

INTRODUCTION: The Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center (BHCRC) jointly houses Bradley Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital psychologists, psychiatrists, postdoctoral fellows, psychology interns, and research staff. We provide a climate of active research and productive collaboration within the center and throughout the larger Brown Medical School affiliated hospital systems.

OPEN POSITION: The Adolescent Risk Prevention Research Lab in the BHCRC, under Dr. Christopher Houck, is looking for a full-time clinical research assistant (RA) to work on research projects (funded by NIH and Tiny Blue Dot Foundation) related to emotion regulation and risk behaviors. Ongoing projects include the following:

- **Project STRIDE** [recruiting participants Fall 2026] is testing an online intervention (ITRAC) that teaches emotion regulation (ER) skills to prevent sexual- and drug- risk behaviors among adolescents. STRIDE collects participant report data as well as heart rate data in response to a virtual reality (VR) task to examine ER. Study activities occur after school at local middle schools and in the community.
- **Project OnTRAC** [recruiting participants Fall 2026] focuses on preventing substance use among early adolescents involved in the child welfare system through a web-based intervention program that teaches skills related to emotion regulation. OnTRAC also includes a VR task, behavioral tasks, and collection of heart rate data as a physiological marker of ER. Study activities occur in the community.
- **Project LIVE** [conducting follow-up assessments], a VR study aimed at understanding physiological measures of emotion regulation (heart rate variability/respiratory sinus arrhythmia, RSA) as predictors of substance use behavior in early adolescence. Study activities occur in the community and in the lab.

The RA position includes a combination of research and clinical elements with a focus on middle school adolescents. RAs will be expected to contribute to each of these projects in the lab. Importantly, this role also involves creating inclusive science that represents the communities these projects recruit from. A two-year commitment is preferred. Spanish fluency is preferred.

RESEARCH DUTIES: Duties may include presenting research opportunities to youth and families in school or community settings; completing research assessments and interviews; managing data entry, cleaning, and analysis; preparing Institutional Review Board (IRB) submissions; drafting study progress reports for funders; coding participant data; as well as collaborating with community partners. Projects LIVE and OnTRAC include a clinical interview (Timeline Follow-Back) to assess adolescent substance use. Projects OnTRAC and STRIDE also involve collecting physiological data (RSA) using a heart rate monitor. Participating in multidisciplinary group discussions regarding research design and implementation is expected.

OTHER: Mentorship from PhD-level psychologists and opportunities to participate and assist with academic tasks (e.g., poster presentations, writing scientific articles for publication, and IRB submissions) also occur in the lab. A strong academic record is important, and past research experience is desirable.

QUALIFICATIONS: • Baccalaureate Degree in a Human Service field preferably in psychology, neuroscience, or related field. • A career interest in clinical psychology or health-related fields. • Excellent communication and computer (verbal and written) skills. • Past research project experience (preferred). • Strong organizational and interpersonal skills. • Ability to work well within a team and with adolescents and parents. • A strong sense of responsibility towards work. • A willingness to tackle complex tasks in an independent manner. • Proficiency in the use of Microsoft applications. • Possession of a car will be required for participant appointments held outside of the office (mileage is reimbursed). • To accommodate busy family schedules, in-person evening and weekend availability are required (40 hours total per week includes evenings/weekends).

HOW TO APPLY: To apply, please [fill out this preliminary application](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and we will contact you to schedule an interview. The earliest expected start date is January 2027, although more positions will open in early Summer 2027. Please direct any questions amichel@brownhealth.org and enath@brownhealth.org.

NOTE: We are actively trying to increase the diversity and representativeness of Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center to match the community it serves. Applicants from diverse backgrounds and who speak Spanish are strongly encouraged to apply.

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PUBLICATIONS:

Cummings, C., Shircliff, K., Gatto, A.J., Rizzo, C.J., & **Houck, C.** (2025). Cluster analysis of caregiver and adolescent emotion regulation and its relation to sexual health and dating communication. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsaf012>

Hadley, W., **Houck, C.**, Barker, D., Bogner, J. Franz, D. (2023). Using virtual reality to examine the association between respiratory sinus arrhythmia and adolescent substance use. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 54, 1055-1063. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-021-01308-1>

Houck, C., Modrowski, C., Hadley, W., Barker, D., Myers, V., Bala, K., Wickham, B., Jerrod, T. (2022). A pilot study of a tablet-based emotion regulation intervention for early adolescents. *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 43, e505-e514. doi: 10.1097/DBP.0000000000001094. PMC9560987