

NSHAP Postdocs



Liz Avent
NORC at the University of Chicago

Liz Avent is a postdoctoral fellow on the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) at NORC at the University of Chicago. She completed her PhD in Gerontology at the University of Southern California and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and her Master of Arts in Gerontology at Georgia State University. Her research uses a life-course perspective to examine how early-life adversity and life transitions impact health, relationships, and experiences of abuse in later life. Her work focuses on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), intimate partner violence, elder mistreatment, caregiving, and cognitive decline. She also investigates how major life transitions, such as retirement and caregiving, affect relationship quality and social networks, potentially heightening risk for elder mistreatment or later-life intimate partner violence. She aims to identify risk and protective factors across the lifespan to inform the development of trauma-informed and strengths-based prevention and intervention strategies.



Selena Zhong
NORC at the University of Chicago

Selena Zhong completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Chicago in 2025. Her dissertation examined the different ways patients seek out second opinions and how these pathways shape patients' navigation of care choices. Selena has also worked as a Graduate Research Assistant on NSHAP. She has published several studies using NSHAP data, including delayed medical care among older adults during COVID-19, cognitive domains in NSHAP, and sensory dysfunction among older adults.