

**College of Health and Human Development
Faculty Research Themes**

Family and Contextual Influences on Development

- Rhonda Belue** **Assistant Professor**
Health Policy & Administration Email Address: **RZB10@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Health disparities in families and children, evaluation methodology, medical decision making.
- Leann Birch** **Distinguished Professor; Director, Center for Childhood Obesity Research**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **LLB15@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests The links among parents' own eating and weight status, parenting practices, and child outcomes from infancy through adolescence, with a current focus on the emergence of dieting and problems of energy balance in girls during middle childhood and early adolescence.
- Chalandra Bryant** **Associate Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **CMB34@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Marital and premarital relationships, particularly among African American couples; the role social networks play in influencing partners' satisfaction with and commitment to their
- Robert Burgess** **Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **rlb8@psu.edu**
Research Interests The evolution, development, and maintenance of violence in families and its continuity across generations.
- Ann Crouter** **Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **AC1@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Interrelationships of parents' employment situations, family processes, and children's and adolescent's social development; gender socialization in middle childhood and adolescence.
- David Eggebeen** **Associate Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **e5x@psu.edu**
Research Interests Social demography of children, intergenerational support over the lifecourse, fatherhood.
- Lori Francis** **Assistant Professor**
Biobehavioral Health Email Address: **LAF169@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests Sociocultural factors influencing the development of obesity in low-income and minority children, including family environment, neighborhood characteristics and socioeconomic status; family-based interventions to reduce and prevent obesity and related morbidities in children; understanding biobehavioral, family environmental and cultural factors that influence self-regulation of energy intake and body weight in young children.
- Kim Haidet** **Assistant Professor**
Nursing Email Address: **kkh1@psu.edu**
Research Interests Developmental psychobiology, perinatal/neonatal care, infants' biobehavioral responses and health outcomes, parent-infant interactions and family dynamics, women's health issues.
- Kathryn Hynes** **Assistant Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **kbh13@psu.edu**
Research Interests Quantitative and qualitative methods to address how parents with young children successfully manage their work and family roles.
- Rukmalie Jayakody** **Associate Professor**
Human Development & Family Studies Email Address: **RXJ9@PSU.EDU**
Research Interests The impacts of poverty and social policies on families and children: welfare reform and barriers to self-sufficiency; family structure and child outcomes; living arrangements and family transitions

**College of Health and Human Development
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Susan Mc Hale

Professor

Human Development & Family Studies

Email Address: **X2U@PSU.EDU**

Research Interests

Family relationships and family roles (particularly gender roles) in childhood and adolescence; differential socialization of siblings.

Emilie Phillips Smith

Associate Professor; Interim Director, Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts

Human Development & Family Studies

Email Address: **eps10@psu.edu**

Research Interests

Preventing youth violence and aggression and promoting positive child and family development, approaches that develop partnerships across the home, school, and community contexts.