

Christine Fortunato, Ph.D.

Christine Fortunato is the team leader for child welfare research at the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Fortunato collaborates closely with partners in the Children's Bureau to develop and oversee a comprehensive portfolio of research and evaluation related to child welfare. Her research interests include child and adolescent development, child maltreatment prevention and intervention, implementation science, continuous quality improvement, neurophysiology, and quantitative methods. She is also interested in using research and data to support decision-making and drive quality improvement in programs and services to better meet the needs of children and families. Prior to her current position, Dr. Fortunato held positions as a Society for Research in Child Development Executive Branch Policy Fellow, AmeriCorps member, and Research Coordinator overseeing clinical and translational research at Children's Hospital in Boston and Yale School of Medicine. She holds a doctorate in Human Development and Family Studies from the Pennsylvania State University.