2012

2012 Annual Report

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) is celebrating many accomplishments in 2012. In its first full year of affiliation with Nova Southeastern University, ARSH maintained its position as one of the top units at NSU for securing external funding. As is evidenced in this report, this funding has enabled our Center to conduct national research on prescription drug diversion, as well as locally-based research studies among several vulnerable populations, including young adults, gay and bisexual men, and African American women. The products of these efforts include numerous publications and presentations at the local, national, and international levels, in addition to the health and social benefits experienced by our research participants.

As we look toward another successful year, ARSH remains committed to NSU’s Vision 2020. Our Center will continue to focus our research efforts among South Florida’s vulnerable populations. Through innovative ideas, research design, 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. ARSH researchers are committed to pursuing new external funding opportunities in order to expand the scope of our work and to continue to help those in the greatest need.

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 house the day-to-day operations of extramurally funded grants in Miami Beach.
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
- Yamila Stivers, Project Manager
- James Hall, Epidemiologist
- Michael Wolwa, Research Fellow

Research Staff
- Michelle Agudo
- Candice Ahwah
- Matthew Bradley
- Michael Fein
- Gloria Martinez
- Shenika Moraldo
- Catherine O’Grady
- Melina Rodriguez
2012 Grant and Contract Awards

National Institutes of Health

“Case Management Alternatives for African American Women at High Risk for HIV”
  • $163,750

“A Self-Assessment Intervention for Young Adult Polydrug Users at Risk for HIV”
  • $554,585

“Risk Reduction for Urban Substance Using MSM”
  • $305,696

“Diversion of Antiretroviral Medications to Street Markets”
  • $528,981

Denver Health and Hospital Authority

“Drug Diversion Project”
  • $917,519
2012 Publications


2012 Conference Presentations


2012 Conference Presentations
(continued)


2012 Conference Presentations (continued)


2012 Media and Outreach

Media


- Even Experts Question Claim that Rudy Eugene Was Not on Bath Salts, WPTV, West Palm Beach, FL. July 7, 2012

- Carmel on the Case: Rockin’ Recovery. WSVN, Miami, FL. October 31, 2012


Outreach


- **Panelist.** Nova Southeastern University Free Webinar on Substance Abuse. September 28, 2012.
Professional Activity

- Grant Review Panels, National Institutes of Health.


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

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

- Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Conference Peer-Review Committee.

- Community Expert Panel: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Stanford University.