



## **ELEVENTH ANNUAL GRADUATE FORUM**



**C H I C A G O**

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## Table of Contents

Fayzeh Abujado .....	3
Josean Amill.....	4
Brenna Barry.....	5
Abby Creek.....	6
Brianna Flores.....	7
Kaitlyn Gallagher.....	8
Amelia Griggs.....	9
Ashley Griggs .....	10
Iqra Hashwani .....	11
Cayla Iwaniuk .....	12
Ayesha Karim .....	13
Joanna Kurnat .....	14
Kunal Lohana.....	15
Erin McMillen.....	16
Regina R. Midgett.....	17
Zain Qusair.....	18
Meklit Sake .....	19
Huda Shareef.....	20
Darielle D. Sherrod .....	21
Sonia Sultan .....	22
Arielle Walker.....	23
Preeya Waite .....	24

## **Association Between Purpose in Life and Global Cognitive Function Among Adults Aging with HIV**

**Practicum Site:** The Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center - Department of Preventive Medicine - Rush University

**Fayzeh Abujado**

**Introduction.** Despite the effects of antiretroviral therapy on prolonging the life expectancy of HIV patients, neurocognitive dysfunction caused by HIV remains a concerning health outcome. It is crucial to understand psychosocial determinants that might impact cognitive abilities among individuals diagnosed with HIV. Therefore, this study aims to examine the association between purpose in life and global cognitive function among adults aging with HIV. **Methods.** The sample has 177 participants (age mean = 58.7, SD = 5.45, 76.14% male, 70.06% Black) in a cross-sectional study of baseline data from the Rush Center of Excellence on Disparities in HIV and Aging (CEDHA). Multiple linear regression models were used to examine the associations between exposures and outcome. **Results.** For every one SD increase in purpose in life (SD = 0.54), there was a 10% increase in the z-score of global cognitive function (Estimate = 0.21,  $p = 0.002$ ). The association between purpose in life and global cognitive function has maintained its robustness after controlling for the effects of perceived discrimination, emotional isolation, age, sex, race, and education. **Conclusion.** Longitudinal studies are needed to further examine the temporality of the association between purpose in life and global cognitive function in adults aging with HIV.

## **The Efficacy of a Hospital-Based Food Pantry in Addressing Food Insecurity: A Program Evaluation**

**Practicum Site:** Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center- Community Health Department

**Josean Amill**

**Introduction.** Food pantries are ideal community spaces to promote healthy eating, as they provide fresh produce and increase accessibility to healthier options. However, many pantry participants lack knowledge about nutrition and have not been introduced to comprehensive nutrition education. This project consisted of evaluating the healthy lifestyle programming within a medical center, specifically its hospital-based food pantry and nutritional education workshops. **Approach.** Evaluative instruments from both the food pantry and workshops were reviewed and revised to assure they were accessible and comprehensible to participants from the community. Program descriptions were also developed to provide relevant deliverables to internal and external stakeholders. **Outcomes.** Survey responses from more than 70% of program participants were recorded which allowed for increased insight on learning achieved through the program. More than half of the participants reported increased knowledge on healthy eating. **Conclusion.** The assessment of these evaluation tools allowed for an increased response rate among program participants and provided the medical center with measurables on programs' efficacy. The development of program descriptions also increased the understanding of existing resources among community members and stakeholders alike. This approach may contribute to the decrease of food insecurity among the medical center's primary service area.

## **Social Isolation and Loneliness in Elder, LGBTQ+ Individuals: The Development of a Telehealth Program at Howard Brown Health Center**

**Practicum Site:** Howard Brown Health Center

**Brenna Barry**

**Introduction.** The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic encouraged the use of technology for many aspects of life, including healthcare and social interaction, to maintain physical distance. LGBTQ+ adults 65 years and older are suffering from social isolation and loneliness at disproportionate rates and should be considered when implementing telehealth services.

**Approach.** This project involved the development of a telehealth program, which provided iPads and internet services to 35 LGBTQ+ seniors to promote education and accessibility to technology use for health and social connections. Participants were required to attend at least four online programs and an eight-week training session. **Outcomes.** The inclusion criteria for the program, a pre-and post-intervention survey used for program evaluation, and the program curriculum. **Conclusion.** The issue of social isolation and loneliness continues to be a pressing issue for this population. Telehealth programming that connects this population to their community, loved ones, and healthcare providers while increasing knowledge on their device and the effects of social isolation and loneliness is extremely beneficial.

## **Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Youth in the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**

**Practicum Site:** Pride Action Tank - AIDS Foundation Chicago

**Abby Creek**

**Introduction.** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) youth are overrepresented in the foster system, yet the existing statutes designed to protect them are not effective. LGBTQ+ youth experience unique challenges such as discrimination, harassment, and instability in placements that their heterosexual peers do not. The current policies need to address these challenges more effectively. **Approach.** This project was part of Pride Action Tank's 2020 youth summit that focused specifically on the foster system and needs of LGBTQ+ youth. LGBTQ+ youth currently in the system were invited to share their experiences and provide suggestions for improvement, which were captured in notes. These notes were synthesized into a final report and action plan with the help of LGBTQ+ youth. **Outcomes.** A final summit report from this data was created to detail the background and process of the summit, the key findings, and recommendations for next steps. This was then used to develop the second outcome, the action plan. **Conclusion.** The co-creation, development, and implementation of this report and action plan provide an opportunity to strengthen and improve the quality of care that all youth in the foster system receive.

## **Mental Health Training for Advocate Lutheran General Emergency Room Workers**

**Practicum Site:** Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

**Brianna Flores**

**Introduction.** In the United States, emergency room admission rates for mental health and substance abuse-related visits are dramatically increasing. Emergency room nurses perceive a lack of knowledge, skills and expertise, problems with triage risk assessment, and perception of a broken mental health system (Zun, 2016). With the growing number of mental health and substance abuse-related emergency room visits, emergency room workers must be trained on how to respond to patients who are experiencing a mental health crisis. The purpose of this capstone was to provide mental health training for emergency room workers at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park, Ridge, IL. **Approach.** Various evidence-based mental health trainings were identified and assessed for suitability for implementation for emergency room workers at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Mental Health First Aid for Fire and EMS was chosen as the training program. **Outcomes.** A mental health training options report, recruitment and registration materials, and evaluation materials were developed. **Conclusion.** With the implementation of this training, the hope is that Advocate Lutheran General hospital emergency room workers will be better prepared to triage and treat patients in a mental health crisis.

## **Child and Adolescent Mental Health in Illinois: Examining Associations with Protective and Risk Factors**

**Practicum Site:** Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal Child Health

**Kaitlyn Gallagher**

**Introduction.** Child mental health is an important public health issue in the United States and Illinois given the impact it has on child population health. This capstone explores how various protective and risk factors are associated with the presence of a mental health condition in children ages 6-17 in Illinois. **Methodology.** Data from the National Survey on Children's Health, years 2016-2018, was used for analysis in this cross-sectional study. Descriptive analyses were used to explore the association between protective and risk factors and mental health conditions as the health outcome. Logistic regression models were run to further explore the association between protective and risk factors and mental health conditions. **Results.** Results indicated that 19.75% of children in Illinois reported at least one mental health condition. There was a statistically significant relationship between both protective and risk factors and the presence of a mental health condition. **Conclusion.** Social, environmental, and family-related factors play a role in a child's mental health. Further exploration is needed into what more specific factors impact mental health and the development of interventions that address those factors.



## **Chicago Public Schools (CPS) School-Based Dental Program Utilization Assessment**

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

**Amelia Griggs**

**Introduction.** Minority students are disproportionately affected by dental pain, which negatively impacts their academic performance. Research has shown school-based dental programs help to identify the early stages of oral health problems and provide preventative dental services. Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Dental Programs provides oral health services to CPS students that do not have access to routine oral care. The main goal for the Office of Student Health and Wellness (OSHW) is to ensure health care services are delivered to each student equally; however, OSHW currently lacks an understanding of utilization patterns among schools. This project aimed to focus on schools with underutilization gaps by analyzing dental programs data to prioritize dental care for the schools most needed. **Approach.** The data was cleaned, compiled, and analyzed across schools. The results of the analysis were used to identify strategies to increase engagement in schools with limited utilization. **Outcome.** Five staff members at OSHW reviewed the dental analysis and recommendations; reviewers confirmed that it was helpful to see which schools needed dental services as a foundational start to their exploration of program utilization. **Conclusion.** OSHW has a baseline analysis to develop further analyses to fill gaps in program utilization.

**Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK) Digital Supportive Resources and Strategies for Supporting the Whole Child While Facilitating Learning That Supports the Mind-Body Connection**

**Practicum Site:** Action for Healthy Kids

**Ashley Griggs**

**Introduction.** About 60% of students do not receive treatment for their mental and emotional health disorders (NASP, 2019). Students who focus on social emotional resources learned that it helps reduce their anxiety, depression, and antisocial behavior. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the most proactive initiative for mental and emotional health prevention. This project involves the importance of integrating SEL into the physical health components, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, oral health and physical health that supports the whole child. In addition, identifying the implications for supporting integration within the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model. **Approach.** A complete data collection of SEL and the WSCC model was used to create tangible shared resources for family -school partnerships (FSP) to be utilized, to increase positive behavior and knowledge for the whole child. **Outcomes.** A finished digital WSCC Implementation Guide that was co-created with the AFHK programming team. Additionally, a Nutrition/Oral Health tip sheet and SEL /Physical Activity and Nutrition Tip sheet were developed for support of integration within the WSCC model to leverage resources. **Conclusion.** The development of these resources presents skills that may have a preemptive impact on improving healthy schools and communities with collaborative approach with educators and families.

## **Measuring COVID-19 Disparities Related to Testing and Vaccine Distribution Across Chicago and Suburban Cook County Illinois Using Lorenz Curve**

**Practicum Site:** American Medical Association (AMA)

**Iqra Hashwani**

**Introduction.** COVID-19 has worsened the ever-existing health disparities in the US. This study explores disparities associated with COVID-19 testing/vaccination in Chicago and Suburban Cook County. **Methods.** This cross-sectional study explores COVID-19 testing/vaccination disparities in 164 Cook County zip codes. The data regarding COVID-19 tests, vaccinations, cases, deaths and zip code level social determinants were collected from IDPH, CDPH and US Census Bureau websites. The Lorenz Curve was used to determine COVID-19 test/vaccine distribution in accordance with disease burden and conducted an OLS regression to ascertain the association between our predictors and outcomes. **Results.** Before March 30th, 2021, approximately 62,727 tests and 6,711 vaccinations were administered Chicago and 28,651 tests were conducted in Suburban Cook County zip codes. Testing increased in Chicago and Suburban Cook County when Non-Hispanic White and Asian populations increased by 1%. Vaccinations also increased in Chicago zip codes when NHW and Asian residents increased by 1% and decreased in zip codes when NHB population increased by 1%. **Conclusion.** Disparities relating to COVID-19 testing/vaccinations are especially affecting minorities. These minorities have always experienced a disproportionate burden of diseases. Therefore local/state public health and government leaders must focus upon equity implications regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

## Social Isolation Among Older Adults Aging with HIV

Practicum Site: Rush University Medical Center

Cayla Iwaniuk

**Introduction.** Social isolation in older adults may lead to poor health outcomes. However, little is known about the factors that are associated with social isolation among older adults aging with HIV. This study explored how cognition, race, sex, education, and sexual orientation were associated with social isolation among older adults with HIV. **Methodology.** Utilizing data from the Center of Excellence on Disparities in HIV & Aging (CEDHA), 177 participants (48% of the cohort) living with HIV were included in the analysis. Self-reported social isolation from a modified version of the de Jong-Gierveld loneliness scale was used to determine social isolation. Perceived social isolation was examined with multiple linear regression models including cognition, race, sex, education. **Results.** Results found that African Americans were less likely to experience social isolation ( $t = -0.41, p = 0.00$ ). Additionally, for every year of education, participants were less likely to report social isolation when controlling for cognition, sex, and race. ( $t = -0.06, p = 0.01$ ) **Conclusion.** Race and education were found to be significant predictors for social isolation among older adults. Further research should advance the temporal relation of these variables with change in social isolation in diverse older adults living with HIV.

## **Monitoring the Chicago Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 Community-Based Mobile Testing Program**

**Practicum Site:** The Chicago Department of Public Health

**Ayesha Karim**

**Introduction.** During public health emergencies like COVID-19, disparities between population groups are exacerbated. Specifically, Black, Non-Latinx and Latinx people are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and face greater barriers in accessing health care services. Thus, community-based testing aims to identify the spread of COVID-19 among these disproportionately impacted communities and mitigate barriers in accessing testing services.

**Approach.** An analysis of the Chicago Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) community-based mobile testing program was conducted for staff use. The analysis included information about CDPH’s approach to mobile testing, its effectiveness, and recommendations for potential programmatic improvements. **Outcomes.** A PowerPoint presentation of findings was created indicating that CDPH’s mobile testing program was effective at reaching and testing Latinx populations but not Black, Non-Latinx populations. The presentation underwent cycles of review by various CDPH staff. Upon final approval, findings and recommendations were presented to CDPH staff. **Conclusion.** Increasing access to testing is essential in mitigating the burden of COVID-19 among vulnerable populations. With the implementation of these recommendations, the mobile testing program will be able to better identify and secure mobile testing sites in these priority communities; thereby, expanding their reach and eventually decreasing the incidence of COVID-19 cases across the City of Chicago.

## **Lowering Uncontrolled Hypertension Rates of Black and African American Patients at University of Chicago Medicine**

**Practicum Site:** University of Chicago Medicine

**Joanna Kurnat**

**Introduction.** Hypertension is a complex medical condition that is influenced by genetics, environment, personal behaviors, and socioeconomic factors. Although it is a universal issue, hypertension is disproportionately high in the Black and African American population. This project aimed to develop clinical and behavioral interventions in order to lower the uncontrolled rates of African American patients at University of Chicago Medicine. **Approach.** A survey conducted among patient care providers at University of Chicago Medicine examined feasibility and potential impact of a range of 12 possible interventions. Survey results were analyzed using an impact matrix resulting in two interventions chosen to be developed for patient care providers to implement to decrease hypertension among their Black and African American patients.

**Outcomes.** Two interventions were developed: one intervention aimed to increase medication adherence among patients; the second aimed to increase patient knowledge on nutrition and exercise. These interventions were developed and subsequently implemented on a small scale to allow for feedback from both patients and providers, as well as any necessary reassessment. After the initial pilot, the interventions will be implemented on a larger scale throughout the hospital. **Conclusion.** The development of these interventions presents a promising approach to help lower the rates of uncontrolled hypertension of Black and African American patients at University of Chicago Medicine.

## **Trends of Self-Reported/Self-Disclosed Cases of Coronavirus-19 in the Community of DePaul**

**Practicum Site:** DePaul University's Office of Health Promotion and Wellness / COVID-19 Task Force

**Kunal Lohana**

**Introduction.** The educational system around the world has been severely disrupted by the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Educational institutes are taking measures to keep their community safe and mitigate the spread of the infection. Similarly, DePaul University's Office of Health Promotion and Wellness created a COVID-19 task force where community members can self-report their contact or positive test result to the university. This project analyzed the trends in self-reported cases of COVID-19 in the community of DePaul University. **Approach.** Data collected by the COVID-19 task force was statistically analyzed for common risk groups. **Outcomes.** Amongst total cases of COVID-19, 73.48% were reported by students of DePaul University. The majority of the cases were self-reported by females and White ethnic background individuals. **Conclusion.** The analysis of the data collected by the COVID-19 task force provides a chance to revise existing strategies or develop new mitigation strategies focusing on the identified population of risk groups.

## **HIV Policy Analysis in Illinois Using the Social Ecological Model**

**Practicum Site:** AIDS Foundation Chicago - Policy and Advocacy

**Erin McMillen**

**Introduction.** HIV/AIDS is a communicable disease that has been a health issue in the United States and Illinois for decades. The transmission of HIV can be reduced through policies that address social determinants of contracting HIV, and there are currently two initiatives in Illinois with goals of reaching zero new HIV transmissions by 2030. Detailed research on these two policies, Getting to Zero Illinois and Eliminating the HIV Epidemic, is lacking. This project fills that knowledge gap. **Approach.** Both policy initiatives were thoroughly examined; strategies and goals were extracted then mapped to levels of the Social-Ecological Model. Three infographics were created to provide necessary information, such as background and gaps in the initiatives, on these policies at various levels of the SEM. A survey was created to assess knowledge increase from the infographics. **Outcomes.** Infographics received feedback throughout their creation and responses to the survey from community members will be measured moving forward. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago now has thorough research on these initiatives which work closely with their organization and goals. **Conclusion.** It is beneficial to have comprehensive knowledge of current HIV initiatives so gaps can be identified, and Illinois can reach zero new HIV transmissions.



**Interim Program Evaluation of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate Training Program**

**Practicum Site:** Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

**Regina R. Midgett**

**Introduction.** As defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Brownfield sites are former industrial sites that are now abandoned or underutilized and contaminated by hazardous materials. Educating people about these sites and how to reuse them is a function of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). In collaboration with the National Environmental Health Association, ATSDR designed the Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate Training Program for training local health agency professionals. The training is offered in two modalities: classroom (virtual or in-person) and online. **Approach.** A program evaluation was initiated to assess participants' performance. Twenty-two students and thirty-eight environmental professionals completed (n=60) pre-and post-test surveys about environmental health topics. Descriptive statistics and adjusted percent difference of the means were examined to assess change in knowledge between participant types. **Outcomes.** Results showed higher post-test scores for both participant groups (i.e., students (S), environmental professionals (EP)). Students seemed to have a larger increase in competency than environmental professionals for all modules except module 4. **Conclusion.** The online training program is effective in enhancing participant knowledge about environmental health. Further study is needed to determine long-term knowledge, retention, and environmental impact.

## **Minoritized and Marginalized Physician Wellbeing During COVID-19: Exploring the Association of Resource Allocation and Physician Burnout**

**Practicum Site:** Center for Health Equity / American Medical Association

**Zain Qusair**

**Introduction.** Physician burnout is common during health crises. Research about burnout among Minoritized and Marginalized physicians (MMP) in the US remains rare. This project examines the impact of resource allocation on burnout among this group of physicians. **Methodology.** This is a cross-sectional study of 747 physicians from the Minoritized and Marginalized Physicians Survey. Data was analyzed using multivariate logistic regression modelling. Post-estimation calculations were conducted for best, worst, and most probable case scenarios of burnout.

**Results.** Burnout prevalence was 34.2%. Poor resource allocation significantly predicted burnout among the surveyed physicians (OR = 2.36, 95% CI: 1.52 – 3.68). Female physicians were more likely to have burnout compared to male physicians (OR = 2.35, 95% CI: 1.72 – 3.21).

Physicians who identify with two or more races had higher odds of being burned out compared to white physicians (OR = 1.82, 95% CI: 1.1 – 3.03). Predicted probabilities showed a great disparity between the worst-case and most probable case scenarios (burnout probability 83% vs 18%). **Conclusion.** There is a need for further research to address burnout among MMPs in the US, and to advocate for equitable distribution of resources for this underrepresented group of physicians.

## **The Significance of Raising Awareness on School Meal Programs and Optimal Nutrition to Students in Pre-K Through 12th Grades**

**Practicum Site:** Action for Healthy Kids

**Meklit Sake**

**Introduction.** School meal programs such as the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and Summer Foodservice Program offer children a balanced nutritional meal that benefits them in their academic success and general wellbeing. Children who do not participate in school meal programs, on the other hand, develop dietary deficiencies, leading to health issues such as food insecurity, obesity, poor academic performance, social consequences, anxiety, and depression. In 2014, 17 million people lived in food insecure households in America (Balch, 2020). The USDA established school meal programs that are accessible to all students in Pre-K through 12th grade; school meal programs offer healthy meals and help families avoid food insecurity. To achieve maximum benefit in children's physical wellbeing, it is important to raise awareness and promote school meal programs. **Approach.** For this approach, a training content tool was created on school meal programs and optimal nutrition, using evidence-based analysis from an online database, and the results were presented to members of the school health team. The training was delivered virtually, and after the presentation, stakeholders were given post-evaluation questions.

**Outcomes.** Sixty-five stakeholders from various school districts who are members of the school health team attended the training, and the results showed that a large number of participants stated they learned something new and that they would apply the training and content discussed in the presentation at their job in schools/districts or at home with their children. The training tool was made available to the school districts who would be receiving grants through Action for Healthy Kids, and school health teams will receive guidance from the state coordinators on how to incorporate the trainings and use them as a guide in their schools. **Conclusion.** The development of these trainings would assist stakeholders in raising awareness about school meal programs and optimal nutrition in schools, thus reducing health conditions such as obesity and developmental risk; it would also help to reduce food insecurity and encourage students to adopt healthier eating habits.

## **An Evaluation of The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certification**

**Practicum Site:** Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

**Huda Shareef**

**Introduction.** Environmental education increases environmental health literacy skills among the population to improve the health of individuals and communities. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the National Environmental Health Association developed an Environmental Health and Land Reuse (EHLR) training to educate populations. This project evaluated the EHLR training to identify the program's strengths and weaknesses. **Approach.** A focus group interview was conducted with six participants to better understand their experience with the training. A thematic qualitative analysis was conducted using a six-step approach. Participants (31-55) enrolled in the training filled out self-assessment questionnaires pertaining to how they felt about each module. Data analysis was conducted in Excel to summarize participants' responses by each module. **Outcomes.** Analysis of self-assessment responses showed that the participants' self-reported improved knowledge and that the training was well accepted by participants. The greatest self-reported benefits of the training were 1) increased knowledge about unfamiliar topics, 2) confidence to increase skills, and 3) motivation to learn more. **Conclusion.** The evaluation of the EHLR training showed that people were positively impacted by the training and learned new information about unfamiliar topics. This training can contribute to widely educating populations about environmental health and land reuse issues and lead to healthier communities.

**Mental Health Matters: The Evaluation of Youth Mental Health Services at Gary Comer Youth Center in Chicago, IL**

**Practicum Site:** Gary Comer Youth Center

**Darielle D. Sherrod**

**Introduction.** Urban and underserved youth of color are in urgent need of mental health services and support. Gary Comer Youth Center (GCYC) is a non-profit, community-based organization in Chicago, IL that provides mental health services to urban, underserved, and low-income youth. However, there was a gap in understanding the effectiveness of GCYC’s youth mental health services, which this project sought to fulfill. **Approach.** The CDC Framework for Program Evaluation in Public Health best informed the design of the mixed-method survey that was created, implemented, and analyzed for GCYC’s Counseling Department. The survey elicited feedback from youth members to assess the effectiveness of the mental health services. **Outcomes.** Fourteen youth completed the survey, out of forty-three who were eligible. Results showed that youth were overall satisfied with the counseling services and their mental health needs were being met. **Conclusion.** It is imperative to evaluate youth mental health services to assess effectiveness and sustainability so that services can be continually improved to meet evolving youth needs. GCYC’s counseling staff will use this instrument every quarter to examine the ongoing effectiveness of their services to understand youth needs and satisfaction, engage the community, sustain funding, and make programmatic improvements.

## **Understanding the Association Between Intimate Partner Violence and Substance Use Among Low-Income Communities of Chicago Using Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0**

**Practicum Site:** Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) – Sinai Chicago

**Sonia Sultan**

**Introduction.** Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health concern that is associated with poor health consequences. This study focused on the association of having ever experienced IPV and substance use in the past among nine communities of Chicago.

**Methodology.** Sinai Community Health Survey 2.0 was used to examine the association between IPV measures, being emotionally or physically abused by a partner or someone important to them with substance use of cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, or methamphetamine. A cross-sectional study design with 1,543 adult participants was used and multivariate logistic regression was conducted to analyze the association between IPV and substance use. **Results.** Regression analysis showed a positive, significant association between IPV and substance use (OR=2.38, 95% CI=1.15 – 4.93). The association remains robust after controlling for covariates.

**Conclusion.** IPV is a common public health concern that must be addressed by community-driven public health solutions and interventions to help prevent the violence rates and control the use of substances. More research is needed to analyze the association of IPV and substance use in different community areas to help public health and substance abuse prevention stakeholders to plan programs and policies related to IPV and substance use.

## **Assessing Barriers to Medication Adherence Through the HIV Continuum of Care**

**Practicum Site:** Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

**Arielle Walker**

**Introduction.** For people living with HIV (PLWH) there is a difficulty retaining HIV care. Those who are not adherent to their medications will not become virally suppressed and can keep transmitting the virus to other people. Barriers can make it challenging for PLWH to stay retained in care. It is vital to address those barriers and provide ways to overcome them to keep them retained in their HIV care. **Approach.** The COMEBACK study team created intake forms that were given to the participants in the study to learn more about their barriers to HIV care. The forms were then added by the student intern into REDCap software to analyze the data. **Outcomes.** Results from the study showed the common barriers associated with HIV care and this information was used to design an infographic. The infographic incorporated resources to help with housing, viral loads, and additional information that the CORE Center can distribute. **Conclusion.** The development of this infographic is a helpful step with linking people to resources within their community to help educate about ways PLWH can improve their adherence. Increased retention in care can lead to a reduction in incidence rates of new HIV cases.

## **Developing a Survey to Assess the Effectiveness of Training Resources at a State Perinatal Quality Collaborative**

**Practicum Site:** Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative

**Preeya Waite**

**Introduction.** The United States has the highest maternal death rate of all high-income nations. This project works with a state perinatal quality collaborative to design a survey that measures the effectiveness of a training toolkit, provided as part of an initiative to reduce adverse birthing outcomes. **Methodology.** The survey was designed to be used by perinatal providers who utilize the Patient and Family Engagement resources. Through cognitive interviews, the survey was refined and piloted with 40 participants. The inter-item correlation was calculated for applicable survey questions. **Results.** The final survey contained 11 questions, and 32 participants (80%) completed the survey in the pilot phase. After calculating the inter-item correlations between the survey questions, Questions 2, 3, and 10 were all correlated within an acceptable range to remain part of the survey. **Conclusion.** State perinatal quality collaboratives are public health leaders working toward implementing solutions to end maternal mortality. This survey can be adapted for future use in other state initiatives and can be beneficial for other states as well. Implementing, evaluating, and improving systemic initiatives and programs is the only way to improve maternal health outcomes within hospitals and care centers.



## **Community Partners**

Action for Healthy Kids

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center- Community Health Department

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital - Community Health Department

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

AIDS Foundation Chicago - Policy and Advocacy

AIDS Foundation Chicago - Pride Action Tank

American Medical Association (AMA) - Center for Health Equity

Chicago Department of Public Health - Bureau of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response

Chicago Public Schools - Office of Student Health and Wellness

Gary Comer Youth Center

Howard Brown Health Center

Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Maternal Child Health

Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative

Rush University Medical Center - Alzheimer's Disease Center - Department of Preventive Medicine

Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center

Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) – Sinai Chicago

University of Chicago Medicine

DePaul University's Office of Health Promotion and Wellness / COVID-19 Task Force

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