

**Carolina Population Center
Summer 2021 Undergraduate Research Program**

Project Name

Research in Sexual and Gender Minority Equity (RISE)

Faculty Mentor

Dr. Tonia Poteat, Department of Social Medicine

Project Description

RISE Lab conducts multiple research projects focused on HIV prevention and care for transgender adults. The two main projects are entitled “LITE Plus” and “Transforming the Carolinas.” LITE Plus is a multi-site study on the impact of stigma-related stress on the health of Black and Latina transgender women living with HIV. LITE Plus follows participants for 24 months and uses surveys, medical records, bloodwork, and clinical measures to conduct statistical analyses. Transforming the Carolinas is a study conducted in North Carolina and South Carolina that seeks to address the barriers to HIV prevention and care for transgender people of color (TPOC). Based on recently completed formative research, the current phase of the study tests the feasibility and acceptability of a community health worker (CHW) intervention.

Scope of Work for Internship

For LITE Plus, the summer intern will assist with data cleaning and management, including labeling database variables. The intern will be taught the skills necessary to conduct these tasks using Stata data analysis software. The intern will also help the project coordinator create a report using data visualizations to share preliminary data from the study. For Transforming the Carolinas, the intern will help create a digital zine for the purposes of sharing study findings and community members’ narratives through images and text. The intern will be tasked with creating and distributing email and social media materials; requesting submissions from community members; keeping track of and organizing submissions; and helping to compile research findings and submissions into a digital format using an online zine maker, Adobe Illustrator, or Canva.

Expected Deliverables

For LITE Plus, the expected deliverables are: a full set of labelled variables in the study database and a brief summary report with descriptive statistics and data visualization of key findings that can be shared with community partners. For Transforming the Carolinas, the expected deliverables are: two submission request flyers (one to use for emails and the other for social media) and a completed zine.

Preferred Skills

For LITE Plus, the intern needs a basic understanding of statistical concepts and data visualization. Experience using Stata is preferred but not required. The intern will work with the study coordinator and

data manager who will create a work plan and provide guidance and training as needed. For Transforming the Carolinas, it would be helpful if the intern has some experience working with Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, or Canva for creating engaging graphics. The intern must have prior experience with coding (R preferred) and working with large tabular databases. The intern must be extremely detail-oriented and have excellent organizational skills. Experience with GIS is a plus. Prior statistical training is a plus as well.

Time Commitment

Full time (approximately 35 hours/week)