

REBECCA HUGHES OFRANE, DrPH

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EDUCATION

- DrPH - Leadership, Practice and Research** 2024
Rutgers University School of Public Health, Dept. of Urban-Global Public Health, Piscataway, NJ
Dissertation Title: "Birth Centers in NJ: A Qualitative and Policy Analysis of Barriers to Equitable Birth Center Access"; Chair: Dr. Leslie Kantor
- MPH - Environmental Health Science and Toxicology** 2010
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, New York, NY
- BS - Biochemical Engineering (Mathematics minor)** 2004
Rutgers University School of Engineering, Piscataway, NJ

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health** 2024 - present
Montclair State University, College for Community Health; Montclair, NJ
Tenure-track professor of public health, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in social and behavioral health sciences, health policy, and health systems administration.
- Executive Director, Maternal and Child Health Services Unit** 2023 - 2024
New Jersey Department of Health, Division of Family Health Services; Trenton, NJ
Directed all Maternal and Child Health Services for the state health department, including over 20 programs and services through the Title V MCH Block Grant, and other federal and state funding sources. Managed a unit of 25+ staff, with program budgets totaling over \$100M.
- Independent Consultant, SafetyNest, LLC** 2023 – present
Researched and designed the BetterNest quiz and score for the award-winning SafetyNest website. The 9-question quiz helps pregnant and new parents assess their potential exposures to toxins based on their environments and behaviors, focused on actionable choices and motivational interviewing theory.
- Co-Director of Programs and Administration; Manager of Partnerships** 2019 - 2023
NYU School of Medicine, Dept. of Population Health; New York, NY
Responsible for all programmatic and administrative leadership for the Dashboard programs, including City Health Dashboard and Congressional District Health Dashboard projects. Managed external partnerships and funders, site development and improvement, and communications to increase understanding of data-driven health policy at the local level. Also managed \$5M annual budget, grants management, and hiring.
- Full-Spectrum Doula** 2017 - 2022
Self-Employed part-time; Jersey City, NJ
Provide prenatal education, physical and emotional support during labor and birth or pregnancy loss/termination, and postpartum education and nourishment.
- Senior Program Manager** 2017 - 2019
Social Science Research Council, Measure of America Project; Brooklyn, NY
Led development and launch of data2go.health, a health data and mapping tool for NYC. Responsibilities included grant and funder management, assembling and convening advisory committee and incorporating their guidance;

IRB submission, application for NYSDOH SPARCS dataset, and overall management of data collection; managing contractors and guiding site design and development; and all partnership and launch activities.

Children’s Environmental Health and Schools Coordinator 2015 - 2017

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II, Office of Strategic Programs; New York, NY

Advised senior officials on children’s health research and policy. Incorporated life-course perspective into regional programmatic work including Superfund community engagement, air toxics geographic targeting, climate change planning, and environmental impact assessments. Trained over 500 childcare staff in Essex County and tribal communities in Eco-Healthy Child Care practices. Managed over \$250k annually in children’s health and community grantmaking.

Special Assistant to the Regional Administrator 2014 - 2015

EPA Region II, Office of the Regional Administrator; New York, NY

Led real-time research assistance, speechwriting and editing on varied environmental and health topics for the Regional Administrator, and coordinated weekly briefings to keep her prepared for media, public events, hearings and other meetings. Tasked to lead multi-agency pollution reduction workgroup with other federal, state and local partners.

Human Health Risk Assessor 2011 - 2014

EPA Region II, Superfund and Emergency Management Division; New York, NY

Completed risk assessments and oversight of contractors for 15+ Superfund sites throughout the region. Presented on risk determinations and represented the agency at public meetings.

Air Enforcement Inspector 2008 - 2011

EPA Region II, Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance; New York, NY

Developed disparities-based targeting process, and inspected air pollution facilities. Led the asbestos in schools program, completing school district inspections and oversight of State training and grants.

New Product Development Engineer 2004 - 2008

Johnson & Johnson Cordis Corporation; Miami, FL and Warren, NJ

Coordinated pilot plant production of new stent drug-coating process, managing technical logistics and activities of a team of technicians.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Instructor 2022

Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (masters level), Rutgers University School of Public Health

Teaching Assistant 2023; 2009 - 2010

Leadership and Management Essentials for Public Health (undergrad level), Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Leadership and Management (doctoral level), and Rutgers University School of Public Health

Environmental Health Sciences (masters level), Columbia Mailman School of Public Health

Eco-Healthy Child Care Trainer 2014 - 2016

Trained child care professionals and administrators for certification purposes on environmental health, safety, and toxicology in child care settings. Trainings provided through EPA Region II for racial/ethnic minoritized communities in NY and NJ, including tribal communities.

PUBLICATIONS*Peer-Reviewed*

Ofrane RH, Rokicki S, Kantor L, Blumenfeld J. Financial Facilitators and Barriers to Expanded Birth Center Access in NJ: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. Submitted 2024.

Spoer BR, Conderino SE, Lampe TM, **Ofrane RH**, De Leon E, Thorpe LT, Chang VW, Elbel B. Association between racial residential segregation and walkability in 745 U.S. cities. *Health & Place*. 2023; 84:103114.

doi:[10.1016/j.healthplace.2023.103114](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2023.103114)

Ofrane RH, Breslin S, Levine S, Gourevitch MN, Levy M. Health and Equity Data to Teach the Next Generation of Public Health Leaders. *Public Health Reports*. Published online January 12, 2023:00333549221143090.

doi:[10.1177/00333549221143090](https://doi.org/10.1177/00333549221143090)

Spoer BR, McCulley E, Lampe TM, Hsieh PY, Chen A, **Ofrane RH**, Rollins H, Thorpe LE, Bilal U, Gourevitch MN. Validation of a neighborhood-level COVID Local Risk Index in 47 large U.S. cities. *Health & Place*. 2022;76:102814.

doi:[10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102814](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2022.102814)

Thorpe LE, Chunara R, Roberts T, Pantaleo N, Irvine C, Conderino S, Li Y, Hsieh PY, Gourevitch MN, Levine S, **Ofrane RH**, Spoer B. Building Public Health Surveillance 3.0: Emerging Timely Measures of Physical, Economic, and Social Environmental Conditions Affecting Health. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2022;112(10):1436-1445.

doi:[10.2105/AJPH.2022.306917](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2022.306917)

Reports & Briefs

Ofrane RH, Li Y. "Data Insights: Improving Health through Credit Access". City Health Dashboard. Apr. 2022. [Link](#)

Ofrane RH, Li Y. "Data Insights: Broadband Internet – A public good, but not yet for all". City Health Dashboard. Sep. 2021. [Link](#)

Kleiman N, Feldman J, **Ofrane RH**, Spoer B, Thorpe L, Gourevitch M. "City Types for Improving Health and Equity: Understanding America's Small and Midsize Cities." NYU Langone Health, Department of Population Health, Aug. 2020. [Link](#)

Op-Eds and Blog Posts

Ofrane RH. "How Covid-Related Shutdowns and Education Level Affected Unemployment Across America's Cities." American Communities Project, Sept. 2021; [Link](#)

Spoer B, **Ofrane RH**. "Making Data Accessible for Small Communities." Grantmakers in Health, Apr. 2021; [Link](#)

Ofrane RH. "Amid Uncertainty, Using Community and City Types to Improve Health and Equity." American Communities Project, Oct. 2020; [Link](#)

Lewis K, Burd-Sharps S, **Ofrane RH**. "Youth Disconnection Rates Highlight Structural Barriers to Achievement in the US." Items: Insights from the Social Sciences, Apr. 2018; [Link](#)

AWARDS & GRANTS

APHA Maternal and Child Health Effective Practice Award, 2024

Delta Omega Public Health Honorary Society – Alpha Eta Chapter at Rutgers University, 2024

The Birth Equity Ecosystem in NJ: A Mixed Methods Geospatial and Policy Analysis of Birth Center Access

Dates of Project: June 2022 – May 2025

Funder: American Association of Birth Centers Foundation

Role: Principal Investigator

Total Budget: \$11,250

City Health Dashboard: Continuing to Build Impact and Deepen Engagement

Dates of Program: June 2023 – May 2025

Funder: The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Role: Program Director

Total Budget: \$8 million

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

Ofrane RH, Reed D. “State Perspectives on NJ’s Community Doula Expansion Program”. Presented at Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Conference, Apr. 2024.

Nantwi A, Lalanne-Raymond G, **Ofrane RH**, Scotto-Rosato, N. “An Analysis of Perinatal Periods of Risk on Excess Fetal-Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity in New Jersey, 2018-2021”. Presented at Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) Conference, Apr. 2024.

Ofrane RH, Levy M, Breslin S, Levine S, Gourevitch, MN (2021). “Meeting public health competencies with the City Health Dashboard.” Presented at American Public Health Association Conference, Oct. 2021.

Ofrane RH, Levy M, Gourevitch MN (2021), “Today’s Student, Tomorrow’s Leader: Using City Health Dashboard Data to Teach Health Equity.” Poster presented at Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health Annual Conference, Mar. 2021.

Ofrane RH, Kidd J, Breslin S (2020), “Using the City Health Dashboard for local health department accreditation.” Presented at American Public Health Association, Oct. 2020.

Ofrane RH, Velarde H, Breslin S (2020), “Reaching Vulnerable Communities: Cities using the City Health Dashboard to improve health equity.” Presented at American Public Health Association, Oct. 2020.

Breslin S, **Ofrane RH**, Spoer B, Levine S (2019), “City Health Dashboard in Practice: Local Health Departments and Public Health Practitioners Share Applications of Dashboard Data.” Presented at American Public Health Association, Nov. 2019.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Board Member, Wombs of the World Foundation (2024 – present)

Committee Member, AMCHP MCH Innovations Committee (2024 – present)

Abstract Reviewer, APHA Conference, MCH Section (2022, 2024)

Proposal Reviewer, Lever for Change and ICONIQ Impact’s Maternal and Infant Health Award Competition (2022)

Contributor, Battisto J, Casellas-Barnes M, Landau R, Lyndon A, Niles M. “Maternal Health, The Fourth Trimester and Beyond: The Case for Transformative Investments and Solutions in Maternal and Child Health.” White paper. Federal Reserve Bank of NY and NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Dec. 2021. [Link](#)

Proposal Reviewer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation Racial Equity 2030 Grant Competition (2021)

Board Member, York Street Project, Jersey City, NJ (2018-2020)

Patient Safety Escort, Reproductive Health Clinic, Englewood, NJ (2017-2018)

Mentoring and Leadership Committee, EPA Region II, New York, NY (2012-2014)

CERTIFICATES & TRAINING

Building Expertise in Administration & Management (BEAM) Training for Public Health Professionals, University of Miami and deBeaumont Foundation (Feb 2022)

Certified Full-Spectrum Doula (Birth, Post-Partum, Termination, Loss and Reproductive Health), Doula Trainings International (May 2020)

Human Research Certification, Social/Behavioral/Epidemiologic Research, CITI (Expires Jul 2026)

Population Health Informatics Certificate, City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (Dec 2019)

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association – MCH Section

Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health

National Association for Doctors of Public Health

New Jersey Public Health Association