



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Master of Public Health Program

NINTH ANNUAL GRADUATE FORUM



THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2019

3:00-5:00PM

**DePaul University
Cortelyou Commons
2324 North Fremont Street
Chicago, IL 60614**

1. Secondary Analysis: Sexual and Reproductive Health Care among Women Who Inject Drugs in Chicago

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health

Monica Kowalczyk

Introduction. Interventions for intravenous drug users (IDU) are more likely tailored to male injectors due to the subpopulation being larger than women who inject drugs (WWID). However, WWID have distinct, unmet needs, such as experiencing barriers in accessing sexual and reproductive health care. Due to the few known publications regarding this subject and interventions combating this issue, this project's purpose was to determine factors influencing access to sexual and reproductive health care services exclusively for WWID in Chicago. **Approach.** Secondary quantitative analysis on WWID from Project CHAT-IDU4 conducted in 2015 involved running frequencies, chi-square analyses and odds ratios to determine predictors of accessing non-barrier contraceptive methods and screenings for sexually transmitted diseases in the past 12 months. **Outcomes.** Factors include identifying as Black, typical place of health care, concurrently practicing non-injection and injection drug use in the past year, receiving needles from a dealer, shooting gallery or off the street in the past year, and receiving needles from a pharmacy or drug store in the past year. **Conclusion.** WWID's racial identities, health care sources, needle sources, and drug use behavior should be considered in developing interventions aimed to alleviate gaps to sexual and reproductive health care for WWID in Chicago.

2. Including People with Disabilities as a Priority Population in the Community Needs Health Assessment

Practicum Site: Illinois Public Health Institute

Sundas Moqet

Introduction. People with disabilities are rarely included in Community Health Needs Assessments as a priority population since they are often grouped together with other populations. **Approach.** This project involved including people with disabilities from Chicago and Suburban Cook County in the upcoming 2018-2019 Community Health Needs Assessment led by the Illinois Public Health Institute and their community partners. **Outcomes.** Community Input Surveys were distributed to 5,934 people, where 1,561 survey respondents responded to having a household member with a disability. Qualitative data analysis of the survey data revealed the need for increasing access to community services and social resources for people with disabilities. **Conclusion.** This project can help to better understand unmet health needs of priority populations and how to better assess them. This project was used to create conversation and dialogue with stakeholders and community members in minimizing health disparities and improving access to care for people with disabilities.

3. Development of Marketing tools for Advance Care Planning Clinic in Chicago

Practicum Site: Howard Brown Health Center

Matthew Bertagna

Introduction. As the aging LGBTQ population grows, the need for addressing long-term care has become a growing priority within the community due to the specialized circumstances surrounding aging LGBTQ patients. Posters were developed to advertise to aging LGBTQ patients of Howard Brown Health to examine the thoughts and perceptions of advance care planning as well as address questions Howard Brown Health had about marketing towards the aging LGBTQ community within Chicago. **Approach.** Key informant interviews and two focus groups to gather data. **Outcomes.** Twenty LGBTQ individuals age 50 and older participated in the study with 12 participating in the key informant interviews and eight in the focus groups. The information collected aided in the creation of poster drafts, the editing of said drafts, and the review of the feasibility in using social media among aging LGBTQ patients at Howard Brown Health. **Conclusion.** The development of these tools helped Howard Brown Health better understand the best practices in how to actively engage with the aging LGBTQ patient population as well as shed light on new best practices for future health communications projects aimed towards smaller groups within Howard Brown Health like the aging population.

4. Together We Can Dia-Beat- This: An Evaluation of the A-List Diabetes Prevention Program

Practicum Site: AMITA Health

Caryn Olivieri

Introduction. Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPP) are an essential tool in reducing type 2 diabetes diagnoses. Understanding what makes a participant confident in their ability to continue to implement lifestyle changes long after the program has ended is vital for the continued success of the A-List Diabetes Prevention Program. It is important to understand what makes a DPP participant successful so that results can be replicated for all participants. **Approach.** Using the Social Cognitive Theory as a guide, research was conducted to determine best programmatic practices as well as the most effective measurement techniques. A pilot study was done to gain empirical data to form the final evaluation question. **Outcomes.** A survey was created to measure the change in participant self-efficacy in each of the areas taught in the DPP classes. Surveys consist of 8-10 questions and should be administered at the baseline, midpoint and end of the program. An initial pilot survey was administered (n=5), and the information was used to update the survey. **Conclusion.** A survey was developed as a tool to measure the self-efficacy levels of participants as they complete the program. A brief and effective survey can be quickly developed if evidence-based questions are used when possible.

5. Increasing Diversity in Health Care Professions through a Hospital-Based Workforce Development Program

Practicum Site: Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital,
Healthy Communities

Claire McGivern

Introduction. Minorities are underrepresented in health care professions. It is essential to address this problem to ensure equity in health care. This project involved a program evaluation of a hospital-based workforce development program for minority high school students. **Approach.** An electronic survey was developed and disseminated to 345 program participants and applicants. **Outcomes.** 41 survey responses were collected and analyzed. The results detailed some of the program’s successes. After the program 73% of participants attended one or more years of college. 18 participants currently work in the health care field. Participants noted the program provided both practical and emotional benefits that motivated them to pursue health care careers. **Conclusion.** Comprehensive minority targeted, hospital-based workforce development programs with a mentorship component, on-going career guidance, and basic-needs resources, would serve as a promising intervention to increasing diversity in health care professions.

6. “Sliding into their DMs”: An Analysis of College Students’ Interpretation of Sexual Consent on Social Media Platforms

Practicum Site: DePaul University, Office of Health Promotion and Wellness

Alanna Kaiser

Introduction. Student populations navigate sexual encounters and consent through sexual scripts, and it is often influenced by mass media like television, music, and magazines. In today’s digital age, where young adults spend great amounts of time on sites like Instagram, Snapchat or Twitter, the impact of social media on sexual scripting and in turn, sexual consent, must be evaluated. Little research has examined how sexual consent is being interpreted on social media platforms. Furthermore, there is no known data on how sexual consent on social media is being interpreted in queer sexual relationships. **Approach.** The current study aims to identify what DePaul students perceive as sexual consent based upon social media posts and the differences between the heterosexual and LGBTQIA beliefs. The study examined 594 college students’ interpretations of sexual consent in hypothetical situations on social media using two psychometrically validated measures. Independent t-tests were conducted to accurately identify what different demographic groups perceived to be consent. **Outcomes.** De-identified results were provided to the DePaul Office of Health Promotion and Wellness. Additionally, a toolkit was presented to DePaul Office of Health Promotion and Wellness to educate staff on how to incorporate the study’s results into future sexual assault prevention education (SAPE). **Conclusion.** Results provide support that there is uncertainty of how sexual consent is being interpreted on social media platforms. The study can serve as an evaluative tool to assess whether SAPE programs successfully change students’ consent beliefs and behaviors.

7. Addressing Childhood Obesity: An Evaluation of Educational and Environmental Interventions in Chicago

Practicum Site: Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

Denise Rodriguez

Introduction. Childhood obesity prevalence rates have increased over the past three decades. In order to combat childhood obesity in Chicago - The Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) addresses obesity at multiple levels. Chicago Activating Neighborhood Environments for Health and Wellness (Chicago ANEHW) was developed to help improve healthy, active living through educational and environmental interventions. This project evaluates the effectiveness of such interventions in the selected communities: Pilsen, Englewood, and Rogers Park. **Approach.** Data was obtained through a pre-post community survey. A total of 210 surveys were collected in 2017 for baseline data as well as in 2018. Data was analyzed using SPSS statistical software and disseminated to the stakeholders. **Outcomes.** Results illustrate there was a significant increase in 5-4-3-2-1 Go! messaging awareness, bike helmet access, and park safety perception. **Conclusion.** The evaluation reveals educational interventions coupled with environmental interventions can result in positive change. Through the expansion of resources addressing external factors influencing childhood obesity, in addition to educational interventions, it is more likely the community-based interventions will be highly successful.

8. Train-the-Trainer Oral Health Curriculum and Resource Toolkit

Practicum Site: Chicago Public Schools' Office of Student Health and Wellness

Anuj Nagpal

Introduction. Chicago has a high incidence and prevalence of oral diseases. Oral diseases in childhood are preventable by early examination, identification of risk factors, education of parents and early intervention of preventive care. Social determinants of health such as family income, lack of insurance, education level and geographic locations or neighborhood affect student vulnerability to oral diseases and access to appropriate care. Teachers can provide significant knowledge and skills about oral health to the students, which will translate into better oral health when the students grow up. **Approach.** In this study, teachers were offered training through an Oral health curriculum PowerPoint presentation, resource toolkit, and clinical models on etiology, clinical features, treatments, and prevention of common oral diseases. After the completion of the training, a post-test survey was administered to the teachers to evaluate the knowledge gained. The total obtainable score for knowledge and awareness section was 100%, with poor, fair and good knowledge scoring <50%, 50-60% and >60% respectively. **Outcomes and Findings.** Of the 20 teachers who participated in the study, twelve (60%) had poor knowledge pre-training and one (5%) had poor knowledge post-training. Six participants (30%) had fair knowledge pre-training and eight (40%) of the total participants had fair knowledge post-training. Two (10%) of the participants had good knowledge pre-training and Eleven (55%) of the total participants had good knowledge post-training. **Conclusion.** Through "Train the trainer Oral Health Curriculum and Resource toolkit" project the teachers were equipped with improved knowledge on oral health and will hold great promise for promoting students' oral health and hence better quality of life.

9. Chicago Public Schools OSHW Implementing Programs to Improve Health Outcomes

Practicum Site: Chicago Public Schools' Office of Student Health & Wellness

Xandria Hair

Introduction. Because student health and academic outcomes are inextricably linked, initiatives such as Chicago Public School's *Healthy CPS* may foster improvements to students' academic performance. Despite the benefits of *Healthy CPS*, obtaining parental consent to provide children with healthcare services remains a challenge. The *Healthy CPS* kiosk program was developed to address this challenge.

Approach. This project had three main objectives: (a) increase parental involvement, (b) increase number of parental consents obtained, and (c) assess the outcomes of the kiosk program. The effectiveness of the *Healthy CPS* program was examined according to the number of consents obtained following the kiosk. A total of 20 schools participated and several measurable objectives were collected for each school.

Outcomes. Significant variances appeared in the number of consents obtained, not just from school to school, but also across the areas of care provided through *Healthy CPS* (dental, vision, and health). A number of social, economic, or cultural factors may be at play. **Conclusion.**

Understanding parents' objections to consenting for different types of care may help program leaders develop strategies to provide parents with necessary health information to educate them on the importance of *all* of these areas of health.

10. Colorectal Cancer Screening Outreach: A University Medical Center Effort to Addressing Disparities in Screening Rates

Practicum Site: University of Chicago Medical Center, Quality Performance Improvement Department

Celeste Lightner

Introduction. Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer mortality. It is curable and treatable if it is detected early. However, screening methods present many barriers for patients resulting in low screening rates among individuals. This project involved the development of an outreach intervention that sends a fecal immunochemical test (FIT), a colorectal cancer detecting test, to patients. **Approach.** A multidisciplinary team at the University of Chicago Medical Center created an outreach strategy for CRC screening to reach approximately 200 patients to increase screening rates. **Outcomes.** More than two hundred patients were sent FITs in the mail. **Conclusion.** Based on previous studies and previous outreach efforts, it was determined that mailed FIT outreach can improve screening rates. FITs have fewer barriers compared to colonoscopies which can encourage more patients to screen for CRC. Furthermore, this approach may contribute to decreasing the mortality rate of CRC in the community.

11. Development and Implementation of a 10-week Social Norms Campaign regarding Non-Medical Prescription Stimulants Use in DePaul University Students

Practicum Site: DePaul University, Office of Health Promotion and Wellness— Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention

Katie Reget

Introduction. The use of non-medical prescription stimulants, like Adderall or Ritalin, is widespread among young adults (ages 18-24). On DePaul University's campus prescription stimulants are the most common prescription drug used non-medically. Social norms marketing campaigns are a unique and evidence-based method to inform populations and change perceptions about drug use behaviors.

Approach. This project focuses on using social norms techniques and campaign modeling to create a novel approach in addressing non-medical prescription stimulant drug use perceptions on DePaul University's campus. This was completed through the development and implementation of a 10-week social norms campaign. **Outcomes.** A literature review of 25 peer reviewed articles regarding social norms practice and current non-medical prescription stimulant drug use were analyzed in the development of the campaign. The Core Report Survey of DePaul University students was reviewed and used to report the statistical information presented on the posters. The four posters developed were made in association with Student Affairs office and with consultation from a Student Graphic Designer. The posters were hung at 80 locations on DePaul University's campuses, including 30 locations in university common spaces and 50 locations in university residence halls. **Conclusion.** Overall, this project may contribute to the reduction of non-medical prescription stimulant use in the DePaul University student population through increased understanding of non-medical prescription stimulant drug use on campus.

12. Qualitative Analysis of Perinatal Depression Preventative Group Intervention: Mothers and Babies

Practicum Site: Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, Center for Community Health

Hee Jin Park

Introduction. Mothers and Babies (MB) is a cognitive behavioral therapy based perinatal depression preventive intervention, which can be delivered in a one-on-one or group format and implemented in standard home visiting settings. This project involved a qualitative analysis of the MB group modality based on a randomized controlled trial that examined the effectiveness of the intervention delivered by home visitors (HV) versus mental health professionals (MHP). **Approach.** A total of forty-six facilitators (27 HV and 19 MHP) and eighty-eight participants (45 who received MB delivered by HV and 43 who received MB delivered by MHP) completed semi-structured key informant interviews.

Outcome. Three common themes between HV and MHP were identified; social support, material comprehension, and material effectiveness and satisfaction. **Conclusion.** Overall, MB is highly acceptable and found effective by both participants and facilitators. This study adds to the growing literature on using paraprofessionals to deliver preventive depression interventions, as well as to the limited literature on the acceptability of perinatal depression preventive interventions. Also, this work allows for the delivery of mental health services outside of the public mental health system in a feasible and cost-effective manner.

13. Addressing Implicit Bias in Maternal Healthcare in the State of Illinois

Practicum Site: Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women’s Health and Family Services

Samuel Villasenor

Introduction. Maternal care is a crucial factor for family planning, preconception, prenatal and postnatal care in order to ensure the optimal wellbeing of a mother and infant health. However, implicit bias among maternal care providers effects the quality and accessibility of maternal care services, thus effecting the health outcomes of mothers and infants. This project involved identifying best practices to decrease implicit bias among maternal healthcare providers within the state of Illinois.

Approach. Research was conducted on maternal physician implicit bias and its effects on maternal health (e.g., healthcare racism, physician patient relationship, physician bias, accessibility to healthcare services and resources). **Outcomes.** An executive summary composed of literature reviews on implicit bias and 3 best practices to address the problem was developed. Also, a survey was developed to validate the context of the report to ensure clarity and effectiveness of the report.

Conclusion. The development of this executive summary will increase the knowledge in how implicit bias effects maternal care quality and provide best practices to address this public health issue.

14. Are Young Injection Drug Users at Increased Risk of HIV through Sexual Transmission?

Practicum Site: Chicago Department of Public Health

Wei Ning Chi

Introduction. Injection drug users are at increased risk of acquiring or spreading HIV through risky sexual behavior or injection behaviors. This project aims to understand the HIV prevalence and HIV risk behaviors among the young injection drug user community in Chicago. **Approach.** The NHBS-IDU4 survey was administered to injection drug users in Chicago. The survey includes questions focusing on HIV prevention services, sexual behaviors and substance use behaviors. **Outcomes.** 158 young injection drug users were included in the analysis sample. Results showed that three people within the sample were HIV positive. The vast majority of the sample engaged in risky sexual behaviors and risky injection behaviors. Over 65% of the sample had more than 1 sexual partner. Additionally, more than 80% of the participants did not use condoms consistently during sexual activities. **Conclusion.** The data shows the need for tailored HIV prevention programs for the young injection drug user community. More research needs to be done to close the gap between inconsistent protection usage and safe sex.

15. Assessing the Impact of Parent Engagement in School Health: Evaluation of Parent Workshops

Practicum Site: Action for Healthy Kids

Cherise Mangal

Introduction. The capstone project encompasses the long-term evaluation plan of parent workshops for assessment of process improvement and outcome measurement. **Approach.** A literature review of parent involvement and the impact of parents on childhood obesity was conducted. The evaluation of Action for Healthy Kids parent workshops encompassed development of an active work plan, survey instrument and evaluation of survey responses. **Outcomes.** The survey assesses parent knowledge, parent attitudes/intentions and parent action regarding nutrition and physical activity in schools as a result of parent workshops, in efforts to create change in school health culture.

Conclusion. Findings from the survey will supplement current practice regarding parent involvement, determine the success of parent workshops, and aid future strategy for Action for Healthy Kids' parent programs. This empirical approach will also contribute to future public health community-level strategies on how to best navigate and positively affect overall child wellness.

Student Name	Poster Number
Bertagna, Matthew	3
Chi, Wei Ning	14
Hair, Xandria	9
Kaiser, Alanna	6
Kowalczyk, Monica	1
Lightner, Celeste	10
Mangal, Cherise	15
McGivern, Claire	5
Moqheet, Sundas	2
Nagpal, Anuj	8
Olivieri, Caryn	4
Park, Hee Jin	12
Reget, Katie	11
Rodriguez, Denise	7
Villasenor, Samuel	13

Community Partners

Action for Healthy Kids

AMITA Health

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Healthy Communities

Chicago Department of Public Health

Chicago Public Schools' Office of Student Health and Wellness

Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children

DePaul University, Office of Health Promotion and Wellness

DePaul University, Office of Health Promotion and Wellness—
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention

Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, Center
for Community Health

Howard Brown Health Center

Illinois Department of Public Health, Office of Women's Health
and Family Services

Illinois Public Health Institute

University of Chicago Medical Center, Quality Performance
Improvement Department

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DePaul University—MPH Graduate Forum

