

**MELANIE SKEMER**  
**SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

**EDUCATION**

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**M.A., Sociology**, University of California-Irvine, 2010.

**B.A., Psychology**, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 2005.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**MDRC**, New York, NY

Senior Research Associate, January 2022 – Present

Research Associate, January 2015 – December 2021

Research Analyst, September 2010 – December 2014

Researcher with substantial experience evaluating criminal legal policies, systems, and reforms. Current responsibilities include project direction and management; research design; impact analysis; interview and focus group facilitation; writing policy briefs, reports, and commentaries; presenting research findings; and new project development. Possesses vast prior experience in data acquisition, processing, analysis, and management.

Current projects include (1) the Intensive Case Management Supervised Release Technical Assistance project, in which MDRC supports New York City’s development of a new model for high-need pretrial supervision clients by providing data-driven technical assistance; (2) Tucson Mental Health Diversion, a study assessing the impact of a 911 dispatch diversion program on the criminal legal system contact of people struggling with acute mental health crises; (3) the Procedural Justice-Informed Alternatives to Contempt Demonstration, a random assignment study testing the efficacy of incorporating procedural justice principles into child support practices to re-engage parents who have fallen behind in their child support payments rather than relying on a court-led civil contempt process; and (4) an evaluation of Manhattan’s Felony Alternative to Incarceration Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at reducing incarceration, enhancing community safety, and decreasing recidivism for individuals facing all types of felony charges, including violent offenses.

Selected past projects include the Pretrial Justice Collaborative, a study of pretrial practices in eight jurisdictions across the country aimed at building usable evidence on the most effective strategies for reducing pretrial detention, minimizing supervision conditions, and reducing racial and economic inequities while preserving court appearance; the process and impact evaluation of New York City’s Supervised Release program, a bail alternative intended to reduce the use of pretrial detention and money bail while ensuring people’s appearance in court and maintaining public safety; and the Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration, for which Skemer served as lead researcher for The Doe Fund’s New York City-based Pathways reentry program, whose services were targeted to the formerly incarcerated.

With over 15 years of experience in research and evaluation across a wide range of projects and

content areas, Skemer is adept at collaborating with a broad array of system actors and stakeholders to implement research designs ranging from randomized controlled trials to quasi-experimental methods to descriptive analyses, all in the service of producing clear, reliable, actionable evidence for policymakers and practitioners.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2024 **Skemer, Melanie** and Emily Brennan. 2024. *Comparing Pretrial Supervision Modes: Findings from a Random Assignment Study of Remote Versus Hybrid Supervision in New York City*. New York: MDRC.
- 2023 **Skemer, Melanie**. 2023. *Testing a New Approach to Addressing Nonpayment of Child Support: Effects of the Procedural Justice-Informed Alternatives to Contempt Demonstration*. New York: MDRC.
- 2022 **Skemer, Melanie**, Jennifer Hausler, Olivia Williams, Louisa Treskon, and Jacqueline Groskaufmanis. 2022. *A Comparison of Approaches Informed by Procedural Justice And Traditional Enforcement in the PJAC Demonstration*. New York: MDRC.
- 2023 **Skemer, Melanie**, Sarah Picard, Brit Henderson, and Chloe Anderson. 2023. "Promising Strategies for Reforming Pretrial Justice Systems: Strengthening the Presumption of Release." New York: MDRC.
- 2022 Treskon, Louisa, Douglas Phillips, Jacqueline Groskaufmanis, and **Melanie Skemer**. 2022. *Procedural Justice in Child Support Enforcement: Lessons from an Implementation Study of the Procedural Justice-Informed Alternatives to Contempt Demonstration*. New York: MDRC.
- 2022 **Skemer, Melanie** and Sarah Picard. 2022. "Media Myths, Facts and Justice." The Crime Report. Website: <https://thecrimereport.org/2022/02/15/media-myths-facts-and-justice/>
- 2021 Treskon, Louisa and **Melanie Skemer**. 2021. "Civil Contempt of Court for Child Support Noncompliance at the PJAC Demonstration Sites." New York: MDRC.
- 2020 **Skemer, Melanie**, Cindy Redcross, and Howard Bloom. 2020. *Pursuing Pretrial Justice Through an Alternative to Bail: Findings from an Evaluation of New York City's Supervised Release Program*. New York: MDRC.
- 2019 Courtney, Mark E., Erin J. Valentine, and **Melanie Skemer**. 2019. "Experimental Evaluation of Transitional Living Services for System-Involved Youth: Implications for Policy and Practice." *Children and Youth Services Review*, 96, 396-408.
- 2018 Valentine, Erin Jacobs, **Melanie Skemer**, and Mark C. Courtney. 2018. *Making Their Way: Summary Report on the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation*. New York: MDRC.

- 2018 Cummings, Danielle, Mary Farrell, and **Melanie Skemer**. 2018. *Forging a Path: Final Impacts and Costs of New York City's Young Adult Internship Program*. OPRE Report 2018-75. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 2017 Redcross, Cindy, **Melanie Skemer**, Dannia Guzman, Insha Rahman, and Jessi LaChance. 2017. "New York City's Pretrial Supervised Release Program: An Alternative to Bail." New York: MDRC.
- 2017 **Skemer, Melanie**, Arielle Sherman, Sonya Williams, and Danielle Cummings. 2017. *Reengaging New York City's Disconnected Youth Through Work: Implementation and Early Impacts of the Young Adult Internship Program*. OPRE Report 2017-22. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 2016 **Skemer, Melanie** and Erin Valentine. 2016. *Striving for Independence: Two-Year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation*. New York: MDRC.
- 2016 Redcross, Cindy, Bret Barden, Dan Bloom, Joseph Broadus, Jennifer Thompson, Sonya Williams, Sam Elkin, Randall Juras, Janaé Bonsu, Ada Tso, Barbara Fink, Whitney Engstrom, Johanna Walter, Gary Reynolds, Mary Farrell, Karen Gardiner, Arielle Sherman, **Melanie Skemer**, Yana Kusayeva, and Sara Muller-Ravett. 2016. *The Enhanced Transitional Jobs Demonstration: Implementation and Early Impacts of the Next Generation of Subsidized Employment Programs*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.
- 2015 Valentine, Erin Jacobs, **Melanie Skemer**, and Mark C. Courtney. 2015. *Becoming Adults: One-Year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation*. New York: MDRC.
- 2014 Manno, Michelle, Erin Jacobs, Julianna Alson, **Melanie Skemer**. 2014. *Moving into Adulthood: Implementation Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation*. New York: MDRC.
- 2013 **Skemer, Melanie**, and Brian Bayes. 2013. "Examining the Interaction Between Welfare and Disability: Lessons from an In-Depth Data Analysis." OPRE Report 2013-49. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- 2009 Baer, Justin, and **Melanie Skemer**. 2009. "Review of State Motorcycle Safety Program Technical Assessments." DOT HS 811-082. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

2007

Baldi, Stéphane, Ying Jin, **Melanie Skemer**, Patricia J. Green, and Deborah Herget. 2007. *Highlights From PISA 2006: Performance of U.S. 15-Year-Old Students in Science and Mathematics Literacy in an International Context*. NCES 2008–016. Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education.