What is your project about?

The aim of our project is to create a contextual database that includes county-level indicators of school quality, school segregation, and academic achievement using data from all public elementary and secondary schools in the United States. This database will be available as part of the RWJF County Health Rankings and Roadmaps Program.

Why is the project important?

Schools are one of the most important sites of social, cultural, and racial reproduction in the United States. Yet, population health research often ignores school quality and school segregation when examining the ways in which education matters for health, in part because such data is not easily accessible. Our database will yield a novel data resource that researchers and practitioners can use in their efforts to address the social determinants of population health.

Who are you collaborating with on your project?

Calley Fisk and Adrianne Dues, CHIP graduate student affiliates, have been working as my graduate assistants. Gilbert Gee (UCLA) and Jennifer Ailshire (USC) are consultants.

Who is funding your project?

The University of Wisconsin’s Population Health Institute and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.