

Melissa Newsome

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EDUCATION

PhD Student in Public Health

Expected May 2028

Department of Community Health Sciences, College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Tampa, FL

Advisor: Jennifer Marshall, PhD, MPH, CPH

- Certificates: Concepts & Tools of Epidemiology; Maternal and Child Health; Qualitative Research
- Dissertation Working Title: *Implementation of Social Needs Screening in Prenatal Care: A Mixed Methods Study of Florida Health Centers*

MPhil in Social Anthropology

October 2018

Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

Advisor: Maryon McDonald

- Optional Paper: Medical Anthropology
- Dissertation: *Views from 'across the Pond': American experiences of the UK's National Health Service*

Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences, Bachelor of Science in International Affairs

August 2017

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL

- Minors: Interdisciplinary Science; Public Administration
- Certificate: Emergency Management and Homeland Security

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

Aug 2023 - Present

College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Tampa, FL

- Contribute to maternal and child health program evaluation by organizing and synthesizing data for ECCS P-3 and MIECHV initiatives.
- Apply research and data management skills to community engagement materials, surveillance-related projects, and neonatal substance exposure projects

Research Coordinator

Aug 2020 - Dec 2023

Florida State University, College of Medicine, Center for Behavioral Health Integration

Tallahassee, FL

- Managed a statewide maternal behavioral health provider directory for referral support.
- Collaborated on qualitative interviews, data analysis, and manuscripts and presentations.
- Facilitated communication with team members and external partners to support project coordination.
- Used Microsoft Office and Power BI to support project management, team collaboration, and data visualization for multiple quality improvement projects.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lab Manager and Course Lead

Aug 2020 - Aug 2023

Florida State University, College of Medicine, Center for Behavioral Health Integration

Tallahassee, FL

- Supervised undergraduate lab students engaged in healthcare research and partnership work to advance behavioral health integration.
- Coordinated student involvement with community partners to support the delivery of behavioral health integration programs.

PUBLICATIONS

Under review. Logan, R. G., **Newsome, M.**, Dehlendorf, C., Weiss, A., Lewald, D., Reproductive Wellbeing Learning Collaborative. An evaluation of the Person-Centered Contraceptive Care Training at a youth-serving clinic in Hillsborough County, Florida.

Under review. Chowdhury, S.K., Marshall, J., Shaffer-Hudkins, E., Salemi, J.L., **Newsome, M.**, Kirby, R. Caregiver experiences of healthcare transition for youth with Down Syndrome.

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.genhosppsy.2023.03.001>

FELLOWSHIPS, FUNDING, AND AWARDS

Graduate Student Success Fellowship (\$36,000) 2023-2025
University of South Florida

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

Maternal & Child Health Senior Fellow (\$300) 2026-2026
American Public Health Association

Maternal & Child Health Student Fellow, American Public Health Association (\$300) 2024-2025
American Public Health Association

Area Health Education Center Scholar (\$1,000) 2023-2025
Florida Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center (AHEC)

Travel Awards

Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice “SHARP” (\$1,500) Nov 2025
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Student Assembly Travel Scholarship (\$615) Nov 2025
American Public Health Association

National Research Meeting Scholarship Feb 2025
Social Interventions Research & Evaluation Network

Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice “SHARP” (\$1,500) Nov 2024
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Leadership Professional Development Travel Award (\$1,000) Apr 2024
University of South Florida Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University & Departmental Service

Student Interview Panelist, CEPH Accreditation Process

June 2025

College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Selected by faculty to represent 100+ public health doctoral students during the national accreditation site visit.

Engaged in panel interviews with external reviewers to evaluate program quality and student resources.

Committee Member, MCH Scholar Application Review

June 2026

University of South Florida Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health

Serve as the selected alumnus to review and score applications for the 2026-2027 cohort of MCH Scholars in the Center of Excellence Training Program.

Student Representative, Florida's Outstanding Person in Public Health Award Committee Mar 2026 – Present
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Graduate Student Representative, Dean Search Committee May 2024
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Participated in candidate interviews and discussions, providing valuable insights from a student perspective, then provided feedback and recommendations to the hiring board based on interviews and committee evaluations.

Research and Education Chair, Maternal and Child Health Student Organization May 2025 – Apr 2026
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Graduate Student Ambassador Aug 2025 – Present
College of Public Health, University of South Florida

Social Secretary, Murray Edwards College MCR (Graduate Student Committee) Jan 2018 – Oct 2018
University of Cambridge

Professional Service

APHA Maternal and Child Health Section, Professional Development Committee 2024 – Present
Co-Chair, 2026 – Present
Member, 2024-2025

Social Change Symposium, Florida State University Spring 2021
Staff Facilitator

Community Service & Public Health Practice

Action Team Member, Reproductive Well-being Learning Collaborative May 2024 – Present
Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

- 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.

Assistant Conference Coordinator, Perinatal Mental Health Conference Dec 2020 – Jan 2025
Florida Maternal Mental Health Collaborative

- Coordinated event logistics, speaker communications, and schedule management for consecutive annual statewide conferences.
- Delegated tasks to student volunteers to streamline conference marketing, venue setup, and registration workflows.
- Designed and distributed promotional materials across social media, email, and phone platforms to boost attendee engagement.
- Supervised live event operations to keep sessions on schedule, manage virtual/in-person tech, and resolve guest inquiries.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development Training Series on Poverty and Economic Mobility Research Aug 2025 - May 2026
Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Maternal and Child Health Scholars Program

Aug 2025 - May 2026

University of South Florida Center of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health

Graduate Student Research Workshop

May 2025

Howard University & Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

TRUTH Teaching Framework Course

Fall 2025

University of South Florida

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Member , Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Member	2026 – Present
Member , Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science (IAPHS)	2025 – Present
Member , American Public Health Association (APHA)	2022 – Present
Member , Florida Public Health Association (FPHA)	2023 – Present

CERTIFICATIONS

CITI “Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research”	Dec 2025
CITI “GCP Social and Behavioral Research Best Practices for Clinical Research”	Dec 2025
CITI “Research Security Training”	March 2026