

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### KIRAN THAPA

PhD Candidate

Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics

College of Public Health (CPH), University of Georgia (UGA)

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### EDUCATION

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**PhD in Epidemiology** 2019 – Present (Expected graduation: July 2023)

University of Georgia, USA

*Dissertation title:* Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and mental health outcomes

*Committee:* Emily Anne Vall, Ye Shen, Jose Cordero, Janani Rajbhandari (Chair)

**MPH in Health Policy and Management** 2018 – 2020

University of Georgia, USA

*Capstone title:* National and statewide prevalence of ACEs in the US

*Internship product:* ACEs-related data from national surveys in the US (available [here](#))

**Bachelor of Public Health** 2011 – 2016

Tribhuvan University, Nepal

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Research Assistant** 2020 – Present

*Economic Evaluation Research Group, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Georgia*

- Provided research support to undergraduate and graduate students in the Economic Evaluation Research Group working on variety of policy and program evaluation research
- Assisted PI with literature review, analysis of data, and writing of manuscripts
- Provided research assistance on several internally and externally funded grants
- Mentored undergraduate and graduate students in research and capstone projects
- Prepared materials and preliminary data briefs for grants submission
- Assisted in submitting research proposals for IRB approval
- Collaborated with faculty and students from across disciplines in manuscript writing, review, analysis, and publishing
- Analyzed large datasets such as national and statewide claims data, national survey data, longitudinal datasets
- Acquainted myself with econometric research methods commonly used in health services research

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2018 – 2020

*Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Georgia*

- Assisted PI and co-PI on the NIH funded R01 grant in literature review of physical activity policy evaluation efforts
- Performed data wrangling (merging & matching multiple datasets, cleaning data, recoding variables to prepare ready-to-analyze datasets) and visualization
- Assisted in analyzing quantitative data using longitudinal methods
- Aided in manuscript writing, review, and preparation of manuscripts for submission to journals

### **Research Assistant**

**2016 – 2017**

*Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal*

- Conducted in-depth interviews and focus groups with community health workers pertaining to suitability and acceptability of using digital sensing technologies for home-based interventions
- Supervised and trained two junior research assistants in collecting and analyzing qualitative data
- Assisted two MS Global Health students and a Clinical Psychology doctoral student in translation, transcription and collection of qualitative data including interviews & focus group guides, and consent forms
- Assisted in data collection and administration of an emotion regulation intervention among school children for a non-randomized controlled trial
- Developed familiarity with anthropological methods such as anchoring vignettes and pile sorts
- Translated and transcribed qualitative interviews and focus groups from local language to English
- Assisted in analyzing qualitative data using NVivo software

## **TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Teaching Assistant, Obesity Policy HPAM7050E**

**Fall 2022**

*Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Georgia*

- Updated lecture slides and course materials
- Graded course assignments
- Organized online course materials

### **Graduate Mentor, MPH Capstone project**

**Spring 2022**

*Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, University of Georgia*

- Mentored one graduate student to develop capstone research
- Guided the student in proposal writing, analysis of data and writing of manuscript

### **Invited Guest Lectures**

*HPAM7350, Introduction to Quantitative Analysis in Healthcare*

**Fall 2022**

Data Wrangling and Visualization in R

<i>First-Year Odyssey Seminar program, Asian Americans' Contribution to USA's Science, Engineering, and Beyond</i>	<b>Fall 2022</b>
Adverse Childhood Experiences and Mental Health Outcomes	
<i>STAT8001, Advanced Statistical Collaboration</i>	<b>Fall 2022</b>
Secondary Data for Research: YRBSS, BRFSS, and Georgia Student Health Survey Research and Next Steps	

## RESEARCH FUNDING

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### Ongoing

<i>Reimbursement for Asthma Self-Management Education and Healthy Home Assessment</i>	<b>01/08/2021 – 12/30/2022</b>
Role: Data Analyst	
PI: Janani Rajbhandari	
Funder: Georgia Department of Public Health	
Amount: \$ 40,000	

### Completed

<i>Return on Investment Study of Behavioral Mental Health Reform and Innovation in the State of Georgia</i>	<b>04/2021 – 12/2021</b>
Role: Co-I	
PI: Janani Rajbhandari	
Funder: Resilient GA.	
Amount: \$29,653	

### Not awarded

Adverse life events and risk of depression: Does social support act as a buffer? Submitted to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	<b>2020</b>
Role: PI	
Perceived Social Mobility, Hope and Physical Activity: A Mixed-Methods Study Among Urban Versus Rural Young Adults in Nepal, Submitted to Graduate School University of Georgia	<b>2020</b>
Role: PI	

### In preparation

Identifying the causal pathways between the associations of violence exposure including incarceration with health outcomes and mortality, to be submitted to the National Institutes of Health as R03 grant	<b>2023</b>
Role: Co-PI	
Violence exposure including Incarceration, self-harm, and mortality from childhood to early adulthood, to be submitted to The Harry Frank Guggenheim Emerging Scholars	<b>2023</b>
Role: PI	

## PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

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1. Ramaiya, M. K., McLean, C. L., Pokharel, M., **Thapa, K.**, Schmidt, M. A., Berg, M., ... & Kohrt, B. A. (2022). Feasibility and acceptability of a School-Based Emotion Regulation Prevention Intervention (READY-Nepal) for secondary school students in post-earthquake Nepal. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 19(21), 14497.

2. Yang, J., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Mu, L., Zhang, D., & **Thapa, K.** (2022). Physical activity environment inside and outside school and youth fitness: A spatial analysis at the level of elementary school attendance zone in Georgia. *Indoor and Built Environment*, 0(0).
3. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., **Thapa, K.**, Li, Y., Ingels, J. B., Shi, L., Zhang, D., ... & Chiang, K. (2022). Electronic Vapor Product Use and Levels of Physical Activity Among High School Students in Georgia. *Tobacco Use Insights*, 15.
4. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Metzger, I., Ingels, J., **Thapa, K.**, & Chiang, K. (2022). School climate-related determinants of physical activity among high school girls and boys. *Journal of Adolescence*, 94, 642–655.
5. Fortson, K., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Ingels, J., **Thapa, K.**, & Dube, S. R. (2021). Adverse childhood experiences, risk of opioid misuse and its pathway among students at a public university. *Journal of American college health*, 1-10.
6. Fonzi, V., **Thapa, K.**, Luitel, K., Padilla, H., Harris, C., Khan, M. M., ... & Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. (2021). Using Influenza Vaccination Location Data from the 2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to Expand COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(15), 7753.
7. Greer, J., **Thapa, K.**, McNulty, J., & Thapa, J. R. (2021). Parental School Involvement on Physical Activity and Screen Time Among Middle and High School Students. *Journal of the Georgia Public Health Association*, 8(3), 3.
8. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Ingels, J. B., Chung, S. R., **Thapa, K.**, Chen, Z., & Zhang, D. (2020). In-patient obesity diagnosis, use of surgical treatment and associated costs by payer type in the United States: Analysis of the National Inpatient Sample, 2011 through 2014. *Clinical obesity*, 10(5), e12385.
9. Mekonnen, B., Wang, G., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Shi, L., **Thapa, K.**, Zhang, Z., & Zhang, D. (2020). Weekend Effect on in-Hospital Mortality for Ischemic and Hemorrhagic Stroke in US Rural and Urban Hospitals. *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*, 29(10), 105106.
10. Ingels, J. B., **Thapa, K.**, Shrestha, S., & Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. (2020). Cigarette and electronic vapor product use among high school students in Georgia, 2015–2018. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 19, 101140.
11. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Zhang, D., MacLeod, K. E., & **Thapa, K.** (2020). Impact of Medicaid expansion on insurance coverage rates among adult populations with low income and by obesity status. *Obesity*, 28(7), 1219-1223.
12. Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Ingels, J., **Thapa, K.**, Davis, M., & Corso, P. (2020). Longitudinal evaluation of the impact of school characteristics on changes in physical activity opportunities. *Plos one*, 15(2), e0228716.
13. **Thapa, K.**, Bhandari, P. M., Neupane, D., Bhochhibhoya, S., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., & Pathak, R. P. (2019). Physical activity and its correlates among higher secondary school students in an urban district of Nepal. *BMC public health*, 19(1), 1-14.
14. Kohrt, B. A., Rai, S., Vilakazi, K., **Thapa, K.**, Bhardwaj, A., & van Heerden, A. (2019). Procedures to Select Digital Sensing Technologies for Passive Data Collection With Children and Their Caregivers: Qualitative Cultural Assessment in South Africa and Nepal. *JMIR Pediatrics and Parenting*, 2(1), e12366.
15. Neupane, D., Bhandari, P. M., **Thapa, K.**, Bhochhibhoya, S., Rijal, S., & Pathak, R. P. (2018). Self-reported child abuse in the home: a cross-sectional survey of prevalence, perpetrator characteristics and correlates among public secondary school students in Kathmandu, Nepal. *BMJ open*, 8(6), e018922.

16. Acharya, P., Adhikari, T. B., Neupane, D., **Thapa, K.**, & Bhandari, P. M. (2017). Correlates of institutional deliveries among teenage and non-teenage mothers in Nepal. *PloS one*, 12(10), e0185667.
17. Bhandari, P. M., Neupane, D., Rijal, S., **Thapa, K.**, Mishra, S. R., & Poudyal, A. K. (2017). Sleep quality, internet addiction and depressive symptoms among undergraduate students in Nepal. *BMC psychiatry*, 17(1), 106.
18. Bhandari, P. M., **Thapa, K.**, Dhakal, S., Bhochhibhoya, S., Deuja, R., Acharya, P., & Mishra, S. R. (2016). Breast cancer literacy among higher secondary students: results from a cross-sectional study in Western Nepal. *BMC cancer*, 16(1), 119.
19. **Thapa, K.** (2015). Mental health in post-earthquake Nepal. *Nepal journal of epidemiology*, 5(4), 520-521.
20. Mishra, S. R., Sharma, A., Bhandari, P. M., Bhochhibhoya, S., & **Thapa, K.** (2015). Depression and health-related quality of life among patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus: a cross-sectional study in Nepal. *PloS one*, 10(11), e0141385.

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#### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW/IN PREPARATION

1. **Thapa, K.**, Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Hanks, A., Lee, J. S., & Zhen, C. Sugar Sweetened Beverage Restriction or Fruit and Vegetable Purchase Incentive in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Participant's Voice and Choice Behavior. *Revise and resubmit with Journal of Hunger and Environmental Nutrition*
2. **Thapa, K.**, Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., Abdelsamad, Y., Salinas, D., & Vall, E. A. Changes in service utilization for depression and anxiety among children and adolescents: A time series analysis during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Under review with Child and Adolescent Mental Health*
3. **Thapa, K.**, Corso, P., Davis, M., Ivie, I., & Thapa, J. Impact of a statewide physical activity promotion program on physical fitness at the school level (In preparation)
4. **Thapa, K.**, Khanna, N., Vall, E. A., & Thapa, J. National and statewide prevalence of adverse childhood experiences in the US: National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2016-2020 (In preparation)
5. **Thapa, K.**, Cronan, E., Waits, G., & Thapa, J. Association between exposure to adverse childhood experiences and mental health outcomes: a systematic review of the cohort studies (In preparation)

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#### OTHER TECHNICAL AND RESEARCH REPORTS

1. **Thapa, K.**, & Rajbhandari, J. Behavioral and Mental Health Costs in the State of Georgia, Report to Resilient GA, Fall 2021
2. **Thapa K.**, & Rajbhandari, J. Evaluation of the Asthma self-management education and healthy home assessment program: A preliminary report, Report to Georgia Department of Public Health, Fall 2022
3. **Landscape Analysis Working Group.** Sustaining Technical and Analytical Resources (STAR) Project's Capacity Landscape Analysis, Report to the Public Health Institute, Fall 2020. [https://www.cugh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2020/10/Landscape-Analysis\\_Final-093020-1.pdf](https://www.cugh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2020/10/Landscape-Analysis_Final-093020-1.pdf)
4. **CUGH STAR Committee.** Comprehensive Review of Academic Partnerships, Report to Public Health Institute, Fall 2020. [https://www.cugh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2020/10/Comprehensive-Review-Final\\_dh-1.pdf](https://www.cugh.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/95/2020/10/Comprehensive-Review-Final_dh-1.pdf)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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1. **Thapa, K.**, Vall, E. A., Jung, D, Serban, N., & Rajbhandari-Thapa, J. (2022). Understanding Mental Health Services Utilization: A Case Study of 80/20 Health Spending Among Medicaid Patients in a Low Access State (abstract) Oral Presentation, American Society for Health Economists, St. Louis, USA (under review)
2. **Thapa, K.**, Khanna, N., Vall, E. A., & Thapa, J. (2022). National and State-level Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in the US: National Survey of Children's Health 2016-2020 (abstract) Oral Presentation, APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2022, Boston, USA
3. Tiwari, B., **Thapa, K.**, Thapa, J., & Kogan, S (2022). Structural Racism and COVID-19 vaccination in the state of Georgia (abstract) Oral Presentation, APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2022, Boston, USA
4. **Thapa, K.**, Thapa, J., Vall, E. A., & Salinas, D. (2022). Rural-Urban Differences in Telehealth Utilization among People with Mental Health Disorders Before and During the Pandemic (abstract) Oral Presentation, American Society for Health Economists, Austin, USA
5. **Thapa, K.**, Thapa, J., Salinas, D., & Vall, E. A. (2022). Changes in diagnoses of depression and anxiety among children and adolescents: A time series analysis during the COVID-19 pandemic (abstract) Poster Presentation, American Society for Health Economists, Austin, USA
6. Gallo, S., **Thapa, K.**, & Thapa, J (2021). Timing of WIC Enrollment and Exclusive Breastfeeding: Results from the National WIC-Infant Toddler Feeding Practices Survey 2. Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (online)
7. Yang, J., **Thapa, K.**, Lan, M., & Thapa, J. (2020). Geographic pattern and variation of childhood physical activity, physical fitness and their association with the built environment in Georgia. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2020 (online)
8. Thapa, J., **Thapa, K.**, Zhang, D., & Ingels, J. (2020). Self-reported Physical Activity and Vape Use among Adolescents. Academy Health National Policy Conference (canceled due to COVID-19)
9. Thapa, J. Corso, P., Ingels, J., **Thapa, K.**, & Davis, M (2020). At-school changes in physical activity and its impact on children's physical fitness. APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2020 (online)
10. **Thapa, K.**, Thapa, J., Hanks, A., Lee, J. S., & Zhen, C. (2020). Sugar sweetened beverage restriction or fruit and vegetable purchase incentive in supplemental nutrition assistance program: Participant's voice and choice behavior (abstract) Poster Presentation, APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2020 (online)
11. Thapa, J., Lan, M., Zhang, D., Gay, J., & **Thapa, K.** (2020). Childhood Obesity and Built Environment in Georgia. Georgia Public Health Association Annual Conference 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)
12. Kalauni, D., **Thapa, K.**, & Thapa, J. (2020). E-cigarettes use and its associated factors among undergraduate students in Kathmandu Metropolitan City. 16th Annual Himalayan Policy Conference (HPRC) (online)
13. **Thapa, K.**, Ingels, J., & Thapa, J. (2019). Physical fitness and alcohol use among middle school students in Georgia (abstract) Poster Presentation, APHA Annual Meeting and Expo 2019, Philadelphia, USA.

14. **Thapa, K.**, Ingels, J., & Thapa, J. (2019). Physical Activity and alcohol use among high school students in Georgia public schools (abstract) Poster Presentation, 2019 State of the Public Health Conference, Athens, Georgia, USA.
15. Thapa, J., **Thapa, K.**, Ingels, J., Davis, M., & Corso, P (2019). Change in school level physical activity after the implementation of state physical activity policy (abstract) Oral Presentation. Active Living Research Annual Meeting, Charleston, SC, USA.
16. **Thapa, K.**, Ghimire, R., & Thapa, J. (2019). Do Physically Active Students Perform Better in School?. (abstract) Poster Presentation, 10<sup>th</sup> Annual CUGH Conference, Chicago, USA.
17. **Thapa, K.**, Ghimire, R., & Thapa, J. (2018). School Level Physical Fitness and Third-Graders' Academic Achievement in Georgia Public Elementary School. (abstract) Poster Presentation, Atlanta Studies Symposium, Atlanta, USA.
18. **Thapa, K.**, Rai, S., Bhardwaj, A., Vasudevan, L., & Kohrt, B. A. (2017). Feasibility and acceptability of home-based m-Health sensing technologies to improve early childhood development interventions in Nepal. (abstract) Poster Presentation, ACF International Conference on Child Health and Development, Kathmandu, Nepal.
19. Schmidt, A., Berg, M. K., Ramaiya, M. K., **Thapa, K.**, & Kohrt, B. A. (2017). Gender Differences in Coping and Suicidality among Earthquake Affected Adolescents in Nepal. (abstract) Poster Presentation, Third National Summit of Health and Population Scientists in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal.
20. **Thapa, K.**, Bhandari, P. M., Neupane, D., Bhochhibhoya, S., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., & Pathak, R. P. (2016). Depression and Physical Activity among Higher Secondary Students in Rupandehi District, Nepal. (abstract) Poster Presentation, Second National Summit of Health and Population Scientists in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal.
21. **Thapa, K.**, Bhandari, P. M., Neupane, D., Bhochhibhoya, S., Rajbhandari-Thapa, J., & Pathak, R. P. (2016). Physical inactivity among higher secondary students- a problem in Nepal?. (abstract) Oral Presentation, First National Summit of Adolescent Health and Development in Nepal, Kathmandu, Nepal

## RESEARCH COVERED IN MEDIA

1. Physically active teens more likely to vape, [WUGA](#), [AJC](#), <https://news.uga.edu/news-uga-edu-physically-active-teens-more-likely-to-vape/>
2. 75% of Teens aren't Getting Recommended Daily Exercise, [WUGA](#), <https://scitechdaily.com/75-of-teenagers-arent-exercising-enough/>
3. Childhood trauma increases risk of opioid abuse, <https://publichealth.uga.edu/childhood-trauma-increases-risk-of-opioid-abuse/>
4. Medicaid expansion increases insurance coverage, but at slower rates for obese adults <https://publichealth.uga.edu/medicaid-expansion-increases-insurance-coverage-but-at-slower-rates-for-obese-adults/>

## SERVICE

### Journal Reviewer

Journal of Public Health 2021

### Abstract Reviewer

Consortium of Universities for Global Health 2022

American Public Health Association 2020

## Professional Memberships and Committees

Society for Epidemiologic Research	2022 – Present
American Society for Health Economists	2021 – Present
American Public Health Association	2019 – Present
Sustaining Technical and Analytical Resources (STAR) committee member, Consortium of Universities for Global Health	2020
Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) member, Consortium of Universities for Global Health	2018 – 2020
Consortium of Universities for Global Health	2016 – Present

## Editorial Service

Executive Editor, Health Prospect	2016 – 2018
Assistant Editor, Health Prospect	2013 – 2016

## University and Departmental Service

Member, International Student Advisory Board, University of Georgia	2019 – 2020
Member, Economic Evaluation Research Group, College of Public Health, University of Georgia	2018 – Present
Special Member, Nepal Public Health Students' Society, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University	2012 – 2013

## Others

Collaborator, Global Burden of Disease Study	2016 – Present
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## TRAININGS & INTERNSHIPS

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Intern, <a href="#">Resilient Georgia</a> , GA, USA	2020
National Global Health Course, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal	2016
Qualitative Data Analysis using NVivo, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Kathmandu, Nepal	2016
Creating surveys using Open Data Kit, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Kathmandu, Nepal	2016
Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (online)	2015
Writing in Sciences (online)	2015
Intern, Visible Impact, Kathmandu, Nepal	2015

## AWARDS

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Outstanding Student Award, Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Georgia, US	2020
Travel Award, College of Public Health, University of Georgia	2019, 2022
Merit Scholarship Award, Institute of Medicine, Nepal	2011

## SOFTWARE SKILLS

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R, R Markdown, SAS, GIS, SPSS, NVivo, LaTeX, ODK, Adobe InDesign, EpiData, MS Excel, MS Word, Canva