

BIANCA DEVOTO

HEALTHY TEEN NETWORK

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SKILLS & SUBJECT AREA EXPERTISE

Bianca Devoto is a public health researcher with 8 years of experience, including 4+ years of project management, on sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence projects. Expertise in qualitative and formative research methods, with a track record of success in partnership development and program implementation.

EDUCATION

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD

MASTER OF SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, 2019

- Department of International Health, Social and Behavioral Interventions Track
- Thesis: Empowered in Health and Wealth: Formative Research on the Integration of HIV Care Delivery and Microfinance in Western Kenya

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, LA JOLLA, CA

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH, 2017

BACHELOR OF ARTS, GLOBAL HEALTH, 2017

- Graduated Cum Laude
- Thesis: Mothers Finish Last in the "First World": The Implications of Rising Maternal Deaths in the US and Lessons to be Learned from Community-Based Maternal Care in Ecuador

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SENIOR MANAGER

HEALTHY TEEN NETWORK, BALTIMORE, MD

2023 - PRESENT

Manage research projects on human-centered design approaches in sexual and reproductive health, including managing project workplans and budgets, providing technical oversight to research teams, and reporting to funders.

- Manages a 5-year, research-to-practice grant funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Population Affairs to expand the delivery of trauma-informed, inclusive practices in adolescent sexual and reproductive health.

PROGRAM OFFICER II

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD

2022 - 2023

Managed multi-year, international research projects on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. Provided technical oversight to domestic and international research teams, including managing project workplans and budgets, supervising and training research teams, managing IRB compliance, and contributing to grant proposals.

- Managed a 5-year research project funded by the National Institutes of Health focused on the dissemination and implementation of myPlan Kenya, a safety planning mobile app, for intimate partner violence survivors in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Managed a multi-year research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on measurement innovation and strategic dissemination for gender-based violence in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Contributed to the strategic planning, vision and launch of the Center for Global Women's Health and Gender Equity at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



- Managed the launch and implementation of the myPlan Kenya mobile app, including coordination of 100+ community outreach and technical assistance visits to service providers and successful recruitment of 800+ study participants (including service providers and intimate partner violence survivors).
- Coordinated dissemination events, in collaboration with project team, on gender-based violence prevention in Nairobi, Kenya, strategically convening youth networks, government and policy stakeholders, health practitioners and grassroots organizations.
- Coordinated qualitative data collection and analysis on gender-based violence among young men and women in Nairobi, Kenya, including facilitating qualitative research training program, leading qualitative research analysis team, and coordinating rapid development of topical briefs on key findings and actionable recommendations.

SENIOR RESEARCH PROGRAM COORDINATOR II

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2021 - 2022

Managed multi-year, international research projects on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health. Provided technical oversight to domestic and international research teams, including managing project workplans and budgets, supervising and training research teams, managing IRB compliance, and contributing to grant proposals.

- Managed a 5-year research project funded by the National Institutes of Health focused on the dissemination and implementation of myPlan Kenya, a safety planning mobile app, for intimate partner violence survivors in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Managed a multi-year research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on gender equity, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health outcomes among young men and women in Nairobi, Kenya.
- Coordinated the design and development of the myPlan Kenya toolkit, a digital resource package (including guides, handouts, social media materials, and presentations) for service providers to support intimate partner violence survivors and implement the myPlan Kenya mobile app in their communities.
- Coordinated the development and pilot of the myPlan Kenya mobile app, in collaboration with designers, programmers and community partners, providing technical inputs on human-centered design and trauma-informed approaches.
- Coordinated virtual symposium on the gendered impacts of COVID-19, in collaboration with project team, including co-chairing the COVID-19 Innovations and Technology session.
- Designed survey modules on sexual and reproductive health among youth and adolescents, including measurement innovation on gender equity and gender-based violence indicators.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2019 - 2021

Coordinated international research on gender equity and gender analysis, providing technical oversight to research field teams and leading qualitative research.

- Managed the Gender Equity & Justice pillar of the Johns Hopkins Alliance for a Healthier World Initiative.
- Managed a rapid gender analysis project on social and economic outcomes among young men and women in Nairobi, Kenya, including training research teams, supervising qualitative data collection, and coordinating development of reports on key findings.
- Coordinated qualitative data collection and analysis for a research project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 among young men and women in Nairobi, Kenya, including facilitating fully remote qualitative research training program, leading qualitative research analysis team, and coordinating rapid development of topical briefs on key findings and actionable recommendations.
- Coordinated webinar on the gendered impacts of COVID-19, in collaboration with project team, including youth storytelling and panel discussions with key stakeholders.
- Coordinated storytelling workshop, in collaboration with The Stoop Storytelling Series, to support young men and women in Nairobi, Kenya sharing their lived experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Led trainings with international research teams on qualitative research methods and trauma-informed research practices.



RESEARCH ANALYST

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2019

Managed qualitative analysis for the Statewide Ethnographic Assessment of Drug Use and Services Project.

- Led rapid analysis of over 300 qualitative transcripts, coordinating and training team of researchers in qualitative analysis methods.
- Developed county-level reports for Maryland State Health Department officials on key findings and programmatic recommendations.

GENDER INTERN

JHPIEGO, WASHINGTON, DC
2019

Conducted qualitative, gender analysis for USAID family planning project, and supported overall gender equity programming.

- Analyzed 50 qualitative transcripts, and drafted internal report for USAID project officers on preliminary findings and service recommendations.
- Developed training modules and materials on gender integration, including a handout distributed at the 2019 Women Deliver Conference.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2019

Supported the "Gender-Based Violence Research, Practice and Policy" course, including facilitating discussions with students, providing feedback on student papers, and organizing course syllabus, lesson plans and guest lecturers.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2018 - 2019

Conducted qualitative data analysis on HIV medication adherence and behavioral economics in Uganda.

- Analyzed 45 qualitative transcripts, and contributed to published manuscript on key findings.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH FELLOW

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2018

Conducted qualitative data analysis at The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) for formative research on the integration of HIV care into microfinance programs.

- Developed report on key findings and recommendations for future AMPATH program implementation.

POSTABORTION & FISTULA CARE INTERN

USAID GLOBAL HEALTH FELLOWS PROGRAM II, WASHINGTON, DC
2018

Supported management of the Fistula Care Plus Project and Postabortion Care Family Planning Project. Contributed to policy briefs and manuscripts, and aggregated project data.

- Facilitated internal USAID training on family planning and gender integration for USAID field officers.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2018

Facilitated qualitative, formative research for BESURE, an HIV testing and surveillance program supporting people who inject drugs (PWID) in Baltimore City. Established partnerships with stakeholders in harm reduction and treatment for PWID.

- Conducted 20 in-depth interviews and 10 focus group discussions with PWID.



QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BALTIMORE, MD
2018

Led quantitative analysis for evaluation of WHO intimate partner violence, multi-site training with clinical providers.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

HOUSE OF RUTH MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, MD
2017 - 2018

Designed and conducted qualitative research study (as part of graduate student team) for House of Ruth Maryland on the domestic violence experiences and service needs of the Muslim community in Baltimore City.

- Conducted 10 focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with Muslim community members, service providers, and faith leaders.
- Developed internal report for House of Ruth Maryland on key findings and programmatic recommendations.

CLINICAL INTERN

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, LA JOLLA, CA
2016 – 2017

Facilitated patient visits at a binational, free clinic serving a migrant population, including patient registration, measurement of vital signs, translation support for patients, and patient advocacy.

MIXED-METHODS RESEARCH ASSISTANT

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO, LA JOLLA, CA
2016 – 2017

Facilitated mixed-methods research, including data collection and analysis, of sexually transmitted infections and sexual violence (with special focus on spatial mobility) among adolescent girls in a highly vulnerable, border population.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH INTERN

SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, LIVERMORE, CA
2013 - 2015

Performed supervised radiation contamination sampling, data collection and surveillance of laboratories, equipment, shipments and waste.

PUBLICATIONS

- Gichangi, P., Byrne, M. E., Thiongo, M., Waithaka, M., Devoto, B., Gummerson, G., Wood, S. N., Anglewicz, P., & Decker, M. R. (2024). Impact of Covid-19 on the mental health of adolescents and youth in Nairobi, Kenya. *Frontiers in Psychiatry, 14*. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2023.1209836>
- Aiura, Y., Wood, S. N., Devoto, B., Williams, A., Thiongo, M., Gichangi, P., Wamue-Ngare, G., & Decker, M. R. (2023). Gender-based violence among youth in Nairobi, Kenya. *Results from PMA Agile 2/GBV-Descriptive Analysis*. https://www.pmadata.org/sites/default/files/data_product_results/PMAAgile2Gender_GBVDescriptiveBrief_FINAL.pdf
- Kamau, M., Wood, S. N., Devoto, B., Williams, A., Thiongo, M., Gichangi, P., Wamue-Ngare, G. & Decker, M. R. (2023) Gender-based violence technology access, abuse, and compromised privacy among youth. *Results from PMA Agile 2/GBV-Descriptive Analysis*. https://www.pmadata.org/sites/default/files/data_product_results/PMAAgile2Gender_TechAbuseBrief_FINAL.pdf
- Ngina, J., Wood, S. N., Devoto, B., Williams, A., Thiongo, M., Gichangi, P., Wamue-Ngare, G. & Decker, M. R. (2023) Gender-based violence help-seeking and help-seeking barriers. *Results from PMA Agile 2/GBV-Descriptive Analysis*. https://www.pmadata.org/sites/default/files/data_product_results/PMAAgile2Gender_GBVHelp-SeekingBrief_FINAL.pdf
- Wood, S. N., Byrne, M. E., Thiongo, M., Devoto, B., Wamue-Ngare, G., Decker, M. R., & Gichangi, P. (2023). Fertility and contraceptive dynamics amidst COVID-19: Who is at greatest risk for unintended pregnancy among adolescents and young adults in Nairobi, Kenya? *BMJ Open, 13*(5). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-068689>



- Wood, S. N., Milkovich, R., Thiongo, M., Gichangi, P., Byrne, M. E., Devoto, B., Anglewicz, P., & Decker, M. R. (2023). Disruptions to youth contraceptive use during COVID-19: Mixed-methods results from Nairobi, Kenya. *PLOS Global Public Health*, 3(2). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0001005>
- Williams, A., Wood, S. N., Stuart, C. E., Wamue-Ngare, G., Thiongo, M., Gichangi, P., Devoto, B., & Decker, M. R. (2022). Gendered time use during COVID-19 among adolescents and young adults in Nairobi, Kenya. *eClinicalMedicine*, 49. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101479>
- Decker, M. R., Bevilacqua, K., Wood, S. N., Wamue-Ngare, G., Thiongo, M., Byrne, M. E., Williams, A., Devoto, B., Glass, N., Heise, L., & Gichangi, P. (2022). Gender-based violence during COVID-19 among adolescent girls and young women in Nairobi, Kenya: A mixed-methods prospective study over 18 months. *BMJ Global Health*, 7(2). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2021-007807>
- Wood, S. N., Milkovich, R., Thiongo, M., Byrne, M. E., Devoto, B., Wamue-Ngare, G., Decker, M. R., & Gichangi, P. (2022). Product-access challenges to menstrual health throughout the COVID-19 pandemic among a cohort of adolescent girls and young women in Nairobi, Kenya. *eClinicalMedicine*, 49. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2022.101482>
- Decker, M. R., Wood, S. N., Thiongo, M., Byrne, M. E., Devoto, B., Morgan, R., Bevilacqua, K., Williams, A., Stuart, H. C., Wamue-Ngare, G., Heise, L., Glass, N., Anglewicz, P., Gummerson, E., & Gichangi, P. (2021). Gendered health, economic, social, and safety impact of COVID-19 on adolescents and young adults in Nairobi, Kenya. *PLOS ONE*, 16(11). <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0259583>
- Bill & Melinda Gates Institute for Population and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health & International Centre for Reproductive Health Kenya (2020). Gender & COVID-19: Autonomy and privacy among adolescents and young adults in Nairobi during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Results from PMA Gender-Descriptive Analysis* [Primary analyst and author]. https://www.pmadata.org/sites/default/files/data_product_results/PMA%20Gender%20COVID%20Privacy%20Autonomy%202021.pdf
- Mayo-Wilson, L. J., Devoto, B., Coleman, J., Mukasa, B., Shelton, A., MacCarthy, S., Saya, U., Chemusto, H., & Linnemayr, S. (2020). Habit formation in support of antiretroviral medication adherence in clinic-enrolled HIV-infected adults: a qualitative assessment using free-listing and unstructured interviewing in Kampala, Uganda. *AIDS Research & Therapy*, 17(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12981-020-00283-2>
- University of Maryland, College Park & Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. (2019). Statewide Ethnographic Assessment of Drug Use and Services (SEADS) Statewide, Regional and County Reports. [Lead analyst and contributing author] <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sjpBP9yaWMLCt7vk6WjUlw-MklpoQtk?usp=sharing>
- Devoto, B. (2018). The Hidden Costs of Fistula Repair Surgery. *USAID Impact Blog*. <https://fistulacare.org/blog/2018/09/the-hidden-costs-of-fistula-repair-surgery/>

TRAININGS & PRESENTATIONS

- Zheng, Q., Devoto, B., Abraham, O., Genberg, B., Wachira, J., Kafu, C., & Owino, R. (2019). *Feasibility and Acceptability of Integrating HIV Care Delivery into Microfinance Groups in Western Kenya* [Lead qualitative analyst and contributing author]. Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Global Health Day, Baltimore, MD.
- Devoto, B. (2017). *Mothers Finish Last in the "First World": The Implications of Rising Maternal Deaths in the US and Lessons to be Learned from Community-Based Maternal Care in Ecuador* [Lead author]. University of California San Diego Horizons of Global Health Research Symposium, La Jolla, CA.
- Salazar, M., Devoto, B., Raj, A., & Reed, E. (2017). *Parental Dialogue on Sexual Health Topics: Implications on Sexual Risk Behaviors for STI and Unintended Pregnancy Among Adolescent Girls at the US-Mexico Border* [Lead qualitative analyst and contributing author]. San Diego State University Student Research Symposium, San Diego, CA, & University of California San Diego Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.
- Devoto, B., Ryan, M., Seal, P., & Sandoval, A. (2016). *Radiation Surveillance in Laboratory Workplaces: Evaluating Sampling Techniques to Protect Workers and the Environment* [Lead analyst and author]. University of California San Diego Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.



SERVICE

BOARD MEMBER

PRO-CHOICE MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, MD

2023 - PRESENT

Board Member of Pro-Choice Maryland (formerly NARAL Maryland), Co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and member of the Policy & Endorsements Committee