SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Division of Health Policy and Management

2023-2024 Year in Review

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

From the Division Head

Greetings from the Division of Health Policy and Management! This annual report highlights many of the impressive accomplishments made by our talented faculty, staff, and students during the 2023-2024 academic year. Through our research, education, and community engagement, we strive to create a more equitable, efficient, and effective health system. This past year we also welcomed our new School of Public Health Dean Melinda Pettigrew. It has been a privilege to work collaboratively with her and other leaders as we begin a new chapter in the School of Public Health.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to learn more about who we are, what we do, and the impact we are having on health policy and practice today. Special thanks to the faculty, staff, and students who contributed to the creation of this report as well as Mona Rath who oversaw its production.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Abraham
James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management
Professor and Head
Division of Health Policy and Management

Mission and Vision

Mission

The Division of Health Policy and Management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health improves the health of all populations by

- creating and sharing research evidence to inform policy and practice
- developing professionals for administrative, policy, and research careers
- collaborating with our local, state, and national partners to address critical public health and healthcare challenges and to design innovative solutions

Vision
Advancing health and healthcare for all through evidence and education.

Values
Impact | Excellence | Equity | Integrity | Collaboration

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

2023-2024 Snapshot

FACULTY
PUBLICATIONS
223
Peer-reviewed journal
articles

RESEARCH
$27M+
Sponsored
Research

RESEARCH
CENTERS
8

STUDENT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT
$1M
Dollars awarded

COURSES TAUGHT
119
On-campus, hybrid, remote

GRADUATES
96
2023-2024

STUDENTS
325
MHA, MPH, MS, PhD

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Education Programs

The Division of Health Policy and Management offers full-time academic degrees, flexible degrees for working professionals, joint degrees, and non-degree options. Our diverse programs prepare leaders and enhance mid-career professionals' leadership capabilities.

Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA)

MHA Residential Track

The MHA residential program continues to drive the curriculum, coursework and experiential learning that brings together the best of theory and practice in healthcare management education. On the experiential side, this year more than 50% of students participated in case competitions, interprofessional experiences, or other service opportunities. Our case competition teams excelled this year, placing in the top five in all 10 competitions, with three teams taking first and five teams placing second.

Our first international advanced problem solving team traveled to Kenya, working with Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) and alumnus Rob Thames, MHA '84, to address how three local hospitals could better share resources and coordinate care. This was one of seven important student projects sponsored by alumni and industry mentors.

Across the residential and executive tracks, over 150 alumni and industry professionals volunteered their time to lecture, coach, host student summer residences, and mentor in various capacities.

MHA first-year students
26 students
55% female
55% out-of-state
45% Minnesota residents
42% persons of color

MHA second-year students
31 students
45% female
68% out-of-state
32% Minnesota residents
1% international
26% persons of color

Post-graduate employment
Administrative fellowship
Hospital or health system
Consulting
Insurance
Pharmaceutical
Medical device
Healthcare technology
Healthcare consumer product

Krysta Hill
MHA Residential Student

"I believe it's crucial to understand and respect cultural differences, tailoring healthcare approaches to meet the specific needs of diverse communities. The population health course significantly delves into health equity and the intersection of various social identities, how they compound health disparities, and contribute to unique health challenges within marginalized groups."

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA) Executive Track

The MHA executive program achieved some great milestones this past year. In December, 13 students from Cohort 13 presented their capstones and graduated from the program. We also welcomed 17 new students into Cohort 15 and two students enrolled in the healthcare management certificate program. In April, executive students participated in a trip to Sweden to learn about the Swedish healthcare system and apply their learnings to their Capstone work within their organization. MHA executive students are already employed in a broad range of organizations across the entire healthcare sector.

**MHA Executive Track
Cohorts 13, 14, & 15**
60 students
60% female
30% out-of-state
70% Minnesota residents
23% students of color

Aaron Berg, MD
MHA Executive Student

"The classes themselves are great because typically I interact with physicians and nurses all day, and those people always have the mindset of a practitioner. With the MHA executive cohort, I get to work with people from other systems and backgrounds who think differently and come from different fields."

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Public Health Administration and Policy (MPH-PHAP)

Residential MPH-PHAP Track

Part of what distinguishes the MPH-PHAP experience is its close collaboration with community partners. This year students worked with the Angel Foundation, Envision Community, and Ready Set Smile to evaluate current projects that have immediate impact in the communities they serve. Additionally, several students have had direct engagement with the state legislative process with real-time policy development, lobbying, and grassroots organizing through partnership with a preceptor and organization.

This year the program continued engagement with the community advisory board, which includes alumni, retired and emeritus faculty, local, regional and national leaders in public health, current and former staff, and students. The program also used LinkedIn to communicate its mission and vision from a student perspective. Being an MPH-PHAP student is also about forming connections with other students. This year the graduating students had success rebuilding the MPH-PHAP Buddy Program, designed to connect first year with second year students. Students reported feeling more connected to the school, the program, and their potential career opportunities.

MPH-PHAP
49 students
88% female
25% out-of-state
63% Minnesota residents
12% international
41% persons of color

Examples of Post-Graduation Placements
State and local public health departments
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Indian Health Board of Minneapolis
Optum
Mayo Clinic
Advocate Health

Scholarship Profile

Michelle Lo
Residential MPH-PHAP student

Office for Business and Community Economic Development (OBCED) Community Health Initiative Scholarship for the School of Public Health

"Receiving the scholarship has significantly reduced the emotional and financial burden of school tuition for myself and my family. I am extremely grateful to the benefactors for this opportunity. I have been able to dedicate my focus to academics and my professional career without worry."

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

MPH-PHAP Student Excellence

Carson Crane received first place at the School of Public Health Research Day for her poster "Housing Stability among LGBTQ+ Rural Residents." Her faculty advisor is Carrie Henning-Smith.

Jaclyn Frank co-authored an article in *BMC Women's Health* titled, "Sometimes I just forget them: Capturing experiences of women about free menstrual products in a U.S. based public university campus."

Vedushi Jain was lead author on a paper published in the journal *Work* titled, "Effects of wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and its role in affecting the work efficiency of dentists during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Distance MPH-PHAP Track

The distance MPH-PHAP track—a fully online, asynchronous program–started its third year in fall 2023. Our distance PHAP students are employed in a variety of organizations and roles, including public health departments, clinical research sites, healthcare delivery organizations, and health insurance companies.

Distance MPH-PHAP Track
26 students
65% female
20% out-of-state
68% Minnesota residents
12% international
31% persons of color

Executive MPH-PHAP Track

The executive Public Health Administration and Policy MPH program is delivered in a learning cohort model that blends online and on-campus coursework. All students start the program together and progress through the same curriculum, providing opportunities to learn and work together. The on-campus commitment includes five visits that are each three to four days long and focus on leadership, health policy, management, and applied case studies.

Executive MPH-PHAP Track
74 students
65% female
26% out-of-state
74% Minnesota residents
30% persons of color

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Health Services Research, Policy and Administration (HSRP&A) MS and PhD

The Master of Science (MS) and PhD programs offer students multi-disciplinary training with particular focus on analytical skills to pursue research careers in academic, industry, policy, and governmental organizations.

HSRP&A PhD Program

Students in the HSRP&A PhD program actively participate on faculty-led research teams addressing a wide variety of topics, including those focused on payment models, health equity measurement, long-term care, opioid use, health information and care transitions, reproductive health justice, mental health access, and the impacts of structural racism on health. Through their publications and engagement at national conferences, students apply what they are learning in the classroom to generate new knowledge that informs policy and practice.

HSRP&A PhD
39 students
64% female
20% out-of-state
73% Minnesota residents
7% international
53% persons of color

HSRP&A PhD Student Excellence

Odichinma (Odi) Akosionu-DeSouza was appointed Director of the Health Equity Strategy and Innovation division at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Her work advances health equity within the MDH and across the state. Previously, Odi worked at the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity as a research scholar. She also served as the operations director for The Research in Color Foundation, leading efforts to support underrepresented scholars who are interested in pursuing a PhD degree in economics and related fields.

HSRP&A MS Program

With a recently revised curriculum, students in the MS program acquire the knowledge and skills to be health analysts and researchers who develop evidence used in clinical, business, and policy environments. The MS program curriculum emphasizes the theoretical foundations of the health and public health systems in combination with the development of data management and analysis skills that can inform decision-making in policy and industry settings.

HSRP&A MS
20 students
60% female
10% out-of-state
70% Minnesota residents
20% international
50% persons of color

Clara Godoy-Henderson
HSRP&A MS Student

"The HSRP&A MS program has developed my quantitative research and data analysis skills. As a social worker and clinical research coordinator, the program provides opportunity and potential to improve interventions and services around mental health and social services."

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

New Faculty

The division warmly welcomes two associate professors and one assistant professor.

Stuart Grande
Associate Professor

JP Leider
Associate Professor

Paige Nong
Assistant Professor

Faculty Promotion

We are pleased to recognize the recent promotion and tenure of three faculty members for their scholarly achievements.

Doris Cross
Promoted to
Associate Professor
with tenure

Janette Dill
Promoted to
Associate Professor
with tenure

Hannah Neprash
Promoted to
Associate Professor
with tenure

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Conducting Innovative Research

Our faculty create and share research evidence to inform policy and improve health outcomes.

Spotlight on J'Mag Karbeah
Study investigates ways that racism impacts health

This past year J'Mag Karbeah was invited to continue in the third cohort of the Health Equity Collective, after her invaluable contributions as a member of the collective's second cohort. Founded in 2020 with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the collective is focused on addressing structural determinants of health inequity in the United States (i.e., white supremacy, capitalism, classism, and patriarchy) as well as supporting the next generation of health equity leaders.

Karbeah's research — which investigates how structural racism, evidenced by discriminatory or exclusionary practices and policies within healthcare and other institutions, impacts maternal, infant, and child health outcomes — aligns with the collective's mission. By leveraging theories and methods from population health science as well as health services, her recent scholarship examines potential policy and practice changes within pediatric health and seeks to mitigate racism's impact on health outcomes, Her work has been featured in leading journals like *Pediatrics, The Journal of Adolescent Health,* and *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health.*

Spotlight on JP Leider, PhD
Health study listed as one of the most popular articles of 2023

The highly rated health policy journal *Health Affairs* named a paper co-authored by JP Leider as their #3 most read paper of 2023. The study was a collaboration between Leider and collaborators at the de Beaumont Foundation, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, and the Harvard School of Public Health.

This study was among the first to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the size and composition of the nation's state and local governmental public health workforce. Among other findings, the study found that nearly half of all state and local public health employees left their jobs between 2017 and 2021.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Spotlight on Xiao Zang

Opioid use study is one of the first to assess interventions addressing solitary opioid use

A recent article published in *JAMA Network Open* highlights opioid modeling research by Xiao Zang. The simulation modeling study evaluated the potential impact of expanded naloxone distribution, supported by the opioid settlement in Rhode Island, on reducing opioid overdose deaths. It also examined how interventions to reduce solitary opioid use could enhance its effectiveness.

The study is one of the first to assess interventions addressing solitary opioid use, a widespread yet understudied issue. It builds on a previous modeling study in Rhode Island (Zang as the lead author) that compared different naloxone distribution strategies, associated costs, and geospatial health equity impacts. To address the escalating opioid crisis, Zang and colleagues are currently applying this modeling approach to evaluate naloxone-related interventions in Massachusetts and New York City.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Driving Change Through Community Engagement

Our faculty engage with communities to study and improve health.

Our faculty engage with state legislators on a variety of topics. This past year HPM faculty members **Lynn Blewett**, **Ezra Golberstein**, and **Sayeh Nikpay** organized and led a comprehensive briefing on Medicaid Managed Care in Minnesota, focusing on the importance of Medicaid and its impacts on key stakeholders, including enrollees, providers, pharmacies, and insurers.

Shekinah Fashaw-Walters was appointed to the AcademyHealth Board of Directors. The board is made up of multidisciplinary members from academia, membership organizations, and healthcare delivery systems. Members bring expertise in health equity, primary care, structural racism, healthcare workforce, aging, and chronic disease management.

Carrie Henning-Smith and the SPH Rural Health Research Center examine multiple health-related issues experienced by rural populations, including medical debt, aging in place, housing, and elder abuse. Henning-Smith also collaborates with researchers on topics including rural healthcare workforce shortages and on supporting the mental health of farmers and farm families. Her work aims to advance health equity across geographic lines and to build on strengths and assets that abound in rural places.

Manka Nkimbeng, along with other SPH researchers and the African Career, Education and Resources, Inc. (ACER) produced *African Made: Memory and Dementia Education by and for the African Immigrant Community*. Designed to increase awareness and understanding, this booklet comprehensively describes dementia and includes specific, culturally tailored recommendations for caring for people with the disease.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Research Centers

The Division of Health Policy and Management is home to 8 research centers. Major public and private funders frequently select us to lead critical research, training, and policy development projects.

The State Health Access Data Assistance Center (ADAC)

SHADAC is a multidisciplinary health policy research center with a focus on using data to inform state policy and improve health and health policy. They accomplish this by engaging in applied research, evaluation, analysis, and technical support on a broad range of topics, including Medicaid policy, healthcare cost and access, substance use disorder, and health equity. **Lynn Blewett** serves as SHADAC director with **Elizabeth Lukanen** as deputy director. In 2023-2024, SHADAC:

- Conducted the biennial Minnesota Health Access (MNHA) Survey, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). This large-scale, state-based population survey collects information on health insurance in Minnesota and how Minnesotans access and use healthcare services. Forthcoming research using the 2023 survey data will highlight findings related to health insurance discrimination.
- Increased user ability of the State Health Compare Tool to explore measures by various subgroups, especially by race and ethnicity. SHADAC also focused on other emerging policy issues and topics, including sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection practices and standards, monitoring data and information on the opioid epidemic, and creating explanatory blogs and other resources for users on the SHADAC website.
- Supported states through the State Health and Value Strategies Technical Assistance Provider program. The focus in 2023-2024 was the "unwinding" of the pandemic era Medicaid continuous coverage requirement by supporting the development of enrollment projections and using data to evaluate and monitor impacts. This year's work also centered around data collection and health equity, examining how the collection and monitoring of SOGI, disability, and race, ethnicity, and native/immigrant data can perpetuate disparities in health care and discussing what opportunities exist to improve the collection and analysis of these data.
- Partnered with the SPH Cannabis Research Center to study the public health implications of Minnesota's 2023 legalization law, and
- Hired SHADAC's first Public Health Administration and Policy Health Equity fellow, a key member of another major SHADAC and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation project this year – the Medicaid Equity Monitoring Tool.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review
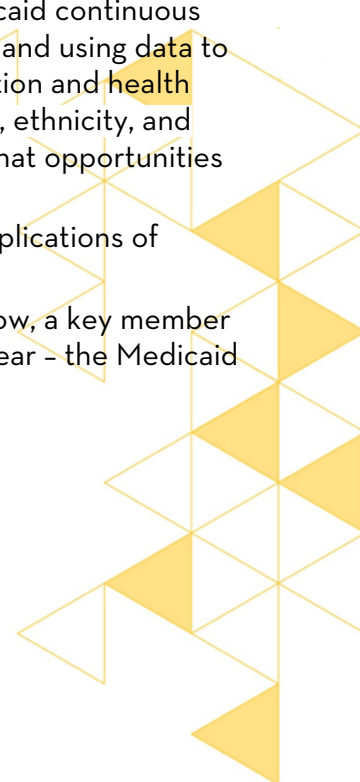
Research Data Assistance Center (ResDAC)

Established in 1996, ResDAC is funded by a contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ResDAC provides technical assistance to academic, non-profit, for-profit, and government researchers interested in using CMS data to improve health outcomes and innovate new programs and services. ResDAC is directed by **Nathan Shippee**.

The past year was one of major growth and process improvement for ResDAC.

- ResDAC greatly expanded the size and scope of the CMS contract, adding over $4M to the total award and eight new positions: two additional technical advisors, two additional executive advisors, three data processing associates (new role), and one web content generalist.
- ResDAC is now considered a "one-stop shop" assisting researchers with all Enterprise Privacy Policy Engine (EPPE) system, previously a task completed at CMS.
- ResDAC also made several changes to its organizational structure to accommodate its new functions, roles, and people, including promotions and changes to supervisor assignments, and personnel organization for system robustness.

ResDAC remains responsible for a striking volume of work. Over the past 12 months, ResDAC teams:

- Answered over 4200 individual questions from researchers helping them navigate and understand CMS policies;
- Assisted researchers to submit 414 new study requests to CMS, 716 requests to amend existing DUAs, and 567 access amendments for Virtual Research Data Center (VRDC) DUAs;
- Completed 647 DUA maintenance actions (extensions, closures, contact changes, etc.);
- Completed data entry on 380 approved DUAs;
- Hosted a four-session workshop series on Medicare data for research, and
- Remained committed to sharing expertise and information via technical briefs and other formats, including work by several faculty and two full-time analysts engaged in both user support and deep-dive explorations into the data for methodological and other questions.
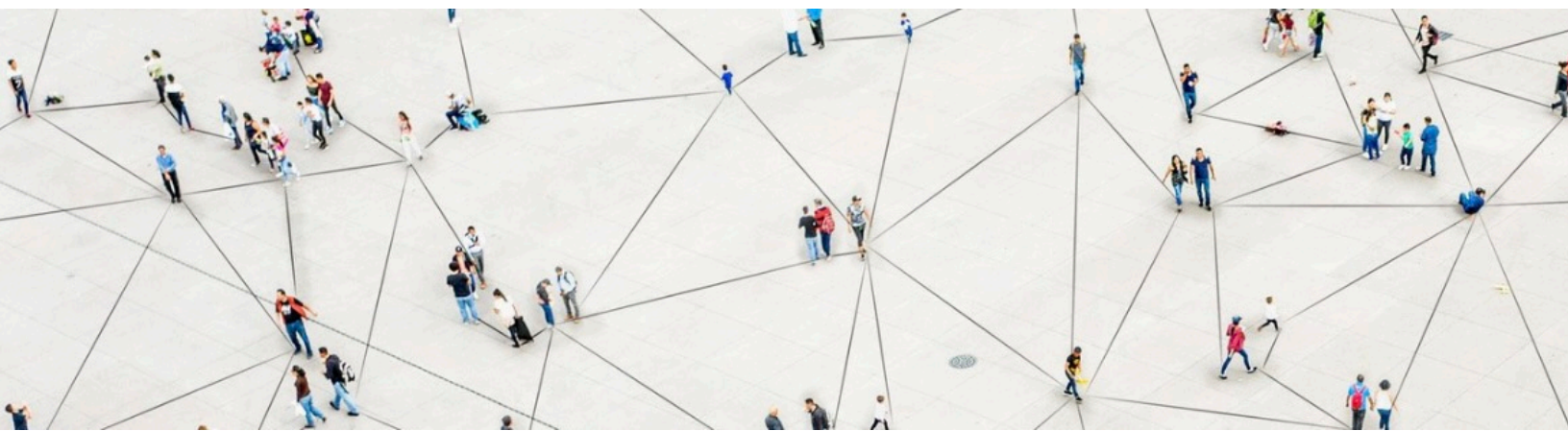
University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Minnesota Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC)

The Minnesota Evidence-based Practice Center, a joint effort between the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis VA Health Care System, focuses on improving healthcare system stewardship and individual health management. **Mary Butler**, EPC co-director, specializes in peer reviewed systematic reviews to synthesize research across a variety of health topics for federal and state entities, professional associations, and foundations. These reviews cover multiple fields, including medicine, psychology, and behavioral health, and inform clinicians, patients, policymakers, and other key stakeholders about the quality of evidence. Since 2002, EPC has been one of nine centers funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). It employs interdisciplinary teams combining expertise from the University's School of Public Health, other departments, and the Minneapolis VA's research centers. EPC believes in sustainable, self-sufficient health systems that value interrelationships, fostering collaborative efforts among staff, students, faculty, and community members to enhance collective understanding of healthcare knowledge. In the past year, EPC has:

- Partnered with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to perform evidence synthesis supporting several professional organizations in the development of clinical guidelines;
- Conducted evidence reviews crucial for the upcoming updates to the Protein Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs), as directed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), and
- Worked jointly with the University of Minnesota Center for Learning Health System Sciences (CLHSS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on evidence synthesis for developing clinical practice guidelines for managing postoperative pain in abdominal laparoscopic surgery.

Midwest Analytics and Disease Modeling Center (MADMC)

This year the Midwest Analytics and Disease Modeling Center was established to improve the availability and accessibility of modeling and analytic tools to support state and local public health decision making during public health emergencies. As one of 13 funded sites across the country, this partnership between the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Electronic Health Records Consortium works alongside the CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA) to support Insight Net, a national outbreak analytics and disease modeling network. MADMC is directed by **Eva Enns**, along with Adams Dudley (UMN Institute for Health Informatics), and Kristin Sweet (Minnesota Department of Health).

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Rural Health Research Center (RHRC)

The University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) conducts policy-relevant research and implements programs to improve the lives of rural residents and families, to advance health equity, and to enhance the vitality of rural communities. The RHRC is directed by **Katy Kozhimannil** in partnership with Deputy Director **Carrie Henning Smith**. RHRC encompasses three distinct rural health-related programs:

- The RHRC Grant is a cooperative agreement funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP), which supports national-scope research on access to and quality of care across the lifespan and social determinants of rural health, using quantitative and qualitative methods. The research is frequently cited in legislation and the center receives frequent invitations to share the findings with public health, policy, clinical and community stakeholders at the state, regional, and national levels.
- The Flex Monitoring Team (FMT), also funded by FORHP, works to evaluate the Flex Program that provides support to over 1,350 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) across the country. FMT completes multiple projects per year, including data analyses and best practices for State Flex Programs and CAHs. This effort is led by Megan Lahr.
- The Rural Health Program, funded by the Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute and the Office of Academic and Clinical Affairs, provides training and support for public health challenges in rural Minnesota and connects local experts with national research and policy work. The Rural Health Program has three components: the Rural Health Equity Postdoctoral Program, Project REACH (Rural Experts Advancing Community Health), and the University of Minnesota Rural Collective.

Pictured below: RHRC friends and team members Ingrid Jacobson, Ben Cahill, Katy Kozhimannil, Shelly Munoz, Carrie Henning-Smith, Katie Ryberg

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity (CARHE)

The Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity aims to understand, measure, and disrupt the impact of racism on health through community engagement, education and training, narrative change, and serving as a trusted resource for policymakers, payers, and the media on issues related to racism and health equity. CARHE is committed to a focus on racism, not race, as a fundamental cause of racial health inequities. The research and outreach undertaken by CARHE faculty and staff is fundamentally fueled by and grounded in love for Black, Indigenous, and racialized people. Rachel Hardeman directs CARHE.

CARHE celebrated its third anniversary in February of 2024. In the 2023-2024 academic year, CARHE experts were featured in many national and international news outlets including *CNN*, *STAT*, *Science*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post,* and *TIME*.

Researchers engaged in several ongoing projects that center community, analyze the complex and interconnected systems of structural racism, and aim to promote community health. These projects include the "Understanding the Pathways of Policing and the Pandemic to Reproductive Inequities: a Structural Examination (UP·RISE)" study, and the "Bearing Witness: Understanding Racism in the Black Birthing Experience study."

Notable accomplishments in the last academic year:

- CARHE launched the Ignite the Spark Scholars Program, a visiting scholars program that aims to build a critical mass of interdisciplinary scholars focused on measures and approaches to understanding and dismantling structural racism.
- CARHE co-led the launch of the Minnesota Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth (MN DiPC) Act Indigenous birthing learning courses. Developed in a partnership with Diversity Science and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), the MN DiPC anti-bias continuing education training courses focus on the root cause of racial maternal health inequities: racism.
- CARHE and its direct collaborators had scholarly articles published in *Women's Health Issues, Frontiers Epidemiology, Social Science & Medicine,* and *Family & Community Health*.
- The CARHE website earned a national communicator award in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion category.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation (CHAI)

The mission of the Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation is to advance interdisciplinary aging science; create meaningful and immersive educational experiences in aging; build and sustain innovations in care and services; and establish vibrant community, governmental, business, and individual collaborations to promote healthy aging for Minnesotans and people across the country. **Joseph Gaugler** directs the center.

Overall, 2023-2024 was characterized by significant growth, collaboration, and impactful contributions toward building an age-friendly university and promoting healthy aging. Key highlights of the past year include:

- Creation of the Policy Core: CHAI established a dedicated Policy Core, enhancing its capacity to influence aging-related policy and drive positive change at local, state, and national levels. CHAI also has a formal seat on the Minnesota Legislative Task Force on Aging, which was established by the Minnesota legislature to re-envision aging services for Minnesota.
- Collaboration of Special Interest Groups (SIGs): Through robust collaboration among its Special Interest Groups of its Research Core, CHAI strengthened interdisciplinary connections and fostered innovative approaches to aging research and practice.
- Impactful work of the Aging Studies Interdisciplinary Group (ASIG) students: ASIG, part of CHAI's educational core, achieved several milestones including Gerontological Society of America Student Chapter designation, participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, and expanded its podcast, Voices of Aging. They also added an undergraduate student chair to their leadership committee and launched an Interdisciplinary Public Health special interest group with residents of the Pillars senior living community.

Additionally, CHAI maintains its dedication to equity and community engagement, ensuring that all activities incorporate cultural perspectives and uphold principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Center actively participated in special programming, seminars, community outreach, and partnerships to expand its external impact and outreach efforts.

Pictured below: CHAI leadership Tetyana Shippee, Joseph Gaugler, Jason Karlawish (guest speaker), Robbin Frazier, Allycia Wolff

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Center for Public Health Systems (CPHS)

The Center for Public Health Systems supports health departments and practitioners by developing and applying evidence-based public health practices and resources in collaboration with governments, organizations, and communities. It is directed by **JP Leider**.

CPHS has gained national prominence by facilitating implementation of the national Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) framework and a tool to help health departments implement the framework, helping them identify strengths and weaknesses in service delivery and opportunities for future investment and growth.

CPHS continues to support the Minnesota Public Health Corps with content expertise, training, and evaluation to address both the acute capacity needs at public health agencies and to develop a more robust and diverse workforce long-term. The program has grown significantly with over 100 members (68% increase year-to-year) and 52 host sites (53% increase) across Minnesota.

CPHS also continues to support health equity initiatives. In collaboration with the National Association of County and City Health Officials, CPHS developed two toolkits to support local health departments' health equity efforts. One focused on health equity performance measurement and another on hiring and retaining community health workers.

Exciting events and achievements from this year include:

- CPHS led the national 2024 enumeration of the governmental public health workforce, coordinating with other institutions. It is the first major enumeration of the field since 2014 and provides data critical for evaluating the effectiveness of public health capacity-building efforts.
- CPHS and the Consortium of WOrkforce Research in Public Health (CWORPH) — a collaboration of six universities — presented a series of five webinars on findings from Year 1 of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and CDC-funded Public Health Workforce Research Center award. The award includes at least $4.8 million over 5 years to conduct field-building national-level research projects on the U.S. public health workforce.
- The TRaining in Informatics for Underrepresented Minorities in Public Health (TRIUMPH) consortium is in its third year. TRIUMPH was excited to add Morehouse School of Medicine's MPH program to the consortium. Overall, TRIUMPH has placed 24 students in public health informatics (PHI) internships, trained 102 governmental public health workers as part of the Public Health Informatics Institute, and educated 488 undergraduate and graduate students on the fundamentals of PHI.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Research Training Programs

Minnesota Learning Health System Mentored Career Development Program (MN-LHS)
Since its inception in 2018, the [Minnesota Learning Health System Mentored Career Development Program](#) (MN-LHS) has trained embedded researchers to conduct patient-centered research and improve healthcare within learning health systems. In partnership with the Center for Learning Health System Sciences (CLHSS) the program was funded through a new AHRQ/PCORI P30 mechanism aimed at training embedded LHS scholars and building research capabilities to support trainees. This five-year award expands training opportunities in learning health system sciences, builds on CLHSS research capabilities, and augments health system partnerships in Minnesota (core partners include Fairview Health Services, Essentia Health, HealthPartners, Hennepin Healthcare, and Minneapolis VA Health Care System). Timothy Beebe co-directs the program with Dr. Genevieve Melton-Meaux of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Awards

This year faculty, staff, and students were recognized for their research, leadership, and determination to improve population health.

Faculty

Jean Abraham received the 2024 Teaching Excellence Award in Health Policy from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA). The award recognizes faculty from AUPHA who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments at the undergraduate, masters, and doctoral level.

Shekinah Fashaw-Walters received the 2024 AcademyHealth Alice S. Hersh Emerging Leader Award for her early career health services research contributions and exceptional promise for future contributions to the field.

Rachel Hardeman of the Center for Antiracism Research for Health Equity was recognized as one of TIME100's most influential people of the year for her innovative work to end the maternal care crisis in the U.S. by addressing the root causes of structural racism.

Hannah Neprash received the 2024 McKnight Presidential Fellow Award, one of the University of Minnesota's highest honors. She is recognized for her accomplishments in health economics and health services. The program is a three-year award given to exceptional UMN faculty to recognize their accomplishments and support their ongoing research and scholarship.

Manka Nkimbeng was named a 2024 Bush Foundation Fellow in recognition of her impactful, community-engaged research focused on immigrant populations and dementia awareness. This year Manka also received the University of Minnesota School of Public Health 2024 Outstanding Health Equity Impact Award.

Tetyana Pylypiv Shippee was awarded the 2024 Dutch Kastenbaum Gerontologist of the Year award by Minnesota Gerontology (MGS) for her work in social gerontology.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Awards

Staff

Ryan Armbruster received the University of Minnesota School of Public Health 2024 Charles N. Hewitt Creative Teaching Award for creative, innovative, and effective teaching. He teaches Climate Change and Healthcare Organizations, Innovation in Healthcare Services, and the Healthcare Leadership Capstone.

Jocelyn Leung received the Climate and Health Equity fellowship from Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate. The award is designed for health professionals from a variety of disciplines who are concerned about the public health impacts of climate change

Students

HSRP&A PhD student **Mateo Frumholtz** was selected for the very competitive American Public Health Association (APHA) 2024 Student Think Tank Fellowship. Six students from across the U.S. were selected from among 200 applicants to work with the editor and staff of the *American Journal of Public Health* for one year. This spring, Mateo also coached the winning 2024 UMN Global Health Case competition team. They advanced to the international competition in March 2024.

Research Centers

The State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) received the School of Public Health 2024 Teamwork Excellence Award. The award recognizes an outstanding team or work group for their sustained track record of excellent contributions to the School of Public Health and their division.

Pictured below: SHADAC team members Elizabeth Lukanen, Robert Hest, Elliot Walsh, Andrea Stewart, Karen Turner, Grace Liu, Lacey Hartman, Kathleen Call, Lynn Blewett, Christina Worrall, and Colin Planalp

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Alumni Spotlights

Our alumni are committed to the School of Public Health and engage in local, national, and global efforts to improve population health.

Gina Hawley, MHA '05

Gina Hawley currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics and its related entities. As a senior leader, Gina ensures that the organization achieves the highest levels of quality outcomes, patient satisfaction, and financial performance through a commitment to operational efficiency across the entire patient care platform. Gina has academic health system experience from her previous roles at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) and Johns Hopkins Medicine. Hawley also holds a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) in Health Management and Leadership from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is an adjunct faculty instructor at OHSU where she teaches Operations Management and Quality Improvement to MS and MBA students.

"The MHA program provides real-life application. Students visit healthcare organizations within the Twin Cities and learn directly from actual leaders within the field. The MHA problem solving method provides a great framework on how to tackle the tough challenges we face in health. I still us parts of the method today!"

Natalie Jackson, Executive MPH-PHAP '21

Natalie Jackson is the director of program and training for the Peace Corps in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Having served in the Peace Corps in rural Zambia as a community health volunteer twenty years prior, it was a dream come true to join the organization that formed the foundation to her development and intercultural communication. Her duties cover volunteer site identification and preparation, training, program assessments and improvements, and relationship-building with key stakeholders.

Natalie uses the skills gained in the executive MPH-PHAP program for budgeting and continuous quality improvement on a daily basis. Enrolling in the program during the COVID pandemic taught her the power of virtual collaboration and connectivity, no matter where you are in the world.

The public health issue Natalie cares about most is adolescent health, particularly for girls and young women in sub-Saharan Africa. She believes that girls and young women who are equipped with the social, health and economic protective assets needed to thrive in life will have greater agency to delay early marriage and pregnancy, stay in school, avoid risky income, and protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

"The Executive MPH-PHAP program reinforced what I learned early on in my career: the power of community in the workplace."

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Alumni Spotlights

Gilbert Gonzales, HSRP&A PhD '15

Gilbert Gonzales is an associate professor at the Center for Medicine, Health and Society, the Program for Public Policy Studies, and the Department of Health Policy at Vanderbilt University. His research examines how public policies affect health outcomes, access to care, and health disparities for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) populations. He also studies the role of healthcare reforms on vulnerable populations. His research has appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Pediatrics*, *JAMA*, *Health Affairs*, *The Milbank Quarterly*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"The PhD program gave me the skills to succeed in academic research, such as using timely data and rigorous methods to answer the country's most pressing health equity challenges—especially as they relate to LGBTQ+ health."

Gonzales also teaches health policy courses to undergraduate students, and he mentors undergraduate, graduate, and medical students interested in health disparities research. In 2016, he was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Research on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for his research on LGBTQ+ health at Vanderbilt University. Last year, he was awarded the 2023 Vanderbilt Chancellor's Cup for his contribution to undergraduate relationships between students and faculty outside the classroom.

Alumni Awards

Trent Green, MHA '97, was named a 2024 TIME100 Health Innovator by the editors of *Time* magazine. Green, is CEO of the Amazon-owned healthcare company One Medical. Green previously served as One Medical's chief operations officer, where he led the company's care delivery operations including primary care office, virtual care, and administrative services operations. Prior to joining One Medical, Green was at Legacy Health in Portland, Oregon where he led operations for six hospitals and more than 70 primary care, specialty and urgent care clinics.

Green took over as CEO shortly after One Medical was acquired by Amazon for $4 billion in 2023. His next priority for One Medical is further integrating the two companies by combining One Medical's primary care with Amazon's low-cost, fast-delivery, online pharmacy service. He told *Time* that, thanks to Amazon's reach, One Medical patients in more rural areas may be able to complement One Medical's telehealth services with in-person care from local providers partnering with the company.

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Faculty
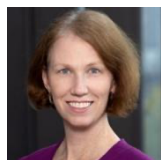
Jean Abraham, PhD
James A. Hamilton Chair in Health Policy and Management
Professor and Division Head
Private health insurance, impact of the Affordable Care Act, employer wellness programs, chronic disease prevention and management
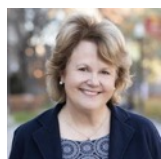

Timothy Beebe, PhD
James A. Hamilton Professor
Survey methods, patient reported outcome measurement, access for vulnerable populations, learning health systems research

Bjorn Berg, PhD
Associate Professor
Healthcare operations, scheduling in healthcare, stochastic optimization, simulation

Lynn Blewett, PhD
Professor
Healthcare policy, access to care, Medicaid/CHIP, immigrant health, survey research, international health systems
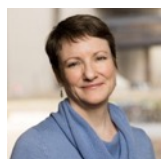
Mary Butler, PhD, MBA
Associate Professor
Evidence-based practice, evidence synthesis methods, learning health system cycle, evidence-based research, knowledge generation

Kathleen Call, PhD
Professor
Health insurance, Medicaid, insurance-based discrimination, equitable access to care, survey research, community collaborative research

Caitlin Carroll, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health economics, health policy, hospital markets, rural health care, payment reform, physician behavior

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review
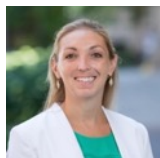
Dori Cross, PhD
Associate Professor
Health information technology, health information exchange, handoffs and transitions of care, delivery system reform, implementation science, mixed methods

Janette Dill, PhD
Associate Professor
Health care workforce, direct care workers, human resource practices and policies, career mobility in health care organizations

Bryan Dowd, PhD
Professor
Health Policy analysis, health economics, public finance, quantitative methods

Eva Enns, PhD
Associate Professor
Mathematical modeling, decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, economic evaluation, network analysis, model calibration, infectious disease, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, COVID-19

Shekinah Fashaw-Walters, PhD, MSPH
Assistant Professor
Post-acute care, long-term services and supports, home- and community-based care, structural racism, social determinants of health, health equity, access to care, quality of care, colorblind and racism-conscious health policies
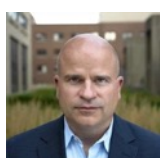
Joseph Gaugler, PhD
Professor and Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging
Distinguished McKnight University Professor
Alzheimer's disease and long-term care, longitudinal ramifications of family care for persons with dementia and other chronic conditions, community-based and psychosocial services for older adults with dementia and their caregiving families
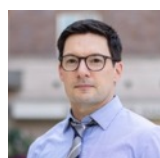
Stuart Grande, PhD
Associate Professor
Patient-provider communication, health utilization behavior, shared decision making, knowledge translation, health disparities among Black males, community-based participatory research, qualitative methods

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review
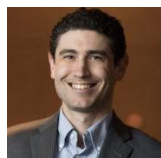
Ezra Golberstein, PhD
Associate Professor
Health economics, health care policy, mental health, quantitative methods, health insurance, provider incentives
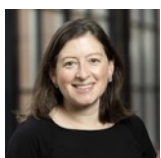
Sarah Gollust, PhD
Professor
Politics of health policy, health equity, public opinion, mass communication, news media influence on public health, content analysis, survey research

Rachel Hardeman, PhD, MPH
Professor and Blue Cross Endowed Professor of Health and Racial Equity
Maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health, health equity, structural racism, population health, medical education

Carrie Henning-Smith, PhD, MPH, MSW
Associate Professor
Rural health, aging, long-term care, disability, health policy, health equity, social/structural/political drivers of health, social well-being

Peter Huckfeldt, PhD
Associate Professor and Vernon E. Weckwerth Professor in Healthcare Administration Leadership
Aging, chronic diseases, post-acute care, Medicare, health insurance, consumer directed health plans, diabetes, health economics, health care provider organization and payments

J'Mag Karbeah, PhD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Structural racism, social determinants of health, health equity, population health sciences, maternal and child health, adolescent health, medical education

Katy Kozhimannil, PhD, MPA
Professor and Distinguished McKnight University Professor
Health care policy, maternal and child health, rural health, health care quality, policy evaluation, health equity

Karen Kuntz, ScD
Professor
Chronic diseases, methods, decision analysis, simulation modeling, cost-effectiveness analysis, cancer screening

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review
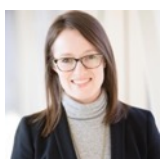
JP Leider, PhD
Associate Professor
Public health systems research including workforce and finance, evaluation, disaster response, and the ethics of resource allocation
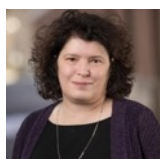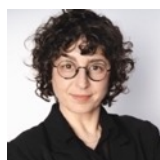
Donna McAlpine, PhD
Associate Professor
Equity, mental health, methods, mental health services, race and ethnic inequities, survey methods, community engagement

Hannah Neprash, PhD
Associate Professor
Health economics, health policy, quasi-experimental methods, public insurance programs, physician behavior, payment and delivery system reform

Sayeh Nikpay, PhD
Associate Professor
Health care policy, health and labor economics, economic demography, 340B drug pricing program, safety-net providers

### Manka Nkimbeng, PhD
Assistant Professor
Minority aging, immigrant health, transnational aging, health equity, cognitive function, physical function, cultural adaptation, cultural humility, community engaged research and community based participatory research, intervention development
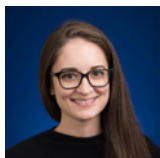
Paige Nong, PhD
Assistant Professor
Health information technology, public trust, health data, structural racism, artificial intelligence, clinical decision support, learning health systems,
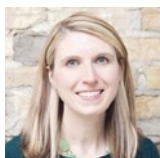
Helen Parsons, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor
Cancer survivorship, administrative/claims data, health policy, adolescents and young cancer survivors, Medicare/Medicaid, chronic disease, quality of care

Todd Rockwood, PhD
Associate Professor
Equity, measurement, survey research, social class

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Nathan Shippee, PhD
Associate Professor
Patient and system complexity, chronic disease management, health care delivery, mental health, barriers to care, diabetes, depression, quality of care, publicly insured and low-income (Medicare/Medicaid) populations, learning health system

Tetyana Shippee, PhD
Professor
Aging, equity, methods, quality of life, long-term care, racial disparities, life course, cumulative inequality, Alzheimer's disease and long-term care quality, community-engagement

Katie White, EdD, MBA
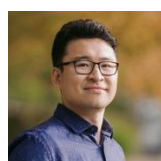*Associate Professor and Wegmiller Professor in Healthcare Administration.*
Healthcare organizations, health system organization change initiatives, evaluation of delivery system innovations
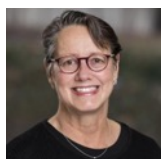
Rebecca Wurtz, MD, MPH
Professor
Immunization barriers, electronic laboratory reporting, population health data standards, "data exhaust," and open health data
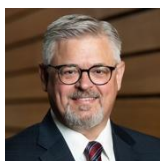
Xiao Zang, PhD
Assistant Professor
Simulation modeling, model calibration, cost-effectiveness analysis, distributional cost-effectiveness analysis, quasi-experimental methods, HIV/AIDS, opioid overdose
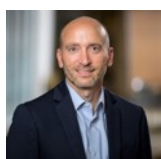
Senior Lecturers and Senior Fellows

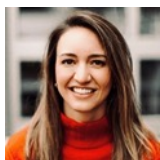### Matt Anderson, JD
Senior Lecturer
Government and nonprofit organizations, legal experience in litigation and in-house counsel, healthcare consulting

### Ryan Armbruster, MHA
Senior Fellow
Healthcare innovation, healthcare service design, climate change and healthcare organizations

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Brooke Dressen, MHA
Senior Lecturer
Healthcare administration summer residency and clerkship, career coaching, student mentor, and clerkship advisor
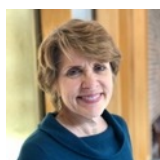
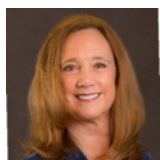

Ruth Mickelsen, JD, MA, MPH
Senior Lecturer
Health law and policy, board governance, public health ethics, bioethics, management ethics

Justine Mishek, MHA
Senior Lecturer
Healthcare administration problem solving, experiential learning

Kim Simensen, MHA, MBA
Senior Lecturer
Healthcare finance, strategy, mergers and acquisitions

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review

Division of Health Policy and Management

sph.umn.edu/academics/divisions/hpm/

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

Health Policy
and Management

2023-2024
Year in Review