

# Diamond J. Cunningham, MPH

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/diamond-joelle-cunningham-mph/>

[djcunningham14@gmail.com](mailto:djcunningham14@gmail.com) ~ [dcunningham@tulane.edu](mailto:dcunningham@tulane.edu)

Fort Lauderdale, FL | New Orleans, LA (954) 589-3791

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Social, Behavioral, and Population Sciences**, *Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University* 2026

**MPH with concentration in Urban Public Health**, *Rutgers School of Public Health* 2021

**B.S. in Public Health**, *University of South Florida* 2018

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Partner, Southeastern Collaborative for Justice-Involved Women and Children** 2025-Present  
Tulane University

- Collaborate with HRSA-funded Maternal-Child Health Center of Excellence to develop 5-year strategic plan for addressing mass incarceration impacts on maternal and child health
- Co-facilitate listening sessions with community partners across the Southeast to identify priorities, research needs, and potential academic-community partnerships
- Support development of action-based research, education, and outreach initiatives focused on reproductive health and maternal-child wellbeing in justice-involved populations

**Community Advisory Board Member, US Self-Managed Abortion Research Study** 2025-Present  
Ipas

- Selected as advisor for national research study examining knowledge, perceptions, and considerations for self-managed abortion
- Provide expert consultation on survey development, ensuring culturally responsive and contextually appropriate assessment measures
- Contribute critical insights during preliminary analysis to strengthen validity and relevance of findings
- Collaborate with research team to develop strategic approaches for disseminating findings to communities and stakeholders

**Co-Investigator, Society of Family Planning: "Journeying for Choice" Study** 2024-Present  
Louisiana Abortion Fund

*Traveling to Abortion Care, post-Dobbs*

- Currently serving as Co-Investigator on a mixed-methods study exploring experiences of out-of-state travel for abortion in the deep South post-Dobbs
- Supporting all recruitment efforts, research planning, and conducting qualitative interviews with participants
- Analyzing findings to enhance service delivery at the Louisiana Abortion Fund and develop evidence-based recommendations

**Research Assistant, Center for Community-Engaged Artificial Intelligence (CEAI)** 2025-Present  
Tulane University

- Contributed to multidisciplinary research team dedicated to human-centered AI applications that benefit society, particularly focused on criminal justice and health equity
- Supported initiatives through data analysis and research preparation for cross-disciplinary scientific collaboration
- Assisted with stakeholder engagement between academic researchers, engineers, and community partners

**Co-Investigator, Society of Family Planning: "Leaving Louisiana" Study** 2024-2025  
Louisiana Abortion Fund

*Later abortion service delivery, post-Dobbs*

- Served as student data analyst examining the effects of the Dobbs decision on abortion access and migration patterns in Louisiana
- Cleaned and prepared comprehensive client datasets from Louisiana Abortion Fund for statistical analysis
- Collaborated with research team to document geographic and demographic impacts of abortion restrictions on healthcare access

**Diversity Supplement Award Recipient** 2023-2024  
Lupus Research Alliance

- Selected recipient of LRA Diversity Supplement Award supporting promising underrepresented minority trainees working with LRA-funded researchers or lupus investigators supported by the National Institutes of Health or Department of Defense
- Conducted research exploring birth outcomes among Black women living with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), with particular focus on low birth weight among singleton births
- Analyzed relationships between maternal lupus, racial health disparities, and adverse pregnancy outcomes

### **Research Lab Member, Society, Health, and Racial Equity (SHARE)**

Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

2021-2024

- Examined multiple ecological levels of influence on health, ranging from broader social forces to the cellular level, using a developmental lens through their interplay in relation to health inequities, which are conceptualized as unjust patterns in the population-level distribution of disease that are avoidable and preventable.
- Addressed underlying social inequities that give rise to poor health outcomes in communities that have been discriminated against, marginalized, and excluded.

### **Research Assistant, Color Brave Study**

Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, LA

08/2021-04/2024

Project Name: *Promoting Color Brave Conversations in Families: A Public Health Strategy to Advance Racial Equity*  
#IU01OD033242-01

- Orchestrated data collection through participant recruitment, dyadic interviews with parent-child pairs, one-on-one interviews, and Qualtrics surveys
- Meticulously managed large volumes of qualitative and quantitative data, ensuring accuracy and confidentiality
- Leveraged expertise in conducting literature reviews and contributed to the development of research articles and presentations on promoting anti-racist conversations

### **Research Assistant, REACH Study**

Yale School of Medicine

2020

Project Name: *Project Recognizing and Eliminating Disparities in Addiction through Culturally informed Healthcare (REACH)*

- Facilitated virtual focus groups examining cultural factors affecting addiction treatment experiences among diverse populations
- Documented comprehensive field notes and performed systematic qualitative data entry and coding
- Synthesized participant feedback to identify barriers to culturally responsive addiction healthcare services

### **Research Assistant, Community Health Justice Lab**

Rutgers School of Public Health

2019-Present

- Provide ad hoc mentoring to new graduate students in the lab, including delivering qualitative research training, coding sessions, and Zotero reference management overviews
- Conduct research addressing social determinants of health and underlying drivers of health inequity among medically underserved and hidden populations
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to develop community-based strategies for improving health outcomes
- Maintain ongoing research partnership focused on health equity interventions for marginalized communities

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Coordinator**

Louisiana Abortion Fund

2023-Present

- Design and implement qualitative research protocols to document the lived experiences of individuals traveling across state lines for reproductive healthcare
- Analyze complex datasets to identify patterns in abortion access challenges facing marginalized communities
- Develop evidence-based recommendations to improve service delivery and support systems for abortion seekers
- Serve as site lead facilitating practicum partnerships between local academic institutions and the abortion fund, creating meaningful learning opportunities for public health, social work, and law students

### **Centers of Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Law Internship**

08/2024-11/2024

- Selected for the CDC Public Health Law Internship Program for the Fall 2024 term, focusing on the intersection of public health and law
- Will gain hands-on experience in applying legal tools to protect and promote public health, working with CDC's Office of Public Health Law Services

- Opportunity to contribute to critical issues in public health law, including improving health equity and strengthening emergency response capacity
- Selected based on demonstrated commitment to public health law, cultural awareness, and innovative problem-solving skills

### **Council of Graduate Schools (CGS): Broadening Participation in Graduate Education**

Washington DC, Virtual Internship

06/2021-08/2021

- Provided data analysis services via statistical software programs using data collected on behalf of CGS
- Led the enhancement of CGS resources, strategically expanding efforts to foster inclusion of traditionally underrepresented students in graduate education

### **Epidemiologist/Biological Scientist IV – COVID-19 Response**

Florida Department of Health, Broward County FL

2020-2021

- Directly oversaw the daily engagement of disease intervention specialists within Field/Clinic or Surveillance Teams, ensuring seamless operations and optimal performance
- Guided the coordination and execution of contact tracing initiatives

### **Research Assistant**

Rutgers School of Public Health, Newark, NJ

2019-2021

*Project Name: Addressing Intersecting Minority Stress: Development of a Health HIV Prevention Intervention For Young Black Men #7K01MH118091-02*

- Conducted comprehensive literature reviews focusing on relevant health literature regarding the health of Black men who have sex with men
- Expertly collected and analyzed data, including transcription of interviews and proficient utilizing Qualtrics platform
- Produced succinct summaries of project results, distilling complex findings into actionable insights

### **FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE**

#### **Changemaker Institute Fellow, Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking**

2024-2025

- Selected for competitive 6-month social venture accelerator program at Tulane University supporting innovative solutions to social challenges
- Developed "4DAD" mobile application addressing Black maternal health disparities by empowering fathers during the critical fourth trimester
- Received intensive training in business development, social entrepreneurship skills, and sustainable venture planning; refined business model through iterative design processes, stakeholder interviews, and user testing

#### **William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF) Student Chair**

2023-2024

- Elected to lead national fellowship program supporting Black and Brown doctoral students in disaster and hazard research across the country
- Directed and coordinated multiple committees to advance organizational mission of increasing diversity in disaster mitigation research and practice
- Developed strategic initiatives to promote awareness of fellowship opportunities and expand institutional partnerships

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Teaching Assistant, "Community Organizing for Social Change"**

Spring 2025

Celia Scott Weatherhead School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Tulane University

- Supported instruction for doctoral-level course with 32 Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) students
- Facilitated discussion sections exploring strategies for community mobilization and collective action in public health contexts
- Collaborated with professor to develop course materials integrating theory and practical applications of community organizing principles

#### **Research Lead, Qualitative Research Training**

2021-2022 Society, Health, and Racial Equity (SHARE) Lab, Tulane University

- Lead introductory workshops for newly hired research assistants on principles and practice of qualitative research methodologies in public health
- Deliver comprehensive lectures and guide students through structured learning activities covering research design, data collection, and analysis

- Develop course materials, including syllabus, assignments, and assessments to ensure well-structured and engaging learning experiences
- Provide individualized mentorship to students, offering guidance on research design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation of qualitative data
- Support integration of racial equity frameworks into qualitative research approaches and methodologies

**Teaching Assistant, "Qualitative Research Methods"**

Spring 2020

School of Public Health, Rutgers University

- Supported instruction for introductory core course for MPH students on principles and practice of social science research in public health
- Facilitated classroom discussions and focus group sessions exploring qualitative research design, data gathering, coding, and analysis
- Motivated students to actively participate in all remote learning activities during transition to virtual instruction
- Held regular office hours and review sessions to provide additional support to students
- Assisted faculty members with instructional preparation, delivery, and assessment of student work

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

**Advanced Critical Race Theory Concepts for Health Equity Research Summer**

2024

RHEDI (Racial Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Program

- Completed intensive two-day advanced course taught by Dr. Chandra Ford, Professor of Behavioral, Social, and Health Education Sciences (Rollins School of Public Health) and African American Studies
- Examined methodological approaches for integrating critical race frameworks into public health research design
- Developed strategies for addressing structural racism through evidence-based public health interventions

**AIM-AHEAD Cohort Member**

2021

National Institutes of Health's Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity

- Selected participant in prestigious NIH consortium focused on AI/ML applications to address health disparities and collaborated with institutions and organizations serving minorities and other underrepresented groups
- Developed advanced skills in applying artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques to health equity research
- Participated in specialized training on creating inclusive AI/ML approaches that benefit underserved communities

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Survey Design Consultant (Pro Bono), Daughters Beyond Incarceration**

Present

- Provided ad hoc survey design expertise to nonprofit organization supporting girls with incarcerated fathers
- Consulted on development of culturally responsive assessment tools to measure program impact and participant needs
- Offered methodological guidance to strengthen data collection processes and evaluation frameworks
- Supported organization's efforts to document outcomes for funding applications and program improvement

**William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF), Culture Committee Member**

2024-Present

- Serve on national committee fostering inclusive and supportive environment for Black and Brown doctoral students in disaster and hazard research
- Facilitate intra-organizational events designed to promote student wellbeing, build community connections, and enhance retention
- Develop programming that addresses unique challenges faced by underrepresented students in academic research environments

**William Averette Anderson Fund (BAF), Fundraising Chair**

2022

- Championed fundraising events for charitable organizations dedicated to disaster mitigation, fostering fellowship, mentorship, and research for minority communities.
- Played a pivotal role in broadening the representation of historically underrepresented professionals within disaster and hazard research and practice

**The Society of Young Black Public Health Professionals "The Society" Social Chair**

2021-Present

The Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

- Actively supported several local and national organizations, dedicated to enhancing and effecting positive change within the NOLA community through social engagement.

- Fostered a positive enduring image of the Tulane community through local outreach projects, successful fundraising, attendance at national health conferences, volunteerism, and dedicated service to the community that nurtures our education.

#### **Doctoral Students for Maternal Child Health Member**

2021- Present

The Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

- Conducted in-depth analysis on the organizational framework and funding mechanism of governmental Maternal and Child Health service delivery systems, spanning federal, state, and local jurisdictions, and examined their interplay with private sector collaborators.
- Explored key social, cultural, biological, and environmental factors contributing to the health, wellbeing, and observed inequities among pregnant and non-pregnant women and infants across population groups, and communities.

#### **Believe in a Healthy Newark: Outreach and Social Media Representative**

2020-2021

Newark, New Jersey

- Spearheaded initiatives to tackle social determinants of health, effectively enhancing health outcomes for residents inhabiting the South and West Wards of Newark
- Implemented robust strategies to disseminate vital COVID-19 resources to Newark residents through social media engagement

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

American Public Health Association (APHA)

International Sociological Association (ISA)

#### **AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Tulane University Open Medical Innovation Challenge (OPEN MIC), for "4DAD" mobile application addressing Black maternal health crisis by empowering fathers during the postpartum period, Winner	2025
Victor C. Alvarez Spark Innovation Award; Tulane University's Taylor Center for Social Innovation and Design Thinking, Awardee	2025
Tulane Innovation Institute Changemaker Fellowship	2025
10th Anniversary HBCU Climate Change Conference, Student Scholarship Recipient	2025
All In Student Grant Recipient	2024
Michigan Institute of Data Science (MIDAS) Summit Awardee	2024
Disease Research Center Travel Award	2024
National Research Center on Poverty and Economic Mobility Professional Development Fellowship	2023
William Averette Anderson Fund (Bill Anderson Fund) Student Chairperson	2023
Tulane Doctoral Student Conference Travel Grant Recipient	2023
Center for Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence (CDHAI) Conference Travel Grant Awardee	2023
Lupus Research Alliance (LRA): Diversity Supplement Award Recipient	2022
William Averette Anderson Fund (Bill Anderson Fund) Fellow	2021
New Jersey Health Foundation Goldstein Graduate Travel Fellowship	2020
Center for Public Health Workforce Development Stipend Recipient	2020
New Jersey Health Foundation Scholarship Recipient	2019

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

Lewis, K., **Cunningham, D.**, & Valera, P. Marketing strategies used by tobacco companies targeting the Queer community. *Tobacco Use Insights*.

**Cunningham, D.**, English D., Talan, A., Redina, J. The Effects of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Religious Affiliation on Sexual Shame in Sexual Minority Men. *Annals of Society of Behavioral Medicine*

Valera, P., Zaire, S.A., **Cunningham, D.**, & McLaughlin, C.M.. Exploring Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Knowledge and Awareness in Incarcerated Men. *AIDS and Behavior*.

English, D., Busby, D., Bowleg, L., Redina J., Carter J., **Cunningham, D.** Intersecting Structural Oppression and Suicidality Among Black Sexual Minority Male Adolescents and Emerging Adults. *Journal of Research on Adolescence Black Lives Matter! Special Issue*

English, D., Busby, D., Bowleg, L., Redina J., Carter J., **Cunningham, D.** THRIVE 365: A community-led, multicomponent health promotion intervention for Black same gender loving men. *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health*

## **ACADEMIC CONFERENCES**

### **POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

- Cunningham, D. J.**, Barbarin, T. (2025, March). Quantifying Carbon Emissions from Increased Travel Distance: A Louisiana Transportation Analysis, 2019-2023. Poster presented at: 10th Anniversary HBCU Climate Change Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Chin, J., Benson, L., Fiastro, A., **Cunningham, D. J.**, Gardner, M. F., Thayer, E. (2025, February). Leaving Louisiana: The Effect of Dobbs on Abortion in Louisiana. Presentation at: National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- Cunningham, D. J.**, Barbarin, T (2025, January). Quantifying Carbon Emissions from Increased Travel Distance: A Louisiana Transportation Analysis, 2019-2023. Presentation at: Environmental Health Justice Research in Louisiana: Reflecting Back, Looking Forward, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA.
- Chae D, Chung K, **Cunningham D**, Cunningham M, Lewis A, Reed E, Rogers LO, Skeer M (2024, June). Color Brave Conversations in Families. Poster presented at: 27th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development, Lisbon, Portugal.

### **INVITED PANELS**

- Environmental Justice Panel:** HBCU Climate Change Conference, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice 2025  
Focused on quantifying carbon emissions from increased travel distances and environmental justice implications in Louisiana.
- Flow For All Panel: PERIOD**, *Tulane University* 2024  
Focused on equitable access to menstrual hygiene products.
- American Dental Education Association Student Diversity Leadership Program** 2024  
Focused on dentistry's role and responsibility in engaging public health emergency preparedness to anticipate and mitigate harm and advance health equity.

### **INVITED PANEL MODERATIONS**

- Intersection of Health and Disasters ISA Panel Moderator July 2023 (ISA)
- Resisting Criminalization Symposium Opening Plenary Panel Moderator 2025 (Louisiana Abortion Fund)

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- Cunningham, D.J.**, (2025, July). Quantifying Health Disparities in Marginalized Communities. Presentation done at the 2025 STEMNoire Conference in Miami, FL.
- Cunningham, D. J.**, Barbarin, T. (2025, April). Beyond State Lines: Lessons from Post-*Dobbs* Abortion Travel and Building Forward in the South. Workshop presented at: Collective Power 2025 Conference, Collective Power for Reproductive Justice, Amherst, MA.
- Cunningham, D.J.**, Chung, K.W., & Chae, D.H. (2023, November). Racial Discrimination and Medical Appointment Adherence: The Black Women's Experiences Living with Lupus (BeWELL) Study. Poster presentation at the 2023 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- Cunningham, DJ** (2023, July). Intersection of Health and Disasters. Panel done at the 2023 ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia.
- Cunningham DJ**, Chung KW, Chae DH. Racial Discrimination and Medical Appointment Adherence: The Black Women's Experiences Living with Lupus (BeWELL) Study. Poster presented at: Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit (TRICS); March 1-2, 2023; New Orleans, LA.
- Cunningham, DJ** (2020, November). Intersectionality. Presentation done at the 2020 Society for Scientific Advancement Conference in Kingston, Jamaica (done via Zoom).
- Cunningham DJ**, Chung KW, Chae DH. Racial Discrimination and Medical Appointment Adherence: The Black Women's Experiences Living with Lupus (BeWELL) Study. Poster presented at: Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit (TRICS); March 1-2, 2023; New Orleans, LA.
- Wallace KC, Chung KW, **Cunningham DJ**, Chae DH. Vicarious Racism and Anxiety among Asian American Women During the COVID Pandemic. Poster presented at: Tulane Research, Innovation, and Creativity Summit (TRICS); March 1-2, 2023; New Orleans, LA.

Wallace KC, Chung KW, **Cunningham DJ**, Chae DH. Vicarious Racism and Anxiety among Asian American Women During the COVID Pandemic. Poster presented at: Delta Omega Eta Chapter Poster Competition; April 14, 2023; New Orleans, LA.

## **REPORTS**

Global Justice Center. (2025). Submission for the Universal Periodic Review of the United States: Diminishing Reproductive and Bodily Autonomy in the USA. (Contributors included **Cunningham, D. J.**). Retrieved from <https://www.globaljusticecenter.net/submission-for-the-universal-periodic-review-of-the-united-states-diminishing-reproductive-and-bodily-autonomy-in-the-usa/>

Chae, D.H., Martz, C.D., Chung, K.W., Doe, E.B., **Cunningham, D.J.**, Blackson, E.A., LaVeist, T.A. (2021). Systemic Racism Measures. University of California, San Francisco Stress Measurement Network Toolbox. Available at: <https://www.stressmeasurement.org/systemic-racism-measures>