

Fieldwork Project Examples

Below is a curated list of past fieldwork projects completed by our MPH in Community Health and Social Sciences program through participation in the Community Health Practice Collaborative. These examples include a description of the site, the project, and examples of their final project report with included samples of deliverables across their two semesters of fieldwork.

If you already have a fieldwork opportunity ready for promotion, please submit [your project proposal](#). Our team will follow up with confirmation and next steps.

Questions? Contact our Office of Experiential Learning at OEL@sph.cuny.edu

Example Projects

Project 1: Types and Roles of Community-Based Organizations and Governance of Migrant, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Issues in New York City

Project Overview: Well-established and legally defined nonprofit organizations play an important role in providing services to migrants, but the established literature underlines a "need to unpack the urban character of asylum" (Darling, 2017) to capture the complexities and unique characteristics of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and expand on the established models of migrant organizations. Through the collection of key-informant and in-depth interviews, the qualitative study will document the types, roles, and practices of CSOs in New York City (NYC), with a particular focus on the realm of governance. Data collection will be preceded by a scoping review of the literature, followed by in-depth interviews with CSO representatives and beneficiaries (migrants, refugees, asylum seekers) in NYC. Study findings will be compared with results from Lisbon utilizing the same data-collection tools, allowing researchers to contribute to the debate on the role of CSOs and the social outcomes in contemporary migration/asylum governance and see how practices at the city level can be scaled-up and used to create trans-local solidarities and intercity networks.

Fieldwork students will have an opportunity to participate first-hand in research, gaining experience in both qualitative data collection and analysis. To prepare for the study, we will first review qualitative interviewing techniques and conduct mock interviews to finetune the interview guide in June. Both key-informant and in-depth interviews will be conducted with CSO staff and community beneficiaries in Summer 2024, with a goal of collecting between 24-30 interviews (15 KII, 15 IDI). In Fall 2024, we will then work with fieldwork students on both descriptive (e.g., coding) and interpretive (e.g., theme generation) analytic techniques using Dedoose qualitative analytic software. Opportunities for future authorship are possible depending on level of student engagement with manuscript development.

Potential Summer Deliverables:

- Scoping review of governance of CSOs, social outcomes in contemporary migration/asylum governance and intercity networks and cooperative global strategies to address migration topics
- Data collection tools (in-depth & KII interview guides)
- Collaborative partners table to track outreach to study participants, completion of interviews, data management and key notes on interviews/participants

Potential Fall Deliverables:

- Data analysis plan
- Final codebook
- Write-up of Results section, based on analysis

View their final project report [here](#).

Project 2: Evaluation of Harlem United's Street-Based Medical Project

Project Overview: Harlem United is interested in partnering with a team of CUNY SPH students enrolled in the Community Health Practice Collaborative course, to evaluate our Street-based Medical Project. The Street-based Medical Project is a cutting-edge initiative funded by SAMHSA to provide immediate healthcare on the street to homeless individuals, many of whom are active substance users, who otherwise would not access medical care from a traditional healthcare facility. The Street-based Medical Project provides immediate and follow up prescriptions for buprenorphine to address opioid addiction, wound care, and other medical interventions.

The purpose of this project is to conduct a mixed method (qualitative and quantitative) evaluation of the Street-based Medical Project. Students will shadow program staff in the field, conduct qualitative interviews with clients and staff about the project and analyze the data to add context and depth of understanding to the quantitative data collected by program staff as part of their regular job responsibilities. The final product will be a written report and presentation on the results of the evaluation, including assessment of the outcome of Street-based Medical services and impact on clients, lessons learned, and recommendations for program improvement.

Sample Fall Deliverables:

- Literature review on existing evidence surrounding street-based medicine and mobile health services
- Preliminary analysis of the existing quantitative data, including suggestions for additional quantitative indicators to fill gaps, if any
- Finalized qualitative data collection tools (interview guides for clients and staff), includes piloting the tools and incorporating feedback from clients and staff)

Sample Spring Deliverables: Draft of article for publication

- Introduction and Discussion sections
- Quantitative Methods and Results
- Qualitative Methods and Results

View their final project report [here](#).

Project 3: Improving Medical Intake Processes for Asylum-Seeking & Refugee Patients

Project Overview

Phase I: To address the influx of asylum-seeking patients who required medical intake visits, our clinical team developed a novel approach to care for these patients in a family medicine setting. The vast majority of these patients identified as women and (their) children. To support their diverse needs, the clinical team:

- Surveyed literature and developed a lecture deck detailing the recommended screenings, treatments, immunizations, etc. for medical care of patients new to the US and presented this lecture deck to clinicians at IFH's 17th Street clinic
- Developing smart phrases in EPIC for use in documentation for intake visits and problem list charting
- Creating an order set with common labs and medications to improve clinician efficiency during intake visits

Phase II: The team now plans on addressing the following questions and outstanding needs:

1. Develop a standardized set of clinical best practices for clinicians to utilize during medical intake visits
2. Develop a smart set within EPIC with recommended labs and medications for intake visits
3. Evaluate the efficacy and use of the smart set in improving delivery of evidence-based care and clinician efficiency
4. Identify care gaps for this patient population and develop clinical solutions to address these gaps (i.e. stocking albendazole within our clinic, delivery of medications to shelters, lab draws for pediatric patients at the shelter, immunization delivery, etc)
5. Improve workflows for linking patients to community resources and internal resources like care and case management

The fieldwork students would primarily support tasks 3 & 4, with the possibility based on skill set and availability to work with clinical staff on the other components.

Sample fall deliverables

- Literature review of best practices in providing primary care service to refugee and asylum seekers
- Creating metric to assess best practices based on literature and provider input
- Identifying asylum-seeking/refugee patients of interest in existing datasets
- Assessment of how often existing smart set was used
- Mapping existing smart set against best practices & identifying areas for improvement

Sample spring deliverables

- Identifying asylum-seeking/refugee patients of interest in existing datasets
- Assessment of how often existing smart set was used
- Data cleaning for new asylum-seeker and refugee clinical outcome dataset

View their final project report [here](#).