

Summer 2025 Undergraduate Research Internship

Project Name

An evaluation of the Support & Advocacy for Infant Feeding in Emergencies (SAFE) Team's efforts to support families in Western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene

Faculty Mentor

Dr. Stephanie Martin (Nutrition)

Project Description

The consequences of climate change include the intensifying of weather events such as drought, severe fire, rising sea levels, and catastrophic storms. Infants and young children are particularly vulnerable during natural hazard events as they are fully dependent on caregivers and experience increases in morbidity and mortality due to malnutrition, dehydration, and infectious disease. Our proposed project systematically characterizes the recent and ongoing response to Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina by the North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition Support & Advocacy for Infant Feeding in Emergencies (SAFE) Team. We are using quantitative and qualitative techniques to document and evaluate the SAFE Team intervention and response and inform future preparedness efforts.

Scope of Work for Internship

- Data cleaning
- Data analysis
- Participation in team meetings with UNC faculty and our community partner
- Contribute to a manuscript, create maps, and produce dissemination products

Expected Deliverables

- Cleaned data sets
- Maps of services
- Research summaries

Preferred Skills

Experience with statistics or qualitative analysis is preferred but not required. The project will offer training.