



# Old Dominion University Center for Global Health

## 2021-2022 REPORT



*This report was prepared by the ODU Center for Global Health Team*

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## 1. KEY PERSONNEL

Michele Kekeh, Ph.D., Interim Director

Cara Tonn, Graduate Assistant, Ph.D. Student

(See CVs in the Appendix Section).

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Old Dominion University (ODU) Center for Global Health (CGH) is motivated by the vision to improve people's health and quality of life, both locally and globally, by leveraging Hampton Roads' unique strengths in education, research, and outreach. To positively impact health and well-being, the organization's core mission, the CGH continues to rely strongly on collaborations with faculty, students, communities, and other partners. The work of the CGH depends on collaborations and, accordingly, on ensuring trust among our partners as we address health issues in the region. The core values of the CGH are as follows:

- ***Health Equity***

Health equity is the guiding principle of the CGH. We aspire for all people to have the opportunity to attain optimal health and for no one to be disadvantaged by social, political, economic, and cultural limitations.

- ***Inclusiveness***

To foster inclusiveness, the CGH promotes an environment of teaching, learning, practice, and research that allows diverse individuals to succeed. We strive to consider the different needs and strengths of those from diverse backgrounds. In addition, we seek to advance global health through collaborations and partnerships that transcend cultural borders.

- ***An interdisciplinary approach***

We espouse an interdisciplinary approach to teaching, learning, practice, research, and service. We cultivate and promote interdisciplinary collaborations across campus, as well as collaborations with other institutions and communities, to improve health both locally and abroad.

- ***Knowledge-driven decisions***

ODU's CGH only generates end products that are grounded in the principles of scientific rigor and evidence-based knowledge.

The CGH's strategic plan for 2020 to 2025 includes two priority areas: sustainability, research, and education.

### **Priority #1: Sustainability**

The key areas for sustainability include

- engaging past and potential donors to increase the philanthropic funds given to support CGH projects;
- supporting the creation of the School of Public Health at ODU; and
- strengthening and expanding relationships with the local community and regional, national, and international global health entities.

## **Priority # 2: Research and Education**

We plan to maximize the potential of the CGH in research and education by

- increasing the scholarly output of the CGH related to teaching methods and, beginning in 2023, increasing its impact on global health faculty members
- providing program or research-development resources for faculty members and doctoral students interested in the global health field but without previous experience; and
- promoting and increasing student engagement with the CGH.

This report summarizes the accomplishments of the CGH during Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Summer 2022 semesters. All CGH projects were suspended from 2019 to 2021 to adhere to social-distancing measures and reduce the community spread of COVID-19. However, as the stay-at-home order lifted in the region, we rekindled our collaborations. We hit the ground running, focusing on promoting student engagement with the CGH, supporting the School of Public Health, and continuing to provide analytical support for our community partners' projects. We onboarded undergraduate students and built up their data-management ability. We also offered evaluation and research support as part of our current projects with the Chesapeake Health Department, Healthy Chesapeake, and Suffolk Public Schools. Additionally, we worked with our partners to bring visibility to their projects through scholarship opportunities. We hope to continue providing these services and continue to strengthen the CGH's collaborations.

### **3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

#### **3.1 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS**

**3.1.1 Ongoing Partnerships and Collaborations** *(the focus of these partnerships has been expanded on in previous reports)*

- **Chesapeake Department of Health** - MOU with the Chesapeake Department for research support (2016-Present).
- **LifeNet** – MOU with LifeNet for internship scholarship opportunities (2016-Present).
- **Boys and Girls Club of Southeastern Hampton Roads** - Collaboration for Global Health Heroes projects (2017-Present).
- **Virginia Beach Department of Health** - MOU with Virginia Beach Department of Health for internships and practicum coordination (2017-Present).
- **Suffolk Public Schools** - Partnership on Wellness Initiatives for a Happy, Healthy, Productive Staff (2018-Present).
- **ODU Public Health Student Association** – Collaboration for Public Health Talks.

#### **3.2. NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS IN 2022**

##### **3.2.1 New Partnerships**

**T2 Fresh Start Initiative.** The T2 Fitness Foundation is a 501(c)3 established in 2018 to empower and equip individuals with the skills and strategies they need to lead healthier lifestyles inexpensively. This foundation offers a 12-week comprehensive wellness program geared toward helping African American women in Hampton Roads improve their fitness levels, reduce the impacts of hypertension and diabetes on their health, and establish healthier relationships with food. This program aims to impart behavioral changes to these women's lives so that they will live healthier lifestyles for years to come.

This collaboration supports student internship placements and provides academic support to students to assess the program's effectiveness. This year, we placed two undergraduate students in the program for internship opportunities. These students worked with the organization to conduct field-based data gathering. We have trained

them to code and enter data collected with paper and pencil, run data analyses using SPSS, and write reports using visualization approaches appropriate for specific community partners.

Although this collaboration did not receive funding, the student interns did receive paid internships to work with the T2 Fresh Start Initiative. We are currently working with the program leadership to design a logic model and evaluation plan approved by the ODU IRB. We expect this phase to receive funding during the following grant cycle

**Kin and Kids Consulting.** Kin and Kids Consulting's goal is to expand Kinship Care and Aging Services based on years of community service and social action.

This collaboration studies the effectiveness of the nationwide Circle of Parents program. We are currently in the developmental stage, working with other faculty members from the School of Community and Environmental Health. The next step is to write a grant to provide collaborative support for the initiative.

### **3.2.2 Projects**

#### **Student Service-Learning Opportunities**

The Center provides ongoing research support and mentoring to students completing internships at the Center or placed in the local community for practicum and internship opportunities. This support is provided through an MOU for population health with the Chesapeake Health Department that promotes building the capacity of students involved in research projects with community partners in Hampton Roads. Through this collaboration, we develop students' abilities, mainly in data management and analysis. This year, we hosted 11 students at the Center and placed seven students for practicum opportunities with local organizations in Hampton Roads.

#### **Assessing the Health Care Needs of a Subgroup of Suffolk Public Schools (SPS) Staff Members**

Community Partners: Suffolk Public Schools (SPS), Obici Sentara Healthcare, the Franklin and Suffolk Health Departments, and the American Diabetes Association

This project is ongoing. In 2019, SPS readapted components of their "Wellness Initiatives for a Happy, Healthy, Productive Staff" program based on the health needs of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, and custodians. In 2020, the ODU Center for Global Health (CGH) developed data collection instruments (organizational culture and the reflection questionnaire) and submitted them to the IRB for the implementation stage of the current program. In May 2022, we implemented the

Year Two climate survey to gather information regarding the participants' demographic characteristics, perceptions of the wellness program, physical, emotional, and mental health statuses, sleep patterns, barriers to program participation, and perceptions of the organizational culture of SPS. The Year One survey was implemented last year, and this year, we will have the opportunity to examine trends in many of these variables to assess the wellness program's effectiveness.

### **Chesapeake Health Department**

The partnership with the Chesapeake Health Department (CHD) is an ongoing project. This year, the CGH has worked collaboratively with the department to compare general COVID-19 trends in Chesapeake schools and compare cases between private schools, daycares, and public schools. We also planned to examine the impacts of mitigation strategies on COVID-19 cases in different settings. We reviewed and analyzed the secondary data following IRB approval. We worked with our partners to submit an abstract to NACCHO and accepted it for presentation at the national conference in July. This innovative project highlights many implications for practice and recommendations for other school districts aiming to address public health issues.

Additionally, as part of our MOU with the CHD, we provide evaluation support for Healthy Chesapeake (HC), the population health arm of the Chesapeake Health Department. We are currently working with the HC to develop an evaluation plan for the Thrives program to provide practicum opportunities for the ONE Public Health School.

### **Healthy Chesapeake (HC) Program Evaluation**

Community Partners: Healthy Chesapeake Inc.

The ODU CGH provides evaluation support for Healthy Chesapeake (HC) program activities. The HC program, created under the Chesapeake Health Department's leadership and city leaders' leadership, addresses health issues by focusing on low-Health Opportunity Index (HOI) communities in Chesapeake. This program uses community-driven approaches to implement nutrition education, promote access to healthy food, encourage an active lifestyle, and ameliorate chronic diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. The projects run by HC emphasize community empowerment. From Fall 2021 to Summer 2022, we submitted a continued progress report and received approval from the ODU IRB. Then, we surveyed the program's board members to assess their beliefs regarding what HC has accomplished, whether HC is meeting its goals, and potentially missed opportunities.

Additionally, we gathered clinical and behavioral data to assess the effectiveness of the HUB program. Specifically, we determined the extent to which the HUB program



has accomplished its set targets per the IRB guidelines. We also developed surveys to assess regional food insecurity levels and community members' experiences with nutrition classes. Students translated some of these surveys into Spanish to gather data from the Spanish-speaking population. In April 2022, we submitted an abstract to the American Public Health Association (APHA) highlighting the dedication of the HUB program staff as the driving force for accountability and eagerness to approach each appointment with an accomplished milestone.

Due to their integral role with HC in South Norfolk in providing food assistance, we assisted the Buffalo Family and Friends in developing three surveys to assess client satisfaction and elicit suggestions for improvement in program services.

### **Global Health Heroes Program**

In Fall 2021, we modified the Global Health Heroes program from an in-person to a virtual format to appeal to a worldwide audience. We worked with students to redesign the program's modules and activities, addressing oral health, pollution, climate change, and cancer. Our goal is to use opportunities such as this to train students in health education program planning and design. Furthermore, we aim to make these resources available for download from the Center's website. In Spring 2022, we used the training of trainers framework to educate MPH students about concepts they must consider when designing programs to address community and public health challenges. We are currently in the process of submitting a paper describing this project.

### **Public Health Talks**

During Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, the CGH collaborated with the Public Health Student Association to plan and implement virtual public health talks. We worked with key public health professionals and stakeholders, such as faculty and students, to define public health topics, and assisted in designing advertisement materials. Over the past year, we have discussed topics such as achieving secure food communities, the American Red Cross - Always There in a Time of Need, and social marketing.

### **3.3 PUBLICATIONS**

- Berumen-Flucker, B., Kekeh, M., Akpınar-Elci, M. (2021). Cultural Factors, Migrant Status, and Vulnerability to Increasing Temperatures among Hispanic/Latino Farmworkers: A Systematic Review. *Journal of Agricultural Safety and Health*, <https://doi.org/10.13031/jash.14592>

- Kekeh, M., Akpinar-Elci, M., Lucero, L. Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in the United States. (2022). In R. Akhar (Ed.), Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreaks, Vaccination, Politics and Society - The Continuing Challenge (Edition 1). Springer.
- Kekeh, M. (2022). Disparities in Influenza Vaccination: Analysis of the Virginia Immunization Information System Data from 2011 to 2019. Submitted to the Vaccines Journal.
- Sirjani, H. H., Kekeh, M., Hawkins, J. E., Akpinar, M. Educating Nursing Students about Chronic Pain Management and Opioids: a Research Study” (the “Work”). Submitted to Journal of Addictions Nursing.

### **3.4 PRESENTATIONS**

- Dougherty C, Welch N, Kekeh M. A Retrospective Comparison of COVID-19 Transmission in School and Childcare Settings and Recommendations on a Novel Team Approach to Disease Surveillance and Response in These Settings. National Association of County and City Health Officials. (In-person) July 2022 – A Poster Presentation.  
<https://www.eventscribe.net/2022/NA360/agenda.asp?startdate=7/19/2022&enddate=7/19/2022&BCFO=POD|POS&pfp=posters&mode=&fa=&fb=&fc=&fd=>
- Yancura L, Kekeh M, Tonn C, Dial K, Achike M. Supporting the Grandparent Army: Coaching and Education for Skipped Generation Households. Family Life Coaching Association Conference (Virtual) June 2022 – A workshop
- Kekeh M. COVID-19 and impacts on the Sustainable Development Goals. Global Citizenship: A Focus on the COVID-19 Health Crises. ODU Libraries. International Week (Virtual) October 2021 – A workshop
- Tonn C. Impacts of COVID-19 in the United States. Global Citizenship: A Focus on the COVID-19 Health Crises. ODU Libraries. International Week (Virtual) October 2021 – A workshop
- Alshehri F, Tonn C, Kekeh M. Using a Training-of-Trainers’ approach to educate MPH students on planning oral health education program for children. Internship Report presented in MPH 651.

### **3.5. TECHNICAL REPORTS**

- HUB Program Evaluation Report – Year 4
- Summary of Board Member Survey, Healthy Chesapeake, Inc.
- Report of the Healthy Chef Survey, Healthy Chesapeake, Inc.
- FoodWeb Survey Report, Healthy Chesapeake, Inc.
- Report of data Analysis (Pre and Posttest) – T2 Fitness Program
- Proposal for increasing enrollment and retention of Hispanic children in Virginia’s public health insurance programs, Healthy Chesapeake, Inc.

### **3.6 ACTIVE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) PROJECTS**

- Assessing the Experiences and Perceptions of the Impacts of COVID-19 on Grandparent Caregivers, Resources, and Family Dynamics: A Qualitative Study - [1857086-1]
- K-12 Schools Reopening Study - [1731066-1]
- Evaluation of Suffolk Public Schools Wellness Initiatives – [1565603-4]
- Students’ and Preceptors’ Perspectives and Experiences About Service-Learning Opportunities – [1080057-2]
- Baby Care Project Assessment – [1208866-3]
- Perception of The Evaluator’s Role Among Coalition Members And Partners – [1250979-2]
- The Nurtured Heart Approach® (NHA®) Certified Training Intensive (CTI) Assessment Survey - [1242972-3]
- Healthy Chesapeake Program Evaluation - [1055083-13]

### **3.7 INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FUNDING**

- Kekeh M (PI), Yancura L, Achike M, Tonn C, Dial K. Assessing the experiences and perceptions of the impacts of COVID-19 on grandparent caregivers, resources, and family dynamics: A qualitative study – (2022) - \$17,650
- Al-Taiar A, Kekeh M (co-PI), Welch, N. Women’s experience and perceptions of virtual home visits during COVID-19 pandemic in BabyCare program in Chesapeake district. (2022) - \$49,373
- Kekeh M (PI). Population Health. Chesapeake Health Department (2020-2025) - \$50,000

- Kekeh M (PI), Nguyen M (co-PI). Suffolk Public Schools Wellness Program Evaluation, Suffolk Public Schools (2020-2023) - \$79,380

#### **4. GLOBAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

##### **4.1 COURSES CURRENTLY APPROVED FOR THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM:**

##### **Required Courses**

- (MPH 746) Epidemiology 3 credit hours – Available in the fall
- (HLSC 776) Global Health 3 credit hours – Available in the fall
- (HLSC 702)/802 Health Management 3 credit hours – Available in spring

##### **Electives (select two)**

- (HLSC 778) Global Environmental Health 2 credit hours – Available in summer (six-week course). This course has a 3 credit hours option.
- (HLSC 785) Issues and opportunities in global health research 2 credit hours – Available in spring
- (HLSC 780) Monitoring & Evaluation of Global Health Programs 2 credit hours

##### **Cumulative Experience (Select one)**

- (HLSC 798) Supervised Research 2 credit hours – Available in the summer
- (HLSC 768) Practicum in Global Health 2 credit hours – Available in fall and spring
- (HLSC 705/805) Interprofessional study abroad in global health 2 credit hours

Total credit to complete: 15 credit hours

\*\*\*A maximum of 6 credit hours from graduate-level courses may be transferred based on the student's transcript.

In Fall 2021, Spring 2022, and Summer 2022, 22 students filled out the template on ODUOnline, showing interest in the Certificate program. Each person was contacted via email promptly by Dr. Michele Kekeh. In total, 11 students registered for the program. Over the past year, two students (Shannon McCrory and Hanna Twitty) from previous cohorts have completed the program.

**4.2 LIST OF STUDENTS ACCEPTED IN THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

Student	Term
Myra Kitt	Summer 2022
Alisha Archagel-Banrey	Summer 2022
Emily Santos Comerford	Summer 2022
Adrienne Cole Williams	Fall 2021
Dionna Johnson	Fall 2021
Maggie Robinson	Fall 2021
Jeshauna Mccoy	Fall 2021
Andrea Kelly	Spring 2022
Riham Elhassan	Fall 2021
Tonya Harrell	Fall 2021
Darian Dean	Spring 2022

## **5. INTERNSHIPS AND PROJECTS**

Student	Degree Program	Semester	Project Title
Cat Sarris	High School student (Norfolk Collegiate)	Summer 2021	Center for Global Health deliverable & activities (5 deliverables)
Su Akar	Biological Sciences (undergrad)	Summer 2021	Global Health Heroes Module (cancer & cancer prevention)
Sarah Grabosky	ODU BSHS Program (undergrad)	Fall 2021	Global Health Heroes module (water pollution & its effects)
Fatimah Alshehri	Dental Hygiene (graduate)	Fall 2021	Global Health Heroes Module (oral health) & manuscript
Jacquelynn R Lenzly	ODU BSHS Program (undergrad)	Fall 2021	Association between the perception of the organization culture and employee participation in workplace wellness programs (literature review)
T'Keyah Westbrook	MPH in Health Education Program - Mississippi University for Women (graduate)	Spring 2022	Evaluation of a hypertension management program – T2 Fitness Program (cohort 1)
Nigee Watson	ODU BSHS Program	Fall 2021	Assessment of Active Lifestyle Opportunities in Chesapeake, Virginia (to

	(undergrad)		inform practicum opportunities sites)
Dominic Carter	Liberty University (graduate)	Fall 2021	A design of a referral pattern, inclusive of policies and procedures as indicated, between three safety net organizations serving the healthcare and safety needs of the citizens of Chesapeake
Thomas Sey	ODU BSHS program (undergrad)	Spring 2022	Assessment of the Healthy Chef project
Hisham Alhamrayn	ODU Dental Hygiene (graduate)	Summer 2022	CGH File Management – Administrative support/Systematic review on climate change and oral health
Andrew Duffy	ODU BSHS program (undergrad)	Summer 2022	Evaluation of a hypertension management program – T2 Fitness Program (cohort 2)

## **6. OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

- In November 2021, we held a board meeting to update members on the Center's projects and activities during Summer 2021 and Fall 2021
- In September 2021, Mrs. Claire Wulf Winiarek resigned from the board
- In October 2021, Mr. Mike Jakubowski resigned from the board.
- Ms. Carla Knox, the Administrative Assistant to the Center, joined the ODU Registrar Office in November 2021
- We completed the WEAVE assessment plan for the graduate global health certificate for the year 2020-2021



## **7. ANTICIPATED NEEDS AND ASSOCIATED TIMELINES**

HLSC 780 (Monitoring & Evaluation of Global Health Programs) is an approved elective course part of the certificate program; however, this course is not currently available to students. Students have had to substitute MPH 780 with MPH 661 (Program Planning and Evaluation), despite expressing much interest in taking HLSC 780. MPH 661 provides a comprehensive overview of the practical and theoretical principles and skills needed to plan, implement and evaluate health programs in various settings. Although this benefits students who plan to apply for the MPH program, it requires students who are only pursuing the certificate to pay for one extra credit. We hope to work with the curriculum committee and the Center for Learning and Teaching in Spring 2023 to build this course and make it available starting in Fall 2023.

Also, in collaboration with Dr. Leslie Hoglund, Clinical Assistant Professor in the BSHS program and the ODU study abroad program, we are exploring ideas and requirements to strengthen the Interprofessional Study Abroad in Global Health course.

## 8. APPENDIXES

### 8.1. ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

#### Chair

Bob Rudman  
Chief Global Products Officer  
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#### Members

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