

Greetings:

The Department of Maternal and Child Health is proud to be a part of the Carolina tradition of excellence and to have earned its reputation as one of the world's leading academic departments for MCH research, teaching and practice. Founded in 1950 as a free-standing department of the UNC School of Public Health, the Department of Maternal and Child Health is the only stand-alone, academically autonomous department of maternal and child health within an accredited school of public health in the nation.

The hallmark of this department historically – that continues to define our core – is that we are dedicated to improving the health of women, children and families — domestically and globally. Our teaching program provides students with broad exposure to maternal and child health population needs and priorities, as well as the skills to become leaders of tomorrow.



Carolyn T. Halpern, PhD
Professor and Chair

An intrinsic attribute of this department is its commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, research and practice. The MCH faculty itself represents a rich mix of academic backgrounds and interests, contributing expertise in a wide range of MCH disciplines. MCH faculty have received doctoral/professional training in pediatrics, nutrition, sociology, social work, epidemiology, statistics, psychology, economics, demography, geography, obstetrics and gynecology, maternal/fetal medicine, and population/international health. The majority of our faculty members also hold graduate degrees in Public Health.

We offer an array of master's, doctoral, and dual degree options that encompass both domestic and global study, and include both research and practice. Our fully integrated, interdisciplinary population-based approach provides our students with broad exposures to MCH population issues, needs and responses in diverse settings and prepares graduates to be the MCH leaders of tomorrow. These learning opportunities make the UNC Department of Maternal and Child Health unique and highly desirable.

Our research strengths include: developing a strong evidence base to improve health policies, programs and practices for women and children, locally and globally; working in interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions for addressing health disparities among women and children; using innovative approaches, including implementation science, to support the successful implementation of proven women's and children's interventions at scale; and using quantitative and qualitative methods to improve the health of women, children and families in North Carolina, the nation and the world.

The demand for well-trained maternal and child health professionals continues to expand, both within the United States and globally. Most of the eight United Nations' Millennium Development Goals¹ are integrally linked to maternal and child health and, with major challenges in reaching these goals

¹ http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/

persisting, the need for leaders in the field has never been greater. The department has trained more than 1400 graduate students, many of whom have gone on to demonstrate field leadership in a wide array of academic, clinical, public health, and policy settings.

We appreciate your interest in maternal and child health at the Gillings School and hope you will consider becoming part of our MCH family.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn T. Halpern', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Carolyn T. Halpern, PhD
Professor and Chair