

Elena Assunta DiRosa

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • School of Medicine
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Summary

Master in public health with 14+ years of experience. Strong background in research project management, qualitative data collection and analysis, survey design, management, and recruitment, and working with socioeconomically diverse populations in New York City, Baltimore, and the U.S. South. Advanced proficiency in Qualtrics, Dedoose, NVivo, Microsoft Office (Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Outlook), and QDS. Proficient in SPSS and SAS. Advanced in Spanish (reading, writing, and speaking).

Professional Experience

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Research Project Manager, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, 2021—present

- ***Specialty Mental Health Probation–Supported Employment Study***, *Durham and Wake County Probation Offices*
 - Manage research activities and reporting for Department of Justice-funded randomized control trial assessing the effectiveness of a Specialized Mental Health Probation-Individual Placement Support, Supported Employment (IPS-SE) intervention
 - Lead qualitative study with individuals on probation to learn about the effectiveness of IPS-SE within SMHP
 - Manage screening, enrollment, and follow-up survey activities for participants on Specialty Mental Health Probation; liaise with the employment specialist to initiate the intervention of assisting participants in obtaining and maintaining employment
 - Build and maintain relationships with Department of Adult Corrections personnel, including probation officers and chiefs at two North Carolina probation offices and administrative personnel
 - Manage outreach and documentation for stakeholder engagement sessions for NC counties implementing Specialty Mental Health Probation
 - Create agendas for and lead team meetings with study stakeholders, including PI, co-investigators, interns, and Department of Public Safety personnel
 - Draft manuscripts, presentations, and reports to be disseminated to academic journals, conferences, and key stakeholders; present findings at conferences and training institutes
- ***Building Evidence on Employment Strategies***, *Lincoln Community Health Center, Durham, NC*
 - Manage screening, enrollment, research activities for participants referred by behavioral health case managers, MAT providers, and counselors at Lincoln Community Health Center; liaise with the employment specialists to initiate the intervention of assisting participants in obtaining and maintaining employment
 - Build and maintain relationships with Lincoln personnel; communicate about referrals and participant outcomes
 - Manage outreach and documentation for study-related activities

Qualitative Researcher, School of Medicine, 2022—to present

- Contribute to the qualitative evaluation of the [North Carolina FIT \(Formerly Incarcerated Transition\) Program](#)
- Conduct semi-structured interviews with individuals recently released from prison and medical providers and community health workers supporting reentry
- Contribute to qualitative data analysis activities, including interview summaries, coding, and data analysis

- Contribute to the integration of findings with those from the quantitative component of the evaluation into a final report to be shared with state-level stakeholders, with the goal of influencing policy changes to address gaps in post-release care

Research Project Manager, Institute for Global Health & Infectious Diseases, School of Medicine, 2018—2022

- Manage research activities and reporting for a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research grant that assesses jails' use of community-based emergency care and resources in the U.S. South
- Developed and conducted in-person semi-structured interviews and phone-based cognitive interviews with jail administrators and nurses at county jails in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and West Virginia
- Conducted qualitative coding and data analysis; integrated lessons learned from interviews to develop a large scale survey administered to ~300 jail administrators and nurses at jails in each study state
- Trained and supervised five research staff on survey recruitment and tracking, including cold calling potential participants to explain the survey, establishing trust and relationships, and conducting and documenting phone-based survey administration
- Manage UNC Institutional Review Board (IRB) and NIH-related submissions, modifications, renewals, reporting, and annual progress reports
- Manage and submit requests for statewide EMS (Emergency Medical Services) data in each study state and data from the North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT)
- Draft manuscripts, presentations, and reports to be disseminated to academic journals, conferences, and key stakeholders
- Led meetings with Sheriffs, Jail Administrators, Jail Health Administrators, and other officers at jails in North Carolina to support a NIH-funded research grant seeking to leverage Big Data to understand and improve continuity of care among HIV-positive incarcerated individuals in NC

Project Manager, Department of Epidemiology, Gillings School of Global Public Health, 2017—2018

- Managed ongoing clinical research activities and reporting for a NIH-funded U54 NCCU-UNC collaborative research grant that seeks to evaluate novel approaches to reduce disparities in and the morbidity and mortality attributable to high-grade precancerous lesions and invasive cervical cancer
- Liaised with internal and external collaborators including UNC Women's Hospital physicians and clinic staff, as well as internal and external laboratory personnel, in order to efficiently conduct recruitment and HPV testing activities
- Managed IRB-related matters including submissions, modifications, and reporting
- Managed data tracking processes and databases, including biopsy results from electronic medical records and participant survey data
- Hired, trained, and supervised five employees conducting field and phone recruitment

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Care and Treatment Program, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Long Island City, New York

Evaluation Specialist II, 2015—2017

- Managed survey development and implementation for *CHORDS*, a NIH-funded study evaluating the [Care Coordination Program \(CCP\)](#) across ten program sites in NYC; developed guidelines for and managed online survey development of ACASI and QDS tools with Principal Investigators, study team members, and external web developers
- Developed and implemented standardized trainings for data collection; hired, trained, and supervised eight fieldworkers to conduct surveys with 720 active and inactive CCP clients; led bi-weekly meetings with all study team members; developed and disseminated weekly recruitment report
- Developed and managed tracking protocols to ensure accurate, confidential, and efficient data collection adhering to IRB protocol; developed and maintained system for reporting to the IRB and NIH

- Developed and refined evaluation plans, protocols, and data collection instruments for other CCP projects within the Care and Treatment program; coordinated with stakeholders within the DOHMH and the HIV community to facilitate this process

Evaluation Specialist I, 2013—2015

- Managed large-scale client satisfaction survey with 117 Ryan White Part A service delivery programs in the New York City (NYC) area; participated in quantitative and qualitative analysis, developed and distributed agency-specific reports for quality improvement; presented results to multiple stakeholders (service providers, community members, and NY HIV Planning Council)
- Contributed to quality management, data management, and the production of ongoing quality improvement reports for the portfolio of Ryan White Part A programs in the NYC metropolitan area
- Reviewed, reconciled, and integrated data from different systems and sources to ensure data quality and completeness; contributed to routine reports, development and review of statistical code, and analysis of multi-level datasets

Graduate College Aide, 2012—2013

- Assisted in the pilot phase of the RW Part A Client Satisfaction Survey; designed Access database for data entry; managed the entry, quality, and cleaning of data; organized all aspects of documentation pertaining to the survey; provided ongoing mentorship and guidance to junior-level data entry volunteers to ensure high-quality data entry and tracking procedures
- Developed a long-term analysis plan and conducted preliminary and ongoing analyses; developed and presented findings to community members and stakeholders

Field Recruiter, Clinical Directors Network and Yale University, New York, NY, 2009—2010

- Recruited eligible English and Spanish-speaking pregnant women, ages 14 to 21, into a NIH-funded research study (CenteringPregnancy Plus) to evaluate the effectiveness of group prenatal care; set up and completed interviews with patients, entered contact information and made appropriate psychosocial referrals, maintained correspondence and follow-up with patients
- Coordinated with Health and Hospital Corporation hospital and community health center staff to ensure that group prenatal care at intervention sites functioned smoothly; developed and maintained friendly and professional relationships with study and site staff; developed understanding of the field implementation of a large-scale study in NYC (Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Manhattan)

Program and Evaluation Assistant, The What To Expect Foundation, New York, NY, 2011

- Managed Baby Basics pre and post survey data, including entering, cleaning, and recoding
- Created, designed, and implemented *Baby Basics* program materials for health literate pregnancy guides and “Mom’s clubs”; managed all customer service and purchasing inquiries

Bilingual Family Advocate, Southeast Early Head Start, Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD, 2007

- Visited the homes of participant families to address family psychosocial well-being, financial planning, and healthy child development; facilitated parent-child literacy activities and completed the Ages and Stages Questionnaire–Social Emotional (ASQ-SE) for children up to three; provided referrals for healthcare, mental health, and social services to ensure that families were more equipped to utilize services available to them; maintained regular correspondence with families regarding progress
- Taught weekly classes on Parent Education and English as a Second Language to Spanish-speaking mothers; developed educational brochures on available social services in Baltimore; translated conversations and documents into Spanish for the program and participants

Language and Culture Assistant, Spanish Ministry of Education, Granada, Spain, 2008—2009

- Led classes in English conversation, Natural Sciences, and Physical Education; facilitated lesson plans in English with a focus on North American culture for over 100 students weekly; assisted teachers and administrators

Education

Master of Public Health, December 2012

CUNY School of Public Health, Hunter College

- *Selected coursework:* Research and Evaluation, Program Planning and Funding, Community Organizing and Development, Community Health Assessment, Community Health Interventions, Health Literacy, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health in the Urban Community, Health Policy and Management, Global Health and Anthropology (completed at Comprehensive Rural Health Project in Jamkhed, Maharashtra, India)
- *Capstone:* “Assessment of a trust in provider scale within a client satisfaction survey administered to HIV-positive Ryan White Part A Care Coordination clients in New York City”

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Spanish, May 2008

Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD

- *Cum Laude*, Dean’s List, Loyola University Honors Program; Co-President of *Psi Chi*, psychology honor society, and member of *Sigma Delta Pi*, Spanish honor society
- Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Summer and Fall, 2006

Publications

David L. Rosen, Colleen Blue 1, Mercedes Brown 2, Steven Bradley-Bull, **Elena A. DiRosa**, Jessica Carda-Auten. “The role of detention officers in the provision of jail healthcare in the Southeastern United States.” *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 330, 2023, 116065, ISSN 0277-9536, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116065>.

Hughes PM, Carda-Auten J, **DiRosa EA**, Carpenter D, Rosen DL. “You can get a couple of ramen noodle packs for a Buspar “: A qualitative examination of medication access, policy, and procedures in southern jails. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*. Published online May 2023. doi:10.1016/j.sapharm.2023.05.013

Levintow SN, **DiRosa E**, Carda-Auten J, Brown ME, Bradley-Bull S, Blue C, Powers KA, Rosen DL. SARS-CoV-2 Mitigation Strategies, Testing, and Cases at 254 Jails in the US Southeast, October 2020 to May 2021. *Am J Public Health*. 2022 Nov;112(11):1589-1598. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2022.307012. PMID: 36223569; PMCID: PMC9558185.

Cuddeback, G.S., Van Deirse, T., Givens, A.D., Murray Lichtman, A, Cowel, M., **DiRosa, E**. “Individuals with Mental Illnesses in the Criminal Legal System: Complex Issues and Best Practices.”. *The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Federal Probation*, Volume 86 Number 1. June 2022. <https://www.uscourts.gov/federal-probation-journal/2022/06/individuals-mental-illnesses-criminal-legal-system-complex-issues>

Carda-Auten, J., **DiRosa, E.A.**, Grodensky, C., Nowotny, K.M., Brinkley-Rubenstein, L., Travers, D., Brown, M., Bradley-Bull, S., Blue, C. and Rosen, D.L. (2022), Jail Health Care in the Southeastern United States From Entry to Release. *The Milbank Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.12569>

Andrea K. Knittel, Ella G. Ferguson, Vidhya Balasubramanian, Jessica R. Carda-Auten, **Elena A. DiRosa** & David L. Rosen (2022) “We Don’t Wanna Birth It Here”: A Qualitative Study of Southern Jail Personnel Approaches to Pregnancy, *Women & Criminal Justice*, DOI: 10.1080/08974454.2022.2040693

Conference and Professional Presentations

DiRosa, E. A., Tonya VanDeinse, Cuddeback, G Murray-Lichtman, A, Carda-Auten, J., Rosen, DL. Mental Healthcare Practices from Entry to Release across Southeastern Jails. Oral presentation at the 16th Academic Consortium on Criminal Justice Health, April 13, 2023.

DiRosa, E.A., Carda-Auten, J., and Rosen, DL. Strategies Surveying Jail Personnel: Lessons Learned from a 4-state Survey of 250+ Jails. Oral presentation at the American Society of Criminology Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2022.

DiRosa, E., Cuddeback, G. Supporting employment needs of justice-involved individuals with mental illnesses: A survey of community treatment teams. North Carolina Probation/Parole Association, 24th Annual Training Institute, Durham, NC. June 2022.

DiRosa, E., Barbera, T, Murray-Lichtman, A., Johnson, L., Diehl, M., VanDiense, T., Cuddeback, G. Supporting employment needs of justice-involved individuals with mental illness: A survey of community treatment teams. Oral presentation at the 15th Academic Health & Policy Conference on Correctional Health, virtual, April 6-8, 2022.

Murray-Lichtman, A., **DiRosa, E.**, VanDiense, T., Givens, A., Cuddeback, G. Comparing the quality of relationships between specialty mental health probation officers and justice-involved persons. Oral presentation at the 15th Academic Health & Policy Conference on Correctional Health, virtual, April 6-8, 2022.

Rosen, D.L., Ray, N., Brinkley-Rubinstein, L., Fernandez, A., Travers, D., Domino, M., Powers, K., **DiRosa, E.** Encounters in North and South Carolina Jails, 2010-2016. Oral presentation at the 14th Academic Health & Policy Conference on Correctional Health, virtual, April 2021.

Rosen, D.L., Carda-Auten, J., **DiRosa, E.A.**, Brinkley-Rubenstein, L., Fernandez, A., Travers, D., Domino, M. Examining Healthcare Resources among Southern Jails. Oral presentation at the 13th Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health, Las Vegas, NV, March 2019.

DiRosa, E., Penrose, K., Chamberlin, S., Irvine, M. [Technology and community: Coming together to improve the quality of HIV services in New York through a routine client satisfaction survey process.](#) Oral Presentation at the Conference of the American Evaluation Association, Chicago, IL, November 2015.

Chamberlin, S., **DiRosa, E.**, Irvine, M. [Measuring Client Satisfaction Across a Portfolio of Services: The Integration of Quality Management into Evaluation.](#) Oral presentation at the Conference of the American Evaluation Association, Washington, DC, October 2013

Professional Development

Courses:

Applying Qualitative Methods in Implementation Research: Developments and Innovations, H.W. Odum Institute, UNC Chapel Hill, 2022

Moving toward presentation and publication: Principles and practical steps, H.W. Odum Institute, UNC Chapel Hill, 2022

Advanced Topics in Qualtrics, H.W. Odum Institute, UNC Chapel Hill, 2020

Writing Questions & Visual Design for Surveys, H.W. Odum Institute, UNC Chapel Hill, 2019

Cognitive Interviewing: A Hands-On Approach, H.W. Odum Institute, UNC Chapel Hill, 2018

Qualitative Research Methods, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2015

- Intensive one-week course focused on how to design, conduct, and evaluate qualitative research, including how to conduct focus groups, in-depth interviews, and observational research, and how to write and present qualitative research

SAS Institute, New York, NY, April-May 2014

- Programming 1: Essentials
- Programming 2: Data Manipulation Techniques
- Macro Language 1: Essentials

SQL Essentials, DOHMH, Long Island City, NY, August 2013

ArcGIS Boot Camp, DOHMH, New York, NY, June 2013

Volunteer:

Girls on the Run (GOTR) Triangle, Donor Stewardship Team Member, 2019—2022

- Cold call past and present donors to engage in GOTR activities, remind of ongoing events, and maintain positive relationships in order to steward continuing donorship

Planned Parenthood of New York City Activist Council, Sexual Education Group, 2013—2017

- Help organize PPNYC AC sponsored sexual education events, including education trivia nights and distribution of “Safer Sex Ed Kits”