

Khiara Makayla Lee, MPH

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EDUCATION

<i>University of Maryland, College Park</i> Doctoral Student of Maternal and Child Health Department of Family Science	Expected: May 2027
<i>Brown University School of Public Health</i> Master of Public Health, Maternal & Child Health	May 2023
<i>Tougaloo College</i> Bachelor of Science in Biology, Minor in Psychology GPA: 3.58	May 2021

AWARDS/HONORS

Dr. Sandra C. Quinn Graduate Student Support Fund Award (Family Science Department, University of Maryland), 2025
Roger H. Rubin Student Professional Award (Family Science Department, University of Maryland), 2025
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society (University of Maryland-College Park Chapter), 2024
President's Fellow (University of Maryland, College Park), 2023-2027
Centering Community & Cultures Research Award (Brown University), 2023
Health Equity Scholar (Brown University School of Public Health), 2021-2023
Jackson Heart Study Scholar (Tougaloo College), 2018-2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Reproductive health, Black women's perinatal health disparities, Teen pregnancy, and Maternal outcomes

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Intern June 2025- August 2025

Maryland Department of Health

- Supported the primary investigator by updating priority datapoints for the Maryland Rural Health Strategic Plan
- Edited the Maryland Rural Health Strategic Plan
- Assisted in creating a Maryland county profile template
- Created and disseminated a stakeholder engagement feedback form with a team member

Research Assistant January 2025- July 2025

MedStar Health Research Institute

- Aided in the construction of Kuela-Net breastfeeding app geared toward improving breastfeeding rates among African American mothers
- Provided cultural feedback on educational topics and video

Graduate Research Assistant August 2023- May 2025

Graduate Assistantship

- Worked with the chair of the Family Science department to conceptualize a racial socialization summit
- Analyzed recently published articles to establish the current state of the field on structural racism
- Research focused on parenting and adolescent mental health while coping with racism
- Elevating my research and academic writing skills focusing on maternal and child health topics

Graduate Research Intern January 2024-March 2024

Evidence Based Birth

- Conducted literature reviews on intravenous opioid use during labor
- Edited a podcast script & research outline to include up-to-date research findings

Graduate Research Assistant

September 2021- May 2023

Sister Talk, Providence, RI

- Supported PI on the Sister Talk program that researches how different stressors affect minority women's eating and sleeping habits
- Transcribed and analyzed focus group conversations and created a codebook reflecting the themes that emerged
- Assisted in script writing and recording videos to encourage women to participate in mindfulness eating strategies

Health Equity Scholar

September 2021- May 2023

Brown University School of Public Health

- Participated in bi-weekly leadership activities and recruitment efforts for Brown University SPH
- Attended bi-monthly coaching meetings and networked with mentors in our desired fields

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer

October 2025

FMSC332: Children in Families “Infant Cognitive Development and Early Language Development”

Guest Lecturer

March 2025

FMSC302: Research Methods in Family Science “Secondary Data Analysis & Survey Research”

Guest Lecturer

February 2025

FMSC310: Maternal, Child and Family Health “Public Health Approach & MCH Epidemiology”

Guest Lecturer

November 2024

FMSC302: Research Methods in Family Science “Reliability and Validity”

Teaching Assistant FMSC 332: Children in Families

University of Maryland School of Public Health, Family Science Department

August 2025- December 2025

- Assist with grading and provide feedback on individual assignments, exams, and papers
- Manage classroom logistics and communication through Canvas
- Support classroom learning by delivering a guest lecture and an in-class activity

Teaching Assistant FMSC302: Research Methods in Family Science

University of Maryland School of Public Health, Family Science Department

August 2023- May 2025

- Guided group discussions about the steps of creating a study geared toward a specific target population
- Graded group assignments and components of group projects and provided feedback on potential improvements
- Mentored student groups and provide guidance to help understand the components of research methodology

Teaching Assistant Biostatistics

September 2022- May 2023

Brown University School of Public Health

- Aided professors by being proficient in STATA and leading Biostatistics labs for Master’s students
- Provided educational support for students by holding weekly 2-hour office hours to guide students in data analysis
- Graded assignments biweekly and provided feedback to students

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Das NK, Navarathna C, Alchouron J, Arwenyo B, Rahman S, Hoffman B, Lee K, et al. “Efficient aqueous molybdenum removal using commercial Douglas fir biochar and its iron oxide hybrids” *Journal of Hazardous Materials*. 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2022.130257>
- Lee K, von Ash T, Markham Risica P. (2023) “Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Breastfeeding Outcomes and Contributing Factors”. Brown University School of Public Health. **Submitted.**
- Lee KM, Thoma M (2025) “Examining the Association Between Food Insecurity and Pregnancy Outcomes”. University of Maryland, College Park School of Public Health. **In preparation.**
- Lee KM, (2024). 2024 Election Ballot Initiatives Voting Guide (p.10 Higher Education). Policy brief prepared for FMSC 750: Family & Health Policy. University of Maryland, College Park, School of Public Health.
- Lee KM, (2024). 2024 Presidential Policy Voting Guide (p.11 Higher Education & p.22 Maternal Mortality & Health Equity). Policy brief prepared for FMSC 750: Family & Health Policy. University of Maryland, College Park, School of Public Health.

CONFERENCE POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Lee, K, Examining the Association Between Food Insecurity and Postpartum Depression [Poster Presentation]. NWA Annual Education and Training Conference. **Submitted.**
- **Lee, K**, personal communication, Reliability and Validity October 16, 2024
- **Lee, K.**, von Ash, T., & Markham Risica, P. (2024, September 12-14) Examining Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Breastfeeding Outcomes and Contributing Factors [Poster Presentation]. BMHC Atlanta, GA, United States
- **Lee K.**, von Ash T., & Markham Risica P. Explaining Breastfeeding Rates Across Races and Ethnicities Using National PRAMS Dataset. Poster presented at: Brown University Annual Public Health Research Day April 4, 2023
- **Lee K**, Das NK, Navarathna C, Pittman CU, Mlsna T. Removal of Molybdenum from Contaminated Water using Douglas fir biochar/iron oxide composites. 2019

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Family Science Department Graduate Committee Student Member Academic Year 2023-2024

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Unlikely Outcasts with Nay and Ang Episode 3: Black Maternal Health

SKILLS/CERTIFICATIONS

- Proficient in STATA
- Covid-19 Contact Tracing Certified (2020)

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

Dr. Marie Thoma, Associate Professor. Department of Family Science, University of Maryland, College Park. mthoma@umd.edu

Dr. Mia Smith-Bynum, Department of Family Science Graduate Chair and Associate Professor, University of Maryland, College Park. msbynum@umd.edu

Jai-Me Potter-Rutledge, MS, Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Brown University School of Public Health. jai-me_potter-rutledge@brown.edu