PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

SPRING 2023 ANNUAL REPORT
Covering Academic Year 2021-2022
Welcome to the 2023 UAB School of Public Health Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) Annual Report, covering Academic Year 2021-2022. This report provides an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding accomplishments in public health practice by the members of the UAB School of Public Health. The practice of public health is a complex interchange that relies on the contributions of multiple disciplines and community partners. It is the application of the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the essential public health services and other activities to improve the population’s health. This report focuses on the many ways in which we engage our practice partners and highlights the practice-based learning opportunities available to our students. In addition, the OPHP works closely with the UAB Career Center to provide employer networking and professional development opportunities to our students. Highlights of these activities are found in this report along with a glimpse of the contributions made to our communities through co-curricular activities hosted by the OPHP, School of Public Health student organizations, and through other volunteer support activities. We hope you take the opportunity to review this report and to see the contributions being made by the UAB School of Public Health.

MISSION
To provide real-world application of the knowledge and skills necessary to perform essential public health services to improve the population’s health.

GOAL
To promote and enhance engagement between the practice community and the UAB School of Public Health’s faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

go.uab.edu/ophp
sites.uab.edu/apex
The applied practice experience is an opportunity for students to acquire ‘real world’ public health experience, apply concepts learned through coursework to field projects, and explore different public health settings. The applied practice experience is a required component for all students working towards a graduate professional public health degree (MPH or DrPH). At the MPH level, the applied practice experience takes the form of an internship; at the DrPH level, a practicum. Below are highlights from the applied practice experience program.

**MPH INTERNSHIPS**

- **263** students completing MPH internships
- **53,042** hours worked with or on behalf of internship sites
- **193** unique MPH internship sites hosting students

**PERCENTAGE OF MPH INTERNSHIPS BY INDUSTRY**

- **Non-Profit/Community Based Org**
- **Academia/University**
- **Hospital/Clinic/Health Care**
- **Health Department**
- **Association/Foundation**
- **Government**
- **Industry**
- **Other**
- **Research Institute/Center**
- **K-12 School**
- **Pharmaceutical/BioTechnology**

**AY 2021-2022 INTERNSHIP IMPACTS**

- **99%** students agreed their experience allowed them to apply public health skills and knowledge.
- **99%** students agreed they benefited from their experience in the internship.
- **97%** students agreed their prior coursework at UAB adequately prepared them for their experience.
- **99%** preceptors agreed the student was prepared to meet the objectives of the internship.
- **99%** preceptors agreed the host agency benefited from hosting the intern.
APPLIED PRACTICE EXPERIENCES: MPH INTERNSHIPS

STUDENT SELF-ASSESSMENT OF FINAL COMPETENCIES SELECTED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 5 Competencies Selected on Student’s Final Reflection Experience</th>
<th>Average Rating Prior to Internship</th>
<th>Average Rating After Internship</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MPH 19: Communicate audience-appropriate public health content, both in writing and through oral presentation. (N=166)</td>
<td>2.31</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>+1.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 18: Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors. (N=136)</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>+1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 07: Assess population needs, assets, and capacities that affect communities’ health. (N=114)</td>
<td>2.08</td>
<td>3.49</td>
<td>+1.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 04: Interpret results of data analysis for public health research, policy, or practice. (N=114)</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>+1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH 09: Design a population-based policy, program, project, or intervention. (N=81)</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>+1.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student Rating Scale: Not at all confident (0), Only slightly confident (1), Somewhat confident (2), Moderately confident (3), Very confident (4)

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DRPH) PRACTICUMS

In 2021-2022, five DrPH students completed their practicums, extending over multiple semesters.

KACEY JAMES
Site: March of Dimes
Practicum: Alabama Doula Association/Coalition
“Over the summer, I was given the opportunity to work with the Alabama market of March of Dimes on their goal of having doula services reimbursed in the state. My time with March of Dimes was very rewarding. I was able to meet and work with many influential people in the field of maternal and child health, and further my skills that I developed throughout my time at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. My time at March of Dimes was so successful that I was offered the chance to continue working with them through the fall semester. Having doula services reimbursed is an important step to ensuring that Alabama improves birth outcomes for newborns as well as overall health outcomes for women. I hope to be part of that change we wish to see.”

AMY ELIZABETH CALLAHAN
Site: Blazer Kitchen
Practicum: Analyzing results from past food insecurity surveys to help guide future data collection efforts.
“I have learned so much about food insecurity, about Blazer Kitchen, about survey development, and about qualitative research this year. This process has boosted my confidence in being the person on a team that proposes changes or decisions, and I performed some common statistical tasks (like managing a Qualtrics survey) for the first time. I even participated in my first interview with a reporter! I am so grateful to have been a part of this survey, and I look forward to continuing this research with Blazer Kitchen.”

SARAH LEE BOWLER
Site: Alabama Medicaid Agency
Practicum: Declining Private Provider Availability for Family Planning Visits in Alabama—Impact on Access for Medicaid Section 1115 Plan First Demonstration Enrollees
“This practicum experience gave me the opportunity to dive into one particular facet of my ongoing research that I had not previously investigated. The experience of drafting a white paper and working alongside the Medicaid team opened my eyes to the intricacies of state policy and how complex the Medicaid system is regarding family planning. Throughout my time in school, I have learned about policy evaluation and communicating effectively for change. However, this was my first opportunity to draft real-time recommendations in response to a pressing concern.”

YE LIU
Site: UAB School of Medicine - Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology
Practicum: Clinical Characteristics and Cardiovascular Risk Among US Post-Menopausal Women Initiating Treatment With Romosozumab and Other Anti-Osteoporosis Therapies
“The experience of comprehensive analysis of big claims database and the crosswalk between claims data and EHR data are extremely useful for understanding public health issues and finding evidence to support public health approaches that will solve those issues.”

JIAYING HAO
Site: Children’s of Alabama Family Clinic
Practicum: Predict and reduce missed HIV clinical visits
“This practicum exceeded my expectations since this is the first time I led a real public health project. I worked with professionals from the clinic of Children’s of Alabama and got access to the real data of the patients. I’m not merely running data analysis; instead, I took responsibility for every step of this project.”

*Student Self Rating Scale: Not at all confident (0), Only slightly confident (1), Somewhat confident (2), Moderately confident (3), Very confident (4)
STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

BRITTANY RANSOM
Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Organization graduate, Fall 2021

I was enrolled in the Master of Public Health Maternal and Child Policy and Leadership program. I chose this program because I have always been interested in maternal and child health, and my interest grew even more after completing my undergraduate degree. When it was time to apply to UAB again for graduate school, I saw this program, and I was excited to apply.

I interned at BirthWells Partners during my MPH program. The most memorable part of my internship was knowing I was helping contribute to a project that would actually help pregnant women in Alabama. I was able to play an active part in working with community partners and academic partners to identify the problem at hand. I have always had a passion for maternal and child health, so being able to perform work in that area and gain insightful experience really made my internship enjoyable.

I feel that I was able to expand my knowledge of public health with graduate school by being able to dive into the different aspects of public health to figure out where I ultimately saw myself in my career. The MPH MCH program gave me the tools to make a difference in maternal and child health.

NINA KEARIN
Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Organization candidate, 2022

I am enrolled in the Master’s in public health program with a concentration in maternal and child health policy and leadership. I selected UAB’s MPH program because of the MCH concentration, the focus on equity, the importance of community engagement, and the ability to get my degree online from my home in Baltimore.

I interned with the Family League of Baltimore, and the most memorable part for me was getting to participate in meetings with local experts, key stakeholders, and our program partners. Those meetings opened my eyes to all the moving parts that come together to make public health programs happen—from the planning stage, to implementation, and through evaluation. Working with mentors and program partners who are committed to improving health outcomes for infants and families was inspiring and taught me so much about the nuanced and complex factors impacting health outcomes in Baltimore.

This internship introduced me to the reality of what it takes to run a public health program. It gave me an opportunity to try out and practice a range of different tasks, which helped prepare me with the knowledge of what it takes to collaborate, organize, and bring people together so that it takes to make a program happen effectively.

JAIDEN HATCH
Master of Public Health in Environmental Health Policy candidate, Fall 2023

I am currently enrolled as an MPH student in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences. I chose this program because of today’s ever-pressing need to understand the inextricable link between human health and the changing environment.

As part of the MPH Internship, I was a Swim Guide Field Technician for the Cahaba Riverkeeper. My responsibilities included collecting and analyzing water samples from various sites along the Cahaba River to inform community members about the safety and quality of the water.

The most memorable part of my MPH Internship was interacting with community members during fieldwork. Many graciously shared their decades of experiences, stories, and knowledge of the Cahaba River, which have all shaped their deep appreciation for this natural resource.

AURLIE THOMPSON
Master of Public Health in Population Health graduate, Fall 2022

I am currently enrolled in the Population Health program at the UAB School of Public Health. I am a dually-enrolled student receiving my master’s in both Public Health and Public Administration.

The most memorable part of my internship was working with my preceptor. I conducted my internship with my employer, a local non-profit organization here in Birmingham: Woodlawn United. Jason Avery served as my preceptor through his various roles of being a Woodlawn United board member, a Woodlawn resident, and an employee and graduate of the UAB School of Public Health. Wearing so many hats allowed him to share a wealth of knowledge and guidance with me on community development, strategic planning, and public health implementation.

The concluding project for my internship was a strategic plan for the Community Wellness pillar for Woodlawn United. I feel as though this directly impacts the current vision I have for my workplace to involve more community wellness. It also prepares me for more of the strategic thinking aspects within future projects.

ABIGAIL LUND
Master of Public Health in Health Behavior candidate, Summer 2023

I am enrolled in the MPH program at UAB with a concentration in Health Behavior. I chose this program because I knew it would best prepare me for utilizing behavioral, social and cultural factors when promoting health and health disparities. It is also a community based concentration which prepares me for my passion to work with the homeless community.

The most memorable part of my internship was watching one of our homeless friends in Birmingham, Alabama finally decide to receive help. Over the summer, he was against taking the survey and did not care to seek recovery for his addiction. Then, within the last three weeks, he approached the van with a light in his eyes and a bounce in his step, as he finally asked us where he can receive help so that he can get off of the streets.

I feel that I am better prepared for a career in Public Health due to the Core classes of the MPH program and my internship. My experience has taught me how to communicate with the community in order to build trust so that I can foster change. In addition to my internship experience, I was able to implement knowledge learned in class while on the van, which has shown me that I am well-prepared for my future career.

RITTI SANGADJI
Master of Public Health in Health Behavior graduate, Summer 2022

I selected the Health Behavior program because it allowed me to analyze human behavior regarding health and gave me tools to help communicate and develop interventions regarding those behaviors. My entire internship with the Bugia-Sunrise Center was amazing, but the most memorable part was educating children about uncommon topics and see how they react toward them. The children also shared their big dreams with me, and I pray they can achieve their dreams one day.

I believe I am ready to work in public health. Working with the community and collaborating with other stakeholders who share the same values and vision is something I want to achieve. All of the curriculum in UAB School of Public Health really equipped me to do it all.
In May 2022, Dr. Lisa McCormick and Meena Nabavi led 14 students on a 16-day journey to compare, contrast, explore and explain problems and perspectives associated with health and wellness issues in England and Wales. Exploring Population Health: United Kingdom provided students an opportunity to learn about both historical and contemporary public health issues, their effects on population health, and how public health systems are working to solve the health issues affecting communities in the United Kingdom today.

Students toured historically and culturally significant sites, visited urban and rural communities and community-based organizations, attended featured presentations around both contemporary and historical public health issues, and visited public health and health-care agencies to learn about their structure, programs, service delivery models, and approaches to addressing issues of public health. The sum of this experience illustrated the interdisciplinary nature of public health practice and the need to add attention to the social determinants of health, the conditions in the social, physical, and economic environment in which people are born, live, work, and age, in order to advance health equity.

Program Highlights
- Students learned about public health issues by meeting with faculty at Aberystwyth University, including topics focused on environmental health, rural health/telehealth, One Health and the connection between human and animal health, and the impact of chronic diseases
- Met with community-based partners in both Aberystwyth and London to learn about public health issues facing the United Kingdom (rural vs. urban)
- Visited the site of the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak (birthplace of modern epidemiology) and learned more about the work of John Snow
- Learned about historic and modern public health issues in the United Kingdom, including the London Fog, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, health inequalities, and homelessness.

To learn more about this trip and view more photos, please visit the students’ blog at go.uab.edu/sophunitedkingdom2022.
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

STUDENT ORGANIZATION METRICS

Community and Campus Engagement Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
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Educational Events

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION (PHSA) EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **SOPH Student Career Center Utilization**
  - 1474 STUDENTS ENROLLED AND ACTIVATED
  - 146 STUDENT CAREER FAIR ATTENDANCE
  - 222 STUDENT CAREER CENTER APPOINTMENTS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING EVENTS

- **SOPH Student Career Center Utilization**
  - TESSA GRAHAM, MPH
    - SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH’S CAREER CENTER LIAISON
  - DAMION WHITE
    - UAB CAREER CENTER’S PUBLIC HEALTH LIAISON

OTHER CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

- **Virtual Alumni Panel: Where Are They Now?**
  - September 2021 | 17 Students
  - Students met with alumni who currently work with or for the CDC virtually for an hour-long panel. During this panel, alumni spoke about their experience in public health while working for a governmental public health organization, answered questions from students, and spoke about their own skill sets and development in public health and how they were influenced by their education at the UAB School of Public Health.

- **Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Virtual Session**
  - November 2021 | 15 Students
  - Students joined the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) for a virtual information session and overview of the Alabama State Personnel Department application, required for jobs at ADPH. This event also provided information about career opportunities within ADPH.

- **Virtual Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Alumni Panel**
  - April 2022 | 17 Students
  - This event took place virtually via Zoom and was promoted to all UAB School of Public Health students. The purpose of the panel was for students to leave with career and professional insights regarding working for and with the CDC. Each alumnus illustrated the power and connections behind a UAB degree in public health. Our students benefited tremendously from their experience and expertise!
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC HEALTH INFLUENCER SUMMER INSTITUTE

In June 2022, the Office of Public Health Practice, the UAB Superfund Research Center’s Research Education and Training Coordination Core, and the Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety partnered to create and launch a summer program to introduce high school students to everything public and environmental health. The inaugural Public Health Influencer Summer Institute included 16 students from the Birmingham area and beyond. This program worked to raise awareness and increase knowledge on a variety of topics including:

- Introduction to Public Health
- Chronic and Infectious Diseases (what are they and how do they affect our community, including topics on priority chronic and infectious disease concerns in Alabama)
- Infectious Diseases Prevention (HIV/STIs, TB, Hepatitis, health behavior, health education, including visits with the 1917 Clinic and Birmingham AIDS Outreach [BAO])
- Chronic Disease Prevention (including topics addressing health behaviors, diet, food access, exercise, built environment, and the social and environmental determinants of health)
- Environmental Health (food safety, air and water quality, plastics and electronic waste, and sustainability, including visits with the Jefferson County Department of Health [JCDH] epidemiologists and environmental health professionals)
- Social and Environmental Justice (health inequities, structural and systemic racism, health disparities and inequities – including visits to the Equal Justice Initiative’s Legacy Museum and Memorial for Peace and Justice)
- Lung Health and Air Quality (air quality, lung health, exercise, personal protective equipment [PPE] and respiratory protection and lung function testing)

Students visited with community members and city council members representing North Birmingham communities, Woodlawn neighborhood, with non-profit organizations such as BAO and Woodlawn United, with public health professionals from JCDH, and with health care professionals from 1917 Clinic.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK: APRIL 4-10, 2022

During the first full week of April each year, the UAB School of Public Health observes National Public Health Week. The Office of Public Health Practice organizes events during NPHW that focus on increasing awareness of the contribution of public health in our community and highlights issues that are important to improving health in Jefferson County and Alabama. In 2022, the Office of Public Health Practice and the Public Health Student Organization organized events across campus, including hosting the Jefferson County Department of Health for the Annual Public Health Address.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

SEMINARS & PODCASTS SPONSORED OR CO-SPONSORED

Cosponsors include:
- Alabama Regional Center for Infection Prevention and Control (ARC IPC)
- The Lister Hill Center for Health Policy
- Sparkman Center for Global Health
- UAB Institute for Human Rights
- UAB Sustainability

Public health practitioners and community partners presenting guest lectures, seminars, or participating in the School of Public Health podcast series or networking events.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTITIONERS AFFILIATE APPOINTMENTS

The Public Health Practitioner Affiliate program recognizes the collaboration between the UAB School of Public Health and those working in different areas of public health practice. Affiliates may engage with the School in a number of ways, including as presenters, guest lecturers, mentors, and preceptors. They provide perspectives on current and emerging trends and share best-practices vital to the profession.

BARRY CAMBRON, MSHA, MBA
Position: Deputy Commissioner of Health Systems and Director of Analytics, Alabama Medicaid
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization

BRYN MANZELLA, MPH
Position: Quality Improvement Officer/Director of Quality Improvement, Jefferson County Department of Health
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization

DREW NELSON, MPH
Position: Epidemiologist, Director, Quality Assurance Division, Alabama Medicaid Agency
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization

CARLOS ROBINSON, CIH, CSP, MSPH, MBA
Position: Director, Environmental Health Science, McElane-Incorporated
Department of Affiliation: Environmental Health Sciences

JODY WIREMAN, PH.D., MSPH, MPA, CIH, DABT
Position: Senior Program Analyst, Force Readiness and Health Assurance, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization, Environmental Health Sciences

SUSAN COLBURN
Position: State Parent Consultant with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, Children's Rehabilitation Services
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization

KAREN MUSGROVE, PH.D., LPC
Position: CEO, Birmingham AIDS Outreach, Magic City Acceptance Center, Magic City Wellness Center, Magic City Acceptance Academy
Department of Affiliation: Health Behavior

ANDREW PERKINS, M.S., CIH, CSP, COHC
Position: Senior Industrial Hygienist, Alabama Power - A Southern Company
Department of Affiliation: Environmental Health Sciences

MARK E. WILSON, M.D.
Position: Health Officer, Jefferson County Department of Health
Department of Affiliation: Health Policy and Organization

FACULTY SERVING IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

24 Faculty served in a leadership position for 41 community and health organizations

- American Public Health Association (APHA), Ethics Section, Chair of Alabama (ACA)
- Birmingham United Neighborhoods
- Planned Parenthood South East, Executive Committee
- Birmingham United Neighborhoods, Operations Committee
- Community and Scientific Action Board, Planning Committee
- Alabama Public Health Institute, Vice President
- The Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA)
- American College of Epidemiology
- American Heart Association (AHA)
- Consortium of Universities for Global Health (professional organization)
- Alabama Interfaith Refugee Partnership
- Vice-Chair of the International Society for Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Prevention
- University of Vermont Center for Cardiovascular and Brain Health
- Coosa Riverkeeper
- UAB Sustainability
- infectious Review Board (IB), invited expert to National Committee - Main site at New York University
- Creating Ethics Frameworks for Xenotransplant Implementation
- UAB School of Medicine Public Health Interest Group, Faculty Lead Sponsor
- Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
- Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resource Coalition
- Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Air Pollution (GASP)
- UAB Center for Interprofessional Education and Simulation (Advisory Committee)
- Symposium Planning Committee
- The Altamont School
- Episcopal Church of the Ascension
- Freshwater Land Trust
- Cahaba River Society
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- Birmingham Aids Outreach (BAO)
- Birmingham Aids Outreach Board Member
- Mother’s Milk Bank of Alabama, Board Member
- Birmingham United Neighborhoods, Board Member
- University of Alabama Community Affairs Board of Advisors
- H2Alabama
- Alabama Comprehensive Regional Perinatal Advisory Committee
- Maternal Mortality Review Committee
- Translational Science (CCTS)
COMMUNICATION INITIATIVES

GET A HANDLE NEWSLETTER

- **EDITIONS**
  - Aug. 2021 - July 2022
  - 320+ since Jan. 2016

- **OPEN RATE**
  - Aug. 2021 - July 2022
  - 29.9%

- **AVG. INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS PER NEWSLETTER**
  - Aug. 2021 - July 2022
  - 1,650

- **CLICK RATE**
  - Aug. 2021 - July 2022
  - 7.9%

OTHER INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

- **R-IV PHTC**
  - Region IV Public Health Training Center
  - r4phtc.org

- **COUNTERACT**
  - UAB Research Center of Excellence in Arsenicals
  - sites.uab.edu/arsenicals

- **SUPERFUND**
  - UAB Superfund Research Center
  - uab.edu/medicine/src

- **ARCIPC**
  - Alabama Regional Center for Infection Prevention and Control
  - go.uab.edu/arcipc

- **LTC**
  - Alabama Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Strike Team
  - sites.uab.edu/ltcstrike

- **K-12 COVID TESTING**
  - COVID-19 Testing in Alabama’s K-12 Schools Program
  - sites.uab.edu/covidsk12

- **POLICY SURVEILLANCE**
  - Birmingham Policy Surveillance Initiative
  - go.uab.edu/policysurveillance

If you are interested in hosting an intern at your organization or for more information on the Office of Public Health Practice at the UAB School of Public Health, please email ophp@uab.edu.