



RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

Fall 2021 Abstract Book



Internship Abstract

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Internship Abstract

Title: The CHRONicle Study of COVID, HIV, and Resilience in New Jersey and GOLD IV (Data Coding and Analysis)

Name: Ashley Adamo

Preceptors: Kristen D. Krause, PhD, MPH, Deputy Director at CHIBPS

Agency: Center for Health, Identity, Behavior, and Prevention Studies, Newark, NJ

Purpose: To understand the personality trait of resilience as a buffer for the processes of three major stressors (physical, mental, and social) of the aging and HIV population.

Significance: People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) experience health disparities related to the stigma, social isolation, and overall compromised health, according to Dr. Kristin D. Krause from “Resilience as a buffer against negative health sequelae in older gay men living with HIV/AIDS: implications for research and practice”. Among the PLWHA population, the older adults experience increased complexity in health disparities because of the aging process, healthcare treatment, psychosocial and structural conditions. The aging population living with HIV show resilience as they experience intersectional problems. Resilience is a major factor related to how older PLWHA overcome health-related issues. The theoretical model will help analyze how physical, mental, and social health are affected in the older adults living with HIV.

Method/Approach: Interviews will be conducted to qualitatively evaluate how resilience is exhibited in older adults with HIV. The resilience and health paradigm model will guide the conversation to understand how negative health outcomes are affected by multi-factor stressors. The qualitative insight of the older adults in the interviews will bring valuable data to identify key concepts within the resilience model. Personal examination of resilience within older PLWHA will bring key elements of how elderly sexual and gender minorities with HIV can be empowered. The interviews will be done using the Qualtrics system. This dissertation has three specific aims: (1) to assess the factor structure and psychometric properties of a newly developed tool examining HIV-related resilience, (2) evaluate mental health and sociodemographic correlates of HIV-related resilience, and (3) examine the self-reported neurocognitive correlates of HIV-related resilience. 250 older gay men age 50-69 living with HIV/AIDS in the New York City area were part of this study.

Outcomes/Results: Results from the subsequent analyses indicate that higher levels of HIV-related resilience are associated with better mental and neurocognitive health outcomes.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Further research is necessary to gain a better understanding on the role that resilience has on the holistic healthcare and health of older gay men living with HIV/AIDS, especially neurocognitive functioning and mental health outcomes. Shifting towards a strengths-based perspective is a critical next step for researchers, practitioners, and clinicians alike.

Internship Abstract

Title: Health inspector, Ensuring a safe environment for the community.

Name: Anthony Allakis

Preceptors: Tina Mereos, Health Officer/Director

Agency: North Bergen Health Department, North Bergen, NJ

Purpose: To ensure and educate the community about health hazards .

Significance: Each health inspector in the department is responsible to inspect restaurants, pools, stores, gas stations...Etc. The health inspectors have to make sure that there are no safety hazards in these businesses. For example, expired food, the water in the pool is not clean, or anything that can cause harm to the community the inspectors should prevent. Through a critical examination of the workplace, inspections help to identify and record hazards for corrective action. Health and safety committees can help plan, conduct, report and monitor inspections. Regular workplace inspections are an important part of the overall occupational health and safety program and management system, if present.

Method/Approach: Every inspection must examine “who, what, where when”, and how. Pay particular attention to items that are or are most likely to develop into unsafe or unhealthy conditions because of stress, wear, impact, vibration, heat, corrosion, chemical reaction, or misuse. Include areas where no work is done regularly, such as parking lots, rest areas, office storage areas, and locker rooms. When conducting inspections, there are principles that should be followed:

- Pay attention to the presence of any immediate danger
- Clearly describe each hazard and its exact location in your rough notes
- Shut down and "lockout" any hazardous items that cannot be brought to a safe operating standard until repaired
- Do not try to detect all hazards simply by relying on your senses or by looking at them during the inspection. You may have to monitor equipment to measure the levels of exposure to chemicals, noise, radiation or biological agents.

Outcomes/results: The results of each inspection always vary. However, if one does not pass the inspection they will receive a report telling them what they should do and they have to go to court. If the place fails an inspection and it depends on how severe the situation is, the results will vary. It's something small, the person will get a warning. However, It's something that may put other people in danger and the place will be shut down immediately. For example, an executive order was signed recently by governor Murphy to ban the selling of flavored vapes. If the owner refuses to obey these laws the first offense will be a warning and it will get worse from here. This is an example of a “small” violation. However, if a business is selling expired food or any type of food that could cause harm to the community will immediately be shut down on sight.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The main purpose of inspections is to ensure there are no safety hazards to the community. However, if there is a safety hazard or a complaint the inspectors should do their job to ensure a safe environment for everyone. There are no limitations for inspections. An inspector could inspect a place anytime without a warning to ensure there are no safety hazards in the community.

Internship Abstract

Title: Sustainability in Customer Engagement Practices
Name: Jorge Alvarez
Preceptors: Bill Lopez, Executive Director of Business Consulting, Global Marketing
Agency: Merck Animal Health - Madison, New Jersey

Purpose: To assess current price policy limitations while supporting the policy's implementation process through optimizing workflow functions and designing a grant of authority grid.

Significance: Merck Animal Health's price policy is critical to efficient and effective business practices because it ensures sustainable negotiations are made, and the revenue is maximized. However, the price policy cannot be universally applied due to differences in currency and values of products globally. As a result, sales lack accountability, and potential profit is lost through unsustainable negotiations with clients. An updated price policy must combat this issue established using a grid of authority (GOA) grid. Doing so will develop standardized prices for regular and select products, requiring the person attempting to finalize a negotiation (the originator) to submit a price change request sent to approvers who vary by country since business practices and organizational structures differ. The Customer Engagement & Key Accounts co-op will create the GOA for the price policy and the workflow automation that will be part of the policy.

Method/Approach: My preceptor worked with the finance department and conducted a review of the current price policy, which revealed an area of business where potential revenue is lost per year. Bill Lopez, Executive Director of Business Consulting, drafted an updated price policy highlighting critical changes needed to prevent future loss of revenue. The regular and selected products were then distinguished and confirmed by each species team (Bovine, Swine, IVH, Aqua), followed by clarification of floor prices for each regardless of country. Simultaneously, a GOA grid was designed to inform the policy, utilized by the originator of a price change request.

Outcomes/Results: The GOA grid will play a significant role in the price policy by ensuring optimal cross-collaboration and organizational alignment amongst the country and species teams. Using the GOA grid, an originator or approver can quickly identify who price change request must be approved and concurred by. Similarly, the workflow automation will streamline the request process using a form that any involved parties can quickly complete.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Since the GOA grid will be referenced by company employees globally, surveys will be sent out for potential "users" to test their understanding of the grid and how easily they can interpret the necessary information. Using the qualitative data, improvements will be made to the grid as fit. The workflow automation has been and will continue to be tested with the IT team through developmental demos, pre-launch tests, and post-tests to ensure its functionality. The project will go through its final analysis on December 17th before the official launch on January 1st, 2022.

Internship Abstract

Title: Care Coordinator I Intern, Outpatient Operations

Name: Hannan Arshad

Preceptors: Basking Ridge Supervisor: Maxine Butler, Manager, Outpatient Operations
Monmouth Supervisor: Thomas Wilson, Manager, Outpatient Operations

Agency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) - Basking Ridge & Monmouth, NJ

Purpose: To be a liaison between patients and clinicians by managing the flow of Memorial Sloan Kettering's (MSK) plethora of outpatient services via tools such as Epic's Healthcare Information System (HIS) and Electronic Health Records (EHR) to check-in patients, dissect discrepancies or concerns a patient has in their care regimen, and more to ensure the proper transition between each stage of care.

Significance: In the United States, the CDC reported that 599,601 people died from cancer, with NJ having 15,698 deaths alone, giving the state a death rate of 136.5 (CDC, 2021). As a result, we were placed in 9th place of the states that aren't leading in cancer morbidity. To combat cancer Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center screens patients and does research and treatment, and surgeries. MSKCC has taken the primary prevention approach of healthcare to discover disease early to engage it in its infancy. For example, the search and removal of polyps are used to prevent colorectal cancer-causing death and potentially prevent it from occurring at all. Currently, a major goal is understanding Metastasis, which is how cancer cells can break off from the tumor and spread to other parts of the body, which normally makes eradication of the primary tumor only a delay in the disease progression (Grisham, 2017). As a Care Coordinator, I work with the clinical team to check-in patients, review lab orders, and handle day dependent tasks. All to ensure that patients receive quality and efficient care while preventing anything that could impede the flow of services.

Method/Approach: Despite working in two facilities all MSKs use the Healthcare Information and Health Record systems (HIS & EHR) Cadence and CIS. Cadence gives an overview of a patient's healthcare regimen, demographics, health notes, questions to ascertain their Covid status, and more. Cadence condenses this information into the Department Appointments Report (DAR) to facilitate the checking-in of patients, clarification of inquiries regarding appointment time, purpose, and rescheduling. After patients are successfully placed or relocated to the appropriate outpatient service area, the Clinical Information System (CIS) is utilized to review the lab, vital, and treatment orders for any patient placed in CIS's Phlebotomy Queue. If inconsistencies or deviations for lab orders are found then the Salesforce program is employed to discover and correspond with the specific office coordinator, provider, or facility with clearance to redate and order a patient's lab work. These steps ensure the facilities flow optimally.

Outcomes/Results: Patient quantity continues to vary per diem with the vast influxes occurring earlier in the week with over 1000+ patients scattered across multiple services, some even combined on certain floors to ease patient congestion and prevent delays. For instance, Injections Pilots normally done in labs will be done on the Chemotherapy floor on Mondays throughout the week. Moreover, certain facilities are closed on Saturdays, with those open may see 100-200 patients on Saturday, which is a mere fraction of their weekday clientele. No matter the number of patients, the mission is to ensure the best care possible.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Patient satisfaction is the deciding factor on the impact of our coordination of care. Patients access online surveys and can even write in-person thank you notes for staff to compliment our efforts such as when we try to minimize the severity of overcrowding of service areas.

Internship Abstract

Title: CJDB Fall 2021 Data Project

Name: Caleb Bartorillo

Preceptors: Heather Nover, Executive Director

Agency: Anshe Emeth Community Development Corporation

Purpose: To gather and analyze CJDB's Salesforce database to determine growth opportunities and increase client retention.

Significance: Each year, one in three families face diaper insecurity in the United States. Studies determined that diaper need was significantly associated with higher levels of self-reported mental distress in mothers. This indicates the important role that physically having diapers play in a mother's mental state and their baby's physical wellbeing. Since the beginning of the pandemic, demand for diapers is up by over 200% per week but the supply has not kept up, resulting in shortages for families in need. Being unable to keep up with demand can cause higher rates of diaper-related issues such as rashes, infections, and illnesses from dirty diapers. Our agency provides diapers to those with diaper insecurity regardless of background. This data project helped us identify opportunities to increase frequency of diaper distribution by identifying and lowering rates of families served once.

Method/Approach: Data collected between October 2020 to September 2021 was converted into a report on our database system. Previously, it was not possible to find an exact number of one-time clients due to how our database was made. However, this data was exported into a spreadsheet to help quantify key data points such as number of clients by demographics and clients who only ordered diapers once during the observed time period. This data was then used to make a list of clients who will be sent a customer satisfaction survey to complete. The results will be shared with the executive director who will decide the next course of action.

Outcomes/Results: Of the sample size (n=1864), 724 unique clients (39%) only ordered once, 395 (21%) clients ordered twice, 319 (17%) ordered three times, 431 (23%) ordered four or more times [a maximum of 15 orders were placed per client]. When combined, one-time clients make up 14.5% of our total orders. With these percentages in mind, it is clear that there is a diminishing return trend where an increase in orders by a unique client decreases their return rate. Also, 282 (39%) of the one-time clients were from the New Brunswick area. This number surpasses any other townships CJDB covers, which may suggest proximity plays a key role in customer satisfaction and retention.

Evaluation/Conclusion: An analysis of the previous year's client data highly suggests that CJDB needs to improve on outreach and informing new and previous clients of their services. Surveys, increased responses to telecommunication platforms, and follow ups will be vital for the growth of CJDB in Middlesex County. Surveys should be ongoing with data collected at 1-year intervals to keep the organization up to date with trends from one-time clients. However, due to the time and resources required to complete the surveys, they will be primarily sent by text messages. Knowing which clients need attention will increase CJDB customer satisfaction, enabling them to impact more families as current clients will recommend them to CJDB for their diaper insecurities.

Internship Abstract

Title: Allostatic Load and Structural Adversity

Name: Kevin Carolina

Preceptors: Dr. Sharifa Williams, Biostatistician, Division of Social Services & Services Research

Agency: The Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research - Orangeburg, New York

Purpose: To describe allostatic load (AL) and its measurement, compute AL, and examine associations with socioeconomic disadvantage and discrimination in a longitudinal cohort of Black and Latinx individuals.

Significance: AL measures the cumulative effect of physiological responses to acute and chronic stressors. AL has been quantified in research by integrating information from biomarkers (Seeman et al., 1997) that reflect the body's response to environmental changes via chemical changes (e.g., cortisol) and processes (e.g., waist-hip ratio). There are several formulations to combine information from the biomarkers to measure AL. These include indices that rely on standardization of biomarkers (Nobel et al., 2017) or using clinically relevant cut-points (Rodriguez et al., 2019). Measuring AL can contribute to the understanding of the impact of structural and socioeconomic stressors like discrimination and poverty on the body (Van Dyke et al., 2020; Bird et al., 2012).

Method/Approach: The first phase of the project involved a review of the literature and completing a write-up focused on AL, both its measurement and associations with socioeconomic disadvantage (SED) and discrimination. The second phase of the project included conducting data analysis using data from the Harlem Longitudinal Development Study (HLDS). The HLDS data from youth (mean age 19) to the mid-thirties (mean age 36) was used to measure life course exposure to SED and discrimination. Data from the current data collection (mean age 43) was used to quantify AL. Clinically informative cut-offs for 10 indicators were used to compute a sum score measuring AL. Simple linear regression was used to examine bivariate associations between gender, ethnicity, discrimination, SED, and the outcome of interest, AL.

Outcomes/Results: 160 participants completed the current study including providing biomarker measures. Most participants self-identified as female (65.6%), Latinx (56.7%), and were 43 years of age on average. The average AL score using the cut-off method was 3.6 (range: 0-8). Regression results found that males had significantly higher AL compared to females, on average (estimated $\beta = 0.647$, $p = 0.032$). There was a marginally significant association between discrimination and AL (estimated $\beta = 0.378$, $p = 0.110$) such that individuals experiencing higher levels of discrimination over the life course have higher levels of AL, on average. There was no significant association between SED and AL (estimated $\beta = -0.170$, $p = 0.397$) or ethnicity and AL (estimated $\beta = 0.002$, $p = 0.990$).

Evaluation/Conclusion: The summary AL measure does not capture the complex and dynamic framework that often underlies physiologic health responses, and it cannot be used to assess the impact of specific biomarkers. The findings of this research are an indication that there may be differences in AL by discrimination experience. However, it is limited in scope. Further data analysis is needed to examine other measures of discrimination (e.g., microaggressions or race-based stress) as well as various formulations of AL. Next steps should also consider multiple regression approaches to account for potential confounding effects.

Internship Abstract

Title: Raising Awareness about Multiple Myeloma within the Black Community

Name: Christina Cartisano

Preceptors: Stacy Kreizman, Senior Manager of Patient and Community Outreach

Agency: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society - Cranford, NJ

Purpose: To educate the Black Community about Multiple Myeloma by increasing the number of attendees to a program titled “How Myeloma Affects the Black Community” through community outreach measures.

Significance: In 2021, approximately 34,920 people will be diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in the United States (LLS). Black Americans are at a higher risk for being diagnosed with Myeloma, with an incidence rate twice that of their white counterparts. Furthermore, Black Americans have worse survival rates due to late diagnosis, lack of care options, and low rates of clinical trial participation (International Myeloma Foundation). The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has created multiple programs to not only increase access to information about Myeloma but also treatment options. The program “How Myeloma Affects the Black Community” will educate the black community about racial health disparities, Myeloma staging, treatment options, research, and clinical trials.

Method/Approach: In order to spread awareness about the program and increase registration, lists of multiple entities were compiled then later contacted via phone call and email. After researching black news media within New Jersey, 4 black newspapers were contacted in regard to advertising for the upcoming program. Research into black organizations and churches with black congregations concluded with 50 social, economic, and healthcare-based organizations and 15 prominent churches; all of which were sent flyers and later contacted once again to confirm receipt. A list of all 21 New Jersey county health departments and 13 Lehigh Valley state health centers was composed and then later used for contact. Eighteen cancer coalitions and 14 specialty pharmacies for cancer patients were contacted and emailed flyers. Finally, 69 medical centers throughout New Jersey and the Lehigh Valley were mailed flyers and cancer social workers were contacted to confirm receipt.

Outcomes/Results: Of the four newspapers contacted, two responded and published advertisements of the upcoming program. All of the medical centers that were mailed flyers were received and distributed to patients as confirmed by their cancer social workers. A few organizations and churches confirmed receipt of the flyers and agreed to share them. Of the 45 people registered for the program, 28 were in attendance. All of those that filled out a post program survey marked the program as “very good” or “excellent”.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Approximately, 62.2% of those registered did attend the full program, which is aligned with the typical attendance percentages for LLS virtual programs. Yet, the total registration was less than the typical LLS program, however, the target population of this program was very specific and could count for fewer registration numbers. Moreover, many of the organizations, medical centers, and other entities never confirmed receipt of the emailed flyers and therefore may not have shared them with their constituents. It is important to note that COVID-19 has impacted community outreach as many offices are currently closed or running at a smaller capacity due to the pandemic. In addition, all of the outreach must be done virtually rather than in person, where one could ensure the information is well received and understood. The lists compiled will be useful for future programs about Myeloma as there is still a need to raise awareness within the black community.

Internship Abstract

Title: Assessment of COVID-19 Vaccine Impact on Pediatrics Office

Name: Menaka Chawan

Preceptors: Dr. Madhoolika Verma

Agency: J&R Pediatrics

Purpose: To evaluate the effect of the COVID-19 vaccine on patient flow

Significance: The highly contagious COVID-19 has led to over 40 million cases and over 700K deaths across the United States as of October 2021. This deadly virus resulted in many individuals scared to enter health care facilities. The widespread distribution of the three vaccines nationally has brought down some of the fear, but it still does have an impact on private health care practices and their patient flow. Recent research has found that since early 2020, over 26 million doses of adolescent and adult vaccinations were missed in addition to 750,000 preventative screenings including breast cancer and colon cancer. This primary care practice aims to ensure safety protocols such as sanitation practices, social distancing, and ensuring all staff is fully vaccinated to make patients feel confident in bringing their children to get necessary primary care.

Method/Approach: To assess the impact of the widespread distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, patient appointment statistics were collected from prior to the release of the vaccine as well as after. The data was divided into two categories: sick visits and well visits. Based on this information, there was a better understanding of possible hesitancy that surrounded health care facilities during the pandemic. Information was gathered from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the American Medical Association (AMA) about proper guidelines to follow in health care facilities and these were updated as protocols changed on the federal and state level.

Outcomes/Results: The patient data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel which showed that both sick and well visits did increase after widespread vaccine distribution. Prior to vaccine distribution, between the dates of 03/05/2020 and 12/12/2020, there were a total of 60 sick visits and 113 well visits, with the average number of patients seen being 0.7 for sick visits and 1.33 for well visits. After vaccine distribution, between the dates of 12/15/2020 and 11/17/2021, there have been a total of 340 sick visits and 567 well visits. The average number of sick visits was 1.34 and the average number of well visits were 2.24.

Evaluation/Conclusion: After almost 10 months of widespread distribution of the vaccine and updating operating protocols, patients have felt more comfortable coming to the office for vaccination as well as sick appointments. The procedural changes and regulatory guidelines that have been implemented prior to widespread vaccine distribution and after vaccine distribution shows a consistent need to update clinical protocol and disease prevention in private practices. As the provider and the staff are both fully vaccinated and following all the proper CDC and AMA guidelines, the patient flow should continue to increase.

Internship Abstract

Title: BIPOC Cancer Disparities Material Development

Name: Emily Chen

Preceptors: Lindsay Nicholson, Cancer Control Strategic Partnerships Manager

Agency: American Cancer Society

Purpose: To revamp informational materials on BIPOC and LGBTQ+ cancer disparities as well as provide resources for Boston residents and attendants of the Audre Lorde Breast Cancer Luncheon.

Significance: Among cancer incidence rates, there are many disparities across racial groups and also LGBTQ+ communities. For example, within the Boston area, only 62% of Asian women receive cervical cancer screening whereas 92% of white women receive cervical cancer screening. Additionally, within LGBTQ+ communities, transgender women face more barriers than other groups to social and economic resources, which can lead to higher rates of cancer and cancer deaths. The American Cancer Society is creating promotional materials such as workbooks and monthly newsletters to bring awareness to these issues as well as provide resources to these communities.

Method/Approach: The outreach list was built by looking up federally qualified health centers, hospitals, and LGBTQ+ organizations in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and Massachusetts. The emails, phone numbers, and contact names were taken from each institution and added to an Excel document. From the compiled list, an email was sent out about the Speak Up for Health event. Marketing materials were developed using Canva. A post-event evaluation was distributed after the event to measure attendee confidence, satisfaction, and understanding based on four questions. For the Audre Lorde Breast Cancer Luncheon, an educational workbook was developed utilizing Canva and various resources from Fenway Health and the American Cancer Society.

Outcomes/Results: Program evaluation results indicated participant expectations were met and understanding of LGBTQ+ and BIPOC challenges and health disparities were improved. One hundred percent of respondents agreed that they achieved a greater understanding of the challenges facing LGBTQ+ communities and their resulting disparities as a result of attending the event. Over seventy percent of respondents felt that they were very likely to speak up and take action to promote cancer awareness and wellness in the LGBTQ+ community while 27.3% of respondents felt that they were somewhat likely to speak up and take action. Additionally, 9.1% of participants felt that the event somewhat met their expectations, while 36.4% of participants felt that the event fully met their expectations and 54.5% of participants felt the event exceeded their expectations.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Continued education of health disparities relating to specific groups should be made available. Additionally, planning more education events and potential for a series of health disparities events for the public should be considered. Participants of the events were also interested in learning more about the American Cancer Society's specific work regarding health equity in underserved communities as well as specific techniques that individuals and patients can utilize to combat health equity issues.

Internship Abstract

Title: Policy and Procedures Review and Update

Name: Sara Costa

Preceptors: Jessica Short, President

Agency: New Providence Rescue Squad Association

Purpose: To track and update the by-laws, Standard Operating Procedures, Standard Operating Guidelines, and compliance standards for compliance and certification.

Significance: The policies and procedures that govern an organization provide a foundation for their operation and function. A strong foundation is required in order to ensure a smooth and seamless operation. The by-laws and procedures of the New Providence Rescue Squad Association had not been updated since 2005, and in some cases, 1999. These policies govern the establishment and practice of certification compliance guidelines. Certification compliance ensures that all members are up to date with adequate training in order to provide safe and effective treatment to the community. This project ensured the policies were up to date.

Method/Approach: The first step was to study the current policies and procedures. Next, members of the administration team were consulted, and an outline of changes was created. New procedures were discussed and the foundations were laid out for them. The documents were updated and presented to the president for review. After completing the updates and changes to the Chief's Procedures and by-laws, new standard operating procedures and standard operating guidelines were created. The compliance and training requirements were also updated with consultation from the training leadership.

Outcomes/Results: In total, 38 changes were made to the by-laws, and 72 changes were made to the Chief's Procedures. Six new Standard Operating Procedures and Standard Operating Guidelines were created for Active Shooter Procedures, Fire Standby and Rehabilitation Procedures, Isolation Protocol Guidelines, Training Guidelines, and Officer's Guidelines. Training and certification compliance requirements were formally defined and documented in the procedures above. A new system was created to track and manage certification expiration dates and renewals. An online filing system was created within Aladtec, the current scheduling and membership management software to replace the paper filing system. This system will organize and store the membership files for 55 current members and allow for the addition of new members.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Per New Providence Rescue Squad Association policy, any changes made to the by-laws must be presented to the membership and voted upon during two business meetings to be approved. For the changes made to the by-laws during the course of this internship, the meetings are set to be the November and December business meetings. The Chief's Procedures, Standard Operating Procedures, and Standard Operating Guidelines will be approved by the appropriate officers. Once approved, the procedures and guidelines will be presented to the membership and implemented. The new online systems created will continue to be utilized and updated as needed. The biggest challenge during this internship will be to have the bylaws voted upon and approved by the membership. The biggest challenge that will be faced by administration going forward will be maintaining the online record system and keeping the compliance records up to date.

Internship Abstract

Title: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Hispanic/Latino community

Name: Stephanie Lopez Cruz

Preceptors: Direct Supervisor: Manuel J. Castañeda

Agency: Live Well-Vivir Bien New Brunswick

Purpose: To effectively compile COVID-19 information via social media and spread awareness on disparities that Hispanic/Latinos face amidst the pandemic.

Significance: Over the past year, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been disproportionately high among Hispanic/Latino communities. According to data compiled by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hispanics have been at a higher risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19 than other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened their health, social and income inequities and raised a fear of disparities in disease rates, exposure and prevention. Due to the fact that New Brunswick's population is predominantly Hispanic with a percentage of 46.8 on census reporter, there is need to address the health disparities, they face and promote health equity during and after the pandemic. Live Well-Vivir Bien New Brunswick helps to provide awareness of and participate in the health and wellness resources and services available to residents of New Brunswick through their website and social media accounts. The campaign has four focus areas that highlight healthy housing, safety, health and wellness, and health awareness. It addresses racial equity and provides information and resources surrounding the causes and effects of racial biases within healthcare.

Method/Approach: Collect social media analytics for Live Well's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts and compare the social media engagement on previous COVID-19 post to the specific posts on the Latino community. The analytics will demonstrate if the performance of the weekly social media posts from November improved or maintained the engagement through the measurement of likes, shares and number of followers. It will allow Live Well to evaluate which kinds of social media post resonate with the New Brunswick population the most.

Outcomes/Results: For the month of November, the data demonstrates that the social media engagement for both general COVID-19 posts and Hispanic/ Latino Covid-19 posts had similar impressions and reach on Instagram and Twitter. On average, the number of unique accounts that have seen each post, at least once ranged from 53 to 66 and the number of times these posts were on screen ranged from 75- 86. On Instagram, the number of likes and interactions were consistent with each post. When analyzing Facebook's social analytics, there is an increase in engagement regarding the Latinos during COVID-19 posts. These posts received twice as much impressions with a total of 220, the highest post reaching 78 while the general COVID-19 post had a total of 103 with the highest being 33. The analytics demonstrate that throughout November there has also been an increase in followers with 72 new accounts.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Live Well's Facebook had an overall positive change in performance in the Latinos COVID posts as compared to general COVID posts. The reason why correlates with the observation that the majority of the Hispanic population utilizes Facebook as opposed to Twitter or Instagram and this should be taken into account when continuing to share content across the platforms. In the effort to reach the community of New Brunswick, it is important to note how modifying post such as translating the content to Spanish incorporating more videos and creating social media themes post series can make a difference.

Internship Abstract

Title: Community Engagement Intern
Name: Cameron Daniels
Preceptors: Founder/CEO: Jaye Wilson & Internship Coordinator: Danielle McCarthy
Agency: Melinated Moms in Linden, NJ

Purpose: To create awareness of the lack of maternal resources, especially for mothers of color, as well as educate mothers on topics related to maternal health.

Significance: New Jersey has some of the highest rates of maternal mortality in the country, being fourth out of fifty states (NutureNJ,9). Black women are seven times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women here in the state of New Jersey (NutureNJ,9). Melinated Moms is a proud partner with the March of Dimes, which does a yearly report analyzing the numbers on infant and maternal health throughout the country. While we do not have any counties that are experiencing a complete maternity care desert, all citizens do not have access to the same resources, especially of the same quality.

Methods/Approach: Melinated Moms advocate for mothers by creating a community. They host community engagement events both in-person and virtual and “Mommy Talks” once a month to talk about something usually related to maternal health or parenting. During these types of events, we reach out to the participants to find out things such as what attracted them to this specific event and does the information being provided resonates with what they are experiencing. These responses are not only used to build off of our advocacy work but also to create more community events that are based on the needs of our audience.

Outcomes/Results: Since being created Melinated Moms has reached “over 1,000 women” (Melinated Moms). While their advocacy work and events are mainly represented in New Jersey, their services are accessible nationwide. Melinated Moms works alongside First Lady Tammy Murphy and her NutureNJ plan to decrease the rate of maternal mortality in our state by eliminating disparities. Meeting with Governor Murphy’s team to talk about what they are doing for women’s health, it was made apparent that the resources provided aren’t being properly advertised. Being educated about the resources available can improve the health outcomes of the community, which has led me to create the Facebook page “Mothers and Friends” for mothers in South Jersey. The page is an extension of Melinated Moms creating a community safe space that provides mental health support, resources, and educational services.

Evaluation: Although their work is nowhere near done, Melinated Moms’s work so far has been very productive and effective. They have been able to bring more awareness to the rate of maternal mortality and black women and have partnered with big organizations. Before officially launching “Mothers and Friends” a pre survey will be posted on the page allowing mothers to submit what kind of information they would like to see on the page (ex. Resources, educational content, etc) along with a few other questions just to get an idea of what the target audience wants. While the page is created by myself it is not for me so what I would want the page to be is not as important as what the community needs it to be.

Internship Abstract

Title: Bayada Off-Site Nurse Communication Project

Name: Andrew Dillon

Preceptors: Supervisor and Project Manager: Rose Sample, Director

Agency: Bayada Pediatric Health Clinic

Purpose: To prepare and restructure the communication system for off-site nurses to ensure they are properly prepared for any possible scenario in the field, possible shift openings, and to maintain communication with the main office.

Significance: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 194,500 new openings for registered nurses are projected each year making the nursing occupation one of the fastest growing fields in the country. The preparedness of nurses is a must, especially when it comes to pediatric nurses. Off-site nurses are being assigned to provide care for children who are home-bound because of illness or disabilities that require around the clock care. Communication between the main office and the off-site nurse staff is essential to ensure that every child is being properly cared for and that there are no gaps in their health care service. With effective communication, Bayada Pediatric Home Health Clinic will be able to provide the quality services they pride themselves on.

Method/Approach: All currently contracted off-site nurses for the Cherry Hill office of Bayada were pulled from the database to confirm that they were on all three communication platforms. The first is SecureChat, which is an inhouse smartphone app for secure conversations between Bayada nurses and the main office. This had to be installed on every nurse's smartphone. Second was Textemall, a web-based text service that can send out mass messages to all nurses all at once, along with surveys. Lastly was E-blast, which was an inhouse function of Bayada's Jabber program to send out mass emails to all nurses. All nurses who were not on all platforms were added to the ones that they were missing. A calendar system was implemented on SecureChat that sent a notification to all nurses when an open shift became available and needed to be filled. Textemall was used for the weekly Covid tracker for all patient houses who don't have the vaccine or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid and need to report Covid tests before a nurse arrives.

Outcomes/Results: Of the 144 currently contracted off-site nurses, all of them were integrated on the Textemall and E-blast platforms. 40 of the nurses were initially on SecureChat, with the remaining 104 needing to be followed up with to ensure it was downloaded to their phones. The calendar system was implemented and instructions were disseminated to all nurses on giving up and accepting open shifts. A weekly program ran Textemall to send daily messages at 7:00am with the Covid tracker. A system was integrated into E-blast for weekly newsletters with a template for consistency.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The ultimate goal is to have 100% of contracted nurses on all three platforms. The main hurdle to overcome in ensuring the consistent use of the platforms by all nurses and that newly contracted nurses be brought on immediately. The remaining nurses not on SecureChat must be followed up with as well. The self-running program for Textemall's Covid tracker should run with no hiccups and not skip a day, along with passing any positive Covid tests to the necessary supervisor for the next steps. In the upcoming months, the current database of emails and phone numbers should be kept up to date with all new hires and have sessions with new hires on how to use the functionality of the platforms.

Internship Abstract

Title: A Guide to Patient Records and Documentation

Name: Kathleen Dougherty

Preceptors: Lexi Brewer, chief medical assistant

Agency: Dermatology and Skin Surgery Center

Purpose: To create an identification guide to precancerous or dangerous skin lesions by organizing and evaluating each of the cancerous and precancerous diagnoses and symptoms.

Significance: Each year, 5.4 million cases of basal or squamous cell carcinoma are diagnosed in the United States each year (Basal 2021). In Central New Jersey, there are only a few practicing physicians that will perform MOHS surgery. The Dermatology and Skin Surgery Center is one such office that performs MOHS and excision surgeries. The project is aimed at creating an efficient method of spot identification for patients to use. If patients can better identify precancerous spots they can be treated before fully developing or in the early stages of cancer.

Method/Approach: Over the course of 3 months the doctor and PA took biopsies from suspicious appearing spots on the skin, the patient information and location taken from are labeled and recorded, and then sent to the lab. In addition, the general appearance of the biopsied spot is also recorded. The results return, are reviewed, documented and if a treatment is necessary it is planned and implemented. Each diagnosis and treatment is documented. Results can come back reporting nothing but a freckle to psoriasis, to skin cancer. The general treatments can be nothing at all, cryotherapy (freezing with nitrogen oxide), ILK injections (Ketoconazole or Triamcinolone), excisions, or MOHS surgery. Each of these are documented in the same place as to correlate the appearance to the diagnosis and treatment,

Outcomes/Results: The goal was to provide a general guide correlating appearance/complaint, to diagnosis, and treatment. Basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma were the most difficult to distinguish, but the most common complaints noted for bcc were red domed mole, and for scc it was changing mole/plaque. With the diagnosis of melanocytic nevus with moderate-severe atypia, non-healing growth (mole/spot/wart were some of the words used) was the most common explanation. Lichen simplex chronicus correlated with the complaint of thicken skin. When diagnosed as actinic keratosis the most common description was scaly and red spots. The treatment correlation was as follows: BCC/SCC- MOHS, MN with moderate-severe atypia- excision, Lichen simplex chronicus-ILK injections, and actinic keratosis- cryotherapy freezing.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Patient feedback was positive regarding their agreement that their diagnosis could have been as described with the most commonly reported appearance that aligned with that particular diagnosis. One limitation is that the evaluations or making note of the physical appearance is done by the professional staff. This means the doctor frequently identifies problematic areas without the patient having noticed it. An additional limitation is that the data collection and data complement/recording is done by different individuals, which could have led to mistakes. This certainly can be helpful in the future, pertaining to updates and new diagnosis, they can be added as they arise and become frequent. As for changing what has been established, it should certainly be monitored but dramatic changes or shifts in the common complaints for a diagnosis are unlikely.

Internship Abstract

Title: Account Management Intern
Name: Ivan M Espino
Preceptors: Marisa Macrina, Director of HR
Agency: All American Healthcare Services

Purpose: To update and organize government contracts data sheets on a continuous basis, put together bid inquiries. Assist with onboarding processes, and communicate with therapists, nurses, and facilities.

Significance: Due to COVID-19, there has been a significant need for more nurses and therapists for several facilities across the country. All American Healthcare Services helps assist those facilities by generating a faster and more personal and approachable way to communicate with various nurses and therapists by reaching out to them rather than how most facilities expect applicants to apply to their facility themselves. The same is done for the therapy side of the company where AAHCS help facilities staff respiratory therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, and therapy assistants. It creates a much smoother process for new applicants and current employees to accurately depict current data and information to pinpoint our strengths and disadvantages, to consistently improve the company's progress.

Method/Approach: AAHCS uses an application, AllShifts, which is easily downloadable on the phone where various disciplines such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, and certified medical assistants can reach us about multiple facilities looking for shifts and positions that need filling. It is an easier process to facilitate these medical professionals, whereas an in-house application process for bigger organizations can take weeks or even months to complete. With these various disciplines registered in the system, StafferLink, these medical professionals can see the shifts pop up on their AllShifts app and request to work them. It is there where Account Managers can process and choose the medical professionals listed that requested those shifts, and complete the process. From there, they then work the shifts, and fill out time cards/sheets that are approved and signed by their supervisors to be sent to AAHCS to place in the StafferLink system to process and pay out.

Outcomes/Results: Results showed faster turnover times with multiple registrants requesting shifts on a weekly/daily basis. Shifts would be uploaded and processed within the same day to fulfill the request from the facility. The account management dashboard AAHCS uses, shows shifts popping up as "pending order matches" which are then processed by the assigned AM. Once processed, the order match is then shown completed and confirmed on the registrant's AllShifts app which notifies them about the confirmed shift.

Evaluation/Conclusion: On average, a singular shift can receive about 2-5 pending order matches, which equates to 2 to 5 registrants on AllShifts requesting to work the shift. Even in the event a registrant can no longer work the shift due to certain circumstances, the shift can then be canceled in StafferLink, and be re-uploaded into the system for the other registrants to request the shift again. Therefore, registrants are always available to complete the pending order matches and work the shift leaving no facility requesting additional staff to be left understaffed. Some cases call for even more additional staff depending on the level of the facility requesting for it, such as hospitals and nursing homes, which AAHCS has had the pleasure and capability of being able to assist with those staffing needs.

Internship Abstract

Title: COVID-19 Health Education Among NJ Residents

Name: Jessica Fanfan

Preceptors: Alicia Gambino, Director of Educational Services

Agency: New Jersey Poison Control Center

Purpose: To analyze and improve community barriers of accessing accurate COVID-19 information to improve public health comprehension among New Jersey residents.

Significance: The NJ Poison Control Center aims to combat COVID-19 misinformation during the pandemic by serving as a public health resource for over 108,000 callers across New Jersey. In partnership with the NJ Department of Health, the COVID-19 Hotline provides reliable and accurate health information and/or medical guidance to health professionals and the general public based on rapidly evolving scientific evidence from the CDC. In New Jersey, since the pandemic began, there have been more than 26,000 COVID-19 related deaths. Public health guidance based on scientific research and evidence will aim to decrease community barriers due to the inequities such as a lack of technical knowledge or access. This in turn may lower rates of confusion and misinformation among the general public leading to a better response to the evolving pandemic.

Method/Approach: When calls are initiated, the telephone operator logs in the zip code of which the person is calling from which is used for data based on location. From here, callers were anonymously categorized based on their reason for calling. Callers concerned about exposure to COVID-19 were categorized as: Potential exposure, COVID-19 confirmed, and COVID-19 not confirmed. Vaccine-related questions were categorized into the 3 vaccines available in the US, Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson. Callers who were concerned about exposure and contact tracing were mostly concerned with transmission rates after coming in contact with an infected person.

Outcomes: In a study conducted in October 2020 to measure the effectiveness of the hotline, a random sample of 1,500 calls were analyzed. A majority, 68.7%, of the calls pertained to COVID-19 testing and general symptom questions. For general symptoms and testing questions, guidance urged for quarantine and recovery times which in turn helped to keep transmission rates low. Time of day also seemed to affect call types. Morning hours were associated with testing compared to other concerns. National events also seemed to affect the type of calls. As vaccine mandates were introduced and later booster shots, there was an increase in the volume of calls pertaining to particular vaccines.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The success of the project does have its limitations. NJ residents who did not have access to a phone were unable to call in for information. This may be due to financial barriers or other reasons. Another limitation is that some topics still have no guidance, therefore, creating a barrier in giving accurate information. Satisfaction surveys and evaluation tools were not given to callers to measure effectiveness. The number of callers to date could be off due to many reasons. Poison-related calls and COVID-19 calls are taken on the same telephones so the number of callers could be higher. Secondly, calls could be taken but mistakenly not recorded on the computer. The addition of evaluation measures can be taken to measure and improve the effectiveness of the program.

Internship Abstract

Title: The Impacts of Climate Change to the Biological Environment

Name: Mohammed Fathin

Preceptors: Vanessa Eddy, President

Agency: BioPrep Solutions

Purpose: To analyze the impact of climate change to biodiversity and the overall biological environment, through a literature review.

Significance: The Earth is facing the negative influence of unstable climatic patterns, increasing mean temperatures, and the rising concentration of greenhouse gas emissions. As an indirect consequence, ecosystems and the organisms within them have been at risk of environmental decline through rising mortality rates and extinction, destruction of habitats, dangerous shifts in ecological behavior, and the threat of pathogens and parasites to unsuspecting communities and populations around the world. BioPrep Solutions is a public health consultation company that focuses on providing resources, expertise, and assistance to businesses, associations, and governments. A literature review of this circumstance can assist the company in preparing and implementing preventative measures to countries in need.

Method/Approach: A literature review was conducted using relevant articles and peer-reviewed studies found on Google Scholar and PubMed databases. A collection of thirty sources were compiled and divided into three categories: seven of which discussed climate change's impact on the environment and its ecosystems, twelve focused on climate change's impact on biodiversity and populations of biological species, and eleven analyzed climate change's impact on the transmission of infectious diseases.

Outcomes/Results: All of the articles were unanimously in agreement on one conclusion, that the Earth is experiencing negative repercussions from climate change. The literature in the environment category came to the conclusion that, largely due to human activity, the observed effects have been variable rising temperatures with the worst at tropical latitudes and altitudes, frequent extreme events, and degradation of ecosystems like forests and the polar ice caps. For the biodiversity category, the conclusions made indicated that inhospitable environments are causing changing behavior in organisms which creates inconsistencies for their hibernation/aestivation periods and migration timing, range shifts that lead to invasive nonindigenous populations and increased competition, and alterations of predator-prey interactions. For the infectious disease category, the articles concluded that unsuitable environments allow for parasites and pathogens to thrive on food, water, and vectors which have expanded and dispersed to other locations making humans susceptible to their diseases.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Through the examination of the research, it will help aid the company in having resources in presenting their own presentations or papers regarding this subject. The research itself and the organization of it into their respective themes supports the claim that the Earth is in danger, and steps are needed to be taken to support communities in need. In terms of difficulties while performing the review, there was only so much literature one could find before finding articles that repeated information previously mentioned in another. Following this, it would be beneficial to conduct more research on searching for specific communities at risk of infectious diseases caused by climatic conditions, in order to develop initiatives and programs to prevent negative situations from occurring and mitigating them if they do happen to occur.

Internship Abstract

Title: Comparing Transmission Levels for 3D Printed Bolus and Other Materials in Radiation Oncology

Name: Caleb Fornes

Preceptors: Linda Veldkamp PhD, Chief Physicist; Judy Labellarte, Manager; Zakery Simpson, Contractor

Agency: Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, Elizabeth, New Jersey

Purpose: To determine if there is a significant difference in electron and photon transmission between different materials for radiation therapy.

Significance: The second leading cause of death in the United States is cancer, which killed nearly 600,000 people in 2019. 3D printing has become an innovation in the field of Oncology by creating boluses that can fit an individual and can help in more effective treatment. The types of bolus being tested will help in preparing simple boluses, which will help in treating patients with cancer generally in the breast or those with tumors that are detected not as deep in the body. A simple bolus has the same depth throughout and works as a supportive layer to ensure that the dose needed for radiation therapy is delivered at the optimal proportions. This project is to determine if there is a difference in the measures of photon transmission or electron transmissions based on different depths and on different materials used.

Method/Approach: The phantom or solid water was the control for the test and the experimental groups for this were the PLA boluses, the TPU boluses and SuperFlab gel sheets. The transmission test was done at 100 SSD, meaning that all transmission tests were taken with the same distance in mind. An electrometer was used to measure the net charge, while keeping the measurements in absolute value. Testing was done using transmissions for 6 MV for photon transmission, and 6 MeV and 9 MeV for electron transmission. Calculations for this test were done to test for statistical significance between each of the variables at a level of 0.05.

Outcomes/Results: When comparing the measurements of Photon transmission, there is no statistical significance and all values have been very precise in testing. There is statistical significance in electron transmissions of 6 MeV when comparing measurements of the phantom or solid water to TPU material with the depth of 1.5 cm bolus. There is no statistical significance when comparing values of electron transmissions at 9 MeV beams. The tests done were made to compare the measurements of the experimental groups to the control group, but not done to measure the experimental groups to one another.

Evaluation/Conclusion: In the process of testing the transmission of particles, the value of charges for each corresponding trial for the variables being tested returned rather precisely and accurately in nearly all measurements. The effectiveness in electron transmission and photon transmission experiences no significant changes when using different materials for boluses. One condition that did come back with significant difference is when comparing TPU material to the phantom, the control group, with a bolus that has a 1.5 cm depth with electron transmission at 6 MeV. More testing can be done on this matter based on other levels of transmission by different amplitudes or by use of different materials and different bolus types be it rigid or flexible and other filament materials used.

Internship Abstract

Title: Comprehensive Needs Assessment due to the Impact of Covid-19

Name: Alexander Garcia

Preceptors: Yvonne Rosa, Executive Director, Lina Arboleda, HCRC Assistant Supervisor

Agency: The Arc of Hudson County, Union City, New Jersey

Purpose: To conduct a needs assessment for the Arc of Hudson County by analyzing their resources and financial status.

Significance: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, children and adults with disabilities have been significantly impacted as daycare centers and services have been closed or limited financially. Professional supervision and social interaction have decreased for this population as a result. While some centers such as the Arc of Hudson County have reopened, they are struggling financially. A needs assessment will help illustrate how this organization can improve its financial status and supply adequate resources for consumers, such as activities and entertainment.

Method/Approach: First, the staff was asked to determine whether the agency's financial status was sufficient, subpar, or poor in a questionnaire. The survey also included consumers' responses towards enjoyment from resources and entertainment while at the Arc, with three possible choices: yes, no, and unsure. Also, individual interviews with staff and biweekly focus groups assisted the agency in developing ways to increase funding to their budget to make improvements within the physical location. Lastly, direct observation of consumers' interactions while at the center aimed to determine the center's overall state of materials and supplies.

Outcomes/Results: Thirty-two people were sent interviews, 24 were completed. Over 70 percent reported financial status as poor. Over 40 percent of consumers' parents or guardians responded to the questionnaire regarding sufficient resources and activities with n=22 asked and n=9 answered. All consumers reported enjoyment, and data shows over 95% of the population feel there are enough entertainment sources. Individual interview sessions lasting from five to thirty minutes successfully identified potential resources and activities needed for patients and included new tables, board games, and craft appliances. These interviews assisted in determining the need for activities such as more frequent online zoom sessions where patients can engage in activities such as yoga. Also, these sessions determined the need for monthly fundraisers to support improvements for the physical location and entertainment financially.

Evaluation/Conclusion: This project determined that this agency was struggling financially. Their funding was limited due to consumer shortage, and a temporary hold of afternoon care services impacted funding and their budget. By increasing the number of online zoom sessions held online for members so that they can be billed and thus, the agency can continue having a steady income. Likewise, the need for new fundraisers and increased awareness of such topics via their website were discovered. By doing so, they could aim to increase budgeting monthly by 0.5 to 2 percent in a given year. In general, the Arc will seek to implement such changes as soon as funding allows them to do so, and ways in which funding can be increased are currently active.

Internship Abstract

Title: Social media infographics influence on domestic violence awareness

Name: Jenna Goebel

Preceptors: Patricia Cannella, Social Media Advisor

Agency: Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation

Purpose: To analyze and create public health infographics highlighting domestic violence within young adults in order to prevent domestic violence cases

Significance: Domestic violence is a not only common but life threatening problem that impacts over 10 million people annually (NCADV). Although legally the state of New Jersey has an elaborate justice system to deal with domestic violence cases, NJ doesn't have much information on prevention or awareness except for offering a hotline. The Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation provides resources on helping someone experiencing domestic violence, helping families or individuals deal with missing persons cases and sharing information on these topics to spread awareness. This project will help educate individuals on preventing and looking out for domestic violence cases and what to do if someone experiences domestic violence.

Method/Approach: The project is conducted through gathering lots of research regarding domestic violence in different populations, policy changes, as well as researching any current cases of missing persons related to domestic violence. Then using what was learned from previous infographics, new infographics were created to gather the most attention. Every week the main task was to create up to four infographics to gain awareness on domestic violence and a larger following for the organization. Then the results for each infographic would be analyzed after a week of posting where likes, comments and new followers gained were analyzed on Instagram. For Facebook, shares were also reviewed.

Outcomes/Results: At the end of the project quantitative data will be produced in the form of statistics from social media interaction per each infographic post in order to determine what type of infographic reaches the largest audience in order to raise awareness towards domestic violence. Over time, multiple infographics were created on domestic violence in different populations like LGBT, Latinx, and Black groups. The end outcome was to be able to determine that the more hashtags, reposts, and short quick infographics would get the most attention compared to long wordy posts. A total of 19 infographics have been made however this does not include any edits or revisions. This number does reflect infographics that were not published. Most topics described previously had about two infographics on a certain population while other infographics showcase safety precautions. Infographics that were eye-catching and had few words gained the most traction.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The project was evaluated based on the reactions of the users on social media sites like Facebook and Instagram. Such reactions include likes, comments, shares, and new followers gained after a week from when the post went live. One limitation in terms of these reactions was looking at new followers. Since it is impossible to determine how many new followers an organization gets from a single post when multiple are posted at a time it makes looking at new followers not very reliable. Although certain patterns when creating an infographic rang true throughout the course of the project it is difficult to determine how often the project should be repeated in order to determine if the same results ring true. An example of one pattern found was that new followers would increase with the number of shares on a post.

Internship Abstract

Title: Office Coordinator Intern for Pediatrics
Name: Elizabeth M. Gomes
Preceptors: Jeanne Yu, Office Coordinator
Agency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center - MSK Kids (Pediatrics)

Purpose: To serve as a liaison between doctors and patients in Memorial Sloan Kettering - Kids (the pediatrics department). In pediatrics, Office Coordinators are in communication with patients and the parents of patients in regards to their visit dates, surgeries, and prescriptions to name a few. The patient Healthcare Information System (HIS) is utilized to access patient information, appointment notes, as well as their previous and upcoming appointment dates. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) Reconciliation is used to reconcile patient lists -- doctors see patients and oftentimes there are system errors that must be corrected by Office Coordinators, such as the wrong doctor or nurse practitioner's name listed as the provider who saw a patient.

Significance: Childhood cancers are rare, but devastating as "it is the leading cause of death by disease past infancy among children in the United States" (NIH 2021). The most common types of childhood cancers are leukemia, lymphomas, neuroblastoma, kidney tumors, and malignant brain tumors. According to ACCO, 1 in 285 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20. Many times with young children, they will complain about body pains and it will be brushed off until they have screenings and x-rays performed, which oftentimes leads to more grim results.

Method/Approach: Treatments for cancer include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, or a combination of those three, and it has even been found that pediatric cancers tend to react better to chemotherapy than adult cancers. 25% of cancer survivors face effects much later on that can be classified as either severe or life-threatening, and so it is essential to discuss which treatment method(s) is/are the best for the patient, especially when they are very young. Long-term follow up (LTFU) appointments are scheduled with the intention of tracking progress in the patient's illness and making sure the cancer is not becoming even more malignant. For MSK Kids, Office Coordinator responsibilities include confirming appointments, answering phone calls from patients and parents, responding to emails/requests, and organizing patient files and information for doctors. Office Coordinators must also make sure these LTFU appointments are made and kept track of.

Outcomes/Results: Some side effects of pediatric cancer treatment include nausea, hair loss, vomiting, and low blood count. Some long-term side effects are infertility, nerve damage, heart damage, lung damage, second cancers, cognitive impairment, growth deficits, and hearing loss to name a few. While radiation therapy is used as a treatment method, it can be a very potent form of treatment as it can cause long-term damage, such as reducing bone or muscle growth to exposed areas.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Before 1970, almost all children with cancer died as a result of their illness. However, the current overall survival rate for pediatric cancers is 79%, which is approximately 300,000 survivors of pediatric cancer in the United States. Based on a patient's age, sex, and treatment history they can be entered into a "survivorship care plan." This was developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to increase awareness and be used as a general guideline for LTFU.

Internship Abstract

Title: Providing and Promoting Personal Hygiene through Mobile Showering Units

Name: Irteza Hafiz

Preceptors: Direct Supervisor: Kelsey Lynch, Co-Founder, Intern Advisor

Agency: Archangel Raphael's Mission (ARM)- New Brunswick, NJ

Purpose: To promote healthy lifestyles and personal hygiene through the use of Archangel Raphael's Mission's (ARM) mobile showering unit for the homeless in the New Brunswick area.

Significance: According to the CDC, more than 2 billion people don't have access to clean water and basic sanitation. Research has shown that there are around 9,000 people who are homeless in New Jersey. Homeless people are at risk for contracting diseases like diarrhea and respiratory illnesses. New Brunswick is one of the top cities to show increases in homelessness. A simple shower and personal hygiene practice can help in a big way and provide the homeless with basic necessities. The mobile showering units at ARM, a charity to increase such access, can provide services to the city of New Brunswick to help this population.

Method/Approach: Between July and October, mobile shower units were provided on five Fridays near a local soup kitchen from 10am to 2pm. Each participant was provided with a towel and a set of clothes, including: shirt, socks, pants (when available) and a care package with basic toiletries. Each client was allowed up to 15 minutes to take a shower. There are two showers provided at a time. The showers are cleaned by volunteers between clients.

Outcomes/Results: The results for the people using the showers have been increasing every month. There have been a total of 107 showers taken between July and October. Along with the showers, 137 care packages were provided at this location. Most care packages were donated and they were given to the homeless after their showers were taken.

Evaluation/Conclusion: ARM has set up an outstanding program providing the homeless population of New Brunswick, New Jersey with the access to a shower, clean clothes, and essential items. Most of the time, the homeless often neglect personal hygiene. This program not only gives someone in a less fortunate situation the access to that but it also promotes it by giving away basic necessities that are often overlooked in situations like these. One barrier observed was related to communication about the availability of the mobile showers. Social media and posters might help get more participation. Another barrier involved a way to record who was coming in and out weekly for showers. A way to improve this data collection might be to use a spreadsheet on a laptop/tablet and take the names, time, and have them rate how the experience was. Some future plans include adding an additional location to reach more participants.

Internship Abstract

Title: Providing Resources and Research Through Website Design

Name: Eesha Hassan

Preceptors: Samantha Slade - Supervisor

Agency: Research for Action

Purpose: To re-design and create a new working website that will reach more individuals providing useful information and research on education with easy access.

Significance: There are many social issues in the education system today, including inequity, inequality, racism, and ethnic issues. In Pennsylvania, the area an individual lives in determines the quality of education they receive (Palochko, Wojcik, Merlin, 2019). Additionally, there are large numbers of racism and social injustice in certain school districts. Research for Action works to use research and insights to advance equity in opportunities and outcomes for underserved students and their families to reduce those numbers. Through the role as a digital design intern, the projects worked on will be used as a way to contribute to the solution because creating an accessible platform with easy-to-use design will help get the information and resources out to communities and better the education systems.

Method/Approach: Starting off with research on the community and users that would be using this platform and what they would be looking for on it. Once identifying the individuals that would be reached, the process of brainstorming ideas for design began. Wireframes were then created in order to plan out how the content from the research would be displayed best. Using a tool, WordPress, the website was able to be designed along with additional coding knowledge to help maximize the user experience. With the creation of the new website, it is important to identify if the goal of it has been achieved, and if it has reached the desired audience which is what was then looked at.

Outcomes/Results: A working website was created and the overall design and effectiveness of it improved from the previous. A greater number of individuals from the community had been reached and were able to navigate through publications and research briefs easier. Additionally, more people were prompted to join the mailing list and receive more information on the education research in Philadelphia and be more involved in the community.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Research for Action aims to improve the education of underserved students. Inequality and inequity are common issues against children with lesser advantages. Through the use of research and communication, there is a possibility for changing the lives of these students around. The more individuals reached and educated on this topic, the more likely there will be a voice for change. Using the new website for their partnered Consortium, Research for Action will continue to put out new publications and briefs in order to inform and influence as many individuals as they can.

Internship Abstract

Title: Safety Ambassadors Social Media Outreach

Name: Maahum Hassan

Preceptors: Diana Starace, Injury Prevention Coordinator

Agency: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital- Trauma and Injury Prevention Department

Purpose: To retain and attract followers to the Robert Wood Johnson's Safety Ambassador's Instagram page by developing content to increase engagement of business and personal accounts.

Significance: According to Safe Kids Worldwide, preventable injuries are the number one killer of kids. Almost one million children die each year, from easily preventable injuries (Safe Kids Worldwide). The Safety Ambassadors program at Robert Wood Johnson aims to help stop preventable injuries from occurring. This program pairs 11th and 12th graders to mentor elementary school students, educating them on staying safe on the road, at home, and on the playground. Due to the pandemic, many schools have postponed participating in this program. By promoting the program on social media, additional schools may be attracted to this beneficial program. Engaging followers on business and personal accounts will help create awareness about the program and help attract more elementary and high schools to join the program.

Method/Approach: The Instagram page had not been used since March. To reactivate the page, posts were created for the page with various key safety messages to educate followers. To gain followers, during the Safety Summit, students were invited to follow RWJ's Safety Ambassador page and post about the Summit. To incentivize the students, the school with the most posts about the Safety Summit was granted a pizza party. The page also partnered up with community partners such as The Brain Alliance of NJ, Keep Middlesex Moving, and Wellsprings Prevention. Giveaways were done with these pages to incentivize and engage followers to spread key safety messages as well as increase awareness for RWJ's Safety Ambassador program. To retain the followers recruited through these processes, interactive stories, memes, and polls about safety were continuously posted.

Outcomes/Results: The results were divided into 4 sections. The sections are the number of followers gained after the Safety Summit, the first giveaway, the second giveaway, and the third partnership. The safety ambassador Instagram page originally started with 189 followers. After the Safety Summit, the page increased to 215 followers. The page gained 26 followers. After the first giveaway with Keep Middlesex Moving, the page gained 11 followers, giving the page 226 total followers. After the second giveaway with Brain Injury Alliance, the page gained 3 followers. The page lost 2 followers after the giveaway winner was announced. After the Great American Smokeout with Wellsprings Prevention, the page received 7 followers, leaving the page with a total of 234 followers. The overall increase in followers and account engagement is about 30%.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The account's traffic increased about 30% in the past three months. The true effectiveness of increased engagement can be determined if there is an increase in schools that join the SAP next year in the fall. Ongoing promotions and posts need to be maintained to retain and gain account traffic. A possible limitation would be retaining followers for a prolonged period. Some followers were lost after announcing winners for giveaways. A possible solution would be to have continuous promotions and posts to keep followers engaged.

Internship Abstract

Title: Serving Those Who Serve

Name: Jensly Hernandez

Preceptors: Aaron Hajart Chief Operating Officer/SVP for Strategy and Innovation
Project Supervisor: Kayla Loughlin

Agency: Bergen New Bridge Medical Center

Purpose: To engage with active military, veterans, and first responders to gauge their perception of health needs. Serve the needs of underserved populations throughout New Jersey, emphasizing the needs of veterans, first responders, and their families.

Significance: Olenick, M., Flowers, M., & Diaz, V. J. found “approximately 49,933 American veterans are homeless and face the same difficulties as non-veterans in addition to service-related matters. Preparing health care providers to meet the complex needs of a vast veteran population can be facilitated by implementing veteran content into curricula that include veteran patient simulations and case studies, and utilizes veteran clinical faculty”. A clear finding of our veteran engagement efforts identified the need to deliver healthcare in the places where veterans can easily access care. Our mobile outreach clinic vehicle will mitigate the barriers to care and provide the healthcare services our veterans deserve.

Method/Approach: Playing a role in improving and increasing the reach of health care to veterans through health screening, health education, while also promoting access to health services. Outreached to the target population in the places they gather such as Veterans of Foreign War [VFW] clubhouses, American Legions, Elks Clubs, Fire Departments, Police Stations, and Emergency Medical Service [EMS] departments. Members gave insight on their health access to healthcare, the barriers they meet, and their perception of gaps in the continuum of care. Provided group presentations and facilitated one-on-one discussions with members in the target population to gather feedback. Respectively, each segment of our total target population is unique and has distinct experiences, therefore, each presentation and outreach effort are tailored to meet the specific needs of each subgroup. Additionally, we've brought out a medical RV to provide immunizations, boosters, screenings, and preventive care to the communities.

Outcomes/Results: Have hit the road several times in the past few weeks in order to establish connections and relationships with our target population. These efforts have allowed us to begin scheduling presentations, meetings, and screenings. This first quarter focused on laying the groundwork and building a community of Veterans and First Responders that we will then circle back to and provide healthcare services, health screenings, and additional resources throughout the year. Now that we have built and established networks, we predict operations will pick up and we will be able to provide more hands-on treatment.

Evaluation/Conclusion: A clear finding of the veteran engagement efforts identified the need to deliver healthcare in the places where veterans can easily access care. The mobile outreach clinic vehicle will mitigate the barriers to care and provide the healthcare services our veterans deserve. The most effective way to begin this program was to go out into the community and make initial introductions with our target population. Established a VIP service for our Veterans and First Responders that will provide the highest quality healthcare possible as well as deliver a patient satisfaction survey after each appointment/service to understand what aspects they are appreciating as well as what needs improvement.

Internship Abstract

Title: Referrals to community resources for Latino families during COVID-19

Name: Lakiya Hill

Preceptors: Direct Supervisor: Manuel Jimenez MD, MS, FAAP, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics & Family Medicine Project Supervisor: Jennifer Hemler, Research Associate

Agency: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Pediatrics

Purpose: To identify the resources used by Latino families during the COVID-19 pandemic in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick, NJ.

Significance: The COVID-19 crisis wreaked havoc on the Latino community (Roque & Zamarripa, 2021). Latinos were 4.1 times more likely to be hospitalized according to the Center for Disease and Control and account for 23% of initial job loss. This minority group has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 compared to non hispanic white counterparts. There are many resources available within the community that Latino families may benefit from such as housing, child care, family planning and Central Intake strives to connect community members to appropriate resources as needed (CDC).

Method/Approach: The Department of Pediatrics in conjunction with the Child Health Institute of New Jersey is conducting a study aimed at improving child literacy and socio-emotional development. Within the study, participants are split into 3 groups: Arm 1 is controlled, ARM 2 receives a text, and ARM 3 receives a text and phone call from Central Intake offering referrals regarding available resources. In the past year during COVID from Dec 2020-May 2021 Central Intake collected information which is used to analyze the number of referrals, identify what resources were used and if age, income or education were contributing factors. The data collected was sorted into an excel spreadsheet that was made into a table.

Outcomes/Results: The analysis of data showed that of the participants in the study (n=35) 65% had asked for referral for services. Central Intake reached out at least twice (40%) to facilitate referrals. Among the resources available the Diaper Bank, Food pantry and Clothing were the top 3 referred the most. 46% of participants ages 27-32 sought out these services. 40% of the participants have lived in the United States under 2 years and 30% are unemployed. 11% of families that are college educated and work full time still require a need for the diaper and food pantry. About 85% of the participants make less than 35k a year. This data shows us these resources are needed due to the disparity in income as well as struggles contributed to COVID-19.

Evaluation/Conclusion: This project continues as a study for improving child literacy and socio emotional development within Latino families. The limitation within this data analysis was due to the small number of participants in ARM 3 at this time. Overall as the study continues there is evidence that more research is needed. In the future, iterations of this data can be analyzed to determine the connection with resources and referrals.

Internship Abstract

Title: Evaluation of Wellness-Based Programming within Living Learning Community

Name: Jenna Huffman

Preceptors: Francesca Maresca, Director of HOPE

Agency: Rutgers University Health Outreach, Promotion, and Education (HOPE)

Purpose: To evaluate the effectiveness of wellness-based community programming within the pilot 'Nourish' Living Learning Community (LLC) at Rutgers University.

Significance: The Healthy Minds Survey was administered to Rutgers University undergraduate students in Fall of 2019 and reflected a significant number of mental health concerns amongst the student population. The goal of the Nourish LLC is to incorporate wellness, with a focus on mental health, into the lives of the LLC residents. In order to determine the effect of participation in the LLC, the effectiveness of the programming must first be evaluated.

Method/Approach: Data was collected through a series of self-reported health assessments. The LLC residents (N = 15) were issued two surveys with questions regarding their current health status and knowledge. The first health assessment survey was administered when students initially became residents of the LLC. This occurred at the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester, prior to any wellness-based programming being implemented. The second health assessment survey was issued 10 weeks later, after residents had the opportunity to attend several wellness-based community programs.

Outcomes/Results: The results of this qualitative evaluation are inconclusive. Some residents indicated improvements in their mental health. For example, in the initial survey statements one resident indicated they would like to "find the courage to attend therapy". In the second survey, the same resident stated that they "have been attending CAPS therapy sessions regularly". Another resident responded to the initial survey stating that their mental health goals included "being more mindful and less depressed". When asked on the second survey if they had made any progress towards this goal, the resident stated "yes, I have been going to CAPS". This demonstrates that some residents utilized resources provided to them during programming, such as the Rutgers University Counselling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS). However, when asked to rate their mental health on a scale from excellent to poor, 5 residents responded indicating their mental health was "fair" or "poor" during the time of the initial assessment. When asked the same question on the second health assessment survey, 5 residents still rated their mental health as "fair" or "poor". These results do not reflect an improvement in mental health, however external variables and limited sample size may be a factor in the validity of this data.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Due to the Nourish LLC being in its infancy stages, there may not have been a sufficient time for programming to produce significant results. While initial and follow-up data from the health assessment surveys indicated improvement for some students, the results were too inconsistent to make a definitive conclusion about the impact of the LLC programming. Additionally, other external stressors, such as COVID-19, being in an in-person learning environment for the first time in eighteen months, and adjusting to the college environment, may have impacted the residents overall wellness and mental health. These health assessment surveys should be repeated in the Spring 2022 semester, after residents have had the opportunities to attend more wellness-based programs.

Internship Abstract

Title: Gloucester County Local Communication System Update
Name: Madelyn Jarrell
Preceptors: Direct Supervisor: Carla Kephart, Certified Health Education Specialist
Agency: Gloucester County Department of Health

Purpose: To update the Local Information Notification Communication System (LINCS) and improve health-related communication between local health agencies in Gloucester County.

Significance: Poor communication is a large public health concern, specifically when considering communicable disease. Bergstresser. (2015) found that there is an evident level of mistrust in public health information by the public, creating troubling implications for the future of public health in this country. The Gloucester County Department of Health is charged with forwarding important health information to local, state, and federal partners in order to protect communities from both man-made and naturally occurring disasters. In recent years confirmation rates have been extremely low. The LINCS has helped make community leaders' contact information easily accessible. This project will include updating the contact information in LINCS and increasing confirmation rates.

Method/Approach: Initially, contacts were cross referenced to ensure they were up to date. This entailed checking the websites of the specified department and reaching out to current contacts to confirm that they still held the relevant position. The next step was to gain new contacts in groups with the lowest amount of contacts. Emergency Directors, Infectious Control Practitioners, and Urgent Care contacts were prioritized first. Web research was conducted and followed up with emails and phone calls in order to gain accurate contact information. Once the contact information was obtained, it was entered into the online system for efficient information distribution.

Outcomes/Results: The county's 2 emergency directors were added to the LINCS, as well as 10 Urgent Care Contacts and 20 from Churches. Contact information was also added for over 30 health care providers. Board of Health and Municipal Clerk information were cross referenced, updated, and added to the online system. Ultimately, the community LINCS was updated and added to, creating an efficient way to distribute important public health information and updates around the county.

Evaluation/Conclusion: More time is necessary to accurately assess the growth in confirmation rates. Updates should be done semi-annually to ensure that information is current and to check on confirmation rates. Overall, the LINCS was successfully enlarged and revamped. Having an updated community notification system is critical in preventing the spread of misinformation and providing community partners with accurate public health information from reliable sources. Limitations in this project included rejection and distrust from community partners who were not interested in being included in the system. Face to face interactions with partners could be beneficial in the future for gaining trust and involvement in the LINC system.

Internship Abstract

Title: Central Jersey Housing Unaffordability Assessment

Name: Tom Kozma

Preceptors: Judy Van Brunt, Director of Human Resources & Chris Pugliese, Director of Housing Development

Agency: The Affordable Housing Alliance (AHA) -- Neptune, NJ

Purpose: To assess the extent of housing unaffordability in Central Jersey, analyze strategies to increase the supply of affordable homes, and promote more private funding for the AHA's development projects.

Significance: Almost half of renters pay more than 30 percent of their income in rent each month, which makes their housing unaffordable under the federal government's most commonly used definition. The share of renters who are cost-burdened has only increased in the past few decades, making it clear that there is a worsening shortage of affordable homes ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#), 2020). Most current research into housing affordability either takes a nationwide approach or focuses on a specific city, often large metropolises like New York or Los Angeles. However, these analyses cannot account for certain nuances. A more localized approach can help humanize the issue and build momentum for increased development of affordable housing in Central Jersey to end the shortage.

Method/Approach: For the purposes of the study, Central Jersey consists of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset counties. To gauge the extent of the housing shortage down to the Census tract level, the analysis uses data from the Census, the American Housing Survey, the American Community Survey, and the Picture of Subsidized Housing. To determine cost burdens, the report uses the federal government's metric of over 30 percent of monthly income in housing costs. By comparing the cost-burdened population with the existing stock of housing at prices affordable to them, the study estimates the increase in affordable housing units needed to resolve the shortage. The data were then visualized, either through charts and graphs or through maps using ArcGIS. Additionally, a non-representative analysis of properties in the study area on Zillow helped contextualize the shortage. Finally, the report reviewed the existing literature on housing affordability, including barriers to development, the track record of existing policy, and a review of community preference surveys.

Outcomes/Results: One in two renters (49.7%) within the study area are cost-burdened, as are over a quarter of homeowners (27.8%). Cost-burden rates are higher for certain vulnerable groups, including extremely low-income residents, people with disabilities, people at risk of homelessness, single parents, and immigrants. Cost burdens are highest in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, making up a majority of the population. After taking into account existing affordable units, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and HUD subsidies, the region would need to add at least 35,800 units to accommodate all extremely low-income residents. The qualitative review of existing policies found that restrictive zoning laws, insufficient funding, and community opposition (i.e. NIMBYism) are all major obstacles to affordable housing development.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Central Jersey suffers from high housing costs that many residents cannot afford. The region must build substantially more affordable housing to resolve this, but faces important barriers including regarding zoning, financing, and community opposition. Developing and financing affordable housing will remain a challenge for the foreseeable future, although certain federal and state policies have eased the pain.

Internship Abstract

Title: The Impact of Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP) for Released Inmates
Name: Shania Langford
Preceptors: Tasha Hogan - Director
Agency: New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC)

Purpose: To analyze the importance and impact of Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP) for individuals who were released from prison and/or jail.

Significance: Throughout the years, research conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has shown that self-management in regards to mental health is a very powerful step within the psychiatric healing and recovery process caused by some form of trauma. However, one of the most widely used processes for self-management for mental health are Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs). The Prison Policy Initiative found that as of 2021, about 37% of inmates within state and federal prisons have been diagnosed with at least one form of mental illness. In addition to that, about 44% have been diagnosed with at least one form of mental illness within county jails. Moreso, about 1 in 4 individuals are experiencing “serious psychological distress” while incarcerated and of those individuals, it has been reported that about 66% of them are not receiving any form of mental health care while incarcerated. The most common lasting effects of being incarcerated with mental illnesses and inadequate treatment are, however, not limited to, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, impaired decision-making, and recidivism. This evidence indicates that mental health is not a main priority in jails and/or prisons. Self-management processes, such as Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs) help address these issues to improve the mental health of inmates post-release, assisting them in becoming productive members of society.

Method/Approach: A mixed method approach was utilized to evaluate the importance and impact of Wellness Recovery Action Plans. Each week, participants ranging from ages 18-65 participate in a WRAP group followed by individualized planning. Research performed evaluates the importance and impact of Wellness Recovery Action Plans for individuals transitioning back into society through discussions, lectures, as well as individual/group exercises. Information about how incarceration affects mental health, the benefits of mental health workshops for prisoners and released inmates, in addition to guidelines for successful transition of people with mental or substance use disorders was collected from the International Journal of Prisoner Health, The American Psychological Association, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Ultimately, this data was used to determine if there was a decrease in recidivism amongst released inmates who actively developed and utilized a Wellness Recovery Action Plan.

Outcomes/Results: Based on the data, out of 1083 new clients who attended a WRAP group and formulated an individualized WRAP at NJRC - New Brunswick, only 4 have reoffended between 2018-2021. The recidivism rate amongst these individuals transitioning back into society has decreased by 50% since 2017 due to WRAP.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Mental health is crucial to human development. To help ensure a decrease in recidivism rates, it is essential to assist transitioning individuals to become productive members of society as they enter their new normal. Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs) have been proven effective for enhancing the life of these individuals physically, mentally, emotionally, and professionally.

Internship Abstract

Title: Care Coordinator I - Intern
Name: Elina Makna
Preceptors: Marissa Fontanez, Assistant Manager
Agency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) - Rockefeller Outpatient Pavilion

Purpose: To serve as a liaison between the patient, their family, and the clinical team by checking the patients in for their appointment, answering inquiries about their visit, and utilizing the patient Healthcare Information System (HIS) in the Department of Gynecological Cancers at MSKCC.

Significance: In 2015, gynecological cancers accounted for 12% of all cancers diagnosed among the female population in the United States. Gynecological cancers include cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar cancers and represent 1 in 5 cancers diagnosed in women. Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center works to diagnose, prevent, and cure various forms of cancer through research, education, and community outreach. The organization is ranked second in the nation and has a high influx of patients from across the country as well as internationally. The project focuses on organizing and managing all healthcare aspects of patients with gynecological cancers by utilizing a Health Information System to provide the highest form of care and improve patient health outcomes.

Method/Approach: Upon the patient's arrival, the Department Appointments Report (DAR) on Epic, a software scheduling platform, was utilized to check the patient in. The patient's name, date of birth, and the appointment(s) for the day were required for confirmation. If a patient required blood work or vitals taken, they were queued on the Phlebotomy Queue on Clinical Information Systems (CIS), a healthcare software platform. The CIS was also utilized to view the chemotherapy status before the patient's treatment appointment. As a Covid-19 protocol, every patient and their visitor were asked questions about their exposure to Covid-19, symptoms, and travel outside the United States within the last 14 days. Screening patients and visitors was critical for promoting patient safety since the majority of the patients were immunocompromised. If the patient visited a gynecological medicine oncologist, they were given their Home Medication List to read through and sign. The patient disposition forms were given to the Care Coordinator II to give to their assigned oncologist for the day. After following the check-in procedure, patients were asked to wait for their appointment in the waiting room. Patient inquiries about the appointment wait time, purpose of the appointment, and scheduling were answered as well.

Outcomes/Results: Of the sample size cohort (n=1,466) a mean of 244 patients were checked-in daily during the course of a 48-hour, two-week period. Laboratory appointments that included vitals, bloodwork, and urine analysis constituted a mean of 29.5% of all appointments and were the most common appointment. The gynecological medicine oncologist appointments followed second at a mean of 23.4% of all appointments. Chemotherapy appointments were the third most common appointment at a mean of 14% of all appointments. Gynecological surgical oncologist appointments were the fourth most common appointment at a mean of 13.2% of all scheduled appointments.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The project results demonstrate that patients experience increased satisfaction outcomes when the Healthcare Information System (HIS) is utilized properly and there is direct communication among the patient, care coordinators, and the clinical team. Patient outcomes are tracked via patient satisfaction surveys on a continual basis. These surveys help to understand how patients feel about their experiences and identify issues that may be needed to address in the future.

Internship Abstract

Title: Analysis of Community Outreach in Teaneck, New Jersey

Name: Adriana Malvone

Preceptors: Matthew Smith, New Jersey Director and Sam DiFalco, North Jersey Organizer

Agency: Food & Water Watch - New Jersey

Purpose: To engage the Teaneck community through direct forms of outreach to improve voting outcomes and community knowledge of local environmental issues.

Significance: Community choice aggregation (CCA) is an alternative to investor owned utility energy supply systems and is an authorized program in New Jersey under the Government Energy Aggregation Act of 2003. CCA programs are adopted via municipal ordinance allowing the municipality to purchase electricity from third party suppliers on behalf of residents. This can deliver electricity from renewable sources at discounted rates. For CCA programs with high renewable standards, residents can convert their electricity to cleaner energy sources, therefore decreasing Teaneck's reliance on fossil fuels. Food & Water Watch works to combat environmental issues through direct community outreach and supports residents to pass CCA ordinances for 100% renewable electricity. Food & Water Watch supported residents to collect petition signatures to qualify a renewable CCA ordinance to be voted on. In the months leading up to the vote, outreach data shows that communicating with the community members serves to better educate the population and allow for a more informed vote to be made in elections.

Method/Approach: Community outreach was conducted via text message with numbers generated from voter registration, as well as Food and Water Watch members residing in Teaneck, New Jersey. Outreach was also conducted through mailers, direct canvassing, and yard signage. Throughout the course of the outreach efforts, 6,564 texts were sent, 322 door conversations were had, 14,000 mailers were sent, and 500 yard signs were placed in strategic spots within the community. The following results were produced: response or no response. Further categorizing responses would detail 'Yes', 'No', and 'Maybe'. Responsibilities included advocating on behalf of the organization when communicating with potential voters via text messaging and direct canvassing.

Outcomes/Results: The end of this project produced a positive trend of voter turnout in support of municipal questions two on the Teaneck ballot. The results will be measured through the number of community members who vote 'Yes' on Election Day. Measures were finalized after Election Day, November 2, 2021. The project has been deemed a success. This was evidenced through the reported 'Yes' votes from the community outreach programs (n = 403). This greatly outweighed the reported 'No' and 'Maybe' votes (n = 66). There is no definitive way to measure how many individuals voted 'Yes' or 'No' based on the mailers or yard signs, as there was no potential to receive a response from either category this election.

Evaluation/Conclusion: As a result of engaging with the community, individuals were better informed on topics pertaining to the environmental impacts of having a green energy supplier. This project was deemed successful as Teaneck voted to adopt the CCA. Having the CCA energy program will allow for the Teaneck community to locally fight climate change. Outreach via text messages and direct canvassing serve as significant methods to influencing the outcome of an election. Measures may be altered due to free will. To improve upon this project for the future, including a way to measure the impact of the mailers should be adopted.

Internship Abstract

Title: Post COVID-19 Recovery Program Monthly Check-in Calls

Name: Gianna Mancini

Preceptors: Dr. Sabiha Hussain, MD, MPH

Agency: RWJMS Pulmonary and Critical Care Division

Purpose: To assist the patients to be current and up to date with clinical testing, referrals and appointments, and to prevent patient disengagement from the program by having monthly check-in calls.

Significance: Ever since COVID-19 hit the US at the beginning of 2020, there have been over 765,000 deaths and counting (Our World in Data). COVID-19 is still evolving and is very new to us; we still do not know the long term side effects. What is wild is that every person reacts differently to this virus. The Post COVID-19 Recovery Program in RWJ works to help post- COVID-19 people recover from the side effects. The monthly check-in calls help keep the patients stay up to date with their testing and appointments, and help keep them engaged in the program.

Method/Approach: The Post COVID-19 Recovery Program works by following up with patients for 2 years, and within those 2 years, every 3 months (or earlier, if needed) the patients have an appointment. However, this is not always the case because patients forget to reschedule appointments, take prescribed medications, or get tests done. The monthly check-in calls are set up for a number of reasons to better the patients. One reason is to ensure a patient completed the testing that was ordered for them. For example, their testing could be bloodwork, CT scan, or PFTs. Another reason is to ensure a patient went to their referral. For example, a patient could receive a neurocognitive referral or a physical therapy referral. Another reason is to remind the patients of their next appointment if they have one, and if they do not have one, to direct them to the front desk to schedule one. Lastly, the calls help ensure that a patient is getting their prescribed medications and that they are completing the surveys.

Outcomes/Results: From the monthly check-in calls it has been discovered that there's been a large number of patients scheduling follow-up appointments, and a small number of patients withdrawing from the program. The results show that out of 10 patients who answered the phone, 5 of those patients made a follow-up appointment, and 1 (if that) withdrew from the program. The results also show that the patients who were prescribed medication are still taking their medicine regularly, the patients recommended for testing got tested, and the patients recommended referrals sought referrals. The Post COVID-19 Recovery Program is the bigger picture, while the monthly check-in calls are the smaller picture. However, the check-in calls are contributing greatly to the program by keeping the patients engaged.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The monthly check-in calls have drastically helped engage patients back into the Post COVID-19 Recovery Program who were disengaged previously. The outcomes can be measured by including a "Monthly Check-in Calls" section to the survey the patients get sent. The section can ask yes or no questions about receiving a check-in call from the program. The survey can also ask more detailed questions about the call. Seeing these responses would help evaluate the success of the monthly check-in calls, and how the patients feel about the calls. This should be relooked at in a month to see if patients are keeping up with their testing and if they continue to schedule more appointments.

Internship Abstract

Title: The analysis of changing from Brightree to Nymbl Systems

Name: Jacalyn McCarthy

Preceptors: Maureen Yates

Agency: MedEast Post Op and Surgical

Purpose: To evaluate and select the most effective EHR and billing software for the company.

Significance: Since 2009 and the passing of the HITECH Act, the use of EHR systems are constantly increasing. There are countless advantages to having the right EHR system, including better quality care, increased efficiencies, lower costs, and better clinical decision making (HealthIT.gov, 2019). MedEast Post Op and Surgical has been using Brightree Systems as their EHR since 2011, when they were an off the shelf bracing provider. Since that time, MedEast has changed their business model and started providing custom prostheses and other prosthetic and orthotic devices. Brightree is not designed for custom prosthesis work, but they have found work arounds to make the system functional. There are newer EHR softwares, such as Nymbl, that are specifically designed for custom prosthetic and orthotic work. There are benefits and disadvantages to both staying in the current system and making the transition to a new system, which will be analyzed to determine the more viable solution.

Method/Approach: Surveys of the current system's performance and downfalls were completed by 12 of the administrative staff members, including the CFO and the practice administrator. The surveys were designed to help analyze the strengths of Brightree and what features the staff were looking for in a new system. Brightree support staff prepared a training on the current system to see if we were using it properly to its fullest potential. Nymbl's staff also prepared a demonstration of their system with a discussion with the team to discuss what features were desirable or missing from their demonstration.

Outcomes/Results: The surveys of the staff almost unanimously had similar issues with the current Brightree system. Many of the administrative staff found it cumbersome to navigate. The billing staff has the most complaints, including the difficulty to enter coding, the requirement for exact inventory items despite certain codes not being tangible items, and the amount of time billing a claim takes. The documentation staff found it difficult to make clear what was still needed for a patient file and difficult to easily access patient information. The inventory staff complained of the inventory accounts being incorrect and not being able to resolve them due to the formatting of the system. The collections staff noted complaints of difficulty finding AR and rejection notices. The CFO remained in favor of Brightree due to the reporting tools it provided and the amount of data stored in the system. Brightree was able to show workarounds for the complaints, but no major solutions. In many cases, the workarounds took more time. Nymbl was able to solve many of the complaints, but had a few flaws. Their reporting system was not as in-depth, their ability to provide customizable forms was lacking, and their inventory was not as detailed. The features that they did provide included much cleaner billing and AR, easier patient interaction, and more detailed clinician accountability.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Ultimately, after much consideration and comparison, it was decided that the move to Nymbl O&P software was a better move for the company. The features that it provides caters much better to custom DME work and their customer support and pricing could not be beaten. Progress will be monitored in terms of staff efficiency, claim turnaround, outstanding AR, and monthly billing numbers.

Internship Abstract

Title: Marketing Outreach for Client Portfolio Expansion

Name: Robert McCormack

Preceptors: Matthew Kaplan, CEO; Kara D’Afflitto, COO

Agency: ReVireo

Purpose: To increase reach to potential new clients in the architectural, general contracting, and engineering fields through marketing campaigns that advertise ReVireo’s green building consulting and energy efficiency inspection services.

Significance: The marketing campaigns target Certified Passive House Consultants (CPHCs) and Certified Passive House Builders. The Passive House Institute (PHI) is an independent research institute that has played an especially crucial role in the development of the Passive House concept, which is the only internationally recognized, performance-based energy standard in construction. Passive building comprises a set of design principles used to attain a quantifiable and rigorous level of energy efficiency within a specific quantifiable comfort level. Passive building principles provide dwellings with unmatched comfort, superb indoor air quality, extremely resilient buildings, and the best path to Net Zero and Net Positive energy efficiency. By marketing ReVireo’s services, the firm expands its clientele and provides these companies with the certifications and verifications necessary for their energy efficient building projects.

Method/Approach: A goal of this campaign is to expand clientele in other states, cities, and surrounding metro areas. To find and research potential clients, listings of CPHCs and PHIUS Certified Builders from The Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) website were utilized. Firms in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC were targeted for potential contacts, and an existing list of contacts for New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania was added to. Some basic research into the firms was conducted to analyze whether they were suitable potential clients who could benefit from ReVireo's services.

Outcomes/Results: Contact information for new leads was recorded and inputted into Salesforce, a CRM database. 429 people— out of the researched 379 CPHC’s and 72 PHIUS certified builders— were identified and added as potential leads and as contacts to existing accounts on Salesforce. New leads from firms in 3 additional states and metro areas were added. 210 partner contacts were updated. A campaign email for PHIUS leads and contacts was drafted. The email addresses of these leads and contacts were then compiled and added to the marketing campaign.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The pool of potential new clients was substantially expanded, allowing ReVireo to offer inspection services to a wider range of certified PHIUS consultants and builders as well as extend its geographic reach. Subsequently, clients will benefit from rebates and incentive programs for energy savings while enabling ReVireo’s ability to increase its revenue and standing as a company. On a larger scale, this aids and promotes environmentally sustainable development.

Internship Abstract

Title: The Creation of a “Safe Space”

Name: Vanessa Molina

Preceptors: Jaye Wilson, Founding President/CEO and Danielle McCarthy, Internship Coordinator

Agency: Melinated Moms

Purpose: To create, distribute, and analyze surveys to better understand how the target group reacted to events to create a more educational and safer environment for all while connecting with other organizations to increase education of women’s mental and physical health.

Significance: Based on the US Census, as of 2019, the female population makes up 51.1% of the total population in New Jersey. What some of these women face include Domestic Violence, disparities in the US healthcare system, stigma/bias against their gender, and more. Melinated Moms connects with women and other organizations all across America to create a space that encourages and empowers women to fight for what they want and provides resources and contact information for people that need assistance. Pre-COVID-19, support groups were created in New Jersey to share information and for people to share their stories. Because the pandemic still exists, The Creation of a “Safe Space” utilizes surveys and feedback from participants to create an area, virtually, in which people feel comfortable sharing their stories and providing advice and/or resources to those facing the same problems. It also allows for women in other areas of New Jersey or in the United States to join.

Method/Approach: A survey was created to get a better understanding of how women feel during and after a support group hosted by Melinated Moms. The survey consists of 10 questions asking how they heard about the event, did they feel it was educational, things they would keep or change, and overall experience. Melinated Moms conducts an online support group via Zoom called “Melinated Mommy Talk” twice a month. Once during the meeting and afterwards, The GoogleSurvey is distributed through individual direct message and public message using chat on Zoom. Once the surveys are received, a verbal analysis of the surveys are discussed with other members of the organizations as well as possible solutions.

Outcomes/Results: There were 8 attendees for the most recent “Melinated Mommy Talk” and only 2 filled out the survey. The first three questions ask for name, email, and data they attended the event. Both individuals heard about the event through the internet and believed the event was educational. When asked to explain why the event was educational, one responded with specifics of how they heard of the event while the other expressed that the event was educational due to being provided with great information. Both individuals felt they were heard but only one added specifics explaining that she felt “genuinely cared about”. Both rated the overall experience as a 5 out of 5 and shared what they believed should be kept (the open forum) and changed (making discussion more light) for future events. Both participants expressed that they would recommend this event to others.

Evaluation/Conclusion: From the data provided, the overall experience of “Melinated Mommy Talk” was great and the attendees left feeling educated and heard. The wording of the sixth question that asks “please explain your answer”, needs to be changed to specify which answer to explain. Other modifications include the addition of breaks especially during more heavy topics like domestic violence. There will be two or three 5 to 10 minute “breathers” where calming music will be playing to allow people to gather themselves and process the information provided during the event.

Internship Abstract

Title: Transitions in cigarette use behaviors between adolescence and young adulthood

Name: Olamilekan Olorode

Preceptors: Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Agency: National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Purpose: To conduct a literature review of previous scientific research on transitions in cigarette use behaviors between adolescence (ages 12 to 17) and young adulthood (ages 18 to 24) among African Americans/Blacks, Latinos/as, and Whites.

Significance: Cigarette smoking continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States (Thompson et al. 2017). There are different patterns of adolescent cigarette smoking across racial/ethnic groups. The prevalence of cigarette smoking is higher among Whites than among Hispanics and especially, Blacks (Kandel et al. 2004). A better understanding of the predictors of smoking initiation and persistence among adolescents of different racial/ethnic groups is crucial to the development of effective programs and policies (Kandel et al. 2004). Most tobacco use initiation occurs before the age of 18 years so policies aimed at reducing tobacco use need to focus on adolescents (Kandel et al. 2004).

Method/Approach: The first step was to compile a list of search phrases that would provide the most relevant articles for cigarette use behaviors in PubMed and Web of Science. The search phrases were used in PubMed and Web of Science and a total of 121 articles were found. Sixty-four were found on PubMed and fifty-seven were found on Web of Science. Important findings from the methods, results, and discussion section of each article were noted. The objective of each article was also noted. A presentation will be created that explains these important findings.

Outcomes/Results: A presentation will be made that explains the important findings from the articles that talk about transitions in cigarette use behaviors between adolescence (ages 12 to 17) and young adulthood (ages 18 to 24) among African Americans/Blacks, Latinos/as, and Whites. The presentation will contribute to the PATH smoking transitions literature search by adding new information. PATH stands for the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health. The Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health is a nationally representative, longitudinal cohort study of 45,971 adults and youth in the USA, aged 12 years and older (Hyland et al. 2017).

Evaluation/Conclusion: The presentation will provide new insights into transitions in cigarette use behaviors between adolescence (ages 12 to 17) and young adulthood (ages 18 to 24) among African Americans/Blacks, Latinos/as, and Whites. These insights will help to better understand smoking behaviors in this specific age group and among these different races. This new information will help expand on the research related to cigarette use behaviors. The findings will be conducted in the upcoming months.

Internship Abstract

Title: RWJ Safe Kids Middlesex Youth Sports safety

Name: Michael Osuji

Preceptors: Direct supervisor, Diana Starace

Agency: RWJUH Trauma and Injury Prevention

Purpose: Highlight the most frequent and common sports related injuries in youth sports and detail the importance of side lining players before injuries become severe.

Significance: Youth sports are one of the most popular activities in school districts. However, these sports can put stress on student athletes' bodies. Youth sports-related injuries are extremely common and can leave athletes sidelined for days, weeks, or most of the season. However, many coaches and parents allow students to play through chronic injuries which puts them at high risk for reinjury or more detrimental injuries. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Trauma and Injury Prevention program mitigates this risk by taking proper strategic steps to ensure that injuries are prevented. In addition, the program stresses the importance of sidelining injured participants who may try to play and will reinjure themselves to a more strenuous magnitude. This project focused on the collaboration of West Orange High Schools athletic department and athletic trainers.

Method/Approach: Research was conducted pertaining to the most common types of sports related injuries and the most frequently seen sports related injuries in the emergency room. A 13-Slide PowerPoint presentation was created with information on RWJ's Safe Kids Middlesex Youth Sports Safety program detailing the sports injury related topics of heat illness, overuse injuries, acute injuries, concussions, and their respective prevention tactics. West Orange High School's Athletic Training Department was contacted to arrange a virtual presentation. The Sports Medicine Club invited players, coaches and families to participate. A \$50 Dicks Sporting Goods gift certificate was given to a random participant who attended the meeting. A sports safety pre-assessment containing 6 questions was delivered to begin the presentation. Directly following the presentation, a sports safety post-assessment containing the same questions was given to all participants.

Outcomes/Results: A total of 26 student athletes and 2 athletic trainers were in attendance for the meeting. Scores on the post-assessment were as follows: The question relating to overuse injuries definition improved by .5%, acute injuries definition improved 22%, preventive measures for acute/overuse injuries and concussions improved 5%, a hypothetical situational injury saw no improvement, injury prevention possibility improved 6%, and concussion definition improved 21%.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The student athletes of West Orange High School demonstrated a high level of general knowledge on sports safety and injury prevention methods. The most improved scores were related to acute injuries and concussions. Future studies should include other high schools to see if these results are replicated. Although there will never be a fully guaranteed measure to stop youth sporting related injuries permanently, Safe Kids Middlesex is constantly on the rise in ensuring new policies are updated and that safety measures are adhered to.

Internship Abstract

Title: Hypertension and Heart Disease Educational Modules

Name: Alexis Oyediran

Preceptors: Vanessa Ingrid Farrell, MPH, MCHES, Founder and CEO

Agency: VI Health and Wellness Coaching, LLC

Purpose: To develop an educational curriculum comprising of seven modules aimed at increasing awareness, prevention, and managing hypertension and heart disease through lifestyle changes.

Significance: Each year, heart disease kills around 300,000 women, which is about 1 in every 5 female deaths. Only 56% of women in the United States are aware that heart disease is the number one killer of women (CDC, 2017). Hypertension, also known as high blood pressure, is the leading risk factor for illness and premature death from cardiovascular disease in the U.S. Virgin Islands (where the agency for this internship is located). The Caribbean has the highest prevalence of hypertension in the region of the Americas (Caribbean Public Health Agency). VI Health and Wellness Coaching, LLC, provides educational workshops and personalized coaching sessions to women with hypertension and pre-hypertension to educate them on how to live a healthier lifestyle to decrease the burden of disease. This educational module will provide women with hypertension with an online platform instructing them on how to manage hypertension and acquire healthy lifestyle habits that will decrease the negative effects of hypertension on an individual.

Method/Approach: To combat the population of uncontrolled hypertension for women, a 90-day, seven-module curriculum was created to teach women how to control their hypertension and decrease their risk of acquiring any complications for hypertension. A literature review was conducted on various themes that should be focused on when coaching women with hypertension. The literature consisted of these specific themes: hypertension 101, physical activity, nutrition, goal-setting, stress management, and time management. Next, modules were created focusing on an audience of women in leadership positions to be able to help them manage their hypertension. The module also focused on helping women with balancing life, work, and play with simple tips for self-care through the practices of mindfulness, stress management, and journaling. This method creates quantifiable results by allowing women to test their knowledge on how to modify behavior to create healthy lifestyle habits to control and manage their hypertension through the use of a pre-evaluation and post-evaluation at the end of the modules.

Outcomes/Results: Upon completion of the seven-part educational modules to be implemented over three months, a pre-evaluation and a post-evaluation will be sent out to the clients of VI Health and Wellness Coaching, LLC. This evaluation will measure how effective the training was in teaching women about how to manage and control their hypertension as women in leadership positions through lifestyle change. This evaluation will ask questions that gauge the ability of behavioral modification of the women who participated in the modules.

Evaluation/Conclusion: This evaluation will be used to further improve the educational modules to help women in the Caribbean with leadership positions to control and manage their hypertension. If needed, the seven modules will be modified to better assist the clients in reaching their goals.

Internship Abstract

Title: Fundraising as a vehicle of advocacy for the world's poor

Name: Griselda Pachuca-Garcia

Preceptors: Kelly Hall, Nonprofit Leadership Team Manager

Agency: The Borgen Project- Tacoma, WA

Purpose: To carry out a fundraiser campaign for the Borgen Project while advocating for the international affairs budget in support of the world's poor.

Significance: With 736 million people that live in extreme poverty, The Borgen Project works to make poverty a focus of U.S. foreign policy. About 93% of all funding the organization receives from donations goes into supporting advocacy efforts to help get key legislation passed in Congress. The target goal is to fundraise a minimum of \$500, which will go towards political access allowing Borgen Projects representatives to meet with 90% of the U.S Senate every year. An example of such actions was the passage of Electrify Africa Act, in which the Borgen Project was one of the principal organizations to build and support the bill, reaching over 60 million people in vulnerable communities in Africa.

Method/Approach: The Fundraiser had a duration of four months and a goal of \$500. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram were used to send short and informative messages to 47 potential donors. Additionally, a total of 32 items and gently used clothes were collected from relatives and friends to be sold online and all proceeds went towards the campaign. Third, the most significant to reach the funding goal was to approach a local restaurant in New Brunswick to host a fundraising day. For this purpose fliers containing fundraising event details and Borgen Project information were distributed on campus, posted on social media, and fliers were posted near local businesses in New Brunswick inviting locals to participate in the 'give-back' day.

Outcomes/Results: A total of \$782.20 was fundraised during a four-month period. Out of the 47 potential donors, a total of 17 people contributed a total of \$365.00. Reselling items online contributed a total of \$112.00. The fundraiser event at a local restaurant in New Brunswick, NJ yielded \$305.20.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Overall, all methods yielded monetary results towards the initiated personal campaign on behalf of The Borgen Project. The success of this project was measured by the amount raised in a four month period and the donors' involvement. Overall, online presence and social media engagement was the largest contributor and means of increased awareness of global poverty and clear ways New Jersey constituents can call their congressional leaders to support key poverty reduction legislation.

Internship Abstract

Title: Improving patient satisfaction scores by community outreach and awareness

Name: Jeena Patel

Preceptors: Yaniris Garcia, Patient Experience Manager

Agency: Trinitas Regional Medical Center - Elizabeth, NJ

Purpose: To increase overall patient satisfaction scores through community outreach and awareness by creating informational flyers, organizing community events, and spreading awareness on health topics.

Significance: The mission of Trinitas Regional Medical Center is to provide thorough, compassionate, and respectful care. Trinitas Regional Medical Center is mandated by CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) to provide all patients with a survey that measures patient satisfaction, provides patient satisfaction scores, and assists the hospital in reimbursement for the services provided. The NRC Health, (National Research Corporation Health) provides the hospital with survey based performance measures and results that can help them provide better care and meet regulatory requirements. NRC also provides the hospital with average scores and analysis results that can be used to compare and identify areas that need improvement. The NRC average requirement for patient satisfaction scores in information and education for each quarter is 68.9 percent. Through community outreach and education, and by implementing a community initiatives program, the hospital is able to create a positive relationship with the community and increase patient satisfaction scores. Additionally, by creating informational health education flyers, organizing community events, and spreading awareness on health topics, the medical center is able to help the population of Elizabeth by providing healthcare resources.

Method/Approach: Six informational and event flyers were created to spread awareness every month on specific health topics between September 14, 2021 and November 16, 2021. Dietitians and physicians of Trinitas Regional Medical Center took the lead on presenting information on health topics for the community event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the hospital's social distancing rules, most events or presentations were held via Zoom. Patient satisfaction scores were measured through an online phone survey provided to every patient of Trinitas Regional Medical Center. About 350 surveys were completed quarterly in 2021.

Outcomes/Results: Patient satisfaction survey feedback shows that there was a significant increase in patient satisfaction scores in the area of information & education in quarter four when compared to other quarters of 2021. Patient satisfaction scores for quarter one were 72.6, quarter two were 71.6, quarter three were 74.9, and quarter four were 80.2. Complete data results are to be calculated at the end of the year for quarter four.

Evaluation/Conclusion: A complete review of scores and data will be completed at the end of the 4th quarter. With the data collected so far, there is an upward and positive trend in patient satisfaction scores, when focusing on the information and education column. Consistency is an important factor that needs to be carried throughout the quarters in terms of education and spreading awareness on health topics. By continuing this method of community initiatives and education, the hospital will be able to exceed NRC's average requirement for patient satisfaction scores.

Internship Abstract

Title: Development of Patient Education Materials for Emocha

Name: Jill Patel

Preceptors: Melessia Cyrus, Nursing Care Coordinator

Agency: Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute - Newark, NJ

Purpose: To increase patient compliance with taking TB medications daily through patient education material.

Significance: A total of 1.5 million people died from Tuberculosis (TB) in 2020. In the United States, there were 7,163 cases of TB reported last year. Lattimore Clinic staff at Rutgers Global Tuberculosis Institute use surveillance to see where the highest percentage of TB cases are and look at patient demographics. This center provides consults, medications, and patient education to help patients manage and recover from TB. This project focused on creating a video to add onto the clinic's patient education materials as a way to increase adherence and minimize mistakes in this form of Direct Observation Therapy (DOT).

Method/Approach: First, we used CDC's self-study modules on Tuberculosis and its disease process to gather data. Information about Emocha, a form of video DOT, was gained and access was granted to view how patients are submitting their medication videos. Patient adherence rates as well as video flaws were noted to create a patient education video. Images used in the video were taken from Emocha's website to prevent copyright issues. The video shots and voice recordings were recorded with a microphone and edited on iMovie. The video had to be revised multiple times to ensure that it fit the standards of the clinic. They were shown to the nurses for feedback as well as staff from the training and education department of RGTI.

Outcomes/Results: The final video was under three minutes long. The video began with a brief summary of what Emocha is and what the standard of care for TB in the United States is. The video then proceeded to show steps, beginning with how to prop up a personal recording device. The following steps were shot in short clips with voice-overs explaining how to clearly show the medications to the camera. Each clip had subtitles to make it easy to follow. A summary of all steps were prompted at the end of the video to give patients another reminder on how to properly set up the recording and take the medications.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The success of this video will be evaluated through patients' Emocha uploads and adherence rates. The video was successful in incorporating all of the concerns that the staff have noticed in current patients' videos. Surveys that were conducted concluded that the majority of the existing patients had issues with the technical aspect of Emocha rather than understanding how to properly record and upload videos. Moving forward, showing patients the video during downtime at consultations in the clinic will be helpful in terms of patient education, as well as saving time for the nurses from repeatedly explaining the process.

Internship Abstract

Title: Research Analyst for The Strategic Planning
Name: Kinjal Patel
Preceptors: Ann Marie Hill
Agency: North American Association of Central Cancer Registries

Purpose: To evaluate the utility of NAACCR data by researchers and the data fields required in cancer abstracting by site.

Significance: A cancer registry is a data device that gathers, stores, and organizes information on cancer patients. The North American Association of Central Cancer Registries creates and supports consistent data standards for cancer registration by offering education and certified population based registries. Cancer registries have grown in the United States throughout the years, with organizations using new systems and technologies to collect cancer data. The goal of this project is to evaluate several key NAACCR programs by collecting information on national certification rates by participants in NAACCR training programs, NAACCR data is used on a variety of projects by researchers, including journal publications. A literature search was employed to track the number of articles that used NAACCR data to evaluate its relevance and utility. Finally, the number of data fields by cancer site were assessed to determine manual workloads required to collect essential data on national cancer rates.

Method/Approach: Project one involved conducting a literature search on cancer related articles by NAACCR on Google Scholar and PubMed. Step two involved a comparison analysis of scholarly citations articles that used a keyword NAACCR in their data usage from 2015-2021 found on Google Scholar and PubMed. For the data count project, several steps were taken. Step one identifies the codes such as R, R#, R*, R^, RC by major standard setters including NPCR, CoC, SEER, CCCR to get a total count of how many fields each required. Step two was to look at NAACCR sdi manual and find out how site-specific data items for cancers of the breast, prostate, lung, colon & rectum, bladder are used by the same standard setters.

Outcomes/Results: NAACCR provided a bibliography of 156 from their database, but it was missing many articles. PubMed was used and 30 more articles were found for a total of 186 publications which had a keyword NAACCR. This would help NAACCR in future and they will evaluate the use of NAACCR data in research. For a data field count project, the number of core data fields were analyzed and total fields by standard setter were accessed 168 for NPCR, 105 for CoC, 89 was SEER and 15 was CCCR out of a total of 366. All findings were then presented to the NAACCR for their consideration.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The information collected from this project will help NAACCR to track their publication and contribution over time to ensure it is relevant and useful for researchers. It will help the standard setters to share the work required to complete an abstract by site.

Internship Abstract

Title: Real Estate Law Firm Organizational Software Use Study

Name: Shivani Patel

Preceptors: Megha K. Patel, Esq., Founding Attorney

Agency: The Law Office of Megha K. Patel

Purpose: To create an organization system for the law firm by implementing the use of Trello and LEAP for all case files.

Significance: In accordance with the American Bar Association (ABA), lawyers are required to keep client files and documents for seven years. This can be difficult when law firms are taking on an overwhelming number of clients and do not have a proper system in place to keep all case files in order. Due to the pandemic and the real estate market, the case load among real estate law firms over the past year has been rapidly increasing. Trello and LEAP software was used to create a system that safely stores all client information and contracts by assigning case numbers to each client and grouping open case files based on the stage of their home buying/selling process.

Method/Approach: Prior to implementing management software to organize and store client files, all files were paper and physically stored. Trello is a project management tool that allows for the creation of boards to organize projects. On Trello, we were able to document the real estate process for active clients through boards, lists, and cards. We created a Trello board for our real estate law clients, and created lists for each step of the process: attorney review, home inspections, mortgage commitment, and closing. Each client was documented on a card, and the card was moved from each list as their file progressed. Similarly, LEAP allows for the organization of client documents and files. On LEAP, we created matters for each client which in turn generated a file number. In each file, there were folders that hold all the contracts, mortgage commitments, property permits, addendums, and all closing documents.

Outcomes/Results: Creating physical files took upwards of thirty minutes, including gathering necessary files, printing them, and filing. Retrieval of paper copies took anywhere between 1 to 10 minutes depending on how recently the file was created and whether it was filed correctly. The new software solution was implemented in May. Between May and November, over 150 case files were processed. Cases are now created by the software within 3 minutes per file, revealing up to a 90% change in efficiency due to the new system. Retrieval is even faster and can be done within 10 seconds as a simple search will show results of the exact file we are searching for. With the implementation of the new system, there was up to a 5,900% increase in retrieval efficiency.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Before the implementation of file storing software, all client files were printed and stored as paper copies. Using file storing software has been very effective and efficient. It has allowed all staff to have easier access to all files and allows for safe storage for a long period of time. Like with all technology, some problems that presented themselves when these software were introduced were a matter of security. Both of these obstacles have been addressed by enhancing software security to ensure all case files are safe and can only be accessed by those with login information.

Internship Abstract

Title: Combating Vaccine Hesitancy at the Epicenter of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Name: Lamia Rashid

Preceptors: Verinda Sood, Legislative Director

Agency: Office of Assemblyman Sterley Stanley (New Jersey 18th Legislative District)

Purpose: To explore statewide COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in New Jersey and consequently implement the appropriate public health messaging in Assemblyman Sterley Stanley's social media content.

Significance: All of New Jersey's 21 counties are listed as having high rates of coronavirus transmission, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; The state has the third-most coronavirus deaths per capita in the U.S., behind Mississippi and Alabama (Roman, 2021). Assemblyman Sterley Stanley is a member of the Assembly Health Committee and Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. One of the Office of Assemblyman Sterley Stanley's initiatives this year focuses on promoting COVID-19 vaccine confidence. This literature review explores the underlying causes of vaccine hesitancy in the state of New Jersey and provides data necessary to curate the appropriate social media content to be well-received and understood by the community in the 18th Legislative District.

Method/Approach: A literature review conducted using peer-reviewed journal articles from scholarly databases such as PubMed and Google Scholar. Literature searches were organized to investigate three themes; underlying causes of statewide COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy, the psychology of communication and persuasion, and the impact of public health messaging. After analyzing the ten articles selected, a comprehensive literature review was created to promote strong confidence in COVID-19 vaccines within communities ultimately leading to more adults, adolescents, and children getting vaccinated — which leads to fewer COVID-19 illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths.

Outcomes/Results: Four research articles analyzed the underlying causes of statewide COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy; The data shows 67% were concerned about side effects, down from 80%, 58% said they distrusted government, and 57% said the vaccines were developed and tested too quickly (Fallon et al., 2021). Three research articles analyzed the importance of public health messaging. Three research articles analyzed the psychology behind persuasion and communication and the three most commonly used tactics: clarity, tapping into crowd mentality, and balancing good news with the bad. Decades of research in risk communication show that people's perception of their own risk is key to motivating them to take preventive measures.. It is also crucial to balance the good with the bad—A fear-based message often leads to people feeling helpless unless it's paired with clear actions they can take to mitigate the threat (Heydari et al., 2021).

Evaluation/Conclusion: An evaluation of the data will yield the curation of several social media posts to be posted periodically on Instagram and Facebook using appropriate and reassuring public health messaging focused on alleviating the community's misconceptions. The posts will be addressing booster shots, vaccine side-effects, where to receive a vaccine, and eligibility requirements.

Internship Abstract

Title: Correcting Cause of Death Data Inaccurately Reported To The National Center Of Health Statistics

Name: Irene Rubinacci

Preceptors: Yamileth de Merchak M.S.W., Deputy State Registrar

Agency: New Jersey Department of Health, Office of Vital Statistics Registry

Purpose: To analyze data of decedents related to the Covid-19 virus that have been reported inaccurately to the CDC/NCHS and provide direct causal sequence of death education to certifiers.

Significance: Death certificates deliver significant data on the descendants' cause of death and are appropriated to document and inform the public on deaths that occurred during the pandemic due to Covid-19. All cause of death recording must be accurate and complete to meet the CDC/NCHS guidelines as all data will be analyzed for significance, correlation, and/or causal relatability to advance medical science treatments and prevention methods, and study the proportions of chronic comorbidities and viral susceptibility within the general population. We are currently correcting errors in over 23K Covid-19 deaths that are either phrased incorrectly or do not align with logical sequence as per CDC/NCHS guidelines. There are concerns that the medical certifier did not accurately determine the death was due to the Covid-19 strain because of pending COVID-19 tests along with other possible hindrances. As of October 2021 a total of 1,270 cases are currently pending over a period of 10 months. September pending cases escalated to 360, presenting at 28.35% of undetermined causes of immediate death that may have been due to Covid-19.

Method/Approach: Vital statistics uses the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) that is specifically designed to track death data communicating with vital statistics analysts, registrars, registered nurse practitioners, medical examiners/physicians, and/or the tribal law enforcement authority authorized to sign a medical certification of death. Our project involves sending direct emails to physicians when errors are indicated for correction and email blasts to hospitals with specific NCHS guidelines. Death reporting guidance has been bulletinized on EDRS registration site helping to clarify any confusion, along with downloadable handouts and pamphlets. We have provided direct links to CDC/NCHS policy & training, and offer communication with funeral directors to review certificates of decedents. We strongly suggest all medical personnel involved in the certification of the decedent's cause of death, review the Vital Statistics Reporting Guidance Journal, Report NVSS No. 3 April 2020, which provides guidance for certifying deaths due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Outcomes/Results: We have seen fewer typographical and phrasing errors for Covid-19, which is usually incorrectly phrased as (COVID or sars-covid) and a reduction in Covid-19 being recorded as an immediate cause of death without following a logical causal sequence. These results have led to fewer NCHS errors on our Q reports sent to data analysts in the NJ DOH, Vital Statistics office.

Evaluation/Conclusion: All reported cause of death data containing errors will continue to be evaluated by the CDC/NCHS to ensure established guidelines are being achieved. The incorrect data will be further analyzed by Vital Statistics and redirected for immediate specified amendment of inaccurate data to be corrected accordingly by the medical certifier or their administrative staff.

Internship Abstract

Title: Health Education and Communication During COVID-19
Name: Pooja Shah
Preceptor: Devangi Patel, Health Officer
Agency: Montgomery Township Health Department (MTHD)

Purpose: To analyze data sources and develop targeted health education material on topics, including COVID-19, flu vaccinations, and radon awareness that communicate positive health behaviors and encourage preventative actions by community members.

Significance: Local health departments have faced rampant misinformation and a lack of trust in public health professionals throughout the pandemic. With the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, MTHD is utilizing health education principles to effectively communicate with community members who are wary of public health professionals and messaging. The most effective way to combat information overload and misinformation is to develop health-related education that is simple, clear, and designed to achieve the intended outcomes (Vraga & Jacobsen, 2020). By creating targeted health education material, MTHD can strengthen its relationship with the community and increase prevention behaviors, including flu and COVID-19 vaccinations. Health education materials, including social media posts, infographics, and flyers, can effectively communicate rapidly changing guidelines while engaging with the community.

Method/Approach: Starting September 2021, MTHD synthesized public health information from several sources, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Evidence-based strategies for health education development helped inform the components of effective messaging. MTHD outlined up-to-date recommendations about COVID-19 testing, quarantine, isolation, vaccinations, and booster shots through comprehensive data collection. MTHD also developed additional materials to encourage flu vaccinations, safe Halloween practices, random testing, and community youth involvement. Staff from the health department provided feedback and used their connections to distribute the materials to community partners and stakeholders. The purpose of this approach was to create coherent messaging that promoted primary prevention.

Outcomes/Results: MTHD created and disseminated more than fifteen health education materials from September through November 2021. Health education materials took the form of social media posts, flyers, website postings, and infographics to reach a wide variety of audiences. MTHD posted the materials throughout the towns at senior centers, libraries, and municipal buildings, added to the township's website, sent out through social media channels including Facebook, and distributed to key community stakeholders who further disseminated the information.

Evaluation/Conclusion: As a result of health education campaigns, the community is better informed about various relevant topics, including the ever-changing recommendations surrounding COVID-19. Through these campaigns, the town saw an increase in demand for flu and COVID-19 vaccinations, including pediatric vaccinations. In the future, the health department has the opportunity to quantitatively measure the effectiveness of communication by measuring clicks and views on social media posts, emails, and other forms of messaging. As different sources of evolving information become available, health departments will continue to find new ways to communicate effectively with their community about best practices. Through innovative forms of communication, MTHD can keep encouraging preventative health behaviors, including vaccinations.

Internship Abstract

Title: Care Coordinator for the radiology department
Name: Samira Shah
Preceptors: Care Coordinator Supervisor: Julia Attinello
Agency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York

Purpose: To ensure that each physician practice session is well-prepared, organized, and fully utilized and that each patient visit occurs with satisfaction and serves as a liaison between the patient, family, and clinical team during the office visit.

Significance: In 2018, an estimated 9.5 million people died of cancer worldwide. That's about 26,000 people each day and 1 out of every 6 deaths (Morgan, 2020). About 600,000 cancer deaths happen in the U.S. each year. In New Jersey, One in two men and one in three women will get a cancer diagnosis in their lifetimes. More than half of all these diagnoses will occur after the age of 65. Cancer is the second most common cause of death after heart disease. Memorial Sloan Kettering researchers have led the way in developing new ways to diagnose and treat cancer. MSK maintains one of the world's most dynamic programs of cancer research, with more than 120 research laboratories that are focused on better understanding every type of the disease. Memorial Sloan Kettering is also home to more than 38 state-of-the-art core facilities, which provide our research community with the latest research technology and a wide range of expert services. Memorial Sloan researchers collaborate internally and externally to bring together laboratory investigators and clinicians from different disciplines to advance the current understanding of tumor biology and explore new ways to cure, control, and prevent disease.

Method/Approach: Upon the patient's arrival, the Department Appointments Report, DAR, on our medical record which is called Epic, and we use this system to check in patients using their name, birthday and medical record number. The Clinical Information System, CIS, is what is used to access patients blood work or medical records if necessary which can then be administered to the patients through a consent form that they sign. Along with greeting them, the care coordinators are required to ask questions related to COVID-19 such as traveling in the past 14 days outside the US or any symptoms or exposure related to COVID. If the patient answers "yes" to any of these questions, it is necessary to write down in the notes the details of what they explain. The data that comes out from these methods and approaches are the patients seen in a day and the average PET, CT, MRI, Ultrasound, and Xray scans taken in a day.

Outcomes/Results: Throughout the day on average there are about 150-180 patients that the radiology department sees every day. Throughout the day, people come for different scans like PET, CT, MRI, Ultrasound, and Xray. Patients that request their MRI or CT scan discs must sign a patient medical release form for their record which states they are going to pick it up with their ID or they can have it mailed to them by writing in their information in the form which is administered to them by the CC's. This relates back to the purpose of serving as the liaison between the doctor and patient because it assists the doctors needs and patients.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Serving as a Care Coordinator teaches a lot of interpersonal as well as communicative skills. Based on the internship, a suggestion to increase efficiency through the day would be to have CC's communicate with the doctor because it gives an idea of what their needs are.

Internship Abstract

Title: Literature Review on the Incarceration of Women and Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Name: Thamena Sultan

Preceptors: Gloria A Bachmann, MD, MMS, Director, Women's Health Institute (WHI)

Agency: Women's Health Institute - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Purpose: To research and evaluate existing literature pertaining to the incarceration of women and the associated impact of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Significance: Trichomonas (TV), Chlamydia (CT), and Gonorrhea (GC) are three of the most common sexually transmitted illnesses (STI) in women, who are more likely than males to be infected with STI. Women who are incarcerated are among the subpopulations of women who are most vulnerable to STIs. STI prevalence statistics from women entering prisons in thirty-eight states in 2008 show CT positivity of 8.5 percent and GC positivity of 2.6 percent, both significantly higher than general population estimate. The Women's Health Institute (WHI) presented research on the impact of the prison system on this group to the New Jersey Prison Reentry Commission in order to establish strategic policies that would provide a safer environment for imprisoned women and assure improved health outcomes.

Method/Approach: A literature review was conducted using peer-reviewed journal articles from scholarly databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and Rutgers libraries. Approximately ten relevant articles were retrieved. Keywords were incarceration, prison, inmate, women, female, disparities, women's health, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS. From these sources, articles were then filtered for relevance to this topic. After analyzing the ten articles selected, a comprehensive literature review was created to raise awareness on sexually transmitted diseases in incarcerated women and shed light on the importance of women's health and health equity, especially in lower socioeconomic status.

Outcomes/Results: Incarcerated midlife females, particularly those aged 50 and older, are substantially more likely to have one or more health issues or limitations than their community-dwelling counterparts. After adjusting for a multitude of sociodemographic factors and health inequities, older female prisoners have considerably increased probabilities of contracting sexually transmitted diseases. According to STD surveillance data reported in 2011 for 33 U.S. states and Puerto Rico, the STD positivity rates of women entering adult corrections facilities were 1.8% for gonorrhea, 7.4% for chlamydia, and 3% for syphilis. Hence, it is crucial to acknowledge that prisons and jails are critical sites for deploying programs to prevent, detect, and treat infectious illnesses and other health issues. Such interventions and those explicitly aimed at rural communities would help convicts and releasees.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The studies suggest that middle-aged women be examined for reproductive, sexual, and psychological health problems upon admission to correctional facilities. Evaluation and screening will enable the beginning of required treatment and the maintenance of active treatment to stabilize underlying illnesses and minimize disease development while incarcerated. There are several opportunities to evaluate health issues like using process evaluations to analyze disparities and incarceration rates while improving health care and rehabilitation of incarcerated midlife women.

Internship Abstract

Title: Improving the COVID-19 Approach on New Jersey College Campuses

Name: Devette Tyndall, Student

Preceptors: Verinda Sood, Legislative Director

Agency: Office of Assemblyman Sterley Stanley (New Jersey 18th Legislative District)

Purpose: Evaluating the health and safety of students, faculty and staff on college campuses.

Significance: "In all, the state of 9.2 million residents has reported 1,000,067 total confirmed cases out of the more than 15.4 million PCR tests conducted since it announced its first case on March 4, 2020" (Roman, 2021). "More than 260,000 coronavirus cases have been linked to American colleges and universities since Jan. 1, and more than 700,000 cases have been reported since the beginning of the pandemic, according to a New York Times survey of cases on campus" (Cai et al., 2021). Assemblyman Stanley is actually currently working to combat COVID-19 by offering free COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 vaccinations to the local communities. The agency is also working on creating a social media campaign that focuses on informing the community on COVID-19 testing, access to COVID-19 vaccines and other ways to stay protected from COVID-19. This campaign will be able to demonstrate to any of the college campuses that it can prevent COVID-19 cases from increasing among the students, faculty and staff as well. This will also be beneficial in terms of amending certain campus policies to protect everyone as well. By focusing on a smaller scale like a college campus, it is possible that those same practices can be used on a larger scale as well.

Method/Approach: In order to conduct this study, there needs to be an analysis of the current campus policies and compare them with the COVID-19 cases to see if these campus policies are actually protecting the students and staff as well. The two schools that will actually be observed in this study will be Fairleigh Dickinson University and Monmouth University.

Outcomes/Results: As of October 15th, 2021, Fairleigh Dickinson University actually reported, "Students: Positive Tests: 15 (12 Florham, 3 Metro) Negative Tests: 3,802...Faculty and Staff: Positive Tests: 1, Negative Tests: 182" (FDU, 2021). While Monmouth University actually takes a different approach in terms of data collection, they focus more on who is in quarantine and active cases of COVID-19 on campus, off campus and faculty as well. As of October 15th, according to Monmouth University, "Students isolating on Campus: 1, Students isolating off campus: 4, Employees isolating: 1" (Monmouth University, 2021). Both of these universities actually share some similarities and a slight difference when it comes to their COVID-19 vaccination policy. Now, Monmouth University is actually allowing students to be exempt from getting the COVID-19 vaccine for religious reasons, medical exemption or even a personal exemption. Fairleigh Dickinson University students can actually be exempt from taking the COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons or it may also depend on that student's religious beliefs.

Evaluation/Conclusion: By keeping COVID-19 cases lowered at college campuses, which are actually at a much smaller scale. It could actually be a good way to demonstrate how exactly we can take similar measures to the public as well. Some good ways to actually measure this would be through COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing as well.

Internship Abstract

Title: Improving Patient Satisfaction through Community Initiatives
Name: Marcela Umana
Preceptors: Yaniris Garcia, Patient Experience & Community Initiatives Manager
Agency: Trinitas Regional Medical Center

Purpose: Revamping community initiative programs to educate the community.

Significance: Due to COVID Hospitals have not been able to reach the community as they want because a lot of health education programs were in person for the community and now they are not. Lack of health education within the community and being able to close this gap is the current problem within the hospital's community. Research shows that lack of health education affects people and is a social determinant of health. Trinitas is trying to conduct programs to benefit the community in smaller groups to help prevent COVID cases as well as making programs available via zoom for those who cannot participate. They want to educate and engage the community more and want to make the community aware of the different resources available to them. The project is aiding and working to revamp the program by conducting research and putting out different educational material and making it available to the community and staff.

Method/Approach: To revamp the community initiative programs a list of health awareness days were made for the months of the year. They were then picked by the Community Program Manager, Yaniris Garcia, to allow for 2 to 4 programs to be done per month of the year. Research on the different topics for each program was then conducted to assure the proper background information and statistics needed were acquired. Once this portion was completed Ms. Garcia would begin to list doctors who could participate in the program and reach out to them for their availability. Once the flyer/poster was done, and the doctor was confirmed, a date and time for the health program was chosen and executed through zoom so patients, family members, and staff could join.

Outcomes/Results: Of the months spent working on this project a total of 5 informational posters and programs are created and organized. The programs consist of the topics concerning: National Hispanic Heritage Month, Alzheimer's Awareness, National Handwashing Awareness Week, National Influenza Vaccination Week, as well as World AIDS Day. A wider audience is reached due to the creation of these programs as there was an absence of the programs prior to this project. Not only are these programs held over zoom with Doctors participating to give insight, but the information compiled into posters are disseminated throughout the hospital community, as well as through social media apps such as Facebook and Instagram.

Evaluation/Conclusion: A total of 4,463 people were able to access all of the posters and programs conducted through social media. While the programs are successful in educating the community, the community initiatives program looks to host these programs in person in the future. An important discovery made is the necessity for these programs and educational information to be disseminated in Spanish so a large majority of the Hispanic population Trinitas serves can be educated. Being that there was not a community initiative program in place it was observed that this program was beneficial along with the observation that more work needs to be done to round out the rest of the months.

Internship Abstract

Title: Legislative Assistance to Councilman Solomon - Ward E

Name: Daniela C. Velez

Preceptors Laura Bustamante, Chief of Staff

Agency: City Council Jersey City

Purpose: To write whitepapers on educating the public, promoting and providing solutions for Jersey City, on specific issues that Councilman Solomon states are top priorities during the upcoming election.

Significance: The election cycle coming up in New Jersey has become a very important race in the State. Councilman Solomon is currently up for reelection and a goal for the campaign is to create whitepapers that are significant to creating change for the constituents of Ward E. The whitepapers are based on research and will cover multiple topics concerning the campaign. The goal is to promote and highlight solutions and services that will benefit the constituents of Ward E and the rest of Jersey City. Each one will set questions, provide information and introduce new ideas that can be implemented with the support and budgetary participation of the government. The whitepapers will provide data analysis from the census as well as research that has been conducted in Jersey City to help.

Method/Approach: Starting in August 2021, James presented ideas on a "Kitchen Cabinet Document" which provided a breakdown of the types of whitepapers. The Kitchen Cabinet idea document breaks down the whitepapers that need to be written alongside the ideas as well as keywords for research to use. The research will be articles and projects based all over the country. This will be used as a draft to work from and bounce ideas between the team. By using current research that has already been conducted and using projects that are in motion to move forward the ideas of the campaign.

Outcomes/Results: There were 3 whitepapers worked on and published. They were about 7 pages containing research and innovative solutions which will be used for the rest of the election. These whitepapers brought to the table ideas when it came to rent control issues, climate change, infrastructure, as well social justice reforms that are all accessible for the community. The first white paper A Livable Downtown which focused on new infrastructure and building new green spaces and making sure JC is clean and livable for all. The second one was Affordable Downtown which focused on tenant protections, building affordable homes, and finding a housing first plan in Jersey City. Last one focused Social Justice and Police Reform and the outcome was to bring social justice to the front making sure communities are safe creating community policies and making sure that funds go directly to those who are victims of violence specially gun violence in Jersey City.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The publication of the whitepapers have created a conversation on topics that are important to voters. This has also created a campaign around funding and resources for the community and to make sure they are better informed on what their Councilman stands for during this election. Through publications, the campaign is able to bring awareness and connect with constituents in Ward E. The evaluations can be looked at after the campaign if re-elected these whitepapers can potentially become laws/ordinance in JC.

Internship Abstract

Title: 2021 Diabetes Management - Closing Gaps in Care
Name: Stephanie Warga
Preceptors: Catherine Siragusa, Practice Manager
Agency: Hackensack Meridian Health-Primary Care

Purpose: To track Hemoglobin a1c results for patients who are diabetic or pre-diabetic, and educate them on the importance of keeping track of their glucose readings.

Significance: At an alarmingly high rate, 1.5 million Americans are newly diagnosed with diabetes every year. Alternatively, 1 in 5 adolescents has prediabetes according to the CDC. Many individuals have put off getting blood work due to COVID and have also been experiencing weight gain and other health-related issues due to stress, depression and anxiety. “More women (45%) reported weight gain than men (39%) but men reported a higher average gain at 37 pounds, compared to the women's average of 22 pounds,” ([Caitlin O’kane](#)). This can create a disconnect between patients and providers in regards to closing any gaps in care. By having healthcare employees reach out to close gaps in care regarding tracking their hemoglobin A1c levels as well as fasting sugar readings, it can improve the rate at which patients are developing diabetes.

Method/Approach: A retrospective review by the office staff was completed for patients 18 and older who are treated in the office. Data on 68 patients of the practice who are treated by one of the 5 providers was exported to a spreadsheet with overdue hemoglobin a1c results. This will create a better system in place to successfully reach out to patients and close any gaps in care. Patients were then called to assess if any recent hemoglobin A1c results were done in the past 3-6 months or given new prescriptions to re-check lab-work.

Outcomes/Results: Of the sample size provided (n=68), 16% of patients could not be reached for updated information. Of the patients who were reached successfully, 56% of patients were able to supply information regarding recent a1c results or were able to go to the lab to get updated blood work. When speaking with the 56% of patients, diabetes education was provided as well as the importance of tracking these results every 3-6 months for optimal health. After reviewing overdue results it was determined by the provider that 13% or nine individuals were instructed to follow up with their endocrinologist for abnormally high readings.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Slightly more than half, 56% of the patients in the sample size (n=68), were successfully reached during this research. All 56% of patients were able to provide updated lab-work or return to the lab to get updated results in a timely manner. It is important to have patients who are diabetic or on maintenance medication to get lab-work done every 3-6 months. Reaching out to patients via telephone has shown to be effective in not only retrieving results, but educating patients on the importance of diabetes management. The results have also shown how COVID-19 has impacted patient health maintenance.

Internship Abstract

Title: Improving the Welfare of Children Globally through Corporate Partnerships

Name: Adrienne Wartawan

Preceptors: Francesca Tiliakos, Coordinator of Corporate Partnerships

Agency: UNICEF USA - New York, NY

Purpose: To research new business opportunities and assist Account Managers in maintaining existing relationships with clients to increase funding and advocacy for UNICEF's global programs.

Significance: By researching and maintaining existing and new public-private partnerships, UNICEF USA remains one of the top UNICEF fundraising offices that has been able to funnel millions of dollars to fund various UNICEF programs. Through these partnerships, UNICEF is able to tackle immunizations, sanitation, malnutrition, and more, in order to provide children around the world a better life. In Corporate Partnerships, the two main branches of work are in account management and new business. In account management, associates maintain relationships with companies in their portfolios to serve as UUSA liaisons. In new business, colleagues are researching new industries and companies to see if there is any potential for new short and/or long term partnerships.

Method/Approach: To support both arms of Corporate Partnerships, a new 'Frequently Asked Questions' document was created to serve as an internal resource for any employee to access when communicating with new or existing partners. This was based on previous versions that included common questions prepared from the Workplace Giving team. Various case studies on past partnerships were also developed for internal use. These two to three page case studies help employees reference previous partnerships based on industry, program support, and fundraising type, allowing them to draw from past program and partner experiences to create new proposals, pitches, and communications. Case studies on UNICEF USA partnerships with companies like Pandora, Chloe, and Expedia Group were developed. All the information was sourced from various legal documents, marketing and communication presentations, press releases, and other communications, and then sorted into a pre-existing template.

Outcomes/Results: One high-level FAQ with five questions and answers with various resources attached was created. In addition, three case studies were completed, and each included information regarding partnership background and goals, key performance indicators, the company's boilerplate, and more. Since updating the case study roster, the list had grown by 25%, and data shows that slightly less than 50% of the partnered industries were from retail, which is likely due to its effectiveness and simplicity. Other major industries include businesses and financial services at 12%, and entertainment at 9%.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Throughout the process, I experienced barriers with accessing necessary information. This was mostly due to the fact that different partnerships are supervised by different Account Managers, so necessary data and documents are oftentimes organized differently. In some cases, information that is integral to the case study cannot be found. I would recommend that the next intern set up check-ins with the assigned Account Manager to ensure the case study is thorough and detailed. Overall, internal documents provide a tremendous value add when considering how helpful it can be when streamlining account managers and new business associates. In the near future as more case studies are completed, we can expect Corporate Partnerships to develop more valuable and long-term partnerships within the private sector in order to further UNICEF goals.

Internship Abstract

Title: Writing grants and analyzing fundraising prospects for the Buehler Challenger & Science Center to ensure continuity in service.

Name: Benjamin Wenberg

Preceptors: Judy Barone, Executive Director

Agency: Buehler Challenger & Science Center

Purpose: Write grants for the Buehler Challenger & Science Center to help perpetuate and improve the activities and lessons that are provided.

Significance: The Buehler Challenger & Science Center has a near 30 year history of providing a unique space exploration experience to the New Jersey and New York area. Over the course of the pandemic, complications to the school's systems and Covid-19 policies have caused the Center to suffer from a lack of attendance. Before Covid-19, an estimated 25,000 students were served by the Center per year; the goal is to begin to safely recover to this level of service to the community. Fundamentally, the Center behaves in the same manner, but new grants will allow the Center to provide elevated levels of service to its patrons, implementing space floor maps into existing lesson plans, and allowing the Center to fund the upgrade to the computer systems so that they may run the new software that is being developed by the Challenger Center Headquarters.

Method/Approach: There are multiple grants applications that are available online for any entity to apply for. Currently, the purpose of the grants that have been applied for already are to bring funds to the center from JetBlue aviation related grants, and secondly, two floor maps of the surface of the moon and the surface of mars to use as teaching aids. The grants that are most applicable to the center are 501(c)3 specific and geared towards educational non-profit organizations. A grant application was crafted with collaboration of the staff and the executive director to provide an accurate representation of the center to the grant providers. Multiple staff members have provided their input into the types of applications that are applicable to the Center.

Outcomes/Results: After collaborating with the staff at the Buehler Challenger & Science Center, grant applications for the Aldrin foundation floor maps have been crafted and curated for submission. Although no response has been provided yet, it is anticipated that the foundation will provide the maps as it has to other science centers under the same Challenger organization. The staff has also collaborated to submit a grant to the JetBlue Foundation for a grant of up to \$50,000 for aviation-related education, and science, technology, engineering, and math initiatives. This grant application closed on October 31st, 2021, and has an undisclosed answer date, but the Center is hopeful that they will qualify for this grant based on the criteria on the application and mission of the Center coinciding with each other.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Despite the end of the student internship, contact will be maintained with the Buehler Challenger & Science Center to ensure that when a response is received from the organization that has been applied to for grants, that they can be seen to their conclusion.

Internship Abstract

Title: Impacts of Hurricane Harvey on Birth Outcomes in Texas: Time-series Analysis

Name: Tianyi Yang

Preceptors: Soko Setoguchi, MD, DrPH

Agency: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Institute for Health

Purpose: To assess the impact of Hurricane Harvey on birth outcomes in Texas.

Significance: In August 2017, Hurricane Harvey pummeled the Texas Gulf Coast, dropping record amounts of rainfall and causing damage with estimates ranging as high as \$190 million (Hame, 2017). Large hurricanes have been shown to affect human health through CO poisoning, infectious diseases caused by source contamination, and post-trauma mental effects (CDC, 2021). Pregnant women and the offspring may be more vulnerable to disaster stressors due to maternal physiologic changes and as the fetus's organic system is still developing (Zahran, 2014). Prior studies indicated that mental stress from severe weather events among pregnant women might affect birth outcomes (Giarratano, 2019). However, the association between the hurricane and adverse birth outcomes, (e.g. low birth weight and preterm birth) have not been formally evaluated using a causal inference approach.

Method/Approach: Provided by Natality Birth Certificates Data in CDC WONDER online database, monthly data on total births, live births, gestational age, and birth weight of newborns in each county in Texas from 2012 to 2020 were identified and collected to assess the effect of Hurricane Harvey on normal birth rate, low birth weight rate, and preterm birth rate. Normal birth rate was calculated as a number of normal live births with weight 2500 grams and gestational age between 37- 41 weeks divided by total births number. Low birth weight (LBW) rate was calculated as the number of babies weighted <2500 gram divided by total births number. The preterm birth (PTB) rate was calculated as babies with gestational age between 37-41 weeks divided by total births number. Using Harvey Property Damage developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, counties were first categorized into affected counties if the building was destroyed, damaged, and affected by floods. Then, a monthly outcome in the affected vs. other counties was plotted to assess the trends before and after Hurricane Harvey landed.

Outcomes/Results: A monthly total birth number is ranged from 27,967 to 36,607 in Texas overall, 6,059 to 8,184 in the affected counties, and 21,908 to 28,459 in other counties. There's a stable trend in the normal birth rate in both affected and other counties before the hurricane. A small drop occurs in the normal birth rate and mildly decreasing trend within the affected counties, while it keeps stable in other counties. For LBW rate, the trend in affected counties before the hurricane. There's a mildly increasing trend in affected counties for the two years after the hurricane and then drop, while it is comparatively stable in other counties both before and after the hurricane. The PTB rate is stable before the hurricane in both affected and other counties. It becomes unstable and has an obvious increasing trend after the hurricane in affected counties.

Evaluation/Conclusion: There seems to be mildly increased low birth weight and preterm birth rates and decreased normal birth rate after Hurricane Harvey in affected counties, but not in other counties. To formally evaluate the effect of Harvey on birth outcomes, interrupted time-series analysis is underway. To prevent or minimize adverse pregnancy outcomes during and after the hurricanes, clinicians and the public need to be educated about the potential effect, policymakers need to align the disaster policy to proactively protect pregnant women through providing aids for early recovery and access to health care.

Internship Abstract

Capstone Projects

Internship Abstract

Title: Investigating the Effects of Lead in Children

Name: Hanasia Booker

Purpose: To research, and identify methods of treatment for lead exposure in addition to implications prioritizing the removal of lead from the homes and schools in underserved communities.

Significance: The primary focus of this research worked to identify the detrimental contribution of lead exposure to humans, more specifically for those of underserved low income communities. Studies have shown that children ranging from infancy to five year of age are most likely to be affected by cognitive impairment due to lead exposure. Sources of widespread exposure to lead in underserved communities have created rising public health concern, and environmental crisis. Evidently, underserved communities with higher populations of minority groups are most at risk due to extenuating circumstances such as lack of information, and adequate medical treatment perpetuate the effects of lead exposure. Factors that have contributed were items such as deteriorated infrastructure. Subsequently, trends in the lack of funding provided to the communities have made it difficult to correct this public health crisis.

Method/Approach: The articles that have been utilized in this research include studies pertaining to information with distinguished words such as “water crisis”, and “lead exposure” in relation to “public health concern” these phrases have aided in the creation of developing a better understanding of how these components connect to the central idea.

Outcomes/Results: Findings of our research have concluded that lead does affect the development of young children, and pregnant women significantly. The best practices included education, the creation of policies, and guidelines in addition to the enforcement of rules. Lead has been presented in a number of sites, due to the fact that it has been used greatly throughout society. Identified needs for strengthening education, and awareness have been proven to aid prevention greatly for this public health concern.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Findings in the research concluded that education, change in infrastructure, and outreach programs are the best practices for improving education for lead exposure. The information displayed presented evidence that lead exposure does significantly alter a child’s development. It has been learned that children are the most vulnerable, and at risk. Lead that is contracted via air particles can increase the risk of elevated blood levels. Transparency, and trust have been proven to play a vital role in the effort to combat lead poisoning. The challenges that low income underserved communities have faced with lead has created discussions that have prioritized the health, and wellbeing of the residents, and members within the community.

Internship Abstract

Title: Identifying Challenges and Strategies for Vaccinating Communities Across the US Against COVID-19

Name: Michelle Higareda

Purpose: To identify efforts being made nationwide to drive the majority of the population to be vaccinated against COVID-19, specifically in the state of New Jersey and highlight the campaigns with the most success.

Significance: Vaccines are the most efficient way to prevent communicable diseases. It has been important to track the vaccine compliance and resistance for the current pandemic brought on by acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, otherwise known as SARS-CoV-2. This virus has burdened healthcare systems nationwide due to the unexpected number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, ensuring that the public is vaccinated is a necessity to every individual and their community.

Method/Approach: In order to measure the success of the campaigns driven across the country to get the public vaccinated, the rudimentary hesitancy percentages were reviewed and compared to the current vaccination rates in the United States as a whole and in the state of New Jersey in particular. The COVID-19 Vaccine Coverage Index was utilized to identify barriers the public might have faced to attain access to the vaccine. Data obtained from longitudinal studies and qualitative research was utilized to establish a general, preconceived notion of the COVID-19 vaccine based on demographic factors. The attitude towards the vaccine was documented up until present day, with vaccination rates displaying the public's approval.

Outcomes/Results: Research demonstrated that the hesitancy rate overtime has greatly dwindled. Current vaccination rates available throughout government websites portray the public's growing acceptance towards the vital vaccine. The government's method utilized trusted community organizations and outreach workers to educate, assist, and support the COVID-19 vaccination has proven successful in getting vaccination rates up. The accessibility of the vaccine has also been significant in fighting the virus, with the implementation of mobile clinics, pop-up clinics, and the availability in local pharmacies. New Jersey has one of the country's highest vaccination rates, proving that the public health workers are doing an efficient job at reaching the public.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Although some figures initially displayed a higher level of hesitancy towards the vaccine, the country and individual states are making the correct strides towards getting the majority of the public vaccinated. Some states, particularly those with the highest poverty levels and the most rural, were still falling behind the rest of the country, despite vaccines being readily available. Addressing the unique challenges faced by each individual county was imperative to know what problems need to be assessed by outreach workers. Campaigns that highlight outreach work have been proven successful in reaching the members of the community who need further education and assistance regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, such as the ones that have driven the state of New Jersey to have one of the country's leading vaccination rates.

Internship Abstract

Title: The Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences :
An Under-Addressed Public Health Issue

Name: Lizbeth Lanfranco

Purpose: To analyze and spread awareness on how adverse childhood experiences could negatively affect a child's development and to reduce childhood adversity in order to encourage health.

Significance: Adverse childhood experience also known as "ACEs" is a term used to describe different forms of stressors from negative experiences. These experiences include abuse, neglect, domestic violence, or other stressors like parents going through a divorce. These effects or experiences could negatively affect the child later on in life as ACEs have been linked to many forms of health issues. These experiences usually happen before the age of 18 and can harm the child's brain development. The more ACEs a child has the more likely they are at risk of poor health outcomes and behavior. On average, people who had 6 or more ACEs died 20 years earlier. ACEs also do not affect each racial group equally. "In the United States, 61% of black non-Hispanic children and 51% of Hispanic children have had at least one ACE, compared to 40% of white non-Hispanic children and just 23% of Asian non-Hispanic children" (Sacks & Murphy, 2018).

Method/Approach: Research was conducted through a literature review through Rutgers library website using peer reviewed articles. Also through using scholarly articles, journals, and conducting research through reliable search engines and sites such as Google Scholar. Other websites include government websites such as the CDC. The data was then compiled and analyzed in one research paper.

Outcomes/Results: Results showed that ACEs could be prevented or assessed if the risk factors and protective factors are known. It is important because ACEs are linked to other diseases and can have negative outcomes for children under the age of 18 later on in life. Children who grow up in a low income, low ses neighborhoods, or minorities are more susceptible to experiencing adverse childhood experiences. They are more susceptible because they don't have a strong community to lean on to. Usually low ses neighborhoods and families deal with things that can count as trauma to the young child. Also because they may not have the same resources or can afford these resources like those with a higher SES do. ACEs are preventable by using such protective factors. Protective factors of ACEs include resiliency, a safe/stable environment, nurturing relationships with caring adults, and good parenting skills. Awareness of ACEs can help these families become familiar with ACEs and also sponsoring programs through the community can help better assess the problem with ACEs not being a widely known topic.

Evaluation/Conclusion: A questionnaire is used to measure childhood trauma. It is a 10-item questionnaire used to measure ACEs. The more that is known about how ACEs are measured and how we can improve those measurements the better we are at addressing how the child could be helped specifically. It's critical for determining the feasibility, validity, and particular implementation strategy for ACEs assessment techniques, as well as assessing the validity and utility of methods for scoring and interpreting data arising from the usage of an ACEs measure with children or adults/parents. Limitations include that adversities can co-occur.

Internship Abstract

Title: The Arguments for Comprehensive Sex Education

Name: Lily Perrine

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to prove that Abstinence only education is ineffective against preventing teen pregnancy.

Significance: While teenage pregnancy rates in the United States have fallen to 16.7% per 1000 females, there is still much work to be done in order to lower this rate. Sex education programs vary widely across states in the United States. For instance, in Arkansas, they follow an abstinence-only education approach in most counties. This approach has been met with an teen pregnancy rate of 30% among teen girls aged 15-19. In comparison, New Hampshire, which practices a teaching of comprehensive sex education, has a rate of 6.6 pregnancies between 15-19. As laws and policies change, it can be harder and harder for a teen to be able to make her own decisions regarding contraception. This paper will reveal which programs seem to work best in reducing teen pregnancy rates.

Method/Approach: The research of this paper was completed through an analysis of different statistics and journal articles regarding sex education. Many state on why comprehensive sex education is a positive thing, resulting in beneficial outcomes. In regards to comprehensive sex education, five articles list the benefits. It outlines a curriculum where there is inclusion of reproduction, anatomy, safe sex, abstinence, and information regarding dating and relationships. The opposite, abstinence only until marriage education is based on the idea that individuals should wait until marriage in order to have sex. However, this approach has proven harmful to society, as proven through six articles. The harmful outcomes of abstinence-only education include STI and unintended teen pregnancy. Both of which can cause negative outcomes for individuals, such as poor health conditions, poor educational effects, and negative outcomes for children, as explored in seven. First, these educational outcomes are studied in the United States throughout six articles. Next, other countries' education, teen pregnancy rates, and STI rates are studied in order to make comparisons in nine articles.

Outcomes/Results: The majority of what needs to be done in order to achieve change is a change in policy. Governments need to work in order to set standards for education. Leaving territories throughout a country to their own discretion can result in poor education, this can be seen primarily in the United States and Romania in two articles. If this governmental change is to happen, there are outlines presented as to the steps to approach provided by SIECUS. While this has some criticisms, there are other outlines about the age to begin teachings. That is the biggest concern when it comes to the curriculum for comprehensive sex education.

Evaluation/Conclusion: Ultimately, there needs to be change enacted worldwide in order to provide the proper education for adolescents. There has been evidence of comprehensive sex education being effective in states such as New Hampshire, and countries like the Netherlands and Sweden. It will decrease the rate of teen and unexpected pregnancies, as well as STI rates. This will improve the health standards in the countries that are enacted as well as the standards of society. The education standards implemented will make individuals more understanding of themselves and their own body, as well as others. In order for these education standards to be enacted, there is a change in policy needed. Misinformation will continue to be spread without proper education. Overall, in order to make comprehensive sex education effective, it needs to be taught everywhere and in the same standards.

Internship Abstract

Title: Assessment of New Jersey Affordable Housing Policy and Future Investment

Name: Daniel Salowe

Purpose: To review the state of affordable housing policy in New Jersey and assess the potential success of proposed future investment.

Significance: In the last year, home prices have increased by 18.1% across the United States. The market tightened significantly due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite New Jersey being the home of important policies to support affordable housing such as the Mount Laurel decision, Sugie Lee, et al. (2013) found economic disparity among municipalities in New Jersey increased consistently in the past several decades. These studies have shown that there are still important interventions needed in order to make housing in New Jersey affordable and accessible. This project will review the current problems facing housing policy in New Jersey and recommend the proposed investments with the most potential to solve them.

Method/Approach: Significant affordable housing policies in New Jersey were reviewed. Policies to review were chosen based on the amount of money invested and the scale of the programs. Additional research was conducted to identify potential policies from state legislators and peer-reviewed studies that could be implemented in the state. Results of the policies were compared against past outcomes using five important factors affecting affordability. The factors used were cost of housing, housing supply, respect for diversity, economic mobility and sustainability.

Outcomes/Results: Eight policies were highlighted and over thirty articles were analyzed. Inclusionary Zoning led to a growth in the supply of affordable housing in New Jersey, but didn't make a significant change in cost of housing. While the oversight of the New Jersey courts is a sustainable implementation, it isn't an active agency. The distribution of affordable housing does not lead to change in economic mobility or account for diversity. The Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) contributes positively to housing supply but the distribution fails to promote economic mobility and respect for diversity. Cost of housing is reduced, but not by a significant margin compared to the scale of the program. The LIHTC is also an expensive program and difficult to sustain. Social Housing and vouchers make a significant difference in the cost of housing and supply. More oversight is needed to ensure respect for diversity. These programs are expensive and difficult to sustain, but contribute positively to economic mobility.

Evaluation/Conclusion: The current affordable housing programs implemented in New Jersey are not leading to significant improvements. Inclusionary Zoning is a beneficial policy but needs oversight at a state level to ensure that affordable units are being created and are equitably distributed. The LIHTC should be combined with an investment into housing vouchers in order to effectively increase access to units in areas with economic growth. The state government should take a more active role in zoning policy to prevent development of concentrated poverty or racial discrimination. Investment into public transportation can help economic mobility through increased access to cities and areas of opportunity. Affordable housing cannot be solved through a single policy, a collective strategy is needed to address the roots of discrimination, economic opportunity and supply of units.

Internship Abstract

Title: Human Trafficking of Homeless Youths (Ages 11-25) in San Diego, California

Name: Kali Stewart

Purpose: To discuss the implementation of a health initiative in San Diego, California that will decrease the amount of homeless youth being trafficked while also providing these youths with access to resources.

Significance: California consistently reports the highest number of human trafficking cases in the United States annually. In 2019 (the most recent year in which data has been made available), the National Human Trafficking Hotline reported a total of 1,507 cases with 1,118 being related to sex trafficking, 150 related to labor trafficking, and 69 connected to both. Of these cases, 310 involved the trafficking of a minor (2021). Those that are most vulnerable to child trafficking in California are unaccompanied homeless youths. Unaccompanied homeless youths are defined as adolescents and young adults from the ages 13-25 that are homeless and travel without a parent or guardian. In 2019, unaccompanied youths made up about 8% (about 323 individuals) of the homeless population. The Regional Task Force on Homeless reported that 14% of homeless youth reported exchanging sexual acts as a commodity. Because of their age and isolation, homeless youths are easy targets for predators and traffickers. The three goals that this initiative will accomplish by are: Increase human trafficking awareness amongst homeless youth and members of the community; increase the number of homeless youths utilizing the resources that are available to them, and decrease the number of homeless youths that are being trafficked.

Method/Approach: A two-hour community informative/networking event will be held at a local community center in the downtown San Diego area. Homeless youth between the ages of 11-25 will be invited to participate as well as local authoritative figures (law enforcement, fire fighters, etc.) and organizations/workers that aid homelessness and/or abused minors. The first 15 minutes will allow for all participants to get settled and time for any latecomers' arrivals. The next hour will consist of a lecture that will inform participants on human trafficking, which include: general information on human trafficking, how traffickers attract their victims, known hotspots in the San Diego area, recent predators that have been reported, how to identify a trafficked individual, the rights of human trafficked victims, and available resources. The remainder of the time will consist of a networking portion where homeless youth and community members will have the opportunity to engage with one another to form bonds.

Outcomes/Results: This health initiative will aim to have at least 25 homeless youth, at least six major organizations/nonprofits from the county, at least two representatives from housing shelters, one social worker, and local law enforcement in attendance. The event will also aim to have at least 50% of the youth in attendance utilize at least two of the resources that have been made available to them. By completing these milestones, the initiative will hope to increase human trafficking awareness amongst homeless youth and community members in San Diego, increase the number of homeless youths that are utilizing the resources that are available to them within the community, and decrease the number of homeless youths that are being trafficked by at least 5%.

Evaluation/Conclusion: To ensure that this health initiative is beneficial, an increase in the number of participants (including homeless youth and representatives) and the number of youth utilizing resources would need to be seen. To do so, the health initiative will need to be implemented at least five more times and surveys will need to be conducted to gather attendance records, the number of youth that have accessed the resources provided, and the number of homeless youth that have previously attended the event and have been trafficked.

Internship Abstract

Title: How the Covid-19 Pandemic Has Impacted the Use of Telemedicine and How to Improve it for the Future

Name: Lauren Witkowski

Purpose: To analyze the implementation of telehealth services during the Covid-19 pandemic and improve upon them post public health emergency.

Significance: The Covid-19 pandemic has created barriers to healthcare in many communities. Telemedicine is an essential service that is beneficial to providers and patients. Telehealth eases the burden on hospitals and practices and helps in conserving personal protective equipment. It allows high risk patients to access care while in their own home. Most importantly, telehealth minimizes the amount of patients in hospitals and emergency rooms, minimizing the spread of the highly contagious disease. Legislation surrounding telehealth was eased and there is not sufficient insurance regulation of telehealth services due to the pandemic. This project explored the use of telehealth pre-pandemic and how it can be improved to expand it's usage post-pandemic.

Method/Approach: Scholarly articles and journals, along with other educational texts were procured through Google Scholar and Rutgers Libraries to find the strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities to the implementation of telemedicine and its use post-pandemic. Many different sources will be used as this is an ongoing issue and many healthcare organizations have put out new information during the ongoing pandemic.

Outcomes/Results: The pandemic increased the use of telehealth across many different specialties. The limitations the pandemic has put on the healthcare system made telehealth a more viable option for many patients that may have not been able to access care otherwise. The use of telemedicine increases access while reducing cost for the patient and provider.

Evaluation/Conclusion: With proper regulation regarding reimbursement and security, telehealth can become an integral part of our healthcare system. A more thorough analysis of telehealth usage from patients and physicians of all different demographics is vital to the continuation and improvement of telehealth services.

Fieldwork Internships

Internship Abstract

Title: Care Coordinator I, Outpatient Operations
Name: Nicole DeCeglie
Preceptor: Maxine Butler, Manager, Outpatient Operations
Agency: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Work Duties: Care Coordinators at Memorial Sloan Kettering work under several outpatient services, such as Surgical Oncology, Medical Oncology, and Chemotherapy. The responsibilities vary from day to day, such as greeting and checking patients in, screening for COVID-19, distributing proper paperwork, and managing clinician/patient flow. Care Coordinators must provide the patient with information regarding their appointment, and guide him/her throughout their day by acting as a liaison. Other responsibilities include monitoring lab flow to ensure efficient communication between patients who have arrived and available techs/RNs, as well as scheduling appointments for the numerous doctors holding clinics.

Techniques: MSK trains its employees to maintain the same kind of service throughout all of the departments and buildings. Following the “Warm Welcome” guidelines includes greeting the patient when they first walk in, and is critical for the patient's first point of contact to be positive. After confirming the patient’s identity, he/she is directed to their designated location in the building. Another important technique is how to navigate MSK’s health information systems, which includes two primary platforms- Cadence and CIS. Cadence allows you to check patients in for their appointment, check future appointments, and make additional appointments. CIS is mainly used to check orders doctors have placed like bloodwork, cardiology tests, scans, and future appointment requests. CIS orders must be placed and dated correctly in order for the patient to receive proper lab work, scans, etc; as this information has to match with the appointments made in Cadence. Another important platform is Salesforce, where care coordinators enter all of the day’s pending cases. Cases must be followed-up and closed follow up and closed within 48 hours to ensure patients are scheduled properly.

People Skills: Strong communication minimizes the amount of uncertainty and makes the patient’s visit go as smoothly as possible. Relaying information accurately and transparently is critical as a Care Coordinator. Actively listening to patients includes making sure they have exhausted all their questions and resources while they are here during these difficult times. Just being that shoulder to cry on or putting a smile on a patient’s face can go a long way.

Results: During these last 3 months, managers and colleagues have shown all the steps necessary to deliver high-quality care. All the way from the Care Coordinators, Nurses, Doctors, IT desk, valet parking, etc. there is no misstep in operations and communication with all team members. Utilizing technology and resources helped guide patients through their day. Patients successfully checked in/out for their appointments, scheduled follow-ups, and overall had a positive experience while here.

Lessons Learned: A big takeaway from this internship is that every patient and experience will not be like the last. As a Care Coordinator, you have to be able to be ready for any kind of question. Knowing who your contacts are is very important since there is always constant communication among other departments. There are a lot of behind the scene factors that have to work together in order to deliver high quality care. Every action no matter how big or small has an impact on the entire organization, and each employee is valued for what they do.