

FACULTY PROFILE

Eleni (Lina) L. Tolma, MPH, Ph.D



- ◆ Associate Professor, Social and Behavioral Sciences
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Professional Summary

Professional history:

- Assistant Professor, 2002-2010; Department of Health Promotion Sciences, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- Associate Professor, 2010-2016; Department of Health Promotion Sciences, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- Core faculty, 2014-2016; Women's and Gender Studies Program, University of Oklahoma.
- Associate Professor, January 2017 - present; Kuwait University Health Sciences Center, Faculty of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Sciences)

Education and Training

- Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, 1985; Duquesne University, USA
- MPH (Masters of Public Health-Health Promotion, Education and Behavior), 1993; University of South Carolina (USC), USA
- PhD (Public Health – Health Promotion, Education and Behavior), 2000, USC, USA

Research Interests and Projects

Dr. Eleni Tolma's research trajectory consists primarily of community-based research. Her main focus of research during the last 20 years has been the promotion of breast health and particularly of screening mammography among different populations including Cypriot and American Indian women. She has also worked during the last 15 years on youth related issues and particularly on the concept of positive youth development or youth assets as a potential intervention mechanism that insulates youth and protects them from engaging in risky behaviors. Her third main research interest is the evaluation of health promotion programs. Through her work she developed an expertise in qualitative research and particularly focus group research, survey development, application of behavioral and community-based theoretical frameworks in the design of health promotion programs, partnership development, implementation research, and community-based participatory research. In addition to the above three main areas of research she has also collaborated on projects with a focus on injury prevention, food insecurity, social marketing, smoking prevention and translational research.

Selected Publications

1. Oman RF, Vesely SK, Boeckman L, **Tolma EL**, Aspy CB. (2017). Demographic factors predict disparities in number of assets youth possess. *American Journal of Health Behavior*. 41(5):652-660. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5993/AJHB.41.5.14>.
2. **Tolma, E.L.**, Thomas, C., Neely, N, Chery, E, Edwards T, & Canfield V (2016). Development and evaluation of a culturally tailored breast cancer brochure for American Indian women. *Community-engaged scholarship (CES)4Health.info*. <http://ces4health.info/find-products/view-product.aspx?code=CJ5FMZ7P>
3. **Tolma, E.L.**, Engelman, K., Stoner, J., Thomas, C., Joseph, S., JI ,L., Blackwater, C., Henderson, J.N., Carson, L.D., Neely, N., Edwards, T. (2016). The design of a multi-component intervention to promote screening mammography in an American Indian Community: The Native Women’s Health Project. *AIMS Public Health*. 3(4): 933-955. doi: [10.3934/publichealth.2016.4.933](https://doi.org/10.3934/publichealth.2016.4.933)
4. **Tolma, E.L.**, Stoner, J., JI,L., Kim, Y.,& Engelman, K. (2014). Predictors of regular mammography use among American Indian women in Oklahoma: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Women’s Health*. 14:101 <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/14/101>.
5. **Tolma, E.L.**, Stoner, J., McCumber M., Montella, K., Douglas T., & Digney, S.A. (2014). Longitudinal evaluation of a teenage pregnancy case management program in Oklahoma. *Journal of Family Social Work*. 17:5, 457-479, DOI:[10.1080/10522158.2014.940634](https://doi.org/10.1080/10522158.2014.940634).
6. **Tolma, E.L**, Oman, R.F., Vesely, S.K., Aspy, C.B. & Boeckman, L. (2013). Prospective associations between youth assets, neighborhood characteristics and no-tobacco use among youth: Differences by gender. *The Health Educator*, 45(1), 11-20.
7. Oman, R.F., Vesely, S.K, Aspy, C.B, **Tolma, E.L.**, Gavin, L., Bensyl, D., Mueller, T., & Fluhr, J. (2013). A longitudinal study of youth assets, neighborhood conditions and youth sexual behaviors. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 52(6), 779-785.
8. **Tolma, E.L.**, Batterton, C., Hamm R.M., Thompson, D., & Engelman, K.K (2012). American Indian Women and Screening Mammography: Findings from a Qualitative Study in Oklahoma. *American Journal of Health Education*,43, 1 (18-30).
9. **Tolma, E.L.**, Cheney, M.K., Chrislip, D.D., Blankenship, D., Troup, P., & Hann N. (2011). The use of a systematic approach to process evaluation during the formation stage of the Central Oklahoma Turning Point (COTP) partnership. *American Journal of Health Education*, 12 (3), 130-141.
10. **Tolma, E.L.**, Oman, R.F., Vesely, S.K., Aspy, C.B., Beebe, L., &Fluhr, J. (2011). Parental youth assets and sexual activity: differences by race/ethnicity. *American Journal of Health Behavior*, 35 (5), 513-524.
11. Oman, R.F., Vesely, S.K., **Tolma, E.L.**, Aspy, C.B., & Marshall, L. (2010). Reliability and validity of the youth asset survey: An update. *American Journal of Health Promotion*. 25(1), e13-e24.
12. **Tolma, E.L**, Vesely, S.K, Oman, R.F., Aspy, C.B., Beebe, L., Rodine, S., Marshall, L. & Fluhr, J. (2008). Youth assets and sexual activity: Differences based on race/ethnicity. *The Health Educator*, 40(2), 59-69.
13. **Tolma, E. L.**, Cheney, M.K., Troup, P., & Hann N. E. (2008). Designing the process evaluation of the collaborative planning of a local Turning Point partnership. *Health Promotion Practice*. 10 (4): 537-548.
14. Tolma, E., John, R., & Garner, J. (2007). Evaluation of USDA-sponsored consumer materials addressing food security. *American Journal of Health Promotion*, 21(3), 164-174.
15. **Tolma E.**, Reininger, B., Evans, A., & Ureda, J. (2006). Examining the Theory of Planned Behavior and the construct of self-efficacy to predict mammography intention. *Health Education and Behavior*, 33(2), 233-252.
16. **Tolma, E.**, Reininger, B., & Ureda, J. (2006). What predicts a Cypriot’s women’s decision to obtain or not obtain a screening mammogram? Implications for the promotion of screening mammography in Cyprus. *European Journal of Cancer Prevention*, 15(2), 149-157.

Professional Affiliations

- European Public Health Association
- International Social Marketing Association
- American Public Health Association (APHA)
- Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)
- American Association of Cancer Research
- American Evaluation Association