

# Rebekah S. Halmo, PhD, MSW, LCSW

[LinkedIn](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

## KEY SKILL AREAS

---

Grant/Proposal Development	Evaluation & Quality Improvement
Project Management	Qualitative Data Analysis
Survey Design & Implementation	Quantitative Data Analysis
Data Collection	Manuscript Preparation & Dissemination

## EDUCATION

---

2024	<b>PhD</b> , School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA Dissertation Title: <i>Assessing attitudes towards addiction: A secondary analysis of harm reduction acceptability, substance-related stigma, and cultural capability among health professionals</i>
2017	<b>MSW</b> , School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA
2009	<b>BA</b> , <i>magna cum laude</i> , Wheaton College, Norton, MA Major: Neuroscience (formerly Psychobiology)

## PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

---

2018-present	<b>Massachusetts Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW)</b>
--------------	--

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

2024-present	<b>Research Scientist</b> , School of Nursing, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
2021-2024	<b>Senior Research Manager</b> , Center for Innovation in Behavioral Health Education and Research (CIBER), School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA
2024-2024	<b>Co-Investigator</b> [contract], Department of Social Work, College of Education and Social Services, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT
2023-2024	<b>Qualitative Analysis Consultant</b> [contract], School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

- 2019-2021      **Project Manager**, Center for Innovation in Behavioral Health Education and Research (CIBER), School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA
- 2017-2019      **Project Coordinator**, School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA
- 2015-2017      **Field Placement Coordinator**, SocialWork@Simmons, Simmons University, Boston, MA
- 2012-2015      **Coordinator for Area Administration**, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2009-2011      **Session Assistant II**, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

#### OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

- 2016-2017      **Dean's Fellow**, School of Social Work, Simmons University, Boston, MA
- 2008-2009      **Research Volunteer**, Center for Anxiety and Related Disorders, Boston University, Boston, MA

#### CLINICAL INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

---

- 2016-2017      **Counseling Intern**, Counseling and Wellness Center, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA
- 2015-2016      **Clinical Intern**, Rediscovery House, Justice Resource Institute, Waltham, MA

#### RESEARCH FUNDING

---

**Building Community-Engaged Research Capacity in Substance Use and Health Equity: An Interdisciplinary Approach**

Funded by: University of Vermont (College of Education and Social Services Research Grant)

Role: Co-Investigator; Principal Investigator: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW

Amount of award: \$8500

Funding period: 02/2024-09/2024

**Exploring Harm Reduction Acceptability, Substance-Related Stigma, and Cultural Capability Among Health Professionals**

Funded by: Simmons University (Graduate Student Research Fund)  
Role: Principal Investigator  
Amount of award: \$538  
Funding period: 01/2024-07/2024

**Simmons Workforce Wellbeing Empowerment Project**

Funded by: Boston Children's Hospital Collaboration for Community Health  
Role: Project Coordinator; Principal Investigator: Melinda Gushwa, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$298,566  
Funding period: 05/2022-05/2025

**Institute for Trauma Treatment in Schools**

Funded by: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration  
Role: Senior Research Manager; Principal Investigator: Melinda Gushwa, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$2,929,617  
Funding period: 09/2021-09/2026

**Harm Reduction Training (HaRT) Scholars Program**

Funded by: RIZE Massachusetts  
Role: Project Coordinator; Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Steen, PhD, MSW (Y4)  
Amount of award: \$462,706  
Funding period: 07/2021-07/2025

**Shared Decision-Making and Colorectal Cancer Screening Behaviors Among Older Adults with Low Health Literacy**

Funded by: National Institute of Aging (K23 Mentored Patient Oriented Research)  
Role: Qualitative Data Analyst; Principal Investigator: Tamara Cadet, PhD, MPH, MSW  
Amount of award: \$685,000  
Funding period: 05/2020-05/2024

**Expansion of Practitioner Education**

Funded by: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration  
Role: Project Manager; Principal Investigator: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$196,591  
Funding period: 04/2020-04/2022

**Opioid Workforce Expansion Program**

Funded by: Health Resources and Services Administration  
Role: Project Manager; Principal Investigator: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$1,281,354  
Funding period: 09/2019-08/2022

**Simmons Trauma Education Program**

Funded by: Boston Children's Hospital Collaboration for Community Health

Role: Project Coordinator; Principal Investigator: Melinda Gushwa, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$299,541  
Funding period: 05/2019-05/2022

**Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program Competitive Supplement, Substance Use and Opioid Use Disorders**

Funded by: Health Resources and Services Administration  
Role: Project Coordinator; Principal Investigator: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$357,752  
Funding period: 09/2018-09/2020

**Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program**

Funded by: Health Resources and Services Administration  
Role: Project Coordinator; Principal Investigator: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$1,878,522  
Funding period: 09/2017-09/2021

**Simmons SSW Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Health Professions Student Training**

Funded by: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration  
Role: Project Coordinator; Co-Investigators: Jennifer Putney, PhD, MSW & Kimberly O'Brien, PhD, MSW  
Amount of award: \$815,611  
Funding period: 09/2015-09/2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

---

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2023 | <b>SAj Best Peer Reviewer Award</b> , Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction        |
| 2020 | <b>Community Action Partnership Award</b> , Commission for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice, Council on Social Work Education |
| 2019 | <b>Rose Dobrof Award</b> , Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work  |

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

Cadet, T., Brown, C., Hu, M., Ahn, Z., Siska, M., **Halmo, R.**, & Schonberg, M. (under review). Development of a novel brief colon cancer screening DA for adults >75 years at risk for limited health literacy.

Dimitri, N., Collin, C.-R., **Halmo, R. S.**, Wright, E. S., & Dodillet, N. (2024). MSW student experiences with the OSCE: Advancing holistic competence for emerging social workers.

*Journal of Teaching in Social Work*, 44(3), 309-327.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08841233.2024.2344463>

Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Collin, C.-R., Abrego-Baltay, B., O'Brien, M., & Thomas, K. A. (2024). The perceived impact of substance use education on social work students' knowledge, attitudes, and skills. *Substance Use & Addiction Journal*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/29767342241229051>

Collin, C.-R., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Chinamasa, G., Desmond, S., Dodillet, N., & Cadet, T. (2024). Impact of virtual learning on interprofessional simulation outcomes: A mixed-methods study. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*, 48(1), 36–46.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000245>

**Halmo, R. S.**, Putney, J. M., & Collin, C.-R. R. (2023). Teaching note - Substance use education to improve harm reduction attitudes: Preparing social workers to advance public health. *Journal of Social Work Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2023.2260843>

Collin, C.-R., **Halmo, R.**, Putney, J., & Cadet, T. (2022). Interprofessional skills as a predictor of culturally congruent practice behaviors. *Families, Systems, & Health*, 40(4), 513-518.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/fsh0000762>

Collin, C.-R., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Caputo, A., Alves, J., McNally, K., & Cadet, T. (2022). Notes from the field - Responsive continuing education: Using a virtual platform to address SUDs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Professional Development: The International Journal of Continuing Social Work Education*, 25(2), 32-37.

Cadet, T., **Halmo, R.**, McDonold, S., & Schonberg, M. (2021). Shared decision-making and colorectal cancer screening behaviors among older adults with low health literacy. *Innovation in Aging*, 5(S1), 297. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igab046.1154>

**Halmo, R. S.**, Sellers, C. M., Collin, C.-R. R., Chinamasa, G., & Putney, J. M. (2021). Changes in social work students' attitudes and knowledge following opioid overdose prevention training. *Substance Abuse*, 43(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2021.1941511>

Putney, J. M., Collin, C., **Halmo, R.**, Cadet, T., & O'Brien, K. (2021). Teaching note - Assessing competence in screening and brief intervention using online patient simulation and critical self-reflection. *Journal of Social Work Education*, 57(3), 598-603.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2019.1671276>

Collin, C.-R., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Ogden, L., & O'Brien, K. (2019). MSW students' use of SBIRT: Toward an understanding of the gap between classroom and field education. *Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions, 19*, 1-8.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1533256X.2019.1589885>

O'Brien, K., Putney, J., Collin, C.-R., **Halmo, R.**, & Cadet, T. (2018). Optimizing screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) training for nurses and social workers: Testing the added effect of online patient simulation. *Substance Abuse, 40*(4), 484-488. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2019.1576087>

Putney, J. M., Keary, S., Hebert, N., Krinsky, L., & **Halmo, R.** (2018). "Fear runs deep": The anticipated needs of LGBT older adults in residential care. *Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 61*(8), 887-907. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01634372.2018.1508109>

\*Selected as the recipient of the 2019 Association for Gerontology Education in Social Work (AGESW) Rose Dobrof Award.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**Halmo, R.**, & Collin, C.-R. (2024). Differences in harm reduction acceptability and stigma across health professionals' level of harm reduction education. Poster presentation at AMERSA's 48th Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, November 14-16, 2024.

**Halmo, R.**, & Collin, C.-R. (2024). Differences in harm reduction acceptability and stigma across health professionals' level of harm reduction education. Poster presentation at the Addiction Health Services Research Conference, San Francisco, CA, October 16-18, 2024.

**Halmo, R.**, & Collin, C.-R. (2024). Harm reduction acceptability as a predictor of substance-related stigma among health professionals. Poster presentation at Boston Medical Center's Together for Hope: Boston Addiction Conference 2024, Boston, MA, March 15-16, 2024.

Gavis-Hughson, S., Sellers, C. M., **Halmo, R. S.**, Dacey, E., Collin, C.-R., & Putney, J. Improvements in social work students' comfort and confidence following a virtual suicide prevention training. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 28th Annual Conference, Washington, DC, January 10-24, 2024.

**Halmo, R.**, & Thomas, K. Enhancing trauma-informed practice in under-resourced K-12 schools: An innovative curriculum for MSW students. Poster presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Atlanta, GA, October 26-29, 2023.

Mann, E., Gardinier, L., Hall, T., Coleman, S., Collin, C.-R., & **Halmo, R.** Harm reduction training program: The development, implementation and lessons learned. Panel presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, CA, November 10-13, 2022.

**Halmo, R.**, Collin, C.-R., Cadet, T., Putney, J. Social work students' transcultural and interprofessional self-efficacy in integrated behavioral health settings. Oral paper presentation at the Society for Social Work and Research 27th Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ, January 11-15, 2023.

**Halmo, R.**, Putney, J., & Collin, C.-R. Substance use and social justice: Promoting harm reduction through social work education. Panel presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Anaheim, CA, November 10-13, 2022.

Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, & Collin, C.-R. An immersive training model for the treatment of substance use disorders: Evaluating changes in confidence among social work students. Poster presentation at AMERSA's 46th Annual Conference, Boston, MA, November 10-12, 2022.

Collin, C.-R., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Chinamasa, G., & Cadet, T. In pursuit of health justice: Preparing the workforce via virtual interprofessional simulation. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC, January 15, 2022.

Putney, J., Collin, C.-R., **Halmo, R.**, Chinamasa, G., & Cadet, T. Feasibility and acceptability of a virtual interprofessional patient simulation training. Poster presentation at the Society for Social Work Research, Washington, DC, January 15, 2022.

Cadet, T. J., **Halmo, R.**, McDonold, S., Siska, M., & Schonberg, M. Shared decision-making and colorectal cancer screening behaviors among older adults with low health literacy. Poster presentation at the Gerontological Society of America's 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting Online, November 10-13, 2021.

Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, Collin, C.-R., Cadet, T., & Chinamasa, G. Changes in MSW students' substance use knowledge, attitudes, and skills over time. Accepted for oral presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 4-7, 2021. \*Unable to present due to COVID-19 travel risk.

**Halmo, R.**, Putney, J., Chinamasa, G., & Sellers, C. M. Changes in social work students' attitudes and knowledge following opioid overdose training. Poster presentation at the

Society for Social Work and Research 25th Annual Conference, Virtual Conference, January 19-22, 2021.

**Halmo, R.**, Putney, J., Chinamasa, G., & Sellers, C. M. Opioid overdose training: Social work students' attitudes and implications for clinical practice. Panel presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Virtual Conference, November 16-20, 2020.

Collin, C. R., **Halmo, R.**, Johnson, D., McNally, S., & Cadet, T. Culturally congruent practice: Understanding the link between interprofessional teamwork and communication skills. Poster presentation at the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 8, 2020.

Putney, J., Collin, C. R., **Halmo, R.**, Villa, R., Snyder, M., & Cadet, T. Opioid overdose prevention: A pilot training program for social work students and field instructors. Poster presentation at AMERSA's 42nd Annual Conference, Boston, MA, November 7-9, 2019.

Gould, P. R., Putney, J., Collin, C. R., & **Halmo, R.** Building an interdisciplinary intimate partner violence simulation in integrated behavioral health. Oral presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO, October 24-27, 2019.

Putney, J., Collin, C. R., & **Halmo, R.** Opioid overdose prevention: A pilot training program for social work students and field instructors. Panel presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Denver, CO, October 24-27, 2019.

Putney, J., Collin, C. R., **Halmo, R.**, & Cadet, T. Assessing holistic competence in brief motivational interventions through patient simulation and reflection. Panel presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 8, 2018.

Collin, C. R., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, & Cadet, T. MSW students' perceived transcultural self-efficacy in a behavioral health workforce initiative. Poster presentation at the Council of Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 8, 2018.

O'Brien, K., Cadet, T., Collin, C. R., **Halmo, R.**, & Putney, J. Training in SBIRT: Is there an added effect on online simulation training when received after in-person instruction? Poster presentation at the Research Society on Alcoholism conference, San Diego, CA, June 17, 2018.



Collin, C.R., Levine, A., Putney, J., **Halmo, R.**, & O'Brien, K. Discrepancies between favorable attitudes about substance use interventions and use of SBIRT in clinical practice. Poster presentation at the Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse conference, Washington, DC, November 2, 2017.

**Halmo, R. S.**, Fairholme C. P., Siwiec S. G., St. Paul, M. S., Schonwetter, S. W. Comorbid insomnia as a transdiagnostic process among emotional disorders: The role of neuroticism and sleep effort. Poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABCT Convention, New York City, November 2009.

St. Paul, M. S., Fairholme, C. P., **Halmo, R. S.**, Siwiec, S. G., Schonwetter, S. W. Relationship of insomnia-type sleep difficulties and emotional disorder severity: Associated risk for DSM-IV disorder constructs. Poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABCT Convention, New York City, November 2009.

Fairholme, C. P., Farchione, T., Schonwetter, S. W., **Halmo, R. S.**, St. Paul, M. S., Siwiec, S. G. Emotion dysregulation in the maintenance of comorbid insomnia: The role of emotion suppression and cognitive reappraisal. Poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABCT Convention, New York City, November 2009.

Siwiec, S. G., Fairholme, C. P., Schonwetter, S. W., **Halmo, R. S.**, St. Paul, M. S. Emotional avoidance, sleep-related safety behaviors, and comorbid insomnia: A mediational analysis. Poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABCT Convention, New York City, November 2009.

Schonwetter, S. W., Fairholme, C. P., St. Paul, M. S., Siwiec, S. G., **Halmo, R. S.** Comorbid insomnia as a transdiagnostic process among emotional disorders: The role of anxiety sensitivity. Poster presentation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual ABCT Convention, New York City, November 2009.

#### PEER REVIEWER SERVICE

---

2021-present                      *Substance Use & Addiction Journal* (formerly *Substance Abuse*)

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

---

Society for Social Work Research  
Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse  
Council on Social Work Education