**Project Summary**
To better address the root causes of poor population health, US policymakers have advanced a range of policies meant to encourage greater cooperation between hospitals and local stakeholder organizations, centered on improving population health through investments addressing “upstream” determinants of health. This research has utilized public reporting associated with one such policy – expanded community benefit regulations for nonprofit hospitals – to learn about what information about hospitals’ investments in their community’s health and their relationships with other organizations have been collected since 2010. Over the past 12 months, I have used content analysis to compile key information from public reports issued by hospitals and assembled a rich database of hospital strategy characteristics. I am currently working to (1) characterize the network structures formed between non-profit hospitals and stakeholder organizations using network analysis in order to evaluate how these network structures influence hospitals’ investment strategies; and (2) identify characteristics of hospital investment strategies across the country for addressing health issues in their communities in order to determine how these strategies vary by hospital-, community-, and state-level attributes.

**Results**
This project has weathered some delays primarily because of unanticipated constraints getting available community health needs assessment (CHNAs) and implementation strategies directly from the American Hospital Association in Summer 2019, which in turn necessitated gathering all CHNAs/implementation strategies by hand (i.e. going to each hospital’s website and downloading reports manually). In addition, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic this current Spring / Summer 2020 has also caused some challenges. However, despite these issues, I have been able to complete the following project goals:

- Hired a graduate research assistant, Denise Quintanilla, a now-graduated Public Health Administration & Policy (PHAP) Master’s student who assisted in gathering reports and helping with the content analysis of the CHNAs and implementation strategies. She also utilized the compendium of reports for her own research project as required of all PHAP graduate students. She and I are planning on submitting her research as a separate journal article this fall (see below).
- Compiled a collection of CHNA and implementation strategy reports totaling approximately 4,500 reports for 3,300 hospitals.
- I am still working on adding to my database of hospital CHNA and implementation attributes but will have a sizeable sample of about 400 by the end of Summer 2020.
Publications: I submitted one journal article to the Journal of Public Health Management & Practice in June 2020 with Dr. James Begun based on this work. I also plan on submitting at least two additional journal articles this fall, including one based on the work with Ms. Quintanilla, as well as at least one other paper in Spring 2021.

Presentations: I will be presenting a poster at this year’s Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science 2020 Conference on the results of this project. While I was unable to submit an abstract to this year’s virtual AcademyHealth Research Meeting, I anticipate presenting this work at several upcoming conferences, including next year’s AcademyHealth Research Meeting, the Academy of Management Annual Meeting, and the Organizational Theory in Health Care Conference.

Future project plans
This project is part of my dissertation; my current target date for completing my dissertation is Summer 2021. As alluded to earlier, the work completed during the period of time funded by the Consortium will lead to a great deal of additional work. As this is an entirely unique dataset that intersects with several different fields (e.g., health policy, population health, organization science), there are a range of potential research topics addressing important questions. I have fielded several requests from other outside UMN investigators for access to this collection of CHNAs for their research purposes. Also, other PHAP students have shown an interest in using the database of CHNA reports as the focus of their Masters’ projects and I will be working with an additional PHAP student this coming academic year. Again, I am anticipating working with this student on a publication.