

Postdoctoral Fellow in Child and Youth Mental Health

Cost Lab, Department of Psychology, University of Waterloo | Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Position Description

The Cost Lab in the Department of Psychology at the University of Waterloo, led by Professor Katherine Cost, invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellow specializing in child and youth mental health, with a particular focus on equity-deserving populations.

This position is funded through a federally supported research grant examining long-term temporal trends in child and youth mental health. The project leverages multiple large-scale datasets, including Statistics Canada surveys and a proprietary population-representative dataset spanning 40 years of data from Ontario. This project offers a rare opportunity to examine four decades of population-level mental health data to understand how inequities emerge, persist, and change. The findings have direct implications for policy, service delivery, and the well-being of children and youth across Canada.

The successful candidate will play a central role in:

- Leading literature reviews and conceptual framing
- Writing manuscripts for publication
- Contributing to data analysis and interpretation
- Collaborating with a multidisciplinary team committed to rigorous, equity-focused research

The analytical core of the project involves quantile regression to examine mental health symptoms across the full distribution of scores, with particular attention to low-income families, immigrant-background youth, rural communities, and visible minority groups.

Required Qualifications

- PhD in biostatistics, epidemiology, or a closely related quantitative field.
 - Candidates with PhDs in psychology, health sciences, or related behavioural sciences with strong quantitative training will also be considered.
- Demonstrated expertise in literature review and synthesis
- Strong scientific writing skills
- Proficiency in R for statistical analysis and reproducible workflows

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience with quantile regression
- Research interest in mental health and equity-deserving populations
- Commitment to open science practices (e.g., preregistration, data sharing, reproducible workflows)

Research Environment

The Cost Lab is committed to rigorous, transparent, and collaborative research environment. The University of Waterloo is home to world-class researchers in statistics, biostatistics, and quantitative methods, and opportunities for engagement or co-mentorship with that community are available. A hybrid work environment is possible; at least some in-person engagement will be expected to support collaboration and integration into the research community, including opportunities to mentor and supervise undergraduate students.

Terms

The position offers a salary of \$60,000 CAD per year. Start date is negotiable, but the hope is to fill the position by end of summer 2026. This is a 6-month appointment, with renewal contingent on satisfactory progress and funding, up to two years.

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit a single PDF with:

- cover letter
- curriculum vitae
- brief (1–2 pages) statement of research interests and relevant experience
- contact information for three references

Please send application materials to Dr. Katherine Cost at [**kcost@uwaterloo.ca**](mailto:kcost@uwaterloo.ca). Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and continue until the position is filled. The Cost lab is committed to equity, diversity, access, and inclusion.