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
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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


2013 Publications (continued)


2013 Publications (continued)


2013 Presentations


2013 Presentations (continued)


2013 Presentations (continued)


2013 Presentations (continued)


- 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.


2013 Media


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.

2013 University Service


- **Organization of American States Meeting of the Coordinators of the National Drug Information Networks in Central America.** Nova Southeastern University, May 1-3, 2013.

Professional Activity


- 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.