analyst. Duties: Lead analyst for a randomized controlled trial of a trauma-informed therapeutic education program, with a total sample of 432 adolescents across therapy sites in California, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, and New Mexico. Recruited and trained 161 therapists. Presented research design to project partners and provided guidance and technical assistance to therapists. Oversaw recruitment and scheduling of participants. Managed active participant consent process. Managed execution of the implementation study. Hired and oversaw the work of 9 regional study coordinators. Developed data collection protocols. Managed data checking and quality improvement. Managed project to meet all deadlines and coordinated the efforts of multiple project partners. Submitted and maintained IRB packages. Managed communication between study staff, implementation staff, the intervention developer, and federal project officers. Conducted in-depth semi-structured interviews with 20 therapists to provide additional context to project findings. Assisted with the preparation of evaluation reports. Presented findings on implementation lessons learned at numerous national conferences. <https://opa.hhs.gov/grant-programs/teen-pregnancy-prevention-program/tpp-successful-strategies/policy-and-research>

Cultural Consensus Analysis, 2019, Environmental Defense Fund, funded by Walton Family Foundation. Role: Lead Research Analyst. Duties: Managed pilot phase of a mixed-methods study examining beliefs and cultural values about coastal land loss and restoration in the Mississippi River Delta. Developed data collection protocols and conducted interviews with commercial fishermen.

Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare, 2013-2017, Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Role: Research Analyst. Duties: Project manager for a statewide program that aimed to identify, treat, and reduce trauma-related problems in the child welfare system. Managed the execution of the implementation, outcome, and cost studies. Developed evaluation protocols and data collection instruments. Provided technical assistance to child welfare system professionals. Conducted focus groups with child welfare caseworkers. Conducted interviews with administrative and project staff at Louisiana Division of Children & Family Services and Tulane University. Assisted with the preparation of evaluation reports.

Needs Assessment of People Living With HIV/AIDS, 2015, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health, STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program, funded by Louisiana Office of Public Health. Role: Research Analyst. Duties: Project manager for a statewide needs assessment that collected data from 1,625 Louisiana residents living with HIV/AIDS across 18 service sites. Managed communication and data collection efforts. Oversaw the work of research interns supporting needs assessment data collection and entry. Monitored and maintained data quality. Prepared regional and statewide reports that provided descriptive accounts of the needs of Louisiana residents living with HIV.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2012-2015, Louisiana Public Health Institute, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health. Role: Research Analyst. Duties: Project manager for a randomized controlled trial of a group-based sexual health intervention, Becoming a Responsible Teen, with a total sample of 850 adolescents ages 14 to 18 across 18 summer job sites in New Orleans. Obtained parental consent/participant assent for program participation and managed data collection, including administration of self-report questionnaires at baseline (before the first program session) and six-month follow-up. Developed data collection instruments. Hired and oversaw staff conducting data collection and participant follow-up procedures. Provided technical assistance to project partners. Submitted and maintained IRB packages. Assisted with the preparation of evaluation reports. Presented research findings at national conferences and published results in peer-reviewed journals.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2012-2015, Louisiana Public Health Institute, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health. Role: Research Analyst. Duties: Project manager for a randomized controlled trial of a one-on-one sexual health intervention, Safer Sex Intervention, with a total sample of 319 young women ages 14 to 19 across 5 reproductive health clinics in New Orleans. Obtained parental consent/participant assent for program participation and managed data collection, including administration of self-report questionnaires at baseline (before the first program session) and six-month follow-up. Developed data collection instruments. Hired and oversaw staff conducting data collection and participant follow-up procedures. Provided technical assistance to project partners. Submitted and maintained IRB packages. Assisted with the preparation of evaluation reports.

Community Resilience Pilot, 2012, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, funded by American Red Cross. Role: Research Analyst. Duties: Organized data collection activities for a pilot project that aimed to enhance social networks and build local capacity for future preparedness efforts. Scheduled focus groups and interviews with pilot participants. Reported findings to project partners.

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Publications in peer-reviewed journals are preceded by an asterisk (*).

- * Henley, C., **Gregory, A.**, Walsh, S., Roundhill, C., Darnell, A., & Jenner, E. (2022). Therapists' acceptance of rigorous research to evaluate the efficacy of a manualized psychotherapy intervention. *American Journal of Evaluation*. Under review by journal.
- Gregory, A.**, Burgess, K., & Miller, M. (2023, October). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Juvenile Justice and Innovation and Impact Network. *Innovation Network Promotion Package*.
- Walsh, S., **Gregory, A.**, Sweeney, C., & de Wet, E. (2023, September). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Tribal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program: Fairbanks Native Association. *Final Evaluation Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Henley, C., & **Gregory, A.** (2021, September). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Final Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Henley, C., & **Gregory, A.** (2021, January). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Memo*.
- * Demby, H., Jenner, L., **Gregory, A.**, & Jenner, E. (2020). Structuring evaluation partnerships: Exploring contrasts in researcher-practitioner roles and responsibilities when implementing randomized experiments in real-world settings. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 41(4), 531–546. doi: 10.1177/1098214020941089
- ICF International, Inc., & **Gregory, A.** (2020, May). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Adolescent and School Health, School Health Education Professional Development Study. *Evaluability Assessment*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Henley, C., & **Gregory, A.** (2019, January). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Impact Analysis Plan*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2017, October). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Final Semiannual Progress Report*.
- Jenner, E., Jenner, L., Walsh, S., Demby, H., Snider, R., Henley, C., & **Gregory, A.** (2017, September). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Evaluation Abstract*.
<https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/prg-ps-r-eval-abstract.pdf>
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Demby, H., Henley, C., & **Gregory, A.** (2017, September). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Implementation Analysis Plan*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2017, March). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- * Jenner, E., Jenner, L. W., Walsh, S., Demby, H., **Gregory, A.**, & Davis, E. (2016). Impact of an intervention designed to reduce sexual health risk behaviors of African American adolescents: Results of a randomized controlled trial. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(51), 578–584. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2016.303291
- * Davis, E., Demby, H., Jenner, L. W., **Gregory, A.**, & Broussard, M. (2016). Adapting an evidence-based model to retain adolescent study participants in longitudinal research. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 54, 102–111. doi: 10.1016/j.evalprogplan.2015.10.003
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2016, October). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-

- Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Demby, H., & **Gregory, A.** (2016, May). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Practice Self-Regulation. *Needs Assessment*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2016, April). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2016, March). Louisiana Department of Health, People Living With HIV Needs Assessment: Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program. *Statewide Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Jenner, L. W., Demby, H., & **Gregory, A.** (2016, January). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Louisiana Public Health Institute. *Safer Sex Intervention Impact Evaluation Report*. <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/ssi-final-report.pdf>
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2015, October). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Jenner, L. W., Demby, H., **Gregory, A.**, & Davis, E. (2015, September). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program: Louisiana Public Health Institute. *Becoming a Responsible Teen Impact Evaluation Report*. <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/lphi-final-report.pdf>
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2015, September). Louisiana Department of Health, People Living With HIV Needs Assessment: Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program. *Baton Rouge Transitional Grant Area Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2015, June). Louisiana Department of Health, People Living With HIV Needs Assessment: Louisiana Office of Public Health STD/HIV/Hepatitis Program. *New Orleans Eligible Metropolitan Area Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2015, April). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- Jenner, E., Jenner, L., Walsh, S., Demby, H., & **Gregory, A.** (2014, December). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Formative Report*.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., & **Gregory, A.** (2014, October). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Initiative to Improve Access to Needs-Driven, Evidence-Based/Evidence-Informed Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Child Welfare: Tulane University's Department of Psychiatry. *Semiannual Progress Report*.
- * Demby, H., **Gregory, A.**, Broussard, M., Dickherber, J., Atkins, S., & Jenner, L. W. (2014). Implementation lessons: The importance of assessing organizational “fit” and external factors when implementing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 54(3), S37–S44. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2013.12.022
- * Lim, Y., Bickham, T., Dinecola, C. M., Broussard, J., Weber, B. E., & **Gregory, A.** (2014). Payday loan use and consumer well-being: What consumers and social workers need to know about payday loans. *Journal of Poverty*, 18(4), 379–398. doi: 10.1080/10875549.2014.951906

- Jenner, E., Jenner, L., Walsh, S., Demby, H., & **Gregory, A.** (2012, October). American Red Cross, Community Resilience Pilot: National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. *Interview and Focus Group Report*.
- Jenner, E., Jenner, L., Walsh, S., Demby, H., & **Gregory, A.** (2012, August). American Red Cross, Community Resilience Pilot: National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. *Qualitative Findings Memo*.

PRESENTATIONS

- Qaragholi, N., **Gregory, A.**, & Jones, J. (2024, November). *Designing for impact: Using conceptual models to build effective adolescent health innovations*. APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition, Minneapolis, MN.
- Axelson, S., Desai, M., Garrido, M., **Gregory, A.**, Lat, A., Parekh, J., Peterson, A., Qaragholi, N., & Suellentrop, K. (2024, June). *Advancing health equity through innovation: OPA's innovation hubs*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Family and Youth Services Bureau Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program Grantee Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Gregory, A.**, Shervington, I., Leal, G., Iverson, J., & Gere, D. (2023, June). *Entertainment education: An innovative approach to teen pregnancy prevention for youth involved with the justice system*. Virtual webinar.
- Gregory, A.**, Crenshaw, H., French, W., Gerber, A., & Kesler, K. (2023, June). *An overview of two social network theory – motivational interviewing TPP interventions for youth involved with the justice system*. Virtual webinar.
- Gregory, A.**, Laferriere, E. F., & Patterson, S. (2022, October). *Innovation network: A new approach to advancing adolescent sexual health in justice settings*. National Conference on Correctional Health Care, Las Vegas, NV.
- Gregory, A.**, Lloyd, L., & Kesler, K. (2022, July). *Using theory and a network approach to develop innovative sexual health programs for youth involved with juvenile justice*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs Conference, Virtual.
- Hamlet, B., Pinder, M., Patterson, S., **Gregory, A.**, Talford, M., Miller, M., & Brown, D. (2021, October). *Stopping harm, healing pain, changing lives: Understanding youth involved in juvenile justice*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs, Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth Innovation and Impact Network Webinar, Virtual.
- Gregory, A.**, Foley, E., Moore, N., Keh, K., Romo, V., Hall, S., & McFarlane, J. (2018, June). *Lessons from conducting an adolescent-focused randomized controlled trial in mental health settings*. National Association of Social Workers National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Schladale, J., Beasley, A., **Gregory, A.**, Demby, H., & Henley, C. (2018, June). *Promoting LGBTQ inclusivity through trauma-informed sexual health programs and services*. National Association of Social Workers National Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Gregory, A.**, McFarlane, J., Hall, S., Demby, H., & Henley, C. (2018, April). *Participant perceptions of an innovative approach to adolescent sexual health designed for youth who have had adverse childhood experiences*. Conference on Adolescent Health, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Hall, S., Lucero, D., McFarlane, J., **Gregory, A.**, Demby, H., & Jenner, L. (2017, November). *Increasing RCT enrollment in mental health settings*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Jenner, E., Walsh, S., Jenner, L., Demby, H., **Gregory, A.**, Davis, E., Snider, R., Broussard, M., & Dickherber, J. (2015, October). *Evaluation of Becoming a Responsible Teen (BART): Findings from a randomized controlled trial*. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, IL.

- Demby H., **Gregory A.**, Lewis K., Davis E., & Jenner L. (2013, November). *Using an evidence-based model to “catch” the elusive teenager at follow-up data collection points*. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, IL.
- Demby H., & **Gregory A.** (2013, May). *Assessing organizational “fit” with evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference, Rockville, MD.
- Demby H., & **Gregory A.** (2013, May). *Strategies to retain adolescent study participants in longitudinal studies*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Grantee Conference, Rockville, MD.

COMMITTEES

Tribal Early Childhood Research Center, 2019-2021, funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Duties: Serves as member of the steering committee to represent the voice of tribal home visiting in early childhood research. Participates in research training and capacity building projects to grow the field of early childhood research.

TRAININGS

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, 2011
Stewards of Children (child abuse prevention and response), 2011

MEMBERSHIPS

National Association of Social Workers, 2011 – present
American Evaluation Association, 2019 – present