

DEPT OF POPULATION HEALTH  
COLLEGE OF NURSING

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE students

FOR APPLICATION YEAR: 2025

PROJECT TITLE: Mass (Parental) Incarceration, Child Health, and Foster Care

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**Project Description**

Seeking an open-minded, dedicated, and motivated undergraduate who is interested in both health and justice research. The US incarcerates the most people per capita in the world, of whom the majority are parents. Few large-scale data collection efforts have sought to uncover the health-related impact of parental justice-involvement on youth. Limited information has stalled evidence discovery, scientific advancement, intervention development and policy reform to support the health and well-being of this vulnerable population. The overall objective of this student project is to better understand the health and healthcare of children in foster care with parental incarceration using data from the electronic health record of the Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Upon locating instances in the medical chart where a provider documents known contact with the criminal legal system, these notes will be compiled into REDCap Survey and trained students (you!) will manually review pediatric clinician notes from 2012-2024 and annotate for type of justice system involvement (e.g. parental justice system involvement (biological/step/guardian mother or father, or both), personal, multiple, or other family or friend incarceration). Around 5-10,000 notes will need to be annotated during the summer of 2025 and beyond. The REDCap Survey and annotation of clinician notes will include questions on location of disclosure, context of disclosure, timing, and other documentation

characteristics to summarize gaps and opportunities to promote health systems change within the foster care clinic. We will also code for the detection of stigma or bias-inducing language (e.g. with the goal of helping providers to use bias-free language when caring for and documenting care for children of justice-involved parents). We will use summary and descriptive statistics to describe the corpus of notes that indicate parental justice involvement. The student will gain insight into health-justice research and required sensitivities and training, be a part of UC CON's Health-Justice Lab, and gain experience working on nationally funded research. The student may also have an opportunity to stay on as a research assistant throughout the school year.