



Greetings:

Welcome to the Department of Maternal and Child Health! Founded in 1950, today we are the only stand-alone, academically autonomous department of maternal and child health within an accredited school of public health in the United States. We are extremely proud of our MCH heritage and the many contributions that our faculty, alumni, and students have made and continue to make to improve the health of women, children and families in North Carolina and around the globe. We work to build on that heritage by leading the field of MCH into the future.



Dr. Halpern

The MCH Department is known for its rigorous and engaged scholarship that is supported by extraordinary disciplinary diversity. The award winning 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 are in a period of transition, missing extraordinary faculty members who have recently retired, but eagerly anticipating new faculty colleagues who will join our department in the upcoming year. We are building on existing departmental strengths in various aspects of implementation science as well as offering expertise in a diverse

set of substantive areas.

The demand for well-trained maternal and child health professionals continues to grow, both within the United States and globally. Many of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals<sup>i</sup> are linked to maternal and child health. Our strong faculty allow us to offer an array of master's, doctoral, and dual degree options that help to meet that demand. In addition, we are home to a number of Centers and Institutes that provide specialized training. For example, we house the National MCH Workforce Development Center, which provides training and technical assistance to state Title V professionals and partners as they implement health reform. The Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute and the WHO Collaborating Center for Research Evidence for Sexual and Reproductive Health are also housed in our department. Our capacity and array of research and practice opportunities uniquely position the UNC Gillings School Department of Maternal and Child Health to train tomorrow's MCH leaders.

Last, but certainly not least, we are known for our inclusive and supportive culture among both faculty and students. **We welcome you with open arms and celebrate the rich diversity you bring to the MCH Department and the Gillings School.** I think you will find that your fellow students are your collaborators, not your competitors. Our faculty members are not just your teachers, they are your life long mentors. That is the essence of graduate training. As a result of the academic excellence and collaborative culture of the department, our alumni have gone on to lead the MCH field in a wide array of academic, clinical, public health, and policy settings. We hope you will choose to be one of them!

Best,  
Carolyn T Halpern, PhD  
Professor and Chair

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>