

Global Health at the Georgia Health Policy Center

Through a growing portfolio of work, the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) partners with public agencies and private organizations around the globe to explore health systems, evaluate health programs, facilitate policy discussions, and support the development of sustainable, health-promoting programs.

Lessons can be learned from the unique challenges and innovative solutions of others. These lessons are identified and shared to promote efficient adaptation of effective solutions in local communities around the globe.

The mission of the global health team is to foster a global approach to advancing health and well-being through participatory research, health-conscious policy, and person-focused programs, where knowledge is shared across borders to advance population health.



Subject Matter Expertise

- Health systems strengthening
- Systems thinking
- Health in All Policies
- Nutrition and food security
- Maternal and child health
- Noncommunicable disease
- Behavioral health

Services

- Program design, monitoring, evaluation, and transition to country ownership
- Realist and transformative research and evaluation
- Environmental scans
- Formative research
- Systems mapping
- Implementation science and technical assistance
- Policy analysis
- Strategic planning
- Workforce development
- Literature and desk review
- Meeting design and facilitation

GHPC's Approach

GHPC recognizes that public health challenges are multifaceted and require comprehensive strategies that engage a broad range of stakeholders through a combination of program, policy, systems, and environmental changes.

The global health team utilizes an iterative, participatory approach, working with stakeholders at all levels to strengthen capacity and develop scalable systems. Our alliance-based methods promote inclusion and empowerment, encourage behavior change, and facilitate replicability and sustainability.



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Approach in Action

- Employs transformative research and evaluation methods that center on social justice and equity
- Includes capacity-strengthening activities in all program, evaluation, and technical assistance designs, and strives to work alongside host-country colleagues
- Prioritizes stakeholder participation and buy-in at all stages from design to implementation through reporting
- Ensures that stakeholders at all levels are kept informed and provided with information throughout a project
- Codevelops manuals of operation for all projects in partnership with host-country colleagues to promote transparency, knowledge sharing, and country ownership

Project Examples

Evidence Review of Treatment Services for People With Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Problems

Ireland's Health Research Board engaged GHPC to conduct a realist review and synthesis of the global literature to inform best practices for the integration of treatment and services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions.



The review answered three research questions: (1) What interventions improve treatment and personal functioning outcomes for people with co-occurring substance use and mental health issues and in what circumstances do they work? (2) What aspects of integrative programs for the treatment of co-occurring substance use and mental health issues trigger positive system outcomes and in what circumstances do these outcomes occur? (3) What existing models of care for adults with co-occurring substance use and mental health issues lead to positive treatment outcomes and successful service integration?

The review included an iterative and systematic search process, engagement with knowledge users representing both providers and individuals with lived experience, and multiple stages of data analysis and synthesis. The review identified characteristics that influence successful implementation and outcomes, as well as approaches to facilitating access and integrating mental health and substance use services. Recommendations were categorized by the four levels where actions can be taken: policy or system, organizational and provider, service and treatment, and individual and family.

The Carter Center Public Health Training Initiative



The Carter Center's Public Health Training Initiative in Sudan and Nigeria aims to strengthen human resources for health education in collaboration with the

Nigerian and Sudanese federal ministries of health to improve the training of front-line health workers. The ultimate goal is to improve maternal and child health outcomes by strengthening health workforce development.

GHPC is working with The Carter Center to develop monitoring tools and systems and to strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity among program stakeholders. GHPC is also leading the program's evaluation in both countries.

Strategic Planning With Morehouse School of Medicine's Office of Global Health Equity



Morehouse School of Medicine's Office of Global Health Equity (OGHE) was established in January 2018 as part of the school's 2015-2020 strategic plan to broaden

diversity in the health care, scientific, and public health workforces and lead the next generation's global health training and education. Since its inception the office has worked to facilitate research, education, and service opportunities for its community members and to incorporate interdisciplinary global health curricula into its academic programs.

GHPC supported OGHE by designing and facilitating a strategic-planning process including administration and analysis of key stakeholder interviews, meeting design and facilitation, sense-making of meeting outcomes, and writing a summary report.