

## **Ruth Shefner**

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### **Education:**

**Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health**

*PhD in Sociomedical Sciences*

2020-present

**University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine**

*Masters of Public Health*

2016- 2018

**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**

*Masters of Social Work, Macro Track*

2015- 2017

**Brown University**

*Bachelor of Arts Public Health with Honors, Magna Cum Laude*

2009- 2013

### **Publications:**

Anderson, E., Shefner, R., Koppel, R., Frasso, R. (2021). Experiences with the Philadelphia Police Assisted Diversion Program: A Qualitative Study. In Press.

Anderson, E., Shefner, R. (2021). Law enforcement and public health partnerships: Opportunities and perils. In M. Bacon and J. Spicer (Ed) *Ending the Stalemate: Drug Law Enforcement, Policing and Harm Reduction*. Routledge Press. In press.

Shefner, R. (2021). Halfway Home [Review of the book *Halfway Home: Race, Punishment, and the Afterlife of Mass Incarceration* by Reuben Jonathan Miller]. *Ethics and Social Welfare*. 3, 338-340.

Shefner, R., Sloan, J., Sandler, K., Anderson, E. (2020). Interactions with the criminal justice system for individuals who fatally overdosed in Philadelphia in 2016. *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 78, 102724.

Shefner, R., McGrath, C., Sharma, M., Anderson, E., & Cocchiaro, B. (2018). Supervised Injection Facilities. CPHI Data Brief.

Shefner, R., Anderson, E., & Riker, D. (2017). Reducing Incarceration in Philadelphia. CPHI Data Brief.

Varghese, R., Siers, M., Gall, E., Shefner, R., Harris, I., Rossman, M., & Parker, R. (2015). Descriptive Evaluation of Healthy Howard's Community Care Team A Care Transitions Program. *Gerontologist*, 55, 202.

Johnson, J., Schonbrun, Y., Peabody, M., Shefner, R., Fernandes, K., Rosen, R., & Zlotnick, C. (2014). Provider experiences with prison care and aftercare for women with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders: Treatment, resource, and systems integration challenges. *The journal of behavioral health services & research*, 1-20.

Johnson, J., Schonbrun, Y., Nargiso, J., Kuo, C., Shefner, R., Williams, C., & Zlotnick, C. (2013). "I know if I drink I won't feel anything": substance use relapse among depressed women leaving prison. *International Journal of Prisoner Health*, 9(4), 169-186.

### **Conference, Symposium, and Webinar Presentations:**

"Centering Racial Equity Throughout Data Integration". (2021). Presentation to SAMHSA's GAINS Center's *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Reentry Community of Practice Virtual All-Sites Convening*.

Anderson, E., Shefner, R., Koppel, R., Frasso, R. (2019). Police Officer Perspectives on Police-Assisted Diversion (PAD) in Philadelphia. Presentation at *International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health*, Edinburgh, UK.

“Social Work and Community”. (2019). Panel Moderator at Penn Law JLP 2019 Symposium “*Addicted to the War on Drugs.*” Philadelphia, PA.

Shefner, R., Sloan, J., Sandler, K., Anderson, E. (2018). “Criminal justice contact prior to fatal overdose: identifying opportunities for intervention.” Presentation at the *International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health*, Toronto, ON.

Varghese, R., Siers, M., Gall, E., Shefner, R., Harris, I., Rossman, M., & Parker, R. (2015). “Evaluation of Healthy Howard’s Community Care Team, a care transitions program empowering patients to navigate the healthcare system.” Presentation at the *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting*.

### **Posters:**

Shefner R., Mauro P., Kajeepeta S., Allen H., Duncan D., Philbin M., Prins S. (2021). Net widening or displacement? Testing the association between county jail incarceration and substance use treatment admission. Presentation at the *Addiction Health Services Research Conference 2021*. Virtual.

Shefner, R., Treglia, D., Cnaan, R. (2019). “Evaluating the Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI): Do Master of Social Work students provide effective reentry services to participants transitioning out of Philadelphia County Jails?” Presentation at the *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA.

Shefner, R., Ramlow, R., McClelland, E., Anderson, E. (2019). “The scientific basis of criminal law in public health promotion: A systematic review of systematic reviews evaluating the health effects of criminal justice processes.” Presentation at the *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA.

Koppel, R., Shefner, R., Frasso, R., Anderson, E. (2019). “Experiences with Police-Assisted Diversion in Philadelphia.” Presentation at the *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA.

Shefner, R., Sloan, J., Anderson, E. (2018). “Interactions with the criminal justice system for individuals who fatally overdosed in Philadelphia in 2016.” Presentation at the *College of Physicians Student Poster Session*, Philadelphia, PA.

### **Fellowships:**

#### **HIV, Substance Use, and Criminal Justice T32 Fellowship Program**

##### ***Predoctoral Fellow***

*2020-present*

- National Institute on Drug Abuse grant T32-DA-37801, Nabila El-Bassel and Lisa Metsch, Principal Investigators

##### **University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice Porter Family Fellow**

*2017*

- Malitta Engstrom, Faculty Mentor

### **Research Experience:**

#### **Columbia MSPH Decarceration and Public Health Working Group**

*New York, New York*

##### ***Graduate Student Researcher***

*September 2020-ongoing*

- Coordinate and support data collection, cleaning, analysis, and drafting manuscripts for publication on series of projects related to the public health impacts of criminalization of substance use disorders
- Support grant and report writing efforts
- Support ongoing research activities of principal investigators (Seth Prins, Pia Mauro)

#### **Columbia University Justice Lab**

*New York, New York*

##### ***Graduate Student Researcher***

*March 2021-ongoing*

- Support Emerging Adult Justice Project team with drafting reports for publication and preparing presentations for stakeholder meetings, conference presentations, and broader public engagement on topics related to EAJ innovation
- Support grant and memo writing efforts for various ongoing and emerging initiatives
- Coordinate multimodal research and policy with local community partners
- Support Probation and Parole Project with qualitative interviewing and analysis for evaluation of NYC Reentry Hotel COVID response pilot program

**University of Penn., Center for Public Health Initiatives**  
**Graduate Researcher**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Jan. 2017-ongoing*

- Coordinated data collection, abstraction, analysis, and manuscript development of full criminal justice histories for all overdose fatality cases in Philadelphia in 2016 to investigate opportunities for criminal justice intervention
- Conduct qualitative data analysis of Philadelphia police officer focus groups for evaluation and assessment of crisis intervention response team (CIRT) pilot model
- Conduct qualitative data analysis on interviews with police assisted diversion (PAD) participants and stakeholders to support program evaluation efforts
- Synthesized and abstracted relevant studies to conduct a systematic review of literature examining the scientific basis for criminal law and policy
- Conducted literature reviews and produced research briefs related to Supervised Injection Facilities (SIF), Police Assisted Diversion (PAD), and mass incarceration for dissemination at Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) events

**Youth Advocacy Project**  
**Research and Community Outreach Fellow**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Sep. 2015-Apr. 2016*

- Collaborated with students at Penn Law School and Penn School of Social Policy and Practice (SP2) to provide research support to the Youth Sentencing Reentry Project
- Created written and graphic deliverables to present juvenile justice related data to use during decertification hearings in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas

**Brown University**  
**Undergraduate Researcher**

*Providence, RI*  
*Sep. 2011-May 2013*

- Prepared study materials, recruited participants, and assisted with data collection and analysis for study examining the effect of meditation training on impulsivity, criminality and recidivism of drug abusing prisoners post release at Rhode Island Adult Correction Institute
- Reviewed transcripts, developed qualitative codebooks, prepared qualitative data for analysis, and collaborated with a research team of clinical psychologists in a series of studies investigating the concurrence of substance abuse and major depressive disorders in females in the prison system, both pre- and post-release
- Developed interview protocols, recruited study participants, conducted and transcribed interviews, and used inductive qualitative coding methods to analyze data for a comprehensive qualitative analysis investigating the challenges and barriers to effective HIV prevention among female sex workers in Rhode Island

**Center for Prisoner Health & Human Rights**  
**Research Assistant:**

*Providence, RI*  
*Jun. 2011- Sep. 2012*

- Examined the effects of residential mobility on rates of recidivism among RI prisoners on parole for drug related offenses under the mentorship of Dr. Traci Green, supported through a Brown University Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA) grant

- Supported Dr. Green's ongoing research efforts by developing a system for qualitatively coding messages from online chat forums regarding heroin and opioid use in RI
- Assisted Dr. Green in the creation of a naloxone use and administration training video to be played for individuals in prisons pre-release, as part of a national project to reduce rates of death from accidental opioid overdose post-release

**Center for Prisoner Health & Human Rights, RI Dept. of Corrections**

*Providence, RI*

**Research Assistant:**

*Jan.- Sep. 2012*

- Coordinated with providers and state officials to improve linkage to care for Medicaid eligible individuals incarcerated in RI
- Served as a liaison between the Center, RI Department of Corrections, Adult Correctional Institute, and the state Medicaid office
- Performed relevant research, prepared briefs, organized and attended meetings with all relevant parties

**Employment History:**

**Goldring Reentry Initiative (GRI)**

*Philadelphia, PA*

**Director and Fellow**

*Jul. 2017-August 2020*

- Oversaw and managed all programmatic aspects of the GRI, the largest court-based reentry program in Philadelphia, including: the recruitment and selection of 100 eligible clients per year; maintaining security clearances into the Philadelphia Department of Prisons facilities; and GRI weekly integrative seminars
- Provided therapeutic case management to clients incarcerated in the Philadelphia county jail system and on parole post-release
- Developed and facilitate therapeutic and educational workshops and trainings for participants currently incarcerated in the Philadelphia county jail system
- Coordinated client selection and client release plans with partners at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, the District Attorney's Office, the Honorable Judge Diana Anhalt, and the Philadelphia Adult Probation and Parole Department
- Provided training, orientation, and oversight to a staff of 15 MSW interns each year
- Provided clinical supervision to three advanced year macro practice and foundation year interns each year
- Established and maintained a functioning Advisory Board of GRI alumni, stakeholders, funders, and community partners
- Spearheaded efforts to evaluate program outcomes, efficacy, intern experiences, and overall processes
- Engaged with members of the Philadelphia reentry community to develop partnerships and strengthen networks

**IMPAQ International LLC,**

*Washington, D.C.*

**Health Research Analyst**

*Jan. 2014-Jul. 2015*

- Supported the Health Research team by performing data analysis, assisting the preparation of technical procedures and reports, managing project team staff, and maintaining high quality records
- Organized and conducted stakeholder, provider, and staff interviews and performed qualitative analyses
- Developed comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures documentation for Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare Advantage audit activities
- Developed and coordinated proposal writing process while managing five person proposal team
- Plan, implement, and oversee community events for clients, interns, and staff

**Leadership Experience:**

**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**  
**SP2 Student Journal Editor in Chief**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Nov. 2015-May 2017*

- Worked with a small steering committee of students to create and develop a school wide student publication
- Assisted with the development of all aspects of the journal, with particular attention to the mission, content goals, and strategic priorities to align content and form with existing publications from peer institutions
- Contributed original writing for publication
- Recruited, assigned, and managed staff for the second issue of the journal
- Developed and maintained organizational budget

**School of Social Policy and Practice Criminal Justice Bloc**  
**Director**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Apr. 2016-Apr. 2017*

- Planned all educational programming, networking activities, and discussions for criminal justice student interest group at SP2
- Founded, developed, and managed a drop-in clinic for individuals who were previously incarcerated, staffed by social work students (WIRES)
- Organized, promoted, and facilitated monthly general meetings
- Developed, planned, and executed monthly criminal justice lecture series for 25-50 students, faculty, and community members

**Teaching:**

**Columbia MSPH**  
**Teaching Assistant**

*NYC, NY*  
*Sept.-Dec. 2021*

- Graduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. Robert Fullilove, masters level course SOSC 8750: *Race and Health*

**Temple University Department of Criminology**  
**Invited Guest Lecturer**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Apr. 26, 2019*

- Discussed reentry and criminal justice reform in Philadelphia with class of 30 undergraduate criminology students

**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**  
**Invited Guest Lecturer**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Feb. 2019, 2020*

- Discussed historical trajectory of criminal justice, current criminal justice reform in Philadelphia, and reentry challenges with class of 30 first year MSW students in a History and Philosophy of Social Welfare course

**University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice**  
**Porter Family Fellow**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*Jan.-May 2017*

- Developed and coordinated Mass Incarceration section of a school wide Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) in conjunction with Dr. Malitta Engstrom
- Facilitated discussions on online chat boards with enrolled students and moderated dialogue
- Curated ongoing relevant news to distribute to and engage enrolled students

**University of Pennsylvania Center for Public Health Initiatives**  
**Teaching Assistant**

*Philadelphia, PA*  
*May 2017-May 2018*

- MPH Teaching Assistant for Dr. Evan Anderson, masters level course PUBH 507: *Public Health Law and Ethics* (3 semesters)

**Brown University School of Public Health**  
**Teaching Assistant**

*Providence, RI*  
*Jan. 2011-May 2013*

- Teaching Assistant for Dr. Ira Wilson, undergraduate course PHP0310: Introduction to Healthcare in the US (1 semester as Head TA, 2 semesters as general TA)
- Teaching Assistant for Dr. Bruce Becker, undergraduate course PHP1520: Emergency Medical Systems (1 semester as Head TA, 2 semesters as general TA)

**Brown University School of Public Health**  
**Course Developer and Instructor**

*Providence, RI*  
*Sep. 2011-Sep. 2012*

- Developed syllabus and reading list for first year undergraduate seminar
- Guided weekly seminar discussions on readings and guest speakers and mentored first year students
- Graded weekly papers as well as midterm and final assignments