

2026 - 2027

IPHA Student Advisory Group

Bijal Patel

Bijal Patel is a PhD student in Epidemiology at Indiana University School of Public Health in Indianapolis. Her research focuses on cancer, physical activity, sports, and other chronic conditions, with a recent focus on the genetic and molecular aspects of cancer using genomic data analysis. Driven by a passion for interdisciplinary collaboration, Bijal strives to create meaningful community impact through her work.



Funmilayo Abudu

Funmilayo Abudu is a doctoral student in Public Health at Purdue University. Her research interests focus on sleep and mental health in underserved populations. Funmilayo is interested in assessing sleep disparities in vulnerable populations, developing and implementing evidence-based interventions to address these disparities, and exploring the role of sleep in preventing chronic diseases and mental disorders. Funmilayo is passionate about community impact.



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Alina Molina

I am a student at Butler University pursuing a degree in Public Health and Spanish. I am passionate about community health, advocacy, and creating meaningful connections through public health initiatives. Through my academic experiences and involvement opportunities, I have developed a strong interest in health equity, outreach, and education. I look forward to collaborating with other students and professionals while continuing to learn and contribute new perspectives to the IPHA Student Advisory Group.



Alyssa Smith

Alyssa Smith is a public health professional with a Master of Public Health from George Washington University and is currently pursuing an MBA through the Kelley School of Business Evening Program at Indiana University Indianapolis. Her work focuses on using data and program management to support healthier communities, including leading community health initiatives, developing dashboards, and managing grant-funded programs. She is passionate about translating data into meaningful insights that inform decision-making and improve population health outcomes.



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Belinda Palaguachi-Ramirez

Belinda Palaguachi-Ramirez is studying Public Health and Spanish, with a minor in Neuroscience, at Butler University. She chose Public Health and Spanish as her majors because when she moved to Indiana from NYC, she noticed a significant need for bilingual, diverse professionals to better address the needs of the various communities that make up Indy. As a public health professional, she intends to work alongside communities to help them prioritize their well-being and advocate for their health.



Kelly Cortez

Kelly Cortez is a graduate student at Indiana University Bloomington pursuing a Master of Public Health (MPH) with concentrations in Behavioral, Social, and Community Health and Epidemiology. Her work focuses on reducing health disparities among vulnerable populations, with a particular interest in obesity prevention, chronic disease management, and caregiver support. As a first-generation Latina, she is passionate about promoting health equity through research, community-based programs, and advocacy for underserved communities across the United States.

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Jonathan Parackattu

Jonathan Parackattu is a sophomore at Wabash College. He is majoring in Biochemistry with a minor in either Global Health or Spanish. After my time at Wabash, he plans on going to medical school to pursue a career in healthcare. Outside of classes, Jonathan enjoys singing, spike ball, fashion, and volunteer work. He is excited to begin collaborating with and learning from the other members of the SAG and the IPHA!



Keny Chapman

Keny Chapman, originally from Peru, is a Master of Public Health student in Administration at the Indiana University School of Public Health–Bloomington, where she advances student engagement and health equity through collaborative leadership. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Trine University. Her passion centers on immigrant mental health, especially acculturation-related stressors that affect wellbeing and access to compassionate, culturally responsive care



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Rita Chukwu

Rita Chukwu is a doctoral candidate in Public Health at Purdue University. Her research examines psychosocial and social-contextual factors associated with substance use among adolescents and emerging adults. She works on identifying protective factors, determining which warrant priority in prevention and reduction efforts, and understanding what shapes access to and utilization of substance use disorder services, particularly among underserved populations. Her aim is to translate that evidence into practical guidance for systems serving young people.

