

Kushagra Vashist

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PERSONAL PROFILE

PhD student in epidemiology with an avid interest in cardiometabolic health and cardiovascular disease epidemiology. I have more than three years of research experience and have authored/co-authored multiple studies. I am skilled at using statistical software to conduct various analyses, including regression modelling, multi-level modelling for longitudinal data, and survival analysis.

EDUCATION

Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health 2024-

Doctor of Philosophy, Epidemiology

Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health 2019- 2021

Master of Public Health (MPH), Global Epidemiology

GPA: 3.95/4.00

Thesis: *A National Investigation of Health Equity Considerations in COVID-19 Vaccination in the United States*

The City College of the City University of New York 2015-2019

Bachelor of Science (BS), Biology

GPA: 3.76/4.00

Honors: *Summa cum Laude*

Public Health Training

Epidemiologic Methods I, II, III, Statistical Methods I, II, III, Statistical Programming (SAS & R), GIS, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Cardiovascular Epidemiology, Obesity Epidemiology, Epidemiology of Chronic Disease

Professional Development

Computer Skills: Microsoft Office, SAS, SUDAAN (SAS callable), Stata, R, ArcGIS

Languages: English (fluent), Hindi (fluent), French (proficient)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Public Health Program Associate June 2022- May 2024

Emory Global Diabetes Research Center (EGDRC), Atlanta, GA

- Analyzed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on diabetes care and management practices, using the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Analyzed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on health seeking behaviors in populations with chronic conditions using the NHIS
- Conducting a longitudinal study examining changes in cardiometabolic health including weight change, in collaboration with the American Cancer Society
- Managing, recoding, and analyzing Project PEACH (Promoting Engagement and COVID-19 Testing for Health) survey data to describe the current climate around testing for COVID-19 including current usage, attitude, beliefs, and knowledge towards COVID-19 testing in adults with diabetes in GA

Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellow July 2021-May 2022

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA

- Served the Immunization Services Division Surveillance and Epidemiology Branch in the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases at CDC as a data analyst
- Conducted descriptive, categorical, and complex multivariable data analyses in SUDAAN (SAS-callable) on COVID-19 vaccination coverage data using the National Immunization Survey Adult COVID Module (NIS-ACM)
- Prepared scientific/technical reports and documentation to assist with manuscripts for publication. Co-authored research projects as a lead and/or secondary analyst
- Provided analytic support to CDC's immunization partners on vaccination coverage ad-hoc requests

Research Assistant

Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

February 2021-May 2021

- Examined the association between post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and cognition by studying pairs of twin brothers from the Vietnam Era Twin (VET) registry
- Built mixed effects models in SAS to allow for partitioning within and between twin pair differences. Understanding the association between PTSD status and cognition in twins may highlight any explanation of genetic and environmental factors

Data Governance Intern

November 2018-June 2019

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) - Division of Epidemiology, Bureau of Epidemiology, Queens, NY

- Submitted Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) specific user on-boarding documentation to NYCIG, Healthix, and/or BronxRHIO to facilitate data approval for research projects
- Audited DOHMH employee status, via HR, to update data user tracking sheet to preserve data integrity
- Managed RHIO share-port page
- Developed a system to track privacy and confidentiality training requirement

VOLUNTEER

Guest Researcher

June 2022-May 2024

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA

- Continuing duties from ORISE Fellowship, including work on ongoing projects
- Analyzing trends in parental vaccine hesitancy in children aged 6 months to 17 years using NIS Child and NIS Teen datasets

Research Assistant

May 2020-May 2021

Emory Global Diabetes Research Center (EGDRC), Atlanta, GA

January 2021- April 2021

- Identified factors associated with flu vaccine hesitancy in priority population groups for COVID-19 vaccination as per the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.
- Conducted descriptive statistics and built logistic regression models to analyze vaccine hesitancy factors in priority population groups using NHIS in SAS

September 2020- January 2021

- Using the NHIS, identified the distribution of populations who were prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination by race/ethnicity, age, sex, and region in the U.S to provide benchmarks for vaccine dissemination and tailor health communication strategies

May 2020- August 2020

- Evaluated the facility readiness to undertake IT-based hypertension management programs in 544 districts covering 29 states and union territories across India
- Conducted literature review on the cascade of hypertension in India and other Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)
- Assembled and analyzed data using the District Level Household Survey (DLHS) and National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Recoded and cleaned data, conducted descriptive statistics and regression analysis using SAS

Health Educator

June 2017- August 2017

Varanasi, India

- Educated and informed underprivileged students about the importance of proper health and hygiene

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Ira & Cecile Weber Scholarship- City College of New York Division of Science academic scholarship 2018
- Professor William Stratford Prize- Prize awarded to the student demonstrating the greatest proficiency in both course work in Zoology and Zoological Research 2019
- Biology summa cum laude 2019

REFERENCES

Shivani Patel, Assistant Professor

Hubert Department of Global Health

Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health

404-727-3951, s.a.patel@emory.edu

Laurie Elam-Evans, Lead Health Scientist

PUBLICATIONS

Google scholar- <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=8Ty0BFsAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

1. **Vashist, K.**, Frediani, J. K., Weber, M.B., Ali, M.K., Narayan, K., Patel, S.A. Changes in Diabetes Care and Management Practices among US Adults with Diabetes during the COVID-19 Pandemic [ACCEPTED] Preprint available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10836114/>
2. **Vashist, K.**, Yankey, D., Evans, L.E. *et al.* (2024). Changes in vaccine hesitancy among parents of children aged 6 months–17 Years, National Immunization Surveys, 2019–2022. *Vaccine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2024.05.037>
3. Evans, L.E, Jones, C.P., **Vashist, K.** *et al.* (2023). The Association of Reported Experiences of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in Health Care with COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Intent — United States, April 22, 2021–November 26, 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*, 72:437–444. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7216a5>
4. Bonner, K.E., **Vashist, K.**, Abad, N.S. *et al.* (2023). Behavioral and Social Drivers of COVID-19 Vaccination in the United States, August–November 2021. *Am J Prev Med*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2023.01.014>
5. Lu, P., Srivastav, A., **Vashist, K.** *et al.* (2023). COVID-19 Booster Dose Vaccination Coverage and Factors Associated with Booster Vaccination Among Adult Populations, United States, February 2022. *Emerg. Infect. Dis.* 2023 Jan;29(1):133-140. <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2901.221151>
6. Razzaghi, H., Yankey, D., **Vashist, K.** *et al.* (2022). COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage and Intent Among Women Aged 18-49 Years by Pregnancy Status, United States, April–November 2021. *Vaccine*. Jul 30; 40(32): 4554–4563. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2022.06.029>
7. **Vashist, K.**, Choi, D., Patel, S.A. (2022). Identification of groups at high risk for under-coverage of seasonal influenza vaccination: A national study to inform vaccination priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Ann. Epidemiol*, 68, 16-22. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annepidem.2021.12.008>
8. Patel, S.A., **Vashist, K.**, Jarhyan, P. *et al.* (2021). A model for national assessment of barriers for implementing digital technology interventions to improve hypertension management in the public health care system in India. *BMC Health Serv Res* 21, 1101. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-021-06999-9>
9. **Vashist, K.**, Akintobi, T., Bednarczyk, R.A., Narayan, K., Patel, S.A. (2021). Demographic Benchmarks for Equitable Coverage of COVID-19 Vaccination. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 61(2), 291–293. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2021.04.001>

ABSTRACTS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Evans, L.E., **Vashist, K.**, Valier M. *et al.* Trends and characteristics of being unvaccinated for COVID-19 among adults, United States, January 2023-May 2023. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference, November 12-15, 2023, Atlanta, GA
2. Evans, L.E., Jones, C.P., **Vashist, K.** *et al.* Experiences of Discrimination and Association with COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Vaccination Intent by Race and Ethnicity, United States, April 22, 2021 - March 26, 2022. American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Conference, November 6-9, 2022, Boston, MA

3. Frediani, J.K., **Vashist, K.**, Quarells R.C., Weber, M.B., Narayan, K., Patel, S.A. Individuals with type 2 diabetes experienced difficulty accessing treatment during COVID-19 pandemic. Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM), March 13-16, 2024, Philadelphia, PA
 4. **Vashist, K.**, Nielsen, J., Rees-Punia, E., Teras, L., Cunningham, S.A, Patel, S.A. The COVID-19 Pandemic and Trends in Body Mass Index among U.S. Adults: Testing the “Quarantine 15”. Population Association of America (PAA), April 17-20, 2024, Columbus, OH
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