

Shalonda Collins

Shalonda Collins, MPH, CHES is a Public Health Analyst for the Division of Policy and Data at the HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB). In this role, she manages the division's engagements with HAB's National Partners, serves as a lead technical expert panel coordinator and logistics assistant, and a program liaison.

Prior to joining HAB, she worked as a research assistant in the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Planning, Analysis, and Evaluation.

Her professional interests include qualitative research, minority health, health disparities, and community engagement.

Shalonda earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Alicia Downes, LMSW

Alicia Downes, social worker is Interim Program Director at AIDS United. She currently is Co-PI on the Improving Care and Treatment Coordination: Focusing on Black Women, Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider, a Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Special Project of National Significance (SPNS), focused on improving the lives of Black women along the HIV Care Continuum.

She received her Masters of Social Work from University of Kansas (Rock Chalk Jayhawk!) and has almost 10 years of experience in mental health. Alicia began work in the HIV field almost 22 years ago, when she was hired as a Ryan White Case Manager. Three months later, she was helping her uncle find HIV services, along with educating her family about HIV.

Alicia has experience managing federal grants from SAMHSA, CDC, HRSA, and private foundations. Prior to joining the staff of AIDS United, she served as the Program Director for the Midwest AIDS Education and Training Center of Missouri Site. She has also served as a trainer for Community Health Workers.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Alicia can sniff out good West Indian food a mile away. In her spare time, she enjoys going to track and field and swimming events to cheer on her sons and walking her dog.



Sarah Hodge

Sarah Hodge is a Research Scientist at NORC at the University of Chicago. She has experience conducting and managing a variety of health equity-focused activities, and her work focuses on research with marginalized populations.

As the Project Director for a HRSA Special Projects of National Significance (Ryan White Part F) Initiative, she manages multisite evaluation and technical assistance activities for eight demonstration sites implementing behavioral health models of care to improve HIV health outcomes for Black men who have sex with men. She is also the Qualitative Research Lead for this evaluation, which is being conducted using a Culturally-Responsive Evaluation framework to examine how the intersectionality of culture influences programs' implementation and outcomes, while ensuring the individuals most impacted by the research are centered in the process.

In addition to this work, she manages the NIH-funded RADxUP project Community Network-driven COVID-19 Testing of Vulnerable Populations in the Central US, currently being implemented by the University of Chicago and six other research sites seeking to increase access to COVID-19 testing and information for two populations: low-income Hispanic/Latinx communities, and people with a history of criminal justice involvement.

Prior to joining NORC, she worked in health communications and policy for the vector-borne diseases research group at CDC and conducted policy research on tuberculosis for the World Health Organization. She holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia University.



Chandria D. Jones, PhD

Chandria D. Jones, PhD, MPH is a NORC Senior Research Scientist. She leads public health research studies and evaluations for the federal government and foundations in the areas of behavioral health, health equity, and evidence-based practices. With an emphasis on culturally responsive and equitable evaluation, she brings a lens of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion to her research and evaluation work with a particular commitment to use-oriented approaches leading to social justice and systems change.

She is the principal investigator for the Evaluation and Technical Assistance Provider (ETAP) for the Special Projects of National Significance (SPNS) Implementation of Evidence-Informed Behavioral Health Models to Improve HIV Health Outcomes for Black Men who have Sex with Men Initiative. Additionally, she works on ESCALATE (Ending Stigma through Collaboration And Lifting All To Empowerment), a HRSA-funded training and capacity building initiative specifically designed to address HIV-related stigma that creates barriers at multiple levels of the HIV care continuum. Dr. Jones received her Ph.D. in Behavioral and Community Health from the University of Maryland, College Park, and her Master of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology from Florida International University.



Dr. Sara LeGrand

Dr. Sara LeGrand is a sociobehavioral scientist with over a decade of post-PhD experience in global health research. She is an Associate Research Professor in the Duke Global Health Institute and the Center for Health Policy & Inequalities Research. She also serves as co-director of the Duke Sexual and Gender Minority Health Program.

Dr. LeGrand's primary area of research focuses on the mental, physical, and social health of sexual and gender minorities, with a particular interest in understanding the determinants of health that negatively and positively contribute to health outcomes; health behaviors; and access to health care across the life course in different locations around the world. The ultimate goal of this work is to identify culturally relevant strategies at the individual, interpersonal, community, and structural/policy levels that can improve the health and wellbeing of sexual and gender minorities globally. Dr. LeGrand is delighted to serve as a co-director of the Duke Sexual and Gender Minority Health Program, which aims to position Duke as a leader in sexual and gender minority health research; clinical best practices, training, and education; and, policy, particularly among sexual and gender minorities in the southern US and Global South.

Additionally, Dr. LeGrand has extensive experience conducting HIV prevention and treatment research that typically involves the design, implementation, and evaluation of digital health interventions to decrease HIV disparities among marginalized populations, including racial and ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, and adolescents and young adults in the US and in low- and middle-income countries. She currently serves as principal investigator or investigator on several federally funded grants and has numerous articles published in peer-reviewed journals.



Serena Rajabiun, MA, MPH, PhD

Serena Rajabiun is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell, MA. She is currently the Principal Investigator of the Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Health Resources and Services Administration, HIV/AIDS Bureau (HRSA/HAB) Special Project of National Significance (SPNS), Improving Care and Treatment Coordination: Focusing on Black Women. Serena is a health services researcher with training in implementation science and cost-effectiveness. Her work focuses on community-based interventions that address the social determinants of health, such as housing and employment, improve the quality and delivery of care and reduce health disparities among adults and youth living with HIV.

