Quarterly Progress Report
July – September 2018

Publications


Kim, JH., Li, G., Hasin, D., Mauro, C., Martins, SS. In cases of opioid overdose, do medical marijuana laws matter? (In Progress)

Kim, JH. State-level relationships cannot tell us anything about individuals, but what they tell us about states still should be of interest. (Revise and Resubmit)


**Conferences**


Gorman, I. Changes in Alcohol Use in MDMA-assisted Psychotherapy for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, 2019 Collaborative Perspectives on Addiction Conference, Symposia (April 12th, 2019)

Gorman, I. "MDMA-Assisted Clinical Study of PTSD: Update and Therapists’ Experience", Horizons Conference, October 6-7 2018, New York City, USA.

Gorman, I. Psychedelic Integration and Harm Reduction, 12th Annual Harm Reduction Conference, October 16-19 2018, New Orleans, USA.


Ashly Jordan. Gave presentation on epidemiology of HCV among people who use drugs at the Dutch Summer Institute on Addiction at the University of Amsterdam in July 2018 (06/30 – 07/12/2018).


Opara, I. & Brown, T. “The application of strengths based approaches for training students to work with racial/ethnic minorities through practicums and internships”. Invited oral paper symposium presented at the National Council on Family Relations, San Diego, CA, November 8, 2018

Opara, I., Franklin, L., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. “The normalization of violence and drug use among ethnic minority youth: A qualitative exploration”. Poster presented at the National Council on Family Relations, San Diego, CA, November 8, 2018

Lardier Jr., D., Opara, I., Berguson, C., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. “The mediating role of neighborhood attachment among ecological supports, school importance, risk behaviors, and depression”. Poster to be presented at National Council on Family Relations, San Diego, CA, November 8, 2018

Opara, I., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. “Adapting a public health framework to reduce racial disparities in recreational marijuana use for urban youth of color in New Jersey”. Poster presented at American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting 2018, San Diego, California. November 12, 2018

Amutah-Onukagha, N., Opara, I., & Guthrie, B. “Addressing health disparities to improve women’s health outcomes and achieve health equity”. Roundtable oral presentation to be discussed at American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting 2018, San Diego, California. November 13, 2018

Opara, I., Garcia-Reid, P., & Reid, R.J. “The role of ethnic identity and psychological empowerment in HIV and drug use prevention for Black and Hispanic female adolescents”. Poster to be presented at 22nd International AIDS conference 2018. Amsterdam, Netherlands. July 23, 2018

Scheidell JD, Khan MR. Aggressive policing and internalized homophobia, stigma, and discrimination among young men who have sex with men. Panel presentation at the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Science conference, October 3-5 2018, Washington DC.


Proposals

Kutnick, A. Adapting an Evidence-Based Trauma-Informed Intervention to Address HIV Health Outcomes Among Criminal Justice-Involved, Substance-Using Men of Color Living With HIV. CDUHR PILOT submitted

Kwok, G. Dissertation grant to SPSSI: "Was There a “Trump Thump” in Substance Use Rates among Latino Youth? Findings from Monitoring the Future” submitted

Kwok, G. Dissertation grant to APA Div45: "Was There a “Trump Thump” in Substance Use Rates among Latino Youth? Findings from Monitoring the Future” to APA Div45 submitted

Honors, Awards, and Other Accomplishments

Janna Ataiants won a Bruce D Johnson Award for an outstanding student paper (Multiple Victimization and Overdose Among Women in a Harm Reduction Program) from the Society for the Study of Social Problems.


Gorman, I. Feature on WNYC (NPR): https://www.wnyc.org/story/are-there-medical-benefits-psychedelic-drugs


Gorman, I. Very Ape Podcast https://soundcloud.com/veryapepodcast/mdmahealing

Ijeoma Opara was recognized by the National Council on Family Relations and received the John L and Harriette P McAdoo Dissertation Award for her contributions to knowledge about ethnic minority families.

Joy Scheidell has advanced to PhD candidacy in her program in epidemiology at NYU School of Medicine.

Appointments

**Minerva Francis**, MPH, CHES is a doctoral student of health education in the Department of Health and Behavior Studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. She was a Project Manager of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funded project from 2015-2018. She helped implement and facilitate a screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) program that trained undergraduate health profession students, college faculty and community partners. Throughout her academic and professional career, she has explored social determinants of health and health intervention strategies to achieve health equity for marginalized communities. Her past research focused on the intersectionality of health disparities and substance use among transgender women of color. Topics under consideration for dissertation research include postpartum substance use and depressive symptoms, cannabis addiction, and agenda setting theory related to health literacy.

**David Frank** earned his Ph.D. in April 2018 in sociology from The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, specializing in sociology of drug use and sociology of health and illness. His dissertation, an interview and ethnographic-based examination of how well methadone maintenance treatment aligns with the treatment goals of people on the program, found that many people use the program as a way of dealing with harms and difficulties related to illegal drug use rather than a means to recover from addiction per se. He is currently working on a grant proposal that builds on these findings by exploring ways of improving access to methadone particularly as a response to the recent dramatic increase in opioid-involved overdose.

**Jessica Jaiswal** earned her Ph.D. in Sociomedical Sciences, an interdisciplinary program in social science and public health from Columbia University. Her research interests focus on disparities along the HIV care continuum, particularly engagement in HIV care, adherence to antiretroviral therapy, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP, a daily pill for HIV prevention). As a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University, Dr. Jaiswal is conducting a mixed methods study of how medical and health-related mistrust and stigma influences decisions young men who have sex with men make regarding the use PrEP. As a BST postdoc she is exploring PrEP use among people in medication-assisted therapy (e.g., methadone). Prior to coming to NYU, she conducted a qualitative investigation that explored the social and structural factors related to disengagement from outpatient HIV care among low-income people of color living with HIV, with a focus on mistrust, racism and stigma. Before beginning the BST program, Dr. Jaiswal was a Provost’s Faculty Fellow in the College of Global Public Health at New York University. She is a CDUHR-affiliated investigator at NYU, and a faculty-researcher affiliate at the Center for Health, Identity, Behavior and Prevention Studies at Rutgers.
University. Dr. Jaiswal holds an MPH in Behavioral Science and Health Education from Emory University and a BA in Women’s Studies, Native American Studies and Latin American Studies from the University of Michigan.

**Rebecca Umbach** received a doctorate in Criminology from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research centers on the role of environment as it pertains to neuropsychological and cognitive functioning. Her dissertation consisted of three papers examining various ways in which impaired cognitive functioning is related to antisocial behavior. In collaboration with Noelle Leonard, a CDUHR affiliate investigator, she found that incarceration negatively and significantly reduced emotion regulation capacity in incarcerated adolescent males. In another study, she found that neighborhood disadvantage was negatively associated with executive functioning in an at-risk sample of pre-adolescents, which was in turn associated with higher rates of antisocial behavior. She also used nationwide data to find that small changes in sleep duration were significant enough to change rates in assaults following the shift to and from Daylight Saving Time. She is currently writing a paper with Noelle Leonard which compares risk-taking behavior in healthy adolescents, non-violent incarcerated adolescents, and violent incarcerated adolescents.

In addition to looking at risk factors for substance use and impaired cognition, Dr. Umbach hopes to use her time as a BST postdoctoral fellow alongside mentor Noelle Leonard to explore potential treatments and interventions to improve cognitive functioning, particularly in at-risk populations and youth.