

**Laura Merrell, PhD, CPH**  
Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences  
College of Health and Behavioral Studies  
James Madison University  
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## **EDUCATION**

PhD            University of South Florida  
2016           College of Public Health

MPH            University of South Florida  
2010           College of Public Health  
                  Department of Global Health

BA              University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
2003

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2022-present *Associate Professor*  
Department of Health Sciences  
James Madison University  
Harrisonburg, VA

2016-2022    *Assistant Professor*  
Department of Health Sciences  
James Madison University  
Harrisonburg, VA

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2016-Present James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA

2013-2016    University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Public Health Association (2012 – Present)  
Madison Caucus for Gender Equality (2017 – Present)  
Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health (2013 – Present)  
American Association of University Women (2012 – 2016)

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

National Board of Public Health Examiners, Certified in Public Health (C.P.H.).

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health literacy, health communication, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, health disparities, mixed methodology.

## SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

**Merrell, L.**, Henry, D., Baller, S., Burnett, A., Peachey, A., & Bao, Y. (in press). Developing an assessment of a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE). *Research and Practice in Assessment*, 17(1).

**Merrell, L.K.**, Bishop, J.M, Henry, D.S., Ott Walter, M.K., Azariah, W.Y. & Loughlin, K.C. (2022). Exploring young adult comfort with oral health care providers' discussion related to HPV: A mixed methods study. *Journal of Dental Hygiene*, 96(5): 23 – 36.

Upadhyay, S.S.N., **Merrell, L.K.**, Temple, A., & Henry, D.S. (2022). Exploring the impact of instruction on college students' health insurance literacy. *Journal of Community Health*, 47(4), 697-703.

Daley, E.M., Thompson, E.L., Beckstead, J., Driscoll, A., Vamos, C., Piepenbrink, R.P., Desch, J., **Merrell, L.**, Richardson, M.B., Cayama, R., Owens, H., & Lovett, S.M. (2021). Discussing HPV and oropharyngeal cancer in dental settings: gender and provider-type matter. *Human vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, 17:12, 5454-5459. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2021.1996809>

**Merrell, L. K.**, Henry, D. S., Blackstone, S. R., & Howley, T. (2021). Predictors of health insurance literacy among university employees. *American Journal of Health Studies*, 36(2), 103-114.

**Merrell, L. K.**, & Blackstone, S. R. (2020). Women's empowerment as a mitigating factor for improved antenatal care quality despite impact of 2014 Ebola outbreak in Guinea. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 17(21), 8172.

- Henry, D. S., **Merrell, L. K.**, Blackstone, S. R., Collazo-Vargas, E., Mohl, C., Tolerico, M., Tolerico, M., Singley, L. & Moody, S. (2019). Does perpetrator occupation affect classification of sexual assault? *J Interpers Violence*, 34.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519873331>
- Vamos, C. A., **Merrell, L.**, Livingston, T. A., Dias, E., Detman, L., Louis, J., & Daley, E. (2019). "I didn't know": Pregnant women's oral health literacy experiences and future intervention preferences. *Women's Health Issues*, 29(6), 522-528.
- Griner, S. B., Thompson, E. L., Vamos, C. A., Chaturvedi, A. K., Vazquez-Otero, C., **Merrell, L. K.**, ... & Daley, E. M. (2019). Dental opinion leaders' perspectives on barriers and facilitators to HPV-related prevention. *Human vaccines & immunotherapeutics*, 1-7.
- Daley, E.M., Vamos, C.A, Vazquez-Otero, C., Griner, S., **Merrell, L.**, Kline, N., Walker, K., Driscoll, A., & Petrila, J. (2018). The role of dental providers in preventing HPV-related diseases: A systems perspective. *Journal of Dental Education*. (In press). Publication).
- Vamos, C. A., Thompson, E. L., Logan, R. G., Griner, S. B., Perrin, K. M., **Merrell, L. K.**, & Daley, E. M. (2018). Exploring college students' sexual and reproductive health literacy. *Journal of American College Health*, 1-10.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07448481.2018.1515757>
- Vázquez-Otero, C., Vamos, C. A., Thompson, E. L., **Merrell, L. K.**, Griner, S. B., Kline, N. S., Catalanotto, F.A., Giuliano, A., & Daley, E. M. (2018). Assessing dentists' human papillomavirus–related health literacy for oropharyngeal cancer prevention. *The Journal of the American Dental Association*, 149(1), 9-17.
- Daley, E.M., Zimet, G., Rosberger, Z., Vamos, C.A., Thompson, E.L. & **Merrell, L.** (2016). The feminization of HPV: Reversing gender biases in US human papillomavirus vaccine policy. *American Journal of Public Health*. 106(6): 983-4. PMID:27153015.
- Perrin, K., & **Merrell, L.** (2014). Undergraduate public health education: Alternative choices within the BSPH degree. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 2:127.