

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



— DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES —

ANNUAL REPORT FY24

JUNE 2023 - MAY 2024

At the **U**, we  
transform lives  
through **teaching,**  
**research,** and  
**service.**



Setting a standard  
of **excellence.**



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## MISSION

The Department of Public Health Sciences yields sustainable, positive changes in global health by providing outstanding research, teaching, and service programs to nurture the next generation of public health leaders who endeavor to discover, test, and disseminate solutions to health threats.

## VISION

Our vision is a world with healthy people living in healthy communities.

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## AT-A-GLANCE

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Pictured here, our students celebrate a milestone in their journey toward impactful public health careers. With enthusiasm and commitment, they engage in hands-on learning and research, tackling today's critical health issues. Behind their success are dedicated staff and a faculty team, whose expertise and mentorship guide the next generation of public health leaders.







Master's	155
M.D./M.P.H.	211
Ph.D.	41
<b>Students</b>	<b>407</b>

Primary	45
Secondary	47
Voluntary	22
Emeritus	3
<b>Faculty</b>	<b>117</b>





**Dr. Luciano Garofano**  
Research Asst. Professor  
Biostatistics



**Lidia "Lida" Menbaeva**  
Sr. Manager, Programs  
Online M.P.H.



**Ramesh Muthukumarana**  
Sr. Instructional Designer  
Online M.P.H.



**Manuela Maria Rodriguez**  
Sr. Manager, Programs  
M.D./M.P.H. Program



**Bernie Jack Tamberg**  
Sr. Program Coordinator  
M.D./M.P.H. Program





## Recognitions

- Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal, Incorporating Bereavement into the Continuum of Care.
  - Investing in Bereavement Care as a Public Health Priority.
  - Sylvester Researchers, Collaborators Call for Greater Investment in Bereavement Care.
  - Looking at Loneliness with Dr. Louise Hawkey & Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal.
- Dr. Patricia Moreno, CBS News Miami. UM doctor discusses Kate Middleton’s cancer diagnosis.
  - Heal Magazine. Hispanic/Latino Survivors May Be At Higher Risk for Cardiometabolic Comorbidities.
  - Univisión Primer Impacto. Sobrevivió a dos tipos de cáncer: ahora ayuda y motiva a otros (She survived two types of cancer: now she helps and motivates others).
  - Cure Magazine. Patients Should Actively Communicate Symptoms While Receiving Immunotherapy.
- Dr. Farren Briggs, Nominee, The Best Platform in MS Research, Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers Annual Meeting.
  - Interviewed by WPLG-TV Local 10 Miami News focused on Etiology-specific Hepatocellular Carcinoma Disparities.
- Dr. Daniel Diaz, Consortium Distinguished lecture series speaker, Institute of Mathematical Sciences of the Americas.
  - Aportes de Einstein desde las matemáticas (Spanish). Live radio interview at Radio Nacional de Colombia, a station that reaches 94% of the Colombian territory.
- Dr. Michele Ceccarelli, appointed as Leader, Computational Oncology Program, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Dr. Kanamori Nishimura, Presented “Advancing HIV Prevention and Care through Innovative Pharmacy Strategies” at the Pivotal HIV Pharmacy Research Symposium.
- Dr. Tyler Bartholomew, Recognized by the CDC Compendium of Evidence-Based Interventions for his HIV and Hepatitis C testing intervention. Also named DPHS Community Partner of the Year.

## National Awards

- Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal, Elected Fellow of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society.
- Dr. Mariano Kanamori Nishimura, National Hispanic Science Network Annual Meeting.
  - Received the National Hispanic Science Network Annual Meeting, Best Social Science Poster.
- Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez, Distinguished Mentorship Award, Delta Omega, the National Public Health Honor Society.

## Specialty Society Leadership Roles

- Dr. Patricia Moreno, Convention Program Chair, APA Division 38 Society for Health Psychology.
- Dr. Eric Brown, Advisor to EvidenciaViva, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. Online registry of drug prevention programs in Latin America.
- Dr. Shari Messinger, Association for Clinical and Translational Science (ACTS) Board of Directors.
  - North American Biostatistics Chairs Executive Committee.
  - North American Biostatistics Chairs Committee (Chair-elect).
- Dr. Scott Brown, Ad-Hoc Invited Reviewer, Community Influences on Health Behavior (CIHB) Study Section.
- Dr. Min Lu, Associate Editor, Journal of Translational Medicine.



## International Awards

- Dr. Mariano Kanamori Nishimura, Advances in Culture and Diversity in Prevention Science Award, Society for Prevention Research.
- Dr. WayWay Hlaing, Recipient of the Noel Weiss and Tom Koepsell Excellence in Education Award, Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) [Nominated by Faculty Peers, Alumni, and Students; Selected by the Award Committee of Epidemiologists].





# AWARDS & HONORS

The Department of Public Health Sciences is proud to celebrate the achievements of our diverse and highly experienced faculty, who continue to receive recognition for their impactful contributions to public health at the state, national, and international levels.

## Teaching and Mentorship Awards

- Dr. Alberto Caban-Martinez - Received the Teaching Excellence Award, Faculty of the Year Award (Public Health Student Association), and Distinguished Mentorship Award from Delta Omega, National Public Health Honor Society.
- Dr. Raymond Balise - Received the Innovation in Teaching Award and was nominated for the 2023 Provost Teaching Award for Innovation in Teaching.
- Dr. Sara St. George - Awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award and Faculty Development Travel Award from Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center.
- Dr. Mariano Kanamori Nishimura - Awarded Innovation in Teaching and Excellence in Teaching Awards by the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

## Collaborative Teaching Nominations by the Office of the Provost

- Dr. Scott Brown and Dr. Yue Pan - nominated for their course on the built environment, which was developed in collaboration with the School of Nursing and other schools.
- Dr. Daniel Feaster and Dr. Viviana Horigian - were nominated for their work in the T32 Change Program.

## Appointments and Leadership Roles

- Dr. Patricia Moreno - Appointed as a member of the Medical Faculty Council.
- Dr. Mariano Kanamori Nishimura - Named Director of the Division of Prevention Sciences and Community Health.
- Dr. Taghrid Asfar - Designated as the Translational Science Leader of Thoracic for the Oncology Service Line, leading the Site Disease Group (SDG) in its clinical, research, and translational efforts.
- Dr. Elahe Nezami - Elected Vice President of the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health.
- Dr. Shari Messinger, Named Director (Acting), Division of Biostatistics.

## Mid-Career and Early Career Leadership

- Dr. Sara M. St. George - Awarded the Mid-Career Leadership Institute Fellowship by the Society of Behavioral Medicine and nominated for the Early Career Award.



## Awards for Excellence in Impact and Innovation

- Dr. Mariano Kanamori - Received the award for Impactful Behavioral Health Project at the Miami CFAR Annual Symposium.
  - Received the Abstract of Distinction Award from the Society for Prevention Research.
- Dr. Mariano Kanamori Nishimura - Nominated for the Faculty Excellence and Impact Award by the Department of Public Health Sciences.
- Dr. Wendy Lichtenthal - Elected Fellow of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society and awarded the Outstanding Clinical Care Award by the same organization.
- Dr. Yue Pan - Received the CFAR Network of Integrated Clinical Systems (CNICS) Annual Meeting Travel Award.
- Dr. Min Lu, Relief Funding Award, Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship, and the Office of Faculty Affairs.
- Dr. Ariana Johnson - Awarded the Implementation Science Fellowship from Johns Hopkins University.





On April 5, 2024, the Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS) held its inaugural Powered By You engagement meeting, marking a key step in addressing opportunities raised in the Powered By You Survey from December 2023. This initiative focuses on a collaborative work environment and fostering collaboration within the department.

Based on the survey's findings, DPHS prioritized two key areas: ensuring fair treatment for all employees and enhancing cross-departmental collaboration.

To achieve this, the department committed to biannual faculty and staff town halls, pre-meeting anonymous surveys, open-door policies for feedback, and regular recognition of employee contributions.

The April 2024 meeting featured brief presentations from faculty and staff, highlighting interdisciplinary collaboration and public health outreach efforts. It concluded with a team-building activity that fostered connection among participants. The next Powered By You meeting is scheduled for August 2024.

## Building a Collaborative and Inclusive Department of Public Health Sciences



# INSTITUTIONAL & NATIONAL RANKINGS

National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants play a pivotal role in advancing scientific discovery and deepening our understanding of critical public health issues. The Department of Public Health Sciences continues to be recognized for its excellence, as reflected in the U.S. News & World Report rankings





## Biostatistics

- Balise, Raymond, Towards a framework for algorithmic bias and fairness in predicting treatment outcome for opioid use disorder, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$19,320
- Ceccarelli, Michele, Characterization of Somatic Mutations, Structural Variants and Cancer Heterogeneity from NGS data, Project Start Date: 1/1/2024, \$400,000
- Ceccarelli, Michele, Fate-AI, Project Start Date: 12/1/2023, \$958,737
- Feaster, Daniel, Harnessing the power of text messaging to reduce HIV incidence in adolescent males across the United States, Project Start Date: 11/1/2023, \$244,476
- Guo, Yan, Alternative splicing in human lung cells during influenza A virus infection (ALA), Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$9,927
- Wang, Lily, New DNA methylation biomarkers for predicting AD and cognitive decline, Project Start Date: 12/1/2023, \$3,840,332

## Environment and Public Health

- Caban-Martinez, Alberto, Identification of toxic effects of PFAS exposure: A multi-omic study of firefighters, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$275,588
- Caban-Martinez, Alberto, Women Fire Fighter Study: Evaluation of Exposures, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$77,798

## Health Services Research and Policy

- Bartholomew, Tyler, Project ACCESS: Advancing Equitable Access to HIV/HCV Testing Through Structural Transformation in Syringe Services Programs: A Cluster Randomized Trial, Project Start Date: 4/1/2024, \$3,729,080
- Szapocznik, Jose, Principles for Global Public Health Convention, Project Start Date: 1/1/2024, \$540,000

## Epidemiology and Population Health Sciences

- Briggs, Farren, A randomized controlled trial of customized adherence enhancement (CAE-E), Project Start Date: 8/7/2023, \$41,868
- Briggs, Farren, Characterizing the serum metabolome in multiple sclerosis, Project Start Date: 8/7/2023, \$257,729
- Briggs, Farren, Expanding epilepsy self-management support in healthcare networks (EXPAND), Project Start Date: 9/1/2023, \$83,023
- Briggs, Farren, Global Aging and Geriatric Experiments in Bipolar Disorder Database (GAGE-BD), Project Start Date: 9/1/2023, \$6,526
- Briggs, Farren, Illness Severity and Treatment Effects on Resting State Neural Connectivity in Adolescent Depression (ENGINE), Project Start Date: 8/7/2023, \$16,288
- Briggs, Farren, The investigators used a sequential, multiple assignment, randomized trial (SMART) 2, Project Start Date: 8/7/2023, \$28,811
- Briggs, Farren, Using mHealth to improve adherence and reduce blood pressure in individuals with hypertension and bipolar disorder (iTAB-CV), Project Start Date: 8/7/2023, \$64,281
- Hu, Jennifer, Assessing Benefits and Harms of Medical Cannabis and Cannabinoid Use in Breast Cancer Patients During and After Treatments, Project Start Date: 9/1/2023, \$3,838,375
- Hu, Jennifer, Impacts of Medical Marijuana Use on Inflammation Activation and Breast Cancer Clinical Outcomes, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$130,000
- Lee, David, Northwest Florida Public Health Collaborative to Reduce Breast Cancer Disparities (NWF-CORD), Project Start Date: 1/1/2024, \$98,129

## Prevention Science and Community Health

- Carrico, Adam, Pilot testing a status-neutral, evidenced-based ART adherence intervention adapted for stimulant-using transgender women (PARTI), Project Start Date: 6/1/2023, \$103,599
- Carrico, Adam, Randomized Controlled Trial of Intranasal Oxytocin for Co-Occurring Meth and HIV, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$9,002,345
- Carrico, Adam, Unraveling the neuropsychiatric consequences of gut-immune dysfunction beginning in acute HIV, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$135,923
- Kanamori, Mariano, CERCA DE TI: Leveraging an Established Academic and CVS Health® Partnership to Advance Biomedical HIV Prevention with a New Pharmacy-Based PrEP, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$451,357
- Kanamori, Mariano, ÚNETE: A Two-Mode Network Model of Celebrity Advocates and Community to Reduce the Compounding Negative Effects of Discrimination and Substance Use, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$3,500,000
- Licthenthal, Wendy, Adaptation of Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy for Parents Bereaved by Suicide, Project Start Date: 6/1/2023, \$90,991
- Licthenthal, Wendy, Meaning-Centered Grief Therapy for Parents Bereaved by Cancer: A Multisite Randomized Controlled Trial, Project Start Date: 7/1/2023, \$1,957,335
- Licthenthal, Wendy, Meaning-Centered Psychotherapy to Meet Palliative Care Needs of Cancer Caregivers, Project Start Date: 12/1/2023, \$855,058

## Ph.D. Student (Prevention Science)

- Jaramillo, Jahn, Employment as prevention: Adapting a structural intervention to achieve HIV equity among immigrant Latino MSM, Project Start Date: 9/1/2023, \$95,388.





## TOP 20 RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. Felicia Knaul, The Lancet Breast Cancer Commission, Lancet, April 2024, Impact Factor: 98.4
2. Felicia Knaul, Setbacks in the quest for universal health coverage in Mexico: Polarized Politics, Policy Upheaval, and Pandemic Disruption, Lancet, August 2023, Impact Factor: 98.4
3. Alberto Caban-Martinez, Effectiveness of Bivalent mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines in Preventing SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Children and Adolescents Aged 5 to 17 Years, JAMA, February 2024, Impact Factor: 63.1
4. Felicia Knaul, Health Effects Associated with Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence Against Women and Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Burden of Proof Study, Nat Med, December 2023, Impact Factor: 58.7
5. Nelson Arboleda, Consistent Patterns of Common Species Across Tropical Tree Communities, Nature, January 2024, Impact Factor: 50.5
6. Luciano Garofano, Integrated Proteogenomic Characterization of Glioblastoma Evolution, Cancer Cell, January 2024, Impact Factor: 48.8
7. Xi Steven Chen, Proteogenomic Analysis of Chemo-refractory High-grade Serous Ovarian Cancer, Cell, August 2023, Impact Factor: 45.5
8. Michele Ceccarelli, Pan-cancer Proteogenomics Characterization of Tumor Immunity, Cell, February 2024, Impact Factor: 45.5
9. James Shultz, Protecting Caribbean Patients Diagnosed with Cancer from Compounding Disasters, Lancet Oncol, May 2024, Impact Factor: 41.6
10. Jennifer Hu, Characterizing Prostate Cancer Risk through Multi-ancestry Genome-wide Discovery of 187 Novel Risk Variants, Nat Genet, November 2023, Impact Factor: 31.7
11. Jennifer Hu, Genome-wide Association Analyses of Breast Cancer in Women of African Ancestry Identify New Susceptibility Loci and Improve Risk Prediction, Nat Genet, May 2024, Impact Factor: 31.7
12. Wendy Lichtenthal, Investing in Bereavement Care as a Public Health Priority, Lancet Public Health, March 2024, Impact Factor: 25.4
13. John Beier, Estimating the Potential Risk of Transmission of Arboviruses in the Americas and Europe: A Modeling Study, Lancet Planet Health, January 2024, Impact Factor: 24.1
14. Felicia Knaul, Harnessing Progress in Radiotherapy for Global Cancer Control, Nat Cancer, September 2023, Impact Factor: 23.5
15. Viviana Horigian, Nurse Care Management for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: The PROUD Cluster Randomized Clinical Trial, JAMA Intern Med, October 2023, Impact Factor: 22.5
16. James Shultz, Derailing Carcinogens-oncologists and the Ohio Train Derailment, JAMA Oncol, November 2023, Impact Factor: 22.5
17. Alberto Caban-Martinez, Psychosocial Burdens Associated With Family Building Among Physicians and Medical Students, JAMA Intern Med, July 2023, Impact Factor: 22.5
18. David Lee, Cumulative All-cause Mortality in Diverse Hispanic/Latino Adults: A Prospective, Multicenter Cohort Study, Ann Intern Med, March 2024, Impact Factor: 19.6
19. Limin Jiang, Michele Ceccarelli, Yan Guo, Reinventing Gene Expression Connectivity through Regulatory and Spatial Structural Empowerment Via Principal Node Aggregation Graph Neural Network, Nucleic Acids Res, June 2024, Impact Factor: 16.6
20. Michele Ceccarelli, Integrated Molecular and Multiparametric MRI Mapping of High-grade Glioma Identifies Regional Biologic Signatures, Nat Commun, September 2023, Impact Factor: 14.7

# GRANTS + CONTRACTS

## PERFORMANCE



### NEW AWARDED TOTAL GRANTS & CONTRACTS

**\$31,434,209**

These grants are a testament to the hard work of our DPHS research faculty in advancing public health. Their dedication, passion and perseverance will continue to contribute and impact critical health challenges in our communities and the broader field of public health.

The department congratulates all faculty, staff and students who worked tirelessly for your steadfast commitment to the well-being of our communities locally, nationally and internationally and beyond.







The Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine stands as one of the most influential public health programs in the United States, renowned for its pioneering work in public health education, research, service and real-world application.

**536**

**Peer-Reviewed  
Publications**

**51**

**Lectures  
Delivered**

**30**

**New Extramural  
Grants Awarded**

**12**

**Book Chapters  
and Books**



## 8

**8 Master's Programs**

- MPH
- Online MPH – Tentative Launch: Fall 2024
- MSPH
- 4 + 1 BSPH MPH/MSPH
- 4 + 1 BSHS MPH/MSPH
- MS in Biostatistics
- MS in Prevention Science and Community Health
- MS in Climate and Health

## 6

**6 Joint Degrees**

- MD/MPH
- MPH/MPA
- MPH/MAIA
- MPH/MALAS
- MPH/JD
- MD/Ph.D.

## 3

**3 Doctoral Programs**

- Ph.D. in Biostatistics
- Ph.D. in Epidemiology
- Ph.D. in Prevention Science and Community Health

## 2

**2 Graduate Certificates**

- Building Expertise in Administration & Management (BEAM) Certificate
- Public Health Graduate Certificate



The Department of Public Health Sciences has achieved a comprehensive 7-year accreditation term from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), marking its successful completion of the second year in the accreditation process. CEPH serves as the governing body responsible for accrediting schools and programs in the field of public health.

The University of Miami Graduate Programs in Public Health has been accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) since 1982.



## ENROLLMENT

The Department of Public Health Sciences successfully enrolled 61 students for the Fall 2023 cohort, with a notable increase in UM employee participation, representing 25% of the incoming group. The department's efforts to diversify its student body, along with the expansion of accelerated and dual-degree programs, contributed to this achievement. Additionally, 33% of the incoming cohort benefited from the Double Cane Scholarship, further supporting accessibility and affordability.

The wide range of degree programs within the department continues to attract students interested in advancing their education in public health, biostatistics, epidemiology, and prevention science, reinforcing the department's commitment to fostering the next generation of public health leaders.

## Online M.P.H. Program:

Fall 2024 Launch in Progress

In fiscal year 2023, the Department of Public Health Sciences received approval to introduce an innovative Online Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) program. This new program, set to launch in Fall 2024, aims to expand accessibility to public health education for students around the globe, offering flexibility without compromising academic rigor.

Since receiving approval, the department has been actively developing the program's infrastructure, including course content, marketing strategies, and online delivery mechanisms. The department and the Miller School of Medicine have been working diligently to promote the program across digital platforms, while faculty have been recording lectures and creating engaging content tailored for the online learning environment.

By offering a fully online M.P.H. program, the department is poised to reach a broader audience, empowering more students to engage with critical public health issues and gain the expertise needed to make a global impact. This initiative aligns with our ongoing commitment to fostering education, inclusivity, and innovation in public health.



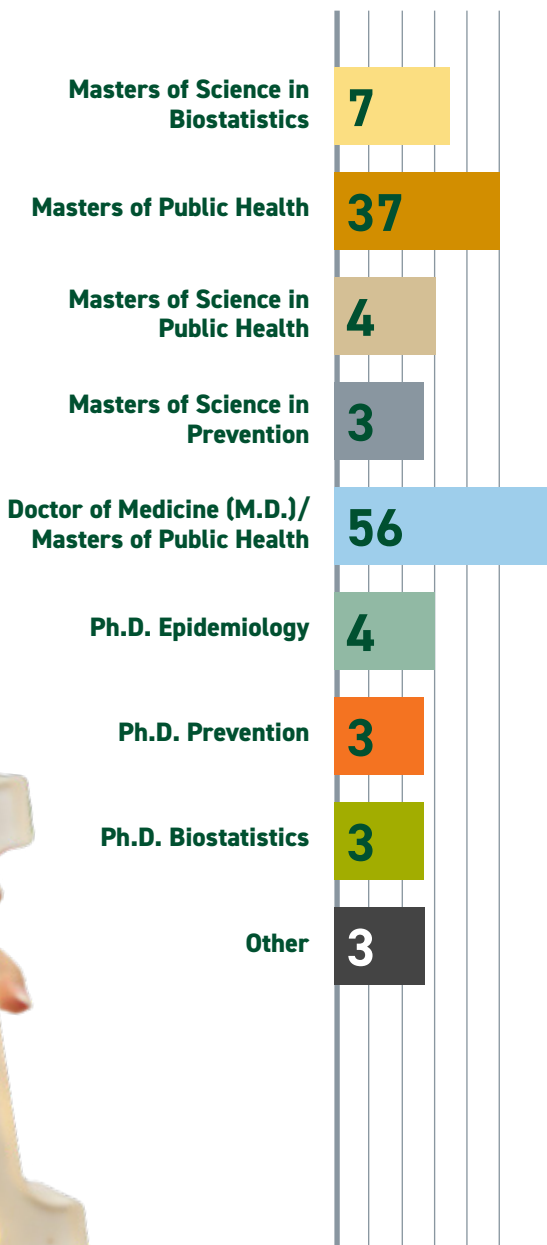


The mission of the **Graduate Programs in Public Health** is to develop leaders who can generate and translate knowledge into policy and practice to promote health and prevent disease in human populations.



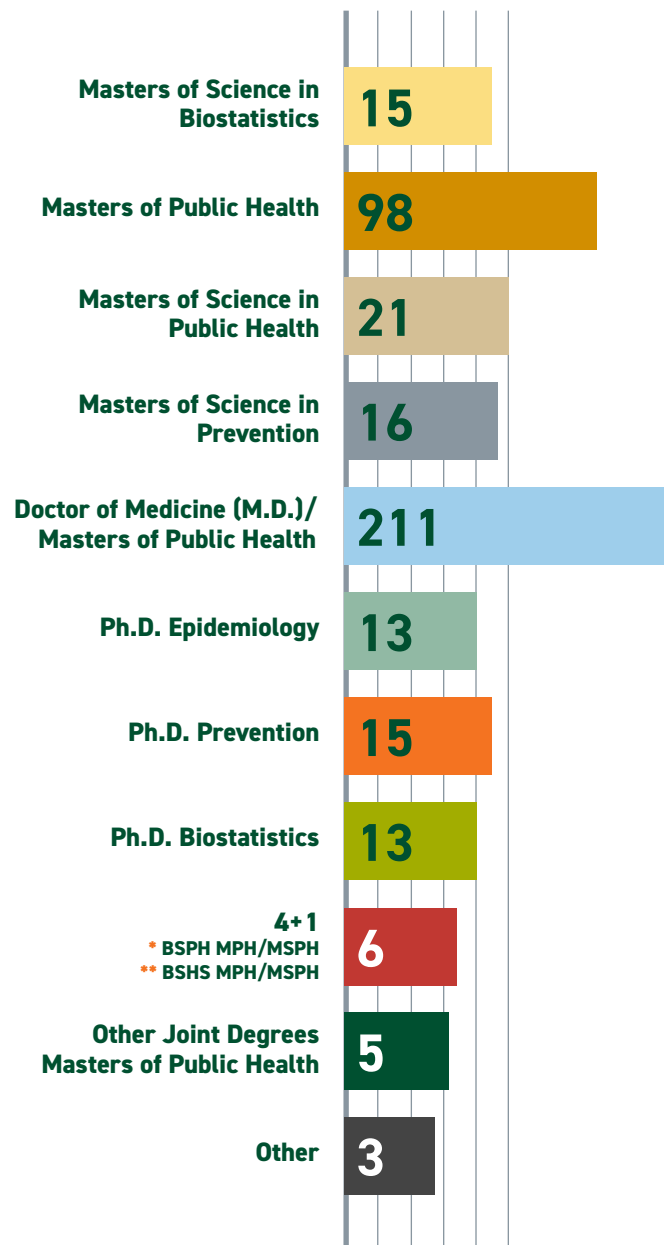
## STUDENT GRADUATION

The following graph depicts the number of students that have graduated across the various master's and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Public Health Sciences in fiscal year 2024.



## STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The following graph depicts the number of students enrolled across the various master's and Ph.D. programs in the Department of Public Health Sciences in fiscal year 2024.



\* Bachelor of Science in Public Health with Masters of Public Health or Masters of Science in Public Health

\*\* Bachelor of Science in Health Science with Masters of Public Health or Masters of Science in Public Health







## DOCTORAL FUNDING

All doctoral students in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Prevention Science and Community Health receive comprehensive support from a variety of sources.

Doctoral students also have access to research grants, fellowships, conferences, and workshops, which serve to promote innovation, collaboration, and networking within their respective fields.

Full-time Ph.D. students are provided with the following benefits:

- **Full tuition support for the length of the Ph.D. program**
- **Annual Stipend of \$41,000, paid on a monthly basis**
- **Graduate Student Health Insurance**





## FINANCIAL AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

All MPH and MSPH students matriculating in the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters completing a 45-credit degree program received a \$20,000 Department of Public Health tuition waivers.

The Department of Public Health Sciences guaranteed partial tuition award to accepted students in the three Master of Science programs (MS Biostatistics, MS Prevention Science and Community Health, and MS Climate and Health).

The department also offered public health graduate students various opportunities to gain professional experience while working as a Graduate Assistant, Teaching Assistant, and Research Assistant.



The Department of Public Health Sciences (DPHS) extended a distinctive opportunity to both current students and alumni, enabling them to attain certification in the field of public health. DPHS provided sponsorship vouchers, allowing eligible current students and alumni to enroll for the CPH Exam in Spring 2023. Of those who took the CPH exam, 100% of graduating students passed.

**CPH** Certified in  
Public Health

by National Board of Public Health Examiners



**Being certified in Public Health was essential for me to demonstrate my knowledge, maintain national standards through continued education, and advance my career. DPHS provided a timely opportunity with a one-month crash course, practice exams, and financial support, which motivated me to prepare and pass. The course refreshed my MSPH knowledge, helped me focus on key exam areas, and addressed gaps in my understanding.**

— **Demet Tekin, M.S.P.H., C.P.H.**  
CPH Exam Voucher Recipient



**The opportunity to participate in the 2024 CPH Bootcamp program was incredibly rewarding. Through the remarkably structured weekly sessions and fantastic preparatory materials the program provided me, I was able to gain the confidence needed to successfully pass the CPH exam and ultimately become board-certified in Public Health.**

— **Atif Bhatti, M.P.H., C.P.H.**  
CPH Exam Voucher Recipient







1120

**Don Soffer  
Clinical Research Center**



Judy and Robert Cornfeld Neuro-Imaging Research Center  
Barton G. Kids Hear Now  
Cochlear Implant Family Resource Center  
Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute  
1120 NW 14th St





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*Designed by John P. Soto*





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