

Vinita Sharma, PhD, MPH, CPH, CHES

Email: vinishar@iu.edu

CURRENT POSITION

07/2024-Present **Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**
Department of Community and Global Health. Richard M. Fairbanks School of
Public Health, Indiana University Indianapolis.

EDUCATION

2014-2019 **PhD.** University of South Florida, College of Public Health.
2014-2016 **Graduate certificate.** University of South Florida, Institute for Translational Research
in Adolescent Behavioral Health.
2010-2011 **Master of Public Health.** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, International MPH
Program.
2005-2010 **Bachelor of Public Health.** Pokhara University

ACADEMIC AND AFFILIATED APPOINTMENTS (selected)

10/24-Present **Affiliate faculty.** IU Center for Global health Equity. Indiana University Indianapolis.
07/24-Present **Affiliate faculty.** School of Public and Population Health. Boise State University.
06/22-06/24 **Assistant Professor** (tenure track). School of Public and Population Health. Boise State
University
06/20-05/22 **NIDA Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service T32 Postdoctoral Fellow.**
Department of Epidemiology, College of Public Health and Health Professions and
College of Medicine. University of Florida
2021- 2022 **Writing group member (unpaid).** Stigma group: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health.
Fall 2019 **Adjunct lecturer.** CPH4105:0001 Introduction to Health Promotion and Disease
Prevention (graduate level). Department of Community and Behavioral Health, College
of Public Health, The University of Iowa
Su2016-Sp2019 **Instructor of record.** Multiple courses. College of Public Health, University of South
Florida

APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA (selected)

2019-2021 **Global Public Health Policy Analysis Specialist.** Policy Wisdom, LLC. (Consultancy,
approx. 10hrs/week)
2013 **Co-Investigator.** Water and Health in the Nandamojo Watershed in Guanacaste
Province, Costa Rica
2013 **Consultant.** USAID-funded Saath-Saath Project. FHI360, Nepal (Consultancy,
approx. 30 days)
2011-2012 **Program Officer.** USAID -funded Saath-Saath Project. FHI360, Nepal (40hrs/week)
2010 **Consultant.** Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).
Kathmandu, Nepal. (~80 days)

FELLOWSHIPS

2023-24 Division of Research and Economic Development (DRED) Research Fellow. Boise
State University.
2023-24 ITHS Seminar Fellow. University of Washington.
2022-23 ASSERT (Aligning Stakeholders and Structures to Enable Research Transformation)

Fellow. Offices of the Provost and Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Boise State University.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1 **Sharma V**, Sharma K, Gautam S, Paudel S, Yadav S. Mental health in the aftermath: supporting the 2024 flood and landslides affected communities in Nepal. *Disaster and Emergency Medicine Journal*. 2025 Apr 15.
- 2 Mishra SR, Ghimire K, Khanal V, Aryal D, Shrestha B, Khanal P, Yadav S, **Sharma V**, Khatri R, Schwarz D, Adhikari B. Transforming health in Nepal: a historical and contemporary review on disease burden, health system challenges, and innovations. *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2025 May 20;23(1):61.
- 3 Blanchard BE, Austin EJ, Chase E, Rouvere J, **Sharma V**, Johnson M, Sams N, Williams F, Frost MC, Leyde S, Tsui JI. Primary Care Patient and Clinician Perspectives on Safer Use Strategies for Opioids and/or Stimulants: A Mixed-Method Study. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. 2025 Mar 4:1-9.
- 4 Jones RM, Andrews JG, Dalton AF, Dixon BE, Dzomba BJ, Fernando SI, Pogreba-Brown KM, Ortiz MR, **Sharma V**, Simmons N, Saydah SH for the Track PCC Study Group. Tracking the burden, distribution, and impact of post COVID-19 conditions in diverse populations for children, adolescents, and adults (Track PCC): Passive and active surveillance protocols. *BMC Public Health*. 2024;24:2345. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-19772-4>
- 5 **Sharma V**, Falise A, Bittencourt L, Zafarian A, Hai AH, Lopez-Quintero C. Missing Opportunities in the Screening of Alcohol Use and Problematic Use, and the Provision of Brief Advice and Treatment Information Among Individuals With Alcohol Use Disorder. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. 2023 Oct 3:10-97. DOI: 10.1097/ADM.0000000000001301
- 6 David AT*, **Sharma V**, Bittencourt L, Gurka KK, Perez-Carreño JG, Lopez-Quintero C. Exploring the Association between Serious Psychological Distress and the Frequency and Quantity of Tobacco, Alcohol, and Cannabis Use among Pregnant Women in the US. *Preventive Medicine*. 2023 Nov 10: 107770. DOI: 10.1016/j.ypmed.2023.107770
- 7 Bares CB, **Sharma V**, Lopez-Quintero C. (2023). Electronic cigarette and marijuana co-use patterns among adolescent naïve and tobacco users: Racial/ethnic differences. *Journal of Prevention*. 2023 Apr 11:1-9. DOI: 10.1007/s10935-023-00729-z
- 8 Budhwani H, **Sharma V**, Long D, Simpson T. (2022). Developing a Clinic-Based, Vaccine-Promoting Intervention for African American Youth in Rural Alabama: Protocol for a Pilot Cluster-Randomized Controlled Implementation Science Trial. *JMIR Research Protocols*, 11(4):e33982. DOI: 10.2196/33982
- 9 **Sharma V**, Cottler LB, Bares, CB, Lopez-Quintero C. (2022). Kratom use among US adolescents: Analyses of the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 70: 677-681. DOI: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2021.10.009
- 10 **Sharma V**, Levin BL, Rahill GJ, Baldwin JA, Luitel A, Marhefka SL. (2021). Post-earthquake Self-Reported Depressive Symptoms and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and their Correlates among College-Youths in Kathmandu, Nepal. *Psychiatric Quarterly*, 1-15. DOI: 10.1007/s11126-021-09928-5
- 11 Cury JD*, **Sharma V**, Falise AM, Terry EL, Lopez-Quintero C. (2021). Racial-ethnic Differences in Reasons for Misuse of Prescription Medications Among US Adults. *Journal of Addiction Medicine*. DOI: 10.1097/adm.0000000000000932
- 12 Lopez-Quintero C, Warren T*, Falise A*, **Sharma V**, Bares C, Oshri A. (2021). Prevalence and drug use correlates of extra-medical use of prescription medications for sleep among adults in the United States: Results of the 2015–2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*, 204, 173169. DOI: 10.1016/j.pbb.2021.173169

- 13 Ortiz MR, **Sharma V**, Casanova J, Corvin J, Hoare I. (2021). Developing Global Health Diplomacy-related Skills Using a COVID-19-like Epidemic Simulation as a Learning Strategy. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 105(1), 59. DOI: 10.4269/ajtmh.21-0155
- 14 Hernandez I, **Sharma V**, Reina Ortiz M, Rosas C, Ochoa T, Izurieta R, Teran ET. (2020). HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and behavior among school-attending Afro- Descendant youths in Ecuador. *International Journal of Maternal and Child Health and AIDS*, 9(3). DOI: 10.21106/ijma.412
- 15 Shakya DR, Thapa SB, Kar SK, **Sharma V**, Uchida N, Reina Ortiz M, Chapagain G, Poudel CK, Bhattarai PR. (2020). COVID-19 across countries: Situation and lessons for pandemic control. *Journal of BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences*, 3(1): 9-27. DOI: 10.3126/jbpihs.v3i1.30311
- 16 Reina Ortiz M, Grijalva MJ, Turell, MJ, Waters WF, Montalvo AC, Mathias D, **Sharma V**, Renoy CF, Suits P, Thomas SJ, Leon R. (2020). Biosafety at home: How to translate biomedical laboratory safety precautions for everyday use in the context of COVID-19. *The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, tpm200677.
- 17 Marhefka SL, **Sharma V**, Schafer EJ, Turner D, Falope O, Louis-Jacques A, Wachira MM, Livingston T, Roig-Romero RM. (2019). ‘Why do we need a policy?’ Administrators’ perceptions on breast-feeding-friendly childcare. *Public health nutrition*, 22(3), 553-563.
- 18 Hernandez I, Reina Ortiz M, Yusuf KK, Ochoa T, Rosas C, **Sharma V**, Naik E, Saihu HM, Teran S, Izurieta R, Teran E. (2019). Risk factors for HIV and STI among female sex workers in a high HIV prevalent region of Ecuador. *Cogent Medicine*, 6(1), 1565292.
- 19 Reina Ortiz M, Le NK, **Sharma V**, Hoare I, Quizhpe E, Teran E, Naik E, Saihu HM, Izurieta R. (2017). Post-earthquake Zika virus surge: disaster and public health threat amid climatic conduciveness. *Scientific reports*, 7(1), 15408.
- 20 Marhefka SL, Green, SM, **Sharma V**, Mellins CA. (2017). “They said “be careful””: sexual health communication sources and messages for adolescent girls living with perinatally-acquired HIV infection. *AIDS care*, 1-5. DOI: 10.1080/09540121.2017.1300626
- 21 Hernandez I, Johnson A, Reina Ortiz M, Rosas C, **Sharma V**, Teran S, Naik E, Saihu HM, Teran E, Izurieta R. (2016). Syphilis and HIV/Syphilis Co-infection Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) in Ecuador. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 1557988316680928.
- 22 Hernandez I, Reina Ortiz M, Johnson A, Rosas C, **Sharma V**, Teran S, Naik E, Saihu HM, Teran E, Izurieta R. (2016). Risk Factors Associated With HIV Among Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) in Ecuador. *American Journal of Men's Health*, 1557988316646757
- 23 Reina Ortiz M, **Sharma V**, Izurieta R. HIV Prevalence in Asia and the Pacific: an Ecological Approach to Inequalities in the Region. *Health and the Environment Journal* 2012; 3(3):66-77.

Letter to the Editor/Commentary

- 1 Falise AM, **Sharma V**, Hoeflich CC, Lopez-Quintero C, Striley CW. (2023). Screening the “Invisible Population” of Older Adult Patients for Prescription Pain Reliever Non- Medical Use and Use Disorders. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 58(1), 153-159. DOI: 10.1080/10826084.2022.2148483
- 2 **Sharma V**, Reina Ortiz M, Sharma N. (2020). Risk and protective factors for adolescent and young adult mental health within the context of COVID-19: A perspective from Nepal. *The Journal of Adolescent Health*.

- 3 **Sharma V**, Reina Ortiz M. (2019). A holistic approach to redefining Nepal's health-care system. *The Lancet Global Health*, 7(3), e305.
- 4 Reina Ortiz M, Hoare I, **Sharma V**, Izurieta, R. (2015). State of the globe: Ebola outbreak in the western world: Are we really ready? *Journal of Global Infectious Diseases*, 7(2), 53.

Media coverage

- 3/1/2024 **Quoted as expert.** Who is most at risk of a fentanyl overdose? Here's what the data tells us. Carolyn Komatsoulis. Idaho Press. Available at: [Who is most at risk of a fentanyl overdose? Here's what the data tells us](#)

Invited panels and talks

- 9/14/2025 **Panelist.** Establishing and strengthening the national center for mental health in Nepal. Health Foundation Nepal.
- 9/9/2025 **Speaker.** Post-disaster mental health in Nepal- Learning from the past for stronger public health preparedness. Global Health Researcher Speaker Series. IU Center for Global Health.
- 12/7/24 **Speaker.** Post-disaster mental health in Nepal- Learning from the past for stronger public health preparedness. 12th Annual Conference of Health Foundation Nepal, Greensboro, NC.
- 2/11/24 **Speaker.** How to formulate a research question. Nepal Institute of Mental Health, Research committee.
- 5/28/23 **Panelist.** Mental health of Nepali in the Americas: Approaches to address their medical illnesses. First Americas Regional Nepali Health Conference.
- 12/2/22 **Speaker.** Substance use among adolescents and youth in Nepal. Nepal Tele-Teach Program.
- 12/15/21 **Speaker.** Mental health: Intersections with HIV and substance use. Capacity building web-series for mental health researcher in Nepal. Sponsored by the U.S. National Institute of Mental Health through a grant provided to George Washington University and coordinated by Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Nepal.
- 9/15/21 **Panelist.** Culture and health. College of Public Health, University of South Florida.
- 5/23/21 **Panelist.** Mental health matters: an introspective look at child and adolescent mental health. The Nepalese Association of Florida (NAF).
- 3/25/21 **Speaker.** Social determinants of health and youth mental health. B.E.S.T Academy, Tampa.
- 9/16/20 **Panelist.** Culture and health. College of Public Health, University of South Florida
- 6/13/20 **Panelist.** Addressing mental health issues of migrant workers associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 Stress Management Information Desk, Embassy of Nepal, Washington DC, USA

GRANTS (selected)

- 2024-25 *PI:* Marion S Greene
Title: Community Context Assessment
Awarding agency: Marion County Public Health Department
Amount: \$114,300

Role: Co-investigator

- 2022-27 *PI:* Multi-site, multi-PI grant (CDC 1 NU581P000002-01-00)
Title: Tracking the burden, distribution, and impact of Post COVID-19 conditions in diverse populations for children, adolescents, and adults (Track PCC)
Awarding agency: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Amount: \$1,725,119
Role: Site PI; Co-investigator
- 2022-23 *PI:* Ellen Schafer
Title: Idaho Nutrition Data Needs Assessment Project
Awarding agency: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
Amount: \$129,180
Role: Co-investigator
- 2019 *PI:* Vinita Sharma
Title: Risk and resilience pertaining to mental health of youths attending a college in Kathmandu who were exposed to the 2015 earthquakes during their adolescence: A mixed method study
Awarding agency: Office of Graduate Studies, University of South Florida
Amount: \$8000 in stipend, full tuition and fees with health insurance
- 2016 *PI:* Vinita Sharma
Title: Exploring HIV Syndemics among Adolescents in Nepal (EHSAN)
Awarding agency: Department of Community & Family Health, USF College of Public Health. Graduate Student/Post-Doctoral Research Awards
Amount: \$1000
- 2016 *PI:* Stephanie Marhefka
Title: Pilot data for an RCT study of an innovative smoking cessation program for people living with HIV
Awarding agency: Proposal Enhancement Grant, USF
Amount: \$25,000
Role: Graduate Research Assistant (grant preparation and staff recruitment)
- 2015 *PI:* Stephanie Marhefka
Title: Research towards implementing technology-based prevention with positives
Awarding agency: NIH (R21 MH108468)
Amount: \$275,000
Role: Graduate Research Assistant (grant preparation, recruitment, dissemination of findings)
- 2015 *PI:* Julie Baldwin and Dina Martinez-Tyson
Title: The Syndemic Nature of HIV/AIDS among Indigenous Populations in Latin America: Risk and Resilience (assisted as a GA) amounting funded by 2015
Awarding agency: Interdisciplinary Team Award, University of South Florida
Amount: \$100,000
Role: Graduate Research Assistant (grant preparation)

- 2015 *PI:* Stephanie Marhefka
Title: Preliminary data collection towards leveraging childcare workers to promote and support breastfeeding
Awarding agency: University of South Florida College of Public Health Individual Investigator Awards.
Amount: \$20,000
Role: Graduate Research Assistant (grant preparation, IRB submission, data analysis, dissemination of findings, manuscript preparation and publication)
- 2014 *PI:* Stephanie Marhefka
Title: Formative work towards developing an innovative STI and unintended pregnancy risk reduction intervention among young, high-risk women
Awarding agency: Women’s Health Collaborative Grant, University of South Florida
Amount: \$12,000
Role: Graduate Research Assistant (grant preparation, IRB submission, data analysis)
- 2010 *PI:* Vinita Sharma
Title: Promoting awareness and empowerment in Nepalese adolescents on HIV and AIDS and drug use
Awarding agency: Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS
Amount: \$1,000

CERTIFICATION

- 2019-Present Certified in Public Health (CPH). National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE)
- 2021- Present Certified Health Education Specialist Examination (CHES). The National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE (selected)

University service

- 2025 Ad hoc member. DrPH dismissal appeal committee.
- 2025 Chair. Faculty Search Committee Open Rank (Non-Tenure Track) Faculty Position 00033933.
- 2025 DrPH Interview Panel for Cohort 8. Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. Indiana University
- 2024, 25 Stone Family Student Support Fund Travel Award Review Committee. Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health. Indiana University
- 2024 School of Public and Population Health. PhD Program Application Committee. Boise State University

Professional service

- 2025 Volunteer translator of vaccine flyer into Hindi language for School Liaison team with Marion County Public Health Department.
- 2024 Moderator. Panel discussion on Collaboration to achieve mental health for all in Nepal. 12th Annual conference of Health Foundation Nepal
- 2024-Present Member. Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB). SCALE-NCD team at Johns Hopkins University
- 2024 Member. Scientific review committee. First International Conference on Community Mental Health. Jumla, Nepal
- 2023-2024 Member. Idaho Behavioral Health Council, Protective Factors Implementation Team

- 2023-Present Member. American Public Health Association (APHA)
- 2023 Abstract review committee member. Women In Medicine (WIM) Conference
- 2023 Expert reviewer of substance use related sections within training materials of Idaho WIC Program
- 2021-2022 Member-in-training. The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD)
- 2021-2022 Member, The Southern HIV and Alcohol Research Consortium (SHARC) Stigma Workgroup
- 2020-2022 Affiliate member, UF Center for Addiction Research and Education (CARE)
- 2020-2022 Member, The Southern HIV and Alcohol Research Consortium (SHARC) Community Engagement Workgroup
- 2020-Present Board member (volunteer), Nepal Institute of Mental Health

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2024 Ad hoc reviewer, International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research
- 2024 Ad hoc reviewer, Public Health
- 2021-Present Ad hoc reviewer, Journal of Adolescent Health
- 2020-2021 Ad hoc reviewer, European Journal of Health Psychology
- 2019-Present Ad hoc reviewer, Substance Use & Misuse
- 2018-Present Ad hoc reviewer, Health Prospect: Journal of Public Health
- 2015-Present Ad hoc reviewer, BMC Public Health

WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, WEBINARS AND E-COURSES (selected)

- 2025 NIH funding and career opportunities webinar with CPDD
- 2024 Inclusive Excellence at Boise State* (Virtual) with BUILD (Boise State Uniting for Inclusion and Leadership in Diversity)
- 2024 Session 4: Bridging Systems through an Idaho Multisector Plan for All Ages. Continuing education series. School of Public and Population Health, Boise State University
- 2023 Reflecting on evidence of teaching (in-person). Center for Teaching and Learning. Boise State University
- 2023 Advising LGBTQIA/Queer College Students* (Virtual) with BUILD (Boise State Uniting for Inclusion and Leadership in Diversity)
- 2023 Building a relationship-rich classroom. Center for Teaching and Learning. Boise State University
- 2023 Introduction to LGBTQIA+ Identities* (In-Person). BUILD (Boise State Uniting for Inclusion and Leadership in Diversity)!
- 2023 5th Annual Women in Medicine Summit. Virtual
- 2023 Idaho Juvenile Justice Association (IJJA) Conference. Nampa. Idaho
- 2023 The Impact of AI on Higher Education: A Faculty Panel Brownbag Event. Center for Teaching and Learning. Boise State University
- 2023 Media Training Workshop. SciLine
- 2023 Teaching in active learning classrooms. Center for Teaching and Learning. Boise State University

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (selected)

- 2022 American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Abstract Submission Honorable Mention: Associated Professional. 2022 Annual Conference Program Planning Committee
- 2021 Registration Scholarship. Florida HIV CPR Conference
- 2021 2021 CPDD Early Career Investigator Award. The College on Problem of Drug Dependence
- 2021 Meeting Scholarship Award for 2021 American Psychopathological Association (APPA) Virtual Meeting
- 2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, USF Office of Graduate Studies
- 2018 Conference Presentation Grant Program (CPGP) Award, USF Student Government
- 2017,16,15 Student Honorary Awards for Research and Practice ('SHARP') Award
- 2016 Department of Community and Family Health, USF College of Public Health Graduate

2014 Student Research Award
 USF Graduate Fellowship

LANGUAGES

Nepali, English and Hindi: Advanced
Spanish: Basic