

## Abigail Wilpers PhD

Faculty Member

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Abigail Wilpers (she/her) is a faculty member at PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. She is a passionate reproductive health advocate who is dedicated to enhancing health care and health equity for people whose pregnancies are complicated by a severe fetal condition and may face significant challenges including perinatal loss, preterm birth and raising a child with special health care needs. Dr. Wilpers explores how models of care, social determinants of health, and patients' experiences connect to care quality and health outcomes.

Using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, Dr. Wilpers works with interprofessional teams and people with lived experience to develop policy-relevant and community-engaged research. Some examples of her recent work include identifying inadequate racial and ethnic representation in studies of maternal-fetal surgery, examining counseling practices in maternal-fetal surgery, and validating a Person-Centered Care Scale for Fetal Care Centers in North America. Her work is grounded in her background as a fetal therapy nurse and draws on her experience as a board member for local, national, and international organizations dedicated to helping pregnant people and families such as [Hope After Loss](#), [The Fetal Health Foundation](#), and the [Fetal Therapy Nurse Network](#).

Dr. Wilpers received her PhD in Nursing from Yale University in 2019, where she was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar. She worked as a fetal therapy nurse at the Yale New Haven Hospital Fetal Care Center while receiving mentored postdoctoral training in clinical research through the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine. In 2020, she sought additional health services and policy research training as a postdoctoral fellow in the National Clinician Scholars Program.



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### Research Interests

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