

DARA E. GLEESON, MPH, CHES

(516) 492-7660 | dglees1@umd.edu

EDUCATION

University of Maryland School of Public Health
Doctor of Philosophy in Maternal and Child Health
Department: Family Science

College Park, MD
Anticipated 2028

Yale School of Public Health
Master of Public Health
Department: Social and Behavioral Sciences
Concentration: Maternal and Child Health Promotion Track
Master of Public Health Thesis: Maternity Care Deserts: Maternal and Child Health Associations
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Jeannette Ickovics, PhD

New Haven, CT
May 2024

Hofstra University
Bachelor of Science in Community Health
Minors: Psychology, Civic Engagement
GPA: 3.88 (*summa cum laude*); Graduated with High Departmental Honors

Hempstead, NY
May 2020

HONORS/AWARDS

Graduate Student Awards – University of Maryland

Dr. Sandra C. Quinn Graduate Student Support Fund Award

Roger H. Rubin Student Professional Award

Top Poster – Graduate Research Appreciation Day, University of Maryland

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society – University of Maryland-College Park Chapter

Dean’s Fellowship – University of Maryland School of Public Health

Horstmann Scholarship – Yale School of Public Health

Thesis Grant – Yale Women Faculty Forum, awarded for MPH thesis research

Various Honors and Awards – Hofstra University

Provost’s List

Dean’s List

Presidential Scholarship

Eta Sigma Gamma NCHC Outstanding Undergraduate Student of the Year

Eta Sigma Gamma – National Health Education Honor Society

Marcia Matthews Wilson Scholarship Award

Finalist Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) (Phoenix, AZ)

“Isolation and Screening of Beneficial Microbes Associated with the Grapevine, *Vitis vinifera*”

November 2025

November 2025

April 2025

March 2025

Summers 2025-2026

Fall 2022–Spring 2024

October 2023

Spring 2019–Spring 2020

Fall 2016–Fall 2018

Fall 2016–Spring 2020

March 2020

April 2019

April 2019

May 2016

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Public Health Association (APHA)

Student Member

August 2021–Present

Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

Designated by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing

April 2021–Present

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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- New York University (NYU) Grossman School of Medicine/NYU Langone Health** **New York, NY**
Student Research Intern, Pediatrics Department **June 2025–Present**
- Performs literature reviews, contributes to the development of survey measures, conducts statistical analyses using Stata, and completes additional research for projects examining how differences in social determinants shape nutrition security to access, affordability, and intake of healthful nutrition during pregnancy and early childhood
- University of Maryland School of Public Health, Family Science Department** **College Park, MD**
Research Assistant **August 2024–Present**
- Provides assistance with data collection for a study that examines the sociocultural context and mental health around an abortion among people having abortions in states with supportive versus restrictive abortion laws
 - Screens abstracts and titles for meta-analysis investigating the impact of an abortion on the risk of adverse mental health outcomes and completes additional research tasks as needed
- Yale School of Public Health** **New Haven, CT**
Research Assistant **June 2024–Present**
- Collaborates with a mobile health app to conduct a quantitative analytic study using nationwide mobile health app data, to assess how people living in maternity care deserts obtain health information across the perinatal period and to determine whether this differs with those living in counties with adequate prenatal care access
- Yale School of Medicine, Pediatrics Department** **New Haven, CT**
Research Assistant **August 2023–August 2025**
- Lead author of manuscript for qualitative study on neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome (NOWS)
 - Conducted interviews with providers who care for families affected by NOWS, to identify concerns, barriers, and facilitators that healthcare providers experience when treating this maternal-child health dyad
- Yale School of Medicine/Yale Center on Climate Change and Health** **New Haven, CT**
Research Assistant for Climate Change Impact on Maternal and Child Health **June 2024–August 2024**
- Provided data management support and manuscript writing assistance for scoping review on the associations between climate drivers and maternal health outcomes to synthesize existing evidence for a clinician audience
- Yale School of Medicine, Pediatric Advanced Cancer Experience (PACE) Lab** **New Haven, CT**
Research Assistant **April 2023–September 2023**
- Assisted with clinical research activities, conducted literature searches, analyzed data, and assisted with publications that focus on improving the care of children with advanced cancer and other serious illnesses
 - Performed qualitative coding and thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with adolescent young adults with cancer, parents of children with cancer, and pediatric hematology/oncology clinicians for a multi-site study
- Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE)** **New Haven, CT**
Research and Evaluation Intern-Breast/Chestfeeding Team **September 2022–May 2023**
- Promoted breastfeeding equity through collaboration with local businesses in New Haven to support their efforts to establish public breastfeeding locations, and created informational content for businesses and communities
 - Developed a toolkit for creating breast/chestfeeding public spaces, conducted a literature review on hospital-based breastfeeding interventions, and prepared research-based infographics and surveys using Qualtrics
- Yale School of Public Health, Social and Behavioral Sciences Department** **New Haven, CT**
Coding Assistant **December 2022–March 2023**
- Performed qualitative coding for a student’s Master’s thesis related to media and mental health

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Yale School of Public Health, “Cultural Safety in Perinatal Interventions”

Researcher

New Haven, CT

December 2022–March 2023

- Collaborated with a postdoctoral fellow to create a diagram that combined several frameworks for equity in maternal healthcare to accompany a scoping review on cultural safety in perinatal health encounters

Hofstra University, Undergraduate Departmental Honors Thesis

Undergraduate Research Student

Hempstead, NY

January 2020–May 2020

- Evaluated safety on college campuses and student preparedness for and fear of an active shooting at Hofstra University, assessed students’ perception and knowledge of campus safety policies, and reviewed safety policies at nearby institutions of higher education
- Successfully defended Undergraduate Honors Thesis at Defense Meeting with High Honors Distinction

Hofstra University, “Safe Sleep Champions-Evaluation Report”

Research Student

Hempstead, NY

May 2018–October 2018

- Reviewed data, developed diagrams using Excel, and contributed ideas and recommendations for final report on study regarding teaching caregivers proper safe sleep techniques for infants in New York City

Hofstra University, Microbiology Department

Research Student

Hempstead, NY

May 2015–August 2018

- Isolated and identified microorganisms found in soil associated with the grapevine, *Vitis vinifera*, to determine the effect that microorganisms have on the growing and agricultural techniques involved with the crop

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland School of Public Health, Family Science Department

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Research Methods in Family Science

College Park, MD

August 2025–Present

- Serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for an undergraduate course, providing an introduction to research methods, including the role of theory, research and hypothesis development, measurements, survey design, and data analysis
- Grades assignments and provides mentorship to students on research projects (approx. 15 students)

University of Maryland School of Public Health, Family Science Department

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Adolescent Health and Development

College Park, MD

August 2024–May 2025

- Served as Graduate Teaching Assistant for undergraduate course exploring and analyzing health issues affecting the health, mental health, and behavior of American adolescents, with a mental health emphasis (approx. 30 students)
- Graded weekly assignments and student reflection papers related to biological and psychological adolescent development, healthy adolescent relationships, gender identity, social media and mental health, etc.

Yale School of Public Health, Health Policy and Healthcare Systems Course

Graduate Teaching Fellow

New Haven, CT

August 2023–January 2024

- Served as a Grading Teaching Fellow for the health policy course that is required for all Master of Public Health candidates (approx. 250 students)
- Graded four course assignments related to healthcare policy and management, provided feedback on assignments, and participated in course planning meetings with instructor and teaching team

Yale Institute for Global Health (YIGH)

Social Media Fellow

New Haven, CT

September 2022–June 2023

- Contributed to strategic social media planning and created content for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, related to global health events, public health research, and institution events, and assisted with live posting for events

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EndsideOut

Youth Health Educator

Baltimore, MD/Remote

August 2020–February 2023

- Led sessions for elementary school students about nutrition and health, engaged with students in activities and discussion, and assisted with curriculum development and student activities
- Organized and developed content for monthly organization newsletter about current events, COVID-19 updates, and health information that is distributed to families in Baltimore, Maryland

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Membership Database Specialist

Washington D.C./Remote

January 2021–May 2021

- Coordinated project to update staff rosters for local health departments, developed the inaugural editions of the Student Chapter newsletter, participated in State Association and student chapter meetings, provided support to interns, and assisted with membership assignments and events to further membership efforts

United Nations, Global Strategy and Policy Division

Office of Human Resources, Workplace Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Intern

New York, NY/Remote

February 2021–April 2021

- Drafted communications related to workplace mental health and wellbeing, planned and coordinated webinar for World Health Day about mental health and organized podcast recordings in the five official UN languages
- Created content for social media, participated in special planning events, and assisted with special projects

United Nations, Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance

Office of Human Resources, Performance Management Communication Intern

New York, NY/Remote

October 2020–April 2021

- Collaborated with the Performance Management team on a major performance management project for a new approach for the 2021-2022 cycle by providing support for strategic communications planning
- Drafted materials for global communication, website development, and additional reports/articles, assisted with graph and chart development for quantitative research and analysis, and contributed to additional projects

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

Membership Project Management Intern

Washington D.C./Remote

September 2020–December 2020

- Updated and maintained the membership databases to ensure accurate data and to extract management data
- Contributed to the overall improvement of public health through the dissemination of innovative local public health practices and participated in State Associations of County and City Health Officials meetings
- Communicated with local health department officials across the country and individual affiliate members to discuss membership and available resources and assisted with special projects and assignments

Birth Justice Warriors

Volunteer

Hempstead, NY

January 2019–October 2020

- Created the teaching platform for a birth justice friendly training program to promote and teach best practices and criteria for maternity healthcare providers, social service agencies, and community-based organizations
- Developed one-page legislative memo on prevention of maternal mortality and morbidity in Nassau County, to be distributed at community outreach and advocacy events and assisted with creating website for the organization and met with a State Senator's Chief of Staff on maternal mortality and morbidity concerns

Nurse-Family Partnership, VNS Health

Intern

Jericho, NY

September 2019–March 2020

- Collected data for Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Needs Assessment report for Nassau County to identify health indicators and disparities, and evaluated additional health programs
- Participated in community outreach events and completed community directory of health service programs
- Evaluated community resources, public health strategies, and researched the impact of public health in medicine

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Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Long Island Chapter

Special Events and Administrative Intern

- Prepared for annual special events, updated and managed constituent records, developed monthly newsletter, and planned and coordinated Chapter social media posts via HubSpot
- Performed administrative tasks, scanned and processed checks, received and recorded donations, noted and distributed staff meeting minutes, coordinated and prepared chapter mailings, and trained new employee

Garden City, NY

June 2019–August 2019

Nassau County Department of Health, Early Intervention Program

Maternal Health Administration Intern

- Organized and led outreach event on Early Intervention, attended Public Awareness Committee meetings, initiated public outreach in local libraries, and updated insurance information of families
- Participated in initial service meetings, family service planning meetings, and home-visits
- Contacted Nassau County school districts for Child Special Ed. and Child Preschool Special Ed. information

Uniondale, NY

May 2018–August 2018

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lindsay, M. E., Clappier, M., de Oliveira, S., **Gleeson, D.**, Feifer, D., O'Bryan, S. K., Kessler, A., Mali, N., Crabtree, V. M., Dean, S. M., Campbell, P. K., Snaman, J. M., Kaye, E. C., & Ananth, P. (2025). "A double-edged sword": Influence of the 21st century cures act on the childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer care experience. *Journal of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network : JNCCN*, 23(10), e257053. <https://doi-org.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/10.6004/jnccn.2025.7053>

Gleeson, D.E., Busch, S. H., & Ickovics, J. R. (2025). State-level prevalence of maternity care deserts: association with healthcare access, utilization, and outcomes among Medicaid recipients. *AJPM focus*, 4(5), 100362. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2025.100362>

Masters, C., Wu, C., **Gleeson, D.**, Serafica, M., Thomas, J. L., & Ickovics, J. R. (2025). Scoping review of climate drivers on maternal health: Current evidence and clinical implications. *AJOG Global Reports*, 5(1), 100444. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xagr.2025.100444>

Egger, E., Bitewulign, B., Rodriguez, H.G., Case, H., Kiflie, A., Rhodes, E., Estifanos, A.S., Singh, K., Woldesenbet, D., Zahid, M., Magge, H., **Gleeson, D.**, Barrington, C., & Hagaman, A. (2024). 'God is the one who give child': An abductive analysis of barriers to postnatal care using the Health Equity Implementation Framework. *Women's Health*. DOI:10.21203/rs.3.rs-4102460/v1 (In press)

Egger, E., Nyhan, K., Basile Ibrahim, B., Desibhatla, M., **Gleeson, D.**, Hagaman, A. (2024). Patient-defined cultural safety in perinatal interventions: A qualitative scoping review. *Health Equity*, 8(1), 164–176. <https://doi.org/10.1089/heq.2023.0152>

Barcelona, J., Centeio, E., Phillips, S., **Gleeson, D.**, Mercier, K., Foley, J., Simonton, K., & Garn, A. (2022). Comprehensive school health: teachers' perceptions and implementation of classroom physical activity breaks in US schools. *Health promotion international*, 37(5), <https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daac100>

PEER REVIEWED MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Gleeson, D.E. & Fahey, J.O. (2025). Utilization of remote blood pressure monitors to reduce racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in the management of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy: A review.

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Gleeson, D.E., Duh-Leong, C., Kerker, B.D., Miller, E.B., Cozkun, L.Z, Palacio Mazo, L., & Canfield, C. (2025). Associations between screen use and dietary intake among young children in NYC.

INFORMATIONAL GUIDES

DiOrio, A.; Dogbanya, G., Francis, R., **Gleeson, D.**, Lee, K.M., Mercon, K., Murry, SD., Nwankwo, Chidinma,; Schad, C., Shariq, D., Tolliver, S., Whitaker, N., Wynter, A. (2024). Your Guide to the 2024 Election Ballot Initiatives: A nonpartisan guide to help understand how the 2024 ballot initiatives affect families. Department of Family Science, School of Public Health, University of Maryland. https://www.canva.com/design/DAGTNHW90iY/fX1jWRyY-OiYObWCzBj-Ow/view?utm_content=DAGTNHW90iY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer

DiOrio, A.; Dogbanya, G., Francis, R., **Gleeson, D.**, Lee, K.M., Mercon, K., Murry, SD., Nwankwo, Chidinma,; Schad, C., Shariq, D., Tolliver, S., Whitaker, N., Wynter, A. (2024). Your Guide to the 2024 Election Ballot Initiatives: A nonpartisan guide to help understand how the 2024 presidential policies affect families. Department of Family Science, School of Public Health, University of Maryland. https://www.canva.com/design/DAGS51-wXuA/1TZggCX_Qm8F25pKvGwnRA/view?utm_content=DAGS51-wXuA&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer

PRESENTATIONS

Qualitative Research Methods

Research Methods in Family Science Course, Graduate Teaching Assistant-Led Lecture
Family Science Department, University of Maryland School of Public Health (November 19, 2025)

Associations among Screen Use during Meals, Tablet Ownership, and Dietary Intake among NYC Children

Healthy Eating Research, Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network
Summer Speaker Series Student Presentations (August 13, 2025)

Poster: https://nopren.ucsf.edu/sites/g/files/tkssra5936/f/wysiwyg/Poster_PDF_D.Gleeson.pdf

Identifying overlapping and non-overlapping studies in systematic reviews

Peer-reviewed presentation: Annual meeting of the Society for Research Synthesis Methodology, Madison, WI (July 9, 2025)
Littell, J. H.*, Bentley, L., Brown, J., Farotimi, O. P., **Gleeson, D. E.**, Watson, K., & Steinberg, J. R. (2025).

**Delivered presentation on behalf of all co-authors*

State-Level Prevalence of Maternity Care Deserts: Association with Healthcare Access, Utilization, and Outcomes Among Medicaid Recipients

Graduate Research Appreciation Day
University of Maryland, College Park, MD (April 9, 2025)

Introduction to Adolescent Health and Social Media

Adolescent Health and Development Course, Graduate Teaching Assistant-Led Lecture
Family Science Department, University of Maryland School of Public Health, College Park, MD (March 10, 2025)

Adolescent Peer Relationships

Adolescent Health and Development Course, Graduate Teaching Assistant-Led Lecture
Family Science Department, University of Maryland School of Public Health, College Park, MD (March 10, 2025)

Downstream Health Effects of Maternity Care Deserts: Association with Healthcare Accessibility, Utilization, and Outcomes

Social and Behavioral Sciences Department, Master of Public Health Thesis Presentations
Yale School of Public Health, New Haven, CT (May 1, 2024)

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World Health Day Event: A year of teleworking and mental health- What have we experienced and learned?
United Nations, New York, NY (April 7, 2021)

Exploring Careers in Healthcare: Studying Health Sciences in College
Hofstra University Summer Camp, Hempstead, NY (August 3, 2020)

Aging Café: Looking Towards the Future – Beneficial Mental Health Strategies for Older Adults
Hofstra University National Public Health Week, Hempstead, NY (April 28, 2020)

Increasing Children’s Activity Now (ICAN): Qualitative Inquiry
Hofstra University Undergraduate Research Day, Hempstead, NY (December 10, 2019)

E-Cigarettes: A Public Health Crisis
Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School, Plainview, NY (October 23, 2019)

Child’s Best Friend: How Service Dogs Can Benefit Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Hofstra University Undergraduate Research Day, Hempstead, NY (December 11, 2018)

Isolation and Screening of Beneficial Microbes Associated with the Grapevine, *Vitis vinifera*
Finalist-Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), Phoenix, AZ (May 2016)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Training

Human Research for NYU – Biomedical Researchers	June 2025
Information Privacy and Security for Clinical Investigators	June 2025
Human Research – VA Human Subjects Protection	August 2023
Good Clinical Practice Course	March 2023
Social-Behavioral-Educational Researchers-Basic/Refresher	January 2023

Through the COVID-19 Magnifying Glass

Disparities in the United States- New York University, School of Global Public Health **Online Course**
July 2020

- Participated in course examining the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic health disparities related to COVID-19

Coursera Courses

The People, Power, and Pride of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University	Online Courses
COVID-19 Contact Tracing, Johns Hopkins University	June 2020
	May 2020

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Women’s Health Interdisciplinary Research Collaborative (WHIRC)

Graduate Student Member **University of Maryland**
March 2025–Present

- Engages with faculty and students from cross-disciplines who conduct research in reproductive, maternal, or women’s health, to advance research and training support, translate research to action, and foster community collaboration

Maryland Population Research Center

Student Research Affiliate **University of Maryland**
January 2025–Present

- Participates in center-sponsored seminars, workshops, and journal clubs to engage with graduate students and faculty in research related to population health topics to foster research skills and competencies

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Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine

Soliciting Editor

- Contacted 165 national and international prospective authors to invite them to submit a manuscript for the issue on Pregnancy and Child Development on topics such as perinatal mental health, infant health, and childbirth

Yale University

May 2023–November 2023

Suicide Prevention Week Team

Volunteer

- Participated in planning activities during Suicide Prevention Week such as a post-it message board and sharing information about mental health resources and suicide prevention hotline number

Yale School of Public Health

August 2022–September 2022

COVID-19 Taskforce

Volunteer

- Educated the Hofstra community on COVID-19 safety to prepare for students on campus

Hofstra University

July 2020

The Bridge: Hofstra Master of Public Health Newsletter

Blog Contributor

- Assisted with managing and developing periodic posts for the newsletter for the Master of Public Health Program

Hofstra University

Fall 2019–Spring 2020

Model United Nations Club

Secretary-General/President

- Led and organized Hofstra's 2020 and 2019 annual Model UN Conferences for 250 local high school students by coordinating staff positions, teaching parliamentary procedure and conference skills to delegates and staff, conducting meetings, assigning responsibilities to 30 staff members, and ensuring preparation for conferences and related events
- Awards: Pre-Professional Organization of the Year and Most Accomplished Student Government Club (2019)

Hofstra University

Fall 2016–Spring 2020

Framework and Design of Healthcare Studies

Peer Teacher

- Provided support and assistance in teaching students how to research and analyze peer-reviewed journal articles and helped students propose a research study by applying research methods and concepts and techniques

Hofstra University

Fall 2019

SKILLS

Research: Stata, SAS, R/R Studio, IBM SPSS, Qualitative Coding (NVivo), REDCap, Qualtrics, Covidence, Literature Review

Computer: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), WordPress, Canva, BioRender, Zotero, Internet Research

Social Media: Management of Twitter (rebranded to X), Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, HubSpot, Mailchimp

REFERENCES

References available upon request.