

North Carolina | Kelly Kimple, MD, MPH

Director and State Health Officer

North Carolina Division of Public Health

As a pediatrician and preventive medicine physician, she has a passion for public health. She currently serves as the Senior Medical Director for Health Promotion in the Division of Public Health, where she provides leadership over various health promotion and prevention initiatives. She has served on various advisory groups as a trusted subject matter expert and was instrumental in NC's COVID-19 pandemic response efforts. By fostering teamwork and building strong partnerships, Dr. Kimple works collaboratively across NCDHHS Divisions and stakeholders to carry out the mission of improving the health, safety, and well-being of North Carolinians.



She first joined the Division of Public Health in 2016 as the Women's and Children's Health Section Chief and continues to serve as the NC Title V/ Maternal and Child Health Director. Before joining NCDHHS, Dr. Kimple was on faculty at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, where she focused on hospital readmissions prevention with a whole-person approach, addressing non-medical needs through a medical-legal partnership, improving care for children with special health care needs, and served as a primary care pediatrician in both academic and FQHC settings. She earned her B.A. in Biologic Basis of Behavior and Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania and her M.D. and M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed her Pediatric Residency and Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency at the University of North Carolina.