

Samuel L. K. Baxter, PhD, MPH

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Department of Health Policy and Management
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
1105D McGavran-Greenberg Hall
CB #7411
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7411

PERSONAL:

Research interests

- Men’s health
- Neighborhood/built environment
- Cardiovascular disease risk factors
- Health equity
- Racism
- Access to care

Teaching interests

- Social/structural determinants of health
- Political determinants of health
- U.S. health care system
- Community-engaged research

EDUCATION:

- 2020 **PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Chapel Hill, NC)
Department of Health Policy and Management
Dissertation Title: Examining race differences in cardiovascular health among young men: the role of residential segregation
- 2015 **MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine** (Atlanta, GA)
Master of Public Health Program
- 2013 **BS, Clemson University** (Clemson, SC)
Sociology (Concentration: Community Studies)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2023 – Present **Nominated Assistant Professor**
Department of Health Policy and Management
Gillings School of Global Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)
- 2020- 2023 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Department of Public Health Sciences

Clemson University (Clemson, SC)

Responsibilities include directing research and evaluation efforts on policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to increase access to places that provide healthier foods and safe and accessible places for physical activity in high-obesity, rural counties. Leading a multidisciplinary team in applying community based participatory research approaches.

2018-2019

Graduate Research Assistant

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

“Reducing Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors in Rural Communities in NC-Diversity Supplement Focused on Older Adults”, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI: R01HL120690-04), PI- Giselle Corbie-Smith, MD, MSc

2015-2018

Graduate Research Assistant

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC)

“Neighborhoods, Daily Stress, Affect Regulation, & Black Male Substance Use,” National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA: K01DA032611-06), PI- Wizdom Powell, PhD

2013-2015

Graduate Research Assistant

Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA)

Reentry and Prison Health Programs, Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved, Satcher Health Leadership Institute, PI- Henrie M. Treadwell, PhD

ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS:

2020-2021

Bernard G. Greenberg Award, Excellence in Doctoral Research, UNC Gillings

2019-2020

Dissertation Award, Health Policy Research Scholars, \$10,000

2016-2019

Tuition Incentive Scholarship, UNC Graduate School

2019

Second Place, Graduate Student Research Forum Poster Competition, 12th National Conference on Health Disparities

2018

Delta Omega Service Award, Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings

2018

Travel Award, Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings

2018

Travel Award, Society of Multivariate Experimental Psychology Workshop

2018

Travel Award, Cuba—Change Leadership Programs Global Learning Exchange, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2014

Conference Scholarship, Public Health Ethics Conference, Tuskegee University

2009-2010

Diversity Enrichment Award, Clemson University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

2023-present	Member, the Diversity Scholars Network, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan
2022-present	Member, the Scholars Network on Masculinity and the Well-Being of African American Men, University of Michigan
2019-present	Member, Jackson Heart Study Social Determinants of Health Working Group
2021- 2023	Member, National Rural Health Association
2018-2020, 2023	Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences
2017-2021	Member, AcademyHealth
2017- present	Member, American Public Health Association Men's Health Caucus

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Peer-reviewed Publications

** indicates publications co-authored with students/mentees; ## indicates interdisciplinary team

1. **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Hopper, L.N., & Spinner, C. (2024). Correlates of sexual behavior across fatherhood status: Findings from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescents to Adult Health (Add Health), 2016-2018. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 18(2), 15579883241239770. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15579883241239770>
2. **Baxter, S. L. K.**, Zare, H., & Thorpe, R. J. (2024). Race Disparities in Hypertension Prevalence Among Older Men. *International Journal of Aging & Human Development*, 98(1), 10–26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00914150231172119>
3. **Hossfeld, C., Rennert, L., **Baxter, S. L. K.**, Griffin, S. F., and Parisi, M. (2023). The association between food security status and the home food environment among a sample of rural South Carolina residents. *Nutrients*, 15(18), 3918. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/nu15183918>
4. **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Corbie, G.M., & Griffin, S.F. (2023). Contextualizing physical activity in rural adults: Do relationships between income inequality, neighborhood environments, and physical activity exist? *Health Services Research*, 58(Suppl. 2), 238-247. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6773.14183>
5. ***Koob, C., Luo, Y., Mobley, C., **Baxter, S.**, Griffin, S., Hossfeld, C., & Hossfeld, L. (2023). Food Insecurity and Stress Among Rural Residents in South Carolina: The Moderating Influences of Household Characteristics, Neighborhood Social Environment and Food Environment. *Journal of Community Health*, 48(3), 367-38. DOI: [010.1007/s10900-022-01176-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10900-022-01176-3)
6. *** **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Koob, C.E., Hossfeld, C.M.L., Griffin, S.F., Mobley, C., & Hossfeld, L.H. (2023). Food security, the food environment, and COVID-19 in rural South Carolina. *Family & Community Health*, 46(2), 128-135. DOI: [10.1097/FCH.0000000000000355](https://doi.org/10.1097/FCH.0000000000000355)
7. ##**Baxter, S. L. K.**, Jackson, E., Onufrak, S., Parisi, M. A., & Griffin, S. F. (2022). Differences in Rural Built Environment Perceptions Across Demographic and Social Environment Characteristics. *Health Promotion Practice*, 23(1_suppl), 44S–54S. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248399221112868>
8. ***Luo, Y., Mobley, C., Hossfeld, L., Koob, C., Hossfeld, C., **Baxter, S. L. K.**, & Griffin, S. F. (2022). The Association between Food Insecurity and Making Hunger-Coping Trade-Offs during the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Role of Sources of Food and Easiness in Food Access. *Nutrients*, 14(21), Article 4616. <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu14214616>

9. **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Chung, R., Frerichs, L., Thorpe, R. Jr., Skinner, A.C., & Weinberger, M. (2021). Racial residential segregation and race differences in ideal cardiovascular health among young men. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 12, Article 7755. DOI:[10.3390/ijerph18157755](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18157755)
10. Adams, L.B., **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Lightfoot, A.F. *et al.* (2021). Refining Black men's depression measurement using participatory approaches: a concept mapping study. *BMC Public Health* 21, Article 1194. DOI:[10.1186/s12889-021-11137-5](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-11137-5)
11. **Henderson, D. X.**, **Baxter, S.**, Gordon-Littréan, B., Flemmings, J. B., & Edwards, C. (2020). 'Push through everything': using phenomenological inquiry to investigate how Black males' socioecology and identities promote perseverance in the U. S. public education system, *Race Ethnicity and Education*, 26(5), 602-622. DOI:[10.1080/13613324.2020.1798383](https://doi.org/10.1080/13613324.2020.1798383)

Oral presentations

indicates interdisciplinary team; ++ indicates senior author role

1. **Baxter, S.** and Griffin, S. *Contextualizing physical activity in rural adults: Do relationships between income inequality, neighborhood environments, and physical activity exist?* Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. November 2022.
2. **Baxter, S.** *The effects of stress on physical activity in South Carolina: Exploring differences by rurality and race/ethnicity.* Oral presentation at the APHA Affiliate Researchers and All of Us Research Program Webinar. Virtual. July 2022.
3. **Baxter, S.** and Griffin, S. *Do the built and social nature of neighborhoods impact women's play?* Oral Presentation at Conference on the Value of Play: The Nature of Play. Clemson, SC. April 2022.
4. ++McManus, M. and **Baxter, S.** *The effect of neighborhood walkability on walking for leisure and transportation in rural South Carolina.* Oral presentation at the South Carolina Public Health Association Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC. March 2022.
5. +++Neal, A.J., Dukes, G., and **Baxter, S.** *Mapping Solutions: Understanding neighborhood impacts on Black men's health.* Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. October 2021.
6. ++**Baxter, S.** Altman, M., Graham, J., and Parisi, M. *Addressing food insecurity during a pandemic.* National Rural Health Association Rural Health Equity Conference, Virtual. May 2021.
7. ++Henderson, D., **Baxter, S.**, Gordon-Littréan, B., & Fleming, J. *Interrupting mono-deficit theories using stories of resistance among young Black college men.* Oral presentation at the Annual Black Doctoral Network Conference, Charlotte, NC. October 2018.
8. **Baxter, S.**, Richmond, J., & Powell, W. *Psychosocial correlates of frequent emergency room (ER) use among Black men.* Oral presentation at the Academy Health Research Meeting's Disparities Interest Group, Seattle, WA. June 2018.
9. Adams, LB., Powell, W., Richmond, J., **Baxter, S.**, Eden, T., & Thomas, S. *Using participatory methods to conceptualize pathways between neighborhood disadvantage and substance use among Black men in Durham, NC: Findings from a concept mapping study.* Oral presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 2017.

Poster presentations

1. **Baxter, S.** *Examining the inconsistent impact of stress on physical activity in South Carolina during COVID-19.* Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. November 2022.

2. **Baxter, S.** *Conceptualizing racial disparities in health service use among young adults: Using the Institute of Medicines definition of health service disparity.* Poster presentation at the National Conference on Health Disparities, Oakland, CA. June 2019.
3. **Baxter, S.** *The perception of the father-child relationship among recently released fathers in Mississippi.* Poster presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. November 2015.

Panel presentations

indicates interdisciplinary team

1. **Baxter, S.** and Leonard, B. Successful Men's Health Programs: Evidence-based Interventions. Session moderator at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO. October 2021.
2. **#Baxter, S.,** Green, W., and Thomas, W. *Establishing a faith-based SNAP eligible food vender in South Carolina.* National Rural Health Association Rural Health Equity Conference, Virtual. May 2021.
3. **#Baxter, S.,** Neal, A., Dukes, G., Blackwell, R.C., and Kersey, R. *Leading with lived experience: Community stakeholders and researchers partnering to neighborhood influences on health.* Panel presentation at the 41st Minority Health Conference, Chapel Hill, NC. February 2020.
4. Davis, B., Cross, I., Teizazu, H., Butler, B., and **Baxter, S.** *An adjusted lens: An examination of structural racism in population health research and policy.* Panel presentation at the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences Conference, Seattle, WA. October 2019.
5. **Baxter, S.** *#BlackHealthNow.* Session moderator at Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, Durham, NC. September 2019.
6. **#Henderson, D., Baxter, S.,** Sims, B., Newkirk-Shepard, C., and Jackson, W. *Using research and practice to construct resistance strategies and to promote well-being among Black youth in the United States education system.* Panel presentation at Black Communities: A conference for Collaboration, Durham, NC. September 2019.
7. **Baxter, S.** *The value of mixed methods as we pursue health equity and wicked problems.* Session facilitator at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Annual Leadership Institute, Princeton, NJ. January 2017.

Engaged Scholarship

1. UNC Men's Health Program (2023-Present)
 - a. Collaborative interdisciplinary team of clinicians, demographers, and public health researchers that aims to illustrate, study, and treat health issues that impact men in North Carolina. Dr. Baxter contributes to the team with content expertise on racial disparities in men's health, conceptualizing health equity, and community engagement approaches. Products from this effort include:
 - i. October 2023: Prostate Cancer Across North Carolina, [interactive map tool](#).
 - ii. December 2023: Feature in [Gillings News](#).
 - iii. April 2024: North Carolina Men's Health [Report Card](#).
2. Open textbook: An Intersectional Look at Men's Health. Published Fall 2022.
 - a. [An Intersectional Look at Men's Health](#) is the research work of Clemson University Public Health Science upper-class undergraduate students in the course HLTH 3200 Maintenance of Men's Health taught by Samuel L. K. Baxter, PhD. The goal of this course project was to meet the course learning objectives while creating a public resource for men and allies to support men's health and longevity. Each student-author selected a health topic and discussed it across social identities to understand men's health inequities.

Manuscripts in preparation

1. Sedani, A.E., Benavidez, G., Lucas, T., Grande, S.W., **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Aspira, O., & Rogers, C.R. Exploring the impact of masculinity on men's engagement in colorectal cancer screening: Insights from two state fairs in the Midwest. In preparation.
2. **Baxter, S.L.K.**, Neal, A. J., Chung, R., Frerichs, L., Skinner, A., Thorpe, R. Jr., & Weinberger, M. Engaging young Black men to understand neighborhood impacts on cardiovascular health: A concept mapping study. In preparation.

Invited Talks/Lectures

1. June 2023. Featured panelist on "Health Equity Webinar: Black Men's Health" for the **National Urban League**, recorded on [YouTube](#).
2. March 2023. Workshop presentation "Concept mapping process: An introduction for public health agencies" to the **North Carolina Public Health Leadership Institute** in Chapel Hill, NC.
3. February 2023. Presented "Healthy aging for men" to the academic-community partnership between **Clemson University and Blue Ridge Community Center** in Seneca, SC.
4. October 2022. Presented "Activating equity: Men's cancer initiative" to the **South Carolina Cancer Alliance** in Columbia, SC.
5. March 2021. Presented "Using concept mapping to engage communities in theoretical framework development" to the Gillings MPH Health Equity, Social Justice, and Human Rights concentration learning supplement (taught by Dr. Yesenia Merino), **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**.
6. April 2020. Presented "This is us: Studying Black men's health amid the white gaze" to the Initiative for Minority Excellence Research Colloquium, **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**.
7. November 2019. Presented "Concept mapping: A community engaged participatory research method" to the Research Methods in Public Health undergraduate course PHS 2020 (taught by Dr. Yanica Faustin), **Elon University**.
8. July 2019. Presented "Structural racism: Contextualizing place" to the Brown University Pre-College Program (taught by Shekinah Fashaw), **Brown University**.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

Clemson University

Department of Public Health Sciences

HLTH 3200 – Health Maintenance for Men (3 credit hours)

- Fall 2022
- 25 students enrolled
- Special populations course for undergraduate students

HLTH 2030 – Overview of Health Care Systems (3 credit hours)

- Summer 2022
- 6 students enrolled
- Required course for undergraduate students

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Gillings School of Global Public Health

Teaching Assistant

SPHG 721 – Conceptualizing Public Health Solutions (2 credit hours)

- Spring 2019
- 21 students enrolled
- Required course for MPH students
- Course instructor: Aimee McHale, JD

MENTORING & ADVISING:

Student mentoring/advising: Academics

Dumebi Uba, MHA student, Health Policy and Management, UNC (2023-current)

Huy Bui, MHA student, Health Policy and Management, UNC (2023-current)

Jadavian King, MHA student, Health Policy and Management, UNC (2023-current)

Taffawee Johnson, MHA student, Health Policy and Management, UNC (2023-current)

Student mentoring/advising: Research

Jehlan White, Undergraduate student (Anthropology), McNair Scholar Program, UNC (2023-current)

Christiana Ikemeh, PhD student, Health Policy and Management, UNC (Fall 2023)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member (Clemson University)

Claudia Li, Honor's Thesis: Physical Activity and Obesity among Women in Select Rural Counties, 2021.

Morgan McManus, Honors Thesis: The Effect of Neighborhood Walkability on Physical Activity and Park Usage in Rural South Carolina, 2021.

GRANTS & CONTRACTS:

Current

Award Notification: 03/15/24

07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

Role: PI (75% effort)

Source: K12 Program, North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute, UNC Chapel Hill

Identifying gaps and agreement in nutrition security measurement among diverse men with hypertension

Research Objectives: This research project seeks to 1) assess the relevance and validity of nutrition security measures and 2) characterize the complex determinants of healthy eating among diverse men with hypertension. This research will be complemented with training goals to: (1) develop expertise in psychometric analysis, (2) learn system dynamics approaches for planning and implementation in community settings, and (3) prepare and develop proposal(s) for future external funding. Research Fund Amount: \$15,000.

No number given

01/01/2024 - 12/31/2024

Role: PI (5% effort)

Source: Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC Chapel Hill

The pursuit of healthiness: exploring the health experiences of Black men in advanced degree programs

Research Objectives: The purpose of this project is to contextualize how the graduate school environment affects health behavior, coping strategies, and health service use among Black men pursuing advanced degrees in North Carolina. Total Amount: \$2,500.

Completed

Role: Project Manager (80% effort) 10/01/2019 - 9/30/2023
Source: CDC High Obesity Program 1809 (Cooperative Agreement #:5NU58DP006562-04-00)
Responsibilities include directing research and evaluation efforts on policy, systems, and environmental change strategies to increase access to places that provide healthier foods and safe and accessible places for physical activity in high-obesity, rural counties. Annual Amount: \$836,418.

Role: Evaluation Researcher (5% effort) 10/01/2022 - 8/30/2023
Source: HHS Office of Minority Health
Responsibilities include co-implementing community-level evaluation plan to assess the extent that policies create or perpetuate structural racism and contribute to health disparities in Greenville County, South Carolina. Community organizations seeking community-driven approaches to address health inequities experienced by Black and Hispanic individuals lead this multidisciplinary, collaborative work. Total Amount: \$498,715.

Role: PI (10% effort) 01/03/2022 - 07/30/2022
Source: South Carolina Public Health Association & South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare
Responsibilities include: 1) analyzing data using the National Institutes of Health All of Us researcher workbench; 2) examining geographic differences in associations between stressors and physical activity during COVID-19 in South Carolina; and 3) reporting findings and experience at an American Public Health Association convenings. Total Amount: \$6,000.

CTSA grant# SE1915 01/01/2020 - 12/31/2020
Role: PI
Source: North Carolina Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute
\$2K Stakeholder Engagement Pilot Grant. "Exploring the relationship between neighborhoods and cardiovascular health among young Black men." Responsibilities included meeting with stakeholders to revise research questions and make decisions about study design and recruitment. Total Amount: \$2,000.

FELLOWSHIPS:

Role: Faculty Collaborator 01/04/2023-12/04/2024
Source: Whole Community Connections, a partnership between UNC Rural and the Office of Interprofessional Education and Practice
Whole Community Connections is a one-year leadership program that supports community-academic partnerships to advance leadership capacity and collective power to implement a health equity project. These projects must take place in either Edgecombe, Nash, or Pamlico counties. I am a faculty collaborator on a project that seeks to adapt a community-based asset mapping science internship for youth to be sustainable in Rocky Mount, NC – a rural community that straddles Edgecombe and Nash counties.

Role: Predoctoral Fellow 09/01/2016-08/30/2020
Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Research Scholars Program at Johns Hopkins University (Grant ID: 73909)
The Health Policy Research Scholars Program is a leadership development opportunity for doctoral students whose backgrounds and lived experiences allow them to bring unique and diverse perspectives to research. During this 4-year program, scholars from diverse disciplines receive mentorship and training to conduct research and influence policies that impact population health and health equity. Total Stipend: \$120,000.

SERVICE:

Departmental Service

- 2023-2024 Member, MHA/MSPH Admissions Committee, Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings
2021-2023 Member, Health Equity and Social Justice Ad Hoc Committee, Department of Public Health Sciences, Clemson University
2019 Student representative, Fixed-Term Faculty Search Committee, Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings
2016-2018 Member, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Health Policy and Management, UNC Gillings

School Service

- 2023-2024 Member, Search Committee for Associate Dean for Advancement, UNC Gillings
2021-present Member, Alumni Inclusive Excellence Committee, UNC Gillings
2020-2022 Member, Men of MPH Alumni Advisory Board, Morehouse School of Medicine
2017-2020 Member, Initiative for Minority Excellence Student Advisory Board, UNC Graduate School
2017-2020 Member, Carolina Grad Student F1RSTS Student Advisory Board, UNC Graduate School
2016-2018 Co-President, Minority Student Caucus, UNC Gillings
2017 Student Representative, Search Committee for Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence, UNC Gillings

Service to the Profession

- 2022-present Member, South Carolina Cancer Alliance Men's Cancer Ad Hoc Committee
2021-present Peer Review, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*
2017-2019 Peer Review, *American Journal of Men's Health*

TRAININGS & SKILLS:

Health Equity Summer Intensive on Concept Mapping. UNC Center for Health Equity Research. Chapel Hill, NC. June 2019.

Racial Equity Workshop Phase 1. Racial Equity Institute, LLC. Chapel Hill, NC. February 2018.

Computer/Programming: Stata, Concept Systems® groupwisdom™

Quantitative: primary data collection and secondary data analysis

Qualitative: focus groups, semi-structured interviews, concept mapping

Media applications: Canva, Twitter, Instagram