



Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD is a tenured professor of Public Health in the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Director of the Office of Public Health Practice, the Global Health Concentration, and the Maternal Child Health Promotion program at Yale. He obtained his PhD in maternal child nutrition and completed a postdoc in early childhood development at the University of California at Davis. He has over three decades of research and program co-design, implementation, and evaluation experience in the areas of maternal, infant, and young child nutrition and nurturing care for early childhood development. He has published over 360 peer reviewed research articles, and he was co-executive director and coauthor of both the 2016 Lancet Early Childhood Development Series and the 2023 Lancet Breastfeeding Series. He was elected to the US National Academy of Medicine in 2019 based on his contributions to advancing maternal, infant and young child nutrition, health, and development globally through improved equitable evidence-based policies and programs. He has served as a senior scientific advisor to UNICEF, The World Health Organization, FAO, The World Bank, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as governments across world regions. He has delivered over 450 invited lectures across world regions and has served as primary mentor to over 100 graduate students and scholars from all over the world.

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