

Academic Health Department Yearly Report

2023



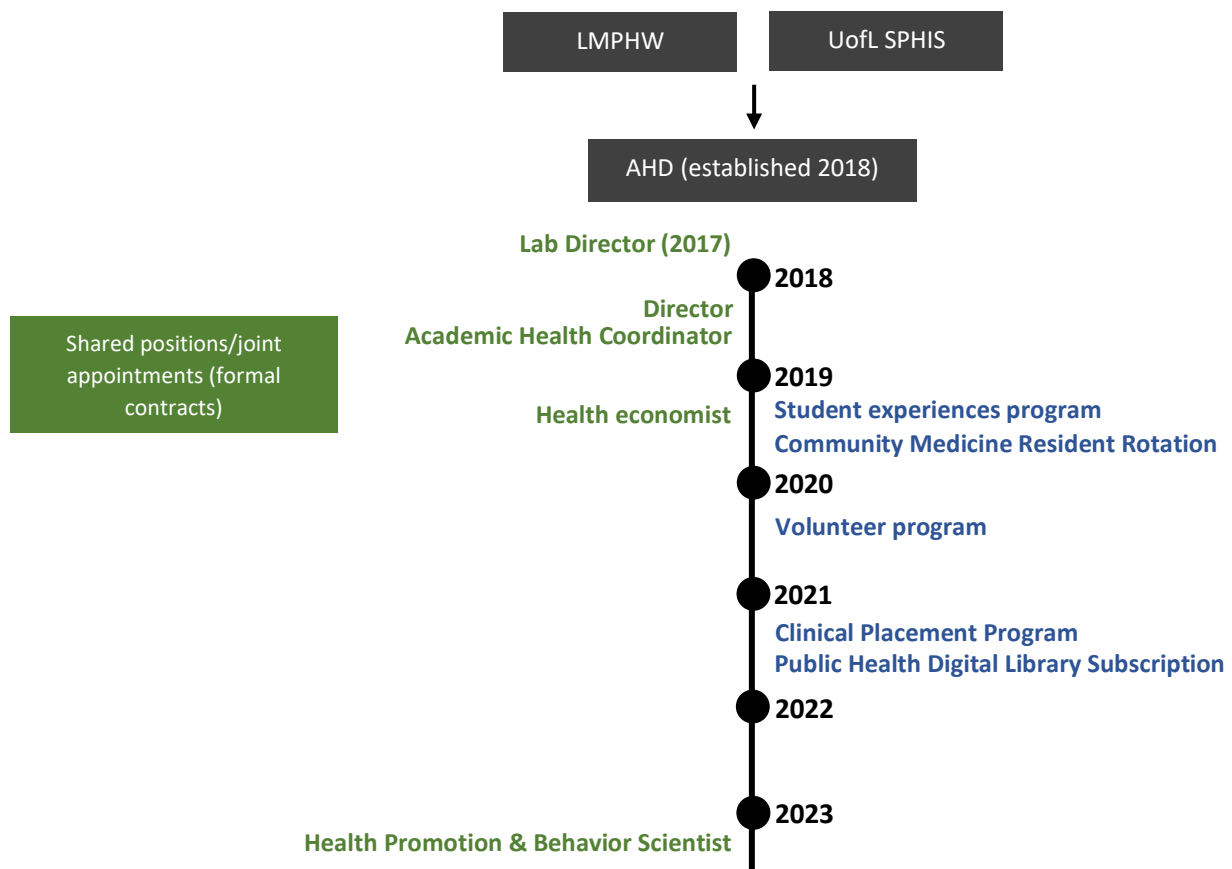
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

What is an Academic Health Department (AHD) and what benefits does it bring to a local health department?

The AHD concept of collaborative learning was established in January 2011 by the Public Health Foundations subcommittee, [Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice](#) (Council on Linkages), to support the development, maintenance, and expansion of formal affiliations between health departments and academic institutions. Collaboration with a local health department ensures that public health students are learning relevant, practical skills. AHDs also support relationships between departments and universities to conduct research, evaluate programs for effectiveness, publish in academic journals, increase collaboration on grants and other funding opportunities, and to share new research in the field of public health.

Louisville's AHD:

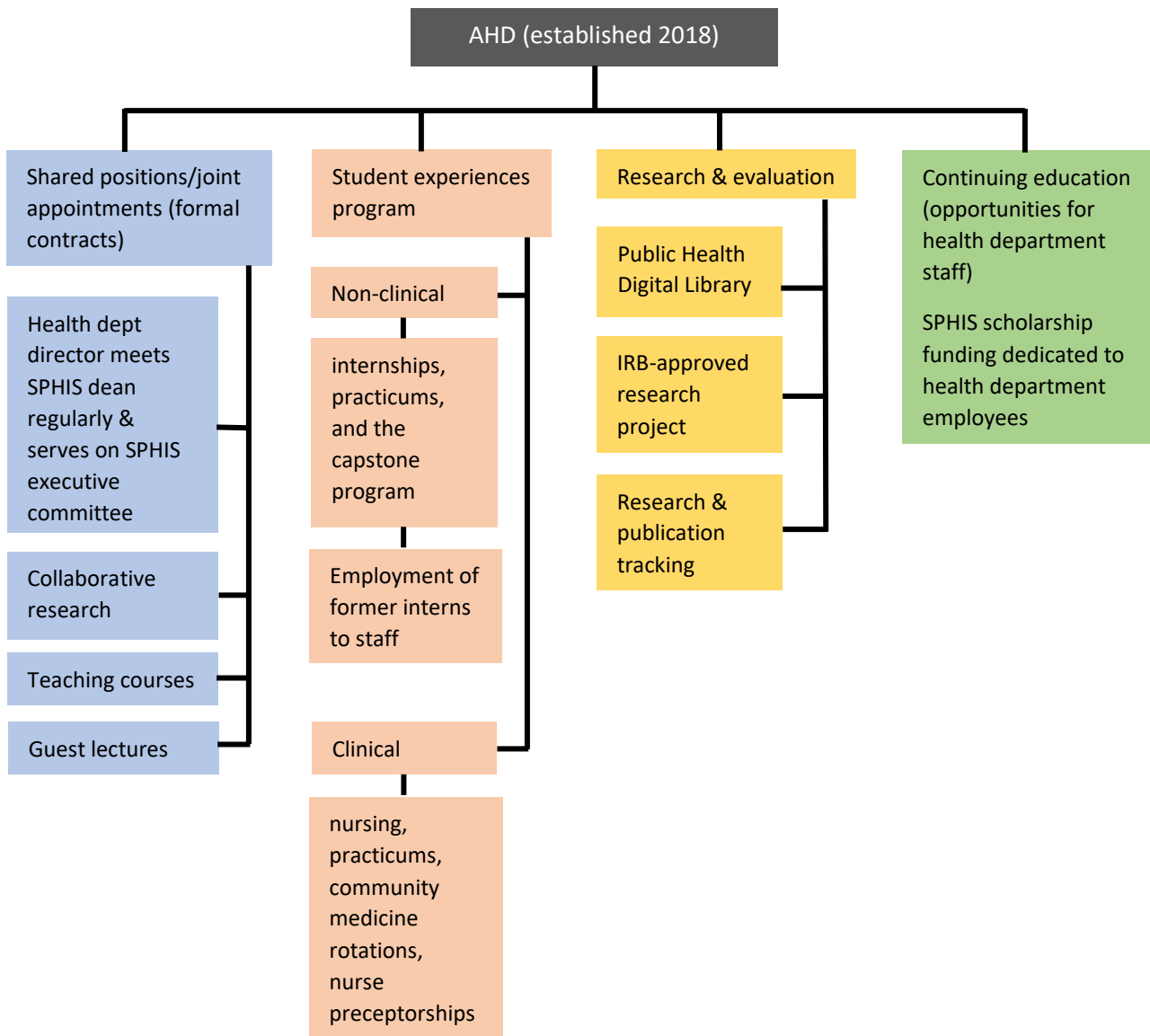
Some shared appointments include Drs. Seyed Karimi and q omer who share time between Louisville Metro Department of Public health and Wellness (LMPHW) and UofL's School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS). Dr. Leslie Wolf shares time between LMPHW and UofL's Division of Infectious Disease in the School of Medicine. Dr. Jovita Murillo has also recently joined as a joint appointment between SPHIS and LMPHW as the health promotion and behavior scientist.



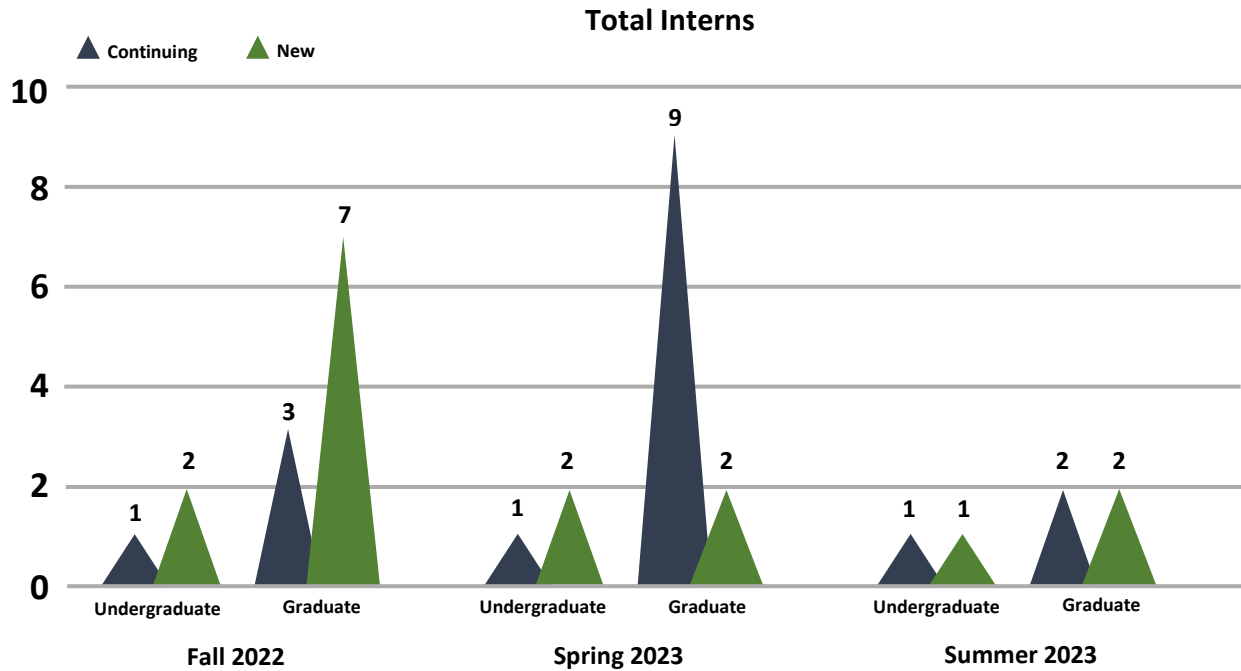
How AHD Supports Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness:

The AHD enhances the work of Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness through:

- Advancing staff professional development
- Ensuring access to academic tools and research via the Public Health Digital Library (PHDL)
- Supporting research activities by guiding IRB applications and submission
- Building capacity by supporting a robust internship/student experiences program



Student Experiences Program – Fiscal Year 22 - 23



Projects	Undergraduate	Graduate
Geocoding Vital Statistics Data/Updating Regular Reports	0	1
Communicable Disease Division Assistant	1	0
Healthy Babies Louisville/Maternal Child Health Support	3	3
Workforce Development	1	0
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Assistant	0	1
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMPCHP)	0	1
Community Research on Substance Use and Stigma	0	1
Center for Health Equity community partner/resource catalogue	0	1
Vaccine inequity evaluation	0	3
Essential Needs Evaluation	0	1
Upstream approaches to childhood asthma	0	1
Public Health Laboratory Internship	2	0
Utilizing Spatial Data Science to Understand Health Status in Jefferson County, KY	0	1

Project Collection & Student Onboarding Processes

We engage in continuous quality improvement to streamline our protocols. As a result, over the past year we have implemented the following enhancements to our process:

- **Integrated the onboarding of paid interns with our HR hiring process.** This allows students to be hired on as temporary/part time staff and receive the same onboarding and payment process as any other temporary/part time employees.
- **Created supervisor and student guidebooks.** We developed materials to support LMPHW staff who supervise or work with students. This helps to guide the onboarding, supporting the student during their project, and smooth off-boarding at the end of their experience. For students, this helps them understand what is expected of them at the outset, what milestones and check-in points they should anticipate, and how LMPHW staff will support them along the way.

Engagement within Student Experiences

We asked some of our student interns, staff mentors/project supervisors, and even staff who originally started at LMPHW as student interns to share a few sentences that highlight their overall experience with the student program.

STAFF:

“This was my first ever time monitoring an intern (lotta imposter syndrome) but I came out of it seeing how much I enjoyed it. An internship gave us (behavioral health team) an opportunity to gather this (substance use stigma/harm reduction) information with the support of a student while I was able to continue to do my daily work. I learned a little bit more about how to guide someone in a direction without telling them the answer. My advice or recommendation to someone thinking of taking on an intern is this: Only do it if you truly care about the work you are doing. That’s what these folks (interns) are – the future. So, let’s set them up for as much success as possible and they will do nothing but succeed.”

-Cillian Browne, Health Program Analyst; CHE

“Being a project supervisor in the student experiences program has improved my project management, supervisory, and communication skills. I usually submit a project when I have specific ideas with available resources in hand, i.e. training materials, methods, examples, etc., which helps me work with students with minimum handholding. I have enjoyed seeing the students take the project as their own, from drafting research questions, discussing methods/potential solutions, working on the project, discussing results and challenges, and finally presenting their work. This has provided opportunities to work with outside agencies, i.e. university and explore different resources to support our work here at LMPHW. We even hired a former intern! I know we probably won’t be able to hire every intern, but it’s a good opportunity to evaluate what knowledge and skills you really need to conduct projects with your team/work.”

-YuTing Chen, Community Health Administrator; CHE

INTERNS TURNED STAFF:

“While interning at LMPHW, my focus was assisting with the completion of the Health Equity Report. My interning experience taught me how to better engage in teamwork, especially during COVID where schoolwork was not collaborative-focused, LMPHW highlighted the ability to make connections through virtual platforms. Opportunities to connect externally such as policy sessions and internally through department check-ins showcased the variety of topics and projects available that addressed more equitable processes to shape more holistic systems impacting health. Experiencing the level of respect for the work and subject matter as well as the respect for contributions (in relation to individual autonomy and interconnectedness) alongside opportunities to explore areas of interest and continue professional development motivated me to apply for a staff position at LMPHW after my internship was completed.”

-Tewdaay Babicka, Policy Analyst; CHE

“I worked as an intern with the Data team serving the Center for Health Equity at LMPHW. The internship experience was very enjoyable – it was a positive learning environment. The entire team and members of cross functional teams were very passionate about their work and open to guiding, cooperating and supporting wherever they could. The internship was helpful in lowering my apprehension for statistical packages. The variety of Public Health issues LMPHW addresses for the betterment of the community in Jefferson County and the competence of its staff across the divisions was instrumental in my decision to apply for an opportunity with LMPHW.

I would suggest all interns at the department take advantage of the live knowledge banks around them, aka the department colleagues. The department has very knowledgeable and helpful staff who are happy to guide with their own Public Health practice experiences and provide outside resources to give complete learning experience to the intern. Be passionate about your work, ask questions, share your public health interests, and be open to assist projects outside your core internship project.”

-Manali Chitale, Epidemiologist; CHE

STUDENTS:

“I would advise future interns to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from experienced professionals in the field – ask questions and seek feedback to improve your skills and knowledge. Be proactive in getting involved and contributing to ongoing projects by taking the initiative in identifying areas where you can be of assistance. Finally, make connections with the staff and fellow interns, as these relationships can be valuable resources for future career opportunities and professional development.”

-Former intern

“While interning at LMPHW, I got a great understanding of how a public health department works and engages with both local and national organizations to provide services and resources for the local community. This experience has made me want to continue working in maternal and child health and hopefully in a public health system.”

-Former intern

“Not only did I learn more about the research process while completing my internship with LMPHW, I learned much more about social issues surrounding public health. While the logistical knowledge of research can definitely be applied to my future in medical school, I think the knowledge I gained about social determinants of health and stigma can be even more beneficial to a future physician. I hope that I can better apply those concepts throughout medical school and when I practice medicine.”

-Former intern

Our volunteer program is currently in moratorium.

At LMPHW, volunteers can contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community by either working directly with clients or behind the scenes in our health services clinics. Currently, we have a moratorium on all volunteer services.

Our clinical placement program.

Clinical Rotations

LMPHW has been collaborating with UofL's Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine Residency Program since 2019. Through this community medicine rotation, residents rotate through our internal clinics (Harm Reduction Outreach Services, MORE Program, Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic, and Specialty Clinic) and external clinics (like Family Health Centers - Americana) to gain an understanding of medical care in a public health setting. The program usually brings in 8 residents a year.

Nursing Placements

Kentucky's Preceptorship program requires all county nurses who will work in their local or state sexually transmitted infection or specialty clinics to visit another Kentucky clinic for training. The preceptorship requires receiving one-on-one training with our Nurse Practitioner in the Specialty Clinic. Vonnie Bounjoko has been carrying the Kentucky preceptorship program as one of the only certified nurses for this training program. In just this fiscal year, Vonnie has trained 5 nurses from across many Kentucky counties including Fleming County and Logan County Health Department.

In addition, many nursing students come from across Louisville nursing schools and online programs to also spend time in our internal clinics under the guidance of our nursing staff to complete clinical rotation hours and learn to care for patients visiting public health clinics.

Research & publications

Research highlights

Conference Attendance

Our staff regularly attend conferences across the country to present the projects they have been working on and to collaborate and network with other health department staff. This year, two abstracts were successfully accepted and presented at the National Association for City and County Health Officials (NACCHO) annual conference, [NACCHO 360](#).

Building capacity for a health equity in all policies policy team: This session focused on the work of creating a formal policy team within Public Health and Wellness' Center for Health Equity (CHE). This presentation shared information on the evolution of LMPHW/CHE and how it led to the recognition of the need for a formal team, as well as the funding and organizational structure that makes the policy team possible. Additionally, LMPHW shared information on the types of work done by the Policy and Equity Transformation team and lessons learned.

Public Health Policy Learning Collaborative: Jointly re-imagining policy at local health departments: This session was done in collaboration with Pima County Health Department. It focused on the creation of a policy learning collaborative specifically for local health departments (LHDs) nationally who are working on or interested in policy work. This presentation focused on results from discussions with LHDs on common challenges, successes, and interests. It presented the need for a national framework to help address common challenges.

As a result of these two presentations at NACCHO 360, many participants reached out to the presenters and were interested in learning more about policy work. While many frameworks and established, evidence-based standards all identify policy as a priority focus for LHDs, doing policy work in an LHD is still an emerging field. Many department staff are looking for examples of how this work is being structured, where to start, and best practices/tools for doing policy work.

IRB-Approved Research

LMPHW submits all proposed research for review and approval by an institutional review board. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services (CHFS) Institutional Review Board (IRB) reviews all projects lead by LMPHW staff which involve human subjects. Once approved by the state, the project can move forward. Over the past fiscal year, LMPHW completed one evaluation with an IRB-approved survey and qualitative research component.

Buffer Zone Evaluation:

Louisville Metro Council created a buffer zone policy in 2021 (LMCO § 132.09), allowing any healthcare facility to create a 10-foot wide buffer zone path from its entrance to the nearest curb. The ordinance also requires Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness to assess the efficacy of the buffer zone “in allowing patients and staff to enter and exit the facility safely” for any healthcare facility that elects to install one. The specific buffer zone investigated for this evaluation was installed at EMW Women’s Surgical Center (EMW) in September of 2021, which is the only one to-date that has been installed in Jefferson County following the passage of LMCO §132.09. LMPHW conducted this evaluation via a mixed method design using a survey instrument and focus groups among EMW’s staff and volunteers with the functioning of the buffer zone. A [final report](#) was presented to Louisville Metro Council.

Full Listing of Presentations and Publications List: July 2022 – June 2023

Many of our staff focused on abstracts this year. You can find the LMPHW team members and student interns names that were involved in these presentations or publications **bolded** below.

Accepted Abstracts:

Building capacity for a health equity in all policies policy team (NACCHO, 2023). **Rebecca Hollenbach**, MPH; **Joe Bolinger**, PhD; **Abbey Bowman-Rogers**, MA.

Public Health Policy Learning Collaborative: Jointly re-imagining policy at local health departments (NACCHO, 2023). **Rebecca Hollenbach**, MPH; Amanda Monroy, MA.

Creating a public health practice experience with your health department (CUMU, 2022). Tammi Alvey Thomas, PhD, MSSW; **omer**, PhD; Lindsey Brewer.

First Do No Harm: Applying a Harm Reduction Public Health Lens to Carceral Health Policies and Programs (NCCHC, 2023). Mariya Leyderman, PsyD; **Ben Goldman**, MA.