

2013

# 2013 Annual Report

Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities

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# Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities

2013 Annual Report



**NOVA** SOUTHEASTERN  
UNIVERSITY

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**Center for Applied Research on  
Substance Use and Health Disparities**

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# Directors' Message

The Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) celebrated many accomplishments in 2013. Despite an increasingly challenging funding environment at the Federal level, ARSH maintained its position as a leader in securing external funding at Nova Southeastern University. This funding has enabled the Center to continue our national research on prescription drug diversion, as well as locally-based research studies among vulnerable populations, including young adults, gay and bisexual men, African American women, and indigent HIV-positive persons. These efforts yielded more than 20 peer-reviewed publications, as well as numerous scientific presentations at the local, national, and international levels.

The year also marked a number of new research collaborations, including new projects and proposals with researchers from institutions across the U.S. and internationally. We are also excited about the expansion of our prescription drug diversion surveillance work into Canada.

As we look toward the new year, our Center will continue to focus our research efforts among South Florida's vulnerable populations, and on a number of disturbing trends in substance use and HIV incidence. These include an alarming increase in heroin use, expanded availability of a range of synthetic "designer" drugs, and a continuing rise in new HIV infections among young minority gay and bisexual men. Through innovative research designs, publications and outreach, ARSH will build upon its rich history of substance use and HIV behavioral research, while at the same time advancing NSU's reputation as a top-tier research institution.

The work we do requires a team effort. We wish to thank all of our research staff, external collaborators, and the NSU community for your vision, commitments and talents. We share ARSH's successful year with all of you.

# Mission Statement

The principal mission of the Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) is the production, dissemination, and utilization of scientific knowledge in the areas of substance abuse, health risk behaviors, and health disparities among vulnerable populations. Areas of special interest include:

- The etiology, patterns and consequences, and prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse;
- The epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and the prevention of such infections among highly vulnerable populations;
- The prevalence and patterns of health disparities among affected subpopulations, and the development and testing of new approaches to intervention.

ARSH is part of the Institute for the Study of Human Service, Health and Justice located in the Division of Applied Interdisciplinary Studies. The Center is headed by Drs. Steven P. Kurtz (Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida International University) and Hilary L. Surratt (Ph.D. in Psychology from the City University of New York). In addition to the Miami research office, ARSH maintains a field office that houses the day-to-day operations of extramurally funded grants.

# Center Staff

## Directors

- Steven P. Kurtz
- Hilary L. Surratt

## Senior Staff

- Mance E. Buttram, Associate Scientist
- Maria A. Levi-Minzi, Senior Research Associate
  
- Gustavo Aguilera, Project Manager
- Yamilka Stivers, Project Manager
  
- James Hall, Epidemiologist
- Kiyomi Tsuyuki, Postdoctoral Associate

## Research Staff

- Michelle Agudo
- Candice Ahwah-Gonzalez
- Matthew Bradley
- Michael Fein
- Gloria Martinez
- Shenika Moraldo
- Catherine O'Grady
- Melina Rodriguez

# 2013 Grant and Contract Awards

## **National Institutes of Health**

*“A Self-Assessment Intervention for Young Adult Polydrug Users at Risk for HIV”*

- \$521,344

*“Risk Reduction for Urban Substance Using MSM”*

- \$389,254

*“Diversion of Antiretroviral Medications to Street Markets”*

- \$304,820

## **Denver Health and Hospital Authority**

*“Drug Diversion Project”*

- \$899,131

# 2013 Publications

- Buttram, Mance E. and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Risk and Protective Factors Associated with Gay Neighborhood Residence.”** *American Journal of Men’s Health*, 7(2): 108 - 116.
- Buttram, Mance E., Steven P. Kurtz, Hilary L. Surratt and Maria A. Levi-Minzi. 2014. **“Health and Social Problems Associated with Prescription Opioid Misuse among a Diverse Sample of Substance-Using MSM.”** *Substance Use and Misuse*, 49(3): 277-284.
- Buttram, Mance E, Steven P. Kurtz and Hilary L. Surratt. 2013. **“Substance Use and Sexual Risk Mediated by Social Support among Black Men.”** *Journal of Community Health*, 38(1): 62-69.
- Buttram, Mance E., Hilary L. Surratt, and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Resilience and Syndemic Risk Factors among African American Female Sex Workers.”** *Psychology, Health & Medicine*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13548506.2013.824595>.
- Cicero, Theodore J., Matthew S Ellis, Hilary L Surratt and Steven P Kurtz. 2013. **“Factors Influencing the Selection of Hydrocodone and Oxycodone as Primary Opioids in Substance Abusers Seeking Treatment in the United States.”** *Pain* 154(12): 2639-2648.
- Davis, Glen P., Hilary L. Surratt, Frances R. Levin, and Carlos Blanco. 2013. **“Antiretroviral Medication: An Emerging Category of Prescription Drug Misuse,”** *The American Journal on Addictions*. <http://dx.doi:10.1111/j.1521-0391.2013.12107.x>
- Friedman Mackey F., Steven P. Kurtz, Mance E. Buttram, Chongyi Wei, Anthony J. Silvestre and Ron Stall. 2014. **“HIV Risk among Substance-Using Men Who Have Sex with Men and Women (MSMW): Findings from South Florida.”** *AIDS and Behavior*, 18(1): 111-119.



# 2013 Publications (continued)

- Hall, James N. 2013. "Update Brief: Drug Use in Miami/Ft. Lauderdale, Florida," *Community Epidemiology Work Group Proceedings January 2013*. Page 78-80. US Dept. HHS-NIDA, Rockville, MD: January 2013.  
[http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/files/cewg\\_january\\_2013\\_vol1\\_508.pdf](http://www.drugabuse.gov/sites/default/files/files/cewg_january_2013_vol1_508.pdf)
- Hall, James N. 2013. "Drug Abuse Trends in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, South Florida: June 2013." *Community Epidemiology Work Group Proceedings June 2013*. US Dept. HHS-NIDA, Rockville, MD. <http://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/organization/workgroups-interest-groups-consortia/community-epidemiology-work-group-cewg/miami-dade-broward-counties-south-florida>
- Kurtz, Steven P., Mance E. Buttram, and Hilary L. Surratt. 2014. "Vulnerable Infected Populations and Street Markets for ARVs: Potential Implications for PrEP Rollout in the US." *AIDS Care*, 26(4): 411-415.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Ronald D. Stall, Mance E. Buttram, Hilary L. Surratt and Minxing Chen. 2013. "A Randomized Trial of a Behavioral Intervention for High Risk Substance-Using MSM." *AIDS and Behavior*. 17(9): 2914-2926.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Hilary L. Surratt, Mance E. Buttram, Maria A. Levi-Minzi and Minxing Chen. 2013. "Interview as Intervention: The Case of Young Adult Multidrug Users in the Club Scene." *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 44(3): 301-308.
- Lavonas, Eric J., S. Geoffrey Severtson, Erin M. Martinez, Becki Bucher-Bartelson, Marie-Claire Le Lait, Jody L. Green, Lenn Murrelle, Theodore J. Cicero, Steven P. Kurtz, Andrew Rosenblum, Hilary L. Surratt and Richard C. Dart. In press. "Abuse and Diversion of Buprenorphine Sublingual Tablets and Film," *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.
- Levi-Minzi Maria A., Hilary L. Surratt, Steven P. Kurtz and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. "The Under Treatment of Pain: A Prescription for Opioid Misuse among the Elderly." *Pain Medicine* 14(11): 1719-1729.

# 2013 Publications (continued)

- O’Grady, Catherine, Hilary L. Surratt, Steven P. Kurtz, and Maria A. Levi-Minzi. In press. “**Nonmedical Prescription Drug Users in Private vs. Public Substance Abuse Treatment: A Cross Sectional Comparison of Demographic and HIV Risk Behavior Profiles,**” *Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*.
- Remy, Lysa, Joana Narvaez, Anne Sordi, Luciano S. P. Guimaraes, Lisia Von Diemen, Hilary Surratt, Steven P. Kurtz and Flavio Pechansky. 2013. “**Correlates of Unprotected Sex in a Sample of Young Club Drug Users.**” *Clinics* 68(11): 1384-1391.
- Severtson, Stevan G., Becki Bucher Bartelson, Jonathan M. Davis, Alvaro Muñoz, Michael F. Schneider, Howard Chilcoat, Paul M. Coplan, Hilary L. Surratt, and Richard C. Dart. 2013. “**Reduced Abuse, Therapeutic Errors, and Diversion Following Reformulation of Extended-Release Oxycodone in 2010.**” *The Journal of Pain*, 14(10): 1122-1130.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Steven P. Kurtz, Theodore J. Cicero, Catherine O’Grady, and Maria Levi-Minzi. 2013. “**Antiretroviral Medication Diversion among HIV-positive Substance Abusers in South Florida.**” *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(6): 1026-1028.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Catherine O’Grady, Steven P. Kurtz, Mance E. Buttram, and Maria A. Levi-Minzi. In press. “**HIV Testing and Engagement in Care among Highly Vulnerable Female Sex Workers: Implications for Treatment as Prevention Models,**” *Journal of Health Care for the Poor & Underserved*.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Catherine O’Grady, Steven P. Kurtz, Maria A. Levi-Minzi, and Minxing Chen. 2014. “**Outcomes of a Behavioral Intervention to Reduce HIV Risk among Drug-Involved Female Sex Workers.**” *AIDS & Behavior*, 18(4): 726-739.

# 2013 Publications (continued)

- Surratt, Hilary L., Catherine O’Grady, Steven P. Kurtz, Yamilka Stivers, Theodore J. Cicero, Richard C. Dart, and Minxing Chen. 2013. **“Reductions in Prescription Opioid Diversion following Recent Legislative Interventions in Florida,”** *Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety*. 23(3): 314-320.
- Varga, Leah M. and Hilary L. Surratt. In press. **“Predicting Health Care Utilization in Marginalized Populations: Black, Female, Street-Based Sex Workers.”** *Women’s Health Issues*.

# 2013 Presentations

- Buttram, Mance E. and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Group Sex Events and HIV Risk Among Young Adult Multidrug Users.”** AIDSImpact, Barcelona, Spain, September 29 – October 1.
- Buttram, Mance E. and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Social and Environmental Predictors of Resilience Among Young Adult Multidrug Users in Miami’s Nightclub Scene.”** Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, March 19-23.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Counting Change: Enhancing Community Prevention Planning and Evaluation with Local Data and Information.”** Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association Workshop, Gainesville, Florida, September 29, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Counting Change: Enhancing Community Prevention Planning and Evaluation with Local Data and Information.”** Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association Workshop, West Palm Beach, Florida, September 23, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Drug Abuse Trends in Southeastern Florida Autumn 2013.”** Nova Southeastern University It Takes A Village: Addiction, Recovery, and Community Conference and Webinar, Davie, Florida, September 27, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Drug Abuse Trends Update, Fall 2013.”** South Florida Gang Summit, Miami, Florida, September 25, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Drug Use in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida.”** NIDA Community Epidemiology Work Group, St. Louis, Missouri. June 5-7, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. **“Epidemiology for Prevention: Surveillance to Impact.”** The Miami-Dade Coalition Alliance and The Miami Coalition for a Safe and Drug-Free Community, Board of Directors, Miami, Florida, November 21, 2013.

# 2013 Presentations (continued)

- Hall, James N. 2013. “**Epidemiology of Prescription Drug Nonmedical Misuse in Florida.**” Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians Annual Conference. Orlando, Florida, May 17, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. “**National and Local Drug Information Networks in the United States.**” Organization of American States Meeting of the Coordinators of the National Drug Information Networks in Central America, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, May 1, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. “**South Florida Drug Use Trends Update.**” Florida Behavioral Health Epidemiology Work Group, Tallahassee, Florida, May 23, 2013.
- Hall, James N. 2013. “**South Florida Drug Use Trend Update.**” NIDA Community Epidemiology Work Group, Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 23-25, 2013.
- Kurtz, Steven P. and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. “**HIV Prevention for Men Who Have Sex with Men.**” HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Workshop, Hangzhou, China. October 14-16.
- Kurtz, Steven P. and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. “**HIV Prevention for Men Who Have Sex with Men.**” HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care Workshop, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, China. August 5-7.
- Kurtz, Steven P. and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. “**Predictors of Resilience among Young Adult Multidrug Users in Miami’s Club Scene.**” Multidisciplinary Resilience Research Center International Conference, Tel Hai, Israel, January 6-7.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Mance E. Buttram, Hilary L. Surratt and Minxing Chen. 2013. “**Resilience Measures Predict 12-month Continuous Safe Sex Behaviors among Highly Vulnerable MSM Following Intervention.**” AIDSImpact. Barcelona, Spain, September 29 – October 1.

# 2013 Presentations (continued)

- Kurtz, Steven P., Mance E. Buttram, Hilary L. Surratt, Catherine O'Grady and Shenika Moraldo. 2013. **“Emerging Synthetic and Natural Psychoactive Drugs in South Florida’s Club Scene: Users’ Demographic and Health Risk Profiles.”** College on Problems of Drug Dependence Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, June 16-20.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Mance E. Buttram, Hilary L. Surratt, Catherine O'Grady and Shenika Moraldo. 2013. **“Emerging Synthetic and Natural Psychoactive Drugs in South Florida’s Club Scene: Users’ Demographic and Health Risk Profiles.”** Global Addiction & EUROPAD Joint Conference, Pisa, Italy. May 7-10 2013
- Kurtz, Steven P., Hilary L. Surratt and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. **“Victimization, Substance Use, Sex Risk and Serious Mental Illness among Young Adult Women in Miami’s Club Scene.”** 5th World Congress on Women’s Mental Health, Lima, Peru, March 4-7.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Hilary L. Surratt and Mance E. Buttram. 2013. **“Vulnerable Infected Populations and Illicit Markets for ARVs: Potential Implications for PrEP Rollout in the US.”** 7th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 30-July 3.
- Kurtz, Steven P., Mance E. Buttram, Ron D. Stall, and Hilary L. Surratt. 2013. **“A Randomized Clinical Trial of Two Interventions to Reduce HIV Risk and Substance Use among Highly Vulnerable MSM.”** 7th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June 30-July 3.
- Levi-Minzi, M.A. 2013. **“A Case for Systemic Interventions for Schizophrenia.”** School of Humanities and Social Sciences Winter Interdepartmental Symposium, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 10.

# 2013 Presentations (continued)

- Levi-Minzi, M.A. 2013. **“Under Treatment of Pain: A Prescription for Opioid Misuse among the Elderly?”** Faculty Symposium, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 7.
- Levi-Minzi, Maria A., Hilary L. Surratt, and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Sex Trading, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Problems among Indigent HIV Positive Women: Implications for HIV Treatment, Adherence, and Diversion.”** College on Problems of Drug Dependence Seventy-fifth Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, June 16-20.
- O’Grady, Catherine, Hilary L. Surratt and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“Antiretroviral Medication Diversion in South Florida: Prescription Types and Motivations.”** College on Problems of Drug Dependence Seventy-Fifth Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, June 16-20.
- Surratt, Hilary L. and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“A National Perspective on the Abuse and Diversion of Prescription Drugs.”** Faculty Symposium, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, February 7.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Steven P. Kurtz, Theodore J. Cicero, Richard C. Dart, Gary Baker and Gary Vorsanger. 2013. **“Street Prices of Prescription Opioids Diverted to the Illicit Market: Data from a National Surveillance Program.”** 32nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society, New Orleans, Louisiana, May 8-11.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Steven P. Kurtz and Catherine O’Grady. 2013. **“Serious Mental Illness and Treatment Adherence among Vulnerable HIV-Positive Women.”** 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Women’s Mental Health, Lima, Peru, March 4-7, 2013.
- Surratt, Hilary L., Catherine O’Grady, Maria A. Levi-Minzi and Steven P. Kurtz. 2013. **“HIV-Related Health Outcomes among Indigent HIV-Positive Substance Abusers in South Florida.”** Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Portland, Oregon, October 23-25, 2013.

# 2013 Media

- **Synthetic Marijuana, Bath Salts Still Easily Obtained Despite Crackdown.** Sun Sentinel. January 26, 2013.
- **Heroin Takes Oxy's Place for More Addicts.** Sun Sentinel. February 16, 2013.
- **Oxy Users Now Turn to Heroin.** Sun Sentinel. February 19, 2013.
- **Crystal Meth Use Down in Cities, but Meth Heads Still Abound.** Edge. April 1, 2013.
- **As Pill Mills Fade Away, Heroin Fills the Void.** The Miami Herald. May 12, 2013.
- **In the Storm of Narcotic Withdrawal, Any Opiate Port Will Do.** South Florida's First News with Jimmy Cefalo WIOD Radio. May 14, 2013.
- **Dangerous Drug Creating New Addicts.** CBS-4 Miami. May 22, 2013.
- **Opioid Abuse Crackdown Puts Heroin Back in Style.** American Medical News. June 10, 2013.
- **Cocaine Use: Will the Factors Behind its Steady Decline Continue?** The Christian Science Monitor. July 12, 2013.
- **Cory Monteith Overdose Spotlights Surge in Heroin Addiction and Death.** The Christian Science Monitor. July, 18, 2013.
- **Pill mill crackdown saving lives, changing prescription habits, studies find.** The Sun-Sentinel. July 19, 2013.
- **Fighting the Prescription Problem.** Lakeland Ledger. July 25, 2013.



# 2013 Media (continued)

- **Looking for synthetic pot and bath salts? They're harder to find, thanks to South Florida Ban.** The Orlando Sentinel. August 5, 2013.
- **New NY Law Targets Deadly 'Bath Salts' Drug.** The Wall Street Journal. September 15, 2013.

# 2013 University Service

- **Faculty Symposium Panel on Prescription Drug Misuse: National and Local Perspectives.** Presenters: Steven P. Kurtz, Maria Levi-Minzi, Hilary L. Surratt. Nova Southeastern University. February 7, 2013.
- **Organization of American States Meeting of the Coordinators of the National Drug Information Networks in Central America.** Nova Southeastern University, May 1-3, 2013.
- **Nova Southeastern University Research Task Force.** Nova Southeastern University. Monthly meetings in 2013.

# Professional Activity

- Review Board, International AIDS Society and National Institute on Drug Abuse Joint Fellowship Programme encouraging HIV and drug use research.
- Scientific Advisory Board, Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS®) System, Denver Health and Hospital Authority.
- Grant Review Panels, National Institutes of Health.
- College on Problems of Drug Dependence Under-Represented Populations Committee.
- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Conference Peer-Review Committee.
- Reviewer: *Addiction; AIDS; AIDS & Behavior; AIDS Care; AIDS Education and Prevention; American Journal of Drug & Alcohol Abuse; American Journal of Public Health; American Journal of Men's Health; Culture, Health & Sexuality; Drug and Alcohol Dependence; Evaluation and Program Planning, Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; Journal of Clinical Pharmacology; Journal of Criminal Justice; Journal of Drug Issues; Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved; Journal of Opioid Management; Journal of Urban Health; Psychology, Health and Medicine ; Medical Science Monitor; Psychological Bulletin; Sexuality and Culture; Sexually Transmitted Infections; Social Science and Medicine; Violence Against Women; Worth Publishers.*
- Community Expert Panel: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Stanford University.
- Technical Expert Panel: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Community Early Warning and Monitoring System.

# Professional Activity

- Epidemiology Consultant. United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse.
- Florida Representative, Community Epidemiology Work Group (CEWG). National Institute on Drug Abuse.
- Institute for Behavioral Health and Wellness. Nova Southeastern University.
- Community Early Warning and Monitoring System (C-EMS) Technical Expert Panel. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- Florida Behavioral Health Epidemiology Work Group. Florida Department of Children and Families.