

Practicum Abstracts 2023

Degree: MPH-65

Field of Study: Health and Social Behavior

Project Title	Project Summary or Abstract
Communicating Data Around a Clinical Maternal Health Quality Intervention	The goal of the practicum project was to create an interactive data product usable by the Delivery Decisions Initiative team within Ariadne Labs. Overarching project goal was to offer a consolidated, clear, and convincing data document that could speak to existing research on TeamBirth, a clinical quality improvement process geared toward improving shared decision-making, autonomy, and equitable outcomes during birth. The product was developed to allow the Delivery Decisions Initiative's partnerships & development team to quickly communicate TeamBirth's concrete value to prospective clinical teams and administrators. The creation process included needs assessment discussions with team leadership and issue specialists, quantitative and qualitative data analysis and selection, brand-consistent visualizations and narrative, and creation of back-end data consistency and update protocol.
Faces Across Continents: Portraits of Individuals Living With HIV and AIDS	The Art and Global Health Center utilized art-based interventions for health advocacy and community engagement. For my practicum, I used portraiture and narrative storytelling to represent the lived experiences of international activists living with HIV and AIDS in Haiti, India, Mexico, South Africa, United Kingdom, and United States. As an artist and public health professional, my creative philosophy centered on the transformative potential of the arts to bridge the realms of healthcare and advocacy. The portraits and narratives serve as a poignant reminder that empathy and compassion are key components of public health advocacy because each person's voice and experiences hold immeasurable value.
Strengthening Healthcare System Capacity to Improve Health & Wellbeing	This summer I worked on the Child & Youth Behavioral Health Team of a large state on a project focused on two objects, 1) assessing the landscape of High Fidelity Wraparound services across the state and 2) identifying opportunities to improve access and coverage of High Fidelity Wraparound under Medicaid. To address these objectives, I reviewed the literature on the High Fidelity Wraparound practice model and associated evidence, conducted a landscape scan of High Fidelity Wraparound implementation across the state through research and interviews, evaluated other state coverage models, and worked with my team to develop recommendations. My project culminated in a presentation of the landscape analysis and recommendations to the client.

LET's Play Project	<p>The LET's Play project aims to enhance grandparents' engagement with their young grandchildren between the ages of 0 to 6 years old through a play-based intervention to promote children's social, emotional, and cognitive development. Focus groups were conducted with grandparents in Singapore to evaluate how grandparents' engagement and play interactions can be enhanced and tailored while they build nurturing, responsive relationships with their young grandchildren. My role in this project was to conduct a literature review search. After spending time to formulate the research question, which aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of grandparental interventions, and its focus on the promotion of physical health, cognitive, social-emotional, and behavioral outcomes among 0-6-year-old children, I conducted a search on varying search engines and extracted papers.</p>
Working With Sangath to Address Community Mental Health Needs In India	<p>During her practicum project, Arista worked with Sangath, a non-governmental organization that advances access to high-quality, affordable mental healthcare in the state of Goa and other areas of India. Arista's project focused on carrying out research tasks in support of two separate organizational initiatives: a cluster randomized controlled trial entitled "Implementation of evidence-based facility and community interventions to reduce the treatment gap for depression" (IMPRESS); and the "Dating Violence" (DV) initiative. Regarding IMPRESS, Arista used qualitative coding processes to analyze and create a detailed codebook based upon focus group transcripts. These transcripts documented discussions with healthcare professionals who had been trained to deliver counseling for depression using a mobile application (PEERS app). The codebook informed a journal publication on the benefits and challenges of using the PEERS app as a counseling tool. She also drafted a formal methods paper that summarized the ways in which Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software was used to minimize contamination and identify mutually exclusive facility catchments for randomization in the IMPRESS trial. Regarding DV, Arista carried out a full-text screening of 120 publications, as well as extracted dating violence prevalence rates from 50 relevant quantitative studies, as part of a systematic review on adolescent dating violence in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs). Additionally, she used Miro visualization software and drew upon transcripts of 55 original interviews with college students, teachers, and college counselors in Goa to create a thematic map of dating violence experiences, risk/protective factors, and impacts among young people within the state.</p>
Developing a System to Streamline Compassionate Release	<p>I worked in collaboration with Medical Justice Alliance (MJA), a national non-profit which seeks to protect the medical rights of incarcerated individuals. My project focused on expanding the referral pathways that help connect incarcerated individuals to MJA's medical advocacy services. More specifically, I helped create a new referral pathway that encouraged physicians in hospitals around Massachusetts to refer their very sick, incarcerated individuals to MJA. To do this, I collaborated with doctors, lawyers, and other advocates and</p>

	<p>helped create the infrastructure to make this pathway possible. This included creating referral flyers to be posted in physician stations, the referral form and associated data tables to house the data, and training materials intended to help physicians understand who may qualify for MJA's services.</p>
<p>Early Warning Systems - Exemplars in Global Health</p>	<p>Exemplars in Global Health aims to help public health decision makers understand the quickest path to success at scale by identifying who has already been successful, finding out why, and adapting their strategy to your own circumstances. One of the projects I worked on this summer was around robust Early Warning Systems (EWS). EWS are critical components of public health infrastructure that help countries rapidly detect emerging health threats. The project identified low- and middle-income countries that were positive outliers in successful early detection and response to significant public health events, including outbreaks of climate-sensitive infectious diseases and those with pandemic potential. In collaboration with various global research partners, we then conduct research in selected countries to determine key drivers by examining barriers and facilitators to develop, implement, and sustain robust early warning systems. The lessons learned from the research outcomes will be used to inform policy and practice globally.</p>
<p>Strengthening KP's National Data Collection and Reporting Systems to Amplify Health Equity Work</p>	<p>My practicum aimed to improve impact reporting of the Thriving Communities Fund (TCF) which is KP's impact investment fund of more than \$200 million invested across Kaiser's 7 national markets (N. CA, S. CA, Pacific Northwest, Colorado, Georgia, Mid-Atlantic, and Hawaii). Through the redevelopment of the TCF online dashboard, I worked to streamline the management of +\$200M investment strategies in affordable housing and economic opportunity for Kaiser communities that have endured decades of underinvestment.</p>
<p>Data Collection/Analysis Strategy to Support Community Health Workers</p>	<p>Devin will be working with the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers on developing a sustainable data collection and analysis strategy for the organization. Her hope is to support MACHW through this data to further tailor programming and resources to their population.</p>
<p>Measurement, Adaptive Learning, and Knowledge Management Lab (MAKLab)</p>	<p>During my practicum, I worked with the MAKLAB team at Ariadne Labs, which is the BetterBirth team's technical support arm. MAKLAB specializes in offering expertise in various facets of project implementation, including measurement, adaptive learning, design, testing, and dissemination of solutions. My primary responsibility during this period was to distill an existing guide on Adaptive Learning, originally developed in 2021, into a more user-friendly and easily comprehensible format. The overarching goal was to create a concise resource that would enable users to harness available resources effectively for Adaptive Learning.</p>

	<p>My tasks in this role included developing a succinct PowerPoint presentation summarizing the guide's content. To ensure that the final output aligned seamlessly with the project's objectives, I engaged in consultations with stakeholders within Ariadne, actively incorporating their valuable feedback into the presentation.</p> <p>Additionally, I contributed to an ongoing project focused on developing a Safe Cesarean Checklist, designed to bolster safety and the quality of obstetric care. Within this role, my responsibilities included conducting a comprehensive landscape assessment of existing tools and guidelines related to safe cesarean delivery globally. The insights gathered from this assessment would go on to inform the strategy for subsequent stakeholder engagement workshops and the eventual design of a tool tailored for implementation in India, with the potential for scalability to other countries and contexts.</p> <p>Beyond these primary responsibilities, I also provided support on various maternal and child health projects as they arose within the team during my practicum.</p>
<p>Healthcare Intelligence, Insights & Management</p>	<p>During the practicum, I had the opportunity to work on three projects:</p> <p>The first project was a qualitative study that examined the publicized Environmental, Sustainability & Governance (ESG) reports of the top 100 companies in Canada and US respectively by market cap. The study involved conducting a meta-analysis to determine the best practices for health reporting, serving as a blueprint for other companies to adopt in order to advance the health and wellness of their employees. My responsibilities for the project included data collection, synthesis, and providing key insights on reporting trends and health benefits offered.</p> <p>The second project was client-specific, involving a business problem identified by a company that aimed to improve their corporate agenda areas of talent recruitment and the resiliency of their executive team. The goal was for the company to effectively compete with larger competitors in terms of talent acquisition and retention of candidates for executive positions. In this project, I engaged with the team to identify the business issue, created and applied frameworks, collected data, and provided recommendations that the company could consider to achieve their goal. My work involved writing, presenting, and consultations. I did literature analyses on caregiving, family planning and mental health benefits.</p>

	In addition to the two projects, there were opportunities to work on specific client requests, such as creating FAQ and Snapshot materials on a particular health topics.
Evaluation of Localization, Centralization & Sustainability in the Mavrovouni Refugee Camp	Kendra's project was in partnership with Crisis Management Association, a Greek non-profit that provides medical services to refugees and asylum seekers in the Mavrovouni Camp. Kendra specifically analyzed and evaluated Crisis Management Association's localization, centralization and sustainability models to understand the impact of particular approaches on the organization's humanitarian response.
Improving Essential Vaccine Access for MICs	Support the CHAI Vaccine Markets team to conduct (1) Dengue Vaccine Market Intelligence and (2) Data Analysis for the IA2030 MICs Advocacy Framework across four focus areas as defined in the 2015 Framework.
Culture as strength, culture as shield: how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples resist racism for stronger health and community	My practicum was with the National Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Wellbeing at the Australian National University. I worked on the Mayi Kuwayu study, Australia's national longitudinal cohort study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. I led a research study examining the associations between racism and tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and whether connection to culture might moderate (or be protective in) that association. In addition to review and analysis, my project had a strong focus on community engagement and dissemination, including seeking advice and feedback from community members and service providers. I also worked on a grant proposal to develop the first Health Related Quality of Life Index for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
Culturally Tailored HIV Prevention for African Immigrant Women	African-born immigrant women have the highest new HIV diagnosis rates among Black individuals in the US. However, there are no culturally tailored HIV prevention interventions designed for this population. Brigham and Women's Hospital and community health partners are culturally adapting effective HIV prevention interventions designed for African-American women to meet the unique needs of African-born immigrant women and comparing the effectiveness between group-level and individual-level interventions for increasing condom use and PrEP uptake.
Evaluation of Harvard Center for Health Communication Summit for Mental Health Content Creators	Harvard's Center for Health Communication hosted a summit for 25 mental-health content creators (i.e., individuals who create and disseminate information about mental health through platforms such as TikTok and Instagram). Goals for the Summit included: (1) equipping creators to infuse more scientific grounding and research into their posts, (2) building community among creators committed to sharing evidence-based information, and (3) nurturing collaborations between Harvard faculty and content creators to create new opportunities for conducting public health campaigns and supporting behavior change. This practicum

	<p>involved (1) coding creator videos from before and after the summit to identify if creators shared more evidence-based information/touched on key topics identified by CHC (e.g., the link between climate change and mental health), (2) facilitating components of the summit (e.g., running a session on building audience trust), and (3) creating takeaway materials to share lessons learned from the summit to Harvard Chan students. In addition to work pertaining to the summit, this practicum also involved reviewing the CHC resource library and identifying strategies for (1) optimizing the library's organization and presentation, (2) integrating existing resources into curriculum, CHC channels (i.e. newsletter and social media), and work conducted by campus organizations, (3) identifying gaps in the resource library, (4) leveraging incoming experts to fill gaps, and (5) outlining a strategy for ongoing evaluation of the resource library.</p>
<p>From Scale to Spread: Operationalizing the Spread of Ariadne's Innovations</p>	<p>My practicum project is designed to aid the Executive Leadership team at Ariadne Labs, Dr. Asaf Bitton and Kit Nichols, in operationalizing the scaling of the Lab's interventions. For the past 18 months, a Strategic Spread Initiative working group has focused on: knowledge collection, specifically surrounding lessons learned from the spread of previous and active interventions, project summaries, and Aria (a free, online platform providing tools, resources, and community support); creating resources to aid Ariadne Lab's work; and integrating this knowledge and tools into the arc. My role in this work is to identify and outline the specific operational challenges to scaling Ariadne's interventions, including intellectual property and business considerations, as well as advantageous potential partnerships.</p>
<p>Implementing Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Measures on the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)</p>	<p>As part of the Executive Order 13988 on Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created a strategic plan to advance health equity data on the Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey (MCBS)--- the leading source of information for legislators and policy makers on Medicare and its impact on beneficiaries. NORC at the University of Chicago submitted a clearance package to the Office of Business and Management for approval of SOGI measures on the MCBS in efforts to advance health equity data.</p>
<p>Development of Boston Cancer Early Detection Plan</p>	<p>This project was focused on developing the Boston Cancer Early Detection Plan which lays out the critical needs in Boston relating to early detection, and the goals, strategies, and objectives to meet these needs. My work involves a review of publicly available data, development of logic models for each screenable cancer, and inclusion of key issues for LGTBQIA+, Haitian-Creole speaking, Spanish-speaking, and BIPOC populations.</p>

<p>A Missing Piece for Youth Mental Health? The Role of Sense of Safety</p>	<p>There is an urgent public health concern of rapidly rising youth mental health problems. It is thus critical to identify upstream factors that could be fundamental drivers of lack of thriving. This practicum was part of a larger project that set out to define the novel concept of sense of safety as a potential driver in the acceleration of poor youth mental health, as safety has been identified as a basic need that must be met in order for healthy functioning. The practicum project specifically contributed to the currently limited understanding of sense of safety among youth by; (1) reviewing current literature, datasets, and measures related to sense of safety; (2) building a definition of sense of safety; and (3) assessing current youth perceptions and perspectives on the concept. Results from the review showed that current conceptualizations in the literature reflected a range of terminology, and that safety-related measures are available in existing datasets primarily assessed sources of sense of safety rather than a perceived sense of safety. Results from youth focus groups demonstrated that youth were able to articulate ideas about what it means to have a sense of safety, and that certain areas that were top-of-mind including maintaining hypervigilance in public spaces and seeking safety in friends and family. Overall, the practicum project succeeded in working towards building a unified definition and clear conceptual understanding of sense of safety, a required first step in addressing the well-being of youth.</p>
<p>Exploring Survey Translation and Reliability in the NeuroGAP Psychosis Study</p>	<p>The NeuroGAP Psychosis study conducted surveys within five African countries. Due to budget constraints, each study site could only provide limited ranges of survey translations. To explore whether this could introduce information bias, we examined how language alignment (between the participants' endorsed primary language and the language in which they complete the survey) may influence survey responses.</p>
<p>A Communications Approach to Building Community Trust in Public Health</p>	<p>This project had three key objectives: 1) Use research to develop a comprehensive presentation for state health officials. 2) Examine public health communications, mechanisms to build trust, and health communications best practices. 3) Conduct an environmental scan on the effectiveness of various strategies to combat misinformation/disinformation.</p>
<p>Product Strategy and User Engagement Optimization at Modelo Health</p>	<p>I worked on 3 projects with Modelo Health:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Creating product strategy roadmaps to maximize use and efficiency of resources; one was timeline-based, the other project-based. 2) Overhaul the value proposition and onboarding processes for the Modelo Health app so that users know how they will benefit from using it and how to navigate through it.

	3) Create a structured process for collecting feedback from users during the pilot launch of the Modelo Health app.
Evaluation of Localization, Centralization, and Sustainability in the Mavrovouni Refugee Camp	In this project, we evaluated the impact of localization, centralization, and sustainability on the quality of care and experience of patients served by Crisis Management Association (CMA). CMA is a local Greek non-profit that offers medical care to refugees in Mavrovouni Refugee Camp, Lesvos, Greece. CMA provides chronic care, dental care, and psychiatric care, in addition to operating the central pharmacy in the Mavrovouni Refugee Camp. We utilized a qualitative interview-based approach to gather multiple perspectives on the value and challenges of localization, centralization, and sustainability within CMA, as well as the health system in the camp and the wider local health system. We conducted thirteen interviews of stakeholders from CMA, the local hospital in Lesvos, the National Public Health Organization (EODY), the Vulnerability Office, and refugee-serving NGOs including Boat Refugee Foundation (BRF), Medicines du Monde (MDM), and Home for All.
Evaluation of Hospital Social Program (DAART) for Patients with HIV	This practicum looked at the impact of one of Boston Medical Center’s specialized programs, (“DAART”) in the Infectious Diseases department, intended to support accessibility and equitable care for patients living with HIV. The practicum pulled data from patients’ medical charts and examined the change in 3 main health outcomes for those enrolled pre-program (before 2019) versus post-start of the program. Professionally, the practicum allowed exposure to work with medical physicians, the pharmacy team, data analysts, diverse and specialized patient populations, other medical professionals, and public health students. The practicum resulted in a collaborative research paper with qualitative and quantitative findings.
Implementing THRIVE – A brief intervention to promote resilience and adaptive development in young children and their caregivers	THRIVE is an intervention developed to prevent the effects of adversity in early childhood on children’s mental health. It was developed in part by the Stress & Development Lab at Harvard, which studies the effects of adversity on children’s development and creates targeted preventative interventions. For my practicum, I coordinated the implementation and evaluation of THRIVE into three pediatric primary-care clinics. I also helped the developers of THRIVE create training videos to scale the intervention. Outside of my responsibilities for this project, I also 1) helped revise a chapter on childhood trauma as a public health issue, and 2) led an independent analysis of school racial/ethnic density and children’s mental health with Drs. Natalie Slopen and Henning Tiemeier.