

Deanna Tollefson, PhD, MPH

✉ Deanna.Tollefson@stthomas.edu 📞 (612) 747-5573 📍 Minneapolis, MN | Remote

EDUCATION

- PhD in Global Health Implementation Science—University of Washington: Seattle, WA** **2022**
Dissertation: Leveraging unemployed youth to strengthen HIV service delivery: an evaluation of a youth internship program at health facilities in South Africa
- Master of Public Health—Emory University: Atlanta, GA** **2012**
Focus: Global Environmental Health
- Bachelor of Arts—St. Olaf College: Northfield, MN** **2010**
Major: Biology, Asian Studies; *Concentration:* China Studies

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH & PRACTICE

UNIVERSITY OF ST THOMAS, Morrison College School of Health: St Paul, MN

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) **2025-present**

- Design and teach undergraduate and graduate-level public health courses using active-learning approaches to inspire and equip next generation of public health professionals.
- Collaborate with local, national, and international partners to conduct implementation science research that strengthens healthcare service delivery and improved population health.

FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER CENTER, Vaccine & Infectious Disease Division: Remote

Applied public health research expertise to support HIV prevention and program research in Africa and Latin America, with focus on expanding team's engagement in implementation science research.

Research Associate **2024-25**

- Designed study to assess and improve HPV vaccine uptake for girls living with HIV in Zambia.
- Led design, analysis, and write-up of a discrete choice experiment assessing preferences for HIV testing among understudied populations at high-risk for HIV in Peru.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow **2022-24**

- Mentored students and research fellows to conduct applied research to support HIV program improvement for vulnerable populations in Africa and Latin America.
- Designed evaluation for Gates-funded project to improve use of HIV data in South Africa.
- Developed dataset and supported analysis for regulators and researchers to improve studies assessing effectiveness of new prevention strategies for HIV.
- Facilitated organization-wide affinity group to increase interest and capacity for implementation science amongst epidemiologists and medical researchers.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Department of Global Health: Seattle, WA

Global Health Researcher (PhD Student/Candidate) **2019-22**

Led development, implementation, and analysis of a multimethod public health evaluation to inform scale-up of a novel health system strengthening program in South Africa.

- Utilized routine data and existing program platforms to conduct impact evaluation using a quasi-experimental design (interrupted time series) and an experimental design (cluster randomized trial).
- Developed data collection tools, led mixed methods data collection (surveys and interviews), and analyzed data to assess healthcare worker perceptions and costs of program.
- Formed and managed collaboration between U.S./South African researchers at Aurum Institute.
- Disseminated results to diverse stakeholders to support evidence-based program expansion.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Strategic Analysis, Research & Training Center: Seattle, WA
Research Assistant (PhD Student) 2017-19

Conducted desk-based global health epidemiological research and public health evaluations as part of interdisciplinary consulting teams to guide future investment at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- Example 1: Performed meta-analysis that quantified burden of rotavirus in older children and adults to guide global investment in rotavirus vaccine research and policy.
- Example 2: Conducted longitudinal impact analysis of condom social marketing campaign using novel behavior change framework to assess usefulness of framework for global health programs.

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, Division of Global HIV and TB: Atlanta, GA
Epidemiologist 2013-17

Provided technical assistance to Ministries of Health (National Tuberculosis Programs) in Africa and Asia to monitor, evaluate, and strengthen tuberculosis (TB) programs and surveillance systems.

- Designed and led workshops for dozens of Ministry of Health staff in Uganda, South Africa, and Mongolia on how to increase quality and use of routinely collected TB data to monitor programs.
- Led national-level studies to measure unreported TB disease in Kenya and Vietnam that were used to inform World Health Organization estimates on TB burden.
- Evaluated TB surveillance in Haiti, Kenya, and Tanzania to guide investment for national data systems.
- Led planning of six applied TB research projects in China to support US-China collaboration to end TB.

SHORT TERM EXPERIENCES

TASK FORCE FOR GLOBAL HEALTH: Remote
Independent Consultant 2023

Conducted and wrote multi-country assessment on how HIV, TB, and malaria programs were leveraged during the COVID-19 response, with results guiding Global Fund's preparedness plans. [6 months]

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA
COVID-19 Research Assistant 2021

Recruited and collected data via phone surveys for research on COVID-19 during pregnancy. [3 months]

BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION, Vaccine Delivery Team: Seattle, WA
Graduate Student Summer Intern 2018

Analyzed published and grey literature to guide strategy on demand creation for vaccinations. [3 months]

JOHN SNOW, INC., Support to the HIV/AIDS Response in Zambia II (SHARe II): Lusaka, Zambia
Documentation & Communications Intern 2012-13

Supported monitoring, evaluation, and communications for USAID-funded HIV/AIDS project, including leading surveys and focus groups, teaching success story writing, and writing/editing reports. [6 months]

DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH: Decatur, GA
Summer Environmental Health Intern 2012

Conducted active surveillance for West Nile Virus and implemented vector control program. [3 months]

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, Division of TB Elimination: Atlanta, GA
Student Research Intern 2011-12

Coordinated, conducted, and wrote systematic review on TB burden in indigenous peoples. [9 months]

CARE USA, Atlanta, GA
Public Health Program Intern 2010-11

Applied epidemiological methods and quantitative analysis to support evaluation of global health programs (HIV, water and sanitation, nutrition) for donors. [1 year]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, Morrison Family College of Health: Saint Paul, MN

Assistant Professor

2025-present

Adjunct Professor

2024-25

Independently develop materials for, and teach, undergraduate and graduate-level classes using active-learning approaches to engage public health majors and non-public health majors to learn and apply public health principles to address real-world problems.

- Developed syllabus, including selecting readings and creating all assignments and assessments.
- Created and delivered lectures, applying active, hands-on, problem-based learning methods.
- Developed and maintained Canvas page for course organization and communication.

Courses Taught

- Emerging Infectious Disease & Global Health (PUBH 200)
- Introduction to Public Health & Social Justice (PUBH 220)
- US Healthcare Delivery (PUBH 240)
- Research Methods in Public Health (PUBH 465)
- Foundations in Public Health (PUBH 500) [*Future offering*]
- Research Methods (PUBH 670) [*Future offering*]

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, School of Public Health: Seattle, WA

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2019-22

Research Methods in Public Health (SPH 480) [3 terms; approx. 100 students/term]

Intro to Implementation Science in Global Health (GH 307) [1 term; 25 students]

Analytic Skills for Public Health II: Qualitative/Mixed-Methods (PHI 513) [1 term; approx. 80 students]

Public Health Practice (PHI 516) [1 term; approx. 80 students]

- Collaborated with professors to redesign courses and “flip” classrooms to promote active, project-based learning for undergraduate and graduate classes (both in-person and online).
- Coached and taught undergraduate students to work in teams to apply epidemiology skills to conduct a student-led public health research project within a ten-week term (course: SPH 480).
- Designed statistical reviews for students in undergraduate and graduate classes to enable them to conduct basic analyses for classwork projects.
- Designed and facilitated weekly quiz sections for undergraduate students to review/apply lectures.
- Graded written assignments, providing actionable feedback on papers and problem-based learning.
- Designed and managed course webpages on the university’s learning management system (Canvas).
- Guided students in post-graduation plans by sharing different public health career paths.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Global Health E-Learning: Seattle, WA

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2019

Intro to Epidemiology for Global Health [1 term, >1,000 students per course]

Fundamentals of Global Health Research [1 term, >1,000 students per course]

Supported student learning in, and implementation of, mass online courses for health practitioners in low- and middle-income countries through course administration and answering student questions.

PUBLICATIONS

UNDER PEER REVIEW

Tollefson D*, Lankowski A*, Dasgupta S, Kazmirak C, Sanchez H, Gonzales I, & Duerr A. Preferences for HIV testing among partners of transgender women in Lima, Peru: a discrete choice experiment. Under review at *JAIDS* as of September 2025.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Matsuno A*, **Tollefson D***, Cover J, Obong'o C, Gamba H, Chen YQ, & Duerr A. What drives adolescent girls and young women's decisions to persist on PrEP? Results of a comparative qualitative study from a DREAMS program in western Kenya. *AIDS Care*. 2025 Oct 13:1-11. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2025.2570098

Lasowski P*, **Tollefson D***, Menacho L, DePierro J, Charney D, A Duerr. HIV prevalence of pain and mental health conditions amongst people well-established in HIV care: results of a cross-sectional survey in Lima, Peru. *AIDS Care*. 2025 Sep 29:1-10. doi: 10.1080/09540121.2025.2562242

K West, S Glick, J Slyker, K Danforth, D McConnell, **Tollefson D**, A Ganti. Infusing equity into undergraduate education through public health research methods training. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion*. 2025;0(0). doi:10.1177/23733799251378456

Tollefson D, Rathman N, Chen MY, De Cock KM, Kanga Y, Ngobua S, Slusker L, Zhao J, Lowrance D, Mounts T, A Abdul-Quader. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: opportunities and challenges to leverage the Global Fund investments in HIV, tuberculosis and malaria for pandemic preparedness and response. *BMJ Global Health*. 2025 Apr 21;10(4):e015868. doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2024-015868.

Kazmirak C*, **Tollefson D***, Lankowski A, Sanchez H, Gonzales I, Espinoza D, A Duerr. Practices and preferences for HIV testing and treatment services amongst partners of transgender women in Lima, Peru: an exploratory, mixed methods study. *PLoS One*. 2024 Jul 9;19(7):e0306852.

Lankowski A*, **Tollefson D***, Sánchez H, Cabello R, Hidalgo J, Mathison MN, Molina Y, and A Duerr. Acceptability of venue-based HIV testing and prevention interventions for transgender women and their male partners in Lima, Perú: a formative, qualitative study. *HIV Research and Clinical Practice*. 2024. 25 (1). doi:10.1080/25787489.2024.2331360

Tollefson D, Dasgupta S, Setswe G, Reeves S, Charalambous S, and A Duerr. Impact of youth lay health workers on HIV service delivery in South Africa: a pragmatic cluster randomized trial of the Youth Health Africa program. *PLoS One*. 2023; 18(11): e0294719.

Tollefson D, Dasgupta S, Setswe G, Reeves S, Churchyard G, Charalambous S, Duerr A. "Does a youth intern program strengthen HIV service delivery in South Africa? An interrupted time-series analysis." *JIAS*. 2023; 26(4):e26083.

Tollefson D, Ntombela N, Reeves S, et al. "They are gaining experience, we are gaining extra hands': A mixed methods study to assess healthcare worker perceptions of novel strategy to strengthen human resources for HIV in South Africa." *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2023; 23(1):27

Wagner AD, Beima-Sofie K, Soi C, Liu W, **Tollefson D**, Njuguna IN, et al. "Providing 'a beam of light to see the gaps': determinants of implementation of the systems analysis and improvement approach applied to the pediatric and adolescent HIV cascade in Kenya." *Implement Sci Commun*. 2022; 3(1):73.

*Co-first authors.

Arakaki L*, **Tollefson D***, Kharono B, PK Drain. "Prevalence of rotavirus among older children and adults with diarrhea: A systematic review and meta-analysis." *Vaccine*. 2021; 39(33): 4577-4590.

Roscoe C, Lockhart C, de Klerk M, Baughman A, Agolory S, Gawanab M, Menzies H, Jonas A, Salomo N, Taffa N, Lowrance D, Robsky K, **Tollefson D**, Pevzner E, Hamunime N, Mavhunga F, and H Mungunda. "Evaluation of the uptake of tuberculosis preventative therapy for people living with HIV in Namibia: a multiple methods analysis." *BMC Public Health*. 2020; 20:1838

Horne DJ, Kohli M, Zifodya JS, Schiller I, Dendukuri N, **Tollefson D**, Schumacher SG, Ochodo EA, Pai M, Steingart KR. "Xpert MTB/RIF and Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra for pulmonary tuberculosis and rifampicin resistance in adults." *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2019; 6: CD009593.

Agha S, **Tollefson D**, Paul S, Greene D, Babigumira J. "Use of the Fogg Behavior Model to Assess the Impact of a Social Marketing Campaign on Condom Use in Pakistan." *J Health Commun*. 2019; 4: 1-9.

Bawaa S, McNabb C, Nkwogu L, Braka F, Obinya E, Galway M, Mirelman A, Hammanyero K, Safiyano G, Chukwuji M, Ongwae K, Mkanda P, Corkum M, Hegg L, **Tollefson D**, et al. "Achieving universal health coverage: Implementation of a polio eradication intervention to deliver integrated primary health services to hard-to-reach and underserved communities in Nigeria Research." *Bull World Health Organ*. 2019; 97(1):24-32.

Cheng SM*, **Tollefson D***, He GX, et al. "Evaluating the effectiveness of tuberculosis screening among healthcare workers, Inner Mongolia, China." *J Occup Med*. 2018. 13(11).

Tollefson D, Ngari F, Ndisha M, Gethi D, Kipruto H, Cain K, and Bloss E. "Under-reporting of sputum smear-positive tuberculosis cases in Kenya." *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2016. 20(10): 1334–1341.

Tollefson D, Bloss E, Fanning A, Redd J, Barker K, and McCray E. "Burden of tuberculosis in indigenous peoples globally: a systematic review." *Int J Tuberc Lung Dis*. 2013. 17(9):1139-50.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Bloss E, Ershova J, van den Hof S, Law I, Mitchell E, **Tollefson D**. "Analysis of aggregated TB notification data." In: *Understanding and Using Tuberculosis Data*. World Health Organization. 2014. 15-48.

Bloss E, Woodruff RY, **Tollefson D**, et al. "Analysis of case-based TB notification data." In: *Understanding and Using Tuberculosis Data*. World Health Organization. 2014. 49-82.

Anderson L, **Tollefson D**, Bloss E, et al. "Using genotyping data for outbreak investigations." In: *Understanding and Using Tuberculosis Data*. World Health Organization. 2014. 83-108.

*Co-first authors.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & POSTERS

Poster [presented by co-author] 2024
Preferences for HIV testing amongst partners of transgender women in Lima, Peru: a discrete choice experiment. HIV Research For Prevention (R4P). Lima, Peru.

Poster [presented by co-author] 2024
HIV prevalence of pain and mental health conditions amongst people well-established in HIV care: results of a cross-sectional survey in Lima, Peru. HIV Research For Prevention (R4P). Lima, Peru.

- Poster [presented by co-author]** **2023**
 “Identifying opportunities to promote equity in global health research in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Fred Hutch Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) Conference. Seattle, WA.
- Oral Presentation** **2021**
 “Does a Youth Intern Program Strengthen HIV Service Delivery in South Africa? A Time-Series Analysis.” International Conference for AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA). Durban, South Africa; Virtual.
- Oral Presentation [presented by co-author]** **2018**
 “Motivation and ability are associated with condom use: Assessing a new behavior change model in the context of a condom campaign in Pakistan.” APHA Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.
- Poster [presented by co-author]** **2018**
 “Assessing the Tuberculosis Preventive Therapy Cascade for People Living with HIV in Namibia.” Union World Health Conference on Lung Health. The Hague, The Netherlands.
- Poster [presented by co-author]** **2016**
 “Improving the Quality and Usage of Multi-Drug Resistant TB Surveillance Data in South Africa.” Union World Health Conference on Lung Health. Liverpool, United Kingdom.
- Oral Presentation** **2015**
 “Under-reporting of Sputum Smear-Positive Tuberculosis Cases in Kenya.” Union World Health Conference on Lung Health. Cape Town, South Africa.
- Oral Presentation** **2014**
 “Improving the Quality and Usage of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data in Uganda.” Union World Health Conference on Lung Health. Barcelona, Spain

AWARDS

HIV, Infectious Disease and Global Health Implementation Research Institute: Fellowship	2023-25
University of Washington: TL1 Translational Research Training Fellowship	2020-21
University of Washington, School of Public Health: Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	2020
CDC: Diane Caves Excellence in Public Health Service, Early Career Award	2016
CDC: Excellence in Surveillance and Health Monitoring (International)	2015

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Language: Mandarin Chinese (Upper Intermediate)

Software

- Research: R, SAS, Stata, ArcGIS, Dedoose, REDCap
- Teaching: Canvas, Padlet, Sim Bio, Poll Everywhere, Panopto

Research

- Developing protocols for human subject determination/IRB submissions
- Conducting systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Designing and conducting observational, experimental, and quasi-experimental research projects
- Conducting longitudinal and multilevel (cluster) analyses with primary and secondary data
- Using implementation science frameworks to guide data collection and analysis

International Experience

Conducted public health research and/or led public health workforce development in 13 countries across Asia (China, India, Vietnam, Mongolia, the Philippines), Africa (Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia), and Central America (Haiti, Peru).