

Owais Raza

Researcher

Omaha, NE - US

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Summary

PhD-trained epidemiologist with 15+ years of experience in public health research, teaching, and mentorship. Specializes in **quantitative data analysis** and **data visualization** using R, STATA, and SPSS. Background in **spatial epidemiology**, **maternal and child health**, and **curriculum development**. With a strong commitment to **diversity**, **equity**, and **inclusion** through my research and community engagement, I promote **open science** and embrace a growth mindset, always seeking to learn and apply new methodologies. Beyond my academic achievements, I am a strong proponent of work-life balance and gender equality.

Education

Ph.D.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

2018

Tehran, Iran

MBBS

Ziauddin University

2006

Karachi, Pakistan

Experience

Research Mentor

BMJ Health, Canada

Jul 2024 – Present

Remote

- Conducting data analysis workshops (SPSS and STATA) for internship programs in collaboration with BMJ Health (Pakistan).
- Served on the Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and the Research Ethics Board (REB).

Senior Researcher

BMJ Health, Pakistan

Jun 2024 – Present

Remote

- Directed the Research Internship Program (Dec 2024 Cohort)
- Mentored interns, developed training modules, assessed intern goals, and provided guidance on research project design and execution.

Assistant Professor

School of Public Health, Dow University of Health Sciences

Feb 2020 – Jul 2024

Karachi, Pakistan

- Developed public health curricula and taught UG/PG courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, and research methods.
- Supervised student research and theses.

Deputy Director (Research)

PPHI Sindh

Nov 2018 – Jan 2020

Karachi, Pakistan

- Directed research initiatives across 22 districts, leveraging DHIS data to inform program planning, improve reporting accuracy, and support evidence-based decision-making.
- Conducted healthcare facility assessment projects and led a warehouse assessment across all 22 districts.
- Oversaw key institutional studies, including A Report on Cesarean Section Audit and Warehouse Assessment of PPHI Sindh.
- Established the Institutional Review Board (IRB) to ensure ethical research practices across all projects.

Teaching Assistant

Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Apr 2014 – Sep 2017

Tehran, Iran

- Supervised two rounds of Community Assessment Program based on North Carolina Community Health Assessment as a part of MPH program.
- Co-supervised MPH theses
- Facilitated research methodology and epidemiology courses, and conducted statistical software workshops (SPSS, STATA, R).

Research Assistant

Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

May 2013 – Dec 2014

Tehran, Iran

- Coordinated maternal and child health studies.
- Contributed to a national and sub-national burden of disease analysis on maternal conditions in Iran.

Lecturer

Ziauddin University

Feb 2008 – Sep 2012

Karachi, Pakistan

- Taught epidemiology and biostatistics modules.
- Led PBL sessions, supervised student research, and conducted SPSS workshops for medical students.

SKILLS

R (Rstudio/RMarkdown/Quarto/Positron), SPSS, STATA

ArcGIS, GWR, Geospatial Analysis

Scientific Writing, Data Visualization, Peer Review

Project Management, Ethical Review & Compliance, Open Science Practices

Statistical programming, survey-weighted and multi-level/mixed effects modeling for longitudinal and nested data, advanced data visualization, and reproducible reporting.

Spatial data processing, mapping, and geographic analysis.

Drafting academic papers, reports, grant proposals, presenting data visually, and reviewing manuscripts for scientific journals.

Leading research projects, ensuring ethical standards and IRB compliance, and promoting transparency and reproducibility in research.

INVITED TALK:

- May 2023 - 1st Family Medicine Research Day: **Fifty Shades of Medical Research** hosted by Department of Family medicine, Indus Hospital and Health Network.
- Jan 2023 - Quality of Human Resources in Health: **Public Health and Research & Development (R&D) Context** hosted by Ziauddin University.
- Aug 2022 - Moderated Talk for **Ex-Faculty Talk Series: Dr Amir Omair (Ex-faculty member of Department of Community Health Sciences, Ziauddin University)** hosted by Ziauddin University.
- Dec 2021 - Moderated session at **International Conference on SDGs: Moving Towards Population Health & Wellbeing**, organized by Dow University of Health Sciences.
- Dec 2021 - Scientific Session on **Research, Education and The Way Forward: The Good, The Bad & The Ugly of Medical Research** hosted by Ziauddin University.
- May 2020 - **COVID Session # 7: Public Health, Epidemiology & Clinical Research** hosted online by Ziauddin Alumni Association.

Peer Review Activities:

- Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition
- International Journal for Equity in Health
- Journal of Current Ophthalmology
- BMC Health Services Research
- PLOS Global Public Health
- Archives of Public Health
- Discover Mental Health
- Discover Public Health
- BMC Public Health
- Scientific Reports
- BMJ Open
- Midwifery
- Heliyon

Publications

1. Khan, R. A., Raza, O., Ahmed, M., & Zaheer, S. (2025). Socioeconomic disparities in accessing early newborn care in pakistan: Secondary data analysis of nationally representative sample. *Turkish Archives of Pediatrics*, 60(2), 208.

2. Lodhi, F. S., Rabbani, U., Khan, A. A., Raza, O., Holakouie-Naieni, K., Yaseri, M., Farooq, U., & Montazeri, A. (2021). Factors associated with quality of life among joint and nuclear families: A population-based study. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1), 234.
3. Balikuddembe, J. K., Ardalan, A., Stephen, K. M., Raza, O., & Khorasani-Zavareh, D. (2021). Risk factors associated with road traffic injuries at the prone-areas in kampala city: A retrospective cross-sectional study. *Journal of Injury and Violence Research*, 13(1), 13.
4. Raza, O., Mansournia, M. A., Foroushani, A. R., & Holakouie-Naieni, K. (2020). Exploring spatial dependencies in the prevalence of childhood diarrhea in mozambique using global and local measures of spatial autocorrelation. *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, 34, 59.
5. Raza, O., Mansournia, M. A., Foroushani, A. R., & Holakouie-Naieni, K. (2019). Geographically weighted regression analysis: A statistical method to account for spatial heterogeneity. *Archives of Iranian Medicine*, 22(3), 155--160.
6. Lodhi, F. S., Khan, A. A., Raza, O., Zaman, T. U., Farooq, U., & Holakouie-Naieni, K. (2019). Level of satisfaction and its predictors among joint and nuclear family systems in district abbotabad, pakistan. *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, 33, 59.
7. Memon, J., Holakouie-Naieni, K., Majdzadeh, R., Yekaninejad, M. S., Garmaroudi, G., Raza, O., & Nematollahi, S. (2019). Knowledge, attitude, and practice among mothers about newborn care in sindh, pakistan. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*, 19(1), 329.
8. Abdullahi, K. O., Holakouie-Naieni, K., Foroushani, A. R., Ahmadnezhad, E., Raza, O., & Nematollahi, S. (2018). Knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding ebola virus disease and related factors among international students of tehran university of medical sciences, 2015. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 47(5), 775.
9. Raza, O., Lodhi, F. S., Morasae, E. K., & Majdzadeh, R. (2018). Differential achievements in childhood immunization across geographical regions of pakistan: Analysis of wealth-related inequality. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 17(1), 122.
10. Holakouie-Naieni, K., Owais, R., Nematollahi, S., Mensah, L. E., Memon, J., & Mhajabin, S. (2018). Knowledge, attitude, practice of dengue fever and its related factors among international students at tehran university of medical sciences. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 47(11), 1777.
11. Kh. Shafiur Rahaman, K. H. N., Reza Majdzadeh, & Raza, O. (2017). Knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) regarding chronic complications of diabetes among patients with type 2 diabetes. *Int J Endocrinol Metab*.
12. Rahaman, K., Majdzadeh, R., Naieni, K., & Raza, O. (2017). Comorbidities and care practices of diabetic patients. *Austin Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology*, 4(2), 1059.
13. Balikuddembe, J. K., Ardalan, A., Khorasani-Zavareh, D., Nejati, A., & Raza, O. (2017). Weaknesses and capacities affecting the prehospital emergency care for victims of road traffic incidents in the greater kampala metropolitan area: A cross-sectional study. *BMC Emergency Medicine*, 17(1), 29.
14. Lodhi, F. S., Raza, O., Montazeri, A., Nedjat, S., Yaseri, M., & Holakouie-Naieni, K. (2017). Psychometric properties of the urdu version of the world health organization's quality of life questionnaire (WHOQOL-BREF). *Medical Journal of the Islamic Republic of Iran*, 31, 129.
15. Khazaei, S., Rezaeian, S., Baigi, V., Saatchi, M., Molaeipoor, L., Khazaei, Z., Khazaei, S., & Raza, O. (2017). Incidence and pattern of tuberculosis treatment success rates in different levels of the human development index: A global perspective. *Southern African Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 32(3), 100--104.
16. Safiri, S., Haghdoust, A. A., Hashemi, F., Amiri, S., Raza, O., & Sadeghi-Bazargani, H. (2016). Association between adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and helmet use among motorcycle riders. *Trauma Monthly*, 21(2), e21066.
17. Holakouie-Naieni, K., Ahmadvand, A., Assan, A., Elduma, A. H., Jammeh, A., Kamali, A. S. M. A., Kareem, A. A., Muhammad, F. M., Sabahat, H., & Abdullahi, K. O. (2015). Assessing the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of students regarding ebola virus disease outbreak. *Iranian Journal of Public Health*, 44(12), 1670.
18. Shayesteh Hajizadeh MSc MPH PhD Candidate, Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi MD, Maziar Moradi-Lakeh, Alireza Khajavi, Farahnaz Farzadfar, Elham Zandian, Owais Raza, Farshad Farzadfar. (2014). The trend of national and subnational burden of maternal conditions in iran from 1990 to 2013: The study protocol. *Archives of Iranian Medicine*, 17(3), 198--203.
19. Shoaib, B., Ali, M., Danish, S. H., & Raza, O. (2012). Human immunodeficiency virus, hepatitis B and C: Barbers knowledge and their practices. *Infectious Diseases Journal of Pakistan*, 40(17), 628.