

Carolyn Tucker Halpern, Ph.D.

Chair, Maternal and Child Health at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Areas of expertise: adolescent and young adult sexuality and risk-taking, healthy sexual development, developmental psychology.

Dr. Halpern is professor and chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) in the Gillings School of Global Public Health and a Faculty Fellow at the Carolina Population Center. She is also a developmental psychologist and deputy director/co-investigator of the Waves IV and V National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) program project. Dr. Halpern's research interests center on improving understanding of healthy sexual development and the implications of adolescent experiences for developmental and demographic processes into adulthood, particularly as these relate to sexual and romantic relationships. Her early research focused on the hormonal underpinnings of pubertal change and how the interactions of physical, psychological and social changes contribute to adolescent sexual initiation and behavior. Her current research examines comprehensive sexual initiation patterns among youth, and the implications of those patterns for later sexual behavior and adult health. Most of her research uses data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), for which Dr. Halpern serves as Deputy Director. Dr. Halpern has nearly 30 years of research experience in the study of adolescent and young adult sexuality and risk-taking in both U.S. and global settings, and more than 100 peer-reviewed publications on these topics.

Research, Education/Learning

Sexual Development, Adolescent Health, Demography, Reproductive Health, Risk Taking

Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health, Society for Research in Child Development , Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, American Public Health Association

University of Houston

Ph.D. Developmental Psychology

University of Houston

M.A. Developmental Psychology

University of Houston

B.S. Psychology

Recipient John E. Larsh Jr. Student Mentorship Award

Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2016

Recipient National Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health Loretta Lacey Academic Leadership Award

2010

Recipient Graduate School Faculty Award for Excellence in Doctoral Mentoring
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2009

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