

# Chelsea A. Wesner, DrPH, MPH, MSW

Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health  
Colorado School of Public Health  
University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus  
405-740-2971  
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## EDUCATION

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- 2025 Doctor of Public Health (DrPH), Community and Behavioral Health  
Minor, Epidemiology  
Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus,  
Aurora, CO
- 2020 Graduate Certificate in American Indian Health  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD
- 2010 Master of Public Health (MPH), Health Promotion Sciences  
University of Oklahoma College of Public Health, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2010 Master of Social Work (MSW), Administrative and Community Practice  
University of Oklahoma School of Social Work, Norman, OK
- 2006 Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sociology and Minor in American Indian Studies  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2021-Current Assistant Research Professor (2026-current)  
*Research Scientist (2022-2026)*  
*Research Assistant (2021-2022)*  
Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, Colorado School of Public Health,  
University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus Aurora, CO
- 2015-2022 *Research Assistant Professor (2022)*  
*Research Instructor (2020-2022)*  
*Interim Program Director, Master of Public Health Program (2018-2019)*  
*Instructor (2015-2020)*  
Department of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of South Dakota,  
Vermillion, SD
- 2013-2021 *On Assignment, Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement*  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Diabetes Translation, Native  
Diabetes Wellness Program, Atlanta, GA
- 2011-2012 *Medical Social Worker (Per Diem)*  
Intermountain Healthcare, Utah Valley Regional Medical Center Provo, UT
- 2009-2015 *Public Health Program Planner*  
American Indian Institute, University of Oklahoma Norman, OK

- 2007-2009 *Research Assistant to Elisa T. Lee, PhD*  
Center for American Indian Health Research, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Oklahoma City, OK
- 2009 *Graduate Public Health and Social Work Practicum*  
Oklahoma City-County Health Department, Family Planning Clinic  
& Oklahoma State Legislature, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2007 *Research Assistant to David Moxley, PhD*  
University of Oklahoma, School of Social Work Norman, OK
- 2006-2007 *Graduate Social Work Practicum*  
Variety Care Community Health Center Oklahoma City, OK
- 2004-2006 *Shelter and Residential Manager*  
Urban Ministries of Durham, Durham, NC
- 2002 *Corps Member*  
AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), Denver, CO

## RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

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### PUBLICATIONS (n=19)

1. Denu, Y., Moore, K., Kenyon, D. B., Puumala, S. E., **Wesner, C.**, & Danzi, B. A. (2025). From Vulnerability to Hope: Experiences with COVID-19 over Time in Rural America. *Healthcare, 13*(21), 2752. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare13212752>
2. **Wesner, C.A.**, Around Him, D., Ullrich, J. S., Martin, L., Denmark, N., Russette, H., Lee, K., Sarche, M., Asdigian, N.L., Barnes-Najor, J., Whitesell, N.R., & Tribal Early Childhood Research Center Early Relational Wellbeing Community of Learning. (2024). Co-creating a conceptual model of Indigenous relational wellbeing in early childhood: Planting seeds of connectedness. *Infant Mental Health Journal*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/imhj.22149>
3. Satterfield, D., DeBruyn, L., Lofton, T., Dodge Francis, C., Zoumenou, V., DeCora, L., & **Wesner, C.** (2023). "Make Stories That Will Always Be There:" Understanding the Eagle Books' Appeal, Sustainability, and Contributions to Public Health, 2006-2022. *Preventing Chronic Disease, 20*:220315. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5888/pcd20.220315>
4. Cerny, S., Berg-Poppe, P., Anis, M., **Wesner, C.**, Merrigan, M., & LaPlante, K. (2022). Outcomes from an interprofessional curriculum on trauma-informed care among pediatric service providers. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, DOI: 10.1080/13561820.2022.2070142
5. Berg-Poppe, P., Anis, M., Cerny, S., Merrigan, M., LaPlante, K. & **Wesner, C.** (2021). Changes in knowledge, beliefs, self-efficacy, and affective commitment to change following trauma-informed care education for pediatric service providers. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*.
6. Danzi, B., Strobel, S., Puumala, S. Kenyon, D., Curry O'Connell, M., & **Wesner, C.** (2021). COVID-19 stressors, concerns, and mental health of adults and youth during the early phase of the pandemic in South Dakota. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*.
7. Boland, S., Ivanich, J., **Wesner, C.**, Tuitt, N., Zacher, T., Asdigian, N., & Whitesell, N. (2021). Crisis-Resilient and Anti-Racist Approaches to Community Based Participatory Research During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond. *Health Education and Behavior, 10901981211054791*.
8. Boland, S., Homdayjanakul, K., Reed, R., **Wesner, C.**, Basha, E., Kaufman, C., Jackson, L., & James,

- K. (2021). Addressing the cycle of inaction: A DrPH student perspective on the decolonization of public health. *Harvard Public Health Review*, 35.
9. Lucas Molitor, W., Naber, A., Cleveland, T., Regnerus, C., **Wesner, C.**, Zimney, K. and Kupersmidt, S. (2021). Exploring Interprofessional Activities that Address Poverty, Social Determinants of Health, Homelessness, and Chronic Pain. *Health, Interprofessional Practice and Education*, 4(2), p.eP2165. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.7710/2641-1148.2165>
  10. Wesner, J. S., Van Peurse, D., Flores, J. D., Lio, Y., & **Wesner, C. A.** (2021). Forecasting hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in South Dakota, USA. *Journal of Healthcare Informatics Research*, 1-12.
  11. Feldhacker, D. R., **Wesner, C.**, Yockey, J., Larson, J., & Norris, D. (2021). Strategies for Health: A game-based, interprofessional approach to teaching social determinants of health: A randomized controlled pilot study. *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 1-9. DOI: [10.1080/13561820.2020.1850660](https://doi.org/10.1080/13561820.2020.1850660)
  12. Strobel, S., Danzi, B., Puumala, S., Kenyon, D., O'Connell, M., & **Wesner, C.** (2020). Knowledge, Attitudes, and Needs: Assessing the COVID-19 Impact in Rural America. *South Dakota Medicine*, 73(11).
  13. **Wesner, C.**, Zhang, W., Melstad, S., \*Ruen, E., Deffenbaugh, C., Gu, W., & Clayton, J. (2020). Assessing county-level vulnerability for opioid overdose and rapid spread of HIV and hepatitis C infection in South Dakota. *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*, 222(Supplement\_5), S312-S321.
  14. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018). Part V—Traditional Foods in Native America: A Compendium of Stories from the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Movement in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. Atlanta, GA: Native Diabetes Wellness Program, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndwp/traditional-foods/index.html>
  15. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Making the connection: Engaging community partners to address Type 2 diabetes in vulnerable populations. A compendium of stories from the CDC's National Program to Eliminate Diabetes-Related Disparities in Vulnerable Populations. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Diabetes Translation, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pdfs/programs/vp-compendium.pdf>
  16. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Part IV—Traditional Foods in Native America: A Compendium of Stories from the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Movement in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. Atlanta, GA: Native Diabetes Wellness Program, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndwp/traditional-foods/index.html>
  17. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). Part III—Traditional Foods in Native America: A Compendium of Stories from the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Movement in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. Atlanta, GA: Native Diabetes Wellness Program, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndwp/traditional-foods/index.html>
  18. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Part II—Good Food is Power: A collection of traditional foods stories from the Ramah Navajo Community, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and Tohono O'odham Nation. Atlanta, GA: Native Diabetes Wellness Program, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndwp/traditional-foods/index.html>
  19. **Wesner, C.** & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Part I—Traditional Foods in Native America: A Compendium of Stories from the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Movement in American Indian and Alaska Native Communities. Atlanta, GA: Native Diabetes Wellness Program, CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndwp/traditional-foods/index.html>

(\*student co-author)

## BOOK CHAPTERS

1. **Wesner, C.**, Handeland, T., Martin, L., Asdigian, N.L, Barnes-Najor, J., & Whitesell, N.R. (2024). Advancing equity through engaging communities to address measurement disjuncture in

- Indigenous infant and early childhood mental health. In J. D. Osofsky, H. E. Fitzgerald, M. Keren, & K. Puura (Eds). *WAIMH Handbook of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health: Vol 2, Cultural context, prevention, intervention, and treatment*. Cham, Switzerland, Springer.
2. **Wesner, C.**, Feldhacker, D., & Molitor, W. L. (2020). Teaching Quality of Life and Well-Being in Public Health. In *Teaching Quality of Life in Different Domains* (pp. 231-255). Springer, Cham.

## REPORTS (selected)

1. Moyer, N., **Wesner, C.**, Sarche, M., Chavis, Gachupin, A. E., Nadler, A., Svoboda, E., Asdigian, A., Geary, E., Around Him, D., Dunn, C., & Whitesell, N. (2024). A braided approach to understanding home visiting in Indigenous communities. (OPRE Report No. 2024-366). Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation; Administration for Children and Families; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
2. **Wesner, C.**, Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Around Him, D., Whitesell, N., and Community of Learning on Indigenous Early Relational Wellbeing. (2024, June). Tribal Early Childhood Research Center's Community of Learning on Indigenous Early Relational Wellbeing. Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC) Brief.
3. Sarche, M., **Wesner, C.**, & Howley, C. (2023). An Assessment of Young Child and Family Needs and Services in an Urban Native American Program. Tribal Early Childhood Research Center Report.
4. Raj, P., Asdigian, N., Desanto, K., Whitesell, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Sarche, M., Around Him, D., & **Wesner, C.** (2023). Conceptualizing family economic wellbeing in Indigenous communities and contexts: Key findings from a scoping review. Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC) Brief, November 2023.
5. **Wesner, C.**, Around Him, D., & Sarche, M. (2022). Child Development in Indigenous Communities: Promoting equity and resilience across a continuum of tribal early childhood programs and services. Tribal Early Childhood Research Center (TRC) Brief, November 2022. <https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/docs/librariesprovider205/trc/trc-brief-indigenous-child-development-nov-2022.pdf>
6. Puumala, S., DeNoon, M., Melstad, S., Strobel, S., Becker, A., Streich, L., & **Wesner, C.** (2021). Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) User Survey. Evaluation report for South Dakota Department of Health, CDC Overdose Data to Action cooperative agreement.
7. **Wesner, C.**, \*Ruen, E., Becker, A., Strobel, S., & Puumala, S. (2020). Statewide Assessment of Overdose Policies and Practices in South Dakota Emergency Departments. Evaluation report for South Dakota Department of Health, CDC Overdose Data to Action cooperative agreement.
8. **Wesner, C.**, Zhang, W., Melstad, S., \*Ruen, E., Deffenbaugh, C., Gu, W., & Clayton, J. (2019). South Dakota Vulnerability Assessment: Risk of Opioid Overdose, HIV, and Viral Hepatitis. Report for South Dakota Department of Health, CDC Public Health Emergency Response cooperative agreement. <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/VulnerabilityAssessment.aspx>
9. **Wesner, C.**, Becker, A., & \*Tribble, M. (2019, June). Statewide Curricular Assessment on Safe Opioid Prescribing and Pain Management. Evaluation report for South Dakota Department of Health, CDC Data-Driven Prevention Initiative cooperative agreement.
10. \*Clemmons, T., **Wesner, C.**, Cochran, C. (2019, Jan). Facts on Kids in South Dakota: Health and social service program enrollment: 2007-2017. South Dakota KIDS COUNT, Volume 19, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter. [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8736d6\\_7899a2c3045248a992cb87c8ec9be2de.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/8736d6_7899a2c3045248a992cb87c8ec9be2de.pdf)

(\*student co-author)

## GRANT SUPPORT

### *Current Grants*

07/01/2025 – 06/30/2030

Gartner & Wentworth (PIs), **Wesner (Co-I)**

R01HD119707, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health

“A strengths-based curriculum for Tribal early childhood education to support lifelong health and wellness”

09/30/2022 – 09/29/2027

Whitesell (PI), **Wesner (Supporting)**

Center for Indigenous Research Collaboration and Learning for Home Visiting (CIRCLE-HV); Administration for Children and Families

09/30/2020 – 09/29/2026

Whitesell (PI), **Wesner (Supporting)**

Tribal Early Childhood Research Center III; Administration for Children and Families

09/30/2021 – 09/29/2026

Whitesell (PI), **Wesner (Supporting)**

Tribal Early Childhood Research Center, Economic Self-Sufficiency Supplement; Administration for Children and Families

### *Completed Grants (selected)*

09/01/2019 – 05/31/2022

**Wesner (PI, subaward)**

CDC Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) Cooperative Agreement, South Dakota Department of Health  
*Led Statewide Evaluation*

09/01/2013 – 11/30/2021

**Wesner (PI)**

CDC Division of Diabetes Translation, Native Diabetes Wellness Program  
*Intergovernmental Personnel Agreement*

09/01/2018 - 08/31/2019

**Wesner (PI, subaward)**

CDC Emergency Response: Public Health Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement, South Dakota Department of Health  
*Led Statewide Vulnerability Assessment for the Syndemic of Opioid Overdose, HIV, and HCV*

09/01/2017 - 08/31/2019

**Wesner (PI, subaward)**

CDC Prescription Drug Overdose: Data-Driven Prevention Initiative Cooperative Agreement, South Dakota Department of Health  
*Led Statewide Evaluation*

10/01/2007 – 06/30/2009

Lee, E (PI), **Wesner (Student PI)**

Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, National Institutes of Health  
Center for American Indian Health Research, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health  
Sciences Center, Parent Award: The Balance Study, NIH U01 HL087354 (Elisa T. Lee, PI)  
*Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research*

## PRESENTATIONS (selected)

- Wesner, C.** (2026, February). Lessons learned from culturally grounded measure development. Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University.
- Wesner, C.** (2026, January). Applying the Indigenous connectedness framework to understand and measure Indigenous early relational wellbeing. Native Early Childhood Frameworks: Traditional Child-Rearing Practices, Kinship Systems, and Community Care, Native Communities Learning Project Webinar Series, Alliance for Early Success.
- Wesner, C.** (2026, January). Enhancing home visitor comfort with Parent-Child Interaction tools. Parent Child Interaction Community of Learning Meeting, Tribal Home Visiting Resource Institute for Excellence (THRIVE), James Bell Associates and Administration for Children and Families.
- Blackhorse, K., Russette, H., & **Wesner, C.** (2025, October). Indigenous Research Methodologies. Short Program for American Indian and Alaska Native Knowledge (SPARK), Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health.
- Barnes-Najor, J., **Wesner, C.**, & Gartner, D. (2025, September). Moving Toward Indigenous Methodologies and Indigenous-Based Measurement in Early Childhood. RISER Network Conducting Equity-Focused and Culturally Responsive Research Methodology Series, Boston University.
- Wesner, C.** (2025, September). Perspectives and Lessons Learned from Working in Population Health. Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program, Whitworth University.
- Wesner, C.**, Asdigian, N., Around Him, D., Barnes-Najor, J., Sarche, M., Whitesell, N., & TRC Community of Learning on Early Relational Wellbeing. (2025 September). Planting seeds of Indigenous connectedness: Developing a conceptual model and measure of early relational wellbeing through a Community of Learning approach. Native Children's Research Exchange (NCRE) 2025 Conference, Denver, CO.
- Wesner, C.**, Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Around Him, D., Sarche, M., Whitesell, N., & TRC Community of Learning on Early Relational Wellbeing. (2025 May). Co-creating a measure of Indigenous early relational wellbeing: Results from a pilot study. International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge, and Development, Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love 2025 Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.
- Wesner, C.**, Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Around Him, D., Sarche, M., Whitesell, N., & TRC Community of Learning on Early Relational Wellbeing. (2025 May). Co-creating a measure of Indigenous early relational wellbeing: Results from a pilot study. International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge, and Development, Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love 2025 Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.
- Moyer, N., **Wesner, C.**, Sarche, M., Chavis, E., Gachupin, A., Geary, E., Around Him, D., Dunn, C., & Whitesell, N. (2025 May). Applying Indigenous methodologies to the study of home visiting programs serving Indigenous families: An environmental scan. International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge, and Development, Reclaiming Indigenous Ecologies of Love 2025 Conference, Santa Ana Pueblo, NM.
- Sun, J. (Chair), Sarche, M. (Discussant), Contributing Authors: Asdigian, N., **Wesner, C.**, Barnes-Najor-J., Around Him, D., Sarche, M., Whitesell, N., and the ERW Community of Learning (2025 May). Co-creating a culturally grounded measure of early relational wellbeing among young Indigenous children. Paper Symposium, Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- Wesner, C.**, Asdigian, A., Around Him, D., Abrahamson-Richards, T., Raj, P., Sarche, M., & Whitesell, N. (2025 May). Patterns and correlates of family economic wellbeing among American Indian and

- Alaska Native Families with Young Children. Poster Presentation, Society for Research in Child Development 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN.
- Wesner, C.** (2024 October). Toward conceptualizing and measuring family economic wellbeing in Indigenous communities. Invited Lecture: Indigenous Learning Community, Federal Reserve Bank.
- Wesner, C.,** Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Around Him, D., Whitesell, N.R., and TRC Early Relational Wellbeing Community of Learning. (2024 June). Co-creating a Measure of Indigenous Early Relational Wellbeing Using Group Concept Mapping. Poster Presentation, National Research Conference on Early Childhood, Arlington, VA.
- Wesner, C.,** Raj, P., Desanto, K., Around Him, D., Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Whitesell, N.R., & Sarche, M. (2024 June). Family Economic Wellbeing in Indigenous Communities: A Scoping Review of Culturally and Contextually Diverse Economies. Invited Plenary, Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency, Washington, DC.
- Wesner, C.,** Asdigian, N., Around Him, D., Lee, K., Abrahamson-Richards, T., Raj, P., Sarche, M., & Whitesell, N.R. (2024 June). Patterns of Family Economic Wellbeing Among American Indian and Alaska Native Families with Young Children. Emerging Scholars Presentation, Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency, Washington, DC.
- Meyer, A., Denmark, N., Marfani, F., West, A., & **Wesner, C.** (2023 December). Looking Back and Looking Forward: Tribal Home Visiting and the MIECHV Learning Agenda. Invited Plenary Presentation at 2023 Tribal Home Visiting Kickoff + Meeting.
- Wesner, C.A.,** Raj, P., Desanto, K., Around Him, D., Barnes-Najor, J., Asdigian, N., Whitesell, N.R., & Sarche, M. (2023 October). Indigenous perspectives on Family Economic Wellbeing: A Scoping Review of Culturally and Geographically Diverse Economies. Poster Presentation at Colorado School of Public Health Research Exchange Conference.
- Wesner, C.A.,** Raj, P., Desanto, K., Around Him, D., Barnes-Najor, J., Asdigian, N., Whitesell, N.R., & Sarche, M. (2023 September). Indigenous perspectives on Family Economic Wellbeing: A Scoping Review of Culturally and Geographically Diverse Economies. Presentation at Native Children's Research Exchange (NCRE) Conference, Denver, CO.
- Wesner, C.A.,** Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., Whitesell, N.R., & the TRC Early Relational Wellbeing Community of Learning. (2023 September). Conceptualizing Early Relational Wellbeing from an Indigenous Perspective. Presentation at Native Children's Research Exchange (NCRE) Conference, Denver, CO.
- Wesner, C.,** & Ullrich, J.S. (2023 April). Supporting the connectedness of early relational wellbeing to promote child and collective wellbeing. Presentation at Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Institute and the Child, Adolescent & Family Behavioral Health Virtual Event.
- Wesner, C.,** Asdigian, N., Barnes-Najor, J., & Whitesell, N.R. (2022 June). Toward understanding and measuring early relational health in American Indian and Alaska Native communities through a Community of Learning: A strengths-based approach to advancing equity and prioritizing first relationships in early childhood programs. Presentation at National Research Conference on Early Childhood Annual Meeting.
- Wesner, C.,** & Sarche, M. (2022 June). Toward understanding economic self-sufficiency within the culture and context of American Indian and Alaska Native early childhood programs and settings. Presentation at National Research Conference on Early Childhood Annual Meeting.
- Wesner, C.,** & Sarche, M. (2022 June). Understanding economic self-sufficiency within the culture and context of Native American early childhood programs. Emerging Scholars Lightning Talks – Youth and Family Well-Being. Presentation at Research & Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency Annual Meeting.
- Melstad, S., **Wesner, C.,** & Strobel, S. (2021 July). Emergency Department Toolkit: Improving linkages to care to prevent and respond to opioid overdose. Presentation at South Dakota Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee Biannual Meeting.
- Danzi, B.A., Strobel, S., Puumala, S., Kenyon, D., Curry O'Connell, M., Van Ness, C., & **Wesner, C.** (2021

- August). COVID-19 stressors and psychological functioning of youth and parents in South Dakota. In Impact of COVID-19 Stressors on Youth and Family Mental Health with Implications for Intervention. Symposium conducted (virtually) at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association.
- Strobel, S., Kenyon, D., Puumala, S., Danzi, B., Curry O'Connell, M., & **Wesner, C.** (2020 September). Assessment of COVID-19 perceptions in rural South Dakota. Presentation for 2020 South Dakota Public Health Association Conference.
- Wesner, C.**, Melstad, S., & \*Ruen, E. (2020 July). Statewide assessment of overdose policies and practices in South Dakota emergency departments. Presentation at South Dakota Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee Biannual Meeting.
- Wesner, C.**, Puumala, S., Danzi, B., Curry O'Connell, M., Strobel, S., & Kenyon, D. (2020 June). Responding to COVID-19 in rural America: A public health case study. Presentation for University of South Dakota Project ECHO: COVID-19 pandemic.
- Wesner, C.**, Zhang, W., & Melstad, S. (2019 November). Assessing county vulnerability for opioid overdose, HIV, and hepatitis C in South Dakota: Implications for tribal communities. Webinar for CDC Jurisdiction-level Vulnerability Assessment in partnership with Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.
- Clayton, J., Zhang, W., **Wesner, C.**, Melstad, S. & Deffenbaugh, C. (2019 June). Assessing county-level vulnerability for opioid overdose and rapid spread of HIV and hepatitis C infection in South Dakota. Oral presentation at: 2019 South Dakota Public Health Association Conference; Sioux Falls, SD.
- \*Kluender, E., **Wesner, C.** & Cochran, C. (2019 June). State and county-level estimates of WIC eligibility and coverage in South Dakota. Poster session at: 2019 South Dakota Public Health Association Conference; Sioux Falls, SD.
- \*Tribble, M., **Wesner, C.** & Becker, A. (2019 June). Pain management, safe opioid prescribing and substance use disorders. Poster session at: 2019 South Dakota Public Health Association Conference; Sioux Falls, SD.
- Wesner, C.**, Sudhagoni, R., & \*Shouldis, C. (2018 November). Inclusion of American Indians in community health needs assessments conducted by nonprofit hospitals in South Dakota. Poster session at: 2018 American Public Health Association (APHA) Meeting; San Diego, CA.
- \*Shouldis, C., **Wesner, C.**, Sudhagoni, R. (2017 September). American Indian representation in community health needs assessments conducted by South Dakota nonprofit hospitals. Poster session at: 40<sup>th</sup> American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) Conference; Denver, CO.
- Wesner, C.**, Sudhagoni, R., & \*Shouldis, C. (2017 September). Inclusion of American Indians in community health needs assessments conducted by nonprofit hospitals in South Dakota. Poster session at: 1st National Native Health Research Training Conference; Denver, CO.
- DeBruyn, L., Satterfield, D., **Wesner, C.** & Skye, A. (2015 September). Traditional foods have become a way to talk about health. Invited seminar with CDC Native Diabetes Wellness Program; University of South Dakota; Vermillion, SD.
- (\*student co-author)

## TEACHING & ADVISING

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### COURSES TAUGHT

- 2022-Current      Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus  
*Instructor*, Ethical Considerations in American Indian and Alaska Native Health – Graduate, Summer Term

*Instructor, Community Participatory Research & Review with American Indian/Alaska Native Communities, Summer Term*

- 2021-Current Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University  
*Course Director (2023, 2025)*
- Early Childhood Research with Tribal Communities – Graduate, Summer Term
- Co-Instructor (2021)*
- Early Childhood Research with Tribal Communities – Graduate, Summer Term 2021
- 2015-2021 University of South Dakota, Department of Public Health and Health Sciences  
*Instructor*
- Integrative Learning Experience (PUBH 730) – Graduate, 2016-2021
  - \*Public Health and Native American Communities (PUBH 760) – Graduate, 2016-2020
  - \*Applied Practice Experience I, II & III (PUBH 721-723) – Graduate, 2018-2020
  - Public Health Practice (PUBH 720) – Graduate, 2016-2020
  - \*Introduction to U.S. Health Systems & Policy (PUBH 740) – Graduate, 2015-2019
  - \*Social and Behavioral Sciences in Public Health (PUBH 750) – Graduate, 2015-2019
- \*Course Developer

## GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING

*(faculty advisor for practicum, capstone, and research projects)*

- 2022-2023 Preetha Raj, MPH student, Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus
- 2021 Jaimie Raymond, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2020-2021 Sylvia Lasley, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2020-2021 Veronica Thomas-Star Comes Out, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2020 Nancy Prempeh-Jackson, MPH student, South Dakota State University
- 2019-2021 Erin Kinder, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2020 Taryn Hingst, MPH student, South Dakota State University
- 2019-2020 Elizabeth Ruen, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2019-2020 Viviana Deleon, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2019-2020 Hailey Purves, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2019 Kelsey Markovetz, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018-2019 Eva Kluender, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018-2019 Lynette Moak, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2019 Elizabeth Neuroth, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018-2019 Matthew Tribble, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018-2019 Devon Hamlyn, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018 Taylor Clemmons, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018 Colette Free, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2018 Brittany Zephier, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017-2018 Brian Juran, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Amanda Nelson, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Kara Martin, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Amanda Kronberg, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Kyle Poss, MPH student, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Tobias Deutsch, MA Disciplinary Studies, University of South Dakota
- 2017 Brittini Reigenborn, MPH student, University of South Dakota

2016 Kayla Pochop, MD student, University of South Dakota

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING

(capstone, internship, and research projects)

2022-2023 Savannah Lukkes, University of South Dakota Honors Program  
2017-2018 Keri Kamphoff, University of South Dakota Honors Program  
2017 Carmelita Shouldis, University of South Dakota BRIN-AISES Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship  
2017 Shaun Williams, University of South Dakota BRIN-AISES Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship  
2016 Anissa Martin, University of South Dakota  
2016 Austere Htoo, University of South Dakota

## ACADEMIC ADVISING

*University of South Dakota*

2016-2022 Advised an average of 40 MPH students each semester

## DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING STRATEGIES

2016 Course Design Fellowship, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of South Dakota

## SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

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### EXTERNAL SERVICE

*Professional*

2025-Current Ad hoc reviewer, *Child Abuse & Neglect*  
2025-Current Member, Tribal Head Start Community Workgroup, American Indian and Alaska Native Family and Child Experiences (AIAN FACES) Study, *ACF Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation*  
2024-Current Workgroup Member, Next Steps for Tribal TANF Research and Data project, *ACF Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation*  
2023-Current State Maternal Child Health Block Grant Reviewer, *Region VIII Health Resources & Services Administration*  
2023-Current Ad hoc reviewer, *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research*  
2022-2023 Supporting Family Economic Well-Being through Home Visiting (HomeEc) project Technical Workgroup, Mathematica, Funded by Administration for Children and Families  
2022-Current Ad hoc reviewer, *Infant Mental Health Journal*  
2021-Current Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*  
2020-2022 Member, South Dakota Department of Health, Division of Maternal and Child Health, Data Sharing and Collaboration Workgroup  
2020-Current Ad hoc reviewer, *Journal of Health Disparities Research and Practice*  
2019-Current Grant reviewer, US Department of Justice  
2017-Current Abstract reviewer, American Public Health Association  
2021-2023 South Dakota KIDS COUNT Advisory Committee  
2020-2022 Member, South Dakota KIDS COUNT Advisory Committee  
2018-2020 State Affiliate (South Dakota), American Public Health Association  
2017-2018 Chair, Annual Conference, South Dakota Public Health Association

*University of Oklahoma (\*Lead organizer and chair)*

2010-2015 \*Native Women and Men's Wellness Conference: San Diego, CA; Albuquerque, NM

- 2011-2015 \*Native Diabetes Prevention Conference: Phoenix, AZ; Santa Fe, NM; Albuquerque, NM
- 2014 \*Festival of the Four Winds: An Inter-tribal Festival of Art and Culture: Norman, OK
- 2013 \*Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians: Native Diabetes Conference: Solvang, CA
- 2011 \*Bureau of Indian Affairs Elder Care Conference: Catoosa, OK
- 2010 \*Introduction to Social Marketing in Indian Country: Santa Fe, NM
- 2010 \*American Indian Prevention Services Conference: Norman, OK

*Community*

- 2016-Current Board Member & Volunteer, Feeding Vermillion (Community Food Pantry, Welcome Table, Tanager Take-out, Weekend Backpack Program, Vermillion, SD

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

*University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Colorado School of Public Health*

- 2024-current Member, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Graduate Certificate Program Practicum Planning Committee
- 2022-current Member, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Quarterlies Planning Committee
- 2024-current Member, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health Strategic Planning – Funding Diversification Hub
- 2020-2023 Member, Anti-Racism and Equity Committee, Department of Community and Behavioral Health

*University of South Dakota*

- 2017-2022 Faculty Advisor, American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) College Chapter
- 2017-2022 Member, Admissions Committee, Master of Public Health Program
- 2016-2022 Member, Curriculum & Assessment Committee, Master of Public Health Program
- 2018-2021 Member, CEPH Accreditation Task Force, Master of Public Health Program
- 2017-2020 Member, Interprofessional Health Education Center Leadership Team, School of Health Sciences
- 2016-2019 Member, Diversity Health Affairs Committee, School of Medicine
- 2016-2020 Member, Clinical Fieldwork Committee, School of Health Sciences
- 2015-2020 Member, Diversity, Inclusion and Cultural Awareness Committee, School of Health Sciences

**SPECIAL HONORS OR RECOGNITIONS**

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- 2025 Excellence in Teaching Award, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Center for Indigenous Health
- 2024-2026 Aspen Institute Ascend Fellow, Aspen Institute
- 2023-2025 Native Children’s Research Exchange (NCRE) Scholars Program, University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus
- 2023 Aspen Ideas Health Fellowship, Aspen Institute
- 2019-2020 Native Research Ambassadors Program, Center for American Indian Community Health, University of Kansas Medical Center
- 2019 Early Career Teaching Excellence Award, School of Health Sciences, University of South Dakota
- 2016 Course Design Fellowship, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of South Dakota
- 2007-2009 National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- 2008-2009 Student Ambassador, Crimson Club, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

2007-2008 Vice President, Graduate Social Work Association, University of Oklahoma  
2007-2009 Phi Alpha Nu Upsilon Honors Fraternity, University of Oklahoma

## LICENSURE

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2011-Current Licensed Social Worker (LSW), Colorado State Board of Social Work  
Examiners, State of Colorado, Expiration 8/31/2027

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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2022-Present Society for Prevention Research  
2018-2022 American Indian Science and Engineering Society  
2016-Present American Public Health Association