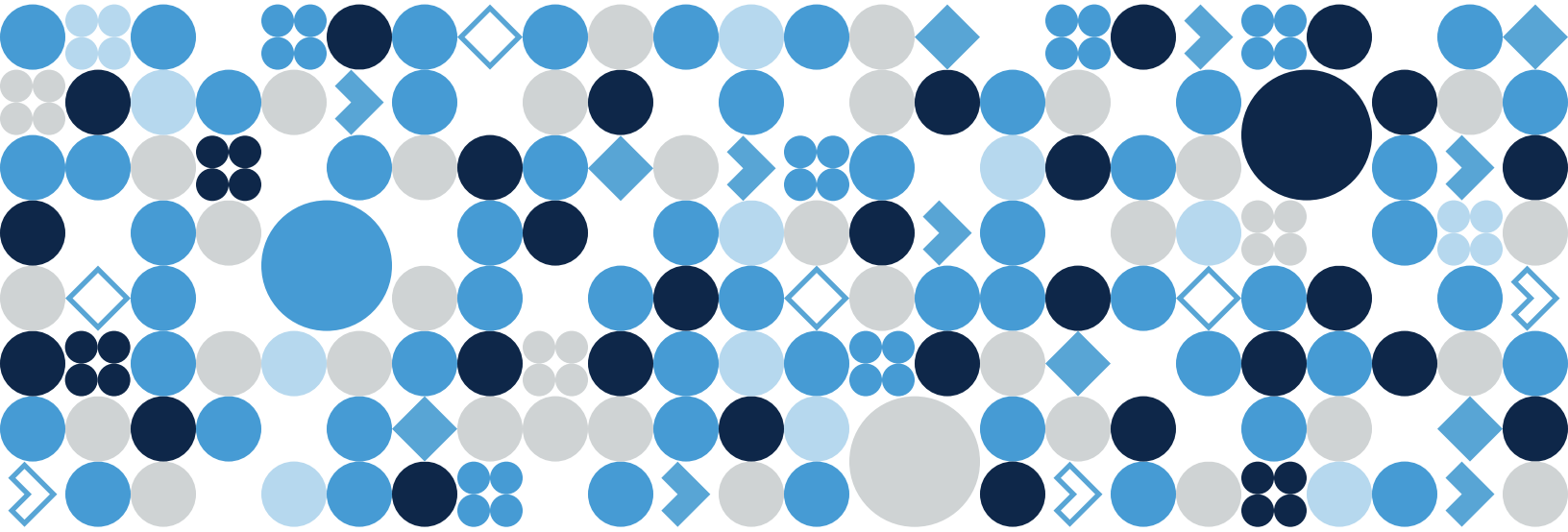
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CAROLINA POPULATION CENTER

Annual Report 2025-2026



03 Message from CPC Director Karen Guzzo

16 Global Food Research Program

18 Our Faculty Fellows



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Carolina Population Center

This annual report was produced
by the Carolina Population Center.
Editor: Karen Benjamin Guzzo, Director
Managing Editors: Shea Henson, Sara Cockerham
**Assistant Managing Editor and
Graphic Designer:** Grayson Mendenhall

Read more at cpc.unc.edu

Contents

04 Letter From the Director

05 About CPC

06 CPC History

08 Research Themes

09 CPC Projects

10 Research Funding

12 Training Programs

14 Carolina Demography

16 Global Food Research Program

18 Faculty Fellows

20 CPC Staff

22 News

26 Funding

27 Honors and Awards

28 Publications



Message from the Director

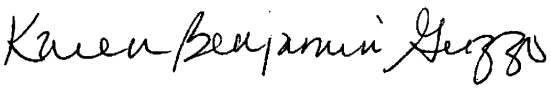
For 60 years, the Carolina Population Center (CPC) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has fostered a community of interdisciplinary population scholars doing cutting-edge and impactful research. CPC brings together scholars from more than 20 disciplines not only across UNC Chapel Hill but beyond, with 27 external affiliates at institutions across North and South Carolina. CPC research examines – and contributes to improving – the health and well-being of people in North Carolina, the U.S., and across the world.

CPC is also dedicated to ushering in the next generation of population scholars through undergraduate internships, graduate training programs, and postdoctoral fellowships. These burgeoning scholars bring excitement, vitality, and new ideas to CPC while also benefitting from CPC Faculty Fellows' expertise and experience. Our trainees have gone on to become leaders in academia, industry, policy, and other arenas, and we cannot wait to see what the future has in store for our current trainees.

Population science provides unique and important insights for a world undergoing unprecedented demographic changes. CPC is leading the way, with its widely used longitudinal data collections, its efforts to understand the contextual influences on health and health behaviors, and its continued emphasis on core population processes. The CPC community – its Fellows, staff, and students – remain dedicated to this work.

I'm proud to serve as CPC's Director, and I invite you to explore this report, get a taste of the important work done here at CPC, and learn more about the CPC community.

Karen Benjamin Guzzo
Director



About CPC

We believe that understanding how and why populations change over time is key to advancing the well-being of all people.

Our Faculty

Our nearly 90 Faculty Fellows conduct research on population, health, aging, and the environment. Representing 21 departments that span the College of Arts and Sciences, the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the School of Medicine, the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, School of Education and School of Data and Information Sciences, the multiple disciplinary perspectives our Fellows bring to CPC research facilitates the cross-pollination of ideas and the convergence of different perspectives to address some of society's most challenging problems. Our research has been funded by grants and contracts from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, UNICEF, and the Bloomberg Family Foundation, among others.

Our Training Programs

Our training programs provide undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with opportunities to engage in hands-on research projects with our Faculty Fellows and with one another, while taking classes that prepare them for academic and professional positions in the population sciences. Undergraduate students participate in a paid summer research internship that introduces them to team science and prepares them to continue on to an honors thesis. Through our formal National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) NICHD-funded programs in Population Science and Biosocial Science, we are training the next generation of interdisciplinary population-focused scientists. These students and postdocs will go on to careers in academics, government, and industry.

58
Active Research Projects

21
Departments at UNC with faculty representation

$158M
Value of current research portfolio

$670M
External funding since 2016

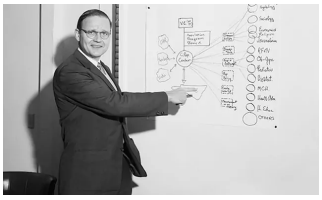
CPC History

For 60 years, the Carolina Population Center (CPC) has brought together population researchers from across disciplines to develop research projects that cut across disciplines and to train the next generation of population scholars.

1960s → 1970s → 1980s → 1990s →

1966

Moye Freymann is appointed director of the new Carolina Population Center, established with funding from the Ford Foundation.



1972

NICHD awards CPC its first training grant, emphasizing interdisciplinary approaches to population science. Our population science training program continues to this day.

1973

NICHD awards CPC its first center grant to support interdisciplinary research in population.

1980

CPC faculty launch the Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey in the Philippines to study how mothers' decisions about feeding affect their children's health.



1984

CPC faculty develop the Nang Rong project with researchers in Thailand, bringing spatial and environmental perspectives to population science.

1988

The China Health and Nutrition Survey incorporates biomarkers into data collection, leading to the discovery of increasing rates of obesity in the Chinese population.

1991

measure program

USAID funded the Evaluation Project, which grew into the Measure Program encompassing over 30 years of international projects supporting local capacity to monitor and evaluate health programs and develop systems to improve public health.

1994

Add Health
The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health

The first round of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health is conducted to study how social contexts shape adolescents' transitions to adulthood.

1996

A second round of data collection is funded for the Add Health project.

2000s 2010s 2020s

2001

Add Health Wave III data collection is funded, surveying the original participants in rounds I and II and incorporating interviews with participants' partners.

2008

THE TRANSFER PROJECT

Working with UNICEF, FAO, and researchers in Africa, CPC scientists establish the Transfer Project to study how to incentivize individual investments in health and education.

2010

The UNC Food Research Program, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is formed to develop cutting edge methodologies for capturing nuanced change in the national food supply.

2013

CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

Carolina Demography is founded to conduct applied research on questions about population change in North Carolina.

2015

Global Food Research Program UNC-Chapel Hill

Supported by funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies, the UNC Food Research Program expanded globally, creating the Global Food Research Program that evaluates emerging nutrition policies in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

2015

Add Health Wave V data collection starts.

Add Health Parent Study

Phase 1 of the Add Health Parent Study begins.

2016

Add Health Wave V data collection starts.

THE GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD

CPC is presented with the Golden Goose Award for Add Health.

2018

CPC is awarded a new training grant to support trainees in studying linkages among biology, health, and social contexts.

2020

CCPAH Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health

NIA funds the Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health to support research in the demography and economics of aging.

2021

TRDC Triangle Research Data Center a multi-institutional consortium

CPC coordinates opening a branch lab of the Triangle Federal Research Data Center on UNC's campus.

2022

Wave VI of data collection begins with the Add Health participants, providing over 30 years of longitudinal data for participants.

2026

Add Health receives funding for Wave VII data collection.

Research Themes

For 60 years, the Carolina Population Center (CPC) has brought together population researchers from across disciplines to develop research projects that cut across disciplines and to train the next generation of population scholars.

Population Dynamics Research

Infrastructure support for research on demography, reproductive health, and population health at the Carolina Population Center is provided by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development's (NICHD) Population Dynamics Branch (P2C HD050924). Faculty conduct research and engage in primary data collection within four primary research areas:

Variation in Mobility and Well-Being

Population Dynamics and the Physical and Social Environment

Reproduction, Fertility, and Families

Population Health Across Time, Generations, and the Life Course

Aging Research

Our aging research is housed in the Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health (CCPAH), one of 12 centers in the Demography and Economics of Aging Centers Program sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (P30 AG066615). The center supports a multidisciplinary group of scholars studying topics related to the demography and economics of aging. Faculty conduct research and engage in primary data collection in support of three themes:

Aging in Diverse Contexts

Links Between Health and Social and Economic Productivity

Methods and Measurements

CPC Projects

For 60 years, the Carolina Population Center (CPC) has brought together population researchers from across disciplines to develop research projects that cut across disciplines and to train the next generation of population scholars.

Add Health

The National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) is a study of over 20,000 adolescents who were in grades 7-12 during the 1994-95 school year, and have been followed for six waves to date.

CCPAH

CCPAH accelerates research, fosters development of new work on a variety of aging-related topics, and amplifies the impact of data and publications produced by our affiliates.

Add Health Parent Study

The Add Health Parent Study (often called, the Parent Study) is an ongoing project that builds off the National Longitudinal Adolescent to Adult Health Study (Add Health) by interviewing the parents of students first interviewed in the mid 1990s. This study explores the important role families play in shaping health and well-being across generations.

The Transfer Project

The Transfer Project aims to provide rigorous evidence on the effectiveness of large-scale national cash transfer programmes in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.

Global Food Research Program

The Global Food Research Program collaborates with partners around the world to carefully evaluate food and nutrition policies and to develop in-depth, longitudinal research on large-scale obesity prevention efforts.

STAR

The Study of the Tsunami Aftermath and Recovery (STAR) is designed to provide evidence on the immediate and longer-term consequences of the 2004 Sumatran-Andaman earthquake and tsunami and recovery efforts.

Research Funding

CPC is primarily funded by external agencies, including federal, non-governmental, and philanthropic organizations.

External Funding

CPC Fellows and trainees have been highly successful in securing funding for their research from federal funding agencies as well as non-profit philanthropic organizations.

$288M

During FY 2021-2026

Federal Funding

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have been the biggest sources of research support from the federal government.

$236M

During FY 2021-2026

Other Funding

CPC Fellows' innovative and impactful research has also garnered extensive support from foundations and other organizations, including the Bloomberg Family Foundation, the Gates Foundation, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

$52M

During FY 2021-2026

Seed Grants

With the infrastructure support provided by the NICHD and the NIA, CPC is able to fund pilot projects to jumpstart exciting new avenues of research. Here, we highlight a few of the 2025 and 2026 seed grants.

- **Kavita Arora** (Obstetrics and Gynecology)
  Maria Gallo (Epidemiology)
  Long-Term Health Outcomes in Postpartum Permanent Contraceptive Decision-Making
  The goal of this research is to set the stage for a longitudinal data collection designed to better understand experiences of postpartum decision-making related to sterilization, the most common method of female contraception. Some women are unable to fulfill their desires for sterilization, while others who may not desire sterilization feel pressured to do so. This research will develop and pilot survey instruments related to permanent contraceptive desires and related experiences among postpartum patients.
- **Miyuki Hino** (City and Regional Planning)
  Mapping Health Risks Across the U.S. Temporary Migrant Farm Worker Population
  Farmworkers often face hazardous working conditions related to extreme weather events. Temporary migrant farm workers, who comprise a growing share of the agricultural labor force, might be especially at risk due to the conditions of employer-provided housing. This research will map migrant farm worker housing nationwide, link housing to spatiotemporal extreme weather exposure, and identify high-risk housing hot spots.
- **Larissa Jennings Mayo-Wilson** (Health Behavior)
  Addressing Care and Health in Experiences of In Vitro Fertilization (ACHIEVE)
  As in vitro fertilization (IVF) has become more common, more women are potentially likely to experience the economic, physical, and emotional challenges that often accompany it. This research will develop and pilot an intervention designed to identify and help mitigate these challenges.
- **Justin Sola** (Sociology)
  Persuasion to Reduce Access to Health Hazards in the Home
  Preventable injury remains a key public health concern in the U.S. The home is the site of many such injuries, often due to improper storage of potential risks. This research will develop and test chatbot to see if it can identify people at risk and encourage them to more safely mitigate risks within the house.
- **Tara Templin** (Health Policy and Management)
  Free Trade, Ultra-Processed Food Prices, & Childhood Obesity
  Obesity rates continue to rise worldwide, including among children, setting them up for potential lifelong chronic diseases. Food pricing and taxing may be one lever that could be modified to reduce the purchase of processed foods, the consumption of which is linked to obesity. This research will link macro-level food pricing and taxing data to household survey data on food expenditures to identify how food price declines are linked to food and non-food spending related to children.

51

Seed grants funded from 2020-26

Training Programs

We offer two formal programs, one in population science and one in biosocial science. Both programs include graduate student and postdoctoral trainees.

Our National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) funded T32 training programs produce future leaders in social science and public health disciplines with the subject matter expertise, multidisciplinary perspective, and data skills to address and have an impact on pressing issues in demography, population health, and reproductive health.



Population Science Training Program

CPC's Population Science Training Program trains the next generation of population scientists to conduct critical research on the causes and consequences of population change and the implications for health and well-being across the globe. Cross-disciplinary collaboration and hands-on involvement in innovative population science research are defining features of our program.

The predoctoral program combines disciplinary PhDs with a strong grounding in population science through coursework, seminars, and workshops and a mentored research practicum with one or more faculty members that continues throughout training. The postdoctoral program is structured around a close mentoring relationship between the training faculty and postdoctoral scholars, customized to fit the goals and interests of both.

Our alumni go on to hold a variety of research positions in both academic and non-academic environments. Recent placements include Harvard University, Duke University, Child Trends, UT Austin, McGill University, and the U.S. Census Bureau, among others.

The program is currently led by Drs. Elizabeth Frankenberg and Jessica Su.

Biosocial Training Program

The Biosocial Training Program trains junior scientists to better identify, understand, and produce new knowledge on the social and biological pathways that are important to population health and the understanding of health disparities across the life course.

Trainees receive interdisciplinary mentorship and training in a wide array of content areas, ranging from social inequalities to biological processes. Trainees enter from their respective disciplines and identify a co-preceptor team comprised of a mentor from their home discipline and another representing their new interdisciplinary interest area from among the current training faculty. Under the guidance of their mentoring team, our trainees work on the cutting edge of the interdisciplinary population sciences in a context that focuses on the highest standards of research ethics, rigor, and reproducibility.

The program is currently led by Drs. Bob Hummer and Amanda Thompson.

Research Services

Professional staff provide expertise and continuity across a range of areas to support CPC researchers and projects.

Research Administration

CPC provides expert service for research across the project lifecycle. Each project is assigned a knowledgeable, dedicated staff person who can develop and submit proposals and manage post-award activities.

Research Programming

Provides CPC researchers with consulting for original data collection, complex data set and variable creation, and statistical analysis.

Web Programming

Provides creation and management of websites, development of custom applications for internal and external audiences, and dissemination of datasets, information and research results.

Finance and Human Resources

Handles accounting, disbursements, human resource administration, and financial reporting for all grants and other funding sources.

Information Technology

Provides a state-of-the-art, stable, and secure computing environment to support the research and training missions of the center.

Communications and Graphics

Provides an integrated, engaging, and effective approach to communicating the impact of the Center's research.

Carolina Demography

A non-partisan team of population scientists working for the people of North Carolina. For over a decade, we have provided leaders across North Carolina with up-to-date, accurate data on how NC's population is changing.

Data for the People

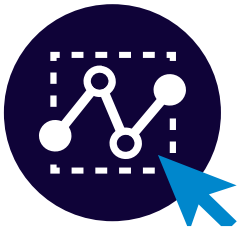
As the applied research unit of the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we know how to find the data needed to answer the questions about the populations across the state. Local and state governments, foundations, businesses, researchers, and not-for profit organizations serving the state of North Carolina partner with Carolina Demography to translate complex information based on the questions they need answered.

What We Do



Find and collect data

We help you understand what data you need, and where and how to access that data.



Clean, analyze and interpret data

We use rigorous methods to translate the data and provide meaningful context.



Communicate data and engage stakeholders

We strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.

Public Outreach and Presentations

We present to and engage stakeholders and decision-makers across North Carolina to facilitate understanding of population-level change. Audiences in 2025 included:

- Wake County Public School System Facilities Committee
- Impact Alamance Board Retreat
- Hispanic Federation Board of Directors
- Brunwick County School Board
- UNC Worldview - Global Education Leaders
- UNC Worldview Roanoke River Valley Ed Consortium
- UNC Foundation Relations & Industry Engagement
- Orange County Board of County Commissioners
- NC A&T Center of Excellence for Integrative Health Disaprities & Equity Research
- Hispanic Federation Environmental Justice Coalition
- NC State Board of Education
- Blue Ridge Community College
- NC Metro Mayors Coalition
- Thinkers Breakfast at NC General Assembly
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- Cherokee Courts Continuing Legal Education
- Lincoln County Economic Development Association
- UNC Worldview Global Education Leaders
- Hispanic Federation Environmental Justice Coalition
- Robeson Community College
- Raleigh Chamber - Growth & Development Summit 2025
- NC Agricultural Digital Alliance
- Oberlin Middle School Faculty Professional Development
- WCPSS Magnet School Leadership
- UNC Asian American Center
- Wilson Forward
- NC Area Health Education Centers - Learning Academy
- Wake Technical Community College - Arts and Sciences Leadership Team
- NC Local
- myFutureNC Board of Directors
- NC Student Financial Aid Coordinators
- NC Metro Mayors Coalition
- Chapel Hill-Carrboro City School Board
- UNC Board of Governors

Recent Projects

Helping people understand a changing North Carolina to make informed decisions.

Who We've Worked With

myFUTURENC
2 million by 2030.

Our partnership with myFutureNC provides communities in all 100 North Carolina counties the data they need to evaluate progress and plan towards achieving the state's postsecondary attainment goal of 2 million North Carolinians aged 25-44 with a postsecondary degree or credential by 2030.

North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCPDI) partnered with Carolina Demography to develop a typology of North Carolina's 115 school districts that combines key social, demographic, and economic indicators into a consistent index with which NCDPI stakeholders can appropriately group and compare NC school districts for purposes of research and evaluation.

WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

2025-26 Student Membership 10-year forecast for the Wake County Public School System

Chatham County Partnership for Children

Early Care and Education Landscape Assessment for the Chatham County Partnership for Children

BlueRidge COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Sociodemographic snapshot of the Blue Ridge Community College service area

What Our Partners Say

"Carolina Demography has played an integral role in helping our team understand the changing landscape of North Carolina's population. Their professionalism and expertise are an incredible asset to our state."

MC Belk Pilon
President & CEO,
John M. Belk Endowment

"Carolina Demography is an amazing asset in this state and provides outstanding insights useful to any organization seeking to better and more fully understand the demographic changes taking place in North Carolina."

Joe Stewart
VP – Governmental Affairs,
Independent Insurance Agents of NC
Board Member,
NC Institute of Public Leadership

Global Food Research Program

Through collaborative research and evaluation with our diverse partners worldwide, we work to reduce diet-related disparities and create a more healthful food system and food environment.

About

The Global Food Research Program (GFRP) is the culmination of decades of foundational nutritional, economic, and epidemiological research founded by Drs. Barry Popkin, Shu Wen Ng, and Lindsey Smith Taillie. The program's mission is to reduce population-level diet-related disparities and create a more healthful food system and food environment through collaborative research and evaluation with diverse partners worldwide as well as across the United States. GFRP's work informs policymakers in North Carolina, the United States, and around the world by providing a strong evidence base for food policies that improve the food environment.



GFRP team, summer 2025

Global Food Research Program
UNC-Chapel Hill

GFRP's research is primarily supported by an ongoing multimillion-dollar grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies to evaluate the impacts of global food policies and provide technical, evidence-based support to countries adopting such regulations. GFRP also has projects supported by the National Institutes of Health to investigate the effects of sugar warnings on beverage purchases in Hispanic populations; The Duke Endowment to study the impacts and acceptability of produce prescription programs in North Carolina communities; and most recently received a new $3.29 million award from Wellcome Trust to study the impact of climate change on nutrition and cardiometabolic health in Bangladesh.

Areas of Study

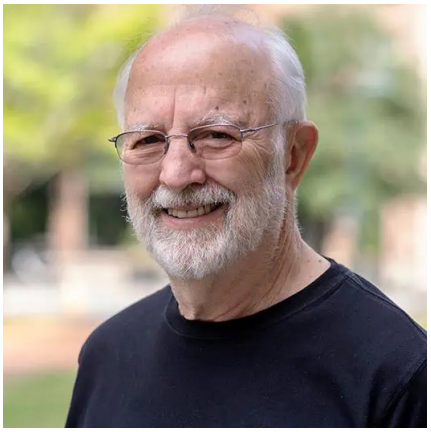
- Fiscal policies
- Marketing regulations
- Food & nutritional assistance programs
- Labeling regulations
- School food environments
- Food system surveillance
- Nutritional and health equity
- Environmental nutrition

Where We Work

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Peru
- South Africa
- Barbados
- Chile
- Colombia
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- United States

Recent Projects

GFRP has also led research efforts around ultra-processed foods. In November 2025, Barry Popkin and 43 other global experts in nutrition published a special series in The Lancet on ultra-processed foods focused on the rapid increase in their consumption and impact on rising rates of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and other diet-related chronic diseases. The series urged policymakers around the world to adopt regulations to limit ultra-processed food production and marketing and to also work to make nutritious foods more affordable and accessible. In June 2026, Lindsey Smith Taillie co-chaired an expert panel commissioned by Healthy Eating Research to develop evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and advocates interested in advancing policies to limit ultra-processed food exposure and consumption at the local, state, and federal levels in the United States.



Barry Popkin

Other noteworthy projects from the year include:

- In October 2025, Shu Wen Ng and former GFRP post-doctoral researcher Dr. Pourya Valizadeh received a three-year grant to examine upcoming state-level SNAP benefit restrictions, including changes in consumer purchases and impacts across subpopulations and store types.
- In November 2025, Lindsey Smith Taillie was selected to join the Kairos program at the UNC Eshelman Innovation Institute to develop and launch Lola, a personalized AI online grocery shopping technology that will "nudge" users toward healthier and more sustainable food choices.
- With support from Bloomberg Family Foundation, GFRP has selected the first cohort of recipients for a new Research for Innovative Food Policy Fund, which offer awards of up to $100,000 for research projects that move the needle on new policy designs to create healthy, sustainable food environments. The first recipients were selected in June 2026 and will begin their proposed research in the coming year.



Shu Wen Ng



Lindsey Smith Taillie

Faculty Fellows

CPC Faculty Fellows elected in 2026



Payal Chakraborty

Social Medicine, Epidemiology

Dr. Chakraborty is an epidemiologist whose research focuses on understanding the impact of structural marginalization on disparities in sexual and reproductive health outcomes in various populations.



David Cook-Martín

Sociology

Dr. Cook-Martín's work as a political sociologist focuses on understanding migration, labor, race, ethnicity, law, and citizenship in an international field of power.



Misa Graff

Epidemiology

Dr. Graff is a genetic epidemiologist whose research focuses on the genetic architecture of obesity, body composition, and cardiometabolic traits across ancestrally diverse populations.



Kate Harwood

City and Regional Planning

Dr. Harwood's research lies at the intersection of urban economics and real estate, housing policy and public economics, with an emphasis on how these fields interact with climate change.



Rafiuddin Najam

Public Policy

Dr. Najam's research examines how exposure to armed conflict and other shocks shapes human capital and well-being over the life course, and how policy can respond, primarily in developing and conflict-affected settings.



Neil O'Brian

Political Science

Dr. O'Brian's research focuses on political polarization ranging from its root causes in the 20th century to its material impacts on individuals' welfare and experiences in the contemporary era.



Emily Parker

Sociology

Dr. Parker's research focuses on understanding how social values and norms become institutionalized in systems of governance. She is particularly interested in the role of the state in shaping health, poverty, and social inequality.

Faculty Fellows

Linda S. Adair
Nutrition
Fenaba Addo
Public Policy
Kavita Arora
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Christy L. Avery
Epidemiology
Regina Baker
Sociology
John Batsis
Nutrition
Samuel Baxter
Health Policy and Management
Ganga Bey
Epidemiology
Kenneth A. Bollen
Psychology and Neuroscience, Sociology
Ross Boyce
Med-Infectious Diseases
Yong Cai
Sociology
Payal Chakraborty
Social Medicine, Epidemiology
David Cook-Martín
Sociology
Siân L. Curtis
Maternal and Child Health
Cassandra Davis
Public Policy
Paul Delamater
Geography
Jess Edwards
Epidemiology
Michael E. Emch
Geography, Epidemiology
Barbara Entwisle
Sociology
Elizabeth Frankenberg
Sociology, Public Policy
Maria Gallo
Epidemiology
Lauren Gaydosh
Sociology
Shannon Malone Gonzalez
Sociology
Penny Gordon-Larsen
Nutrition
Misa Graff
Epidemiology
Clark Gray
Geography
Guang Guo
Sociology
Carmen Gutierrez
Public Policy
Karen Guzzo
Sociology
Marissa Hall
Health Behavior
Sudhanshu (Ashu) Handa
Public Policy
Kathleen Mullan Harris
Sociology
Kate Harwood
City and Regional Planning
Miyuki Hino
City and Regional Planning
Morgan Hoke
Anthropology
Annie Green Howard
Biostatistics
Robert Hummer
Sociology
Jon M. Hussey
Maternal and Child Health
Larissa Jennings Mayo-Wilson
Health Behavior
Todd Jensen
Education
Désiré Kédagni
Economics
Elizabeth Korver-Glenn
Sociology
Rebecca Kreitzer
Public Policy
Douglas Lee Lauen
Public Policy
Paul W. Leslie
Anthropology
Justin Lessler
Epidemiology
Valerie Lewis
Health Policy and Management
Chantel Martin
Epidemiology
Stephanie Martin
Nutrition
Joanna "Asia" Maselko
Epidemiology
Elizabeth McClure
Epidemiology
Jeremy Moulton
Public Policy
Ted Mouw
Sociology
Keely Muscatell
Psychology and Neuroscience
Rafiuddin Najam
Public Policy
Shu Wen Ng
Nutrition
Neil August O'Brian
Political Science
Sachiko Ozawa
Pharmacy
Angela Parcesepe
Maternal and Child Health
Emily Parker
Sociology
Lisa D. Pearce
Sociology
Rui Jie Peng
Sociology
Krista M. Perreira
Social Medicine
Klara Peter
Economics
Audrey E. Pettifor
Epidemiology
Arrianna Marie Planey
Health Policy and Management
Barry M. Popkin
Nutrition
Joaquin Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba
Public Policy
Alexander Sahn
Political Science
Manuel Schechtl
Public Policy
Kerilyn Schewel
Sociology
Natalicio Serrano
Health Behavior
Margaret Sheridan
Psychology and Neuroscience
Kavita Singh Ongechi
Maternal and Child Health
Jaime Slaughter-Acey
Epidemiology
Justin Sola
Sociology
Conghe Song
Geography
Ilene S. Speizer
Maternal and Child Health
Jessica Su
Sociology
Sean Sylvia
Health Policy and Management
Lindsey Smith Taillie
Nutrition
Tara Templin
Health Policy and Management
Amanda L. Thompson
Anthropology
Kat Tumlinson
Health Policy and Management
Lauren Valentino
Sociology
Deshira Wallace
Health Behavior
Colin West
Anthropology

CPC Staff

Staff Highlights



Dawn Andres
Human Resources Specialist

As a Human Resources Specialist serving the Carolina Population Center, Dawn manages day-to-day personnel operations and acts as a departmental liaison for staff.



Vivian Chen
Technology Support Analyst

As a Technology Support Analyst at the Carolina Population Center, Vivian provides IT support by setting up and maintaining technology resources, purchasing technology, and diagnosing and repairing hardware and software issues.

Center Leadership



Shea Henson
Research Services



Sara Cockerham
Operations



Maggie Bogdanski
Research Administration



Ed Van Duinen
Information Technology



Chien-Yi Hou
Web Services



Margaret Swingler
Training

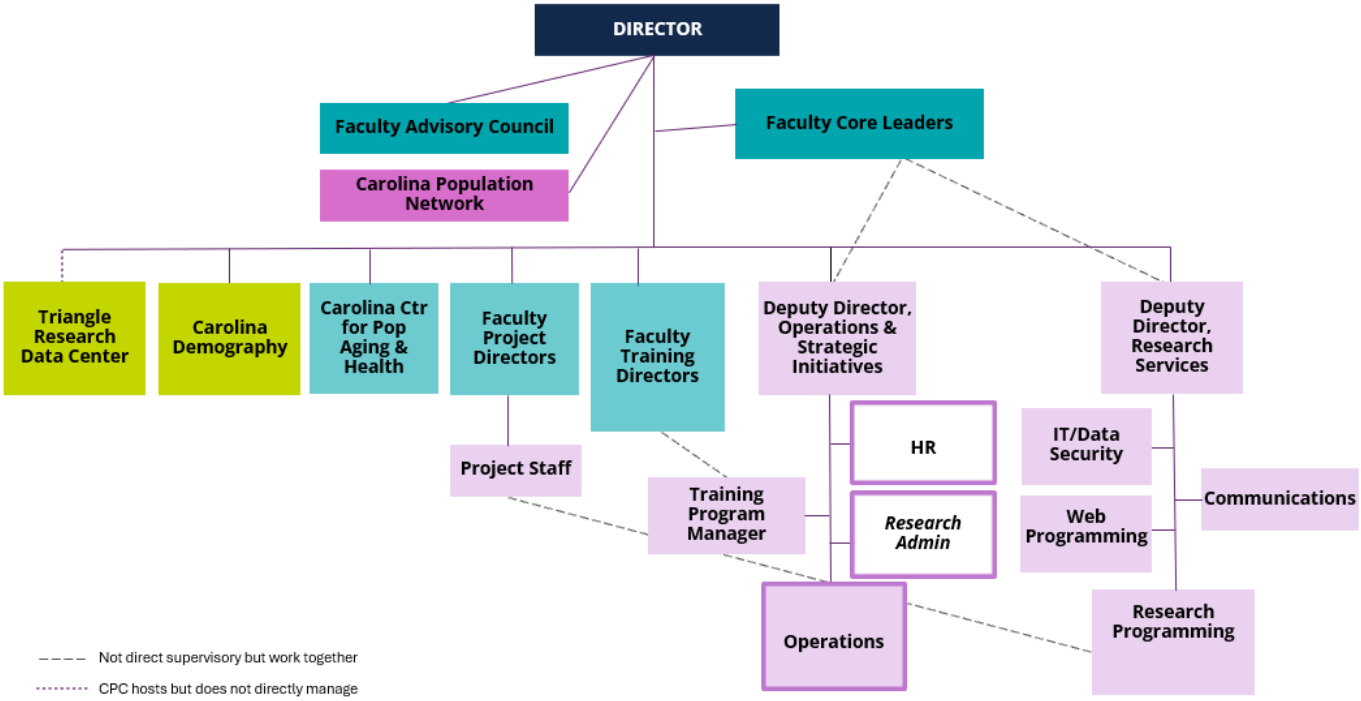


Brian Frizelle
Research Programming



Donna Miles
Research Programming

Organizational Chart



External Affiliates

The Carolina Population Center welcomes external affiliates at institutions that do not have a population center but who are engaging in population science as part of the Carolina Population Network. External affiliates receive access to a grant-working group and weekly seminars, opportunities for short-term research visits as well as longer-term sabbaticals in Chapel Hill, and networking opportunities with population researchers at CPC and other institutions across the Carolinas. Approximately 30 population scientists at institutions throughout North and South Carolina are members of the Carolina Population Network.

Selected Media Appearances

Media appearances by our Faculty Fellows' from the past year.

New study shows there are still "a lot of questions about the biological mechanisms" of processed foods, CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith Taillie says.
Newsweek | October 5, 2026

While food labeling does help consumers understand nutrition information, unofficial third-party labeling risks confusing consumers, Taillie says.
Bloomberg Law | October 5, 2026

"I think people want to have kids," CPC Director Karen Guzzo says, but they might also think: "Some of those things that I think need to be in place before I have kids might not happen."
The Atlantic | October 5, 2026

Opinion: Big Food is Winning the War for America's Diet.
New York Times | August 24, 2026

A proposed bill that would tackle both student loan debt and housing affordability in the U.S. may not provide as much new financial assistance as it initially appears, says CPC Fellow Fenaba Addo.
Newsweek | August 18, 2026

Study reveals 40% of blacklegged ticks in western North Carolina carry bacteria that causes Lyme Disease.
WRAL | August 17, 2026

"It was always thought that Rocky Mountain spotted fever, which is caused by different bacteria, was our major tick-borne disease [in western N.C.]," Boyce says.
NBC News | August 14, 2026

Rising temperatures, changing food sources, and more people building houses in the woods have made encounters with ticks more common in North Carolina and elsewhere, says CPC Fellow Ross Boyce.
New York Times | July 10, 2026

As millions of Medicare-qualifying adults gain access to cheap GLP-1 weight loss drugs through a federal program, CPC Fellow John Batsis urges older patients to focus less on how much they weigh and more on improving their physical ability
CNN | July 1, 2026

Growth in North Carolina's Hispanic Population is likely to slow due to federal immigration enforcement, says Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar.
WUNC | June 26, 2026s

Recent studies co-authored by CPC Fellow Carmen Gutierrez show that prior incarceration is associated with various health conditions and reduced life expectancy later in life.
Prison Policy Initiative | June 9, 2026

The combination of public support, strong science, and political will may finally result in regulation of ultra-processed food in the U.S., says CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith Taillie.
WAMU | June 9, 2026

Despite the termination of many advisory committees to scientific federal agencies, CPC Fellow Barbara Entwisle hopes the need for expertise will facilitate the panels' return.
Yahoo News | May 3, 2026

As everyday costs like groceries, utilities and health care rise, lower- and middle-income couples are seeing themselves priced out of having children, CPC Director Karen Guzzo says.
New York Times | April 26, 2026

After analyzing the impact of new housing developments, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools' projected enrollment losses will not be as steep as previously estimated, Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar says.
WUNC | April 10, 2026

The U.S. "affordability crisis" is a major factor pushing young people to delay having children, CPC Director Karen Guzzo says.
Wall Street Journal | April 9, 2026

As overall U.S. birth rates decline, the age of parents at their first birth continues to rise as people wait longer to have children, CPC Director Karen Guzzo says.
The Washington Post | April 9, 2026

Weight loss drugs drugs might be too potent for some patients. "How much is too much weight loss is unknown," CPC Fellow John Batsis says.
New York Post | April 1, 2026

Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar says accurate and unbiased data is crucial for making public policy.
WCTI News12 | March 21, 2026

The high cost of childcare in the U.S. is pushing more couples to postpone having kids. CPC Director Karen Guzzo says economic uncertainty and worry about the future are key factors when choosing to delay having children.
News and Observer | March 20, 2026

CPC Fellow Barry Popkin says regulating ultraprocessed foods in the U.S. wouldn't be that difficult if the government would just focus on the color and flavor additives that are already tracked by the Food and Drug Administration.
Politifact | March 16, 2026

We should be doing more to make parenthood easier for people who already want to have children, says CPC Director Karen Guzzo.
The Hill | February 12, 2026

CPC Director Karen Guzzo says uncertainty and economic conditions are likely to drive down the U.S. birth rate for 2025.
PBS News | February 6, 2026

Increase in number of adults age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher a result of "educated people moving in and also homegrown talent development," says Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar.
WUNC | January 30, 2026

Monetary incentives won't be enough to reverse China's record low birth rate, says CPC Fellow Yong Cai.

Christian Science Monitor | January 26, 2026

Measles doesn't change genetically as often as the flu, which makes case tracking more difficult, says CPC Fellow Justin Lessler.
WCNC | January 20, 2026

Unpredictability is felt especially by young adults, who weigh a significant number of risks when deciding to have kids, CPC Director Karen Guzzo says.
Newsweek | January 18, 2026

Cytokines, proteins that trigger the human immune response to fight infection and inflammation, can also cause changes to a person's mood and social behavior when sick, says CPC Fellow Keely Muscatell.
NPR | January 16, 2026

Why experts are divided over the new federal dietary guidelines.
PBS News | January 7, 2026

CPC Director Karen Guzzo on National Public Radio's Due South podcast: "Are people able to have the families they themselves say want to have? All evidence right now points to 'no.'"
NPR | January 6, 2026

Federal immigration policies could slow Triangle's rapid population growth, says Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar.
The News and Observer | January 4, 2026

While many people are giving up weight-loss drugs because of the side effects, restarting can lead to other health hazards, says CPC Fellow John Batsis.
The New York Times | December 21, 2025

"My bigger fear really is that we're going to move to the right in terms of access to reproductive medicine," says CPC Director Karen Guzzo.
Vox | December 18, 2025

CPC Fellow Barry Popkin says ultraprocessed foods are worsening diets, drive overeating, and expose consumers to toxins.
NBC News | December 2, 2025

U.S. is far behind other countries in labeling ultraprocessed foods, says CPC Fellow Barry Popkin.
WRAL | December 1, 2025

CPC Director Karen Guzzo joins WABE's Health Wanted podcast to discuss Pronatalism and 'The Fertility Crisis' in the U.S.
WABE | November 21, 2025

Low birth rates have been mainstreamed without being well-understood, says CPC Director Karen Guzzo
WBUR | October 30, 2025

Insecticide-treated baby wraps help provide a 'bridge' for babies until they are old enough to get the malaria vaccine.
The New York Times | October 25, 2025

The U.S. is behind other countries in requiring easy to understand nutrition and warning labels, said CPC Fellow Marissa Hall.
Yahoo News | October 24, 2025

Opinion: Low Birth Rates Are Here To Stay—Until Our Economy Works for Everyone, says CPC Director Karen Benjamin Guzzo.
Newsweek | October 17, 2025

Cancelling annual hunger survey may mean the government plans to cut food assistance programs, says CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith Taillie.
Wall Street Journal | September 20, 2025

Census Scientific Advisory Committee chaired by CPC Fellow Barbara Entwisle returns as an independent body to continue offering recommendations.
Associated Press | September 18, 2025

CPC Fellow Barry Popkin says that without regulations or laws to mandate change in the food and drug industries, 'MAHA' report is "all promises and has no teeth."
CNN | September 10, 2025

'Make America Healthy Again' report lacks "actual, meaningful action that would help Americans address our problems with poor diets and physical activity," CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith Taillie says.
NPR | September 9, 2025

Recommending lower priority solutions rather than tackling more substantial issues like sugary drinks in schools "speaks to industry lobbying," CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith Taillie says.
The New York Times | September 9, 2025

Growing under-5 populations in four N.C. counties are a result of working-age people moving to the state, says Carolina Demography Director Nathan Dollar.
Axios | September 2, 2025

UNC Health fellowship aims to train physicians to be leaders in OBGYN care and prepare them for the realities of a rural practice, says CPC Fellow Kavita Arora.
News and Observer | August 27, 2025

CPC Fellow Arianna Planey says collecting data on participants' gender has been and remains scientifically justified and doing so improves health research.
Yahoo News | August 19, 2025

Draft report on children's health shows the White House isn't serious about reducing ultraprocessed food in kids' diets, says CPC Fellow Lindsey Smith-Taillie.
The New York Times | August 15, 2025

CPC Fellow Jaime Slaughter-Acey seeking donations to complete data collection for study canceled by Trump administration.
The New York Times | August 13, 2025

U.S. birth rates decline for women in most age groups due to cost, lack of healthcare, and societal upheaval.
Associated Press | July 24, 2025

Health science research cuts put medical breakthroughs at risk.
Bloomberg | July 21, 2025

UNC study: 43% of flooded NC buildings were outside FEMA's hazard zones.
WRAL | July 21, 2025

Unless policymakers regulate the food industry, the 'Make America Healthy Again' movement is just a public relations campaign.
Seattle Times | July 20, 2025

Taking up hobbies while still working can help people avoid the "retirement cliff" of sudden inactivity.
CNN | July 9, 2025

Trump sees budget bill promoting a baby boom. Others say more is needed.
Christian Science Monitor | July 1, 2025

America's Boomer Population Grows As Birth Rates Fall.
Newsweek | June 26, 2025

The Push for an American Baby Boom.
WBUR | June 26, 2025

Publications

2025

Alice Cartwright, Jessica Su, Ilene S. Speizer. **Impacts of Medicaid Expansion on Contraceptive Use Among Women in Neighborhoods of Racialized Socioeconomic Deprivation in the United States.** 2025. Women's Health Issues.

Andrew Olshan, Jessie K. Edwards. **Who is living near different types of US Superfund sites: A latent class analysis considering site contaminant profiles.** 2025. Environmental Epidemiology.

Angela Parcesepe. **Life-years lost associated with mental disorders in people with HIV: a cohort study in South Africa, Canada and the United States.** 2025. Journal of the International AIDS Society.

Anneliese Long, Amanda L. Thompson. **Examining the role of socioeconomic adversity on depressive symptoms during pregnancy among non-Hispanic Black women.** 2025. SSM – Mental Health

Arrianna Marie Planey. **The Spatial Patterning of Recent Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act Violations in the United States.** 2025. Annals of Emergency Medicine.

Brooke Bullington, Katherine Tumlinson. **Measuring Informed Choice for Contraception in Burkina Faso: Comparing self-rated and researcher-ascribed measures.** 2025. Social Indicators Research.

Carmen Gutierrez. **Prior incarceration and food insecurity trajectories through older adulthood: findings from the Health and Retirement Study.** 2025. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

Deshira Wallace, Clare Barrington. **Navigating double burden: Community health workers in rural Dominican Republic living and working through the epidemiologic transition.** 2025. PLOS Global Public Health.

Elizabeth Simmons, Kavita Singh Ongechi. **Equitable Medicaid Reimbursement Policies Increase Midwifery-Led Births: An Interrupted Time Series Analysis With a Synthetic Control Group.** 2025. Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health.

Esther Chung, Allison Frost, Stephanie Martin, Sean Sylvia, Joanna Maselko. **Early life grandmother caregiving trajectories and child development: a longitudinal study.** 2025. International Journal of Behavioral Development.

Ilene S. Speizer. **The State of Person-Centered Measurement for Family Planning Need and Use: A Scoping Review.** 2025. Studies in Family Planning.

Ilene S. Speizer. **Updated World Health Organization Guideline on Preventing Early Pregnancy and Poor Reproductive Outcomes Among Adolescents in Low- and Middle-income Countries.** 2025. Journal of Adolescent Health.

Jaime Slaughter-Acey. **Intersectional inequities in maternal mortality: Examining the compounded risks for black birthing individuals with physical disabilities.** 2025. Disability and Health Journal.

Jane Cooley Fruehwirth, Krista M. Perreira. **Mental Health Symptoms Among US College Students Before, Early, and Late Into the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Longitudinal Analysis.** 2025. Journal of Adolescent Health.

Jennifer Momkus, Kathleen Mullan Harris, Y. Claire Yang, Chantel L. Martin, Jessie K. Edwards. **Life course socioeconomic disadvantage and persistent infection burden: Links to cellular immunosenescence in U.S. young adults.** 2025.Social Science & Medicine.

Chantel L. Martin, Larissa Jennings Mayo-Wilson. **Mapping fertility trajectories: An endarkened narrative inquiry of Black women's fertility experiences and pathways through infertility treatment.** 2025. Social Science & Medicine.

Joaquin Alfredo-Angel Rubalcaba. **Worker-Driven Social Responsibility and Infant Health.** 2025. Demography.

Karen Guzzo. **Perceptions of the Future and Pregnancy Avoidance in the U.S.** 2025. Population Research and Policy Review.

Katherine Tumlinson. **"I was told it was the pill that suits me": A qualitative study of women's perceptions and experiences of medical reasons for non-preferred contraceptive use.** 2025. Women's Health.

Keely Muscatell. **Is Discrimination Related to Markers of Systemic Inflammation? A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis.** 2025. Psychosomatic Medicine

Lauren Gaydosh. **Research Note: Does Despair in Young Adulthood Predict Mortality?** 2025. Demography.

Lauren Gaydosh, Kathleen Mullan Harris. **The Role of Despair in Predicting Self-Destructive Behaviors.** 2025. Population Research and Policy Review.

Lauren Valentino. **Seeing Discrimination: How Different Definitions of Discrimination Relate to Health in U.S. Adults.** 2025. Journal of Health and Social Behavior.

Lisa D. Pearce. **Understanding PrEP misconceptions and their impact on PrEP initiation and use among pregnant and lactating women in Malawi.** 2025. PLOS Global Public Health.

Manuel Schechtl. **Local government expenditure centralization and spatial variation in working-age mortality.** 2025. SSM - Population Health.

Marissa Hall. **Do Perceived Message Effectiveness Ratings Change in Response to Repeated Message Exposures?** 2025. Health Communication.

Natalicio Serrano. **Cluster randomized multilevel intervention for promoting physical activity in rural communities.** 2025. Frontiers in Public Health.

Paul L. Delamater. **Travel Time to Fertility Specialty Care Among Reproductive-Age Cancer Survivors.** 2025. Journal of Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology.

Regina S. Baker. **The uneven impact of Medicaid expansion on rural and urban Black, Latino/a, and White mortality.** 2025. The Journal of Rural Health

Sachiko Ozawa. **Methodological Approaches for Incorporating Marginalized Populations into HPV Vaccine Modeling: A Systematic Review.** 2025. Medical Decision Making.

Todd M. Jensen. **Bidirectional Associations Between Family Belonging and Youth Well-Being Over Time: Family Structure as a Moderating Influence.** 2025. Journal of Adolescent Health.

2026

Linda S. Adair. **Blood pressure is associated with ultra-processed food intake in a sex- and age-specific manner during the transition to adulthood in Cebu, Philippines.** 2026. British Journal of Nutrition.

Kavita S. Arora. **Prevalence of Postpartum Permanent Contraception Requests and Fulfillment Among Incarcerated Individuals and Individuals in the Community.** 2026. Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Christy L. Avery.; Mariaelisa (Misa) Graff. **Investigating the associations between prepregnancy lipoprotein(a) and birth outcomes: The Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos.** 2026. Journal of Clinical Lipidology.

Regina S. Baker. **The Impact of Precise Geographic Adjustments on the Supplemental Poverty Measure.** 2026. Population Research and Policy Review.

John A. Batsis. **Conditions Attributable to Obesity in Older Adults in the U.S.: A Cross-Sectional Study.** 2026. American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Samuel L. K. Baxter. **Neighborhood Influences on Cardiovascular Health: A Concept Mapping Study With Young Black Men Living in Southern Black Communities.** 2026. American Journal of Men's Health

Ganga S. Bey; Annie Green Howard; Joanna Maselko; Natalicio Serrano; Jaime Slaughter-Acey. **Birth cohort trends in activity limitation among U.S. adults in established adulthood: an intersectional approach to examine the effects of persistent inequality on health.** 2026. Social Science & Medicine.

Cook-Martin, David. **Sojourners, Not Settlers: Temporary Labor Migration Since the Nineteenth Century.** 2026. Annual Review of Sociology.

Jessie K. Edwards; Andrew F. Olshan. **Residential proximity to Superfund sites and breast cancer incidence in a nationwide cohort.** 2026. Environmental Epidemiology.

Barbara Entwisle. **How Representative Are Electronic Health Records? A Record Linkage Study Using Individual-Level Census Data.** 2026. Social Science & Medicine.

Lauren Gaydosh; Kathleen Mullan Harris. **Neighborhood poverty duration, timing, and severity from adolescence to early midlife and biological aging.** 2026. American Journal of Epidemiology.

Lauren Gaydosh; Kathleen Mullan Harris. **Reproductive life course histories and menopausal outcomes at midlife: Evidence from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health.** 2026. Journals of Gerontology: Series B.

Penny Gordon-Larsen. **Developing a novel index for neighborhood social determinants of cardiovascular diseases in the CARDIA study.** 2026. Nature Communications.

Clark Gray; Sudhanshu Handa. **Cash transfers relax climate-induced mobility constraints in Kenya.** 2026. Population and Environment.

Carmen Gutierrez. **The Long Arm of Incarceration: Incarceration History and Mortality Risk in a Nationally Representative Cohort of Older US Adults, 2012-2022.** 2026. American Journal of Public Health.

Miyuki Hino. **Impacts of Hurricane-Related Flooding on Time to Initial Cancer-Directed Treatment in North Carolina.** 2026. Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention.

Todd M. Jensen. **Ambiguous gain is associated with stepfamily functioning and youth well-being: Leveraging new theoretical perspectives in stepfamily research.** 2026. Family Transitions.

Justin Lessler. **Will there be a warning for the next pandemic?** Science Advances.

Valerie Lewis. **Early Perceptions of the Effects of North Carolina's Medicaid Expansion on Primary Care Provider Organizations: Findings from the 2024 North Carolina Medicaid Provider Experience Survey.** 2026. Journal of General Internal Medicine.

Valerie Lewis; Arrianna Marie Planey. **Neighborhood Deprivation and Timely Entry into Prenatal Care, Risk Screening, and Receipt of Care Management Services Among High-Risk Pregnant Medicaid Enrollees in North Carolina.** 2026. Health Equity.

Chantel L. Martin. **Effects of hospital and obstetric unit closures on postpartum acute care across county racial composition in rural North Carolina.** 2026. Journal of Rural Health.

Maselko, Joanna. **Perinatal depression and breastfeeding: a longitudinal investigation of the bidirectional relationship in Pakistan.** 2026. Archives of Women's Mental Health.

Shu Wen Ng; Lindsey Smith Taillie. **Adoption and Acceptability of a Fruit and Vegetable Subsidy in Low-Income Households in Urban Chile.** 2026. Current Developments in Nutrition.

Shu Wen Ng. **Changes in sales of packaged food and beverages, energy, and nutrients after the implementation of front-of-pack warning labels in Mexico.** 2026. Social Science & Medicine.

Krista M. Perreira. **Neighborhood Gentrification, Income Inequality, and Cancer Incidence Among Hispanic/Latino Adults.** 2026. JNCI Cancer Spectrum.

Audrey E. Pettifor; Jaime Slaughter-Acey. **The Effect of State-Level Policy Climate on HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Use and the Role of Internalized Stigma.** 2026. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes

Arrianna Marie Planey; Deshira Wallace. **Spatial-Structural Disparities in Acute Care Accessibility Among Latin American Immigrants and Spanish Speakers in the Rural US South.** 2026. Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.

Barry M. Popkin. **What Do Nova and the Ultraprocessed Food Concept Offer to Policymakers? From Updating Dietary Guidance to Regulatory Action and Advancing Sustainable Food System Transitions.** 2026. American Journal of Public Health.

Manuel Schechtl. **Financial assets and cardiometabolic risk in early adulthood: Evidence from Add Health.** 2026. Social Science & Medicine.

Kerilyn Schewel. **Mobility Framing Effects in Migration Surveys: A Research Note With Experimental Evidence From Senegal.** 2026. Demography.

Natalicio Serrano; Lindsey Smith Taillie. A**n RCT of Front-Of-Package Nutrition Labels in Latino Populations in the U.S.** 2026. American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

Jaime Slaughter-Acey. **Experiences of In-Group and Out-Group Skin Tone Discrimination and Their Associations with Incident Cardiovascular Disease Among African American Adults in the Jackson Heart Study.** 2026. Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.

Sean Sylvia; Tara Templin.; Katherine Tumlinson. **Informal and out-of-pocket payments for public-sector contraceptive care in remote Madagascar.** 2026. Contraception.

Deshira Wallace. **Lessons Learned on the Use of Wearables in Tracking Health Indicators Among Farmworkers in North Carolina Exposed to Extreme Heat Conditions.** 2026. Public Health Challenges.

Funding

Grants awarded to CPC Fellows and Postdocs from July 2025-June 2026

- **Kavita Arora**
  Assessing the impact of policy and legal influences on permanent contraception decision-making and provision in West Virginia
  Society of Family Planning (SFP)
- **Elizabeth Frankenberg**
  Carolina Center for Population Aging and Health
  National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **Alison Frost**
  Promoting child respiratory health through novel psychosocial targets: An investigation of a maternal mental health intervention
  NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- **Lauren Gaydosh**
  Linking Criminal Legal Records to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health
  Arnold Ventures, LLC
- **Lauren Gaydosh**
  Longitudinal Study of Cognitive and Biological Aging in Midlife and Older Sexual and Gender Minority Adults
  NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA) through a subcontract with Vanderbilt University
- **Stephanie Martin**
  Optimizing a school-based obesity prevention intervention for adolescent girls
  NIH National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases (NIDDKD)
- **Angela Parcesepe**
  Long-term mental health outcomes of survivors of the World Trade Center Attack
  National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) through a subcontract with Research Foundation of the City University of New York
- **Alexander Sahn**
  Evaluating Public Meeting Commenting
  Coefficient Giving
- **Manuel Schechtl**
  WESOREL: Wealth and Social Cohesion
  Volkswagen Stiftung through a subcontract with Lidwig-Maximillians Universitat Munchen (LMU)
- **Lindsey Smith Taillie**
  Catalyzing policy action through evaluating the impact of climate change on nutrition and chronic disease risk in Bangladesh.
  Wellcome Trust
- **Lindsey Smith Taillie**
  Healthy Eating Research (HER)
  Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through a subcontract with Duke University
- **Colin West**
  Seed Funding Award
  UNC College of Arts and Sciences

Honors and Awards

Onyeka Arah
Received an National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Ross Boyce
Named 2026 Doctor of the Year by Triangle Business Journal
Received the Distinguished Clinical Research Achievement Award from the Clinical Research Forum

Peter Coclanis
Received the Faculty Award for Global Excellence from UNC Global Affairs

Cassandra Davis
Named to the 2025 class of Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars

Jess Edwards
Awarded the inaugural Joan Heckler Gillings Endowed Professorship

Barbara Entwisle
Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
Received the American Sociological Association (ASA) Methodology Section's 2026 Pedagogy Award

Elizabeth Frankenberg
Elected to serve as the president of the Population Association of America (PAA) for 2026

Lauren Gaydosh
Received the Early Career Award in Population Health from the Milbank Quarterly

Marissa Hall
Received a Teaching Innovation Award from the Gillings School of Global Public Health

Ashu Handa
Appointed as Chief Economist for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Kathleen Mullan Harris
Received the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Population Section Distinguished Career Award

Miyuki Hino
Awarded a 2026 Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement

Arne L. Kalleberg
Received the 2026 W.E.B. Du Bois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award

Chantel Martin
Received Gillings School of Global Public Health Research Excellence Award

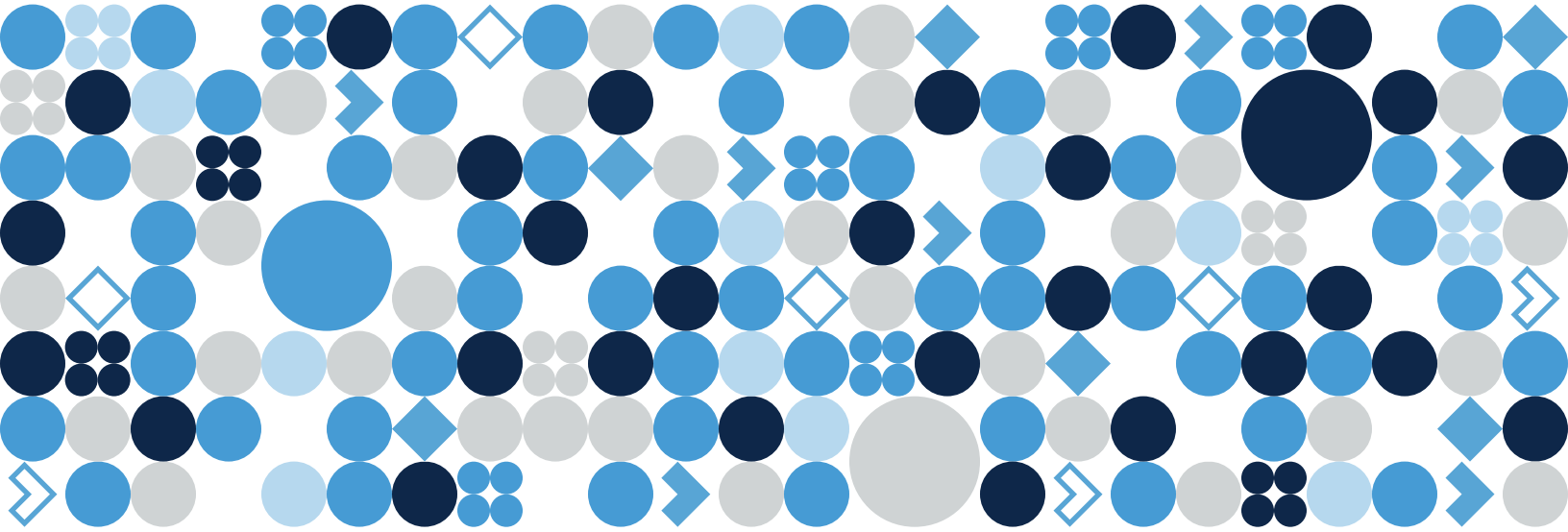
Stephanie Martin
Named to the 2025 class of Thorp Faculty Engaged Scholars
Received a Fall 2025 Rural Research, Engagement, and Advancement Fund award

Kavita Singh Ongechi
Received the 2026 McGavran Award from the Gillings School of Global Public Health

Arrianna Marie Planey
Received Gillings School of Global Public Health Research Excellence Award

Lauren Valentino
Selected for a Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar Fellowship for 2026-27

Colin West
Named a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for 2026-2027 for the Africa Regional Research Program
Received a Seed Funding Award from the UNC College of Arts and Sciences



The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Carolina Population Center

123 West Franklin St., Ste. 210
Chapel Hill, NC, 27516

Phone: (919) 445-6945

Fax: (919) 445-6956

cpc.unc.edu