2017 Annual Report

Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities

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We are pleased to report the many accomplishments of The Center for Applied Research on Substance Use and Health Disparities (ARSH) in 2017. Our science was published in 20 peer-reviewed articles and research reports and presented at dozens of local, national, and international conferences. These works included new studies of prescription drug diversion; local, national and international drug epidemiology; behavioral intervention clinical trials; and ongoing South Florida-based research among vulnerable populations.

ARSH continues to be a leader in sponsored research at Nova Southeastern University. Special congratulations go to Dr. Mance Buttram, who was awarded new funding from the National Institutes of Health to study the abuse and diversion of gabapentin and pregabalin. Preliminary data indicate that these medications are used by substance users to potentiate the euphoric effects of prescription opioids and heroin. Thus, this research will inform prescribing practices and public policy initiatives related to prescription drug misuse.

As well, we appreciate the superb efforts of Senior Epidemiologist Jim Hall in disseminating unique insights into drug abuse trends through diverse media outlets. His deep understanding of how to best raise appropriate warnings to local, national and international communities is invaluable to public health.

Many thanks to our scientific collaborators who contributed their expertise to ARSH projects, publications and presentations. In 2017, they represented more than a dozen international and US research institutions.

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.

Steven P. Kurtz
Director
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 located within the Department of Justice and Human Services in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The Center is headed by Dr. Steven P. Kurtz (Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida International University). In addition to an office on the NSU main campus in Fort Lauderdale, ARSH maintains its primary administrative office in Miami.
CENTER STAFF

Directors
- Steven P. Kurtz, Director
- Mance E. Buttram, Associate Director

Faculty Affiliates
- Maria E. Pagano, Case Western Reserve University
- Hilary L. Surratt, University of Kentucky

Senior Staff
- James N. Hall, Epidemiologist
- Maria A. Levi-Minzi, Senior Research Associate
- Yamilka Stivers, Project Manager

Research Staff
- Michael Fein
- Shenika Moraldo
- Grettel Romero
- Genevieve Martin
- Patty Valdez
National Institutes of Health
“An Examination of Gabapentin/Pregabalin Initiation, Misuse, and Consequences”
- $108,975

Denver Health and Hospital Authority
“United States Prescription Drug Diversion Study”
- $1,017,995

“Canadian Prescription Drug Diversion Study”
- $322,921

Broward House/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
“Evaluation of SAMHSA Targeted Capacity Expansion Program: Substance Abuse Treatment for Minorities at High-Risk for HIV”
- $20,000


Peer Reviewed Publications


Peer Reviewed Publications


Hall, James N. 2017. “Feelings of Depression and Thoughts of Suicide Among USA and Florida Students.” Florida Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office, Tallahassee, Florida.


Peer Reviewed Presentations


PRESENTATIONS

Peer Reviewed Presentations


Peer Reviewed Presentations


Peer Reviewed Presentations

Invited Presentations


Invited Presentations


Invited Presentations

Hall, James N. 2017. “From Broad Street to Your Street: The Community Drug Epidemiology Network (DEN) Training.” Hillsborough County, March 21, Manatee County, March 22, Duval County, April 27, Palm Beach County, May 9, Florida Big Bend Region, May 15, and Broward County, May 18.


Invited Presentations


“Number of People Dying from Opioid Drug Use Rising,” *Miami Beach Advocate*, March 26, 2017.


Justine Griffin, “As Politicians Pledge Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic, Advocates Say the Key Will be Money,” Tampa Bay Times, December 1, 2017.


Social Issues and Human Services Delivery Systems (HS 1100), Department of Justice and Human Services; Winter 2017.

Honors Seminar: Alcohol, Drugs, and Society (HONR 2010N), Honors College; Fall 2017.
UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- Nova Southeastern University Research Advisory Board
- Nova Southeastern University Academic Integrity Committee
- Honors College Research Roundtable
- Faculty Judge, Undergraduate Student Symposium
- Shark Preview Weekend Facilitator
- Master’s Thesis Committee, College of Dental Medicine, Health Professions Division
COMMUNITY SERVICE

Co-Chair, Surveillance Support Committee, United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Opiate Epidemic Community Response Team, United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Reviewer, Behavioral and Social Science Approaches to Preventing HIV/AIDS Study Section (BSPH), National Institutes of Health.

Scientific Advisory Board, Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance (RADARS®) System, Denver Health and Hospital Authority.


Reviewer, Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Abuse and HIV/AIDS, National Institute on Drug Abuse.


College on Problems of Drug Dependence Under-Represented Populations Committee.

College on Problems of Drug Dependence Awards Committee.

Selection Committee, James Inciardi Award for New Investigators, Center for Drug and Alcohol Research of Hospital de Clinicas and the Federal University of Porto Alegre, Brazil.
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Conference Peer-Review Committee.


Lead Analyst and Co-Chair, Florida's State Epidemiology and Outcomes Work Group, Florida Department of Children and Families.

Reviewers: 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; Health Promotion Practice; Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; Journal of Adolescent Health; 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; Plos One; Psychology, Health and Medicine; Medical Science Monitor; Psychological Bulletin; Sexuality and Culture; Sexually Transmitted Infections; Social Science and Medicine; The Qualitative Report; Violence Against Women; Worth Publishers.