Luwam Gebrekristos

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Education

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA **2025**
PhD, Epidemiology
Dissertation: "Beyond Individual Risk: A Multilevel and Bayesian Spatial Analysis of HIV Among Adolescent Mothers in East & Southern Africa"
Advisor: Felice Lê-Scherban, PhD, MPH

Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA **2025**
MPH, Biostatistics

The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD **2011**
BA, Public Health Studies

Research Experience

Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA **2020 – Present**
PhD Candidate, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
- Lead data analyst on 6 NIH-funded research studies leveraging varied, secondary data sources in R
- Design and conduct observational research using spatial and Bayesian methodologies
- Led longitudinal and multilevel analyses on intervention durability
- Design and lead mixed-methods study to understand how to meaningfully engage with youths in research and practice
- Publish findings in high-impact journals and present research at scientific conferences

American University, Remote **2020**
Consultant, Department of Sociology
- Conducted and published longitudinal analyses to inform public health policies and interventions
- Led statistical modeling efforts and translating complex findings for publications
- Mentored and supported 2 graduate students as they completed their theses

Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA **2016-2020**
Project Coordinator, Department of Community Health and Prevention
- Managed a $1.4M study budget, overseeing data collection, management, and compliance with ethical regulations
- Conducted HIV-related statistical analyses in R and SAS
- Authored study protocols, analysis plans, and technical reports for external stakeholders

Drexel University School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA **2015-2016**
Research Assistant, Urban Health Collaborative
- Managed a 7-member research team in building a database for a $12M grant proposal
- Led data extraction, statistical modeling, and analysis to support community-based research on health disparities

Research and Training Support

NIH NICHD F31HD111353, Gebrekristos (PI) **2023-Present**
Integrating spatial and non-spatial data to examine multilevel drivers of HIV risk among adolescent mothers in sub-Saharan Africa
Role: Principal Investigator

NIH NIMHD T37MD014251, Lovasi/Ezeh (MPI) **2022-2023**
Global Alliance for Training in Health Equity Research (GATHER)
Role: Predoctoral Trainee

Teaching Experience

Instructor, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health **2024**
Introduction to Public Health (Summer)
Tutor, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health **2021**
Introduction to Biostatistics (Spring)
Teaching Assistant, Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health **2021**
Infectious Disease Epidemiology (Spring)
Teaching Assistant, Drexel University College of Health Sciences and Nursing **2015**
Care for Vulnerable Populations (Winter)

Service

Commissioner, Second Lancet Commission on Adolescent Health & Wellbeing 2022-Present
Student Representative, Drexel FIRST Search Committee 2022

Honors and Awards

HIVR4P Conference Scholarship 2024
International AIDS Society Conference Scholarship 2024
Drexel University Global Engagement Funding Award 2022
HIVR4P Conference Scholarship 2021
Drexel University International Experience Travel Award 2019
HRSA Traineeship 2015-2016
Bloomberg Scholarship 2007-2011

Publications

Peer-reviewed

1. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Ajayi, A.I., Groves, A.K., & Kabiru, C.W. (2025). Examining the associations between social support and postpartum depression symptoms among adolescent mothers in Nairobi, Kenya. Reproductive Health, 22(1), 11.
2. Bastos, J.L., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Dale, S.K., del Río-González, A.M., Bauer, G.R., & Scheim, A. I. (2025). The inner workings of the Intersectional Discrimination Index:(re) assessing the internal validity of the anticipated, day-to-day, and major discrimination measures. Stigma and Health.
3. Groves, A.K., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Stoner, M.C., Gómez-Olivé, F.X., Kahn, K., & Pettifor, A.E. (2024). Assessing the durability of a cash transfer on physical intimate partner violence and sexual relationships among adolescent girls and young women in rural South Africa. Social science & medicine, 350, 116948.
4. Ajayi, A.I.A, **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Otukpa, E., Karibu, C.W., Adolescents' experience of mistreatment and abuse during childbirth: A cross-sectional community survey in a low-income informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya. BMJ Global Health, 8(11), e013268.
5. **Gebrekristos, L. T.**, Groves, A. K., McNaughton Reyes, L., Moodley, D., Beksinska, M., & Maman, S. (2023). Intimate partner violence victimization during pregnancy increases risk of postpartum depression among urban adolescent mothers in South Africa. *Reproductive health*, 20(1), 68.
6. Groves A.K., Stankard P., Bowler, S., Jamil M.S., **Gebrekristos L.T.**, Smith P.D., Quinn C., Chidarikire T., Nguygen V.T.T., Baggaley R., Johnson. (2022). A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of the Evidence for Community-Based HIV Testing on Men's Engagement in the HIV Care Cascade. *International journal of STD & AIDS, 33(13)*, 1090-1105.
7. Purtle, J., Nelson, K. L., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Lê-Scherban, F., & Gollust, S. E. (2022). Partisan differences in the effects of economic evidence and local data on legislator engagement with dissemination materials about behavioral health: a dissemination trial. *Implementation Science*, *17*(1), 1-15.
8. Groves, A. K., Smith, P. D., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Keene, D. E., Rosenberg, A., & Blankenship, K. M. (2022). Eviction, intimate partner violence and HIV: Expanding concepts and assessing the pathways through which sexual partnership dynamics impact health. *Social Science & Medicine,* 115030.

9. Groves, A. K., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Smith, P. D., Stoebenau, K., Stoner, M. C., Ameyan, W., & Ezeh, A. C. (2022). Adolescent Mothers in Eastern and Southern Africa: An Overlooked and Uniquely Vulnerable Subpopulation in the Fight Against HIV. *Journal of Adolescent Health*.
10. Purtle, J., Tekin, E., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Niccolai, L., & Blankenship, K. M. (2021). Association between local public housing authority policies related to criminal justice system involvement and sexually transmitted infection rates. *Health & justice*, 9(1), 1-6.
11. Groves, A.K., **Gebrekristos, L.T**., McNaughton Reyes, L., Moodley, D., Raziano,V., Maman, S. (2021). A mixed-methods study of resilience and return to school among adolescent mothers in South Africa. *Global Public Health*, 1-14.
12. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Shazi, Z., Moodley, D., Maman, S., & Groves, A.K. (2021). Soliciting parental consent among adolescent minor mothers: A barrier in adolescent HIV research?. *South African Medical Journal*, 111(6), 526-527.
13. Groves, A.K., Reyes, H.L.M., **Gebrekristos, L. T.**, Moodley, D., & Maman, S. (2020). Examining why age-disparate relationships influence unsafe sex postpartum among South African women: relationship control and physical partner violence as explanatory mechanisms. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 0886260520944531.
14. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K., McNaughton Reyes, L., Maman, S., & Moodley, D. (2020). IPV victimization in pregnancy increases postpartum STI incidence among adolescent mothers in Durban, South Africa. *AIDS care*, 1-5.
15. Groves, A. K., **Gebrekristos, L. T.**, Reyes, L. M., Moodley, D., & Maman, S. (2020). Describing Relationship Characteristics and Postpartum HIV Risk Among Adolescent, Young Adult, and Adult Women in South Africa. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 123-126.
16. Purtle, J., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Keene, D., Schlesinger, P., Niccolai, L., & Blankenship, K. M. (2020). Quantifying the Restrictiveness of Local Housing Authority Policies Toward People With Criminal Justice Histories: United States, 2009–2018. *American Journal of Public Health*, *110*(S1), S137-S144.
17. Groves, A.K., Maman, S., Stankard, P.H., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Amon, J.J., & Moodley, D. (2018). Addressing the unique needs of adolescent mothers in the fight against HIV. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 21(6).

Under review
1. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K., Stoner, M.C.D., Ezeh, A., Lê-Scherban, F., Identifying and characterizing sexual relationship typologies by multilevel predictors among adolescent mothers in Eastern and Southern Africa: A multilevel latent class analysis (revise & resubmit)
2. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Lê-Scherban, F., Examining the association between perceived discrimination and non-specific psychological distress among U.S. young adults (under review).
3. Groves A.K., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, McNaughton Reyes L., Moodley D., Mainville J., Maman S. Promoting adolescent mothers' return to school to reduce HIV risk: a mixed methods pilot study in Durban, South Africa (under review).

Reports
1. Groves A.K., Smith P., Maman S., Gebrekristos L.T., Blankenship, K. Evictions Threaten Our Health, September 2023. Available at: https://genderpolicyreport.umn.edu/evictions-threaten-our-health/
2. Rosenberg, A. and Gebrekristos L.T. Housing access and the revolving door of prison, June 2022. Available at: https://ctmirror.org/2022/06/03/housing-access-and-the-revolving-door-of-prison/
3. Stankard P., Groves A.K., Bowler S., Shaw S. and Gebrekristos L.T. A systematic review of community-based testing for General and Key Populations to inform the World Health Organization's Global Guidance on HIV testing, September 2019.

Conference Presentations

1. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K. *Mapping the geographic differences of HIV prevalence and examining the spatial link between urbanicity and HIV among adolescent mothers and non-parenting adolescent girls in sub-Saharan Africa*. Poster Session at the HIV Research for Prevention Conference (HIVR4P). October 2024.
2. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K., Stoner, M.C., Ezeh, A., Robinson, L., Lê-Scherban, F. *Identifying and characterizing relationship typologies by multilevel predictors among adolescent mothers in sub-Saharan Africa*. Poster Session at the International AIDS Society Conference. July 2024.
3. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K., Stoner, M.C., Ezeh, A., Lê-Scherban, F. *Using a person-centered approach to understand relationship typologies and associations with HIV risk among adolescent mothers in sub-Saharan Africa*. South African AIDS Conference. June 2023.
4. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves, A.K., McNaughton Reyes, L., Moodley, D., Beksinska, M., & Maman, S. *IPV victimization during pregnancy increases risk of postpartum depression among urban adolescent mothers in South Africa*. Sexual Violence Research Initiative Conference. September 2022.

5. **Gebrekristos, L.T.,** Purtle, J., Tekin, E., Blankenship, K.M. *Association between restrictiveness of housing authority policies toward people with CJ histories and STI rates.* Thematic Session at American Society of Criminology 76th Annual Meeting; November 17, 2021; Chicago, IL.
6. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Groves AK, McNaughton Reyes L, Maman S, Moodley D. *Examining how support influences the association between relationship control and postpartum STI amongst South African adolescent mothers* (virtual poster). HIV Research for Prevention Conference (HIVR4P): January 2021.
7. Groves A.K., Stankard P., Bowler S., Jamil M.S., Shaw S., **Gebrekristos LT,** Quinn C., Baggaley R., Johnson C. *Community-based HIV testing services are effective in reaching and diagnosing men: a systematic review* (virtual poster). Virtual International AIDS Society Conference. July 2020.
8. Stankard P., Groves A.K., Bowler S., Jamil M.S., Shaw S., **Gebrekristos L.T.,** Quinn C., Baggaley R., Johnson C. *Variations in Community-Based HIV Testing Outcomes by Testing Approach: An Updated Systematic Review of the Evidence for Community-Based HIV Testing* (virtual poster discussion). Virtual International AIDS Society Conference. July 2020.
9. Groves A.K., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Reyes McNaughton L., Moodley D., Maman S. *Resilience and return to school among adolescent mothers in South Africa*. Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Miami, FL, March 2020.
10. Groves A.K., Reyes McNaughton L., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Maman S., Moodley D. *Examining why age-disparate relationships influence unsafe sex postpartum among South African women: relationship control and physical partner violence as explanatory mechanisms* (poster presentation). American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 2019.
11. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Reyes McNaughton L., Maman S., Moodley D., Groves A.K. *IPV victimization in pregnancy increases postpartum STI incidence among adolescent mothers in Durban*. AIDSImpact, London, United Kingdom, July 2019.
12. Kontor V., Shazi Z., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Moodley D., Maman S., Groves A.K.. *Resilience and return to school: How assets, resources, and relational motivators influence adolescent mothers' return to school postpartum*. AIDSImpact, London, United Kingdom, July 2019.
13. Groves A.K., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Reyes McNaughton L., Moodley D., Maman S. *Describing relationships and postpartum sexual behavior among South African mothers to better understand HIV risk and how it varies by age.* AIDSImpact, London, United Kingdom, July 2019.
14. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Shazi Z., Moodley D., Maman S., Moletsane R., Groves A.K. *Soliciting parental consent amongst adolescent minor mothers does not affect enrollment in HIV prevention intervention study* (poster presentation). International Workshop on HIV & Adolescence, Cape Town, South Africa, October 2018.
15. Groves A.K., Reyes McNaughton L., Maman S., **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Moodley D. *Understanding HIV risk in the postpartum period: Being in an age-disparate relationship increases postpartum inconsistent condom use for socially isolated South African women* (poster presentation). International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 2018.
16. **Gebrekristos, L.T.**, Lê-Scherban F. *The association of perceived discrimination and non-specific psychological distress among young adults*. PSID User Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, September 2016.