



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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March 13, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health

SUBJECT: Activities of the Institutional Review Board Calendar Year 2023

This report is submitted in compliance with the Virginia Acts of the Assembly – the Code of Virginia § 32.1-12.1 which states:

The Board shall promulgate regulations pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) to effectuate the provisions of Chapter 5.1 (§ 32.1-162.16 et seq.) of this title for human research, as defined in § 32.1-162.16, to be conducted or authorized by the Department or any facilities or other entities operated, funded, or licensed by the Department. The regulations shall require the human research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Commissioner or his designee at least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (804) 864-7006.

KS/JH
Enclosure

Pc: The Honorable Janet V. Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

**ACTIVITIES OF
THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
CALENDAR YEAR 2023**

**REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

2023

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PREFACE

The regulations require the Virginia Department of Health human research committee to submit to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Commissioner or his designee at least annually a report on the human research projects reviewed and approved by the committee and shall require the committee to report any significant deviations from the proposals as approved.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD MEMEBERS

Dr. Bethany Geldmaker, Chair
Virginia Department of Health

Dr. Kavita Imrit-Thomas
Portsmouth Health District

Dr. Antonio Payares
Virginia Commonwealth University

Ana Lizzette Colón
Eastern Region Field Office
Virginia Department of Health

Dr. Maceo Freeman
St Paul's Baptist Church

Dr. Nicole Bissell
New River Health District

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is submitting this report in compliance with the Virginia Acts of the Assembly – the Code of Virginia § 32.1-12.1 which states:

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During 2023 the Board conducted 17 expedited reviews of research proposals and 34 exempt reviews. All projects were determined as posing minimal risk to human subjects and approved by the Board. The Board did not identify any significant deviations from the approved research proposals.

INTRODUCTION

Regulations for the conduct of human research, developed and approved by the Virginia Board of Health, became effective on July 1, 1993, and were most recently updated on January 14, 2016. The regulations apply to the department, including any local health department and to any facility operated, funded or licensed by the department which conducts, or which proposes to conduct or authorize research which uses human participants. According to those regulations, prior to the initiation of a human research project, a description of the proposed project shall be submitted to a research review committee for review and approval. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) subsequently appointed an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to serve as the human research committee. In addition, a guidance document, *Virginia Department of Health Institutional Review Guidelines and Procedures*, was developed and updated in March 2016.

The Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is responsible for ensuring the safety and welfare of people who participate in HHS-sponsored research. VDH has voluntarily registered and has applied for and received Federalwide Assurance for its IRB from OHRP. Registration with OHRP facilitates DHHS's effort to establish effective communication with IRBs. In addition, receiving an assurance from OHRP formalizes an institution's commitment to protect human subjects. The primary responsibility of the VDH IRB is to protect the rights and wellbeing of human subjects who participate in research. The Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR 46.111) provide that the IRB may only approve research after it has determined that all the following requirements are met:

- Risks to subjects are minimized.
- Risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits.
- Selection of subjects is equitable.
- Informed consent will be sought from each prospective subject or the subject's legally authorized representative in accordance with, and to the extent required by §46.116.
- Informed consent will be appropriately documented or appropriately waived in accordance with §46,117.
- When appropriate, the research plan makes adequate provision of monitoring the data collected to ensure the safety of subjects.
- VDH IRB requires that investigators and other key project staff are trained in the rights and protection of human subjects.
- When appropriate, there are adequate provisions to protect the privacy of subjects and to maintain the confidentiality of data.
- Additionally, when some or all the subjects are likely to be vulnerable to coercion or undue influence, such as children, prisoners, individuals with impaired decision-making capacity or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons, additional safeguards have been included in the study to protect the rights and welfare of these subjects.

Depending on the level of risk of the research protocol and the participant population, IRBs may conduct either an exempt review, expedited review or full board review. Under the Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 46.104, certain categories of research that present little or no risk to human subjects (non-vulnerable subjects) do not require ongoing monitoring and review by an IRB. However, IRB staff, in consultation with the IRB Chair, must make the determination that the research does indeed meet the criteria for exemption before the research study may commence. This type of review is called "exempt review." If a study falls into one of the exempt categories detailed in 45 CFR 46.104, researchers still have ethical responsibilities to protect participants' rights. If the risks to human subjects appear questionable or the research does not fit into the federally defined categories for exemption, the IRB will notify the investigator that he/she must submit the study as a new protocol for either full board or expedited review.

Under the Code of Federal Regulation 45 CFR 46.110, certain categories of human subject research involving no more than minimal risk, as well as minor changes to previously approved research, qualify for what is called "expedited review." In these instances, a designated IRB member (or group of members) reviews the proposed research rather than the entire IRB, with final review and approval by the IRB chair.

When full board review is necessary (based on level of risk, the inclusion of vulnerable subjects, e.g.), the research proposal is presented and discussed at a meeting at which a quorum of IRB members is present. For the research to be approved, it must receive the approval of a majority of those voting members present. This is considered "full board review".

VDH IRB meetings were held quarterly during 2023: January 9th, April 17th, July 17th, and October 2nd. Minutes are available on request.

REPORT OUTLINE

The following is a description of the research studies reviewed and approved by the Virginia Department of Health Institutional Review Board during 2023.

I. A DESCRIPTION OF EACH HUMAN RESEARCH PROJECT REVIEWED:

A. FULL REVIEWS NONE

B. Expedited Reviews

- Study #:** 70059
Title: Study on the Incidence of Cancer Diagnosis and Mortality Among Military Aviators and Aviation Support Personnel
Principal investigator: Natalie Wells, MD, MPH Defense Health Agency, Armed Forces Health
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine if there is a higher incident of any cancer and certain site-specific cancers among military aviators and aviation support personnel compared to similar age, sex, and race groups in the U.S. general population.
Approved: January 18, 2023 (Previously approved by the Defense Health Agency IRB)
- Study #:** 70060
Title: Increasing Overdoses in Richmond, VA – A Community Conversation to Understand the Factors Driving Substance Use (IORV Study)
Principal investigator: Jennifer Shephard, MSc, Richmond City Henrico County Health Department
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify the most important issues contributing to the significant increase in both fatal/non-fatal overdoses in the community and the actions that may help slow/prevent fatal/non-fatal overdoses.
Approved: March 23, 2023
- Study #:** 70061
Title: University of Virginia HPV Research Project
Principal investigator: Emma McKim Mitchell, Ph.D., MSN, RN, University of Virginia (UVA)
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to explore the impact of changing policies in Virginia on HPV vaccine uptake.
Approved: April 14, 2023 (Previously approved by UVA IRB)
- Study #:** 70062
Title: Spatial Analysis of COVID-19 Incidence During the Delta and Omicron Waves, in the Central Virginia Health District
Principal investigator: Cali Anderson, MPH, Lynchburg Health Department
Study Purpose: The purpose of the study is to conduct spatial analysis of COVID-19 incidence during the Delta and Omicron waves in the Central Virginia health district

to document the demographics and factors that may have influenced health outcomes and identify high burden areas and the differences between each COVID-19 wave.

Approved: April 14, 2023

Study #: 70063
Title: Cancer Incidence and Cancer Mortality in the World Trade Center Health Registry
Principal investigator: James E. Cone, MD, MPH, New York City Health Department

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to systematically evaluate the long-term physical and mental health consequences of the 9/11 disaster in a selection of those potentially most exposed to inform those at risk and improve preparedness for future emergencies.

Approved: April 28, 2023

Study #: 70064
Title: Health Equity in Fertility Specialty Care among Cancer Survivors
Principal investigator: J. Alejandro Rauh-Hain, MD, MPH, MD Anderson Cancer Center

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine factors impacting health equity in fertility specialty care among cancer survivors

Approved: May 11, 2023 (previously approved by the MD Anderson Cancer Center IRB)

Study #: 70065
Title: Community-Based Cohort Study of Disease Incidence in Ohio and West Virginia
Principal investigator: Nelson Kyle Steenland, Ph.D., Emory University

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to conduct a record-based follow-up of subjects exposed to Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), a product used in the manufacturing of Teflon, to determine the incidence of cancer.

Approved: May 17, 2023 (original study approved by New York University IRB, the follow-up study approved by BRANY IRB)

Study #: 70066
Title: The NYU Women's Health Study (NYUWHS)
Principal investigator: Yu Chen, MPH, Ph.D., New York University (NYU)
Study Purpose: The overall objective of the NYUWHS is the investigation of risk factors, including circulating biomarkers, in relation to risk of cancer and other diseases.
Approved: May 23, 2023 (previously approve by BRANY IRB)

Study #: 70067
Title: The Impact of Housing Instability on Breastfeeding Behavior in Hampton Roads, Virginia
Principal investigator: DaShaunda D. Taylor, Ph.D., MPH, Old Dominion University (ODU)

Study Purpose: The goal of this project is to assess the relationship between breastfeeding and housing instability in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia, evaluate this relationship by race/ethnicity, and identify and coordinate with community stakeholders to determine how to increase breastfeeding initiation and continuance for the recommended duration.

Approved: June 9, 2023 (previously approved by the ODU IRB)

Study #: 70068

Title: Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD)

Principal investigator: Michael Horberg, MD, Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (KPMAS)

Study Purpose: The primary objective of the VSD infrastructure task is to collaborate with CDC to implement a common data model within the KPMAS that allows for joint vaccine safety surveillance to examine the association between vaccines, health status and outcomes, including adverse events, across the patient population.

Approved: June 14, 2023 (previously approved as exempt by the KPMAS IRB)

Study #: 70069

Title: University of Virginia Mortality Data

Principal investigator: Glenn Wasson, Ph.D., University of Virginia (UVA)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this protocol is to develop a cancer research database to facilitate the use of clinical data for research purposes. The database will contain identifiable data from various clinical data sources, existing research databases and biorepository database.

Approved: August 24, 2023 (previously approved by UVA IRB)

Study #: 70070

Title: Prince William Health District Opioid Needs Assessment: Understanding Community Factors for Opioid Use Disorder

Principal investigator: Andrea Young, RN, BSN, MPH, Prince William Health District

Study Purpose: The needs assessment includes listening sessions and key informant interviews with community leaders to assess the current needs, challenges, and resources related to opioid use and addiction within the community.

Approved: August 30, 2023

Study #: 70071

Title: A Descriptive Analysis of Self-Reported Long COVID Symptomatology and Post-COVID Conditions in Central Virginia

Principal investigator: Cali Anderson, MPH, Central VA Health District

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify the most common long-term symptoms and newly diagnosed medical conditions that participants experienced after a COVID-19 infection.

Approved: September 29, 2023

Study #: 70072
Title: Emerging Challenges in Newborn Screening: Benefits and Harms of Receiving Uncertain Prognoses After Newborn Screening (NBS)
Principal investigator: Beth Tarini, MD Children’s National Hospital
Study Purpose: The project's overall objective is to examine the scope and magnitude of benefits and harms to parents and their children who receive an uncertain prognosis after NBS.
Approved: November 1, 2023 (previously approved by the Children’s Hospital IRB)

Study #: 70073
Title: Statewide Listening Sessions on Healthcare Access and Health Needs of Transgender Virginians
Principal investigator: Ted Heck, MS, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine how VDH can assist the state's transgender community regarding quality-of-life risk factors and outcomes, by gaining a deeper understanding of cultural, and linguistic characteristics regarding social determinants of health and how demographics and geographics differ from region to region.
Approved: October 25, 2023

Study #: 70074
Title: Assessing Residential Neighborhood Exposome Exposures and the Associations with Cancer Incidences
Principal investigator: David Wheeler, Ph.D. Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
Study Purpose: The overall goal of this case-control project is to assess how exposure to the experience of residing in disadvantaged neighborhoods over time contributes to disparities in cancer incidence.
Approved: November 16, 2023 (previously approved by the VCU IRB)

Study #: 70075
Title: Pathogen Genomic Center of Excellence VCU
Principal investigator: Dr. Gregory Buck, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
Study Purpose: The purpose of the study is to build infrastructure to quickly sequence the genome of pathogens in outbreak situations and use the data for genetic epidemiology to prepare for next epidemic or pandemic event.
Approved: December 7, 2023 (previously approved by VCU IRB)

C. Exempt

Study #: 50287
Title: Expanded Second Tier Dried Bloodspot Screening Through Next Generation Sequencing Assay Targeting CFTR2 Variants

Principal Investigator: Emily Hopkins, MS, Department of General Services, Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate a new test method for the detection of additional mutations associated with cystic fibrosis.

Approved: January 11, 2023

Study #: 50288

Title: County-level Food Insecurity and Adverse Birth Outcomes in Virginia: An analysis of Birth Certificate Data, 2016-2020.

Principal Investigator: Ksenia Primich, MPH, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to examine the association between living in a food desert and adverse birth outcomes – low birth weight (LBW) and small for gestational age (SGA) in Virginia.

Approved: January 11, 2023

Study #: 50289

Title: Predicting Outcomes Among Cancer Patients in Virginia: A Population-based Analysis Using Machine Learning.

Principal Investigator: Hadiza Galadima, Ph.D., Old Dominion University (ODU)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to create a comprehensive cancer research database that integrates cancer registry data and social determinants of health to identify geographic areas where early onset of colorectal cancer (EOCRC) and breast cancer (BC) are clustered in Virginia.

Approved: January 18, 2023 (Previously approved by the ODU IRB)

Study #: 50290

Title: Understanding WIC Women’s Infant Feeding Decision in Emergencies: The Case of COVID-19 and the Formula Shortage

Principal Investigator: Davida Mensah, MS, Rappahannock Health District

Study Purpose: The proposed study’s purpose is to understand the effects of COVID-19 and the national formula shortage on breastfeeding rate among Virginia WIC participants.

Approved: January 23, 2023

Study #: 50291

Title: Predictors of COVID Hospitalization in Loudoun County during the Post-vaccination Timeframe (2021/2022)

Principal Investigator: Catherine Visintainer, MD, George Washington University (GWU)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine if demographic and health factors associated with risk for COVID-19 hospitalization have changed among Loudoun County residents given the availability of the COVID-19 vaccines and the emergence of new variants and subvariants of SARS CoV-2 in Virginia.

Approved: February 3, 2023 (previously approved by GWU IRB)

Study #: 50292
Title: Association Between Historical Redlining and Birth Outcomes in Virginia, 2016-2020.
Principal Investigator: Ksenia Primich, MPH and Meagan Robinson Maynor, Dr.PH, Virginia Department of Health
Study Purpose: This study will examine the association between historical redlining and preterm birth (PTB), low birth weight (LBW), and small for gestational age (SGA) over a five-year period (2015-2019) in the following areas of Virginia: Richmond, Newport News-Norfolk-Virginia Beach, Lynchburg, and Roanoke.
Approved: February 14, 2023

Study #: 50293
Title: Urban Heat Exposure in Richmond, VA
Principal Investigator: Todd Lookingbill, Ph.D., University of Richmond (U of R)
Study Purpose: This study will test the hypothesis that urban heat islands pose a serious threat to human health through exposure to extreme heat.
Approved: March 14, 2023 (previously approved by the U of R IRB)

Study #: 50294
Title: Secondary Data Analysis of Virginia Youth Survey Data
Principal Investigator: Melissa Little, Ph.D., MPH, University of Virginia (UVA)
Study Purpose: This study will use a secondary data analysis to gain a better understanding of the role of social determinants in adolescent tobacco use.
Approved: March 14, 2023 (previously approved by UVA IRB)

Study #: 50295
Title: Persons with Lived Experience (PWLE) Review of Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan
Principal Investigator: Emily Schreer, BA, Virginia Department of Health
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is survey PWLE to gain feedback on the draft of *Hep Free VA: Virginia's Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan*.
Approved: March 9, 2023

Study #: 50296
Title: Use of Spatial Epidemiology and Hotspot Analysis to Examine Disparities in Low Birthweight and Premature Birth in Virginia
Principal Investigator: Abdullah Al-Taiar, MD, Old Dominion University (ODU)
Study Purpose: This study will examine hotspots of low birth weight/prematurity in Virginia to determine the individual and community associated factors.
Approved: March 13, 2023 (previously approved by ODU IRB)

Study #: 50297
Title: Application of Wastewater-Based Epidemiology for Forecasting COVID-19 Future Trends Using Copula
Principal Investigator: Anna Jeng, ScD, Old Dominion University (ODU)

Study Purpose: The study aims to develop practical tools for forecasting COVID-19 distribution for pandemic management and prevention using the analysis of wastewater SARS-CoV-2 viral load and demographic variables.

Approved: March 16, 2023 (previously approved by the ODU IRB)

Study #: **50298**

Title: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Trigger-Tool Analysis

Principal Investigator: Jessica Rosner, MPH, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study to identify the frequency of triggers (e.g., clinical events that may result in adverse events or harm) occurring during patient care in the pre-hospital setting.

Approved: March 31, 2023

Study #: **50299**

Title: Examining Postpartum Depression Screening Factors in Virginia by Race

Principal Investigator: Darrian Thomas, BSW, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to better understand the relationship between race and postpartum depression and identify gaps in postpartum depression screening practices as it relates to differences in race.

Approved: April 28, 2023 (previously approved by VCU IRB)

Study #: **50300**

Title: National WIC Association Multistate Participant Survey

Principal Investigator: Lorrene D. Ritchie, Ph.D., MS, RD, University of California Davis (UC Davis)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine WIC participants' satisfaction and how to increase the benefits of WIC

Approved: May 11, 2023 (Previously approved by the UC Davis IRB)

Study #: **50301**

Title: Gap Analysis of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Postpartum Depression/Anxiety (PPD/A) Screenings.

Principal Investigator: Natasha Sriraman, MD, VA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

Study Purpose: The proposed study will investigate facilitators and barriers for conducting intimate partner violence (IPV) and postpartum depression and anxiety (PPD/PPA) screenings among physicians within their respective clinics.

Approved: May 17, 2023

Study #: **50302**

Title: Secondary data from VDH for the Virginia Population Estimates and School Enrollment Projections

Principal Investigator: Qian Cai, Ph.D., University of Virginia, Weldon Cooper Center

Study Purpose: The purpose of this request is to produce more accurate data regarding Virginia population estimates required for state funding formulas and used in the development of school enrollment projections which are required by the General Assembly.

Approved: June 14, 2023 (previously approved by the UVA IRB)

Study #: 50303

Title: Community Health Workers (CHWs) for a Healthy Virginia Project Evaluation

Principal Investigator: Michelle White, MS, Health Quality Innovators

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify system, organizational and individual level characteristics that can contribute to the successful implementation of community health worker programs to address future pandemics and to ameliorate the health and social needs that are exacerbated by health emergencies.

Approved: June 27, 2023

Study #: 50304

Title: Assessing Trauma Triage in Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Principal Investigator: Daisy Banta, MPH, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to identify risk factors and social determinants for under- and over- triaging of trauma patients in the prehospital setting.

Approved: July 28, 2023

Study #: 50305

Title: Virginia COVID-19 After Action Study Interviews

Principal Investigator: Stephen Eubank, Ph.D., University of Virginia (UVA)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this project is to conduct a COVID-19 after action study in order to improve the quality of modeling analysis by identifying the information needed and the current information supplied during the COVID-19.

Approved: July 26, 2023 (previously approved by the UVA IRB)

Study #: 50306

Title: Quantitative Analysis of Virginia Domestic Travelers Exposed to COVID-19 from 2021-2023

Principal Investigator: Tessa DeWalt, MS, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of the study is to assess COVID-19 disease development after an airline exposure, in order to better understand disease exposure risk attributable to airplane travel.

Approved: August 9, 2023

Study #: 50307

Title: Acute Care Utilization Among Sickle Cell Patients in Eight States, 2018.

Principal Investigator: Parker Parks, MPH, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine how hospital utilization among Sickle Cell Disease patients vary by age, sex, and payer source.
Approved: August 9, 2023

Study #: 50308
Title: Virginia Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Linkage Project
Principal Investigator: Kenesha Smith Barber, Ph.D., Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to examine the relationships between experiences or behaviors such as use of alcohol/substance use, access to insurance and chronic illness diagnosis on severe maternal morbidity in different race/ethnic groups.
Approved: August 24, 2023

Study #: 50309
Title: Biocomplexity Institute COVID-19 Response: Surveillance, Modeling and Operational Support
Principal Investigator: Bryan Lewis Ph.D., MPH, University of Virginia
Study Purpose: The study will conduct analysis and modeling (including what-if scenarios and forecasts) of COVID-19 data to assist in decision and policy making at the state and local level.
Approved: August 24, 2023 (previously approved by UVA IRB)

Study #: 50310
Title: Neighborhood, Home- and Community-Based Services, and Older Adults' Health in Virginia
Principal Investigator: Seon Kim, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)
Study Purpose: This research will explore the relationship between neighborhood characteristics, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS), and older adults' health in Virginia.
Approved: August 30, 2023

Study #: 50311
Title: Impact of Rice Diet on Hypertension and Metabolic Disease
Principal Investigator: Pao-Hwa Lin, Ph.D., Duke University
Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to investigate the impact of the Rice Diet on hypertension and metabolic disease.
Approved: September 29, 2023 (previously approved by the Duke University IRB)

Study #: 50312
Title: Sickle Cell Disease and Social Vulnerability
Principal Investigator: Shamaree Cromartie, MPH, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine the incidence of Sickle Cell Disease births and their associated characteristics.

Approved: September 29, 2023

Study #: **50313**

Title: VCU Health Psychology Analysis of VA Youth and Adult Survey Data

Principal Investigator: Caroline Cobb, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this project is to explore electronic nicotine delivery use and weight management intentions among Virginia youth including how family ties in the Latino/Hispanic community influence smoking in middle and high school youth.

Approved: September 29, 2023

Study #: **50314**

Title: Targeted Community Outreach (TCO) Focus Groups (FGs) & Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Principal Investigator: Katherine Schroeder, MPH, Lord Fairfax Health District

Study Purpose: The aim of this study is to better understand the community's concerns, goals, and health needs of residents from Lord Fairfax Health District which serves Clarke, Frederick, Page, Shenandoah, and Warren counties and Winchester City.

Approved: October 3, 2023

Study #: **50315**

Title: Comprehensive Harm Reduction Survey

Principal Investigator: Bruce Taylor, MS, ED, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this survey is to gain insight into the needs of the population served and evaluate the Harm Reduction program.

Approved: November 6, 2023

Study #: **50316**

Title: Secondary Analysis of Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Clinicians 2019 Mental Health Survey

Principal Investigator: Jessica Rosner, MPH, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Study Purpose: The purpose of the analysis is to determine if demographic and occupational characteristics are associated with self-reported suicidal symptoms among Virginia EMS clinicians.

Approved: October 25, 2023

Study #: **50317**

Title: Secondary Analysis of Virginia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Clinicians 2022 Mental Health Survey

Principal Investigator: Jessica Rosner, MPH, Virginia Department of Health

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine if demographic and occupational characteristics are associated with self-reported substance use and the presence of self-reported mental health conditions.

Approved: October 25, 2023

Study #: **50318**

Title: The Effects of Locally Based Cooling Centers on Heat-Related Illness in Virginia

Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniel J. Vecellio, Ph.D., George Mason University (GMU)

Study Purpose: The purpose of this study is to determine if counties or ZIP codes with official cooling centers experience reductions in heat-related illness during extreme heat events as compared to those counties or ZIP codes without official cooling centers.

Approved: November 29, 2023, (previously reviewed by GMU IRB)

Study #: **50319**

Title: Determining Factors Associated with Hepatitis C (HCV) in Virginia from 2018-2022: Exploring Target Areas for Future Surveillance

Principal Investigator: Joylynn Tilley, Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS)

Study Purpose: This project will examine the factors associated with Hep C (HCV) in Virginia.

Approved: December 19, 2023

Study #: **50320**

Title: The Other Ehrlichiosis: First Reported Human Fatality by Ehrlichia Ewingii Infection

Principal Investigator: James Broyhill, Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Study Purpose: This study will provide data about a relatively newly identified uncommon and generally non-lethal tickborne illness.

Approved: December 19, 2023

