



# RESEARCH PRACTICE

*It is our intent to provide regular updates on the research of LSUHSC-New Orleans School of Public Health faculty, students, and staff and the implications of that work in public health practice, or public health practice and its implications for research. Each newsletter highlights recent publications of School of Public Health faculty, students, and staff.*



## Preparedness and Community Resilience in Disaster-Prone Areas: Cross-Sectoral Collaborations in South Louisiana

Environmental and technological disasters cause significant harm to human physical and mental health through exposure to toxins, exacerbation of chronic conditions, and injury. They may destabilize or damage physical and social determinants of health such as housing, transportation, and education systems. Within each arm, the study will randomize individual adult clients to 1 of 2 mobile applications that provide resources on depression, social risk factors, and disaster response, or also provide psychoeducation on cognitive behavioral therapy to enhance coping with stress and mood. Community-based organization interviewees highlighted the importance of forging relationships and building trust through diverse cross-sector collaborations and partnerships before disasters.

### American Journal of Public Health

Miranda Joy Pollock MPH, Ashley Wennerstrom PhD, MPH, Gala True PhD, Ashley Everett MPH, Olivia Sugarman MPH, Catherine Haywood, Arthur Johnson MS, Diana Meyers RN, Jennifer Sato MA, MS, Kenneth B. Wells MD, MPH, Armen C. Arevian MD, PhD, Michael Massimi, Jasmine Berry MPH, Leah Riefberg MPH, MBA, Nkechi Onyewuenyi, & Benjamin Springgate MD, MPH

The surge in environmental and technological disasters has placed a lot of stress on communities across South Louisiana in the area of needed resources. Through collaboration and extended networks, community-based organizations work together to proactively prepare for possible disasters and increase community resilience.

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## Cervical Human Papillomavirus Testing With Two Home Self-Collection Methods Compared With a Standard Clinically Collected Sampling Method

Death from cervical cancer is potentially preventable, yet more than 260,000 women die from it every year worldwide. Primary prevention utilizing Food and Drugs Administration approved human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines have been proven effective in preventing cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and cancer if given to girls before they become sexually active. Secondary prevention has traditionally utilized Papanicolaou (Pap) smear screening followed by colposcopy for those with dysplasia. The goal of this study was to explore alternative methods of capturing specimens for HPV testing, specifically using self-collection methods that could be performed by the women themselves.

### Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Jerry W. McLarty, PhD, Donna L. Williams, PhD, Susan Loyd, RN, & Michael E. Hagensee, MD, MPH

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccines and Papanicolaou smear screenings are two effective prevention methods in cervical cancer. Alternative methods for at-home HPV testing is a novel approach that empowers women to perform screenings in comfortable settings and can be used by women who are unable to present for clinic-based screenings.

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## Adverse Childhood Experiences, Smoking and Alcohol Use, and Allostatic Load Among People Living with HIV

Allostatic load is an indicator of multisystem physiologic dysregulation that may arise from prolonged or accumulated exposure to stress, including adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and chronic stressors persisting into adulthood. People living with HIV (PLWH) may be particularly vulnerable given their high burdens of adversity across the life course. The purpose of this study was to explore the relation between ACEs and allostatic load in later life among a cohort of PLWH. PLWH who had experienced 4 or more ACEs had on average higher allostatic load in adulthood compared to those who experienced fewer. Neither smoking nor alcohol use mediated this relationship, however, suggesting alternative mechanisms may be at play.

### AIDS and Behavior

Maeve Wallace, Erica Felker-Kantor, Aubrey Madkour, Tekeda Ferguson, David Welsh, Patricia Molina, & Katherine P. Theall

Allostatic load has been identified as a promising tool for understanding how harmful social contexts disrupt physiological functioning. Researchers found that PLWH who experienced four or more adverse childhood experiences had on average higher allostatic load in adulthood compared to those who experienced fewer.

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