

DR. KARA DAVIS

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** University of South Carolina, Health Promotion, Education, & Behavior August 2023
Arnold School of Public Health
Dissertation: Exploration of the Association Between Childhood Obesogenic Environments and Childhood Overweight/Obesity Rates in Rural Counties in the United States
- M.Ed.** Clemson University, Student Affairs Administration May 2007
- B.S.** Northwest Missouri State University, Industrial Psychology April 2005

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC** August 2023- Present
Assistant Professor of Community Health, Department of Human Performance and Health, CoEHPH
- Furman University, Greenville, SC** Spring 2023
Adjunct, Masters of Community Engaged Medicine, IACH
- University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC** Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, Spring 2023
Adjunct, Department of Human Performance and Health, CoEHPH
- University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC** Spring & Summer 2021, 2022, 2023
Teaching Assistant, Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, Arnold School of Public Health
- Converse College, Spartanburg, SC** Fall 2019, Spring 2021
Guest Lecturer, Health Services Administration
- University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC** Fall 2016 & 1017
Instructor, Student Success

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Furman University, Greenville, SC** May 2021-August 2023
Evaluation Coordinator, Institute for the Advancement of Community Health
- Provide technical support to multiple interventions by managing instrument development, data collection procedures, and evaluation of program outcomes
 - Coordinate the program evaluation efforts for LiveWell Greenville
 - Performing statistical analyses to evaluate health outcomes and impacts of community health programs
 - Analyze quality improvement metrics to inform program operations and strategic goals
 - Proficient with Stata statistical analyses software
- University of South Carolina Upstate, Spartanburg, SC** June 2016-May 2021
Research & Planning Administrator/Director of Metropolitan Studies
- Collected, analyzed, and reported data for the Spartanburg Community Indicators Project
 - Assisted campus departments with survey development and analysis

- Conducted research projects (quantitative and qualitative) for community partners throughout the State of South Carolina
- Completed multiple community health needs assessments for Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System
- Served as project lead for the Spartanburg Community Indicators data reports and dashboards focused on social determinants of health
- Managed a budget of \$150,000, including bringing in revenue exceeding \$100,000 annually

Director of Service Learning and Community Engagement May 2015-June 2016

- Spearheaded community partner resources and outreach programs
- Coordinated training, activities, and related faculty support for service-learning initiatives
- Started and administered the SNAC Food Pantry (student crisis management program)

Assistant Director of Student Life, Leadership, & Civic Engagement July 2009-May 2015

Radford University, Radford, VA August 2007-July 2019
Assistant Director of International Student Services

Clemson University, Clemson, SC August 2005-August 2007
Graduate Assistant, International Student Services

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

1. **Davis, K.**, Fair, M. L., Buckingham, C., McKinnon, H., Theriot Roley, L., & Sease, K. (2022). Impacts of a medical-legal partnership on clinical capacity to address social determinants of health. *Journal of epidemiology and community health*, jech-2022-219270. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jech-2022-219270>
2. Wende, M. E., Meyer, M. R. U., Abildso, C. G., **Davis, K.**, & Kaczynski, A. T. (2023). Urban-rural disparities in childhood obesogenic environments in the United States: Application of differing rural definitions. *The Journal of rural health : official journal of the American Rural Health Association and the National Rural Health Care Association*, 39(1), 121–135. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jrh.12677>

Journal Publications In Progress

[◇]Denotes student author

1. **Davis, K.**, Abshire, D., Monroe, C., Rudisill, A, Kaczynski, A. (2024). *Association between obesogenic environments and childhood overweight/obesity across the United States: Differences by rurality*. Submitted to the Journal of Rural Health. Manuscript under review.
2. **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Koob, C., Comer, O.[◇], Warner, B., Mitchell, K., Theriot-Roley, L., Sease, K. (2024). *Describing a novel, interdisciplinary Medical-Legal Partnership model: Integrating social work for referral completion*. Manuscript in preparation.
3. **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Maher, K., Fasana, C.[◇], Warner, B., McKinnon, H., Sease, K. (2024). *Qualitative exploration of the impacts of a Medical-Legal Partnership on caregivers of pediatric patients*. Manuscript under review.

Conference Presentations

*Denotes presenting author, [◊]Denotes student author

1. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., Stuenkel, M., Frantz, S., Wills, S., Comer, O.[◊], Sease, K. (2024, Oct. 27-30). *Navigating Food Insecurity: Strategies, Disparities, and Potential Solutions for Pediatric Populations*. [Poster Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
2. **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Horton, A., Comer, O.[◊], Stuenkel, M., Frantz, S., Wills, S., Sease, K. (2024, Oct. 25). *Demographic Disparities in Food Navigation: Understanding the Varied Impacts on Household Food Insecurity*. [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
3. **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Renaud, S., Deng, S., Win, O., Theriot-Roley, L., Houseworth, R.[◊], Sease, K. (2024, Oct. 25). *Impact of Medical-Legal Partnerships on Healthcare Utilization and Costs: Insights from the Upstate MLP*. [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
4. Umstatted Meyer M. R., Wende M. E., Stroope J., Kellstedt D. K., Johnson A., Gamble A., Edwards M. B., Beck A. M., Moore J. B., Abshire D., Anderson R. E., Aytur S. A., Balis L., Davis K., Gabbert K. D., Gustat J., John D., Jones D. L., King K. A., Needham B. D., Orzech K. M., Pickett A. C., Rhoades R. R., Slater S., Smock C., Villwock-Witte N. M., Baskin M., Perry C., & Abildso C. (2024, Mar. 25-28). *A Rural Call to Action 2.0: Looking back and paving the way forward*. [Oral Presentation]. Annual Active Living Conference, Chattanooga, TN.
5. Kimura, K., Fair, M.L., **Davis, K.**, Eichelberger, K. (2024, February 4). *Substance use associated stigma and preterm birth in pregnancy*. [Poster Presentation]. Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine 2024 Pregnancy Meeting, National Harbor, MD.
6. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., Renaud, S., Deng, S., Win, O., Theriot-Roley, L., Sease, K. (2023, November 12-15). *Healthcare utilization and spending among Medical-Legal Partnership patients pre and post-intervention: 2018-2022*. [Oral Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
7. Fair, M.L., McKinnon, H., **Davis, K.**, Cabrera, N.[◊], Smith, K., Eichelberger, K. (2023, November 12-15). *Magdalene clinic: substance use disorder diagnoses and remission outcomes among pregnant individuals served by a predominantly low-income, Medicaid OBGYN clinic*. [Poster Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
8. Buteau, J.[◊], **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Warner, B., Theriot-Roley, L., Sease, K. (2023, October 27). *Assessing Barriers and Outcomes of MLP Patient Populations by Age Group*. [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
9. McKinnon, H., Lubaczewski, C.[◊], Fair, M.L., **Davis, K.**, Kimura, A., Smith, K., Eichelberger, K. (2023, October 27). *Stigma and initiation of prenatal care among patients with substance use disorder*. [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
10. Markowitz, L.[◊], McCaffrey, A.[◊], **Davis, K.**, Fair, M.L., Mitchell, K., Markowitz, J.E. (2023, October 4-7). *Pediatric gastroenterology may underutilize services of the Medical-Legal Partnership*. [Poster Presentation]. North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition Annual Meeting, San Diego CA.
11. Fasana, C.[◊], Maher, K., **Davis, K.**, McKinnon, H., Fair, M., Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Sease, K. (2023, June 9). *Downstream impacts of the upstate Medical-Legal Partnership: how embedding lawyers in hospitals can be used to tackle the social determinants of health* [Poster Presentation]. American Medical Association 2023 Poster Showcase. Chicago, IL.
12. Kaczynski, A.T., Hallum, S., Wende, M., Stowe, E., **Davis, K.**, & Chupak, A. (2023, March 12-15). *Association between socioeconomic disadvantage and neighborhood walkability across the United States* [Oral Presentation]. American Academy of Health Behavior Annual Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
13. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., Buckingham, C., Win, O., Theriot Roley, L., Sease, K. (2022, November 6-9). *Impact of a Medical-Legal Partnership on the mental health and wellbeing of low-income individuals* [Oral Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

14. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., McKinnon, H., Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Maloney, M., Warner, B. (2022, November 6-9). *Evaluation of a Medical-Legal Partnership in addressing health equity* [Poster Presentation]. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
15. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., McKinnon, H., Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Maloney, M., Warner, B. (2022, October 28). *A Medical-Legal Partnership as a mechanism to address legal & health equity* [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
16. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M.L., Buckingham, C., Win, O., Theriot Roley, L., Sease, K. (2022, October 28). *Evaluating the impacts of a Medical-Legal Partnership on mental health outcomes* [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
17. McKinnon, H., Fair, M.L., Smith, K., **Davis, K.**, Cabrera, N., Eichelberger, K. (2022, October 28). *Magdalen Clinic: Social determinants of health needs and social conditions among pregnant individuals with substance use disorder* [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
18. Maher, K., **Davis, K.**, McKinnon, H., Fasana, C.^o, Fair, M.L., Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Bonilla, N., Sease, K. (2022, October 28). *Caregiver perceptions of the impact of a South Carolina Medical-Legal Partnership: stress reduction, capacity building, improved doctor-patient relationships* [Poster Presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
19. Fasana, C.^o, Maher, K., **Davis, K.** (2022, April 6-9) *What's law got to do with it? How embedding lawyers in hospitals can be used to tackle the social determinants of health* [Oral Presentation]. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Birmingham, AL.
20. Fair, M., Win, O., Theriot Roley, L., **Davis, K.**, Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Sease, K. (2021, October 24-27). *Clinician perception of a South Carolina Medical-Legal Partnership: impact on provider ability to address social determinant of health needs* [Oral Presentation]. American Public Health Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
21. **Davis, K.***, Fair, M., Win, O., Theriot Roley, L., Buckingham, C., Mitchell, K., Sease, K. (2021, October 22). *Improving clinical capacity by addressing social determinants of health: clinician perceptions of the impact of a South Carolina Medical-Legal Partnership* [Poster presentation]. Prisma Health Research Showcase, Greenville, SC.
22. DeVivo K.E., von Klingraeff L., **Davis K.**, Flicker K., Gupta D., Pellegrini C.A. (2021 June). *Older adults' physical activity and sedentary behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic* [Poster presentation]. American College of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting, Virtual Conference.

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

1. **Invited Speaker:** *Racial Equity Data Collection in South Carolina*. (February 2020). SC Together Nonprofit Summit. Columbia, SC
2. **Invited Speaker:** *Food Insecurities Among College Students*. (February 2018). USC Health Campus Summit. Columbia, SC
3. **Presentation:** *Food Insecurities Among College Students*. (October 2016). Southern Association of College Student Affairs/NASPA Region III/ South Carolina College Personal Association Fall Conference. Greenville, SC.
4. **Invited Speaker:** *Food Insecurities Among College Students*. (October 2015). South Carolina College Personal Association/North Carolina College Personnel Association Fall Conference. Winston-Salem, NC.

5. **Presentation:** *Food Insecurities Among College Students*. (March 2013). Southern College Health Association Annual Conference. Destin, FL.
6. **Presentation:** Smith, K. & Davis, K. *Understanding the “Bigger Picture”: Importance of Assessment, Organizational Purpose, and Accountability*. (October 2012). NACA South Regional Conference. Winston-Salem, NC.

GRANTS & FUNDING

GusNIP Produce Prescription Program, 2022-2025

Funder: United States Department of Agriculture

Amount: \$500,000

Lead Evaluator; awardee: LiveWell Greenville

RISE Grant, 2024

Funder: University of South Carolina

Amount: \$6,000

Principal Investigator

Nourish Greenville – Pending

Funder: National Institutes for Health

Lead Evaluator; awardee: Tufts University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Public Health Association, 2021-Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Faculty Senate, USC Upstate

Recording Secretary, 2024-Present

Assessment Committee Member, 2023-Present

Community Engagement Task Force Committee Member, USC Upstate

2023-Present

SPARC Grant Reviewer

University of South Carolina, 2024

Community Engagement Task Force Committee Co-Chair, USC Upstate

2019-2021

Film Abstract Reviewer

American Public Health Association, Annual Meeting, 2021

Abstract Reviewer

American Public Health Association, Annual Meeting, 2020

Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement Application Feasibility Team Lead, USC Upstate

2018-2019

Faculty Senate Service Learning Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair, USC Upstate

2014

Peer-Reviewed Articles for:

- *Children*
- *Occupational Health Science*
- *Journal for the Poor and Underserved*
- *Journal for Rural Health*

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Spartanburg County Emergency Management

Emergency Medical Responder – CERT91, Spartanburg, SC 2023-Present

Search and Rescue Team Member, Spartanburg, SC 2023-Present

HALTER

Board Member, Spartanburg, SC 2024-Present

Eye Opener Cross Country Race

Committee Member, Spartanburg, SC 2014-Present

Spartanburg Water, Friends of the Pacolet River

Committee Member, Spartanburg, SC 2019-2023

South Carolina College Personnel Association

Past-President, 2017-2018

President, 2016-2017

President-Elect, 2015-2016

Junior Achievement Ethics Contest

Committee Member, Upstate, SC 2015-2017

Junior League of Spartanburg

Treasurer, Spartanburg, SC, 2013-2014

Treasurer-Elect, Spartanburg, SC, 2012-2013

COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH & REPORTS

1. Ryan White HIV Grant Program Evaluation, Piedmont Care, 2017-Present
2. Piedmont Community Action Community Needs Assessment, 2018/19, 2021/22
3. COVID-19 Impacts in Spartanburg County, 2020
4. Racial Equity Index Community Inventory, Spartanburg County, 2020
5. Nonprofit Impact and Policy, TogetherSC, 2020
6. Housing Loan Disparity Metrics, Way to Wellville Communities, 2020
7. Spartanburg County Opportunity Metrics, 2020
8. Cherokee County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019/20
9. Spartanburg County Substance Abuse Gap Analysis, Forrester Center for Behavioral Health, Inc, 2019
10. Spartanburg County Community Health Needs Assessment, 2019
11. Upstate Education Resource Center Education Gap Analysis: Spartanburg, Cherokee, & Union County School Districts, 2018
12. Greenville County Community Indicators, 2018
13. Health & Education Indicators Analysis of Spartanburg County, Mary Black Foundation, 2018
14. Chester & Lancaster County Community Indicators Update, 2018
15. Together SC Economic Impact of SC Nonprofit Sector, 2018

16. HIV Prevention Landscape Map: Spartanburg, Cherokee, & Union Counties, Piedmont Care, 2018
17. Partners for Active Living Trail Construction Economic Impact Study, 2018
18. Community Needs Assessment for Spartanburg Regional Hospital System: Five Forks, SC, 2018
19. Community Indicator Reports: Greenwood County, Anderson County, Cherokee County, Coastal Foundation (9 Counties), Chester & Lancaster Counties, 2018
20. Spartanburg County Overnight Childcare Needs Assessment, 2017
21. Spartanburg County Housing Affordability Study, 2016