

## 2024 Public Health Showcase

### Poster Presentation Abstracts - Public Health Practice

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**#46****Abstract Title:** Disaster/Recovery Relief Trip To Puerto Rico**Student:** Morgan Dechene-Arvin**Degree level:** Undergraduate**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Ketrell McWhorter / ketrell.mcwhorter@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** Puerto Rico (PR) is hit by a hurricane approximately four times a year. While it operates independently with its own government, it remains a commonwealth and territory under the United States. When Hurricane Maria hit in 2017, the PR government and FEMA were unprepared for this disaster. The beautiful island was severely impacted and failed its people and many of its communities. The founders of LYNC8 Project and Dr. Ketrell McWhorter led an 8-day-long humanitarian trip to PR in 2023, including 6 students from the College of Public Health at the University of Kentucky. We flew into San Juan and drove to Aguada, where all the teams stayed. We helped renovate a home for a couple with severe disabilities. We also started building a small structure behind the home as another living space for their daughter and her son. As a team, we cleaned the couple's home, scraped and repainted the interior of the entire home, power washed the roof and even purchased small home necessities. Our work allowed for an improved living space and reduced stress for the couple. In our free time, we were able to explore the PR culture, meet locals, and enjoy the beaches. PR was an extremely eye-opening public/global health experience. I not only bonded with other public health-minded volunteers, but together we were able to change the lives of the most inspirational couple. I learned to appreciate the little things in life, grow my faith, and expand my path and possibilities within public health.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#47****Abstract Title:** A Social Cognitive Approach To Syphilis Among Sex Workers

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**Student:** Caitlin Deffendall

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**Degree level:** Undergraduate

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Sarah Cprek / sarah.cprek@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** In Nevada, where sex work is legal in select counties, there are high rates of sexually transmitted diseases. Previous studies on condom effectiveness have proven that when used correctly, condoms are 97% effective and syphilis transmission can be reduced 50-71%. Syphilis is one of the STIs of concern, specifically because of the potential harm to fetuses via congenital syphilis. The Social Cognitive Theory provides an excellent framework for a behavioral intervention program for condom use. Following the SCT model, educational classes about condom use and syphilis will be available for sex workers. Once a class has been completed, attendees will receive a voucher card for a condom vending machine which will provide an unlimited number of condoms free of charge. Focusing specifically on the Sagebrush Ranch brothel in Lyon County, Nevada, the goal of this program is to reduce rates of syphilis among sex workers of reproductive age through condom usage.

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**#48****Abstract Title:** Food Insecurity And College Students: A Problem Identification Project**Student:** Ariana Disciplina**Degree level:** Undergraduate**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Sarah Vos / sarah.vos@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** In CPH 455 Public Health Practice and Communication, we are completing a problem identification project exploring the burden of food insecurity on undergraduate students at the University of Kentucky (UK). Problem identification involves conducting research and identifying the root cause of a problem. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as restricted accessibility and attainability of healthy and nutritious foods. Roughly one-third of college students experience food insecurity; however, students who are minorities, first-generation, or low income are at a higher risk. UK has a significant number of students who fall into these high-risk categories, roughly a quarter of full-time undergraduates, which demonstrates the need to further investigate the impact food insecurity has on campus. The goal of this project is to investigate whether food insecurity is a problem at UK. To further our knowledge, we conducted an extensive literature review, partnered with the Kentucky Food Action Network (KFAN), volunteered at UK's Campus Kitchen, and plan to interview UK officials regarding what data is collected by the university about food insecurity among students and what services are available for food-insecure students. This work-in-progress presentation will discuss what we have learned about food insecurity in general and at UK as well as next steps.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#49****Abstract Title:** Kentucky Department Of Public Health Internship: Women's Health Resource Center**Student:** Ariana Disciplina**Degree level:** Undergraduate**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Sarah Cprek / sarah.cprek@uky.edu

**Abstract:** This poster will provide an overview of my internship with the Women's Health Resource Center at the Kentucky Department of Public Health (KDPH), which began in October 2023. An initial responsibility for my position was to update the content of the website, where many links did not work and information available was not current or potentially useful. I worked closely with my supervisors and co-intern to investigate what resources were available for women in order to improve the value of the Women's Health Resource Center website. My co-intern and I had various zoom meetings with people knowledgeable in resources for women and used the information gathered to create factsheets on topics related to women. Some of the topics included intimate partner violence, mental health, access to care, and many more. These fact sheets have brief descriptions of the topic, simple statistics, and resources related to the topic. We made sure to prioritize the readability of these factsheets as they will be going out to the public and we wanted them to be understood by all people. Looking forward, we hope to collaborate further with the Kentucky Cancer Program at the University of Louisville to coordinate the Health Equity Breast Cancer Screening in West Louisville project. In this internship, I have had a lot of autonomy, been able to expand my networking skills, and practice my presentation skills.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#50**

**Abstract Title:** Creating A Social Needs Screening And Referral Experiential Learning Opportunity

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**Student:** Ashley Grospitch

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**Degree level:** Undergraduate

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Rachel Hogg-Graham / rachel.hogg@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** The Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) characterize the environmental, social, and political forces that shape our health, including employment status, healthcare access, education, housing conditions, and more. Research has shown SDOHs play a predictive role in health outcomes so additional demographic research is needed to support targeted interventions addressing SDOHs. Starting in 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) required hospitals reporting to the Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) program to both screen patients for SDOHs and record positive screening rates. Hospitals with healthcare worker shortages and limited resources to grow staff may have a reduced capacity to implement and maintain screening. Creating a student experiential opportunity to support social need screening and referral is a potential solution to meet the personnel gap. We worked with the University of Kentucky HealthCare Population Health team to develop and pilot an experiential learning opportunity in their social needs resolution program. This program focuses on student training in SDOH and patient interactions. We developed guidelines for undergraduate and graduate student engagement. Results from the program pilot suggest that student engagement in SDOH programs is an effective way to meet patient referral needs and increase student knowledge of SDOH and cross-sector collaboration.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#51**

**Abstract Title:** Exploration Of Income-Based Factors Association With Persistent Deficits From Birth

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**Student:** Julia Heller

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**Degree level:** Undergraduate

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Corrine Williams / [corrine.williams@uky.edu](mailto:corrine.williams@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** Access to early intervention and its long-term outcomes remains a public health issue that creates a multifaceted impact on long-term health conditions. This study aims to investigate the impact of household income on persistent deficits in children, in relationship to early intervention and special education services in the United States. Persistent Deficits are identified by utilizing a multivariate expression. Five deficits included in this use of this exploration are listed as; ADD/ADHD, ASD/Autism, speech disorders, intellectual disabilities, and Learning disability. Chi-square and multiple linear regression to analyze the cross-sectional data from the 2022 National Survey of Children's Health. Data was gathered from The National Survey of Children's Health Survey of 2022. Preliminary results have found significance with income and access to the services needed for the conditions. Specifically, those below the 100% poverty level, were less likely to receive diagnosis of a persistent deficit. Furthermore, the children in poverty who received a diagnosis had less access to intervention programs than higher income families. A further understanding of confounding variables is to be investigated.

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**#52**

**Abstract Title:** Analysis And Evaluation Of Family Planning Annual Report (Fpar) Data For Title X Subrecipients In Kentucky

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**Student:** Viviana Heredia

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**Degree level:** Undergraduate

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Matt Bunch / matt.bunch@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** Each year, federally funded Title X clinics in Kentucky are required to submit data based on the demographic of their patients, services provided, STI test results, and more. Historically, clinics would submit this data as an annual requirement but were never given feedback on their practices. In 2023, the Kentucky Department of Public Health Division of Women's Health began to aggregate and analyze the data from Title X clinics throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In doing this, we evaluated the various strengths of the clinics as well as areas for improvement. Once these findings were drawn from the data, we created presentations which included visual data such as graphs and tables and statistics representing the findings. We then met with representatives of the Title X clinics and presented them with the findings from their clinic-specific data. This was the first year in which clinics received feedback and evaluations of their practices based on the data that they submitted annually. Overall, we hope that providing this feedback allows clinics to focus on their areas of strength and weakness in order to provide high quality care for their patients in hopes of encouraging better health outcomes for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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**#53****Abstract Title:** Supporting UK's Lgbtq\* Community Through Public Health Interventions**Student:** Ava Hess**Degree level:** Undergraduate**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Sarah Cprek / sarah.cprek@uky.edu

**Abstract:** My internship was performed through UK's Office of LGBTQ\* Resources. The main goal I set for myself was to integrate public health interventions via education, healthcare, and resources for a marginalized group. As a student ambassador, my role began with conducting SafeZone trainings across campus for faculty and staff with my coworkers, in which we present an hour-and-a-half-long diversity, equity, and inclusion training concerning the queer community. On top of SafeZone training, I am currently building a relationship with University Health Services to bring STI testing into the suite so the community can access it for free. Historically, LGBTQ\* folk have been disproportionately affected by STIs, so ensuring these students have access to this testing free of cost is vital to empowering the community. In addition to STI testing, I am also working on integrating a free, gender-affirming closet supplied by donations. Queer students in need of gender-affirming clothing or clothing in general, can come into the center and take what they need for no cost. To add to the closet, a coworker and I are in the process of collaborating with a binder (chest compressor or flattener) company to receive free binders to supply to students. The opportunity to work with the Office of LGBTQ\* Resources has allowed me to step into the Public Health outreach sphere and gain a better understanding of how these multidisciplinary careers work. Through this internship, I am gathering skills to improve myself as a professional and the community as a whole.

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**#54****Abstract Title:** The Value Of Survivor Narratives In Social Justice Education**Student:** Maylee Skovron**Degree level:** Undergraduate**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Carol Street / carolstreet@uky.edu

**Abstract:** In the United States, only 20 states require Holocaust education, while three encourage it. Furthermore, a recent national survey conducted in 2020, the Millennial Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Survey, showed an astounding lack of knowledge of the Holocaust by the Millennial and Gen Z generations. As one of the greatest and most resilient generations fades away, we must ask ourselves how to preserve their legacy and use it to educate future generations. The preservation and utilization of survivor narratives can be used to effectively educate students. Survivor narratives are full of educational potential that could reach students in a personal and empathetic manner, teaching lessons that extend beyond a history lesson. Fred Gross was a Holocaust survivor who traveled throughout Kentucky for over a decade to various schools sharing his testimony. Using the archival collection of Fred Gross Thank You Letters, 1997-2019, at the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center, research will investigate what students learned from his visits by analyzing their handwritten thank you letters sent to Gross after his visit. Research methods will quantify feelings identified by the students and what they learned from his visits to determine how effective survivor narratives are in genocide education and invoking empathy in students. Today there are few Holocaust survivors left and statistics bear that Millennial and Gen Z generations know little about the event. As access to first person Holocaust narratives disappears, it is vital to learn how to preserve their accounts and educate future generations

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#55**

**Abstract Title:** An Introduction To Performance Improvement In Public Health: A Practicum Experience

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**Student:** Orighomisan Agboghoroma

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / janie.cambron@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** The public health practicum experience is a means of developing competencies in the field. Students in the public health program gain first-hand knowledge of the public health system, provide services, and network with professionals in the public health field. This paper highlights my experience at the Office of Performance Improvement and Accreditation (OPIA) in the Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement of the Kentucky Department for Public Health(KDPH). This internship period was from June 2023 to December 2023. All interns at the department underwent a departmental orientation program as well as training in Public health Improvement. Following meetings with my supervisor at OPIA and other members of the team, I was encouraged to take on any projects from a menu of available projects. With the support of my supervisors, I learned about quality improvement in the public health sector - how to set SMARTIE goals, how to carry out projects using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Cycle, and the use of quality improvement (QI) tools. In collaboration with a profoundly supportive team, I accomplished the following:

- Multiple intra- and interdepartmental presentations on various quality improvement tools
- Developed and conducted a QI project on customer satisfaction for the OPIA. The survey instrument is currently in use.
- Developed training videos on setting SMARTIE goals and use of a project tracking sheet and storyboard
- Created documents to aid decision-making in the department.

The practicum experience was an introduction to a part of public health practice that is rarely experienced in the classroom.

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**#56****Abstract Title:** The Role Of Evaluation In Strengthening Public Health Initiatives: Evaluating Colorectal Cancer Data -- A Public Health Practicum Experience

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**Student:** Amanda Beckett

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / janie.cambron@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** I completed my MPH practicum experience working with the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP). This program offers grant funding to Public Health programs that partner with health systems in which colorectal cancer screenings are below 60%. The purpose of the CRCCP clinic data collection is to assess program reach, clinic characteristics, implementation of evidence-based interventions, health information technology and quality improvement activities, fecal test return rates, colonoscopy completion rates, and colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates over time among CRCCP partner clinics. The Kentucky Dept of Public Health, American Cancer Society, and Kentucky Cancer Consortium partnered with 6 clinics/health system to assess and improve CRC screening rates, follow-up compliance, and offer technical assistance as needed. Evaluation is a vital part of the successful implementation of the grant and was my main focus for the practicum experience. This practicum experience helped to facilitate my understanding of real-world data analysis and enabled me to gain insight into the impact that public health initiatives have on community health outcomes. Through this experience, I was able to cultivate vital skills in clinic level data interpretation and program evaluation, and apply practical application to theoretical concepts learned in the classroom. Overall, this practicum experience allowed me to see the profound role that evaluation plays in influencing the effectiveness, success, and sustainability of public health programs.

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**#57****Abstract Title:** Kentucky Covid Storytelling Project**Student:** Alaina Brinton**Degree level:** Master's**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / [janie.cambron@uky.edu](mailto:janie.cambron@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact in Kentucky, affecting vulnerable populations already suffering from health disparities and inequities. The Kentucky COVID Stories Oral History Project is a collaboration among the UK College of Public Health, the UK College of Communication and Information (Department of Integrated Strategic Communication), and the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, and seeks to explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the Commonwealth through a series of interviews with individuals integrally involved with public health and social issues. I completed my practicum experience as a project team member and student lead from the UK College of Public Health. I was responsible for interviewing and transcribing, as well as indexing. This project was a wonderful experience and provided great insight to how Kentuckians experienced COVID in various ways. It also was a good way to experience public health partnerships and also to apply what I learned in the classroom for my practicum experience. I also had the opportunity to interact with students from other colleges and also the Nunn Center.

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**#58****Abstract Title:** Ktpc Internship- Tobacco Cessation Survey

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**Student:** Ashley Duff

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / [janie.cambron@uky.edu](mailto:janie.cambron@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** Background: The Kentucky Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Program (KTPC) at KDPH works to reduce the number of preventable and premature deaths caused by tobacco use and exposure. Nearly nine in ten Kentucky adults who smoke say they want to quit, only four in ten know about Kentucky's free tobacco quitline: Quit Now Kentucky. A survey was created to better understand what tobacco cessation resources LHDs currently offer their communities. Methods: This survey was inspired by the Local Tobacco Cessation Survey designed and disseminated annually by the University of Kentucky College of Nursing's BREATHE program. KTPC revised the previous survey and added questions to better fit the current needs of the program. The survey link was distributed via email, reminder emails were sent out periodically to LHDs who had not responded. Results: The survey received responses from 55 of the state's 61 LHDs. The primary question asked of LHDs was whether they provide and/or promote tobacco cessation services. Of all 55 survey responses, 81.8% reported yes, and 18.2% reported no. LHDs were provided a list of tobacco cessation intervention methods and asked to select which they use, none of the above and unknown were the two most popular answers. Next Steps: There is a significant need for additional funding for tobacco cessation work at the local level, more trained cessation staff across the state, more resources to help train healthcare providers on how to help their patients quit using tobacco products; and better resource sharing among LHDs, KTPC and other partners.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#59****Abstract Title:** Bata: Prevalence And Cohort Demographics In Kentucky From 2019-2024

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**Student:** Faith Fursman

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Kelly Giesbrecht / [kelly.giesbrecht@ky.gov](mailto:kelly.giesbrecht@ky.gov)

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**Abstract:** Bats in Kentucky are one of two vector species, carriers of rabies. Rabies is considered to be a fatal disease, but can be prevented with timely vaccinations. Additionally, bats might not leave a mark when they bite or scratch, leading to potentially missed exposures. To help mitigate this, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) has partnered with local health departments in order to collect and test all bats individuals or pets may have been in contact with, and potentially exposed to rabies. Once the test has resulted, only those exposed to positive bats will need to get post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). PEP is a lifesaving medicine that must be given as close to exposure as possible in order to eliminate the possibility of disease development. However, the disease can take from a few weeks to months to develop, so the individual is not at increased risk while waiting for the bat's results to return. BATA is a project of collecting species, age, sex, county information in bats submitted to the State Laboratory for rabies testing, along with the rabies status. This can later be analyzed in order to determine commonalities between exposures, such as species and exposure rate by county (while being adjusted for population density) can be determined. The project was started in July 2019. Prior to that, species data was not available.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#60**

**Abstract Title:** Examining Pediatric Hepatitis A Vaccination In Kentucky (2017-2022) Following A Novel School Vaccine Requirement

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**Student:** Victoria Hamilton

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / [janie.cambron@uky.edu](mailto:janie.cambron@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** The state of Kentucky faced a significant outbreak of hepatitis A in 2017, surpassing the average of reported cases over the previous decade. As a result, hepatitis A vaccination was made mandatory for school entry in 2018 under state regulation 902 KAR 2:060. Using data from the Kentucky Immunization Registry, this study summarizes the prevalence of pediatric hepatitis A vaccination from 2017-2022 and related demographic characteristics, emphasizing trends in vaccination counts across the years, the impacts of hepatitis A vaccine school requirement on pediatric vaccination and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on vaccination. The findings provide insight into the impact of immunization reporting, mandatory school vaccination, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on pediatric vaccination, and the importance of public health measures. This project was completed as a practicum learning experience at the Immunization Branch of the Kentucky Department for Public Health in June of 2023.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#61****Abstract Title:** Scoping Review Of Interventions To Reduce Lung Cancer Risk Among Appalachian Women**Student:** Hannah Hiscox**Degree level:** Master's**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Jessica Thompson / [jessica.thompson@uky.edu](mailto:jessica.thompson@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** Introduction: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death for women in the US, with particularly high rates in Appalachia. Although lung cancer rates have decreased among men, women have not experienced the same declines. We sought to examine and fill-in gaps on evidence-based interventions for lung cancer risk reduction among Appalachian women. Methods: We conducted a scoping review by developing a search strategy in consultation with a UK librarian. We included five databases: PubMed, CINAHL, PsycINFO, Web of Science, and Cochrane. Two independent reviewers assessed articles for inclusion. Included articles focused on a lung cancer risk reduction intervention with adult women in the Appalachian region. We excluded articles that were not original research or not written in English. Results: The search identified 11,755 articles. Through de-duplication, 6,751 articles were removed. Abstract screening resulted in 270 for full text review. Included articles largely focused on tobacco cessation with fewer addressing smoke-free laws, radon, and healthcare access. Most interventions took place in healthcare or community settings with lay health advisors, midwives, or nurses, and some utilized phone or internet strategies. The studies particularly focus on current smokers, including during pregnancy, with few on non-smokers or other life course periods. Discussion: These results highlight the importance of non-physician supports and the potential for internet or phone-based approaches for risk reduction in this population. Further strategies for non-smokers and outside of pregnancy are needed. These findings will inform the development of a novel intervention to reduce lung cancer risk among Appalachian women.



## 2024 Public Health Showcase

### Poster Presentation Abstracts - Public Health Practice

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**#62**

**Abstract Title:** Kentucky Department For Public Health, Department Of Laboratory Services: Mph Practicum Experience

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**Student:** Ryli Hockensmith

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Matthew Johnson / matthew.johnson@ky.gov

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**Abstract:** As one of the first practicum students placed within the KDPH State Laboratory, one of my primary projects was to engage and implement the WASP inventory control management software pilot program. Key factors in this role included understanding the basic operations of the WASP ICM, cataloging chemical materials housed in the laboratory, create a written standard operating procedure per the College of American Pathologist policies, and train laboratory staff in the software system. I also aided in the implementation of the "Paper Chick Project" alongside CDC, State Veterinarian, and Lab scientists. We collected information on local rural businesses that distributed hatchlings to the local community who had a positive Salmonella link in the previous year. Through collecting swabs of the hatchling materials, we are hopeful the project will continue in the future to aid in the monitoring and surveillance of hatchlings being safely distributed into the community and aiding in lowering disease spread. I had the fortunate opportunity to shadow, observe and work alongside the state epidemiology connector. Working with outbreak monitoring, communication and the epidemiologists that made up the regional and state departments. I was allowed in all sections of the laboratory to learn more about their roles and how they connect to my epidemiology concentration with Food, Milk and Water Labs, Whole Genome Sequencing, Microbiology, and Environmental scientists. The State Lab offered me an encouraging environment to grow and learn epidemiology concepts and competencies in many ways with field experiences.

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**#63****Abstract Title:** 'teaming Up' Public Health Academia And Practice: Experiential Learning Through Community Partnerships**Student:** Keelie Jolly**Degree level:** Master's**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Angela Carman / [angela.carman@uky.edu](mailto:angela.carman@uky.edu)

**Abstract:** In Spring 2023, the College of Public Health (CPH) launched Team Up: A Public Health Academic Practice Collaborative. Student fellows in Team Up are provided experiential learning opportunities to assist faculty and community partners with practice-based projects. These projects allow student fellows to use class concepts, such as survey creation, public health communication best practices, and partnership building, in a real time community context. An active Team Up partnership exists with the Kentucky River District Health Department (KRDHD) jurisdiction, which is comprised of seven counties in eastern Kentucky. All KRDHD counties are substantially below the state average for breastfeeding initiation through the first six months of life, thus KRDHD applied for and received a two-phase grant through the Kentucky Department for Public Health to assess attitudes, experiences, and barriers related to breastfeeding and utilize what was learned to increase breastfeeding initiation rates in those communities. Leadership of KRDHD contacted Team Up for assistance with this project. A student fellow was assigned to complete a literature review on breastfeeding attitude and experience assessment, and barriers and facilitators to breastfeeding initiation. From the data obtained through the literature review, Team Up student fellows assisted with survey question creation for both mothers (15 questions) and providers (8 questions), survey launch via Qualtrics, and analysis of survey results. As a precursor to phase two of the project, Team Up student fellows identified commercially available items that could be used to facilitate the breastfeeding process.

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**#64****Abstract Title:** Exploring Faculty And Staff Perceptions Of Workplace Safety In Emergency Services: A Case Study At Uky Albert B. Chandler Hospital**Student:** Divya Kondaveeti**Degree level:** Master's**College:** College of Public Health**Mentor / e-mail:** Patti Howard / pkhoward@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** Background: The escalating instances of workplace violence (WPV) within emergency healthcare settings pose significant risks to staff well-being, patient care, and operational efficacy. Despite growing concerns, the prevalence and impact of WPV on healthcare professionals remain inadequately addressed. This study investigates the incidence, types, and perceptions of WPV among the emergency services staff at UKY Albert B. Chandler Hospital, with the goal of identifying gaps in existing safety protocols and reporting mechanisms. Methods: An observational study was conducted using an electronic survey distributed to emergency services staff at Chandler Hospital. The survey gauged experiences of both physical and psychological violence, perceptions of workplace safety, frequency of reporting incidents, and the adequacy of post-incident support. A total of 468 staff members participated, yielding a response rate of 25%. Results: The initial analysis reveals a troubling prevalence of WPV experiences among respondents, with verbal aggression being the most frequently reported, followed by threats of physical violence and physical assaults. A number of these incidents were perpetrated by patients or their acquaintances. There exists a significant discrepancy between the incidence of violence and the frequency of reporting, accompanied by dissatisfaction with post-incident support, indicating a systemic failure in fostering a culture of safety within the hospital. Conclusion: Findings highlight an urgent need for the implementation of comprehensive strategies to enhance workplace safety in healthcare settings. Recommendations include more effective reporting systems, enhanced staff training in violence prevention, and the establishment of an organizational culture that prioritizes the well-being and security of all employees.

## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#65****Abstract Title:** Kyir Practicum

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**Student:** Kassidy Lane

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Janie Cambron / [janie.cambron@uky.edu](mailto:janie.cambron@uky.edu)

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**Abstract:** From January 2023 to May 2023, I had the privilege of working for the Kentucky Department of Public Health in the Kentucky Immunization Registry (KYIR). The KYIR is a public portal that is a free service of the KDPH that allows individuals, parents, and guardians to access immunization records in the registry. It enables people to access, save and share their vaccination records. The KYIR teams up with schools throughout the state. I was brought on to take over a project that was to create a guide that was to help employees with their onboarding process run more smoothly. I created a guide through one note that had files for basic information, tax information, and various "how tos" for the registry and how to work the KYIR. I also attended various meetings with my supervisor to ensure proper communication and agreements. I also was involved in weekly department meetings. Throughout my experience with my practicum, I developed the following competencies: Planning and management to promote health, communication, leadership, systems thinking and interprofessional practice, evidence-based approaches to public health, public health, and health care systems. I developed these through every day as such, meeting and communicating with my supervisor and my team as to what steps should be next in my project. My team gave me power and space to express my comments, concerns and ideas as well as take lead on the project and present it to the all-staff meeting. I have been involved in mini projects for school nurses and red cap that has shown me dealing with the public and what the registry is used for.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#66**

**Abstract Title:** Team Up: Cph Bridging Academia And Practice

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**Student:** Mary Elizabeth Pendergrass

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Mentor / e-mail:** Rachel Hogg-Graham / rachel.hogg@uky.edu

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**Abstract:** Evidence shows that collaboration between public health practitioners and academia can improve community health and strengthen the workforce. This poster will describe Team Up: A Public Health Academic Practice Collaborative. Team Up works to build a strong public health research and practice infrastructure with the capability to strengthen multi-sectoral trust, advance multidisciplinary learning, and support translational action. Team Up links practitioners, community members, students, and CPH faculty on various projects that address public health issues. Team Up projects will be described, highlighting technical assistance, evaluation, community-engaged research, and ways for the CPH community to get involved in Team Up.

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## 2024 Public Health Showcase

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**#67****Abstract Title:** Public Health Practicum: Unlocking The Power Of Diabetes Management Data At Primary Care Center Of Eastern Kentucky

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**Student:** Ines Roy

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**Degree level:** Master's

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**College:** College of Public Health

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**Abstract:** Abstract Paragraph: I completed my MPH practicum experience at the Primary Care Center of Eastern Kentucky (PCCEK) located in Hazard, Kentucky. My practicum took place from June 2023 to January 2024, and received funding from the Region IV Public Health Training Center for the Practice Scholars Field Placement Program. Through the Pathway to Practice Scholars Fields Program, public health students in the Region IV area (which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) have the opportunity to gain practical experience by working with public health practitioners to serve underserved communities or populations. I conducted research on diabetic individuals residing in Eastern Kentucky. I assessed the services provided by the Diabetes Center of Excellence and the education program at the Primary Care Center of Eastern Kentucky in Hazard, Kentucky. The study includes collecting data over a 10-year period, comparing laboratory results, gathering demographic information, and obtaining patients' feedback on clinic services and outreach efforts through a satisfaction survey. Meetings were held regularly during the period of the practicum trial to discuss community outreach and methods to improve physician communications that impact diabetes care adherence.

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