



11th Annual

State of the
Public's
Health

conference

Conference Program

October 27, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
College of Public Health

Agenda

8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration, Refreshments, Poster Viewing

Atrium

9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Welcome + Morning Keynote: Montrece Ransom

Mahler Hall

10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Break

Atrium

11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Morning sessions

Adolescent and young adult mental health in Georgia

Room K/L

Federal COVID-19 Mandates

Room Q

Improving Black maternal and child health outcomes through culturally reflective and respectful care

Room R

12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Lunch

Magnolia Ballroom

1:45 - 2:45 p.m., Afternoon keynote: Marshall Shepherd

Mahler Hall

3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Afternoon sessions

Novel interventions to address health inequities in rural Georgia

Room Q

Valuing and elevating the lived experiences of Atlantans with Equity Stories

Room R

Response efforts to prevent monkeypox transmission: An overview

Room K/L

4:15 - 5:00 p.m., Poster Presentations

Atrium

Keynote Presentations

Morning Keynote

Montrece McNeill Ransom, JD, MPH currently serves as the Director of the National Coordinating Center for Public Health Training at the National Network of Public Health Institutes. Ms. Ransom was appointed as a Presidential Management Fellow and worked at CDC for almost 20 years. For the last 10 years of her service, Ms. Ransom led CDC's public health law related training and workforce development efforts. She received her law degree from the University of Alabama, her MPH from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, and her Executive Leadership Coaching Certification from Georgetown University. In addition, she has received a certificate in training and facilitation from the Association of Talent Development. Ms. Ransom is the ABA Health Law Section's 2019 Champion of Diversity and Inclusion Awardee, and the 2017 recipient of the American Public Health Association Jennifer Robbins Award for the Practice of Public Health Law. She is the President-Elect of the American Society for Law, Medicine, and Ethics and serves on the Advisory Committee for the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power and Potential.

Ms. Ransom will be discussing issues of health equity and incorporating equity into public health practice.

Afternoon Keynote

Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd is a leading international expert in weather and climate and is the Georgia Athletic Association Distinguished Professor of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Georgia. He directs UGA's Atmospheric Sciences Program and is the Associate Director for Climate and Outreach in its Institute for Resilient Infrastructure Systems (IRIS). Dr. Shepherd currently serves on the Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the National Academies and a committee examining research priorities for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and was the 2013 President of American Meteorological Society (AMS), the nation's largest and oldest professional/science society in the atmospheric and related sciences. He is frequently sought as an expert on weather, climate, and remote sensing, routinely appearing on CBS Face The Nation, NOVA, The Today Show, CNN, Fox News, The Weather Channel, NPR and several others.

Today, Dr. Shepherd will discuss the art and challenges of communicating science in an age of growing mistrust in science.

Session Descriptions

Adolescent and young adult mental health in Georgia

Presenters:

Diane Bales, PhD, Professor, Extension Human Development Specialist and Child Life Program Director, College of Family & Consumer Sciences, University of Georgia

Janani R. Thapa, Associate Professor, Director, Economic Evaluation Research Group, College of Public Health, University of Georgia

In this session, you will learn about mental health challenges in Georgia youth. The first half of the session will discuss the prevalence and healthcare costs of mental health challenges in youth in Georgia, based on self-report data from across the state and healthcare claims data. The second half of the session will share programs to address mental health challenges in youth, with a primary focus on the Youth Mental Health First Aid national curriculum. We will discuss curriculum content, strategies, and evidence of effectiveness.

Federal COVID-19 Mandates

Presenter: Elizabeth Weeks, JD, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs & Charles H. Kirbo Chair in Law, School of Law, University of Georgia

This session examines the new legal landscape of federal vaccine mandates, enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Requiring individuals to be vaccinated against infectious diseases has been recognized as a legitimate use of states' Tenth Amendment police powers to protect the health, welfare, and safety of their residents, despite the intrusion on individual rights to bodily autonomy protected by the Due Process Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The Biden Administration, however, has exerted unprecedented federal authority to address the ongoing public health crisis, drawing strong public reaction and litigation by states and others challenging the orders. The divide typically is across partisan lines, with blue states and voters supporting the proactive measures, and red states objecting vociferously to the asserted federal overreach. Opponents cite intrusion on individual rights, private businesses, and state authority. Looking back to earlier national security crises, however, conservative scholars advocated similar, or even more aggressive, use of federal authority, allowing the restriction of individual rights and business interest in the name of public safety. The death toll and other harms from the COVID-19 pandemic are far greater than those earlier crises and would seem to justify similar responses. As the federal COVID-19 mandates continue to be legally tested in courts, we will gain a better understanding of the scope of federal authority to regulate in the name of public health.

Improving Black Maternal and Child Health Outcomes Through Culturally Reflective and Respectful Care

Presenters:

Kimberley Broomfield-Massey, Ph.D., Principal Consultant, Urban Metrics Consultants

Janina Daniels, MHSA, Atlanta Healthy Start Program Manager, Center for Black Women's Wellness

Aruba Muhammad, Data Analyst, Center for Black Women's Wellness

Jemea Dorsey, CEO, Center for Black Women's Wellness

The Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative (AHSI) is a maternal and child health program implemented by the Center for Black Women's Wellness. The goal of the Atlanta Healthy Start Initiative is to reduce maternal and child health disparities in Fulton County, Georgia. AHSI provides services such as home visitations, linkages to needed health and social services, parent and breastfeeding education and support, mental/emotional well-being services, monthly peer support groups and postpartum education. The program's components are infused with culturally reflective and culturally appropriate respectful care which result in positive birth outcomes for black birthing people. Culturally reflective and respectful care refers to a care coordination team who are the same race and have lived or worked extensively in the community and are empathetic to the client's unique needs. Providing excellent care in a welcoming environment creates more trusting and supportive relationships between the client and the team. Non-Hispanic Black participants in this initiative have lower rates of preterm births, low and very low birthweight births, and maternal and infant mortality than non-participants in Fulton County. Participants also have improved entry into prenatal care, increased linkages to medical homes, and high client satisfaction rates. The success of AHSI has implications for organizations and researchers exploring community-based methods for improving maternal health outcomes through culturally relevant interventions.

Novel Interventions to Address Health Inequities in Rural Georgia

Presenters:

Allan Tate, Assistant Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Georgia

Caleb Snead, Double Dawg (BSHP/MPH), University of Georgia

In this combined session, Dr. Allan Tate and Caleb Snead will be presenting research targeting structural barriers to health in rural Georgia:

Multilevel Intervention Targets to Address the Impact of Structural Racism on Rural Georgia Parent and Child Health: The Family Matters Study

The Family Matters Georgia study aims to prospectively measure multiple levels of structural racism and discrimination on whole person health across the life course in diverse families. The study builds on a University of Minnesota longitudinal cohort study of 627 racially and ethnically diverse families from urban Minneapolis and St. Paul that has been in the field for the last 5 years. The parent study has three time-points of mixed-methods data that includes discrimination and neighborhood segregation measures and physical, mental and behavioral health outcomes. Recruitment in Georgia establishes a new cohort of 300 families from rural counties in northeast Georgia and adds new biomarkers of stress (hair cortisol) and cardiometabolic health. Results of the study will inform the development of an intervention targeting multi-level structural racism and discrimination factors to promote health equity.

A Mental Health Implementation to Affect Health Equity in Rural Georgia: The Co-Responder Model

People with mental illness are arrested and sent to prison in disproportionate numbers compared to people without diagnosed mental illnesses. This is often due to a lack of awareness and resources for people with mental illness and substance use disorders. A report for effective co-responder models was requested to help strengthen the mental health resources and infrastructure in Moultrie, GA. A co-responder model includes law enforcement officers and behavioral health clinicians working together in response to calls for service involving a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis. Increasing the connections to mental health services, decriminalizing mental health patients, reducing arrests and jail admissions, and enhancing civilian and officer safety are among the goals of this mental health initiative. Through collaborative efforts via the Archway Partnership, research was conducted on how to effectively and efficiently implement a co-response team in Moultrie, GA. It was determined that cross training between co-response team members, gaining and maintaining community support, gathering data on the progress of the program, and taking a multidisciplinary approach in the planning and implementation were among the key best practices. Since its inception in May of this year, there have been over 30 co-responses to service calls. None of the responses have resulted in involuntary admittances to a health center.

Valuing and elevating the lived experiences of Atlantans with Equity Stories

Presenter: Sopen Joseph, Project Coordinator, Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement's (ARCHI)

In partnership with Global Dialogues, Partnership for Southern Equity, Partners for Home, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta Regional Collaborative for Health Improvement's (ARCHI) collected Equity Stories to elevate the experiences of DeKalb, Fulton, and Clayton County residents who had a past or present experience of homelessness. For the listening phase of this work, stories were collected using methods that respect the storytellers' autonomy and valued the expertise of their lived experience. Storytellers were asked to reflect on their personal experiences, share their aspirations, and propose actions for systems that support them and members of their communities to thrive. For the learning phase of this work, three Community Panels were held to help cross-sector stakeholders gain a better understanding of the context of homelessness and identify priorities for action. During the Panels, participants were introduced to and applied skills of deep listening and intellectual humility and tasked to propose system-focused recommendations. For the elevating phase of this work, a Community Forum was held as an opportunity for a larger audience to engage with the Equity Stories, disseminate Community Panel recommendations, and develop plans to move recommendations into action. Over 30 Equity Stories were collected with 23 stored online in the ARCHIVES. A total of 29 stakeholders participated in the Community Panels to develop 12 recommendations. Over 60 Community Forum attendees developed short-term and long-term plans to move these recommendations into action. ARCHI will continue to elevate the voices of those with lived experience with decision-makers across Atlanta.

Response efforts to prevent monkeypox transmission: An overview

Presenters:

Andrea McCollum, Ph.D., MS, Poxvirus Epidemiology Team Lead, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

Amanda Feldpausch, DVM, MPH, One Health Medical Epidemiologist, Deputy State Public Health Veterinarian, Monkeypox response co-lead, Georgia Department of Public Health

Monkeypox is a zoonotic Orthopoxvirus disease normally restricted to west and central Africa. In May 2022, cases were reported in several countries among men. Since then, over 65,000 cases have been reported from 99 countries that have not previously reported monkeypox, including over 25,000 in the United States. The first case of monkeypox in Georgia was identified in June 2022, with close to 1800 cases identified within the state since that detection. Dr. McCollum will provide an overview of the federal response efforts while Dr. Feldpausch will provide an overview of state and local response efforts in GA, together they will lead a discussion on how the response efforts at all levels (e.g., federal, state, local) are using a range of approaches to engage communities and prevent further transmission.

Poster Presentations

1. Syphilis: An Epidemic Amidst a Pandemic

Primary Author: Bridget Walsh, MPH, Epidemiologist, North Georgia Health District

2. Weather-Related Stress among Georgia's Agricultural Community

Primary Authors: James Dunaway and Caleb Christian, MD Candidates, Mercer University School of Medicine

3. Hunters Ending Hunger: Innovative Initiative to Feed Chattooga County Families in Need

Primary Author: Allison Agnew, BHA, Program Coordinator, Northwest Georgia Regional Cancer Coalition

4. Addressing Health Equity: Leveraging Partnerships and Meaningful Community Engagement to Increase COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence and Vaccine Uptake

Primary Author: Jacqueline Jenkins, MSPH, Director of Office of Epidemiology and Prevention, Southwest Health District 8-2

5. Scoot Safe: An Innovative Approach to E-Scooter Safety

Primary Author: Lila Ralston, MPH, Program Consultant, 55+ Driver Safety Program, Georgia Department of Public Health

6. Access to Lactation Support Services and the Relationship with Breastfeeding Initiation Across Georgia Counties

Primary Author: Sina Gallo, PhD, MSc, RD, Associate Professor, University of Georgia College of Family & Consumer Sciences

7. Black With 'Baby Blues': A Systematic Review of Programs to Address Postpartum Depression in African American Women

Primary Author: Keilondria Robertson, MPH, LMSW, Mass Care/At-Risk Populations Specialist, Georgia Department of Public Health

8. It's Easier to go to the Beer Store than Ask for Help: A qualitative exploration of barriers to healthcare in rural farming communities

Primary Author: Noah Hopkins, BSHP, Research Assistant, University of Georgia College of Public Health

9. Stressors and Coping Strategies in Rural Farmers: A Qualitative Study

Primary Author: Christina Proctor, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Georgia College of Public Health

10. Rural Georgians' Perceptions of Drone Technology for Health and Emergency Purposes

Primary Author: Sombal Bari, MPH, MSW, Senior Account Executive

11. Design and development of a generalizable approach to Telemedicine encounter assessment

Primary Author: Raphael Agbali, B.Pharm, MPH, PhD Candidate, Augusta University

12. Hospitalizations and Mortality with Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Diagnosis in Georgia, 2020

Primary Author: Khue Nguyen, MPH, Program Intern, Georgia Department of Public Health

13. Rural road safety: More than infrastructure

Primary Author: Heather M. Padilla, PhD, RDN, LD, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia College of Public Health

14. Skills, Knowledge, and Youth Empowerment (SKYE) for High-Risk Youth in Fulton County, GA: Preliminary Evaluation Results

Primary Author: Laura F. Salazar, PhD, Professor, Georgia State University School of Public Health

15. Understanding Geographic and Racial Disparities in Mortality from Four Major Cancers in the State of Georgia: A Spatial Epidemiologic Analysis, 1999 – 2019

Primary Author: Darryl A. Nettle, DPA, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Augusta University

16. Mass Stroke Awareness Campaigns: Two Approaches, Two Results

Primary Author: Denys Fluitt, MPA, Program Coordinator, Georgia Department of Public Health

17. Disparities in Successful Discharge to Community among Medicare Home Health Care Patients by Neighborhood Socioeconomic Status

Primary Author: Daniel Jung, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Georgia College of Public Health

18. Utilizing barbershops as a tool for blood pressure screening

Primary Author: Kristi Sprowl, MPH, CHES, Community Impact Director, American Heart Association

19. Knowledge of Pregnancy Complications and Urgent Maternal Warning Signs up to One Year Postpartum

Primary Author: Evelyn Fagan, B.S. in Biology & Psychology, MD student, Mercer University School of Medicine

20. Addressing Healthcare Professionals’ Barriers in Providing Tobacco Cessation Through the Love Your Lungs Program

Primary Author: Yasmin Goreja, B.S.H.P., MPH-MSW Candidate, Graduate Assistant & Program Assistant, East Georgia Cancer Coalition

21. The Detection of Novel SARS-CoV-2 Variants in Environmental Wastewater Samples During Large Population Movements in Athens, Georgia

Primary Author: Lily Metsker, B.S Environmental Health (May 2023), Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Georgia

22. Are First-Generation Farmers More Stressed than Generational Farmers?

Primary Author: Anne Montgomery, PhD, Biostatistician, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

23. Associations between Neighborhood Social Polarization with Cardiometabolic Health, Academic Achievement and Cortisol in a Racially/Ethnically Diverse Sample of Children from Minneapolis–St. Paul

Primary Author: Christopher Carr, MPH, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Georgia

24. Measuring, Visualizing, and Analyzing Youth Physical activity Access Disparity (PAD)

Primary Author: Jue Yang, PhD Candidate, University of Georgia

25. Trusted Spaces in Rural Places: Cooperative Extension Offices as Rural Community Behavioral Health Hubs

Primary Author: Virginia Brown, DrPH, Extension Evaluation Specialist, University of Georgia Extension

26. Hancock Health Improvement Partnership Mini-Grant Initiative: An Evaluation Focus on Capacity Building in Rural Areas

Primary Author: D. Chambree' Harris, Chronic Disease Prevention Manager, North Central Health District

27. Heterogeneity of Obesity in Children from Diverse Households: Machine Learning-Informed Intervention

Primary Author: Tzu-Chun Chu, PhD Candidate, University of Georgia

28. A Qualitative Assessment of the Intersections between Faith and Health in Rural Georgia

Primary Author: Chris Scoggins, MPH, Director of Special Projects, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

Presenter: Samantha Johnson, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

29. Building COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence, Capacity and Resilience Across Georgia

Primary Author: Brittany D. Taylor, MPH, Project Director, Morehouse School of Medicine

30. Photovoice as Creative Scholarship for Health Advocacy

Primary Author: Michelle Ritchie, PhD, Assistant Professor, UGA Institute for Disaster Management

31. Community Health Promoters Program in Puerto Rico: Who are the Non-Participants?

Primary Author: Janani Rajbhandari-Thapa, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Georgia College of Public Health

32. Pregnancy-Associated Deaths in Georgia

Primary Author: Edson Jean-Jacques, MA, Director of Demographic Research, Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

33. Georgia Farming Wellbeing - Latino Farmers in Georgia

Primary Author: Stephanie Basey, PhD Candidate, Mercer University School of Medicine

34. Measuring MPOD as a Health Biomarker in Community Settings

Primary Author: Jacob B. Harth, B.S., PhD Candidate, Graduate Research Assistant, UGA
Institute of Gerontology

35. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic among Asian Americans in the State of Georgia

Primary Author: Zhuo Chen, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Georgia College of Public
Health