

# TyKeara Mims

Texas A&M University  
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## EDUCATION

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### Degrees

- Expected 2025    **DrPH**, Public Health Sciences  
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX  
Dissertation: *Perception, Exposure, and Compliance: Understanding the Dynamics of Protective Behaviors*  
Advisor: Dr. Benika Dixon
- 2018    **MPH**, Community Health Education, Epidemiology minor  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN
- 2015    **BA**, World History  
Spelman College, Atlanta, GA  
Honors Thesis: *British Empire as a Catalyst to Malarial Epidemic: An Analysis of Imperial Expansion and Malaria Epidemic in India and West Africa in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 – 20    Commissioner's Fellow  
Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville, TN
- 2015 – 16    Program Administrator  
Visionary Solutions LLC/Visionary Center for Sustainable Communities, Knoxville, TN

## INTERNSHIPS

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- 2023 – 24    Intern  
Innovative Emergency Management, Research Triangle Park, NC
- 2018    Public Safety Intern  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Knoxville, TN
- 2017    Food Safety Intern  
East Tennessee Regional Health Office, Knoxville, TN
- 2017    Worksite Wellness Intern  
Knox County Health Department, Knoxville, TN

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Classroom Instruction

- 2025    SOPH 680: Public Health Capstone (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2025    PHLT 314: Public Health Data Management and Assessment I (undergraduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2025    PHLT 315: Public Health Data Management and Assessment II (undergraduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health

- 2024 SOPH 603: Epidemiology (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2024 PHEB 622: Reproductive & Perinatal Epidemiology (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 – 24 PHLT 305: Epidemiology Public Health (undergraduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2023 PHEB 689: Global Health Epidemiology (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 – 23 PHLT 314: Public Health Data Management and Assessment I (undergraduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 PHLT 315: Public Health Data Management and Assessment II (undergraduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 PHLT 470/SOPH 670: Global Public Health Systems and Practice Experiences  
(undergraduate and graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 PHLT 485/PHPM 685: Germany Emergency Public Health Preparedness and Response  
(undergraduate and graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2021 SOPH 601: Thinking in Populations: The Public Health Mindset (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2021 SOPH 602: Investigation and Control: Acute Public Health Events (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2021 SOPH 603: Assessment and Intervention: Wicked Problems (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2021 SOPH 604: Framing & Persuasion: Public Health in the Public (graduate, TA)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health

#### Guest Lectures

- 2024 - 25 PHEB 613: Field Epidemiology Methods (graduate)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2023 - 24 PHLT 415: Emergency Management in Public Health (undergraduate)  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health

#### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- 2021 – pres Research Assistant  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2023 NSF CHEER Scholar and Research Assistant  
Coastal Hazards, Equity, Economic Prosperity, and Resilience (CHEER) Hub
- 2021-22 Student Researcher  
University of Colorado Boulder Natural Hazards Center
- 2020-21 Graduate Research Assistant  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2016-2017 Research Assistant  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Public Health

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2024 Sansom, G., Dixon, B. C., Sansom, L., Losa, L., Hernandez, R., **Mims, T.**, & Johnson, J. N. (2024). Cohesive Cities and Resilient Cities: Are they the same? *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. *Submitted for Publication*
- 2023 Caldwell, J., **Mims, T.**, Johnson, J. N., & Dixon, B. C. (2023). A Collaborative Approach to Addressing Environmental Injustice in Fifth Ward, Houston, Texas. *Environmental Justice*. env.2022.0036. <https://doi.org/10.1089/env.2022.0036>

### Book Chapters

- 2019 Vick, J., Costakis, C., Meehan, L., & **Mims, T.** (2019). Defining and Understanding Active Living Principles. In: *Physical Activity & Public Health: A Practitioner's Guide* (pp. 1–56). Washington, DC: APHA Press.

### Reports

- 2024 Dixon, B., Purdum, C., Goddard, T., Toon, J., Simmons, M. M., **Mims, T.**, & Finau, P. (2024). *The Compounding Effects of Disasters and Confinement on the Mental Health of Incarcerated Women*. (Natural Hazards Center Public Health Disaster Research Report Series, Report 44). Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/public-health-disaster-research/the-compounding-effects-of-disasters-andconfinement-on-the-mental-health-of-incarcerated-women>
- 2022 Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Diversifying HayWired Communication. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado Boulder, 2022. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/research-projects/diversifying-haywired-communications>
- 2018 **Mims, T.** (2019). *Tennessee Shared Use Agreement Handbook*. Tennessee Department of Health. <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/office-of-primary-prevention/redirect-opp/built-environment-and-health/built-environment-resources.html>

### Publications in Progress or Planned

- 1 **Mims, T.**, Johnson, J. N., & Dixon, B. C. (2024). Behind Bars and Under Fire: Investigating Extreme Heat Experiences in Texas Prisons. *Environmental Justice*. *In Preparation*
- 2 **Mims, T.** (2024). ITC Petrochemical Fire: Assessing the impact of individual and community factors on compliance with protective action recommendations following an anthropogenic hazard. *Environmental Justice*. *In Preparation*
- 3 **Mims, T.** (2024). Memorial Day Flood: Assessing the impact of individual and community factors on compliance with protective action recommendations following a major flood event. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. *In Preparation*
- 4 **Mims, T.** (2024). Deer Park Tornado: Assessing the impact of individual and community factors on compliance with protective action recommendations following a tornado. *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*. *In Preparation*

- 5 Johnson, J. N., Hernandez, R., **Mims, T.**, Dixon, B. C., & Sansom, G. (2022). Understanding the Relationship Between Environmental Risk Perception and Pregnancy Complications- A Comparison Between Harris and Hidalgo County. *In Preparation*
- 6 Yusuf, A., Taylor, L., Dixon, B. C., Marx, M., **Mims, T.**, Frost, E., Tarwater, P., Zhao, H., Regan, A., Gibbs, S., & Fischer, R. S. (2022). Clinical and Epidemiologic Features of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in University Students. *Emerging Infectious Diseases. In Preparation*

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

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### Invited Talks

- 2024 Camp Disaster Advocacy Sustainability and Health (DASH) Graduate Student Panel  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health, College Station, TX, July 24
- 2024 National Pan-Hellenic Council Graduate Student Panel  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health, College Station, TX, January 24
- 2023 Addressing CHEER Hub Panel  
Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, Boulder, CO, July 12
- 2022 Innovation X Panel  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health, College Station, TX, October 20
- 2022 Epidemiology Student Organization DrPH Student Panel  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health, College Station, TX, October 17
- 2022 Diversifying HayWired: Connecting with Marginalized Communities to Improve Risk Communication, Natural Hazards Center Webinar, August 9
- 2022 Diversity Equity, Inclusion & Employment: Insights from Alumni in Inspiring Positions, Mentor Panel, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Public Health, Knoxville, TN, May 5

### Conference and Workshop Presentations

- 2025 **Mims, T.** Sociodemographic Drivers of Hazard Response: Evidence from Hays County. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO, July [Oral].
- 2025 **Mims, T.**, Sansom, G., Dixon, B. C. Impact of Past Hazards on Preparedness, Response, and Equity in Hays County. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO, July [Poster].
- 2024 Toon, J., Simmons, M., **Mims, T.**, Finau, P., Goddard, T., Purdum, C., & Dixon, B. C. Lioness JIWA and TAMU: Empowering Justice-Impacted Communities Through a Community-Led Academic Collaboration. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO, July [Poster].
- 2024 Finau, P., **Mims, T.**, Toon, J., Simmons, M., Goddard, T., Purdum, C., & Dixon, B. C. Unveiling Voices: Evacuation Experiences of Incarcerated Women in Disasters. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO, July [Poster].
- 2024 Dixon, B., Purdum, C., **Mims, T.**, Simmons, M.M., & Toon, J. Centering the Needs of Incarcerated People in Disaster Risk Reduction. Natural Hazards Workshop, Boulder, CO, July [Panel].
- 2024 Johnson, J. N., **Mims, T.**, Dixon, B. C., Hill, Ashley, & Sansom, G. Mental Health and Birth Outcomes in Women Post-Hurricane Harvey. Mom and Baby Action Network Summit, Chicago, IL, June [Oral Presentation].
- 2024 **Mims, T.**, Finau, P., Toon, J., Simmons, M., Goddard, T., Purdum, C., & Dixon, B. C. Rural Community Capacity: Evacuation Experiences and Health Outcomes of Incarcerated

- Women. Texas A&M University Student Research Week Symposium, College Station, TX, March [Poster].
- 2023 Johnson, J. N., **Mims, T.**, Dixon, B. C., Purdum, C., Dominick, A. Environmental Injustice Is Served: The Case for the Incarcerated Population. Society for Public Health Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, March [Oral Presentation].
- 2023 **Mims, T.**, Johnson, J. N., Pandey, T., Dixon, B. C., Purdum, C., Dominick, A. COVID-19 Health Promotion and Policy Implementation in Texas Prisons. Society for Public Health Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, March [Poster].
- 2023 **Mims, T.**, Johnson, J. N., Pandey, T., Dixon, B. C., Purdum, C., Dominick, A. COVID-19 Burden Among Incarcerated Persons in Texas. Xavier University of Louisiana Health Disparities Conference, New Orleans, LA, February [Poster].
- 2023 Osuji, C., Uyamasi, K., **Mims, T.**, Williams, E., McKyer, E.L., & Tasnim, S. Association between Race/Ethnicity and Weight Management Behaviors among US Adults: Findings from 2017-2020 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES). American Academy of Health Behavior Scientific Meeting, San Francisco, CA, March [Poster].
- 2022 **Mims, T.**, Haridi, M., Bui, M., Dube, J., & Zou, L. Perceptions of COVID-19 Protocols at Texas A&M University. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Boston, MA, November [Poster].
- 2022 **Mims, T.**, Haridi, M., Bui, M., Dube, J., & Zou, L. Navigating Campus Sentiments: Analyzing Public Perception of COVID-19 Policies at Texas A&M University Through Social Media. Texas A&M University Student Research Week Symposium, College Station, TX [Poster].
- 2021 Taylor, LA., **Mims, T.**, Yusuf, A., Dixon, B. C., & Fischer, RSB. Aggressive Community and Workplace Spread of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 and Severe Illness on a Large University Campus. American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting, virtual, November [Poster].
- 2021 McNulty, A., & **Mims, T.** Spatial Description of COVID-19 in Brazos Valley, a seven-county region in Central Texas. Texas A&M University Student Research Week Symposium, College Station, TX [Poster].
- 2019 Kirtz, E, **Mims, T.**, Merced-Morales, A. Top Reasons Preventing Black Women from Initiating Prenatal Care in Tennessee: Results from the Tennessee Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2012- 2017. American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Expo, Philadelphia, PA, November [Poster].
- 2019 **Mims, T.**, Kirtz, E.M., & Merced-Morales, A. The Association between Sources of Breastfeeding Information and Breastfeeding Initiation: Results from PRAMS, 2016-2017. Tennessee Public Health Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, October [Poster].

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

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### Fellowships

2020 – pres William (Bill) Averette Anderson Fund Fellowship

### Grants

**Rural Community Capacity: Evacuation Experiences and Health Outcomes of Incarcerated Women**

**Dates:** 11/05/2023 – 08/05/2024

**Agency:** Natural Hazards Center

**Award:** \$50,000

**PI:** Benika Dixon

**Role:** Co-Investigator

**Aim:** Contribute to a better understanding of the challenges faced by rural communities and incarcerated women related to evacuations. For this research project, we focus on the following questions in collaboration with our community partners: 1) How does rural location and lower capacity affect the safe and effective evacuation of women's prisons? 2) How do prison disaster evacuation-related experiences impact the mental health of incarcerated women?

**Awards**

- 2023 NSF CHEER 2023 Scholar and Research Assistant (NSF OCE#2209190) [\$6,000]
- 2023 Aggie Ring Scholarship
- 2021 Natural Hazards Center Graduate Research Award [\$5,000]
- 2020 Dr. Ciro V. Sumaya Scholarship
- 2017 Dr. June Gorski Scholarship
- 2017 Foster Chapel Baptist Church Academic Excellence Scholarship
- 2017 Graduate Student Research Colloquium travel award
- 2016 Foster Chapel Baptist Church Continuing Education Scholarship

**SERVICE**

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**Departmental and University Service**

- 2024 ATP Faculty Search Committee, Student Representative  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2022 – 23 Tenure Track Faculty Search Committee, Student Representative  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2016 – 18 Curriculum Deep Dive Committee, Student Representative  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Public Health
- 2016 – 18 Equity and Diversity Committee, Student Representative and Trainer  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Public Health

**Conference Organization**

- 2023 Conference Reviewer  
Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)
- 2022 – 23 Disaster Healthcare and Public Health Information Systems Track, Co-chair  
Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management (ISCRAM)

**Leadership Positions**

- 2022 – 23 William (Bill) Averette Anderson Fund, Treasurer
- 2022 – 23 Epidemiology Student Organization, Treasurer  
Texas A&M University School of Public Health
- 2016 – 17 Public Health Graduate Student Association, Vice President  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville Department of Public Health

**Professional Affiliations**

- 2017- pres American Public Health Association (APHA)
- 2018 -2020 Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA)

## **Mentorship**

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### **Undergraduate Students**

- 2023 Nyla Howell, University of Maryland
- 2023 Eva Pumo, University of Delaware
- 2023 Guadalupe Guevara, University of Delaware
- 2022-23 Tia Pandey, Texas A&M University

### **MPH Students**

- 2024 Pisila Finau, Texas A&M University

### **DrPH Students**

- 2022-23 Ruby Hernandez, Texas A&M University  
William (Bill) Anderson Fund Buddy Program