

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Given the breadth of our students' interests, our seniors examine a wide variety of topics related to public health using a diverse range of methods. Here are a few examples of past honors theses.

Town of Ayden, North Carolina Emergency Operations Program Evaluation
- Richard Livingston

This research evaluated Ayden, North Carolina's Emergency Operations Plan, a 47-page document detailing the procedures and strategies for responding to disaster situations, as well as its implementation. Ayden's plan was compared to current federal and state guidelines, as well as best practices found in the literature. Stakeholders were also interviewed to identify strengths and weaknesses of the plan.

Associations Between County-Level Social Characteristics and Buprenorphine Waiver Receipt
- Nikhil Rao

Combining Drug Enforcement Administration Controlled Substances Act Registration Information, North Carolina clinician licensure data, and county-level sociodemographic data from the American Community Survey, this research investigated the association between area-level sociodemographic characteristics and buprenorphine waiver receipt. This paper built upon previous research that revealed that the opioid epidemic has disparately impacted Black, Hispanic, and low socioeconomic status communities in the U.S., with Black and Hispanic populations also receiving the medication buprenorphine less frequently than White populations.

Strengthening the Oral Health Care Workforce: A Formative Process Evaluation
- Parker Norman

This formative process evaluation of the Catawba Valley Community College Community Dental Health Coordinator sought to understand program structure; determine if the program is meeting its objectives; and determine strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats related to program implementation and long-term success. Mixed methods were used, including constructing a logic model, key informant interviews, and survey of program graduates.

Identifying and Interpreting the Unmet Basic Needs of People with Serious Mental Illnesses on Probation in North Carolina - *Morgan Parker*

This study identifies the unmet basic needs of people with serious mental illnesses on probation, explores the relationship between unmet basic needs and mental health functioning among this group, and analyzes how the level of unmet basic needs varies by diagnosis, gender, and race. To examine this relationship, data from a cross-sectional study from a randomized control trial of people was used.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Caregivers of Rural Cancer Patients: a Qualitative Study - *Jiona Mills*

This study investigated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the informal caregivers of adult cancer patients residing in rural areas. A semi-structured interview guide was used during interviews with 24 informal caregivers of rural cancer patients who received care at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Interview transcripts were examined to understand caregivers' experiences and needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Children's Emotional Development: A Cross-Sectional Analysis in South Africa - *Victoria Monge*

This secondary data analysis evaluates the impact of exposure to intimate partner violence on Child Behavior Checklist scores for a cohort of children living in the Mpumalanga province of South Africa. The research specifically considered the degree to which previous experiences of physical intimate partner violence affect the emotional development of children aged 1.5-5 years old, as reported by caregivers.

Culture of Health Reporting in the Proxy Statements of Large Technology Companies: A Textual Analysis - *Neil Rowen*

The objective of this exploratory study was to develop a scalable and accurate natural language processing model for analyzing culture of health themes from written reports. The study developed a model of supervised machine learning to analyze mission statements. This model characterized health themes in proxy statements which are relatively standardized and communicate a company's long-term value proposition.