



Annual Report

2024



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH POLICY

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am excited to share with you the 2024 Annual Report for the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY SPH). In a world confronting climate change, global conflicts, and pervasive inequalities, CUNY SPH remains steadfast in addressing the pressing public health challenges of our time.

As I reflect on the achievements and milestones of the past year, I am filled with immense pride in the collective efforts of our community at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy. This annual report highlights not only our accomplishments of the last year, but also the values and mission that guide our work every day.

Public health is a discipline grounded in justice, innovation, and service. These principles have driven our progress as we address the challenges of an ever-changing world. This year, our research portfolio totaled an impressive \$27.6 million, demonstrating our faculty's sustained commitment to groundbreaking initiatives that address the multifaceted determinants of health. From pioneering work in cancer genomics to transformative efforts in sexual and reproductive justice, CUNY SPH continues to lead the way in advancing health equity through research, advocacy, and education.

We celebrated our largest graduating class in school history at the historic Apollo Theater, a testament to the dedication of our students and the support of our faculty and staff. These graduates join a growing network of alumni who are reshaping public health in New York City and beyond.

Our commitment to innovation in public health education is exemplified

by initiatives like the Career Skills Academy, which equips students with the tools to succeed professionally, and the establishment of the Byllye Avery Sexual and Reproductive Justice Endowed Professorship—the first of its kind in the nation. These endeavors reflect our pledge to prepare the next generation of public health leaders to meet the pressing issues of our time with courage and creativity.

At the heart of our work is a steadfast dedication to the communities we serve. Whether through the Harlem Health Initiative or collaborations with community-based organizations, we remain focused on creating meaningful partnerships that enhance health outcomes and promote social justice.

We deeply appreciate the unwavering support of our Foundation Board. Their generous scholarships and fellowships and support of our academic programming open doors for our students to pursue graduate education.

We are also thankful to our esteemed advisory council for their continued guidance as we work to provide exceptional graduate education for our students.

As we look to the future, I am reminded of the resilience, compassion, and determination that define our CUNY SPH community. I am deeply grateful to our students, faculty, staff, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to advancing public health. Together, we are shaping a healthier, more equitable world for all.

With gratitude and my warmest wishes,



Ayman El-Mohandes, MBBCh, MD, MPH, FAAP
DEAN



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*Bylle Avery
Sexual &
Reproductive
Justice
Professorship*



Bylle Avery

CUNY SPH has taken a historic step in advancing sexual and reproductive justice with the launch of the Byllye Avery Sexual and Reproductive Justice Professorship. This groundbreaking endowed professorship is the first of its kind in the nation, dedicated to addressing sexual and reproductive justice as a critical area of public health. Named in honor of Byllye Avery, a pioneer in women's health and a foremother of the reproductive justice movement, the professorship reflects CUNY SPH's commitment to equity and advocacy in public health.

To launch the professorship, CUNY SPH hosted a compelling panel discussion on the state of reproductive justice and health, moderated by Dr. Chelsea Clinton. The panel included esteemed leaders such as Terry McGovern, senior associate dean for academic and student affairs at CUNY SPH; Lynn Roberts, associate dean for student affairs and professor at CUNY SPH; Philicia Castillo-Sanders, a doctoral student at the school; and Byllye Avery herself, who inspired the audience with her call to action.

"We are the catalyst to make change happen around women's healthcare, and we can do that by equipping the next generation of scholars and activists to

continue this important work," Avery said. "Today's students are coming in with a fire in their belly. It is imperative that we prepare them to meet the challenges that lay ahead. They will be a force to be reckoned with."

The professorship is a cornerstone of CUNY SPH's new Sexual and Reproductive Justice Hub (SRJ Hub), which aims to expand scholarship and experiential learning opportunities focused on leadership development and solutions-oriented research. As part of this initiative, the school is developing a curriculum that will prepare students to navigate and address the unique challenges posed by shifting political landscapes and anti-evidence trends.

Panelists and attendees highlighted the urgency of this work, particularly in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. "Since SCOTUS overturned *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen a rapid erosion of women's rights, and it is abundantly clear that now is the time for schools of public health to seize the mantle of reproductive justice," McGovern said. "This professorship will help us develop a solutions-based curriculum focused on preparing the next cadre of sexual and reproductive justice leaders

and, most importantly, fierce advocates."

The launch event brought together reproductive justice and feminist leaders from across the nation, including Loretta Ross, Gloria Steinem, and Abigail Disney, as well as prominent city officials such as New York State Senator Cordell Cleare and Estelle Raboni, Director of Sexual and Reproductive Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Their presence underscored the national and local significance of the initiative.

CUNY SPH Dean Ayman El-Mohandes emphasized the importance of this work, stating, "Now more than ever, protecting the right to reproductive autonomy is crucial. We're proud to add this professorship to the sexual and reproductive work CUNY SPH is engaged in, especially at this dire point in history when these rights are once again under threat."

With its focus on reproductive health equity, justice, and wellness, the Byllye Avery Sexual and Reproductive Justice Professorship positions CUNY SPH at the forefront of public health advocacy, ensuring that students are equipped to lead in advancing these vital rights and addressing critical public health challenges.



From left: Dr. Chelsea Clinton, Associate Dean Lynn Roberts, doctoral student Philicia Castillo-Sanders, Senior Associate Dean Terry McGovern and Byllye Avery.

Largest Graduating Class in CUNY SPH's History

CUNY SPH celebrated its eighth commencement in the spring, putting forth the largest group of graduates in the school's history.



Clockwise from top left: Adrian Blader; Dean Ayman El-Mohandes, Dr. Alan Shapiro; Byllye Avery; Dr. Helen Arteaga being hooded by Professor Chris Palmedo; Malika Christopher; Graduates from the class of 2024

Held at the historic Apollo Theater in Harlem, the 2024 commencement ceremony honored 263 master's degree students and seven doctoral students.

In his opening remarks, Dean Ayman El-Mohandes lauded the dynamic class of 2024, which also included 31 advanced certificate students. He acknowledged the challenging global conditions, including ongoing conflicts and violence, that the graduates face as they begin their careers in public health.

"These war atrocities are only one manifestation of many other continuing injustices in the world including consequences of poverty, inequality, lack of freedom and dignity, especially amongst women who carry an unfair burden in so many parts of the world," the dean said. "Let us celebrate this moment together, and even in the darkest hour assemble our conviction and energy for good to move forwards, sustaining each other with respect and dignity."

The dean presented the 2024 Honorary Doctor of Science in Public Health degree to reproductive justice pioneer

Byllye Avery for her contributions to the field of public health—advancing sexual and reproductive justice, and challenging structural racism and sexism. Honoring Avery's activism, CUNY SPH launched its first endowed professorship in Avery's name late last year, which will put forth cutting edge scholarship in the sexual and reproductive justice field.

In her keynote speech, Avery recalled the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who delivered the commencement speech at her own graduation from Talladega College in 1959.

"He told us we did not have the luxury to sit on the sidelines and watch," she said. "And I say to you: we are in some deep mess right now, y'all. And you all don't have the luxury to sit on the sidelines and watch. Democracy is not a spectator sport."

The 2024 Champion of Public Health Award was presented to Dr. Alan Shapiro, senior medical director and assistant professor of pediatrics at Montefiore Medical Center. As the co-founder and executive director of Terra Firma, Dr.

Shapiro has been a tireless and highly effective advocate fighting to ensure all immigrant children and families have access to quality healthcare and legal representation.

Valedictorian Adrian Blader addressed their fellow graduates, highlighting the unprecedented challenges they faced together.

"One of my favorite classes in graduate school was Professor [Nicholas] Freudenberg's class, Health Activism in New York City," Blader said. "On our first day he asked what we wanted to take away from the course and I said 'hope.' And hope is exactly what I have gotten from this degree and from working alongside you all. I have found hope through learning from previous public health movements and the people who came before us, united together to fight injustice and inequity."

To close the ceremony, Dr. Shapiro led the graduates in reciting the Public Health Pledge, sealing their commitment to advancing public health and health equity in communities across the globe.



ADVICE

FROM

OUR

ALUMNI

Navigating graduate school can be both exciting and challenging. Our alumni share valuable insights and offer practical guidance to help our students thrive academically, professionally, and personally.

MAKE CONNECTIONS AND PRACTICE NETWORKING

Connecting with your professors as soon as possible is an excellent way to help you get the most out of your classes. They are there to help and support you, and establishing a meaningful relationship with them is an excellent way for you to optimize your learning experience.

I wish I had known early on that in graduate school, I had the opportunity to engage with professors and seek mentorship proactively rather than expecting it to be provided automatically. It's crucial to recognize that taking the initiative can lead to valuable mentorship experiences that might otherwise be missed.

BUILD COMMUNITY WITH YOUR PEERS

Finding community in those in the same cohort as you, even if they are not the same concentration, is key. It's important to find fellow students who can offer you support, advice, feedback on classwork, etc. Doing this for remote classes can be particularly difficult, but this also offers an opportunity for you to learn how to reach out to people on your own, and connect with people via group chats, Discord servers, or even email.

Don't be afraid to ask your professors about research opportunities at the school. Even if they're not leading a study for you to join, they can help direct you to professors that do have open opportunities for students. By engaging in research while you work on your degree, you'll be able to review and apply everything you learn in class in a real world setting.

BE PROACTIVE IN SEEKING OUT OPPORTUNITIES

Think ahead — is there any work that certain professors are doing that interests you? Can they use any help with research? You can lay the groundwork early to make your dissertation that much easier.

Advising is important, and don't be afraid to shift advisors if you find one more aligned to your own interests.

ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF

Reflecting on my experience, I realize the importance of reaching out to professors about my challenges.

STAY ORGANIZED

I wish I knew the importance of weekly assignments and how much they contribute to the final grade! Preparing and organizing your studies in advance (the beginning of the term) helps a lot!

Navigating fieldwork can be challenging, so I recommend initiating your search for placement well in advance. It's important to prepare yourself for the possibility that securing hands-on experience might be difficult, particularly if you're new to the field. In such cases, seeking mentorship from alternative sources during your internship could prove beneficial.

AT CUNY SPH, STUDENT WELLBEING AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE GO HAND-IN-HAND

Absolutely take advantage of the CUNY SPH wellness and counseling services. This team of incredible mental health professionals are available for students to lean on when things seem too overwhelming. The best part is since they're situated within the school, they're finely tuned to the specific mental health needs of students.

CAREER GUIDANCE STARTS FROM DAY ONE

I used the Office of Career Services which was incredibly helpful. The Career Services team consistently helped me make the most of my time at CUNY SPH and navigate my career alongside school.

I also used the Office of Accessibility Services which helped in making sure I had help for all of my accommodations.

MAKING EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL STUDENTS

MAKING THE MOST OF RESOURCES

I relied heavily on the library during my time at CUNY SPH and I found it incredibly valuable. The library was well-stocked with resources, and I rarely needed to seek assistance elsewhere.

While the IT services may not provide instant responses, their commitment to resolving issues and guiding users through new software and system navigation was commendable. Their support ensured that I could effectively utilize the resources available to me.

The 7th floor student library/computer room/lounge is the nicest spot to work on campus!

I especially enjoyed my fieldwork. I got to take part in a project I was very interested in. You make the most of your opportunities so I made sure to pursue data analysis and manuscript publishing with the help of my principal investigator and professor. I also got to present at a conference and made some great friends!

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE THROUGH FIELDWORK

Fieldwork was an incredibly practical experience that allowed me to expand my quantitative research knowledge and application. While I eventually found a placement working in global health research, I recommend that students start looking early!

Fieldwork was an essential component of the MPH experience. It was challenging to apply class learned concepts in real life, but the rewards and satisfaction were immense.

BE KIND TO YOURSELF. YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING INCREDIBLE!

Everyone has a different path to get to their end goal. Don't be hard on yourself when life can and will get in the way. No one has ever once asked me how long it took me to earn my doctorate.

Our Students

BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

2024	904
2023	915
2022	948
2021	922
2020	746
2019	589
2018	559

TOTAL ENROLLMENT BY PROGRAM

MPH

Community Health	171
Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences	47
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	145
Health Policy and Management	211
Public Health Nutrition	39

MS

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences	29
Global and Migrant Health Policy	11
Health Communication for Social Change	37
Population Health Informatics	36

PhD

Community Health and Health Policy	54
Environmental and Planetary Health Science	13
Epidemiology	36

DPH

Community, Society, and Health	2
Environmental and Occupational Health	1

Nutrition and Dietetic Internship	4
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Advanced Certificate

Public Health	44
Industrial Hygiene	20

STUDENTS EMPLOYED FULL AND PART TIME

Employed full-time	69%
Employed part-time	15%

STUDENTS ATTENDING FULL TIME VS PART TIME

Attend full-time	29%
Attend part-time	71%

GRADUATION RATES

Doctoral	100%
Master's	79%

AVERAGE YEARS TO COMPLETE DEGREE

Doctoral	5.4
Master's	2.6

ALUMNI OUTCOMES ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATION

94%	74%	89%
are employed or continuing their education and training	are working in the area in which they earned their degree	would recommend CUNY SPH to a prospective student

A snapshot of our matriculants

Our student body is diverse in age, gender, race, and ethnicity.

AGE

< 25	15%
25-30	36%
31-35	20%
36-40	14%
> 41	15%



GENDER

Female	75%
Male	24%
Non-binary or non-specified	1%



RACE / ETHNICITY

Hispanic	16%
Asian/Pacific Islander	24%
Black	24%
White	36%



Our Exceptional Faculty

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Nearly **90%** of students evaluated their professor as excellent, very good, or good.



CUMULATIVE STUDENT RATINGS OF PROFESSORS

Excellent
Very Good
Good
Fair
Poor

48%
23%
17%
9%
3%



STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO

9:1

COURSES TAUGHT BY FULL TIME FACULTY

70%

CLASS SIZE DISTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF STUDENTS

Fewer than 10 16%
10 - 24 40%
25 - 40 32%
Over 40 12%



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Christian Grov



This year, CUNY SPH proudly announced the promotion of Dr. Christian Grov, professor of community health and social sciences and investigator for the CUNY Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health, to the rank of distinguished professor.

CUNY confers the title of distinguished professor on faculty who have built international reputations as leaders within their fields and have been consistent producers of innovative and influential research. Dr. Grov is a leading scholar in his field of sexual health.

His work spans substance use, sex work, HIV/STI prevention, and HIV care. His studies have been supported by both the NIH and the CDC. He has co-authored over 230 peer-reviewed articles, as well as several book chapters. He is co-author of the book, “In the Company of Men: Inside the Lives of Male Prostitutes,” and co-editor of “The Routledge Handbook of Male Sex Work, Culture, and Society.” He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Sex Research*, and on the editorial boards of several peer-reviewed

journals. Between 2018 and 2024, he served as chairperson of the Department of Community Health and Social Sciences and, from 2020 to 2024, as a standing member of the NIH’s HIV/AIDS Intra- and Inter-personal Determinants and Behavioral Interventions (HIBI) Study Section. He is former editor in chief of *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* and was a member of the NYC Department of Health’s HIV Prevention Planning Group as well as on the Board of Directors of HOOK, a non-profit dedicated to improving the health and well-being of men who are involved in sex work. In 2023, Dr. Grov was elected as a Fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality (SSSS) in recognition of his significant contributions to research and scholarship in the science of sexuality.

“We are thrilled the university has bestowed this special honor on Dr. Grov and we thank the CUNY Board of Trustees for supporting the school’s nomination,” says CUNY SPH Dean Ayman El-Mohandes. “We are proud of his major contributions to the field of public health and look forward to continuing to support and celebrate his work in this new chapter of his career.”

Dr. Grov joins an eminent group of distinguished professors at CUNY SPH including Professors Nicholas Freudenberg, Denis Nash, Luisa N. Borrell, Renee Goodwin, and Terry Huang.

WELCOMING NEW FACULTY

Constantin Yiannoutsos



This year the school welcomed Dr. Constantin Yiannoutsos to our faculty as professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Prior to joining CUNY SPH, Dr. Yiannoutsos spent almost a decade at Harvard University running clinical trials dealing with neurological sequelae of HIV infection. He then spent over 20 years at Indiana University where he held a number of positions including director of the IU Cancer Center Biostatistics Facility and Director of Graduate Education.

Dr. Yiannoutsos' methodological research is focused on statistical issues in survival analysis and causal methods, particularly addressing biases resulting from missing data in the context of observational studies. He runs a large epidemiological cohort which has been following over 500,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania for decades, as part of the IeDEA (iedea.org) Collaboration, a worldwide network of HIV care and treatment programs following over 2,000,000 people worldwide.

In this capacity, he has provided data and statistical expertise to aid governments, foundations, and international organizations in evidence-based health policy and decision-making with respect to the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Professor Yiannoutsos has used his expertise with large international HIV/AIDS cohorts to address similar issues domestically, most recently in a study of people living with HIV/AIDS in the state of Indiana. During the COVID epidemic, he was instrumental in using statistical methods to aid in Indiana's epidemic response.

Dr. Yiannoutsos graduated from the University of Connecticut with a doctoral degree in statistics and is a passionate teacher who has taught, trained, and mentored hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students around the world and developed statistics education and training curricula at all levels.

“

DR. YIANNOUTSOS' METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH IS FOCUSED ON STATISTICAL ISSUES IN SURVIVAL ANALYSIS AND CAUSAL METHODS, PARTICULARLY ADDRESSING BIASES RESULTING FROM MISSING DATA IN THE CONTEXT OF OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES.

Research and Initiatives

Our faculty drives public health research at CUNY SPH through the lens of social justice, a core value of the school. This research aims to lay the groundwork for impactful social justice policies.

In 2024, total research expenditures reached **\$27.6 million**, reflecting sustained high investment following a remarkable **63% increase** between 2022 and 2023.

TOTAL RESEARCH EXPENDITURES BY FISCAL YEAR

FY 2024	\$27,641,430
FY 2023	\$32,607,282
FY 2022	\$19,991,466
FY 2021	\$15,302,079
FY 2020	\$12,904,362
FY 2019	\$9,105,296
FY 2018	\$8,330,419
FY 2017	\$5,840,860



DISTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH AWARDS BY FACULTY RANK

Full Professor	53%
Associate Professor	31%
Assistant Professor	7%
Other	9%

Our faculty published **303 peer-reviewed articles** this year.

DISTRIBUTION OF CUNY SPH AUTHORS BY FACULTY RANK*

Full Professor	59%
Associate Professor	26%
Assistant Professor	15%

*Not necessarily the paper's first author



ACTIVE GRANTS BY SOURCE

Federal	15%
City	14%
Private	59%
Internal	12%



Faculty research plays a vital role in providing our students with valuable learning and employment opportunities. Through hands-on experience in data collection, instrument development, data analysis, and manuscript preparation, students are able to refine their public health skills.

This year **30%** of our research staff were our own students.

Major Grants

Supporting our most ground-breaking research and initiatives



Assistant Professor Philip Kreniske



Studying the capacity of Ugandan adolescents to consent to research

Assistant Professor Philip Kreniske received \$2.9M from NIMH for his study, ICARE (Improving understanding of Capacity to consent to sensitive biomedical Research among adolescents in Rakai Uganda). In partnership with the Rakai Health Sciences Program (RHSP) in Uganda, the project will specifically address the capacity of adolescents to provide informed consent in HIV prevention research. Currently, there's little data on adolescents' actual capacity to consent to biomedical research, especially in low-resource areas with high HIV prevalence. This research is crucial to potentially providing guidance for ethical boards and harmonizing treatment, prevention, and research procedures for adolescents, which could help end the HIV epidemic by prioritizing adolescent-focused studies.

CUNY SPH'S Sexual and Reproductive Justice Hub receives a major boost in NYS budget

The Sexual and Reproductive Justice Hub (SRJ Hub) at CUNY SPH received \$500,000 in the New York State enacted FY2025 budget, providing new and necessary support for its educational, scholarly, and advocacy efforts. The SRJ Hub represents the first coordinated effort in New York State, and one of few nationwide, to advance sexual and reproductive justice (SRJ) through a centralized academic unit that emphasizes not only scholarship, but also leadership development and advocacy. The SRJ Hub aims to take an innovative approach to SRJ through solutions-oriented scholarship, leadership training, and evidence-based advocacy that centers the lived experiences of women of color and elevates and funds their and other marginalized people's work.

CUNY SPH researchers secure major grants that play a vital role in supporting innovative initiatives addressing the many factors influencing population health.



Professor Levi Waldron's groundbreaking work secured 3 of the 5 major grants awarded to CUNY SPH this year, advancing critical research in cancer genomics, the microbiome, and Parkinson's disease.

CUNY SPH receives \$5.2 million NIH grant renewal for cancer genomics research

The Informatics Technology for Cancer Research (ITCR) program of the NIH National Cancer Institute has awarded the CUNY Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (ISPH) at CUNY SPH a competitive renewal of \$5.2 million in total costs to continue its development of open-source software and databases for cancer genomics. Led by CUNY SPH faculty Levi Waldron and Sehyun Oh, the project aims to enhance and expand the Bioconductor ecosystem, a cornerstone resource for statistical analysis and data management in cancer genomics research. The grant will fund collaborative efforts with the Channing Division of Network Medicine at Mass General Brigham in Boston, the University of Colorado, and the University of Padova in Italy. The authors aim to empower researchers with advanced tools and resources for cancer genomics research, potentially accelerating discoveries that could lead to improved cancer diagnostics and treatments.

The role of gut microbiome in Parkinson's disease

Dr. Levi Waldron, professor at the CUNY Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (ISPH) at CUNY SPH, has been awarded two significant grants from private foundations to advance research in Parkinson's disease and bioinformatics. The first, a two-year grant of \$706,761.26 from The Michael J. Fox Foundation's Aligning Science Across Parkinson's (ASAP) initiative, will fund the creation of a Microbiome Analytic Core (MAC) to support cutting-edge research on the role of the gut microbiome in Parkinson's disease. The grant is a collaboration with the University of Trento, Italy, and the worldwide ASAP network. The second two-year grant of \$400,000 from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) Essential Open Source Software for Science (EOSS) Program, will support the expansion of Bioconductor's infrastructure to enable Graphical Processing Unit (GPU)-accelerated analysis of high-throughput biomedical data. This grant is a collaboration with the University of Padova, Italy. These two grants are expected to significantly enhance the capabilities of researchers worldwide in interpreting large-scale biomedical data, and to improve our knowledge of the role of the gut microbiome in Parkinson's disease.

NIH renews funding for research on cancer and the microbiome

Researchers from the Institute for Implementation Science in Population Health (CUNY ISPH) at CUNY SPH have successfully renewed an NIH R01 grant for \$2.5 million, funding research into the relationship between cancer and the microbiome for the next five years. The project, "Exploiting Public Metagenomic Data to Uncover Cancer-Microbiome Relationships," is led by CUNY SPH Professor Levi Waldron, with Assistant Professor Sehyun Oh serving as a co-investigator. The project includes sub-awards to Harvard University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Trento in Italy. The project leverages public metagenomic data to uncover relationships between cancer and the microbiome.

Finances

Our total tax levy budget for 2023-24 was \$35,899,868.

As a public school of public health, we are deeply committed to fulfilling our responsibilities to New York State, which provides 79% of our budget allocation. This commitment drives our mission to educate the next generation of New York's public health workforce and to conduct research that informs public health policy both within the state and beyond.

Where did our tax levy funding come from?

SOURCES OF TAX LEVY ADMINISTERED FUNDS

State Allocation	57%
Tuition & Fees	24%
Pledges & Donations	5%
Prior Year Reserves	14%



How did we spend it?

EXPENDITURES BREAKDOWN

Personnel	85%
Rent	11%
OTPS	4%



PERSONNEL BREAKDOWN

FT Faculty	43%
PT Adjuncts/Instructional Support/Research	4%
Academic and Student Affairs	15%
Executives	15%
Staff	23%



Over the past year, the CUNY SPH Foundation has deepened its commitment to bolstering CUNY SPH students to reach their full potential as the most effective and impactful public health practitioners they can be.

By providing the resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive academically and professionally, the Foundation ensures that CUNY SPH students are prepared to champion health equity and address critical public health challenges in New York City and beyond. This unwavering focus on student success has driven key advancements in fundraising, program development, and community partnerships.

Advancing Student Success

The Foundation's dedication to supporting CUNY SPH students includes ensuring their education remains affordable and accessible, while addressing opportunity gaps. Through initiatives like the Career Skills Academy (CSA), the Foundation provides students with resources and mentoring to refine their professional skills, preparing them to thrive in their careers. The CSA offers high-touch, high-impact career services to build soft skills, from individual and group career coaching to skill-share sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. CSA students enroll as cohorts and are taught by dedicated career services staff. Through the Public Health Masterclass series, the academy offers exclusive opportunities for students to engage with employers and industry leaders. Throughout their time in the academy, students have opportunities to connect with professional partners for networking, informational interviews, and shadowing. The CSA team works with the students to prepare them in advance of these connections.



This year, the CUNY SPH Foundation's Career Skills Academy launched an Advisory Board to support the program's growth and sustainability. Co-Chairs Dr. Innocent Clement and Austin Cheng are joined by Dr. Errol Pierre and alumni Dr. Katrina Mateo (PhD '20) and Avery Bowser (MPH '19). Together, this group is shaping the masterclass series and expanding opportunities for skill development and mentorship, helping students build the tools and connections they need for success.

Scholarships and Fellowships

Delivering high quality scholarship and fellowship opportunities is critical to achieving mission success and in 2024, the Foundation celebrated key milestones in expanding opportunities for students. Visionary philanthropist and aesthetic dentist Dr. Michael Apa celebrated the graduation of the inaugural cohort of Apa Scholars and renewed his support of the school's pioneering oral population health program. Under the leadership of Distinguished Professor Dr. Luisa N. Borrell, the scholarship welcomed its second cohort of ten MPH students in fall 2024.

In the last year, the Foundation also continued a nationwide student fieldwork partnership with the Henry Schein Cares Foundation and the National Association of Community Health Centers to create health literacy materials for community health centers across the country.

Together with Drs. Marilyn Aguirre-Molina and Carlos

Molina, the Foundation announced the first endowed scholarship in school history with the creation of the Molina Health Equity Scholarship Fund. The scholarship has supported six scholars to date and hosted the inaugural Molina Health Equity Summit, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Aldrin Bonilla, Executive Vice President of the Fund for the City of New York. The summit is slated to be held biennially.

The Foundation welcomed the newest Lyndon Haviland Doctoral Fellow in Migrant Health, Jose Mazariego (MPH '24), who will work in the school's Center for Immigrant, Refugee and Global Health during his fellowship.

Promoting Health Equity and Justice

Under the leadership of Senior Associate Dean Terry McGovern, CUNY SPH Foundation Board Member Dr. Marilyn Aguirre-Molina and a dedicated committee of scholar-activists, the school and the Foundation launched a campaign to create the Byllye Y. Avery Endowed Professorship in Sexual and Reproductive Justice. This professorship will be the first of its kind in the United States and is named for the incomparable Byllye Y. Avery, a trailblazer in women's health, thought leader in reproductive justice, and founder of the Black Women's Health Imperative. This professorship will be crucial in developing a sexual and reproductive justice curriculum at CUNY SPH, centering the advocacy models pioneered by Avery throughout her career.



Jose Mazariego, Lyndon Haviland Doctoral Fellow in Migrant Health

Championing Community-Based Workforces

Throughout the year, the Foundation remained dedicated to strengthening ecosystem of public health community-based organizations (CBO) of New York City. The Foundation sustained funding for core programming organized through the school's Harlem Health Initiative, including the Health Equity and Literacy Program, the Harlem Health Communications Endowed Fellowship, and the Gil Addo Fellowship. As a trusted resource for health education, timely information, and capacity-building activities for the community-based workforce, program director Deborah Levine, LCSW and her team hosted community trainings and co-designed programming on topics including cannabis equity, COVID and routine vaccinations,

mental health, civic engagement, fundamental public health 101, congenital syphilis and other issues in maternal, child, reproductive and sexual health.

Leadership Updates

The Foundation's Board of Directors welcomed Cesar Herrera, MPH, MBA as a member-at-large in 2024. Mr. Herrera is the founder and CEO of Yuvo Health, a digital health company that creates a value-based care environment for federally qualified health centers. Mr. Herrera immigrated to the US from the Philippines as a young child, and brings his lived experience to his mission to increase access to free and low-cost health care for millions of Americans. Women's health advocate and philanthropist, Jordana Kier, renewed her board service for a new three-year term.

Master's Programs

All Master of Public Health programs are available in both hybrid and fully online formats

- MPH in Community Health
- MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
- MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- MPH in Health Policy and Management
- MPH in Public Health Nutrition

All Master of Science programs are online only *except* the MS in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

- MS in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
- MS in Health Communication for Social Change
- MS in Population Health Informatics

Doctoral Programs

- PhD in Community Health and Health Policy
- PhD in Environmental and Planetary Health Sciences
- PhD in Epidemiology

4+1 Accelerated Degree Programs

- Macaulay Honors College
- Medgar Evers College
- Lehman College
- Queens College
- York College
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Hunter College
- City College of New York
- New York City College of Technology
- CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies Program
- Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Certificate Programs

- Advanced Certificate in Public Health
- Advanced Certificate in Industrial Hygiene

Other Programs and Specializations

- Nutrition and Dietetics Internship
- MPH Collaborative Degree with University of Alcalá
- MD-MPH Academic Partnership with Albert Einstein College of Medicine
- MD-MPH Academic Partnership with Mt. Sinai Institute for Family Health
- Preventive Medicine Residency and MPH in collaboration with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Collaborative Degree and Continuing Education Program with Jacobi Medical Center

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