

Melissa Newsome

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Education

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Ph.D. in Public Health, Concentration in Community and Family Health, Expected 2028

Certificates: Concepts & Tools of Epidemiology; Maternal and Child Health; Qualitative Research

Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

MPhil, Social Anthropology, October 2018

Optional Paper: Medical Anthropology

Dissertation: "Views from 'across the Pond': some American experiences of the UK's National Health Service."

Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

BS in Biological Science, August 2017

BS in International Affairs, August 2017

Magna cum laude

Minors: Interdisciplinary Science; Public Administration

Certificate: Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Grants and Funding

Graduate Student Research Workshop Dissertation Award, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin–Madison (2025) \$4,950

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Leadership Professional Development Award (2024) \$1,000

Graduate Student Success Fellowship, University of South Florida (2023-2026) \$36,000

Publications

Prather, K. A., Chowdhury, S. K., Puri, H., Zacharias, E., **Newsome, M.**, & Kirby, R. S. (2025). The association of childhood experiences of abuse on timely cervical cancer screening utilization among women in the United States. *Preventive medicine*, 197, 108326. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2025.108326>

Deichen Hansen, M. E., Londoño Tobón, A., Kamal Haider, U., Moore Simas, T. A., **Newsome, M.**, Finelli, J., Boama-Nyarko, E., Mittal, L., Tabb, K. M., Nápoles, A. M., Schaefer, A. J., Davis, W. N., Mackie, T. I., Flynn, H. A., Byatt, N. (2023). The role of perinatal psychiatry access programs in advancing mental health equity. *General hospital psychiatry*, 82, 75–85. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.genhosppsych.2023.03.001>

Presentations

Oral Presentations

Newsome, M. (2026). Clinic perspectives on screening to solutions: Addressing social needs in maternal health. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.

Newsome, M., Itacy, N., Ratta, A., Stein Elger, R., Marshall, J. (2026). Project PEACE: Improving peer navigation services for families. USF Health Research Day. Tampa, FL.

Newsome, M., Swanson, J., Andreadakis, J., Chowdhury, S., Kirby, R., Wright, L. (2025). Association between probiotic consumption and vitamin D levels in the U.S. population: A cross-sectional analysis of NHANES 2007-2018 data. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.

Newsome, M., Foti, T., Ratta, A., Ladd, Z., Reid, C.N., Stein Elger, R., Pelligrino, N., Fryer, K., Marshall, J. (2025). Gaps in screening, resource provision, and mental health support: Postpartum patients' perspectives. 9th Annual Florida Perinatal Mental Health Conference. Tallahassee, FL.

Reid, C.N., Foti, T., Ratta, A., **Newsome, M.**, Afolabi, A., Stein Elger, R., Pelligrino, N., Fryer, K., Marshall, J. (2024). Exploring the perceptions of respectful maternity care among postpartum individuals in Florida. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.

Flynn, H.A., Shabaka-Haynes, A., Deichen Hansen, M.E., **Newsome, M.**, Roussos-Ross, K. (2023). Florida BH IMPACT: Program Overview. Florida's Annual Perinatal Maternal Mental Health Conference. Tallahassee, FL.

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Deichen Hansen, M.E., Baptiste, A., Shabaka-Haynes, A., **Newsome, M.**, Flynn, H.A. (2022). Florida BH IMPACT: Multi-level Strategies for Promoting Perinatal Behavioral Health. 2022 Biennial Meeting of North American Society of Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ann Arbor, MI (National).

Deichen Hansen, M.E., **Newsome, M.** (2021). Provider perspectives on barriers and facilitators to care in perinatal health settings. Florida's Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference. Tampa, FL.

Deichen Hansen, M. E., **Newsome, M.**, Shabaka-Haynes, A., Flynn, H. A. (2021). Florida BH IMPACT: Clinical, resource, and referral strategies for mitigating disparities. Biennial Meeting of Marcé of North America, Virtual Meeting (International).

Poster Presentations

Newsome, M., Elmore, A., Marshall, J. (2025). Home Visitor Well-Being in Florida's Maternal and Child Home Visiting Programs: A Longitudinal Study (2016-2024). American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C.

Karaye, R., Stein Elger, R., Cabral, I., Afolabi, A., **Newsome, M.**, Marshall, J. Understanding Screening and Referral Processes Timelines for Children with Developmental Disabilities in Florida Head Start Programs: A Pathway to Equity and Readiness. University of South Florida (USF) Health Research Day. Tampa, FL.

Newsome, M., Stein Elger, R., Ratta, A., Afolabi, A., Tanner, J. P., Kirby, R. S., Marshall, J. (2024). Advancing inclusion: The Florida Birth Defects Surveillance Program's community outreach initiatives. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.

Newsome, M., Afolabi, A., Pacheco Garrillo, M., Hood, K., Marshall, J. (2024). Assessing collaboration factors within Florida's early childhood comprehensive systems (ECCS) state-level leadership committee. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.

Ratta, A., Foti, T., **Newsome, M.**, Ladd, Z., Reid, C.N., Stein Elger, R., Fryer, K., Marshall, J. (2024). Perceptions of in-hospital care and screening for discharge needs amongst birthing people in Florida. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN.

Deichen Hansen, M., Londoño Tobón, A., Haider Kamal, U., Moore Simas, T., **Newsome, M.**, Finelli, J., Boama-Nyarko, E., Tabb, K., Schaefer, A., Flynn, H.A., Byatt, N. (2024). Perinatal psychiatry access programs as a national approach to centering perinatal health equity. Biennial Meeting of International Marcé Perinatal Mental Health Society, Barcelona, Spain.

Marshall, J., Stein Elger, R., Afolabi, A., Pacheco Garrillo, M., **Newsome, M.**, Reid, C. N., Foti, T., Fryer, K. (2024). Partnering with postpartum patients to improve respectful care in Florida's birth hospitals. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Annual Meeting. Oakland, CA.

Marshall, J., Afolabi, A., Stein Elger, R., Reid, C.N., **Newsome, M.**, Reeves, L., Pacheco Garrillo, M., Fryer, K. (2024). Perinatal quality collaborative partnership: Evaluating perceptions of hospital social support in postpartum care. Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Annual Meeting. Oakland, CA.

Louis, K., Deichen Hansen, M.E., **Newsome, M.**, Flynn, H.A. (2022). Assessing the Impact of the Florida BH IMPACT Program on Women Belonging to Underserved Populations. (2022). Florida State University, College of Medicine Medical Student Summer Research Poster Session, Tallahassee, FL.

Flynn, H.A., Deichen Hansen, M.E., Shabaka-Haynes, A., **Newsome, M.**, Baptiste, A. (2022). Implementation of a Multi-Component Behavioral Health Integration Program in Obstetrics for Perinatal Behavioral Health. Presentation given at the 18th Annual College of Medicine Research Fair.

Deichen Hansen, M.E., **Newsome, M.**, Flynn, H.A. (2022). Provider Perspectives on Barriers and Facilitators to Care in Perinatal Health Settings. Presentation given at the 18th Annual College of Medicine Research Fair.

Academic Honors and Awards

Maternal & Child Health Senior Fellow, American Public Health Association (2025-2026) \$300
Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network National Meeting Scholarship (2025)

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Maternal & Child Health Student Fellow, American Public Health Association (2024-2025)	\$300
Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice "SHARP" (2024)	\$1,500
Area Health Education Center Scholar, Gulfcoast North AHEC (2023-2025)	\$1,000

Professional Experience

University of South Florida, College of Public Health, Tampa, FL
Graduate Research Assistant, August 2023 - Present

Florida State University College of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Health and Social Science, Center for Behavioral Health Integration, Tallahassee, FL

Research Coordinator and Lab Manager, August 2020 - December 2023

- Manage state-wide maternal behavioral health provider directory.
- Collaborate with faculty members to conduct original research interviews, analyze data, and contribute to work on publications and presentations.
- Facilitate communication between team members, outside partners, and others to enhance awareness of the lab's ongoing projects and goals.
- Utilize Microsoft Office products and Power BI to enhance project management, team collaboration, and data visualization for multiple quality improvement projects.

Teaching

Center for Behavioral Health Integration, FSU, Tallahassee, FL

Behavioral Health and Community Engagement DIS, Course Lead, August 2020-December 2023

- Oversee undergraduate lab students as they contribute to healthcare research and partnerships to improve behavioral healthcare integration.
- Coordinate student activities with community partners to lead behavioral health integration programs.

Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Biology for Non-Science Majors, Laboratory Teaching Assistant, Aug 2016-May 2017

- Conducted two sections of the lab per semester, amounting to teaching 50 students per week
- Evaluated assignments within one week with comments
- Communicated effectively with students via email or verbally

Leadership and Service

Florida's Outstanding Person in Public Health Review Committee

Student Leader Member of the Selection Committee, 2026-present

Maternal and Child Health Student Organization, University of South Florida

Research and Education Chair, 2025-2026

APHA Maternal and Child Health Section, Professional Development Committee,

Member, 2024-2025

Co-Chair, 2026 - present

Moderator, Career Panel Spring 2025

Florida's 9th Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference, Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative,

Conference Planning Committee, January 2025

Reproductive Well-Being Learning Collaborative, Healthy Start of Hillsborough County

Action Team Member, March 2024-Present

- Create and implement action plan activities, such as developing data collection tools, reviewing educational materials, and planning focus groups.
- Support the implementation of trainings, educational programs, and service delivery strategies to enhance reproductive health services in community-based and clinical settings in Tampa/Hillsborough County.

Dean Search Committee, College of Public Health at the University of South Florida

Graduate Student Representative, 2024

- Participated in candidate interviews and discussions, providing valuable insights from a student perspective.

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- Provided feedback and recommendations to the hiring board based on interviews and committee evaluations.

Florida's 7th Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference, Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, Assistant Conference Coordinator, December 2022

- Assigned tasks to students to support the ongoing marketing and organization activities required to plan the Conference
- Managed the components of planning the Conference, including correspondence with speakers and special guests of the Conference

Florida's 6th Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference, Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, Assistant Conference Coordinator, December 2021

- Prepared materials for the conference, including programs, posters, tabling supplies, and more to support the work of the Florida Moms Maternal Mental Health Collaborative
- Marketed the Conference across multiple platforms, including social media, email, and telephone.
- Supervised the activities of the Conference to coordinate sessions according to the agenda, answer questions, and improve attendees' overall experience

Social Change Symposium, Florida State University, Staff Member Facilitator, Spring 2021

- Facilitated conversations among undergraduate students and faculty to reflect upon the presentations of the Social Change Symposium
- Moderate conversations around social issues with a diverse audience comprised of individuals with different perspectives

Florida's 5th Annual Perinatal Mental Health Conference, Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative, Assistant Conference Coordinator, December 2020

- Collaborated with the team to plan the conference in a virtual format in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Moderated the virtual conference to support speakers, attendees, and staff

Murray Edwards College MCR (Graduate Student) Committee, University of Cambridge, Social Secretary, January 2018 - October 2018

- Organized social events and research seminars for the graduate students at the College
- Voted with other MCR Committee members to amend the bylaws of the organization to create a more equitable environment for graduate students of the College

Professional Memberships

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science (IAPHS), *Member*, 2025 – present

American Public Health Association (APHA), *Member*, 2022 – present

Florida Public Health Association (FPHA), *Member*, 2023 – present

American Anthropological Association, *Member*, 2024 – present

Professional Development and Training

- 2025-26, Institute for Research on Poverty Professional Development Training Series on Poverty and Economic Mobility Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2025-26, MCH Scholar, University of South Florida Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health
- May 2025, Graduate Student Research Workshop, organized by the Center on Race and Wealth at Howard University and the Institute for Research on Poverty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Fall 2024, University of South Florida, TRUTH Teaching Framework Course

Certifications

- CITI "Human Subjects Research; FSU Faculty, Staff and Students Social Behavioral," September 2023
- CITI "GCP Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research," September 2023