

Maddy Wierenga, MPH

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Education

2022 MPH The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI

Master of Public Health
Specialization: Nutrition

2020 BS Purdue University, West Lafayette IN

Major in Public Health, Minors in Biological Sciences and Chemistry

Professional Experience

Summer Intern, The Five Healthy Towns Foundation

Chelsea, MI | June 2021 – August 2021

- Interviewed community members, municipal government, school officials, and city planning experts to complete the Healthy Communities Checklist and the Promoting Active Communities surveys in four towns in the Southeast Michigan area
- Synthesized survey information, presented research findings, and offered recommendations to the community's coalitions members on how the built environment impacts people's ability to live a healthy lifestyle through oral presentation
- Utilized professional writing skills to communicate health content related to the brain through publishing four articles in the community magazine
- Lead two social media promotion campaigns using Canva and Instagram to promote health and resources within the community

Vice President, Maternal and Child Health Student Association (MCHSA)

Ann Arbor, MI | August 2020 – April 2022

- Collaborated with the President with the oversight of the student organization including fundraising, event planning, networking, and advertising
- Secured partnership with FemForward to facilitate resource sharing, information pooling, event collaboration, and funding opportunities
- Designed educational content for MCHSA's Instagram page on topics such as key awareness days, contraception, breastfeeding, and traditionally taboo topics in maternal and child health

Health Behavior Research Assistant, CareAvenue - University of Michigan Public Health

Ann Arbor, MI | October 2020 – May 2021

- Assisted with participant recruitment and quantitative data collection using Microsoft Access, Qualtrics, and Google Suite
- Communicated study protocol and procedures, eligibility requirements, and intervention strategies to current and prospective study participants

Professional Experience (Continued)

Graduate Student Instructor, Program in Biology at the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI | August 2021 – April 2022

- Embraced diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) as an opportunity for growth and learning by creating a safe space for everyone to engage in learning
- Managed three classes of 22 undergraduate students and weekly planning for discussion activities that furthered student's understanding of lecture material
- Vetted existing and new course content material to foster student development and break down barriers due to the "hidden curriculum"

Research Assistant, Interdisciplinary Women's Reproductive Collaborative
West Lafayette, IN | January 2020 – August 2020

- Recruited for and facilitated focus group and in-depth interview qualitative data collection using Zoom
- Transcribed, coded, and analyzed large qualitative data utilizing Otter.ai and HyperResearch

Research Assistant, SPIT Lab at Purdue University Nutrition Science
West Lafayette, IN | May 2018 – May 2020

- Furthered critical thinking and literature review skills to create communication materials that appeal to scientific and broad audiences
- Designed an independent research project to determine sensory properties of prenatal vitamins to evaluate what appeals to women in a supplement using sensory evaluations and behavioral intent questionnaire's

Grants and Contracts – Current

September 2022 - September 2027	WIC Community Innovation and Outreach (CIAO) – Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist FRAC in designing the grant program and learning collaborative structure• Design and develop measurement procedures to capture the implementation and impacts of WIC projects, including messaging reach, participant satisfaction, and other variables.• Role: Research Associate
October 2019 - September 2022	Modifiable Predictors of Neural Vulnerabilities for Obesity – National Institutes of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist CSG in developing measurement procedures to capture impacts of WIC projects, including wait times, participant satisfaction, and other variables.• Role: Research Associate

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. DeMaria, A. L., **Wierenga, M.**, Kelly, K., Smith, S., Bohning, A., Bauman, T., & Schwab-Reese, L. (2021). Ecological factors affecting Infant at Work policies and programs in university settings. *Journal of Occupational Health*, 63(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/1348-9585.12248>
2. Smith, S., Schwab Reese, L., Kelly, K., Bauman, T., **Wierenga, M.**, Bohning, A., & DeMaria, A. L. (2022). A Qualitative Investigation of Individual, Interpersonal, and Institutional Contributions to Postpartum Work-Family Balance. *Health Behavior Research*, 5(3). <https://doi.org/10.4148/2572-1836.1144>

3. **Wierenga, M. R.**, Crawford, C. R., & Running, C. A. (2020). Older US adults like sweetened colas, but not other chemesthetic beverages. *Journal of Texture Studies*, 51(5), 722–732.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jtxs.12549>

Manuscripts Under Review

1. Davis, L., Lee, K., **Wierenga, M.**, & Running, C., (Under Review). Salivary flow and turbidity development inconsistently associated with lower taste intensity of vegetables and juices. *Food Quality and Preference*.

Selected Presentations

1. **Association for Chemoreception Sciences (ACHEMS)**. Water should not feel like slime: Sensory acceptability of chemesthetic beverages for managing swallowing disorders. Bonita Springs, FL. April 2019.
2. **Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference**. An employment needs assessment for parents returning to work after welcoming a child into their home. West Lafayette, IN. April 2020.