

NCVHS Expert Panel Bios

Thursday April 1, 1:00-3:30 pm

Covid-19: Capacity, Gaps & Quality in Collection of Race/Ethnicity Data

Betty Bekemeier, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

Kirby & Ellery Cramer Endowed Professor, University of Washington, School of Nursing
Director, Northwest Center for Public Health Practice, UW School of Public Health
PI, Public Health Activities and Services Tracking (PHAST) Study
Website: <https://nursing.uw.edu/person/betty-bekemeier/>

Dr. Bekemeier is a nationally-recognized public health systems and practice-based researcher with a particular focus on the structures and practices of state and local health departments in relation to health outcomes and reducing disparities. Much of her research and leadership in advancing public health systems has been conducted through and with state and local public health practice partners, thus, working directly with public health leaders to provide the evidence needed to most effectively and equitably promote health in communities. Dr. Bekemeier is PI of the [Public Health Activities & Services Tracking](#) (PHAST) Study, an ongoing multi-state study to generate data for examining public health efforts and health outcomes associated with public health services and systems.

Dr. Bekemeier is also director of the University of Washington's [Northwest Center for Public Health Practice](#) (NWCPHP) with a mission to advance the capacity of public health practice and with a particular focus on the U.S. Northwest states—Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Through the NWCPHP she has furthered the Center's capacity and relationships for rural public health workforce assessment and research and advanced effective public health systems in rural and frontier settings. Since 2017 she has also led the Federal Office of Minority Health-funded 4-state project, *SHARE-NW: Solutions in Health Analytics for Rural Equity in the NW*.

Mark Cullen, MD

Founding Director, Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences (retired)
Website: <https://med.stanford.edu/presence/initiatives/rwj/rwj-2018/Markcullen.html>

A graduate of Harvard College and the Yale School of Medicine, Cullen joined the Yale faculty in 1981 after training in Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology. He devoted the first two decades of his career to the study of major occupational hazards in a series of clinical-epidemiologic projects based on data collected at the Yale Clinical Research Center (now CTSA). At the same time, he established and built an Occupational and Environmental Medicine Program exploiting the clinical, biologic, and analytic resources of that unique medical school environment, serving on the OH study section and numerous public and private occupational health advisory positions including NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors, the MacArthur Research Network on Socioeconomic Status and Health, and the Institute of Medicine Health Science Policy Board. In 1997, he was elected to the IOM (now National Academy of Medicine).

Since 1997, Cullen's research morphed towards larger-dataset social and environmental epidemiology. The single largest effort involved an ongoing, trans-disciplinary study of disease, disability, and death of

a large international cohort of aluminum workers, with a goal of explaining large differences in health across the workforce. The “Alcoa Study” has resulted to date in over 70 papers and trained over 40 doctoral and post-doctoral students in medicine, epidemiology, biostatistics, and economics, and served as a model dataset for integration of multiple large administrative data sources including numerous federal statistical sets.

In 2009, Dr. Cullen was recruited to Stanford as Chief of General Medical Disciplines and became increasingly interested in the potential for large observational data, merging EMR, biology, and physiology with available social and environmental data, to identify new pathways for discovery and translation, both at the bedside and through public policy. In April 2015, this effort was rewarded when he was named inaugural Director of the Stanford Center for Population Health Sciences, devoted to discovery of the pathways across the life-course by which social and physical environment and behavior lead to beneficial or harmful expression of genetic endowment. A singular focus of the Center’s work remains explanation of widening health disparities between rich and poor, whites and non-whites, and between women and men. He retired from academics in 2020 and has devoted himself in various consulting roles to data needs and opportunities during the pandemic.

Glen P. Mays, PhD, MPH

Professor and Chair, Health Systems, Management and Policy
University of Anschutz Medical Campus

Websites: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/glen-mays-21a91444>

And <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/economics/glen-mays>

Dr. Mays is the chair and a professor in the Department of Health Systems, Management & Policy in the Colorado School of Public Health at CU Anschutz. On a national level, Dr. Mays is the Director of the [Systems for Action Research](#) program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Systems for Action tests strategies for aligning delivery and financing systems for medical care, public health, and social services in ways that improve population health.

Dr. Mays created and maintains the [National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems](#) that has followed a nationally-representative cohort of U.S. communities since 1998 to examine inter-organizational and inter-governmental approaches to public health delivery and financing. He is also founding director of the national [Public Health Practice-Based Research Networks \(PBRN\)](#) program, which brings together more than 2,000 state and local public health organizations from across the U.S. to conduct applied research on innovations in public health practice.

In the area of preparedness, Dr. Mays directs the National Program Office for the [National Health Security Preparedness Index \(NHSPI\)](#), created by the CDC and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Index identifies strengths as well as gaps in the protections needed to keep people safe and healthy in the face of large-scale public health threats and tracks how these protections vary across the United States.

Elizabeth B. Pathak, PhD, MSPH

Director, The COVKID Project

President, Women's Institute for Independent Social Enquiry, (WiISE)

Websites: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/elizabethpathak> and <https://www.wiise-usa.org/staff>

Dr. Beth Pathak is the founder, president, and chair of the board of WIISE. Dr. Pathak is a population health scientist who has spent 30 years conducting research on geographic, socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, and gender disparities in public health. She is a passionate advocate for methodologically rigorous scholarship which seeks to uncover the power relations that perpetuate socioeconomic and health inequalities. She has published numerous scientific papers and seven monographs, including *Parent and Child Post-Traumatic Stress After Hurricane Charley: The CHEER Study*, and *Heart Healthy and Stroke Free: A Social Environment Handbook*. Dr. Pathak worked for several years in state government in North Carolina and served on the faculties of West Virginia University and the University of South Florida. She is a past member of the United Faculty of Florida (affiliated with the National Education Association and American Federation of Teachers.) Immediately prior to founding WIISE, Dr. Pathak completed a two-year visiting fellowship with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Dr. Pathak earned her B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University with a double major in biology and environmental science and her M.S.P.H. and Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Beth has lived and worked in Florida, New York, Connecticut, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Ninez A. Ponce, MPP, PhD

Director | UCLA Center for Health Policy Research healthpolicy.ucla.edu

Principal Investigator | [California Health Interview Survey](#)

Professor | [Department of Health Policy and Management](#)

[UCLA Fielding School of Public Health](#)

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Ninez A. Ponce, PhD, MPP is Professor in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Director of its Center for Health Policy Research. She leads the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), the nation's largest state health survey, recognized as a national model for data collection on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity and immigrant health. Her research contributes to the elimination of racial/ethnic/social disparities in health.

Dr. Ponce has served on the Board of Scientific Counselors CDC/National Center for Health Statistics and on committees for the National Academy of Sciences and the National Quality Forum, where her expertise has focused on setting guidance for health systems in the measurement and use of race/ethnicity and social determinants of health as tools to monitor health equity. She has received numerous awards from community organizations recognizing her work in community-engaged research, which includes community-academic partnerships with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations and Asian Health Services. In 2019 Dr. Ponce and the CHIS team received the AcademyHealth Impact award for her contributions to population health measurement to inform public policies. In 2021, she was elected to the Board of Directors for AcademyHealth.

Dr. Ponce champions better data, especially on race/ethnicity, social determinants of health, better inferences on communities of color, better population representation of data, especially for those that are typically invisible in administrative and surveillance data, and better care for overlooked groups. She is the faculty lead of the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander COVID-19 Data Policy Lab at the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research.

Andrew C. Stokes, PhD

Assistant Professor, Global Health
Boston University School of Public Health

Dr. Stokes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Health at the Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). His research applies the analytic tools of demography to population health, with a focus on social determinants of health and health disparities across the life course. Dr. Stokes' recent work seeks to characterize regional patterns and determinants of excess mortality associated with the COVID-19 pandemic using county-level data. Other research areas include understanding sources of variation in mortality and life expectancy trends, international comparisons of health and mortality, validity of cause of death data, chronic pain and disability, tobacco, obesity, and dementia. In addition to his appointment at BUSPH, he serves as an affiliated faculty member in the Boston University College of Arts and Sciences in the Department of Sociology. Dr. Stokes received his PhD in Demography and Sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael A. Stoto, PhD

Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health, Georgetown University
Adjunct Professor of Biostatistics & Senior Preparedness Fellow
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Website: <https://gufaculty360.georgetown.edu/s/faculty-profile?netid=stotom>

Dr. Stoto is a Professor of Health Systems Administration and Population Health at Georgetown University. A statistician, epidemiologist, and health services researcher, he also holds adjunct faculty appointments in the Department of Family Medicine, the Georgetown University Law Center, and the McCourt School of Public Policy. Dr. Stoto's research includes methodological topics in epidemiology and statistics including systematic reviews/meta-analysis and other analytical methods for comparative effectiveness research, community health assessment, evaluation methods, and performance measurement. His substantive research interests include public health practice, especially with regard to emergency preparedness; drug and vaccine safety; infectious disease policy; and ethical issues in research and public health practice.

Dr. Stoto is an expert on population health and public health assessment. His work in this area has included systems-oriented evaluations of public health surveillance systems at the local to global level, addressing both statistical methods and public health practice issues. Dr. Stoto has developed methods for evaluating community health assessments and performance measures and helped to develop Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) for a number of hospitals and local health departments. Dr. Stoto recently completed a national study to identify best practices for hospital and community CHNAs.

Dr. Stoto is also an expert in public health systems research (PHSR), focusing on applying and developing rigorous mixed-methods approaches to studying and evaluating federal, state, and local public health systems. Much of Dr. Stoto's recent PHSR work has focused on public health emergency preparedness, and he was the co-Principal Investigator of the CDC-funded Preparedness and Emergency Response Research Center based at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Stoto's work in this area has focused on regionalization in public health, the evaluation of biosurveillance methods, and the development of methods for assessing emergency preparedness capabilities based on exercises and actual events. Dr. Stoto is currently working with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna on the assessment of public health emergency capabilities and capacities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Stoto's research has focused on surveillance systems to guide decision-making, interpretation of test results and policy for testing, and other aspects of public health practice at the local to global levels.

Seth Spielman, PhD

Chief Data Strategy and Analytics Officer

Associate Professor of Geography

University of Colorado Boulder

Faculty Associate, Institute of Behavioral Science

Website: <https://www.colorado.edu/geography/seth-spielman-0>

Dr. Spielman is an Associate Professor in the Geography Department of the University of Colorado at Boulder where he directs the spatial sciences node of the NSF-Census Research Network. Since arriving at Colorado in 2010 he has secured over \$1.7M in external research support (as PI) from the National Science Foundation, The National Institutes of Health, and the Department of Energy. His work has been profiled in *Science* and other outlets. Dr. Spielman recently won the Breheny Prize for the best paper in Environment and Planning.

Prior to joining the University of Colorado's faculty, he was Associate Director of the S4 Initiative at Brown University. In 2008 he completed a National Science Foundation IGERT Fellowship in Geographic Information Science at the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis in the Geography Department at State University of New York at Buffalo. From 1999-2006, Mr. Spielman was at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, first as a student and later as an Adjunct Assistant Professor and Adjunct Associate Research Scientist. Once upon a time he was the owner of an antiquarian bookshop in the Flatiron Building in New York City. He is also a dad, a fisherman, a bird-watcher, a really good snowboarder, and a bike commuter.

David Van Riper

Director, Spatial Analysis, Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation

Website: <https://pop.umn.edu/people/david-van-riper>

David Van Riper is the Director of Spatial Analysis at the Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation. He has worked at the Minnesota Population Center since 2001 when he started as a graduate research assistant on IPUMS NHGIS. He currently serve as Director of Spatial Analysis. In this

role, he consults with MPC members on their spatial analysis needs, including project planning, data acquisition/creation/processing, and grant writing.

Van Riper is also a co-Principal Investigator on two NIH-funded grants: IPUMS NHGIS and IPUMS GeoMarker. IPUMS NHGIS provides access to historical and contemporary small-area data, including GIS mapping files, for the United States. IPUMS GeoMarker allows users to securely geocode data and attach neighborhood characteristics to the geocoded output. He also works on the geographic aspects of other IPUMS products, including IPUMS USA, Historical Census Projects, IPUMS International, and IPUMS DHS.