

Grace Phelps

ghphelps@umd.edu

Education

University of Maryland

PhD, Criminology and Criminal Justice Expected 2028
M.A. Criminology and Criminal Justice 2025

Smith College

B.A. Neuroscience, minor in Psychology 2023

Research Experience

Maryland Crime and Research Innovation Center | *Graduate Assistant* 2025-Present
with Dr. Bianca Bersani at the University of Maryland

- Develop a public-facing dashboard displaying public safety data using Power BI
- Conduct a systematic assessment of public safety indicators across diverse topic areas to identify relevant measures for database inclusion
- Review and clean public safety, security, and health-related data
- Collaborate on preparation of grant applications

Racial Disparities in Incarceration and Health Insurance | *Co-Author* 2025-Present
with Dr. Lauren Porter at the University of Maryland

- Clean and analyze county-level incarceration and health insurance data
- Contribute to preparation of manuscript

School Shootings & Environmental Design | *Co-Author* 2023-Present
with Dr. Emily Greene-Colozzi at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell

- Review school shooting after action reports and police reports
- Design and create a school shooting database

California Cannabis Legalization | *Research Assistant* 2024-2025
with Dr. Greg Midgette at the University of Maryland / RAND

- Identified and documented the structure of market data across multiple linked datasets spanning the business lifecycle
- Reviewed, organized, and cleaned data regarding California Cannabis Industry
- Co-authored report

Legacies of Lynching on City Spending & Health | *Graduate Assistant* 2024- 2025
with Dr. Demar Lewis at the University of Maryland

- Identified and cleaned public health and historical financial expenditure data at the census tract-, city-, and county-levels

- Built city and county level spatial databases inclusive of data from 1967 to 2022
- Cleaned and analyzed public safety survey data

Effects of School-Based Police Presence | *Research Assistant*

2022-2023

with Dr. Yael Granot at Smith College

- Resolved and documented issues in eye tracking software
- Quantitatively coded memorandums between police departments and school administrations regarding the role of school-based police officers

Public Health Research Intern | *Research Assistant*

2022

with Dr. Barbara Colombo at Champlain College

- Conducted qualitative interviews and developed an app based on study findings
- Compiled and organized materials in preparation for a meta-analysis

Manuscripts in Progress

Phelps, G. & Midgette, G. How close is close to home: An analysis of the Uvalde shooting and emergency preparedness [In Preparation]

Phelps, G. & Greene-Colozzi, E. Exploring environmental constraints on evasion during mass school shootings: An interactions based approach. [In Preparation]

Porter, C. L., **Phelps, G.**, & Testa, A. Incarceration, racial/ethnic disparities and health insurance [In Preparation]

Conference Presentations

Phelps, G. (November, 2025). *How close is close to home: An analysis of the Uvalde shooting and emergency preparedness* [Conference presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Phelps, G., & Greene-Colozzi, E. (November, 2025). *Exploring environmental constraints on evasion during mass school shootings: An interactions based approach* [Conference presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Porter, L.C. & **Phelps, G.** (October, 2025). Incarceration, racial/ethnic disparities and health insurance [Conference presentation]. Incarceration and Inequality Vera Institute of Justice Research Symposium, Brooklyn, NY.

Phelps, G. (2024, November). *How close is close to home: An evaluation of the Uvalde school shooting and emergency preparedness* [Poster presentation]. American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Xu, J., **Phelps, G.**, & Granot, Y. (2023, April). *How Policy Language in Agreements About School-based Police Affect Student Outcomes.* [Poster presentation]. Celebrating Collaborations Research Conference, Smith College.

Professional Experience

- Intro to Criminal Justice Teaching Assistant** | *University of Maryland* 2023-2024
- Lead four weekly discussion sections for Dr. Justine Madoo's CCJS 100 course
- Intro to Statistics & Data Sciences Teaching Assistant** | *Smith College* 2021-2022
- Grade weekly statistics assignments
 - Offer feedback regarding assignments
- Psychopharmacology Colloquium Teaching Assistant** | *Smith College* 2023
- Grade unit exams
 - Offer feedback regarding assignments

Awards & Fellowships

- 3-Minute Thesis Finalist 2025
Dean's Fellowship | \$2,500 2023-2025

Professional Affiliations

- American Society of Criminology 2023-Present
Maryland Population Research Center Student Affiliate 2024-Present

Departmental Service

- Human Resources Committee Student Representative 2024-Present
Graduate Student Mentor 2024-2025

Skills

Software, Data Analysis: Stata, R
Software, General: Microsoft Suite, Google Suite, Power BI