

ELLIOTT G. SMITH

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Elliott G. Smith, Ph.D., is a Program Evaluation & Insights Specialist for the Residential Child Care Project at Cornell University and a Research Associate in the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research. His work bridges research and practice, evaluating program effectiveness, building data feedback systems for agencies implementing the CARE program model, and integrating administrative data to monitor the residential milieu. In 2025, he produced 83 customized reports for CARE agencies based on data from over 2,200 survey respondents. He regularly leads workshops on making data more accessible and actionable, and his research has been published in high quality peer-reviewed journals, having been cited over 3,000 times.

EDUCATION

1998	Ph.D.	Developmental Psychology, Cornell University (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Toxicology Fellow, 1996-97)
1991	M.S.	Experimental Psychology, Villanova University
1988	A.B.	Psychology, Davidson College

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2011-Present	Research Associate, Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University
2013-2018	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Wells College
2003-2016	Associate Director, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University
2003-2011	Research Associate, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
1999-2003	Project Manager, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University
1999-2003	Research Support Specialist III, Family Life Development Center, Cornell University
1997-1999	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Human Development, Cornell University

PUBLICATIONS

As of January 2026, this body of work has been cited over 3,000 times with an h-index of 19 and i10-index of 20 according to Google Scholar.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

1. Izzo, C. V., Smith, E. G., Sellers, D. E., Holden, M. J., & Nunno, M. A. (2022). Promoting a relational approach to residential child care through an organizational program model: Impacts of CARE implementation on staff outcomes. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 132, 106330. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2021.106330>
2. Nunno, M. A., McCabe, L. A., Izzo, C. V., Smith, E. G., Sellers, D. E., & Holden, M. J. (2021). A 26-Year Study of Restraint Fatalities Among Children and Adolescents in the United States: A Failure of Organizational Structures and Processes. *Child & Youth Care Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10566-021-09646-w>
3. Sellers, D.E., Smith, E.G., Izzo, C.V., McCabe, L.M., & Nunno, M.A. (2020). Child feelings of safety in residential care: The supporting role of adult-child relationships. *Residential Treatment for Children & Youth*, 37(2), 136-155. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0886571X.2020.1712576>
4. Izzo, C.V., Smith, E.G., Sellers, D.E., Holden, M.J., Nunno, M.A. (2020). Improving relationship quality in group care settings: The impact of implementing the CARE model. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 109. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.104623>
5. Nunno, M.A., Smith, E.G., Martin, W.R., & Butcher, S. (2017). Benefits of embedding research into practice: An agency-university collaboration. *Child Welfare*, 94(3), 113-133. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/1949558663?accountid=10267>
6. Izzo, C. V., Smith, E. G., Holden, M. J., Norton, C. I., Nunno, M. A., & Sellers, D. E. (2016). Intervening at the setting level to prevent behavioral incidents in residential child care: Efficacy of the CARE program model. *Prevention Science*, 17(5), 554–564. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-016-0649-0>
7. Eckenrode, J., Smith, E.G., McCarthy, M., Dineen, M. (2014). Income inequality and child maltreatment in the United States. *Pediatrics*, 133(3), 454-461. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2013-1707>
8. Holden, M.J., Izzo, C.V., Nunno, M., Smith, E.G., Endres, T., Holden, J.C., Kuhn, I.F. (2010). Children and Residential Experiences: A comprehensive strategy for implementing a research-informed program model for residential care. *Child Welfare*, 89(2), 131-149. <https://search.proquest.com/docview/734392195?accountid=10267>
9. Rosenberg, S. A., & Smith, E. G. (2008). Rates of part C eligibility for young children investigated by child welfare. *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, 28(2), 68-74. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0271121408320348>

10. Izzo, C.V., Eckenrode, J.J., Smith, E.G., Henderson, C.R., Cole, R., Kitzman, H., & Olds, D.L. (2005). Reducing the impact of uncontrollable stressful life events through a program of nurse home visitation to new parents. *Prevention Science*, 6, 269-274. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-005-0010-5>
11. Palusci, V.J., Smith, E.G., & Paneth, N. (2005). Predicting and responding to physical abuse in young children using NCANDS. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 27, 667-682. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2004.12.004>
12. Eckenrode, J., Zielinski, D., Smith, E., Marcynyszyn, L.A., Henderson, C.R., Jr., Kitzman, H., Cole, R., Powers, J., & Olds, D.L. (2001). Child maltreatment and the early onset of problem behaviors: Can a program of nurse home visitation break the link? *Development and Psychopathology*, 13, 873-890. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0954579401004072>
13. Morgan, R.E., Garavan, H., Smith, E.G., Driscoll, L.L., Levitsky, D.A., & Strupp, B.J. (2001). Early lead exposure produces lasting changes in sustained attention, response initiation, and reactivity to errors. *Neurotoxicology and Teratology*, 23, 519-531. <https://doi.org/10.1016/S0892-0362%2801%2900171-4>
14. Eckenrode, J., Ganzel, B., Henderson, C.R., Jr., Smith, E., Olds, D.L., Powers, J., Cole, R., Kitzman, H., Sidora, K. (2000). Preventing child abuse and neglect with a program of nurse home visitation: The limiting effects of domestic violence. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 284, 1385-1391. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.284.11.1385>
15. Canfield, R.L., Smith, E.G., Brezsnyak, M.P., & Snow, K.L. (1997). Information processing through the first year of life: A longitudinal study using the visual expectation paradigm. *Monographs of the Society for Research in Child Development*, 62 (2. Serial No. 250). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1166196>
16. Canfield, R.L., & Smith, E.G. (1996). Number-based expectations and sequential enumeration by 5-month-old infants. *Developmental Psychology*, 32, 269-279. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0012-1649.32.2.269>
17. Canfield, R.L., Wilken, J., Schmerl, L., & Smith, E.G. (1995). Age-related change and stability of individual differences in infant saccade reaction time. *Infant Behavior and Development*, 18, 351-358. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0163-6383\(95\)90023-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/0163-6383(95)90023-3)
18. Ceci, S.J., Huffman, M.L.C., Smith, E., & Loftus, E.F. (1994). Repeatedly thinking about a non-event: Source misattributions among preschoolers. *Consciousness and Cognition*, 3, 388-407. <https://doi.org/10.1006/ccog.1994.1022>

Book Chapters and Technical Reports

19. Holden, M. J., Sellers, D. E., & Smith, E. G. (2023). The CARE program model. In J. K. Whittaker, L. Holmes, J. F. Del Valle, & S. James (Eds.), *Revitalizing residential care for children and youth: Cross-national trends and challenges* (pp. 139–153). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780197644300.003.0010>

20. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (2011). *National Cross-Site Evaluation of the Replication of Family Connections: Final Evaluation Report*. Washington, DC. Co-author.
21. Izzo, C.V., Smith, E.G., Eckenrode, J.J., Biemer, P.P., & Christ, S.L. (2010). *Latent classification of physical abuse as a predictor of adolescent functioning*. In M.B. Webb; K. Dowd; B.J. Harden; J. Landsverk; & M.F. Testa (Eds.), *Child Welfare and Child Well-Being: New Perspectives from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*. New York: Oxford.
22. Eckenrode, J., Izzo, C., & Smith, E.G. (2007). Physical abuse and adolescent development. In R. Haskins, F. Wulczyn, & M.B. Webb (Eds.), *Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice*. (pp. 226-242). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
23. Rosenberg, S., Smith, E.G., & Levinson, A. (2007). Identifying young maltreated children with developmental delays. In R. Haskins, F. Wulczyn, & M.B. Webb (Eds.), *Child Protection: Using Research to Improve Policy and Practice*. (pp. 34-43). Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
24. Ceci, S.J., Huffman, M.L.C., Smith, E., & Loftus, E.F. (1996). Repeatedly thinking about a non-event: Source misattributions among preschoolers. In K. Pezdek & W.P. Banks (Eds.), *The recovered memory/false memory debate* (pp. 225-244) San Diego: Academic Press.

GRANTS AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

2015-2017 National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (\$1,649,459)
Contract, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Co-authored the proposal with John Eckenrode and Christopher Wildeman.

2000-2015 National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (\$8,850,000)
Cooperative Agreement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Co-authored the proposal with John Eckenrode in 2000, 2005, and 2010.

2006-2009 Data Analysis Services for the National Cross-Site Evaluation of the ACF Prevention Replication Grantees (\$34,779)
Principal Investigator for a contract with James Bell Associates, Inc.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Presentations

1. Smith, E.G. (2025, June). *Quality of child-carer relationships correlates with young people's outcomes in care*. Poster presented at Building Care Communities 2025, Meanjin (Brisbane), Queensland, Australia.

2. Smith, E.G. (2024, May). *Predicting social and emotional outcomes in residential care: Children's perceptions of adult-child relationships*. Poster presented at the 68th Annual Conference of the Association of Children's Residential & Community Services, Phoenix, AZ.
3. Izzo, C.V., Smith, E.G., Nunno, M., & Holden, M. (2023, September). *Relationships with agency caregivers predict better child functioning in therapeutic residential care*. Poster presented at the EuSARF Conference, Falmer, Brighton, UK.
4. Smith, E.G., Maggiulli, L., & Izzo, C.V. (2022, July). *Demonstrating the use of process control charts: A powerful, practical visualization tool for quality improvement in residential care*. Poster presented at the 66th Annual Conference of the Association of Children's Residential Centers, Louisville, KY.
5. Smith, E.G. (2022, April). *Seeing the system: A web app to create control charts*. Webinar presented to the Evaluation Community of Practice, a part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.
6. Smith, E.G., Nunno, M.A., Sullivan, S., Martin, W.R., & Sellers, D.E. (2019, April). *Does the CARE Program Model Reduce Use of Psychotropic Medications in Residential Care?* Poster presented at the 63rd Annual Conference of the Association of Children's Residential Centers, New Orleans, LA.
7. Smith, E.G., & Izzo, C.V. (2016, September). *Using interrupted time series data to assess the efficacy of the CARE program model for residential care*. Paper presented at the XIV EuSARF International Conference, Oviedo, Spain.
8. Eckenrode, J., Smith, E.G., McCarthy, M., & Dineen, M. (2013, April). *Income inequality and child maltreatment in the U.S.* Poster presented at the biennial meetings of the Society for Research in Child Development, Seattle, WA.
9. Filene, J., Bell, J., & Smith, E.G. (2011, October). *Findings from the National Cross-Site Evaluation of the Replication of Family Connections*. Federal briefing for the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.
10. Filene, J., Smith, E.G., & Kass, L. (2010, November). *A Multi-Method Approach for Assessing Fidelity to an Evidence-Based Child Neglect Prevention Program*. Paper presented at Evaluation 2010, San Antonio, TX.
11. Smith, E.G., Filene, J., & DePanfilis, D. (2010, June). *Assessing outcomes: Increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors with ethnically diverse families*. Paper presented at the XVIII International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect International Congress, Honolulu, HI.
12. Filene, J., Smith, E.G., & DePanfilis, D. (2010, June). *Implementation of an Evidence-Based Child Neglect Prevention Program: Findings from a Multi-Site Replication of Family Connections*. Poster presented at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Society for Prevention Research, Denver, CO.

13. Smith, E.G., Filene, J., & DePanfilis, D. (2010, January). *Assessing intermediate outcomes: Increasing protective factors and decreasing risk factors*. Paper presented at the 14th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
14. DePanfilis, D., Smith, E.G., & Filene, J. (2010, January). *Assessing final outcomes: Predicting time to CPS report*. Paper presented at the 14th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
15. Filene, J., DePanfilis, D., & Smith, E.G. (2010, January). *A multi-method approach for assessing fidelity to Family Connections*. Paper presented at the 14th Annual Conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, CA.
16. Filene, J., Smith, E.G., Kass, L., McDonnell, C., & Brodowski, M.L. (2009, April). *Evaluation findings from a multi-site replication of the Family Connections child neglect prevention program*. Paper presented at the 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Atlanta, GA.
17. Belanger, K., & Smith, E.G. (2008, October). *An Analysis of racial disproportionality in rural child welfare*. Paper presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, Philadelphia, PA.
18. Filene, J., Kass, L., Smith, E.G., DeSantis, J., Hafford, C., & Brodowski, M.L. (2007, November). *Promoting wellness through reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors for child neglect*. Poster presented at the 2007 National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit, Washington, DC.

Workshops

19. Ruberti, M., McCabe, L., Smith, E.G. (2025, June). *Building a culture of learning: Using data to inform child and family practice systems*. Workshop presented at Building Care Communities 2025, Meanjin (Brisbane), Queensland, Australia.
20. Holden, M., Smith, E.G., Smith, A. (2024, May). *Beyond evidence: The power of 'Why' in shaping responsive program models for therapeutic care interventions*. Workshop presented at the 68th Annual Conference of the Association of Children's Residential & Community Services, Phoenix, AZ.
21. Smith, E.G. (2022, September). *Using data to guide efforts to improve the quality of residential care*. Oak Hill Ranch Community of Practices Regional Event, Edmonton, AB, Canada.
22. Smith, E.G. (2018, April). *Using graphs and data visualizations to inform and engage community partners*. Invited class lecture for HD 6580: Translation of Research into Policy and Practice at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
23. Smith, E.G. (2018, February). *How to use graphs and data to inform and engage community partners*. How To Do Research in Real-World Settings workshop at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

24. Smith, E.G. (2017, November). *Results from the multi-site study demonstrating the success of trauma-informed programming*. Regional TCI Events: Building Communities of Practice: Sharing What We Have Learned, Dublin, Ireland and Doncaster, United Kingdom.
25. Smith, E.G. (2017, November). *Case study of CARE and TCI implementation*. Regional TCI Events: Building Communities of Practice: Sharing What We Have Learned, Dublin, Ireland and Doncaster, United Kingdom.
26. Smith, E.G. (2016, March). *Social loafers and the developmental relationship: The agony and ecstasy of team-based learning*. Faculty Club lecture series at Wells College, Aurora, NY.
27. Izzo, C., & Smith, E.G. (2016, March). *Creating conditions for healthy development in residential youth care settings: Recent findings from the CARE program*. Talks at Twelve luncheon series at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
28. Smith, E.G. (2012, October). *The Second National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW II): A look at key features and opportunities for secondary analysis*. A workshop presented at the Silver School of Social Work at New York University, New York, NY.
29. Smith, E.G., & Purington, M. (2012, October). *SPSS: An Overview of the Quantitative Statistical Analysis Program*. A workshop presented to the undergraduate research assistants of the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.
30. Smith, E.G. (2012, March). *Overview of the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect*. Invited webinar to the staff of the Child Welfare Information Gateway. Link: <http://prezi.com/xe67qhm8nbjl/overview-of-the-national-data-archive-on-child-abuse-and-neglect>.
31. Smith, E.G., & Palusci, V.J. (2010, June). *Getting Your Feet Wet with Data: Diving into AFCARS, LONGSCAN, and NCANDS*. A paper presented at the 18th Annual Colloquium of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children., New Orleans, LA.
32. Smith, E.G. (2009, May). *Using Federal data sources for evaluation*. A presentation to the National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, Washington, DC.
33. Smith, E.G. (2009, May). *Monitoring child and family well-being: Conceptual and data resources from national data sources*. A discussion group at the National Child Welfare Evaluation Summit, Washington, DC.
34. Smith, E.G. (2008, June). *Statistical issues for Prevention Replication*. A webinar presented to the Prevention Replications Cluster, Ithaca, NY.
35. Smith, E.G. (2008, June). *Cross-site outcomes update: Group*Time Interactions*. A webinar presented to the Prevention Replications Cluster, Ithaca, NY.

36. Smith, E.G. (2008, March). *A smorgasbord of free web-based tools: Tasty morsels to improve your project's productivity*. A presentation to the Family Life Development Center Brown Bag Colloquium series, Ithaca, NY.
37. Hafford, C., DeSantis, J., Filene, J., & Smith, E.G. (2007, April). *Family Connections: Replicating and Evaluating a Demonstrated Effective Model*. A presentation to the Prevention Replications Cluster at the 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Portland, OR.
38. Smith, E.G. (2007, April). *Cross-Site Evaluation Update: Outcome Data*. A presentation to the Prevention Replications Cluster at the 16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Portland, OR.
39. Webb, M.B., Smith, E.G., Cross, T. (2007, March). *National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being*. Society for Research in Child Development, Boston, MA.
40. Smith, E.G. (2006, June). *Looking at the Family Assessment Form*. A presentation to the Prevention Replications Cluster at the Children's Bureau Discretionary Grantees' Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
41. Smith, E.G. (2006, June). *Cross-Site Data Update*. A presentation to the Prevention Replications Cluster at the Children's Bureau Discretionary Grantees' Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

EXTENSION EXPERIENCE

As part of my work with the Residential Child Care Project, I have designed and managed a survey data feedback system that informs agencies and our consultants as they implement our CARE program model. This includes developing survey instruments, managing data collection across international sites, and producing accessible reports for agency leadership and staff.

2025 Survey Activities

- Administered staff and youth surveys across 16 sites (14 organizations) in Australia, Canada, and the United States
- Collected data from 2,250 survey respondents
- Produced 83 customized agency reports integrating quantitative findings with practical interpretations

Ongoing Contributions

- Advise and monitor CARE survey data collection efforts
- Analyze CARE survey data and produce reports for agencies
- Lead workshops for agency partners on interpreting data and using feedback for continuous improvement
- Integrate administrative data (restraints, medications, incidents) with survey data to provide holistic assessments of residential care environments

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wells College

General Psychology (F2013, F2014, S2015, F2015, S2017; Undergraduate)
Elementary Statistics (F2015, S2016, F2016, S2017, F2017, S2018; Undergraduate)
Child Development (S2014; Undergraduate)

Cornell University

Empirical Research (HD 4010-642 under faculty sponsor Kristen Elmore)
Supervise James Owusu-Ansah (F2024, S2025, F2025)

Senior Thesis Committees:

Kristin Sellers (2011, Human Development),
Nina Wong (2007, Human Development),
Allison Lipitz (2005, Human Development)

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2020	Reviewer, Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health
2014	Reviewer for 7 th edition of Psychology by Hockenbury, Nolan, and Hockenbury, Worth Publishers
2008	Grant Reviewer, OPRE Child Care Research Grant Review