

Biographical Statement for Dr. Furr-Holden

Professor Debra Furr-Holden, an epidemiologist and passionate advocate for health equity, is the recently appointed Dean of the Global School of Public Health at New York University. A public health professional with broad expertise in health disparities and policy-level interventions toward health equity, her scholarship encompasses a range of topics including drug and alcohol dependence epidemiology, psychiatric epidemiology, and prevention science. Prior to the deanship, she was the C.S.



Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health and associate dean for public health integration at Michigan State University, where she also directed the NIH-funded Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions in the College of Human Medicine. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she was appointed to the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, the Greater Flint Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Inequity, and the New York City African American Covid-19 Task Force. Most notably, in Michigan and Flint the racial disparity in Covid-19 cases and deaths among African Americans was eliminated.

Previously, Dr. Furr-Holden was a faculty member in the Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she retains an appointment as an adjunct professor, and prior to that she was a research scientist at the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation and a faculty member at Morgan State University.

Dean Furr-Holden is a widely published scholar whose writings include more than 120 peer-reviewed papers in high impact journals. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the White House Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers; the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Junior Faculty Mentoring Award; and the Meeting the Moment for Public Health Award, recognizing the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities, of which she is a founding member.

Presentation Title - The Social Determinants of Behavioral Health: Past, Present, and Future