

Yali Deng, MSW, PhD Candidate
She/Her/Hers
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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Social Work	Expected May 2026
University of Maryland, School of Social Work, Baltimore	
Master of Social Work	2020
Nanjing University, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Nanjing, China	
Bachelor of Law in Social Work	2016
Shenzhen University, School of Psychology and Sociology, Shenzhen, China	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Suicidal behaviors and help-seeking among young adults
- Disparities in suicide: LGBTQ+, marginalized college students
- College setting suicide prevention
- Community-based mental health and substance use recovery services
- Digital mental health services
- Implementation science

METHODOLOGICAL SKILL

- Advanced quantitative method (e.g., multilevel modeling, structural equation modeling and causal inference framework)
- Administrative data integration and analysis (e.g., electronic health records)
- Community-engaged research
- Qualitative research methods

TEACHING INTERESTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mental Health and Social PolicySocial Work ResearchProgram Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Statistics and Data AnalysisHuman Behavior and the Social EnvironmentSuicide Risk Assessment and Response Seminar |
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PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Witmer, A. M., **Deng, Y.**, Mojtabai R., Wilcox, H. C., & Aluri, J. (2025). The Association between College Enrollment and Suicide Attempts by Race and Ethnicity. *Prevention Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-025-01771-5>
- Mammadli, T., Mack, L.J.M.*, **Deng., Y.***, Betz, G., Hong, C., Runge, Z., Kamugisha, S., DeForge, B., & Whitfield, D.L. (2025). Substance Use Among Transgender and Nonconforming Youth Living in the U.S.: A Systematic Review. *Social Science and Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2025.118330> * (equal contribution)
- Imboden, R., Tan, M., Mosby, A., **Deng, Y.**, Frey, J. J., & Cloeren, M. (2025). Assessing Employment Needs of Individuals with Opioid Use Disorder: A Qualitative Exploration of

Workforce and Clinical Partner Perspectives. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*. DOI: 10.1891/JARC-2025-0006

4. Titus-Glover, D., Unick, J., Zhu, S., Shim, S., **Deng, Y.**, Gainers, J., Shaya, F. (2025). Exploring Characteristic Parameters to Inform Continued Recovery Among Parenting Women with Opioid Use Disorder in a Residential Facility. *Substance Use and Addiction Journal*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/29767342251357>
5. **Deng, Y.**, Frey, J. J., Osteen, P. J., Mosby, A., Imboden, R., Ware, O. D., & Bazell, A. (2024). Engaging Law Enforcement Employees in Mental Health Help-Seeking: Examining the Utilization of Interactive Screening Program and Motivational Interviewing Techniques. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-024-01384-0>
6. **Deng, Y.** & Rose, T. (2024). Examining Dimensions of Help-seeking Intentions and Associations with Personal Mental Illness Stigma among Racial and Ethnic Minority Immigrants. *Journal of Community Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.23154>
7. Frey, J. J., **Deng, Y.**, Osteen, P. J., Imboden, R., Mosby, A., Ware, O. D., Bazell, A., & Phillips, D. R. (2024). How Are Motivational Interviewing Techniques Associated with U.S. Healthcare Employees' Mental Health Help-Seeking Behaviors When Using the Interactive Screening Program. *BMJ Public Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjph-2024-001293>
8. Witmer, A. M., **Deng, Y.**, Lewis, S., Han, S. C., Heffernan, S., Howland, Z., Wilcox, H. C., & Aluri, J. (2024). The Relationship between Race, Ethnicity, and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors among Students at Institutions of Higher Education in the U.S. *Current Psychiatry Report*.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11920-024-01530-3>
9. **Deng, Y.**, Li, X., Liu, L., & Chui, W. H. (2021). Suicide Attempts and Perceived Social Support among Chinese Drug Users: The Mediating Role of Self-Esteem and Depression. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(1), 208.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010208>
10. Liu, L., Chui, W. H., & **Deng, Y.** (2021). Driving after alcohol consumption: A qualitative analysis among Chinese male drunk drivers. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 90, 103058.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2020.103058>
11. Liu, L., Chui, W. H., **Deng, Y.**, & Li, H. (2020). Dealing with Resistance: Working with Involuntary Clients in Community-Based Drug Treatment Programs in China. *Australian Social Work*, 73(3), 309–320. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0312407X.2019.1688367>

Manuscript Under Review

12. Liu, L., **Deng, Y.** & Li, X. (Revise & Resubmit). Methamphetamine as a Social Necessity: Perspectives from Chinese Female Drug Users. Submitted to *Substance Use and Misuse*.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. **Deng, Y.** (2025, January). Trends in Suicide Attempt by Race/Ethnicity Among College Students: Findings from Healthy Mind Study, 2014-2023 [Poster session]. The 29th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Seattle.
2. **Deng, Y.** (2024, October). The Association Between Sense of Belonging, Perceived Campus Climate and Depression Among Asian American College Students [Poster session]. The Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Kansas City.
3. Unick, J. & **Deng, Y.** (2024, April). Lessons in Measurement: Practice Relevant Measurement of Recovery in Community Settings [Symposium]. National Conference on Addiction Recovery Science, online.

4. **Deng, Y. & Frey, J.** (2024, April). Barriers and Facilitators of Mental Health Service Utilization among College Students at Risk for Suicide: A Systematic Review [Paper presentation]. The third Annual Suicide Research Symposium, online.
5. Frey, J., Spencer-Thomas, S., **Deng, Y.**, Mosby, A. Mortali M., & Tajouh Daghuie, C. (2024, April). National Guideline for workplace suicide prevention: moving prevention upstream [Paper presentation]. The third Annual Suicide Research Symposium, online.
6. Frey, J., **Deng, Y.**, & Mosby, A. (2024, January). A National Guideline for workplace suicide prevention: social worker's role in moving prevention upstream [Poster session]. The 28th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.
7. **Deng, Y.**, Frey, J., Osteen, P. J., & Mosby, A. (2024, January). Work/life balance or the actual workplace? Factors associated with depression and burnout among healthcare employees [Paper presentation]. The 28th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Washington DC.
8. **Deng, Y.**, & Frey, J. (2023, November). Minority stress and suicidal behavior among sexual minority adults: Examining the moderating role of concealment and community connectedness [Poster session]. The American Public Health Association annual meeting, Atlanta, GA.
9. **Deng, Y.**, Frey, J. J., Osteen, P. J., Imboden, R., & Mosby, A. (2023, April). Use of Online Anonymous Screening and Counseling to Increase Mental Health Help-Seeking among Healthcare Employees [Paper presentation]. The second Annual Suicide Research Symposium, online.
10. **Deng, Y.**, Aggarwal, N., & Adams, V. (2023, January). Using a Directed Acyclic Graph to Inform Research with Propensity Score Analysis [Paper presentation]. The 27th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
11. **Deng, Y.**, & Rose, T. (2023, January). Mental Illness Stigma and Different Types of Help-seeking Intentions among Racial and Ethnic Minority Immigrants [Poster session]. The 27th Annual Conference of Society for Social Work and Research, Phoenix, AZ.
12. **Deng, Y.**, & Frey, J. J. (2023, January). Use of Online Anonymous Screening and Counseling to Increase Mental Health Help-Seeking: a Comparison between Healthcare System and Law Enforcement System [Paper presentation]. SAMHSA's 19th Prevention Day, National Harbor, MD.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-Present

Graduate Research Assistant

Project: Innovations in Recovery Through Infrastructure Support (IRIS)

funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse; PI: Dr. Jay Unick

Sub-project: Using Agency Data to Inform Recovery Services and Data collection

- Organize clinical data from a community-based recovery agency into structured and analyzable longitudinal data, collaborate with PI to communicate with community partners iteratively to understand the context of data, propose research questions and conceptualize statistical models
- Run analysis and generate data report to understand client's service use pattern and treatment entry longitudinally; share findings with community partners, on IRIS website, in conference; prepare manuscripts

Sub-project: Reversing the Cycle Peer Emergency Department Intervention

- Work closely with PI to evaluate a peer recovery coach program using emergency room data and quasi-experimental design under causal inference framework
- My work included 1) writing IRB application and data request, 2) managing and analyzing longitudinal clinical data using R, 3) reviewing literature and conceptualizing causal inference models, 4) writing abstracts for conference

Translating & Disseminating Research:

- Generate “research corner” (a section in IRIS website) write-ups quarterly, which involves searching, selecting research articles within an emerging topic and summarizing it in an accessible way that translate academic knowledge into practice or other forms of community action
<https://www.iris.ssw.umaryland.edu/research-corner>

2021-2023

Graduate Research Assistant

Project: Program Evaluation of Workplace Interactive Screening Program (ISP)
funded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; PI: Dr. Jodi Frey

- Review literature, analyze quantitative data using logistic regression models, structure equation modeling to understand the utilization of ISP and motivational interview techniques
- Work collaboratively to organize qualitative interview themes, codes and quotes about the implementation and impact of ISP
- Collaborate with PI to disseminate research with funder, in conference, and academic journals

Project: Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men (PRiSMM)

funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); PI: Dr. Jodi Frey

- Manage and analyze quantitative Qualtrics survey data (one group pre-post design) to understand the impact of Men therapy website on men’s mental health and help-seeking behavior
- Train other research assistant to do quantitative data management and analysis
- Assist drafting project quarterly report for funder
- Analyze qualitative interview data about utilization of Men Therapy website with a team member

Project: Operation PROSPER: Peer Reintegration and Other Services Promoting Employment in Recovery

funded by University of Maryland, School of Medicine, ATIP Innovation and Collaboration Pilot Grant, Co-PI: Dr. Jodi Frey

- Code qualitative data with team members, collaborate with team to draft manuscripts to understand the assessment of employment needs for people with opioid use disorders

Project: Workplace Suicide Caregiver Survey

Without funding, PI: *Dr. Jodi Frey*

- Meet with a committee and assist to develop a survey on suicide caregivers’ needs

2021

Core Research Team Member

Project: Health, COVID, and Immigrants of Color (Course Team Project)

funded by University of Maryland School of Social Work, PI: Dr. Nalini Negi

- Work with a team to form research questions, develop questionnaires, collect and analyze quantitative data, and write manuscript independently for publication (my research is to understand mental health stigma and help-seeking among racially diverse immigrants)

- 2020 **Research Assistant Volunteer**
 Project: Reasons of Suicide Attempts among College Students
Without funding, PI: Dr. Chen Changkai
- Analyze supporters clinical notes of suicide attempts that were successfully intervened by N University Student Counseling Center, describe students' reason for suicide attempts, as well as triggering factors, help-seeking approach.
- 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant**
 Project: Working with People with Substance Use Disorder in China
funded by the National Social Science Fund of China; PI: Dr. Liu Liu
- Code and analyze qualitative using thematic analysis, analyzed quantitative data using logistic regression model, collaborated with PI to draft the research paper
- Project: Drunk Driving and Public Safety
funded by Nanjing Traffic Police Department; PI: Dr. Liu Liu
- Review extensive literature, conduct and compile 10 interviews in Chinese
 - Code and analyze qualitative interview data using thematic analysis, collaborate with team members to write reports and journal articles
- Project: Behavior and Attitudes towards Using Tobacco among College Students
Without funding, PI: Dr. Liu Liu
- Review extensive literature, develop survey questionnaire

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2024 **Adjunct Instructor**
 University of Maryland, School of Social Work, MSW Program
- Social Work Research (Hybrid)
- Fall 2023 **Teaching Assistant**
 University of Maryland, School of Social Work, MSW Program
- Mental Health and Social Policy (In-person)
- Spring 2023 **Teaching Assistant**
 University of Maryland, School of Social Work, MSW Program
- Social Work Research (In-person)
- Spring 2023 **Teaching Assistant**
 University of Maryland, School of Social Work, MSW Program
- Introduction to Suicide Risk Assessment and Response, 2-hour seminar

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- 09/2022-02/2023 **Peer Supporter (Volunteer)**
 White Island Health Organization, Online
- Provide asynchronous peer personal feedback in a letter form for Chinese college students/young adults with mental health needs

06/2019-09/2019	Social Worker (Intern) Nanjing Traffic Police Department, Nanjing, China • Assist traffic accident mediator to provide conciliation and legal advice about financial compensation for people involved in traffic accidents • Read and analyze 5 controversial administrative cases and summarize 5 case reports for educational purposes
01/2018-04/2018	Social Worker (Intern) 2 nd Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University, Children Hematological Oncology, Hefei, China • Compile a handbook containing information about available bailout funds; assist families with financial difficulties to apply for a bailout fund and organize fundraising campaigns on the Internet • Organize educational/entertainment events for children once a week • Enhance communication between healthcare providers and patients by organizing seminars and lectures on topics about preventative care, and post-discharge consultations
04/2016-04/2017	Community Social Worker (Full-Time) Sihai Community Service Center, Shenzhen, China • Design and conduct community needs surveys (n=400), analyze data and assist with drafting report • Design, coordinate and implement a lot of community building and service programs including after-school program, summer educational/entertainment events for children, community space transformation, dyad (parent-children) parenting program, whole community educational/entertainment activity etc • Conduct home visits to disadvantaged families to identify needs and provide emotional support or link resources
09/2012-09/2013	Special Education Teaching Assistant (Volunteer) Nanshan Rehabilitation and Care Center, Shenzhen, China • Conduct one-on-one rehabilitation exercises with children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders, including simple handcrafting, painting and sports

AWARDS & HONORS

2024	Dissertation award Funder: University of Maryland, School of Social Work Amount: \$2,748
2023	Jeongseok Kong & Sunmi Jin Memorial PhD Scholarship Funder: University of Maryland, School of Social Work Amount: \$2,000
2023-2025	Travel Award University of Maryland, School of Social Work
2024	Travel Fellowship University of Maryland, Graduate Student Association
2019	Best Social Work Documentary Award

	Third Social Work Documentary Workshop, Nanjing University of Science and Technology & University of Southern California
2018-2019	Excellent Student of Academic Performance (First Prize Scholarship) Nanjing University, Nanjing, China
2013-2015	Excellent Student of Academic Performance (Second Prize Scholarship) Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China
2013	Excellent Volunteer Shenzhen University, Shenzhen, China

SELECTED SERVICES

Invited Reviewer

2025	<i>BMC Psychology</i>
2025	<i>BMC Psychiatry</i>
2024	<i>BMC Public Health</i>
2023-2025	<i>Journal of Workplace Behavioral Health</i>
2022	<i>Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal</i>

Other services

2021-2023	Committee member, Workplace Suicide Prevention and Postvention Committee Help with survey development, analyze website survey and generate report
2022-2023	President, University of Maryland, Chinese Students and Scholars Association Organize campus-wide events including 2023 Lunar New Year gala (200+ attendees), and 2022 Fall Chinese student welcoming lunch gathering events (20 attendees), 2022 Mid-Autumn Festival outdoor event (30-40 attendees)

CERTIFICATE

2025	Mental Health First Aid (Adult) Certificate National Council for Mental Wellbeing
2022	Certified Question, Persuade, Refer and Pathfinder Training, QPR Institute (Online suicide prevention training institute)
2016	Certificate of the Primary Social Work Profession Qualifications The Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, China

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2022-present	Society of Social Work and Research
2024-present	Council on Social Work Education
2023-2024	American Public Health Association

LANGUAGES

Mandarin Chinese (native), English (proficient)