DEPARTMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH (GRAD)

Contact Information
Department of Maternal and Child Health
http://www.sph.unc.edu/mhch

Carolyn Halpern, Chair

Maternal and Child Health is a department within the Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Following the faculty member’s name is a section number that students should use when registering for independent studies, reading, research, and thesis and dissertation courses with that particular professor.

Professors
Carolyn Halpern (32), Adolescent Health and Development, Sexual Health and Research, Methodology
Sandra L. Martin (40), Violence, Behavioral and Emotion Health of Children and Families, Substance Use, Prison Health
Herbert Peterson (01), International Health, Reproductive Health
John Thorp Jr., Preterm Birth, Birth Asphyxia, Episiotomy, Community Child Health

Associate Professors
Lewis Margolis (43), Child Health Policy, Injury Epidemiology, Community-Based Public Health
Alison Stuebe (69), Breastfeeding, Maternal Depression, Lactation, Preterm Birth

Clinical Professors
Pierre Barker
Vijaya Hogan (76), Perinatal Epidemiology, Preterm Delivery, Infant Mortality, Health Disparities

Research Professors
Dean Fixsen, Science, Practice, and Policy Implementation
Ilene Speizer (15), Unintended Pregnancy Prevention, Evaluation of Reproductive Health Programs in Developing Countries, Adolescent Health, Male/Couple Involvement, Gender-Based Violence

Professor of the Practice of Public Health
Diane Rowley (45), Health Disparities

Research Associate Professors
Sian Curtis (49), Contraceptive Use Dynamics, International Reproductive and Maternal Health, Monitoring and Evaluation Methods for Population and Health Programs, Multilevel Models, Statistical Demography
Kavita Singh Ongechi (10), Child Survival, Displaced Populations, and HIV/AIDS Orphans

Clinical Associate Professor
Dorothy Cilenti (36), Public Health Departments, Systems Development
Claudia Fernandez (31), Leadership Development, Leadership Issues in Healthcare and Related Fields
Thomas Ivester, Critical Care Obstetrics, Health Care Improvement, High-Risk Pregnancy
Rohit Ramaswamy, Methods and Tools for Implementation of Global Health Programs, Quality Improvement of Health Systems, Technology for Workforce Capacity Building

Clinical Assistant Professor
Janine Barden-O’Fallon, Family Planning, Reproductive Health, International Health
Catherine Sullivan, Breastfeeding, Lactation, Nutrition Education and Support Services

Research Assistant Professors
Gustavo Angeles (75), Health Economics, Research Methods, Program Evaluation, International Health
Sheelah Bloom (73), HIV/AIDS, Reproductive Health, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity, Gender Context of Reproductive Health
Sherri Green (25), Maternal Health, Public Health Leadership, Substance Abuse, Violence Prevention
Dana Hagele, Pediatrics and Child Abuse Pediatrics
Jon M. Hussey (34), Child Abuse and Neglect, Child and Adolescent Health, Injury Prevention, Population
Tamar Ringel-Kulka (41), Functional Foods, Probiotics, Obesity, Breastfeeding, Children and Adolescents Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Meghan Shanahan (67), Diagnosis and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect
Christine Tucker, Reproductive Health, Qualitative and Quantitative Research
Bharathi Zvara (55), Parent-Child Relationships, Childhood Trauma

Adjunct Professors
Bruce Barron, Mathematical Models of Biological Systems
Jose Belizan, International Maternal and Child Health, Maternal Mortality and Morbidity
Pouru Bhiwandi, Obstetrics and Gynecology, International Women’s Health, Maternal and Child Health
Dorothy Browne, High-Risk Behaviors (Drugs, HIV/AIDs, Sexual Behavior, etc.) among African-American Adolescents and Adults
Paul A. Buescher, MCH Infant Health, Poverty and Health, MCH Program Evaluation
Judith Fortney, Maternal Morbidity and Mortality in Developing Countries
Robert Foss, Health Behavior, Health Communication, Health Policy, Injury Prevention, Public Health Practice
Denise Halfors, Adolescent Health, Community Prevention Programs, Substance Abuse Prevention, Child and Adolescent Mental Health
Marcia Herman-Giddens, Child Abuse, Child Fatalities, Alternative Healing
Roy Jacobstein, Design, Delivery, Management of Clinical Reproductive Health, Family Planning, Child Health in Low-Resource Settings
Marian Johnson-Thompson
Michael Kafriessen, Clinical Reproductive Health
Robert Meyer, Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology, Birth Defects Surveillance, Program Evaluations
Roland E. Mhlanga, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Adjunct Associate Professors

Mary Jane Benson
Deborah Billings, International Family Health
Martha Christine Carlough
Jennifer Culhane, Preterm Birth, High-Risk Maternal Behavior, Societal Impact on Prenatal Care
Abigail English, Adolescent Health Law
Alfredo Fort, International Reproductive Health in Latin America, Program Research and Evaluation
Jack Leiss, Women, Children, and Environmental Health; Pregnancy and Birth Outcomes, Disparities
Cathy Melvin
Kathryn E. (Beth) Moracco, Women's Health, Violence against Women, Program Planning and Evaluation
Robert Murphy, Child Maltreatment, Mental Health Services for Child Trauma Victims
Lucy Siegel, Program Development
Paige Smith, Breastfeeding, Violence Prevention, Women's Health
John Stanback, International Family Health
Jane Stein, Women's Health in Developing Countries, Social Determinants of Health, Evaluation
Nancy Williamson, Operations Research: Planning, Implementing, and Evaluating Reproductive Health Programs; Evidence-Based Public Health; Research to Practice; Integration of HIV and Contraceptive Services; Gender Sensitivity of Development Programs

Adjunct Assistant Professors

Joy Baumgartner, Global MCH, Mental Health, Health Services Research, Evaluation
Dalia Brahmi, International Family Planning
Colleen Bridger, Global Health, Health Administration, Health Care Delivery, Health Communication, Maternal Health, Public Health Leadership, Public Health Practice, Reproductive Health, Women's Health
Pauline Brooks
Cecilia Casanueva, Child Abuse and Neglect
Cynthia Cassell
Caroline Whitehead Doherty, Primary Health Care for Farm Workers, Health, Hispanic Health, Reproductive Health
Sandra Echeverria
Jean Fotso
Deborah Gibbs
Phillip Graham
Joumana Haidar, Implementation Science
Elaine Hart-Brothers, Women's Health, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Education and Prevention
Linda Ippolito
Dilshad Jaff
Heidi Bart Johnston, Reproductive Health
Eileen Kugler, Community Health Programs
Anu Kumar, Executive Vice President, Ipas
Wenfred Luseno
Gerri Mattson, Title V, Medical Home, Transition
Elizabeth McClure, International Health Studies, Stillbirth in Low-Income Countries
Kara Mcgee, Infectious Disease, Maternal Minority Health, Public Health Practice, Rural Health, STDs
Stephen Mills
Savithri Nageswaram, CSHCN, National Survey Analysis
Priya Nanda, Research, Programs, Policies Associated With Reproductive Health, Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction
Sandra Naoom, Implementation Science
Constance Newman
McLean Pollock
Heidi Reynolds, Health Information Systems Strengthening, Evaluation
Catherine Rohweder, Dissemination and Implementation Science
Catherine Sanford, Overdose, Pain Management
Elizabeth Tolley, Contraceptive and Reproductive Technologies, Pregnancy in Microcide Clinical Trial Research
Stephanie Triantafillou
Nana Twum-Danso, Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Global Health Policy, Strategy, Development, Quality Improvement, Health Systems Strengthening
Sarah Verbiest, Maternal and Infant Care

Lecturers

Kathryn Anderson, Biostatistics
Jacqueline Resnick, Research Training, Proposal Development

Faculty Emeriti

Trude Bennett
Anita M. Farel
Jonathan B. Kotch
Miriam Labbok

MHCH

Advanced Undergraduate and Graduate-level Courses

MHCH 605. Survey Course on Breastfeeding and Public Health. 3 Credits.
This survey course will briefly cover the principal topics in this broad field of knowledge, including domestic and global issues.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 610. Issues in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. For students outside the department of MCH who desire a survey of current issues and programs in maternal and child health. Three lecture hours per week.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 611. Nutrition across the Life Cycle. 3 Credits.
This course covers nutrition during the life cycle. Units include women during preconception, pregnancy, and lactation; infancy; childhood; adolescence; and older adults (65+). Nutrient and energy needs, assessment of nutritional status, and cultural and socioeconomic barriers are discussed for each phase.
Requisites: Prerequisite, NUTR 400.
Grading status: Letter grade.
Same as: NUTR 611.
MHCH 625. Injury as a Public Health Problem. 1 Credit.
This course considers the causes and consequences of traumatic injury and dilemmas in injury research and prevention. This one-credit course consists of 10 class sessions of 75 minutes each over the first five weeks of the semester.
Requisites: Pre- or corequisite, EPID 600.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 625, HBEH 625.

MHCH 626. Intentional Injury as a Public Health Problem. 1 Credit.
This one-credit course considers the causes and consequences of intentional injury and dilemmas in injury research and prevention. The course meets once a week for 75 minutes starting the sixth week of the semester. Students may enroll concurrently in EPID 627.
Requisites: Corequisite, EPID 625.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 626, HBEH 626.

MHCH 627. Unintentional Injury as a Public Health Problem. 1 Credit.
This one-credit course considers the causes and consequences of unintentional injury and dilemmas in injury research and prevention. The course meets once a week for 75 minutes starting the sixth week of the semester.
Requisites: Corequisite, EPID 625.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: EPID 627, HBEH 627.

MHCH 664. Globalization and Health. 3 Credits.
Globalization–its economic, environmental, political, technological, institutional, and sociocultural dimensions–historically and currently contributes to beneficial and adverse effects on population, community, and family and individual health.
Grading status: Letter grade
Same as: HPM 664.

MHCH 665. Introduction to Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. 1 Credit.
Eliminating health disparities is a national goal for improving the health of Americans. Little to no progress has been made on eliminating disparities among racial/ethnic subpopulations compared to the population of the United States. This course treats basic concepts about the origins of and contributing factors for health disparities.
Grading status: Letter grade

MHCH 680. Global Sexual and Reproductive Health. 1 Credit.
Featuring international experts from UNC-Chapel Hill and Triangle-based nongovernmental organizations, this course will offer a series of lectures, panel discussions, and debates to inform students’ critical thinking on key public health issues in global sexual and reproductive health.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 685. Human Sexuality. 1 Credit.
Through lectures and panel discussions this course will use a life span framework to examine selected aspects of sexual development, including perspectives on sexuality; the physical self; sexual attraction, behavior, and relationships; and the implications of these factors for physical and mental health. No prerequisites; all students are welcome.
Grading status: Letter grade.

MHCH 690. Special Topics in Maternal Health and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics in maternal health and child health. Content will vary from semester to semester.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics; 12 total credits. 4 total completions.
Grading status: Letter grade.

Graduate-level Courses

MHCH 700. MHCH Planning and Evaluation. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Limited to residential students in public health. This course will familiarize students with basic concepts and methodologies required for effective public health program planning and evaluation in a variety of settings, both domestic and global. The majority of this course is taught online.
Same as: PUBH 700.

MHCH 701. Foundations of Maternal and Child Health. 4 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. This course introduces the major issues affecting the health and well-being of women during the reproductive years, infants, children, and adolescents in domestic and international settings. First semester of a two-semester course.

MHCH 702. Foundations of Maternal and Child Health. 4 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Second part of a two-part course that introduces the major issues affecting the health and well-being of women during the reproductive years, infants, children and adolescents in domestic and international settings. Second semester of a two-semester course.

MHCH 704. Critical Review of an Infant Feeding Issue. 3 Credits.
This independent study will include selection of a research area that would allow preparation of a coauthored paper for peer-review publication on an approved subject related to infant and young child feeding and care and associated maternal health and nutrition issues.

MHCH 705. International Family Planning. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, graduate study in MHCH. Permission of the instructor. Analysis of the family planning movement, its policies, operations and research, with emphasis on developing countries. Three lecture hours a week.

MHCH 707. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health: A Population Perspective. 3 Credits.
This seminar course explores health challenges faced by LGBT populations. Discussions will span a variety of health behaviors and outcomes, determinants of health, developmental stages, identities, and settings. Students will be able to identify conceptual frameworks and considerations relevant in LGBT health research and practice.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit.
Same as: HPM 707.

MHCH 712. Program Assessment in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Offers an opportunity for students to explore in greater depth a selected MCH practice topic. Students will learn how to provide consultation about a selected program activity.

MHCH 713. Research Methods in Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. The art and science of MCH research, with an emphasis on applied survey research. Student groups will design and carry out a small study, and present their findings in a poster presentation. Focuses on assessment of MCH population characteristics, secondary data analysis, and the evaluation of MCH programs. A practicum-based course. Three lecture hours per week.

MHCH 713L. Research and Evaluation Methods in Maternal and Child Health Lab. 1 Credit.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. The MHCH 713 lab, which is a companion course to MHCH 713, introduces students to statistical analysis using Stata. One hour and 15 minutes of lab per week.
Requisites: Corequisite, MHCH 713.
MHCH 715. Maternal and Child Health Management. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Students become familiar with organizational processes, management principles, and tools required for effective management of health programs and facilities. A variety of learning techniques will be used. Three lecture hours a week.

MHCH 716. International Family Planning and Reproductive Health. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Course provides overview of critical issues including major theoretical frameworks, patterns and trends over time, and overview of history of family planning and reproductive health policy development. Three lecture hours per week.

MHCH 717. Field Training in Maternal and Child Health. 2-8 Credits.
A faculty-supervised field experience in maternal and child health research, community practice, program planning, and evaluation. Students are supervised on-site by department-approved field instructor. An additional field fee of $350 is assessed. Minimum of six weeks.

MHCH 718. Concurrent Field Training in Maternal and Child Health. 1-5 Credits.
MHCH majors only. An elective, faculty-supervised field experience in maternal and child health research, community practice, program planning, and evaluation. Students are supervised on-site by department-approved field instructor. Students choosing this elective are not exempt from MHCH 717. Variable number of hours.

MHCH 720. Services for Children with Chronic Conditions. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. This course focuses on the design, organization, and delivery of services for children with special needs and their families, and examines current program development and public policies. Participants analyze the range of services needed by these children.

MHCH 722. Global Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
This course covers the main causes of maternal and under-five morbidity and mortality in developing countries and also the interventions, policies, and research which address these causes. Emphasis is placed on both distal and proximate determinants, measurement and indicators, and conceptual frameworks.

MHCH 723. Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation of MCH Programs. 3 Credits.
This course provides the students with the basic concepts and methodologies needed to monitor and evaluate programs in maternal and child health both domestically and internationally.

MHCH 725. Injury as a Public Health Problem. 3 Credits.
This course considers the causes and consequences of traumatic injury within developmental, social, and economic contexts, and dilemma in injury prevention. Injuries associated with transportation, violence, and the home and occupational environments are included. Three lecture hours per week.

Requisites: Prerequisite, EPID 600.
Same as: HBEH 725.

MHCH 726. Adolescent Health. 3 Credits.
Topics covered include the epidemiology of health problems, developmental issues, health services, and psychosocial influences on adolescent problem behaviors. Course materials are useful for research generation and practical application. Three seminar hours per week.

Same as: HBEH 726.

MHCH 729. Implementation Science for Global Maternal and Child Health. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to implementation science with an emphasis on its application for global MCH. The course will highlight current challenges in global MCH and the role of IS in addressing them.

MHCH 730. Reproductive Health Policy. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor. Participants examine forces that shape social policy relating to reproduction and differential impact of policy based on age and other factors. Focus on global controversies in reproduction/reproductive health services in context of human/women’s rights. Three lecture hours a week.

MHCH 732. Gender-Based Violence. 3 Credits.
The MHCH Gender-Based Violence (GBV) course provides a forum for students to explore contemporary issues in GBV from both a research and practice standpoint. Students will be introduced to a myriad of domestic and international GBV issues, from intimate partner violence and campus sexual assault to sex trafficking.

MHCH 735. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, students must have a master’s or clinical four-year degree, or be in such a degree program to be enrolled in this course. This clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.

MHCH 740. Problems in Maternal and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Prerequisites to be arranged with departmental faculty in each individual case. Two to six hours a week.
Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.

MHCH 745. Applied Methods for Health Transformation Implementation in MCH. 1-3 Credits.
This course is designed to integrate the theory, research literature, and evidence-supported practices that promote population health outcomes in MCH. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) offers opportunities for improving public health systems, health care financing and delivery, and health outcomes for MCH populations.

MHCH 753. Violence Against Women. 3 Credits.
Permission of the instructor for nonmajors. Violence against women is examined as a public health problem. Areas investigated include definitional issues, prevalence of the problem, risk factors and outcomes, and community and medical interventions.

MHCH 756. Addressing Health Inequalities in the United States. 3 Credits.
Disparities in morbidity/mortality in sub-populations continue compared to other United States populations. Course explores contributors to inequalities and identifies strategies to counterbalance contributors to correct inequalities using public health resources.

Same as: PUBH 756.

MHCH 757. Special Child Populations. 3 Credits.
Course focuses on two populations that warrant special attention. By examining these populations in one course, students are exposed to a range of contemporary issues that cut across childhood development.

MHCH 760. Breastfeeding, Public Health, and Feminism. 1 Credit.
A transdisciplinary effort to address feminist perspectives and to emphasize the impact that gendered power dynamics and structured social stratification might offer for public health policies, priorities, and approaches related to breastfeeding. A series of public health constructs currently engaged by breastfeeding programs and policies provide a framework for discussion.
MHCH 765. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding. 3 Credits.
Master’s or clinical four-year degree required. This two-semester clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.

MHCH 766. Clinical Support for Breastfeeding II. 3 Credits.
Master’s or clinical four-year degree required. This two-semester clinical course is structured to provide supervised breastfeeding support education in the context of clinical lactation services and public health practice.

Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 765.

MHCH 790. The Leadership Assessment Workshop. 2 Credits.
Intensive retreat program that introduces students to leadership theory as applied to MCH-Public Health issues. Course will focus on understanding self and others, building organizational culture, and applying leadership theory to MCH issues, among other issues.

Same as: PUBH 790.

MHCH 801. Doctoral Research Seminar: Systematic Review of the Literature & Current Findings from the Field. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the origins of and developments in major maternal and child health policies and programs in order to understand their effects on the health of mothers and children.

Requisites: Prerequisites, MHCH 701 and 702.

MHCH 802. Doctoral Teaching Skills Seminar. 1 Credit.
The goal of this 1-credit hour seminar is for participants to examine and apply the strategies and concepts underlying effective teaching in small groups and the lecture hall. Doctoral students will consider the characteristics of effective teaching and explore how to incorporate these characteristics into their own pedagogy.

MHCH 803. Doctoral Research Skills Colloquium. 1 Credit.
Enrollment in the MCH doctoral program or permission of the instructor for nonmajors and master’s students. This seminar is the second semester of a one-year research skills colloquium for all new doctoral students. The course addresses research, problem definition, proposal design, and development. One-hour seminar a week.

MHCH 816. Applied Quality Improvement Methods for Healthcare and Public Health. 3 Credits.
The course objective is to develop, implement, and test a solution to improve health care or public health delivery, using a model called the Model for Improvement (or MFI). The model uses three questions to scope the improvement project and four steps, Plan-Do-Check-Act, to implement and test solutions.

Same as: PUBH 716, HPM 716.

MHCH 817. Gillings Global Implementation Lab. 2 Credits.
Interdisciplinary, field-based graduate course for teams of students to apply knowledge and experience to design/implement systematic solutions to improve the delivery of public health services in partnership with organizations around the world. Students develop general insights, learn effective implementation practices, and acquire evidence-based applied experience.

Requisites: Corequisite, PUBH 716.

Same as: PUBH 717, HPM 717.

MHCH 840. Maternal and Child Health Doctoral Internship. 1 Credit.
Enrollment in MCH doctoral program required. MCH internship to enhance doctoral training in areas of: Section 1: Teaching; Section 2: Practice; and Section 3: Research.

Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit; may be repeated in the same term for different topics.

MHCH 851. Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. 3 Credits.
Equivalent experience for students lacking the co-requisites.

MHCH 853. Advanced Topics in Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiology. 2 Credits.

MHCH 859. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. 3 Credits.
A survey of theoretical models used in MCH research and program development, and how those models are used to guide the formulation of questions, hypothesis testing, and evaluation. Fall.

Requisites: Prerequisites, doctoral students, permission of the instructor.

MHCH 860. Conceptualization, Design, and Measurement. 3 Credits.
The course follows the research process from the formulation of a research question and the design of a research methodology to the addressing of the question through the design of an appropriate analysis strategy. Three lecture hours a week.

Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 859; Permission of the instructor for nonmajors and master’s students.

MHCH 862. Maternal and Child Health Program Evaluation. 3 Credits.
Required preparation, knowledge of Stata or SAS; proficiency in inferential statistics and multiple regression analysis. Instructor permission required for non-second year MCH doctoral students. Program impact evaluation analytic skills seminar. Topics: selectivity, research designs, instrumental variables, difference-in-differences, fixed and random effects, regression discontinuity, matching, and selection models.

MHCH 885. Health Services/Health Policy Research Methods II. 3 Credits.
An introduction to basic research methods central to maternal and child health policy, including an introduction to basic components of the research process such as developing research questions and conceptual models, and overviews of research designs, quantitative and qualitative analytical methods, primary data collection, and secondary data analysis.

MHCH 886. Health Services/Health Policy Research Methods III. 3 Credits.
A modular course covering applications of selected methods covered in 885. Illustrative applications include implementation science, comparative effectiveness research, issues in mixed-method research, feasibility studies, and the translation of research to policy and practice. Applications are framed in terms of issues related to the MCH population.

Requisites: Prerequisites, MHCH 884 and 885.

MHCH 890. Special Topics in Maternal and Child Health. 1-3 Credits.
Special topics in Maternal and Child Health for graduate students only. Content will vary semester to semester.

Repeat rules: May be repeated for credit. 3 total credits. 3 total completions.
MHCH 892. Interdisciplinary Seminar in Health Disparities. 1 Credit.
This seminar will provide an opportunity for students to synthesize knowledge across disciplines and to develop an interdisciplinary approach to addressing their identified health disparities research topic.
Requisites: Prerequisite, MHCH 756.
Same as: EPID 892.

MHCH 992. Master's (Non-Thesis). 3 Credits.

MHCH 994. Doctoral Research and Dissertation. 3 Credits.